

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

March 2023 | Northwest Syria

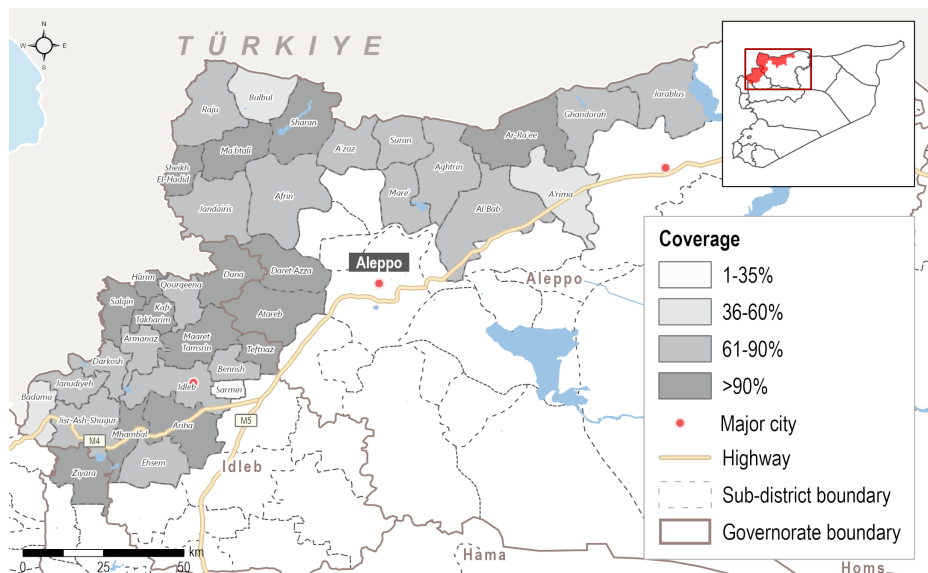
SITUATION OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

HSOS is a monthly assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This factsheet presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, economic conditions, living conditions, access to basic services, public health, and 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.**

Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the population and region. The complete monthly HSOS dataset is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators in Greater Idlib, and partner enumerators in Northern Aleppo, interview three to six KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely. KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **787 communities** across Greater Idlib¹ and Northern Aleppo areas. Data was collected **between 13-26 March 2023** from **2,824 KIs** (4% female).



KEY MESSAGES

The humanitarian situation in Northwest Syria has been greatly affected by the 6 February 2023 earthquakes, which displaced over 103,450 people within the region.^a Many households remained displaced within their community in March while reports of individuals living in precarious shelters increased. The lack of economic resources continued to affect households' ability to afford essential items in markets.

- **Communities continued to experience internal displacement of host-community and IDP households due to the earthquakes.** In 47% of assessed locations, KIs reported that host-community households were still displaced within their community because of the earthquakes. Similarly, KIs in 43% of assessed locations indicated that IDP households were displaced within the community they were staying in before the earthquake. The top priority needs for households displaced within their community were shelter and food, cited by KIs in 39% and 35% of assessed locations respectively.
- **NWS saw an increase in households living in vulnerable shelters.** KIs in 12% of assessed locations reported that host community households were living in collective centres in March. In addition, tents were reported to be a common shelter type in a higher percentage of communities in March compared to January 2023 for both IDP (38% to 54%) and host community households (0% to 8%). This increase aligns with the reported expansion of pre-existing collective centres and the establishment of new sites due to displacement caused by the earthquakes.^b Furthermore, reports of damaged shelters in assessed communities increased, with KIs reporting severe damages⁸ in 43% of communities in March (compared to 32% in January).
- **Households faced challenges in accessing food due to limited resources.** Markets were largely resilient to the earthquakes as most stores remained open across the region.^c In March, stores and markets continued to be the most common source of food for households in 66% of assessed communities. However, KIs in 88% of assessed locations indicated that households experienced challenges to access sufficient food, mostly due to the unaffordability of food items in markets (reported in 89% of communities reporting insufficient food), followed by the unavailability of essential food items (reported in 16% of these communities).

HSOS Dashboard

For a breakdown of sector-specific indicators by location, please see the [HSOS dashboard](#). The interactive HSOS dashboard provides a monthly sectoral overview of key indicators disaggregated at the sub-district and community level.

