

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

April 2024 | Northeast Syria

SITUATION OVERVIEW

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 **1,349 communities** across Aleppo¹, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor. Data was collected **between 1-18 April 2024** from **4,470 KIs** (17% 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.

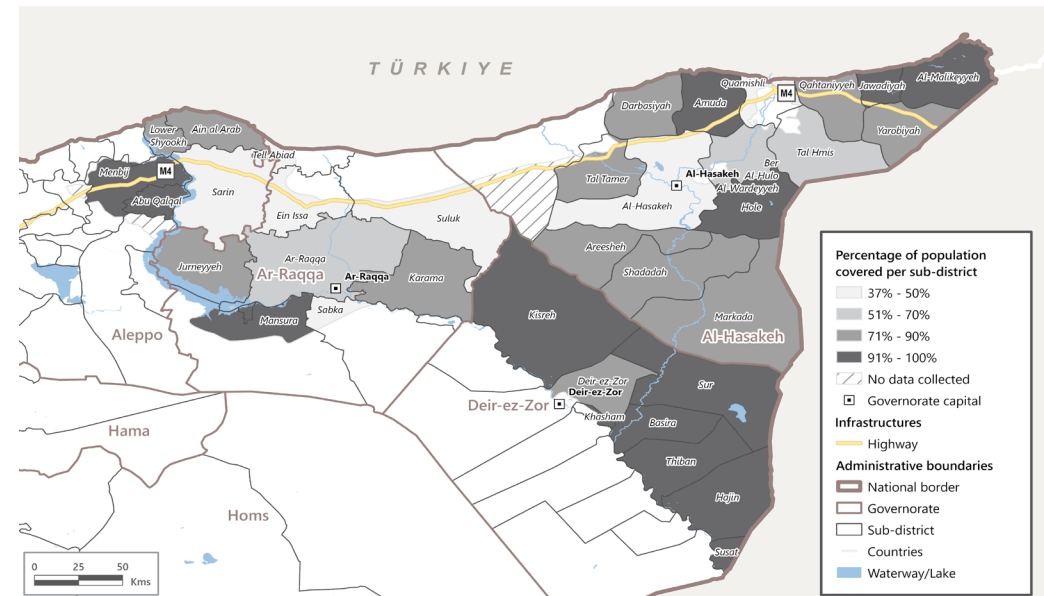
The symbol ▲ indicates that KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

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 electricity 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.

KEY MESSAGES

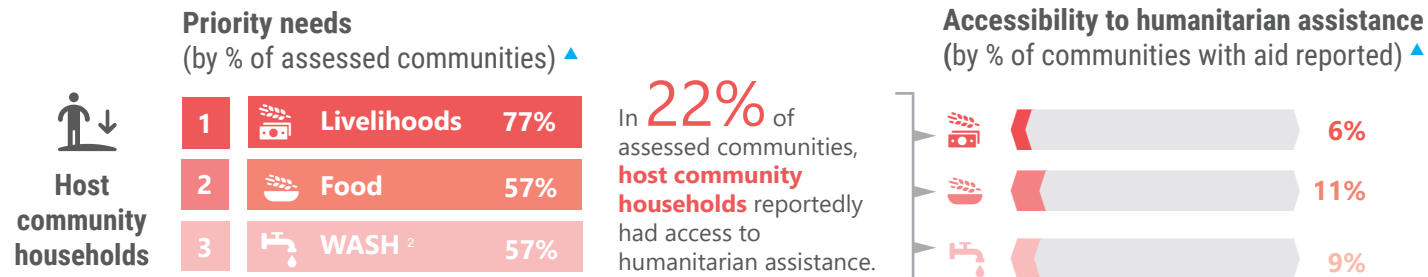
- **In half of the assessed communities (51%), KIs reported that households had access to less than 6 hours of electricity per day.** Among the main challenges to access power, KIs reported the rationing of electricity in 74% of assessed communities. Access to electricity remained a challenge in Northeast Syria due to repeated [attacks on power and oil stations](#).
- **Deir-ez-Zor is the governorate with the highest percentage of assessed communities (72%) where some households reportedly rented their shelters.** However, within those communities renting may have exposed tenants to further challenges, such as unaffordable rental prices (reported in 97% of assessed communities), or the difficulty finding suitable shelters to rent (43%).
- **KIs in 67% of assessed communities reported that households did not have access to sufficient water.** The main barriers to access water were the high cost of water (reported in 55% of assessed communities), the lack of tanks to store the water (48%), and the limited availability of fuel or electricity to enable operation of water pumps (41%).



