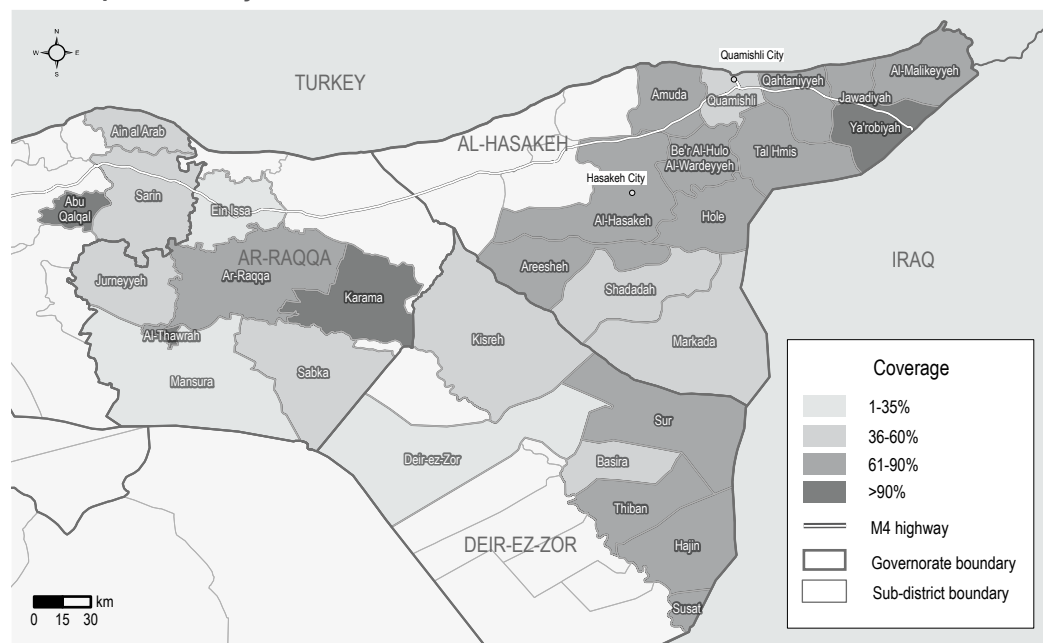


Introduction and Methodology

HSOS is a monthly assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This factsheet presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, economic conditions, living conditions, access to basic services, COVID-19 situation, and security and protection situation in Northeast Syria. Sector-specific indicator findings by location can be found on the [HSOS dashboard](#).

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview three to five KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely (via phone). KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **1,205 communities** across Aleppo¹ (162 communities), Ar-Raqqa (261 communities), Al-Hasakeh (712 communities), and Deir-ez-Zor (70 communities) governorates. **Data was collected between 31 of January -14 of February 2021 from 3,861 KIs** (21% female). Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection (January 2020/ February 2021). Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalized across the population and region. Findings that are calculated based on a subset of the community are indicated by the following footnote ♦, with each subset specified in the endnotes.

The complete monthly HSOS dataset is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).



Key Highlights

February findings highlight significant challenges for populations across Northeast Syria (NES) in accessing water and electricity. Those relying on agriculture to meet their basic needs were particularly impacted by electricity shortages, increasing prices and rainfall deficits. Further, hostilities remained a threat to civilians in Deir-ez-Zor and along the Turkish border.

- Fuel shortages and increased fuel prices negatively affected access to water.** In February, 13 water stations in Al-Hasakeh and in Deir-ez-Zor stopped functioning because of fuel shortages.^a In 58% of the assessed communities, not all households had access to sufficient water. The issue of insufficient water particularly hit Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh governorates, where in 10 out of the 20 assessed sub-districts all assessed communities reported insufficient access to water for a proportion of households.
- Heightened fuel prices also increased the operational cost of generators, raising the price of electricity.**^{bc} In Al-Hasakeh, the high price of fuel for generators and solar panels were mentioned as barriers to accessing electricity in 46% and 40% of the assessed communities, respectively. In Deir-ez-Zor, more than half of the assessed communities reported the high price of generators and the shortage of fuels for generators. Households in Al-Hasakeh and in Deir-ez-Zor governorates reportedly could access electricity less than seven hours per day in 48% and 57% of the assessed communities, respectively.
- Reduced access to electricity from the main network increased the demand for more expensive sources of electricity, especially within agricultural production.** Due to prolonged power outages, farmers in Al-Hasakeh reportedly replaced electric water pumping engines used for irrigation by more expensive diesel engines.^c Moreover, to cope with power cuts, some households in NES resorted to using solar panels and large batteries which were reported to be unaffordable for a proportion of households in 27% and 97% of communities, respectively.^c A drop in the availability of hydroelectric power following reduced water levels of the Euphrates river also increased the demand for solar panels and batteries in Ar-Raqqa.^d
- Dry weather conditions continued to impact the agricultural sector.** Rainfall deficits limited yield prospects for wheat crops and decreased the area of rain-fed pastures.^{ef} In Aleppo, three quarters of the assessed communities were reportedly negatively affected by the seasonality of agricultural production. Degradation of agricultural lands and crop damage was reported as a barrier to accessing livelihoods in 23% of the assessed communities in NES. This issue was reported in nearly all assessed communities in the sub-districts of Hole, Jawadiyah and Ya'robiyah, in Al-Hasakeh.
- The security situation remained fragile, in particular at the Turkish border and in Deir-ez-Zor.** Clashes were reported in Al-Hasakeh governorate.^g In Ein Issa sub-district, the threat from shelling was reported by KIs, while nearly all assessed communities in the sub-districts of Hajin and Susat, in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, reported the threat from imminent conflict.

