

# Aleppo Governorate, March 2018

## Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

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

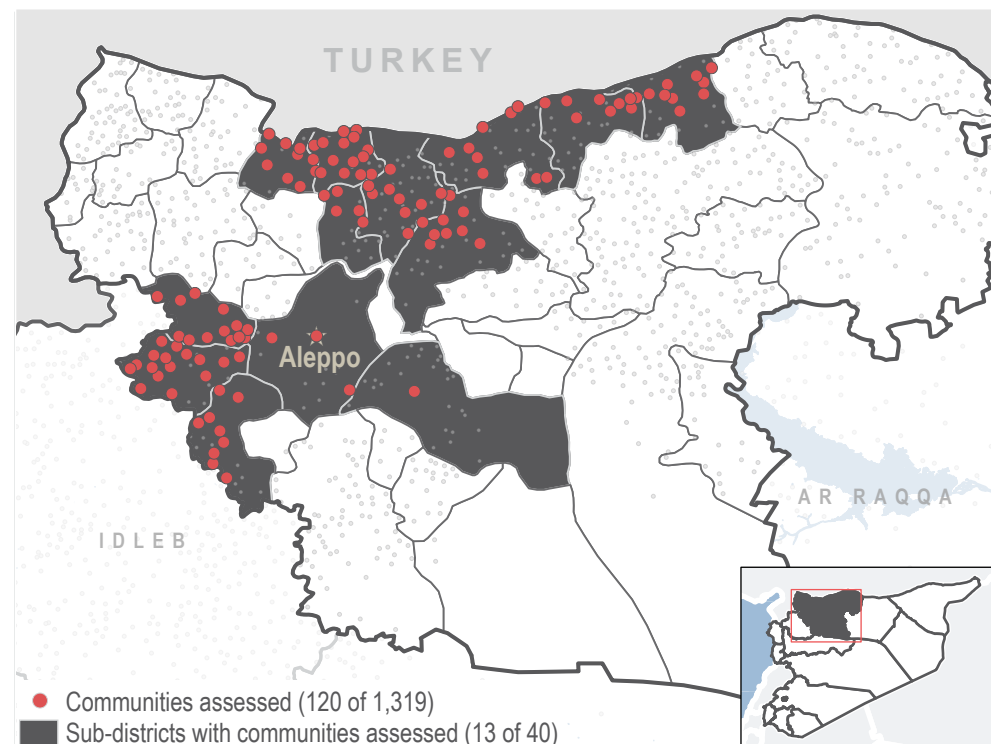
Aleppo governorate is located in northwest Syria and borders Turkey to the north. Following the cessation of hostilities in and around Aleppo City in December 2016, thousands spontaneously returned to their communities in 2017<sup>2</sup>. Conflict in the governorate intensified again in early 2018 and returnee numbers in assessed communities dropped significantly in January and February 2018. However, in March, **12** assessed communities experienced IDP returns (approximately **4,555** in total) and **9** communities experienced spontaneous refugee returns (approximately **1,340** in total). Please see the [IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative \(ISMI\) March 2018](#) monthly report for further analysis.

An estimated **357,835** IDPs were reportedly residing in assessed communities, with an additional **8,790** new arrivals reported in March. Bab Alsalamah, Kafr Naseh Elatareb and Talafeh all witnessed over **700** new arrivals, the largest amounts of the assessed communities. In the majority of assessed communities, pre-conflict populations and IDPs reportedly lived in independent apartments or houses (**99%** and **75%** respectively). Of the communities assessed, **78%** reported that generators were their primary source of electricity. Of the **120** assessed communities, **42** reported a lack of fuel and **81%** of these communities reported burning plastic as a coping strategy. Of the assessed communities, **75** reported that no health facilities were available in their community in March. Moreover, of the **120** assessed communities, **72** reported that women primarily delivered babies in facilities in nearby communities, and only **9** of the assessed communities reported having functioning pre-conflict hospitals.

The water network was the primary source of drinking water reported by **42%** of the assessed communities in Aleppo in March. The majority of the assessed communities that responded reported that water was fine to drink while four communities, Shar-aar, As-Safira, Jamel and Bayada – Aq Burhan reported that the water tastes and smells bad. Additionally, **42** of the assessed communities, primarily in A'zaz and Jebel Saman districts, reported having an insufficient amount of water to cover household needs. Residents in these communities reported coping with this lack of water by modifying hygiene practices and reducing drinking water consumption.

Of the assessed communities, **82%** reported that some residents were producing their own food and **75%** of the assessed communities reported that farm ownership was one of the most common sources of income for residents. However, **65** of the assessed communities reported difficulties in accessing sufficient amounts of food, most commonly some food items being too expensive as well as a lack of resources to buy available food. This suggests that while residents in the majority of assessed communities utilize farming as a means of obtaining food and income, food and income generated by agricultural activities may not always suffice to cover essential needs. As a result, **84%** of the assessed communities reported using coping strategies to deal with a lack of income and **52%** of these assessed communities reported that some children<sup>3</sup> were being sent to work or beg.

### Coverage



### Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Healthcare
2. Food security
3. Water security

### Demographics\*

**3,570,540** people in need

**1,756,706** **1,813,834**

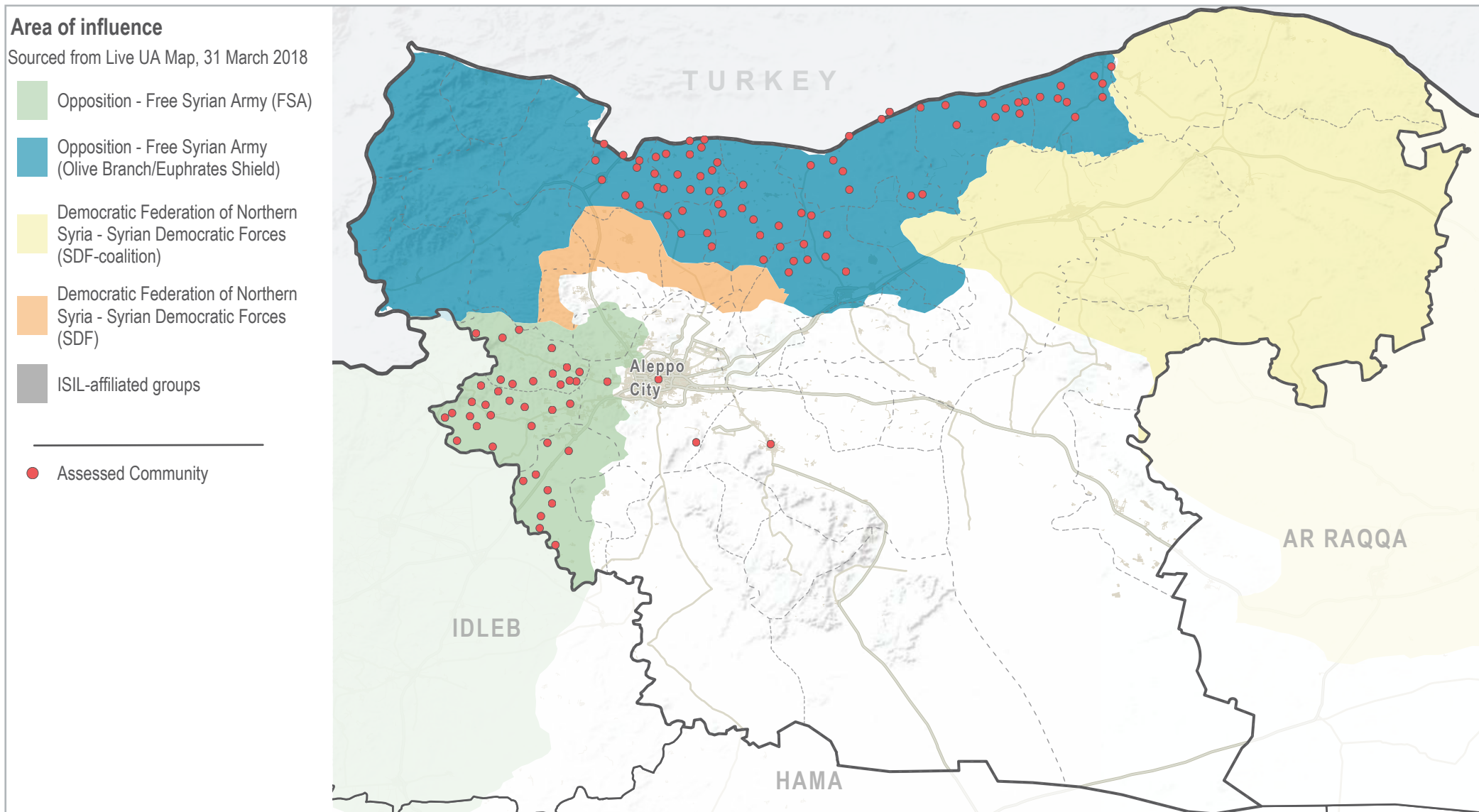
\* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

