

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

April 2023 | Northwest Syria

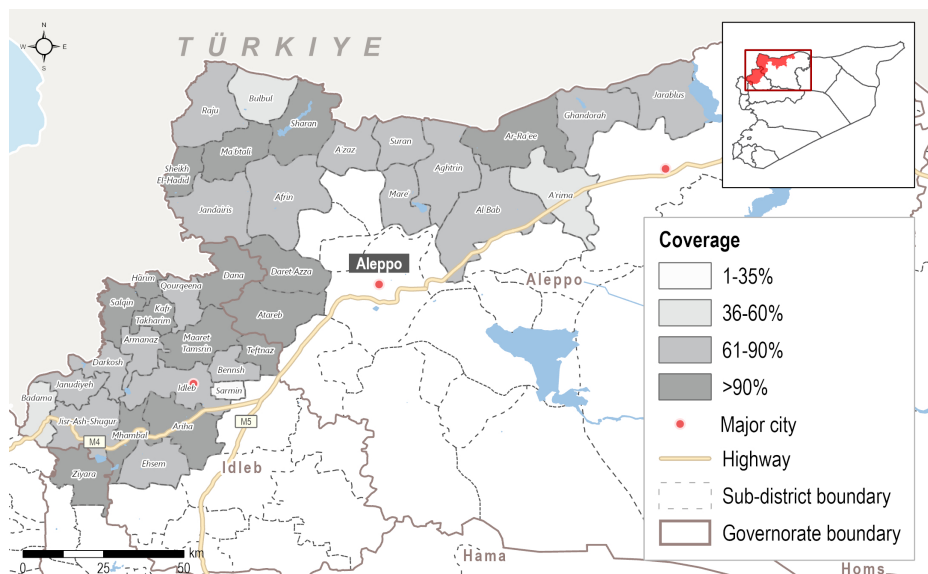
SITUATION OVERVIEW

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, public health, and the security and protection situation in Northwest Syria (NWS). 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.**

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 generalised across the population and region. The complete monthly HSOS dataset is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators in Greater Idlib, and partner enumerators in Northern Aleppo, interview three to six KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely. KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **783 communities** across Greater Idlib¹ and Northern Aleppo areas. Data was collected **between 3-19 April 2023** from **2,485 KIs** (4% female).



KEY MESSAGES

Two months after the February earthquakes, shelter was among the most cited priority needs for IDP households. Additionally, KIs reported the necessity of psychological support across NWS. The post-earthquake context worsened the general economic situation in the region as well as the access to employment.

- In April, shelter was cited among the top priority needs for IDP households.** In 37% of assessed communities across NWS, KIs reported shelter to be within the top priority needs for IDP households. The most commonly reported shelter need for IDP households was the provision of new tents (reported by KIs in 45% of assessed communities), closely followed by cash for paying rent (44% of communities) and material for repairing cracked walls (39% of communities). The high number of communities reporting shelter needs as a priority is likely to reflect the damage caused by the earthquakes, which destroyed 1,900 buildings, partially damaged 9,000 others.^a
- In the post-earthquake context, many communities reported a need for psychological support.** The recent earthquakes aggravated the mental health of a population already affected by 12 years of conflict, displacements, and economic hardship.^b Mental health and psychosocial support was among the top protection needs in April: KIs in 51% of assessed communities reported psychosocial support as a priority protection need, while the need for psychological first aid was cited in 33% of assessed communities. However, a treatment gap was identified between these needs and the availability of adequate health services, as KIs in only 5% of assessed locations reported the presence of available mental health services in their community.
- The post-earthquake context impacted the access to employment.** Among the most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods in NWS, KIs reported the general lack of employment opportunities in 74% of assessed communities in April, an increase compared to HSOS January data (pre-earthquake), in which this barrier was reported in 68% of communities. This rise aligns with the recent International Labour Organization report^c which stated that around 170,000 persons lost their jobs in NWS following the earthquake. Furthermore, KIs increasingly reported that households relied on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs, such as humanitarian assistance (reported in 32% of assessed locations in April, compared to 23% in January).

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.

Feedback on improvements to this product can be done anonymously using the following [link](#).

PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



Most commonly reported overall priority needs for host community households (by % of assessed communities) ²

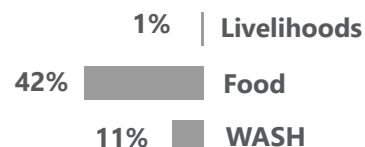
1	Livelihoods	64%
2	Food	53%
3	WASH [▲]	49%

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



Yes: **66%**
No: **34%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for host community households** ³



Most commonly reported barriers that host community households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities reporting barriers) ³

Communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	76%	1	90%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	48%	2	5%	Not aware if assistance was available
Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria	39%	3	5%	Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance



Most commonly reported overall priority needs for IDP households (by % of assessed communities) ²

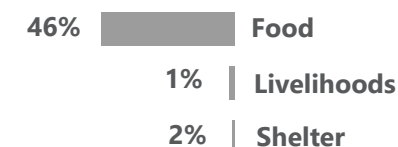
1	Food	63%
2	Livelihoods	59%
3	Shelter	47%

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



Yes: **68%**
No: **32%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for IDP households** ³

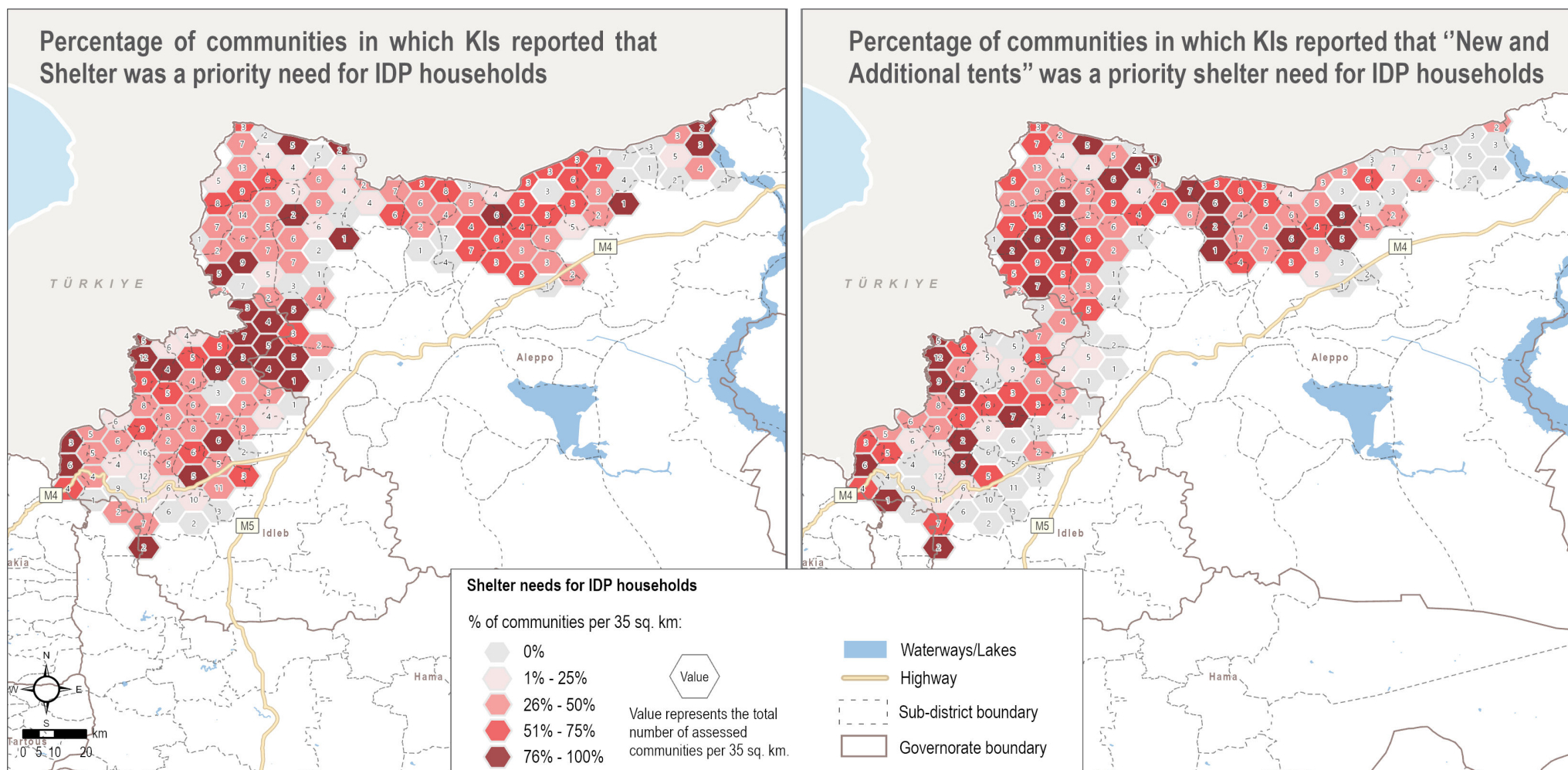


Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities reporting barriers) ³

Communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	73%	1	91%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	46%	2	4%	Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance
Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria	40%	3	4%	Not aware if assistance was available



