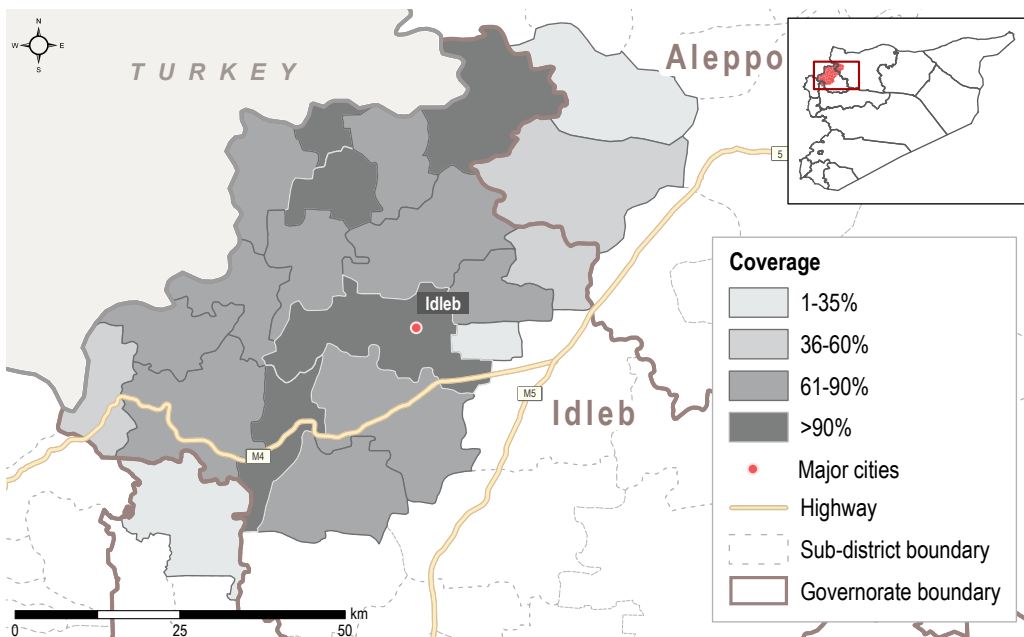


## Introduction and Methodology

HSOS is a monthly assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This factsheet presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, economic conditions, living conditions, access to basic services, COVID-19 situation, and the security and protection situation in the Greater Idleb area in Northwest Syria (NWS). **Sector-specific indicator findings by location can be found on the [HSOS dashboard](#).**

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview three to six KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely (via phone). KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **371 communities** across the greater Idleb area.<sup>1</sup> **Data was collected between 1-22 March 2022 from 1,320 KIs** (15% female). Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalized across the population and region. Findings that are calculated based on a subset of the community are indicated by the following footnote ♦, with each subset specified in the endnotes.

The **complete monthly HSOS dataset** is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).



## Key Highlights

**Adverse weather conditions and the deterioration of the economic situation continued to drive humanitarian needs in Greater Idleb. Floods and strong winds largely damaged displacement sites across the region. The rapid depreciation of the Turkish lira impacted the prices of basic commodities, especially food items. The high cost of health services continued to impact access to healthcare.**

- **Greater Idleb was affected by extreme weather conditions for a fourth consecutive month.** During the first half of March, the region was affected by a severe storm, heavy rainfall and strong winds, which damaged internally displaced people (IDP) camps.<sup>a</sup> This likely explains why KIs in 53% of assessed communities reported shelter as one of the top priority needs for IDPs, up from 48% in January. While adverse weather conditions increased civilians' need for heating fuel, the rising fuel prices and decreasing access to heating fuel reduced the availability of adequate heating. Accordingly, KIs in 63% of assessed communities reported a lack of heating as a shelter inadequacy. To cope with a lack of heating, communities engaged in negative coping mechanisms such as burning unsafe materials for heating.<sup>b</sup> The use of these unsafe materials caused fires in several camps in northern Idleb, resulting in a number of injuries and significant material damages.<sup>c</sup>

- **The growing economic crisis impacted the prices of basic commodities and contributed to mounting food insecurity in the region.** In March, the value of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) increased by 12% compared to February 2022, reaching 590,125 Syrian pound (SYP).<sup>d</sup> This represents a 33% increase in the last 6 months and marks the highest ever recorded average price since monitoring started. The increase in the SMEB is largely explained by the increase in food prices. The SMEB food component in March increased by 14% compared to February, reaching nearly 445,000 SYP.<sup>e</sup> Food items that contributed to the increase were bulk items including cooking oil, ghee, flour, and sugar.<sup>f</sup> The hike in food prices likely relates to the impact of the Ukrainian crisis on Turkey as well as the continued depreciation of the Turkish Lira against the US dollar. Turkey relies on both Russian and Ukrainian products, including cooking oil and wheat, while Northwest Syria, in turn, heavily depends on Turkish imports.<sup>g</sup>

- **The high cost of health services continued to affect access to healthcare.** KIs in 60% of assessed communities cited the high cost of health services as a common challenge, up from 55% in February. A lack of medicines/medical equipment and a lack of ambulance services were also widespread issues, reported by KIs in 64% (59% in November 2021) and 31% (21% in November) of the assessed communities, respectively. Increased shortages in medicines and equipment, coupled with a reduction in services, made accessing healthcare particularly difficult for populations across Greater Idleb.

## HSOS Dashboard

For a breakdown of sector-specific indicators by location, please see the [HSOS dashboard](#). The interactive HSOS dashboard provides a monthly sectoral overview of key indicators disaggregated at the sub-district and community level.

Feedback on improvements to this product can be done anonymously using the following [link](#).



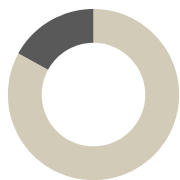
## Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for residents (by % of assessed communities) <sup>2,3</sup>

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Livelihoods	Food	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	73%
2	Food	Winterisation	NFIs ▲	Winterisation	52%
3	Healthcare	NFIs	Food	Food	49%

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



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

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



Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) <sup>4,♦</sup>

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people **72%** **1**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **48%** **2**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **40%** **3**

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

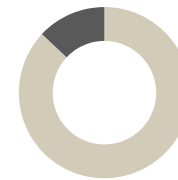
- 98%** No humanitarian assistance was available
- 2%** Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs (by % of assessed communities) <sup>2,3</sup>

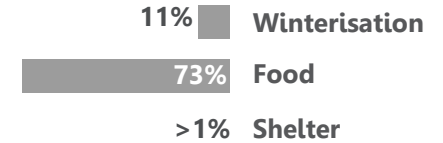
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Shelter	Winterisation	Livelihoods	Winterisation	56%
2	Food	Food	NFIs	Food	54%
3	Healthcare	Livelihoods	Shelter	Shelter	53%

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



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

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for IDPs** <sup>4</sup>



Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) <sup>4,♦</sup>

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people **73%** **1**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **44%** **2**
- Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria **44%** **3**

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

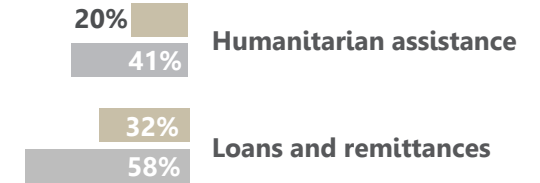
- 98%** No humanitarian assistance was available
- 2%** Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible



## Economic Conditions

Region	Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six <sup>5,6</sup>			Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment <sup>5,6</sup>			Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour <sup>5,7,8</sup>		
	75 TRY			300 TRY			30 TRY		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies <sup>*</sup>	SYP	TRY <sup>▲</sup>	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
		0%	100%	0%	0%	62%	38%	0%	100%

