

Idleb Governorate, March 2018

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

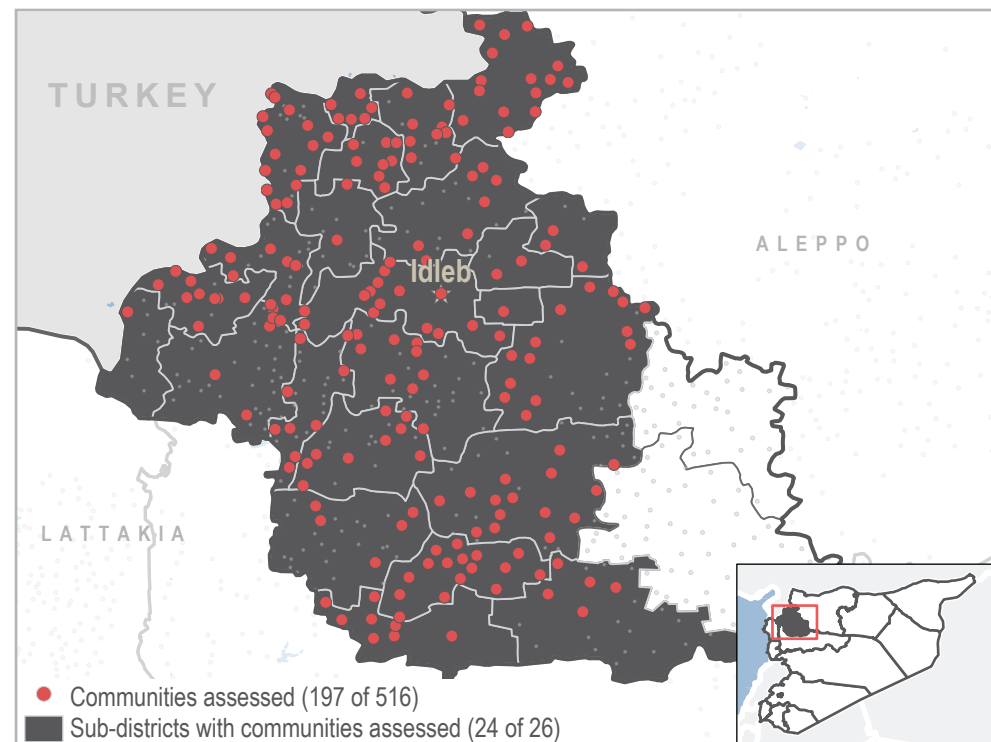
OVERALL FINDINGS¹

Idleb Governorate, situated in northwest Syria, hosts one of the largest IDP populations in Syria. Of the assessed communities, **21**, located primarily in Al Ma'ra and Harim district, reported that pre-conflict populations left their communities in March due to an escalation in conflict. Out of the **197** communities assessed, **189** reported hosting IDPs in March, approximately **604,707** in total. New IDP and refugee arrivals were reported in **14** of the assessed communities. Approximately **2,375 IDP** returnees were seen in **8** communities throughout Ariha and Al Ma'ra districts. The majority of these reportedly returned to Tah and Raffa communities, both located in close proximity to each other in southern Idleb. KIs in these communities cited family reunification and a perceived cessation of hostilities as reasons for return. Spontaneous refugee returns from Lebanon and Turkey were reported in **7** communities (approximately **161** in total), and the most commonly reported reasons for return were to reunite with their families and protect or reclaim assets².

In the majority of assessed communities, pre-conflict populations and IDPs reportedly lived in independent apartments or houses (**96%** and **60%** respectively). However, **6%** of the communities reported that IDPs most commonly lived in tents. These communities were mainly located in Heish and Mhambal sub-districts. The majority of assessed communities reported that generators and batteries were their main source of electricity in March, while **22** communities, mainly in Heish and Salqin sub-districts, reported solar power as their main source. Over half of the assessed communities stated that they experienced no lack of fuel. However, in the [March Market Monitoring Situation Overview](#) there was a reported spike in fuel and water prices attributed to an increase in conflict blocking the transport of fuel. In the remaining communities that reported a lack of fuel, the main coping strategies included burning clothes and plastic.

