

Idleb Governorate, January 2018

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

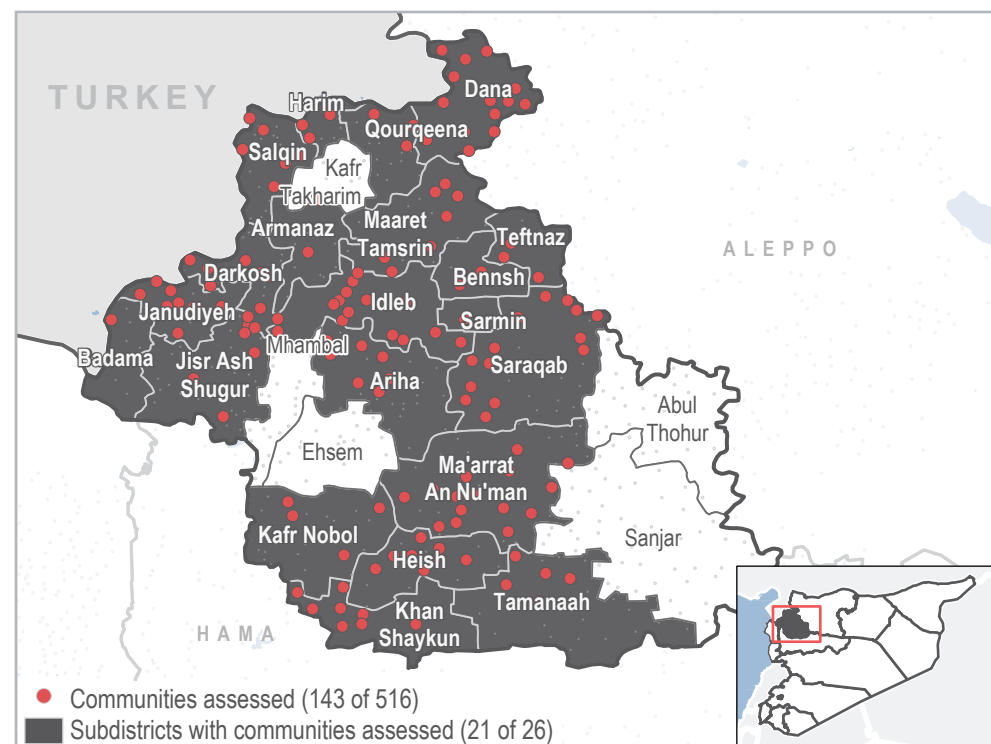
OVERALL FINDINGS¹

Syria's north-western Idleb hosts the second largest IDP population after Rural Damascus. Of the **32** communities that reported pre-conflict population departures, **94%** reported that members of the pre-conflict population left in January 2018 due to escalated conflict. The majority of these communities are located in the eastern subdistricts of Ma'arrat An Nu'man and Saraqab. Of the communities assessed in Idleb, **13** had no pre-conflict population remaining on the last day of January. Most of these communities are located in Tamanaah and Ma'arrat An Nu'man subdistricts, which have been affected by escalations in conflict in the past months. These communities have not been assessed for the majority of indicators displayed in this factsheet. **Only one** community witnessed spontaneous refugee returns in January: Nahliya (Ariha subdistrict), where IDPs returned from Dana subdistrict in Idleb governorate due to a perceived cessation of hostilities², to reunite with their families and to protect or reclaim assets. IDPs were present in **131** out of the 143 assessed communities, with **10** communities reporting the presence of over 10,000 IDPs. Dana (70,000), Idleb (58,150) and Ma'arrat Tamsrin (36,000) reported the largest estimated IDP numbers, and all **3** communities reported new arrivals in January. Of all communities assessed, **82** reported new IDP arrivals in January, approximately **66,188 – 77,280** individuals, with particularly large numbers of IDPs arriving in Idleb City (approximately **7,250**). Despite large IDP numbers within Idleb, **all but three** communities reported that IDPs lived in independent or shared houses or apartments. For more detailed information about displacement patterns in Idleb governorate in January, please refer to the REACH Syria [IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative \(ISMI\)](#).

Of the communities assessed in January, **34** reported that no health facilities were available in their area, and **6** reported that none of the assessed medical items were available in their community. **Four** communities, all of which are located in Ariha subdistrict, reported that women and the elderly had less access to healthcare than other parts of the population, and **one** community, Thaheriya, reported that IDPs had reduced access to healthcare. Of the communities assessed, **21** cited diarrhoea as a common health problem. The majority of these communities were reportedly hosting over 1,000 IDPs. The pervasiveness of reports of diarrhoea in Idleb compared to other governorates could be indicative of overcrowding in certain areas such as Idleb, Janudiyeh and Jisr-Ash-Shugur subdistricts. Water was reportedly sufficient in **all but 33** of the assessed communities, and fuel shortages were reported in **43** of them. Of these 43 communities, **35** reported hosting over 1,000 IDPs.

Out of the 143 communities assessed in Idleb, **44** reported that residents experienced challenges in accessing sufficient amounts of food. The vast majority of KIs in these communities reported that residents either lacked sufficient funds to purchase available food or were unable to buy food due to the prohibitive prices of some items. Although the average price of a food basket was comparatively lower in Idleb than in other assessed governorates, it was **more than 50%** of the reported average monthly household income of **less than 50,000 SYP**. The most common sources of income in the **44** communities reporting barriers to accessing food were business or trade, unstable, daily employment and agriculture. Of the 114 communities reporting that income was insufficient to cover household needs, **46%** reported that children were sent to work or beg to supplement incomes³. Nonetheless, most children in **all but 16** of the assessed communities were reportedly able to access education in January.

Coverage



Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Healthcare
2. Food security
3. Water security

Demographics*

2,086,051 people in need

1,024,251 1,061,800

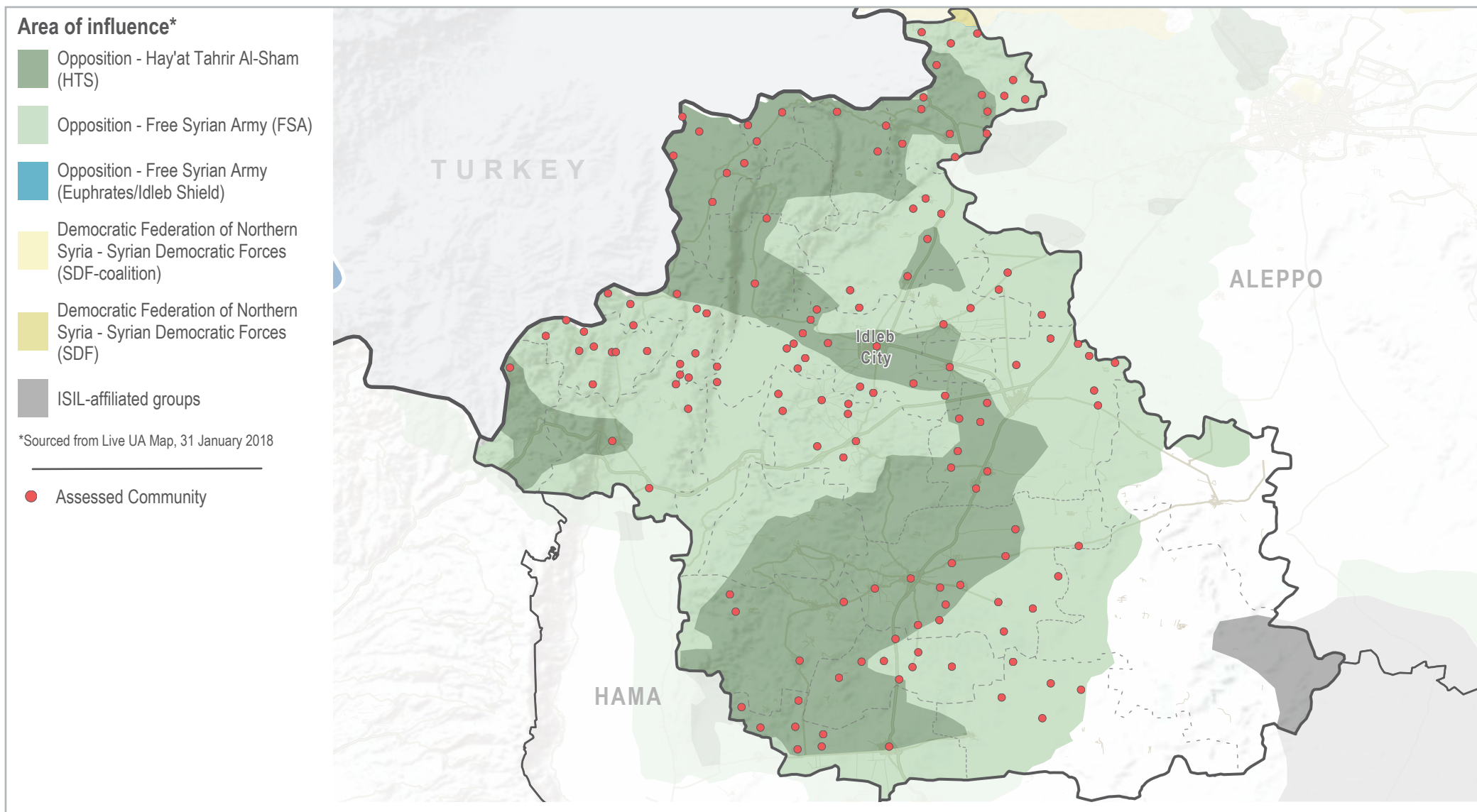
* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

