

Dar'a Governorate, April 2018

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

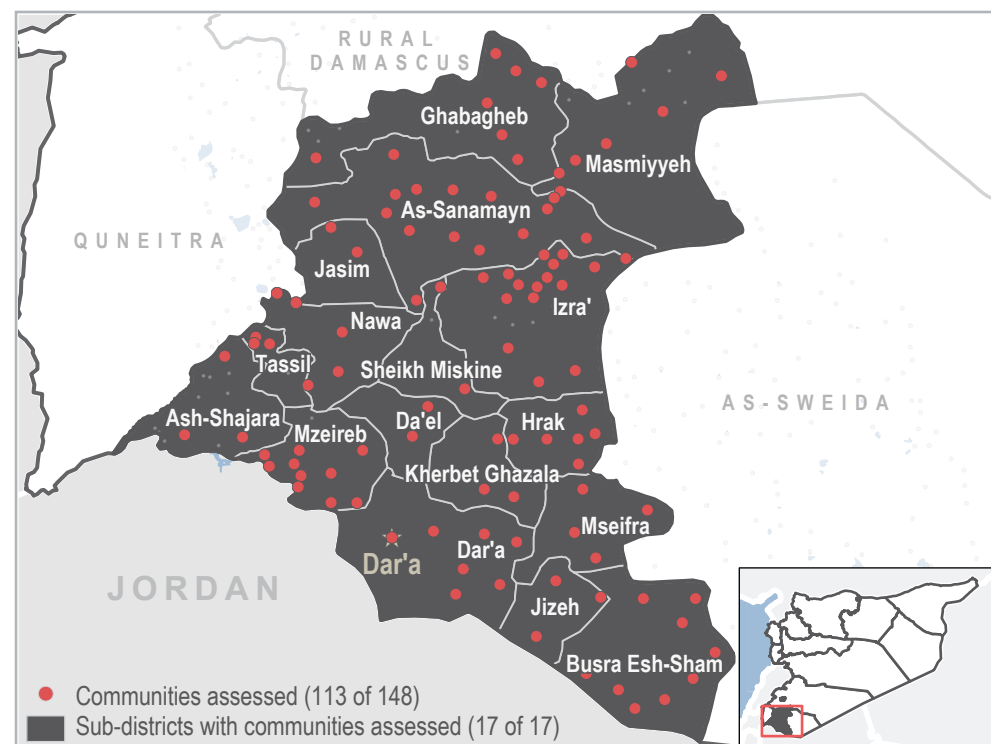
OVERALL FINDINGS¹

Dar'a governorate, located in southern Syria, is positioned between Damascus to the north, As-Sweida to the east, Quneitra to the west, and Jordan to the south. In mid-2017, heavy conflict within the governorate led to an internationally brokered ceasefire agreement between armed opposition groups (AOGs) and the Government of Syria (GoS). However, the governorate continues to experience conflict despite the ceasefire agreement remaining in effect. **Eleven** of the assessed communities reported that members of their pre-conflict population left, primarily due to loss of income and escalation of conflict in April. Additionally, **4** communities in Izra' sub-district reported that previous returnees left their community again. The most commonly cited reason for returnees to leave was a lack of access to employment. Key Informants (KIs) reported that **12** communities witnessed spontaneous IDP and refugee returns – approximately **4,106** in total². The largest number of spontaneous IDP returns were reported in Mlihet Elatash (approximately **1,575**), and Jabaliyeh (approximately **900**). The most commonly cited reasons for return were family reunification and a perceived cessation of hostilities in the community of origin. Additionally, Mlihet Elatash also saw the highest number of IDP arrivals (approximately **950** reported).

In the majority of the assessed communities, KIs reported that pre-conflict populations and IDPs lived in independent apartments or houses (**88%** and **76%**, respectively). Additionally, **46%** of the assessed communities reported that solar power was their primary source of electricity, and **35%** reported access to the network as their primary source. There was a reported lack of fuel in **41** of the assessed communities, and **61%** of these communities reported burning plastic as a coping strategy. Notably, **59%** of the assessed communities also reported acute respiratory infections as one of the most common health issues faced by community members in April. Additionally, in **64** of the assessed communities, KIs reported that residents experienced difficulties in accessing healthcare. The most commonly reported barriers were the high cost of transportation to facilities and lack of health facilities in the area.

Bekar and Hit communities reported that the water from their primary source tasted or smelled bad, and Eastern Bekar community reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick. Additionally, **29** of the assessed communities reported having an insufficient amount of water to meet household needs. In terms of food, KIs in **88** of the assessed communities reported that residents experienced difficulties in accessing sufficient amounts of food in April. The most commonly reported barriers were a lack of resources to buy food and the high cost of some food items. For more information on food prices, please see the [April Market Monitoring Situation Overview](#). KIs reported that unstable, daily employment was the most common source of income in **86%** of the assessed communities. However, **106** of the communities reported not having enough income to cover household needs. Borrowing money from family and friends (**82%**) and some children being sent to work or beg (**56%**) were the most commonly reported coping strategies³. In **19** of the assessed communities, children faced additional barriers to education, most commonly due to a lack of teaching staff, destruction of facilities, and/or a lack of school supplies.

