

July - August 2025

ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT

The Humanitarian Situation Overview of Syria (HSOS) is a key informant (KI) assessment monitoring communities across Syria to provide multi-sectoral information on humanitarian conditions and needs. Results are indicative and reflect the percentage of assessed communities (at national or governorate level) where KIs reported about the living conditions in the community for the last 30 days, unless otherwise specified. In this round of HSOS, all governorates were covered except As-Sweida and Quneitra due to ongoing security constraints.

KEY MESSAGES

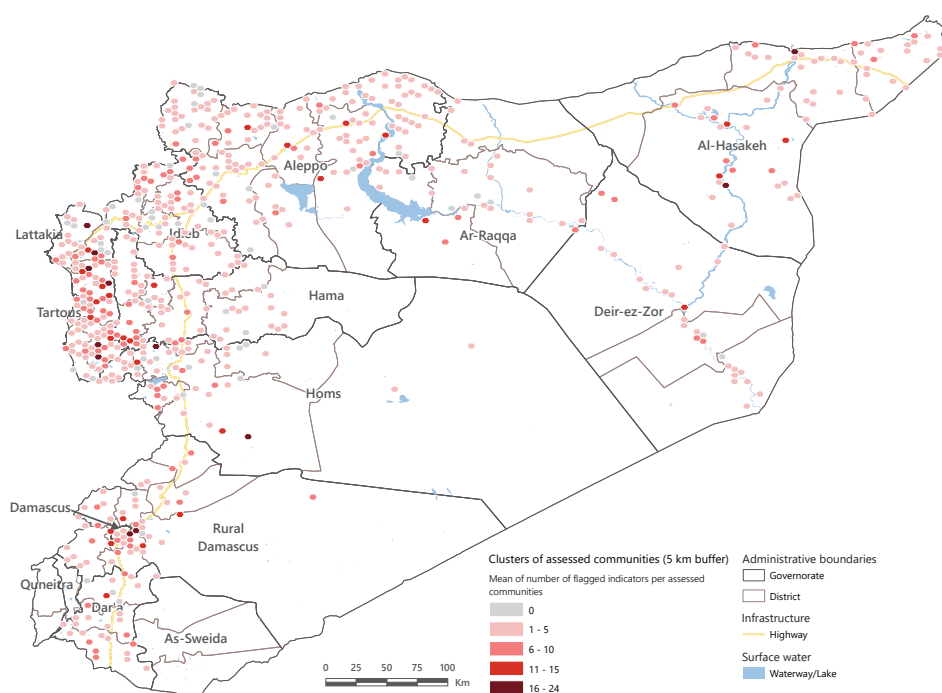
Geographic hotspots of need: Lattakia, Tartous, and Rural Damascus remained areas of high concentration of needs, consistent with [April HSOS](#) findings. KIs in these governorates reported compounded challenges across sectors, driven by wildfires, conflict escalation, and displacement.

Escalating shocks straining coping capacity: KIs reported that communities faced simultaneous shocks, including conflict, displacement, and environmental hazards, that were eroding coping capacity. Wildfires in coastal areas destroyed farmland and infrastructure, while conflict in the south triggered large-scale displacement, overwhelming collective centres and straining services.

Economic barriers as the cross-cutting driver of needs: Economic constraints were the most widespread driver of vulnerability, with 89% of communities reporting insufficient income to meet basic needs. High prices, reduced purchasing power, and limited livelihood opportunities continued to undermine households' access to essential goods and services across sectors.

SEVERITY MAP

The map visualizes the accumulation of humanitarian flags based on communities and 5km diameter aggregates. The color reflects the number of indicators flagged as emergency (4 or 4+), whether across sectors or within the same sector. More information on this methodology is available in the "Severity Index" Section.



The distribution of severe humanitarian indicators highlighted **Rural Damascus, Lattakia, and Tartous** as main hotspots. Wildfires in early July destroyed large areas of farmland and affected tens of thousands of people in coastal governorates, resulting in crop loss, displacement, and smoke-related health issues¹.

In **Rural Damascus**, thousands displaced from the **As-Sweida** placed acute strain on already limited resources, while in Dar'a more than 93,000 arrivals were reported in just ten days², overwhelming collective centres and exhausting basic services.

In the east, KIs in **Deir-ez-Zor** reported high levels of explosive ordnance contamination, consistent with external reports of ongoing incidents. KIs noted frequent casualties and injuries, which disrupted agriculture and livelihoods. In central Syria, KIs in **Homs** reported persistent insecurity that heightened protection and WASH concerns and discouraged return movements.

RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT: AS-SWEIDA (July 2025)

To address evidence gaps for the humanitarian response, REACH conducted a separate rapid needs assessment in **As-Sweida, Dar'a, and Rural Damascus** at the end of July. In As-Sweida, KIs reported that recent conflict escalation triggered displacement and created overlapping shelter and protection concerns. Displaced families were frequently residing in damaged buildings or overcrowded collective centres, while fears of renewed violence were widespread. Limited access to food, income, and water further drove reliance on negative coping strategies and deepened food insecurity.

In **As-Sweida**, **83%** of assessed communities reported conflict-related housing damage, and **61%** reported IDPs staying mainly in collective centres. Shelter, NFIs (particularly hygiene kits and female hygiene items), and protection support emerged as the most urgent needs.

The full As-Sweida RNA factsheet is available [here](#), and analysis files [here](#).

July - August 2025

KEY FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Economic constraints remain a cross-cutting driver of humanitarian needs across all sectors. While sector-specific barriers such as limited service availability, damaged infrastructure, or restricted access were reported, the cost of essential goods and services consistently emerged as one of the most significant obstacles. Across health, education, water, shelter, and food security, key informants highlighted that limited income opportunities, reduced purchasing power, and high market prices are preventing households from accessing basic services and meeting their needs. This highlights the strong link between sectoral vulnerabilities and wider livelihood and economic challenges, which stem not only from service availability but also from pervasive economic barriers.

The following results are presented as percentage of communities at national and governorate level.

First priority need

1	Food Security	33%
2	Livelihoods	21%
3	WASH	13%

Second priority need

1	Livelihoods	22%
2	Food Security	21%
3	Health	18%

Third priority need

1	Livelihoods	15%
2	Food Security	14%
3	Health	13%

Food Security (by % of assessed communities)

71%
had problems accessing food

Hasakeh	97%
Deir-ez-Zor	84%
Lattakia	77%

88%
faced economic barriers

Damascus	100%
Tartous	95%
Hasakeh	91%

20%
reported people with hunger

Lattakia	44%
Hasakeh	39%
Raqqa	31%

Livelihoods (by % of assessed communities)

89%
had problems earning enough income to meet basic needs

Raqqa	94%
Tartous	93%
Idleb	92%

86%
had low wages offers

Hasakeh	96%
Deir-ez-Zor	94%
Dar'a	94%

63%
relied on farming for food

Homs	75%
Aleppo	70%
Tartous	68%

Health (by % of assessed communities)

73%
had problems accessing healthcare

Hasakeh	95%
Lattakia	89%
Raqqa	84%

63%
had a lack of medicine

Lattakia	73%
Dar'a	73%
Deir-ez-Zor	72%

78%
relied on pharmacies for healthcare

Raqqa	100%
Deir-ez-Zor	94%
Dar'a	86%

While **supermarkets remained the primary source of food in most communities (78%), reliance on own farming (63%) and livestock for consumption (53%) was also widespread**, underscoring the central role of agriculture in daily survival. Yet, economic hardship was evident, with **70% of communities reporting the use of negative coping strategies** such as spending savings, selling belongings (61%), or reducing expenditures on health and education (55%). In more than half of the assessed locations (54%), KIs reported people resorted to negative coping strategies to meet food needs.

