Introduction and Methodology

HSOS is a monthly assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This factsheet presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, economic conditions, living conditions, access to basic services, COVID-19 situation, and the security and protection situation in the Greater Idleb area in Northwest Syria (NWS). Sector-specific indicator findings by location can be found on the HSOS dashboard.

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview three to five KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely (via phone). KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in 371 communities across the Greater Idleb area. Data was collected between 1-21 December 2022 from 1,362 KIs (11% female). Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalized across the population and region. Findings that are calculated based on a subset of the community are indicated by the following footnote ♦, with each subset specified in the endnotes.

The complete monthly HSOS dataset is available on the REACH Resource Centre.

Key Highlights

Winterisation needs increased amid fuel shortages in Greater Idleb. In the meantime, the rising price of medicines may exacerbate health needs in the region. Reports of households relying on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs have increased compared to the same period last year.

- Heating fuel among the top priority winterisation items for both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host community households. As the Greater Idleb region started to experience colder weather, winterisation became a top need for its inhabitants. Among winterisation items, heating fuel was the most commonly reported by KIs (in 92% of assessed communities), followed by winter clothes (74%). However, a series of confrontations that occurred between October and November in Afrin governorate disrupted fuel transportation and distribution in Greater Idleb, resulting in fuel shortages. The closure of Watad fuel-company in late October further limited fuel distribution.

- Access to healthcare remained unaffordable for many. KIs in 66% of assessed communities reported that households could not afford to pay for health services. In the same percentage of communities, the lack of medicines and medical equipment was also reported as a barrier to accessing healthcare. The affordability of healthcare, particularly the access to medicines, is set to increase following the Turkish decision to raise the euro-lira conversion rate for medications by 36.77%. Medicines were also the second most commonly reported priority healthcare needs in December. Price increases will likely further reduce access to medicines, therefore exacerbating health needs in the region.

- Data indicated higher dependence on humanitarian aid in the Greater Idleb region compared with the same period last year. The percentage of assessed communities in which KIs reported the presence of households relying on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs increased from 32% to 41% between December 2021 and 2022. Although indicative, data suggest that the increase was greater for host community households (from 16% of assessed communities to 25% between December 2021 and December 2022) than for IDP households, despite IDPs' reliance on humanitarian assistance being more commonly reported (35% of assessed communities in 2021 and 39% in 2022). Furthermore, the quantity of aid distributed was reportedly insufficient in the large majority of communities, as KIs noted that the assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need in 81% of them.

HSOS Dashboard

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

Feedback on improvements to this product can be done anonymously using the following link.
## Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance

### Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Need</th>
<th>IRST</th>
<th>SECOND</th>
<th>HIRD</th>
<th>OVERALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Need</th>
<th>IRST</th>
<th>SECOND</th>
<th>HIRD</th>
<th>OVERALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Most commonly reported first, second, and third and overall priority needs for residents (by % of assessed communities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Need</th>
<th>IRST</th>
<th>SECOND</th>
<th>HIRD</th>
<th>OVERALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterisation</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Most commonly reported first, second, and third and overall priority needs for IDPs (by % of assessed communities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Need</th>
<th>IRST</th>
<th>SECOND</th>
<th>HIRD</th>
<th>OVERALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterisation</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six</th>
<th>Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment</th>
<th>Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater Idleb area</td>
<td>SYP</td>
<td>SYP</td>
<td>SYP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies *</td>
<td>0% TRY 0% USD 54% TRY 46% SYP TRY 0% USD 0% SYP TRY 0% USD</td>
<td>0% TRY 0% USD 54% TRY 46% SYP TRY 0% USD 0% SYP TRY 0% USD</td>
<td>0% TRY 0% USD 54% TRY 46% SYP TRY 0% USD 0% SYP TRY 0% USD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihood related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residents</th>
<th>IDPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seasonality of production</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High operational costs</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of fodder</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of water for agriculture</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

90% and 96%

68 days

Number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of basic SMEB items

94% and 56%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the lack of employment opportunities as barriers to meeting basic needs

25% and 39%

Humanitarian assistance

Loans and remittances
Northwest Syria - Greater Idleb Area

December 2022

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

Living Conditions

In 93% of assessed communities at least 80% of the resident population reportedly owned their shelter.

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

In 33% of assessed communities at least 80% of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings.

In 14% of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents.

A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in 3% of assessed communities.

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

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

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

Commonly reported sources of food for households other than markets (by % of assessed communities):

1. Own production or farming: 62%
2. Relying on food stored previously: 35%
3. Assistance from local council or NGOs: 22%

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

1. Borrowing money to buy food: 84%
2. Relying on less preferred food / lower food quality: 81%
3. Buying food with money usually used for other things: 59%

High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 96% of assessed communities).

In 20% of these communities, KIs reported that the unavailability of certain food items was a challenge to accessing sufficient food.