KEY EVENTS

Wave of attacks on hospitals in opposition-held areas ⁴ .	Forces advance into southern Idleb, escalating conflict in the governorate ⁵ .	An estimated 100,000 displaced by offensive in southern Idleb ⁶ .	Areas in southern Idleb become inaccessible to humanitarian actors due to ongoing hostilities ⁷ .	Regime forces take control of Abu Al-Thohur airbase ⁸ .	Owdai hospital in Saraqab City damaged by airstrikes ⁹ .
September	Mid December	Early-mid January	Early-mid January	20 January	29 January

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Governorate areas of influence:



DISPLACEMENT

66,188 - 77,280 Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in January.

10 - 12 Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in January².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Idleb	7,000 - 7,500
Sarmada	3,500 - 4,500
Kafr Deryan	3,000 - 4,000

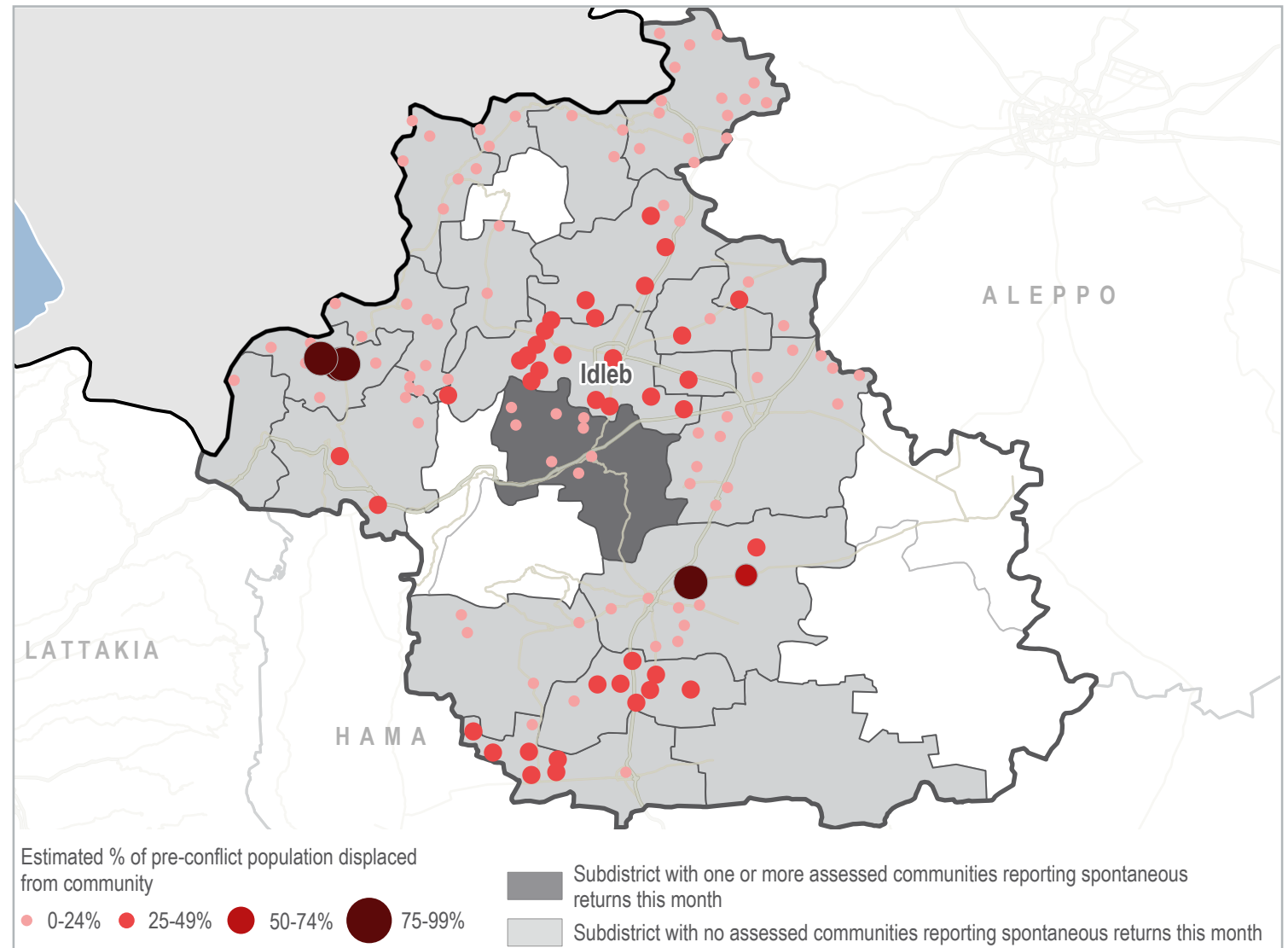
Top 3 subdistricts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

