

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

March 2024 | Northwest Syria

SITUATION OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

HSOS is a monitoring key informant (KI) assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This Situation Overview presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, access to basic services and infrastructure, economic conditions, public health, as well as the security and protection situation in Northwest Syria (NWS). HSOS focuses on host community and internally displaced persons (IDP) households residing in communities. **This assessment does not provide information on camps and informal settlements.** This Situation Overview presents information gathered in **679 communities** across Greater Idlib and Northern Aleppo areas¹. Data was collected **between 10-17 March 2024** from **2,703 KIs** (5% female).

The complete HSOS dataset and analysis can be downloaded as an [excel file](#).

INTERPRETATION

Findings are indicative rather than representative and should not be generalised across the population and region. **All results in this output should be interpreted as referring to a percentage of assessed community where KIs reported an information.** All indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection.

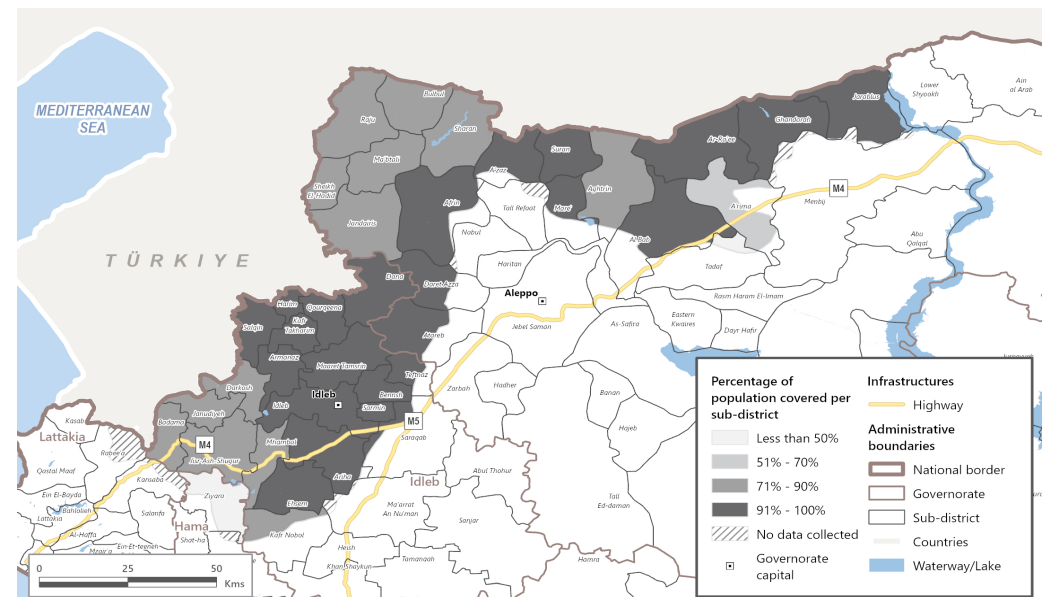
The symbol ▲ indicates that KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

HSOS Dashboards

- **Sectoral dashboard:** This interactive dashboard presents a sectoral review of key indicators from HSOS. Users can easily navigate through their sector of interest and visualise data from the community level to the region level.
- **Trend analysis dashboard:** This dashboard allows users to quickly see how the humanitarian situation in northern Syria has been changing over time.

KEY MESSAGES

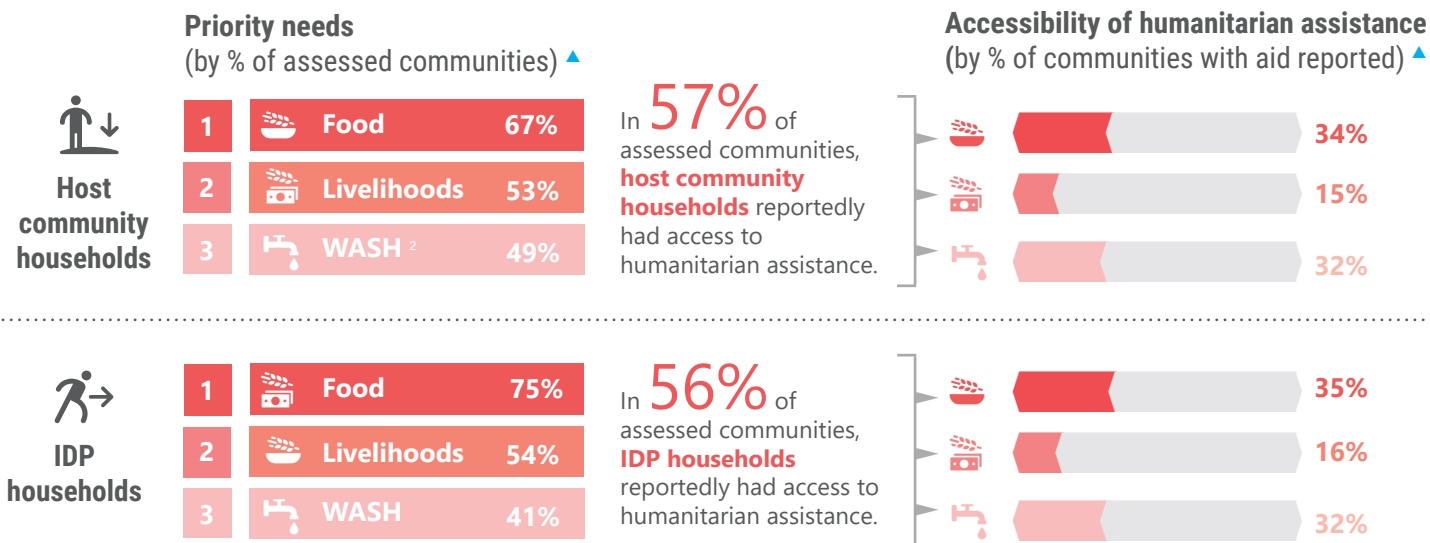
- **The risk of eviction mostly impacted IDP households and was particularly prominent in Harim and Idlib districts** (reported in 43% and 20% of assessed communities in these districts respectively). Evictions are likely to **expose households to further cumulative protection risks** such as homelessness, exploitation or family separation.
- **Daily work remained the most frequently reported employment type in NWS.** According to KIs' reports, daily work was slightly more common for IDPs than for host community households. In 89% of assessed communities, KIs reported that the income was not covering the cost of household's living, and that the low demand for workers was a barrier to access livelihoods in 70% of assessed communities.
- **The difficult economic circumstances continued to be a major driver of school absenteeism.** Indeed, the lack of resources to cover the cost of attending school was the most reported obstacle preventing children from accessing education in NWS, followed by the high cost of transportation to school and the need for children to work.



¹ The Greater Idlib area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo governorate (Atareb and Daret Azza sub-districts), and parts of Hama governorate controlled by armed opposition groups (Ziyara sub-district). The Northern Aleppo area includes 16 sub-districts located across Afrin, A'zaz, Al Bab and Jarablus districts.

PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Most commonly reported priority needs and reported accessibility of associated humanitarian assistance



Most commonly reported difficulties faced when accessing humanitarian aid (by % of communities where access to aid was reported) ▲

- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need | 69% |
| 2 | Types of assistance provided were not relevant to all needs | 33% |
| 3 | Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria | 22% |
-
- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need | 66% |
| 2 | Types of assistance provided were not relevant to all needs | 35% |
| 3 | Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria | 24% |

Top reported needs by sector (by % of assessed communities) ▲, ³

Infrastructure needs

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Repair to roads in community | 84% |
| 2 | Repair to roads between communities | 70% |
| 3 | Additional lighting in the community | 48% |

NFI NFI needs⁴

- | | | |
|---|--------------|-----|
| 1 | Cooking fuel | 94% |
| 2 | Solar panels | 65% |
| 3 | Batteries | 53% |

Seasonal needs

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|
| 1 | Heating fuel | 95% |
| 2 | Winter clothing | 74% |
| 3 | Floor mats | 61% |

WASH needs

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Construction of a sewage network | 40% |
| 2 | Drinking water | 40% |
| 3 | Plastic waste bins | 35% |

Livelihoods needs

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 1 | Access to credit | 76% |
| 2 | Tools/equipment for agricultural production | 67% |
| 3 | Tools/equipment for non-agricultural production | 42% |

Health needs

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 1 | Construction of new or additional health facilities | 50% |
| 2 | Medicines | 50% |
| 3 | First aid/emergency care | 38% |

Protection needs

- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | Special assistance for vulnerable groups | 79% |
| 2 | Specialised child protection (CP) services | 58% |
| 3 | Legal assistance HPL issues | 18% |

Education needs

- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | Additional teaching and learning materials | 72% |
| 2 | Improve school's infrastructure | 55% |
| 3 | Salary for teachers | 46% |

² Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

³ All the findings on priority needs by sector correspond to the needs of the general population living in assessed communities. Hence, they cover both host community and IDP households.

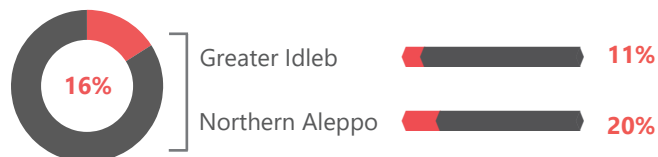
⁴ Non-food items (NFI)

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Access to Markets

% of assessed communities where **markets were not functioning every day**



Most commonly reported barriers to food-market functioning (by % of assessed communities) ▲

- 1 People do not have the financial means to open a shop- market 13%
- 2 Limited demand to support markets in the community 5%
- 3 Vendors cannot afford restocking 3%

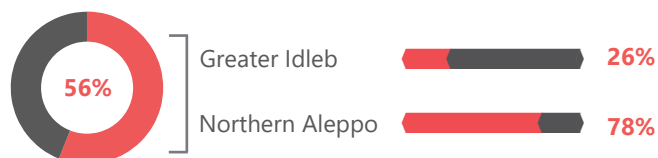
Most commonly reported NFI unavailable in markets (by % of assessed communities) ▲

- 1 Solar panels 15%
- 2 Batteries 14%
- 3 Mattresses, sleeping mats 12%



Access to Healthcare

% of assessed communities where **no health services were provided**



97% Assessed communities where KIs reported that **households accessed health services in other/nearby** communities.

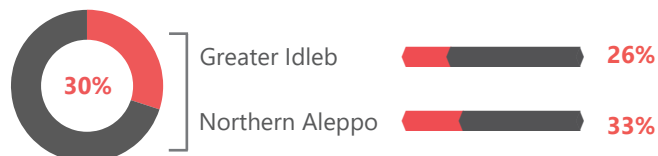
Most commonly reported challenges to access healthcare (by % of assessed communities) ▲

- 1 High cost of transportation to health facilities 67%
- 2 Lack of transportation to health facilities 56%
- 3 Lack of medicines and/or medical equipment at the health facility 50%

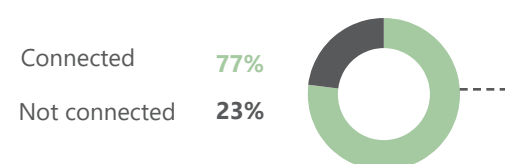


Access to Electricity

% of assessed communities where households had **access to less than 6 hours of electricity per day** in average



% of assessed communities connected to the main electricity network (either functioning or not)

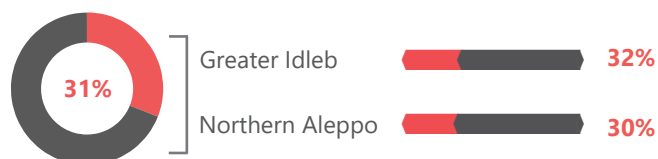


In **24%** of assessed communities connected to the main electricity network, KIs reported that **the electricity network was partially or completely not functioning**

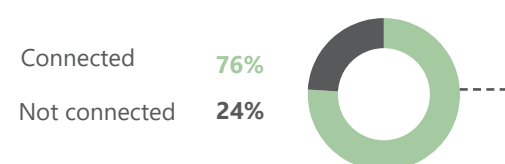


Access to Water

% of assessed communities where **not all households had access to sufficient water**



% of assessed communities connected to the main water network (either functioning or not)

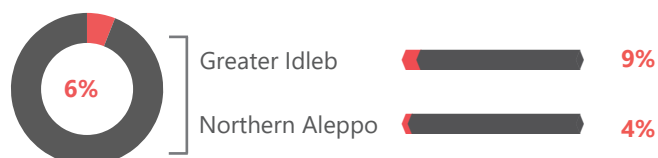


In **27%** of assessed communities connected to the main water network, KIs reported that **the water network was partially or completely not functioning**

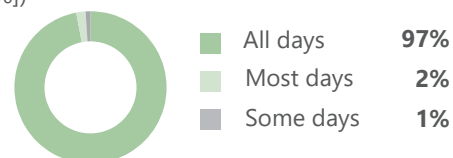


Access to Education services

% of assessed communities where **no education services were provided** over the past 30 days



Frequency of education services (by % of assessed communities with operational education services [94%])

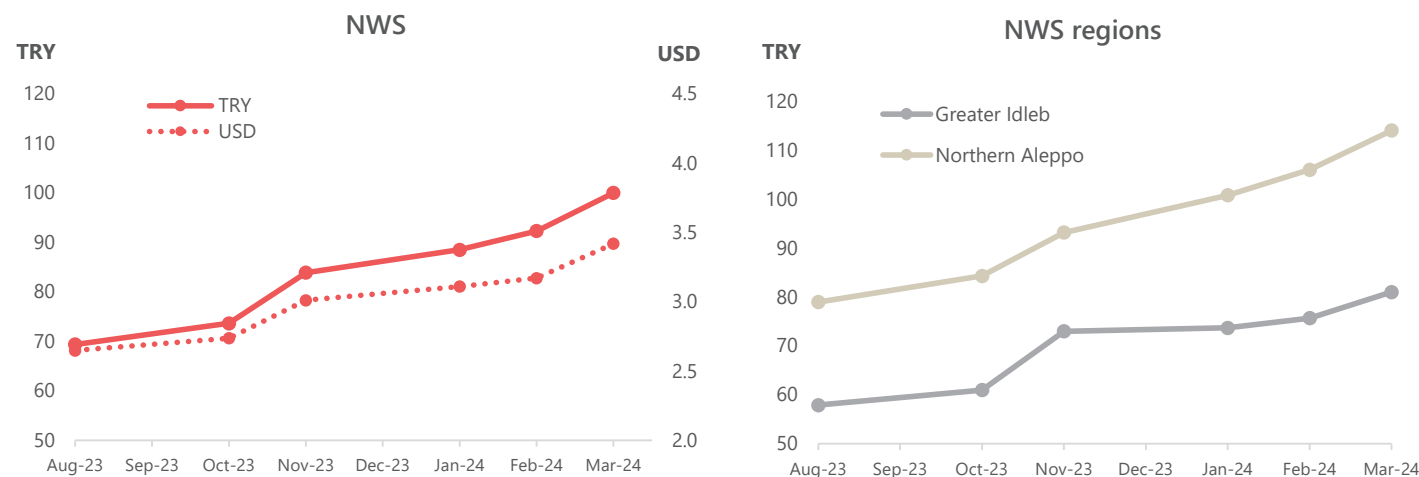


Most commonly reported difficulties when accessing education (by % of assessed communities) ▲

- 1 Not enough teaching or learning supplies 81%
- 2 Unsuitable environment 65%
- 3 Overcrowding 49%

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Evolution of the average daily wage for casual or irregular labour reported over the past six HSOS rounds in NWS ⁴



Region	Median estimated monthly rent price for a two-bedroom apartment ⁴
Greater Idleb	728 TRY
Northern Aleppo	500 TRY
Northeast Syria	600 TRY

Most commonly reported non-income generating sources of livelihoods (by % of assessed communities) [▲]


	Host community households	IDP households
Borrowing/loans	41%	47%
Remittances (from outside Syria)	24%	28%
Cash or in-kind humanitarian assistance	12%	12%
Financial support from family or friends (inside Syria)	8%	12%


In **97%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that **agriculture was a common source of livelihoods** for households.


Most common challenges to access livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of communities relying on agriculture) [▲]


1	High operational costs	75%
2	Seasonality or instability of income	48%
3	Lack of water for agriculture	45%


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


 In **76%** of assessed communities with people renting, KIs indicated that **rent was unaffordable for the majority of people**


 KIs in **75%** of assessed communities reported that the **high cost of solar panels or batteries to store solar power** was a common challenge to access power

 KIs in **17%** of assessed communities reported that the **high cost of fuel for generators** was a common challenge to access power

 KIs in **24%** of assessed communities indicated that the **high cost of water** prevented households to access sufficient water

 KIs in **83%** of assessed communities cited the **unaffordability of food** as a common challenge

 KIs in **46%** of assessed communities cited the **high cost of health services** as a common challenge

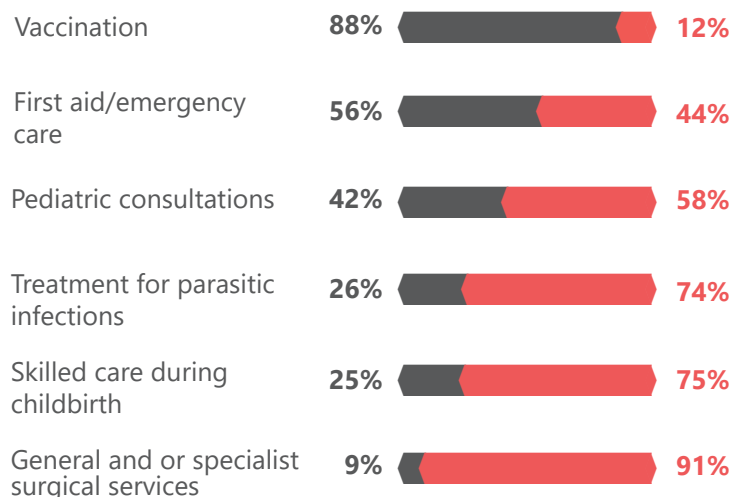
 KIs in **70%** of assessed communities reported that households **lacked money or resources** to cover the cost of attending **school**

⁴ KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD) or Turkish Lira (TRY). The values displayed here were all harmonised in TRY and USD, based on the exchange rate from the NWS Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMIMI). According to the REACH Market Monitoring February 2024, 1 USD = 30.675 TRY.

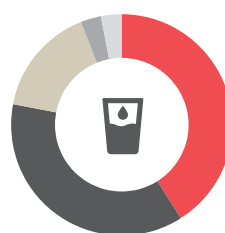
PUBLIC HEALTH

Essential health services available in the assessed community
(by % of assessed communities where households could access health services [44%]) ⁵

■ Service available
■ Service not available



Source of drinking water used by most households (by % of assessed communities)



Private water trucking conducted by citizens	41%
Piped water network	37%
Private well	16%
Community well	3%
Other	3%

In **51%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that households **faced problems with drinking water**

In **23%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that households **did not treat their water despite needing to.**

Methods used by households to make water safer to drink (by % of assessed communities) ⁶

1	Chlorine	14%
2	Boiling water	8%
3	Sedimentation	6%

Most commonly reported sanitation issues (by % of assessed communities) ⁶

1	Sewage network does not reach all households	31%
2	Desludging services are not available	29%
3	Could not afford desludging areas	25%
4	Stagnant water in the streets	23%
5	Sewage system pollutes public areas	22%



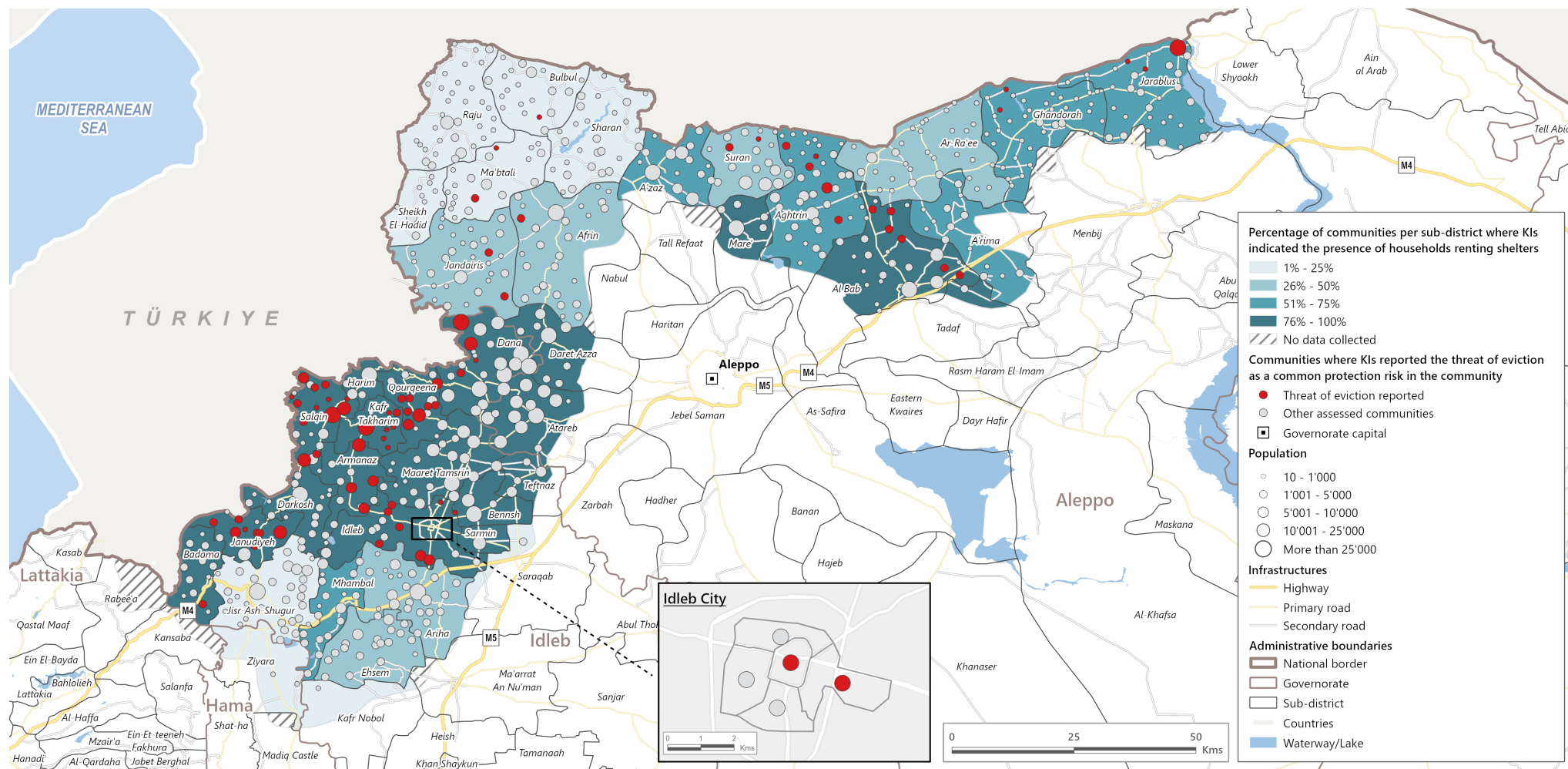
In **4%** of assessed communities, **leaving garbage in public areas** was among the most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste.



In **12%** of assessed communities, **releasing wastewater and human feces over land surface** was among the most commonly reported ways people disposed of wastewater.

⁵ The displayed services were not selected based on how commonly they were reported.

⁶ These problems were not selected based on how commonly they were reported, but rather on their potential negative impact on health.



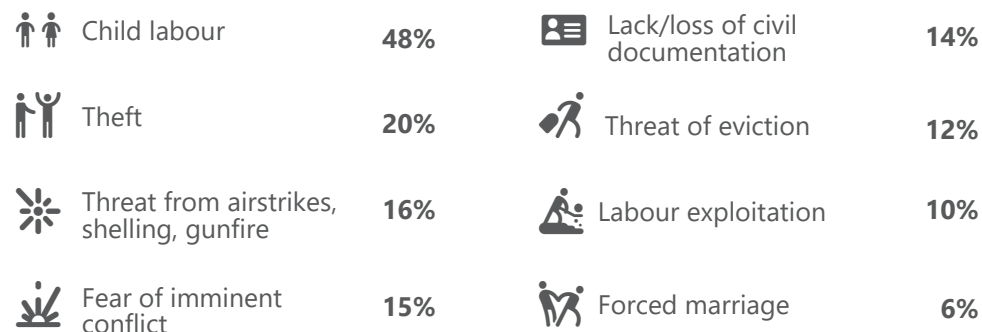
Renting situation and risk of eviction in NWS

Note on the map

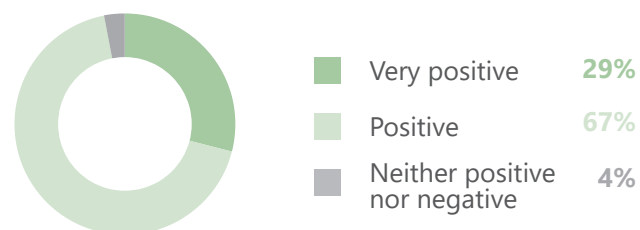
On this map, sub-districts are represented with shades of blue corresponding to the percentage of communities where households rent their shelter. Red dots correspond to communities where KIs reported the threat of eviction as a protection risk for households. Idleb and Salqin sub-districts recorded the highest concentration of reports of threat of eviction.

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Most commonly reported protection risks (by % of assessed communities) ▲



Perception of the social cohesion (by % of assessed communities)



Intersectoral findings on security

-  **Security restrictions** reportedly prevented the access to livelihood activities in 18 assessed communities
-  **General safety and security concerns at markets or while travelling to markets** was a reported barrier to market access in 37 assessed communities
-  **General safety and security concerns at health facilities or while travelling to health facilities** was a reported barrier to healthcare access in 12 assessed communities
-  **Lack of safety while travelling to or from school** was reported as a barrier preventing access to education in 57 assessed communities

METHODOLOGY

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. In each community, REACH enumerators in Greater Idlib, and partner enumerators in Northern Aleppo, interview several KIs selected based on their knowledge of the community and areas of expertise. Enumerators submit one single form per community and only one KI should answer each section of the survey. Interviews are usually done in person unless security and access restrictions prevent enumerators to reach the community.

More information about HSOS KI methodology can be found on [HSOS KI terms of reference \(ToR\)](#).

This Situation Overview only presents a selection of collected indicators. The complete HSOS dataset and analysis can be downloaded as an [excel file](#).

Number of communities per subset:	Subset
Host community households	679
IDP households	668
Communities where assistance was reported (host community)	382
Communities where assistance was reported (IDP)	371
Communities connected to a main electricity network	516
Communities connected to a main water network	513
Communities with operational education services	637
Communities with agriculture as a common source of livelihoods	662
Communities with access to health services	302

ABOUT REACH

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).