# HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)
# AR-RAQQA CITY

## Summer 2023| Urban household assessment

## INTRODUCTION

The HSOS[1] Urban Household Assessment is a quarterly review of the humanitarian situation inside cities in Northeast Syria (NES). The assessment collects multi-sectoral information from host community and internally displaced households in Ar-Raqqa city. This situation overview presents findings on the access to services, living conditions, economic conditions, and priority needs across accessible areas in the city.

With a significant proportion of the humanitarian response that targets out of camp and host communities in NES located in urban areas,[2] the assessment addresses the need for comprehensive and regular information on the humanitarian conditions in cities where the impact of an increasingly complex crisis has hit hundreds of thousands.

Sustained economic deterioration and climate shocks resulting in unstable markets and worsening food and water access compound the pre-existing vulnerabilities of urban populations who face persistent insecurity, damaged infrastructure, and complex population dynamics.

To support sustainable interventions, a durable solutions lens was integrated during the design of the HSOS Urban Household Assessment, and indicators from the Syria Analytical Framework[3] were included in the questionnaire. Given the low number of internally displaced persons (IDPs)[4] in Ar-Raqqa city, this assessment provides representative data on all households residing in Ar-Raqqa city, without making a distinction between IDP and host community[5] households.

The HSOS Urban Household Assessment is conducted in cooperation with the NES Forum. The complete multi-sectoral descriptive analysis can be accessed online or can be downloaded as an excel file. All HSOS products remain accessible on the REACH Resource Centre.

## SYMBOLOGY

■ The indicator refers to the current situation at the time of data collection

● The indicator refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection

▼ Findings are not representative

► The indicator aligns with the Syria analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform

## KEY MESSAGES

**Ar-Raqqa city recorded a slight increase in electricity availability in July, with an average of 9.4 hours of electricity per day for households compared to 8.1 hours in spring 2023 round.** The percentage of households accessing less than 6 hours of electricity per day reduced from 17% to 2% between spring and summer rounds while the percentage of households accessing 11 to 12 hours of daily electricity doubled in this period (15% to 30%). Most households in Ar-Raqqa (82%) rely on the main network as their primary power source. Despite this relative improvement, 84% of households continued to report electricity rationing as an obstacle to access power.

**The economic hardship continued to impact on living conditions despite a slight improvement of households' ability to meet basic needs.** 93% of households in Ar-Raqqa indicated that their wage was not fairly aligned with the rising prices. However, the percentage of households able to meet their basic needs in a fair or good way[a] improved from 46% in the spring round to 69% this summer 2023 round.

**The percentage of households experiencing issues with drinking water increased from 50% to 59% between the spring and summer rounds.** Among them, 25% indicated that they perceived water as making people sick, compared to 19% in the spring round. This may be the result of high temperatures in the hot season that can foster the proliferation of waterborne diseases.[b] Despite the increased reports of water problems, 37% of households did not use any method to make water safer to drink.

**In Ar-Raqqa, 81% of households faced issues with their shelter.** Among households experiencing issues, 62% complained of high temperatures inside shelters, which is particularly relevant in the light of the heat wave in July. In addition to increasing discomfort at home, high temperatures can expose residents to higher risk to develop heat-related illnesses as cardiovascular diseases.[c] Additionally, 58% of households facing issues reported poor sanitation within their shelter, which affects hygiene and may result to the spread of communicable diseases such as diarrhea illnesses.[d]

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# HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)
# AR-RAQQA CITY

## Summer 2023| Urban household assessment

## METHODOLOGY

- The HSOS urban household assessment is conducted using a **household methodology at city level**.

- Face-to-face data collection was carried out by REACH enumerators between **3** and **9 July 2023** covering **106 households** in Ar-Raqqa city

- Findings can be generalised to **the Syrian population at city level,** with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error. The representative sample of the population was calculated according to the population estimates collected by the Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) in September 2022.

- **Stratified simple random household selection** was conducted through random spatial sampling using geographic information systems. The selection considered population estimates by neighbourhood and distributed the random samples according to population density.

- The random spatial sampling was conducted across residential areas of the city, as classified by OpenStreetMap. Areas unsafe for data collection were not covered.[6]

- Due to data collection protocols, the sample excludes households whose members are all below 18.

- Due to logistical limitations, the sample is biased towards households where at least one adult member is at home during the time of data collection, and towards cooperative, readily available households.

