



URBAN AREA HUMANITARIAN PROFILE: EASTERN ALEPPO

SYRIA CRISIS

FOOD, HEALTH AND WATER ASSESSMENT

OCTOBER 2014

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About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH was created in 2010 to facilitate 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. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, please visit: www.reach-initiative.org. You can also write to us at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us @REACH_info.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

IDP	Internally Displaced Person
KI	Key Informant
MSNA	Multi-Sector Needs Assessment
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SINA	Syria Integrated Needs Analysis

GEOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATIONS

Governorate	Highest form of governance below the national level
District	Sub-division of a governorate in which government institutions operate
Sub-District	Sub-division of a district composed of towns and villages
City	Urban centre located within a sub-district
Neighbourhood	Lowest administrative unit within a city

INTRODUCTION

The city of Aleppo is located in the northern Syrian governorate of Aleppo, close to the Turkish border. In July 2012 Aleppo city was divided into two zones whose boundaries have remained the same until now; the western zone falls under the regime whilst the eastern zone is controlled by opposition groups. The area encompassing the northern, eastern and southern parts of the city and historically known as “the crescent of the poor” has a **high volatility of the security context and restricted access have greatly exacerbated humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities**.

Since the beginning of 2014, and more noticeably since Resolution 2139 was adopted by the United Nations Security Council in February 2014¹, eastern Aleppo has indeed been under constant aerial bombardment and high-intensity ground fighting². Residents there have also suffered from frequent water network interruptions caused by multiple shutdowns of the water pumping and electricity plants, alternatively controlled by different groups since April 2014.

Previous assessments carried out by REACH in eastern Aleppo emphasised that it had been under the threat of being besieged since mid-June 2014³. Whilst this is still the case, Aleppo is now facing another threat from a third-party armed group advancing from the east of the governorate towards the city. Those threats could potentially lead to a complete blockade on eastern Aleppo city which would aggravate an already critical humanitarian situation for the city’s remaining population. Three access roads to eastern Aleppo city and only one supply road for humanitarian aid delivery are currently open, but exposed to fighting and snipers. Most of these roads are located to the south, as northern neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo city have been surrounded by regime forces since mid-June 2014, limiting access from northern roads.

This urban profile presents an analysis of data collected by REACH enumerators between 20 and 28 August 2014 in eastern Aleppo City. The findings from this assessment highlight sector-specific humanitarian needs and gaps, specifically relating to food, health and water, to inform the relief response for affected populations in six neighbourhoods. This assessment does not aim to provide detailed programmatic information; it is designed to share with a broad audience a concise overview of the current situation in this area and to guide further assessments. This assessment forms part of a broader assessment conducted by REACH and covering different cities affected by the crisis in northern Syria, including eastern Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqah, Deir ez-Zor, and Qamishli. For these cities, REACH regularly releases [Urban Area Humanitarian Profiles and data Factsheets](#) on June, July, and August 2014.

As part of the presentation of key findings for each of the sectors covered by this assessment, REACH developed a list of recommended priority interventions which are included in this urban profile to inform timely and appropriate relief response for affected populations in eastern Aleppo city.

¹ Resolution 2139 demanded to all parties, and in particular to the Syrian authorities, to allow for humanitarian access in Syria: (1) across conflict lines, (2) in besieged areas and (3) across borders. It also expressed the intent to take further steps in case of non-compliance from these parties.

² [Barrage of barrel bombs](#) Human Rights Watch (July 30, 2014)

³ REACH assessments on Eastern Aleppo June, July, and August 2014

METHODOLOGY

The methodology applied for this assessment was a multi-tier approach, including primary data collection and analysis between 20 and 28 August 2014 and secondary data review which was used to triangulate and validate field data. Three similar assessments were previously carried out between 17 April and 25 July 2014, in four smaller but densely populated neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo city. Information from these four assessments can be contrasted to identify trends and the monitor the humanitarian situation over time.

Due to access and security constraints, a combination of purposive and convenience sampling was deemed the most appropriate methodology for this assessment. Respondents were chosen on the basis of availability of access and KIs, meaning that there is a degree of bias to this exercise. The two main data collection methods used were Key Informant (KI) interviews as well as direct observations from the field by trained REACH enumerators. Each approach serves the purpose of enforcing and validating findings from the other.

The six enumerators who participated in the assessment in eastern Aleppo city were first trained by the REACH Turkey assessment team. The training ensured a good understanding of key terms and underlying factors for each assessed humanitarian sector, as well as assessment standards, methodology and techniques such as triangulation and interviewing, and humanitarian principles.

REACH designed and provided a multi-sector questionnaire to the enumerators based on data collection tools adapted from the Syria Integrated Needs Assessment (SINA)⁴ and the Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) to ensure that data could be compared where appropriate. The questionnaire included an evaluation of needs, priorities and severity in the sectors of food, health, and water. KIs were asked to rank severity on a seven-point scale, from 0, meaning “normal situation”, to 6, indicating a “catastrophic” humanitarian situation (see Table 1 below). Six questionnaires were completed for this assessment, each focusing on one of the six main neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo city: Sheikh Maqsoud, Maksen Hanano, Tarek al Bab, Kady Asker, Bustan al-Qaser and Ansari (see Map 1).

