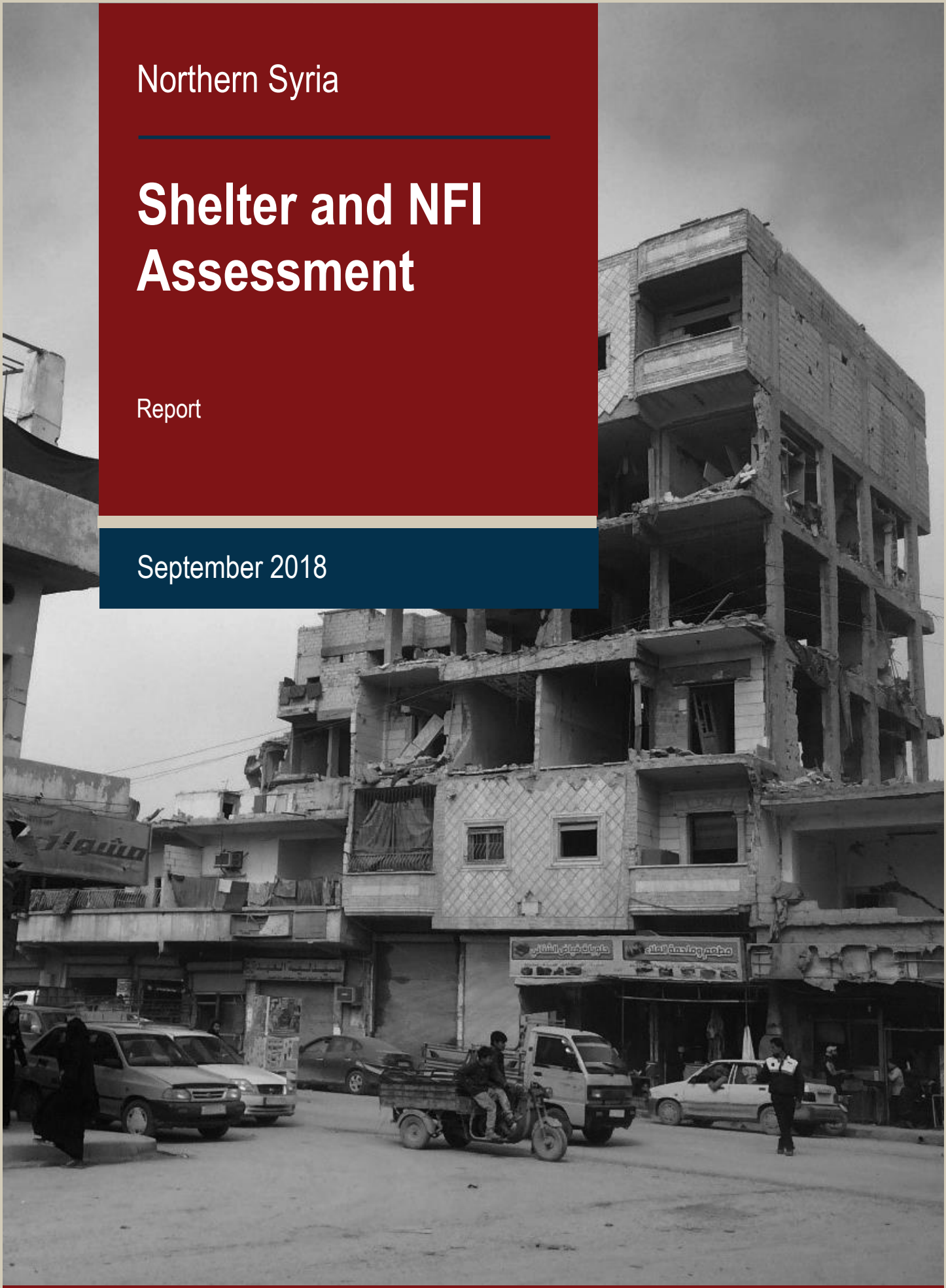
Northern Syria

Shelter and NFI Assessment

Report

September 2018



UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Shelter/NFI Cluster
X-Border Operation - Turkey Hub
ShelterCluster.org,
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

REACH Informing More Effective Humanitarian Action

Syria Shelter and NFI Assessment

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Cluster Coordinator: Angel Pascual, pascuala@unchr.org

Cluster Support Officer: Alexander Reigber, reigber@unhcr.org

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's mission is 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.

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SUMMARY

Seven years into the Syrian crisis, continued unrest and conflict have caused 5.5 million Syrians to flee the country. Within Syria, 6.1 million people have been internally displaced, and an estimated 13.1 million are in need of humanitarian assistance.[1] From July 2017 to July 2018, over 1 million displacements were recorded by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster from areas in northern and southern Syria (as of 31 July 2018).[2] The ongoing unstable security and access conditions impact shelter conditions, as well as non-food item (NFI) availability, accessibility and affordability across Whole of Syria (WoS). An estimated 4.9 million people reportedly require shelter assistance, an increase of 700,000 people compared to the previous Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2018.[3] Similarly, 5 million are in need of NFI assistance, marking an increase of 300,000 people.[4] The UN estimates that if fighting were to escalate in north-west Syria, around 200,000 to 700,000 people could be displaced.[5] Furthermore, the ability of humanitarian actors to effectively respond is hindered by the limited information on humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities.

In the frameworks of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the WoS Shelter and NFI Cluster, REACH conducted this assessment to strengthen evidence-based approaches to Shelter and NFI programming. This assessment builds upon two comprehensive WoS Shelter and NFI assessments carried out by REACH in December 2016[6] and July 2017[7] on behalf of UNHCR and the Shelter and NFI cluster Turkey Hub, based in Gaziantep. This assessment was designed by REACH in close collaboration with the cluster to ensure that indicators align with it's needs and approaches. Findings from this assessment include information on demographics and displacement, shelter adequacy and needs, NFI availability and needs, trends, and comparisons to the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). This assessment was used to inform the HNO and HRP 2019, aiming to inform evidence-based planning in 2019.

This assessment covers accessible opposition-controlled areas in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Hama, Deir-ez-Zor and Idleb governorates. All data was collected between 24 June and 2 August 2018 and was coordinated and supervised from Amman, Jordan. The assessment consisted of 3,814 structured interviews with households and 305 key informants (KIs), sampled from communities across the five accessible governorates in northern Syria. Household surveys were conducted in western Aleppo, north-west Hama, Ar-Raqqa and Idleb governorates. Household surveys were not conducted in Deir-ez-Zor since communities in this governorate were not directly accessible, and hence a KI methodology was used. Household surveys were conducted with heads of households on behalf of all individuals in the household. Findings based on data from the household-level surveys are representative at the sub-district level with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error. Interviews with KIs took place in northern Aleppo, northern Hama, Deir-ez-Zor and Idleb governorates where communities were not directly accessible, in order to provide information from inaccessible areas. For KI surveys, local council members (29%) were interviewed followed by local relief committee members (16%), local Imams or Sheikhs (15%), Mukhtars[8] (15%), construction workers (7%), local aid workers (4%) and other relevant community members. Findings based on data from KI surveys should be considered indicative.

It was not possible to get representative samples for all disaggregated data, especially for female-headed households. Therefore, findings for female-headed households are to be considered indicative rather than representative. Due to limitations in recruiting a high number of female enumerators within the Syrian context, particularly in north-west Syria, female-headed households were in some cases interviewed by male enumerators. Furthermore, all female-headed household data for north-west Hama has been excluded due an insufficient number of responses. Disaggregated figures on female-headed households are not representative at the sub-district level, so maps demonstrating data on female-headed households have been excluded.

[1] Preliminary - Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic (2019). Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
[2] Syria: Flash update on resent events – 9 August 2018. UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Relief web.
[3] Preliminary - Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic (2019). Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid.
[6] Syria Shelter and NFI assessment: December 2016. REACH, Shelter and NFI Sector Whole of Syria, UNHCR.
[7] Syria Shelter and NFI assessment: July 2017: REACH, Shelter and NFI Cluster Turkey, UNHCR.
[8] A Mukhtar is the head of a local government, town, village or neighbourhood.

Key Findings

This assessment provides important insight into the humanitarian situation in western Aleppo, north-west Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Idleb and Deir-ez-Zor governorates.[9] Findings highlight issues related to demographics and displacement, shelter, NFIs, trends and a comparison with the HRP 2018. Overall, findings from all assessed areas highlight shelter and NFI insecurity in northern Syria.

Demographics and Displacement

The average household size was found to be 6.3 individuals.[10] The average percentage of children and adolescents in households increased by 8%, from 53% in July 2017 to 57% in August 2018. The average dependency ratio[11] in households was found to be at 1.7:1, an increase of 0.4 dependents for every adult between July 2017 and August 2018. The proportion of females to males in households[12] changed slightly from 49% female in 2017 to 51% in 2018. This change in the adult population may be a result of increased displacement to areas outside of Syria, movement of people to areas inaccessible during this assessment (and therefore not captured), and increased male mortality rates. The gender distribution estimated by KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate was found to be the same as in July 2017, where KIs estimated a population of 60% females and 40% males.

Among households in assessed areas where household surveys were conducted, 73% were resident population (RP)[13], 22% were internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 5% were spontaneous returnees (SRs). Aside from Idleb governorate, the last place of departure for 50% of IDP households in all assessed areas was within the same governorate as where they were residing at the time of data collection. The majority of IDPs reported to be residing in their current location due to a comparatively safer and more secure situation in these locations (79%) and due to the presence of relatives and friends (20%). IDP households in Ar-Raqqa and Idleb governorates and north-west Hama had been displaced from their place of origin for an average of 4.5 years.

The last place of departure for the majority of SR households in western Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Idleb governorates was within their governorate of origin (70%, 92% and 69% respectively). This could be due to high levels of conflict within parts of their governorate, coupled with a limited capacity to move outside of these governorates. In contrast, at least 71% of SR households in north-west Hama reported that they last departed from Idleb governorate, while KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate estimated a greater proportion of SRs arriving from Al-Hasakeh governorate than from Deir-ez-Zor governorate. Overall, the average time of displacement for SR households was 3 years.[14] Property ownership was reported by households as the primary reason for SRs to return to their community of origin in north-west Hama (85%), western Aleppo (34%), Ar-Raqqa (80%) and Idleb (69%) governorates. In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, KIs estimated that 75% of SRs returned to their community of origin due to households attempting to reclaim property they own in their community of origin.

Between 1% and 4% of households across assessed areas where household assessments took place reported intending to leave within the 12 months following the assessment, except for in western Aleppo governorate where 9% of households reported this intention. Overall, the most common intended destinations reported by households were either within their current governorate of residence (36%) or to their place of origin (26%). Across all governorates, improving access to income and employment (36%) was cited as the top reason for movement to an intended destination, with the exception of north-west Hama where the top reported reasons for movement to the intended destination were eviction or threat of eviction in their current location (50%) and proximity to relatives or friends in intended destination (50%).

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[9] Northern Aleppo was excluded from the report to avoid mixing methodologies in Aleppo Governorate. Findings on northern Aleppo can be found in the respective factsheet: REACH. Syria Shelter and NFI Assessment: Northern Aleppo (Key Informant Surveys). August 2018. http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_factsheet_shelter_and_nfi_assessment_northern_aleppo_september_2018.pdf

[10] For this assessment, a household was defined as a group of people living together and generally eating from the same pot and/or sharing resources; typically, but not always, comprising a family group.

[11] The dependency ratio of a household is the total number of dependents (people under the age of 18 above age 60 and above) per adult (aged between 18 and 59) in the household.

[12] Assessed through household surveys.

[13] The resident population is the pre-conflict population that have not been displaced during the conflict.

[14] This figure was rounded down from 3.025 years.

Shelter

The assessment found there to be an average of 6 rooms per shelter, with an average of 4.7 individuals per bedroom. Some households reported having other rooms, such as an additional living room, guest room, and a connected room (shelter/warehouse) to their place of dwelling treated as extra living spaces for household members. The average proportion of households living in solid finished houses in western Aleppo, north-west Hama and Idleb governorates dropped from 68% to 42% between July 2017 and August 2018. In comparison, the proportion of households living in solid finished apartments increased from 39% to 52% in western Aleppo, north-west Hama and Idleb governorates, over the same time period. Overall, a higher percentage of IDP households lived in vulnerable shelter types[15] (31%) compared to non-displaced households (18%). Over half of the households surveyed (57%) reported owning their shelter, with notably high numbers in north-west Hama (83%) and Ar-Raqqa (80%) governorate.

The average cost of monthly rent was USD 55 per household. SR households and IDP households reportedly paid the highest rent at USD 65 and USD 59 respectively. The average monthly rent in households increased in most regions between July 2017 and August 2018, with the largest changes seen in western Aleppo (USD +51) and north-west Hama (USD +22 USD). Furthermore, 38% of households reported rent prices to have increased over the three months prior to data collection. Overall, 71% of all households reported being able to pay their rent on time. Notably, around 96% of SR households reported being able to pay rent on time. Conversely, KIs estimated that 25% of households in communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate could not afford to pay their rent on time.

Overall, the most common Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues in households were lack or loss of housing land tenancy or ownership (9%), looting of private property (7%), threat of eviction or harassment by landlord/others (5%), and disputes about rent between landlord and tenant (4%). KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported inheritance issues (90%) and a lack or loss of HLP documentation (67%) as primary HLP issues. IDP households and female-headed households were the least likely to have shelter documentation among all demographic groups. Overall, formal real estate registry documents were the most commonly possessed type of shelter documentation in households (48%). The most common reasons that households did not have legal documentation was because landlords did not agree to a formalised contract (26%), a lack of civil documentation to obtain necessary occupancy documents (22%), and documents being in someone else's name (21%). Notably, over half (54%) of IDP households reported their landlords did not agree to a contract, supporting reports of IDP households facing these issues more commonly than non-IDP households.

A notable percentage of households in assessed governorates faced shelter adequacy issues (38%). Resident population households were least likely to face shelter adequacy issues, while IDP households were most likely to face such issues, followed by SRs and female-headed households. Across the areas in western Aleppo, north-west Hama, Ar-Raqqa, and Idleb governorates where household surveys were conducted, IDP households reported a lack of bathing facilities and toilets, that toilets were unsafe and too far away, as well as a general lack of shelter space for household members. Across all governorates where household surveys were conducted, women, followed by children, were found to be the demographic group most affected by shelter adequacy issues. In Deir-ez-Zor governorate KIs reported exposure to elements and lack of heating (39%), security, lighting and privacy (30%) and inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities (16%) as major shelter adequacy issues. Notably, issues related to lighting, safety, and far distances to reach adequate bathing or toilet facilities disproportionally impacted women and girls, suggesting higher risk of gender-based violence (GBV).[16]

Over half (55%) of households reported shelter damage, with only 37% of households who required shelter repair being able to make repairs. A large proportion of households consistently reported barriers to shelter repair due to the cost of shelter repair materials (70%) and the inability to afford specialists to make repairs (41%). Between July 2017 and August 2018, the ability to find or afford shelter repair supplies generally decreased across all governorates assessed through household surveys. Overall, there were very few households that reported receiving information on shelter repair and support from humanitarian organisations (7%), except for in western Aleppo governorate (32%). Households reportedly preferred receiving shelter support in the form of external actors

[15] Vulnerable shelter types are defined as any shelters that are not finished houses or apartments.
[16] HNO-Syria: Protection. Whole of Syria: 2018 Protection needs overview. October 2017.

assisting with shelter repairs (43%). This marks a significant increase compared to July 2017 where only 5% of households reported preference for external actor shelter support.

NFIs

Overall, 17% of households reported receiving NFI assistance. Half of IDP households (50%) reported receiving NFI assistance, compared to 11% of SR households. Most households in assessed areas in north-west Hama reported that their access to basic household items had worsened over the past year (94%) while the majority of households in western Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, and Idleb governorates reported no change in access. Reasons for reduced access included rising prices and a lack of income, the latter of which may be due to physical inability to work and high levels of unemployment. Across western Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates, all (100%) female-headed households reported experiencing no change in their situation, while female-headed households in Idleb governorate reported that the situation was getting worse (49%).

It was reported that households most commonly access NFIs through markets (90%). At least 17% of households in western Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Idleb governorates reported facing challenges to accessing markets. Households in rural communities and female-headed households were most likely to face challenges in accessing markets. Over half (63%) of households reported needing to buy one or more items in the past three months but having been unable to afford it. Higher percentages of IDP households (81%) and female-headed households (74%) were unable to afford NFIs compared to resident households (59%) and SR households (43%).

The majority of households across governorates did not face any issues in attending NFI distributions (92%). Over 75% of households in every governorate reported documentation as a requirement to receiving NFI distributions. Notably, 30% of urban, rural and female-headed households reported being refused NFI support due to lack of documentation. Most households reported that the NFIs they received were used for their intended purpose (100%) and were of good quality (98%). The most commonly reported reasons NFIs received did not address the needs of households in assessed areas were that the quantity provided did not match the household size and that the selection of NFIs provided was random. The latter may explain why households commonly reported unconditional cash support as their preferred form of NFI support (68%).

Around 95% of households reported having access to information regarding NFI support. Most households cited receiving information on NFI support through local councils (57%). However, in Ar-Raqqa governorate, 65% of households reported that NFI information came from community representatives. In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, of the 9% of communities estimated to have access to NFI information and support, KIs in all communities reported that individuals exclusively received this information through either community representatives or friends and relatives.

This assessment found the number of households using the main network grid to have increased since July 2017. In western Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Idleb governorates households most commonly reported availability of 4 to 7 hours of electricity per day (65%, 40% and 55% respectively). The use of battery powered devices such as torches was the most commonly reported coping strategy for lack of electricity across households (53%) in assessed areas.

The top NFI needs for children (aged 0-10) in households were reportedly clothing items and diapers. The top needs for the adolescent population (aged 11-17) in households were also cited to be clothes and shoes. Among the adult population (aged 18-59) in households, energy and heating sources, household items, clothing, and hygiene items were reported as top needs across all governorates. Households reported that for women, items such as clothing, hygiene items (including sanitary pads) and cooking utensils were top needed NFI items across governorates. Hygiene items, adult diapers, clothing items and heating fuel were reported as top priority needs for individuals with disabilities in households in all accessed areas, except for north-west Hama where households assessed were in higher need of mattresses and light sources than heating fuel.

Trends

Comparisons (where possible) between the December 2016, July 2017 and August 2018 Shelter and NFI assessments were made in a trends analysis, revealing that shelter conditions had worsened.[17] This is likely due

[17] Ar-Raqqa governorate has been omitted due to the difference in data collection methods used between years.

to ongoing conflict and displacement. The average price of rent almost doubled, from 27 USD in 2016 to 52 USD in 2018, and the proportion of damaged shelters increased from 58% in 2016 to 76% in 2018. However, the proportion of households reporting an inability to afford, or access shelter-repair items decreased. Critically, it is important to highlight that the accumulation of these factors has resulted in a greater number of individuals sharing housing. As such, should there be an offensive on opposition-held Idleb governorate and surrounding areas of north-west Hama and western Aleppo, there would likely be few options for alternative housing due to scarcity.

Comparisons of NFI trends from December 2016 to August 2018 found access to NFIs to have varied across governorates over time. Since July 2017, the majority of households in Ar-Raqqa (75%), Idleb (65%) and western Aleppo (62%) governorates reported access to basic household items to have remained the same. Notably, since July 2017, the percentage of households reporting availability and affordability of winter items decreased in Idleb governorate by 41%, while the reported availability of blankets, clothing items, light sources, and hygiene items had increased by 60%.[18] The proportion of households reporting challenges to accessing markets increased from 10% to 22% across assessed governorates since July 2017, notably increasing in Idleb governorate as a result of a deteriorating safety situation for households near the frontlines, risk of mines and improvised explosive devices, and a general fear of harassment, theft and kidnapping. Overall, the top reported priority needs since 2016 remained the same.

Comparison of findings to the Humanitarian Response Plan 2018

This report presents a comparison of findings from the 2018 Shelter and NFI assessment to the response strategy and priorities, protection risk analysis and mitigating measures as outlined in the HRP 2018, and suggests implications for the HRP 2019. Critically, assessment findings strongly confirm the importance of the HRP goal to target vulnerable groups. Specifically, the assessment found that displaced households living in more vulnerable shelter types found it harder to access shelter repair and support services compared to resident populations. Furthermore, female-headed households not only faced barriers to accessing markets and sources of income, but also reported a higher proportion of dependents in their household. It was also found that those with restricted access to markets are especially vulnerable and in particular need of assistance. Like other demographic groups, female-headed households reported a preference for support through cash transfer and conditional voucher mechanisms rather than distributions, most likely due to a lack of steady income and due to high unemployment rates. However, according to the HRP, "the provision of cash and vouchers as a modality of shelter and NFI assistance could impact market dynamics and livelihoods, while also potentially increasing the risk of corruption."[19] Therefore, regular market monitoring and plans to move to vouchers may be a possible option. Lastly, findings from the assessment support the proposed HRP strategy of developing a local level understanding of HLP issues to inform programming, as findings on HLP issues were not consistent across all assessed areas, and local strategies to deal with such issues differed by local municipality.

[18] It is worth noting that there could have been a greater change between December 2016 and July 2017 due to the seasonal differences between the two data collection times.

[19] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2018). *Syrian Arab Republic: 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (January - December 2018)*, p. 38

List of Acronyms

CCCM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management
CFW	Cash for Work
CL	Confidence Level
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
HH	Household
HLP	Housing, Land and Property
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
HSOS	Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
KI	Key Informant
MM	Market Monitoring
NFI	Non-Food Item
SMEB	Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket
SNFI	Shelter and Non-Food Items
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WoS	Whole of Syria

Geographical Classifications

Governorate	Highest form of governance below the national level (admin level 1)
District	Sub-division of a governorate in which government institutions operate (admin level 2)
Sub-district	Sub-division of a district composed of communities (admin level 3)
Community	Bounded clustering of population in the form of a city, town or village (admin level 4)
Neighbourhood	Lowest administrative unit within a city (admin level 5 or 6)

INTRODUCTION

Seven years into the Syrian crisis, continued unrest and conflict has caused 5.5 million Syrians to flee the country.[20] Within Syria, 6.1 million people have been internally displaced, and an estimated 13.1 million are in need of humanitarian assistance.[21] Between August 2017 and August 2018, over 1 million displacements were recorded by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, from areas in northern and southern Syria (as of 31 July 2018).[22] The ongoing unstable security and access conditions for civilians impact shelter conditions, as well as Non-Food Item (NFI) availability, accessibility and affordability across the Whole of Syria (WoS). While an estimated 4.2 million people reportedly require shelter assistance, 4.7 million are in need of NFI assistance (Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2018).[23] In 2018, increased clashes in the south forced over 10,000 individuals to evacuate from southwest Syria to Idleb governorate in particular, as well as to other parts of north-west Syria. However, security in this region remains highly volatile.[24] Indeed, the UN estimated in August 2018 that if fighting were to escalate in north-west Syria, around 200,000 to 700,000 people could be displaced.[25] However, the ability to plan and implement an adequate response is hindered by the limited information on humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities.

Critical information gaps remain on Shelter and NFI adequacy, affordability, needs and support, and on coping strategies. Although intermediate assessments have been conducted by the Shelter and NFI Cluster members, only two annual and comprehensive Shelter and NFI assessments have been conducted across opposition-held areas of Syria.[26] To strengthen sectoral evidence-based response planning by humanitarian actors in Syria for the upcoming year (2019), REACH consequently led a comprehensive Shelter and NFI assessment from June to August 2018, in partnership with the Shelter and NFI Cluster Turkey Hub based in Gaziantep and with support from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

This assessment builds on the two Shelter and NFI assessments carried out in December 2016 and July 2017 and covers accessible opposition-held areas in the governorates of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama and Idleb.[27] The objective is to provide accurate and up-to-date information on NFI availability, accessibility and affordability, as well as on shelter conditions across northern Syria in order to inform the HNO 2019.

The assessment findings seek to answer the following research questions:

Demographics and displacement - Are there disparities in the Shelter and NFI situation and needs of populations living in different areas across Syria, between governorates, sub-districts and urban/rural areas?;
Shelter - What is the current shelter adequacy and status of populations living in Syria?; and, What are the shelter needs of populations living in Syria?;
NFIs - What is the current availability and access to NFIs of populations living in Syria?; and, What are the NFI needs of populations living in Syria?;
Comparisons with July 2017 findings - relevant and comparable Shelter and NFI survey questions;
Comparison of findings to Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) – relevant and comparable response priorities, strategies, activities and indicators.

[20] Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic (2018). Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
[21] Ibid.
[22] Syria: Flash update on resent events – 9 August 2018. UNHCR. Relief web. https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-flash-update-recent-events-9-august-2018
[23] Summary of Humanitarian Response Plan Monitoring Report. January – June 2018.
[24] Syria: Flash update on resent events – 9 August 2018. UNHCR. Relief web. https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-flash-update-recent-events-9-august-2018
[25] Ibid.
[26] Accessible areas are regions under opposition control.
[27] Due to increased airstrikes and shelling in southern Syria, data was not collected in Dar'a and Quneitra governorates and both governorates were excluded from the assessment.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology Overview

The assessment used a mixed methodology to gather data on as wide an area as possible, conducting surveys in both directly accessible and remotely accessible areas of northern Syria. Access and security allowed for direct data collection through randomly selected household interviews in 35 sub-districts. In the 19 sub-districts where direct household-level data collection was not feasible, data was collected through direct and remote interviews of key informants (KI), with purposively sampled members of the community. Research questions and indicators were designed in collaboration with the Shelter and NFI Cluster Turkey Hub based in Gaziantep and UNHCR.

Throughout this report, there are instances where REACH field team expertise has been referenced to triangulate findings. This was done in order to provide further contextual detail from REACH field teams to expand on trends identified in the data.

Population of Interest

This assessment focused on all populations in opposition-controlled areas of Syria, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps, informal sites and host communities, as well as spontaneous returnees (SRs) and resident populations (RPs). Only heads of households (or consenting adults above the age of 18) and KIs aged 18 and over were interviewed.

To align with UNHCR definitions, the populations of interest in this assessment are defined as follows:

- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.[28]
- Spontaneous Returns (SR): Persons or groups of persons who decide to repatriate voluntarily.[29]
- Resident Population (RP): Formerly known as "host community", this is the resident population of a community who have not been displaced for longer than 24 hours during the crisis (since 2011).

[28] Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, Global Protection Cluster Working Group, March 2010 https://cms.emergency.unhcr.org/documents/11982/44794/Global+Protection+Cluster%2C+Handbook+for+the+Protection+of+Internally+Displaced+Persons%2C+2010/132e17d4-b3bc-4bcf-b6cc-eb499b1864f8

[29] Returnees, UNCHR 2018, http://www.unhcr.org/returnees.html

Coverage and Sampling

Household Surveys

For areas where administration of household-level surveys was possible, interviews were conducted to allow findings to be representative at the sub-district level with a 95% confidence level and a 10% margin of error. At the governorate-level the sample was representative with a 95% confidence level, and a maximum margin of error of 5%.[30] Due to increased airstrikes and shelling in southern Syria risking the security of REACH enumerators, data was not collected in Dar'a and Quneitra governorates and both governorates were excluded from the sample.

Approximately 101 household interviews were conducted in each sub-district. Furthermore, during data analysis, weighting was conducted for any aggregated results, to account for households in smaller sub-districts being more likely to be selected across the area assessed. Household surveys were conducted as follows:

Table 1. Household Sampling Targets

Governorate	Target # surveys / Actual surveys conducted	Sub-districts Assessed	% of governorate population living in assessed sub-districts
Aleppo	327 / 327	3	12%
Ar-Raqqa	792 / 819	7	82%
Hama	101 / 104	1	9%
Idleb	2,561 / 2,564	24	98%
Total	**3,781 / 3,814**	**35**	**50%**

The sampling strategy had two scenarios: 1) two-stage random sampling and 2) cluster sampling.

The primary method was to conduct a two-stage random sampling. Within each sub-district, two-stage random sampling, stratified by sub-district, was used to randomly identify the communities to assess and the number of households to survey in each community. This was done by creating a list of all directly accessible communities with the number of households for each community. REACH referred to the Population Task Force population numbers for the most up-to-date population figures.[31] Using an application built in R, the list was then divided into sub-groups (sub-districts), and the R tool produced a sampling frame containing the communities to be assessed.

Communities in this sampling frame were randomly selected. The number of households surveyed in each community was determined by a community's population relative to the respective sub-district population.[32] For each randomly selected community, the R sampling application provided the required number of households to be sampled for the results to be representative at the sub-district level. The probability that a community was selected, as well as the number of surveys to conduct per community, was influenced by the number of households in a community. This ensures that all households within the sub-district have the same probability of being selected.

If two-stage random sampling generated a sampling frame where a sub-district had more than 20 communities to assess (which was the case for 10 sub-districts), these sub-districts were re-sampled using cluster sampling. Using this strategy, the number of surveys conducted was proportional to the number of households within the cluster. Cluster sampling was used since it was not feasible for enumerators to assess more than 20 communities in a sub-district, due to travel time and other logistical constraints. To account for the design effect of cluster sampling, a higher number of surveys were collected in these sub-districts to meet the same confidence level and error margins as the sub-districts where two-stage sampling was used. The cluster sampled sub-districts were also adjusted for design effect in the analysis stage. Because the confidence level and margin of error of the cluster and two-stage sampling were the same, the data was aggregated at the governorate level.

[30] The wording 'maximum' here is to convey that while the margin of error is set to 5%, governorates with a higher number of sub-districts will have a lower margin of error.
[31] Population Task Force. HNO Population Numbers Updated, June 2018.
[32] Proportional to Population Size method.

Key Informant Interviews

For areas in which data was collected through KI interviews, 305 surveys were conducted at the community level in each sub-district and reported at the governorate level during analysis. REACH aimed to survey all accessible communities in each remotely assessed sub-district. Because KIs were purposely selected, the data could not be generalised with a quantified level of precision, and is therefore indicative only. KIs were selected based on existing networks and relevant Shelter and NFI knowledge. As is typical with KI interviews, findings are indicative rather than representative of either the community or sub-district.

An average of 17 KIs were interviewed in each sub-district. The exact number of KI interviews depended on the size of the community populations. The aim was to interview at least one KI in each community. To account for difficulties reporting across large communities, where a community had a population larger than 20,000 people, a greater number of KIs were interviewed and their responses aggregated. The rule used for the number of KIs per community was as follows:

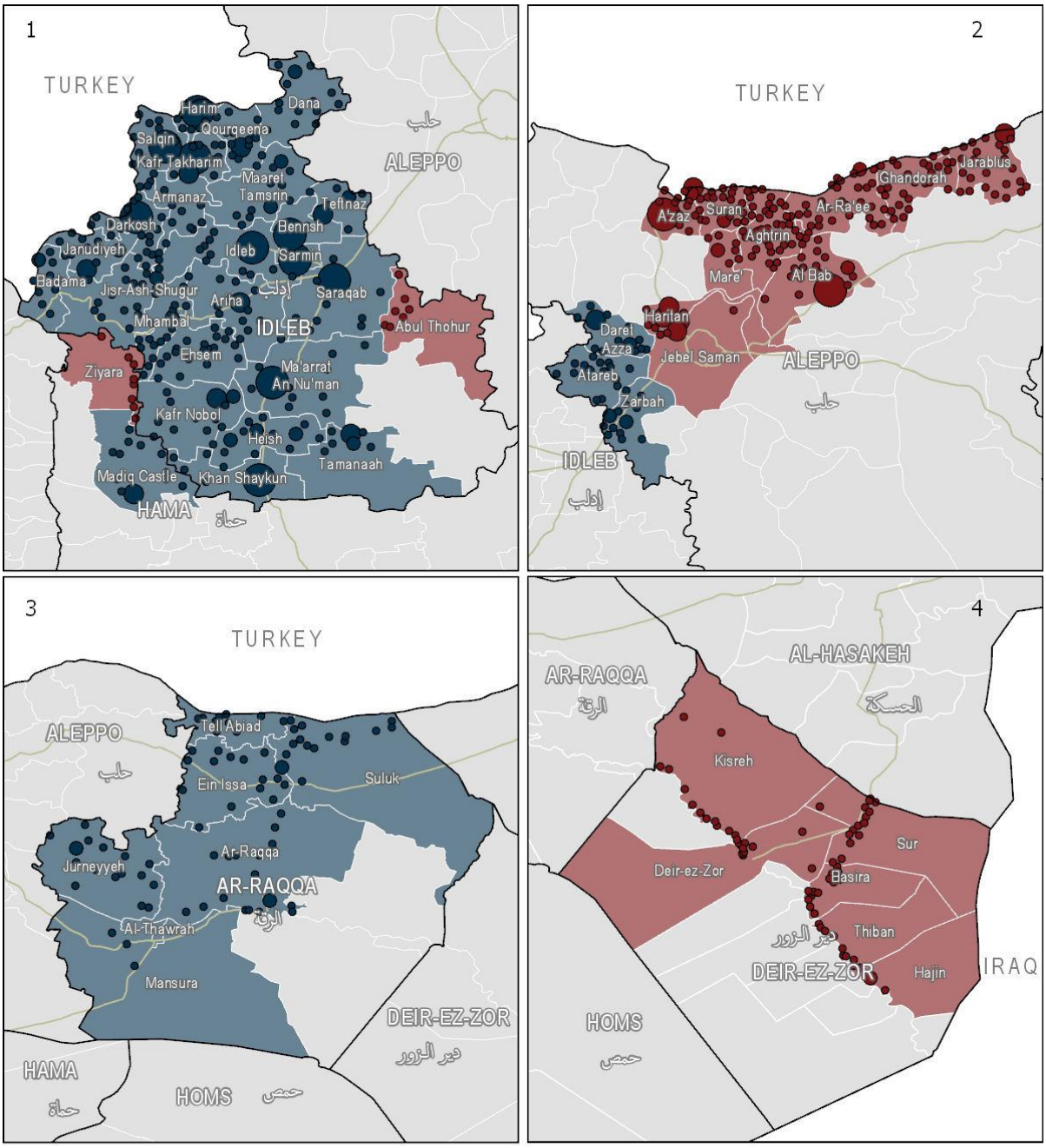
Table 2. Number of KIs based on community size

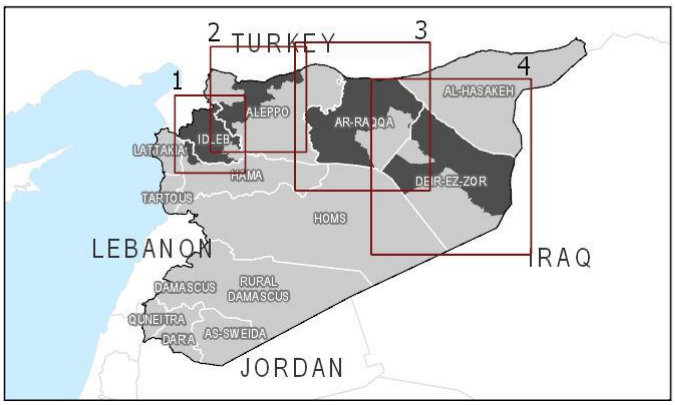
Community size	Minimum number of KIs
0–20,000	1
20,001–40,000	2
40,001-60,000	3
60,001-80,000	5
80,001 +	6

Sampling Summary

See annex 1 in the supplemental annex document for an overview of the forms submitted per sub-district in northern Aleppo, north-west Hama, Ar-Raqqa, and Idleb governorate through household surveys, and in Deir-ez-Zor governorate through KI surveys. This has been disaggregated by geographical location and household demographics where applicable.

Map 1: Data collection coverage





Assessed Sub-district

Sub-district assessed through HH interviews

Sub-district assessed through KI interviews

Sub-district not assessed

Community assessed through KI interviews

- 1 interview
- 2 interviews
- 3 interviews
- 4 or more interviews

Community assessed through HH interviews

- 1 - 15 interviews
- 16 - 30 interviews
- 31 - 45 interviews
- 46 or more interviews

Data Collection, Cleaning and Analysis

Research questions and indicators were designed in collaboration with the Shelter and NFI Cluster Turkey Hub based in Gaziantep and with UNHCR. This resulted in the production of two tools (household survey and KI survey), adapted from the 2017 WoS Shelter and NFI assessment. Tools were kept similar to the previous years to allow for comparison across years. The survey tools were translated into Arabic and coded into KoBo[33] for data collection on smartphones.[34] A training of trainers was conducted in Jordan, followed by field team trainings. Following a data collection pilot, data was collected by REACH enumerators between 24 June and 2 August 2018.

Data collection and cleaning process

An indicative analysis of coverage suggested that direct access for household surveys was possible in parts of Aleppo, Hama, and all parts of Ar-Raqqa governorates, and that remote coverage and alternative methodologies (KI interviews) were required for parts of Aleppo, Hama, Idleb and all parts of Deir-ez-Zor governorates.[35] The data collection method for all areas was subject to change depending on the security situation. For Deir-ez-Zor governorate, where KI interviews were the only method of data collection, enumerators interviewed KIs directly and remotely and entered data either directly onto smartphones using KoBo, or onto paper forms to be transferred to KoBo afterwards.

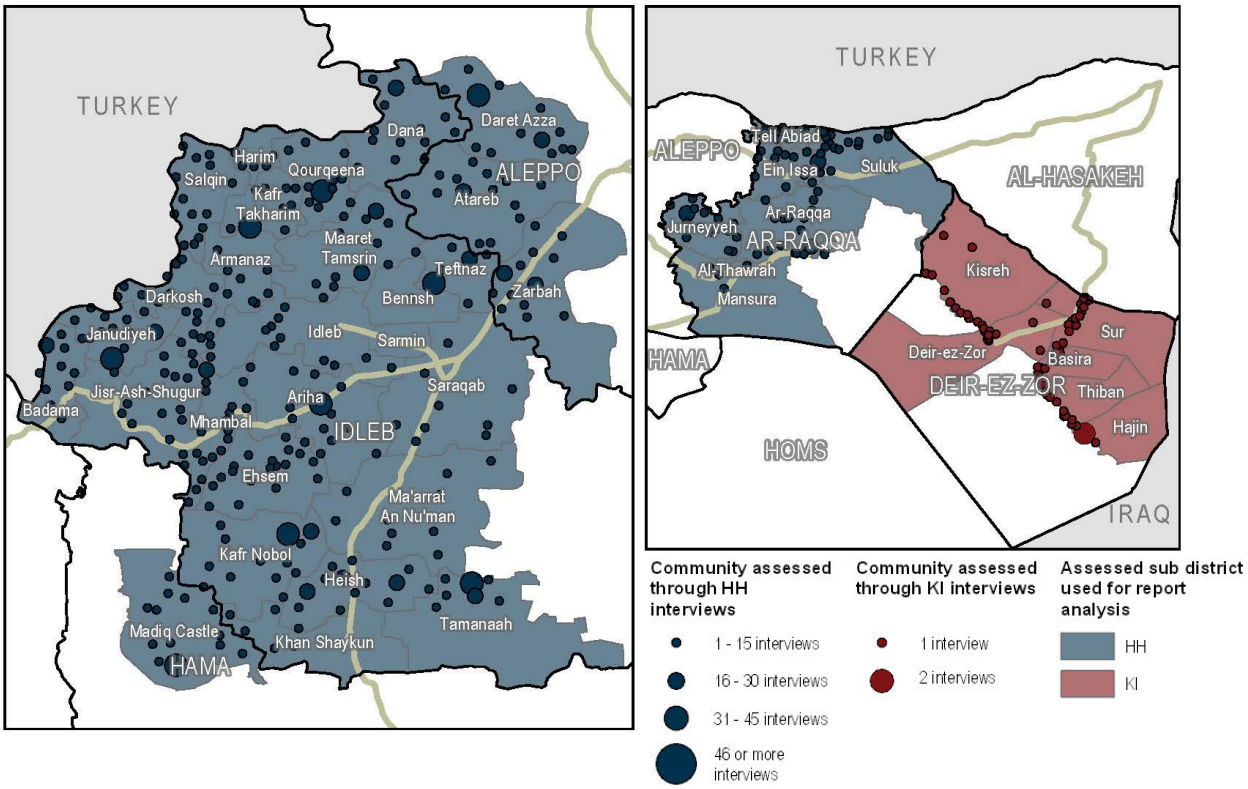
Where possible, data collection was conducted by mixed-gender teams to better enable gender-sensitive interviews and contextualisation of findings (13 female and 55 male). The north-west team consisted of 4 female and 30 male enumerators, and the north-east team consisted of 9 female and 25 male enumerators.

Data was checked and cleaned daily. A data cleaning log was implemented and continually updated during data collection to minimise data cleaning efforts after data collection was completed. Data cleaning involved continuous follow-up with field teams to clarify and correct any errors and verify outliers in data entry. Upon completion, a final round of data cleaning was conducted to identify any errors and translate entries to finalise the dataset to be shared with the Shelter Cluster Turkey Hub.

A data analysis plan was established during the preparation and planning phase, allowing for findings collected through household surveys to be disaggregated by gender, shelter type and location. Analysis was conducted using Excel, with additional data visualisation created using Tableau, ArcGIS Pro and Visme (an online data visualisation tool). Primary data was triangulated with secondary data from available sources, to verify the accuracy of information gathered. Once preliminary analysis was finalised, a presentation of findings to partners (UNHCR and the Shelter Cluster Turkey Hub) took place, along with a joint analysis workshop with cluster members, to allow further contextualisation of findings and to gain feedback on additional analysis required for final outputs.

[33] KoBo is an open source tool used to build survey forms, collect data, and perform data analysis and data management.
[34] Paper forms were used to conduct surveys in north-west Syria due to security concerns. Entries from paper forms were entered into smartphones by enumerators at the end of each day.
[35] Only two sub-districts in Hama governorate were covered in the assessment.

Map 2: Analysis Coverage



Throughout this report, analysis of household survey data for Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Hama, and Idleb governorates is presented in various graphs, tables, maps and figures. To avoid mixing methodologies within governorates, all KI data for Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Hama, and Idleb governorate was excluded from the analysis (see Map 2). However, because household surveys were not conducted in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, it is the only governorate in which KI data has been analysed and included in the report. Although KI data for Deir-ez-Zor governorate has been included, it has not been compared to the other governorate data due to the different methodologies. This has been further indicated using separate colours for Deir-ez-Zor governorate compared to the other governorates in the various report visuals.

Household surveys

Household survey data was aggregated to the sub-district and governorate levels. While aggregations of the household surveys to the sub-district level was representative, it was necessary to weight the sub-districts when aggregating to the governorate level. Weighting coefficients were proportional to the population sizes of the sub-districts that comprise a governorate. In analysing the data, responses from household surveys were weighted based on the number of households surveyed in a community, relative to the number of households in that community's sub-district.[36] This ensures that results that were aggregated to the sub-district and governorate levels, are not skewed by the methodological differences in number of surveys collected per household in different sub-districts.

For the trend analysis section of this document, Ar-Raqqa governorate was excluded from the analysis. This was due to a change in methodology from the assessment conducted in July 2017 to August 2018. In 2017, data in Ar-Raqqa was collected through KI interviews, however in 2018 the same coverage area was assessed through household interviews. Due to this difference in methodology, comparisons cannot be made accurately and have been excluded.

[36] The formula used in weighting by REACH is (A/B) / (C/D), where A is the total HH in the sub-district, B is total HHs in assessed sub-districts, C is the number of HH assessed in the sub-district and D is the number of HHs assessed in the country.

Key Informant interviews

The type of KI was recorded during each interview. Different types of KIs were assumed to have better knowledge to answer questions related to Shelter and NFI than others. For example, a KI working as a local relief worker or construction worker can accurately assess the Shelter and NFI needs in their own community, so their responses to questions are considered more reliable than those of other KIs. At the community level, when multiple KIs were interviewed in a community, the most common response to the KI surveys (in that community) categorical variables were selected. If there were conflicting responses and no clear "most common" response in the case of categorical variables, a KI confidence level (CL)[37] based on the type of KI was applied when triangulating the data from several KIs.[38] Therefore, for categorical variables, if multiple answers were found to have the same top score, the answer with the highest individual confidence level (CL) was retained.

The average confidence level of KIs reporting on each individual variable is ranked from 1-3 as follows (with 3 being the highest level of expertise):

Table 3: Key Informant confidence level

Key Informant Type	Confidence Level
Construction worker	3
Local aid worker	3
Local council member	2
Local relief committee member	2
Other	2
Imam/sheikh	1
Mukhtar	1

These confidence levels were determined in collaboration with REACH field teams and enumerators.

KI data aggregated at the community level[39] was then aggregated to the sub-district level by using weighting coefficients proportional to the population sizes of the sub-districts that comprise a governorate.[40] Data was processed using Excel, with visualizations created using Excel, Tableau, ArcGIS, and Visme.

Annexes

The supplemental annex document provides the following:

- Annex 1. Questionnaires
- Annex 2. List of Assessed Communities
- Annex 3. Guide for Enumerators
- Annex 4. Key Informant Confidence Level
- Annex 5. Damage Maps
- Annex 6. Additional Disaggregated Analysis

Annex 6 provides additional tables of analysis for disaggregated questions by urban and rural location, and household demographics. References to specific disaggregated breakdowns of questions have been noted where relevant in this report to provide additional context on specific Shelter and NFI findings in a supplemental document.

