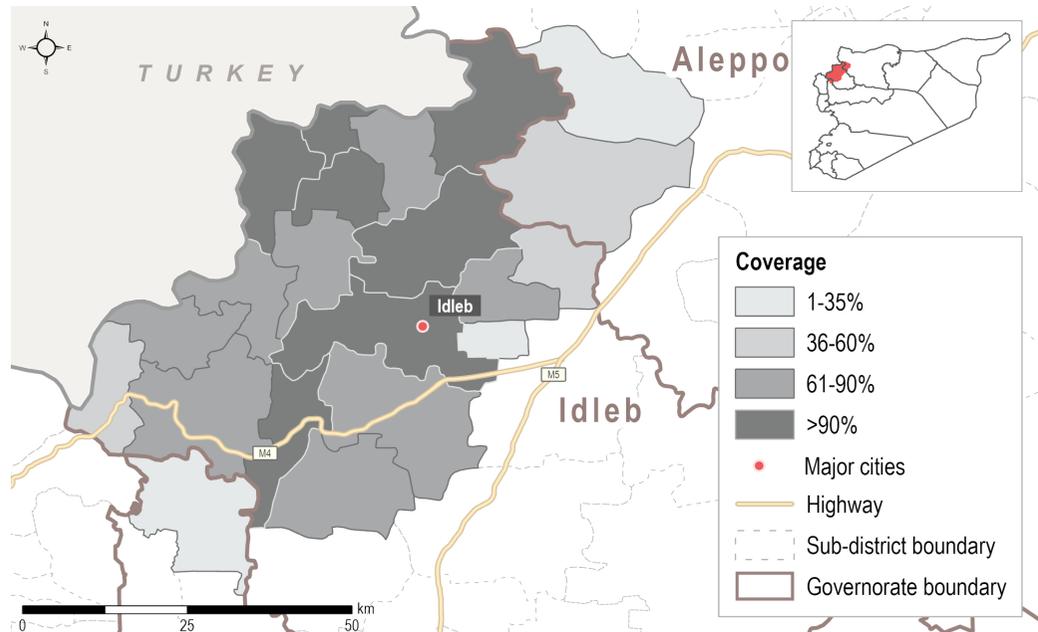


### Introduction and Methodology

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 six KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely (via phone). KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **371 communities** across the greater Idleb area.<sup>1</sup> **Data was collected between 2-20 October 2022 from 1,345 KIs** (10% 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

**Persistent economic challenges continued to limit households' capacity to meet their basic needs in Greater Idleb. The cholera outbreak has widely reached the region, while access and availability of health services remained limited. At the beginning of this new school year, learning conditions were disrupted by the lack of teachers and overcrowded classrooms.**

- Economic hardship continued to affect households' ability to meet their basic needs in Greater Idleb.** Insufficient income was the most commonly reported barrier to meeting basic needs, reported by KIs in 94% of assessed communities. KIs in 88% of assessed communities reported essential food items were unaffordable. To cope with insufficient income, KIs reported that a proportion of households borrowed money from family or friends in 98% of assessed communities and sent their children (below 15) to work in 92% of communities. It is worth noting that economic hardship is also a push factor for displacement. October recorded the highest numbers of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) arrivals in Greater Idleb since the start of 2022, with a total number of 20,125 new IDPs. More than half of them (11,524) were internally displaced within Greater Idleb and reported the worsening economic conditions as the main reason for displacement.<sup>a</sup>

- Cholera outbreak widely spread across Greater Idleb.** The cholera outbreak spread from the surroundings of the Euphrates River to Idleb throughout October. As of 29 October, Idleb was among the top five most affected governorates with an accelerated spread of the epidemic.<sup>b</sup> As cholera is most commonly spread through contaminated water,<sup>c</sup> it is worth noting that the main source of drinking water in Greater Idleb was paid water trucking, reported by KIs in 45% of assessed communities. This source is commonly considered unsafe as trucks are often filled with water pumped from lakes or rivers without being treated, therefore easing the spread of water borne diseases.<sup>d</sup> KIs also reported that no health facilities were present or functioning in 18% of the assessed communities. The low availability of effective health services prompted individuals to travel to other communities to seek medical attention. However, movements were hampered by the lack or high costs of transportation (reported as a barrier to access health services in 76% and 77% of assessed communities respectively).

