Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, Syria May 2022



### Background

In October 2019, military operations in the area around the Turkish border led to a change in control of an area of approximately 4,000 km<sup>2</sup>, encompassing Ras al-Ain, Suluk and Tell Abiad. As a result, approximately 70,000 persons were displaced, and two camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) were closed.1 Towards the end of 2020, clashes and shelling resumed, causing further displacement.

Meanwhile, economic conditions have deteriorated across Syria, and the prices of basic goods are increasing. This is partly due to the instability and decline of the Syrian Pound (SYP) against the US Dollar (USD), as well as the escalation of conflict in northwest Syria in early 2020.<sup>3</sup>

Since late 2020 and continuing in 2022, Northeast Syria has been experiencing drought conditions due to the reduced flow in the Euphrates River and a long-term reduction in groundwater levels. The drought has not only affected access to water but also electricity, agricultural livelihoods, food security, and health.<sup>4</sup>

# Assessment Overview

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REACH's informal settlement profiling in Northeast Syria (NES) consists of key informant (KI) interviews with community members who have knowledge of the settlements. A minimum of two KIs were sought for each of the sites, focusing on each KI's sector-specific knowledge. All selected informal settlements and collective centres were verified by the NES Sites and Settlements Working Group (SSWG).<sup>5</sup> For an updated list of active sites, see the SSWG sites list.6

Data collection took place between 19 and 31 May 2022. In total, 27 settlements were assessed in Deir ez Zor governorate. The assessment was carried out at the settlement level. Due to the KI methodology used, findings are not statistically representative and should therefore only be considered indicative of the situation in assessed settlements and not all informal IDP settlements across the four governorates. Presented percentages refer to the assessed settlements in which KIs report, unless mentioned otherwise. All percentages of households indicated are based on KI estimates. Answers separated by semicolon (;) indicate that the KIs from one site provided different answers. Corresponding assessments were carried out in the other three NES governorates in May 2022. These profiles can be found on the REACH Resource Centre together with the previous assessments.

Coverage:		Settlement Typology:	
Assessed settlements:	14	📠 Settlements in school building:	11
Population in assessed settlements:	16,706	Settlements with other buildings in use:	3
Collective centres:	13	Tented	14

# Most commonly reported first, second, third, and overall priority needs for residents<sup>7</sup>

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL
1	Water	Food	Employment	Food
2	Employment	Shelter Support	Medical Care	Water
3	Food	Medical care	Food	Employment

### Locations of Assessed Settlements



. unOCHA (10 July 2020). Syrian Arab Republic: COVID-19 Update No. 14 - 10 July 2020. Retrieved from https://retlefweb.int.
2. UNOCHA (23 December 2020). Syrian Arab Republic: COVID-19 Humanitarian Update No. 22 - 23 December 2020. Retrieved from https://retlefweb.int.
3. REACH (November 2020). Northeast Syria Market Monitoring Exercise November 2020. Retrieved from https://www.reachresourcecentre.info.
4. REACH Briefing Note: Humanitarian Impact of Water Shortages in Northeast Syria: Retrieved from https://www.reachresourcecentre.info.

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7. Kis were all asked to rank the top 3 priority needs of the settlements. The figure shown ranks how many times a given need was reported by a KI as first, second or third need. The overall indicates how many times a need was mentioned not considering the rank



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#### **Demographics:\*** Ť 42% Males

#### Settlement Size:\* Females 58% 🖡 Older (60+) 6% (1,268 individuals) Average: 619 individuals 61% 60+ Adults (18-59) 40% (7.056 individuals) 7950 individuals Largest Settlement: 18-59 Children (0-17) 55% (8,414 individuals) Smallest Settlement: 15 individuals 0-17

\*based on KI estimates

# **<sup>3</sup>**→ **MOVEMENT**

Top three areas of origin by percentage of households across assessed settlements.

	Country	Governorate	Sub-district	
	Syria	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	22%
	Syria	Deir-ez-Zor	Muhasan	17%
•	Syria	Deir-ez-Zor	Ashara	13%

Movements reported in the 2 weeks prior to the assessment:

#### 0 New arrivals Departures

The main pull factors reported for people to arrive to this settlement was NA and NA.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

#### Latrines

	Availbe latrines:9,10		
	Household	Communal	Makeshift
	56	0	4

In 41% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that no latrines were available in the settlement. Top three latrine alternatives were Open defecation outside the site (e.g. nearby fields or bushes) (63%), Open defecation within the site (44%) and Digging private pits (33%).

#### Communal latrine characteristics, by % of assessed settlements:11



The main issues reported with latrines were that there are none (reported in 41% of settlements) and that they are not enough (reported in 41% of settlements).9

#### **Showers**

Bathing facilities:9,10	Available:	Mostly used:
Bathing inside shelter:	63%	100%
Communal:	0%	0%
Household:	0%	0%

The main issues reported with showers were there are none, reported by KIs in 100% of assessed settlements, and a lack of water, reported in 70% of settlements.9

#### Reported proportion of residents with access to soap within the assessed settlements:



The main issues reported with soap were that Soap is too expensive, reported by KIs in 89% of assessed settlements, and Going to the market is dangerous, reported in 0% of settlements.9

Movement intentions by percentage of households across assessed settlements:



Leave within 3 months	0%
Leave within 3-6 months	0%
Stay for at least 1 year	86%

KIs reported that the main factors influencing the intention to leave were Reduced access to income and employment opportunities (22% of assessed settlements) and High cost of living (11%).

#### Water



Tanker truck - private vendor and Public tap/standpipe were the primary sources of water in the assessed settlements at the time of data collection.

#### Drinking water issues, by % of assessed settlements:9



Proportion of residents reported to have enough water to cover their needs:





Proportion of residents reported to have used negative strategies to cope with a lack of water in the two weeks prior to data collection:



#### Most commonly reported strategies:9

- Modify hygiene practices (bathe less, etc) (85%)
  - · Spend money usually spent on other things to buy
  - water (63%)
  - Rely on drinking water stored previously (41%)

In 42% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that at least one resident in the settlement suffered from diarrhoea in the two weeks prior to data collection.

#### Waste disposal



Primary waste disposal system: Garbage collection (local authorities) (59% of assessed settlements) and Burning garbage (48%)<sup>9</sup> Primary waste disposal problem: Insufficient number of bins/ dumpsters (44% of assessed settlements)9

9. Questions where KIs had multiple answer options (total may be >100%).

10. Communal latrines and showers are shared by more than one household. Household latrines and showers are used only by one household. This may be an informal designation that is not officially enforced. 11. The question applied to a subset of settlements where a given issue was reported.





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### **HEALTH**



In 100% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that residents in their settlement can access at least one health facility. In 74% of settlements, residents had access to a pharmacy/dispensary.

In 100% of settlements, KIs reported health issues among residents. The most commonly reported issues were Diarrhoea (96%), Chronic diseases (81%), Leishmaniasis and (70%).9,11

Most commonly reported health priority needs by % of assessed settlements:9



First aid / emergency care 85% Treatment for chronic disease 70%

Medicines and other commodities 48%



The most common place for women in the settlement to give birth was reportedly In a health facility (52% of settlements). In 0% of settlements, KIs reported maternal health services as a priority health need.

The most common medicine needs were Antibiotics, Gastrointestinal medicines such as antacids and Treatments for hypertension/heart disease.

Most commonly reported barriers to health services by % of assessed settlements:9

Cannot afford to pay for health services Lack of medicines and/or equipment High cost of transportation



### COVID-19

**Electricity** 

**NFI needs** 

having received NFI items.

Sponsorship programs (56%).9

Reported proportion of residents who consider COVID-19 an important issue:

	Everyone More than half	0% 0%	
*	About half	0%	
	Only a few	11%	
	None	89%	

Measures reportedly implemented by residents to protect themselves from COVID-19:9

Avoid touching face	0%
Avoid touching other people	0%
Cover nose and mouth	0%

Measures reportedly implemented by local authorities to protect from COVID-19:9

Asking people to stay at home	0%
Close non-essential businesses	0%
Distribution of hygiene materials	0%

In 4% of settlements, all residents had access to soap and in 0% of settlements all residents had access to a hand-washing facility according to KIs. The main issues reported with handwashing facilities were There are no handwashing facilities and that there is No or not enough water.9

Battery was reported among the primary electricity sources in 41% of settlements,

and Public electricity network in 33% of settlements.9 KIs reported that residents

Top three reported anticipated NFI needs by % of assessed settlements, for

In 22% of settlements, KIs reported that aid distribution had taken place in their

settlement in the month prior to data collection, with 0% of assessed settlements

The main topics residents need information about, according to KIs were How

to find job opportunities (100%), How to access assistance (78%) and

74%

56%

44%

in the settlement had an average of 5 hours of electricity access per day.

the three months following data collection:9

Water containers

Sources of light

**Batteries** 

### SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

#### Shelter adequacy

KIs estimated that a Lack of lighting (70% of assessed settlements), Lack of privacy inside shelter (no partitions, no doors) (63%) and Lack of electricity (59%) were the main shelter adequacy issues in their settlement.9

Top three most commonly reported shelter item needs by % of assessed settlements:9



New tents 52% Additional tents 48% Windows/doors 41%

Degree to which KIs assess that people in their settlement have enough living space:



Everyone 11% More than half 7% About half 26% Les than half 19% Only a few 26% None 11%



# **FOOD SECURITY**

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Most commonly reported sources of food by % of assessed settlements:9



100%	om local markets outside the camp/site
15%	Food distributions
4%	From family and friends in the area

KIs reported that Bread (93% of assessed settlements), Ghee/vegetable oil (70%) and Sugar (52%) were the main food items needed by residents that are currently not sufficiently available through assistance or markets.9

Reportedly, food distributions took place in 100% of the assessed settlements and drinking water in 17% of assessed settlements.

Top three reported food-related coping strategies used by residents in the 2 weeks prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:9



Buying cheaper, lower quality food Buying food with other money Reducing meal size







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### 🖀 LIVELIHOODS

#### Household income and expenses

KIs estimated all households in 96% of settlements had access to income sources. However in 0% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that **most residents** in the settlement **have a stable income**.

Top three reported primary income sources in the 30 days prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:<sup>9,11</sup>



Unskilled agricultural labour Casual unskilled labour Low skilled service industry



Cash/voucher distributions were reported by KIs in 0% of assessed settlements over the last 30 days prior to data collection.

# PROTECTION

#### **Freedom of movement**



In **100%** of assessed settlements, KIs reported that all residents were able to leave the assessed settlement for a medical emergency without disclosing the medical reason at the time of data collection. In **100%** of assessed settlements, KIs reported that all residents could leave for non-emergency reasons.

Proportion of assessed settlements with KIs reporting on whether residents experienced barriers when leaving the assessed settlement in the two weeks prior to data collection:



Most commonly reported barriers to movement in assessed settlements:<sup>9</sup>

 Transportation options available but too expensive (74%)

Insufficient transportation (63%)

#### Older persons and persons with disabilities

At the time of data collection, in 0% of assessed settlements, KIs reported interventions targeting **elderly populations** and in 0% KIs reported interventions for **persons with disabilities** in their settlements.

#### **Safety and Security issues**

In 29% of assessed settlements, KIs reported safety and security issues in the camp over the 30 days prior to data collection.

- Most commonly reported security issues in assessed settlements:<sup>9</sup> • Serious threat from scorpions, snakes or similar (30%)
- Theft (22%)

#### **Documentation**



In 0% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that noone in their settlement has their national identification, passport, family booklet and/ or individual/family civil record.

In 52% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that births are not registered in their settlement.

KIs reported that Yes - Men (in **30%** of assessed settlements) and Yes - Boys (**26%**) face particular challenges in accessing documentation.<sup>9</sup>

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Education Facilities**



In 78% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that children in their settlement have access to education. In 78% of settlements primary schools were reported to be available and in 11% secondary schools were reported to be available.

In these settlements, education was available for the following age groups:<sup>9,11</sup>

3-5 year olds in	0%	of these settlements.
6-11 year olds in	100%	of these settlements.
12-14 year olds in	10%	of these settlements.
15-17 year olds in	0%	of these settlements.

Top three reported expense types by % of assessed settlements:9

Food 100% Water 85% Healthcare 74%



#### Coping strategies

Top three reported livelihoods-related coping strategies over the last 30 days prio of assessed settlements:<sup>9</sup>

> Reducing spending NFIs Borrowing money Support from friends / relatives



#### **Child protection**

Proportion of assessed settlements with KIs reporting the presence of child protection issues over the 30 days prior to data collection:



Most commonly reported child protection concerns in assessed settlements:9

Child labour (74%)

• Early marriage (below 18 years old) (52%)

In assessed settlements with child labour reported, most commonly reported types of child labour by gender were:<sup>9,11</sup>

#### Boys (100%) Selling goods (85%) Agriculture (70%) Livestock rearing (70%)

66%

30%

#### Girls (65%)

Agriculture (55%) Domestic labour (35%) Other (please specify) (5%)

In **45%** of assessed settlements, KIs reported that they were aware of **child labour** occuring among **children under the age of 11**, most commonly reporting Livestock rearing (40% of these assessed settlements) and Domestic labour (35%).<sup>9.11</sup>

In 0% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that their settlement had an accessible child-friendly space.

#### Gender-based violence

In **100%** of assessed settlements, KIs reported that their settlement had an accessible designated space for women and girls.

Proportion of settlements with KIs reporting the presence of gender-based concerns within the settlement in the two weeks prior to data collection:



Most commonly reported gender-based concerns were:<sup>9</sup>

• Early marriage (girls below 18 years old) (52%)
• Forced marriage (adult women) (30%)

#### **Social cohesion**

In 100% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that the social relationship between different community groups in their area was neutral, in 0% of cases it was positive.

#### **Barriers to education**

In 96% of settlements, KIs reported barriers to education. The most commonly reported barriers were:<sup>9</sup>

- Schools closed/educational services suspended due to summer holiday (93%)
- The child has to work (37%)
- Education is not considered important (33%)

