HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)
March 2024 | Northeast Syria

INTRODUCTION

HSOS is a monitoring key informant (KI) assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This Situation Overview presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, access to basic services and infrastructure, economic conditions, public health, as well as the security and protection situation in Northeast Syria (NES). HSOS focuses on host community and internally displaced persons (IDP) households residing in communities. **This assessment does not provide information on camps and informal settlements.**
This Situation Overview presents information gathered in **1,351 communities** across Aleppo[1], Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor. Data was collected **between 3-14 March 2024** from **4,678 KIs** (19% female).
The complete HSOS dataset and analysis can be downloaded as an excel file.

INTERPRETATION

Findings are indicative rather than representative and should not be generalised across the population and region. **All results in this output should be interpreted as referring to a percentage of assessed community where KIs reported an information.** All indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection.
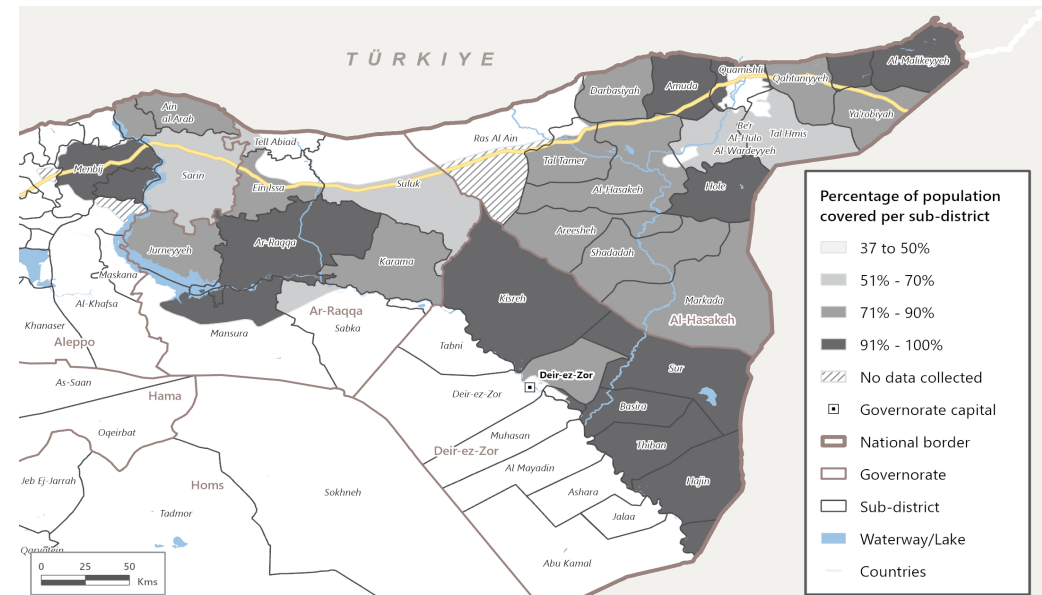
The symbol ▲ indicates that KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

> #### HSOS Dashboards
>
> - Sectoral dashboard: This interactive dashboard presents a sectoral review of key indicators from HSOS. Users can easily navigate through their sector of interest and visualise data from the community level to the region level.
>
> - Trend analysis dashboard: This dashboard allows users to quickly see how the humanitarian situation in northern Syria has been changing over time.
>
> - Water and electrcity dashboard: This dashboard shows trends of access to water, access to electricity and problems with drinking water indicators in NES. Trends are displayed in graphs and maps showing findings at various administrative levels.

[1] Aleppo governorate includes Menbij and Ain Al Arab districts

▲ KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

KEY MESSAGES

- While most of communities in NES rely on crop agriculture for livelihoods, **farmers faced issues related to decreased soil quality and damage to agricultural lands due to pollution**. Reports of land pollution were the highest in communities located along the Euphrates River in Deir-ez-Zor governorate. Crop lands pollution may have resulted from recent oil leaks in several NES rivers.

