

Introduction

Despite widespread damage to shelter and infrastructure and a complex security environment in the city, residents continue to return to Ar-Raqqa in large numbers as conditions are increasingly being regarded as habitable. Since conflict ceased in October 2017, there has been ongoing progress in access to many services such as electricity, water, healthcare, and education. However, numerous issues with the quality and capacity of these services persist, and affordability remains a primary barrier preventing access to many essential services. Factors that particularly exacerbate needs and increase vulnerability among residents include limited access to livelihoods, flour shortages in public bakeries, and low levels of access to schools.

REACH has conducted a series of assessments to monitor the humanitarian situation in Ar-Raqqa as residents spontaneously return and as services resume in the city. This most recent Area-Based Assessment (ABA) in Ar-Raqqa city provides an update to the [February 2019 ABA](#), examining multi-sectoral needs of civilians living in the city and their access to relevant services and infrastructure. The following sectors were assessed: [Population, Returns, and Access](#); [Health](#); [Education](#); [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene \(WASH\)](#); [Shelter](#); [Cash](#); [Electricity](#); [Livelihoods](#); [Bakeries](#); [Food and markets](#); [Nutrition](#); [Non-Food Items \(NFIs\)](#); [Protection](#).

The ABA was conducted as part of a wider global initiative aiming to support humanitarian response in urban contexts through an area-based approach, in which the humanitarian situation in a geographic location is examined through a territorial, multi-sectoral lens. This assessment will provide the foundation for a response gaps analysis workshop conducted by REACH in collaboration with coordination actors. The workshop will aim to enable the identification of needs and potential gaps in the response, and to support operational actors with evidence-based response planning.

Key Findings

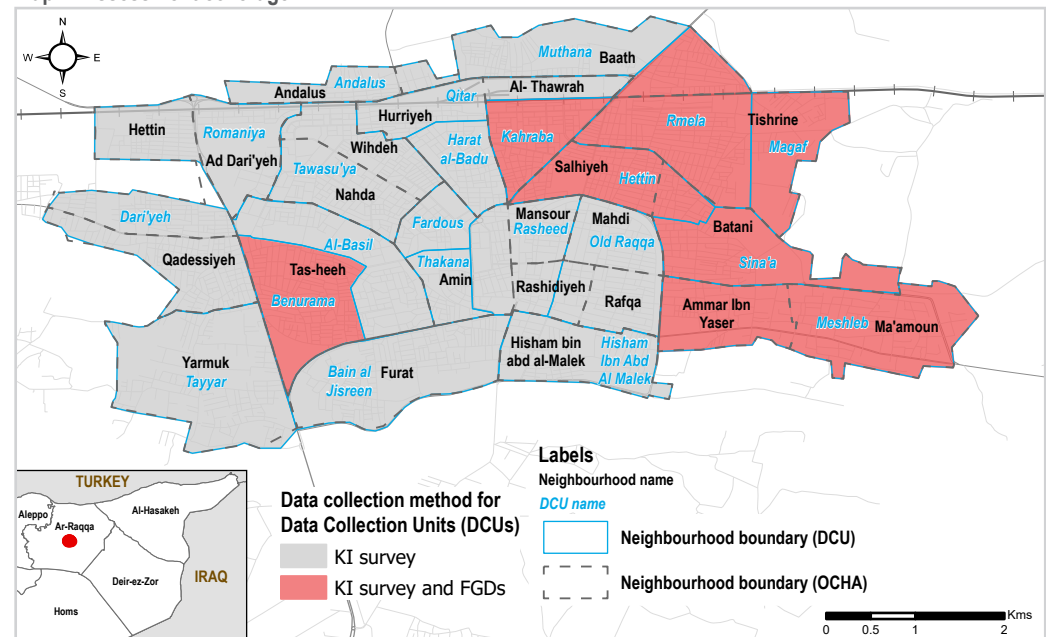
- **The prevalence of sewage and sanitation issues, which was reported in the February 2019 assessment to have increased, has reportedly continued to rise.** The number of neighbourhoods where KIs reported that sewage and waste water spilled onto the street has increased from 15 to 17 in June 2019. These growing issues may have hazardous health effects for residents, especially in the warmer summer months when the breeding and presence of vectors for disease tends to be greater.
- **Similarly, the sudden increase in number of neighbourhoods where KIs in February reported that bakeries produced insufficient amounts of bread, has reportedly been sustained.** Bakery capacity and bread affordability were reported as issues in 17 neighbourhoods. Population increases and flour shortages may be contributing factors to these ongoing challenges.
- **The overall level of access to primary level education has declined since the February assessment, as KIs reported lower proportions of children aged 6 to 12 accessing primary schools.** As noted in previous rounds of the ABA, neighbourhoods in the western part of the city particularly stand out with lower reported rates of attendance compared to other areas.
- **Despite a marginal increase since the previous round of the assessment, access to livelihood opportunities reportedly remains very low overall.** In 15 DCUs, only half or less than half of all households reportedly have sufficient income to cover their basic needs. The absence of livelihood opportunities and reduced purchasing power also compound access to services such as healthcare. **Access to healthcare reportedly remains at the same low levels as reported in February 2019.**

Methodology

REACH conducted data collection for this assessment between 19 May and 2 June 2019 in Ar-Raqqa city. A total of 72 key informants (KIs) were selected based on their knowledge of multi-sectoral needs of the population in each neighbourhood of the city, with a minimum of three KIs interviewed per neighbourhood. Neighbourhoods are also referred to as data collection units (DCUs) throughout the analysis.¹ The findings of this assessment were analysed alongside the findings from previous assessments in order to build a snapshot of access to services at the local level relative to the status and capacity of facilities and infrastructure.

To better understand these dynamics at the neighbourhood level, ten focus group discussions (FGDs) including participatory mapping exercises were conducted with residents in seven out of the 22 neighbourhoods where access and security conditions permitted data collection. Profiles of each neighbourhood are included at the end of this assessment report. Some neighbourhoods were clustered together and selected in coordination with humanitarian actors based on perceived needs. Neighbourhoods that were not covered in the February assessment were prioritised. FGDs were comprised of 6-10 participants and were segregated by gender, with the exception of Sina'a where only an all-male FGD was held due to restricted access and a lack of suitable participants. The findings of this assessment should only be considered indicative of the situation in Ar-Raqqa city at the time of data collection.

Map 1: Assessment coverage²



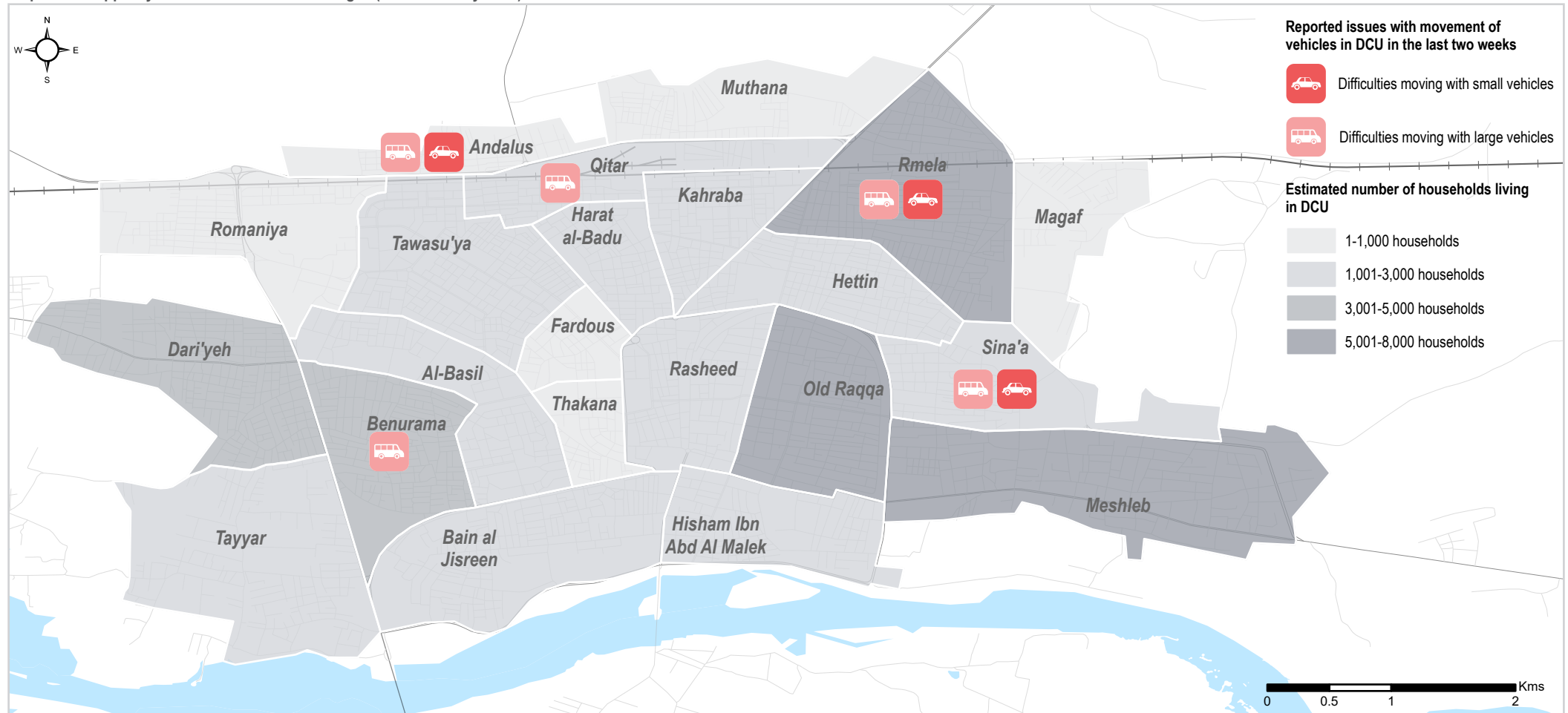
1. A total of 22 data collection units were delineated through participatory mapping with KIs during the June 2018 ABA, in order to define the area within which they could most easily report population, services and needs information.

2. Neighbourhood boundaries source: Syria COD, Humanitarian Data Exchange. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by REACH or the United Nations.

Population, Returns and Access

- The population of Ar-Raqqa city continues to increase as residents return to the city. In 17 DCUs, KIs reported that there had been an increase in the number of households since the February assessment.³ The city's key population centres are reported to be Meshleb, Old Raqqa, Rmela and Dariyeh which all reportedly host more than 4,500 households each.
- Neighbourhoods that have reportedly seen the greatest increases in spontaneous returns are located in the northern part of the city, which has previously had lower rates of returns due to the prevalence of conflict-related damage. KIs in Muthanna, Kahraba and Andalus reported that neighbourhood populations have increased by at least 30% compared to the last assessment in February 2019.
- In part due to the large scale conflict-related damage, access and movement restrictions for both residents and humanitarian actors persist in many areas of Ar-Raqqa city. In 15 DCUs, KIs reported the presence of broken or damaged roads or rubble and debris blocking roads.
- As a result, movement with vehicles of any size was reported by KIs to be difficult in Andalus, Sina'a and Rmela, which may limit the provision of services and goods in these areas.
- Movement with only large vehicles was reported to be limited in Benurama, and major difficulties for large vehicles were reported by KIs in Qitar neighbourhood.

Map 2: Ar-Raqqa city returns and access challenges (as of February 2019)



3. Population estimates at the neighbourhood level were collected from 3-5 KIs in each neighbourhood, each one providing a minimum and maximum range. Collected information was further triangulated through available secondary sources, including International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) assessment reports, estimates from INGOs that are operational in Ar-Raqqa city and population estimates provided by local authorities. Where there were significant discrepancies, REACH considered a broader range based on the lowest and highest estimates provided by secondary sources and KIs.

