

# Homs Governorate, November 2017

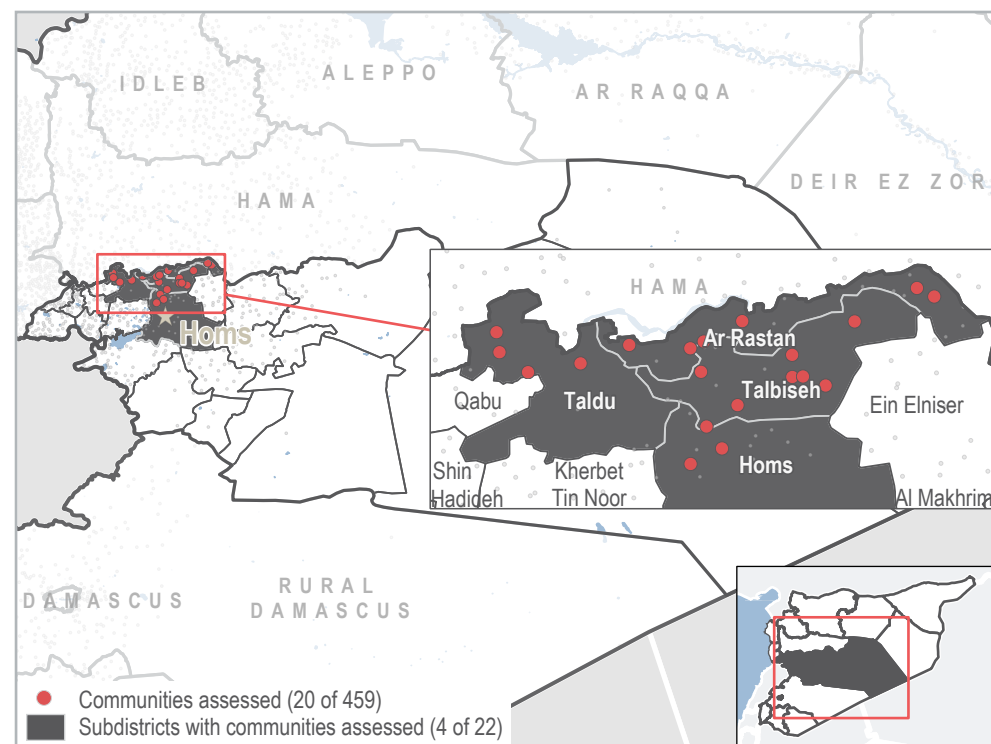
## Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

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

Homs governorate is located in central Syria, bordering Lebanon in the west. In all assessed communities aside from two, only **26-50%** of the pre-conflict population remained, with no further departures or returns indicated. IDPs were present in **70%** of the assessed communities and in **all** assessed sub-districts. Zafaraniya (Talbiseh sub-district) reported the presence of approximately 10,500 IDPs, out of a total estimated population of 17,500 (including IDPs). All communities reported that they were unable to empty septic tanks and that connections to the sewage system were blocked, and **65%** reported having insufficient water to meet household needs, including Zafaraniya. Zafaraniya was also one of **two** communities that reported communicable diseases as a predominant health challenge. **All** assessed communities, reported a lack of fuel and that community members were burning plastic as a strategy to cope with fuel shortages. Of these communities, **90%** reported acute respiratory infections as a common health problem. **Two** of the assessed communities in Homs had no pre-conflict population remaining in November: Kisein (Ar Rastan sub-district) and Um Sharshouh (Talbiseh sub-district). These communities have not been assessed for a majority of indicators displayed in these factsheets. For detailed, community-level information on Ar Rastan, Talbiseh and Taldu, please refer to the latest [community profile](#) covering this area.