Abul Thohur (Idleb)	24%
Saraqab (Idleb)	24%
Sanjar (Idleb)	17%

111 communities reported no PCP departures. Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **32** assessed communities^{3,4}:

Escalation of conflict	94%
Loss of assets	19%
Loss of income	3%

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



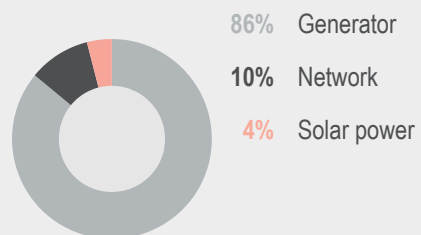
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

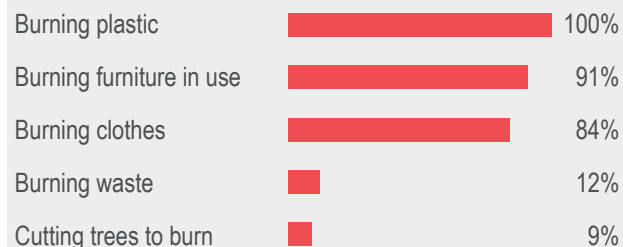
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SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



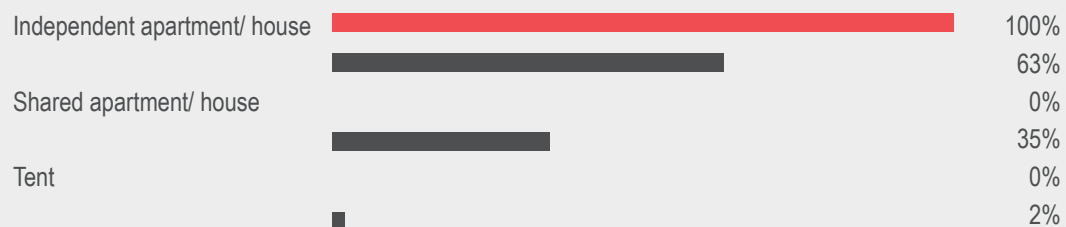
89 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining 43 assessed communities^{3,4}:



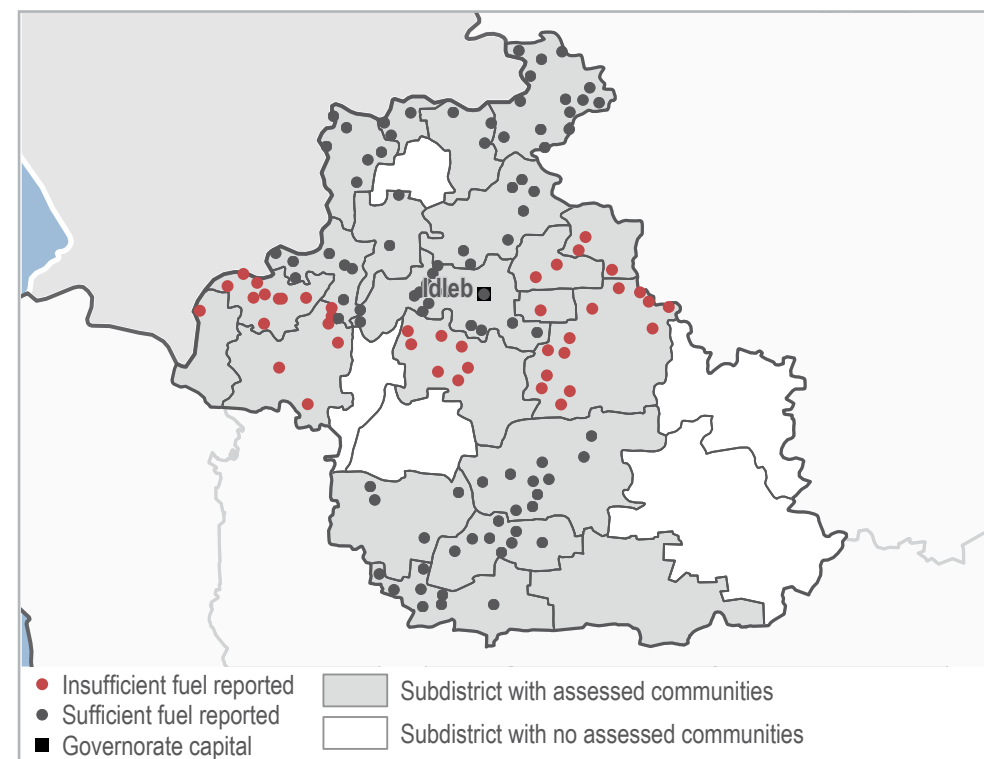
5,793 SYP Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.⁵

7,482 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 January:	Governorate average price in December:	Syrian average price in January:
Coal (1 kilogram)	176	171	325
Diesel (1 litre)	315	236	414
Butane (1 canister)	7,245	6,863	6,060
Firewood (1 tonne)	64,790	62,452	76,514

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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

HEALTH

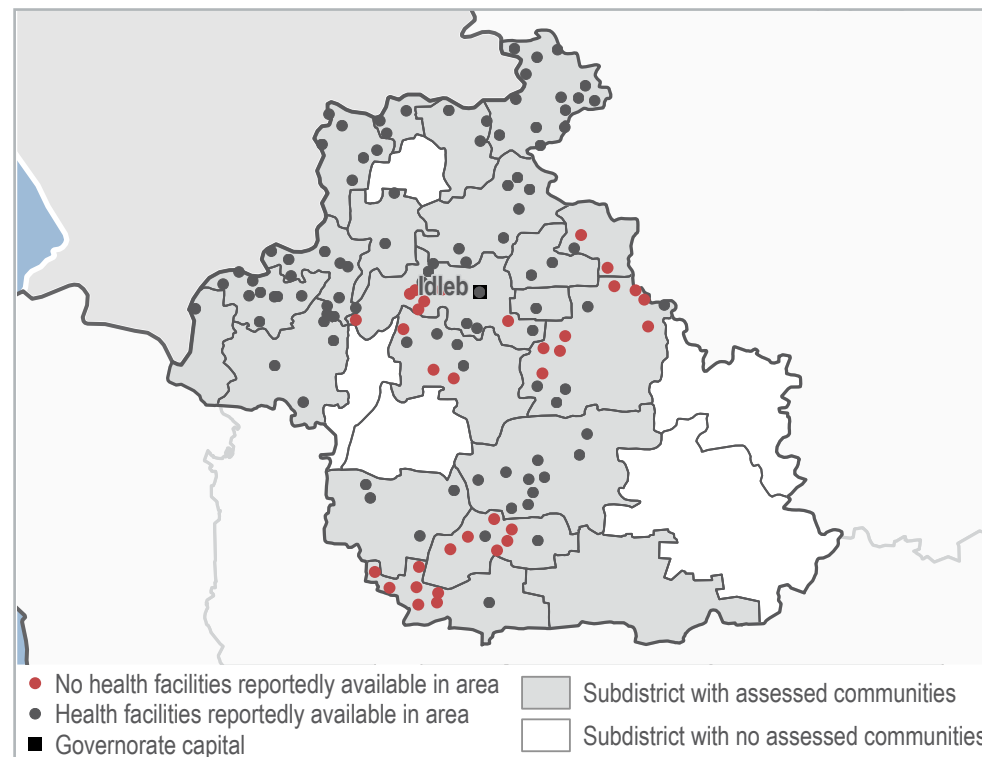
- 6** Communities reported that no medical items were available in their community.
- 2** Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

93 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining **39** assessed communities were^{3,4}:

No health facilities available in the area	87%
High cost of transportation to facilities	41%
Lack of transportation to facilities	36%
Security concerns when traveling to facilities	3%
Security concerns to enter/remain in facilities	3%

132 communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies^{3,4}.

Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



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

Antenatal care	43%
Assistive devices	36%
Medicine	35%

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

Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	64%
Acute respiratory infections	50%
Pregnancy related diseases	41%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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- 0 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.

108 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 24 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

Inability to empty septic tanks 100%

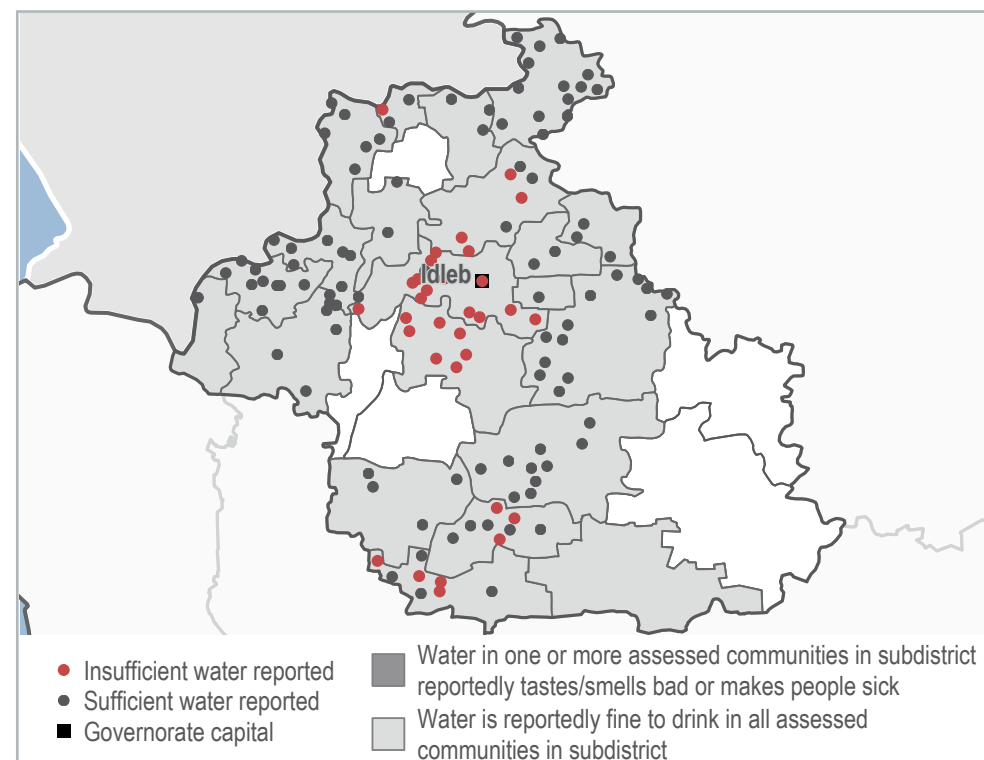
99 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 33 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

Modify hygiene practices 76%

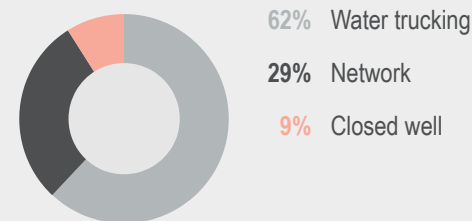
Spend money usually spent on other things to buy water 48%

Receive water on credit/ borrow water or money for water 15%

Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



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

Public free collection 38%

Private paid collection 32%

Disposed at designated site 17%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

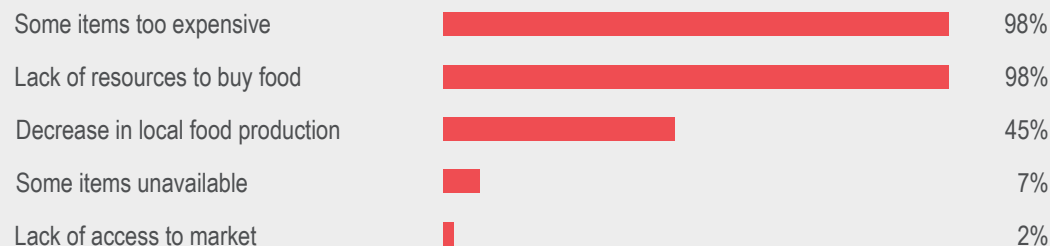
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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FOOD SECURITY

- 4** 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.

