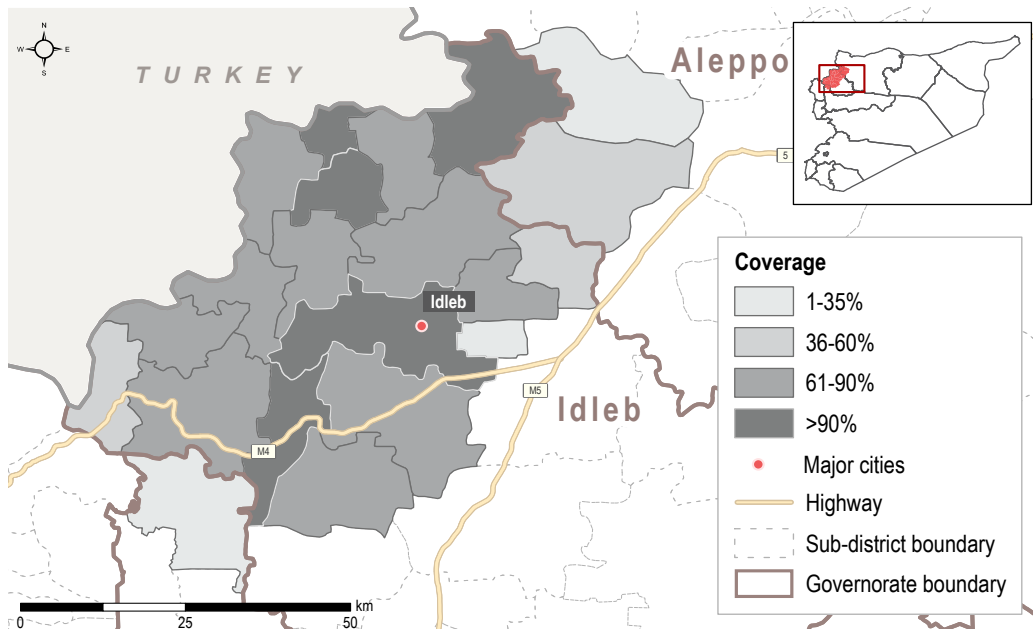


Introduction and Methodology

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, COVID-19 situation, and the security and protection situation in the Greater Idleb area in Northwest Syria (NWS). **Sector-specific indicator findings by location can be found on the [HSOS dashboard](#).**

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview three to six KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely (via phone). KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **371 communities** across the greater Idleb area.¹ **Data was collected between 6-22 February 2022 from 1,317 KIs** (18% female). 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 generalized across the population and region. Findings that are calculated based on a subset of the community are indicated by the following footnote ♦, with each subset specified in the endnotes.

The **complete monthly HSOS dataset** is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).



Key Highlights

In February, communities in Greater Idleb recovered from harsh winter conditions and continued to be impacted by economic deterioration, the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing insecurity. Extreme weather likely impacted shelter conditions for displaced populations. Furthermore, households struggled to meet basic needs, due to the continued rise in the prices of food and basic commodities. Finally, aid cuts to health services came with an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases.

- **The impact of extreme weather from previous months affected both residents and internally displaced peoples (IDPs) in Greater Idleb.**^a Winterisation was one of the top reported priority needs for both IDPs and residents, for the third consecutive month. Months of extreme weather likely affected shelter conditions for IDPs, which likely explains why KIs in 51% of assessed communities reported shelter as one of the top priority need for IDPs, up from 48% in January. Heating fuel was in high need both among residents and IDPs, with lack of heating reported as a shelter inadequacy in more than half of the assessed communities. To cope with a lack of heating, communities engaged in negative coping mechanisms such as burning unsafe materials for heating.^b

- **Households' purchasing power continued to decrease due to rising prices.** The value of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) items increased from 510,568 SYP in January to 528,226 SYP in February, driven primarily by its food and cooking fuel components.^c Connected, KIs in 85% of the assessed communities reported unaffordability as the primary barrier to accessing sufficient food. A little under a quarter of the assessed communities indicated food as the first priority need among IDPs.

