

# Quarterly Needs Analysis (QNA)

Using partnerships to better inform and assess needs across Syria

March 2021

In partnership with:



Humanitarian  
Needs Assessment  
Programme

And data from:



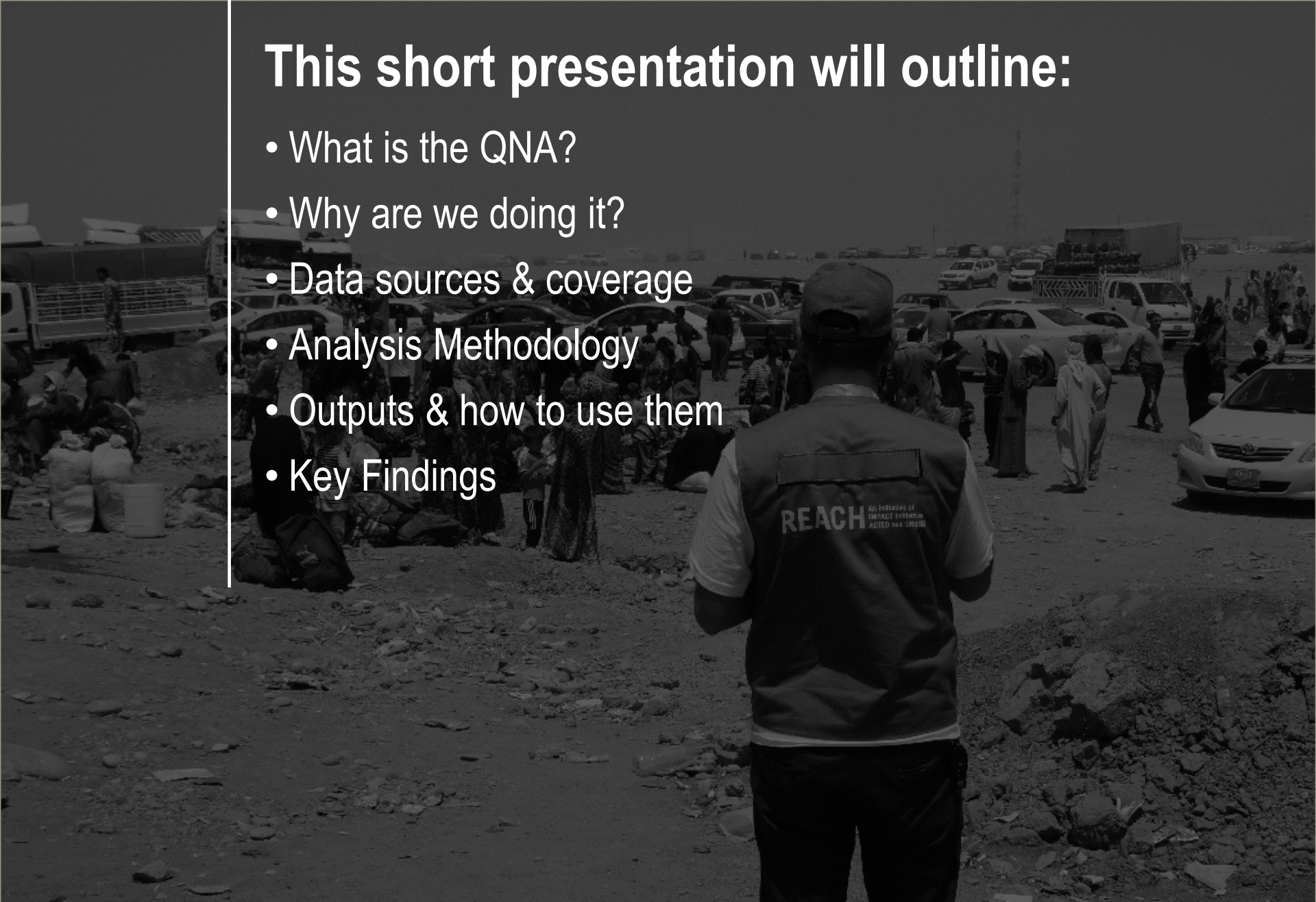
**ACLED**

Bringing clarity to crisis

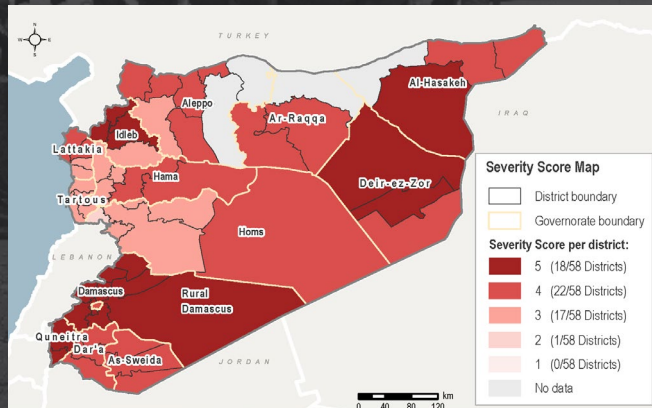
**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

# This short presentation will outline:

- What is the QNA?
- Why are we doing it?
- Data sources & coverage
- Analysis Methodology
- Outputs & how to use them
- Key Findings



# WHAT'S THE QNA?



An **intersectoral severity calculation** using humanitarian needs data and contextual data sources, done on a **quarterly** basis (except during the multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA) ‘season’).

