

Ar-Raqqa Governorate, April 2018

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

OVERALL FINDINGS¹

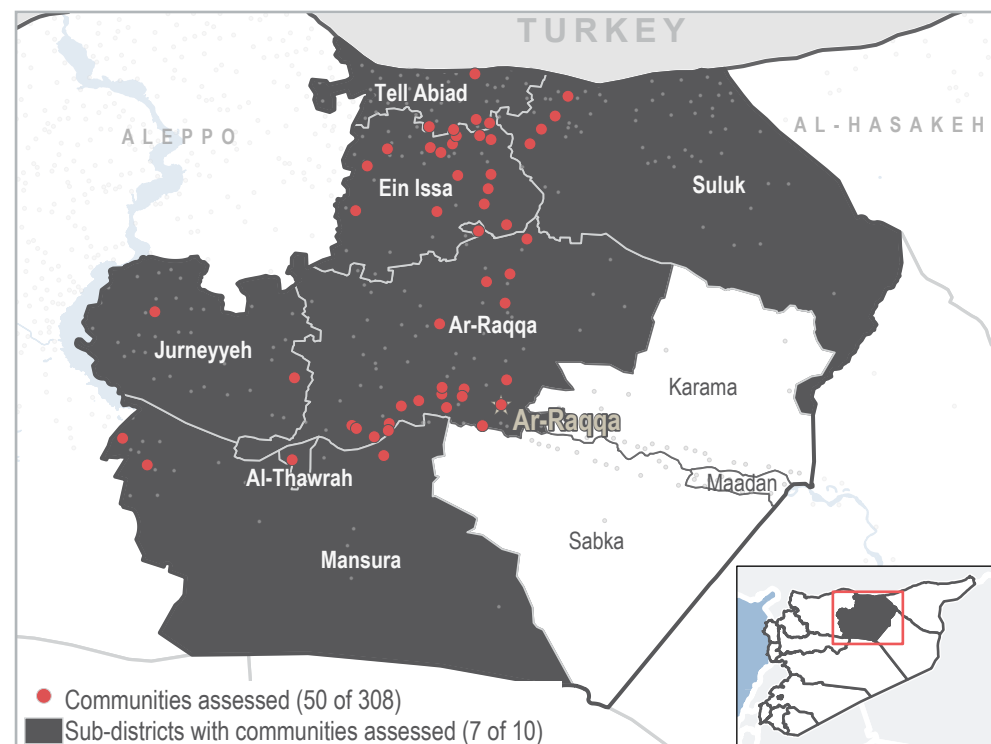
Ar-Raqqa governorate is located in northeast Syria. The Euphrates River flows through the governorate and into the Al-Thawrah Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam providing electricity in Syria, although years of conflict have limited its ability to generate electricity. Since the conflict over Ar-Raqqa city ended in October 2017, electricity services have been mostly unavailable. However, recent repairs to the Al Furosa electric station resulted in **72%** of the assessed communities relying primarily on the electricity network in April.

In over half of assessed communities, Key Informants (KIs) estimated that **76-100%** of the pre-conflict population remained. However, **7** communities in Ar-Raqqa and Ein Issa sub-districts, reported **less than 50%** of pre-conflict populations remained. The majority of the assessed communities reported a presence of IDPs, approximately **90,037 IDPs** in total. Most of these IDPs resided in Al-Thawra community, which has experienced two large IDP influxes in the past four months. In April, approximately **25** spontaneous refugee returns from Lebanon and Jordan were reported in Jurneyyeh community (Ath-Thawrah district). The most commonly reported reasons for return were to reunite with family and protection concerns in host communities².

KIs reported that healthcare was one of the top priority needs in April. Reflective of this, **25** of the assessed communities reported that there were no health facilities available in the area, and only **3** of the assessed communities reported having functioning pre-conflict hospitals. Furthermore, **21** of the assessed communities stated that none of the assessed medical items were available in their community. Additionally, diarrhoea was one of the most common health concerns reported by **34%** of the assessed communities in April. This could be attributed to the majority (**51%**) of the assessed communities depending on water trucking, **20%** of which was reported to be unsafe for consumption³. Additionally, **5** of the communities reported that the water from their primary source tasted or smelled bad, and **1** of the communities, Khneiz, reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

Farm ownership, unstable daily employment, and remittances were the most commonly reported sources of income. Furthermore, of the assessed communities, **25** reported using coping strategies to deal with a lack of income. These included borrowing money from family and friends, sending children to work or beg, and reducing meal size⁴. Additionally, KIs reported that struggles with obtaining sufficient resources extend into educational services as well. KIs reported that in **3** of the assessed communities, in Ein Issa sub-district, primary schools were not functioning or unavailable. Furthermore, nearly **half** of the assessed communities reported that some children were unable to attend educational facilities in April. KIs reported that this was primarily due to a lack of teaching staff, school supplies, and that the available services were located too far away.

Coverage



Top 3 reported priority needs

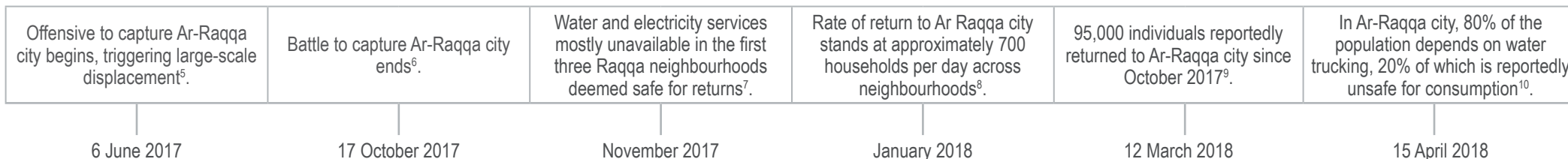
1. Healthcare
2. Education
3. Water security

Demographics*

440,276 people in need
 229,824
 210,452

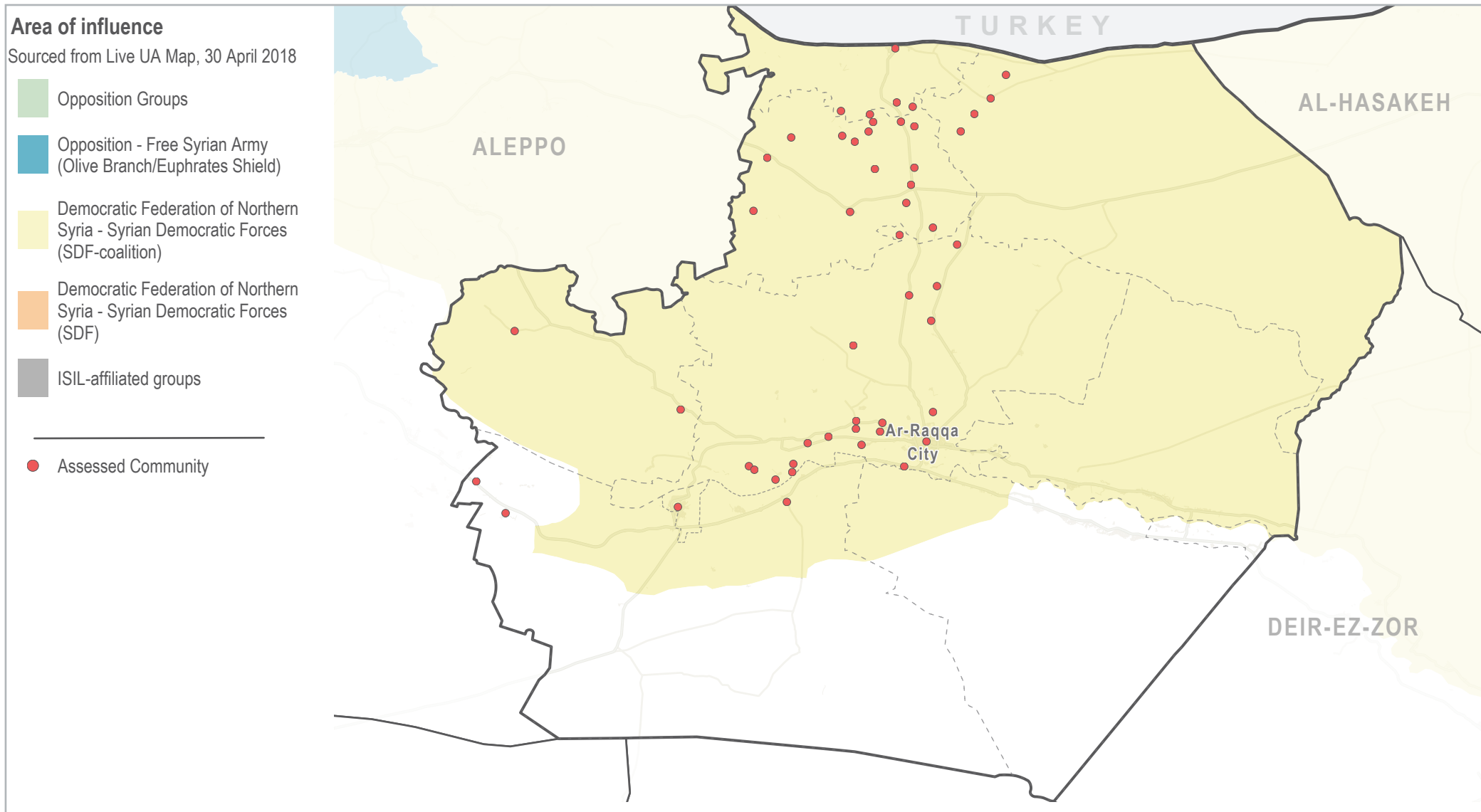
* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

KEY EVENTS



Ar-Raqqa Governorate, April 2018

Governorate areas of influence:



Ar-Raqqa Governorate, April 2018

DISPLACEMENT

8 - 10 Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in April.

20 - 30 Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in April².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Kormaza **8 - 10**

Al-Thawrah **No information**

No further IDP arrivals reported

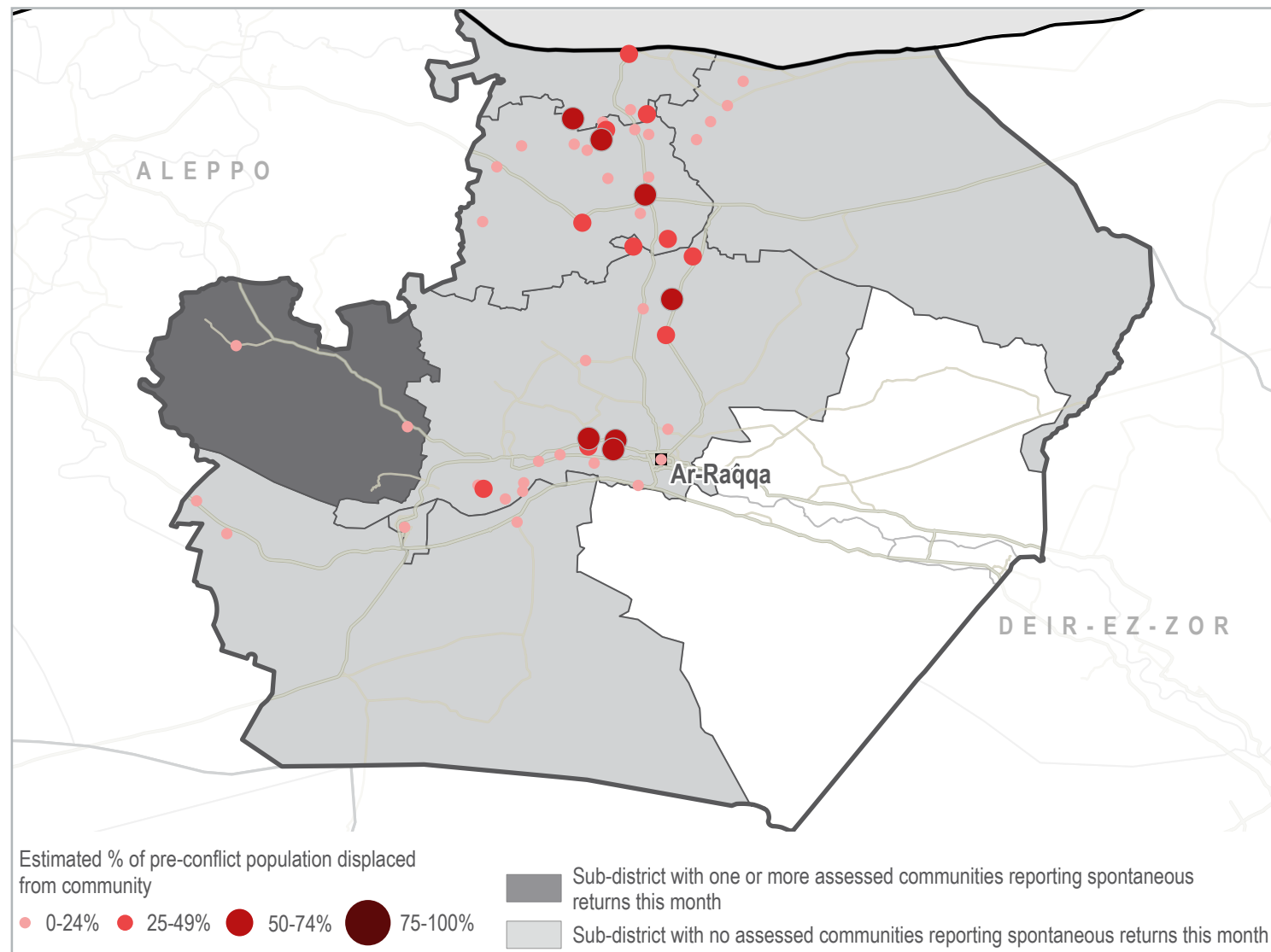
Top 3 sub-districts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

No information

50 communities reported no PCP departures^{3,4}.

No reported PCP departures

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



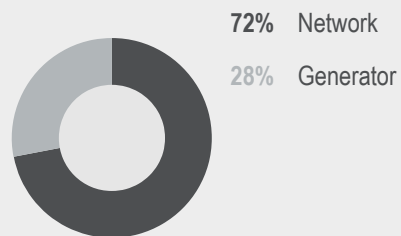
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

Ar-Raqqa Governorate, April 2018

SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



49 communities reported no lack of fuel.

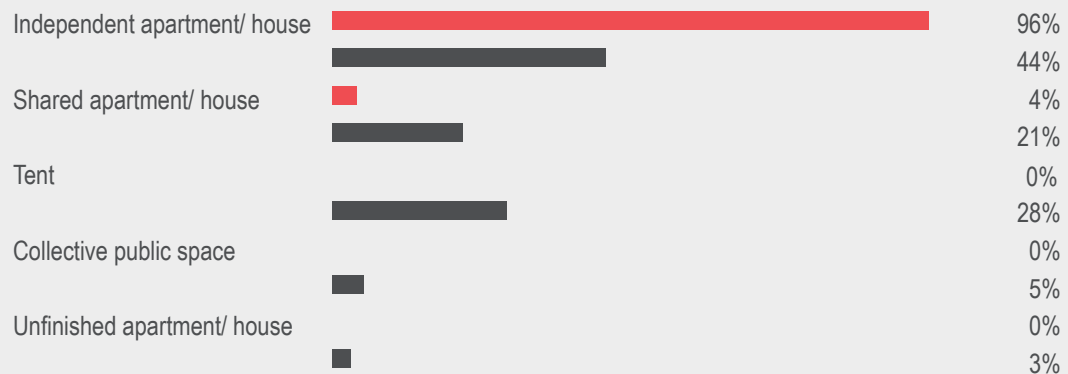
5,864 SYP

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

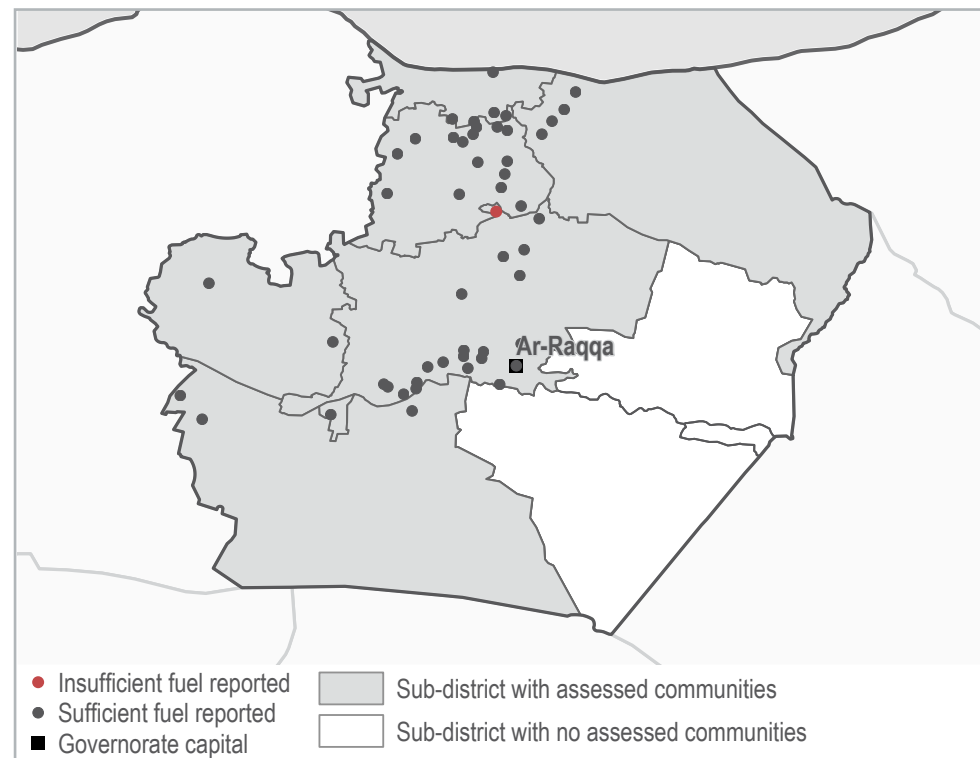
6,108 SYP

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 April:	Governorate average price in March:	Syrian average price in April:
Coal (1 kilogram)	496	906	280
Diesel (1 litre)	76	72	227
Butane (1 canister)	3,159	3,006	5,940
Firewood (1 tonne)	3,125	4,000	53,131

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 April 2018)

HEALTH

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

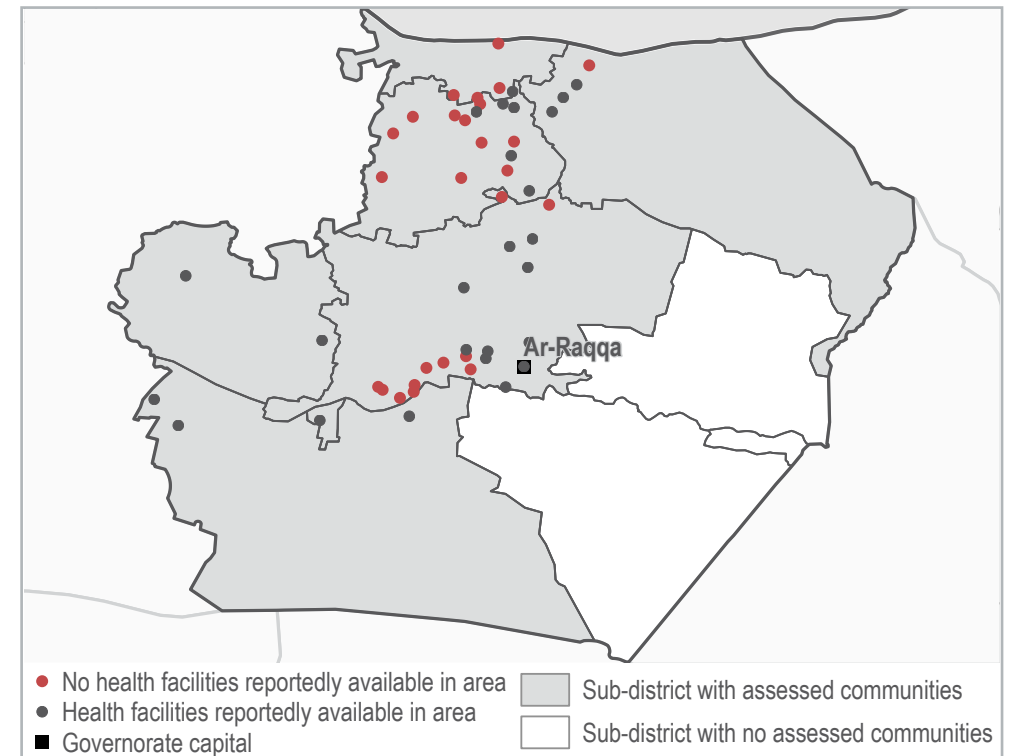
9 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining **41** assessed communities were^{3,4}:

No health facilities available in the area	61%
High cost of transportation to facilities	59%
Healthcare services too expensive	37%
Lack of transportation to facilities	15%
Disability/injuries/illness preventing travel	2%
Family not permitting travel to health facilities	2%

46 communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies. The coping strategies used in the remaining **1** communities were^{3,4}:

Using non-medical items for treatment	100%
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Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



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

Skilled child delivery services	52%
Chronic disease support	40%
Antenatal care	40%

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

Skin diseases	44%
Diarrhoea	34%
Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	32%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

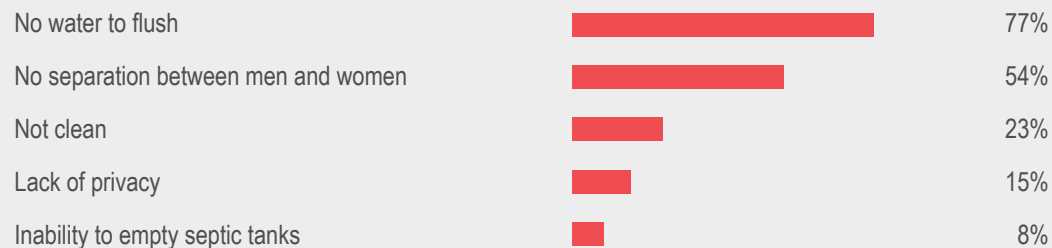
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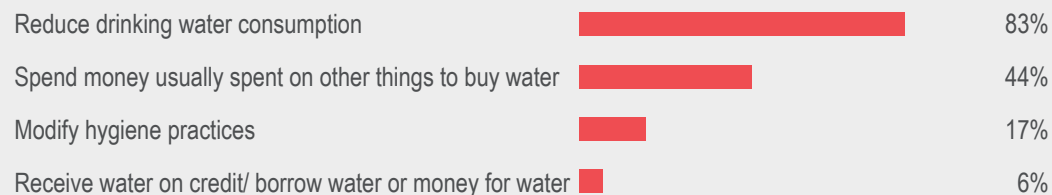
5 Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.

1 Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

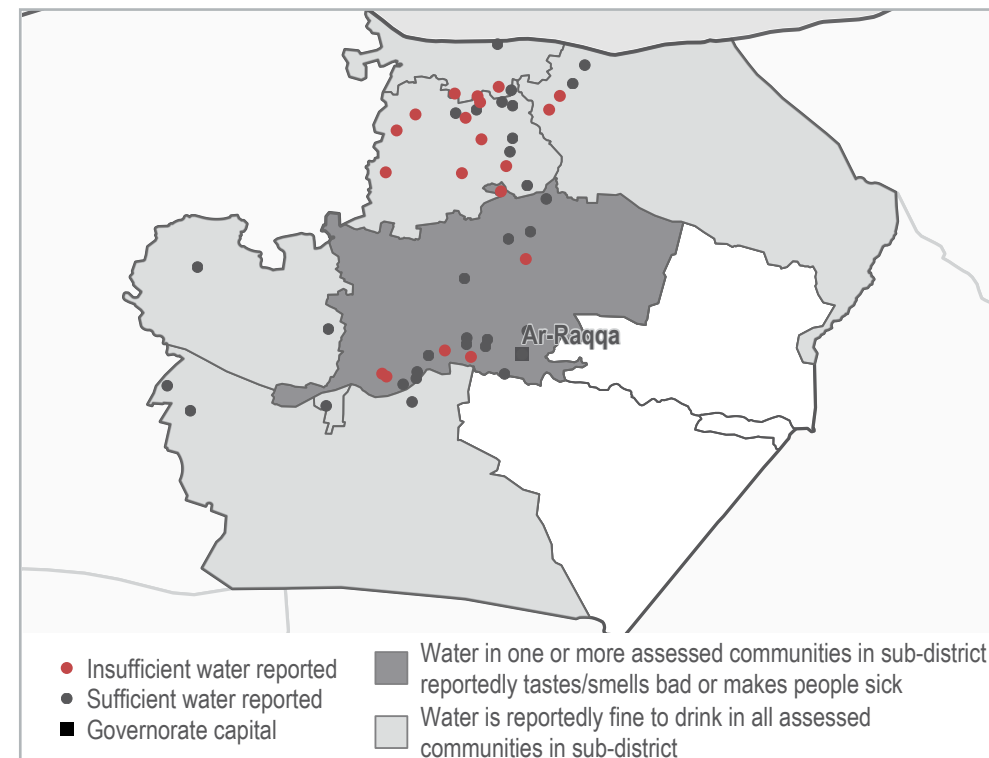
37 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining **13** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



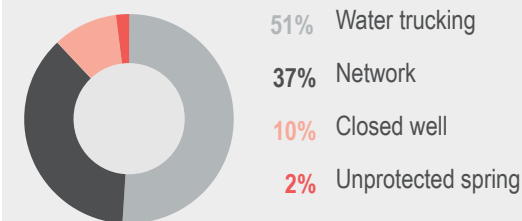
30 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining **18** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



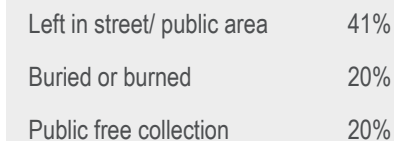
Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



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



³ Multiple choices allowed.

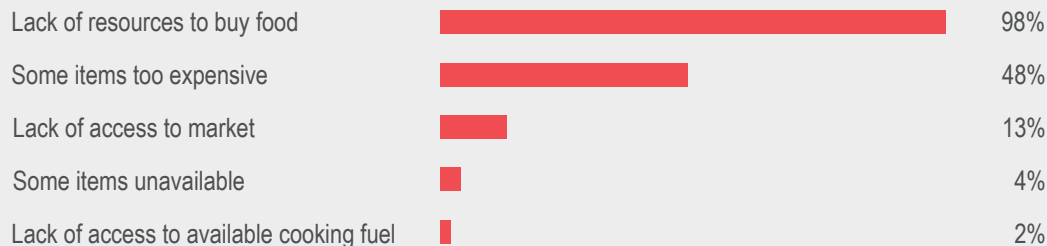
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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FOOD SECURITY

- 12** 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.

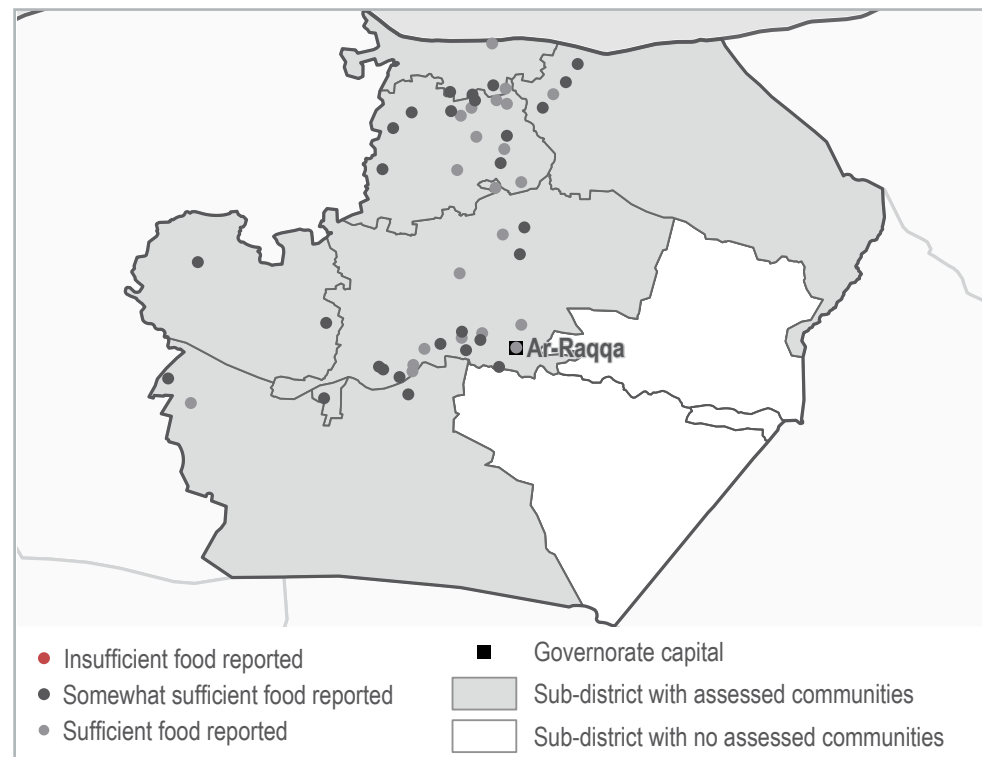
4 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **46** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



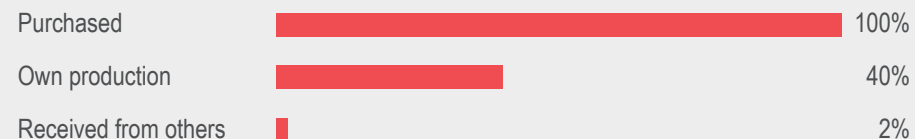
Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

Food item:	Governorate average price in April:	Governorate average price in March:	Syrian average price in April:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	114	119	115
Rice (1 kilogram)	483	474	430
Lentils (1 kilogram)	343	332	330
Sugar (1 kilogram)	301	294	308
Cooking oil (1 litre)	504	472	546

Food sufficiency:



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



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 April 2018)

Ar-Raqqa Governorate, April 2018

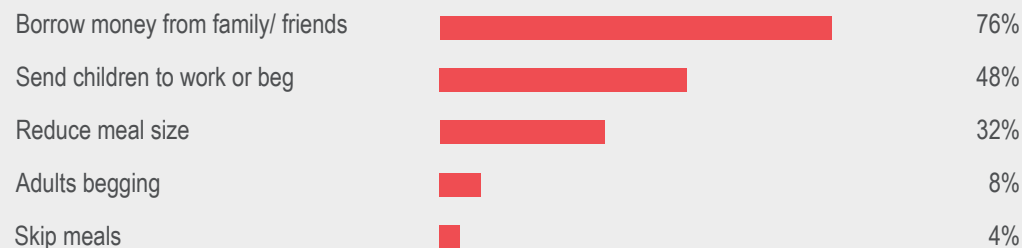
LIVELIHOODS

50,000 - 100,000 SYP Most commonly reported household income range⁵.

25,753 SYP Governorate average food basket price^{5,6}.

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

24 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 **25** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



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



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

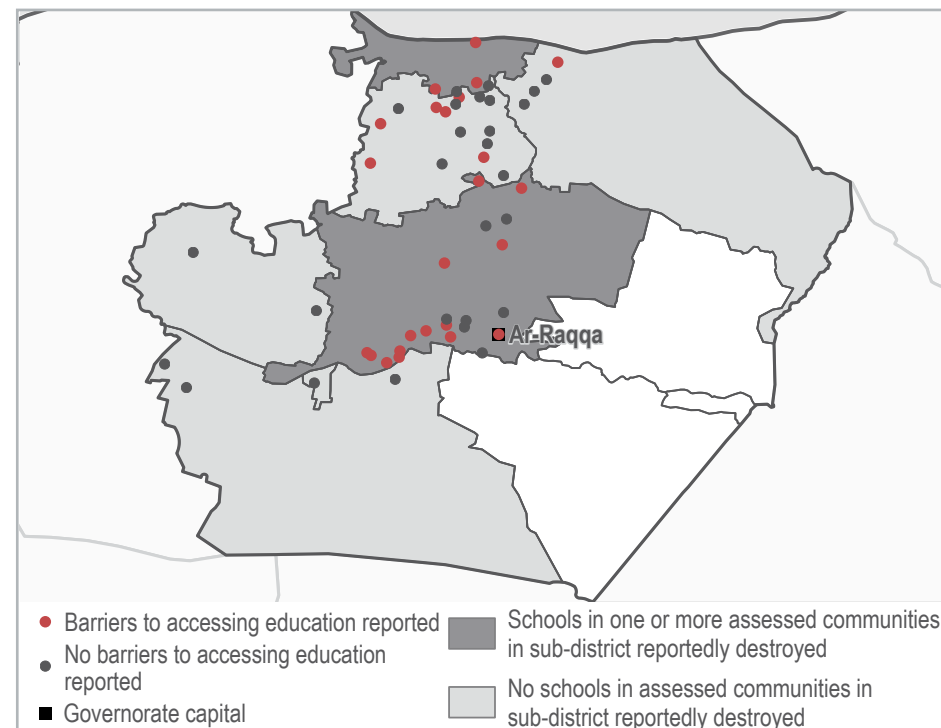
⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 April 2018)

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.

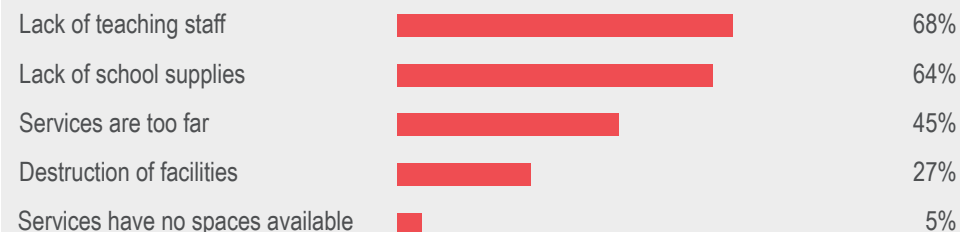
⁷ Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



28 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **22** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



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 50 communities in May 2018, referring to the situation in Ar-Raqqa Governorate in April 2018. 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 about which they are reporting. Where access and security constraints rendered direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews were conducted remotely 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.

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 UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (15 April 2018) Syria Crisis: Northeast Syria Situation Report No. 23 (15 March – 15 April 2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁴ 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.

⁵ Aljazeera. (6 June 2017). SDF launch major offensive to capture ISIL-held Raqqa. Retrieved from <http://www.aljazeera.com>.

⁶ Sen. (18 October 2017). After the Battle for Raqqa, Now Comes the Hard Part. News Deeply. Retrieved from <https://www.newsdeeply.com/syria>.

⁷ Edwards and Hamou. (22 November 2017). Raqqa returnees await water, utilities as civil council announces eastern neighborhoods 'safe' from landmines. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁸ World Food Programme (31 January 2018). Syria: Ar-Raqqa City Assessment - January 2018 Food Security Update. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (14 March 2018) Syria Crisis: Northeast Syria Situation Report No. 22 (1 February – 14 March 2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

¹⁰ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (15 April 2018) Syria Crisis: Northeast Syria Situation Report No. 23 (15 March – 15 April 2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

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.