

Context

The conflict in Syria has created and exacerbated large-scale humanitarian needs around water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) for the country's population.

Households (HHs) living in camps and sites have acute needs across all sectors of intervention. In addition to the physical realities of living in a camp setting, the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview found that HHs living in camps and sites contend with almost non-existent livelihood opportunities and increased exposure to protection risks and disease outbreaks.¹

Understanding the challenges experienced by HHs in camps and sites allows for effective planning of the humanitarian response to meet the needs of these HHs, recognising their specific vulnerabilities. This factsheet focuses on the availability and accessibility of WASH services, highlighting key findings related to the WASH situation of HHs in camps and sites, and comparing it with the WASH situation of HHs in communities. The factsheet also includes analysis focused on the WASH situation in camps and sites located in conflict areas.

Methodology

The Whole of Syria WASH Sector, together with REACH, HNAP and Sector members conducted two assessments between June and August 2019: one of HHs living in camps and sites and one of HHs living in communities². Both assessments employed random sampling methods to ensure the data gathered is representative.

Households in communities assessment

The assessment of HHs in communities covered 25,664 HHs in 4,517 communities across 268 sub-districts in all 14 governorates in Syria. Findings from the HHs in communities assessment are representative at the sub-district level with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 10%. This assessment did not specifically target informal sites

within communities. However, due to the random sampling methodology used, a very small number of HHs in informal sites were interviewed. For the assessment of HHs in communities, two stage random sampling was carried out, with communities and then HHs randomly selected.

Households in camps and sites assessment

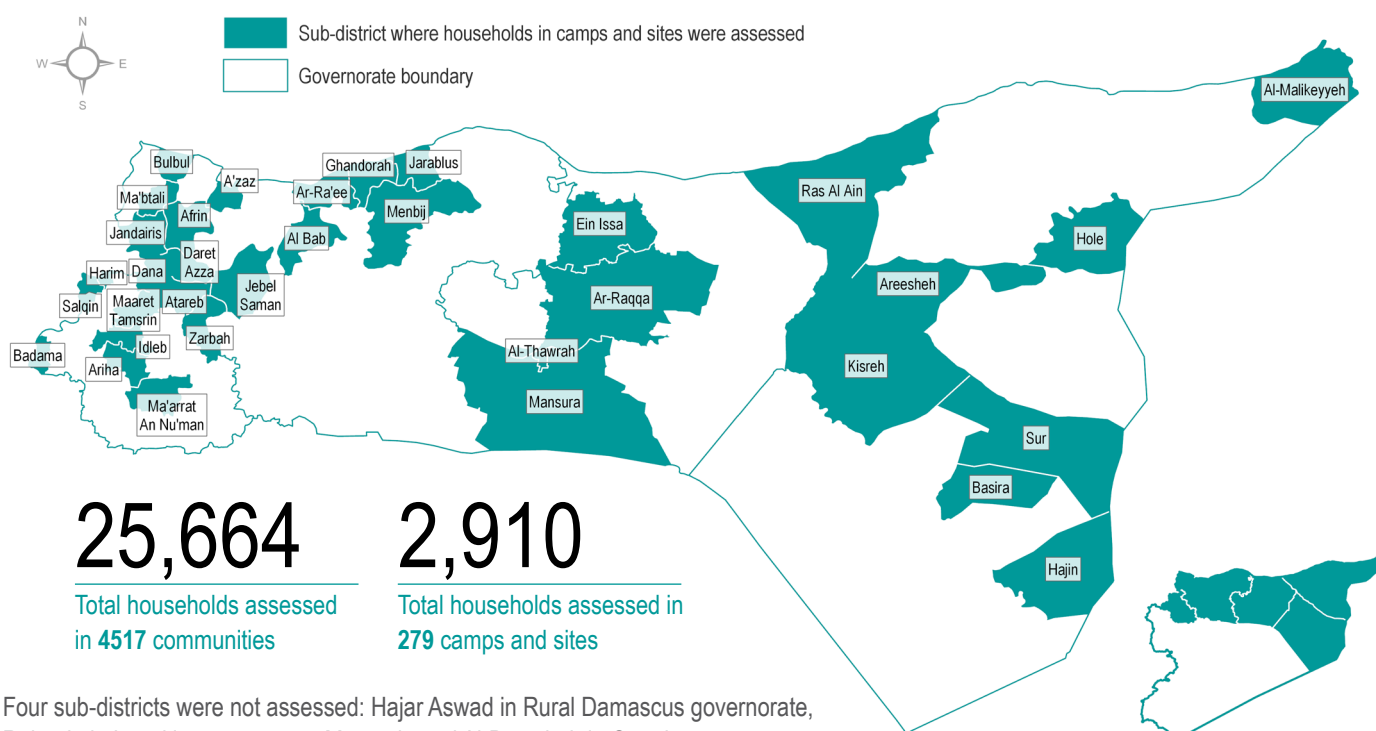
The assessment of HHs in camps and sites covered 2,910 HHs in 279 accessible camps and sites across 34 sub-districts in northwest and northeast Syria. Findings from the assessment are representative at the sub-district level with a confidence level of 90% and a 10% margin of error. For the HH assessment in camps and sites, a mixed method of two stage random sampling and cluster sampling was used.

Throughout this factsheet the term "camps and sites" should be understood to include all of the following site/settlement types:

- Managed camps established by an accountable humanitarian actor
- Formally established, planned sites and settlements
- Spontaneous (unplanned) sites and settlements
- Formal tented sites and settlements with a dedicated Camp Management Agency
- Informal sites and settlements without a dedicated Camp Management Agency
- Collective centres where displaced populations are hosted in existing public infrastructure not originally designed as shelter

For further details on the HHs in camps and sites assessment methodology, please see the associated [Terms of Reference](#). For additional information regarding the findings presented in this factsheet please refer to contacts below.

 Patrick Laurent - pl Laurent@unicef.org WASH Sector Coordinator	Jakub Pajak - jakub.pajak@acted.org WASH Sector Co-Coordinator	Umar Daraz - udaraz@unicef.org Information Management Specialist	Jordan Curtis - jordan.curtis@reach-initiative.org REACH Assessment Officer
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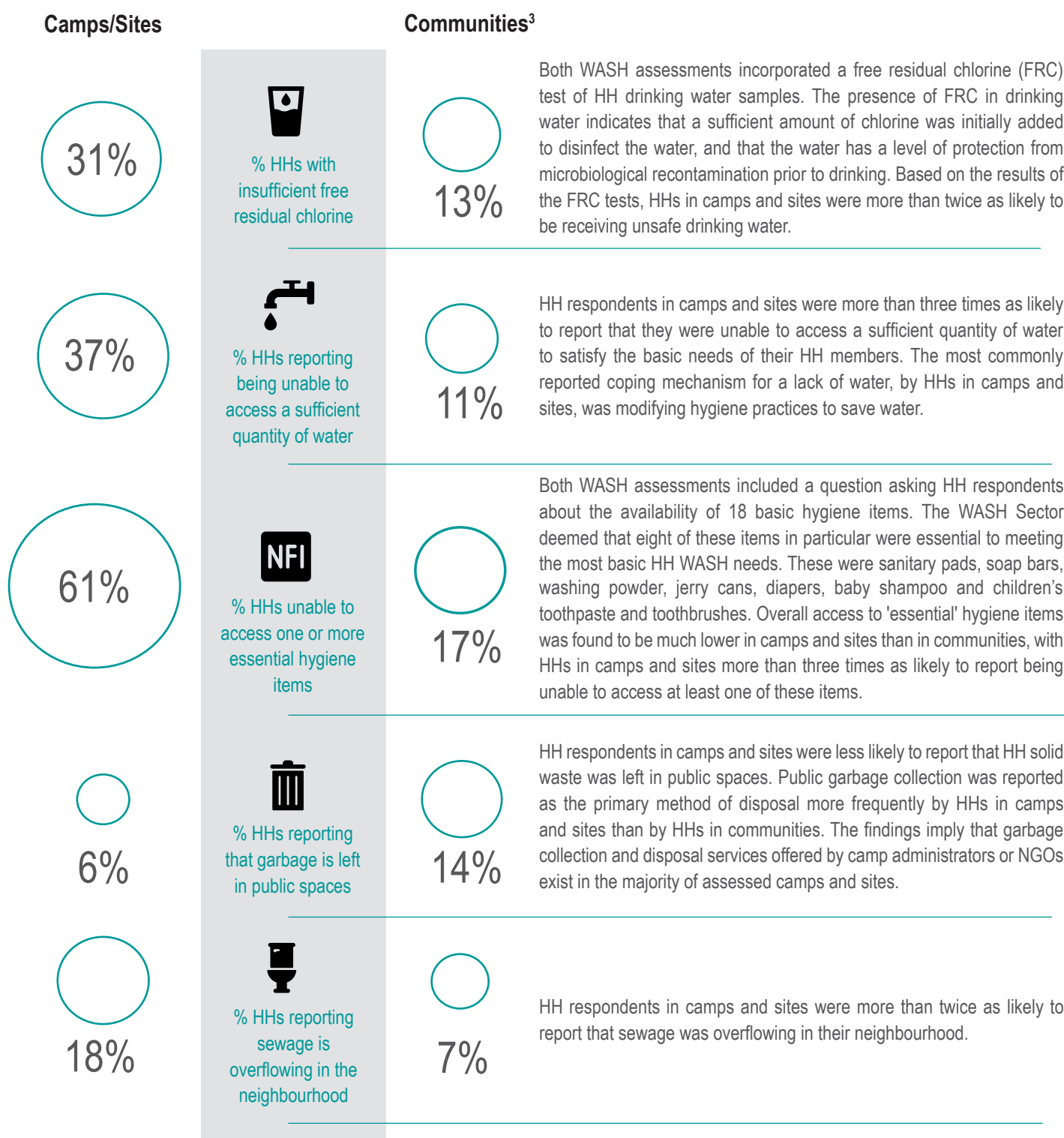
Four sub-districts were not assessed: Hajar Aswad in Rural Damascus governorate, Rabee'a in Latakia governorate, Masaada and Al-Butayhah in Quneitra governorate.

¹2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview - Syrian Arab Republic

² The assessment carried out in communities may include a very small number of informal site surveys, where the informal sites were based in communities.

How do WASH needs in camps and sites differ from those in surrounding communities?

Comparative analysis of the data collected from HHs in camps and sites and HHs in communities was undertaken to highlight differences in the circumstances of both populations with respect to WASH needs. Access to WASH facilities, items and services was consistently worse for HHs in camps and sites compared to HHs in surrounding communities, with very few exceptions. On indicators related to water quality and water sufficiency, wastewater disposal and access to hygiene items, HHs in camps and sites fared significantly worse than HHs in communities. While for indicators related to solid waste disposal, HHs in camps and sites were more likely to report access to public waste collection services than HHs in communities.



³Only the 34 sub-districts in which camps and sites were assessed are included in the comparison.



Key findings related to sanitation in camps and sites

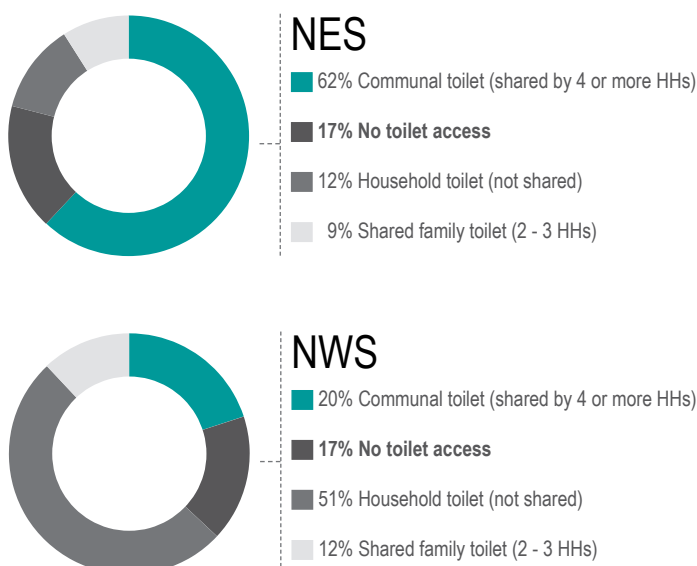
The sanitation situation for HHs in camps and sites was found to be severe throughout Syria, but particularly in northeast Syria (NES) where a large proportion of the population in camps and sites utilise shared communal toilets that do not meet minimum humanitarian standards for toilet access.⁴ HHs in camps and sites throughout NES are also much more likely to be sharing a toilet that is not gender segregated, exposing female HH members to protection risks. A lack of access to bathing facilities in camps and sites was commonly reported by HHs in both NES and northwest Syria (NWS)⁵.