Coverage



Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Healthcare
2. Food security
3. Water security

Demographics*

898,910 people in need

437,769 **461,141**

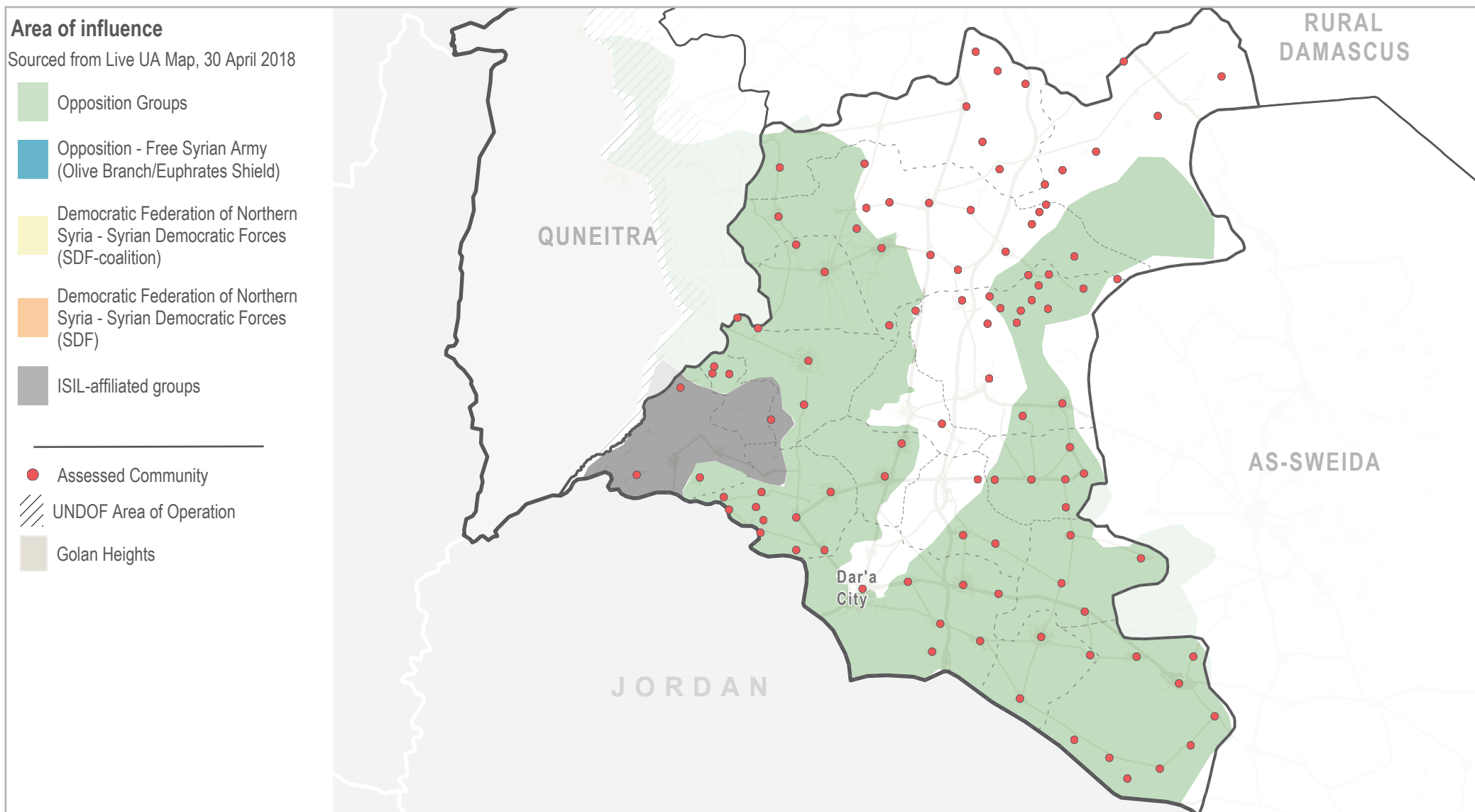
* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

KEY EVENTS

Dar'a city targeted by hundreds of air strikes in one of the heaviest clashes the city has seen ⁴ .	Internationally brokered ceasefire agreement takes effect across south-western Syria ⁵ .	Dar'a city lacking essential infrastructure despite return of thousands ⁶ .	Approximately 3,000 spontaneous IDP returnees to Ankhel in Izra' district.	Thousands of civilians flee southern Dar'a amidst a reported increase in conflict ⁷ .	Tension hightens as conflict escalates throughout the governorate ⁸ .
Early June 2017	9 July 2017	November 2017	February 2018	12 March 2018	April 2018

Dar'a Governorate, April 2018

Governorate areas of influence:



DISPLACEMENT

1,485 - 1,711 Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in April.

