

Introduction

Since mid-2017, ongoing conflict has led to displacement from and within Deir-ez-Zor governorate. Throughout 2018, de-escalation of conflict in some parts of the governorate has allowed limited humanitarian access for the first time since 2014. However, there are still significant access and security limitations in all areas of the governorate, and actors face substantial information gaps in terms of the location and priority needs of non-displaced residents, returnees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In order to address these gaps, REACH has conducted a fourth round of the Deir-ez-Zor Situation Overview, which aims to provide information on the locations and humanitarian needs of the different population groups in the governorate. This follows previous rounds of the assessment in [February](#), [April](#), and [June](#) 2018.

Key Findings

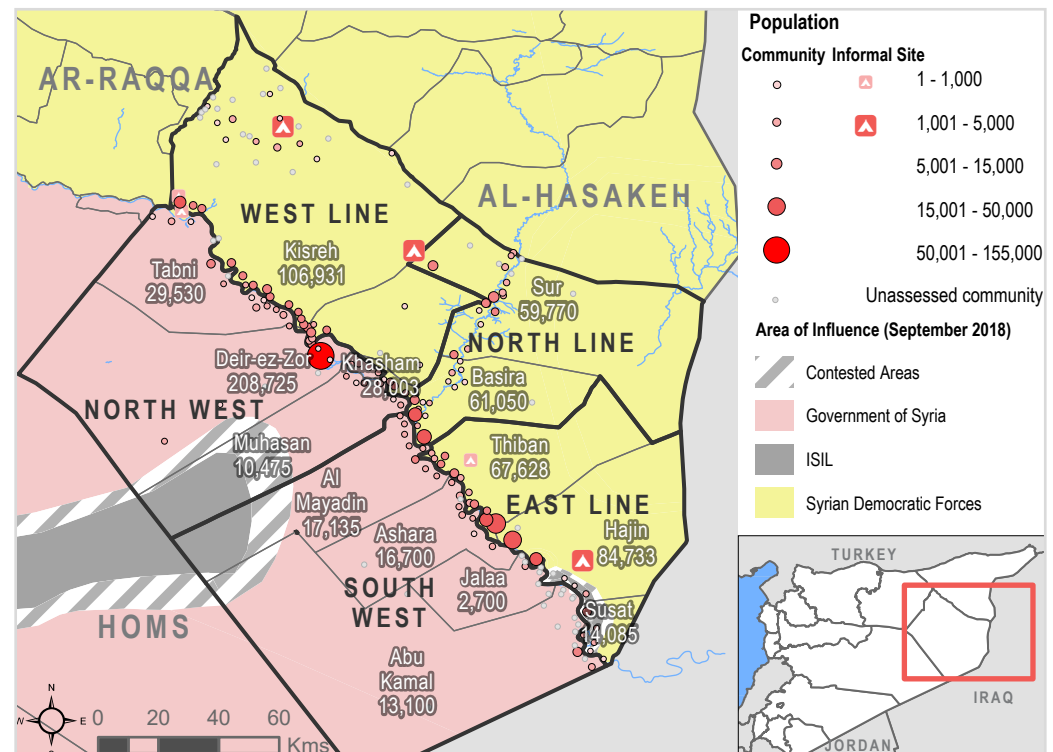
- **Displacement:** Significant displacement has occurred across Deir-ez-Zor, with high numbers of spontaneous returnees reported to be living in all areas and particularly high numbers of IDPs in the West Line and the East Line (see map 1).
- **WASH:** Water quality issues (including bad smell, taste, and colour) were reported in all assessed areas. Water shortages were reported in the North Line and in the East Line. The high cost of water trucking services was reportedly an issue in the North Line and the East Line.
- **Health:** Healthcare was among the most commonly reported priority needs across all assessed areas. Transportation was the most commonly reported barrier to accessing care, especially in areas away from the Euphrates, such as Sur and northern Kisreh, which are far from the nearest hospital. In all assessed areas, women reportedly faced specific barriers to accessing healthcare, with the most commonly reported barriers being related to traveling and the lack of female medical professionals.
- **Shelter and NFIs:** Rental prices were reported to be rising across the governorate, especially in the West Line. KIs reported that access to electricity was limited, especially in the East Line, the North West, and the South West. Reliance on expensive private generators may also limit access for low-income households. Of the most commonly reported top NFI needs, a majority were winterisation items. Sources of light and disposable diapers were also commonly reported needs in some areas.
- **Livelihoods:** Agricultural activities were the most commonly reported source of income, followed by remittances and trade. Common agricultural activities included growing wheat, cotton, and vegetables, as well as raising sheep, cattle, and chickens. Agricultural producers in the governorate have faced significant challenges, which has led to a drop in productivity. Commonly reported challenges included the price and availability of agricultural inputs as well as irrigation issues, which were found to be particularly common in the North Line and the East Line.
- **Education:** Primary education was reportedly available in most communities except in the East Line. Intermediary, and secondary education were reportedly much less common. Reported IDP attendance rates were low, including in areas where host community children had good access to education.
- **Protection:** Protection risks and barriers to movement were most commonly reported in the East Line, where active conflict is ongoing. Additionally, barriers to movement were reported in the North West and South West, largely in relation to safety/security concerns.

Methodology

Overall, 139 communities and IDP sites in Deir-ez-Zor governorate were assessed between 24 September and 1 October 2018 through remote Key Informant (KI) interviews, with one to five KIs per assessed community depending on availability. Different tools were used to assess communities and informal sites to identify population estimates and multi-sectoral needs. Identified IDP sites were only assessed separately if they were located outside the boundaries of permanent communities. The data were triangulated against secondary sources and initial findings were presented at a workshop with enumerators involved in the data collection to get input on context and potential interpretations.

While efforts were made to cover as many locations as possible, the list of assessed sites and communities was compiled on the basis of accessibility, and should therefore not be considered to be fully comprehensive. Information should only be considered as relevant to the time of data collection, given the dynamic situation in the governorate. Findings are not statistically representative and should be regarded as indicative only, particularly as they are aggregated across communities and sites within which humanitarian conditions may vary widely between areas or households.