[37] KIs of each type are assigned a confidence level (CL) of 1 to 3, with a score of 3 indicating that they are among the most likely community members to be able to provide accurate information. Confidence levels for each KI type were nominated independently by REACH teams.
[38] This is in line with recommendations made by an evaluation of data management practices implemented during the 2014 Syria Multi-Sector Needs Assessment – specifically regarding the need to retain data
[39] See Annex 6 – Additional disaggregate analysis in the supplemental Annex document.
[40] The formula used in weighting by REACH is (A/B), where A is the number of people in the community and B is the number of people in the sub-district.

Limitations

Data collection in southern Syria was suspended due to continued airstrikes and shelling. This suspension in southern Syria continued throughout the entire data collection period, and a data collection strategy was adapted accordingly. Nonetheless, it should be considered that this severely limits the information on humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities for southern Syria, despite the assessment's intentions to provide this information.

Some of the trends and comparisons to previous years' Shelter and NFI assessments described in the report may show some seasonal rather than permanent developments, as the last two Shelter and NFI assessments were carried out in the winter in 2016 and in the summer in 2017, while the data for this report was collected during summer.

There is limited comparability between data from governorates assessed through household surveys and those assessed through KI interviews. In some cases, differences between the way questions were asked to households and KIs may also result in different information. For example, household surveys may ask respondents if their shelter has any damage, while KI interviews may ask for the most common types of shelter damage in the community. For this reason, different colour schemes have been used for KI and household data where possible. Attention has also been taken to avoid such comparisons in analysis.

It was not possible to get representative samples for all disaggregated data, specifically female-headed households. Therefore, disaggregated findings for female-headed households are to be considered indicative rather than representative. All female-headed households' data for Hama governorate has been excluded due an insufficient number of responses. Disaggregated figures are not representative at the sub-district level, and additionally maps demonstrating data representative of female-headed households have been avoided entirely.

The sample was not stratified by shelter type, rather, shelters were assessed randomly. Certain shelter types, such as unfinished buildings and informal settlements are more likely to be located near one another. Therefore, the random sampling methodology used may not result in a proportional number of these shelter types. It is not always possible to disaggregate results by shelter types in all areas, and the numbers for some shelter types may be underestimated.

Recall bias may have affected the accuracy of responses for all self-reported questions due to the potential of participants having unreliable memory of past events, such as the timeframe of aid distributions.

Finally, it is also important to note that findings based on a subset of responses could have a lower confidence level and a wider margin of error than findings based on the entire sample. For example, 'accommodation type' includes the entire sample of household surveys, while a question asked just to households living in rented accommodation (a subset of all accommodation types) such as 'rent price' will have a lower confidence level. Where information has been disaggregated from a small sub-set, findings can therefore only be considered indicative.

FINDINGS

The following findings section presents information on demographics and displacement, shelter, and NFIs.

1. DEMOGRAPHICS AND DISPLACEMENT

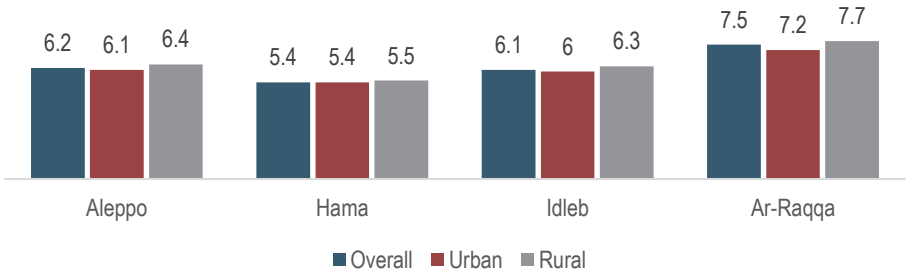
This sub-section outlines assessment findings related to demographics, displacement and intentions, to answer the research question - *"Are there disparities in the Shelter and NFI situation and needs of populations living in different areas across Syria, between governorates, sub-districts and urban/rural areas?".*

1.1 Demographics

1.1.1 Household size

Overall, the average household size was found to be 6.3 individuals.[41] The average household size in Idleb governorate had increased by 0.78 individuals (+8%) since July 2017. This is most likely related to the high number of IDPs arriving into Idleb governorate over the previous year, particularly from southern Syria, western Aleppo, Homs and Hama governorates. The average household size in rural areas (6.5) was slightly higher than in urban areas (6.2).

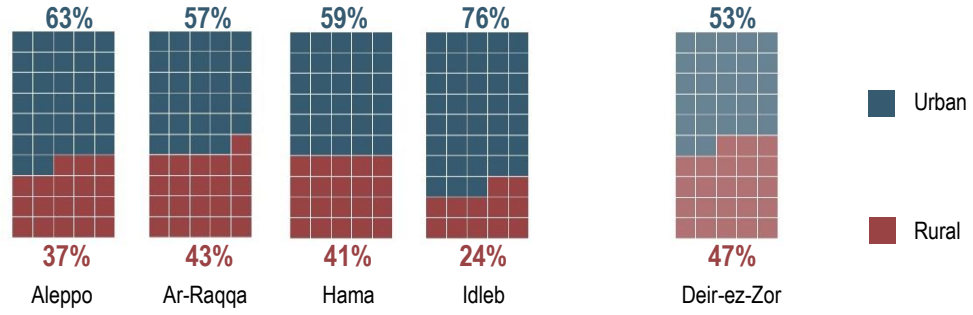
Figure 1: Average household size, per governorate, disaggregated by urban/rural location, assessed through household surveys[42]



1.1.2 Rural and urban household distribution

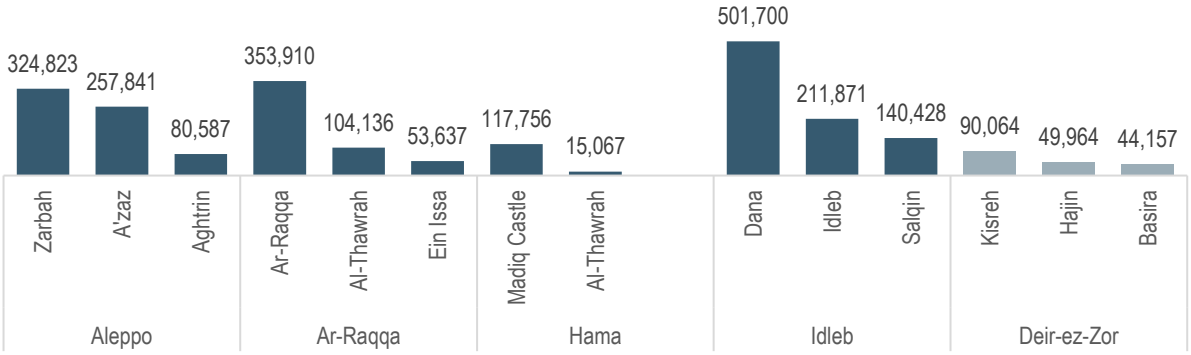
Overall, 68% of households in assessed governorates were found to be residing in urban areas and 32% in rural areas. The June 2018 HNO population figures HNO update found 2,767,791 people to be residing in urban areas and 1,307,409 in rural areas. Since the crisis began, the urban population in assessed areas in Syria has been increasing - a trend that has continued in 2018.[43]

Figure 2: Urban to rural household distribution, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[44]



[41] For this assessment, a household was defined as a group of people living together and generally eating from the same pot and/or sharing resources; typically, but not always, comprising a family group.
[42] Results for Deir-ez-Zor governorate are excluded due to the difference in questions asked to KIs and to households.
[43] Syria Urban population: Trade Economics. 2016: Syria – Rural population. World Bank: 2016. https://tradingeconomics.com/syria/urban-population-wb-data.html
[44] Secondary data was used to calculate the urban and rural population distribution across assessed sub-districts. This was the HNO 2018 urban and rural classifications and population numbers from June 2018.

Figure 3: Top three most populated sub-districts, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[45]



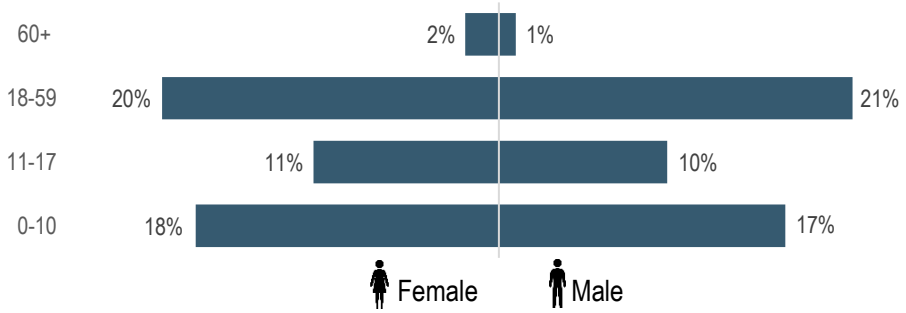
1.1.3 Age and gender

Overall, the percentage of children and adolescents in households in assessed areas increased by 8%, from 53% in July 2017 to 57% in August 2018. The percentage of females in households changed slightly from 49% female household members in 2017 to 51% in 2018. Notably, the percentage of males in households in north-west Hama dropped from 54% in July 2017 to 45% in August 2018.

The percentage of elderly people in households in assessed areas remained largely the same in 2018 compared to 2017 (+0.5%). However, the percentage of adult women (-13%) had decreased and adult men increased (+5%), along with the increase in the percentage of children and adolescents. Thus, there was an increase in the average number of dependents in each household, from 1.3 to 1.6, in comparable governorates, since 2017.

This change in the adult population may be a result of increased displacement to areas outside of Syria, movement to inaccessible areas during this assessment (and therefore not captured), and increased mortality rates of the adult population. Additionally, life expectancy was found to be relatively short with only 3% of the population aged 60 or older.

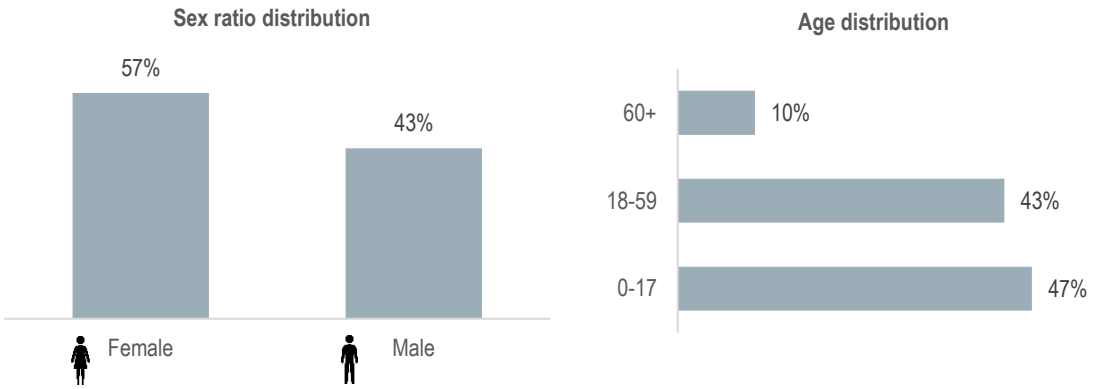
Figure 4: Age and sex population pyramid for all assessed governorates, assessed through household surveys[46]



For Deir-ez-Zor governorate, the sex distribution estimated by KIs is similar to estimates from July 2017 (60% females and 40% males). The difference in the proportion of men to women in this governorate is likely a result of men fleeing communities to avoid conscription. The so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) began forcibly conscripting men between the ages of 20-30 to fight against regime forces in Deir-ez-Zor governorate in August 2017.[47] Many of the adults (aged 18-59) who fled have reportedly not returned.[48]

[45] June 2018 Population Task force: Sub-district population numbers.
[46] Population pyramids are used to analyse growth (or decline) of fertility, mortality, and migration.
[47] Sanchez, Raf. The Telegraph. ISIL Begins Forcibly Conscripting to Fight in the Battle for Deir-ez-Zor. August 2017.
[48] Allawi, Yasser. Syria Deeply. Conversations: Fleeing ISIS Conscription in Deir-ez-Zor. November 2017.

Figure 5: Estimated sex ratio and age distribution in assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys[49]



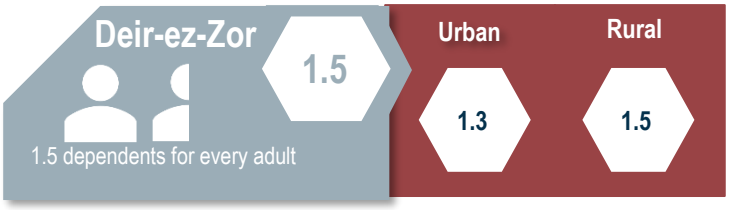
1.1.4 Dependency ratio

The average dependency ratio[50] in households in assessed areas was 1.7 dependents per adult, an increase of 0.4 dependents for every adult between July 2017 to August 2018. This increase is likely due to several factors, such as the 8% increase in the proportion of individuals under the age of 18 between 2017 and 2018, as well as waves of displacement resulting in some households becoming separated and other households hosting displaced relatives or friends. Female-headed households were found to have the highest dependency ratio among assessed population groups (2.5). This could be due to the presence of fewer adults in a female-headed household.[51] Overall, a higher dependency ratio in households in assessed areas may indicate more financial stress on people of working age (18-59) and dependents (0-17 and 60+).

Figure 6: Average Dependency ratio, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[52]

[49] Age distribution as estimated by KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate was not broken down by gender.
[50] The dependency ratio of a household is the total number of dependents (people under the age of 18 above age 60 and above) per adult (aged between 18 and 59) in the household.
[51] Findings for female-headed households are to be considered indicative rather than representative.
[52] Data on female-headed households in Hama governorate have been omitted throughout this report due to insufficient data.

Figure 7: Average Dependency ratio in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys



1.2 Internally displaced persons

1.2.1 Displacement status

Overall, 73% of households in assessed areas were resident population groups, 22% IDPs and 5% SRs. Notably, the percentage of IDP households in north-west Hama and Ar-Raqqa governorate decreased between 2017 and 2018, from 38% to 15% and 23% to 13%[53] respectively.

Figure 8: Displacement status of households, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

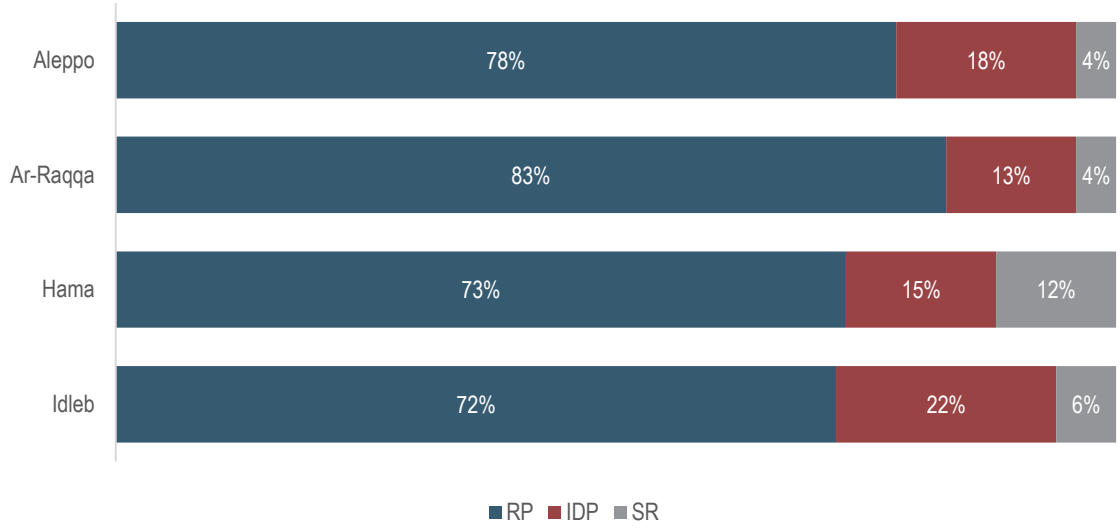
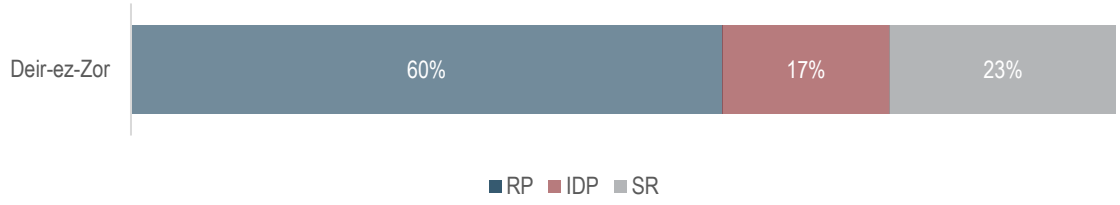


Figure 9: Displacement status of communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys

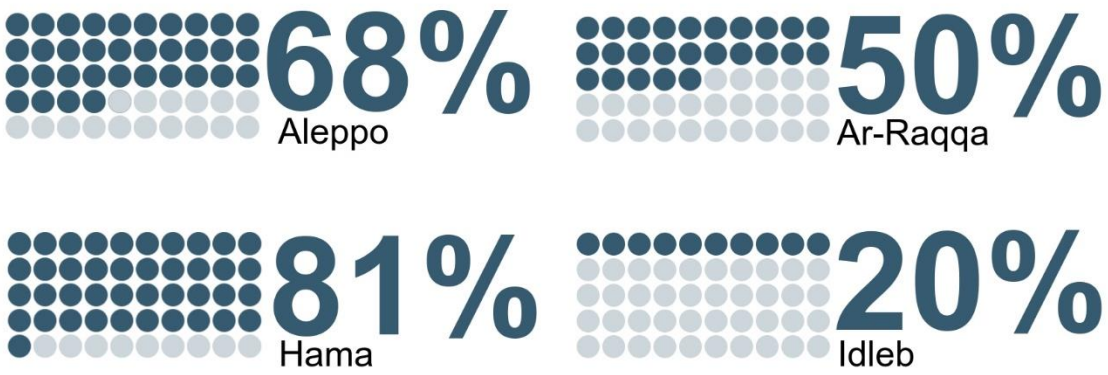


[53] Note that in July 2017 Ar-Raqqa governorate was assessed through KI surveys as opposed to the household survey methodology used for this (2018) assessment. Therefore, this figure should not be taken as a direct comparison but an indication of a decrease.

1.2.2 Last place of departure

Aside from Idleb governorate, the last place of departure for at least 50% of IDP households in assessed areas was found to be within the same governorate. The lower percentage of IDPs with a last place of departure within Idleb (20%) governorate could be due to displacements from Eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus, Hama and Aleppo governorates to Idleb governorate in 2018.

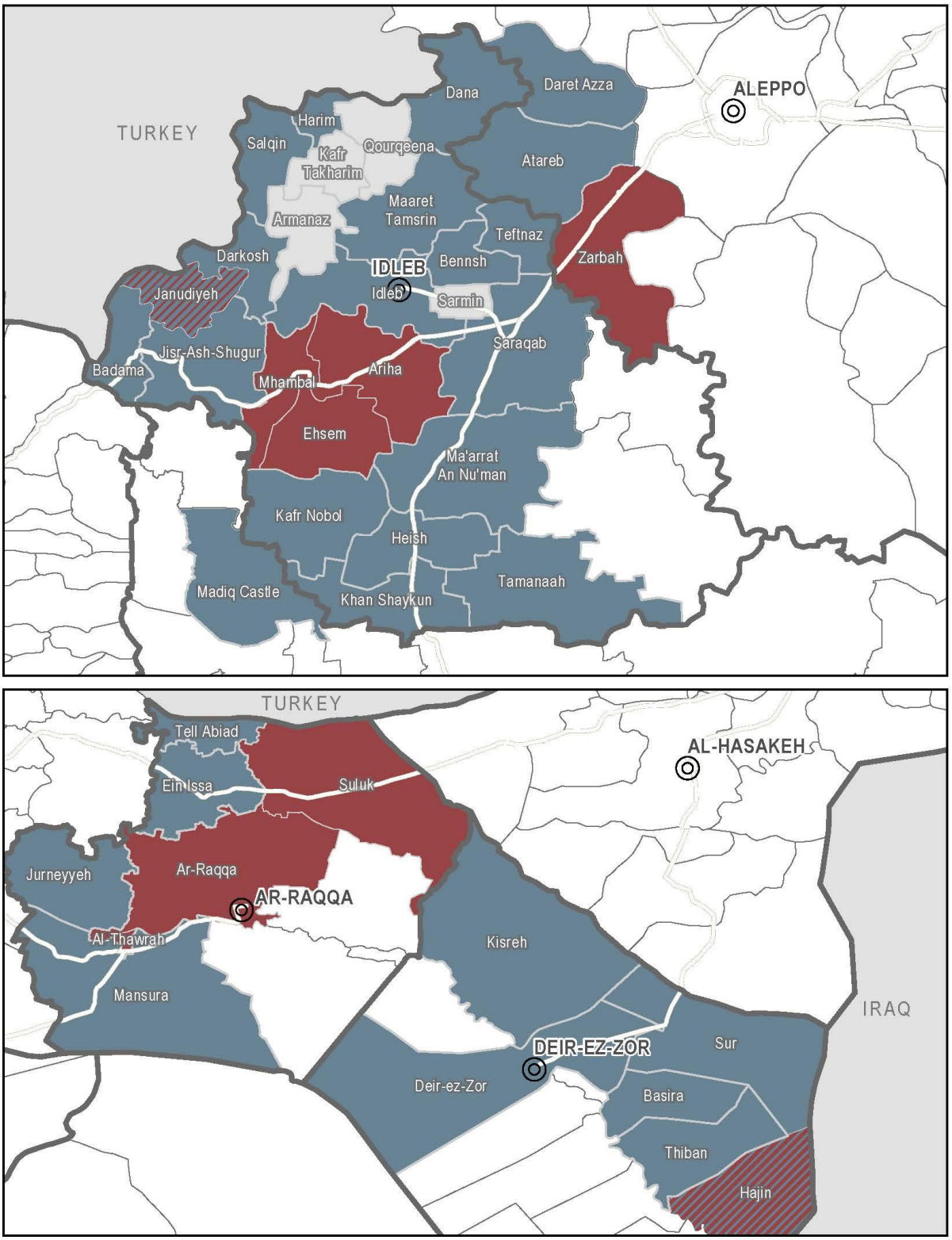
Figure 10: Percentage of assessed IDP households reporting last place of departure to be within current governorate of residence, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



1.2.3 Reasons for displacement

Map 3 (see next page) categorises the reasons of assessed households for residing in current locations into two main categories; pull factors and barriers to movement (see Annex 6 – Additional disaggregated analysis (ADA), Demographics and displacement: Reasons for displacement). 'Pull factors' refers to the reasons that made IDP households move to their specific destination, such as the presence of relatives and friends, safety and security, and employment opportunities in the new community. 'Barriers to movement' refers to the factors that restricted IDP households from moving to another location from their current, such as not having the funds to move elsewhere or physical obstacles. Overall, using these two categories, this map shows that a significant number of communities reported barriers to movement, which could indicate they do have reasons to move, but not the ability to do so.

Map 3: Top reported motivations for IDP households to be residing in current location, assessed through household and KI surveys[54]



* Major motivation after the initial response of escalation of conflict reported
Pull factors as defined by the following responses: Our relatives or friends are here/family ties, we have access to employment opportunities in this location, this location is nearer to our place of origin, we feel safer in this location than in other locations
Barriers as defined by the following responses: we have no money to go to other locations/pay for movement, it is not possible to go to other locations/physical obstacles preventing to go to other locations

[54] Top motivations were assessed by measuring the highest recorded motivation for return within the governorate assessed. Each motivation was categorised into a "pull factor" or a "barrier to movement".

1.2.4 Community of origin

Overall, 50% of IDP households in assessed areas in western Aleppo, north-west Hama, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates reported their community of origin to be within their current governorate of residence.

Figure 11: Percentage of IDP households whose community of origin is in the same governorate as current community of residence, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

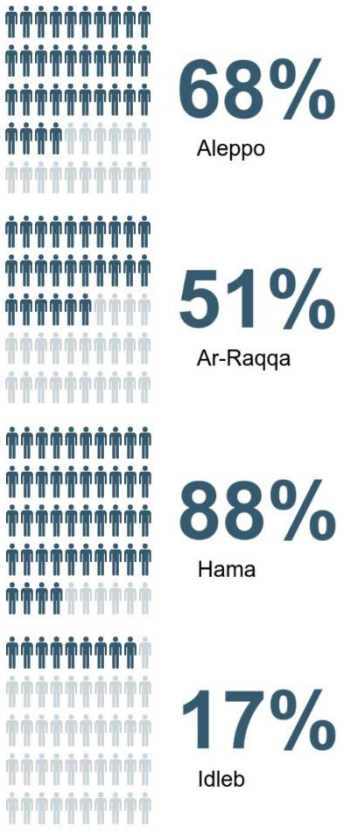


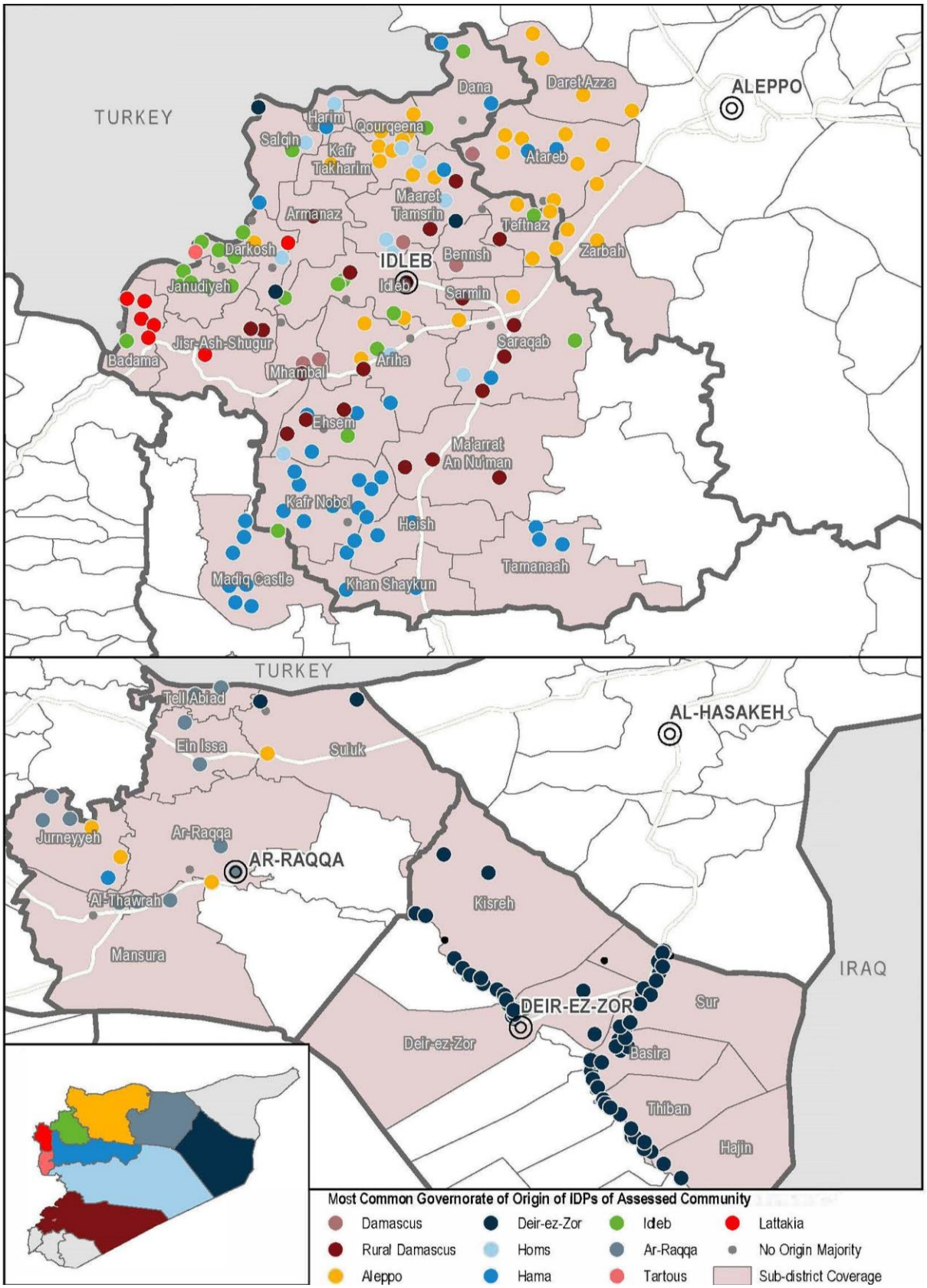
Figure 12: Percentage of households in Deir-ez-Zor governorate whose community of origin is in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys

The most commonly reported community of origin for assessed IDP households in Idleb governorate was Rural Damascus (28%).[55] This is most likely due to evacuations from Rural Damascus governorate in March 2018 to Idleb and Aleppo governorates.[56] In the July 2017 assessment, 24% of IDP households in Idleb governorate reported their community of origin to be within their current governorate of residence, marking a 29% decrease compared to August 2018 where only 17% of IDP households in Idleb governorate reported their community of origin to be within Idleb governorate.

KIs estimated the area of origin for a high percentage (90%) of IDP households in assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate to be within the governorate, with communities in Hajin sub-district being the most common communities of origin (49% of IDP households according to KI estimates). Movements from Hajin to Abu Kamal sub-districts could be due to offensives against ISIL in Deir-ez-Zor governorate,[57] as well as due to the sub-districts' proximity to the Iraqi border and potential cross-border flows.

[55] Please note that data collection took place before the recent offensive in South Syria, therefore this dataset does not capture movements from South Syria to the north from the summer 2018.
[56] Syrian Arab Republic: East Ghouta Displacement Situation Report No. 1. UN OCHA https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/East%20Ghouta%20SitRep%201%20-%202703.pdf
[57] Syria Crisis: North-east Syria Situation Report No. 25 (15 May 2018 – 15 June 2018). UN OCHA https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/North%20East%20Syria%20Sit%20Rep%2015%20May%20to%2015_June_FINAL.pdf

Map 4: Most common governorate of origin of IDP households by community[58]

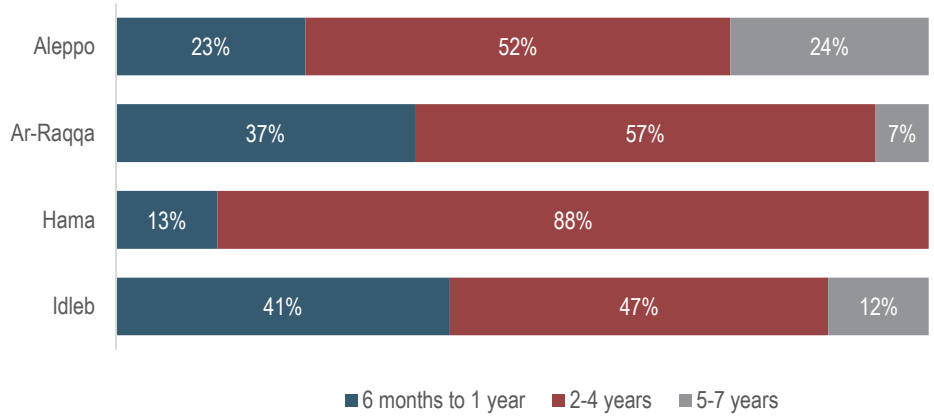


[58] Majority in this instance is defined by the most frequently reported community of origin in each community.

1.2.5 Length of time displaced

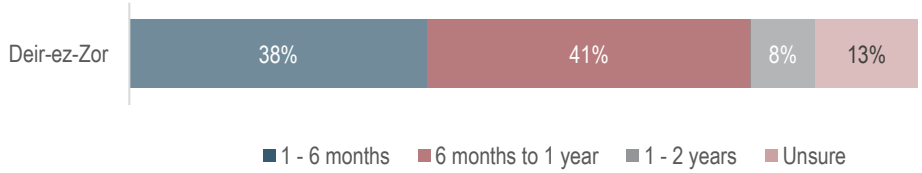
Overall, IDP households in western Aleppo, north-west Hama, Ar-Raqqa, and Idleb governorates had been displaced from their community of origin for an average of 4.5 years. As Figure 13 shows, the highest proportion of IDPs spending the least amount of time in displacement (6 months to 1 year) was found in Idleb governorate, while the highest proportion of IDPs spending 5 to 7 years in displacement was found in Aleppo governorate.

Figure 13: Average length of time displaced since leaving community of origin, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



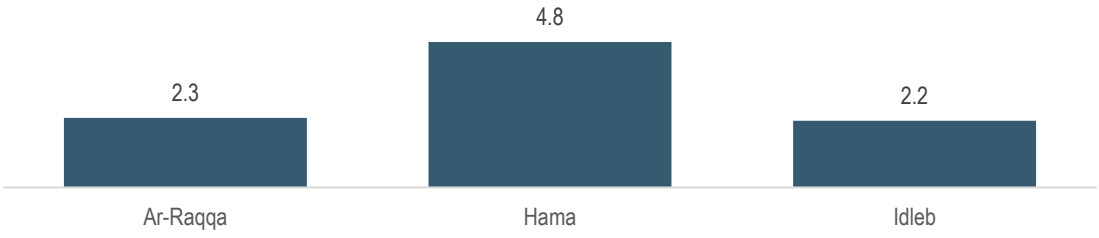
In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, findings from KI estimates show that IDPs in assessed communities had been displaced for an average of 9.8 months, marking a 50% increase in the average length of displacement since 2017 (6.4 months). Nonetheless, KIs estimated that there were no assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate with IDPs that have been displaced for 2 to 3 years or more.

Figure 14: Average length of displacement time in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys[59]



1.2.6 Number of times IDPs have been displaced

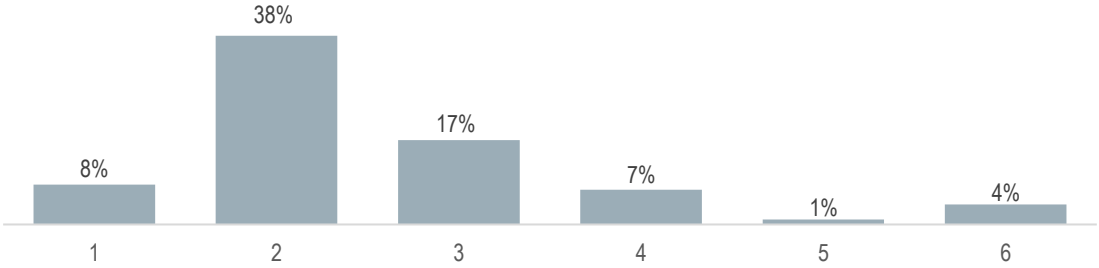
Figure 15: Average number of times IDP households have moved from one place to another since leaving their community of origin, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[60,61]



KIs reported that IDPs in assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate had been displaced an average of six times since arriving in their current community of residence.

[59] Due to the different methodologies adopted for this assessment (KI and household level surveys), the questions asked regarding displacement time were worded differently. While households were asked to report when they left their place of origin, KIs were asked to predict an "average length of time" for their community. Furthermore, due to the shorter length of time reported and the number of individuals reporting displacement under 12 months in the KI survey, the scale for figure 14 is different to figure 15.
[60] Aleppo governorate has been removed from this graph due to insufficient data.
[61] This question was not asked in the KI survey.

Figure 16: Estimated number of times that IDP households have moved from one place to another since leaving their community of origin in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys[62]



Notably, the average number of months households reported to have spent in their current location in assessed areas of Aleppo, Hama and Idleb governorates, had decreased by 82% since July 2017 (see Table 4).

Table 4: Average number of months spent in current location, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[63]

	2017		2018		Percentage change since 2017
	Months	Years [64]	Months	Years	Months
Aleppo	111	7+ years	28	2-3 years	-75%
Ar-Raqqa	N/A	N/A	10	6-12 months	N/A
Hama	108	7+ years	10	6-12 months	-91%
Idleb	93	7+ years	17	1-2 years	-82%

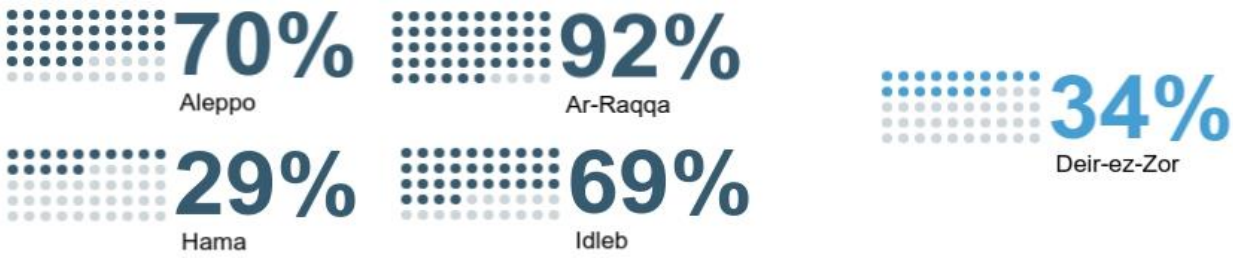
1.3 Spontaneous returnees (SRs)

Spontaneous returnees are populations who, for varying reasons and intentions, return to their community of origin after being displaced but not necessarily to their former homes; who intend to remain in the community for an undetermined period.[65] It is important to distinguish this demographic group from IDP and resident populations since findings indicate particular conditions and needs to be specific to this group.

1.3.1 Last place of departure

High percentages of SR households in western Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Idleb governorates reported their last place of departure to be within their governorate of origin. However, 71% of SR households in north-west Hama reported their last place of departure to be Idleb governorate. KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate estimated that a large number of SRs arrived from Al-Hasakeh governorate than from other places of Deir-ez-Zor governorate (see Annex 6 - ADA, Last place of departure: Spontaneous Returnees).

Figure 17: Percentage of SR households whose last place of departure was in the same governorate as their community of origin, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys



[62] A comparative analysis of the displacement assessed in Household Surveys and KI surveys is not advised due to the different methodologies adopted, but also the level of analysis. Key Informants were asked to predict an "average number of times" for their whole community.
[63] This question was not asked in the KI survey.
[64] This is a conversion from the number of months into years. Everything over 7 years has been put into a 7+ years category.
[65] SRs may have returned from locations within or outside of Syria.

1.3.2 Departure from place of origin

Overall, the average duration of displacement for SR households in assessed areas was three years.[66] SR households in western Aleppo reported the longest average displacement periods for SRs (average 3.1 years).[67]

Figure 18: Average number of years since SR households left their place of origin, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[68]

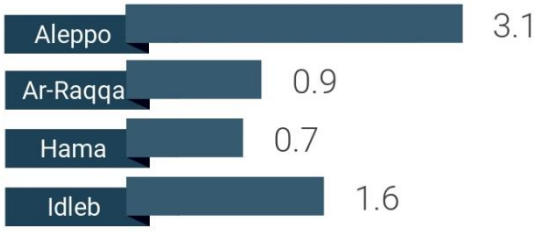
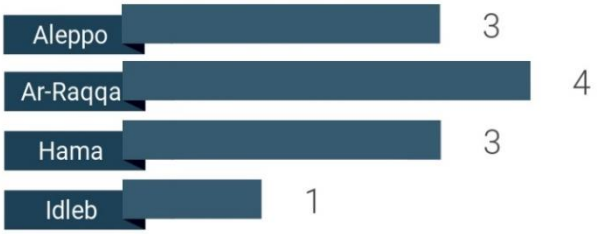


Figure 19: Average number of times SR households have been displaced before returning to their community of origin, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



1.3.3 Reasons for return

Property ownership was reported as the primary reason for SR households to return to communities of origin in north-west Hama (85%), western Aleppo (34%), Ar-Raqqa (80%), and Idleb (69%) governorates. These findings may partially reflect Law No. 10 (2018) passed by the Syrian government on 2 April 2018. This law states that should any zone be assigned a "re-development zone" status, a list of property ownership must be issued by the council within 45 days. Should an individual's property not appear on this list, individuals owning property within the zone are issued 30 days to give proof of ownership.[69] SR displacement patterns prior to the passing of this law demonstrate that property insecurity was a key reason for movements.

In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, an increase was noted in the percentage of SRs deciding to return to their community of origin based on access to income, employment and shelter, from 18% in July 2017 to 79% in August 2018. (see Annex 6 – ADA, Demographics and displacement: Reasons for return)

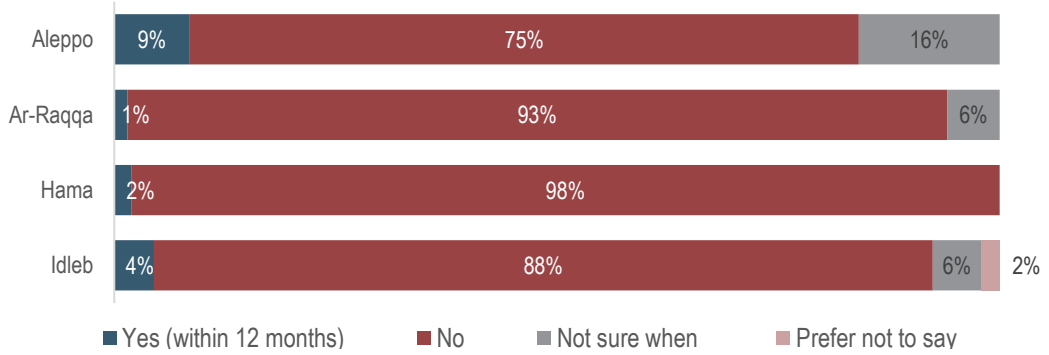
1.4 Movement intentions

1.4.1 Intentions to remain or leave

Overall, 1% to 4% of households in assessed areas reported intentions to leave within the 12 months following the August 2018 data collection period, except for households in western Aleppo where 9% of households reported this intention. Of the 9%, 55% reportedly intended to leave immediately but had no means of doing so. Ongoing conflict and speculation of an offensive in Idleb and western Aleppo governorates could explain these intentions.[70]

[66] 3.025 years
[67] Returns were considered SRs if they returned within one year prior to the assessment.
[68] An average had been taken across each community in each sub-district and aggregated up to the governorate level.
[69] Q&A: Syria's New Property Law. Human Rights Watch. 29 May 2018 https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/05/29/qa-syrias-new-property-law
[70] IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI), "Monthly overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria", July 2018.

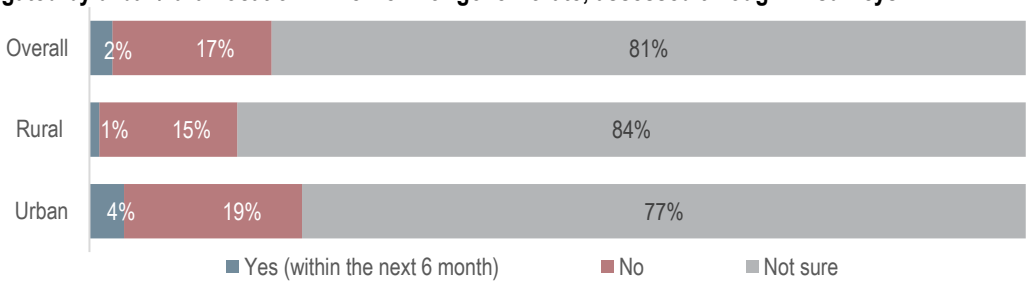
Figure 20: Percentage of households reporting intentions to leave current location within 12 months, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



A larger percentage of households in urban areas compared to rural areas reported intentions to leave their current location within 12 months, apart from in Idleb governorate, where a larger percentage (7.4%) of households in rural areas intended to leave, compared to only 3.4% of households in urban areas (see Annex 6 – ADA, Movement intentions: Intentions to remain or leave).

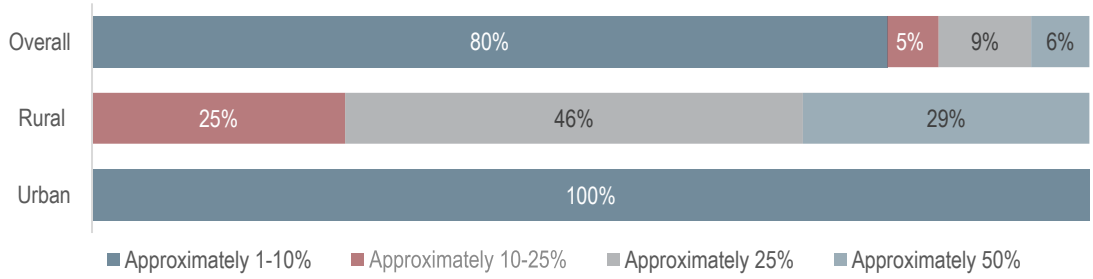
IDP households were the demographic group most commonly reporting intentions to leave within 12 months across all governorates (see Annex 6 – ADA, Movement intentions: Intentions to remain or leave). One of the driving factors behind this could be a decrease in conflict in the coming 6 months.

Figure 21: Proportion of communities where KIs reported that some households intend to leave within 6 months, disaggregated by urban/rural location in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys[71]



KIs in 2% of assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported that some households intend to leave within 6 months. The majority of KIs (81%) however reported that they were unsure whether households in assessed communities intended to remain or leave.

Figure 22: Proportion of communities where KIs reported that some households intend to leave within a month, of the KIs reporting some households intending to leave within 6 months, disaggregated by urban/rural location in Deir-ez-Zor, assessed through KI surveys

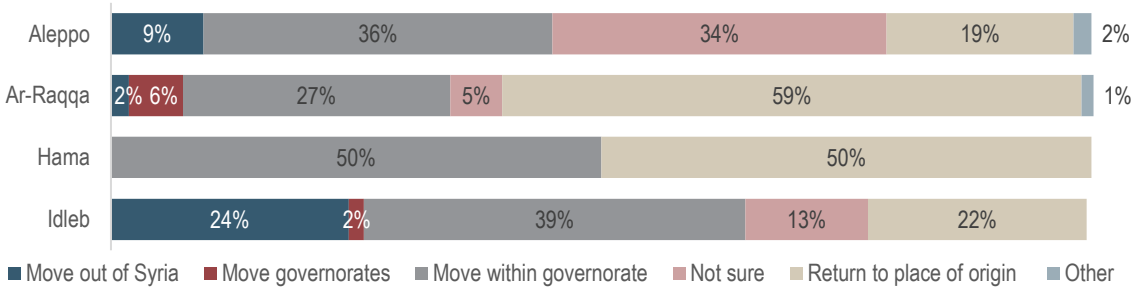


[71] The KI survey asked for an estimated percentage of the community intending to leave within the next 6 months.

1.4.2 Reasons for intention to leave and intended destination

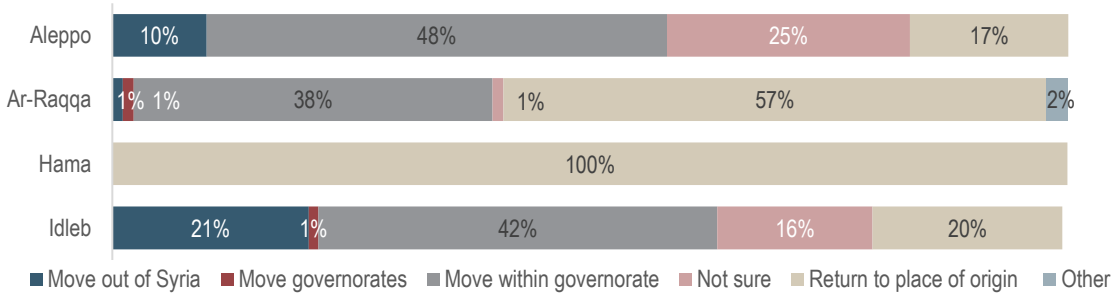
Overall, the most common intended destinations reported by households in assessed areas were either within their current governorate of residence (36%) or to their place of origin (26%). In western Aleppo, of the 36% of households that intended to move within the governorate, 89% intended to move to a different shelter in the same community. Similarly, in Ar-Raqqa (100%) and Idleb (77%) governorates, most households reported the same intention. Overall, 17% of households in assessed areas intended to move out of Syria. Notably, the gradual reduction of blast-related incidents in Ar-Raqqa governorate, coupled with the gradual restoration of livelihoods and power supplies in certain areas may explain the proportion of households in Ar-Raqqa governorate intending to return to their place of origin (59%). The highest percentage of households in assessed areas reporting intentions to move out of Syria was found in Idleb governorate (24%). This could be attributed to the anticipation of a full-scale offensive in Idleb and surrounding areas throughout the assessment period.[72]

Figure 23: Intended destination, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



A higher percentage of households in urban areas reported intention to move within their governorate of current residence (43%) compared to households in rural areas (28%). A higher percentage of households in rural areas, however, reported an intention to return to their place of origin (28%) compared to households in urban areas (24%). An average of 21% of households in rural areas reported intentions to move out of Syria. Notable variations between urban and rural areas were identified in north-west Hama where all households in urban areas reported intentions to return to their place of origin, compared to all households in rural areas reporting intentions to move within north-west Hama. These variations may be explained by the difference in place of origin of IDPs in north-west Hama. All assessed households in rural areas in north-west Hama governorate cited their place of origin to be within the governorate, compared to 78% of assessed households in urban areas.

Figure 24: Intended destination of households in urban locations, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



[72] Reuters, "U.N. fears for 2.5 million in Syria's rebel-held Idlib as fighting escalates", 11 June 2018: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-un/u-n-fears-for-2-5-million-in-idlib-syria-as-fighting-escalates-idUSKBN1J70V7

Figure 25: Intended destination of households in rural locations, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

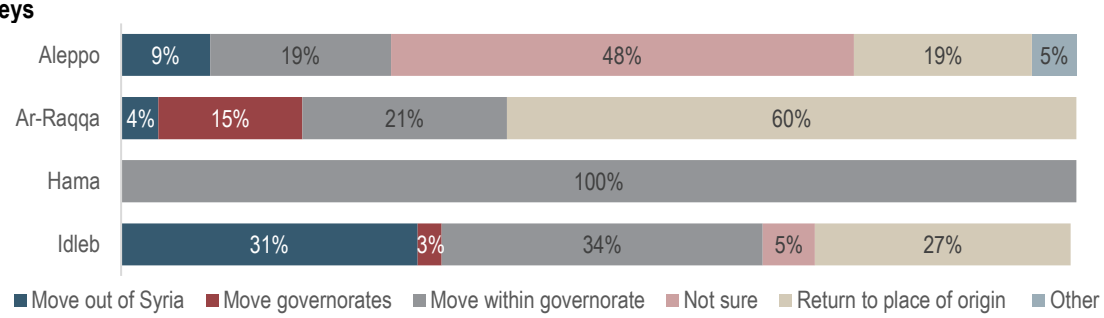


Figure 26: Intended destination of resident households, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[73]

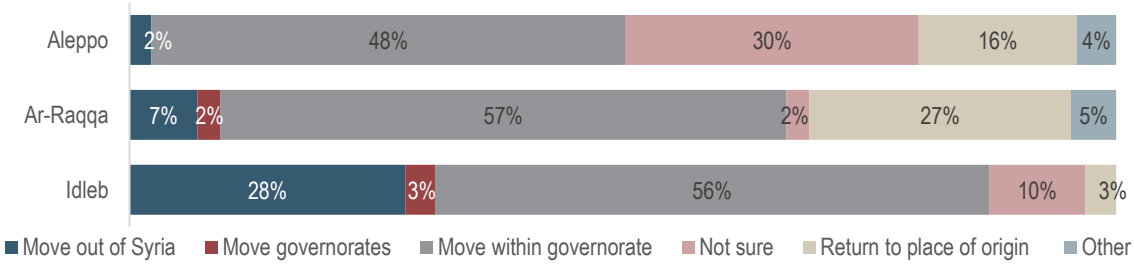
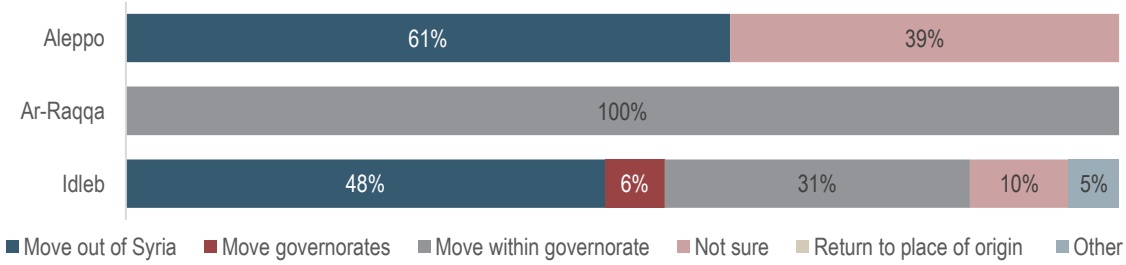
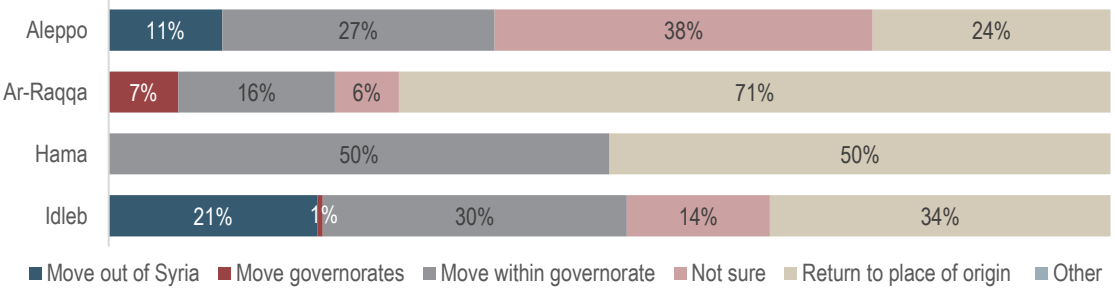


Figure 27: Intended destination of SR households, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[74]



Overall, the most common intended destinations reported by assessed IDP households were to their place of origin (38%) and within their current governorate of residence (28%). On average, over 80% of households in assessed areas citing intentions to move within western Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Idleb governorates, intended to move to a different shelter within the same community.

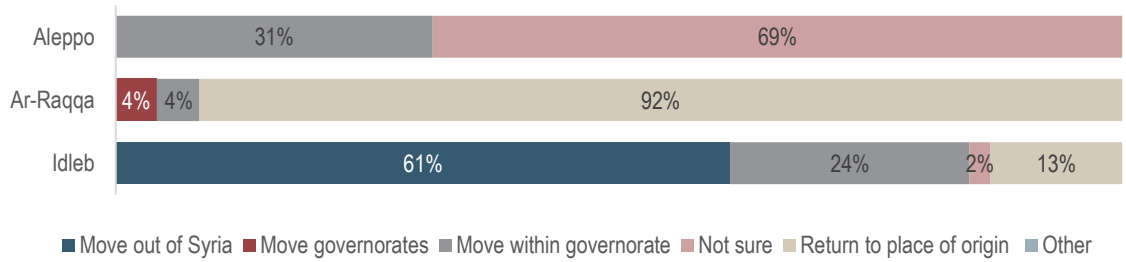
Figure 28: Intended destination of IDP households, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



[73] No assessed resident population households in Hama governorate reportedly intended to leave.
[74] No assessed SR households in Hama governorate reportedly intended to leave.

Of the female-headed households across western Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Idleb governorates citing intentions to move within their current governorate of residence, 100% intended to move to a different shelter within the same community (see Figure 29).[75] Also, 100% of the assessed female-headed households in rural areas were seeking improved access to basic services (see Annex 6 – ADA, Movement intentions: Intentions to remain or leave).[76]

Figure 29: Intended destination of female-headed households, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[77]



Overall, improving access to income and employment were frequently reported as reasons to move, across all assessed governorates (36%), with the exception of north-west Hama where eviction or threat of eviction in current location and proximity to relatives or friends in intended destination (50% respectively) were the highest reported reasons to move (see Annex 6 – ADA, Movement intentions: Intentions to remain or leave). In western Aleppo and Idleb governorate, most households in assessed areas relied on unstable employment arrangements and agricultural work as their main source of income, and therefore often resorted to using coping mechanisms, such as borrowing money from family and friends or sending children to work or beg.[78,79]

Similarly, in Ar-Raqqa governorate, a large percentage of the population reportedly rely on agricultural work, unstable employment opportunities or remittances as their main source of income.[80] Moreover, 46% of households of the resident population in Ar-Raqqa governorate reported 'other' reasons for movement to intended destination (see Annex 6 – ADA, Movement intentions: Intentions to remain or leave). Of these responses, 50% cited that landlords had requested to move back into their home.

Table 5: IDP household reasons for moving to intended destination, per governorate, assessed through surveys with IDP households

	Access to better shelter	Area (of current residence) is unsafe	Cheaper cost of living	Cheaper rent or housing prices	Eviction/ threat of eviction (in current location)	Improve access to basic services	Improve access to income and employment	Not sure why	Others, please specify	Prefer not to say	Proximity to relatives/ friends
Aleppo	23%	0%	4%	15%	4%	11%	21%	4%	0%	4%	14%
Ar-Raqqa	22%	0%	0%	12%	0%	0%	50%		4%	0%	12%
Hama	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%
Idleb	19%	1%	7%	10%	0%	5%	37%	4%	1%	1%	15%

[75] North-west Hama was excluded due to insufficient data for female-headed households.
[76] Findings for female-headed households are to be considered indicative rather than representative.
[77] North-west Hama was excluded due to insufficient data for female-headed households.
[78] Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria, "Aleppo Governorate", April 2018.
https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheet_hsos_governorate_factsheet_aleppo_april_2018_0.pdf
[79] Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria, "Idleb Governorate", April 2018.
https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheet_hsos_governorate_factsheet_idleb_april_2018_0.pdf
[80] Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria, "Ar-Raqqa Governorate", April 2018.
https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheet_hsos_governorate_factsheet_ar-raqqa_april_2018_0.pdf

2. SHELTER

This sub-section outlines assessment findings related to shelter to answer the research questions - *"What is the current shelter status and adequacy of populations living in Syria" and "what are the shelter needs of populations living in Syria?"*

2.1 Shelter sharing and crowding

2.1.1 Rooms per shelter[81]

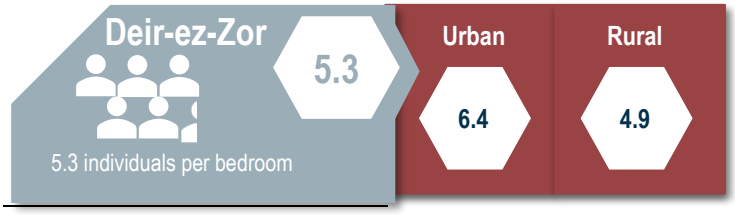
Figure 30: Average number of rooms per shelter, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[82]

2.1.2 Individuals per bedroom

There was an average of 4.7 individuals per bedroom in households in assessed areas. Households reported using other rooms such as extra living rooms/guest rooms, or warehouses connected to their shelter as living space, hence why the number of bedrooms was high. Overall, the average number of individuals per bedroom had increased since July 2017, highlighting a potential reduction in shelter space and an increase in household size.

Figure 31: Average number of individuals per bedroom, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

Figure 32: Average number of individuals, per bedroom, in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys



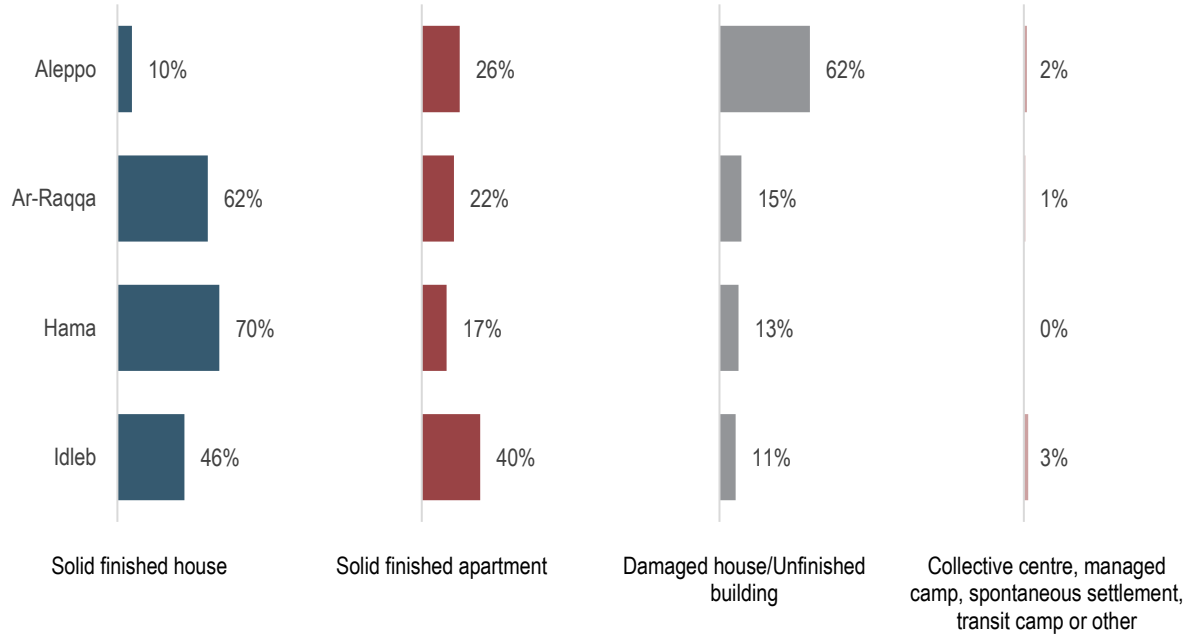
[81] Data on Deir-ez-Zor governorate has been omitted due to differences in KI vs household survey questions.
[82] Living room, bedroom, kitchen, or toilet/bathroom are considered rooms within a shelter.

2.2 Shelter types and occupancy

2.2.1 Shelter types

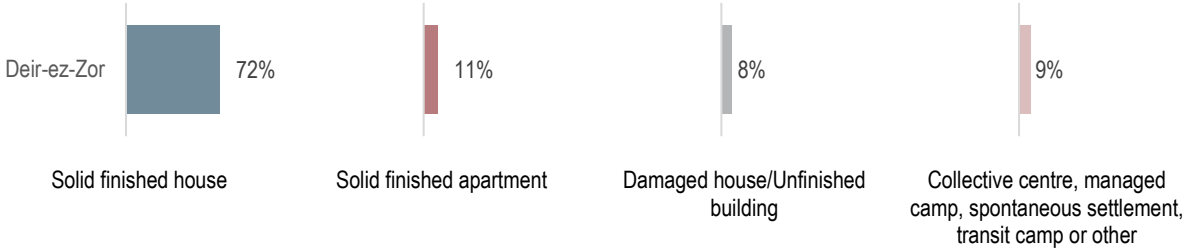
The average number of households living in solid finished houses in assessed areas of western Aleppo, north-west Hama and Idleb governorate dropped from 68% in July 2017 to 42% in August 2018.[83] In comparison, the number of households living in solid finished apartments increased from 39% to 52% in western Aleppo, north-west Hama, and Idleb governorate, over the same time period.[84] A higher percentage of IDP households in assessed areas lived in vulnerable shelter types (all shelter types excluding solid finished apartment/house) (19%) compared to households of the resident population (12%).

Figure 33: Shelter type, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



KIs estimated a higher percentage of communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate to be living in vulnerable shelter types in August 2018 compared to July 2017, and the average percentage of households living in solid finished houses to have dropped from 79% in July 2017 to 72% in August 2018. Similarly, the percentage of households in these communities living in solid finished apartments had reportedly declined since 2017 (from 16% to 11%) according to KIs (see Annex 6 – ADA, Shelter types and occupancy: Shelter types). The increase in percentage of households in vulnerable shelter types in Deir-ez-Zor governorate may be due to displacement over the past year, since between July and September 2017, around 20% of the population within Deir-ez-Zor governorate were displaced to the main camps in Al-Hasakeh governorate, namely Mabruka Camp and Alsad (Areesheh) Camp. As clashes and airstrikes receded, only some IDPs returned to Deir-ez-Zor governorate, while others were reportedly displaced again from Al-Hasakeh to Aleppo governorate.

Figure 34: Shelter type in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys

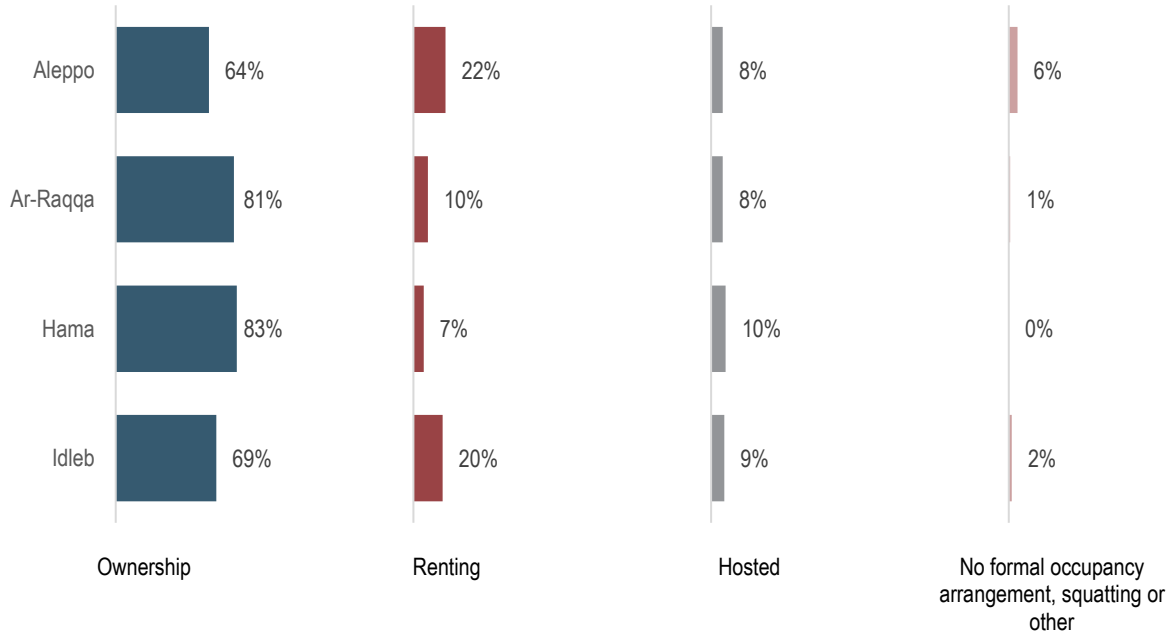


[83] Ar-Raqqa was excluded to avoid comparing two different methodologies (KI in July 2017 and household in August 2018)
[84] Ibid.

2.2.2 Shelter occupancy arrangements

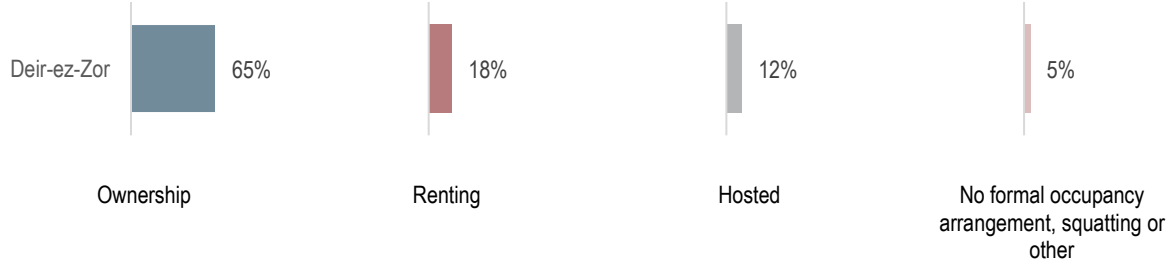
Over two thirds (71%) of households in assessed areas reported owning their shelter. Western Aleppo and Idleb governorate saw a 5% and 3% increase (respectively) since July 2017 in the number of households reportedly owning their shelter, which may be the result of an increase in SRs to these governorates. The proportion of households reportedly hosting IDPs had declined in Idleb governorate (-55%), north-west Hama (-52%) and western Aleppo (-27%) since 2017. This may be partially due to a lack of social cohesion between IDPs and resident populations.[85] For example, some households of the resident population reported a fear that unemployment levels may increase due to IDP arrivals from the south, and that hosting IDPs may pose a security risk.

Figure 35: Shelter occupancy status, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[86]



KI estimates on percentage of households owning their homes in Deir-ez-Zor governorate fell by 14%, since July 2017 (from 76% to 65%) (see Annex 6 – ADA, Shelter types and occupancy: Shelter occupancy and agreements). KIs also estimated the number of households renting in Deir-ez-Zor governorate to have doubled, from 9% in 2017 to 18% in 2018. Similarly, the number of households hosting without rent had risen from 7% to 12%, since 2017. Overall, the decline in the number of households owning their shelter in Deir-ez-Zor governorate may be a result of displacement due to an escalation in clashes against ISIL.[87]

Figure 36: Shelter occupancy status in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys[88]



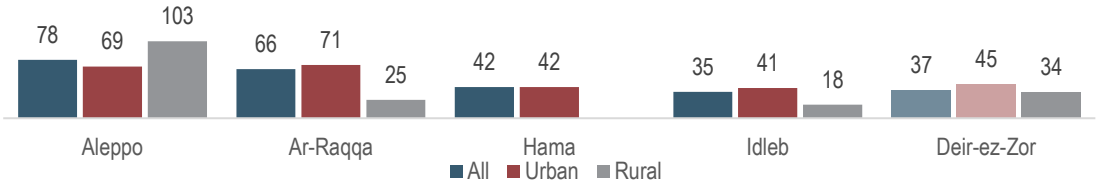
[85] Reported from REACH field teams conducting the assessment.
[86] Renting includes both furnished and unfurnished renting agreement.
[87] IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI), Displacement Trends. July – September 2017; IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI), Displacement Trends. July – September 2017. http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/syr_report_cccm_ismi_idp_situation_monitoring_initiative_trends_analysis_july-september_2017.pdf
[88] Ibid.

2.3 Renting

2.3.1 Rental costs

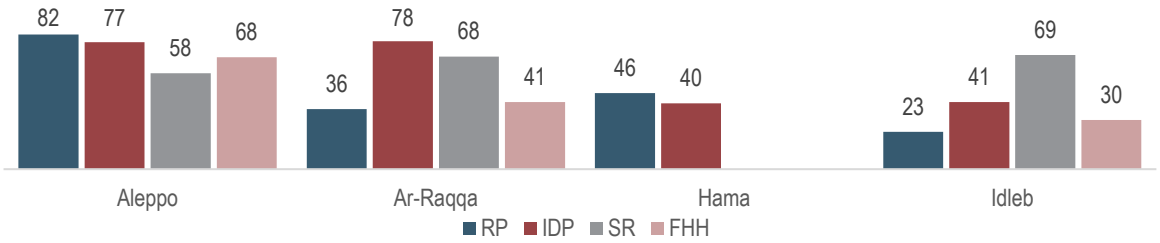
The average cost of monthly rent was USD 55 per household in assessed areas. The average rent in urban areas was 56 USD, with a lower cost in rural areas (USD 49) (see Figure 37). The highest prices in rent were found in Ar-Raqqa sub-district (USD 123). In north-west Syria, households in Dana (USD 73) and Salqin (USD 70) sub-districts in Idleb governorate bordering Turkey reported the highest rent prices, all of which had also increased between July 2017 and August 2018 (by USD 13.24 in Dana and USD 8.68 in Salqin sub-districts)[89] (see Map 5).

Figure 37: Average monthly rent (in USD), disaggregated by urban/rural location, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[90]



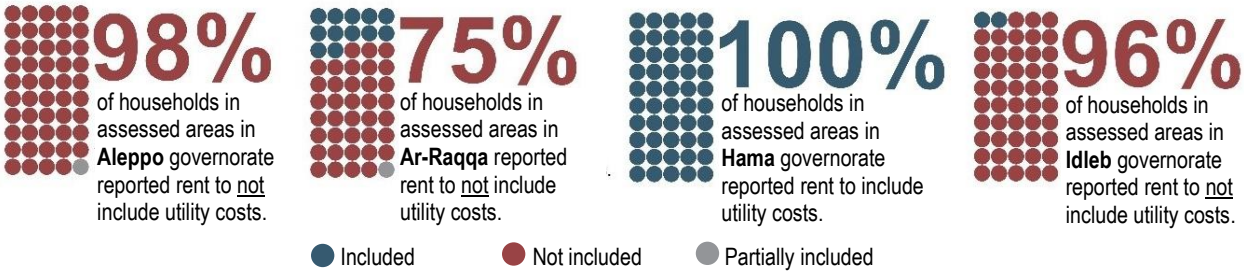
SR households (USD 65) and IDP households (USD 59) in assessed areas reportedly pay the highest rent compared to all population groups (Figure 35). There have been reports of real estate offices in Idleb governorate exploiting displaced populations by manipulating rents, raising tenancy costs, and controlling the duration of contracts allegedly because of exchange rates.[91] Additionally, some IDP households originally from Eastern Ghouta had been requested to pay 3 months' rent in advance.[92] Overall, the higher rent prices for populations in assessed governorates highlights the shrinking space for households to access shelter at affordable costs.

Figure 38: Average monthly rent (in USD), for resident, IDPs, SR populations, and female-headed households, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



In Idleb governorate and western Aleppo, less than 5% of households had the cost of utilities included in their rent (see Figure 39). Coupled with the high cost of rent, some households in sub-districts where prices have significantly increased may find themselves in worsening economic situations, having to pay for utilities on top of rent. Owing to high levels of insecurity moving elsewhere is often not an option.

Figure 39: Percentage of households whose rent included utilities, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

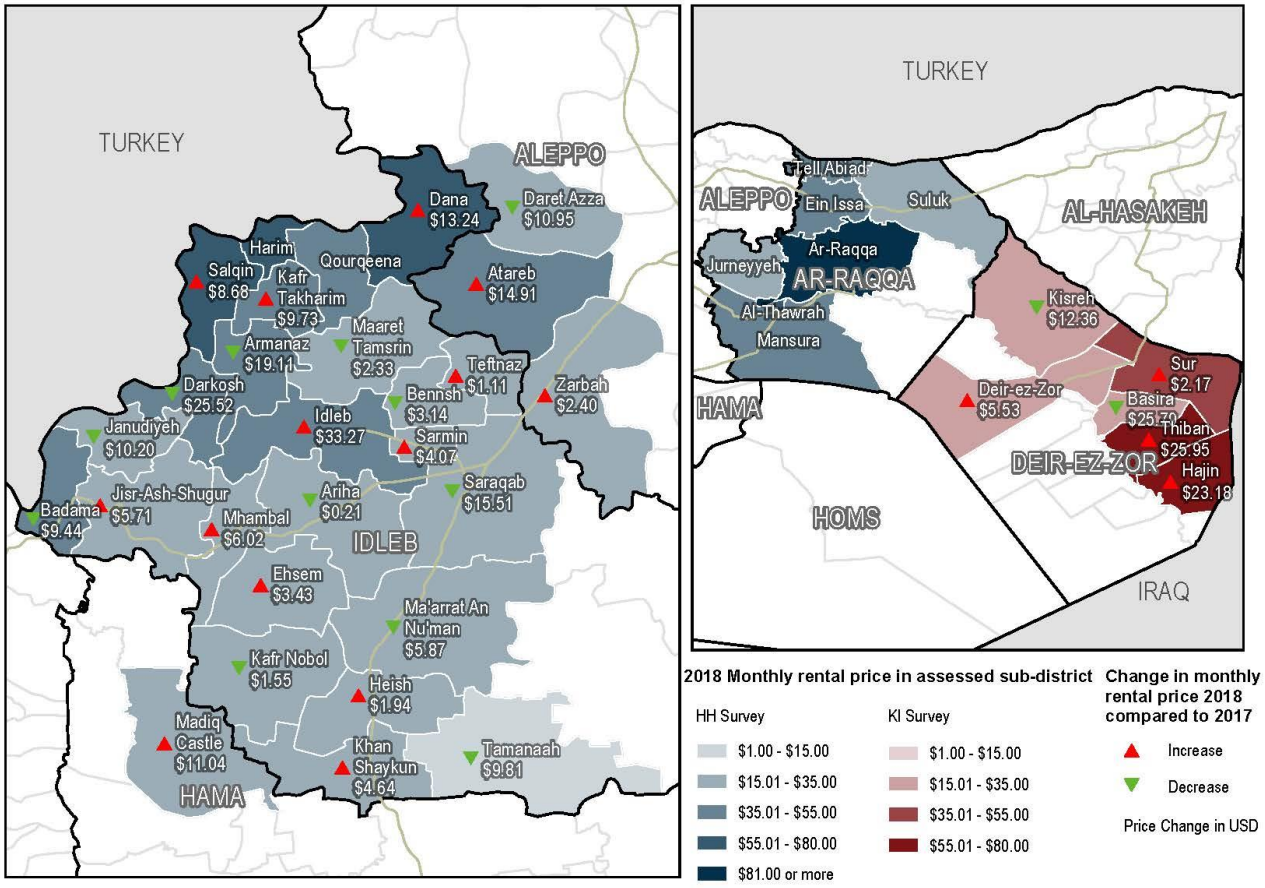


[89] Rent price for Dana sub-district was 31,714 SYP and 30,142 SYP for Salqin sub-district in August 2018.
[90] Converted from SYP using UN operational exchange rate of 434 SYP as of 1 September 2018.
[91] Eqtsad. The Conditions of the Country: Special Reports. Are displaced real estate offices used in Idleb? August 2018. https://www.eqtsad.net/news/article/21074/
[92] Ibid.

2.3.2 Changes in rental price

The assessment found the average monthly rent for households to have increased since July 2017 in assessed areas of most governorates, with the largest increase found in north-west Hama and western Aleppo (see Map 5). Furthermore, 38% of households reported rent prices to have increased in the three months prior to data collection.

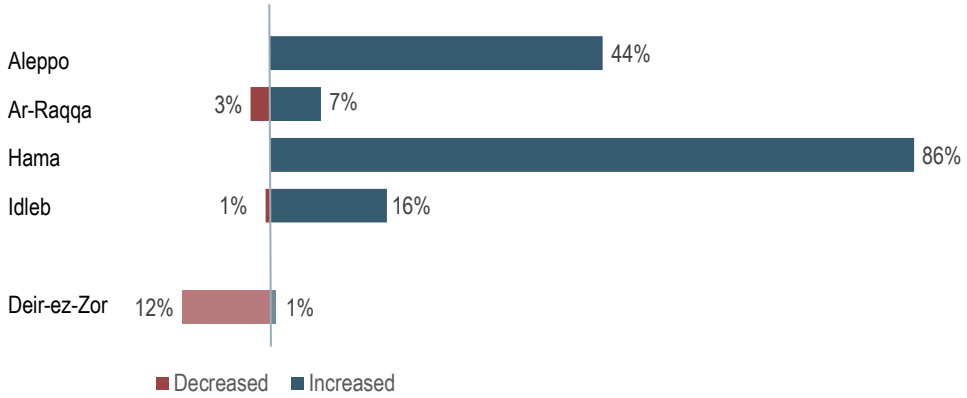
Map 5: Change in average monthly rent (in USD) in July 2017 and August 2018, per governorate[93,94,95,96]



Although average rent prices had increased since July 2017, most households in assessed areas reported prices to have stayed the same in the three months prior to data collection (see Annex 6 – ADA, Renting: Changes in rental price). Overall, less than 3% of households reported that rent had decreased in their communities in the three months prior to data collection. In contrast, SR households (73%) in Idleb governorate reported that their rent prices had increased in the last three months prior to data collection. This further supports reports that some SR and IDP households may have been exploited by landlords or real estate offices to pay higher rent.[97]

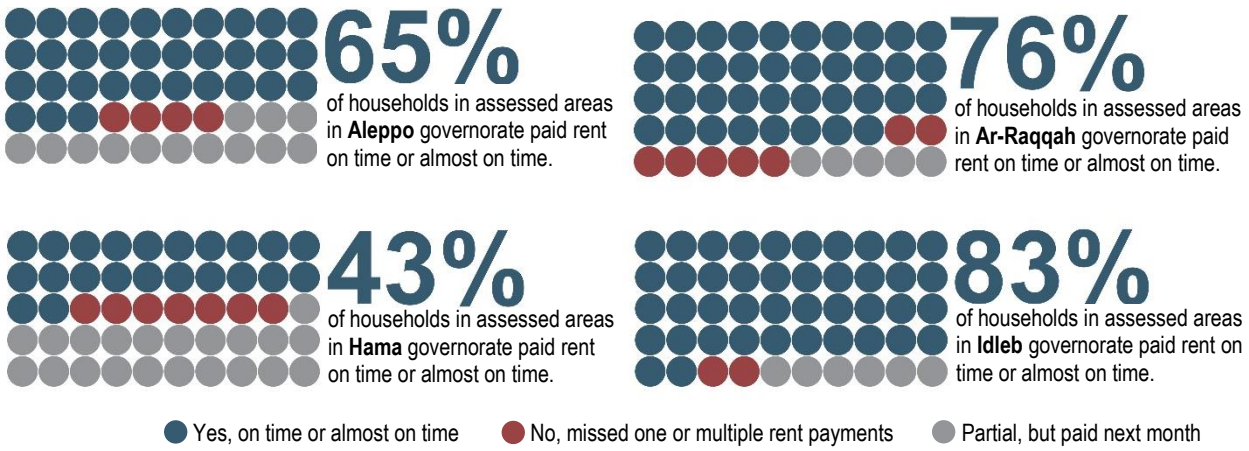
[93] In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, numbers are based on estimations by KIs.
[94] Households and KIs were asked for the average monthly rent over the past three months prior to data collection.
[95] Prices were converted from SYP to USD using the UN Operational Rates of Exchange (514.85 as of December 2017 and 434 as of August 2018. To calculate the change in rent price the 2017 average rent prices per sub-district were adjusted for inflation using the 2017 Consumer Price Index (CPI) (790.50) and forecasted 2018 CPI (998). The actual CPI was not available so forecasted Syrian CPI was taken instead from the Trade Economics – Syrian – Economic Forecasts – 2018 – 2010 Outlook.
[96] Ar-Raqqa governorate has been excluded from the comparison because KI methodology was used in July 2017.
[97] Eqtsad. The Conditions of the Country: Special Reports. Are displaced real estate offices used in Idleb? August 2018. https://www.eqtsad.net/news/article/21074/

Figure 40: Average change in rent in the three months prior to data collection, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[98, 99]



Overall, 71% of all households in assessed areas reported being able to pay their rent on time. Notably, around 96% of SR households in assessed areas reported being able to pay rent on time. Although rent prices in some areas had increased since July 2017, the ability of many households to pay their rent on time may be a result of declining costs of some Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) food and NFIs.[100] In north-west Syria, almost all areas reported decreasing SMEB prices (from May to August 2018), possibly due to food distributions.[101] (see Annex 6 – ADA, Renting: Changes in rental price)

Figure 41: Households ability to cover rent on time, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[102]



KIs believed that most households in assessed communities of Deir-ez-Zor governorate could not afford to pay their rent on time. Overall, ongoing conflict resulting in mass displacement, movement restrictions on certain routes, and general insecurity of the area may be contributing factors.[103]

[98] In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, numbers are based on an estimation by KIs.
[99] Overall, 61% of households in assessed areas in Aleppo (56%), Ar-Raqqa (90%), Hama (14%) and Idleb (83%) governorates reported the price of rent had not changed over the past three months prior to data collection in August 2018. In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, 87% of KIs reported that prices had not changed over the past three months prior to data collection.
[100] REACH. Cash-Based Response Technical Working Group. Syria Market Monitoring (MM) Exercise. Snapshot: 14-21 May 2018 and 16-24 July. http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/search?s=market+monitoring+SYR+may+2018; http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/search?s=market+monitoring+SYR+july+2018+
[101] Ibid.
[102] Partially is defined as a partially missed payment but was able to cover it the next month. Missed a rent payment means the household missed a rent payment and would not be able to cover it in the future.
[103] IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI), Deir-ez-Zor Governorate Situation Overview: Displacement and Intentions. September 2017.

2.4 Housing, land and property (HLP)

2.4.1 Documentation on shelter occupancy status

Around 24% of households in assessed areas reported having some form of housing, land and property (HLP) issue. However, this was even higher among SR households in assessed areas (33%). Overall, the most commonly reported HLP issues were the lack or loss of housing land tenancy or ownership (9%), looting of private property (7%), threat of eviction or harassment by landlord/others (5%), and disputes about rent between landlord and tenant (4%) (see Annex 6 – ADA, Housing, land and property (HLP): Documentation on shelter occupancy status). This aligns with earlier reports of higher rent prices, and the possibility of landlords and real estate authorities exploiting their tenants.[104]

Figure 42: Reported housing, land and property issues, disaggregated by urban/rural location, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys

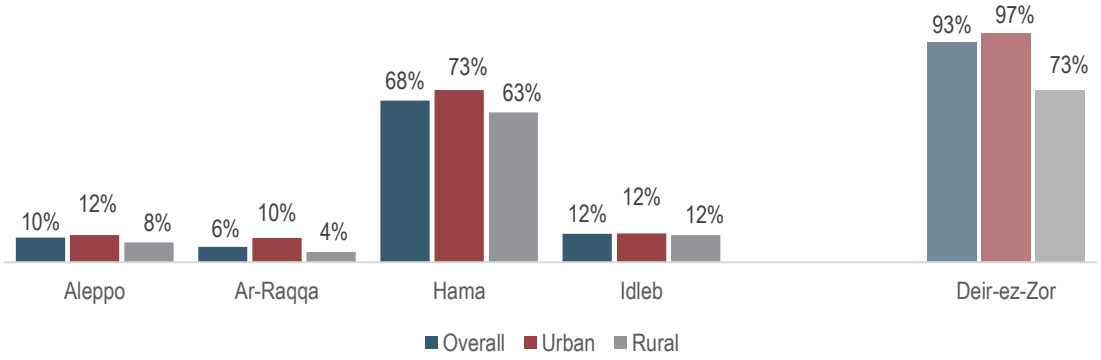
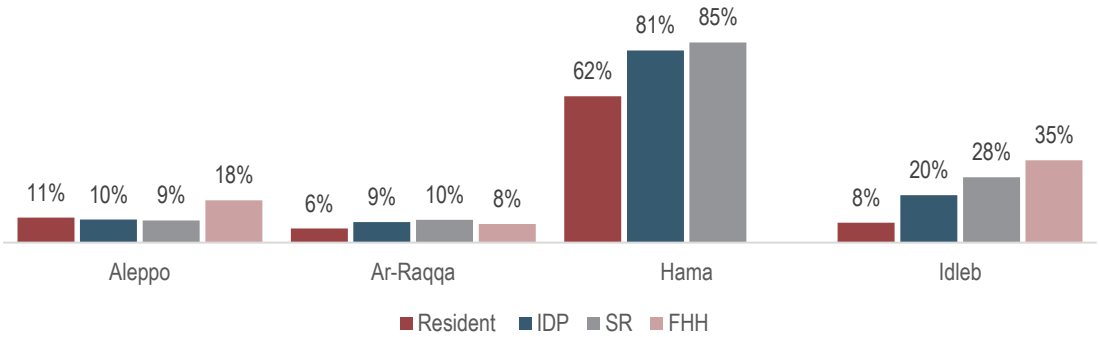


Figure 43: Reported housing, land and property issues, disaggregated by demographic status, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported inheritance issues (90%) and lack or loss of HLP documentation (67%), as primary HLP issues (see Annex 6 – ADA, HLP: Documentation on shelter occupancy status). Overall, these findings align with similar reports from households in assessed areas in Ar-Raqqa governorate, indicating critical levels of HLP issues in north-east Syria.

[104] Eqtsad. The Conditions of the Country: Special Reports. Are displaced real estate offices used in Idleb? August 2018.

Table 6: Reported types of housing, land and property issues, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[105]*

	Disputed ownership	Property is unlawfully occupied by others (secondary occupation)	Disputes about rent between landlord and tenant	Rules and processes on housing and land not clear or changing	Inheritance issues	Lack or loss of housing land tenancy or ownership documents	Looting of private property	Threat of eviction or harassment by landlord/others	No problems	Other
Aleppo	2%	2%	1%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	90%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	2%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	94%	0%
Hama	0%	4%	11%	5%	9%	34%	23%	17%	32%	0%
Idleb	1%	0%	3%	0%	2%	0%	4%	2%	88%	0%
Deir-ez-Zor	66%	25%	2%	0%	26%	0%	3%	90%	0%	0%

Multiple responses were allowed

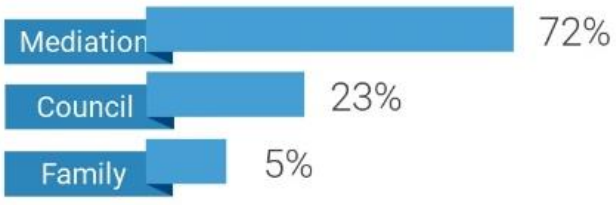
Table 7: Percentage of IDP households reporting types of household land and property issues, per governorate, assessed through household surveys*

	IDP									
	Disputed ownership	Property is unlawfully occupied by others (secondary occupation)	Disputes about rent between landlord and tenant	Rules and processes on housing and land not clear or changing	Inheritance issues	Lack or loss of housing land tenancy or ownership documents	Looting of private property	Threat of eviction or harassment by landlord/others	No problems	Other
Aleppo	2%	2%	2%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	90%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	0%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	91%	0%
Hama	0%	0%	63%	0%	0%	25%	19%	63%	19%	0%
Idleb	0%	0%	9%	1%	0%	1%	2%	10%	80%	1%

Multiple responses were allowed

In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, a significant proportion of KIs (72%) reported that direct mediation was the most effective way to resolve HLP disputes. This is a stark contrast to findings in July 2017 where 65% of KIs reported Sharia courts as the most effective means of settling HLP disputes with only 27% reporting mediation between parties. In addition, KIs estimated that 28% of households in Deir-ez-Zor governorate were unable to access shelter due to lack of documentation or other legal documents.

