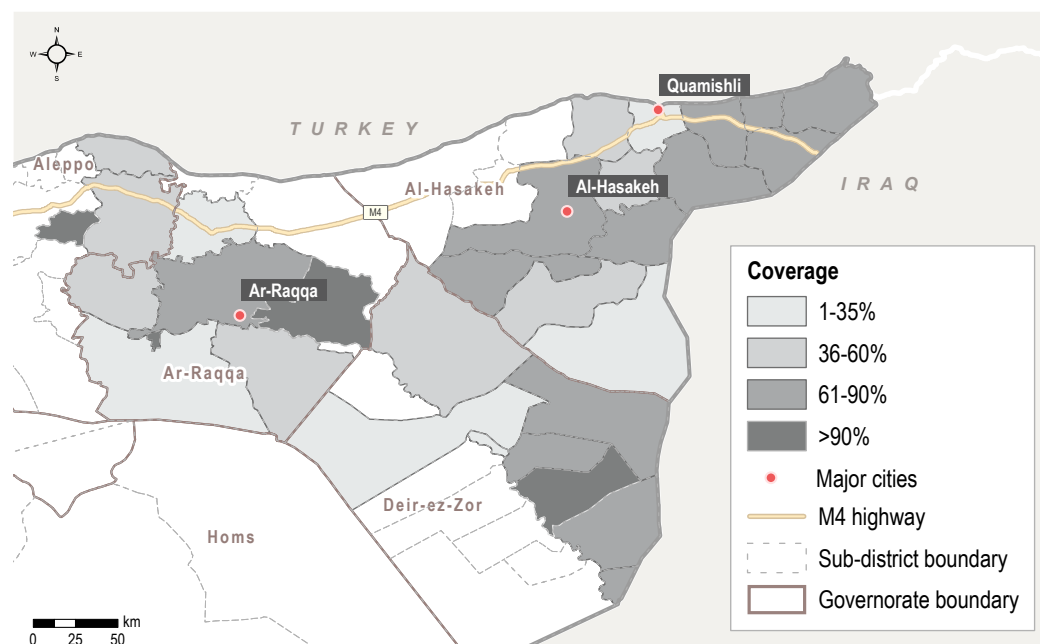


Introduction and Methodology

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 **1,213 communities** across Aleppo¹ (162 communities), Ar-Raqqa (261 communities), Al-Hasakeh (710 communities), and Deir-ez-Zor (80 communities). **Data was collected between 7-17 of June 2021 from 3,719 KIs (19% female).** Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection (May/June 2021). 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 combined impact of drought conditions and lowering water levels in the Euphrates River continued to threaten the water, electricity, and livelihoods access of millions of people in Northeast Syria. June data suggests a deterioration of drinking water quality since the publishing of [REACH's briefing note reporting on the water situation in May](#).

- **Access to water remains a challenge across NES following a reduction of water flowing into the Euphrates since January 2021.** As of 27 June, 97 communities in NES were dependent on water stations that were impacted by the lowering levels of the Euphrates, according to the NES WASH⁴ Working Group. Communities in NES are also indirectly impacted by the developments, for example by an increase in the price of water trucking (36% increase between January and June according to [REACH's Market Monitoring](#)). In 70% of communities in NES, reportedly not all households had access to sufficient water. Needs were especially high in Deir-ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates where a proportion of households had insufficient access to water in 95% and 76% of assessed communities, respectively. A lack of access was mainly attributed to the unavailability and high cost of alternative sources, but also the impaired functioning and low number of pumping hours of the main network. The piped network is the main source of water in communities along the Euphrates. However, it has been unreliable in providing sufficient water to households. Of the communities connected to a water network in NES, 44% receives water maximum 2 days per week (64% in Raqqa governorate). Only 12% of communities have access to water from the network all days of the week. As a result of the low water access, KIs in 55% of assessed communities in NES, reported drinking water as a priority WASH need.

- **Electricity for millions of Syrians depends on the Euphrates dams, which are at risk of inoperation due to the lowering water levels.** Because of the reduced availability of hydroelectric power, authorities are controlling the distribution of electricity which is why certain communities access less power from the network. KIs reported rationing by local authorities as a barrier to access electricity in 68% of communities. At the same time, fuel prices are rising (manually refined diesel increased by 11% between May and June according to [REACH's Market Monitoring](#)) due to currency fluctuations. In June, the most commonly reported number of hours/day households had access to electricity was 5-6 hours per day (35%); the second most commonly reported range was 2-4 hours per day (20%).