- Lack of teachers further burdened the education sector.** In 15% of the assessed communities, KIs reported that education services were not functioning at all. KIs in about 11% of assessed communities where education services were not functioning in person indicated that the lack of teachers was partly responsible for this situation. This indicator increased compared with June, when the lack of teachers was given as a reason for schools not functioning in person in only 2% of assessed communities. The lack of funding has also been increasingly recorded as a reason of the non-provision of education services, reported in 16% of communities in October, compared to 4% in June. About 5,000 teachers are currently working voluntarily in Idleb governorate due to lack of funding<sup>e</sup>. This resulted in worsened learning conditions, with increased reports of overcrowded classrooms and lack of teachers (62% of assessed communities).

### HSOS Dashboard

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



## Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for residents (by % of assessed communities) <sup>2,3</sup>

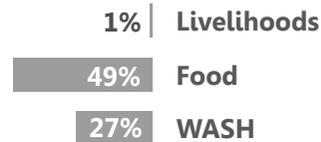
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Food	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	69%
2	Livelihoods	Food	NFIs <sup>▲</sup>	Food	63%
3	Healthcare	NFIs	WASH <sup>▼</sup>	WASH	39%

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



Yes: **84%**  
No: **16%**

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



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs (by % of assessed communities) <sup>2,3</sup>

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Food	WASH	Livelihoods	Food	70%
2	Shelter	Livelihoods	NFIs	Livelihoods	61%
3	Livelihoods	Food	WASH	Shelter	46%

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



Yes: **85%**  
No: **15%**

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



Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) <sup>4,♦</sup>

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need **71%** **1**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **53%** **2**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **45%** **3**

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

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

Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) <sup>4,♦</sup>

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need **71%** **1**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **53%** **2**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **46%** **3**

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- No humanitarian assistance was available **91%**
- Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible **9%**



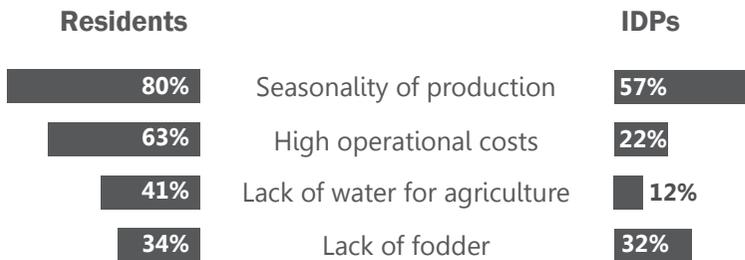
## Economic Conditions

Region	Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six <sup>5,6</sup>			Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bedroom apartment <sup>5,6</sup>			Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour <sup>5,7,8</sup>		
	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
Greater Idlib area	100 TRY <sup>▲</sup>			430 TRY			35 TRY		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies <sup>*</sup>	0%	100%	0%	0%	57%	43%	0%	100%	0%

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



Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) <sup>4</sup>



### 89% and 94%

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

### 82 days

Number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of basic SMEB<sup>▲</sup> items <sup>5,9</sup>

### 94% and 53%

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

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

- KIs in **69%** of assessed communities cited that **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people
- KIs in **37%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge
- KIs in **85%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge
- KIs in **43%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge
- KIs in **88%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge <sup>8</sup>
- KIs in **62%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge

% of assessed communities where common livelihood sources from agriculture were reported <sup>4</sup>

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	55%	16%
Cash crop production	64%	8%
Livestock products	65%	58%
Sale of livestock	15%	18%



## Living Conditions

In **94%** 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 **32%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **16%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents



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



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **6%** of assessed communities

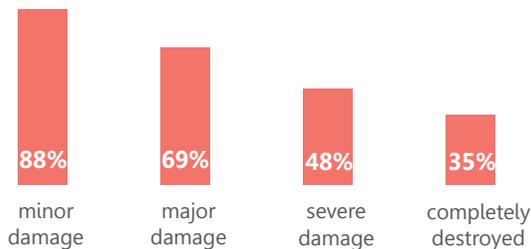


Problems with the drinking water were reported in **47%** of assessed communities



**Water being calcareous** was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 47% of assessed communities)

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages were reported (by % of assessed communities) <sup>5,10</sup>



**Shelter and repair materials being too expensive** was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 86% of assessed communities) <sup>4</sup>

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

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible

8%

Solid waste in the streets

19%

Sewage system pollutes public areas

5%

Stagnant water

6%

Flooding in the streets

2%



**97%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **house-holds experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food** <sup>8</sup>



In **20%** of these communities, KIs reported that the **unavailability of certain food items** was a challenge to accessing sufficient food <sup>8</sup>

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

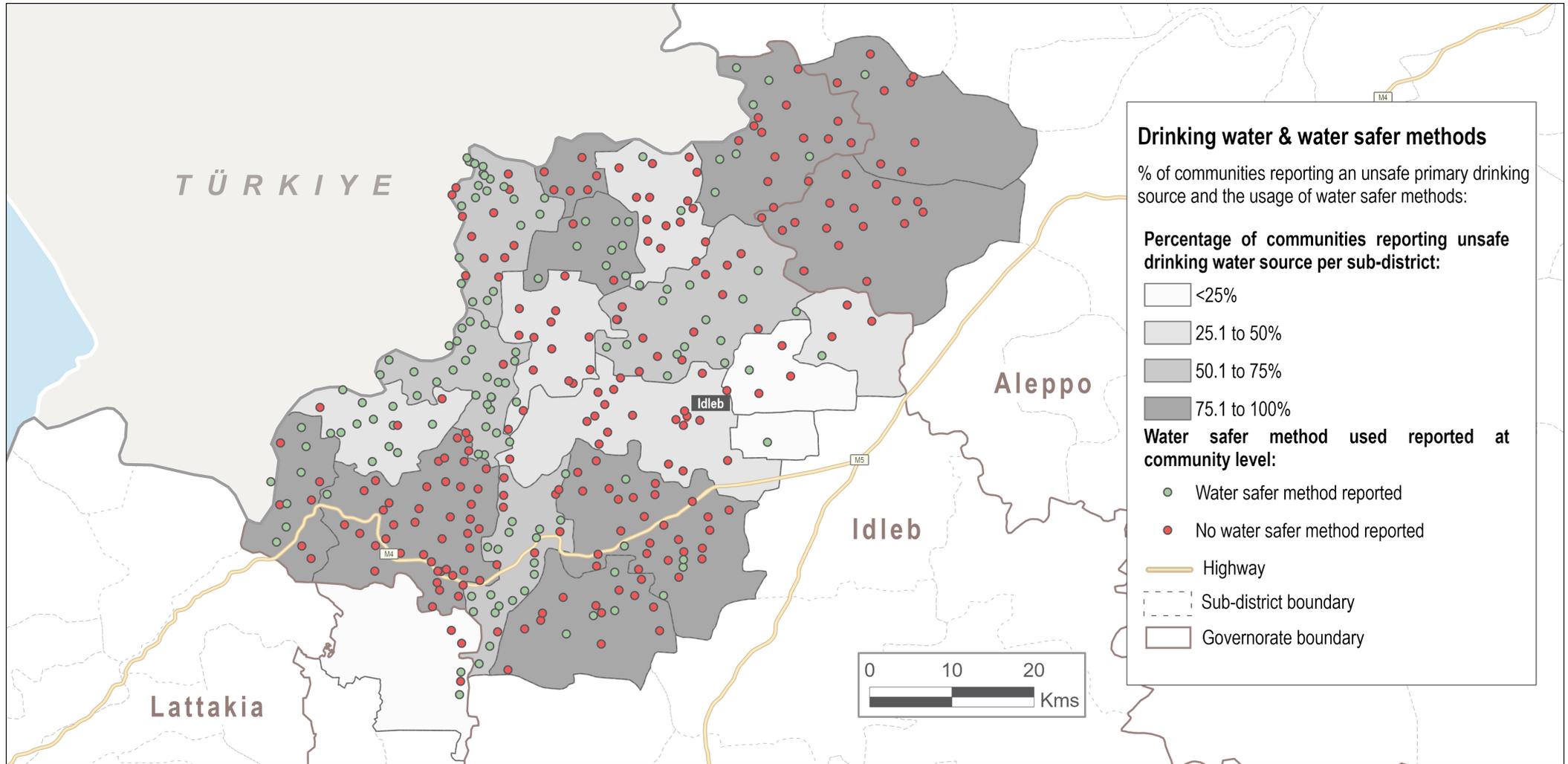
- 1 Borrowing money to buy food **81%**
- 2 Relying on less preferred food / lower food quality **80%**
- 3 Buying food with money usually used for other things **65%**