- **More than half of the assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor and Hasakeh governorate reportedly faced problems with drinking water**. Problems include water having a bad colour, bad taste, water being calcareous, or more severe issues such as making people sick. In March, Deir-ez-Zor was the governorate recording the greatest reports of water making people sick.

- NES faced increased fuel shortages, especially **in Hasakeh governorate where the unavailability of fuel reportedly affected the access to electricity in 50% of assessed communities**, compared to 36% in the same period last year. The growing unavailability of fuel is one of the consequences of the damage to civilian infrastructure caused by repeated airstrikes in NES.

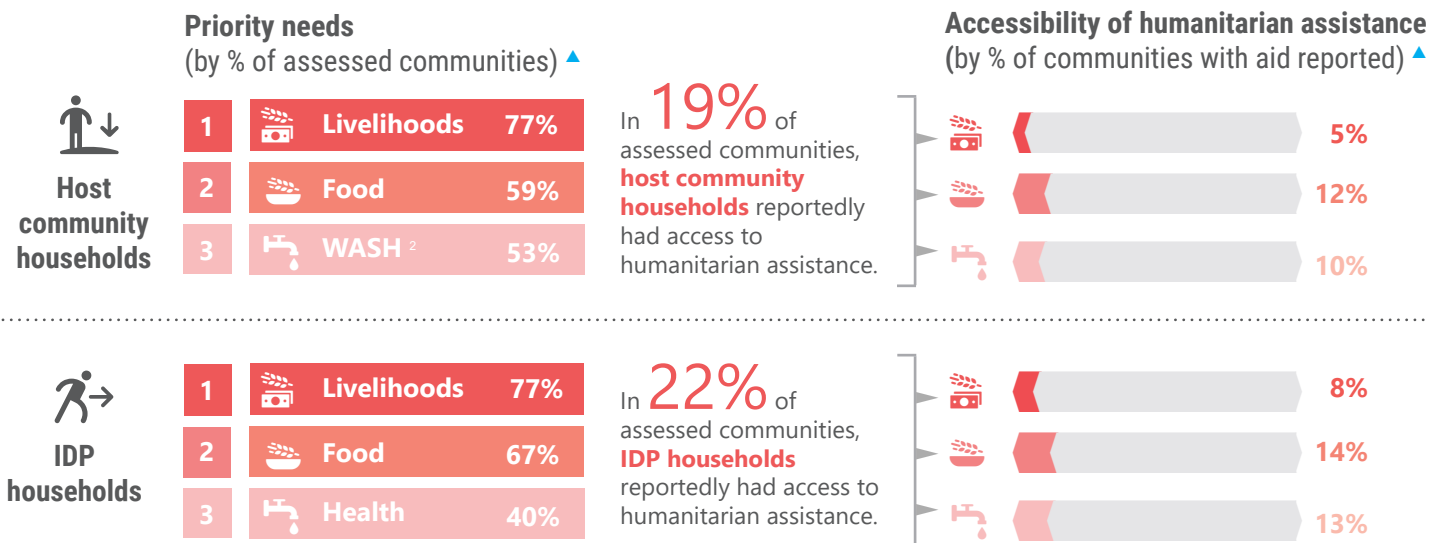Percentage of population covered per sub-district
- 37 to 50%
- 51% - 70%
- 71% - 90%
- 91% - 100%
- No data collected
- ⊡ Governorate capital
- National border
- Governorate
- Sub-district
- Waterway/Lake
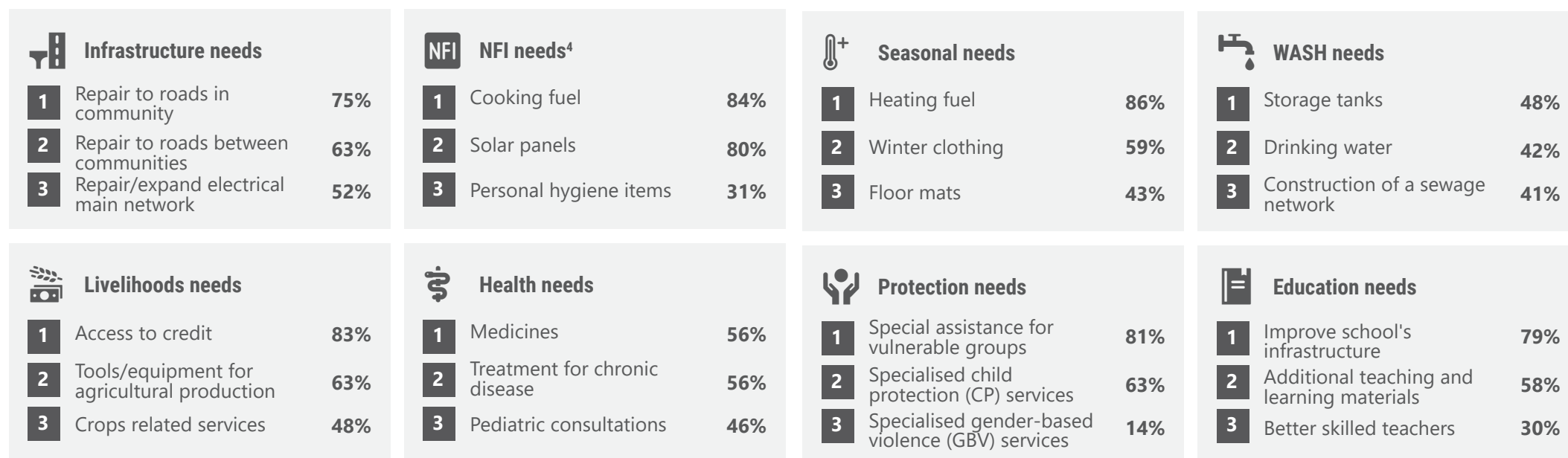- Countries

PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Most commonly reported priority needs and reported accessibility of associated humanitarian assistance

Most commonly reported difficulties faced when accessing humanitarian aid (by % of communities where access to aid was reported) ▲

Priority needs
(by % of assessed communities) ▲

Host community households

	Priority need	%
1	Livelihoods	77%
2	Food	59%
3	WASH [2]	53%

In **19%** of assessed communities, **host community households** reportedly had access to humanitarian assistance.

Accessibility of humanitarian assistance (by % of communities with aid reported) ▲

- 5%
- 12%
- 10%

Difficulties faced:

	Difficulty	%
1	Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need	60%
2	Types of assistance provided were not relevant to all needs	55%
3	Distribution points were too far/routes were hardly accessible	34%

IDP households

	Priority need	%
1	Livelihoods	77%
2	Food	67%
3	Health	40%

In **22%** of assessed communities, **IDP households** reportedly had access to humanitarian assistance.

Accessibility:

- 8%
- 14%
- 13%

Difficulties faced:

	Difficulty	%
1	Types of assistance provided were not relevant to all needs	60%
2	Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need	57%
3	Distribution points were too far/routes were hardly accessible	30%

Top reported needs by sector (by % of assessed communities) ▲, 3

Infrastructure needs

		%
1	Repair to roads in community	75%
2	Repair to roads between communities	63%
3	Repair/expand electrical main network	52%

NFI needs [4]

		%
1	Cooking fuel	84%
2	Solar panels	80%
3	Personal hygiene items	31%

Seasonal needs

		%
1	Heating fuel	86%
2	Winter clothing	59%
3	Floor mats	43%

WASH needs

		%
1	Storage tanks	48%
2	Drinking water	42%
3	Construction of a sewage network	41%

Livelihoods needs

		%
1	Access to credit	83%
2	Tools/equipment for agricultural production	63%
3	Crops related services	48%

Health needs

		%
1	Medicines	56%
2	Treatment for chronic disease	56%
3	Pediatric consultations	46%

