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FACTSHEET



Northeast Syria Needs Update
Al-Hasakeh Governorate Profile

August 2026 | Syria

Key Messages

- **The government integration process represents an important step towards recovery, but progress remains slow, uneven, and fragile.**
- **Persistent gaps in essential services continue to drive humanitarian needs,** including high water insecurity, limited electricity connectivity, poor learning conditions, and constrained public healthcare capacity.
- At the same time, **economic and protection pressures remain acute**, with growing **reliance on loans, declining sustainable income sources, heightened security threats**, and **protection concerns affecting women, girls, and displaced populations** amid the fragile government integration process.
- Humanitarian assistance must be complemented by longer term efforts to **restore public services, strengthen civilian protection, support durable solutions, and ensure dignified returns**.

Top 3 Reported Priority Needs, by % of households

72% Livelihoods

45% Food

30% Water

Map 1: Assessment coverage



Image: Al-Hasakeh, Syria, REACH 2026.

Context & Rationale

On 30 January 2026, the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) and the Government of Syria entered into a ceasefire agreement and initiated the formalised integration of governance structures in the governorates of Al-Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, and Ar-Raqqa, in addition to the Ain-al-Arab district of Aleppo.

The key objective of the Northeast Syria Needs Update was to identify any material changes in humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities following this major contextual shift in the region, using data from the October 2025 Syria Needs Profile[1] as a baseline. The analysis also delves into the differences in vulnerability profiles between population groups and sub-districts to support evidence-led targeting and area-based prioritisation.

Assessment Overview

The Northeast Syria Needs Update is a comprehensive, multi-sectoral assessment developed in consultation with humanitarian sectors.

The assessment surveyed 1,251 households across 152 communities in 15 sub-districts in Al-Hasakeh. Data was collected between 10 May and 3 June 2026 using a stratified two-stage sampling approach. The methodology generated representative estimates at the sub-district level and ensured representativeness of key population groups (residents,[2] IDPs, returnees, and refugee returnees) at the governorate level, with a 90% confidence level and a 10% margin of error. Please see the Methodology Overview and Limitations section for more details.

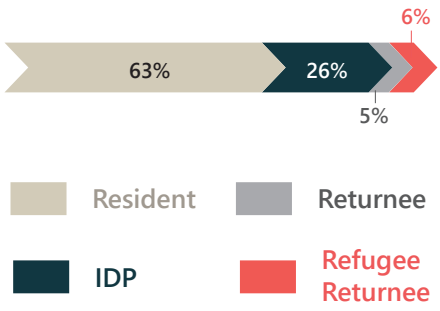
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DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS

Al-Hasakeh had the lowest proportions of returnees (5%) and refugee returnees (6%) among the three northeastern governorates, while residents comprised 63% of households. **One in four households were internally displaced, over half of whom had been displaced from elsewhere within Al-Hasakeh governorate**.[3] IDPs were particularly concentrated in Areesheh (47%) and Al-Hasakeh City (45%), while Shadadah recorded the highest proportion of returnees (51%). **Return intentions among IDPs remained relatively low, with 64% planning to remain in their current location over the three months following data collection and only 13% intending to return to their area of origin**. A further 17% remained undecided, reflecting continued uncertainty around return amid the fragile ceasefire and ongoing government integration process. Lack of housing (60%)and limited employment opportunities (52%) were the most cited barriers to return.

Protection and HLP concerns further constrained prospects for return. I**DPs in Al-Hasakeh reported insecurity (40%) and fear of arrest (35%) as barriers to return at higher rates than in the other governorates, while 20% reported that their home in their area of origin was occupied without their consent.** Together, these findings highlight the continued fragility of the situation and the need to support durable solutions for IDPs choosing to remain, while ensuring that any returns take place voluntarily, safely, and with dignity.

