

Introduction

Over a year after conflict ceased in Ar-Raqqa city, widespread damage to the city and its infrastructure remain, amid a complex safety and security environment. Despite this, residents continue to return in large numbers as access to many basic services, including education, water, markets and bakeries, continues to improve. However, numerous challenges persist across all sectors, but particularly relating to protection, healthcare, sanitation, access to non-food items (NFIs), electricity and livelihood opportunities.

REACH has conducted a series of assessments to monitor the humanitarian situation as residents spontaneously return and as services resume in the city. This most recent Area-Based Assessment (ABA) in Ar-Raqqa city provides an update to the [October 2018 ABA](#), examining multi-sectoral needs of civilians living in the city and their access to relevant services and infrastructure. The following sectors were assessed (click to access page): [Population, Returns, and Access](#); [Health](#); [Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene \(WASH\)](#); [Shelter, Cash, Electricity, Livelihoods, Bakeries, Food and markets, Nutrition, Non-Food Items \(NFIs\), Protection](#). An [additional component](#) also provides an in-depth look into education services and infrastructure in Ar-Raqqa city.

The ABA was conducted as part of a wider global initiative aiming to support humanitarian response in urban areas through an area-based approach, in which the humanitarian situation in an area is examined through a territorial, multi-sectoral lens. To this end, this assessment will provide the foundation for a response gaps analysis workshop conducted by REACH in collaboration with a coordination actor. The workshop will aim to enable proper identification of needs and potential gaps in the response, and to support operational actors with evidence-based response planning.

Key Findings

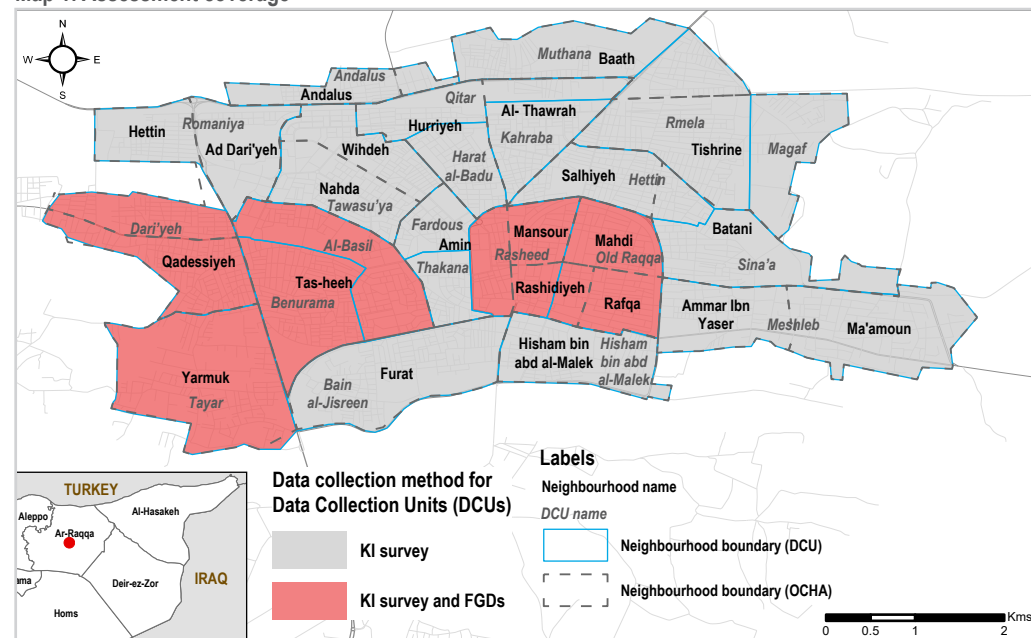
- **Education services in Ar-Raqqa city reportedly face major challenges as students continue to return to education infrastructure heavily impacted by conflict.** There are 43 schools in the city that are not functioning, 31 of which are destroyed. There are 41 functioning schools operating in the city, of which 44% have suffered at least minor damage, while 32% of functioning schools have suffered at least major or severe damage to their infrastructure.
- **Since October 2018, access to the main water network has improved and almost all households (76-100%) reportedly have sufficient water to cover their basic needs.** Households in all areas of the city still primarily obtain water from the main water network, and rely less on water trucking services. However, residents still face significant challenges pertaining to water quality and sanitation issues.
- **The level of access to healthcare has declined since the October assessment, as KIs reported that higher proportions of households are unable to access the healthcare they require.** Meanwhile, the need for chronic disease treatment and skilled care during childbirth has reportedly increased compared to emergency care, which suggests that healthcare needs in the city are transitioning into more long-term public health needs.
- **Despite good availability of core food items throughout the city, most assessed food items are reportedly unaffordable for the majority of residents.** In 14 out of 22 neighbourhoods, KIs estimated that fewer than half of all households are able to access enough food to meet their basic needs, compelling many to employ negative coping strategies.

Methodology

REACH conducted data collection for this assessment between 3-21 February 2019 in Ar-Raqqa city. A total of 75 key informants (KIs) were selected based on their knowledge of multi-sectoral needs of the population in each neighbourhood of the city, with a minimum of three KIs interviewed per neighbourhood. Neighbourhoods are also referred to as data collection units (DCUs) throughout the analysis.¹ Responding to an information gap, REACH conducted 26 additional KI interviews with local authority members working in Ar-Raqqa city schools to develop a more in-depth understanding of the status of school infrastructure and services. These findings were analysed alongside the findings of previous assessments in order to build a snapshot of access to services at the local level relative to the status and capacity of facilities and infrastructure.

To better understand these dynamics in neighbourhoods, eight focus group discussions (FGDs) including participatory mapping exercises were conducted with residents in 6 out of the 22 neighbourhoods where access and security conditions permitted data collection. Profiles of each neighbourhood are included at the end of this assessment report. Some neighbourhoods were clustered together and selected in coordination with humanitarian actors based on perceived needs. Neighbourhoods that were not covered in the October assessment were prioritised. FGDs were comprised of 6-10 participants and were segregated by gender. The findings of this assessment should only be considered indicative of the situation in Ar-Raqqa city at the time of data collection.

Map 1: Assessment coverage²



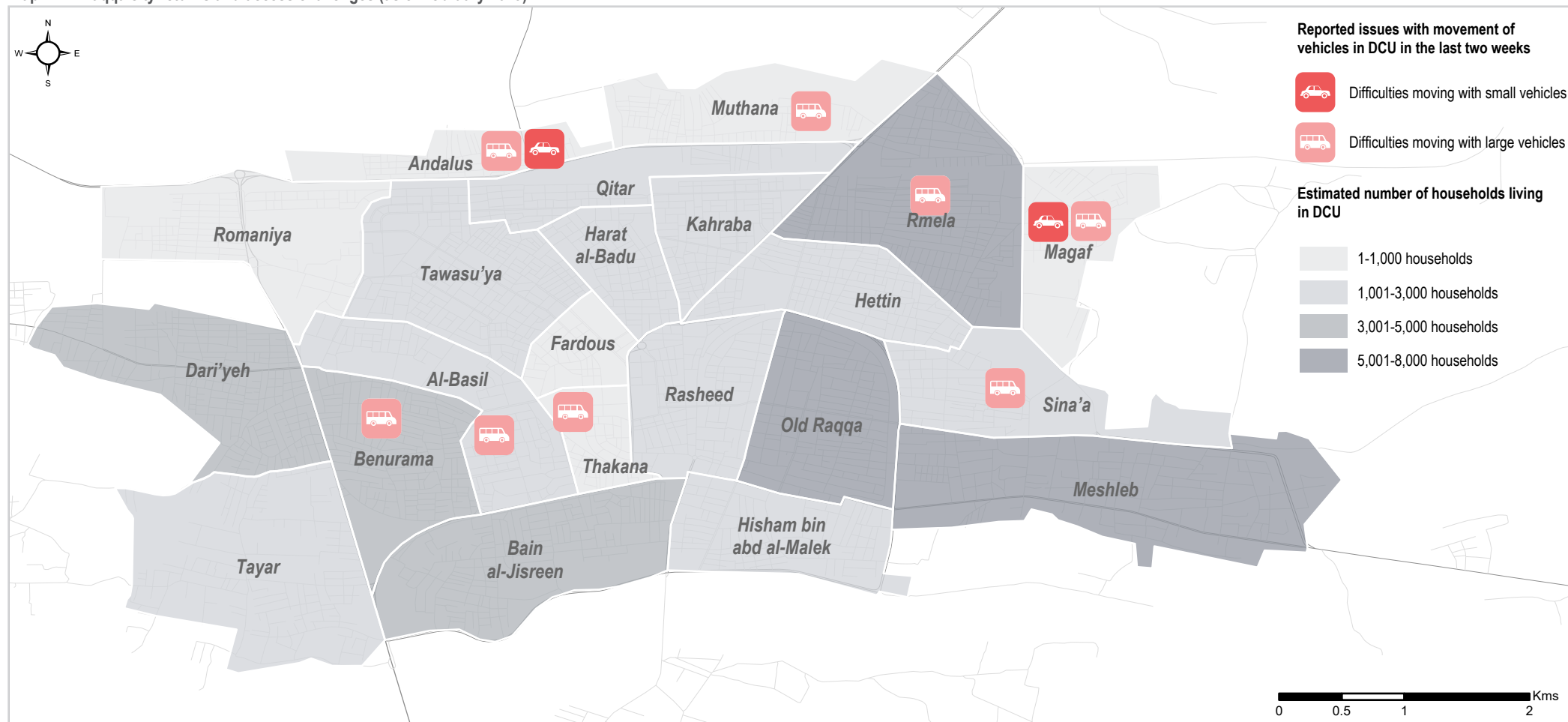
1. A total of 22 data collection units were delineated through participatory mapping with KIs during the June ABA assessment, in order to define the area within which they could most easily report population, services and needs information.

2. Neighbourhood boundaries source: Syria COD, Humanitarian Data Exchange. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by REACH or the United Nations.

Population, Returns and Access

- Spontaneous return to Ar-Raqqa city continue. KIs consistently reported that there has been an increase in at least half of all neighbourhoods since October 2018. However, the number of spontaneous returnees are difficult to estimate due to the dynamic situation in the city.³ The most prominent destinations for returnees have been central neighbourhoods, such as Tawasu'ya, Benurama, Kahraba and to a lesser extent Thakana. These areas have more conflict-related damage, and were previously not perceived as habitable.
- Key population centres with a greater level of service and infrastructure restoration, such as Meshleb, Old Raqqa and Rmela, have also reportedly been notable destinations for returning households.⁴
- Despite clearing of rubble, access to and movement within the central and northern areas of the city remain difficult. KIs reported that movement with small vehicles was limited in Andalus and Magaf. Similarly, movement with large vehicles remains difficult in these areas as well as in Al-Basil, Benurama, Thakana, Muthana, Rmela and Sina'a. Furthermore, KIs reported that the main barriers to movement in these areas were broken or damaged roads, as well as rubble or debris blocking roads.
- Nonetheless, in nine other neighbourhoods where the presence of broken or damaged roads was reported, movement with vehicles of any size was reportedly still possible.

Map 2: Ar-Raqqa city returns and access challenges (as of February 2019)



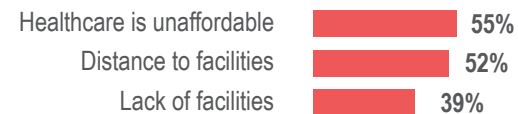
3. Population estimates at the neighbourhood level were collected from 3-5 KIs in each neighbourhood, each one providing a minimum and maximum range. Collected information was further triangulated through available secondary sources, including International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) assessment reports, estimates from INGOs that are operational in Ar-Raqqa city and population estimates provided by local authorities. Where there were significant discrepancies, REACH considered a broader range based on the lowest and highest estimates provided by secondary sources and KIs.

4. REACH estimated in 2018 that the average household size across northeast Syria was six, with a slightly higher average estimated at eight for urban communities in Ar-Raqqa governorate. [REACH, Syria Shelter and NFI Assessment 2017-2018, Dashboard, 2018](#)

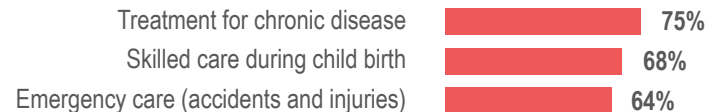
Health

- There has not been a significant increase in new and rehabilitated healthcare facilities since October 2018. KIs reported that hospitals are available in five neighbourhoods, with primary care facilities offering free services in six, and private clinics and pharmacies spread throughout all neighbourhoods with the exception of Kahraba, Sina'a and Magaf where no health facilities are reported to be available.
- Despite the availability of several healthcare facilities, access remains low for residents, and has decreased for residents in 11 neighbourhoods since October 2018.⁵ In ten DCUs, KIs estimated that fewer than half of households with a member who required treatment were reportedly able to receive it in the two weeks prior to data collection. In Romaniya and Andalus, neighbourhoods on the edge of the city, KIs estimated that only a few households were able to access required health treatments.

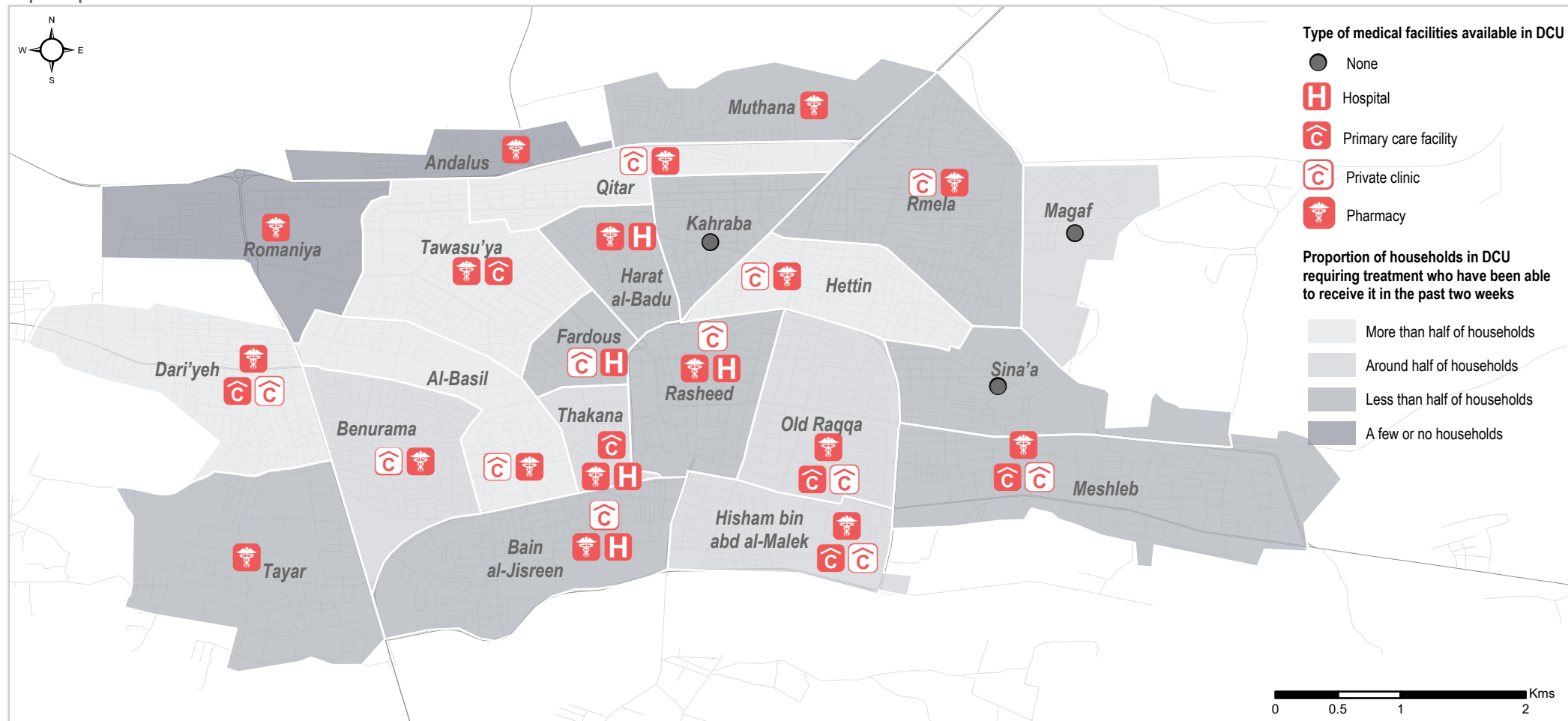
Most common barriers to accessing healthcare in the two weeks prior to data collection (% of KIs reporting):



Most common healthcare needs two weeks prior to data collection (% of KIs reporting):



Map 3: Reported access to health facilities and medical treatment



5. KIs reported that access to healthcare had improved in five neighbourhoods and had remained the same in six neighbourhoods.

Education

- The number of neighbourhoods with functional primary education facilities has reportedly remained the same, at 18, since the October assessment. KIs reported that residents in Qitar, Hettin, Fardous and Magaf still have no access to education facilities inside their neighbourhoods, which means that children have to travel to other neighbourhoods to access education.
- Similarly, the level of access to primary education has remained stable. As reported in October, more than half of all children aged 6 to 12 access primary education in 20 of the 22 assessed neighbourhoods. Conversely, KIs in Dariyeh and Magaf reported that only half of the children in this age range accessed primary education services in the two weeks prior to data collection.
- As noted in all previous ABA rounds, access to intermediary and secondary education continues

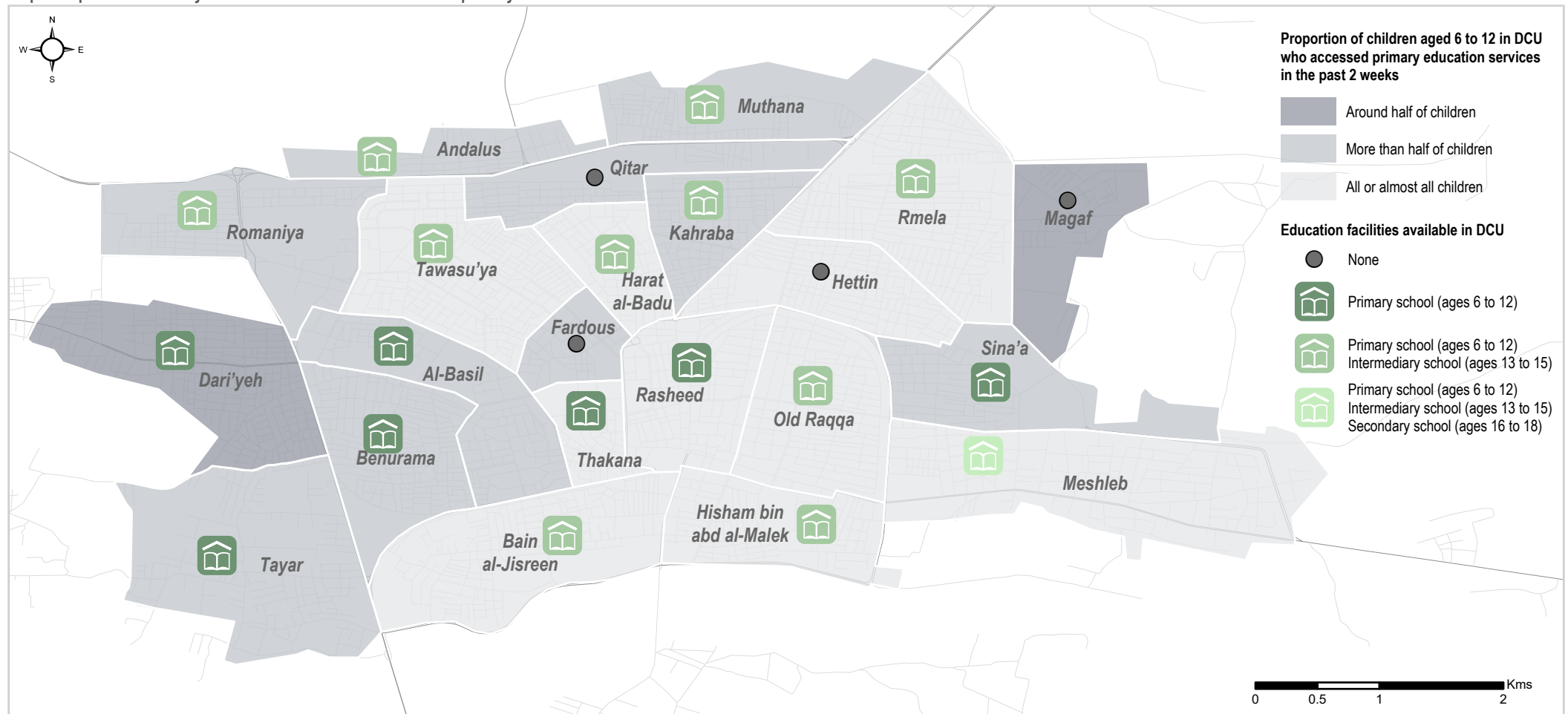
to be very limited. In all but three neighbourhoods, KIs reported that half or fewer than half of all children aged 13 to 15 attend school.

Most commonly reported barriers to education (% of KIs reporting):⁶

Classes are overcrowded	41%
Schools are not in a good condition	37%
Lack of teaching and learning materials	31%

- Based on feedback from humanitarian partners, a [supplementary assessment](#) was conducted to better understand the state of education services and infrastructure, as well as the educational needs and barriers in the city.

Map 4: Reported availability of education facilities and access to primary education

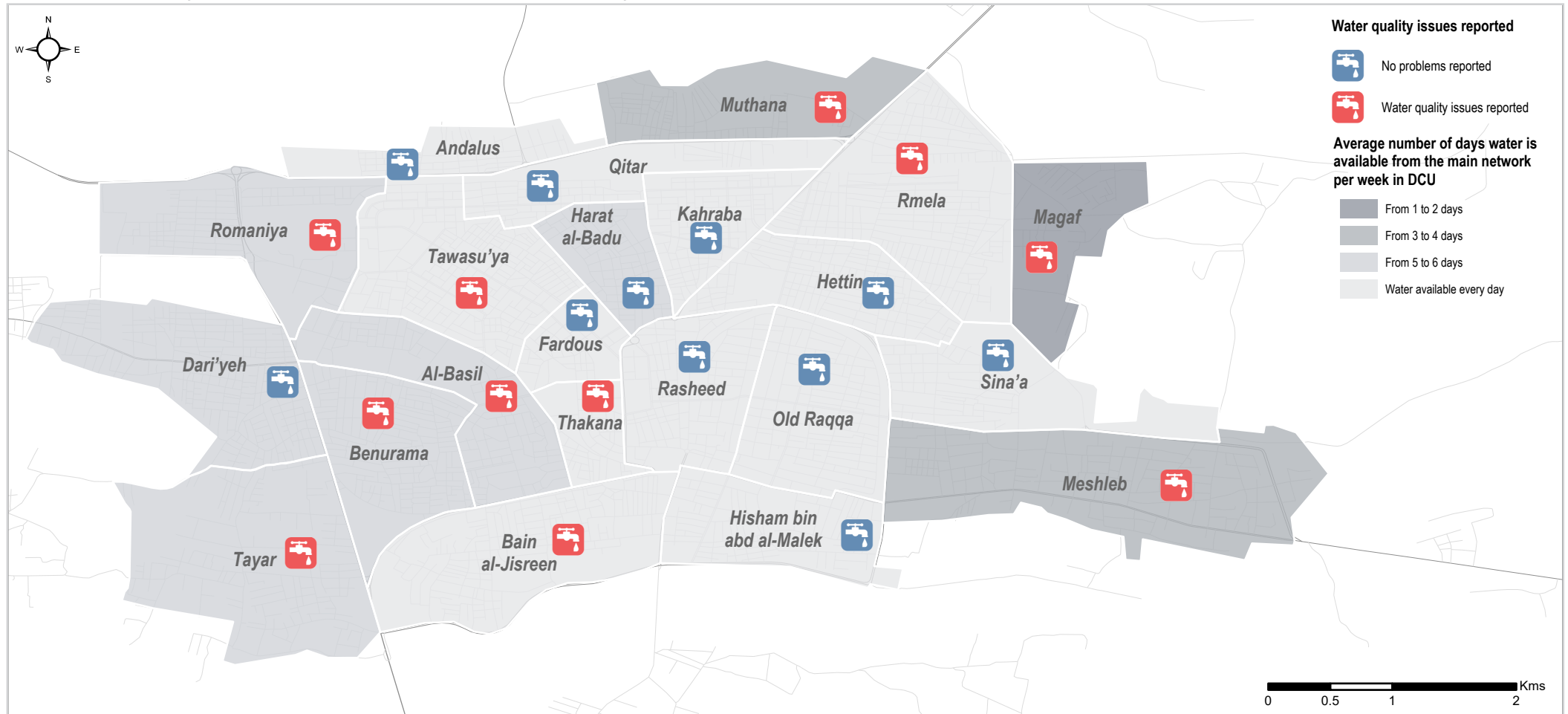


6. In the education component of the report, child labour and health reasons were the most commonly reported barriers to education. The differences in findings may be influenced by the different profiles of the KIs interviewed in the education component as well as by political considerations pertaining to the education sector in Ar-Raqqa city.

- Water reportedly continues to be accessed primarily through the main water network, which was reported by KIs in all neighbourhoods of the city as one of the primary sources of water. In three DCUs, Magaf, Meshleb, and Rmela, water trucking was also reported to be an important source of water. This number has decreased significantly since October, when water trucking was a primary water source in ten neighbourhoods.
- KIs in all neighbourhoods except Magaf reported that all or almost all households (76-100%) had enough water to meet daily consumption needs. However, frequency of access to the water network vary between neighbourhoods. In Magaf, the water network was reportedly only accessible one or two days a week, while in Meshleb and Muthana it was reportedly accessible three or four days a week.

- While access has improved, issues with water quality reportedly persist, particularly in outlying neighbourhoods. KIs in half of all neighbourhoods reported that there are issues with water from the main network, such as it smelling bad, having a brown appearance, tasting bad, or reportedly causing illness.⁶
- Issues with sanitation have reportedly increased since the last assessment. KIs in only one neighbourhood reported that there are no sanitation issues, compared to eight DCUs in October. Specifically, KIs in 15 DCUs reported that there is a problem with sewage flowing into the streets, where this was previously only reported in one neighbourhood. This increase may be in part due to inclement weather conditions, which have increased the volume of input into the waste water system.

Map 5: Reported frequency of access to main water network and issues with water quality



7. KIs in three neighbourhoods reported issues with people becoming sick after consuming water in the DCU, compared to 12 in October 2018. In these three neighbourhoods, KIs reported that people contracted diarrhoea after consuming water.