Protection needs

		%
1	Special assistance for vulnerable groups	81%
2	Specialised child protection (CP) services	63%
3	Specialised gender-based violence (GBV) services	14%

Education needs

		%
1	Improve school's infrastructure	79%
2	Additional teaching and learning materials	58%
3	Better skilled teachers	30%

2 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
3 All the findings on priority needs by sector correspond to the needs of the general population living in assessed communities. Hence, they cover both host community and IDP households.
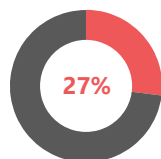4 Non-food items (NFI)

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ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Access to Markets

% of assessed communities where **markets were not functioning every day**

27%

Hasakeh	25%
Deir-ez-Zor	4%
Raqqa	33%
Aleppo	34%

Most commonly reported barriers to food-market functioning (by % of assessed communities) ▲

1. People do not have the financial means to open a shop- market — 24%
2. Limited demand to support markets in the community — 5%
3. Lack of sufficient electricity-other power sources — 5%

Most commonly reported NFI unavailable in markets (by % of assessed communities) ▲

1. Bedding items — 6%
2. Solar panels — 6%
3. Mattresses, sleeping mats — 6%

Access to Healthcare

% of assessed communities where **no health services were provided**

84%
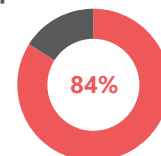
Hasakeh	89%
Deir-ez-Zor	54%
Raqqa	76%
Aleppo	91%

97% Assessed communities where KIs reported that **households accessed health services in other/nearby** communities.
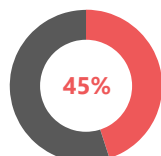
Most commonly reported challenges to access healthcare (by % of assessed communities) ▲

1. High costs of health services — 96%
2. High cost of transportation to health facilities — 82%
3. Lack of transportation to health facilities — 68%
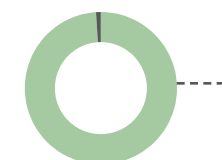
Access to Electricity

% of assessed communities where households had **access to less than 6 hours of electricity per day** in average

45%

Hasakeh	49%
Deir-ez-Zor	61%
Raqqa	34%
Aleppo	37%

% of assessed communities connected to the main electricity network (either functioning or not)

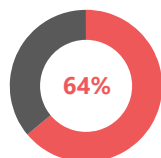Connected — 99%
Not connected — 1%

In **32%** of assessed communities connected to the main electricity network, KIs reported that **the electricity network was partially or completely not functioning**

Access to Water

% of assessed communities where **not all households had access to sufficient water**

64%

Hasakeh	69%
Deir-ez-Zor	100%
Raqqa	39%
Aleppo	59%

% of assessed communities connected to the main water network (either functioning or not)

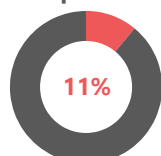Connected — 65%
Not connected — 35%

In **16%** of assessed communities connected to the main water network, KIs reported that **the water network was partially or completely not functioning**
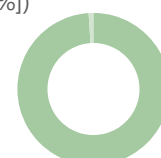
Access to Education services

% of assessed communities where **no education services were provided** over the past 30 days

11%

Hasakeh	13%
Deir-ez-Zor	1%
Raqqa	12%
Aleppo	5%

Frequency of education services (by % of assessed communities with operational education services [89%])

All days — 99%
Most days — 1%

Most commonly reported difficulties when accessing education (by % of assessed communities) ▲

1. Unsuitable environment — 91%
2. Not enough teaching or learning supplies — 77%
3. Overcrowding — 57%

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Evolution of the average daily wage for casual or irregular labour reported over the past six HSOS rounds in NES [4]