3,630 - 4,582 Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in April².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Mihet Elatash	900 - 1,000
Western Ghariyeh	150 - 200
Smad	120 - 140

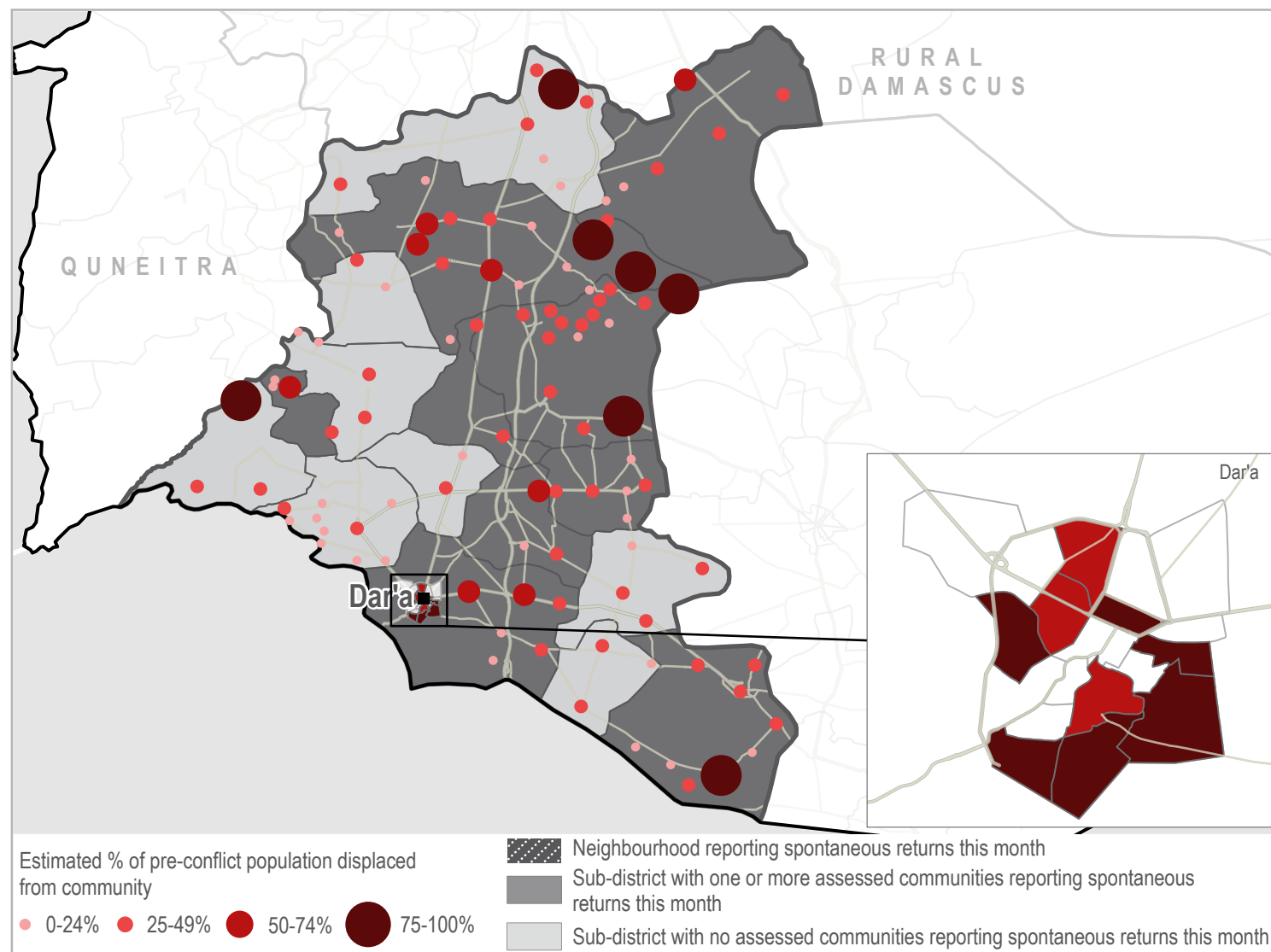
Top 3 sub-districts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

Dar'a (Dar'a)	20%
Mseifra (Dar'a)	14%
Izra' (Dar'a)	13%

102 communities reported no PCP departures. Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **11** assessed communities^{3,4}:

Loss of income	55%
Access to money to pay for movement	36%
Escalation of conflict	36%

Estimated percent of pre-conflict population (PCP) displaced from community:

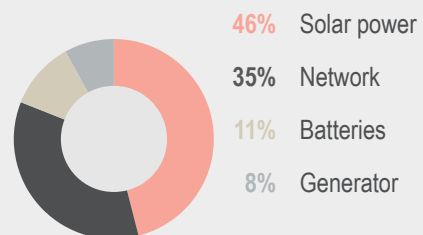


³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



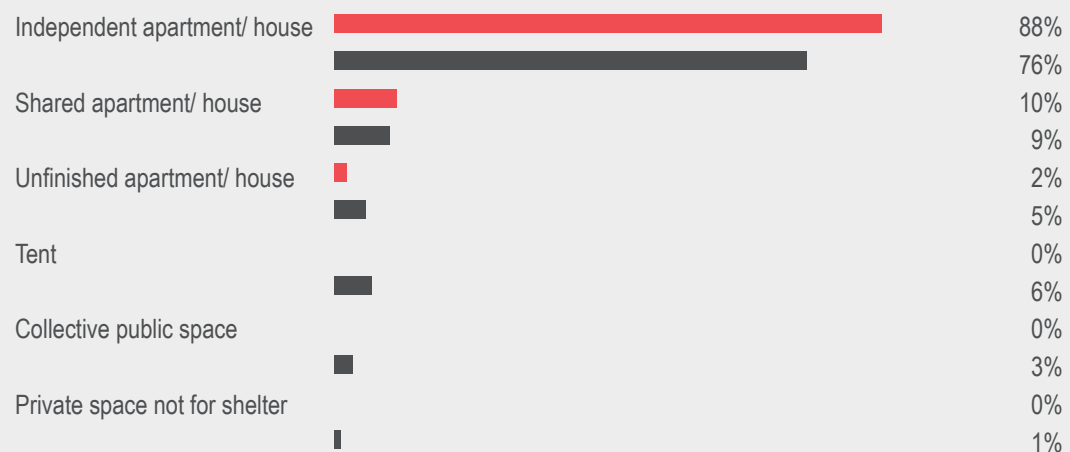
72 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining **41** assessed communities^{3,4}:



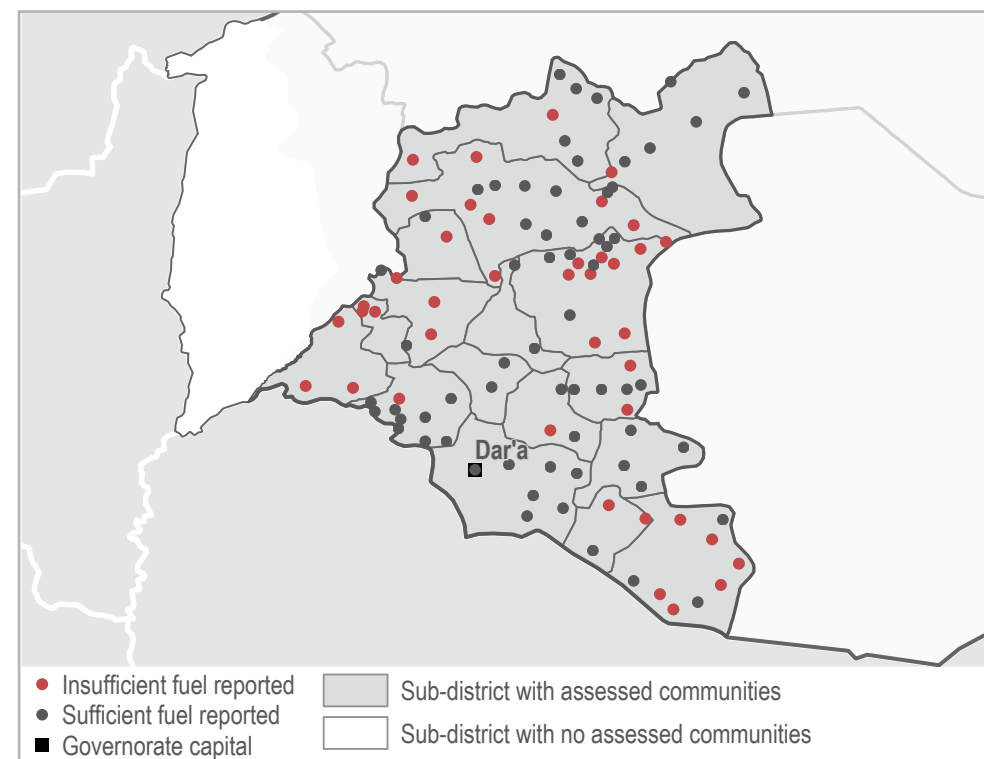
5,750 SYP Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.⁵

6,108 SYP Syrian average reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.⁵

Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP (in red) and IDP (in grey) households⁴:



Fuel sufficiency:



Reported fuel prices (in SYP)⁵:

Fuel type:	Governorate average price in April:	Governorate average price in March:	Syrian average price in April:
Coal (1 kilogram)	424	423	280
Diesel (1 litre)	296	311	227
Butane (1 canister)	4,836	5,267	5,940
Firewood (1 tonne)	65,652	67,679	53,131

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 April 2018)

HEALTH

- 24** Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.
- 17** Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

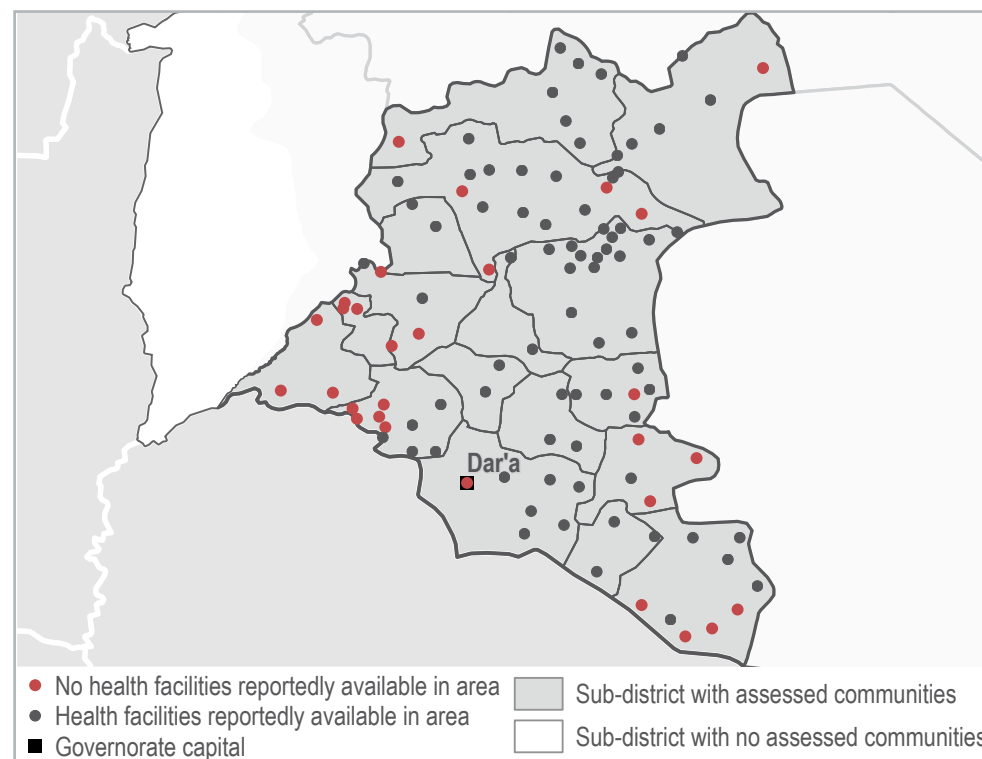
49 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining 64 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

High cost of transportation to facilities	63%
No health facilities available in the area	50%
Lack of transportation to facilities	48%
Old age	36%
Disability/injuries/illness preventing travel	25%
Security concerns when traveling to facilities	23%
Not permitted to enter facilities	2%
Family not permitting travel to health facilities	2%

108 communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies. The coping strategies used in the remaining 5 communities were^{3,4}:

Using non-medical items for treatment	80%
Recycling medical items	20%

Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported^{3,4}:

Chronic disease support	63%
Medicine	50%
Antenatal care	41%

Top 3 most common health problems reported^{3,4}:

Chronic diseases	71%
Acute respiratory infections	59%
Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	58%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.



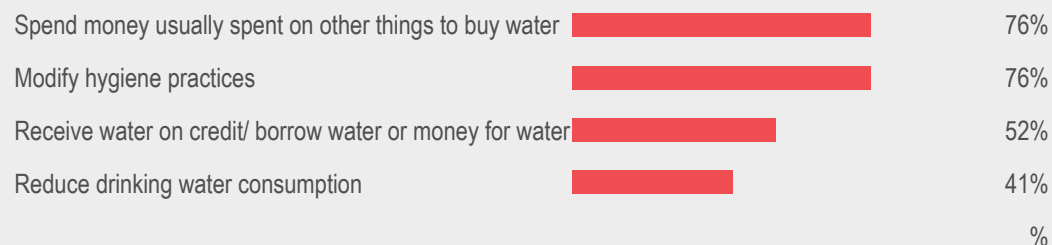
2 Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.

1 Community reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

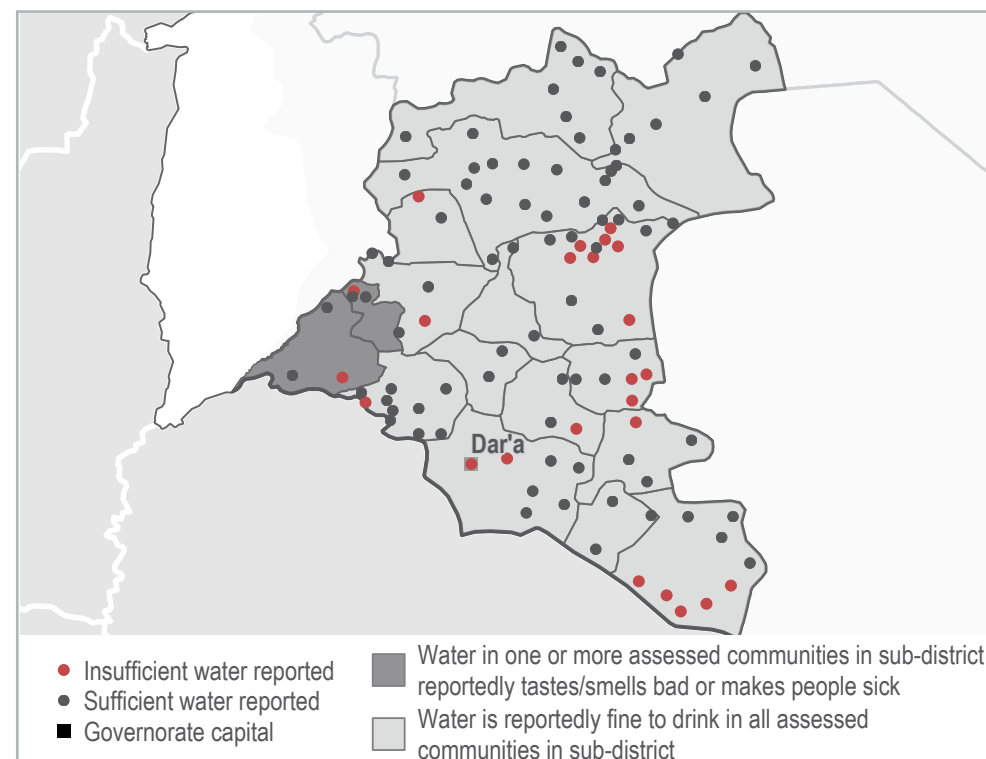
84 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining **29 assessed communities** were^{3,4}:



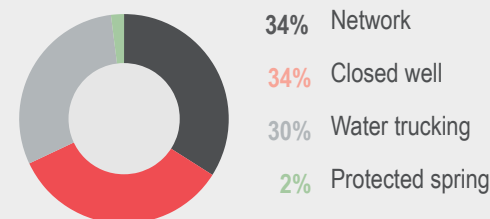
84 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining **29 assessed communities** were^{3,4}:



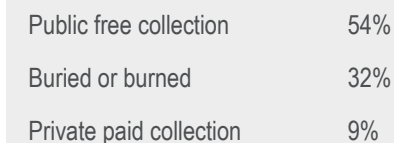
Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



Top 3 reported methods of garbage disposal^{3,4}:



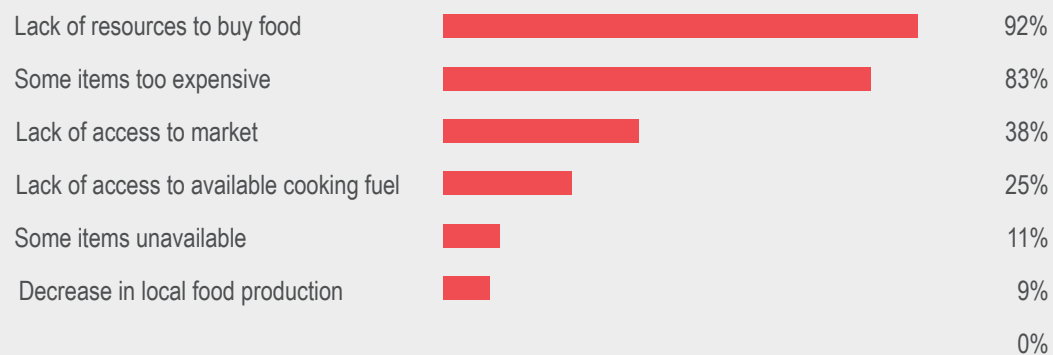
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

FOOD SECURITY

- 11** Communities reported not having received a food distribution in the last 12 months.
- 0** Communities reported that residents were unable to purchase food at shops and markets.

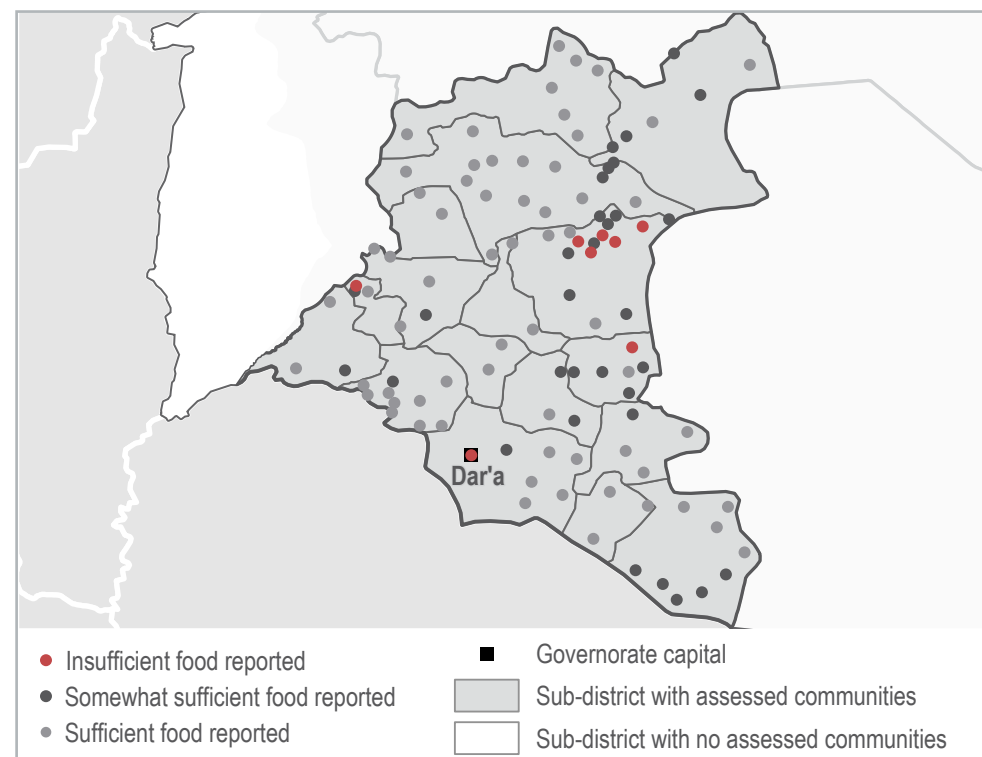
25 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **88** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



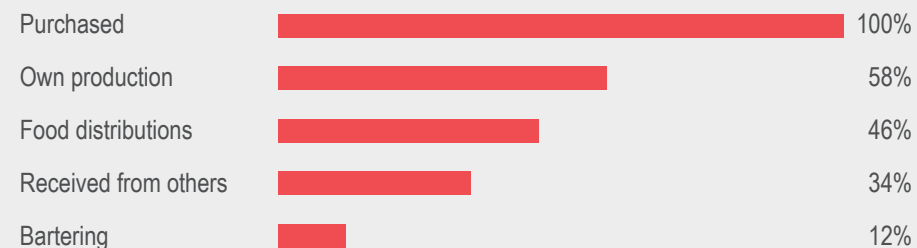
Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

Food item:	Governorate average price in April:	Governorate average price in March:	Syrian average price in April:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	94	87	115
Rice (1 kilogram)	570	574	430
Lentils (1 kilogram)	319	321	330
Sugar (1 kilogram)	267	273	308
Cooking oil (1 litre)	684	693	546

Food sufficiency:



Most common ways of obtaining food reported^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 April 2018)

LIVELIHOODS

Less than 50,000 SYP Most commonly reported household income range⁵.

27,026 SYP Governorate average food basket price^{5,6}.

1 Community reported that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income⁷.

7 communities reported that residents had enough income to cover household needs. The most commonly reported coping strategies to deal with a lack of income in the remaining **106 assessed communities** were^{3,4}:



Most commonly reported main sources of income^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