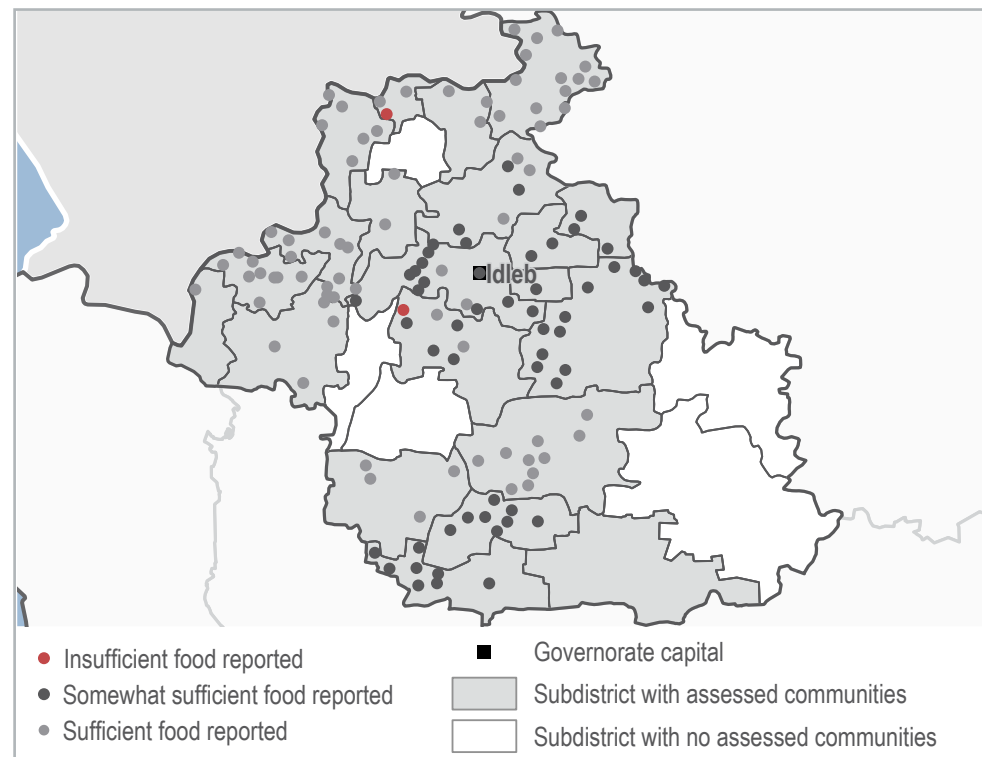
88 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **44 assessed communities** were^{3,4}:



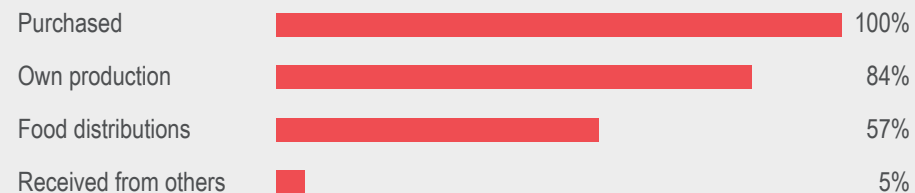
Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

Food item:	Governorate average price in January:	Governorate average price in December:	Syrian average price in January:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	140	138	115
Rice (1 kilogram)	395	395	535
Lentils (1 kilogram)	370	368	416
Sugar (1 kilogram)	346	344	386
Cooking oil (1 litre)	565	565	669

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 February 2018)

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LIVELIHOODS

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

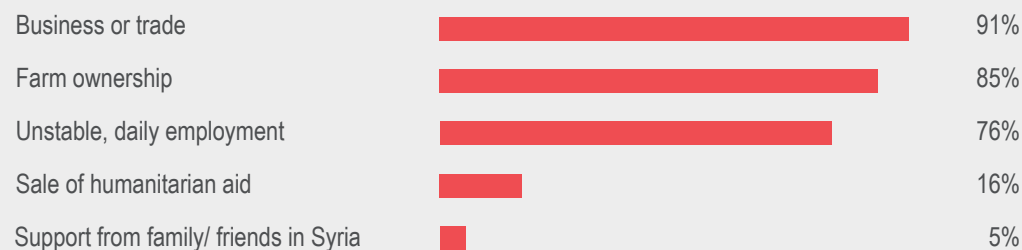
26,418 SYP Governorate average food basket price^{5,6}.