NES — SYP / USD

NES governorates — Aleppo, Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, Raqqa
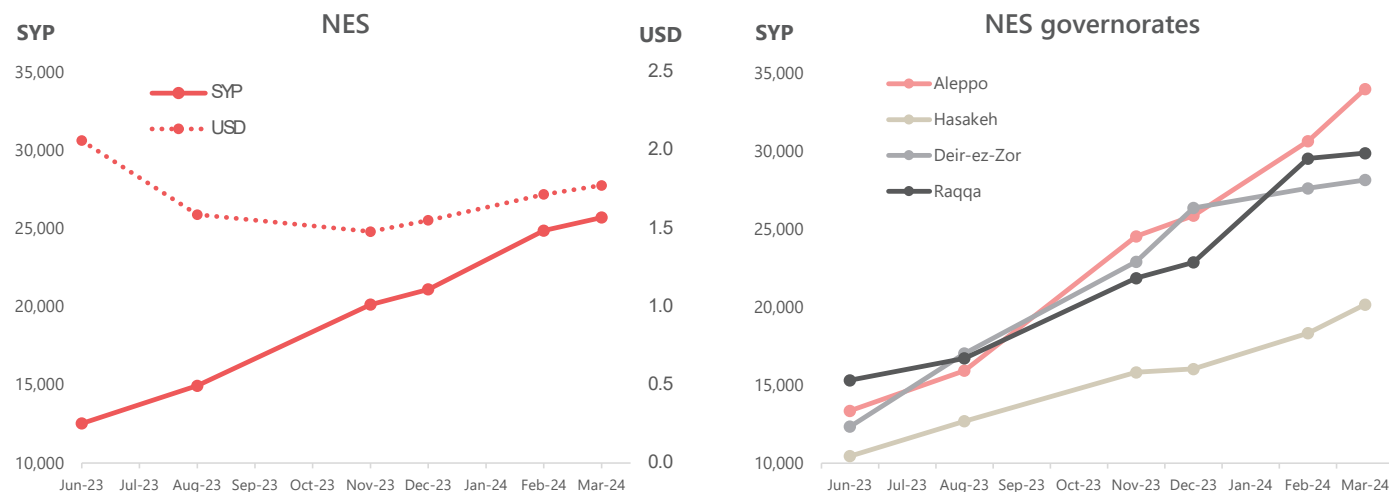
Governorate	Median estimated monthly rent price for a two-bedroom apartment [4]
Aleppo	**150,000 SYP**
Al-Hasakeh	**300,000 SYP**
Ar-Raqqa	**217,125 SYP**
Deir-ez-Zor	**200,000 SYP**
Northeast Syria	**200,000 SYP**

Most commonly reported non-income generating sources of livelihoods (by % of assessed communities) ▲

	Host community households	IDP households
Borrowing/loans	**64%**	**64%**
Remittances (from outside Syria)	**34%**	**28%**
Financial support from family or friends (inside Syria)	**4%**	**8%**
Cash or in-kind humanitarian assistance	**1%**	**1%**

In **92%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that **agriculture was a common source of livelihoods** for households.

Most common challenges to access livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of communities relying on agriculture) ▲

1	High operational costs	**90%**
2	Lack of sufficient quantity and quality of resources for agriculture	**77%**
3	Seasonality or instability of income	**60%**

Intersectoral findings on unaffordability hindering access to goods and services

In **90%** of assessed communities with people renting, KIs indicated that **rent was unaffordable for the majority of people**

KIs in **78%** of assessed communities reported that the **high cost of solar panels or batteries to store solar power** was a common challenge to access power