¹ Aleppo governorate includes Menbij and Ain Al Arab districts

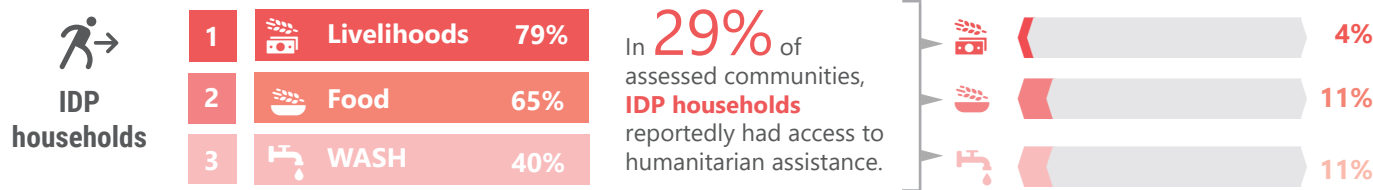
PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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



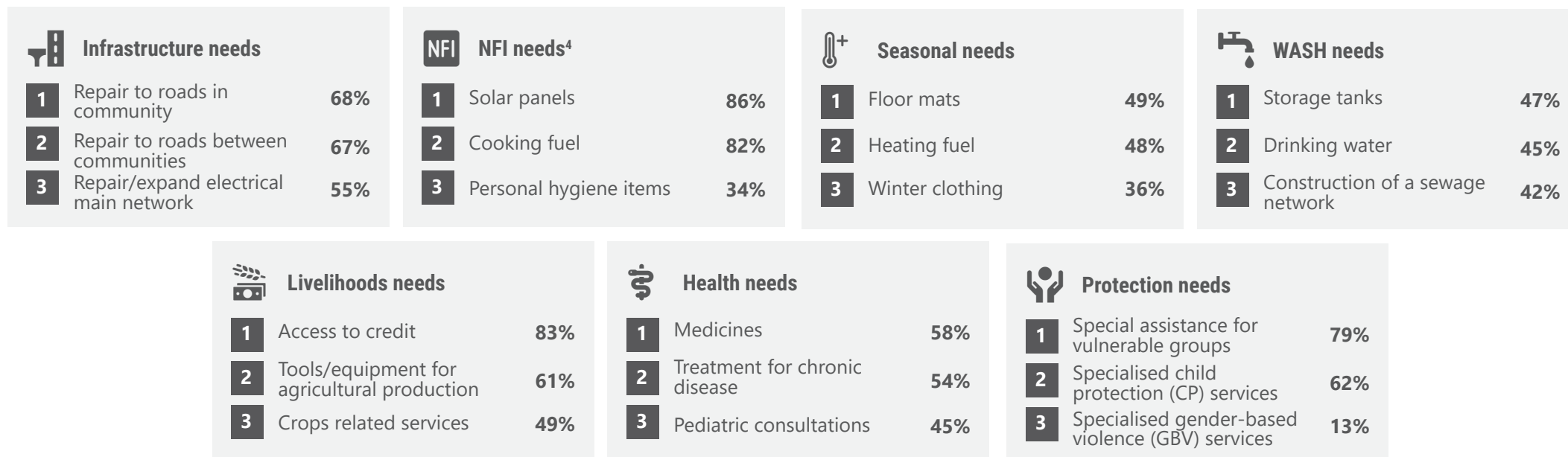
Most commonly reported difficulties faced when accessing humanitarian aid (by % of communities where access to aid was reported) ▲

- 1 Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need **69%**
- 2 Types of assistance provided were not relevant to all needs **72%**
- 3 Distribution points were too far/routes were hardly accessible **36%**



- 1 Types of assistance provided were not relevant to all needs **77%**
- 2 Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need **72%**
- 3 Distribution points were too far/routes were hardly accessible **30%**

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



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)

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Access to Markets

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



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 25%
- 2 Lack of sufficient electricity/other power sources 6%
- 3 Limited demand from customers 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**



99% 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 90%
- 2 High cost of transportation to health facilities 79%
- 3 Lack of transportation to health facilities 71%



