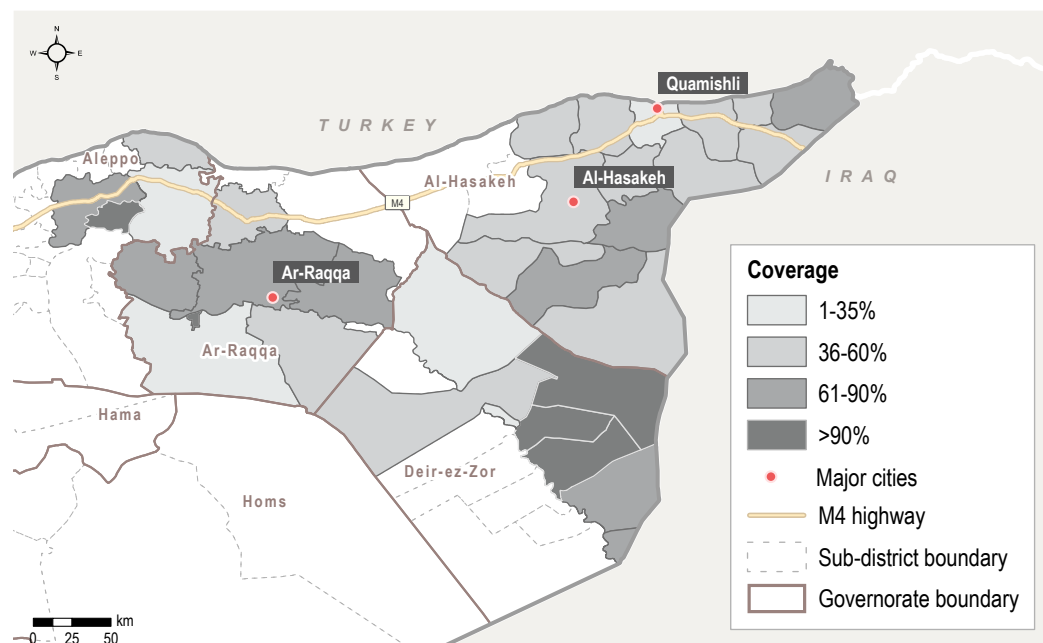


Introduction and Methodology

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 security and protection situation in Northeast Syria (NES). **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 **1,258 communities** across Aleppo¹ (225 communities), Ar-Raqqa (275 communities), Al-Hasakeh (673 communities), and Deir-ez-Zor (85 communities). **Data was collected between 5-19 September 2021 from 3,898 KIs** (19% 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

In September, prices of key items increased to reach new levels, making it increasingly difficult for households to afford basic goods and services, including food. As wages remained stable over the month, labourers needed to work much longer to be able to meet their basic needs adding financial strain on already stressed households. Additionally, rapidly increasing COVID-19 cases raised concerns for the health of households across NES as health services struggled to cope.

- **September recorded the highest Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) value in United States dollar (USD) in the last two years, according to the REACH Market Monitoring Exercise.** The September SMEB reached 402,213 Syrian Pounds (SYP), representing a 20% increase since August. The SMEB increase can be **largely attributed to soaring food prices** as the SMEB food component increased by 23% in September compared to the previous month. While the SYP lost value against the USD (-6%) in September, currency depreciation likely does not fully explain the trend observed.^a Additionally, except for sugar, the availability of most food items did not decrease significantly. Instead, a rise in the cost of transportation fuel as well as the decision by local authorities to increase the price of certain food items likely contributed to the hike in food prices.^{b,c} Notably, **the price of bread spiked in Hasakeh governorate, marking an increase of 323% compared to August.**^a According to HSOS data, households in nearly 80% of assessed communities struggled to afford key food items. As a result, half of the households in NES reported having inadequate food consumption according to WFP.^d

- **Despite the surge in prices, reported daily wages remained stable, indicating a reduction in the purchasing power of vulnerable households in NES.** In fact, a family of six would have needed the equivalent of 80 days of daily waged labour to cover the cost of the September SMEB, compared to 67 days in August. Unaffordability of goods and services was cited by KIs across communities in NES, with higher proportions reported in Deir-Ez-Zor governorate. For example, the unaffordability of health services and water trucking was reported in 85% and 45% of communities, respectively. Regularity in receiving income was reported as a livelihood need in 76% of communities.

- **COVID-19 cases continued to rise in September as households experienced difficulties in accessing health services.** Over 28,000 COVID-19 cases were reported across NES, including 7,462 newly registered cases in September, representing the highest monthly caseload since the start of the pandemic. Local authorities announced a series of measures in an attempt to prevent additional spread of the virus, including a lockdown in late September.^d The steep increase in cases is concerning as healthcare was not accessible to all households due to the high cost of services and transportation to the services. Moreover, health facilities accessed by households in 30% of assessed communities were reportedly overcrowded.

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.



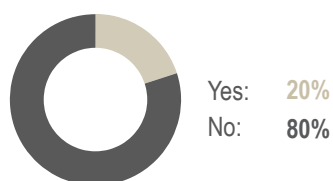
Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for residents (by % of assessed communities) ^{2,3}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	WASH ▲	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	78%
2	Healthcare	WASH	Infrastructure	WASH	65%
3	Livelihoods	Healthcare	Healthcare	Healthcare	61%

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



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

1% | Livelihoods
1% | WASH
1% | Healthcare

Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) ^{4,♦}

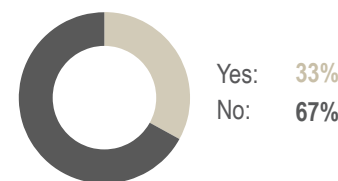
Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance		Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	69% 1	95% No humanitarian assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	55% 2	2% Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	50% 3	2% Not aware if assistance was available



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs (by % of assessed communities) ^{2,3}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	84%
2	Food	Healthcare	Healthcare	Healthcare	60%
3	WASH	WASH	Food	Food	53%

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



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

3% | Livelihoods
2% | Healthcare
27% | Food

Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities) ^{4,♦}

Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance		Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	70% 1	98% No humanitarian assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	56% 2	1% Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	48% 3	0% Not aware if assistance was available



Economic Conditions

Region	Estimated median monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{5,6}	Estimated median monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment ^{5,6}	Estimated median daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}
Northeast Syria	20,000 SYP	35,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Aleppo	10,000 SYP	25,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Al-Hasakeh	30,000 SYP	50,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Ar-Raqqa	10,000 SYP	35,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Deir-ez-Zor	25,000 SYP	40,000 SYP	5,000 SYP

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

Residents		IDPs
66%	High operational costs	26%
64%	Seasonality of production	36%
56%	Lack of fodder	25%
55%	Lack of resources for agriculture	23%

% of assessed communities where common livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ⁴

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	46%	27%
Cash crop production	55%	3%
Livestock products	67%	32%
Sale of livestock	62%	26%

78% and 92%

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

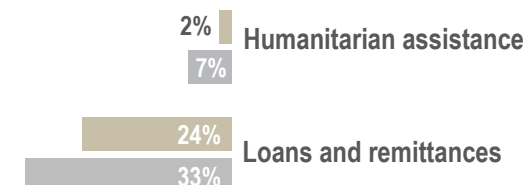
80 days

Number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of basic SMEB[▲] items ^{5,9}

92% and 70%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the insufficient income of households and lack of employment opportunities that match people's skills as barriers to meeting basic needs ⁸

% 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 ⁴



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



KIs in 24% of assessed communities cited that **rent prices** were unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in 50% of assessed communities cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



KIs in 69% of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



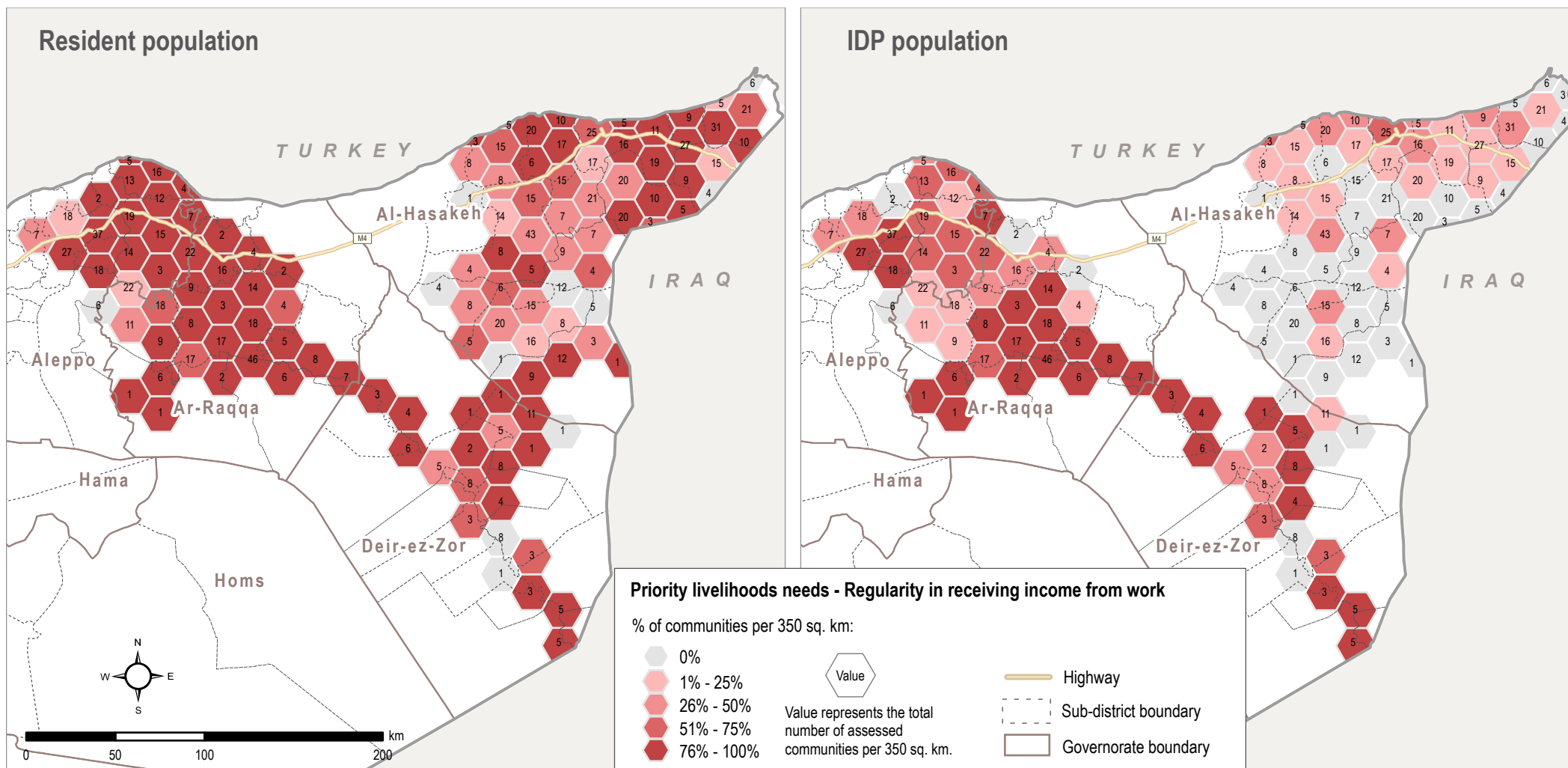
KIs in 45% of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



KIs in 79% of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge ⁸



KIs in 85% of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge



Regularity in receiving income from work as a livelihood priority need

Note on the map

These maps show the percentage of communities indicating receiving income from work as a livelihood priority need. In Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates, KIs reported this priority need for both residents and IDPs in more than 80% of the assessed communities.



Living Conditions

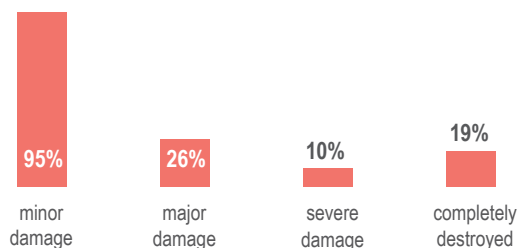
In **91%** of assessed communities reportedly at least **80%** of the resident population **owned their shelter**

In **80%** of assessed communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **11%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **10%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages were reported (by % of assessed communities) ^{5,10}



Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 95% of assessed communities) ⁴



A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **23%** of assessed communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **13%** of assessed communities



Problems with the drinking water were reported in **42%** of assessed communities



Water tasting bad was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 28% of assessed communities)

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

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible



Solid waste in the streets



Sewage system pollutes public areas



Stagnant water



Flooding in the streets



98% % of assessed communities where KIs reported that **households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food** ⁸



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

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

- 1 Borrowing money to buy food **79%**
- 2 Relying on less preferred food / lower food quality **71%**
- 3 Buying food with money usually used for other things **68%**



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 95% of assessed communities) ^{4,11}

Commonly reported **sources of food** for households other than markets (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

- 1 Own production or farming **43%**
- 2 Relying on food stored previously **32%**
- 3 Food gifts from friends and family **17%**



Access to Basic Services



Access to Electricity

5-6 hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 30% of assessed communities)

Main network

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 71% of assessed communities)

67%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **local authorities rationing electricity** as a barrier for electricity access



Access to Water

73%

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



7 days
5-6 days
3-4 days
1-2 days
0 days

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 763 communities connected to a water network)

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 37% of assessed communities)

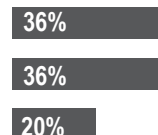


Access to Sanitation

79%

% 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)



Waste burnt

Free public waste collection

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

26%

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



Access to Markets

38%

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

People lack financial means to open shop/market

was the most commonly reported **reason for why markets were not functioning** (reported by KIs in 74% of assessed communities where households were unable to access markets in their own location)