KIs in **60%** of assessed communities reported that the **high cost of fuel for generators** was a common challenge to access power
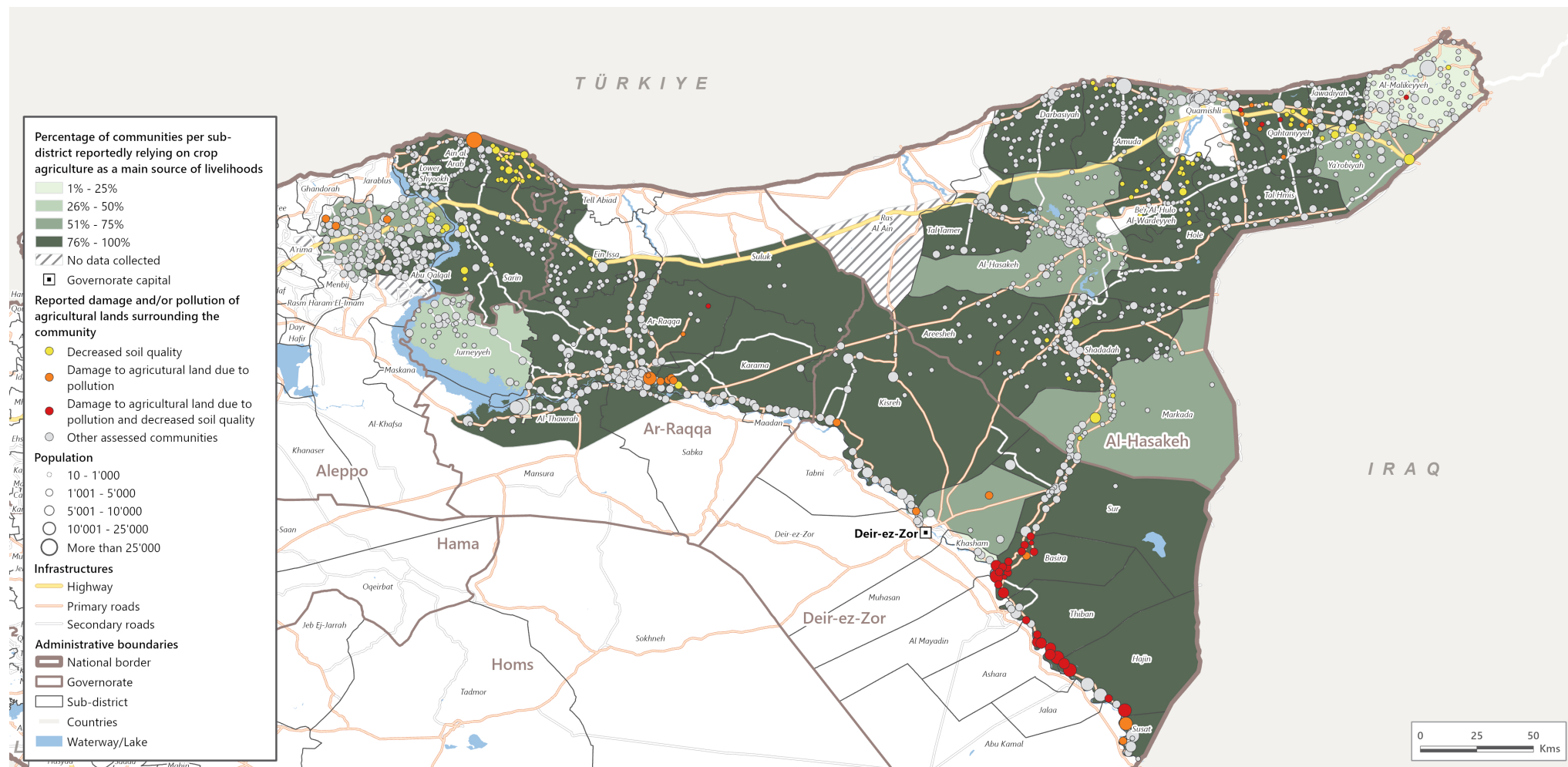
KIs in **34%** of assessed communities indicated that the **high cost of water** prevented households to access sufficient water

KIs in **92%** of assessed communities cited the unaffordability of **unaffordability of food** as a common challenge

KIs in **96%** of assessed communities cited the **high cost of health services** as a common challenge

KIs in **78%** of assessed communities reported that households **lacked money or resources** to cover the cost of attending **school**

[4] KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD) or Syrian Pounds (SYP). The values displayed here were all harmonised in SYP and USD, based on the exchange rate from the NES Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI). According to the REACH Market Monitoring February 2024, 1 USD = 15,150 SYP.