Feedback on improvements to this product can be done anonymously using the following [link](#).

PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



Most commonly reported **overall** priority needs for host community households (by % of assessed communities) ²

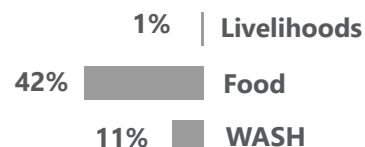
1	Livelihoods	57%
2	Food	56%
3	WASH [▲]	45%

% of assessed communities where some of the host community households were able to access humanitarian assistance



Yes: **66%**
No: **34%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for host community households** ³



Most commonly reported barriers that host community households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities reporting barriers) ³

Communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	73%	1	90%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	46%	2	4%	People did not comply with the eligibility criteria
Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria	45%	3	4%	Not aware if assistance was available



Most commonly reported **overall** priority needs for IDP households (by % of assessed communities) ²

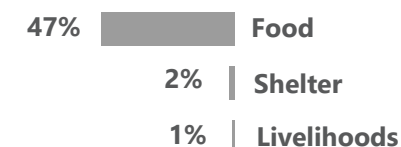
1	Food	66%
2	Shelter	53%
3	Livelihoods	52%

% of assessed communities where some of the IDP households were able to access humanitarian assistance



Yes: **70%**
No: **30%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for IDP households** ³

