

Dar'a Governorate, January 2018

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

OVERALL FINDINGS¹

Predominantly agricultural Dar'a governorate is located in southern Syria. Following heavy clashes during early 2017, hostilities in the governorate reduced significantly since a ceasefire agreement took effect in July between armed opposition groups (AOGs) and the Government of Syria. Despite the ceasefire agreement still being in effect, the governorate continues to experience conflict. In January 2018, **seven** communities reported that members of their pre-conflict population left due to an escalation of conflict. These communities are predominantly located in Izra' district in eastern Dar'a. Conversely, **9** of the 104 communities assessed in Dar'a witnessed spontaneous population returns in January, around **353 – 430** in total². The majority of returns were reported in communities that are located in Dar'a and Izra' districts. Of the **seven** communities that saw refugee returns, the most commonly cited reasons for return were family reunification, the need to protect or reclaim assets and a perceived cessation of hostilities in the community of origin. **Five** of these communities witnessed returns from Jordan, while **three** saw people return from Lebanon. Among the **four** communities in which spontaneous IDP returns reportedly occurred, family reunification, followed by access to employment in the community of origin, were most commonly cited as reasons for return.

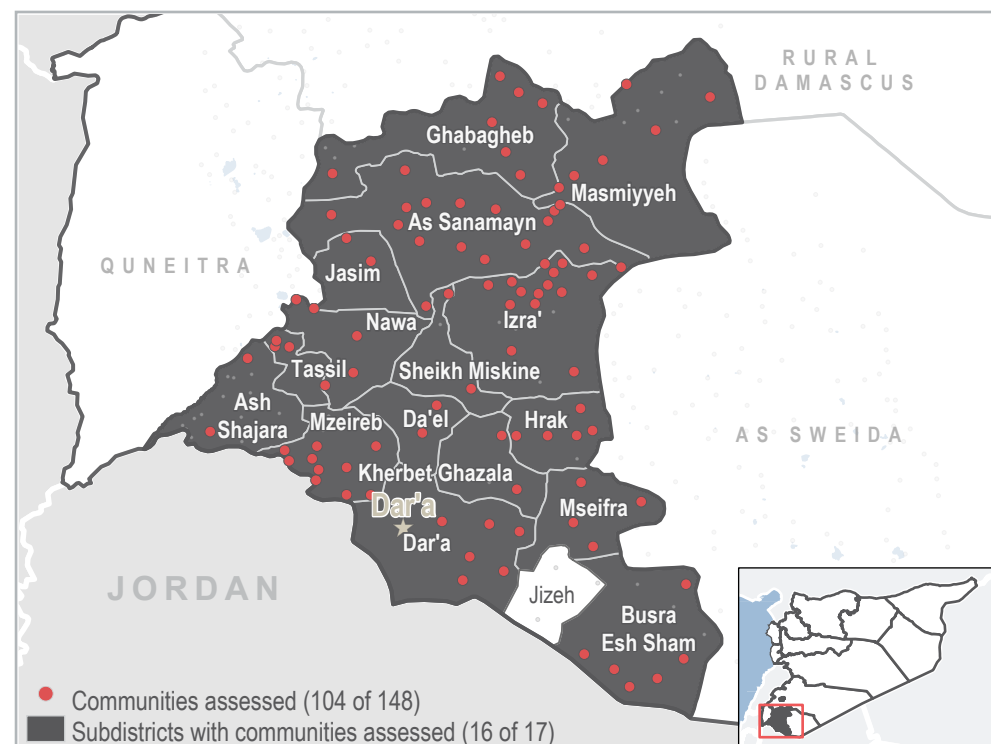
Of the communities assessed, **74%** reported an IDP presence. New IDP arrivals were reported in **12** communities, and the largest estimated number of arrivals, **1,800 – 2,000**, was reported in Jasim, where the total estimated number of IDPs in January was between **22,000 and 23,000** individuals. Of the **7** communities reporting the presence of over 10,000 IDPs, **all** reported having sufficient amounts of water and **all but 2** reported having sufficient amounts of fuel. Nonetheless, **four out of these seven** reported barriers to accessing sufficient amounts of food, the most common being a lack of resources, while **five** of the communities reported that children were being sent to work or beg to supplement household incomes. The barriers to accessing food did not differ considerably between communities hosting large numbers of IDPs and those hosting fewer, with financial reasons such as prohibitive prices and a lack of resources to purchase food cited as barriers in **75%** of all assessed communities (please refer to the Syria [Market Monitoring Exercise](#) for additional information on food prices in Dar'a). Overall, **all but one** community reported that residents' incomes were insufficient to cover household needs.