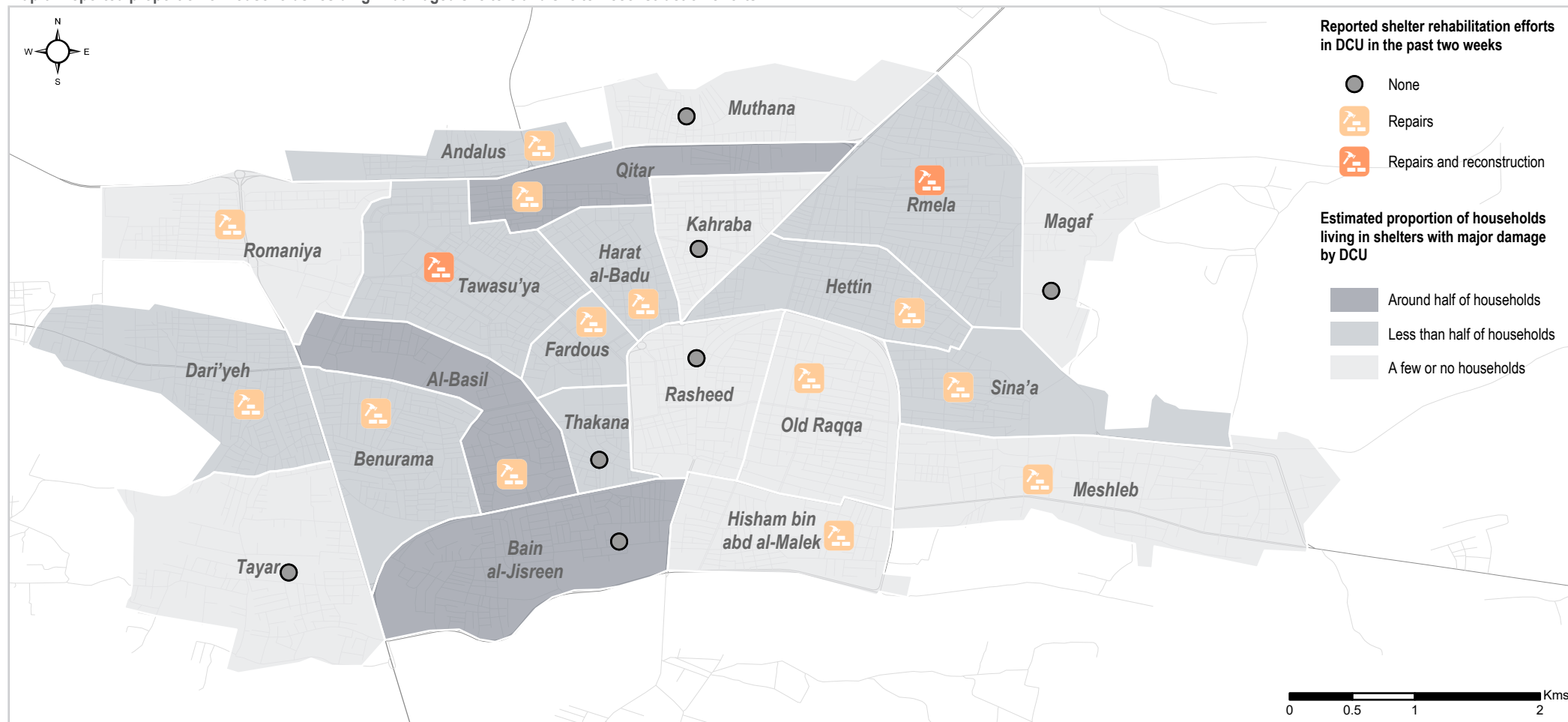
Shelter

- As reported in previous rounds of the ABA, shelters in the city's central areas remain significantly damaged. This pertains to the neighbourhoods of Al-Basil, Bain al-Jisreen, Harat al-Badu and Tawasu'ya, where shelters reportedly require extensive repairs. Minor damage to most shelters was reported by KIs in all remaining DCUs.⁸
- The proportion of households residing in damaged shelters is higher in areas with significant damage, and around half of all households in Al-Basil, Bain al-Jisreen as well as Qitar reportedly live in shelters with major damage.⁹
- Despite the significant damage to shelters in central DCUs, shelter reconstruction efforts continue to be very limited. Reconstruction of damaged or destroyed shelters reportedly only took place in Rmela and Tawasu'ya during the two weeks prior to data collection.

Cash

- As reported in previous assessments, hawala services are consolidated in central Ar-Raqqa city, in the neighbourhoods of Old Raqqa and Rasheed. Residents from throughout the city reportedly access hawala services in these neighbourhoods. In addition, KIs in Dariyeh reported that hawala agents operate there as well, although they are reportedly not frequently accessed by residents from other neighbourhoods.
- See the [neighbourhood profile](#) of Old Raqqa and Rasheed for an overview of the locations of hawala services.

Map 6: Reported proportion of households residing in damaged shelters and shelter reconstruction efforts



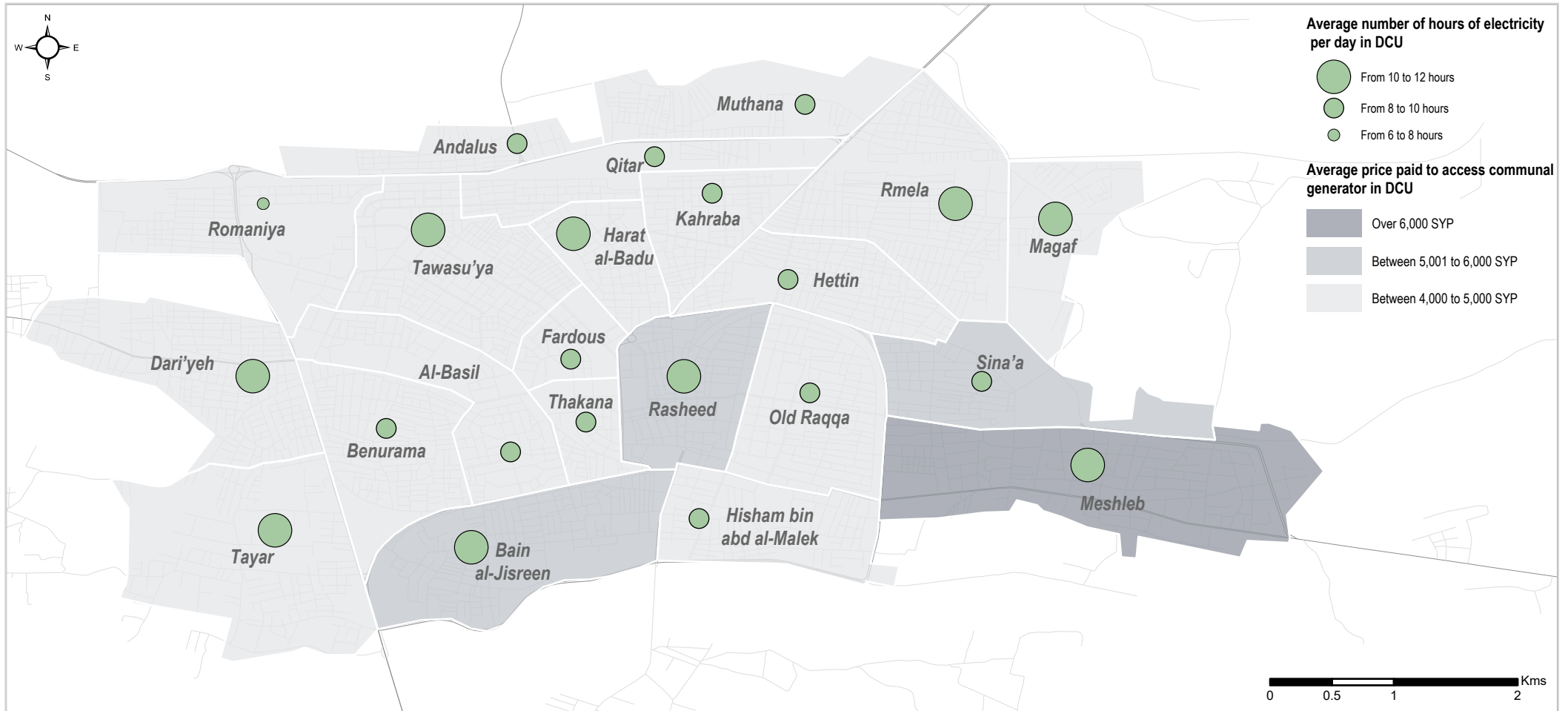
8. REACH has produced a full neighbourhood-level damage analysis atlas for Ar-Raqqa city to display the severity and density of damage on a more granular level: [Infrastructure Damage Reference Maps, Ar-Raqqa City, February 2018](#)

9. In order to assess shelter damage, KIs were asked to select which of the damage categories, as developed by the Shelter Sector for the North East Syria (NES) Hub, applied to their neighbourhood: no damage /negligible damage, minor damage (shelters with limited damage to walls, doors and windows), major damage (shelters with extensive damage, but no structural damage), severe damage (shelters that have sustained significant structural damage and require extensive repairs) and destroyed (structural damage to shelters are so extensive that rehabilitation is not feasible).

⚡ Electricity

- **Access to electricity has remained stable since October 2018, although with some variations across neighbourhoods.** In all neighbourhoods except Romaniya, the majority of residents reportedly have access to electricity for at least eight hours a day. Since the October assessment, the number of DCUs with access to electricity for 10 to 12 hours a day has reportedly increased from four to nine.
- **The main electricity network in Ar-Raqqa city has not been rehabilitated, and households reportedly continue to access electricity primarily through communal generators.** Some KIs reported that batteries (including car batteries), and private generators are also used, although less commonly than communal generators.
- **Residents throughout the city reportedly pay an estimated average usage fee of 5,000 Syrian pounds (SYP) per month to access communal generators, which has decreased by an estimated 21% compared to October 2018.** In the majority of DCUs, the fees vary between SYP 4,000 and SYP 5,000, with KIs in some areas reporting higher fees. The highest average usage fee was reported in Meshleb, at SYP 7,200 per month.
- **Insufficient access to electricity reportedly impedes restoration and the provision of services in the city.** Half of all KIs reported that services such as healthcare, public bakeries and water pumps operate at reduced capacity due to electricity shortages.

Map 7: Reported access to electricity and average price of access to communal generator



Livelihoods

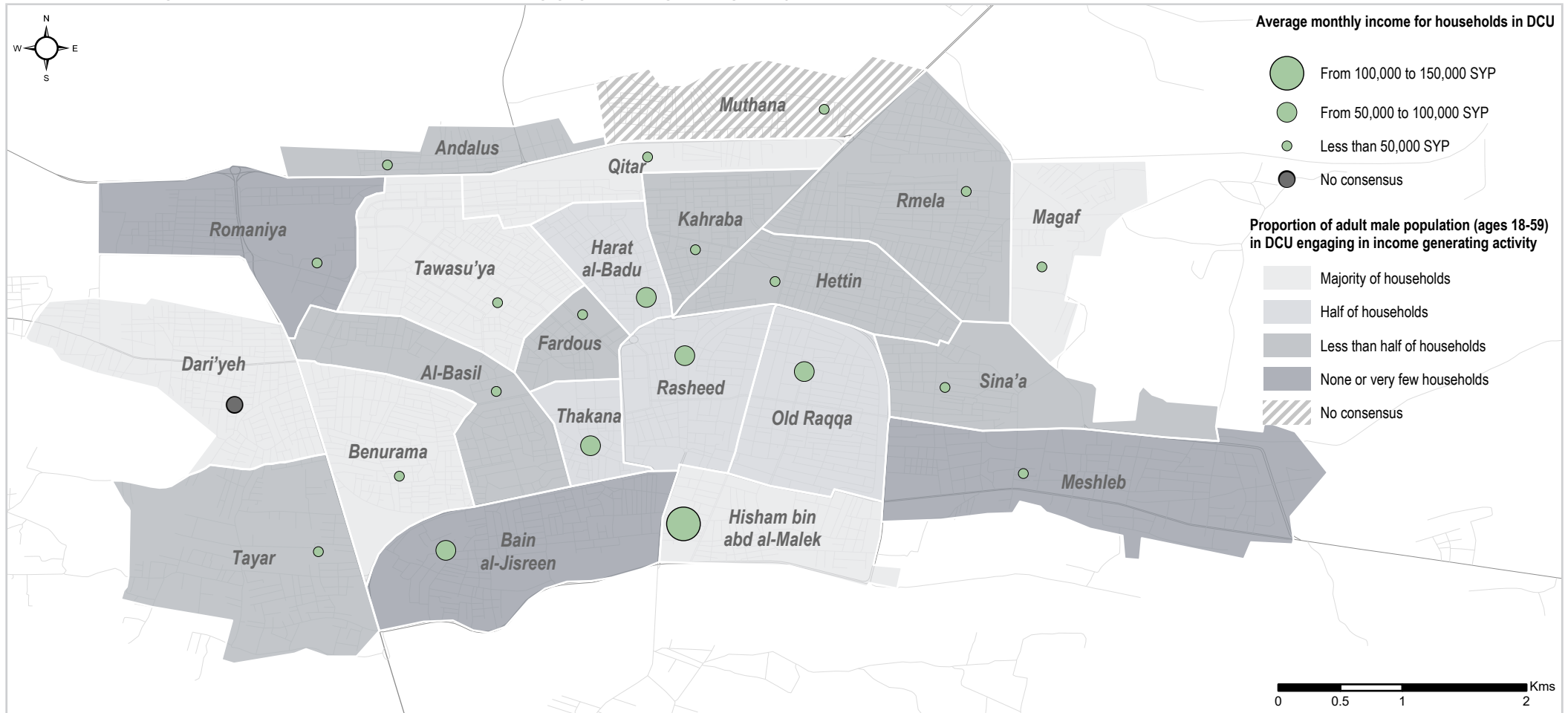
- As was reported in October 2018, KIs indicated that residents face significant challenges in accessing livelihoods opportunities in Ar-Raqqa city. The proportion of the adult male population that engages in income-generating activities reportedly varies across neighbourhoods. KIs in half of all neighbourhoods reported that fewer than half of adult males aged 18-59 earn an income. KIs in six neighbourhoods reported that the majority of the adult male population earn an income. Conversely, KIs in Romaniya, Bain al-Jisreen and Meshleb reported that few or none of the adult male population engage in income-generating activities.
- In only two neighbourhoods (Qitar and Tawasu'ya), did KIs report that more than just a few women engage in income-generating activities.

