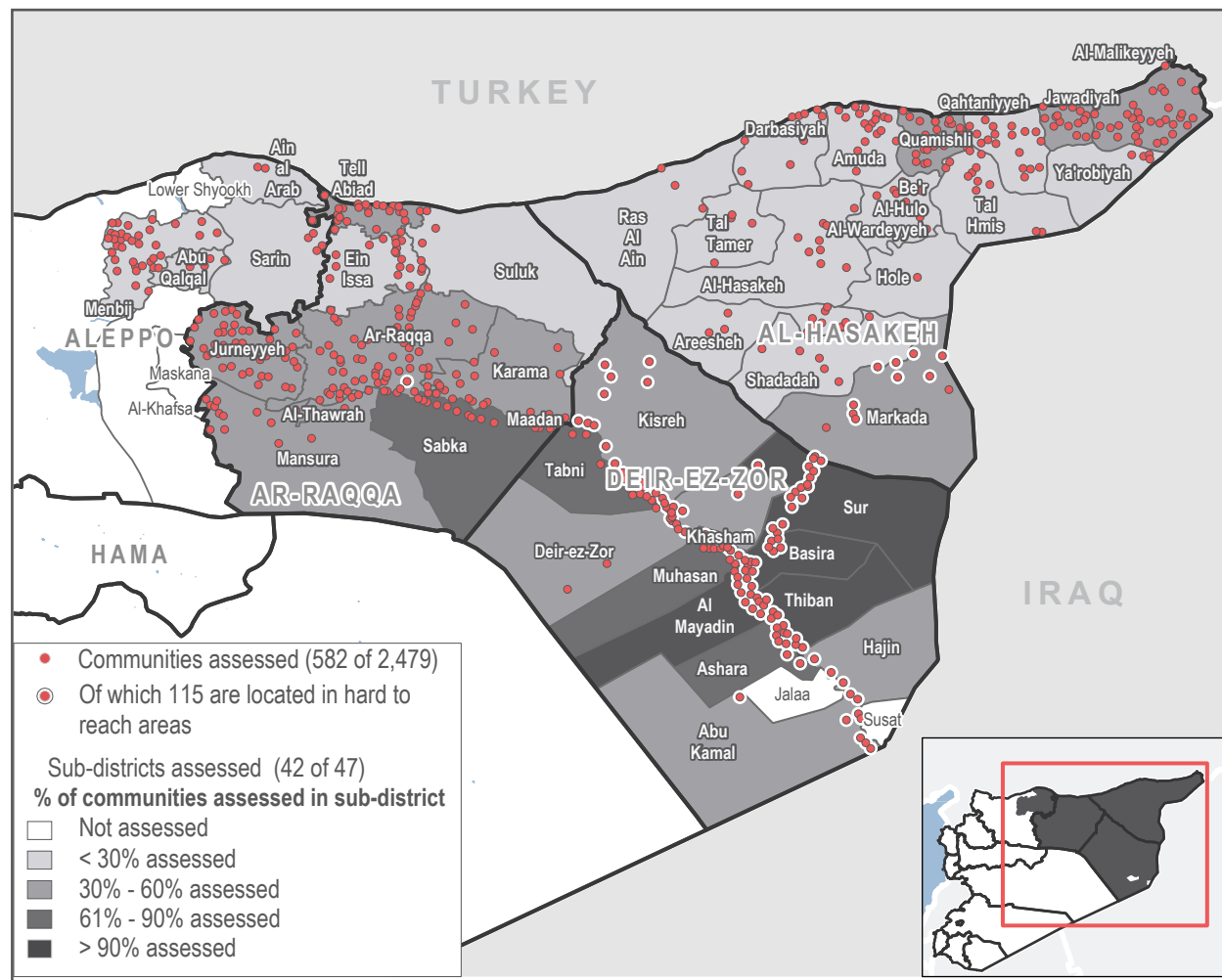


# Northeast Syria, January 2019

## Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

### Coverage



### Introduction

HSOS is a monthly assessment that aims to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian situation inside Syria. The assessment is conducted at the community level, covering [displacement](#), [shelter and non-food items \(SNFI\)](#), [health](#), [water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\)](#), [food security and livelihoods \(FSL\)](#), and [education](#) needs and conditions.

The factsheet presents information gathered in 582 communities across Al-Hasakeh (196 communities), eastern Aleppo\* (46 communities), Deir-ez-Zor (128 communities), and Ar-Raqqa (212 communities) governorates. Data was collected during the month of February 2019, and refers to the situation in the northeast region in January 2019. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the region.

For community-level data, datasets are available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#), [the Humanitarian Data Exchange](#), and are also distributed through partners across the humanitarian community.

\*The eastern part of Aleppo, where humanitarian response and coordination is conducted from the northeast rather than the northwest.

### Top 3 reported priority needs in assessed communities:

- 1 Healthcare
- 2 Livelihoods
- 3 Education

### People in need (PiN)\* in assessed communities:

👤 1,070,859 PiN      559,742 People in Acute Need

### Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB):<sup>1,2</sup>

Average price in January 2019      66,588 Syrian pound (SYP)

One month change:      + 5%

Six month change:      + 9%

\* PiN refers to people whose physical security, basic rights, dignity, living conditions or livelihoods are threatened or have been disrupted, and whose current level of access to basic services, goods and protection is inadequate to re-establish normal living conditions within their accustomed means without assistance.

People in Acute Need refers to those facing more severe forms of deprivation in terms of their security, basic rights and living conditions and face life-threatening needs requiring urgent humanitarian assistance ([HNO 2019](#)).

The calculated PiN numbers are indicative as they are calculated using the OCHA dataset and coverage varies slightly.

### Key events impacting the humanitarian situation in Northeast Syria (NES)

October-November 2017	Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor cities fully liberated from ISIL. <sup>a,b</sup>	April 2018	Forces escalate offensive on ISIL in southeastern Deir-ez-Zor governorate and in southern Al-Hasakeh governorate. <sup>c</sup>	October 2018	Delayed rainfall and deteriorated agricultural infrastructure and input resulted in the lowest annual wheat yield since 1989. <sup>d</sup>	Mid-December 2018	244,655 spontaneous returnees in Deir-ez-Zor governorate and 166,305 in Ar-Raqqa city reported by OCHA since November 2017. <sup>e</sup>	December 2018	Concerns about potential military developments in Menbij district led to further displacement. <sup>f,g</sup>	Ongoing	Offensive to retake final ISIL-held enclave continues in southern Deir-ez-Zor governorate, contributing to additional displacement. <sup>h</sup>
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## CONTEXT

In January 2019, the offensive against the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continued to cause displacement throughout Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh governorates. Nearly 20,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees reportedly arrived in Al Hol camp in Al-Hasakeh governorate from southeastern Deir-ez-Zor governorate in January 2019. Reports indicated that IDPs faced limited access to food, water, shelter and a lack of healthcare services during the journey.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the security situation in Menbij city in eastern Aleppo governorate continued to be volatile.<sup>1</sup> Combined with the continued anticipation of a possible military offensive in Menbij district, this further impacted the uncertain security situation in this district. For further context on NES see the [Northeast Syria Market Monitoring Exercise January 2019](#), the [Hajin City, Deir-ez-Zor Situation Overview January 2019](#) and the [Northeast Syria Camp and Informal Site Profiles December 2018](#).

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS<sup>3</sup>

### High levels of displacement in Deir-ez-Zor governorate

In May 2018, the offensive against ISIL in southeastern Deir-ez-Zor governorate resumed, resulting in a decrease in stability and an increase in IDP movements throughout the area.<sup>k</sup> In December 2018, following the expulsion of ISIL from Hajin city in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, KIs reported large population movements in Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh governorates. KIs reported that approximately 31,050 spontaneous IDP returnees arrived in Hajin city in January, despite critical humanitarian conditions in the city. In January, KIs reported that approximately 10,000 refugees and 8,500 IDPs arrived at Al Hol refugee/IDP camp in Hasakeh governorate. The most commonly reported sub-districts of origin for IDP arrivals were Susat and Hajin sub-districts, both located in southeastern Deir-ez-Zor governorate, approximately a 300 km journey to Al Hol. Additionally, in December 2018 and January 2019, an increase in infant deaths was reported either while IDPs were en route to Al Hol camp, or shortly after arrival.<sup>1</sup> This indicates that the dire humanitarian conditions in Susat and Hajin sub-districts, compounded with the long journey to Al Hol during winter weather conditions, further impacted vulnerable populations leaving ISIL-held areas. For more information see the [Al Hol refugee Camp Map December 2018](#) and [Al Hol IDP Camp Map December 2018](#).

### Barriers to education reported in Deir-ez-Zor governorate

In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, KIs in 108 (84%) of 128 assessed communities reported that not all children were accessing education. KIs in 30 (23%) assessed communities reported that secondary schools (7th - 9th grade) were not functioning and KIs in 32 (25%) assessed communities reported that high schools (10th - 12th grade) were not functioning, indicating a reduced capacity of education facilities. KIs in 80 (63%) assessed communities reported that children were not accessing schools outside of their village, further increasing gaps in children's education in Deir-ez-Zor governorate. Commonly reported reasons why children were not accessing schools in this governorate were early marriage, reported in 68 (53%) assessed communities, and child labour, reported in 44 (34%) assessed communities. Across NES, early marriage was only reported in 93 (16%) of 582 assessed communities, demonstrating that early marriage is a wider issue of concern in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, in comparison to other governorates in NES.



## Displacement<sup>4</sup>

- The overall number of IDP returns increased dramatically in January 2019. KIs in Hajin community in Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported an estimated 31,050 spontaneous IDP returns. The most commonly reported reasons for return were: a perceived cessation of hostilities, access to employment/income, and protecting/reclaiming assets. The communities of origin of the majority of these spontaneous returnees were in Basira, Hajin, and Kisreh sub-districts, all located in southeastern Deir-ez-Zor governorate.



## Food Security & Livelihoods

- Across NES, KIs in 171 (29%) of 582 assessed communities reported that people in their community did not access bread every day. This was most often reported in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, where KIs in 111 (87%) of the 128 assessed communities reported that bread was not accessed every day, with the most commonly reported barrier being that flour was too expensive/difficult to obtain, reported in 103 (84%) assessed communities.



## Education

- KIs in the majority of assessed communities across NES reported challenges in accessing education services. However, these challenges varied across the region. KIs in the majority of assessed communities in Ar-Raqqa governorate reported challenges related to a lack of school supplies and/or teaching staff while in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, KIs in the majority of assessed communities reported early marriage as a challenge. In the remaining assessed areas in NES there was not a strong area based trend in type of challenges reported.
- Among the 582 assessed communities in NES, KIs in 310 (53%) assessed communities reported that challenges to access education were affecting girls and boys equally.



## WASH

- Across NES, KIs in 169 (29%) of 582 assessed communities reported that access to water was insufficient. The majority of communities where KIs reported insufficient access to water were located in eastern Aleppo governorate, reported in 22 (46%) of 46 assessed communities and Ar-Raqqa governorate, reported in 99 (27%) of 212 assessed communities. Furthermore, most of the assessed communities in eastern Aleppo were located in Menbij sub-district.
- In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, water was reportedly sufficient in 99 (77%) of 128 assessed communities. However, KIs in 106 (83%) assessed communities reported that water tasted/smelled bad during the previous month.



## Health

- Of the 582 assessed communities in NES, KIs in 336 (58%) assessed communities reported no functional medical facilities in their community. This was reportedly a more common issue in Al-Hasakeh governorate where KIs in 150 (77%) of 196 assessed communities reported no functional medical facilities in their community.
- The most commonly reported barrier to accessing healthcare in NES was the cost of services, reported by KIs in 368 (63%) of 582 assessed communities. In Deir-ez-Zor governorate this was reportedly a more pressing issue, as KIs in 114 (89%) of 128 assessed communities reported healthcare services being too expensive as the main difficulty to access healthcare.
- KIs in 250 (43%) of 582 assessed communities in NES reported the use of coping strategies to deal with the lack of medical services and items. In Deir-ez-Zor governorate coping strategies were more commonly used, as KIs in 124 (97%) of 128 assessed communities reported the use of coping strategies.

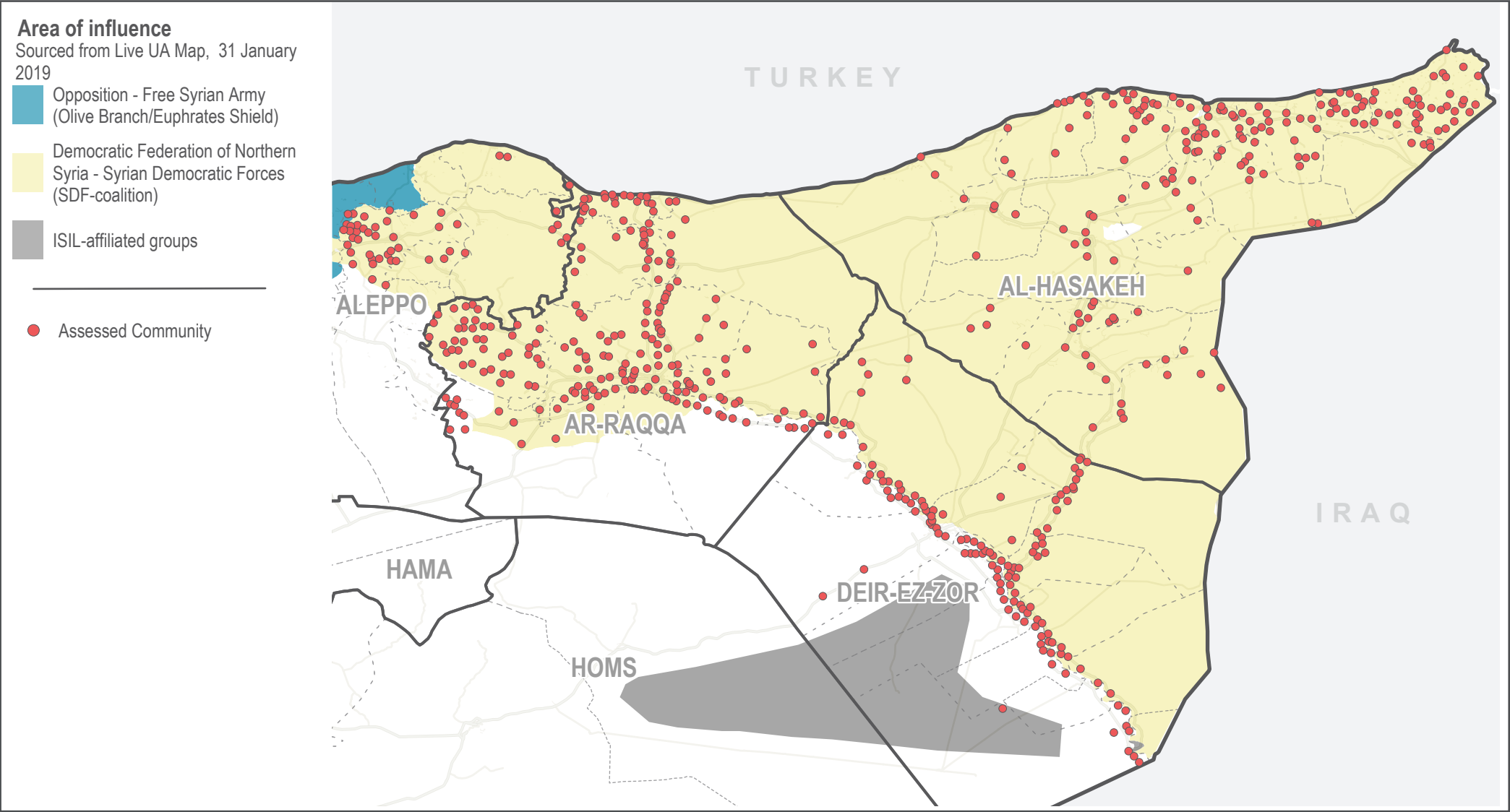


## Shelter and NFI

- Across the 582 assessed communities in NES, KIs in 217 (37%) assessed communities reported that pre-conflict population (PCP) primarily resided in independent apartments/houses. However, in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, KIs reported in 77 (60%) of 128 assessed communities that PCP resided in shared apartments/houses.

# Northeast Syria, January 2019

## Regional areas of influence:



# Northeast Syria, January 2019

## DISPLACEMENT<sup>4</sup>

**10,110 - 11,390** Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in January 2019.

**35,400 - 36,780** Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in January 2019.<sup>5</sup>

### Communities\* with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Al Hol (Al Hol, Al-Hasakeh) **8,000 - 9,000**

Al Thawra Al Jourah (Deir-ez-Zor, Deir-ez-Zor) **850 - 900**

Jbeileh (Deir-ez-Zor, Deir-ez-Zor) **300 - 350**

\*Reported as community/ neighbourhood (sub-district, governorate)

### Top 5 reported sub-districts\* of origin for IDP arrivals:<sup>6,7</sup>

Susat (Deir-ez-Zor)

Hanjin (Deir-ez-Zor)

Afrin (Northern Aleppo)

Al-Hasakeh (Al-Hasakeh)

Ar-Raqqa (Ar-Raqqa)

\*Reported as sub-district (governorate)

**577 communities reported no PCP departures.<sup>8</sup>**

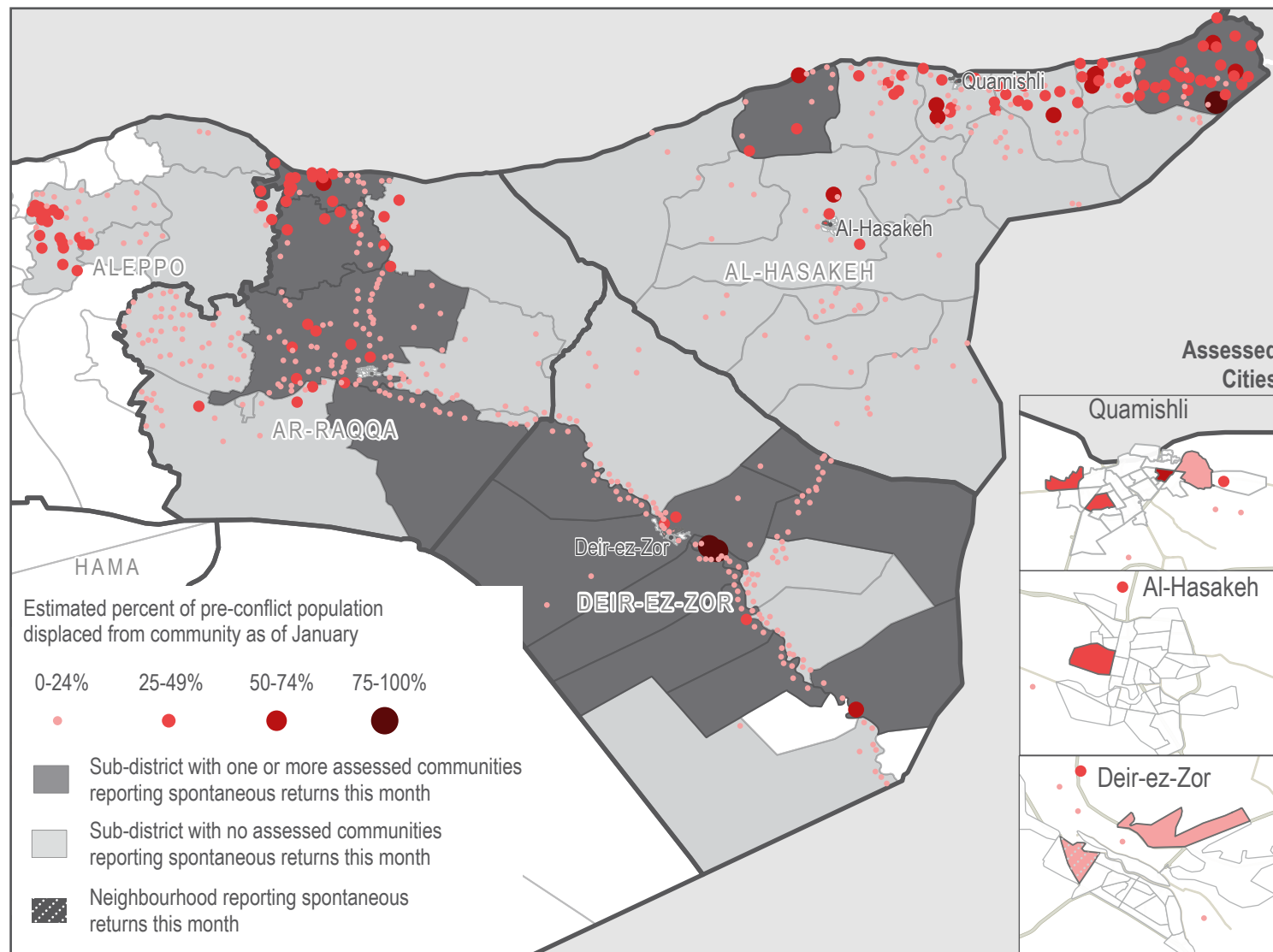
### Top 3 reasons for PCP departures in the remaining 5 assessed communities:<sup>6,7,9</sup>

Reduced access to basic services 80%

Access to money to pay for departure 40%

Loss of income 40%

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



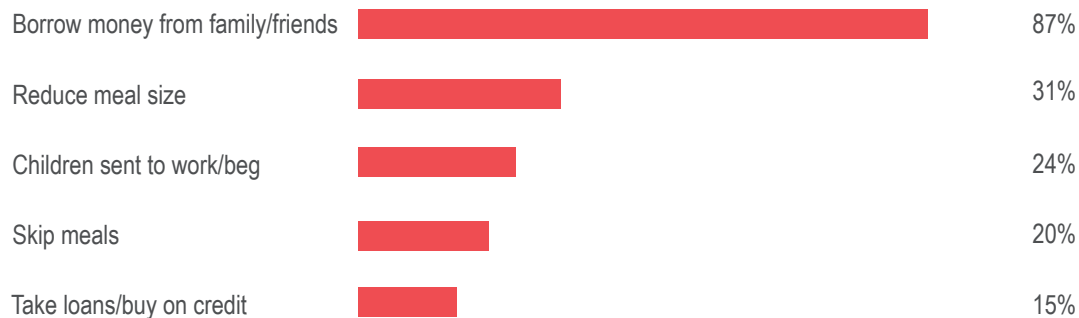
# Northeast Syria, January 2019



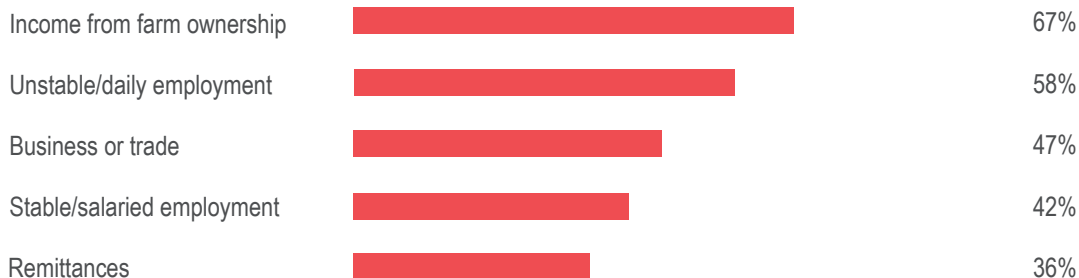
## FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

- 72/582** Communities reported having received food distributions in the last month.
- 100/582** Communities reported that residents were unable to access shops and markets.
- 1/582** Community, Tlin (Al-Hasakeh governorate), reported that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income.<sup>10</sup>
- 50,000 to 100,000 SYP** Most commonly reported household monthly income range.<sup>1</sup>

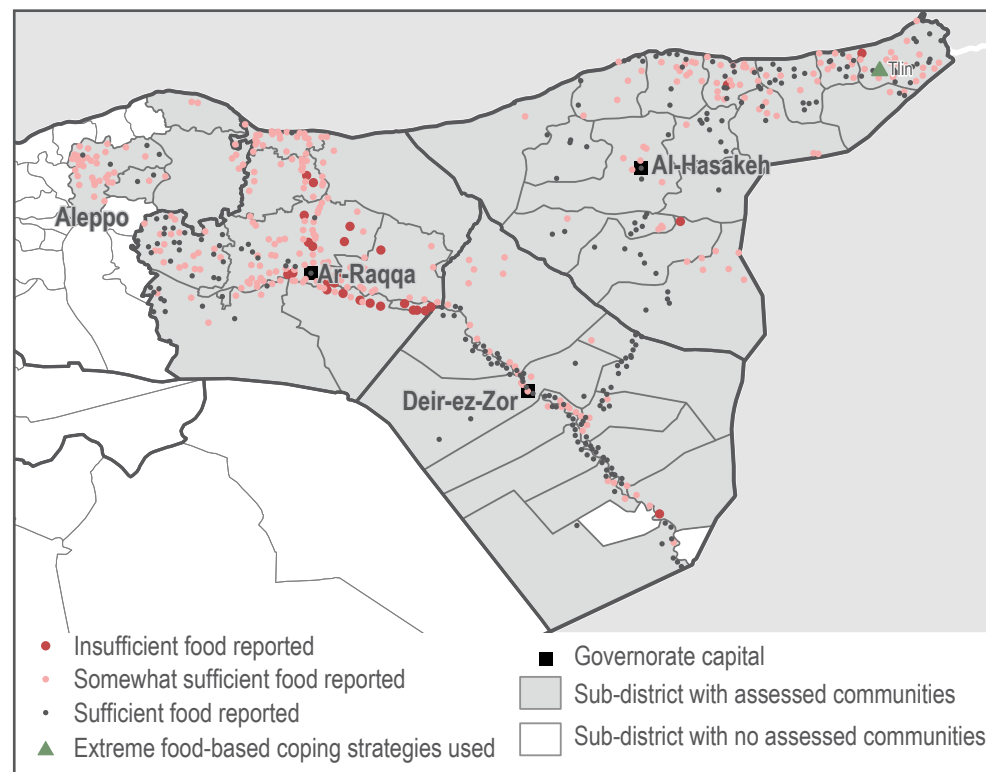
**97 communities reported that residents had enough income to cover household needs. The most commonly reported coping strategies to deal with a lack of income in the remaining 485 assessed communities were:**<sup>6,7,9</sup>



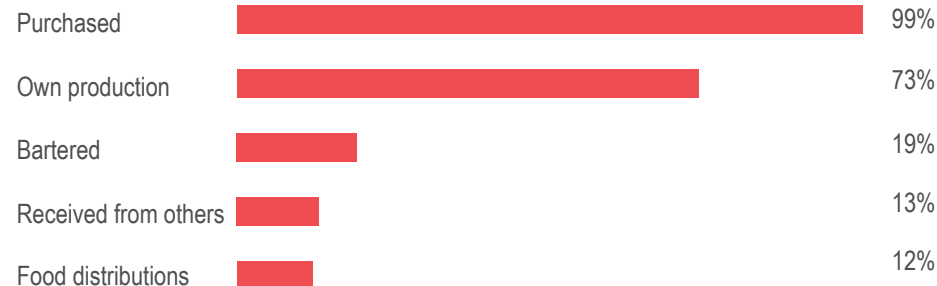
### Most commonly reported main sources of income:<sup>6,7</sup>



### Communities that reported having an insufficient quantity of food:<sup>11</sup>



### Most commonly reported ways of obtaining food:<sup>6,7</sup>



# Northeast Syria, January 2019



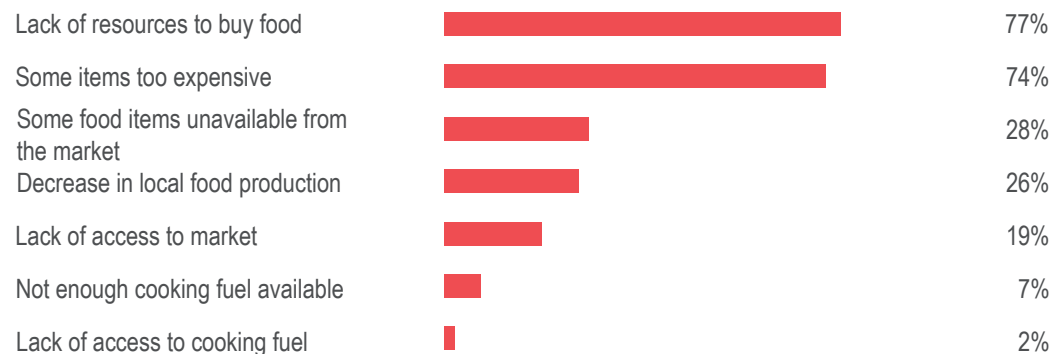
## FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Core food item prices reported (in SYP):<sup>1,12</sup>

Food item:	Regional average price in Jan 2019	One month change:	Six month change:
Bread (8 pieces)	145	+16%	+16%
Rice (1 kilogram)	475	-5%	-5%
Lentils (1 kilogram)	350	+8%	+14%
Sugar (1 kilogram)	300	0%	+8%
Cooking oil (1 litre)*	3,938	0%	+3%

\*includes the combined vegetable oil and ghee prices

51 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining 531 assessed communities were:<sup>6,7,9</sup>



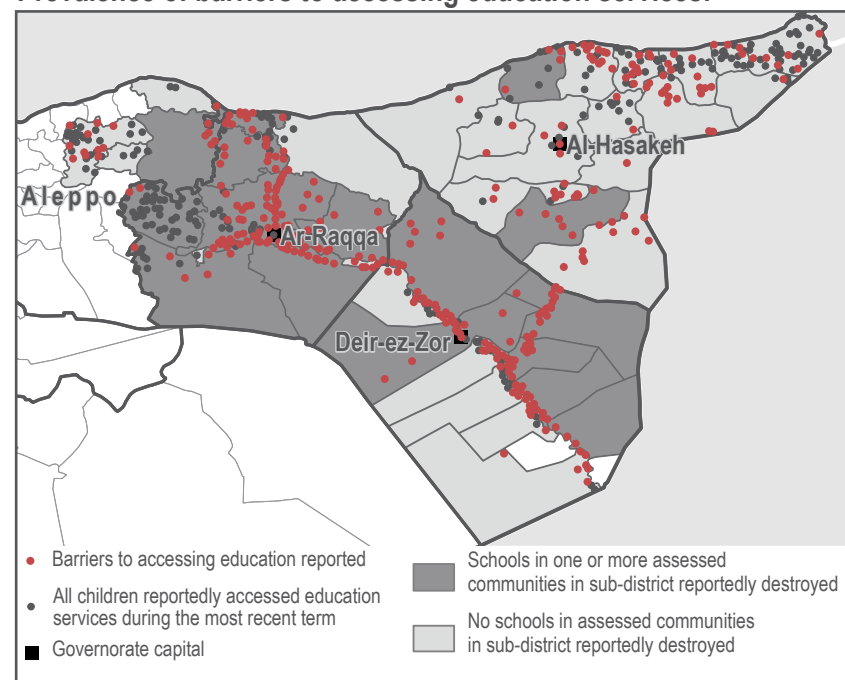
## EDUCATION

559/582 communities reported having functioning primary education facilities, while 241 communities reported having functioning secondary education facilities.<sup>13</sup>

236 communities reported that all children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining 346 assessed communities were:<sup>6,7,9</sup>



Prevalence of barriers to accessing education services:



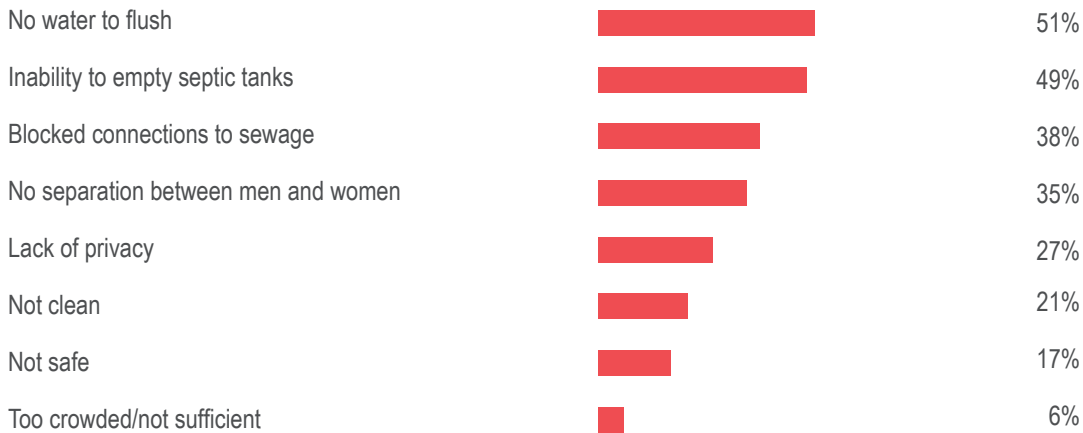
# Northeast Syria, January 2019



**172/582** Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.

**44/582** Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

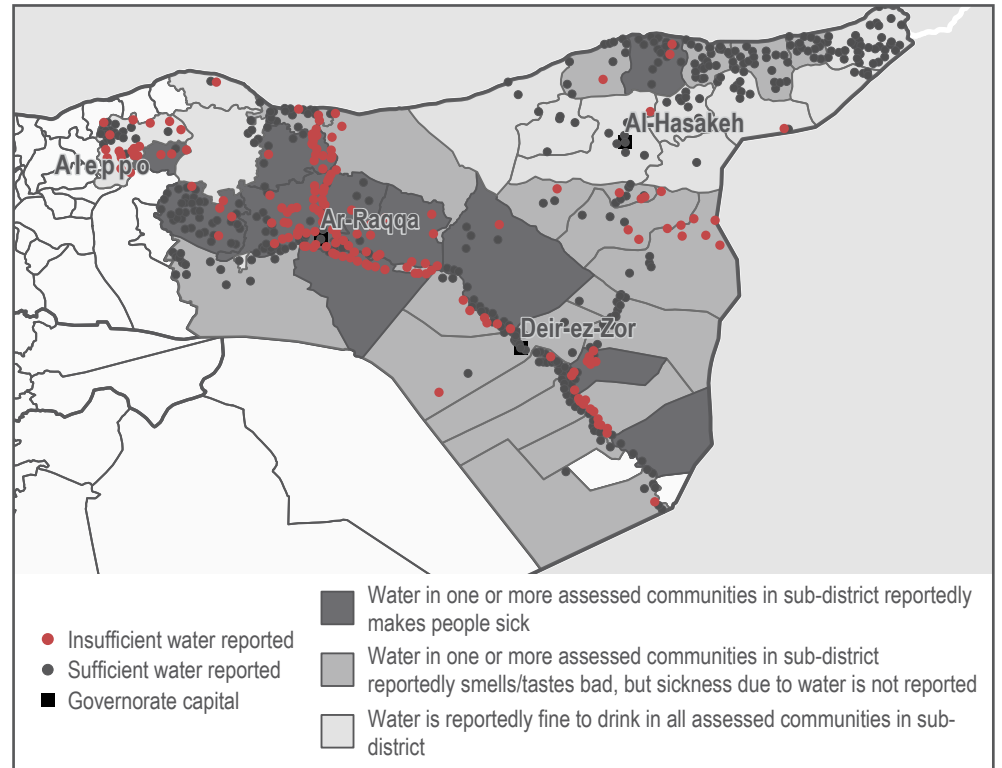
**353** communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most commonly reported problems with latrines in the remaining **229** assessed communities were:<sup>5,7,9</sup>



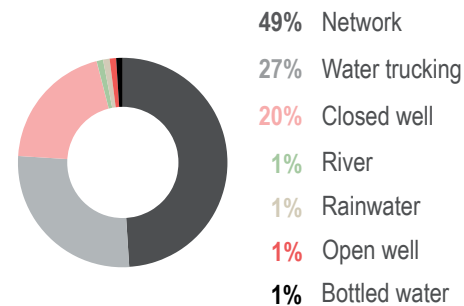
**412** communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining **169** assessed communities were:<sup>6,7,9</sup>



Communities that reported insufficient amounts of water to meet household needs:<sup>11</sup>



Primary drinking water source reported:<sup>7</sup>



Primary method of garbage disposal reported:<sup>6,7</sup>



# Northeast Syria, January 2019

## HEALTH

**275/582** Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.<sup>14</sup>

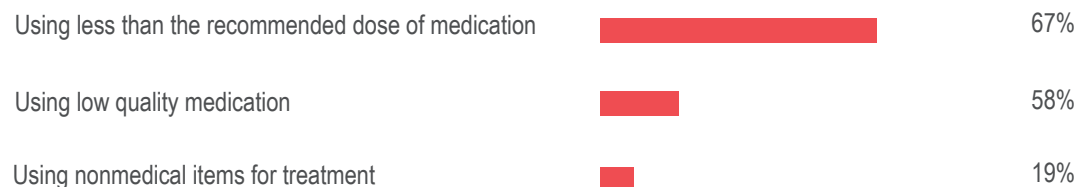
**202/582** Communities reported that the majority of women did not give birth in a formal health facility.

**3/111** Communities reported that some individuals had been diagnosed with SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition).<sup>15</sup>

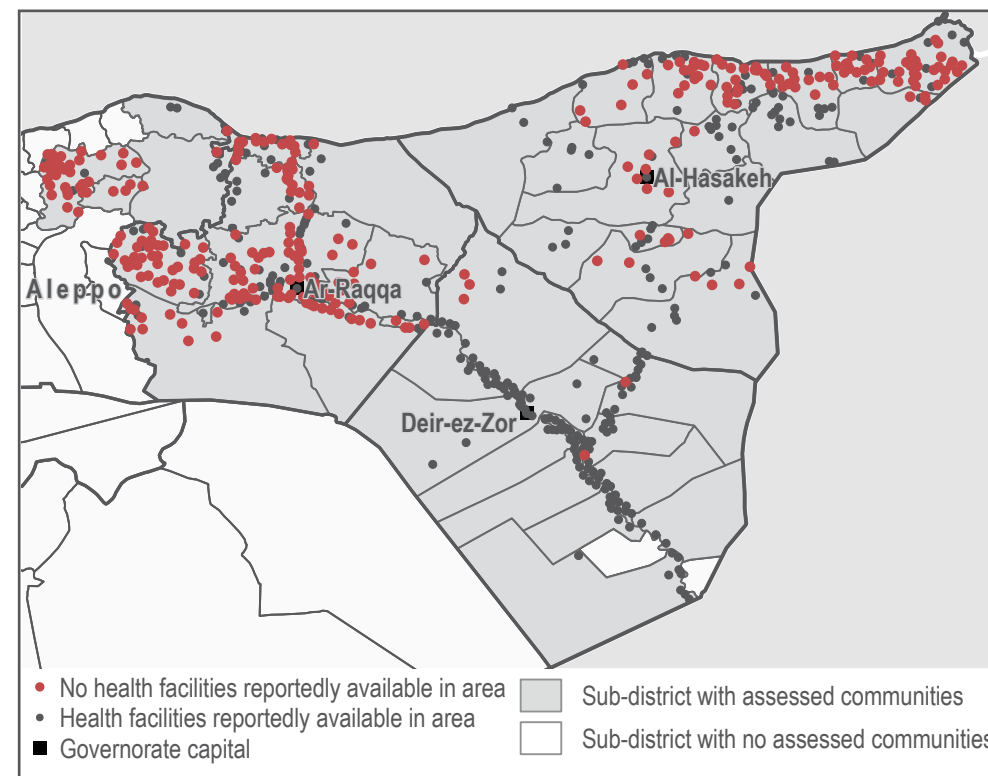
**23 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The most commonly reported barriers in the remaining 559 assessed communities were:**<sup>6,7,9</sup>



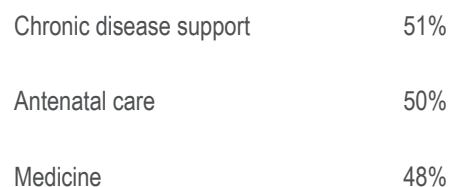
**332 communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical services and items. The coping strategies used in the remaining 250 communities were:**<sup>6,7,9</sup>



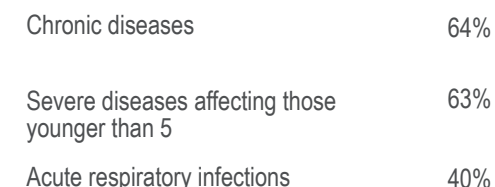
### Presence of medical facilities in assessed communities:



### Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported:<sup>6,7</sup>



### Top 3 most common health problems reported:<sup>6,7</sup>



# Northeast Syria, January 2019

## SHELTER AND NFI

**3,837 SYP** Regional average monthly reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.<sup>1</sup>

**5,920 SYP** Northern Syria average monthly reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.<sup>1,16</sup>

### Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP households:<sup>7</sup>



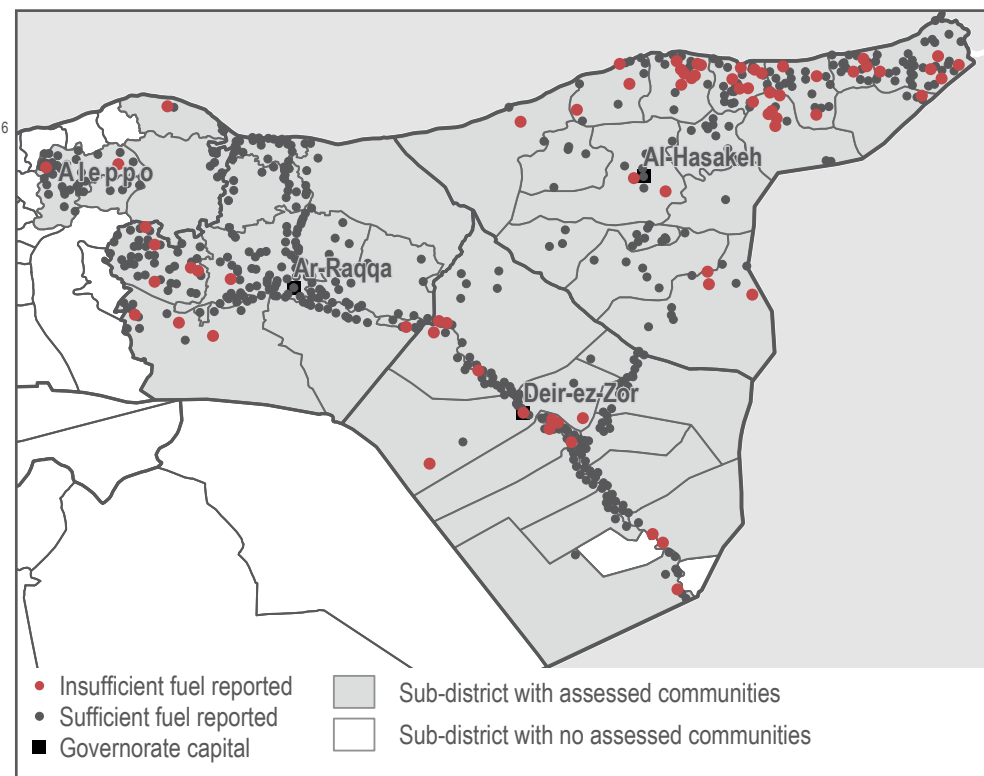
### Most commonly reported shelter type for IDP households:<sup>7</sup>



### Reported fuel prices (in SYP):<sup>1,2</sup>

Fuel type (1L):	Regional average price in January 2019:	One month change:	Six month change:
GoS petrol	85	-32%	+6%
GoS diesel	53	-5%	0%
Manually refined petrol	200	+14%	-11%
Manually refined diesel	125	+2%	+25%
Cooking fuel	3,125	-17%	-17%

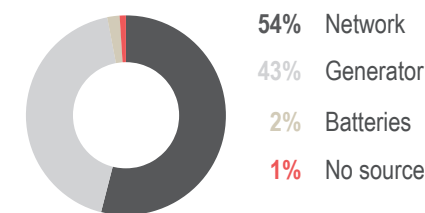
### Communities that reported insufficient amounts of fuel to meet household needs:<sup>11</sup>



**513 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with lack of fuel in the remaining 69 assessed communities:<sup>6,7,9</sup>**

Burning productive assets	58%
Cutting trees to burn	25%
Burning furniture in use	25%
Burning furniture not in use	23%
Burning waste	13%

### Primary source of electricity reported:<sup>7</sup>



## METHODOLOGY

HSOS data collection is conducted through an enumerator network in accessible locations throughout Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Al-Hasakeh governorates. 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 renders direct data collection unfeasible, some KI interviews are conducted remotely through participants identified in camps and settlements in neighbouring countries by REACH field teams. Participants contact multiple KIs in their community in Syria to collect information about their community. KIs are 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 disagree on a certain piece of information, enumerators triangulate the data with secondary sources or select the response provided by the KI with the more relevant sector-specific background. For each question asked, confidence levels are 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 are triangulated through secondary sources, including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. Where necessary, follow-up is conducted with enumerators and participants. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the region.

## 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](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) and follow us on Twitter: [@REACH\\_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).

## ENDNOTES

### KEYEVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

<sup>a</sup> Sen. (18 October 2017). After the Battle for Raqqa, Now Comes the Hard Part. News Deeply. Retrieved from <https://www.newsdeeply.com/syria>.

<sup>b</sup> UNHCR. (21 January 2018). Syria Crisis: Northeast Syria Situation Report No. 20 (1 December – 31 December 2017). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>c</sup> Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (4 April 2018). The International Coalition and SDF prepare for a massive military operation against ISIS amid alertness in the east of the Euphrates River and south of Al-Hasakah. Retrieved from <https://www.syriaahr.com>.

<sup>d</sup> El Dahan, M. (9 October 2018). War and drought produce Syria's smallest wheat crop in 30 years: U.N. Reuters. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com>.

<sup>e</sup> UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (14 December 2018). Syria Crisis: Northeast Syria Situation Report No. 30 (1 November 2018 – 14 December 2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>f</sup> BBC (28 December 2018). Syria war: Government forces 'enter Manbij' amid Turkey threats. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com>.

<sup>g</sup> CCCM Cluster. IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI). Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in north-west Syria, December 2018. Retrieved from <https://reachresourcecentre.info>.

<sup>h</sup> World Food Programme. (31 December 2018). WFP Syria Situation Report #12, December 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>i</sup> Syrian Network for Human Rights. (1 January 2019). Documenting the Death of 6,964 Civilians in Syria in 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>j</sup> New York Times (NYT). (16 January 2019). ISIS Attack in Syria Kills 4 Americans, Raising New Worries About Troop Withdrawal. Retrieved from <https://nytimes.com>

<sup>k</sup> Reuters (1 May 2018). U.S.-backed Syrian forces resume battle against Islamic State. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com>

<sup>l</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). (31 January 2019). WHO concerned over critical health situation in Al-Hol camp, Al-Hasakeh. Retrieved from <https://www.emro.who.int>

### MAIN TEXT

<sup>1</sup> 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 31 December 2018).

<sup>2</sup> 18 items comprise the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which represents the minimum culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month. SMEB items: Bread, bulgur, chicken, eggs, fresh vegetables, ghee/vegetable oil, red lentils, rice, salt, sugar, tomato paste, bathing soap, laundry/dish soap, sanitary pads, toothpaste, cooking fuel, water trucking, smartphone data, float (other costs).

<sup>3</sup> All information and figures reported in HSOS factsheets refer to the situation in assessed communities and

## MAIN TEXT

cannot be generalised to other non-assessed communities of the region.

<sup>4</sup> For population numbers, KIs were asked to provide the number of resident and IDPs present in the community as of 30 November 2018. A minimum of three KIs were interviewed in each assessed community. Where discrepancies in the information provided by KIs was deemed too large further triangulation with additional KIs and local organizations was conducted. Estimated individual figures in this report are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Discrepancies with other available population data may be the result of any of the following: differences in assessment coverage dates; differences in definitions of population sub-groups (IDPs and residents); differences in geographic scope of assessed locations (e.g. included/excluded nearby camps and sites); differences in KI types interviewed; and differences in average household sizes used to calculate individual numbers, among others.

The definition of IDPs used by enumerators for this assessment was 'Individuals or groups of people who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights, or natural or man-made disasters, and who have not crossed an international border'.

<sup>5</sup> Spontaneous returns refers to IDPs or refugees who return to their community of origin that they left due to conflict but not necessarily to their places of habitual residence (their former homes); who intend to remain in the community for an undetermined period; and who do not meet the IASC framework on durable solutions (IASC framework includes "not necessarily voluntary, safe or sustainable" elements).

<sup>6</sup> Assessed using select multiple questions.

<sup>7</sup> By percentage of communities reporting.

<sup>8</sup> The definition of resident (pre-conflict) population (PCP), was 'Individuals or groups of people who currently reside in their communities of origin, or communities of permanent residence prior to the Syrian conflict. This includes populations that were never displaced as well as previously displaced populations that have returned to their communities of origin'.

<sup>9</sup> Not all surveys have answers for every question, in these scenarios the KI or participant will input no answer. When the dataset has no answer for a particular question the reported number of assessed communities will not add up to the total number of communities assessed and percentages will be calculated based on submitted responses.

<sup>10</sup> Extreme food-based strategies: eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

<sup>11</sup> Based on KI perception of sufficiency.

<sup>12</sup> Bread, rice, lentils, sugar, and cooking oil are considered core food items used in food baskets across Syria. For further information on all SMEB items please see the [Syria Market Monitoring report](#).

<sup>13</sup> Reported numbers indicate the number of communities with functioning primary and secondary education facilities during the data collection period. It is important to note that simply having a functioning facility is not indicative of students being able to attend said facility. In addition, in some cases KIs reported that children attend schools in a neighbouring community.

<sup>14</sup> Assessed HSOS medical items: anti-anxiety medication, contraception, clean bandages, blood transfusion bags, diabetes medicine, anaesthetics, blood pressure medicine, antibiotics, burn treatment.

<sup>15</sup> This information was derived from medical professionals (KIs). The number of total communities refers to all communities that had a KI as medical professional available.

<sup>16</sup> Includes HSOS data for Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates.