

# Hama Governorate, February 2018

## Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

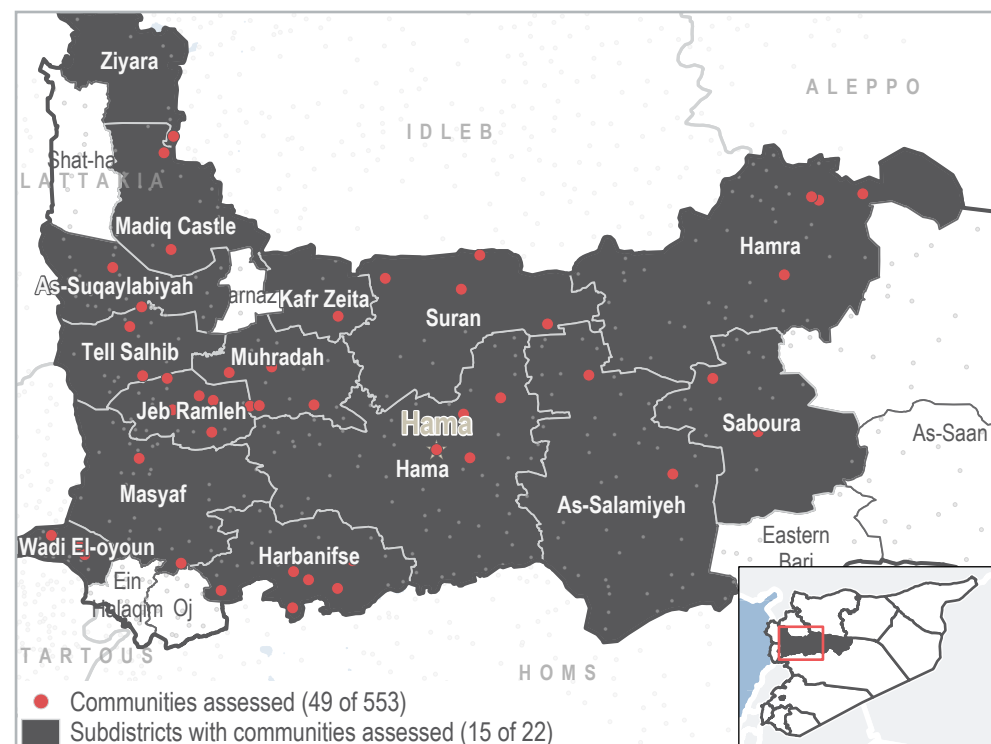
### OVERALL FINDINGS<sup>1</sup>

Hama Governorate, located on the banks of the Orontes River, is positioned to the south of Idleb Governorate and the north of Homs Governorate. An offensive against the group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in late August 2017, followed by a rapid escalation in conflict in northern Hama in mid-September, resulted in large-scale displacement, both within and out of the governorate to neighbouring Idleb. For further information on displacement trends in Hama governorate in the second half of 2017, please refer to the [northern Hama HSOS Trends Analysis](#). In February 2018, **14** of the **49** assessed communities, primarily in Hama district, reported that only **1-25%** of the pre-conflict population remained. Additionally, **over half** of the assessed communities stated that further pre-conflict populations left their communities in February, primarily due to an escalation in conflict. Approximately **200 - 375** IDPs returned to their communities of origin, Jeb Ramleh, Zaytuneh and Kanfo<sup>2</sup>. Of the assessed communities, **seven** reported hosting IDPs in February. Across these communities, IDPs reportedly most commonly lived in shared apartments or houses that they were renting or that they owned.

Of the assessed communities, **five** reported that between **51-100%** of the buildings in their community were damaged. Of these communities, Harbanifse reported that there was no electricity source available in the community and Al Amiqiyah and Hawash reported relying primarily on generators. The remaining **two** communities stated that they were able to access the network as their main source of electricity in February. Of the assessed communities, **14** reported that there were no health services available to residents. Prosthetics and orthotics, rehabilitation services and orthopaedic assistance were listed as the most needed services in **20** of the assessed communities, primarily in Hama district that was strongly affected by conflict in previous months. Additionally, **15** of the assessed communities reported that residents coped with a lack of medical services by recycling medical items, using non-medical items for treatment or carrying out operations without anaesthetics. The majority of communities assessed in Hama stated that their most common source of water was the network or water trucking. **Two** communities, Mazhal and Ein Eljern, primarily relied on rainwater, which was reportedly fine to drink in Mazhal but tasted and/or smelled bad in Ein Eljern. **Six** communities, mainly in Hama district, stated that water tasted and/or smelled bad, and **22** reported that they had an insufficient amount of water to meet household needs.