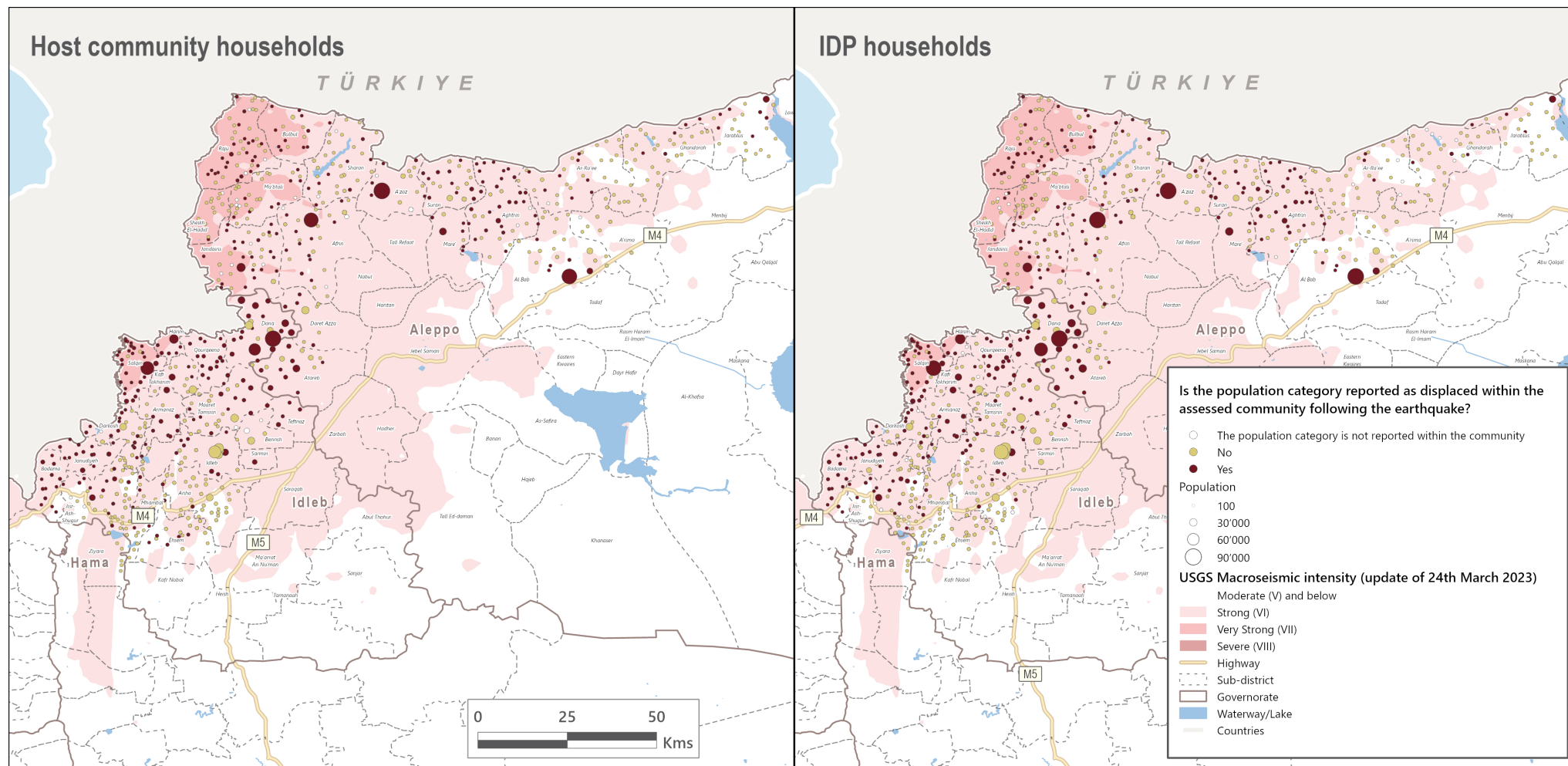


Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities reporting barriers) ³

Communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	73%	1	92%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	46%	2	4%	Not aware if assistance was available
Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria	44%	3	3%	Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance



Internal displacements within communities due to the earthquakes

Note on the map

The two maps show the reported presence of households internally displaced within each assessed community due to the 6th of February 2023 earthquakes. The left map provides a visualisation for host-community households, while the right map focuses on IDP households. Populated locations and communities located in areas strongly impacted by the earthquakes recorded heightened displacement.

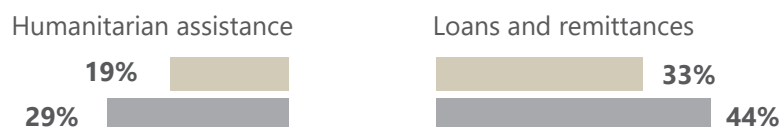
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Region	Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{4,5}			Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment ^{4,5}			Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour ^{4,6,7}		
Northwest Syria	150 TRY			400 TRY			50 TRY		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
	0%	100%	0%	1%	60%	39%	0%	99%	1%

Most common sources of meeting basic needs for households (by % of assessed communities) ^{3,7}



Presence of **host community** and **IDP** households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs (by % of assessed communities) ³



Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services ⁷



KIs in **52%** of assessed communities cited **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **65%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **79%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge



KIs in **24%** of assessed communities cited high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge

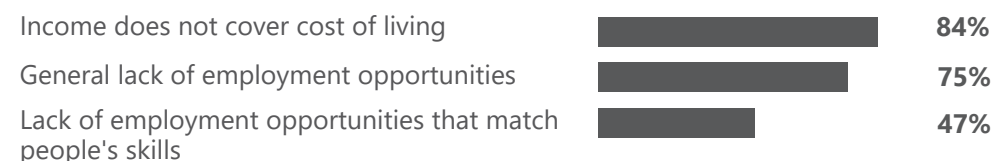


KIs in **31%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



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

Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods (by % of assessed communities) ^{3,7}



Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) ³



% of assessed communities where livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ³

Livelihood source	Host community households	IDP households
Food crop production	60%	21%
Cash crop production	49%	11%
Livestock products	58%	42%
Sale of livestock	17%	15%

BASIC NEEDS OVERVIEW

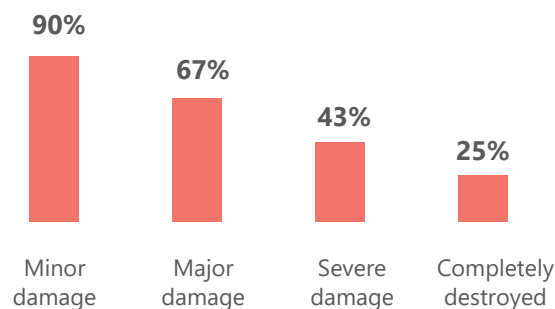
In **72%** of assessed communities, at least **80%** of the host community households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **56%** of assessed communities, **none** of the IDP households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **20%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **unfinished or abandoned residential buildings**

In **24%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **tents**

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage (by % of assessed communities)^{4, 8}



Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 87% of assessed communities)