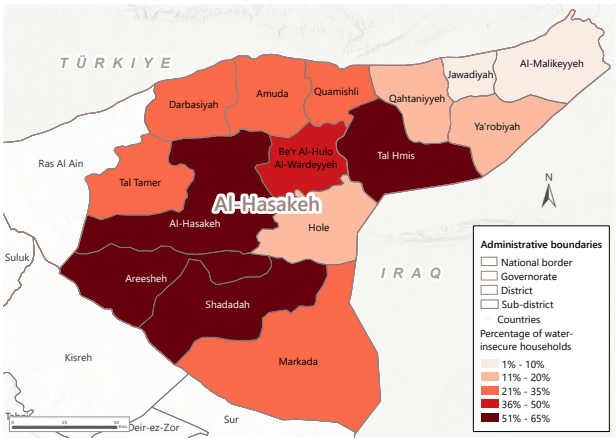
Population group profiles, *by % of households*



29% of **IDP** households in Al-Hasakeh reported that their **home in their area of origin was occupied without their consent**

WASH

Map 2: Water insecurity (HWISE-4[4])



Al-Hasakeh reported the highest level of household water insecurity in Northeast Syria (34%), with particularly severe conditions in Al-Hasakeh City, Areesheh, and Tal Hmis, where more than half of households were water insecure. **Reliance on water trucking remained widespread, with 41% of households using it as their primary drinking water source.** With water prices increasing by around 40% since February, this dependence on watet trucking has placed additional financial pressure on households. Water insecurity also disproportionately affected refugee returnees (47%), indicating that access remained unequal across the governorate.

There are reasons for cautious optimism, however, as the anticipated reopening of the Alouk Water Station is expected to restore piped water services to some of the worst-affected areas. If sustained, improved network access could significantly reduce water insecurity and ease the financial burden associated with purchasing water.

EDUCATION

Education outcomes in Al-Hasakeh remained challenging between October 2025 and May 2026. **School enrolment remained broadly stable, declining slightly from 68% to 66%. Learning conditions improved more substantially, with the proportion of households reporting that children attended school in acceptable conditions increasing from just 12% to 36%; however, conditions remained highly uneven across the governorate.** A pronounced north–south divide emerged, with substantially better learning conditions reported in the northern sub-districts of Darbasiyah (73%) and Amuda (69%), compared with Areesheh (0%) and Markada (10%) further south.

Barriers to education reflected both household circumstances and the wider operating environment. Households in Al-Hasakeh were more likely than those in the other governorates to report that education was not considered a priority (10%), while 38% cited cost as a barrier. Enrolment was also lower among IDPs (57%) and returnees (63%), highlighting continued disparities in access.

66% of households in **Al-Hasakeh** had **all school-aged children enrolled during the 2025-2026 academic year**

Sub-districts with the lowest reported acceptable school conditions, *by % of HH*

Sub-district	% of HH
Areesheh	0%
Tal Hmis	9%
Markada	10%

Education services continued to face disruption amid insecurity and uncertainty surrounding the government integration process. **More than one quarter of households (26%) reported conflict-related school closures in early 2026, while parallel education systems operating under the two administrations continued to complicate service delivery**. Plans to introduce a unified curriculum and integrate the education system ahead of the 2026–2027 school year could help address some of these challenges. However, with learning conditions remaining poor and continued disruptions linked to insecurity, humanitarian support for education, particularly Education in Emergencies interventions, will remain crucial to maintaining access to safe and continuous learning while the education system undergoes integration and recovery.

ELECTRICITY

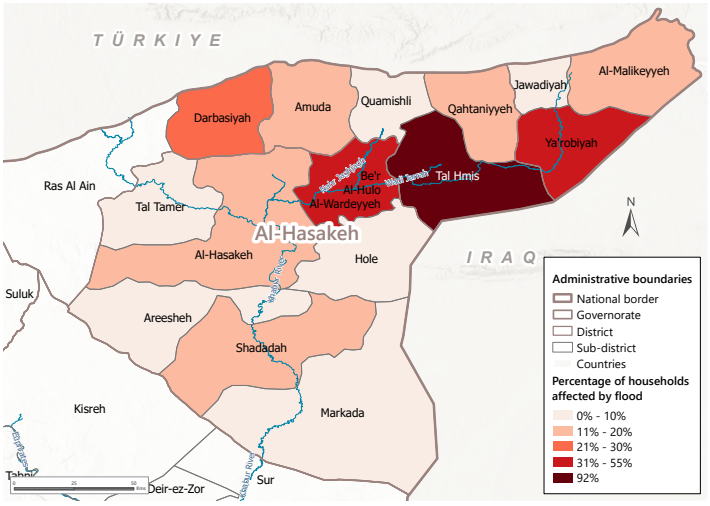
Mirroring water access, Al-Hasakeh remained the least connected governorate. **Only 22% of households relied on the main electricity grid, while two-thirds (67%) depended primarily on generators**. No households in Qamishli or Al-Hasakeh City reported being connected to the main network, contributing to a governorate-wide median of just 8 hours of electricity per day. With diesel prices increasing by around 30% between February and May 2026,[6] heavy reliance on generators has also made electricity increasingly unaffordable, adding further pressure to already strained household budgets.

Median electricity hours per day reported at time of data collection



SHELTER

Map 3: Households affected by the March 2026 floods (%)



39% of IDP households in Al-Hasakeh reported **major damage or total collapse of their home in their area of origin**

Al-Hasakeh reported the highest prevalence of shelter damage in Northeast Syria, with 60% of households reporting some form of damage, although most was minor. **Much of this damage was associated with heavy rains and flooding along the Jaghjagh and Khabur rivers in March 2026.** Tal Hmis was particularly affected, with 92% of households reporting flooding, primarily resulting in damage to roofs, windows, and walls. These findings highlight the increasing importance of climate-related shocks alongside conflict-related shelter needs.

Shelter and HLP conditions also presented significant barriers to durable solutions for IDPs, who comprised one quarter of households in the governorate. **Among IDPs currently residing in Al-Hasakeh, 80% reported damage to their shelter in their area of origin, including 39% reporting major damage or total collapse. In addition, 30% reported that their home in their area of origin was occupied without their consent,** further complicating prospects for voluntary return.

Together, widespread shelter damage and unresolved property issues represent important obstacles to durable solutions in Al-Hasakeh. In the context of the fragile ceasefire and ongoing government integration process, addressing shelter reconstruction and HLP disputes will be critical to enabling safe and voluntary returns.

HEALTH

Sub-districts with the lowest reported rates of access to healthcare when needed, *by % of HH*

Sub-district	% of HH
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	48%
Al-Malikeyyeh	82%
Tal Tamer	83%

Overall access to healthcare in Al-Hasakeh remained relatively stable between October 2025 and May 2026, with 87% of households reporting they were able to access healthcare when needed. However, the types of health services households relied upon shifted considerably. **Use of public health facilities fell sharply from 51% to 34%, likely reflecting disruptions associated with the ongoing government integration process, while households increasingly relied on private healthcare providers (87%).**

This decline is consistent with HeRAMS[5] data indicating severe constraints in the public health system. Five of Al-Hasakeh's six public hospitals were only partially

operational, while the sixth was not operational. Among 100 primary healthcare centres, 49 were not operational and the remainder were only partially operational, with just 31% equipped with generators to support continuity of services. Together, these gaps highlight the continued fragility of public healthcare provision during the transition.

Treatment costs remained the most commonly reported barrier to healthcare access (68%). In contrast, long waiting times declined substantially from 51% to 21%, while reported service unavailability fell from 37% to 7%. These improvements may partly reflect households' increasing reliance on private providers rather than improvements in public service capacity. However, this shift may come at a financial cost, with treatment costs remaining a major barrier and transportation costs (14%) adding further pressure on access.

Overall, Al-Hasakeh's health system remains particularly vulnerable amid the slow and uneven government integration process. Limited public health capacity and increasing reliance on private providers mean that access is increasingly shaped by households' ability to pay. Maintaining humanitarian health support while restoring and integrating public health services will therefore remain critical to ensuring equitable access to healthcare during the transition.

NUTRITION

Access to nutrition services for households requiring support, including malnutrition treatment, deworming, and Vitamin A supplementation, improved substantially in Al-Hasakeh, increasing from just 4% in October 2025 to 34% in May 2026. Despite this progress, two-thirds of households requiring nutrition support remained unable to access services. Access also varied across population groups, with returnees (29%) and IDPs (38%) with the lowest access rates compared to residents (40%) and refugee returnees (65%).

