

# HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

July 2023 | Northwest Syria

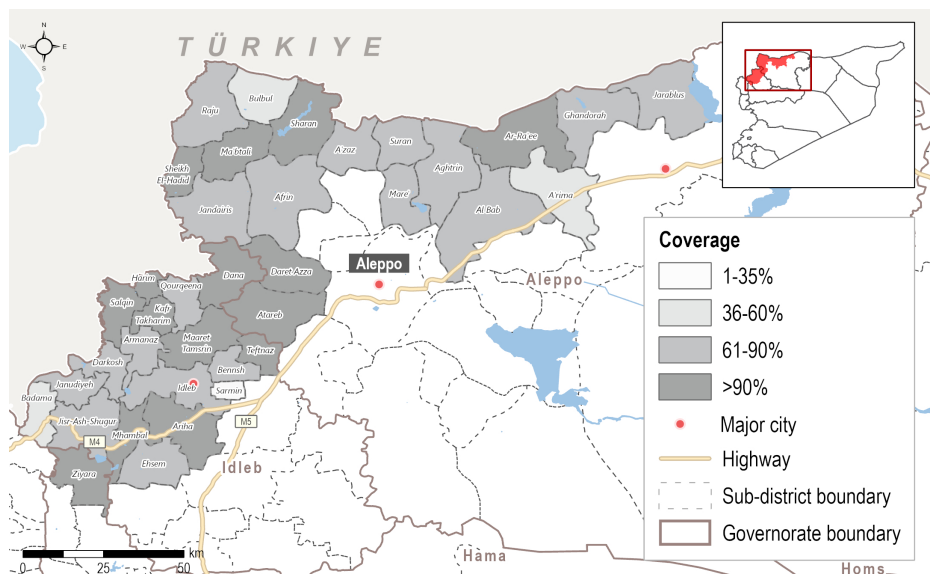
SITUATION OVERVIEW

## 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 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.**

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 in Greater Idleb, and partner enumerators in Northern Aleppo, interview three to six 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 **664 communities** across Greater Idleb<sup>1</sup> and Northern Aleppo areas. Data was collected **between 6-16 July 2023** from **2,161 KIs** (4% female).



## KEY MESSAGES

- KIs reported food as a top priority need for host community households in 51% of assessed communities, and for IDP households in 56% of communities.** Inhabitants of NWS remained highly dependent on humanitarian aid for food, with KIs in 17% of assessed locations indicated that the most common source of food for households was assistance from local councils or NGOs. The most commonly reported barrier preventing households from accessing food was the unaffordability of essential food items in markets (reported by households in 80% of assessed communities). Food needs are likely to exacerbate as prices keep rising and assistance providers in NWS face funding challenges.<sup>a</sup>
- Difficult economic conditions persisted in NWS with KIs reporting that income does not cover the cost of living in 88% of assessed communities.** In July, the average daily income for an unskilled worker in NWS reached 66 Turkish Lira (TRY), equating 3 United States Dollars (USD). The TRY-USD exchange rate increased of 21% between June and July 2023, while the month-to-month increase used to amount to around 4% throughout the past three months. Consequently, rising prices continued to affect people's access to basic services such as food (see section above) or healthcare, with KIs reporting the unaffordability of health services as a barrier to access healthcare in 43% of assessed communities.
- While extreme temperatures hit NWS in July,<sup>b</sup> KIs reported summer items to be a priority need in 30% of assessed communities.** High temperatures inside shelters were the most frequently reported shelter issue by KIs (reported in 68% of assessed communities). People living in vulnerable shelters lacking insulation from the heat can be subject to heat-related illnesses such as breathing difficulties and cardiovascular diseases.<sup>c</sup>
- Solar panels remained the most commonly reported source of electricity in NWS (in 61% of assessed communities).** Since 2016, solar energy has become the preferred source of electricity in NWS as power infrastructures sustained severe damages during years of conflict and fuel prices kept increasing.<sup>d</sup> In July, KIs in 47% of assessed communities across NWS indicated that households accessed more than 12 hours of electricity per day. It is worth noting that summer months are advantageous for households using solar panels due to longer hours of daylight.

