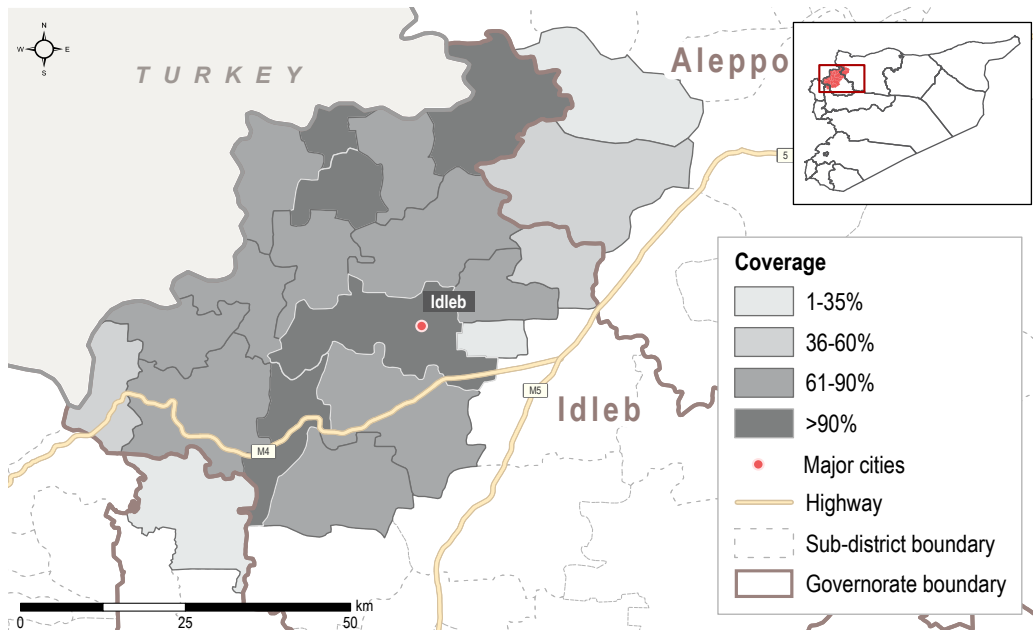


Introduction and Methodology

HSOS is a monthly assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This factsheet presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, economic conditions, living conditions, access to basic services, COVID-19 situation, and the security and protection situation in the Greater Idleb area in Northwest Syria (NWS). **Sector-specific indicator findings by location can be found on the [HSOS dashboard](#).**

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview three to six KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely (via phone). KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **371 communities** across the greater Idleb area¹. **Data was collected between 4-17 November 2021 from 1,353 KIs** (17% female). Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalized across the population and region. Findings that are calculated based on a subset of the community are indicated by the following footnote ♦, with each subset specified in the endnotes.

The **complete monthly HSOS dataset** is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).



Key Highlights

Unaffordability of food and basic goods remains high in greater Idleb as prices increased in November due to the depreciation of the Turkish lira. Access to healthcare was hindered by the high cost of transportation to reach health facilities, and the high price of water trucking was a barrier to accessing sufficient water. In addition, the security situation remained of concern, as violations of the ceasefire agreement continue to result in civilian victims.

- **A rapid depreciation of the Turkish lira (TRY) led to increased prices of consumer goods in the area of greater Idleb**, which adopted the TRY as an alternative to the Syrian pound in June 2020.^a In particular, in Idleb Governorate, the market exchange rate of the TRY against the United States Dollar (USD) increased by 8% in the last month and reached 1 USD = 9.55 TRY in November.^b Food prices continued to increase as agricultural inputs became more expensive.^c KIs in 55% of the assessed communities indicated high operational costs as a barrier to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture for the resident population. At the same time, the unaffordability of food was indicated by KIs in 85% of assessed communities as a barrier to accessing food.

- **While KIs increasingly reported healthcare assistance in Greater Idleb, access to healthcare remained challenging.** In November, KIs in 50% of the assessed communities reported the presence of health assistance, compared to 42% in October. In particular, 139 communities reportedly received health assistance in both months, 47 communities started receiving this kind of assistance in November and 18 communities stopped receiving it. Yet, in 44% of the assessed communities, households reportedly did not have access to health services in their location. The high cost and lack of transportation were the most commonly reported barriers to accessing healthcare. A lack of medicines/medical equipment and overcrowding at the health facility were also widespread issues, reported by KIs in 58% and 51% of the assessed communities, respectively. The health sector in Idleb remains under strain due to a lack of funding, and hospitals are reportedly closing down due to a shortage of medical supplies.^{d,e}

- **Access to water remained stable, but over-extraction and high costs are of concern.** In November, the water reservoir of Al-Duwaysat Dam in Idleb province dried up due to low rainfall, structural damage and over-extraction.^f Water supply in greater Idleb was reportedly intermittent and expensive.^g Privately paid water trucking was the most commonly reported source of drinking water, mentioned by KIs in 42% of assessed communities. According to KIs, the high price of water trucking was a barrier to accessing water in 89% of the communities where not all households had access to sufficient water.

