

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

October 2024 | Northwest Syria

SITUATION OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

HSOS is a monitoring key informant (KI) assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This Situation Overview presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, access to basic services and infrastructure, economic conditions, public health, as well as the security and protection situation in Northwest Syria (NWS). 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.** This Situation Overview presents information gathered in **628 communities** across Greater Idleb and Northern Aleppo areas¹. Data was collected **between 8-16 October 2024** from **2,418 KIs** (5% female).

The complete HSOS dataset and analysis can be downloaded as an [excel file](#).

INTERPRETATION

Findings are indicative rather than representative and should not be generalised across the population and region. **All results in this output should be interpreted as referring to a percentage of assessed community where KIs reported an information.** All indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection.

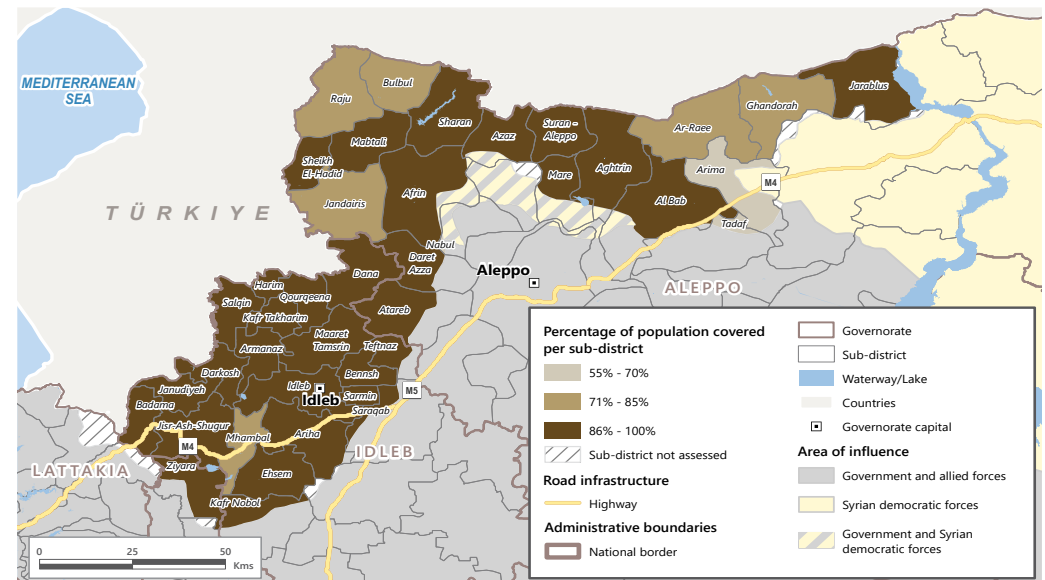
The symbol ▲ indicates that KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

HSOS Dashboards

- Sectoral dashboard:** This interactive dashboard presents a sectoral review of key indicators from HSOS. Users can easily navigate through their sector of interest and visualise data from the community level to the region level.
- Trend analysis dashboard:** This dashboard allows users to quickly see how the humanitarian situation in northern Syria has been changing over time. It also includes a flagging system tab that highlights numerical differences across different periods.

KEY MESSAGES

- As winter arrives, a large proportion of KIs in the assessed communities identified winterization needs as the main seasonal needs, with heating fuel, floor mats, and winter clothing topping the list.** [The humanitarian winter relief plan](#)², which seeks essential funding to support vulnerable populations facing harsh weather conditions, has secured only a small fraction of the required support.
- In October, a higher percentage of KIs in the assessed communities across Greater Idleb reported fear of imminent conflict and [threats from airstrikes](#)³, shelling, and gunfire as protection risks, compared to the June round. [Ongoing security instability](#)⁴ could further affect humanitarian activities and access to essential services, including schools and healthcare facilities.**
- All KIs in the assessed communities reported that children accessed education services either within their community or in other communities. **However, nearly all KIs confirmed that children faced difficulties in accessing education.** 78% of those KIs identified the lack of teaching and learning supplies as the main difficulty. Schools are facing a [critical shortage of essential resources](#)⁵, particularly textbooks, which threatens the continuity of education and puts students at risk of falling behind or not completing their studies.