- Key informant (KI) needs assessments at the community level aggregated up to the district level
- Aims to ‘fill-in’ the gap of severity calculations that currently happen annually, and often have significant delays.
- Encouraging coordination and participation in humanitarian response (information management (IM), programmatic, and operational)



# WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

A person wearing a dark jacket with 'REACH' and 'AN INITIATIVE OF IMPACT INVESTORS' printed on the back is standing in a field of cars. The scene is dimly lit, possibly at dusk or dawn. A red vertical bar is on the left side of the image.

# WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

## Gaps & Goals :

- Wealth of information but a lack of communication between clusters
- Avoid a silo approach to needs analysis
- Long gaps between in-depth analysis => periods of 'flying in the dark'
- Donor pressure to be more efficient in responding to needs
- Trust/Buy-in from multiple actors
- Publicly available data to encourage transparent decision making



# DATA SOURCES & INDICATORS



# DATA SOURCES & COVERAGE

## Data sources:

- **Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)** for humanitarian situation and priority needs data in Northeast Syria (NES) and Northwest Syria (NWS). (approx. 43% of data)
- **HNAP-HSOS** for humanitarian situation and priority needs data in South-Central Syria. (approx. 43% of data)
- **Emergency Needs Tracking (ENT)** for context data about displacement and natural events (fire/floods) in NWS. (approx. 2% of data)
- **HNAP-Mobility & Needs Monitoring (MNM)** for population data across Whole of Syria (WOS) (approx. 6% of data)
- **ACLED** data for conflict events across WOS (approx. 6% of data)

# INDICATOR SELECTION

Sector	Indicator
Humanitarian Assistance	No access to humanitarian assistance
Education	School-age children not attending school
FSL	Borrowing reported in two or more sectors
Health	No functioning medical facility
Health	Shortage of health workers
Protection	Lack of civil documentation
Protection	Threat from violent conflict
Protection	Child labour and/or child marriage
SNFI	Unsuitable shelter types as main shelter types
SNFI	Lack of access to NFIs
SNFI	Overcrowding in shelters
WASH	Lack of access to sufficient water
WASH	Severe sanitation issues
WASH	Severe water coping strategies
Context	Proportion of returnees/IDPs in the community
Context	Displacement or natural hazard
Context	Events of conflict (datasource: ACLED)



