



Protection Monitoring Quarterly Report  
January-March 2018

Protection Monitoring Task Force

**SYRIA PROTECTION  
CLUSTER (TURKEY)**



## About the PMTF

The Protection Monitoring Task Force (PMTF), an initiative of the Syria Protection Cluster (Turkey), is composed of Syrian NGOs and international NGOs and aims to develop the capacity of humanitarian actors to assess, analyze, and respond to protection needs in Syria.

Around twenty non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and clusters have been involved in the formation of the PMTF, which is co-led by the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC). As of the time of this reporting, twelve members actively contribute to monthly protection monitoring, which began in March 2017.

All quarterly reports are available on the Syria Protection Cluster (Turkey) page of the Humanitarian Response Website<sup>1</sup>, where readers can also consult the 2018 Protection Monitoring Interactive Dashboard<sup>2</sup>, which allows for more detailed information by indicator, location, and month.

Using lessons learned from monthly monitoring in 2017, the active members of the PMTF undertook the revision of the monthly community-level key-informant interview with the goal of streamlining data collection. This is the first quarterly report to reflect data collected with those tools

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima/protection>

<sup>2</sup> <http://tiny.cc/jwnory>



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## Recommendations for Humanitarian Actors

In consideration of the findings from January to March 2018, the Protection Monitoring Task Force makes the following recommendations for consideration by humanitarian actors. In implementing these recommendations, humanitarian actors are reminded to ensure and prioritize the security and safety of their staff and the communities they serve in every activity, and to formulate flexible and alternative approaches to programming that will allow for the continuation of efforts. The Protection Monitoring Task Force recognizes that the unpredictability and volatility of the security situation, as well as other contextual factors, necessitate brave, creative, and innovative problem solving.

- **Develop information-sharing processes to ensure that procedures for assistance provision are clear to beneficiaries.** Improve public information about aid distribution by identifying and resolving gaps in information sharing and access. To the extent that it is possible, reasonable, and safe, increase transparency in regards to beneficiary selection criteria among communities. Additionally, review and update beneficiary lists periodically in order to ensure that assistance is received by those who are most in need and allow for flexibility for urgent protection cases. Raise awareness of existing feedback and complaint mechanisms.
- **Ensure that lack of civil status documentation does not become a barrier to accessing basic services and humanitarian assistance.** Lack of civil status documentation is a widespread phenomenon among communities and should not represent an impediment to receiving humanitarian assistance. Map and improve awareness among humanitarian actors about the impact of missing documentation and alternative mechanisms for identification. Donors should take this challenge into account in terms of their reporting requirements and monitoring mechanisms.
- **Support communities in building proper and safe WASH facilities.** In communities where housing lacks toilet facilities and sewage networks, provide support for the construction of proper facilities. In addition, improve awareness important for the prevention of contagious diseases, including about methods for keeping sources of drinking water separate from contaminated water. Direct medical mobile teams to communities experiencing outbreak of diseases due to lack of or improper WASH facilities. *See section 3.2, Shelter Conditions, for additional information.*
- **Improve access to low-cost, quality health services.** Increase availability and access to health facilities and health services in affected communities, paying particular attention to cost of transportation and cost of secondary and tertiary health services. Improve women's access to NGO clinics and mobile teams.
- **Improve access to clean and affordable water.** Improve access to clean, affordable water in underserved and remote locations. Improve community awareness on water purification methods. NGOs providing water to communities are encouraged to ensure that the water is both sufficient in quantity and clean and unpolluted.
- **Support livelihood generation.** Livelihood generation that is community-based, that takes into account the resources and needs of the community, and which can be continued over a long period of time, especially after the humanitarian actor is no longer involved with it, will create permanent and sustainable economic and survival opportunities. To ensure success, humanitarian actors should communicate with communities, understand their needs and preferences, and make accurate observations about availability of conditions required for the effectiveness and usefulness of these projects. Humanitarian actors are recommended to assess the community's short- and long-term needs, and to work towards fulfilling short-term needs prior to initiating longer-term projects such as livelihood generation.
- **Continue PSS and child-friendly activities.** Humanitarian actors are recommended to carry out PSS programs that reach all members of the community. Ensuring that parents/adult caretakers and



children receive PSS support simultaneously may help mitigate the complex and inter-related nature of trauma present in these families and communities. Additionally, creating opportunities that allow children in the community to experience normalcy, such as opportunities for sport and play, will bolster the impact of PSS activities and can help reduce the effects of traumatic living conditions.

- **Improve understanding of local structures and preferred means of dispute resolution in communities.** Due to different and varying approaches to dispute resolution in Syrian communities, ensure that humanitarian assistance provision in communities is designed with a comprehensive understanding of local dynamics, and the possible implications for humanitarian actors. In communities where NGOs coordinate humanitarian activities with local councils, advocate for equal gender representation, equal access and equal programming to sensitize local community structures to issues affecting women and girls in the community.
- **Develop targeted programming for unaccompanied women.** Initiate awareness-raising and income-generation activities for unaccompanied women, such as widows, divorcees and single unaccompanied women. This will foster greater socio-economic support for their survival and autonomy and may also encourage family unity with their children and reduce family separation.
- **Where possible, encourage positive social interaction by making programming inclusive of both IDPs and host communities.** This is particularly important where IDPs reside in camps physically far from host communities. Where feasible, provide transportation support for residents of isolated camps and communities to access basic services (particularly markets) in towns and city centers. Focus social interaction initiatives on women (IDPs and host community members) who have fewer opportunities to interact due to greater restrictions in women's movement. In cases where local NGOs represent an important source of employment in the community, ensure that equal employment opportunities are offered to host community members and IDPs and mitigate perceptions of discrimination or inequality.
- **Mitigate factors that prevent school attendance.** Employ a multi-tiered approach that not only reduces financial, physical and security-related barriers to accessing schools, but also influences community perceptions about education through awareness-raising initiatives emphasizing the necessity and importance of education.
- **Mitigate threat of explosive hazards.** Continue and expand risk education and increase awareness on remaining safe from mines and explosive hazards in areas where these risks are most commonly found.
- **Improve access to specialized services.** There is a significant need to scale up and expand dedicated and specialized services. Disabilities that result in lack of or reduction in mobility may result in additional challenges in accessing food, water, non-food items, and other vital humanitarian assistance.



# 1

## **Situational Overview, Methodology and Location/KI Profile**

## Situational Overview

The Syrian conflict, now in its eighth year, has caused continued and staggering suffering of civilians. In the context of armed conflict, besiegement, displacement, increasing poverty and a reliance on harmful coping mechanisms, civilians face numerous and overlapping protection risks. Despite the challenging security environment, humanitarian actors continue to respond to the humanitarian needs occurring on an overwhelming scale in Syria.

During this reporting period, January-March 2018, the following key developments took place in the context of the Syrian conflict and related displacements:

- In January 2018, the Government of Turkey launched a military operation against the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and affiliated forces in Afrin district of northern Aleppo governorate, resulting in violence and conflict activity. This military operation and escalation in conflict resulted in IDP movements from Afrin towards the Government of Syria (GoS) held-areas of Aleppo.
- In February, the GoS launched a ground military operation in the southeast of Idlib, supported by intensive airstrikes by GoS on parts of south and central of Idlib. This military operation led to significant escalation in conflict between GoS and AOGs, which caused mass IDP movement from southeast Idlib towards central and northern Idlib.
- Beginning in January-February, there was ongoing tension and clashes between HTS and JTS (Jabhat Tahrir Syria) in Idlib and parts of Aleppo, which caused instability in the security situation in most of Idlib and Western Aleppo.
- Additionally, local agreements for Eastern Ghouta in February resulted in population movement and displacement from Eastern Ghouta to Idlib and surrounding areas.

As a result of these political and security-related developments, Idlib and surrounding areas experienced over 300,000 IDP arrivals between January and March 2018. 48 percent percent of these arrivals took place in January due to conflict activity in Aleppo, Idlib and Hama. Over 20,000 arrivals were received in northern Aleppo, particularly in consequence to conflict activity in Afrin. Over 300,000 IDP departures were also recorded during this period, 93 percent percent of departures took place within Idlib governorate, partially due to hostilities and conflict activity in south-east Idlib during the reporting period (CCCM ISMI January-March 2018 Quarterly Trends Analysis<sup>3</sup>).

## Data Collection Methodology and Data Presentation

PMTF members conducted key informant interviews on a monthly basis. The interview questions measure protection risks in the areas of rights, basic needs, vulnerability, demographics, and incidents. The protection indicators were decided in consultation with protection actors and other cluster coordinators.

In order to achieve statistically significant results, members were encouraged to conduct at least three interviews per community per month. Locations were selected depending on factors such as member presence and accessibility.

Through KI interviews, members collect data from key informants (KIs) -- active and aware members of the community who are able to assess various protection risks and concerns of all demographic groups.

The majority of the data available in this report is from Idlib governorate (49 percent). While governorate-level comparisons have been made in this report, readers are encouraged to take into consideration that data from remaining governorates is limited: Aleppo (14 percent), Hama (12 percent), Homs (11 percent), Al-

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<sup>3</sup> <https://app.box.com/s/p0zyfgk9z2njoe36tnd6apo07hgot4ml>

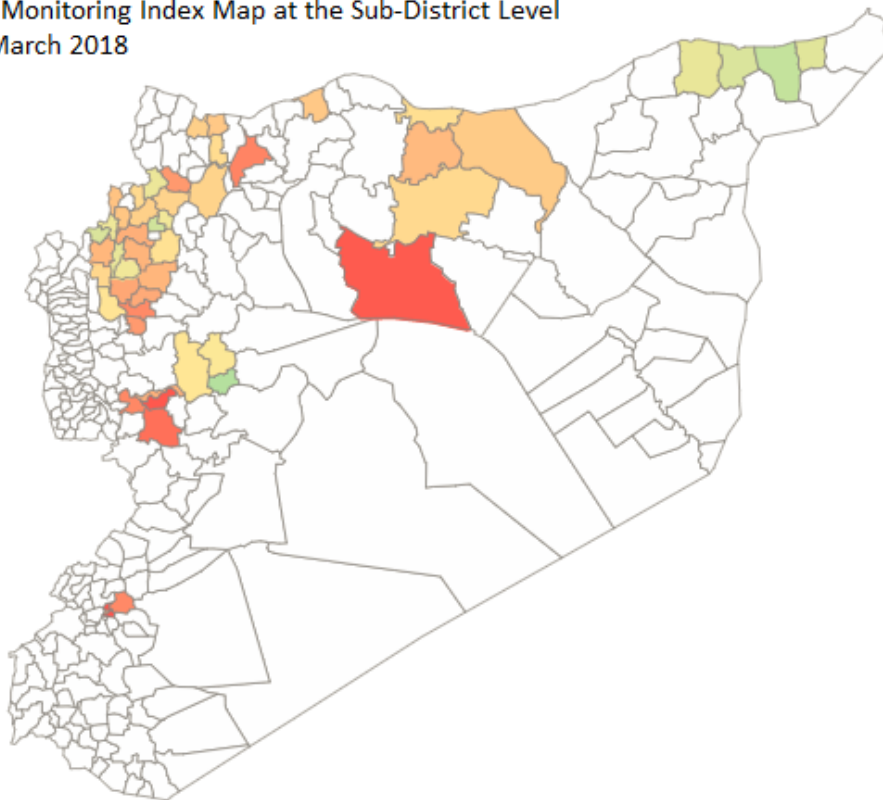


Hasakeh (6 percent), Ar-Raqqa (5 percent) and Rural Damascus (3 percent). Due to the variety of data collectors and agencies participating in this protection monitoring exercise, the type of responses can vary. In addition, conclusions of data from the governorates cannot be generalized to represent the Syrian population as a whole. The results reported can only be considered the opinions and perceptions of the survey participants. Comparisons between findings in this and earlier reports should also take into account the difference in locations of interviews between the two periods, due to changes in access.