## COVERAGE

**Ar-Raqqa city neighbourhoods covered in the sample**



**Neighbourhood coverage**

- Assessed
- Not assessed

0   1   2   km
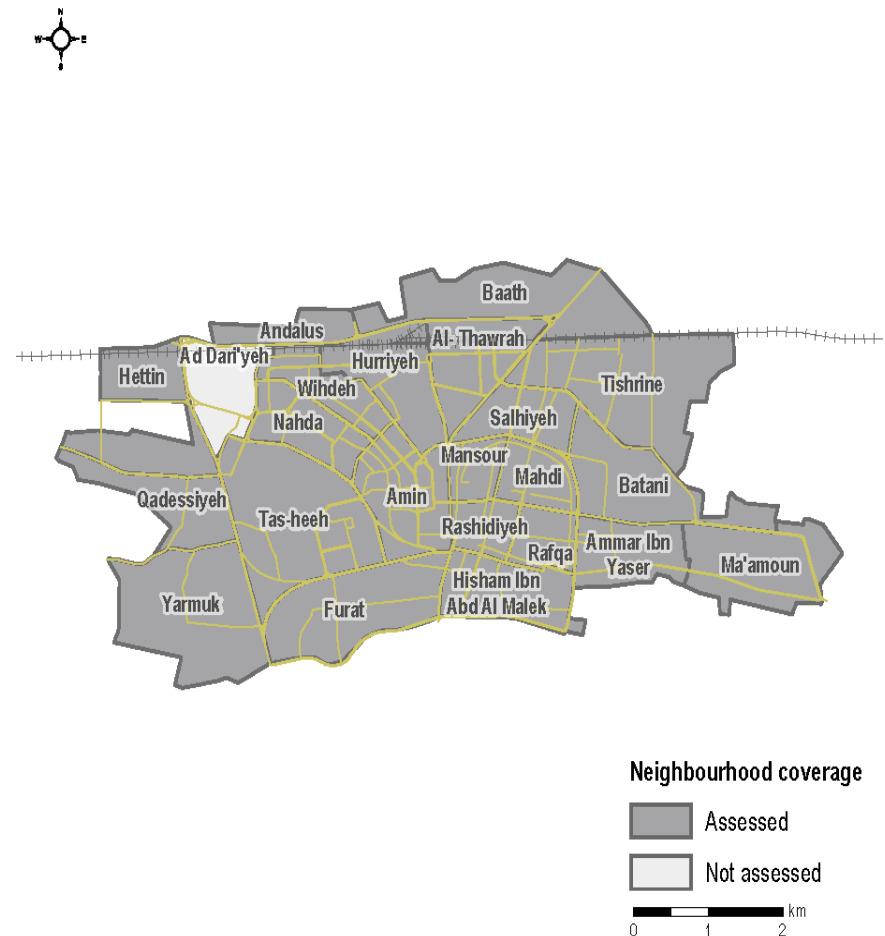
# PRIORITY NEEDS

**Most commonly reported overall priority needs for host community households** (by % of assessed communities)[7]

| 1 | 🍲 Livelihoods | 90% |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | 🍜 Food | 71% |
| 3 | 🏠 Shelter | 30% |

## Households' movement intentions

| No plans to leave | Yes within 1 month | Yes within longer timeframe | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|
| 95% | 1% | 1% | 3% |

## 🏃⇄ RETURNEES

**Date of return**
(by % of households that returned in each period)

| Before 2019 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021+ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 86% | 3% | 5% | 0% |

**100%**
of host community households who are returnees

**3**
average number of displacements for returnee households
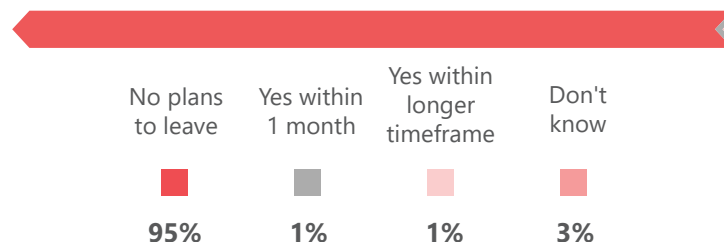
## 🏃→ IDPs

**Date of arrival**
(count of IDP households that arrived in each period, on a total of 20 IDP households surveyed )

| Before 2019 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021+ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 7 | 1 | 5 |
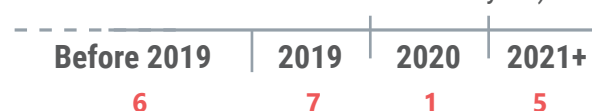
**4**
average number of displacements for IDP households

**Most common governorates of origin for IDP households**

| 1 | Aleppo | 5 |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ar-Raqqa | 4 |
| 2 | Deir-ez-Zor | 4 |

**Most common sub-districts of origin for IDP households**

| 1 | Ras Al Ain | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Al Mayadin | 2 |
| 2 | Maskana | 2 |

**47%** of households with newborns (0-1)

**73%** of households with young children (0-5)

**77%** of households with school-aged children (6-17)

**92%** of households with children (0-17)

# HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

| Average # of houshold members | Average # of children (0-5) | Average # of children (6-17) | Average # of adults (18+) | Average # of older people (60+) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7.3 | 1.4 | 2.2 | 3.6 | 0.3 |

