

Aleppo Governorate, November 2017

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

OVERALL FINDINGS¹

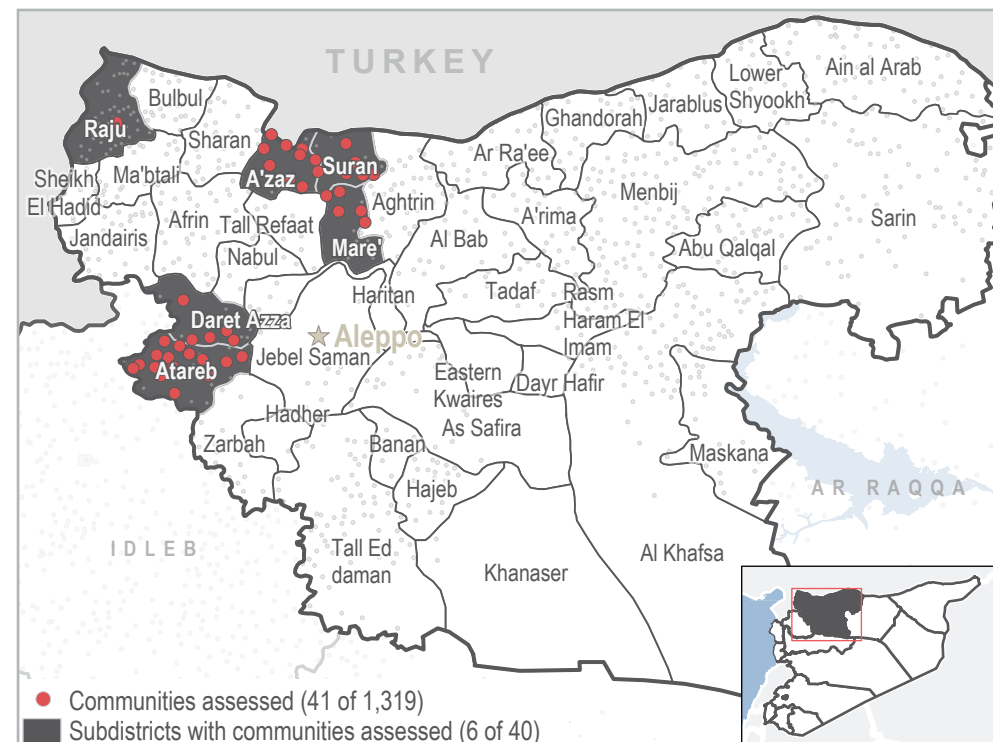
Following the cessation of conflict in and around Aleppo city in December 2016, thousands have spontaneously returned to their communities in 2017. Of the 41 communities assessed in north-western Aleppo in December, **5** communities, in 4 sub-districts, witnessed returns in November². The total estimated number of spontaneous returns to assessed communities was between **625 - 750** individuals. Family reunification, the perceived cessation of hostilities in the community of origin, and an escalation of conflict in host communities were the most commonly cited reasons for return. The majority of returnees came from Deir ez-Zor governorate and other sub-districts within Aleppo governorate. **Four out of five** communities reported that returnees in their community had been displaced multiple times before returning. Of the communities assessed, **98%** reported the presence of IDPs, with approximately **5,356 - 6,275** new IDP arrivals reported in November. Out of these 40 communities, **76%** reported hosting more than 1,000 IDPs and **15%** reported the presence of over 10,000 IDPs. A majority of the latter were located in Atareb sub-district. **Four out of six** of these communities reported that over half of their population was comprised of IDPs. The largest number of IDPs, approximately 86,000, was reported in Azaz, comprising more than half of the city's estimated population of 137,850. Of the communities assessed, **39%** reported having insufficient water to cover household needs, with all but two of these communities hosting over 1,000 IDPs.

Of the 41 assessed communities, **51%** reportedly experienced challenges to accessing sufficient amounts of food. All communities experiencing barriers reported a lack of resources to buy available food as well as the high cost of some food items. These **21** communities all reported that unstable employment was among the three most common income-generating sources. Of the assessed communities, **63%** reported that children were being sent to work or beg, a majority of which were located in Atareb and Daret Azza sub-districts³. Although 15 to 18-year old children were sent to beg most frequently, one community, Azaz, reported that 5 to 9-year old children were sent to work or beg to supplement insufficient income. Azaz was also the community hosting the largest number of IDPs across assessed communities in Aleppo. Nonetheless, no extreme food-based coping strategies were reported in Aleppo, and average food prices were considerably lower than the Syrian average. Most children were reportedly able to access educational facilities in all of the assessed communities.