Map 1: Assessment coverage

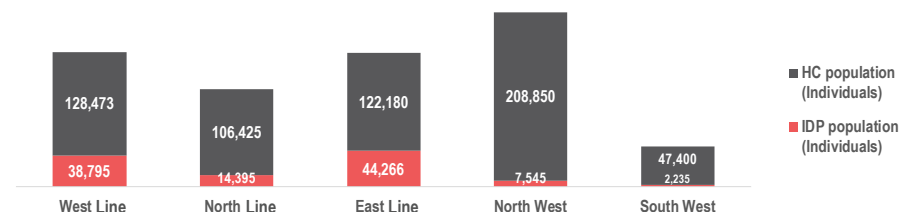


Population, Returns and Access

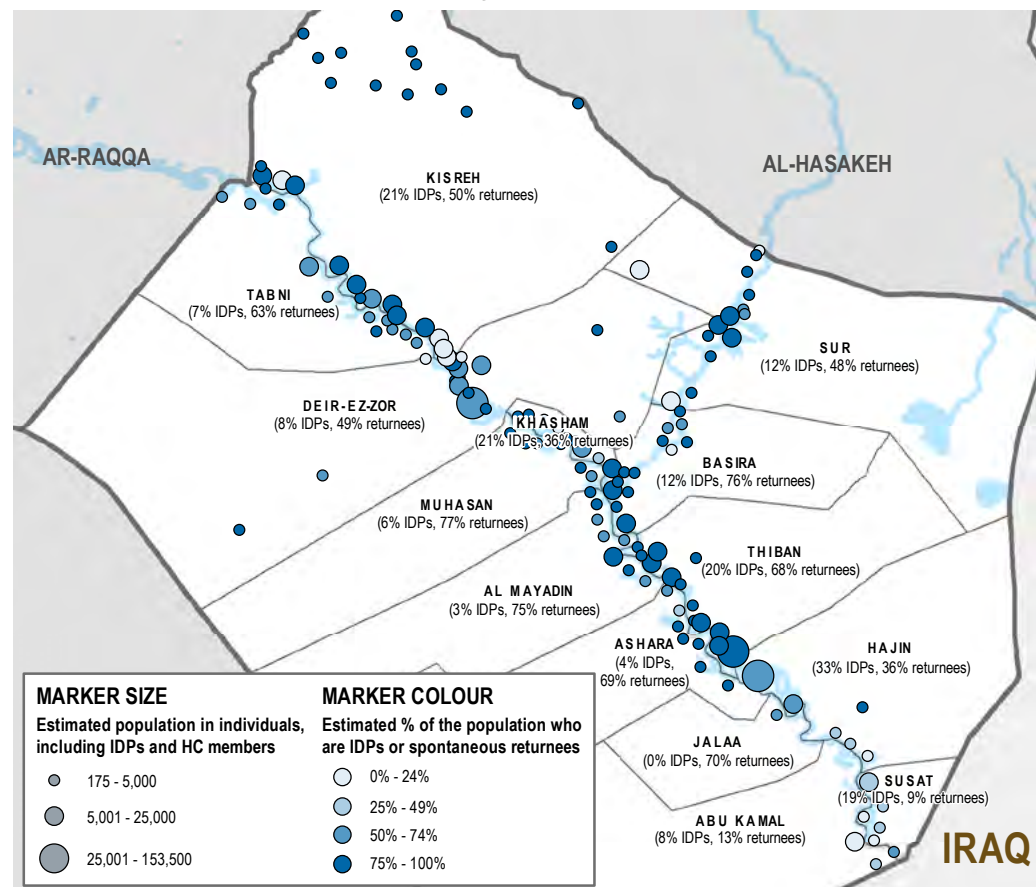
- 720,000 individuals were estimated to be living in the assessed areas of Deir-ez-Zor governorate.
- Around 107,000 individuals were estimated to be currently displaced within the governorate, often in vulnerable shelter types such as tents, collective centres, and unfinished buildings. The highest proportions of IDPs were recorded in Hajin and Kisreh sub-districts, followed by Deir-ez-Zor and Thiban.
- An estimated 374,000 people in assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor were spontaneous returnees, meaning they were displaced from their community of origin at some point during the conflict and have since returned.¹
- In 92% of communities, KIs reported that more than 75% of spontaneous returnees had returned to the same properties they lived in prior to being displaced. For those spontaneous returnees that had not returned, the most commonly reported reasons for this were damage to shelters, followed by shelters being rented out to others and properties being squatted by others.

- Those spontaneous returnees who did not return to their property of origin were most frequently reported to be living in houses and apartments. In a small proportion of communities KIs reported that some returnees lived in collective centers and unfinished buildings, raising protection concerns.

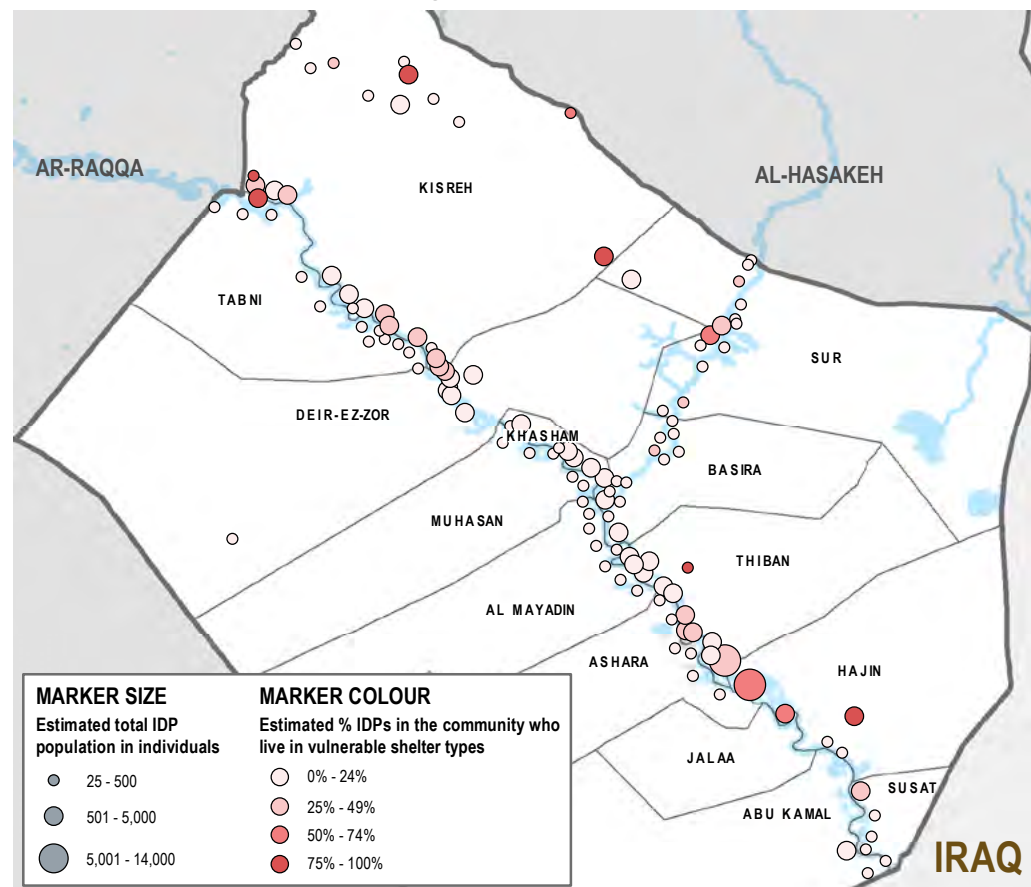
Figure 1: Total estimated population for IDPs and host community (HC) members



