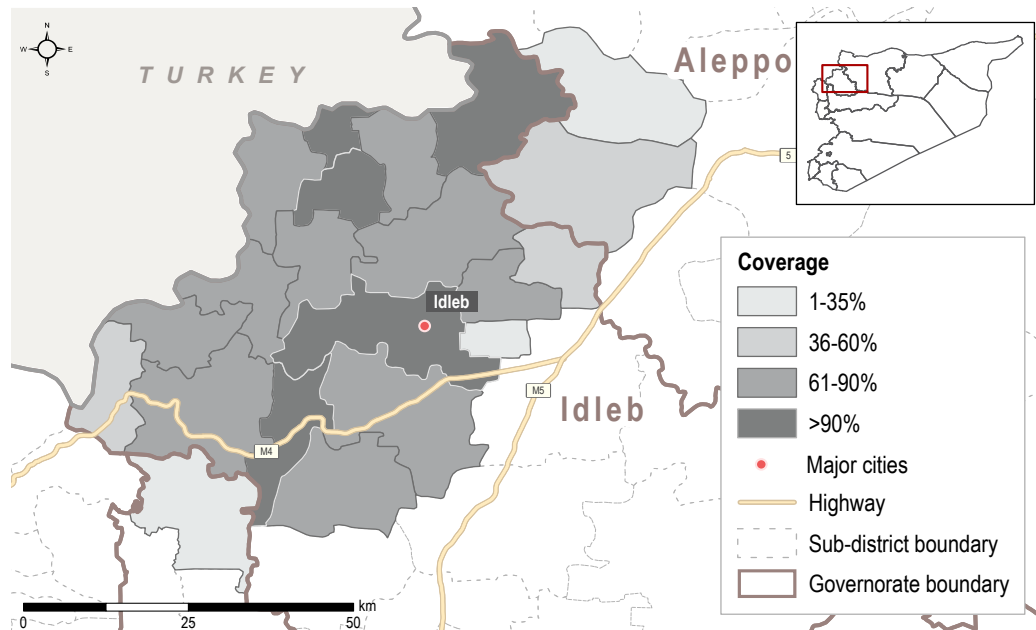


Introduction and Methodology

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 the security and protection situation in the Greater Idleb area in Northwest Syria (NWS). **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 six 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 **371 communities** across the greater Idleb area.¹ **Data was collected between 5-19 December 2021 from 1,336 KIs** (17% female). Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection. 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

The onset of harsh winter conditions, economic decline, and ongoing hostilities exacerbated humanitarian needs in greater Idleb. Winter-related challenges were particularly present for people living in camps and informal settlements. The rise of basic commodity prices and lower wages contributed to the erosion of households' purchasing power, leading to increased food insecurity across the region. Furthermore, the security situation remained volatile in December, claiming civilian lives, causing displacement, and damaging infrastructure and shelter.

- The onset of harsh winter conditions particularly affected people living in camps and informal settlements.** In December, strong winds and heavy rainfall damaged displacement sites, tents, and peoples' belongings across greater Idleb.^a Although winterisation was one of the most commonly reported priority needs for both IDPs and residents in December, a decrease in available funding^b likely impacted the implementation of assistance. Indeed, much of the implementation is expected to take place no earlier than February or March 2022,^c which likely explains why the presence of winterisation assistance in December was reported by KIs in only 4% of assessed communities for IDPs, and 1% for residents. Without sufficient winterisation assistance, people in need could resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as burning unsafe materials for heat, raising the risk of fire outbreaks and toxic fumes.^d

- Households' purchasing power keeps decreasing due to both rising prices and lower daily wages.** The continued depreciation of the Turkish lira (TRY), combined with the fact that most commodities in the northwest are imported from Turkey, resulted in additional increases in prices.^e Furthermore, the median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour decreased from 7,330 SYP in November to 6,466 SYP in December. According to HSOS data, the number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of the basic Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) items increased from 65 days in November to 73 days in December. Food prices continued to increase as agricultural inputs became more expensive.^f Food unaffordability, reported by KIs in 83% of assessed communities, represented a common obstacle to securing sufficient food. In addition, KIs indicated food as the top priority need for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 58% of the assessed communities, and 46% for residents.

- Health services are overstretched, and medical supplies are depleting fast.** In 40% of the assessed communities, households reportedly did not have access to health services in their location in December, consistent with findings in November. The high cost and lack of transportation were the most commonly reported barriers to accessing healthcare, reported by KIs in 77% and 65% of assessed communities, respectively. A lack of medicines/medical equipment and overcrowding at the health facility were also widespread issues, reported by KIs in 58% and 55% of the assessed communities, respectively. The health sector in Idleb remains under strain due to a lack of financial resources, and a shortage of medical supplies.^g

- The security situation remains volatile in southern Idleb.** Intensified hostilities in southern Idleb were reported towards the end of the month of December.^h REACH field teams reported that frequent shelling, airstrikes, and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) incidents, continued to claim civilian lives, cause displacement, and damage infrastructure and shelter. In December threats from shelling and threats from airstrikes were reported by KIs in 94 and 83 assessed communities, respectively.

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 assessed communities) ^{2,3}

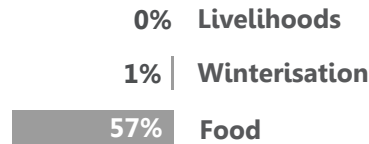
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Livelihoods	Winterisation	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	62%
2	Food	NFIs [▲]	Winterisation	Winterisation	56%
3	Healthcare	Food	WASH [▼]	Food	46%

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



Yes: **83%**
No: **17%**

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



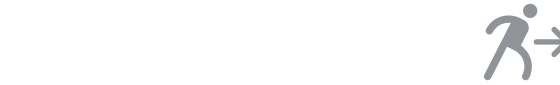
Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) ^{4, ▲}

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need **65%** **1**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **52%** **2**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **37%** **3**

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

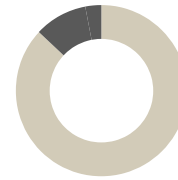
- No humanitarian assistance was available **97%**
- People did not comply with the eligibility criteria **3%**



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

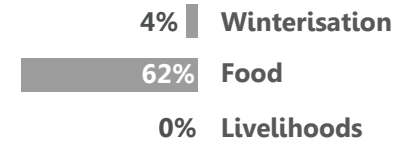
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Shelter	Winterisation	Livelihoods	Winterisation	58%
2	Food	Food	Winterisation	Food	58%
3	Livelihoods	NFIs	NFIs	Livelihoods	51%

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



Yes: **87%**
No: **13%**

% of assessed 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 assessed communities) ^{4, ▲}

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need **68%** **1**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **53%** **2**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **39%** **3**

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- No humanitarian assistance was available **98%**
- People did not comply with the eligibility criteria **2%**



Economic Conditions

Region	Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{5,6}			Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment ^{5,6}			Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}		
	SYP	TRY [▲]	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
Greater Idlib area	16,812 SYP			64,663 SYP			6,466 SYP		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies [*]	0%	100%	0%	0%	65%	35%	0%	100%	0%

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



Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

Residents

IDPs

73%

Seasonality of production

52%

51%

High operational costs

10%

31%

Lack of water for agriculture

11%

29%

Deficiency of rainfall

12%

85% and 95%

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

73 days

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

94% and 47%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the **insufficient income of households** and general lack of employment opportunities as barriers to meeting basic needs ⁸

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



KIs in **69%** of assessed communities cited that **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **50%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



KIs in **84%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **50%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



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



KIs in **51%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge

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

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	51%	5%
Cash crop production	67%	6%
Livestock products	61%	51%
Sale of livestock	12%	22%



Living Conditions

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

In **66%** of assessed communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **17%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **20%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents



A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **9%** of assessed communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **7%** of assessed communities

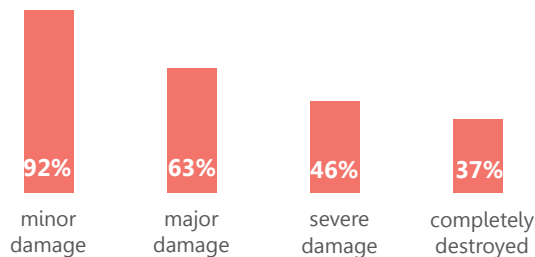


Problems with the drinking water were reported in **46%** of assessed communities



Water being calcareous was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 46% of assessed communities)

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages were reported (by % of assessed communities) ^{5,10}



Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 83% of assessed communities) ⁴

Reported sanitation issues affecting public space in the community (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible



Solid waste in the streets



Sewage system pollutes public areas



Stagnant water



Flooding in the streets



94%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **house-holds experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food** ⁸



In **16%** of these communities, KIs reported that the **unavailability of certain food items** was a challenge to accessing sufficient food ⁸

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

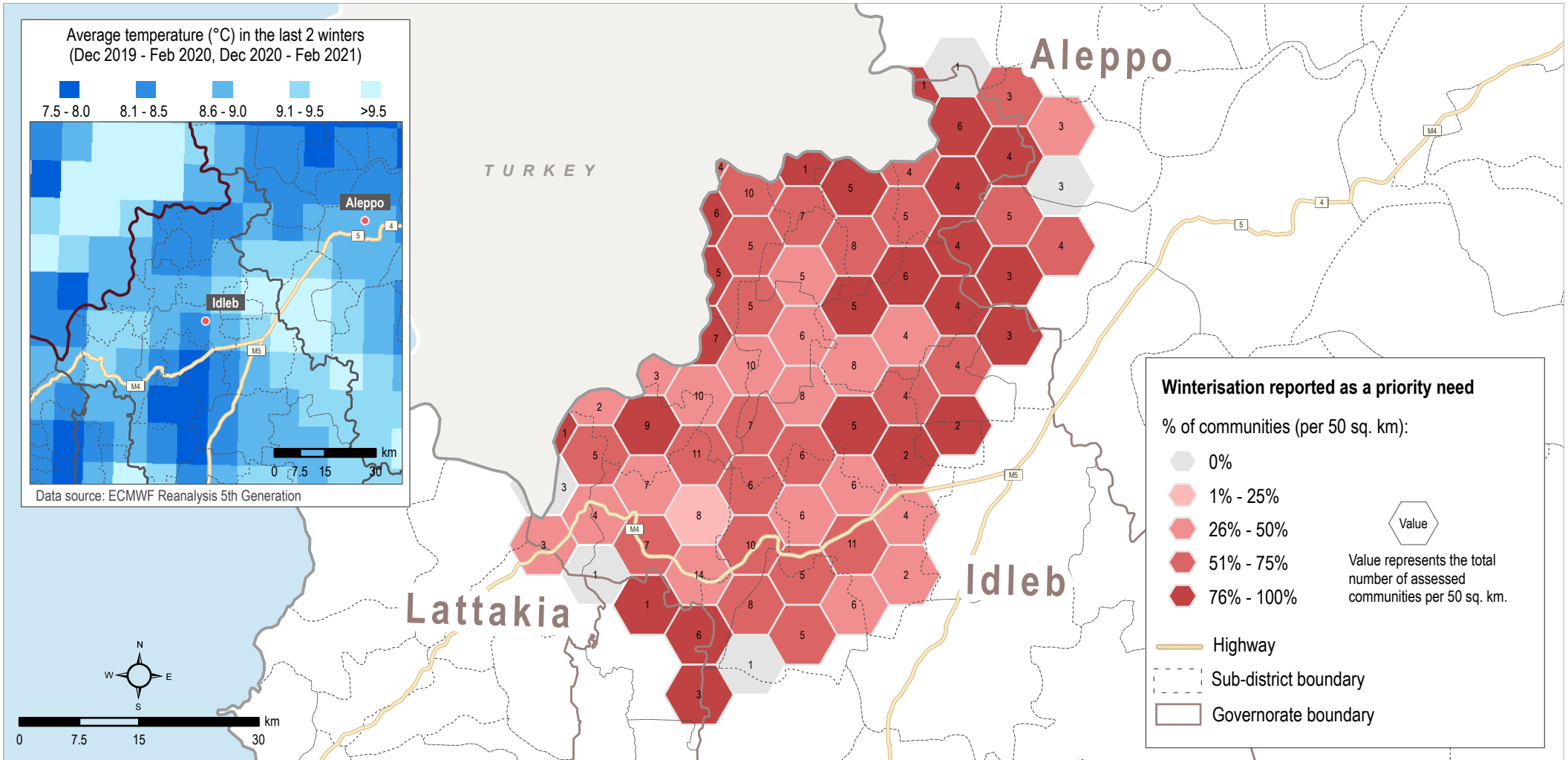
- 1** Borrowing money to buy food **75%**
- 2** Relying on less preferred food / lower food quality **74%**
- 3** Buying food with money usually used for other things **61%**



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 93% of assessed communities) ^{4,11}

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

- 1** Own production or farming **56%**
- 2** Relying on food stored previously **27%**
- 3** Assistance from local council or NGOs **21%**



Winterisation reported as a Priority Need

Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of communities where KIs indicated winterisation as a priority need. In Greater Idleb, KIs in 64% of assessed communities reported this priority need. According to the data in the last 2 winters from ECMWF Reanalysis 5th Generation satellite, in Harim, Kafr, Qourqeena Takharim, part of Dana Sub-districts show an average winter temperature of 8.1°C to 8.5°C. In Ariha, Ehsem and Mhambal Sub-districts, an average temperature of 7.5°C to 8.0°C.



Access to Basic Services



Access to Electricity

7- 8 hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 34% of assessed communities)

Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 63% of assessed communities)

46%

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



Access to Water

57%

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



7 days	5%
5-6 days	10%
3-4 days	23%
1-2 days	13%
0 days	49%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 331 communities connected to a water network) ⬇

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 44% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

36%

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

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

41%	Paid private waste collection
20%	Free public waste collection
20%	Waste burnt

43%

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



Access to Markets

14%

% of assessed 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 71% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

68%

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



Access to Health Services

40%

% of assessed 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 assessed communities) ⁸

51%	First aid or emergency care
47%	Paediatric consultations
46%	Treatment for chronic diseases

Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 85% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

25%
48%

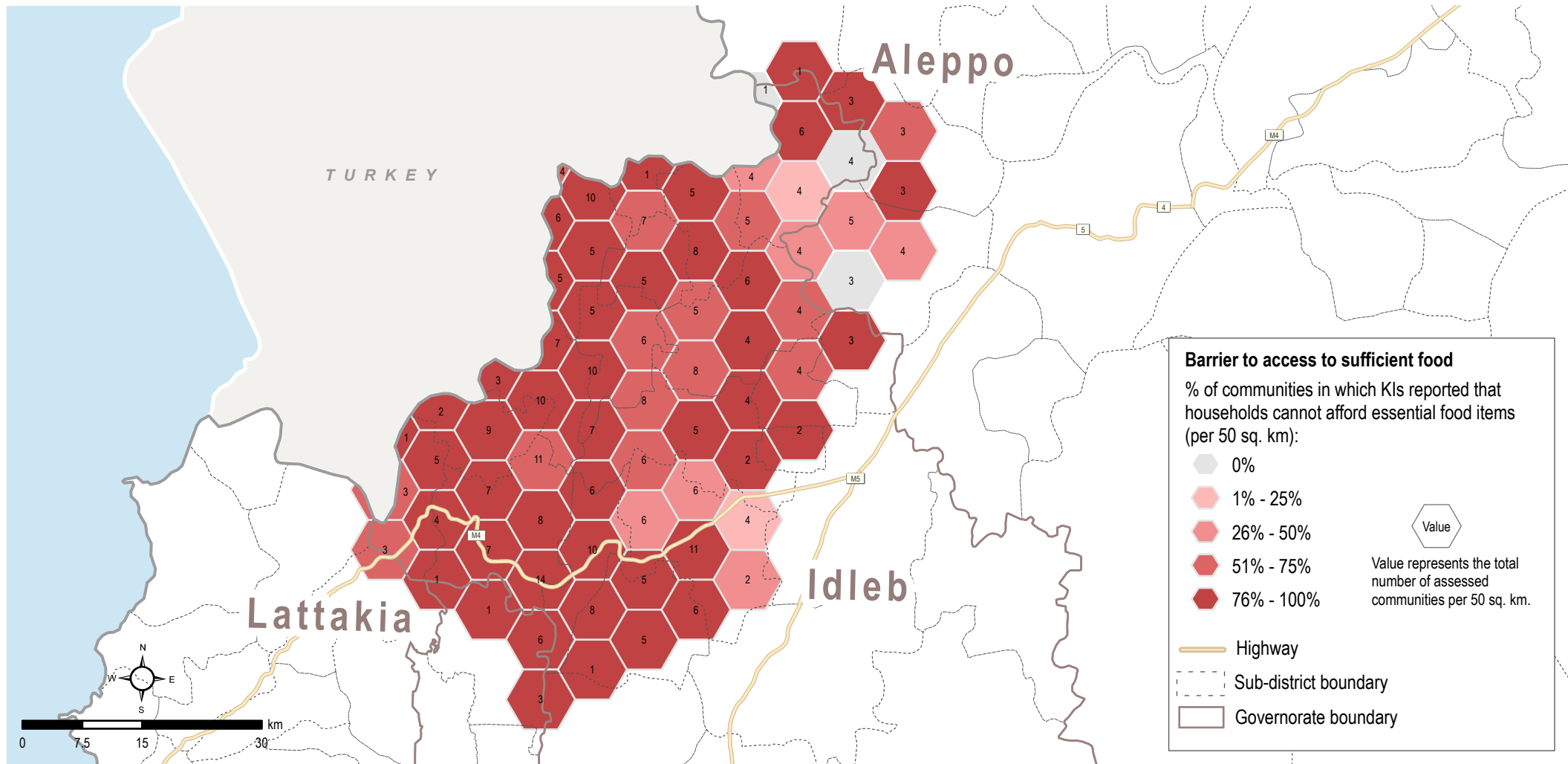
% of communities in which half or less of the school aged-children accessed school in the last 30 days for residents and IDPs

