

Idleb Governorate, December 2017

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

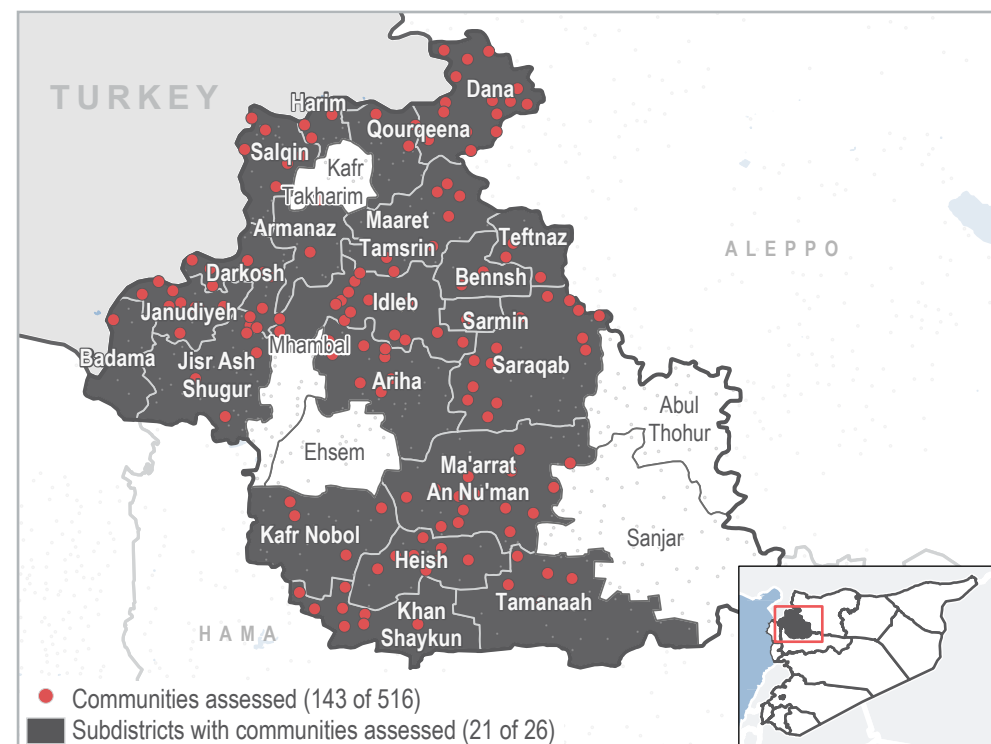
OVERALL FINDINGS¹

Syria's north-western Idleb hosts the second largest IDP population after Rural Damascus. Of the communities assessed, **19** reported that members of the pre-conflict population left in December due to an escalation of conflict. A majority of these communities are located in the southern subdistricts of Ma'arrat An Nu'man and Tamanaah. **Nine** of the communities assessed in Idleb had no pre-conflict population remaining on the last day of December. Most of these communities are also located in Tamanaah and Ma'arrat An Nu'man subdistricts. These communities have not been assessed for a majority of indicators displayed in these factsheets. Only **one** community witnessed spontaneous refugee returns in December, Arshani (Idleb subdistrict), where refugees returned from Turkey to reunite with their families². IDPs were present in **135** out of the 143 assessed communities, with **11** communities reporting the presence of over 10,000 IDPs. Dana (50,000), Idleb (45,750) and Ma'arrat Tamasrin (35,500) reported the largest estimated IDP numbers, and all but **2** of these communities, Maar Tahroma and Ma'arrat An Nu'man, reported new arrivals in December. Despite large IDP numbers within Idleb, **all but three** communities reported that IDPs lived in independent or shared houses or apartments. For more detailed information about displacement patterns in Idleb governorate in December, please refer to the REACH Syria [IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative](#).

Of the communities assessed in November, **39** reported that no health facilities were available in their area, and **one** community, Thaheriya, reported that IDPs had less access to healthcare than other parts of the population. Women and the elderly had less access to healthcare in Thaheriya, Nahliya, Bab Ella and Almokblah. Of the **22** communities that reported that residents were unable to empty septic tanks, **6** cited diarrhoea as a common health problem. A majority of the **24** communities reporting diarrhoea as a health concern hosted over 1,000 IDPs. The pervasiveness of reports of diarrhoea in Idleb compared to other governorates could be indicative of overcrowding in certain areas such as Idleb subdistrict.