Map 2: Estimated total population (host community and IDPs) with % who are returnees or IDPs



Map 3: Estimated IDP numbers and percentage of IDPs in shelters of last resort

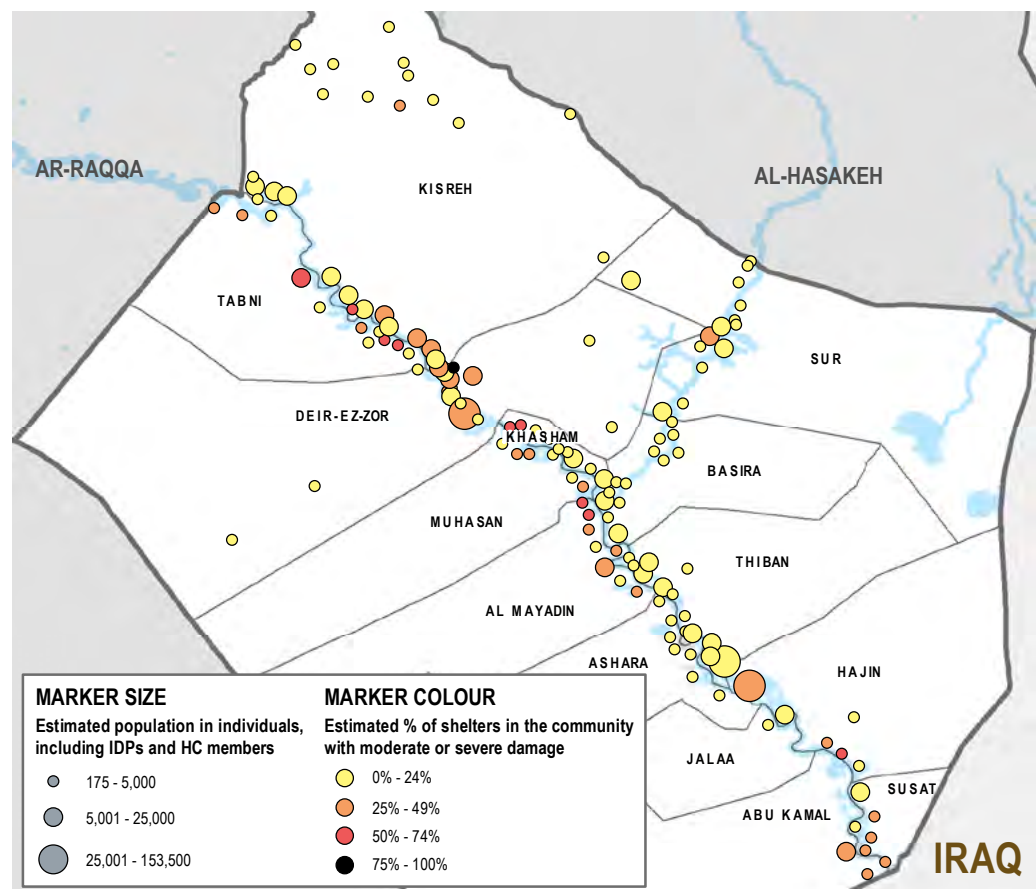


¹ The definition of a spontaneous returnee includes a broad range of circumstances and does not distinguish between those who have returned to their pre-displacement home and those who now live in different homes or shelter types in their community of origin. It also does not take into account whether those who have returned are enjoying the same rights as they did prior to being displaced.

Shelter

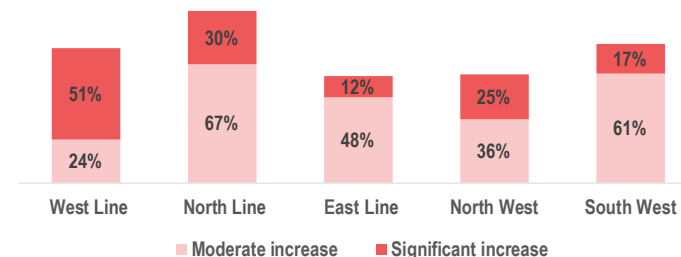
- Overall, the highest reported rates of shelter damage were found in the North West, South West and East Line areas. In the North West, KIs in 18% of communities reported that over half of all shelters were at least moderately damaged. Examples of moderate damage included broken windows/doors or minor holes in walls. This was followed by 11% of communities in the South West.
- The highest rates of severe shelter damage were also found in the North West, where over a quarter of shelters in 18% of communities had sustained damage that included holes in roofs, damage to walls, or complete structural collapse. In the East Line, this was reportedly the case in 12% of communities.
- The inability to afford repair materials was the most frequently listed barrier to shelter repair, reported by KIs in more than 84% of communities in all areas and in all assessed communities in the North West and South West. Additionally, a lack of availability of shelter repair materials in markets was most commonly reported in the West Line (44%), the North West (32%) and the South West (28%).

Map 4: Reported rates of moderate to severe shelter damage²



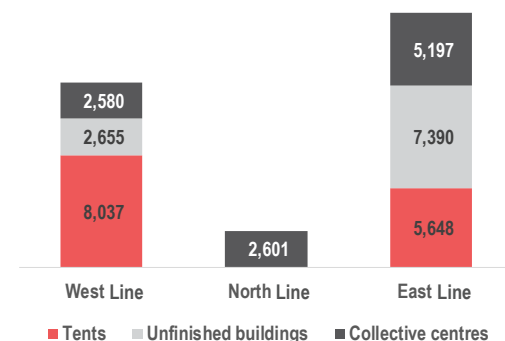
- KIs in a majority of communities across all areas reported that there had been an increase in rental prices in the last 3 months. In the North Line, KIs in 97% of assessed communities reported that there had been an increase, followed by more than three quarters of communities in the West Line and the South West. In the West Line, the increase in rent prices was reported to be especially significant in just over half of assessed communities, which may be connected with the numbers of IDPs in the area.

Figure 2: Reported increases in rental prices in the 3 months prior to data collection, by % of communities³



- High numbers of IDPs were reported to be living in vulnerable shelter types in the West Line and the East Line. The highest overall number of IDPs in tents was reported in the West Line, while the highest numbers in collective centres and unfinished buildings were in the East Line. In the North Line, a significant number of IDPs were also reported to be living in collective centres.
- According to KIs, the majority of collective centres were originally school buildings, although reported shelters also included a number of religious buildings, government facilities, warehouses and agricultural buildings.

Figure 3: Estimated number of IDPs living in vulnerable shelter types, by type⁴



2) Examples of moderate damage include broken windows/doors and minor holes in walls. Examples of severe damage include holes in roofs, damage to walls and complete structural collapse.