### HSOS Dashboard

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) <sup>2</sup>

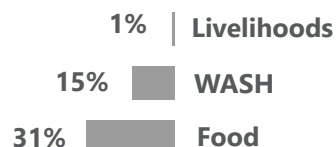
1	Livelihoods	66%
2	WASH ▲	52%
3	Food	51%

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



Yes: **62%**  
No: **38%**

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



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

Communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	<b>74%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>95%</b>
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	<b>49%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3%</b>
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	<b>43%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2%</b>

No humanitarian assistance was available

Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance

Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible



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

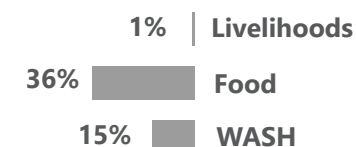
1	Livelihoods	60%
2	Food	56%
3	WASH	46%

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



Yes: **63%**  
No: **37%**

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



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

Communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

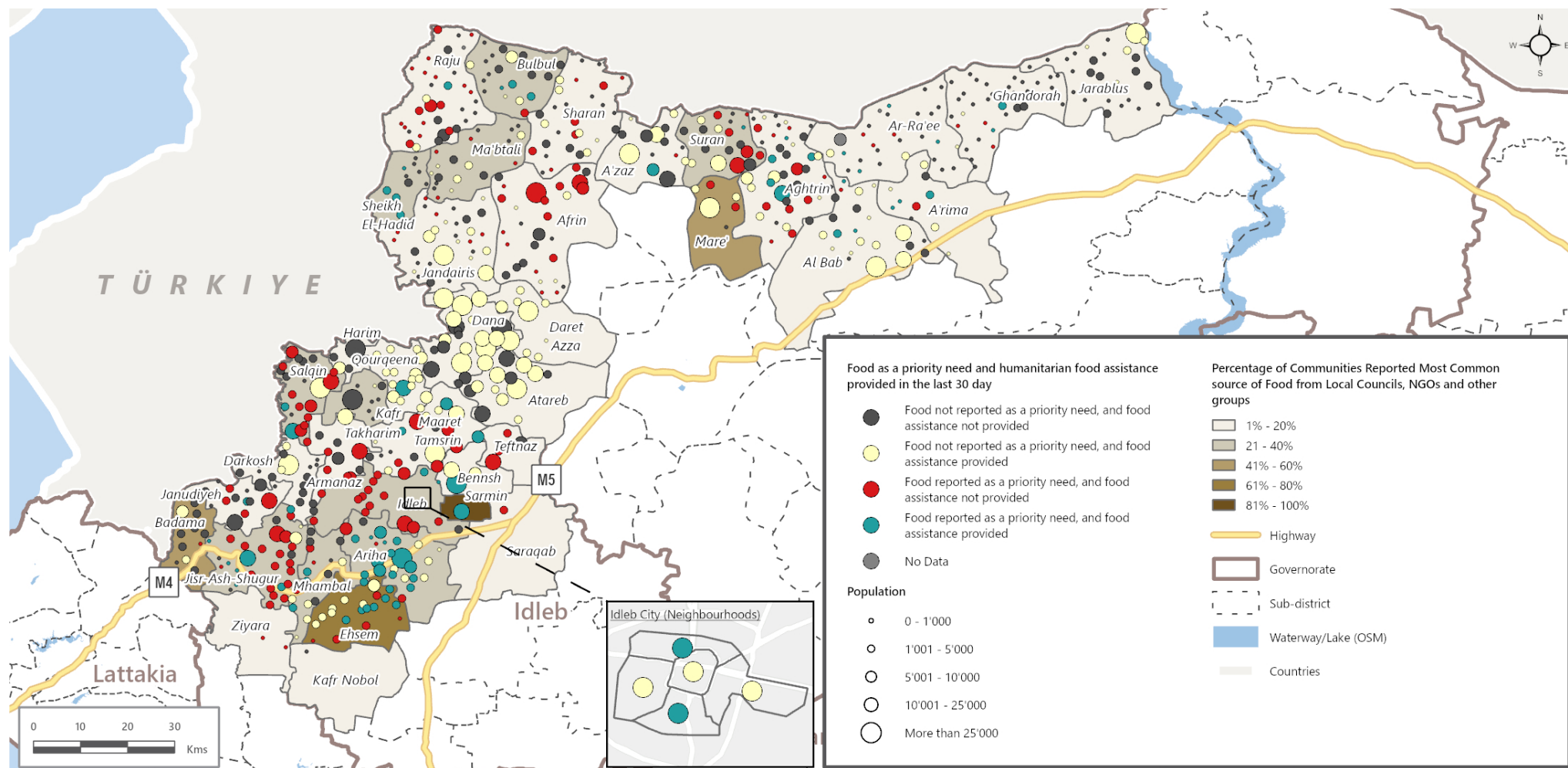
Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	<b>75%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96%</b>
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	<b>51%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2%</b>
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	<b>43%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2%</b>