### KEY EVENTS

Tensions continue to mount between Kurdish and Turkish forces in the Afrin area <sup>4</sup> .	Thousands displaced in the Afrin area due to an intensification in conflict <sup>5</sup> .	Operation "Olive Branch" commences in the Afrin area <sup>6</sup> .	More than 50,000 students across 318 schools, 16 institutes and one university are unable to attend school in Afrin <sup>7</sup> .	212,724 individuals return to 287 communities in rural areas and 354,682 individuals return to Aleppo city <sup>8</sup> .	Water cut in Afrin town due to conflict prohibiting local workers access to the main dam controls <sup>9</sup> .
July 2017 onward	Mid-January 2018 onward	20 January 2018	February 2018	February 2018	Mid-March 2018

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## Governorate areas of influence:



# Aleppo Governorate, March 2018

## DISPLACEMENT

**8,023 - 9,557** Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in March.

**5,500 - 6,290** Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in March<sup>2</sup>.

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

Talafeh	<b>1,000 - 1,200</b>
Bab Alsameh	<b>750 - 849</b>
Kafr Naseh Elatareb	<b>700 - 750</b>

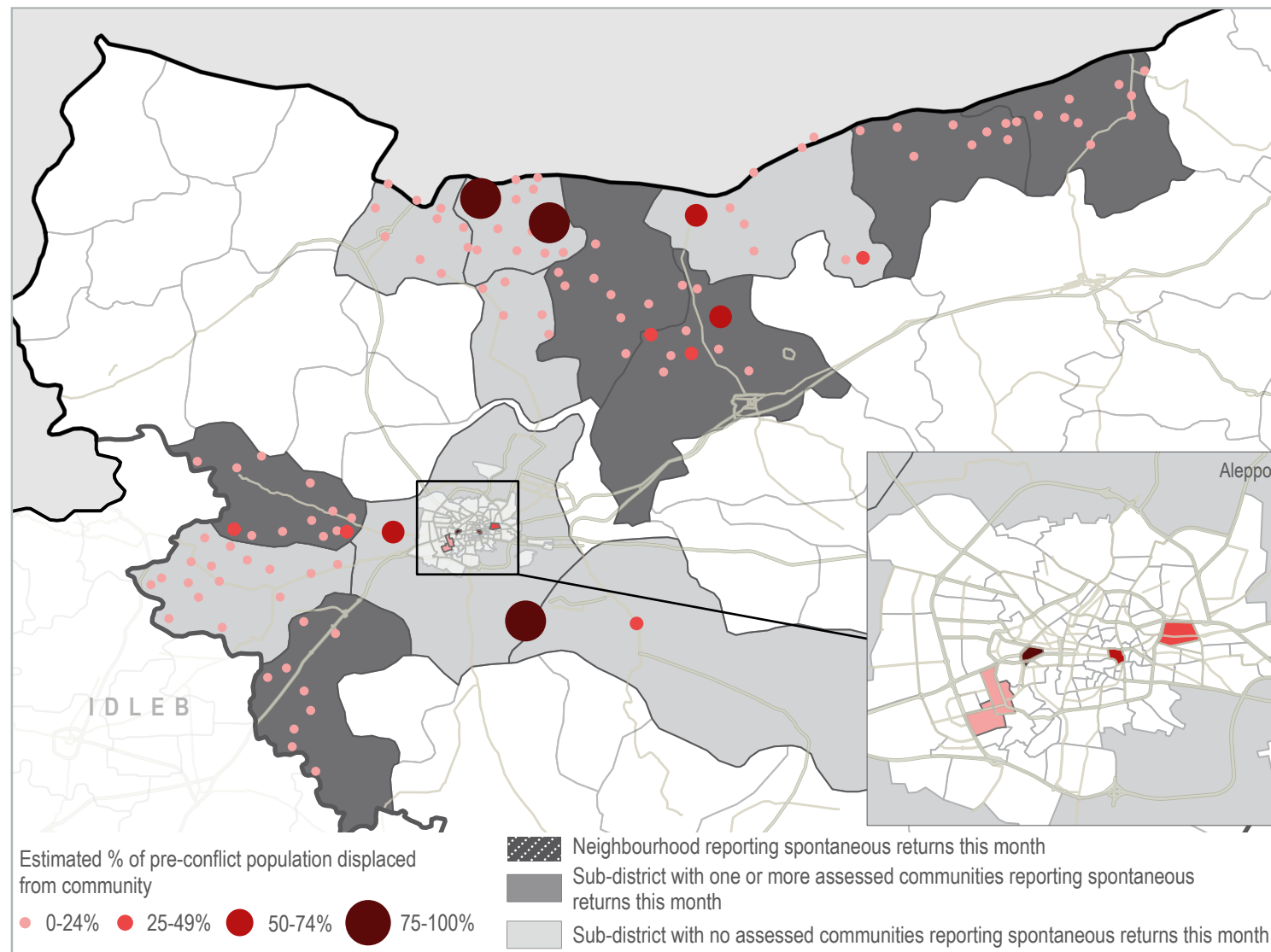
### Top 3 subdistricts of origin of most IDPs arrivals<sup>3,4</sup>:

Abul Thohur	20%
Sharan	14%
Tall Ed-daman	12%

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

Loss of income	79%
Escalation of conflict	50%
Opening of borders	25%

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



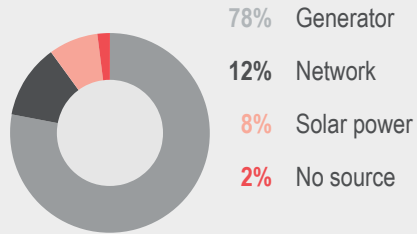
<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

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

# Aleppo Governorate, March 2018

## SHELTER AND NFI

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



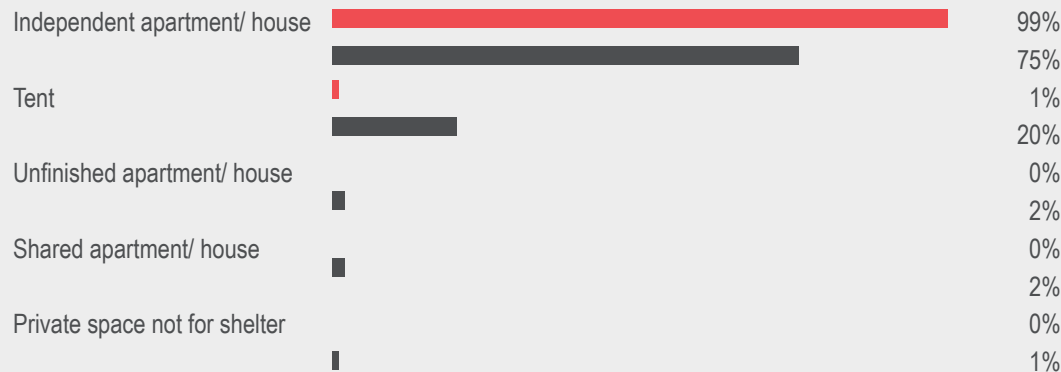
76 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining 42 assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:



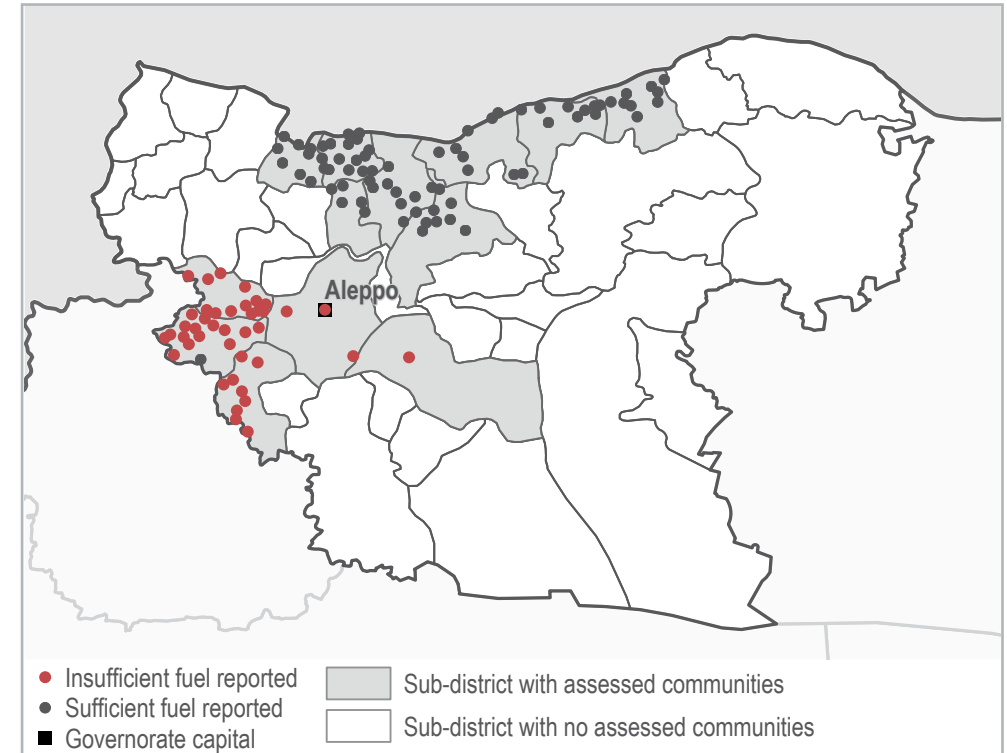
**9,731 SYP** Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.<sup>5</sup>

