

# Hama Governorate, December 2017

## Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

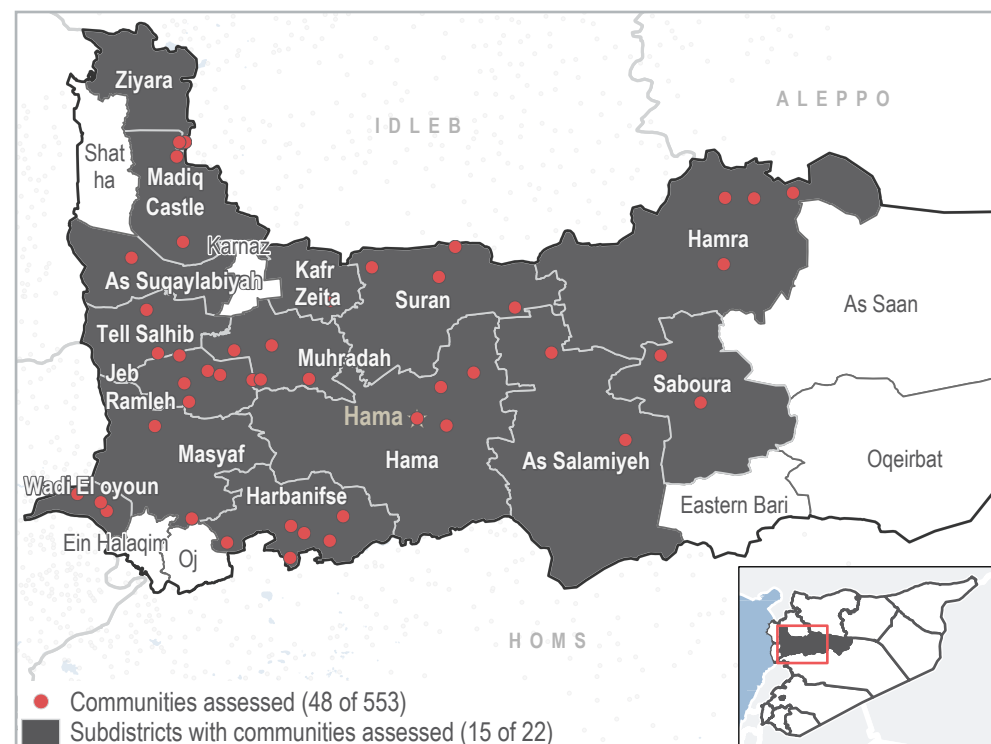
### OVERALL FINDINGS<sup>1</sup>

An offensive against the group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in late August, 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 Idlib. In December, **44%** of the assessed communities reported that pre-conflict populations left their community due to escalated conflict. Despite ongoing conflict in the governorate, **seven** communities witnessed spontaneous returns, particularly in Hama subdistrict<sup>2</sup>. Overall, KIs reported that an estimated **1,815 - 2,830** people returned to assessed communities in December. The largest number of returnees was reported in Jirbeen (800 – 1,200). All communities witnessing refugee returns reported that refugees were returning from Lebanon, and **two** of these communities reported that refugees were also returning from Iraq. Family reunification was cited as the most common reason why both refugees and IDPs returned to assessed communities in Hama. IDPs were present in **six** communities, yet **four** of them reported that some IDPs left their community again in December. Of the four communities that witnessed IDP departures in December, **three** reported that IDPs left due to an escalation of conflict.

Out of the 48 communities assessed, **5** reported that between **76-100%** of buildings in their community were damaged. Nonetheless, residents in **four** of these communities predominantly lived in independent apartments or houses, although **two out of the four** reported that no rooms were available for rent, indicating a shortage of adequate shelter. The average reported rent price in the other two communities was approximately **11,000 SYP**, almost twice as high as the Syrian average rent price. Of the communities assessed, **7** reported having no electricity source in November, yet **all but one** of these communities, Maan, reported that there was no lack of fuel. Of the assessed communities, **19** reported functional problems with their latrines and **30** reported that garbage was either buried, burned or left in the street or other public areas. Of these communities, **10** reported that water either tasted or smelled bad, or made people sick. Rainwater was the most common source of drinking water in Mazhal. Out of the 48 assessed communities, **36** reported barriers to accessing healthcare, **32** reported that none of the assessed medical items were available in their community in December and **20** reported the use of coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies.