Access to Electricity

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



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



In **38%** of assessed communities connected to the main electricity network, KIs reported that **the electricity network was partially or completely not functioning**

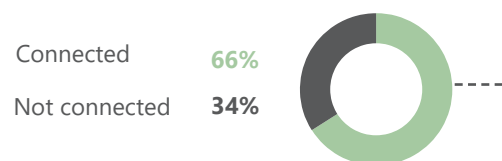


Access to Water

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



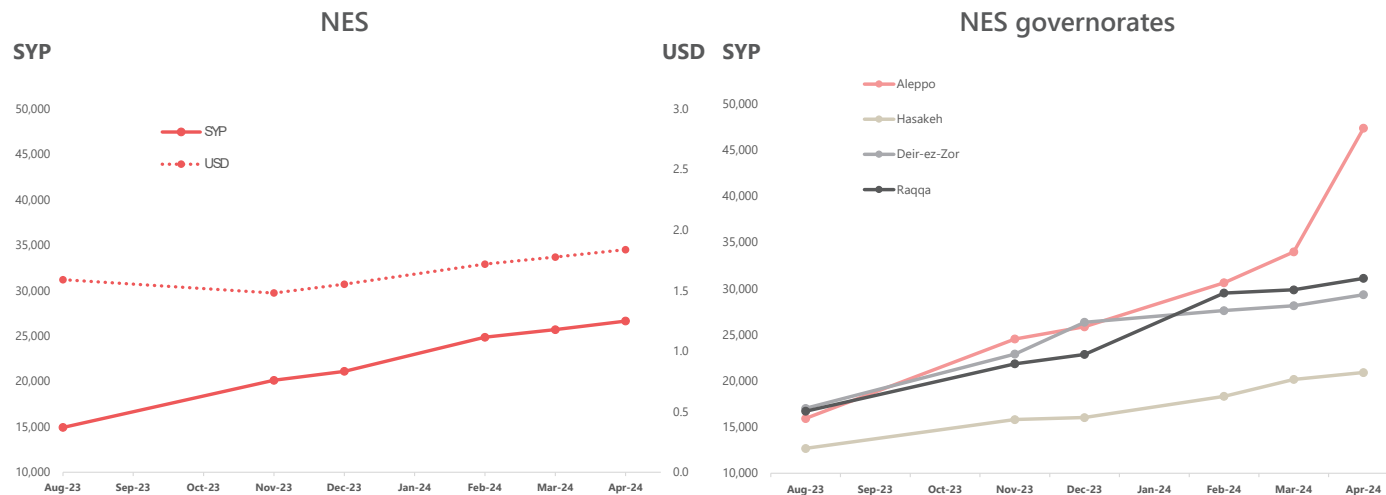
% of assessed communities connected to the main water network (either functioning or not)



In **14%** of assessed communities connected to the main water network, KIs reported that **the water network was partially or completely not functioning**

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Evolution of the average daily wage for casual or irregular labour reported over the past six HSOS rounds in NES ⁵



Governorate	Median estimated monthly rent price for a two-bedroom apartment ⁴
Aleppo	241,750 SYP
Al-Hasakeh	300,000 SYP
Ar-Raqqa	217,500 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	69%	65%
Remittances (from outside Syria)	37%	30%
Financial support from family or friends (inside Syria)	5%	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 **87%**
- 2 Lack of sufficient quantity and quality of resources for agriculture **78%**
- 3 Seasonality or instability of income **62%**


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


 In **87%** of assessed communities with people renting, KIs indicated that **rent was unaffordable for the majority of people**

 KIs in **84%** 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 **61%** of assessed communities reported that the **high cost of fuel for generators** was a common challenge to access power

 KIs in **36%** of assessed communities indicated that the **high cost of water** prevented households to access sufficient water