- **While access to water and electricity remained relatively stable between May and June, communities where KIs reported problems with drinking water increased by 10% raising health concerns.** In June, KIs in 43% of assessed communities reported problems with drinking water, compared to 33% in May. Problems with drinking water included a bad taste (24%) and colour (12%) but KIs also reported that water was perceived to be making people sick. The percentage of communities in which KIs reported that water was making people sick went up from 2% in May to 13% in June, indicating a deterioration of water quality across NES. However, waterborne diseases were reported as a health problem in just 7% of communities. Since the HSOS health questions are answered by health professionals, it is possible that people who fell ill from drinking low quality water did not reach health facilities for treatment.

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.



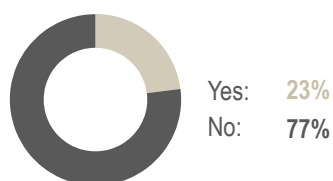
Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



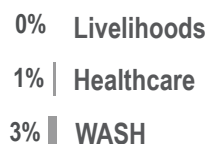
Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for residents (by % of communities) ^{2,3}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	WASH	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	77%
2	Healthcare	WASH	Healthcare	Healthcare	59%
3	Livelihoods	Healthcare	Infrastructure	WASH	57%

% of communities where any 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, *}

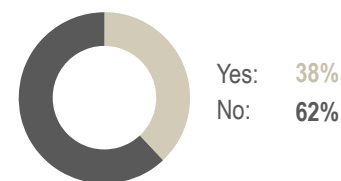
Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance		Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	67% 1	95% No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	50% 2	3% Not aware if assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	45% 3	2% Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance



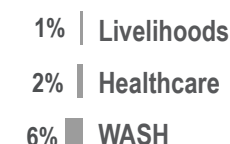
Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for internally displaced persons (IDPs) (by % of communities) ^{2,3,d}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	77%
2	Food	Healthcare	Summer items*	Healthcare	52%
3	WASH	Food	Healthcare	WASH	47%

% of communities where any 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 insufficient to cover all people in need	54% 1	98% No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	52% 2	2% Not aware if assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	47% 3	1% Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance



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}
Northeast Syria	15,000 SYP	30,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Aleppo	3,000 SYP	25,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Al-Hasakeh	20,000 SYP	50,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Ar-Raqqa	8,500 SYP	25,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Deir-ez-Zor	25,000 SYP	35,000 SYP	5,000 SYP

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

Residents		IDPs
77%	Lack of fodder for livestock	35%
77%	Deficiency of rainfall	26%
67%	Seasonality of production	32%
62%	Lack of water for agriculture	26%

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

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	37%	23%
Cash crop production	64%	6%
Livestock products	72%	27%
Sale of livestock	63%	27%

81% and 94%

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

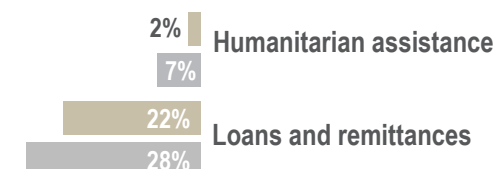
67 days

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

93% and 67%

% of 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 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 **22%** 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 **65%** of communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