Of the assessed communities, **97** reported facing barriers to accessing healthcare services, with **61** reporting that there were no healthcare facilities available in the area. In March, the most commonly reported health problems were severe diseases affecting children under five, acute respiratory infections, and pregnancy-related conditions. Water trucking was the most common source of drinking water reported across assessed communities in Idleb in March. The majority of assessed communities reported that water was fine to drink. However, Qminas and Maghara communities reported that the water from their primary source tasted or smelled bad, and Deir Sunbul and Ehsem communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick. Of the assessed communities, **98** reported that they faced challenges in accessing sufficient amounts of food in March. The main challenges reported in these communities were a lack of resources to buy available food as well some food items being too expensive. Additionally, **150** of the assessed communities reported using coping strategies to deal with a lack of income, with the majority of key informants (KIs) reporting that the average monthly household income was **less than 50,000 SYP**. KIs in the majority of communities reported that primary and secondary schools were functioning and providing lessons in March, and **170** communities reported that most children³ were able to access education.

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

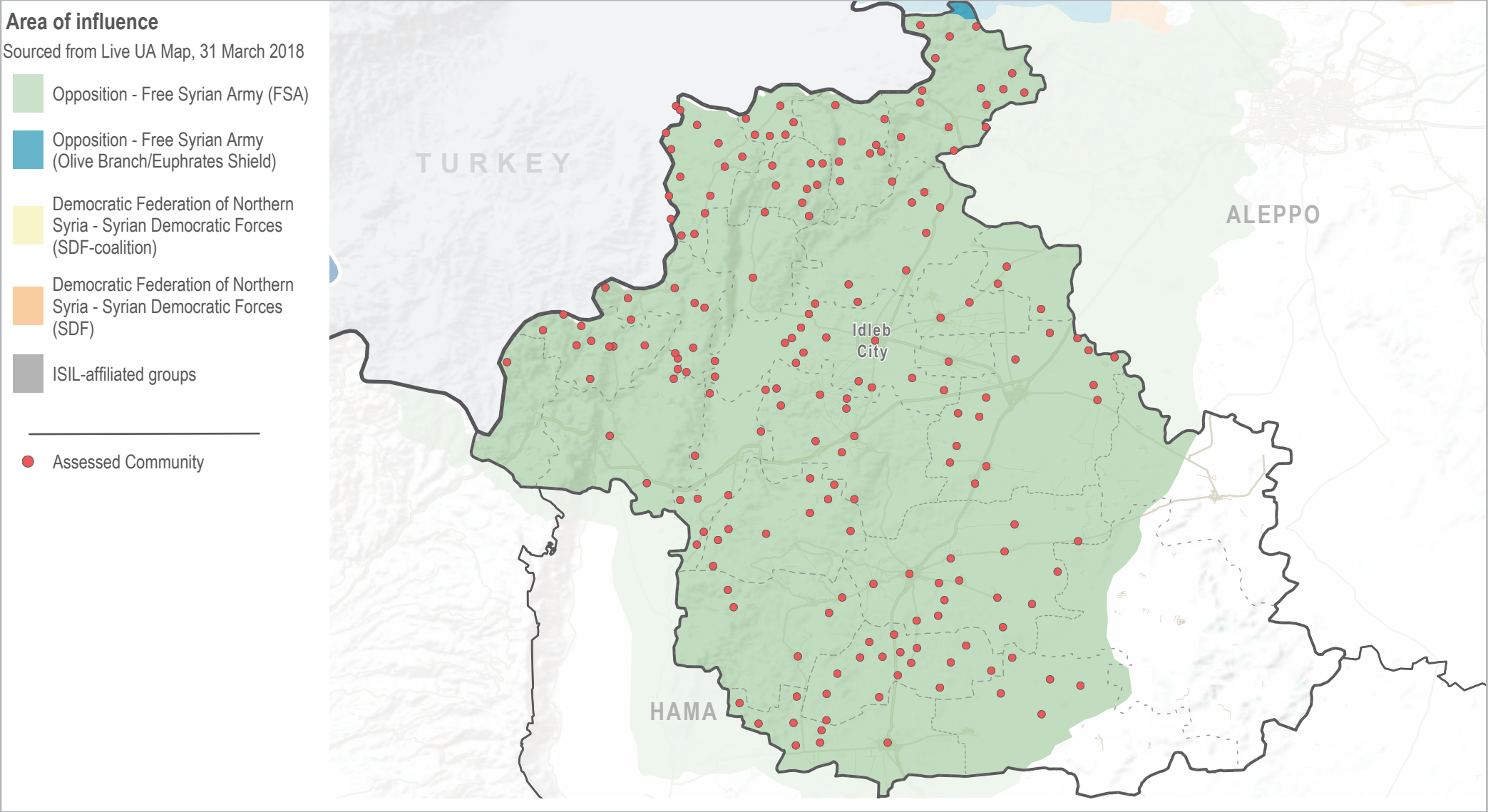
* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

KEY EVENTS

Forces advance into southern Idleb, escalating conflict in the governorate ⁴ .	An estimated 100,000 displaced by offensive in southern Idleb ⁵ .	Areas in southern Idleb become inaccessible to humanitarian actors due to ongoing hostilities ⁶ .	The group known as the Islamic State of Syria and the Levant (ISIL) is ousted from Idleb ⁷ .	Hundreds of families return to government-held eastern Idleb after a crossing opened on March 3rd ⁸ .	Limited response capacity to provide assistance in Idleb is stretched further as thousands more arrive from Eastern Ghouta ⁹ .
Mid December 2017	Early-mid January 2018	Early-mid January 2018	13 February 2018	Early March 2018	March 2018

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Governorate areas of influence:



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DISPLACEMENT

40,066 - 47,480 Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in March.