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

1. Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible: 4%
2. Solid waste in the streets: 19%
3. Sewage system pollutes public areas: 8%
4. Stagnant water: 3%
5. Flooding in the streets: 2%

Reported presence of occupied shelters damage across communities (by % of assessed communities):

- Minor damage: 88%
- Major damage: 68%
- Severe damage: 40%
- Completely destroyed: 24%

Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 87% of assessed communities).
Lack of heating in shelters

The map on the left displays in red the assessed communities in which the lack of heating was reported as a shelter inadequacy in the 30 days prior to data collection. The map on the right shows the evolution of this indicator in a year-time, comparing December 2021 and December 2022. All assessed communities in Dana, Atareb, Daret Azza and Ehsem sub-districts reported lack of heating as a shelter inadequacy and recorded deterioration compared to the same period last year.

Note on the map
The map on the left displays in red the assessed communities in which the lack of heating was reported as a shelter inadequacy in the 30 days prior to data collection. The map on the right shows the evolution of this indicator in a year-time, comparing December 2021 and December 2022. All assessed communities in Dana, Atareb, Daret Azza and Ehsem sub-districts reported lack of heating as a shelter inadequacy and recorded deterioration compared to the same period last year.

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

December 2022

Northwest Syria - Greater Idleb Area

December 2022: lack of heating reported as inadequacy

Evolution of the reported indicator from December 2021 to December 2022

Is lack of heating reported as a shelter inadequacy?
Yes, reported as an inadequacy
No, not reported

Highway
Sub-district
Governorate
Countries

Dec 21
Dec 22

0 10 20 Kms

Türkije
Türkije
Türkije
Access to Basic Services

**Access to Electricity**
- 7-8 hrs per day
- was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 29% of assessed communities)

**Solar panels**
- 67%
- was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 63% of assessed communities)

**Access to Water**
- 52%
- % of assessed communities where KIs reported that not all households had access to water

**Access to Sanitation**
- 43%
- % of assessed communities where KIs reported that no sewage system was present

**Access to Markets**
- 13%
- % of assessed communities in which households reportedly were unable to access markets in the assessed location

**Access to Health Services**
- 43%
- % of assessed communities where KIs reported that the households did not have access to health services in the assessed location

**Access to Education Services**
- 19%
- % of communities in which half or less of the school aged-children accessed school in the last 30 days for residents and IDPs

**Electricity Access**
- Most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households

**Water Access**
- 7 days
- 11%
- Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 335 communities connected to a water network)
- 52%
- % of assessed communities where KIs reported that not all households had access to sufficient water

**Sanitation Access**
- 50%
- Paid private waste collection
- 17%
- Waste burnt
- 16%
- Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

**Markets Access**
- 78%
- % of assessed communities where KIs reported that the lack of transportation to markets was a barrier to physically accessing food markets

**Health Services Access**
- 60%
- Treatment for chronic diseases
- 47%
- First aid or emergency care
- 47%
- Medicines and other commodities

**Education Services Access**
- 84%
- In person
- 4%
- Online
- 16%
- Not functioning

**Waste Disposal**
- 50%
- % of assessed communities where % reported waste removal services as a WASH priority need

**Sewage System Access**
- 13%
- % of communities in which half or less of the school aged-children accessed school in the last 30 days for residents and IDPs

**Not enough consumers to support markets in the assessed location**
- 78%
- % of assessed communities where KIs reported that the lack of access to internet, electricity and/or equipment was a barrier to accessing (online) education services

**Coping Strategies**
- 84%
- % of assessed communities where KIs reported that the lack of access to internet, electricity and/or equipment was a barrier to accessing (online) education services
Northwest Syria - Greater Idleb Area

December 2022

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

Reported reliance on humanitarian assistance

Note on the map
This map shows in green the assessed communities in which KIs reported that some households could access humanitarian aid in the 30 days prior to data collection. A grey buffer zone surrounds the communities in which KIs reported that some households commonly relied on cash or in-kind humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs. It is worth noting that the KI methodology may not reflect the reality of aid distribution as KIs might not be aware of all aspects of humanitarian activities in their community.
Northwest Syria - Greater Idleb Area

COVID-19

% of assessed communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported by KIs

- Overcrowding reported as a shelter inadequacy: 48%
- Schools are overcrowded reported as a challenge for students who access education: 63%
- Health facilities are overcrowded reported as a barrier to healthcare access: 58%
- Lack of necessary protective equipment or supplies at health facilities reported as a barrier to healthcare access: 7%
- Washing hands less frequently reported as a coping strategy for a lack of water: 6%
- Shortage of health workers reported as a barrier to healthcare access: 9%
- Lack of medicines or medical equipment at the health facility reported as a barrier to healthcare access: 66%

Most commonly reported sectors affected by COVID-19 (by % of assessed communities)

- 2% Trading
- 2% Agriculture
- 2% Home based enterprises

Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of assessed communities)

- Adult hygiene items: 83%
- Household cleaning items: 50%
- Soap: 65%

Effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods sectors in the community (by % of assessed communities)

- 98% None of the available livelihood sectors were affected
- 2% At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected

Effects of COVID-19 on education services in the community

- 0% Education services were not always functioning in person because schools in the assessed location were closed by local authorities at least some days due to COVID-19
- 0% Education services were not always functioning in person because classes were reduced (number of days/grades) due to COVID-19
- 0% Access to markets was reportedly hindered because markets reduced opening hours or days because of COVID-19

Findings on the availability and market prices of COVID-items (including masks, gloves, sanitiser, bleach, etc.) can be found in the Cash Working Group Joint Market Monitoring Initiative.
Security and Protection

### Intersectoral findings on security

- **General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets** was reported in 3% of assessed communities.
- **General safety and security concerns at markets** was a reported barrier to market access in 3% of assessed communities.
- **Markets not opening because of security issues** was reported in 0% of assessed communities.
- **Threat from airstrikes** was reported as a protection risk in 67 communities.
- **Threat from shelling, snipers or gunfire** was reported as a protection risk in 71 communities.
- **Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances** was reported as a protection risk in 0 communities.
- **Fear from imminent conflict** was reported as a protection risk in 85 communities.
- **The inability to lock homes securely** was reported in 37% of assessed communities.
- **Lack of lighting around the shelter** was reported in 91% of assessed communities.
- **The security situation** was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in 13% of assessed communities.
- **General safety and security concerns at the health facility** was reported as a barrier to healthcare in 0% of assessed communities.

### Most commonly reported protection priority needs (by % of assessed communities)

1. Special assistance for vulnerable groups
2. Specialised child protection services
3. Psychosocial support

### Age Gender and Diversity

- **KIs in 41% of assessed communities** reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs.
- **KIs in 37% of assessed communities** reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs.
- **KIs in 12% of assessed communities** reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access.
- **KIs in 43% of assessed communities** reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**.
- **KIs in 8% of assessed communities** reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**.

### Extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs

- **Children below the age of 12 were reported as a group affected by child labour in 13% of assessed communities.**
- **Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances** was reported as a protection risk in 6% of assessed communities.
- **Hazardous child labour** was reported as a protection risk in 6% of assessed communities.

### Intersectoral findings on security

- **Lack or loss of civil documentation** as a protection risk was reported in 63% of assessed communities.
- **Some people did not have the necessary personal documents as a barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance**.
- **Lack of personal documentation required to enrol in school** as a barrier to education access was reported in 12% of assessed communities.
- **Fear from imminent conflict** was reported as a protection risk in 85% of assessed communities.
- **Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances** was reported as a protection risk in 0% of assessed communities.
- **The inability to lock homes securely** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in 37% of assessed communities.
- **Lack of lighting around the shelter** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in 91% of assessed communities.
- **The security situation** was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in 13% of assessed communities.
- **General safety and security concerns at the health facility** was reported as a barrier to healthcare in 0% of assessed communities.

### Extreme coping strategies

- **Early marriage** was reported in 38% of assessed communities.
- **Forced marriage** was reported in 4% of assessed communities.
- **High risk work** was reported in 1% of assessed communities.
- **Sending family members to beg** was reported in 1% of assessed communities.
- **Sending children (15 or below) to work** was reported in 79% of assessed communities.

### Extreme coping strategies

- **Sending children (15 or below) to work** was reported in 79% of assessed communities.
- **Sending family members to beg** was reported in 40% of assessed communities.
Endnotes

1. The greater Idleb area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo western countryside, and parts of Hama northwestern countryside controlled by armed opposition groups (AOGs).

2. KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. The ranking shows the sectors most frequently chosen as either first, second or third highest priority. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a sector was selected across all three categories (first, second or third highest priority).

3. KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

4. KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

5. KIs were asked about the situation at the time of data collection, instead of the last 30 days.

6. KIs had the option to select the price in United Stated Dollars (USD), Turkish Lira (TRY), or Syrian Pounds (SYP). When the price was not reported in SYP, the Idlib Governorate Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) December 2022, 1 USD = 5,800 SYP; 1TRY= 312 SYP.

7. According to the Idlib Governorate JMMI December 2022, 1 USD = 5,800 SYP.

8. Findings for residents and IDPs were merged. The merge was calculated as follows: (option was selected for either residents or IDPs) / (communities reporting challenges/barriers/coping strategies for either residents or IDPs).

9. According to the Idlib Governorate JMMI December 2022, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 902,380 SYP.

10. Minor damage (cracks in walls, leaking roof, need of new doors and window repairs, etc.); Major damage (buildings with extensive damage to window frames and doors, but no structural damage to columns, slabs, or loadbearing walls); Severe damage (buildings with significant structural damage to column slabs, or loadbearing walls, cracking, steel elements and deformations visible in concrete; the building would require extensive repairs); Completely destroyed (buildings with structural damage so significant that rehabilitation is not possible).

11. KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.

12. Adult hygiene items include: shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Household cleaning items include: washing powder, liquid, and dish detergent.

Sources


About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms.

REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org.