REACH enumerators selected KIs based on their knowledge of sector-specific issues in their neighbourhood; including individuals such as local leaders working with private or public service providers⁵. To increase the reliability of data collected through KI interviews, the enumerators were asked to triangulate their findings through different sources familiar with the context in eastern Aleppo city. To further ensure data consistency, the REACH assessment team conducted debriefings during September 2014, to review and validate the completed questionnaires. The additional focus of these debriefings was to elaborate on the findings and ensure that any apparent inconsistency in the data was clarified, rectified, or altogether discarded.

Due to the recurrence of population movements and limited access to eastern Aleppo city, population numbers are difficult to estimate. For this reason, the population and displacement figures provided in this urban profile should be interpreted as informal estimates only. Additionally, internally displaced persons (IDPs) in this assessment account for populations who have been displaced from other areas in Syria but also from their neighbourhood of origin within Aleppo city.

The main limitation for this assessment is the reliance on a limited number of KI interviews as the primary data collection method. This constrained the analysis of results, despite the checks and balances set by REACH during the triangulation process. Despite this, the limitations and difficulties of movement in the assessed neighbourhoods currently make KI interviews the most feasible and accessible source of information.

⁴ [Assessment Working Group for Northern Syria](#), 31/12/13

⁵ KI usually include, but are not limited to, local council, relief committees, and health and education officials, along with community leaders.

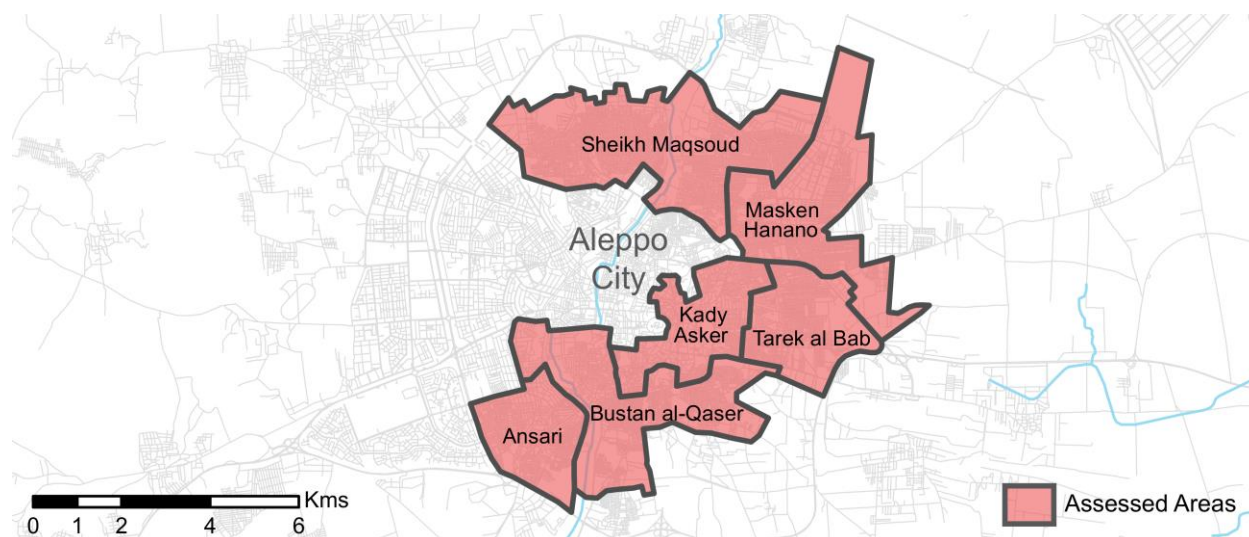
Map 1: Assessed zone of eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014⁶

Table 1: Severity Scale, from 0 (“No problem”) to 6 (“Catastrophic situation”)

0	Normal situation for <sector name>. Population is living under normal conditions . All <sector name> needs are met .
1	Situation of minor concern for <sector name>, but conditions may turn concerning . Few people are facing problems or shortages in <sector name> but they are not life threatening . Affected population is feeling the strain of the situation but can cope with the current situation with local resources .
2	Situation of concern for <sector name>. Many people are facing <sector name> problems or shortages causing discomfort and suffering , but they are not life threatening . Affected population is feeling the strain of the situation but can cope with the current situation with local resources .
3	Situation of major concern for <sector name>. Majority of people are facing <Sector name> problems or shortages causing discomfort and suffering which can result in irreversible damages to health, but they are not life threatening . Affected population will not be able to cope with the <Sector name> current conditions if the situation persists and no humanitarian assistance is being provided .
4	Severe situation for <sector name>. Affected population faces life-threatening conditions causing high level of suffering and irreversible damages to health , which can result in deaths if no humanitarian assistance is provided.
5	Critical situation for <sector name>. Affected population faces life-threatening conditions causing high level of suffering, irreversible damages to health status and deaths. Deaths are already reported , directly caused by the current <sector name> conditions, and more deaths are expected if no immediate <sector name> assistance is provided.
6	Catastrophic situation for <sector name>. Affected population faces life-threatening conditions causing high level of suffering, irreversible damages to health status and deaths. Large number of deaths are reported directly caused by the current <sector name> conditions and will result in many more deaths if no immediate <sector name> assistance is provided.