¹ The Greater Idleb area includes Idleb governorate, parts of Aleppo governorate (Atareb and Daret Azza sub-districts), and parts of Hama governorate controlled by armed opposition groups (Ziyara sub-district). The Northern Aleppo area includes 16 sub-districts located across Afrin, A'zaz, Al Bab and Jarablus districts.

² OCHA: [North-west Syria situation report](#)

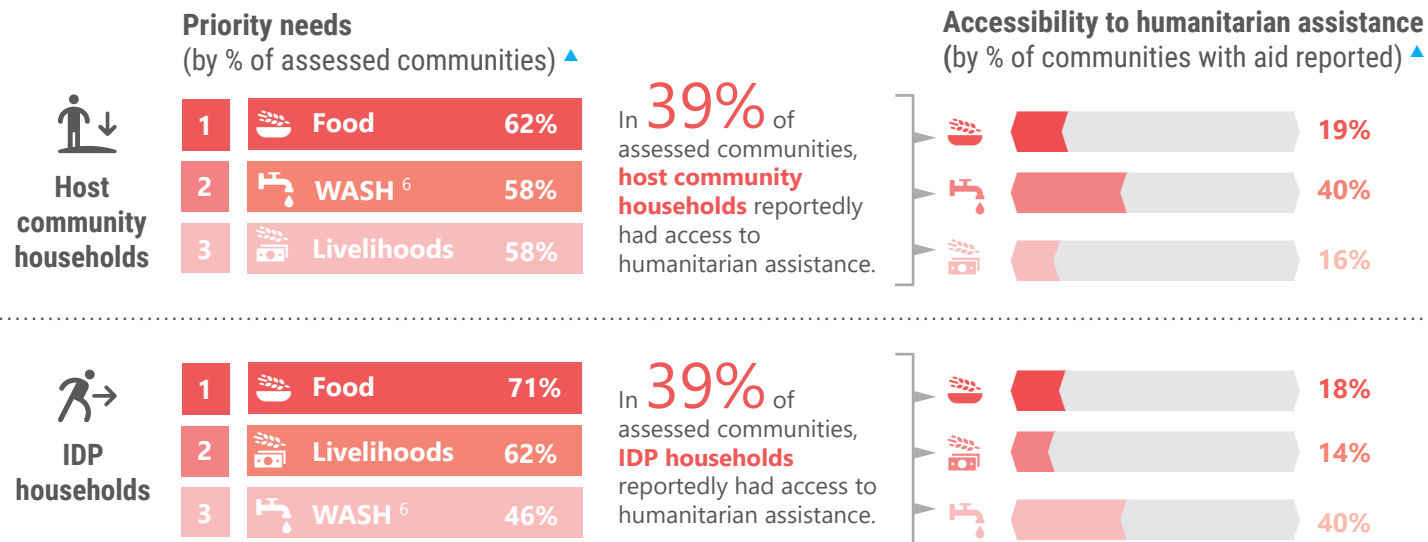
³ Reuters: [Israeli strikes on Syria kill at least 16 people, Syrian state media say](#), 9 September 2024

⁴ Reuters: [Statement by David Carden, Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, on the escalation of hostilities in north-west Syria](#), 17 October 2024

⁵ SOHR: [Amid challenges facing parents with education in private schools | Shortage of school supplies threatens continuity of education in Idleb](#), 12 October 2024

PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Most commonly reported priority needs and reported accessibility to associated humanitarian assistance



Most commonly reported difficulties faced when accessing humanitarian aid (by % of communities where access to aid was reported) ▲

- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need | 62% |
| 2 | Types of assistance provided were not relevant to all needs | 54% |
| 3 | Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria | 21% |
-
- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need | 64% |
| 2 | Types of assistance provided were not relevant to all needs | 54% |
| 3 | Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria | 22% |

Top reported needs by sector (by % of assessed communities) ▲, ⁷



⁶ Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

⁷ All the findings on priority needs by sector correspond to the needs of the general population living in assessed communities. Hence, they cover both host community and IDP households.

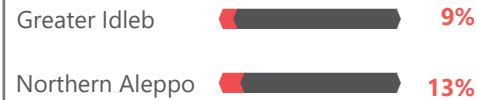
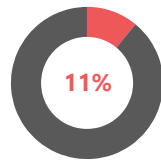
⁸ Non-food items (NFI)

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

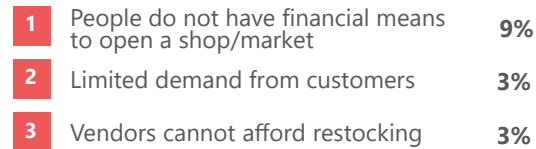


Access to Markets

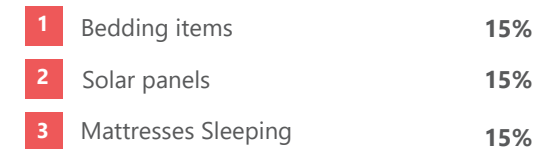
% of assessed communities where **markets were not functioning every day**



Most commonly reported barriers to food-market functioning (by % of assessed communities) ▲

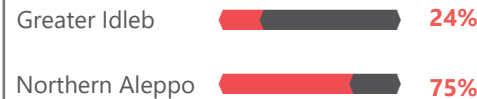
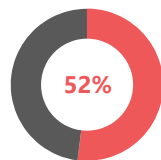


Most commonly reported NFI unavailable in markets (by % of assessed communities) ▲



Access to Healthcare

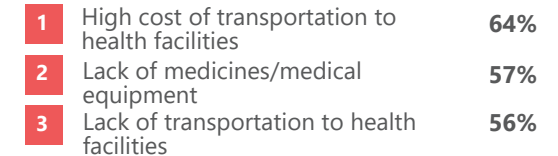
% of assessed communities where **no health services were provided**



98%

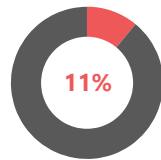
Assessed communities where KIs reported that **households accessed health services in other/nearby** communities.

Most commonly reported challenges to access healthcare (by % of assessed communities) ▲

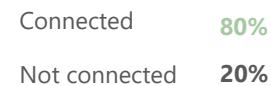


Access to Electricity

% of assessed communities where households had **access to less than 6 hours of electricity per day** in average



% of assessed communities connected to the main electricity network (either functioning or not)

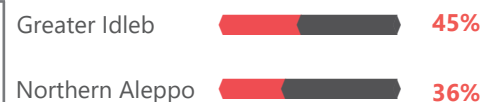
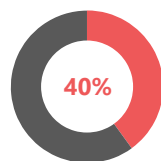


In **16%** of assessed communities connected to the main electricity network, KIs reported that **the electricity network was partially or completely not functioning**

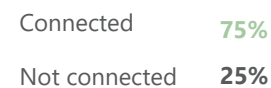


Access to Water

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



% of assessed communities connected to the main water network (either functioning or not)

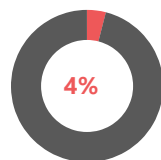


In **9%** of assessed communities connected to the main water network, KIs reported that **the water network was partially or completely not functioning**

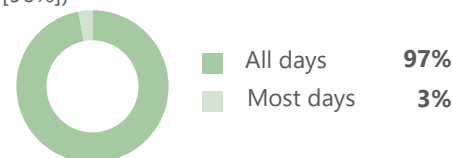


Access to Education services

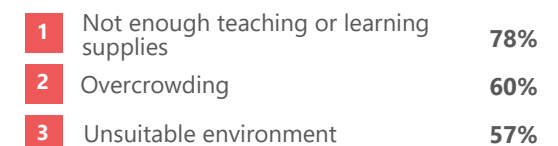
% of assessed communities where **no education services were provided** over the past 30 days



Frequency of education services (by % of assessed communities with operational education services [96%])