Reported child illness also declined substantially, with the proportion of households reporting illness among children under five in the two weeks preceding data collection falling from 57% in October to 33% in May. Fever, diarrhoea, and cough were the most frequently reported symptoms. While encouraging, this reduction should not be attributed solely to improved nutrition service access, as childhood illness is influenced by a range of factors, including seasonality, WASH, and living conditions. The October assessment coincided with the onset of colder weather, which may partly explain the higher prevalence of illness recorded during the previous round.

FOOD SECURITY

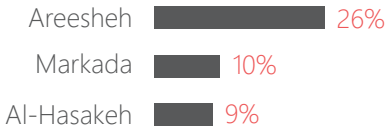
Agricultural production improved substantially in Al-Hasakeh following the severe drought of 2024/2025.[7] More abundant rainfall during the 2025/2026 rainy season contributed to improved growing conditions, with **91% of households engaged in crop production reporting larger harvests than in previous years**. However, the same rains also caused localized flooding along the Khabur and Jaghjagh rivers in March 2026, damaging agricultural land and illustrating the dual impact of climatic conditions on agriculture and rural livelihoods.

FCS, *by % of households*

Acceptable	Borderline	Poor
94%	5%	1%

Improved harvests did not translate directly into improved household food security, as agricultural production primarily supports income rather than self-consumption. **Only 11% of households relied on their own production as their primary food source, while 92% primarily purchased food, leaving households highly exposed to market prices**. Since February, food prices across Northeast Syria increased by around 5%, including a 25% increase in the price of bread, placing additional pressure on household purchasing power.[5]

Top 3 sub-districts with highest rates of High rCSI, *by % of HH*



Overall, 94% of households reported an acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS).[8] A more concerning picture emerged through the Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI),[9] with 70% of households reporting medium or high rCSI, the highest in Northeast Syria. Relying on less preferred foods was the most common strategy, used a median of 3 days per week. High rCSI was particularly prevalent among the IDP (9%) and returnee population (8%).

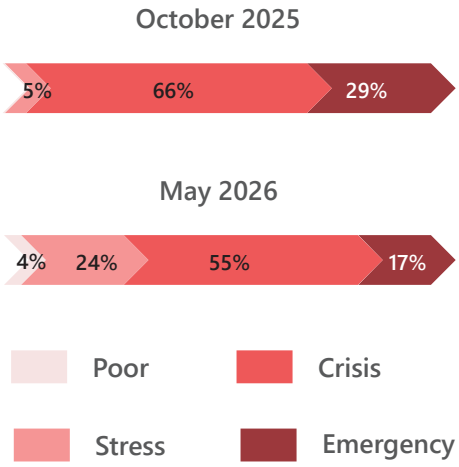
Overall, the findings suggest that favourable rainfall supported a strong recovery in agricultural production in Al-Hasakeh, but this has yet to translate into comparable improvements in household food security. Continued dependence on market purchases, rising food prices, and widespread food-related coping mean that strengthening purchasing power and agricultural livelihoods will remain important, while the March floods highlight the need to build resilience to increasingly variable climatic conditions.

rCSI, *by % of households*

Low	Medium	High
30%	63%	7%

LIVELIHOODS

LCSI-EN, *by % of households*



Compared with October 2025, **the proportion of households employing emergency strategies to meet essential needs, as measured by the Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI-EN),[10] decreased from 29% in October 2025 to 17% in May 2026**. Emergency coping was particularly prevalent among refugee returnees (35%), who reported the highest rates of informal migration (15%) and child marriage (10%) in order to meet essential needs. Despite these trends, **78% of households remained unable or only partially able to meet their basic needs**, with rising prices (98%) and lack of employment (63%) cited as the most commonly reported barriers.

Household purchasing power also came under greater pressure. **Reported median monthly income fell by 14.8% between October 2025 and May 2026, while the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)[11] increased by 11.4%, reducing the gap between median income and the SMEB by 93%.**[9] While rising living costs clearly contributed to this squeeze, the decline in reported income should also be interpreted in the context of seasonal changes in household income sources.