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# SAFETY AND PROTECTION

**38%** of households with members who lacked civil documents and needed them▶,■

**Most common civil documents that household members lacked and needed** (as % of households where at least one member lacked and needed a document [38%])▼
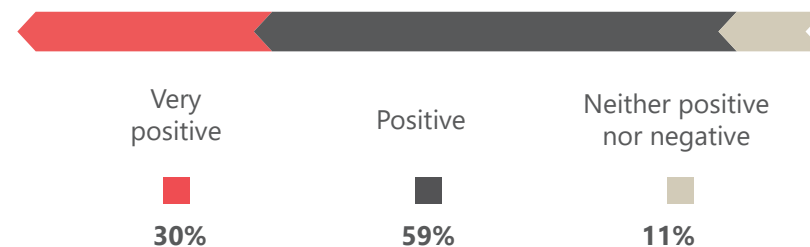
1. Birth certificate issued by local entities (non-GoS)  **48%**

2. Identity card issued by local entities (non-GoS)  **45%**

3. Syrian identity card issued by the Government of Syria  **42%**

**82%** of households who reported theft as a security concern●

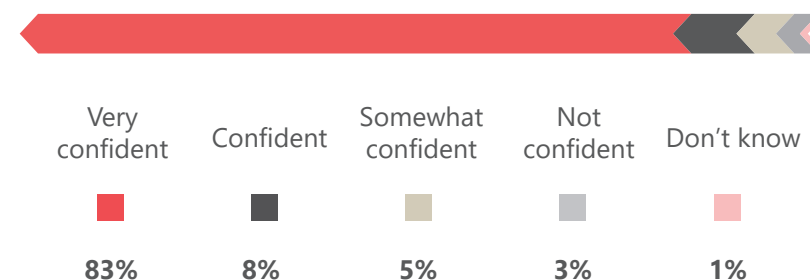**Movement freedom for all household member within the location**

Yes **93%**
No **7%**

## Household's relationship with other community members

| Very positive | Positive | Neither positive nor negative |
|---|---|---|
| 30% | 59% | 11% |

**37%** of households reported housing, land and property concerns●

→ **Rental problems (landlord/tenant issues)** was the most commonly reported housing, land and property concern (reported by 54% of households facing concerns)▼

**Confidence of being able to reside in the current place of residence for 3 more months**

| Very confident | Confident | Somewhat confident | Not confident | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 83% | 8% | 5% | 3% | 1% |

▶ Aligns with the Syria analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform
■ Refers to the current situation at the time of data collection

● Refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection
▼ Findings are not representative

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# HOUSING SITUATION

## Most common shelter types[►],■

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Solid/finished house | 90% |
| 2 | Solid/finished apartment | 5% |
| 3 | Unfinished or abandoned residential building | 4% |

| Average % of monthly income spent on rent |
|---|
| **21%** |
| Average expenditure on rent as a % of total household expenditure[9] |
| **16%** |

## Most common occupancy arrangements[►],■

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Owning | 68% |
| 2 | Renting | 25% |
| 3 | Hosted | 6% |

## Rental contract type (by % of households who are renting [25%])■

- ■ Written contract **30%**
- ■ Verbal agreement **70%**
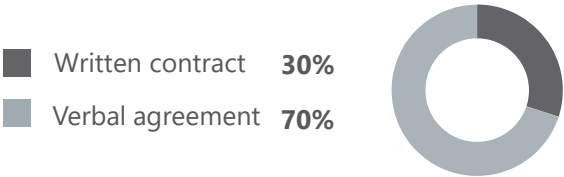
**78%**

of households renting a property who faced challenges in finding a place to rent[▼],■

## Most common challenges in finding a place to rent for households
(by % of households who faced challenges [78%])[8, ▼],■

| | |
|---|---|
| Difficult to find an affordable accommodation | 81% |
| Landlord requesting large first instalment or deposit | 48% |
| Difficult to find a big enough shelter for all family members | 29% |

# SHELTER CONDITIONS

**81%** of households whose shelter had inadequacies[►],■

## Shelter inadequacies (by % of households who experienced issues)[8, ▼],■

| | |
|---|---|
| High temperatures inside shelters | 62% |
| Poor sanitation | 58% |
| Windows/doors not sealed | 47% |
| Lack of space/overcrowding | 44% |
| Unable to lock home securely | 41% |
| Lack of electricity | 28% |
| Lack of privacy (space/partitions, doors) | 26% |
| Lack of water | 23% |
| Lack of lighting inside shelter | 20% |
| Leakage from roof/ceiling during rain | 15% |
| Lack of ventilation: stuffy, bad smells | 6% |
| Lack of lighting around shelter | 5% |
| Poor facilities for persons with specific needs | 2% |

► Aligns with the Syria analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform
■ Refers to the current situation at the time of data collection
▼ Findings are not representative

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# ACCESS TO WATER

**100%** of households reported **piped water network** as the primary source of drinking and non-drinking water ▶,●

**99%** of households who **did not use a secondary source** of drinking water ▶,●

**10%** of households who had **insufficient access to water** to fulfill their needs ●

**Common barriers to accessing water for households** (as % of households who had insufficient water access [10%])[8],●,▼

| 1 | Not enough water tanks or water tanks not big enough | 100% |
| 2 | Not enough water from the network | 18% |
| 3 | Storage containers are too expensive | 18% |