In assessed communities in Idleb, **31%** reported that residents experienced challenges in accessing sufficient amounts of food. A vast majority of KIs in these communities reported residents either lacked sufficient funds to purchase available food or were unable to buy food due to the high cost of some items. Although the average price of a food basket was comparatively lower in Idleb than in other assessed governorates, it was **more than 50%** of the reported average monthly household income of less than 50,000 SYP. The most common sources of income in the **45** communities reporting challenges accessing sufficient amounts of food were business or trade, agriculture and unstable, daily employment. Out of the **114** communities reporting that incomes were insufficient to cover household needs, **50%** reported that children were sent to work or beg to supplement incomes³. This strategy reportedly affected 5-9-year old's in **17**, 10-14-year old's in **33** and 16-18-year old's in **42** communities, respectively. Nonetheless, most children in **83%** of assessed communities were reportedly able to access education in December.

Coverage



Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Food security
2. Healthcare
3. Water security

Demographics*

2,086,051 people in need

1,024,251 1,061,800

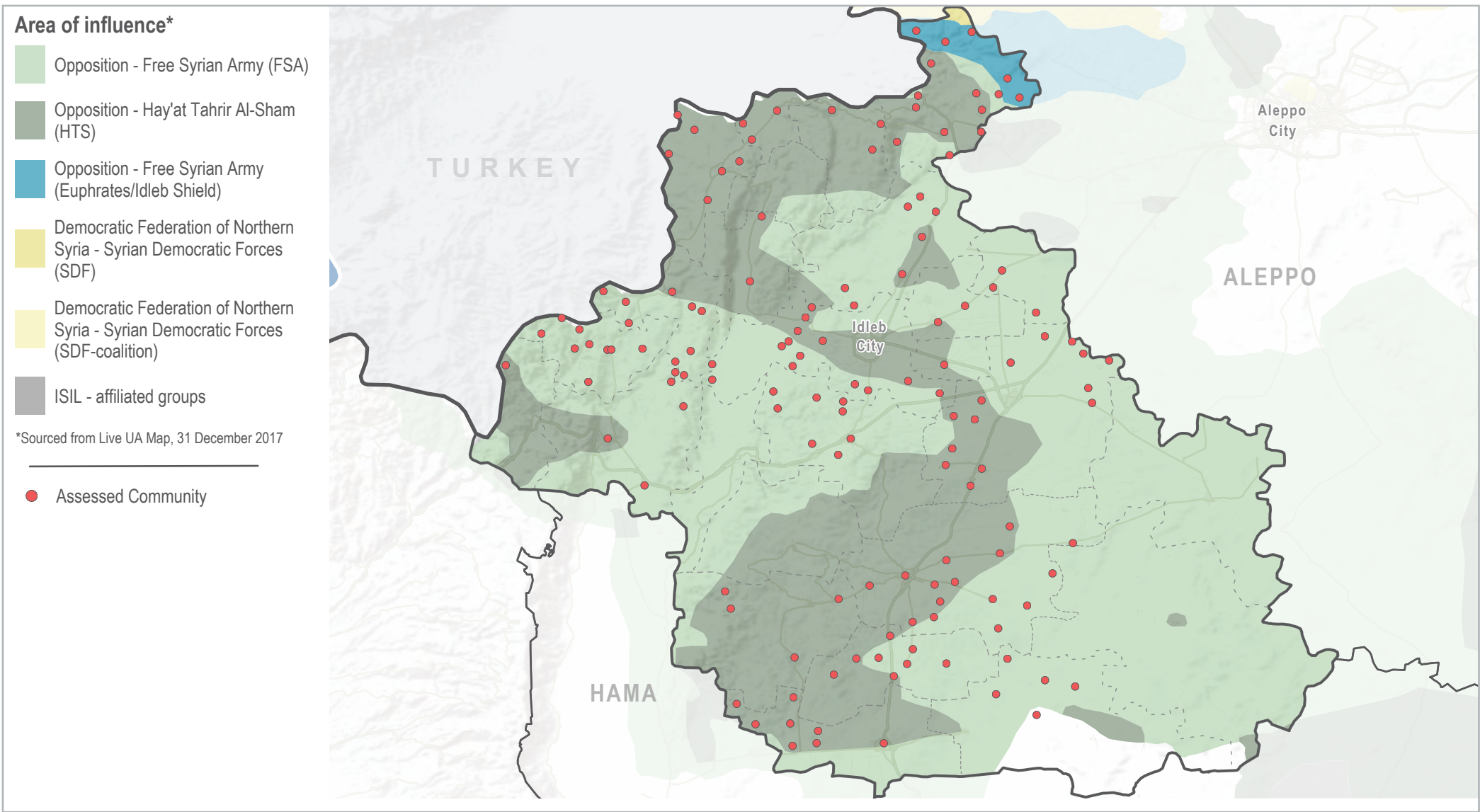
* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