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

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

- 1 Own production or farming **71%**
- 2 Relying on food stored previously **26%**
- 3 Food gifts from friends and family **22%**



## Consumption of potentially unsafe drinking water

### Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of KIs reporting the consumption of potentially unsafe drinking water sources by sub-district. Sources considered as potentially unsafe are private water trucking and springs. Additionally, the map displays in green the communities in which KIs reported that households used methods to make water safer to drink, and in red the communities where no method to make water safer was reported.



### 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 31% of assessed communities)

#### Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 66% of assessed communities)

**39%**

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



#### Access to Water

**50%**

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



7 days	10%
5-6 days	11%
3-4 days	16%
1-2 days	13%
0 days	50%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 335 communities connected to a water network) ♦

#### Private water trucking

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

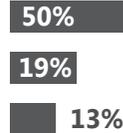


#### Access to Sanitation

**43%**

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

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



50%	Paid private waste collection
19%	Waste burnt
13%	Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

**43%**

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



#### Access to Markets

**12%**

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

Not enough consumers to support markets in the assessed location

was the most commonly reported reason for why markets were not functioning (reported by KIs in 91% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

**80%**

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

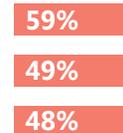


#### Access to Health Services

**40%**

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

Most commonly reported health priority needs (by % of assessed communities) <sup>8</sup>



59%	Treatment for chronic diseases
49%	Paediatric consultations
48%	Medicines and other commodities

#### Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

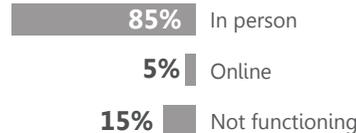
was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 84% of assessed communities)



#### Access to Education Services

**19%**  
**31%**

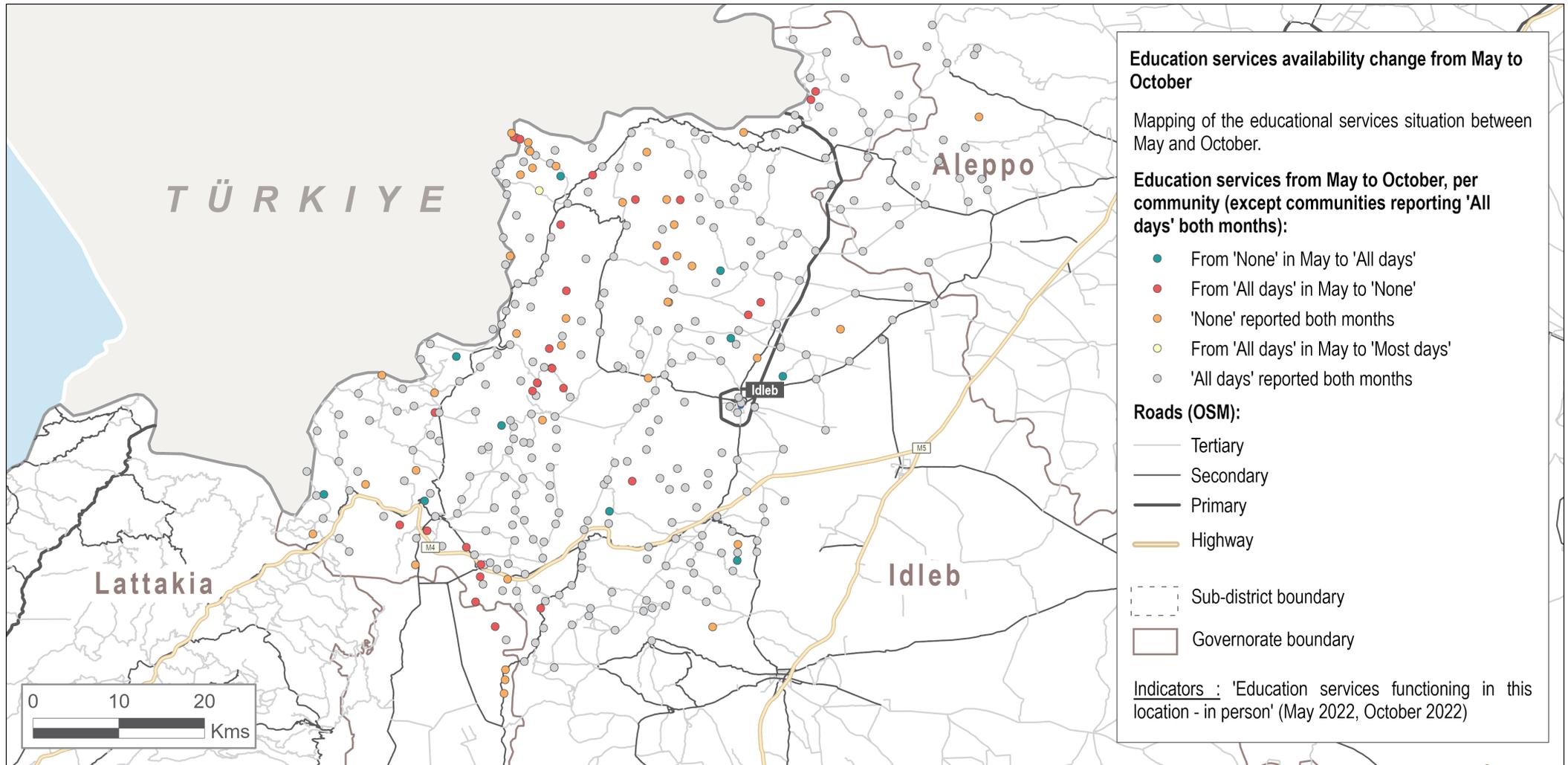
% of communities in which half or less of the school aged-children accessed school in the last 30 days for residents and IDPs



