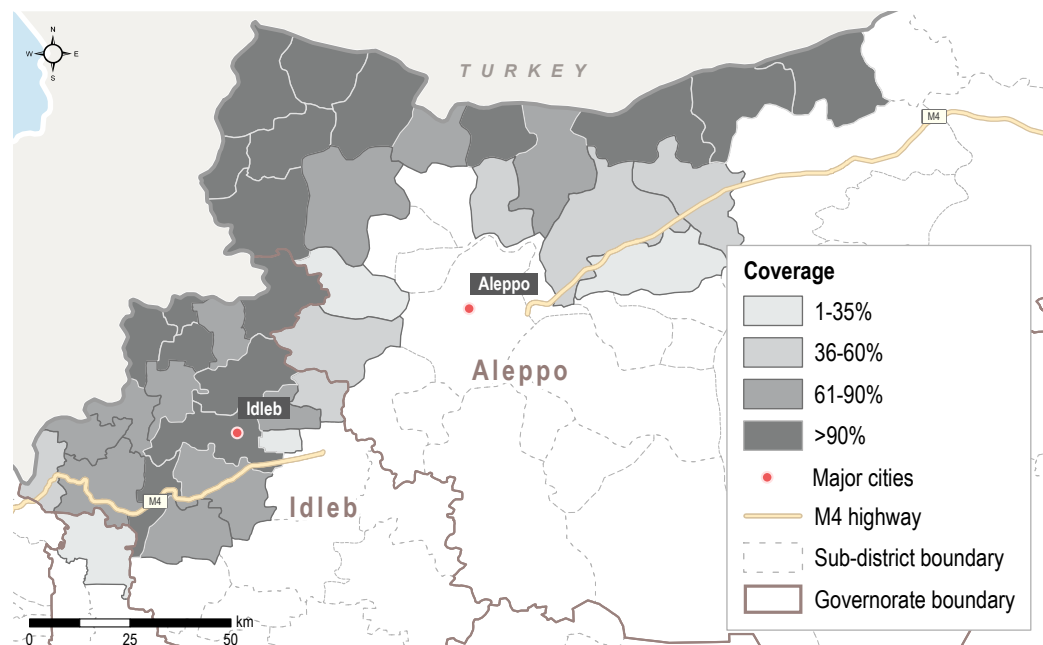


Introduction and Methodology

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 security and protection situation 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 **891 communities** across the greater Idlib area¹ (375 communities) and northern Aleppo area (516 communities). **Data was collected between 1-17 of June 2021 from 3,307 KIs** (19% female). Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection (May/June 2021). 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

A deterioration of the security situation in NWS resulted in civilian casualties, displacement, and negatively affected access to health services. In addition, water scarcity represented a barrier for those relying on agriculture and contributed to the worsening of the already fragile livelihood situation in the area.

- **Aerial and ground attacks in Southern Idlib caused casualties and displacement.** Repeated firing of rockets and artillery attacks in the southern countryside of Idlib resulted in 19 deaths between 6 and 23 June.^a In Greater Idlib, 28% of the assessed communities indicated a threat from airstrikes, 26% indicated a threat from shelling, and 10% a threat from sniper/gunfire. A large-scale displacement was observed from the areas of Jabal Alzawiya due to the deteriorated security situation.^a According to data collected by REACH Syria's Camps and Displacement Unit, almost 20,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) left Ehsem and Ariha Sub-districts in June, half of which relocated to Atareb and Dana Sub-districts.^b

- **Violent conflict in Northern Aleppo and a lack of resources negatively impacted healthcare provision.** On 12 June, Al-Shifaa Paediatrics and Maternity Hospital in Afrin was hit by missiles. The attack resulted in civilian casualties^c and rendered the hospital out of service.^d KIs indicated a lack of medicines and/or medical equipment in nearly half of the assessed communities across NWS. Moreover, a rise in medicine prices and the shortage of specialized health workers were observed.^e In nearly one-third of the assessed communities in Northern Aleppo, Health was reportedly the first priority need for the resident population.