84%

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

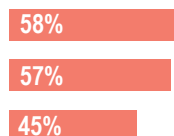


Access to Health Services

73%

% 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) ⁸



Medicines and other commodities

Treatment for chronic diseases

Surgical services

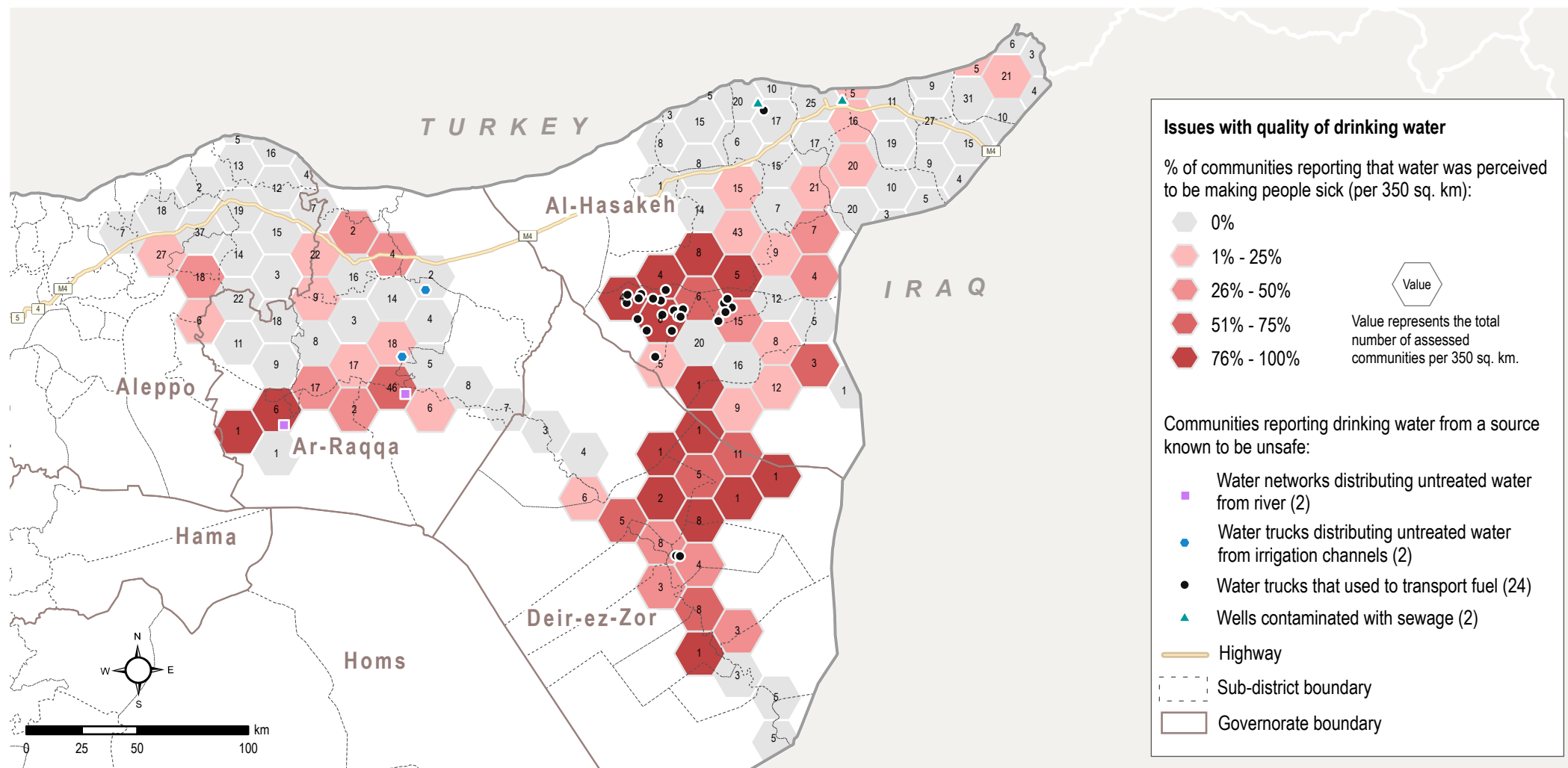
Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 92% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

Due to summer holidays, no information on education was collected. Information on access to education services will be displayed again in October.



Drinking water perceived to be making people sick and unsafe sources of drinking water

Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of communities indicating that water was perceived to be making people sick, and the communities where drinking water was reportedly taken from a source known to be unsafe as a coping strategy to lack of sufficient water. In Areesheh Sub-district, 84% of the assessed communities reportedly resorted to this coping strategy. In particular, drinking water was reportedly transported by trucks that used to transport fuel. All assessed communities in Areesheh Sub-district indicated that water was perceived to be making people sick.



COVID-19

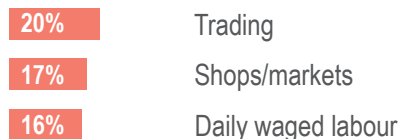
Effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods sectors in the community (by % of assessed communities)



None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 73%

At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 27%

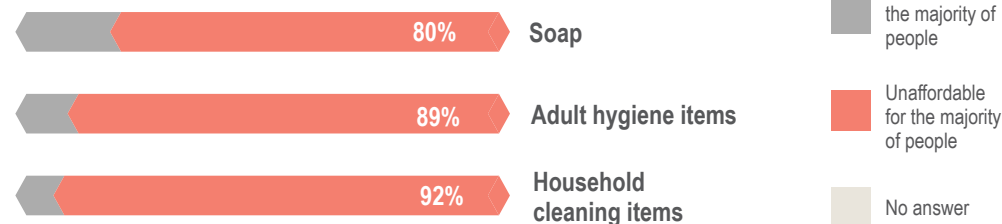
Most commonly reported sectors affected by COVID-19 (by % of assessed communities)