Of the 104 communities assessed, **58** reported barriers to accessing healthcare and **22** reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community. **Five** communities reported the use of coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies: Aqraba, Eib, Jisri, Sura and Sokkariyeh. Residents in these communities reportedly coped with the lack of medical supplies by recycling medical items and/or using non-medical items for treatment. Communicable diseases were reported as a common health concern in **30** communities, the majority of which are located in Dar'a, As-Sanamayn and Izra' subdistricts. Out of the 104 assessed communities, **55%** reported that children were sent to work or beg to supplement household incomes and **27** communities reported barriers preventing some children from accessing education³.

KEY EVENTS

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 Maseifra in Dar'a.	Dar'a City lacking essential infrastructure despite return of thousands ⁷ .	Hundreds of spontaneous returnee arrivals reported, with particularly large numbers recorded in Dar'a district ² .
4 May	Early June	9 July	18 July	November	December

Coverage



Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Food security
2. Healthcare
3. Water security

Demographics*

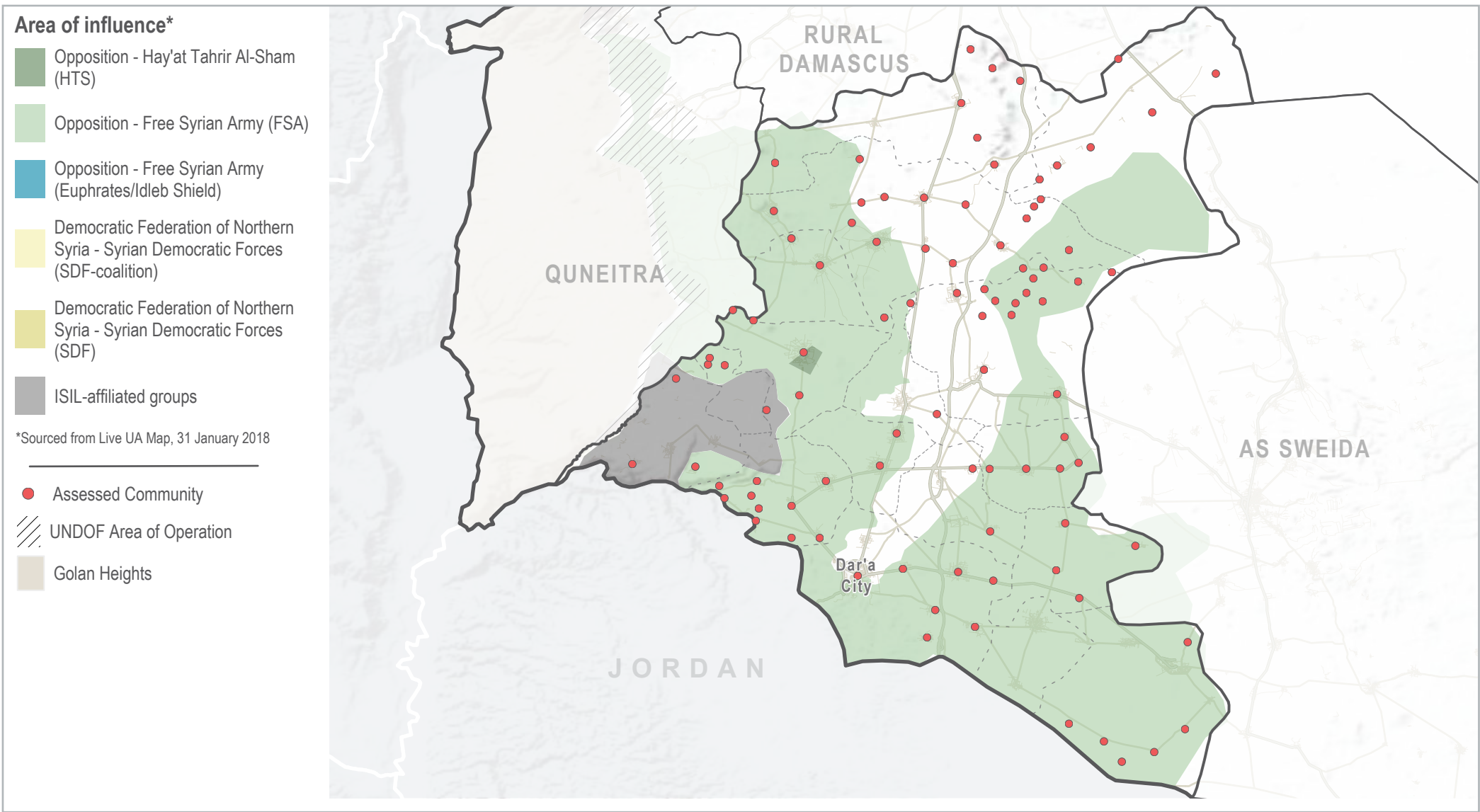
898,910 people in need

437,769 461,141

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

Dar'a Governorate, January 2018

Governorate areas of influence:



Dar'a Governorate, January 2018

DISPLACEMENT

3,545 - 4,195 Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in January.

353 - 430 Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in January².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Jasim	1,800 - 2,000
Sayda	800 - 810
Mzeireb	370 - 705

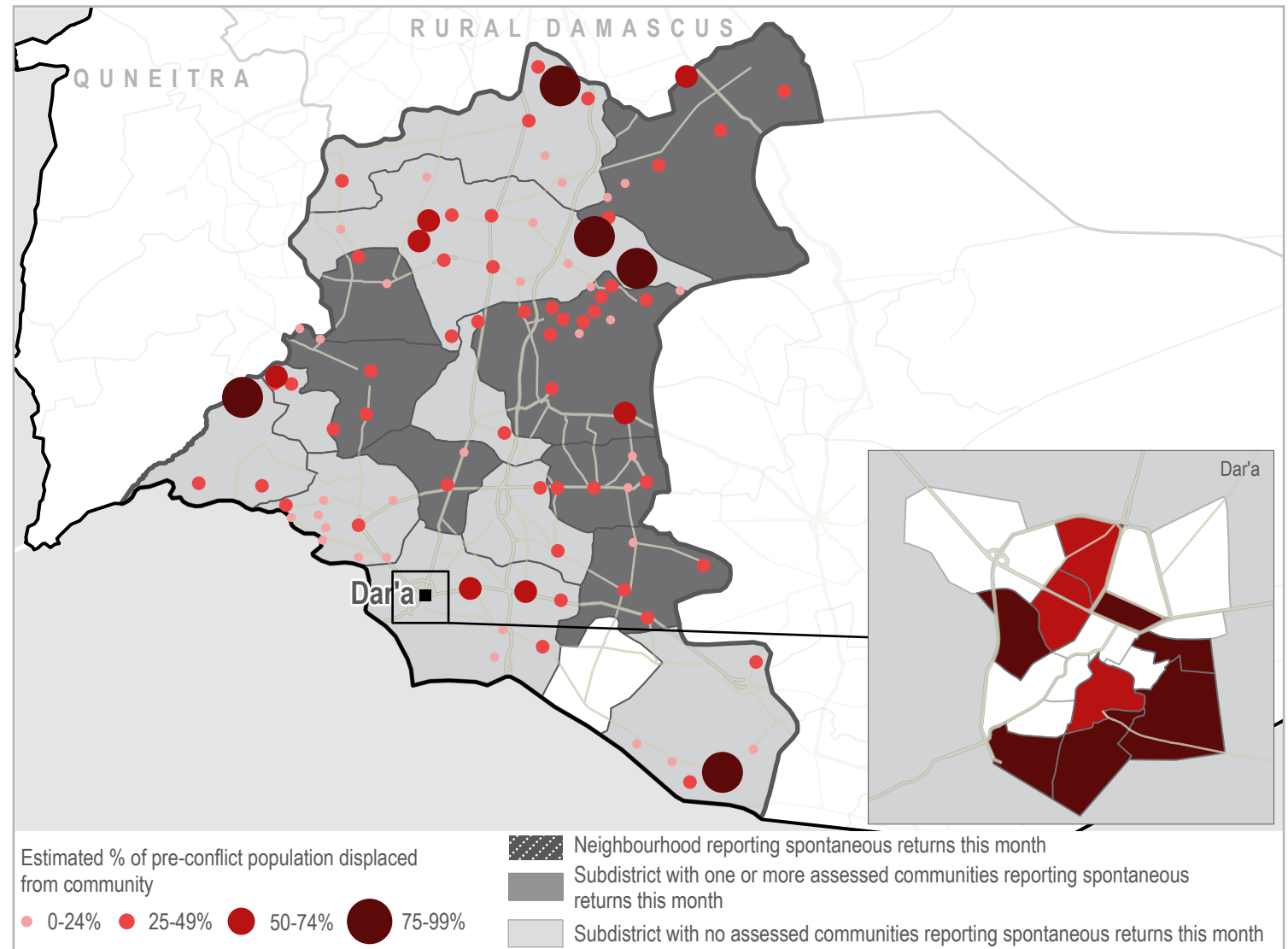
Top 3 subdistricts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