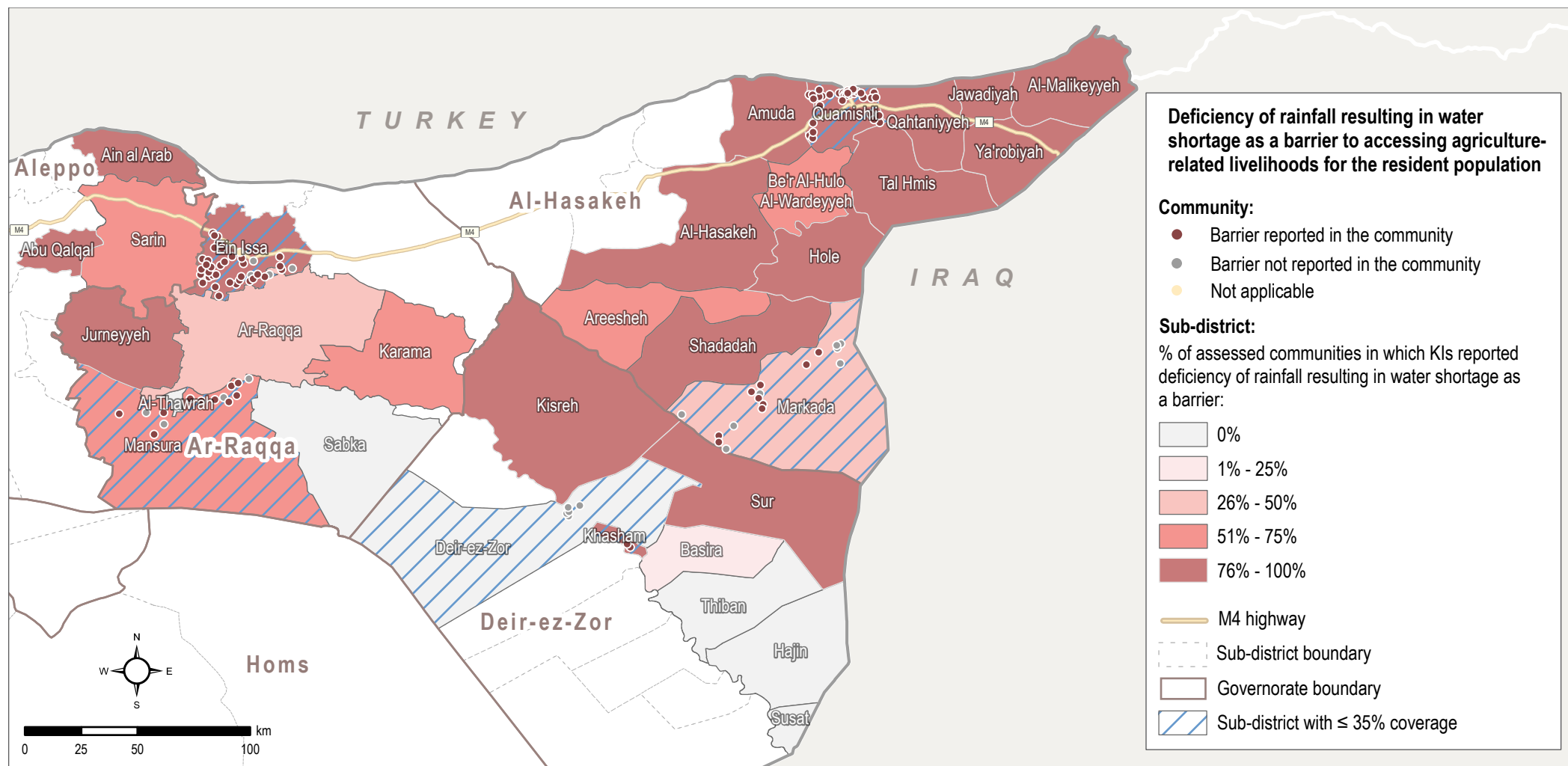
KIs in **46%** of communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



KIs in **86%** of communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge ⁸