No humanitarian assistance was available

Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance

Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible



## Food needs and food assistance in Northwest Syria

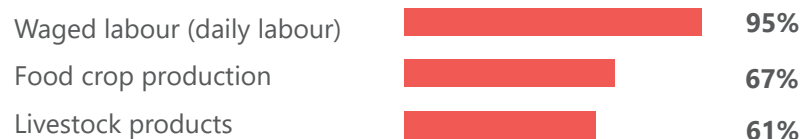
### Note on the map

According to their colours, the dots on this map correspond to the communities in which food was reported or not reported among the top three priority needs for households, or either the communities reportedly received food assistance within the 30 days prior to data collection. As such, the red dots correspond to communities where food was reported as a top priority need but where no food assistance was reportedly provided. In addition, the colour of each sub-district varies according to the percentage of communities in which KIs reported that households relied on NGOs and local councils as their primary food providers.

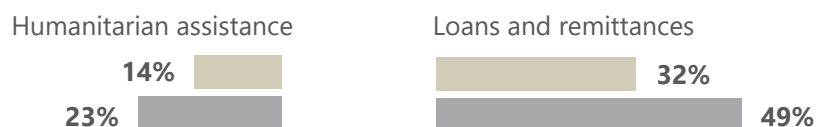
## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Region	Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six <sup>4,5</sup>			Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment <sup>4,5</sup>			Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour <sup>4,6,7</sup>		
Northwest Syria	200 TRY			433 TRY			60 TRY		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
	0%	100%	0%	0%	56%	44%	0%	100%	0%

### Most common sources of meeting basic needs for households (by % of assessed communities) <sup>3,7</sup>



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



### Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services <sup>7</sup>



KIs in **53%** of assessed communities cited **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **72%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **80%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge



KIs in **20%** of assessed communities cited high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge

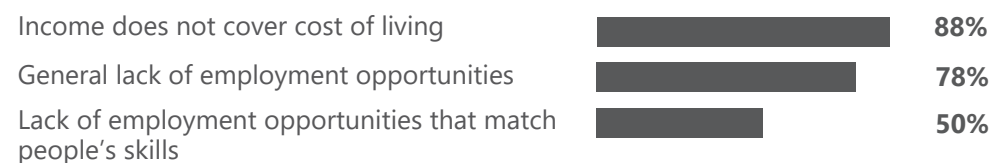


KIs in **38%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



KIs in **43%** 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) <sup>3,7</sup>



### Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) <sup>3</sup>



### % of assessed communities where livelihood sources from agriculture were reported <sup>3</sup>

Livelihood source	Host community households	IDP households
Food crop production	67%	19%
Cash crop production	56%	11%
Livestock products	55%	41%
Sale of livestock	18%	15%



Host community households



IDP households

## BASIC NEEDS OVERVIEW

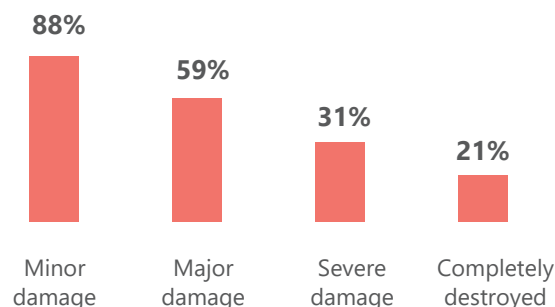
In **78%** of assessed communities, at least **80%** of the host community households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **56%** of assessed communities, **none** of the IDP households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **24%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **unfinished or abandoned residential buildings**