Household income sources point to increasing economic vulnerability. Income from own agricultural production fell substantially from 34% to 12%, although this should be interpreted in light of data collection taking place at the end of the lean season, when agricultural income is typically at its lowest. More concerningly, salaried employment declined substantially from 65% to 44%. This may partly reflect disruptions associated with the government integration process, including changes in public-sector employment, alongside the contraction of NGO employment following humanitarian funding cuts and camp closures. Remittances also fell from 30% to 18%, potentially reflecting increased refugee returns. In contrast, reliance on loans rose sharply from just 6% to 28%, while humanitarian assistance remained relatively limited (4% to 3%).

Taken together, these shifts point to mounting economic vulnerability in Al-Hasakeh. Amid a fragile and uneven government integration process, declining sustainable income sources[12], growing reliance on loans, and broader economic pressures are weakening households' ability to meet their basic needs and risk further undermining their resilience during an already uncertain transition.

Median Monthly Income - SMEB
October 2025 vs. May 2026 (Old SYP)

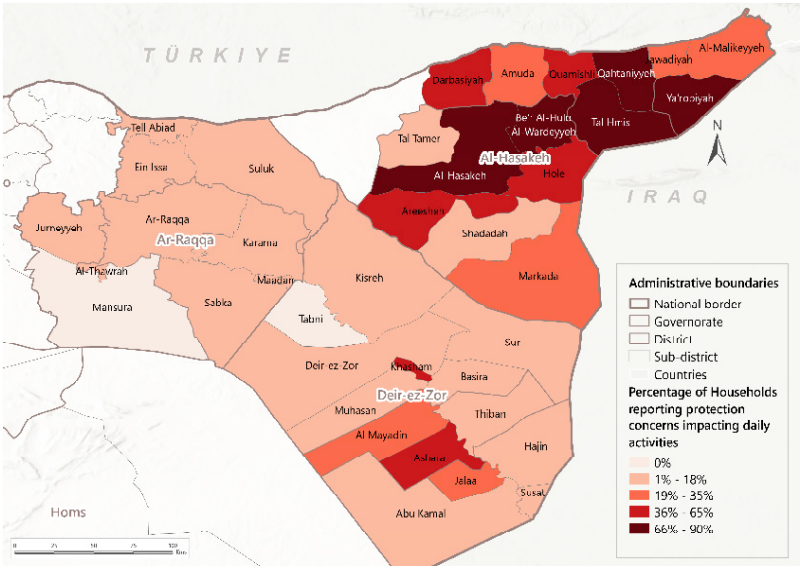
	Oct 2025	May 2026	Change
Income	2,700,000	2,300,000	-14.8% ▼
SMEB	1,955,912	2,178,889	+11.4% ▲

PROTECTION AND UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO)

Protection conditions in Al-Hasakeh deteriorated sharply between October 2025 and May 2026 amid the ceasefire and the ongoing government integration process. **The proportion of households reporting threats affecting their ability to access resources or livelihoods to meet essential needs over the previous three months increased from just 9% to 68%.** This deterioration was primarily associated with heightened violence (19%), including gender-based violence (39%), and discrimination (8%). Protection concerns affecting women and girls followed a similar trend.

The proportion of households reporting that women and girls avoided areas of their community due to security concerns increased from 13% to 39%. Among affected households, markets were the most commonly avoided location (88%), potentially restricting women's access to livelihoods, markets, and other essential services.

Map 4: Households reporting threats affecting their ability to access resources or livelihoods to meet essential needs, *by sub-district*



At the same time, some protection indicators improved. **The proportion of households reporting being able to move freely without protection concerns increased substantially from just 2% to 52%**. Nevertheless, nearly half continued to face movement restrictions, with IDPs (57%) and refugee returnees (56%) particularly affected. Access to civil documentation also improved to 82%, although field teams and implementing partners cautioned that this figure may overestimate actual access. Explosive ordnance contamination[13] was reported by just 1% of households in Al-Hasakeh, considerably lower than in Deir-ez-Zor (19%) and Ar-Raqqa (4%). However, this likely underestimates the extent of contamination due to the lack of data from Ras al-Ain, and should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Overall, these findings point to a complex and fragile protection environment. While freedom of movement and access to administrative services appear to be improving, heightened violence, discrimination, and protection concerns affecting women and girls indicate that greater mobility has not necessarily translated into greater safety. Amid the slow and uncertain government integration process, strengthening civilian protection will remain critical to ensuring safe and equitable access to livelihoods and essential services, while ensuring that IDP returns are voluntary and dignified.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED PEOPLE (AAP)

Top 3 reported priority needs
by % of households

1. Livelihoods (72%)
2. Food (45%)
3. Water (30%)

Livelihoods remained the most commonly reported priority need in Al-Hasakeh between October 2025 and May 2026, reported by 52% of households in May, reflecting persistent economic pressures.[14] Food also remained a major concern, despite declining from 56% to 45%. Meanwhile, drinking water declined from 40% to 30% but moved into third place, overtaking health as a household priority and highlighting the continued severity of water insecurity despite some marginal improvements. Financial pressures were further reflected in debt repayment, reported as a priority by 36% of households. Electricity (13%) and shelter (10%) were less frequently prioritised. Overall, the findings reinforce the centrality of livelihoods and household purchasing power in Al-Hasakeh, while continued demand for food, debt relief, and water highlights the multiple pressures households face amid the fragmented government integration process.

When asked which actor was best placed to address their priority needs, households most frequently preferred humanitarian organisations (44%), compared with the central government (26%) and local authorities (12%). Respondents primarily attributed this preference to humanitarian organisations' resources and speed of response. Cash assistance (95%), in-kind food assistance (67%), and services such as healthcare and education (25%) were the preferred modalities of support, reflecting continued demand for flexible assistance to meet household priorities.

Looking towards livelihood recovery, 38% of households prioritised support for trade activities, highlighting the importance of strengthening local markets and commerce as sources of employment and income. Households also identified access to financing (99%), productive assets and equipment (68%), vocational training (40%), and infrastructure rehabilitation (30%) as key enablers of recovery. Together, these findings point to the importance of complementing humanitarian assistance with longer-term livelihood interventions that expand access to finance and productive assets, revitalise local economic activity, and create more sustainable income-generating opportunities. However, transitioning towards longer-term recovery may be particularly challenging in Al-Hasakeh, where government integration is only beginning and humanitarian and recovery interventions require coordination across multiple authorities.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE RESPONSE

The government integration process represents an important step towards recovery in Al-Hasakeh, but progress remains slow, uneven, and fragile. At the same time, persistent gaps in essential services, mounting economic pressures, and significant protection concerns continue to drive acute humanitarian needs. As a result, continued humanitarian assistance will remain essential and must be complemented by longer-term efforts to restore public services, strengthen civilian protection, support durable solutions for displaced populations, and ensure that any returns take place voluntarily, safely, and with dignity.

Methodology Overview and Limitations

The Northeast Syria Needs Update is a comprehensive, multi-sectoral assessment developed in consultation with humanitarian sector partners to inform humanitarian response and early recovery programming across Northeast Syria. The assessment surveyed 3,235 households across 763 communities in 39 sub-districts within the three governorates of Al-Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, and Ar-Raqqa.

The assessment employed a stratified two-stage cluster sampling design to generate representative estimates at both the sub-district (Admin 3) level and, within each governorate, for the four principal population groups: residents, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and refugee returnees. The sampling frame was developed using the October 2025 IOM-DTM Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment, with household estimates derived from sub-district-specific median household sizes.

The sampling methodology was designed to achieve two complementary objectives: (1) generate representative estimates at the sub-district level and (2) enable representative analysis of the four population groups at the governorate level. To achieve this, separate sample size requirements were calculated for geographic and population-group representativeness, with the final sample for each sub-district–population group combination set as the larger of the two. Communities were selected using probability proportional to population size, followed by random household selection within sampled communities. The assessment targeted a 90% confidence level and 10% margin of error. Data were collected through face-to-face household interviews using KoBoToolbox and structured questionnaires developed in consultation with humanitarian sector partners.