⁶ Map data: REACH and © OpenStreetMap contributors.

POPULATION OVERVIEW

The assessed neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo city have very different population densities (see Table 2), with most of the remaining population – residents and IDPs – clustering in the south-eastern neighbourhoods of Ansari, Bustan al-Qaser and Kady Asker.

Table 2: Overall and IDP populations per assessed neighbourhood of eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

Neighbourhoods	Population	IDPs	% of IDPs	Population who has left in last 30 days
<i>Ansari</i>	85,936	29,730	35%	200
<i>Bustan al-Qaser</i>	69,530	28,700	41%	200
<i>Kady Asker</i>	89,530	15,600	17%	1,000
<i>Masken Hanano</i>	8,000	1,370	17%	400
<i>Sheikh Maqsoud</i>	45,000	21,500	48%	150
<i>Tarek al Bab</i>	14,500	3,100	21%	175
Total	312,526	100,000	---	2,125

- Both IDP and resident groups were reportedly affected by the deteriorating living conditions in eastern Aleppo city at the end of August 2014 (see Table 3), although the situation varies greatly amongst assessed neighbourhoods. KIs reported difficult conditions for residents in Tarek al Bab and Masken Hanano, and on residents hosting IDPs in every assessed neighbourhood. **IDPs living either with host families or in rented accommodations also rank amongst the most vulnerable groups.**
- Most of eastern Aleppo city's residents were reported to live in precarious conditions, facing **recurring water and electricity shortages as well as limited sources of income that have led them to sell furniture and electronic items**⁷. The city has also been repeatedly hit by barrel bombing and mortar shells, which have inflicted extensive **damage on shelter and housing infrastructure** and **forced many residents to relocate, sometimes on a daily basis and in underground shelter.**

Table 3: Groups most in need of assistance in eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014*⁸

	Ansari	Bustan al-Qaser	Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab	Masken Hanano	Sheikh Maqsoud
IDPs in host families						
Residents hosting IDPs						
IDPs in rented accommodations						
Residents						
IDPs in collective shelters						
IDPs in damaged/unfinished locations						
IDPs in open spaces						
IDPs in organised/structured camps						

⁷ [Power outages add to Aleppo's suffering](#) (Al Monitor, 12 August 2014)

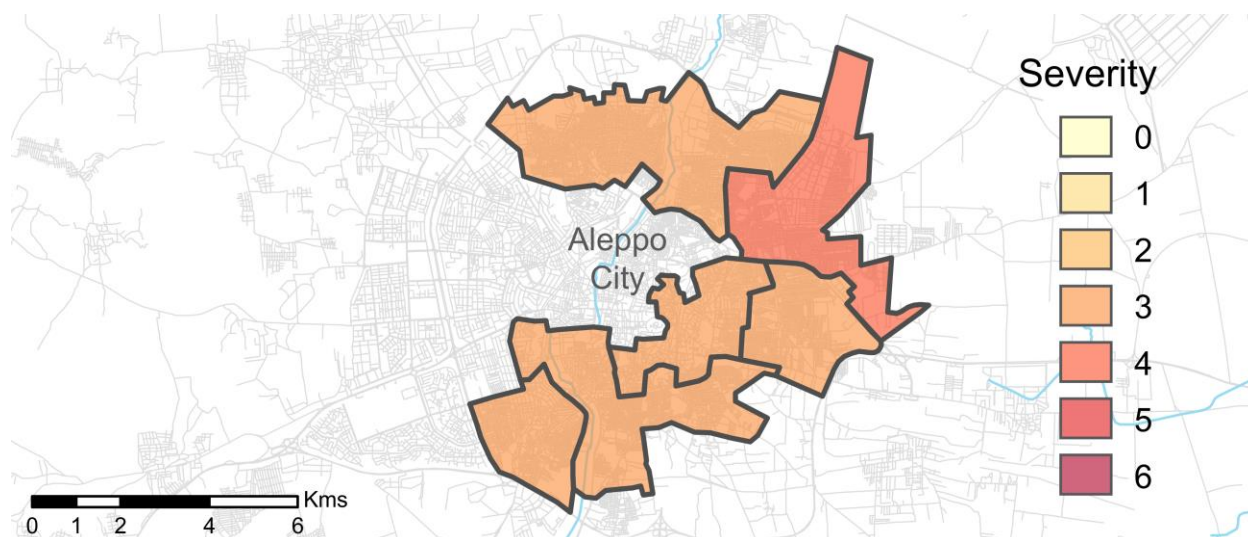
⁸ Grey fields represent questions asked, with no results on the ranking by KIs

- As emphasised in previous assessments conducted by REACH in eastern Aleppo city, the remaining population faces **severe financial and safety constraints preventing them from leaving unsafe areas**.
- Frequently, these populations cannot afford to pay for either: (1) transportation costs to leave the city, (2) renting accommodation outside of Aleppo city, (3) cost of living in neighbouring countries, and (4) housing fees in collective shelters or border area camps.
- Other reported impediments include (1) fear of arrest travelling into or within western Aleppo city (exacerbated by the considerable number of checkpoints), (2) the stigma and fear of crime, and associated protection concerns in camps, and (3) wishing to protect and/or remain in their home.