# METHODOLOGY



# METHODOLOGY

## Analysis:

**Step 1:** Calculate descriptive statistics at district level

**Step 2:** Calculate quantiles from observations from the last 3 months.

**Step 3:** Categorizing findings into severity scores

**Step 4:** Severity calculations by district

# METHODOLOGY: Calculating quantiles

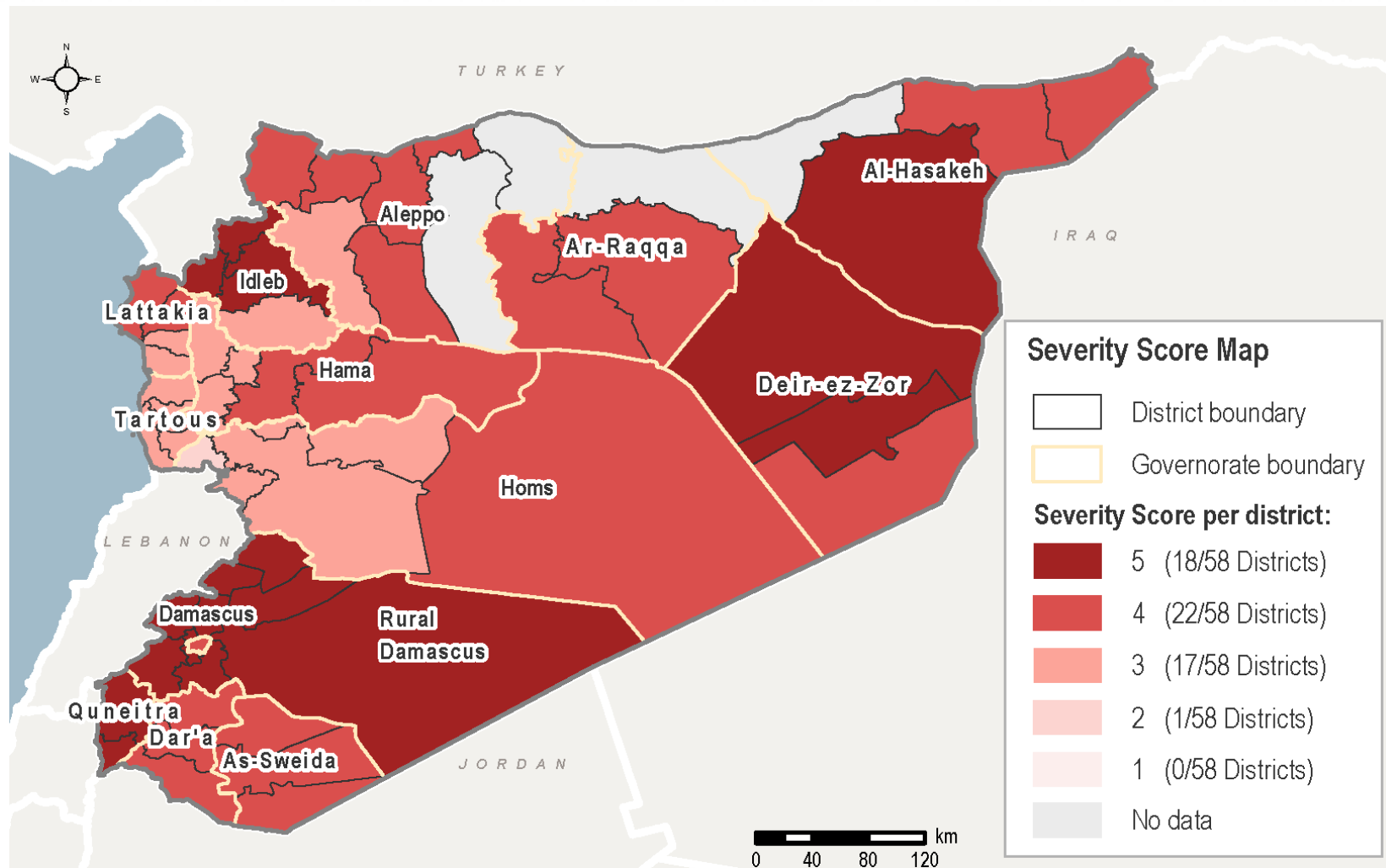
**Distribution of observations**



Distribution of observations	Assigned Severity Score
0 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Severity Score: 0
1-20 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Severity Score: 1
21-40 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Severity Score: 2
41-60 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Severity Score: 3
61-80 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Severity Score: 4
81-100 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Severity Score: 5

Severity thresholds of each indicator are calculated based on the distribution of data observations over the last three months of data collected (HSOS rounds 65-67, January 2020-March 2021). The result is an approximately equal number of districts in each severity category for each indicator. The first range category (0) includes the lowest observations (minimum), the second range category (1) includes the next lowest 20% of observations, the third range category (2) includes the next lowest 20% of observations, and so on until all indicators are classified. By proceeding in this way, the analysis ensures an objective classification while maintaining the ability to compare severity. The histogram above shows the distributions and subsequent categorizations of observed district level data on the shortage of health workers in a community. This same distribution is done for all 17 indicators to find their severity score thresholds.

# Severity by district





# OUTPUTS & HOW TO USE THEM



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## Three outputs:

- **This presentation** how to approach a partner for the first time, and outline this new analysis and key findings
- **Factsheet** Regional level calculations and key findings on severity and key indicators
- **Analysis Table** instead of a dataset, an analysis table including the descriptive statistics and severity categorizations by district, definitions of indicators, for full transparency of how we found our severity scores.



# OUTPUTS & HOW TO USE THEM

## Uses:

- **Comparative indicators** will allow operational partners to identify areas of severe needs directly relating to their programming in their areas of operation.
- **Intersectoral severity scores** informs programmatic actors and coordination on where contextual changes like conflict and displacement have resulted in higher overall need on a more regular basis, informing a more effective response.
- **WOS product** allows for high-level advocacy for adjusting funding or access to and from different areas of influence, previously very difficult outside of the HNO process.



# KEY FINDINGS



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## Round 1 (March 2021)

- **The assessment confirms that most areas across Syria face high needs and significant challenges to accessing essential services.** In NWS in particular, damaged infrastructure, high prices and the lack of economic opportunities compound with the impacts of a decade of crisis to drive on-going displacement.
- **NWS also maintains the highest rate of conflict-related incidents** and many of the inter-sectoral severity scores rank between 4-5 out of 5 (the most severe).
- In NES, distinct conflict dynamics interact with geopolitical complexities and a highly rural population to undermine access to basic services. **Indeed, three-quarters of the population (75%) in NES do not have access to humanitarian assistance.**
- **Minimal levels of access to humanitarian assistance was also a characteristic in certain areas of CSS, like Rural Damascus. However, Al Tall district was more likely than the others to demonstrate critical gaps in financial access to essential services, like food or water.** This suggests that while there may be more centralized service provision, it does not inherently translate into increased access for local populations.

Questions?

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION