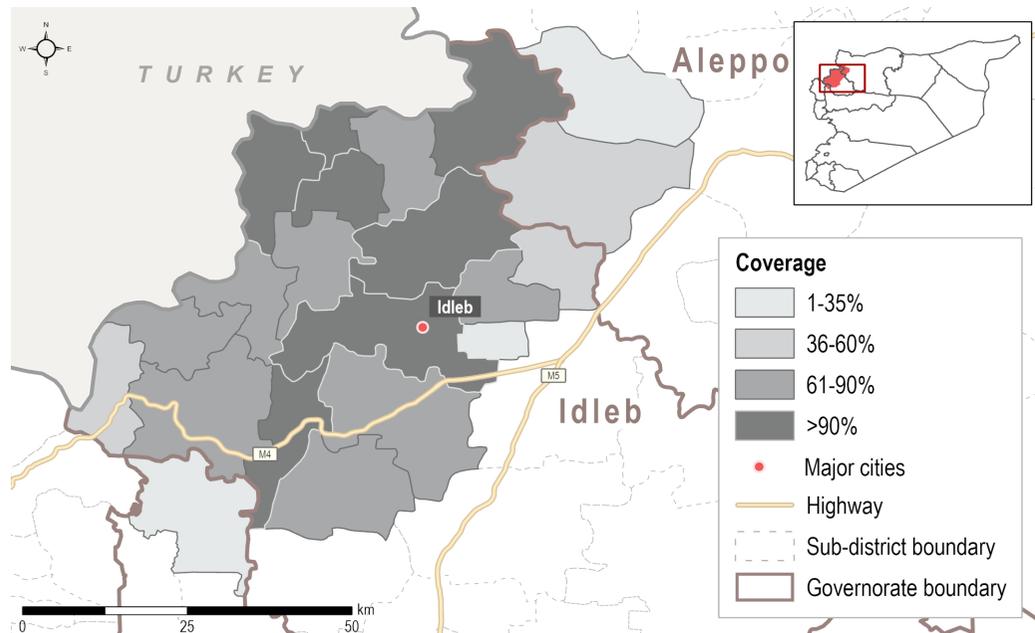


Introduction and Methodology

HSOS is a monthly assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This factsheet presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, economic conditions, living conditions, access to basic services and the security and protection situation in the Greater Idleb area in Northwest Syria (NWS). **Sector-specific indicator findings by location can be found on the [HSOS dashboard](#).**

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview three to six KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely (via phone). KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **371 communities** across the greater Idleb area¹. **Data was collected between 8-19 January 2023** from **1,359 KIs** (11% female). Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalized across the population and region. Findings that are calculated based on a subset of the community are indicated by the following footnote ♦, with each subset specified in the endnotes.

The **complete monthly HSOS dataset** is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).



Key Highlights

One month after the UN Security Council extended the resolution allowing humanitarian aid to enter Northwest Syria (NWS) via the Bab-al-Hawa crossing point from Turkey for another six-months,^a two earthquakes of magnitude of 7.7 and 7.6 devastated the region on 6 February 2023. The earthquakes have resulted in over 4,500 deaths in NWS,^b and left about 55,000 households displaced.^c This situation overview of Greater Idleb covers the period prior to the earthquakes. Therefore, it offers a baseline overview for the region which can be used to identify pre-existing vulnerabilities and risks that may be exacerbated by the earthquakes.