HSOS Dashboard

For a breakdown of sector-specific indicators by location, please see the [HSOS dashboard](#). The interactive HSOS dashboard provides a monthly sectoral overview of key indicators disaggregated at the sub-district and community level.



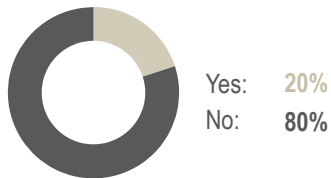
Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



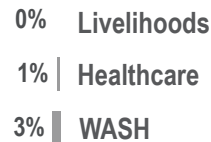
Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for Residents (by % of communities) ^{2,3}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Healthcare	WASH	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	70%
2	WASH ^a	Livelihoods	WASH	Healthcare	67%
3	Livelihoods	Healthcare	Healthcare	WASH	55%

% of communities where any of the resident households were able to access humanitarian assistance



% of communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance** for residents ⁴



Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of communities) ^{4,†}

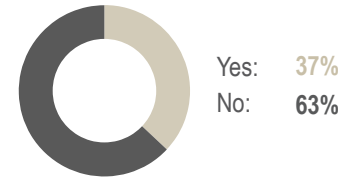
Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance	Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need 67% 1	97% No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient 63% 2	3% Not aware if assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs 58% 3	



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs (by % of communities) ^{2,3,b}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Food	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	77%
2	Healthcare	Healthcare	Winterisation	Healthcare	53%
3	Livelihoods	WASH	Healthcare	Food	49%

% of communities where any of the IDP households were able to access humanitarian assistance



% of communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance** for IDPs ⁴



Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of communities) ^{4,†}

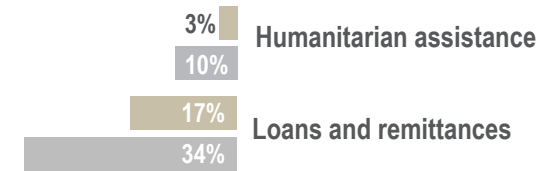
Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance	Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient 64% 1	98% No humanitarian assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs 60% 2	2% Not aware if assistance was available
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need 59% 3	



Economic Conditions

Region	Estimated median monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{5,6}	Estimated median monthly rent price for a two bedroom apartment ^{5,6}	Estimated median daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}
Northeast Syria	12,000 SYP	25,000 SYP	4,000 SYP
Aleppo	2,000 SYP	22,500 SYP	5,000 SYP
Al-Hasakeh	15,000 SYP	30,000 SYP	4,000 SYP
Ar-Raqqa	1,500 SYP	25,000 SYP	4,000 SYP
Deir-ez-Zor	15,000 SYP	25,000 SYP	3,500 SYP

% of communities where KIs reported the presence of residents and IDP households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs ⁴



% of communities where barriers to accessing income from agriculture to meet basic needs were reported ⁴

Residents

22%

Lack of access to resources

35%

Seasonality of production

23%

Degradation of agricultural lands/ crop damage

1%

High rates of livestock death

IDPs

9%

9%

4%

0%

81% and 91%

% of communities where KIs reported daily waged labour as a common source of income for residents and IDPs

71 days

Number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of basic SMEB items ^{5,9}

86% and 66%

% of communities where KIs reported the insufficient income of households and lack of employment opportunities that match people's skills as barriers to meeting basic needs ⁸

% of communities where common livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ⁴

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food from crop production	37%	25%
Cash from crop production	72%	4%
Livestock products	75%	30%
Sale of livestock	55%	21%

Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services



KIs in 21% of communities cited that **rent prices** were unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in 32% of communities cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



KIs in 35% of communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



KIs in 83% of communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge ⁸



KIs in 83% of communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge



KIs in 21% of communities cited the high cost of **a private tutor** as a common challenge ⁸



Living Conditions

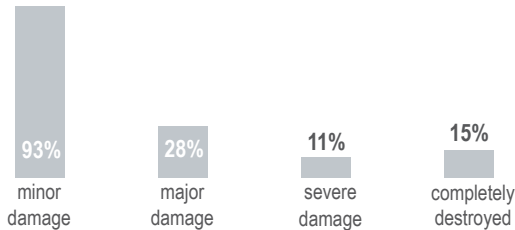


A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **15%** of communities



A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **27%** of communities

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages reported ^{5,10}



In **94%** of communities reportedly at least **80%** of the resident population owned their shelter