% of assessed communities where KIs reported on the functioning of education services in the assessed location <sup>4</sup>

**5%**

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



## Evolution of education services' availability (May to October)

### Note on the map

This map shows the evolution of the number of days education services were available between May and October 2022. The number of communities in which KIs reported a negative change (from all days to none and from all days to most days) is higher than communities where KIs reported a positive change (from none to all days). No KIs reported an evolution from most days to none and from none to most days.



## COVID-19

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

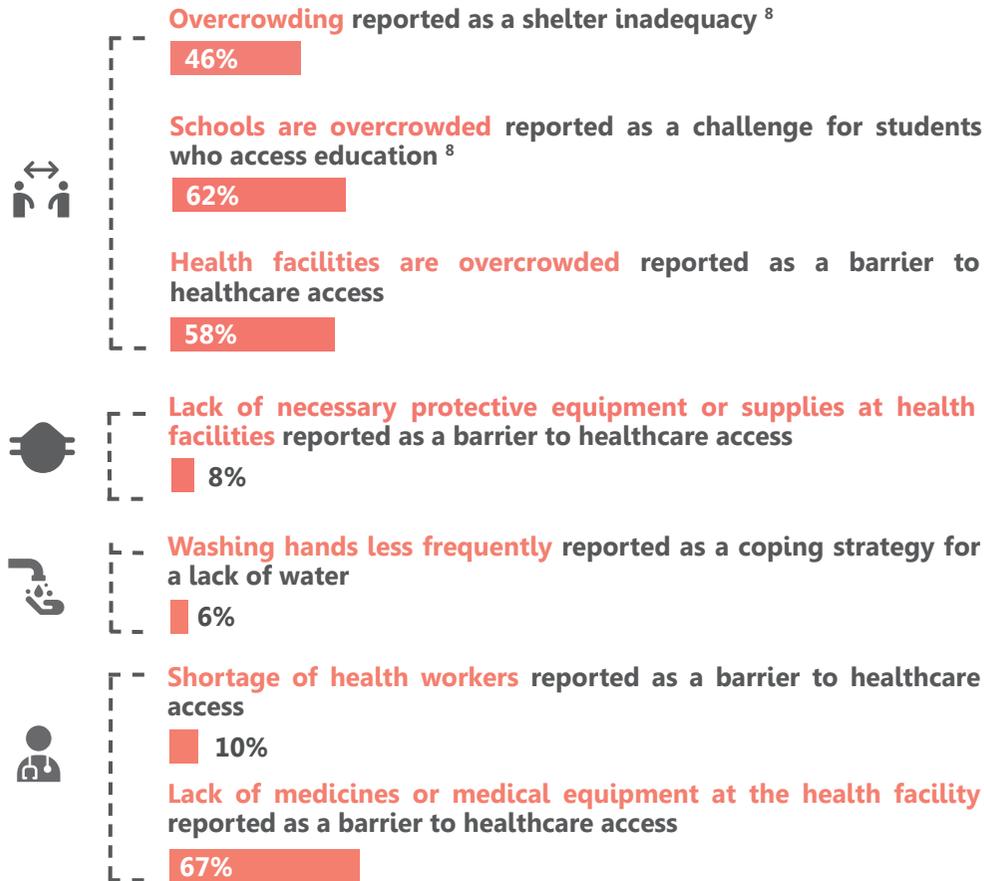


None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 93%  
At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 7%

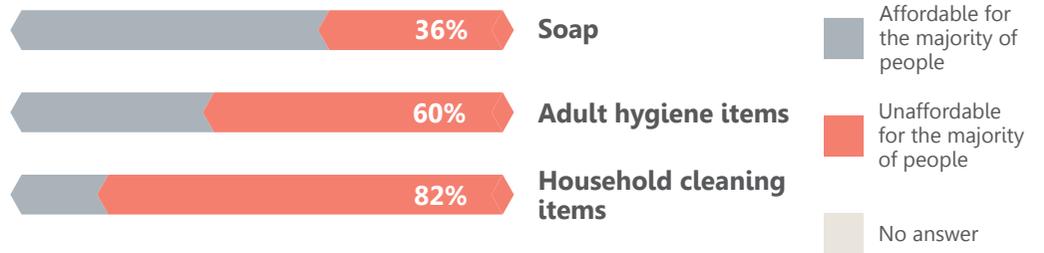
Most commonly reported sectors affected by COVID-19 (by % of assessed communities)

- 5% Trading
- 2% Manufacturing