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Percentage of communities per sub-district reportedly relying on crop agriculture as a main source of livelihoods
- 1% - 25%
- 26% - 50%
- 51% - 75%
- 76% - 100%
- No data collected
- Governorate capital

Reported damage and/or pollution of agricultural lands surrounding the community
- Decreased soil quality
- Damage to agricultural land due to pollution
- Damage to agricultural land due to pollution and decreased soil quality
- Other assessed communities

Population
- 10 - 1'000
- 1'001 - 5'000
- 5'001 - 10'000
- 10'001 - 25'000
- More than 25'000

Infrastructures
- Highway
- Primary roads
- Secondary roads

Administrative boundaries
- National border
- Governorate
- Sub-district
- Countries
- Waterway/Lake

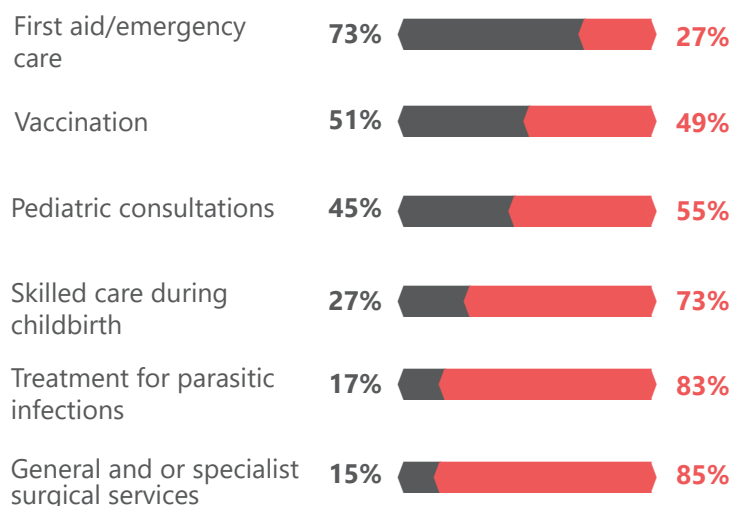# Damage and/or pollution of agricultural lands

Note on the map

This map shows the reported reliance of assessed communities on crop agriculture per sub-district with different shades of green. Darker sub-districts account with the highest percentages of communities where crop agriculture was a common source of livelihoods. Coloured dots correspond to communities where KIs reported decreased soil quality, damage to agricultural lands or both. Communities located along the Euphrates River in Deir-ez-Zor governorates are particularly affected by the presence of damaged and polluted lands.
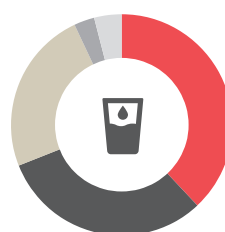
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PUBLIC HEALTH

Essential health services available in the assessed community
(by % of assessed communities where households could access health services [16%]) ▲ 5

- ⬛ Service available
- 🟥 Service not available

First aid/emergency care
73% | **27%**

Vaccination
51% | **49%**

Pediatric consultations
45% | **55%**

Skilled care during childbirth
27% | **73%**

Treatment for parasitic infections
17% | **83%**

General and or specialist surgical services
15% | **85%**

Source of drinking water used by most households (by % of assessed communities)

- 🟥 Piped water network **38%**
- ⬛ Private water trucking conducted by citizens **31%**
- 🟫 Private well **24%**
- ⬜ Water trucking conducted by authorities or an NGO **3%**
- ⬜ Other **4%**

In **49%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that households **faced problems with drinking water**

In **31%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that households **did not treat their water despite needing to.**

Problems with drinking water
(by % of assessed communities) ▲ 6

1	Water tastes or smells bad	**29%**
2	Water has bad colour	**13%**
3	Water perceived to be making people sick	**3%**

Methods used by households to make water safer to drink (by % of assessed communities) ▲

