SHELTER AND NFI ASSESSMENT

SYRIA

REPORT

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UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Shelter/NFI Cluster
Turkey X-B
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

REACH Informing More Effective Humanitarian Action

Syria Shelter and NFI Assessment

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Executive Summary

Background

Since the beginning of conflict in March 2011, 5.5 million Syrians have been displaced to neighbouring countries and further abroad.[1] Within Syria, 6.1 million people are internally displaced and an estimated 13.1 million are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 4.2 million in need of shelter assistance and 4.7 million in need of assistance with non-food items (NFI).[2] Planning and implementing an adequate humanitarian response in Syria has been hindered by significant challenges in accessing detailed and up-to-date information related to the needs of conflict-affected populations, including in terms of shelter and NFIs. In order to strengthen sectoral evidence-based response planning by humanitarian actors in Syria, REACH led a comprehensive shelter and NFI assessment in July 2017 on behalf of the Shelter/NFI Cluster and in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The assessment builds on a previous shelter and NFI assessment that was facilitated by REACH in December 2016. This second assessment covered accessible areas in the governorates of Idleb, Hama, Homs, Aleppo, Dar'a, Quneitra, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, and made available updated data to inform the 2018 HNO (Humanitarian Needs Overview).

Methodology

Of the 158 sub-districts in the 8 targeted governorates, 87 were assessed. These 87 sub-districts are home to 60% of the population in the assessed governorates and 34% of the population of Syria.[3] In order to cover as wide an area as possible, a mixed methodology approach was employed. Data was collected through a total of 7,252 household surveys in Idleb, Hama, Homs, Aleppo, Dar'a and Quneitra governorates. In Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates data was collected through interviews with a total of 244 KIs (key informants) knowledgeable about shelter and NFI issues in their communities. In governorates assessed through household surveys, random sampling was used to allow for findings to be representative with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error 5% at the governorate level. At the sub-district level, this allowed for findings to be representative with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error. Indicators were designed in collaboration with the Shelter Cluster and the UNHCR and built on the tools used in the December 2016 Shelter and NFI assessment, with additional input from cluster members at the Whole of Syria level. Data was collected by REACH, Syria Relief Network (SRN) and Binaa Organization for Development between 6 July and 10 August 2017, following initial training of field teams and a pilot data collection exercise.

Throughout this report, findings are compared with those of the December 2016 Shelter and NFI assessment. However, in some governorates there was a significant difference in coverage between the two assessments. For this reason, Aleppo and Homs were excluded from all trends analysis. The report also occasionally refers to trends across regions. In that case, Northeast is defined as Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, Northwest is defined as Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Idleb, and South is defined as Dar'a and Quneitra.

Key findings

Shelter

Households across assessed areas faced high levels of shelter damage and, more generally, inadequate shelter. Shelter adequacy issues were reported by more than half of households in Dar'a, Hama and Quneitra and more than 30% in Aleppo, Idleb and Homs. KIs in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor also estimated that more than half of the households in their communities faced shelter adequacy issues. **The most commonly reported shelter**

[1] Based on numbers from the 2018 HNO report.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid.

adequacy issue was exposure to the elements, such as cold and rain, which is likely to exacerbate difficulties faced by households in the coming winter. **The most commonly reported shelter damage issues were broken or cracked windows, doors being unable to shut properly and cracks in walls**, although more than a quarter of households in Dar'a and Hama reported fire damage to their shelter. The highest percentages of households living in heavily damaged shelters (total building collapse, heavy fire damage, fully collapsed walls) were found in Hama and Quneitra. **The most commonly reported cause of shelter damage across assessed areas was conflict-related.**

For households renting their shelters, the average monthly rent ranged from 12.02 USD in Homs to 37.06 USD in Aleppo. Average rent was lower in Hama, Homs and the South (Dar'a and Quneitra) than in Aleppo and Idleb. In both Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, KIs estimated average rent to be over 30 USD per month. Even though rent was higher (among governorates assessed through household surveys) in the Northwest than in the South, the ability of **households to cover rent was lowest in the South**, with more than 40% of households in Dar'a and Quneitra having missed at least one rent payment in the past three months. In Ar-Raqqa governorate, 70% of KIs reported that rental space was unavailable in their communities.

In all governorates assessed through household surveys, at least 15% of households reported that they do not possess the documentation required to prove their shelter tenancy status. These numbers were highest in **Idleb and Hama, where over 40% of households lacked shelter documentation.** In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, all KIs reported that land registries were not functioning in their communities.

The percentage of households evicted from their shelters over the past year was generally higher in the South than in the Northwest, although assessed areas of Hama and Homs also reported high eviction rates. **In Hama, Homs, Dar'a and Quneitra, over 5% of households reported having been evicted in the past year. Almost 30% of KIs in Deir-ez-Zor reported that evictions had been common in their communities**, mostly due to forcible seizure of property by armed groups.

Of households with shelter damage, more than half in all governorates assessed through household surveys were unable to make repairs, almost entirely due to affordability challenges (inability to afford shelter repair materials or repair services). These percentages were **highest in Idleb and Hama, where over 70% of households with shelter damage could not repair their shelters**. The shelter repair item most frequently reported as unaffordable was by far **cement**, which was reported as unavailable or unaffordable by at least 88% of households or KIs in all governorates. In Quneitra, similarly high proportions of households reported that plastic sheeting or tarpaulin and basic tools were unavailable or unaffordable.

The percentage of households that reported having received shelter support information over the past year ranged from 27% in Aleppo to 59% in Homs. Almost all KIs in Ar-Raqqa, but almost none in Deir-ez-Zor, reported that information on shelter support was available in their communities. **The most common sources of this information were generally local councils or community representatives and friends or relatives.**

Households reported a high preference for unconditional cash among shelter support modalities. In all governorates assessed through household surveys, the majority of households expressed a preference for this modality, except in Homs where the majority had no preference. **However, only 7% of KIs in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor reported that their communities preferred cash**, in contrast to the high levels of reported preference for cash as a means of shelter support in all other governorates. In Deir-ez-Zor, the majority indicated that the community had no preference for a specific shelter support modality, while the majority in Ar-Raqqa indicated a preference for external actors making or assisting with repairs directly.

As an overall trend, assessed sub-districts in Hama were found to face significant challenges across most shelter indicators from damage and inability to afford needed shelter repair materials to evictions and lack of documentation to prove shelter tenancy status. Idleb also stood out with high rates of lack of tenancy status

documentation and inability to afford needed shelter repair materials. Even though rent was higher in the Northwest than in the South, **the ability to pay rent was substantially lower in the South and as a result evictions were more common there.**

For many shelter indicators, such as shelter type and occupancy arrangement, female-headed and IDP households were especially likely to live in vulnerable conditions in governorates where comparison was possible.[4] Female-headed households were especially likely to be hosted without having to pay rent. Eviction rates were significantly higher for female-headed households.

Across assessed areas, IDPs were more likely than non-IDPs to live in more vulnerable shelter types, such as informal settlements and unfinished buildings. **IDPs were also more likely to live under more vulnerable occupancy arrangements**, such as renting and being hosted without rent.

Comparisons with the December 2016 Shelter and NFI assessment revealed that shelter conditions remained relatively unchanged across governorates where comparison was possible.[5] The exceptions to this were Hama and Ar-Raqqa, where conditions had worsened, likely due to intense conflict in both governorates during this period.[6, 7] Rates of shelter inadequacy and damage had generally increased in all comparable governorates, except Dar'a. Among households with shelter damage, the ability to make repairs had increased in all governorates where comparison was possible. Increases were also observed in the percentage of households that possessed shelter documentation and had access to information about shelter support.

NFIs

Across assessed governorates, winter clothing and portable light sources were consistently reported as top NFI needs. In addition to winter clothing, heating fuel, winter heaters and other winterization items were frequently reported among needs and as items that households would purchase if given cash or cash vouchers. This suggests that **many households were already actively thinking about winterization needs** even though the assessment was conducted in the summer months.

Clothing and shoes were by far the top NFI needs reported for children in all assessed governorates. Reported top NFI needs for elderly varied more across governorates, although cooking fuel, water containers, portable light sources, clothing and heating fuel were frequently reported. **In Hama and Homs, a significant percentage of households reported mattresses/sleeping mats and bedding items as top needs for all age and gender groups, while winterisation items (such as heating fuel, winter heaters and winter clothing) were more commonly reported as top needs in Quneitra than elsewhere.**

Overall, more than half of households in all governorates assessed through household surveys faced availability or affordability challenges in accessing NFIs, ranging from 65% in Homs and 69% in Dar'a to 84% in Idleb and Hama. **Among assessed NFIs, the ones most commonly reported as unavailable or unaffordable were portable light sources (e.g. solar lamps, torches) and cooking fuel, followed by batteries, water containers, clothing and heating fuel.** In general, hygiene items were less frequently reported to be unavailable or unaffordable than other NFIs in all assessed governorates except Ar-Raqqa.

In all governorates, markets were the most common means of accessing NFIs, although the percentages of households using markets to access NFIs was lower in Quneitra (47%) and Idleb (57%) than in other governorates assessed through household surveys.

[4] The sample size allowed for statistically significant comparison in Aleppo, Idleb and Dar'a.
[5] Homs and Aleppo were excluded from the trends analysis, as there was a significant difference in the coverage in these two governorates between the assessments.
[6] UN OCHA, "Flash Update: Syria Crisis – Hama", 28 March 2017.
[7] UN OCHA, "Ar-Raqqa Situation Report No. 5", 15 May 2017.

Gas (LPG) was the most common source of cooking fuel in all assessed governorates other than Ar-Raqqa, where KIs estimated that kerosene was their main source of cooking fuel for 67% of households. While gas was the main source of cooking fuel in Hama, 38% of households reportedly use electricity for cooking. More than half of households in governments assessed through household surveys used coping strategies to cope with a lack of sources of cooking fuel, except in Homs where the rate was 41%. The highest percentage was in Hama, where 80% of households reported using coping strategies. The most commonly reported coping strategies were reducing expenditure on other items to pay for fuel and reducing the amount of fuel used for other purposes.

In Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Idleb and Quneitra, the most commonly used primary heating fuel was by far wood or charcoal. In Aleppo, diesel was the most common with wood or charcoal being a close second. In both Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, KIs estimated that kerosene/kaz was most the most common heating fuel, with wood or charcoal being used by an estimated 20% of households. **In Aleppo and Quneitra, over 20% of households indicated having no source of heating fuel.**

Access to electricity (in terms of average hours of access per day) was highest in Hama and Homs, where more than half of households reported having access to the main electricity network. This was one of the few indicators in both the shelter and NFI categories where conditions were better in Hama than in other assessed areas. Access to electricity was lowest in Quneitra and Ar-Raqqa, followed by Idleb. **Generators were the main source of electricity in Aleppo, Idleb, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, while solar panels were the main source of electricity for more than half of households in Dar'a. A majority in Quneitra also reported that they had no source of electricity.**

Information on NFI support was more frequently reported to be available than information on shelter support, except in Deir-ez-Zor where availability of the two was equally low. The most common sources of information were local councils and word of mouth, although mukhtars were also a common source of information in Ar-Raqqa.

There was generally a high preference for unconditional cash support among the NFI support modalities, while few indicated a preference for conditional vouchers. In Homs, NFI distributions were preferred by a significantly larger percentage of households than in any other governorate assessed through household surveys. In Deir-ez-Zor, the majority of KIs indicated that the community had no preference for one particular modality of NFI support.

For many NFI indicators, as with the shelter indicators, **female-headed and IDP households were particularly vulnerable** in governorates where comparison was possible.[8] Female-headed households were less likely to use markets to access NFIs and more likely to rely on humanitarian distributions. In Idleb and Dar'a, a significant number of female-headed households also cited a lack of access or suitability of markets for women as a challenge.

Compared to December 2016, the NFI situation had improved in all governorates where it was possible to make comparisons except in Hama.[9] Aside from the electricity situation, which was better in Hama than in other governorates, **NFI indicators in Hama had remained the same or worsened.** As a general trend, rates of unavailability and unaffordability had decreased for most NFIs in most governorates, as had the percentage of households reporting challenges in accessing markets for NFIs. Additionally the percentage of households who had received information on the availability of NFI support had increased in all governorates, expect for Hama where it had decreased.

[8] The sample size allowed for statistically significant comparison in Aleppo, Idleb and Dar'a.
[9] Homs and Aleppo were excluded from the trends analysis, as there was a significant difference in the coverage in these two governorates between the assessments.

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Introduction

Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria in March 2011, 5.5 million Syrians have been displaced to neighbouring countries and further abroad.[10] Within Syria, 6.1 million people are internally displaced and an estimated 13.1 million are in need of humanitarian assistance.[11] Ongoing displacement, a deteriorating economy and reduced functionality of markets have created barriers to meeting shelter and NFI needs, exacerbated by the volatile security and access situation within the country. The effectiveness of planning and implementing an adequate response is hindered by significant information gaps.

In order to strengthen sectoral evidence-based response planning by humanitarian actors in Syria, REACH led a comprehensive shelter and NFI assessment in July 2017 on behalf of the Shelter/NFI Cluster and in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which builds on a previous shelter and NFI assessment, carried out in December 2016. This second assessment covered accessible areas in the governorates of Idleb, Hama, Homs, Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Dar'a and Quneitra and made available updated data to inform the 2018 HNO. Since the previous assessment was conducted during the winter months, this second assessment also provided an opportunity for comparison to better understand seasonal shifts in shelter and NFI needs.

Data was collected by REACH, Syria Relief Network (SRN) and partners between 6 July and 10 August 2017 in areas in the governorates of Aleppo, Idleb, Hama, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, Dar'a and Quneitra that were not under the control of the Damascus-based government. Of the 158 sub-districts in these 8 governorates, 87 were assessed. These 87 sub-districts are home to 60% of the population in the assessed governorates and 34% of the population of Syria.[12] To cover as wide an area as possible, a mixed methodology approach was used. A total of 7,252 household surveys were conducted in Aleppo, Idleb, Hama, Homs, Dar'a and Quneitra, as well as 244 interviews of KIs in Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa with knowledge about shelter and NFI issues in their communities.

Overall, assessed areas have been affected by the conflict in varying and complex ways. While an extensive review of the social and political situation in assessed areas is beyond the scope of this report, an overview was compiled as part of the secondary data review. Some key notes are presented here in order to provide an introductory context for the findings and the situation at the time of data collection in July and August 2017:

- **Aleppo and Idleb:** Both these governorates have high population densities, large urban centres and high numbers of IDPs. Several of the 18 (of 40) sub-districts covered in Aleppo have been affected by conflict and previous assessments found that a large proportion of the governorate population live in sub-standard shelter types, such as camps, informal settlements, unfinished buildings, collective centres and damaged houses.[13] In addition, the previous shelter and NFI report found lower rates of home ownership and higher rental prices in Aleppo compared to elsewhere. In Idleb, 24 of the 26 sub-districts, home to 95% of the governorate population, were assessed. Much of the governorate experienced severe conflict and previous assessments found trends similar to those in Aleppo, with high rental prices, low rates of home ownership, and many households living in shelters with adequacy and damage issues.
- **Hama and Homs:** In Hama, 6 of the 22 sub-districts were covered. Some areas within these sub-districts have been classified by the UN as hard-to-reach and their residents have experienced significant difficulties accessing goods as well as high prices.[14] Previous assessments have found high rates of home

[10] Based on numbers from the 2018 HNO report.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Ibid.
[13] Findings from 2016 (May-June) WASH Cluster-led assessment for the HNO 2017, which used representative sampling at the household level with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 10%.
[14] UN OCHA Syria, June 30 2017, https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/acc-11_syr_overview_of_hard_to_reach_areas_and_besieged_locations_june_ en_20170801.pdf.

ownership throughout the governorate, though many houses have been affected by conflict damage.[15] In addition, the months before the assessment period were marked by an intensification of conflict in these areas. In Homs, 3 of the 23 sub-districts were assessed, though Homs city (the population centre of Homs sub-district) was excluded. Intense conflict in the covered areas has caused significant shelter damage. The last shelter and NFI assessment found renting to be uncommon, with more than half of assessed households having housing arrangements that did not involve paying rent.

- **Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa:** The majority of areas in these governorates have been under the control of the group known as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since January 2014. Since then, it has been extremely difficult to obtain information regarding the humanitarian situation, access has been limited and the movement of goods restricted. Deir-ez-Zor governorate, where full coverage was achieved, has experienced ongoing clashes, airstrikes and shelling, particularly in Deir-ez-Zor city, leading to large displacement within the governorate and to Ar-Raqqa and almost half of households reporting shelter damage in previous assessments.[16] In Ar-Raqqa, all sub-districts except Maadan were covered. At the time of data collection, the campaign by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to take control of Ar-Raqqa City was ongoing. Prior to this, the governorate had experienced limited conflict damage compared to neighbouring Deir-ez-Zor. According to the previous shelter and NFI assessment, displaced households in the governorate tended to stay in one place long term.
- **Dar'a and Quneitra:** 10 of 17 Dar'a sub-districts, home to 78% of the governorate population, were assessed. The areas around Dar'a city in particular have experienced intense conflict causing high rates of shelter damage and high displacement rates within the governorate. In Quneitra, three of six sub-districts were covered, though these sub-districts account for 97% of the governorate population. The governorate is primarily rural, with no major population centres. There is also a large number of IDPs living in informal camps in the sub-district. Among residents outside these camps, rates of home ownership were found to be high during the previous shelter and NFI assessment.

Figure 1: Population and People in Need numbers in assessed governorates[17]

Governorate	Host community population	IDPs	Total PiN	Shelter PiN	NFI PiN
Aleppo	2,164,200	961,800	2,251,000	765,972	1,102,979
Hama	1,090,600	287,800	875,000	216,912	205,099
Homs	1,056,100	355,300	950,000	321,444	247,461
Idleb	1,069,600	984,500	1,392,000	637,050	414,651
Dar'a	554,400	330,100	600,000	246,304	262,870
Quneitra	50,800	48,700	69,000	28,687	24,867
Ar-Raqqa	235,400	157,500	331,000	185,781	213,293
Deir-Ez-Zor	743,600	151,800	722,000	122,592	399,933

[15] Findings from 2016 (May-June) WASH Cluster-led assessment for the HNO 2017, which used representative sampling at the household level with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 10%.
[16] REACH Initiative, May 2017, http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resourcedocuments/syr_deir_ez_zor_governorate_profile_may_2017_final_0.pdf.
[17] Figures taken from the HNO 2018.

Methodology

Methodology Overview

This assessment used a mixed methodology approach in order to cover as wide an area as possible, conducting household surveys where conditions allowed and key informant interviews elsewhere. Indicators were designed in collaboration with the Shelter Cluster and the UNHCR and built on the tools used in the December 2016 shelter and NFI assessment with additional input from Cluster members at the Whole of Syria level. This resulted in the production of two tools (household and KI) which were translated into Arabic and coded into Kobo for data collection on smartphones. Following the training of field teams and a pilot, data was collected by REACH, SRN and partners between 6 July and 10 August 2017. The data was checked, validated and analysed by a REACH assessment team before the production of this report, two findings presentations, a set of factsheets and a formatted dataset.

Indicators and Tool Design

Indicators were designed in collaboration with the UNHCR and the Shelter Cluster, and were based on:

a) The indicators used in the previous round of the shelter and NFI household survey (December 2016). The December 2016 assessment also included sections on livelihoods and WASH, focus group discussions, and a separate collective shelter tool. These were not included in this assessment in order for its scope to be more manageable and more clearly targeted towards the Shelter Cluster's information needs.
b) The Shelter Cluster Common Floor Tool, established by the Whole of Syria Shelter Cluster to standardize indicators used across shelter assessments, including the shelter component of the HNO.
c) Input from cluster members at the Whole of Syria level, as well as the Northern and Southern hubs in Gaziantep and Amman respectively.

Two tools were produced, one for household surveys and one for KI interviews.[18] Both tools were translated into Arabic by a team of Syrian Arabic native speakers to ensure that the vocabulary used was suitable to that of respondents. Following translation, the tools were turned into Kobo Collect forms for data collection on smartphone devices. The Kobo tools included several built-in checks to ensure data quality at the point of data collection. Paper forms were also produced for use in a small number of areas where security issues restricted the use of smartphones.

Coverage and Sampling

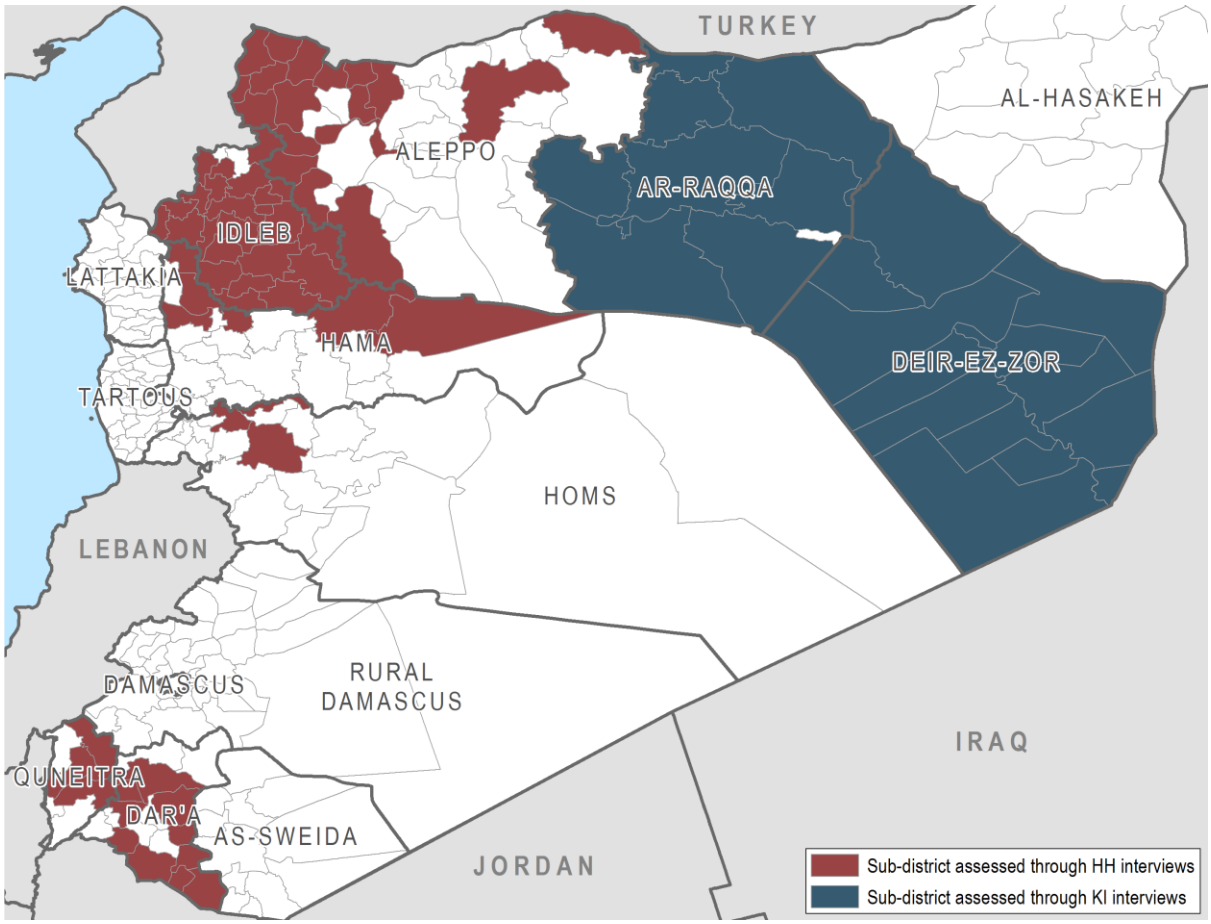
Prior to data collection, an extensive mapping exercise was undertaken by REACH to determine access. Based on this, the assessment was carried out in eight governorates: Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Dar'a and Quneitra. Of the 158 sub-districts in these 8 governorates, 87 were assessed. These 78 sub-districts are home to 60% of the population in the assessed governorates, and 34% of the population of Syria.[19] Sub-districts in Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates were assessed through KI interviews, while sub-districts in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Dar'a and Quneitra were assessed through household surveys.

[18] A third tool was also produced to include questions on WASH in a small number of sub-districts as requested by the WASH Cluster. This data was provided to the WASH cluster, but findings are not included in this report due to the limited coverage.
[19] Based on numbers from the 2017 HNO report.

Figure 2: Coverage and sampling by governorate

Governorate	Method	Sub-districts in which accessible communities were assessed		% of the governorate population living in assessed sub-districts	Total household sample	Total KI sample
Aleppo	HH	18 / 40	Afrin, Aghtrin, Ain al Arab, Atareb, A'zaz, Bulbul, Daret Azza, Haritan, Jandairis, Ma'btali, Mare', Menbij, Raju, Sharan, Sheikh El-Hadid, Suran, Tall Ed-daman, Zarbah	40%	2,206	
Ar-Raqqa	KI	9 / 10	All except Maadan	96%		123
Deir-ez-Zor	KI	14 / 14	All	100%		121
Hama	HH	6 / 22	As-Saan, As-Suqaylabiyah, Hamra, Kafr Zeita, Madiq Castle, Ziyara	7%	680	
Homs	HH	3 / 23	Homs, Taldu, Ar Rastan	9%	336	
Idleb	HH	24 / 26	Abul Thohur, Ariha, Armanaz, Badama, Bennsh, Dana, Darkosh, Ehsem, Heish, Idleb, Janudiyeh, Jisr-Ash-Shugur, Kafr Nobol, Kafr Takharim, Khan Shaykun, Maaret Tamsrin, Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Mhambal, Sanjar, Saraqab, Salqin, Sarmin, Tamanaah, Teftnaz	95%	2,624	
Dar'a	HH	10 / 17	As-Sanamayn, Busra Esh-Sham, Dar'a, Hrak, Izra', Jasim, Jizeh, Mseifra, Mzeireb, Nawa	78%	1,085	
Quneitra	HH	3 / 6	Quneitra, Khan Arnaba, Al-Khashniyyeh	97%	321	
		87 / 158			**7,252**	**244**

Figure 3: Coverage and data collection method by sub-district



Household Surveys

In six of the eight governorates assessed, the assessment was conducted through household surveys based on a representative sample of households in covered communities. One representative for each household was asked to answer questions at the household level, including initial questions about household composition. Therefore, findings are presented as percentages of households, rather than percentages of the population. For purposes of this assessment, a household was defined as *a group living together and generally eating with one pot (sharing food)*. As such, within one shelter there may be several households.

Two-stage random household sampling was implemented to generate a statistically significant stratified sample designed to allow findings to be representative at the sub-district level with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error.[20] As such, approximately 106 household surveys were conducted in each sub-district. Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) method was used to randomly generate a list of communities to survey within each sub-district, along with a targeted number of surveys for each community. For sub-districts in which the two-stage sample required more than 20 communities to be visited, cluster sampling was used instead, with the minimum

[20] The formula used by REACH to calculate the sample size was first outlined by Krejcie and Morgan in 1970 and has been widely used in social research, including humanitarian research, ever since (3,313 known citations). It is described as follows: n= X2 x N x (1-P) / (ME2 x (N-1)) + (X2 x P x (1-P)).
Where: n = Sample size, X2 = Chi-square for the specified confidence level at 1 degree of freedom, N = Population size, P = Population proportion (assumed to be 0.5 to generate maximum sample size), ME = desired Margin of Error (expressed as proportion).
- Krejcie and Morgan (1970) "Determining Sample Size for Research Activities" (Educational and Psychological Measurement, 30, pp. 607-610).

cluster size set at 5 surveys per community. To account for the design effect of cluster sampling, a higher number of surveys were conducted in these sub-districts.

For communities containing a camp or collective shelter, the sample for the community was stratified between the camp/collective shelter and the community, with the target number of surveys in each determined by their population ratio.

While GPS-based random sampling could not be used for security reasons, other techniques for randomization were used instead. In larger communities where neighbourhood boundaries were available, the number of surveys was divided equally across neighbourhoods. In smaller communities, enumerators were instructed to spread the surveys across the community and follow randomly generated directions to reach households.

In analysing the data, responses from household surveys were weighted based on the number of households surveyed in a sub-district relative to the number of households in that sub-district.[21] This ensures that as results are aggregated to the sub-district and governorate levels, they are not skewed by methodological differences in numbers of surveys collected per household in different sub-districts.

KI Interviews

In governorates where access was restricted, data collection was carried out through interviews with KIs who answered questions about their community. KIs were selected based on their knowledge of shelter and NFI issues and instructed to answer questions at the community level. Approximately 10 KIs were interviewed for each sub-district, each reporting on one community. To account for difficulties in reporting across large communities, multiple KIs were interviewed in communities with more than 20,000 people and their responses were aggregated. The minimum number of KIs per community was determined as follows:

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

Where KIs were asked to make estimates about percentages of the population, such as 'percentage experiencing shelter adequacy issues', responses were weighted using the same formula as responses at the household level. In cases where they were asked to select one or multiple options, however, no weighting was one. Statistics from KI interviews with weighted responses are reported here as 'estimated percentage…', while statistics without weighting are reported as 'KIs reporting…'

While weighting and careful selection of KIs add precision and accuracy to the data, it is important to highlight that findings from governorates assessed through KI interviews should be considered indicative rather than representative. Furthermore, a KI methodology may in some cases have different biases than a household one. Therefore, findings from governorates assessed through household surveys should not be compared to those assessed through KI interviews. To the extent possible, this has been highlighted in the report by using different colours for KI and household findings.

[21] The formula used in weighting by REACH is (A/B)/(C/D) where A is population in the sub-district, B is total population assessed, C is the number of surveys in the sub-district and D is the total number of surveys.

Data Collection and Analysis

Data collection was carried out between 6 July and 10 August 2017 by REACH, SRN and partners. Prior to data collection, REACH conducted training of field teams and a pilot data collection exercise. Throughout data collection, the REACH assessment team monitored data collected on a daily basis and conducted follow-up based on predefined checks. At the end of the data collection period, a final and extensive check was conducted and text inputs were translated.

The data analysis was carried out using a Python-based tool designed by the team for the purpose of this assessment. The result was two output datasets, one for governorates assessed through household surveys and one for governorates assessed through KI interviews. The datasets were first analysed by the REACH assessment team and then in a joint workshop in August with Shelter Cluster members in Amman with the goal of further contextualizing the findings.

Analysis was primarily done at governorate level. When reading this report, the place names Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Dar'a and Quneitra refer to the assessed areas within these governorates (not just the sub-districts or governorate capitals of the same names) unless the text specifically states otherwise. In some governorates only specific sub-districts have been assessed, so the coverage section of this chapter should be studied in detail before reading the rest of this report. The report also occasionally refers to trends within regions. In that case, Northeast is defined as Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, Northwest is defined as Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Idleb and South is defined as Dar'a and Quneitra. In addition to this, several maps in the report break down key indicators by sub-district where appropriate.

During analysis, indicators were disaggregated and analysed across specific population groups. In all governorates, assessed communities were divided into urban and rural based on the community classifications from the 2017 HNO report. This was used to allow for comparison between households living in urban and rural areas of a governorate. In the governorates assessed through household surveys, findings were further disaggregated to allow for comparison between IDP households and non-IDP households, and between female-headed households and male-headed households. Here, an IDP household is defined as any household with IDP members. It should be noted that disaggregated findings are based on smaller sample sizes and therefore have lower levels of confidence. This is especially true for female-headed households, since these represent a small fraction of the population and therefore the sample. Representative samples for female-headed households at the governorate level could not be achieved in Hama, Homs and Quneitra. Therefore, this disaggregation has not been included in graphs for those particular governorates. A higher level of confidence can be achieved by studying disaggregated findings at the regional level.

Findings of this assessment were compared to those of the December 2016 shelter and NFI assessment, also conducted by REACH, in order to get a picture of the shelter and NFI trends and developments across Syria. However, there are some limitations to comparisons between the two assessments. First, there was a significant difference in coverage between the two assessments in some governorates. For this reason, Aleppo and Homs were excluded from all trends analysis. There were also cases in which specific indicators or details of the methodology were changed in a way that might affect findings, such as changes or rephrasing of questions. Therefore, trends were only analysed based on indicators that remained the same and in governorates with similar coverage.

In addition to this report, outputs from this shelter and NFI assessment included:

- A joint workshop with Shelter Cluster members in Amman to contextualize the finings
- A presentation on findings for Turkey Hub Shelter Cluster members
- Governorate and regional factsheets with key statistics
- A formatted dataset

Limitations

- In governorates assessed through household surveys, coverage was restricted to areas accessible to enumerators. Some of the areas most affected by the conflict were inaccessible for security reasons, such as Kherbet Ghazaleh and Sheikh Miskine in Dar'a.
- Data collection took place in July and August 2017. In some places, especially Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, there is likely to have been significant changes in the situation since then.
- Some of the trends described in the report may show some seasonal rather than permanent developments, as the last shelter and NFI assessment was carried out in the winter 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. Care has also been taken to avoid such comparisons in analysis.
- It was not possible to get representative samples for all disaggregations, specifically female-headed households in Hama, Homs and Quneitra. In cases where confidence levels drop significantly below 95% at a 10% margin of error, these are left out of graphs and analysis. Disaggregated statistics are not representative at the sub-district level and so maps of these 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 may more commonly be clustered geographically. Therefore, the random sampling methodology used may not result in proportional targeting of these shelter types. As such, it is not always possible to disaggregate results by shelter types in all areas and particularly not where alternative shelter types comprise a small proportion of the total sample collected in an area. Numbers for these vulnerable shelter types may therefore 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 information based on a subset of responses will invariably have a lower confidence level and margin of error than information based on the entire sample. For example, 'accommodation type' includes the entire sample, 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 and will be referred to as such throughout the report whenever this applies.