Shelter needs for IDP households

Note on the map

The map on the left shows the percentage of communities in which KIs reported shelter to be among the top three priority needs for IDP households. The map on the right displays the percentage of communities in which KIs reported tents to be a priority shelter need for IDP households. The figure displayed in the centre of each hexagon corresponds to the number of communities assessed in an area of 35sq.km.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Region	Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{4,5}			Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment ^{4,5}			Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour ^{4,6,7}		
Northwest Syria	150 TRY			378 TRY			50 TRY		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
	0%	100%	0%	0%	64%	36%	0%	100%	0%

Most common sources of meeting basic needs for households (by % of assessed communities) ^{3,7}Presence of **host community** and **IDP** households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs (by % of assessed communities) ³Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services ⁷

KIs in **48%** of assessed communities cited **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **71%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **81%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge



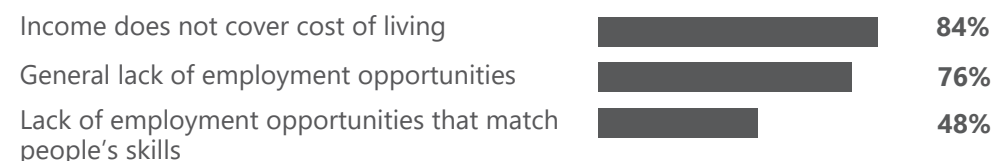
KIs in **21%** of assessed communities cited high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



KIs in **36%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



KIs in **43%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge

Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods (by % of assessed communities) ^{3,7}Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) ³% of assessed communities where livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ³

Livelihood source	Host community households	IDP households
Food crop production	67%	18%
Cash crop production	43%	6%
Livestock products	57%	36%
Sale of livestock	16%	10%



Host community households



IDP households

BASIC NEEDS OVERVIEW

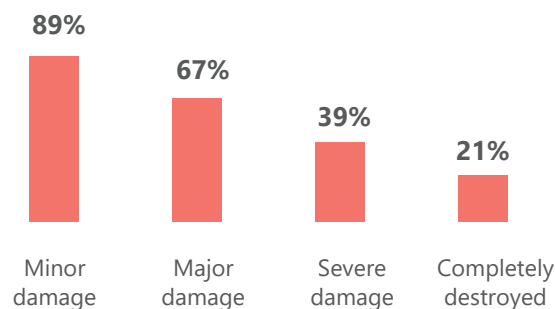
In **79%** of assessed communities, at least **80%** of the host community households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **60%** of assessed communities, **none** of the IDP households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **20%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **unfinished or abandoned residential buildings**

In **21%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **tents**

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage (by % of assessed communities)^{4, 8}



Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 84% of assessed communities)

Most commonly reported shelter inadequacies (by % of assessed communities)³



60%

Lack of lighting around shelter



54%

Shelter have minor damages

33%

Lack of privacy inside shelter

30%

Lack of heating

25%

Lack of space/overcrowding

20%

Lack of insulation from cold



59%

54%

43%

32%

33%

22%



91%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food**⁷

Commonly reported barriers to accessing sufficient food (by % of communities)^{3, 7}

