

# Hama Governorate, January 2018

## Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

**REACH** Informing more effective humanitarian action

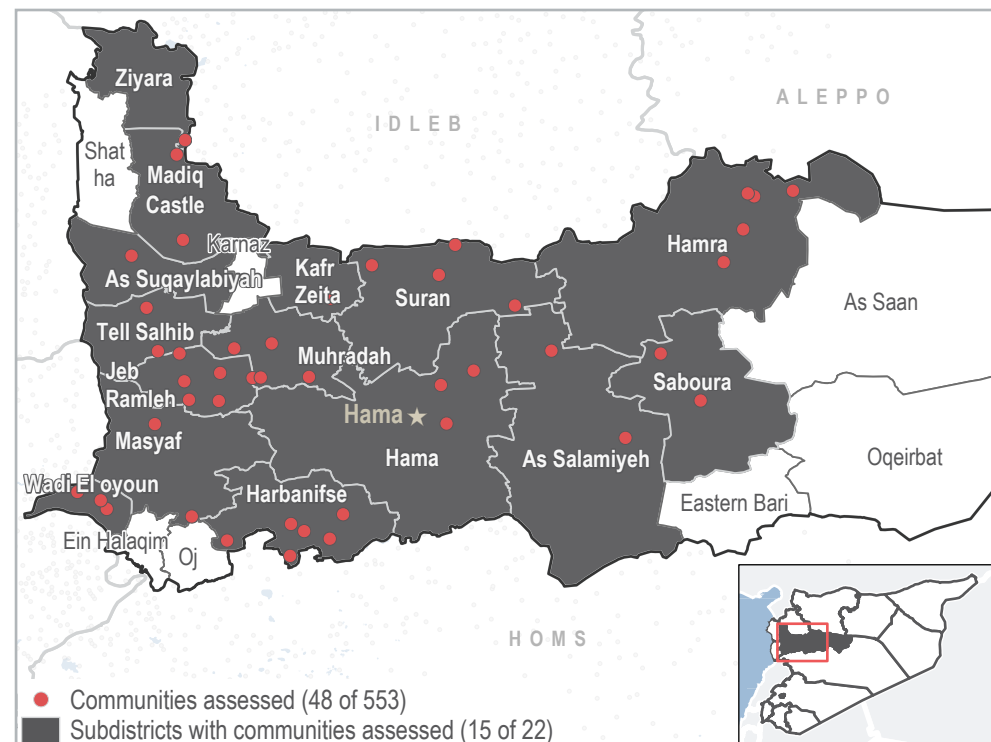
### OVERALL FINDINGS<sup>1</sup>

An offensive against the group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in late August 2017, followed by a rapid escalation in conflict in northern Hama in mid-September, resulted in mass displacement, both within and out of the governorate to neighbouring Idleb. Of the 48 communities assessed, **31** reported that some members of their pre-conflict population left their community in January 2018. Of these communities, **77%** reported that pre-conflict population departures were triggered by escalated conflict. Despite ongoing conflict in the governorate, one community, Abi Al Fedaa, witnessed spontaneous refugee and IDP returns, approximately **300 – 500** in total<sup>2</sup>. Refugees reportedly returned due to a perceived cessation of hostilities and access to employment in their community of origin, as well as protection concerns such as discrimination, abuse or harassment in their former host country. IDPs reportedly returned due to access to employment in their community of origin as well as a lack of economic opportunity in host communities. IDPs were reportedly present in **four** communities, and the largest number of IDPs, approximately **7,250**, was reported in Talaf. **One** of these communities, Mahruseh, reported that some IDPs left the community in January due to escalated conflict and a loss of income. Conversely, Mahruseh as well as Sindyana and Kanfo, reported IDP arrivals in January. While members of the pre-conflict population most commonly lived in independent apartments or houses owned prior to the conflict, IDPs reportedly most commonly lived in shared houses and apartments.

Out of the 48 communities assessed, **seven** reported that the most common type of shelter lived in by members of the pre-conflict population were collective public spaces not designed for shelter. **All seven** reported that no rooms were available for rent, indicating a shortage of adequate shelter. The average reported rent price in Hama governorate was **14,100 SYP**, **almost twice as high** as the Syrian average rent price. Of the communities assessed, **seven** reported having no electricity source in November, and **38** reported that community members were using strategies to cope with a lack of fuel. **Slightly less than half** of the assessed communities reported that water was insufficient, while **26** reported functional problems with their latrines. Of the assessed communities, **60%** reported that garbage was either buried, burned or left in the street or other public areas. Of these communities, **8** reported that water tasted or smelled bad, and **13** reported that diarrhoea was a common health concern. Malnutrition was the most commonly reported health problem across Hama governorate. Out of the 48 assessed communities, **35** reported barriers to accessing healthcare, **13** reported that none of the assessed medical items were available in their community in January, and **16** reported the use of coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies. These included recycling medical items, carrying out operations without anaesthesia and using non-medical items for treatment.