Health

- Since February 2019, there has been an increase in the number of neighbourhoods with access to healthcare facilities. Pharmacies or private clinics are reportedly now available in all neighbourhoods. However, health facilities that offer free services such as primary care facilities and public hospitals are reportedly still only available in seven neighbourhoods.
- Residents reportedly continue to have access to healthcare services at the same limited level that was reported in February 2019. KIs in 17 DCUs reported that half or less than half (26-50%) of households with a member who required treatment had been able to receive it in the two weeks prior to data collection. While the reported level of access to healthcare has decreased in four DCUs compared to the February assessment, it has also increased in another four neighbourhoods.

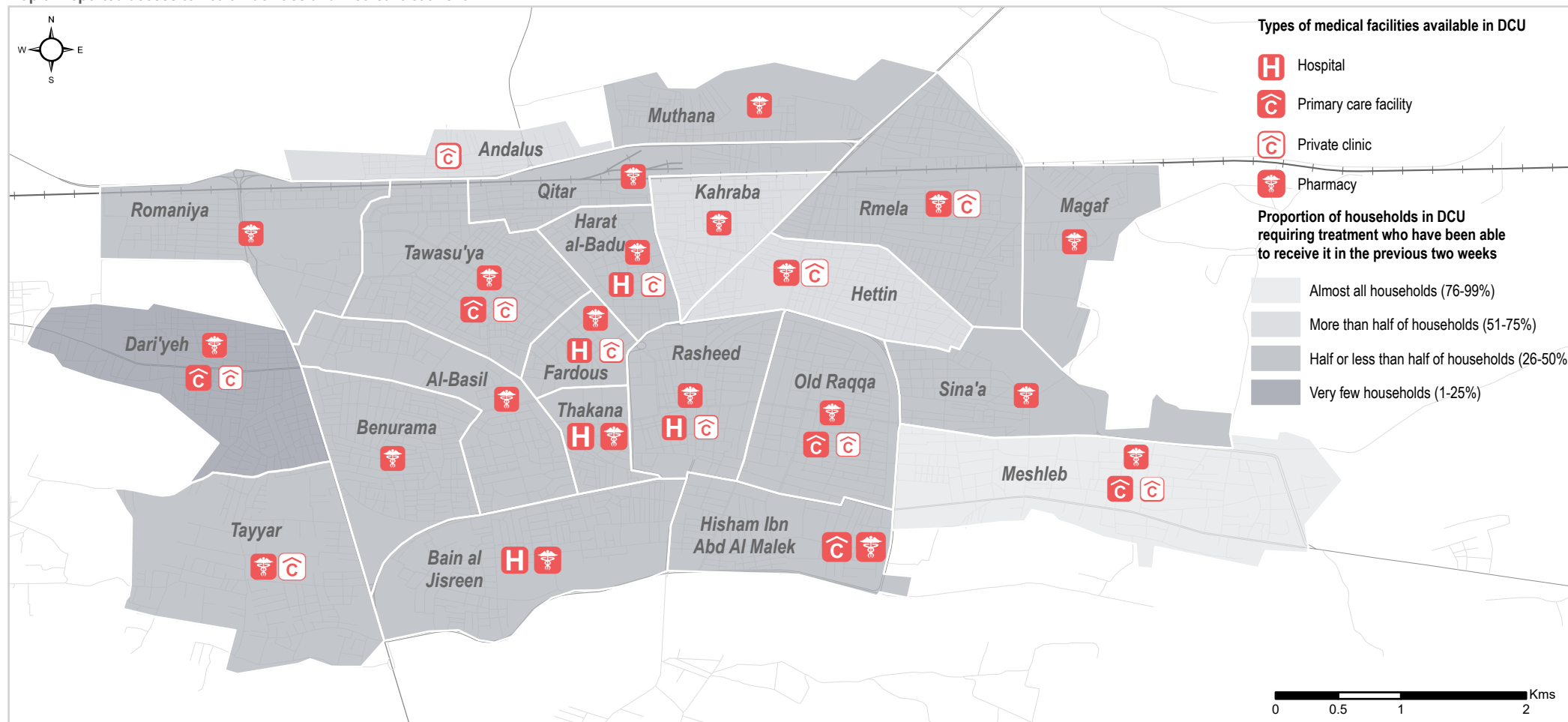
Most common barriers to accessing healthcare in the two weeks prior to data collection (% of KIs reporting):

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Healthcare is unaffordable | 64% |
| Distance to facilities | 40% |
| Lack of facilities | 39% |

Most common healthcare needs in the two weeks prior to data collection (% of KIs reporting):

| | |
|---|-----|
| Treatment for chronic disease | 78% |
| Skilled care during childbirth | 65% |
| Emergency care (accidents and injuries) | 29% |

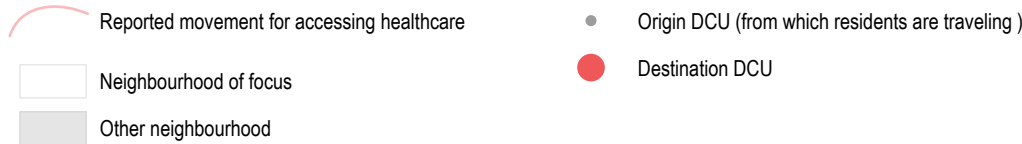
Map 3: Reported access to health facilities and medical treatment



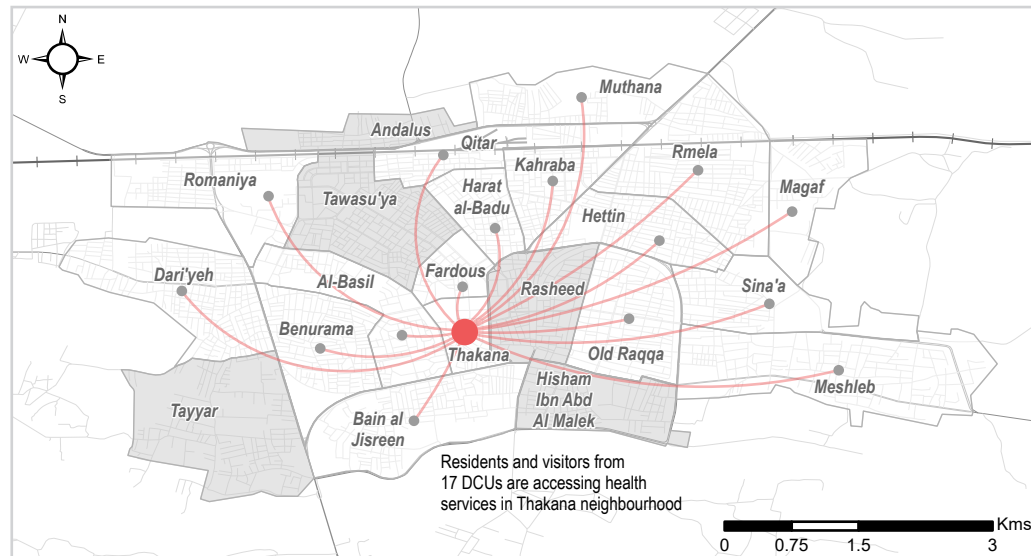
🏥 Health (continued)

In light of reported challenges pertaining to access and barriers to healthcare, households are travelling extensively in order to access health services in different locations in the city. Thakana, Meshleb and Dariyeh neighbourhoods offer health services that reportedly draw in the majority of this group.⁴

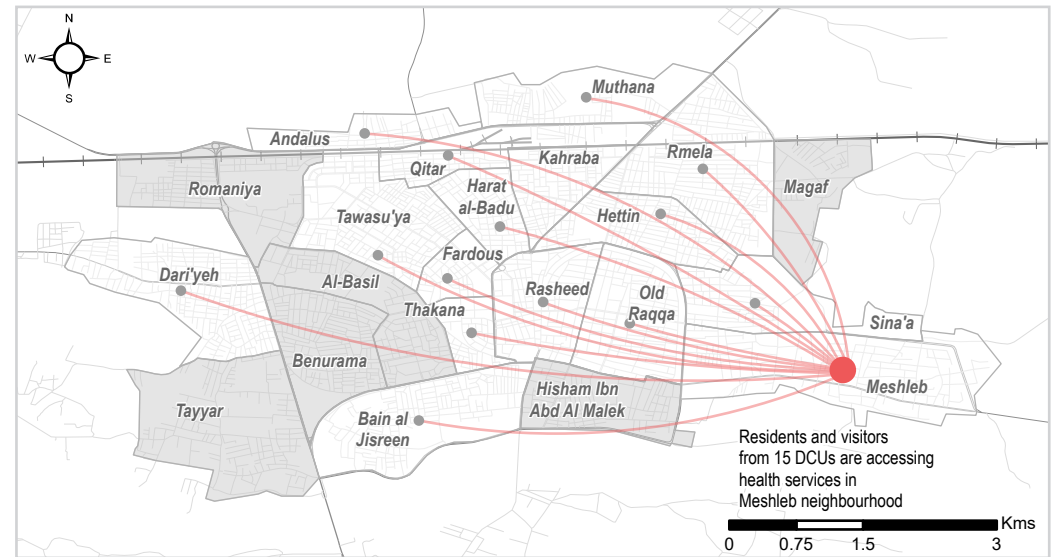
- **Reported movements to the central part of the city:** Residents from nearly all neighbourhoods in Ar-Raqqa city reportedly access healthcare in Thakana neighbourhood, where the newly rehabilitated Ar-Raqqa National Hospital is located, in addition to Mashaddani hospital and a primary care facility.
- **Reported movements to the eastern part of the city:** A key INGO-operated health facility located in Meshleb neighbourhood also reportedly serves residents from nearly all neighbourhoods, particularly from the central and eastern parts of the city.
- **Reported movements to the western part of the city:** Similarly, another INGO-operated health clinic located in Dariyeh is reportedly a key destination for many households from the western part of the city, as well as for residents in four DCUs in the north and east of Ar-Raqqa city.



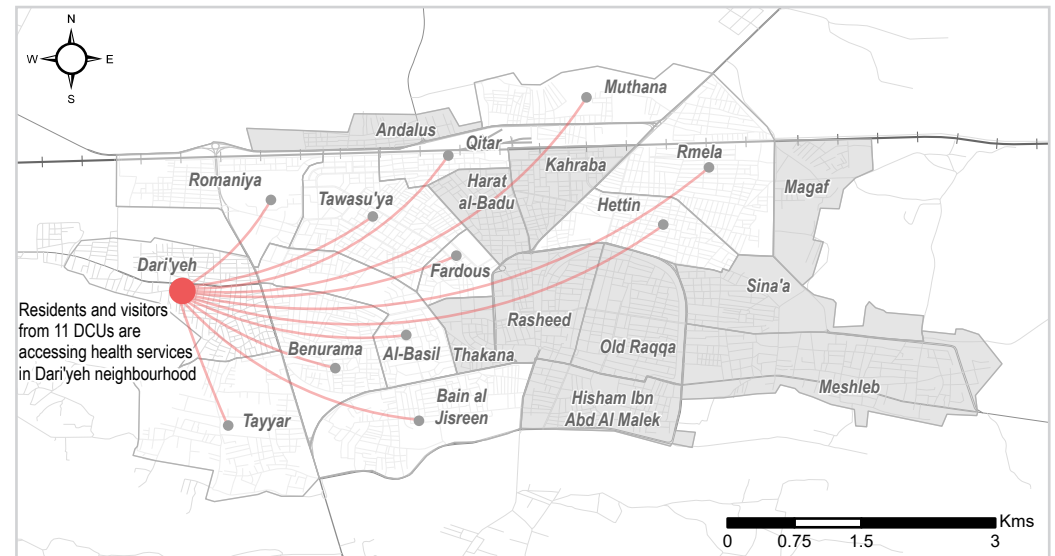
Map 4: Reported movements to the central part of the city for accessing healthcare



Map 5: Reported movements to the eastern part of the city for accessing healthcare



Map 6: Reported movements to the western part of the city for accessing healthcare



4. Thakana, Meshleb and Dariyeh were the top three most commonly reported destinations for accessing health services. These were followed by Rasheed and Old Raqqa, which were reportedly accessed by residents in seven and ten DCUs respectively.

Education

- The number of neighbourhoods with functional formal primary education facilities has reportedly remained the same since the February assessment, at 18.⁵ KIs reported that residents in Qitar, Hettin, Fardous and Magaf still have no access to formal education facilities inside their DCUs.⁶
- However, the overall level of access to primary education has decreased compared to the previous assessment. KIs in 16 out of the 22 assessed neighbourhoods reported that more than half of all children aged 6 to 12 accessed primary education two weeks prior to data collection, where this had been the case in 20 DCUs previously. As was recorded in the previous round of this assessment, the level of access to primary education was reportedly lowest in the western part of the city.
- As noted in all previous ABA rounds, access to intermediary and secondary level education

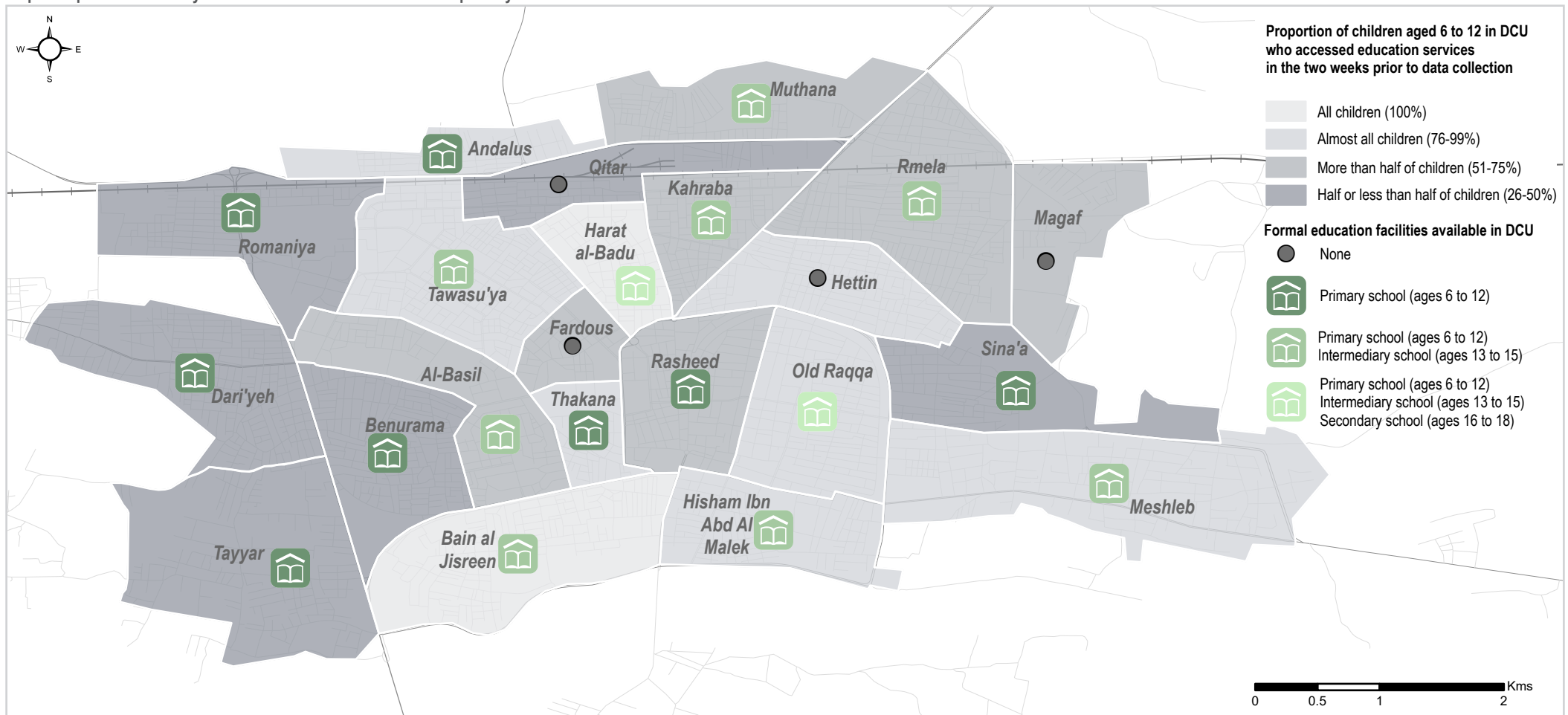
remains very limited compared to primary level education. KIs in 15 DCUs reported that only half or less than half of all children aged 13 to 15 accessed education in the two weeks prior to data collection.⁶

- The average number of students per classroom was reported to be very high overall. In 10 out of the 18 DCUs with active schools, the average classroom size was reported to be between 30 to 40 students, and in six DCUs the average size was reported to be over 40 students.

Most commonly reported barriers to education (% of KIs reporting):

| | |
|---|-----|
| No education for children of a certain age | 40% |
| Children have to work | 36% |
| Schools are too far away/no transport available | 35% |

Map 7: Reported availability of education facilities and access to primary education



5. As part of the February 2019 ABA, REACH conducted a supplementary assessment of education services and infrastructure: [Area Based Assessment, Ar-Raqqa City, February 2019](#)

6. KIs in Fardous and Qitar reported that informal education centres were available in the DCUs.

7. KIs in 8 neighbourhoods reported that between 1% and 25% of children aged 16 to 18 accessed education in the two weeks prior to data collection, and KIs in 11 neighbourhoods reported that no children aged 16 to 18 accessed education in the two weeks prior to data collection.

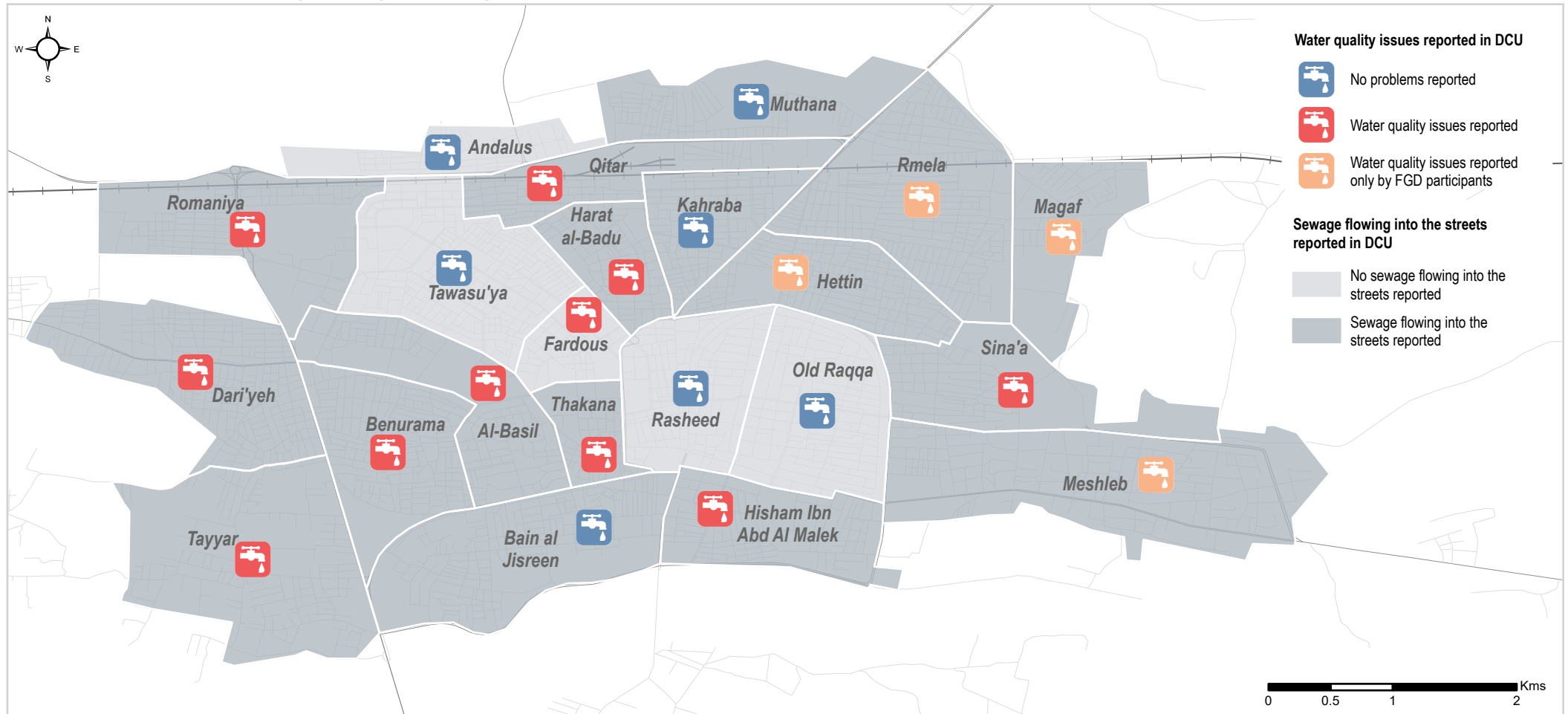
WASH

- **Water from the city’s main network has reportedly become more available since the February assessment.** KIs in 20 DCUs reported that water from the main network was available every day in the two weeks prior to data collection, while this had been the case in 16 DCUs previously. However, lower frequency of access to the main network was reported in Magaf and Benurama neighbourhoods: between three to four days a week in Magaf, and between five to six days in Benurama.
- **Although access continued to improve, problems with water quality reportedly persist.** Issues such as water smelling bad, having a brown appearance, tasting bad, or causing illness were reported by KIs in 15 neighbourhoods. The number of neighbourhoods where water quality issues were reported by KIs has not decreased since June 2018.
- **Similarly, the prevalence of reports of sewage water seeping into streets, which rose sharply during the last round of the assessment, has continued to increase.** The number of neighbourhoods where KIs reported that this was an issue has increased from 15 to 17. KIs in only one neighbourhood reported that there are no sanitation issues, which was the same rate as recorded in the previous round of this assessment.