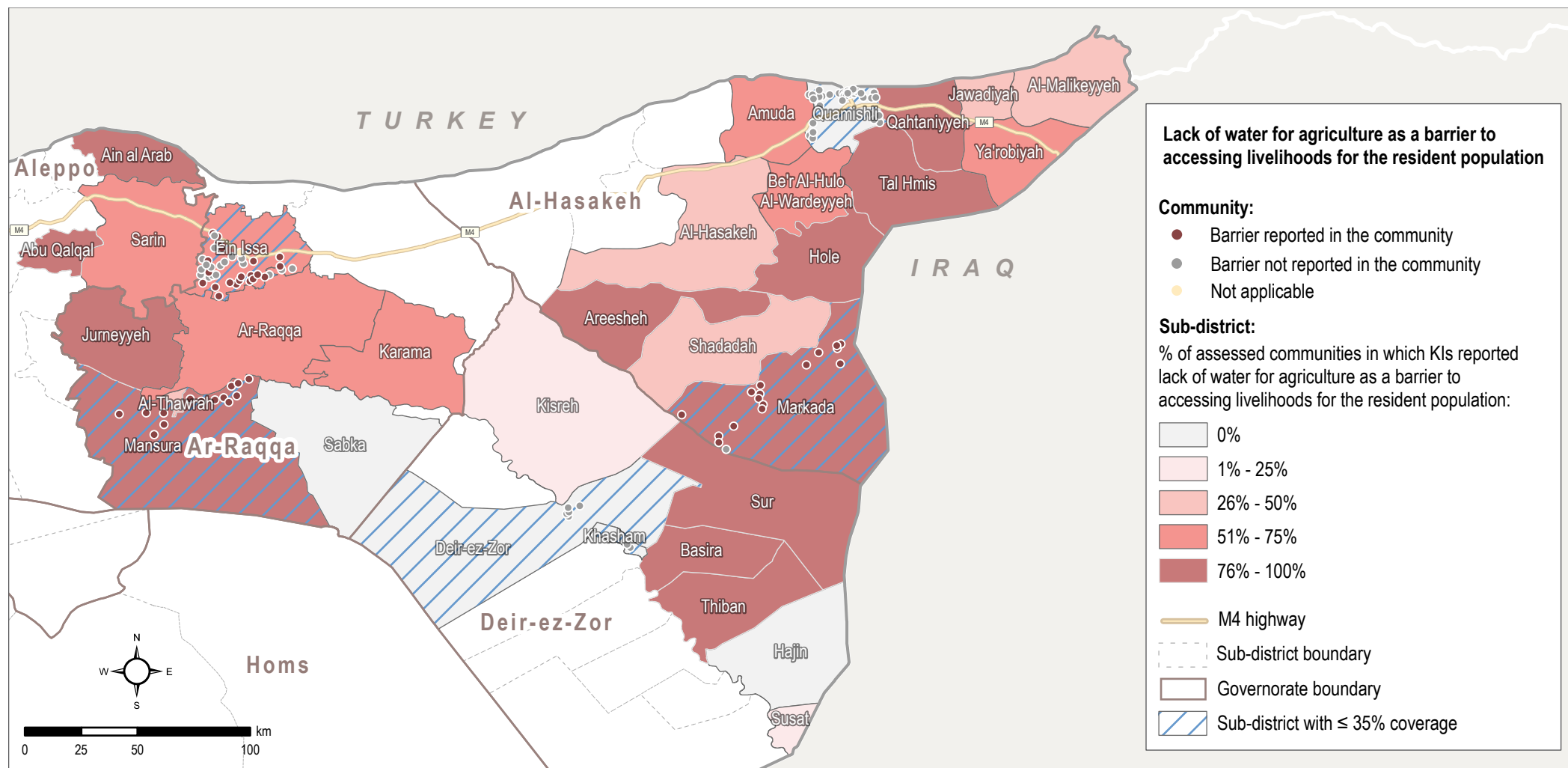
KIs in **88%** of communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge



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. High percentages were particularly reported in Hasakeh Governorate where communities are more reliant on rain-fed crops for income.



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, for example for irrigation, prevented residents from accessing livelihoods.



Living Conditions

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

In **81%** of communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **2%** of communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **12%** 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 **22%** of communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **14%** of communities

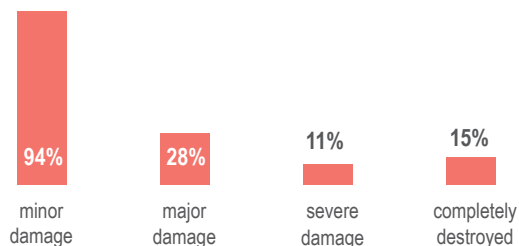


Problems with the drinking water were reported in **43%** of communities



Water tasting bad was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 24% of communities)

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 93% of communities) ⁴



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



In 19% 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 Borrowing money to buy food **79%**
- 2 Buying food with money usually used for other things **69%**
- 3 Relying on less preferred food and lower food quality **67%**



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 94% of communities) ^{4,11}

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

- 1 Borrowing money for food **52%**
- 2 Own production or farming **35%**
- 3 Relying on food stored previously **20%**



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 35% of communities)

Main network

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 77% of communities)

68%

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



Access to Water

71%

% of 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 756 communities connected to a water network)

Private water trucking

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

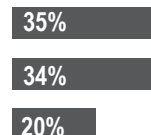


Access to Sanitation

83%

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

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



Free public waste collection

Waste burnt

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

30%

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



Access to Markets

38%

% of 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 76% of communities where households were unable to access markets in their own location)

79%

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

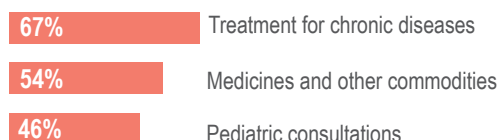


Access to Health Services

74%

% 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



Treatment for chronic diseases

Medicines and other commodities

Pediatric consultations

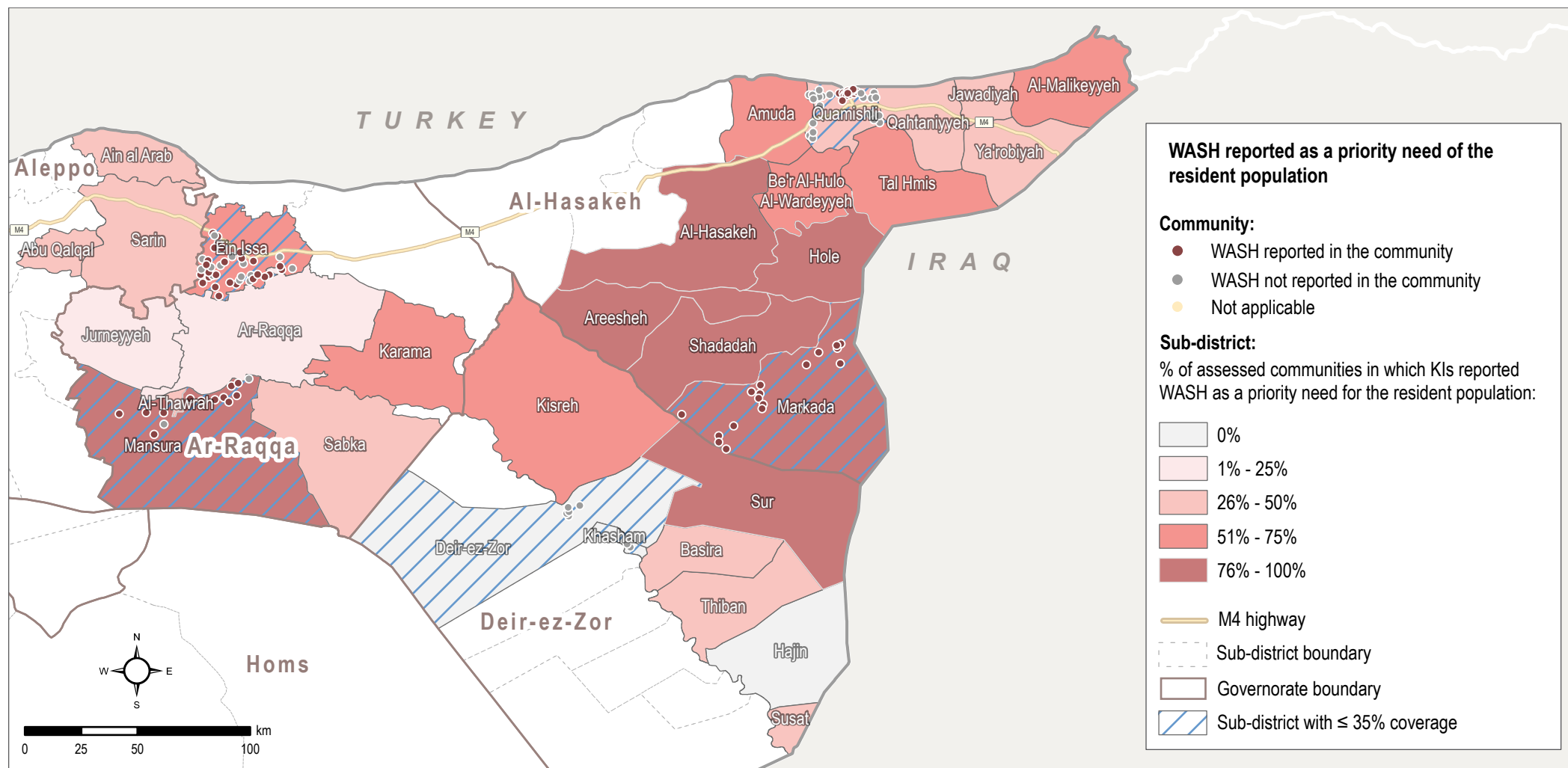
Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

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



WASH reported as a Priority Need for residents

Note on the map

This map shows the proportion of assessed communities by sub-district where KIs reported that WASH was a priority need for residents.



