

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

April 2024 | Northwest Syria

SITUATION OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

HSOS is a monitoring key informant (KI) assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This Situation Overview presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, access to basic services and infrastructure, economic conditions, public health, as well as 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.** This Situation Overview presents information gathered in **680 communities** across Greater Idlib and Northern Aleppo areas¹. Data was collected **between 7-17 April 2024** from **2,624 KIs** (5% female).

The complete HSOS dataset and analysis can be downloaded as an [excel file](#).

INTERPRETATION

Findings are indicative rather than representative and should not be generalised across the population and region. **All results in this output should be interpreted as referring to a percentage of assessed community where KIs reported an information.** All indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection.

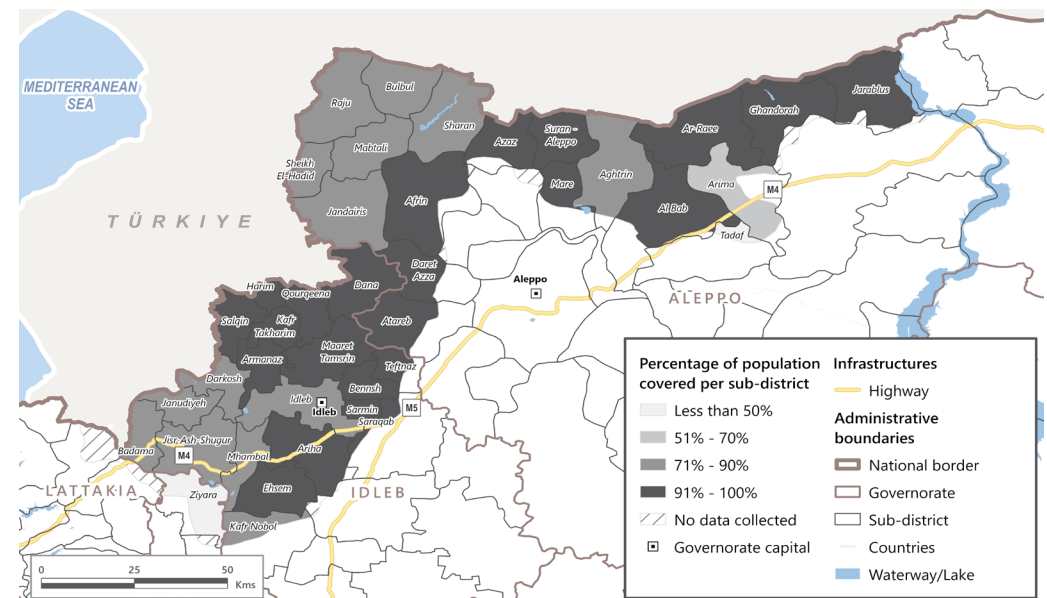
The symbol ▲ indicates that KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

HSOS Dashboards

- **Sectoral dashboard:** This interactive dashboard presents a sectoral review of key indicators from HSOS. Users can easily navigate through their sector of interest and visualise data from the community level to the region level.
- **Trend analysis dashboard:** This dashboard allows users to quickly see how the humanitarian situation in northern Syria has been changing over time.