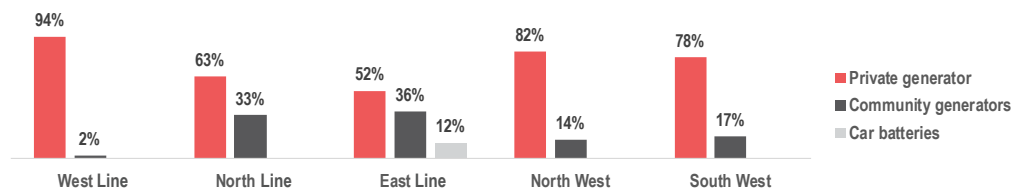
3) No quantitative data was captured about rental prices, but KIs were asked to qualify if the increase had been "moderate" or "significant".

4) None of the IDPs in assessed areas in the North West and South West were reported to be living in vulnerable shelter types.

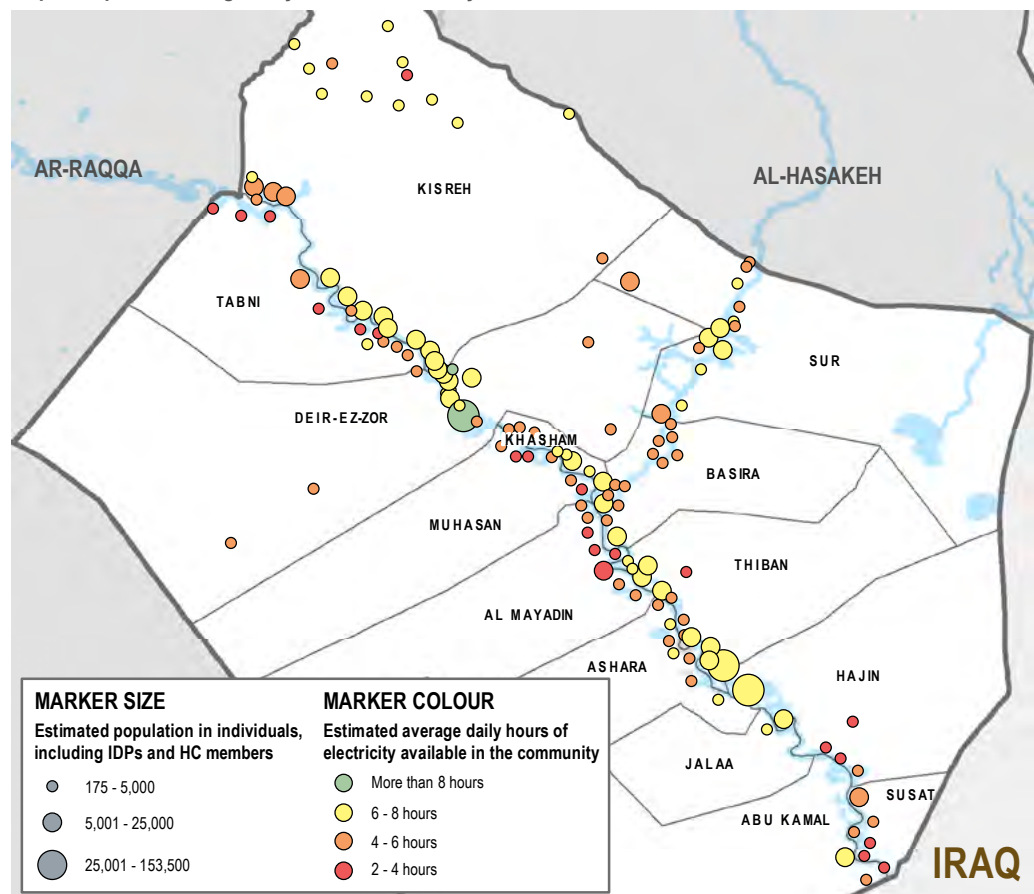
⚡ Electricity

- **Private generators were the most commonly reported source of electricity.** In the North Line and the East Line community generators were reported in around one third of communities. In the East Line, car batteries (charged by running cars) were reportedly also a primary electricity source in a number of communities.

Figure 4: Reported primary sources of electricity for the community, by % of communities

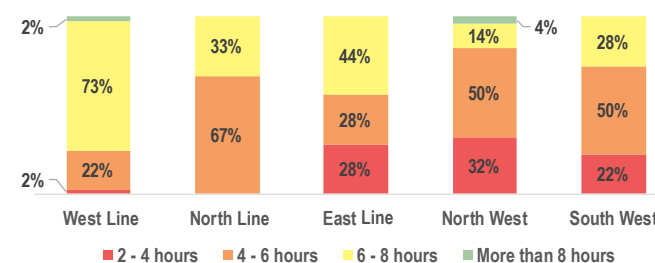


Map 5: Reported average daily hours of electricity



- **Having access to fewer than four hours of electricity per day was most commonly reported in the North West, the South West and in the East Line.** Having more than six hours per day was most commonly reported in the West Line, although KIs in a majority of communities still estimated that electricity was available for fewer than 8 hours per day on average.

Figure 5: Estimated average daily hours of electricity available in the community, by % of KIs reporting



📦 Non-food Items (NFIs)

- **Sources of light were the most commonly reported priority NFI need across the governorate,** especially in the West Line, the North West and the South West.
- **Winterisation items were consistently among the top reported NFI needs,** especially in the North Line and East Line. Winter clothes and shoes were reported as a top NFI need in nearly half of communities in both the North Line and the East Line. Heaters were a commonly reported need in the North Line, East Line and South West. Sources of heating fuel were most commonly reported as an NFI need in the West Line and South West.
- **Disposable diapers were commonly listed as a top NFI need** in all assessed areas except in the North Line. They were a particularly common need in the West Line where they were listed by 80% of KIs.

