

# Dar'a Governorate, February 2018

## Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

### OVERALL FINDINGS<sup>1</sup>

Dar'a governorate, located in southern Syria, is positioned between Damascus to the north and Jordan to the south. In mid-2017, heavy conflict within the governorate led to an internationally brokered ceasefire agreement between armed opposition groups (AOGs) and the Government of Syria (GoS). However, despite the ceasefire agreement remaining in effect, the governorate continues to experience conflict. In February 2018, **21** of the assessed communities, predominantly located in Izra' district, reported that members of their pre-conflict population left, primarily due to an escalation of conflict. Additionally, **10** of the assessed communities reported that previous returnees left again in February. Notably, Alma, Izra' and Bisir Elharir witnessed between **5,300 – 5,700** returnee departures. The most commonly cited reasons for returnees to leave included a re-escalation of conflict and a lack of access to employment. Of the 113 communities assessed, **67** reported hosting returnees that have been displaced multiple times.

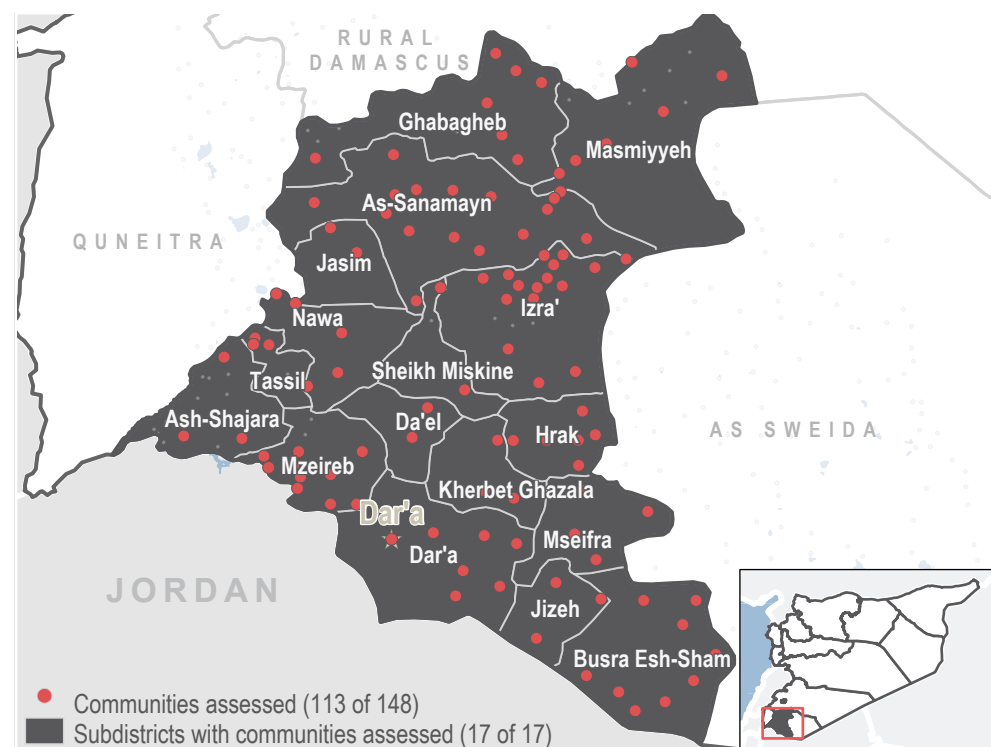
Conversely, **10** communities reported spontaneous refugee returns and IDP arrivals – approximately **3,696** in total<sup>2</sup>. **Four** communities in Dar'a governorate witnessed spontaneous refugee returns from Jordan (Sura, Karak, Busra Esh-Sham and Mseifra). The majority of IDP returnees (approximately **3,000**) returned to their community of origin, Ankhal, in Izra' district. Across these communities, the majority of returnees were reportedly women and children and the most commonly cited reasons for return were family reunification, the need to protect or reclaim assets and a perceived cessation of hostilities in the community of origin. IDP movement back into Ankhal occurred the month after **1,800 – 2,000** IDPs arrived in Jasim, a nearby subdistrict. This movement, over the last two months, could suggest an increasing perception of safety in northern Izra' district near Jasim and Ankhal. Conversely, of the assessed communities, **75%** reported a presence of IDPs, with new IDP arrivals reported in **12** communities (approximately **2,913-3,366**). The most common IDP district of origin was reportedly Izra' and the majority of IDPs relocated to Dar'a district, with the exception of **900 – 1,000** IDPs relocating within Izra' district from the community of Bisir Elharir to Hrak community. Hence, conditions in the district may not be as safe as some returnees may perceive.