FOOD FINDINGS

SEVERITY LEVELS

Map 2: Food insecurity severity in eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014⁶



- Food insecurity levels are similar in every assessed neighbourhood, with KI reporting a situation of “*concern*” although “*not life-threatening*” (severity 3). In Masken Hanano however, KI identified more severe conditions, highlighting a situation of “*major concern*”, although reportedly “*not life-threatening*” (Map 2).
- Deliveries of food items, such as wheat flour, occurs through one major supply road that has reportedly been heavily damaged and consistently exposed to fighting, especially to targeted sniper attacks.

MARKET STOCKS AND SHORTAGES

- Shortages in infant formula to feed those aged 6-12 months were reported in all neighbourhoods as one of the most pressing issues. As the restricted access to the city persists, **it is expected that malnutrition rates in infants will increase**, which can effect growth and development.
- In the southern and eastern neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo city, shortages in local food production and cooking fuel also rank amongst the main issues reported by KI. While food diversity was not identified as a critical issue in these neighbourhoods, KI emphasised the lack of high-nutrient food groups in markets in Masken Hanano and Sheikh Maqsoud, located further north of eastern Aleppo (Table 4). The situation in these neighbourhoods is associated with the fact that there are no markets in Masken Hanan and those in Sheikh Maqsoud can only partially service the food needs of residents there.
- The lack of local products further emphasises the impact of the on-going conflict on agricultural production and the access constraints to markets for retailers. Additionally, the main markets in eastern Aleppo have reportedly reduced the diversity of food items they used to sell before the beginning of the conflict. They mostly restock with fresh products, namely fruits and vegetables, whilst small shops that did not sell food prior to the conflict are now selling various types of food. Stocks for each type of retailer, markets and shops, however remain insufficient.

Table 4: Food locally produced availability issues and shortages in eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

	Ansari	Bustan al-Qaser	Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab	Masken Hanano	Sheikh Maqsoud
Locally produced food						
Infant formula						
Food diversity on markets						
Cooking fuel						
Utensils						

ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

- KI have emphasised the high cost of basic commodities (Table 5) as a major constraint in all assessed zones. This issue is however more acute in the southern assessed zones of Ansari, Bustan al-Qaser and Kady Asker, as more commodities reportedly have prohibitive prices.
- The only types of food for which pricing was not prohibitive as of late August 2014, amongst all assessed groups, were bread and cereals (Table 6). This coincides with several wheat flour deliveries to eastern Aleppo city which occurred in July and managed to reach 80% of the remaining residents of eastern Aleppo city, but which also indicates pervasive access barriers to high-nutrient food groups for the remaining population.

Table 5: Access constraints to food in eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

	Ansari	Bustan al-Qaser	Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab	Masken Hanano	Sheikh Maqsoud
Some commodities are too expensive						
Physical constraints						
Lack of resources to purchase food						
Security constraints for residents						
Food suppliers cannot reach markets						
Loss of agricultural assets/inputs						
No resources to grow food						

- Whilst in late July 2014 KI reported that conflict intensity had overall decreased in eastern Aleppo city, in late August KI emphasised increased security constraints for residents in accessing markets and food retailers in all assessed zones. This is however not the case in Sheikh Maqsoud where most residents are concentrated in an area that has been noticeably less impacted by bombings.
- Nevertheless, residents of Sheikh Maqsoud still face constraints in access and availability of markets, and roads have been damaged, especially in the area located across the river. The situation is similar in Masken Hanano, whose approximately 8,000 residents have to rely on markets located in other neighbourhoods, and for Tarek al Bab where it is reportedly more difficult to find markets with enough food supplies.

Table 6: Food groups affected by inflation (●) in eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

	Ansari / Bustan al-Qaser / Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab / Masken Hanano / Sheikh Maqsoud
Bread/Cereals		●
Cooking fuel/Gas	●	
Eggs	●	
Fruits/Vegetables	●	●
Infant Formula	●	●
Meat/Fish	●	●
Milk	●	●
Oils/Fats	●	

FUNCTIONING OF BAKERIES

- A lack of flour was consistently identified by KI as a major issue in all assessed neighbourhoods. Although no information could be obtained on wheat flour deliveries in August, this issue might be related to the lack of stocks due that the last delivery of wheat was done in July.
- The major reported constraints affecting the functionality of bakeries are similar to those in the southern assessed zones – namely no electricity and shortages and cooking fuel. The eastern assessed neighbourhoods of Tarek al Bab and Masken Hanano however face different constraints as bakeries there have been greatly impacted by destruction and the concomitant lack of functioning machinery (Table 7).

Table 7: Factors impacting bakeries' functionality in eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

	Ansari	Bustan al-Qaser	Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab	Masken Hanano	Sheikh Maqsoud
No electricity						
Lack of flour						
Destruction						
Lack of machinery						
Lack of fuel						
Lack of staff						
Lack of wheat						
Lack of yeast						
Poor maintenance/repair						

PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS

- As a result of financial challenges and lack of food diversity, **food baskets were prioritised as the most or one of the most urgently required intervention** in all the assessed neighbourhoods (Table 8).
- In the southern assessed zones of Ansari and Bustan al-Qaser, the priority food interventions are similar. KI identified the provision of infant formula and cooking fuel as main priorities, besides food baskets distribution.
- In Kady Asker, the most critical issues are encountered with bakeries' production, as they do not have the capacity to produce enough to meet aggregate needs. As such, wheat flour and fuel for bakeries were prioritised. In the other eastern neighbourhood – Tarek al Bab – and in the northern neighbourhoods of Masken Hanano and Sheikh Maqsoud, KI prioritised wheat flour for bakeries and cash assistance.

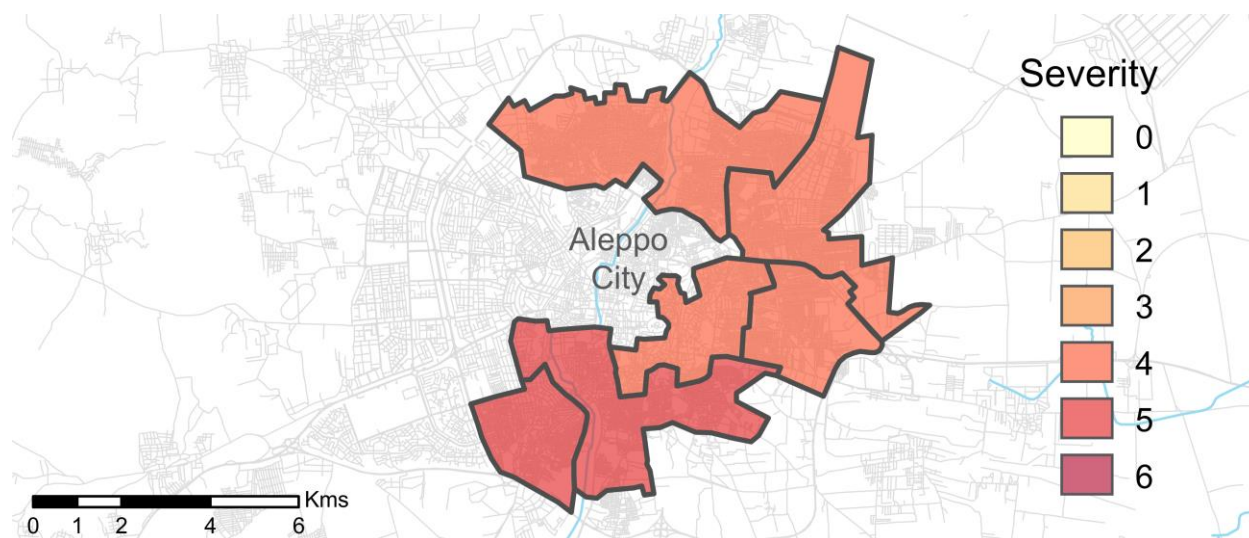
Table 8: Priority food interventions in Eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

	Ansari	Bustan al-Qaser	Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab	Masken Hanano	Sheikh Maqsoud
Food baskets						
Wheat flour						
Cash assistance						
Infant formula						
Cooking fuel						
Fuel for bakeries						
Agricultural support						
Bread						

HEALTH FINDINGS

SEVERITY LEVELS

Map 3: Health conditions severity in eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014⁶



- Health conditions vary between each assessed zone. KI reported the densely populated southern neighbourhoods of **Ansari and Bustan al-Qaser**, to be the most affected. KI associated a severity score of 5 to both neighbourhoods, meaning that the population there is facing a “critical” and “life-threatening” situation (Map 3).
- Although KI reported the health situation to be less severe in all other neighbourhoods, the conditions there are nonetheless “severe” and “life-threatening”.
- Compared to the end of July 2014, KI interviewed in late August emphasised overall more severe conditions in eastern Aleppo city, outlining that the health situation may have worsened through the month of August.

HEALTH ISSUES AND MEDICAL SERVICES COVERAGE

- In all assessed zones, KI reported **conflict-related injuries** along with **chronic diseases such as diabetes and asthma**, as the most pressing medical issues (
- Table 9). Conflict-related injuries are usually caused by aerial attacks and on-the-ground fighting, which occur frequently in eastern Aleppo. In the **densely populated** neighbourhoods of **Ansari, Bustan al-Qaser and Kady Asker**, children were also reported to be acutely affected.

- For the first time in assessments REACH led in eastern Aleppo city, KI emphasised **psychological trauma** as a major issue in neighbourhoods that have been intensely affected by **bombing**, namely **Tarek al Bab, Masken Hanano and Sheikh Maqsoud**⁹.

Table 9: Main reported medical conditions in Eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

	Ansari	Bustan al-Qaser	Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab	Masken Hanano	Sheikh Maqsoud
Conflict-related injuries						
Chronic diseases						
Psychological trauma						
Severe diseases affecting children <5						
Communicable diseases						
Maternal Health Issues						

- Medical service capacity and coverage is uneven**, both in type of services and among the assessed zones. Nutrition surveillance services such as **growth monitoring, medicine distribution and emergency health services (ambulances)** however tend to be the **least covered** services across all assessed zones. The exception to this is Tarek al Bab, whose 14,500 residents have a relatively good access to emergency services, but this may be linked to a consistently high level of conflict there⁹ that has led to capacity reinforcement¹⁰. On the other hand, **vaccination services** are the ones with the best coverage capacity in all assessed zones, as vaccination campaigns have reportedly been one of the main focus of health interventions.
- Health service capacity was reported by KI to be similar in the southern and eastern neighbourhoods of Ansari, Bustan al-Qaser and Kady Asker. In these neighbourhoods the coverage capacity compared to the needs in late August was indeed the same for every type of assessed services. This may indicate that populations in these neighbourhoods rely on the same clinics and hospitals. Medical capacity was however more disparate in the other neighbourhoods. The eastern and northern neighbourhoods of Tarek al Bab, Masken Hanano and Sheikh Maqsoud have the least medical capacity. Access to medical facilities in those neighbourhoods is highly constrained by the level of conflict there and by the lack of functioning health centres.

Table 10: Medical service capacity of health centres, per neighbourhood, compared to severity of needs in Eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

⁹ [Barrage of barrel bombs](#) Human Rights Watch (July 30, 2014)

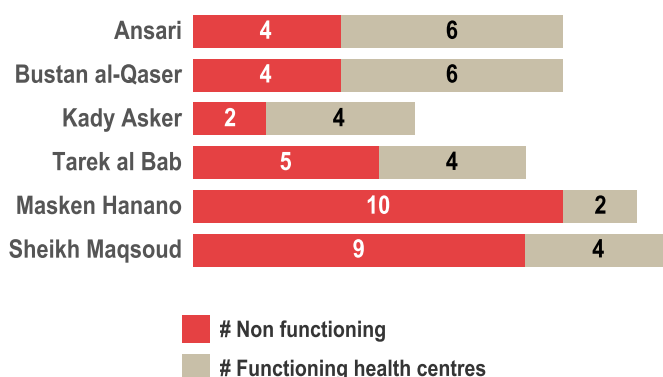
¹⁰ For the past four months, the rescue workers have been receiving a salary from the government-in-exile and courses from a number of foreign bodies and government ([Trauma kits and body bags now fill Aleppo schools](#), Inter Press Services, August 16, 2014)

	Ansari / Bustan al-Qaser/ Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab	Masken Hanano	Sheikh Maqsoud
Growth monitoring/nutrition surveillance	0%	15%	0%	5%
Medicine distribution	20%	20%	10%	10%
Chronic diseases management	70%	5%	0%	5%
Medical consultations	50%	45%	3%	15%
Emergency and injury management	40%	40%	15%	30%
Reproductive health/Emergency obstetric care	60%	35%	2%	30%
Emergency health services/Ambulances	30%	70%	5%	25%
Vaccination	70%	85%	70%	80%

FUNCTIONING OF HEALTH CENTRES

- The neighbourhoods **most affected by the lack of functioning health centres**, including clinics and hospitals, are **Masken Hanano and Sheikh Maqsoud**, with **17% and 31% functionality** respectively (Table 11). However, in terms of ratio of functioning health centre per resident, the neighbourhoods with the least number of functioning health centres are Kady Asker (1 health centre for approximately 22,000 residents), Bustan al-Qaser and Sheikh Maqsoud (1 health centre for approximately 14,500 residents, in each area).

Table 11: Health centres' functionality in Eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014



- The most pressing issue in each neighbourhood is the **lack of qualified medical staff** in health facilities (Table 12). In eastern Aleppo city, health staff have reportedly **left after repeated attacks targeting health centres**. These attacks not only **constrained access** to health facilities, they also posed **safety threats** for the staff. This is particularly the case in **Tarek al Bab and Masken Hanano**, where KI also emphasised **conflict-related damage** as a major impediment. As a result of attacks and bombings, the location of health facilities, which mostly became mobile, is reportedly being kept **confidential**¹¹.
- KI additionally highlighted **lack of equipment and funding shortages** as the other two most important issues, which are compounded by **frequent water and electricity cuts**. The local councils in eastern Aleppo reportedly provide funding to the medical facilities facing the most pressing challenges but they are not in the capacity of funding all existing health centres.

Table 12: Main factors impeding health centres' functionality in Eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

¹¹ <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/aleppo-struggles-provide-basic-needs-regime-closes-940726895>

	Ansari	Bustan al-Qaser	Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab	Masken Hanano	Sheikh Maqsoud
Lack of medical staff						
Lack of medical equipment						
No funding available						
Conflict-related damage						
Lack of electricity						
Lack of medical supplies						
Used for alternate purposes						

PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS

- As a result of health staff shortages, KI identified the provision of **qualified medical staff** as the top priority in all areas assessed of eastern Aleppo city. In the southern zones of **Ansari, Bustan al-Qaser and Kady Asker**, the following priority interventions are **medical equipment and ambulances**.
- Further east, in **Tarek al Bab and Masken Hanano**, KI identified **cash assistance and health care facilities** as the main priorities; health centres' functionality in these neighbourhoods has been acutely affected by **conflict damage**. In the northern neighbourhood of **Sheikh Maqsoud**, KI reported the most pressing needs to be **medical consumables and cash assistance**, to improve health facilities' functionality and allow residents to pay for available healthcare (Table 13).