Ash-Shajara (Dar'a)	25%
Dar'a (Dar'a)	17%
Izra' (Dar'a)	17%

88 communities reported no PCP departures.
Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **16** assessed communities^{3,4}:

Loss of income	81%
Escalation of conflict	44%
Reduced access to basic services	19%

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



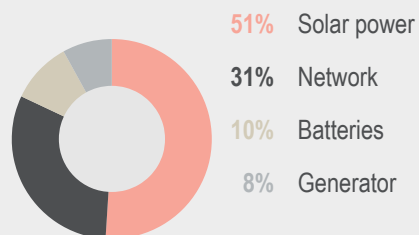
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



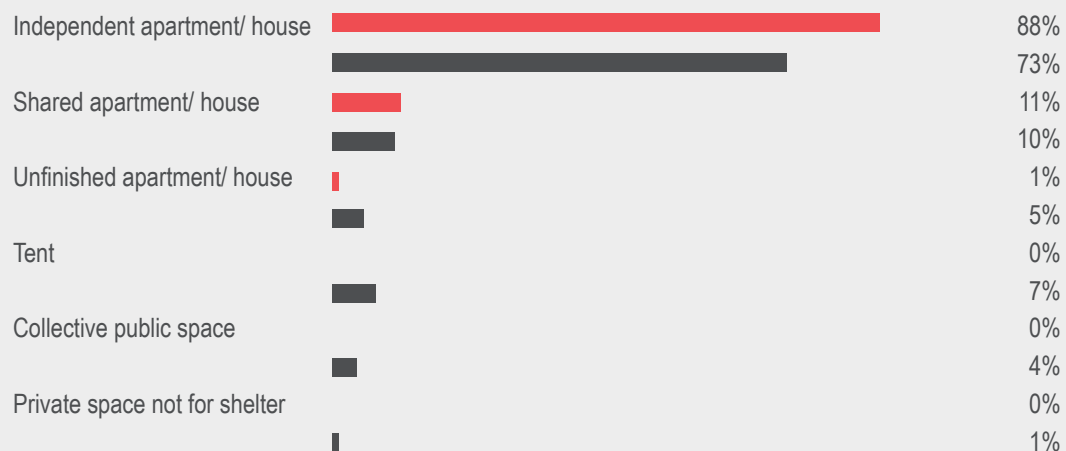
40 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining 64 assessed communities^{3,4}:



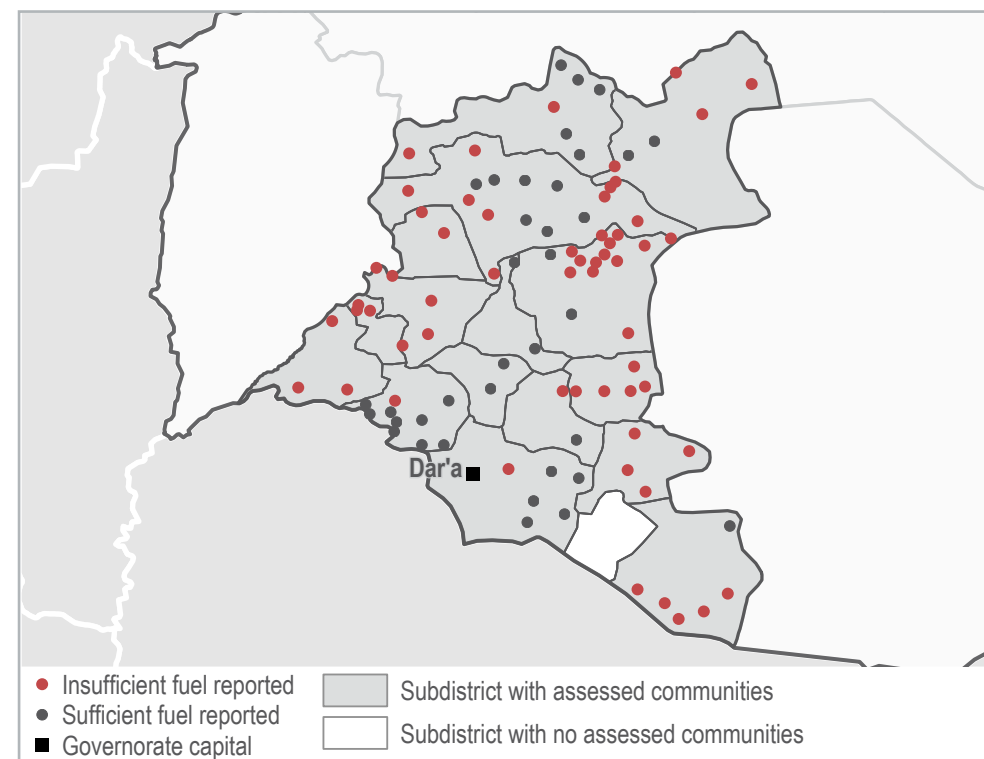
5,709 SYP Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.⁵

7,482 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 January:	Governorate average price in December:	Syrian average price in January:
Coal (1 kilogram)	403	407	325
Diesel (1 litre)	333	375	414
Butane (1 canister)	6,082	6,653	6,060
Firewood (1 tonne)	78,522	79,501	76,514

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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

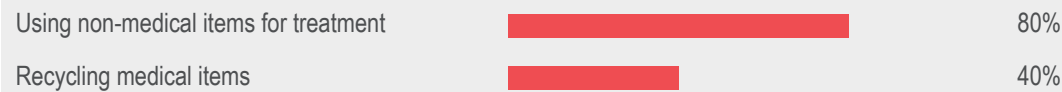


- 22 Communities reported that no medical items were available in their community.
- 14 Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

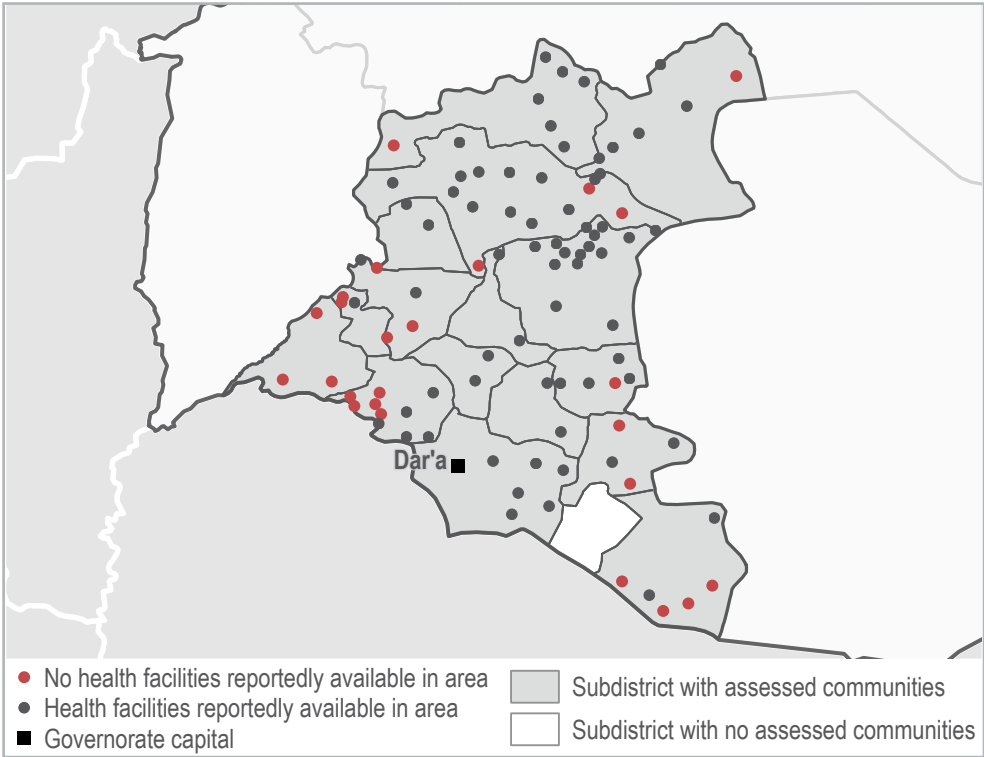
46 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining 58 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



99 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}:



Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



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

Chronic disease support	43%
Antenatal care	39%
Medicine	35%

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

Chronic diseases	74%
Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	53%
Acute respiratory infections	49%

³ Multiple choices allowed.
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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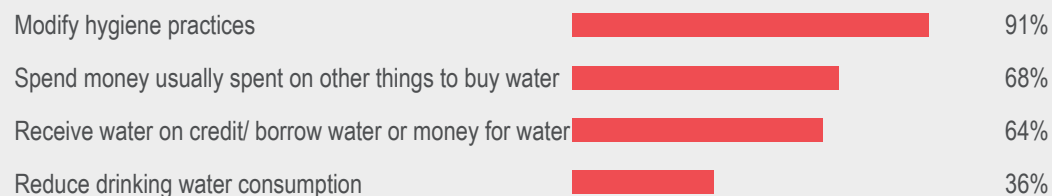
0 Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.

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

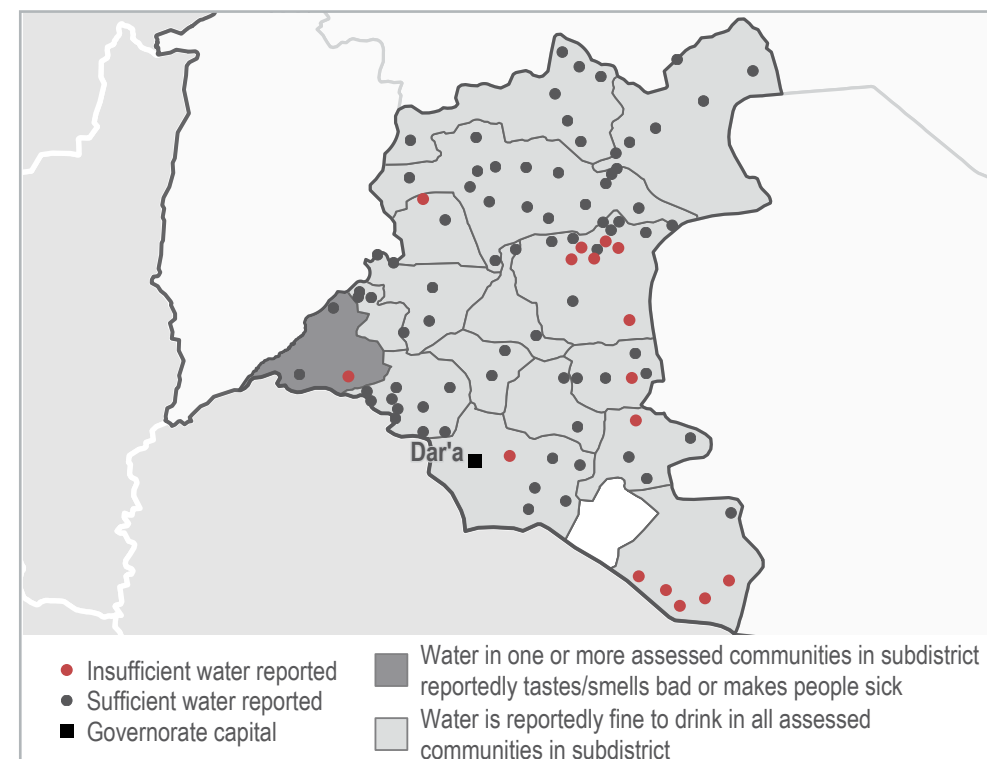
75 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining **29** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



