Syria Shelter and NFI assessment: Northwest Syria (Household surveys)

July 2017

OVERVIEW

The Syria Shelter and Non-food Item (NFI) assessment aims to provide comprehensive information on the shelter status and NFI access of populations across Syria. This factsheet presents findings drawn from a representative sample of 5,846 households surveyed across 51 sub-districts in Northwest Syria. Data was collected from 6 July to 10 August 2017. Results are representative of assessed communities in each sub-district at a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error. The factsheet occasionally refers to data from a similar assessment carried out in December 2016 for the purpose of comparison, although these comparisons are only indicative due to differences in sub-districts covered between the two assessments.

Overall, 27% of households assessed in Northwest Syria were IDPs, with the highest proportions reported in Aleppo and Hama governorates. While levels of shelter damage in the Northwest (41%) were lower than in South Syria, a higher proportion of households in Northwest Syria (25%) reported housing, land and property problems than in the South (16%). Households frequently reported clothing, cooking fuel and portable light sources as their main NFI needs.
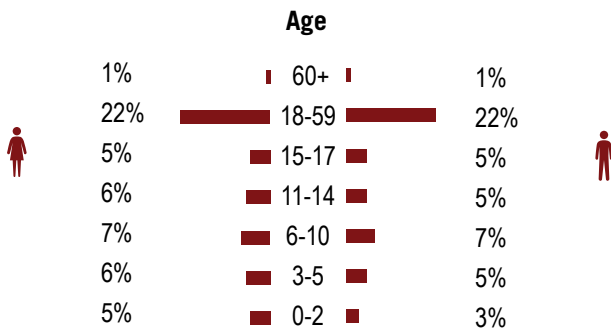
Map 1: Sub-districts covered

Assessed sub-districts
Unassessed sub-districts
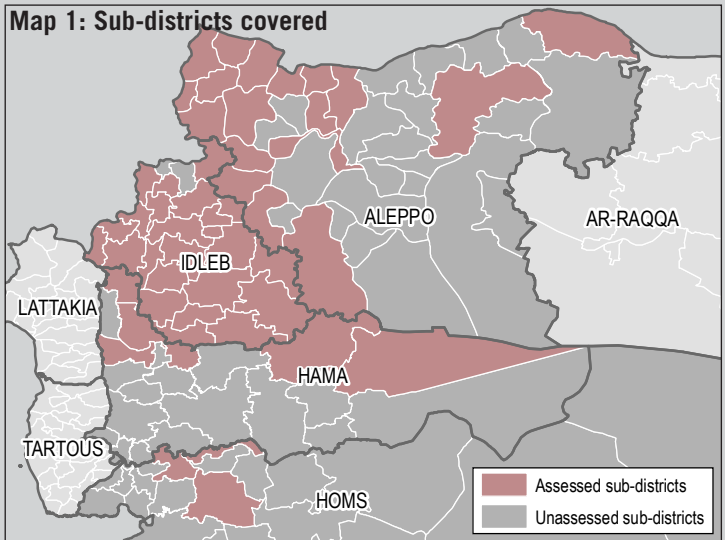
👪 DEMOGRAPHICS

Estimated total population across the governorate[1]: **8,119,306 people**

Estimated population of assessed sub-districts[1]: **3,478,539 people**

Population distribution by gender and age:

Age

Female		Age		Male
1%		60+		1%
22%		18-59		22%
5%		15-17		5%
6%		11-14		5%
7%		6-10		7%
6%		3-5		5%
5%		0-2		3%

Population displacement status:

- **63%** Non-displaced population
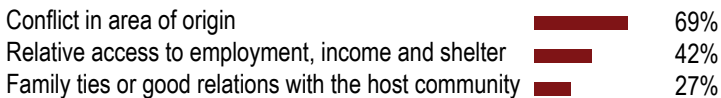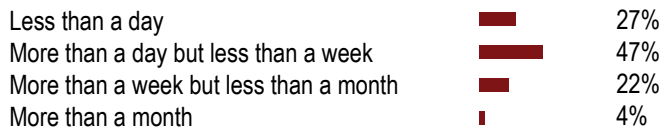- **27%** IDPs
- **10%** Returnees
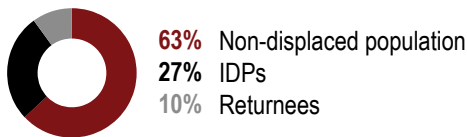
Average household size: **5.5 people**