**Over half** of the assessed communities reported that residents experienced difficulties in accessing healthcare. Of these communities, **34**, mainly located in Dar'a district, reported a lack of available health facilities. Additionally, **89** communities reported that residents experienced difficulties in accessing sufficient amounts of food in February. The most commonly reported barriers to accessing food were a lack of resources to buy food and the high cost of some food items. Unstable, daily employment was the most commonly reported source of income in **88** of the assessed communities and **57** of them stated that children were sent to work or beg as a strategy to deal with the lack of household income or resources<sup>3</sup>. Of the communities assessed, **101** stated that functioning primary schools were available within their communities and **84** reported that secondary schools were functioning. However, **25** of the assessed communities reported that children were not attending school, most commonly due to a lack of teaching staff, a lack of school supplies and/or the destruction of facilities<sup>3</sup>.

### KEY EVENTS

Signing of a de-escalation agreement following talks in Astana <sup>4</sup> .	Dar'a City targeted by hundreds of air strikes in one of the heaviest clashes the city has seen <sup>5</sup> .	Internationally brokered ceasefire agreement takes effect across south-western Syria <sup>6</sup> .	70 families flee from eastern As-Sweida villages to Sahawa and Mseifra in Dar'a.	Dar'a City lacking essential infrastructure despite return of thousands <sup>7</sup> .	Approximately 3,000 spontaneous IDP returnees to Ankhal in Izra' district.
4 May 2017	Early June 2017	9 July 2017	18 July 2017	November 2017	February 2018

### Coverage



### Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Food security
2. Healthcare
3. Water security