Most commonly reported shelter inadequacies (by % of assessed communities)³



57%

Lack of lighting around shelter



52%

Sheter have minor damages

43%

Lack of heating

32%

Lack of privacy inside shelter

26%

Lack of space/overcrowding

23%

Lack of insulation from cold



58%

51%

47%

38%

34%

28%



88%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food**⁷

Commonly reported barriers to accessing sufficient food (by % of communities)^{3, 7}

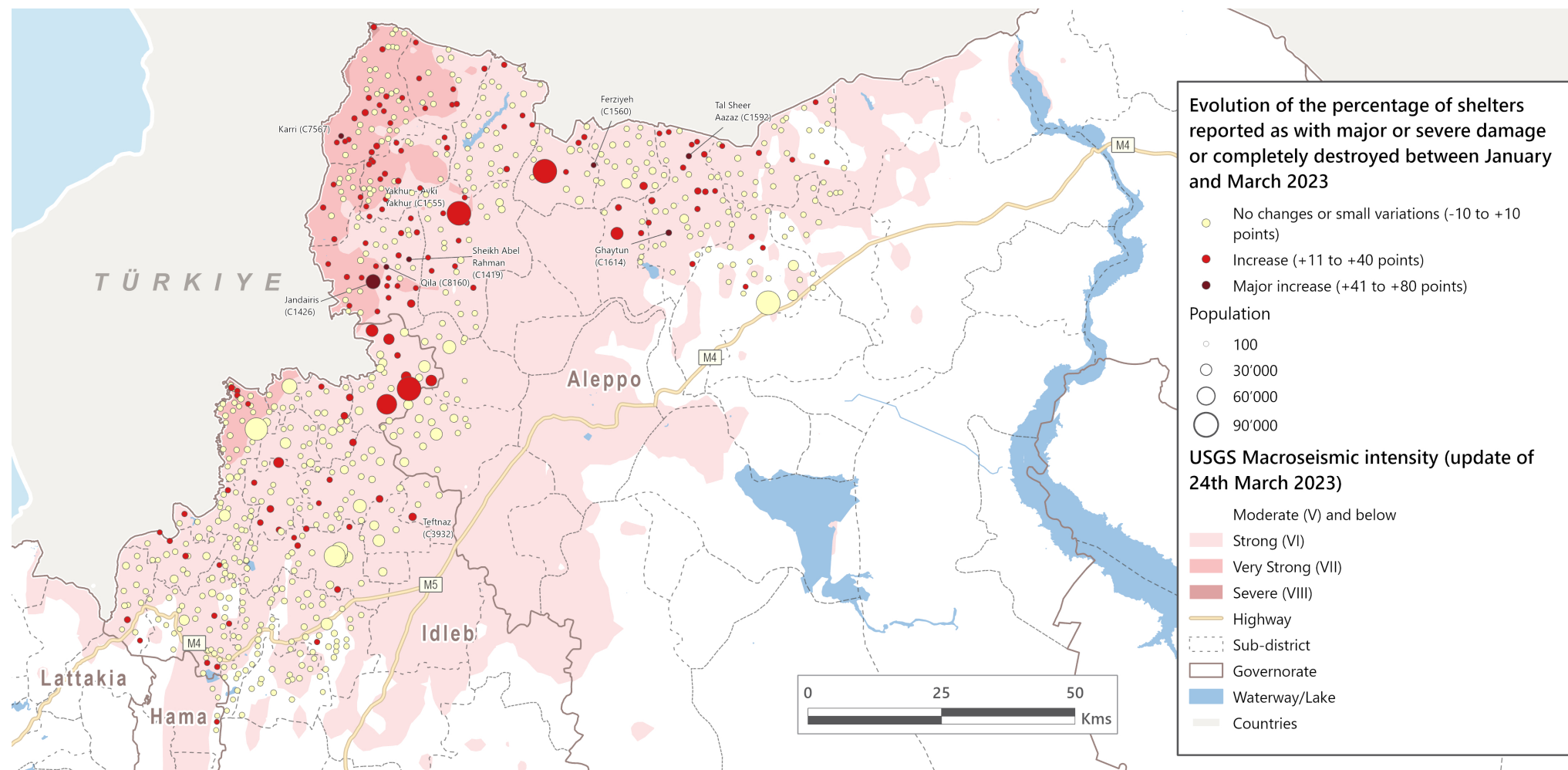
1	Markets exist and food is available but households cannot afford essential food items	79%
2	Markets exist but not all essential food items are available	14%
3	Households are not able to store food or cook food	9%



