

# HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

August 2023 | Northwest Syria

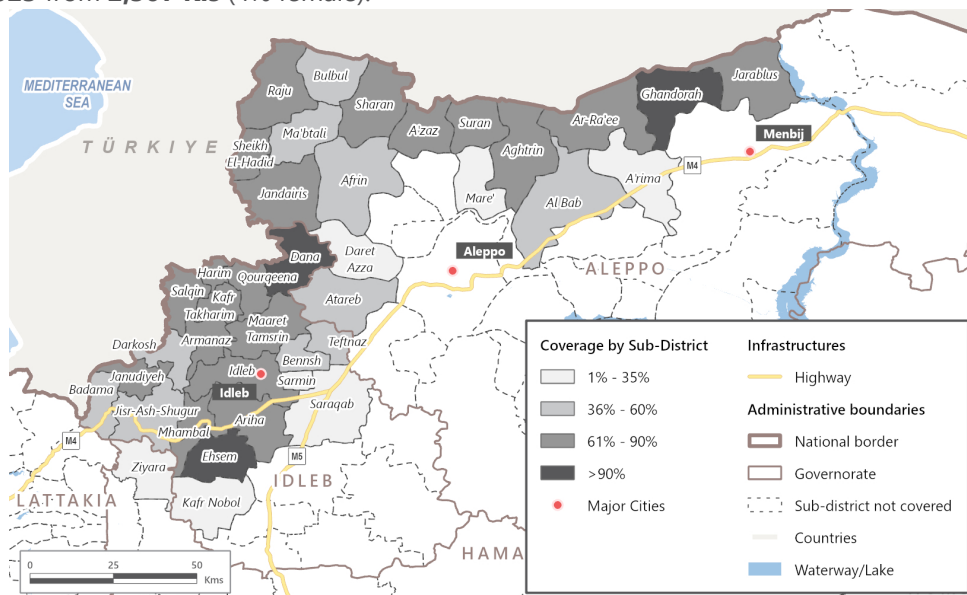
SITUATION OVERVIEW

## INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

HSOS is a monthly assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This factsheet presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, economic conditions, living conditions, access to basic services, public health, and the security and protection situation in Northwest Syria (NWS). HSOS focuses on host community and internally displaced persons (IDP) households residing in communities. **This assessment does not provide information on camps and informal settlements.**

Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the population and region. The complete monthly HSOS dataset is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators in Greater Idleb, and partner enumerators in Northern Aleppo, interview three to six KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely. KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **666 communities** across Greater Idleb<sup>1</sup> and Northern Aleppo areas. Data was collected **between 1-7 August 2023** from **2,307 KIs** (4% female).



## KEY MESSAGES

- Access to livelihoods was the most frequently reported priority need in NWS.** KIs reported livelihood to be among the top priority needs for host community households in 67% of assessed communities, and for IDP households in 65% of communities. The access to credit for entrepreneurial investment and to humanitarian programmes supporting livelihoods were the most commonly livelihood needs reported for both IDP and host community households.
- KIs reported that the main network did not provide water for households on any day of the week in 45% of the assessed communities connected to the main network.** This may explain why private water trucking was reported to be the most common source of drinking and non-drinking water in 44% and 45% of assessed communities respectively. However, KIs reported in 38% of the assessed communities that the high price of water trucking was the main barrier to accessing sufficient water.
- Among the communities depending on private water trucking as their primary source of drinking water, 56% reportedly experienced problems with the water.** As a comparison, KIs in 43% of communities reportedly relying on the main network for drinking purposes indicated that households experienced problems with drinking water. Despite the reported problems with drinking water, KIs in 55% of assessed communities did not use any method to make water safer to drink. This exposes households to the risk of contracting water borne diseases.
- The volatile security situation in NWS<sup>a</sup> continued to affect the civilian population.** In August, KIs in 17% of assessed communities reported the threat from imminent conflict as a protection risk faced by households, while the threat from shelling was reported as a risk in 12% of the assessed locations. According to a survey collected by the NWS Protection Cluster,<sup>b</sup> fear caused by the conflict is the first factor prompting the population to move in the region.

### HSOS Dashboard

The [Humanitarian Trends Dashboard](#) uses HSOS data to visualise how the humanitarian situation in northern Syria has been changing over time.

Feedback on improvements to this product can be done anonymously using the following [link](#).

## PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



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

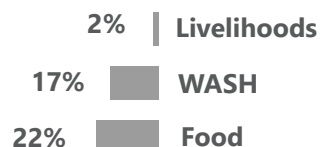
1	Livelihoods	67%
2	WASH ▲	58%
3	Food	50%

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



Yes: **57%**  
No: **43%**

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



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

Communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	<b>68%</b>
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	<b>51%</b>
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	<b>50%</b>

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

1	96%	No humanitarian assistance was available
2	3%	Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance
3	1%	Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible



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

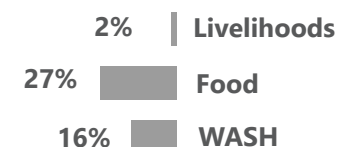
1	Livelihoods	65%
2	Food	51%
3	WASH	47%

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



Yes: **58%**  
No: **42%**

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



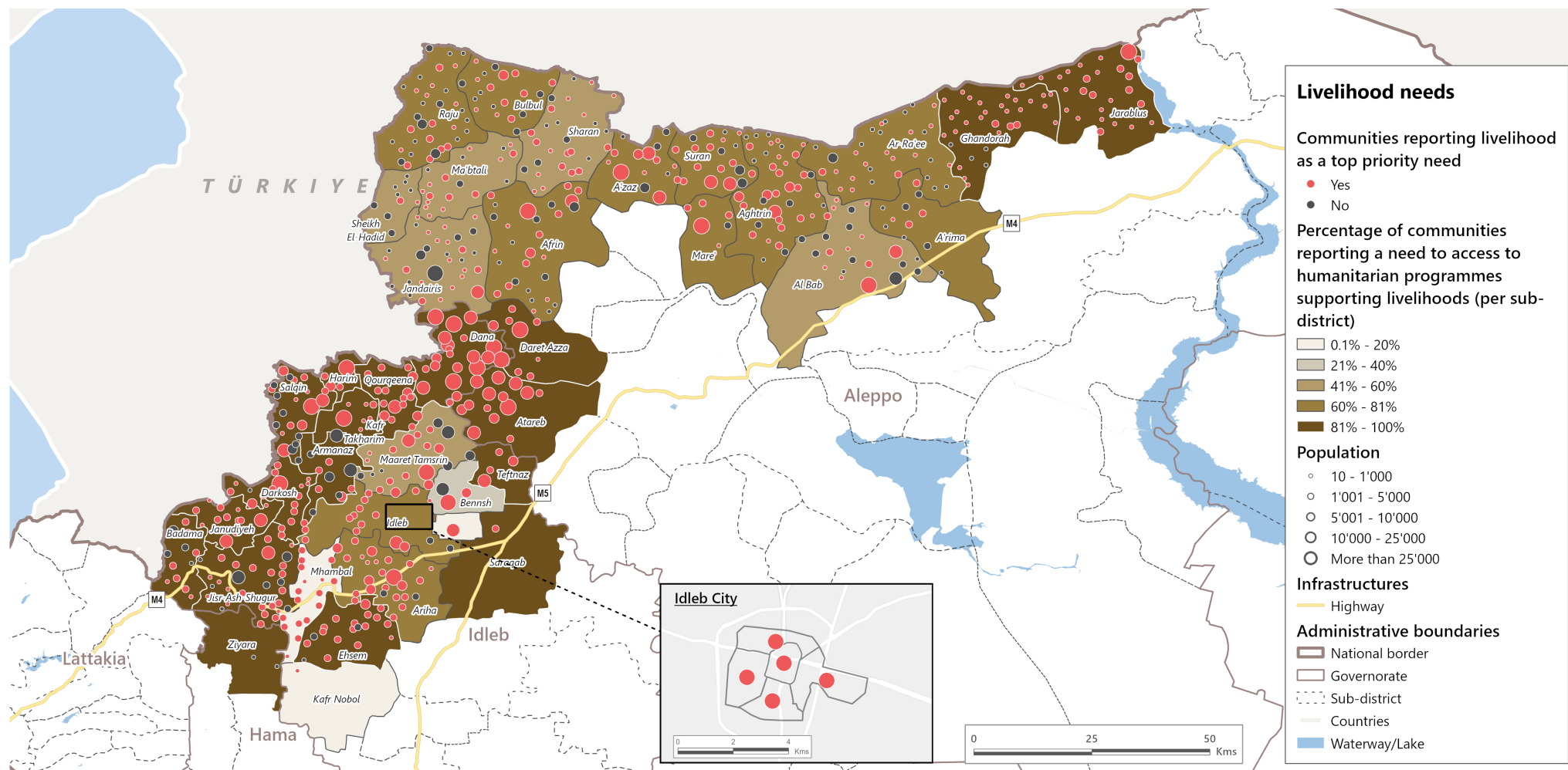
Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities reporting barriers) <sup>3</sup>

Communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

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Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	<b>51%</b>
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	<b>50%</b>

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

1	96%	No humanitarian assistance was available
2	2%	Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance
3	1%	Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible



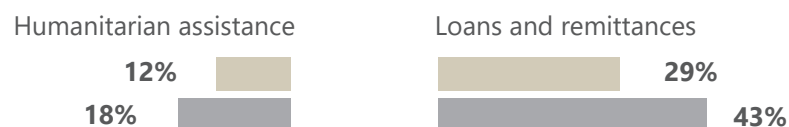
## Livelihood Needs

### Note on the map

This map shows the livelihood needs in Northwest Syria in the month of August. According to their colors, the dots on this map correspond to the communities in which KIs reported livelihood (red dots) or did not report livelihood (black dots) among the top three priority needs for households within the 30 days prior to data collection. In addition, the color of each sub-district is linked to the percentage of communities in which KIs reported a need for access to humanitarian programs supporting livelihoods.

## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Region	Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six <sup>4,5</sup>			Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment <sup>4,5</sup>			Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour <sup>4,6,7</sup>		
Northwest Syria	200 TRY			524 TRY			70 TRY		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
	0%	100%	0%	0%	54%	46%	0%	100%	0%

Most common sources of meeting basic needs for households (by % of assessed communities) <sup>3,7</sup>Presence of **host community** and **IDP** households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs (by % of assessed communities) <sup>3</sup>Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services <sup>7</sup>

KIs in **52%** of assessed communities cited **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **74%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **76%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge



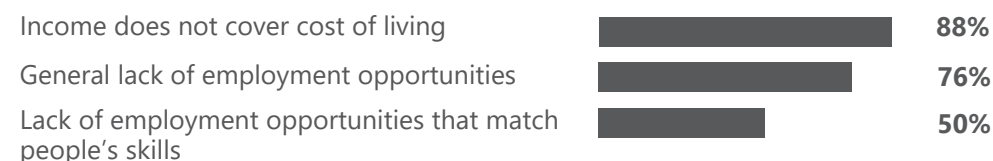
KIs in **20%** of assessed communities cited high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



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



KIs in **42%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge

Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods (by % of assessed communities) <sup>3,7</sup>Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) <sup>3</sup>% of assessed communities where livelihood sources from agriculture were reported <sup>3</sup>

Livelihood source	Host community households	IDP households
Food crop production	71%	22%
Cash crop production	55%	10%
Livestock products	55%	38%
Sale of livestock	17%	14%



Host community households



IDP households

## BASIC NEEDS OVERVIEW

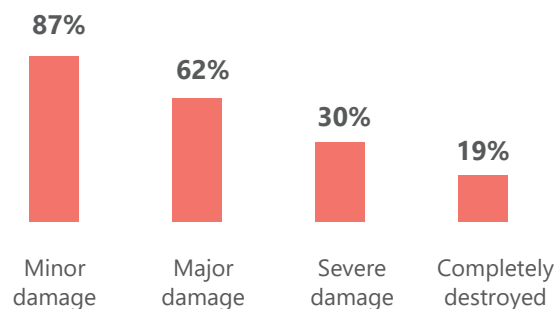
In **79%** of assessed communities, at least **80%** of the host community households reportedly **owned their shelter**

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

In **21%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **unfinished or abandoned residential buildings**

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

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



**Shelter and repair materials being too expensive** was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 81% of assessed communities)

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



68%

High temperatures inside shelters



64%

Shelter have minor damages



62%

Lack of lighting around shelter

31%

Lack of privacy inside shelter

26%

Lack of space/overcrowding

15%

Shelters not suitable for those with disability/health condition

74%

63%

60%

40%

29%

17%



93%

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

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

1	Markets exist and food is available but households cannot afford essential food items	76%
2	Households are not able to store food or cook food	23%
3	Markets exist but not all essential food items are available	17%

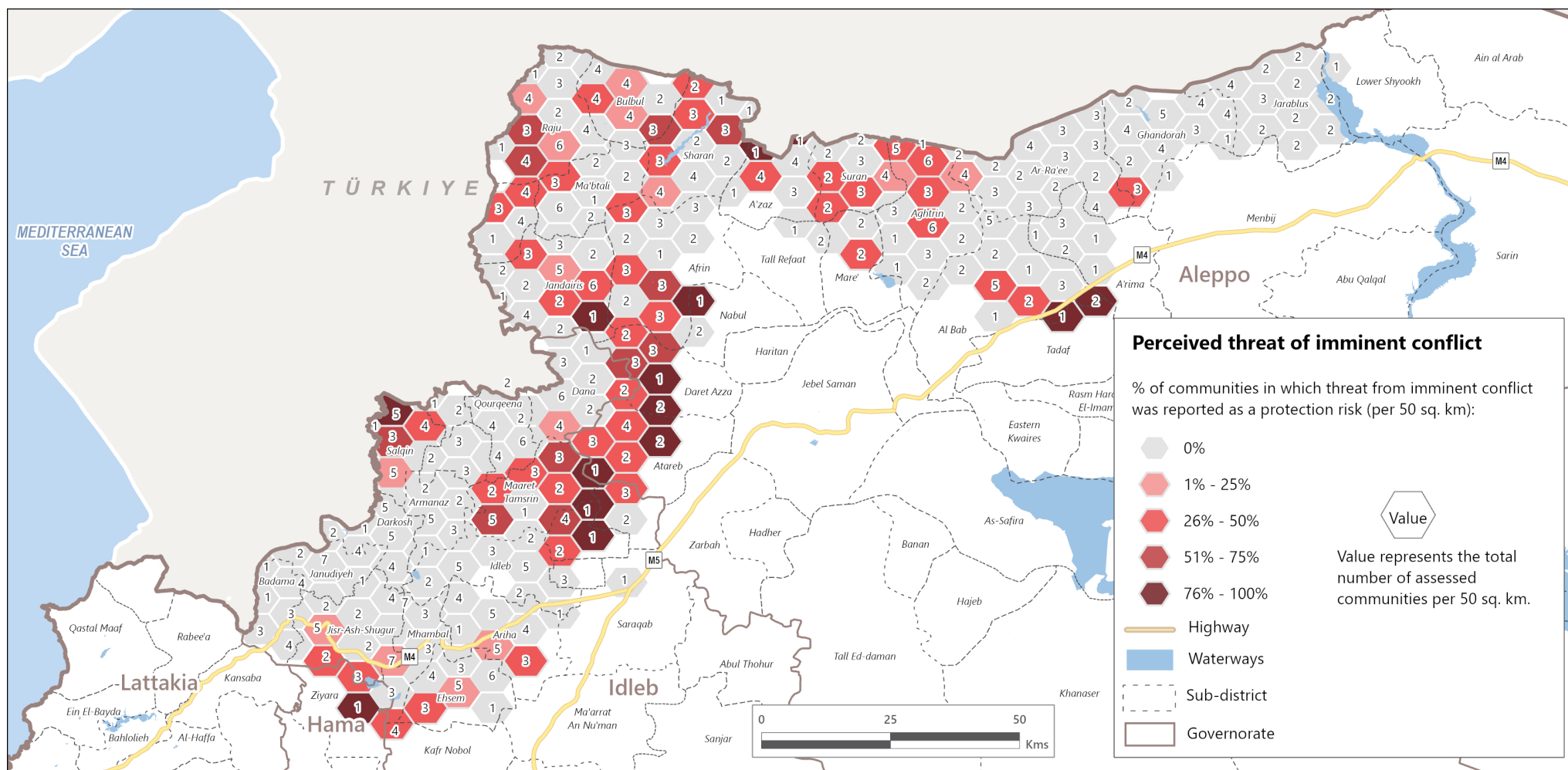


**High price of suitable foods formula** was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 88% of assessed communities)<sup>7, 9</sup>

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

1	Own production or farming	63%
2	Relying on food stored previously	25%
3	Assistance from local councils, NGOs or other groups	9%





## Perceived threat from imminent conflict

### Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of communities in which KIs reported the threat of imminent conflict as a perceived protection risk in the 30 days prior to the data collection. The figure in the center of each hexagon displays the number of communities assessed in an area of 1,600 sq. km.

## ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES



## Access to Electricity

&gt;12 hrs/day

was the most commonly reported range of hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 48% of assessed communities)

## Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 63% of assessed communities)

74%

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



## Access to Water

50%

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



7 days 11%  
5-6 days 8%  
3-4 days 14%  
1-2 days 21%  
0 days 46%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 513 communities connected to a water network)

## Private water trucking

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



## Access to Sanitation

51%

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

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

41%

31%

16%

Paid private waste collection

Free public waste collection

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

32%

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



## Access to Markets

27%

% of assessed communities in which households reportedly were **unable to access markets** in the assessed location

## People lack financial means to open shop/market

was the most commonly reported **reason for why markets were not functioning** (reported by KIs in 74% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

63%

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



## Access to Health Services

58%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **households did not have access to health services** in the assessed location

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

63%

53%

52%

Medicines and other commodities

First aid or emergency care




Treatment for chronic diseases

## High cost of transportation to health facilities

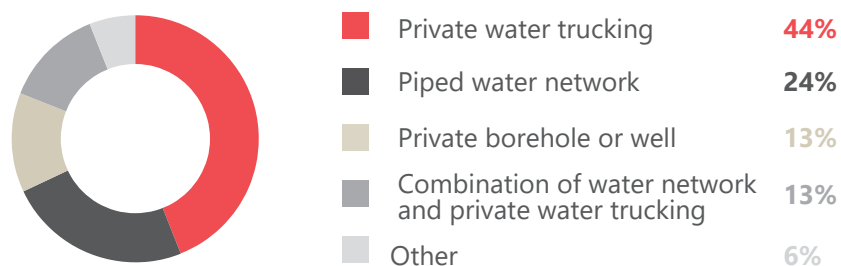
was the most commonly reported **barrier to accessing healthcare** (reported by KIs in 69% of assessed communities)

## PUBLIC HEALTH

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

Unsafe soak pit		65%
Sewage network does not reach all households		32%
Sewage system needs repair/cleaning		27%

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



53%

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

64%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that households **did not use any methods** to make water safer to drink.

### Methods used by households to make water safer to drink (by % of assessed communities in which KIs reported methods being used)<sup>3</sup>

1	Chlorine tablets	47%
2	Sedimentation	33%
3	Boiling	24%

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

**Limited variety of food** reported in **28%** of assessed communities

**Not enough food** reported in **21%** of assessed communities





**Poor quality of food** reported in **13%** of assessed communities

36%








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

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

Lack of medicines/medical equipment at the health facility		37%
Absence of health facilities present/functioning in assessed location		33%
Health facilities are overcrowded		36%
Specialised services are not available		12%

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

	No	Yes
General and or specialist surgical services	46% 	54%
Treatment for parasitic infections	40% 	60%
Skilled care during childbirth (General obstetric care - normal deliveries)	32% 	68%
Vaccination	26% 	74%
First aid/emergency care (accident and injuries)	6% 	94%



## SECURITY AND PROTECTION

### Intersectoral findings on security



**General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets** was a reported barrier to market access in 9 assessed communities

**General safety and security concerns at markets** was a reported barrier to market access in 32 assessed communities

**Movement restrictions** was reported as a protection risk in 0 assessed communities <sup>7</sup>



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

**Fear from imminent conflict** was reported as a protection risk in 17% of assessed communities <sup>7</sup>

**Threat from shelling** was reported as a protection risk in 12% of assessed communities <sup>7</sup>

**Threat from airstrikes** were reported as a protection risk in 47 assessed communities <sup>7</sup>



**The security situation** was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in 55 assessed communities <sup>7</sup>



**Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities** was reported as a barrier to healthcare in 5 assessed communities

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

- 1 Special assistance for vulnerable groups **68%**
- 2 Specialised child protection services **51%**
- 3 Psychosocial support **45%**



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

- 28% Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 35%
- 4% Some people did not have the necessary personal document as a barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance
- 4%

60%

60%

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

### Gender and diversity

KIs in **35%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods <sup>7</sup>

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

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

KIs in **36%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **8%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> The Greater Idlib area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo governorate (Atareb and Daret Azza sub-districts), and parts of Hama governorate controlled by armed opposition groups (Ziyara sub-district). The Northern Aleppo area includes 16 sub-districts located across Afrin, A'az, Al Bab and Jarablus districts.

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD), Turkish Lira (TRY), or Syrian Pounds (SYP). When the price was not reported in SYP, the NWS Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) August 2023, 1 USD = 13,100 SYP; 1TRY= 500 SYP.

<sup>6</sup> According to the NWS [JMMI](#) August 2023, 1 USD = 13,100 SYP.

<sup>7</sup> Findings for residents and IDPs were merged. The merge was calculated as follows: (option was selected for either residents or IDPs) / (communities reporting challenges/barriers/coping strategies for either residents or IDPs).

<sup>8</sup> Minor damage (cracks in walls, leaking roof, need of new doors and window repairs, etc.); Major damage (buildings with extensive damage to window frames and doors, but no structural damage to columns, slabs, or loadbearing walls); Severe damage (buildings with significant structural damage to column slabs, or loadbearing walls, cracking, steel elements and deformations visible in concrete; the building would require extensive repairs); Completely destroyed (buildings with structural damage so significant that rehabilitation is not possible).

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

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

<sup>11</sup> This section provides a visualisation of three types of problems with drinking water. These problems were not selected based on how commonly they were reported, but rather on their potential negative impact on health.

<sup>12</sup> This section only focuses on barriers related to the health facilities and excludes financial barriers as well as obstacles linked to transportation to health facilities.

<sup>13</sup> This section provides a visualisation of the availability of five essential types of health services reported in the assessed communities or in nearby locations. The displayed services were not selected based on how commonly they were reported.

<sup>14</sup> Challenges specific to girls include the following: Families not allowing attendance or continuation of education, fear of harassment on the way to or inside education facilities, and the lack of privacy in toilets.

## REFERENCES

a. ACAPS. (4 August 2023). Northern Syria key crises to watch. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>

b. Protection Cluster Northwest Syria. (7 August 2023). Impacts of Security Escalation and Humanitarian Constraints on Protection and Recovery, July 2023. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>

N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset	N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset
Host community households	633	Currency used for paying rent	410
IDP households	658	Currency in which wages are paid (merged)	529
Challenges to assistance access (host community)	332	Days when water is available from network	510
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	262	Barriers to markets functioning	183
Challenges to assistance access (IDP)	349	Methods to make water safer (merged)	242
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	268	Problems with drinking water (merged)	355
Currency used for paying water	540		

## 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).