- The average income for households in Ar-Raqqa city reportedly remains below SYP 50,000, as was reported in the October assessment. KIs in the majority of neighbourhoods reported that the average income amount for households is below SYP 50,000, which is lower than the reported average of SYP 50,000 to 100,000 (approximately between \$97 to \$194) across all governorates in northeast Syria.¹⁰

Most common income sources for households (% of KIs reporting):



Map 8: Reported average income and proportion of adult male population engaging in income-generating activity



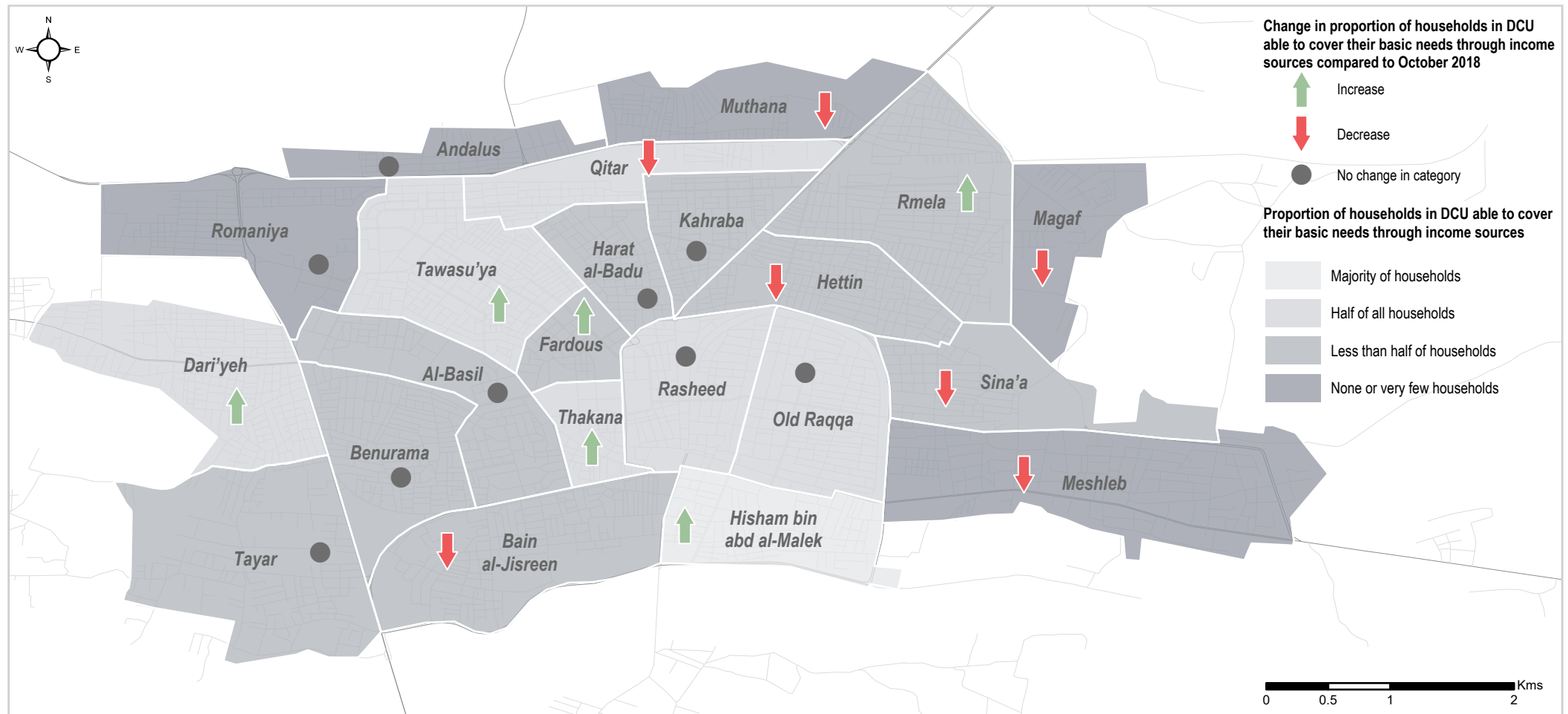
Livelihoods (continued)

- In the majority of neighbourhoods, KIs reported that the existing livelihood opportunities provide insufficient income to sustain a household. In Andalus, Magaf, Meshleb, Muthana, and Romaniya, all located on the periphery of the city, KIs reported that few if any households have sufficient income to cover their basic household needs. Furthermore, KIs in ten neighbourhoods reported that less than half of all residents are able to cover basic needs through their income sources.
- Conversely, KIs in the more centrally located neighbourhoods of Thakana, Old Raqqa, Rasheed and Tawasu'ya reported that half of all households are able to sustain themselves through their income sources. KIs in the outlying neighbourhoods of Dari'yeh and Qitar also reported that around half of all households had enough income to cover their basic households needs.

Top five livelihoods-based coping strategies adopted by households (% of KIs reporting):

Buying on credit with shop owners	28%
Child labour (by children aged 15 or below)	24%
Selling household items or assets	19%
Borrowing money	13%
Limiting food portions or skipping meals	12%

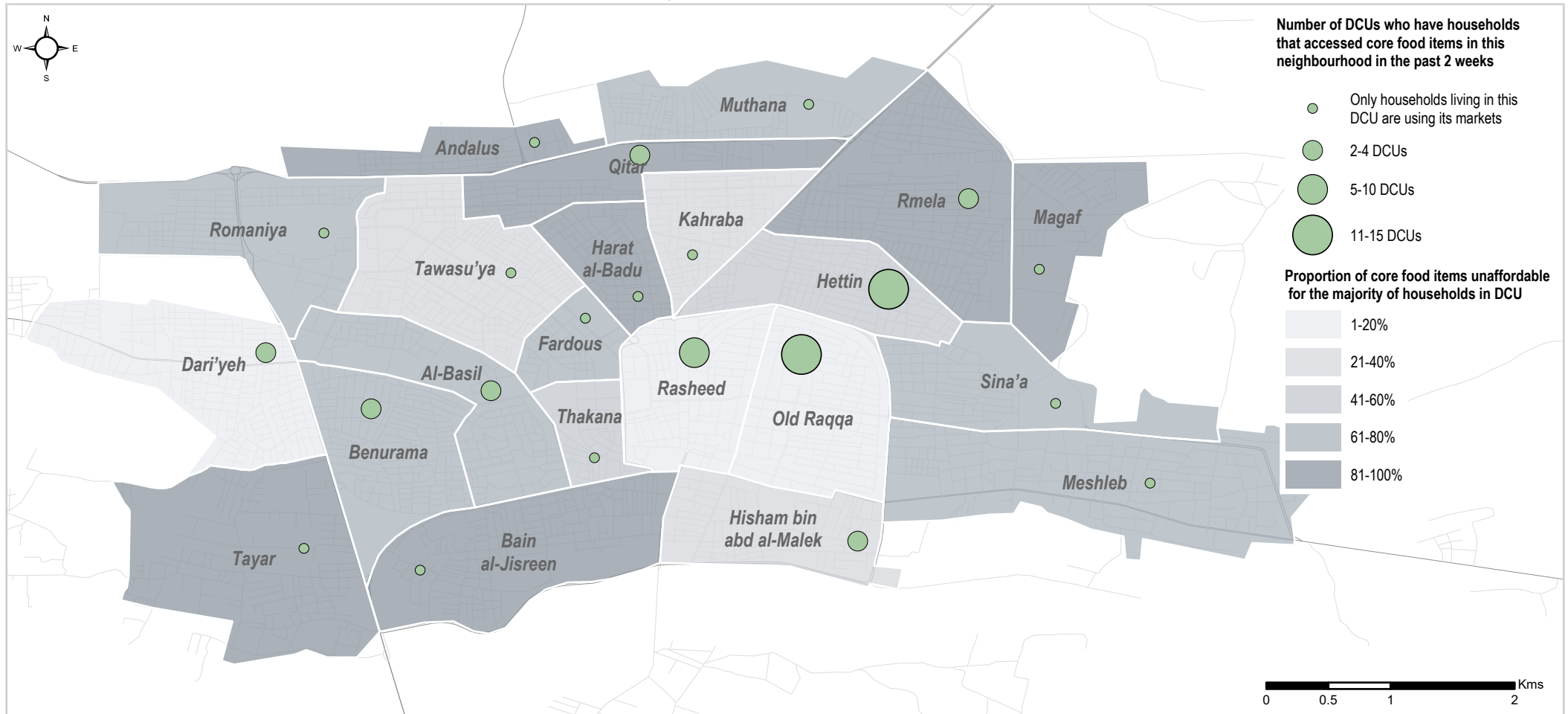
Map 9: Reported proportion of households able to cover basic needs through income sources



Food and Markets

- In all DCUs, KIs reported that residents accessed food through markets or shops within the DCU in the two weeks prior to data collection, indicating that markets are functional across the city. However, KIs in 16 neighbourhoods reported that residents also commonly purchase food from markets outside their neighbourhood.
- Old Raqqa, Hettin and, to a lesser extent, Rasheed were reported to be key food market areas, as residents from throughout the city reportedly frequently travel to these locations seeking lower food prices. Residents living in neighbourhoods located on the periphery of the city reportedly frequently travel to Dariyeh and Qitar to access food markets there.
- KIs reported that almost all assessed core food items are available at least some of the time in almost all DCUs.¹¹ Meat and chicken are notable exceptions, as they were reported to be unavailable in five neighbourhoods: Bain al-Jisreen, Thakana, Muthanna, Kahraba and Romaniya.
- Despite being generally available in food markets across the city, many assessed core food items are reportedly unaffordable for the majority of residents. DCUs with the highest proportions of core food items that were reported to be unaffordable are: Andalus, Bain al-Jisreen, Harat al-Badu, Qitar, Magaf, Rmela, and Tayar
- Across all DCUs, the average proportion of the 24 core food items that were reported to be unaffordable has increased from an estimated 28% in June, to 56% in October and to 61% for February 2019. This may indicate a trend of declining affordability of food items for households in Ar-Raqqa city.

Map 11: Reported locations of core food items accessed in previous two weeks and affordability of food

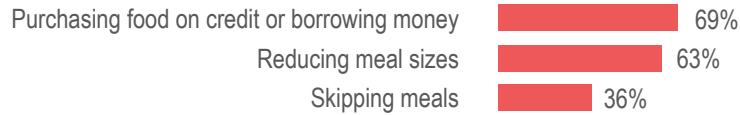


11. In all DCUs, assessed core food items were bread, flour, rice, lentils, sugar, cooking oil, chicken, meat, tomatoes, cucumbers, and onions. For ease of analysis, the questionnaire responses of 'always available' or 'sometimes available' were combined to give a clearer picture of where core food items were accessible or not accessible.

🍷 Food and Markets (continued)

- Large proportions of households are reportedly struggling to access sufficient amounts of food in Ar-Raqqa city: in the majority of DCUs, KIs reported that fewer than half of all households were able to access enough food to meet their daily needs in the 30 days prior to data collection. In Andalus, Magaf and Romaniya, KIs reported that very few or no households had access to sufficient food to meet their needs.

