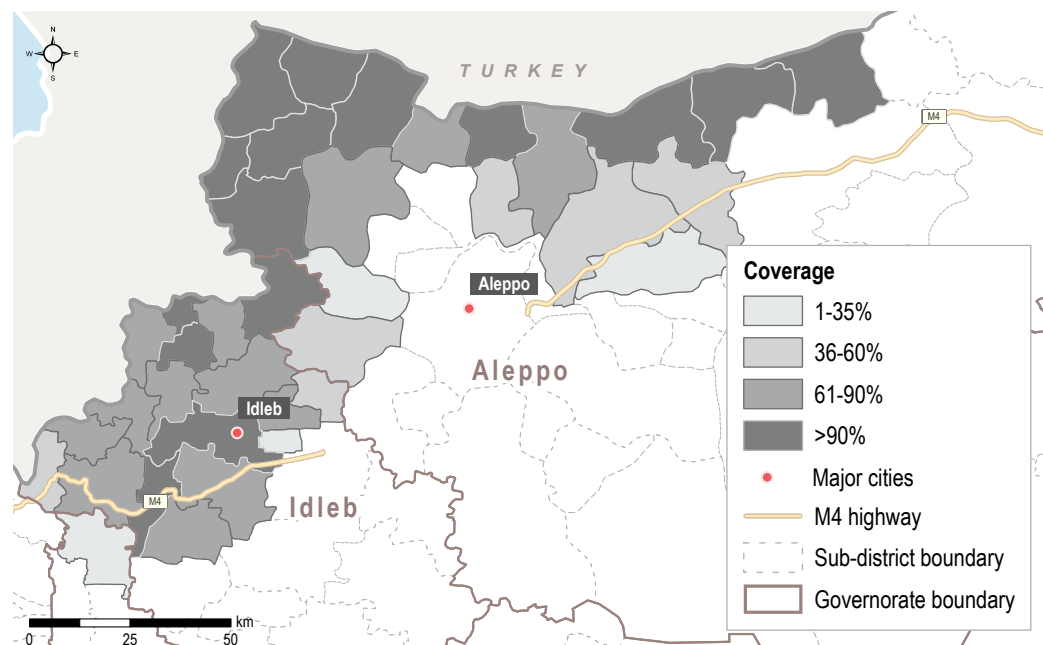


Introduction and Methodology

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 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 **892 communities** across the greater Idlib area¹ (376 communities) and northern Aleppo area (516 communities). **Data was collected between 1-15 July 2021 from 3,105 KIs** (17% 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

The humanitarian situation in Northwest Syria (NWS) worsened in July. Increased hostilities in Idlib governorate killed dozens and displaced over 30,000 people signifying the largest escalation since March 2020. Moreover, access to clean water remained challenging, while households struggled to reach health facilities due to a lack of affordable transportation.

- ♦ **The largest escalation of conflict since the March 2020 ceasefire deteriorated humanitarian conditions in Idlib governorate.** Fighting intensified in Southern Idlib, particularly in Jabal Al-Zawiya, Ariha and Al-Rouj Plain areas, killing at least 42 civilians, including 27 children, and injuring 89 more.^a The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) recorded more than twice as many arial, missile, and artillery attacks in July compared to May (108% increase).^b Arial bombing destroyed houses and damaged vital infrastructure including schools, medical facilities, and water pumping stations. The threat from airstrikes was reported by KIs as a protection risk in 123 communities across NWS. Conflict in July displaced an estimated 32,304 people to areas along the Turkish border and into Northern Aleppo.^a Shelter was the most commonly reported first priority need for Internally Displaced persons (IDPs), followed by food and livelihoods.

