

Dar'a Governorate, November 2017

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

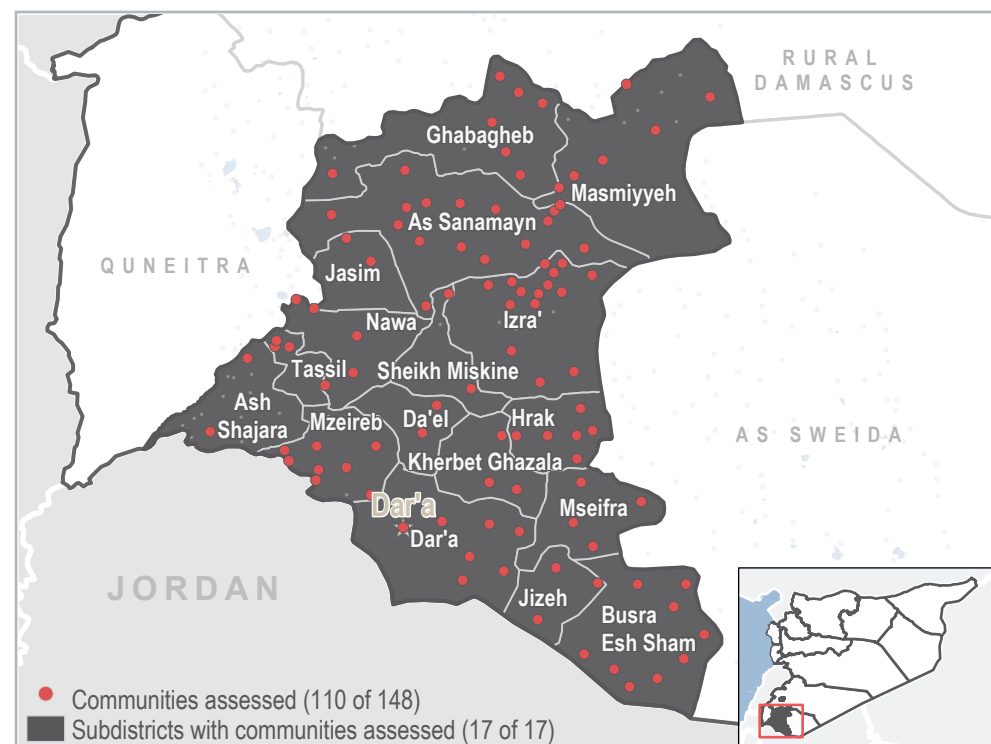
OVERALL FINDINGS¹

Predominantly agricultural Dar'a governorate is located in southern Syria. Following heavy clashes earlier in the year, hostilities in the governorate reduced significantly since a ceasefire agreement took effect in July between armed opposition groups (AOGs) and the government of Syria. Between **76-100%** of buildings were reportedly damaged in **three** neighbourhoods in Dar'a City (Arbaine, Quneitra and Qadessiyeh) in November and, despite the ceasefire agreement still being in effect, the governorate continues to experience conflict. In November, **three** communities witnessed members of their pre-conflict population depart due to an escalation of conflict: Sheikh Saed and Edwan (in Nawa sub-district) and Mlihet Elatash (in Izra' sub-district). Pre-conflict populations left **eight** communities due to a loss of income or assets, half of which are located in Izra' sub-district. Conversely, **22** of the 110 communities assessed in Dar'a saw people spontaneously return in November, between **822 - 1,028** in total². Of the 10 communities that saw refugees return, **9** reported that one of the most common reasons for spontaneous return was a perceived cessation of hostilities in their community of origin, followed by the need to protect/reclaim assets and family reunification. **All but one** of these communities witnessed returns from Jordan, while **seven** saw people return from Lebanon. Of the 17 communities that witnessed spontaneous IDP returns, protecting assets in the community of origin, followed by family reunification and a lack of economic opportunities in host communities were most commonly cited as reasons to return spontaneously.

Of the communities assessed, **76%** reported an IDP presence, with **1,594 - 1,876** new arrivals reported in November. Of these communities, **8** reported that over 10,000 IDPs were living in their community. All eight communities reported having sufficient amounts of water, although **only half** of them reported having sufficient amounts of fuel. **Five** of these communities reported barriers to accessing sufficient amounts of food, the most common being a lack of resources, prohibitive prices (please refer to the Syria [market monitoring](#) exercise for additional information on food prices in Dar'a), and a decrease in local food production in predominantly agricultural Dar'a, although barriers did not differ between communities hosting large numbers of IDPs and those hosting fewer or none. Of the 16 neighbourhoods assessed in Dar'a City, **12** reported that communicable diseases were among the most common health problems in November. **Seven** of these neighbourhoods reported that there was no water to flush latrines and **four** (Arbaine, Alabbasiah, Qadessiyeh and Quneitra) reported that no health facilities were available. Of these four neighbourhoods, all but Alabbasiah also reported that no medical items were available.

Out of the 110 assessed communities, **53** reported that children were sent to work or beg to supplement household incomes³. This coping strategy most commonly affected 15 to 18-year olds (in 52 communities), followed by 10 to 14-year olds (in 32 communities) and 5 to 9-year olds in Izra' (Izra' sub-district). Nonetheless, **all but five** of these communities reported that most children were able to attend school.

Coverage



Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Food security
2. Healthcare
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

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| 4 May | Early June | 9 July | 18 July | November | 7 November |
| Signing of a de-escalation agreement following talks in Astana ⁴ . | Dar'a City targeted by hundreds of air strikes in one of the heaviest clashes the city has seen ⁵ . | Internationally brokered ceasefire agreement takes effect across south-western Syria ⁶ . | 70 families flee from eastern As-Sweida villages to Sahawa and Museifra in Dar'a. | Dar'a City lacking essential infrastructure despite return of thousands ⁷ . | 150 families return to Maraba following perceived cessation of hostilities. |

DISPLACEMENT

1,594 - 1,876 Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in November.

822 - 1,028 Estimated number of spontaneous returnee arrivals in assessed communities in November².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| Nawa | 350 - 400 |
| Mzeireb | 310 - 323 |
| Yadudeh | 220 - 234 |