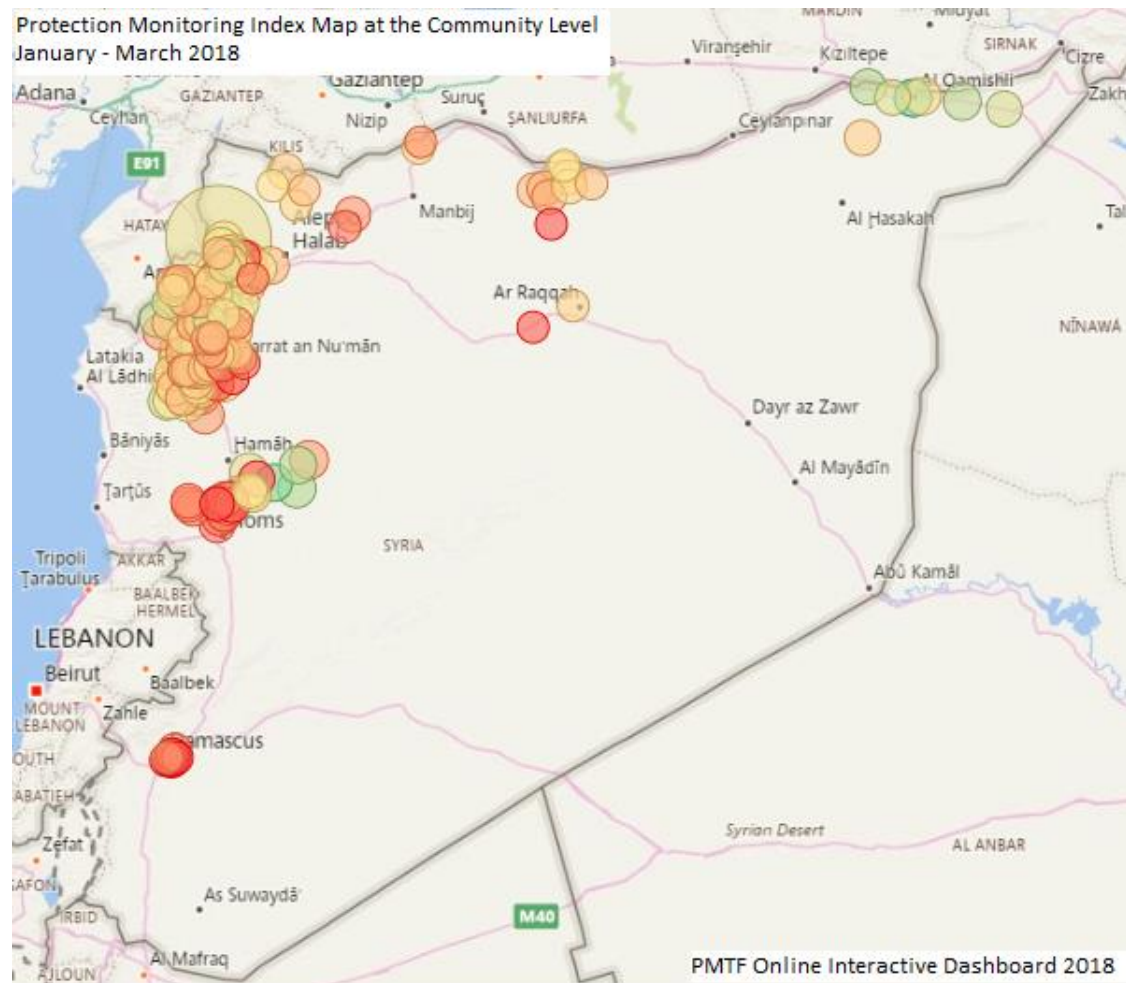
Maps from the Online Interactive Dashboard which indicate severity of protection risks based on location can also be found throughout this report. It is noted however that the color severity index may not be accurate in cases where there are few number of interviews in the community. It is necessary and highly encouraged to utilize the maps and analysis directly through the Online Interactive Dashboard in order to access all of this information, including the number of interviews conducted in a particular community during the monitoring period. Please refer to the last section of this report for additional information on how to access and use the PMTF Online Interactive Dashboard.

## Monitoring Location and KI Profile

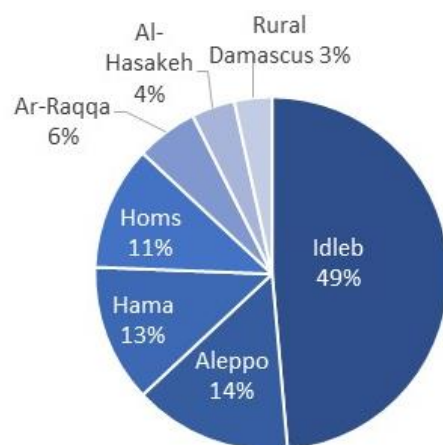
**Protection Monitoring Index Map at the Sub-District Level**  
January - March 2018



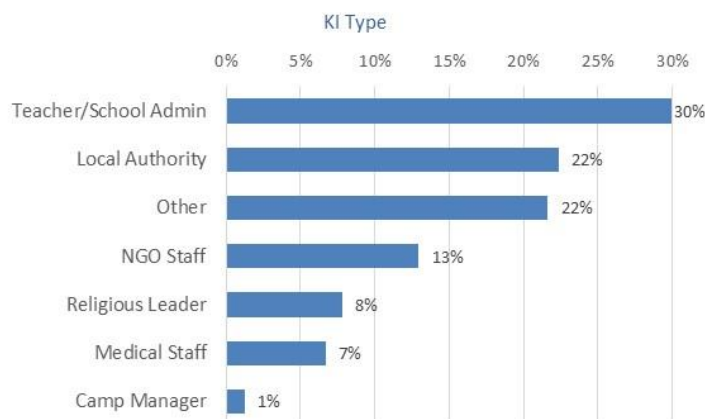
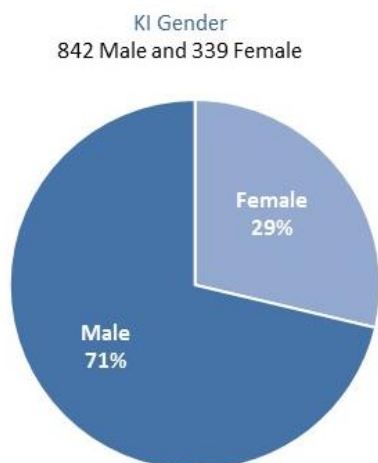




Percentage of Interviews per Governorate  
Total Number of Interviews: 1,136

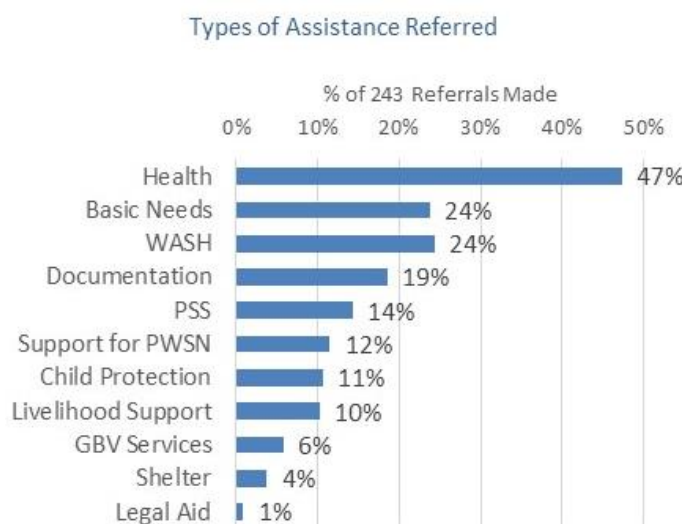


This report is based on data from 1,181 community-level key-informant (KI) interviews conducted by 11 PMTF members between January and March 2018 in seven governorates in north and southwest Syria. It is the first quarterly report of 2018 by PMTF.



In this monitoring period, of a total of 1,181 key informants, 29 percent were female and 71 percent were male. Teachers were the most common KI asked, followed by local authority, NGO staff, religious leader, medical staff, camp manager, and others. Among the most mentioned in “other” KIs are notable members of the community (community leaders and respected individuals) (38), housewives (18), engineers (7), students (5) and journalists (4).

21 percent (243) of the surveys conducted during this monitoring period resulted in a protection referral to the following sectors:



# 2

## Findings

## Findings

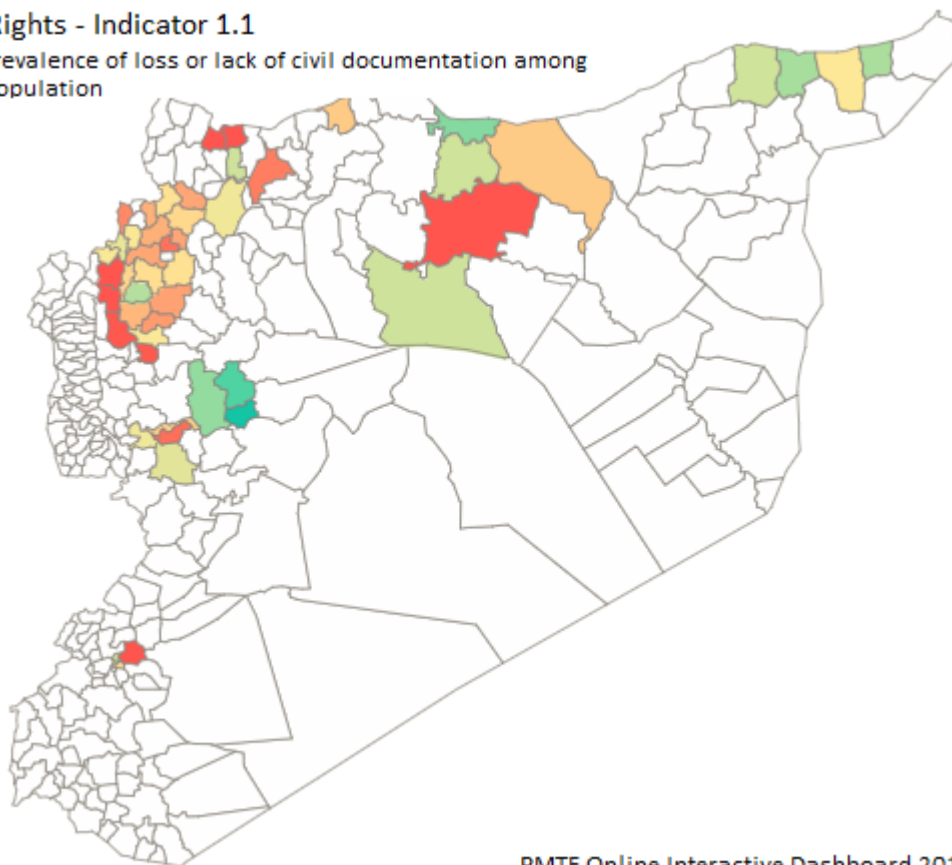
### 3.1 Rights

The results of protection monitoring on rights-related risks illuminate impediments to civilians' enjoyment of stable and secure lives within their communities. For example, lack of civil documentation places community members at risk of not being able to access basic rights and services. Civilians also experience challenges in maintaining access to shelter and achieving dispute resolution. However, factors such as high social cohesion can counteract these risks. Humanitarian actors should focus on maintaining and reinforcing positive social interaction between IDPs and the host community, while reducing protection risks caused by lack of identity documents, unreliable shelter arrangements, and limited interaction with NGOs.