Most commonly reported sewage issues (by number of neighbourhoods)

| | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| Smell of sewage in the street |  | 21 out of 22 |
| Leakages and sludge in the street |  | 17 out of 22 |
| Leakages and sludge inside people’s homes |  | 12 out of 22 |

Map 8: Reports of issues with water quality and sewage water spilling into the street



Shelter

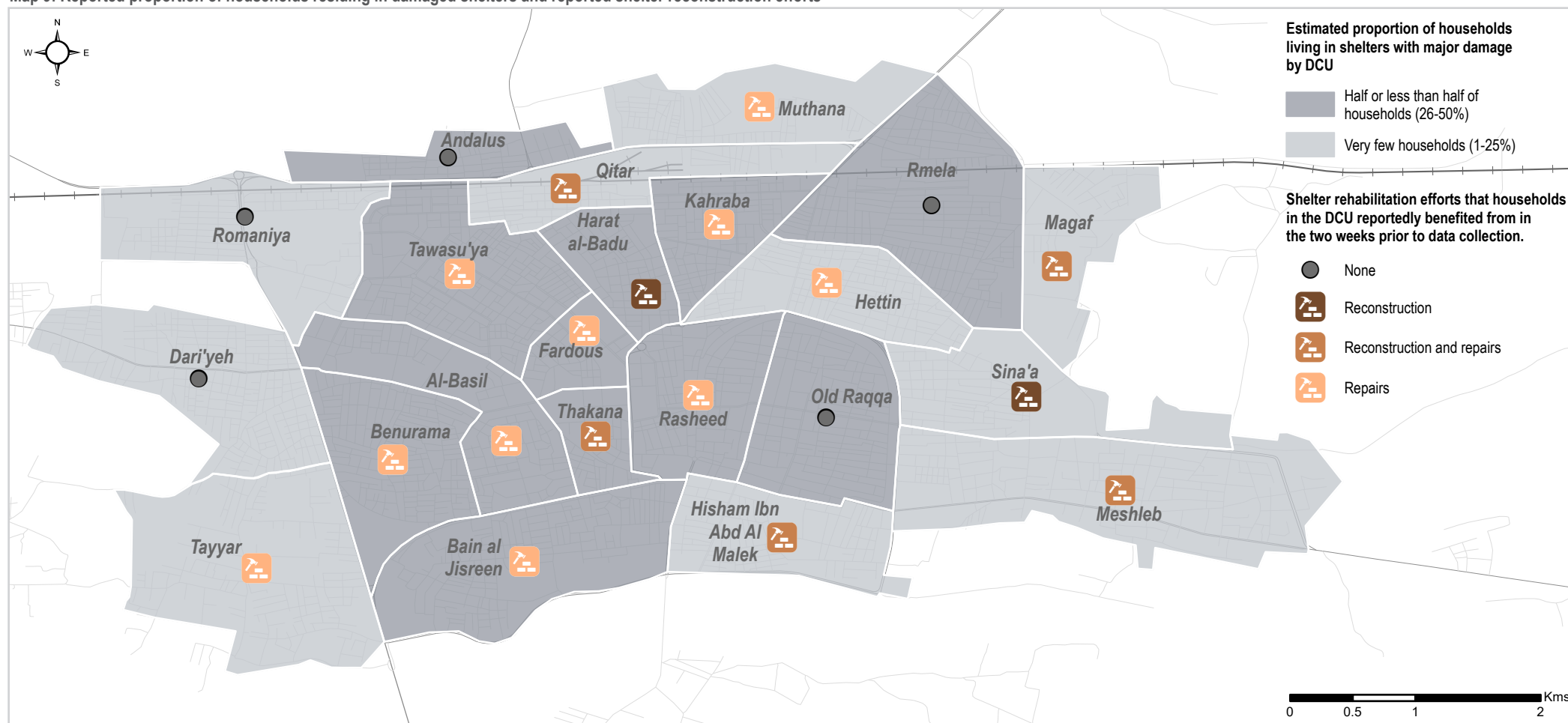
- Shelter damage in Ar-Raqqa city remains extensive, particularly in the city's central areas. Most shelters in the neighbourhoods of Al-Basil, Thakana, Fardous, Harat al-Badu and Rasheed were reported by KIs to have significant damage and require extensive repairs.⁸
- The proportion of households residing in damaged shelters is reportedly higher in these central areas, as well as in seven other neighbourhoods, where half or less than half of households (26-50%) are estimated to also live in shelters with major damage.⁹
- The number of neighbourhoods where shelter reconstruction efforts reportedly take place has increased since the February assessment. KIs in seven neighbourhoods reported that shelter reconstruction took place in the two weeks prior to data collection, compared to only two previously.

- The reported proportions of residents living in shared or overcrowded housing have increased in five neighbourhoods, which may be explained by ongoing spontaneous returns and persisting shelter damage. KIs estimated that half or less than half of all households (26-50%) in Al-Basil, Bain al-Jisreen, Thakana, Hisham bin abd al-Malek, and Rasheed live in such conditions. In all other DCUs, only a few (1-25%) or no households reportedly lived in shared or overcrowded housing.

Most commonly reported shelter inadequacies (% of KIs reporting):

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Lack of lighting outside shelters | 64% |
| Inability to lock home securely | 29% |
| Lack of insulation | 21% |

Map 9: Reported proportion of households residing in damaged shelters and reported shelter reconstruction efforts



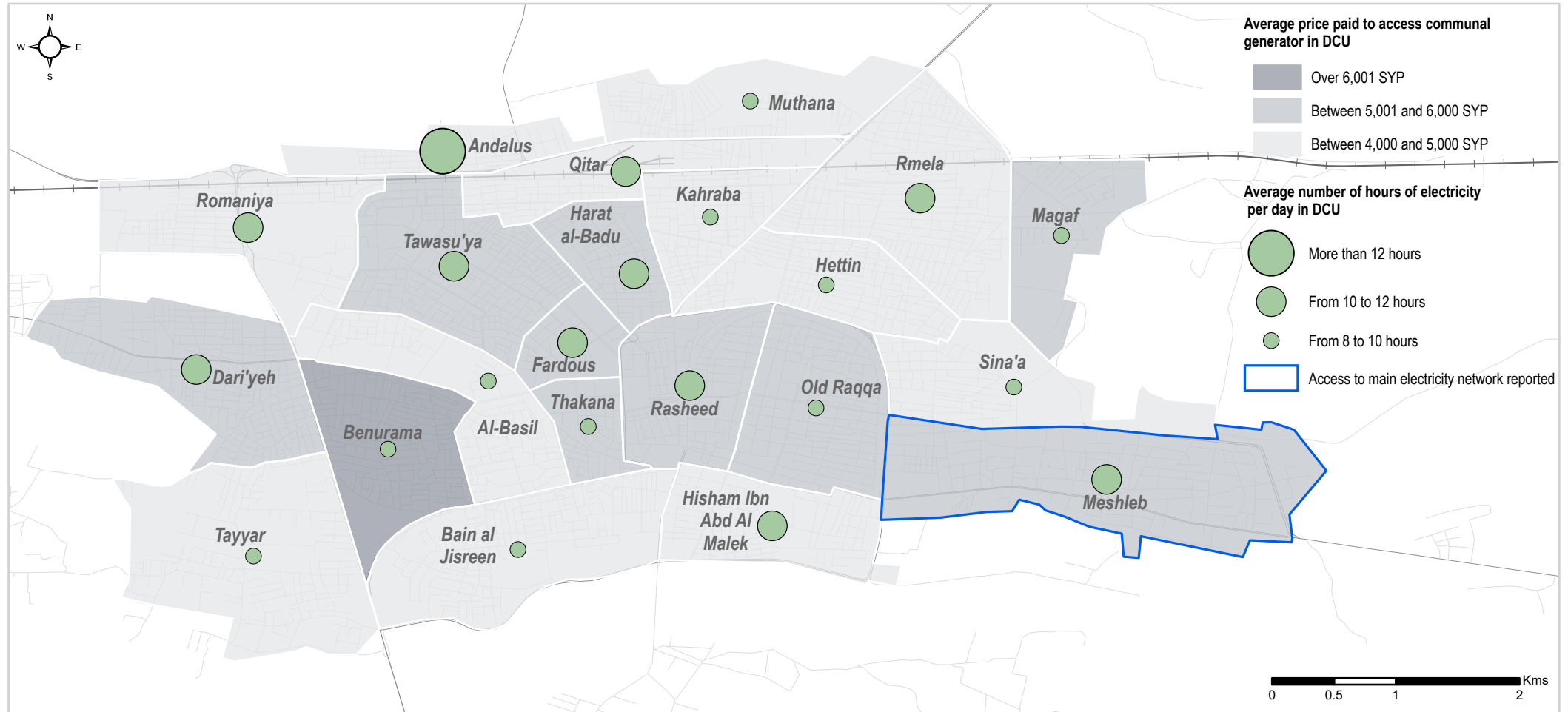
8. REACH has produced a full neighbourhood-level damage analysis atlas for Ar-Raqqa city, which displays the severity and density of damage on a more granular level: [Infrastructure Damage Reference Maps. Ar-Raqqa City, February 2018](#)

9. In order to assess shelter damage, KIs were asked to select which of the damage categories, as developed by the Shelter Sector for the North East Syria (NES) Hub, applied to their neighbourhood: no damage/negligible damage, minor damage (shelters with limited damage to walls, doors and windows), major damage (shelters with extensive damage, but no structural damage), severe damage (shelters that have sustained significant structural damage and require extensive repairs) and destroyed (structural damage to shelters are so extensive that rehabilitation is not feasible).

⚡ Electricity

- The main electricity network in Ar-Raqqa city has reportedly been rehabilitated in one neighbourhood, Meshleb, where it is reportedly accessible between 10 and 12 hours a day. However, the hours of access to the main electricity network are reportedly insufficient, and KIs in this location reported that residents still use communal generators as their main source of electricity. In all other areas of the city, residents reportedly also access electricity through communal generators.
- Alternative electricity sources such as car batteries and private generators are reportedly no longer in significant use, whereas residents in four neighbourhoods reportedly still used them during the previous round of the assessment.
- The number of hours that residents have access to electricity for all sources has remained stable since the February assessment. In all but one neighbourhood, KIs reported that residents have continued to access electricity between 8 and 12 hours a day. In Andalus, KIs reported that residents had access to electricity for more than 12 hours a day.
- Residents in the city reportedly pay a monthly usage fee to access communal generators. The average usage fee in the city was estimated by KIs to be 5,240 Syrian pounds (SYP), which is 5% higher than the price reported in February 2019.¹⁰ Usage fees reportedly range between SYP 4,000 and SYP 5,000 in all but one neighbourhood: KIs in Benurama reported that residents pay over SYP 6,000 per month to access communal generators.

Map 10: Reported access to electricity and average price of access to communal generator



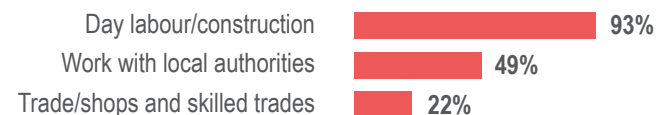
10. SYP 5,240 is approximately 9 United States Dollar (USD). In Northeast Syria region, One USD = 569 Syrian Pounds. [REACH Initiative, Syria Market Monitoring Exercise Dataset, May 2019.](#)