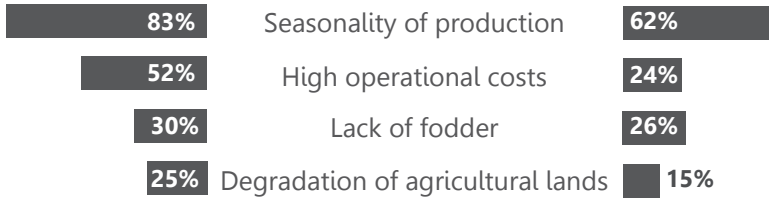
% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of residents and IDP households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs <sup>4</sup>



### Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) <sup>4</sup>

#### Residents

#### IDPs



## 93% and 95%

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

## 75 days

Number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of basic SMEB<sup>▲</sup> items <sup>5,9</sup>

## 93% and 50%

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

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



KIs in 72% of assessed communities cited that rent was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in 51% of assessed communities cited the high cost of fuel for generators as a common challenge



KIs in 81% of assessed communities cited the high cost of solar panels as a common challenge



KIs in 36% of assessed communities cited the high cost of water trucking as a common challenge



KIs in 85% of assessed communities cited the high cost of food as a common challenge <sup>8</sup>



KIs in 60% of assessed communities cited the high cost of health services as a common challenge

### % of assessed communities where common livelihood sources from agriculture were reported <sup>4</sup>

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	64%	15%
Cash crop production	43%	8%
Livestock products	71%	61%
Sale of livestock	14%	13%



## Living Conditions

In **95%** of assessed communities at least **80%** of the resident population reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **65%** of assessed communities reportedly **none** of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **21%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **21%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents



A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **4%** of assessed communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **6%** of assessed communities

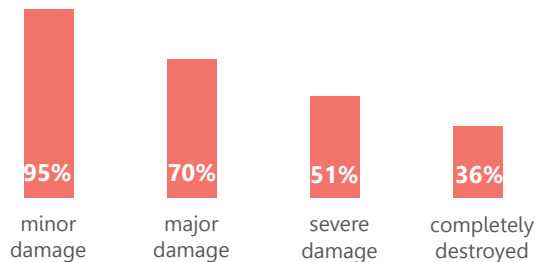


Problems with the drinking water were reported in **49%** of assessed communities



**Water being calcareous** was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 49% of assessed communities)

### Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages were reported (by % of assessed communities) <sup>5,10</sup>



**Shelter and repair materials being too expensive** was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 90% of assessed communities) <sup>4</sup>

### Reported sanitation issues affecting public space in the community (by % of assessed communities) <sup>4</sup>

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible



Solid waste in the streets



Sewage system pollutes public areas



Stagnant water



Flooding in the streets



# 97%

**% of assessed communities where KIs reported that households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food <sup>8</sup>**



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

### Most commonly reported coping strategies for a lack of food (by % of assessed communities) <sup>4</sup>

- 1 Relying on less preferred food / lower **80%**
- 2 Borrowing money to buy food **78%**
- 3 Buying food with money usually used for other things **56%**



**High price of suitable foods formula** was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 99% of assessed communities) <sup>4,11</sup>

### Commonly reported sources of food for households other than markets (by % of assessed communities) <sup>4</sup>

- 1 Own production or farming **49%**
- 2 Relying on food stored previously **42%**
- 3 Assistance from local council or NGOs **18%**



## Access to Basic Services



### Access to Electricity

**7-8** hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 38% of assessed communities)

### Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 56% of assessed communities)

**49%**

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



### Access to Water

**44%**

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



7 days	12%
5-6 days	14%
3-4 days	17%
1-2 days	4%
0 days	53%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 333 communities connected to a water network)  $\blacklozenge$

### Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 45% of assessed communities)

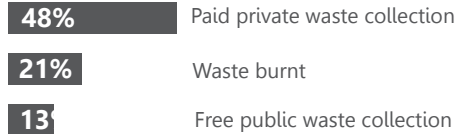


### Access to Sanitation

**38%**

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

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



**33%**

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



### Access to Markets

**9%**

% of assessed communities in which households reportedly were **unable to access markets in the assessed location**