- ♦ **Households faced health risks as temperatures soared and safe water access remained challenging across the region.** High temperatures inside shelters were reported in 73% of communities. Yet, a proportion of households reportedly did not access sufficient water in 63% of communities, raising concerns about dehydration and heat-related illnesses. Water from the network was limitedly available with those communities connected to a network (72%) receiving water just up to 2 days per week in 90% of communities. As a result, households relied most commonly on water trucking to meet their water needs. However, the high price of water trucking hindered water access for households in over half of communities (the cost of water trucking increased by 40% compared to July last year).^c KIs in 40% of communities reported drinking water as a Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) priority need. But even if water was available to households, it was not always safe to drink. KIs in nearly 30% of communities reported problems with drinking water. According to the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN)^d, the number of registered cases of waterborne diseases (WBD) increased by nearly 30% in Idlib governorate, and by 65% in Northern Aleppo between January and July. The sub-districts with the highest caseload in July were Dana (Idlib) and A'zaz (Northern Aleppo) which also host the highest number of IDPs in the region. It is likely that the WBD cases relate to the poor conditions in camps and sites across NWS. Both Dana and A'zaz Sub-districts also scored highest on the cholera risk scale. Finding treatment for WBD was challenging as transportation to health centres was reportedly either too expensive (76%) or not available (70%) for households. Other barriers to accessing healthcare included a lack of medicines or medical equipment (47%) and overcrowding at the health facility (47%).

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.



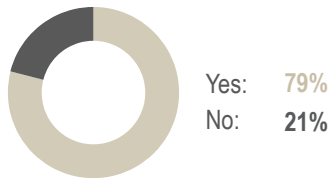
Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



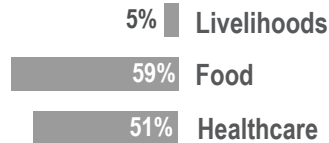
Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for residents (by % of communities) ^{2,3}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Healthcare	Summer items	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	69%
2	Livelihoods	Food	Summer items [▼]	Food	45%
3	Food	NFIs [▲]	NFIs	Healthcare	43%

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



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



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

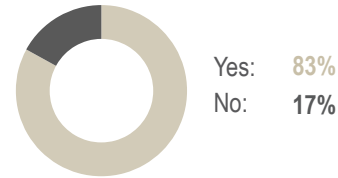
Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance		Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance	
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	60%	1	92%
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	59%	2	5%
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	36%	3	3%
			No humanitarian assistance was available
			Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian
			People did not comply with the eligibility criteria



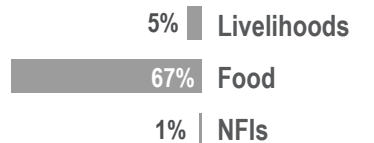
Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs (by % of communities) ^{2,3}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Shelter	Food	Summer items	Livelihoods	57%
2	Food	NFIs	Livelihoods	Food	56%
3	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	NFIs	Summer items	44%

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



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



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

Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance		Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance	
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	60%	1	97%
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	58%	2	3%
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	39%	3	0%
			No humanitarian assistance was available
			Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian
			Not aware if assistance was available

▲ Non-Food Items (NFIs)

▼ Summer items include fans, sleeping nets, and water cooler.



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 bedroom apartment ^{5,6}			Estimated median daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}		
	SYP	TRY [▲]	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
Northwest Syria	17,000 SYP			40,098 SYP			6,578 SYP		
Greater Idleb area	18,271 SYP			54,813 SYP			5,481 SYP		
Northern Aleppo	16,444 SYP			36,542 SYP			7,000 SYP		
% of communities where indicator was reported in following currencies [*]	31%	69%	0%	24%	58%	18%	32%	68%	0%

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

Residents

- 70% Seasonality of production
- 49% High operational costs
- 43% Lack of water for agriculture
- 27% Lack of resources for agriculture

IDPs

- 44%
- 17%
- 18%
- 13%

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

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	65%	17%
Cash crop production	67%	5%
Livestock products	62%	54%
Sale of livestock	16%	24%