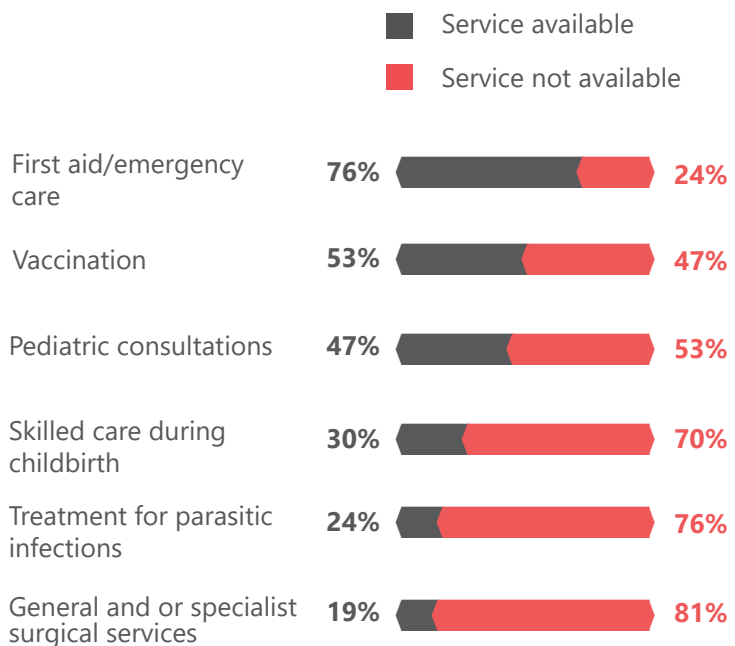
 KIs in **91%** of assessed communities cited the **unaffordability of food** as a common challenge

 KIs in **90%** of assessed communities cited the **high cost of health services** as a common challenge

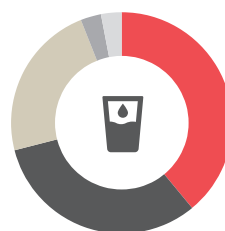
⁵ KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD) or Syrian Pounds (SYP). The values displayed here were all harmonised in SYP and USD, based on the exchange rate from the NES Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI). According to the REACH Market Monitoring April 2024, 1 USD = 14,200 SYP.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Essential health services available in the assessed community
(by % of assessed communities where households could access health services [16%]) ^{▲6}



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



Piped water network	39%
Private water trucking conducted by citizens	32%
Private well	23%
Water trucking conducted by authorities or an NGO	3%
Other	3%

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



Problems with drinking water ^{▲7}

1	Water tastes or smells bad	57%
2	Water has bad colour	26%
3	Water perceived to be making people sick	8%

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



Methods used by households to make water safer to drink [▲]

1	Sedimentation	84%
2	Chlorine	17%
3	Household water filters	11%

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

1	Garbage in the streets	36%
2	Stagnant water in the streets	31%
3	Sewage system pollutes public areas	26%
4	Could not afford desludging services	22%
5	Desludging services are not available	18%