Livelihoods

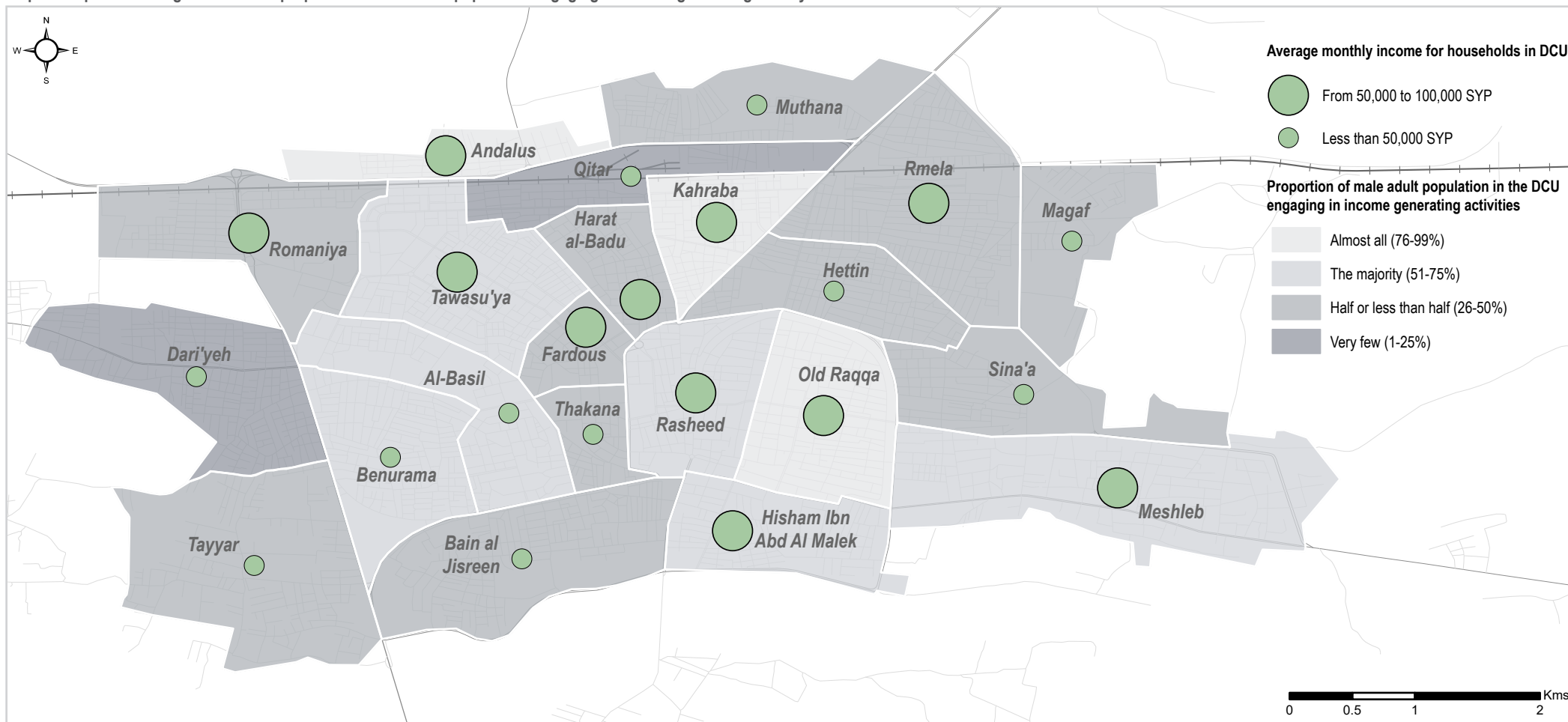
- Since the previous assessment in February 2019, access to livelihood opportunities has reportedly increased in eight neighbourhoods, although KIs indicated that the overall level of access remains very low. In the majority of neighbourhoods (13), KIs reported that only half or less than half of the adult male population engages in income-generating activities.
- Similarly, the average income for households has reportedly also increased slightly since the previous round. The number of neighbourhoods where households earn below SYP 50,000 (approximately \$88)¹¹ has decreased from 15 to 11, and the number of neighbourhoods where households earn SYP 50,000 - 100,000 has increased from 5 to 11.

- Households reportedly primarily have access to casual and temporary forms of employment, which may not be sustainable, long-term sources of income. The vast majority of KIs reported that the most common income source is day labour, followed by employment with local authorities, and working in shops or skilled trades.

Most common income sources for households (% of KIs reporting):



Map 11: Reported average income and proportion of adult male population engaging in income-generating activity



11. One USD = SYP 569. [REACH Initiative, Syria Market Monitoring Exercise Dataset, May 2019.](#)

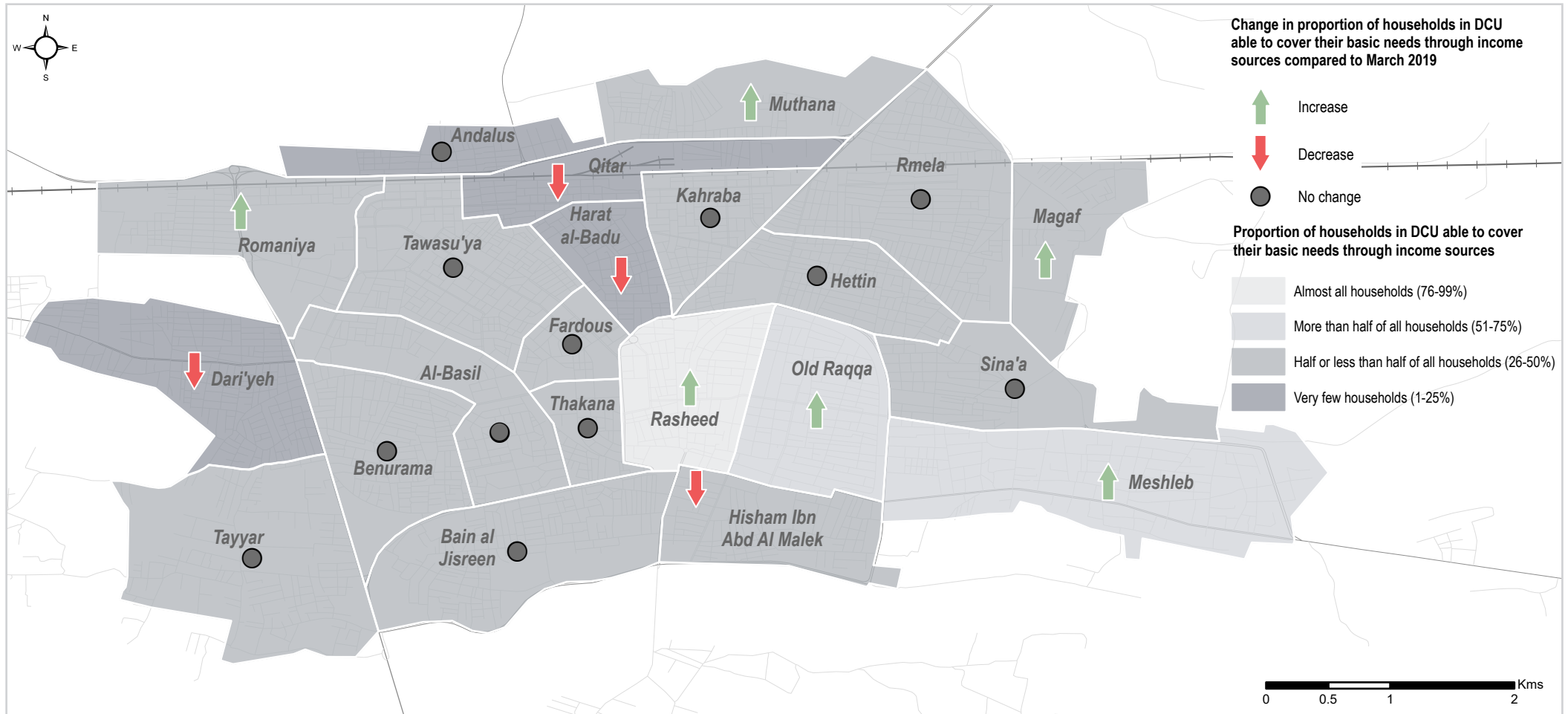
Livelihoods (continued)

- Although access to livelihood opportunities has reportedly increased slightly, the majority of residents in Ar-Raqqa City reportedly still has insufficient income to sustain a household. In Andalus, Dariyeh, Keytar and Harrit al-Badu, KIs reported that very few households (1-25%) have sufficient income to cover their basic household needs. In 15 DCUs, half or less than half (26-50%) are reportedly able to cover basic needs through income sources.
- The inability to meet household needs leads many households to employ harmful livelihoods-based coping strategies, with buying from shop owners on credit and child labour reported as the most commonly used coping strategies. The percentage of KIs who reported that child labour is a common coping strategy has increased from 23% in February to 32% in the current reporting period.
- In addition, KI reports of households taking on debt increased from 13% to 26% compared to the last reporting period, whilst selling assets decreased from 19% to 4%. The increased recourse to more harmful coping strategies such as child labour and taking on debt may suggest increased vulnerability among residents in Ar-Raqqa city.

Top three livelihoods-based coping strategies adopted by households (% of KIs reporting):

| | |
|---|-----|
| Child labour (by children aged 15 or below) | 32% |
| Buying on credit from shop owners | 32% |
| Borrowing money | 26% |

Map 12: Reported proportion of households able to cover basic needs through income sources



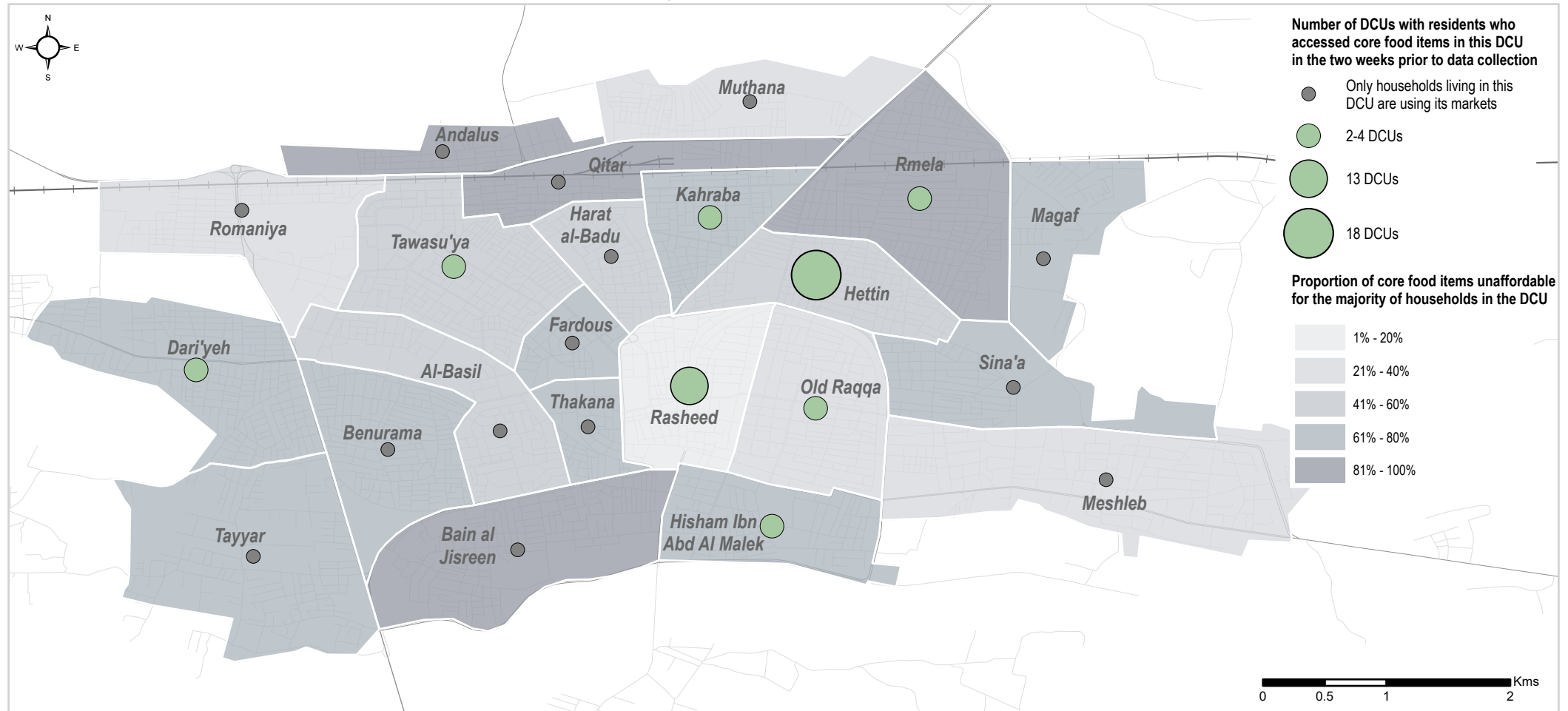
Food and Markets

- KIs in all neighbourhoods reported that residents access food through markets or shops within the DCU, and that core food items are available in all DCUs, with the exception of Romaniya.¹²
- However, KIs in 14 neighbourhoods reported that residents also frequently travel to markets in other neighbourhoods in search of lower food prices. As was the case in previous rounds, Hettin's food markets are a key destination for residents of other neighbourhoods, as are those in Old Raqqa and Rasheed. Residents living in the western part of the city reportedly travel to Dariyeh frequently to access food markets.
- The high cost of food reportedly continues to pose a significant challenge for residents, and a large proportion of core food items has remained unaffordable since the February assessment.