87% and 94%

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

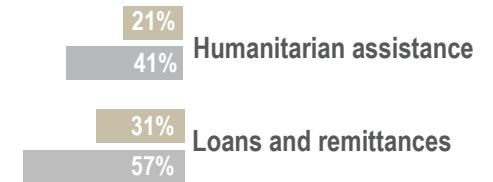
56 days

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

96% and 47%

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

% of 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 64% of communities cited that rent prices were unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in 54% of communities cited the high cost of fuel for generators as a common challenge



KIs in 78% of communities cited the high cost of solar panels as a common challenge



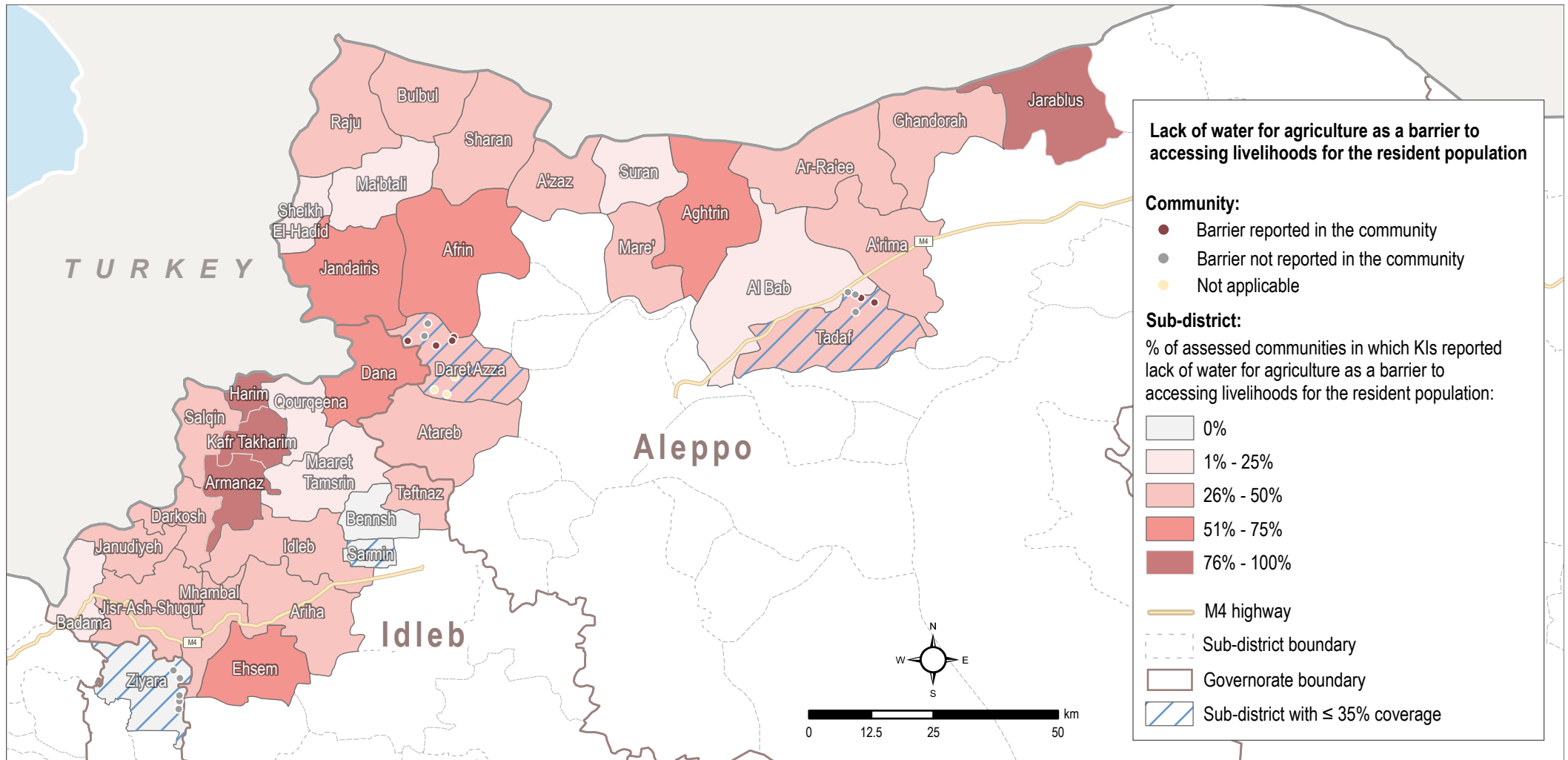
KIs in 53% of communities cited the high cost of water trucking as a common challenge



