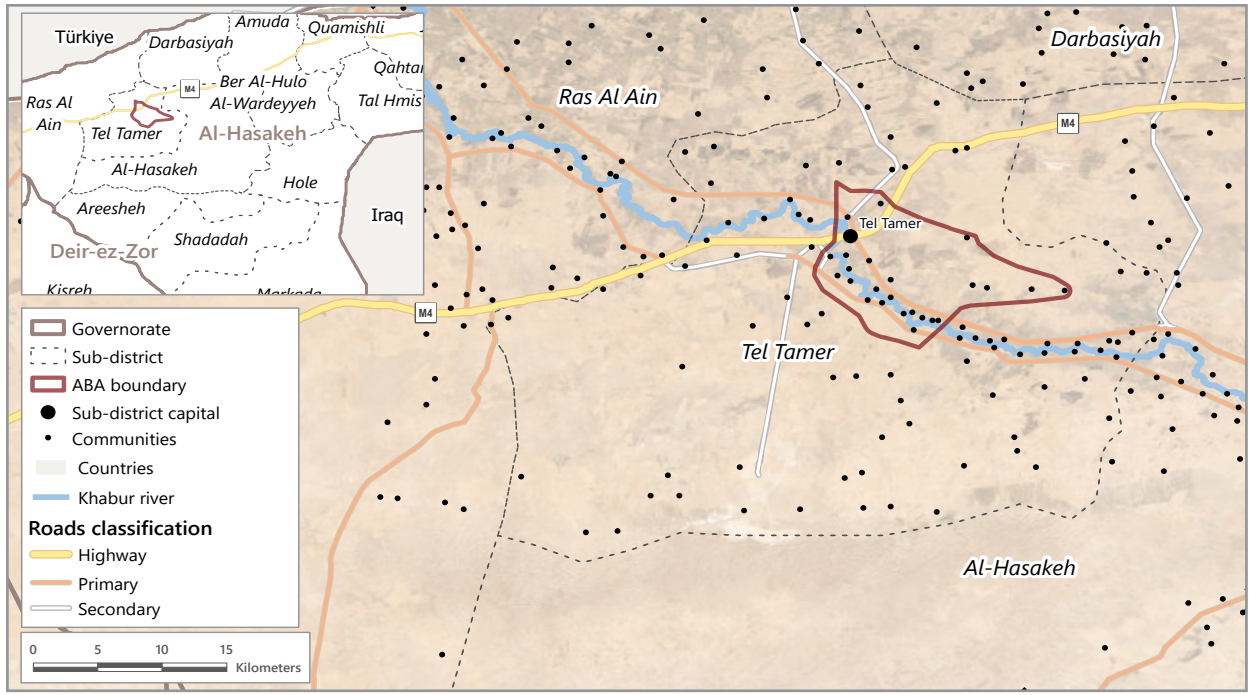
Area-Based Assessment: Tel Tamer, Al-Hasakeh Governorate

May - August 2024 | Syria

Context and Rationale

The Tel Tamer area in Al-Hasakeh governorate continues to experience stress and shocks due to protracted conflict, widespread displacement, and economic instability. This Area-Based Assessment (ABA) was conducted to identify the critical needs and priorities[1] of affected populations through a combination of household (HH) surveys, key informant (KI) interviews, and focus group discussions (FGDs). The findings were presented to the community for validation during a Community Relief and Recovery Plan (CRRP) workshop in November 2024. Although data collection was completed between May and November 2024, prior to the Syrian government's collapse in December 2024, the findings are likely to remain relevant, as does the need for resilience programming in the area. This report summarizes the key issues and local stakeholder recommendations for all sectors and provides detailed findings on the three recovery priorities identified by HHs: improved access to water, livelihoods, and electricity.

Map 1: Tel Tamer ABA Area



1 The key sectors examined in the assessment include water, sanitation, healthcare, livelihoods, agriculture, livestock, public infrastructure (electricity, roads, and transportation), shelter, protection, and social cohesion.

Key Messages

- HHs in Tel Tamer face **unreliable water access** due to damaged infrastructure and poor pipeline maintenance. Many rely on costly private water trucking, emphasizing the need for sustainable water solutions and infrastructure rehabilitation.
- **Limited livelihood opportunities and rising costs** prevent many HHs from meeting their basic needs. Limited employment opportunities, skill mismatches, and restricted access to financial services and business inputs further constrain income generation, highlighting the need for vocational training and small business support to enhance resilience.
- **Electricity shortages** disrupt essential services, economic activities, and HH well-being. Frequent outages and reliance on expensive alternatives, such as private generators, highlight the need for grid rehabilitation, maintenance support, and expanded access to sustainable energy sources like solar power.

Overall top priorities for community recovery, as reported by % of HHs*:

1	Improved water access/ quality	85%
2	Improved employment opportunity access / quality	65%
3	Improved energy / electricity access / quality	63%

*Respondents were allowed to select multiple answers for this question.

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Key Issues and Local Stakeholder Recommendations

The following key issues are ranked according to household (HH) priorities, as identified through the ABA. The recommendations were proposed by participants in the Community Relief and Recovery Plan (CRRP) workshop, a community-led planning workshop that engaged local stakeholders to identify priority interventions for recovery and resilience facilitated by Acted, REACH, and Bard (Acted's local partner in the area). These recommendations were refined during the workshop discussions and are based on key issues identified through the ABA.

Water issues: Limited water supplies due to damaged infrastructure, and poor pipeline maintenance, leading to high reliance on costly water trucking.
Recommendations: To enhance water access, rehabilitate the water network, repair filtration systems, and expand coverage. To enable maintenance, equip the water department with tools and training.

Livelihoods issues: Limited employment opportunities and skill mismatches contribute to high unemployment and reduced HH resilience. Rising costs of goods and business inputs further strain economic stability.
Recommendations: To increase employment, create temporary jobs through public works projects and support small businesses with cash grants. To address skill mismatches, train marginalized groups and expand vocational training in solar energy, baking, and equipment maintenance.

Electricity issues: Insufficient electricity supply due to outdated infrastructure, frequent outages, and inadequate grid coverage. Lack of maintenance equipment and sustainable energy solutions affects reliability.
Recommendations: To improve electricity access, install transformers, repair distribution networks, and expand coverage. To strengthen maintenance capacity, provide tools, spare parts, and training for technicians. To increase energy resilience, expand access to solar energy, particularly in underserved areas.