KEY MESSAGES

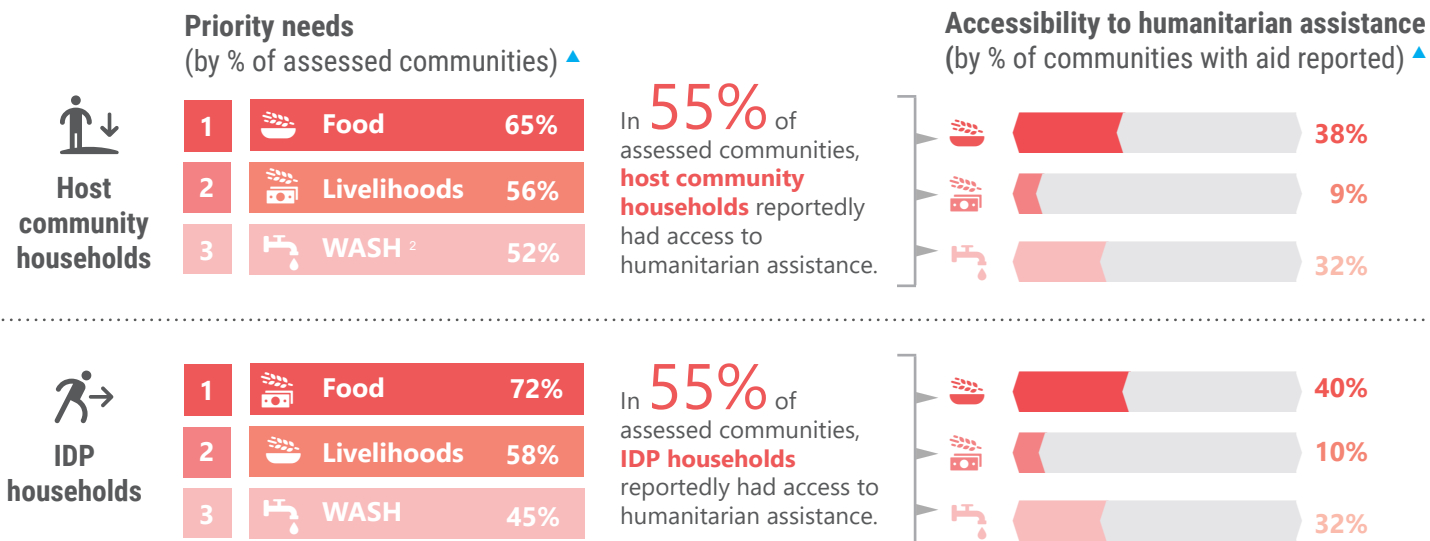
- **In most of the assessed communities (90%), KIs reported that households faced challenges to access sufficient food.** Among these challenges, the most commonly reported was the high cost of food in markets (in 86% of assessed communities). This observation stands out notably considering that markets reportedly remained the primary source of food for most households.
- **The reported access to humanitarian assistance decreased over a year.** KIs reported the access to humanitarian assistance in a smaller proportion of communities compared to last year. Part of this decline could be a result of [funding cuts](#) currently impacting the cross border response.
- Households continued to face issues to sustain their livelihoods. **Employment is challenged by the low demand for workers (reported in 70% of assessed communities) and by the lack of employment opportunities matching people's skills (57%).** In over half (51%) of assessed communities, KIs reported that borrowing money was among the main source of livelihoods for households.



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'zaz, Al Bab and Jarablus districts.

PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Most commonly reported priority needs and reported accessibility to associated humanitarian assistance



Most commonly reported difficulties faced when accessing humanitarian aid (by % of communities where access to aid was reported) ▲

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need | 83% |
| 2 | Types of assistance provided were not relevant to all needs | 38% |
| 3 | Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria | 27% |
-
- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need | 81% |
| 2 | Types of assistance provided were not relevant to all needs | 37% |
| 3 | Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria | 29% |

Top reported needs by sector (by % of assessed communities) ▲, ³

Infrastructure needs

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Repair to roads in community | 82% |
| 2 | Repair to roads between communities | 71% |
| 3 | Additional lighting in the community | 48% |

NFI NFI needs⁴

- | | | |
|---|--------------|-----|
| 1 | Cooking fuel | 95% |
| 2 | Solar panels | 62% |
| 3 | Batteries | 55% |

Seasonal needs

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|
| 1 | Heating fuel | 42% |
| 2 | Floor mats | 41% |
| 3 | Winter clothing | 30% |

WASH needs

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Construction of a sewage network | 42% |
| 2 | Drinking water | 41% |
| 3 | Plastic waste bins | 36% |

Livelihoods needs

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Access to credit | 75% |
| 2 | Tools/equipment for agricultural production | 66% |
| 3 | Tools/equipment for non-agricultural production | 42% |

Health needs

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Medicines | 50% |
| 2 | Construction of new or additional health facilities | 46% |
| 3 | First aid/emergency care | 40% |

Protection needs

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Special assistance for vulnerable groups | 82% |
| 2 | Specialised child protection (CP) services | 64% |
| 3 | Legal assistance HPL issues | 19% |