- **Freezing temperatures increased winterisation needs in Greater Idleb.^d** Winterisation was the most reported need for both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities (reported in 83% and 88% of assessed communities respectively). Among the most needed winter items, KIs cited heating fuel in 97% of assessed communities, and winter clothes in 75%. It is worth noting that winterisation remained the most commonly reported need in the aftermaths of the earthquakes,^e as tough weather conditions persisted.^e

- **Healthcare access continued to be hindered in the face of considerable medical needs.** Households' access to healthcare was restricted due to low supplies of medicines and/or medical equipment (reported by KIs in 63% of communities), healthcare reportedly being too expensive (61%), and over-crowding at health facilities (55%). Public health in the region was further challenged by continuous spread of cholera with over 24,000 cumulative suspected cases as of 21 January.^f Note that injuries,^g psycho-social trauma, and damage to critical health and WASH infrastructures^h following the earthquakes have significantly impacted health needs in the region. The map on page 5 reviews healthcare access in areas that reported major damages after the earthquakes.^h

- **Households' access to electricity reduced compared to 2022.** KIs most commonly indicated that households were able to access between 5-6 hours of electricity per day, down from 7-8 hours throughout 2022. This decrease may be linked to the use of solar panels as reduced sunlight hours in winter limits energy production. The use of solar panels increased in the region since 2016 after the electricity network remained widely non-functional and alternative sources of electricity such as batteries or fuel became too expensive.ⁱ Indeed, KIs in 63% of communities cited solar panels as the main source of electricity (56% in the same period last year), and reported in 77% of assessed communities that high prices of batteries (second most common source of electricity) hindered electricity access.

HSOS Dashboard

For a breakdown of sector-specific indicators by location, please see the [HSOS dashboard](#). The interactive HSOS dashboard provides a monthly sectoral overview of key indicators disaggregated at the sub-district and community level.



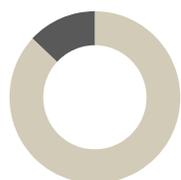
Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for residents (by % of assessed communities) ^{2,3}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Food	Winterisation	Winterisation	❄️ Winterisation	83%
2	Winterisation	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	🏠 Livelihoods	60%
3	Livelihoods	NFIs	NFIs	🍲 Food	55%

% of assessed communities where some of the resident households were able to access humanitarian assistance



% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for residents** ⁴



Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) ^{4, *}

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need **78%** **1**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **49%** **2**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **43%** **3**

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- No humanitarian assistance was available **89%**
- Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible **11%**



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs (by % of assessed communities) ^{2,3}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Food	Winterisation	Winterisation	❄️ Winterisation	88%
2	Shelter	Food	Livelihoods	🍲 Food	59%
3	Winterisation	Shelter	NFIs	🏠 Shelter	44%

% of assessed communities where some of the IDP households were able to access humanitarian assistance



% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for IDPs** ⁴



Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) ^{4, *}

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need **80%** **1**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **51%** **2**
- Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria **42%** **3**

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- No humanitarian assistance was available **95%**
- Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible **5%**



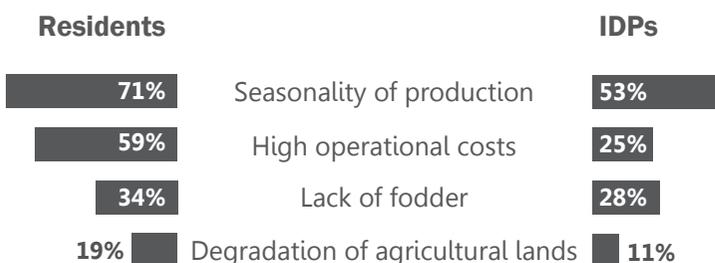
Economic Conditions

Region	Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{5,6}			Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment ^{5,6}			Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}		
	SYP	TRY [▲]	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
Greater Idleb area	120 TRY			472 TRY			40 TRY		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies [*]	0%	100%	0%	0%	54%	46%	0%	100%	0%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of residents and IDP households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs ⁴



Most commonly reported barriers to accessing live-lihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) ⁴



90% and 94%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported daily waged labour as a common source of income for residents and IDPs

68 days

Number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of basic SMEB[▲] items ^{5,9}

94% and 54%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the insufficient income of households and general lack of employment opportunities as barriers to meeting basic needs ⁸

Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services

- KIs in **68%** of assessed communities cited that **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people
- KIs in **43%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge
- KIs in **80%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge
- KIs in **44%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge
- KIs in **89%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge ⁸
- KIs in **61%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge

% of assessed communities where common livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ⁴

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	45%	13%
Cash crop production	48%	8%
Livestock products	67%	55%
Sale of livestock	13%	15%



Living Conditions

In **92%** of assessed communities at least **80%** of the resident population reportedly owned their shelter

In **65%** of assessed communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **30%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **15%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents

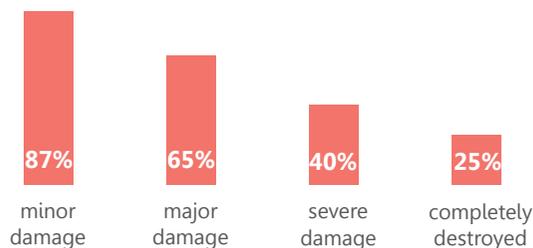
 A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **2%** of assessed communities

 A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **5%** of assessed communities

 Problems with the drinking water were reported in **54%** of assessed communities

 **Water being calcareous** was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 54% of assessed communities)

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages were reported (by % of assessed communities) ^{5,10}



 **Shelter and repair materials being too expensive** was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 84% of assessed communities) ⁴

Reported sanitation issues affecting public space in the community (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible **3%**

Solid waste in the streets **17%**

Sewage system pollutes public areas **9%**

Stagnant water **3%**

Flooding in the streets **2%**

 **98%** of assessed communities where KIs reported that **house-holds experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food** ⁸

 In **18%** of these communities, KIs reported that the **unavailability of certain food items** was a challenge to accessing sufficient food ⁸

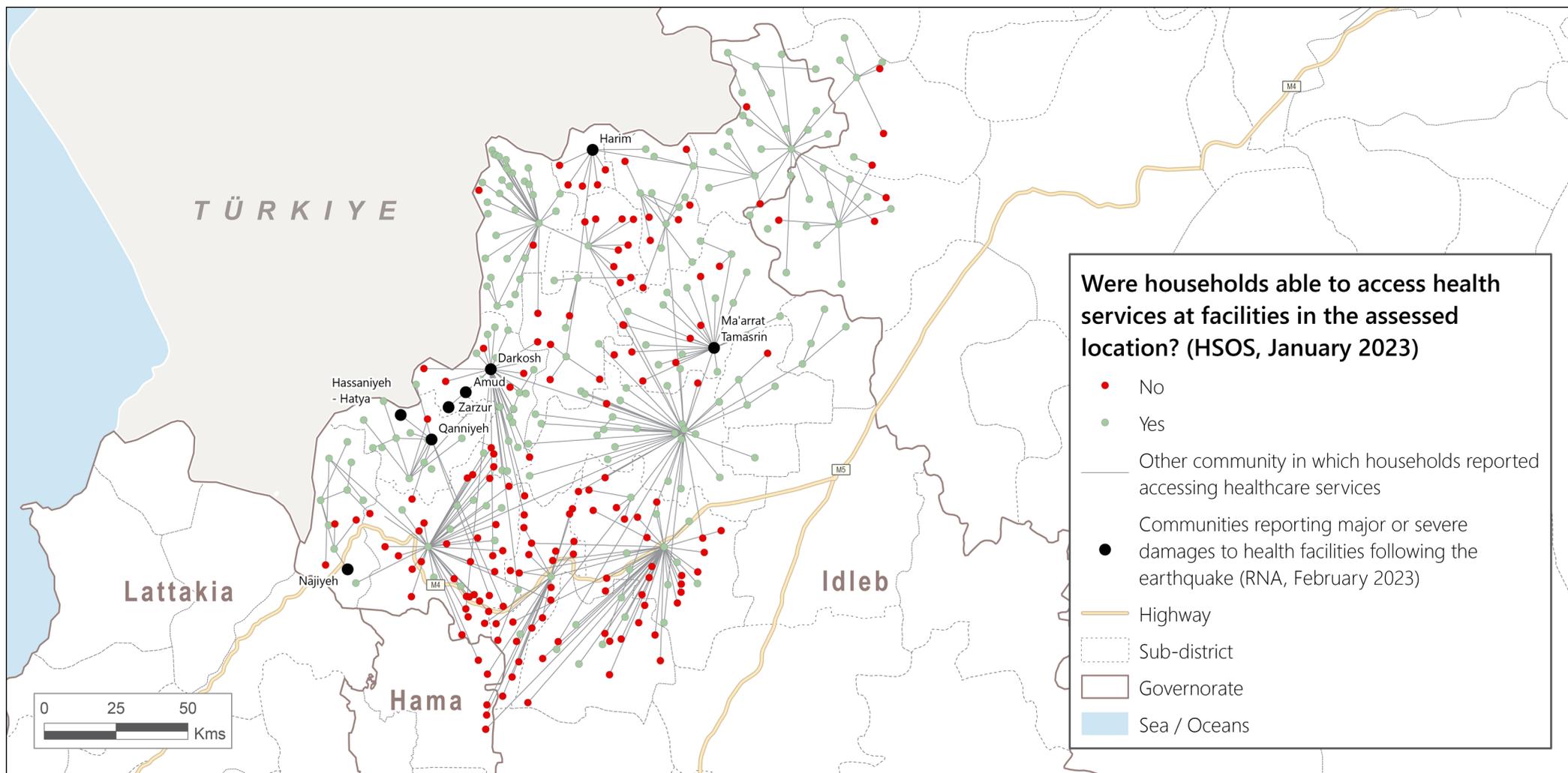
Most commonly reported coping strategies for a lack of food (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