KIs in 85% of communities cited the high cost of food as a common challenge ⁸



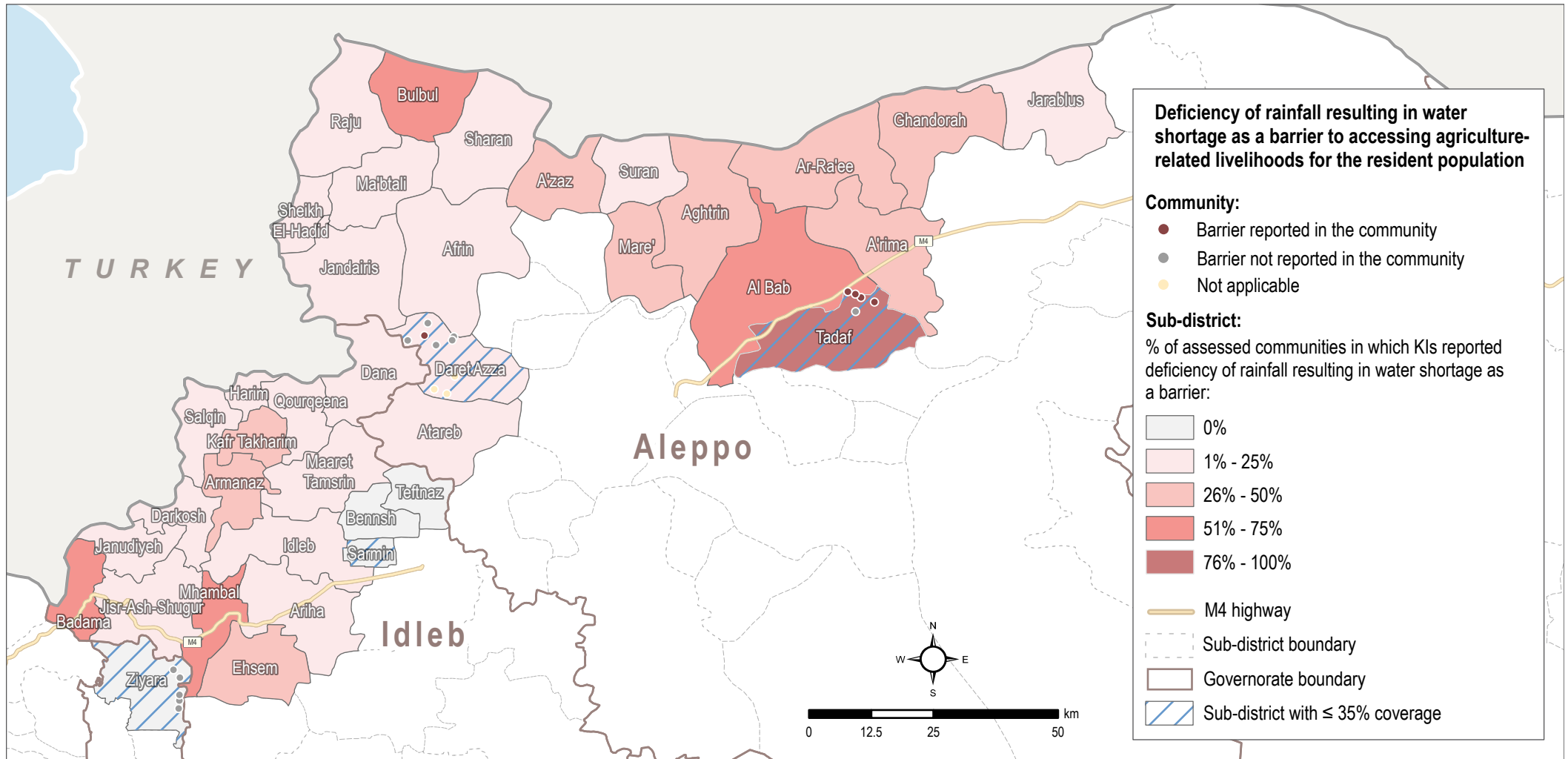
KIs in 46% of communities cited the high cost of health services as a common challenge



Lack of Water for Agriculture as a Barrier to Livelihoods for Residents

Note on the map

This map displays the proportion of communities in the sub-districts where KIs reported that a lack of water for agriculture prevented residents from accessing livelihoods. Ehsem and Jarablus subdistricts in particular show a high proportion of communities in which this livelihoods barrier was reported.



Rainfall Deficiency as a Barrier to Livelihoods from Agriculture

Note on the map

This map displays the proportion of communities in the sub-districts where KIs reported that a deficiency of rainfall resulting in a shortage of water prevented residents from accessing agriculture-related livelihoods. Higher percentages were reported in Aleppo governorate, particularly in Bulbul and Al-Bab sub-districts.



Living Conditions

In **94%** of communities reportedly at least **80%** of the resident population owned their shelter

In **66%** of communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **14%** of communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **26%** of 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 **15%** of communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **9%** of communities



Problems with the drinking water were reported in **27%** of communities



Water being calcareous was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 27% of communities)



97% % of communities where KIs reported that **households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food** ⁸



In **23%** 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 communities) ⁴

- 1 Relying on less preferred food / lower food quality **71%**
- 2 Borrowing money to buy food **71%**
- 3 Buying food with money usually used for other things **62%**

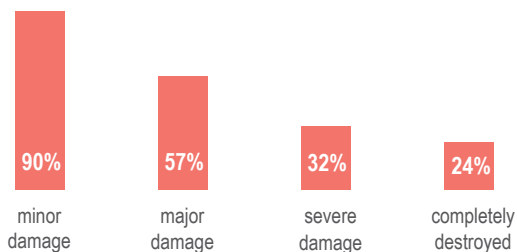


High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 92% of communities) ^{4,11}

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

- 1 Own production or farming **61%**
- 2 Borrowing money for food **33%**
- 3 Assistance from local council or NGOs **29%**

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



Reported sanitation issues affecting public space in the community (by % of 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



Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 80% of communities) ⁴



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 communities)

Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 57% of communities)

46%

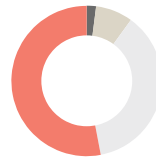
% of communities where KIs reported the main network is partially or completely not functioning as a barrier for electricity access *



Access to Water

63%

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



7 days 0%
5-6 days 2%
3-4 days 8%
1-2 days 37%
0 days 53%

Days per week when water from the network was available (by % of 650 communities connected to a water network) *

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 46% of communities)



Access to Sanitation

46%

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

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

35%

Free public waste collection

34%

Paid private waste collection

18%

Waste burnt

35%

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



Access to Markets

22%

% of 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 74% of communities where households were unable to access markets in their own location)

69%

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



Access to Health Services

57%

% of 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 communities) ⁸

56%

Treatment for chronic diseases

52%

First aid or emergency care

45%

Pediatric consultations

Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 87% of communities)



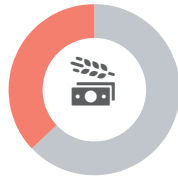
Access to Education Services

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



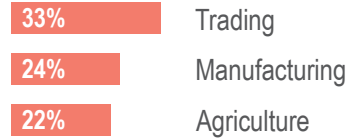
COVID-19

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

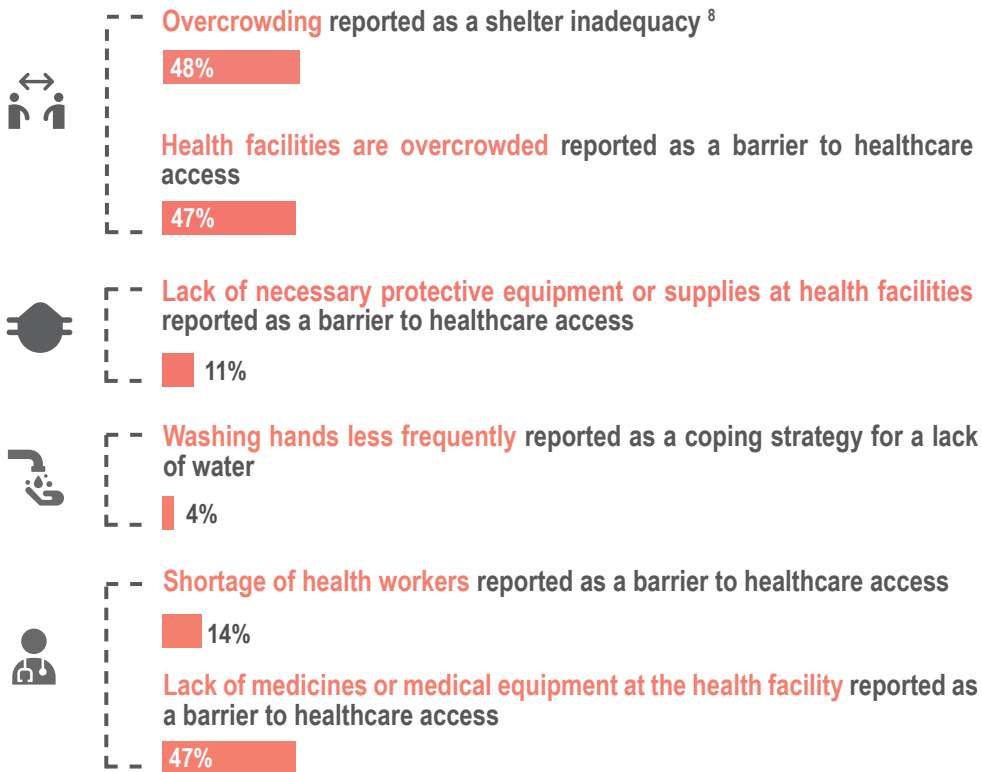


None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 63%
At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 37%

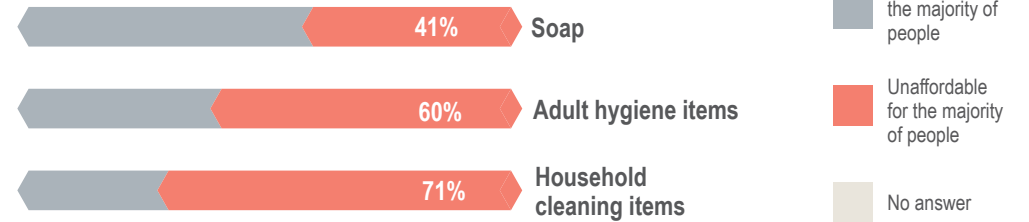
Most commonly reported sectors affected by COVID-19 (by % of communities)



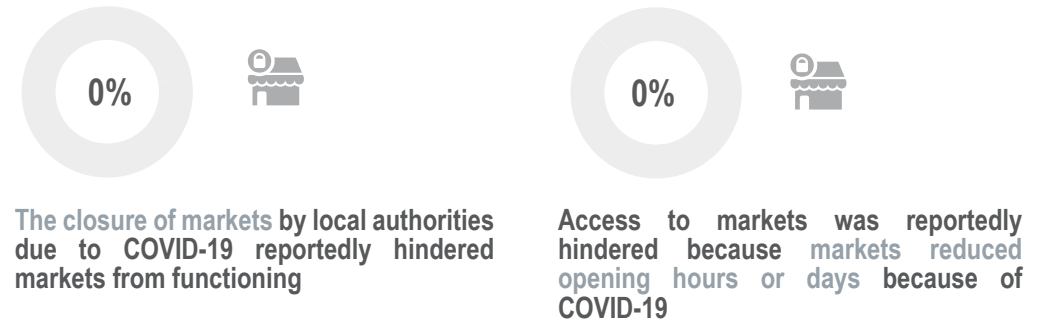
% of communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported



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



% of 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 **9%** of communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **18%** of communities

Markets not opening because of security issues was a reported barrier to markets not functioning in **2%** of communities



Threat from airstrikes was reported as a protection risk in **123 communities**⁸

Threat from shelling, sniper or gunfire was reported as a protection risk in **137 communities**⁸

Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances was reported as a protection risk in **177 communities**⁸

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **91 communities**⁸



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **32%** of communities⁸

Lack of lighting around the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **90%** of communities⁸

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



General safety and security concerns at the health facility was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **6%** of communities

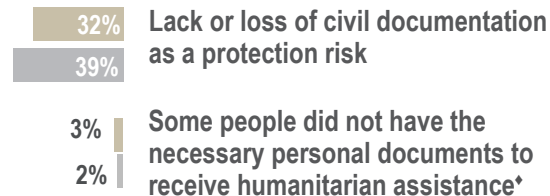
Most commonly reported protection priority needs

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

- 1 **80%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 2 **47%** Specialised child protection services
- 3 **45%** Psychosocial support



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



% of communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported⁴

Residents

- 31%** Early marriage
- 0%** Forced marriage
- 6%** High risk work
- 1%** Sending family members to beg
- 71%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

IDPs

- 38%** Early marriage
- 0%** Forced marriage
- 14%** High risk work
- 2%** Sending family members to beg
- 78%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

Age, Gender, and Diversity

KIs in **53%** of communities reported a lack of employment opportunities for women as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸

KIs in **45%** of communities reported a lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸

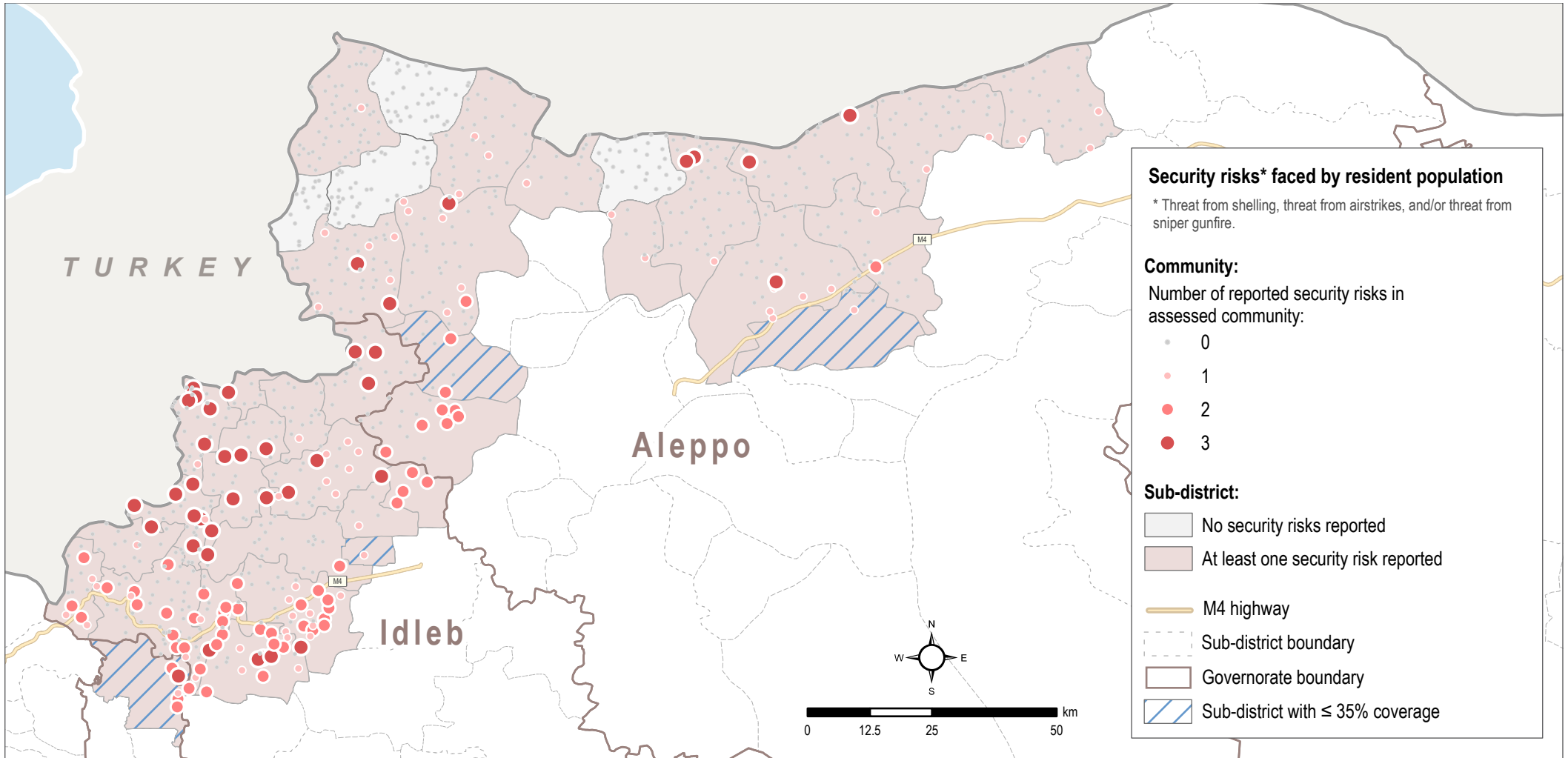
KIs in **15%** of communities reported a lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **42%** of communities reported a lack of market access for people with restricted mobility

KIs in **6%** of 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 **16%** of communities⁸

Hazardous child labour was reported as a protection risk in **8%** of communities⁸



Security Risks faced by Residents

Note on the map

This map shows the distribution of reported security risks including threat from shelling, airstrikes, and/or sniper gunfire faced by residents across the assessed communities. The size and colour of the dots indicate how many of the threats (from shelling, airstrikes, or sniper gunfire) were reported in the assessed locations. The shading illustrates in which sub-districts any of the treats were reported.

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 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 NWS **REACH Market Monitoring**¹ exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the NWS REACH Market Monitoring July 2021, 1 USD = 3,170 SYP; 1 TRY= 369 SYP.
7. According to the NWS **REACH Market Monitoring** July 2021, 1 USD = 3,170 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 NWS **REACH Market Monitoring** July 2021, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 368,856 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	884	Currency used for paying water	848
IDPs	860	Currency used for paying rent	612
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	661	Currency in which wages are paid (merge)	772
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	186	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	866
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	684	Days when water is available from network	650
Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	144	Barriers to markets functioning	200

- a. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (July 2021). Developments in north-west Syria and Ras Al Ain – Tell Abiad, Situation Report No. 29 - July 2021. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>
- b. The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED). (July 2021). Retrieved from <https://acleddata.com>
- c. REACH. (July 2021). Market Monitoring Exercise in Northwest Syria. Retrieved from <https://www.impact-repository.org/>
- d. Early Warning Early Reaction Network (EAWARN). (July 2021). Retrieved from <https://www.acu-sy.org/>

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.