1	Sedimentation	**22%**
2	Household water filters	**5%**
3	Chlorine	**4%**

Most commonly reported sanitation issues (by % of assessed communities) ▲

1	Garbage in the streets	**35%**
2	Stagnant water in the streets	**31%**
3	Sewage system pollutes public areas	**26%**
4	Could not afford desludging services	**23%**
5	Desludging services are not available	**21%**

In **34%** of assessed communities, **leaving garbage in public areas** was among the most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste.
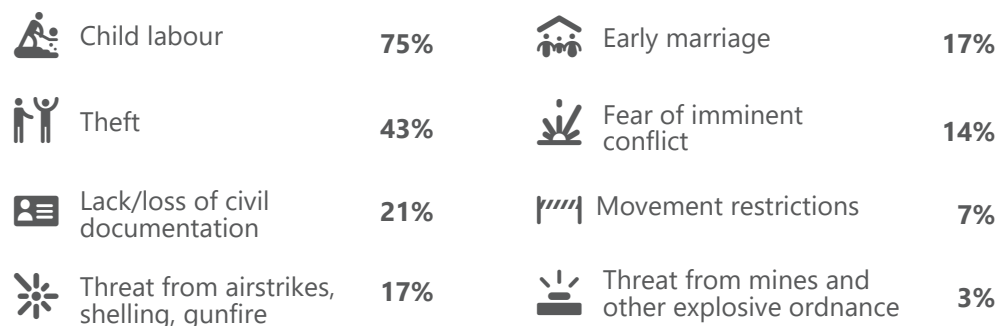
In **18%** of assessed communities, **releasing wastewater and human feaces over land surface** was among the most commonly reported ways people disposed of wastewater.

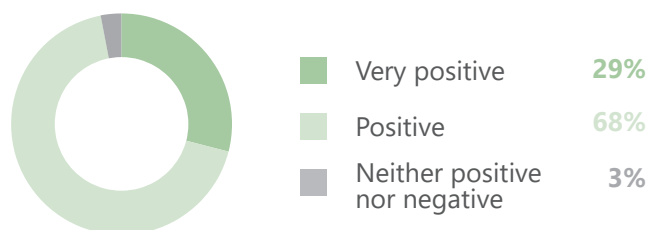5 The displayed services were not selected based on how commonly they were reported.
6 These problems were not selected based on how commonly they were reported, but rather on their potential negative impact on health.

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SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Most commonly reported protection risks (by % of assessed communities) ▲

Child labour	75%	Early marriage	17%
Theft	43%	Fear of imminent conflict	14%
Lack/loss of civil documentation	21%	Movement restrictions	7%
Threat from airstrikes, shelling, gunfire	17%	Threat from mines and other explosive ordnance	3%

Perception of the social cohesion (by % of assessed communities)

- Very positive **29%**
- Positive **68%**
- Neither positive nor negative **3%**

Intersectoral findings on security

Security restrictions reportedly prevented the access to livelihood activities in 137 assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets or while travelling to markets was a reported barrier to market access in 61 assessed communities

In 71 assessed communities, KIs reported that households could not access sufficient water due to **disruption caused by conflict activity**

Lack of safety while travelling to or from school was reported as a barrier preventing access to education in 222 assessed communities

METHODOLOGY

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. In each community, REACH enumerators interview a minimum of three KIs selected based on their knowledge of the community and areas of expertise. Enumerators submit one single form per community and only one KI should answer each section of the survey. Interviews are usually done in person unless security and access restrictions prevent enumerators to reach the community.

More information about HSOS KI methodology can be found on HSOS KI terms of reference (ToR).

This Situation Overview only presents a selection of collected indicators. The complete HSOS dataset and analysis can be downloaded as an excel file.

Number of communities per subset:	Subset
Host community households	1,342
IDP households	629
Communities where assistance was reported (host community)	260
Communities where assistance was reported (IDP)	135
Communities connected to a main electricity network	1,342
Communities connected to a main water network	874
Communities with operational education services	1,206
Communities with agriculture as a common source of livelihoods	1,242
Communities with access to health services	215

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative 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).

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