🚶 DISPLACEMENT

For the 27% of households that include IDPs, top 3 reasons for moving to their current location[2]:

Conflict in area of origin	69%
Relative access to employment, income and shelter	42%
Family ties or good relations with the host community	27%

For the 27% of households that include IDPs, amount of time to prepare before most recent displacement:

Less than a day	27%
More than a day but less than a week	47%
More than a week but less than a month	22%
More than a month	4%

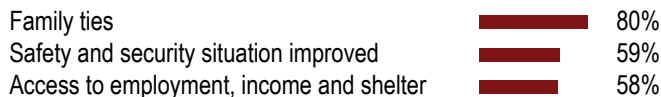**Average time since IDPs arrived in their current location:** **2 years**

Average amount of time that IDPs have spent in current shelter: **1.6 years**
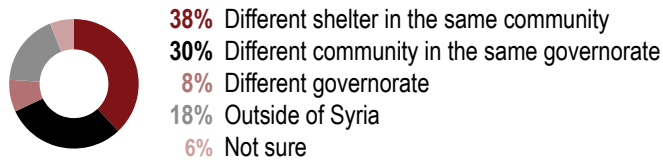
Average number of times IDPs have been displaced before arriving in their current location: **1.7**

For the 9% of households that include returnees, top 3 reasons for returning to their areas of origin[2]:

Family ties	80%
Safety and security situation improved	59%
Access to employment, income and shelter	58%

5% of households intend to leave their current location within the next month, with intended destinations as follows:

- **38%** Different shelter in the same community
- **30%** Different community in the same governorate
- **8%** Different governorate
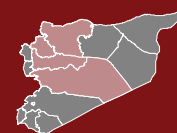- **18%** Outside of Syria
- **6%** Not sure

For these 5%, top 3 reasons for intending to leave their current location[2]:

1. Improve access to or upgrade shelter
2. Improve access to income and employment
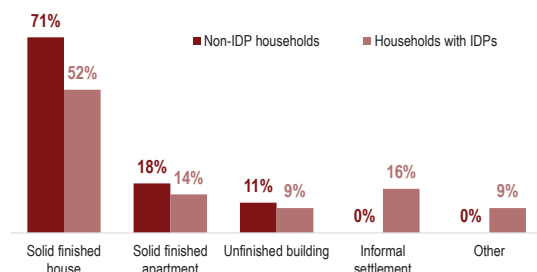3. Improve access to basic services

🏠 SHELTER

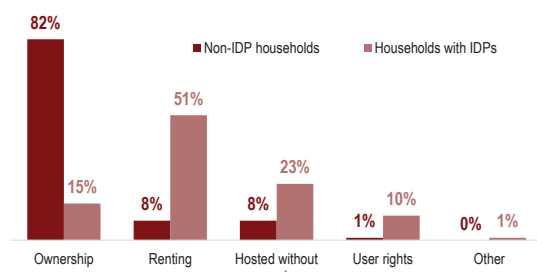|	
Average number of households per shelter:	1.2
Average number of people per shelter:	6.2
Average number of people per bedroom:	3.6

Percentage of households with IDPs and non-IDP households living in each shelter type:

Non-IDP households / Households with IDPs

- Solid finished house: 71% / 52%
- Solid finished apartment: 18% / 14%
- Unfinished building: 11% / 9%
- Informal settlement: 0% / 16%
- Other: 0% / 9%

Percentage of households with IDPs and non-IDP households living in each occupancy arrangement:

Non-IDP households / Households with IDPs

- Ownership: 82% / 15%
- Renting: 8% / 51%
- Hosted without rent: 8% / 23%
- User rights: 1% / 10%
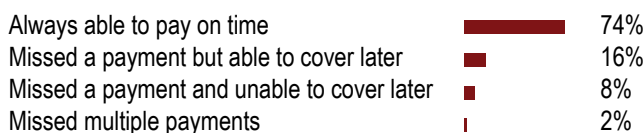- Other: 0% / 1%

Average monthly rent over the past three months:	33 USD[1] (Dec 2016: 31 USD)

**20% of households reported renting. Change in rental price over the past 3 months:**

Remained stable	64%
Increased	34%
Decreased	2%

Of these 20%, ability to pay rent on time over the past 3 months:

Always able to pay on time	74%
Missed a payment but able to cover later	16%
Missed a payment and unable to cover later	8%
Missed multiple payments	2%

HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY (HLP)

68% of households reported possessing legal documentation to prove their occupancy status. Of these, top 3 most common types of documentation:
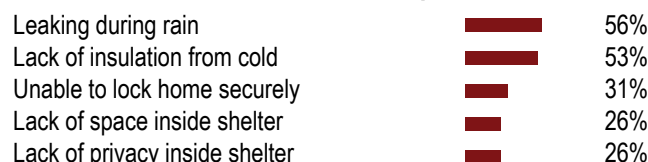
Formal real estate registry	50%
Buyer-seller contract	29%
Court contract	14%
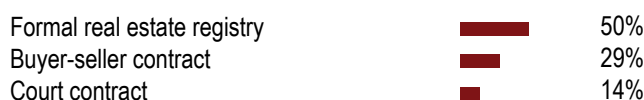
25% of households reported HLP problems, most commonly due to Lack of identification documents.
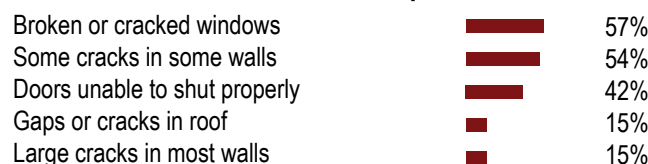
Of these 25%, 26% reported that HLP problems made them uncertain of their ability to remain in their shelter.

SHELTER ADEQUACY/DAMAGE

43% of households reported shelter adequacy issues (compared with 43% in December 2016). Of those, top 5 issues[2]:
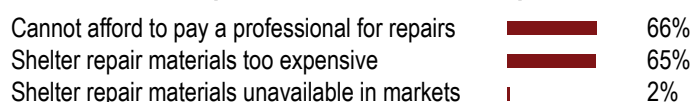
Leaking during rain	56%
Lack of insulation from cold	53%
Unable to lock home securely	31%
Lack of space inside shelter	26%
Lack of privacy inside shelter	26%

41% of households reported shelter damage (compared with 46% in December 2016). Of those, the top 5 issues were[2]:

Broken or cracked windows	57%
Some cracks in some walls	54%
Doors unable to shut properly	42%
Gaps or cracks in roof	15%
Large cracks in most walls	15%

SHELTER REPAIR AND SUPPORT

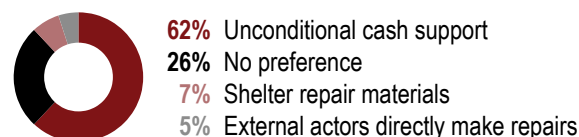**Of the 41% of households reporting shelter damage, 68% were unable to conduct repairs to shelter. Of those, top 3 reasons[2]:**

Cannot afford to pay a professional for repairs	66%
Shelter repair materials too expensive	65%
Shelter repair materials unavailable in markets	2%

Top 3 unavailable and unaffordable shelter repair materials reported[2]:

Most commonly unaffordable		Most commonly unavailable
Concrete	**1**	Concrete
Basic tools	**2**	Iron sheeting
Bricks	**3**	Timber

Reported preference for shelter support:

- **62%** Unconditional cash support
- **26%** No preference
- **7%** Shelter repair materials
- **5%** External actors directly make repairs

59% of households reported receiving no information about shelter support in the last year.
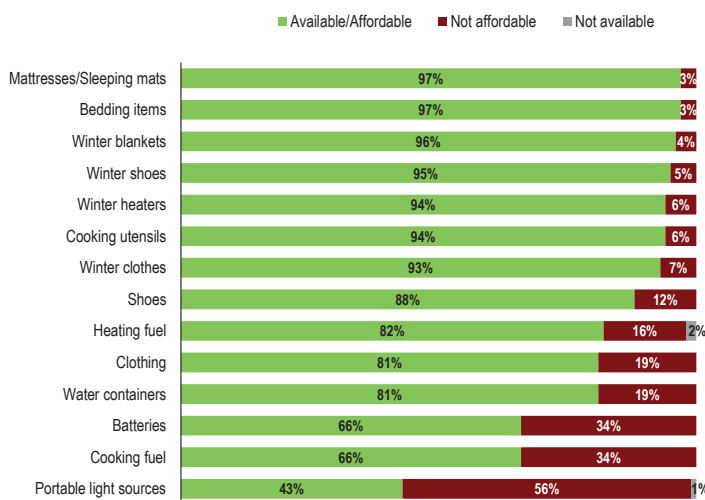
1. 16,842 SYP, using UN Operational Rate (514.85) on 1 August 2017.

2. Multiple choices allowed.
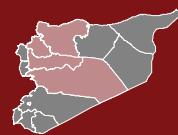
📦 NFIs

Reported availability and affordability of NFIs on markets
(July 2017):

Legend: ■ Available/Affordable ■ Not affordable ■ Not available

NFI	Available/Affordable	Not affordable	Not available
Mattresses/Sleeping mats	97%	3%	
Bedding items	97%	3%	
Winter blankets	96%	4%	
Winter shoes	95%	5%	
Winter heaters	94%	6%	
Cooking utensils	94%	6%	
Winter clothes	93%	7%	
Shoes	88%	12%	
Heating fuel	82%	16%	2%
Clothing	81%	19%	
Water containers	81%	19%	
Batteries	66%	34%	
Cooking fuel	66%	34%	
Portable light sources	43%	56%	1%

Change in NFI availability over the past 3 months:

Remained stable	48%
Increased	32%
Decreased	20%

Priority NFI needs reported per age and gender groups[1]:

	1.	2.	3.
Girls (0-17y)	Clothing	Shoes	Winter clothes
Boys (0-17y)	Clothing	Shoes	Portable light sources
Women (18-59y)	Cooking fuel	Clothing	Cooking utensils
Men (18-59y)	Portable light sources	Cooking fuel	Clothing
Elderly (60+ y)	Portable light sources	Heating fuel	Clothing

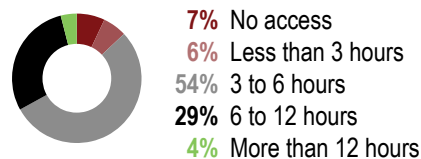**53%** of households adopted coping strategies in response to a lack of NFIs, most commonly[1]:
1. Borrowing money or buying on credit
2. Spending savings
3. Reducing non food expenses

ELECTRICITY

7% of households reported no main source of electricity. For the remaining **93%**, the main sources were as follows:

Generator	70%
Main network grid	20%
Solar panels	6%
Batteries other than car batteries	3%
Car Batteries	1%
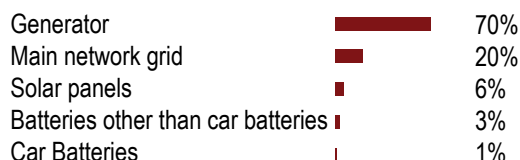
Reported hours of electricity available per day:

7%	No access
6%	Less than 3 hours
54%	3 to 6 hours
29%	6 to 12 hours
4%	More than 12 hours

90% of households reportedly adopted coping strategies in response to a lack of electricity, most commonly[1]:
1. Use battery powered devices such as torches
2. Use electricity for certain purposes only
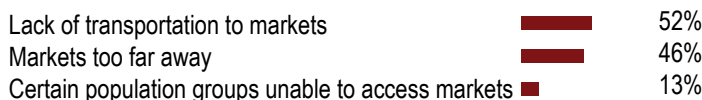3. Use electricity only at certain times of the day

FUEL

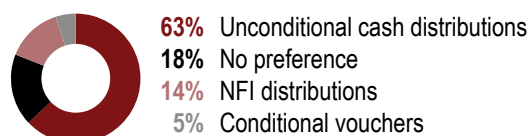### Top 3 main sources of heating and cooking fuel:

Cooking fuel	% of households using the source	Heating fuel	% of households using the source
Gas	57%	Wood/charcoal	44%
Kerosene	27%	Diesel	37%
Wood/charcoal	12%	None	15%

ACCESS TO MARKETS AND NFI SUPPORT

14% of households reported challenges accessing a market, most commonly[1]:

Lack of transportation to markets	52%
Markets too far away	46%
Certain population groups unable to access markets	13%

Reported preference for NFI support:

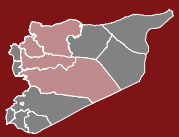|	
63%	Unconditional cash distributions
18%	No preference
14%	NFI distributions
5%	Conditional vouchers

54% of households reported receiving no information about NFI support in the past year.

Top 5 most likely NFIs to be purchased with cash/voucher-based aid[1]:

Portable light sources	60%
Cooking fuel	46%
Heating fuel	38%
Batteries	31%
Water containers	26%

1. Multiple choices allowed.

3

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

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

شبكة إغاثة سوريا
Syria Relief Network

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Map 2: Proportion of households reporting shelter adequacy issues (by sub-district)

% of households facing shelter adequacy issues

- Unassessed
- 0 - 25%
- 25% - 50%
- 50% - 75%
- 75% - 100%
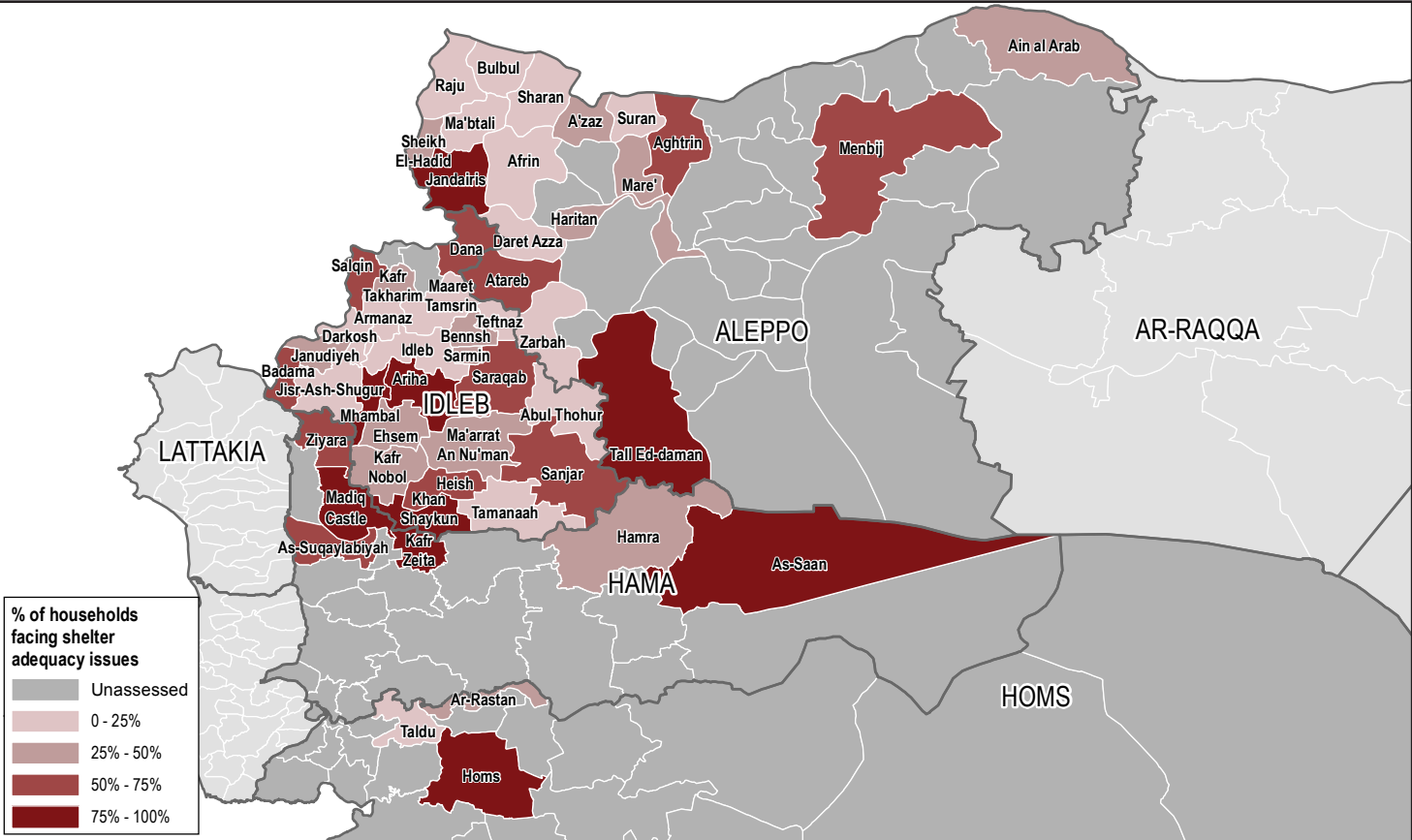
Map 3: Average levels of NFI availability and affordability problems[1] (by sub-district)

Average availability and affordability issues for selected NFIs

- Unassessed
- 0 - 25%
- 25% - 50%
- 50% - 75%
- 75% - 100%
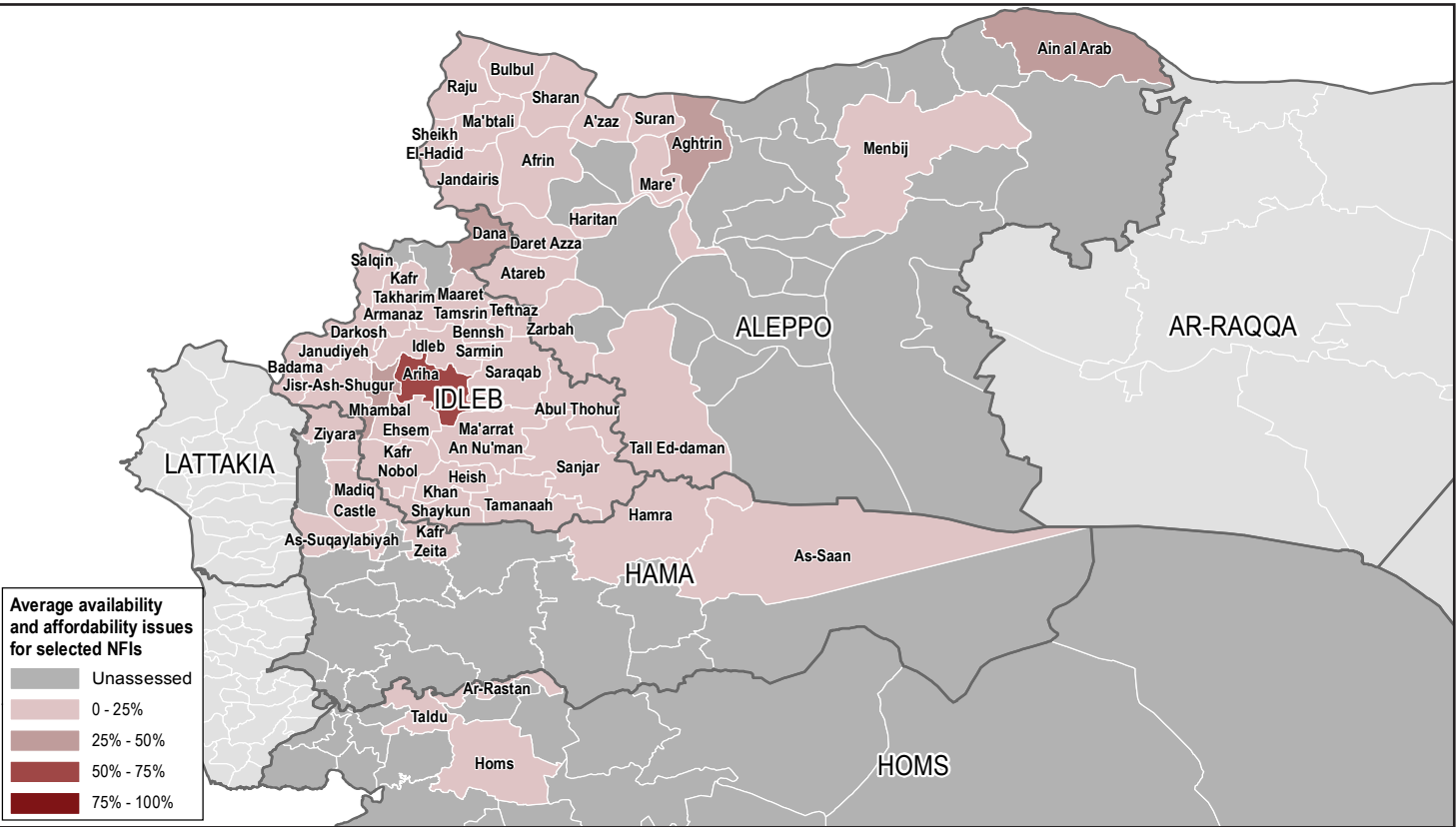
1. Calculated as an average of the percentage unavailability/unaffordability reported for each NFI item displayed in the availability/affordability graph on the previous page.

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