**Not enough consumers to support markets in the assessed location**

was the most commonly reported **reason for why markets were not functioning** (reported by KIs in 84% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

**70%**

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

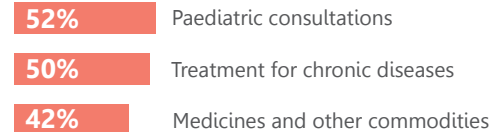


### Access to Health Services

**37%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that the **households did not have access to health services in the assessed location**

Most commonly reported health priority needs (by % of assessed communities) <sup>8</sup>



### Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

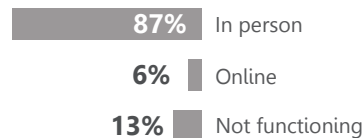
was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 82% of assessed communities)



### Access to Education Services

**18%**  
**34%**

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



% of assessed communities where KIs reported on the **functioning of education services in the assessed location** <sup>4</sup>

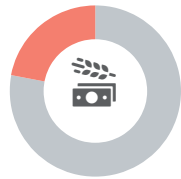
**13%**

% of communities where KIs reported that the **lack of access to internet, electricity and/or equipment was a barrier to accessing (online) education services** <sup>8</sup>



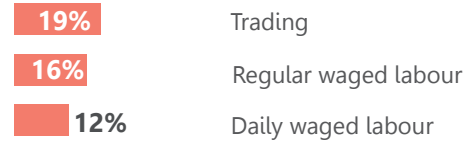
## COVID-19

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

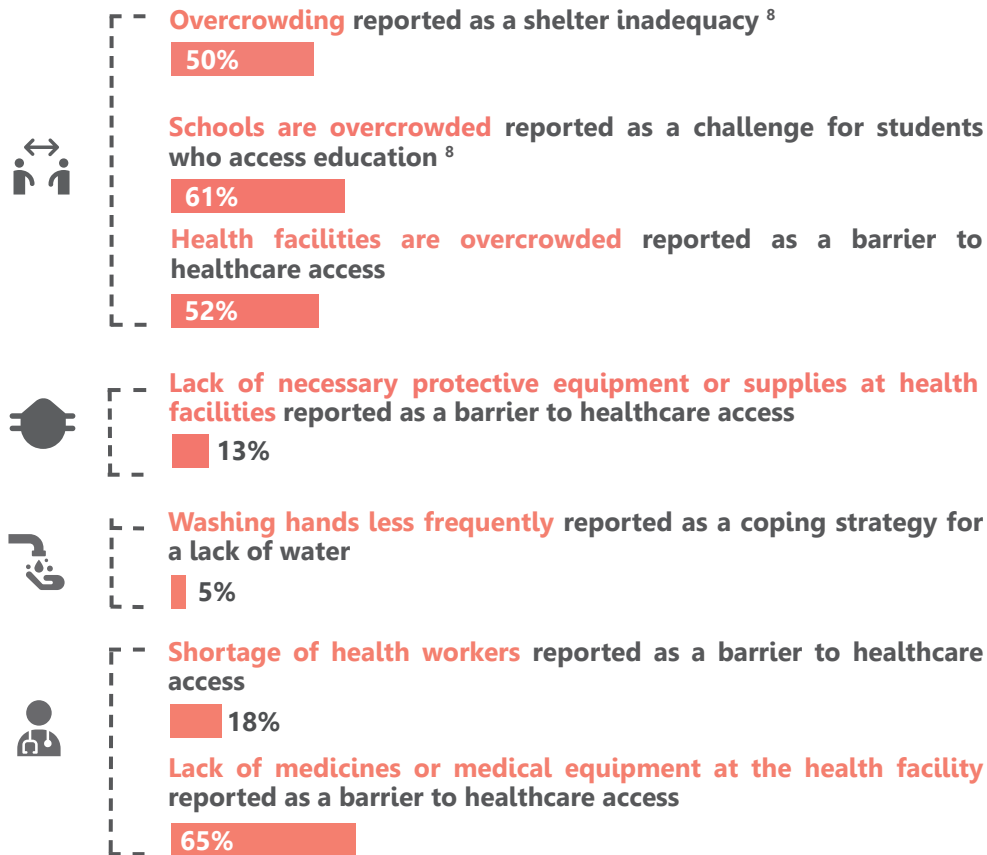


None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 78%  
At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 22%

