

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

November 2023 | Northeast Syria

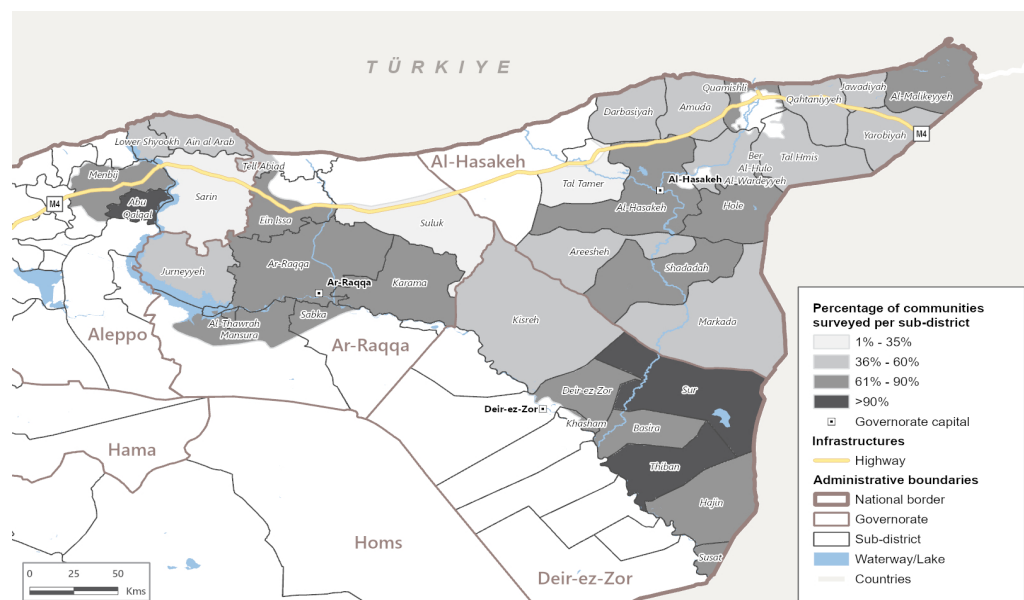
SITUATION OVERVIEW

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, public health, and the security and protection situation in Northeast Syria (NES). HSOS focuses on host community and internally displaced persons (IDP) households residing in communities. **This assessment does not provide information on camps and informal settlements.**

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 generalised across the population and region. The complete monthly HSOS dataset is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview three to five KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely. KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **1,336 communities** across Aleppo¹, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor. Data was collected **between 1-19 November 2023** from **4,867 KIs** (19% female).



KEY MESSAGES

- The main network remained the most common primary source of electricity in NES, despite [airstrikes that impacted power infrastructure](#) at the start of October. However, an increased percentage of KIs reported that the **limited functioning of the main network was a barrier to accessing electricity compared** to the previous HSOS round conducted in August 2023 (from 23% to 27% in Hasakeh and from 1% to 7% in Aleppo governorate).
- KIs in 71% of assessed communities indicated that not all households had access to sufficient water. **The partial functioning of the water network was increasingly reported as a barrier preventing households from accessing sufficient water in Raqqa and Hasakeh governorates** compared to the findings in the August round. This increase could be linked to the [airstrikes on civilian infrastructures](#) which also impacted water station operations in NES.
- The percentage of assessed communities where education services were regularly functional dropped from 97% before the summer break to 56% after summer. **Due to the escalation of violence, going to school became unsafe, especially in Hasakeh governorate** where KIs in 70% of assessed communities reported the violence escalation as a reason why education services were not functioning regularly (4% before the summer break).
- Living conditions remained difficult as KIs reported that incomes were not covering the cost of living in 90% of assessed communities. To subsist, households highly depended on loans, remittances or food gifts from relatives or friends.
- NES faced limited access to treatment for chronic diseases despite important needs.** KIs in only 5% of all assessed communities reported the presence of treatment for chronic disease, while such treatment was the most commonly reported health need in NES (reported as a priority health need in 57% of assessed communities).

HSOS Dashboards

The interactive [HSOS Sectoral Dashboard](#) provides a monthly thematic overview of key indicators disaggregated at different administrative levels. The [Humanitarian Trends Dashboard](#) uses HSOS data to visualise how the humanitarian situation in northern Syria has been changing over time.

PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



Most commonly reported **overall** priority needs for host community households (by % of assessed communities) ²

1	Livelihoods	73%
2	Food	61%
3	WASH [▲]	51%

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



Yes: **27%**
No: **73%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for host community households** ³



Most commonly reported barriers that host community households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities reporting barriers) ³

Communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	53%	1	96%
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	51%	2	4%
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	48%	3	1%

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

No humanitarian assistance was available	96%
Not aware if assistance was available	4%
Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance	1%



Most commonly reported **overall** priority needs for IDP households (by % of assessed communities) ²

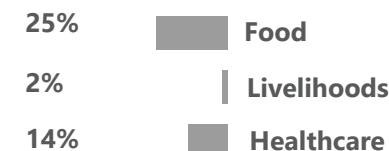
1	Food	74%
2	Livelihoods	74%
3	Healthcare	37%

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



Yes: **41%**
No: **59%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for IDP households** ³



Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities reporting barriers) ³

Communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	59%	1	98%
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	54%	2	1%
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	44%	3	<1%

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

No humanitarian assistance was available	98%
Not aware if assistance was available	1%
People not aware of the procedures to follow to receive assistance	<1%

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Region	Median estimated monthly expense for water for a household of six ^{4, 5}	Median estimated monthly rent price for a two-bedroom apartment ^{4, 5}	Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour ^{4, 6, 7}
Aleppo	35,000 SYP	75,000 SYP	25,000 SYP
Al-Hasakeh	80,000 SYP	150,000 SYP	15,000 SYP
Ar-Raqqa	4,000 SYP	100,000 SYP	20,000 SYP
Deir-ez-Zor	100,000 SYP	175,000 SYP	20,000 SYP
Northeast Syria	60,000 SYP	140,000 SYP	20,000 SYP

Most common sources of meeting basic needs for households (by % of assessed communities) ^{3, 7}

Waged labour (daily labour)		78%
Cash crop production		74%
Waged labour (regular work)		66%

Presence of **host community** and **IDP** households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs (by % of assessed communities) ³

Humanitarian assistance	Loans and remittances
	
<1%	32%
	
1%	30%

Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services ⁷



KIs in **21%** of assessed communities cited **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **76%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **81%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge



KIs in **59%** of assessed communities cited high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge






KIs in **49%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



KIs in **87%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge

Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods (by % of assessed communities) ^{3, 7}

Income does not cover cost of living		91%
Lack of employment opportunities that match people's skills		63%
No available ways to access financial resources (no grants, no loans)		55%

Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) ³

		
	High operational costs	
	Seasonality of production	
	Lack of resources for agriculture	

% of assessed communities where livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ³

Livelihood source	Host community households	IDP households
Food crop production	43%	28%
Cash crop production	74%	20%
Livestock products	45%	22%
Sale of livestock	43%	15%



Host community households



IDP households

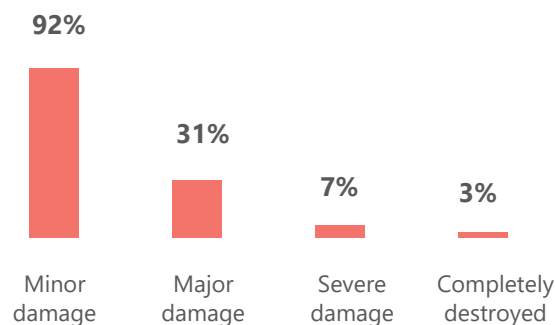
BASIC NEEDS OVERVIEW

In **96%** of assessed communities, at least **80%** of the host community households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **70%** of assessed communities, **none** of the IDP households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **9%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **unfinished or abandoned residential buildings**

In **3%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **tents**

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage
 (by % of assessed communities)^{4, 8}


Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 92% of assessed communities)

Most commonly reported shelter inadequacies (by % of assessed communities)³


82%

Lack of lighting around shelter



57%

Shelter have minor damages

57%

Lack of privacy inside shelter

54%

Lack of space/overcrowding

40%

Unable to lock home securely

11%

Lack of lighting inside shelter



84%

55%

61%

62%

38%

13%



98%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food**⁷

Commonly reported barriers to accessing sufficient food (by % of communities)^{3, 7}