Of the assessed communities, **20** reported that a lack of resources to purchase available foods and/or the high cost of some items were the primary challenges faced by residents in accessing sufficient amounts of food, while **15** of these communities reported that residents lacked access to markets. Overall, **17** of the assessed communities reported that the majority of household incomes in their community were insufficient in February. The majority of these communities stated that residents coped with the lack of income by reducing the size of meals or selling household assets, while **five** of them reported that children were being sent to work or beg<sup>3</sup>.

### Coverage



### Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Food security
2. Healthcare
3. Water security

### Demographics\*

**1,466,242** people in need

**747,783** **718,459**

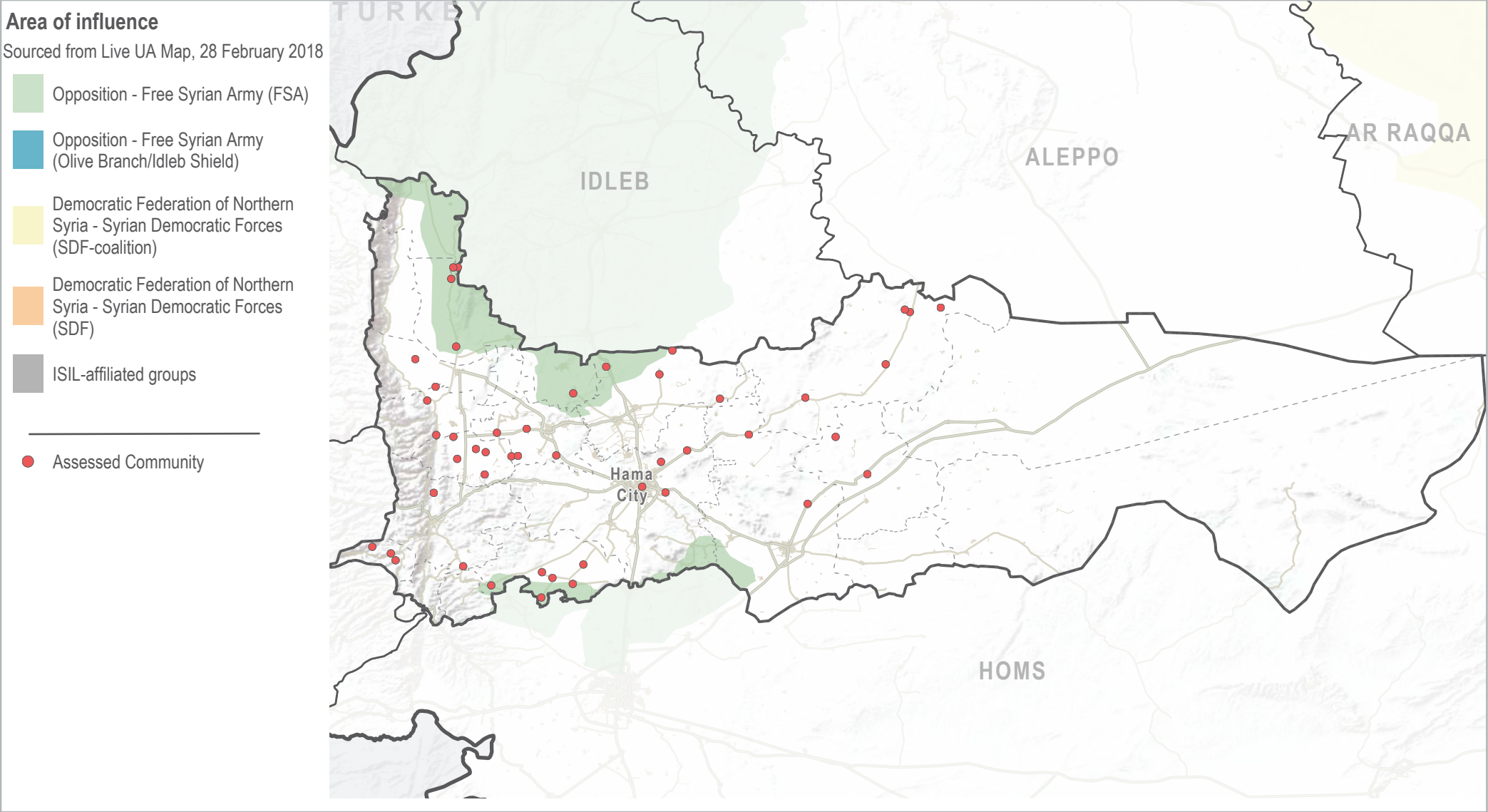
\* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