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

18 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 **114** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



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



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

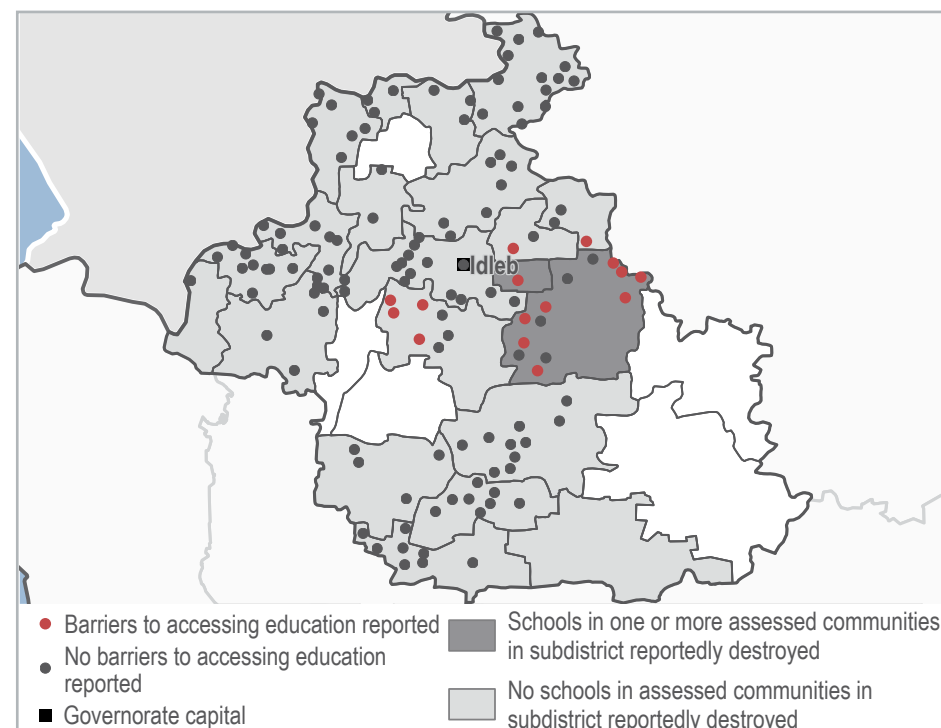
⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 February 2018)

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.

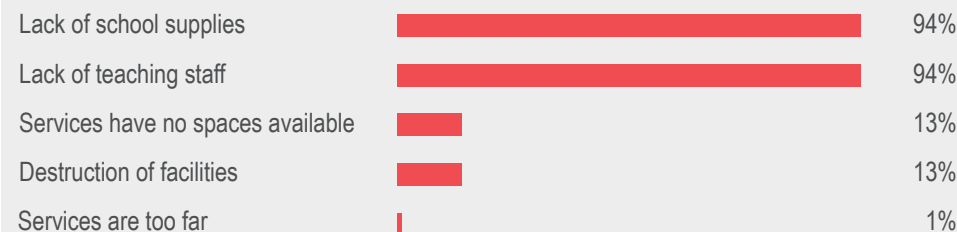
⁷ Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



116 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **16** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



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 143 communities in February 2018, referring to the situation in Idleb Governorate in January 2018. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed subdistricts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly subdistrict 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 they report about. Where access and security constraints rendered direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews were conducted indirectly 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.

A minimum of three KIs were interviewed per community to enhance data accuracy. 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 Aljazeera (20 September 2017). 'Deadly air strikes' target hospitals in Syria's Idlib. Retrieved from <http://www.aljazeera.com>.

⁵ Edelman, Ibrahim and Al-Masalma (20 December 2017). Government forces advance inside rebel-held Idlib province. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁶ BBC (10 January 2018). Syria war: Assault on rebel stronghold of Idlib 'displaces 100,000'. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com>.

⁷ UNHCR (18 January 2018). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 18 January 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁸ Assistance Coordination Unit (15 February 2018). Displacement waves from rural Idleb, Aleppo and Hama - Situation Report, Issue: 02 - February 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁹ MSF (29 January 2018). Syria: MSF-supported hospital in Idlib closed after damage from airstrikes. Retrieved from <http://www.msf.org>.

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.