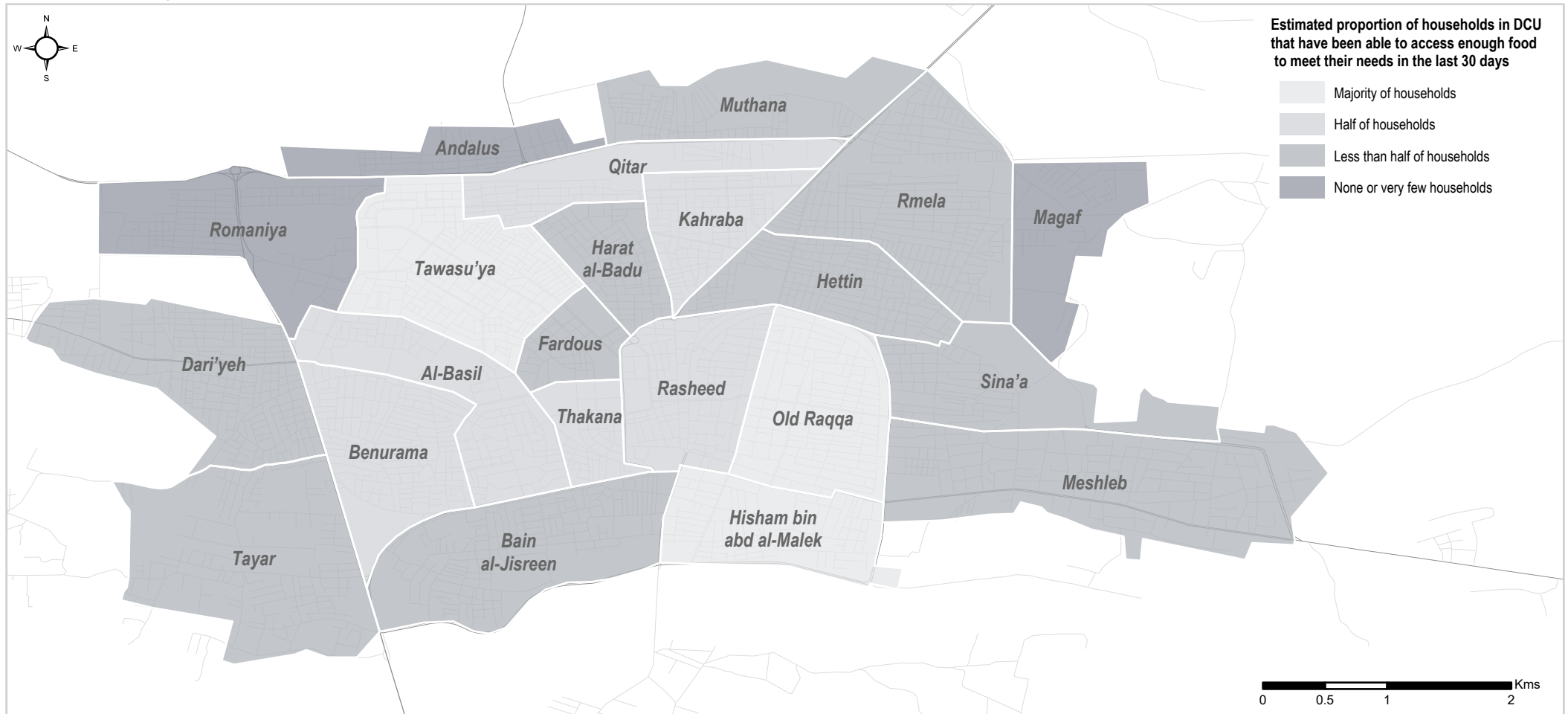
Most commonly reported coping strategies for lack of food in the two weeks prior to data collection (% of KIs reporting):



👤 Nutrition

- Few if any children (0-25%) under the age of five reportedly displayed signs of malnutrition in all but one neighbourhood during the two weeks prior to data collection.¹² In Sina'a, KIs estimated that between 26-49% of children under five years old displayed symptoms of malnutrition in the two weeks prior to data collection.
- No distributions of infant formula in the two weeks prior to data collection were reported by any KIs throughout the city. However, KIs reported that mothers seek advice on feeding infants from physicians or other medical practitioners, and less commonly from relatives. The number of DCUs where KIs reported that mothers primarily seek advice from family or relatives has decreased from 22 to 14 since October, suggesting mothers rely increasingly on advice from medical practitioners.

Map 12: Reported ability to access sufficient amounts of food

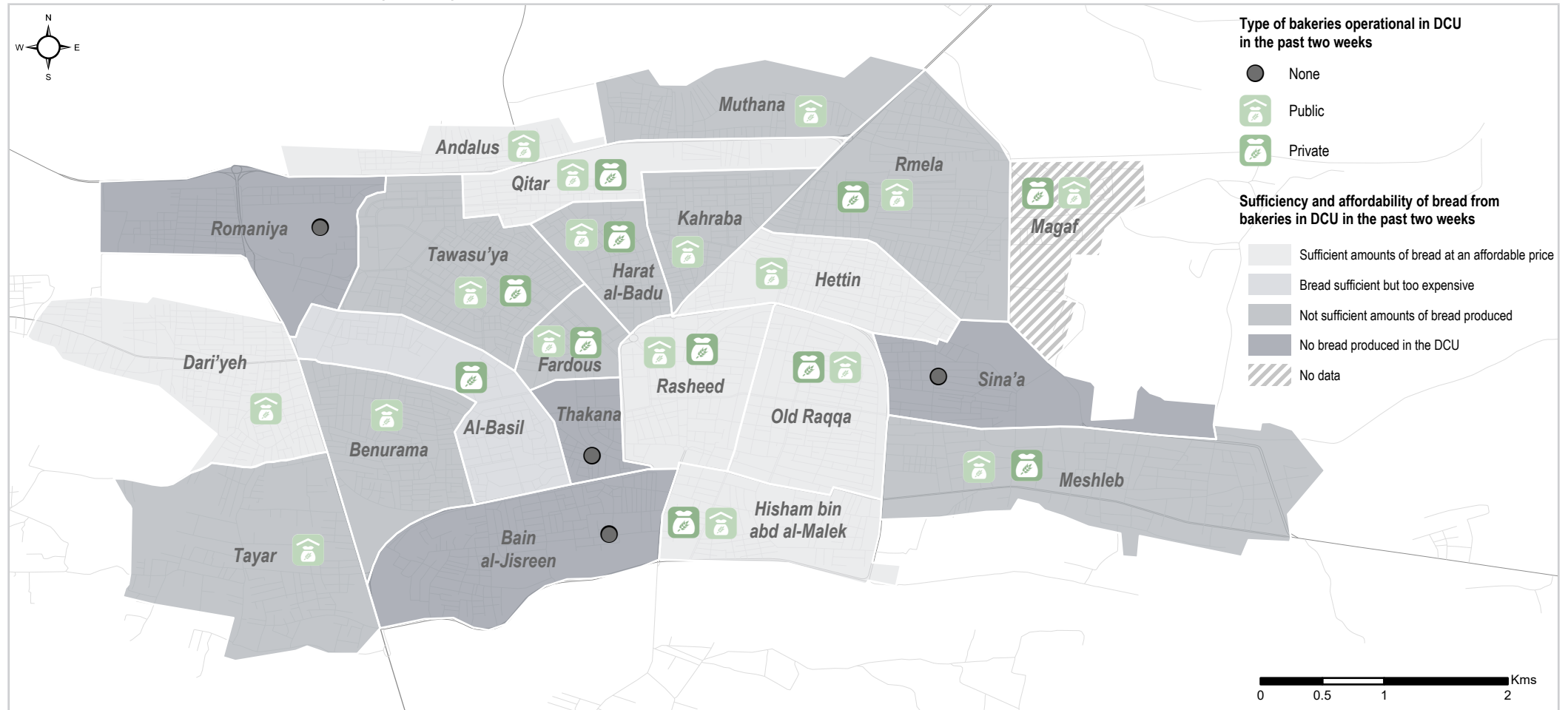


12. These findings may not accurately reflect rates of child malnutrition in these DCUs, as data collection enumerators and KIs did not have the expertise required to precisely diagnose this condition.

Bakeries

- The number of neighbourhoods where bakeries are present has remained stable since the previous assessment. Bakeries are reportedly operating in all neighbourhoods with the exception of Bain al-Jisreen, Sina'a, Thakana and Romaniya.
- However, the number of public bakeries, which receive flour from local authorities and offer bread at lower prices, has increased since October. Functional public bakeries are reportedly present in at least 17 DCUs compared to 12 in October.
- Despite the increased availability of public bakeries, existing bakeries are reportedly less able to produce sufficient quantities of bread. KIs in nine neighbourhoods reported that bakeries are unable to meet the needs of residents, where this was the case in only two neighbourhoods in October.
- Flour shortages and overcrowding at bakeries were frequently raised as key challenges by participants in all FGDs, which suggest that these are primary reasons for why many bakeries are unable to serve the needs of the community.
- However, KIs in seven neighbourhoods reported that bakeries produce sufficient quantities of bread at affordable prices. In Al-Basil, KIs reported that private bakeries produce sufficient amounts of bread, but that prices are too expensive.

Map 10: Reported locations of bakeries and sufficiency of supply



Non-Food Items (NFIs)

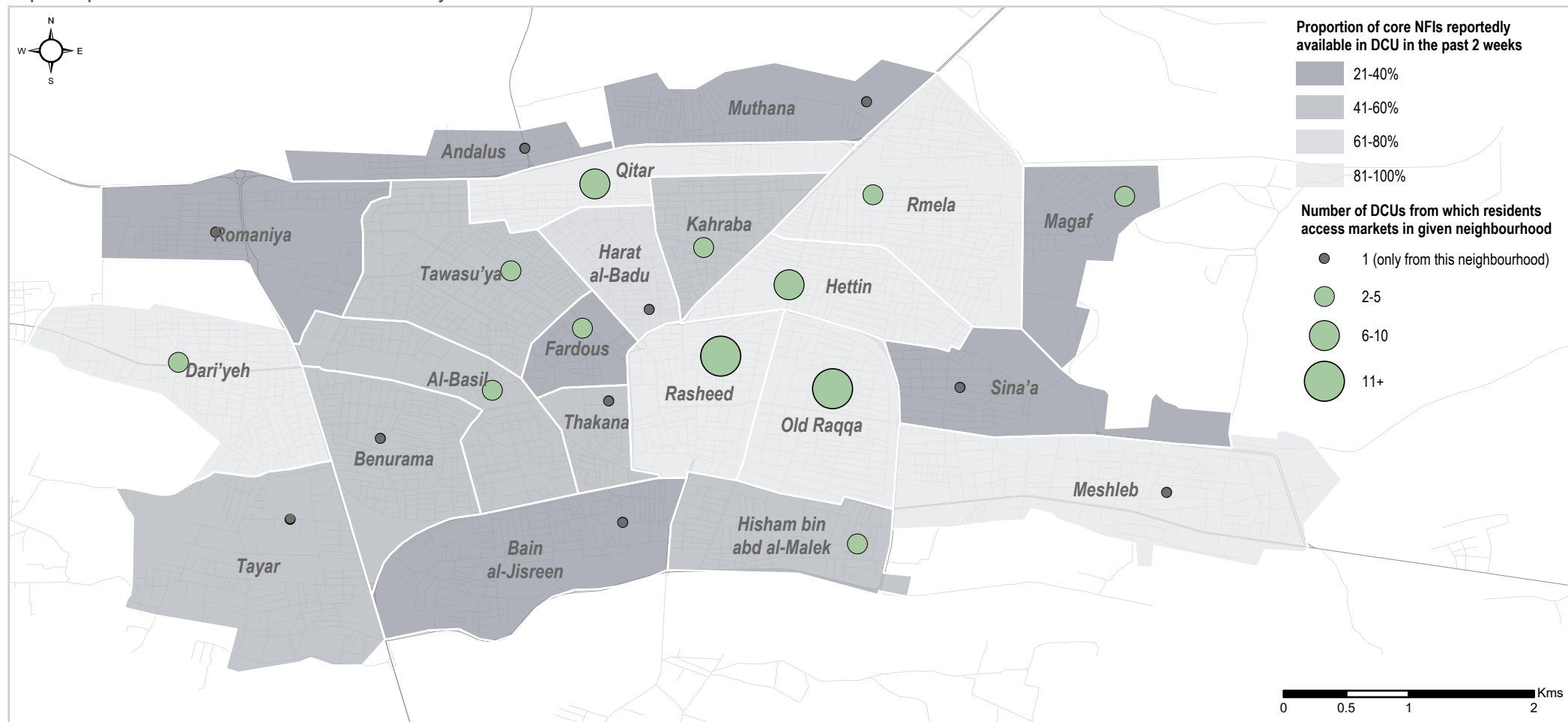
- In the majority of DCUs, KIs reported that residents access core non-food items (NFIs) through markets or shops within their own neighbourhoods.¹³ However, KIs reported that residents also frequently travel to other neighbourhoods seeking lower prices and a wider selection of goods. For instance, areas in Old Raqqa, Rasheed and Hettin serve as key NFI markets for residents from across the city. KIs also identified NFI markets in Qitar and Dariyeh as popular destinations for residents living in the outlying neighbourhoods of the city.
- The availability of assessed core NFIs varies greatly across DCUs, with at least 50% of NFIs reportedly being unavailable in more than half of all neighbourhoods. Availability of core NFIs was reportedly lowest in Romaniya, Sina'a and Muthanna.

- Cooking fuel and heating fuel were reported to be always or almost always available in 13 and 15 DCUs respectively, as are all hygiene and household cleaning products in the vast majority of DCUs. Conversely, bedding items, clothing, heaters and most winterisation items are reportedly least commonly available.

Most commonly reported primary NFI needs for households (% of KIs reporting):

Heating fuel	49%	Cooking fuel	35%
Bedding items	44%	Clothing	20%
Winter clothes	40%	Winter blankets, baby diapers	19%

Map 13: Reported locations of core NFI access and availability of core NFIs

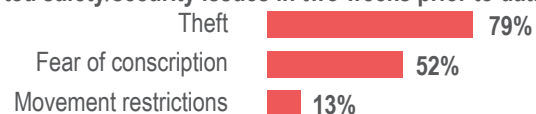


13. In all DCUs, assessed core NFIs were: bedding items, mattresses/sleeping mats, cooking utensils, cooking fuel, water containers, torches, solar lamps, solar panels, clothing, shoes, batteries, winter heaters, heating fuel, winter clothes, winter shoes, winter blankets, disposable diapers, sanitary pads, soap, laundry powder, cleaning liquid (for the house), detergent for dishes, baby diapers, and adult diapers.