### KEY EVENTS

First Hama offensive launched north of Hama city, resulting in the displacement of over 40,000 individuals <sup>4</sup> .	ISIL comes under siege in Oqairbat <sup>5</sup> .	Second Hama offensive launched north of Hama city, resulting in the displacement of over 120,000 individuals <sup>6</sup> .	Heavy fighting between opposition groups and regime forces in northern Hama countryside <sup>7</sup> .	ISIL-held pocket in northern Hama governorate continues to grow <sup>8</sup> .	ISIL-held pocket in northern Hama decreases as offensive to expel the group intensifies <sup>9</sup> .
21 March 2017	18 August 2017	19 September 2017	6 November 2017	January 2018	Early February 2018

# Hama Governorate, February 2018

## Governorate areas of influence:



# Hama Governorate, February 2018

## DISPLACEMENT

**0** Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in February.

**200 - 375** Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in February<sup>2</sup>.

### Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

No reported IDP arrivals

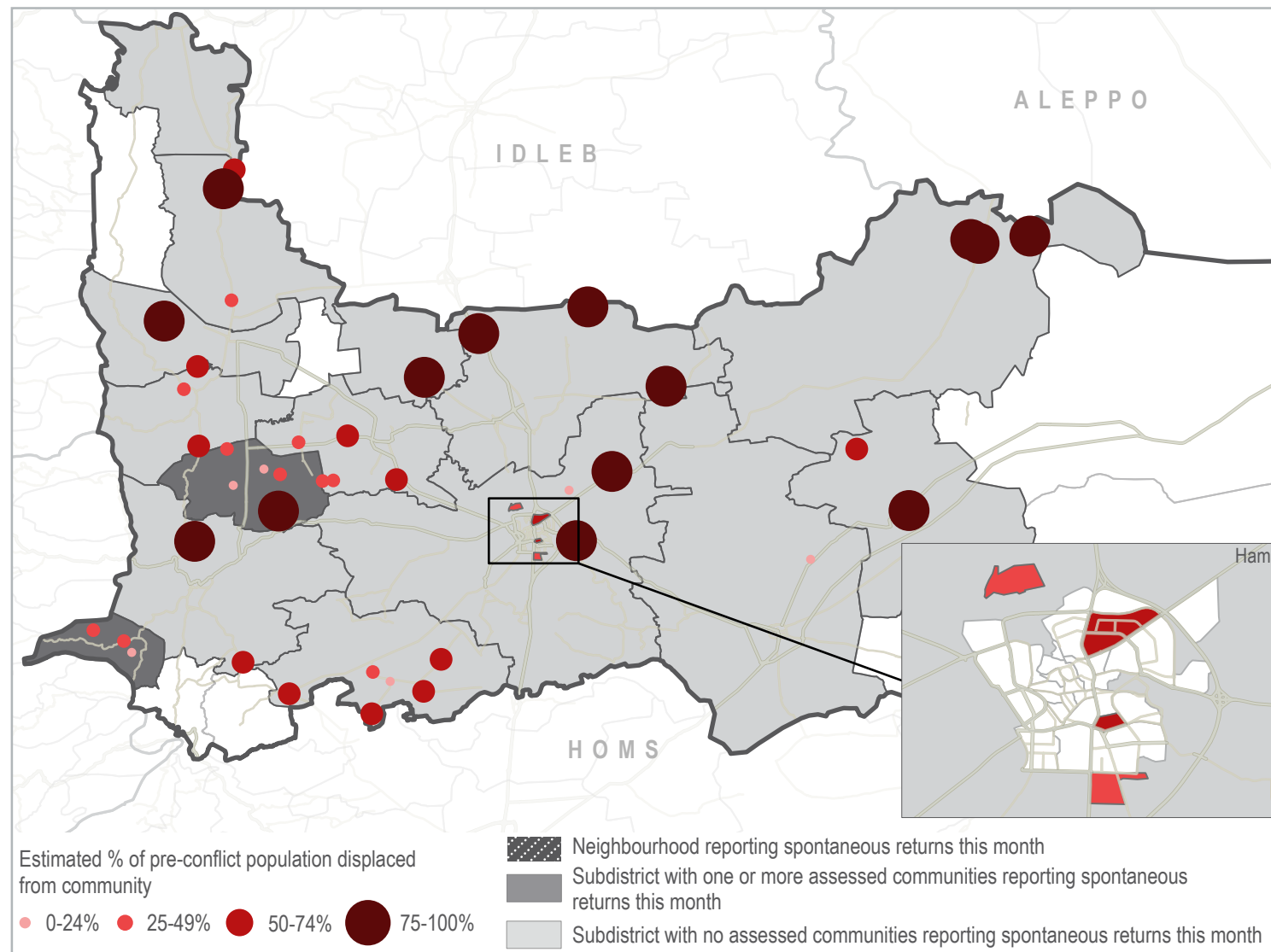
### Top 3 subdistricts of origin of most IDPs arrivals<sup>3,4</sup>:

No reported IDP arrivals

**22** communities reported no PCP departures. Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **27** assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:

Escalation of conflict	85%
Loss of income	33%
Loss of assets	26%

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

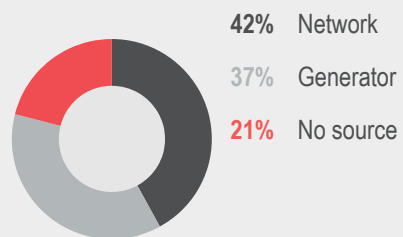


<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

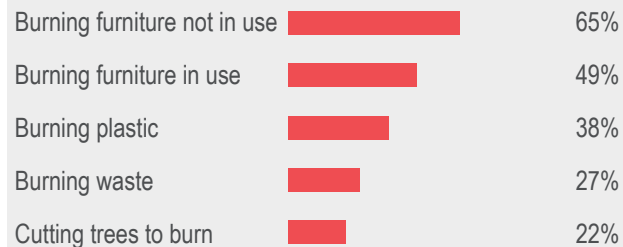
<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

## SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:<sup>4</sup>



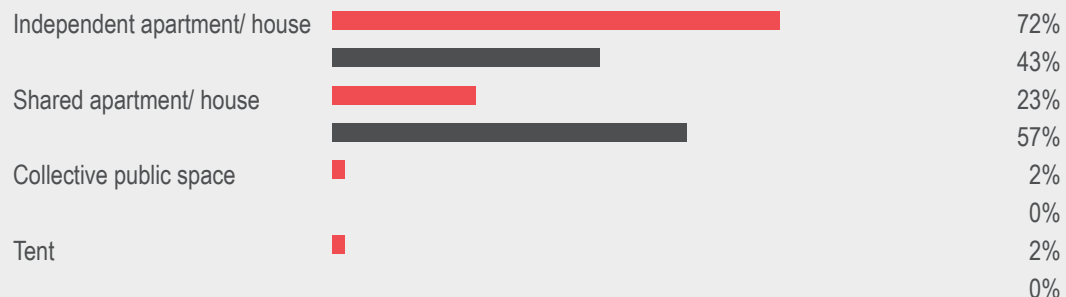
11 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining 37 assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:



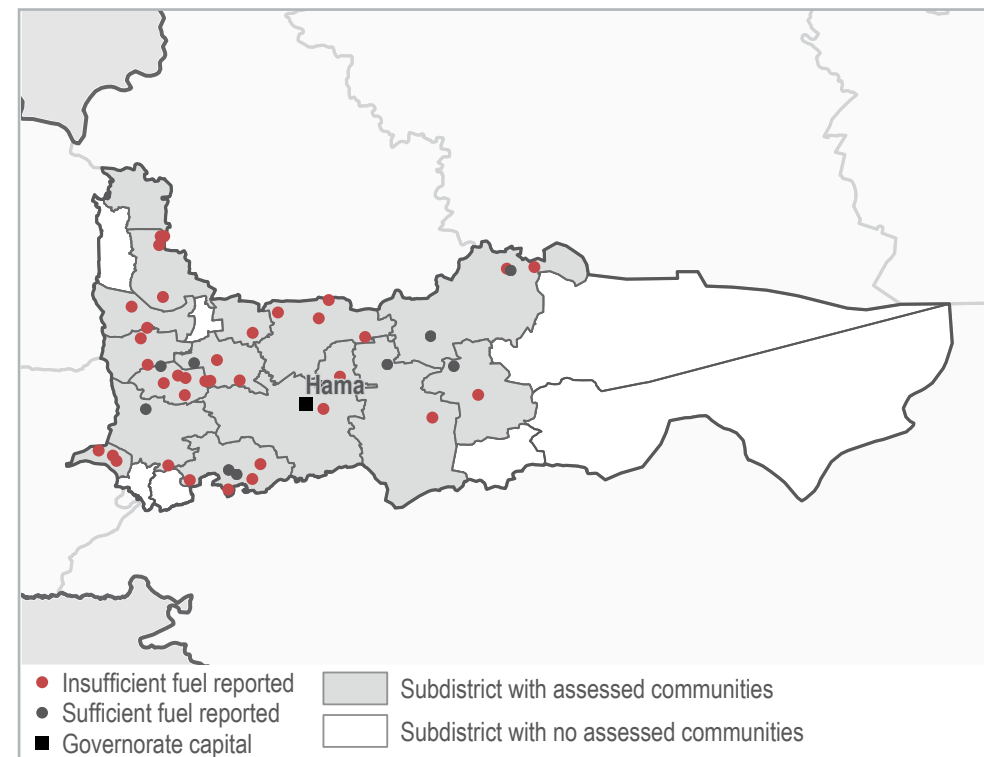
**12,625 SYP** Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.<sup>5</sup>