In **84%** of communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **3%** of communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **12%** of communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents



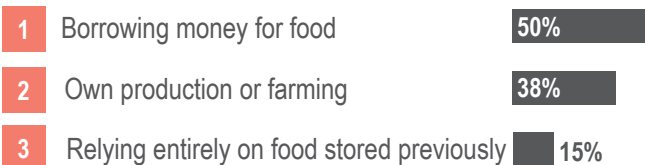
98% % of communities where KIs reported that households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food ⁸

In 21% of these communities, KIs reported that the unavailability of certain food items was a challenge to accessing sufficient food ⁸

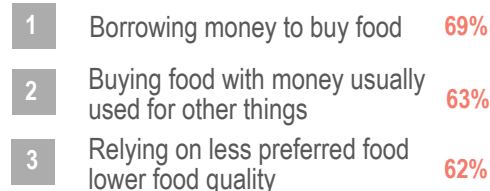


High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 96% of communities) ^{1,2}

Commonly reported sources of food for households other than markets (by % of communities) ⁴

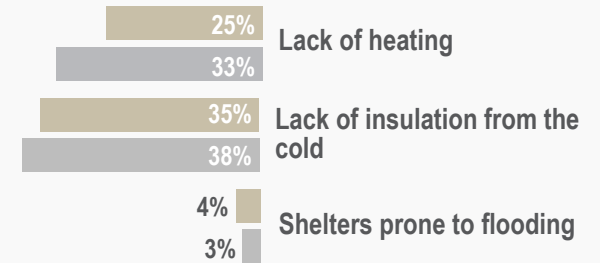


Most commonly reported coping strategies for a lack of food (by % of communities) ⁴

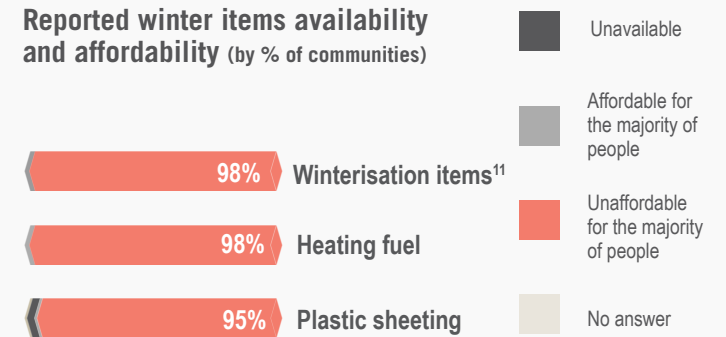


Winter-related findings

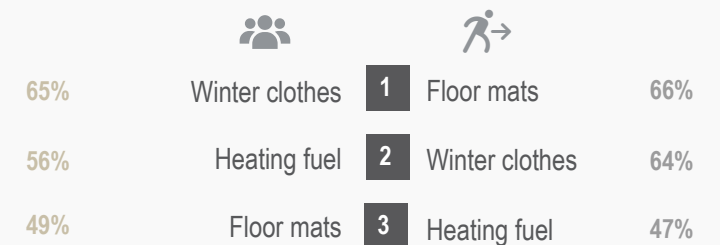
% of communities where winter-related shelter inadequacies for residents and IDPs were reported