Of the communities assessed, **79%** reported that residents experienced difficulties in accessing sufficient amounts of food, the most common being the high price of some food items. The governorate average food basket price, **29,500 SYP**, was the **third highest** (after Deir ez-Zor and Rural Damascus) across the 11 governorates assessed, and **58%** or more of the average household income. Malnutrition was the most commonly reported health problem across communities assessed in Hama in December. In the **31** communities that reported prohibitive prices, remittances and the sale of household assets were the most commonly cited sources of income, thereby indicating a need for stable livelihood opportunities in the governorate. Severe food coping strategies were reported in **4** communities and children in **8** communities were reportedly sent to work or beg<sup>3</sup>. Only **21** communities reported that most children had access to education. Of the remaining **27** communities, only **1** reported that children were able to attend educational facilities in nearby areas.

### Coverage



### Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Food security
2. Water security
3. Healthcare

### Demographics\*

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

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

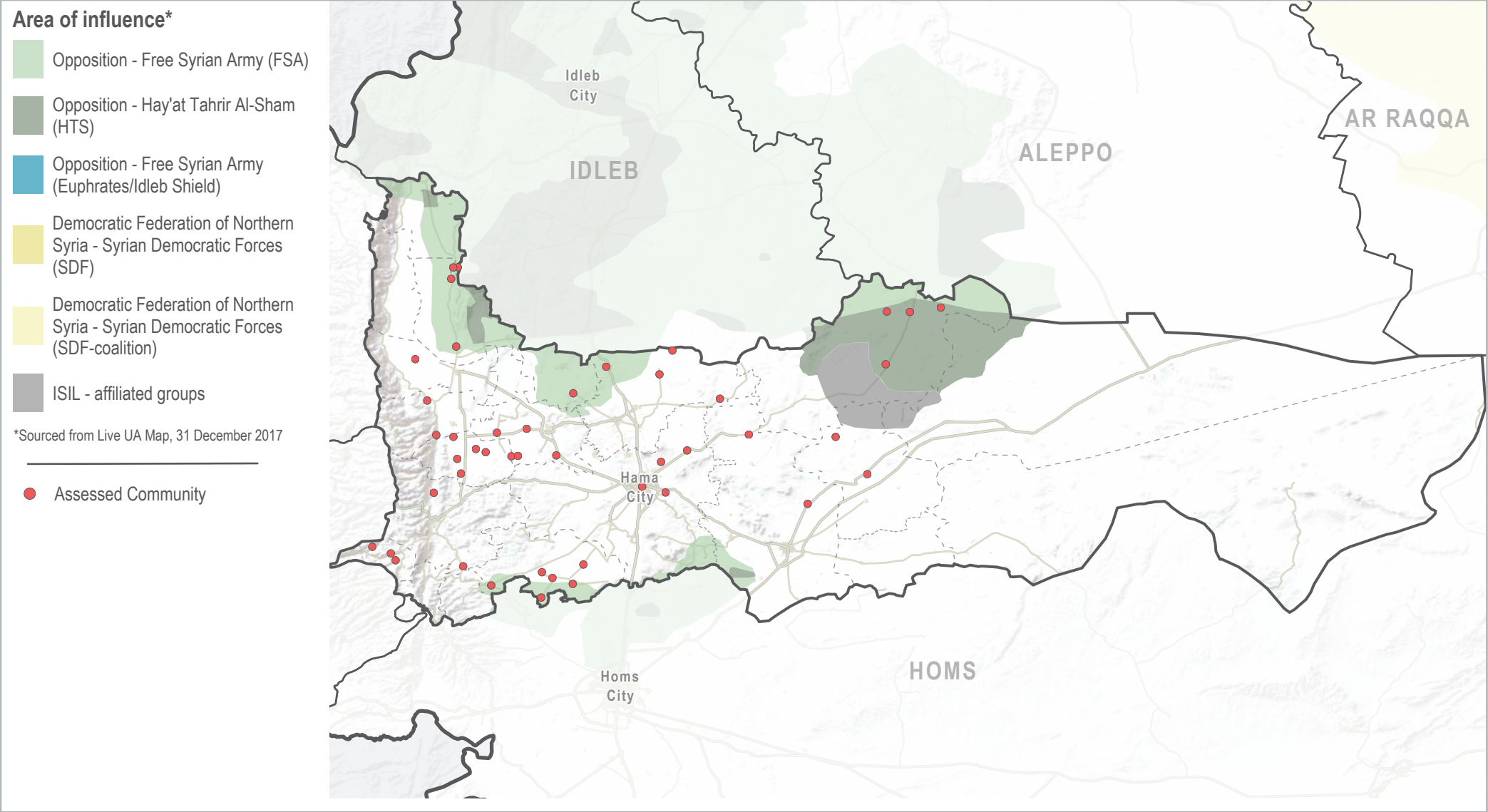
\* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