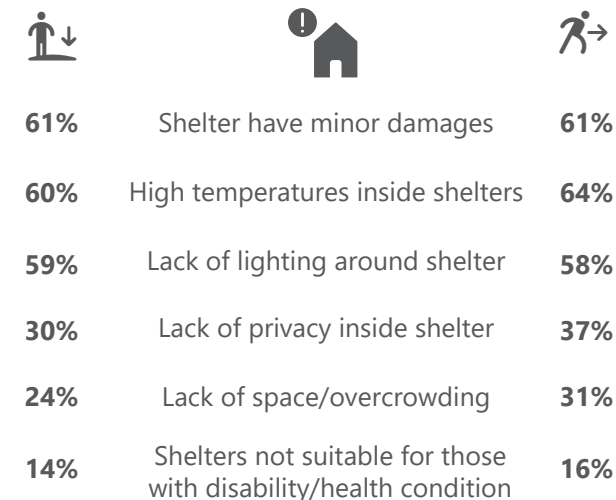
In **16%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **tents**

### Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage (by % of assessed communities)<sup>4, 8</sup>



**Shelter and repair materials being too expensive** was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 84% of assessed communities)

### Most commonly reported shelter inadequacies (by % of assessed communities)<sup>3</sup>



# 93%

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

### Commonly reported barriers to accessing sufficient food (by % of communities)<sup>3, 7</sup>

1	Markets exist and food is available but households cannot afford essential food items	80%
2	Households are not able to store food or cook food	22%
3	Markets exist but not all essential food items are available	18%