- **Water scarcity affected domestic consumption and agricultural livelihoods.** In 62% of the communities, not all households had access to sufficient water. Due to the depletion of groundwater sources, water shortages were reported in Al-Bab^f, where 63% of the assessed communities reportedly relied on boreholes or wells as the most common source of water. Low access to water and rainfall deficits also affected agricultural production. A lack of water for agriculture and a deficiency of rainfall resulting in water shortage were reported by KIs in 46% and 24% of the assessed communities that relied on agriculture as a source of livelihood. This is of concern, considering that food crop production and cash crop production were the second and third most commonly reported sources of income for residents in NWS.

- **Households' inability to cover basic needs expenses was widespread, and negative coping strategies were adopted.** KIs in 96% of the assessed communities reported that income does not cover the cost of living. Households' coping strategies for lack of sufficient income included sending children below 15 to work and early marriages in 79% and 41% of the assessed communities. According to the REACH field team, begging was observed in the streets at an unprecedented rate.

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.



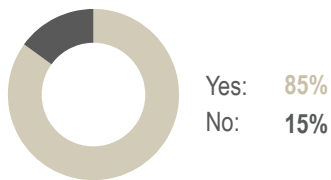
Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



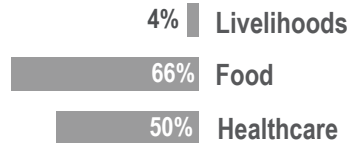
Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for residents (by % of communities) ^{2,3}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Healthcare	NFIs [▲]	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	70%
2	Food	Livelihoods	Summer items [▲]	Food	47%
3	Livelihoods	Food	WASH [▲]	Healthcare	41%

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



% of communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance** for residents ⁴



Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of communities) ^{4,♦}

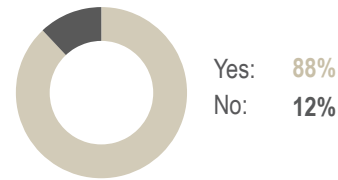
Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance	Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need 61%	1 89% No humanitarian assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs 56%	2 5% People did not comply with the eligibility criteria
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient 34%	3 5% Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance



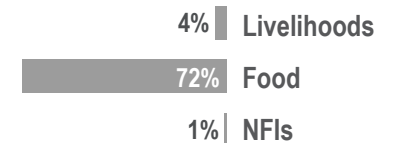
Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs (by % of communities) ^{2,3}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Shelter	NFIs	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	60%
2	Food	Food	Summer items	Food	57%
3	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	NFIs	NFIs	42%

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



% of communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance** for IDPs ⁴



Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of communities) ^{4,♦}

Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance	Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs 59%	1 94% No humanitarian assistance was available
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need 58%	2 6% Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient 37%	3 0% Not aware if assistance was available

[♦]Summer items include fans, sleeping nets, and water cooler boxes.

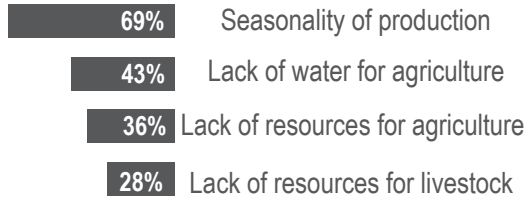


Economic Conditions

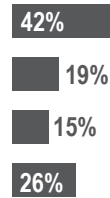
Region	Estimated median monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{5,6}			Estimated median monthly rent price for a two bedroom apartment ^{5,6}			Estimated median daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}		
	SYP	TRY [▲]	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
Northwest Syria	16,465 SYP			38,500 SYP			6,000 SYP		
Greater Idlib area	18,295 SYP			54,884 SYP			5,488 SYP		
Northern Aleppo	15,500 SYP			36,590 SYP			6,050 SYP		
% of communities where indicator was reported in following currencies [*]	33%	67%	0%	29%	55%	16%	38%	62%	0%

Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of communities) ⁴

Residents



IDPs



% of communities where common livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ⁴

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	69%	21%
Cash crop production	66%	4%
Livestock products	63%	55%
Sale of livestock	15%	25%

86% and 94%

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

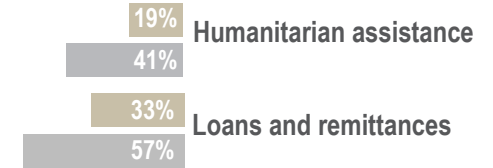
59 days

Number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of basic SMEB[▲] items ^{5,9}

96% and 47%

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

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



Intersectoral findings on unaffordability hindering access to goods and services



KIs in 64% of communities cited that rent prices were unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in 55% of communities cited the high cost of fuel for generators as a common challenge



KIs in 78% of communities cited the high cost of solar panels as a common challenge



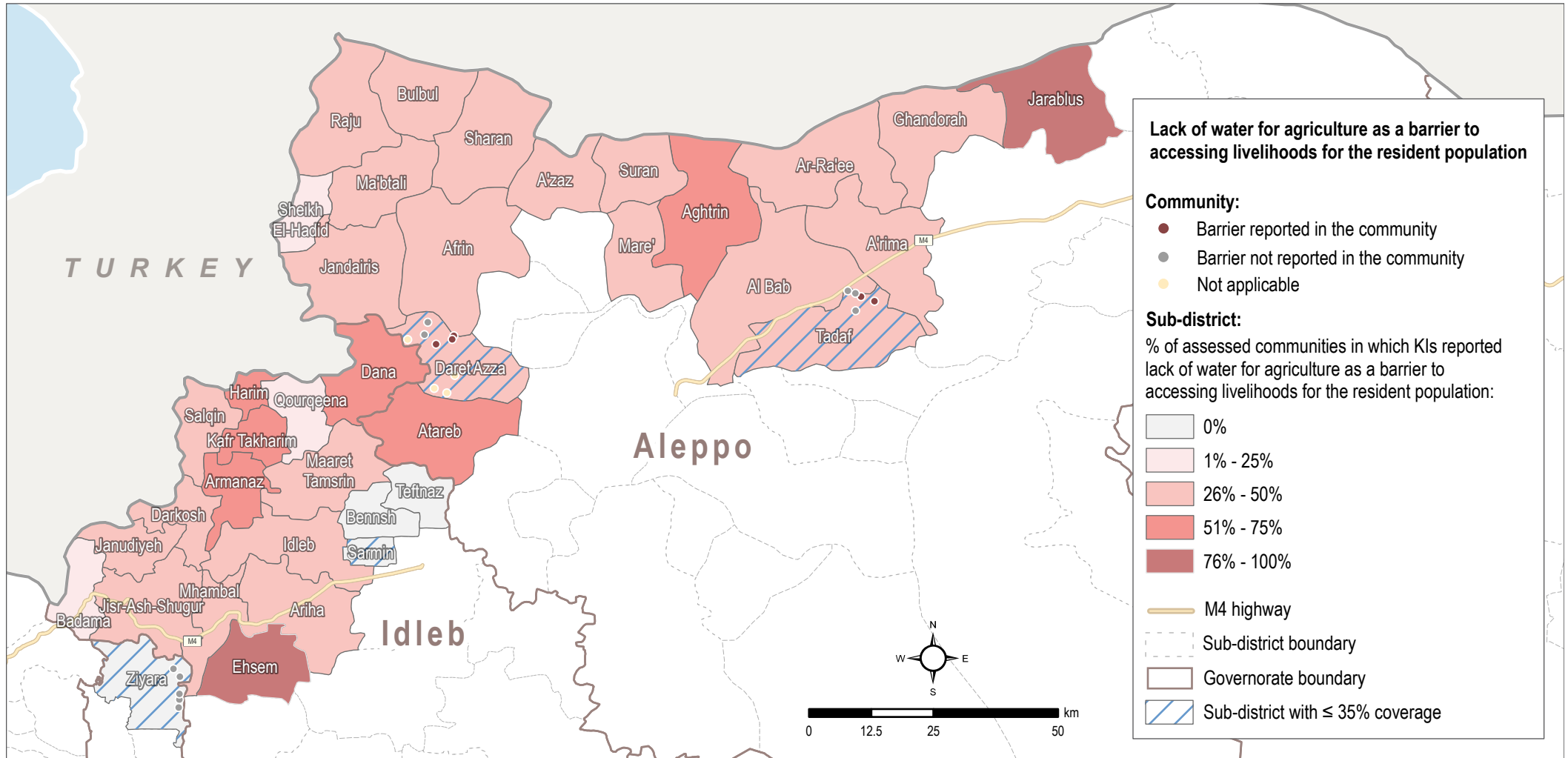
KIs in 53% of communities cited the high cost of water trucking as a common challenge