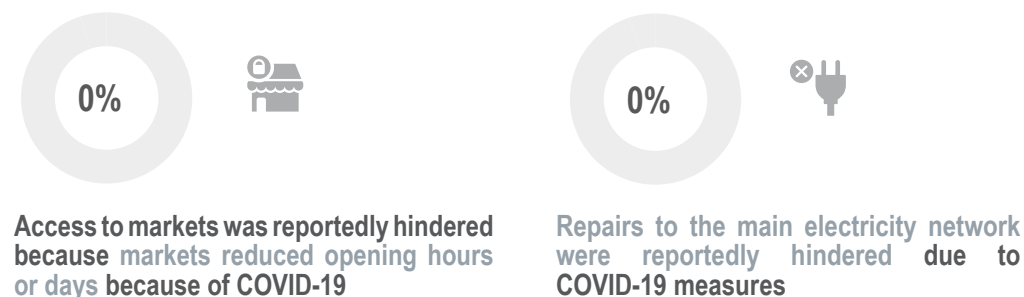
% of assessed communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported by KIs

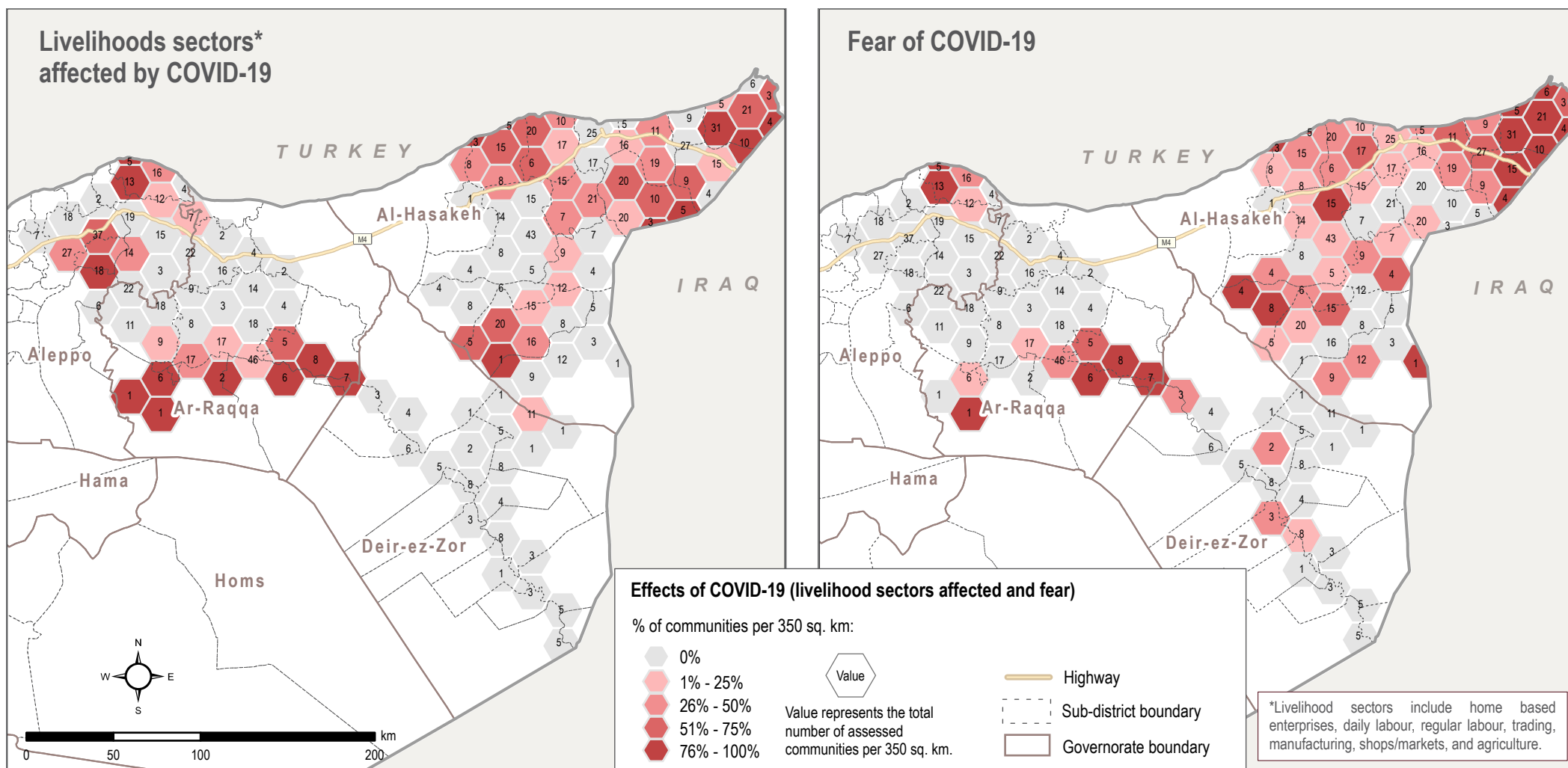


Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of assessed communities)¹²



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





COVID-19 Affecting Livelihoods and Representing a Concern for the Population

Note on the map

These maps show the percentage of assessed communities where at least one of the available livelihood sectors was reportedly affected by COVID-19, and where fear of COVID-19 was reported as a protection concern for the resident population and/or the IDP population. In Abu Qalqal, Sabka, Karama, Al-Thawrah and Mansura Sub-districts, all assessed communities reportedly experienced the effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods.



Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in **41** communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **6** communities

Movement restrictions was reported as a protection risk in **31** communities ⁸



Tribal disputes were reported as a protection risk in **47** communities ⁸

Threat from shelling was reported as a protection risk in **7** communities ⁸

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **78** communities ⁸



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **36%** of assessed communities ⁸

Lack of privacy inside the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **55%** of assessed communities ⁸

Lack of lighting around the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **82%** of assessed communities ⁸

The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **2%** of assessed communities



Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **16** communities

Most commonly reported protection priority needs

(by % of assessed communities) ^{3,8}

- 81%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 45%** Specialised child protection services
- 31%** Psychosocial support



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

- 21%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 22%** Lack of necessary personal documents to receive humanitarian assistance*
- 6%**
- 5%**

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

Residents

- 20%** Early marriage
- 2%** Forced marriage
- 3%** High risk work
- 0%** Sending family members to beg