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 84% of assessed communities)^{7, 9}

Commonly reported **source of food** for households **other than markets** (by % of assessed communities)^{10, 7}

1	Own production or farming	52%
2	Relying on food stored previously	34%
3	Assistance from local councils, NGOs or other groups	17%



Change in reported shelter damage between January and March 2023

Note on the map

This map shows the increase of reported percentage of shelters with major damage, severe damage, or completely destroyed, from January 2023 (prior to the earthquake) to March 2023 (post-earthquake). The map clearly displays higher levels of shelter damage in urban areas and in communities located closer to the epicenter of the earthquake.

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES



Access to Electricity

>12
hrs/day

was the most commonly reported range of hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 35% of assessed communities)

Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 62% of assessed communities)

65%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **Solar panels too expensive** as the most frequently reported barrier to electricity access



Access to Water

49%

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



7 days
5-6 days
3-4 days
1-2 days
0 days

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 604 communities connected to a water network)

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of water for all purposes (reported by KIs in 46% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

51%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **no sewage system was present**

Most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste (by % of assessed communities)

38%

26%

16%

Paid private waste collection

Free public waste collection

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

34%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **waste removal services** as a WASH priority need ⁷



Access to Markets

20%

% of assessed communities in which households reportedly were **unable to access markets** in the assessed location

People lack financial means to open shop/market

was the most commonly reported **reason for why markets were not functioning** (reported by KIs in 82% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

57%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **lack of transportation to markets** was a barrier to physically accessing food markets



Access to Health Services

49%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **households did not have access to health services** in the assessed location

Most commonly reported health priority needs (by % of assessed communities)^{7, 10}

59%

50%

47%

Medicines and other commodities

Treatment for chronic diseases

First aid or emergency care

High cost of transportation to health facilities

was the most commonly reported **barrier to accessing healthcare** (reported by KIs in 61% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

21%
30%

% of assessed communities in which only half or less of the school aged-children accessed school in the last 30 days for **host community** and **IDP** households

Functioning
Not functioning

87%

13%




Reported functionality of education services in the assessed location

64%

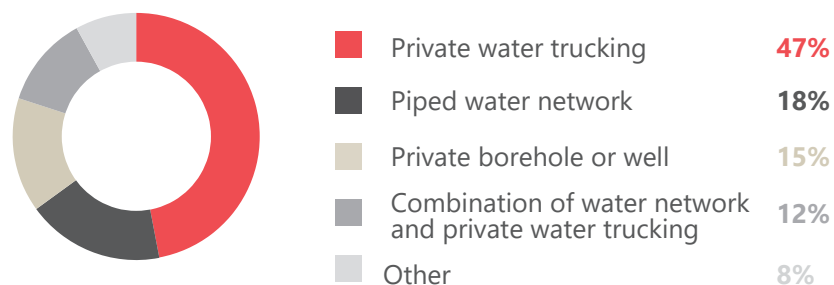
% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **Barriers preventing access to education for children in the last 30 days** ⁷

PUBLIC HEALTH

Most commonly reported sanitation issues (by % of assessed communities)³

Unsafe soak pit		61%
Sewage network does not reach all households		29%
Sewage system needs repair/cleaning		28%

Primary sources of drinking water (by % of assessed communities)



44%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that households **faced problems with drinking water**.

67%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that households **did not use any methods** to make water safer to drink.

Methods used by households to make water safer to drink (by % of assessed communities in which KIs reported methods being used)³

1	Chlorine tablets	64%
2	Boiling	27%
3	Sedimentation	20%

Reported challenges related to quantity, quality and diversity of food for babies and young children (less than 2 years old)^{3, 9}

Limited variety of food reported in **25%** of assessed communities

Not enough food reported in **17%** of assessed communities





Poor quality of food reported in **10%** of assessed communities

40%










% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **no paediatric services** were available either in the assessed community or nearby locations

Reported barriers to accessing healthcare (by % of assessed communities)^{3, 12}

Lack of medicines/medical equipment at the health facility		41%
Health facilities are overcrowded		29%
Absence of health facilities present/functioning in assessed location		27%
Specialised services are not available		9%