#### 3.1.1 Civil Documentation

##### Rights - Indicator 1.1

Prevalence of loss or lack of civil documentation among population

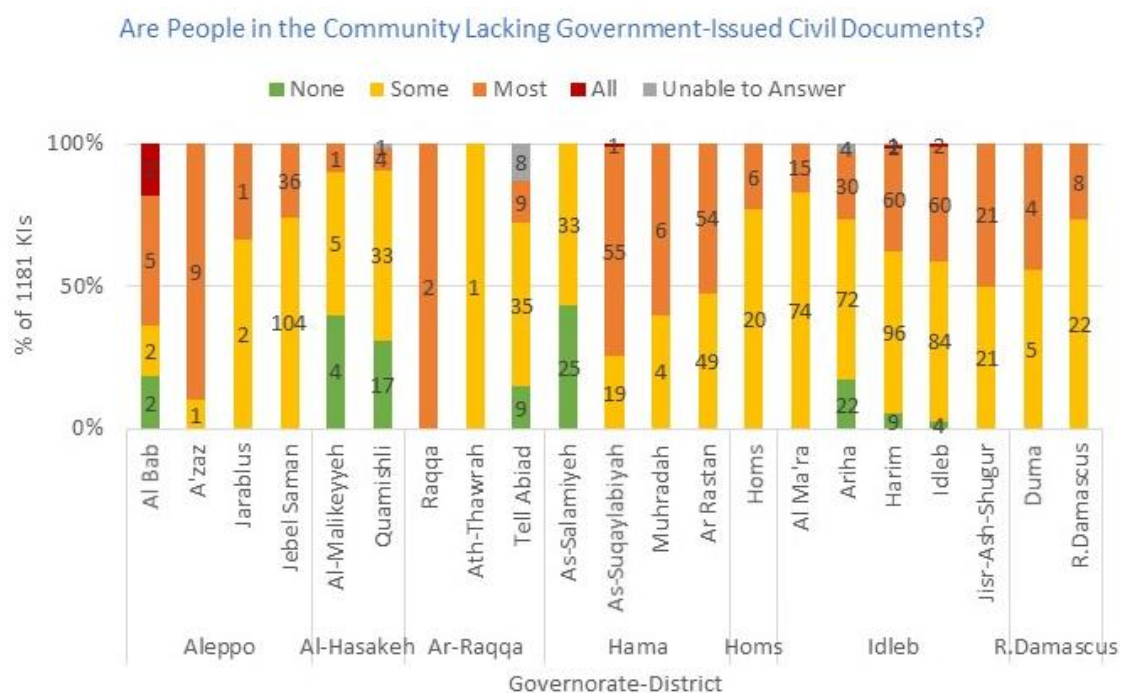


8 percent of key-informants stated that community members are not lacking government-issued civil documents, and 92 percent indicated that either some, most or all community members are lacking government-issued documentation.

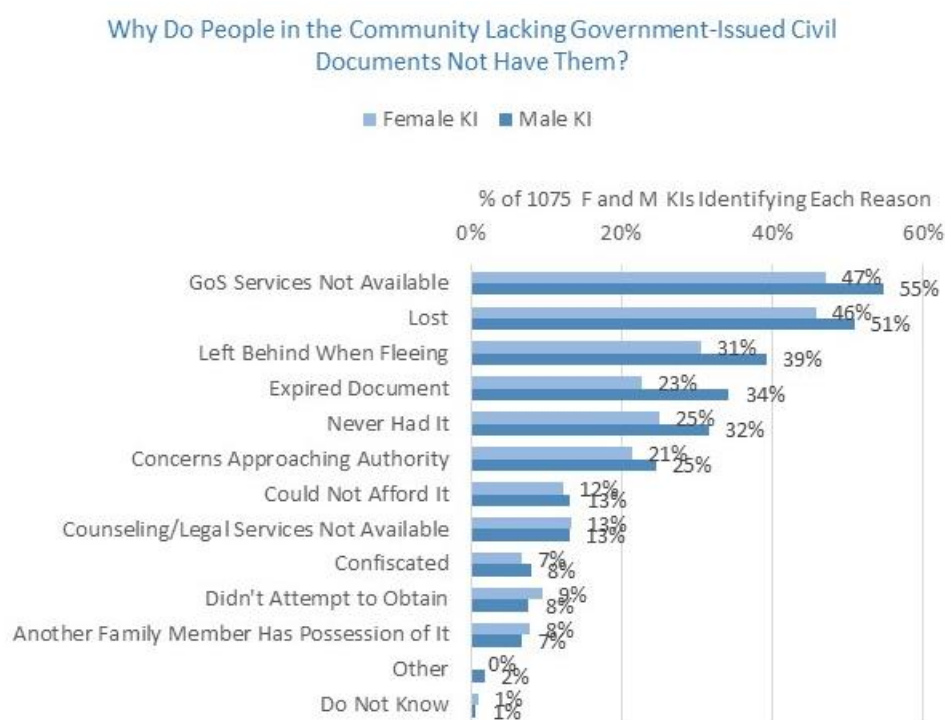
Are People in the Community Lacking Government-Issued Civil Documents?



The chart below demonstrates the high prevalence of this issue for conflict-affected communities, and how important it is for both humanitarian actors and donors to take this factor into consideration.



KIs stating that some, most, or all community members lack government-issued civil documents most commonly identified the following reasons: that GoS services are unavailable in the areas, that documents were lost or left behind when fleeing, that documents were never obtained in the first place, or that they expired.



Among "other," KIs described additional reasons for not holding government-issued civil documents. Several KIs mentioned that bribes are required to issue documents and they cannot afford them. Other KIs stated that they fear entering GoS controlled areas and fear arrest at GoS checkpoints, arbitrary detention and recruitment for compulsory military service. Another issue reported is that after the onset of the conflict, many families delayed issuing civil status documentation due to conflict conditions, and when they finally have opportunities to issue these documents, the late fees often prevent them from doing so. For example, some families with children born after the start of the conflict may not have an issued birth certificate for the child. Often, these documents become necessary only when the child reaches school-going age and schools request them for registration. At that time, families try to obtain documents but authorities implement a late fee which families are unable to afford.

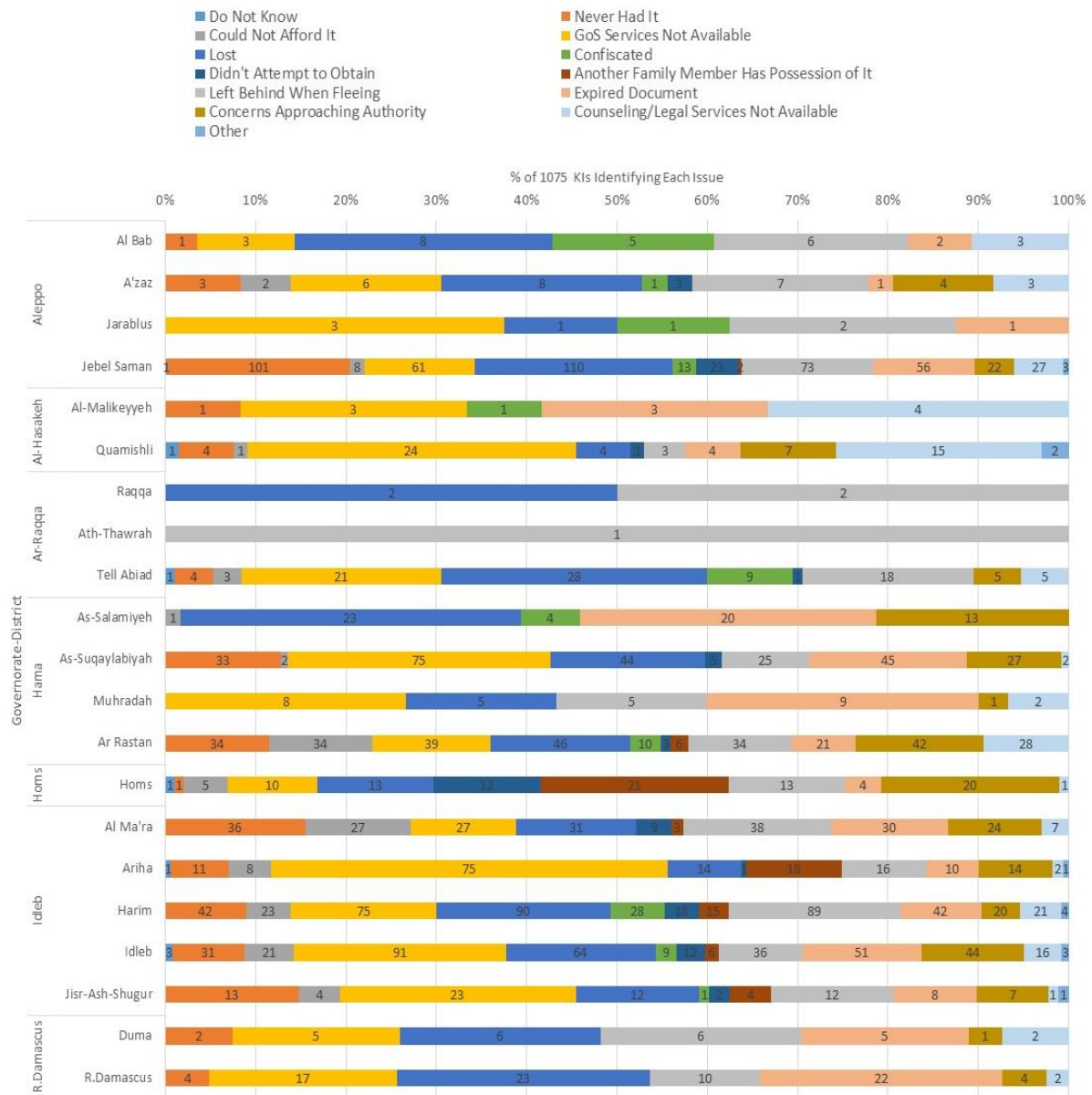
Some key informants stating "other" explained that the documents were either destroyed during airstrikes, or that they deserted from the military and so they cannot get their IDs back, which were held by the government until they would finish their service. Some explained they are undocumented Kurds and never obtained documents in the first place<sup>4</sup>.