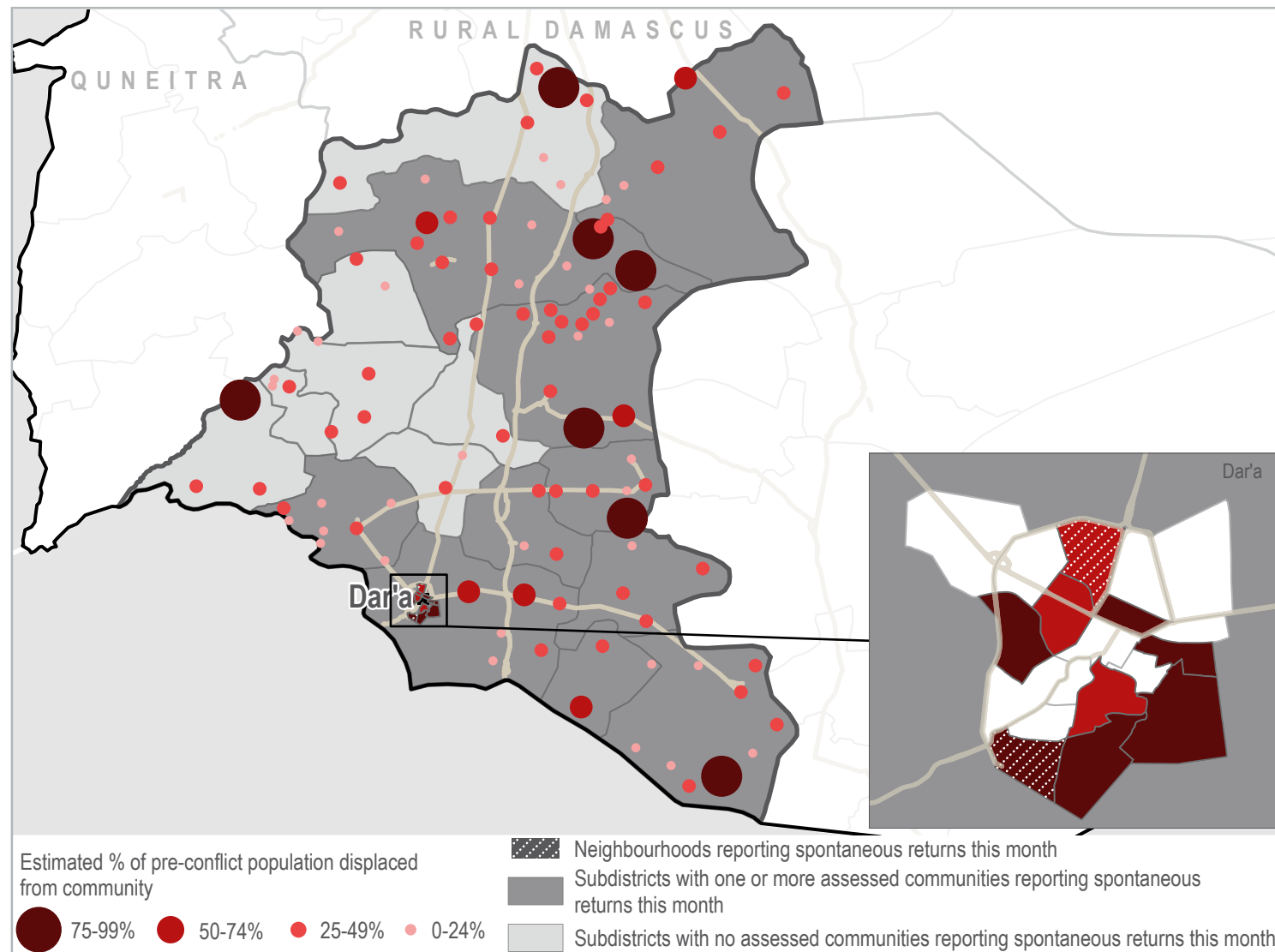
Top 3 sub-districts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Dar'a City (Dar'a) | 42% |
| Masmiyyeh (Dar'a) | 11% |
| Ash-Shajara (Dar'a) | 5% |

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

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Loss of income | 55% |
| Reduced access to basic services | 27% |
| Escalation of conflict | 27% |

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

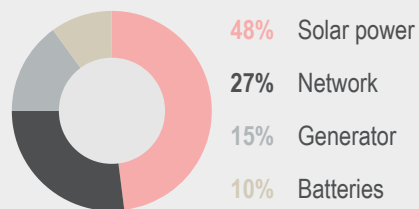


³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



45 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining 65 assessed communities^{3,4}:



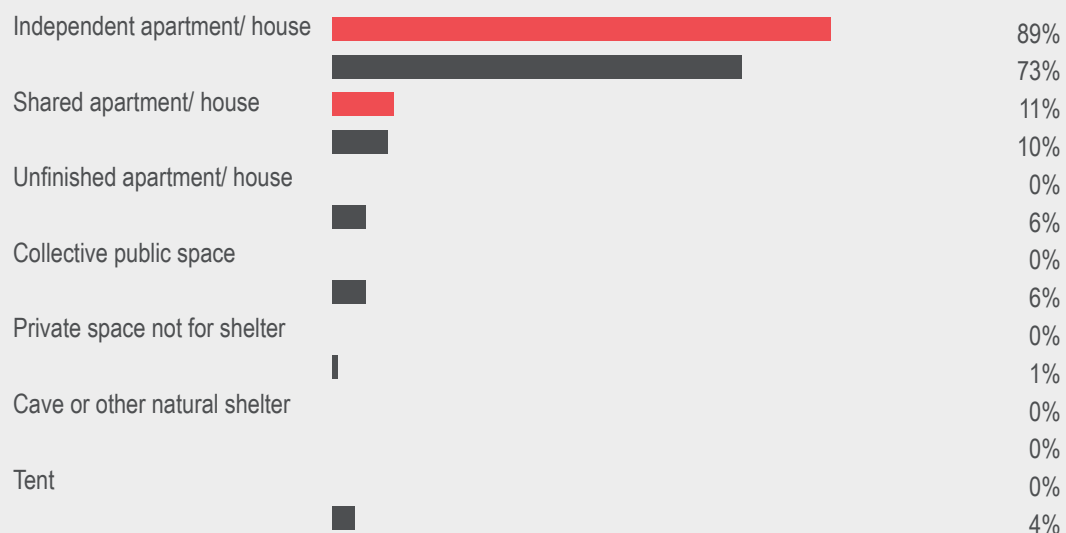
5,345 SYP

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

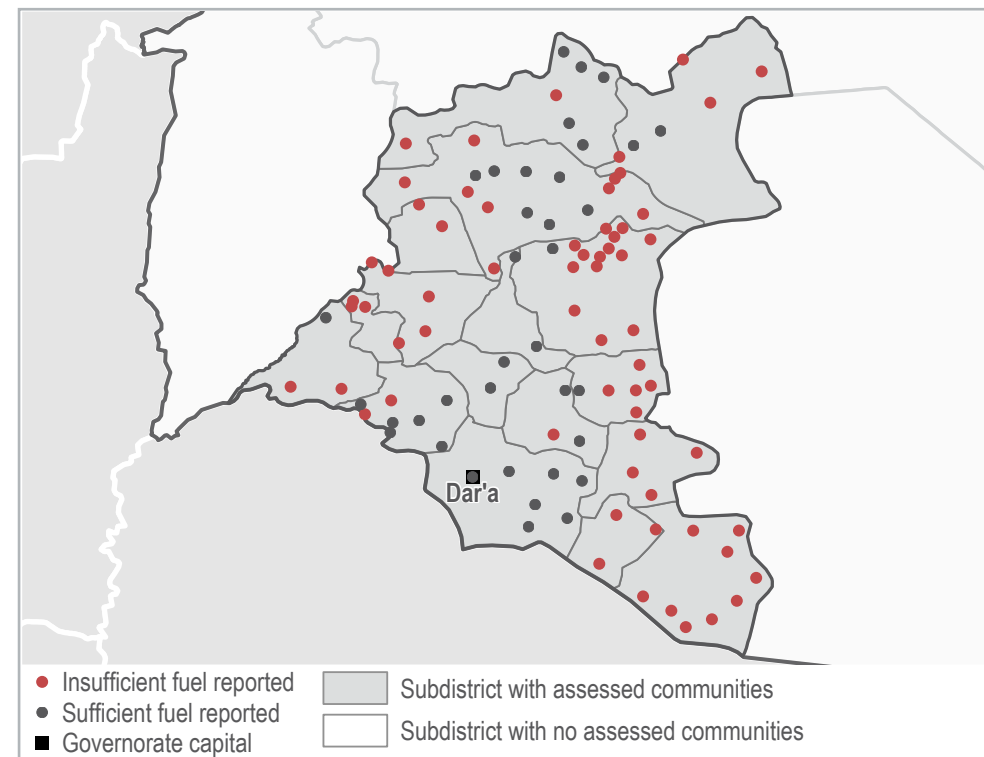
6,815 SYP

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 November: | Governorate average price in October: | Syrian average price in November: |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Coal (1 kilogram) | 411 | 422 | 332 |
| Diesel (1 litre) | 392 | 365 | 496 |
| Butane (1 canister) | 7,151 | 6,786 | 6,275 |
| Firewood (1 tonne) | 81,884 | 80,831 | 85,004 |