None of the communities assessed reported that residents were able to access sufficient amounts of food. The high cost of some food items and a decrease in local food production were reported across **all communities**. Farm ownership and business and trade were cited as the most common sources of income across communities assessed in Homs, yet given the decrease in local food production and access restrictions to the area, it is likely that income generated was insufficient to cover household needs. **Over half** of the assessed communities reported that the average, monthly household income in their community was **below 50,000 SYP**, and thereby less than the average monthly household income in Syria. Skipping meals and reducing the size of meals were reported in **all communities** assessed in Homs and food security was reported as a top priority need in all of the assessed communities. Primary and secondary schools were functioning in **all of the assessed communities**, although all reported that some children experienced barriers to accessing education<sup>2</sup>. Out of the 18 assessed communities, **six** reported that educational facilities were destroyed, while a lack of teaching staff and school supplies were reported as barriers across all communities.

### Coverage



#### Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Water security
2. Education
3. Food security

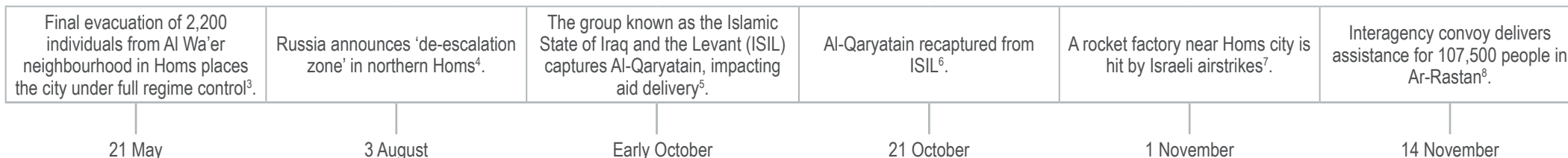
#### Demographics\*

**1,415,805** people in need

**714,982** **700,823**

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

### KEY EVENTS



# Homs Governorate, November 2017

## DISPLACEMENT

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

**0** Estimated number of spontaneous returnee arrivals in assessed communities in November<sup>9</sup>.

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

No arrivals reported

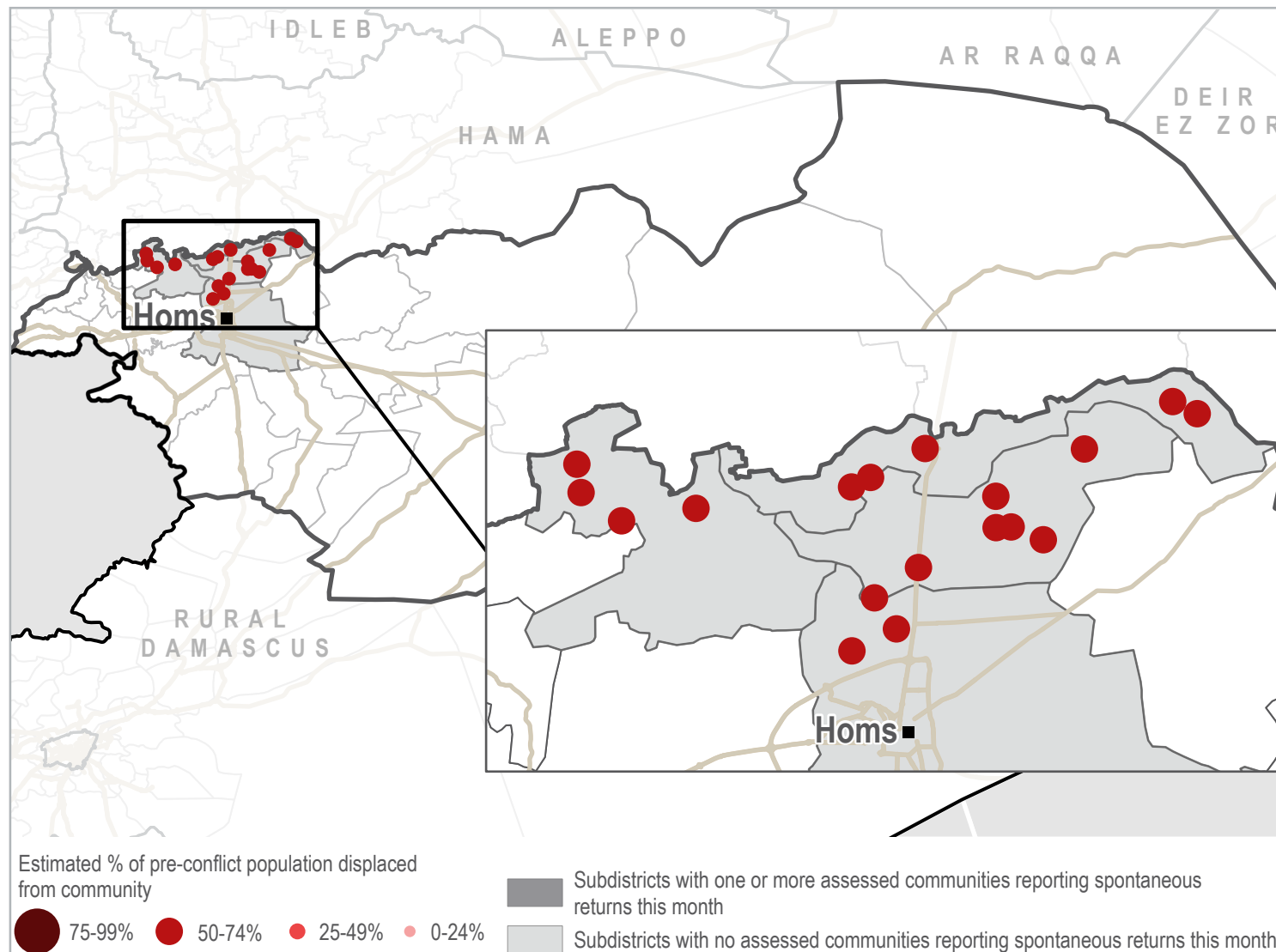
### Top 3 sub-districts of origin of most IDPs arrivals<sup>3,4</sup>:

No arrivals reported

**20** communities reported no PCP departures. Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **0** assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:

No reported PCP departures

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



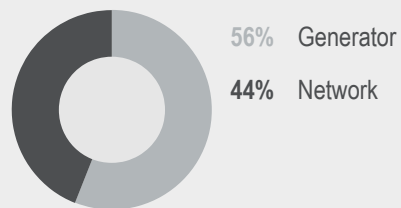
<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

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

# Homs Governorate, November 2017

## SHELTER AND NFI

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

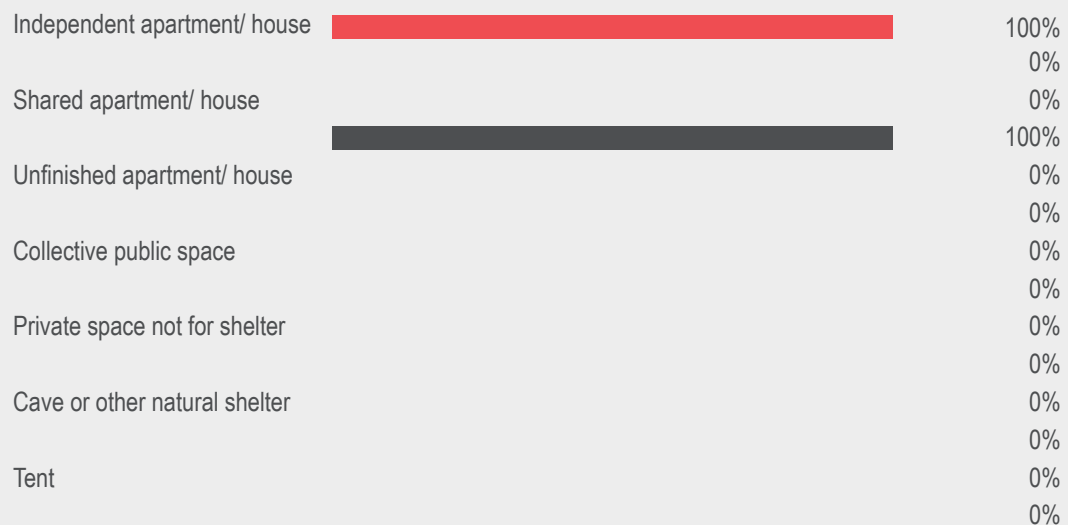


0 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategy to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining 18 assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:

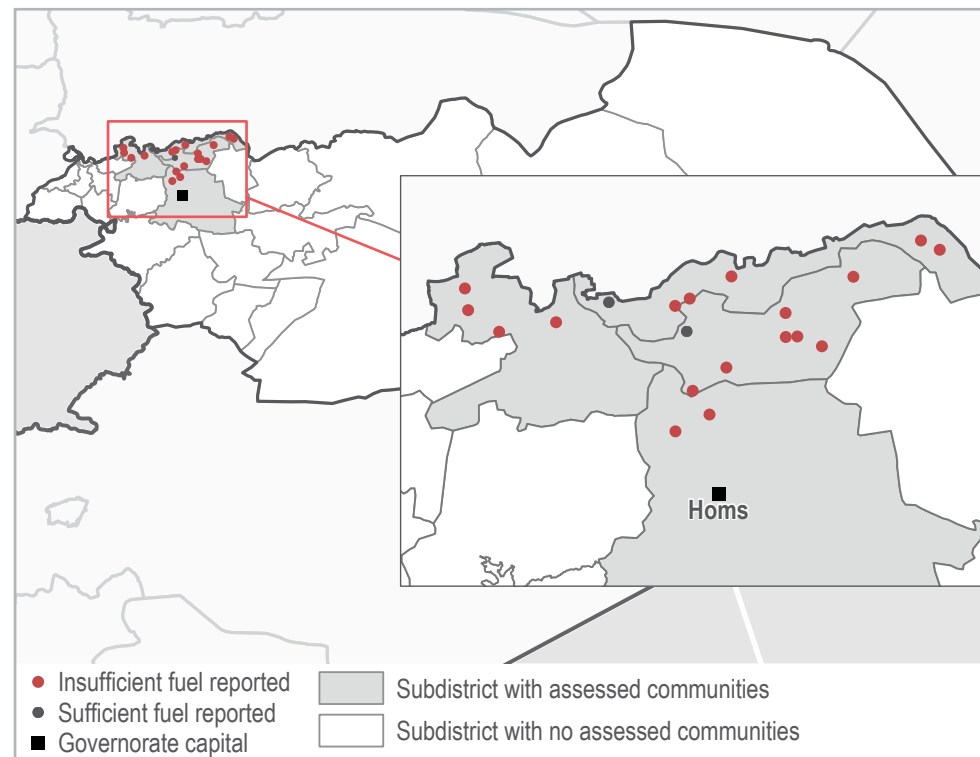


The average reported rent price in the governorate could not be calculated due to a lack of information in most of the communities assessed.

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 November:	Governorate average price in October:	Syrian average price in November:
Coal (1 kilogram)	803	800	332
Diesel (1 litre)	400	450	496
Butane (1 canister)	7,567	7,439	6,275
Firewood (1 tonne)	90,000	93,333	85,004

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

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

<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 508 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 November 2017)

# Homs Governorate, November 2017

## HEALTH

- 0** Communities reported that no medical items were available in their community.
- 18** Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

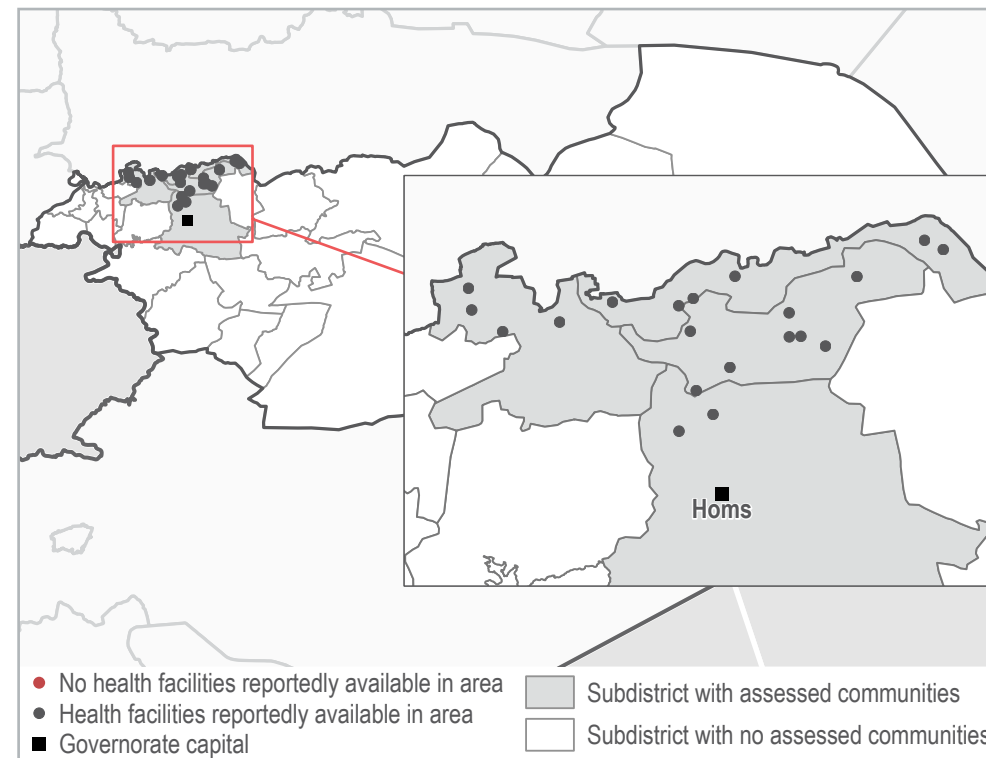
**0** communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining **18** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



### Communities reporting that residents used one of the following medical coping strategies:

Using non-medical items for treatment:	Recycling medical items:	Carrying out operations without anaesthesia:
None	None	None

### Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



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

Prosthetics and orthotics	90%
Assistive devices	90%
Rehabilitation services	60%

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

Acute respiratory infections	90%
Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	90%
Pregnancy related diseases	80%

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

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

# Homs Governorate, November 2017

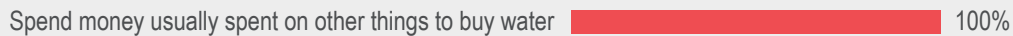


- 0** Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 1** Community reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

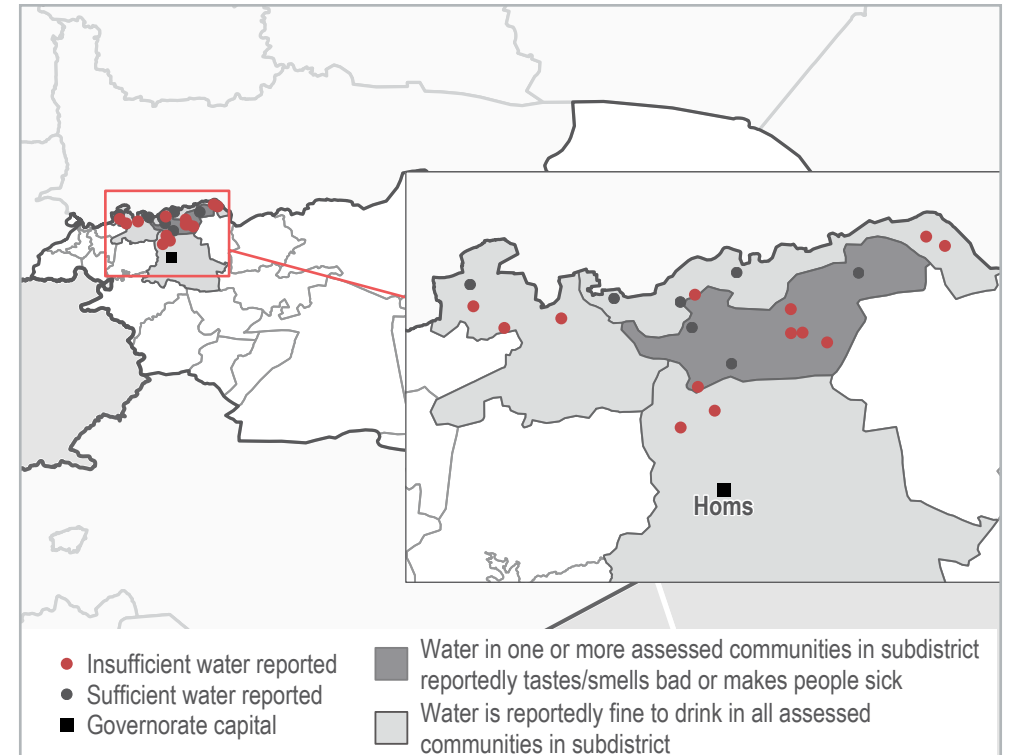
**0 communities reported that they had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 18 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:**