Healthcare issues: Limited access to affordable healthcare due to high costs, long waiting times, shortages of specialized services, medicines, and staff.
Recommendations: To improve healthcare access, rehabilitate existing facilities and establish additional ones, and supply essential medicines and equipment. To strengthen service delivery, recruit additional staff and expand mobile health units. To enhance long-term health resilience, support local health committees and stabilize medical supply chains.

Agriculture issues: Lack of access to agricultural inputs and equipment leads to reduced yield and spoilage. Reliance on rainwater farming, drought, and insufficient irrigation further impact productivity.
Recommendations: To increase productivity, provide subsidized inputs (reliable seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.), rehabilitate irrigation systems, and strengthen pest management services. To improve agricultural practices, equip agricultural extension units with training and necessary tools and establish soil analysis laboratories.

Sanitation issues: Inadequate waste management services, including limited waste collection and disposal systems, compounded by damaged infrastructure.
Recommendations: To improve sanitation services, expand waste collection and rehabilitate sewage infrastructure. To enhance waste management capacity, equip municipalities with tools and technical training.

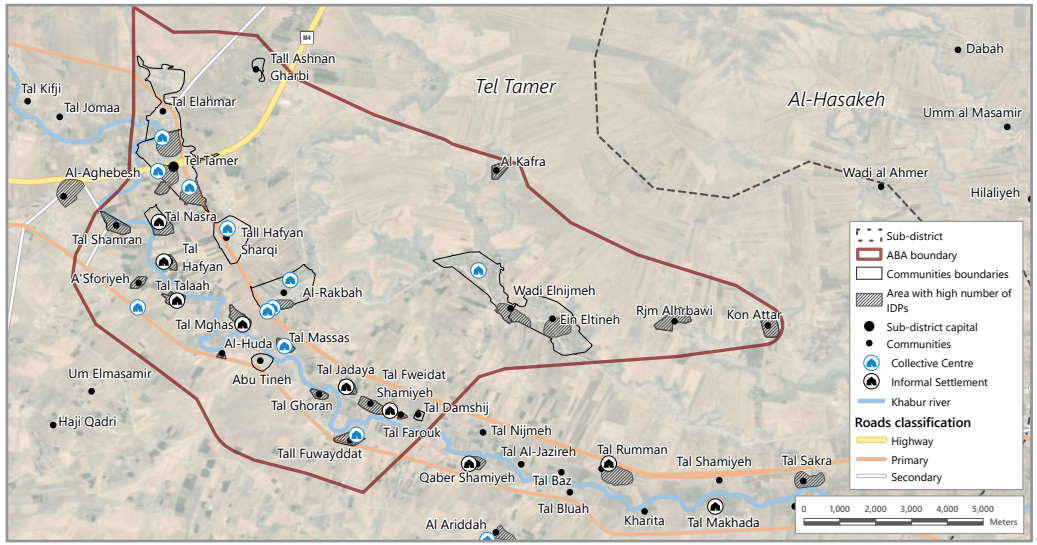
Shelter and Protection issues: Lack of safe and adequate shelter due to high rental prices, poor housing conditions such as leaking roofs, inadequate lighting, overcrowding, and damaged infrastructure. Conflict-related security concerns and economic instability increase HH vulnerability with theft and community tensions impacting safety.
Recommendations: To improve shelter conditions, rehabilitate damaged houses.

Social cohesion issues: Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host community relations are shaped by economic challenges, housing concerns (including competition for housing and differential property rights), and aid distribution with targeting of specific groups, while limited participation and weak representation affect community cohesion.
Note: Social cohesion issues were considered and mainstreamed across all sectors during the CRRP workshop, and therefore there were no dedicated standalone social cohesion activities recommended by community members.

Livestock issues: Limited access to fodder, water, and veterinary services affects livestock productivity and HH income, while rising input costs, drought conditions, and disease outbreaks add to the strain.
Recommendations: To support livestock owners, provide subsidized fodder, improve veterinary services, and expand vaccination campaigns. To improve their resilience to shocks and stresses, develop water access solutions and promote sustainable feeding practices.

Roads and infrastructure issues: Poor road conditions, lack of affordable public transportation, trade route blockages (poor infrastructure), and overcrowded transport limit mobility and access to essential services.
Recommendations: To improve mobility, rehabilitate roads, sidewalks, and key trade routes. To enhance transportation services, expand affordable public transportation. To improve safety and accessibility, install solar lighting.

Map 2: Community boundary map



About Tel Tamer ABA area boundary

The map above represents the locally defined boundaries of the Tel Tamer area, with Tel Tamer town in the northwest and most surrounding villages located southeast from it, many of which rely on Tel Tamer town for services and markets. These villages were included due to their alignment with ABA location selection criteria, including population size, the presence of IDPs, linkage with Tel Tamer town, resilience-based needs, and security access. The boundaries of this area were identified during participatory mapping FGDs with diverse local stakeholders. During the discussions, participants identified socio-communal, governance, and administrative boundaries, as well as interlinkages between communities.

Demographics

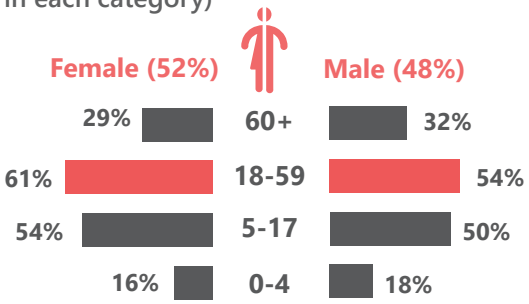
Total Population (June 2024 Population Task Force (PTF) data):	36,171
Average number of people per HH:	6
% of female-headed HHs:	12%

The KI on demographics and displacement provided a slightly different estimate of 7,000+ HHs in the area. If multiplied by the average HH size from the HH survey (6), this would equal a population of 42,000+.

According to the HH survey findings, the average HH size is six members for both IDP and host HHs, and the average age of HH heads is 48 years. Most HHs (88%) are male-headed, and around 91% of HH heads are married. Approximately 77% of HHs have at least one member under the age of 18.

In terms of education, 39% of HH heads have completed primary education (grade 1-6), while 25% reported having no formal education. Economically, 94% of HHs reported at least one income-earning member. Whereas no host HHs reported that children are contributing to their HH income, 12% of IDP HHs reported that children contribute to their HH income. Overall, 94% of HHs indicated no children earning income. A small proportion of HHs, around 11%, identified as belonging to a minority group, although this figure may be inaccurate due to sensitivities around identification.