KEY EVENTS

Armed Opposition Group (AOG) assumes control of Idleb city and Bab al-Hawa border crossing, which was subsequently closed ⁴ .	10,311 displaced from Oqeirbat in northern Hama to southern Idleb following an escalation in conflict ⁵ .	Wave of attacks on hospitals in opposition-held areas ⁶ .	Turkey launches an armed intervention into Idleb ⁷ .	Bab al-Hawa crossing reopened, allowing commercial vehicles to access opposition-held areas ⁸ .	Forces advance into southern Idleb, escalating conflict in the governorate ⁹ .
20-23 July	Early September	September	12 October	18 October	Mid December

Idleb Governorate, December 2017

Governorate areas of influence:



Idleb Governorate, December 2017

DISPLACEMENT

26,545 - 33,990

Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in December.

10 - 15

Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in December².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Rasafa	2,500 - 2,800
Kafr Battikh	2,300 - 2,500
Idleb	1,400 - 1,500

Top 3 sub-districts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

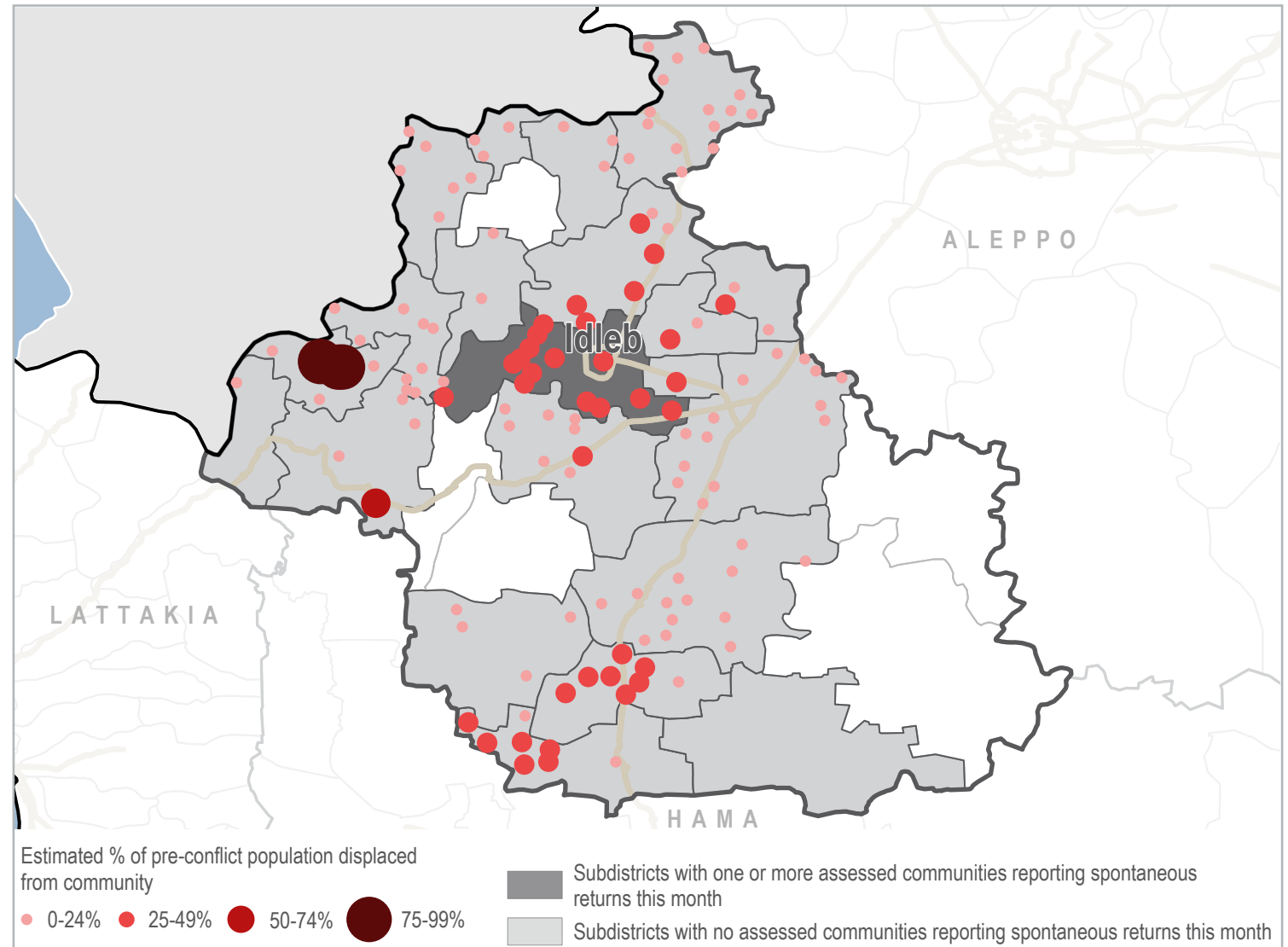
Tamanaah (Idleb)	31%
Sanjar (Idleb)	19%
Abul Thohur (Idleb)	19%

122 communities reported no PCP departures.

Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **21** communities^{3,4}:

Escalation of conflict	90%
Loss of assets	10%
Protection concerns	5%

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



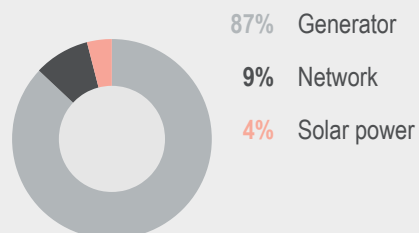
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

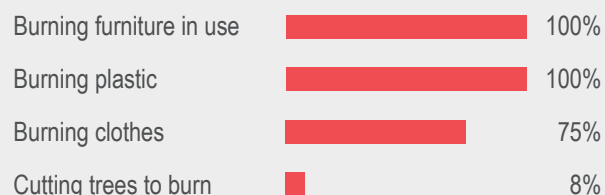
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SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



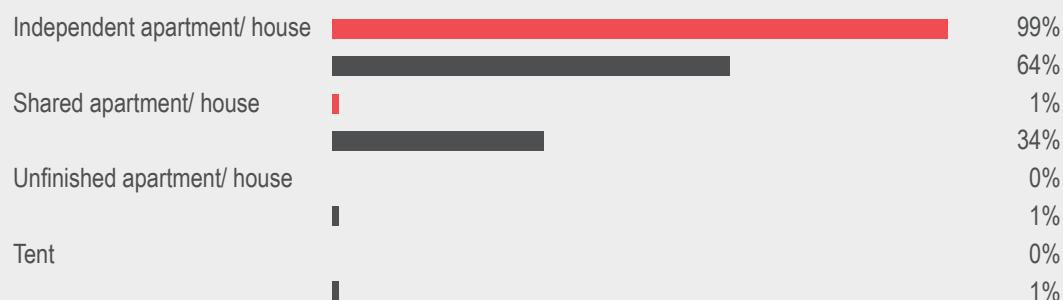
96 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining 40 assessed communities^{3,4}:



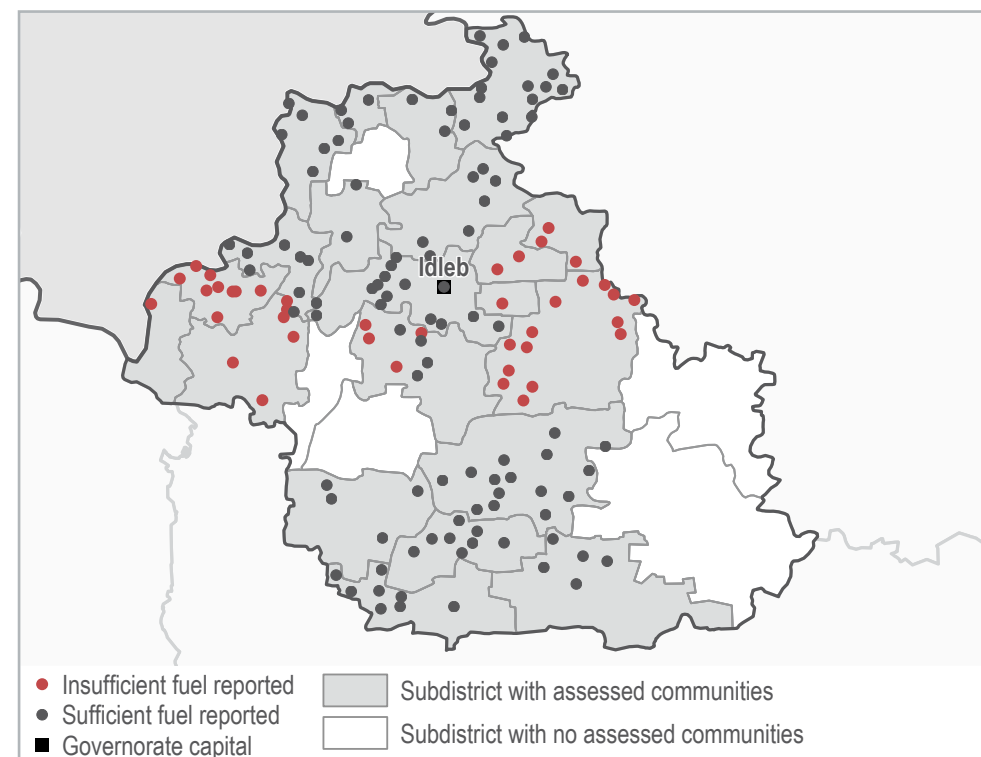
5,126 SYP Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.⁵