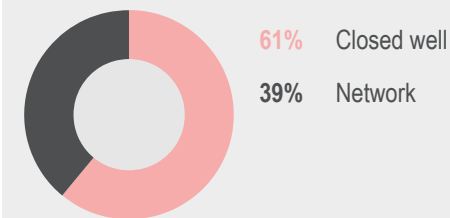
**5 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 13 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:**



## Water sufficiency for household needs:



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



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

Public free collection 100%

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

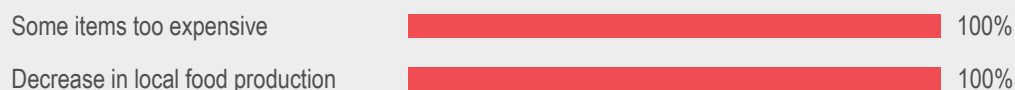
<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

# Homs Governorate, November 2017

## FOOD SECURITY

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

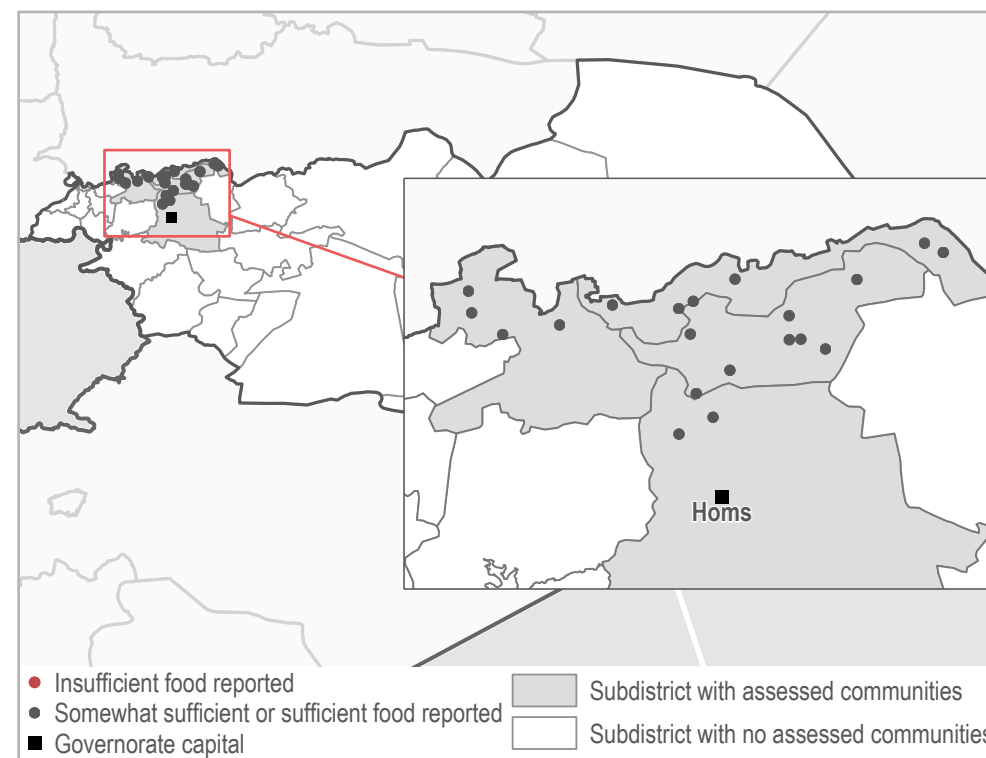
0 communities reported that they had enough food to meet household needs. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining 18 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



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

Food item:	Governorate average price in November:	Governorate average price in October:	Syrian average price in November:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	Unavailable	Unavailable	115
Rice (1 kilogram)	200	200	641
Lentils (1 kilogram)	304	350	445
Sugar (1 kilogram)	323	350	895
Cooking oil (1 litre)	783	674	964

### Food sufficiency:



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



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

<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 508 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 November 2017)

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

# Homs Governorate, November 2017

## LIVELIHOODS

**Less than 50,000 SYP**

**28,683 SYP**

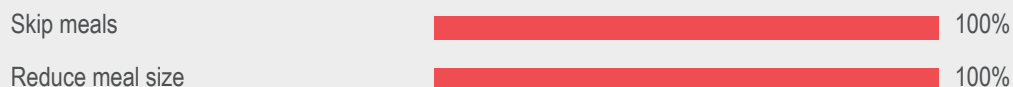
**0**

Most commonly reported household income range<sup>5</sup>.

Governorate average food basket price<sup>5,6</sup>.

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

**0** 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 **18** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:

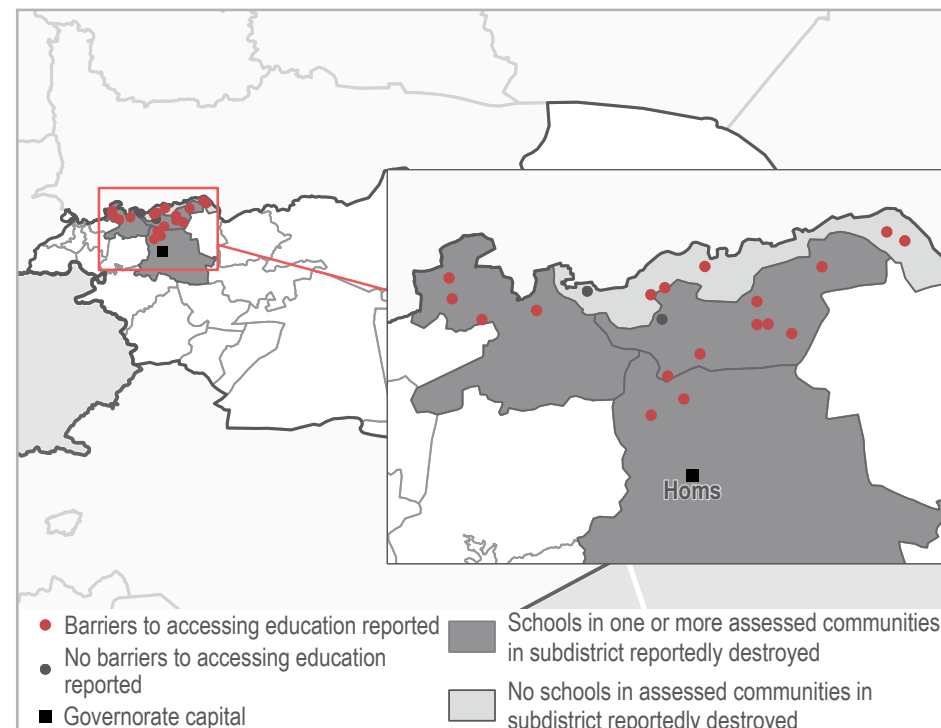


**Most commonly reported main sources of income<sup>3,4</sup>:**



## EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



**0** communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **18** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



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

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

<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 508 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 November 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.

## 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 20 communities in December 2017, referring to the situation in Homs Governorate in November 2017. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed sub-districts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly sub-district 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> 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.

<sup>3</sup> Reuters (21 May 2017). Syrian rebels leave last opposition district in Homs. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com>.

<sup>4</sup> Reuters (3 August 2017). Russia announces 'de-escalation zone' north of Syria's city of Homs. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com>.

<sup>6</sup> Aljazeera (23 October 2017). ISIL accused of killing scores of Qaryatayn civilians. Retrieved from <http://www.aljazeera.com>.

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR (25 October 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 25 October 2017. Reliefweb. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>7</sup> BBC (2 November 2017). Syria war: Israeli jets 'strike factory near Homs'. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com>.

<sup>8</sup> UNHCR (15 November 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 15 November 2017. Reliefweb. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>9</sup> Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.

## 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.