- 51%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

IDPs

- 24%**
- 4%**
- 4%**
- 1%**
- 62%**

Age, Gender, and Diversity

KIs in **39%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs ⁸

KIs in **20%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs ⁸

KIs in **13%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **23%** 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 **10%** of assessed communities ⁸

Hazardous child labour was reported as a protection risk in **39** communities ⁸

Endnotes

1. Aleppo governorate includes Menbij and Ain Al Arab districts. The rest of Aleppo governorate is included under Northwest Syria.
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 currently, 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 NES **REACH Market Monitoring** exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the REACH Market Monitoring September 2021, 1 USD = 3,425 SYP; 1TRY= 410 SYP.
7. According to the NES **REACH Market Monitoring** September 2021, 1 USD = 3,425 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 NES **REACH Market Monitoring** September 2021, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 402,213 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 (accesss/barriers/ inadequacies/damages/coping strategies/risks etc.) for the relevant population group(s)

Indicator N.o of communities reporting on:	Subset	Indicator N.o of communities reporting on:	Subset
Residents	1,256	Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	432
IDPs	650	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	1,227
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	245	Days when water is available from network	763
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	999	Barriers to markets functioning	472
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	197		

- REACH Market Monitoring Exercise. (September 2021). Retrieved from <https://www.impact-repository.org>
- Kurdistan 24. (23 September 2021). Syrian Kurdish opposition party calls on Kurdish-led administration to stop raising fuel prices. Retrieved from <https://www.kurdistan24.net>
- Reported by REACH field team.
- World Food Programme (WFP). (September 2021). Syrian Arab Republic - mVAM Bulletin Issue no. 59. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/>

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.