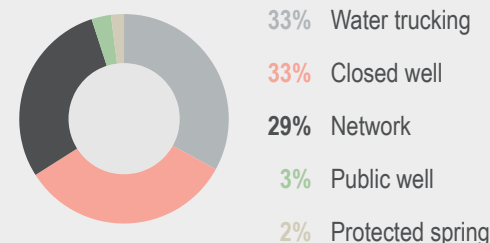
82 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining **22** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



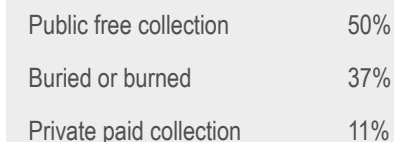
Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



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



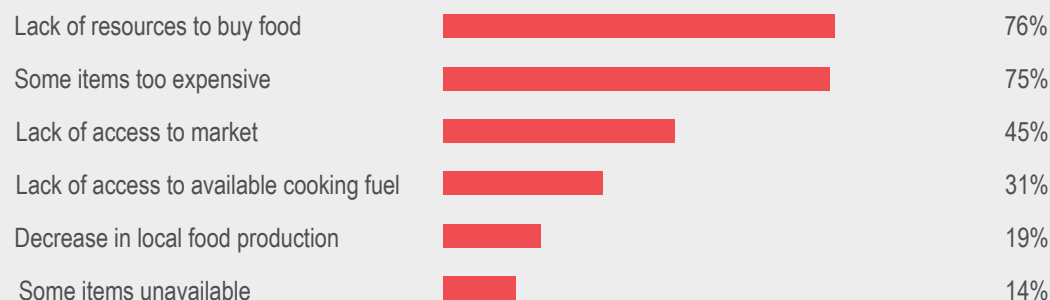
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

FOOD SECURITY

- 5** 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.

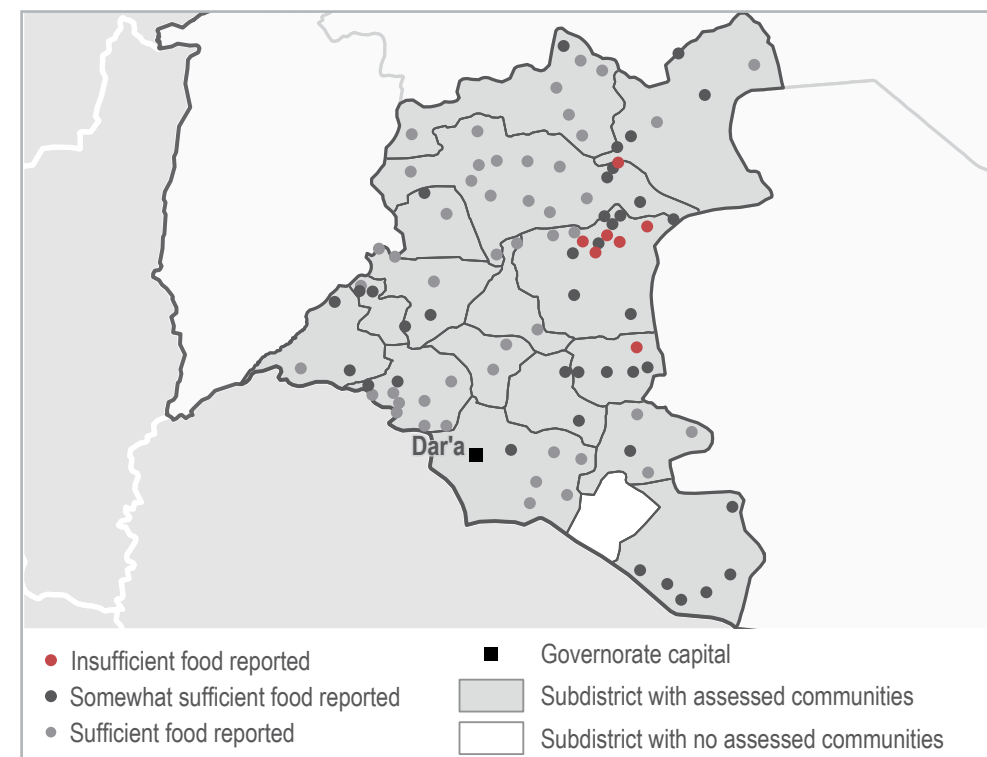
21 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **83** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