Agriculture, one of Syria's main industries, was reported in 87% of communities, and in 28% more than half of the population engaged in crop cultivation for food or income. However, **68% of communities saw a decline in harvests compared to the previous season, in 91% of cases due to drought**. Livestock production was similarly constrained: **80% of communities cited high animal feed costs as the main barrier, while 42% noted that low market prices for animals and animal products undermined livelihoods**. These pressures led to a sudden drop in livestock numbers in 29% of communities, mainly as households sold animals due to insufficient feed and the risk of death (77%). Together, these dynamics form a self-reinforcing cycle in which high costs, low returns, and climate shocks erode production and income, deepening reliance on farming and livestock while perpetuating vulnerability.


The strain extended into health access. In **56% of communities, fewer than half of the population could obtain healthcare when needed**, primarily due to the lack of medicine (63%) and **unaffordable consultation and medication costs (58%)**. Pharmacies emerged as the most common health facility (78%), reflecting limited availability of other services, which were often located more than 30 minutes away (41%).


July - August 2025

SECTORAL FINDINGS


 **Displacement trends**
48% of communities reportedly had displaced people arriving over the past 30 days, in which **68%** reported IDPs had fled to their area due to armed conflict.

 **WASH**
63% of communities had problems accessing water that was safe to drink with the main barrier being the quantity (**38%**) drinking water they could access. with the main barrier being the cost (**39%**).

 **Protection & Social Cohesion**
45% of communities reported experiencing a fear of imminent conflict. In terms of free movement, which was a problem in **21%** of communities, the main reason preventing people in the communities to do so were the road blocks and checkpoints (**67%**) followed by economic barriers for the cost of transportation (**44%**).

 **Electricity and infrastructure**
69% of communities relied on the main network, with **70%** reporting solar panels and batteries being too expensive, resulting in **56%** of communities relying on less than 6 hours of electricity a day.

 **Shelter & NFIs**
32% of communities had adequacy problems in the shelters they lived. The main issues were barriers to pay the rent (**64%**) and overcrowding and lack of privacy within their houses (**60%**). For **81%** of communities, accessing NFIs was difficult due to the lack of resources.

 **Accountability to affected populations**
78% of communities reported that humanitarian assistance was not provided in the community but needed based on the needs of the population. For **81%**, food assistance was the most needed aid followed by health services (**59%**).

SEVERITY INDEX METHODOLOGY

The Area of Knowledge Severity Index (AoK SI)³ is a composite index methodology that aims to provide a standardized and efficient approach to summarising and interpreting AoK data into meaningful and actionable analysis of acute multisectoral humanitarian needs at community and area level. The AoK SI has indicators across nine sectors or themes: Food Security; Livelihoods; Shelter; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH); Health; Protection; Education; Market Functionality; and Shocks.

For the case of Syria, **31 indicators were analysed to calculate the Flag Index**. This approach enables the prioritisation of response actions within a crisis based on an absolute comparison of the severity of needs using a predefined scale. It is important to note that these thresholds are applied per individual indicator, and should not be interpreted as part of a cumulative or scoring system. The severity scale ranges as follows:

- 1 - None/minimal:** Essential basic sectoral needs are met
- 2 - Stress:** Borderline inability to meet basic sectoral needs
- 3 - Crisis/Severe:** Moderate inability to meet basic sectoral needs (and moderate risk of preventable loss of life)
- 4 - Emergency/Extreme:** Extreme inability to meet basic sectoral needs (and high risk of preventable loss of life)
- 4+ - Extreme Emergency/Catastrophic/Sectoral Collapse:** Collapse of basic services and/or total inability to meet basic sectoral needs (and very high risk of preventable loss of life)

The threshold 4 is used as the standard because it effectively identifies critical needs while aligning with established frameworks.

REFERENCES

- 1 - SARC Wildfires Operational Plan 2025, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), 2025. For more information in the [link](#).
- 2 - Syria: Fighting in Sweida Leaves Families Without Food, Save the Children, 2025. For more information in the [link](#).
- 3 - The Area of knowledge Severity Index, REACH. For more information in the [link](#).

KEY INFORMATION

Governorates: **12+1** (From RNA)
 Communities assessed: **742+83** (From RNA)
 Key informants: **1,054+104** (From RNA)
 Data collection dates: **27 July - 5 August**
 Recall period of indicators: **30 days**

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).