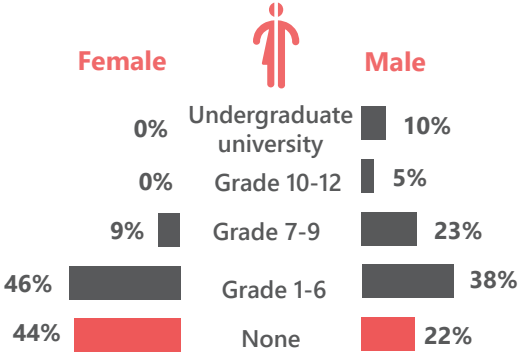
Age and gender distribution of HH members (by % of HHs reporting at least one member in each category)



Head of HH reported marital status (by % of HHs)

	Male	Female
Married	96%	51%
Single	4%	19%
Widowed	0%	31%

Highest level of education reportedly completed by HoHH (by % of HHs)



25% of HH reported at least one HH member with disability

Mobility issues	15%
Vision loss	10%
Memory or concentration issues	7%
Hearing loss	5%

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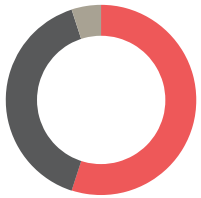
Displacement

According to the 2024 PTF data, IDPs constitute approximately 39% of the total population in the Tel Tamer area, whereas KIs estimated a higher proportion at 55%. Tel Tamer has a relatively high out-of-camp IDP population compared to the rest of Al-Hasakah governorate, in part due to its proximity to frontlines, as reported by the local council KI. Furthermore, HH data reveals that the majority of IDPs in Tel Tamer (98%) have only moved within Syria, while a smaller proportion (2%) have previously sought refuge outside Syria.

Estimated proportion of HHs by displacement status (based on KI data)



55% IDPs

40% Returnees

5% Residents (Never displaced)

Most-reported IDP shelter types (by % of HHs)

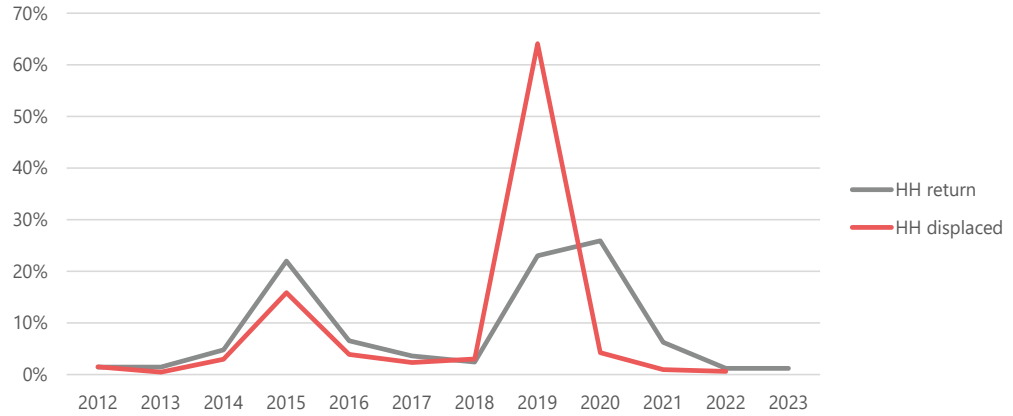
1	Solid/finished houses	71%
2	Unfinished or abandoned residential buildings	8%
3	Mud houses	7%
4	Solid/finished apartments	5%

According to HH data, pull factors driving displacement into Tel Tamer include family ties and host community relationships (61%), followed by safety and security in the current location (53%). The main push factor for IDP displacement from other areas is the conflict and security situation in the place of origin (99%). Regarding the timeline of displacement, the majority of IDPs arrived in Tel Tamer in 2019 (65%).

In terms of housing, 71% of the IDP HHs live in solid/finished houses, while the remaining IDP HHs live in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings, mud houses, or solid/finished apartments. Whereas most host HHs (81%) own their homes, most IDPs rely on alternative housing arrangements. Around a third (33%) of IDP HHs are hosted by organizations or other HHs, and 20% rent with verbal agreements. The most common difficulties faced by both IDP and host HHs when renting or corenting in Tel Tamer include finding affordable accommodation (74%), securing enough space for all family members (46%), and housing near essential services (28%).

Most participants in the MFGD agreed that the Tel Tamer sub-district has changed demographically since 2011, as the region has witnessed conflict over the years. Many people migrated, especially Assyrians, and displaced people came to the region from different areas, most of them from the border villages of Tel Tamer. This led to an influx of IDPs to Tel Tamer from border villages to access safety and better services.

Area displacement timeline (by % of surveyed HH)



Methodology Overview

Table 1: Data Collection Methods*	
Phase 1: Mapping Focus Group Discussions (MFGDs)	Two sessions with community leaders, area experts, and community group representatives with local knowledge of the area, focused on mapping community boundaries, service and infrastructure areas, and governance boundaries, and estimated populations.
Phase 2: HH Survey	196 HH surveys (98 with host HHs and 98 with IDP HHs) to understand HH demographics, socio-economic profiles, basic services and infrastructure availability, accessibility, and satisfaction, protection & shelter-related issues, and community resilience and recovery priorities.
Phase 3: Community Focus Group Discussions (CFGDs)	Six CFGDs with participants separated by gender, displacement status, and age, covering protection issues in the area, social cohesion dynamics, and factors contributing toward community-level resilience.
Phase 4: Key Informant (KI) Interviews	10 KI interviews with representatives on area demographics, civil society, livelihoods, markets, agriculture, livestock, water, sanitation, healthcare, and electricity. The interviews with technical experts focused on understanding relevant services, infrastructure, shocks and coping mechanisms related to each of these areas.

*For a detailed overview of the methodology, see page 12.

Water

Improved access to clean water is HHs' top recovery priority in the Tel Tamer ABA area, with 85% of HHs identifying this as their primary need. Nearly two-thirds (62%) of HHs in the ABA area reportedly faced inadequate access to water in the three months prior to data collection.