While some reasons for lack of documentation apply to numerous districts monitored in this report, some of the reasons cited for the lack of documentation are area-specific. For example, confiscated documentation has been identified particularly for Al Bab and Jarablus districts of Aleppo, Tell Abiad district of Ar-Raqqa and As-Salamiyyeh district of Hama and Harim district of Idlib governorate. Those in Quamishli district of Al-Hasakeh were more likely to leave documents behind when fleeing. Expired documents are more common in Al-Malikeyyeh district of Al-Hasakeh, As-Salamiyyeh and Muhradah districts of Hama, and Duma and Rural Damascus districts of Rural Damascus. Some of these locations are besieged or hard-to-reach locations, while others have experienced clashes and shifts in control during the reporting period.

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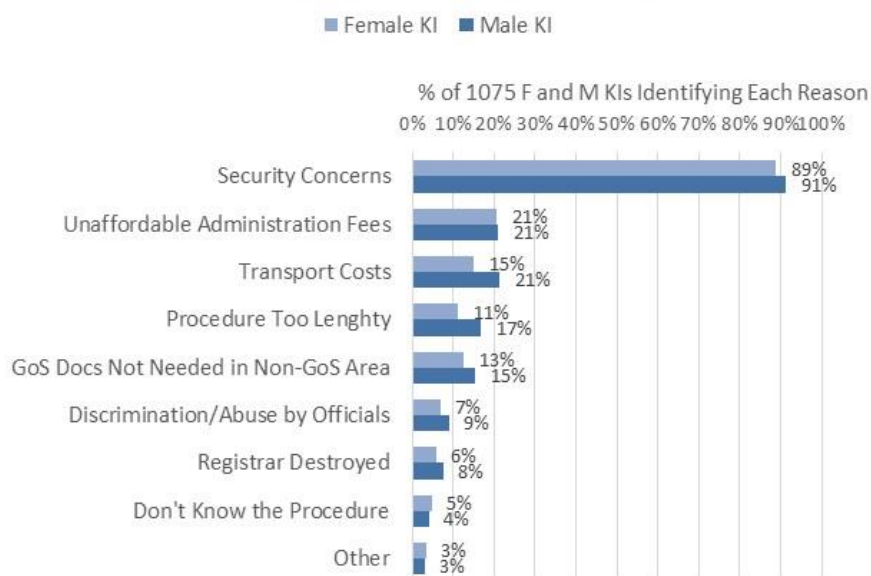
<sup>4</sup> Some Kurds were not included in the 1962 census and were denied statehood and documentation by the Syrian government. Prior to the conflict, undocumented Kurds experienced many challenges in accessing basic services and rights, including access to education, health care, right to own property, freedom of movement within the country and access to public sector employment. In 2011-2012, the Syrian government issued "ajnnabi" or foreigner status to some Kurdish families. However, an application process was required and documentation was not granted to every applicant, causing many Kurds to remain stateless and without documentation. The children of undocumented Kurds also remain undocumented.

# Why Do People in the Community Lacking Government-Issued Civil Documents Not Have Them?





### Reasons Why Community Members Lacking Government-Issued Civil Documents Have Not Been Able to Obtain Them



Security concerns are the major barrier to community members' obtaining government-issued documentation, followed by fees, transportation costs and lengthy procedures. Some KIs also noted that GoS documents are simply not needed as they are residing in a non-GoS area. Key informants also stated, among *other* reasons, that they cannot enter GoS areas to issue documentation due to fear of arrest and arbitrary detention, or recruitment for compulsory military service. Additionally, key informants noted that it is possible to issue GoS documents without entering areas controlled by the Syrian government, but this requires paying large fees and bribes to middlemen, which people cannot afford. For this reason, in non-GoS areas, community members issue some documents, like the civil registry document from the local Sharia Court or the (non-GoS) Civil Registration Center at low cost. However, these documents are only recognized in non-GoS areas. Additionally, one key informant in Quamishli, Al-Hasakeh stated that there are no clear laws relating to issuing of documents, and therefore, it is difficult to apply for documents, and applications are sometimes refused.

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*Very high cost because of bribes, if issued without going to the areas controlled by the government. (Male KI, NGO Staff, Off Camp, Idleb District, Idleb Governorate)*

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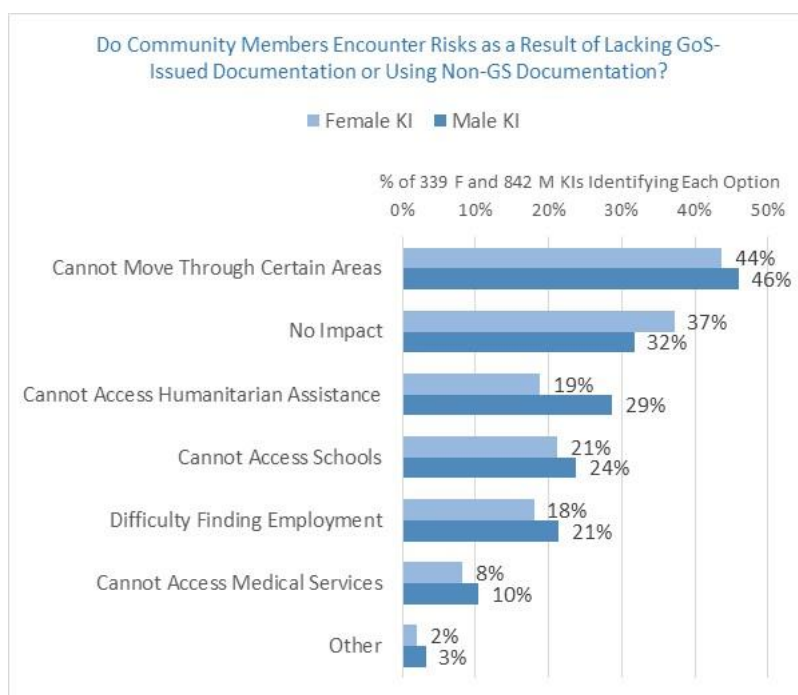


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*People who don't have ID documents or passports can't get them because there is no GoS registration center in the liberated areas. As for the rest of the documents, they got them from the Sharia court or the Nufus, like the civil registry document. The symbolic cost is 500 SYP and these docs are recognized only in liberated areas (Male KI, Local Authority, Off-Camp, Harim District, Idleb Governorate)*

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While 33 percent of key informants indicated that the lack of government-issued documentation or use of non-GoS documentation has no impact at all on the community, other key informants identified various risks. The most mentioned was the inability to move through certain areas. Additionally, key informants state that community members experience challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance, schools, employment and medical services.

Key informants continue to indicate that documentation is a requirement to access humanitarian assistance. One key informant response exemplifies the far-reaching consequences of lack of CSD and resulting inability to travel to GoS-controlled areas. Certain medical treatments and higher education are available only in GoS-controlled areas, and lack of CSD automatically prevents community members from accessing and benefiting from these services. Responses indicate that lack of documentation also presents a barrier for the movement of patients for medical treatment even when the cases are critical and urgent (for example cases needing to enter Turkey for treatment from Jisr-Ash-Shugur, Idleb governorate).

Additionally, key informants indicate that although schools are available in non-GoS held areas, they still require official documentation to register children for school. Responses indicate that many schools have a more flexible approach in regard to requirement of documents, however, and do provide alternative solutions for families. For example, a photocopy of the family booklet or the student's performance report from another school is often sufficient as documentation to register children. Some schools also accept a pledge by the family that they will obtain documents for the child soon and submit it to the school. Despite these alternative solutions, many families remain unable to obtain documents either due to inability to travel to GoS areas or due to the late fees required. A response indicates that in order to avoid paying late fees, some families register their children as though they were born within that year while the child is six years old, meaning that the child cannot study for another six years. Additionally, middle and high school students who have been able to study are not able to take their final examinations and receive official (GoS) certificates and diplomas due to an inability to travel to examination centers which are located in GoS areas due to lack of civil status documentation.

Issues relating to lack of CSD and access to education vary significantly by geographic location. For example, while schools in non-GoS areas are not administered by the GoS and may be able to take more flexible approaches in regards to student documentation and registration, schools in some non-GoS held areas of Homs and Hama governorate continue to be administered by the GoS Directorate of Education and require official GoS-issued documentation for student registration. As these families cannot travel to GoS-held areas, this requirement is a significant barrier to education in these areas.

Key informants elaborated the following additional risks caused by lack of GoS documents or use of non-GoS documentation: HLP disagreements and the inability to prove purchase or sale transactions in court; women's rights; marriage, divorce and inheritance related matters; and inability to enter GoS areas to issue additional CSD, such as passports for international travel.

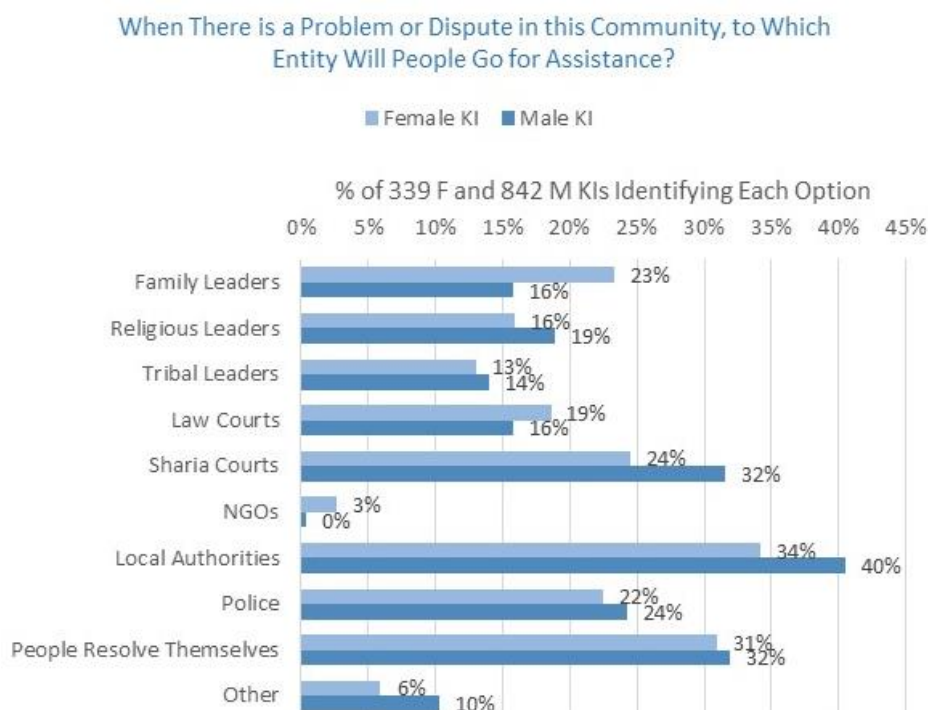
According to information provided by one Protection Cluster member, in areas such as Idleb governorate where the Sharia courts manage family-related legal matters, the marriage of a couple that conducts religious marriage through an imam that is not an authorized employee of the local Sharia court will not be valid. Children born within these marriages are also considered to be born out of wedlock and "do not exist" in a legal sense. Both women and children are denied legal rights such as inheritance in these cases. Legal teams can help mitigate these issues by informing newly-married couples of the necessity to approach Sharia courts for registration in order for religious marriages to be recognized.