The findings should be interpreted in light of the following limitations:

- **Comparability:** While the use of the same sampling methodology and population frame supports comparison with the October 2025 MSNA, findings should be interpreted as indicative trends rather than statistically tested changes, as the assessment uses repeated cross-sectional sampling rather than following the same households over time.
- **Coverage**: Findings from Ain al Arab (Aleppo) are excluded from this factsheet because access constraints prevented the collection of a representative sample. Ras al Ain (Al-Hasakeh) was inaccessible during data collection and was therefore excluded from the assessment.
- **Timing**: Data collection concluded prior to the late May 2026 flooding along the Euphrates River affecting Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa. Consequently, the findings do not reflect the impacts of these floods.

Please refer to the Terms of Reference and the Dataset and Analysis for more details.

Assessment Coverage

Sub-district	Assessed communities	Assessed HH	Female HoH	Male HoH
Al-Hasakeh	28	114	9%	91%
Tal Tamer	23	76	11%	89%
Shadadah	32	138	4%	96%
Markada	31	73	10%	90%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	18	71	13%	87%
Areesheh	6	38	18%	82%
Hole	15	78	12%	88%
Quamishli	26	117	9%	91%
Tal Hmis	42	77	0%	100%
Amuda	12	82	7%	93%
Qahtaniyyeh	34	74	1%	99%
Al-Malikeyyeh	25	88	1%	99%
Jawadiyah	23	75	4%	96%
Ya'robiyah	32	71	0%	100%
Ras Al Ain	0	0	-	-
Darbasiyah	18	79	10%	90%
Total	152	1,251	7%	93%

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative 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).

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Endnotes

1 The 2025 Syria Needs Profile was an unpublished, nationwide multi-sectoral household assessment designed to provide representative findings at the sub-district level and support inter-sectoral needs analysis and humanitarian planning.

2 The IDP Task Force defines "residents" as individuals or groups of people who currently reside in their communities of origin, or communities of permanent residence prior to the Syrian crisis. This includes populations that were never displaced as well as previously displaced populations that have returned to their communities in previous years. This population group generally constitutes individuals present in a community who are neither IDPs nor returnees.

3 CCCM Cluster, International Organization for Migration (IOM), IMPACT REACH, and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). 2025. IDP Movement Intentions Survey – Syria. November 2025

4 The Household Water Insecurity Experiences Scale (HWISE-4) is a validated four-item scale used to measure household water insecurity based on experiences during the previous four weeks.

5 Syrian Arab Republic Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO). 2025 Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS). 2021-2025.

6 IMPACT REACH. Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) - Syria. May 2026.

7 Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET). 2026. Insecurity, drought, and economic constraints drive outcomes aligned with Crisis - Syria. February 2026.

8 Food Consumption Score (FCS) measures the current quality and diversity of a household's diet, based on how often different food groups were consumed over the previous seven days.

9 Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) measures the behaviors households use when they do not have enough food, such as reducing meal sizes, eating less-preferred foods, or borrowing food, usually over the previous seven days. Coping strategies include: relying on less preferred or expensive food, borrowing food, reducing meal sizes, reducing consumption by adults in order for small children to eat, and reduce number of meals per day.

10 The Livelihood Coping Strategies Index - Essential Needs (LCSI-EN) is a standard food security indicator that measures households' use of livelihood-based coping strategies to meet essential needs, with strategies classified as stress, crisis, or emergency according to their severity. Common emergency strategies include migrating informally or engaging in socially degrading activities to meet essential needs. Common crisis strategies include selling productive assets or children (under 15) working to contribute to household income to meet essential needs.

11 The SMEB is a tool designed by the Cash based responses Technical Working Group (CBR-TWG) for Northern Syria. The SMEB is designed as an indicator of the cost of the minimum, culturally-appropriate items that a family of 6 needs to survive for one month, while meeting basic standards for nutritious food, water use and hygiene in Northern Syria.

12 All income sources excluding loans and humanitarian assistance

13 UXO contamination: Percent of households that reported areas in or near their community that are suspected of containing landmines of UXOs at the time of data collection.

14 Respondents could select multiple answer choices for this question.