Protection

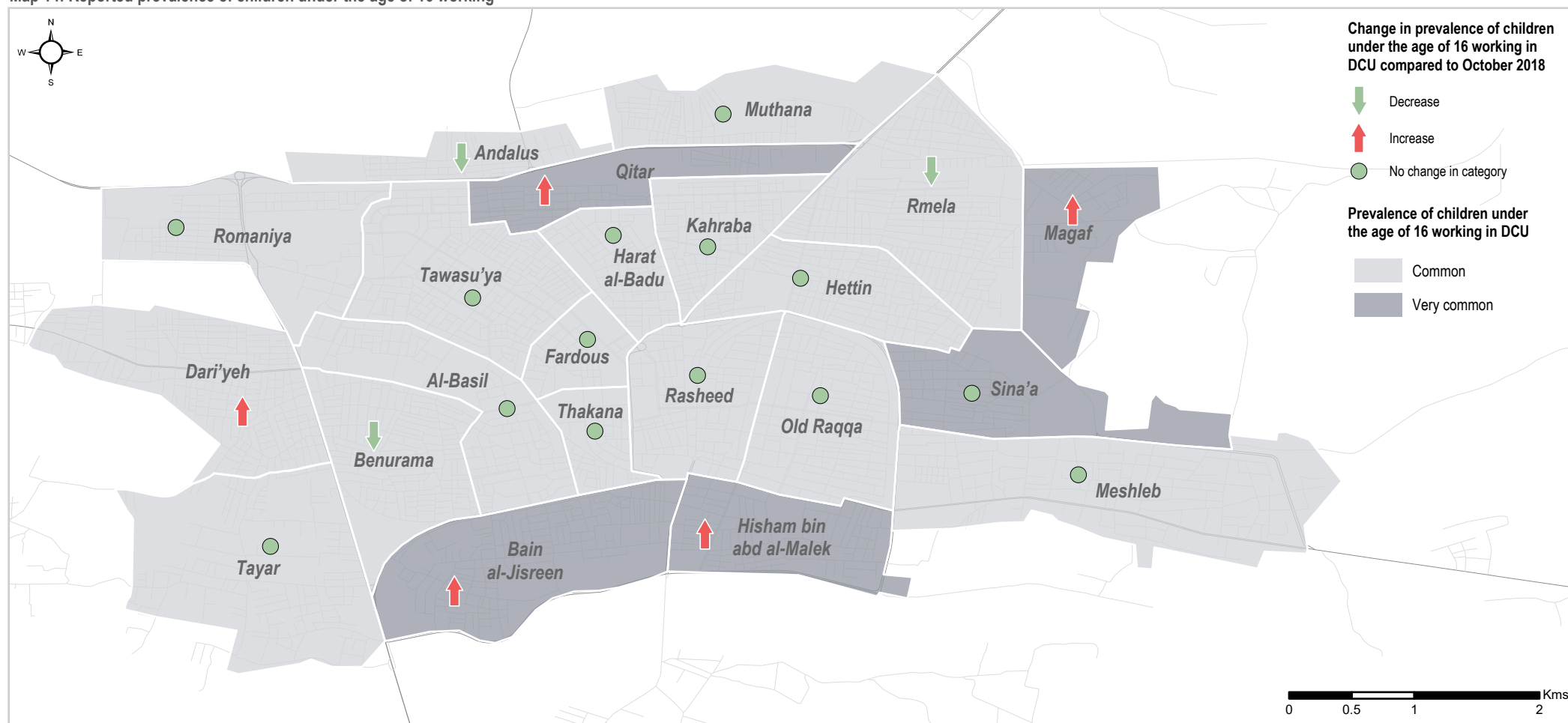
- Ar-Raqqa city residents face numerous protection risks and challenges, some of which have been reported more commonly compared to the last reporting period in October.¹⁴ The most commonly reported protection issues across all DCUs were theft, fear of conscription and movement restrictions. The number of neighbourhoods where KIs reported that these issues occur has risen, particularly for fear of conscription (from six in October to 15 for the current reporting period).

Most commonly reported safety/security issues in two weeks prior to data collection (% of KIs reporting):



- Child labour (by children under the age of 16) continues to be common throughout the city, and is likely related to the challenging livelihood conditions. KIs in all DCUs reported that child labour is common, while KIs in Bain al-Jisreen, Hisham Bin Abd al-Malek, Qitar, Magaf and Sina'a reported child labour to be very common. KIs estimated that rates of child labour have increased in five neighbourhoods since the October assessment.¹⁵
- Other child protection issues reported to be common and increasing in prevalence include early marriage (by children under the age of 16), child-headed households and involvement of children in illegal activities such as theft and drug-related crime. The number of DCUs where early marriage was reported to be common has increased from 9 to 16 since October, while the number of DCUs where child-headed households are reportedly common has increased from 8 to 15.

Map 14: Reported prevalence of children under the age of 16 working



14. Although many KIs did not report mine and UXO contamination as a perceived protection risk for residents in Ar-Raqqa city, this does not mean this risk is reduced or not present in the city. For up-to-date information on mine clearance and hazardous areas, see iMMAP's latest reporting activities.

15. KIs were asked by REACH enumerators about a series of child protection issues and requested to assess their prevalence by rating them as: 'very common', 'common', 'uncommon' or 'never occurs' in the neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood Profile¹⁶

Tayar, Ar-Raqqa City

Estimated population: 2,000 - 2,700 households

Population breakdown:¹⁷

0-5	6-18	19-59	60+
35%	35%	20%	10%

Overview: Tayyar is primarily a residential area where many families work in agriculture. Services are reportedly limited across almost all sectors and the distances to services elsewhere remain a key challenge for residents.

- School (functioning)
- School (non-functioning)
- Mosque
- Bakery
- Community generator
- Kindergarten
- Pharmacy
- Hospital (non-functioning)

- Area with low water pressure reported
- Burning garbage reported
- Low damage density
- High damage density



WASH

- The western part of the neighbourhood reportedly has limited access to the main water network and many residents rely on water trucking services.
- The sewage system is reportedly not functioning, and sewage water gathers in man holes where it occasionally spills into the streets.

Healthcare

- There are only three pharmacies available in Tayyar. In addition, there is one destroyed and non-functioning hospital.
- The lack of facilities and high prices of private services reportedly compel most residents to access healthcare services outside the neighbourhood, although they are often impeded from doing so by unaffordable transportation costs.

Markets

- Only small stores reportedly serve the neighbourhood; residents commonly travel to central Raqqa and Hettin to buy food and NFIs.

Nutrition

- Many mothers reportedly struggle with the high cost of milk powder and supplement infant nutrition with tea mixed with bread, yoghurt, or crushed rice.

Education

- Ibrahim Hananu primary school is the only school that serves the neighbourhood population. In addition, there is one small NGO-operated kindergarten.
- The school reportedly suffers from low capacity, a lack of desks, chairs, overcrowding, as well as inadequate WASH facilities. These factors reportedly impede access to education.
- The need for children to work to support their households instead of attending school was also reported as a key challenge by FGD participants.

Livelihoods

- Day labour is reportedly the main income source for most residents and around half of all households are dependent on humanitarian assistance to cover their basic needs.
- Regular food voucher distributions have reportedly improved food security for residents, although many still employ coping strategies such as reducing the size and number of meals, as well as accumulating debt to cover basic needs.

Bakeries

- There is one public bakery that serves the entire neighbourhood. It reportedly faces flour shortages and does not produce enough bread for all residents.

Protection

- Female FGD participants reported restricted freedom of movement due to perceived problems with crime, drugs and kidnapping, particularly at night when checkpoints are closed and electricity is shut off.
- Child labour was also reported to be common.



16. The damage density is based on data from the damage atlas REACH produced in February 2017 and can be found here: [Infrastructure Damage Reference Maps, Ar-Raqqa City, February 2018](#)
 17. For Tayyar neighbourhood, only one out of three KIs was able to report on the demographic composition of the neighbourhood population.

Neighbourhood Profile

Dariyeh, Ar-Raqqa City

Estimated population: 3,000 - 4,600 households

Population breakdown: 0-5 6-18 19-59 60+
17% 38% 38% 7%

Overview: Dariyeh is a neighbourhood located on the periphery of Ar-Raqqa city where services are reportedly limited, requiring residents to travel to other areas.

Healthcare

- An NGO-operated health clinic reportedly serves as an important healthcare center for residents in the area, including adjacent neighbourhoods.
- Healthcare services in the neighbourhood reportedly still do not suffice to serve community needs due to a lack of medicine (particularly insulin) and specialised services.
- Private clinics in the neighbourhood are reportedly too expensive for most residents.

Livelihoods

- A lack of job opportunities was reported to be the main livelihoods challenge and many residents are dependent on aid.
- Despite occasional humanitarian distributions, access to livelihoods has reportedly gotten worse since the month of August due to population growth and increased competition over the scarce existing livelihood opportunities.

Education

- There are three functioning primary schools, as well as one school that is not functional due to heavy material damage.
- Education services are reportedly not sufficient to serve the population. Reported barriers to education include: a lack of facilities, poor quality of teaching, lack of desks, chairs, windows and educational materials, overcrowding, as well as a lack of appropriate WASH facilities.

Bakeries

- Despite the presence of five public bakeries in the neighbourhood, access to bread is reportedly low due to flour shortages, the low quality of flour, women feeling unsafe when accessing bakeries during the darkness of early morning hours, and bakeries being unable to produce sufficient amounts of bread for residents.

Markets

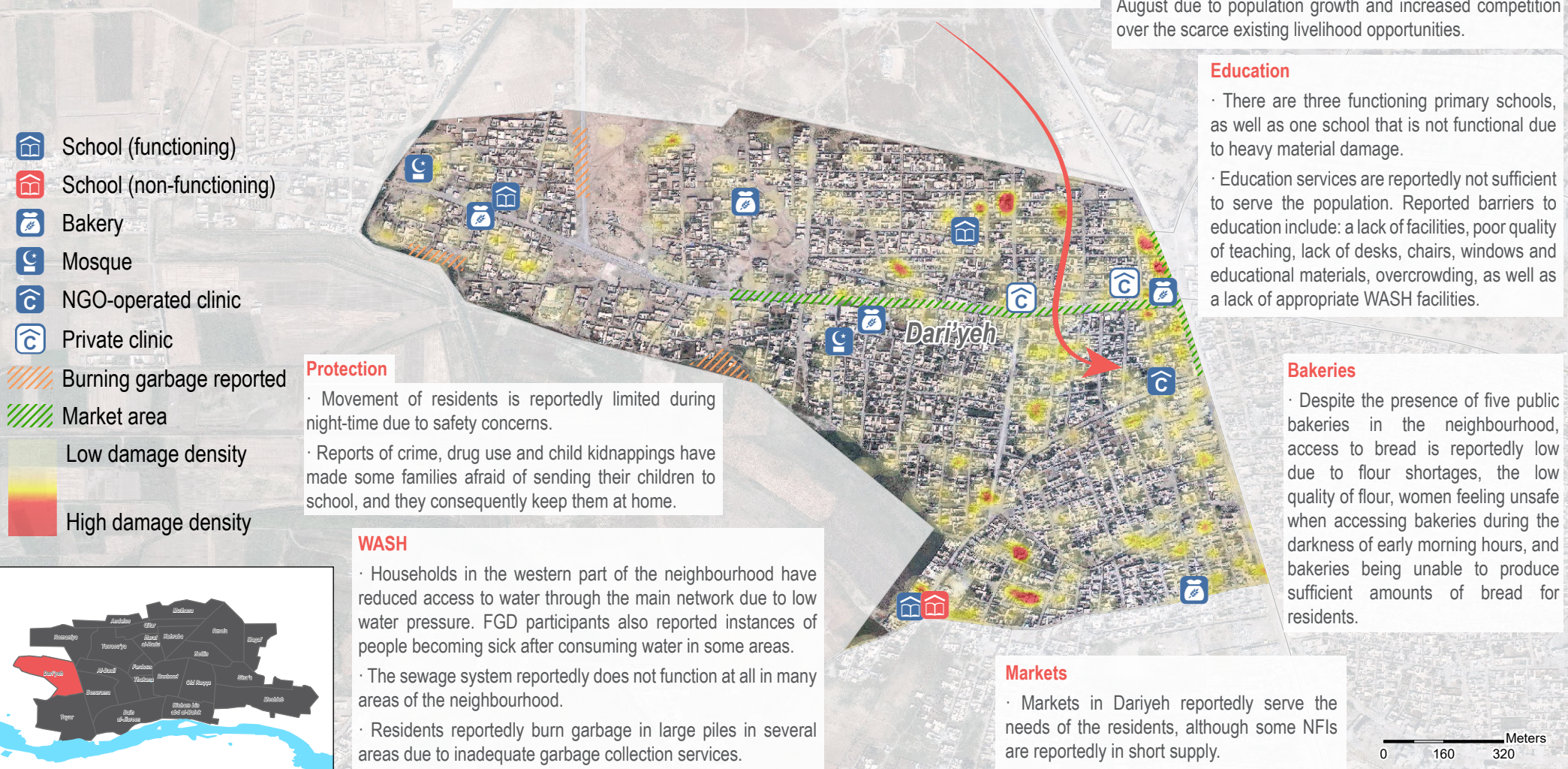
- Markets in Dariyeh reportedly serve the needs of the residents, although some NFIs are reportedly in short supply.

Protection

- Movement of residents is reportedly limited during night-time due to safety concerns.
- Reports of crime, drug use and child kidnappings have made some families afraid of sending their children to school, and they consequently keep them at home.