**Most common water needs for which households had to reduce consumption** (as % of households who reduced water consumption [10%])[8],●,▼

| 🏠 | Cleaning (inside house) | 100% |
| 👕 | Cleaning (outside house) | 64% |
| 🧴 | Bathing | 18% |

**59%** of households who experienced issues with drinking water ▶,●

**Most common problems with drinking water** (as % of households that had problems with drinking water)▶,●,▼

| 1 | Water has a bad colour | 75% |
| 2 | Water smells bad | 43% |
| 3 | Water tastes bad | 38% |

| **Average % of monthly income spent on water**[9] |
| --- |
| **<1%** |
| **Average expenditure on water as a % of total household expenditure**[9] |
| **<1%** |

**Most common strategies applied by households to avoid running out of water** (as % of households who applied some coping strategy [66%])[8],●

| 1 | Relying on drinking water stored previously | 94% |
| 2 | Reducing non-drinking water consumption (of water for all purposes) | 16% |
| 3 | Collecting water from a source that is further away than the usual one | 4% |

**37%** of households who did not use any methods to make drinking water safer ●

**Most common methods to make water safer** (by % of households)●

| 1 | Storage and sedimentation | 58% |
| 2 | Boiling | 6% |
| 3 | Household filters | 6% |

# ACCESS TO SANITATION

💧 **78%** of households who experienced sanitation issues ●

**Common sanitation issues for households** (as % of households who experienced sanitation issues [78%])[8],●,▼

| 1 | Waste collection services too infrequent | 55% |
| 2 | Sewage system needs cleaning | 49% |
| 3 | Waste (solid waste/trash) in street | 47% |
| 4 | Sewage system needs repair | 40% |
| 5 | Rodents and/or pests frequently visible in street | 16% |

● Refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection
▶ Aligns with the Syria analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform
▼ Findings are not representative

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# ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

**Primary source of electricity**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ■ (red) | Main network | **82%** |
| ■ (dark) | Community generator | **16%** |
| ■ (beige) | Private generator | **2%** |
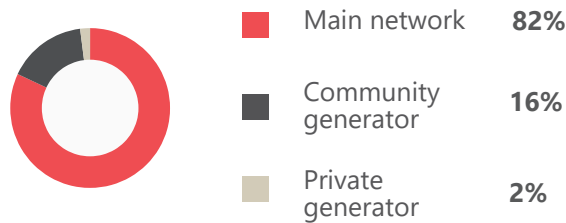
**Secondary source of electricity** (by % of households who had a secondary source [93%])[8,]
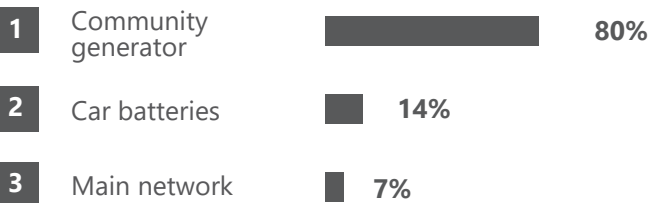
| 1 | Community generator | | **80%** |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Car batteries | | **14%** |
| 3 | Main network | | **7%** |

| Average % of monthly income spent on electricity[9] |
|---|
| **4%** |
| **Average expenditure on electricity as a % of total household expenditure[9]** |
| **4%** |

**7%**
of households who did not have access to a secondary source of electricity

**100%**
of households who experienced issues with accessing electricity

**Average number of hours of electricity per day**

**9.4**
Average hours of electricity per day available to households

| 13 or more | 12-11 | 10-9 | 8-7 | 6-5 | 4-3 | 2-1 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4% | 30% | 19% | 45% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 0% |

**Most common barriers to accessing electricity[8,]**

| 1 | Rationing of electricity by local authorities | | **84%** |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Electricity from the community generator is too expensive | | **58%** |
| 3 | Solar panels too expensive | | **58%** |
| 4 | Private generators too expensive | | **25%** |
| 5 | Community generator needs repairs | | **24%** |

● Refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection

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# INCOME SOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT

## Sources of income in the month prior to data collection[8,►]

| | |
|---|---|
| Employment (including self-employment/entrepreneurship) | 96% |
| Borrowing/loans | 54% |
| Humanitarian assistance (cash vouchers) | 12% |
| Gifts from family members or friends in Syria (cash) | 8% |
| Retirement/pension/martyr's salary | 4% |
| Remittances | 2% |

## Most common employment sectors (by % of households where employment is a source of income [96%])[8,►,■]

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Real estate/construction | 18% | | 6 | Government/public services | 9% |
| 2 | Trade/transportation | 17% | | 7 | Hospitality industry | 8% |
| 3 | Agriculture | 13% | | 8 | Education/childcare | 7% |
| 4 | Machinery/mechanics/repairs | 13% | | 9 | Marketplace vending | 5% |
| 5 | Wholesale/retail | 12% | | 10 | Crafts | 3% |

## Most common primary source of income for households[10,►,■]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Self-employment/entrepreneurship | 38% |
| 2 | Informal longer-term work agreements (verbal) | 19% |
| 3 | Informal day-to-day work agreements (verbal) | 12% |

**42%** of households reported self-employment/entrepreneurship as a source of income ■

**4%** of households where informal day-to-day work was the only income source ■

| Average number of adults per households who are: | |
|---|---|
| **Employed** | 1.3 |
| **Not in employment** | 2.3 |
| **Not employed and looking for a job (unemployed)[11]** | 0.8 |

## INCOME AND EXPENSES ►

| Average monthly income for a family of 6 members[12] | Average monthly expense for a family of 6 members[13] | Average monthly deficit for a family of 6 members |
|---|---|---|
| 1,363,631 SYP | 1,482,435 SYP | -118,804 SYP |

► Aligns with the Syria analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform
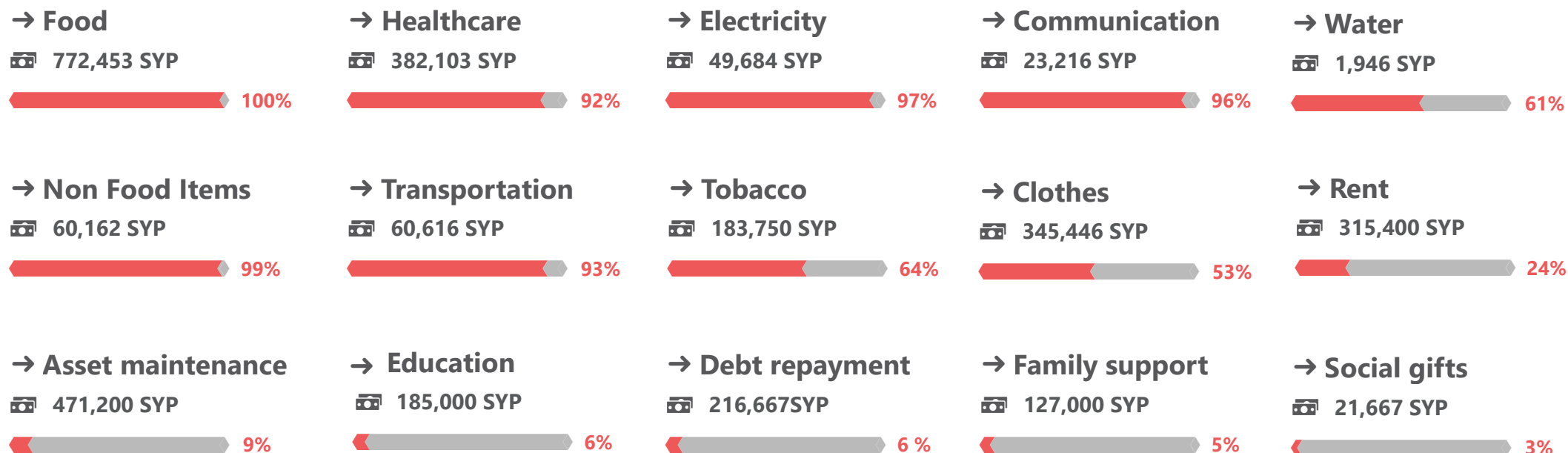■ Refers to the current situation at the time of data collection

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# INCIME AND EXPENSES ▶

Average monthly expense for households who had expenses in the following categories

🟥 Share of households who spent money on the expense category

→ **Food**
💵 772,453 SYP
**100%**

→ **Healthcare**
💵 382,103 SYP
**92%**

→ **Electricity**
💵 49,684 SYP
**97%**

→ **Communication**
💵 23,216 SYP
**96%**

→ **Water**
💵 1,946 SYP
**61%**

→ **Non Food Items**
💵 60,162 SYP
**99%**

→ **Transportation**
💵 60,616 SYP
**93%**

→ **Tobacco**
💵 183,750 SYP
**64%**

→ **Clothes**
💵 345,446 SYP
**53%**

→ **Rent**
💵 315,400 SYP
**24%**

→ **Asset maintenance**
💵 471,200 SYP
**9%**

→ **Education**
💵 185,000 SYP
**6%**

→ **Debt repayment**
💵 216,667SYP
**6 %**

→ **Family support**
💵 127,000 SYP
**5%**

→ **Social gifts**
💵 21,667 SYP
**3%**

## ABILITY TO MEET BASIC NEEDS

Households' perceived ability to meet basic needs ▶ •

| | |
|---|---|
| 🟥 Very poor | **11%** |
| ⬛ Poor | **20%** |
| 🟫 Fair | **68%** |
| ⬜ Good | **1%** |
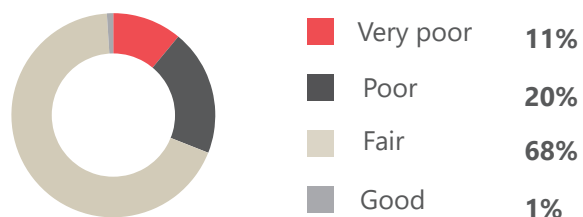
Change in the households' ability to meet basic needs over the last three months

| | |
|---|---|
| 🟥 Significant deterioration | **26%** |
| ⬛ Some deterioratiom | **38%** |
| 🟫 No change | **30%** |
| ⬜ Some improvement | **6%** |

▶ Aligns with the Syria analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform
• Refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection

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# ABILITY TO MEET BASIC NEEDS

**% of households with savings** ■

**6%**
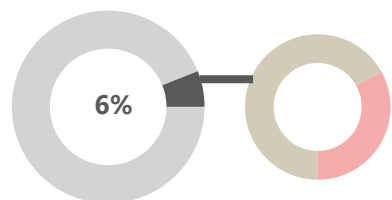
**Changes in savings within the last 3 months** ●,▼

| | |
|---|---|
| ■ Stayed the same | **67%** |
| ■ Slightly decreased | **33%** |
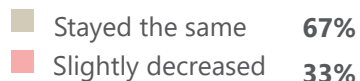
**% of households in debt** ■

**86%**
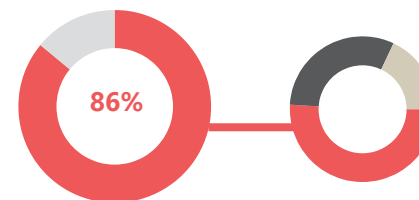
**% of households able to repay their debt in 6 months** ▼

| | |
|---|---|
| ■ No | **51%** |
| ■ Don't know | **31%** |
| ■ Yes | **18%** |
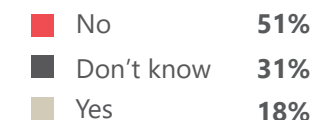
**Most common barriers to meeting basic needs** (as % of households who experienced barriers [100%]) ►,■

| 1 | The wage is not commensurate with the rising prices | **93%** |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Lack of employment opportunities | **82%** |
| 3 | Lack of skills for a better paying job | **44%** |

| Average % of monthly income spent on debt repayment[9] |
|---|
| **13%** |
| Average expenditure on debt repayment as a % of total household expenditure[9] |
| **8%** |

**Most common coping strategies adopted to meet basic needs** (as % of households who applied coping strategies [93%]) ►,●

| 1 | Borrowing money | **88%** |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Purchasing items on credit | **60%** |
| 3 | Decreasing non-food expenditures (health, education, etc.) | **29%** |
| 4 | Selling household assets/goods | **9%** |
| 5 | Sending children below 15 to work | **5%** |

**46%** of households whose monthly income was lower than their estimated monthly expenses ►

**5%** of households whose monthly income would not cover minimum expenses (as estimated by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket)[14],►

► Aligns with the Syria analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform
■ Refers to the current situation at the time of data collection
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▼ Findings are not representative

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# FOOD ACCESS AND CONSUMPTION

**Average number of days food groups were consumed by households in the 7 days prior to data collection**

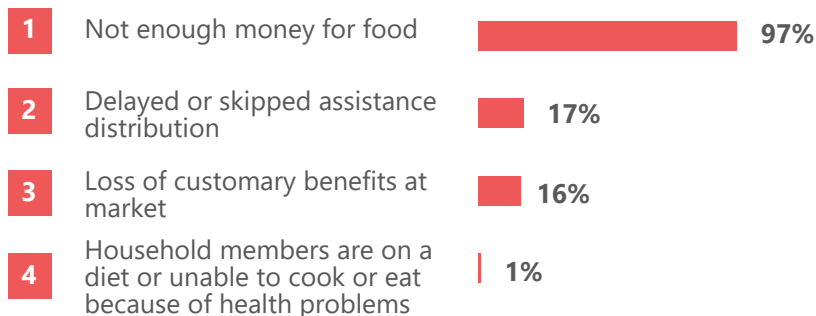| Food group | Days |
|---|---|
| Fish/Meat/Eggs | 1.8 |
| Fruit | 0.5 |
| Pulses, nuts, and seeds | 0.8 |
| Tubers/roots | 1.7 |
| Vegetables and leaves | 4.2 |
| Milk, and dairy | 2.9 |
| Bread and cereals | 4.2 |
| Sweets | 3.5 |
| Oils and fats | 5.9 |
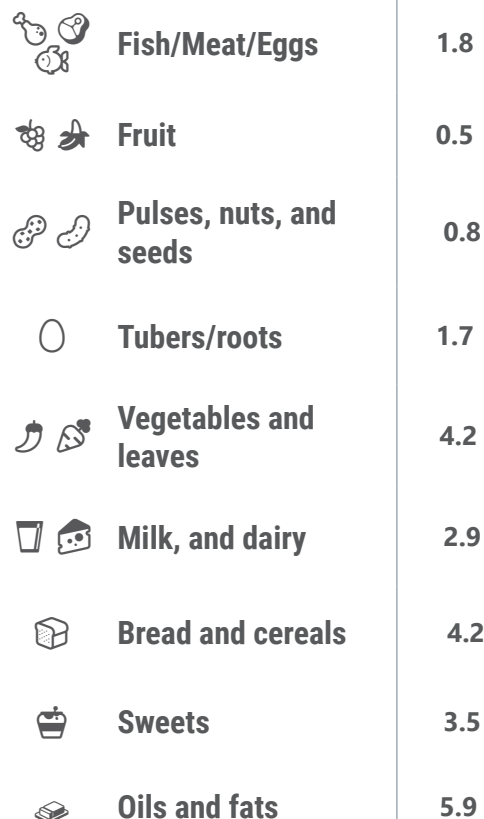
**Most common source of food** ■