Figure 44: Most effective means of resolving HLP issues in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys[106]*



*Mediation: Mediation between parties, Council: local council, Family: In the Family

KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate estimated that rental disputes were some of the most challenging HLP issues for Sharia courts to resolve, due to the lack of written or verbal agreements (including the inability of these courts to control rent prices) and criticisms by communities of inconsistencies in their jurisdiction across different regions.[107]

[105] Figures for Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Hama and Idleb governorates represent the proportions of households reporting for each governorate while findings for Deir-ez-Zor governorate represent estimated proportions of the community, as reported by KIs.
[106] This question was only included in the KI survey.
[107] Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Briefing Note: HLP in Syria. May 2016. https://www.nrc.no/resources/reports/syrian/

Overall, HLP issues have in some cases resulted in "increased risks of corruption and facilitation of documents".[108] These challenges likely undermined the credibility and effectiveness of Sharia courts.[109]

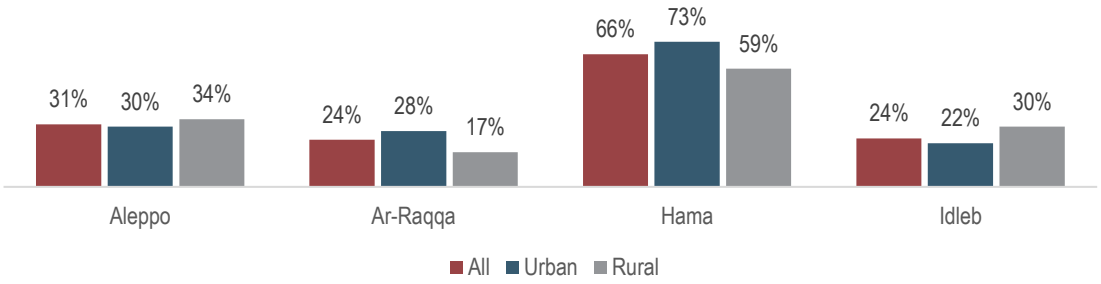
Table 8: Reported reasons for lack of shelter documentation, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[110, 111, 112*]

	Lack of identification documents	Lack of current legal housing documents	Legal system too difficult to navigate	Lack of security clearance	Lack of connections	Not sure	Other
Aleppo	63%	0%	37%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	17%	0%	0%	83%	0%	0%	0%
Idleb	20%	25%	34%	0%	4%	4%	17%
Deir-ez-Zor	48%	61%	6%	0%	68%	0%	0%

**The total for Deir-ez-Zor is above 100% because multiple choices could be selected*

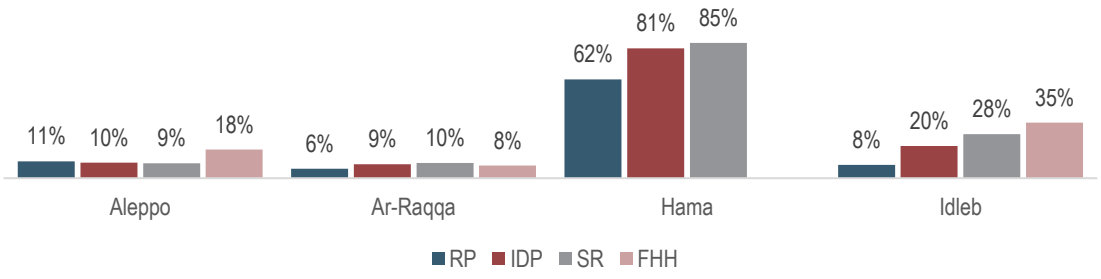
Of the households in assessed areas reporting to own their shelter, the percentage of households reporting being without legal shelter documentation decreased in Idleb governorate, from 40% in July 2017 to 24% in August 2018, with a notable drop in the percentage of IDP households reporting this issue (66% in July 2017 to 37% in August 2018).

Figure 45: Percentage of households without legal shelter documentation proving current ownership, among households owning their shelter, disaggregated by urban/rural location, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



IDP households and female-headed households were the least likely to have shelter documentation among all demographic groups.[113] The lack or loss of civil documentation and/or property-related documentation is reported to have major implications for widows and separated/divorced women and girls, particularly in terms of vulnerability to protection risks.[114]

Figure 46: Percentage of households without legal shelter documentation proving current ownership, (out of households owning their shelter), disaggregated by demographic status, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

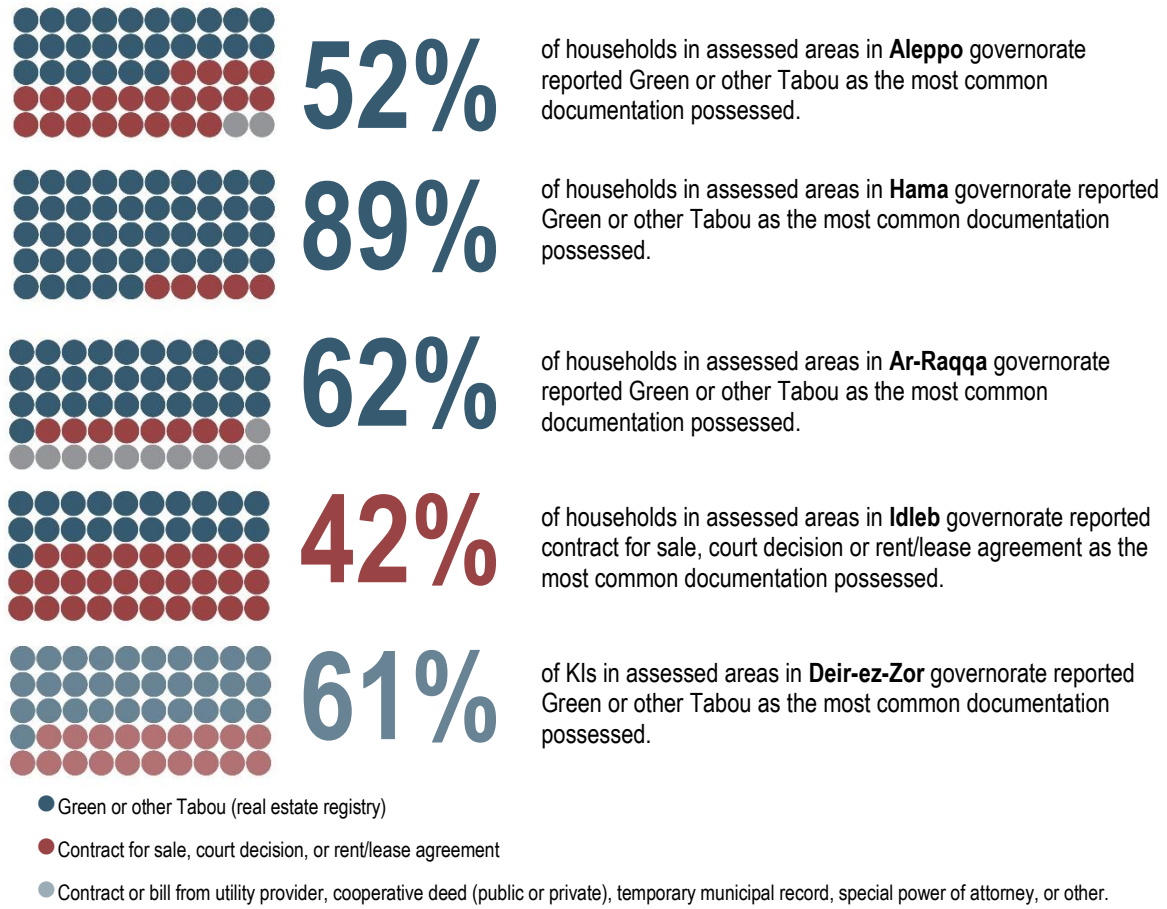


[108] Ibid.
[109] Ibid.
[110] Figures for Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Idleb governorates represent the proportions of households reporting for each governorate while findings for Deir-ez-Zor governorate represent estimated proportions of the community, as reported by KIs.
[111] Hama was excluded due to no responses from households in assessed areas.
[112] For Deir-ez-Zor, KI survey allowed for multiple responses.
[113] Findings for female-headed households are to be considered indicative rather than representative.
[114] HNO-Syria: Protection. Whole of Syria: 2018 Protection needs overview. October 2017.

2.4.2 Shelter documentation

Similar to findings in July 2017, formal real estate registry documents were the most commonly possessed type of shelter documentation in assessed areas, although to a lesser extent in western Aleppo and Idleb governorate. In assessed areas of these governorates, buyer-seller contract agreements, court contracts, rent/lease agreements and temporary municipality records made up a large proportion of the shelter documentation that households reported possessing (see Annex 6 – ADA, HLP: Documentation on shelter occupancy status).

Figure 47: Most common types of shelter documentation possessed by households, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys



**For a breakdown of the most common types of shelter documentation possessed by households see Annex 6 - ADA, HLP: Shelter documentation.*

Table 9: Most common types of shelter documentation possessed by IDP households, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	IDP										
	Formal sales contract	Contract or bill from utility provider	Cooperative deed	Court decision	Green or other Tabou	Not sure	Other	Prefer not to say	Rent/lease agreement	Special power of attorney	Temporary municipal record
Aleppo	6%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	89%	0%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	0%	0%	0%	0%	24%	0%	3%	0%	69%	0%	4%
Hama	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Idleb	5%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	93%	1%	1%

Figure 48: Percentage of KIs estimating land registries to be functional/non-functional in Deir-ez-Zor governorate

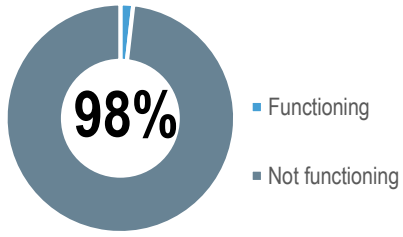


Table 10: Most common reasons for non-functional land registries in Deir-ez-Zor governorate (percentage of KIs estimating), assessed through KI surveys*

	Land registry office is destroyed	Land registry office is damaged	Lack of staff for office	Lack of appropriate authority to run the land registry
Overall	5%	10%	29%	98%
Urban	0%	100%	18%	100%
Rural	11%	22%	43%	95%

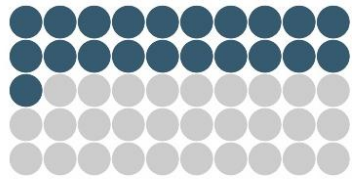
*Multiple responses were allowed

Only 2% of KIs reported land registries to be functioning in their communities, a small increase (+2%) compared to July 2017. The most common reasons reported were similar to reports in 2017.

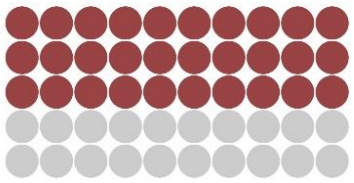
Among households that reported reasons why they did not have legal documentation, the most common issues included: the landlord did not agree to a formalised contract (26%), lack of civil documentation to obtain necessary occupancy documents (22%), and the documents being in someone else's name (21%) (see Annex 6 – ADA, HLP: Shelter documentation). Documents being in someone else's name may likely be a consequence of displacement, with households having to separate during the crisis or household members passing away.

Notably, over half (54%) of the IDP households reported that their landlords did not agree to a contract, further supporting reports of IDP households facing more issues with landlords, compared to non-IDP households.

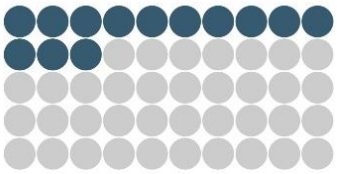
Figure 49: Most common reasons why households did not have legal documentation, among those without documentation, per governorate, assessed through household survey*



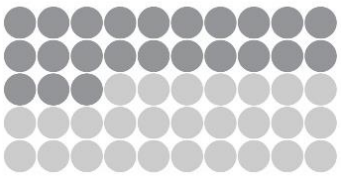
41% of households in assessed areas in **Aleppo** governorate reported their landlord did not agree to a formalised contract.



59% of households in assessed areas in **Hama** governorate reported lacking documents to obtain necessary documents



25% of households in assessed areas in **Ar-Raqqa** reported their landlord did not agree to a formalised contract.



45% of households in assessed areas in **Idleb** governorate reported that they did not know the procedure/how to obtain documentation as the reason they did not have legal documentation.

For a breakdown of all the most common reasons why households did not have legal documentation see Annex 6 - ADA, HLP: Shelter documentation.

Table 11: Most common reasons why IDP households did not have legal documentation, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	IDP									
	Could not afford to pay fees	Did not know the procedures to obtain it	It is in the name of someone else	Lack of civil documentation to obtain documents	Landlord did not agree to formalise contract	Lost/ damaged	Not sure/ Don't know	Other	Prefer not to say	The owner is deceased, and the legal documentation has not been updated
Aleppo	7%	5%	5%	5%	57%	1%	7%	10%	0%	3%
Ar-Raqqa	0%	4%	15%	8%	40%	1%	9%	21%	2%	0%
Hama	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Idleb	0%	3%	37%	4%	21%	1%	9%	16%	7%	2%

Around 40% of IDP households who owned property in their areas of origin reported that they did not have documentation to prove their ownership. Notably, in Idleb governorate, the percentage of IDP households reportedly being in possession of legal documentation for their property at place of origin had decreased by 11% between July 2017 and August 2018. This indicates that many IDP households lack documentation proving ownership of their current shelter (37%) and shelter in place of origin (40%). Overall, this suggests that IDPs currently residing in these governorates likely face substantial HLP issues both in their current place of residence as well as in their place of origin, should they return.

Figure 50: Percentage of IDPs reporting having legal documentation to prove ownership of property at place of origin, among IDP households reporting owning property at their place of origin, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

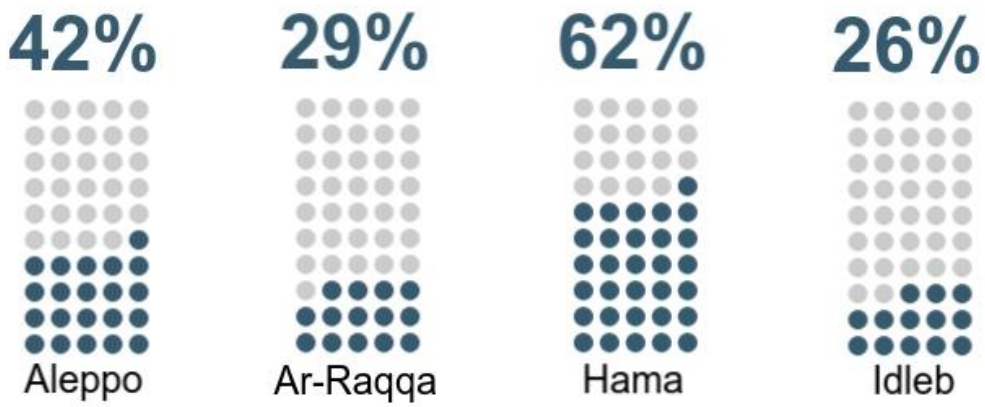


Figure 51: Most common types of shelter documentation possessed by IDP households to prove ownership of property at place of origin, of IDP households having legal documentation proving ownership, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

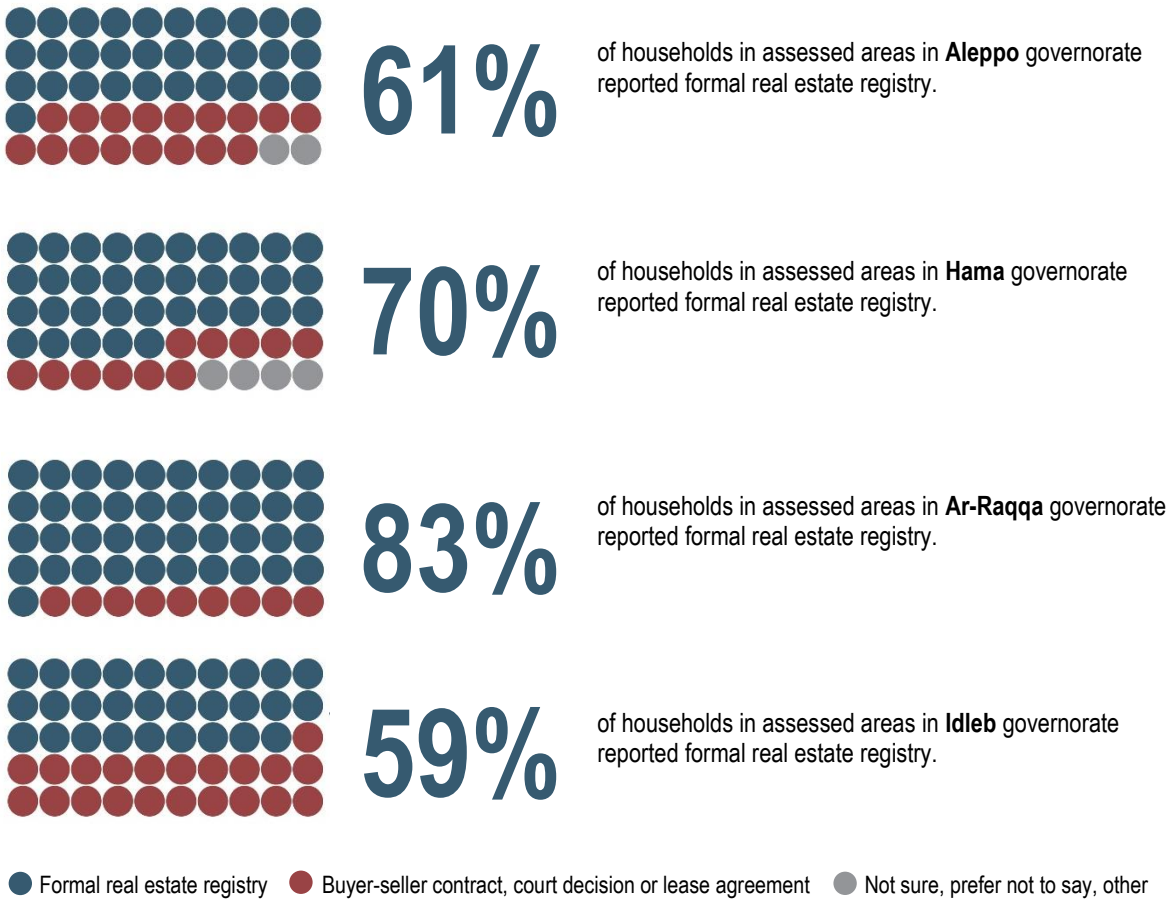


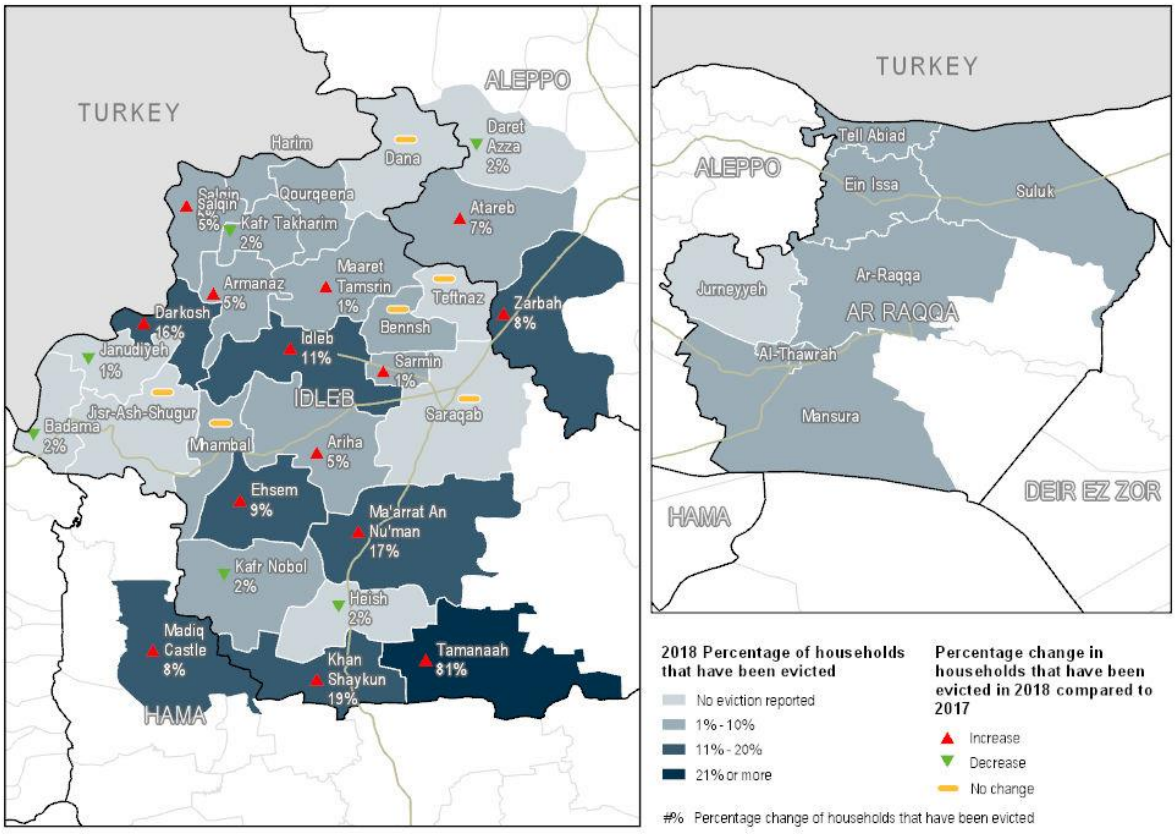
Table 12: Reasons for households not possessing legal documentation to prove ownership of property at place of origin, among households reporting not having legal documentation, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Could not afford to pay fees	Did not know the procedures/ how to obtain it	It is in the name of someone else	Lack of civil documentation to obtain the necessary occupancy documents	Landlord did not agree to formalise a contract	Lost/ damaged	The owner is deceased, and legal documentation has not been able to be updated	Not sure/Don't know	Other	Prefer not to say
Aleppo	3%	3%	6%	5%	42%	20%	8%	3%	7%	3%
Ar-Raqqa	5%	0%	13%	13%	25%	8%	2%	9%	16%	9%
Hama	0%	0%	0%	59%	26%	12%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Idleb	0%	2%	45%	9%	10%	7%	11%	5%	8%	3%

2.4.3 Evictions

The frequency of IDP household evictions in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Hama and Idleb governorates should be understood in line with the greater livelihood challenges that this demographic group faces. For instance, the most common shelter type agreements reported by displaced populations were renting or being hosted without rent (see Annex 6 – ADA, Shelter types and occupancy: shelter occupancy arrangements), making them more susceptible to exploitation by landlords or real estate authorities.[115] Correspondingly, the most common reasons for eviction as reported by IDP households across all governorates, excluding Deir-ez-Zor governorate were found to be due to disputes over rent prices, families of landlords returning to reclaim shelters, and requests by authorities to vacate shelters (see Table 13). Additionally, a considerable number (14%) of IDP households reported other reasons for being evicted which included: ongoing clashes, shelling, and airstrikes, forced displacement, and a general lack of security in their communities (see Annex 6 – ADA, HLP: Evictions).

Map 6: Map of sub-districts by percentage of households that have been evicted between July 2017 and August 2018 and change in reported percentage of evictions, for all governorates, assessed through household surveys[116]



[115] Eqtsad. The Conditions of the Country: Special Reports. Are displaced real estate offices used in Idleb? August 2018.
[116] No trends analysis was made for Ar-Raqqa governorate due to the difference in methodologies used for data collection in 2018 compared to 2017.

Figure 52: Percentage of households that have been evicted between July 2017 and August 2018, disaggregated by urban/rural location, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

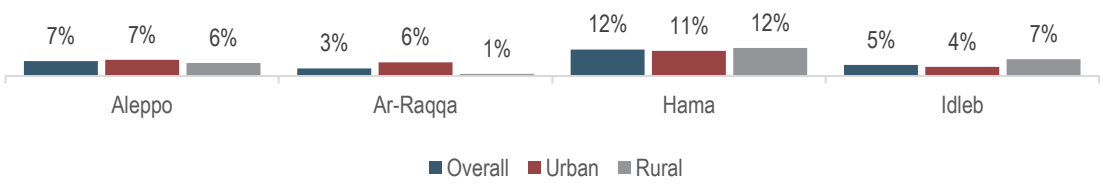
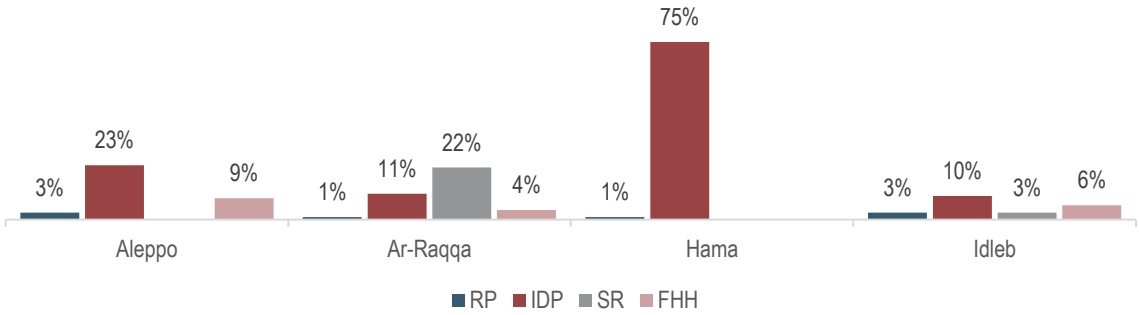
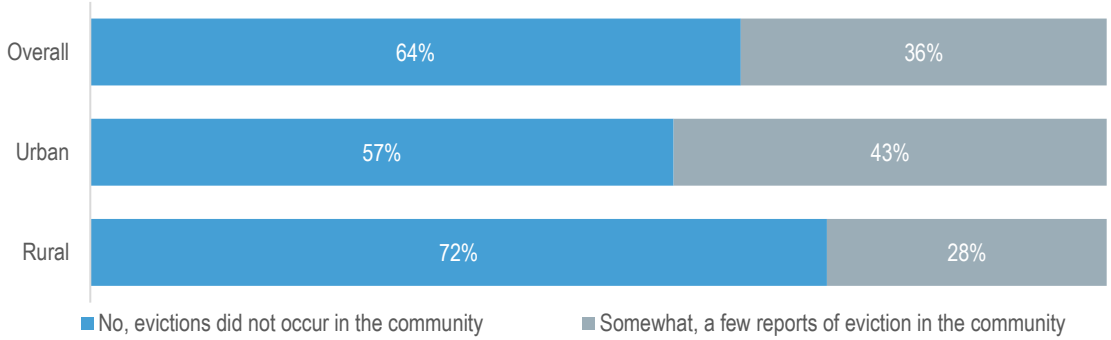


Figure 53: Percentage of households that have been evicted between July 2017 and August 2018, disaggregated by demographic status, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



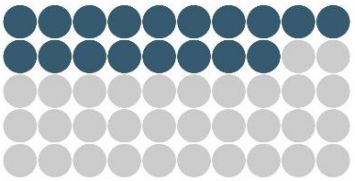
The estimated number of communities reported by KIs where evictions occurred in Deir-ez-Zor governorate had decreased over the past year (from 65% to 36%). However, no KIs reported that evictions commonly occur in their communities. These findings could be explained by the changes in local municipality since ISIL-control diminished, which may have resulted in less evictions.[117] (See Annex 6 – ADA, HLP: Evictions).

Figure 54: Proportion of communities estimated to have faced evictions in Deir-ez-Zor governorate over the last year, assessed through KI surveys

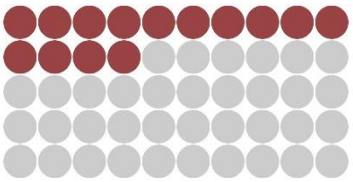


[117] IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI), Displacement Trends. July – September 2017; IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI), Displacement Trends. July – September 2017.

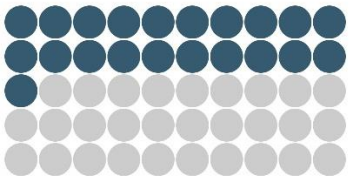
Figure 55: Reasons for evictions, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



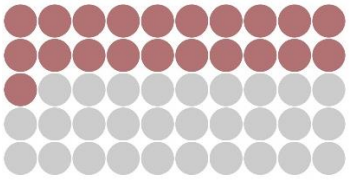
35% of households in assessed areas in **Aleppo** governorate reported disputes over rental price as the reason they were evicted.



28% of households in assessed areas in **Ar-Raqqa** governorate reported the landlord's family returning as the reason they were evicted.



42% of households in assessed areas in **Hama** governorate reported disputes over rental prices as the reason they were evicted.



41% of households in assessed areas in **Idleb** governorate reported shelling/airstrikes, clashes, forced displacement and a general lack of security as the reason they were evicted.

**For a breakdown of all the most common reasons for evictions see Annex 6 – ADA, HLP: Evictions.*

Table 13: Reasons for evictions of IDP households, among IDP households reporting being evicted, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Dispute about ownership	Dispute with host family	Disputes about rental price	Evicted to give shelter to another HH paying rent or higher rent	Landlords family returned and reclaimed the shelter	Rent-related disagreements with landlord	Requested by the authorities to vacate a collective shelter	Unable to pay rent	Personal non-rental related dispute with landlord	Other
Aleppo	0%	0%	42%	11%	0%	0%	21%	4%	0%	22%
Ar-Raqqa	0%	8%	0%	0%	31%	0%	23%	6%	0%	32%
Hama	0%	0%	42%	8%	33%	9%	8%	0%	0%	0%
Idleb	0%	6%	19%	7%	25%	10%	12%	10%	0%	11%

Table 14: Reasons for evictions in communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys*

	Dispute about ownership	Dispute with host family	Dispute about rental price	Evicted to give shelter to another HH paying rent or higher rent	Landlords family returned and reclaimed the shelter	Rent related disagreements with landlord	Requested by the authorities to vacate a collective shelter	Unable to pay rent	Personal non-rental related dispute with landlord	Other
Overall	0%	85%	43%	3%	100%	43%	0%	26%	6%	0%
Urban	0%	83%	46%	0%	100%	47%	0%	40%	0%	0%
Rural	0%	90%	36%	10%	100%	36%	0%	0%	17%	0%

Multiple responses were allowed

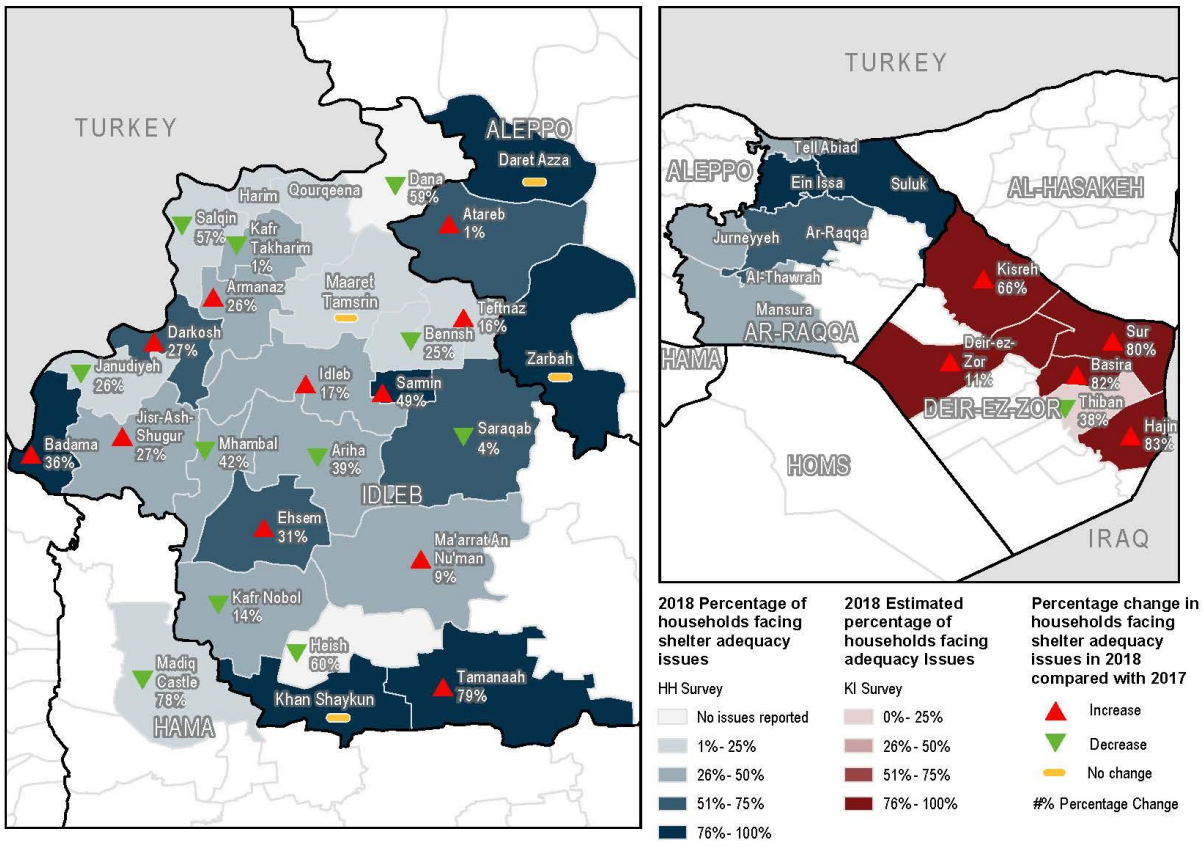
2.5 Shelter adequacy and damage

2.5.1 Adequacy

The proportion of households reporting shelter adequacy issues in Idleb governorate fell between July 2017 and August 2018 (from 43% to 26%). Within this governorate, households in assessed sub-districts bordering Turkey and those further away from conflict lines reported experiencing fewer adequacy issues compared to surrounding areas (see Map 7). Overall, these findings showed a decline in the occurrence of some shelter adequacy issues since July 2017 in some sub-districts. Notably, these sub-districts are also near the Bab al-Hawa border crossing between Syria and Turkey in Dana sub-district and have not experienced as much shelling as other sub-districts. In contrast, shelter adequacy issues were much higher and had increased in central and southern Idleb and western Aleppo areas directly in or along conflict zones (see Map 7).

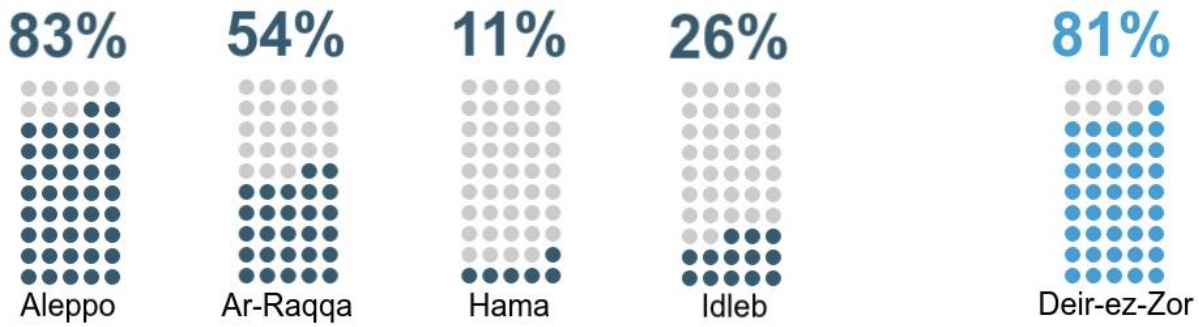
In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, KIs estimated shelter adequacy issues in communities to have increased from 55% in July 2017 to 81% in August 2018. This may be a result of the ongoing clashes, shelling, and airstrikes which may have added issues (e.g. damage to shelters) and made it difficult for households or aid actors to rehabilitate shelters.

Map 7: Map of sub-districts by percentage of households facing shelter adequacy issues, and comparison with July 2017 findings[118,119]



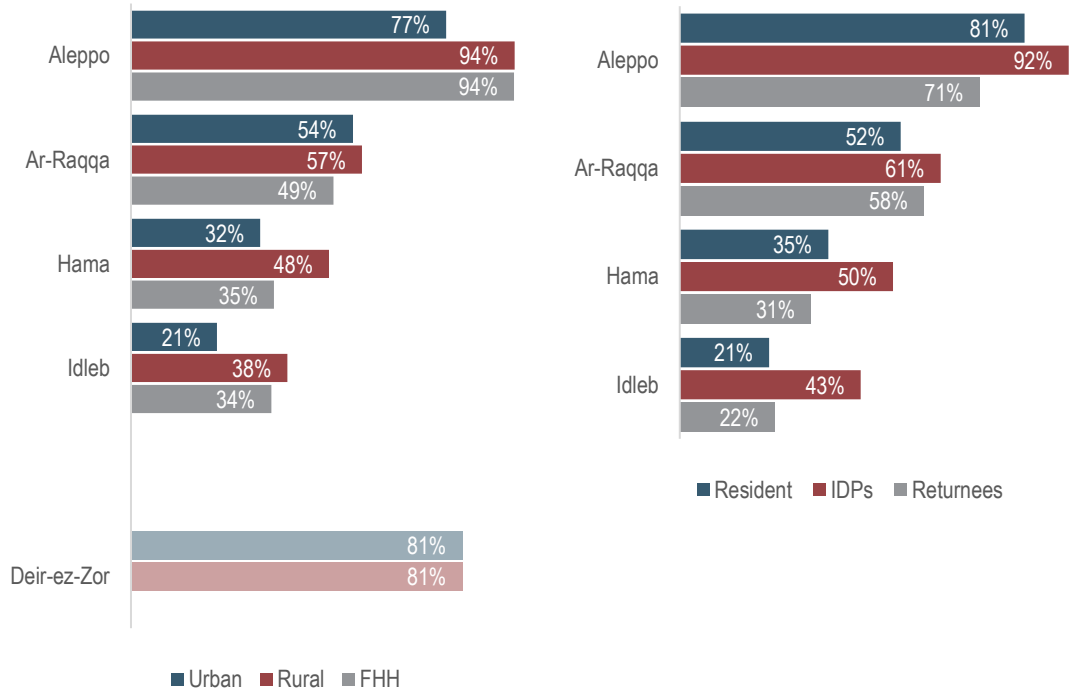
[118] Deir-ez-Zor governorate, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[119] No trends analysis was made for Ar-Raqqa governorate due to the difference in methodologies used for data collection in 2018 compared to 2017.

Figure 56: Percentage of households that faced shelter adequacy issues, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[120]



Across all governorates where household surveys were conducted, women, followed by children, were found to be most affected by shelter adequacy issues out of all population groups (see Annex 6 – ADA, Shelter occupancy and damage: Adequacy). The ongoing conflict has increased vulnerabilities of populations in Syria and has exposed the most vulnerable to issues related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), exposure to the elements, and lack of protection and security.[121] While some areas of western Aleppo and Idleb governorate opened humanitarian corridors in 2017, the emergence of additional armed opposition groups (AOGs) and inter and intra-AOG fighting, particularly in neighbouring Idleb governorate, presented new challenges in reaching vulnerable populations, in particular children.[122] This was further exacerbated by the large number of households fleeing the escalation of violence in southern Idleb and north-west Hama at the end of 2017.[123]

Figure 57: Percentage of households that faced shelter adequacy issues, disaggregated by urban/rural location and demographic status per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[124]



[120] Deir-ez-Zor governorate, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[121] Reports from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have stated that inadequate shelters have generated considerable humanitarian needs within both displaced and other vulnerable communities. UNICEF. Syria Crisis: 2017 Humanitarian Results.
[122] Ibid.
[123] Ibid.
[124] Deir-ez-Zor governorate, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Table 15: Proportion of households reporting shelter adequacy issues, per governorate, assessed through household surveys, and proportion of communities reporting shelter adequacy issues, assessed through KI surveys[125]*

	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Hama	Idleb	Deir-ez-Zor
Lack of bathing facilities	32%	34%	1%	4%	0%
Bathing facilities are too far	12%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Bathing facilities unsafe	21%	1%	0%	0%	7%
Lack of safety on the way to bathing facility	10%	0%	0%	0%	7%
Lack of access to cooking facilities	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Lack of safe drinking water	22%	1%	0%	3%	0%
Lack of safe access to safe drinking water	0%	0%	0%	0%	52%
Lack of toilets	27%	13%	0%	2%	17%
Toilets are too far	14%	4%	0%	1%	0%
Toilets are unsafe	24%	1%	0%	1%	7%
Lack of safety on the way to toilets	3%	1%	0%	0%	7%
Lack of heating	57%	6%	0%	11%	28%
Lack of insulation from cold	25%	12%	6%	7%	34%
Lack of lighting inside shelter	7%	7%	0%	3%	55%
Lack of lighting around shelter	23%	12%	0%	5%	46%
Lack of privacy inside shelter (no partition, no doors)	6%	10%	8%	5%	0%
Lack of space inside shelter (min 21m^2 per HH)	6%	15%	3%	8%	0%
Limited ventilation (less than 0.5m^2 ventilation in each room including kitchen)	3%	1%	0%	2%	0%
Unable to lock securely	19%	21%	0%	4%	3%
Other	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%

Multiple responses were allowed

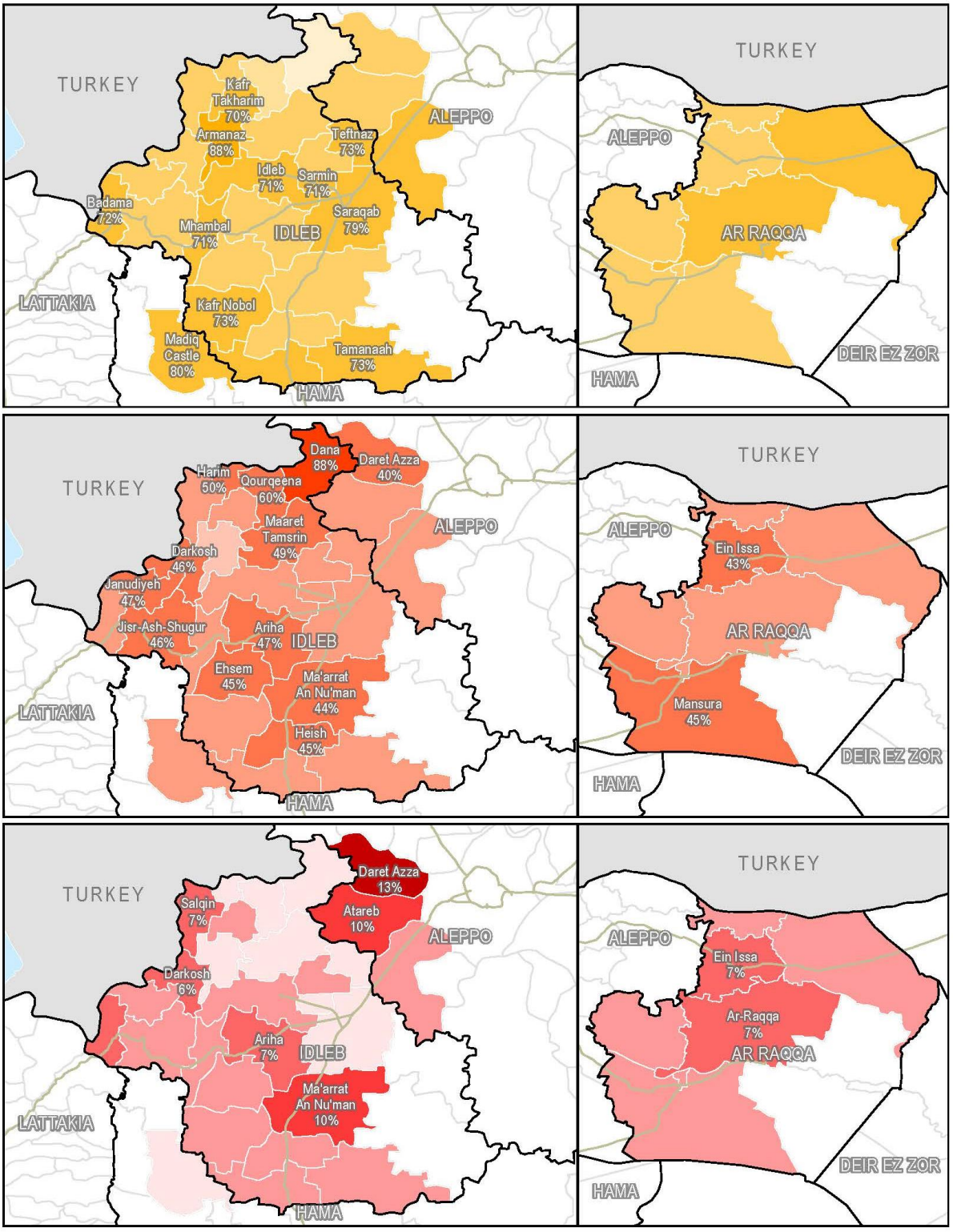
In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, KIs estimated lack of lighting inside (55%) and outside (45%) shelters, lack of safe access to drinking water (52%), and lack of insulation (34%) as major shelter adequacy issues in communities (see Annex 6 – ADA, Shelter occupancy and damage: Adequacy). Similar to findings from household surveys, women and girls were perceived as the most vulnerable to shelter adequacy issues. Overall, the findings show that the lack of heating, lighting, and access to safe drinking water found in July 2017 remain serious shelter adequacy issues.

Issues related to lighting, safety, and far distances to reach adequate bathing or toilet facilities were found to disproportionally impact women and girls, putting them at higher risk of gender-based violence (GBV).[126] For instance, displaced women and girls (especially those living in camps and collective centres) had been found to be at particular risk to GBV, with reports of widowed and divorced women being placed in separate sections of camps as a form of mitigation.[127] Also, women and girls were perceived to be at higher risk of sexual violence, emotional and verbal abuse, forced marriage, and economic violence and exploitation, as a result of having shelter adequacy issues.[128] Overall, WASH, security and protection, and exposure to elements were persistent issues reported in assessed areas.

[125] Deir-ez-Zor governorate numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[126] HNO-Syria: Protection. Whole of Syria: 2018 Protection needs overview. October 2017.
[127] Ibid.
[128] Ibid.