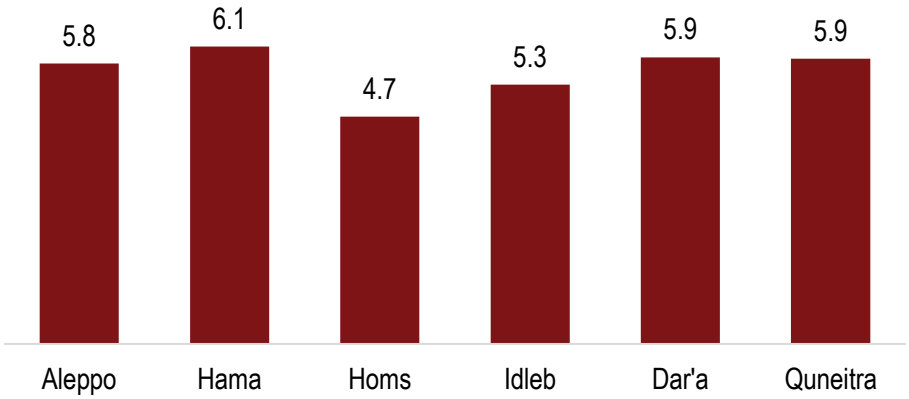
Findings

Demographics and displacement

Demographics

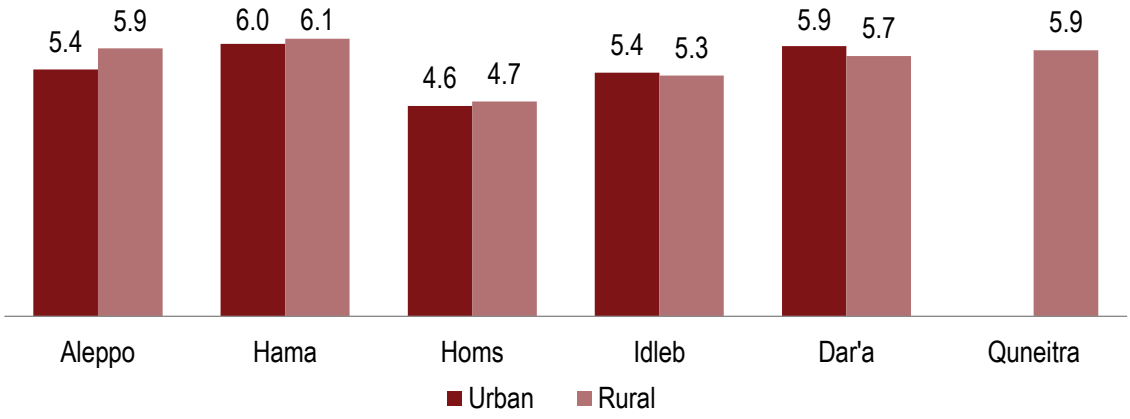
Household Size

Figure 4: Average household size for all governorates assessed through household surveys



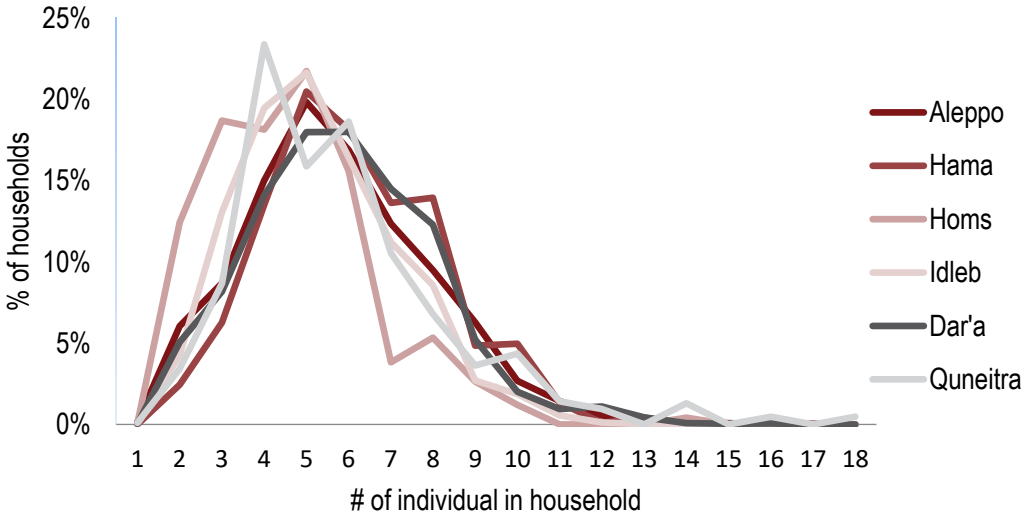
The average household size across governorates surveyed at the household-level was just under 6. In Homs, and to a lesser extent in Idleb, the average household size was smaller than in other governorates assessed through household surveys.

Figure 5: Average household size in rural and urban communities for all governorates assessed through household surveys



In Aleppo, households in rural communities tended to be slightly larger than those in urban ones. In other governorates, however, the average household size in urban and rural communities was approximately equal.

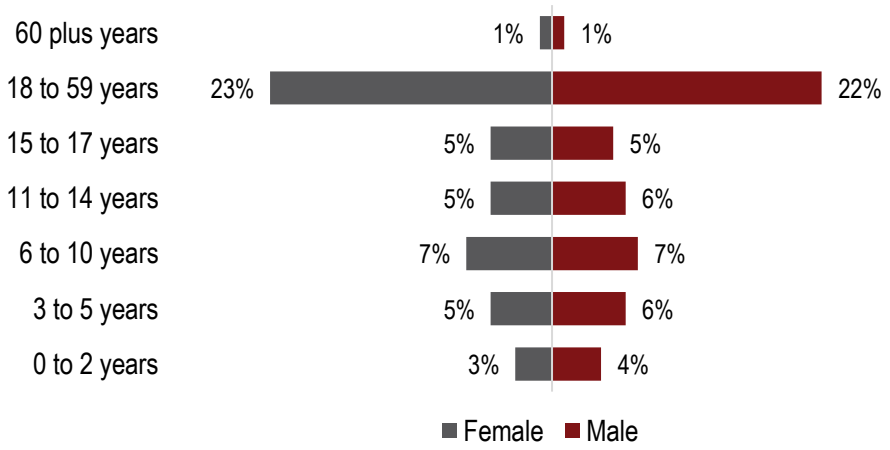
Figure 6: Distribution of household sizes, per governorate



The most common household size was 5 in all governorates, except Quneitra where it was 4. Most households generally had between 4 and 7 members. In Homs, where the average household size was lower than elsewhere, the most common size was still 5. The lower average household size in Homs was due to a higher frequency of 2-3 person households as well as a lower frequency of households consisting of more than 6 people.

Age and Gender

Figure 7: Age and gender pyramid for all governorates assessed through household surveys



Overall, there were slightly more males (51%) compared to females (49%) across governorates assessed through household surveys. Gender ratio differences between governorates were minor. The biggest difference was in Homs, where 54% of the assessed population was male and 46% was female. Age distribution differences between governorates were in general minor.

Figure 8: Estimated gender ratio for governorates assessed through KI interviews

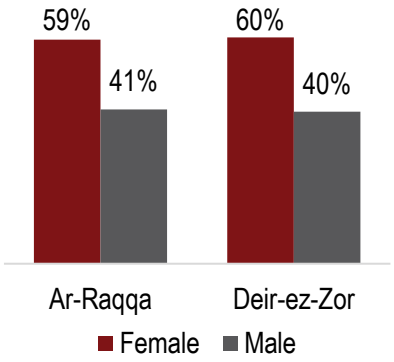
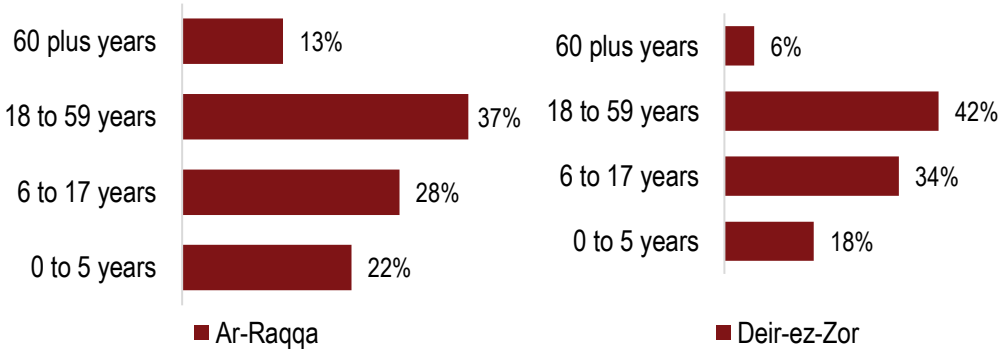


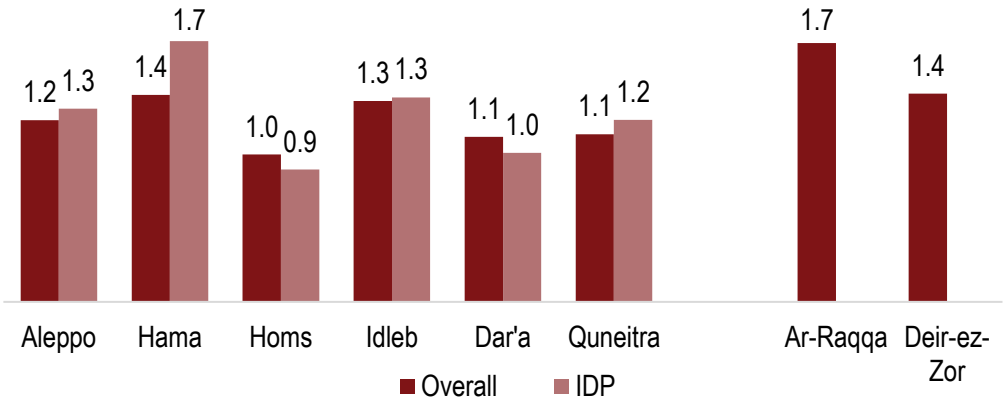
Figure 9: Estimated age distribution for governorates assessed through KI interviews



In both Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, KIs estimated that there were significantly more women than men. These findings should be considered indicative, as KIs were asked to estimate the ratio between women and men in their entire community. This could be due to large numbers of men fleeing to avoid conscription. In Ar-Raqqa, the estimated proportion of the population aged 60 and above was double that of Deir-ez-Zor.

Dependency Ratio

Figure 10: Dependency ratios for all households and IDP households, per governorate[22]



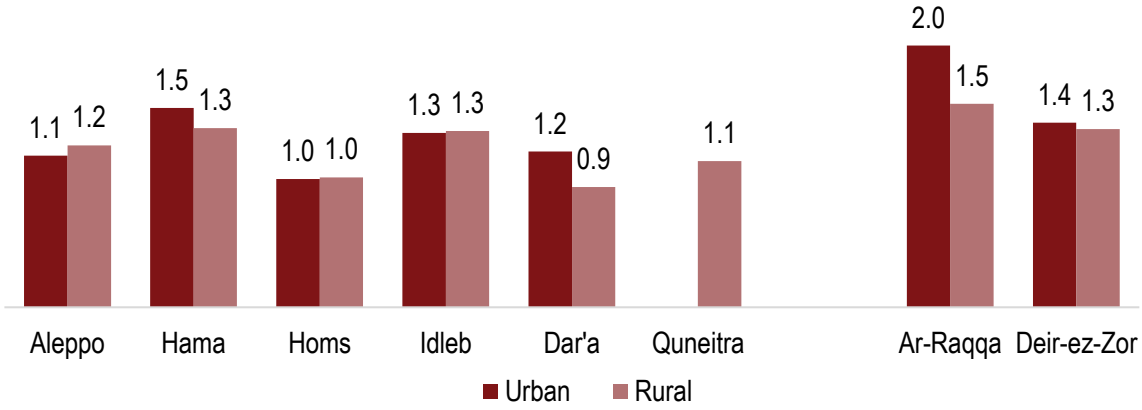
[22] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

The dependency ratio of a household is the total number of dependents (those under the age of 18 and those aged 60 and above) per adult (aged between 18 and 59) in the household. The overall dependency ratio was just above 1 and varied by 0.4 across governorates assessed through household surveys.

In Hama, there was a large difference in the dependency ratio between IDP (1.72) and non-IDP households (1.19). In Quneitra and Aleppo, IDP households also tended to have slightly higher dependency ratios than the overall governorate averages, while in Dar'a and Homs, non-IDP households had slightly higher dependency ratios on average.

In Ar-Raqqa, the estimated dependency ratio was significantly higher than that in Deir-ez-Zor. As can be seen from the age distribution graph, this was largely due to higher proportions of people aged above 59 or below 6.

Figure 11: Dependency ratios for urban and rural households, per governorate[23]



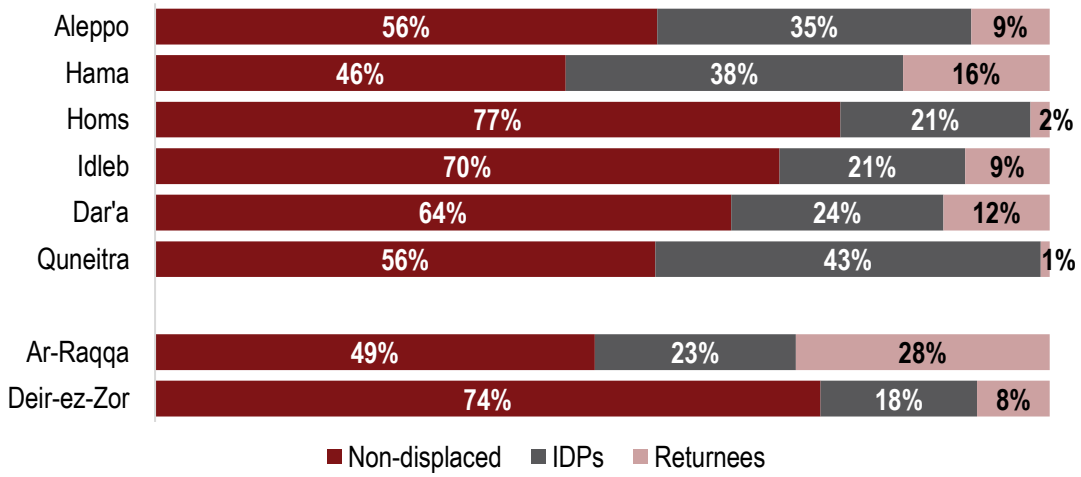
Among governorates assessed through household surveys, the dependency ratio was higher in urban communities than in rural ones in Dar'a and Hama, while the differences between urban and rural communities were marginal elsewhere.

The high estimated dependency ratio for Ar-Raqqa was in part explained by the very high dependency ratio in urban communities in the governorate, while the average estimated dependency ratio in rural communities in the governorate was actually comparable to the dependency ratio in both rural and urban communities in Deir-ez-Zor.

[23] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Displacement

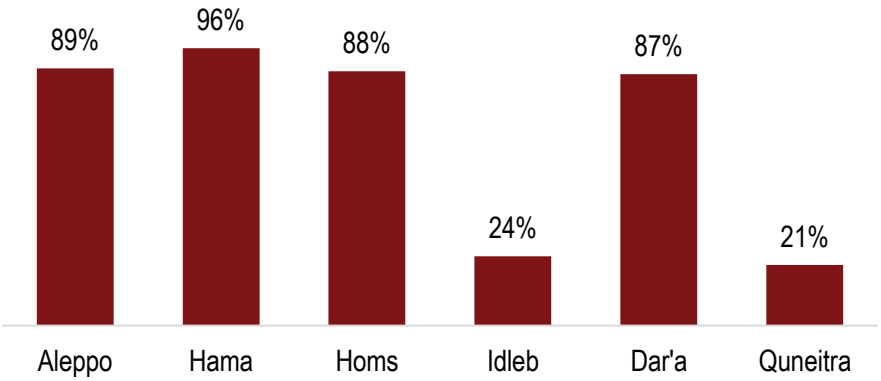
Figure 12: Population by displacement status, per governorate[24]



As shown in Figure 12, Quneitra, Hama and Aleppo had the highest percentages of IDPs among assessed governorates. In Quneitra, this was due to the high number of camps and informal sites, as well as the relatively low host community population, while in Aleppo and Hama it was more likely a result of high levels of localised displacement in recent months due to conflict.

The largest percentages of returnees were reported in Ar-Raqqa (according to KI estimates) and Hama. In both governorates, this was likely due to recent localised conflict-related displacement, followed by returns once the situation in some areas stabilised.

Figure 13: Percentage of IDPs originating from within the same governorate



In most governorates, the majority of IDPs were from other areas within the same governorate. However in Quneitra, IDPs were most commonly from Rural Damascus or Dar'a (47% and 29% respectively), while in Idleb, more than half were from Hama or Aleppo (34% and 21% respectively). In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, KIs most commonly estimated the areas of origin of IDPs to be within Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates themselves.

[24] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Figure 14: Reasons for displacement of IDPs to their current location (figures represent percentage of households reporting each in the Northwest and South and percentage of KIs reporting each in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor.)[25]

	Relative access to employment, income or shelter	Family ties or good relations with the host community	Conflict in area of origin	Relative safety and security in this location	Physical obstacles to other locations	Relative distance of this location compared to other possible destinations	No money to pay for movement to other preferred destinations	In transit on the way to another preferred destination	Other
Aleppo	49%	32%	65%	18%	8%	9%	9%	0%	0%
Hama	75%	47%	74%	22%	17%	18%	18%	1%	0%
Homs	14%	11%	87%	2%	0%	4%	5%	0%	44%
Idleb	33%	21%	72%	39%	2%	6%	11%	0%	0%
Dar'a	43%	41%	81%	27%	7%	27%	29%	5%	0%
Quneitra	11%	16%	81%	31%	3%	5%	38%	0%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	17%	56%	52%	48%	23%	26%	28%	14%	0%
Deir-ez-Zor	19%	72%	97%	40%	17%	6%	30%	1%	0%

In general, IDPs most commonly moved to their current locations due to conflict in their area of origin. Among pull factors to their current locations, the most frequently reported in most governorates were family ties or good relations with the host community, relative access to employment, income and shelter, and relative safety and security in the current location.

Figure 15: Time since last displacement of IDPs, per governorate

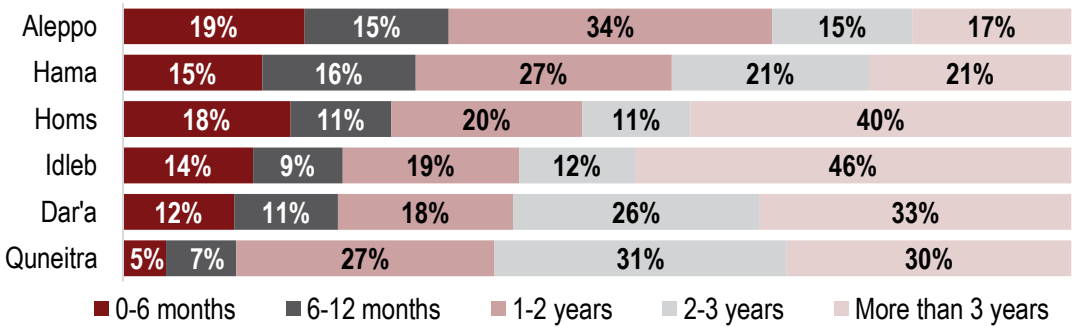
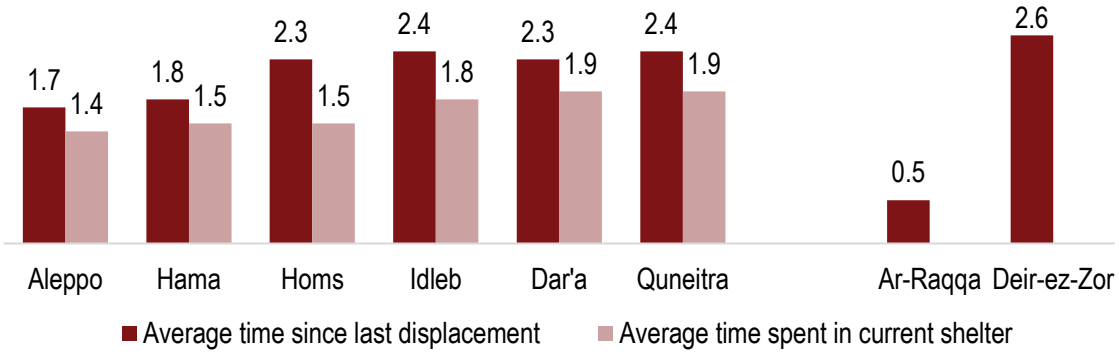


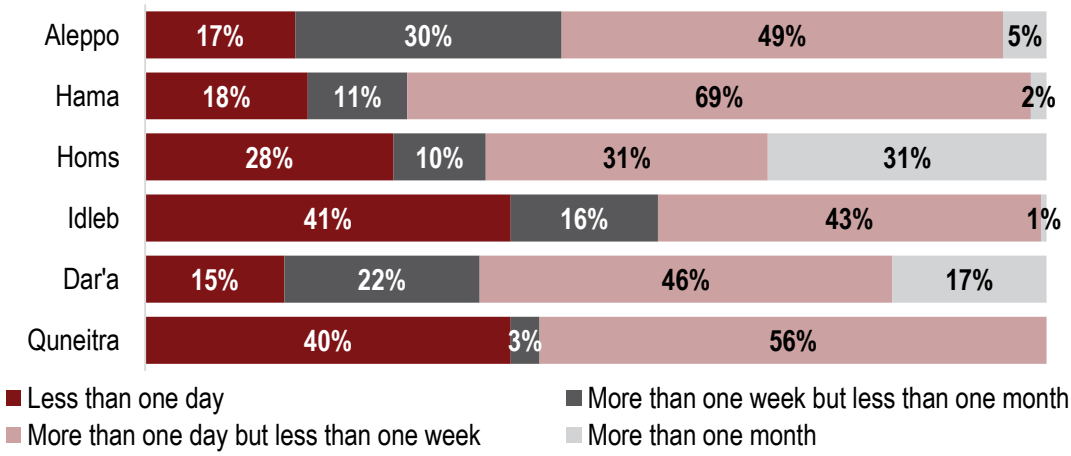
Figure 16: Average time since last displacement of IDPs and average time spent by IDPs in their current shelter (both in years), per governorate[26]



[25] Respondents were allowed to select multiple options.
[26] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

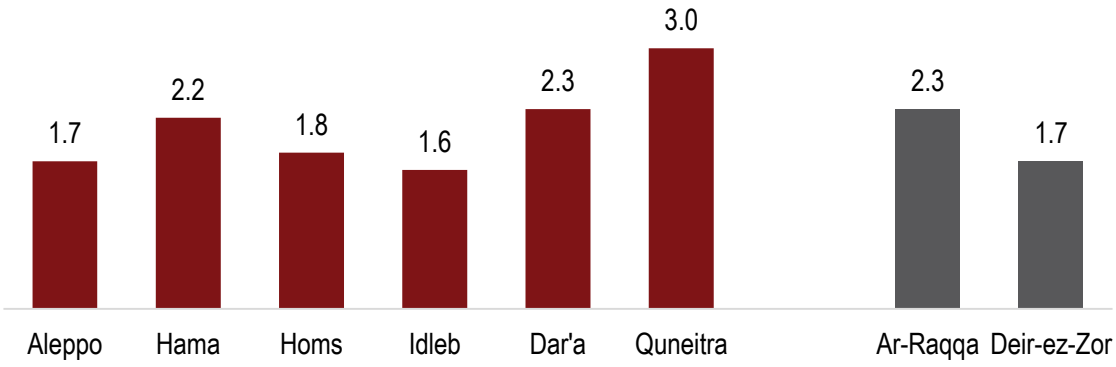
According to KI estimates, IDPs in Ar-Raqqa governorate had arrived significantly more recently than in other governorates. This is likely a reflection of the escalation in conflict the governorate has witnessed over the past 7-8 months. Among governorates assessed through household surveys, Aleppo and Hama, both of which have high IDP populations and have seen conflict over the past year, reported the highest percentages of IDPs who had arrived within the past 12 months.

Figure 17: Amount of time for IDPs to prepare before their most recent displacement, for all governorates assessed through household surveys



IDPs most commonly had between one week and one day to prepare before displacement, although a large proportion in Idleb and Quneitra had had less than a day to prepare. In general, this data suggests that displacement has usually occurred at short notice, and likely in response to changes in conflict dynamics on the ground, rather than being planned well in advance.

Figure 18: Average number of times that IDPs have been displaced before arriving in their current locations, per governorate[27]



As can be seen in Figure 18, IDPs in South Syria had, on average, been displaced more frequently than those in the North. The average number of displacements was particularly high in Quneitra. Among assessed governorates in the North, IDPs had been displaced most frequently in Ar-Raqqa and Hama governorates, further confirming a picture of a dynamic displacement situation in recent months in assessed areas of these governorates.

[27] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs; hence, the difference in colour to Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Dar'a, and Quneitra.

Previously-held property in IDPs' areas of origin

Figure 19: Percentage of IDPs reporting that they owned property in their areas of origin, for all governorates assessed through household surveys

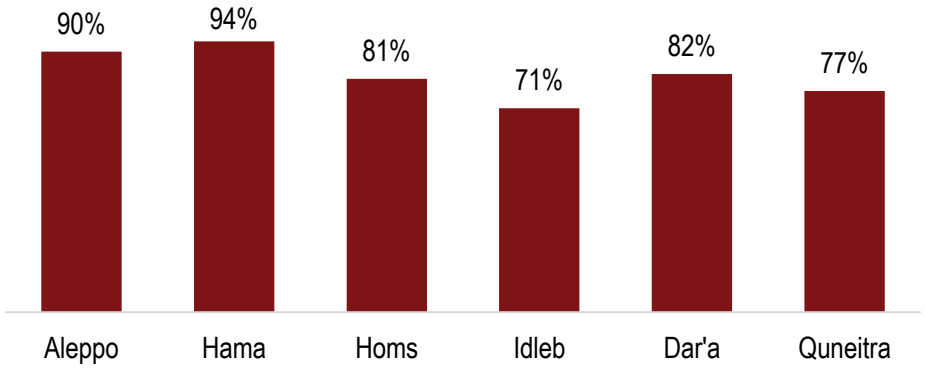


Figure 20: Most common types of property owned in area of origin of IDPs

IDPs residing in Hama and Aleppo reported higher rates of property ownership in their areas of origin than IDPs in other governorates, with the percentage in Idleb particularly low. Across all governorates, houses were the most common type of property that IDPs had possessed in their areas of origin.

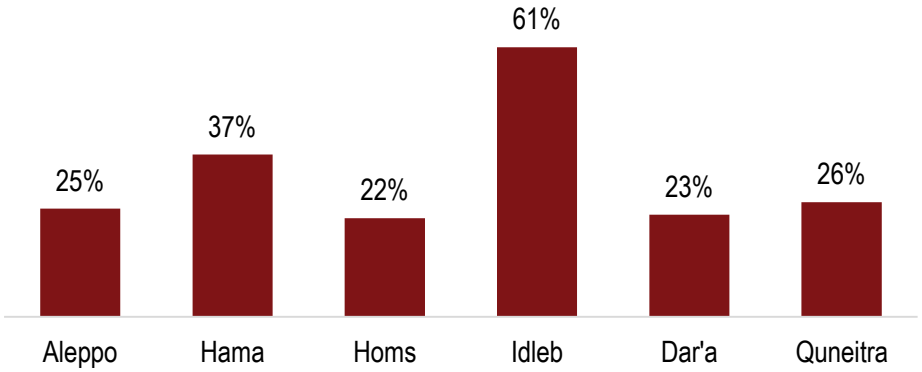
Figure 21: Condition of previously-held property of IDPs[28], for all governorates assessed through household surveys

	Unaffected	Damaged	Destroyed	Looted	Not sure	Occupied without owner's consent	Rented out by owner	Rented out without owner's consent	Sold by owner
Aleppo	8%	20%	37%	15%	12%	3%	3%	0%	2%
Hama	12%	42%	21%	13%	1%	9%	1%	0%	1%
Homs	0%	51%	25%	21%	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%
Idleb	0%	49%	40%	7%	0%	1%	3%	0%	0%
Dar'a	5%	52%	33%	6%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Quneitra	8%	26%	43%	15%	2%	5%	0%	0%	0%

In all governorates assessed through household surveys, very low proportions of IDPs who had owned property in their areas of origin reported that property remained unaffected, suggesting that many IDPs would face shelter challenges if they were to return to their areas of origin in the future. A high rate of looting of property was reported among IDPs in Hama, while IDPs in Homs and Quneitra in particular often reported that their property had been destroyed.

[28] Respondents could select multiple options.

Figure 22: Percentage of IDPs without documentation to prove ownership of property they had owned in their area of origin, for all governorates assessed through household surveys



In all governorates assessed using household surveys, a significant percentage of IDPs who had owned property in their areas of origin reported that they did not have documentation to prove their ownership. This was especially true in Idleb, where more than half lacked such documentation, and to a lesser extent in Hama. This suggests that IDPs currently residing in these governorates may face substantial housing, land and property (HLP) issues if they were to return to their areas of origin.

Returnees

Figure 23: Reasons for return of returnees, for governorates assessed through household surveys (figures represent percentage of households reporting each in the Northwest and South, and percentage of KIs reporting each in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor.)[29, 30]

	Relative access to employment, income or shelter	Family ties	Safety and security situation changed	Protecting assets	Physical obstacles to other locations	No money to pay for movement elsewhere
Aleppo	61%	63%	75%	58%	5%	15%
Hama	67%	79%	62%	63%	5%	35%
Idleb	55%	92%	48%	42%	6%	13%
Dar'a	50%	75%	63%	60%	3%	9%
Ar-Raqqa	12%	62%	71%	90%	5%	33%
Deir-ez-Zor	18%	96%	55%	70%	1%	8%

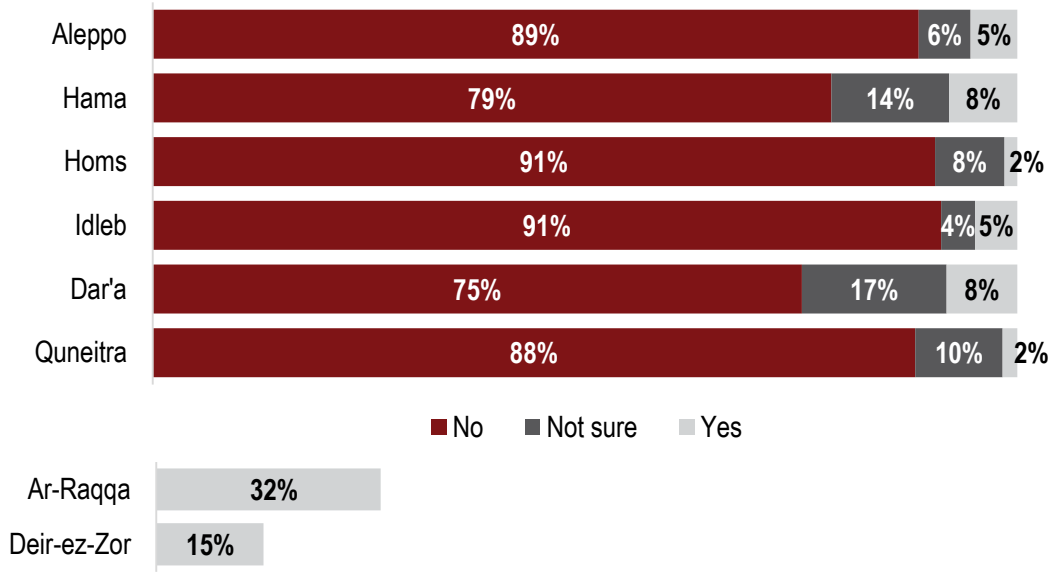
Returnees most commonly reported family ties and a changed situation in their communities of origin as reasons for why they returned, with access to employment, income and shelter and the protection of assets also frequently cited as reasons.

Returnees most commonly spent the majority of their displacement in other locations within their governorates. The exception was Hama, where 68% of returnees spent the most time in Idleb. This fits with a pattern of large numbers of IDPs from Hama reported in Idleb. In Aleppo and Dar'a, large percentages of returnees (43% and 39% respectively) had spent the majority of their displacement outside Syria, mostly in Turkey and Jordan respectively.

[29] Homs and Quneitra excluded from the graph due to an insufficient sample size of returnees. Respondents could select multiple options.
[30] Respondents were allowed to select multiple options.

Movement intentions

Figure 24: Percentage of households intending to leave within the next month, per governorate[31]



In governorates assessed using household surveys, 2-5% of households expected to move from their shelter within the next month, except in Hama and Dar'a where the number was 8%. In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, where future conflict dynamics were especially uncertain, KIs expected a higher proportion of the population to leave within the next month.

However, it is worth bearing in mind that, as mentioned earlier, the majority of IDPs assessed had decided within a week that they had wanted to leave. Hence, it is likely that households would leave their current shelter in response to events on the ground rather than due to planning in advance.

Those intending to leave their current shelter, particularly in the South, most commonly reported that they intended to move to another shelter in the same community. The most commonly cited reasons were to improve access to better and more affordable shelter or to improve access to income and employment opportunities. Overall, this suggests that households planning their movements in advance usually intend to move within their communities and do so for economic or shelter-related reasons.