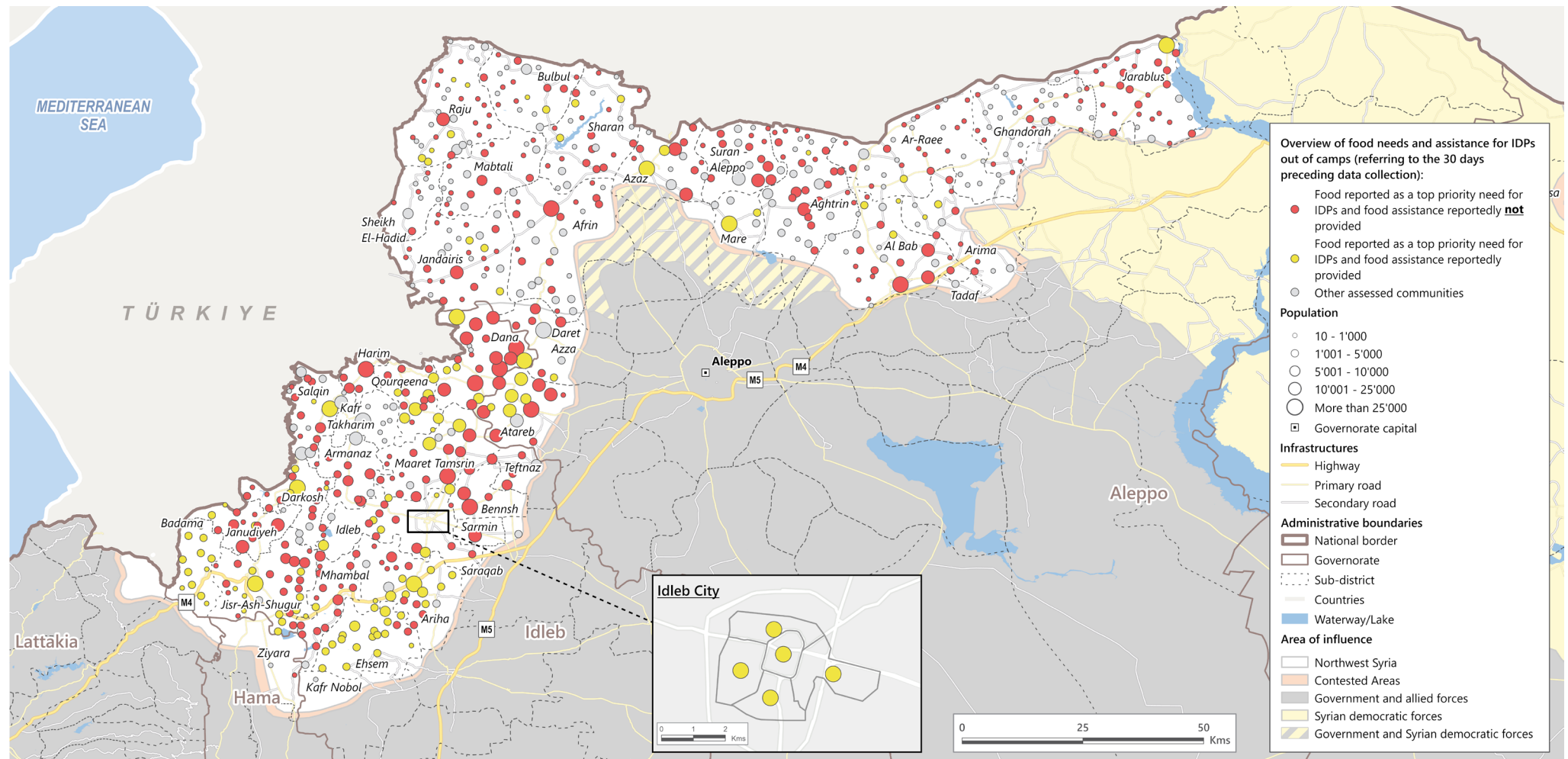
Education needs

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Additional teaching and learning materials | 72% |
| 2 | Improve school's infrastructure | 51% |
| 3 | Salary for teachers | 46% |

² Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

³ All the findings on priority needs by sector correspond to the needs of the general population living in assessed communities. Hence, they cover both host community and IDP households.

⁴ Non-food items (NFI)



Overview of food needs and reported food assistance for out of camps IDPs

Note on the map

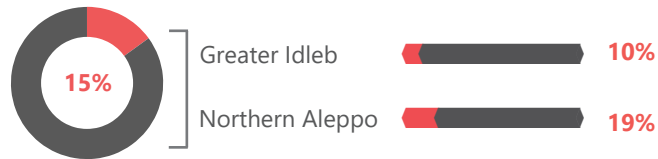
All communities coloured are those in which KIs reported that food was among the top three priority needs for out-of-camps IDPs in the 30 days preceding data collection. Red dots correspond to communities where KIs did not report the access to food assistance for IDPs despite the need for food while yellow dots refer to communities where food assistance was reported.