6,882 SYP Syrian average reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.⁵

Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP (in red) and IDP (in grey) households⁴:



Fuel sufficiency:



Reported fuel prices (in SYP)⁵:

Fuel type:	Governorate average price in December:	Governorate average price in November:	Syrian average price in December:
Coal (1 kilogram)	171	170	337
Diesel (1 litre)	236	242	472
Butane (1 canister)	6,863	6,998	6,125
Firewood (1 tonne)	62,452	66,492	84,744

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 December 2017)



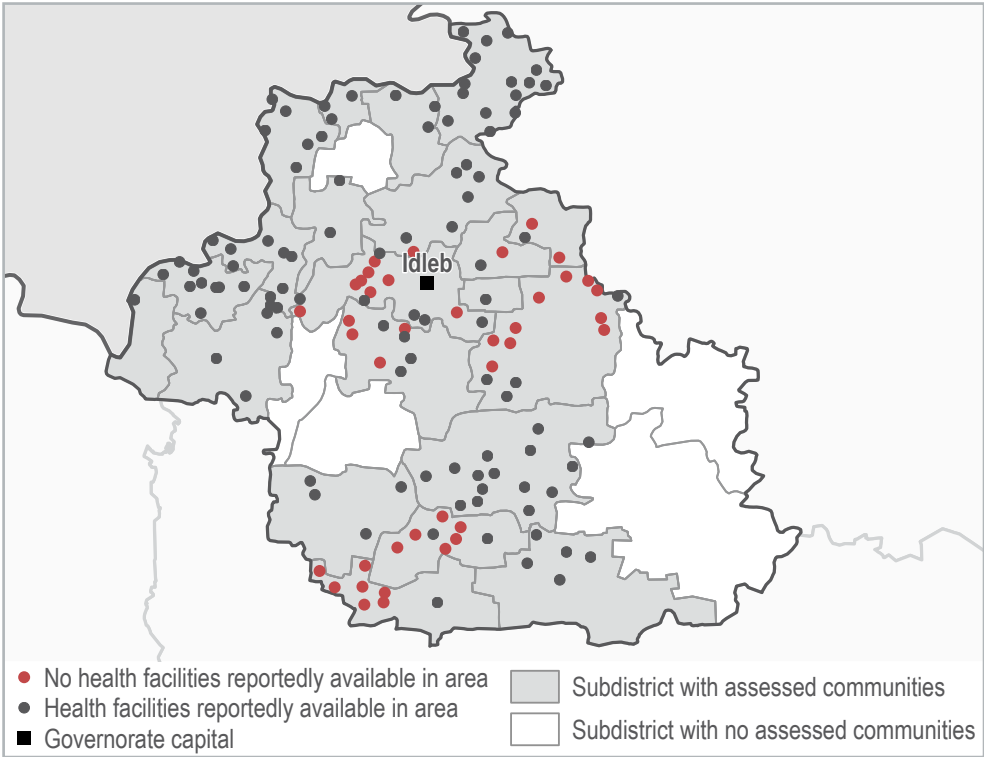
- 6 Communities reported that no medical items were available in their community.
- 2 Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

94 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining 42 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

No health facilities available in the area	93%
Lack of transportation to facilities	38%
High cost of transportation to facilities	36%

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

Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



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

Medicine	40%
Antenatal care	39%
Assistive devices	37%

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

Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	64%
Acute respiratory infections	47%
Pregnancy related diseases	45%

³ Multiple choices allowed.
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.



- 0 Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 0 Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

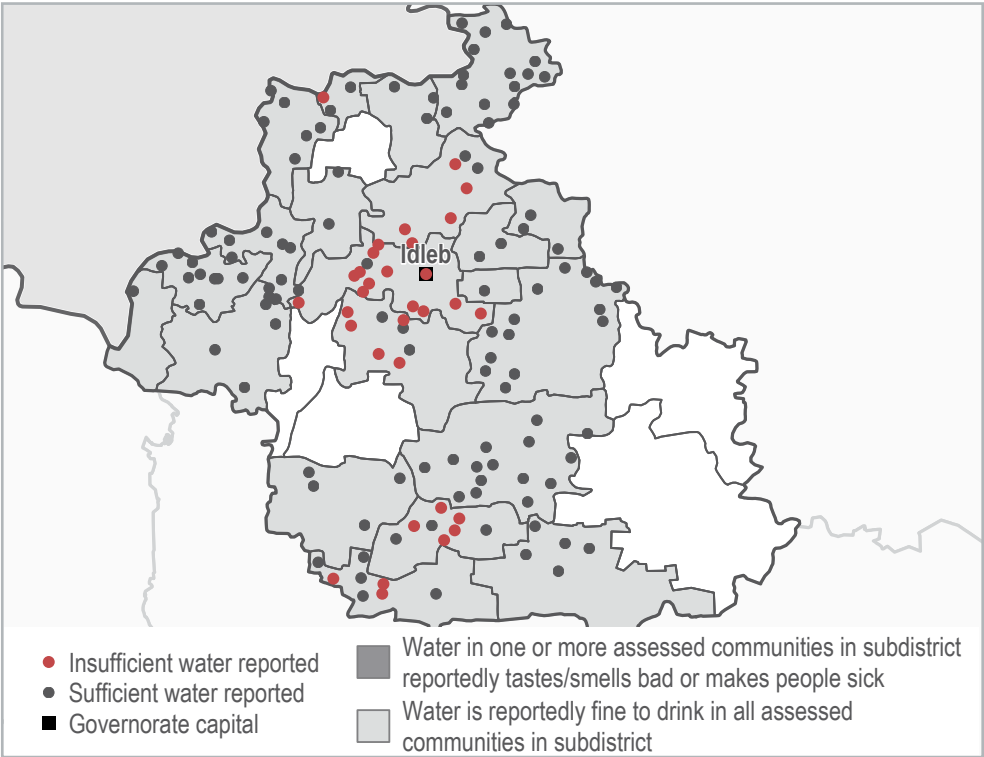
114 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 22 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

Inability to empty septic tanks	100%
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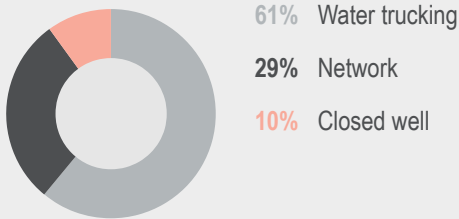
104 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 32 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

Modify hygiene practices	88%
Spend money usually spent on other things to buy water	44%
Receive water on credit/ borrow water or money for water	16%

Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



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

Public free collection	41%
Private paid collection	29%
Disposed at designated site	15%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

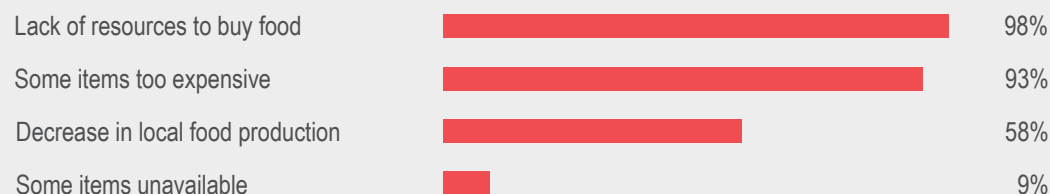
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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FOOD SECURITY

- 8** Communities reported not having received a food distribution in the last 12 months.
- 0** Communities reported that residents were unable to purchase food at shops and markets.

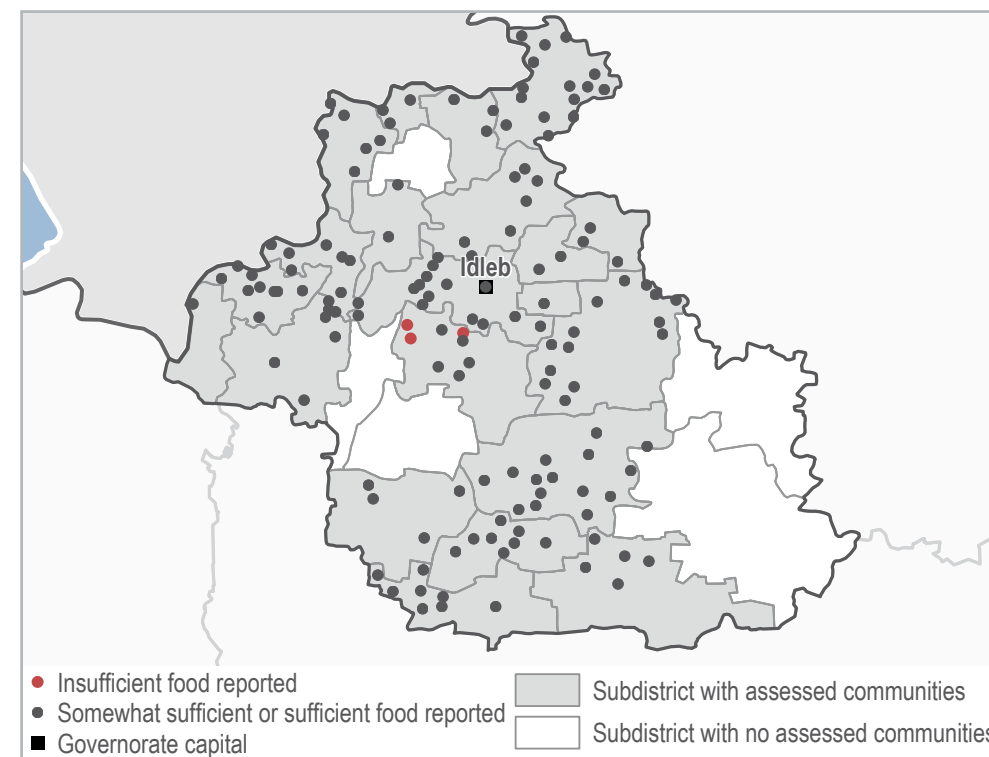
91 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **45** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

Food item:	Governorate average price in December:	Governorate average price in November:	Syrian average price in December:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	138	133	114
Rice (1 kilogram)	395	387	565
Lentils (1 kilogram)	368	395	472
Sugar (1 kilogram)	344	342	410
Cooking oil (1 litre)	565	568	697

Food sufficiency:



Most common ways of obtaining food reported^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 December 2017)

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LIVELIHOODS

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

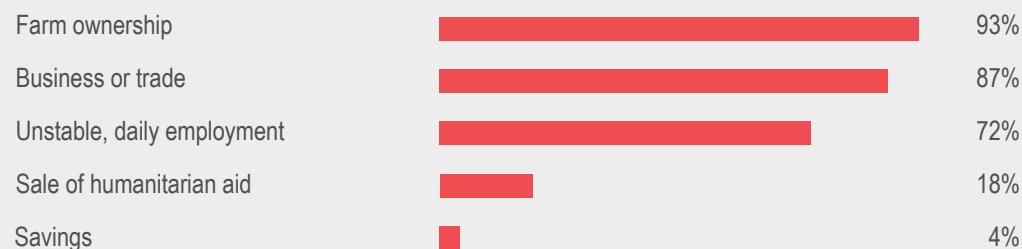
26,278 SYP Governorate average food basket price^{5,6}.

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

22 communities reported that residents had enough income to cover household needs. The most commonly reported coping strategies to deal with a lack of income in the remaining **114** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



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



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

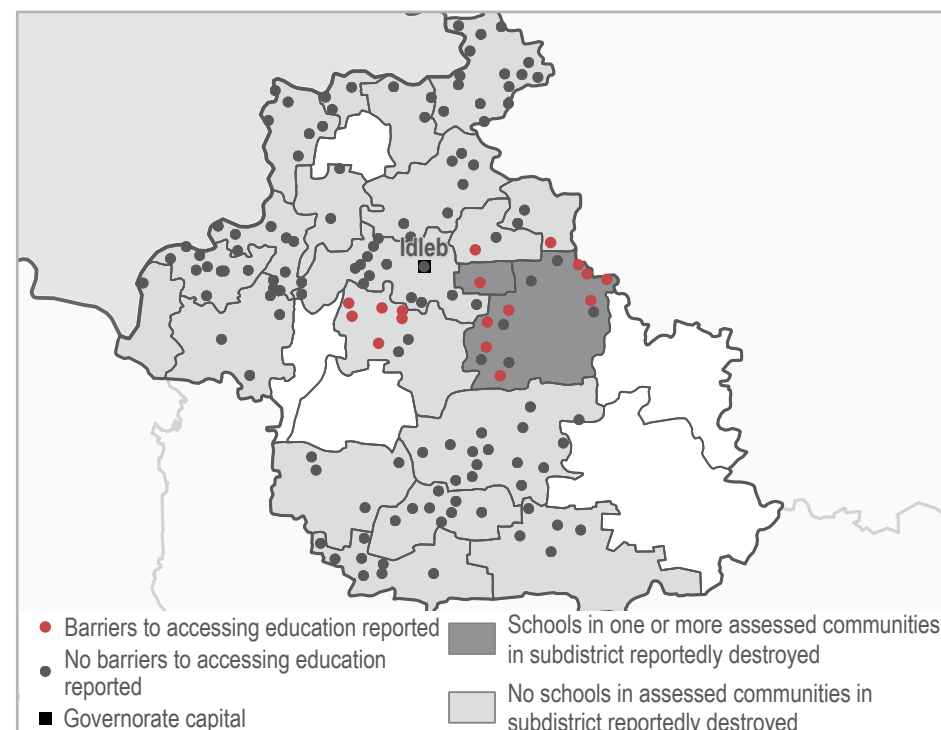
⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 December 2017)