2.5.2 Shelter Damage

Map 8: Map of sub-districts by percentage of households facing shelter damage issues, for governorates assessed through household surveys



2018 Percentage of households living in damaged shelter

Low Shelter Damage

- 1% - 20%
- 21% - 40%
- 41% - 60%
- 61% - 80%
- 81% or more

Moderate Shelter Damage

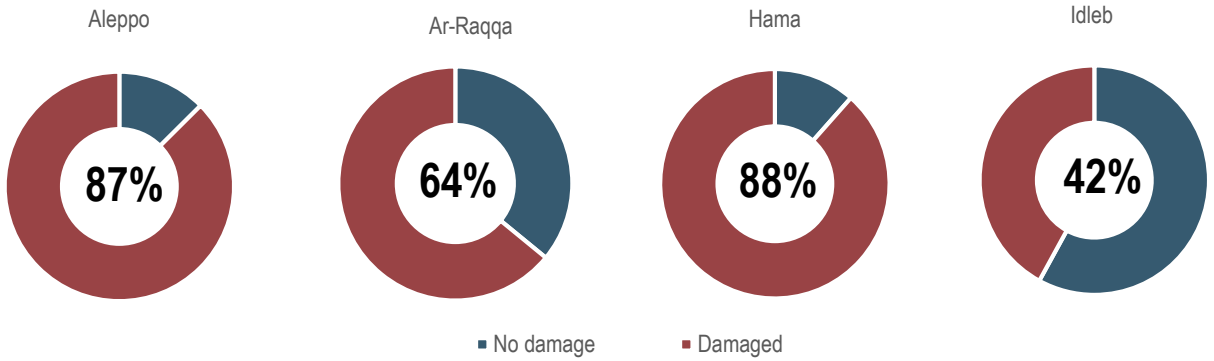
- 1% - 20%
- 21% - 40%
- 41% - 60%
- 61% - 80%
- 81% or more

Severely Damaged Shelter or Destroyed

- No Damage
- 1% - 4%
- 5% - 8%
- 9% - 12%
- 12% or more

#% Percent of respondents reporting severity of shelter damage

Figure 58: Percentage of households living in damaged shelters, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



Over half (55%) of households in assessed areas reported damage to their shelters in August 2018, compared to 58% in December 2016 and 56% in July 2017 (see Annex 6 – ADA, Shelter repair and support: Shelter damage). The small decline in reported damaged shelters over the past two years may have been caused by displacement of IDPs to undamaged homes and ongoing efforts to repair damage to existing shelters. It is estimated that almost 70,000 bombs were dropped in both southern and northern Syria between 2012 and 2017, resulting in the destruction of not only homes, but also hospitals and schools, which have at times been re-purposed as informal shelters.[129] Reports of shelter damages were concentrated in sub-districts in southern and central Idleb and western Aleppo, areas which were directly in or along active conflict zones over the past year (see Map 8). Overall, the percentage of households reporting damaged shelters was lowest in Idleb governorate (42%). However, more households in assessed areas surrounding Idleb governorate (western Aleppo (87%) and north-west Hama (88%)) highlight the reduced geographical area in which households in Idleb governorate can safely reside, leaving them with limited options to move within or outside the governorate, essentially limiting their movements to this area, should an offensive occur in the governorate.[130,131] *For detailed maps of satellite-detected severity of structure damage see Annex 5.*

Table 16: Frequency of specific types of shelter damage, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Low types of shelter damage					Moderate types of shelter damage					Severe types of shelter damage			
	Broken or cracked windows	Doors unable to shut properly	Some cracks in some walls	Damaged floors	Other	Some walls partially collapsed	Large cracks	Opening or cracks in roof	Moderate damage	Doors windows missing	Some walls fully collapsed	Roof partially collapsed	Severe damage	Total collapse
Aleppo	60%	44%	32%	41%	0%	7%	18%	31%	16%	58%	6%	11%	17%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	30%	25%	33%	14%	1%	3%	6%	13%	6%	31%	4%	4%	1%	1%
Hama	85%	0%	48%	13%	0%	0%	2%	10%	2%	23%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Idleb	24%	8%	17%	3%	0%	2%	3%	4%	9%	16%	1%	1%	0%	0%

For a breakdown of the shelter damage by urban and rural areas per governorate see Annex 6 – ADA, Shelter repair and support: Shelter damage.

KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported that *all* assessed communities (100%) had some shelters that had sustained damage, an increase from 50% since December 2016. Of the damages reported in August 2018, most were reportedly low to moderate in severity. Overall, the damages were likely due to the ongoing clashes, shelling, and airstrikes between various groups and ISIL in Deir-ez-Zor governorate.[132]

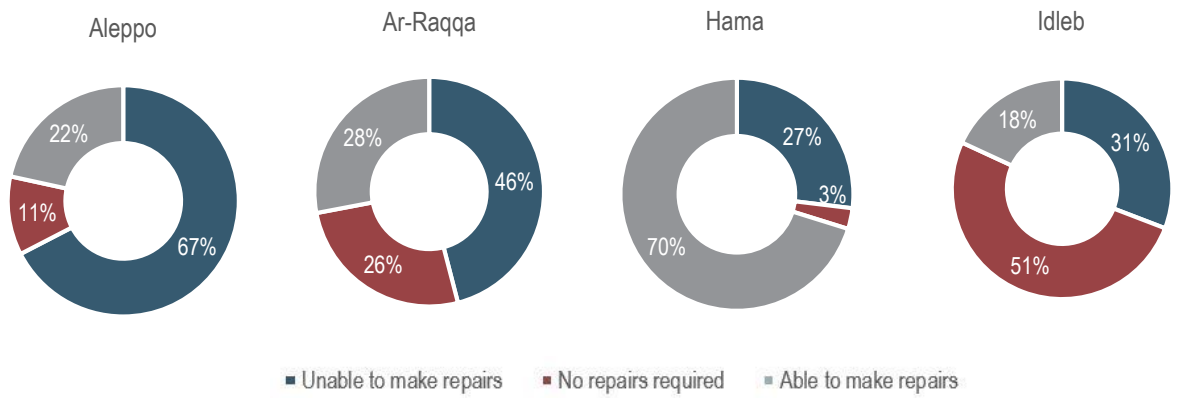
[129] Syria Network for Human Rights.
[130] The Guardian: Middle East. Millions of us are trapped in Idleb facing death. The world must save us. September 2018.
[131] Samuel, Juliet. The Telegraph. There are three million Syrians trapped in Idleb. Where are they going to go? August 2018.
[132] IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI), Displacement Trends. July – September 2017; IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI), Displacement Trends. July – September 2017.

2.6 Shelter repair and support

2.6.1 Ability to make repairs

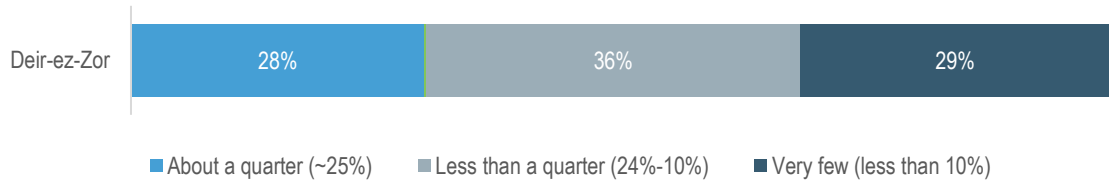
Overall, 38% of households in assessed areas reported being unable to make shelter repairs in the three months prior to data collection. Findings on shelter repairs varied by governorate. Notably, western Aleppo had the highest percentage of households reportedly unable to make shelter repairs (67%). Most households in Atareb (89%) and Zarbah (89%) sub-districts in western Aleppo reported an inability to make repairs in the past three months (see Annex 6 – ADA, Shelter repair and support: Ability to make repairs).

Figure 59: Households reporting ability to make shelter repairs in the three months prior to data collection, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



Furthermore, while Idleb governorate had the lowest percentage of households in assessed areas whose shelters required repairs, a greater number of households in rural areas (20%) in the governorate required repairs compared to shelters in urban areas (14%). The proportion of households in western Aleppo reporting an inability to make shelter repairs increased from 58% in 2017 to 68% in 2018. In particular, 89% of households in Zarbah sub-district in Aleppo governorate reported an inability to repair their shelters, a significant increase from the 11% reported in July 2017.

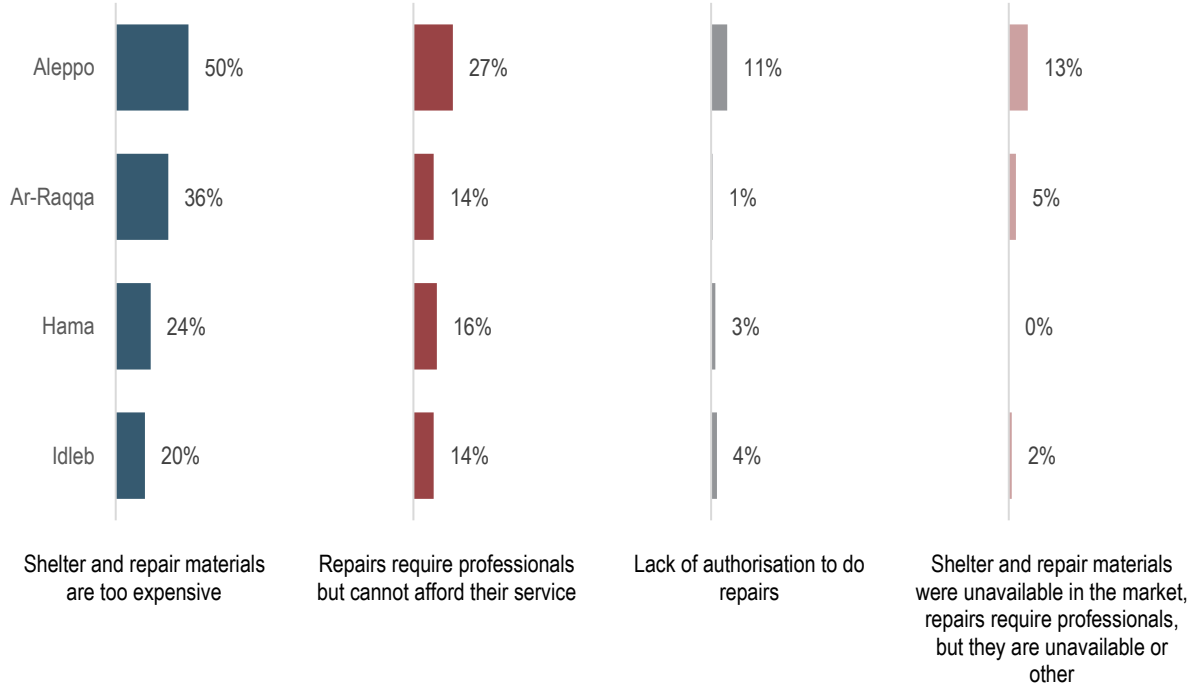
Figure 60: Estimated percentage of households in the community who needed to repair their damaged or unfinished shelter and were unable to do so in the previous three months, by proportion of responses from KIs,[133] assessed through KI surveys[134]



[133] Complete option choices for this question were: 0, Very few (less than 10%), About a quarter (25%), About half (50%), About three quarters (75%), Less than a quarter (10-25%), or Not sure.
[134] The remaining 7% was unknown/not sure.

The two major reasons households in assessed areas could not make repairs across all governorates were the lack of specialised individuals to make repairs, and the cost of materials (see Annex 6 – ADA, Shelter repair and support: Ability to make repairs). Of households in Idleb governorate, the inability to make repairs due to high costs were reported by a larger proportion of households in rural areas (30%) than in urban areas (16%). This corresponds with households in rural areas in Idleb governorate also reporting a higher need for repairs than those in urban in areas. It is also worth noting that from January to November 2017, the Shelter Cluster reported greater need for shelter assistance for beneficiaries in Ar-Raqqa governorate than in western Aleppo and north-west Hama (figures for Idleb governorate were not reported).[135]

Figure 61: Reasons why households were unable to make repairs, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[136]*



****Multiple responses were allowed***

[135] Shelter Monthly: November 2017 Issue No. 13. Shelter Sector, Syria Hub http://www.unhcr.org/sy/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2017/12/201711-Shelter-Monthly-Issue-No.13.pdf
[136] Multiple responses allowed.

2.6.2 Availability of materials

Overall, the ability to find or afford shelter repair supplies has generally decreased across all governorates assessed through household surveys.

Table 17: Percentage of households reporting unaffordable shelter-repair supplies, and estimated percentage of shelter-repair supplies reported unaffordable in assessed communities by KIs, per governorate[137]*

	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Hama	Idleb	Deir-ez-Zor
Basic electrical items	32%	12%	5%	2%	55%
Basic tools	36%	17%	0%	8%	50%
Bricks	28%	11%	0%	5%	36%
Cement	57%	31%	24%	18%	59%
Sand gravel	51%	24%	13%	13%	35%
Doors windows	61%	31%	24%	22%	68%
Cinderblocks	31%	11%	11%	6%	2%
Iron sheeting	26%	6%	23%	5%	77%
Nails screws	22%	0%	0%	3%	3%
Plastic sheeting tarpaulin	9%	0%	0%	10%	1%
Timber	18%	4%	0%	5%	24%
Plywood	9%	2%	0%	1%	3%
Other	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
None	0%	3%	1%	1%	0%
Prefer not to say	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Multiple responses were allowed

For a closer look at top shelter supplies that were reported unaffordable by households, see Annex 6 – ADA, Shelter repair and support: Availability of material.

2.6.3 Support and information for shelter repairs

Overall, 41% of households in assessed areas reported having access to information on how to receive shelter support. Notably, a 52% increase was found in the number of households in north-west Hama that reported not receiving information on shelter support, from 63% in 2017 to 96% in 2018**.** KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported 9% of communities receiving information on shelter support, increasing from 5% in July 2017. Despite this increase, KIs estimated that an overwhelming proportion of communities had not received any information on shelter support (91%). Furthermore, responses from female-headed households in both western Aleppo (25%) and Idleb (30%) governorate showed that these have poorer access to information on shelter support compared to male-headed households (29% in western Aleppo and 48% in Idleb governorate).[138]

[137] For both the Household and KI surveys, responses were ranked based on most common items reported unaffordable. Percentages are indicative of the proportion of households or Key Informants reporting items that households/ the community could not afford.
[138] Findings for female-headed households are to be considered indicative rather than representative.

Figure 62: Percentage of households that received information on how to receive shelter support between July 2017 and August 2018, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

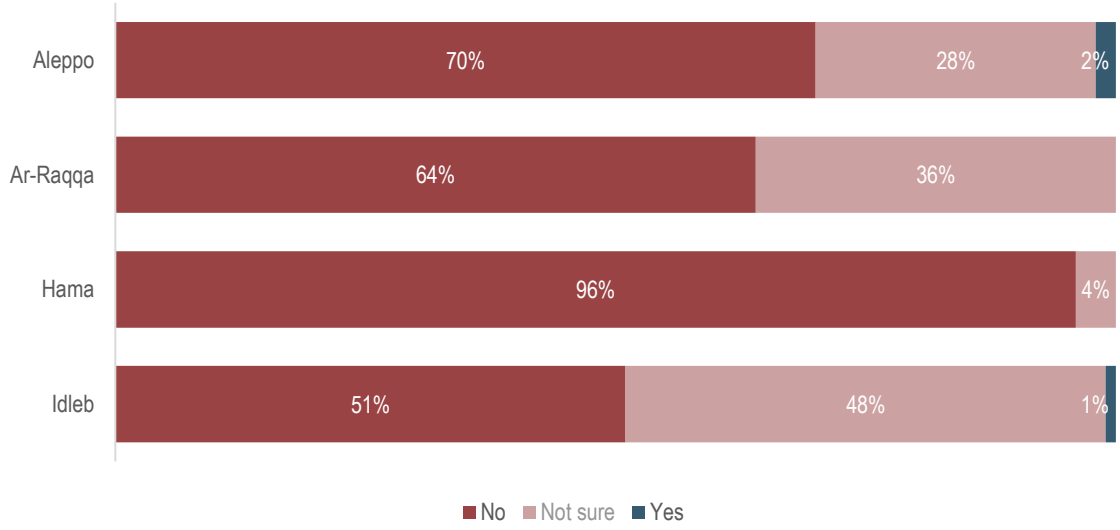


Figure 63: Percentage of communities that received information on how to receive shelter support between July 2017 and August 2018 in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys

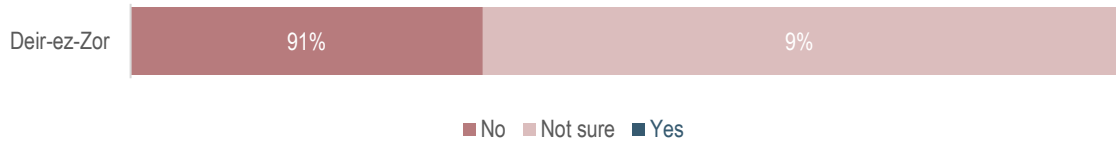


Figure 64: Percentage of rural households that received information on how to receive shelter support between July 2017 and August 2018, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

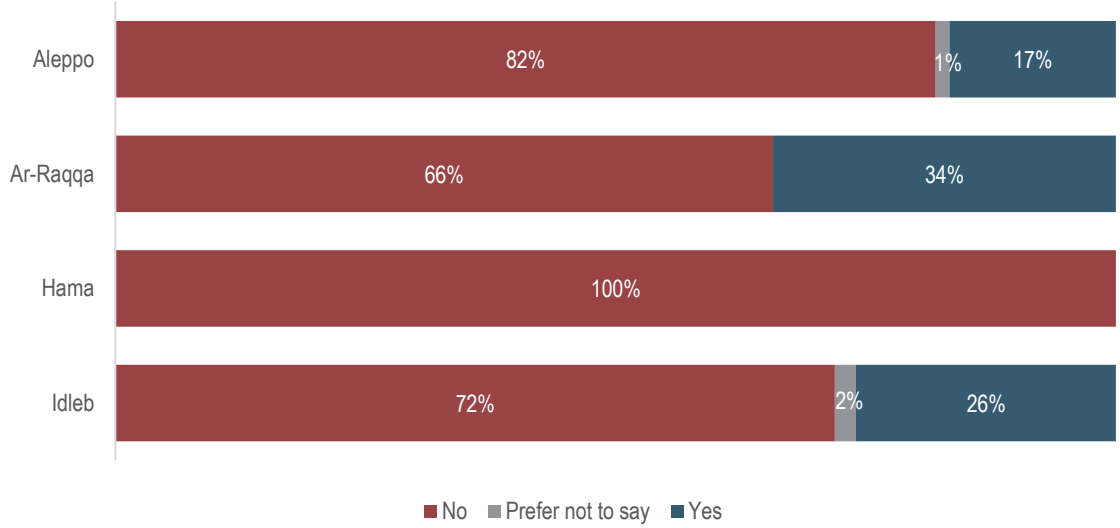
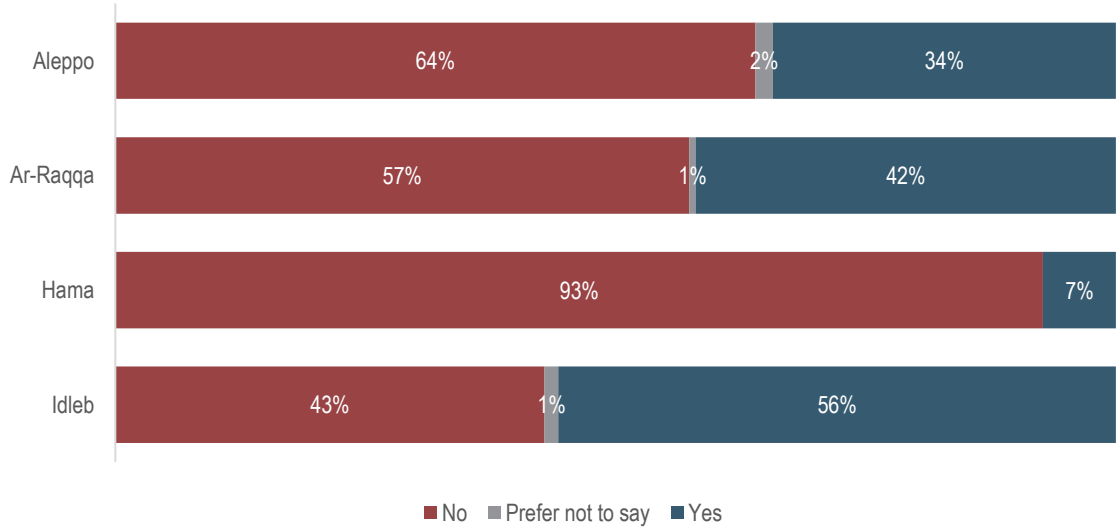


Figure 65: Percentage of urban households that received information on how to receive shelter support between July 2017 and August 2018, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



2.6.4 Sources of information on shelter repair and support

Of households in assessed areas reporting access to information on shelter repair and support, different sources of information were reported across assessed governorates. Overall, there were very few reports of humanitarian organisations sharing information on available repair and support, except for in western Aleppo (32%).

Table 18: Percentage of households that received information on shelter repair and support, by information source, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Approached directly by humanitarian organisation	Community representatives	Friends/relatives	Government office[139]	Media
Aleppo	32%	8%	13%	34%	13%
Ar-Raqqa	5%	66%	27%	3%	0%
Hama	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Idleb	5%	5%	15%	71%	3%

In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, a culture of community support among friends, relatives and community officials was identified for dealing with shelter-related issues, which likely explains findings in Table 19.[140]

Table 19: Estimated percentage of communities that received information on shelter repair and support, by information source in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys

	Approached directly by humanitarian organisation	Community representatives	Friends/relatives	Government office[141]	Media
Deir-ez-Zor	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%

[139] Government office refers to local authorities in the community.
[140] Reported from REACH field teams conducting the assessment.
[141] Government office refers to local authorities in the community.

2.6.5 Modality of shelter repair and support

Overall, households in areas assessed through household surveys primarily preferred to receive shelter repair and support in the form of unconditional cash support (46%). Exceptionally, households in western Aleppo reportedly preferred receiving shelter support in the form of external actors assisting with shelter repairs (43%). In particular, responses from the sub-district of Atareb in Aleppo governorate showed one of the largest increases of all areas assessed in the preference for this type of support, from 5% in 2017 to 45% in 2018.

Table 20: Percentage of households reporting preference for types of shelter support, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	External actor to directly assist with repairs	Shelter repair materials	Unconditional cash support	Other	No preference	Prefer not to say
Aleppo	43%	28%	59%	0%	14%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	14%	7%	74%	0%	12%	0%
Hama	60%	2%	36%	0%	0%	0%
Idleb	24%	19%	35%	0%	35%	1%

Across urban areas in assessed sub-districts of Aleppo governorate, households reportedly preferred receiving unconditional cash support to facilitate shelter repairs (66%), unlike households in rural areas who preferred receiving shelter assistance from external actors (50%).

In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, KIs estimated that 79% of assessed communities preferred shelter repair support through external actors, a notable increase from 2% in July 2017.

Table 21: Estimated percentage of communities preferring type of shelter support, assessed through KI surveys[142]

	External actor to directly assist with repairs NGOs local council	Shelter repair materials	Unconditional cash support	No preference
Deir-ez-Zor	79%	5%	7%	3%

[142] The remaining 6% was unknown/not sure.

2.6.6 Availability of services

Overall, across all assessed areas where household assessments took place, an average of 1% of households reported no services related to water supply (piped/trucking), sanitation systems, schools, medical centres (healthcare), bakeries, sanitation and solid waste management to be available. School services (95%) were on average reported to be the most available, followed by water supply (76%) and sanitation (75%). Notably, north-west Hama (79%), reported the most services to be available followed by western Aleppo (69%), Idleb (63%) and Ar-Raqqa governorates (58%).

Across all governorates, a high percentage of households in assessed areas reported the availability of schools. It is important to note that these findings might be attributed to the fact that this assessment covered accessible areas. Accessible areas are more likely to be targeted for rehabilitation of infrastructures, which might explain the high reported levels of functioning schools across the assessed areas. *For more detailed information on the functionality of schools over a similar coverage area see the 2018 REACH WoS Education Assessment Report.*[143]

Figure 66: Percentage of households in assessed areas with functional services available in their area, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[144]

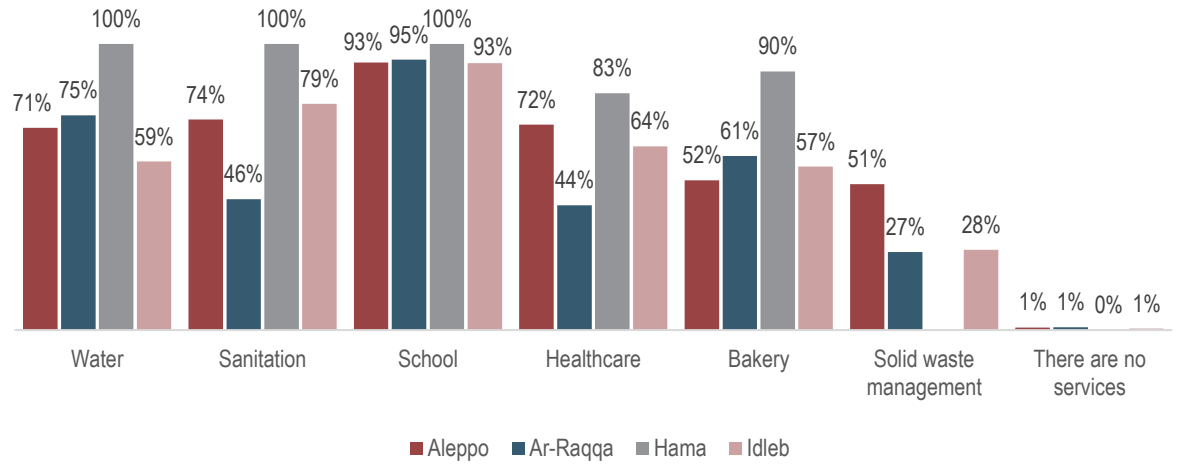
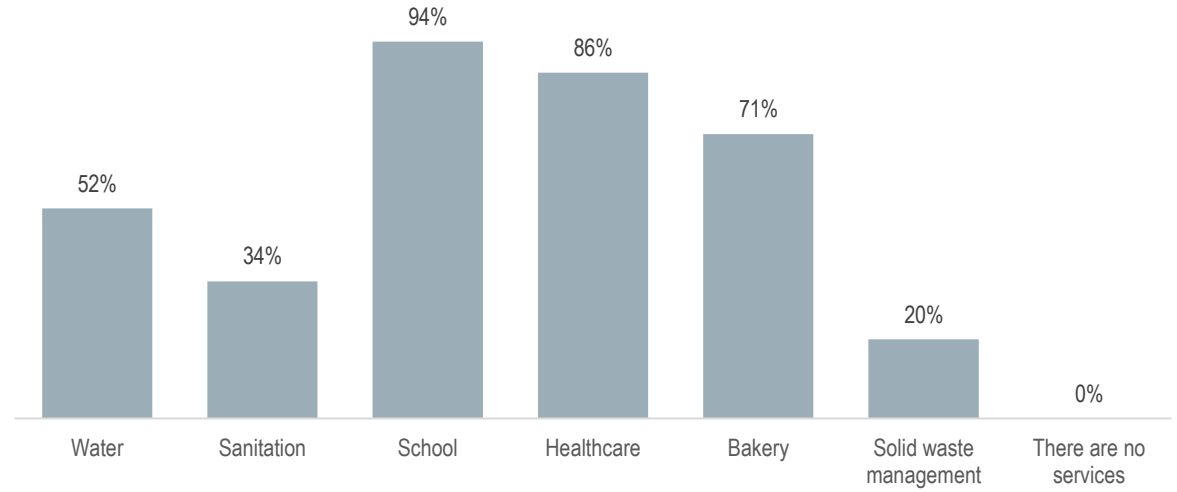


Figure 67: Estimated percentage of assessed communities with availability of services in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys[145]



[143] REACH. WoS Education Assessment Report. June 2018. http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_report_education_needs_assessment_whole_of_syria_june_2018.pdf
[144] Sanitation refers to sewage system and water refers to main water network.
[145] Ibid.

2.6.7 Functionality of services

Of the services that were reported to be available in assessed areas, households and KIs reported on the level at which the services were operating, from functional, sometimes functional to not functional at all. Overall, excluding north-west Hama where no household reported solid waste management to be functional, no less than 50% of households reported the various services to be functioning.

KIs reported that communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate primarily faced a lack of functioning WASH services, such as water supply and solid waste management systems, which may be a result of ongoing clashes and bombardment of civilian infrastructures.

Table 22: Functionality of services, per governorate, assessed through household surveys, and estimated percentage of communities with the below services in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys[146]

	Water[147]		
	Functional	Not Functional	Sometimes Functional
Aleppo	61%	18%	21%
Ar-Raqqa	52%	25%	23%
Hama	82%	4%	14%
Idleb	54%	13%	33%
Deir-ez-Zor	6%	21%	73%

	Healthcare		
	Functional	Not Functional	Sometimes Functional
Aleppo	94%	1%	5%
Ar-Raqqa	86%	14%	0%
Hama	91%	1%	8%
Idleb	96%	1%	3%
Deir-ez-Zor	79%	3%	18%

	Sanitation		
	Functional	Not Functional	Sometimes Functional
Aleppo	97%	1%	2%
Ar-Raqqa	90%	2%	8%
Hama	100%	0%	0%
Idleb	98%	1%	1%
Deir-ez-Zor	67%	3%	30%

	Bakery		
	Functional	Not Functional	Sometimes Functional
Aleppo	85%	11%	4%
Ar-Raqqa	89%	10%	1%
Hama	60%	15%	25%
Idleb	98%	0%	2%
Deir-ez-Zor	88%	0%	12%

	School		
	Functional	Not Functional	Sometimes Functional
Aleppo	100%	0%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	91%	8%	1%
Hama	100%	0%	0%
Idleb	99%	0%	1%
Deir-ez-Zor	72%	4%	24%

	Solid waste management		
	Functional	Not Functional	Sometimes Functional
Aleppo	66%	34%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	93%	0%	7%
Hama	0%	0%	0%
Idleb	78%	1%	21%
Deir-ez-Zor	1%	0%	99%

[146] Deir-ez-Zor governorate numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[147] Water refers to main network water supply.

3. NFIs

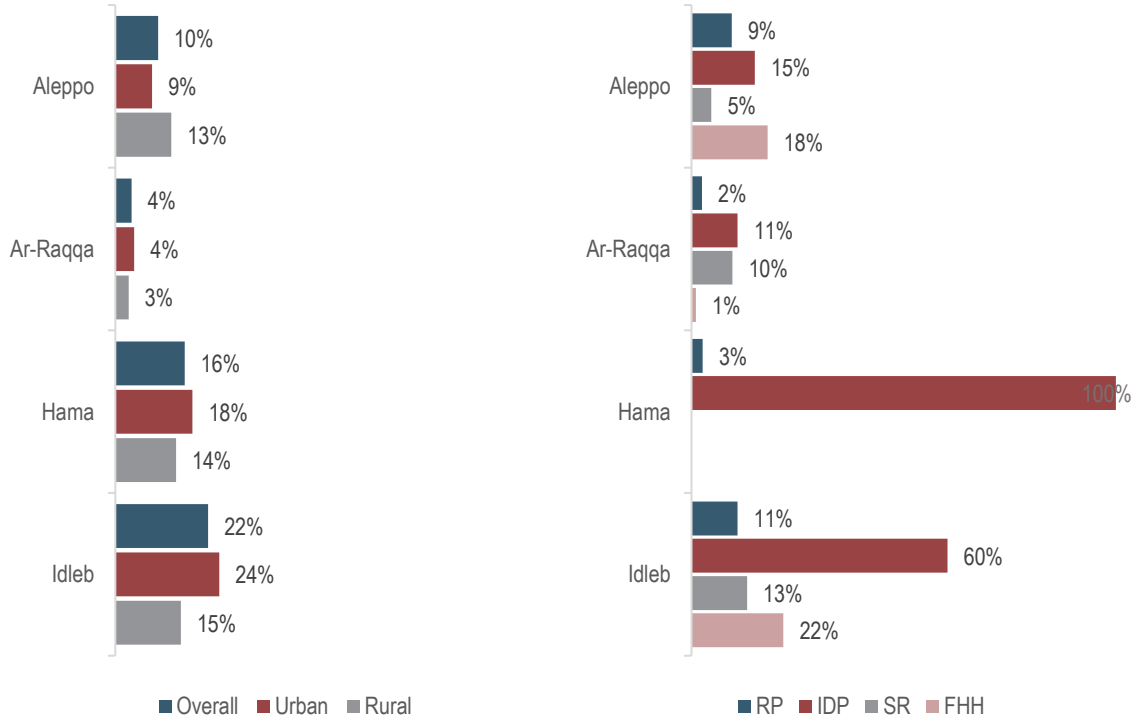
This sub-section outlines assessment findings to answer the research questions - *"What is the current availability and access to NFIs of populations living in Syria"* and *"what are the NFI needs of populations living in Syria?"*

3.1 Access to NFI Support

3.1.1 NFI assistance received

Across all governorates where household surveys were conducted, a small proportion (17%) of households reported receiving NFI assistance. No households in Jurneyyeh, Mansura, and Suluk sub-districts in Ar-Raqqa governorate or in Dana sub-district in Idleb governorate reported NFI assistance to be available. Also, a low percentage of households in rural areas of north-west Hama (14%) and Idleb governorate (15%) reported receiving NFI assistance, compared to households in urban areas (18% and 24% respectively). Notably, 47% of IDP households reportedly received NFI assistance compared to 9% of SR households. Moreover, all IDP households in north-west Hama reported receiving NFI assistance.

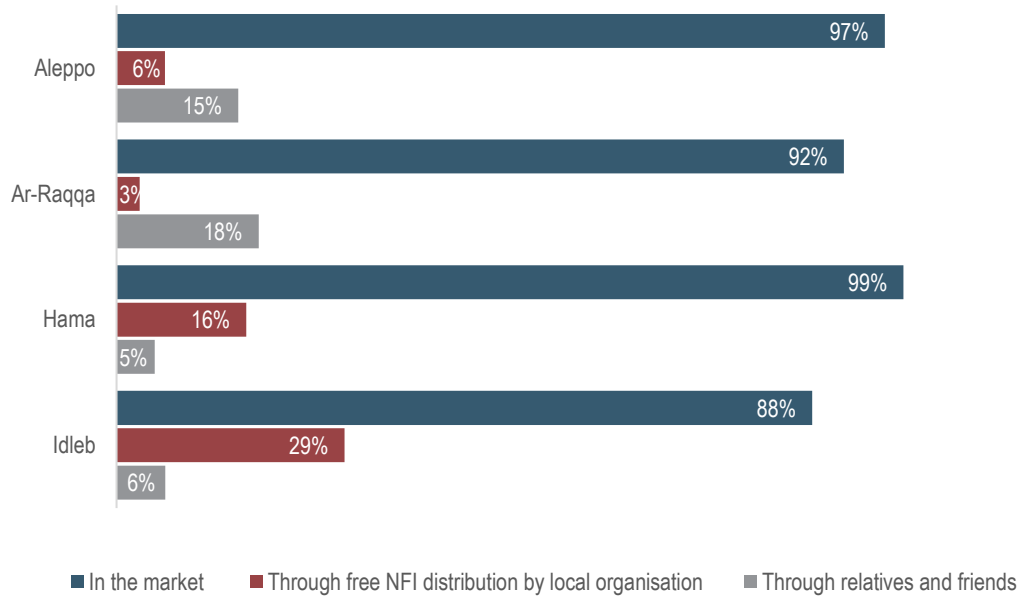
Figure 68: Percentage of households reporting NFI assistance was received, disaggregated by urban/rural location and household demographic, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



3.1.2 Means of accessing NFIs

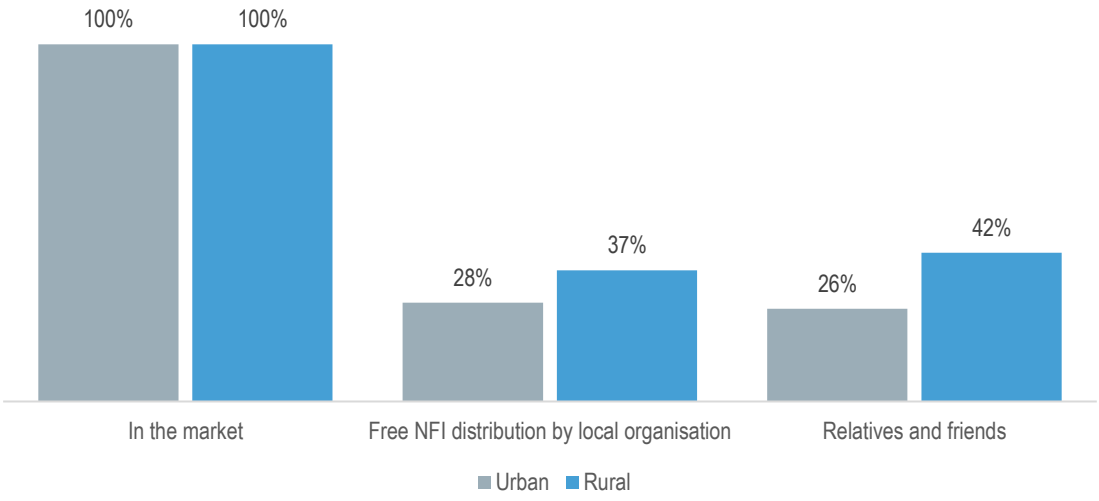
Overall, the majority of households in all governorates reportedly accessed NFIs in the market (94%), followed by free NFI distributions by local organisations (13%) and through relatives and friends (11%).

Figure 69: Percentage of households accessing NFIs through markets, relatives and friends, and distributions, per governorate, assessed through household surveys*



***Multiple responses were allowed*
For a further breakdown of households with access to NFIs, see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to NFI support: Means of accessing NFIs.

Figure 70: Estimated percentage of households in communities with reported access to NFIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, disaggregated by urban/rural location, assessed through KI surveys*



**Multiple responses were allowed*

3.1.3 Required Documentation to receive NFI assistance

Over 75% of households in areas where household assessments were conducted reported that some form of documentation was required in order to receive NFIs from humanitarian organisations. With the exception of north-west Hama, it was reported that resident population households were not as frequently required to submit documentation in order to receive NFI assistance compared to SR and IDP households. While it is often a requirement for humanitarian organisations to request documentation before distributing NFIs, there was a clear difference in western Aleppo, north-west Hama, Ar-Raqqa and Idleb governorates in terms of what documentation was required for IDP households compared to resident population households. (see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to NFI support: Documentation to receive NFI assistance).

Figure 71: Percentage of households reporting that documentation was required to receive NFI assistance, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

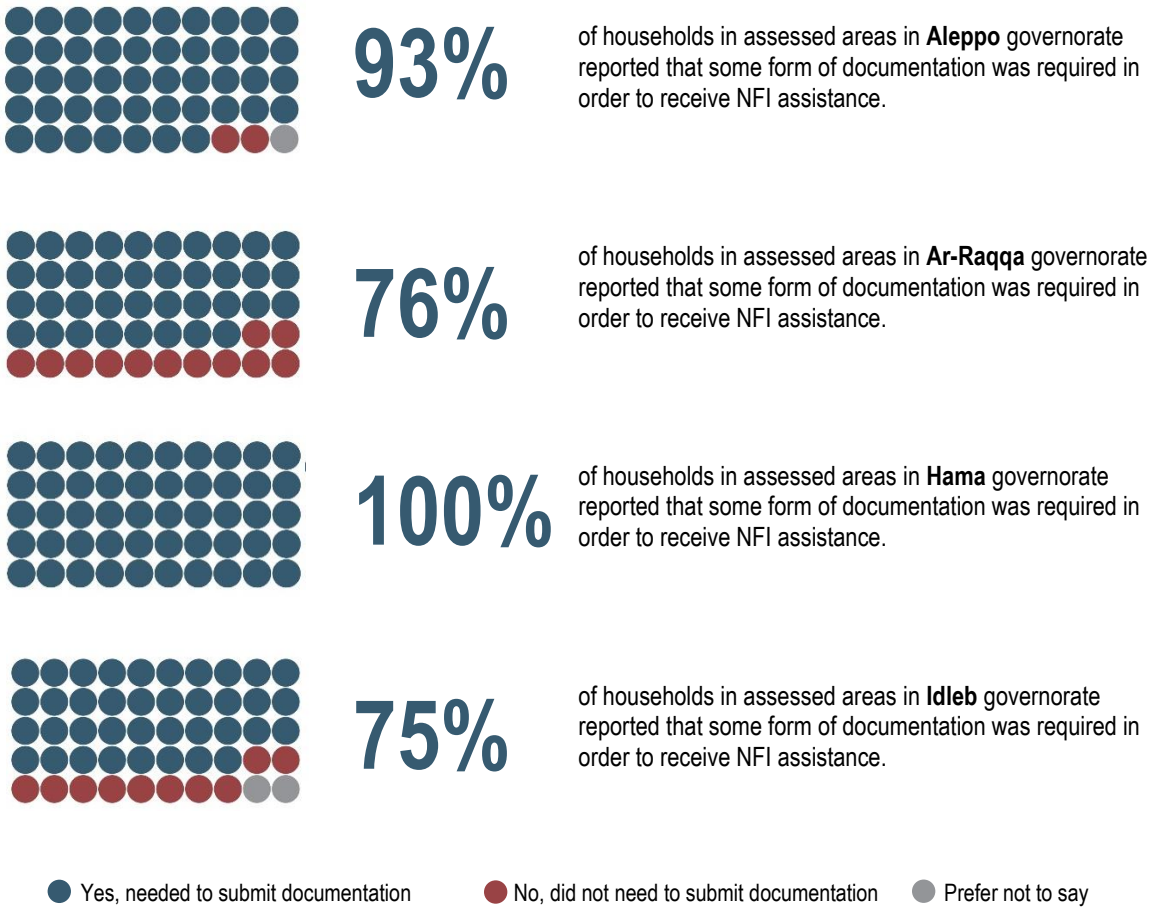


Figure 72: Percentage of households reporting that documentation was required to receive NFI assistance, disaggregated by urban/rural location, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

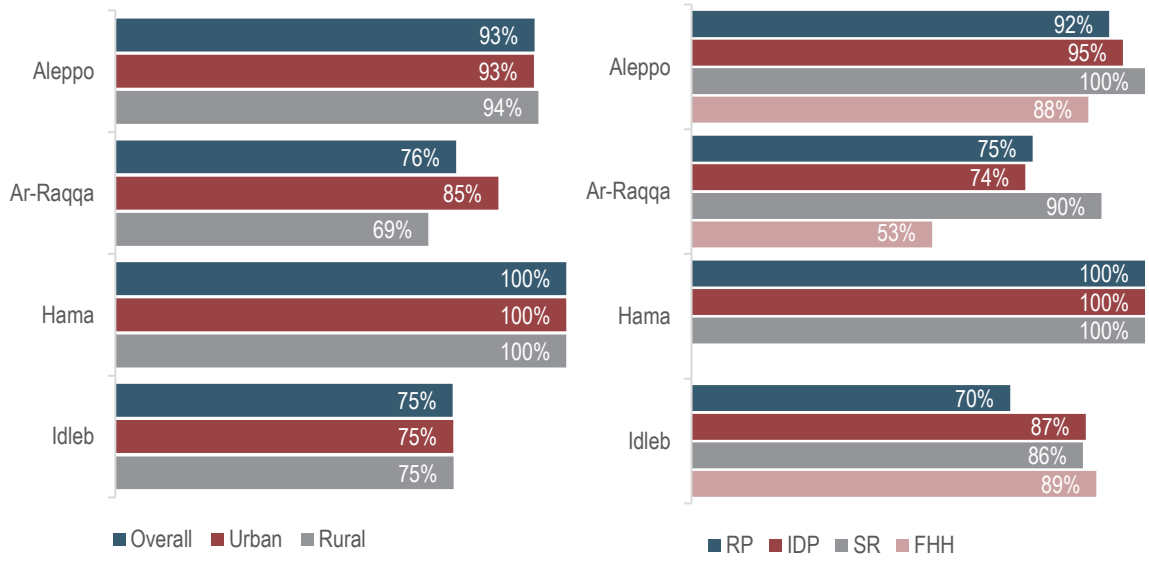


Figure 73: Type of documentation needed to receive NFI assistance, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

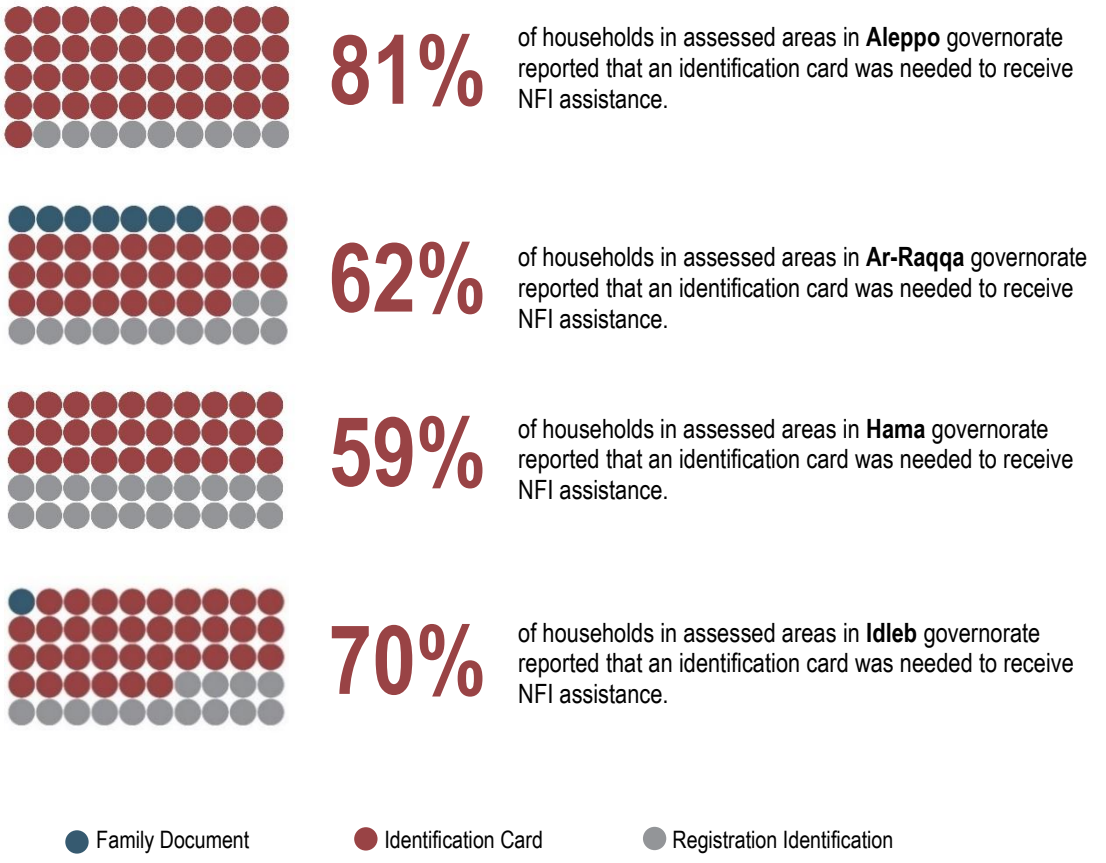


Table 23: Documentation used by IDPs to receive NFI assistance, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	IDP			
	Family Documents	Identification Card	Registration Identification	Other
Aleppo	0%	94%	6%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	5%	81%	10%	3%
Hama	0%	63%	38%	0%
Idleb	3%	76%	21%	0%

For a further breakdown, see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to NFI support: Documentation to receive NFI assistance,

Overall, 13% of households in areas assessed through household surveys were refused NFI support due to a lack of civil documentation (see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to NFI support: Documentation to receive NFI assistance). Notably, in Ar-Raqqa governorate, 29% of assessed IDP households reported that they had been refused NFI assistance due to a lack of documentation. In contrast, in north-west Hama, none of the households in assessed areas reported being refused NFI support due to lack of documentation.