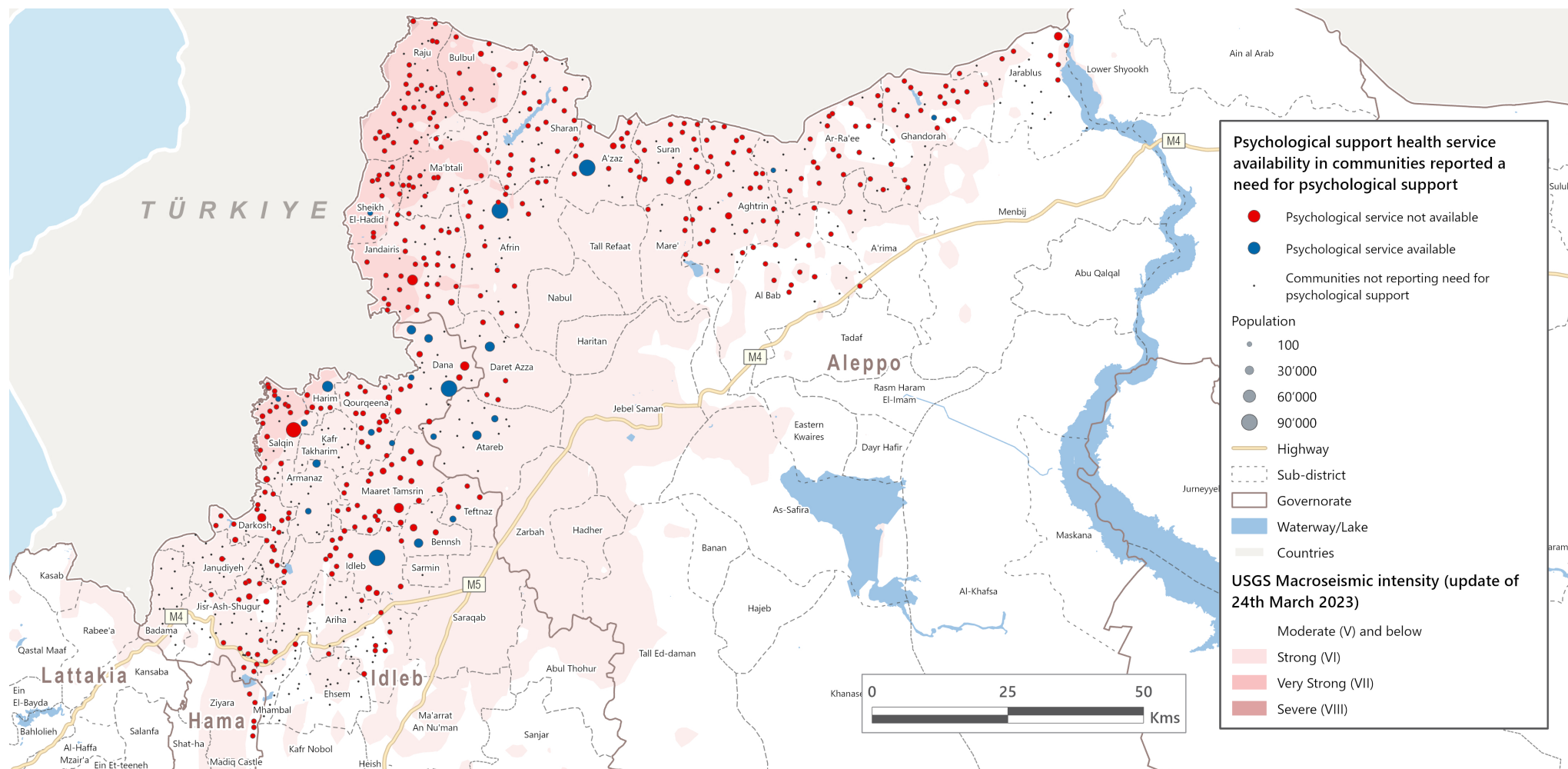
1	Markets exist and food is available but households cannot afford essential food items	81%
2	Households are not able to store food or cook food	14%
3	Markets exist but not all essential food items are available	12%



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 84% of assessed communities)^{7, 9}

Commonly reported **source of food** for households **other than markets** (by % of assessed communities)^{10, 7}

1	Own production or farming	53%
2	Relying on food stored previously	32%
3	Assistance from local councils, NGOs or other groups	19%



Psychological and psychosocial needs in Northwest Syria

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES



Access to Electricity

>12
hrs/day

was the most commonly reported range of hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 36% of assessed communities)

Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 65% of assessed communities)

71%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **Solar panels too expensive** as the most frequently reported barrier to electricity access



Access to Water

54%

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



7 days 8%
5-6 days 8%
3-4 days 16%
1-2 days 18%
0 days 50%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 598 communities connected to a water network)

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of water for all purposes (reported by KIs in 47% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

54%

% 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)

38%

28%

17%

Paid private waste collection

Free public waste collection

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

38%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **waste removal services** as a WASH priority need ⁷



Access to Markets

20%

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

People lack financial means to open shop/market

was the most commonly reported **reason for why markets were not functioning** (reported by KIs in 65% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