Essential health services available either in the assessed community or in nearby locations (by % of assessed communities)^{3, 13}

	 No	 Yes	
General and or specialist surgical services	51%		48%
Treatment for parasitic infections	47%		52%
Skilled care during childbirth (General obstetric care - normal deliveries)	36%		63%
Vaccination	27%		73%
First aid/emergency care (accident and injuries)	13%		87%

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in 16 assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in 47 assessed communities

Movement restrictions was reported as a protection risk in 4 assessed communities ⁷



Theft was reported as a protection risk in 10% of assessed communities ⁷

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in 10% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from shelling was reported as a protection risk in 8% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from airstrikes were reported as a protection risk in 27 assessed communities ⁷



The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in 66 assessed communities ⁷



Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities was reported as a barrier to healthcare in 11 assessed communities



Lack of safety while travelling to or from school was reported as a barrier preventing access to education in 62 assessed communities ⁷

Most commonly reported protection priority needs (by % of assessed communities) ^{7, 10}

- 1 Special assistance for vulnerable groups 60%
- 2 Psychosocial support 53%
- 3 Specialised child protection services 43%



% of assessed communities where the lack of civil documentation for host community and IDP households was reported

- 29% Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 34%
- 4% Some people did not have the necessary personal document as a barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance
- 4%
- 5% Lack of personal documentation required to enrol in school as a barrier to education access
- 9%

54%

56%

% of assessed communities where **child labour** was reported as a protection risk for **host community** and IDP households

Gender and diversity

KIs in **32%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **22%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **6%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **28%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **7%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

KIs in **11%** of assessed communities reported **challenges specific to girls** as a barrier preventing access to education ^{7, 14}

ENDNOTES

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'az, Al Bab and Jarablus districts.

² KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a sector was selected across all three categories (first, second or third highest priority).

³ KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

⁴ KIs were asked about the situation at the time of data collection, instead of the last 30 days.

⁵ KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD), Turkish Lira (TRY), or Syrian Pounds (SYP). When the price was not reported in SYP, the NWS Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) March 2023, 1 USD = 7,450 SYP; 1TRY= 350 SYP.

⁶ According to the NWS [JMMI](#) March 2023, 1 USD = 7,450 SYP.

⁷ Findings for residents and IDPs were merged. The merge was calculated as follows: (option was selected for either residents or IDPs) / (communities reporting challenges/barriers/coping strategies for either residents or IDPs).

⁸ Minor damage (cracks in walls, leaking roof, need of new doors and window repairs, etc.); Major damage (buildings with extensive damage to window frames and doors, but no structural damage to columns, slabs, or loadbearing walls); Severe damage (buildings with significant structural damage to column slabs, or loadbearing walls, cracking, steel elements and deformations visible in concrete; the building would require extensive repairs); Completely destroyed (buildings with structural damage so significant that rehabilitation is not possible).

⁹ KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.

¹⁰ KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

¹¹ This section provides a visualisation of three types of problems with drinking water. These problems were not selected based on how commonly they were reported, but rather on their potential negative impact on health.

¹² This section only focuses on barriers related to the health facilities and excludes financial barriers as well as obstacles linked to transportation to health facilities.

¹³ This section provides a visualisation of the availability of five essential types of health services reported in the assessed communities or in nearby locations. The displayed services were not selected based on how commonly they were reported.

¹⁴ Challenges specific to girls include the following: Families not allowing attendance or continuation of education, fear of harassment on the way to or inside education facilities, and the lack of privacy in toilets.

REFERENCES

a. REACH, CCCM Cluster. (9 March 2023). Earthquake Response Displacement Monitoring. Retrieved from. <https://reliefweb.int>

b. CCCM Cluster. (29 March 2023). Multi-Sector Reception and Collective Center Indicator Checklist Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>

c. REACH. (February 2023). Earthquake Response Joint Rapid Assessment of Markets. Retrieved from <https://www.impact-initiatives.org>

N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset	N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset
Host community households	758	Currency used for paying rent	508
IDP households	754	Currency in which wages are paid (merged)	613
Challenges to assistance access (host community)	457	Days when water is available from network	600
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	254	Barriers to markets functioning	152
Challenges to assistance access (IDP)	471	Methods to make water safer (merged)	256
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	224	Problems with drinking water (merged)	345
Currency used for paying water	656		

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).