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Access to Markets

% of assessed communities where **markets were not functioning every day**



Most commonly reported barriers to food-market functioning (by % of assessed communities) ▲

- 1 People do not have the financial means to open a shop/market 12%
- 2 Limited demand from customers 5%
- 3 Vendors cannot afford restocking 4%

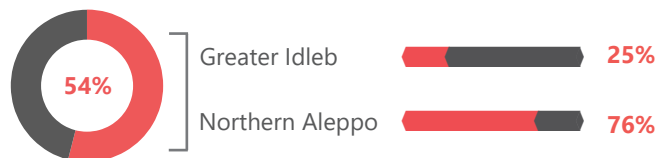
Most commonly reported NFI unavailable in markets (by % of assessed communities) ▲

- 1 Solar panels 16%
- 2 Batteries 16%
- 3 Bedding items 13%



Access to Healthcare

% of assessed communities where **no health services were provided**



99%

Assessed communities where KIs reported that **households accessed health services in other/nearby** communities.

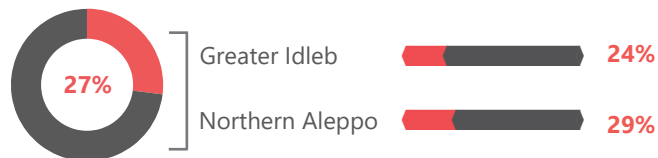
Most commonly reported challenges to access healthcare (by % of assessed communities) ▲

- 1 High cost of transportation to health facilities 68%
- 2 Lack of transportation to health facilities 57%
- 3 Lack of medicines and or medical equipment at the health facility 54%



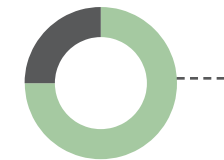
Access to Electricity

% of assessed communities where households had **access to less than 6 hours of electricity per day** in average



% of assessed communities connected to the main electricity network (either functioning or not)

Connected 75%
Not connected 25%

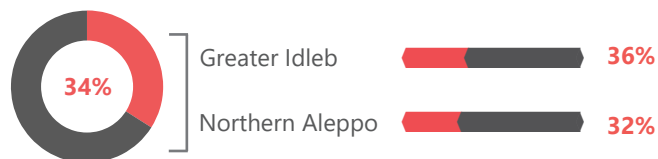


In **20%** of assessed communities connected to the main electricity network, KIs reported that **the electricity network was partially or completely not functioning**



Access to Water

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



% of assessed communities connected to the main water network (either functioning or not)

Connected 76%
Not connected 24%

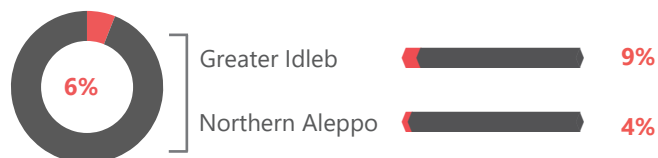


In **21%** of assessed communities connected to the main water network, KIs reported that **the water network was partially or completely not functioning**

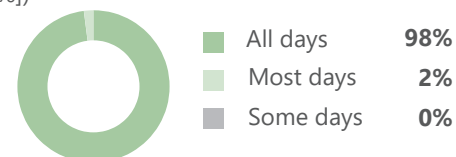


Access to Education services

% of assessed communities where **no education services were provided** over the past 30 days



Frequency of education services (by % of assessed communities with operational education services [94%])