Figure 74: Percentage of households that have been refused NFI support by distributors due to lack of civil documentation, disaggregated by urban/rural location and demographic status, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

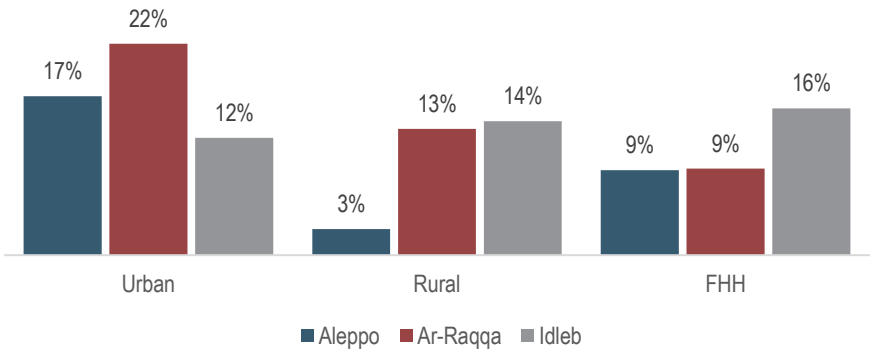
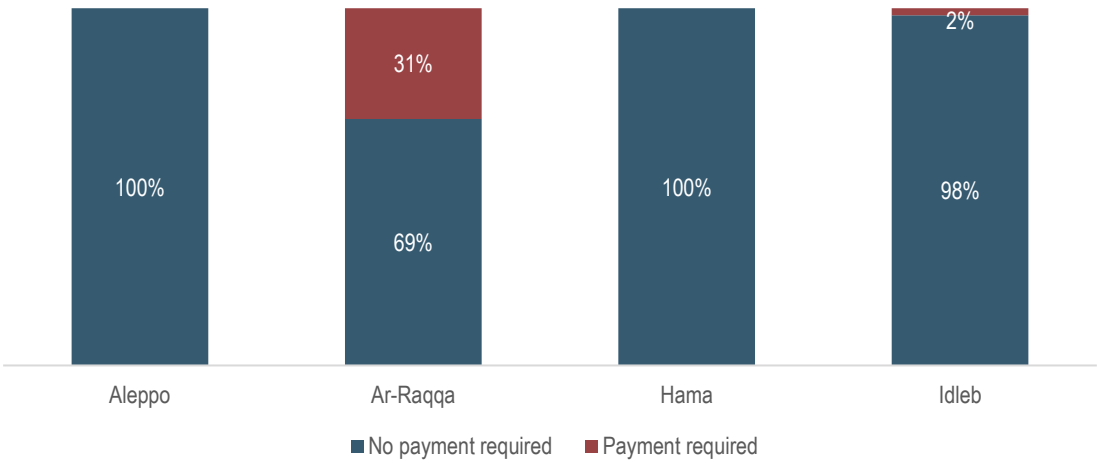


Figure 75: Percentage of households that have been asked to pay to receive NFI assistance, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[148]



[148] Assessment did not determine whether this was a regular or irregular occurrence.

3.1.4 Quality of NFIs

The majority of households in assessed areas reported that the NFIs they received were of good quality (see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to NFI support: Quality of NFIs).

Figure 76: Percentage of households reporting that all NFIs received were of good quality, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

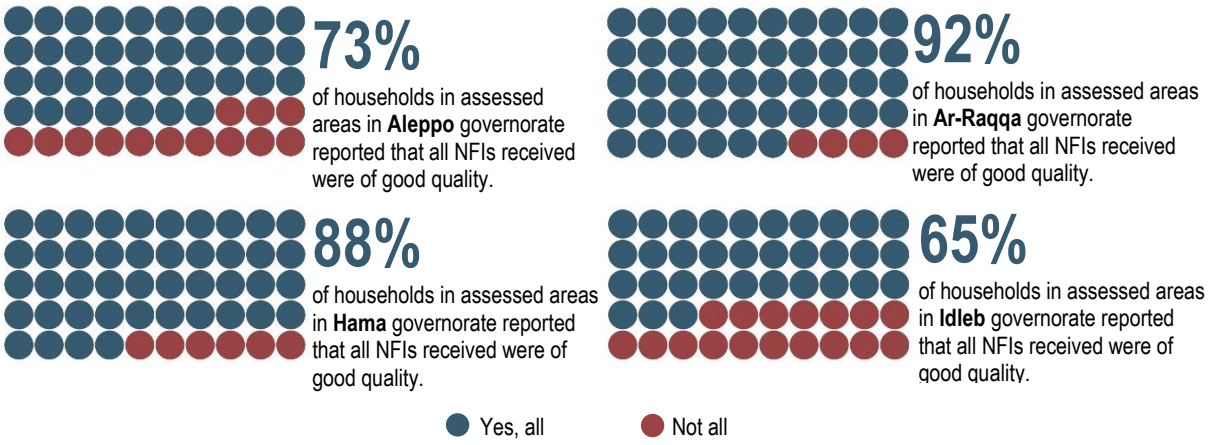


Table 24: Percentage of households reporting that NFIs received were not fully satisfactory, among households reporting to have received NFIs, per governorate, by NFIs received, assessed through household surveys[149]

	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Hama	Idleb
Bedding items	67%	29%	0%	60%
Mattresses Sleeping mats	0%	57%	0%	29%
Cooking utensils kitchen set	51%	0%	0%	18%
Cooking fuel	34%	0%	0%	5%
Water containers	9%	0%	0%	9%
Torches	34%	0%	0%	9%
Solar lamps	51%	0%	50%	15%
Solar panels	34%	0%	0%	2%
Generators	18%	0%	0%	1%
Clothing	34%	43%	100%	12%
Shoes	34%	14%	50%	9%
Batteries	18%	0%	0%	3%
Winter heaters	51%	0%	0%	5%
Heating fuel	18%	0%	0%	2%
Hygiene Kit	5%	0%	0%	0%
Winter clothes	18%	0%	0%	9%
Winter shoes	18%	0%	0%	5%
Winter blankets	18%	14%	0%	14%
Disposable diapers	18%	0%	0%	5%
Sanitary pads	18%	0%	0%	4%
Soap	0%	0%	0%	58%
Washing powder	16%	28%	0%	65%
Cleaning liquid	16%	0%	0%	61%
Detergent	16%	0%	0%	58%
Jerry can	25%	0%	0%	7%
Plastic sheet	9%	0%	6%	0%
Baby diapers	18%	0%	14%	0%
Adult diapers	18%	0%	3%	0%
Other	0%	0%	1%	0%

Multiple responses were allowed

[149] Selected "not all" NFIs satisfactory and "yes not all" NFIs satisfactory on survey response.

3.1.5 Quantity of NFI assisstance

Around 17% of all households reported receiving NFI assistance. Of those that received NFI assistance, 48% reported receiving a sufficient quantity for their household size. Of households in assessed areas who reported receiving NFIs, all households in north-west Hama reported that the NFIs received were not sufficient in quantity for their household. Overall, no major difference in the quality of NFI assistance reported by households in assessed areas was identified across households in rural and urban communities.

Figure 77: Percentage of households reporting that NFIs received were a sufficient quantity relative to the household size, among households receiving NFI assistance, disaggregated by urban/rural location and household demographics, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[150]

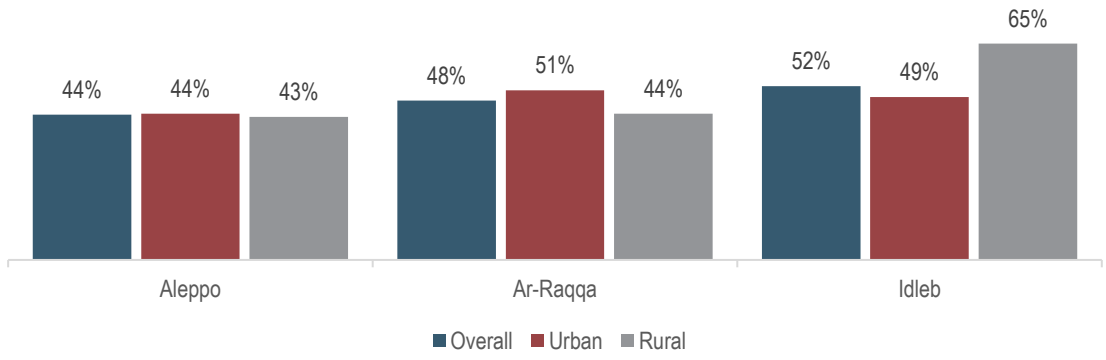
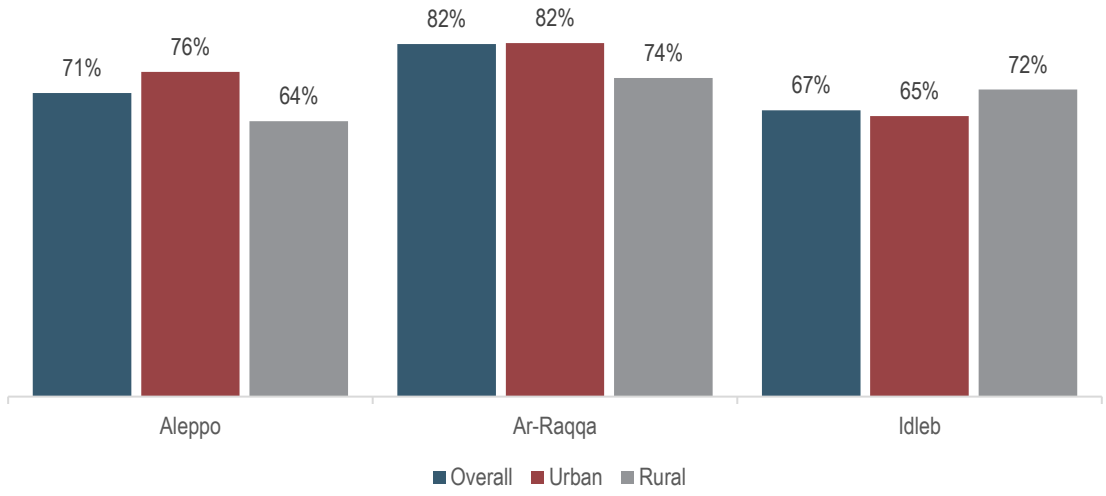


Figure 78: Percentage of households reporting that NFIs received sufficiently met basic NFI needs, among households receiving NFI assistance, disaggregated by urban/rural location, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

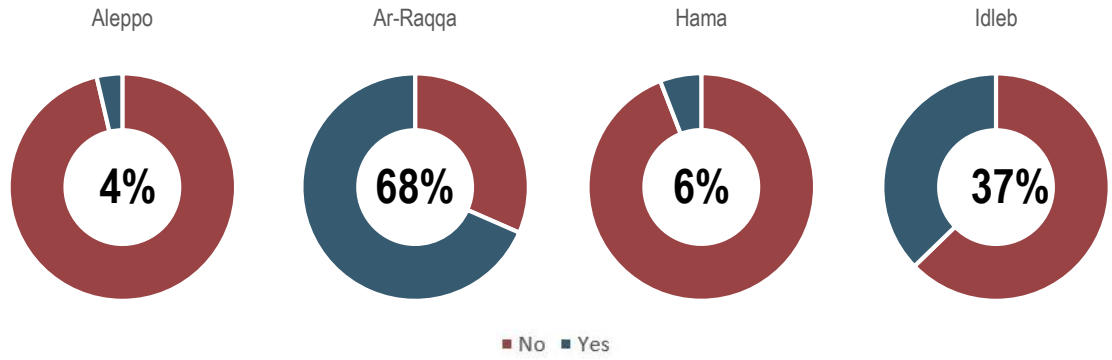


[150]Findings for Hama governorate were omitted due to insufficient data.

3.1.6 NFI Distributions from Humanitarian Actors

Overall, 29% of households in assessed areas in western Aleppo, north-west Hama, Ar-Raqqa and Idleb governorates reported to have received at least one distribution of NFIs every three months between July 2017 and August 2018.

Figure 79: Percentage of households reporting regular NFI distributions in the community (at least one distribution every three months), per governorate, assessed through household surveys



For further breakdown, see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to NFI support: NFI distribution.

Across governorates assessed through household surveys, heads of households were reportedly the most common household member to attend distributions. The majority of households across governorates did not face issues in attending an NFI distribution (see Table 26).

Table 25: Type of household member attending distributions, per governorate, assessed through household surveys*

	Head of Household	Husband/ wife	Son	Daughter	Another family member	Friend/neighbour	Other
Aleppo	89%	53%	27%	17%	3%	1%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	49%	32%	3%	2%	12%	0%	24%
Hama	93%	3%	47%	0%	2%	0%	0%
Idleb	90%	47%	19%	6%	5%	2%	7%

****Multiple responses were allowed***

Table 26: Percentage of households reporting issue in relation to NFI distributions, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[151,152]*

	Physical violence on the way to the distribution	Physical violence during distribution	Verbal abuse on the way to the distribution	Verbal abuse during distribution	Sexual violence harassment including sexual exploitation[153]	Checkpoints on the way to distribution	Other	No Issue
Aleppo	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	96%
Ar-Raqqa	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	19%	78%
Hama	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Idleb	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	2%	96%
Deir-ez-Zor	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	10%	0%	89%

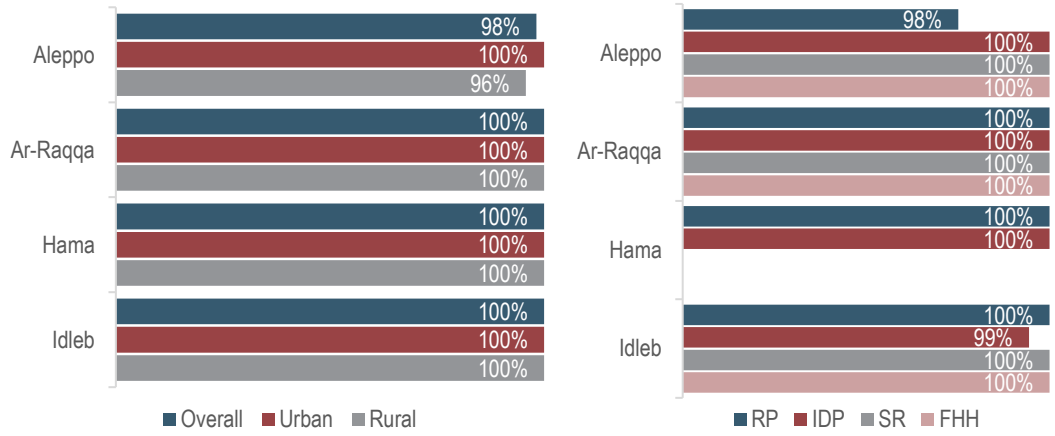
****Multiple responses were allowed***

[151] Deir-ez-Zor governorate numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[152] Ibid.
[153] Sexual violence harassment including sexual exploitation in exchange for something on the way to distribution.

3.1.7 Coping strategies for lack of NFIs

An indicator of good access to NFIs is whether items received are used for their intended purpose. If not, this could be an indication that NFIs provided do not meet essential household needs. Overall, over 95% of all households reported that they used the NFIs received for their intended purpose. This result was found across households in rural and urban areas.

Figure 80: Percentage of households that used NFIs received for their intended purpose, disaggregated by urban/ rural location and household demographic, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



Coping strategies were reportedly used by 20% of households in assessed areas to deal with a lack of NFIs. Overall, of the households reporting to use coping strategies, borrowing money (45%) was the top reported coping strategy. The number of households reporting the sale of houses or land as a coping strategy had decreased since July 2017, especially in Daret Azza sub-district in Aleppo governorate, where the percentage of households using this strategy had fallen by 22% since 2017. REACH field teams reported that an increase in the number of households prioritising expenses on shelter maintenance and repair made a higher number of households less likely to sell property before other goods. (see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to NFI support: Coping strategies for lack of NFIs).

Table 27: Coping strategies for lack of NFIs, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[154]*

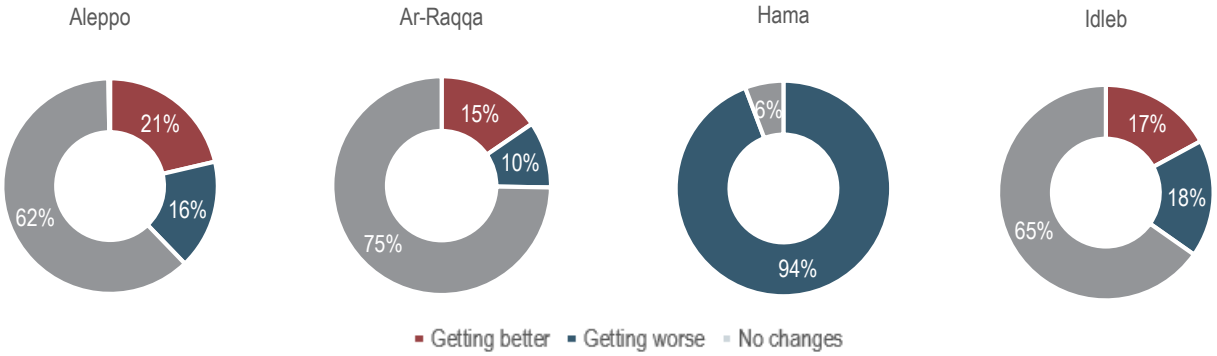
	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Hama	Idleb	Deir-ez-Zor
Begging	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%
Borrowing money	59%	63%	65%	36%	26%
Reducing food intake	22%	2%	0%	3%	7%
Reducing non-food expense	34%	6%	0%	14%	32%
Selling house or land	0%	1%	0%	2%	9%
Selling household assets	28%	17%	64%	16%	37%
Selling productive assets or means of transport	15%	11%	27%	5%	31%
Spending savings	27%	19%	70%	46%	65%
Children in household work for money	30%	10%	10%	13%	15%
Girls in household get married	11%	0%	0%	6%	2%
Other	1%	0%	0%	2%	3%
No coping strategies needed	8%	11%	1%	18%	2%
Prefer not to say	3%	0%	0%	1%	26%

Multiple responses were allowed

For a year-on-year comparison, households were asked whether they thought that their access to basic household items had improved, deteriorated or remained consistent in contrast to the previous year. Overall, notable proportions of households in north-west Hama (94%) and Idleb (18%) governorate reported that their access to basic household items had worsened. When households were asked why access to basic household items had worsened, the reasons included rising prices, lack of income, conflict, and displacement.

[154] Deir-ez-Zor governorate numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Figure 81: Percentage of households reporting the level of change in access to basic household items, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[155,156]

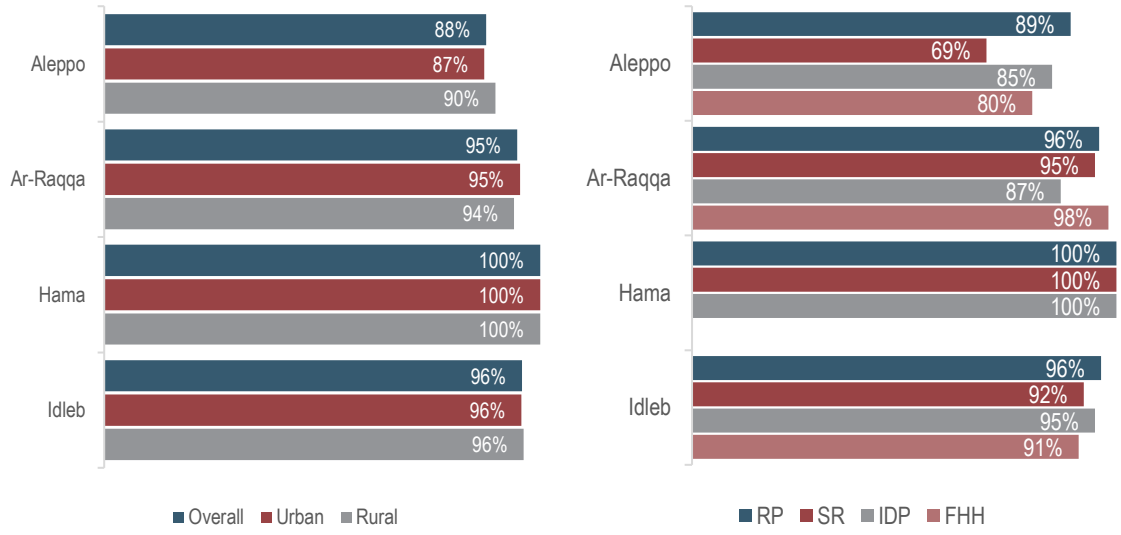


Across western Aleppo and north-west Hama, female-headed households reportedly experienced no change in their access to basic household items, yet female-headed households in Idleb governorate reported that their access was deteriorating (49%). Of these female-headed households in Idleb, reasons cited for worsening access to basic household items included an interruption to their household's income, either because of ongoing conflict or imprisonment of household members, as well as high prices and few opportunities for making an income.[157]

3.1.8 Means of NFI support

There was little difference in the level of access to information on NFI support between households in urban and rural areas across governorates (see Figure 82). However, households in western Aleppo reported lower levels of access to information, with female-headed households reporting the lowest level of access (80%).

Figure 82: Percentage of households with access to information on NFI support[158] disaggregated by urban/rural areas and household demographic, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported a high percentage of communities that did not receive information on NFI support (99%). This could be attributed to heavy clashes in Deir-ez-Zor governorate,[159] which contributed to a decline in humanitarian access to the governorate.

[155] During the survey, households were asked specifically if the situation was "getting better", "getting worse" or "no changes".
[156] Due to rounding, percentages for Aleppo governorate add to 99%.
[157] Findings for female-headed households are to be considered indicative rather than representative.
[158] This is how individuals receive information on how they can access NFI support. For example, if there is a distribution, how is it that households find out how to access this support.
[159] Syria Crisis: north-east Syria. Situation Report No. 20. (1 December – 31 December 2017). UNOCHA https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/north_east_syria_sit_rep_december_2017_fv.pdf

Figure 84: Estimated percentage of communities that have access to information on NFI support in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys

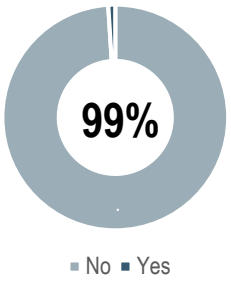


Figure 83: Estimated percentage of communities that have access to information on NFI support in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, disaggregated by urban/rural areas assessed through KI surveys

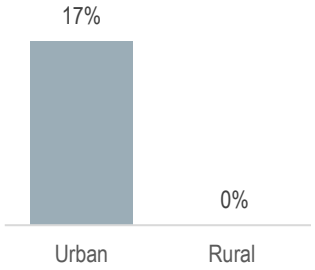
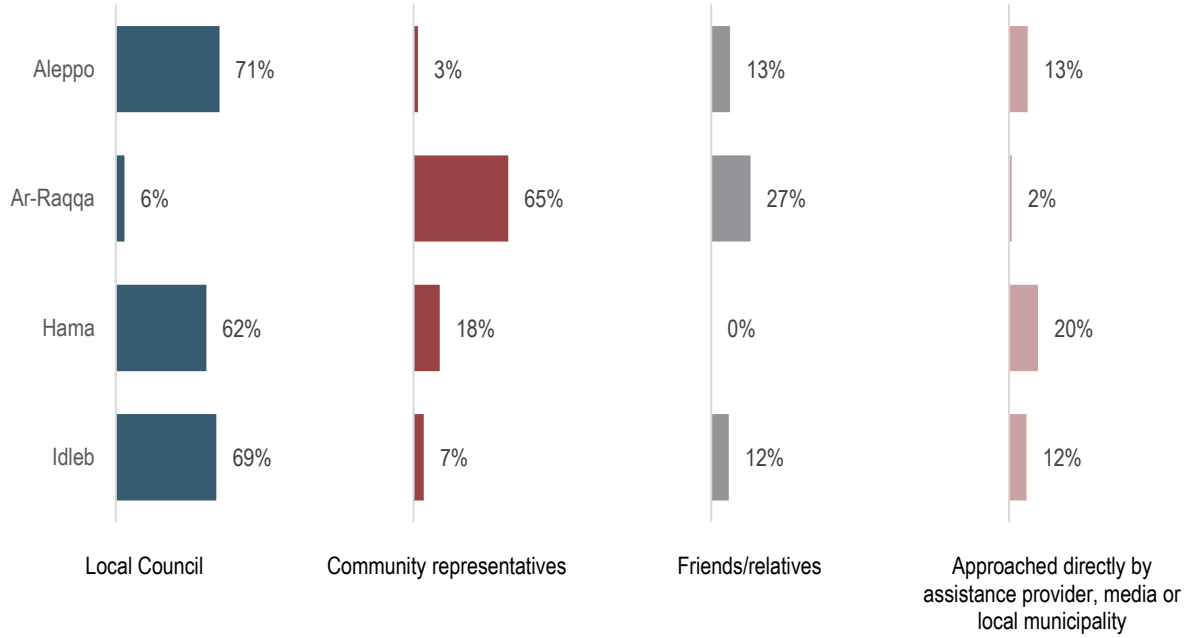


Figure 85: Main source of information on NFI support for households in assessed areas, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



Of all households that reported receiving information on NFI support, the majority of households reportedly received this through local councils, across western Aleppo (71%), north-west Hama (62%) and Idleb (69%) governorate. However, in Ar-Raqqa governorate, 65% reportedly received this information from community representatives. In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, of the 9% of communities estimated to have access to information on NFI support, KIs in all communities reported that individuals exclusively received this through either community representatives or friends and relatives.

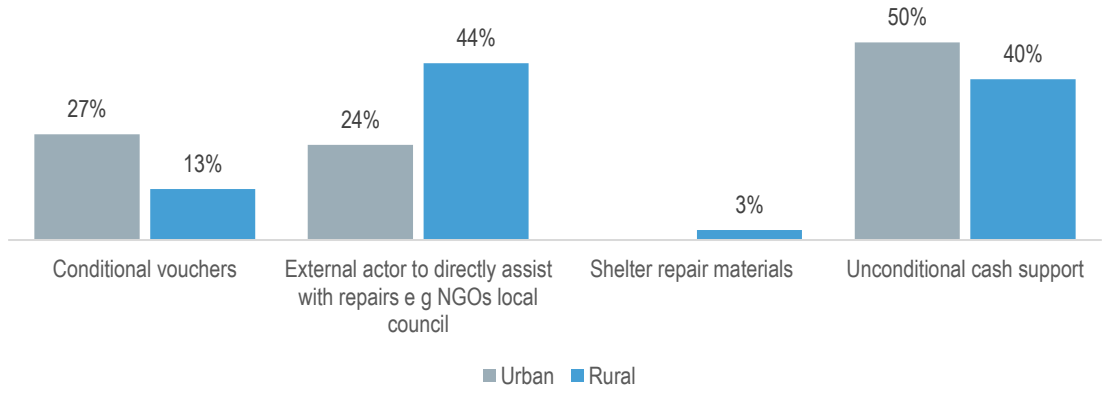
Table 28: Breakdown of household preference for NFI modality, disaggregated by urban/rural location and demographic status, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[160]*

	Aleppo				Ar-Raqqa				Hama			Idleb			
	Overall	Urban	Rural	FHH	Overall	Urban	Rural	FHH	Overall	Urban	Rural	Overall	Urban	Rural	FHH
Conditional vouchers	48%	35%	76%	61%	14%	16%	12%	7%	2%	4%	0%	26%	26%	27%	25%
NFI distributions	63%	58%	74%	63%	25%	15%	26%	17%	5%	9%	0%	54%	58%	46%	60%
Unconditional cash distribution	86%	90%	78%	84%	80%	88%	81%	87%	93%	87%	100%	59%	58%	60%	63%
Prefer not to say	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Multiple responses were allowed

Across all households, unconditional cash support was the preferred form of NFI support. This could be due to the lack of income in most households in assessed areas as well as preference for greater autonomy in acquiring NFIs. Notably, the preference for unconditional cash distribution had increased from July 2017 to August 2018 in western Aleppo (52% to 86%) and north-west Hama (62% to 93%) but decreased in Idleb governorate (72% to 59%).[161]

Figure 86: Breakdown of estimated preference for NFI modality of households in communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys[162]



Overall, Hawala[163] (75%) was the most frequently reported available means of receiving or transferring money. Notably, urban area households in Idleb governorate were the only households reporting the availability of ATMs (10%).

Table 29: Percentage of households reporting cash distribution points to be available, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[164]*

	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Hama	Idleb	Deir-ez-Zor
ATMs	0%	0%	0%	7%	2%
Banks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Money remittance pawnshops	1%	9%	0%	13%	83%
Hawala	59%	64%	100%	81%	86%
Other	39%	0%	12%	1%	0%
No access to cash distribution	1%	17%	0%	8%	10%

Multiple responses were allowed

[160] Multiple selections could be made. Thus, percentages can be summed to over 100%.
[161] Comparison between 2018 and 2017 assessments could not be made for Ar-Raqqa due to difference in methodologies used during data collection.
[162] Due to rounding, percentages for urban areas add to 101%.
[163] Hawala are trust-based financial systems for transferring funds wherein the member dealers and companies of the network complete remittances based on communications with little to no use of financial instruments while operating in parallel to banks. This system is prevalent in regions where 'conventional' banking institutions are absent, weak, or not trusted.
[164] For "other" options in Aleppo, households cited other forms of cash-transfer offices as well as NGO and local council initiatives.

3.2 NFI Availability and Affordability

3.2.1 NFI availability in the household

Overall, around a quarter of households (26%) across governorates reported energy and heating sources to be available in their households (see Annex 6 – ADA, NFI availability and affordability: NFI availability in the household). IDP households across governorates generally reported lower availability of energy and heating sources (23%) than other demographic groups except for in north-west Hama (63%), likely due to households in north-west Hama being connected to the electrical grid.

Notably, the proportion of households in Atareb and Zarbah sub-districts in Aleppo governorate reporting availability of winter items[165] had decreased by 82% and 65% respectively, since July 2017. However, some improvements were found in north-west Hama, where sanitary pads and light sources were reportedly available in households (97% and 100% respectively), compared to 0% availability of both items in July 2017. Similarly, 60% increase was found in the percentage of households in assessed areas in Idleb governorate that reported availability of NFIs such as blankets, clothing items, light sources, and hygiene items.

In Deir-ez-Zor governorate there was a 46% decline in the reported percentage of communities with availability of light sources and batteries compared to July 2017.

Table 30: Availability of NFIs in the household, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys*

	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Hama	Idleb	Deir-ez-Zor
Blankets	89%	91%	100%	92%	80%
Diapers adult	3%	9%	12%	4%	32%
Diapers children	42%	42%	68%	52%	97%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	23%	30%	97%	40%	92%
Hygiene items	74%	83%	100%	91%	81%
Water container/jerry can	26%	56%	78%	69%	51%
Cooking utensils	76%	80%	100%	90%	93%
Mattresses	85%	63%	99%	74%	94%
Plastic sheets	11%	8%	51%	27%	42%
Light sources	23%	43%	100%	53%	47%
Solar panels	6%	1%	0%	24%	4%
Generators	7%	10%	3%	10%	34%
Clothing	75%	88%	99%	83%	88%
Shoes	73%	82%	100%	82%	75%
Batteries	35%	26%	84%	48%	34%
Winter heaters	15%	13%	63%	10%	43%
Heating fuel	7%	8%	2%	10%	71%
Winter clothing	39%	20%	18%	27%	71%
Winter blankets	28%	20%	17%	28%	41%
Other	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
None	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Multiple responses were allowed

[165] Such as winter heaters, heating fuel, winter clothing and winter blankets.

3.2.2 Available household items in local markets

Overall, households in assessed areas consistently reported high availability of NFIs in the local markets independently of geographical area and demographic status. However, energy and heating sources, along with winter items were generally among the less available items in local markets, as reported by households in assessed areas (see Annex 6 – ADA, NFI availability and affordability: Available household items in local markets).

Notably, households in north-west Hama reported some of the highest availability of NFIs in markets across governorates, with 100% of households reporting 13 out of the 19 assessed NFIs as available in local markets. However, energy sources (i.e. solar panels and generators) were not reported by any of the households as available in the local markets in north-west Hama. The lack of these energy sources is likely due to the electricity supply network being the most commonly used energy source.

Overall, the unavailability of certain items such as energy and heating sources, as well as winter items, in the market largely corresponds with items reported as unavailable in households. The unavailability of those items in the household, coupled with the general unavailability of the same items in the market, may suggest that households are unable to buy these items due to lack of supply, rather than them being merely unaffordable.

Map 9: Unavailability of NFIs at local markets, per sub-district, assessed through household surveys

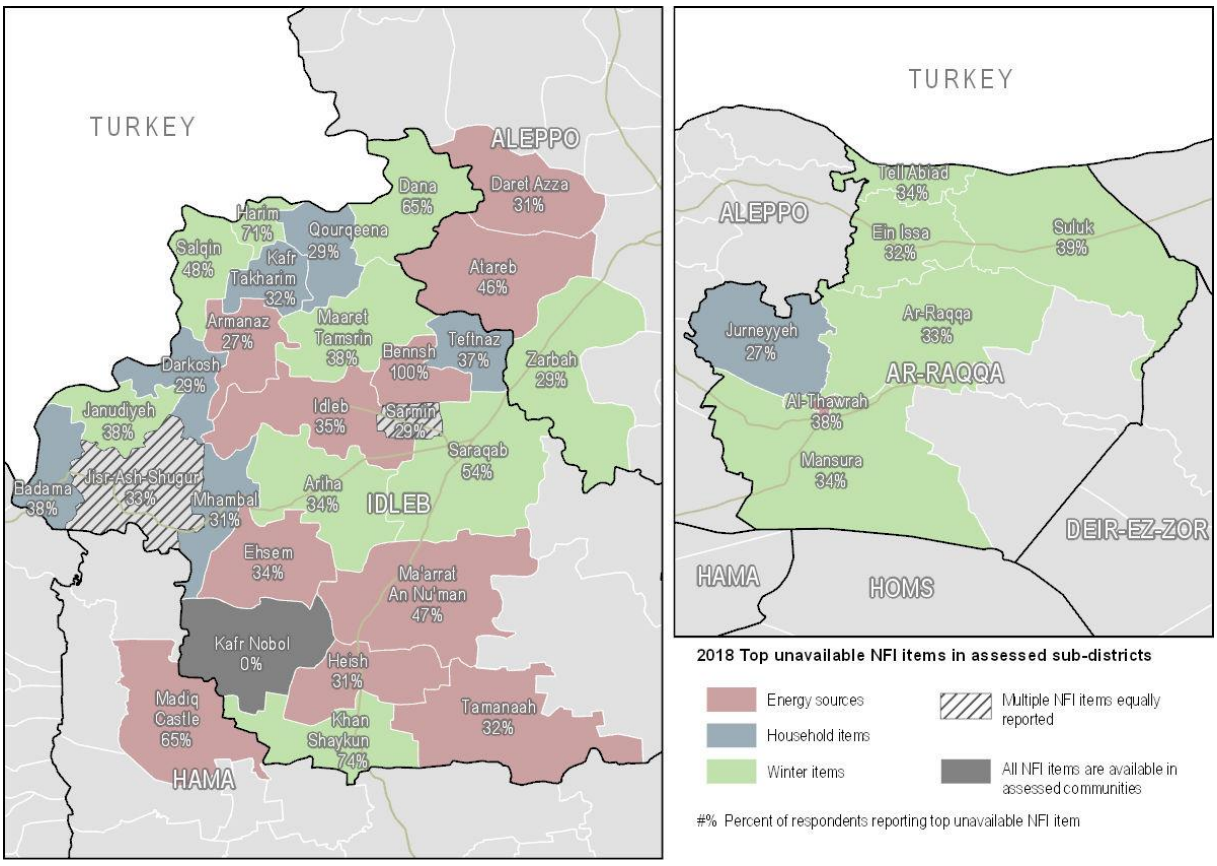


Table 31: Percentage of households reporting the availability of NFIs in local markets, per governorate, assessed through household surveys*

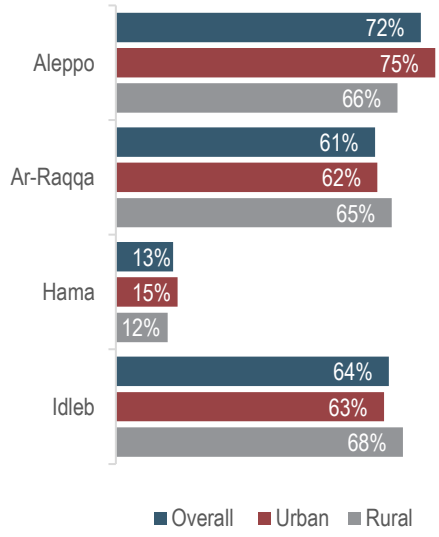
	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Hama	Idleb
Blankets	91%	82%	100%	89%
Diapers (adult)	88%	60%	100%	66%
Diapers (children)	97%	78%	100%	94%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	88%	71%	100%	91%
Hygiene items	95%	90%	100%	97%
Water container/jerry can	85%	72%	100%	91%
Cooking utensils	91%	77%	100%	93%
Mattresses	85%	67%	100%	85%
Plastic sheets	83%	45%	100%	79%
Light sources	84%	62%	100%	81%
Solar panels	83%	42%	0%	75%
Generators	80%	51%	0%	73%
Clothing	87%	80%	100%	86%
Shoes	87%	79%	100%	86%
Batteries	85%	56%	100%	75%
Winter heaters	83%	43%	88%	47%
Heating fuel	91%	45%	99%	59%
Winter clothing	85%	42%	39%	49%
Winter blankets	79%	39%	39%	47%
Other	0%	8%	0%	1%

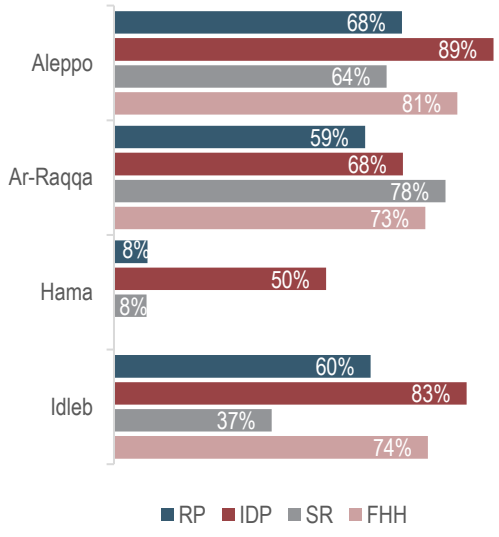
Multiple responses were allowed

3.2.3 NFI Affordability

Overall, 63% of all households in assessed areas reported the need to buy one or more items but were unable to afford it in the three months prior to data collection. Specifically, a higher percentage of IDP households (81%) and female-headed households (74%)[166] were unable to afford NFIs compared to RP households (59%) and SR households (43%). The lower proportion of resident populations and SR households reporting could be due to greater means of making income

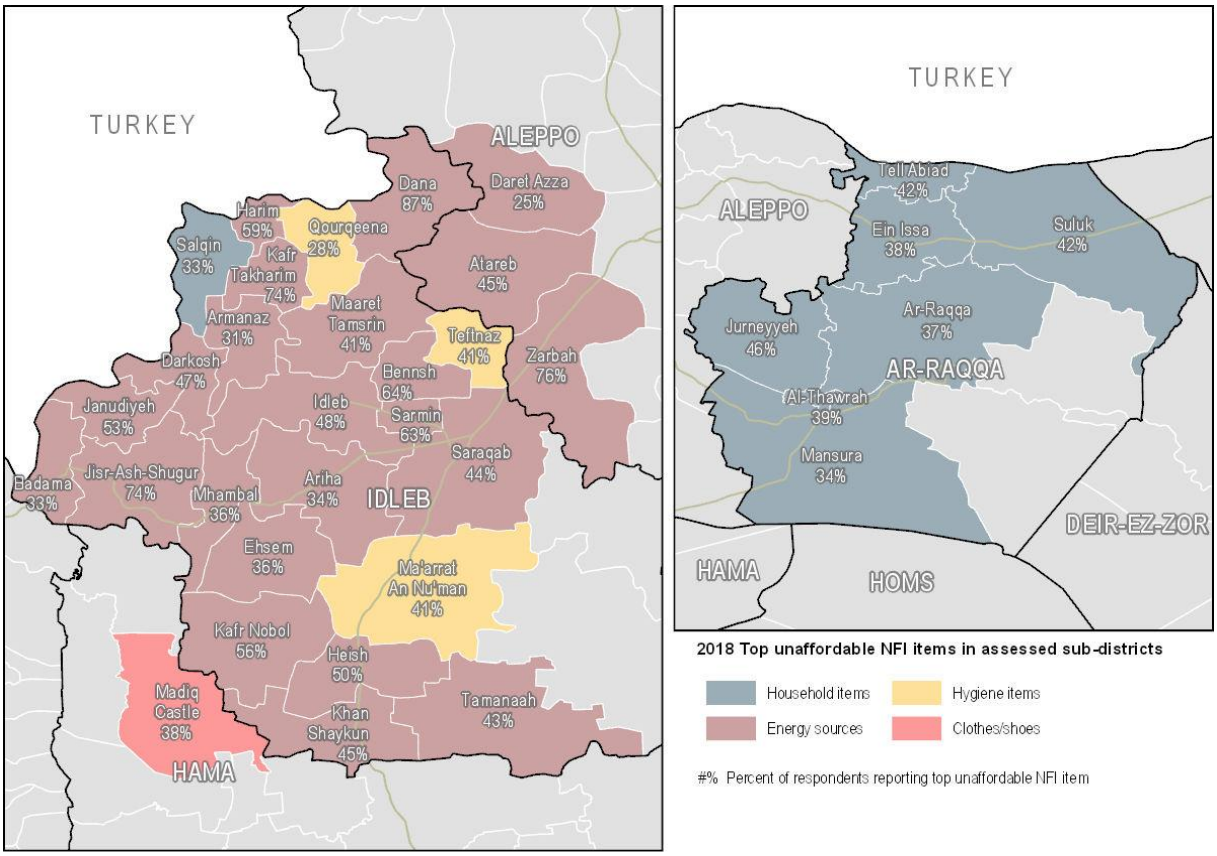
Figure 87: Percentage of households reporting inability to afford one or more NFIs in the three months prior to data collection, disaggregated by urban/rural location and demographic status, assessed through household surveys





[166] Findings for female-headed households are to be considered indicative rather than representative.

Map 10: Unaffordability of NFIs, per sub-district, assessed through household surveys



Noteworthy findings were found in households' ability to afford NFIs at the sub-district level. For instance, within western Aleppo, 94% of households in Atareb sub-district reported an inability to afford one or more NFIs in the three months prior to data collection. Similarly, in Ar-Raqqa governorate, 75% to 86% of households in assessed areas in the sub-districts of Ein Issa, Suluk, and Tell Abiad reported an inability to afford one or more NFIs in the three months prior to data collection. According to a REACH Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS) report, households in assessed areas in these sub-districts experienced an increase in cost of items and services, including water trucking, cooking fuel and hygiene items.[167] The fluctuation of costs coupled with a lack of income and stable employment opportunities may further explain the large proportion of households in assessed areas reporting inability to afford one or more items.