Additional challenges and problems mentioned by key informants due to lack of CSD include difficulties in identifying individuals killed from generalized violence such as shelling and bombardments. Several KIs in Al Hasakeh governorate reported that lack of documentation restricts their freedom of movement and that they cannot travel outside of Al Hasakeh. Registration of property takes place in specific locations, and community members who cannot travel due to lack of documentation are not able to register their property. This issue was indicated for example in Al Hasakeh governorate.

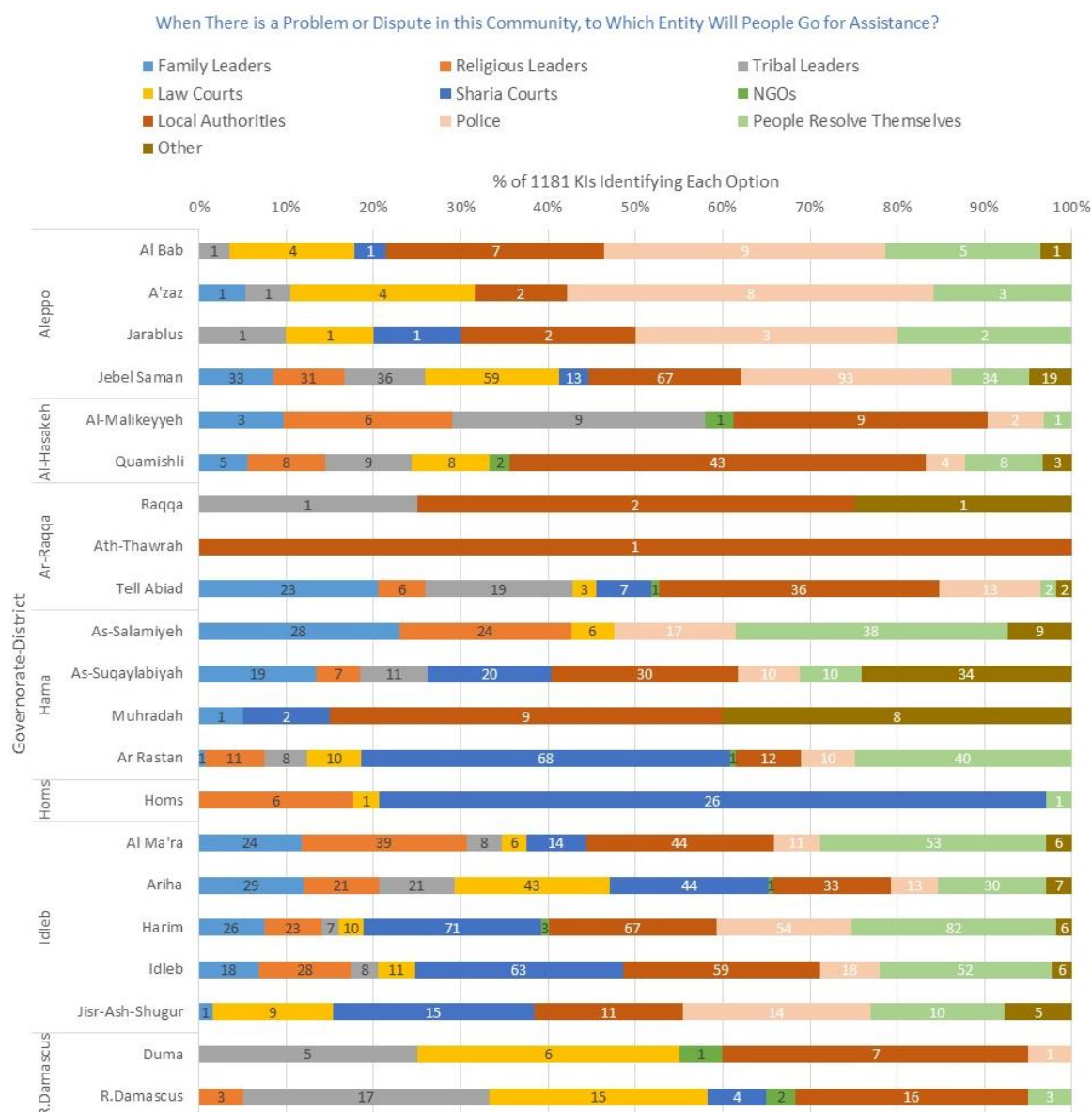
It should also be noted that this vast variety of challenges experienced by key informants in relation to CSD are also resulting in the use of fake or forged documentation (forged GoS documentation). 19 key informants mentioned this issue during this reporting period.

### 3.1.2 Access to Justice

During the January-March 2018 reporting period, 39 percent of KIs indicated that when there is a problem or dispute, community members appeal to local authorities for dispute resolution. Following this, key informants stated that people resolve dispute themselves (32 percent), they apply to Sharia courts (30 percent), and police (24 percent).



Male key informants were more likely to state that community members apply to local authorities, sharia courts and tribal leaders and female key informants were more likely to state that community members apply to family leaders and law courts.

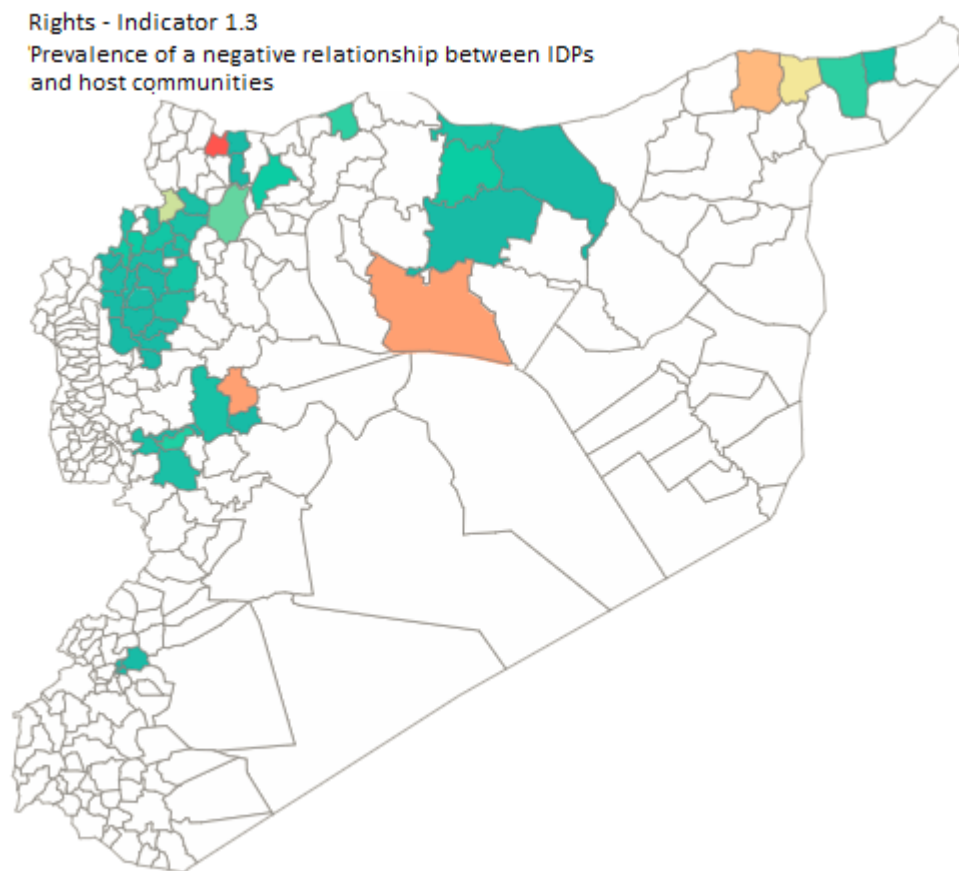


While all communities rely on more than one type of entity for the resolution of their disputes, the type of entity and preferences vary among locations. Some entities are not utilized at all in certain locations. For example, religious leaders was not mentioned in the following locations: Al Bab, A'zaz and Jarablus districts of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Ath-Thawrah districts of Ar-Raqqa, Muhradah district of Hama, Jisr-Ash-Shugur district of Idlib and Duma district of Rural Damascus. Courts of law was not mentioned in Al Malikeyyeh district of Al Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Ath-Thawrah districts of Ar-Raqqa and As-Suqaylabiya and Muhradah districts of Hama. In comparison to earlier reports however, key informants in communities covered by this report indicates that communities are utilizing a greater variety of entities for dispute resolution, albeit in different degrees. It can be concluded that in many locations, community members have access to different entities and different options to resolve their disputes.

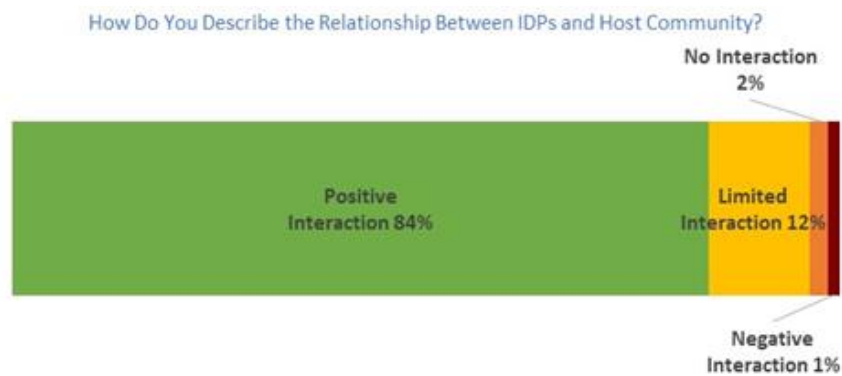
Of 101 key informants who mentioned an "other" entity, 53 percent mentioned notables, 16 percent Shura council and 6 percent security committee.



### 3.1.3 Social Cohesion

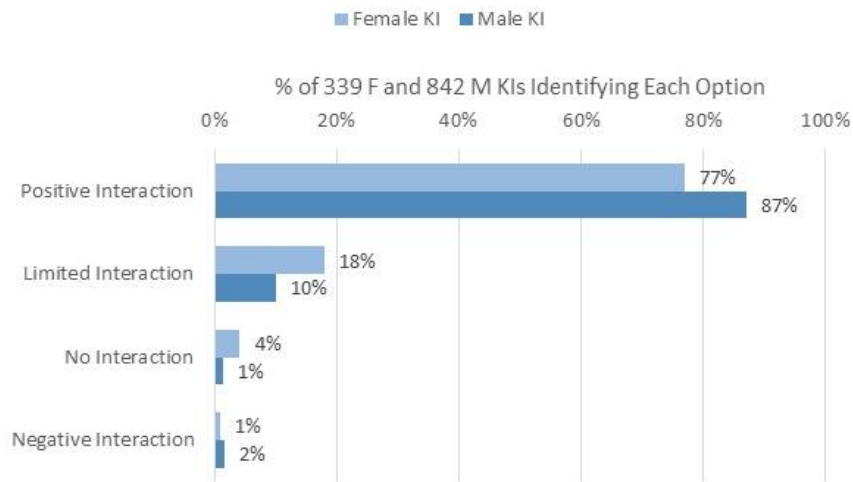


PMTF Online Interactive Dashboard 2018



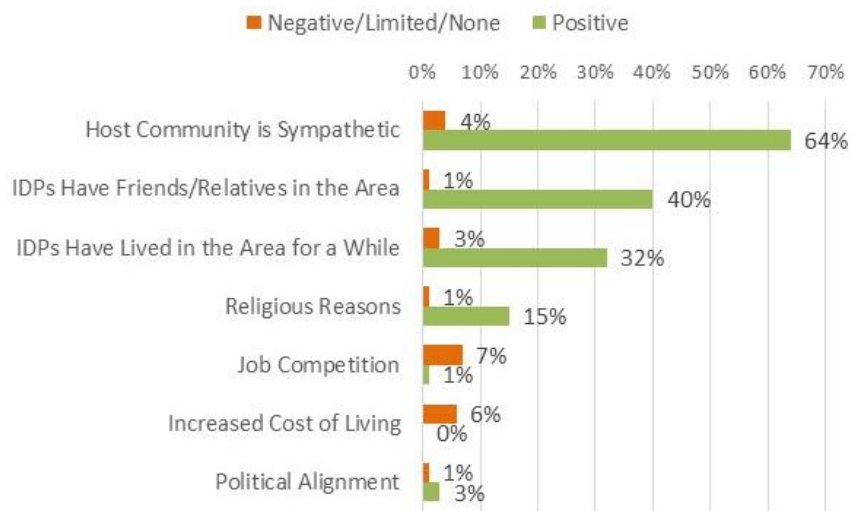
Consistent with data of previous reporting periods, the relationship between IDPs and host community continues to be predominantly a positive one.

### How Do You Describe the Relationship Between IDPs and Host Community?

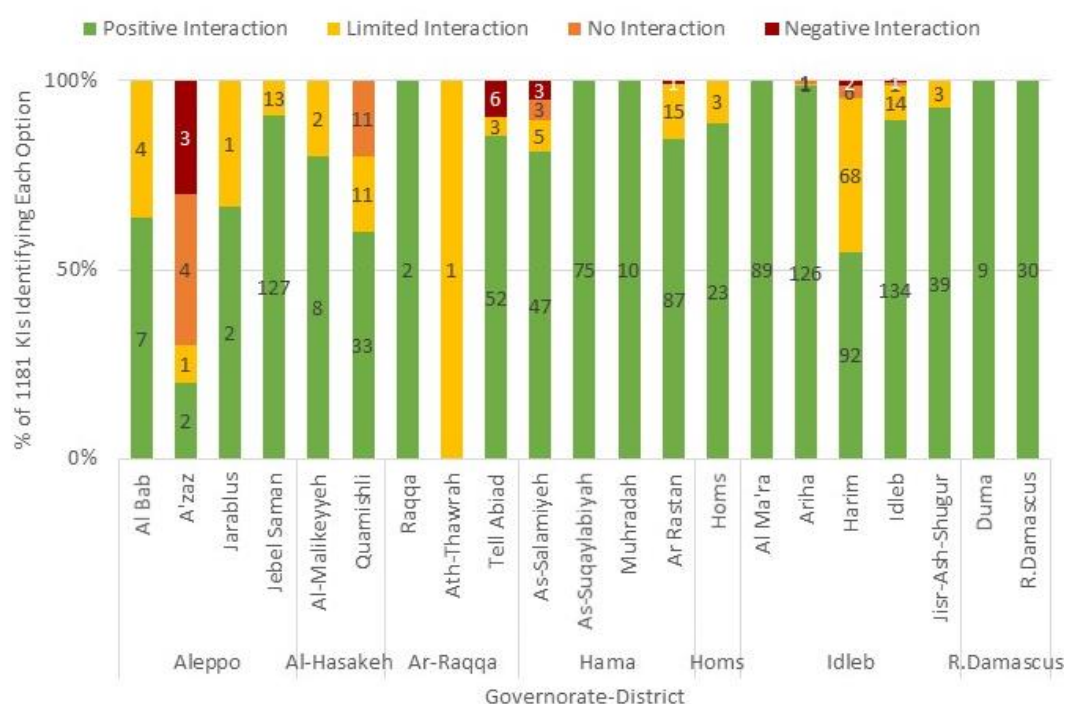


The top reasons cited for the positive interaction between IDPs and the host community in this monitoring period is consistent with the findings of earlier quarterly reports. The reason identified the most by key informants in this reporting period was the sympathy of the host community toward IDPs. This was followed by the presence of IDPs' friends and relatives in the area and the duration of IDPs' residence in the area.

### What is the Reason for the Level of Interaction Between IDPs and Host Community?



### How Do You Describe the Relationship Between IDPs and Host Community?



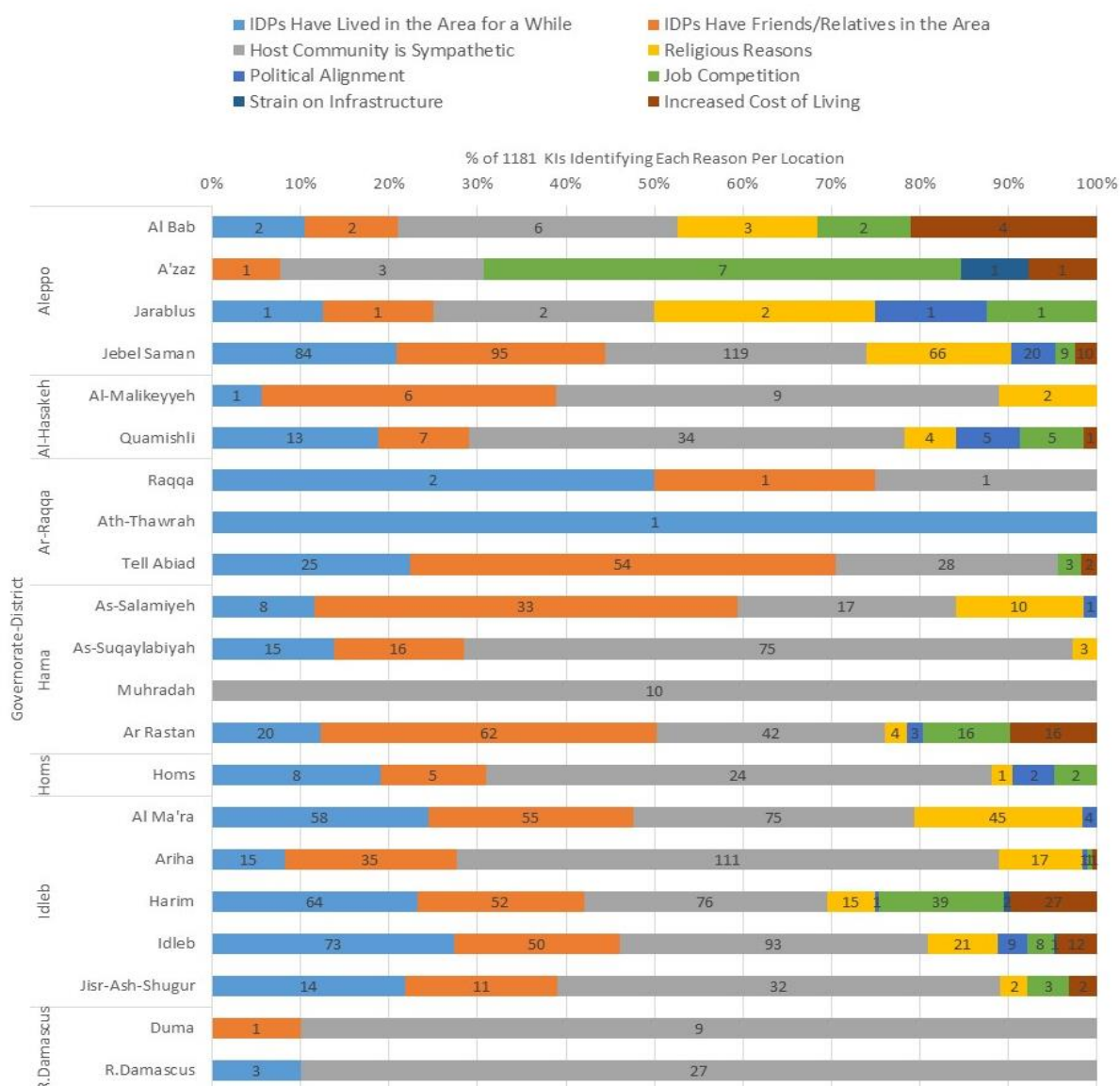
In regards to locations in which some key informants noted limited or negative interaction, it is noted that these locations, such as Al Bab, A'zaz and Jarablus of Aleppo governorates and Harim district of Idleb governorate, are locations hosting large numbers of IDPs which also regularly experience both arrivals and departures of IDPs. Consistent with this, factors which have a negative impact on the relationship between IDPs and host community are mentioned more frequently in these areas. For example, job competition and increased cost of living was mentioned in Aleppo and Idleb governorates much more than other areas.

Key informants explained and emphasized the positive relationship by reiterating factors such as sympathy, religious and traditional obligations to assist conflict-affected and needy individuals in the community, and growing social bonds between the IDPs and host communities, including through neighborly relations or marriage. Additionally, many IDPs and members of the host community engage in business and work activities together.

In regards to negative, limited or nonexistent relationships between IDPs and host community, the issue of ethnic, religious, cultural, language, sectarian differences was mentioned, and specifically for communities in Quamishli district of Al Hasakeh governorate. Some key informants note that differences in religion and culture are affecting relationships and that sectarian issues are becoming more prevalent in some communities.



### What is the Reason for the Level of Interaction Between IDPs and Host Community?



A Christian segment of the community has limited interaction with the displaced because of the fact that they are Muslim or from conservative areas. The mixing and the establishment of relations between the two parties are very limited. (Female KII, Off-Camp, Civil Activist, Quamishli district, Al Hasakeh governorate).

Because of the language factor and of not having interaction before. (Female KII, Off Camp, Teacher, Quamishli district, Al Hasakeh governorate)



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*Interaction is limited because of the different customs and social norms between the two parties. (Male KII, Off Camp, Civil Activist, Quamishli district, Al Hasakeh governorate).*

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The tension between IDPs and the host community in the Saboura community of As-Salamiyeh district of Hama governorate, which had been indicated by key informants in previous reports, was mentioned once again during this reporting period and appears to persist.

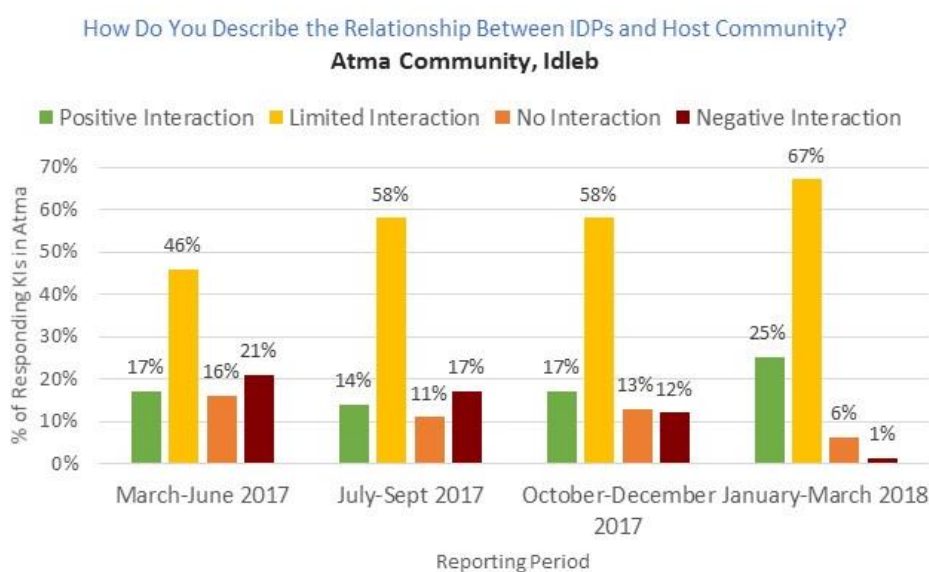
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*The sectarian differences are the reason, especially after the massacre committed by the ISIS in the village and talk about the cooperation of the displaced people with them. (Male KII, Off Camp, Local Authority, As-Salamiyeh district, Hama governorate).*

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When IDPs share similar ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, however, these shared profiles have a positive and cohesive effect on IDP and host community relations. The majority of key informants participating in this monitoring describe a positive relationship.

The perceived relationship between IDPs and host community presented the following trend in Atma community of Idleb governorate, which has hosted high numbers of IDPs since the beginning of the crisis. The percentage of KIs stating that there is no interaction or a negative interaction shows a reduction, while KIs stating that the interaction is positive is increasing.



### 3.2 Basic Services

Monitoring shows that community members continue to experience challenges in accessing basic commodities and services, including food, education, healthcare and employment, due to damage to education, health, and WASH infrastructure, as well as other reasons, including limitations on freedom of movement and security concerns, including fear of generalized violence and criminal activity.

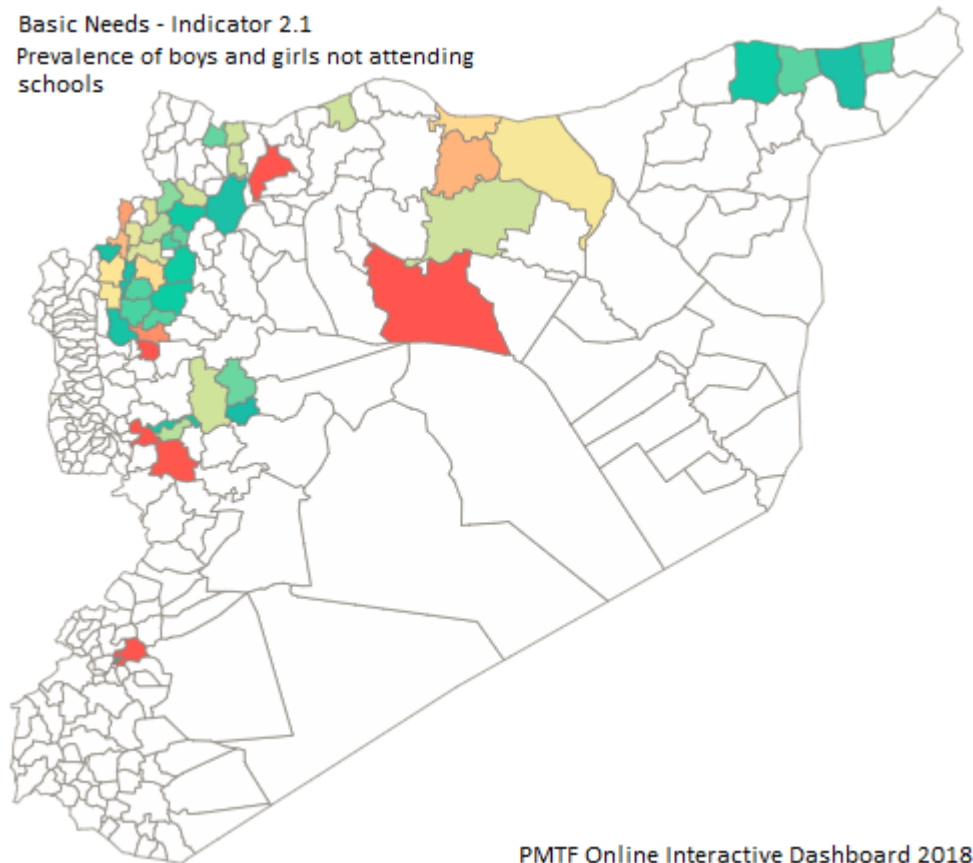
Military operations and conflict activity in Afrin and Idleb during the reporting period, and the resulting IDP movements have continued to make it necessary to include a growing number of people in need of humanitarian assistance. Conflict-affected communities continue to rely on humanitarian assistance for survival, and sustained funding is required to address their needs. It is critical to ensure that services are integrated, durable, sustainable, long-term, and community-based.





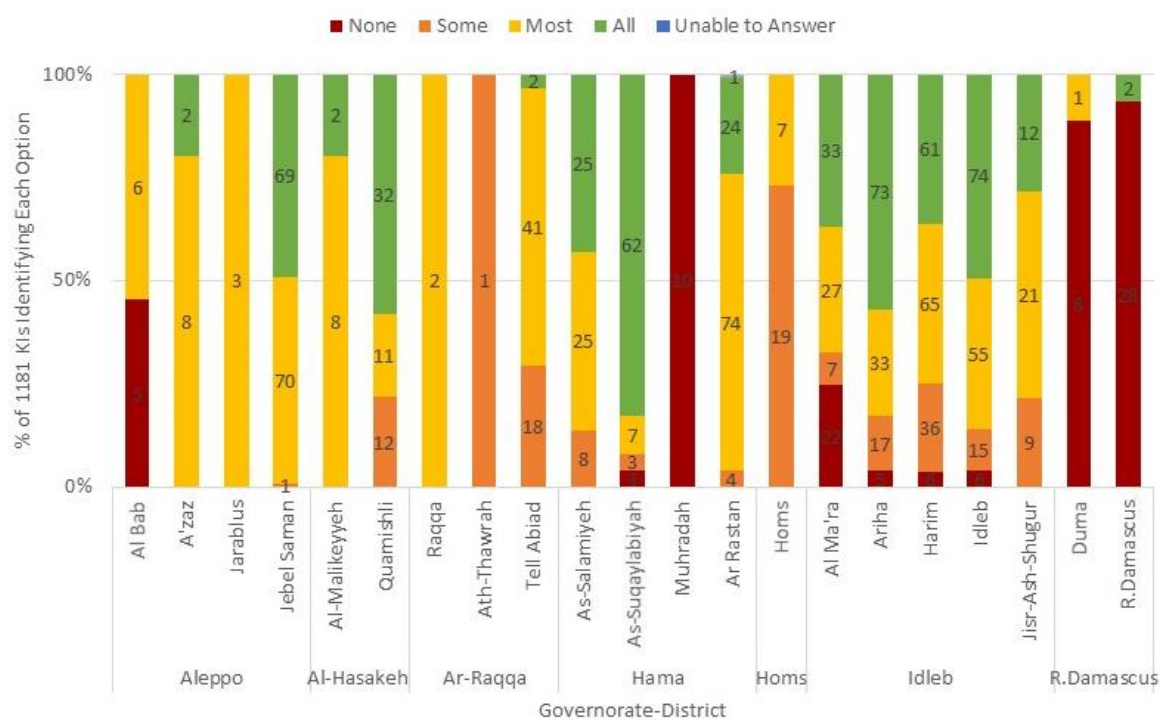
The monthly community-level key informant interviews ask community members about damage to education, health and WASH infrastructure in their communities that occurred during the three weeks preceding the interview. Damaged or destroyed infrastructure limits and prevents community members' access to basic services. Of 1181 KIs, 8 percent reported some, most or all damage to education infrastructure in their communities, 6 percent reported damage to health infrastructure and 10 percent reported damage to WASH infrastructure as a result of conflict activity. This information is not representative of all affected/damaged infrastructure in Syria and does not imply any specific geographical location within the governorates.

### 3.2.1 Access to Education

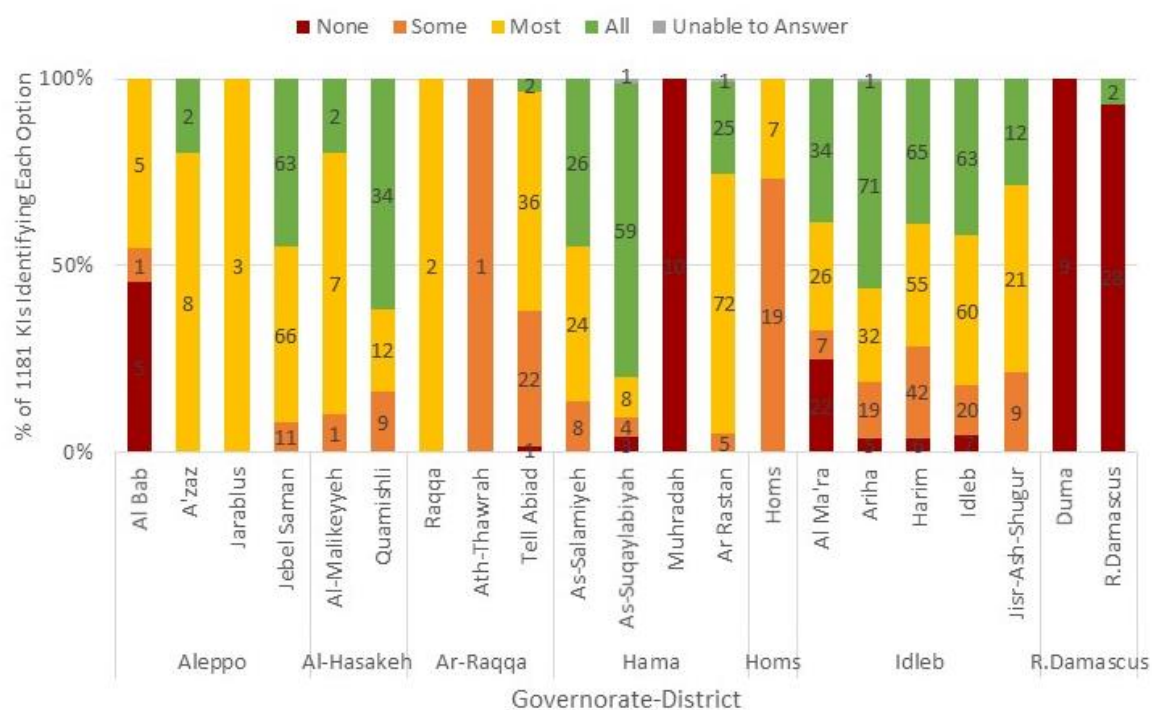


There are no significant differences between this data for boys and for girls. Findings indicate that both boys and girls experience similar levels of access to education. As we will see below, however, there are some differences in perceived barriers to access for boys and girls.