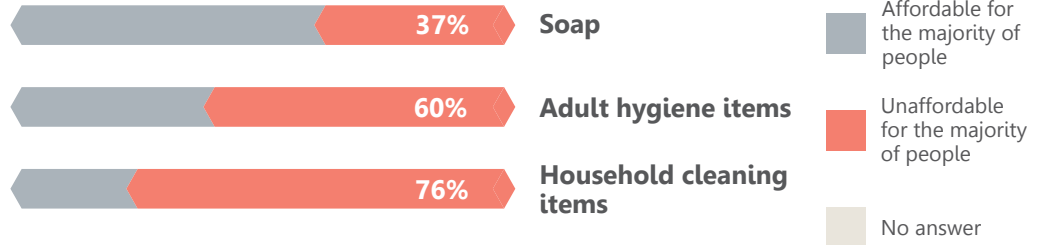
Most commonly reported sectors affected by COVID-19 (by % of assessed communities)



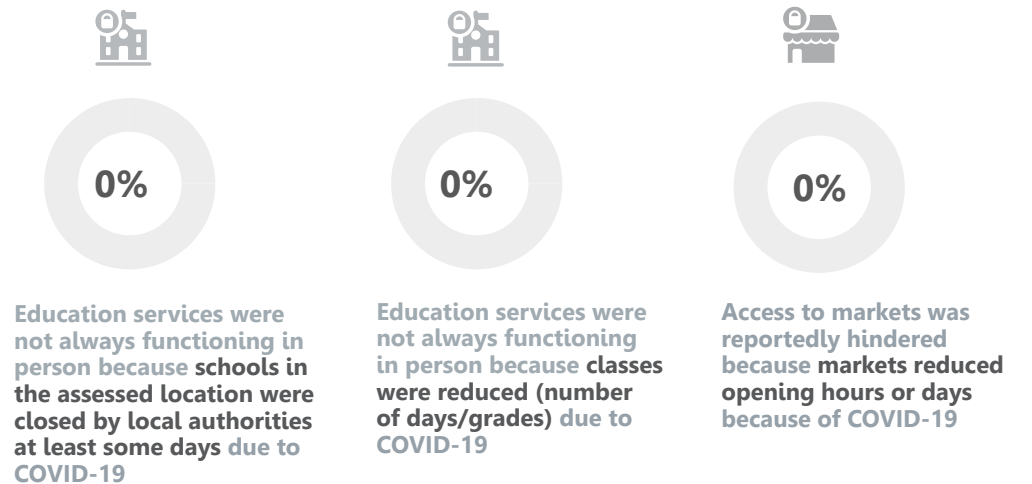
% of assessed communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported by KIIs



Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of assessed communities) <sup>12</sup>



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





## Security and Protection

### Intersectoral findings on security



**General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets** was a reported barrier to market access in **3%** of assessed communities

**General safety and security concerns at markets** was a reported barrier to market access in **4%** of assessed communities

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



**Threat from airstrikes** was reported as a protection risk in **48** communities <sup>8</sup>

**Threat from shelling, snipers or gunfire** was reported as a protection risk in **55** communities <sup>8</sup>

**Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances** was reported as a protection risk in **22** communities <sup>8</sup>

**Fear from imminent conflict** was reported as a protection risk in **74** communities <sup>8</sup>



**The inability to lock homes securely** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **32%** of assessed communities <sup>8</sup>