### Demographics\*

**898,910** people in need

♂ **437,769**      ♀ **461,141**

\* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

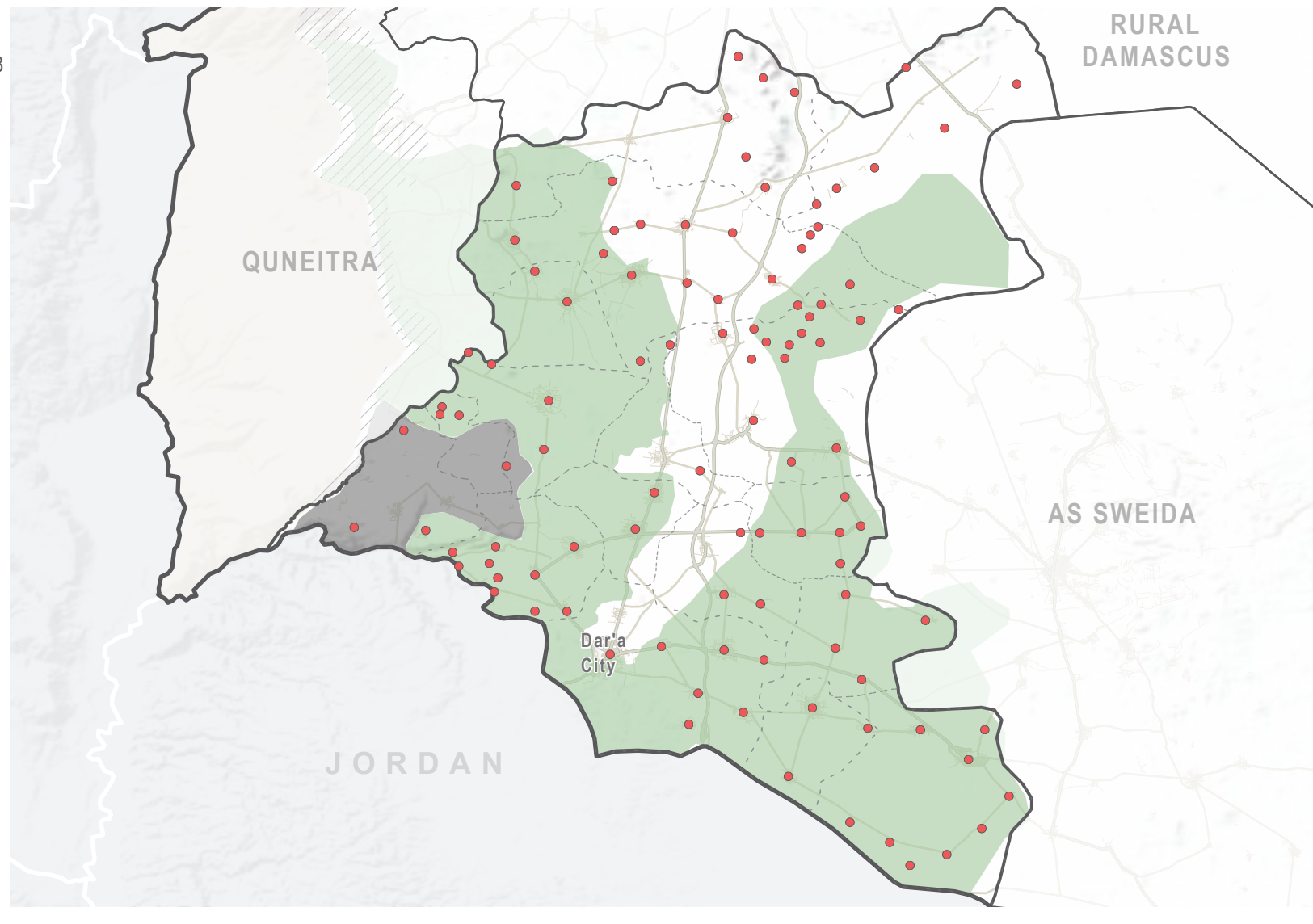
# Dar'a Governorate, February 2018

## Governorate areas of influence:

### Area of influence

Sourced from Live UA Map, 28 February 2018

- Opposition - Free Syrian Army (FSA)
- Opposition - Free Syrian Army (Olive Branch/Idleb Shield)
- Democratic Federation of Northern Syria - Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF-coalition)
- Democratic Federation of Northern Syria - Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)
- ISIL-affiliated groups
- Assessed Community
- UNDOF Area of Operation
- Golan Heights



# Dar'a Governorate, February 2018

## DISPLACEMENT

**3,406 - 3,923** Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in February.

**3,370 - 3,696** Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in February<sup>2</sup>.

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

Eastern Maliha	900 - 1,000
Um Walad	900 - 1,000
Mseifra	800 - 1,000

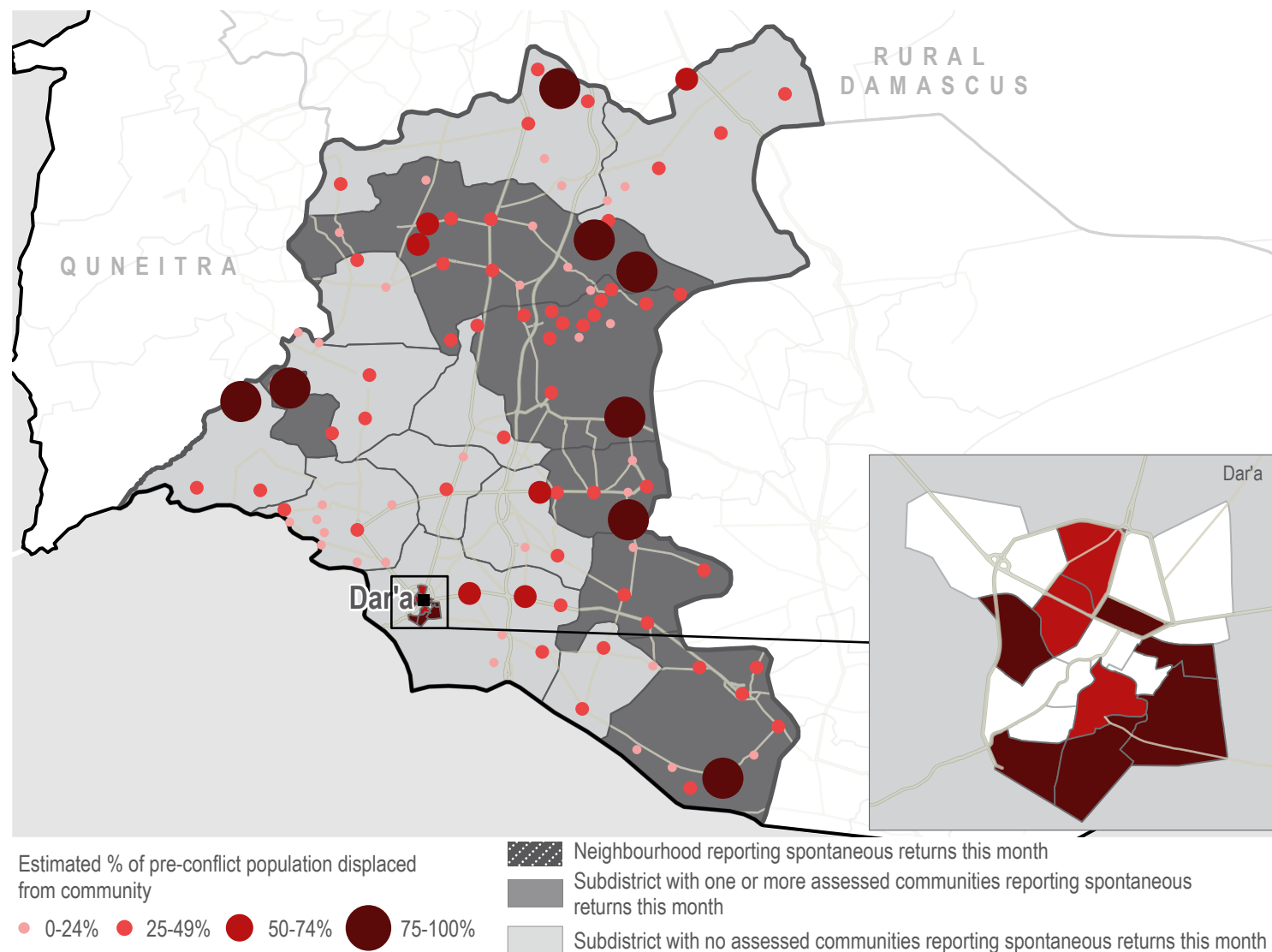
### Top 3 subdistricts of origin of most IDPs arrivals<sup>3,4</sup>:

Izra' (Dar'a)	50%
Dar'a (Dar'a)	17%
Ash-Shajara (Dar'a)	8%

**92 communities reported no PCP departures.** Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **21** assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:

Escalation of conflict	71%
Loss of income	33%
Protection concerns	24%

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

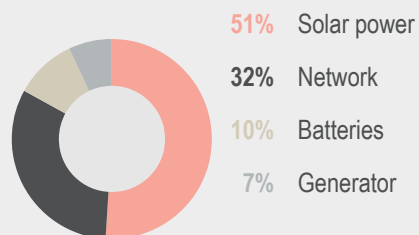


<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

## SHELTER AND NFI

### Primary source of electricity reported:<sup>4</sup>



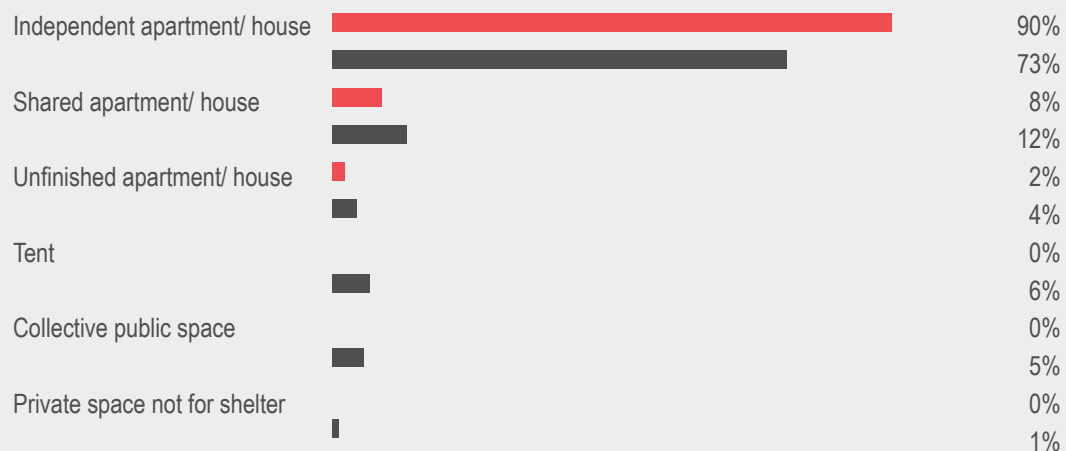
**41** communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining **71** assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:



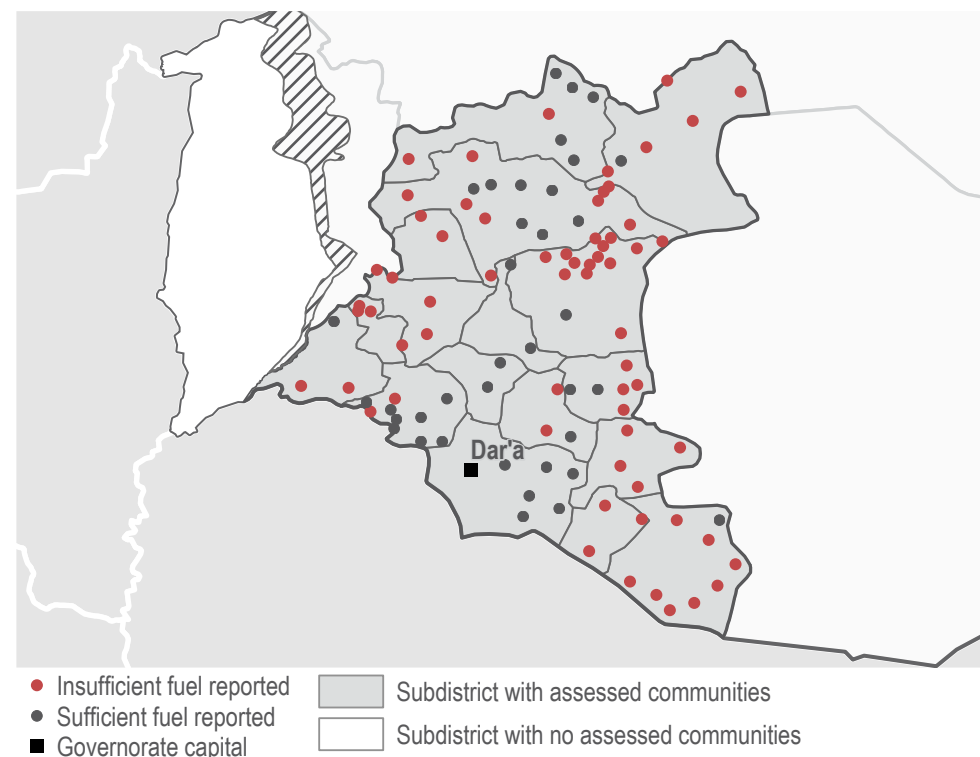
**5,728 SYP** Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.<sup>5</sup>