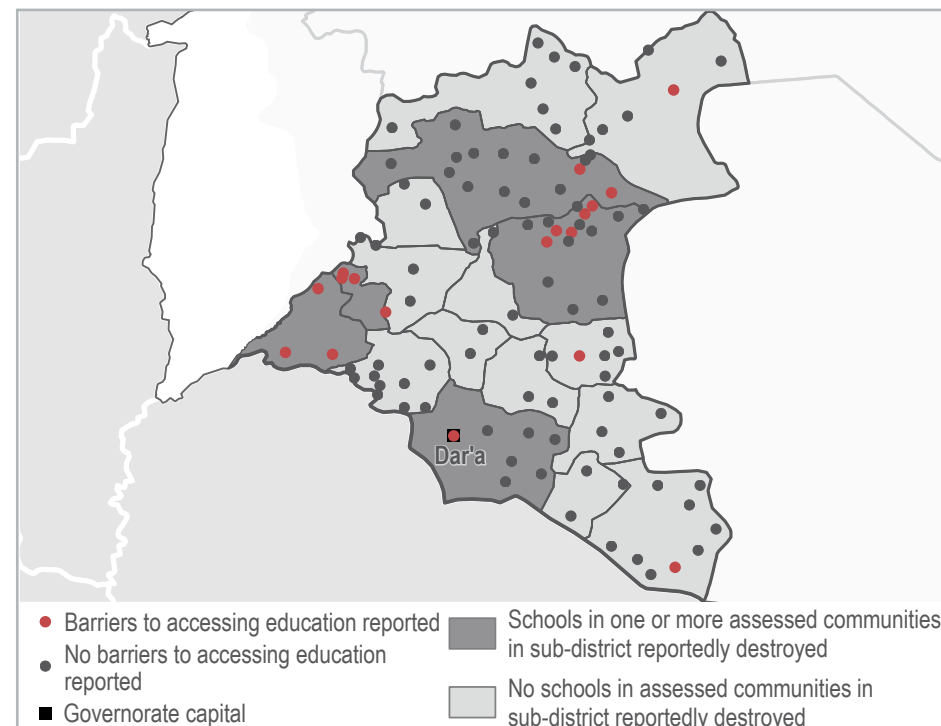
⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 April 2018)

⁶ Calculation of the average price of a food basket is based on the World Food Programme's standard basket of dry goods. The food basket includes 37 kg of bread, 19 kg of rice, 19 kg of lentils, 5 kg of sugar, and 7 kg of vegetable oil, and provides 1,930 kcal a day for a family of five for a month.

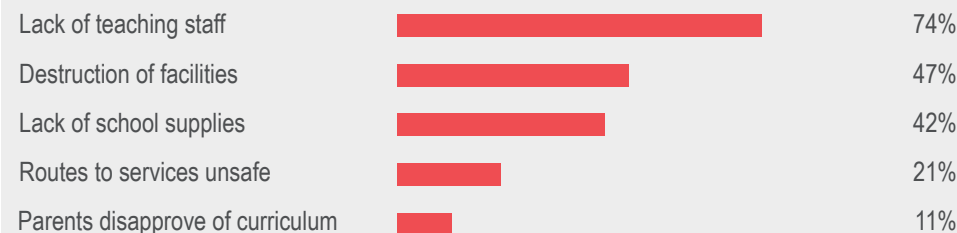
⁷ Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



94 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **19 assessed communities** were^{3,4}:



METHODOLOGY

The HSOS project, formerly known as the AoO (Area of Origin) project, is a monthly assessment that aims to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian situation inside Syria. This factsheet presents information gathered in 113 communities in May 2018, referring to the situation in Dar'a Governorate in April 2018. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed sub-districts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly sub-district factsheets, available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#). The complete HSOS dataset is disseminated monthly via the REACH Syria mailing list.

Wherever possible, information was collected through an enumerator network. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview Key Informants (KIs) directly in the community about which they are reporting. Where access and security constraints rendered direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews were conducted remotely through participants identified in camps and settlements in neighbouring countries by REACH field teams. Participants contact KIs in their community in Syria to collect information about their community. KIs were asked to report at the community level.

KIs generally included local council members, Syrian NGO workers, medical professionals, teachers, shop owners and farmers, among others, and were chosen based on their community-level or sector specific knowledge. In cases where KIs disagreed on a certain piece of information, enumerators triangulated the data with secondary sources or selected the response provided by the KI with the more relevant sector-specific background. For each question asked, confidence levels were assigned based on the KIs area of expertise and knowledge of the sector-specific situation. The confidence levels associated with each question are presented in the final dataset. The full confidence matrix used to assign confidence levels is available upon request.

Findings were triangulated through secondary sources, including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. Where necessary, follow-up was conducted with enumerators and participants. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the governorate.

ENDNOTES

¹ All information and figures reported in HSOS factsheets refer to the situation in assessed communities and cannot be generalised to other non-assessed communities of the governorate.

² Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.

³ 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.

⁴ Al-Zarier and Edwards (8 June 2017). Thousands of civilians fleeing home, some for the 3rd time as Daraa city fighting spurs mass displacement. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁵ UNHCR (12 July 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 12 July 2017. Reliefweb. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁶ A-Noufal, Edelman, Zoubi and Al-Masalma (8 November 2017). Opposition officials have little assistance to offer as Daraa residents return to a provincial capital in ruins. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁷ Al-Haj Ali, A Noufal, Edelman, Al-Hariri, and Al-Ebrahim (12 March 2018). Thousands of civilians flee towns near Daraa's frontlines as rebels talk of 'preemptive strike' against government forces. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁸ The National (25 April 2018). Syrian regime turns focus to Daraa as battle for last Damascus enclave goes underground. Retrieved from <http://thenational.ae>.

About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organisations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to, and within the framework of, inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter: [@REACH_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).