

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

AL-HASAKEH CITY

Summer 2023| Urban household assessment

INTRODUCTION

The HSOS¹ Urban Household Assessment is a quarterly review of the humanitarian situation inside cities in Northeast Syria (NES). The assessment collects multi-sectoral information from host community and internally displaced households in Al-Hasakeh city. This situation overview presents findings on the access to services, living conditions, economic conditions, and priority needs across accessible areas in the city.

With a significant proportion of the humanitarian response that targets out of camp and host communities in NES located in urban areas,² the assessment addresses the need for comprehensive and regular information on the humanitarian conditions in cities where the impact of an increasingly complex crisis has hit hundreds of thousands.

Sustained economic deterioration and climate shocks resulting in unstable markets and worsening food and water access compound the pre-existing vulnerabilities of urban populations who face persistent insecurity, damaged infrastructure, and complex population dynamics.

To support sustainable interventions, the assessment aims to integrate a durable solutions lens by (1) providing representative data on household behaviours and perceptions of both host community and internally displaced persons (IDPs); and (2) by drawing indicators from the Syria Analytical Framework³.

The HSOS Urban Household Assessment is conducted in cooperation with the NES Forum. The complete multi-sectoral descriptive analysis can be accessed [online](#) or can be downloaded as an [excel file](#). All HSOS products remain accessible on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).

SYMBOLGY

- The indicator refers to the current situation at the time of data collection
- The indicator refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection
- ▼ Findings are not representative
- ◆ The difference in findings for the host and IDP populations is statistically significant
- ▶ The indicator aligns with the Syria analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform

 Host community households
 IDP households

 If no icon is indicated, the data represents both host community and IDP households

KEY MESSAGES

-  **Only 2% of households relied on the regular electric network as their main power provider in Al-Hasakeh.** 90% of households indicated that the rationing of the electricity generated by the regular network was a barrier to access domestic power. Alternatively, 92% of households resorted to community generators as their main source of electricity. However, 65% of households reported that the electricity produced by community generators was too expensive^a and 23% indicated that these generators needed repairs.
-  **The average Food consumption score (FCS)¹⁵ has slightly worsened in Hasakeh city, reducing from 52 to 48 between spring and summer rounds.** This decrease may be linked to the unaffordability of food items, which was reported as a barrier to access sufficient food by 83% of households.
-  **In summer 2023, less than 1% of households used piped water network as their main source of drinking water, compared to 73% in the same period last year.** This decrease is the result of the interruption of Alouk water station since the end of August 2022.^b The absence of functioning network pushed households to resort to private water trucking to meet their water needs. As such, private water trucking was the main source of drinking water for 98% of households this summer.
-  **Drinking water was increasingly seen as making people sick.** Among the 83% of households who faced issues with drinking water, 33% indicated that they perceived water as making people sick (compared to 23% in spring round and 23% in summer round last year). If high temperatures in the hot season can foster the proliferation of waterborne diseases,^c this increase may also be the result of unsafe water distributed by private water trucking companies.^d
-  **The percentage of households spending more than their monthly income increased compared to spring 2023 round.** 70% of households had an estimated expenditure gap (gap (monthly income lower than monthly expenditures), compared to 62% in the spring 2023 round. IDP households were particularly impacted: 75% of IDP households recorded an expenditure gap, compared to 66% of host community households. For both population groups, the most common way to cope with the inability to meet basic needs was by borrowing money.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

AL-HASAKEH CITY

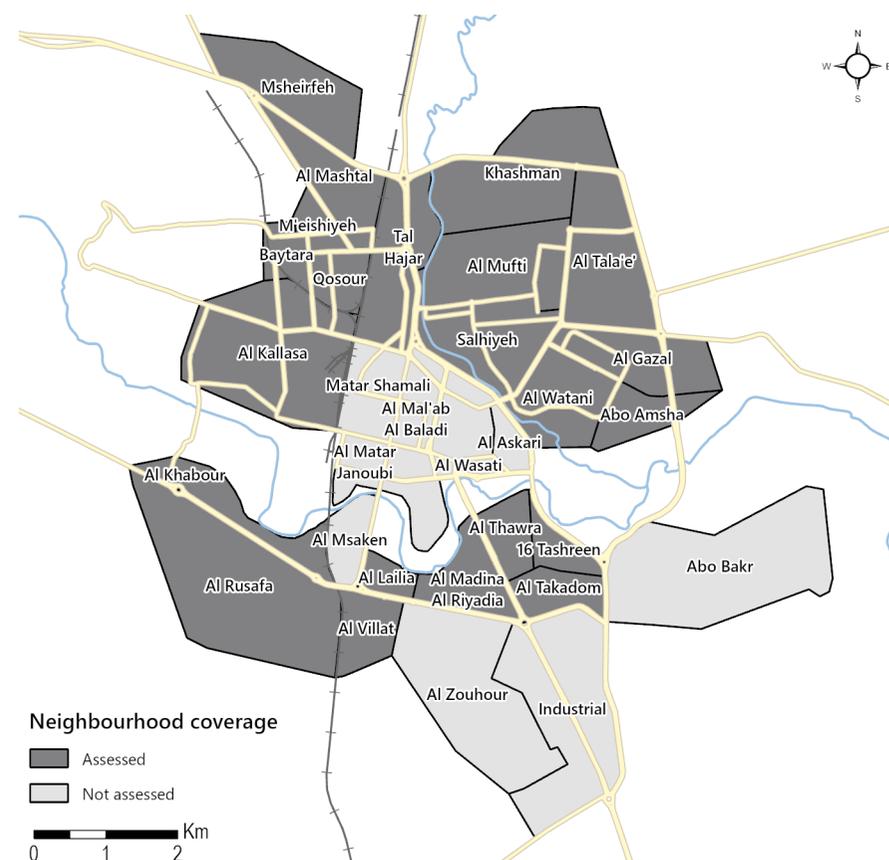
Summer 2023 | Urban household assessment

