

Aleppo Governorate, April 2018

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

OVERALL FINDINGS¹

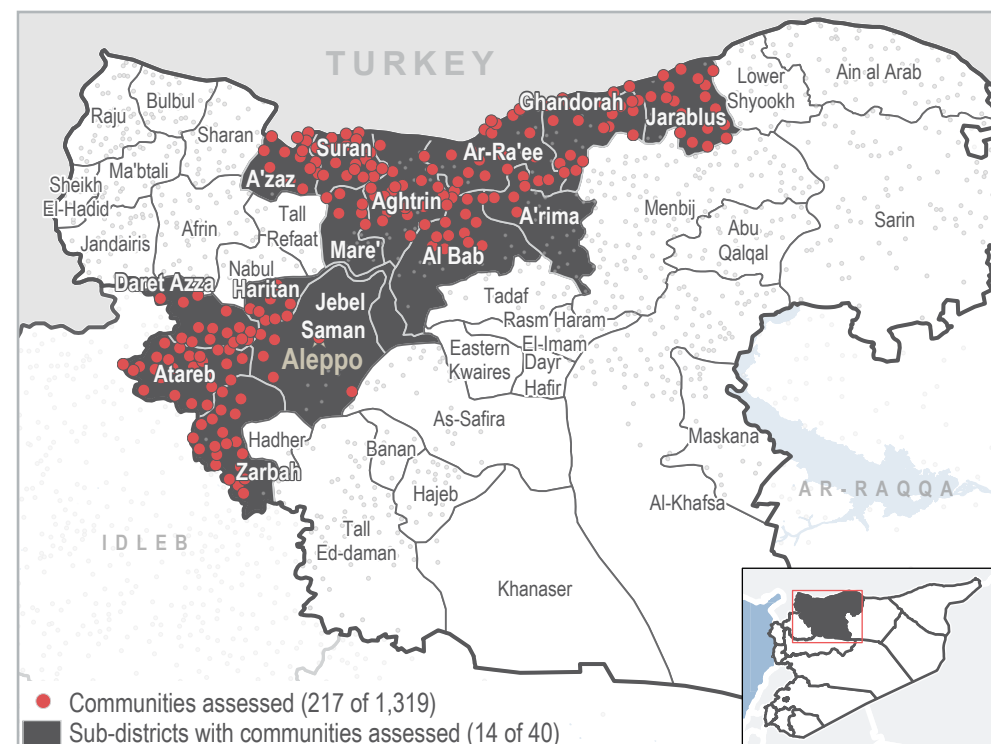
Aleppo governorate is located in northwest Syria and borders Turkey to the north. Returnee numbers have fluctuated significantly since the cessation of hostilities in and around Aleppo city in late 2016. Initially, thousands spontaneously returned² to their communities. However, in early 2018, conflict within the governorate intensified and returnee numbers again dropped. In March, there was an increase in returnees with nearly 6,000 IDP and refugees spontaneously returning, while in April, returnee numbers dropped again; only Mara' community witnessed approximately **325 IDP returns**. Additionally, **7** communities throughout Daret Azza and Aleppo city reported that members of their pre-conflict population left due to an escalation of conflict. This was attributed to an increase in conflict between armed opposition groups. Please see the [IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative \(ISMI\) April 2018](#) monthly report for further analysis.

In April, an estimated **414,898 IDPs** were reportedly residing in the assessed communities. Additionally, the largest influx of IDP arrivals, approximately **20,051** were reported in April. Azaz and Albil both witnessed over **2,000** new arrivals, the largest amounts of the assessed communities. In the majority of assessed communities, pre-conflict populations and IDPs reportedly lived in independent apartments or houses (**99%** and **75%**, respectively). Additionally, **77%** reported that generators were their primary source of electricity. In terms of healthcare, **145** of the assessed communities reported that no health facilities were available in their community in April. Moreover, **146** of the assessed communities reported that women primarily delivered babies in facilities in nearby communities, and only **12** of the assessed communities reported having functioning pre-conflict hospitals.

Of the assessed communities, **41%** reported that the water network was the primary source of drinking water in April. KIs in the majority of the assessed communities reported that water was fine to drink while **five communities**, Thaheriya, Yahmul, Hayyan, Qirata, and Bayada – Aq Burhan reported that the water tasted and/or smelled bad. Furthermore, **67** of the assessed communities, primarily in A'zaz and Jebel Saman districts, reported having an insufficient amount of water to cover household needs. These communities reported primarily coping with this lack of water by modifying hygiene practices and reducing drinking water consumption.

Food security was one of the top priority needs reported in Aleppo. Additionally, KIs in **78%** of the assessed communities reported that some residents were producing their own food. Furthermore, the majority of these communities reported that farm ownership was one of the most common sources of income for residents. However, **132** of the assessed communities reported difficulties in accessing sufficient amounts of food, most commonly due to a lack of resources to buy available food and some food items being too expensive. This suggests that while residents in the majority of assessed communities utilized farming as a means of obtaining food and income, food and income generated by agricultural activities may not suffice in covering essential needs. As a result, **75%** of the assessed communities reported using coping strategies to deal with a lack of income and **61%** of these assessed communities reported that some children³ were being sent to work or beg.