- **Shelling and airstrikes continued to take a toll on civilians' lives.^h** As ceasefire violations continued in the month of November, the threat from shelling and the threat from airstrikes were reported by KIs in 109 and 105 assessed communities, respectively.

HSOS Dashboard

For a breakdown of sector-specific indicators by location, please see the [HSOS dashboard](#). The interactive HSOS dashboard provides a monthly sectoral overview of key indicators disaggregated at the sub-district and community level.



Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for residents (by % of assessed communities) ^{2,3}

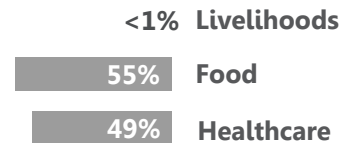
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Livelihoods	NFIs [▲]	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	66%
2	Food	Food	WASH [▼]	Food	49%
3	Healthcare	Winterisation	Winterisation	Healthcare	39%

% of assessed communities where some of the resident households were able to access humanitarian assistance



Yes: **79%**
No: **21%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for residents** ⁴



Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) ^{4, 5}

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need **70%** **1**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **52%** **2**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **39%** **3**

- No humanitarian assistance was available **97%**
- People did not comply with the eligibility criteria **3%**



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs (by % of assessed communities) ^{2,3}

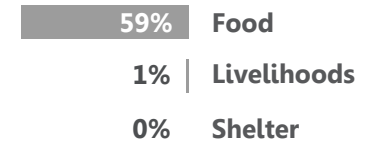
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Shelter	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Food	58%
2	Food	NFIs	NFIs	Livelihoods	54%
3	Livelihoods	Food	Winterisation	Shelter	50%

% of assessed communities where some of the IDP households were able to access humanitarian assistance



Yes: **81%**
No: **19%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for IDPs** ⁴



Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) ^{4, 5}

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need **71%** **1**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **53%** **2**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **41%** **3**

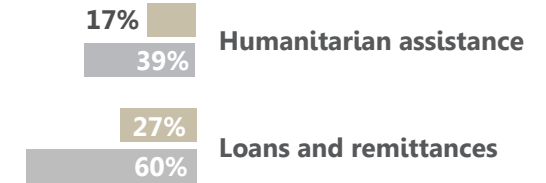
- No humanitarian assistance was available **98%**
- People did not comply with the eligibility criteria **2%**



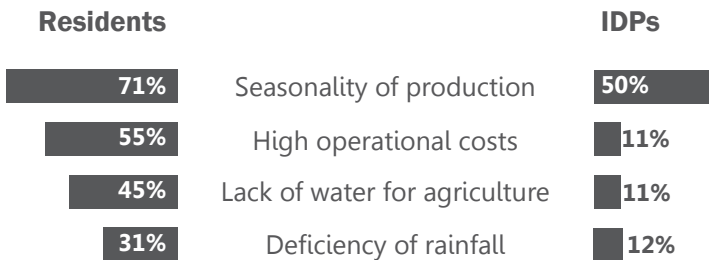
Economic Conditions

Region	Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{5,6}			Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment ^{5,6}			Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}		
	SYP	TRY [▲]	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
Greater Idlib area	21,990 SYP			64,136 SYP			7,330 SYP		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies ⁴	0%	100%	0%	0%	69%	31%	0%	100%	0%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of residents and IDP households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs ⁴



Most commonly reported barriers to accessing live-lihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) ⁴



85% and 95%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported daily waged labour as a common source of income for residents and IDPs

65 days

Number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of basic SMEB[▲] items ^{5,9}

94% and 47%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the insufficient income of households and general lack of employment opportunities as barriers to meeting basic needs ⁸

Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services

- KIs in **68%** of assessed communities cited that **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people
- KIs in **52%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge
- KIs in **83%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge
- KIs in **53%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge
- KIs in **85%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge ⁸
- KIs in **50%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge

% of assessed communities where common livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ⁴

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	60%	6%
Cash crop production	67%	4%
Livestock products	61%	52%
Sale of livestock	10%	23%



Living Conditions

In **93%** of assessed communities at least **80%** of the resident population reportedly owned their shelter

In **67%** of assessed communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **19%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **24%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents



A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **11%** of assessed communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **7%** of assessed communities

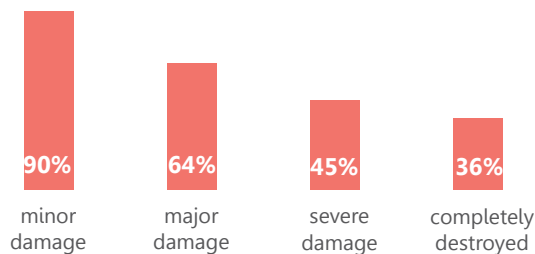


Problems with the drinking water were reported in **43%** of assessed communities



Water being calcareous was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 43% of assessed communities)

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages were reported (by % of assessed communities) ^{5,10}



Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 79% of assessed communities) ⁴

Reported sanitation issues affecting public space in the community (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible



Solid waste in the streets



Sewage system pollutes public areas



Stagnant water



Flooding in the streets



94%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **house-holds experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food** ⁸



In **15%** of these communities, KIs reported that the **unavailability of certain food items** was a challenge to accessing sufficient food ⁸

Most commonly reported coping strategies for a lack of food (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

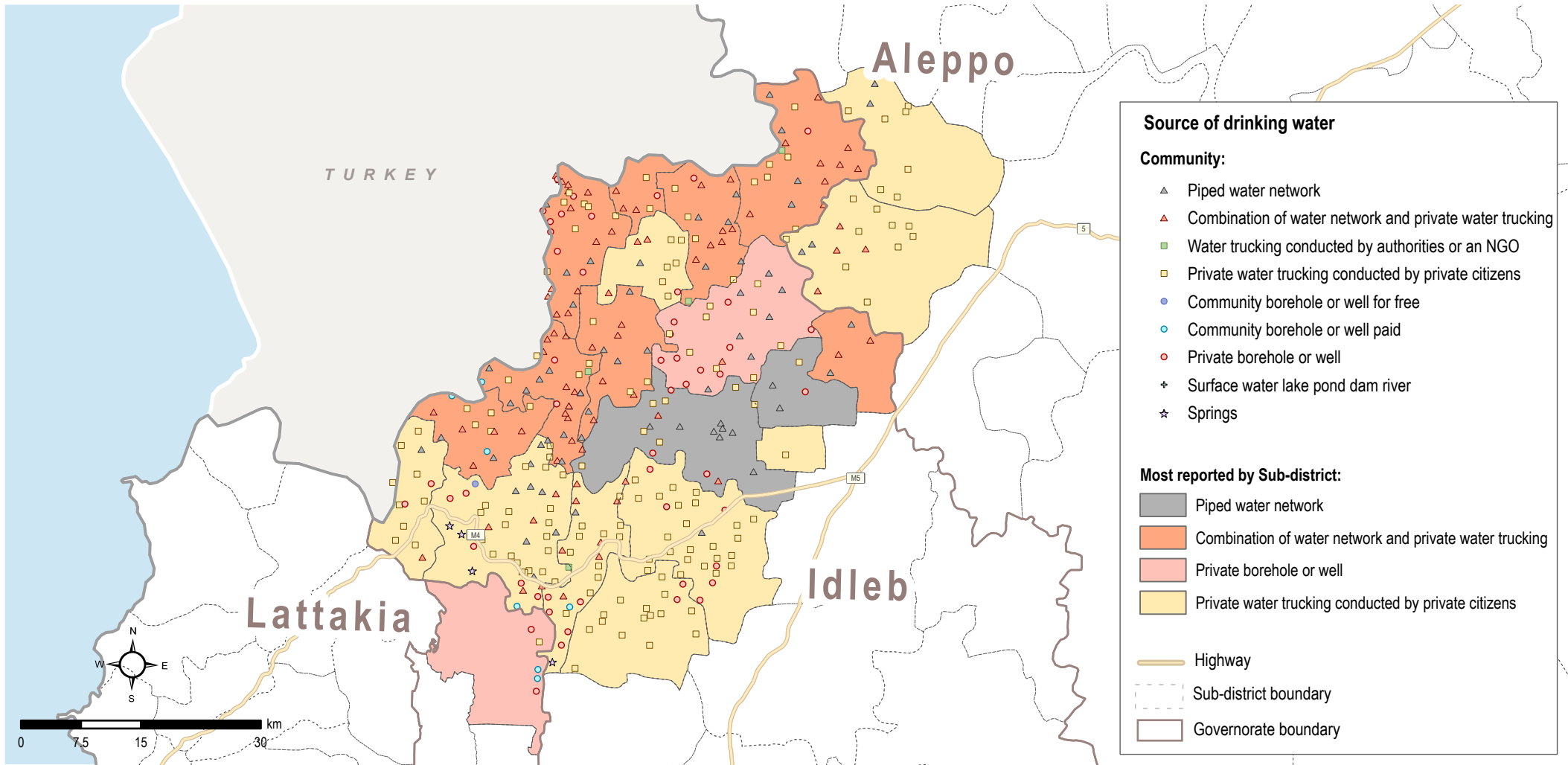
- 1 Relying on less preferred food / lower food quality **74%**
- 2 Borrowing money to buy food **74%**
- 3 Buying food with money usually used for other things **62%**