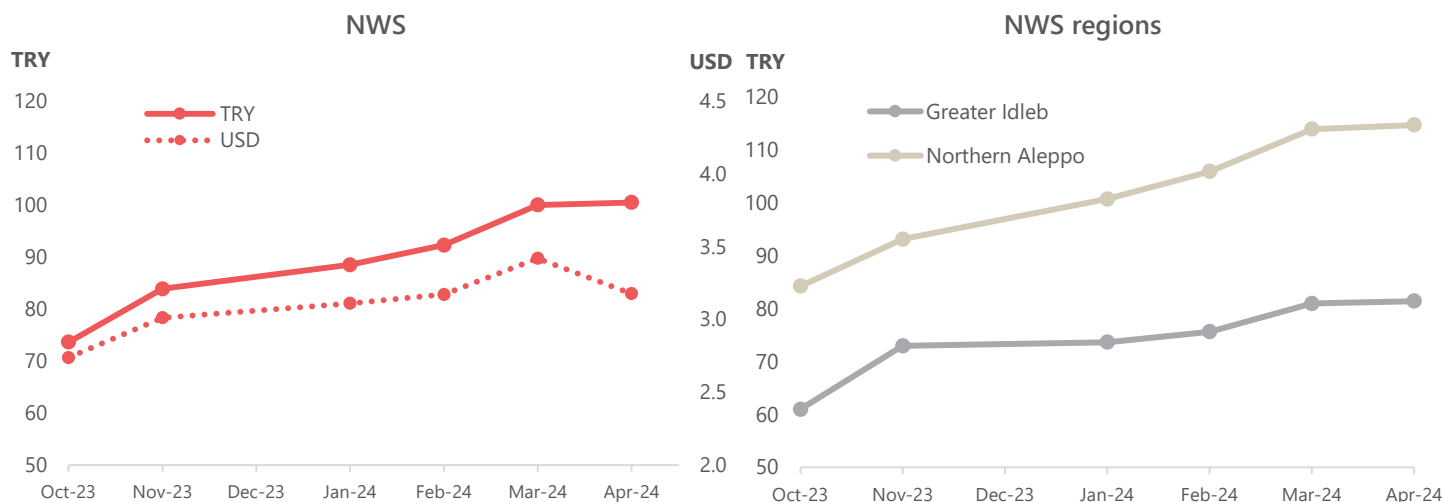


Most commonly reported difficulties when accessing education (by % of assessed communities) ▲

- 1 Not enough teaching or learning supplies 75%
- 2 Unsuitable environment 57%
- 3 Overcrowding 51%

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Evolution of the average daily wage for casual or irregular labour reported over the past six HSOS rounds in NWS ⁴



Region	Median estimated monthly rent price for a two-bedroom apartment ⁵
Greater Idleb	791 TRY
Northern Aleppo	600 TRY
Northwest Syria	633 TRY

Most commonly reported non-income generating sources of livelihoods (by % of assessed communities) [▲]

	Host community households	IDP households
Borrowing/loans	40%	47%
Remittances (from outside Syria)	23%	26%
Cash or in-kind humanitarian assistance	9%	10%
Financial support from family or friends (inside Syria)	7%	15%



In **93%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that **agriculture was a common source of livelihoods** for households.

Most common challenges to access livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of communities relying on agriculture) [▲]

1	High operational costs	77%
2	Seasonality or instability of income	55%
3	Lack of water for agriculture	40%

Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services



In **88%** of assessed communities with people renting, KIs indicated that **rent was unaffordable for the majority of people**



KIs in **72%** of assessed communities reported that the **high cost of solar panels or batteries to store solar power** was a common challenge to access power



KIs in **16%** of assessed communities reported that the **high cost of fuel for generators** was a common challenge to access power



KIs in **25%** of assessed communities indicated that the **high cost of water** prevented households to access sufficient water



KIs in **78%** of assessed communities cited the **unaffordability of food** as a common challenge



KIs in **41%** of assessed communities cited the **high cost of health services** as a common challenge



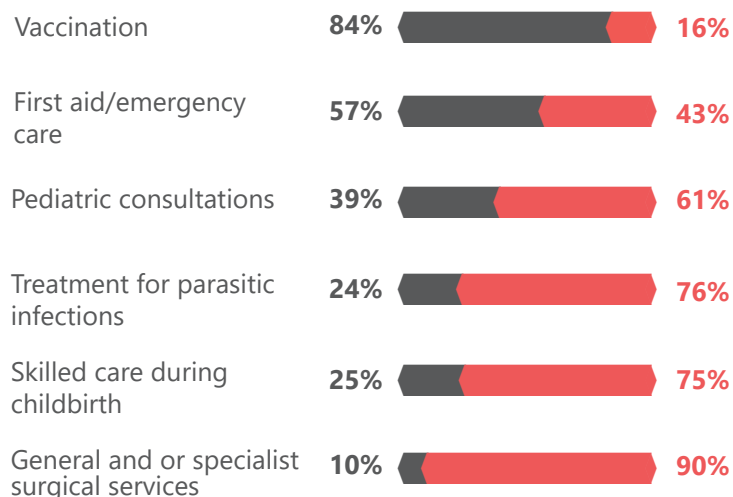
KIs in **71%** of assessed communities reported that households **lacked money or resources** to cover the cost of attending **school**

⁵ KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD) or Turkish Lira (TRY). The values displayed here were all harmonised in TRY and USD, based on the exchange rate from the NWS Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI). According to the REACH Market Monitoring April 2024, 1 USD = 33.80 TRY.