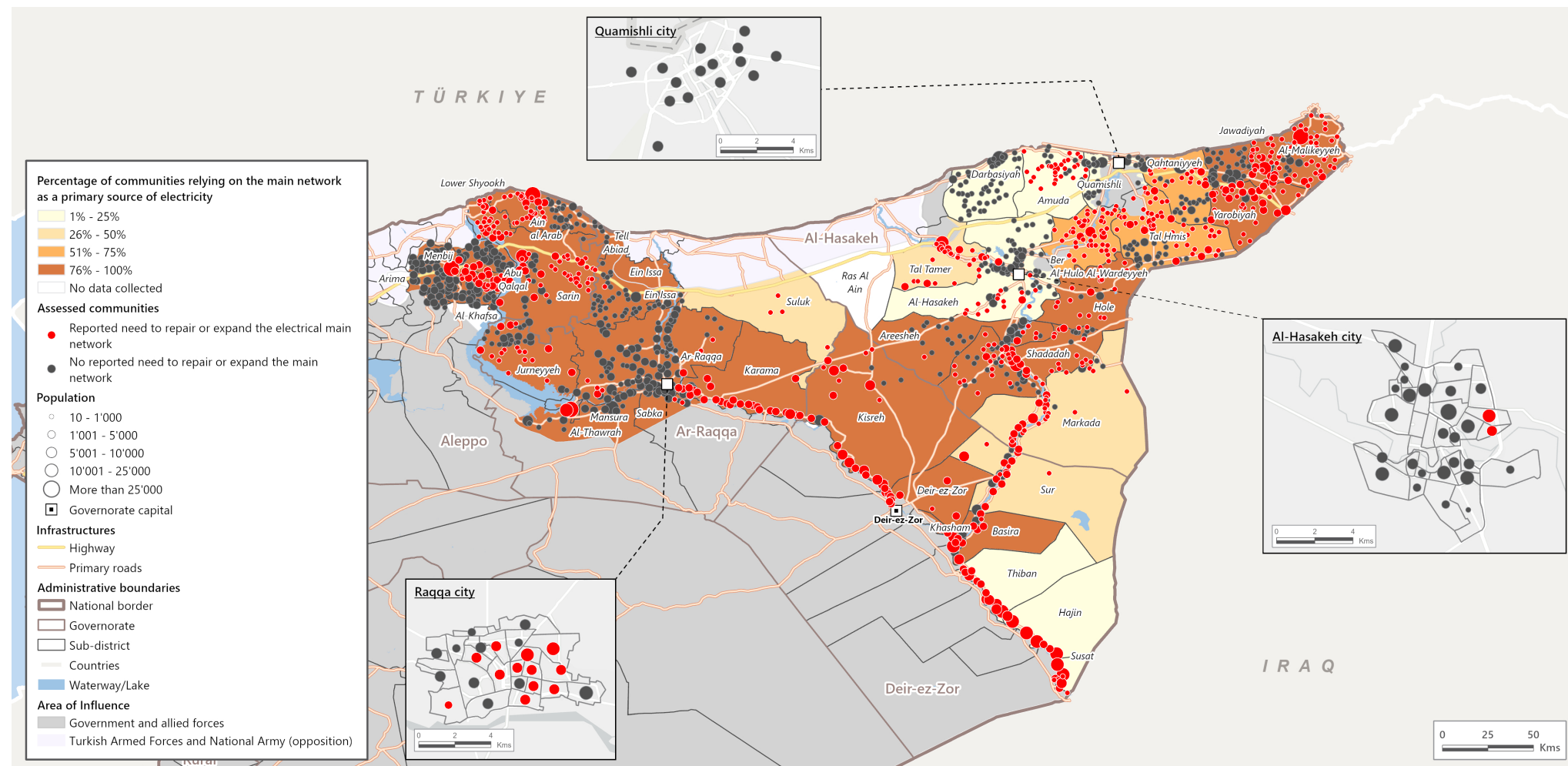
1	Markets exist and food is available but households cannot afford essential food items	81%
2	Markets are not functioning in the community	21%
3	Markets exist but have insufficient quantities of food	18%
4	Markets exist but not all essential food items are available	18%



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 95% of assessed communities)^{7, 9}

Commonly reported source of food for households other than markets (by % of assessed communities)^{10, 7}

1	Own production or farming	43%
2	Relying on food stored previously	36%
3	Food gifts from friends and family	3%



Dependency and need for maintenance of the main electricity network

Note on the map

This map illustrates the NES sub-districts based on the percentage of assessed communities that relied on the main network as their primary source of electricity for domestic use. Red dots represent communities in which KIs reported a need to repair or expand the main electricity network.