**Lack of lighting around the shelter** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **82%** of assessed communities <sup>8</sup>

**The security situation** was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **14%** of assessed communities



**General safety and security concerns at the health facility** was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **1%** of assessed communities

### Most commonly reported protection priority needs

(by % of assessed communities) <sup>3, 8</sup>

1 **82%**

Special assistance for vulnerable groups

2 **57%**

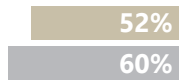
Specialised child protection services

3 **34%**

Psychosocial support



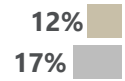
**% of assessed communities where the lack of civil documentation for residents and IDPs was reported**



Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk



Some people did not have the necessary personal documents as a barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance <sup>4</sup>



Lack of personal documentation required to enrol in school as a barrier to education access

### % of assessed communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported <sup>4</sup>

#### Residents

**36%**

Early marriage

**1%**

Forced marriage

**6%**

High risk work

**1%**

Sending family members to beg

**86%**

Sending children (15 or below) to work

#### IDPs

**45%**

**0%**

**11%**

**2%**

**83%**

### Age, Gender, and Diversity

KIs in **48%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs <sup>8</sup>

KIs in **38%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs <sup>8</sup>

KIs in **18%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **40%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **7%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

**Children below the age of 12** were reported as a group affected by child labour in **18%** of assessed communities <sup>8</sup>

**Hazardous child labour** was reported as a protection risk in **6%** of assessed communities <sup>8</sup>

### Endnotes

1. The greater Idleb area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo western countryside, and parts of Hama northwestern countryside controlled by armed opposition groups (AOGs).
2. KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. The ranking shows the sectors most frequently chosen as either first, second or third highest priority. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a sector was selected across all three categories (first, second or third highest priority).
3. KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
4. KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
5. KIs were asked about the situation at the time of data collection, instead of the last 30 days.
6. KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD), Turkish Lira (TRY), or Syrian Pounds (SYP). When the price was not reported in SYP, the Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) March 2022, 1 USD = 3,780 SYP; 1TRY= 263 SYP.
7. According to the Idleb Governorate JMMI March 2022, 1 USD = 3,780 SYP.
8. Findings for residents and IDPs were merged. The merge was calculated as follows: (option was selected for either residents or IDPs) / (communities reporting challenges/barriers/coping strategies for either residents or IDPs).
9. According to the Idleb Governorate JMMI March 2022, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 590,125 SYP.
10. Minor damage (cracks in walls, leaking roof, need of new doors and window repairs, etc.); Major damage (buildings with extensive damage to window frames and doors, but no structural damage to columns, slabs, or loadbearing walls); Severe damage (buildings with significant structural damage to column slabs, or loadbearing walls, cracking, steel elements and deformations visible in concrete; the building would require extensive repairs); Completely destroyed (buildings with structural damage so significant that rehabilitation is not possible).
11. KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.
12. Adult hygiene items include: shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Household cleaning items include: washing powder, liquid, and dish detergent.

### ◆ By number of communities where KIs reported the relevant indicator for the relevant population group(s)

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>
<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>		<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>	
Residents	367	Currency used for paying water	343
IDPs	356	Currency used for paying rent	284
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	283	Currency in which wages are paid (merge)	341
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	63	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	360
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	282	Days when water is available from network	333
Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	48	Barriers to markets functioning	32

### Sources

- a. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). (20 April 2022). North-West Syria: Situation Report. Retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/>
- b. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (1 March 2022). Flash Update #4 on the Response to Severe Winter Weather in North-West Syria. Retrieved from: <http://reliefweb.int>
- c. Ibid.
- d. Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI). (March 2022). Cash Working Group dataset - Northwest Syria. Retried from: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/>
- e. Ibid.
- f. Ibid.
- g. Mercy Corps. (14 April 2022). The Russian-Ukrainian conflict and its food security implications in northwest Syria. Retrieved from: <http://reliefweb.int>

### About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org).