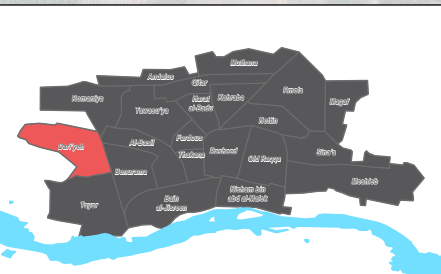
WASH

- Households in the western part of the neighbourhood have reduced access to water through the main network due to low water pressure. FGD participants also reported instances of people becoming sick after consuming water in some areas.
- The sewage system reportedly does not function at all in many areas of the neighbourhood.
- Residents reportedly burn garbage in large piles in several areas due to inadequate garbage collection services.



- School (functioning)
- School (non-functioning)
- Bakery
- Mosque
- NGO-operated clinic
- Private clinic

- Burning garbage reported
- Market area
- Low damage density
- High damage density



Neighbourhood Profile

Al-Basil & Benurama, Ar-Raqqa City

Estimated population: 4,300 - 5,000 households

Population breakdown: 0-5 6-18 19-59 60+
27% 34% 29% 10%

Overview: Benurama is a large and populous residential area with few available services. Al-Basil has suffered significant material damage to its shelters as well as to its key services and infrastructure, and residents often need to travel to access services elsewhere.

WASH

- Garbage collection reportedly takes place daily in main streets, and less frequently in side streets.
- Residents reported that sewage water spills into the streets during heavy rain.

Livelihoods

- The majority of households are reportedly able to earn an income through day labour, although this is not usually sufficient to cover basic needs. Many residents are reportedly compelled to employ negative coping strategies such as selling assets, taking on debt and reducing meal sizes.
- Some FGD participants reported that the livelihoods situation had gotten 'a little bit better' over the last six months, while some reported that it had gotten worse due to a reduction in trade and job opportunities.
- Residents reported that they preferred receiving vouchers over food baskets.

Nutrition

- The majority of mothers reportedly use milk powder to feed infants. Supplementing infant nutrition with a mixture of crushed bread, rice, yoghurt and tea was reported as a common coping method.

Bakeries

- There are three bakeries that serve the resident population, at least one of which is a public bakery.
- Residents reported that bakeries are unable to serve community needs and that they struggle with a lack of flour, overcrowding and limited opening times.

Healthcare

- There is a destroyed children's hospital in Al Basil.
- FGD participants reported that an NGO-operated health clinic has very recently opened in Al-Basil neighbourhood. Pharmacies are available throughout both neighbourhoods.
- Existing services are reportedly too expensive and insufficient to serve the high number of residents. Poorer residents are reportedly unable to access any health services at all.

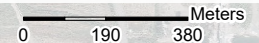
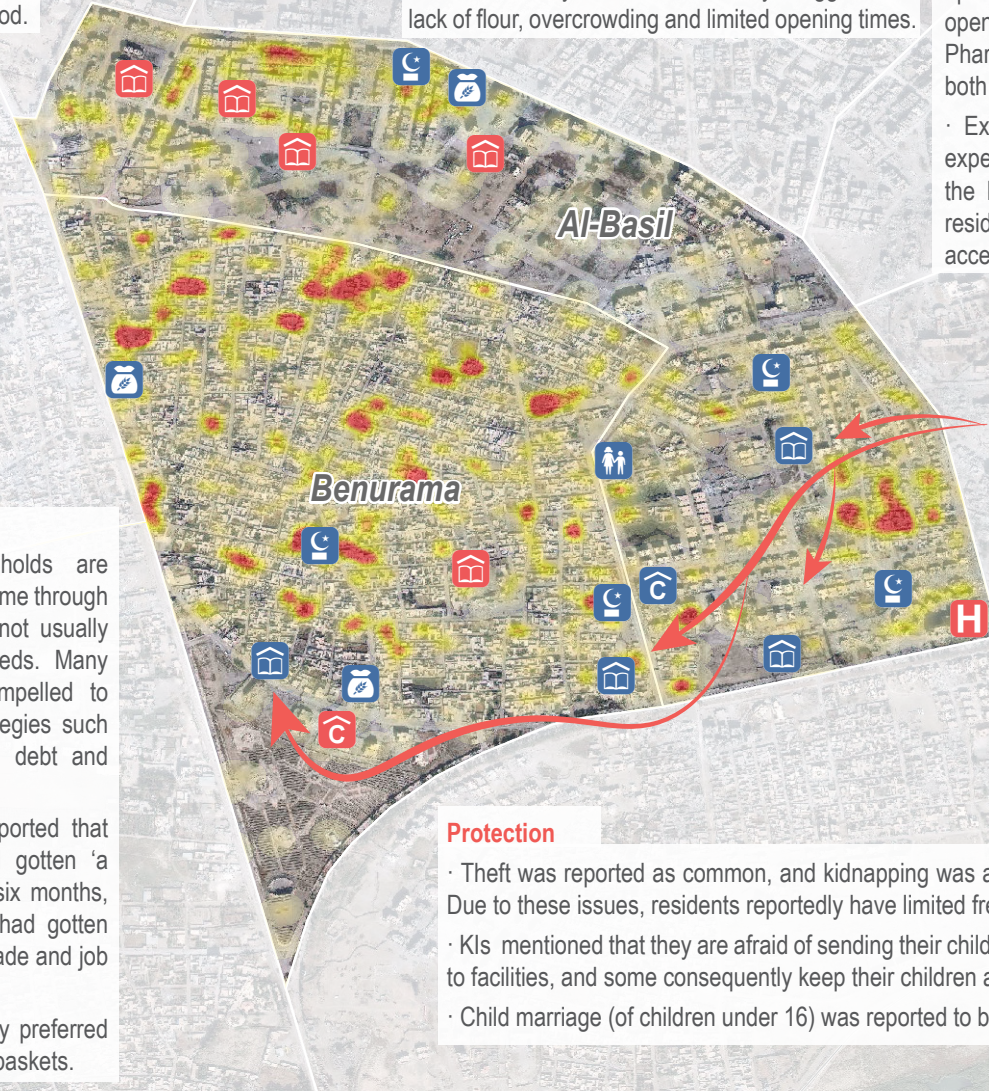
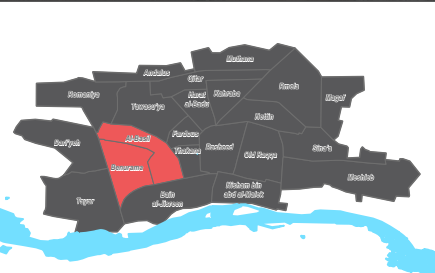
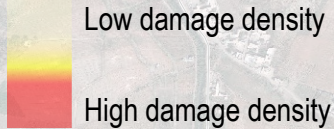
Education

- There are four functioning primary schools in the area, one of which reportedly offers instruction in a rented house. Due to low school capacity, children reportedly also leave the neighbourhood to access education elsewhere.
- Frustrations reported by residents include the INGO curriculum used in one of the schools, as well as overcrowding, poor quality of teachers and teaching, and a lack of windows and doors.

Protection

- Theft was reported as common, and kidnapping was also mentioned as having occurred. Due to these issues, residents reportedly have limited freedom of movement at night.
- KIs mentioned that they are afraid of sending their children to school due to large distances to facilities, and some consequently keep their children at home.
- Child marriage (of children under 16) was reported to be common in both neighbourhoods.

- School (functioning)
- School (non-functioning)
- Bakery
- Mosque
- Kindergarten
- NGO-operated health clinic
- Health clinic (non-functioning)
- Hospital (non-functioning)



Neighbourhood Profile

Old Raqqa & Rasheed, Ar-Raqqa City

Estimated population: 6,000 - 8,000 households

Population breakdown: 0-5 6-18 19-59 60+
27% 28% 31% 14%

Overview: Central Ar-Raqqa city is comprised of Rasheed and Old Raqqa neighbourhoods. Despite the significant damage to shelters and infrastructure, the area serves as a key market district for residents from across Ar-Raqqa city.

-  School (functioning)
-  School (non-functioning)
-  Mosque
-  Bakery
-  NGO-operated clinic
-  Health facility (non-functioning)
-  Private hospital (functioning)
-  Hospital (non-functioning)
-  Hawala agents
-  Market area
-  Old city wall
-  Low damage density
-  High damage density

Electricity

Public generators are spread throughout the neighbourhood, but poorer residents reportedly use private batteries due to their inability to afford service fees.

Healthcare

- The 'Saif al Dawla' clinic in Old Raqqa, which offers free services, is a key healthcare center for residents from throughout the city.
- There is a private hospital and many private clinics are spread throughout both neighbourhoods.
- Although healthcare services are available, these are reportedly insufficient to meet the needs of the population due to a lack of public services, Saif al Dawla clinic being overcrowded, a lack of specialised services, and private services being prohibitively expensive.

Livelihoods

- Many residents are reportedly able to earn money through daily wage labour, but almost half are estimated to also depend on aid. The use of coping strategies such as reducing the number and the size of meals is reportedly common.
- Access to livelihoods has reportedly improved slightly over the six months prior to data collection due to an increase in cash and food distributions, but residents reported that there are quality issues with some of the food items being distributed and that they generally prefer receiving cash over food distributions.

WASH

- FGD participants reported that there are no issues with water quantity or quality, and that there is sufficient access to water through the main water network.
- In some areas, sewage water reportedly spills into the streets when it rains.

Bakeries

- The two neighbourhoods contain more public and private bakeries than FGD participants were able to count, which are reportedly generally able to serve the residents' needs.

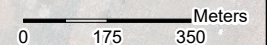
Markets

- Markets in this area reportedly draw residents from throughout the city and all basic food items and NFIs are reported to be available.
- Residents reportedly mainly access hawala services through the hawala agents located along Tel Abyad street.



Education

- There are three functioning schools and five destroyed schools in the two neighbourhoods.
- The schools reportedly offer primary education and intermediary education, although intermediary and secondary education are primarily accessed through private services elsewhere in the city.
- The schools are very overcrowded, with reportedly up to 60 students per class, and generally lack qualified teachers, teaching materials and adequate WASH facilities.



Annex I: Area-Based Assessment of Ar-Raqqa city, Education Services and Infrastructure

Methodology

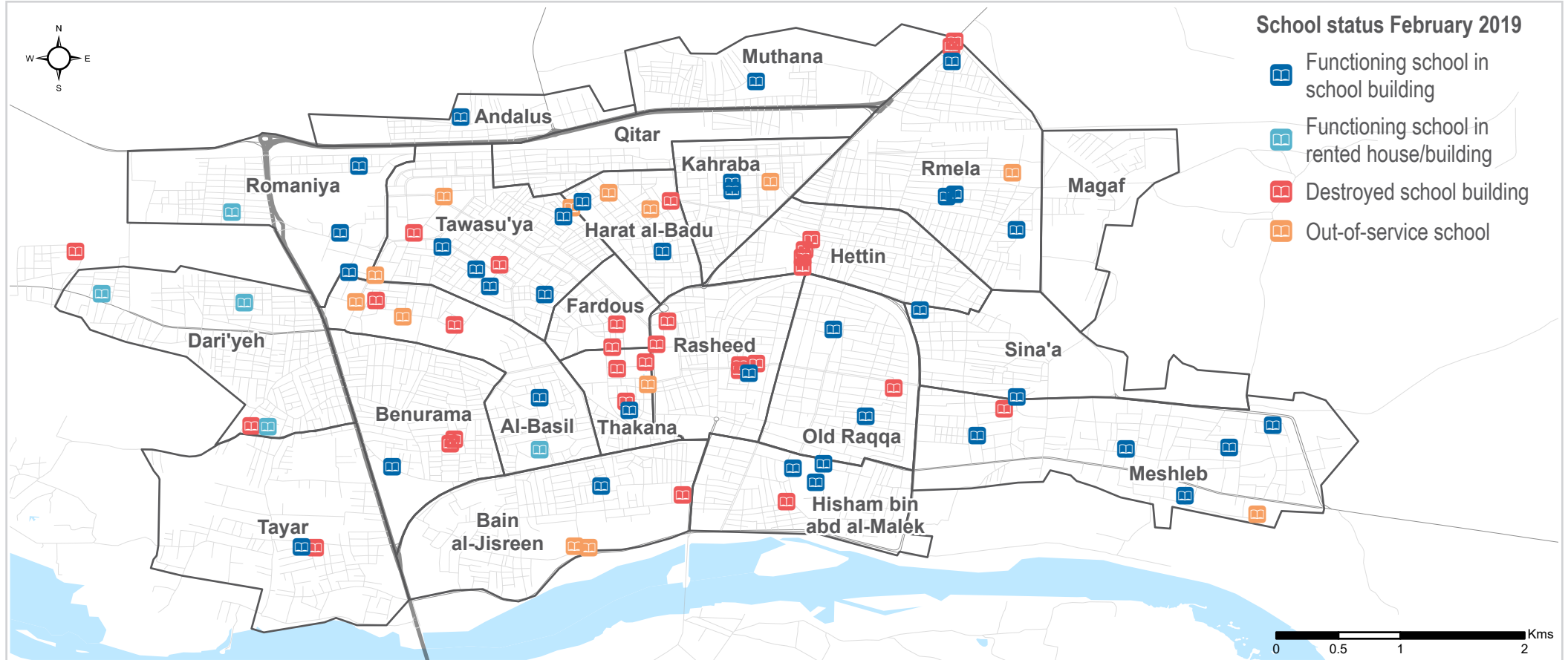
This section outlines the current status of school infrastructure and services in Ar-Raqqa city, and the perceived barriers to education and educational needs of residents based on interviews with expert Key Informants (KIs). In consultation with local authorities, REACH identified 41 public schools operating in the city. On 13-14 February 2019, REACH enumerators conducted KI interviews with 26 local authority members each of whom has in-depth knowledge of the situation in one or more of the schools on the list.¹ Due to this methodology, the findings of this assessment should only be considered indicative of the situation in Ar-Raqqa city at the time of data collection.