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 92% of assessed communities) ^{4,11}

Commonly reported **sources of food** for house-holds other than markets (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

- 1 Own production or farming **58%**
- 2 Assistance from local council or NGOs **25%**
- 3 Relying on food stored previously **24%**



Sources of Drinking Water

Note on the map

This map shows the most common source of drinking water used by households in each assessed location, as reported by local KIs. Private water trucking conducted by private citizens was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (42%), followed by a combination of water network and private water trucking, reported in 22% of the assessed communities in Greater Idlib.



Access to Basic Services



Access to Electricity

7-8 hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 35% of assessed communities)

Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 63% of assessed communities)

41%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the main network is partially or completely not functioning as a barrier for electricity access ⬇



Access to Water

59%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that not all households had access to sufficient water



7 days	5%
5-6 days	11%
3-4 days	25%
1-2 days	12%
0 days	47%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 323 communities connected to a water network) ⬇

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 42% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

35%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that no sewage system was present

Most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste (by % of assessed communities)

36%	Paid private waste collection
22%	Free public waste collection
20%	Waste burnt

44%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported waste removal services as a WASH priority need ⁸



Access to Markets

16%

% of assessed communities in which households reportedly were unable to access markets in the assessed location

Not enough consumers to support markets in the assessed location

was the most commonly reported reason for why markets were not functioning (reported by KIs in 68% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

70%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that the lack of transportation to markets was a barrier to physically accessing food markets



Access to Health Services

44%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that the households did not have access to health services in the assessed location

Most commonly reported health priority needs (by % of assessed communities) ⁸

49%	Paediatric consultations
49%	First aid or emergency care
43%	Treatment for chronic diseases

Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 87% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