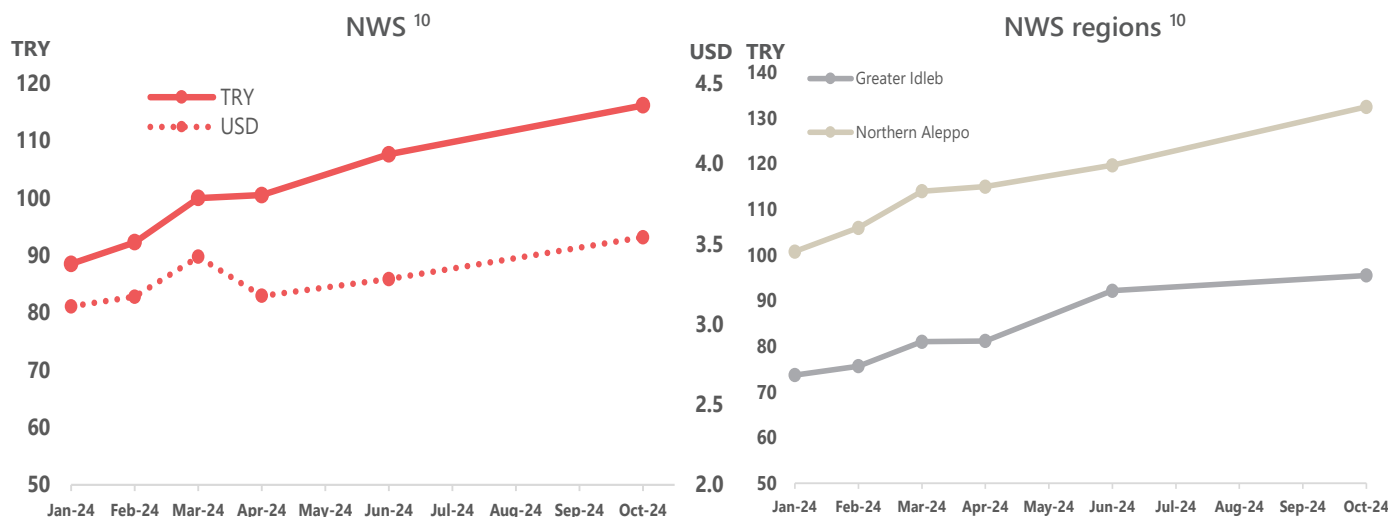


Most commonly reported difficulties when accessing education (by % of assessed communities) ▲



ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Evolution of the average daily wage for casual or irregular labour reported over the past six HSOS rounds in NWS ⁹



Region	Median estimated monthly rent price for a two-bedroom apartment ⁵
Greater Idlib	984 TRY
Northern Aleppo	656 TRY
Northwest Syria	820 TRY

Most commonly reported non-income generating sources of livelihoods (by % of assessed communities) [▲]

	Host community households	IDP households
Borrowing/loans	49%	57%
Remittances (from outside Syria)	25%	27%
Financial support from family or friends (inside Syria)	3%	9%
Cash or in-kind humanitarian assistance	2%	3%



In **74%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that **agriculture was a common source of livelihoods** for households.

Most common challenges to access livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of communities relying on agriculture) [▲]

1	High operational costs	80%
2	Lack of water for agriculture	53%
3	Seasonality or instability of income	47%

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



In **89%** of assessed communities with people renting, KIs indicated that **rent was unaffordable for the majority of people**



KIs in **72%** of assessed communities reported that the **high cost of solar panels or batteries to store solar power** was a common challenge to access power



KIs in **14%** of assessed communities reported that the **high cost of fuel for generators** was a common challenge to access power



KIs in **31%** of assessed communities indicated that the **high cost of water** prevented households to access sufficient water



KIs in **82%** of assessed communities cited the **unaffordability of food** as a common challenge



KIs in **41%** of assessed communities cited the **high cost of health services** as a common challenge



KIs in **79%** of assessed communities reported that households **lacked money or resources** to cover the cost of attending **school**

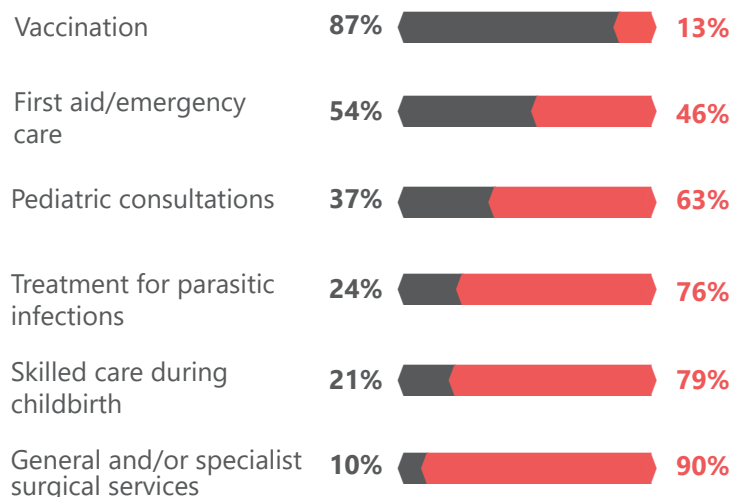
⁹ KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD) or Turkish Lira (TRY). The values displayed here were all harmonised in TRY and USD, based on the exchange rate from the NWS Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMIMI). According to the REACH Market Monitoring April 2024, 1 USD = 32.80 TRY.