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 508 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 November 2017)

Dar'a Governorate, November 2017

HEALTH

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

47 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining 63 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

| | |
|---|-----|
| No health facilities available in the area | 62% |
| Lack of transportation to facilities | 46% |
| High cost of transportation to facilities | 44% |
| Old age | 30% |
| Security concerns when traveling to facilities | 19% |
| Disability/injuries/illness preventing travel | 16% |
| Family not permitting travel to health facilities | 6% |
| Security concerns to enter/remain in facilities | 5% |

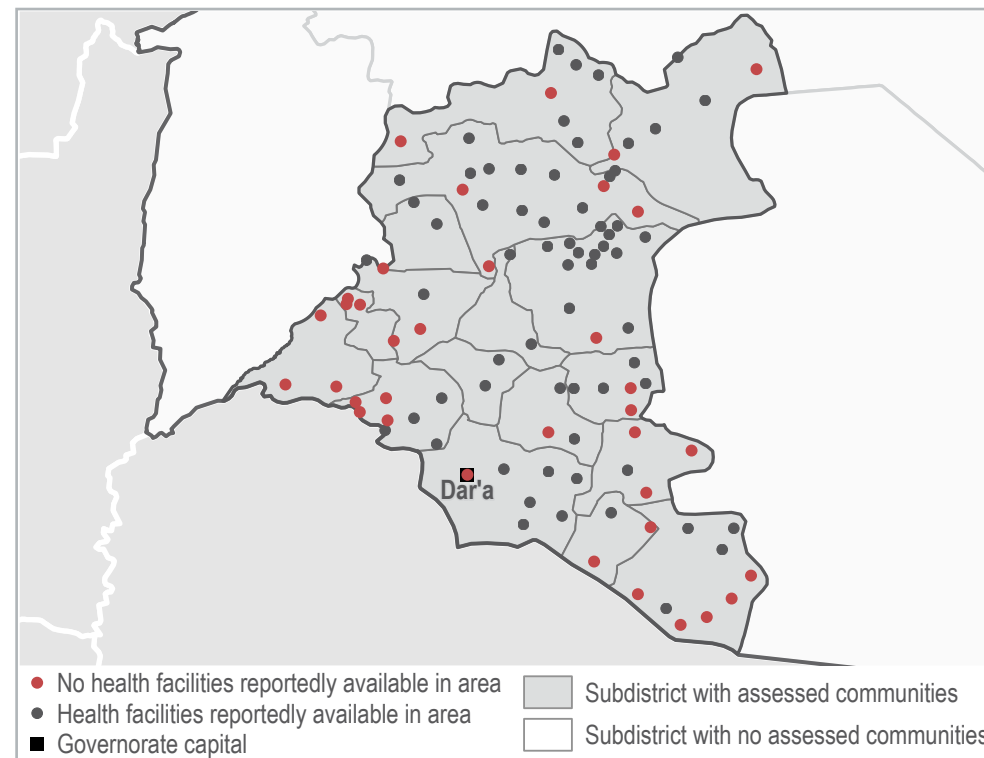
Communities reporting that residents used one of the following medical coping strategies:

| Using non-medical items for treatment: | Recycling medical items: | Carrying out operations without anaesthesia: |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Aqraba | None | None |
| Jisri | | |
| Sokkariyeh | | |

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



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

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Chronic disease support | 43% |
| Antenatal care | 40% |
| Medicine | 37% |

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

| | |
|--|-----|
| Chronic diseases | 63% |
| Acute respiratory infections | 59% |
| Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5 | 47% |



- 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.