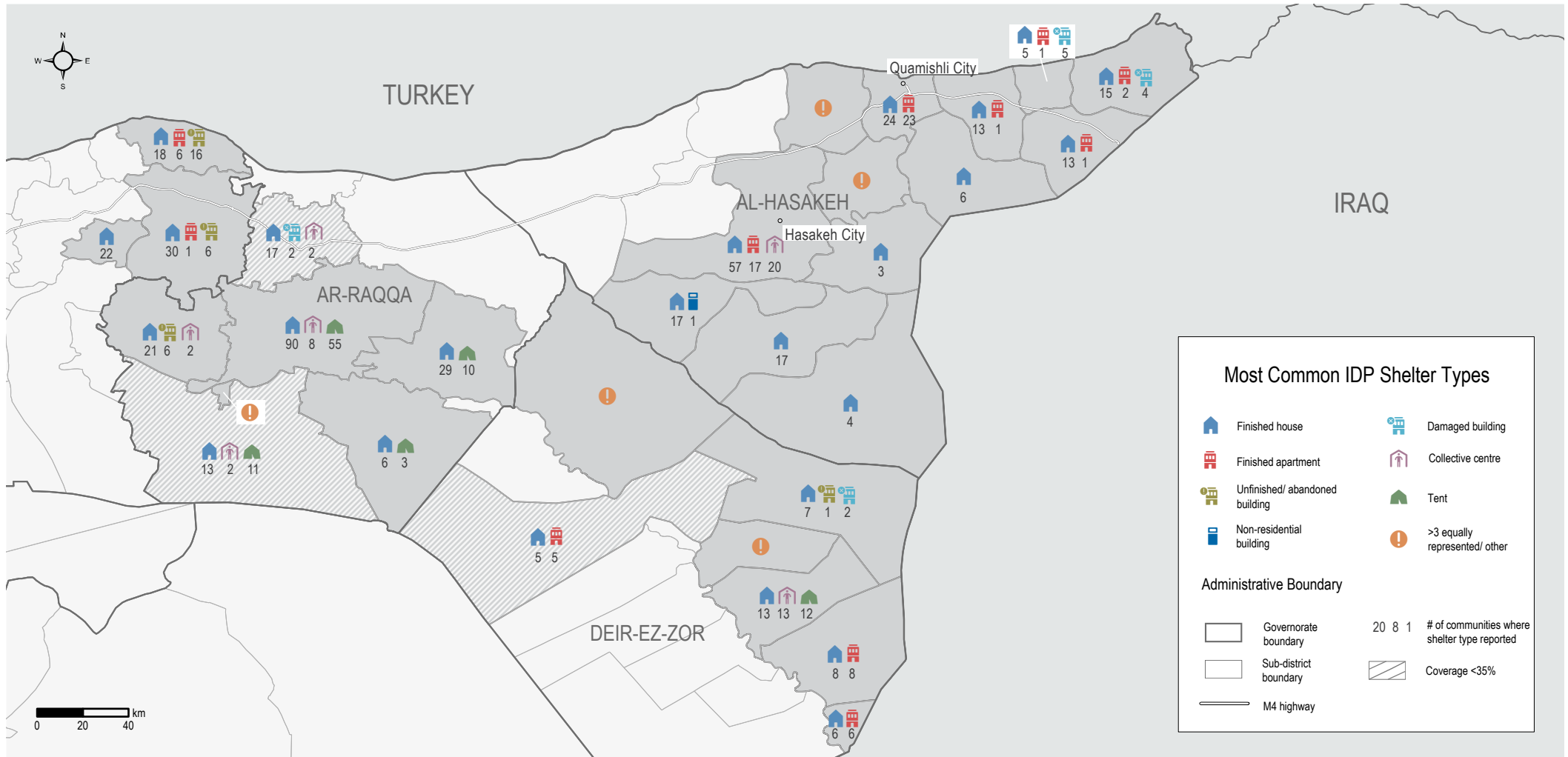


Reported winter items availability and affordability (by % of communities)



Top three most commonly reported winterisation needs for residents and IDPs (by % of communities)





Common IDP Shelter Types by Sub-District

Note on the map

This map shows the three most common shelter types for IDPs by sub-district. In cases where fewer than three types were selected by KIs, only two are shown on the map. Solid finished house was the most common shelter type overall, and there was no obvious spatial pattern when comparing the four governorates assessed.



Access to Basic Services



Access to Electricity

>12 hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 22% of communities)

Main network

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 82% of communities)

23%

% of communities where KIs reported the **main network is partially or completely not functioning** as a barrier for electricity access



Access to Water

58%

% of communities where KIs reported that **not all households** had access to sufficient water



7 days 26%
5-6 days 16%
3-4 days 12%
1-2 days 23%
0 days 23%

Days per week water from the network was available (by % of 719 communities connected to a water network)

Piped water network

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 38% of communities)

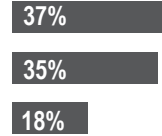


Access to Sanitation

85%

% of communities where KIs reported that **no sewage system was present**

Most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste (by % of communities)



Waste burnt
Free public waste collection
Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

35%

% of communities where KIs reported waste removal services as a WASH priority need ⁸



Access to Markets

36%

% of communities in which households reportedly were **unable to access markets in the assessed location**

Not enough consumers to support markets in the assessed location

was the most commonly reported **reason for why markets were not functioning** (reported by KIs in 80% of communities where households were unable to access markets in their own location)

77%

% of communities where KIs reported that the **lack of transportation to markets** was a barrier to physically accessing food markets

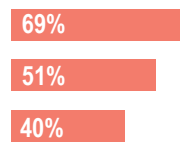


Access to Health Services

74%

% of communities where KIs reported that the **households did not have access to health services in the assessed location**

Most commonly reported health priority needs (by % of communities) ⁸



Treatment for chronic diseases
Medicines and other commodities
First aid or emergency care

Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

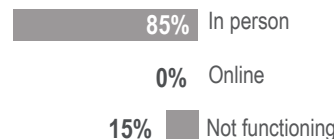
was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 90% of communities)



Access to Education Services

22%
59%

% of communities in which **half or less of the school aged children accessed school** in the last 30 days for residents and IDPs