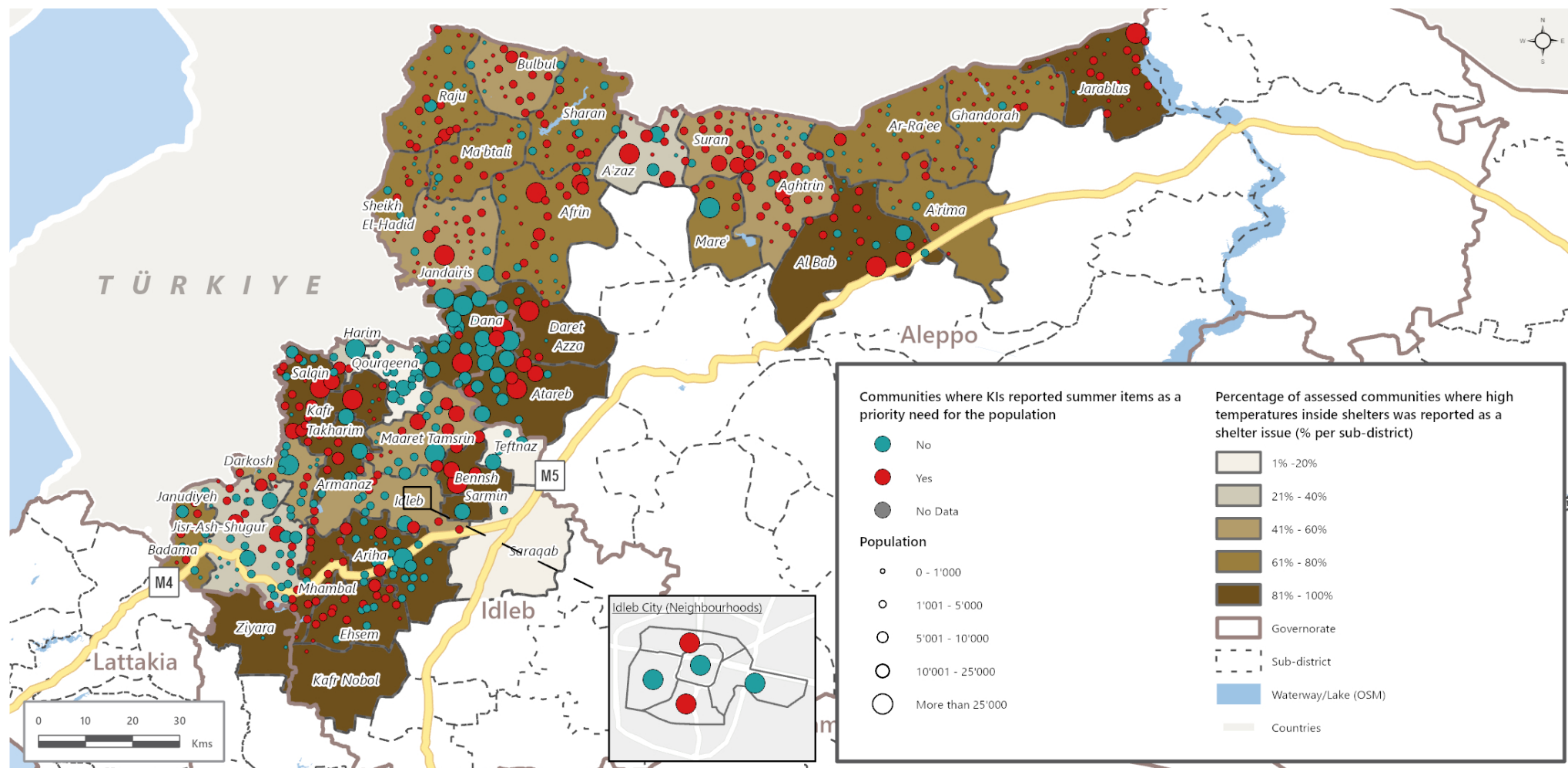


**High price of suitable foods formula** was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 88% of assessed communities)<sup>7, 9</sup>

### Commonly reported **source of food** for households **other than markets** (by % of assessed communities)<sup>10, 7</sup>

1	Own production or farming	60%
2	Relying on food stored previously	28%
3	Assistance from local councils, NGOs or other groups	17%





## High temperatures in shelters and summer needs in Northwest Syria

### Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of communities per sub-district in which KIs reported that high temperatures inside shelters as a common shelter inadequacy. In addition, red dots on the map correspond to the communities where summer items were reported among the three top priority needs for households, while blue dots represent community where summer items were not reported as a top priority need.

## ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES



## Access to Electricity

&gt;12 hrs/day

was the most commonly reported range of hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 47% of assessed communities)

## Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 61% of assessed communities)

72%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **Solar panels too expensive** as the most frequently reported barrier to electricity access



## Access to Water

51%

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



7 days 11%  
5-6 days 10%  
3-4 days 14%  
1-2 days 20%  
0 days 45%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 502 communities connected to a water network)

## Private water trucking

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



## Access to Sanitation

52%

% 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%

30%

20%

Paid private waste collection

Free public waste collection

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

35%

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



## Access to Markets

24%

% 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 78% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

62%

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



## Access to Health Services

57%

% 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)<sup>7, 10</sup>

62%

52%

50%

Medicines and other commodities

First aid or emergency care




Treatment for chronic diseases

## High cost of transportation to health facilities

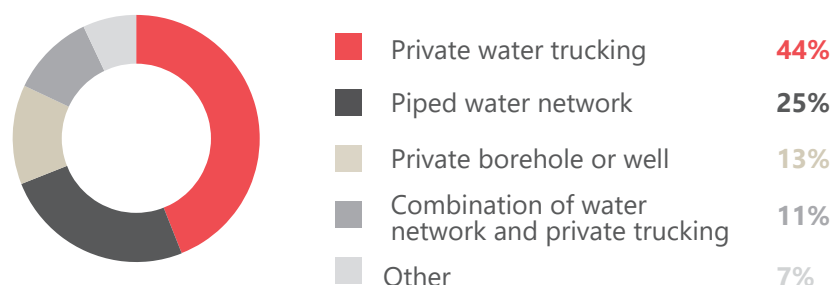
was the most commonly reported **barrier to accessing healthcare** (reported by KIs in 69% of assessed communities)

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Most commonly reported sanitation issues (by % of assessed communities)<sup>3</sup>