On average, KIs reported that 60% of assessed core food items were unaffordable for the majority of residents in each DCU. In the February assessment, this had been the case for 61% of core food items, compared to only 29% in June 2018. The depreciation of the Syrian pound, which has increased in price by 29% against the US Dollar since June 2018, may be a contributing factor to this change in food affordability.¹³

- Food is reportedly least affordable in neighbourhoods located on the periphery of the city. DCUs with the highest proportions of core food items that were reported to be unaffordable are: Andalus, Keytar, Rmela and Bain al-Jisreen.
- Conversely, core food items are reportedly most affordable in the central DCUs of Old Raqqa and Rasheed, as well as in Meshleb and Muthanna.

Map 13: Reported locations of core food items accessed in previous two weeks and affordability of food



12. In all DCUs, assessed core food items were bread, flour, rice, lentils, sugar, cooking oil, chicken, meat, tomatoes, cucumbers, and onions. For ease of analysis, the questionnaire responses of 'always available' or 'sometimes available' were combined to give a clearer picture of where core food items were available or not available.

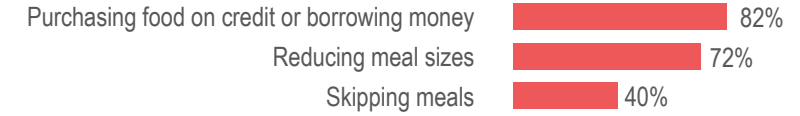
13. REACH Initiative. Syria Market Monitoring Exercise Dataset, May 2019.

Food and Markets (continued)

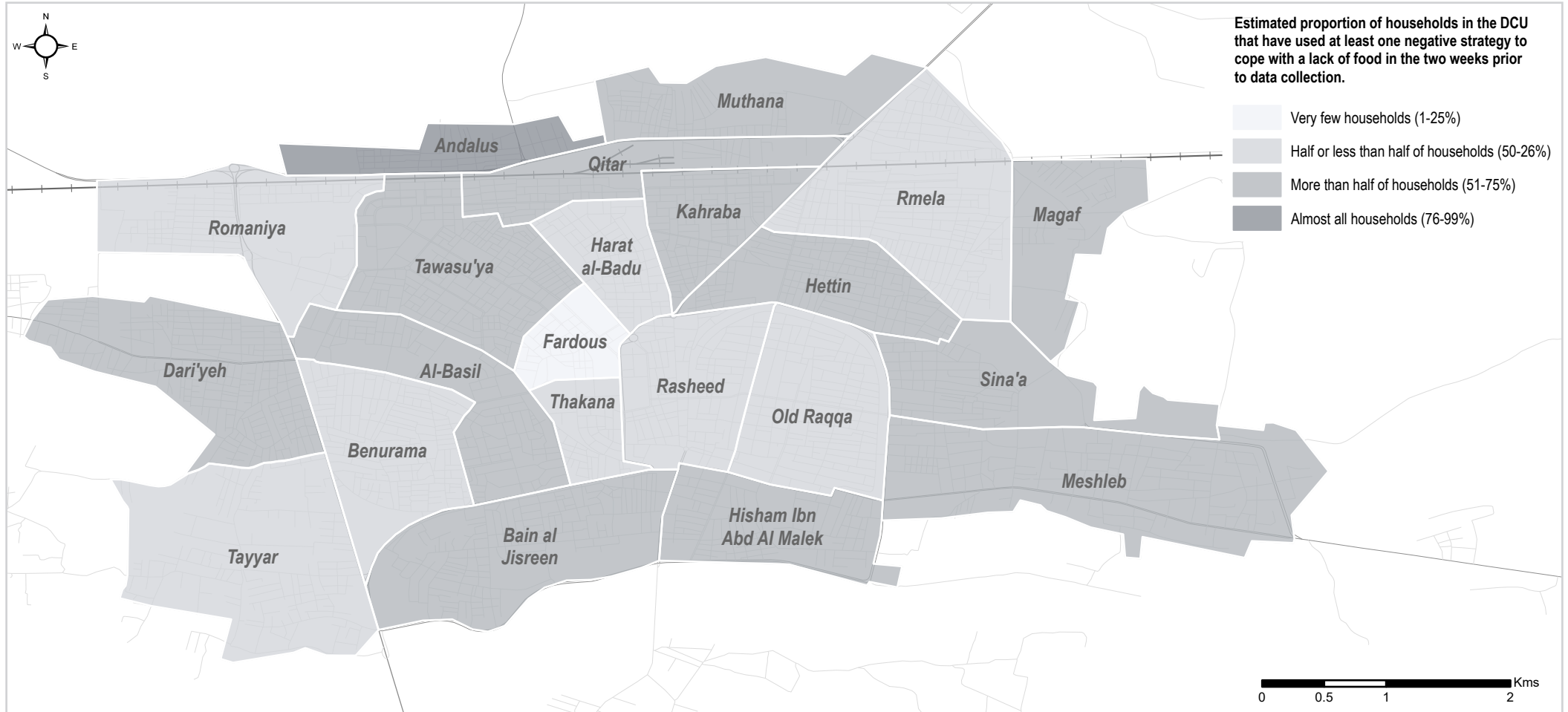
- **High prices of food and limited access to livelihoods reportedly lead large proportions of households in Ar-Raqqa city to using harmful strategies to cope with a lack of food.** In 13 neighbourhoods, KIs reported that more than half of all households (51-75%) used at least one food-based coping strategy in the two weeks prior to data collection. The highest rate of coping strategy use was reported in Andalus, where almost all households (76-99%) were estimated by KIs to use at least one coping strategy.
- **The coping strategies most commonly reported by KIs were purchasing food on credit or borrowing money, followed by reducing meal sizes and skipping meals.** Purchasing food on credit was reported by 82% of KIs to be a common food-based coping strategy, compared to 69% in the

previous round. The proportion of KIs reporting the practices of reducing meal sizes and skipping meals increased from 63% to 72% and from 36% to 40%, respectively.

Most commonly reported strategies used to cope with a lack of food in the two weeks prior to data collection (% of KIs reporting):



Map 14: Reported proportions of households using at least one negative food-based coping strategy



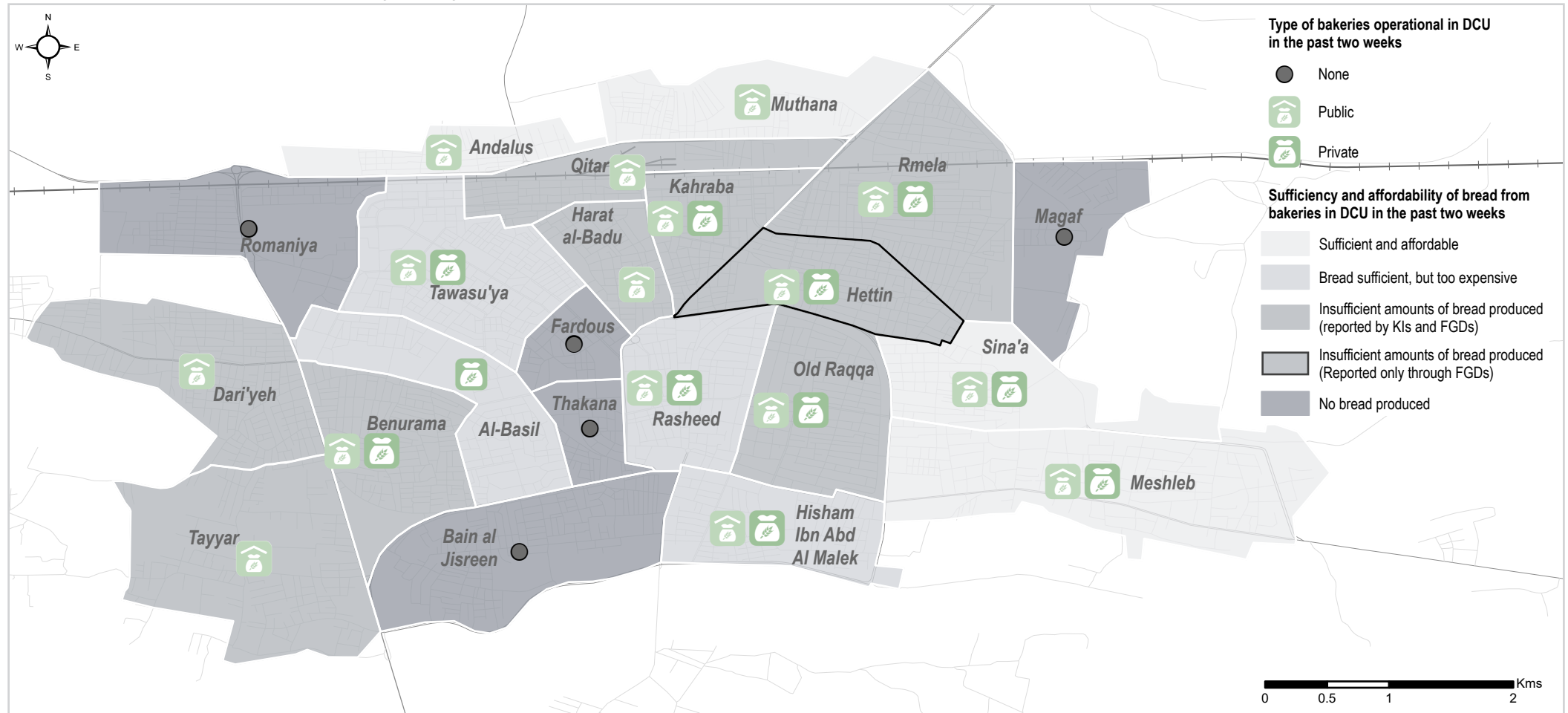
Bakeries

- There has been no increase in the number of neighbourhoods with access to bakeries since the previous assessment. As reported in February, bakeries are operating in all neighbourhoods with the exception of Romaniya, Fardous, Thakana, Bain al-Jisreen and Magaf.
- Similarly, the number of neighbourhoods where public bakeries, which receive flour support from local authorities and offer bread at lower prices, are present has also remained the same since the February assessment. Functional public bakeries are reportedly available in at least 16 DCUs.
- However, residents reportedly still face significant challenges with both the quantity and affordability of the available bread. KIs in four DCUs reported that bread production at bakeries is

sufficient, but too expensive for residents, whereas this had been the case in only one DCU previously. **KIs in nine neighbourhoods reported that the amount of bread being produced in bakeries is insufficient to meet the needs of residents.** KIs in the remaining four neighbourhoods reported that bakeries produce sufficient quantities of bread at affordable prices.

- FGD participants cited several reasons for why bakeries may be less able to meet residents' needs. Firstly, bread at private bakeries is reportedly prohibitively expensive for most residents, forcing them to use public bakeries. However, in all neighbourhoods where FGDs were held, except for Meshleb, FGD participants reported that public bakeries frequently experience flour shortages, large crowds and long queues, or that their opening times are limited. These capacity challenges may be compounded by ongoing returns of residents to the city and the resulting increase in population.

Map 15: Reported locations of bakeries and sufficiency of supply



NFI Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- In 17 DCUs, residents can reportedly access non-food items (NFIs) through markets inside their own neighbourhoods. However, residents from across the city reportedly travel to other neighbourhoods frequently in order to access a wider selection of NFIs at lower prices. The most popular destinations for purchasing NFIs reportedly are Rasheed, Old Raqqa, and Qitar.
- The availability of assessed core NFIs varies across DCUs.¹⁴ Markets in Al-Basil, Andalus, Kahraba, Hisham Ibn Abd al-Malek, Magaf and Romaniya reportedly have the lowest proportions of available NFIs.
- Hygiene and household cleaning products are reportedly the most commonly available NFIs. Batteries, solar panels and bedding items were reportedly least commonly available.

- Notably, the number of neighbourhoods where KIs reported that cooking fuel is available has decreased in comparison with the last reporting period. Cooking fuel was reported to be available in 13 neighbourhoods, compared to 20 DCUs in the February assessment. Fuel shortages across Syria, and the resulting high prices, may have contributed to this decline in availability: in Ar-Raqqa governorate, the price of cooking fuel reportedly increased from SYP 3,750 in February to SYP 4,500 in May 2019.¹⁵

Most commonly reported primary NFI needs for households (% of KIs reporting):

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Cooking fuel | 69% | Mattresses | 22% |
| Bedding items | 56% | Baby diapers | 21% |
| Clothing | 43% | Washing powder | 17% |

Map 16: Reported locations of core NFI access and availability of core NFIs



14. In all DCUs, assessed core NFIs were: bedding items, mattresses/sleeping mats, cooking utensils, cooking fuel, water containers, torches, solar lamps, solar panels, clothing, shoes, batteries, winter heaters, heating fuel, winter clothes, winter shoes, winter blankets, disposable diapers, sanitary pads, soap, laundry powder, cleaning liquid (for the house), detergent for dishes, baby diapers, and adult diapers.

15. REACH Initiative. Syria Market Monitoring Exercise Dataset, May 2019.

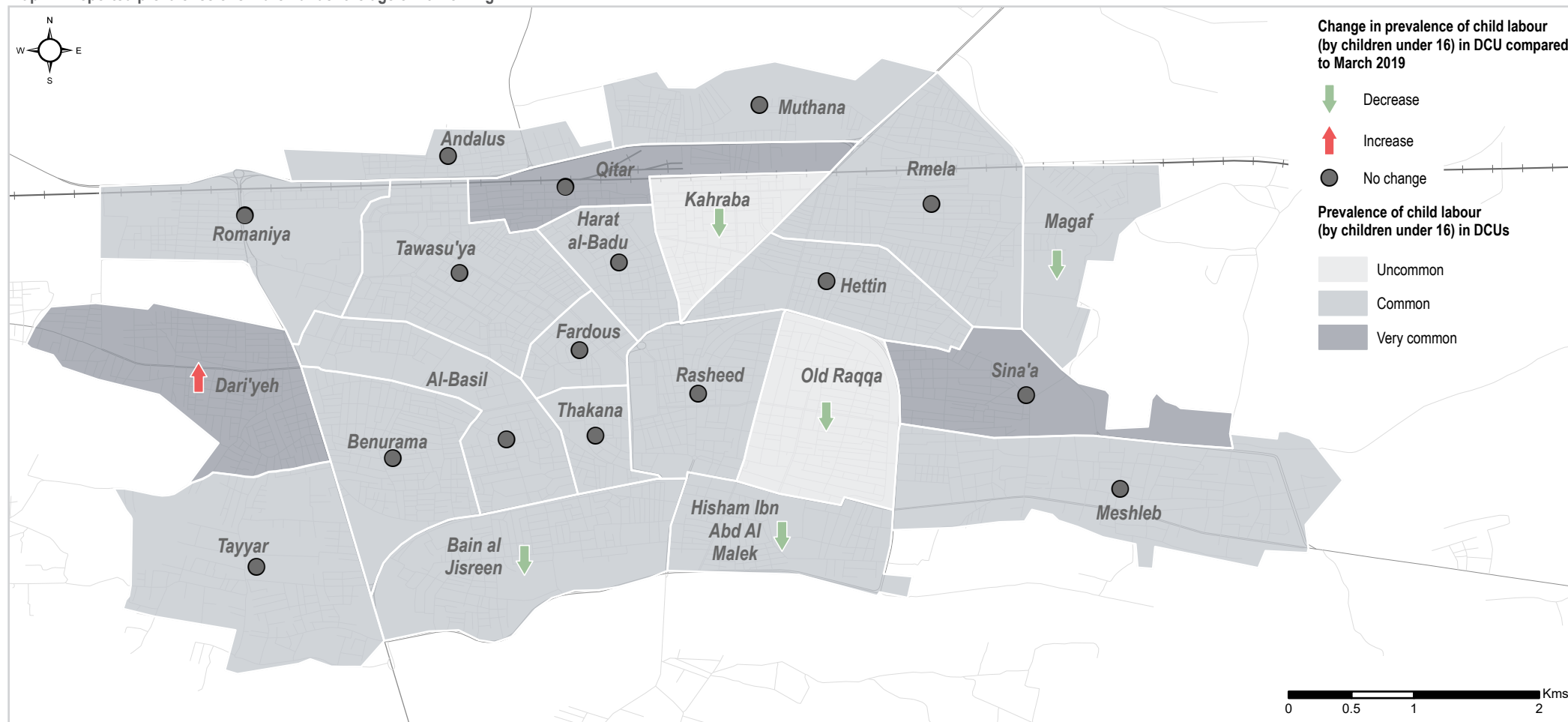
Protection

- **Amid a complex safety and security context, residents reportedly face numerous protection risks in Ar-Raqqa city.** As was the case in the previous round of this assessment, theft is the most commonly reported protection issue across all neighbourhoods, followed by conscription into armed groups.¹⁶ The proportion of KIs that reported a fear of snakes and scorpions has increased from 0% to 24% in comparison with the February assessment.
- **Child labour (by children under the age of 16) continues to be perceived as the most prevalent child protection issue throughout the city.** In 17 DCUs, KIs reported that child labour is common, while KIs in Dariyeh, Qitar, and Sina'a reported child labour to be very common. In Old Raqqa and Kahraba, child labour is reportedly perceived as uncommon.¹⁷
- **KIs also reported that other child protection issues are widespread.** Early marriage (by children under the age of 16) was reported to be common or very common in 11 neighbourhoods, and involvement of children in illegal activities such as theft and drug abuse was perceived to be common by KIs in 12 neighbourhoods.

Most commonly reported safety/security issues in two weeks prior to data collection (% of KIs reporting):



Map 17: Reported prevalence of children under the age of 16 working



16. Although many KIs did not report mine and UXO contamination as a perceived protection risk for residents in Ar-Raqqa city, this does not mean that this risk is reduced or not present in the city. For up-to-date information on mine clearance and hazardous areas, see [iMMAP's](#) latest reporting activities.

17. KIs were asked by REACH enumerators about a series of child protection issues and were requested to assess their prevalence by rating them as: 'very common', 'common', 'uncommon' or 'never occurs' in the neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood Profile

Meshleb, Ar-Raqqa City

Estimated population: 7,000 - 8,000 households

Population breakdown:

| | | | |
|-----|------|-------|-----|
| 0-5 | 6-18 | 19-59 | 60+ |
| 30% | 34% | 24% | 12% |

Overview: Due to a lower scale of conflict-related damage, Meshleb was one of the first areas residents returned to after cessation of conflict in October 2017. The area remains a key population center with a high level of available services.

Education

- There are reportedly six functioning primary schools (three of which also offer some intermediary level courses) and two destroyed schools.
- Although almost all children reportedly attend school, several issues remain with education facilities. These reportedly include: overcrowding in classrooms (the average is 50 students per class), a lack of furniture, windows, doors, WASH facilities, and educational materials, and a low quality of teaching.

Bakeries

- The neighbourhood's four public bakeries are reportedly crowded, with customers facing queues and limited opening times. Due to these limitations, around 30% of households are reportedly unable to buy sufficient bread and consequently reduce bread consumption. Those who can afford to reportedly purchase bread in more costly private bakeries.

- Bakery
- School (functioning)
- School (non-functioning)
- NGO-operated health facilities
- Private clinic
- Mosque

Broken sewage area

Market area

Low damage density

High damage density

Data source: UNOSAT from October 2017



WASH

- The sewage network is reportedly broken in one location and wastewater spills into the street in this area.
- FGD participants also reported a few instances of people becoming sick after consuming water.

Healthcare

- There are reportedly two INGO-operated health clinics located in Meshleb, one of which draws patients from across the city. In addition, there are at least three private clinics located on the neighbourhood's main market street.
- Both the INGO and the private facilities reportedly lack specialised services such as pediatric and maternal services, and specialised medicine such as insulin, blood pressure and heart medicine.
- The high cost of private services and overcrowding at INGO facilities reportedly compel many residents to access healthcare elsewhere in the city.

Livelihoods

- KIs reported that agriculture is the main source of livelihoods. Between 50 and 70% of households reportedly have access to income primarily through agricultural day labour, and some do so through shops/trading and construction.
- Residents reported an increase in livelihood opportunities during the summer when both men and women reportedly partake in the harvest. However, most livelihood opportunities were described by residents as temporary and not sustainable.
- When asked how livelihoods could be improved in the neighbourhood, male FGD participants mentioned cash support to open shops and the provision of agricultural materials (seeds and fertilizers). Female participants preferred cash support to open sewing shops, and hairdressing salons, or to start jewelry production.

0 200 400 meters

Neighbourhood Profile

Benurama, Ar-Raqqa City

Estimated population: 4,100 - 4,300 households

Population breakdown: 0-5 6-18 19-59 60+
23% 28% 40% 9%

Overview: Benurama is a large and populous residential area with widespread damage to shelter infrastructure. The neighbourhood has few available services, and residents are often required to access these in other parts of the city.

Education

- There are reportedly two primary schools that operate in rented private houses, and two destroyed schools located next to each other.
- Residents reported issues with overcrowding, a lack of educational materials, latrines, doors, windows, low quality of teaching, and that they would prefer a different curriculum (an INGO curriculum is currently in use).

Bakeries

- There are reportedly two bakeries in the neighbourhood, one public and one private. They are reported to be unable to serve neighbourhood needs due to long queues and large crowds, shortages of flour, limited opening times and prohibitively high prices at the private bakery.
- Residents reported that the quality of the bread at the public bakery is inadequate, and described it as being 'thick' and 'burned'.

Healthcare



- With the exception of one destroyed medical point, and two functioning pharmacies, there are reportedly no health care facilities in Benurama.
- Residents reportedly travel to Dariyeh, Thakana, Meshleb and Old Raqqa to access healthcare. However, several issues reportedly impede access. These include: distance and transportation costs, a lack of specialised medicine (insulin and blood pressure medicine), a lack of pediatric, maternal, and dental services and the high costs associated with private services and medicine.




Livelihoods




- Day labour, working as public servants, and collecting garbage to sell on are reportedly the main sources of income. There are no seasonal patterns in livelihood opportunities in the neighbourhood, as agriculture is reportedly not a common source of income.
- According to FGD participants, the reported income sources are insufficient to meet basic needs, and around half of all households are reported to be dependent on aid from INGOs, local authorities and friends and relatives.
- A sugar factory in the area reportedly provided many jobs in the past, and participants suggested that rehabilitating it would improve access to livelihoods. Residents also suggested the provision of funding for small projects such as barber shops, and workshops for skilled trades such as carpentry, metalwork, and electrical works.