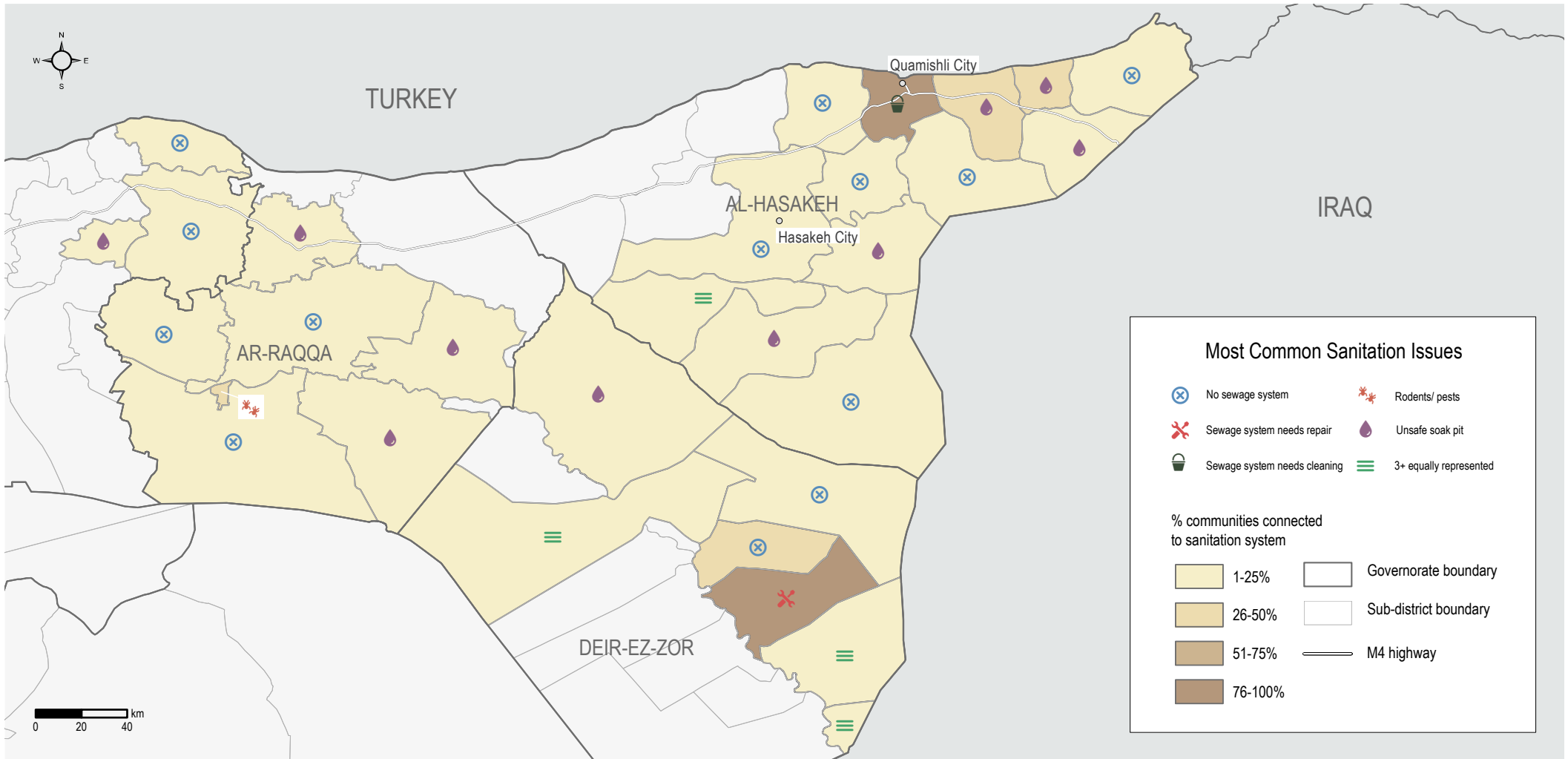


In person
Online
Not functioning

% of communities where KIs reported on the functioning of education services in the assessed location ⁴

43%

% of communities where KIs reported that the **lack of recognised certification of education level completed** was a barrier to accessing education services ⁸



Most Common Sanitation Issues

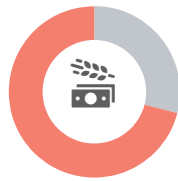
Note on the map

This map shows the most commonly reported sanitation issues by sub-district, along with the percentage of communities connected to a sanitation system. No sewage system and unsafe soak pit were the most frequently reported issues overall.



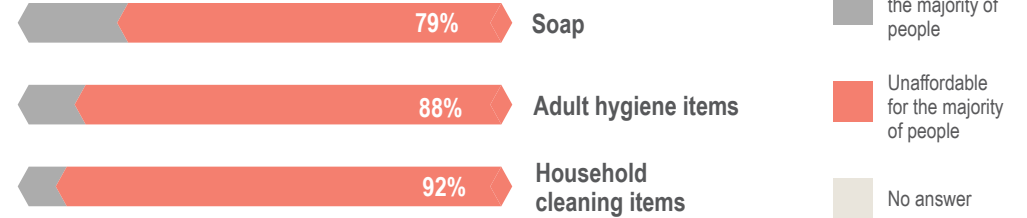
COVID-19

Effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods sectors in the community (by % of communities)