KIs in 86% of communities cited the high cost of food as a common challenge ⁸



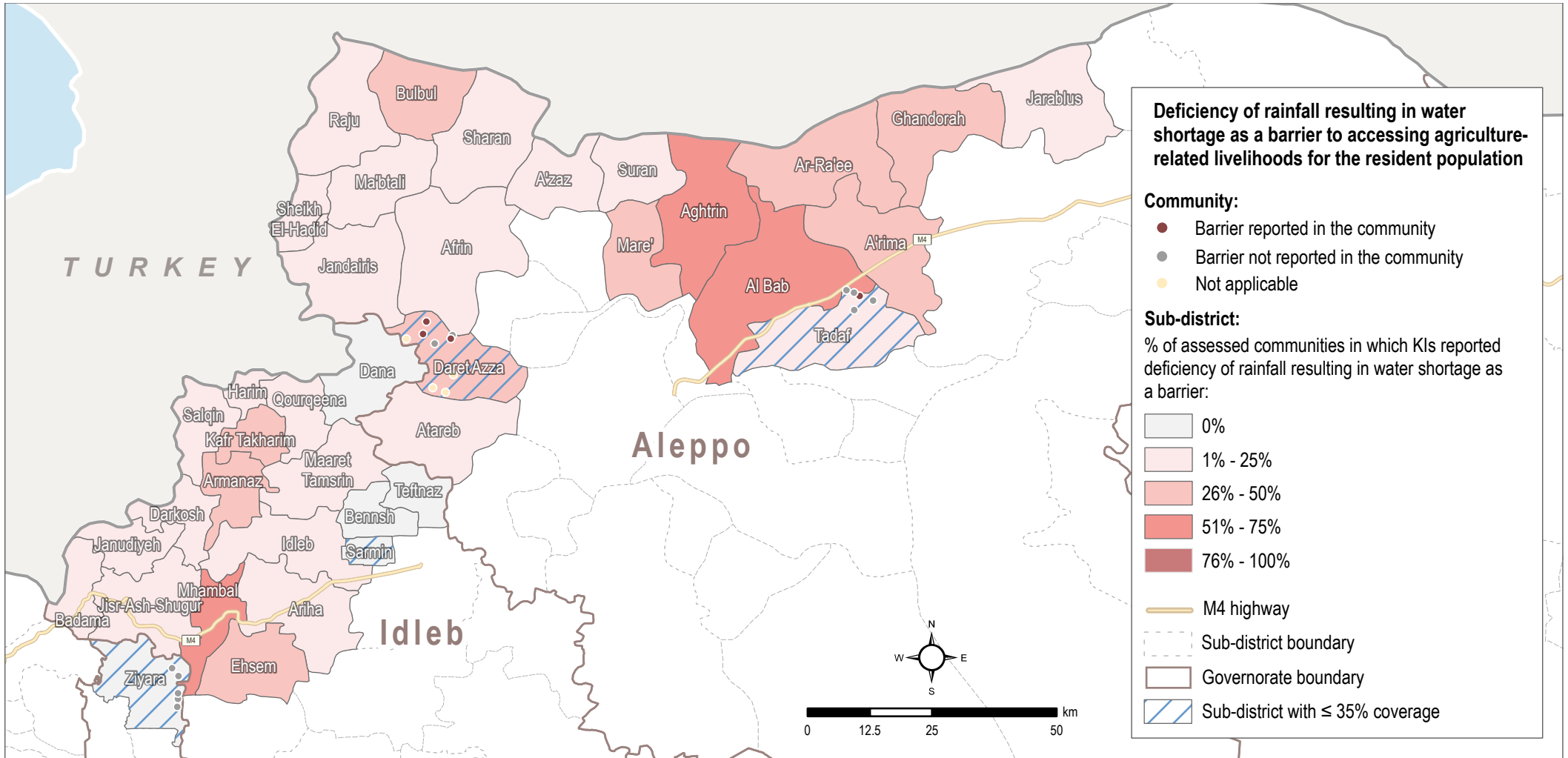
KIs in 47% of communities cited the high cost of health services as a common challenge



Lack of Water for Agriculture as a Barrier to Livelihoods for Residents

Note on the map

This map displays the proportion of communities in the sub-districts where KIs reported that a lack of water for agriculture, for example for irrigation, prevented residents from accessing livelihoods. Ehsem and Jarablus sub-districts in particular show a high proportion of communities in which this livelihoods barrier was reported.



Rainfall Deficiency as a Barrier to Livelihoods from Agriculture

Note on the map

This map displays the proportion of communities in the sub-districts where KIs reported that a deficiency of rainfall resulting in a shortage of water prevented residents from accessing agriculture-related livelihoods. Higher percentages were reported in Aleppo governorate, particularly in Aghtrin and Al-Bab sub-districts.



Living Conditions

In **94%** of communities reportedly at least **80%** of the resident population owned their shelter

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

In **15%** of communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **26%** of 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 **17%** of communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **12%** of communities

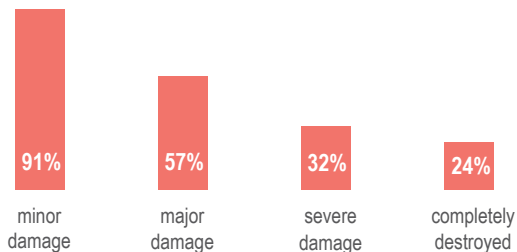


Problems with the drinking water were reported in **28%** of communities



Water being calcareous was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 27% of communities)

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages were reported (by % of communities) ^{5,10}



Reported sanitation issues affecting public space in the community (by % of communities) ⁴

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible



Solid waste in the streets



Sewage system pollutes public areas



Stagnant water



Flooding in the streets



Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 82% of communities) ⁴



97% of communities where KIs reported that **households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food** ⁸



In 20% of these communities, KIs reported that the unavailability of certain food items was a challenge to accessing sufficient food ⁸

Most commonly reported coping strategies for a lack of food (by % of communities) ⁴

- 1 Relying on less preferred food or lower food quality **73%**
- 2 Borrowing money to buy food **72%**
- 3 Buying food with money usually used for other things **63%**



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 91% of communities) ^{4,11}

Commonly reported **sources of food** for households other than markets (by % of communities) ⁴

- 1 Own production or farming **61%**
- 2 Borrowing money for food **31%**
- 3 Assistance from local council or NGOs **31%**



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 28% of communities)

Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 55% of communities)

47%

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



Access to Water

62%

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



7 days	1%
5-6 days	2%
3-4 days	8%
1-2 days	39%
0 days	50%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 645 communities connected to a water network) *

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 44% of communities)

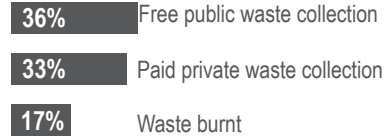


Access to Sanitation

46%

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

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



36%

% of communities where KIs reported waste removal services as a WASH priority need ⁸



Access to Markets

23%

% of 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 76% of communities where households were unable to access markets in their own location)

68%

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

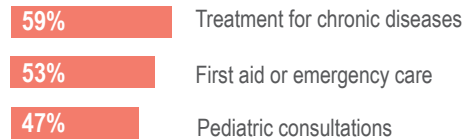


Access to Health Services

56%

% of 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 communities) ⁸



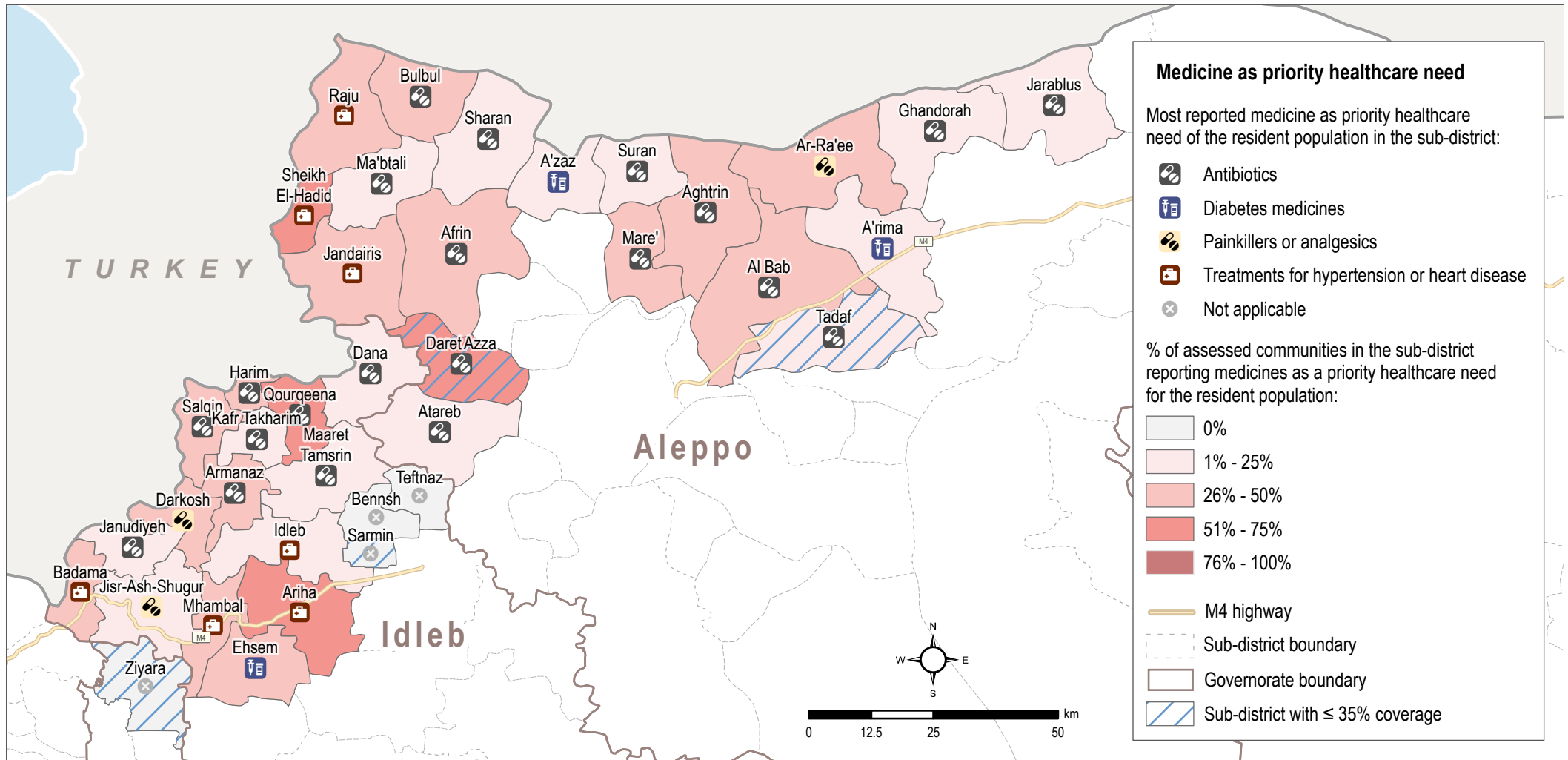
Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 89% of communities)



Access to Education Services

Due to summer holidays, no information on education was collected. Information on access to education services will be displayed again in October.



Medicines as a Priority Health Need for Residents

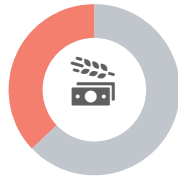
Note on the map

This map shows the distribution of medicines as a priority healthcare need for residents by sub-district. The shading represents the proportion of communities in the sub-districts where KIs reported that medicines were a health priority need for residents. The symbols illustrate which medicines were most commonly reported to be a priority need for residents.



COVID-19

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



None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 63%
At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 37%

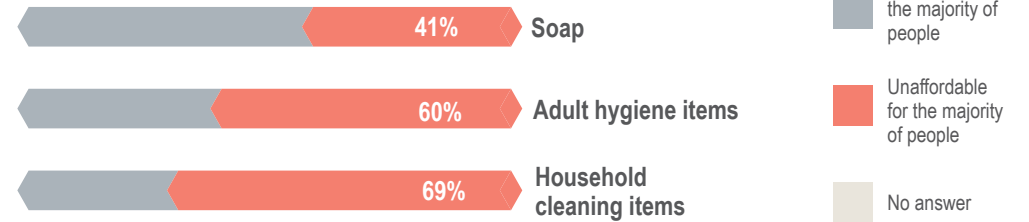
Most commonly reported sectors affected by COVID-19 (by % of communities)



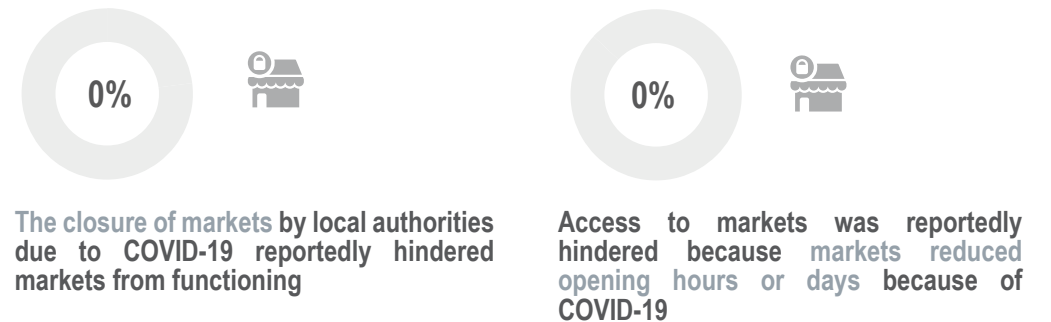
% of communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported



Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of communities) ¹²



% of 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 **9%** of communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **19%** of communities

Markets not opening because of security issues was a reported barrier to markets not functioning in **2%** of communities



Threat from airstrikes was reported as a protection risk in **124 communities**⁸

Threat from shelling, sniper or gunfire was reported as a protection risk in **124 communities**⁸

Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances was reported as a protection risk in **172 communities**⁸

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **67 communities**⁸



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **39%** of communities⁸

Lack of lighting around the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **88%** of communities⁸

The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **11%** of communities



General safety and security concerns at the health facility was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **6%** of communities

Most commonly reported protection priority needs

(by % of communities)^{3,8}

- 1 **79%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 2 **50%** Specialised child protection services
- 3 **44%** Psychosocial support



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

- 31%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 36%** Some people did not have the necessary personal documents to receive humanitarian assistance
- 2%**
- 2%**

% of communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported⁴

Residents

- 31%** Early marriage
- 0%** Forced marriage
- 6%** High risk work
- 1%** Sending family members to beg
- 70%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

IDPs

- 38%**
- 0%**
- 14%**
- 2%**
- 79%**

Age, Gender, and Diversity

KIs in **50%** of communities reported a lack of employment opportunities for women as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸

KIs in **46%** of communities reported a lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸

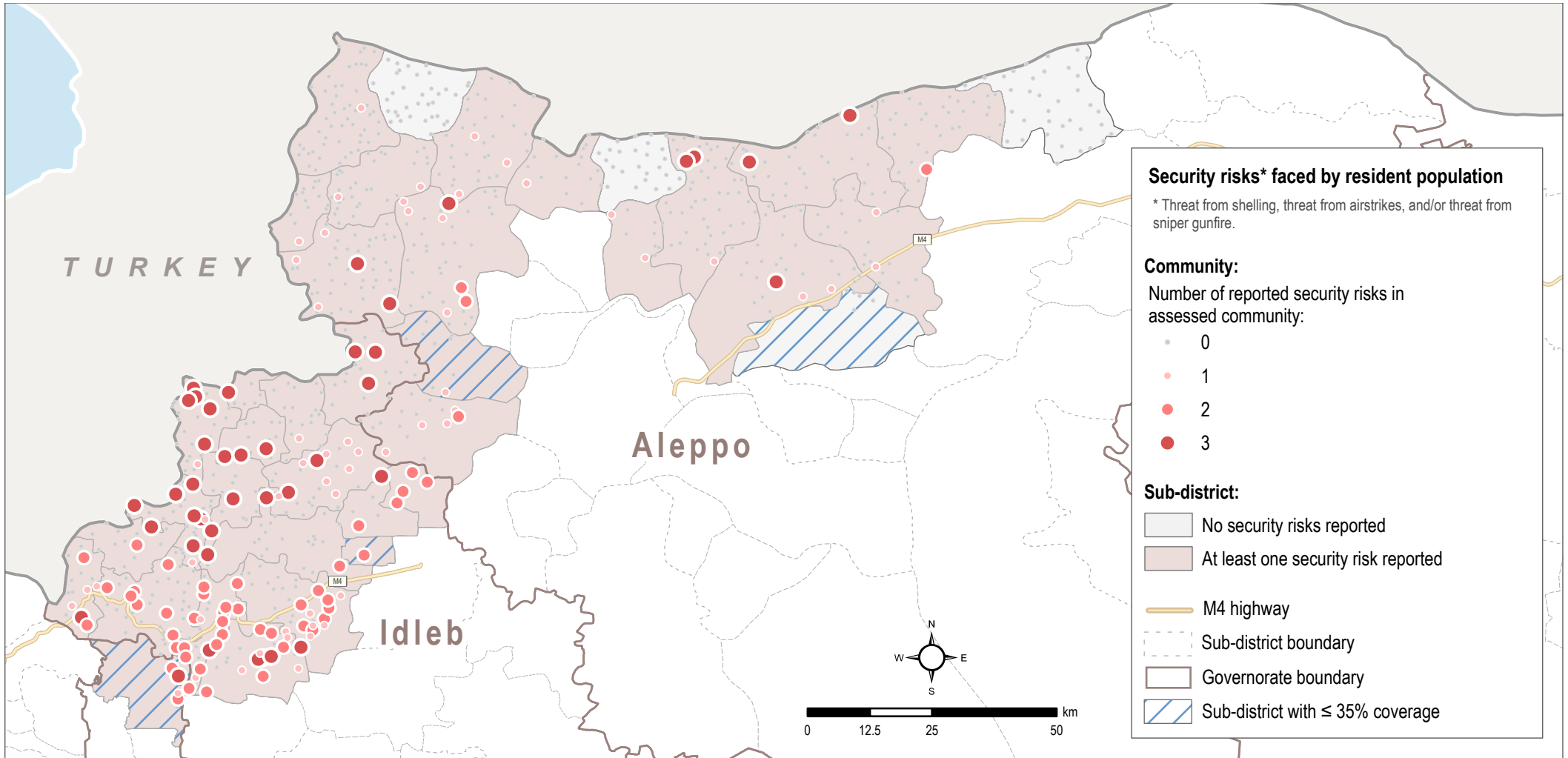
KIs in **14%** of communities reported a lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **42%** of communities reported a lack of market access for people with restricted mobility

KIs in **6%** of 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 **17%** of communities⁸

Hazardous child labour was reported as a protection risk in **8%** of communities⁸



Security Risks faced by Residents

Note on the map

This map shows the distribution of reported security risks including threat from shelling, airstrikes, and/or sniper gunfire faced by residents across the assessed communities. The size and colour of the dots indicate how many of the threats (from shelling, airstrikes, or sniper gunfire) were reported in the assessed locations. The shading illustrates in which sub-districts any of the treats were reported.

Endnotes

1. The greater Idlib 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 currently, 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 NWS **REACH Market Monitoring** exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the NWS REACH Market Monitoring June 2021, 1 USD = 3,165 SYP; 1TRY= 370 SYP.
7. According to the NWS **REACH Market Monitoring** June 2021, 1 USD = 3,165 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 NWS **REACH Market Monitoring** June 2021, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 356,669 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	883	Currency used for paying water	841
IDPs	858	Currency used for paying rent	616
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	713	Currency in which wages are paid (merge)	757
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	133	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	866
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	727	Days when water is available from network	645
Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	99	Barriers to markets functioning	207

- a. Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (24 June 2021). Along with mass exodus over military escalation on Idlib | Russian and regime forces kill and injure over 100 civilians in “de-escalation zone”. Retrieved from <https://www.syriahr.com>
- b. REACH Syria. (June 2021). Daily Emergency Needs Tracking weekly bulletin (June 2021): Displacement from Jabal Alzawiya. Retrieved from <https://www.impact-repository.org/>
- c. Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (13 June 2021). Death toll update | 21 people, mostly civilians, killed in Afrin massacre. Retrieved from <https://www.syriahr.com>
- d. NWS NGO Forum. (15 June 2021). Statement on the attack on Al-Shifaa Hospital in Northwest Syria. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>
- e. Information provided by REACH field team.
- f. Center for Operational Analysis and Research. (5 July 2021). Al Bab: Water Scarcity Rises in Northern Rural Aleppo. Retrieved from <https://coar-global.org>

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. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org.