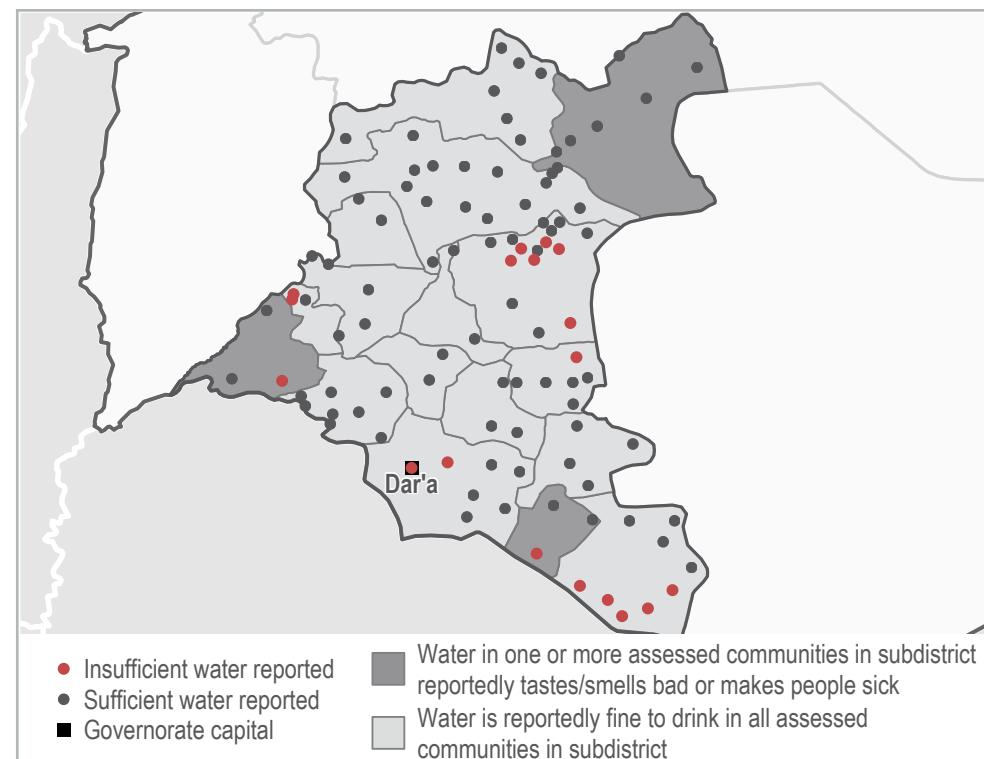
78 communities reported that they had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 32 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Inability to empty septic tanks | 56% |
| Blocked connections to sewage | 50% |
| No water to flush | 31% |
| Lack of privacy | 19% |
| Not clean | 9% |
| No separation between men and women | 3% |
| Not safe | 3% |
| Too crowded/insufficient | 3% |

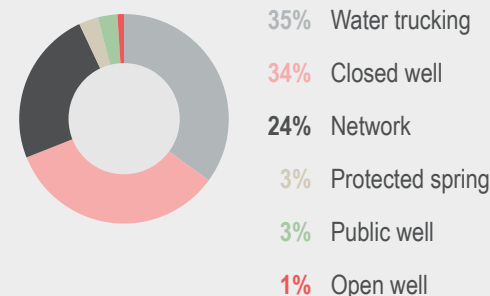
87 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 23 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Modify hygiene practices | 78% |
| Spend money usually spent on other things to buy water | 70% |
| Reduce drinking water consumption | 48% |
| Receive water on credit/ borrow water or money for water | 35% |

Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



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

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Public free collection | 47% |
| Buried or burned | 33% |
| Private paid collection | 16% |

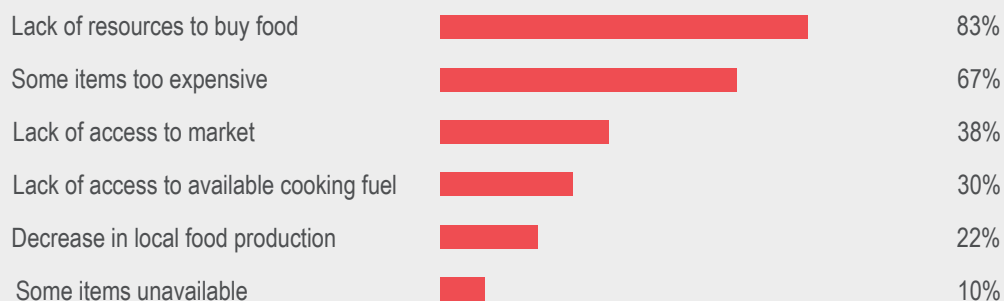
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

FOOD SECURITY

- 3** 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.