[31] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Shelter

Key shelter findings

- IDPs were more likely than non-IDPs to live in more vulnerable shelter types, such as informal settlements and unfinished buildings, and under more vulnerable occupancy arrangements, such as renting and being hosted without rent. Female-headed households were especially likely to be hosted without rent.
- Average rent was generally lower in the South than the Northwest, although rent was also especially low in assessed sub-districts of Homs. However, the self-reported ability of households to pay rent on time was also lower in the South than in the Northwest.
- HLP issues, almost entirely consisting of a lack or loss of housing documentation, were far more common in Hama and Idleb than in any other governorate.
- IDPs were far more likely than non-IDPs not to have documentation to prove their shelter occupancy status, other than in Aleppo.
- All KIs in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor reported that land registries were not functioning.
- Eviction rates were significantly higher in the South and in Hama and Homs than in Aleppo and Idleb. Female-headed households and IDP households reported higher eviction rates than the overall governorate averages.
- Evictions were reportedly more common in Deir-ez-Zor than in Ar-Raqqa, with most evictions in these governorates taking place due to forcible seizure of property by armed groups.
- Proportions of households with shelter adequacy issues were highest in Hama and urban areas of Ar-Raqqa. Among shelter adequacy issues, exposure to the elements (cold and rain) was generally the most common issue reported, particularly in Hama and Quneitra.
- Rates of shelter damage were higher in Hama than other governorates assessed through household surveys. The most common shelter damage issues were broken or cracked windows and cracks in walls, although more than a quarter of households in Dar'a and Hama reported fire damage.
- Of households with shelter damage, more than half in all governorates were unable to make repairs, almost entirely due to challenges in affording shelter repair materials or repair services. By far the most frequently unaffordable shelter repair item in all assessed governorates was cement.
- Households reported a high preference for unconditional cash among shelter support modalities. However, only 7% of KIs in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor reported that their communities preferred cash, in contrast with the high levels of reported preference for cash as a means of NFI support in these governorates.

Shelter Sharing and Crowding

Figure 25: Percentage of households sharing a shelter with other households, per governorate[32]

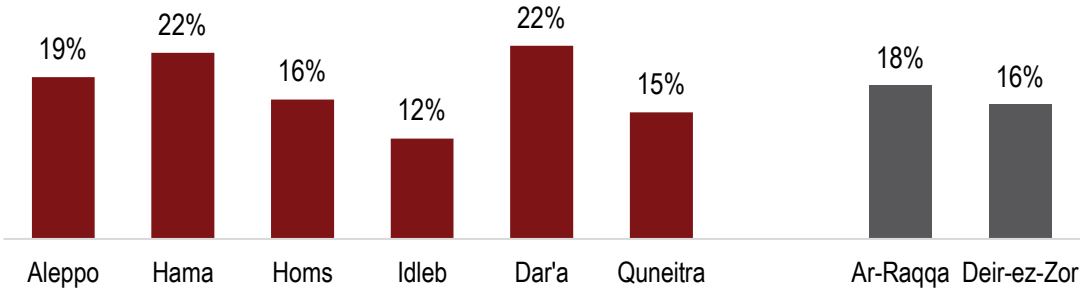
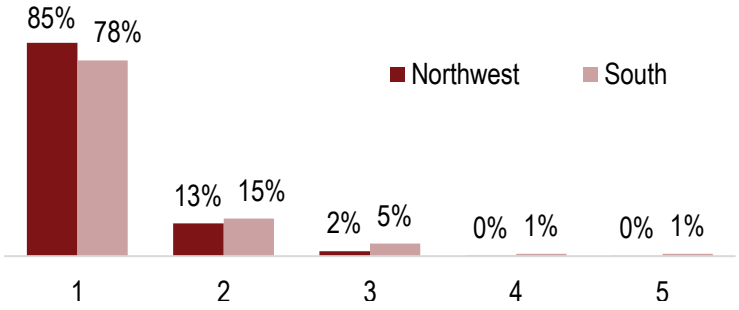
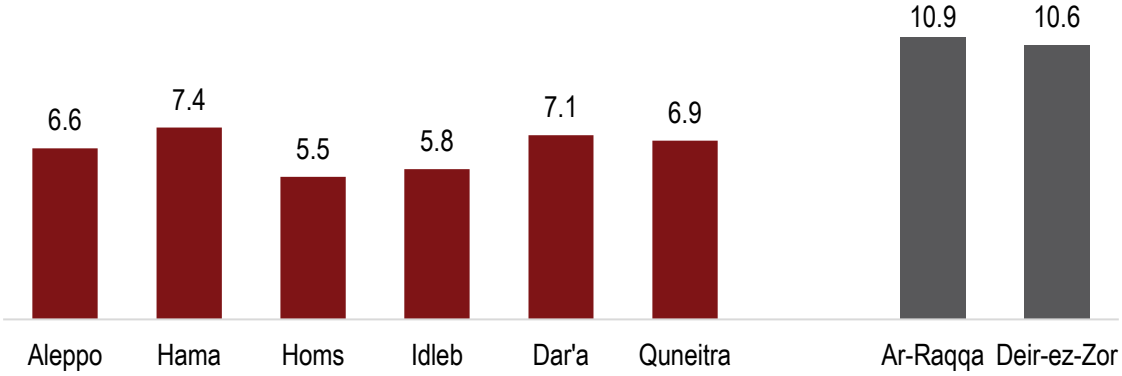


Figure 26: Distribution of households per shelter, in governorates assessed through household surveys



Households in Dar'a and Hama shared shelters with other households more frequently than those in other assessed governorates. Among households that shared their shelter with others, more than two households were more commonly found to share a single shelter in the South.

Figure 27: Average number of individuals per shelter, per governorate[33]

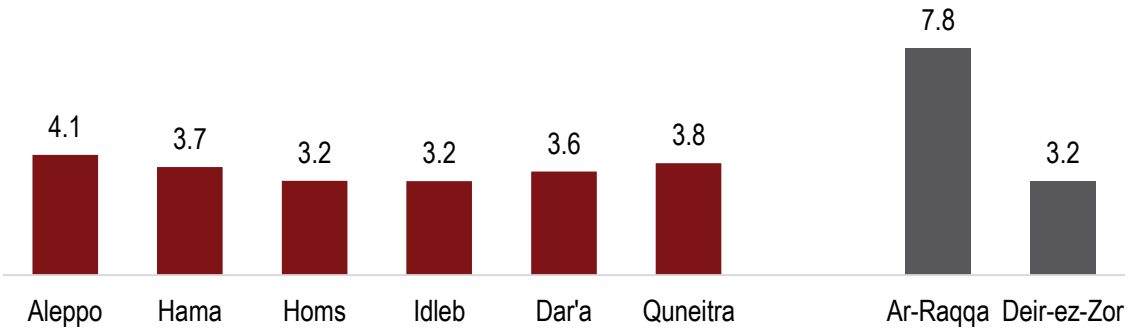


The patterns shown in Figure 27 were generally similar to those seen in the percentage of households sharing shelter, with Hama and Dar'a reporting the highest average figures in the Northwest and South respectively. The much higher number of people per shelter in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor was likely due to larger household sizes in these areas (although this was not collected in governorates assessed through KIs in this assessment), given that the percentage of households sharing shelters is similar between these governorates and the ones assessed through household surveys.

[32] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[33] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Between December 2016 and July 2017, the average number of both households per shelter and individuals per shelter remained similar in all governorates where comparison was possible, except in Hama and Idleb. In Idleb, both numbers decreased (individuals per shelter from 7.2 to 5.8 and households per shelter from 1.3 to 1.1), while in Hama both increased (individuals per shelter from 5.8 to 7.4 and households per shelter from 1.1 to 1.3). In Hama, this change is likely due to conflict in the period between the two assessments, which may have increased rates of shelter sharing. The decrease in Idleb may be linked with the high number of IDPs in the governorate, as IDP households tended to live in shelters with less people. The smaller average number of individuals per shelter in IDP households compared to overall households is not necessarily indicative of better housing conditions for IDPs. More likely, it is caused by families splitting up and going to different places or large families living in multiple tents in IDP camps and thus being counted as multiple households.

Figure 28: Average number of people per bedroom, per governorate[34]

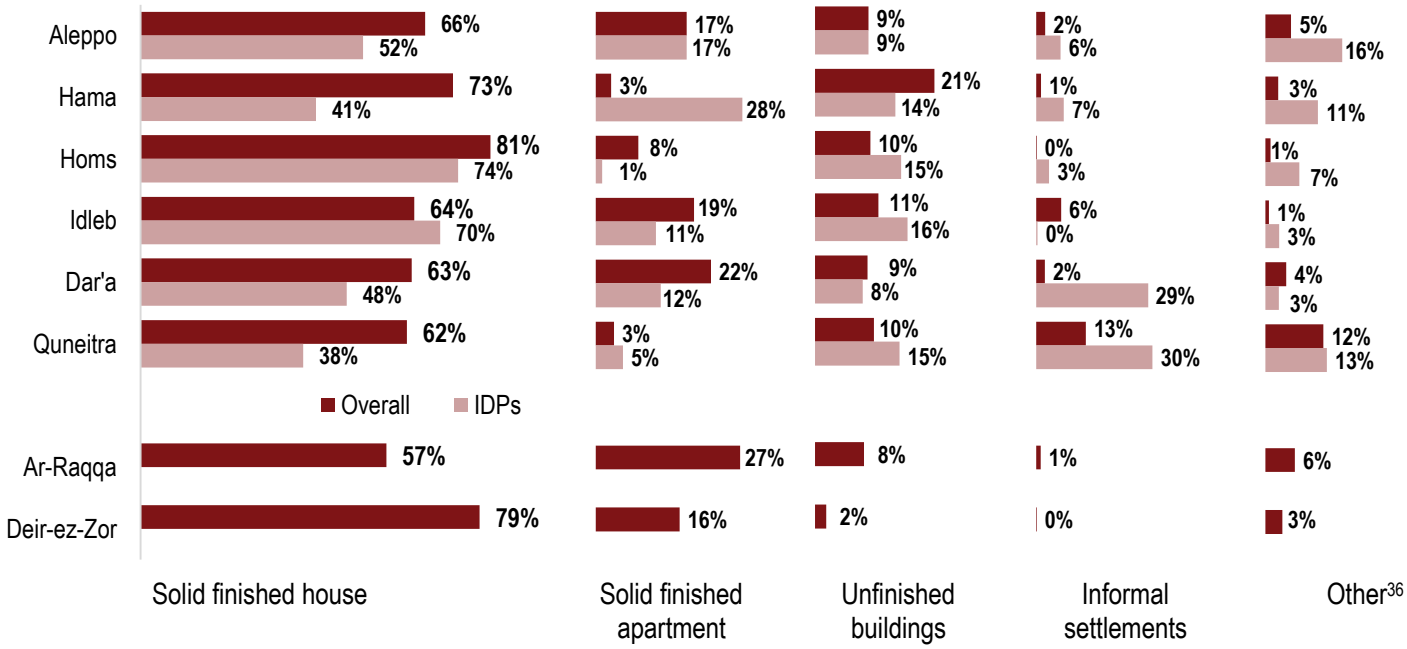


Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo governorates, followed by Quneitra, had the highest ratio of people per bedroom. The ratio was especially high in Ar-Raqqa, where KIs reported that there were many people and few bedrooms per shelter. Shelter overcrowding as measured by this indicator contrasts with that measured by the number of households per shelter, where Dar'a and Hama came out highest.

[34] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Shelter types and occupancy

Figure 29: Overall population and IDP households in different shelter types, per governorate[35]



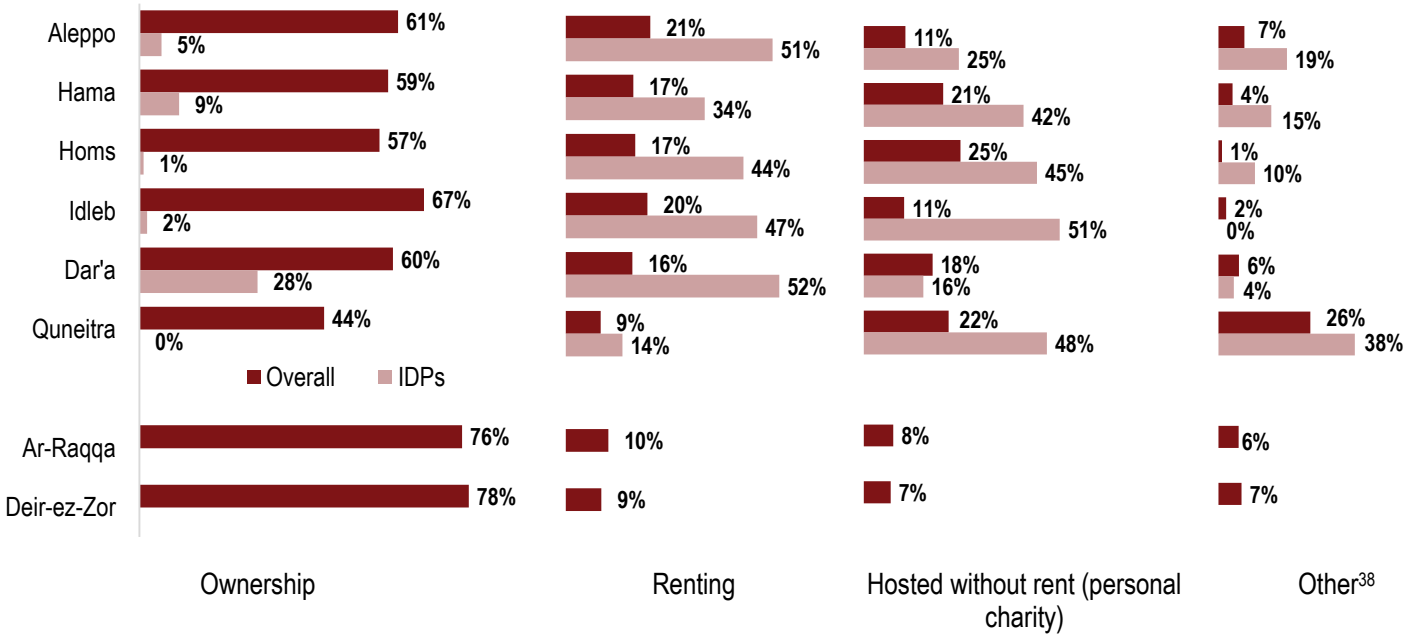
IDPs were often in vulnerable shelter types (i.e. not solid finished houses or apartments), with large proportions residing in informal and managed camps in Aleppo, Idleb and Quneitra. Overall, a high percentage of households in Hama lived in unfinished buildings, approximately double that of any other assessed governorate. Interestingly, this percentage was higher for non-IDP households than IDP households, suggesting that households in assessed sub-districts of the governorate may generally have faced challenges in completing construction of buildings.

Female-headed households in Idleb were significantly more likely to live in vulnerable shelter types than male-headed households in the governorate. Only 66% of female-headed households lived in solid finished houses or apartments (compared with 83% of male-headed households), while 21% lived in unfinished buildings and 16% in informal settlements (compared with 10% and 6% of male-headed households, respectively).

Compared with December 2016, the percentage of households living in solid finished houses or apartments remained similar in Idleb, while it had decreased in Hama, Dar'a and Quneitra. In Dar'a and Quneitra, this was likely due to the exclusion of camps and informal sites from the sample in the December 2016 assessment. In Hama, this decrease (from 97% to 76%) was likely a result of the escalation of conflict in the area in the period between the two assessments, with the percentage of households in unfinished buildings increasing substantially (from 1% to 21%). In Ar-Raqqa, KI estimates of the percentage of households in solid finished houses or apartments had decreased from December to July (from 100% to 84%), but increased in Deir-ez-Zor (from 83% to 95%). The change in Ar-Raqqa is likely due to the displacements experienced within the governorate in recent months.

[35] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[36] Includes collective centres, managed camps, non-residential public buildings, agricultural buildings, and open areas.

Figure 30: Overall population and IDP households in different shelter occupancy arrangements, per governorate[37]



As shown in Figure 30, the percentage of households who own their shelters was estimated by KIs to be higher in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor than other governorates. In general, renting was more common in the Northwest than in either the Northeast or the South.

IDPs were far less more likely to own their shelters than non-IDPs, and were a lot more likely to either be renting or be hosted without rent. However, more than a quarter of IDP households in Idleb owned their shelters, suggesting slightly greater security of tenancy for IDPs in that governorate than elsewhere.

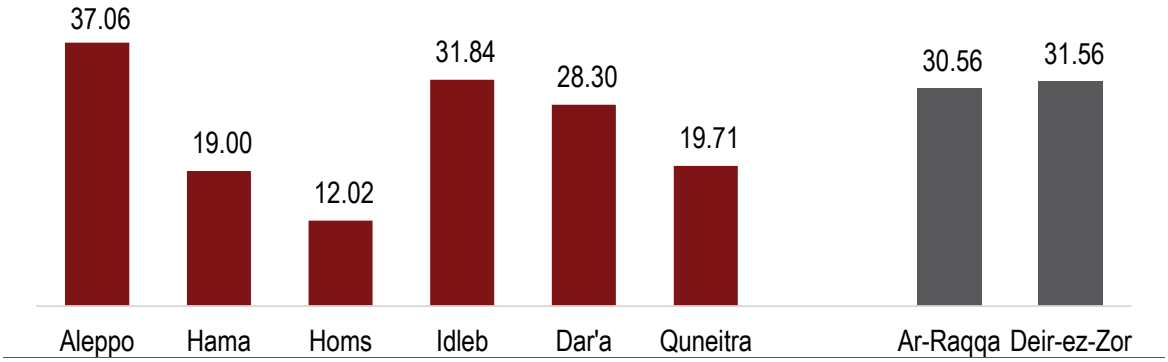
Female-headed households were more likely to be hosted without rent in all governorates. For example, in Aleppo 21% of female-headed households were hosted without rent (compared to 10% of male-headed households), while 28% (compared to 17% of male-headed households) were in Dar'a.

Compared with December 2016, shelter ownership rates were slightly higher in Idleb (70% in December 2016), but lower in Hama (70% in December 2016) and similar in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor (75% and 72% respectively in December 2016). Ownership rates in South Syria were lower than in December, although this is likely because camps and collective shelters were excluded from the sampling in the December assessment but included in July. The percentage of households estimated to be renting in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor was lower in July than December (24% and 16% respectively in December 2016). This might possibly be a result either of displacement of renters from their shelters or an influx of new IDPs living in other occupancy arrangements such as being hosted without rent.

[37] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[38] Includes squatting, formalised squatting and user rights.

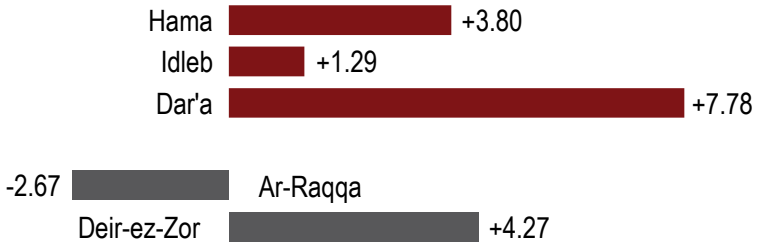
Renting

Figure 31: Average monthly rent (in USD), per governorate[39, 40]



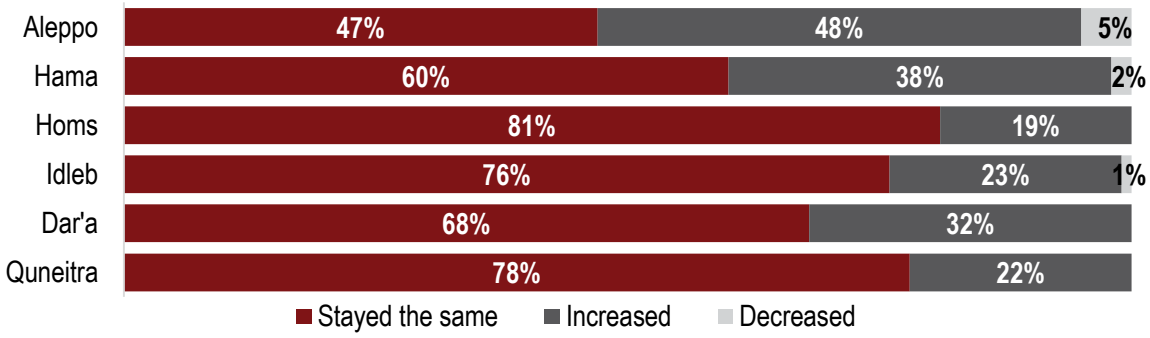
As shown in Figure 31, rent was generally lower in the South than in the North, other than in assessed sub-districts of Hama and Homs, where the average monthly rent was lower than in other assessed governorates.

Figure 32: Change in average monthly rent (in USD) from December 2016 to July 2017, per governorate[41]



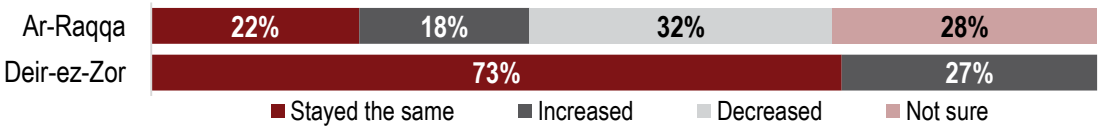
The average monthly rent was higher in July 2017 than December 2016 in most governorates, with the largest change noticeable change in Dar'a. There was also a decrease in Quneitra, although this was likely due to a difference in coverage between the two assessments (with camps and informal sites, where prices for those renting tended to be lower, not included in the sample in December). KIs in Ar-Raqqa also reported lower rent in July 2017 than had been reported in December 2016.

Figure 33: Reported change in rent over the past three months, for all governorates assessed through household surveys



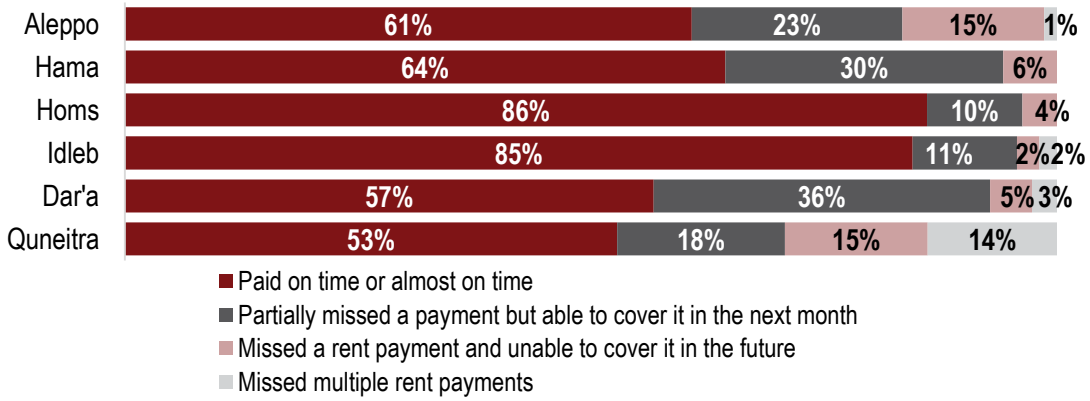
[39] Converted from SYP using UN operational exchange rate of 514.85 SYP/USD as of 1 October 2017.
[40] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[41] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Figure 34: Change in rent in communities, for governorates assessed through KI interviews (percentage of KIs reporting each)



The findings in Figures 33 and 34 corroborate the trend shown in the comparison between the December 2016 and July 2017 data, in which average rent was generally increasing. Overall, very few households or KIs reported rent decreases, except in Ar-Raqqa governorate, where almost a third of KIs reported that rent had decreased in their communities.

Figure 35: Households' self-reported ability to cover rent, for governorates assessed through household surveys

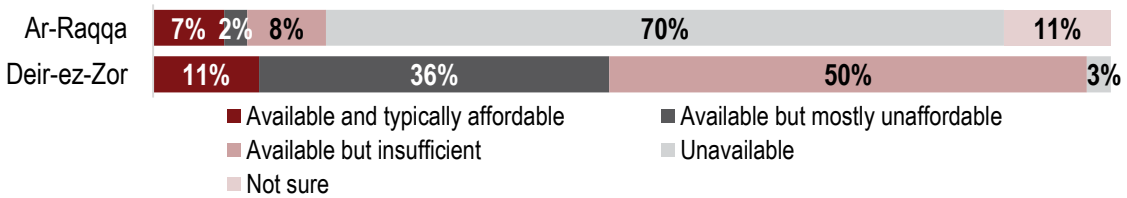


Even though rent was lower in the South than the Northwest, households' self-reported ability to pay was also substantially lower in the South. This suggests that there was not necessarily a strong correlation between rent cost and the ability to pay.

Data suggests that female-headed households especially struggled to pay their rent on time (only 74% in Idleb, 41% in Aleppo and 24% in Dar'a could pay on time) compared to the overall governorate averages, although these findings are only indicative due to the small sample of households that were both female-headed and renting. In Hama and Idleb, data suggests that IDPs struggled to pay rent on time more frequently (79% in Idleb and 63% in Hama) compared to the overall governorate averages, although these findings are also only indicative due to the small sample size.

Compared with December 2016, households' self-reported ability to pay rent on time remained very similar in Idleb and Dar'a. It rose slightly in Quneitra (from 44% in December 2016) and fell substantially in Hama (from 84% in December 2016).

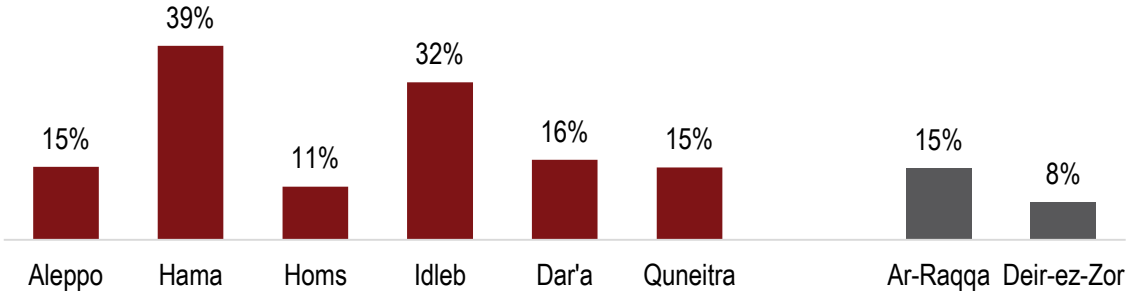
Figure 36: Availability and affordability of rental space, for governorates assessed through KIs (percentage of KIs reporting each)



Overall, only a small percentage of KIs in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor reported that rental space in their communities was typically available and affordable. In Ar-Raqqa, KIs most commonly reported that there were simply no rental properties available in their communities, while KIs in Deir-ez-Zor more commonly reported that rental space was available but often either insufficient or unaffordable.

Housing, Land and Property (HLP)

Figure 37: Percentage of households with HLP issues, per governorate[42]

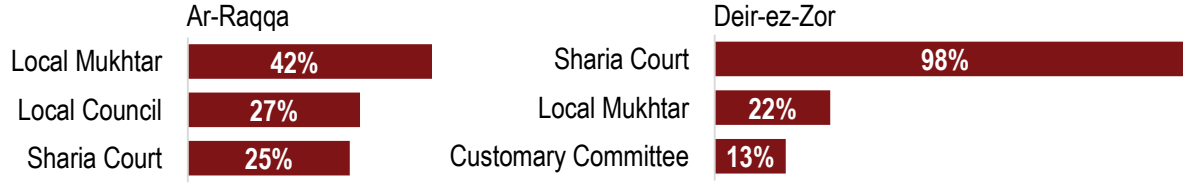


HLP issues were most frequently reported in Idleb and Hama, where the proportion of households facing such issues was at least double that in other assessed governorates. By far the most commonly reported HLP issue was a lack or loss of HLP documentation, with no other issue reported by more than 2% of the population in most governorates assessed through household surveys. The only exceptions were the threat of eviction by landlords in Dar'a and looting of private property in Hama (each reported by 4% of households).

For Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, while the percentage of KIs reporting HLP issues in their community was quite low, the types of issues reported were more varied.[43] In Ar-Raqqa, the top three issues were: lack or loss of HLP documentation (62% of KIs), ownership dispute (20%) and unlawful occupation of property (19%). In Deir-ez-Zor, the most commonly reported issues were: expropriation of property without compensation (65%), secondary occupation (43%) and looting of private property (38%).

Lack of access to shelter due to a lack of legal authorisation was not a problem for the vast majority of households in all assessed governorates. The percentage of households affected by this issue was estimated to be below 2% in all governorates other than Ar-Raqqa, where KIs estimated that 4% of households had faced this challenge. For those 4%, KIs estimated that the main authorisation issue was a lack of identification documents. The percentage of households reporting an inability to access shelter due to legal authorisation was similarly low in December 2016, with all governorates reporting no major change.

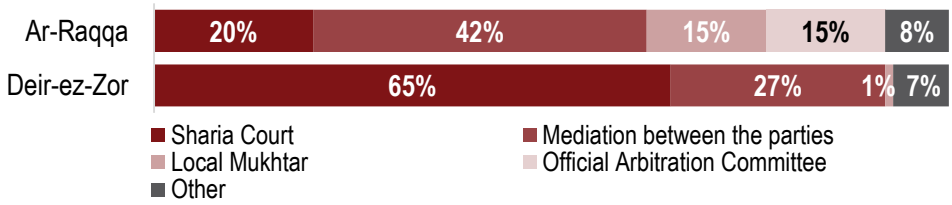
Figure 38: Most common actors dealing with HLP issues in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor (percentage of KIs reporting each)[44]



While Sharia courts were by far the most common actors dealing with HLP issues in Deir-ez-Zor, the range of actors present in Ar-Raqqa was more varied. In December 2016, all KIs in Ar-Raqqa and 91% in Deir-ez-Zor, reported that Sharia courts resolved HLP disputes. The diversification of HLP actors in Ar-Raqqa from December to July is likely a result of shifting dynamics of conflict and territorial control.

[42] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[43] KIs were asked what the most common HLP issues were in their communities, and could select up to three.
[44] KIs could select multiple options.

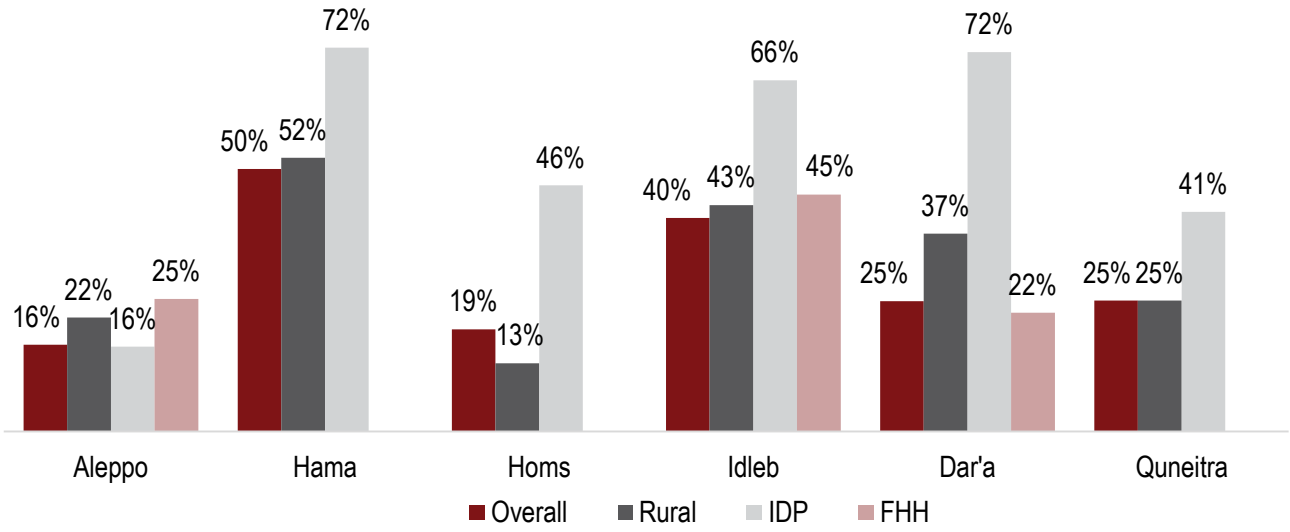
Figure 39: Most effective means of resolving HLP issues in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor (percentage of KIs reporting each)



In both Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, significant proportions of KIs reported that direct mediation was the most effective way to resolve HLP disputes, rather than through third-party dispute resolution actors in their communities. This suggests that third-party HLP actors, while present in communities, are generally not perceived as particularly effective in resolving HLP disputes.

Documentation proving shelter occupancy status

Figure 40: Percentage of households without shelter documentation, for governorates assessed through household surveys

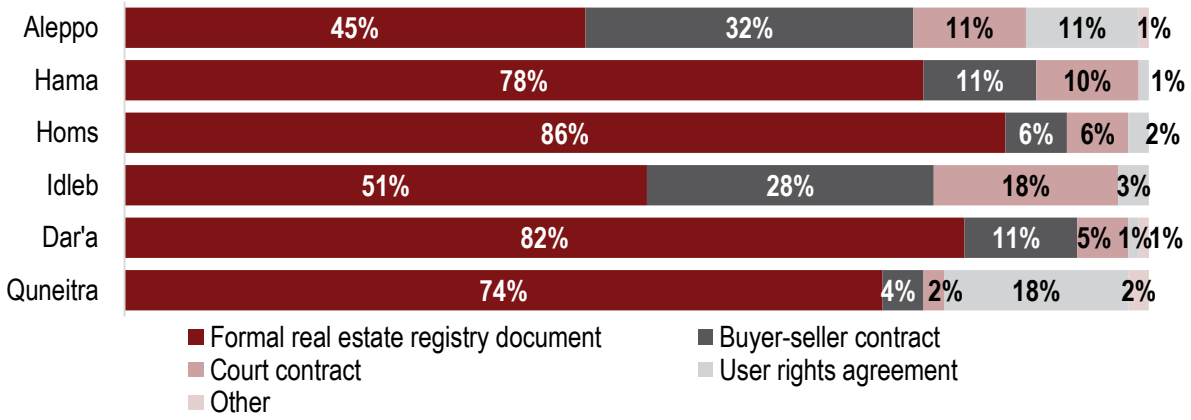


As shown in Figure 40, households in Idleb and Hama, the two governorates that also reported the highest rates of HLP issues (Figure 37), were the least likely to have documentation to prove their shelter occupancy status. In addition, in most governorates, IDP households, female-headed households and households in rural areas were less likely to possess shelter documentation than the overall assessed population in their governorates.