57%

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



Access to Health Services

53%

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

Most commonly reported health priority needs (by % of assessed communities)^{7, 10}

62%

47%

45%

Medicines and other commodities

First aid or emergency care

Treatment for chronic diseases

High cost of transportation to health facilities

was the most commonly reported **barrier to accessing healthcare** (reported by KIs in 62% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

23%

32%

% of assessed communities in which only half or less of the school aged-children accessed school in the last 30 days for **host community** and **IDP** households

Functioning

91%

Not functioning

9%

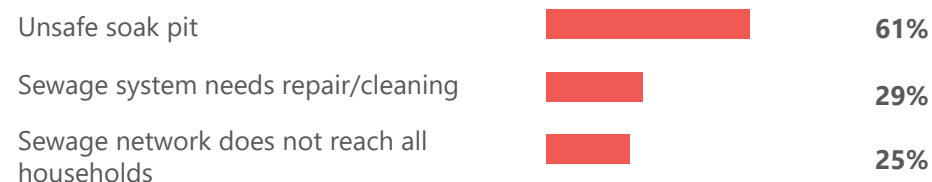
Reported functionality of education services in the assessed location

67%

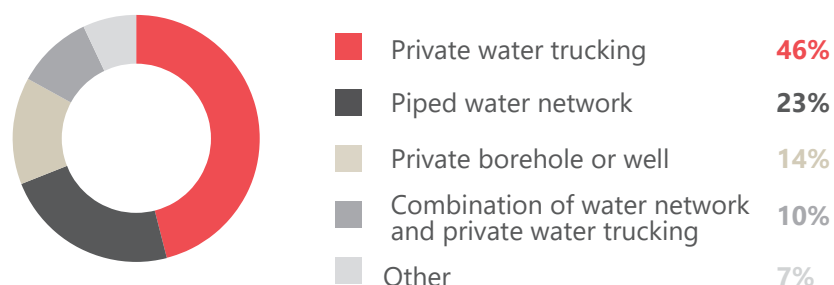
% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **families cannot afford to prioritize school and children must work** ⁷

PUBLIC HEALTH

Most commonly reported sanitation issues (by % of assessed communities)³



Primary sources of drinking water (by % of assessed communities)



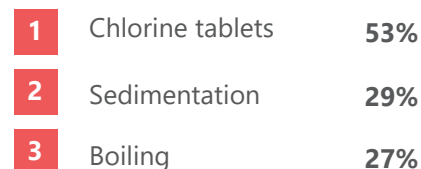
49%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that households **faced problems with drinking water**.

73%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that households **did not use any methods** to make water safer to drink.

Methods used by households to make water safer to drink (by % of assessed communities in which KIs reported methods being used)³



Reported challenges related to quantity, quality and diversity of food for babies and young children (less than 2 years old)^{3, 9}

Limited variety of food reported in **25%** of assessed communities

Not enough food reported in **18%** of assessed communities

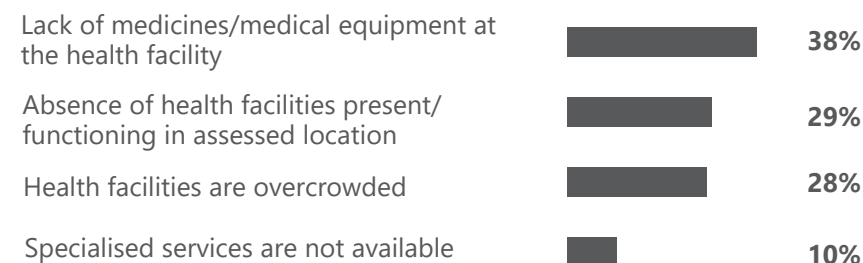
Poor quality of food reported in **9%** of assessed communities