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES



Access to Electricity

2-4
hrs/day

was the most commonly reported range of hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 32% of assessed communities)

Main network

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 71% of assessed communities)

87%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **rationing electricity by local authorities** as the most frequently reported barrier to electricity access



Access to Water

71%

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



Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 861 communities connected to a water network)

Private borehole or well

was the most commonly reported source of water for all purposes (reported by KIs in 44% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

78%

% 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)

38%

Free public waste collection

33%

Waste burnt

19%

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

21%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **waste removal services** as a WASH priority need ⁷



Access to Markets

34%

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

People lack financial means to open shop/market

was the most commonly reported **reason for why markets were not functioning** (reported by KIs in 85% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

79%

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



Access to Health Services

69%

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

Most commonly reported health priority needs (by % of assessed communities)^{7, 10}

57%

Treatment for chronic diseases

51%

Medicines and other commodities

48%

Paediatric consultations

Cannot afford to pay for health services

was the most commonly reported **barrier to accessing healthcare** (reported by KIs in 87% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

27%

% of assessed communities in which only half or less of the school aged-children accessed school in the last 30 days for **host community** and **IDP** households

52%

Reported functionality of education services in the assessed location

89%

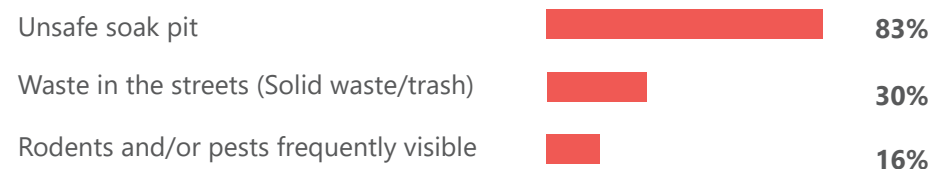
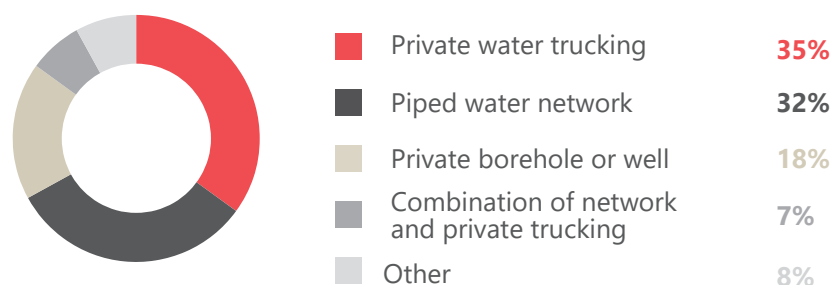
Functioning

11%

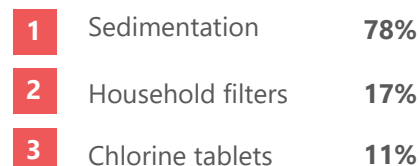
Not functioning

73%

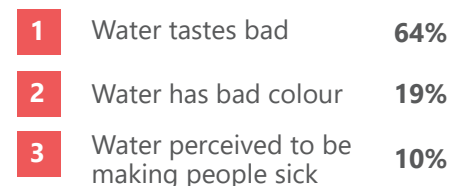
% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **families cannot afford to prioritize school and children must work** ⁷

PUBLIC HEALTH**Most commonly reported sanitation issues** (by % of assessed communities)³**Primary sources of drinking water** (by % of assessed communities)**76%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that households **did not use any methods** to make water safer to drink.

Methods used by households to make water safer to drink (by % of assessed communities in which KIs reported methods being used)³**47%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that households **faced problems with drinking water**.

Problems with drinking water (by % of assessed communities in which KIs reported problems)^{3,11}**Reported challenges related to quantity, quality and diversity of food for babies and young children (less than 2 years old)^{3,9}**