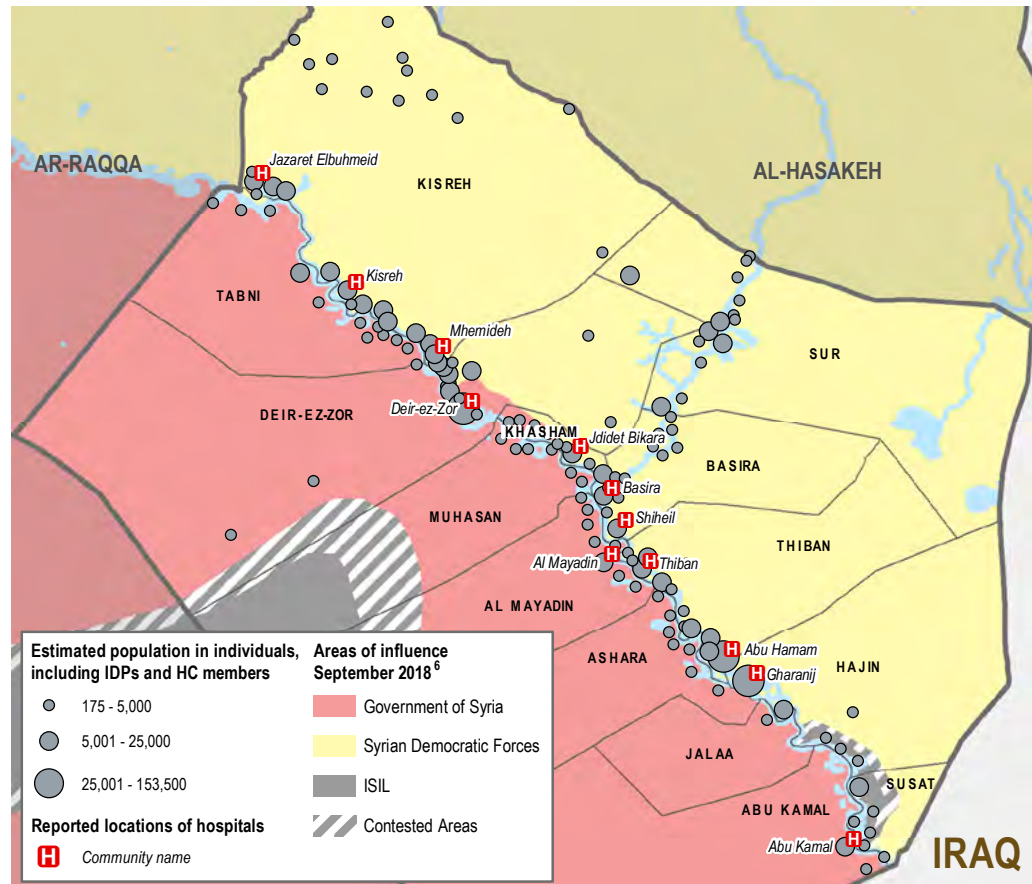
Table 6: Most commonly reported top NFI needs in the community, by % of communities⁵

	West Line	North Line	East Line	North West	South West
1	Sources of light (93%)	Winter clothes (48%)	Winter clothes (48%)	Sources of light (89%)	Sources of light (67%)
2	Heating fuel (90%)	Sources of light (48%)	Winter shoes (48%)	Batteries (57%)	Heating fuel (67%)
3	Disposable diapers (80%)	Winter shoes (44%)	Disposable diapers (40%)	Heating fuel (46%)	Batteries (56%)
4	Batteries (15%)	Winter heaters (44%)	Sources of light (40%)	Cooking fuel (32%)	Winter heaters (44%)
5	Winter heaters (7%)	Heating fuel (44%)	Winter heaters (36%)	Disposable diapers (29%)	Disposable diapers (28%)

5) KIs were allowed to select up to three options

- **Health was among the most commonly reported top priority needs across the governorate.** In the West Line, KIs in 83% of communities reported that health was a top-three priority need, followed by 74% in North Line, and 64% in the East Line.
- **The main healthcare needs varied between assessed areas.** Chronic disease treatment was the most frequently reported health need in the West Line (88%) and the North Line (80%). The need for first aid emergency care was also reported by KIs in 80% of communities in the West Line. In the East Line, KIs in almost all communities (96%) reported that surgery was a priority healthcare need.
- **All reported functional hospitals were located on the banks of the Euphrates river.** As such there was a lack of hospitals in proximity to some major population centres, such as Sur.
- **Challenges related to transportation were the most commonly reported barriers to accessing healthcare.** The cost of transportation was most frequently reported as a barrier in the North Line, the

Map 6: Reported locations of functional hospitals



South West and the North West. The amount of time required to reach healthcare facilities was reported at similar rates across the governorate. The inability to afford healthcare services was reportedly most prevalent in North Line. Restrictions on movement were most frequently reported to be a barrier in the South West, the North West and the East Line.

Figure 7: Most commonly reported barriers to accessing healthcare services, by % of communities⁷

	Cost of transportation	Time required to reach facilities	Cost of services	Restrictions on freedom of movement	Lack of skilled medical professionals	Lack of equipment or medication at facilities	None
West Line	44%	44%	17%	7%	76%	12%	2%
North Line	78%	52%	93%	11%	0%	0%	0%
East Line	40%	52%	56%	40%	40%	28%	4%
North West	75%	50%	43%	61%	11%	4%	7%
South West	78%	50%	28%	72%	22%	6%	6%

- **In the West Line and North Line KIs in less than 20% of communities reported that most or all pregnant or lactating women were seeing medical professionals on a regular basis.** In other areas, the majority of KIs reported that most or all pregnant or lactating women were seeing medical professionals, though KIs in between 33% and 40% of communities in these areas reported that only some were.
- **The most commonly reported barrier to accessing healthcare for pregnant and lactating women was the lack of female medical professionals at facilities.** The cost of services and the time required to reach facilities were also reported, especially in the North Line.

Figure 8: Most commonly reported barriers to accessing healthcare services for women, by % of communities⁸

	Lack of female medical professionals	Cost of transportation	Cost of services	Time required to reach facilities	Lack of skilled medical professionals	Restrictions on freedom of movement
West Line	95%	34%	10%	39%	61%	0%
North Line	22%	74%	96%	63%	0%	0%
East Line	100%	16%	60%	24%	28%	28%
North West	68%	68%	54%	43%	7%	21%
South West	78%	67%	33%	50%	0%	28%