METHODOLOGY

- The HSOS urban household assessment is conducted using a **household methodology at city level**.
- Face-to-face data collection was carried out by REACH enumerators between **3 and 10 July 2023** covering **209 households** (103 host community households and 106 IDP households) in Al-Hasakeh city.
- Findings can be generalised to **the Syrian host community⁴ and the IDP population⁵ at city level** for the neighbourhoods assessed, with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error. Representative samples of the host and IDP populations were calculated according to the population estimates collected by the Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) in September 2022.
- Stratified simple random household selection** was conducted through random spatial sampling using geographic information systems. The selection considered population estimates by neighbourhood and distributed the random samples according to population density.
- The random spatial sampling was conducted across residential areas of the city, as classified by OpenStreetMap. Areas under the control of the Government of Syria and areas in their proximity, and areas identified as security concerns, were not covered.⁶
- Due to data collection protocols, the sample excludes households whose members are all below 18.
- Due to logistical limitations, the sample is biased towards households where at least one adult member is at home during the time of data collection, and towards cooperative, readily available households.

COVERAGE

Hasakeh city neighbourhoods covered in the sample



PRIORITY NEEDS



Most commonly reported overall priority needs for host community households (by % of assessed communities)⁷

1	Water	92%
2	Livelihoods	73%
3	Food	50%



Most commonly reported overall priority needs for IDP households (by % of assessed communities)⁷

1	Water	85%
2	Livelihoods	76%
3	Food	51%

RETURNNEES

Date of return (by % of households that returned in each period)⁷



74%

of host community households who are returnees

2

average number of displacements for returnee households

IDPs

Date of arrival (by % of households that arrived in each period)



2

average number of displacements for IDP households

Most common governorates of origin for IDP households

1	Al-Hasakeh	64%
2	Deir-ez-Zor	29%
3	Aleppo	4%

Most common sub-districts of origin for IDP households

1	Ras Al Ain	55%
2	Deir-ez-Zor	17%
3	Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	4%

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Average	# of household members	# of children (0-5)	# of children (6-17)	# of adults (18+)	# of older people (60+)
	5.7	0.9	1.6	3.2	0.3
	5.8	1.2	1.8	2.8	0.3

33% of households with newborns (0-1)

62% of households with young children (0-5)⁷

73% of households with school-aged children (6-17)

90% of households with children (0-17)

SAFETY AND PROTECTION

 **6%** of households with members who lacked civil documents and needed them  

Most common civil documents that household members lacked and needed
(as % of households where at least one member lacked and needed a document [6%]) 

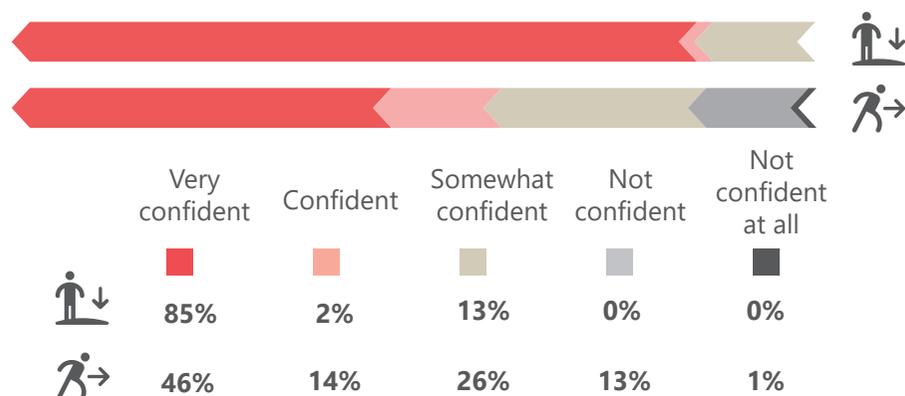
- 1** Birth certificate issued by the Government of Syria **48%**
- 2** Syrian identity card issued by the Government of Syria **42%**
- 3** Family booklet issued by the Government of Syria **15%**

 In **12%** of host community households and **71%** of IDP households reported **housing, land and property concerns** 

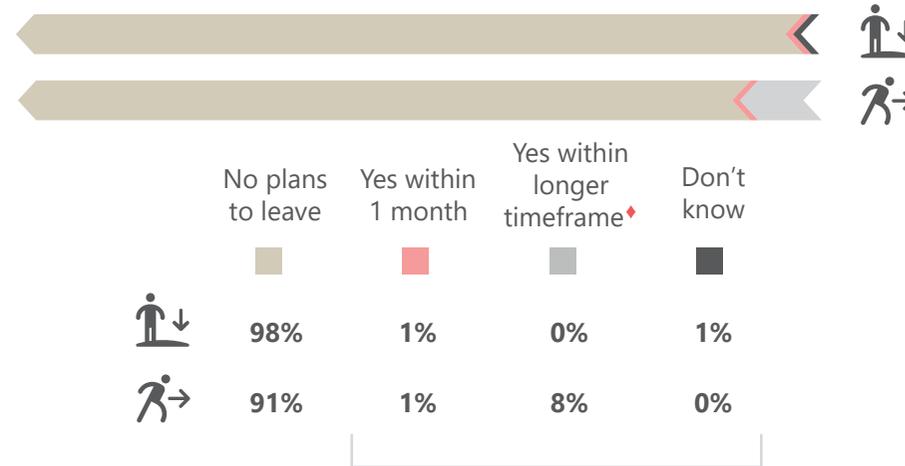
Top housing, land and property concerns for IDP households^{8, •}

- Rental problems (landlord/tenant issues) **99%**
- Threats of eviction due to inability to pay rent **19%**

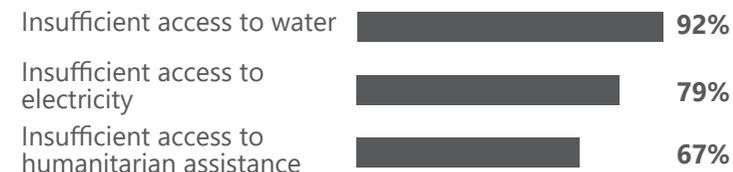
Confidence of being able to reside in the current place of residence for 3 more months, for host community and for IDP households  



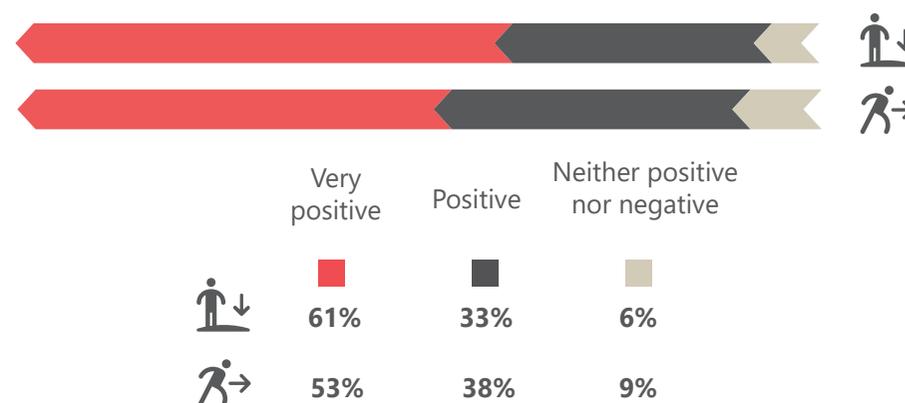
Movement intentions for host community and IDP households



Reasons for leaving (by % of households who intend to leave)^{8, ▼}



Household's relationship with other community members for host community and IDP households



 Aligns with the analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform

 Refers to the current situation at the time of data collection

 Refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection

 Findings are not representative

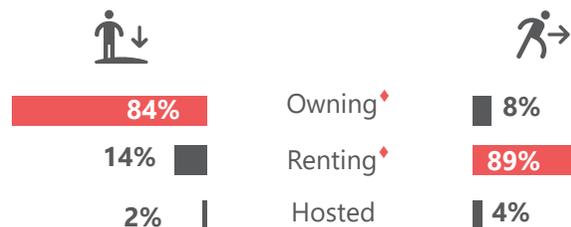
 The difference in findings for the host and IDP populations is statistically significant

HOUSING SITUATION

Most common shelter types ▶ ■

1	Solid/finished house	74%
2	Solid/finished apartment	23%
3	Unfinished or abandoned residential building	2%

Most common occupancy arrangements ▶ ■



Rental contract type (by % of IDP households who are renting [89%]) ■

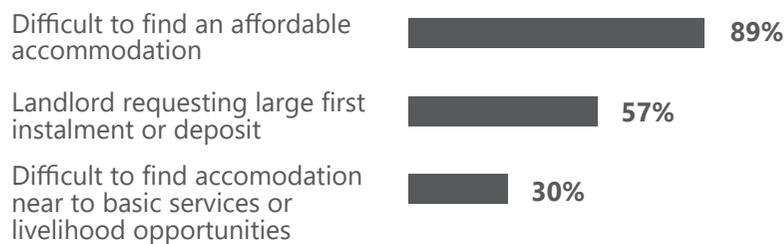


	Host (Icon: Person with Down Arrow)	IDP (Icon: Person with Right Arrow)
Average % of monthly income spent on rent	23%	22%
Average expenditure on rent as a % of total household expenditure ⁹	19%	18%

Most common challenges in finding a place to rent for households (by % of households who faced challenges [79%])^{8, ■, ▼}

79%

of households renting a property who faced challenges in finding a place to rent ■



SHELTER CONDITIONS

92% of households whose shelter had inadequacies ▶ ■

Common shelter inadequacies (by % of households who experienced issues)^{8, ■}

Inadequacy	Host (Icon: Person with Down Arrow)	IDP (Icon: Person with Right Arrow)
High temperatures inside shelters	73%	76%
Lack of lighting inside shelter	58%	56%
Poor sanitation	40%	43%
Lack of space/overcrowding	40%	36%
Lack of lighting around shelter	20%	37%
Leakage from roof/ceiling during rain	24%	22%
Lack of privacy	17%	19%
Windows/doors not sealed	11%	22%
Unable to lock home securely	9%	20%
Lack of ventilation: stuffy, bad smells	6%	17%
Lack of water	6%	12%
Lack of electricity	2%	6%

▶ Aligns with the analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform

■ Refers to the current situation at the time of data collection

♦ The difference in findings for the host and IDP populations is statistically significant

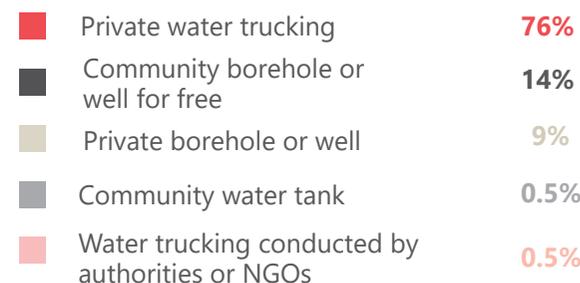
▼ Findings are not representative

ACCESS TO WATER

Primary source of drinking water



Primary source of non-drinking water



70% of households who did not use a secondary source of drinking water

Among households having a secondary source of drinking water, **water trucking conducted by authorities or NGOs** was the most commonly reported [56%]

Most common water needs for which households had to reduce consumption because of not having access to sufficient water¹ (as % of households who reduced water consumption [99%])⁸

83% of households who experienced issues with drinking water

Most common problems with drinking water (as % of households that had problems with drinking water)

- 1 Water tastes bad 77%
- 2 Water is calcareous 57%
- 3 Water was perceived to be making people sick 33%
- 3 Water has a bad colour 33%

78% of households who did not use any methods to make drinking water safer

Most common methods to make water safer (by % of households)

- 1 Household filters 10%
- 2 Solar disinfection 9%
- 3 Storage and sedimentation 5%
- 4 Boiling 2%

- Cleaning (inside house) 89%
- Bathing 75%
- Cleaning (outside house) 72%
- Doing laundry 68%
- Gardening 16%
- Sanitation (toilet usage) 14%
- Handwashing 6%

▶ Aligns with the analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform

◆ The difference in findings for the host and IDP populations is statistically significant

▼ Findings are not representative

● Refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection

ACCESS TO WATER



Average % of monthly income spent on water ⁹	
6%	6%
Average expenditure on water as a % of total household expenditure ⁹	
5%	5%

99%

of households who had insufficient access to water to fulfill their needs⁸

Common barriers to accessing water for households

(as % of households who had insufficient water access [99%])⁸



1	Water is too expensive	97%	95%
2	Storage containers are too expensive	75%	76%
3	Not enough water tanks or water tanks not big enough to store sufficient water	56%	58%
4	Issues at water collection/distribution points (long lines, allocations not sufficient, etc.)	15%	12%
5	Household missed the scheduled refilling of tanks	11%	16%

Most common strategies applied by households to avoid running out of water (as % of households who applied some coping strategy [99%])⁸



1	Reducing non-drinking water consumption	100%	99%
2	Spending money on water that is usually spent on other things	75%	77%
3	Relying on drinking water stored previously	53%	54%
4	Receiving water on credit / borrowing water	34%	40%

ACCESS TO SANITATION

72% of households experienced sanitation issues⁸

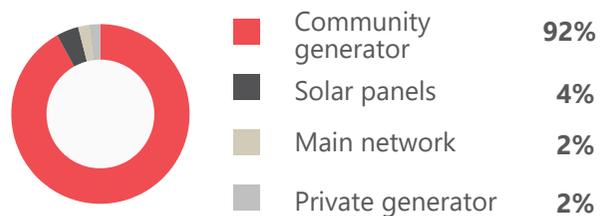
Common sanitation issues for households (as % of households who experienced sanitation issues [72%])⁸

1	70%	Sewage system needs cleaning
2	50%	Rodents and/or pests frequently visible in street
3	47%	Sewage system needs repair
4	34%	Waste (solid waste/trash) in street
5	15%	No connection to sewage network

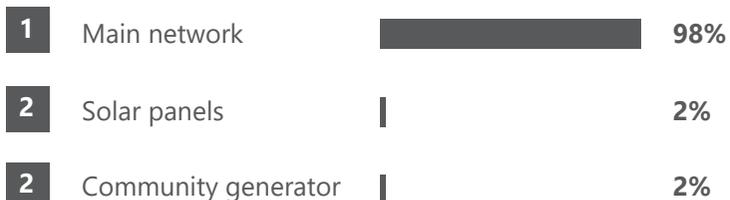
⁸ Refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection

ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

Primary source of electricity



Secondary source of electricity (by % of households who had access to a secondary source [94%])⁸



Average % of monthly income spent on electricity ⁹	
5%	4%
Average expenditure on electricity as a % of total household expenditure ⁹	
4%	4%



of households who did not have access to a secondary source of electricity



of households who experienced issues with accessing electricity

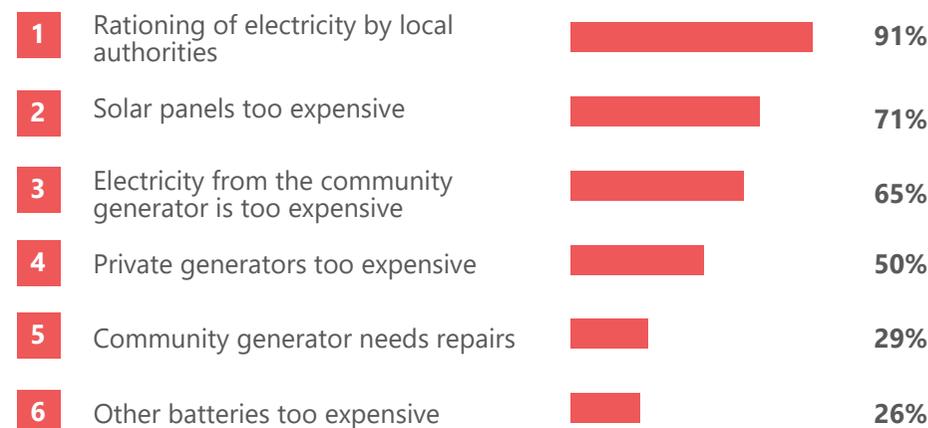
Average number of hours of electricity per day



Average hours of electricity per day available to households

13 or more	12-11	10-9	8-7	6-5	4-3	2-1	0
18%	7%	60%	12%	1%	1%	1%	0%

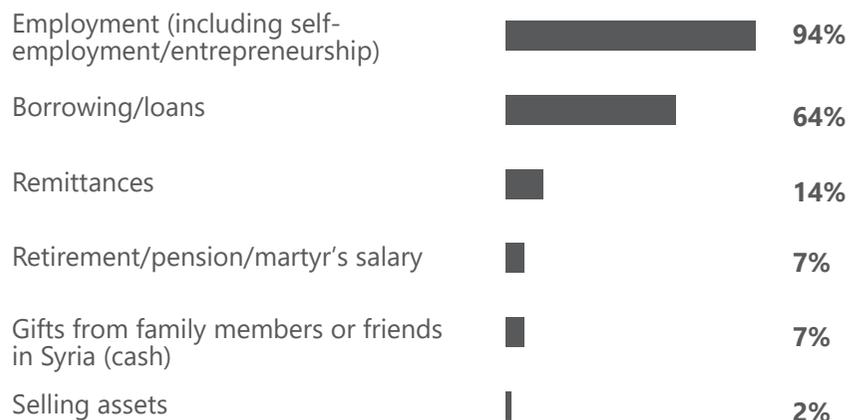
Most common barriers to accessing electricity⁸



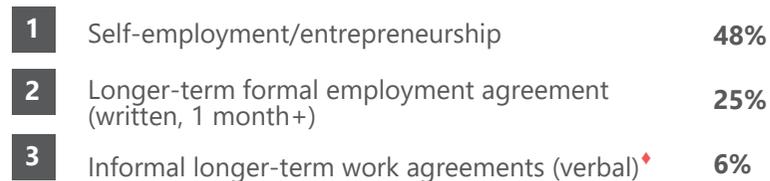
⁸ Refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection

INCOME SOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT

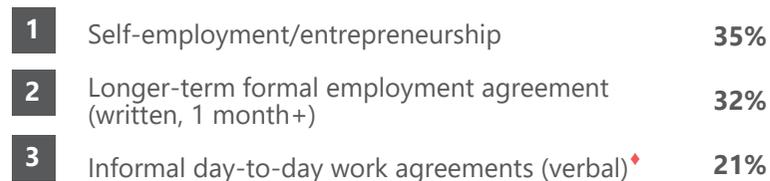
Sources of income in the month prior to data collection⁸▶



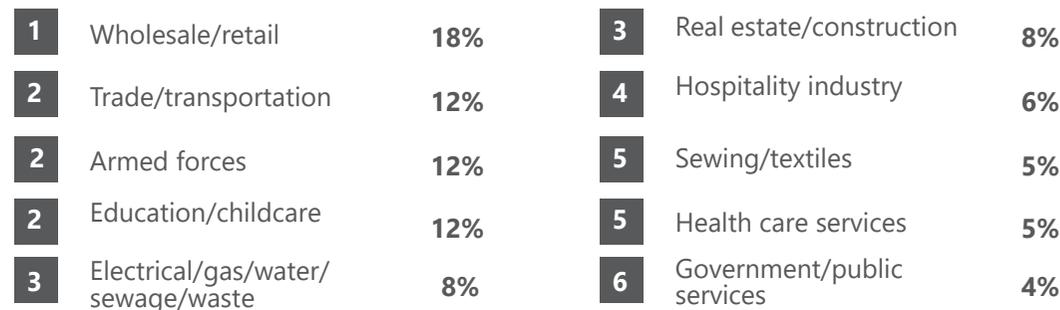
Most common primary source of income for host community households¹⁰▶, ■



Most common primary source of income for IDP households▶, ■



Most common employment sectors (by % of households where employment is a source of income [94%])⁸▶, ■



Average number of adults per households who are:	↓	→
Employed	1.3	1.2
Not in employment	2	1.7
Not employed and looking for a job (unemployed) ¹¹	0.6	0.5

45%

of households who reported self-employment/entrepreneurship as a source of income[■]

INCOME AND EXPENSES▶

	Average monthly income for a family of 6 members ¹²	Average monthly expense for a family of 6 members ¹³	Average monthly deficit for a family of 6 members
↓	1,402,552 SYP	1,521,639 SYP	-119,087 SYP
→	1,226,286 SYP	1,446,010 SYP	-219,724 SYP

▶ Aligns with the analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform

♦ The difference in findings for the host and IDP populations is statistically significant

■ Refers to the current situation at the time of data collection

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Average monthly expense for households who had expenses in the following categories

- Share of host community households who spent money on the expense category
- Share of IDP households who spent money on the expense category

🏠 Host community households
🏠 IDP households

→ Food



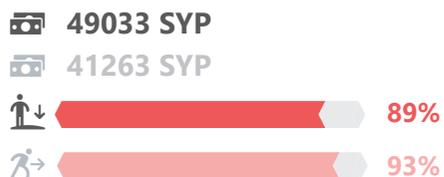
→ Communication



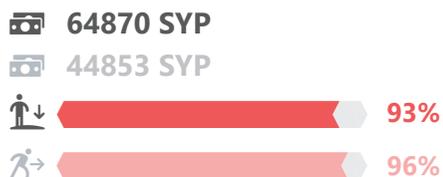
→ Water



→ Electricity



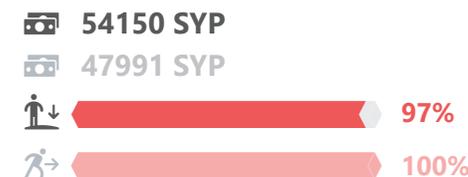
→ Transportation



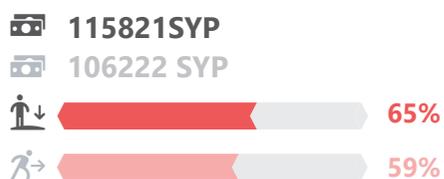
→ Healthcare



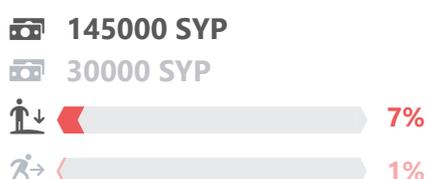
→ Non Food Items (NFIs)



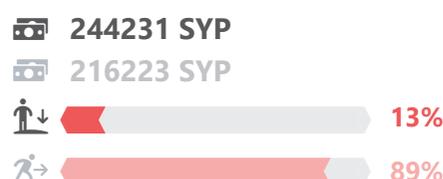
→ Tobacco



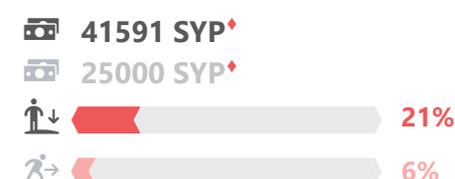
→ Education



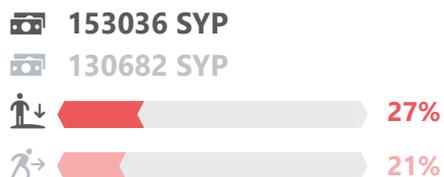
→ Rent



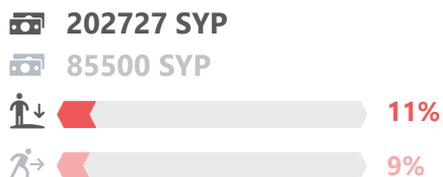
→ Social gifts



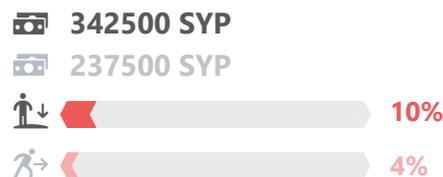
→ Debt repayment



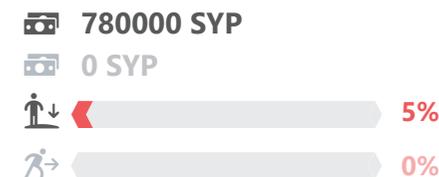
→ Asset maintenance



→ Family support



→ Productive assets

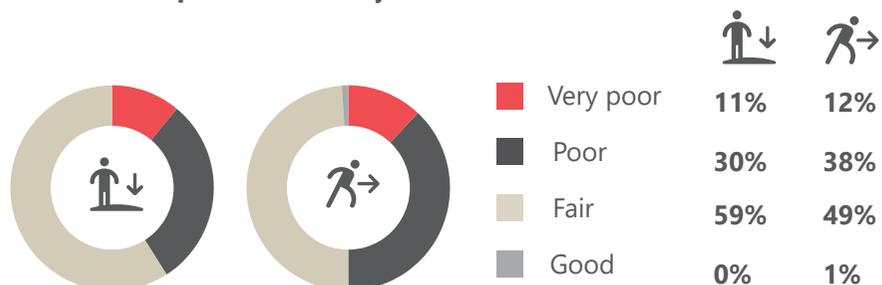


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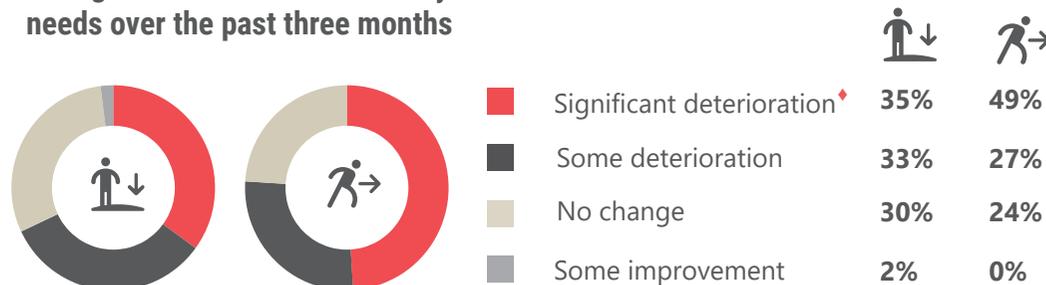
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ABILITY TO MEET BASIC NEEDS

Households' perceived ability to meet basic needs



Change in the households' ability to meet basic needs over the past three months



Average % of monthly income spent on debt repayment ⁹	
10%	11%
Average expenditure on debt repayment as a % of total household expenditure ⁹	
8%	7%

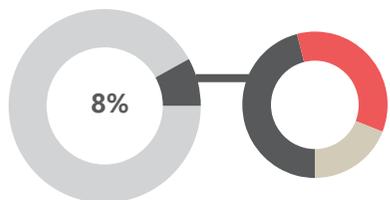
Most common barriers to meeting basic needs (as % of households)

- 1 The wage is not commensurate with the rising prices 85%
- 2 Lack of employment opportunities 70%
- 3 Lack of skills for a better paying job 46%

Most common coping strategies adopted to meet basic needs (as % of households who applied coping strategies [94%])

- 1 Borrowing money 89%
- 2 Purchasing items on credit 80%
- 3 Decreasing non-food expenditures 50%

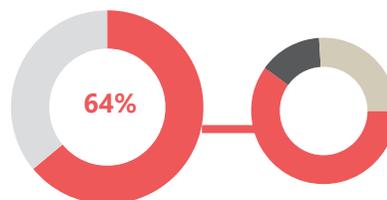
% of households with savings



Changes in savings within the last 3 months

- Stayed the same 46%
- Slightly decreased 35%
- Significantly decreased 19%

% of households in debt



% of households able to repay their debt in 6 months

- No 60%
- Don't know 14%
- Yes 26%

70% of households whose monthly income was lower than their estimated monthly expenses

6% of households whose monthly income would not cover minimum expenses (as estimated by the SMEB)¹⁴

▶ Aligns with the analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform
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FOOD ACCESS AND CONSUMPTION

Average number of days food groups were consumed by households in the 7 days prior to data collection

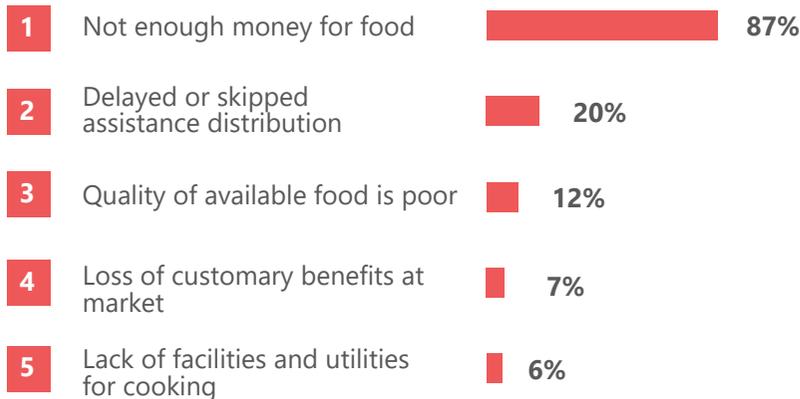
	Host (↓)	IDP (→)
Fish/Meat/Eggs♦	1.6	1.1
Fruit♦	0.6	0.3
Pulses, nuts, and seeds	1	1
Tubers/roots	2.3	2.1
Vegetables and leaves♦	4.9	4.2
Milk, and dairy♦	4	3.5
Bread and cereals	6.9	6.9
Sweets	5.7	5.8
Oils and fats	6.9	6.8

Most common source of food ■



95% of households who experienced issues with accessing sufficient quantities and quality of food[•]

Barriers to accessing sufficient quantities and quality of food (as % of households who experienced barriers [95%])^{8, •}



17% of households reporting perceiving that at least one member had lost weight in the last 3 months due to insufficient food access[•]



Average % of monthly income spent on food ⁹	
60%	57%
Average expenditure on food as a % of total household expenditure ⁹	
49%	44%
Average monthly food expenditure per person in a household	
117,494 SYP	103,222 SYP
% of households whose monthly food expenditure is more than 50% of their total expenditure	
45%	30%

23% of households who did not consume any eggs, meat or fish in the 7 days prior to data collection

69% of households who did not consume any fruit in the 7 days prior to data collection

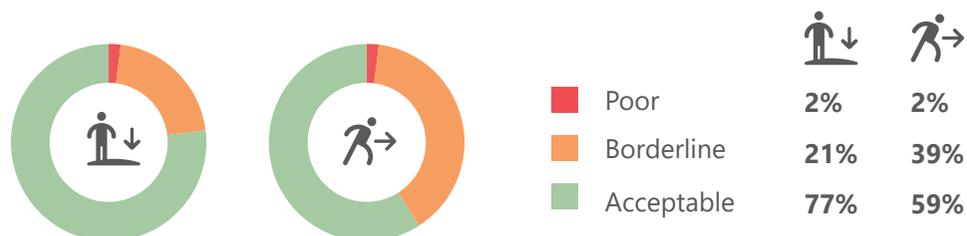
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FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)¹⁵

Food Consumption Score (by % of host community and IDP households)



21% of host community households with children with **poor** or **borderline** food consumption

41% of IDP households with children with **poor** or **borderline** food consumption

FCS Interpretation ¹⁵

Poor food consumption (score between 0-28): This category includes households that are not consuming staples and vegetables every day and never or very seldom consume protein-rich food such as meat and dairy.

Borderline food consumption (score between 28.5-42): This category includes households that are consuming staples and vegetables every day, accompanied by oils and pulses a few times a week.¹⁵

Acceptable food consumption (score >42): This category includes households that are consuming staples and vegetables every day, frequently accompanied by oils and pulses and occasionally meat, fish and dairy.

COPING STRATEGIES

9.8 Average reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) in Hasakeh city

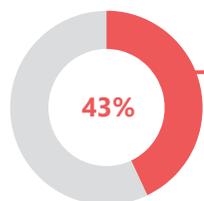
The rCSI is a relative score to measure the frequency and severity of food-related negative coping mechanisms adopted by households to cover their needs. A decrease in score suggests an amelioration in food security. Based on the Syria 2021 Inter-Sector Severity Model, the thresholds for the Reduced Coping Strategies Index are: (1) None/Minimal (rCSI= 0-2), (2) Stress (rCSI = 3-6), (3) Severe (rCSI = 7-11), (4) Extreme (rCSI = 12-19), (5) Catastrophic (rCSI>19). Thus, results indicate a severe level of coping in Al-Hasakeh city.

Coping strategies (CS) in the 7 days prior to data collection (for households who experienced barriers in accessing sufficient food [95%])

	Average #days per week CS was applied	% of households who applied CS
Relied on less preferred/less expensive food	4.9	93%
Borrowed food or relied on help from friends	0.5	18%
Reduced the portion size of meals at meal time	1	34%
Reduced the number of meals eaten per day	1.3	43%
Restricted the consumption by adults in order for young children to eat	0.9	27%
At least one member of the household spent a whole day without eating	<1	1%

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

% of households with unmet health needs¹⁶



Most common inaccessible health treatments (by % of households with unmet health needs [43%])^{8,16}

1	Treatment for chronic diseases	43%
2	Paediatric consultations	41%
3	Medicines or other commodities	28%
4	General and/or specialist surgical services	22%
5	Dental services	13%

Most common inaccessible types of medicine (by % of households with unmet health needs related to medicines and other commodities [28%])^{8,16}

1	Medications for hypertension/heart conditions	60%
2	Diabetes medicines	52%
3	Painkillers/analgesics	48%
4	Antibiotics	27%
5	Children medicines, vaccines or malnutrition treatment	11%

95%

of households who experienced issues with accessing healthcare⁸



Most common barriers to accessing healthcare (by % of households)⁸

1	Cannot afford price of medicines	83%
2	Cannot afford treatment costs	83%
3	Health facilities overcrowded and/or long waiting times	37%

Most common coping strategies applied by households who experienced barriers to accessing healthcare [95%]^{8,16}



1	Going to a pharmacy instead of a clinic	87%
2	Foregoing non-essential treatment	22%
3	Substituting prescribed medication for herbal medicine	20%

Households with at least one member who showed signs of psychological distress⁸



Yes	70%
No	30%

Most common coping strategies applied by households who experienced barriers to accessing healthcare [100%]^{8,16}



1	Going to a pharmacy instead of a clinic	93%
2	Foregoing essential treatment	30%
2	Foregoing non-essential treatment	30%

¹⁶ Aligns with the analytical framework from the Durable Solutions Platform

⁸ Findings are not representative

¹⁶ Refers to the situation in the 3 months prior to data collection

NOTES ON ANALYSIS

All indicators were analysed disaggregated by population group, as well as aggregated to the entire Syrian city population. Confidence intervals were calculated to assess whether the target margin of error was met, and thus findings were representative. For some indicators, a reduced sample of households answered the question as a result of a skip logic in the questionnaire. In some of these cases, the reduced sample of households also resulted in non-representative findings, which are indicated throughout the factsheet with the icon ▼.

In order to identify statistically significant differences between findings for host and IDP populations, a two-sided significance test was run for each indicator. When multiple hypotheses are simultaneously tested, an adjustment for the multiplicity of tests is necessary to control for the total number of false discoveries and address the problem of selective inference. The false discovery rate (FDR) method was preferred to Family Wise Error Rate (FWER) techniques as they were considered too conservative for this application. With FDR p-value adjustment method, the null-hypothesis (i.e., host and IDP populations have the same characteristics) was rejected in 26 instances at level 0.05, which are indicated throughout the factsheet with the icon ◆.

ENDNOTES

1. The Humanitarian Situation Overview Syria (HSOS) project comprises regular multi-sectoral assessments reviewing information on humanitarian needs and conditions across accessible areas in northern Syria. The HSOS monthly KI assessments can be found [here](#).
2. Findings from a 4W review in January 2022 indicated that roughly 60% of the out of camp response activities in NES are based in urban locations.
3. The Syria Analytical Framework is a Syria-specific analytical tool developed by the Durable Solutions Platform to guide the incorporation of a durable solutions lens into research and tool design.
4. Host populations are defined as individuals or groups of people who currently reside in their community of origin, or community of permanent residence prior to 2011. This includes populations that were never displaced as well as previously displaced populations that have returned to their community of origin (defined as returnees).
5. IDPs are defined as individuals or groups of people who have left their homes or places of habitual residence and have settled in the assessed city after 2011, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, or violations of human rights.
6. Out of the 31 neighbourhoods of Al-Hasakeh city, 30 are residential and 1 is industrial. Out of the 30 residential neighbourhoods, 1 is under Government of Syria (GoS) control, 3 are in proximity to GoS areas, 1 is next to military sites, and 3 were not assessed due to security concerns. Consequently, the remaining 22 neighbourhoods were assessed.

7. Households were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority need. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a need was selected among all three categories (first, second or third highest priority need).

8. Respondents could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

9. Computed for households who had this particular expense in the 30 days prior to data collection.

10. Longer-term formal employment is defined as employment with a written agreement whose duration is more than 1 month. Short-term formal employment is defined as employment with a written agreement whose duration is less than 1 month.

11. Calculated for households where employment is a source of income.

12. Computed as the mean of (household income/number of household members)*6.

13. Computed as the mean of (household expense/number of household members)*6.

14. Computed by comparing (household income/number of household members) to (1,162,195 SYP/6), where 1,162,195 is the median value of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) for a family of 6 in Al-Hasakeh governorate, from the May 2023 Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI).

15. The FCS is a composite score based on dietary, diversity, food frequency, and relative nutritional importance of different food groups consumed by a household throughout 7 days. Refer to: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). (May 2014). WFP Food Consumption Score - Technical Guidance Sheet. Retrieved from: wfp.org

16. Unmet health needs refer to anyone in the household who needed or wanted to access health-care (including medicines) but could not access it.

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