61% of HHs were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with drinking water source quality

58% of HHs were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with drinking water source quantity

42% of HHs were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with non-drinking water source quantity (if different from drinking water source) (n=75)

73% of HHs were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with non-drinking water source quality (if different from drinking water source) (n=75)

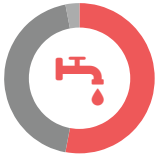
Several challenges limit reliable access to water services, including lack of access to piped water and the cost and quality of alternative sources. Although a pipeline network extends through Tel Tamer town and nearby villages (except A'Sforiyeh), it is largely inactive. As reported by OCHA in March 2024, Alouk Water Station, previously the primary water source for piped water in the area, is non-operational, leading all water tanks to be non-functional, as shown on Map 3. As a result, hundreds of thousands of people in Al-Hasakeh governorate are reliant on emergency water trucking and other temporary measures. Additionally, according to a KI, the Rukba station has been out of service for over 15 years due to low water levels in the Khabour River, as shown on Map 3. According to MFGD participants, no formal water stations exist within the ABA area.

As such, most HHs (95% of IDP HHs and 87% of host HHs) rely on private water trucking, which is both expensive and unreliable. Disruptions to the piped network and the cost of water trucking, combined with reduced rainfall and declining groundwater levels, have compelled some HHs to resort to well-drilling, further depleting groundwater resources. According to the water KI, local authorities have issued orders to prohibit the issuance of permits for HH wells. However, this decision has not been effectively enforced due to the residents' pressing need for water.

Most-reported primary drinking water source (by % of HHs)

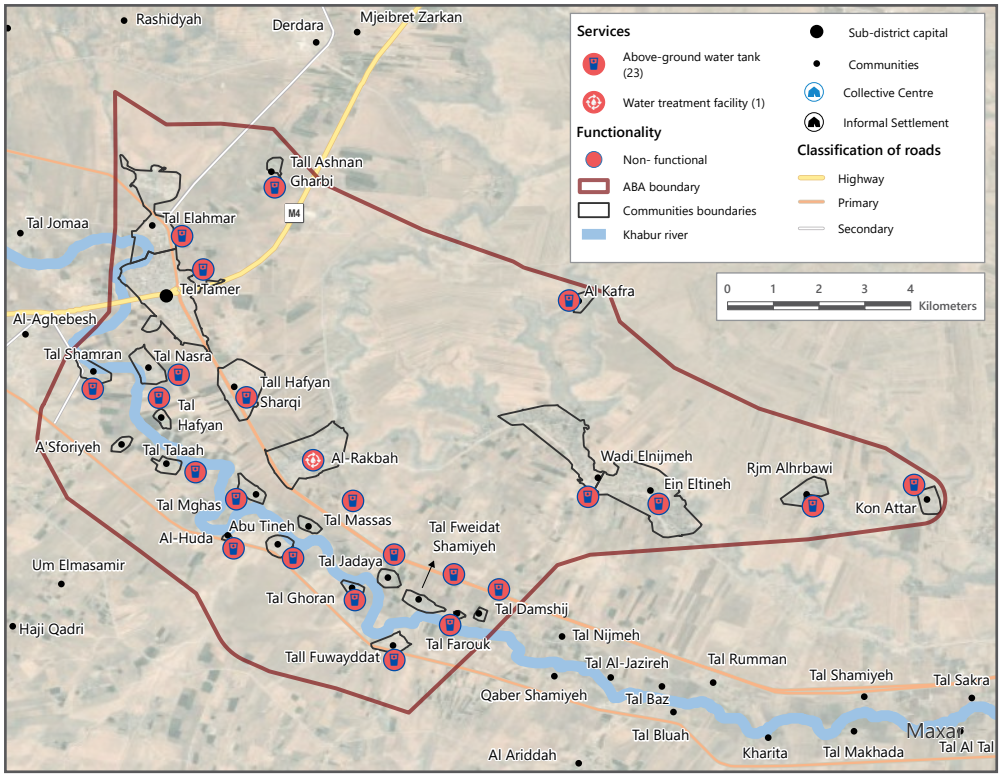
- 90% Private water trucking
- 4% Private borehole or well
- 2% Free community borehole or well
- 2% Piped water network
- 2% Water trucking conducted by authorities or an NGO

Most-reported primary non-drinking water source among the 38% of HHs using a different source



- 53% Private borehole or well
- 44% Free community borehole or well
- 3% Piped water network

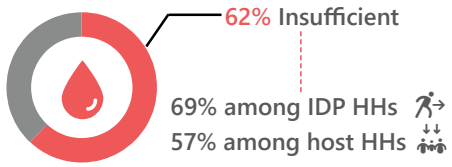
Map 3: Tel Tamer water facility types and functionality (as identified by KI)



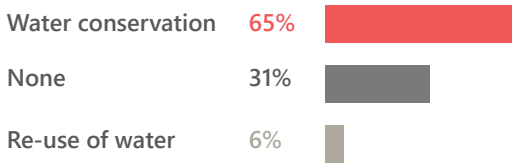
Note: GPS coordinates of infrastructure on this map have been intentionally approximated for security purposes.

Water (Cont'd)

HH water sufficiency, 3 months prior to data collection (by % of HHs)



Water conservation and re-use practices in HHs (by % of HHs)*



Most-reported technical skills needed for sustainable water infrastructure or resources (reported by the water KI)

1. Water network repairs (leakages/ value change/adapters/flow meters/ chambers)
2. Mechanical equipment repairs (submersible pumps/boosting pumps/ surge vessels/motor coupling)

Most-reported tools or equipment needed for water infrastructure or resources (reported by the water KI)

1. Network spare parts (pipes/valves/ flow meters)
2. Mechanical spare parts (gaskets/ shafts/rams)
3. Leak detectors

Most-reported HH water issues (by % of HHs)*

1	Alternative sources too expensive	49%
2	Cannot afford the price of water from primary sources	38%
3	Poor water quality	37%
4	Disruption due to conflict	24%
5	Not enough containers to store the water	18%

Most-reported coping strategies among the 62% of HHs reporting water insufficiency*

1	Rely on drinking water stored previously	65%
2	Spend money usually spent on other things to buy water	61%
3	Reduce consumption of non-drinking water	42%
4	Receive water on credit / borrow from friends and family	41%
5	Reduce consumption of drinking water	28%

Agriculture (reported by agriculture KI)
Primary water source: Private boreholes / wells
Additional water source: Surface water (lake, pond, dam, river)
Livestock (reported by livestock KI)
Primary water source: Private boreholes / wells
Additional water source: Trucked water

Types of water infrastructure supplying the area (reported by the water KI)

1. Above-ground water tanks
2. Water treatment facility
3. Water network
4. Public tap

Local service providers reportedly face barriers in maintaining the water network, such as a shortage of skilled technicians, low salaries, and limited access to essential spare parts, including pipes, valves, and leak detection tools. Mechanical components like pumps also require urgent replacement. Without immediate rehabilitation efforts, the water network's functionality will likely continue to deteriorate, exacerbating water insecurity. Data from an upcoming REACH assessment of 101 farmers in the Tel Tamer sub-district indicate that 75% of farmers have reported a decline in groundwater availability over the past two decades, highlighting the increasing water scarcity in the area.