Households in north-west Hama reported notably less financial difficulty in acquiring NFIs compared to other assessed areas. This may be explained by the general decline in SMEB costs in Madiq Castle sub-district. Items such as food, cooking fuel, water trucking, and transportation fuel all saw a decline in costs of around 20% from January 2018 through the data collection period.[168] (see Annex 6 – ADA, NFI availability and affordability: Availability and affordability).

[167] REACH. Cash-Based Response Technical Group, "Syria MM Exercise. Snapshot: 16-24 July. North-west Syria", July 2018. http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/syr_situation_overview_market_monitoring_nw_july_2018.pdf
[168] Ibid.

Table 32: Inability to afford NFIs in the three months prior to data collection, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys*

	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Hama	Idleb	Deir-ez-Zor
Blankets	9%	43%	7%	12%	0%
Diapers (adult)	3%	4%	0%	1%	31%
Diapers (children)	14%	25%	14%	19%	0%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	7%	4%	0%	10%	0%
Hygiene items	42%	31%	0%	23%	0%
Water container/jerry can	38%	39%	0%	16%	54%
Cooking utensils	21%	35%	14%	24%	0%
Mattresses	15%	36%	29%	16%	0%
Plastic sheets	7%	2%	0%	13%	1%
Light sources	14%	17%	0%	29%	57%
Solar panels	88%	11%	0%	74%	25%
Generators	25%	37%	0%	29%	89%
Clothing	23%	47%	71%	30%	21%
Shoes	15%	36%	21%	21%	
Batteries	70%	22%	57%	56%	25%
Winter heaters	17%	5%	21%	13%	5%
Heating fuel	53%	4%	7%	23%	0%
Winter clothing	11%	5%	0%	5%	1%
Winter blankets	11%	4%	0%	4%	0%
Other	3%	6%	0%	2%	0%

Multiple responses were allowed

In western Aleppo governorate, over 30% of the households were reportedly unable to afford at least 8 of the 19 assessed NFIs in the three months prior to data collection. However, apart from generators, households did report a number of these unaffordable items as available in the household at the time of data collection. This suggests that although items were available in the household, households may not be able to afford to replenish them. Notably, households in assessed areas in western Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorate cited winter items as being among the least available items in the households, yet less than 7% reported them unaffordable.

In Idleb governorate, energy sources were reported as the least affordable items as well as the least available items in households in assessed areas. This is largely due to the need for households to supply their own energy sources due to lack of electricity supply network. An HSOS report in April 2018 found that households in assessed areas in Idleb governorate relied on generators (49%), batteries (25%), and solar panels (21%) as their primary sources of electricity.[169,170]

In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, KIs reported 49% of communities were unable to afford energy sources local markets.

[169] Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria, "Idleb governorate, April 2018", April 2018 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheet_hsos_governorate_factsheet_idleb_april_2018_0.pdf

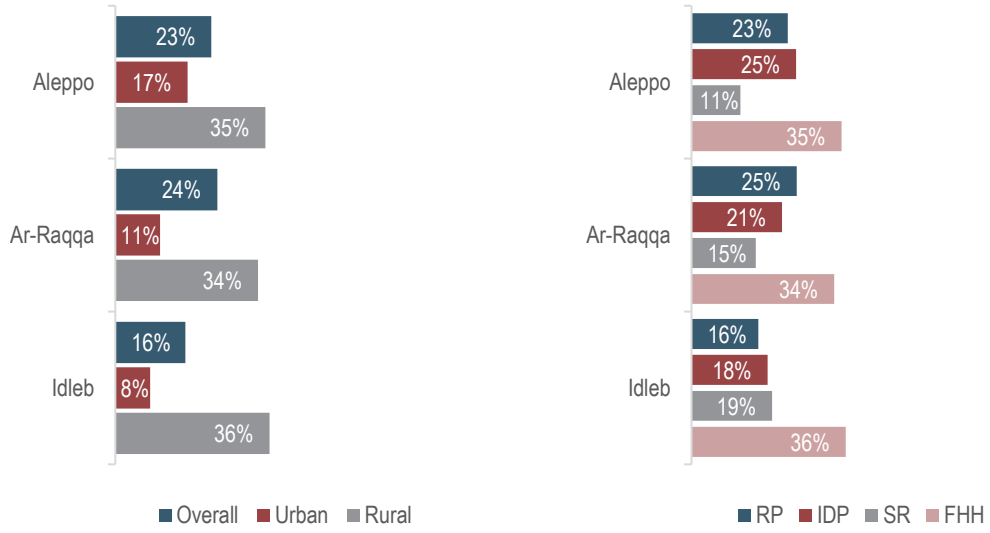
[170] Note that HSOS coverage of Idleb governorate and methodology significantly differs to the SNFI assessment coverage and methodology.

3.3 Market Access

3.3.1 Challenges to accessing markets to purchase NFIs

With the exception of north-west Hama, households in all assessed governorates faced challenges to accessing markets. Households in rural communities and female-headed households were most likely to face challenges to accessing markets. Notably, in Idleb governorate, the percentage of assessed female-headed households reporting challenges to accessing markets increased from 19% to 36% between July 2017 and August 2018.[171]

Figure 88: Percentage of households reporting challenges to accessing markets to purchase NFIs, disaggregated by urban/rural location and household demographic, per governorate, assessed through household[172]



Households in some central and southern sub-districts in Idleb governorate (Idleb, Ariha, Sarmin, Ehsem and Saraqab and Tamanaah) reported both high and increasing access challenges in comparison to July 2017 (see map 11). Despite these sub-districts being located near the M4 and M5 highway, a transportation route for humanitarian aid and a trade route to markets, households in these areas reported significant challenges to accessing markets. Firstly, these sub-districts are located near frontlines between GoS and opposition groups, at times making some markets unsafe to access. Secondly, households in these areas reported being afraid to travel to markets due to fear of mines or improvised explosive devices being placed on their vehicles. Additionally, some households reported fear of harassment, thieves and kidnappings, which have been reported as commonplace on roads in these areas. And lastly, some of the markets were too far for some of the households to reach.

[171] Findings for female-headed households are to be considered indicative rather than representative.
[172] Data on Hama governorate has been omitted due to insufficient data.

Map 11: Challenges and changes to market access, assessed through household surveys

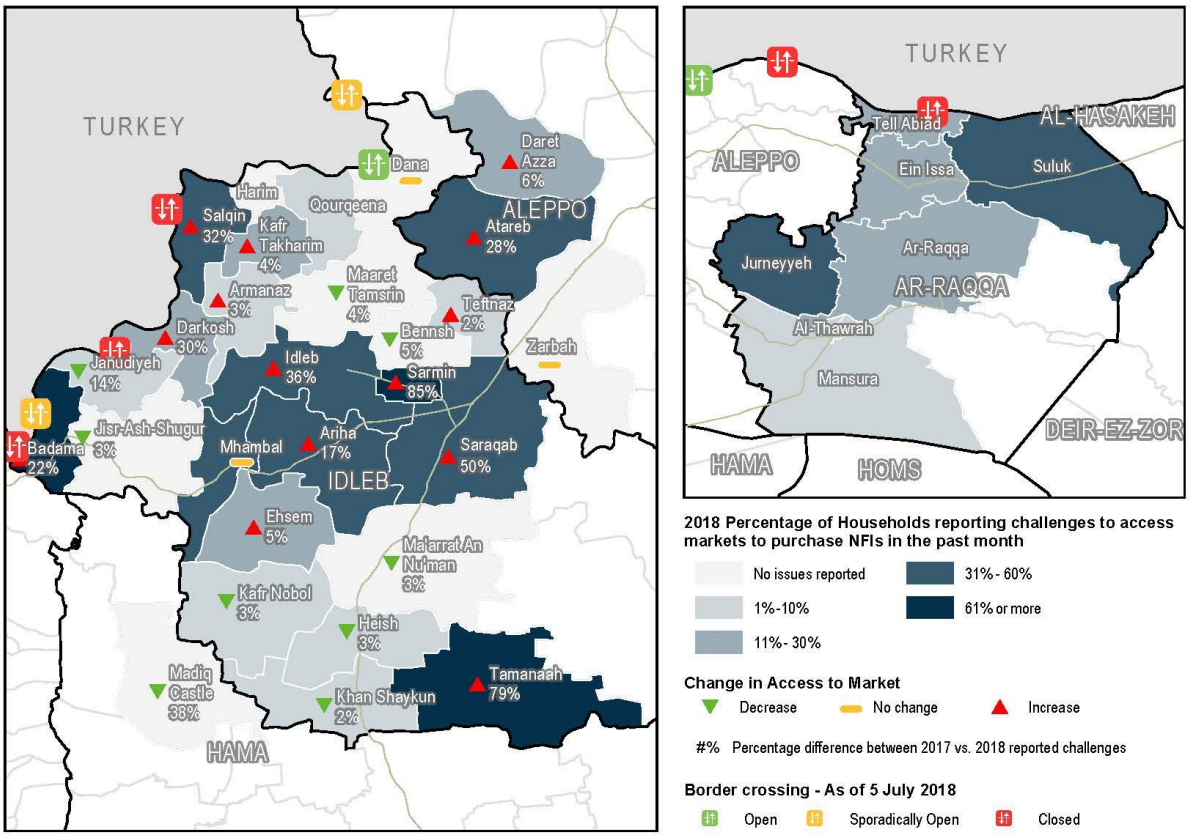


Table 33: Most common types of challenges to accessing markets, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[173]

	Distance to markets too far	Lack of access/ unsuitability for women and adolescent girls	Lack of access for persons with restricted mobility	Lack of transportation to markets	Markets do not function at times of conflict	Physical constraints preventing access to markets	Safety or security constraints restricting movement to markets	Fear of sexual harassment on the way to or at markets	Other
Aleppo	18%	6%	0%	10%	5%	1%	5%	0%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	21%	2%	0%	4%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%
Idleb	9%	4%	1%	5%	2%	4%	3%	0%	1%

[173] Data on Hama governorate has been omitted due to insufficient data.

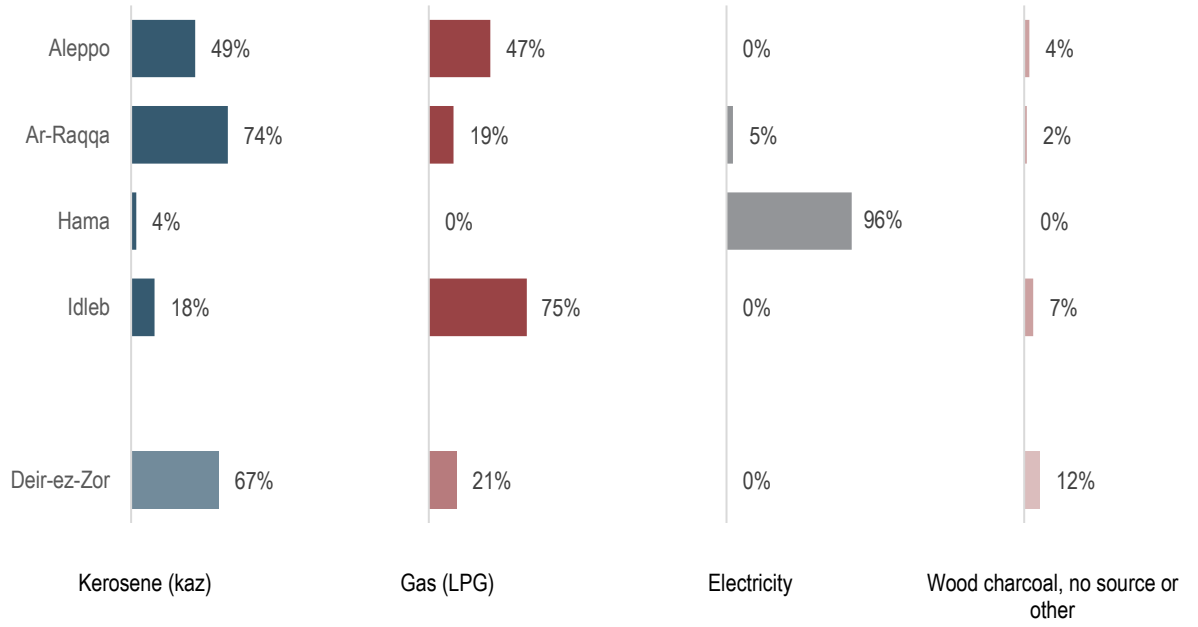
3.4 Access to Power: Cooking and Heating Fuel

3.4.1 Cooking fuel

Similar to findings in July 2017, most households in assessed areas reported their main source of cooking fuel to be gas (Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG)) and kerosene (kaz), except for households in Hama governorate, where the primary source of cooking fuel was electricity. This is likely due to a high percentage of households in Madiq Castle sub-district with access to the main electricity network (see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to Power: Sources of cooking fuel).

In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, the percentage of households in communities estimated to be using gas as a cooking fuel decreased between July 2017 and August 2018 from 40% to 21%. In comparison, the proportion of communities using kerosene almost doubled from 34% to 67%. The percentage estimated to be using gas as a primary source marks a notable change since 2016, with an increase from 11% to 39% between December 2016 and July 2017, and a drop to 21% in August 2018 (see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to Power: Sources of cooking fuel).

Figure 89: Percentage of households using each type of the most common cooking fuel, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[174]



Although wood and charcoal were not reported as main sources of cooking fuel by most households in assessed areas, rural households were more likely to use wood or charcoal as primary sources of cooking fuel compared to urban households, except in north-west Hama, where all households reported electricity as their primary source of cooking fuel. (see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to Power: Sources of cooking fuel).

Table 34: Percentage of IDP households reporting main source of cooking fuel, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

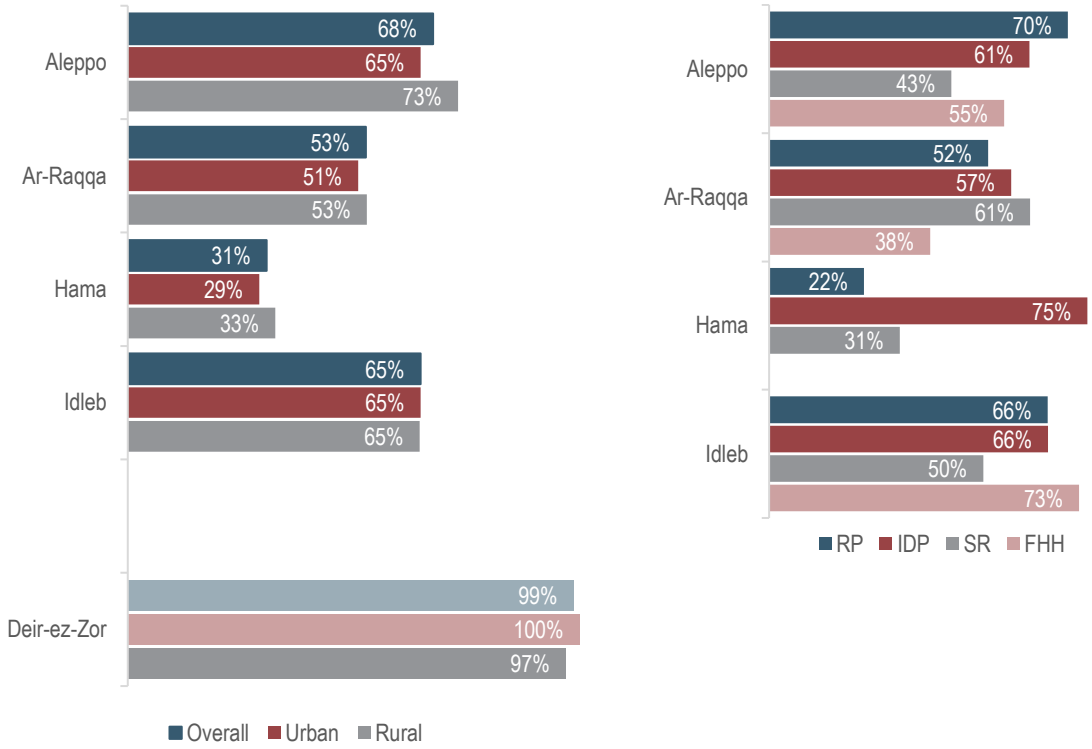
	Kerosene	Gas	Electricity	No source	Wood/charcoal
Aleppo	56%	29%	0%	3%	12%
Ar-Raqqa	78%	14%	3%	0%	5%
Hama	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Idleb	39%	55%	0%	1%	5%

[174] In Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

3.4.2 Coping strategies used to manage lack of cooking fuel

Overall, 62% of households in areas assessed through household surveys and 73% of communities in Deir-ez-Zor assessed through KI surveys reported resorting to coping mechanisms due to lack of cooking fuel. Notably, except for Ar-Raqqa governorate, a higher percentage of IDP households reported to resort to coping strategies compared to other population groups.

Figure 90: Percentage of households using coping mechanisms to manage a lack of cooking fuel in the month prior to data collection, disaggregated by urban/rural location and household demographic, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[175]



The two most common types of coping strategies used for the lack of cooking fuel were changing diet to foods that do not require cooking and reducing amount of fuel used for other purposes (see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to Power: Coping strategies used to manage lack of cooking fuel). In households in north-west Hama, change in diet was the only strategy used. This may be because access to the electrical network for households in north-west Hama may reduce the need for other coping strategies (see Map 11).

Market Monitoring reports highlighted that in June 2018, cooking fuel prices in north-east Syria had increased by 25%,[176] to 7 USD.[177] In addition, prices for transportation fuel increased by 7% between February and August 2018.[178] Similarly, in north-west Syria, the price of transportation fuel slightly increased, likely influenced by the changes in road taxes and re-opening of roads in Idleb.[179]

[175] In Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[176] This is a median percentage increase.
[177] REACH. Cash-Based Response Technical Working Group. Syria MM Exercise. Snapshot: 16-24 July 2018. http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/syr_situation_overview_market_monitoring_ne_july_2018.pdf
[178] Ibid.
[179] Ibid.

Table 35: Most common coping strategies to deal with lack of cooking fuel, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[180]*

	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Hama	Idleb	Deir-ez-Zor
Change in diet to food that does not require cooking	32%	25%	31%	26%	73%
Purchase food in restaurants	10%	4%	0%	6%	35%
Reduce amount of food eaten	12%	4%	0%	12%	13%
Reduce amount of fuel used for other purposes	35%	7%	0%	42%	35%
Other	0%	19%	0%	3%	0%
No coping strategies needed	32%	47%	0%	35%	0%
Prefer not to say	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%

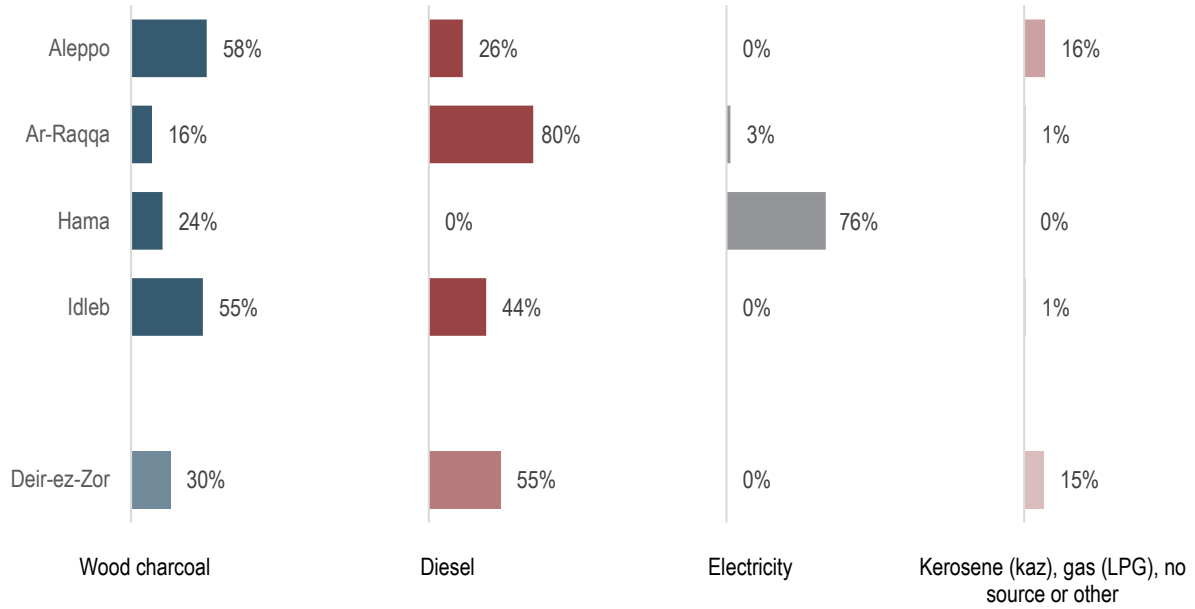
Multiple responses were allowed

3.4.3 Heating Fuel

Like findings in July 2017, wood/charcoal continued to be the most commonly used source of heating in households in assessed areas in western Aleppo and Idleb governorate (56%). However, in Ar-Raqqa governorate, diesel (80%) was reportedly the most commonly used source of heating , while in north-west Hama, electricity (76%) was the most common source of heating.

In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, diesel (55%) was reported as the most commonly used source of heating in assessed communities. Notably, the reported use of kerosene decreased from 78% to 14% in assessed communities between July 2017 and 2018 and the percentage of communities using gas doubled from 7% in July 2017 to 14% in August 2018. This may be a result of fluctuating fuel prices in north-east Syria, and a general change in the ability to access such fuel over the past year (see Map 11).

Figure 91: Percentage of households using each type of the most common heating fuel, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[181]



[180] Finding represent the percentage of households using each strategy.
[181] In Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Table 36: Percentage of IDP households reporting main source of heating fuel, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Diesel	Electricity	Gas	Kerosene	No source	Other	Prefer not to say	Wood/charcoal
Aleppo	16%	0%	0%	3%	6%	5%	2%	68%
Ar-Raqqa	68%	7%	0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	21%
Hama	0%	94%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%
Idleb	38%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	59%

For further breakdown see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to Power: Sources of heating fuel.

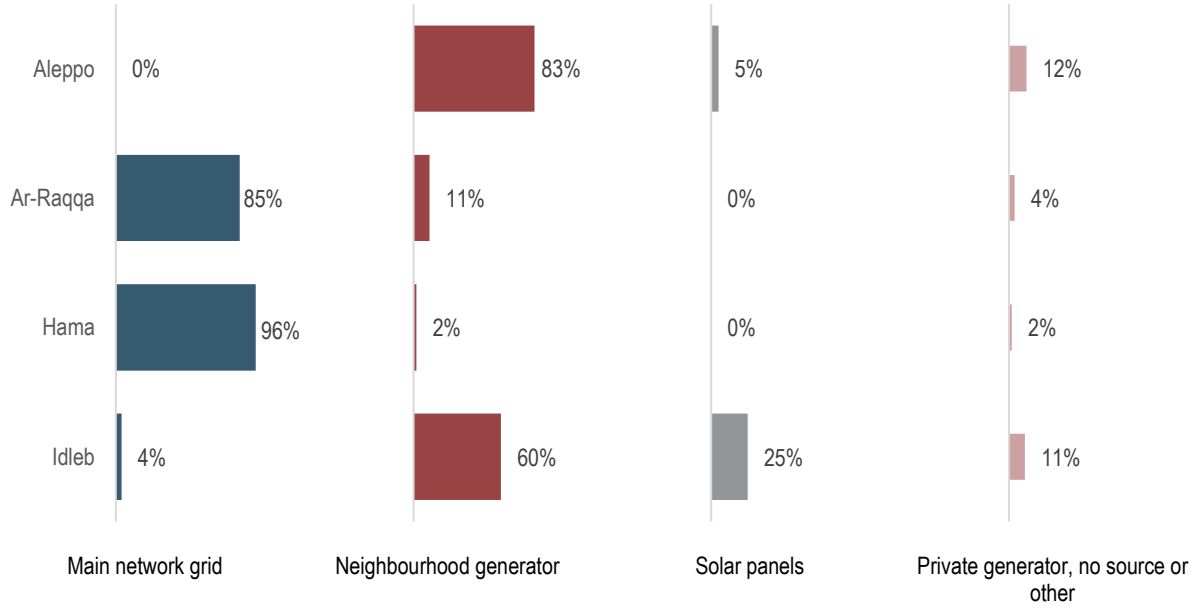
3.5 Access to power: electricity

3.5.1 Sources of electricity

In July 2017, access to the main network grid was low across assessed governorates, except for north-west Hama (76%). In August 2018, responses from north-west Hama demonstrated that the number of households using the main network grid had increased to 96%. In July 2017, 3% of households Ar-Raqqa governorate reported using the main network grid as their primary source of electricity, with the majority of households reportedly depending on generators (76%). By August 2018, the most commonly reported main source of electricity of households in assessed areas in Ar-Raqqa governorate was the main network grid (85%).

Households in Idleb governorate reported varying sources of sources of electricity. The main reported source of electricity in the governorate was from neighbourhood generators (60%). Households in western Aleppo similarly cited neighbourhood generators as the main source of electricity (83%), whereas a large proportion of households in north-west Hama and Ar-Raqqa governorate reported to primarily use the main network grid (85% and 96% respectively).

Figure 92: Percentage of households with access to each source of electricity, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



There was no clear trend across urban and rural locations regarding the main source of electricity for households. However, in Idleb governorate, 15% of households in rural areas said they had no source of electricity, in comparison to 2% in urban areas.

3.5.2 Hours of electricity

In western Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Idleb governorates, the most commonly reported average number of hours of electricity per day was between 4 and 7 hours (65%, 40% and 55% respectively). This was more common in households in urban areas (86%) than in rural areas (56%) of western Aleppo and more common in urban (60%) areas (60%) of Idleb governorate compared to rural areas (44%). Conversely, a large percentage of households in rural areas of Idleb governorate (48%) and western Aleppo (19%) reported having no more than three hours of electricity per day. A significant proportion of households in north-west Hama reported having access for 12 hours or more per day (97%).

Figure 93: Average number of hours of electricity per day, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[182]

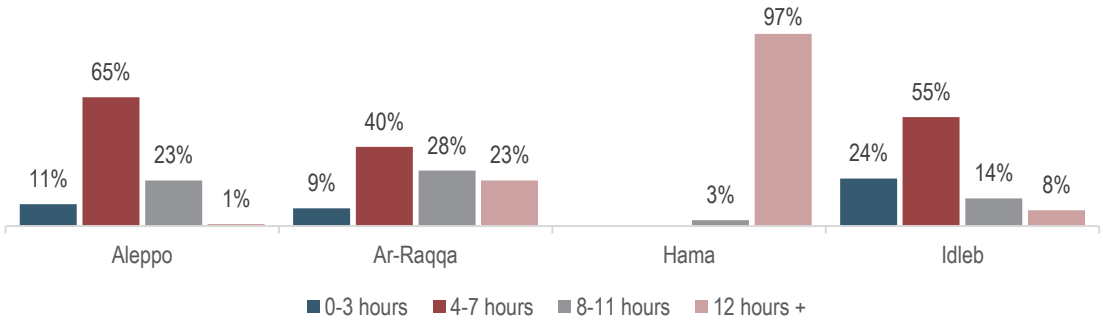


Figure 94: Average number of hours of electricity per day, disaggregated by urban/ rural location, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

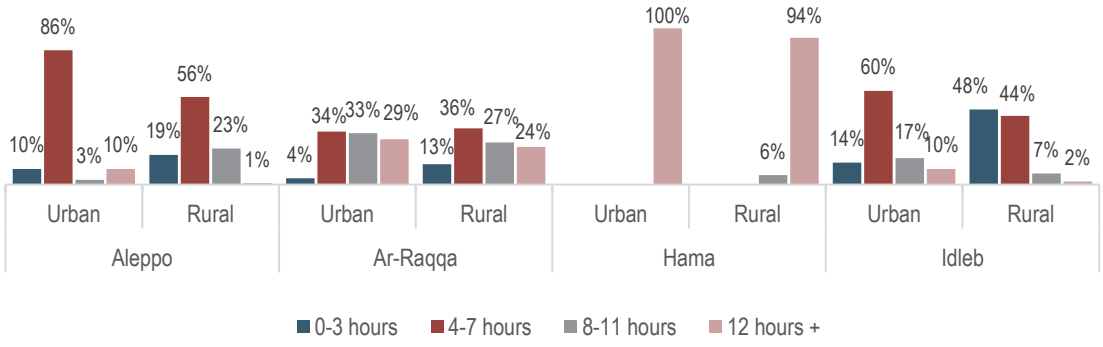
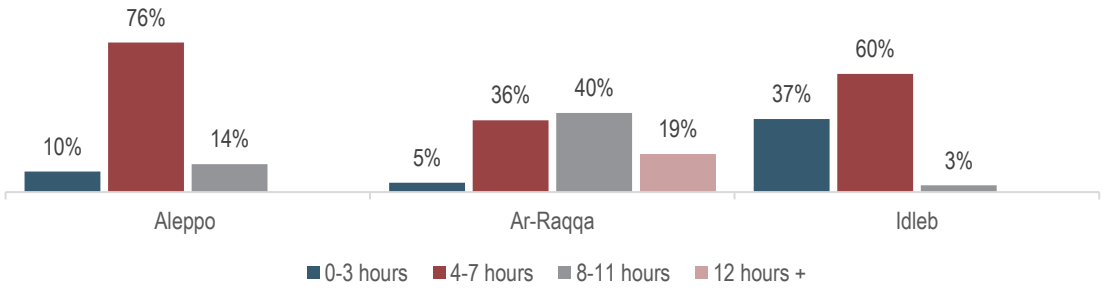


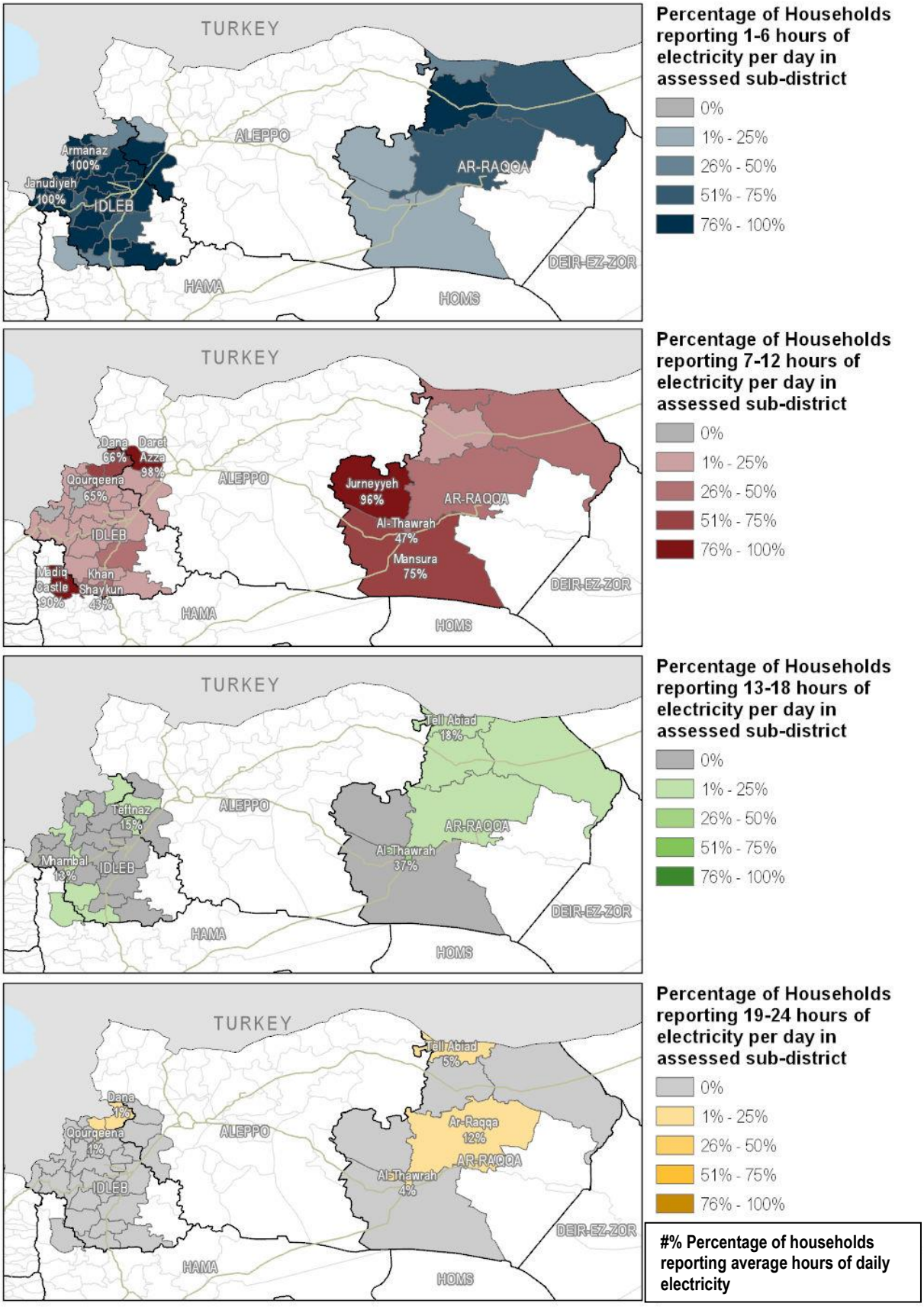
Figure 95: Percentage of female-headed households reported average number of hours of electricity per day, per governorate, assessed through household surveys



In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, KIs were asked to provide estimates on hours of electricity per day for households in their community. However, due to the lack of KIs reporting this with confidence, there was insufficient data to provide estimates for communities in this governorate.

[182] Due to rounding, percentages in Idleb governorate add to 101%.

Map 12: Reported average number of hours of electricity per day by sub-district, assessed through household surveys



3.5.3 Coping strategies for a lack of electricity

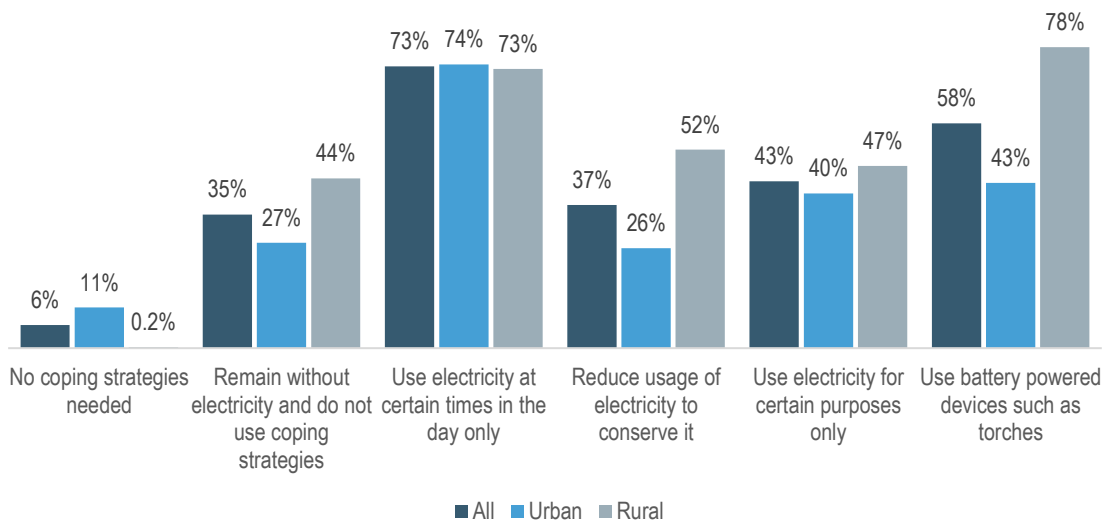
The use of battery-powered devices such as torches (64%) was the most commonly reported coping strategy for lack of electricity across households, with the highest proportion of households reporting to use them in north-west Hama (98%), followed by Ar-Raqqa (63%), Idleb (49%) governorates, and western Aleppo (45%).

Table 37: Percentage of households that used each coping strategy in the month prior to data collection, per governorate, assessed through household surveys*

	Remain without electricity and do not use coping strategies	Reduce usage of electricity to conserve it	Use battery powered devices such as torches	Use electricity at certain times in the day only	Use electricity for certain purposes only	Other	No coping strategies needed	Prefer not to say
Aleppo	25%	2%	45%	12%	27%	0%	12%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	30%	1%	63%	4%	2%	2%	15%	1%
Hama	2%	0%	98%	10%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Idleb	7%	18%	49%	41%	37%	0%	7%	1%

Multiple responses were allowed

Figure 96: Estimated percentage of assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate that used each coping strategy in month prior to data collection, assessed through KI surveys*



Multiple responses were allowed

3.6 Priority NFI needs per age/gender group

The top NFI needs for children (aged 0-10) of households in assessed areas were similar across governorates, with clothing items (81%) and diapers (70%) for children most commonly mentioned. Similar trends were reported by KIs for communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate (86% diapers and 60 % clothing) (see Tables 38 - 39).

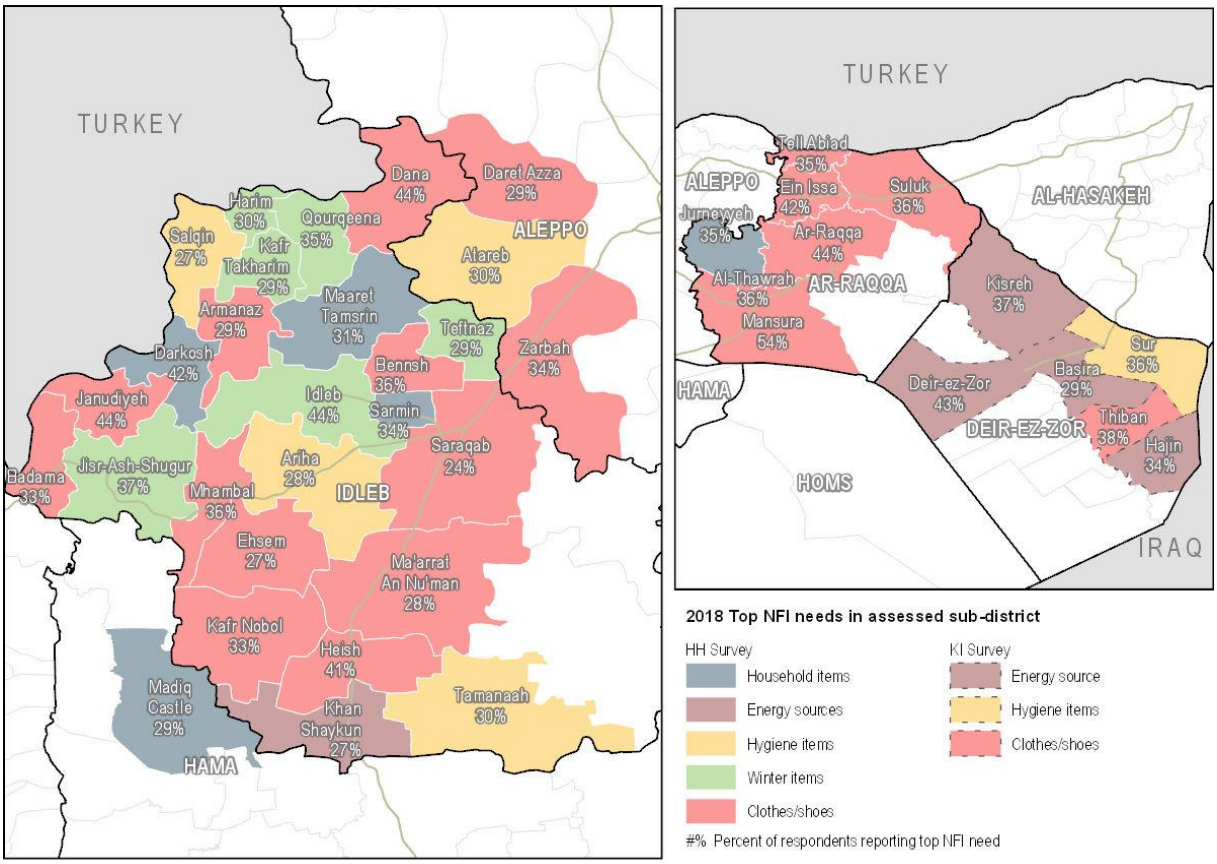
The critical NFI needs for the adolescent population (aged 11-17) of households in assessed areas were also clothes (73%) and shoes (55%) across governorates. The priority need of girls was reported to be hygiene items (53%), whereas the priority need for boys were reported to be energy and heating sources (13%) (see Tables 40 - 41).

Among the adult population (aged 18-59) of households in assessed areas, hygiene items (40%), clothing (38%) energy and heating sources (14%), and household items (13%) were reported as top needs across governorates. Households in assessed areas reported that for women, items such as cooking utensils (62%), hygiene items (55%) (including sanitary pads) and clothing (39%) were top NFI needs across governorates. However, for the adult male population, reported top NFI needs were more varied across governorates. Notably, some of the top NFI needs reported for this group (i.e. batteries (44%), clothing (36%), heating fuel (25%) and lighting (25%)) largely correspond with the NFIs that were reported unaffordable by households in assessed areas earlier in this report (see Tables 42 - 43).

For persons with disabilities in households in assessed areas, hygiene items (including adult diapers) (32%), clothing items (54%) and heating fuel (22%) were reported as top priority needs, except for in north-west Hama where mattresses (100%) was the top prioritised NFI need in this report (see Tables 48 - 49).

Overall, findings on NFI needs in this assessment largely correspond with the needs reported by households in assessed areas in western Aleppo, north-west Hama and Idleb governorate in July 2017. This may suggest a sustained issue in the ability of households to procure some of these items since the previous assessment.