2,396 - 2,674 Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in March².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Termanin	5,000 - 5,500
Dana	3,000 - 3,500
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	3,000 - 3,200

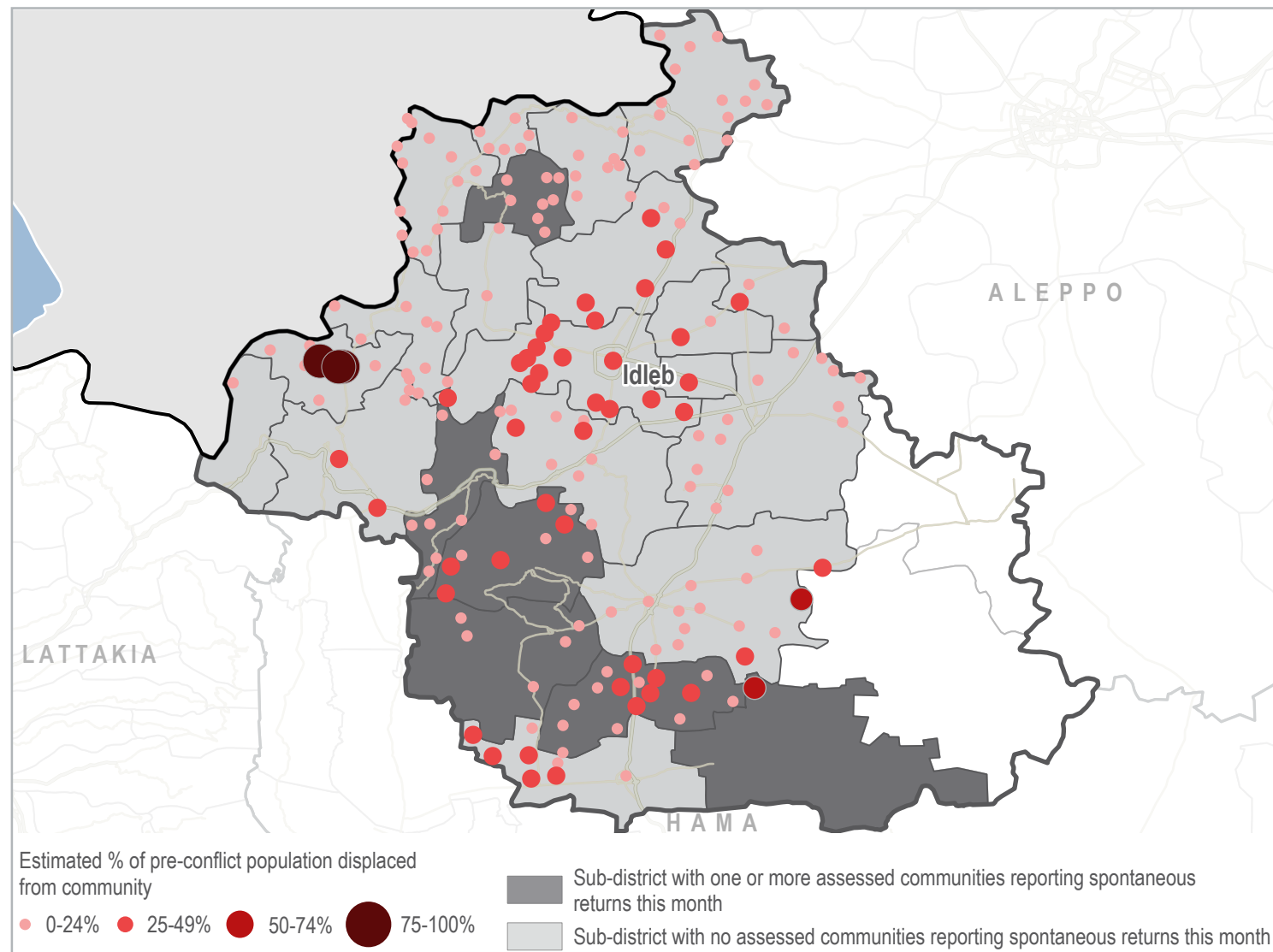
Top 3 sub-districts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

Kafr Batna (Rural Damascus)	13%
Arbin (Rural Damascus)	11%
Duma (Rural Damascus)	10%

175 communities reported no PCP departures. Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **22** assessed communities^{3,4}:

Loss of income	64%
Escalation of conflict	64%
Reduced access to basic services	27%

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



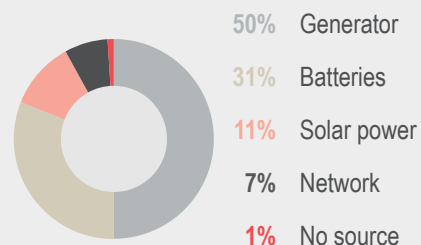
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



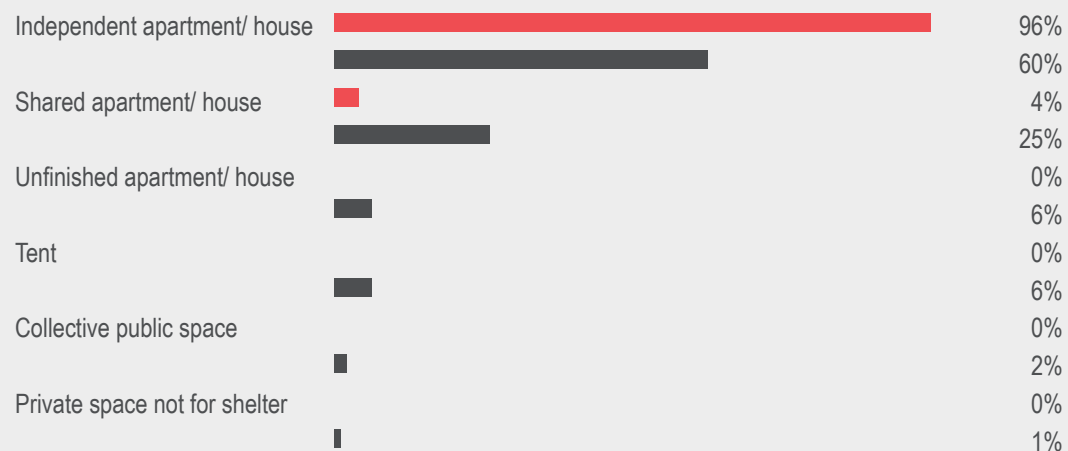
102 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining 90 assessed communities^{3,4}:



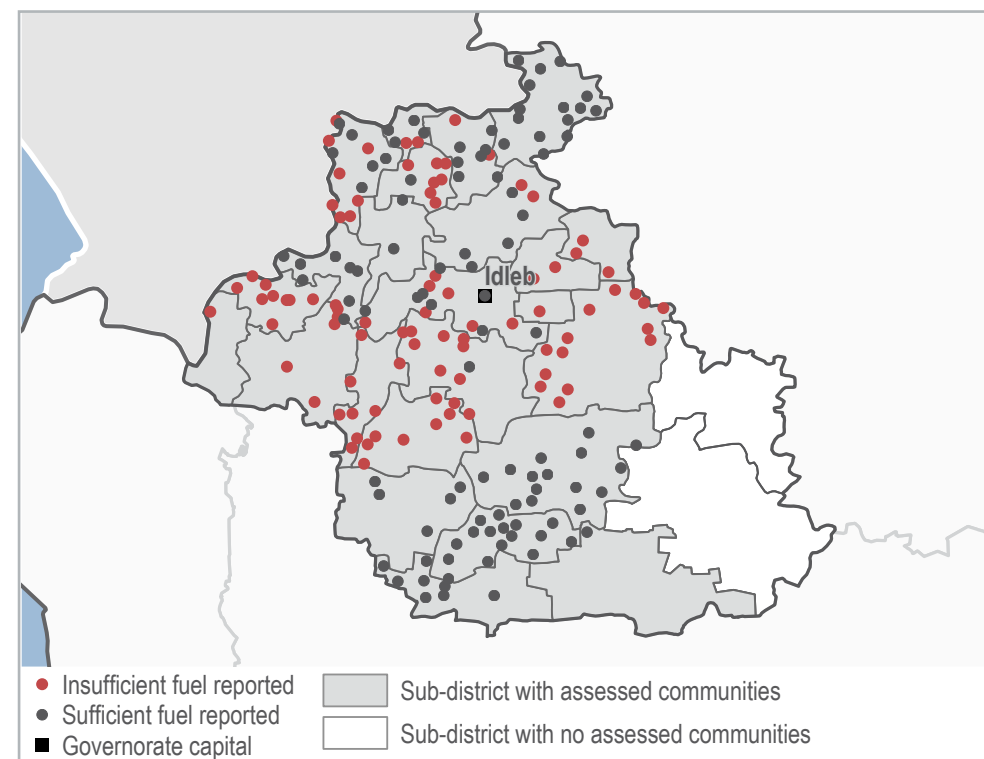
5,862 SYP Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.⁵

6,730 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 March:	Governorate average price in February:	Syrian average price in March:
Coal (1 kilogram)	135	188	333
Diesel (1 litre)	449	447	346
Butane (1 canister)	12,482	10,756	7,521
Firewood (1 tonne)	60,726	64,186	60,850

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

HEALTH

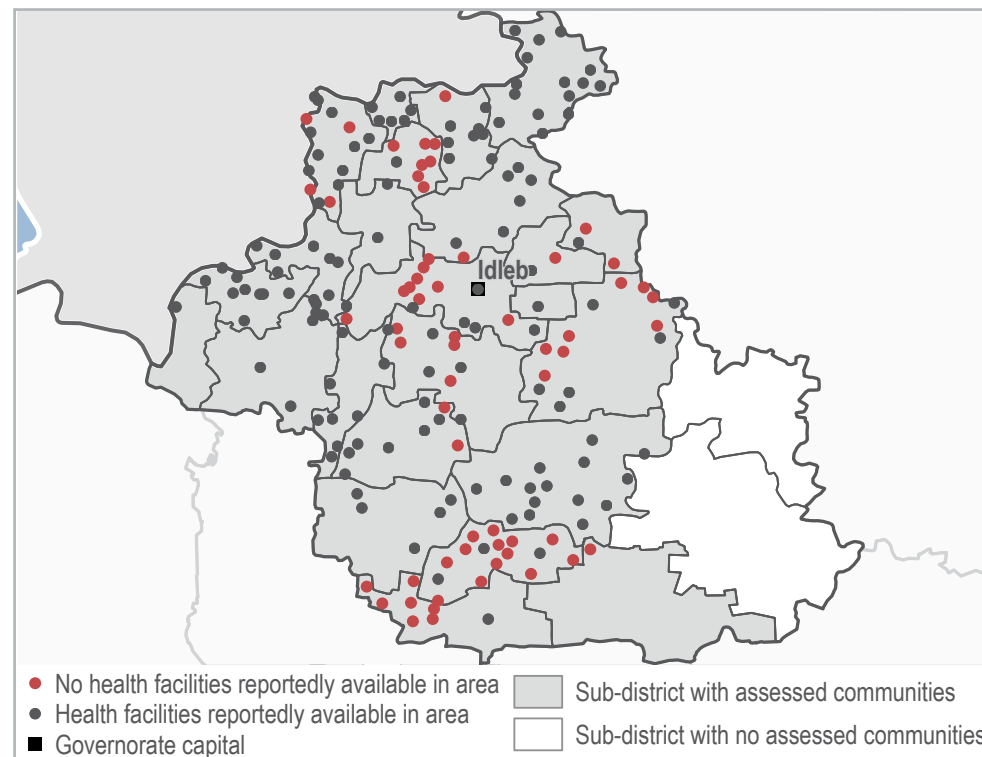
- 31** Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.
- 3** Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

96 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining 97 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



193 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}:

Antenatal care	39%
Assistive devices	37%
Medicine	30%

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

Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	65%
Acute respiratory infections	44%
Pregnancy related conditions	34%

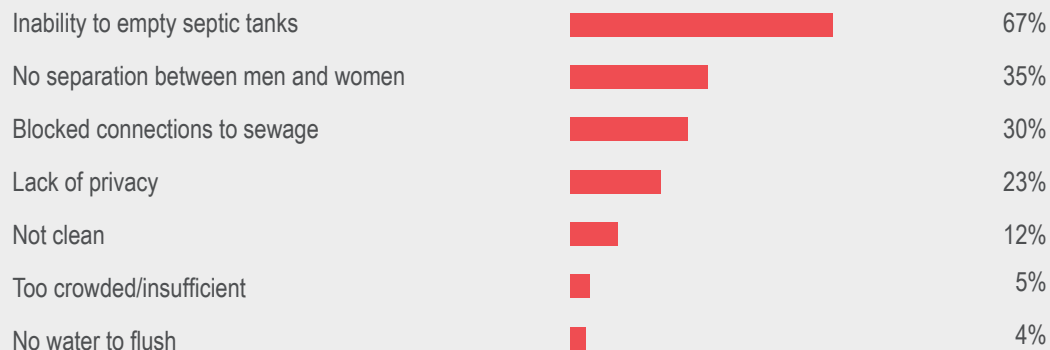
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

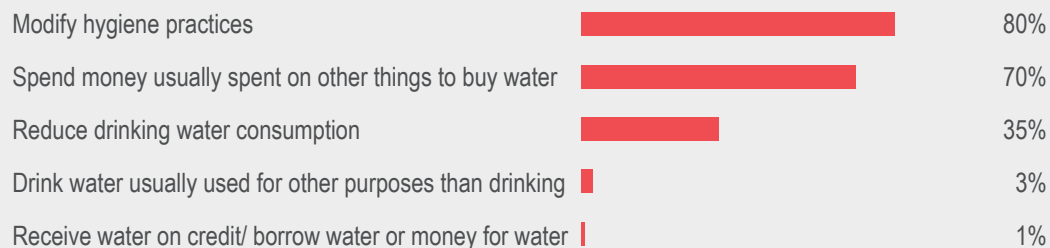


- 2 Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 2 Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

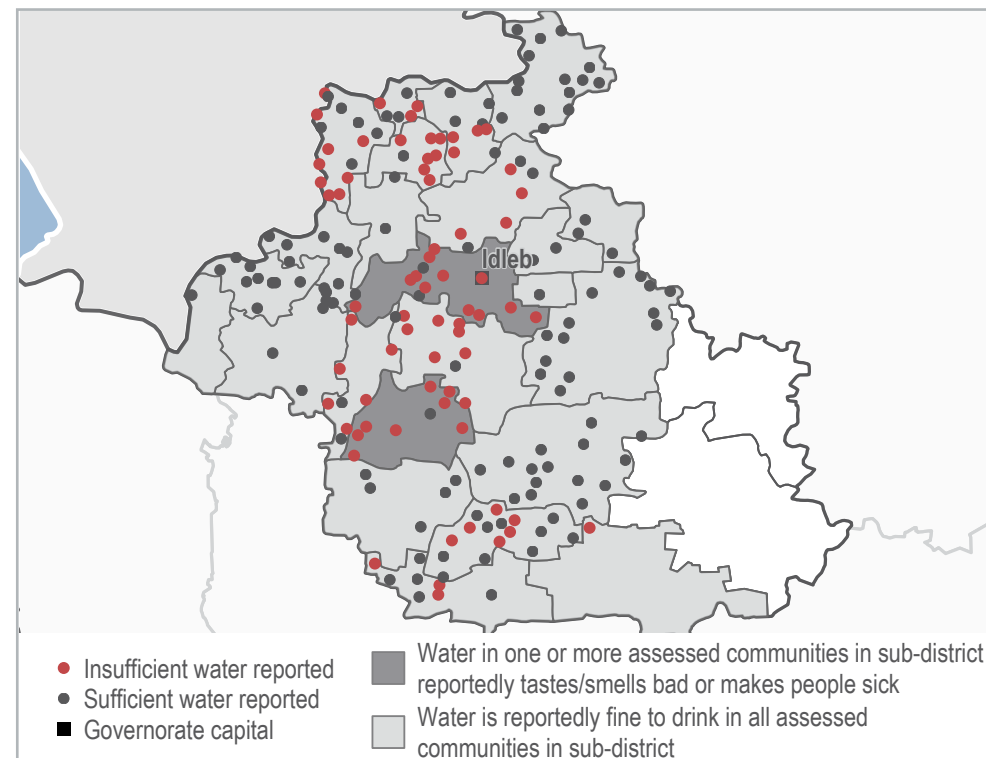
136 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 57 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



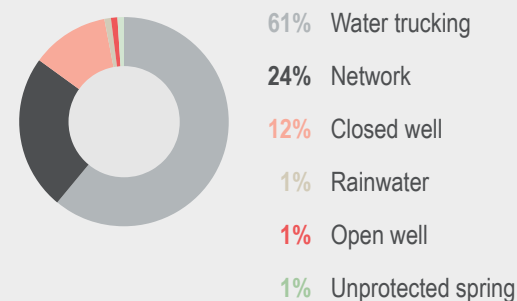
122 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 71 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



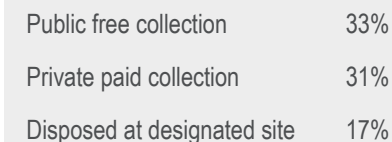
Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



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



³ Multiple choices allowed.

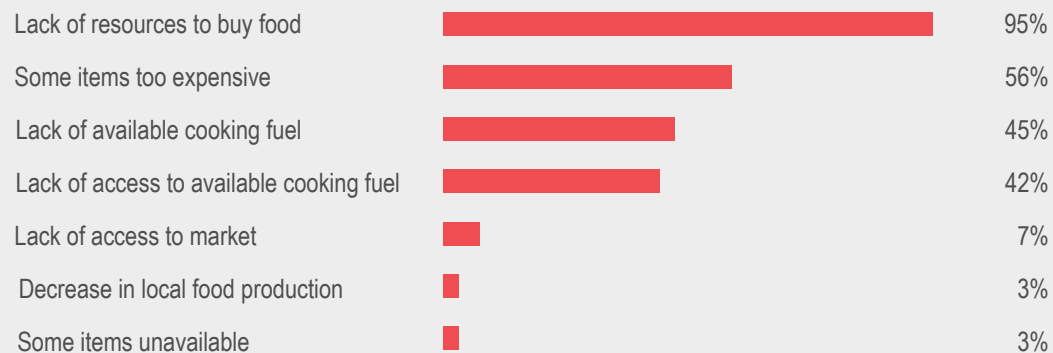
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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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.

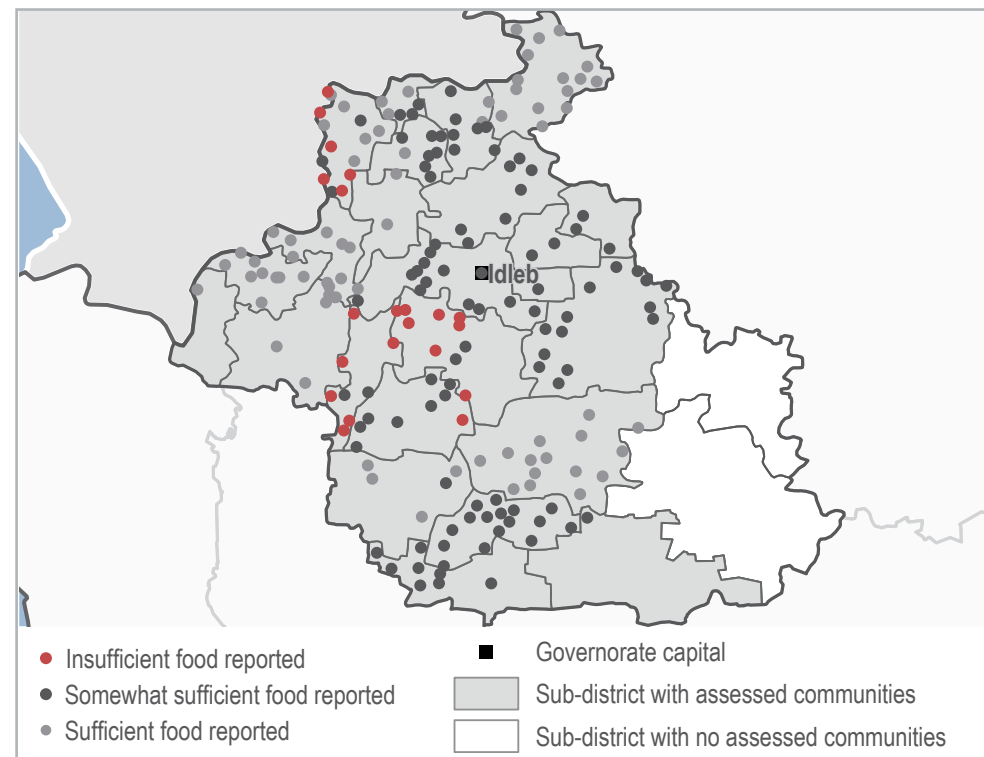
95 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining 98 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



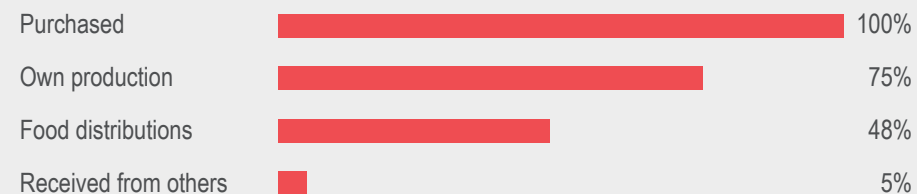
Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

Food item:	Governorate average price in March:	Governorate average price in February:	Syrian average price in March:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	147	144	117
Rice (1 kilogram)	377	392	472
Lentils (1 kilogram)	333	373	367
Sugar (1 kilogram)	316	325	350
Cooking oil (1 litre)	527	552	590

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 March 2018)

LIVELIHOODS

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

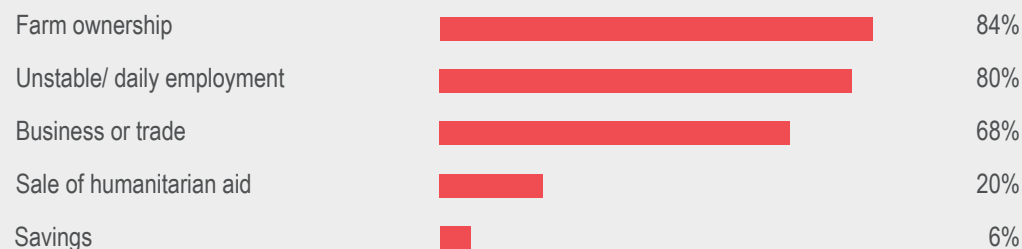
25,300 SYP Governorate average food basket price^{5,6}.

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

38 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 **150** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



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



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

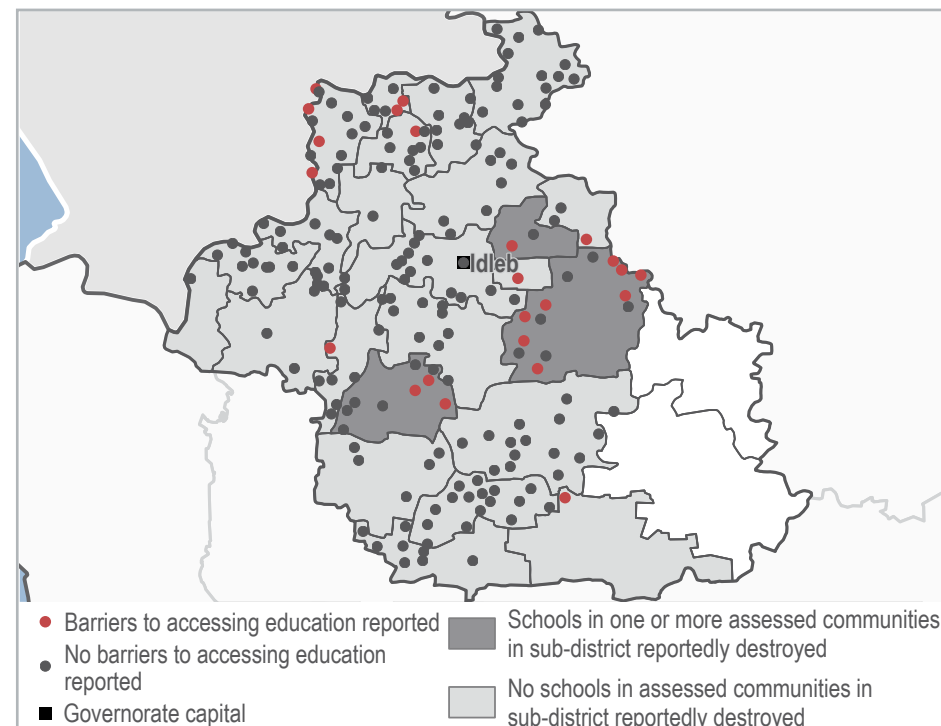
⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

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.

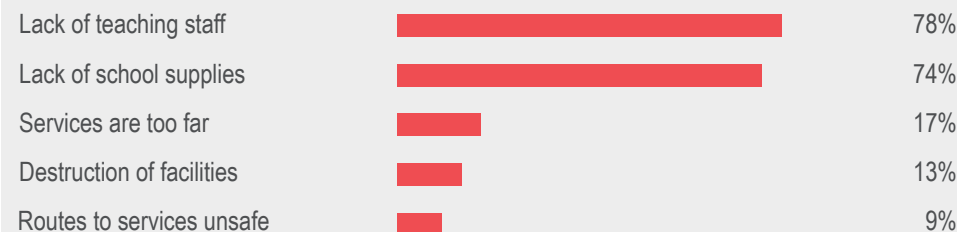
⁷ Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



170 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **23** 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 197 communities in April 2018, referring to the situation in Idleb Governorate in March 2018. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed sub-districts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly sub-district 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 about which they are reporting. Where access and security constraints rendered direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews were conducted remotely 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.

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

⁵ BBC (10 January 2018). Syria war: Assault on rebel stronghold of Idlib 'displaces 100,000'. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com>.

⁶ UNHCR (18 January 2018). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 18 January 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁷ The Straits Times (13 February 2018). Syria's Idlib ISIS-free after 'surrender': Spokesman, monitor. Retrieved from <http://www.straitstimes.com>.

⁸ Al-Zarier, Adely (7 March 2018). 'Hundreds' of families return to government-held eastern Idlib through newly established crossing. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (27 March 2018). Statement to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

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](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).