**6,319 SYP** Syrian average reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.<sup>5</sup>

Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP (in red) and IDP (in grey) households<sup>4</sup>:



Fuel sufficiency:



Reported fuel prices (in SYP)<sup>5</sup>:

Fuel type:	Governorate average price in February:	Governorate average price in January:	Syrian average price in February:
Coal (1 kilogram)	313	347	345
Diesel (1 litre)	367	438	321
Butane (1 canister)	6,626	6,093	6,997
Firewood (1 tonne)	56,550	55,036	64,533

<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

## HEALTH

**14** Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.

**23** Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

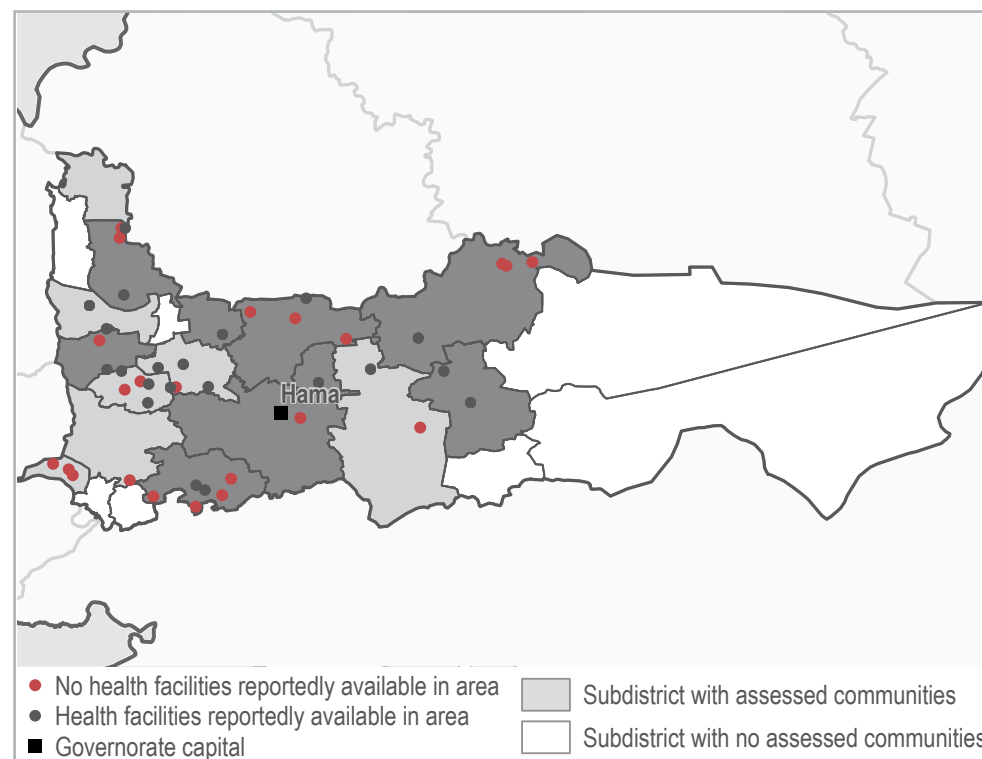
**15** communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining **32** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



**24** communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies. The coping strategies used in the remaining **15** communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



### Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



### Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported<sup>3,4</sup>:

Psychiatric care	37%
Orthopedic services	33%
Chronic disease support	33%

### Top 3 most common health problems reported<sup>3,4</sup>:

Diarrhoea	41%
Malnutrition	37%
Chronic diseases	27%

<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

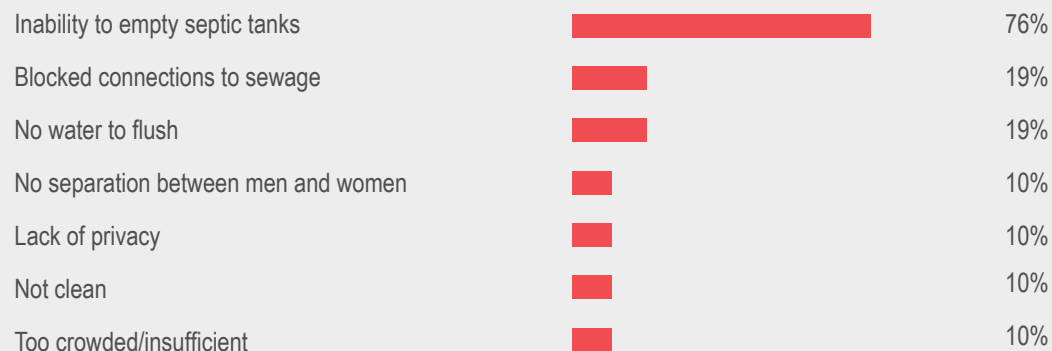
<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