**6,730 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 March:	Governorate average price in February:	Syrian average price in March:
Coal (1 kilogram)	158	70	333
Diesel (1 litre)	287	331	346
Butane (1 canister)	9,676	9,128	7,521
Firewood (1 tonne)	62,397	74,042	60,850

<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 March 2018)

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## HEALTH

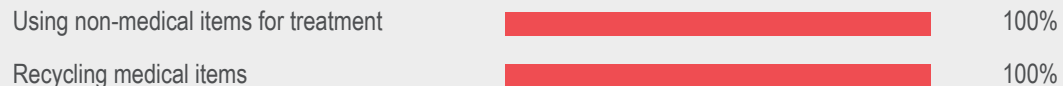
**41** Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.

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

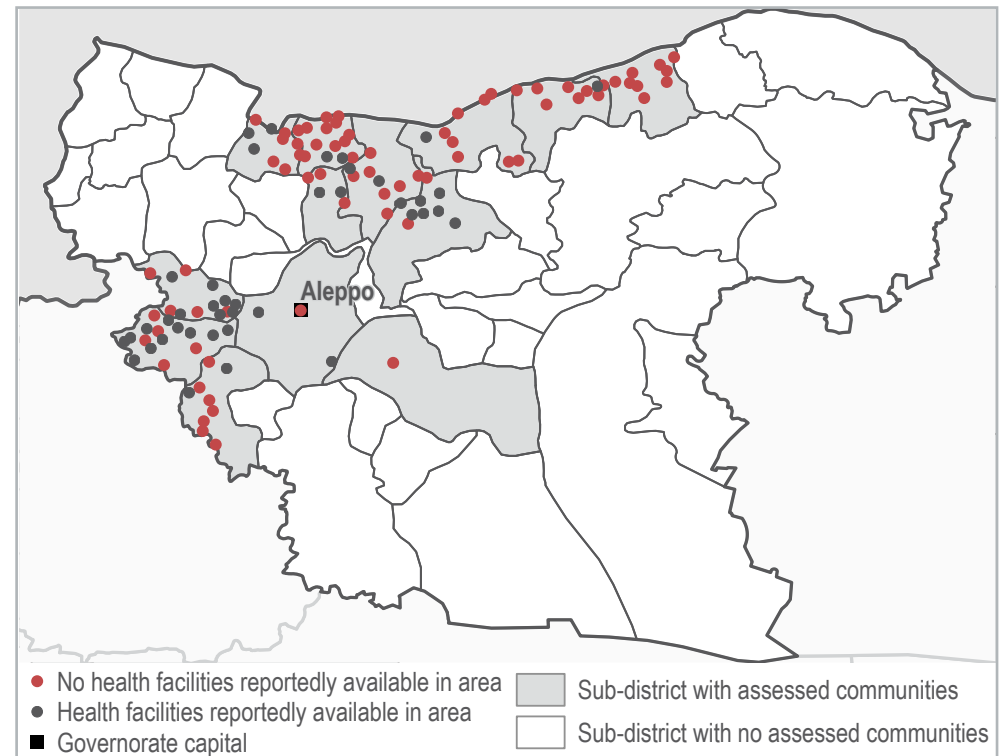
**34** communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining **86** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



**118** communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies. The coping strategies used in the remaining **2** 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%
Surgical care	28%
Antenatal care	26%

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

Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	67%
Acute respiratory infections	44%
Chronic diseases	43%