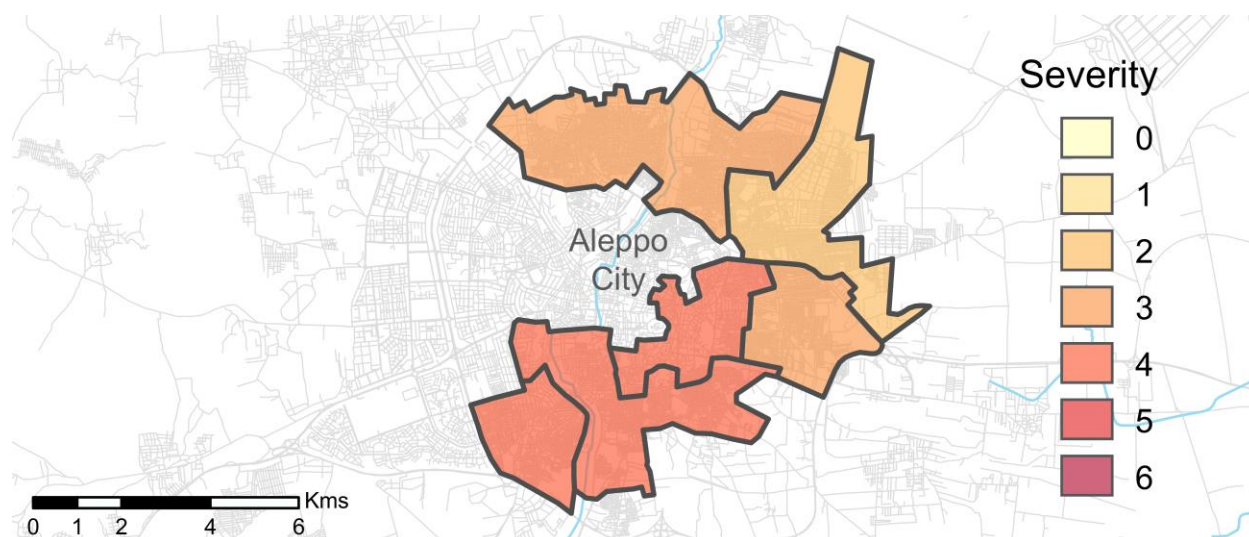
Table 13: Priority health interventions in Eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

	Ansari	Bustan al-Qaser	Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab	Masken Hanano	Sheikh Maqsoud
Health staff						
Medical equipment						
Cash assistance						
Ambulances						
Health care facilities						
Medical consumables						
Female health staff						
Maternal health care						
Mobile clinic						
Vaccinations						

WATER FINDINGS

SEVERITY LEVELS

Map 4: Drinking water situation severity in eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014⁶



- The drinking water situation varies between each assessed zone but, similarly to health conditions, KI reported the southern neighbourhoods of **Kady Asker, Bustan al-Qaser and Ansari**, which gather most of eastern Aleppo's population, to be the most affected. KI associated a severity score of 4 to each of these neighbourhoods, meaning that the population there is facing a "severe" and "life-threatening" situation (Map 4).
- While the drinking water conditions are of "major concern" (severity 3) or "concern" (severity 2) in the other three assessed neighbourhoods, KI did not identify them as being life-threatening. The current water situation in all of eastern Aleppo city is however correlated to a reported **high prevalence of water-borne symptoms and diseases**, including diarrhoea and skin diseases such as leishmaniasis.
- Compared to the end of July 2014, drinking water conditions seem to have worsened. This emphasises not only potentially stronger issues with the electricity network, resulting in water shortages, but also a decreased availability of **alternative water sources such as wells and the Queiq River** due to climatic conditions.

WATER NETWORK DEFICIENCY

- In all assessed neighbourhoods, KI reported **between 20 and 30% of the water network to have been damaged through the conflict** and identified this issue as the **main constraint affecting water availability** in eastern Aleppo city (Table 14).
- The other constraints affecting water availability are similar in each neighbourhood. **Intermittent provision of electricity**, due to damages and frequent cut-offs, **affects the network's functionality**. Additionally, the **pricing of fuel and reported shortages** do not allow to mitigate accordingly the lack of electricity.
- In Sheikh Maqsoud, KI highlighted that the **number of water points has decreased**, as existing wells have dried up, worsening the situation of residents there.

Table 14: Water availability issues in Eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

	Ansari	Bustan al-Qaser	Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab	Masken Hanano	Sheikh Maqsoud
Damaged water network						
Lack of electricity to operate network						
Lack of fuel for generators						
Lack of water tanks						
Overstretched water network						
Reduction in water points						

- The main constraints preventing access to water vary between the areas assessed. In the **southern and eastern neighbourhoods** of Ansari, Bustan al-Qaser and Kady Asker, the most challenging constraints are however similar: (1) **lack of water treatment chemicals**, to purify water from the network and alternative sources, (2) **lack of resources to purchase water from private vendors**, along with (3) a reported **increase in the price of water** sold from these private vendors (Table 15).
- Towards the **northern neighbourhoods** of eastern Aleppo, the major constraints impeding access to water are however different. Residents in Tarek al Bab, Masken Hanano and Sheikh Maqsoud face **physical and security constraints** to access **alternative water sources**, on which they rely most of the time since the network is not functioning. These constraints relate to **heavily damaged roads and frequent bombing**, especially in Tarek al Bab and Masken Hanano. Similarly to the other assessed neighbourhoods, residents in these neighbourhoods also face **financial impediments** preventing them to purchase water from private vendors.