Of the communities assessed, **75%** reported that residents experienced barriers to accessing food, the most common being the high price of some food items. The governorate average food basket price, **28,606 SYP**, was the **second highest** (after Rural Damascus) across the 11 governorates assessed, and **57% or more** of the average household income. The sale of household assets was the most commonly cited source of income in Hama governorate, indicating a need for stable livelihood opportunities. Severe food coping strategies were reported in **2** communities, and children in **10** communities were reportedly sent to work or beg<sup>3</sup>. Only **24** communities reported that most children had access to education. Of the remaining **24** communities, none reported that children were able to attend educational facilities in nearby areas.

### Coverage



### Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Food security
2. Healthcare
3. Shelter

### Demographics\*

**1,466,242** people in need

**747,783** **718,459**

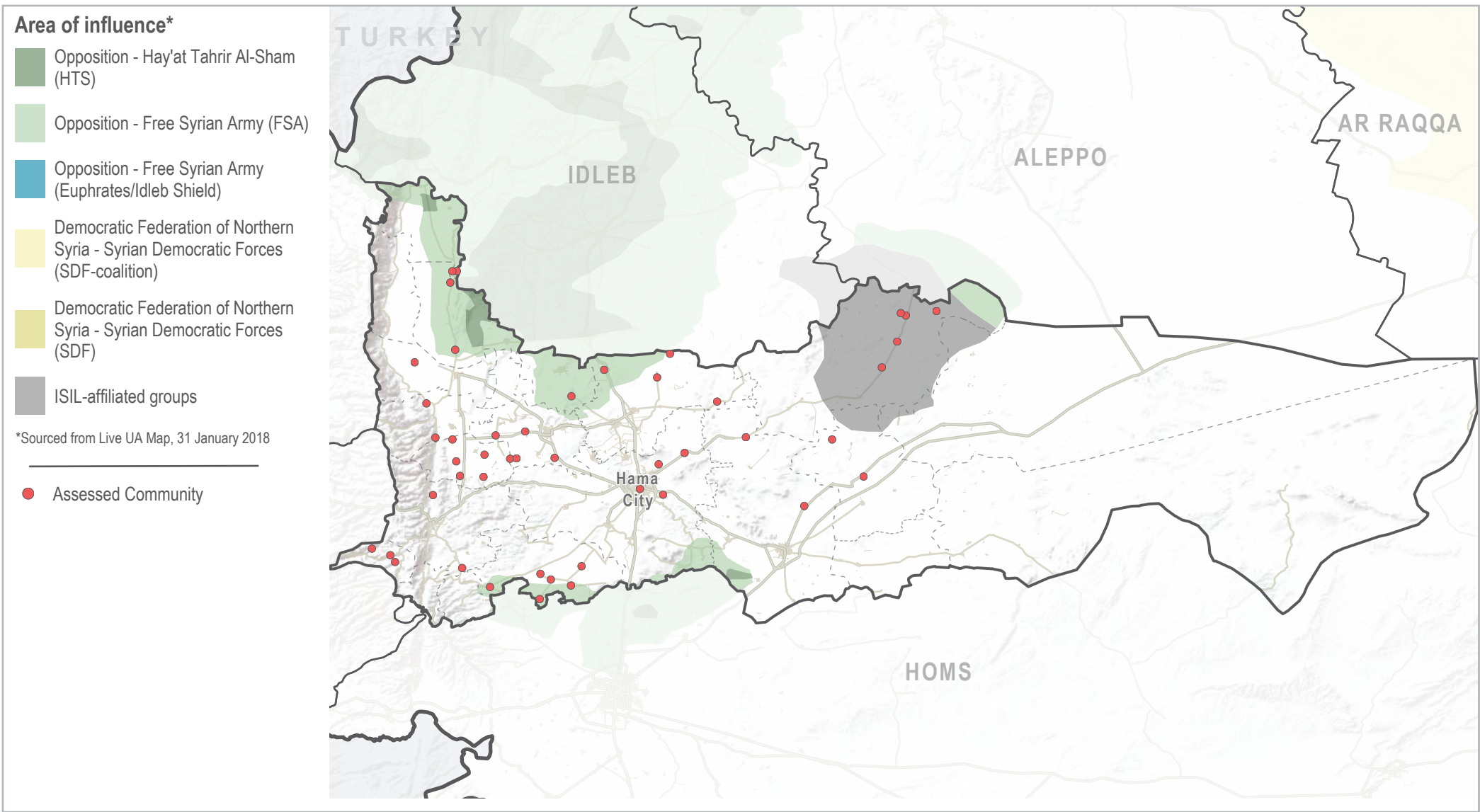
\* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

### KEY EVENTS

|                                                                                                                           |                                                                |                                                   |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                        |                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First Hama offensive launched north of Hama city, resulting in the displacement of over 40,000 individuals <sup>4</sup> . | Chemical weapons attack on hospital in Latamneh <sup>5</sup> . | ISIL comes under siege in Oqeirbat <sup>6</sup> . | Second Hama offensive launched north of Hama city, resulting in the displacement of over 120,000 individuals <sup>7</sup> . | Heavy fighting between opposition groups and regime forces in northern Hama countryside <sup>8</sup> . | ISIL-held pocket in northern Hama governorate continues to grow <sup>9</sup> . |
| 21 March                                                                                                                  | 30 March                                                       | 18 August                                         | 19 September                                                                                                                | 6 November                                                                                             | January 2018                                                                   |

# Hama Governorate, January 2018

## Governorate areas of influence:



# Hama Governorate, January 2018

## DISPLACEMENT

**150 - 275** Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in January.

**300 - 500** Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in January<sup>2</sup>.

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

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| Mahruseh | 50 - 125 |
| Kanfo    | 50 - 75  |
| Sindyana | 50 - 75  |

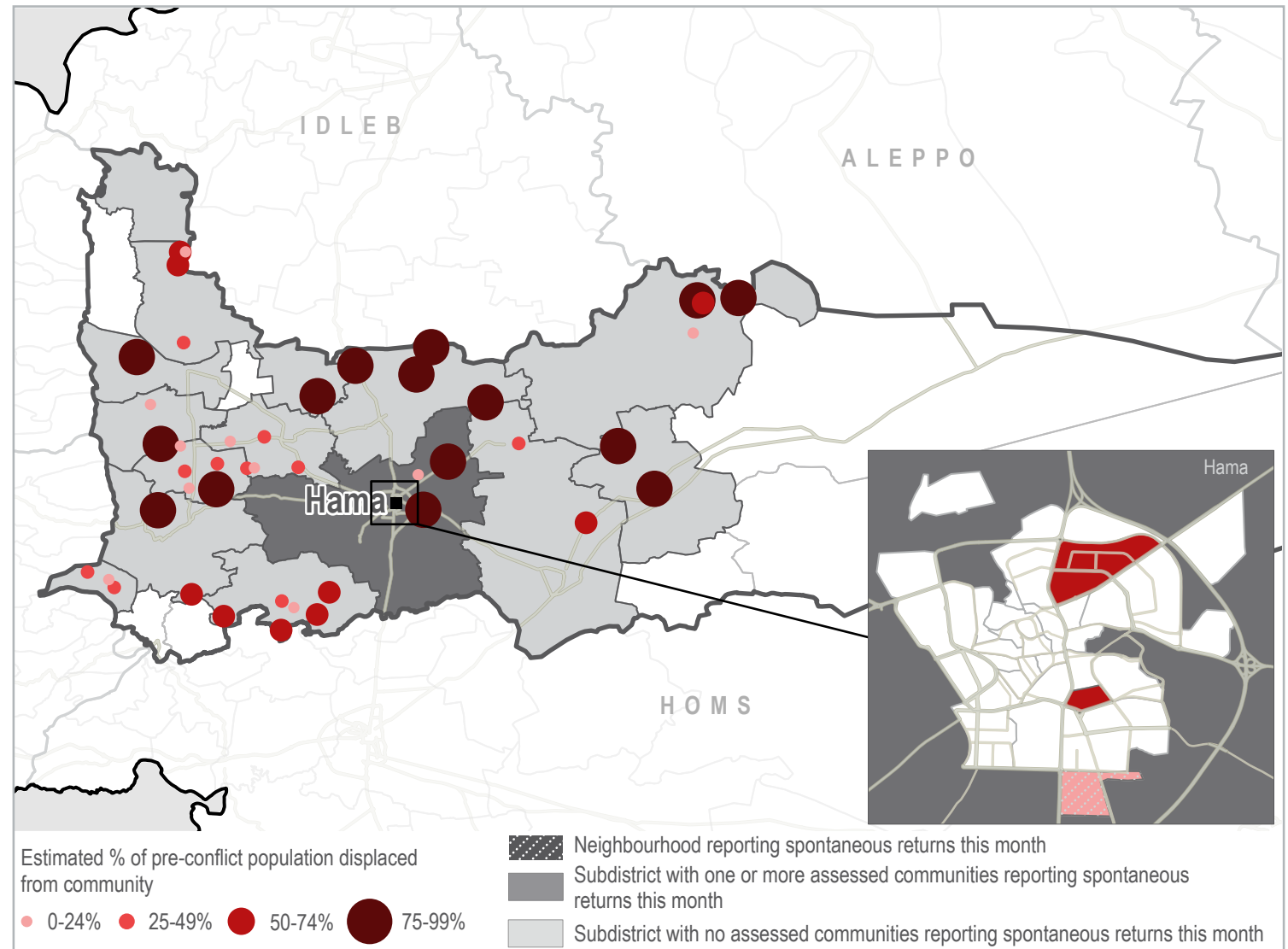
### Top 3 subdistricts of origin of most IDPs arrivals<sup>3,4</sup>:

No information  
No information  
No information

**17 communities reported no PCP departures.**  
**Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining 31 assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:**

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Escalation of conflict | 77% |
| Loss of income         | 55% |
| Loss of assets         | 29% |

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



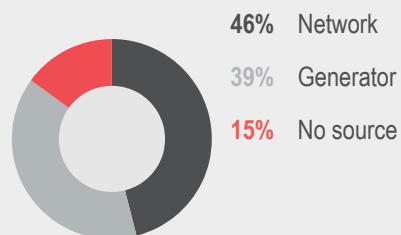
<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

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

# Hama Governorate, January 2018

## SHELTER AND NFI

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



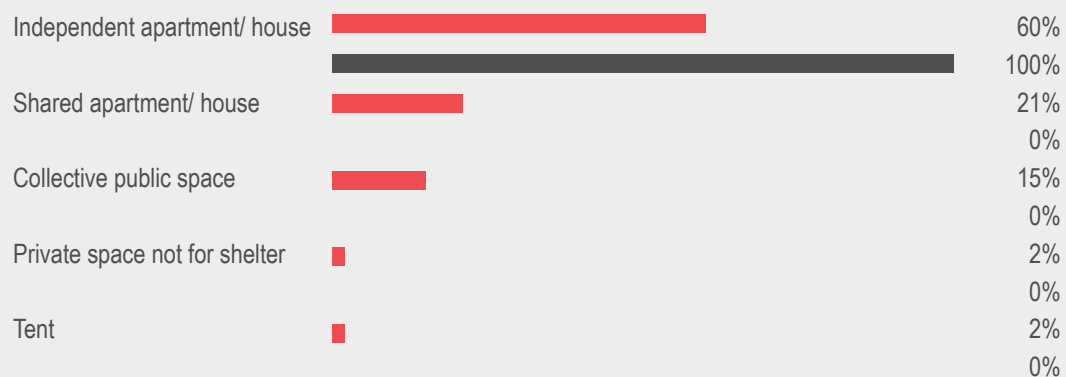
**8 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining 38 assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:**



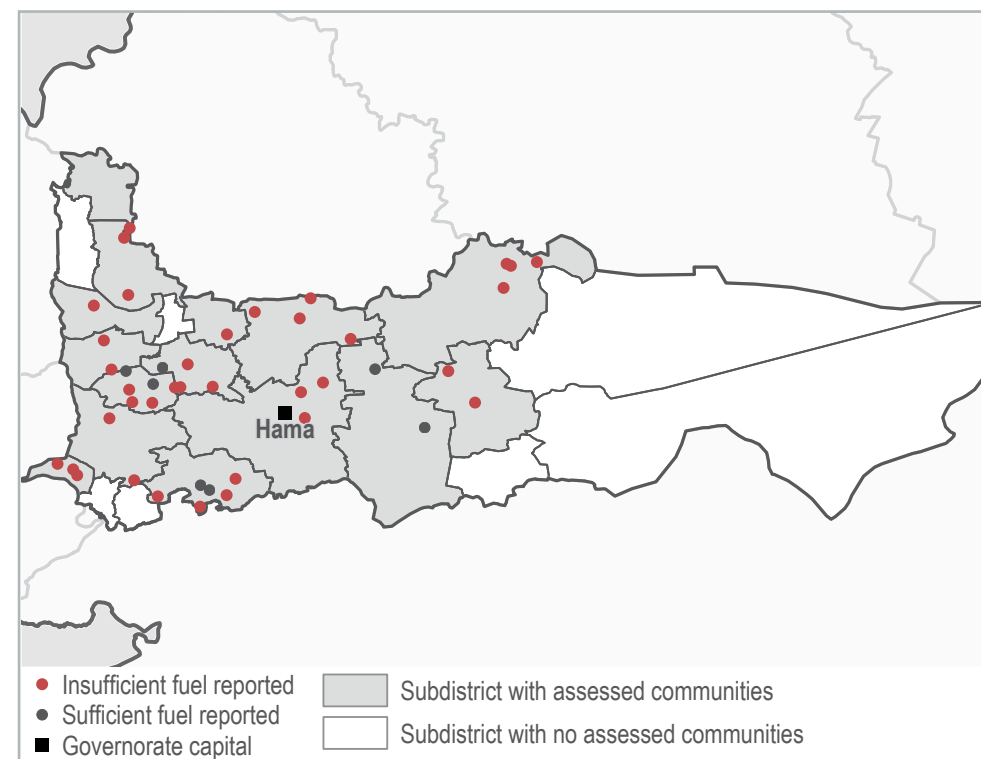
**14,100 SYP** Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.<sup>5</sup>

**7,482 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 January: | Governorate average price in December: | Syrian average price in January: |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Coal (1 kilogram)   | 347                                   | 343                                    | 325                              |
| Diesel (1 litre)    | 438                                   | 348                                    | 414                              |
| Butane (1 canister) | 6,093                                 | 6,415                                  | 6,060                            |
| Firewood (1 tonne)  | 55,036                                | 54,463                                 | 76,514                           |

<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 February 2018)

# Hama Governorate, January 2018



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

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

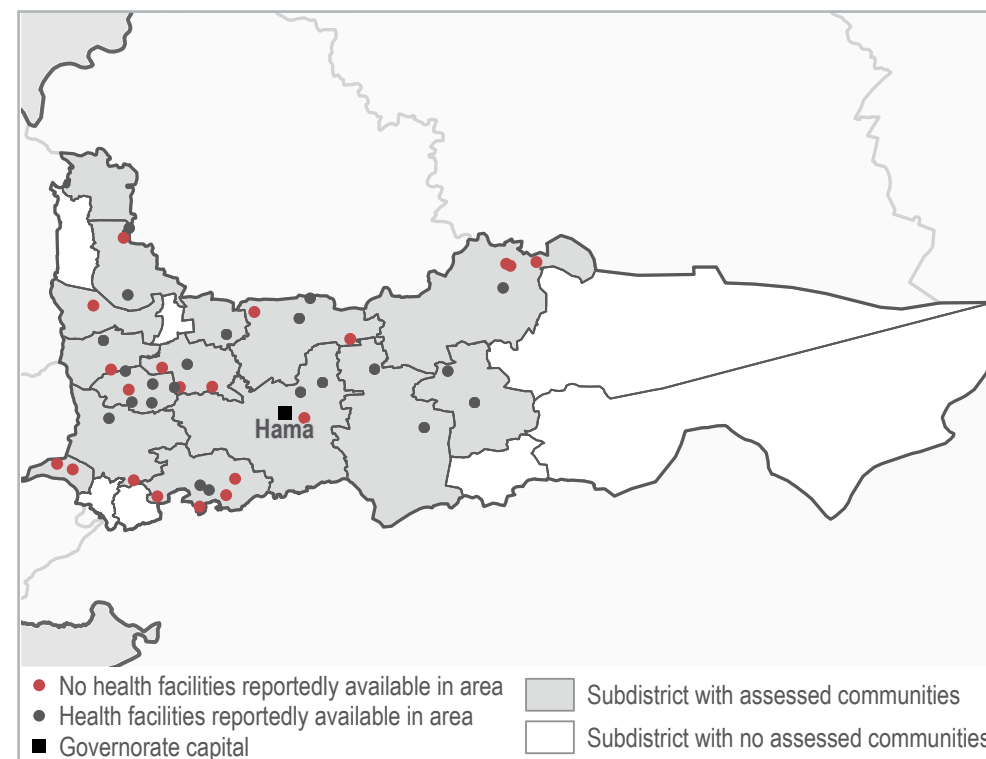
**11 communities** reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The most common barriers in the remaining **35 communities** reporting barriers were<sup>3,4</sup>:



**24 communities** reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies. The coping strategies used in the remaining **16 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  | 33% |
| Psychosocial support | 31% |
| Surgical care        | 27% |

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

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Malnutrition | 58% |
| Diarrhoea    | 40% |
| Injuries     | 27% |