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

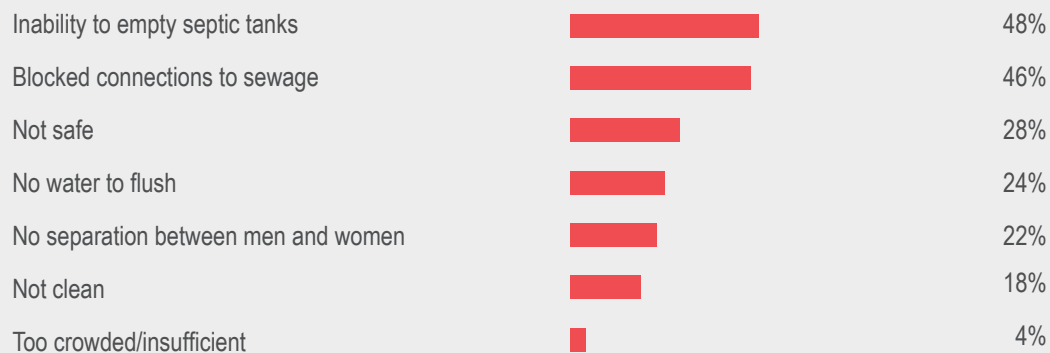
<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

# Aleppo Governorate, March 2018

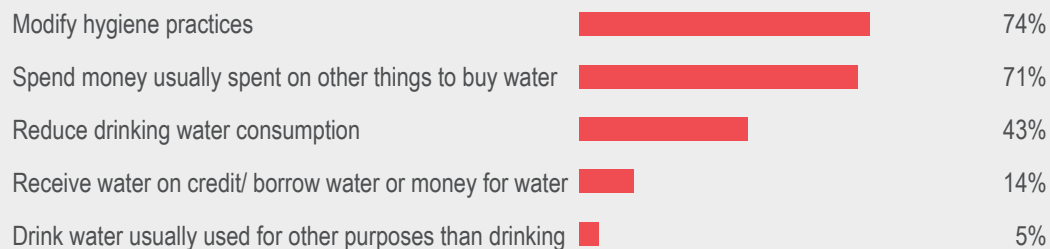


- 4** Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 0** Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

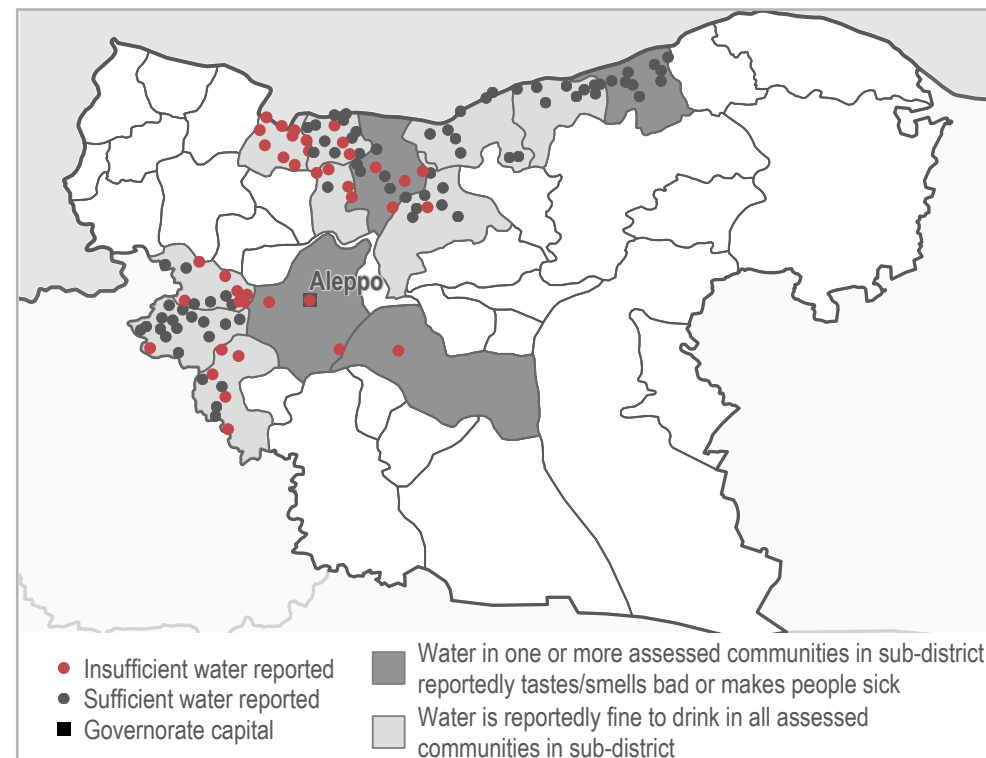
**70 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 50 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:**