COVID-19

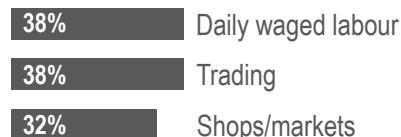
Effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods sectors in the community (by % of communities)



None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 53%

At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 47%

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



% of communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported



Overcrowding reported as a shelter inadequacy⁸

49%

Health facilities are overcrowded reported as a barrier to healthcare access

31%



Lack of necessary protective equipment or supplies at health facilities reported as a barrier to healthcare access

11%



Washing hands less frequently reported as a coping strategy for a lack of water

9%



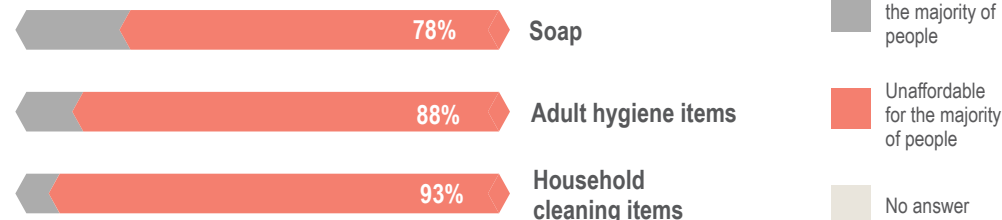
Shortage of health workers reported as a barrier to healthcare access

9%

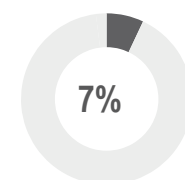
Lack of medicines or medical equipment at the health facility reported as a barrier to healthcare access

46%

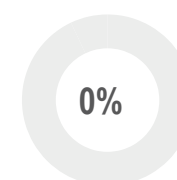
Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of communities)¹²