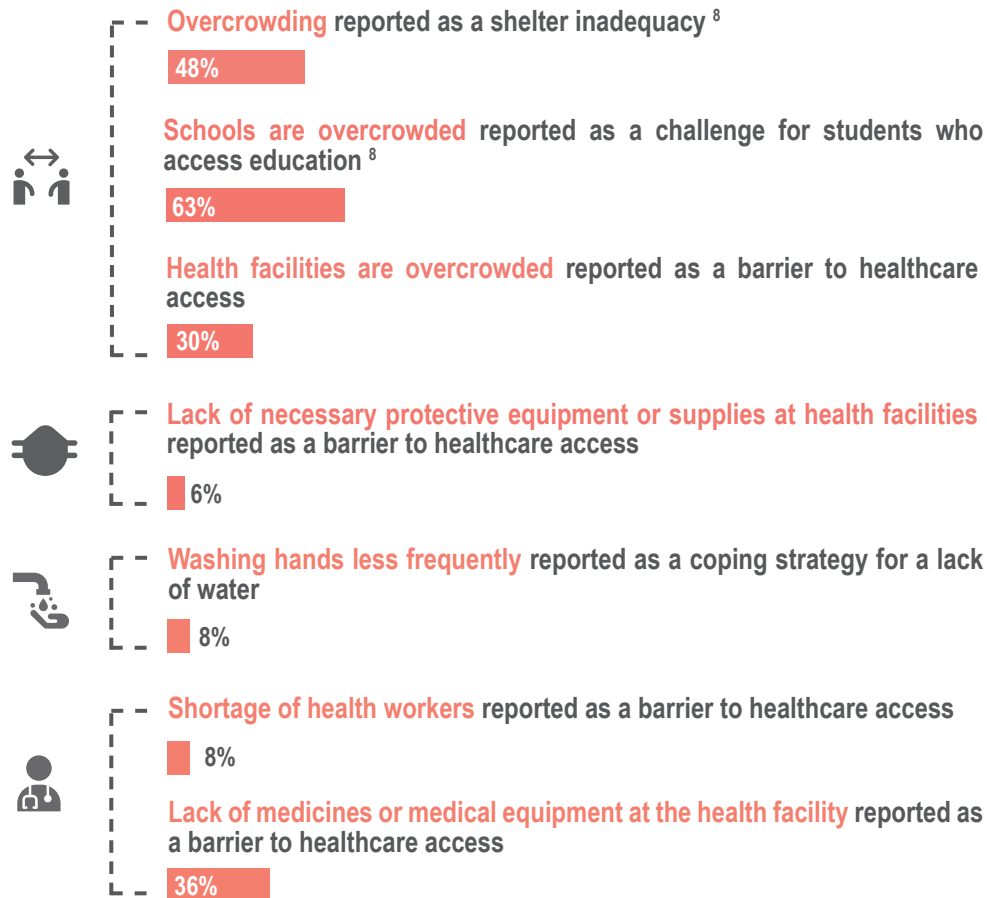


None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 29%
At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 71%

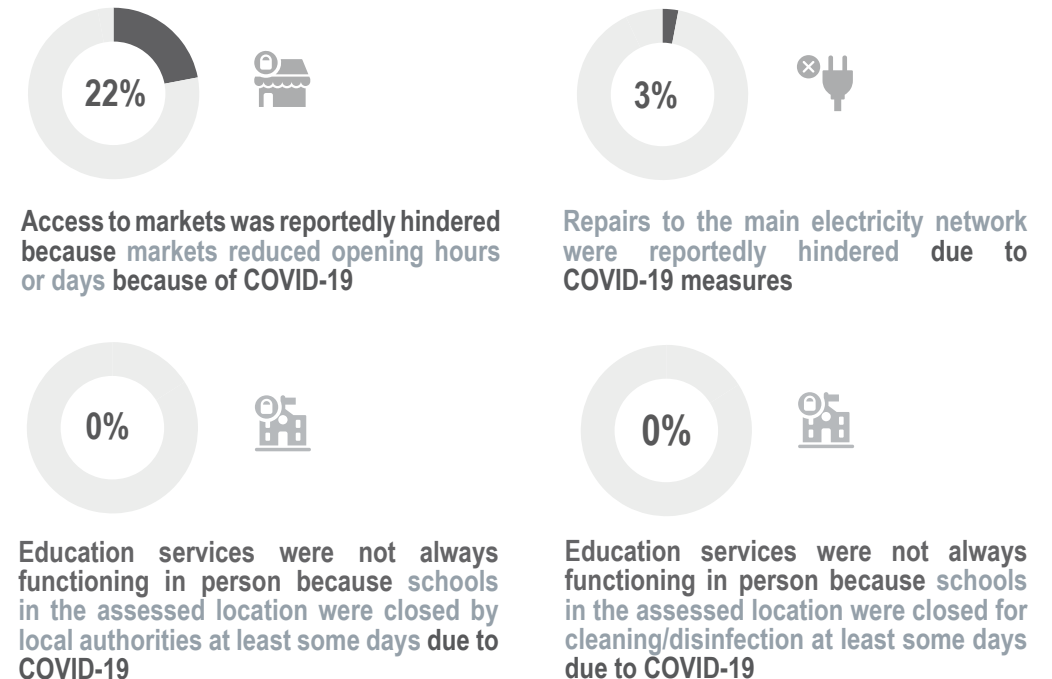
Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of communities) ¹³