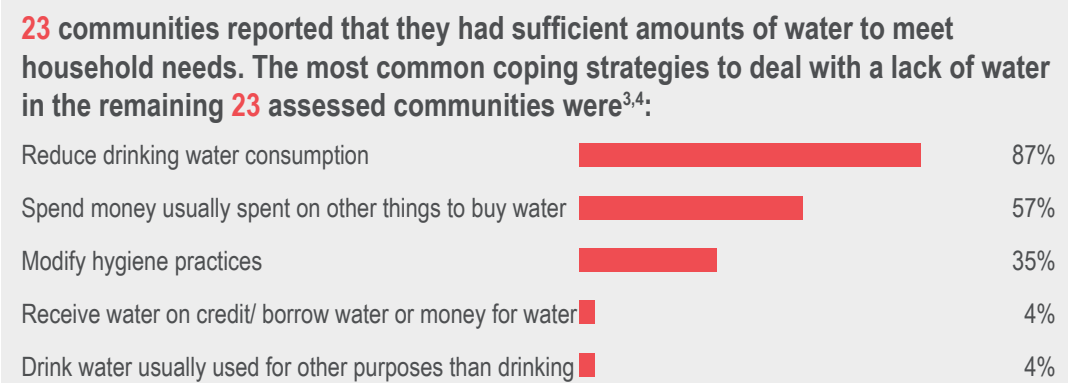
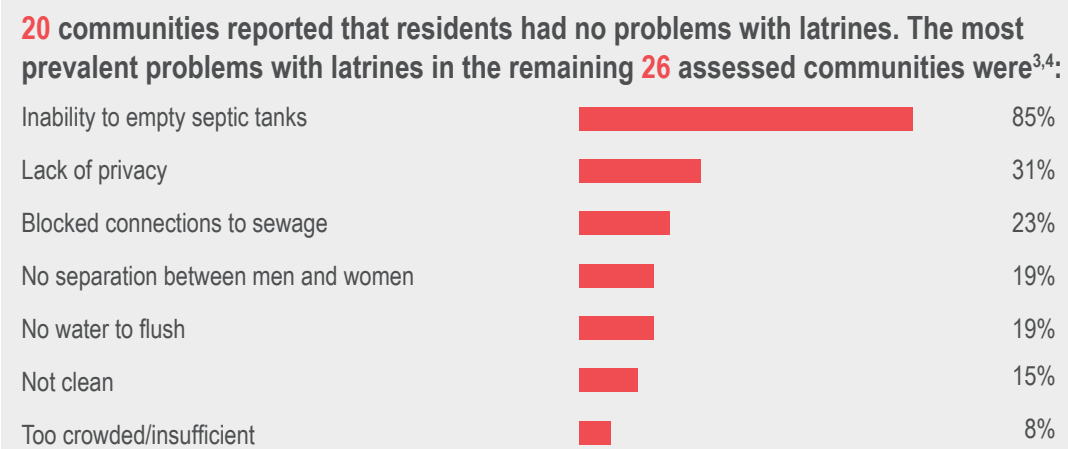
<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

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

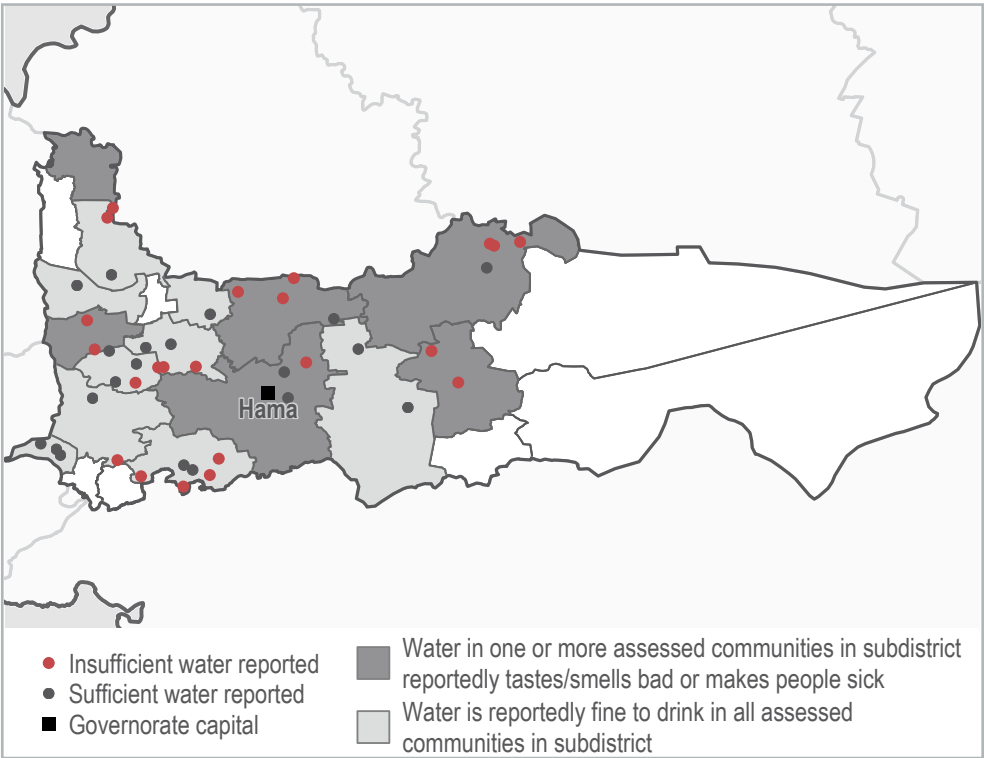
# Hama Governorate, January 2018



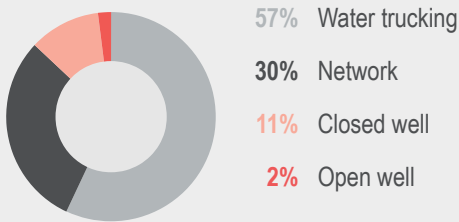
- 9 Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 0 Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.



## Water sufficiency for household needs:



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



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

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Buried or burned            | 51% |
| Disposed at designated site | 19% |
| Public free collection      | 10% |

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

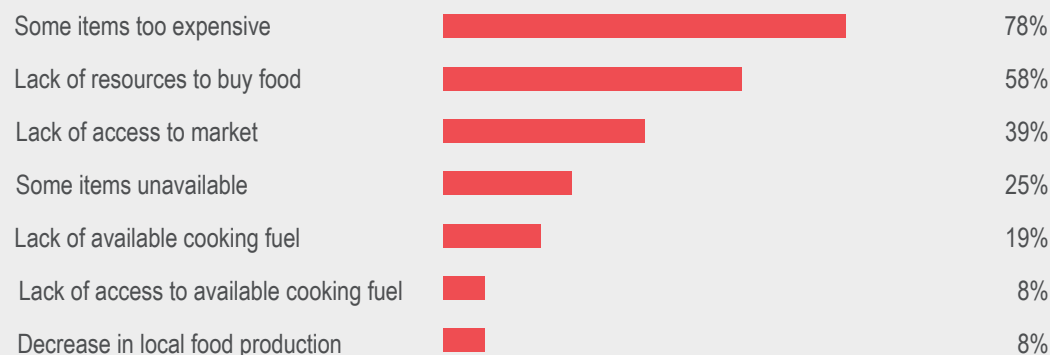
<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

# Hama Governorate, January 2018

## FOOD SECURITY

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

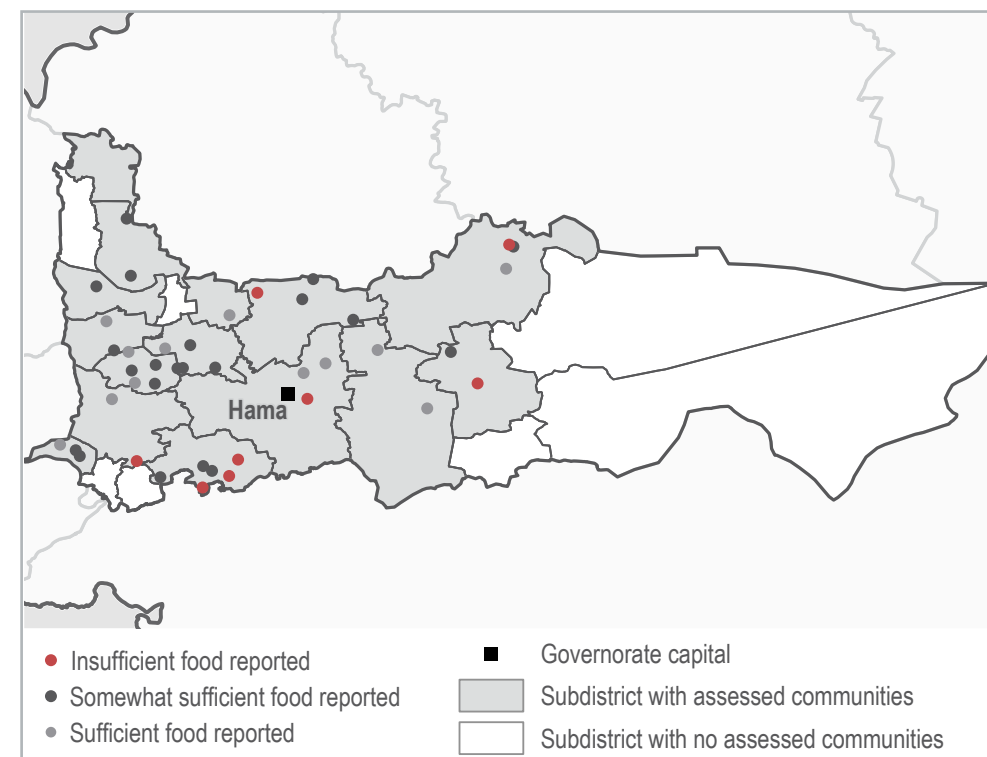
**9** communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **36** assessed communities reporting difficulties were<sup>3,4</sup>:



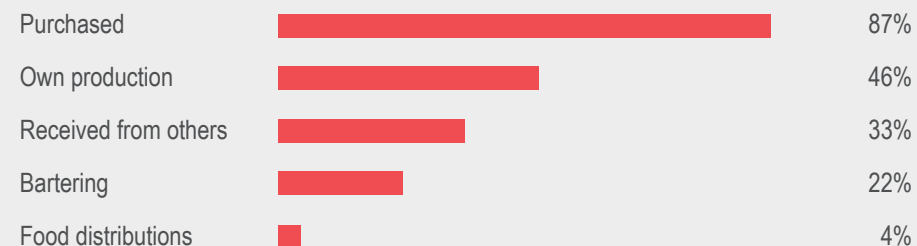
### Core food item prices reported (in SYP)<sup>5</sup>:

| Food item:                   | Governorate average price in January: | Governorate average price in December: | Syrian average price in January: |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bread public bakery (1 loaf) | 144                                   | 141                                    | 115                              |
| Rice (1 kilogram)            | 448                                   | 455                                    | 535                              |
| Lentils (1 kilogram)         | 413                                   | 471                                    | 416                              |
| Sugar (1 kilogram)           | 327                                   | 357                                    | 386                              |
| Cooking oil (1 litre)        | 607                                   | 553                                    | 669                              |