- 2% Agriculture

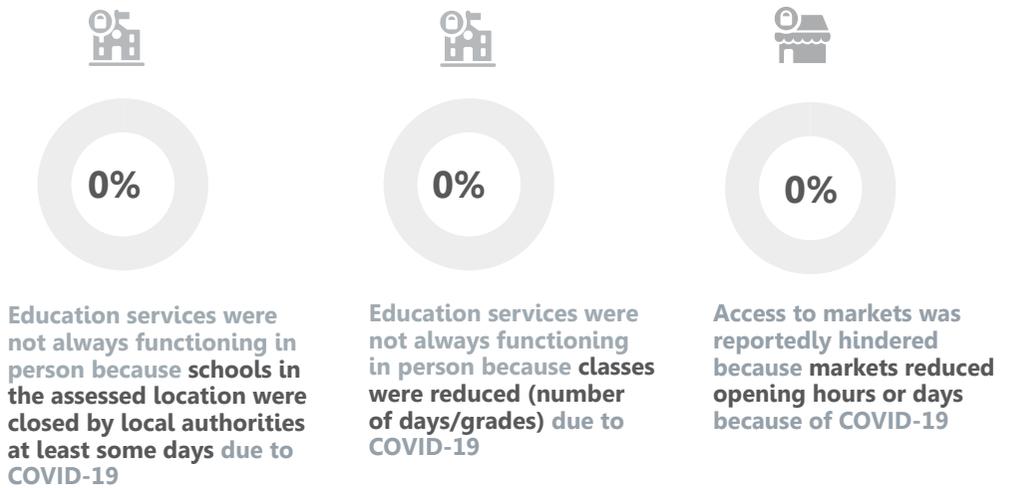
% of assessed communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported by KIs



Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of assessed communities)<sup>12</sup>



% of assessed communities where COVID-19 related barriers to access services were reported





## Security and Protection

### Intersectoral findings on security



**General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets** was a reported barrier to market access in **1%** of assessed communities

**General safety and security concerns at markets** was a reported barrier to market access in **1%** of assessed communities

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



**Threat from airstrikes** was reported as a protection risk in **64** communities <sup>8</sup>

**Threat from shelling, snipers or gunfire** was reported as a protection risk in **64** communities <sup>8</sup>

**Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances** was reported as a protection risk in **5** communities <sup>8</sup>