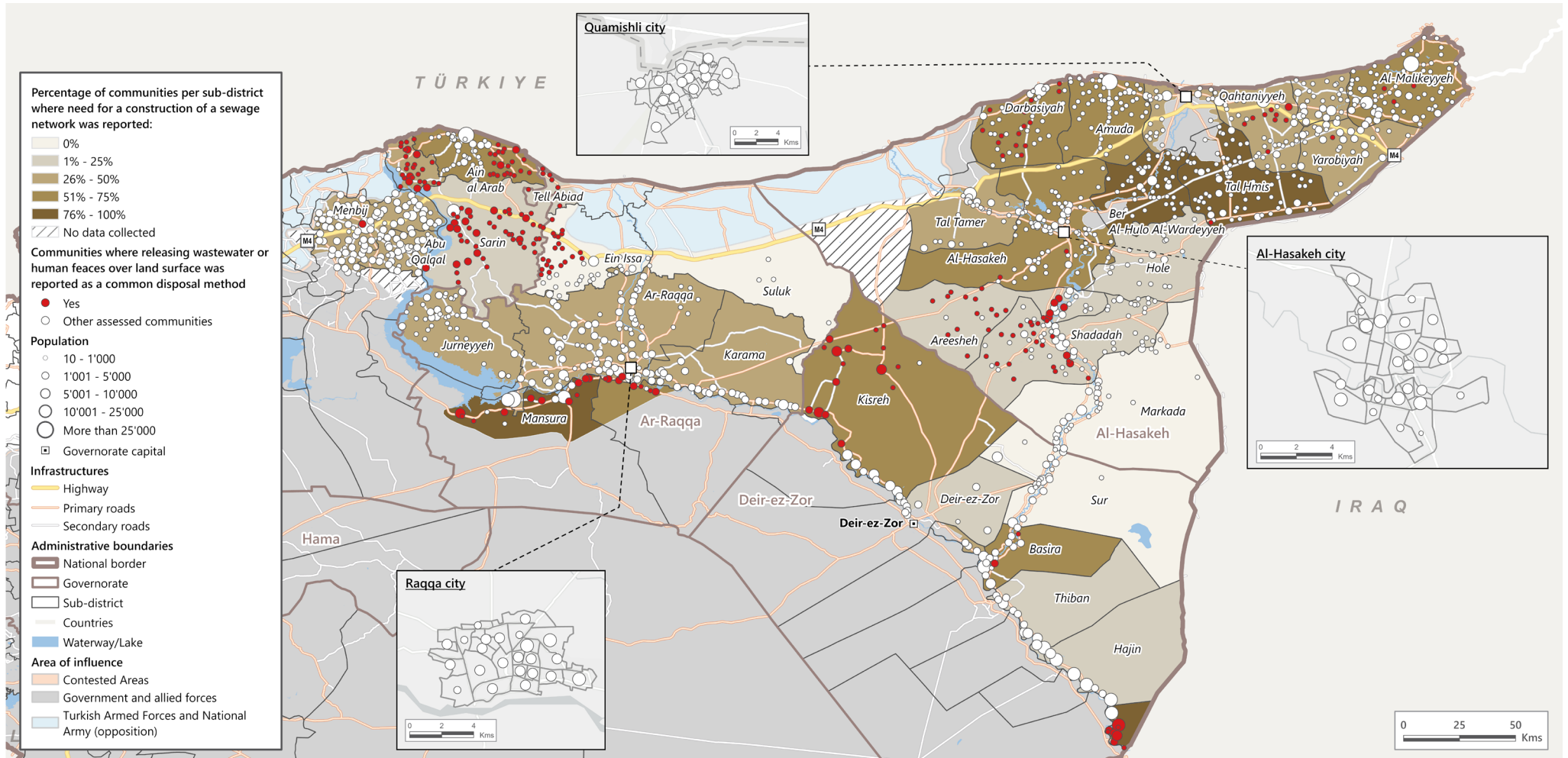
In **36%** of assessed communities, **leaving garbage in public areas** was among the most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste.



In **18%** of assessed communities, **releasing wastewater and human feces over land surface** was among the most commonly reported ways people disposed of wastewater.

⁶ The displayed services were not selected based on how commonly they were reported.

⁷ These problems were not selected based on how commonly they were reported, but rather on their potential negative impact on health.



Note on the map

This map shows in red the communities where releasing wastewater or human faeces over land surface was reported as a common disposal method. This unsanitary method was commonly reported in Ain al Arab, Deir-ez-Zor and Hasakeh districts and is likely to be linked to the lack of sanitation infrastructure. The sub-districts are coloured according to the percentage of communities with reported need for the construction of a sewage network. It is worth noting that this is an option related to a question about priority WASH needs in which only three options can be selected. Thus, the fact that the option "construction of a sewage" network was not selected does not necessarily mean that the need does not exist, but that other needs were surpassing it.

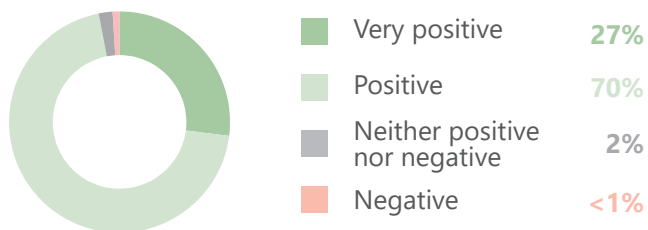
Wastewater released on land surface and need for sewage network

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

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



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



Intersectoral findings on security

Security restrictions reportedly prevented the access to livelihood activities in 138 assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets or while travelling to markets was a reported barrier to market access in 56 assessed communities

In 69 assessed communities, KIs reported that households could not access sufficient water due to **disruption caused by conflict activity**

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	623
Communities where assistance was reported (host community)	298
Communities where assistance was reported (IDP)	181
Communities connected to a main electricity network	1,347
Communities connected to a main water network	893
Communities with operational education services	1,206
Communities with agriculture as a common source of livelihoods	1,244
Communities with access to health services	210

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).