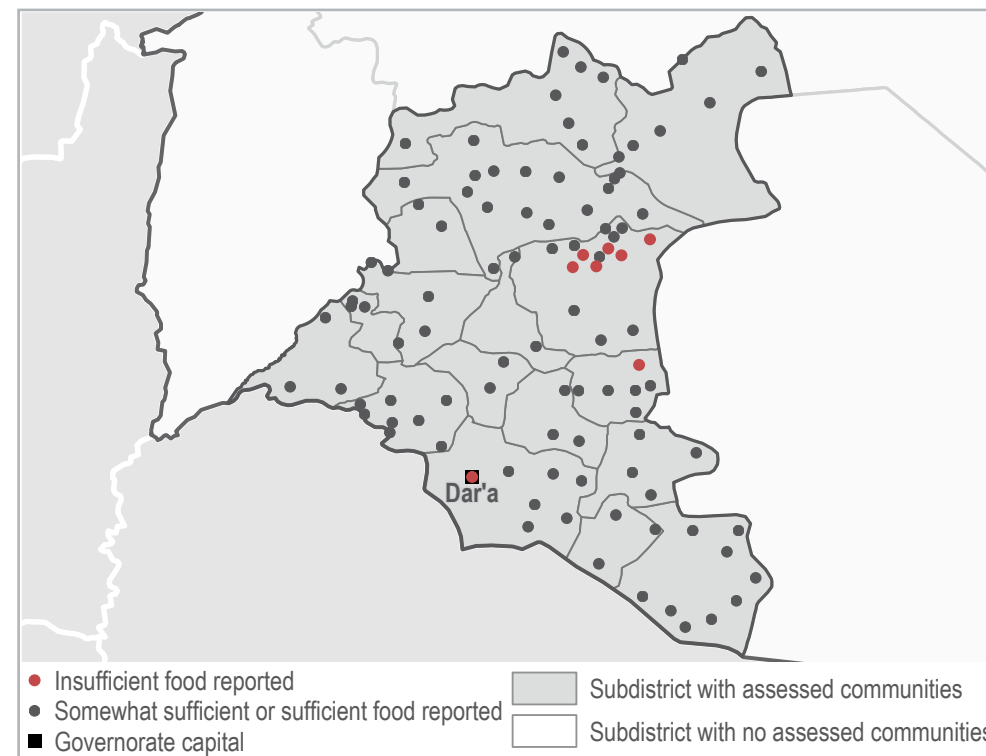
21 communities reported that they had enough food to meet household needs. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **89** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



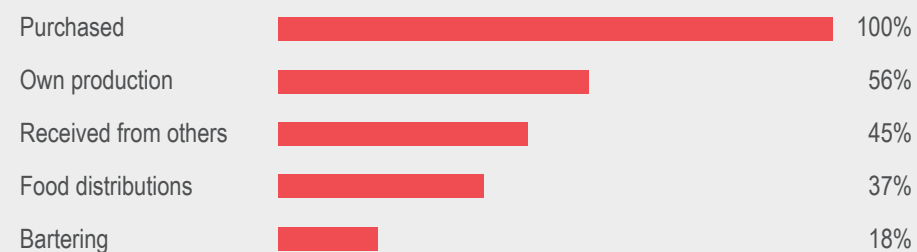
Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

| Food item: | Governorate average price in November: | Governorate average price in October: | Syrian average price in November: |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bread public bakery (1 loaf) | 94 | 97 | 115 |
| Rice (1 kilogram) | 590 | 602 | 641 |
| Lentils (1 kilogram) | 379 | 374 | 445 |
| Sugar (1 kilogram) | 299 | 315 | 895 |
| Cooking oil (1 litre) | 725 | 747 | 964 |

Food sufficiency:



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



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁵ 1 USD = 508 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 November 2017)

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

LIVELIHOODS

50,000 to 100,000 SYP

28,973 SYP

1

Most commonly reported household income range⁵.