KEY EVENTS

Power lines built between Damascus and Aleppo city to improve electricity supplies following the Aleppo offensive ⁴ .	Over 400,000 individuals return to Aleppo, particularly to Aleppo city ⁵ .	Over 70,000 civilians displaced in eastern Aleppo countryside near Manbij and Al Bab cities ⁶ .	Damascus – Aleppo – Hasakeh highway reopens, facilitating commercial and civilian travel between governorates ⁷ .	Tensions continue to mount between Kurdish and Turkish forces in the Afrin area ⁸ .	Multiple airstrikes on a market in Atareb, an area hosting large numbers of IDPs ⁹ .
January onwards	January - July	February	23 April	July	13 November

Coverage



Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Water security
2. Food security
3. Healthcare

Demographics*

3,570,540 people in need

1,756,706 **1,813,834**

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

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DISPLACEMENT

5,356 - 6,275 Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in November.

625 - 750 Estimated number of spontaneous returnee arrivals in assessed communities in November².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Azaz	2,500 - 3,000
Mare'	825 - 850
Tqad	400 - 450

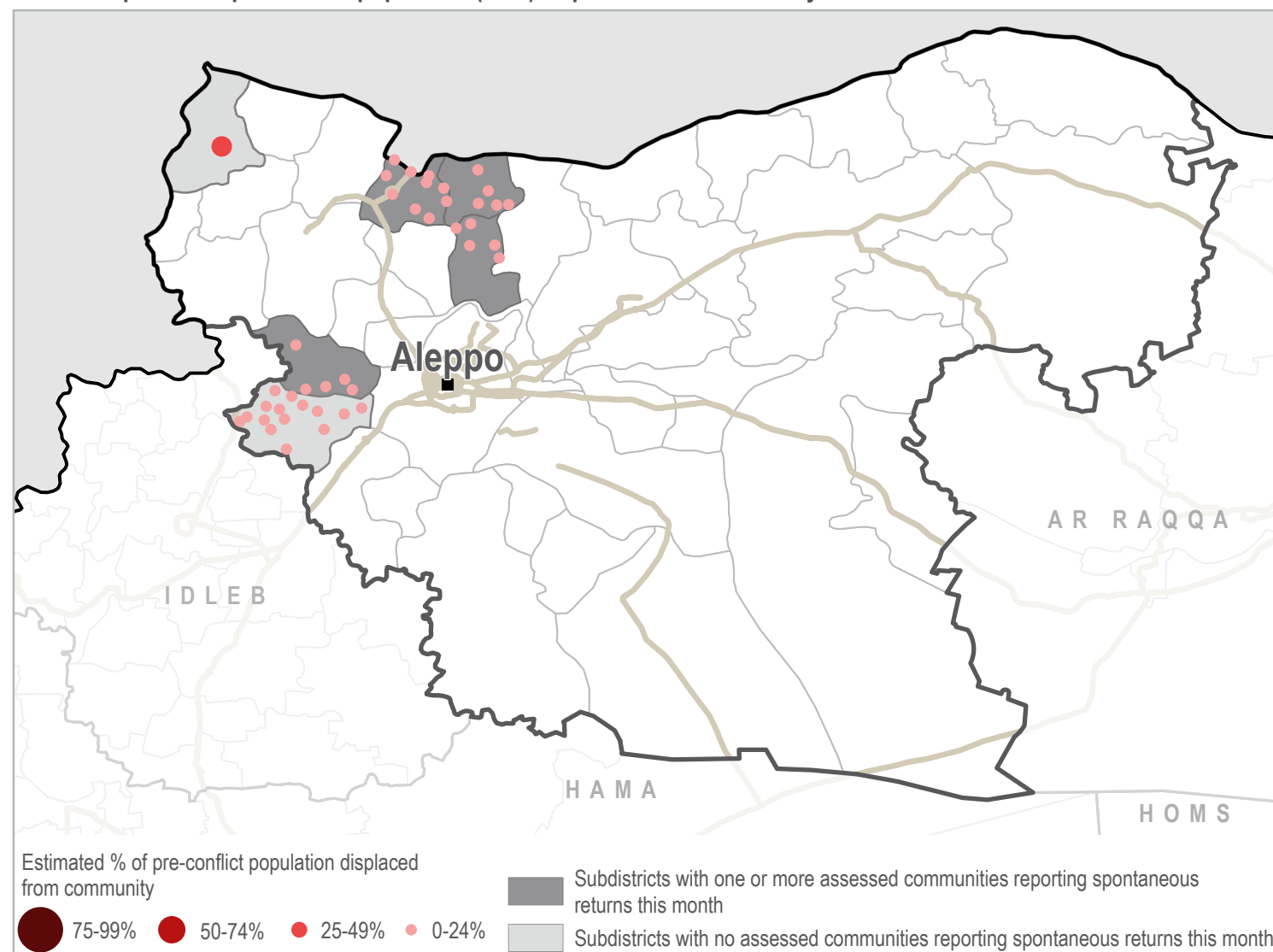
Top 3 sub-districts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

Deir ez-Zor City (Deir ez-Zor)	38%
Hajeb (Aleppo)	19%
Abu Kamal (Deir ez-Zor)	14%

40 communities reported no PCP departures.
Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **1** assessed community^{3,4}:

Escalation of conflict	100%
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Estimated percent of pre-conflict population (PCP) displaced from community:



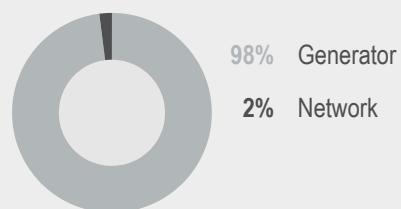
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



20 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining **21** assessed communities^{3,4}:



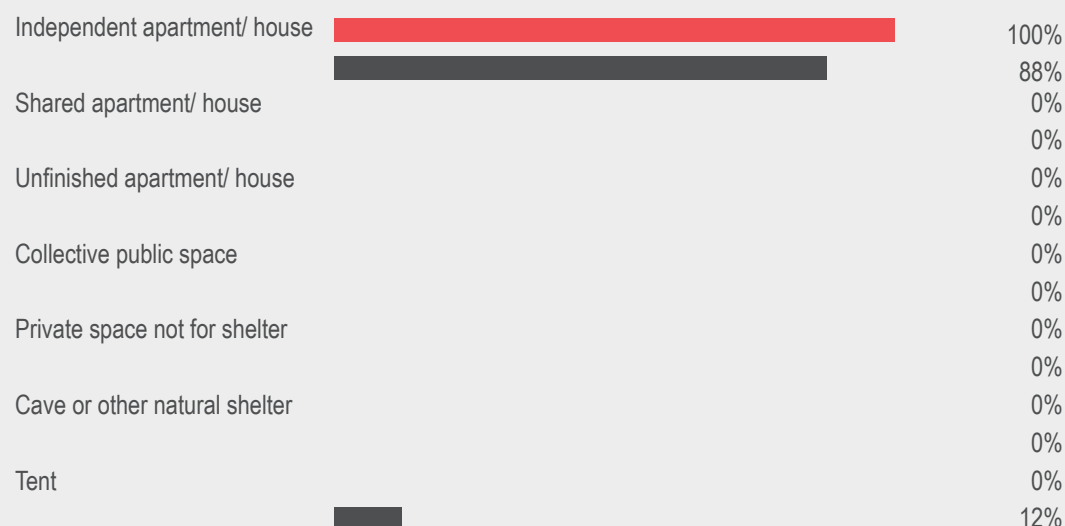
10,631 SYP

Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.⁵

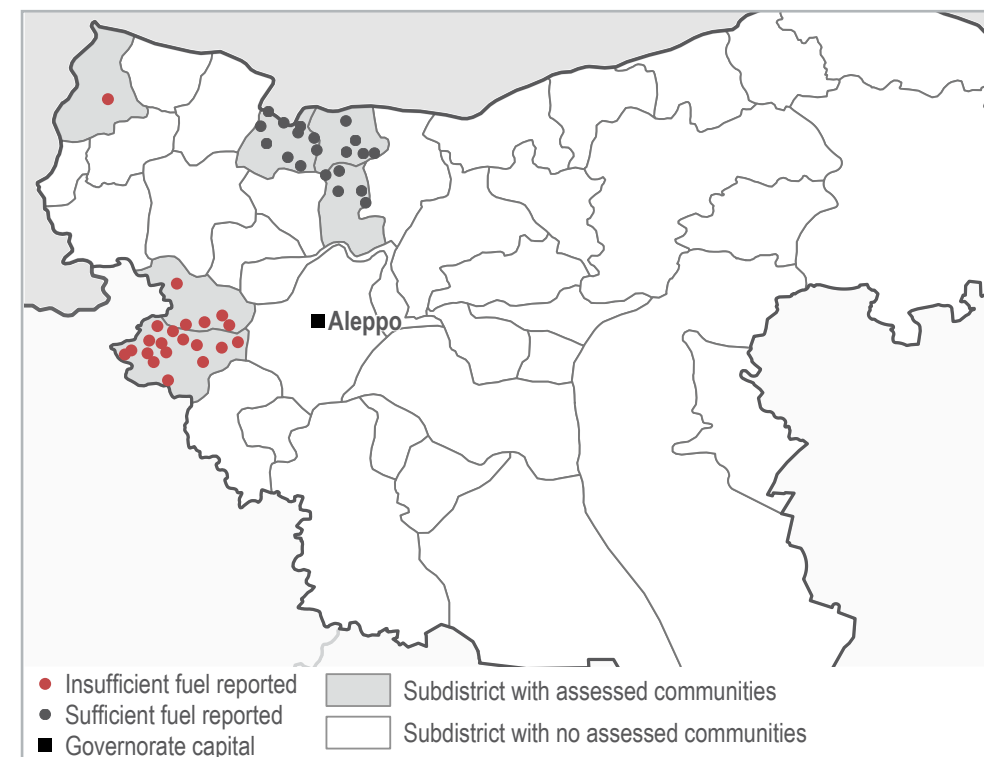
6,815 SYP

Syrian average reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.⁵

Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP (in red) and IDP (in grey) households⁴:



Fuel sufficiency:



Reported fuel prices (in SYP)⁵:

Fuel type:	Governorate average price in November:	Governorate average price in October:	Syrian average price in November:
Coal (1 kilogram)	108	96	332
Diesel (1 litre)	217	235	496
Butane (1 canister)	9,459	7,405	6,275
Firewood (1 tonne)	90,696	88,750	85,004

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 508 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 November 2017)

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- 9** Communities reported that no medical items were available in their community.
- 1** Community reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

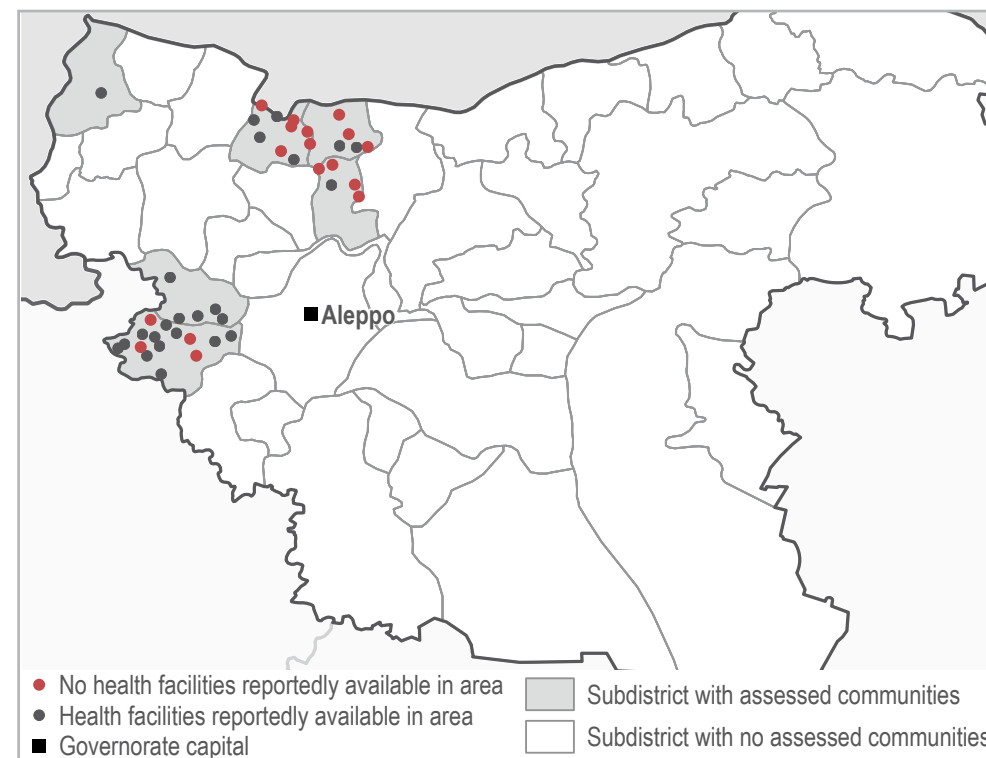
23 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining **18** assessed communities were^{3,4}:

No health facilities available in the area		94%
Security concerns when traveling to facilities		6%
Lack of transportation to facilities		6%
High cost of transportation to facilities		6%

Communities reporting that residents used one of the following medical coping strategies:

Using non-medical items for treatment:	Recycling medical items:	Carrying out operations without anaesthesia:
None	None	None

Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported^{3,4}:

Surgical care	51%
Orthopedic services	41%
All health services	39%

Top 3 most common health problems reported^{3,4}:

Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	88%
Chronic diseases	49%
Skin diseases	44%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

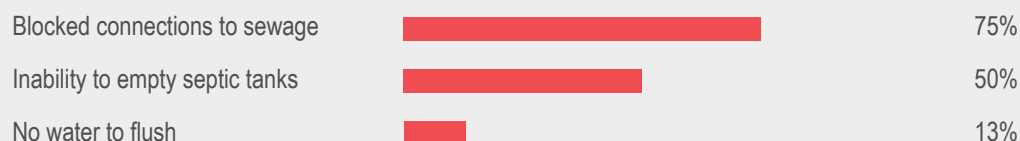
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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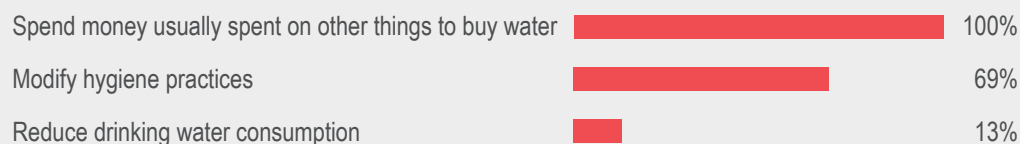


- 0** Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 0** Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

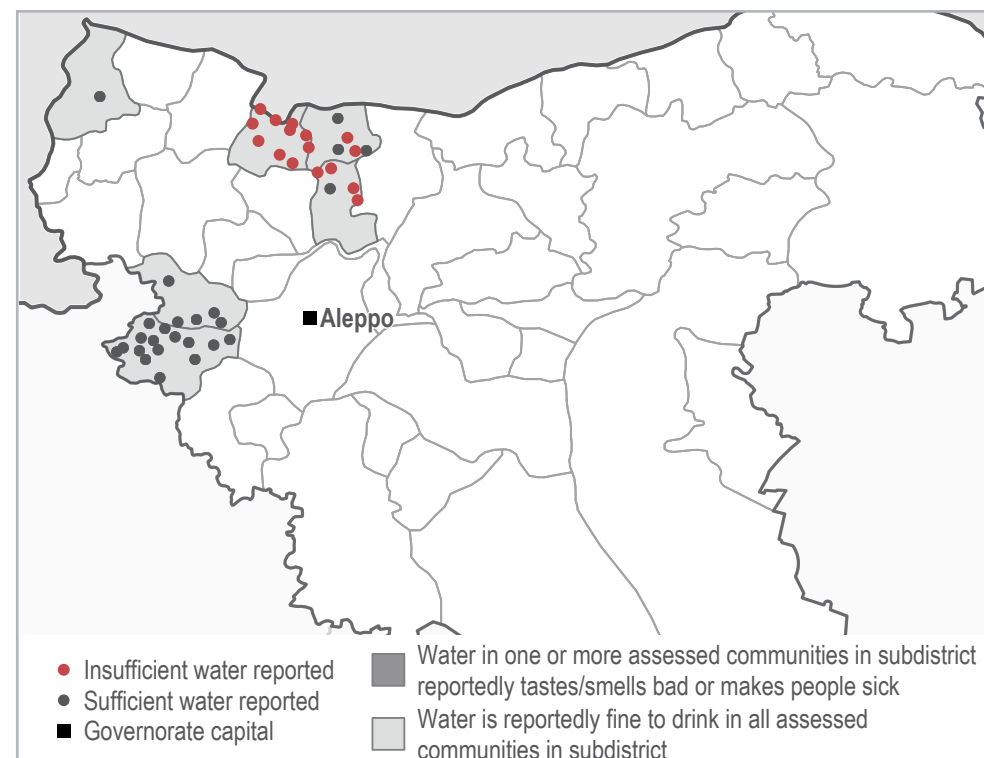
33 communities reported that they had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 8 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



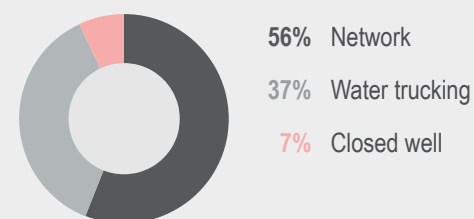
25 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 16 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



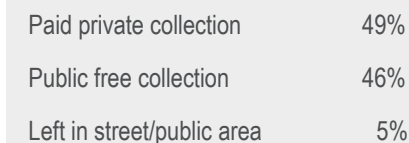
Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



Top 3 reported methods of garbage disposal^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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FOOD SECURITY

- 0 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.

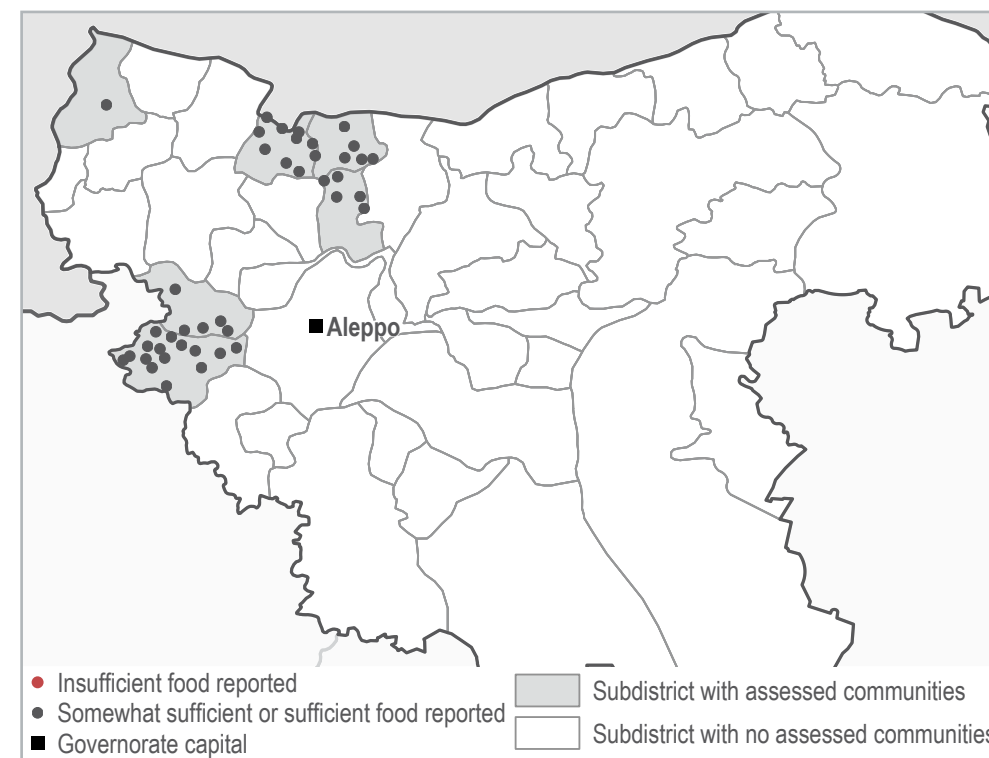
20 communities reported that they had enough food to meet household needs. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining 21 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

Food item:	Governorate average price in November:	Governorate average price in October:	Syrian average price in November:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	110	121	115
Rice (1 kilogram)	469	500	641
Lentils (1 kilogram)	363	372	445
Sugar (1 kilogram)	350	375	895
Cooking oil (1 litre)	509	581	964

Food sufficiency:



Most common ways of obtaining food reported^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁵ 1 USD = 508 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 November 2017)

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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LIVELIHOODS

Less than 50,000 SYP Most commonly reported household income range⁵.

25,959 SYP Governorate average food basket price^{5,6}.

0 Communities reporting that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income⁷.

0 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 **41** assessed communities were^{3,4}:

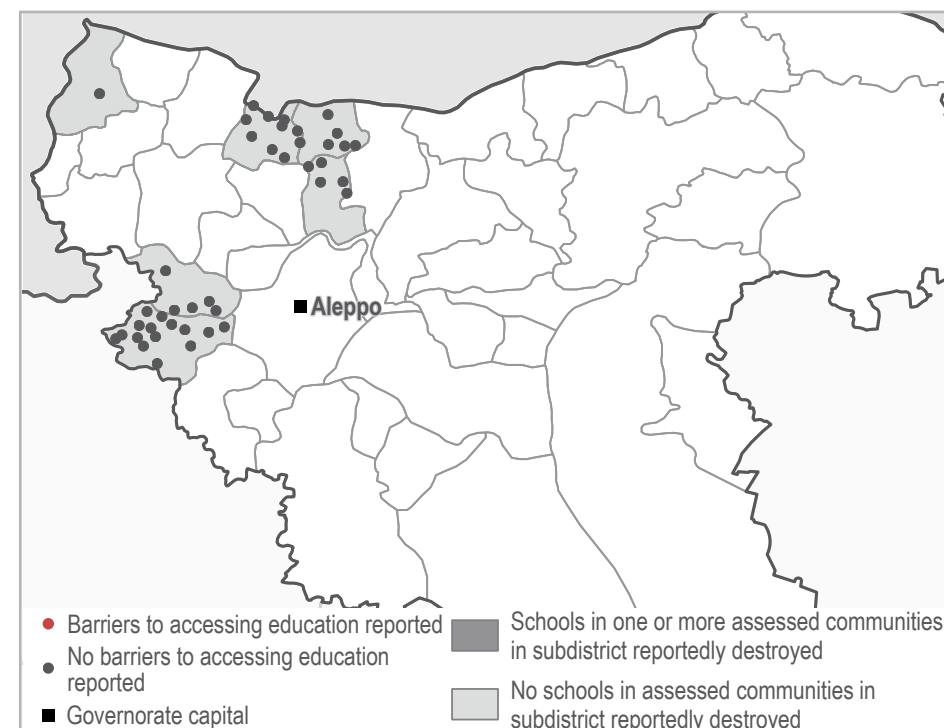


Most commonly reported main sources of income^{3,4}:



EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



41 communities reported that most children were able to access education.

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 508 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 November 2017)

⁶ 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.

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

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 41 communities in December 2017, referring to the situation in Aleppo Governorate in November 2017. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed sub-districts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly sub-district 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

¹ 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.

² Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.

³ 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.

⁴ Pleitgen, F. (15 August 2017). Inside Aleppo: Residents return to rebuild Syria's shattered city. CNN. Retrieved from <http://edition.cnn.com>.

⁵ IOM (11 August 2017). Over 600,000 Displaced Syrians Returned Home in First 7 Months of 2017. IOM. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁶ UNCHR (8 March 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 08 March 2017. Reliefweb. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁷ Aboufadel, L. (23 April 2017). Major highway from Aleppo to east Syria reopened for the first time in 5 years. Al Masdar News. Retrieved from <https://www.almasdarnews.com>.

⁸ Ali and Clark (31 July 2017). Turkish-backed forces encroach on Kurdish-held northern Syria amid rising tensions. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁹ Reuters (14 November 2017). More than 60 killed in air strike on Syrian market town. Reuters. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com>.

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. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter: @REACH_info.