- 1** Borrowing money to buy food **86%**
- 2** Relying on less preferred food / lower food quality **83%**
- 3** Buying food with money usually used for other things **61%**

 **High price of suitable foods formula** was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 98% of assessed communities) ^{4,11}

Commonly reported **sources of food** for house-holds other than markets (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

- 1** Own production or farming **56%**
- 2** Relying on food stored previously **42%**
- 3** Assistance from local council or NGOs **18%**



Households' access to health facilities

Note on the map

This map shows whether households were able to access health facilities in their communities and indicates in which other communities households relied to access healthcare. An additional layer illustrates the communities in which KIs reported major and severe damages following the 6 February earthquakes. Some locations such as Harim, Ma'arrat Tamasrin and Darkosh recorded damages while several other communities were relying on their health facilities. This may further affect the access to healthcare in these areas.



Access to Basic Services



Access to Electricity

5-6 hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 25% of assessed communities)

Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 63% of assessed communities)

41%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the main network is partially or completely not functioning as a barrier for electricity access ♦



Access to Water

49%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that not all households had access to sufficient water



7 days 12%
5-6 days 10%
3-4 days 17%
1-2 days 10%
0 days 51%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 336 communities connected to a water network) ♦

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 45% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

43%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that no sewage system was present

Most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste (by % of assessed communities)

49%

Paid private waste collection

20%

Waste burnt

16%

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

48%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported waste removal services as a WASH priority need ⁸



Access to Markets

16%

% of assessed communities in which households reportedly were unable to access markets in the assessed location

People lack financial means to open shop/market

was the most commonly reported reason for why markets were not functioning (reported by KIs in 79% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

73%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that the lack of transportation to markets was a barrier to physically accessing food markets



Access to Health Services

42%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that the households did not have access to health services in the assessed location

Most commonly reported health priority needs (by % of assessed communities) ⁸

56%

Treatment for chronic diseases

51%

Medicines and other commodities

43%

First aid or emergency care

Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 88% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

18%
34%

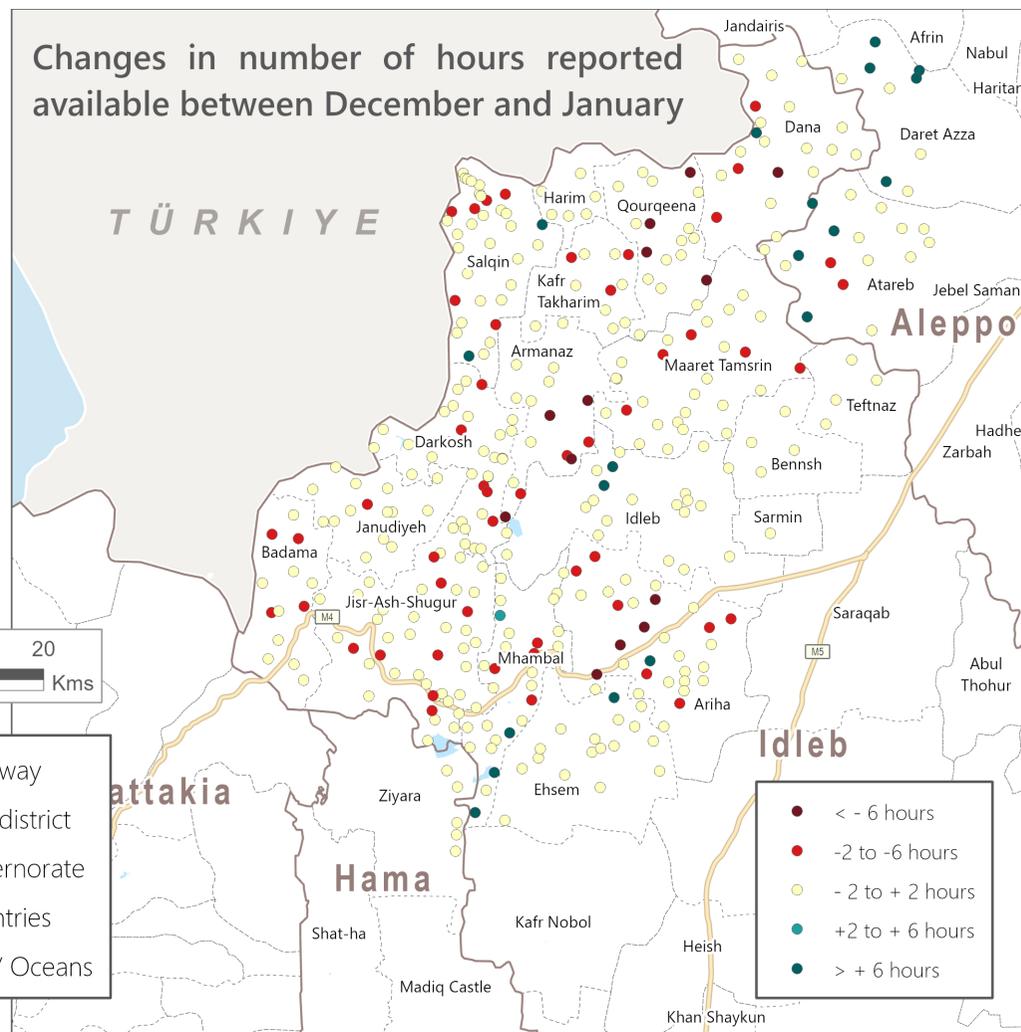
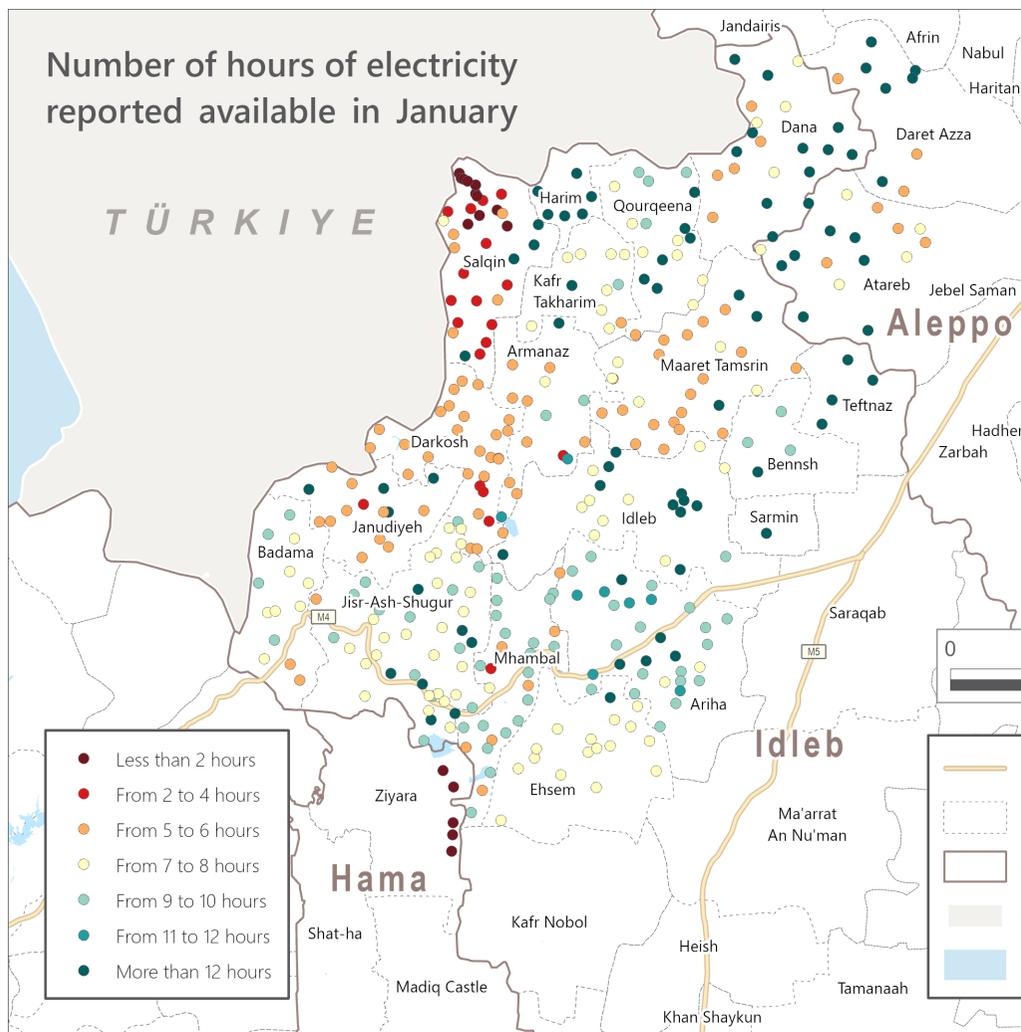
% of communities in which half or less of the school aged-children accessed school in the last 30 days for residents and IDPs