% of communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported



% of communities where COVID-19 related barriers to access to services were reported





Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security

-  **General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets** was reported as barrier to market access in **74** communities
- General safety and security concerns at markets** was a reported barrier to market access in **31** communities
- Movement restrictions** was reported as a protection risk in **20** communities ⁸
-  **Tribal disputes** were reported as a protection risk in **15** communities ⁸
- Threat from shelling** was reported as a protection risk in **2** communities ⁸
- Fear from imminent conflict** was reported as a protection risk in **53** communities ⁸
-  **The inability to lock homes securely** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **28%** of communities ⁸
- Lack of lighting around the shelter** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **73%** of communities ⁸
- The security situation** was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **3%** of communities
- Housing, land, and property issues** were reported as a protection risk in **1%** of communities ⁸
-  **Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities** was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **42** communities

Most commonly reported protection priority needs

(by % of communities) ^{3,8}

- 71%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 40%** Specialised child protection services
- 31%** Psychosocial support



% of communities where the lack of civil documentation for residents and IDPs was reported

- 14%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 18%** Lack of personal documentation required to enrol in school as a barrier to education access
- 1%**
- 5%**

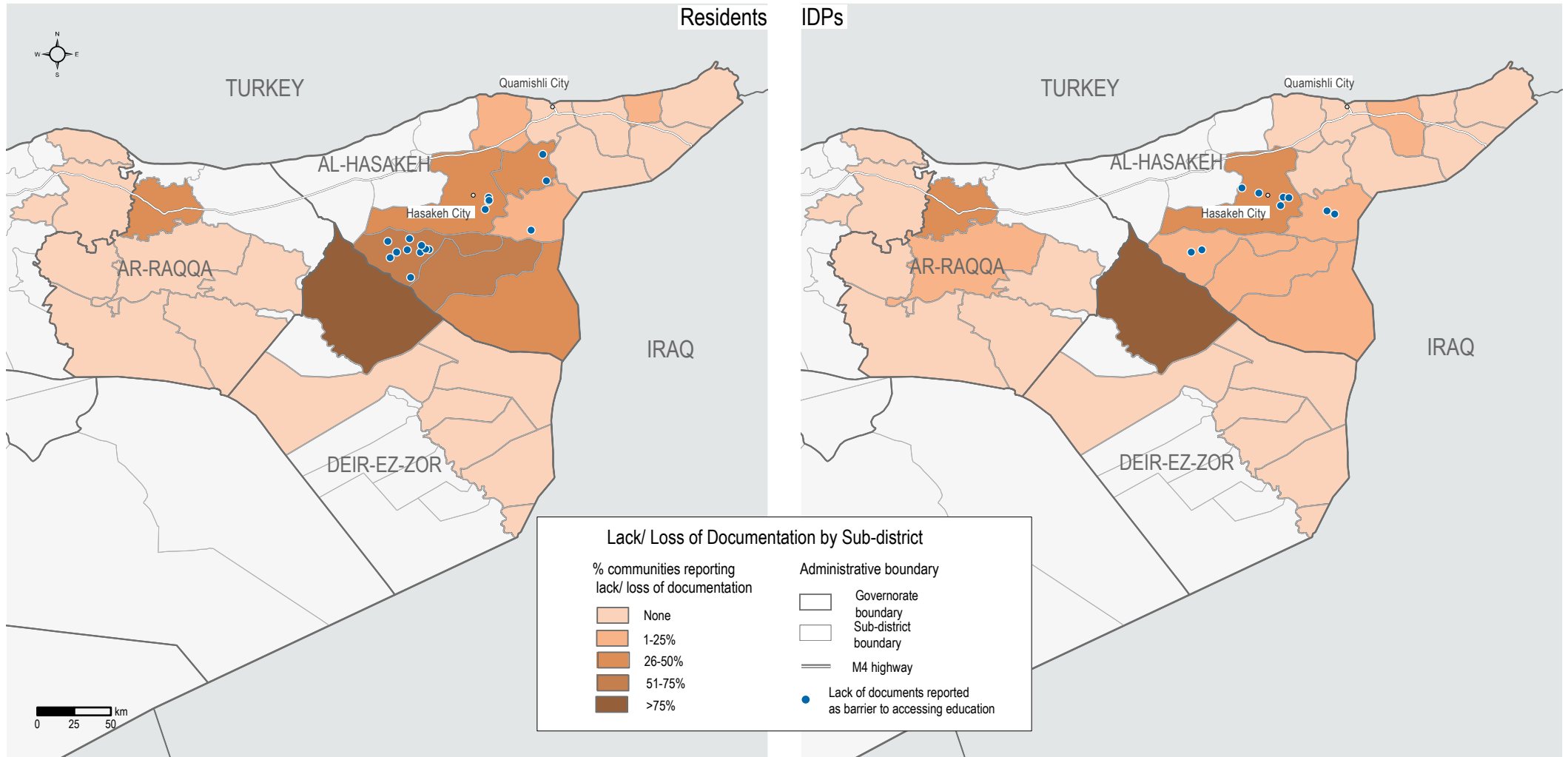
% of communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported ⁴