⁶ Calculation of the average price of a food basket is based on the World Food Programme's standard basket of dry goods. The food basket includes 37 kg of bread, 19 kg of rice, 19 kg of lentils, 5 kg of sugar, and 7 kg of vegetable oil, and provides 1,930 kcal a day for a family of five for a month.

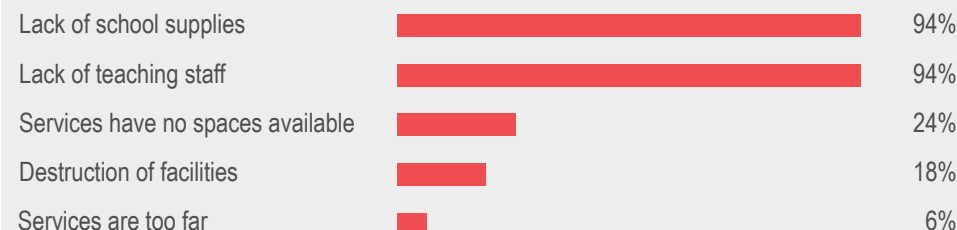
⁷ Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



119 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **17** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



METHODOLOGY

The HSOS project, formerly known as the AoO (Area of Origin) project, is a monthly assessment that aims to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian situation inside Syria. This factsheet presents information gathered in 143 communities in January 2018, referring to the situation in Idleb Governorate in December 2017. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed subdistricts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly subdistrict factsheets, available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#). The complete HSOS dataset is disseminated monthly via the REACH Syria mailing list.

Wherever possible, information was collected through an enumerator network. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview Key Informants (KIs) directly in the community they report about. Where access and security constraints rendered direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews were conducted indirectly through participants identified in camps and settlements in neighbouring countries by REACH field teams. Participants contact KIs in their community in Syria to collect information about their community. KIs were asked to report at the community level.

A minimum of three KIs were interviewed per community to enhance data accuracy. KIs generally included local council members, Syrian NGO workers, medical professionals, teachers, shop owners and farmers, among others, and were chosen based on their community-level or sector specific knowledge. In cases where KIs disagreed on a certain piece of information, enumerators triangulated the data with secondary sources or selected the response provided by the KI with the more relevant sector-specific background. For each question asked, confidence levels were assigned based on the KIs area of expertise and knowledge of the sector-specific situation. The confidence levels associated with each question are presented in the final dataset. The full confidence matrix used to assign confidence levels is available upon request.

Findings were triangulated through secondary sources, including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. Where necessary, follow-up was conducted with enumerators and participants. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the governorate.

ENDNOTES

¹ All information and figures reported in HSOS factsheets refer to the situation in assessed communities and cannot be generalised to other non-assessed communities of the governorate.

² Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.

³ 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.

⁴ Aljazeera (24 July 2017). Hay'et Tahrir al-Sham take control of Syria's Idlib. Retrieved from <http://www.aljazeera.com>.

⁵ UNHCR (28 September 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 28 September 2017. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁶ Aljazeera (20 September 2017). 'Deadly air strikes' target hospitals in Syria's Idlib. Retrieved from <http://www.aljazeera.com>.

⁷ Reuters (12 October 2017). First Turkish military convoy enters Syria's Idlib. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com>.

⁸ Hamou, Ibrahim and Edwards (18 October 2017). Ankara reopens Idlib border crossing as Turkish soldiers build presence in northern Syria. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁹ Edelman, Ibrahim and Al-Masalma (20 December 2017). Government forces advance inside rebel-held Idlib province. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organisations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to, and within the framework of, inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter: @REACH_info.