¹⁰ There was no KI data collection in May, July, August and September 2024 across all NWS.

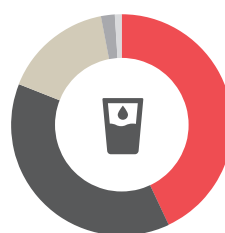
PUBLIC HEALTH

Essential health services available in the assessed community
(by % of assessed communities where households could access health services [48%]) ¹¹

■ Service available
■ Service not available



Source of drinking water used by most households (by % of assessed communities)



Private water trucking	43%
Piped water network	38%
Private well	16%
Bottled water	2%
Other	1%

In **52%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that households **faced problems with drinking water**

In **27%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that households **did not treat their water despite needing to.**

Methods used by households to make water safer to drink (by % of assessed communities where methods were used [28%]) ¹¹

1	Chlorine	54%
2	Sedimentation	24%
3	Household water filters	20%

Most commonly reported sanitation issues (by % of assessed communities) ¹¹

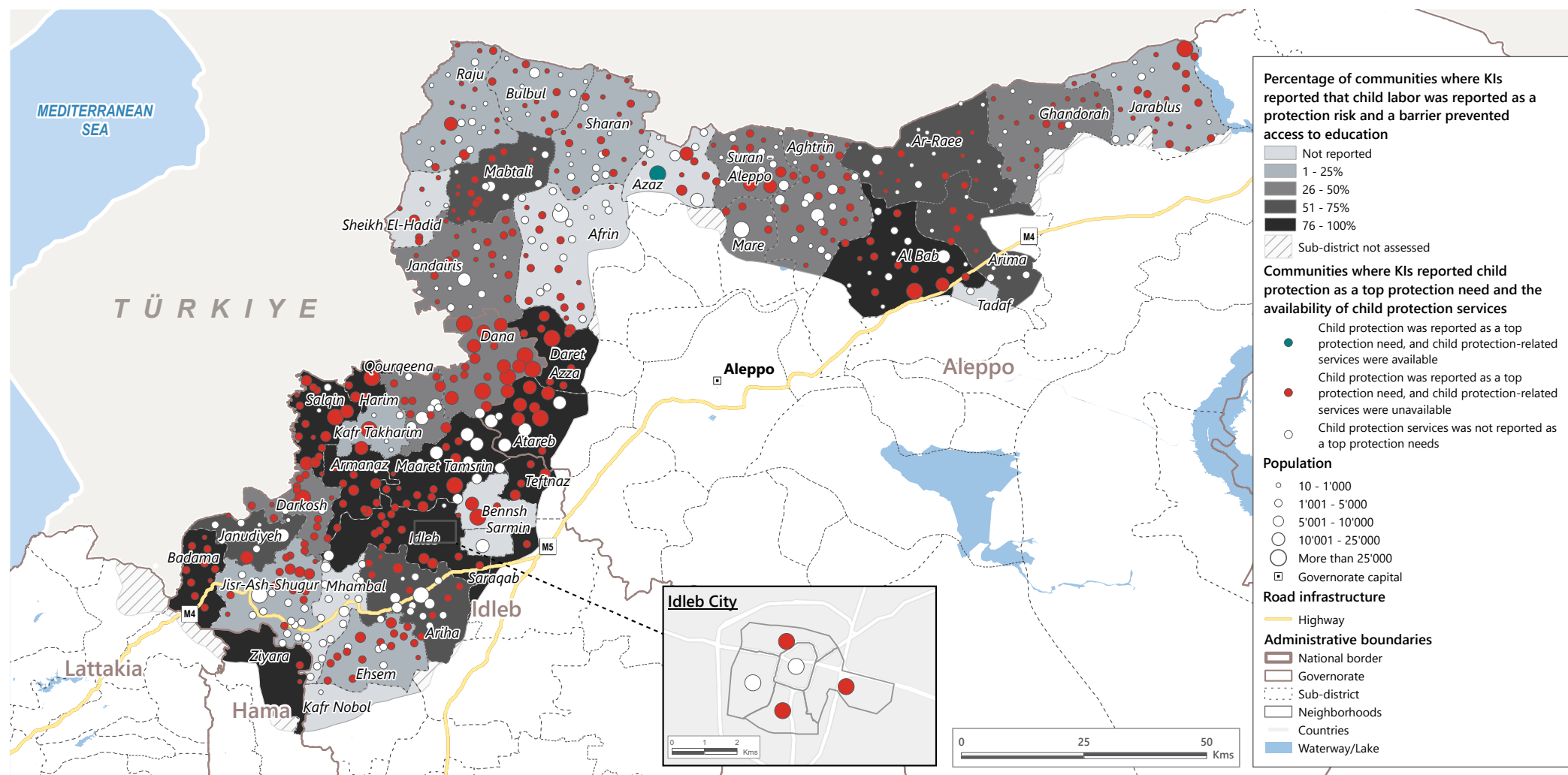
1	Sewage network does not reach all households	35%
2	Stagnant water in the streets	26%
3	Could not afford desludging services	25%
4	Desludging services are not available	22%
5	Sewage system pollutes public areas	22%