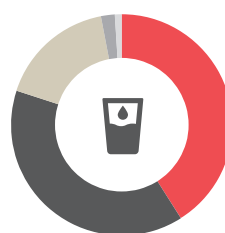
PUBLIC HEALTH

Essential health services available in the assessed community
(by % of assessed communities where households could access health services [46%]) ▲⁶

■ Service available
■ Service not available



Source of drinking water used by most households (by % of assessed communities)



Private water trucking conducted by citizens	41%
Piped water network	39%
Private well	17%
Community well	2%
Other	1%

In **54%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that households **faced problems with drinking water**

In **24%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that households **did not treat their water despite needing to.**

Methods used by households to make water safer to drink (by % of assessed communities where methods were used [28%]) ▲

1	Chlorine	55%
2	Sedimentation	24%
3	Boiling water	15%

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

1	Sewage network does not reach all households	31%
2	Desludging services are not available	27%
3	Stagnant water in the streets	24%
4	Could not afford desludging areas	23%
5	Sewage system pollutes public areas	20%



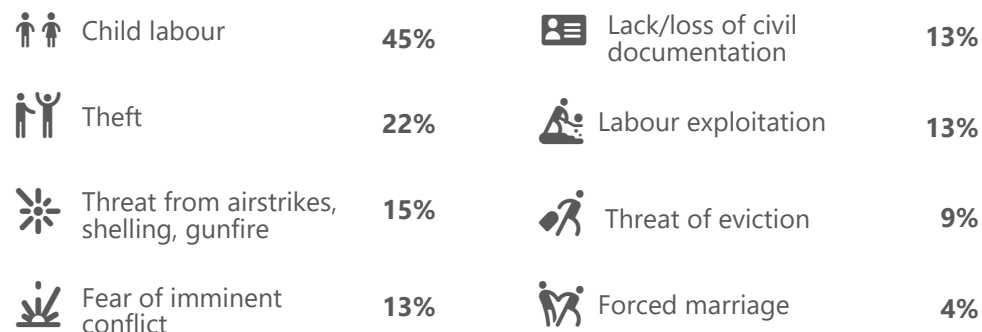
In **3%** of assessed communities, **leaving garbage in public areas** was among the most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste.



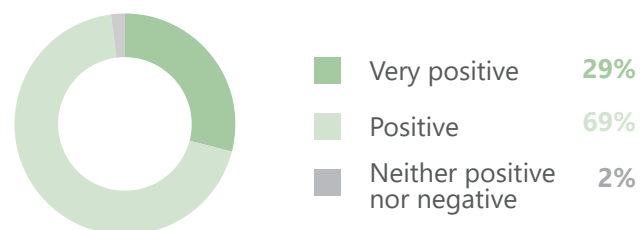
In **13%** of assessed communities, **releasing wastewater and human feces over land surface** was among the most commonly reported ways people disposed of wastewater.

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Most commonly reported protection risks (by % of assessed communities) ▲



Perception of the social cohesion (by % of assessed communities)



Intersectoral findings on security

-  **Security restrictions** reportedly prevented the access to livelihood activities in 20 assessed communities
-  **General safety and security concerns at markets or while travelling to markets** was a reported barrier to market access in 21 assessed communities
-  **General safety and security concerns at health facilities or while travelling to health facilities** was a reported barrier to healthcare access in 10 assessed communities
-  **Lack of safety while travelling to or from school** was reported as a barrier preventing access to education in 49 assessed communities

METHODOLOGY

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. In each community, REACH enumerators in Greater Idlib, and partner enumerators in Northern Aleppo, interview several KIs selected based on their knowledge of the community and areas of expertise. Enumerators submit one single form per community and only one KI should answer each section of the survey. Interviews are usually done in person unless security and access restrictions prevent enumerators to reach the community.

More information about HSOS KI methodology can be found on [HSOS KI terms of reference \(ToR\)](#).

This Situation Overview only presents a selection of collected indicators. The complete HSOS dataset and analysis can be downloaded as an [excel file](#).

Number of communities per subset:	Subset
Host community households	671
IDP households	667
Communities where assistance was reported (host community)	371
Communities where assistance was reported (IDP)	368
Communities connected to a main electricity network	509
Communities connected to a main water network	518
Communities with operational education services	640
Communities with agriculture as a common source of livelihoods	637
Communities with access to health services	313

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).