

Rapid Needs Assessment: As-Sweida, Dar'a and Rural Damascus

Syria | July 2025

KEY MESSAGES

- **Overlapping shelter and protection concerns are amplifying the vulnerability of displaced populations, particularly in As-Sweida.** Displaced families are frequently residing in damaged buildings or collective centers. This overlaps with widespread fears of renewed conflict, indicating a critical need for urgent shelter and protection support.
- **Gaps in access to basic services are contributing to worsening food insecurity and reliance on negative coping mechanisms.** Limited access to food, income, and water is driving communities to rely on savings and external help.

About the assessment

This rapid needs assessment aims to identify and understand the priority needs of newly displaced populations and host communities in As-Sweida, Dara'a, and Rural Damascus.

Data collection: 24/07/2025 – 31/07/2025

Type of assessment: Key Informant Interviews (104) in 83 communities

Movement trends

61% of KIs themselves were displaced due to the escalation

- **32%** Had a family member die or disappeared
- **89%** Chose the new community for security
- **39%** Plan to remain in the new community

In Rural Damascus, 75% of KIs in the assessed communities reported they will remain there. Whereas, this was 43% in As-Sweida and 31% in Dar'a.

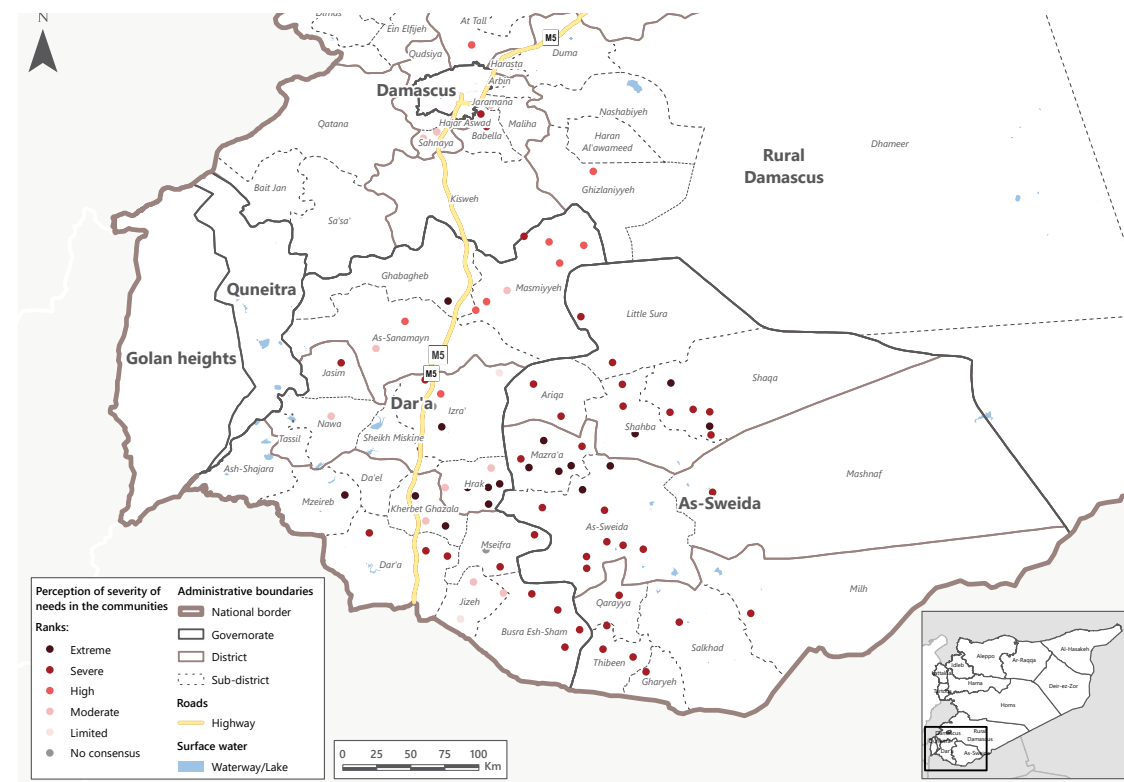
Shelter and NFI top needs

61% of communities reported that IDPs were staying mainly in collective centers

50% of communities reportedly had damaged buildings due to the conflict (This was 83% in As-Sweida)¹

NFI Needs: Hygiene kits **93%**, Female hygiene items **89%**, Babe care items **86%**

MAP OF PERCEPTION OF SEVERITY OF NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITIES



Perception of severity of needs (by % of assessed communities)



Percentage of communities per reported priority need per sector

Food Security	31%	Health	14%	Analyzed individually, shelter was reported as the first priority need in the majority of the assessed communities (42%).
Shelter and NFIs	27%	Livelihoods	6%	
WASH	14%	Protection	2%	

¹ Information presented at Governorate level

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Electricity and infrastructure

55% of communities relied on the main network

75% of communities had problems with the main network

92% of communities had less than 6 hours of electricity per day

As-Sweida (100% had less than 2 hours), Dara'a (85% had less than 6 hours) and Rural Damascus (100% less than 6 hours)¹

Protection

51% of communities were considered not safe for families

As-Sweida (100%), Dar'a (20%) and Rural Damascus (0%)¹

Fear of imminent conflict (**89%**) and threat from airstrikes, shelling and/or gunfire (**68%**) are the main reasons why people in the communities did not feel safe.

75% of communities reported the lack of medicine and equipment as a main challenge.

32% of communities reported not having received information about risks of hazards and dangers in the area

As-Sweida (93%), Dar'a (59%) and Rural Damascus (0%)¹

WASH

82% of communities had problems accessing enough water

As-Sweida (100%), Dar'a (69%) and Rural Damascus (75%)¹

27% of communities relied on water trucking assistance as the main source of water

76% of communities did not have enough water points to access water

Health

57% of communities relied on pharmacies to access healthcare

86% of communities reported problems accessing adequate healthcare

As-Sweida (100%), Dar'a (74%) and Rural Damascus (88%). Additionally, in As-Sweida 55% reported that less than half of the people in the community that needed healthcare accessed it while in Dar'a 52% and in Rural Damascus 50%¹

75% of communities reported the lack of medicine and equipment as a main challenge.

Food Security

43% of communities relied on their own production as a source of food

83% of communities had problems accessing enough food.

As-Sweida (100%), Dar'a (74%) and Rural Damascus (50%). Additionally, As-Sweida (67% reported very insufficient availability), Dar'a (20% reported insufficient and 9% very insufficient) and Rural Damascus (38% reported insufficient)¹

63% of communities did not have a stable food supply

Livelihoods

Spending savings (**68%**) is the most common coping strategy in the communities followed by relying on free food or help from others (**38%**)

94% of communities reported problems accessing enough income to meet their needs

As-Sweida (100%), Dar'a (91%) and Rural Damascus (100%)¹

84% of communities reported the inability to access livelihoods as a main challenge.

Accountability to Affected Populations

The main channels from which information about risks in the area have been received are:

62% Social media

56% Community leaders

37% News in the internet

36% of communities reported that no assistance is being provided

As-Sweida (26%), Dar'a (43%) and Rural Damascus (37%)¹

70% of communities reported that they did not have information on how to access food assistance.