**Fear from imminent conflict** was reported as a protection risk in **81** communities <sup>8</sup>



**The inability to lock homes securely** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **38%** of assessed communities <sup>8</sup>

**Lack of lighting around the shelter** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **89%** of assessed communities <sup>8</sup>

**The security situation** was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **13%** of assessed communities



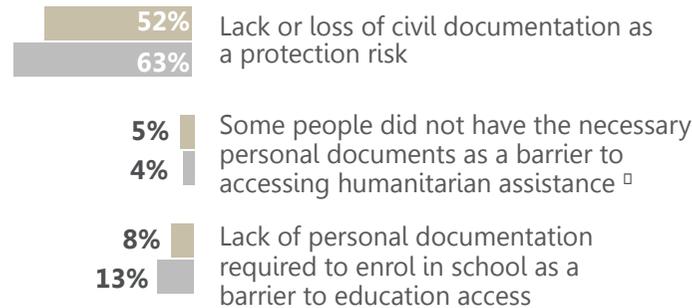
**General safety and security concerns at the health facility** was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **1%** of assessed communities

### Most commonly reported protection priority needs (by % of assessed communities) <sup>3, 8</sup>

- 1 79%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 2 70%** Specialised child protection services
- 3 35%** Psychosocial support



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



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

#### Residents

- 36%** Early marriage
- 0%** Forced marriage
- 6%** High risk work
- 2%** Sending family members to beg
- 87%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

#### IDPs

- 41%**
- 0%**
- 10%**
- 2%**
- 91%**

### Age, Gender, and Diversity

KIs in **40%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs <sup>8</sup>

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

KIs in **10%** 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**

**Children below the age of 12** were reported as a group affected by child labour in **18%** of assessed communities <sup>8</sup>

**Hazardous child labour** was reported as a protection risk in **9%** of assessed communities <sup>8</sup>

### Endnotes

1. The greater Idleb area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo western countryside, and parts of Hama northwestern countryside controlled by armed opposition groups (AOGs).
2. KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. The ranking shows the sectors most frequently chosen as either first, second or third highest priority. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a sector was selected across all three categories (first, second or third highest priority).
3. KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
4. KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
5. KIs were asked about the situation at the time of data collection, instead of the last 30 days.
6. KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD), Turkish Lira (TRY), or Syrian Pounds (SYP). When the price was not reported in SYP, the Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) October 2022, 1 USD = 4,850 SYP; 1TRY= 262 SYP.
7. According to the Idleb Governorate JMMI October 2022, 1 USD = 4,850 SYP.
8. Findings for residents and IDPs were merged. The merge was calculated as follows: (option was selected for either residents or IDPs) / (communities reporting challenges/barriers/coping strategies for either residents or IDPs).
9. According to the Idleb Governorate JMMI October 2022, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 749,411 SYP.
10. Minor damage (cracks in walls, leaking roof, need of new doors and window repairs, etc.); Major damage (buildings with extensive damage to window frames and doors, but no structural damage to columns, slabs, or loadbearing walls); Severe damage (buildings with significant structural damage to column slabs, or loadbearing walls, cracking, steel elements and deformations visible in concrete; the building would require extensive repairs); Completely destroyed (buildings with structural damage so significant that rehabilitation is not possible).
11. KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.
12. Adult hygiene items include: shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Household cleaning items include: washing powder, liquid, and dish detergent.

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

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>
<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>		<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>	
Residents	366	Currency used for paying water	345
IDPs	358	Currency used for paying rent	269
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	297	Currency in which wages are paid (merge)	325
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	57	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	360
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	294	Days when water is available from network	335
Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	53	Barriers to markets functioning	43

### Sources

- a. Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme. (October 2022). Mobility and Needs Monitoring (MNM)
- b. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (7 November 2022). Whole of Syria Cholera Outbreak Situation Report No.6. Retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/>
- c. Claeson, M., Waldam, R. (November 2022). Cholera. Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved from: <https://www.britannica.com>
- d. REACH. (September 2022). Briefing Note: Northeast Syria Cholera Outbreak. Retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/>
- e. The New Arab. (18 October 2022). Syria teachers begin strike in Idlib for monthly wages. Retrieved from: <https://www.syriahr.com>

### 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](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org).