Recommendations

To address water challenges in Tel Tamer, stakeholders participating in the CRRP workshop emphasized the need for **short-term** measures, including distributing treated water through public tanks with regular quality checks. **Mid-term** recovery plans focus on establishing reverse osmosis (RO) stations and rehabilitating boreholes in key villages to enhance water access and reduce reliance on costly private water trucking. **Long-term** priorities include constructing a pipeline from the Ain Al-Abed water source (Tel Tamer sub-district, north of Tel Tamer town) to the Tel Tamer area and expanding groundwater monitoring to manage unsustainable borehole drilling. Strengthening the water department's capacity through training in water network repairs and providing essential tools, such as leak detectors and mechanical spare parts, was also highlighted. Additionally, stakeholders encouraged tree planting to combat desertification as part of a sustainable water management strategy.

Livelihoods

Improved access to employment opportunities is HHs' second recovery priority in the Tel Tamer ABA area, with 65% of HHs identifying this as a key need. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of HHs in the ABA area reported that they were unable to meet their basic needs over the three months prior to data collection, with no significant differences between IDP and host HHs.

> *Some families have been unable to buy meat, vegetables, and fruits for months due to the high cost of living.*
> - Female host CFGD participant

Reported HH ability to meet basic needs, 3 months prior to data collection (by % of HHs)

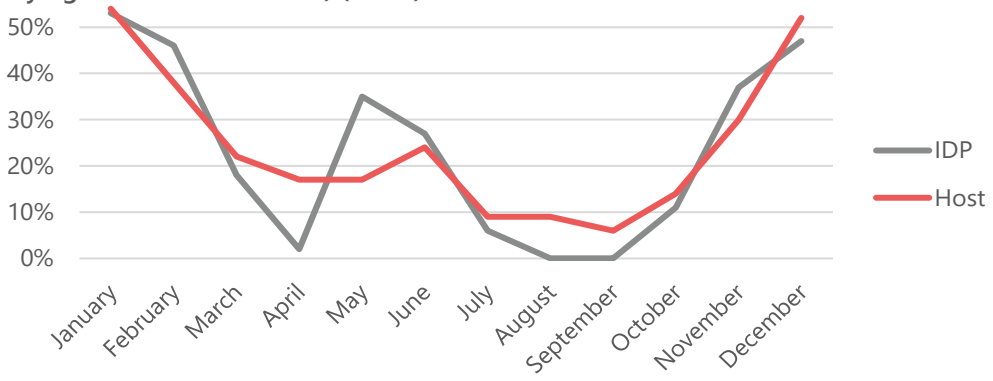
Good (5%) Fair (23%) Poor (65%) Very poor (7%)

Income and employment

HHs in Tel Tamer face several barriers to securing sustainable employment. They earn slightly lower average incomes, with IDPs earning 1.8 million SYP on average compared to 2 million SYP for host HHs. High unemployment remains a challenge, with 17% of HHs reporting unemployed males and 89% of HHs with adult female members indicating that no female HH member earns an income.

In HHs with at least one income, the number of adult HH members contributing to it is low, with 67% of HHs relying on only one income earner. Furthermore, 59% of HHs reported some level of deterioration in their ability to meet basic needs over the three months prior to data collection, and 26% of HHs reported relying on seasonal income. Moreover, women serve as secondary financial decision-makers in 48% of HHs.

HH income seasonality, months of lowest reported income (by % of HHs reporting relying on seasonal income) (n=49)



Average monthly HH income (by type of HHs) (n=188)

HH Type	Income amount
All HHs	1.8M SYP (116 USD)
Host HHs	2M SYP (129 USD)
IDP HHs	1.8M SYP (116 USD)
Male-headed HHs	1.8M SYP (116 USD)
Female-headed HHs	1.7M SYP (110 USD)

Note: Exchange rate data from trade market monitoring conducted by the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) team in September 2024.

Most common sectors/sources of HH primary income (by % of HHs) (n=191)

1	Real estate / construction	14%
2	Military service	13%
3	Agriculture	10%
4	Trade/transportation	10%
5	Remittances	8%

44% of HHs did not earn income from other sources

52% among IDP HHs
37% among host HHs

Most common sectors / sources of HH secondary income (by % of HHs) (n=106)

1	Borrowing / loans	47%
2	Agriculture	13%

6% of HHs reported that no adult HH members are earning an income.

17% of HHs with adult male member/s reported no male HH members earning an income (n=174)

Most common reasons for male HH member unemployment (out of 17% of HHs reporting) (n=30)

1.	General lack of employment opportunities	26
2.	Lack of employment opportunities matching skills	24
3.	Lack of employment opportunities for persons with physical or cognitive difficulties	3
4.	Exploitation in the workplace	2

89% of HHs with adult female member/s reported no female HH members earning an income (n=176)

Most common reasons for female HH members not earning income (out of 89% of HHs reporting) (n=157)*

1.	General lack of employment opportunities	45%
2.	Lack of employment opportunities for women	44%
3.	Lack of employment opportunities matching skills	44%
4.	Competing priorities as home-makers	41%

Livelihoods (Cont'd)

In terms of income sources, MFGD participants reported that agriculture is the primary livelihood in the ABA area, followed by artisanal crafts. In contrast, HH data indicates that agriculture is the third most common income source for HHs, with it being more central to host HHs' income than to IDPs'. Real estate and construction, employment in the military service, trade, and transportation round out the main income-generating activities reported by HHs.

Expenditures, debt and savings

Across Tel Tamer, food comprises the largest share of monthly HH expenditure (52%), followed by livestock, agriculture, and productive assets (29%), with healthcare and debt repayment each taking up 13% of monthly budgets. Meanwhile, 90% of IDP HHs and 77% of host HHs are currently in debt, often borrowing from family, friends, or local marketplace vendors, and 95% of HHs families do not have any liquidated savings at all. Notably, there is no reported difference in debt levels between male- and female-headed HHs, suggesting that economic challenges might affect HHs similarly regardless of gender.

HH expenditure categories and average expenditure amounts, 30 days prior to data collection (by average % of monthly income of HHs)

Expenditure category	Average % of HH monthly income	Average monthly HH expenditure
Food	52%	1.2M SYP (77 USD)
Livestock/ agriculture assets	29%	1M SYP (65 USD)
Healthcare	13%	0.2M SYP (13 USD)
Debt repayment	13%	0.2M SYP (13 USD)
Non-food items	9%	0.15M SYP (10 USD)
Water	7%	0.125M SYP (8USD)
Transportation	6%	0.1M SYP (7 USD)
Education	5%	0.1M SYP (7 USD)
Fuel/ electricity	4%	0.06M SYP (4 USD)

Note: Exchange rate data from trade market monitoring conducted by the JMMI team in September 2024.

83% of HHs reported being in debt, with only 18% of those in debt reporting the ability to repay back in the next 6 months. 4% of all HHs reported having liquidated savings.

Most reported HH coping strategies for inability to afford basic needs, 3 months prior to data collection (by % of HHs)*

	Host	IDP
Borrowing money	55%	64%
Purchasing items on credit	55%	57%
Decreasing non-food expenditures	57%	52%
Adjusting food consumption practices	32%	38%
Selling productive assets or means of transport	12%	16%

Local business and livelihood opportunities

Despite nearly half of HHs having considered starting a business, only 5% successfully operated one at the time of data collection, of which most are in the agriculture sector. The absence of start-up capital is by far the most reported barrier to having a business, cited by 98% of those who reportedly considered starting a business but do not have one.

HHs who have started or considered starting their own businesses (by % of HHs)

- 51% No, have not considered it
- 32% Yes, but have not started
- 12% Yes, started but no longer active
- 5% Yes, currently running a business

Challenges faced to owning businesses (as reported by the livelihood KI)

Women

- Needed for work/care in the home
- Transportation issues/concerns
- Absence of start-up capital

Youth

- Absence of necessary skills
- Absence of start-up capital
- Legal or administrative challenges

Active local businesses in Tel Tamer Area (as reported by the livelihood KI)

Local businesses in Tel Tamer are diverse in size, with

- 30% Micro (owner with some family support)
- 40% Small (1-4 employees)
- 10% Medium (5-9 employees)
- 20% Large (10+ employees)

Sectors of IDP businesses:

1. Agriculture
2. Marketplace vending

Mostly in Tel Tamer, Tal Elahmar and Abu Tineh. The area also has a range of industrial facilities (including mills and silos).

Livelihoods (Cont'd)

According to the livelihood KI, women and youth face additional challenges, including limited childcare, transportation difficulties, gaps in specialized skills, and legal or administrative challenges, all contributing to low female-owned and youth-led businesses in the area.

21-40% of female-owned businesses are home-based businesses, according to the livelihood KI.

No businesses in the area are owned by youth (15-24), according to the livelihood KI.

In terms of livelihood skills, around 45% of HHs have existing agricultural abilities, while mechanical, and construction skills are also prevalent. Yet many aspire to diversify, with 47% seeking training in tailoring/embroidery, 32% in beauty services, and 14% in mobile phone repair. Opportunities to enhance these skill sets through vocational training could boost HH incomes and strengthen the local economy by creating viable alternatives to the seasonal and often volatile agricultural sector.

> *"The lack of job opportunities and training in professions, such as learning tailoring, hairdressing, and confectionery making, make youth women more prone to forced marriages."*
> - Male host CFGD participant

Most-reported current skills of HH members (by % of HHs)*

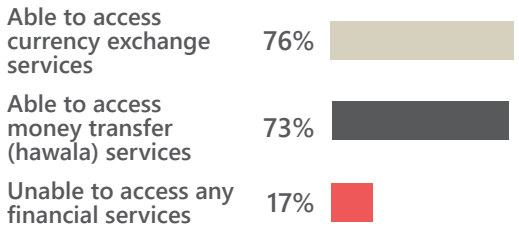
1	Agricultural	45%
2	Mechanical/repairs	19%
3	Construction/building repair	19%
4	Proficient reading/writing	18%

Markets and financial services

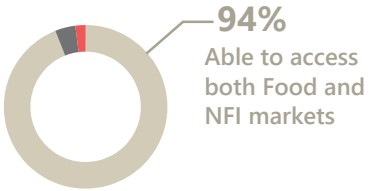
According to MFGD participants, Tel Tamer's main marketplace, Palestine Street Market, provides essential goods and services, with HHs also relying on markets in Al-Hasakah (70%) and Qamishli (30%) for unavailable items. Although 94% of HHs access food and NFI markets, price instability and reliance on external supply chains (Al-Hasakah and Qamishli) increase market vulnerabilities. The HHs that reported being unable to access NFI or food markets are located in the Ein Eltineh and Tal Nasra communities. The closure of trade routes, including the M4 and Ras al-Ain roads, has contributed to shortages, rising costs, and reduced business activity.

Access to financial services is generally widespread, with 76% of HHs relying on currency exchange services and 73% on hawala money transfers. While 66% of HHs expressed satisfaction with available services, fluctuating exchange rates, high service fees, and difficulties accessing loans or credit were commonly reported issues.

HH access to financial services in Tel Tamer (by % HHs)*

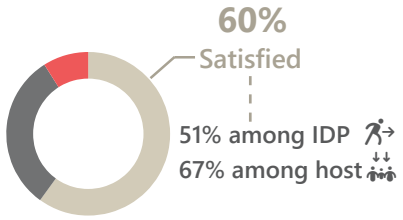


HH access to markets (by % HHs)



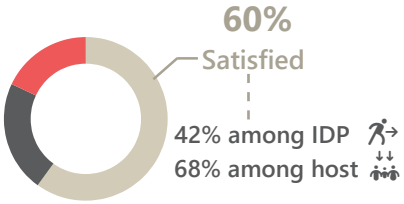
4% were reportedly able to access only food markets, while 2% cannot access markets for food or NFIs.

Reported satisfaction level with available financial services (by % of HHs) (n=161)



31% Neutral 9% Dissatisfied

Reported satisfaction level with market accessibility and quality (by % of HHs) (n=191)



22% Neutral 18% Dissatisfied

Most commonly reported issues with financial services faced by HH (by % of HHs) (n=161)*

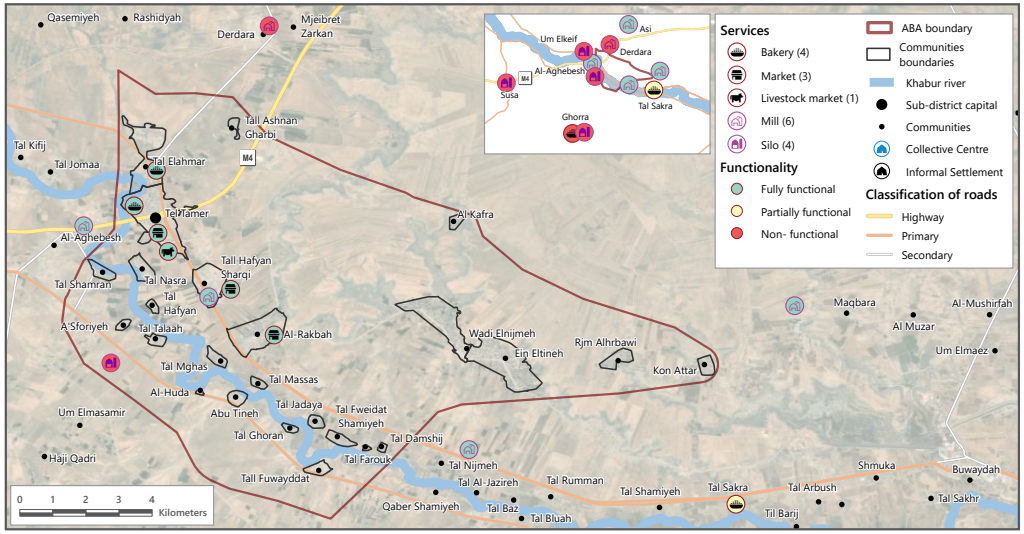
1	Fluctuating exchange rates	67%
2	No issues	24%
3	Inconvenient working hours	10%
4	Lack of financial means to secure a loan/credit	9%

Most commonly reported issues with markets faced by HH (by % of HHs) (n=191)*

1	Item prices are unstable	80%
2	Cannot afford essential items	47%
3	Cannot afford transportation to markets	18%
4	Lack of transportation to markets (private or public)	16%

Livelihoods (Cont'd)

Map 4: Tel Tamer market and livelihood services types and functionality (as identified by the livelihood KI)



Note: GPS coordinates of infrastructure on this map have been intentionally approximated for security purposes.

Shocks and stresses impacting livelihood

According to the livelihood KI, conflict-related hostilities have caused insecurity, forcing business owners and workers to migrate, reducing economic activity, and increasing reliance on external markets.

Water shortages and supply interruptions from Alouk Station have strained HH budgets, increasing financial burdens and hygiene risks, with poor water quality linked to kidney disease, according to the livelihood KI. Additionally, IDP and host male participants from CFGDs reported that economic instability, driven by inflation and currency fluctuations, has increased the cost of essential goods, while stagnant wages and declining wheat and barley prices have made agriculture unprofitable.

The livelihood KI reported that without specific measures from local authorities, HHs have resorted to informal coping mechanisms, including reducing food consumption, seeking lower-cost healthcare, and relying on borrowing, remittances, and aid. Negative coping strategies such as early marriage, school drop-outs, and child labour were also reported in CFGDs. Without structured interventions, livelihoods in Tel Tamer remain exposed to ongoing instability and future disruptions.

Main shocks and stresses affecting livelihoods in Tel Tamer and their impact (reported by the livelihood KI)

Inflation and exchange rate fluctuations, leading to:
- Unstable or frequently fluctuating prices in local markets, high business input costs, decreased consumer demand for goods and services

High cost of water extraction for irrigation, leading to:
- Reliance on rain-fed (dry) farming, water shortages and interruptions (e.g., Alouk Station), HHs spending more on purchased water

Agricultural pests, leading to:
- Damage to agricultural crops (especially wheat and barley) with increased pesticide costs for pest control

Earthquake (2022), leading to:
- Disruptions to water and sanitation systems, increasing financial burdens on HHs to access clean water

Conflict-related hostilities close in proximity to Tel Tamer, leading to:
- Migration of shop owners, shortage of goods and rising prices

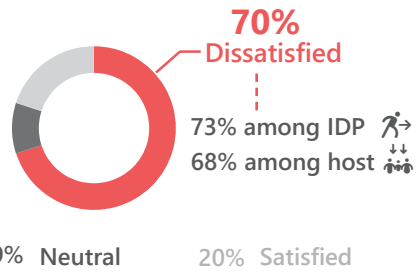
Recommendations

The CRRP workshop participants primarily focused on mid-term and long-term recovery efforts rather than short-term interventions, emphasizing the need for sustainable livelihood solutions. Key **mid-term** interventions include vocational and technical training (TVET) in solar energy, agricultural maintenance, and bakery production, alongside micro-business grants, particularly for people with disabilities and small business owners. Additionally, rehabilitating a secondary market and providing training and cash grants for non-agricultural businesses were identified as priorities to enhance income-generating opportunities. For **long-term resilience**, stakeholders highlighted the need for cash grants for medium-sized agribusinesses and non-agricultural businesses to support financial stability and market expansion. Strengthening access to formal financial services was also prioritized to reduce reliance on informal borrowing and enhance sustainable economic growth.

Electricity

Electricity access is the third recovery priority for HHs in the Tel Tamer ABA area, with 63% of HHs identifying it as a key need. Additionally, 70% of HHs in the ABA area reported dissatisfaction with the quality of available electricity sources.

Reported satisfaction level with electricity sources (by % of HHs)



8 Hrs was the estimated average HH's daily access to electricity within their shelter in the three months prior to data collection

9h among IDP
7h among host

Most reported HH primary source of electricity (by % of HHs)

	Host HHs	IDP HHs
Community (shared) generators	54%	34%
Main network	32%	42%
Private (HH) solar panels	14%	12%
Private (HH) generators	0%	11%

Most-reported HH electricity issues (by % of HHs)*

1	Solar panels are unaffordable	63%
2	Regular shortages / low output	53%
3	Electricity too expensive	39%
4	Main network needs repair	31%
5	Generators not available	28%

Participants from the MFGD indicated that one power conversion station in Tel Tamer town supplies all neighbourhoods in the Tel Tamer sub-district. Despite this, the availability of electricity remains limited, with HHs reporting an average of 8 hours of electricity per day, with the main network and community generators being the primary sources of supply. However, satisfaction levels remain low, with 70% of HHs expressing dissatisfaction due to frequent shortages, high costs, low output, and the need for repairs to the main network.

The main electricity sources for the network are the Tabqa Dam in Raqqa Governorate and the Western Dam in Al-Hasakeh Governorate. According to KI interviews, between 61% and 80% of HHs currently have access to the network, though connectivity remains inconsistent and the capacity of local stakeholders to maintain and repair infrastructure is limited. Additionally, in some cases, HHs reported a lack of connectivity to the grid altogether, exacerbating access challenges. Rationing by local authorities, high costs of private generators and fuel, and the unaffordability of solar panels were identified as barriers to electricity access, with 63% of HHs stating that solar panels were too expensive and 39% citing the high cost of electricity itself.

The electricity infrastructure also requires urgent maintenance due to outdated equipment, damaged transformers, and reduced power generation from key dams. Furthermore, according to an electricity services KI, agricultural wells have lost access to grid electricity, forcing farmers to rely on expensive fuel-powered pumps. This has directly impacted agricultural productivity and increased the cost of food and non-food items (NFIs) in local markets. Additionally, according to KIs and CFGDs, the main power supply issues are linked to low water levels in the Tabqa (Euphrates) and Western Dams, which have reduced electricity output and led to further disruptions.

To mitigate these challenges, an electricity services KI reported that local authorities have been supplying fuel to community generators at subsidized rates, while HHs seek alternative solutions such as purchasing private generators, subscribing to shared community generators, or installing solar panels.

Recommendations

The CRRP workshop participants primarily focused on mid-term and long-term recovery efforts rather than short-term interventions, emphasizing the need for sustainable solutions. To enhance electricity access in Tel Tamer, participants emphasized the need for **mid-term recovery** efforts, including the rehabilitation of the public electrical network by installing new transformers and essential components in Tel Tamer areas to improve grid stability. Additionally, maintaining the network by supplying electrical and mechanical spare parts, low-voltage cables, and necessary maintenance tools is critical. Strengthening the capacity of the electrical technical department by providing a drilling machine vehicle for pole repairs will further support network functionality. For **long-term resilience**, expanding solar power systems for HHs will enhance energy accessibility and reduce reliance on costly alternatives. Additionally, maintaining hydraulic lifting platform vehicles and cooperative neighbourhood electricity generators will improve infrastructure sustainability and ensure a more reliable electricity supply across the area. Furthermore, an electricity services KI reported that enhanced maintenance of the Tabqa and Western Dams, infrastructure repairs to improve network stability, and expanded access to alternative energy sources such as solar power are necessary to ensure long-term electricity resilience in Tel Tamer.

Methodology Overview

Phase 1: Mapping Focus Group Discussions (MFGDs)

REACH teams conducted two participatory MFGDs in Tel Tamer in May 2024. The first day focused on community boundary mapping, demographics and community dynamics, while the second day focused on mapping basic services and infrastructure in the ABA area. The exercise includes the usage of three satellite imagery base maps, showing the area at different scales, allowing participants to mark key points and boundaries directly on the maps. The feedback received in these sessions served as the basis for REACH and Acted to determine the boundaries of Tel Tamer ABA area. However, due to the targeting of public infrastructure around Tel Tamer, the team faced difficulties acquiring all of the relevant infrastructure points during this exercise as it is considered sensitive information.

The final selected area includes **25 communities** (all within Tel Tamer sub-district): Abu Tineh, Al Kafra, Al-Huda, Al-Rakbah, A'Sforiyeh, Ein Eltineh, Kon Attar, Rjm Alhrbawi, Tal Damshij, Tal Elahmar, Tal Farouk, Tal Fweidat Shamiyeh, Tal Ghoran, Tal Hafyan, Tal Jadaya, Tal Massas, Tal Mghas, Tal Nasra, Tal Shamran, Tal Talaah, Tel Tamer, Tal Ashnan Gharbi, Tall Fuwayddat, Tal Hafyan Sharqi, and Wadi Elnijmeh.

Phase 2: Household (HH) Survey

REACH teams conducted a total of 212 HH surveys in the Tel Tamer ABA area in June 2024. After data cleaning, 196 surveys were included in the analysis (98 with host HHs and 98 with IDP HHs). The survey gathered information on HH demographics, socio-economic profiles, basic services and infrastructure availability, accessibility, and satisfaction, protection and shelter-related issues, and community resilience. The survey also sought participants' perceptions of, engagement in, and ability to contribute to local recovery efforts, as well as basic information on social cohesion dynamics in the area.

Simple stratified random sampling was used to produce findings representative of the IDP and host populations at the ABA-area level, surveying an equal number of host and IDP HHs, with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error.

Phase 3: Community Focus Group Discussions (CFGDs)

REACH teams conducted six CFGDs with community members in July 2024 using a semi-structured questioning route. Discussions covered unique population group needs, social vulnerabilities and protection risks, factors impacting local resilience and recovery, community prioritisation of resilience and recovery solutions, and social cohesion and group dynamics.

The six CFGD sessions were disaggregated by displacement status, gender, and age of participants to ensure privacy and allow each group to explore these topics in relation to their specific experiences. The following sessions took place, with 5-8 participants per FGD: adult female host community members, adult male host community members, adult female IDPs, adult male IDPs, female youth, and male youth.

Phase 4: Key Informant (KI) Interviews

KI interviews were conducted in August 2024 with 10 participants with specialized knowledge on area demographics, civil society, livelihoods, markets, agriculture, livestock, water, sanitation, healthcare, and electricity services. Participants included representatives from Tel Tamer Local Council, Tel Tamer Municipality, the Ministry of Economy, the Directorate of Agriculture, Tel Tamer Health Committee, civil society, and three participants from specialised government departments.

Building on information gathered in HH surveys, the KI interviews focused on collecting information about the status of services and infrastructure, including the management capacities of relevant actors engaged in their service provision. The KIs were purposively selected using REACH KI networks to identify suitable community leaders and service/sector experts.

Community Relief and Recovery Plan Workshop (CRRP)

In November 2024, a Community Relief and Recovery Plan Workshop took place, where KI and local stakeholder recommendations were identified to contribute toward the development of a document outlining a shared vision for addressing identified community needs, serving as a tool for response coordination in the area.

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).