Residents		IDPs
24%	Early marriage	25%
4%	Forced marriage	4%
2%	High risk work	4%
0%	Sending family members to beg	0%
48%	Sending children (15 or below) to work	58%

Age, Gender, and Diversity

- KIs in **35%** of communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs ⁸
- KIs in **23%** of communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs ⁸
- KIs in **11%** of communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access
- KIs in **20%** of communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

- Child labour** and **early marriage** were reported to prevent children from going to school in **54%** and **17%** of communities ⁸
- Children below the age of 12** were reported as a group affected by child labour in **12%** of communities ⁸
- Hazardous child labour** was reported as a protection risk in **11** communities ⁸



Lack/ Loss of Civil Documentation and Education Access

Note on the map

These maps show the percentage of communities reporting lack/ loss of civil documentation as a protection risk. The blue dots represent communities where lack of documents was reported as a barrier to accessing education. Percentages were highest in northern Deir-Ez-Zor and south-central Hasakeh.

Endnotes

1. Aleppo governorate includes Menbij and Ain Al Arab districts. The rest of Aleppo governorate is included under Northwest Syria.
2. KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. The ranking shows the sectors most frequently chosen as either first, second or third highest priority. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a sector was selected across all three categories (first, second or third highest priority).
3. KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
4. KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
5. KIs were asked about the situation currently, instead of the last 30 days.
6. KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD), Turkish Lira (TRY), or Syrian Pounds (SYP). When the price was not reported in SYP, the NES REACH Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the REACH Market Monitoring February 2021, 1 USD = 3,035 SYP; 1TRY= 420 SYP.
7. According to the NES REACH Market Monitoring February 2021, 1 USD = 3,035 SYP.
8. Findings for residents and IDPs were merged. The merge was calculated as follows: (option was selected for either residents or IDPs) / (communities reporting challenges/barriers/coping strategies for either residents or IDPs).
9. According to the NES REACH Market Monitoring February 2021, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 282,526 SYP.
10. Minor damage (cracks in walls, leaking roof, need of new doors and window repairs, etc.); Major damage (buildings with extensive damage to window frames and doors, but no structural damage to columns, slabs, or loadbearing walls); Severe damage (buildings with significant structural damage to column slabs, or loadbearing walls, cracking, steel elements and deformations visible in concrete; the building would require extensive repairs); Completely destroyed (buildings with structural damage so significant that rehabilitation is not possible).
11. Winterisation items include: winter clothes, winter shoes, and winter blanket.
12. KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.
13. Adult hygiene items include: shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Household cleaning items include: washing powder, liquid, and dish detergent.

◆ By number of communities where KIs reported the relevant indicator for the relevant population group(s)

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>
<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>		<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>	
Residents	1205	Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	324
IDPs	511	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	1183
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	227	Days when water is available from network	719
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	958	Barriers to markets functioning	435
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	169		

- a. Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (15 February 2021). As fuel provided by "Autonomous Administration" runs out | Nearly 300,000 people deprived from drinking water with putting 13 water stations out of service. Retrieved from <https://www.syriahr.com/>
- b. Radio Alkul. (13 February 2021). A wave of anger in Raqqa: the price of an electricity ampere exceeds 1,000 Syrian Pounds (translated from Arabic). Retrieved from <https://www.radioalkul.com>
- c. Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (22 February 2021). Nearly four years of electric power production resources control | Electricity cuts off 20 hours a day in SDF-held areas, and civilians seek alternatives. Retrieved from <https://www.syriahr.com>
- d. Enab Baladi (3 March 2021). The "Dora of the Euphrates" is facing economic problems as the level of the river continues to decline (translated from Arabic). Retrieved from <https://www.enabbaladi.net>
- e. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (March 2021). Crop Prospects and Food Situation - Quarterly Global Report. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>
- f. Eye of Euphrates. (27 February 2021). Because of the extremely high price of fodder livestock farmers in the countryside of Raqqa resort to alternative methods to feed their livestock (translated from Arabic). Retrieved from <https://eyeofeuphrates.com>
- g. Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (6 March 2021). Al-Hasakah | Turkish forces attack border village, igniting popular anger, while Russian forces check the situation. Retrieved from <https://www.syriahr.com>

About REACH

REACH 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). For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org.