**6,319 SYP** Syrian average reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.<sup>5</sup>

### Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP (in red) and IDP (in grey) households<sup>4</sup>:



### Fuel sufficiency:



### Reported fuel prices (in SYP)<sup>5</sup>:

Fuel type:	Governorate average price in February:	Governorate average price in January:	Syrian average price in February:
Coal (1 kilogram)	426	403	345
Diesel (1 litre)	317	333	321
Butane (1 canister)	5,643	6,082	6,997
Firewood (1 tonne)	77,515	78,522	64,533

<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

## HEALTH

**27** Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.

**16** Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

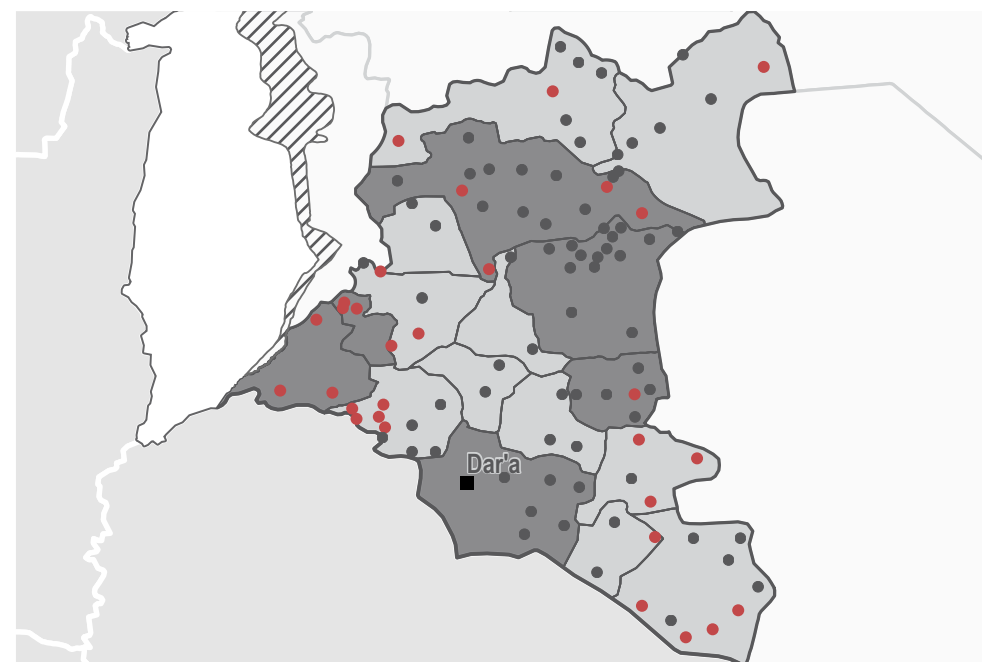
**47 communities** reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining **65 assessed communities** were<sup>3,4</sup>:



**108 communities** reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies. The coping strategies used in the remaining **4 communities** were<sup>3,4</sup>:



### Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



- No health facilities reportedly available in area
- Health facilities reportedly available in area
- Governorate capital
- Subdistrict with assessed communities
- Subdistrict with no assessed communities

### Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported<sup>3,4</sup>:

Chronic disease support	48%
Medicine	44%
Antenatal care	37%

### Top 3 most common health problems reported<sup>3,4</sup>:

Chronic diseases	73%
Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	56%
Acute respiratory infections	51%

<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

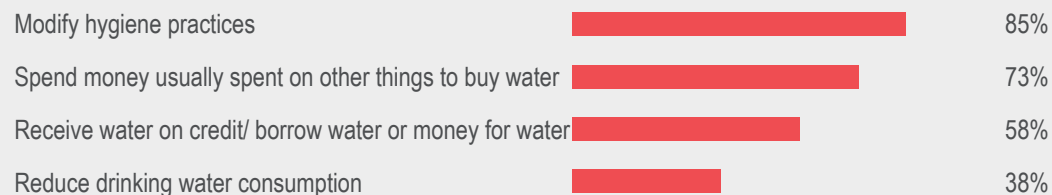


- 0 Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 2 Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

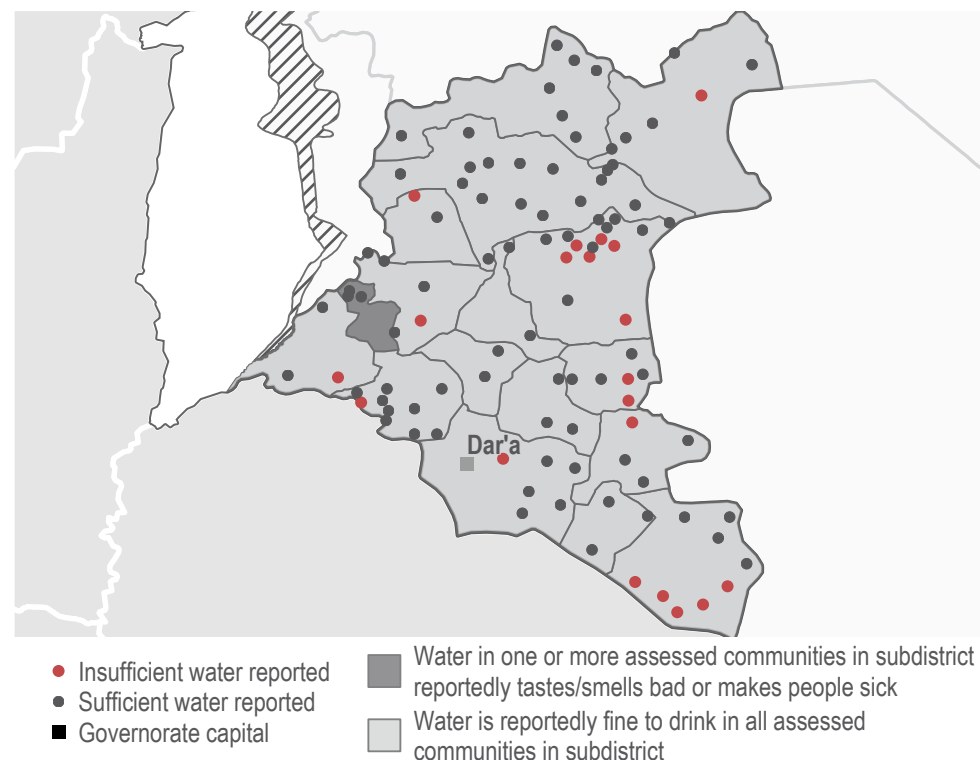
**83 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 29 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:**



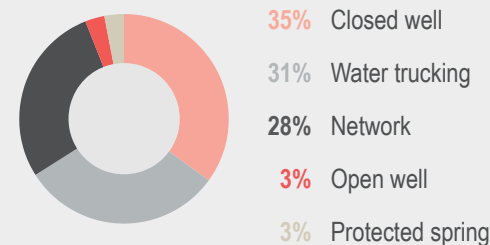
**86 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 26 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:**



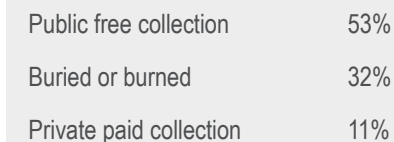
## Water sufficiency for household needs:



## Primary drinking water source reported<sup>4</sup>:



## Top 3 reported methods of garbage disposal<sup>3,4</sup>:



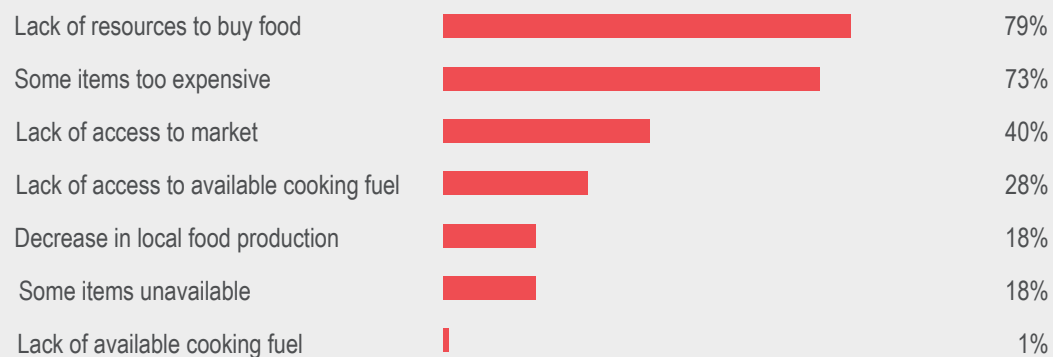
<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

## FOOD SECURITY

- 18** Communities reported not having received a food distribution in the last 12 months.
- 0** Communities reported that residents were unable to purchase food at shops and markets.