In many parts of the country, particularly in the South, operational partners suggest that many cases where households did not have documentation were likely due to the customary use of verbal tenancy agreements instead of written agreements in their communities. In general, lack of documentation has been found to cause significant issues in the past. For example, a July 2017 HLP assessment for southern Syria found informal rental and hosting arrangements to be the most commonly reported cause of HLP-related disputes among assessed households.[45]

[45] NRC, UNHCR, "Displacement, housing, land and property and access to civil documentation in the south of the Syrian Arab Republic", July 2017.

Figure 41: Most common types of shelter documentation possessed by households, for governorates assessed through household surveys

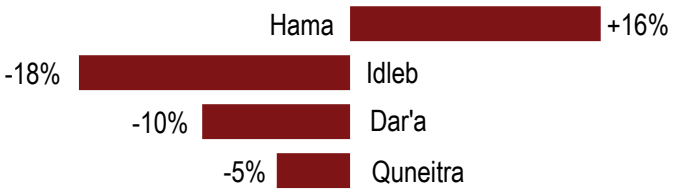


In the Northwest and South, formal real estate registry documents were the most common type of shelter documentation, although to a lesser extent in Idleb and Aleppo. In these governorates, buyer-seller contracts and court contracts also made up a significant percentage of the shelter documentation possessed by households.

In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, the vast majority of KIs (89% and 98% respectively) reported that buyer-seller contracts were the most common type of shelter documentation in their communities. However, in Ar-Raqqa governorate, 10% of KIs reported that residents of their communities most commonly had no shelter documentation.

No KIs in Ar-Raqqa or Deir-ez-Zor reported that land registries were functioning. Overall, the most commonly reported reasons for this were: a lack of appropriate authorities to run the registry (57% of KIs), lack of staff for land registry offices (30% of KIs) and destruction of land registry offices (27%). Given the lack of functioning land registries, it is unsurprising that buyer-seller contracts were the most commonly reported type of shelter documentation.

Figure 42: Change in percentage of households without shelter documentation from December 2016 to July 2017[46]



Among governorates where comparison was possible, the overall percentage of households without shelter documentation decreased from December 2016 to July 2017, representing an improvement. The biggest decrease was in Idleb, while Hama was the only governorate where the percentage of households without shelter documentation increased.

The most common types of shelter documentation (formal real estate registry) remained similar from December 2016 to July 2017. However, from those with shelter documentation in Idleb, the percentage of households using buyer-seller contracts increased substantially from 18% to 29%. This suggests that much of the increase in the proportion of households having shelter documentation in Idleb was due to a growth in buyer-seller contracts.

[46] Only governorates where comparison was possible are shown.

Evictions

Figure 43: Map of sub-districts by percentage of households that had faced eviction over the past year, for all governorates assessed through household surveys

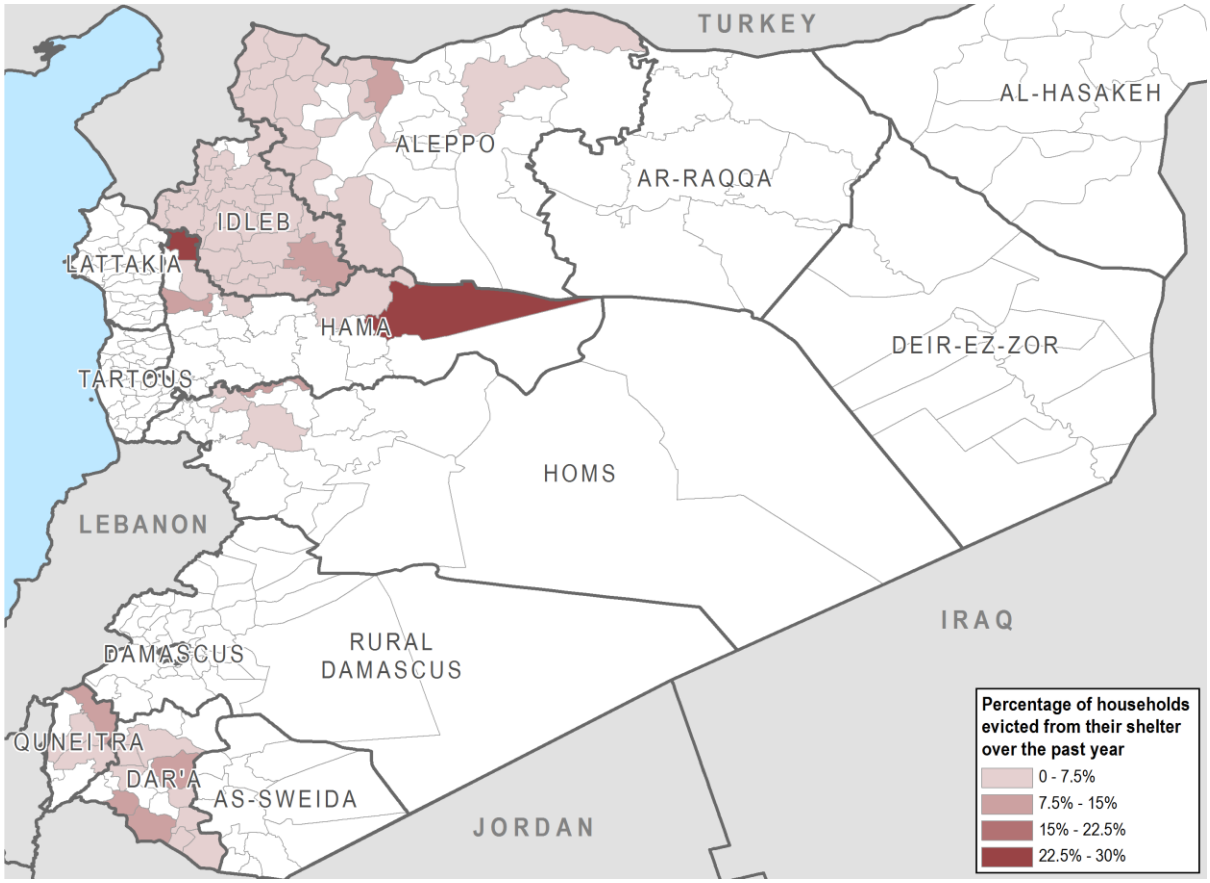
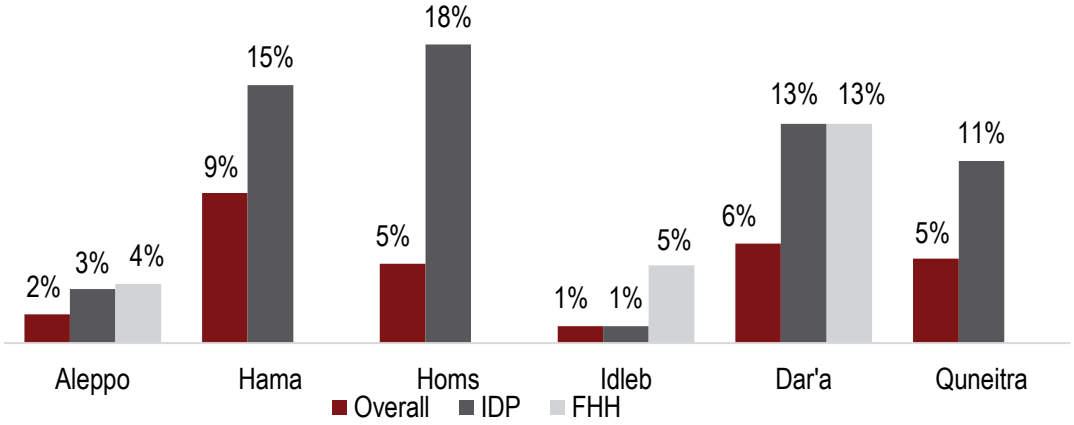


Figure 44: Percentage of households that had faced eviction over the past year, for all governorates assessed through household surveys

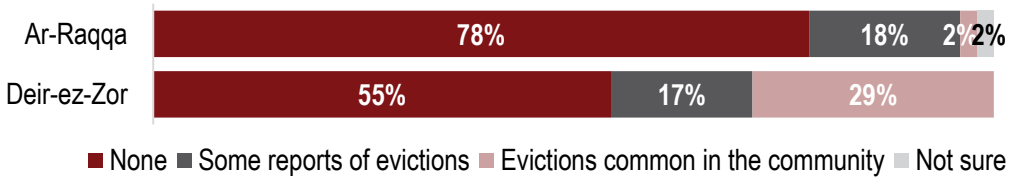


As shown in Figure 44, evictions were far more common in the South as well as in Hama and Homs, than in Idleb and Aleppo. A June household protection assessment also highlighted the issue of evictions in Dar'a and Quneitra. The report found that 9% of assessed households in both governorates reported fear of deportation and that this

number was significantly higher for IDP households than non-IDP households.[47] In most governorates assessed through household surveys, female-headed households and IDP households were more likely to have experienced eviction. The higher frequency of these groups facing eviction may be linked to the greater livelihoods challenges that they often face, as well as the fact that they were more likely to stay in shelter occupancy arrangements, such as renting or being hosted without rent (as shown in Figure 32), where they were vulnerable to eviction by the owner of a shelter.

Compared to December 2016, eviction rates fell in Idleb (from 3% to 1%), but increased in Quneitra (from 2% to 5%) and Hama (from 4% to 9%). Eviction rates remained similar in Dar'a.

Figure 45: Estimated frequency of evictions in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor (percentage of KIs reporting each)



As shown in Figure 45, evictions were reported by almost half of KIs in Deir-ez-Zor, suggesting a far higher rate of eviction in the governorate than in other assessed areas, with almost one-third of KIs stating that evictions had commonly occurred in their communities.

Figure 46: Reasons for eviction in Northwest and South Syria

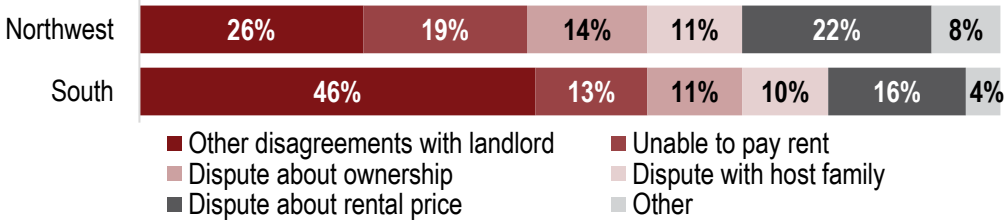
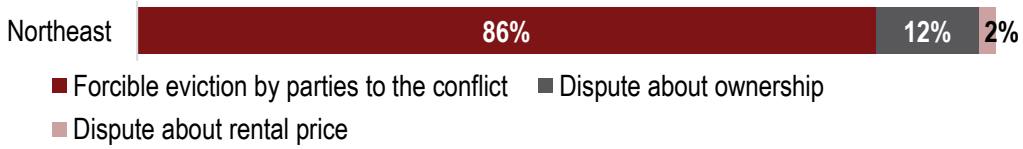


Figure 47: Reasons for eviction in Northeast Syria (percentage of KIs reporting each)



As can be seen in Figure 46, approximately 30% of evictions in the South, and 40% in the Northwest, were for reasons related to rent (rent disputes or inability to pay rent). In addition, almost half of evictions in the South were due to disagreements with landlords. In many cases, these disagreements were due to landlords' families returning from displacement and occupying the shelter in place of the tenants. According to operational partners, evictions were especially frequent in the south because there had historically not been a culture of renting in these areas. As a result, tenancy was often more insecure and evictions were more likely.

In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, the most commonly reported reason for eviction, according to KIs, was forcible eviction from shelters by parties to the conflict. This likely explains why the eviction rate was so high in Deir-ez-Zor, as armed groups there have been known to seize property.

[47] IRC, UNHCR, "Household Protection Monitoring Report Southern Syria June 2017", June 2017.

Shelter adequacy and damage

Shelter Adequacy Issues

Figure 48: Map of sub-districts by percentage of households facing shelter adequacy issues

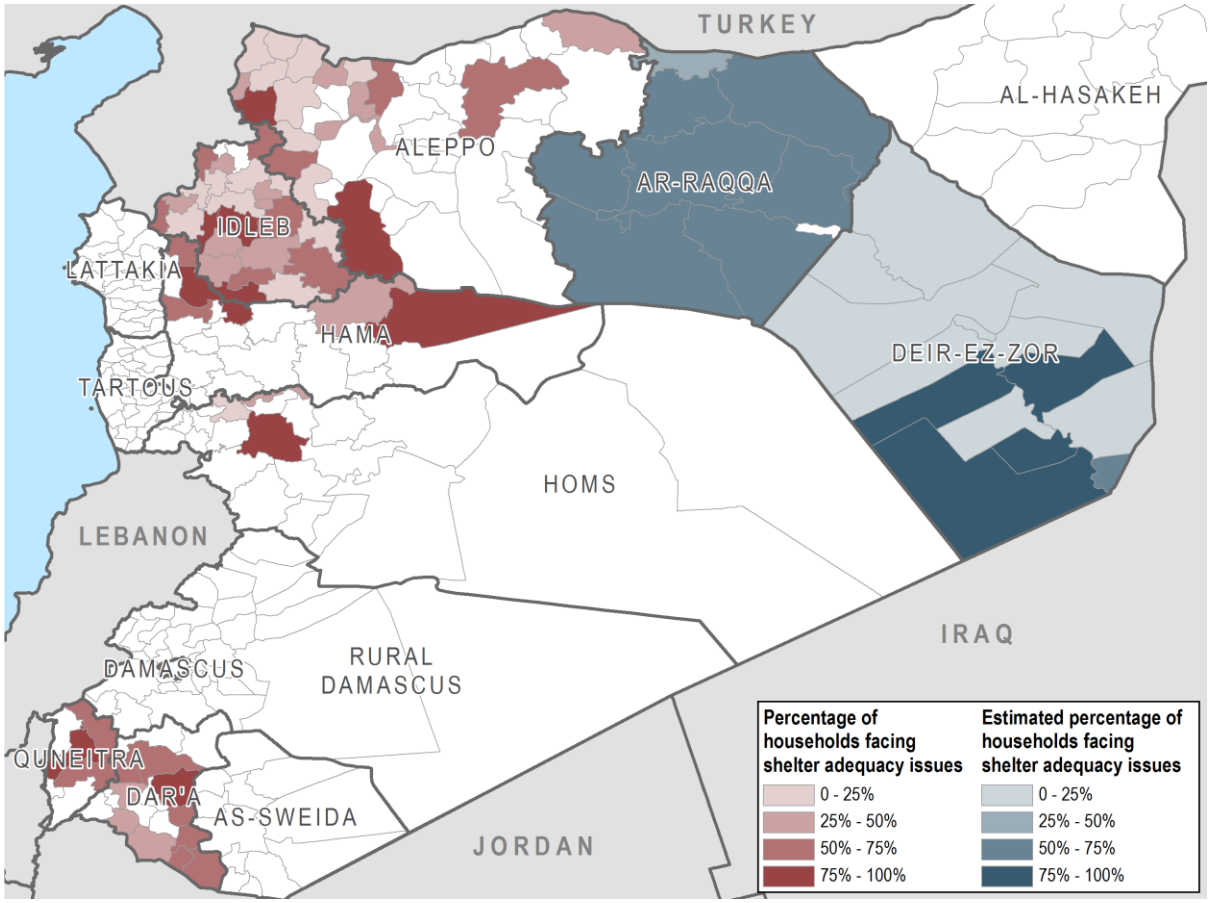


Figure 49: Percentage of households facing shelter adequacy issues, for governorates assessed through household surveys

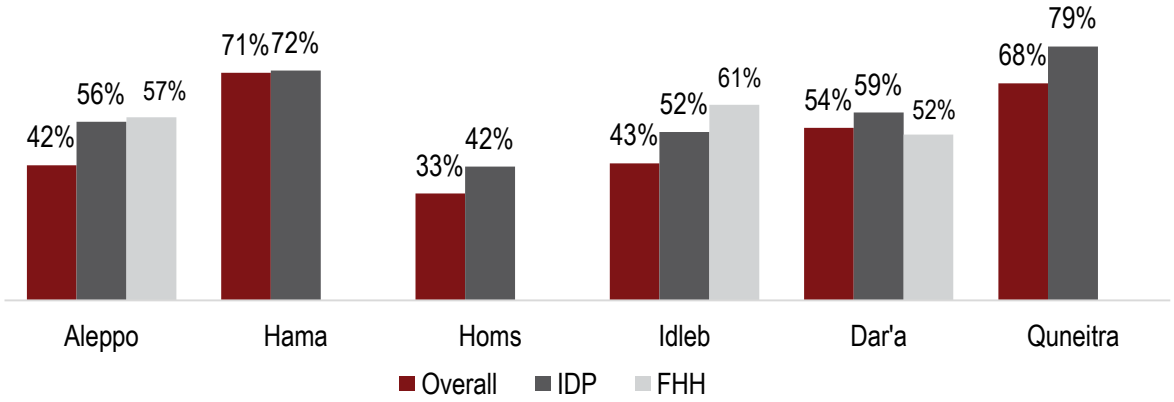
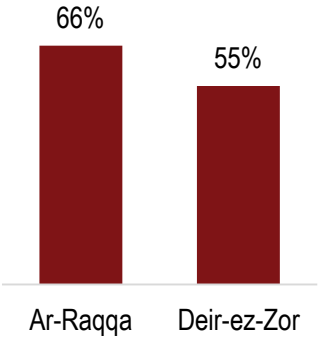


Figure 50: Estimated percentage of households facing shelter adequacy issues, for governorates assessed through KI interviews



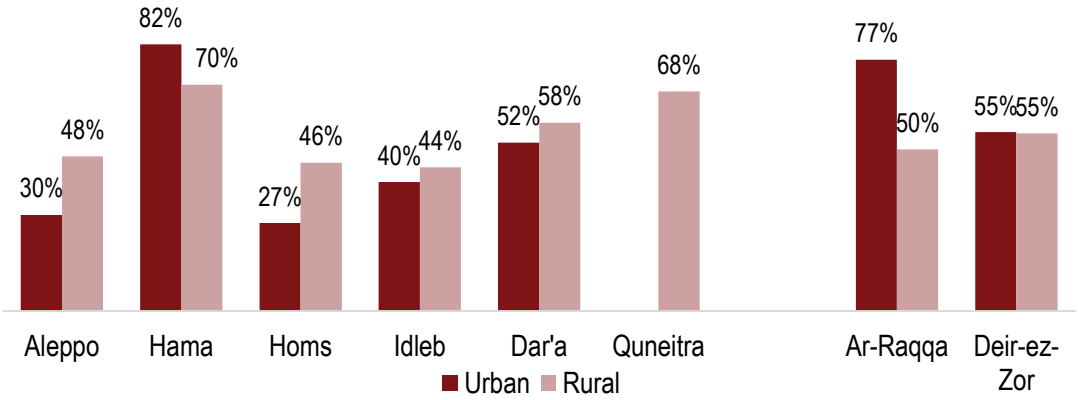
As can be seen in Figure 49, the highest overall rates of households reporting shelter adequacy issues were reported in Hama and Quneitra. In Quneitra, this was likely a result of the high percentage of IDP households (43%) in the governorate, many of whom lived in camps and informal settlements. In Hama, however, rates of adequacy issues were high for both the overall population and IDP households.

In Ar-Raqqa, the percentage of households estimated by KIs to be facing shelter issues was larger than in Deir-ez-Zor, likely due to recent conflict in Ar-Raqqa. In both governorates, the majority of households with shelter adequacy issues were estimated to face more than one issue.

Overall, IDP households were more likely to face shelter adequacy issues than non-IDP households, with significant differences in Aleppo, Quneitra, Homs and Idleb. In Idleb and Aleppo, female-headed households had significantly higher rates of shelter adequacy issues than male-headed households. In Dar'a, however, the numbers were approximately the same for the two groups.

Compared to December 2016, there was a large increase in the percentage of households reporting adequacy issues in Hama (from 48% to 71%) and Idleb (from 33% to 43%).[48] There were also large increases in KI estimates for proportions of households facing at least one adequacy issue in Ar-Raqqa (from 9% to 66%) and Deir-ez-Zor (from 36% to 55%). This is likely due to displacement and shelter damage caused by recent conflict in the area.

Figure 51: Percentage of households facing shelter adequacy issues in households in rural and urban communities, per governorate[49]



[48] There was also a large increase in Quneitra, but this is likely due to a change in methodology from the last report when camps, informal sites and collective shelters were not surveyed in the governorate.
[49] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

In Aleppo, Homs, Dar'a and Idleb, higher proportions of households faced shelter adequacy issues in rural communities than urban ones, with particularly large urban-rural differences in Aleppo and Homs. In Hama, however, households in urban communities had a higher frequency of issues than rural ones.

In Ar-Raqqa, urban communities were estimated to have had significantly more shelter adequacy issues than rural ones, while rural communities in Ar-Raqqa actually had fewer issues than both urban and rural communities in Deir-ez-Zor. Therefore, the urban communities were the reason for the higher overall rates of shelter adequacy issues in Ar-Raqqa compared to Deir-ez-Zor. In Deir-ez-Zor the estimated frequencies of issues in urban and rural communities were approximately equal.

Figure 52: Frequency of specific shelter adequacy issues, for governorates assessed through household surveys

	Lack of insulation from cold	Roof leaking during rain	Limited ventilation	Lack of space inside shelter	Lack of privacy inside shelter	Unable to lock home securely	Lack of access to cooking facilities	Lack of access to latrines	Lack of access to bathing facilities	Lack of access to safe drinking water	Lack of lighting	Lack of heating
Aleppo	21%	23%	7%	10%	11%	16%	3%	2%	4%	13%	9%	13%
Hama	45%	44%	8%	26%	16%	24%	7%	3%	12%	11%	9%	7%
Homs	20%	21%	3%	2%	2%	3%	0%	1%	0%	8%	7%	9%
Idleb	23%	24%	7%	12%	12%	12%	1%	1%	2%	8%	11%	9%
Dar'a	27%	32%	5%	15%	12%	21%	4%	3%	5%	11%	19%	8%
Quneitra	39%	41%	13%	27%	22%	26%	13%	14%	16%	3%	20%	15%

Exposure to the elements was consistently an issue, especially in Hama and Quneitra where more than 40% of households reported a lack of insulation from cold, roof leaking during rain, or both. In Idleb and Aleppo, shelter adequacy issues related to exposure to the elements were more frequent in female-headed households than in male-headed ones.

Lack of heating was a particularly common challenge in Aleppo and Quneitra, while lack of lighting was more frequently reported in Dar'a and Quneitra. Lack of access to safe drinking water was an issue for around one in ten households overall, except in Quneitra where the number was significantly lower.

Lack of access in shelters to latrines and bathing facilities were a significant issue in Quneitra, with 16% of households reporting lack of access to one of the two. This was due to a high number of IDP households reporting these issues (32%, compared to 5% in the non-IDP population) and the large number of IDPs living in camps and informal settlements in the governorate.

Figure 53: Most common shelter adequacy issues, for governorates assessed through KI interviews (percentage of KIs reporting each)[50]

	None	Lack of insulation from cold	Roof leaking during rain	Limited ventilation	Lack of space inside shelter	Lack of privacy inside shelter	Unable to lock home securely	Lack of access to cooking facilities	Lack of access to latrines	Lack of access to bathing facilities	Lack of access to safe drinking water	Lack of lighting	Lack of heating
Ar-Raqqa	2%	58%	61%	13%	20%	37%	20%	10%	11%	18%	50%	66%	40%
Deir-ez-Zor	42%	29%	30%	2%	7%	4%	2%	5%	5%	7%	46%	49%	51%

[50] Respondents were allowed to select up to five issues and were instructed to only select issues that were commonly present in households in their community.

In governorates assessed through KI interviews, respondents were asked to select the most common shelter adequacy issues from a list. In Deir-ez-Zor, 42% of KIs reported that households in their communities were not commonly affected by any of the shelter adequacy issues listed in the questionnaire. In contrast, almost all KIs in Ar-Raqqa reported that at least one of the issues was common in their communities. This supports the findings in Figure 53, which show that shelter adequacy issues were estimated to be more common in households in Ar-Raqqa than in Deir-ez-Zor.

In Ar-Raqqa, the shelter adequacy issues most frequently reported as common by KIs were exposure to the elements (lack of insulation from the cold, roof leaking during rain) and lack of lighting. In Deir-ez-Zor, the most frequently reported were lack of heating, lack of lighting, and lack of access to safe drinking water, all of which were also common in Ar-Raqqa.

Shelter Damage

Figure 54: Map of sub-districts by percentage of households facing shelter damage issues, for governorates assessed through household surveys

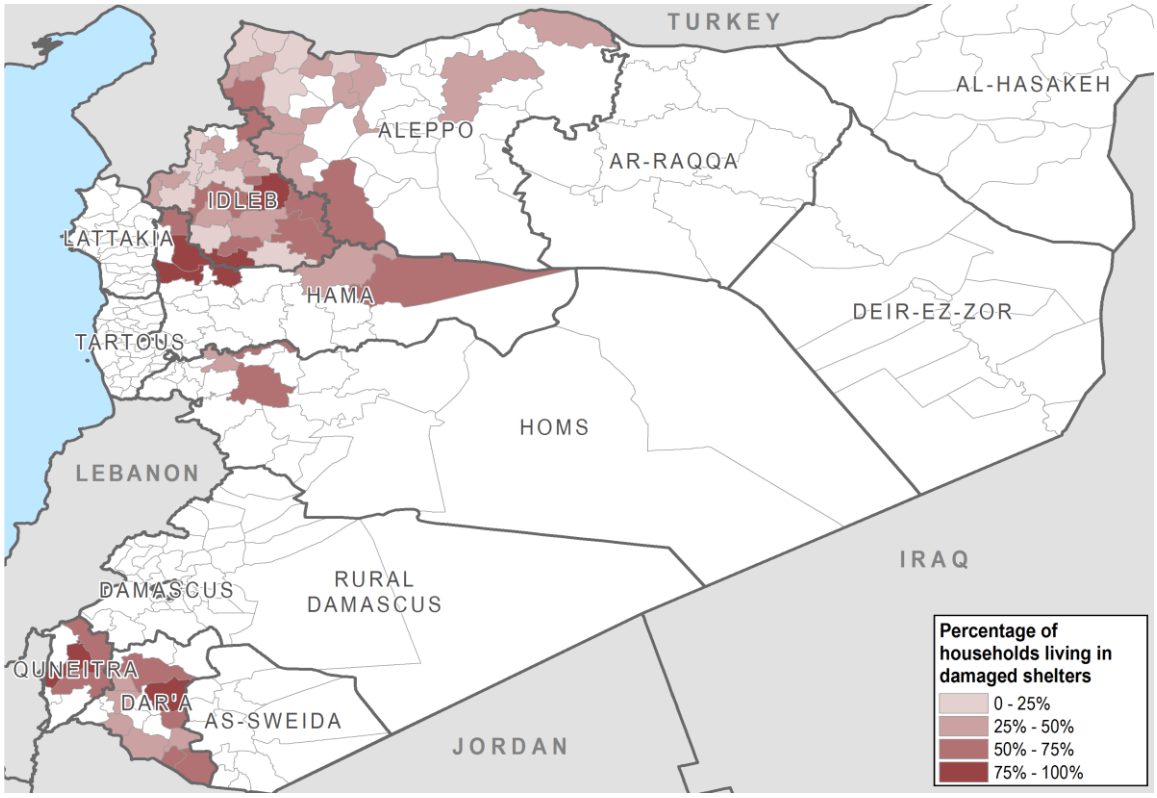
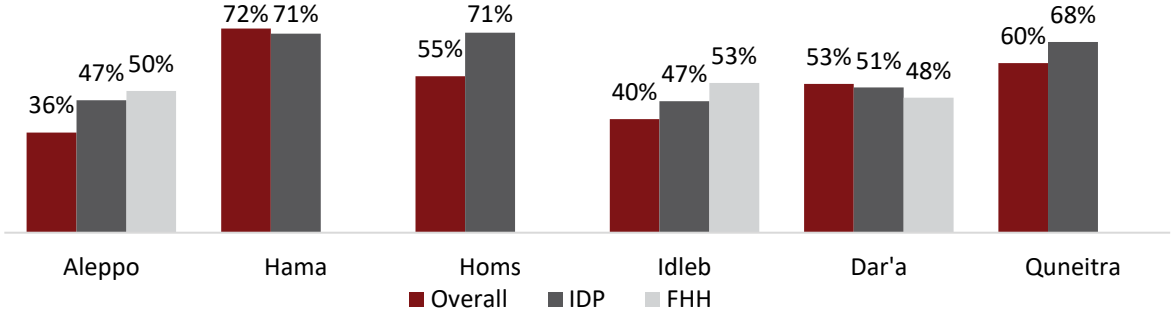


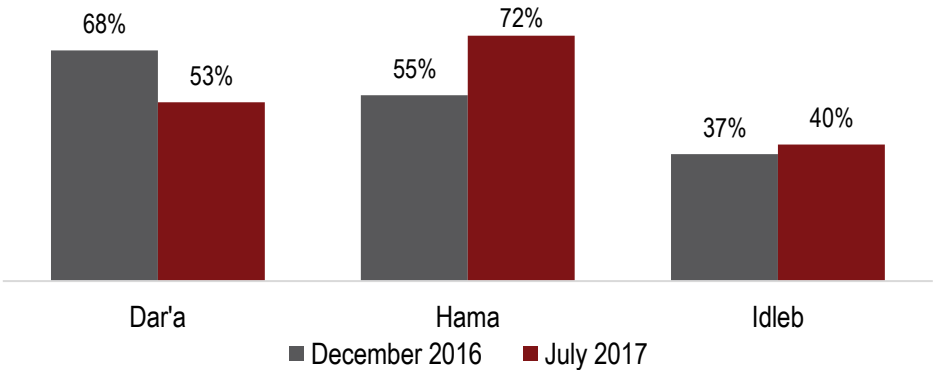
Figure 55: Percentage of households living in damaged shelters, for governorates assessed through household surveys



Overall, a large percentage of households in the assessed areas were found to be living in damaged shelters. The highest overall rate was found in Hama, where more than 70% of both overall and IDP households reported shelter damage. IDP households in Homs and Quneitra reported similarly high frequencies of shelter damage. Further insights into the shelter conditions of IDP households in Quneitra can be found in the May 2017 Collective Shelters and Informal Tented Settlements Mapping Analysis Report by Care and the UNHCR.[51] The assessment found a significant number of collective shelters and informal tented settlements in the governorate and estimated that in Dar'a and Quneitra overall, 30% of collective shelters and 78% of informal tented settlements had at least moderate damage.

In Aleppo and Idleb, IDPs were also more likely to live in damaged shelters than the rest of the population. The same was true for female-headed households in Aleppo and Idleb.

Figure 56: Change in percentage of households living in damaged shelters[52]



Compared to December 2016, there was an increase in the percentage of households living in damaged shelters in Hama while there was a decrease in Dar'a.[53] As ability to make repairs was low in Dar'a, a large part of the decrease in percentage living in damaged shelters is likely caused by households moving to another shelter, such as a house in better condition or an IDP camp. As such, the decrease in percentage of households living in damaged shelters cannot necessarily be equated to an increase in shelter quality in the governorate.

Figure 57: Frequency of specific types of shelter damage, for governorates assessed through household surveys

	Broken or cracked windows	Doors unable to shut properly	Some cracks in some walls	Large cracks in most walls	Some walls partially collapsed	Some walls fully collapsed	Gaps or cracks in roof	Roof partially collapsed	Unstable floors	Moderate fire damage	Heavy fire damage	Total collapse	Other
Aleppo	17%	19%	18%	5%	4%	1%	5%	1%	1%	3%	5%	0%	1%
Hama	61%	34%	52%	24%	18%	5%	9%	5%	2%	7%	19%	1%	1%
Homs	41%	7%	30%	14%	5%	3%	13%	3%	5%	1%	5%	0%	6%
Idleb	23%	15%	22%	4%	3%	1%	6%	1%	5%	0%	2%	0%	1%
Dar'a	35%	23%	27%	7%	9%	3%	9%	2%	1%	8%	19%	0%	5%
Quneitra	35%	21%	33%	12%	5%	1%	20%	4%	7%	2%	12%	1%	6%

[51] Care, UNHCR, "Collective Shelters and Informal Tented Settlements Mapping Analysis Report" (no link), 27 May 2017.
[52] Quneitra was excluded from this analysis as the change there was likely due to differing coverage between the two assessments (with camps and informal sites, where prices for those renting tended to be lower, not included in the December 2016 sample in the governorate).
[53] Findings also indicated that there had been a +58% increase in Quneitra. However, was very likely due to the exclusion of camps and informal sites in the December 2016 assessment.

Overall, the most common types of damage were broken or cracked windows, cracked walls and doors being unable to shut properly. Heavy fire damage was most common in Dar'a and Hama followed by Quneitra but was uncommon in other governorates. The high rates of damage reported in Hama are likely a result of intense conflict in the governorate in recent months. Of those selecting 'other', the majority specified the type of damage as 'wear and tear of tent'.

Heavy fire damage was most commonly reported in Hama, Dar'a and Quneitra. Fully collapsed walls was reported by 3% in Dar'a and Homs and 5% in Hama. Total building collapse was generally low, with the notable exception of urban communities in Hama, where 7% of households indicated living in collapsed buildings.

Figure 58: Reported causes of damage among households living in damaged shelters, for governorates assessed through household surveys

	Conflict damage (airstrikes/ explosives)	Conflict damage (gunfire /battle)	Weather	General disrepair	Other	Not sure
Aleppo	45%	22%	16%	45%	1%	1%
Hama	65%	52%	8%	19%	7%	1%
Homs	67%	68%	6%	20%	1%	2%
Idleb	81%	19%	2%	22%	0%	0%
Dar'a	57%	17%	13%	39%	1%	1%
Quneitra	42%	52%	18%	30%	2%	0%

In general, airstrikes, gunfire and general disrepair reportedly accounted for the majority of damage across governorates.

In urban communities in Hama, which had a relatively high rate of people living in totally collapsed buildings, the proportion of damage reportedly caused by airstrikes and gunfire (89% and 86% respectively) was higher than in the rural parts of the governorate.

General disrepair and weather damage were consistently a more common cause of damage in rural communities than in urban ones, indicating that ability to carry out regular shelter maintenance was lower in these communities.

Figure 59: Most common shelter damage types in governorates assessed through KI interviews (percentage of KIs reporting each)[54]

	None	Broken or cracked windows	Doors unable to shut properly	Some cracks in some walls	Large cracks in most walls	Some walls partially collapsed	Some walls fully collapsed	Gaps or cracks in roof	Roof partially collapsed	Unstable floors	Moderate fire damage	Heavy fire damage	Total collapse	Other	Not sure
Ar-Raqqa	13%	52%	20%	41%	33%	41%	19%	29%	21%	10%	1%	15%	12%	0%	4%
Deir-ez-Zor	43%	51%	23%	31%	2%	17%	7%	7%	3%	14%	5%	32%	7%	0%	0%

In Deir-ez-Zor, a significantly larger number of KIs reported that none of the shelter damage types listed in the questionnaire were common in their community.

In both Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, the damage type most frequently reported by KIs to be common in their community was broken or cracked windows. In Ar-Raqqa, the type of structural damage (cracks in walls/roofs and collapsed walls/roofs) were significantly more frequently reported than they were in Deir-ez-Zor. Total collapse was also frequently reported. In Deir-ez-Zor, heavy fire damage was reported more than twice as frequently as in Ar-Raqqa.

[54] KIs were allowed to select up to five issues and were instructed to only select issues that were commonly present in households in their community.

Figure 60: Most common reported causes of damage in governorates assessed through KI interviews (percentage of KIs reporting each)[55]

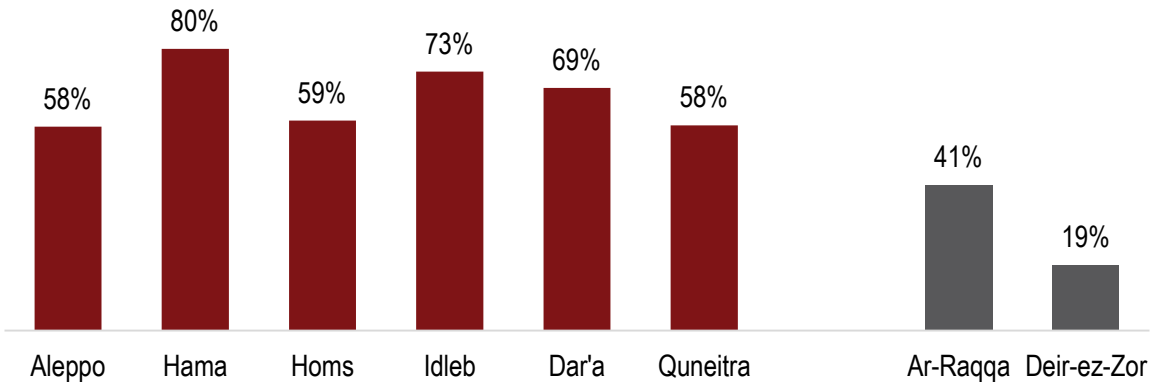
	Conflict damage (airstrikes)	Explosives	Conflict damage (gunfire/battle)	Weather	General disrepair	Other	Not sure
Ar-Raqqa	63%	49%	69%	10%	42%	0%	2%
Deir-ez-Zor	72%	46%	58%	1%	51%	0%	0%

The common causes of damage most frequently reported by KIs in both Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor were airstrikes, explosives, gunfire and general disrepair. General disrepair was more commonly reported in rural Ar-Raqqa, with 45% of KIs there reporting it as a common cause of damage compared to 27% in urban areas of the governorates.

Shelter repair and support

Ability to Make Repairs

Figure 61: Percentage of households living in damaged or unfinished shelters who needed to conduct repairs but were unable to do so in the last three months, per governorate[56]



In governorates assessed through household surveys, more than half of households who needed to make repairs to their shelters in the last three months were unable to do so.

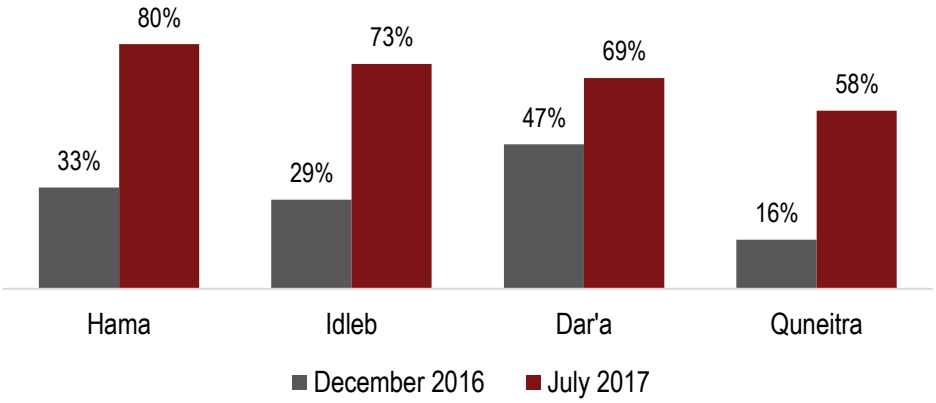
Data from the household surveys suggests that female-headed households were generally significantly more likely to be unable to make needed repairs. The difference was particularly pronounced in Idleb (86% of female-headed households, compared to 72% of male-headed households).

The estimated percentage of households living in damaged or unfinished shelters who needed but were unable to conduct repairs in Ar-Raqqa was more than twice as high as it was in Deir-ez-Zor. This is particularly significant, as Ar-Raqqa was estimated to have a very high rate of people living in damaged shelters.

In Deir-ez-Zor, KIs estimated that households in rural areas were more likely to be unable to make needed repairs than those in urban areas.

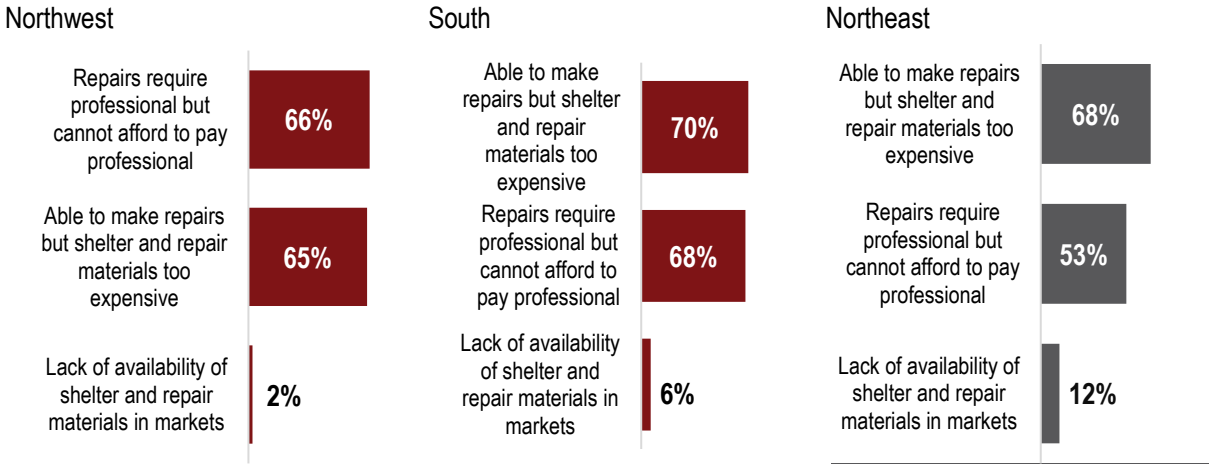
[55] KIs were allowed to select up to three options.
[56] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Figure 62: Proportion of households living in damaged or unfinished buildings and unable to make repairs, in July 2017 and December 2016[57]



The proportion of households living in damaged shelters and unable to make repairs increased significantly across all governorates compared to December 2016. The largest increase was in Quneitra (although this is likely because the December 2016 sample did not include informal settlements and camps), followed by Hama.

Figure 63: Most common reasons for inability to make repairs in governorates assessed through household surveys (figures represent percentage of households reporting each in the Northwest and South, and percentage of KIs reporting each in Northeast.)[58]



The most commonly reported reasons for households' inability to make repairs were inability to afford either shelter repair materials or professional help with repairs, with other reasons reported by only a small fraction of the households who needed to carry out repairs but were unable to do so.

Lack of authorization was also a commonly listed reason in rural Dar'a (at 12%) as well as in IDP households in Dar'a (21%) and Hama (21%). In urban Ar-Raqqa, 31% of KIs cited ongoing conflict as a reason for households' inability to make repairs. In Homs, 90% of households who were unable to make repairs reported unaffordability of items as being a key reason. Overall, unaffordability of repair items was a more commonly cited reason in female-headed households than in male-headed households.

[57] Only governorates where comparison was possible are shown.
[58] Households were allowed to select multiple options.

In Hama and Homs, the inability to afford repair items was a more commonly cited reason for not being able to make repair in urban areas than in rural ones. In Aleppo, however, the opposite was true.

Among those unable to make repairs, there was a significant decrease in the percentage of households reporting that needed shelter repair materials were not available in markets in both Homs (from 52% to 1%) and Aleppo (from 20% to 1%) compared to December 2016.

Availability of materials

Figure 64: Percentage reporting repair items as unaffordable or unavailable in markets, for governorates assessed through household surveys

	Aleppo	Hama	Homs	Idleb	Dar'a	Quneitra		Ar-Raqqa	Deir-ez-Zor
Plastic sheeting / tarpaulin	16%	29%	13%	27%	25%	88%		33%	20%
Iron sheeting	29%	21%	20%	35%	38%	47%		39%	7%
Timber	18%	16%	40%	37%	38%	66%		17%	54%
Nails or screws	10%	1%	5%	26%	16%	70%		6%	2%
Bricks	50%	39%	3%	44%	10%	19%		37%	3%
Concrete	95%	94%	93%	88%	90%	88%		88%	93%
Wood	19%	25%	24%	46%	33%	48%		37%	39%
Basic electrical items	32%	26%	10%	53%	41%	7%		64%	79%
Basic tools	39%	62%	32%	67%	66%	84%		37%	46%
Other	4%	3%	43%	5%	1%	0%		0%	0%

Concrete was consistently the repair item most commonly reported as unavailable or unaffordable where needed, as reported by around 90% of households across governorates. This was almost exclusively due to its unaffordability, except in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor where unavailability of concrete in the markets was commonly reported by KIs.

In general, the majority of availability/affordability issues for needed shelter repair materials were due to items being unaffordable rather than unavailable. The notable exceptions were Ar-Raqqa and (to a lesser extent) Deir-ez-Zor, where many KIs indicated that certain shelter repair items were unavailable in markets.

Basic tools were also commonly unavailable or unaffordable, particularly in Quneitra. Plastic sheeting or tarpaulin were commonly cited as being needed but unaffordable in Quneitra. This is likely due to the large number of informal and IDP sites in the governorate. Nails, screws and basic tools were also commonly reported to be unaffordable or unavailable in Quneitra, which, according to operational partners, may have been a result of regulations on imports of these products from outside of Syria.

Support and Information

Figure 65: Percentage having received information on shelter support in the last year, for governorates assessed through household surveys

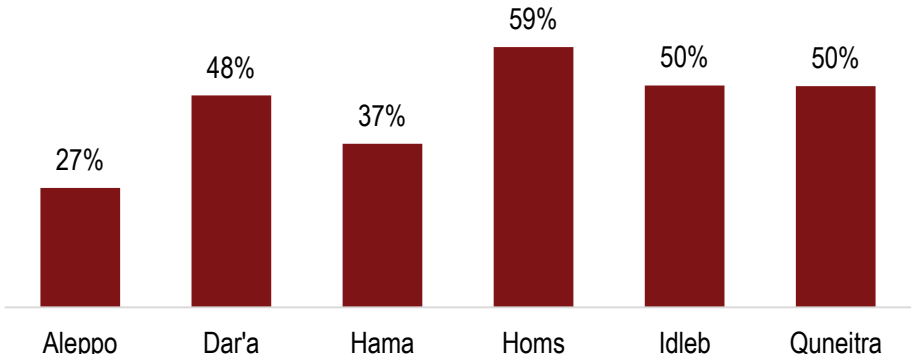
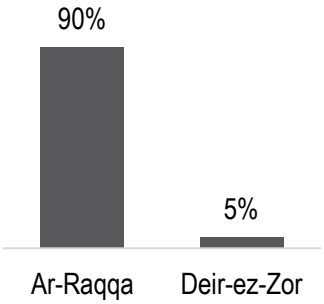


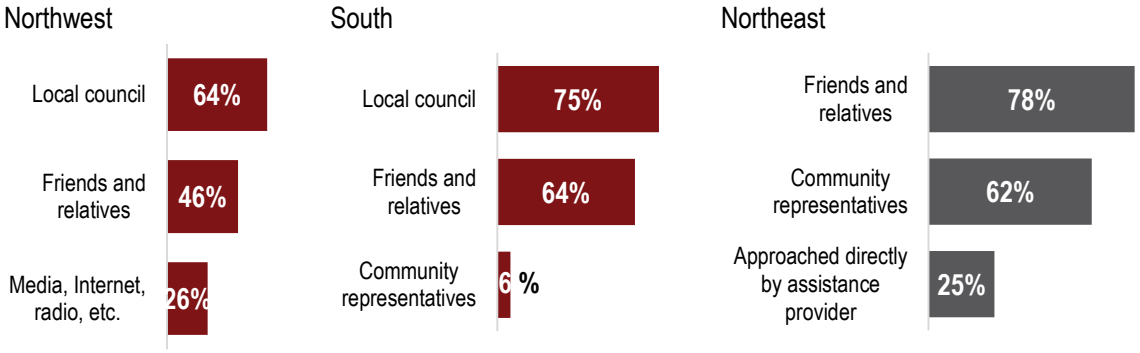
Figure 66: Percentage reporting that information on shelter support had been available in their communities in the past year, for governorates assessed through KI interviews



The proportion of households having received information on shelter support in the last year was generally around 50%, but lower in Aleppo and Hama. In Ar-Raqqa, information on shelter support was available in most communities according to KIs. In Deir-ez-Zor, however, very few communities reportedly had access to shelter support information.

Overall, the proportion of female-headed households having received shelter support information was similar and occasionally a little higher than that of male-headed households. Households in rural communities in Aleppo and Dar'a had less access to information on shelter support compared to urban ones.

Figure 67: Top 3 sources of information on shelter support in the last year



Among those who had received shelter support information, the most common sources were local councils as well as friends and relatives. Media, Internet and radio were also common sources of information on shelter support in Hama and Homs.

In Hama and Aleppo, significant proportions of the assessed population (26% and 19% respectively) had been approached directly by assistance providers.

Sources of information on shelter support in Ar-Raqqa (where information was reportedly available in most communities) were primarily friends/relatives and community representatives, such as Sheikhs and Mukhtars.

Figure 68: Change in percentage having received information on shelter support in the last year, for governorates assessed through household surveys, from July 2017 to December 2016

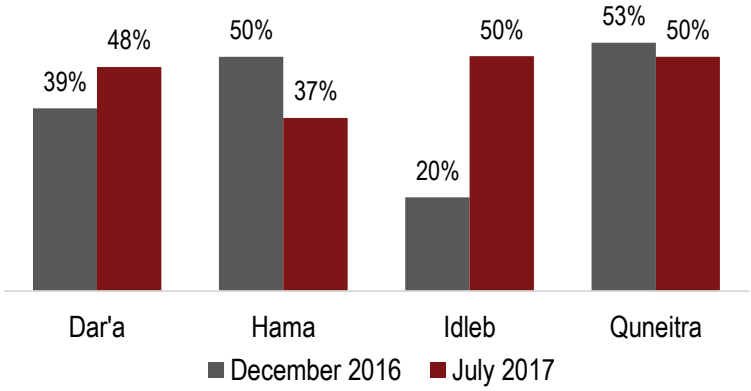
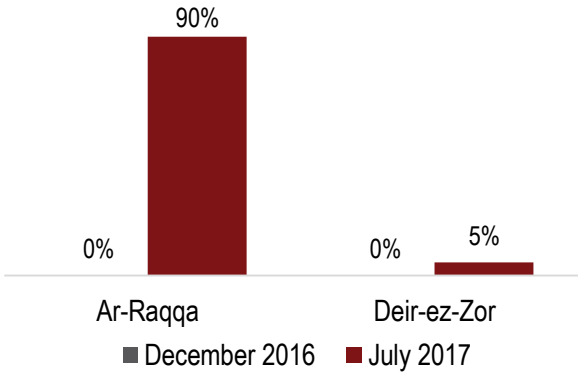


Figure 69: Change in percentage reporting that information on shelter support had been available in their communities in the past year, for governorates assessed through KI interviews, from July 2017 to December 2016



There has been an overall increase in access to information about shelter support across governorates compared to December 2016. While the most common sources were unchanged, there had been an increase in the proportion of households reporting having access to information. The largest increase was in Ar-Raqqa, which was likely due to increased humanitarian access in the governorate. Deir-ez-Zor was the only governorate where access to shelter support information was found to be unchanged.

Figure 70: Preferences for modality of shelter repair support, for governorates assessed through household surveys

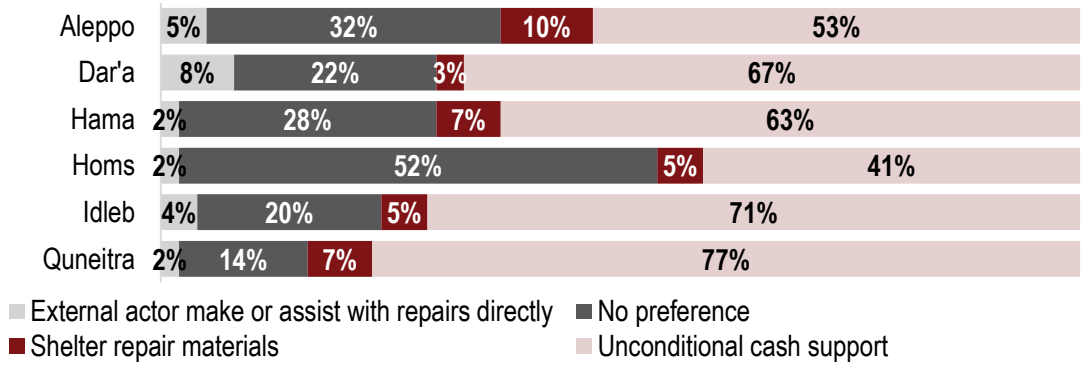
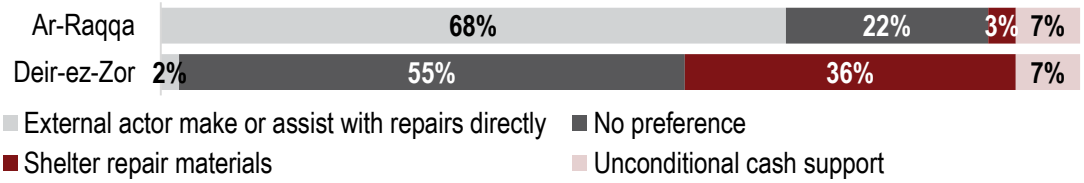


Figure 71: Preferences for modality of shelter repair support, for governorates assessed through KI interviews (percentage of KIs reporting each)[59]



Generally, the preference among surveyed households was towards unconditional cash support, although large percentages of both households and KIs reported no preference for any particular modality of shelter support. However, in Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa, very few KIs indicated that the community's preference for the modality of support was unconditional cash. Instead, KIs here indicated preferences for external actors making repairs directly or assisting with repairs through NGOs or local councils. In governorates assessed through household surveys, repairs made directly by external actors was only preferred by 2-7% of households.

[59] KIs were asked to select the shelter support modality of their community.

NFIs

Key NFI findings

- Clothing and shoes were frequently reported a top NFI needs for children across most assessed governorates.
- Among assessed NFIs, the ones most commonly reported as unavailable or unaffordable were sources of cooking fuel and portable light sources, followed by batteries, water containers, clothing and heating fuel.
- These six NFIs featured prominently among reported NFI needs for various age and gender categories, and were also the items that households said they would buy if given cash- or voucher-based NFI assistance.
- The reported need for, and unavailability/unaffordability of, WASH and health items other than water containers was generally lower than that for other NFIs, except in Ar-Raqqa.
- NFIs were most commonly unavailable or unaffordable in Hama and (according to KI estimates) Ar-Raqqa.
- NFIs were most commonly accessed through markets in all governorates, although rates of market access were lower in Idleb and Quneitra.
- With a higher proportion of households able to access NFIs through distributions, lower rates of challenges to accessing markets, and lower rates of coping strategies used due to a lack of NFIs, NFI access seemed slightly more stable in Idleb and Homs than in other assessed governorates.
- Gas (LPG) was the main source of cooking fuel used in most assessed governorates, other than Ar-Raqqa, where KIs estimated that kerosene was more commonly used.
- Access to electricity (in terms of average number of hours of access per day) was lowest in Quneitra and Ar-Raqqa, followed by Idleb.
- Access to electricity was highest in Hama and Homs, where more than half of households reported having access to the main electricity network. This was one of the few indicators in both the shelter and NFI categories where conditions were better in Hama than other assessed areas.
- Both households and KIs reported a strong preference for unconditional cash support among modalities of NFI assistance, with conditional vouchers least popular overall.

Priority NFI needs per age/gender group

Figure 72: Priority NFI needs for girls (<18 years old), per governorate (figures represent percentage of households reporting each in the Northwest and South and percentage of KIs reporting each in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor.)[60]

	Aleppo	Hama	Homs	Idleb	Dar'a	Quneitra		Ar-Raqqa	Deir-ez-Zor
Bedding items	16%	27%	20%	7%	11%	16%		2%	15%
Mattresses/ Sleeping mats	13%	34%	29%	6%	11%	5%		2%	17%
Cooking utensils	2%	4%	0%	3%	5%	1%		2%	4%
Cooking fuel	2%	6%	2%	8%	12%	2%		8%	22%
Water containers	11%	5%	0%	5%	2%	2%		19%	7%
Portable light sources	11%	7%	2%	30%	14%	8%		7%	3%
Clothing	67%	86%	85%	69%	85%	77%		70%	65%
Shoes	51%	50%	68%	51%	59%	55%		50%	46%
Batteries	2%	1%	1%	16%	5%	3%		15%	1%
Winter heaters	2%	2%	0%	4%	1%	21%		4%	7%
Heating fuel	6%	16%	14%	11%	5%	20%		7%	17%
Winter clothes	29%	12%	22%	19%	16%	23%		11%	17%
Winter shoes	15%	5%	16%	8%	9%	3%		7%	9%
Winter blankets	4%	4%	1%	5%	3%	8%		4%	11%
Disposable diapers	3%	3%	1%	1%	3%	0%		7%	0%
Sanitary pads	12%	7%	0%	10%	12%	2%		50%	0%
Soap	5%	4%	0%	2%	3%	5%		11%	0%
Washing powder	7%	8%	0%	3%	6%	1%		7%	4%
Cleaning liquid (for houses)	3%	1%	0%	4%	4%	0%		5%	1%
Detergent for dishes	3%	1%	1%	6%	2%	1%		2%	1%
Baby diapers	19%	13%	19%	20%	17%	19%		9%	15%
Adult diapers	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%		0%	0%

[60] Respondents could select up to three items in response to this question.

Figure 73: NFI needs for boys (<18 years old), per governorate (figures represent percentage of households reporting each in the Northwest and South, and percentage of KIs reporting each in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor)[61]

	Aleppo	Hama	Homs	Idleb	Dar'a	Quneitra		Ar-Raqqa	Deir-ez-Zor
Bedding items	18%	24%	17%	10%	13%	16%		2%	23%
Mattresses/ Sleeping mats	15%	35%	30%	10%	8%	5%		3%	14%
Cooking utensils	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%		1%	0%
Cooking fuel	1%	2%	2%	7%	5%	2%		6%	4%
Water containers	10%	5%	0%	6%	2%	3%		29%	21%
Portable light sources	13%	15%	3%	35%	24%	9%		31%	15%
Clothing	74%	87%	91%	69%	85%	78%		68%	52%
Shoes	59%	53%	79%	52%	65%	54%		55%	41%
Batteries	2%	3%	1%	18%	18%	3%		33%	3%
Winter heaters	2%	3%	1%	4%	2%	19%		11%	15%
Heating fuel	6%	19%	14%	11%	6%	23%		10%	19%
Winter clothes	25%	10%	13%	17%	17%	25%		15%	8%
Winter shoes	12%	4%	8%	9%	8%	6%		5%	9%
Winter blankets	5%	6%	4%	6%	3%	6%		4%	8%
Disposable diapers	0%	4%	0%	0%	1%	0%		0%	0%
Sanitary pads	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%	0%
Soap	5%	5%	0%	1%	2%	6%		7%	0%
Washing powder	3%	2%	0%	3%	4%	0%		1%	0%
Cleaning liquid (for houses)	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%		0%	1%
Detergent for dishes	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%		0%	0%
Baby diapers	26%	18%	18%	21%	18%	24%		20%	18%
Adult diapers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%	0%

Figure 74: NFI needs for women (18-59 years old), per governorate (figures represent percentage of households reporting each in the Northwest and South, and percentage of KIs reporting each in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor)[62]

	Aleppo	Hama	Homs	Idleb	Dar'a	Quneitra		Ar-Raqqa	Deir-ez-Zor
Bedding items	6%	14%	13%	3%	7%	5%		7%	3%
Mattresses/ Sleeping mats	7%	19%	3%	4%	7%	14%		5%	12%
Cooking utensils	36%	56%	40%	25%	39%	41%		20%	27%
Cooking fuel	40%	65%	44%	50%	67%	78%		46%	75%
Water containers	19%	12%	6%	17%	7%	23%		33%	10%
Portable light sources	21%	5%	8%	33%	18%	13%		16%	3%
Clothing	37%	43%	69%	37%	57%	31%		53%	53%
Shoes	21%	16%	6%	21%	12%	9%		22%	25%
Batteries	2%	1%	8%	15%	7%	4%		3%	1%
Winter heaters	3%	3%	1%	4%	1%	9%		8%	7%
Heating fuel	7%	14%	33%	16%	8%	19%		4%	13%
Winter clothes	8%	3%	9%	9%	6%	8%		10%	12%
Winter shoes	4%	0%	3%	2%	1%	1%		2%	8%
Winter blankets	3%	0%	3%	3%	2%	2%		9%	9%
Disposable diapers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%	0%
Sanitary pads	11%	2%	8%	13%	9%	6%		10%	3%
Soap	7%	4%	1%	3%	5%	1%		4%	1%
Washing powder	23%	26%	9%	16%	26%	8%		24%	3%
Cleaning liquid (for houses)	17%	8%	23%	9%	11%	17%		11%	2%
Detergent for dishes	20%	9%	7%	11%	5%	6%		11%	1%
Baby diapers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%	0%
Adult diapers	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%		0%	0%

[61] Respondents could select up to three items in response to this question.
[62] Respondents could select up to three items in response to this question.

Figure 75: NFI needs for men (18-59 years old), per governorate (figures represent percentage of households reporting each in the Northwest and South, and percentage of KIs reporting each in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor)[63]

	Aleppo	Hama	Homs	Idleb	Dar'a	Quneitra		Ar-Raqqa	Deir-ez-Zor
Bedding items	12%	19%	1%	5%	9%	10%		14%	3%
Mattresses/ Sleeping mats	14%	38%	3%	5%	7%	11%		2%	3%
Cooking utensils	1%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%		1%	0%
Cooking fuel	22%	34%	54%	43%	42%	8%		44%	11%
Water containers	37%	36%	37%	25%	18%	41%		80%	58%
Portable light sources	60%	41%	26%	64%	65%	73%		67%	52%
Clothing	36%	44%	45%	31%	52%	36%		15%	22%
Shoes	19%	4%	4%	12%	14%	11%		4%	9%
Batteries	25%	23%	19%	42%	52%	50%		48%	34%
Winter heaters	16%	6%	2%	9%	2%	8%		2%	12%
Heating fuel	34%	46%	84%	29%	22%	29%		18%	22%
Winter clothes	5%	1%	8%	7%	4%	3%		2%	17%
Winter shoes	2%	0%	3%	2%	1%	2%		2%	12%
Winter blankets	3%	2%	3%	3%	1%	1%		1%	8%
Disposable diapers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%	0%
Sanitary pads	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%	0%
Soap	4%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%		0%	0%
Washing powder	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%		0%	0%
Cleaning liquid (for houses)	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%		1%	0%
Detergent for dishes	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%		0%	0%
Baby diapers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%	0%
Adult diapers	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%		0%	0%

Figure 76: NFI needs for the elderly (>59 years old), per governorate (figures represent percentage of households reporting each in the Northwest and South, and percentage of KIs reporting each in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor)[64]

	Aleppo	Hama	Homs	Idleb	Dar'a	Quneitra		Ar-Raqqa	Deir-ez-Zor
Bedding items	11%	22%	11%	24%	24%	17%		20%	16%
Mattresses/ Sleeping mats	11%	39%	0%	24%	13%	12%		7%	29%
Cooking utensils	3%	0%	0%	4%	5%	6%		1%	0%
Cooking fuel	14%	13%	23%	26%	32%	12%		24%	5%
Water containers	33%	19%	31%	19%	14%	16%		33%	10%
Portable light sources	51%	34%	2%	35%	31%	29%		27%	12%
Clothing	35%	21%	21%	23%	51%	49%		29%	50%
Shoes	21%	1%	0%	5%	11%	0%		13%	31%
Batteries	11%	17%	10%	22%	25%	0%		20%	4%
Winter heaters	8%	28%	12%	14%	4%	40%		18%	7%
Heating fuel	29%	60%	89%	32%	15%	41%		31%	18%
Winter clothes	13%	13%	44%	14%	18%	15%		10%	9%
Winter shoes	5%	2%	10%	5%	2%	1%		2%	11%
Winter blankets	5%	7%	31%	9%	6%	8%		9%	17%
Disposable diapers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%	0%
Sanitary pads	2%	0%	0%	1%	3%	0%		7%	3%
Soap	4%	3%	0%	1%	6%	4%		7%	0%
Washing powder	1%	3%	0%	1%	1%	7%		2%	0%
Cleaning liquid (for houses)	2%	2%	0%	1%	2%	0%		1%	0%
Detergent for dishes	1%	4%	0%	3%	0%	6%		0%	0%
Baby diapers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%	0%
Adult diapers	16%	2%	0%	16%	13%	20%		37%	27%

[63] Respondents could select up to three items in response to this question.
[64] Respondents could select up to three items in response to this question.

As can be seen from the figures above, health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) items were reported among top needs far less frequently than other NFIs, with the exception of water containers for adults and adult diapers for the elderly.

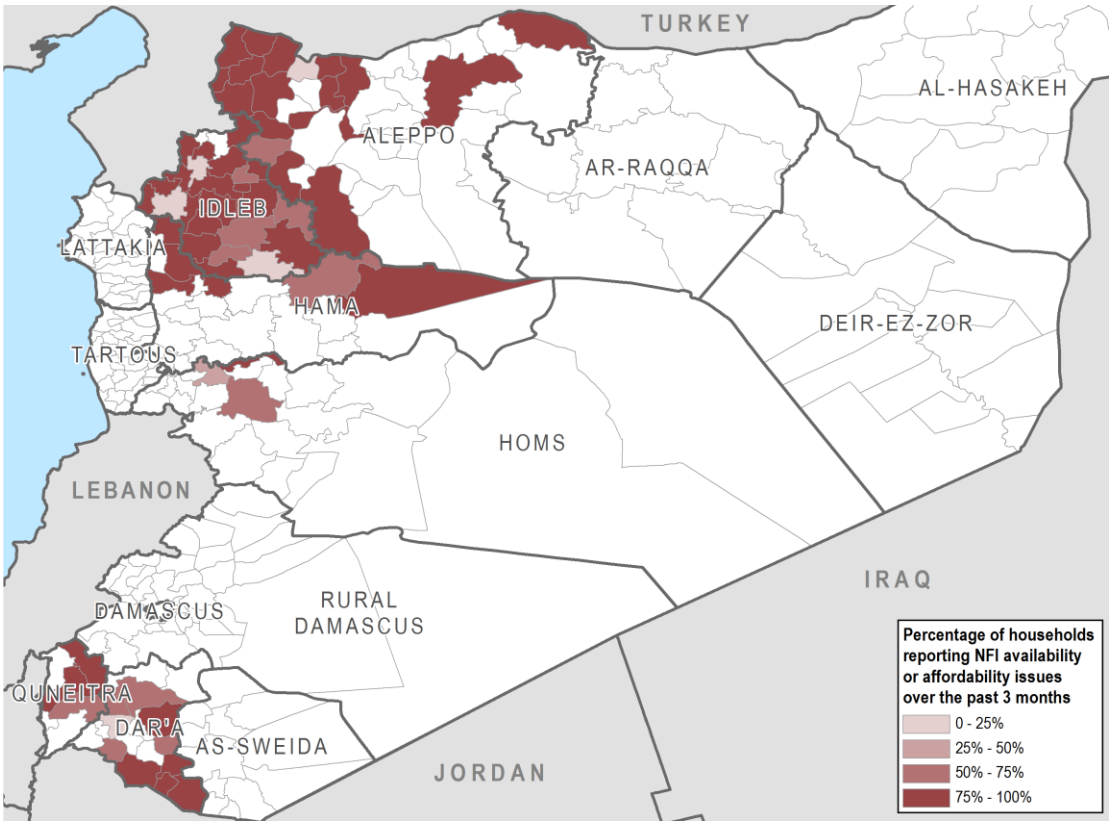
In general, clothing and shoes were top needs for children in most governorates. This need could become exacerbated in winter months, when availability and affordability of clothing may decrease. For example, a November 2016 community protection report for southern Syria found that during the assessment period in late November, "sourcing adequate winter clothing, particularly for children, was often difficult due to limited availability."[65] . Bedding and sleeping mats or mattresses were also significant needs for children in Homs and Hama. For women, cooking fuel was cited as a top need in all governorates, although clothing and cooking utensils were also frequently reported as top needs.

Portable light sources and batteries were frequently reported as top NFI needs for men, although at higher rates in Idleb, Dar'a and Quneitra. Water containers, clothing, and cooking and heating fuel were also frequently reported as top NFI needs for men.

Heating fuel stood out as a major need in Homs governorate, where it was reported as a top need for adults more commonly than in other governorates. Other winterisation items such as winter heaters and winter clothes were also commonly reported as top needs in Homs, suggesting a greater vulnerability to winter conditions. Winterisation items were frequently cited as top needs in Quneitra as well, where operational partners reported that winter tended to be colder and longer.

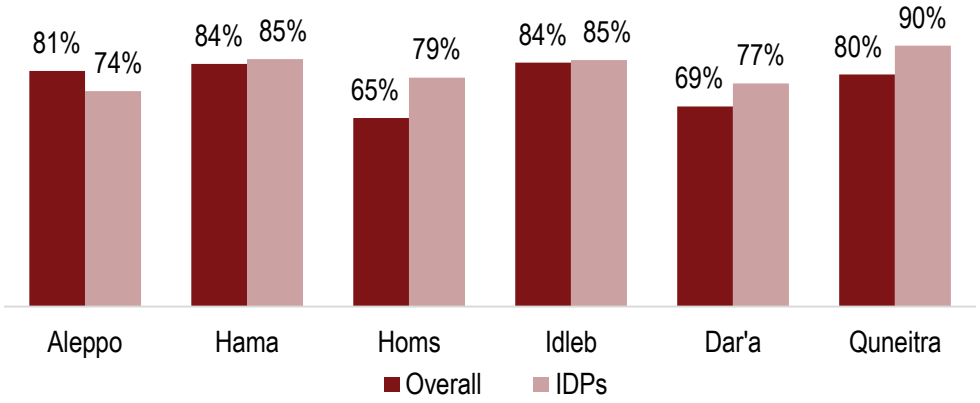
NFI availability and affordability issues

Figure 77: Map of sub-districts by percentage of households facing availability or affordability issues, in governorates assessed through household surveys



[65] IRC, UNHCR, "Community Protection Monitoring Report Southern Syria, November 2016" (no link), November 2016.

Figure 78: Overall percentage of households and percentage of IDP households, reporting NFI availability or affordability issues, in governorates assessed through household surveys



Of those reporting availability or affordability issues for each NFI item, the vast majority faced affordability rather than availability challenges, and the proportions of households or KIs reporting that items were unavailable were very low. The only exception to this was Ar-Raqqa, where significant percentages of KIs reported NFI availability as well as affordability issues.

Overall, Homs and Dar'a reported lower rates of availability and affordability issues than other governorates. In most assessed governorates, IDPs reported higher rates of availability and affordability issues than the overall average. The only exception was Aleppo, where non-IDPs faced more NFI availability and affordability issues than IDPs.

Figure 79: Percentage reporting each assessed NFI as unavailable or unaffordable (figures represent percentage of households reporting each in the Northwest and South, and percentage of KIs reporting each in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor).

	Aleppo	Hama	Homs	Idleb	Dar'a	Quneitra		Ar-Raqqa	Deir-ez-Zor
Bedding items	3%	1%	1%	3%	1%	6%		25%	7%
Mattresses/ Sleeping mats	5%	1%	1%	3%	1%	6%		28%	7%
Cooking utensils	5%	5%	2%	6%	2%	11%		23%	7%
Cooking fuel	29%	47%	20%	39%	30%	32%		73%	69%
Water containers	27%	23%	8%	14%	16%	25%		62%	62%
Portable light sources	49%	36%	40%	66%	38%	57%		96%	55%
Clothing	21%	10%	5%	18%	11%	15%		56%	50%
Shoes	9%	3%	0%	16%	7%	3%		58%	36%
Batteries	21%	29%	22%	45%	37%	39%		63%	32%
Winter heaters	6%	3%	1%	7%	1%	4%		58%	31%
Heating fuel	17%	18%	37%	15%	8%	12%		72%	43%
Winter clothes	6%	2%	2%	8%	1%	3%		58%	25%
Winter shoes	4%	1%	0%	6%	1%	3%		58%	24%
Winter blankets	3%	0%	2%	5%	1%	4%		58%	22%
Disposable diapers	2%	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%		51%	7%
Sanitary pads	5%	3%	0%	6%	1%	1%		52%	6%
Soap	5%	5%	0%	10%	2%	4%		37%	2%
Washing powder	8%	27%	0%	15%	3%	4%		39%	7%
Cleaning liquid (for houses)	12%	19%	0%	7%	5%	5%		37%	3%
Detergent for dishes	9%	13%	1%	9%	3%	5%		32%	4%
Baby diapers	7%	12%	3%	13%	5%	8%		55%	24%
Adult diapers	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%		54%	29%

As can be seen in Figure 79, WASH and health NFIs (except water containers) were overall reported to be unavailable and unaffordable by a much lower proportion of respondents than other NFIs. This matches the pattern shown in the data for top reported NFI needs, where WASH and health items were less frequently cited as top needs. For both needs and availability and affordability issues, water containers were the main exception to this pattern.

The main items for which availability and affordability challenges were reported were portable light sources, cooking fuel and batteries. In Idleb in particular, availability and affordability issues were especially concentrated on these three items.

It is interesting to compare the items reportedly unavailable or unaffordable with those reported as priority needs for various age and gender groups above. Cooking fuel and portable light sources were frequently reported as top NFI needs and also frequently reported as unavailable or unaffordable. In contrast, clothing and shoes were frequently reported as top NFI needs for children but not as commonly reported as unavailable or unaffordable.

Figure 80: Change in the reported availability or affordability issues for each assessed NFI between December 2016 and July 2017 (figures represent percentage of households reporting each in the Northwest and South, and percentage of KIs reporting each in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor)[66]

	Hama	Idleb	Dar'a	Quneitra		Ar-Raqqa	Deir-ez-Zor
Bedding items	-2%	-6%	-23%	-13%		-7%	-15%
Mattresses/ Sleeping mats	-2%	-7%	-15%	-13%		-4%	-21%
Cooking utensils	+2%	-4%	-16%	-8%		-17%	+4%
Cooking fuel	+35%	+3%	-14%	+5%		-3%	+13%
Water containers	+19%	-1%	-10%	+6%		-38%	-32%
Portable light sources	+33%	+48%	-9%	+37%		-3%	-6%
Clothing[67]	+7%	+9%	-14%	-6%		N/A	N/A
Shoes	-1%	+7%	-17%	-17%		-41%	+35%
Batteries	+7%	+7%	-12%	+18%		-37%	-47%
Winter heaters	-41%	-50%	-31%	-19%		-40%	-21%
Heating fuel	-64%	-63%	-73%	-24%		-16%	-33%
Winter clothes	-61%	-52%	-57%	-19%		-12%	-6%
Winter shoes	-55%	-49%	-53%	-17%		-41%	+7%
Winter blankets	-30%	-49%	-47%	-17%		-40%	-29%
Disposable diapers	-1%	-8%	-21%	-26%		-49%	-52%
Sanitary pads	+1%	-6%	-27%	-19%		-48%	-11%
Soap	+2%	-5%	-27%	-15%		+37%	+1%
Washing powder	+22%	-4%	-27%	-15%		+14%	+4%
Cleaning liquid (for houses)	+15%	-9%	-24%	-14%		+37%	-22%
Detergent for dishes	+9%	-7%	-25%	-15%		+31%	-6%
Baby diapers	+7%	-3%	-37%	-18%		-45%	-9%
Adult diapers	+1%	+7%	+12%	+18%		+46%	+47%

Other than in Hama, the percentage of households reporting NFI availability and affordability issues had generally decreased significantly from December 2016 to July 2017. The largest improvement was seen in Dar'a, where the percentage reporting availability and affordability challenges reduced for each assessed NFI. According to operational partners, the period between these assessments coincided with an increase in humanitarian NFI distributions, which may have contributed to this shift.

Availability and affordability issues increased for portable light sources and batteries in Hama, Idleb and Quneitra, and for adult diapers in all assessed governorates where data could be compared between the two assessments.

[66] In governorates where comparison was possible.
[67] Clothing was not assessed in the KI questionnaire in the December 2016 assessment.

In Ar-Raqqa, a larger proportion of KIs reported availability and affordability challenges for many WASH items in July 2017 than in December 2016.

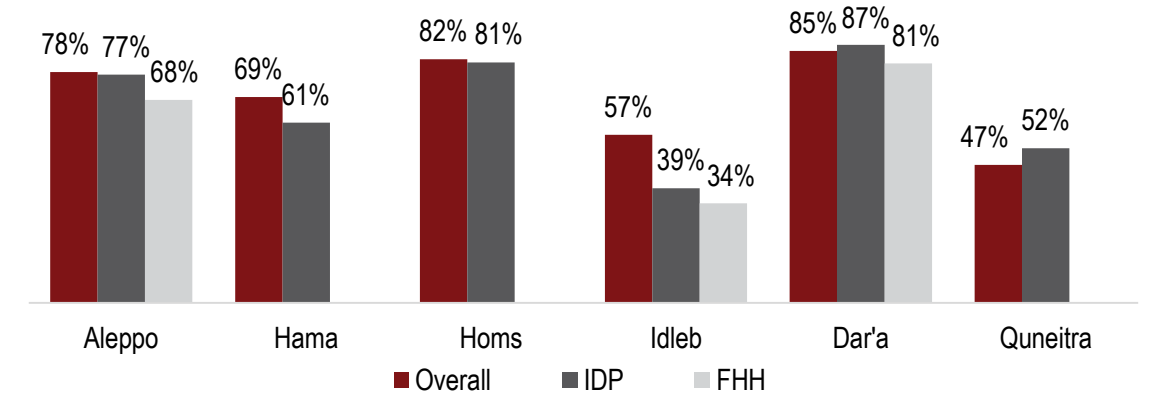
It is important to note that, while it may appear that access for many winterisation NFIs has improved, the December 2016 assessment took place in winter, while the July 2017 assessment took place in summer, and there was therefore a lower demand for these items in July than in December.

Means of accessing NFIs

Figure 81: Means of accessing NFIs (figures represent percentage of households reporting each in the Northwest and South, and percentage of KIs reporting each in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor.)[68]

	Markets	Humanitarian aid distributions directly to households	Humanitarian aid distributions at collection points	Local authority distributions directly to households	Local authority distributions at collection points	Through relatives and friends
Aleppo	78%	17%	16%	6%	4%	14%
Hama	69%	53%	34%	11%	13%	28%
Homs	82%	15%	80%	1%	45%	11%
Idleb	57%	32%	16%	16%	6%	6%
Dar'a	85%	12%	32%	8%	22%	13%
Quneitra	47%	32%	8%	16%	5%	27%
Ar-Raqqa	74%	33%	14%	7%	4%	37%
Deir-ez-Zor	99%	0%	0%	1%	1%	35%

Figure 82: Percentage of households using markets to access NFIs, in governorates assessed through household surveys



As shown in Figure 82, the percentage of households using markets as a means to access NFIs was far lower in Quneitra and Idleb than in other governorates assessed through household surveys. Idleb was also the governorate where the gap in market use between the overall population and female-headed and IDP households was most pronounced, with both female-headed and IDP households relying more on humanitarian distributions directly to households (40% of female-headed households and 55% of IDP households).

Markets and friends or relatives were reportedly the most common NFI sources in Northeast Syria, although one-third of KIs in Ar-Raqqa also reported humanitarian distributions to households as an NFI source in their

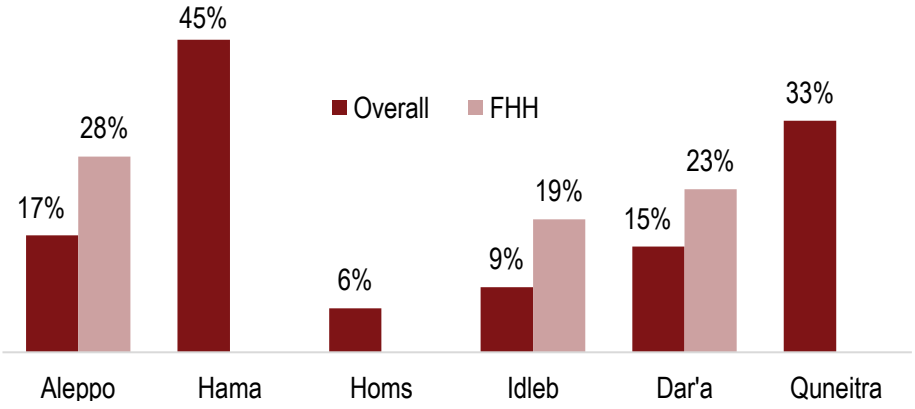
[68] Respondents were asked to select all options that applied.

communities. The fact that nearly no KIs reported distributions as an NFI source in Deir-ez-Zor likely reflects the lack of humanitarian access in the governorate.

Humanitarian aid at distribution points was a major NFI source in Homs (and to a lesser extent in Hama and Dara), while humanitarian aid directly to households was a significant source in Hama, Idleb and Quneitra. In Aleppo governorate, no type of distribution was used to access NFIs by more than one-fifth of the population.

Of the households using humanitarian or local authority distributions to access NFIs, more than half (51% of those using distributions) reported challenges in Hama, mostly due to safety and security concerns and a lack of access for those with restricted mobility. Approximately 15% of households in Aleppo and Quneitra that used distributions to access NFIs reported challenges in doing so, almost entirely due to transportation issues and the distance to distribution points. Over 10% of households using distributions as an NFI source in urban Homs governorate and rural Idleb governorate paid for NFIs accessed through local authority distributions, although this was not the case in any other assessed areas.

Figure 83 Percentage of households reporting challenges to accessing markets to purchase NFIs, in governorates accessed through household surveys



The highest percentages of households reporting challenges were in Hama and Quneitra. The most common causes of challenges were transportation issues and the distance to markets, each of which accounted for approximately half of all those reporting challenges.

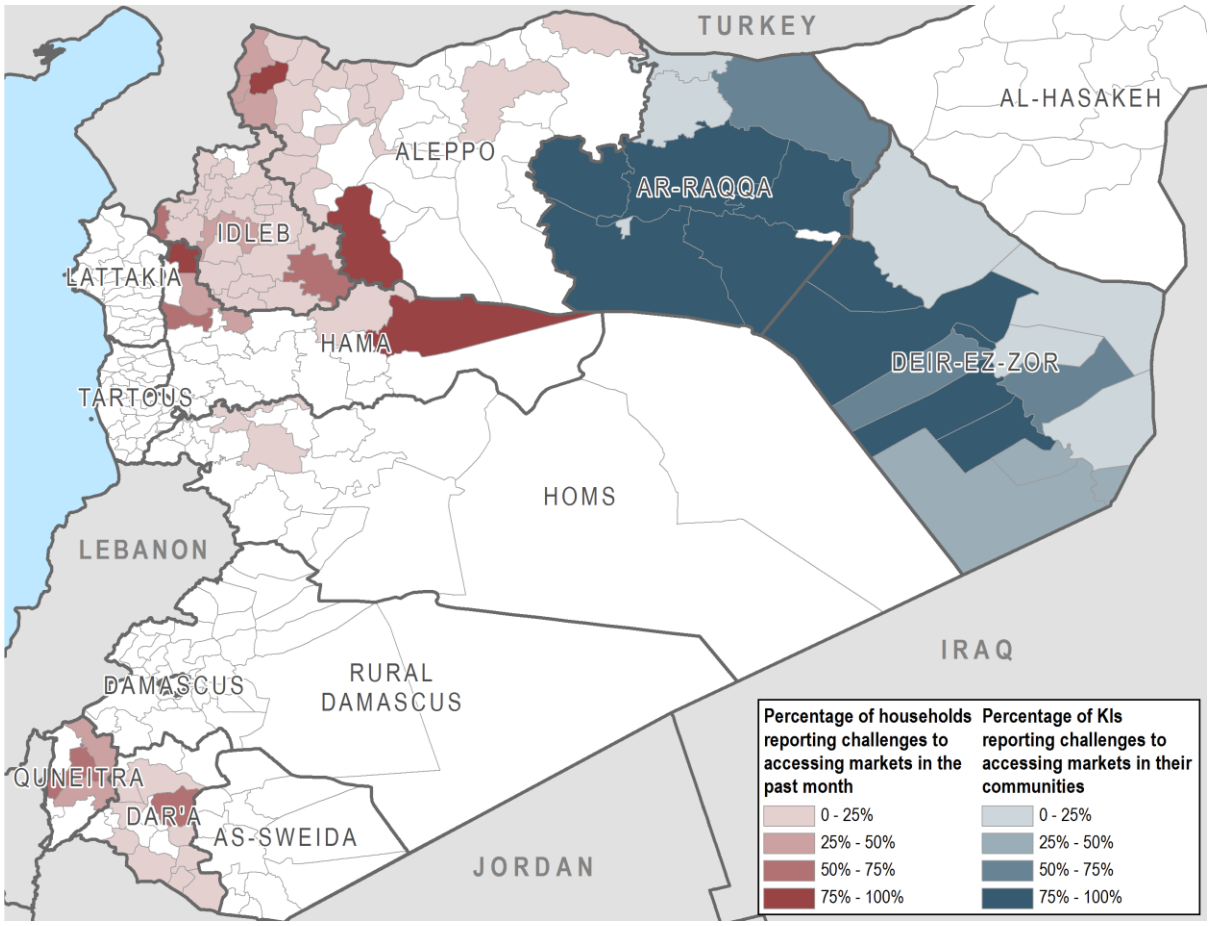
Percentages of IDPs reporting challenges were similar to overall governorate percentages. However, female-headed households were more likely to face challenges in accessing markets in all governorates where comparison was possible. Transportation issues and the distance to markets were also the most common challenges reported by female-headed households, although 42% of female-headed households reporting challenges in both Idleb and Dar'a cited a lack of access or suitability of markets for women as a challenge.

In Ar-Raqqa, 71% of KIs reported that challenges to accessing markets were common in their communities, while the equivalent figure for Deir-ez-Zor was 54%. Of the KIs reporting challenges in Ar-Raqqa, the most commonly cited issues were a lack of transportation (51% of the KIs that reported challenges) and non-functionality of markets during conflict (49%). In Deir-ez-Zor, the most commonly reported challenges were security concerns at markets (72% of the KIs that reported challenges) and en route to markets (57%).

In Quneitra, high percentages of households reported challenges to accessing markets while low percentages reported using markets to accessing NFIs, suggesting that the low rates of market use for NFI access might have been due to the challenges cited. In contrast, Idleb had low rates of market use without reporting high rates of challenges to accessing markets. This suggests that the reason for low market use in Idleb might be something

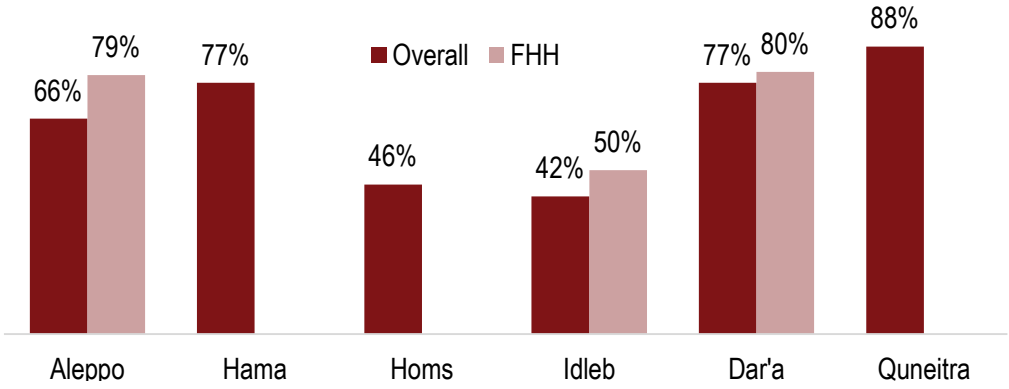
other than challenges, such as the high availability of many NFIs through alternative sources such as distributions in the governorate. In Hama, meanwhile, a comparatively high percentage of households accessed NFIs through markets, despite the high reported rates of market access challenges. This suggests that there may not be many alternatives to markets for several NFIs in assessed areas of the governorate.

Figure 84: Map of challenges to accessing markets



Coping strategies in response to a lack of NFIs

Figure 85: Percentage of households using coping strategies in response to a lack of NFIs



Coping strategy use was higher in the South than the Northwest, with a particularly high rate seen in Quneitra. In Idleb and Homs, less than half of households reported using coping strategies, far lower than other governorates assessed through household surveys. This, in conjunction with the low percentages of households reporting challenges to accessing markets for NFI purchase and the high percentages accessing NFIs through distributions, suggests that NFI access in these two governorates may be better than in other assessed areas.

Female-headed households reported coping strategy use at a higher rate than the overall governorate populations, while the percentage of IDP households reporting coping strategy use generally did not diverge significantly from overall governorate percentages. This is similar to the pattern seen in the percentages reporting challenges to accessing markets to purchase NFIs.

Figure 86: Most commonly used NFI coping strategies in areas assessed through household surveys (percentage of overall population reporting each)[69]

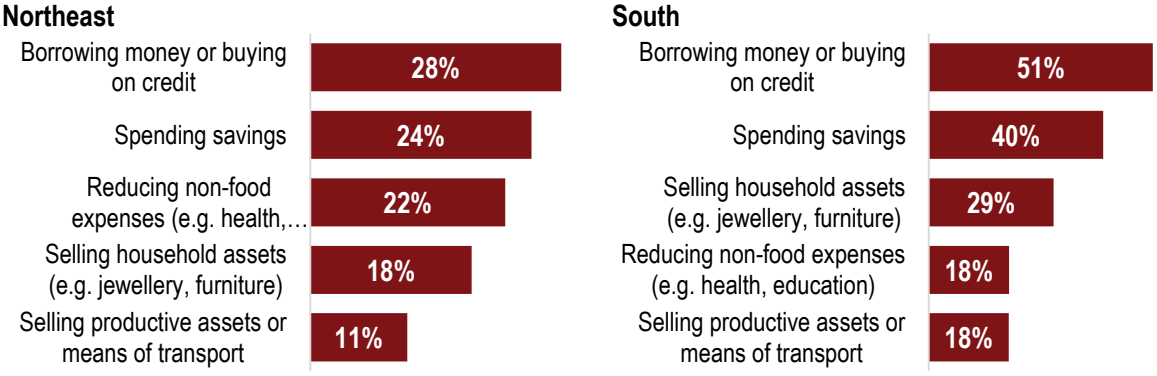
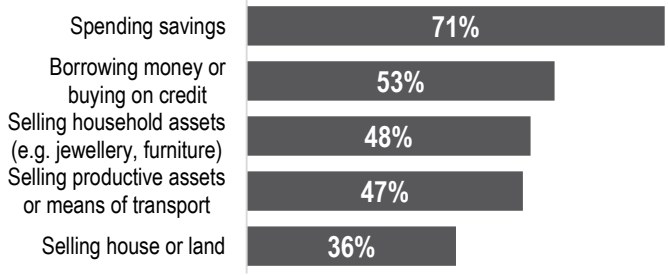


Figure 87: Most commonly reported NFI coping strategies in Northeast Syria (perc. of KIs reporting each)[70]



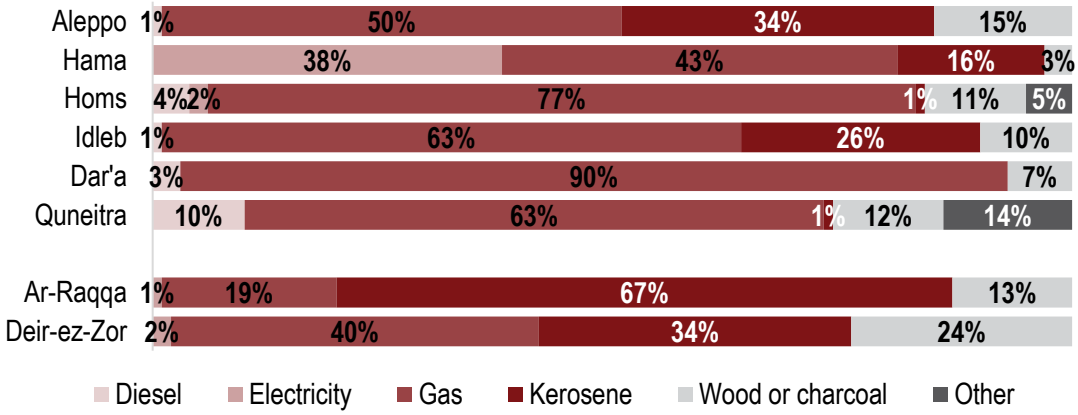
[69] Respondents could select multiple options.
[70] KIs could select up to three options.

While rates of coping strategy use varied between governorates (Figure 85), the main coping strategies used, shown in Figures 86 and 87 were generally similar across assessed areas.

Fuel

Cooking Fuel

Figure 88: Percentage of households using specific sources of cooking fuel, per governorate[71]



The main source of cooking fuel was gas (LPG) in all assessed governorates other than Ar-Raqqa, where kerosene (kaz) was significantly more common. While not the main source of cooking fuel, kerosene was also commonly used in Aleppo, Idleb and Deir-ez-Zor.

Wood/charcoal was used most commonly in Deir-ez-Zor, while more than 10% of households reported wood or charcoal as their main source of cooking fuel in Homs, Idleb, Quneitra, Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa. Rural households were also consistently significantly more likely to use wood/charcoal as a source of cooking fuel than urban ones, expect in Hama.

Of the 14% of households reporting "Other" as their main source of cooking fuel in Quneitra, the vast majority (93%) were burning animal waste.

Electricity was commonly used as a source of cooking fuel only in Hama, likely because most assessed households in the governorate still had access to the main electricity network.

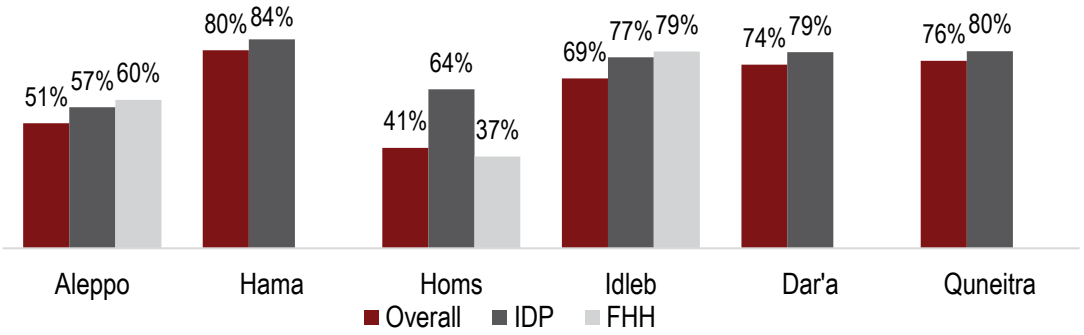
In Ar-Raqqa, use of electricity also fell (from 19% to 1%) with an increase primarily in the use of gas.

In Quneitra, 11% of households reported that they had no source of cooking fuel in December 2016. This number fell to 0% in July 2017. At the same time, Deir-ez-Zor saw a significant increase in the use of gas from 11% to 39%. Ar-Raqqa saw a similar but smaller increase from 9% to 19%.

[71] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Coping Strategies for Lack of Cooking Fuel

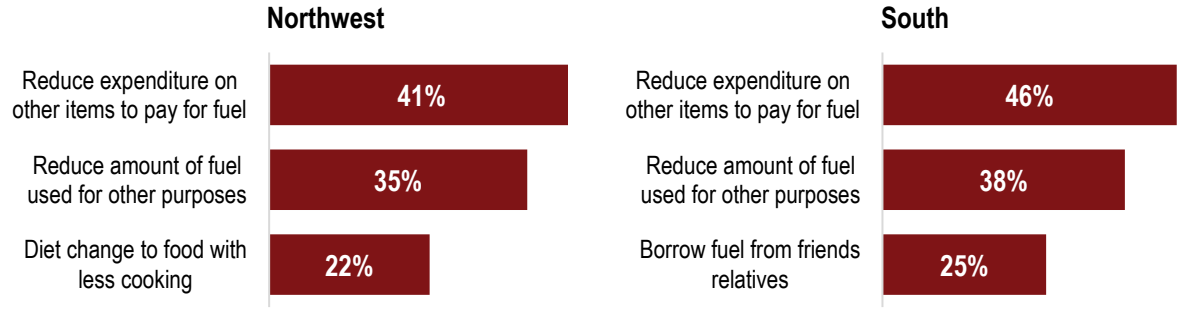
Figure 89: Percentage of households reporting the use of coping mechanisms to deal with a lack of cooking fuel in the last month, in governorates assessed through household surveys



Except in Homs, more than half of households in assessed governorates reported the use of coping mechanisms to deal with a lack of cooking fuel. In Homs, IDP households were significantly more likely to have resorted to coping mechanisms than other households.

While the biggest difference between IDP and non-IDP households was found in Homs, it is worth noting that IDP households were consistently more likely to use coping strategies across governorates. In Aleppo and Idleb, female-headed households were also more likely to resort to coping mechanisms.

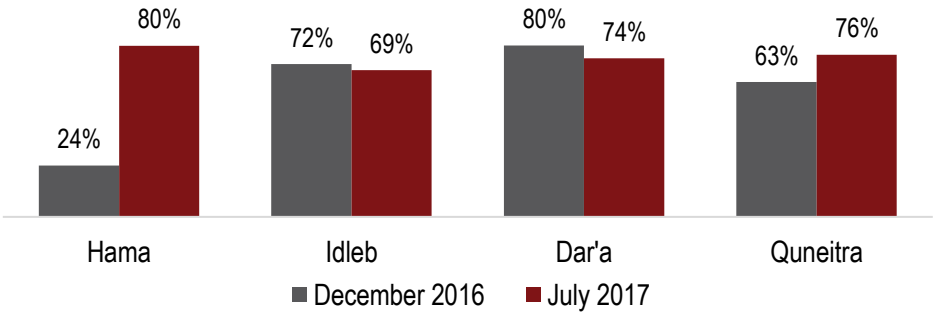
Figure 90: Most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of cooking fuel in households assessed though household surveys (percentage of households using each strategy)



In all governorates assessed through household surveys, the most common coping strategy was to reduce expenditure on other items to pay for fuel. In Quneitra, 97% of the 14% reporting 'other' strategies specified that they were burning animal waste.

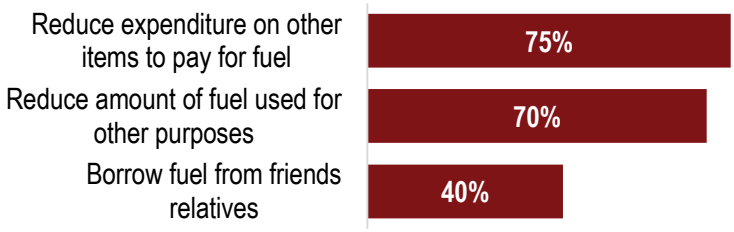
Reducing the amount of food consumed was most common in Hama (12%, with 13% of rural households and 17% of IDP households) among the governorates assessed through household surveys.

Figure 91: Proportion of households using coping strategies to deal with a lack of cooking fuel, in December 2016 and July 2017



Compared to December 2016, there was a large increase in the percentage of households using coping strategies in Hama and a reduction in Aleppo. Elsewhere, the proportion of households using coping strategies remained relatively stable. The percentage of households who reduced the amount of food eaten to cope with a lack of cooking fuel increased in Hama (from 0% to 12%).

Figure 92: Most common coping strategies used in Northeast Syria (percentage of KIs reporting each)



Over 90% of KIs in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor reported that households in their community commonly resorted to coping mechanisms to deal with a lack of cooking fuel. Similarly to the governorates assessed through household surveys, the most common coping mechanism was to reduce expenditure on other items to pay for fuel. Reducing the amount of food eaten was the second-most common coping strategy in both governorates.

Heating Fuel

Figure 93: Percentage of households using specific sources of heating fuel, per governorate[72]

	None	Diesel	Electricity	Gas	Kerosene	Wood/charcoal	Other
Aleppo	20%	40%	0%	1%	5%	33%	1%
Hama	1%	26%	3%	0%	2%	68%	1%
Homs	1%	33%	0%	0%	0%	60%	6%
Idleb	13%	36%	0%	0%	1%	50%	0%
Dar'a	11%	30%	0%	1%	0%	58%	0%
Quneitra	25%	11%	0%	0%	0%	44%	20%
Ar-Raqqa			1%	2%	78%	20%	0%
Deir-ez-Zor			2%	7%	66%	25%	0%

In Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Idleb and Quneitra, the most commonly used primary source of heating fuel was overwhelmingly wood/charcoal. In Aleppo, diesel was the most common with wood/charcoal as a close second. In Deir-Ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa, KIs estimated that the most common source of heating fuel was kerosene/kaz, while wood/charcoal was only estimated to be used by 20-25% of households.

In both Aleppo and Idleb, diesel was significantly less common as a source of heating fuel in rural communities than in urban ones, while wood and charcoal were significantly more common. Of the 20% in Quneitra who indicated 'other', 89% were burning animal waste.

In Aleppo and Quneitra, over 20% of households indicated having no source of heating fuel. In rural communities in Aleppo, this number was 26%. Among IDP households in Quneitra, it was 33%.

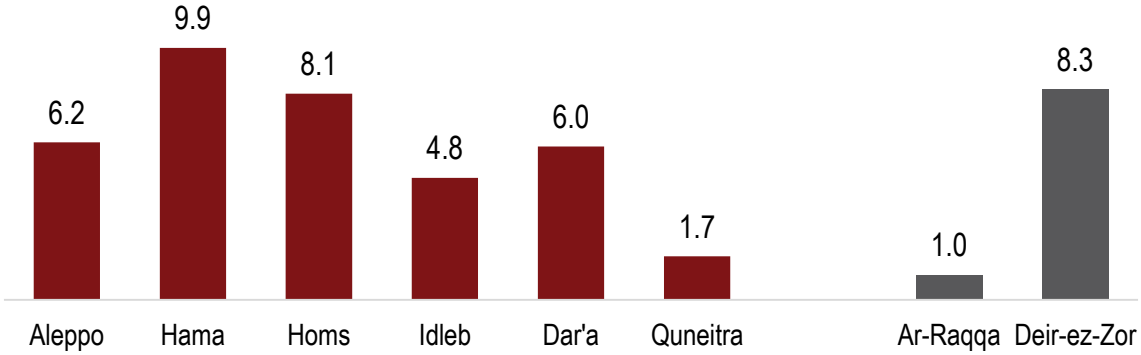
The estimated proportion of households in Ar-Raqqa using electricity for heating fell from 25% in December 2016 to 2%. This was compensated for by an increase in the use of kerosene/kaz by an estimated 56% of households in December 2016 to 78% in July 2017. The percentage of households with no source of heating fuel increased in Quneitra (from 11% to 25%), Idleb (from 3% to 13%) and Dara (from 3% to 11%).

[72] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Electricity

Hours of Electricity

Figure 94: Average number of hours of electricity per day, per governorate[73]

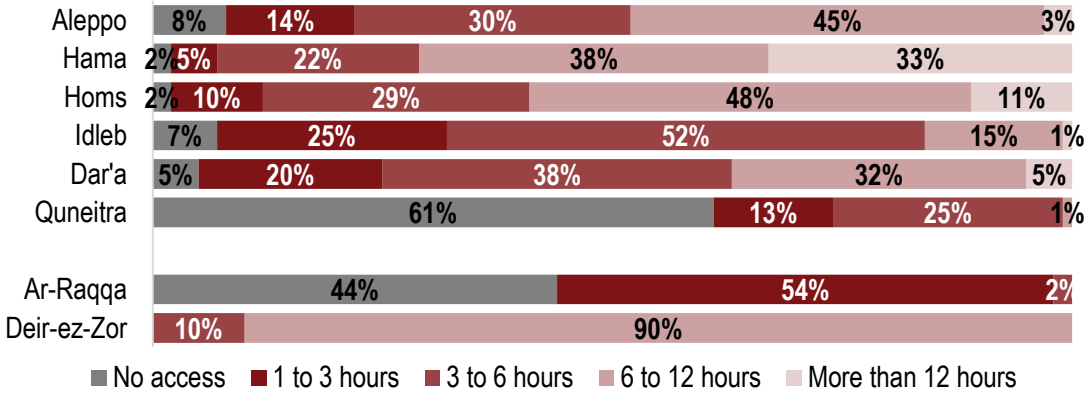


Hama, Homs and Deir-ez-Zor reported the highest average number of hours of electricity per day, while Ar-Raqqa and Quneitra had significantly lower numbers. According to operational partners, the particularly low access to electricity in Quneitra was likely due to the generally rural and mountainous nature of the governorate, which has historically made electrification challenging, and the fact that many households live in informal sites, where electricity is less accessible.

The relatively high level of electricity access in Hama contrasts with the pattern seen in many other shelter and NFI indicators, in which assessed areas of the governorate were often worse off than other assessed governorates.

There were no major differences between the overall average number of hours and the averages for IDP and female-headed households, with the exception of Dar'a where IDP households had an average of 4.5 hours of electricity per day compared to 6.0 overall in the governorate.

Figure 95: Breakdown of hours of electricity per day, per governorate[74]



In Ar-Raqqa and Quneitra, a significant number of households were reportedly living without any access to electricity. In other governorates, the percentage of households without access to electricity was generally low, with larger numbers having 1 to 3 hours of electricity per day.

[73] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[74] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Figure 96: Average number hours of electricity per day by sub-districts

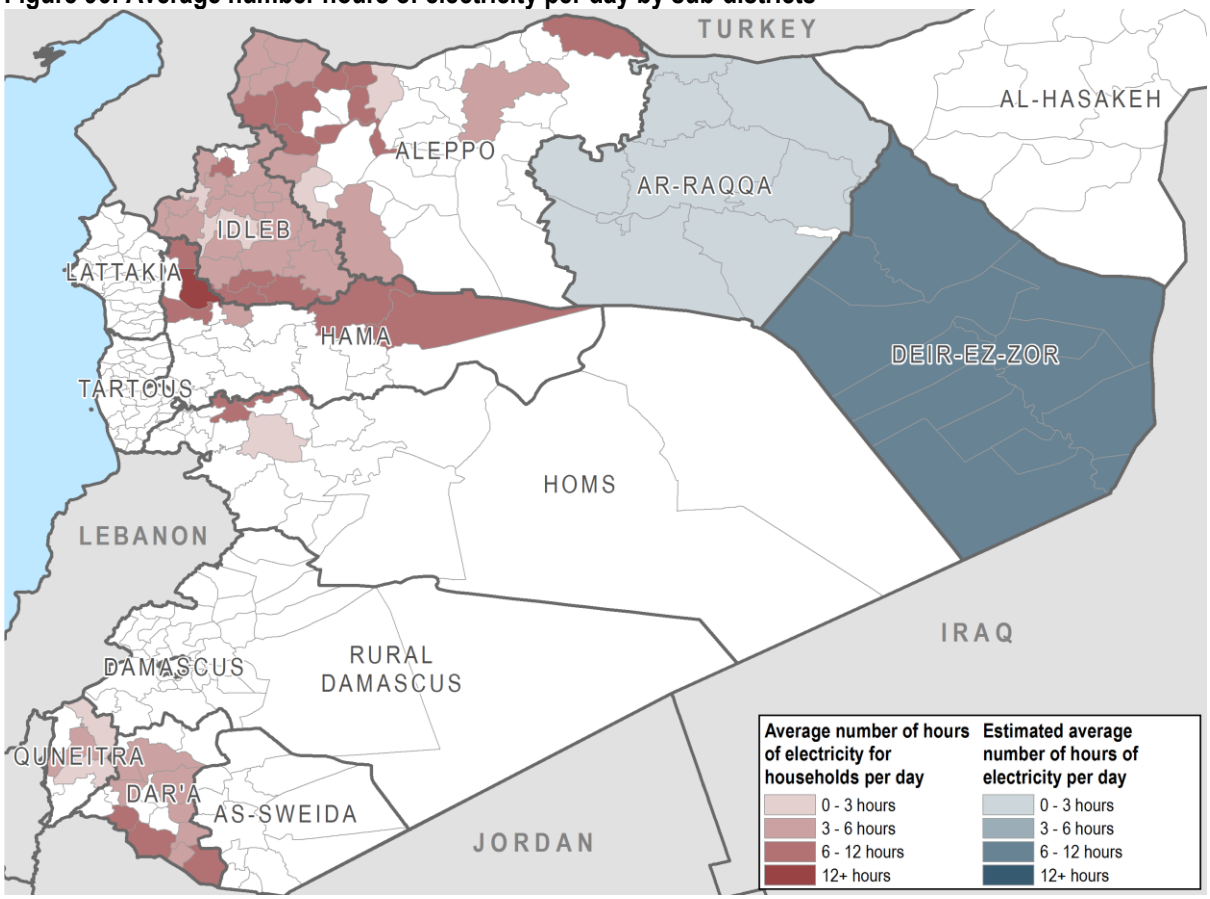
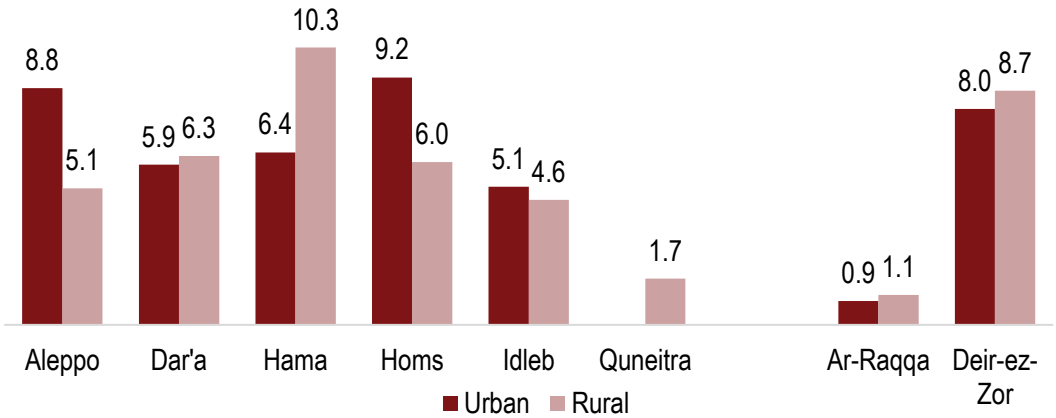


Figure 97: Average number of hours of electricity per day in urban and rural communities, per governorate[75]



The average number of hours of electricity per day were significantly lower for rural communities than urban ones in Aleppo and Homs. In rural communities in Aleppo, Homs and Idleb, around 10% of households reported having no access to electricity.

In Hama, however, urban communities had fewer hours of electricity per day, and the majority of households reporting no access to electricity were in urban communities.

[75] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.

Sources of Electricity

Figure 98: Sources of electricity in governorates assessed through household surveys (percentage of households using each as their main source)

	No source of electricity	Main network grid	Generator	Solar panels	Car batteries	Other batteries
Aleppo	9%	25%	61%	1%	1%	3%
Dar'a	1%	11%	5%	56%	18%	9%
Hama	1%	76%	5%	6%	3%	10%
Homs	1%	50%	46%	2%	0%	0%
Idleb	6%	7%	75%	8%	1%	2%
Quneitra	53%	0%	13%	16%	8%	11%

Access to the main grid was generally low, with the exception of Hama and Homs, where more than half of households relied on the grid as their main source of electricity. This high level of access to the main network likely explains the higher number of hours per day that households could access electricity in these governorates (see Figure 97). These governorates also had more hours of electricity access on average per day than the rest, indicating that the network functioned relatively well. Generators were the most common main source of electricity in governorates with low access to the grid, except in Dar'a and Quneitra.

Solar panels were found to be a common main source of electricity in Dar'a. Panels were used by both IDP households (48%) and non-IDP households (60%). There was a consistent growth in the use of solar panels, especially in Dar'a (previously 16%, now 56%) as well as Quneitra (previously 1%, now 16%) compared to December 2016.[76]

In Quneitra, just over half of the assessed population had no access to any source of electricity. This represented a slight decrease from December 2016, when this number was 64%. Elsewhere, the percentage of households with no access to electricity fell significantly in Idleb (from 30% to 7% and Hama (from 13% to 2%).

Figure 99: Main sources of electricity in governorates assessed through KI interviews (estimated percentage of households using each source)

	No source of electricity	Main network grid	Generator	Batteries
Ar-Raqqa	26%	3%	71%	0%
Deir-ez-Zor	8%	0%	85%	7%

According to KI estimates, about a quarter of the population in Ar-Raqqa were living without any source of electricity, while in Deir-ez-Zor, this percentage was significantly lower. In both Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, the majority of the population was estimated to rely on generators. However, while KI estimates indicated that 89% of households in urban Ar-Raqqa used generators, this number fell to 45% in rural parts of the governorate. There, the percentage of households with no source of electricity was 52%, suggesting that rural communities in Ar-Raqqa struggled to get access to generators or the fuel to power them.

Compared to December 2016, access to the main network had dropped significantly in both Ar-Raqqa (previously 38%, now 3%) and Deir-ez-Zor (previously 21%, now 0%).

[76] In the December 2016 assessment, Dar'a was also the governorate with the highest proportion of households reporting solar panels as the main source of electricity.

Coping Strategies for a Lack of Electricity

Figure 100: Percentage of households using different coping strategies to deal with lack of electricity, in governorates assessed through household surveys[77]

	No need to use coping strategies as no lack of electricity	Remain without electricity and do not use coping strategies	Use electricity at certain times in the day only	Reduce usage of electricity to conserve it	Use electricity for certain purposes only	Use battery powered devices such as torches
Aleppo	10%	33%	23%	8%	22%	51%
Dar'a	8%	6%	45%	43%	58%	54%
Hama	18%	8%	53%	22%	48%	45%
Homs	5%	4%	1%	5%	43%	88%
Idleb	9%	14%	32%	17%	41%	27%
Quneitra	2%	37%	24%	15%	15%	28%

Many households in Aleppo and Quneitra did not have any coping strategies and so had to remain without electricity. Compared to December 2016, this percentage for Quneitra had increased significantly in both governorates, with a growth from 9% to 37% in Quneitra and from 14% to 33% in Aleppo.

Use of battery-powered sources of light was common across all governorates, especially in Homs. Idleb and Quneitra had lower rates of use of battery-powered devices, which is likely linked to the frequently reported unaffordability of batteries in these governorates (see Figure 79).

Figure 101: Coping strategies for lack of electricity by percentage of KIs reporting them as common in their community

	No need to use coping strategies as no lack of electricity	Remain without electricity and do not use coping strategies	Use electricity at certain times in the day only	Reduce usage of electricity to conserve it	Use electricity for certain purposes only	Use battery powered devices such as torches
Ar-Raqqa	0%	2%	28%	20%	34%	93%
Deir-ez-Zor	0%	0%	77%	57%	82%	81%

In both Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, no KIs reported that there was no need to use coping strategies to deal with a lack of electricity in their communities. However, the proportion of KIs indicating that households would commonly remain without electricity because they had no access to coping strategies was also very low. In both governorates, a majority of KIs reported that battery-powered light sources were used as a coping mechanism. Given the high reported frequency of using this coping strategy in Ar-Raqqa, it is likely that the high rates of unavailability and unaffordability of batteries (see Figure 79) might impede the ability of many households to cope with highly limited electricity access.

While communities in Ar-Raqqa were primarily reported to rely on battery-powered devices to cope with a lack of electricity, those in Deir-ez-Zor employed a broader range of strategies including using electricity for certain purposes or at certain times only, and reducing electricity consumption.

[77] Respondents could select up to five options in response to this question.

NFI support

Figure 102: Percentage of households that received information about NFI support in the past year, in governorates assessed through household surveys

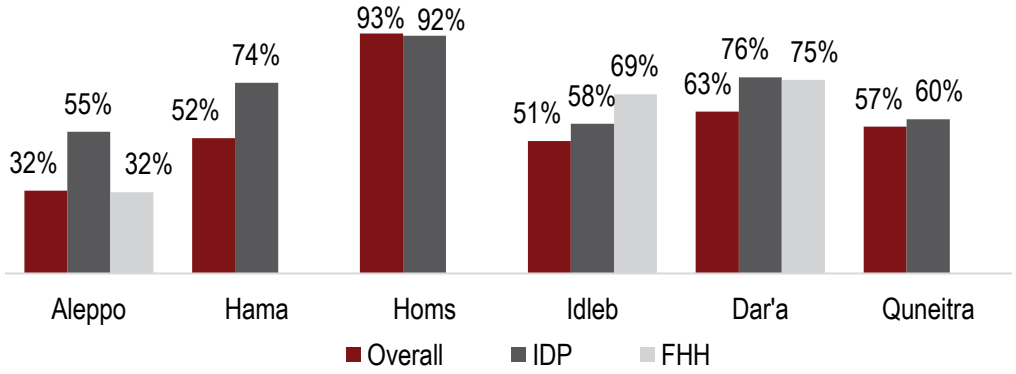
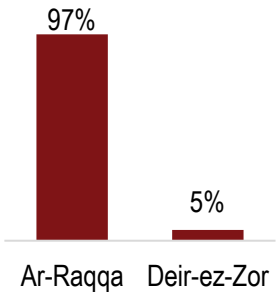


Figure 103: Estimated percentage of households that received information about NFI support in the past year, in governorates assessed through KI interviews



In governorates assessed through household surveys, households in Aleppo were least likely to have received information about NFI support and households in Homs were most likely to have received information.

Almost all KIs in Ar-Raqqa (97%), but almost none in Deir-ez-Zor (5%), reported that their communities had received NFI support information.

In most governorates assessed through household surveys, female-headed households and IDP households were more likely to have received NFI support information as was the case for shelter support. This could be due to these households more actively seeking out such information due to higher need or due to information being especially targeted to reach these households.

Information was more frequently available for NFI support than shelter support in all governorates other than Deir-ez-Zor (where 5% of KIs reported the availability of each). The difference was especially significant in Homs (34%), Hama (16%) and Dar'a (15%).

Figure 104: Change in percentage of households receiving NFI support information within the last year from December 2016 to January 2017, per governorate

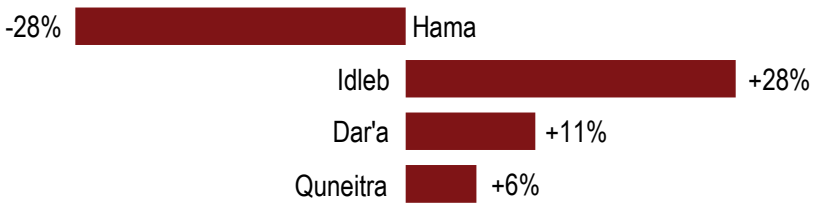
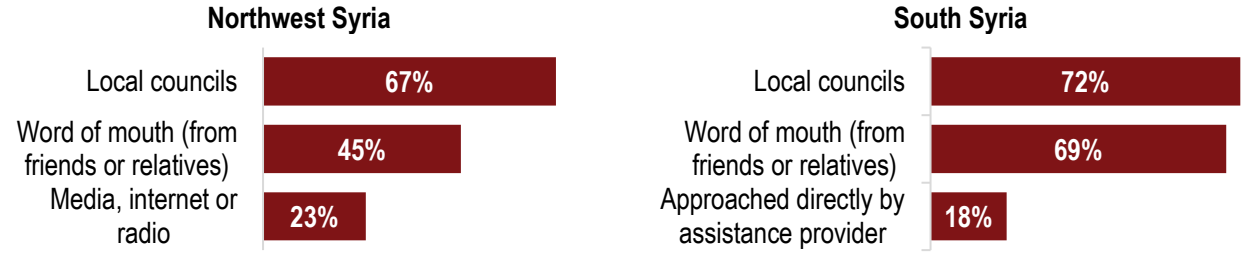


Figure 105: Change in percentage of KIs reporting that NFI support information had been available in their community within the last year from December 2016 to January 2017, per governorate

Compared to December 2016, the percentage of households that had received NFI support information was higher in all governorates but Hama, where it fell by 28%. The rise since December 2016 in the percentage of KIs reporting that NFI support information was available in Ar-Raqqa is likely linked to the recent conflict dynamics in the governorate. Similarly, the low percentage of KIs in Deir-ez-Zor reporting that information was available in both assessments is likely due to the lack of shifts in territorial control in the governorate between December 2016 and July 2017.

Figure 106: Top three sources of NFI support information in areas assessed through household surveys[78]

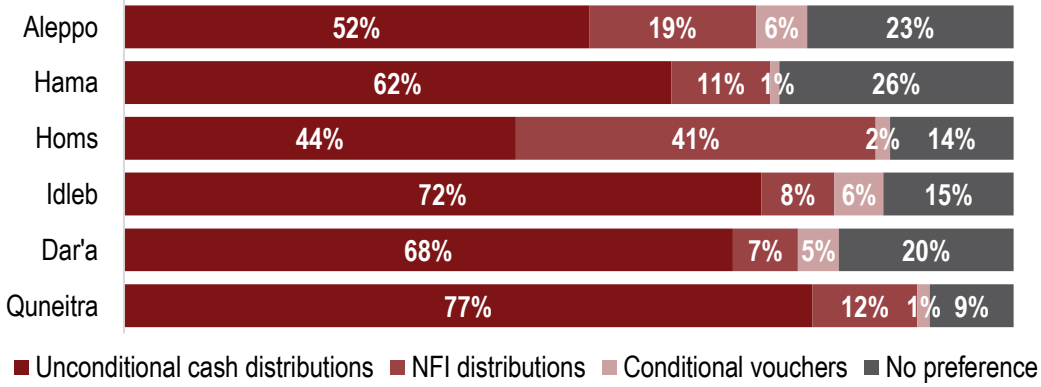


Local councils and word of mouth (friends/relatives) were the most common sources of information in all governorates in Northwest and South Syria. This was similar to the main sources of information reported for shelter support.

In Ar-Raqqa, KIs most commonly reported word of mouth (83% of KIs reporting that information was available) and community representatives such as mukhtars (54%) as NFI support information sources in their communities.

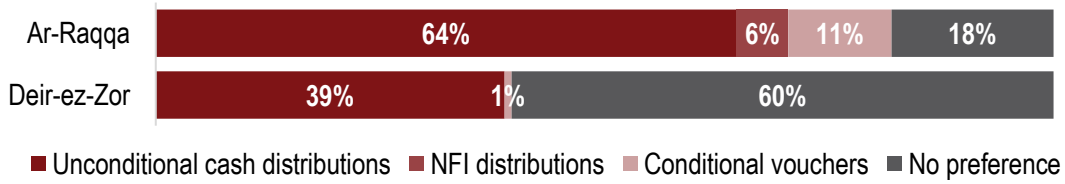
From December 2016 to July 2017, the main sources of NFI support information remained relatively similar, with local councils and word of mouth most commonly reported during both assessments.

Figure 107: Breakdown of household preferences for the modality of NFI support, in governorates assessed through household surveys



[78] Respondents could select multiple options.

Figure 108: Breakdown of community-level preferences for the modality of NFI support, in governorates assessed through KIs (percentage of KIs reporting each)



Between NFI support modalities, there was a strong preference for unconditional cash distributions across most assessed governorates. The only exceptions were Homs, where a significant proportion of households (41%) expressed a preference for NFI distributions (although cash, at 44%, was still the overall preferred choice), and Deir-ez-Zor, where most KIs (60%) reported no preference between modalities in their communities. Conditional vouchers were particularly unpopular across all governorates.

From December 2016 to July 2017, households' strong preference for unconditional cash support remained unchanged in governorates where comparison was possible. In Deir-ez-Zor, the option chosen by the majority of KIs shifted from unconditional cash support (74%) in December 2016 to no preference in July 2017, although unconditional cash was still the most popular option chosen by KIs who did report a preference in July.

Figure 109: Percentage of households without access to cash distribution points in their communities, in governorates assessed through household surveys

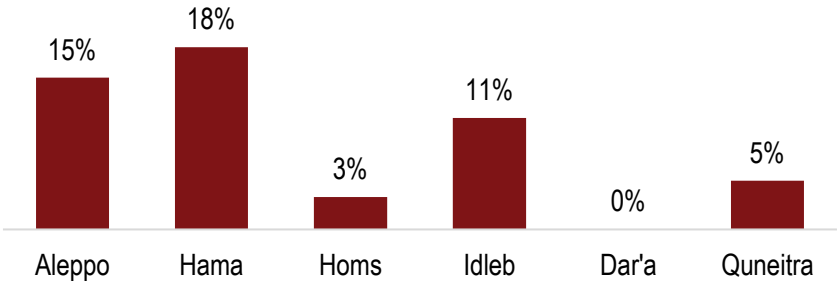
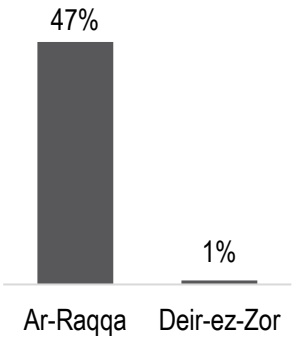


Figure 110: Percentage of KIs reporting no access to cash distribution points in their communities, in governorates assessed through KIs



Ar-Raqqa governorate stands out as having especially low access to cash distribution points, with almost half of KIs reporting that no cash distribution points were available in their communities. Among governorates where household surveys were carried out, households in Aleppo and Hama reported slightly lower access to cash distribution points than elsewhere. Of the households and KIs stating that cash distribution points were available in their communities, over 95% in each governorate reported that the type of distribution point available was a pawnshop or remittance shop.

Figure 111: NFIs that households would be most likely to buy if given cash- or voucher-based NFI assistance, in governorates assessed through household surveys[79]

	Aleppo	Hama	Homs	Idleb	Dar'a	Quneitra
Bedding items	4%	4%	3%	2%	4%	6%
Mattresses/ Sleeping mats	5%	18%	2%	2%	2%	14%
Cooking utensils	5%	12%	2%	4%	2%	3%
Cooking fuel	42%	67%	42%	49%	65%	39%
Water containers	34%	25%	23%	20%	20%	30%
Portable light sources	48%	42%	47%	72%	61%	71%
Clothing	31%	31%	48%	19%	25%	20%
Shoes	13%	1%	2%	4%	4%	3%
Batteries	17%	13%	17%	45%	48%	45%
Winter heaters	15%	7%	3%	8%	3%	11%
Heating fuel	40%	53%	82%	32%	42%	48%
Winter clothes	8%	1%	11%	8%	3%	2%
Winter shoes	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Winter blankets	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Disposable diapers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sanitary pads	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Soap	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Washing powder	4%	6%	1%	3%	3%	1%
Cleaning liquid (for houses)	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%
Detergent for dishes	8%	3%	2%	3%	1%	1%
Baby diapers	7%	5%	5%	9%	6%	7%
Adult diapers	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%

Overall, households reported that they were most likely to use cash-based aid on cooking fuel, portable light sources and heating fuel. Significant percentages also reported that they would use such aid on water containers, clothing and batteries. These six items were also frequently cited as being unavailable or unaffordable and/or a top NFI need for certain age and gender groups.

An especially large percentage reported that they would use cash-based aid on portable light sources or batteries in Idleb, Dar'a and Quneitra, the three governorates where access to electricity was lowest, and, in the case of Idleb, where these items were most frequently unavailable or unaffordable.

Households in Homs most commonly reported that they would use cash-based aid to buy heating fuel, an item that was also frequently reported as a top NFI need in the governorate.

[79] Respondents could select up to three items.

Comparisons with December 2016 findings

In the previous section of this report, comparisons were made for a number of indicators between the findings from this assessment and those from a similar shelter and NFI assessment carried out in December 2016. The aim of this section is to provide a brief summary of these comparisons and a general overview of how shelter and NFI conditions may have changed between December 2016 and July 2017.

As discussed in the methodology section, comparisons could not be made for Aleppo and Homs governorates, due to changes in sub-district level coverage between the two assessments. In addition, where comparison was possible, these should be considered indicative, as there were some differences between the two assessments in terms of sub-districts covered and questionnaires used. Also, different samples were used for both household surveys and KI interviews in the two assessments.

Shelter trends

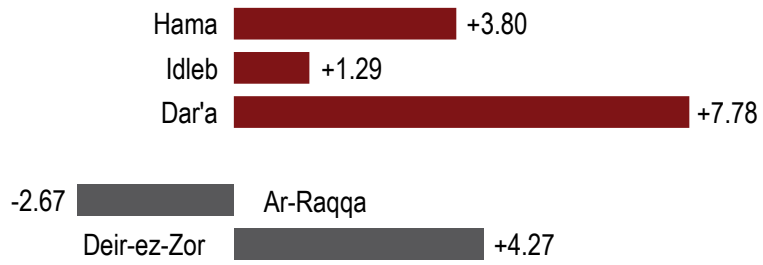
From December 2016 to July 2017, shelter conditions across the indicators measured had remained largely unchanged in all comparable governorates, except Hama and Ar-Raqqa, where conditions had worsened in the period between the two assessments, likely due to intense conflict in both governorates.[80] [81] Rates of shelter adequacy and damage issues had generally increased in all comparable governorates except Dar'a, while the percentage of those living in damaged shelters who were unable to perform repairs had decreased in all governorates where comparison was possible. However, improvements were seen in the possession of shelter documentation, which had generally increased. Similarly, findings indicated improvements in access to information about shelter support.

The average number of individuals per shelter remained similar in Dar'a and Quneitra, while they had decreased in Idleb (from 7.2 to 5.8) and increased in Hama (from 5.8 to 7.4). In terms of shelter types, the percentage of households living in solid finished houses or apartments had remained largely unchanged in Idleb, decreased in Hama (-21%) and Ar-Raqqa (-16%), and increased in Deir-ez-Zor (+12%).[82] The decreases in Hama and Ar-Raqqa were likely due to the escalation of conflict and resulting internal displacement. In particular, both governorates reported higher percentages of households living in unfinished buildings (+19% in Hama and +8% in Ar-Raqqa). The increase in Deir-ez-Zor might have been due to the higher likelihood of movement out of the governorate by those living in more vulnerable shelter types, in anticipation of oncoming conflict.

Hama, Idleb, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor had all experienced changes in the distribution of households by shelter occupancy arrangement. The percentage of households that owned their shelters had increased in Idleb (+8%) and Deir-ez-Zor (+6%), and decreased in Hama (-11%). In Ar-Raqqa, the percentage who own their shelters had not changed, while the percentage renting had decreased (-13%). The percentage living in other arrangements (such as being hosted without rent or squatting) had increased in Ar-Raqqa. This was likely as a result of displacement within the governorate. The increase in Idleb might have been caused by IDPs establishing a more permanent presence in the governorate, with the percentage of IDPs in the governorate who own their shelters increasing from 5% to 28%.

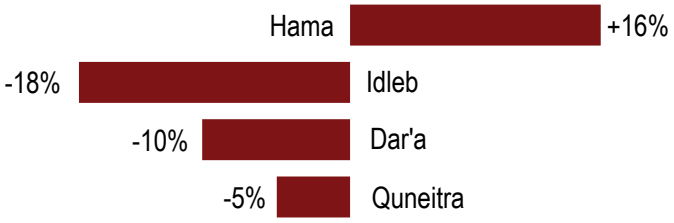
[80] UN OCHA, "Flash Update: Syria Crisis – Hama", 28 March 2017.
[81] UN OCHA, "Ar-Raqqa Situation Report No. 5", 15 May 2017.
[82] Decreases were reported in Dar'a and Quneitra as well, but this is because camps and informal sites were excluded from the December 2016 sample but included in the July 2017 sample.

Figure 112: Change in average rent (in USD) from December 2016 to July 2017 by governorate[83]



Fluctuations between assessments in average monthly rent were reported in all governorates where comparison was possible (decrease in Ar-Raqqa and increase in Hama, Idleb, Dar'a and Deir-ez-Zor). However, there was no strong correlation between the rental price and the reported ability to pay on time in both assessments.[84] The percentage of households who were able to pay rent on time had been largely unchanged in Idleb and Dar'a, while it had increased slightly in Quneitra (+9%, although Quneitra still reported the lowest percentage among assessed governorates) and fallen substantially in Hama (-20%). In Ar-Raqqa, the percentage of KIs reporting that rental space was unavailable in their assessed communities had increased drastically (from 0% to 70%). In Deir-ez-Zor, it remained largely similar, though KIs in both assessments had commonly reported that rental space was either insufficient or unaffordable.

Figure 113: Change in percentage of households without shelter documentation from December 2016 to July 2017 by governorate



The percentage of households without documentation to prove their tenancy status had decreased in Idleb (-18%), Dar'a (-10%) and Quneitra (-5%), suggesting a general growth in the availability of shelter documentation. However, the percentage without documentation had increased significantly in Hama (+16%). Although Idleb had experienced the largest decrease in the percentage of households without documentation, the percentage (40%) still remained higher than that of most other assessed governorates. The most common types of shelter documentation was similar in his assessment to findings in the assessment from December 2016, with formal real estate registry documents being the most common in most assessed governorates. However, in Idleb the percentage of households using buyer-seller contracts had increased substantially, from 18% to 29% of those with housing documentation. This suggests that much of the increase in housing documentation in Idleb had been due to a growth in buyer-seller contracts, which are negotiated bilaterally rather than codified through established institutions.

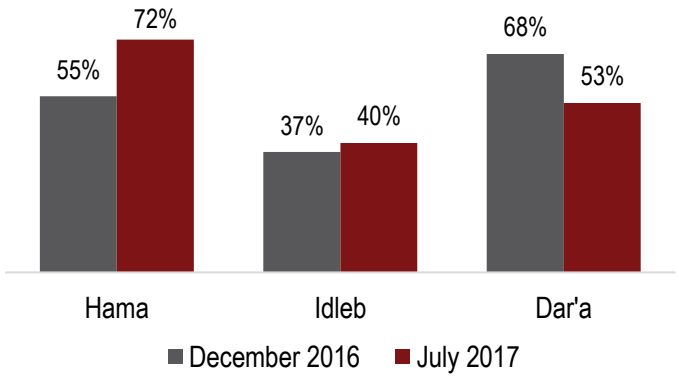
Compared to December 2016, eviction rates had fallen in Idleb (from 3% to 1%), but risen in Quneitra (from 2% to 5%) and Hama (from 4% to 9%). There was no significant change in eviction rates in Dar'a, nor in the the percentage of KIs reporting evictions in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor.

The percentage of households reporting shelter adequacy issues had increased in every governorate other than Dar'a, where it had decreased from 73% to 54% (-19%). The largest increases were seen in Ar-Raqqa (+58%

[83] In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, numbers are based on estimates by KIs.
[84] Quneitra was excluded from this analysis as the change there was likely due to differing coverage between the two assessments (with camps and informal sites, where prices for those renting tended to be lower, not included in the December 2016 sample in the governorate).

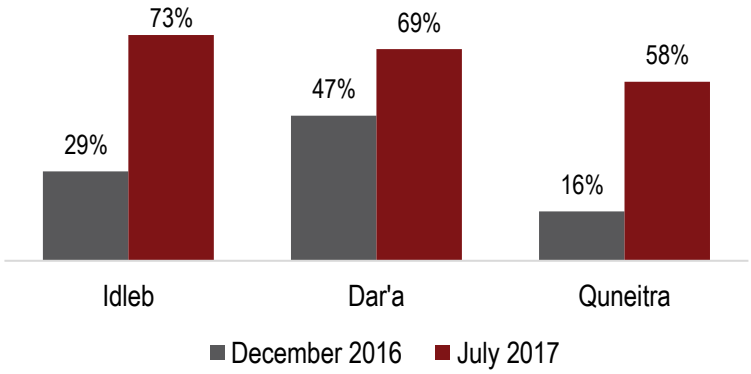
according to KI estimates) and Hama (+23%),[85] the assessed governorates most affected by conflict in the period between the two assessments. Idleb, which was more stable in this period, had seen only a single figure percentage point increase (+9%). This general increase in households reporting shelter adequacy issues was not concentrated in any specific issues, but instead reflected an increase in reported frequencies across most of the issues that respondents could select in the questionnaire. In Dar'a, however, improvements were seen in the percentage of households reporting lack of lighting (-18%), leaking during rain (-14%), and lack of insulation from the cold (-10%).

Figure 114: Change in percentage of households living in damaged shelters[86]



The trend in percentages of households reporting shelter damage was similar to that observed in the percentages of households with shelter adequacy issues,[87] with an increase in Hama, a decrease in Dar'a and only minor changes in Idleb.[88] In Dar'a, the most significant improvements were seen in the decrease in percentages of households reporting broken or cracked windows (-16%), some cracks in walls (-16%), no cracks in walls (-5%), and inability to shut doors properly (-4%). Hama, on the other hand, had seen significant increases across these indicators (+30%, +15%, +12%, and +16%, respectively), along with heavy fire damage (+17%). In Idleb, findings showed no more than 3% for any specific shelter damage issue other than unstable floors (+5%).

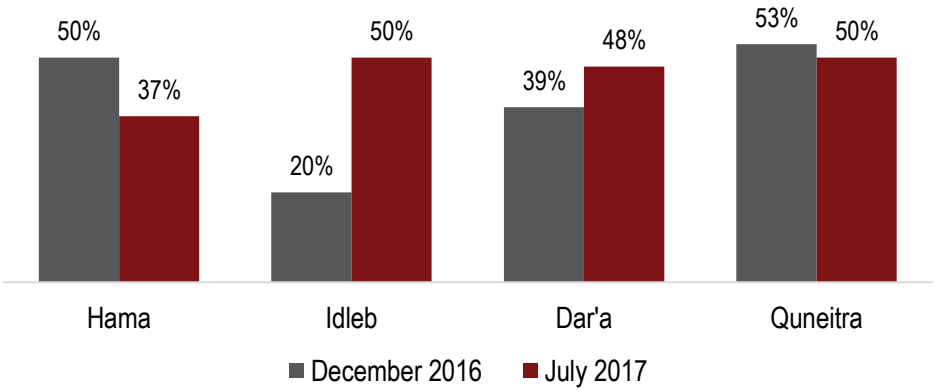
Figure 115: Change in inability to make repairs for those living in damaged or unfinished buildings compared to December 2016



[85] Findings also indicated that there had been an increase in Quneitra. However, was very likely due to the exclusion of camps and informal sites in the December 2016 assessment.
[86] Quneitra was excluded from this analysis as the change there was likely due to differing coverage between the two assessments (with camps and informal sites, where prices for those renting tended to be lower, not included in the December 2016 sample in the governorate).
[87] Findings also indicated an increase in percentage of households living in damaged shelter in Quneitra. However, was very likely due to the exclusion of camps and informal sites in the December 2016 assessment.
[88] Quneitra was not included in this comparison as the changes in this governorate are thought to be caused by the inclusion in the July 2017 assessment of a significant number of camps and informal sites that were not covered in the December 2016 assessment.

The percentage of households who needed to make repairs to their shelter but were unable to do so had increased substantially in all governorates where comparisons was possible, with Hama, Idleb and Quneitra all reporting increases of more than 40 percentage points. Between the two assessments, affordability issues (inability to afford a repair professional or repair materials) remained the predominant cause for this trend. The increase in the inability to conduct repairs is therefore likely to reflect either increased livelihoods challenges or the rising prices of repair materials and services.

Figure 116: Change in percentage of households who reported having received information on shelter support in the past year



The availability of shelter support information had generally increased or stayed approximately the same between December 2016 and July 2017 in governorates where comparisons were possible. The only exception to this was Hama, which saw a decrease of 13% in the number of households reporting that information was available. There had been a very large increase in the percentage of KIs reporting that shelter support information was available in Ar-Raqqa (+79%), likely due to increased humanitarian access to the governorate in the period between the two assessments. In Deir-ez-Zor, where access had not improved, the percentage of KIs reporting that information was available had remained very low. Among governorates assessed through household surveys, Idleb experienced the largest increase in the percentage of households receiving shelter support information (+31%).

Among shelter support modalities, a strong preference for unconditional cash support was reported in both assessments. In fact, the preference for cash had increased in Hama (+28%), Idleb (+18%), Dar'a (+7%), and Quneitra (+15%). In contrast to other governorates, the preferred shelter support modality reported by KIs in Ar-Raqqa communities in both assessments was for external actors to directly assist with repairs, while no specific preference was reported by the majority of KIs in Deir-ez-Zor in both assessments.

NFI trends

The NFI situation had generally improved in all governorates where it was possible to make comparisons, except for Hama. Reported rates of issues with availability and affordability fell for most NFIs in most governorates, as did the percentage of households reporting challenges to accessing markets for NFIs and the availability of information on NFI support.

Figure 117: Change in the reported availability or affordability issues for each assessed NFI between December 2016 and July 2017 (figures represent percentage of households reporting each in the Northwest and South, and percentage of KIs reporting each in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor.)

	Hama	Idleb	Dar'a	Quneitra		Ar-Raqqa	Deir-ez-Zor
Bedding items	-2%	-6%	-23%	-13%		-7%	-15%
Mattresses/ Sleeping mats	-2%	-7%	-15%	-13%		-4%	-21%
Cooking utensils	+2%	-4%	-16%	-8%		-17%	+4%
Cooking fuel	+35%	+3%	-14%	+5%		-3%	+13%
Water containers	+19%	-1%	-10%	+6%		-38%	-32%
Portable light sources	+33%	+48%	-9%	+37%		-3%	-6%
Clothing[89]	+7%	+9%	-14%	-6%		N/A	N/A
Shoes	-1%	+7%	-17%	-17%		-41%	+35%
Batteries	+7%	+7%	-12%	+18%		-37%	-47%
Winter heaters	-41%	-50%	-31%	-19%		-40%	-21%
Heating fuel	-64%	-63%	-73%	-24%		-16%	-33%
Winter clothes	-61%	-52%	-57%	-19%		-12%	-6%
Winter shoes	-55%	-49%	-53%	-17%		-41%	+7%
Winter blankets	-30%	-49%	-47%	-17%		-40%	-29%
Disposable diapers	-1%	-8%	-21%	-26%		-49%	-52%
Sanitary pads	+1%	-6%	-27%	-19%		-48%	-11%
Soap	+2%	-5%	-27%	-15%		+37%	+1%
Washing powder	+22%	-4%	-27%	-15%		+14%	+4%
Cleaning liquid (for houses)	+15%	-9%	-24%	-14%		+37%	-22%
Detergent for dishes	+9%	-7%	-25%	-15%		+31%	-6%
Baby diapers	+7%	-3%	-37%	-18%		-45%	-9%
Adult diapers	+1%	+7%	+12%	+18%		+46%	+47%

The percentage of households and KIs reporting NFI availability and affordability issues had generally decreased from December 2016 to July 2017. In both assessments, the majority of these challenges were linked to affordability rather than availability, although a significant percentage of KIs reported availability issues in Ar-Raqqa in both assessments. The largest improvement in NFI affordability was seen in Dar'a, where the percentage reporting challenges had decreased for every item other than adult diapers. Conversely, in Hama, higher rates of affordability issues were reported for most NFIs, while in Ar-Raqqa the percentage of KIs reporting affordability issues had increased for many hygiene items but decreased for other NFIs. In Idleb, the percentage of households reporting affordability challenges for portable light sources (e.g. solar lamps, torches) had increased substantially in Idleb (+48%), but decreased for the majority of other NFIs and not increased by more than 9% for any other item.

The percentage of households or KIs reporting challenges to accessing markets had decreased substantially in most governorates, other than in Hama (+2%) and Deir-ez-Zor (+7% of KIs reporting), where small increases in challenges were found. Dar'a, Idleb and Quneitra all experienced decreases by more than 15 percentage points, while the decrease in percentage of KIs reporting challenges in Ar-Raqqa was 29%. In July 2017, the most common challenges in most governorates were the distance to markets and a lack of transportation, both of which were also prominent challenges in December 2016. However, the percentages of households reporting that markets did not function due to conflict and safety and security concerns had decreased significantly in most assessed governorates. Only in Hama did markets not functioning both due to conflict and safety and security concerns

[89] Clothing was not assessed in the KI questionnaire in the December 2016 assessment.

remain prominent challenges in July 2017. In Ar-Raqqa the former remained the main challenge (49% of KIs reporting), while the latter remained the main challenge in Deir-ez-Zor (72% of KIs reporting). In Idleb, Dar'a and Quneitra, the coinciding decreases in percentages of households reporting challenges to accessing markets and those reporting safety concerns and non-functionality during conflict, suggests that the increase in market access was likely a result of increased stability in these governorates.

In July 2017, gas was the main source of cooking fuel in all assessed governorates other than Ar-Raqqa, where 67% of households were estimated to use kerosene. Compared to December 2016, this represented a large decrease in the percentage of households using kerosene in Deir-ez-Zor (-25%), Hama (-16%) and Idleb (-14%). In Hama, this decrease in kerosene use was part of a shift away from both kerosene and gas (-17%) towards electricity (+37%), although the percentage using gas remained slightly higher than that using kerosene. In Idleb and Deir-ez-Zor, the shift away from kerosene had largely translated into a shift towards gas (+21% in Idleb and +29% in Deir-ez-Zor). Between the two assessments, kerosene remained the most common fuel source in Ar-Raqqa and gas remained predominant in Dar'a and Quneitra.

The percentage of households using coping strategies in response to a lack of sources of cooking fuel increased dramatically in Hama from 24% to 80% (+56%), indicative of greatly decreased access to cooking fuel. Although not as significantly, this percentage also increased in Quneitra (+14%), but decreased slightly in Dar'a (-6%) and Idleb (-3%). In both assessments, the main coping strategies used were the reduction of expenditure on other items to pay for cooking fuel, and a reduction in the amount of fuel used for other purposes, in order to leave more available for cooking.

In both December 2016 and July 2017, the main network remained the predominant electricity source in Hama, while generators were the main source used in Idleb. In Quneitra, although more than half the population reported having no source of electricity in both assessments, the percentage reporting no source was lower in July (-11%), while the percentages reporting solar panels as their main source rose from 8% to 16% (+8%). Dar'a experienced a dramatic shift away from the main network (-53%) and towards solar panels (+40%) as the main electricity source, suggesting that the adoption of solar panels had emerged as a result of reduced access to the main grid.

Between the two assessments, access to electricity (measured in average hours of electricity per day) had remained quite limited in Quneitra and Ar-Raqqa, and relatively high in Hama. In Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb and Dar'a, however, access had generally improved. The percentage of households without access to electricity in Idleb had fallen from 30% to 7% (-23%), while the percentage with access to more than 6 hours per day in Dar'a had risen from 7% to 37% (+30%). The improvement in Dar'a is especially interesting given that it coincided with a decrease in main network access, suggesting that solar panels have been an adequate substitute (although this might only be the case during the summer months when the most recent assessment took place). In Deir-ez-Zor, the percentage of KIs reporting that their community had, on average, access to more than 6 hours per day had increased from 42% to 90% (+48%). Given that generators were the main electricity source in Idleb and Deir-ez-Zor, the improvement in access suggests an increase in the availability of fuel for generators between July and December. However, this could be a seasonal change rather than a more permanent improvement, as the greater availability of diesel for generators in the summer could be due to the use of diesel as a heating fuel in the winter.

Figure 118: Change in percentage of households receiving NFI support information within the last year from December 2016 to January 2017, per governorate

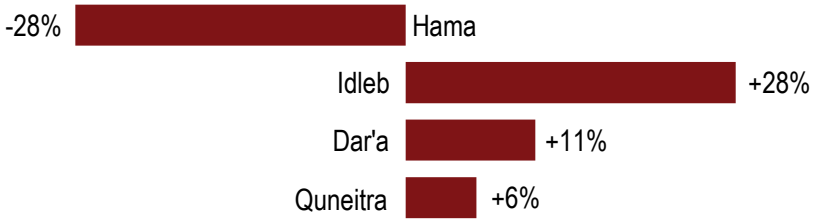


Figure 119: Change in percentage of KIs reporting that NFI support information had been available in their community within the last year from December 2016 to January 2017, per governorate

The percentage of households receiving information on NFI support had increased in Idleb, Dar'a and Quneitra, as had the percentage of KIs reporting that NFI support information was available in their communities in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor. Only in Hama had the percentage of households receiving information decreased, although more than half (52%) of the population still received information. The large increase in Ar-Raqqa was likely due to increased humanitarian access in the governorate. In general, the main sources of NFI support information had remained relatively similar between the two assessments, with local councils and word of mouth (from friends or relatives) being the most common information sources both times.

As with shelter support, households reported a strong preference for unconditional cash support as the preferred NFI assistance modality in both December 2016 and July 2017 in all comparable governorates. In Deir-ez-Zor, the option chosen by the majority of KIs had shifted from unconditional cash support (74%) in December 2016 to no preference (60%) in July 2017, although unconditional cash was still the most popular option chosen by KIs who did report a preference in July (39%).

Comparison of findings to Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) priorities

In this section, relevant excerpts from the shelter and NFI Response Plan in the Syria 2017 HRP are compared with the findings from the assessment, to determine the extent to which the two are aligned and to understand how findings might provide additional nuance to the priorities and activities specified in the HRP. As with the rest of this report, this section applies only to areas covered in the assessment. Moreover, the purpose of this section is not to provide a set of concrete recommendations, but is instead intended to draw out some potential implications and nuances of the findings as they relate to shelter and NFI responses.

Response priorities

"The response is prioritized based on needs determined through local assessments, foreseen rapid displacement reports, and on specific target population groups which include: IDPs (distinguishing between the needs of short-term and long-term IDPs and those who have been displaced multiple times), host families, returnees, Palestine refugees, and persons among them living in substandard shelter conditions and/or at risk of eviction.

A further layer of needs analysis looks at those living in UN-declared besieged and hard-to-reach locations, and/or areas not reached in 2015/16. Among these groups, the most vulnerable households will be prioritized, such as those headed by single parents, children and youth, and with pregnant/ lactating women, elderly, disabled or chronically ill members. Wherever the situation allows, the response will prioritize and enhance sustainable, durable, self-help based and recovery-oriented shelter and NFI activities. The response also ensures readiness for emergency response to large-scale displacements and severe weather."

While many of the target groups specified in the HRP were not assessed in this assessment, the findings overall support the HRP approach of a tailored and targeted response for vulnerable groups. For many indicators in this assessment, IDPs and female-headed households were found to experience a greater level of vulnerability, although specific areas of vulnerability differed between these two groups. Similarly, it is likely that other vulnerable groups mentioned in the HRP might have specific needs and vulnerabilities that require a targeted response. Findings suggest that it might also be worthwhile to consider differences between rural and urban areas when targeting shelter and NFI responses, as many indicators showed urban-rural differences, such as access to electricity and percentages of households facing shelter adequacy issues.

Findings also support the prioritisation of "self-help based and recovery-oriented shelter and NFI activities." In particular, findings indicated that households facing shelter damage often faced affordability challenges in repairing and rehabilitating their shelters, and that shelter damage due to general disrepair was common in some assessed areas. This suggests that there may be a useful role for recovery-oriented activities in enabling households to rehabilitate their shelters.

Response strategy

"Winter support (e.g. sleeping bags, waterproof floor covers, sealing and insulation materials, winter clothes) will also be provided as a humanitarian lifesaving activity, with a focus on locations most likely to be adversely affected by severe weather conditions."

Findings support the HRP goal of focussing on winterisation support in areas where it is likely to be a priority need. In this assessment, winterisation NFIs were significantly more commonly reported among needs and preferences in Quneitra and the assessed sub-districts of Northern Homs than in other governorates. Quneitra in particular, is a mountainous area where winters are both longer and colder than in other parts of Syria. Given that the assessment took place in July (in the middle of summer), the fact that households were already highlighting winterisation needs indicates their importance for households fearing difficult winter conditions.

"Resilience programming is also a priority, promoting cohesion and recovery by incorporating the needs of residents, host families and IDPs, and where appropriate, returnees. Programming will focus on reducing shelter

and NFI-related vulnerabilities, particularly where they increase vulnerabilities across other dimensions of need. The lack of adequate housing will be addressed through rehabilitation, repair and provision of tools and materials – including through self-help, recovery-oriented options where feasible. Where necessary, transitional housing and assistance will be provided to those who cannot, at present, return to their homes."

The data suggests that in assessed areas, shelter rehabilitation is often a key part of households' shelter and NFI needs, given the relatively high rates of reported shelter damage and adequacy issues, and the difficulty of facilitating repairs of damaged shelters. Findings showed that households were unable to repair shelters primarily due to challenges in affording both professional labour and repair materials, rather than because of availability issues. Therefore, it may be worthwhile for assistance to take into account the cost of both materials and labour, and for local assessments to determine whether local affordability issues are due to high prices and scarcity or due to livelihoods challenges.

"HLP technical support, including eviction mitigation efforts, will be mainstreamed into shelter efforts. Shelter programmes will include capacity building of local stakeholders to develop shelter-related skills, as well as raising awareness of beneficiaries and support of the responsible cadastral institutions."

The proposed incorporation of HLP support into shelter responses aligns with the findings of this assessment. Significant percentages of households lacked shelter documentation, while land registries in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor were reportedly non-functional. Moreover, the widespread use of buyer-seller contracts and verbal contracts in many areas provides further evidence of tenancy agreements operating bilaterally rather than through local institutions. The provision of HLP support, and the capacity building of local HLP stakeholders and institutions, may help provide households with greater security of tenure, particularly in the face of frequent displacements and returns.

"Provision of in-kind NFIs will shift toward a more flexible and tailored response that better addresses household needs, and where feasible cash and voucher programming (including for shelter and NFI) will be developed or increased. Local procurement, when feasible and appropriate, will be encouraged to support the local economy. For both general and emergency programmes, NFI provision will also support host communities, and community support projects will benefit the entire community (both host and IDPs)."

Findings support the proposed shift towards a more flexible NFI response, with a majority of households expressing a preference for cash-based assistance. Among households reporting challenges to accessing both NFI distributions and markets, excessive distance and lack of transportation were most common challenges. This suggests that a lack of local infrastructure may in some cases prevent target beneficiaries from accessing aid. Preference for voucher-based aid was quite low in many assessed areas, suggesting a need for operational actors to investigate further to understand possible reasons for this along with possible adaptations.

Furthermore, the specific NFIs that households reported as needed or struggled to access varied among assessed areas. In many areas, electrification items (e.g. light sources, batteries), fuel, clothing and water containers were more commonly reported among top needs, while hygiene NFIs were less frequently needed. However, there were often significant local variations, suggesting that local assessments may be useful in ensuring that NFI assistance is tailored to household needs, and that saturations of some NFIs do not occur while there are shortages of others.

"Enhanced engagement with other sectors is a key element of the Shelter/NFI resilience-based efforts, such as with Protection on HLP-related issues and selection and vulnerability criteria, and with CCCM on efforts in IDP sites and settlements. Improving public structures and infrastructure, and ensuring safe access to public services will lead to closer work with WASH on shelter services, infrastructure and hygiene kits provision; with Health and Education related to infrastructure rehabilitation; and with Food Security and Livelihoods and Early Recovery and Livelihoods on market rehabilitation, cash for work, and vocational efforts."

Findings suggest that shelter and NFI issues are often linked to issues faced in other sectors and therefore support the need for enhanced inter-sectoral engagement. Examples include the risk of HLP challenges such as eviction, the frequency of shelter issues in informal sites, the commonly-reported need for WASH services in shelters (including drinking water and latrines), and the prevalence of livelihoods challenges indicated by the frequency

with which households reported that they could not afford shelter and NFI items or services. In addition, it is likely that other aspects of shelter and NFI assistance, such as support for winterisation and access to fuel and electricity, would benefit from coordination between sectors.

Activities and indicators

Shelter/NFI sector activity 1.2: "Provision of seasonal and supplementary NFIs and shelter assistance (e.g. winter clothing, fuel, winter-specific shelter upgrades; including cash/voucher for these items)

Lack of insulation from cold and leaking during rain were consistently among the most-reported shelter adequacy issues. This indicates that shelter winter preparation is a common winterization need. Such needs could be targeted by provision of winter-specific shelter repair materials aimed at increasing insulation and decreasing exposure to the elements, especially in damaged shelters.

Additionally, a number of light shelter damage types, such as broken or cracked windows and doors being unable to shut properly were commonly reported in most governorates. While such types of damage rarely affect the overall structural integrity of a shelter, they can cause serious shelter adequacy issues and increase exposure to the elements during winter. Support to repair or cope with such types of damage could potentially have a large positive effect on winterization of shelters.

Although the data collection period fell in the summer months, winter clothing was consistently reported to be a top NFI need across governorates, especially for children. It was also consistently among the items that households most commonly said they would buy if given cash- or voucher-based NFI assistance. This general awareness of upcoming winterization needs could be a positive factor in the implementation of winterization support programmes.

Shelter/NFI sector activity 1.2 indicator: "No. of people whose needs are met for seasonal assistance"

Among the indicators studied were several proxy indications that suggest that households will likely need seasonal assistance, such as the presence of cracks in walls and the inability to afford heating fuel. Such indicators require relatively little technical knowledge to assess, but could potentially help predict upcoming winterization needs. As such, monitoring any changes in these indicators over time in correlation with the provision of humanitarian assistance can be useful to gain an understanding of the extent to which needs for seasonal assistance are met.

Shelter/NFI sector activity 1.4: "1.4 Rehabilitation of emergency shelter spaces in collective centres, unfinished buildings, transitional outdoor spaces, spontaneous settlements, and other emergency spaces (in-kind, cash, voucher, physical repair, etc.)"

General wear and tear of tents was repeatedly reported in the damage section of the assessment. This challenge is likely to increase during winter for all IDPs living in non-permanent structures, especially for informal sites where access to new tents may be limited. Such insights can help inform planning to adequately meet Shelter/NFI sector objective 1.4. However, a detailed understanding of this would require specific sampling. Indeed, a targeted assessment could help increase the understanding of shelter damage and adequacy issues in emergency shelter spaces and how these could be addressed in the wider context of the efforts to provide humanitarian relief in Syria.

Shelter/NFI sector activity 2.1: "Support to sustainably repair/rehabilitate housing and related community/public infrastructure and facilities, including "do-it-yourself" support to owners/tenants/host families (materials, cash, voucher, cash-for-work, local hire, etc.)"

Of the significant proportion of households with shelter damage that were unable to make repairs, almost all indicated that this was due to challenges with affordability of shelter repair materials. In that context, by far the most frequently unaffordable item in all assessed governorates was cement. The quantities of cement needed present issues in terms of both cost and transportation in the context of Syria. Solutions to this issue will likely be a key factor in efforts to support the repair of housing and community structures.

Conclusion

The findings in this report cover a broad range of shelter and NFI topics across a large number of communities in Syria. The aim of this conclusion is to revisit key findings from all chapters for a more comprehensive overview of the shelter and NFI situation in assessed areas. The first part of the conclusion presents a highlight of key findings across governorates. The second part breaks down findings of particular importance by governorate. Finally, the report concludes with a brief overview of knowledge gaps that could be further explored in future assessments, in order to better inform efforts to meet shelter and NFI needs in Syria.

Key findings

Across assessed governorates, significant percentages of households were living in damaged shelters. Many damage types led to exposure to the elements (rain and wind) which could cause a significant increase in shelter adequacy issues during winter months. In governorates assessed through household surveys, more than half of households who live in damaged shelters had been unable to perform repairs. This was mostly due to unaffordability of repair items, though certain items were also unavailable in markets in some governorates. Cement was the repair item that households living in damaged shelters most commonly needed but were unable to afford or find in markets.

Despite the assessment being conducted in the summer, the findings show clear winterization needs both in terms of NFI priorities and shelter conditions. KIs and households consistently listed clothing and winterization items among their top needs, which shows a strong awareness of the necessity to prepare for winter. Clothing and shoes were a particularly common NFI need for children. Even though these items were listed as needs, they were usually available and affordable in markets. This indicates that households are prioritizing more immediate needs among their expenditures for the time being.

Access to electricity varied widely between and even within governorates. Access to the main grid and the availability of affordable generator fuel in markets were likely common drivers of such differences. Additionally, portable light sources and batteries were consistently among the most common self-reported needs. These two items were also commonly found to be unavailable or unaffordable in markets.

Cooking fuel and portable light sources, followed by batteries, water containers, clothing and heating fuel were the NFIs most commonly unavailable or unaffordable. The same six items were also the most commonly listed needs and the items that households would most commonly purchase, if given vouchers or direct cash assistance. Most NFI affordability/availability issues were caused by affordability, with a few notable exceptions of certain items being unavailable in certain areas.

Overall, there was a strong preference for unconditional cash distributions over other shelter and NFI support modalities. However, a significant number of households and KIs also indicated no particular preference for one specific modality.

In governorates where comparison was possible, female-headed household were found to be more vulnerable than male-headed households across several indicators in both the shelter and NFI sections of the assessment. Female-headed households in these governorates were consistently more likely to have faced eviction and to report challenges in accessing markets. Findings also indicated that female-headed households were overall more likely to live in damaged shelters and to not possess any form of shelter documentation.

Similar to female-headed households, IDP households were found to be worse off than non-IDP households across many indicators in governorates assessed through household surveys where such comparisons were possible. IDP households were more likely no not possess shelter documentation, more likely to have faced evictions and more likely to face shelter adequacy issues. They were also more likely to report using coping mechanisms to deal with a lack of cooking fuel.

The findings in this assessment were generally aligned with the goals laid out in the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan and especially highlighted the importance of a focus on winterization. The HRP section contains more detailed reflections on the plan in the context of the findings in this assessment.

The NFI situation had generally improved in the period between the December 2016 and July 2017 assessments in governorates where comparison was possible, with the exception of Hama where it had remained largely the same. Shelter conditions had remained similar between the two assessments, except in Hama and Ar-Raqqa where conditions had worsened, likely due to conflict damage. There had been an overall increase in access to information about both shelter and NFI support compared to December 2016. The two exceptions to this trend were Deir-ez-Zor where humanitarian access and information remained very limited, and Hama where fewer households reported having received shelter or NFI support information in the July 2017 assessment.

Governorate breakdown

Aleppo had the highest rent cost of all assessed governorates, although this did not translate into higher eviction rates. On issues like shelter adequacy and shelter damage, IDP households (which constitute a significant proportion of the population), were significantly worse off than non-IDP households. Rural communities also had significantly higher rates of shelter adequacy issues than those in urban areas of the governorate. General disrepair was a common cause of shelter damage, especially in rural communities.

Overall, households in Hama reported facing more challenges than those in other governorates across many indicators. Among key challenges in the governorate, many households reported lack of shelter documentation. Eviction rates were also higher than in other governorates, especially for IDP households, and overall eviction rates had increased between December 2016 and July 2017. A significant percentage of households reported sleeping mats and mattresses as priority needs. Eighty percent of households in the governorate reported having to employ coping strategies to deal with lack of cooking fuel. The electricity situation, however, was significantly better than elsewhere as the majority of households reported still being able to rely on the main electric grid. Market access was an issue for almost half of the assessed households, mainly due to distance and lack of transportation.

Homs had the lowest average rent out of all the assessed governorates. However, while the overall eviction rate was similar to that of other governorates almost a fifth of IDP households had been evicted in the past year. Like in Hama, a significant percentage of households reported sleeping mats and mattresses as a priority need. Homs was also the only assessed governorate where a majority of households relied on humanitarian aid distributions as one of their main means of accessing NFIs. Access to electricity was better than in other governorates, with half of assessed households relying on the grid as their main source of electricity.

Idleb had a high rate of lack of shelter documentation, though eviction rates were low and had fallen since the last assessment. The proportion of households reporting challenges to accessing markets was lower than in other governorates. However, fewer households than in other governorates were using markets as one of their main means of accessing NFIs, with many instead relying on humanitarian aid distributions. This is likely caused by high rates of NFI unavailability and unaffordability issues in the governorate. Many households also reported being unable to repair their damaged shelters because needed shelter repair items were not affordable.

Despite the cost of rent being low in Dar'a eviction rates were high, especially for IDP and female-headed households. A high percentage of households also indicated using coping strategies in response to a lack of NFIs. The electricity situation in Dar'a was significantly better than in neighbouring Quneitra. This is likely related to the high rate of solar panel use, with more than half of assessed households indicating that they relied on solar panels as their main source of electricity.

Quneitra showed many trends similar to those of Dar'a. Despite the relatively low rent cost, many households had difficulties paying their rent on time, with a significant percentage having missed multiple payments. Eviction rates were also high among IDP households. While cement was commonly unavailable or unaffordable in all governorates including Quneitra, households living in damaged shelters in this governorate also reported a lack of access to tarpaulin, nails or screws and basic tools. The heating fuel situation in the governorate also stood out, with a quarter of households having no source of heating fuel and about a fifth indicating that they were burning

animal waste. This was one of several factors indicating a high level of winterization needs. More than half of the population had no access to electricity and a third experienced challenges accessing markets.

Overall, Ar-Raqqa had seen several changes between December 2016 and July 2017. This was likely the consequence of intense conflict in the governorate and the subsequent increase in humanitarian presence during this period. Many of these changes, such as the decrease in the estimated percentage of households living in solid finished houses or apartments, could also be linked to internal displacement in the governorate. Access to both NFI and shelter support information had increased in the period between the two assessments, likely due to increased humanitarian presence. Nearly three in four KIs reported that there were challenges to accessing markets in their communities. A significant proportion also reported humanitarian aid distributions to be a common source of NFIs. Additionally, hygiene items were commonly reported by KIs as being unavailable or unaffordable, unlike in any other governorate. Access to electricity was low, with KIs estimating an average of only one hour of electricity per day. Lastly, there had been a significant increase in shelter support information since December 2016, likely due to increased humanitarian access.

In Deir-ez-Zor, the overall situation had not changed drastically in the period between the two assessments, as areas of control in the most populated parts of the governorate had remained the same. Many KIs reported that evictions had taken place in their communities, the majority as a result of forcible seizure by armed groups. Over half of KIs reported challenges in accessing markets, mostly citing security concerns in market locations and on the way to them. Electricity access was significantly higher in Deir-ez-Zor than in Ar-Raqqa, with an estimated 8 hours of electricity per day, most of which came from generators. Almost no KIs reported that shelter or NFI support information had been available in their communities.

Information gaps

One key finding from the assessment was the high levels of apparent and perceived winterization needs. With winterization being a key component of the HRP, understanding such needs will be important to the effective implementation of humanitarian assistance. This could be achieved through both further assessments and the development of specialized tools that help actors predict winterization needs and understand how to best meet them.

Another important element relates to the need for information to inform HRP Shelter/NFI sector activity 1.4 on rehabilitation of emergency shelter spaces.[90] Respondents in this assessment included a number of households living in emergency shelter. However, a more detailed understanding of the conditions of households living in emergency shelter spaces would require targeted sampling and some adjustments to existing tools. Incorporating such changes in future shelter and NFI assessments could help inform responses under this HRP Shelter/NFI sector activity.

As comparisons between the assessments in December 2016 and July 2017 have shown, the situation in governorates like Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, where areas of control are shifting rapidly, is extremely dynamic, leading to the constant emergence of new knowledge gaps. REACH and partners are engaged in continued efforts to assess the developing situation in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor. Rapid assessments in these governorates and other governorates with shifting frontlines could be of great value to actors implementing humanitarian response there.

The availability and affordability of NFIs and shelter repair materials can differ significantly between different places and different points in time. With a strong focus on cash-based assistance in the HRP reflected by a strong preference for cash-based assistance across assessed governorates, a detailed understanding of availability and affordability of NFIs and shelter repair materials could be a strong asset in informing response. The REACH Market Monitoring exercise provides a monthly update on prices and availability in markets across Syria for selected food items and NFIs. This type of assessment could potentially be a model for how assessments and specialized tools for monitoring shelter repair items and NFIs in markets could help inform cash-based response planning.

[90] HRP Shelter/NFI sector activity 1.4: *"Rehabilitation of emergency shelter spaces in collective centres, unfinished buildings, transitional outdoor spaces, spontaneous settlements, and other emergency spaces (in-kind, cash, voucher, physical repair, etc.)".*

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 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. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, please visit our website www.reach-initiative.org or contact us directly at geneva@reachinitiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.