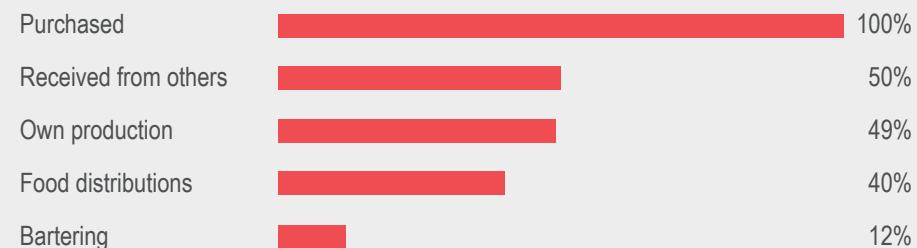
Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

Food item:	Governorate average price in January:	Governorate average price in December:	Syrian average price in January:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	92	85	115
Rice (1 kilogram)	581	590	535
Lentils (1 kilogram)	353	371	416
Sugar (1 kilogram)	280	284	386
Cooking oil (1 litre)	706	716	669

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 February 2018)

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LIVELIHOODS

50,000 to 100,000 SYP Most commonly reported household income range⁵.

27,997 SYP Governorate average food basket price^{5,6}.

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

1 community 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 **103** assessed communities were^{3,4}:

Borrow money from family/ friends	89%
Send children to work or beg	55%
Reduce meal size	32%
Skip meals	31%
Sell household assets	22%

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

Unstable / daily employment	85%
Business or trade	63%
Stable / salaried employment	43%
Support from family/ friends in Syria	30%
Farm ownership	22%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

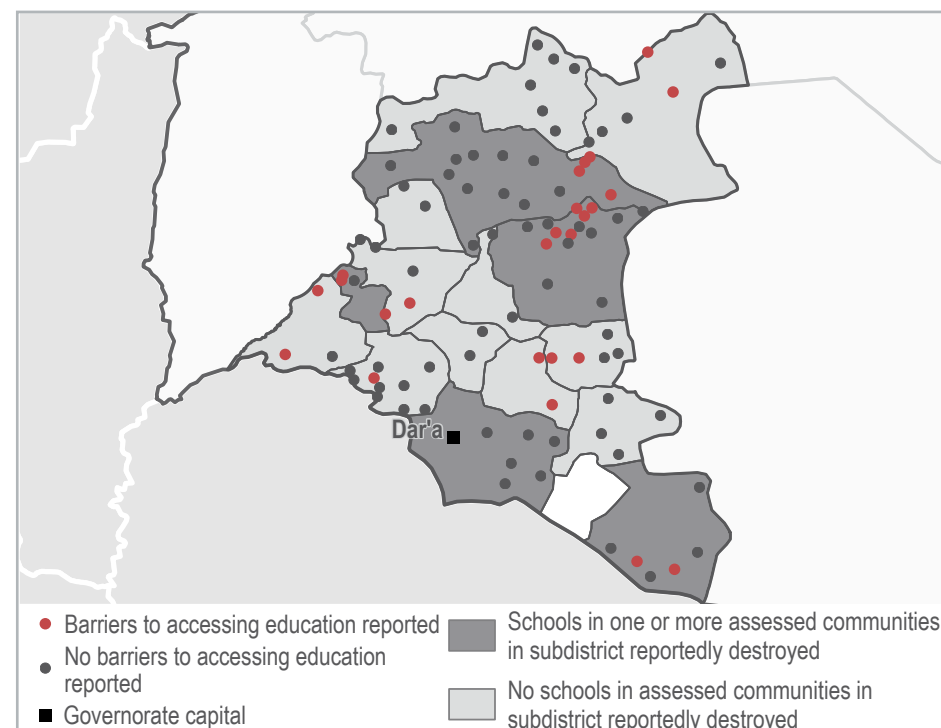
⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 February 2018)

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:



77 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **27** assessed communities were^{3,4}:

Lack of teaching staff	70%
Lack of school supplies	59%
Destruction of facilities	30%
Routes to services unsafe	19%
Parents disapprove of curriculum	7%

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 104 communities in February 2018, referring to the situation in Dar'a Governorate in January 2018. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed subdistricts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly subdistrict 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.