6) Source: SyriaLiveUAMap, 5 September 2018

7) KIs were allowed to select up to three options

8) KIs were allowed to select up to three options

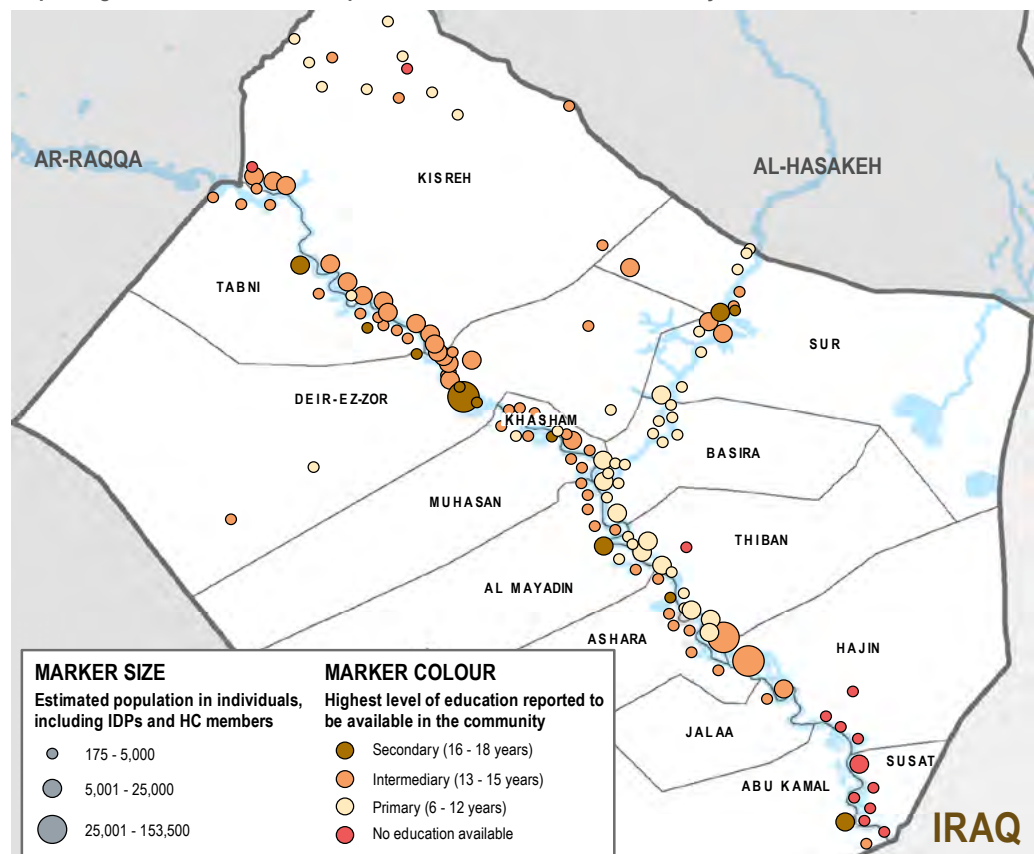
Education

- Primary education was widely available across most assessed communities, with functioning primary schools reported to be present in almost all communities in all areas except the East Line. In the East Line, only just over half of communities reported primary education being available.
- In both the North Line and East Line, KIs reported low rates of availability of intermediary education, compared to the South West, the North West and the West Line. Secondary education was rarely available across assessed communities, with reported facilities concentrated around larger cities.

Figure 9: Education services reported to be available in the community by % of communities

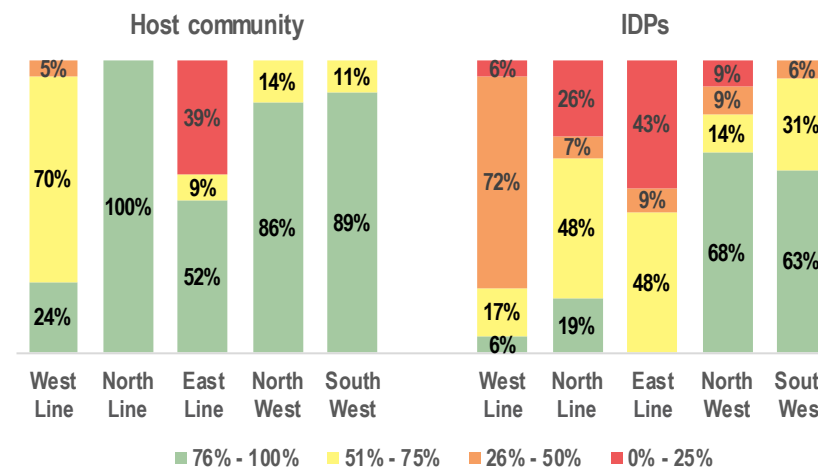
	Primary (ages 6 - 12)	Intermediary (ages 13 - 15)	Secondary (ages 16 - 18)
West Line	95%	68%	0%
North Line	100%	22%	7%
East Line	56%	12%	0%
North West	100%	93%	25%
South West	100%	94%	17%

Map 7: Highest level of education reported to be available in the community



- Estimated attendance rates were significantly lower for IDP children than for host community children across all areas. This applies most visibly to primary education in the West Line and the North Line, but a similar trend was observed across assessed areas at all levels of education.

Figure 10: Estimated primary school attendance rates for IDPs and host community children, by % of communities



- The reported barriers to education varied between assessed areas. Children having to work was the most commonly reported barrier in the West Line, the South West, and the North West. The poor condition of facilities, as well as lack of availability of education suitable for students of a certain age were frequently reported as barriers in the North Line, and the East Line.
- Damage to school buildings was frequently reported across all assessed areas, but especially in the North Line, where 52% of KIs reported that at least one school in their community was closed due to building damage. In the East Line, KIs in 44% of communities reported that at least one school was closed because the buildings were used to host IDPs.

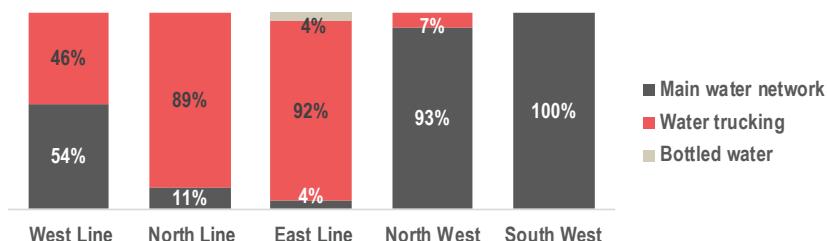
Figure 11: Most commonly reported barriers to accessing education, by % of communities⁹

	West Line	North Line	East Line	North West	South West
1	Children have to work (82%)	Poor condition of facilities (78%)	No education for students of a certain age (74%)	Children have to (61%)	Children have to work (67%)
2	Lack of trained teachers (62%)	No education for students of a certain age (67%)	Poor condition of facilities (68%)	Poor condition of facilities (29%)	Customs (for example early marriage) (50%)
3	Poor condition of facilities (41%)	Lack of trained teachers (30%)	Children have to work (16%)	Customs (for example early marriage) (29%)	Poor condition of facilities (22%)

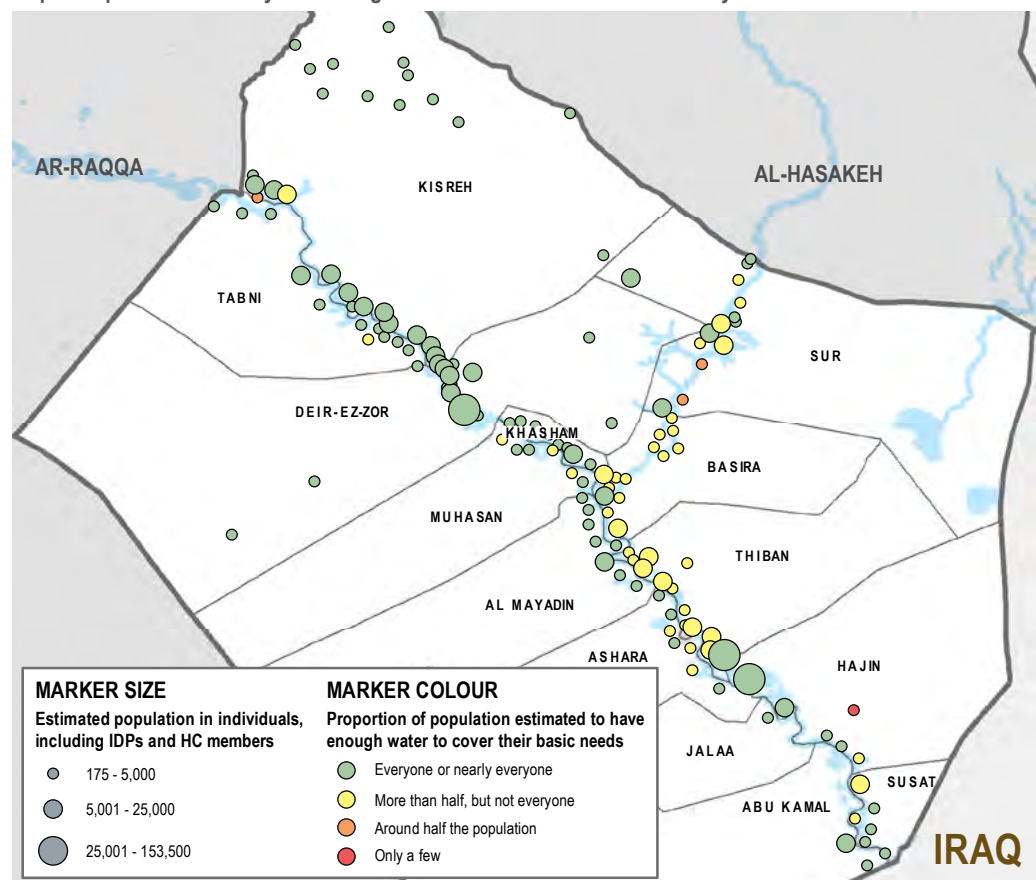
9) KIs were allowed to select up to three options