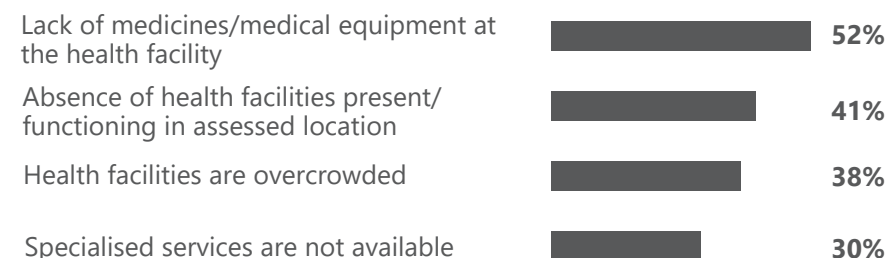
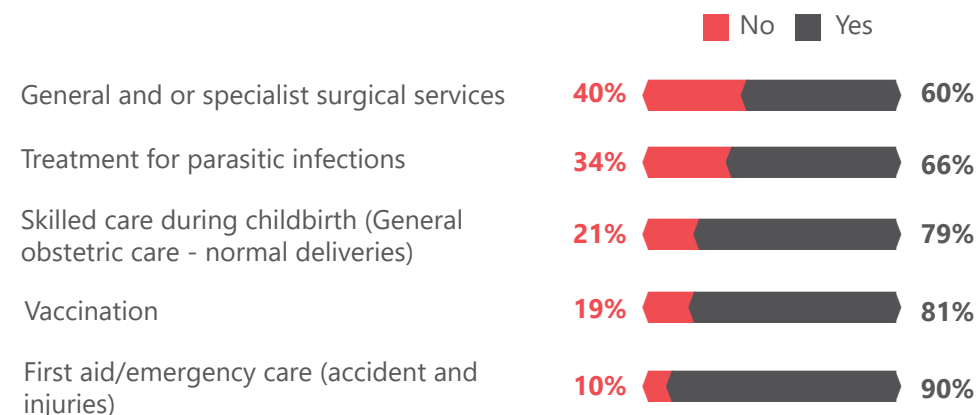
Limited variety of food reported in **52%** of assessed communities

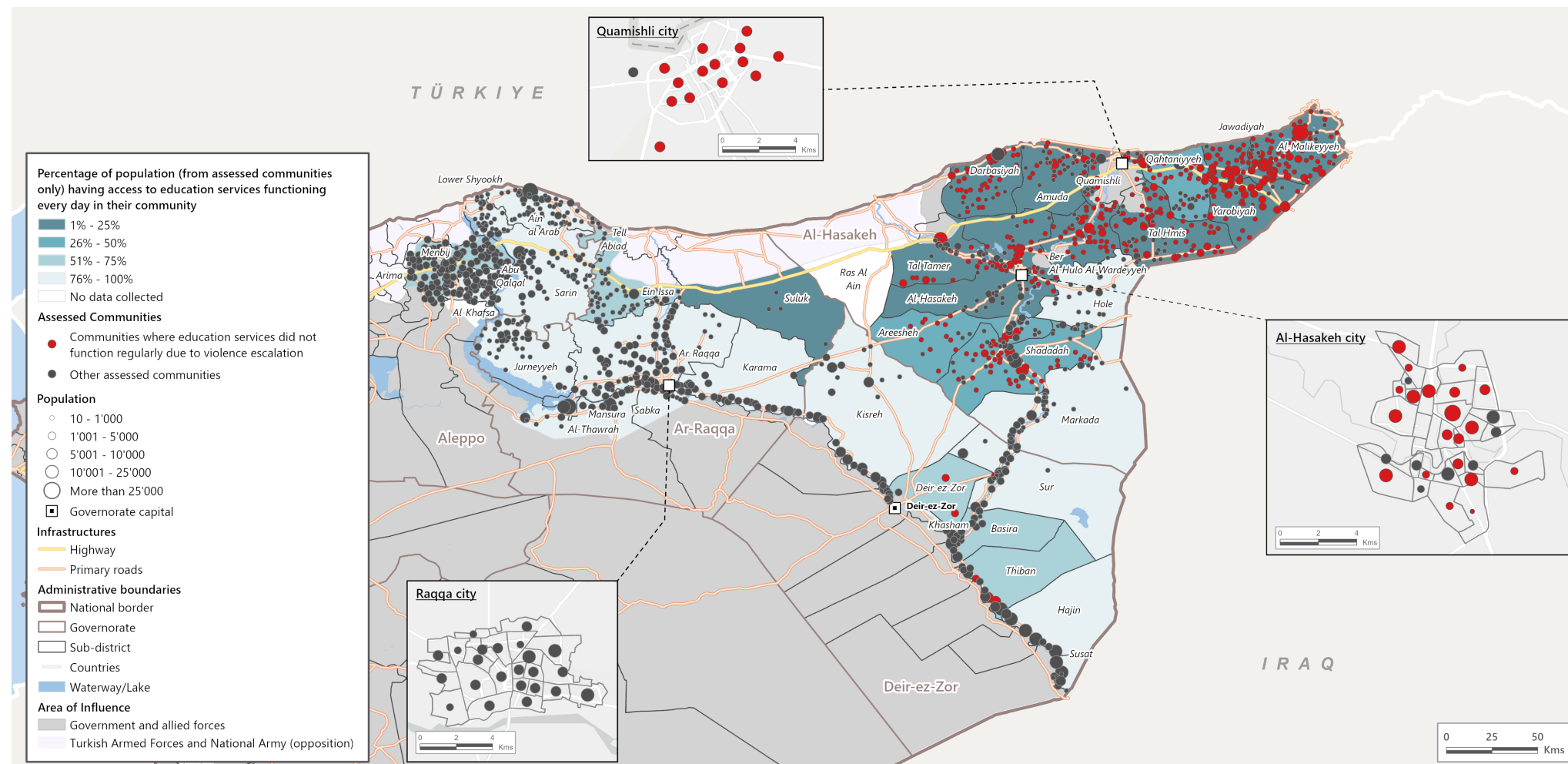
Not enough food reported in **23%** of assessed communities

Poor quality of food reported in **9%** of assessed communities



% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **no paediatric services** were available either in the assessed community or nearby locations

19%**Reported barriers to accessing healthcare** (by % of assessed communities)^{3,12}**Essential health services available either in the assessed community or in nearby locations** (by % of communities where households could access health services)¹³



Operational education services in NES (October-November 2023)

Note on the map

On this map, darker sub-districts are those where a low percentage of the population (of assessed communities) had access to fully operational education services. Red dots correspond to communities in which KIs reported that the education services did not fully operate because of a violence escalation. The map shows that the northern border of Hasakeh governorate was particularly affected by limited education services provided due to violence escalation.

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in 35 assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in 9 assessed communities



Theft was reported as a protection risk in 31% of assessed communities ⁷

Tribal disputes were reported as a protection risk in 40 assessed communities ⁷

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in 18% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from airstrikes was reported as a protection risk in 83 assessed communities ⁷

Threat from shelling was reported as a protection risk in 15% of assessed communities ⁷



The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in 67 assessed communities ⁷



Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities was reported as a barrier to healthcare in 17 assessed communities



Lack of safety while travelling to or from school was reported as a barrier preventing access to education in 164 assessed communities ⁷

Most commonly reported protection priority needs (by % of assessed communities) ^{7, 10}

- 1** Special assistance for vulnerable groups **80%**
- 2** Specialised child protection services **56%**
- 3** Psychosocial support **34%**



% of assessed communities where the lack of civil documentation for **host community** and IDP households was reported

- 22%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 30%**
- 3%** Some people did not have the necessary personal document as a barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance
- 2%**

87%

% of assessed communities where **child labour** was reported as a protection risk for **host**

78%

community and IDP households

Gender and diversity

KIs in **32%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **13%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **11%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **18%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **3%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

KIs in **15%** of assessed communities reported **challenges specific to girls** as a barrier preventing access to education ^{7, 14}

ENDNOTES

¹ Aleppo governorate includes Menbij and Ain Al Arab districts

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 multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

⁴ KIs were asked about the situation at the time of data collection, instead of the last 30 days.

⁵ 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 NES [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the REACH Market Monitoring October 2023, 1 USD = 13,600 SYP; 1TRY= 490 SYP.

⁶ According to the NES [JMMI](#) October 2023, 1 USD = 13,600 SYP.

⁷ 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).

⁸ 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).

⁹ KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.

¹⁰ KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

¹¹ This section provides a visualisation of three types of problems with drinking water. These problems were not selected based on how commonly they were reported, but rather on their potential negative impact on health.

¹² This section only focuses on barriers related to the health facilities and excludes financial barriers as well as obstacles linked to transportation to health facilities.

¹³ This section provides a visualisation of the availability of five essential types of health services reported in the assessed communities or in nearby locations. The displayed services were not selected based on how commonly they were reported.

¹⁴ Challenges specific to girls include the following: Families not allowing attendance or continuation of education, fear of harassment on the way to or inside education facilities, and the lack of privacy in toilets.

N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset	N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset
Host community households	1,330	Barriers to assistance access (IDP)	360
IDP households	617	Days when water is available from network	861
Challenges to assistance access (host community)	340	Barriers to markets functioning	449
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	971	Methods to make water safer (merged)	315
Challenges to assistance access (IDP)	238	Problems with drinking water (merged)	622

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).