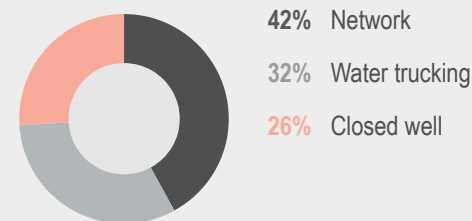
**78 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 42 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:**



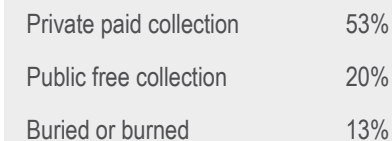
## Water sufficiency for household needs:



## 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.

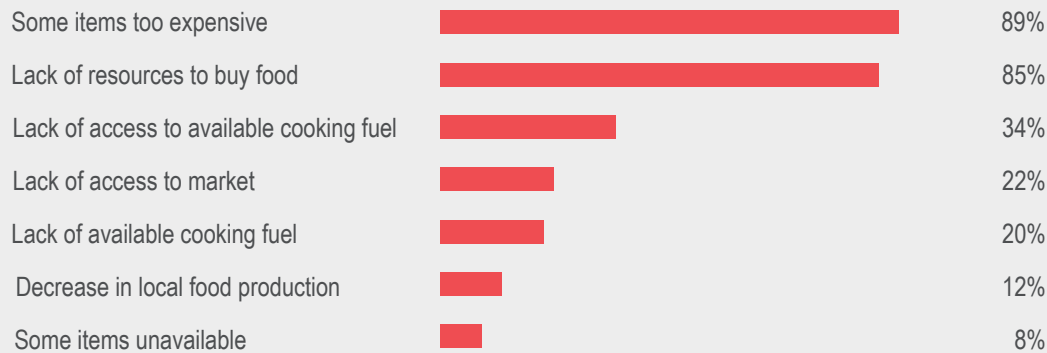
<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

# Aleppo Governorate, March 2018

## FOOD SECURITY

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

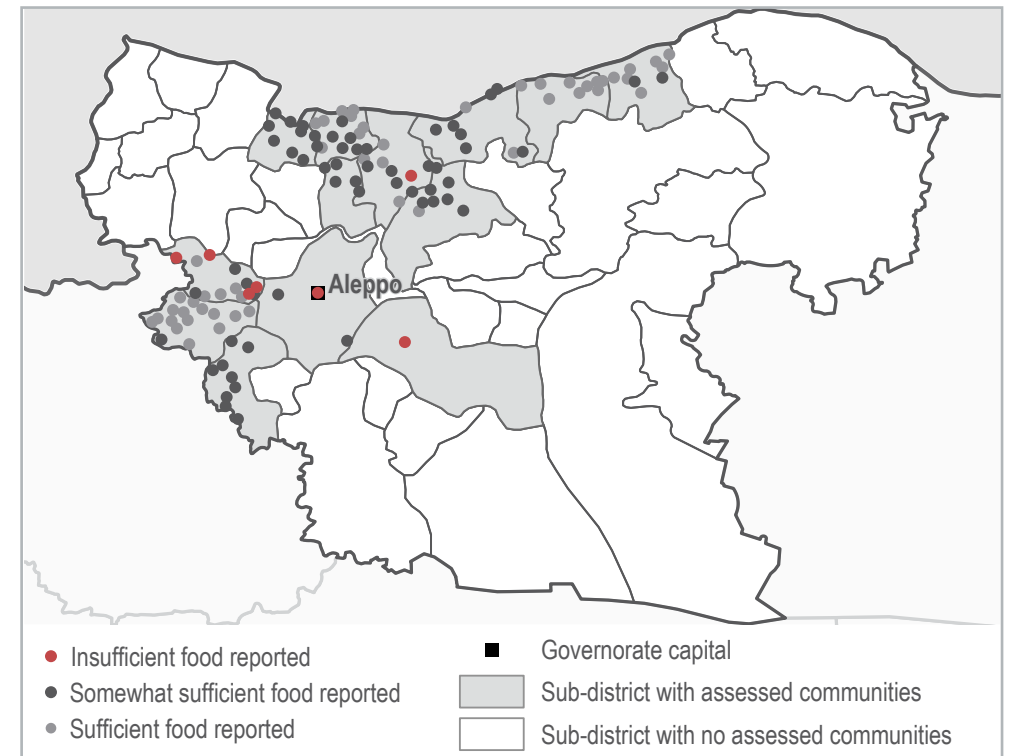
**55** communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **65** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