- The majority of communities in the East Line and the North Line reportedly used water trucking as their primary source of water. Water network use was most commonly reported in the South West and the North West. Both the water network and trucking were reported as primary sources in the West Line.

Figure 12: Reported primary water sources for households in the community, by % of communities



Map 8: Reported sufficiency of drinking water for residents in the community



- While the quantities of available water were reported to be sufficient in most communities, KIs also reported that some households in the North Line and East Line faced shortages. Specifically, KIs in 67% of communities in the North Line and 60% in the East Line reported that, while more than half of the population had enough water to meet their basic needs, some did not.
- Nearly all KIs reported that community members were paying for water trucking, with free water distributions reported in only 11% and 4% of communities in the West and East Lines, respectively.
- KIs reported issues with drinking water quality in a majority of assessed communities. Drinking water reportedly had a bad taste in 85% to 100% of communities across Deir-ez-Zor. Water in all assessed communities in the North Line reportedly had a bad colour, as well as in a large majority of communities in the South West, the North West, and the East Line.
- In the East Line and the North Line, the cost of water was reportedly an issue in a number of communities due to the high cost of transporting water from filling points far from the communities.

Figure 13: Reported issues with drinking water, by % of communities¹⁰

	Bad taste	Bad colour	Bad smell	Cost of water too high	Considered unsafe to drink
West Line	98%	46%	59%	0%	0%
North Line	85%	100%	22%	41%	4%
East Line	92%	80%	52%	36%	4%
North West	96%	93%	71%	0%	0%
South West	100%	94%	78%	0%	0%

- Nearly all KIs reported that some IDPs in their communities had access to private latrines. However, in the North Line and East Line, more than half also reported that some IDPs relied on communal latrines. In the West Line and East Line, significant numbers of KIs reported open defecation (see below).
- As with latrines, the majority of KIs reported that some IDPs in their community had access to private showers inside their homes, while communal facilities were commonly reported in the North Line and East Line and a lack of any bathing facilities was reported in some locations in the West Line and East Line.

Figure 14: Most commonly reported types of latrines and showers used by IDPs, by % of communities¹¹

	Latrines:			Showers:			
	Private inside home	Communal shared toilets	Outside in the open	Private inside home	Communal bathing areas	Private space outside home	No showers available
West Line	94%	19%	28%	94%	17%	3%	6%
North Line	100%	52%	0%	96%	33%	11%	0%
East Line	91%	70%	22%	91%	57%	4%	9%
North West	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
South West	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%

10) KIs were asked to select all that applied

11) KIs were allowed to choose multiple options, as multiple sanitation situations may exist within a single community. For example, a community may have some IDPs who have access to private latrines inside their homes, while other IDPs in the same community use communal latrines.

Protection

- Barriers to movement were most frequently reported in the East Line, by KIs in 81% of assessed communities. This was followed by 67% of communities in the South West, 67% in the North West and 44% in the North Line. The lack of available transportation was most commonly reported in the South West, the North West, and the North Line. Restrictions of movements, usually due to the presence of checkpoints, were reported in the South West, the North West, and the East Line. Finally, safety and security risks were reported to be a common barrier to movement in the East Line.

Figure 15: Most commonly reported barriers to movement, by % of communities¹²

	None	Insufficient transportation	Transportation available but too expensive	Restrictions on movement	Lack of required documentation	Safety security situation
West Line	90%	0%	10%	7%	0%	0%
North Line	56%	4%	37%	0%	0%	4%
East Line	20%	4%	0%	40%	4%	64%
North West	43%	4%	57%	46%	0%	0%
South West	33%	0%	67%	61%	0%	6%

- IDPs were most frequently reported to face protection risks in the East Line, where KIs in 93% of communities with IDPs reported the presence of one or more security or safety risks such as sniper fire, armed groups, and mines. IDPs were reportedly at risk of having their documentation confiscated in the South West, the North West and to a lesser extent in the East Line.
- KIs in 40% of communities in the East Line reported that women and girls were facing specific barriers to accessing services in their communities. The majority of these listed fear at checkpoints as the main barrier and specified that this particularly affected the ability of women and girls to access health care services.

Figure 16: Most commonly reported protection risks faced by IDPs, by % of communities¹³

	Confiscation of documents	Sniper fire or gunfire	Armed groups	Airstrikes	Mines or unexploded ordnance	Domestic violence	Disputes between residents	IEDs SVBIEDS BBIEDs
West Line	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	6%	0%
North Line	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
East Line	9%	57%	48%	26%	22%	4%	0%	4%
North West	27%	0%	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%
South West	50%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Reported Priority Needs

- Overall, the most commonly reported top needs were income sources, healthcare, water, electricity and education. Other needs that were reported in some locations but not in others included shelter rehabilitation, food, civil documentation, and clothing.
- It should be noted figures on most commonly reported needs by KIs can only help provide an image of perceived priorities. The percentages listed below should not be interpreted as an indication of comparative severity of needs.

Figure 17: Most commonly reported top needs in the community, by % of communities^{14,15}

	West Line	North Line	East Line	North West	South West
Jobs and income	88%	89%	40%	68%	72%
Electricity	32%	52%	72%	86%	100%
Shelter rehabilitation	2%	0%	0%	4%	0%
Water	17%	74%	76%	61%	67%
Healthcare	83%	74%	64%	50%	50%
Education	78%	7%	32%	29%	6%
Clothing	0%	0%	8%	0%	0%

12) KIs were asked to select all that applied

13) KIs were asked to select all that applied

14) To save space, only the most commonly mentioned needs were listed in the table.

15) KIs were asked to rank the top-three priority needs. The table shows the most commonly listed ones, regardless of ranking.

- **Growing crops was the most commonly reported source of income across all assessed areas of the governorate.** KIs in between 82% and 89% of communities in the West Line, the East Line, the South West and the North West reported that this was a main income source. In these areas, the majority of crops grown were wheat and barley (86%), vegetables (75%), and cotton (68%). Farmers reportedly used to grow these same crops prior to the start of the conflict.
- **In the North Line, KIs in only a third of communities reported that growing crops was a main income source,** despite the area being highly dependent on agriculture historically. Households in 96% of communities reportedly relied on trading and shops. Remittances were reported in 59% of communities.
- **Raising livestock, trading in shops, and remittances were overall commonly reported across all assessed areas.** In the majority of communities where raising livestock was a top income source, the most commonly owned types were sheep, cattle, and chickens.

Map 9: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) values at the start of October, compared to the average of the same period in recent years^{16,17}

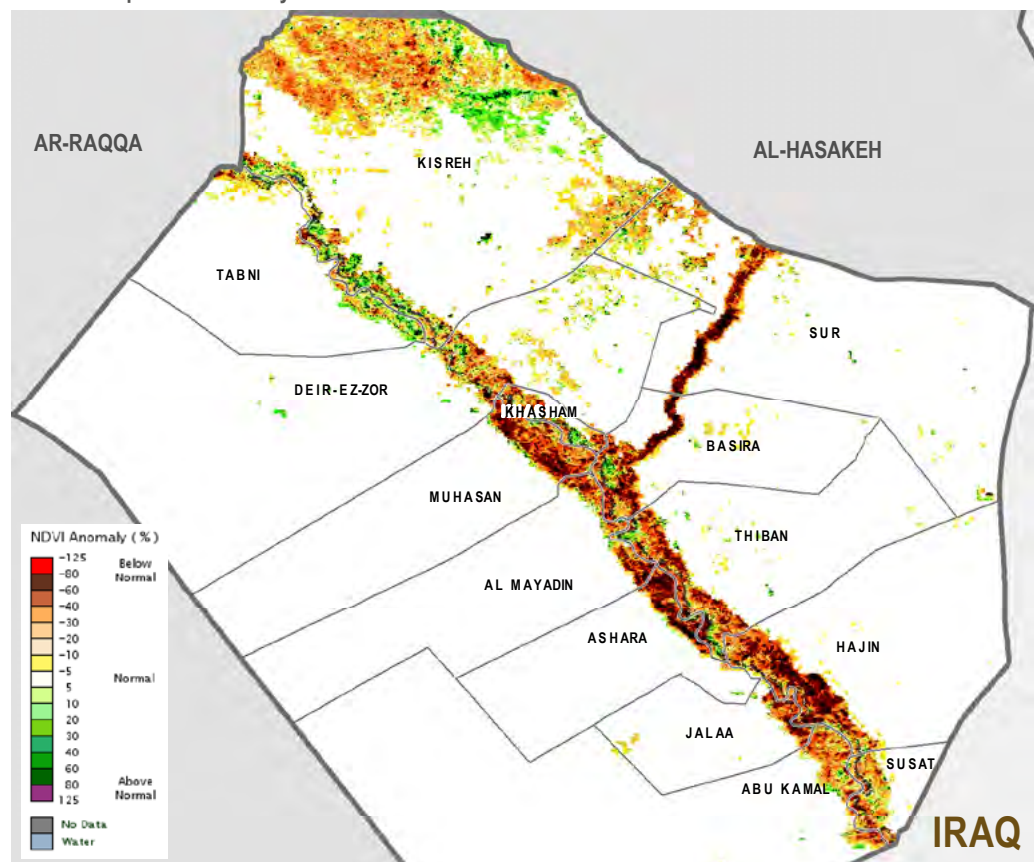
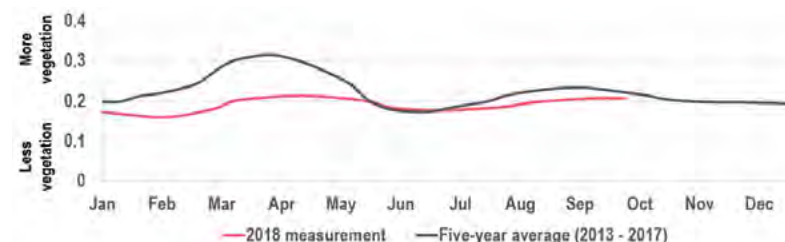


Figure 18: Primary sources of income in the community, by % of communities¹⁸

	Employment with local authorities	Remittances	Raising livestock	Growing crops	Trade and shops
West Line	5%	80%	85%	88%	22%
North Line	30%	59%	44%	33%	96%
East Line	0%	88%	52%	84%	52%
North West	36%	29%	64%	82%	61%
South West	11%	11%	67%	89%	72%

- **Farmers in Deir-ez-Zor have experienced significant challenges during the past wheat and barley season (September 2017 to June 2018), and agricultural yields have been reported to be far lower than in any other recent year.**¹⁹ One measure that shows the extent of this is the NDVI, which is a remotely sensed (satellite) index that captures the abundance and health of plants. Comparing this measure to an average of recent years reveals that **cropland areas in Deir-ez-Zor were abnormally less green in both April and October 2018.**

Figure 19: Timeline of NDVI values in cropland areas of Deir-ez-Zor governorate



- **Overall, the most commonly reported barrier to crop cultivation was the affordability and availability of fertilisers.** However, in the North Line, the most commonly reported barrier was the **need for irrigation.** This was reportedly related to water shortages in 81% of North Line communities where the need for irrigation was reported. However, in the East Line, damage to irrigation structures was the most commonly reported issue, followed by water shortages.

Figure 20: Barriers to growing crops, by % of KIs reporting²⁰

	Need for irrigation	Low profitability of selling outputs	Price/availability of equipment	Price/availability of fertilizer	Price availability of seeds
West Line	15%	7%	54%	93%	61%
North Line	78%	22%	7%	48%	33%
East Line	44%	56%	28%	76%	32%
North West	14%	7%	54%	75%	54%
South West	17%	11%	67%	94%	78%

- **Almost all KIs also reported that markets were functional with few or no shortages of key food items and that households were buying food in the markets.** In all areas, more than 80% of KIs reported that households' own production was also a common source of food.

16) Source: [GIMMS MODIS NDVI Global Agricultural Monitoring System](#), NASA

17) "NDVI [is a] value that, over time, can be averaged to establish the normal growing conditions for the vegetation in a given region for a given time of the year. Comparing this month's or this year's NDVI data with the 20-year average reveals whether the productivity in a given region is typical, or whether the plant growth is significantly more or less productive." [NASA Earth Observatory](#)

18) KIs were asked to rank the three primary sources of income for households in the community. The table shows the most commonly listed ones, regardless of ranking.

19) [FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to the Syrian Arab Republic](#), October 2018

20) KIs were allowed to select up to three options