### KEY EVENTS

First Hama offensive launched north of Hama city, resulting in the displacement of over 40,000 individuals <sup>4</sup> .	Chemical weapons attack on hospital in Latamneh <sup>5</sup> .	ISIL comes under siege in Qoqirbat <sup>6</sup> .	Second Hama offensive launched north of Hama city, resulting in the displacement of over 120,000 individuals <sup>7</sup> .	Heavy fighting between opposition groups and regime forces in northern Hama countryside <sup>8</sup> .	Humanitarian convoy delivers food assistance to 60,000 people in hard-to-reach locations in Homs and Hama governorates <sup>9</sup> .
21 March	30 March	18 August	19 September	6 November	December

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## Governorate areas of influence:



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## DISPLACEMENT

**200 - 325** Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in December.

**1,815 - 2,830** Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in December<sup>2</sup>.

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

Kanfo **100 - 150**

Zaytuneh **50 - 100**

Ein El-Bayda **50 - 75**

### Top 3 sub-districts of origin of most IDPs arrivals<sup>3,4</sup>:

No information

No information

No information

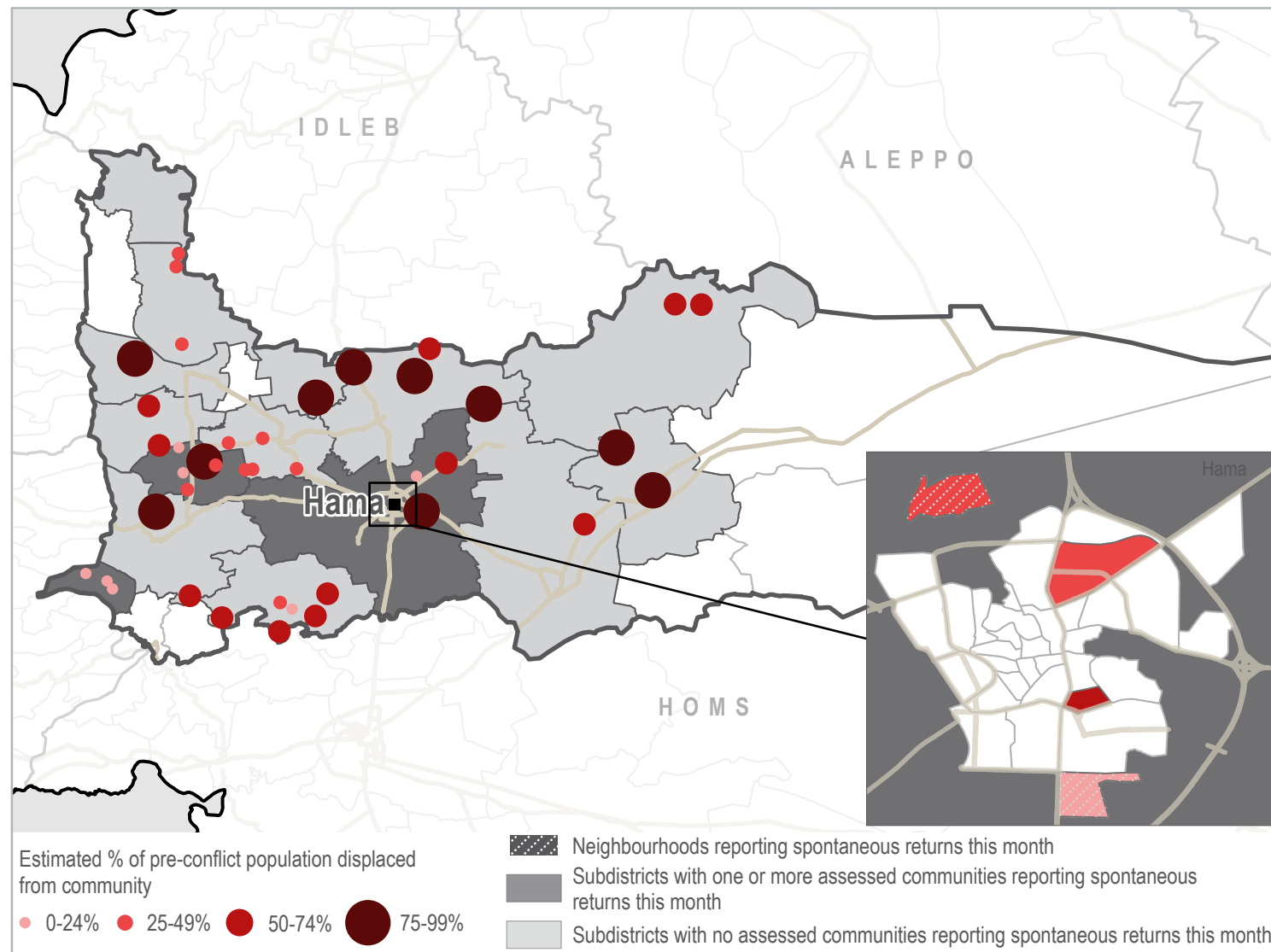
**23** communities reported no PCP departures. Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **24** assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:

Escalation of conflict 88%

Loss of income 54%

Loss of assets 33%

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



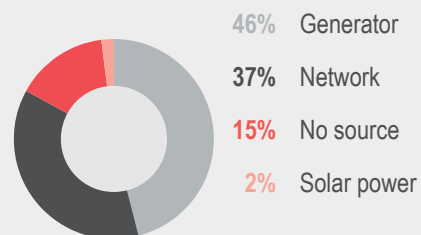
<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

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

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## SHELTER AND NFI

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



12 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining 34 assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:



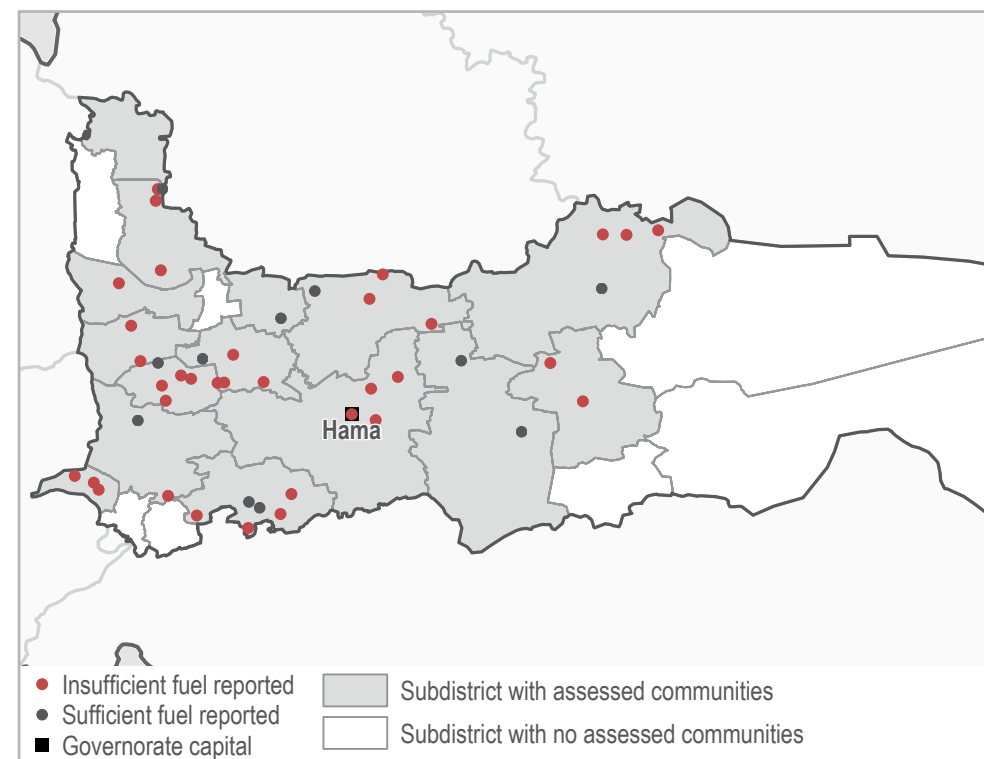
**11,750 SYP** Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.<sup>5</sup>