Access to toilets and overcrowding

62%

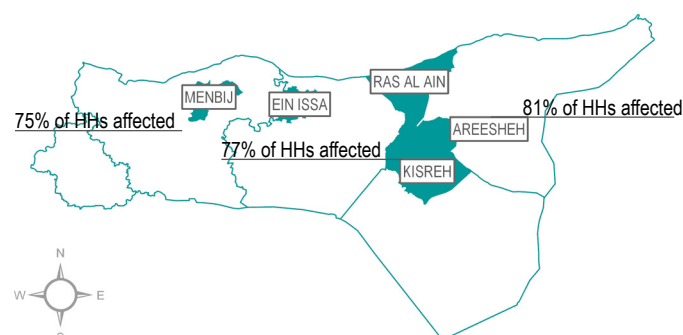
Of HHs in assessed camps and sites in NES reported sharing a communal/public toilet, compared with 20% of HHs in assessed camps and sites in NWS.



58%

Of HHs in assessed camps and sites using communal toilets in NES reported sharing a toilet with more than 20 individuals, compared with 17% of HHs in assessed camps and sites in NWS.

The map shows the sub-districts with the highest proportion of HHs sharing a toilet with more than 20 individuals.



Statistics for Ein Issa and Ras Al Ain sub-districts are omitted from the map as Ein Issa and Mabrouka camps were subsequently vacated following the data collection period.



Sex segregation of communal toilets

65%

Of HHs in assessed camps and sites using communal toilets in NES reported that communal toilets were not segregated by sex, compared with 18% of HHs in assessed camps and sites in NWS.

A lack of sex segregated toilets was widely reported by respondents in several large IDP camps assessed in NES including: Al Hol (76%), Areesheh (82%) and Twahina camps (98%).



Access to bathing facilities

58%

Of HHs in assessed camps and sites reported that they lacked access to a functioning bathing facility: 62% of HHs in assessed camps and sites in NES, and 57% of HHs in assessed camps and sites in NWS reported this.

Top three sub-districts where HHs reported lacking access to functioning bathing facilities

- 1 Mansura in Ar-Raqqa governorate - 97%
- 2 Jarablus in Aleppo governorate- 96%
- 3 Al-Thawrah in Ar-Raqqa governorate - 96%⁶

⁴Sphere Handbook: Ratio of shared toilets - Minimum 1 per 20 people
⁵ 1086 HH interviews were conducted in camps and sites throughout NES, 1824 HH interviews were conducted in camps and sites throughout NWS
⁶ Rankings shown account for decimal values which have been omitted through rounding.



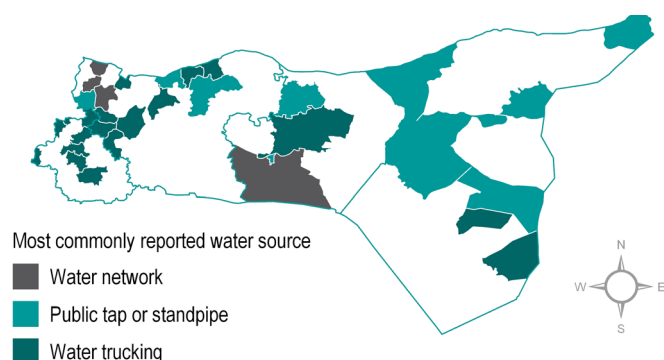
Key findings related to water access in camps and sites

Analysis of water indicators from the assessment of HHs in camps and sites revealed distinct spatial trends. A higher proportion of HHs in camps and sites in NWS reported water insufficiency, compared with NES. HHs in camps and sites in NWS also reported the cost of water as a barrier to accessing sufficient water much more frequently than in NES. The predominant water supply modality in the majority of sub-districts in NWS is water trucking, which is related to the high proportion of HHs in NWS spending more than 10% of their income on obtaining water. Water safety in camps and sites throughout NES appeared to be considerably worse than in NWS; a much higher proportion of HH water samples tested in camps and sites in NES showed no free residual chlorine available to prevent microbiological contamination.



Water source and water safety

The map shows the most commonly reported main HH water source in assessed camps and sites, aggregated to the sub-district level. Camps and sites in all sub-districts in Idlib and surrounding areas are reliant on water trucking as the main water source.



40%

Of HH water samples tested in assessed camps and sites in NES did not have sufficient FRC to protect water from microbiological recontamination, compared with 23% of HH water samples tested in assessed camps and sites in NWS.