90%	In person
8%	Online
10%	Not functioning

% of assessed communities where KIs reported on the functioning of education services in the assessed location⁴

15%

% of communities where KIs reported that the lack of access to internet, electricity and/or equipment was a barrier to accessing (online) education services⁸



Barrier to Access to Sufficient Food

Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of communities where KIs indicated that markets exist and food is available but households cannot afford essential food items. In Greater Idleb, KIs in 82% of assessed communities reported this barrier. Armanaz, Bennsh, Kafr, Sarmin, Takharim and Teftnaz Sub-districts of Idleb governorate KIs in 100% of the assessed communities reported this barrier.



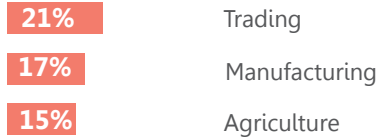
COVID-19

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

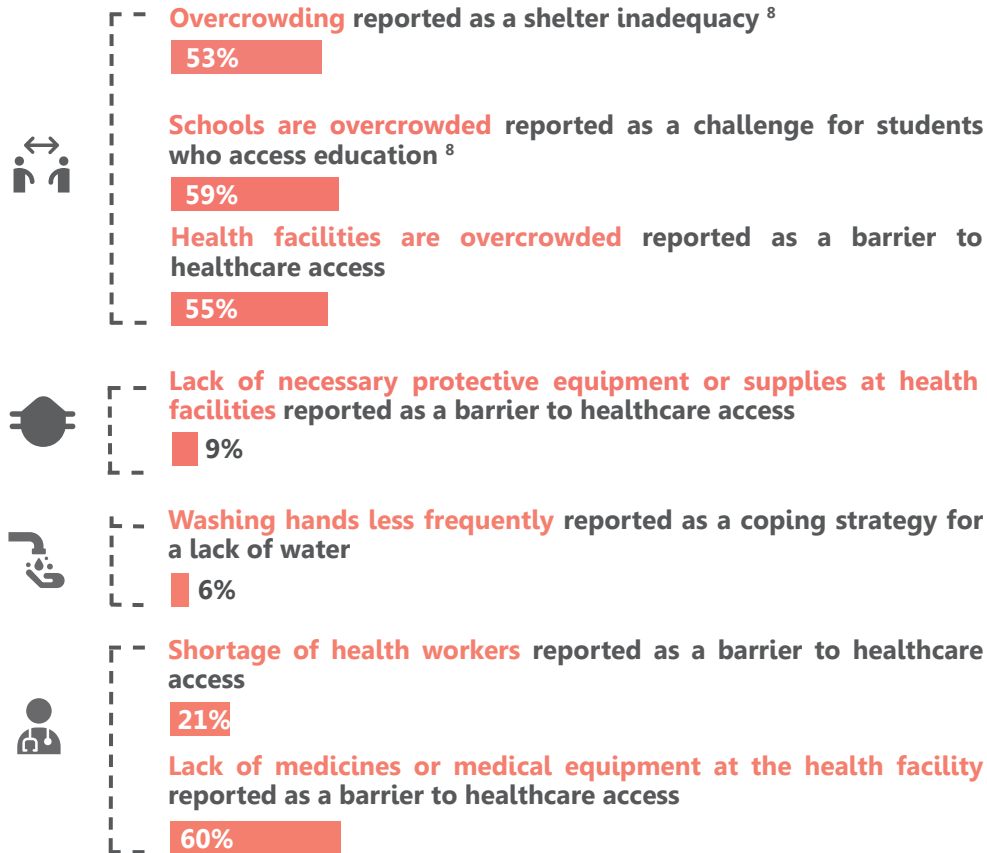


None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 73%
At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 27%

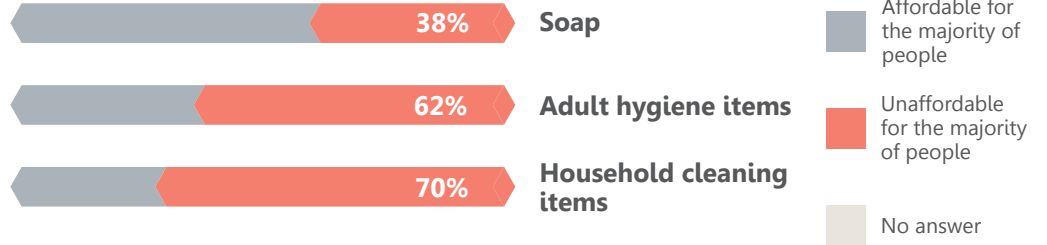
Most commonly reported sectors affected by COVID-19 (by % of assessed communities)



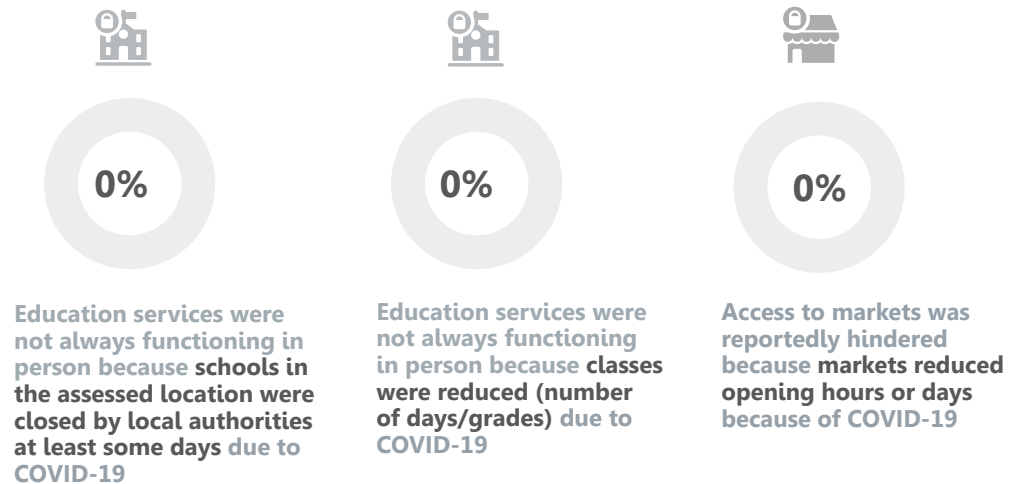
% of assessed communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported by KIs