In **4%** of assessed communities, **leaving garbage in public areas** was among the most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste.



In **7%** of assessed communities, **releasing wastewater and human feces over land surface** was among the most commonly reported ways people disposed of wastewater.











Note on the map

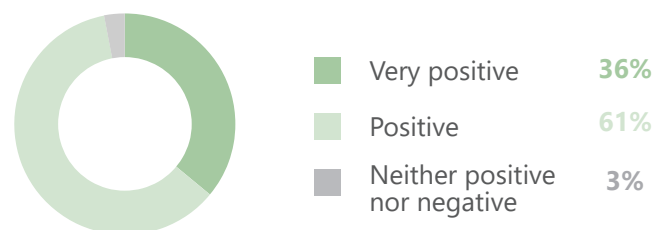
This map shows the percentage of communities per sub-district where KIs reported child labor as a protection risk and a barrier preventing children from accessing education. The dots represent communities where KIs identified specialized child protection services as a protection need and the availability of related services. Thus, green dots indicate communities where KIs identified specialized child protection services as a top protection need and reported that child protection services were available, whereas red dots represent communities where KIs identified specialized child protection services as a top protection need, but the child protection services were unavailable.

SECURITY AND PROTECTION


Most commonly reported protection risks (by % of assessed communities) ▲


 Child labour ¹²	43%	 Threat from airstrikes, shelling, gunfire	13%
 Fear of imminent conflict	20%	 Threat of eviction	11%
 Theft	16%	 Lack/loss of civil documentation	10%
 Labour exploitation	13%	 Family separation	7%


Perception of the social cohesion (by % of assessed communities)




Intersectoral findings on security

 **Security restrictions** reportedly prevented the access to livelihood activities in 23 assessed communities (4% of assessed communities).

 **General safety and security concerns at markets or while travelling to markets** was a reported barrier to market access in 29 assessed communities (5% of assessed communities).

 **General safety and security concerns at health facilities or while travelling to health facilities** was a reported barrier to healthcare access in 12 assessed communities (2% of assessed communities).

 **Lack of safety while travelling to or from school** was reported as a barrier preventing access to education in 40 assessed communities (6% of assessed communities).

METHODOLOGY

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. In each community, REACH enumerators in Greater Idlib, and partner enumerators in Northern Aleppo, interview several KIs selected based on their knowledge of the community and areas of expertise. Enumerators submit one single form per community and only one KI should answer each section of the survey. Interviews are usually done in person unless security and access restrictions prevent enumerators to reach the community.

More information about HSOS KI methodology can be found on [HSOS KI terms of reference \(ToR\)](#).

This Situation Overview only presents a selection of collected indicators. The complete HSOS dataset and analysis can be downloaded as an [excel file](#).

Number of communities per subset:	Subset
Host community households	616
IDP households	607
Communities where assistance was reported (host community)	238
Communities where assistance was reported (IDP)	238
Communities connected to a main electricity network	500
Communities connected to a main water network	472
Communities with operational education services	604
Communities with agriculture as a common source of livelihoods	463
Communities with access to health services	299

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).