Coverage



Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Healthcare
2. Food security
3. Water security

Demographics*

3,570,540 people in need

1,756,706 **1,813,834**

* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

KEY EVENTS

Thousands displaced in the Afrin area due to an intensification in conflict ⁴ .	Operation "Olive Branch" commences in the Afrin area ⁵ .	More than 50,000 students across 318 schools, 16 institutes and one university are unable to attend school in Afrin ⁶ .	212,724 individuals return to 287 communities in rural areas and 354,682 individuals return to Aleppo city ⁷ .	Water supply cut in Afrin city due to conflict prohibiting access to the main dam controls ⁸ .	Freedom of movement severely restricted around Aleppo city and Afrin district, approximately 2,000 IDPs stuck at crossing point ⁹ .
Mid-January 2018 onward	20 January 2018	February 2018	February 2018	Mid-March 2018	18 April 2018

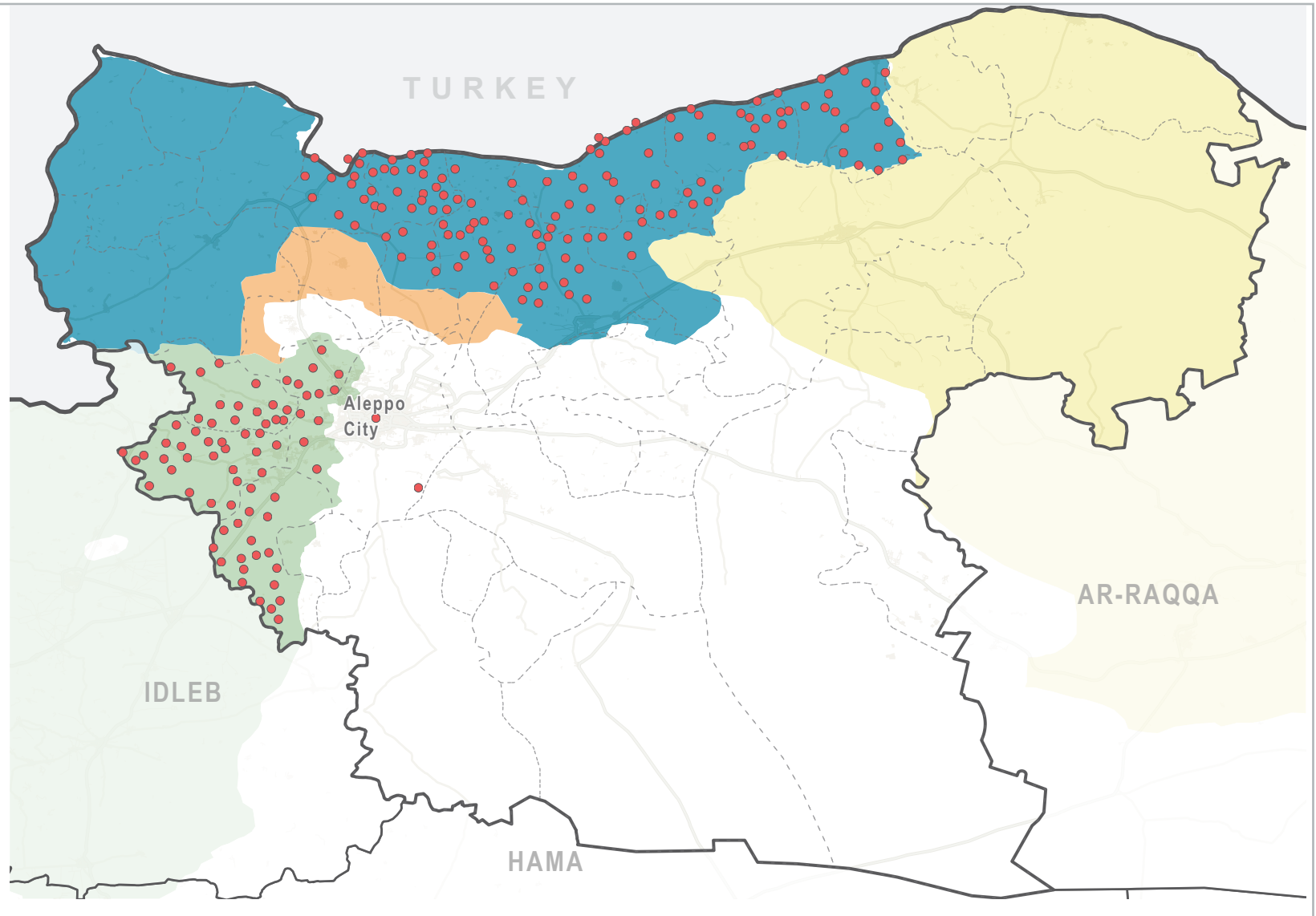
Aleppo Governorate, April 2018

Governorate areas of influence:

Area of influence

Sourced from Live UA Map, 30 April 2018

- Opposition Groups
- Opposition - Free Syrian Army (Olive Branch/Euphrates Shield)
- Democratic Federation of Northern Syria - Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF-coalition)
- Democratic Federation of Northern Syria - Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)
- ISIL-affiliated groups
- Assessed Community



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DISPLACEMENT

18,263 - 21,839 Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in April.

13,670 - 15,111 Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in April².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Azaz	4,000 - 4,500
Albil	2,500 - 3,500
Akhtrein	1,500 - 2,000

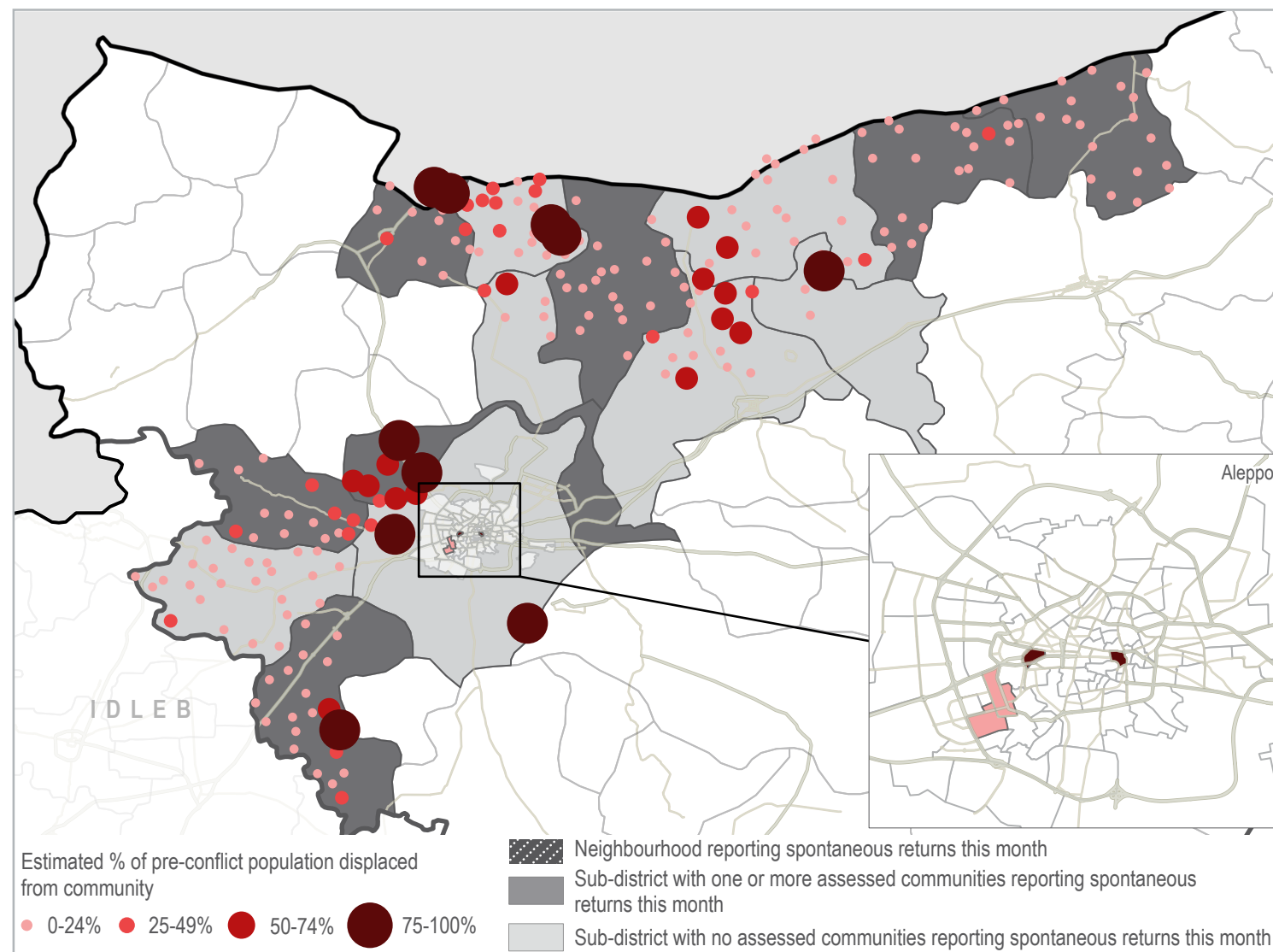
Top 3 sub-districts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

Abul Thohur	13%
Harasta	10%
Tall Ed-daman	9%

201 communities reported no PCP departures. Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **16** assessed communities^{3,4}:

Reduced access to basic services	81%
Loss of income	63%
Escalation of conflict	44%

Estimated percent of pre-conflict population (PCP) displaced from community:



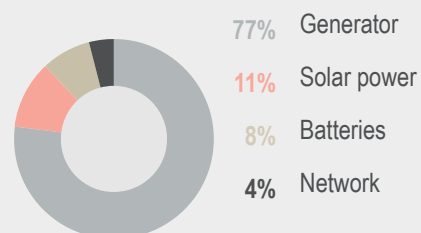
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

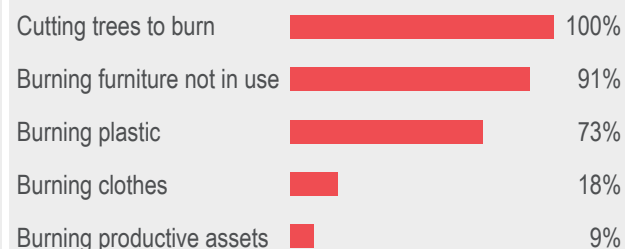
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SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



204 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining 11 assessed communities^{3,4}:



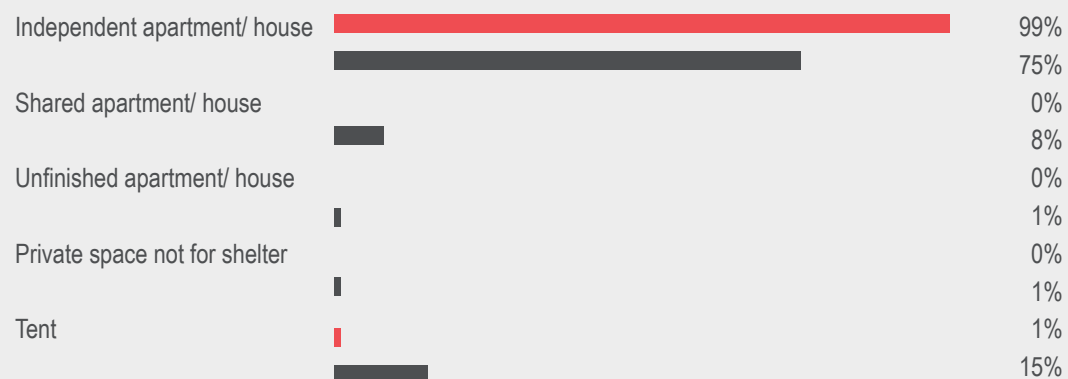
7,761 SYP

Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.⁵

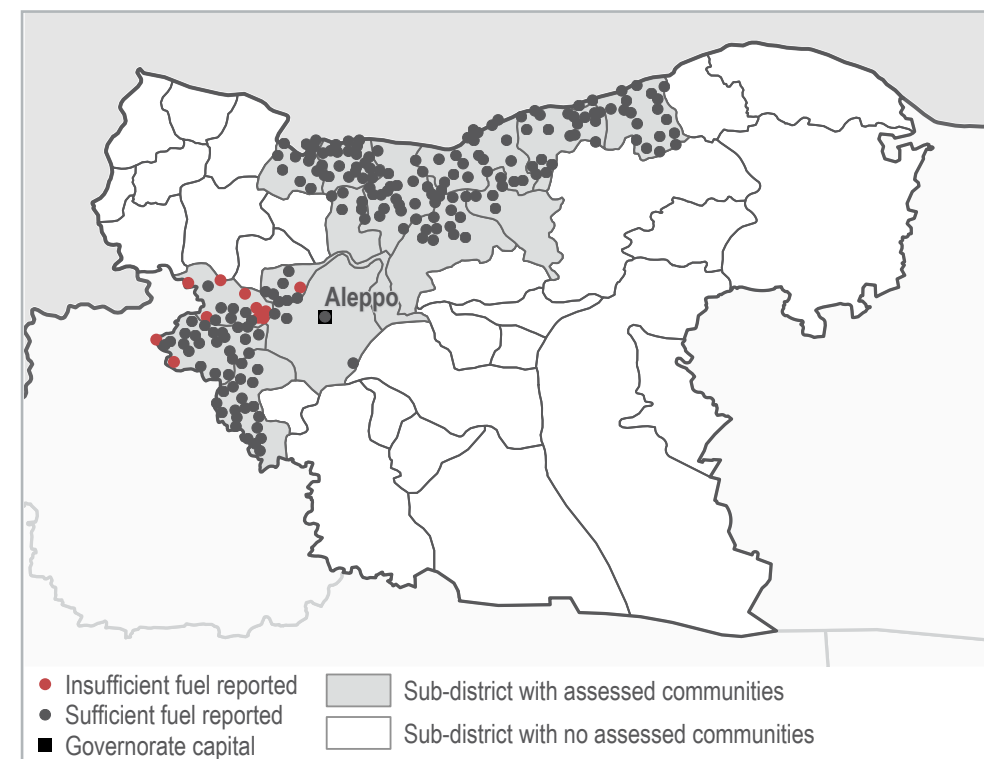
6,108 SYP

Syrian average reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.⁵

Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP (in red) and IDP (in grey) households⁴:



Fuel sufficiency:



Reported fuel prices (in SYP)⁵:

Fuel type:	Governorate average price in April:	Governorate average price in March:	Syrian average price in April:
Coal (1 kilogram)	183	158	280
Diesel (1 litre)	222	287	227
Butane (1 canister)	6,700	9,676	5,940
Firewood (1 tonne)	53,470	62,397	53,131

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 April 2018)

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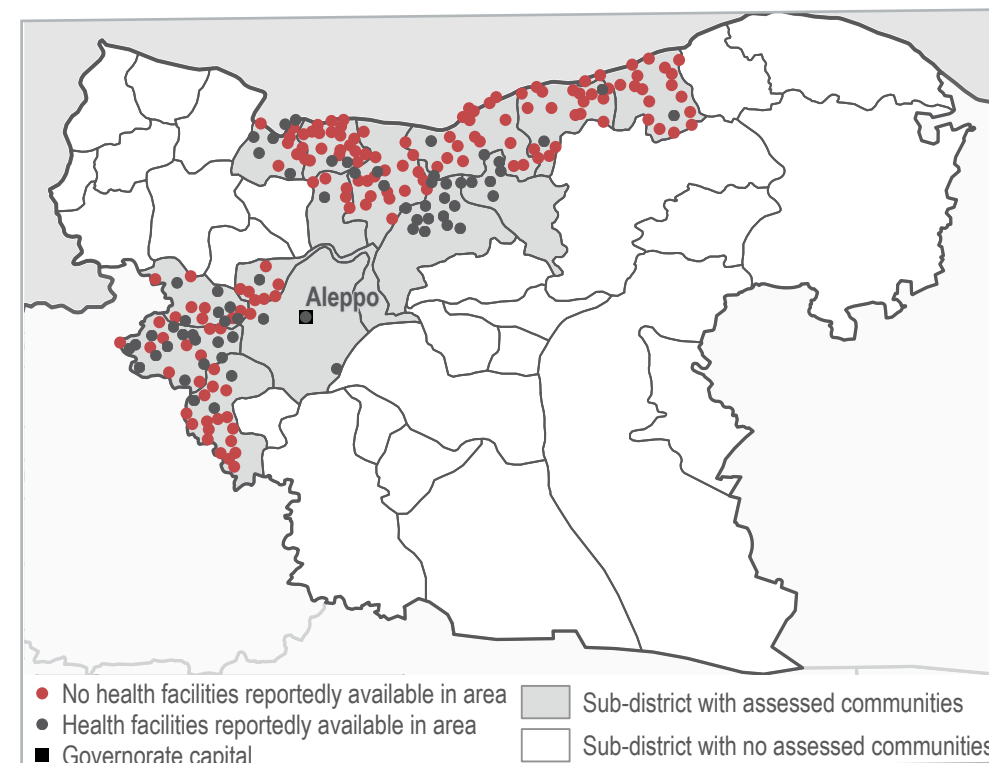
- 83** Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.
- 50** Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

42 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining **173** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



211 communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies.

Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported^{3,4}:

All health services	46%
Medicine	30%
Antenatal care	27%

Top 3 most common health problems reported^{3,4}:

Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	59%
Chronic diseases	52%
Acute respiratory infections	47%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

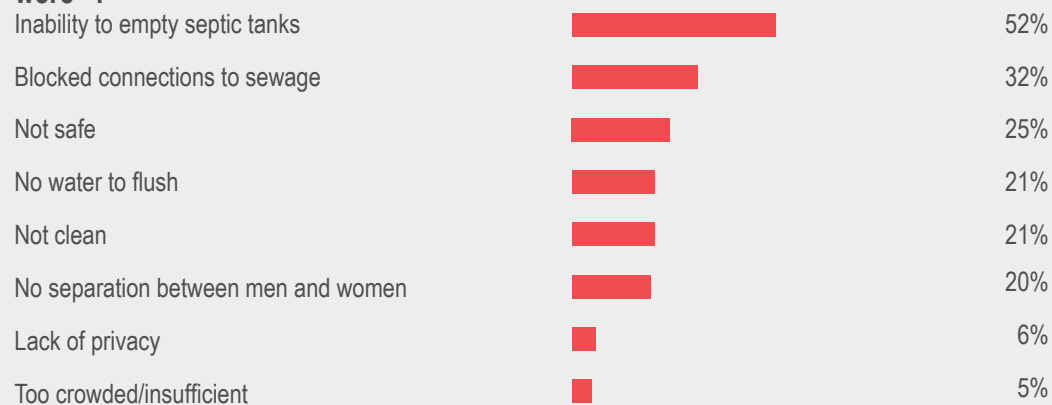
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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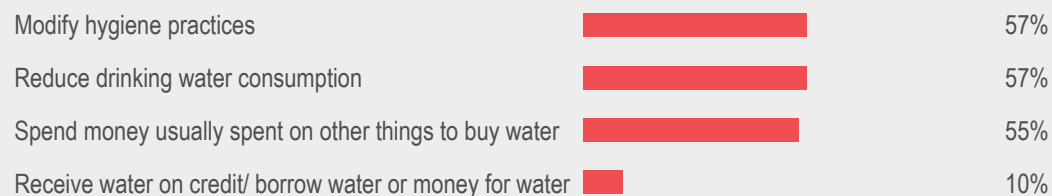


- 5** Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 0** Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

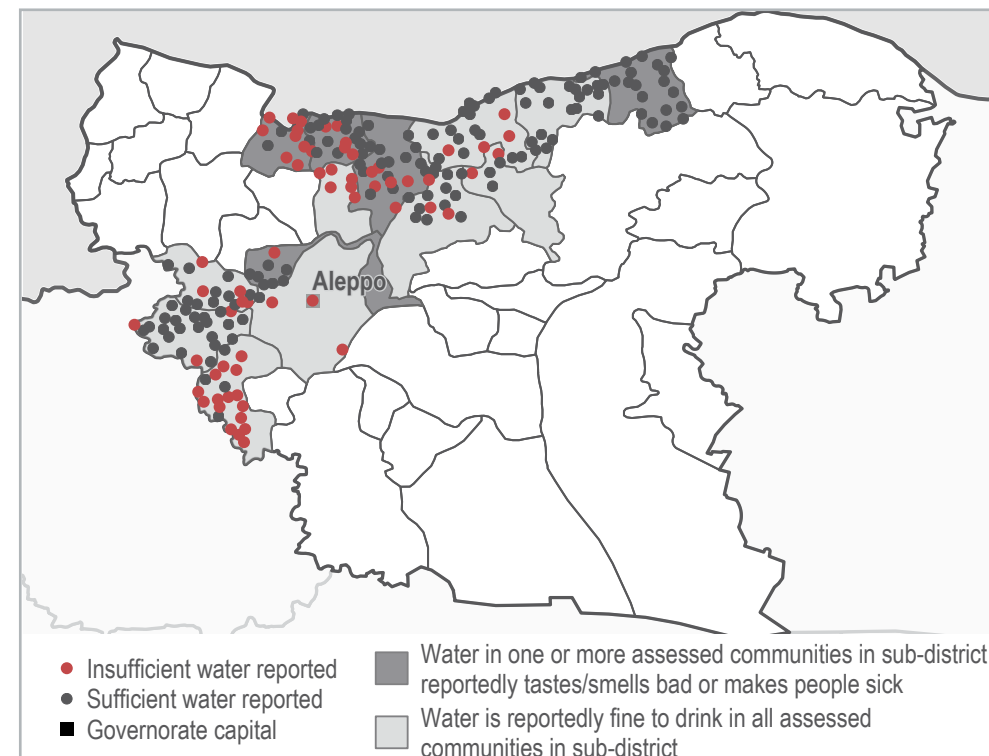
115 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining **100** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



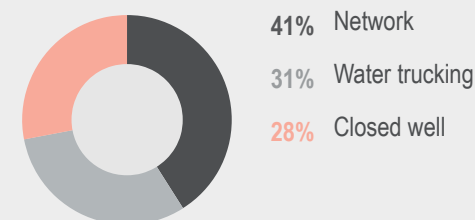
148 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining **67** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



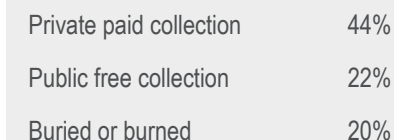
Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



Top 3 reported methods of garbage disposal^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

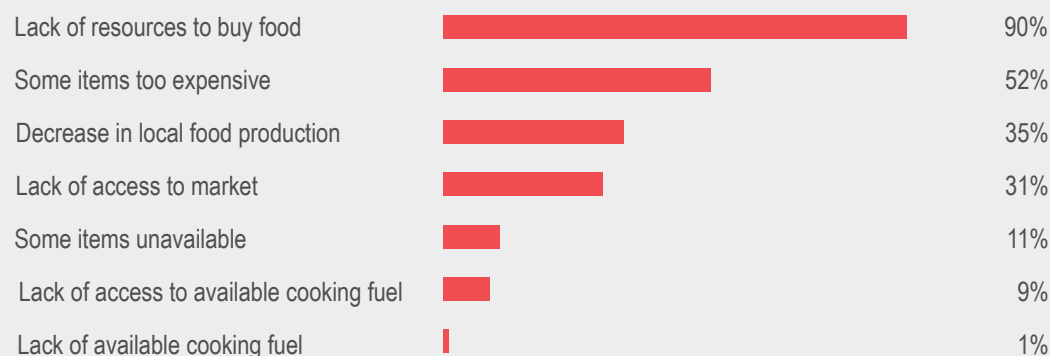
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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FOOD SECURITY

- 99** Communities reported not having received a food distribution in the last 12 months.
- 0** Communities reported that residents were unable to purchase food at shops and markets.

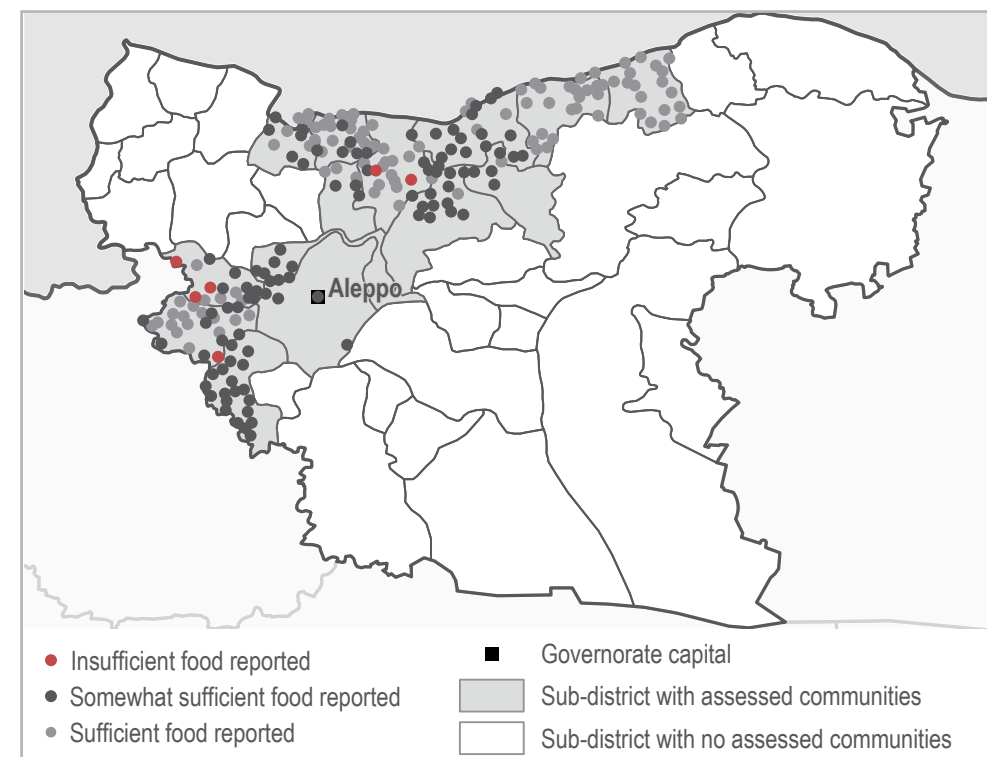
82 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **132 assessed communities** were^{3,4}:



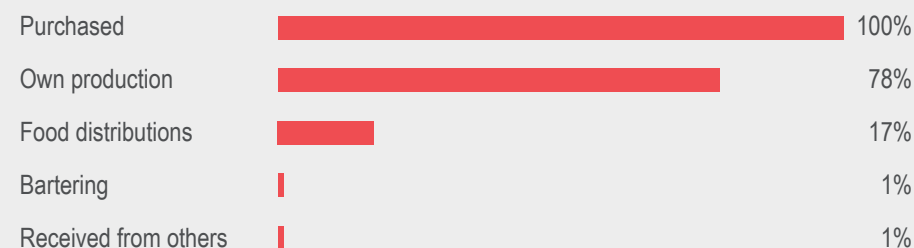
Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

Food item:	Governorate average price in April:	Governorate average price in March:	Syrian average price in April:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	114	106	115
Rice (1 kilogram)	425	437	430
Lentils (1 kilogram)	324	336	330
Sugar (1 kilogram)	318	337	308
Cooking oil (1 litre)	501	509	546

Food sufficiency:



Most common ways of obtaining food reported^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 April 2018)

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LIVELIHOODS

Less than 50,000 SYP Most commonly reported household income range⁵.

24,355 SYP Governorate average food basket price^{5,6}.

0 Communities reported that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income⁷.

51 communities reported that residents had enough income to cover household needs. The most commonly reported coping strategies to deal with a lack of income in the remaining **162** assessed communities were^{3,4}:

Borrow money from family/ friends	78%
Send children to work or beg	61%
Reduce meal size	41%
Skip meals	19%
High risk/ illegal work	12%

Most commonly reported main sources of income^{3,4}:

Unstable/ daily employment	86%
Farm ownership	78%
Business or trade	47%
Stable/ salaried employment	39%
Remittances	18%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

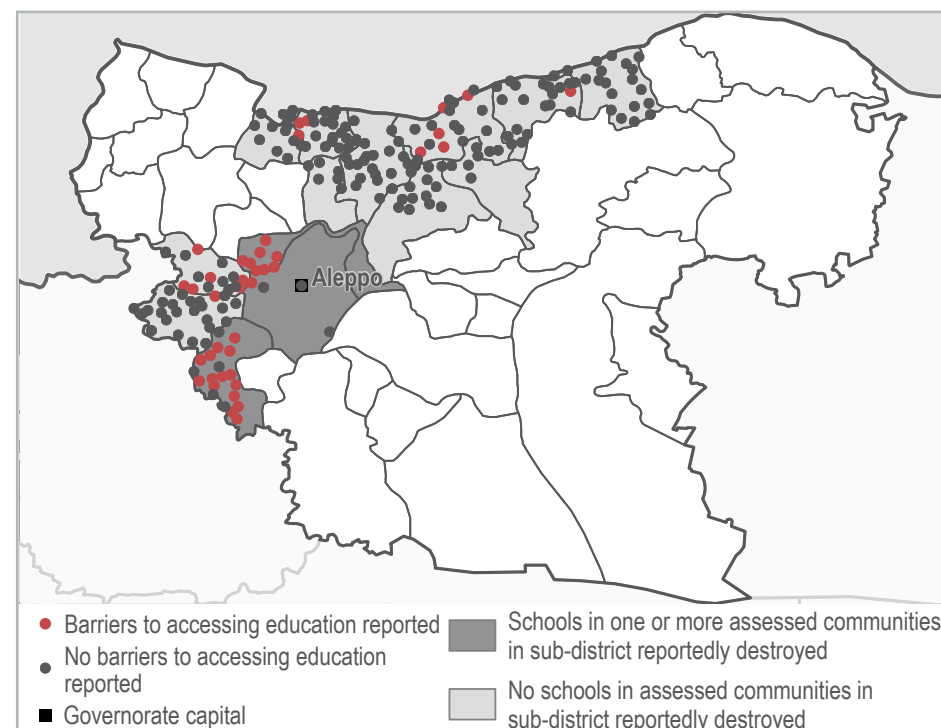
⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 April 2018)

⁶ Calculation of the average price of a food basket is based on the World Food Programme's standard basket of dry goods. The food basket includes 37 kg of bread, 19 kg of rice, 19 kg of lentils, 5 kg of sugar, and 7 kg of vegetable oil, and provides 1,930 kcal a day for a family of five for a month.

⁷ Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



175 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **40** assessed communities were^{3,4}:

Destruction of facilities	45%
Services are too far	43%
Lack of teaching staff	40%
Lack of school supplies	35%
Routes to services unsafe	30%

METHODOLOGY

The HSOS project, formerly known as the AoO (Area of Origin) project, is a monthly assessment that aims to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian situation inside Syria. This factsheet presents information gathered in 217 communities in May 2018, referring to the situation in Aleppo Governorate in April 2018. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed sub-districts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly sub-district factsheets, available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#). The complete HSOS dataset is disseminated monthly via the REACH Syria mailing list.

Wherever possible, information was collected through an enumerator network. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview Key Informants (KIs) directly in the community about which they are reporting. Where access and security constraints rendered direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews were conducted remotely through participants identified in camps and settlements in neighbouring countries by REACH field teams. Participants contact KIs in their community in Syria to collect information about their community. KIs were asked to report at the community level.

KIs generally included local council members, Syrian NGO workers, medical professionals, teachers, shop owners and farmers, among others, and were chosen based on their community-level or sector specific knowledge. In cases where KIs disagreed on a certain piece of information, enumerators triangulated the data with secondary sources or selected the response provided by the KI with the more relevant sector-specific background. For each question asked, confidence levels were assigned based on the KIs area of expertise and knowledge of the sector-specific situation. The confidence levels associated with each question are presented in the final dataset. The full confidence matrix used to assign confidence levels is available upon request.

Findings were triangulated through secondary sources, including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. Where necessary, follow-up was conducted with enumerators and participants. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the governorate.

ENDNOTES

¹ All information and figures reported in HSOS factsheets refer to the situation in assessed communities and cannot be generalised to other non-assessed communities of the governorate.

² Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.

³ 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.

⁴ UNHCR (24 January 2018). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 24 January 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁵ Aljazeera (21 January 2018). Turkey's troops cross over into Syria's Afrin. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com>.

⁶ Ibrahim and Edelman (26 February 2018). Turkish-backed offensive on Afrin leaves 50,000 students out of school. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁷ World Health Organisation (1 March 2018). Health Cluster Weekly Situation Report: Whole of Syria, Week 9 (23 February - 1 March 2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁸ Reuters (20 May 2018). Syria's Afrin cut off from water, thousands displaced, (14 March 2018). Retrieved from <https://reuters.com>.

⁹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (18 April 2018). Syria: Afrin Displacement - Facts and Figures. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organisations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to, and within the framework of, inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter: @REACH_info.