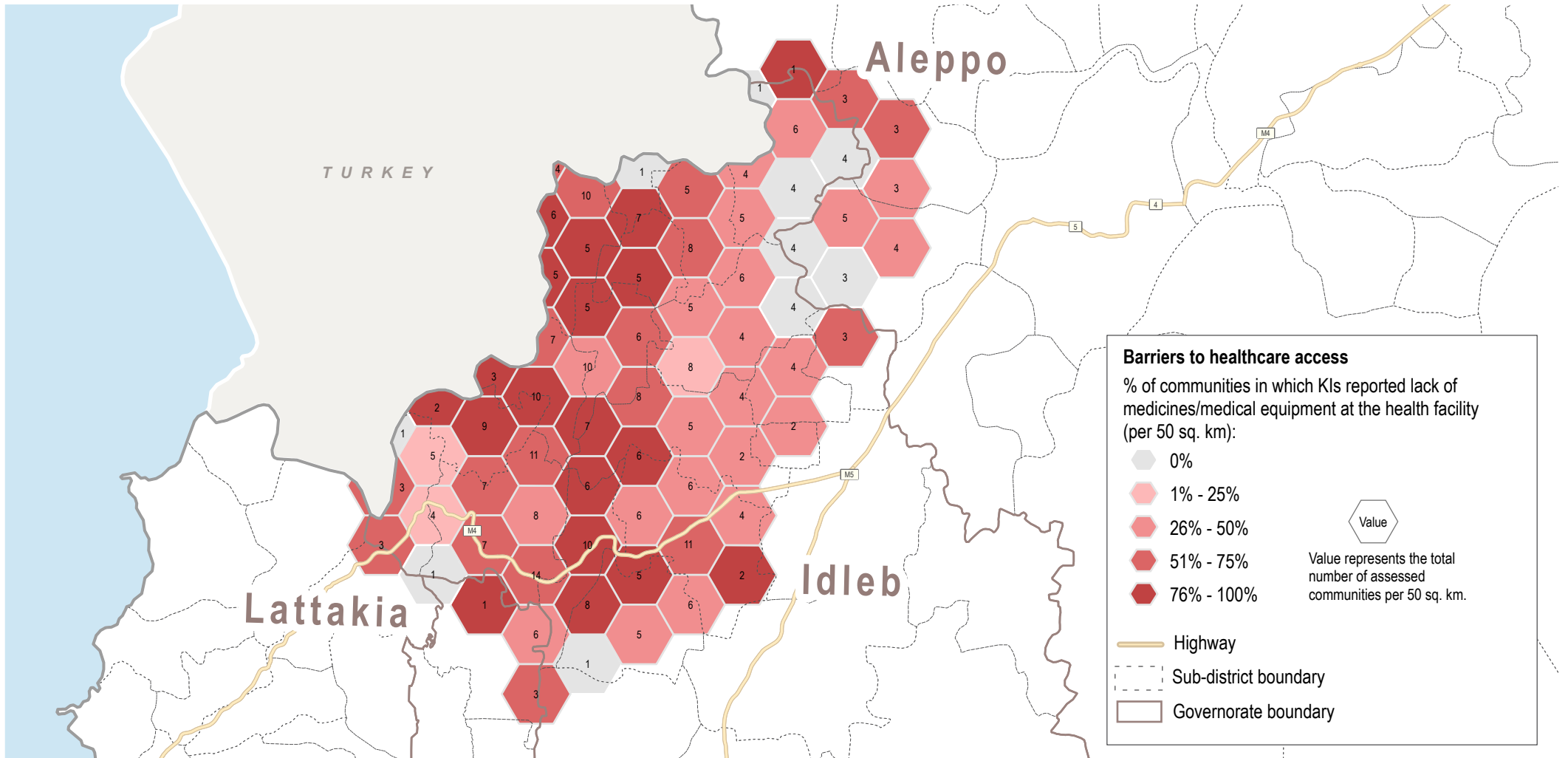


Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of assessed communities)¹²



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





Barriers to Healthcare Access

Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of communities where KIs indicated the lack of medicines or medical equipment at health facilities as barriers to accessing healthcare. In Greater Idleb, KIs in 60% of the assessed communities reported the issue of lacked medicines or medical equipment.



Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in **9%** of assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **16%** of assessed communities

Markets not opening because of security issues was a reported barrier to markets not functioning in **1%** of assessed communities



Threat from airstrikes was reported as a protection risk in **83** communities⁸

Threat from shelling, snipers or gunfire was reported as a protection risk in **94** communities⁸

Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances was reported as a protection risk in **13** communities⁸

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **70** communities⁸



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **36%** of assessed communities⁸

Lack of lighting around the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **85%** of assessed communities⁸

The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **25%** of assessed communities

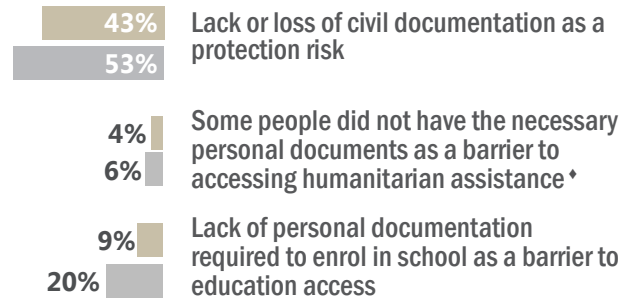


General safety and security concerns at the health facility was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **9%** of assessed communities

Most commonly reported protection priority needs (by % of assessed communities)^{3, 8}

- 1 **83%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 2 **51%** Specialised child protection services
- 3 **36%** Psychosocial support

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



% of assessed communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported⁴

Residents		IDPs	
33%	Early marriage	39%	Early marriage
0%	Forced marriage	<1%	Forced marriage
8%	High risk work	8%	High risk work
1%	Sending family members to beg	1%	Sending family members to beg
75%	Sending children (15 or below) to work	81%	Sending children (15 or below) to work

Age, Gender, and Diversity

- KIs in **46%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸
- KIs in **37%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸
- KIs in **17%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access
- KIs in **42%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**
- KIs in **5%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

- **Children below the age of 12** were reported as a group affected by child labour in **9%** of assessed communities⁸
- **Hazardous child labour** was reported as a protection risk in **6%** of assessed communities⁸

Endnotes

1. The greater Idleb area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo western countryside, and parts of Hama northwestern countryside controlled by armed opposition groups (AOGs).
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 at the time of data collection, 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 Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Market Monitoring](#) December 2021, 1 USD = 3,550 SYP; 1TRY= 259.5 SYP.
7. According to the Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring December 2021, 1 USD = 3,550 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 Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring December 2021, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 472,789 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. KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.
12. 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)

Indicator	Subset	Indicator	Subset
N.o of communities reporting on:		N.o of communities reporting on:	
Residents	366	Currency used for paying water	331
IDPs	352	Currency used for paying rent	267
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	289	Currency in which wages are paid (merge)	310
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	61	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	350
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	289	Days when water is available from network	331
Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	47	Barriers to markets functioning	52

Sources

- a. WFP. (31 December 2021). Syria mVAM Bulletin #62: December 2021. Retrieved from: <http://reliefweb.int>
- b. USAID. (3 December 2021). Syria – Complex Emergency. Retrieved from: <http://reliefweb.int>
- c. OCHA. (December 2021). Developments in north-west Syria and Ras Al Ain – Tell Abiad Situation Report No 34. Retrieved from: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info>
- d. Enab Baladi. (13 January 2022). [Displaced people in northwestern Syria continue to struggle despite winter assistance.](#)
- e. Reuters. (9 December 2021). Turkish lira slump hits displaced families in Syria's northwest. Retrieved from: <https://www.reuters.com/>
- f. FAO, FSC, iMMAP. (1 December 2021). Northwest Syria: Integrated Market Monitoring Initiative (IMMI) Bulletin Quarter 3, 2021 – Price Monitoring for Agricultural Inputs and Food Items. Retrieved from: <http://reliefweb.int>
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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.