85% In person
5% Online
15% Not functioning

% of assessed communities where KIs reported on the functioning of education services in the assessed location ⁴

11%

% of communities where KIs reported that the lack of access to internet, electricity and/or equipment was a barrier to accessing (online) education services ⁸



Evolution of households' daily electricity access

Note on the map

The map on the left displays the average number of electricity hours per day households were able to access in each assessed communities regardless to the electricity source. The map on the right shows the change in daily electricity access between December 2022 and January 2023.



Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in **2%** of assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **2%** of assessed communities

Markets not opening because of security issues was a reported barrier to markets not functioning in **0%** of assessed communities



Threat from airstrikes was reported as a protection risk in **48** communities ⁸

Threat from shelling, snipers or gunfire was reported as a protection risk in **72** communities ⁸

Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances was reported as a protection risk in **0** communities ⁸

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **79** communities ⁸



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **33%** of assessed communities ⁸

Lack of lighting around the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **87%** of assessed communities ⁸

The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **11%** of assessed communities



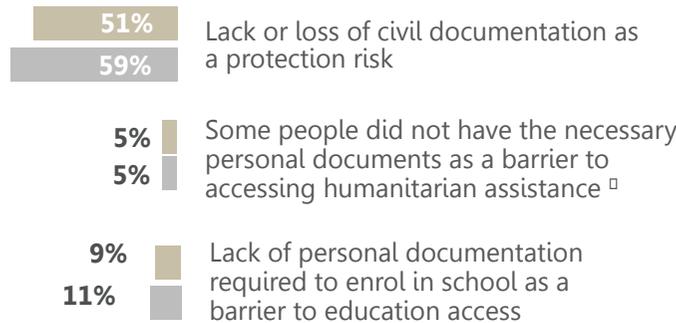
General safety and security concerns at the health facility was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **<1%** of assessed communities

Most commonly reported protection priority needs (by % of assessed communities) ^{3, 8}

- 1 80%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 2 67%** Specialised child protection services
- 3 37%** Psychosocial support



% of assessed communities where the lack of civil documentation for residents and IDPs was reported



% of assessed communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported ⁴

Residents

- 37%** Early marriage
- <1%** Forced marriage
- 3%** High risk work
- <1%** Sending family members to beg
- 74%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

IDPs

- 40%** Early marriage
- <1%** Forced marriage
- 7%** High risk work
- <1%** Sending family members to beg
- 77%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

Age, Gender, and Diversity

KIs in **38%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs ⁸

KIs in **39%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs ⁸

KIs in **13%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **47%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **7%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

Children below the age of 12 were reported as a group affected by child labour in **12%** of assessed communities ⁸

Hazardous child labour was reported as a protection risk in **6%** of assessed communities ⁸

Endnotes

1. The greater Idleb area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo western countryside, and parts of Hama northwestern countryside controlled by armed opposition groups (AOGs).
2. KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. The ranking shows the sectors most frequently chosen as either first, second or third highest priority. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a sector was selected across all three categories (first, second or third highest priority).
3. KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
4. KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
5. KIs were asked about the situation at the time of data collection, instead of the last 30 days.
6. KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD), Turkish Lira (TRY), or Syrian Pounds (SYP). When the price was not reported in SYP, the Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) January 2023, 1 USD = 6,500 SYP; 1TRY= 350 SYP.
7. According to the Idleb Governorate JMMI January 2023, 1 USD = 6,500 SYP.
8. Findings for residents and IDPs were merged. The merge was calculated as follows: (option was selected for either residents or IDPs) / (communities reporting challenges/barriers/coping strategies for either residents or IDPs).
9. According to the Idleb Governorate JMMI January 2023, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 706,752 SYP.
10. Minor damage (cracks in walls, leaking roof, need of new doors and window repairs, etc.); Major damage (buildings with extensive damage to window frames and doors, but no structural damage to columns, slabs, or loadbearing walls); Severe damage (buildings with significant structural damage to column slabs, or loadbearing walls, cracking, steel elements and deformations visible in concrete; the building would require extensive repairs); Completely destroyed (buildings with structural damage so significant that rehabilitation is not possible).
11. KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.
12. Adult hygiene items include: shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Household cleaning items include: washing powder, liquid, and dish detergent.

◆ By number of communities where KIs reported the relevant indicator for the relevant population group(s)

Indicator	Subset	Indicator	Subset
<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>		<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>	
Residents	364	Currency used for paying water	342
IDPs	358	Currency used for paying rent	271
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	305	Currency in which wages are paid (merge)	327
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	47	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	363
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	308	Days when water is available from network	336
Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	39	Barriers to markets functioning	61

Sources

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About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org.