# Hama Governorate, February 2018

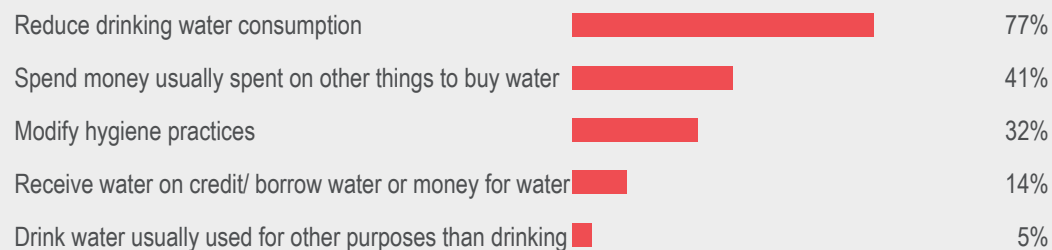


- 6** Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 0** Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

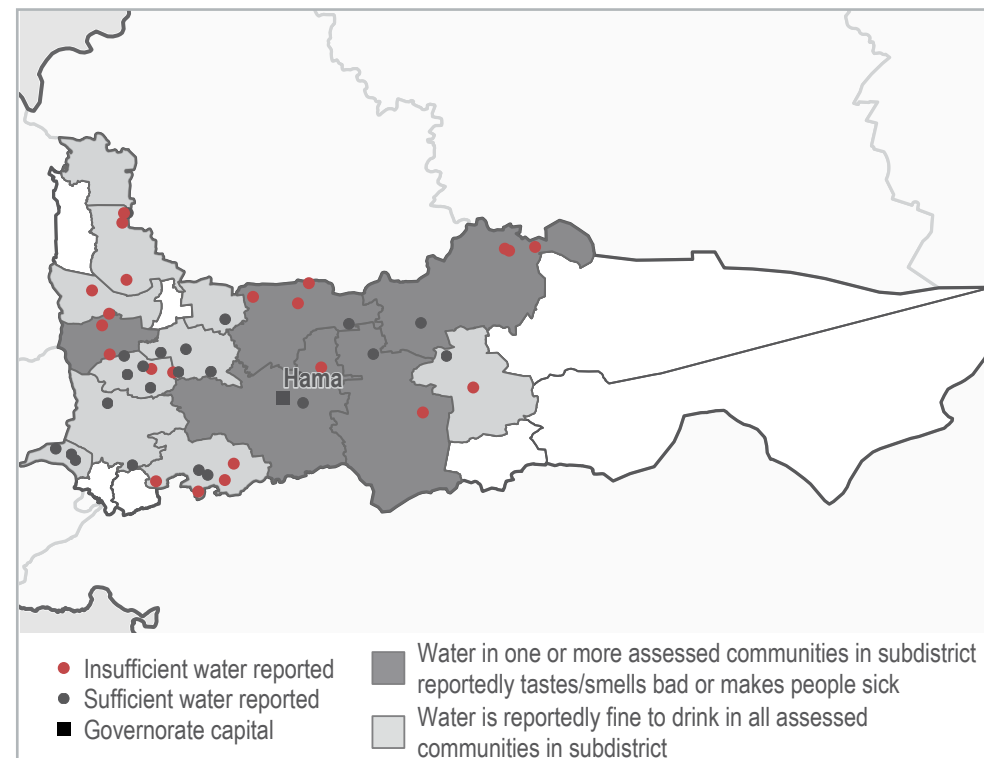
**25 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 21 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:**



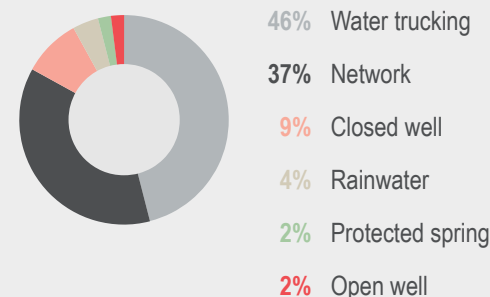
**26 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 22 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:**



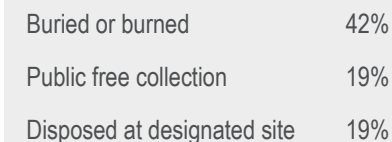
## Water sufficiency for household needs:



## Primary drinking water source reported<sup>4</sup>:



## Top 3 reported methods of garbage disposal<sup>3,4</sup>:



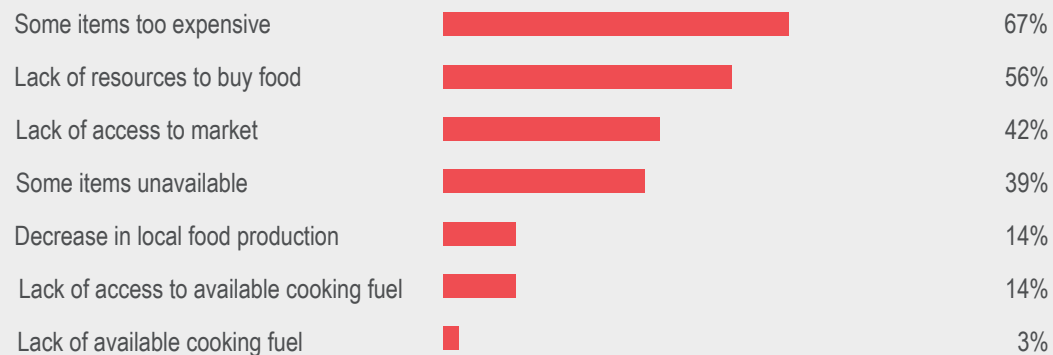
<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

## FOOD SECURITY

- 8 Communities reported not having received a food distribution in the last 12 months.
- 3 Communities reported that residents were unable to purchase food at shops and markets.

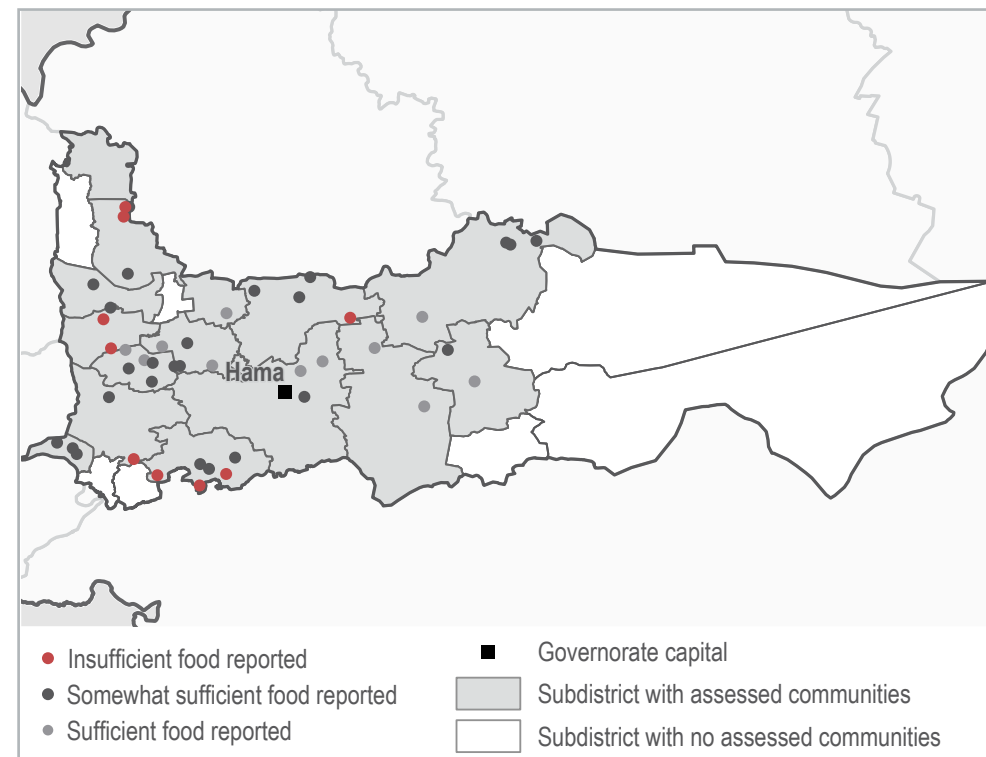
12 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining 36 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



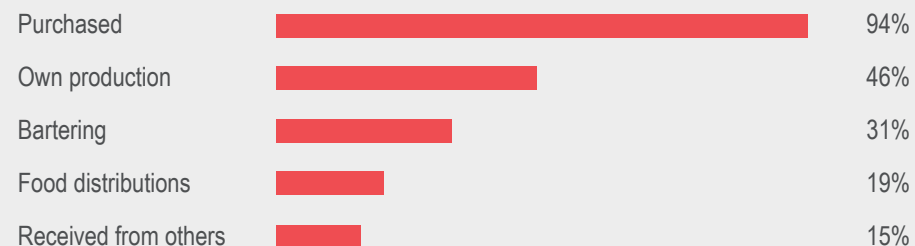
### Core food item prices reported (in SYP)<sup>5</sup>:

Food item:	Governorate average price in February:	Governorate average price in January:	Syrian average price in February:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	128	144	117
Rice (1 kilogram)	422	448	466
Lentils (1 kilogram)	325	413	351
Sugar (1 kilogram)	313	327	315
Cooking oil (1 litre)	533	607	584

### Food sufficiency:



### Most common ways of obtaining food reported<sup>3,4</sup>:



<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

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## LIVELIHOODS

**Less than 50,000 SYP** Most commonly reported household income range<sup>5</sup>.

**25,148 SYP** Governorate average food basket price<sup>5,6</sup>.

**2** Communities reported that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income<sup>7</sup>.

**23** 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 **17** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



**Most commonly reported main sources of income<sup>3,4</sup>:**



<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

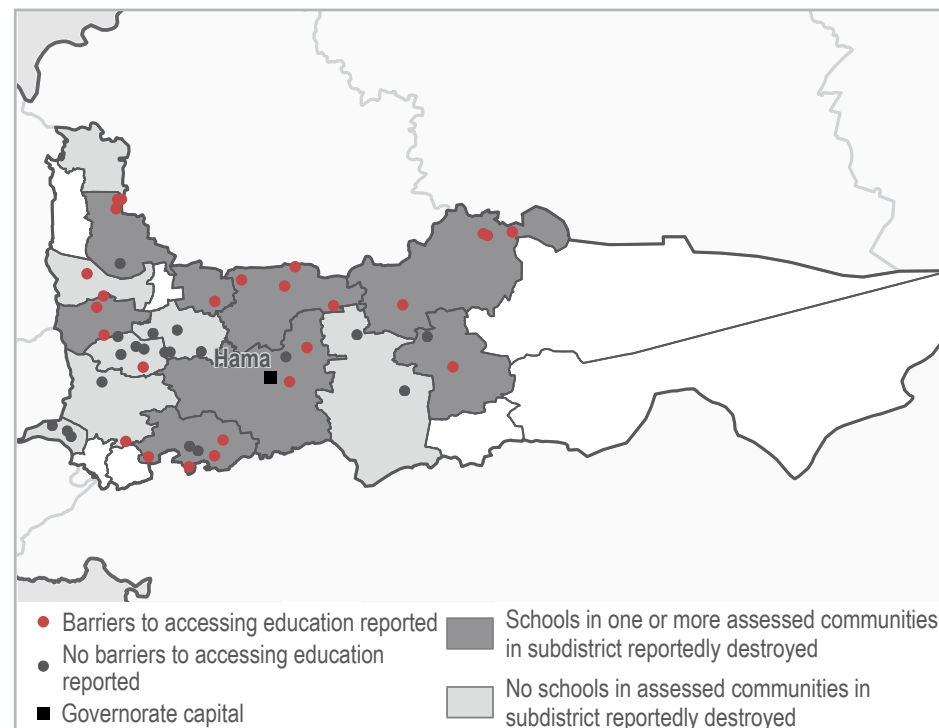
<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

<sup>6</sup> 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.

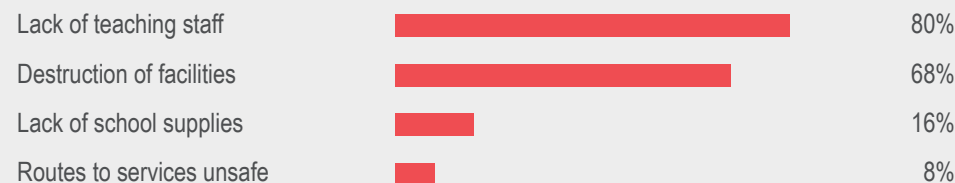
<sup>7</sup> Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

## EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



**23** communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **25** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



## 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 49 communities in March 2018, referring to the situation in Hama Governorate in February 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.

<sup>3</sup> 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.

<sup>4</sup> Reuters (21 March 2017). Syrian rebels launch attack near Hama. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com>.

<sup>5</sup> Baladi, E. (22 August 2017). Regime Cuts Homs and Hama Countrysides Into Three Pockets. The Syrian Observer. Retrieved from <http://syrianobserver.com>.

<sup>6</sup> Al-Zarier, Nassar and Edwards (19 September 2017). Bombardment returns to rebel-held northwest as HTS aims to 'demolish, defeat' Astana ceasefire. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

<sup>7</sup> Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (6 November 2017). Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham and the factions carry out a violent attack with the cover of heavy shelling, recover 3 villages and control other parts northeast of Hama. Retrieved from <http://www.syriahr.com>.

<sup>8</sup> Carter Center (17 January). Weekly Conflict Summary January 11-17, 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.cartercenter.org>.

<sup>9</sup> Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (5 February 2018). The ongoing attack of the regime force with their allies leads the organization to lose more of its influence inside the besieged circle within Hama, Idlib and Aleppo countryside. Retrieved from <http://www.syriahr.com>.

## 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](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) and follow us on Twitter: @REACH\_info.