### 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 February 2018)

# Hama Governorate, January 2018

## LIVELIHOODS

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

**28606 SYP** Governorate average food basket price<sup>5,6</sup>.

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

**8** 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 **24** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Skip meals                        | 42% |
| Sell household assets             | 42% |
| Send children to work or beg      | 42% |
| Reduce meal size                  | 33% |
| Borrow money from family/ friends | 33% |

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

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Sale of household assets     | 40% |
| Stable / salaried employment | 40% |
| Unstable / daily employment  | 32% |
| Remittances                  | 32% |
| Farm ownership               | 21% |

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

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

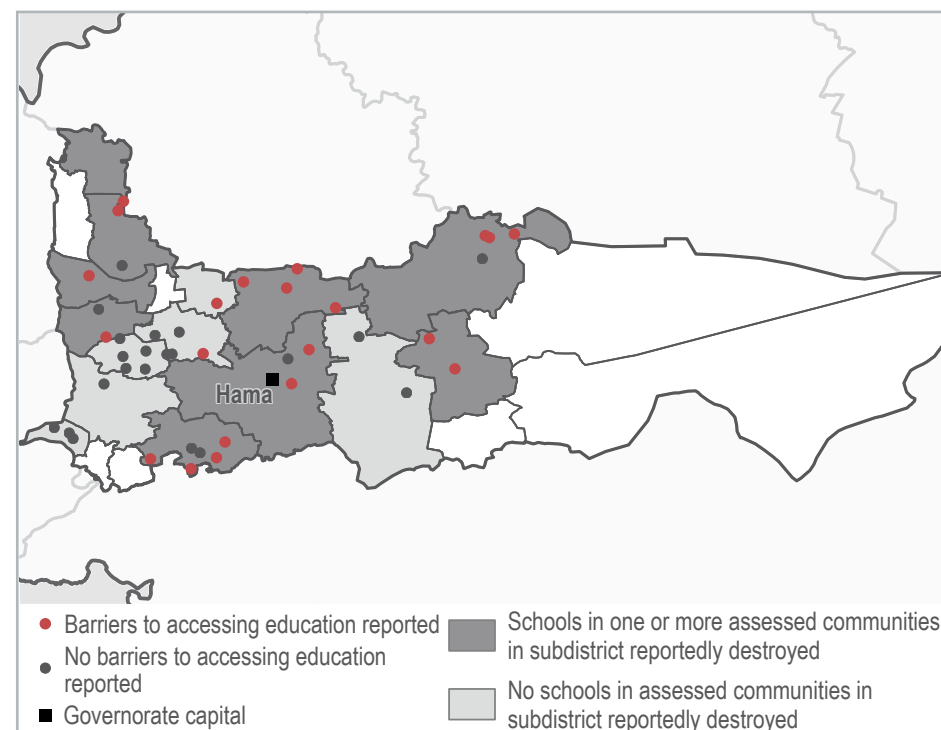
<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 February 2018)

<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:



**24** communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **21** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Lack of teaching staff    | 81% |
| Destruction of facilities | 71% |
| Lack of school supplies   | 19% |
| Routes to services unsafe | 5%  |
| Services are too far      | 5%  |

## 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 48 communities in February 2018, referring to the situation in Hama Governorate in January 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> Reuters (21 March 2017). Syrian rebels launch attack near Hama. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com>.

<sup>5</sup> Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (30 March 2017). Breaking: Chemical Weapons Attack in Latamneh, Hama Injures 70. Reliefweb. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>6</sup> Baladi, E. (22 August 2017). Regime Cuts Homs and Hama Countrysides Into Three Pockets. The Syrian Observer. Retrieved from <http://syrianobserver.com>.

<sup>7</sup> Al-Zarier, Nassar and Edwards (19 September 2017). Bombardment returns to rebel-held northwest as HTS aims to 'demolish, defeat' Astana ceasefire. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

<sup>8</sup> Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (6 November 2017). Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham and the factions carry out a violent attack with the cover of heavy shelling, recover 3 villages and control other parts northeast of Hama. Retrieved from <http://www.syriaahr.com>.

<sup>9</sup> Carter Center (17 January). Weekly Conflict Summary January 11-17, 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.cartercenter.org>.

## 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.