Unsafe soak pit		65%
Sewage network does not reach all households		33%
Sewage system needs repair/cleaning		29%

## Primary sources of drinking water (by % of assessed communities)






51%

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

66%

% 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)<sup>3</sup>

	Chlorine tablets	57%
	Sedimentation	27%
	Boiling	25%

Reported challenges related to quantity, quality and diversity of food for babies and young children (less than 2 years old)<sup>3, 9</sup>

38%

**Limited variety of food** reported in **31%** of assessed communities





**Not enough food** reported in **18%** of assessed communities

**Poor quality of food** reported in **10%** of assessed communities








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

Reported barriers to accessing healthcare (by % of assessed communities)<sup>3, 12</sup>

Lack of medicines/medical equipment at the health facility		36%
Health facilities are overcrowded		35%
Absence of health facilities present/functioning in assessed location		31%
Specialised services are not available		12%

Essential health services available either in the assessed community or in nearby locations (by % of communities where households could access health services)<sup>13</sup>

 No  Yes

General and or specialist surgical services	46% 	54%
Treatment for parasitic infections	43% 	57%
Skilled care during childbirth (General obstetric care - normal deliveries)	33% 	67%
Vaccination	23% 	77%
First aid/emergency care (accident and injuries)	5% 	95%



## SECURITY AND PROTECTION

### Intersectoral findings on security



**General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets** was a reported barrier to market access in 6 assessed communities

**General safety and security concerns at markets** was a reported barrier to market access in 21 assessed communities

**Movement restrictions** was reported as a protection risk in 4 assessed communities <sup>7</sup>



**Theft** was reported as a protection risk in 17% of assessed communities <sup>7</sup>

**Fear from imminent conflict** was reported as a protection risk in 15% of assessed communities <sup>7</sup>

**Threat from shelling** was reported as a protection risk in 11% of assessed communities <sup>7</sup>

**Threat from airstrikes** were reported as a protection risk in 45 assessed communities <sup>7</sup>



**The security situation** was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in 44 assessed communities <sup>7</sup>



**Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities** was reported as a barrier to healthcare in 8 assessed communities

### Most commonly reported protection priority needs (by % of assessed communities) <sup>7, 10</sup>

- 1** Special assistance for vulnerable groups **67%**
- 2** Specialised child protection services **48%**
- 3** Psychosocial support **42%**



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

- 29%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 37%**
- 3%** Some people did not have the necessary personal document as a barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance
- 4%**

**60%**

**63%**

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

### Gender and diversity

KIs in **34%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods <sup>7</sup>

KIs in **31%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods <sup>7</sup>

KIs in **6%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **29%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **6%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> The Greater Idlib area includes Idlib 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'az, Al Bab and Jarablus districts.

<sup>2</sup> KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a sector was selected across all three categories (first, second or third highest priority).

<sup>3</sup> KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

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

<sup>5</sup> 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 NWS Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) July 2023, 1 USD = 9,338 SYP; 1TRY= 385 SYP.

<sup>6</sup> According to the NWS [JMMI](#) July 2023, 1 USD = 9,338 SYP.

<sup>7</sup> 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).

<sup>8</sup> 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).

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

<sup>10</sup> KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

## REFERENCES

a. World Food Programme. (13 June 2023). Syria in crisis: Food ration cuts set to plunge millions into severe hunger. Retrieved from. <https://www.wfp.org>

b. Al Jazeera. (16 July 2023). Living in 'an oven': Heatwave grips displacement camps in Syria. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com>

c. World Health Organization. (23 November 2018). WHO Housing and health guidelines. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int>

d. The New Arab. (11 October 2022). Solar power in Syria: The energy of choice in light of a wrecked electrical grid and fuel hikes. Retrieved from <http://www.newarab.com>

N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset	N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset
Host community households	642	Currency used for paying rent	419
IDP households	657	Currency in which wages are paid (merged)	543
Challenges to assistance access (host community)	371	Days when water is available from network	493
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	229	Barriers to markets functioning	159
Challenges to assistance access (IDP)	381	Methods to make water safer (merged)	225
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	229	Problems with drinking water (merged)	341
Currency used for paying water	535		

## 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).