WASH

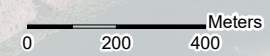
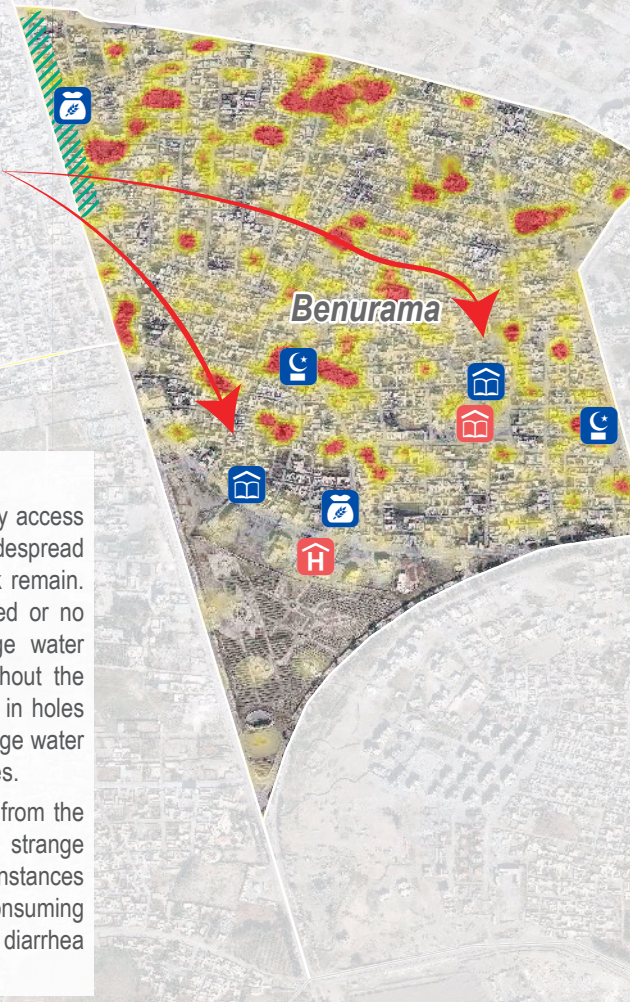
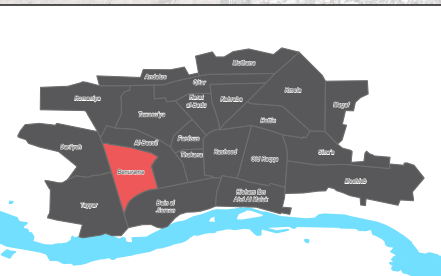
- Residents reportedly have daily access to the main water network, but widespread issues with the sewage network remain. These include: areas with limited or no access to the network, sewage water seeping into the streets throughout the neighbourhood where it gathers in holes made to hold sewage, and sewage water spilling into some people's houses.
- Residents reported that water from the main network has a bad smell, strange taste and brown colour. Some instances of children becoming sick after consuming water were reported (including diarrhea and skin disease).

-  Bakery
-  Mosque

-  Health facility (non-functioning)
-  School (functioning)
-  School (non-functioning)

-  Market area
-  Low damage density
-  High damage density

Data source: UNOSAT from October 2017



Neighbourhood Profile

Hettin & Sina'a, Ar-Raqqa City

Estimated population: 2,400 - 3,300 households

Population breakdown: 0-5 6-18 19-59 60+
35% 27% 25% 13%

Overview: Hettin and Sina'a are residential areas where some services are available, although their proximity to Meshleb and the city centre makes it easy for residents to access additional services elsewhere.

Healthcare

- KIIs reported that there is one functioning private facility, one non-functioning primary care facility and some pharmacies located in the neighbourhoods. These private services are reported to be unaffordable for residents.
- Residents reportedly primarily access healthcare services in Old Raqqa, Rasheed, Thakana and Meshleb. Access to healthcare in these areas is reportedly limited due to high transportation costs and a lack of specialised services.

Education

- There is reportedly one functioning primary school in Sina'a, and four destroyed school buildings in Hettin.
- The lack of schools reportedly leads children to access primary schools elsewhere, including Old Raqqa, Rasheed, Rmela and intermediary schools in Kahraba. Travel distances to these schools were reported as a major challenge, as were crowded classrooms, a lack of educational materials and the fear of explosions/IEDs.

- Bakery
- Mosque
- Pharmacy
- Health facility (non-functioning)
- School (functioning)
- School (non-functioning)

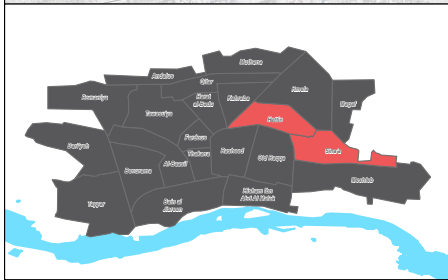
Burning garbage reported

Market area

Low damage density

High damage density

Data source: UNOSAT from October 2017



Markets

- Food markets in Hettin are a key destination for residents from throughout the city who are looking for more affordable and a wider variety of foods.

WASH

- The main water network is reportedly available on a daily basis and sufficient to meet household needs, but FGD participants reported that up to 10% of children had become sick after consuming the water.
- The sewage network is reportedly broken in some locations and waste water spills into the streets. Residents have reportedly dug holes in several locations to gather the sewage spills. These holes subsequently pose a sanitation issue due to their bad smell and because they draw in vectors for disease such as flies and rats.

Livelihoods

- Day labour is reportedly the primary source of income, followed by work with local authorities, trade and shop ownership, and agriculture. Between 50 and 70% of households reportedly have access to one or more sources of income, while between 10 and 25% were reported to be dependent on humanitarian aid or remittances from abroad.
- Access to livelihoods is reportedly higher during the harvest season due to the greater availability of jobs.
- FGD participants believed that the provision of cash grants could improve livelihood conditions in the neighbourhoods. Cash grants could help residents open small shops selling clothes, electrical appliances, and food items, as well as pharmacies and barber shops.

Bakeries

- In Sina'a, KIIs reported that there is one bakery. In Hettin there are five, three of which are public.
- Due to the high reported cost of bread at private bakeries, as well as flour shortages and overcrowding at public bakeries, between 25% and 40% of residents are reportedly unable to obtain sufficient bread. This group is reportedly dependent on support from friends/relatives, and has to reduce its bread consumption.

0 200 400 Meters

Neighbourhood Profile

Kahraba, Ar-Raqqa City

Estimated population: 2,200 - 2,800 households

Population breakdown: 0-5 6-18 19-59 60+
25% 25% 30% 20%

Overview: Kahraba is a centrally located neighbourhood which the city's main street (Tel Abyad street) cuts across. It consists mostly of taller buildings and most basic services are available.

Healthcare

- Pharmacies and private clinics are the only healthcare facilities reported to be available in the neighbourhood. Access is reportedly prohibitively expensive for residents.
- FGD participants reported that residents travel to Old Raqqa, Rasheed, Harat al-Badu and Meshleb for more affordable health services, although challenges still persist. These reportedly include: travel distances and transportation costs, overcrowded facilities and a lack of specialised services and medicine.

Bakeries

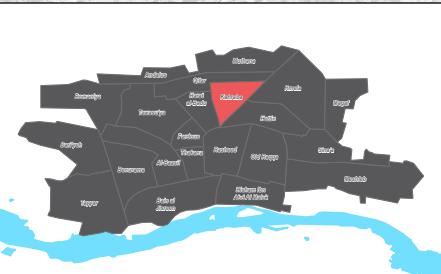
- The neighbourhood's only private bakery is reported to be prohibitively expensive for most residents. The one public bakery reportedly frequently experiences flour shortages, limited opening times and overcrowding.
- Participants reported that bread from the public bakery is also of insufficient quality and was described as being 'too thick'.
- Due to these challenges, around 25% of households reportedly reduce their bread consumption.

-  Bakery
-  Mosque
-  Private clinic
-  School (functioning)
-  School (non-functioning)
-  University (non-functioning)
-  Market area

Low damage density

High damage density

Data source: UNOSAT from October 2017



WASH

- No issues with water quantity or quality were reported by residents.
- Damage to the sewage network reportedly causes waste water to spill into the streets in some areas, including the lower floors of some shelters. These areas reportedly draw flies and other insects, which are believed to transfer skin disease (leishmaniasis).

Education

- KIs reported that there are two functioning primary schools (one of which also offers intermediary courses), as well as two schools and a university that are destroyed.
- The functioning schools reportedly lack sufficient classrooms, they have suffered some material damage and they lack educational materials. Many children therefore reportedly access education outside the neighbourhood (in Harat al-Badu, Old Raqqa and Meshleb), where they reportedly also face overcrowded classrooms, and a lack of educational materials, as well as low quality of teaching and schools that are in poor conditions.

Livelihoods

- Day labour as construction workers, working as civil servants (for instance in teaching, security, or administration) and trade or ownership of shops were reported to be the main livelihood opportunities in the neighbourhood.
- Due to the central location of the neighbourhood, not many households reportedly work in agriculture, which means that there are no seasonal patterns in livelihood opportunities.
- A lack of money was reported as a primary barrier to improving livelihood conditions. In order to improve access to livelihoods, residents suggested the provision of small grants to support residents in opening shops selling electrical appliances, and practicing trades such as such as hairdressing, tailoring, carpentry, and raising livestock outside the city.

0 200 400 Meters

Neighbourhood Profile

Rmela & Magaf, Ar-Raqqa City

Estimated population: 6,950 - 8,800 households

Population breakdown:¹⁸ 0-5 6-18 19-59 60+
23% 33% 35% 9%

Overview: The area consisting of Rmela and Magaf was one of the first that residents returned to after cessation of conflict in October 2017, and it remains one of Ar-Raqqa city's key population centres.

Bakeries

· The neighbourhoods' three public bakeries were reportedly the primary sources of bread for residents. Flour shortages and overcrowding at these bakeries impede access to bread.

Livelihoods

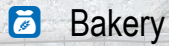
· Day labour, trade/work in shops and employment with local authorities were reported as the main livelihood opportunities. Additionally, at least half of all households reportedly rely on humanitarian aid or remittances.

· Access to livelihood opportunities is reportedly better during summer as the demand for day labourers in the agricultural sector grows.

· In order to improve access to livelihoods, residents suggested that a factory could be opened in order to provide jobs, or that the provision of cash grants could support the opening of small shops.

Bakeries (continued)

· Private bakeries were reportedly too expensive for all households, particularly for those in Magaf. Due to these challenges, some residents take on debt to buy bread and an estimated 25 to 50% of residents reportedly have to reduce their bread consumption.



Bakery



Mosque



Private clinic



School (functioning)



School (non-functioning)



Burning garbage reported



Low water pressure reported



Market area

Low damage density



High damage density

Data source: UNOSAT from October 2017

WASH

· Water pressure is reportedly weak in two areas where households rely on water trucking services instead.

· Water from the main network reportedly has a brown colour and smells badly. FGD participants reported that there had been instances where people got sick after consuming the water.

· In both neighbourhoods, sewage water reportedly spills into the streets. Residents have reportedly dug holes throughout the neighbourhood where waste water gathers. These holes are perceived by residents to be health hazards as they draw flies and increase the risk of leishmaniasis.

Healthcare

· Only pharmacies and private clinics are reportedly available in the neighbourhoods, which leads residents to access healthcare in Meshleb and Thakana instead.

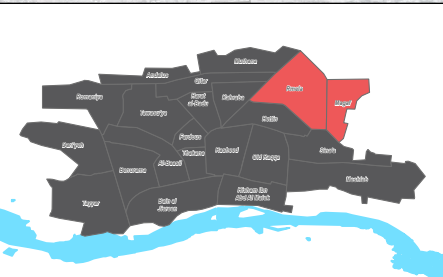
· Affordable services in these locations are believed to be overcrowded and have inadequate pediatric and maternal services, as well as specialised medicine, which often forces residents to take on debt in order to access private services. Households in Magaf were reported to be poorer and to face greater travel distances rendering them more vulnerable.

Education

· Eight schools are reportedly located in the area: four functioning primary and secondary schools, and four destroyed schools.

· The available facilities are reportedly insufficient to serve all children. Few children access education in other locations (Old Raqqa, Sina'a).

· Crowded classrooms, the poor state of school buildings and child labour were reported as barriers to education. Around 30% of all children aged 10 and above reportedly engage in child labour.



18. KIs for Rmela were not able to provide estimates on the demographic component of the neighborhood population. Figures provided only apply to Magaf neighbourhood.