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ■ | Permanent market | 94% |
| ■ | Food assistance | 6% |

**88%** % of households who experienced issues with accessing sufficient quantities and quality of food ●

**Barriers to accessing sufficient quantities and quality of food** (by % of households who experienced barriers [88%])[8,] ●

| | Barrier | % |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Not enough money for food | 97% |
| 2 | Delayed or skipped assistance distribution | 17% |
| 3 | Loss of customary benefits at market | 16% |
| 4 | Household members are on a diet or unable to cook or eat because of health problems | 1% |

**6%** of households reporting perceiving that at least one member had lost weight in the last 3 month due to insufficient food access ●

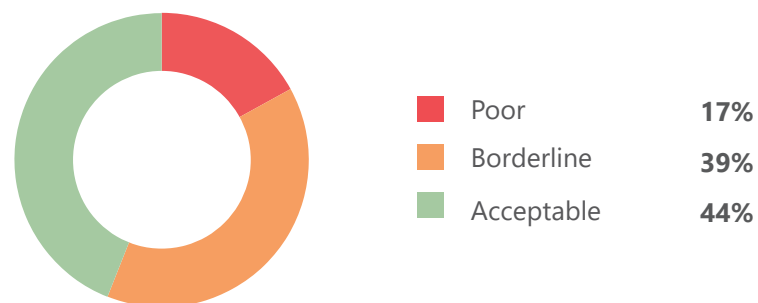| | |
|---|---|
| **Average % of monthly income spent on food**[9] | |
| **60%** | |
| **Average expenditure on food as a % of total household expenditure**[9] | |
| **50%** | |
| **Average monthly food expenditure per person in a household** | |
| **110,211 SYP** | |
| **% of households whose monthly food expenditure is more than 50% of their total expenditure** | |
| **47%** | |

**10%** of households who did not consume any eggs, meat or fish in the 7 days prior to data collection

**59%** of households who did not consume any fruit in the 7 days prior to data collection

■ Refers to the current situation at the time of data collection
● Refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection

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# FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)[15]

## COPING STRATEGIES

**Food Consumption Score** (by % of households)



| | |
|---|---|
| ■ Poor | **17%** |
| ■ Borderline | **39%** |
| ■ Acceptable | **44%** |

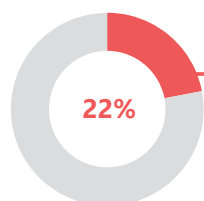**5.9** **Average reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) in ar-Raqqa city**

The rCSI is a relative score to measure the frequency and severity of food-related negative coping mechanisms adopted by households to cover their needs. A decrease in score suggests an amelioration in food security. Based on the Syria 2021 Inter-Sector Severity Model, the thresholds for the Reduced Coping Strategies Index are: (1) None/Minimal (rCSI= 0-2), (2) Stress (rCSI = 3-6), (3) Severe (rCSI = 7-11), (4) Extreme (rCSI = 12-19), (5) Catastrophic (rCSI>19). Thus, results indicate a stressed level of coping in Ar-Raqqa city.

**57%** of households with children with **poor** or **borderline** food consumption ▼

**Coping strategies (CS) in the 7 days prior to data collection** (for households who experienced barriers in accessing sufficient food [91%])

| | Average #days per week CS was applied | % of households who applied CS |
|---|---|---|
| Relied on less preferred/less expensive food | 3 | 93% |
| Reduced the number of meals eaten per day | 1.1 | 51% |
| Reduced the portion size of meals at meal time | 0.8 | 43% |
| Restricted the consumption by adults in order for young children to eat | 0.4 | 23% |
| Borrowed food or relied on help from friends | 0.1 | 7% |

**FCS Interpretation[15]**

**Poor food consumption (score between 0-28):** This category includes households that are not consuming staples and vegetables every day and never or very seldom consume protein-rich food such as meat and dairy.

**Borderline food consumption (score between 28.5-42):** This category includes households that are consuming staples and vegetables every day, accompanied by oils and pulses a few times a week.

**Acceptable food consumption (score >42):** This category includes households that are consuming staples and vegetables every day, frequently accompanied by oils and pulses and occasionally meat, fish and dairy.

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# ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

**% of households with unmet health needs**►,●,16

**22%**

**Most common inaccessible health treatments** (by % of households with unmet health needs [22%])8,▼,●

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Medicines | 70% |
| 2 | Treatment for chronic diseases | 61% |
| 3 | Eye services | 26% |
| 4 | General and/or specialist surgical services | 17% |
| 5 | Dental services | 13% |

**Most common inaccessible types of medicine** (by % of households with unmet health needs related to medicines and other commodities [70%])8,▼,●

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Antibiotics | 62% |
| 2 | Painkillers/analgesics | 56% |
| 3 | Medications for hypertension/heart conditions | 50% |
| 4 | Diabetes medicines | 25% |
| 5 | Products for eye infections/conditions | 12% |

**82%** of households who experienced issues with accessing healthcare●

| |
|---|
| **Average % of monthly income spent on healthcare**13 |
| **19%** |
| **Average expenditure on health care as a % of total household expenditure**13 |
| **14%** |

**Most common barriers to accessing healthcare** (by % of households)8,●

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Cannot afford price of medicines | 75% |
| 2 | Cannot afford treatment costs | 70% |
| 3 | Lack of medicines and/or medical equipment at facilities | 39% |

**Households with at least one member who showed signs of psychological distress**●

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ■ | Yes | 87% |
| ■ | No | 13% |
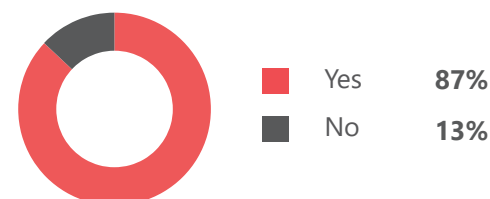
**Most common coping strategies** (by % of host community households with unmet health needs [22%])8,▼,●

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Going to a pharmacy instead of a clinic | 91% |
| 2 | Foregoing non-essential treatment | 52% |
| 3 | Taking lower than the recommended dosage of medication | 52% |

► Aligns with the Syria analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform
● Refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection

▼ Findings are not representative

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## NOTES ON ANALYSIS

For some indicators, a reduced sample of households answered the question as a result of a skip logic in the questionnaire. In some of these cases, the reduced sample of households resulted in findings that are not representative with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error, indicated with the symbol above. Indicators which are not representative are indicated throughout the Situation Overview with the icon▼.

The HSOS Urban Household Assessment is conducted in cooperation with the NES Forum. The complete multi-sectoral descriptive analysis can be accessed online or can be downloaded as an excel file. All HSOS products remain accessible on the REACH Resource Centre.

## ENDNOTES

1. The Humanitarian Situation Overview Syria (HSOS) project comprises regular multi-sectoral assessments reviewing information on humanitarian needs and conditions across accessible areas in northern Syria. The HSOS monthly KI assessments can be found here.

2. Findings from a 4W review in January 2022 indicated that roughly 60% of the out of camp response activities in NES are based in urban locations.

3. The Syria Analytical Framework is a Syria-specific analytical tool developed by the Durable Solutions Platform to guide the incorporation of a durable solutions lens into research and tool design.

4. IDPs are defined as individuals or groups of people who have left their homes or places of habitual residence and have settled in the assessed city after 2011, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, or violations of human rights.

5. Host populations are defined as individuals or groups of people who currently reside in their community of origin, or community of permanent residence prior to 2011. This includes populations that were never displaced as well as previously displaced populations that have returned to their community of origin (defined as returnees).

6. Areas consistently identified as security concerns, including check points, their surroundings, or military presence, were not covered. Out of the 23 residential neighbourhoods, 1 was not assessed due to security concerns. Consequently, the remaining 22 neighbourhoods were assessed.

7. Households were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority need. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a need was selected among all three categories (first, second or third highest priority need).

8. Respondents could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

9. Computed for households who had this particular expense in the 30 days prior to data collection.

10. Longer-term informal employment is defined as employment with a verbal agreement whose duration is more than 1 month. Short-term informal employment is defined as employment with a verbal agreement whose duration is less than 1 month.

11. Calculated for households where employment is a source of income.

12. Computed as the mean of (household income/number of household members)*6.

13. Computed as the mean of (household expense/number of household members)*6.

14. Computed by comparing (household income/number of household members) to (1,131,983 SYP/6), where 1,131,983 is the median value of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) for a family of 6 in Ar-Raqqa governorate, from the July 2023 Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI).

15. The FCS is a composite score based on dietary, diversity, food frequency, and relative nutritional importance of different food groups consumed by a household throughout 7 days. Refer to: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). (May 2014). WFP Food Consumption Score - Technical Guidance Sheet. Retrieved from: wfp.org

16. Unmet health needs refer to anyone in the household who needed or wanted to access healthcare (including medicines) but could not access it.

## REFERENCES

a. HSOS considers the ability to meet basic needs to be fair when households can meet basic needs but can face difficulties to do so. HSOS considers the ability to meet basic needs to be good when households can meet basic needs without difficulties.

b. Wellcome. (12 May 2022). How climate change affects waterborne diseases. Retrieved from http://wellcome.org

c. World Health Organization. (23 November 2018). WHO Housing and health guidelines. Retrieved from http://www.who.int

d. Ibid.