

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

February 2024 | Northwest Syria

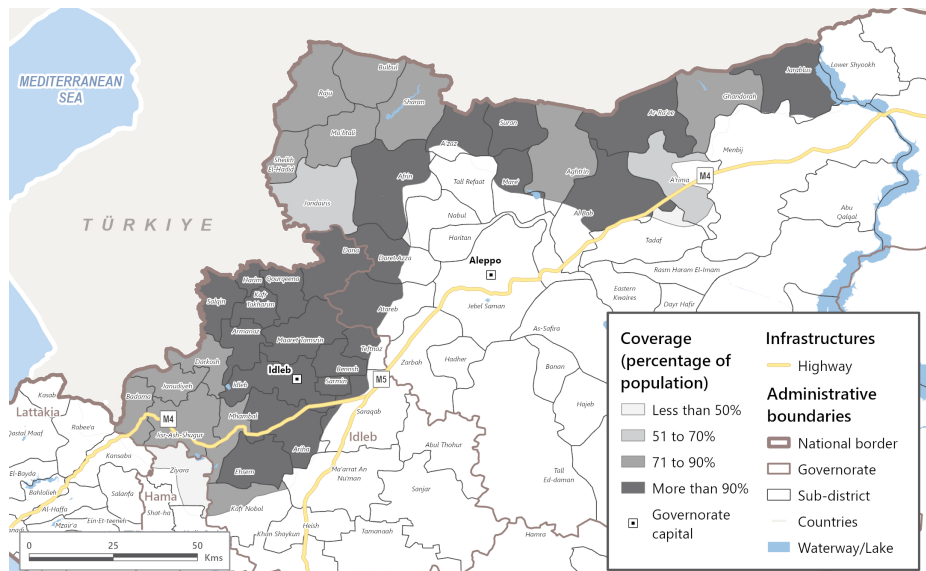
SITUATION OVERVIEW

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 **667 communities** across Greater Idlib¹ and Northern Aleppo areas. Data was collected **between 3-15 February 2024** from **2,565 KIs** (5% female).



KEY MESSAGES

- In February, a reduced percentage of communities reportedly received humanitarian food assistance** compared to [data from HSOS rounds](#) conducted throughout the last year. This reduction was recorded in both Greater Idlib and Northern Aleppo and affected both IDPs and host community households. It is likely a result of the recent [fund cuts from the World Food Programme](#).
- Many households reportedly lived in unfinished, abandoned, or damaged buildings across NWS.** In Northern Aleppo, KIs reported that damaged buildings were among the most common shelter types for IDPs in 11% of assessed communities (41/371). However, shelter repair materials and services remained widely unaffordable for households.
- In Greater Idlib, KIs in over half of assessed communities indicated that the sewage network did not reach all households.** Therefore, the expansion of this network was the most frequently reported WASH need in Greater Idlib. In Northern Aleppo, the need for a functioning sewage system was the most commonly cited.

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.

PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



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

1	Food	56%
2	Livelihoods	55%
3	Winterisation	49%

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



Yes: **56%**
No: **44%**

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

17%	Food
1%	Livelihoods
9%	Winterisation

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	71%	1	96%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	47%	2	3%	Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	43%	3	2%	Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible



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

1	Food	61%
2	Winterisation	53%
3	Livelihoods	51%

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



Yes: **56%**
No: **44%**

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

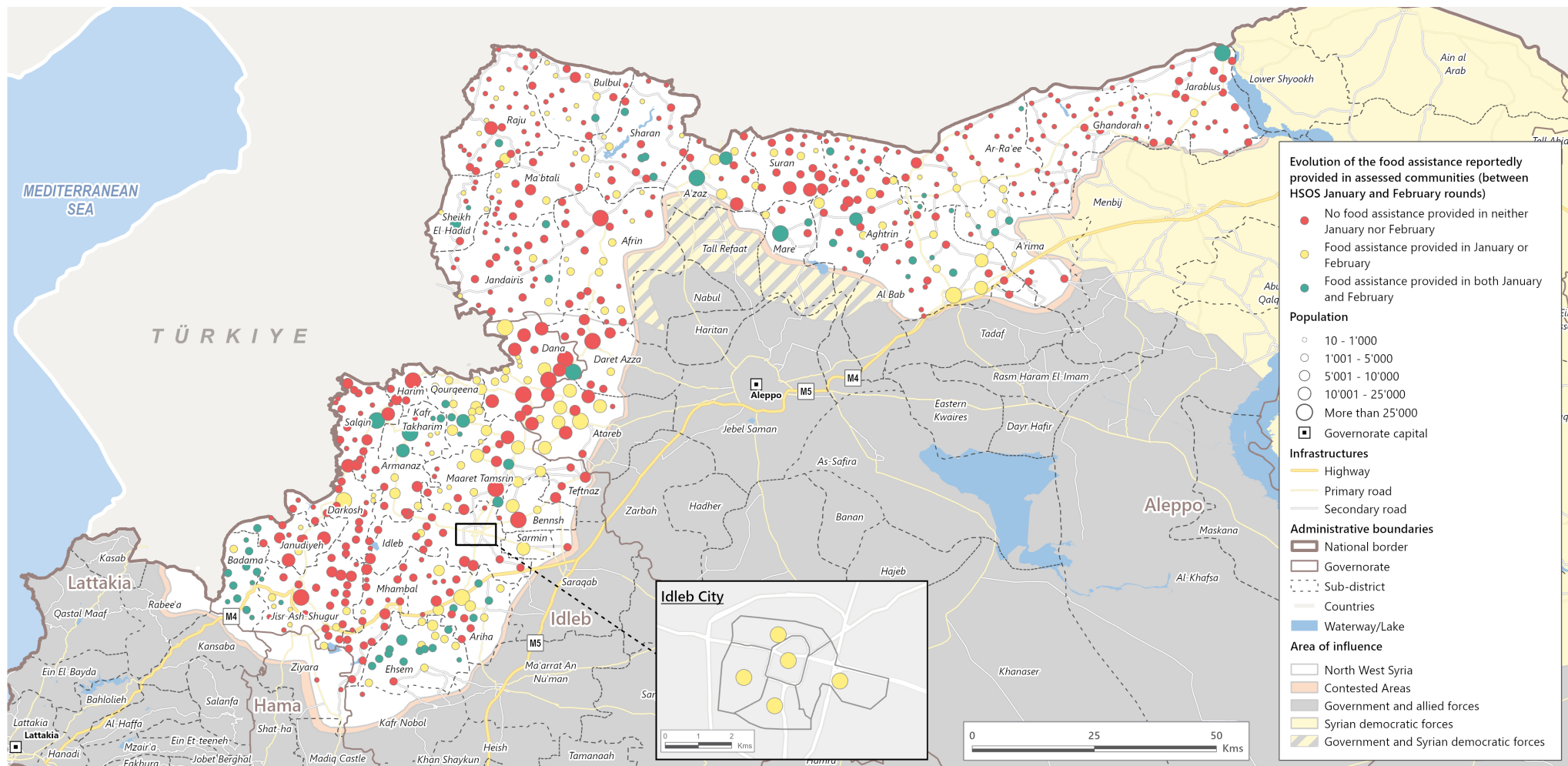
18%	Food
11%	Winterisation
1%	Livelihoods

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	72%	1	94%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	46%	2	4%	Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	42%	3	2%	Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible



Food aid provision in NWS (January and February 2024)

Note on the map

This map focuses on the food assistance provided either for host community or IDP households in assessed communities in NWS. The map compiles data from HSOS January and February rounds. Please note that this map is based on KI perception, thus this data is indicative only.

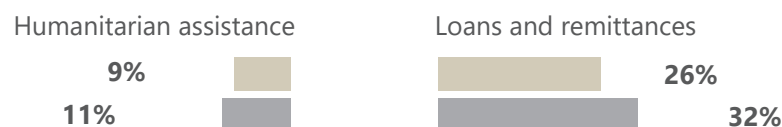
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

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	250 TRY			582 TRY			100 TRY		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
	0%	100%	0%	0%	46%	54%	0%	100%	0%

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 **46%** of assessed communities cited **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **62%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **76%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge



KIs in **17%** of assessed communities cited high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge

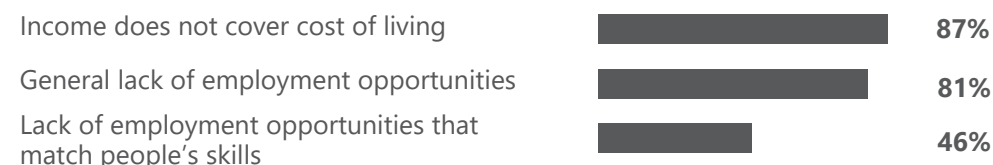


KIs in **32%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



KIs in **39%** 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	68%	22%
Cash crop production	47%	8%
Livestock products	53%	38%
Sale of livestock	20%	17%



Host community households



IDP households

BASIC NEEDS OVERVIEW

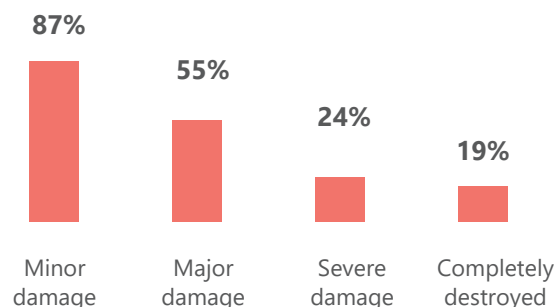
In **84%** of assessed communities, at least **80%** of the host community households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **65%** of assessed communities, **none** of the IDP households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **27%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **unfinished or abandoned residential buildings**

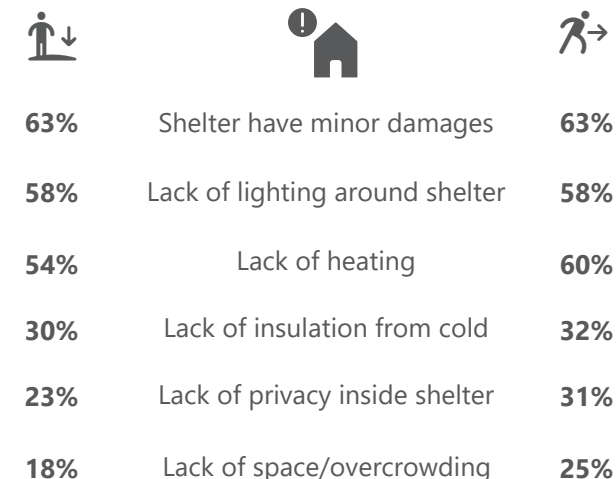
In **13%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **tents**

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 82% of assessed communities)

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



90%

% 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	76%
2	Markets exist but not all essential food items are available	18%
3	Households are not able to store food or cook food	16%



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 85% 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	54%
2	Relying on food stored previously	43%
3	Assistance from local councils, NGOs or other groups	7%

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 44% of assessed communities)

Solar panels

were the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 51% of assessed communities)

62%

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



Access to Water

47%

% 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 504 communities connected to a water network)

Private
water
trucking

was the most commonly reported source of water for all purposes (reported by KIs in 45% 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)

42%

38%

14%

Free public waste collection

Paid private waste collection

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

17%

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



Access to Markets

25%

% 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 64% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

64%

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



Access to Health Services

55%

% 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%

53%

43%

Medicines and other commodities

First aid or emergency care

Treatment for chronic diseases

High cost of
transportation
to health
facilities

was the most commonly reported **barrier to accessing healthcare** (reported by KIs in 67% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

23%

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

Reported functionality of education services in the assessed location

94%

6%

Functioning




Not functioning

74%

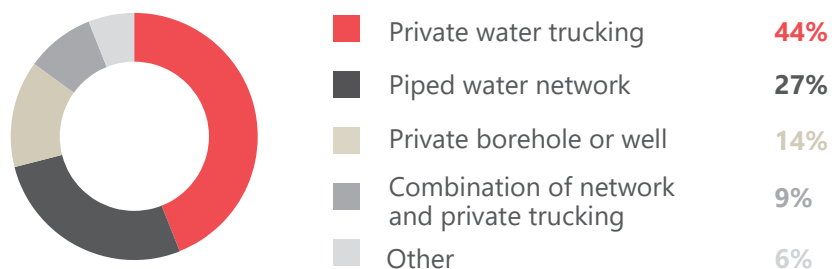
% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **families cannot afford to prioritize school and children must work**⁷

PUBLIC HEALTH

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

Unsafe soak pit		62%
Sewage network does not reach all households		31%
Sewage system needs repair/cleaning		26%

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



48%

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

66%

% 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	47%
2	Sedimentation	31%
3	Household filters	5%

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 **26%** of assessed communities

Not enough food reported in **15%** of assessed communities





Poor quality of food reported in **7%** of assessed communities

34%













% 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		46%
Health facilities are overcrowded		37%
Absence of health facilities present/functioning in assessed location		25%
Specialised services are not available		13%

Essential health services available either in the assessed community or in nearby locations (by % of communities where households could access health services)¹³

 No  Yes

General and or specialist surgical services	53% 	47% 
Treatment for parasitic infections	45% 	55% 
Skilled care during childbirth (General obstetric care - normal deliveries)	29% 	71% 
Vaccination	26% 	74% 
First aid/emergency care (accident and injuries)	9% 	91% 

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in 9 assessed communities

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



Theft was reported as a protection risk in 13% of assessed communities ⁷

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in 13% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from shelling was reported as a protection risk in 11% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from airstrikes were reported as a protection risk in 41 assessed communities ⁷



The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in 41 assessed communities ⁷



Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities was reported as a barrier to healthcare in 6 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 **67%**
- 2 Specialised child protection services **46%**
- 3 Psychosocial support **41%**



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

- 23% 25% Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 0% 1% Some people did not have the necessary personal document as a barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance
- 4% 5% Some people did not have the necessary personal documentation required to enroll in schools

57%

54%

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

Gender and diversity

KIs in **27%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **25%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **5%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **26%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **4%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

KIs in **14%** 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 \(JMMI\)](#) January 2024, 1 USD = 15,500 SYP; 1TRY= 540 SYP.

⁶ According to the NWS [JMMI](#) January 2024, 1 USD = 15,500 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.

N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset	N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset
Host community households	657	Currency used for paying rent	403
IDP households	659	Currency in which wages are paid (merged)	548
Challenges to assistance access (host community)	333	Days when water is available from network	504
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	289	Barriers to markets functioning	165
Challenges to assistance access (IDP)	331	Methods to make water safer (merged)	226
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	289	Problems with drinking water (merged)	322
Currency used for paying water	568		

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).