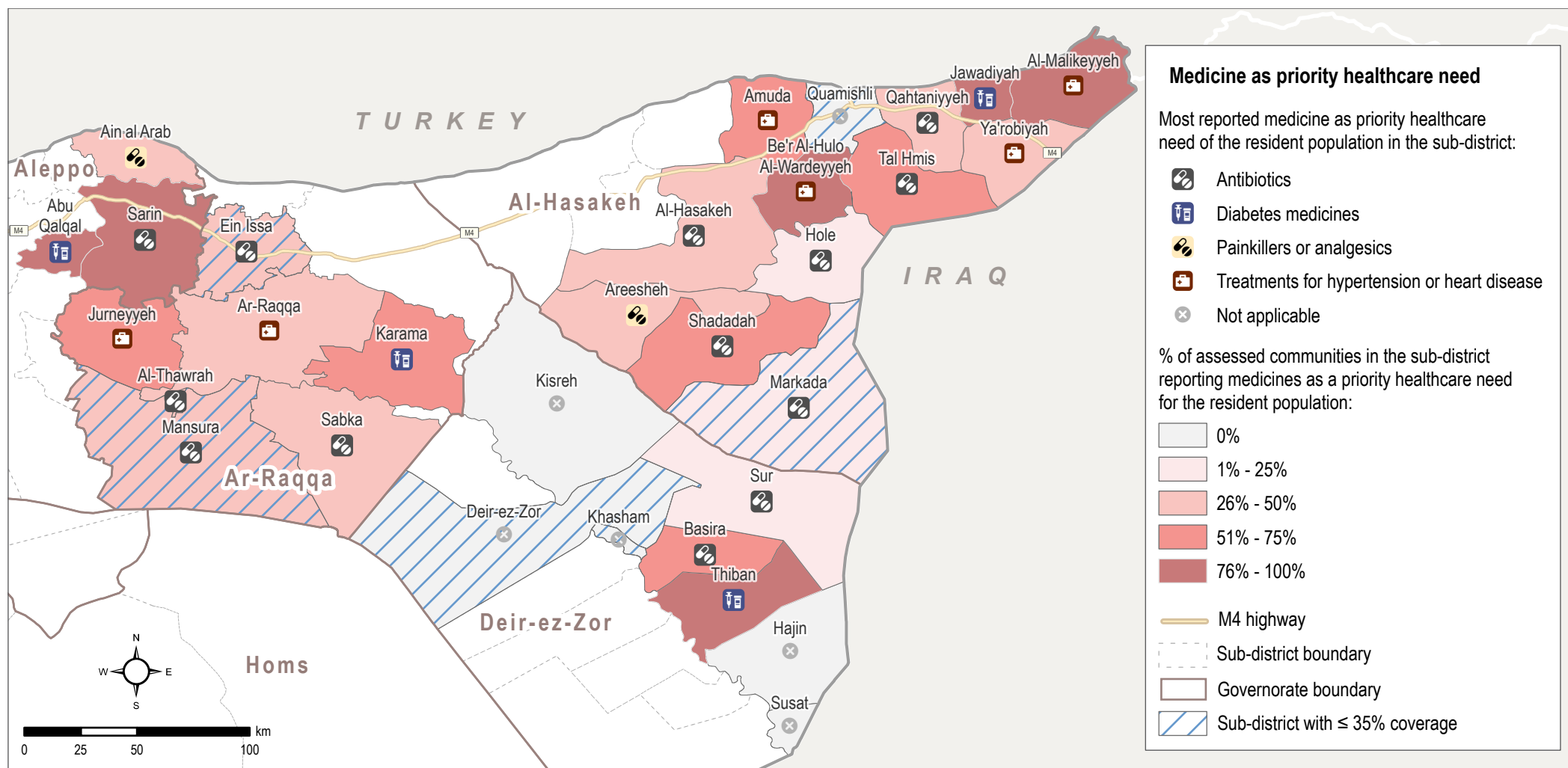
% of communities where COVID-19 related barriers to access services were reported



Access to markets was reportedly hindered because markets reduced opening hours or days because of COVID-19



Repairs to the main electricity network were reportedly hindered due to COVID-19 measures



Medicines as a Priority Health Need for Residents

Note on the map

This map shows the distribution of medicines as a priority healthcare need for residents by sub-district. The shading represents the proportion of communities in the sub-districts where KIs reported that medicines were a health priority need for residents. The symbols illustrate which medicines were most commonly reported to be a priority need for residents.



Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in **76** communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **34** communities

Movement restrictions was reported as a protection risk in **15** communities ⁸



Tribal disputes were reported as a protection risk in **19** communities ⁸

Threat from shelling was reported as a protection risk in **0** communities ⁸

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **44** communities ⁸



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **31%** of communities ⁸

Lack of Privacy inside the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **54%** of communities ⁸

Lack of lighting around the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **83%** of communities ⁸

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



Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **15** communities

Most commonly reported protection priority needs

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

- 79%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 40%** Specialised child protection services
- 29%** Psychosocial support



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

- 15%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 17%** Some people did not have the necessary personal documents to receive humanitarian assistance
- 0%**
- 1%**

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

Residents

- 17%** Early marriage
- 3%** Forced marriage
- 7%** High risk work
- 0%** Sending family members to beg
- 55%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

IDPs

- 19%**
- 4%**
- 5%**
- 1%**
- 63%**

Age, Gender, and Diversity

KIs in **34%** of communities reported a lack of employment opportunities for women as a barrier to meeting basic needs ⁸

KIs in **21%** of communities reported a lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability as a barrier to meeting basic needs ⁸

KIs in **14%** of communities reported a lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **27%** 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 **12%** of communities ⁸

Hazardous child labour was reported as a protection risk in **53** 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 June 2021, 1 USD = 3,115 SYP; 1TRY= 363 SYP.
7. According to the NES **REACH Market Monitoring** June 2021, 1 USD = 3,115 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** June 2021, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 333,879 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)**

<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	1,212	Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	322
IDPs	522	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	1,193
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	272	Days when water is available from network	756
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	929	Barriers to markets functioning	463
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	189		

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.