Ar-Raqqa City Education Infrastructure²

	21	Schools with primary education
	14	Schools with primary and intermediary education
	6	Schools with primary to secondary education
	13	Schools out-of-service
	30	Destroyed schools

- KIs reported that there are currently 41 functioning public schools in Ar-Raqqa City, 36 of which offer services in school buildings and the remaining five offer education in rented private buildings. In total, 43 schools are non-functioning, 30 of which are destroyed.
- All schools are administered by local authorities, with the exception of one which is reportedly run by an INGO. Fourteen schools reportedly operate on a two-shift basis.³
- All schools reportedly closed down in early 2014, and resumed services in three batches: six schools in late 2017, 22 in early 2018, followed by 13 that reopened between September and October 2018.
- Public schools are serving very low numbers of children aged 13 to 18, suggesting that access to education for this age group is very limited.⁴

Map 1: Ar-Raqqa City Functioning and Non-functioning Schools

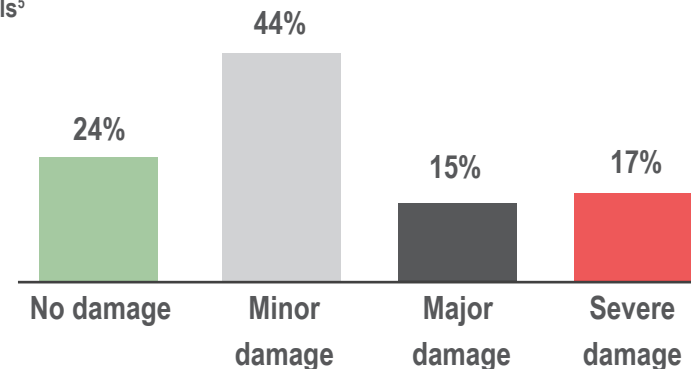


1. 11 KIs reported information on more than one school since they work with local authorities and have knowledge covering multiple schools.
 2. Primary schools offer education for children aged 6-12, intermediary schools for children aged 13-15, and secondary schools for children aged 16-18.
 3. Schools operating on a two-shift basis typically involves one group of students attending in the morning and another attending in the afternoon.
 4. REACH does not have information on the number of children attending private education, and estimates may not reflect the total number of children receiving education in the city. Several participants in the FGDs that were held for the neighbourhood profiles section reported that many children aged 13 to 18 access private education services due to a shortage of public intermediary and secondary schools in the city.

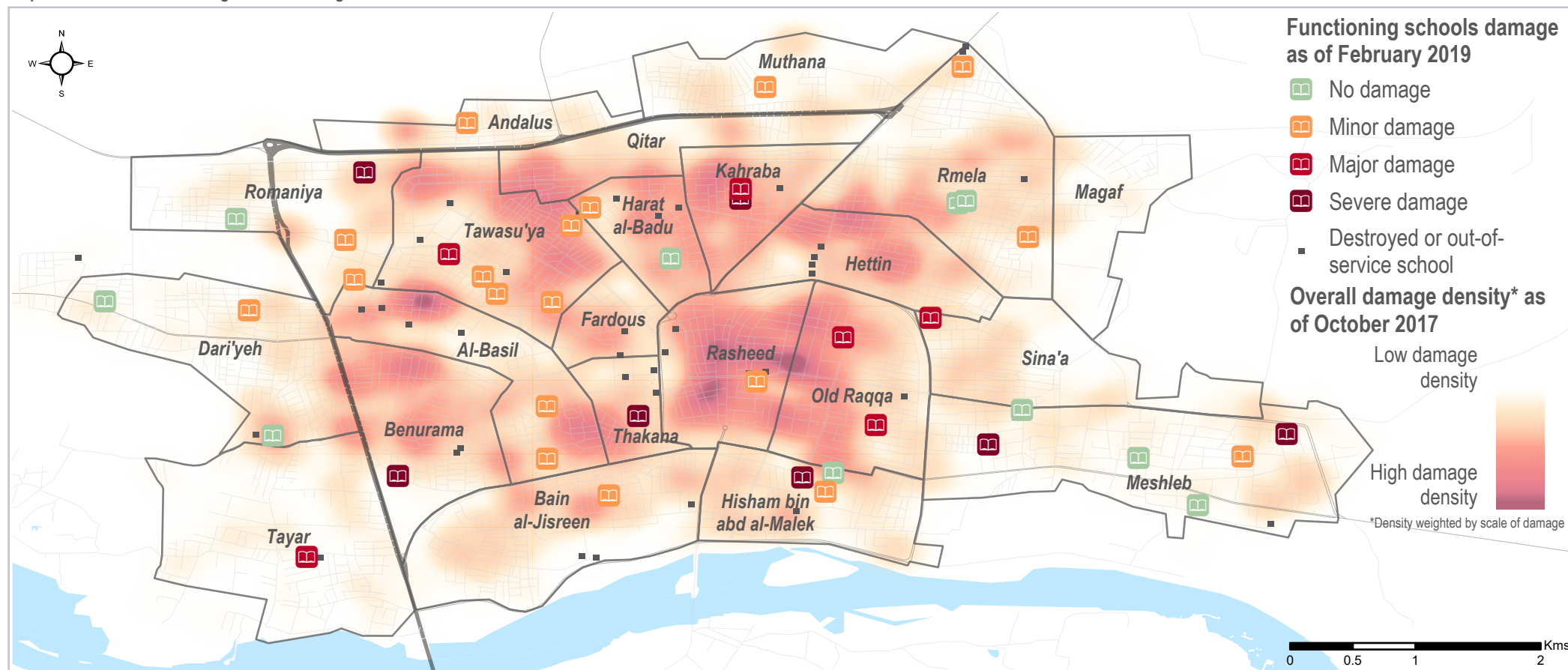
Level of Material Damage to Ar-Raqqa City School Infrastructure

- 32% of schools that are currently functioning in Ar-Raqqa city have reportedly suffered major or severe material damage to their infrastructure, and around half of all functioning schools (44%) currently have minor damage. The schools with the highest levels of material damage are located primarily in the central and northern areas where damage to shelters is reported to be highest.
- KIs reported that threats to the safety of students and staff are present in six schools. These included damaged ceilings or walls at risk of falling down and tunnels dug on school property.
- 71% of all classrooms (1,156 in total) are reportedly used for teaching despite the widespread damage, and 78% of all latrines (318 in total) were reported by KIs to be functioning during the reporting period.
- KIs reported that 13 schools have been rehabilitated during the three months prior to data collection. Rehabilitation was limited to light or moderate repairs to windows, doors, minor holes and cracks in walls and roofs.

Figure 1: Level of material damage to functioning school buildings in Ar-Raqqa city, by % of schools⁵



Map 2: Level of Material Damage to Functioning Schools



5. During data collection, REACH was not able to conduct direct observations of these schools, but rather asked KIs to assess the level of perceived damage to schools buildings. REACH utilised the shelter damage categories as developed by the Shelter Sector for the North East Syria (NES) Hub. These include: no damage/negligible damage, minor damage (shelters with limited damage to walls, doors and windows), major damage (shelters with extensive damage, but no structural damage), severe damage (shelters that have sustained significant structural damage and require extensive repairs) and destroyed (structural damage to shelters are so extensive that rehabilitation is not feasible).

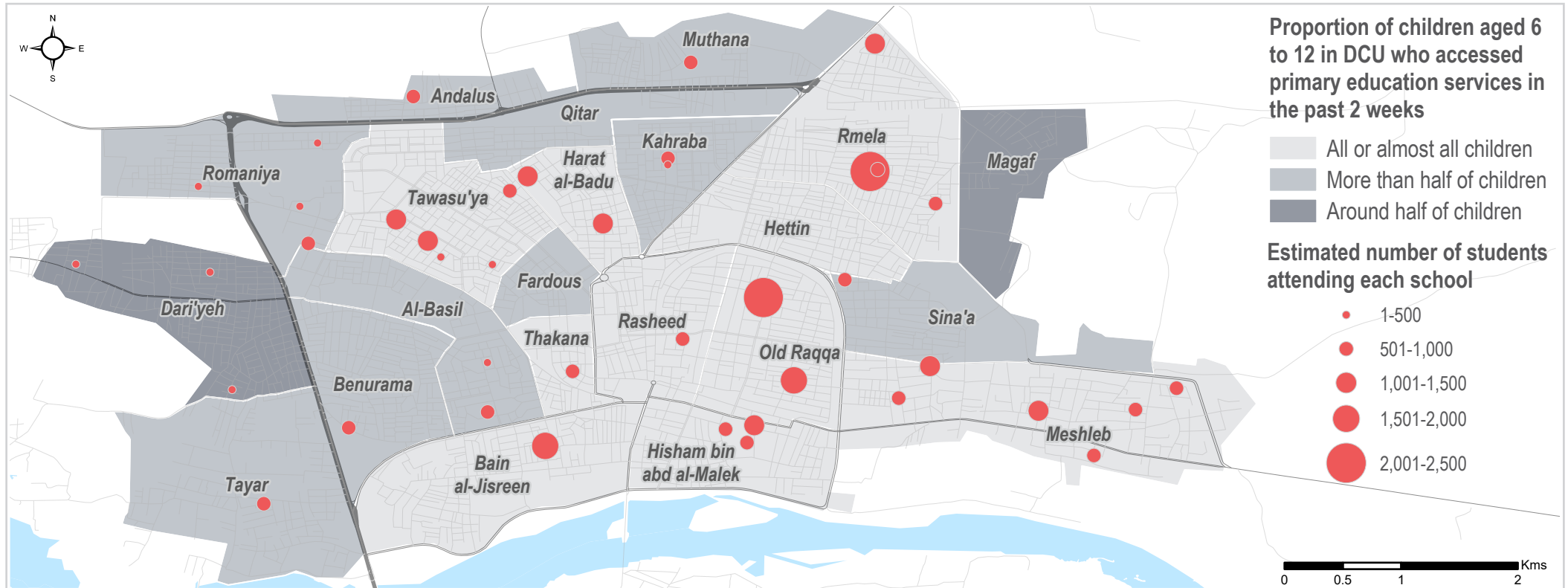
Education Level Capacity of Schools and Barriers to Education

- KIs estimated that 35,562 children attend public formal education in Ar-Raqqa city's public schools. The schools serving the largest numbers of students are reportedly primarily located in Meshleb, as well as in the central, northern and north-eastern areas of the city.
- The western neighbourhoods Dariyeh, Romaniya and Tayar reportedly have a lower number of functioning schools compared to other areas, and the existing schools reportedly serve a lower number of students (each between 1 to 500 or 500 to 1,000 students, only). This may suggest that access to education is particularly limited in these neighbourhoods, especially for children aged 13 to 18.⁶

Table 1: Estimated level of public school attendance, by school-aged children

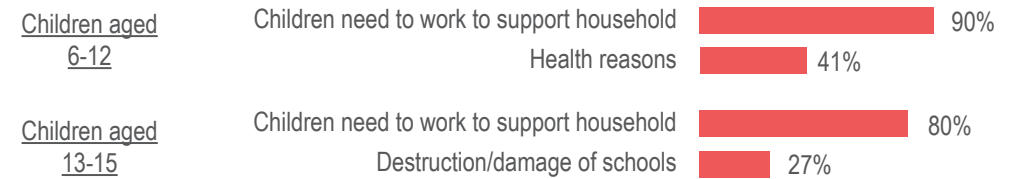
Education level	# boys attending	# girls attending	Overall estimated attendance rate
Primary school (6-12 years old)	15,130	16,328	37% ⁷
Intermediary school (13-15 years old)	1,672	2,138	
Secondary school (16-18 years old)	58	236	
Total	16,860	18,702	

Map 3: Functioning schools by type of education offered and number of students attending



- Under half (41%) of all school-age children in Ar-Raqqa city are estimated to be attending public schools. Only 12% of those attending public schools are taking intermediary or secondary level courses indicating that school attendance for this age group is extremely low. The need to work to financially support the household was reported as the primary barrier to education, suggesting that many of these children are required to work instead of attending school.

Figure 2: Most commonly reported barriers to education (by % of schools)⁸



- KIs estimated that for 88% of schools, the most urgent educational need in the community that the school serves is school equipment (e.g. desks, chairs), followed by teaching and learning materials and the reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of schools, both of which were reported as urgent needs by KIs for 61% of schools.

6. KI information from the main needs assessment of the report suggests that the proportions of children in Tayar, Romaniya and Dariyeh are not lower compared to other areas in Ar-Raqqa city.

7. The percentage of children that are estimated to be attending public schools in Ar-Raqqa city is based on a comparison of the total population estimate of people living in Ar-Raqqa city and the average proportion of people that are estimated to be between ages 6 and 17 (available only for this age cohort, not broken down), both of which were reported by KIs for the main needs assessment of the report.

8. In the main needs assessment, overcrowding and the damaged state of schools were the most commonly reported barriers to education. The differences in findings may be influenced by the profiles of the KIs as well as by political considerations pertaining to the education sector in Ar-Raqqa city. For children aged 6 to 12, lack of teaching materials and destruction/damage of schools were both reported by KIs in 17% of schools. For children aged 13 to 15, health reasons, cost of transportation and lack of teaching materials (books, writing materials, pencils) were all reported by KIs in 15% of schools.