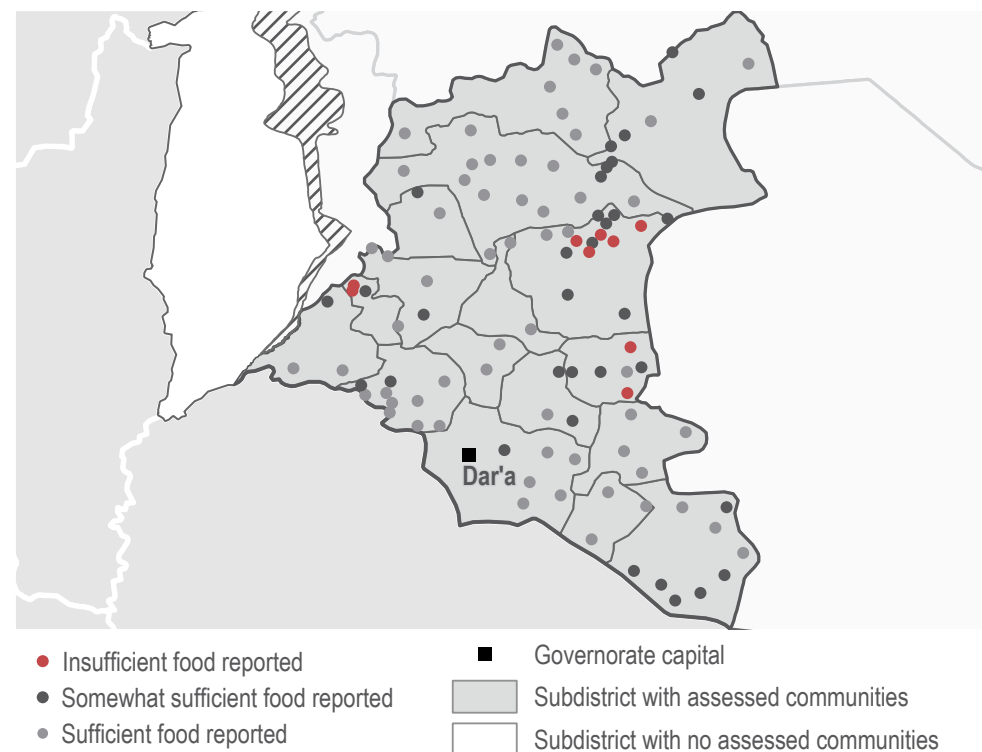
**23** communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **89** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



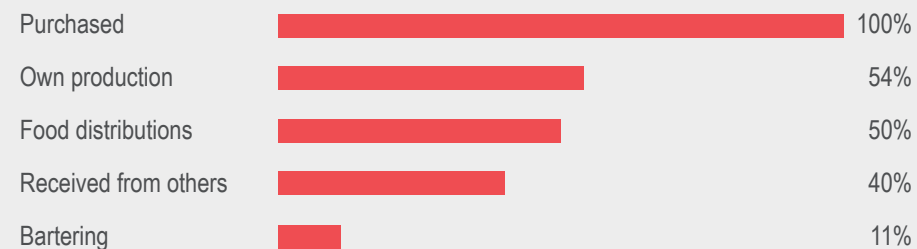
### Core food item prices reported (in SYP)<sup>5</sup>:

Food item:	Governorate average price in February:	Governorate average price in January:	Syrian average price in February:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	86	92	117
Rice (1 kilogram)	581	581	466
Lentils (1 kilogram)	335	353	351
Sugar (1 kilogram)	277	280	315
Cooking oil (1 litre)	698	706	584

### Food sufficiency:



### Most common ways of obtaining food reported<sup>3,4</sup>:



<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

## LIVELIHOODS

**50,000 - 100,000 SYP** Most commonly reported household income range<sup>5</sup>.

**27,310 SYP** Governorate average food basket price<sup>5,6</sup>.

**1** Community reported that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income<sup>7</sup>.

**8** 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 **104** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



**Most commonly reported main sources of income<sup>3,4</sup>:**



<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

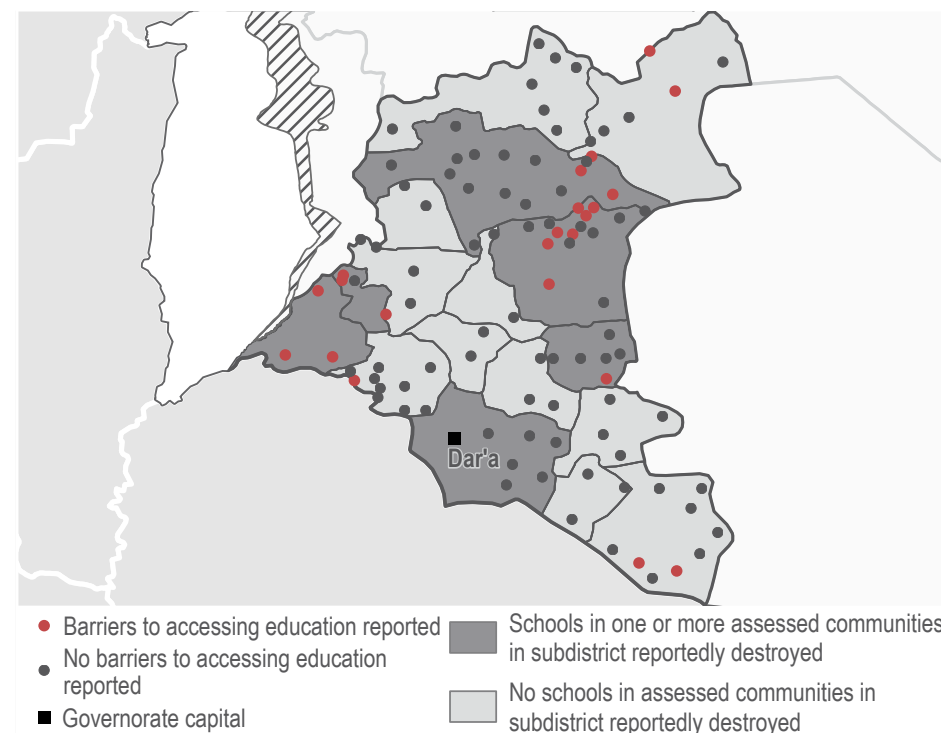
<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

<sup>6</sup> Calculation of the average price of a food basket is based on the World Food Programme's standard basket of dry goods. The food basket includes 37 kg of bread, 19 kg of rice, 19 kg of lentils, 5 kg of sugar, and 7 kg of vegetable oil, and provides 1,930 kcal a day for a family of five for a month.

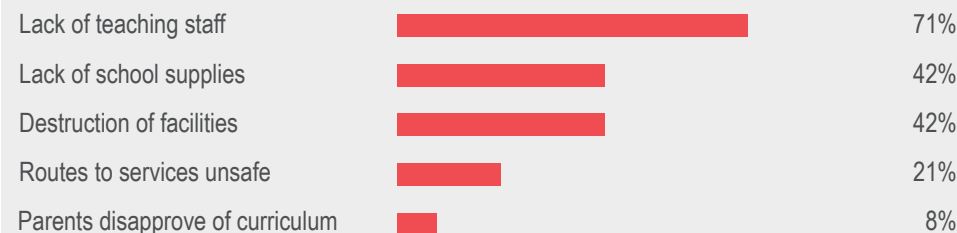
<sup>7</sup> Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

## EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



**88** communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **24** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



## METHODOLOGY

The HSOS project, formerly known as the AoO (Area of Origin) project, is a monthly assessment that aims to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian situation inside Syria. This factsheet presents information gathered in 113 communities in March 2018, referring to the situation in Dar'a Governorate in February 2018. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed subdistricts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly subdistrict factsheets, available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#). The complete HSOS dataset is disseminated monthly via the REACH Syria mailing list.

Wherever possible, information was collected through an enumerator network. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview Key Informants (KIs) directly in the community they report about. Where access and security constraints rendered direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews were conducted indirectly through participants identified in camps and settlements in neighbouring countries by REACH field teams. Participants contact KIs in their community in Syria to collect information about their community. KIs were asked to report at the community level.

A minimum of three KIs were interviewed per community to enhance data accuracy. 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 disagreed on a certain piece of information, enumerators triangulated the data with secondary sources or selected the response provided by the KI with the more relevant sector-specific background. For each question asked, confidence levels were 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 were triangulated through secondary sources, including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. Where necessary, follow-up was conducted with enumerators and participants. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the governorate.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> All information and figures reported in HSOS factsheets refer to the situation in assessed communities and cannot be generalised to other non-assessed communities of the governorate.

<sup>2</sup> Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.

<sup>3</sup> 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR (10 May 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 10 May 2017. Reliefweb. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>5</sup> Al-Zarier and Edwards (8 June 2017). Thousands of civilians fleeing home, some for the 3rd time as Daraa city fighting spurs mass displacement. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR (12 July 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 12 July 2017. Reliefweb. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>7</sup> A-Noufal, Edelman, Zoubi and Al-Masalma (8 November 2017). Opposition officials have little assistance to offer as Daraa residents return to a provincial capital in ruins. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

## 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).