Top five sub-districts where HH water samples lacked sufficient FRC

- 1 Ar-Ra'ee in Aleppo governorate - 100%
- 2 Zarbah in Aleppo governorate - 99%
- 3 Mansura in Ar-Raqqa governorate - 95%
- 4 Kisreh in Deir-ez-Zor governorate - 90%
- 5 Jebel Saman in Aleppo governorate - 86%



Household spending on water

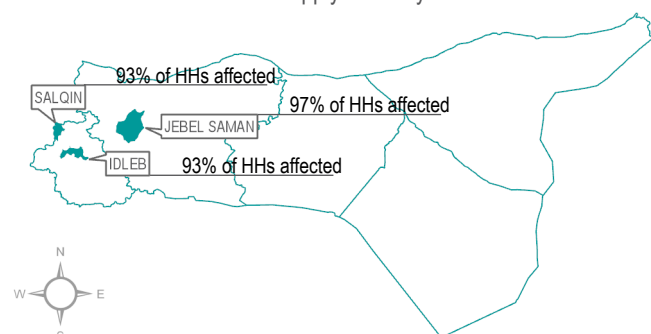
43%

Of HHs in assessed camps and sites in NWS reported spending at least 5% of the HH income on buying water, compared with 9% of HHs in assessed camps and sites in NES.

6%

Of HHs in assessed camps and sites reported that they would be willing to pay for regular safe water supply at their HH. 75% of HHs in assessed camps and sites reported that they could not afford to pay.

The map shows the sub-districts with the highest proportion of HHs reporting spending over 5% of HH income on buying water. Water trucking was the most common water supply modality in all three sub-districts.



Water sufficiency and barriers to access

44%

Of HHs in assessed camps and sites in NWS reported being unable to access a sufficient quantity of water, compared with 21% of HHs in assessed camps and sites in NES.

Most commonly reported reasons for not being able to access a sufficient quantity of water (proportion of HHs reporting issue)

Water is too expensive

19%

68%

Containers for water collection are too expensive

21%

40%

Insufficient water points

42%

24%

NES

NWS

REACH

Informing more effective humanitarian action



WASH Cluster
Water Sanitation Hygiene

WASH in conflict areas

The impact of hostilities, both past and present is the principle driver of humanitarian needs in Syria⁷, this is also true with respect to WASH specific needs. Destruction to civilian infrastructure severely impacts access to basic WASH services. The needs of those located in areas where humanitarian partners and repair staff face severe access limitations near active lines of control are particularly acute.

Zarbah is one example of a sub-district located close to an active front line which has seen a high intensity of hostilities. Very few humanitarian partners are able to regularly operate there. WASH needs in Zarbah are compounded by the fact that the surrounding area was subject to water scarcity and declining water tables in the years prior to the conflict⁸. The population of Zarbah is now completely reliant on water trucking for their water supply. Respondents living in assessed camps and collective centres throughout Zarbah sub-district were consistently among those reporting WASH needs of the highest severity.

ZARBAH SUB-DISTRICT

5,965

IDP population in accessible camps and collective centres in Zarbah sub-district

86

Total households assessed in 6 camps and sites⁹



Access to water supplies

92%

Of assessed HHs in Zarbah reported having spent two or more days consecutively without water in the last 30 days, compared with only 38% of HHs in assessed camps and sites across all sub-districts.

89%

Of water samples tested in Zarbah had insufficient free residual chlorine, compared with 31% of HHs in assessed camps and sites across all sub-districts.

99%

Of assessed HHs in Zarbah reported that water is too expensive, compared with 35% of HHs in assessed camps and sites across all sub-districts. All of the assessed HHs in Zarbah sub-district reported water trucking as their primary water source and the only water source used by the HH. Water trucking in Syria is correlated with higher HH spending on water.

Sanitation and solid waste management

87%

Of assessed HHs in Zarbah reported either burying, burning or leaving garbage in public places, compared with only 19% of HHs in assessed camps and sites across all sub-districts. Enumerators visiting HHs in Zarbah sub-district observed accumulated solid waste within 50m of the HH for 98% of all HHs assessed.

54%

Of assessed HHs in Zarbah with children under 5 reported open defecation by children within this age range, compared with only 9% of HHs with children under 5 in assessed camps and sites across all sub-districts.

99%

Of HHs in Zarbah reported at least one protection issue related to toilet access, compared with only 42% of HHs in assessed camps and sites across all sub-districts. Protection issues include no locks or lights at the facility, being bothered or harassed at the facility or on the way to the facility.

⁷2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview - Syrian Arab Republic

⁸Rodriguez A, Salahieh H, Badwan R, Khawam H (1999) Groundwater Use and Supplemental Irrigation in Atareb, Northwest Syria

⁹Findings for all sub-districts are representative with a confidence level of 90% and a margin of error of 10%.