25%
50%

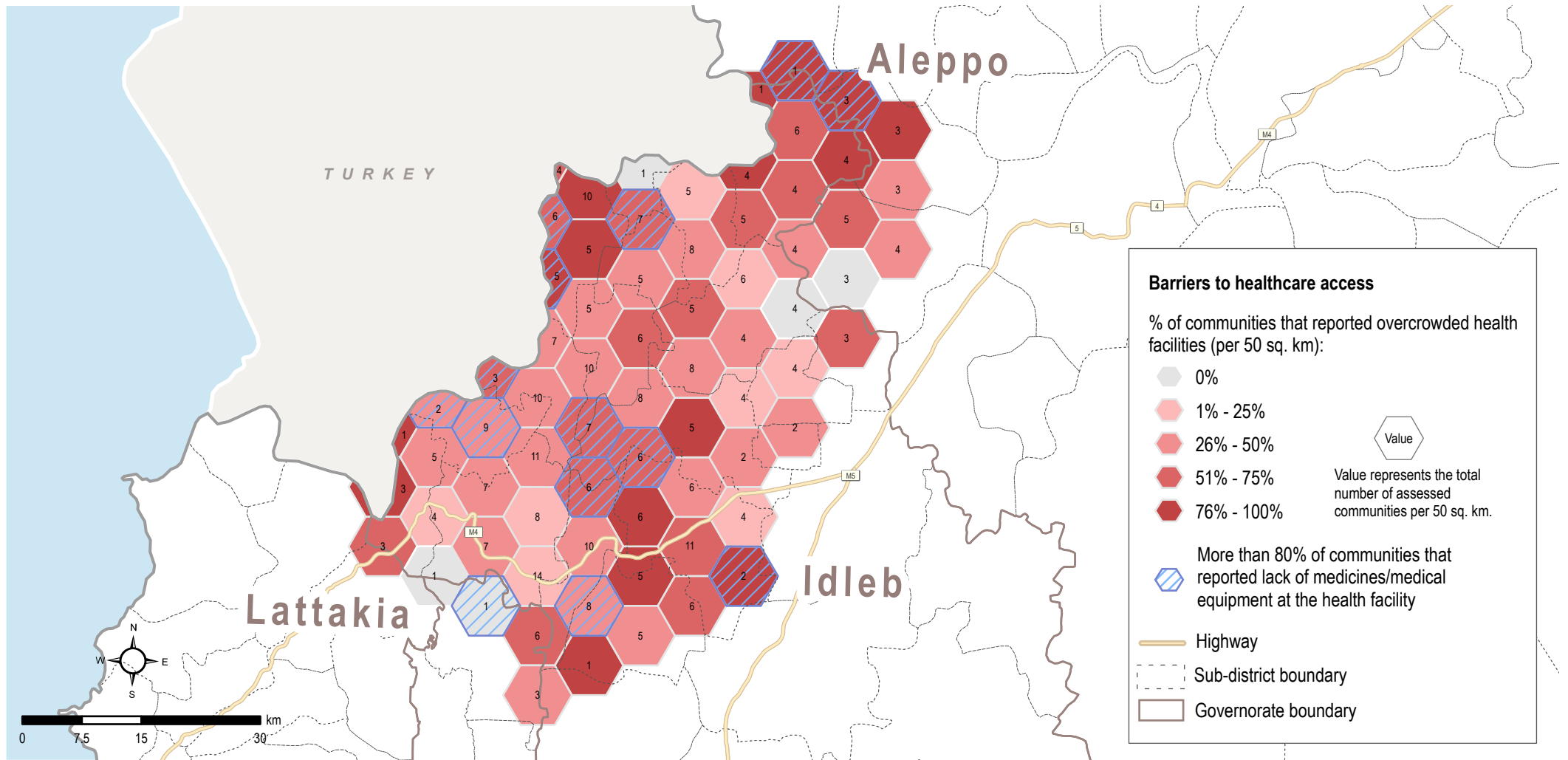
% of communities in which half or less of the school aged-children accessed school in the last 30 days for residents and IDPs

90%	In person
12%	Online
10%	Not functioning

% of assessed communities where KIs reported on the functioning of education services in the assessed location ⁴

16%

% of communities where KIs reported that the lack of access to internet, electricity and/or equipment was a barrier to accessing (online) education services ⁸



Overcrowded Health Facilities and Lack of Medicines or Medical Equipment at Health Facilities

Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of assessed communities where KIs indicated overcrowded health facilities and lack of medicines/medical equipment at the health facility as a barrier to healthcare access. KIs in 51% of the assessed communities in Greater Idleb indicated overcrowded health facilities and 58% of the assessed communities indicated lack of medicines/medical equipment at the health facility. 38% of the assessed communities reported both barriers to access healthcare services.



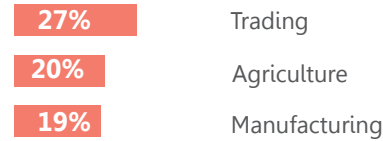
COVID-19

Effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods sectors in the community (by % of assessed communities)