Map 13: Percentage of households reporting top NFI needs, per sub-district, assessed through household surveys



Girls and boys 0-10

Table 38: Top three NFI needs for boys and girls between the ages of 0 to 10, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Aleppo		Ar-Raqqa		Hama		Idleb	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Blankets	39%	40%	10%	7%	13%	8%	9%	12%
Diapers (adult)	0%	1%	2%	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Diapers (children)	67%	79%	61%	50%	82%	75%	75%	68%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%
Hygiene items	36%	29%	30%	31%	23%	17%	19%	16%
Water container/ jerry can	1%	0%	3%	3%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Cooking utensils	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Mattresses	15%	17%	7%	7%	45%	46%	5%	7%
Plastic sheets	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Light sources	1%	1%	10%	9%	10%	13%	7%	8%
Solar panels	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Generators	0%	2%	1%	4%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Clothing	69%	61%	87%	90%	89%	94%	82%	78%
Shoes	29%	17%	62%	61%	37%	48%	59%	59%
Batteries	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	2%
Winter heaters	3%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%
Heating fuel	24%	28%	1%	0%	0%	0%	15%	18%
Winter clothing	11%	12%	2%	4%	0%	0%	9%	10%
Winter blankets	1%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	3%	5%
Other	1%	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%	3%	2%

**Multiple responses were allowed*

Table 39: Top three NFI needs for boys and girls between the ages of 0 to 10 in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys

	Deir-ez-Zor	
	Girls	Boys
Blankets	0%	0%
Diapers (adult)	7%	2%
Diapers (children)	88%	84%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	2%	8%
Hygiene items	27%	8%
Water container/ jerry can	12%	18%
Cooking utensils	0%	0%
Mattresses	0%	1%
Plastic sheets	0%	0%
Light sources	3%	1%
Solar panels	7%	3%
Generators	20%	19%
Clothing	60%	59%
Shoes	29%	49%
Batteries	0%	0%
Winter heaters	2%	13%
Heating fuel	9%	8%
Winter clothing	23%	24%
Winter blankets	0%	0%
Other	9%	0%
None	0%	3%

**Multiple responses were allowed*

Adolescent girls and boys 11-17

Table 40: Top three NFI needs for adolescent boys and girls between the ages of 11 to 17, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Aleppo		Ar-Raqqa		Hama		Idleb	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Blankets	8%	5%	9%	14%	4%	0%	5%	13%
Diapers (adult)	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Diapers (children)	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	22%	0%	43%	0%	96%	0%	40%	0%
Hygiene items	59%	34%	48%	35%	76%	0%	41%	12%
Water container/ jerry can	13%	5%	2%	2%	2%	4%	5%	2%
Cooking utensils	32%	2%	8%	1%	9%	0%	14%	3%
Mattresses	17%	9%	7%	11%	7%	22%	9%	10%
Plastic sheets	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	28%	2%	3%
Light sources	1%	3%	7%	14%	0%	24%	17%	31%
Solar panels	4%	28%	0%	1%	0%	0%	5%	14%
Generators	0%	9%	5%	8%	0%	0%	2%	6%
Clothing	66%	66%	86%	88%	76%	48%	77%	80%
Shoes	35%	48%	53%	77%	27%	86%	47%	66%
Batteries	3%	30%	2%	3%	2%	88%	2%	16%
Winter heaters	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%
Heating fuel	16%	36%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	18%
Winter clothing	8%	10%	3%	5%	0%	0%	11%	12%
Winter blankets	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	3%	3%
Other	1%	1%	3%	3%	0%	0%	1%	1%

**Multiple responses were allowed*

Table 41: Top three NFI needs for adolescent boys and girls between the ages of 11 to 17 in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys

	Deir-ez-Zor	
	Girls	Boys
Blankets	0%	0%
Diapers (adult)	0%	0%
Diapers (children)	0%	0%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	92%	7%
Hygiene items	35%	11%
Water container/ jerry can	8%	22%
Cooking utensils	0%	0%
Mattresses	0%	0%
Plastic sheets	0%	8%
Light sources	2%	7%
Solar panels	12%	7%
Generators	28%	32%
Clothing	57%	63%
Shoes	18%	45%
Batteries	2%	25%
Winter heaters	0%	1%
Heating fuel	6%	12%
Winter clothing	15%	23%
Winter blankets	7%	7%
Other	0%	0%
None	3%	1%

**Multiple responses were allowed*

Adult women and men 18-59

Table 42: Top three NFI needs for adult women and men between the ages of 18 to 59, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Aleppo		Ar-Raqqa		Hama		Idleb	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Blankets	3%	3%	18%	24%	1%	7%	2%	7%
Diapers (adult)	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Diapers (children)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	18%	0%	42%	0%	79%	0%	41%	0%
Hygiene items	78%	25%	58%	28%	49%	0%	76%	6%
Water container/ jerry can	28%	6%	15%	21%	4%	11%	13%	7%
Cooking utensils	49%	1%	46%	4%	83%	0%	70%	3%
Mattresses	9%	5%	17%	18%	13%	52%	11%	7%
Plastic sheets	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	56%	2%	2%
Light sources	5%	12%	11%	21%	4%	43%	7%	25%
Solar panels	7%	47%	0%	5%	0%	3%	10%	52%
Generators	3%	12%	5%	21%	0%	2%	2%	20%
Clothing	31%	42%	46%	64%	50%	9%	30%	29%
Shoes	13%	18%	16%	39%	8%	22%	7%	14%
Batteries	6%	39%	1%	10%	0%	82%	4%	44%
Winter heaters	4%	9%	1%	3%	2%	13%	5%	13%
Heating fuel	4%	44%	1%	5%	2%	1%	5%	50%
Winter clothing	8%	7%	2%	4%	0%	0%	4%	10%
Winter blankets	1%	4%	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	6%
Other	1%	3%	2%	3%	0%	0%	1%	1%

**Multiple responses were allowed*

Table 43: Top three NFI needs for adult women and men between the ages of 18 to 59 in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys

	Deir-ez-Zor	
	Women	Men
Blankets	0%	0%
Diapers (adult)	0%	0%
Diapers (children)	0%	0%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	93%	0%
Hygiene items	37%	4%
Water container/ jerry can	55%	49%
Cooking utensils	0%	0%
Mattresses	0%	0%
Plastic sheets	0%	5%
Light sources	4%	30%
Solar panels	3%	15%
Generators	55%	95%
Clothing	17%	25%
Shoes	1%	9%
Batteries	3%	41%
Winter heaters	2%	0%
Heating fuel	8%	11%
Winter clothing	16%	6%
Winter blankets	0%	0%
Other	0%	0%
None	3%	3%

**Multiple responses were allowed*

Elderly women and men 60+

Table 44: Top three NFI needs for elderly women and men (60+), per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Aleppo		Ar-Raqqa		Hama		Idleb	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Blankets	5%	11%	31%	36%	60%	40%	5%	6%
Diapers (adult)	25%	26%	23%	11%	40%	20%	13%	8%
Diapers (children)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	25%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Hygiene items	38%	39%	36%	21%	7%	0%	18%	13%
Water container/ jerry can	0%	0%	11%	6%	0%	0%	5%	5%
Cooking utensils	13%	5%	2%	4%	13%	0%	2%	1%
Mattresses	20%	18%	10%	20%	100%	90%	9%	10%
Plastic sheets	13%	0%	2%	0%	0%	20%	0%	1%
Light sources	7%	5%	17%	12%	40%	70%	12%	13%
Solar panels	0%	4%	1%	1%	0%	0%	7%	16%
Generators	5%	2%	9%	12%	0%	10%	0%	3%
Clothing	23%	39%	50%	59%	13%	10%	13%	17%
Shoes	0%	12%	20%	27%	0%	0%	2%	10%
Batteries	5%	4%	1%	6%	0%	30%	11%	17%
Winter heaters	7%	17%	3%	1%	27%	10%	22%	27%
Heating fuel	32%	57%	5%	4%	0%	0%	77%	72%
Winter clothing	14%	18%	3%	4%	0%	0%	44%	33%
Winter blankets	5%	5%	2%	1%	0%	0%	54%	43%
Other	25%	8%	14%	16%	0%	0%	2%	2%

**Multiple responses were allowed*

Table 45: Top three NFI needs for elderly women and men (60+) in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys

	Deir-ez-Zor	
	Women	Men
Blankets	1%	3%
Diapers (adult)	72%	67%
Diapers (children)	0%	4%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	0%	0%
Hygiene items	42%	35%
Water container/ jerry can	12%	22%
Cooking utensils	0%	0%
Mattresses	6%	5%
Plastic sheets	0%	0%
Light sources	45%	37%
Solar panels	12%	9%
Generators	26%	41%
Clothing	23%	25%
Shoes	11%	15%
Batteries	1%	9%
Winter heaters	2%	0%
Heating fuel	12%	13%
Winter clothing	13%	17%
Winter blankets	0%	0%
Other	0%	0%
None	3%	3%

**Multiple responses were allowed*

Female headed households

Table 46: Top three NFI needs for assessed female-headed households, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Idleb
Blankets	3%	37%	0%
Diapers (adult)	0%	0%	0%
Diapers (children)	3%	2%	0%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	12%	8%	7%
Hygiene items	54%	37%	39%
Water container/ jerry can	25%	17%	12%
Cooking utensils	20%	59%	25%
Mattresses	9%	36%	12%
Plastic sheets	0%	0%	1%
Light sources	14%	6%	5%
Solar panels	33%	0%	25%
Generators	23%	4%	2%
Clothing	22%	32%	16%
Shoes	12%	5%	6%
Batteries	22%	1%	19%
Winter heaters	7%	2%	20%
Heating fuel	50%	4%	66%
Winter clothing	10%	2%	12%
Winter blankets	9%	1%	16%
Other	0%	16%	6%

**Multiple responses were allowed*

Table 47: Top three NFI needs for female-headed households in assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys

	Deir-ez-Zor
Blankets	2%
Diapers (adult)	1%
Diapers (children)	46%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	0%
Hygiene items	50%
Water container/ jerry can	48%
Cooking utensils	0%
Mattresses	2%
Plastic sheets	0%
Light sources	35%
Solar panels	2%
Generators	77%
Clothing	10%
Shoes	2%
Batteries	5%
Winter heaters	3%
Heating fuel	14%
Winter clothing	0%
Winter blankets	0%
Other	0%
None	3%

**Multiple responses were allowed*

Persons with disabilities

Table 48: Top three NFI needs for persons with disabilities, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Hama	Idleb
Blankets	10%	31%	29%	9%
Diapers (adult)	10%	44%	93%	26%
Diapers (children)	1%	14%	7%	33%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	0%	3%	0%	0%
Hygiene items	42%	28%	0%	15%
Water container/ jerry can	1%	3%	0%	4%
Cooking utensils	1%	0%	0%	2%
Mattresses	13%	13%	100%	7%
Plastic sheets	0%	0%	0%	1%
Light sources	18%	17%	36%	21%
Solar panels	4%	1%	0%	9%
Generators	4%	6%	0%	1%
Clothing	50%	76%	36%	55%
Shoes	19%	31%	0%	35%
Batteries	4%	0%	0%	10%
Winter heaters	17%	1%	0%	7%
Heating fuel	50%	1%	0%	38%
Winter clothing	13%	5%	0%	10%
Winter blankets	6%	3%	0%	7%
Other	8%	3%	0%	4%

**Multiple responses were allowed*

Table 49: Top three NFI needs for persons with disabilities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys

	Deir-ez-Zor
Blankets	5%
Diapers (adult)	34%
Diapers (children)	3%
Sanitary pads for women/girls	1%
Hygiene items	7%
Water container/ jerry can	44%
Cooking utensils	0%
Mattresses	6%
Plastic sheets	0%
Light sources	21%
Solar panels	1%
Generators	45%
Clothing	45%
Shoes	6%
Batteries	5%
Winter heaters	3%
Heating fuel	18%
Winter clothing	18%
Winter blankets	0%
Other	13%
None	3%

**Multiple responses were allowed*

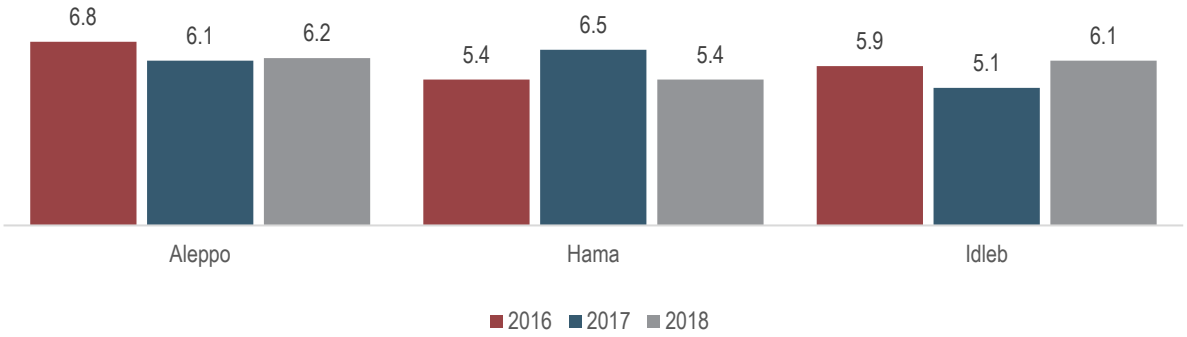
4. TRENDS

4.1 Trends

In previous sections of this report, comparisons were made between findings from this assessment and the Shelter and NFI assessments conducted by REACH in December 2016 and July 2017. The aim of this section is to provide a brief summary comparing findings from assessed indicators and a general overview of shelter and NFI conditions since December 2016.[183] The findings in this section are based on data collected in the sub-districts in north-west Hama, western Aleppo, Idleb and Deir-ez-Zor governorates and that were assessed in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Ar-Raqqa governorate has been omitted due to the difference in data collection methods used in each assessment.[184]

4.1.1 Household size

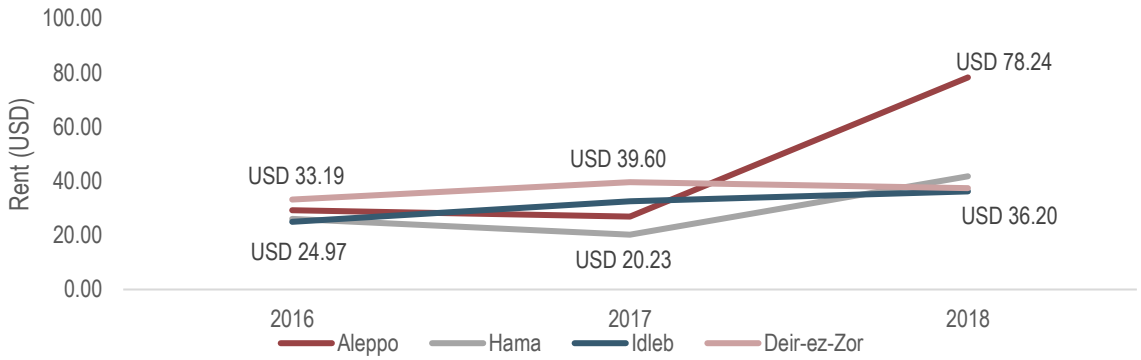
Figure 97: Average household size from 2016 to 2018, per governorate, assessed through household surveys[185]



Overall, the average number of individuals per household in assessed areas was found to have remained approximately the same (5.9 – 6.0) since December 2016. Notably, households in Idleb governorate reported an average increase of 1.0 individuals (+20%) and households in north-west Hama reported an average decrease of 1.1 individuals (-17%) since July 2017. This may be partially related to the high number of IDPs that arrived into Idleb governorate over the previous year.

4.1.2 Rental costs

Figure 98: Average monthly rent (in USD) from 2016 to 2018, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys*



*The highest and lowest average monthly rent for each year (2016-2018) is included in the graph

[183] Due to differences in the 2016 household and KI surveys, trends analysis for some NFI indicators since 2016 were not possible.
[184] KI surveys were used for data collection in 2016 and 2017, while household surveys were used in 2018 for Ar-Raqqa governorate.
[185] Average household size in Deir-ez-Zor governorate has been excluded due to question being phrased differently in the KI surveys.

The monthly rent of households increased for all governorates assessed through the household survey, from an average of approximately USD 27 per month in December 2016 and July 2017 to USD 52 in August 2018.[186] The largest increase in rent since July 2017 was reported in western Aleppo (+267%) and north-west Hama (+160%) (see Map 5 and Figure 98). This increase may be partially due to real estate offices in some areas charging some households more for rent,[187] the general reduction in adequate shelter, and increase in population, all possibly driving up the rental costs of available shelters. A likely consequence is that 64% of households in assessed areas in August 2018 reported being able to pay rent on time compared to 69% in July 2017 (-9%), and 82% in December 2016 (-23%). The largest decreases in the number of households reportedly able to pay rent on time since December 2016 were found in north-west Hama (-46%) and western Aleppo (-21%).[188]

4.1.3 Shelter damage and shelter repair items

Figure 99: Percentage of households reporting any level of damage to their shelter from 2016 to 2018, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

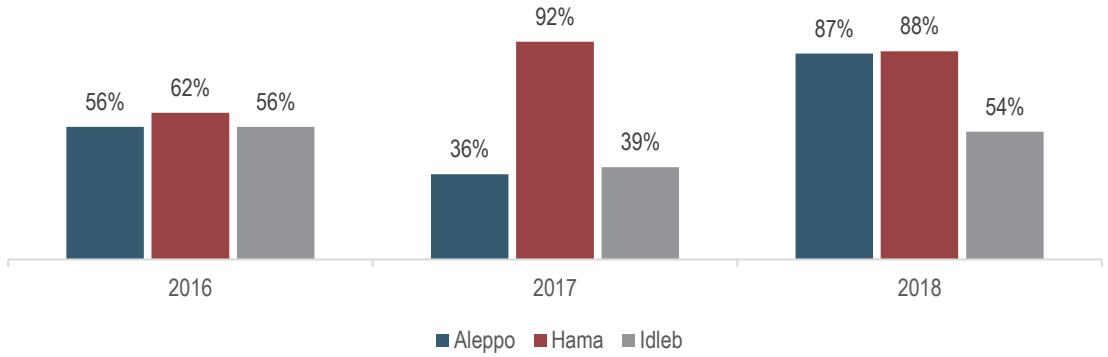
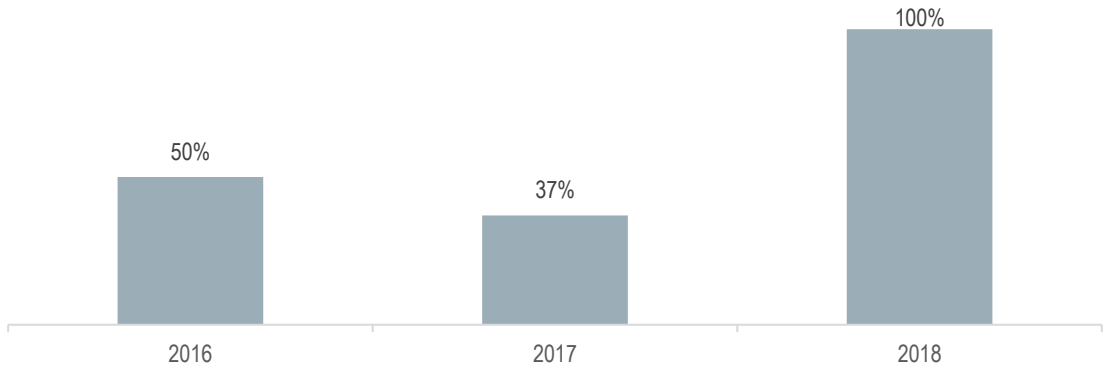


Figure 100: Percentage of households reporting any level of damage to their shelter from 2016 to 2018, in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, assessed through KI surveys



An average of 55% of households in assessed areas reported damage to their shelters in August 2018, compared to 58% in December 2016 and 56% in July 2017. Reports of shelter damage were concentrated in sub-districts in Idleb and western Aleppo, areas which were directly in or along active conflict zones (see Map 7). Notably, KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported that *all* assessed communities (100%) in August 2018 had some shelters that had sustained damage, an increase from 50% since December 2016. This may have been due to ongoing clashes, shelling, and airstrikes between various groups and ISIL in Deir-ez-Zor governorate.[189]

[186] Rent prices were adjusted for inflation and difference in exchange rates each year.
[187] Eqtsad. The Conditions of the Country: Special Reports. Are displaced real estate offices used in Idleb? August 2018.
[188] Prices were converted from SYP to USD using the UN Operational Rates of Exchange. To calculate the change in rent price, the 2016 and 2017 average rent prices per governorate were adjusted for inflation using the 2016 (773.4) and 2017 (790.50) Consumer Price Index (CPI) and forecasted 2018 CPI (998). The actual CPI was not available so forecasted Syrian CPI was taken instead from the Trade Economics – Syrian – Economic Forecasts – 2018 – 2010 Outlook.
[189] IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI), Displacement Trends. July – September 2017; IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI), Displacement Trends. July – September 2017.

Table 50: Top five shelter-repair items most commonly reported as unaffordable or inaccessible from 2016 to 2018, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[190,191]

	Idleb		
Rank	2016	2017	2018
1	Cement 14%	Cement 81%	Doors/windows 23%
2	Wood 11%	Basic tools 47%	Cement 19%
3	Basic tools 10%	Iron sheeting 36%	Sand gravel 14%
4	Basic electrical items 9%	Timber 36%	Plastic sheeting tarpaulin 10%
5	Iron sheeting 8%	Wood 34%	Basic tools 9%

	Deir-ez-Zor		
Rank	2016	2017	2018
1	Cement 100%	Cement 93%	Iron sheeting 77%
2	Bricks 100%	Basic electric tools 82%	Doors/windows 68%
3	Wood 100%	Timber 67%	Cement 59%
4	Basic tools 99%	Basic tools 34%	Basic electrical items 55%
5	Wood 95%	Wood 33%	Basic tools 50%

	Aleppo		
Rank	2016	2017	2018
1	Cement 14%	Cement 91%	Doors/windows 61%
2	Plastic sheeting tarpaulin 13%	Bricks 61%	Cement 57%
3	Nails/screws 11%	Basic tools 57%	Sand gravel 51%
4	Iron sheeting 10%	Iron sheeting 39%	Basic tools 36%
5	Timber 10%	Basic electrical items 29%	Basic electrical items 32%

	Hama		
Rank	2016	2017	2018
1	Cement 18%	Cement 98%	Doors/windows 24%
2	Wood 17%	Basic tools 70%	Cement 24%
3	Iron sheeting 16%	Plastic sheeting tarpaulin 70%	Sand gravel 13%
4	Timber 15%	Bricks 61%	Cinderblocks 11%
5	Bricks 14%	Wood 36%	Basic electrical items 5%

Multiple responses were allowed
How to read table: The column shows the rank of the item; the percentage is the proportion of households reporting items as unaffordable or inaccessible for household surveys in western Aleppo, north-west Hama and Idleb governorate or the proportion of communities for which KIs reported each item as unaffordable or inaccessible.

Overall, the proportion of households in assessed areas reporting an inability to afford or access shelter-repair items had decreased in August 2018, compared to December 2016 and July 2017. Nonetheless, cement, basic tools, and basic electrical items were generally found to be among the least affordable and accessible shelter-repair items in all three years. KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported little improvement in affordability and accessibility of shelter-repair items in August 2018, compared to December 2016 and July 2017. However, cement, basic tools and basic electrical items were reportedly unaffordable and inaccessible by a smaller percentage of assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate in August 2018, compared to December 2016 and July 2017.

4.1.4 NFIs

Due to differences in how questions about availability and unaffordability of NFIs were asked between each year's assessment, an in-depth comparison over time could not be carried out. Overall, however, the percentage of households in assessed areas reporting inability to afford NFIs had generally increased from July 2017 to August 2018.

[190] Three additional shelter-repair items were included as options in the 2018 household and KI surveys, which were not included in the 2016 and 2017 household and KI surveys, namely doors/windows, cinderblocks, and sand/gravel.
[191] Due to differences in the 2016 household and KI surveys, responses on unavailability and unaffordability of shelter-repair items were combined to make them comparable to 2017 and 2018 data. Also, percentages for each item are significantly lower for 2016 as interviewees were asked to select one of three options (available, unavailable, or unaffordable).

Table 51: Top five most commonly reported NFI needs for girls and boys (<18 years) from 2017 to 2018, per governorate, assessed through household and KI surveys[192,193]

	Aleppo			
	2017		2018	
Rank	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
1	Clothing 85%	Clothing 90%	Clothing 68%	Clothing 64%
2	Shoes 53%	Shoes 62%	Hygiene items 46%	Diapers children 41%
3	Winter clothing 43%	Winter clothing 35%	Diapers children 36%	Hygiene items 31%
4	Bedding items 24%	Diapers children 33%	Shoes 30%	Heating fuel 31%
5	Mattresses 24%	Bedding items 24%	Blankets 24%	Shoes 30%

	Hama			
	2017		2018	
Rank	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
1	Clothing 83%	Clothing 73%	Clothing 83%	Clothing 70%
2	Mattresses 51%	Mattresses 62%	Diapers children 48%	Shoes 67%
3	Heating fuel 38%	Heating fuel 52%	Hygiene items 45%	Batteries 45%
4	Winter clothes 21%	Bedding items 21%	Sanitary pads 41%	Diapers children 37%
5	Bedding items 21%	Diapers children 17%	Shoes 33%	Light sources 18%

	Idleb			
	2017		2018	
Rank	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
1	Clothing 69%	Clothing 68%	Clothing 80%	Clothing 79%
2	Shoes 51%	Shoes 52%	Shoes 54%	Shoes 62%
3	Sources of light 26%	Sources of light 30%	Diapers children 47%	Diapers children 41%
4	Winter clothes 22%	Winter clothes 20%	Hygiene items 28%	Light sources 18%
5	Diapers children 19%	Diapers children 20%	Sanitary pads 17%	Heating fuel 17%

	Deir-ez-Zor			
	2017		2018	
Rank	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
1	Clothing 71%	Clothing 57%	Clothing 58%	Clothing 61%
2	Cooking fuel 39%	Shoes 36%	Sanitary pads 47%	Shoes 47%
3	Shoes 37%	Water containers 34%	Diapers children 44%	Diapers children 42%
4	Heating fuel 16%	Sources of light 23%	Hygiene items 31%	Generators 25%
5	Winter blankets 14%	Heating fuel 22%	Generators 23%	Winter clothing 24%

Table 52: Top five most commonly reported NFI needs for adult women and men (18-59 years) from 2017 to 2018, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Aleppo			
	2017		2018	
Rank	Women	Men	Women	Men
1	Washing powder 46%	Batteries 46%	Hygiene items 78%	Solar panels 47%
2	Cooking utensils 70%	Heating fuel 40%	Cooking utensils 49%	Heating fuel 44%
3	Cooking fuel 36%	Sources of light 33%	Clothing 31%	Clothing 42%
4	Detergent for dishes 29%	Winter heaters 27%	Water container/Jerry can 28%	Batteries 39%
5	Clothing 25%	Clothing 26%	Sanitary Pads 18%	Hygiene items 25%

	Hama			
	2017		2018	
Rank	Women	Men	Women	Men
1	Cooking utensils 70%	Heating fuel 85%	Cooking utensils 83%	Batteries 82%
2	Cooking fuel 70%	Mattresses 78%	Sanitary Pads 79%	Plastic sheets 56%
3	Heating fuel 36%	Clothing 34%	Clothing 50%	Mattresses 52%
4	Mattresses 36%	Batteries 26%	Hygiene items 49%	Light sources 43%
5	Washing powder 34%	Bedding items 23%	Mattresses 13%	Shoes 22%

	Idleb			
	2017		2018	
Rank	Women	Men	Women	Men
1	Cooking utensils 70%	Heating fuel 85%	Hygiene items 76%	Solar panels 52%
2	Cooking fuel 70%	Mattresses 78%	Cooking utensils 72%	Heating fuel 49%
3	Heating fuel 36%	Clothing 34%	Sanitary Pads 40%	Batteries 46%
4	Mattresses 36%	Batteries 26%	Clothing 30%	Clothing 30%
5	Washing powder 34%	Bedding items 23%	Water container/Jerry can 13%	Light sources 26%

	Deir-ez-Zor			
	2017		2018	
Rank	Women	Men	Women	Men
1	Cooking fuel 71%	Water containers 61%	Sanitary Pads 93%	Generators 95%
2	Clothing 61%	Sources of light 43%	Water container/Jerry can 55%	Water container/Jerry can 49%
3	Shoes 26%	Heating fuel 33%	Generators 55%	Batteries 41%
4	Cooking utensils 21%	Batteries 28%	Hygiene items 37%	Light sources 30%
5	Heating fuel 15%	Clothing 26%	Clothing 17%	Clothing 25%

[192] Four additional items were included in the 2017 household and KI survey, which were excluded in 2018, namely cleaning liquid for the house, cooking fuel, detergent for dishes, disposable diapers, and washing powder. Also, generator was included as an item in the 2018 household survey, unlike in 2017.

[193] Questions on top NFI needs were not included in the December 2016 assessment.

Table 53: Top five most commonly reported needs for elderly people (60+ years) from 2017 to 2018, per governorate, assessed through household surveys

	Aleppo	
Rank	2017	2018
1	Mattresses 59%	Winter blankets 95%
2	Bedding items 54%	Heating fuel 50%
3	Batteries 50%	Hygiene items 38%
4	Heating fuel 36%	Clothing 35%
5	Clothing 26%	Diapers adult 26%

	Hama	
Rank	2017	2018
1	Heating fuel 86%	Mattresses 96%
2	Mattresses 59%	Light sources 52%
3	Winter heaters 45%	Blankets 52%
4	Batteries 23%	Diapers adults 32%
5	Sources of light 23%	Winter heaters 20%

	Idleb	
Rank	2017	2018
1	Sources of light 44%	Heating fuel 74%
2	Heating fuel 38%	Winter blankets 48%
3	Cooking fuel 30%	Winter clothing 37%
4	Clothing 28%	Winter heaters 25%
5	Batteries 26%	Clothing 16%

	Deir-ez-Zor	
Rank	2017	2018
1	Clothing 60%	Diapers adults 69%
2	Heating fuel 31%	Hygiene items 40%
3	Shoes 29%	Light sources 39%
4	Adult diapers 22%	Generators 35%
5	Sources of light 21%	Clothing 25%

Overall, the top NFI needs as reported by households and KIs in assessed areas remained generally unchanged from July 2017 to August 2018. Clothing items remained a top need for children from July 2017 to August 2018. However, hygiene items and sanitary pads were listed among the top needs for children in 2018, while winter clothing may have been a greater priority in July 2017. The more notable variations were found among the female adult population. Some of these variations were partially due to the differences in the 2018 household and KI survey options compared to 2017.[194] Notably, the overall proportion of the elderly population (60+ years) reportedly needing NFIs had increased in 2018 compared to 2017 in assessed areas.

Hygiene items were often among some of the top 5 priority needs in assessed areas in 2018, despite hygiene kits being one of the more commonly distributed NFIs by humanitarian organisations in northern Syria since July 2017. Factors regarding the irregularity of distributions and households selling items may explain why this is the case. First, this may be due to the need to continuously replenish these items and, as mentioned earlier, over 80% of households in assessed areas reported irregular distributions, as well as some households reporting an inability to afford them. (Among IDP and SR households, the reported regularity of distributions was even lower (see Annex 6 – ADA, Access to NFI support: NFI distributions)). Distributions were found to be more targeted towards IDP households, where more IDP households (58%) reportedly received NFIs, than resident population (16%) and SR households (6%). Distributions, therefore, are being targeted towards vulnerable populations and not as consistently distributed to other population groups. Second, shelter cluster members reported the possibility that some households might be selling hygiene items as a source of income, which is further supported by past NFI cluster monthly updates.[195]

[194] Four additional items were included in the 2017 household and KI surveys that were excluded in 2018. These were: cleaning liquid for the house, cooking fuel, detergent for dishes, disposable diapers, and washing powder. Also, generator was included as an item in the 2018 household and KI surveys which was excluded in 2017. These items were excluded based on an updated list provided by the shelter cluster.

[195] NFI Sector - Syria Hub. "NFI Monthly: Issue No.1". January 2017. http://bit.ly/2yCLgzq

5. Comparison of findings to Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) Priorities

In this section, relevant excerpts from the Shelter and NFI sections of the Syria 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) were compared with findings from this assessment. The purpose of this section is not to provide a set of concrete recommendations, but to provide input for the 2019 HRP priorities and activities specified as they relate to Shelter and NFI responses. As with the rest of the report, this section only applies to geographical areas covered in the assessment. Two primary challenges limit the extent to which findings are comparable and can be generalised. First, as emphasised in the methodology section, two different methodologies were used for the assessment, which limits comparability across different regions assessed. In some cases, differences between the way questions were asked to households and KIs may also result in different information. For example, household surveys may ask respondents if their shelter has any damage, while KI interviews may ask for the most common types of shelter damage in the community. Second, it was not possible to get representative samples for female-headed households. Therefore, disaggregation for female-headed households are to be considered indicative rather than representative.

5.1 Response strategy

> *"**Vulnerable groups targeted in the response include IDPs, those living in** UN-declared besieged or **hard-to-reach areas, and those who have recently returned to their own communities.** The shelter needs of IDPs are directly related to the circumstances of their displacement and the sector* [humanitarian] *will continue to recognize and address the distinct needs associated with recent, short-term, protracted and multiple-times displaced people. People living in UN-declared besieged and hard-to reach areas where they are cut off from access to markets require priority support. **Durable shelter support can be facilitated through carefully targeted support to recent returnees, including light rehabilitation and repair to partially damaged housing."**[196]*

Overall, findings from this report indicate the continued need to provide targeted shelter repair support to IDP and SR households as they were found to be most at risk. This assessment identified shelter needs specific to IDP and SR households, and this information can be used to inform programming targeting vulnerable IDP and SR populations in Syria. This assessment found displaced populations (31%) commonly resided in more vulnerable shelter types (e.g. unfinished or damaged buildings) compared to residents (16%) and that this group found it significantly harder to access shelter repair and support services compared to the resident population. Furthermore, 69% of SR households in assessed areas reported that they returned to their community of origin in order to claim and protect their property, rather than due to changes in safety and security conditions in their community of origin. Findings also suggest that the Shelter and NFI response strategy should differentiate between urban and rural communities, as shelter adequacy issues and access to NFIs varied between households in urban and rural areas. It should also be noted that these findings may be underestimating IDP and SR shelter needs as data was only collected in accessible regions and not in inaccessible areas.

> *"**Additional vulnerable groups include women, children, then disabled and the elderly, especially those who are dependent on others and have no direct access to income.** These groups also have specific needs for NFIs which will be addressed in the response. Those communities without reliable access to markets, either through physical obstructions, lack of transportation or security concerns, are also vulnerable, and within communities, further groups such as the disabled, young and the elderly may face particular barriers to accessing NFIs."*[197]

Female-headed households reported more challenges to accessing markets compared to other demographic groups. In addition, households in assessed areas from all demographic groups reported that women faced higher risks when accessing markets compared to men. Female-headed households also reported higher dependency

[196] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2018). *Syrian Arab Republic: 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (January - December 2018)*, p. 37
[197] Ibid.

ratios (2.5) than other demographic groups meaning that these households are at higher risk of hardship, compared to other households.[198] This assessment found that most female-headed households preferred unconditional cash transfers (78%) as a means of purchasing NFIs. This could suggest that cash transfers or conditional voucher mechanisms may be effective interventions to reducing barriers for women to accessing NFIs, but that these must be delivered along with programmes to support access for purchasing NFIs, such as more local distributions and improved market access conditions.

5.2 Protection risk analysis and mitigating measures

> *"**Distribution of NFI and shelter assistance can present physical safety risks to both humanitarians and persons in need**, especially in emergency situations where there are new displacements and movements of persons in need. In order to address these risk specific measures are required, particularly in the northern and southern Syria such as **safety** audits **of distribution sites**, pursuing multiple distribution points, ensuring distributions are during daylight only, gender-segregated and household-level distributions and appropriate staff training."*[199]

Close to all households in assessed areas reported physical safety during distribution of shelter and NFI assistance to be a concern (92%), underlining continued relevance of the HRP goal to ensure safety of persons in need at distribution sites. However, this assessment did not collect the necessary data to comment on details such as conditions of distributions at different times of the day or gender-segregated distributions. Nonetheless, households overwhelmingly reported that the distance to markets was a barrier to accessing NFIs. These findings suggest that household level distributions should be considered in shelter and NFI response planning.

> *"**Provision of cash and vouchers as a modality for shelter and NFI assistance** could impact market dynamics and livelihoods, while also potentially increasing the risk of corruption and supporting the use of "black markets." Key to risk mitigation is regular market monitoring and readiness to shift away from cash (to vouchers or in- kind), **communication with communities about projects**, clear targeting criteria, and strong data management and security features."*[200]

Unconditional cash distribution was the most commonly preferred form of NFI support across households in assessed areas in all geographical locations and demographic groups (68%). A large proportion of female-headed households in assessed areas preferred unconditional cash distributions over other modalities of shelter and NFI assistance (78%), in assessed areas.[201] These findings are likely a result of high unemployment rates. However, this assessment did not assess the possibility of implementing cash programmes as a form of shelter and NFI assistance. A smaller percentage of households in assessed areas preferred unconditional vouchers as a means of purchasing NFIs, especially in western Aleppo and Idleb governorates. Therefore, given the concerns over the impact of unconditional cash transfers on market dynamics and potential corruption mechanisms, as raised by the HRP, conditional vouchers could be an option in areas where it was listed as a preferred means of Shelter and NFI support.

This assessment found that 95% of households in assessed areas reported access to information on NFI support, primarily from local councils, mostly across western Aleppo (71%), north-west Hama (62%) and Idleb (69%) governorate. However, in Ar-Raqqa governorate, 65% of households reportedly received information on NFI assistance from community representatives.

Findings from this assessment also show that over 50% of all households in assessed areas reportedly had not received information on how to access shelter support. Therefore, in order to build up mechanisms for shelter support, households need more information on where this support can come from. This is especially necessary in instances where households cannot afford the repair materials available in the market, nor the labour force specialized in making the repairs.

[198] Dependents are people age 0-17 and 60+ in a household.
[199] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2018). *Syrian Arab Republic: 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (January - December 2018)*, p. 38
[200] Ibid. p. 38
[201] Findings for female-headed households are to be considered indicative rather than representative.

> *"Shelter programmes will take into account safety, security and access to services in the implementation location and will* ***include an understanding of the local HLP issues and ensure that there is adequate technical support provided to recipients of assistance."***[202]

Findings from this assessment support the proposed HRP strategy to develop a local-level understanding of HLP issues. Of assessed areas, approximately one fourth (24%) of households reported having some form of HLP issue. However, findings were not consistent across all governorates and demographic groups, indicating a large range of HLP issues depending on the region or demographic group. Additionally, local strategies for dealing with HLP issues varied by region depending on, for example, historical precedence, changes in local municipality, or changes in area of influence. This suggests that procedures should be developed to consider local-level mechanisms that have been used since before or even during the conflict that may not align with current legal requirements, such as verbal contracts and bilateral agreements that bypass local institutions. The provision of HLP support through local institutions and stakeholders could ensure security for households by creating awareness of the required procedures for HLP documentation and mediation. Standardisation of procedures may be especially useful in communities with high rates of eviction and cases where documentations were lost or destroyed.

5.3 Response Priorities

> *"The sector's response priorities are aligned with the needs of the population.* ***The sector considers a number of key factors which generally indicate a higher severity of needs for both Shelter and NFI assistance, including whether someone is displaced from their home, and does not have access to adequate shelter or non-food items as a result."***[203]

Findings from this assessment show that factors such as household demographics and geographical location play a role in the level of shelter and NFI needs. Overall, this assessment found that displaced populations face larger barriers in accessing HLP documents and shelter and NFI support (70%), compared to resident/non-displaced households (30%). Furthermore, this assessment suggests response planning should separately target SR households given they reported facing higher barriers when reclaiming properties than when accessing shelter and NFI support.

> *"Needs in relation to humanitarian support for NFIs are also measured vis-a-vis access to markets and the potential to purchase items. With 98 per cent of people in Syria making use of markets,* ***restricted access to markets can leave people in these areas especially vulnerable and in particular need of NFI assistance****…In addition, even if markets exist, there are large populations which cannot afford NFIs and/or where certain NFIs are not available or accessible. People living in such areas are also targeted for humanitarian assistance and rank high on the needs severity scale."*[204]

Findings from this assessment supports HRP concerns that households with restricted access to markets are especially vulnerable and in particular need of assistance. Issues in accessing markets were even more apparent in households in assessed rural areas (34%) compared to urban areas (12%), as well as in female-headed households (35%).[205] The main challenges to accessing markets were long distances to markets and not having transportation to reach markets. Furthermore, households reported accessing markets to be a higher barrier to accessing NFIs rather than the unaffordability of NFIs. Since markets are a primary source of accessing NFIs, this suggests that assistance should be targeted towards enhancing market access and making NFI distributions more accessible to vulnerable households.

[202] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2018). *Syrian Arab Republic: 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (January - December 2018)*, p. 38
[203] Ibid.
[204] Ibid.
[205] Findings for female-headed households are to be considered indicative rather than representative.

> *"The sector considered **whether homes are damaged and whether they can be repaired by the affected population**."*
> *"And finally, the **ability to afford rent** was also considered as an indicator of need."*[206]

The number of households in assessed areas living in solid finished houses decreased since the July 2017 assessment, with a higher percentage of IDPs living in more vulnerable shelter types (31%) compared to resident households (12%) in August 2018. The most commonly reported reason that households in assessed areas were unable to make repairs to their shelter was the high price of shelter repair materials. This finding is in line with the reportedly high price of cement across governorates. Furthermore, it was also commonly reported that needed repairs required professionals, but that their services were too expensive.

Of all assessed demographic groups, SR (65 USD) and IDP (55 USD) households reported paying the highest rent compared to resident population households (47 USD) in assessed areas, reinforcing the HRP goal to identify those who are especially vulnerable to high costs. Utilities were less frequently reported as being included in rent for IDP (92%) and SR (83%) households in assessed areas, suggesting that many households incur additional costs for amenities such as cooking and heating fuel. This suggests that some form of financial assistance to help households better cover utility costs may be an option to reduce expenses for vulnerable populations.

[206] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2018). *Syrian Arab Republic: 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (January - December 2018)*, p. 38.

CONCLUSION

REACH conducted this assessment to strengthen evidence-based approaches to shelter and NFI programming in Syria. Findings from the assessment provide accurate and up-to-date information on demographics and displacement, shelter adequacy, status and needs, NFI availability, access and needs of populations living in Syria.

Overall, there is a need to provide targeted assistance to households based on the level of vulnerabilities they face with regards to shelter types and shelter and NFI needs. Particular attention and support should be given to IDP and female-headed households[207] as these groups were found to be the most vulnerable. Financial difficulties and a higher dependency ratio amongst these demographics are contributing to higher vulnerability levels. This is most likely due to increased displacement, and increased mortality rate of the adult population.

Although rent prices have increased across Syria, SR and IDP households face higher rent prices compared to the resident population. Most households were still able to pay rent on time. However, rent assistance could be a form of support that could reduce the financial burden facing IDPs and SRs in particular, to minimise the risk of these demographic groups foregoing other important commodities to prioritise rent. This is especially relevant for interventions in Deir-ez-Zor governorate where KIs reported that most communities could not afford to pay their rent on time. Options could include referral services in assisting with rental disputes with landlords and housing authorities to prevent exploitation through rent gouging.

The lack or loss of housing, land, tenancy or ownership was found to be the main HLP issue among households. Specifically, regarding ownership, SR households reported that property ownership was the most common reason for returning to their community of origin. IDP and female-headed households were disproportionately burdened due to a lack of shelter documentation. Findings further suggest that facilitating formal contracts between landlord and tenants (especially for IDPs) and helping vulnerable individuals obtain the proper civil documentation needed for occupancy documents may be the most effective way to assist vulnerable households in this regard.

IDP, SR, and female-headed households were also more vulnerable to shelter adequacy issues, suggesting shelter rehabilitation support should be focused on these groups. More specifically, these groups were found to generally lack access to bathing and toilet facilities, as well as lack safe access to toilets. Issues related to lighting, safety, and far distances to reach adequate bathing or toilet facilities disproportionally impacted women and girls, which could put them at higher risk of gender-based violence (GBV).[208] This suggests improvement of and safe access to WASH facilities may need to be a priority in addressing shelter adequacy issues in Syria.

Comparisons with the December 2016, July 2017 and August 2018 Shelter and NFI assessments (where comparison was possible) revealed that shelter conditions had deteriorated. The average price of rent almost doubled, along with an increase in the proportion of households with damaged shelters. This is likely due to ongoing conflict and displacement. From July 2017 to August 2018, the percentage of households experiencing challenges to accessing markets more than doubled (from 10% to 22%). This suggests that although efforts to address NFI needs have been taking place, the worsened security situation has s increased the challenges households face when accessing NFI support, and the challenges humanitarian organisations face when trying to reach households to provide these services.

This assessment found that households with shelter damages faced challenges with repairing their shelters due to the high costs of shelter repair materials, and the lack of individuals specialised in repairs. Notably, households were found to prefer receiving shelter support in the form of external actors assisting with repairs, with over a third of households reporting this preference (35%). Thus, this assessment acknowledges the opportunity for humanitarian organisations to assist with shelter vulnerabilities by providing shelter kits, and building and repair materials, including referrals of technical resources for more robust shelter repairs and restorations.

Over the past year, access to basic household items had deteriorated for households. Most households accessed NFIs through markets, and most households could easily access markets. However, many households were unable

[207] Claim derived despite smaller sample size that is not generalizable.
[208] HNO-Syria: Protection. Whole of Syria: 2018 Protection needs overview. October 2017.

to afford NFIs due to rising prices and a lack of income. IDP and female-headed households were more likely to face challenges of unaffordability compared to resident population and male-headed households, suggesting financial assistance or NFI assistance be targeted to these vulnerable groups. This assessment also found households in assessed areas to prefer unconditional cash support as a form of NFI support due to lack of NFI distributions. The small proportion of households (10%) who did rely on NFI distributions reported that NFIs received through distributions were insufficient for the size of their family and that the selection of NFIs provided was random. Unconditional cash transfers would likely reduce these barriers facing households due to increased autonomy over choice.

This assessment also identified the need for additional energy and heating sources across assessed governorates. This suggests that interventions should be aimed at increasing access to energy and heating sources, along with winter items, through disbursements, ensuring safe access to local markets, or by increasing NFI distributions. Other NFIs needed included clothing, shoes, and diapers for children and clothing and hygiene items for adults. Lastly, 65% of women were in need of hygiene items. including sanitary pads, and 62% reported a need for cooking utensils, suggesting these were also items that should be included in distributions or made more available through local markets.

Recommendations for Further Research

Findings of this assessment have highlighted areas recommended for further research, to strengthen understanding of the shelter and NFI situation and help inform future Shelter and NFI (SNFI) interventions in Syria:

- It was not entirely possible to get representative samples for all levels of disaggregation for each governorate, for female-headed households. In future, greater efforts to get statistically significant representations of female-headed households should be made. This can be achieved by hiring more female enumerators and prioritizing greater efforts in planning, training and implementation.
- A greater gender parity between KIs should be reached at the sub-district level. In sub-districts where multiple KIs were required to be interviewed, at least one or more KIs should be female, when possible. Improving on this may improve the accuracy of the perceived needs of communities for both genders.
- A lack of financial resources was the most common reason households were unable to access shelter and basic NFIs. Further research is needed on whether employment/livelihood interventions translate into improved access to SNFI. Additional questions should be asked relating to household income, costs of monthly expenses, and remaining disposable income after basic monthly expenses have been paid.
- The effects of unconditional cash transfer on the demand of NFIs in local markets should be further examined. Working in partnership with market monitoring assessment initiatives and conducting additional KI interviews or focus group discussions may provide greater understanding of the possible affect cash transfers have on the demand for NFIs in local markets.
- The Washington Group (WG)[209] questions used in the 2018 Health Assessment[210] are worth adapting and incorporating into future SNFI research, especially the indicators assessing access to NFIs for those who have a disability. These questions from WG aid in identifying disabilities based on six domains. The questions would more accurately identify people with disabilities and their needs, rather than just asking if households have a member with a disability. This would ensure more accurate reporting on NFI needs of those with disabilities.
- Following the incorporation of WG questions into future SNFI research, a more specified list of NFIs should also be incorporated to provide more relevant findings on the needs of people with disabilities.
- Additional options within the survey for qualitative responses may better inform certain parts of the contexts of some of the findings. However, as the assessment is primarily quantitative in its methodology, this must be done only in necessary instances. Nonetheless, greater context behind findings may strengthen the understanding of the situation in Syria related to shelter and NFIs and help inform future interventions.

[209] Washington Group short question set to screen for disabilities aims to identify six domains of disability: vision; hearing; walking/climbing stairs; remembering/concentrating; communication; and self-care. http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/washington-group-question-sets/short-set-of-disability-questions/

[210] Syria Health Assessment: Injury/Disability and Mental Health, 2018.

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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's mission is 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.