- **Health services in Greater Idleb continued to be at risk following significant cuts to funding.**^d The health sector in Greater Idleb lacks self-financing and depends on the support provided by international donors through humanitarian and international organisations operating in the region.^e Funding from a number of donors stopped in September 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and fatigue with the decade-old Syrian war.^f In January support was cut off for 18 medical facilities that provide services to more than one and a half million persons.^g While specialised health facilities are concentrated in a few locations across the region, the need to travel to access healthcare led to two main barriers: the high cost and lack of transportation means, reported by KIs in 84% and 69% of assessed communities, respectively. Cuts to health services followed an increase in numbers of COVID-19 cases in February.^h

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.



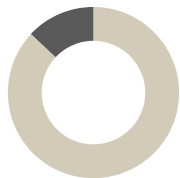
Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for residents (by % of assessed communities) ^{2,3}

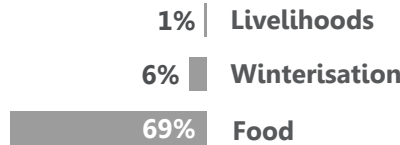
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL
1	Livelihoods	Winterisation	Livelihoods	Livelihoods 69%
2	Healthcare	NFIs	Winterisation	Winterisation 61%
3	Winterisation	Food	NFIs [▲]	Food 43%

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



Yes: **87%**
No: **13%**

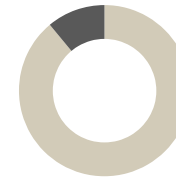
% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for residents** ⁴



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs (by % of assessed communities) ^{2,3}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL
1	Shelter	Winterisation	Livelihoods	Winterisation 61%
2	Food	Food	Winterisation	Livelihoods 55%
3	Livelihoods	NFIs	NFIs	Shelter 51%

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



Yes: **89%**
No: **11%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for IDPs** ⁴



Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) ^{4, *}

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people **73%** **1**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **51%** **2**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **41%** **3**

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- No humanitarian assistance was available **96%**
- Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible **2%**
- People did not comply with the eligibility criteria **2%**

Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) ^{4, *}

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people **72%** **1**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **51%** **2**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **42%** **3**

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

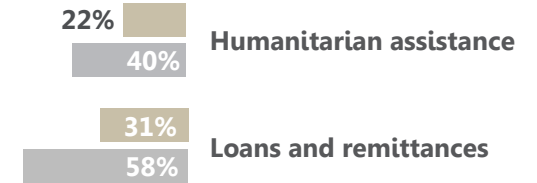
- No humanitarian assistance was available **97%**
- Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible **3%**



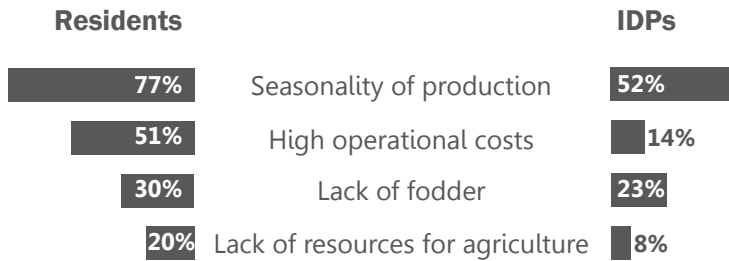
Economic Conditions

Region	Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{5,6}			Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment ^{5,6}			Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}		
	70 TRY			300 TRY			27 TRY		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies [*]	SYP	TRY [▲]	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
		0%	100%	0%	0%	61%	39%	0%	100%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of residents and IDP households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs⁴



Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities)⁴



92% and 96%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported daily waged labour as a common source of income for residents and IDPs

72 days

Number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of basic SMEB[▲] items ^{5,9}

95% and 50%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the insufficient income of households and general lack of employment opportunities as barriers to meeting basic needs ⁸

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

- KIs in **72%** of assessed communities cited that **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people
- KIs in **52%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge
- KIs in **83%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge
- KIs in **45%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge
- KIs in **85%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge ⁸
- KIs in **55%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge

% of assessed communities where common livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ⁴

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	54%	11%
Cash crop production	52%	2%
Livestock products	68%	54%
Sale of livestock	11%	19%



Living Conditions

In **95%** of assessed communities at least **80%** of the resident population reportedly owned their shelter

In **67%** of assessed communities reportedly none of the IDP households 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 **19%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents



A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **4%** of assessed communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **4%** of assessed communities

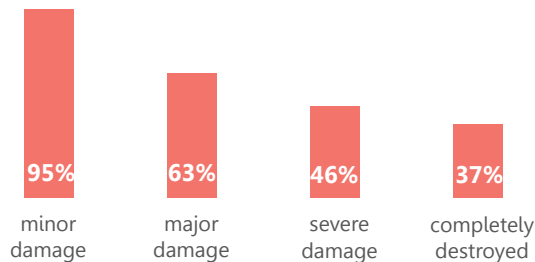


Problems with the drinking water were reported in **47%** of assessed communities



Water being calcareous was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 47% of assessed communities)

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages were reported (by % of assessed communities) ^{5,10}



Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 89% of assessed communities) ⁴

Reported sanitation issues affecting public space in the community (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible



Solid waste in the streets



Sewage system pollutes public areas



Stagnant water



Flooding in the streets



94%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food⁸



In **16%** of these communities, KIs reported that the **unavailability of certain food items** was a challenge to accessing sufficient food⁸

Most commonly reported coping strategies for a lack of food (by % of assessed communities)⁴

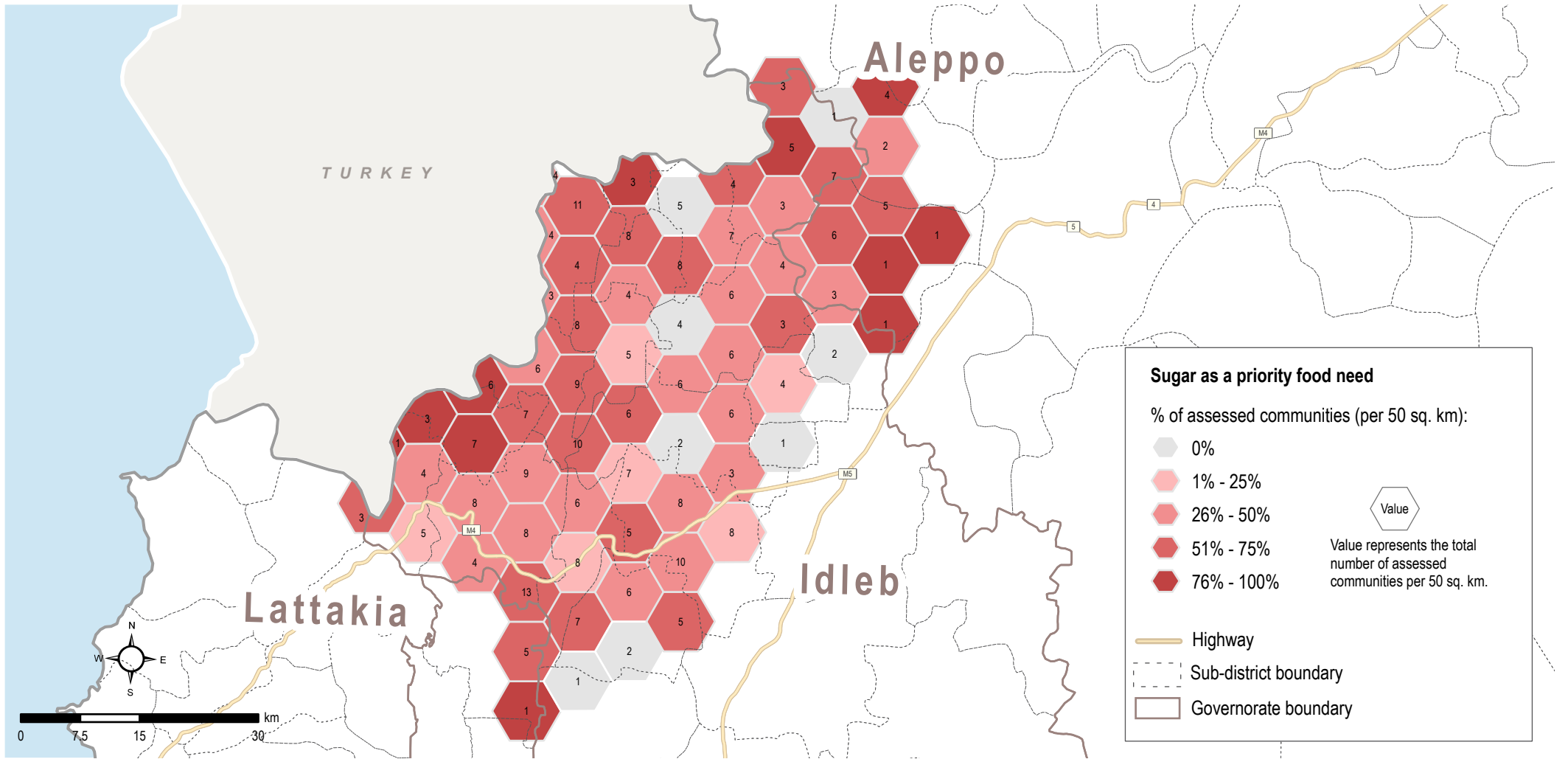
- 1 Relying on less preferred food / lower **79%**
- 2 Borrowing money to buy food **78%**
- 3 Buying food with money usually used for other things **58%**



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 97% of assessed communities) ^{4,11}

Commonly reported **sources of food** for households, other than markets (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

- 1 Own production or farming **50%**
- 2 Relying on food stored previously **36%**
- 3 Assistance from local council or NGOs **19%**



Note on the map
 This map shows the percentage of assessed communities where sugar was reported as a priority food need.



Access to Basic Services



Access to Electricity

7-8 hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 29% of assessed communities)

Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 57% of assessed communities)

44%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **the main network is partially or completely not functioning** as a barrier for electricity access



Access to Water

51%

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



7 days 13%
5-6 days 16%
3-4 days 17%
1-2 days 4%
0 days 50%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 326 communities connected to a water network) ♦

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 43% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

35%

% 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)

44%
19%
19%

Paid private waste collection
Free public waste collection
Waste burnt

40%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported waste removal services as a WASH priority need ⁸



Access to Markets

9%

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

Not enough consumers to support markets in the assessed location

was the most commonly reported **reason for why markets were not functioning** (reported by KIs in 91% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

68%

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



Access to Health Services

38%

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

Most commonly reported health priority needs (by % of assessed communities) ⁸

50%
45%
41%

Paediatric consultations
Treatment for chronic diseases
First aid or emergency care

Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 89% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

24%
39%

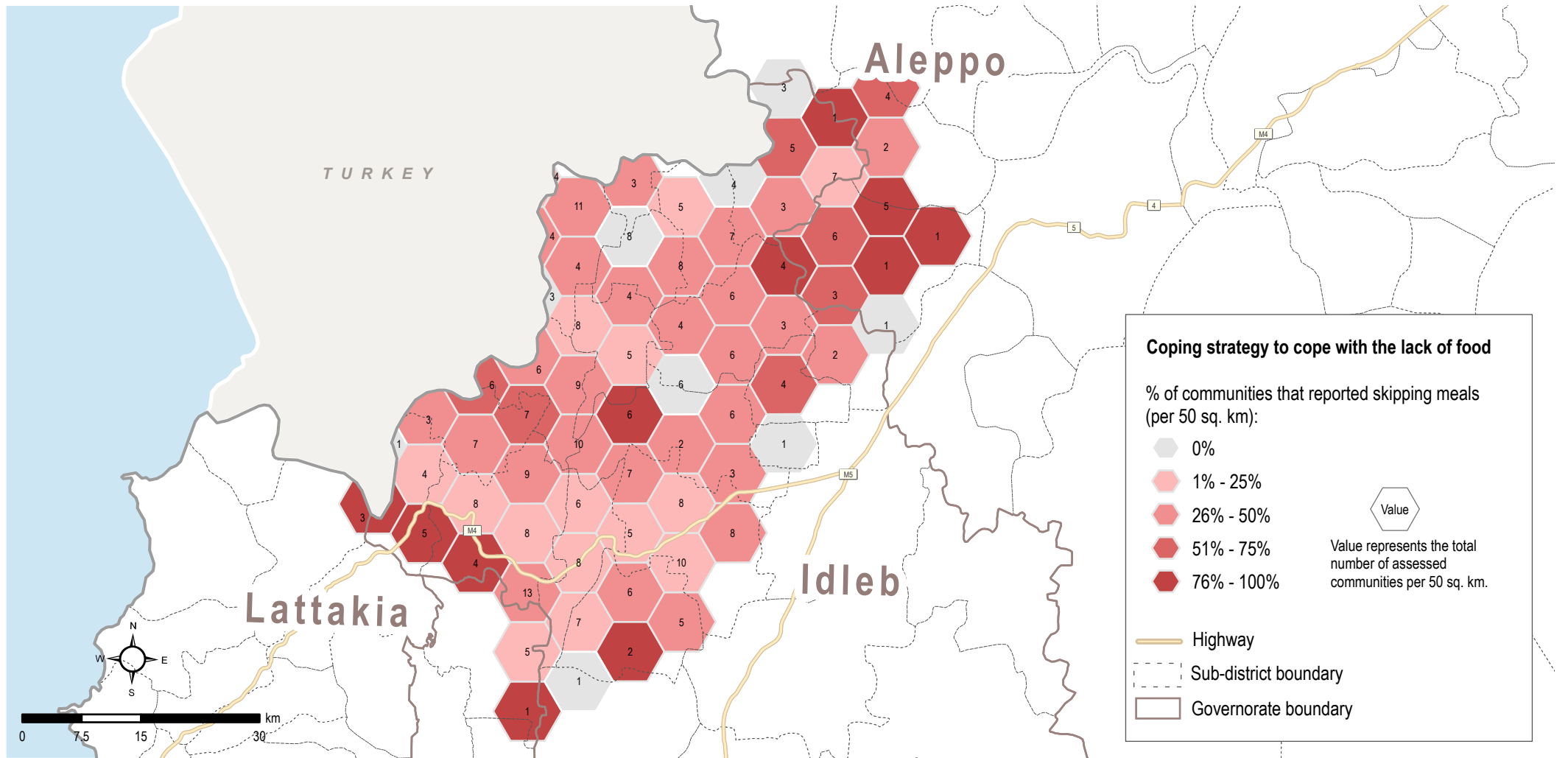
% of communities in which half or less of the school aged-children accessed school in the last 30 days for **residents and IDPs**

90% In person
9% Online
10% Not functioning

% of assessed communities where KIs reported on the **functioning of education services in the assessed**

19%

% of communities where KIs reported that **the lack of access to internet, electricity and/or equipment was a barrier to accessing (online) education**



Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of assessed communities where skipping meals was reported as a coping strategy for households who had to cope with a lack of food.



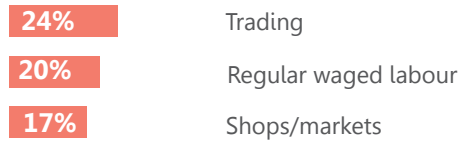
COVID-19

Effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods sectors in the community (by % of assessed communities)

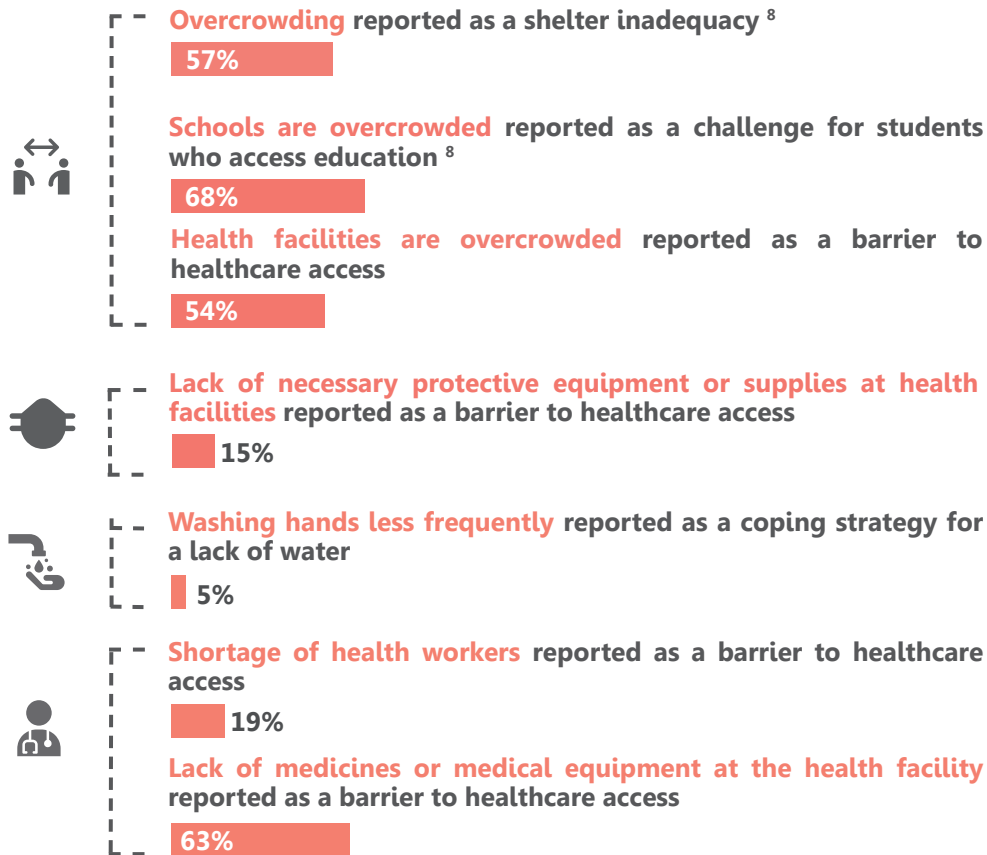


None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 73%
At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 27%

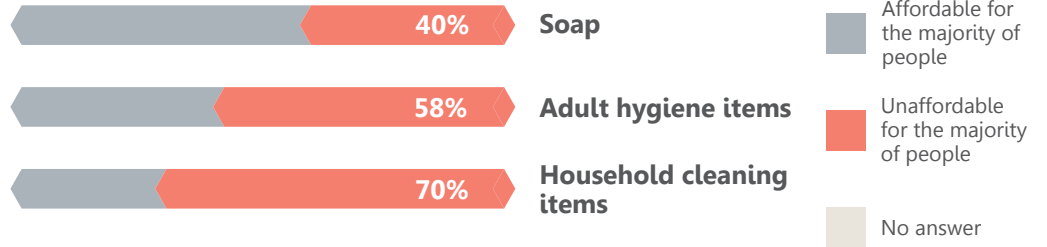
Most commonly reported sectors affected by COVID-19 (by % of assessed communities)



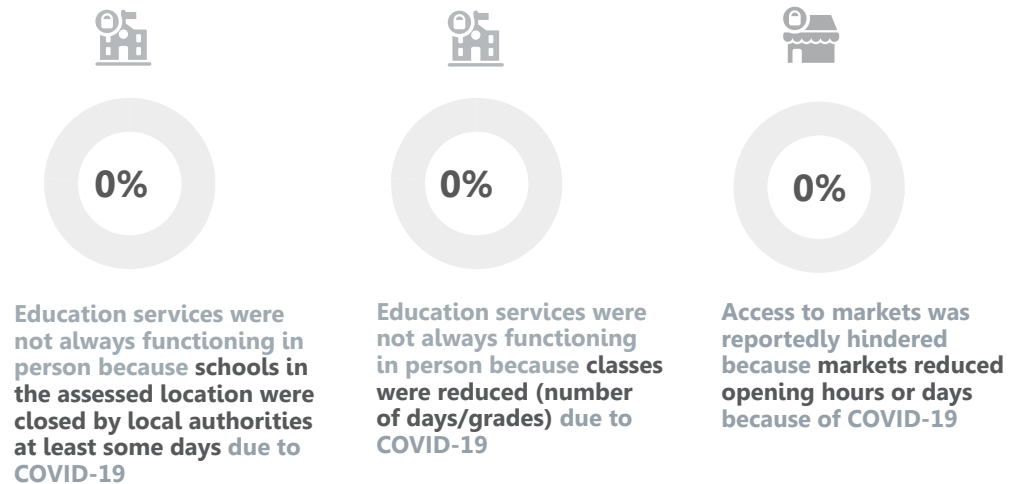
% of assessed communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported by KIs

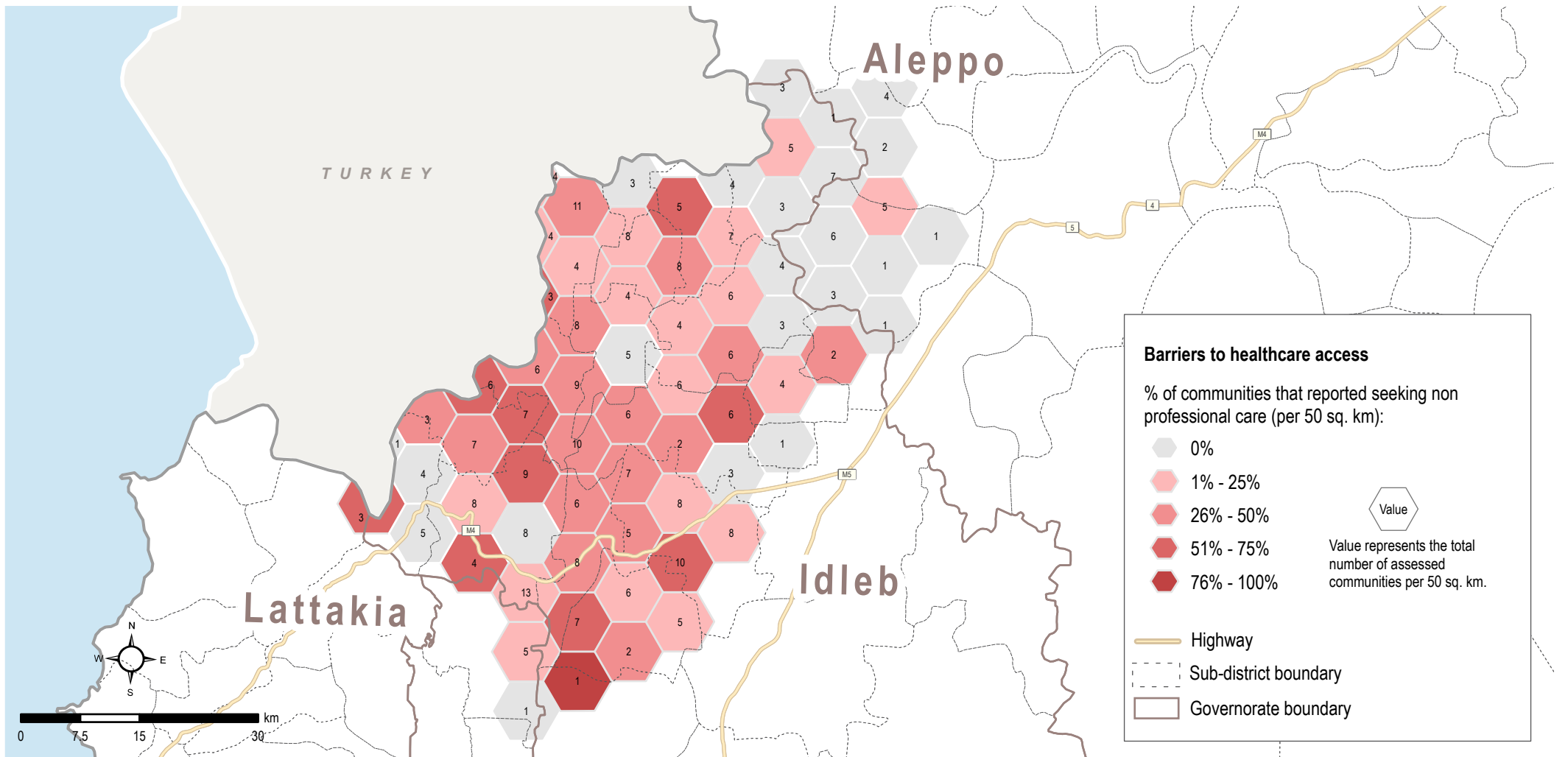


Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of assessed communities)¹²



% of assessed communities where COVID-19 related barriers to access services were reported





Note on the map
 This map shows the percentage of assessed communities where seeking non-professional care was reported.



Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in **4%** of assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **7%** of assessed communities

Markets not opening because of security issues was a reported barrier to markets not functioning in **0%** of assessed communities



Threat from airstrikes was reported as a protection risk in **87** communities⁸

Threat from shelling, snipers or gunfire was reported as a protection risk in **83** communities⁸

Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances was reported as a protection risk in **17** communities⁸

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **82** communities⁸



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **35%** of assessed communities⁸

Lack of lighting around the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **81%** of assessed communities⁸

The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **20%** of assessed communities



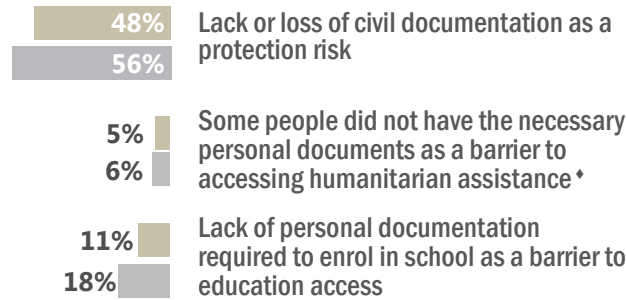
General safety and security concerns at the health facility was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **7%** of assessed communities

Most commonly reported protection priority needs (by % of assessed communities)^{3, 8}

- 1 **84%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 2 **51%** Specialised child protection services
- 3 **37%** Psychosocial support

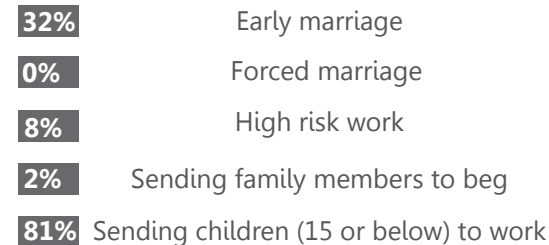


% of assessed communities where the lack of civil documentation for residents and IDPs was reported

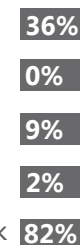


% of assessed communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported⁴

Residents



IDPs



Age, Gender, and Diversity

KIs in **54%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸

KIs in **37%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸

KIs in **19%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **44%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **5%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

Children below the age of 12 were reported as a group affected by child labour in **16%** of assessed communities⁸

Hazardous child labour was reported as a protection risk in **9%** of assessed communities⁸

Endnotes

1. The greater Idleb area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo western countryside, and parts of Hama northwestern countryside controlled by armed opposition groups (AOGs).
2. KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. The ranking shows the sectors most frequently chosen as either first, second or third highest priority. 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 three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
4. KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
5. KIs were asked about the situation at the time of data collection, instead of the last 30 days.
6. 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 Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) February 2022, 1 USD = 3,680 SYP; 1TRY= 272 SYP.
7. According to the Idleb Governorate JMMI February 2022, 1 USD = 3,680 SYP.
8. 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).
9. According to the Idleb Governorate JMMI February 2022, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 528,226 SYP.
10. 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).
11. KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.
12. Adult hygiene items include: shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Household cleaning items include: washing powder, liquid, and dish detergent.

◆ By number of communities where KIs reported the relevant indicator for the relevant population group(s)

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>
<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>		<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>	
Residents	367	Currency used for paying water	335
IDPs	351	Currency used for paying rent	280
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	300	Currency in which wages are paid (merge)	336
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	47	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	350
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	295	Days when water is available from network	326
Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	37	Barriers to markets functioning	34

Sources

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About REACH

REACH 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). For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org.