Table 15: Access constraints to water in Eastern Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

	Ansari	Bustan al-Qaser	Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab	Masken Hanano	Sheikh Maqsoud
Lack of resources to buy water						
Lack of water treatment chemicals						
Physical constraints						
Security constraints for residents						
Water price increased						
Reduction in vendors of water bottles						

PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS

- As a result of the differences in the most pressing challenges faced by neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo, KI estimated priority interventions vary accordingly. In the eastern and southern neighbourhoods of Ansari, Bustan al-Qaser and Kady Asker, KI identified **(1) water network repairs** along with the provision of **(2) electricity** and **(3) water treatment chemicals** (Table 16). Electricity in eastern Aleppo city was reportedly not available for more than six hours a day, distributed unevenly and alternatively amongst neighbourhoods, which considerably impacted water availability.
- Further north, in Tarek al Bab, Masken Hanano and Sheikh Maqsoud, KI identified **(1) digging of new wells** and **(2) provision of both generators and (3) fuel** for the latter. KI indeed emphasised a reduction in water points such as wells in Sheikh Maqsoud; an issue that has likely affected adjoining neighbourhoods, as wells may have dried up there as well. Additionally, as electricity is available on a sporadic basis, generators were reported to be unaffordable to many of eastern Aleppo city's remaining residents.
- Similarly to findings from previous assessments on smaller neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo, the **lack of electricity appears to be the major constraint** on the water network in all of eastern Aleppo. Priority interventions thus focus on mitigating this issue through the provision of generators and/or secure alternative water sources.

Table 16: Priority water interventions in Aleppo city, 28 August 2014

	Ansari	Bustan al-Qaser	Kady Asker	Tarek al Bab	Masken Hanano	Sheikh Maqsoud
Digging wells						
Network repairs						
Electricity						
Generators						
Fuel for generators						
Water treatment chemicals						
Cash assistance						
Water cans						
Water pumps						
Water tanks						

CONCLUSION

In the assessed areas of eastern Aleppo city, IDP and resident populations are reportedly both suffering from precarious living conditions. The southern neighbourhoods of Ansari, Bustan al-Qaser and Kady Asker were reported to consistently be the most populated since the conflict divided the city in two zones. These neighbourhoods have witnessed an increase in fighting and shelling over the past months.

Sheikh Maqsoud, Masken Hanano and Tarek al Bab, which are neighbourhoods located further north, are noticeably less populated. Conflict intensity there along with increasing threats constraining access to the north of eastern Aleppo have driven populations to move to the southern neighbourhoods. Access to eastern Aleppo city has indeed been further constrained since June 2014, and the city currently faces another major threat, coming from the advances of a third-party armed group to the north.

FOOD

- Reduced agricultural production in Aleppo governorate and access constraints to eastern Aleppo city have led to shortages in food quantity and diversity. The quantity of food that can be brought inside the city is indeed low, and this is compounded by reduced access to Aleppo. As a result, KI identified food baskets as a main priority and acute shortages of infant formula in all assessed neighbourhoods.
- KI emphasised prohibitive food prices, except for bread and cereals, as a major impediment to access food in eastern Aleppo city. Whilst market stocks appear sufficient in southern neighbourhoods, traders may not be able to sell food because residents cannot afford it.

- In most neighbourhoods, KI reported that the on-going fighting and shelling was affecting access to markets. Roads have also been damaged throughout the conflict, which has further constrained access to food distribution or selling points.

HEALTH

- KI working in the health sector identified conflict-related injuries and chronic diseases as the most pressing issues in eastern Aleppo city. Additionally, children under five are acutely at risk in Ansari, Bustan al-Qaser and Kady Asker, and conflict intensity in Tarek al-Bab, Masken Hanano and Sheikh Maqsoud has led to serious psychological trauma. KI reported that there was not enough staff to address these issues and thus identified the provision of qualified health staff as the main priority in eastern Aleppo city.
- The capacity to provide health services was reported to be uneven, particularly between the southern and northern neighbourhoods. Masken Hanano and Sheikh Maqsoud have indeed a very low coverage compared to neighbourhoods located further south. However, the southern neighbourhoods of Kady Asker and Bustan al-Qaser reportedly had the lowest number of health centres per residents.

WATER

- Electricity shortages and the reduction of alternative water sources such as wells and the Queiq River are reportedly affecting every neighbourhood, but more acutely Sheikh Maqsoud. KI identified the lack of electricity as the main constraint preventing the water network from functioning, along with extensive damages to this network.
- In northern neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo, KI reported high security threats due to conflict intensity, which constrain access to water points. To mitigate these security constraints and the lack of electricity provision to make the water network functional there, KI emphasised the need for generators and fuel for these in the northern neighbourhoods, along with the digging of new wells.