36%

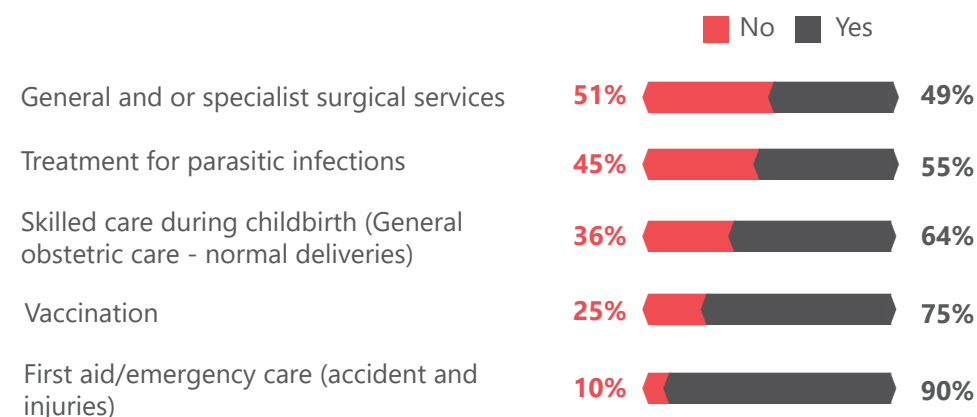


% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **no paediatric services** were available either in the assessed community or nearby locations

Reported barriers to accessing healthcare (by % of assessed communities)^{3, 12}



Essential health services available either in the assessed community or in nearby locations (by % of assessed communities)^{3, 13}



SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in 13 assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in 33 assessed communities



Theft was reported as a protection risk in 7% of assessed communities ⁷

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in 11% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from shelling was reported as a protection risk in 7% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from airstrikes were reported as a protection risk in 28 assessed communities ⁷



The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in 45 assessed communities ⁷



Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities was reported as a barrier to healthcare in 9 assessed communities



Lack of safety while travelling to or from school was reported as a barrier preventing access to education in 65 assessed communities ⁷

Most commonly reported protection priority needs (by % of assessed communities) ^{7, 10}

- 1** Special assistance for vulnerable groups **57%**
- 2** Psychosocial support **51%**
- 3** Specialised child protection services **40%**



% of assessed communities where the lack of civil documentation for **host community** and IDP households was reported

- 30%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 32%**
- 6%** Some people did not have the necessary personal document as a barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance
- 5%**
- 6%** Lack of personal documentation required to enrol in school as a barrier to education access
- 10%**

54%

% of assessed communities where **child labour** was reported as a protection risk for **host community** and IDP households

57%

Gender and diversity

KIs in **33%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **29%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **5%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **25%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **5%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

KIs in **13%** of assessed communities reported **challenges specific to girls** as a barrier preventing access to education ^{7, 14}

ENDNOTES

¹ The Greater Idlib area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo governorate (Atareb and Daret Azza sub-districts), and parts of Hama governorate controlled by armed opposition groups (Ziyara sub-district). The Northern Aleppo area includes 16 sub-districts located across Afrin, A'az, Al Bab and Jarablus districts.

² KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. 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 multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

⁴ KIs were asked about the situation at the time of data collection, instead of the last 30 days.

⁵ 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 NWS Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) April 2023 1 USD = 7,630 SYP; 1TRY= 403 SYP.

⁶ According to the NWS [JMMI](#) April 2023, 1 USD = 7,630 SYP.

⁷ 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).

⁸ 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).

⁹ KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.

¹⁰ KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

¹¹ This section provides a visualisation of three types of problems with drinking water. These problems were not selected based on how commonly they were reported, but rather on their potential negative impact on health.

¹² This section only focuses on barriers related to the health facilities and excludes financial barriers as well as obstacles linked to transportation to health facilities.

¹³ This section provides a visualisation of the availability of five essential types of health services reported in the assessed communities or in nearby locations. The displayed services were not selected based on how commonly they were reported.

¹⁴ Challenges specific to girls include the following: Families not allowing attendance or continuation of education, fear of harassment on the way to or inside education facilities, and the lack of privacy in toilets.

REFERENCES

^a SNFI Cluster. (8 May 2023). North-West Syria & NFI Emergency Overview. Retrieved from. <https://reliefweb.int>

^b MedGlobal. (9 May 2023). Retraumatized: The psychological impact of the earthquake on war-torn Syria. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>

^c International Labour Organization. (March 2023). Impact of the February 2023 earthquakes on the employment and labour market in Syria. Retrieved from <https://www.ilo.org>

N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset	N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset
Host community households	741	Currency used for paying rent	443
IDP households	754	Currency in which wages are paid (merged)	588
Challenges to assistance access (host community)	449	Days when water is available from network	591
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	247	Barriers to markets functioning	154
Challenges to assistance access (IDP)	465	Methods to make water safer (merged)	209
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	235	Problems with drinking water (merged)	385
Currency used for paying water	647		

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).