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

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

0 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 110 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

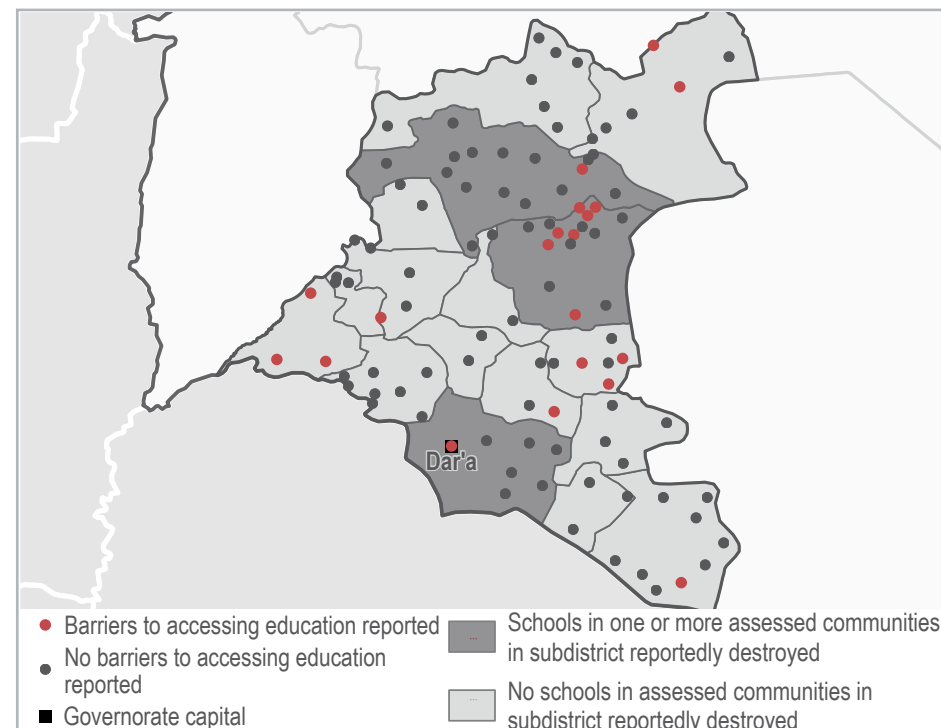
| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Borrow money from family/friends | 97% |
| Send children to work or beg | 48% |
| Reduce meal size | 31% |
| Sell household assets | 28% |
| Skip meals | 27% |

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

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Unstable, daily employment | 77% |
| Business or trade | 54% |
| Stable, salaried employment | 48% |
| Support from family/friends in Syria | 26% |
| Farm ownership | 22% |

EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



88 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining 22 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Lack of teaching staff | 77% |
| Lack of school supplies | 50% |
| Destruction of facilities | 27% |
| Routes to services unsafe | 9% |
| Parents disapprove of curriculum | 9% |

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 508 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 November 2017)

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.

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 110 communities in December 2017, referring to the situation in Dar'a Governorate in November 2017. 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 they report about. Where access and security constraints rendered direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews were conducted indirectly 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.

A minimum of three KIs were interviewed per community to enhance data accuracy. 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 UNHCR (10 May 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 10 May 2017. Reliefweb. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁵ 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>.

⁶ UNHCR (12 July 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 12 July 2017. Reliefweb. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁷ 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>.

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.