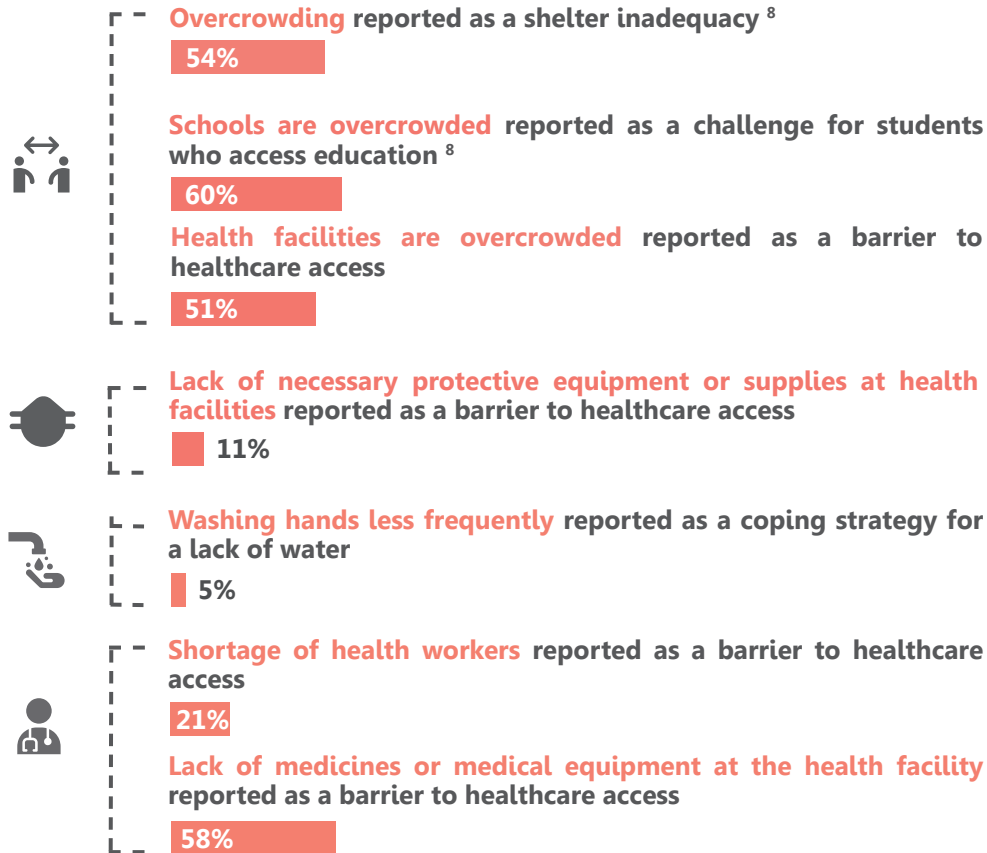


None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 65%
At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 35%

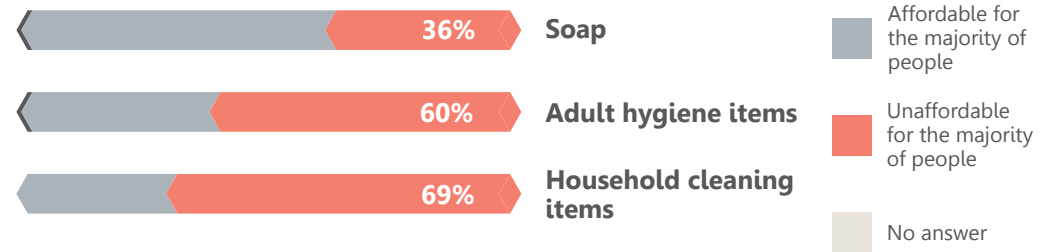
Most commonly reported sectors affected by COVID-19 (by % of assessed communities)



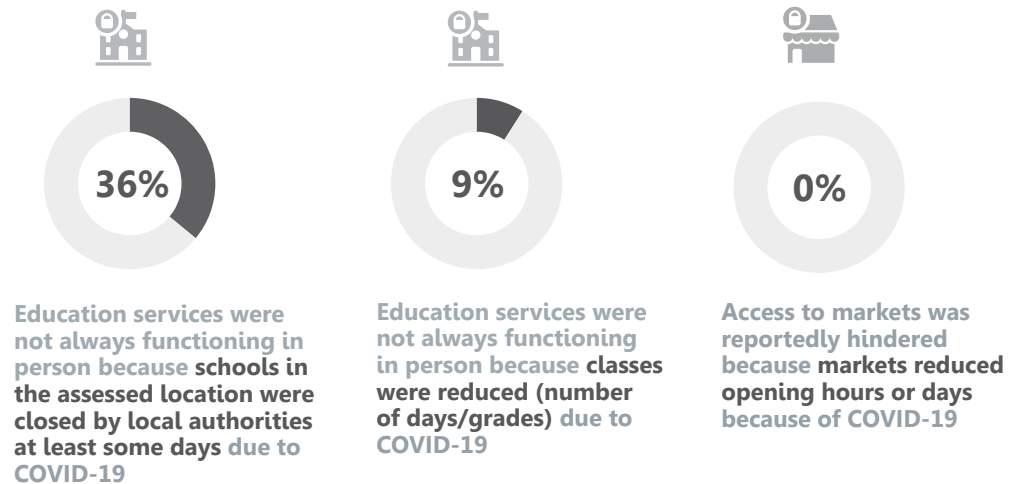
% of assessed communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported by KIs



Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of assessed communities) ¹²



% of assessed communities where COVID-19 related barriers to access services were reported





Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in **8%** of assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **18%** of assessed communities

Markets not opening because of security issues was a reported barrier to markets not functioning in **1%** of assessed communities



Threat from airstrikes was reported as a protection risk in **105** communities⁸

Threat from shelling, snipers or gunfire was reported as a protection risk in **110** communities⁸

Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances was reported as a protection risk in **26** communities⁸

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **69** communities⁸



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **40%** of assessed communities⁸

Lack of lighting around the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **87%** of assessed communities⁸

The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **22%** of assessed communities



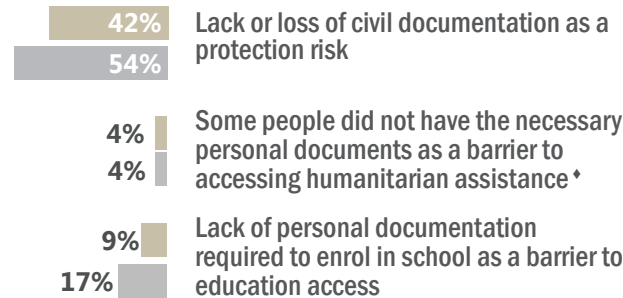
General safety and security concerns at the health facility was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **12%** of assessed communities

Most commonly reported protection priority needs (by % of assessed communities)^{3, 8}

- 1 **84%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 2 **49%** Specialised child protection services
- 3 **39%** Psychosocial support



% of assessed communities where the lack of civil documentation for residents and IDPs was reported



% of assessed communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported⁴

Residents

- 35%** Early marriage
- 1%** Forced marriage
- 8%** High risk work
- 1%** Sending family members to beg
- 75%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

IDPs

- 40%** Early marriage
- <1%** Forced marriage
- 9%** High risk work
- 3%** Sending family members to beg
- 81%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

Age, Gender, and Diversity

KIs in **45%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸

KIs in **40%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸

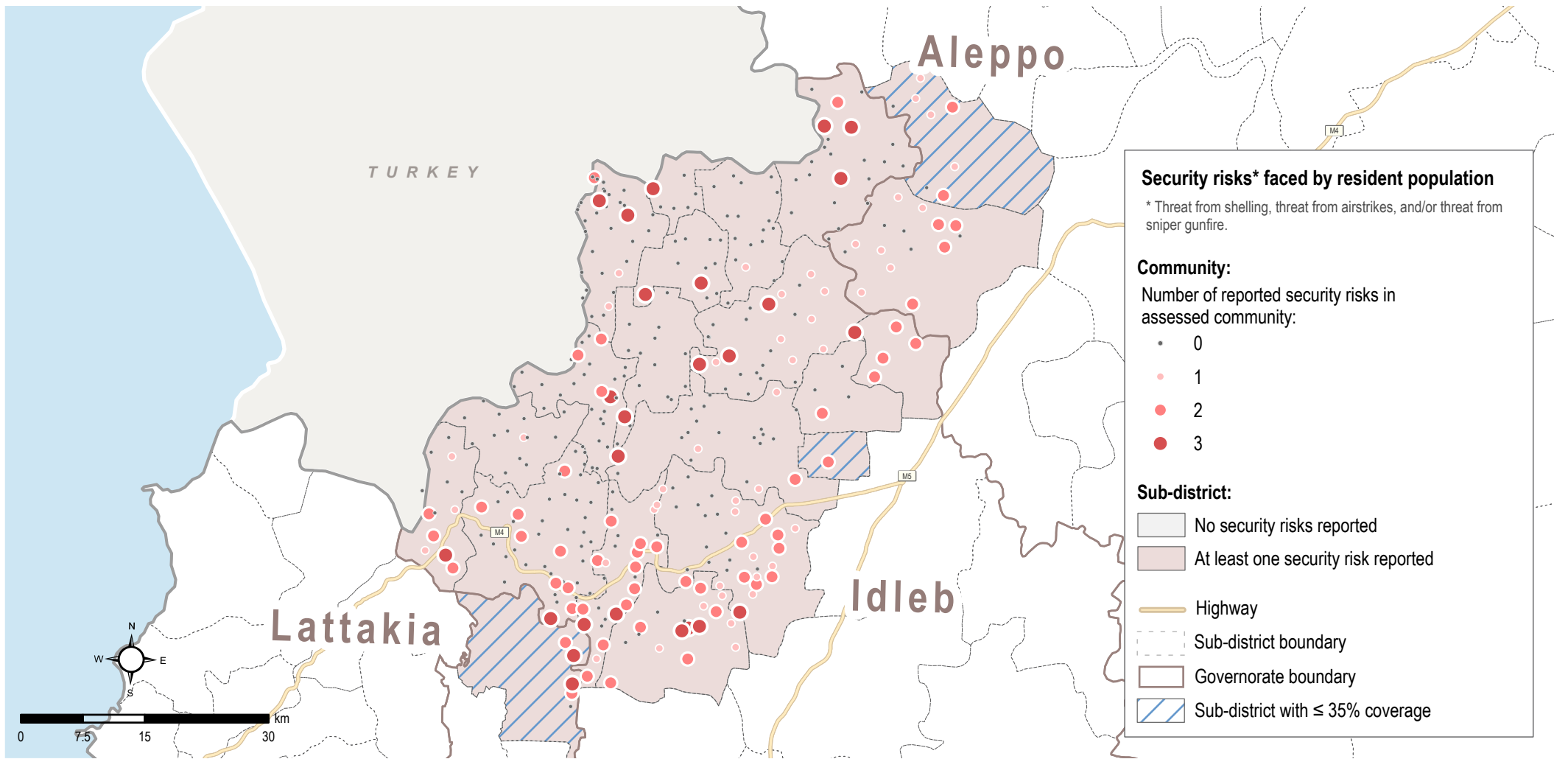
KIs in **16%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **43%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **4%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

Children below the age of 12 were reported as a group affected by child labour in **14%** of assessed communities⁸

Hazardous child labour was reported as a protection risk in **8%** of assessed communities⁸



Threat from Shelling, Airstrikes and Snipers or Gunfire as Security Risks faced by the Resident Population

Note on the map

This map shows the distribution of reported security risks including threat from shelling, airstrikes, and/or snipers or gunfire faced by residents across the assessed communities. The size and colour of the dots indicate how many of the threats (from shelling, airstrikes, or snipers or gunfire) were reported in the assessed locations. The shading illustrates in which sub-districts any of the threats were reported.

Endnotes

1. The greater Idleb area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo western countryside, and parts of Hama northwestern countryside controlled by armed opposition groups (AOGs).
2. KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. The ranking shows the sectors most frequently chosen as either first, second or third highest priority. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a sector was selected across all three categories (first, second or third highest priority).
3. KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
4. KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
5. KIs were asked about the situation at the time of data collection, instead of the last 30 days.
6. KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD), Turkish Lira (TRY), or Syrian Pounds (SYP). When the price was not reported in SYP, the Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Market Monitoring](#) November 2021, 1 USD = 3,500 SYP; 1TRY= 369 SYP.
7. According to the Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring November 2021, 1 USD = 3,500 SYP.
8. Findings for residents and IDPs were merged. The merge was calculated as follows: (option was selected for either residents or IDPs) / (communities reporting challenges/barriers/coping strategies for either residents or IDPs).
9. According to the Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring November 2021, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 475,966 SYP.
10. Minor damage (cracks in walls, leaking roof, need of new doors and window repairs, etc.); Major damage (buildings with extensive damage to window frames and doors, but no structural damage to columns, slabs, or loadbearing walls); Severe damage (buildings with significant structural damage to column slabs, or loadbearing walls, cracking, steel elements and deformations visible in concrete; the building would require extensive repairs); Completely destroyed (buildings with structural damage so significant that rehabilitation is not possible).
11. KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.
12. Adult hygiene items include: shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Household cleaning items include: washing powder, liquid, and dish detergent.

◆ By number of communities where KIs reported the relevant indicator for the relevant population group(s)

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>
<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>		<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>	
Residents	365	Currency used for paying water	337
IDPs	351	Currency used for paying rent	270
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	271	Currency in which wages are paid (merge)	311
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	75	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	350
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	268	Days when water is available from network	323
Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	65	Barriers to markets functioning	60

Sources

- a. Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (18 November 2021). As Turkish lira plummets rapidly, products' prices in Idlib markets unstable, while pharmacies and fuel stations partially closed. Retrieved from <https://www.syriaahr.com>
- b. Cash Working Group - Northwest Syria (NWS). November 2021 - Monthly Market Monitoring. Retrieved from <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info>
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About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org.