**6,882 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 December:	Governorate average price in November:	Syrian average price in December:
Coal (1 kilogram)	343	259	337
Diesel (1 litre)	348	403	472
Butane (1 canister)	6,415	5,669	6,125
Firewood (1 tonne)	54,463	47,112	84,744

<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 December 2017)

## HEALTH

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

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

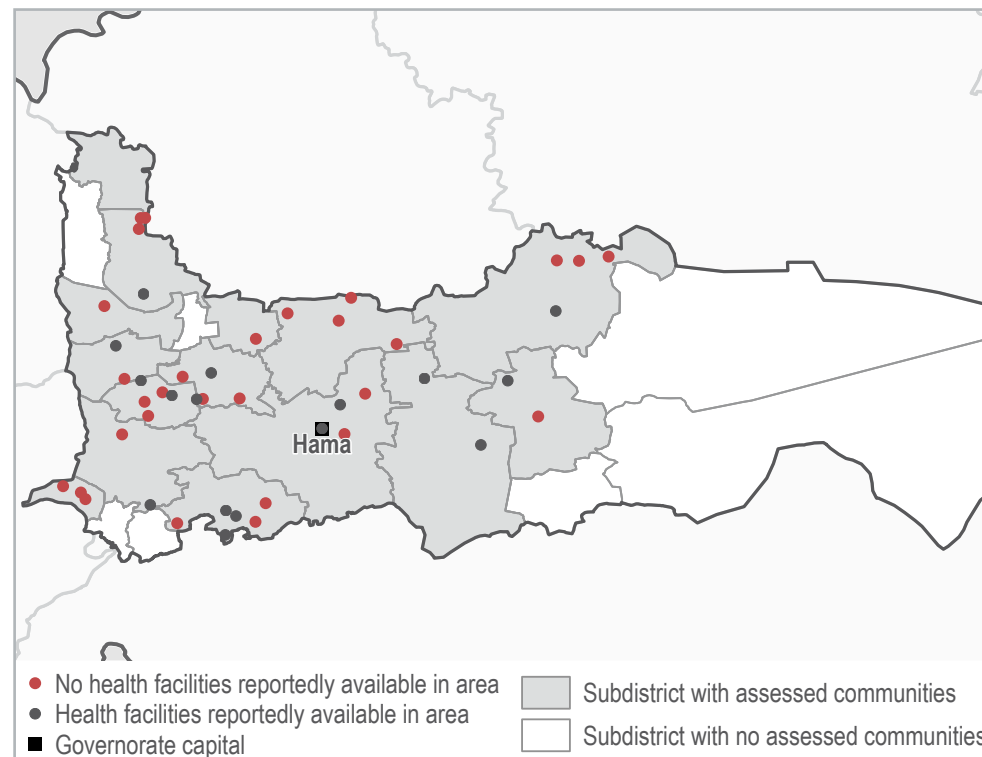
**11 communities** reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining **36** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



**21 communities** reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies. The coping strategies used in the remaining **20** communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



### Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



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

All health services	46%
Orthopedic services	29%
Chronic disease support	23%

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

Malnutrition	50%
Chronic diseases	29%
Injuries	25%

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

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

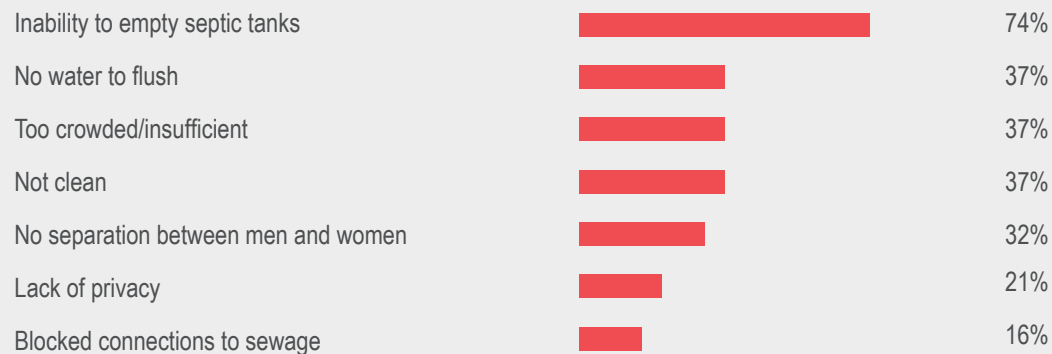
# Hama Governorate, December 2017



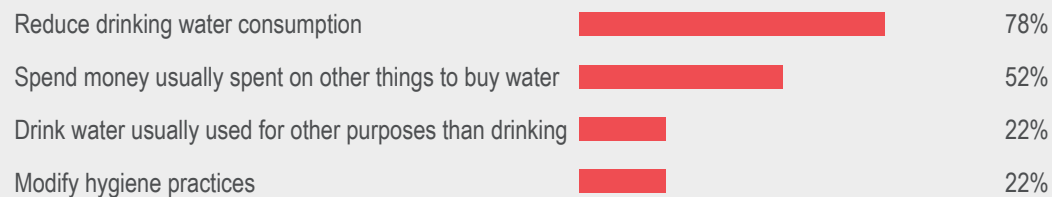
**10** Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.

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

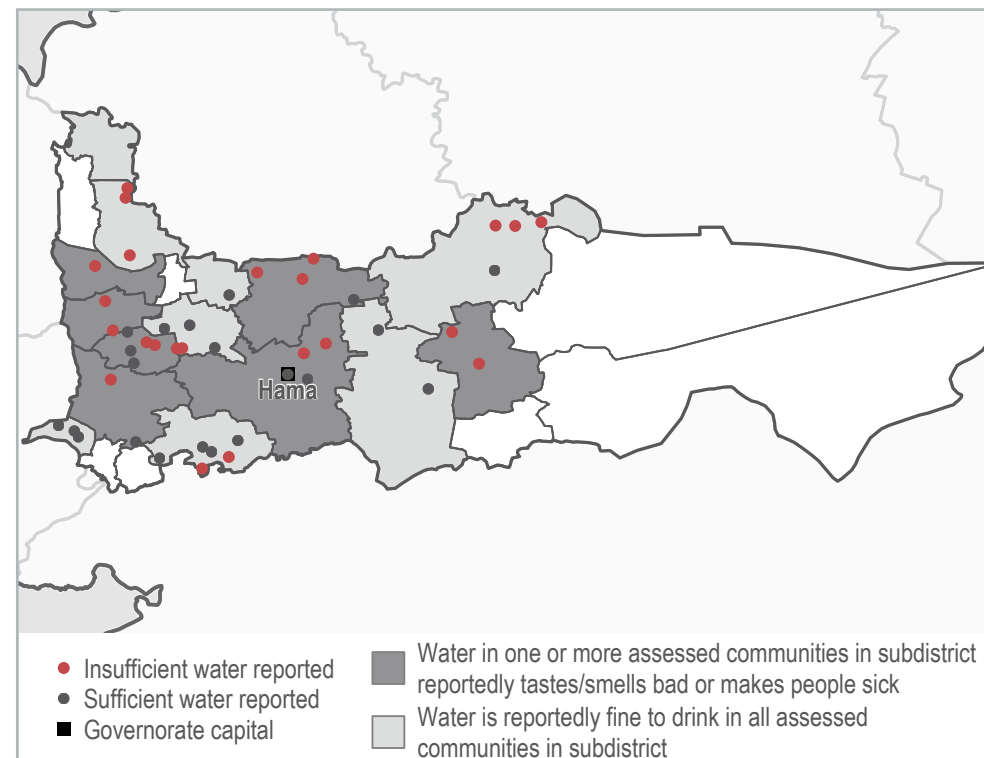
**26 communities** reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining **19 assessed communities** were<sup>3,4</sup>:



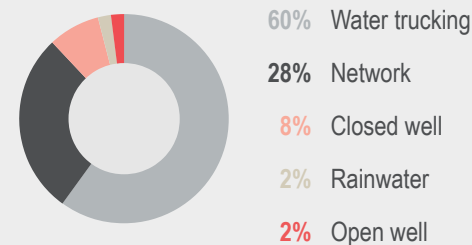
**24 communities** reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining **23 assessed communities** were<sup>3,4</sup>:



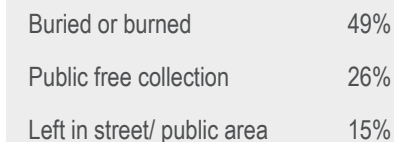
## Water sufficiency for household needs:



## 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.

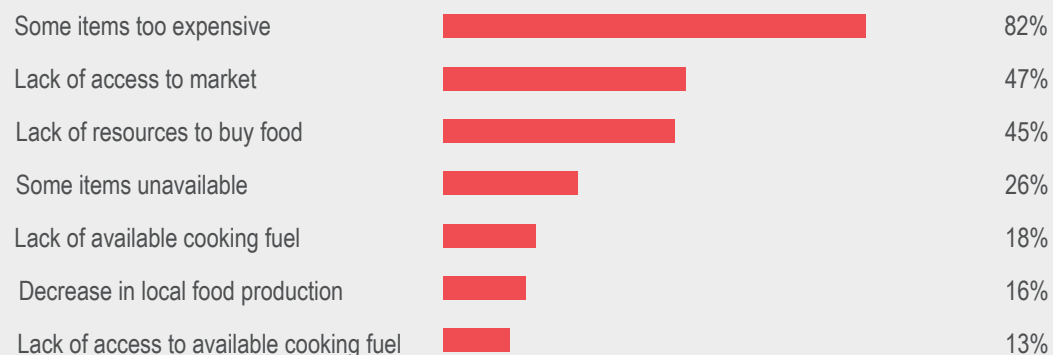
<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

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## FOOD SECURITY

- 4** 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.

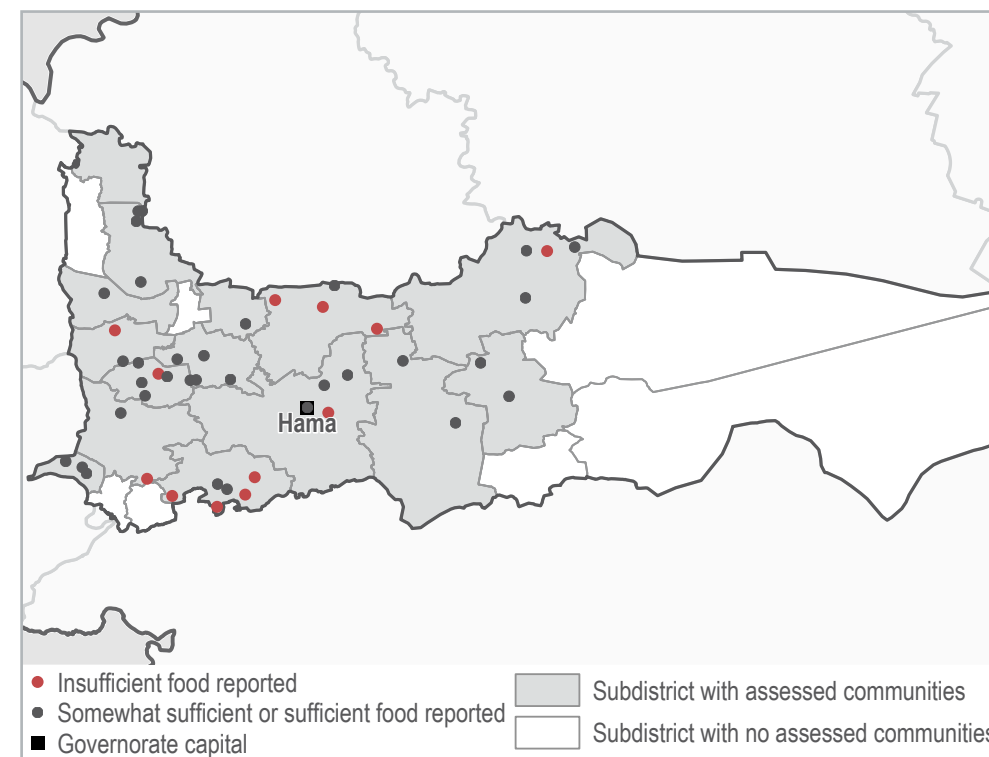
**9** communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **38** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



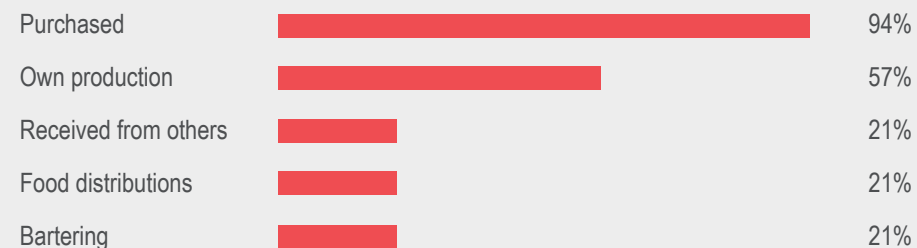
### Core food item prices reported (in SYP)<sup>5</sup>:

Food item:	Governorate average price in December:	Governorate average price in November:	Syrian average price in December:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	141	144	114
Rice (1 kilogram)	455	393	565
Lentils (1 kilogram)	471	379	472
Sugar (1 kilogram)	357	276	410
Cooking oil (1 litre)	553	567	697

### 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 December 2017)

# Hama Governorate, December 2017

## LIVELIHOODS

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

**29,500 SYP** Governorate average food basket price<sup>5,6</sup>.

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

**10** 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 **25** 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.

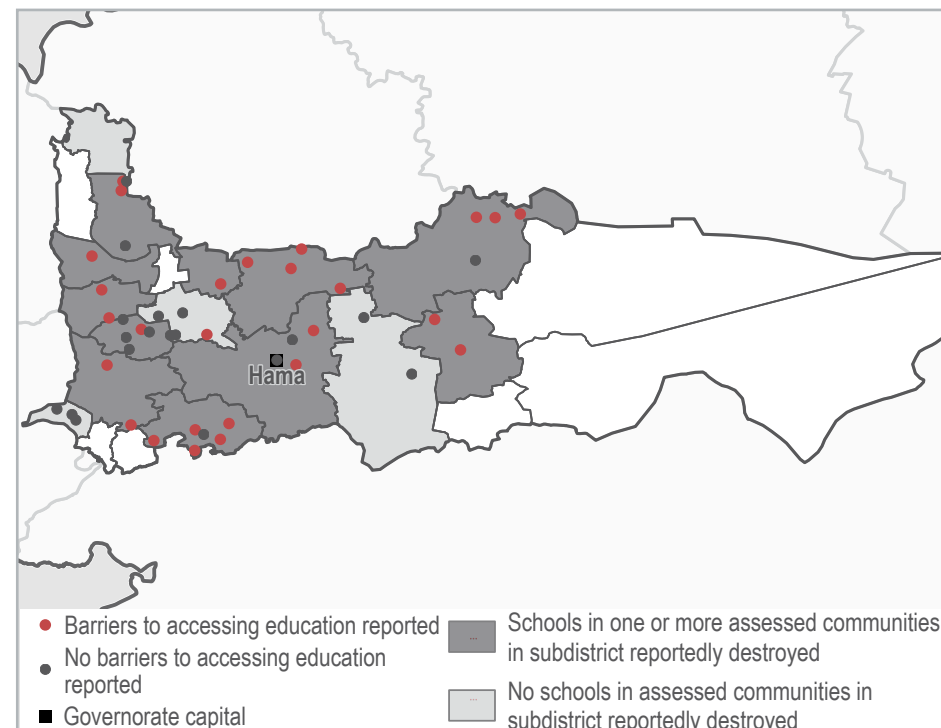
<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 December 2017)

<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.

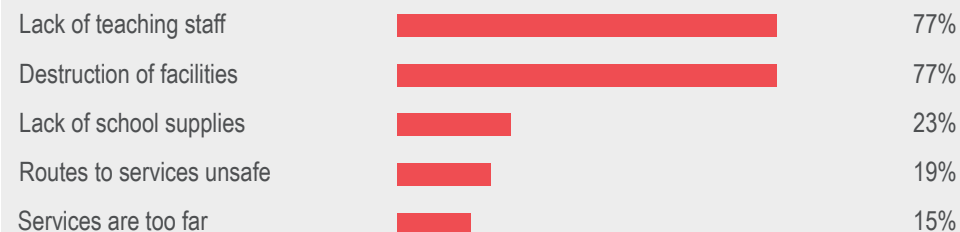
<sup>7</sup> Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

## EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



**21** communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **26** 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 48 communities in January 2018, referring to the situation in Hama Governorate in December 2017. 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> Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (30 March 2017). Breaking: Chemical Weapons Attack in Latamneh, Hama Injures 70. Reliefweb. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>6</sup> Baladi, E. (22 August 2017). Regime Cuts Homs and Hama Countrysides Into Three Pockets. The Syrian Observer. Retrieved from <http://syrianobserver.com>.

<sup>7</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>8</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>9</sup> WFP (31 December 2017). WFP Syria Country Brief, December 2017. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

## 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.