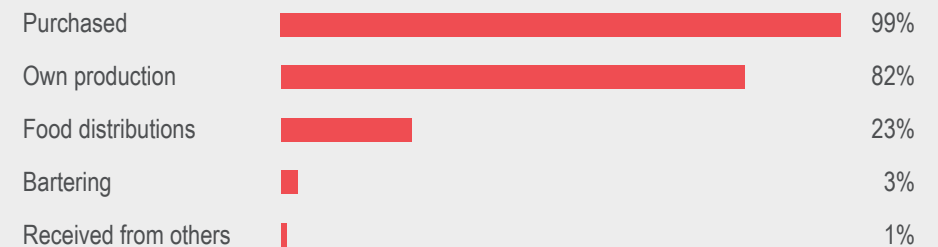
### Core food item prices reported (in SYP)<sup>5</sup>:

Food item:	Governorate average price in March:	Governorate average price in February:	Syrian average price in March:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	106	115	117
Rice (1 kilogram)	437	469	472
Lentils (1 kilogram)	336	348	367
Sugar (1 kilogram)	337	356	350
Cooking oil (1 litre)	509	494	590

### 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 March 2018)

# Aleppo Governorate, March 2018

## LIVELIHOODS

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

**24,588 SYP** Governorate average food basket price<sup>5,6</sup>.

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

**18** 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 **98** 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.

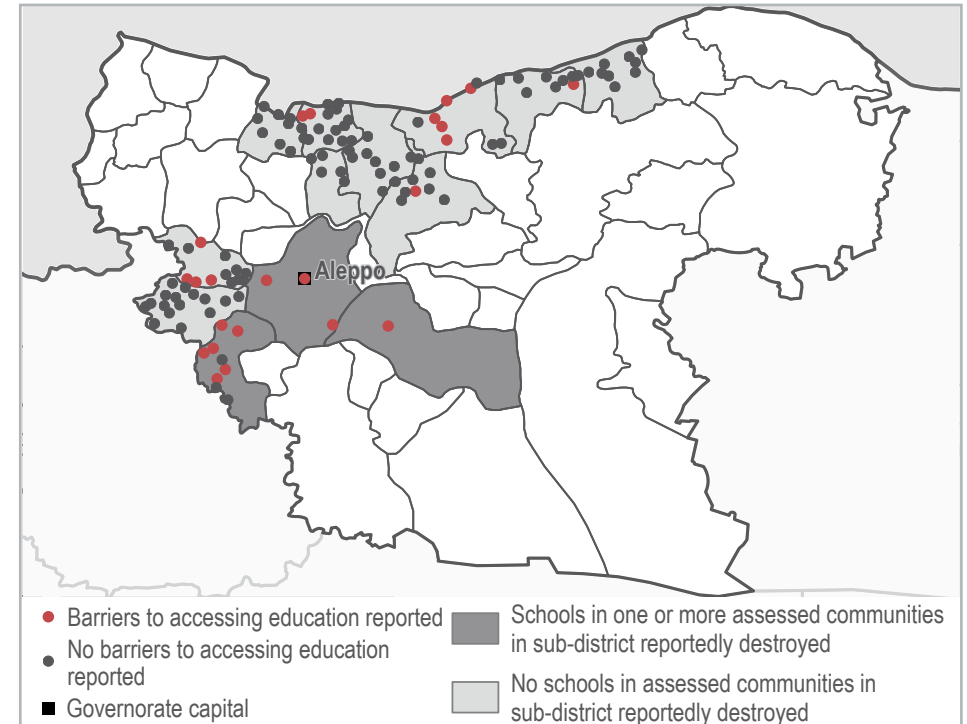
<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

<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:



**95** communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **25** 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 120 communities in April 2018, referring to the situation in Aleppo Governorate in March 2018. 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> Ali and Clark (31 July 2017). Turkish-backed forces encroach on Kurdish-held northern Syria amid rising tensions. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR (24 January 2018). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 24 January 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>6</sup> Aljazeera (21 January 2018). Turkey's troops cross over into Syria's Afrin. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com>.

<sup>7</sup> Ibrahim and Edelman (26 February 2018). Turkish-backed offensive on Afrin leaves 50,000 students out of school. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

<sup>8</sup> World Health Organisation (1 March 2018). Health Cluster Weekly Situation Report: Whole of Syria, Week 9 (23 February - 1 March 2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>9</sup> Reuters (20 May 2018). Syria's Afrin cut off from water, thousands displaced, (14 March 2018). Retrieved from <https://reuters.com>.

## 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.