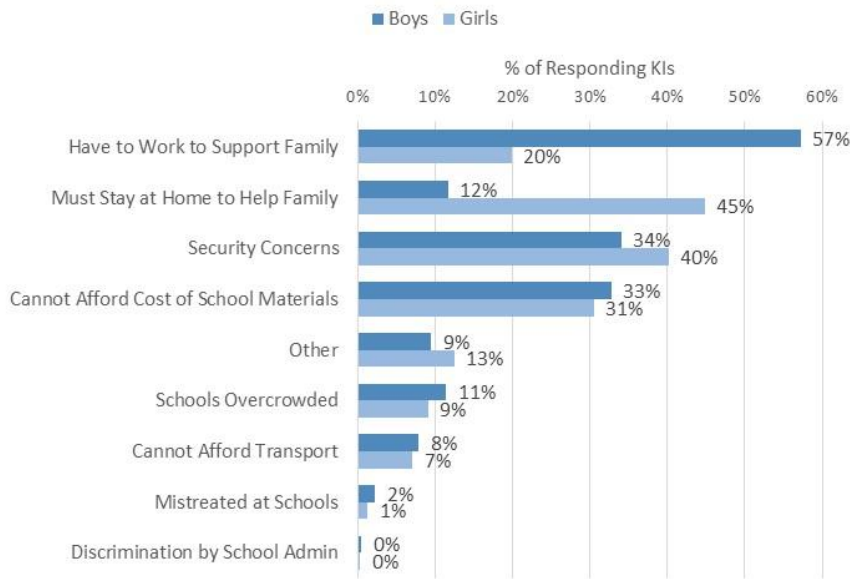
### Are Boys Attending School in this Community?



### Are Girls Attending School in this Community?



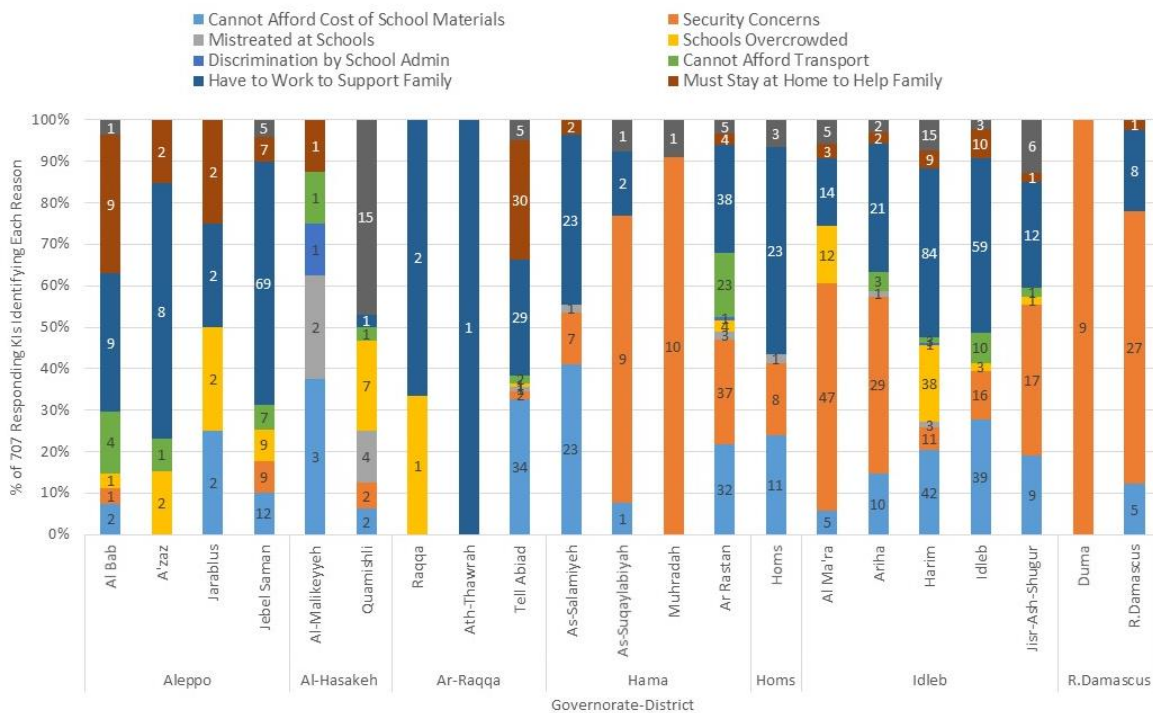
### Why Do Boys and Girls Not Attend School?

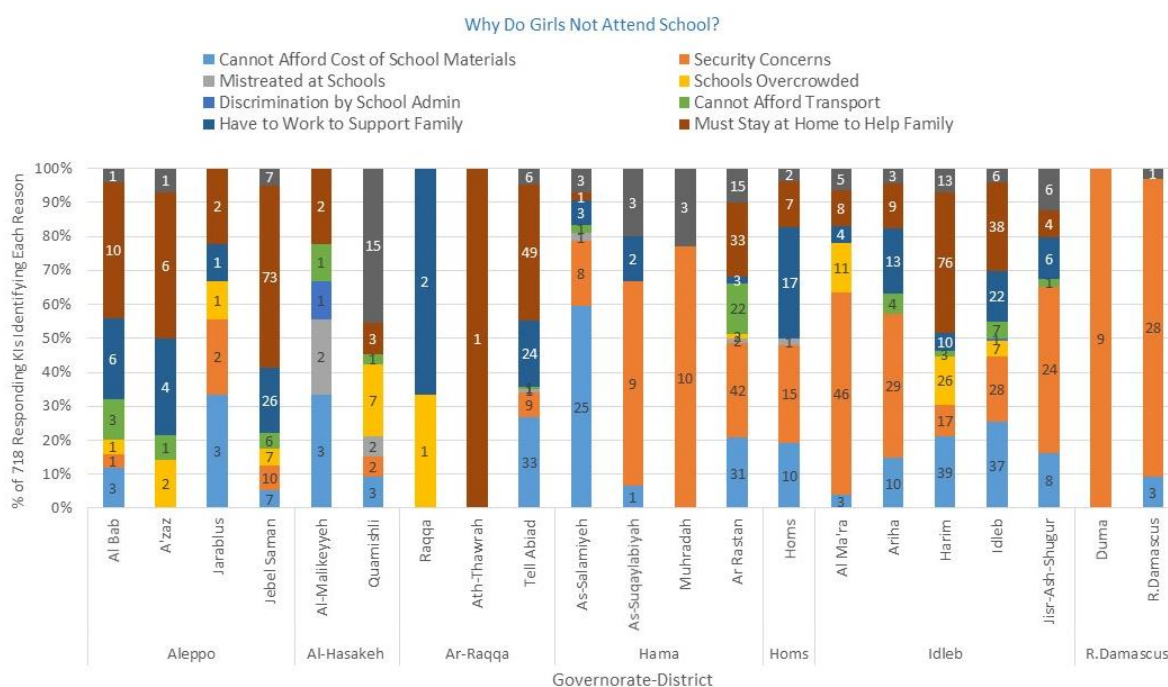


While security reasons had emerged in earlier reporting periods as the primary reason for children not attending school, the factors affecting boys' and girls' access to education emerged in greater detail and disaggregation in this reporting period. While security concerns and the unaffordable cost of school materials continue to be significant factors negatively affecting school attendance for both boys and girls, other factors affect boys and girls disproportionately. Boys are far more likely to

not attend school in order to work to support their families, and girls are far more likely to not attend school in order to help take care of families at home. Household and family responsibilities are the primary reason for children's lack of school attendance in these communities. Primary reasons also show variation depending on location as seen in the below charts.

### Why Do Boys Not Attend School?





Challenges in accessing education also differ by geographic location. In areas where clashes between armed groups and changes in control lines continue, security is the primary obstacle. This is noted for monitored districts of Hama, Homs, Idleb and Rural Damascus. Issues related to cost, means of access, and condition and quality of schools are noted often in locations that host a large number of IDPs and witness constant IDP movements. For example, overcrowded schools have been noted for all monitored districts of Aleppo and three monitored districts of Idleb, as well as districts in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa. These locations have witnessed both arrival and departure of IDPs during the reporting period. Mistreatment at schools was indicated as a barrier to access only for monitored districts in Al-Hasakeh.

The unaffordable cost of school materials has been mentioned for every district monitored during the reporting period. While humanitarian organizations can do little to control some of the primary factors that prevent access to education, most notably security concerns, they can support children who cannot attend school due to financial concerns, through provision of school materials or safe and free transportation.

Key informants cited “other” reasons for barriers to access. For example, key informants located in villages and small towns noted the lack of schools beyond primary school in their village and the large distances to the closest middle or high school. Families do not have the financial means to send children far away to continue their education. Additionally, they also often rely on children as breadwinners after a particular age and are disinclined to educate them beyond primary school for this reason.

*Some children at the age of 15 are forced to leave school for two reasons: 1) lack of high school, 2) they're at an age when they should acquire a trade (Male KII, Off Camp, Local Authority, Darkosh, Jisr-Ash-Shugur district, Idleb governorate).*

In these communities, improving access to education requires a multi-tiered process which not only includes the removal of financial, physical and security related barriers to accessing schools, but also influencing community perceptions about education through awareness-raising initiatives that emphasize the necessity and importance of education. In seeking solutions for lack of school attendance, humanitarian actors must also be practical and take into consideration the needs of the community. In smaller communities such as villages or small towns, livelihood opportunities are different and less diverse than cities, and therefore families and community members encourage children to acquire skills and trades by which they will be able



to earn a living within that community. Improving access to education in these communities may therefore also imply the creation of alternative education opportunities. Examples include trade schools or schools which combine classic and trade-based curriculum, to make education both desirable and useful to these communities.

The below quote exemplifies the factors that contribute to discontinuation of education in these communities:

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*There is no support for the school in the village from anyone. Therefore our teachers are very weak; a religious teacher gives religious lessons and Arabic. Also there is no middle or high school in the village, so most students after completing 6th grade stay at home with their younger siblings or work in agricultural fields with their families. Also, families are not able to send their girls to the other village because of the security situation and the checkpoints common on the road (Male KII, Off Camp, Teacher, Salqin, Harim district, Idlib governorate).*

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Other issues frequently brought up under “other” reasons why boys and girls do not attend schools relate to the administration and curriculum of schools. For example, in Idlib, a KI mentioned that some school faculty are GoS employees, which causes students to worry and not attend school. In areas controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) such as Quamishli in Al-Hasakeh and Tell Abiad in Ar-Raqqa, several KIs stated that community members are not sending children to schools because GoS faculty no longer teach there, and community members disagree with the curriculum implemented by the local authorities.

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*[Children do not attend school] because of problems between the GoS faculty and the coalition faculty, which causes worry for the students (Female KII, Off-Camp, NGO Staff, Janudiyeh, Jisr-Ash-Shugur district, Idlib governorate).*

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*The curriculum is imposed and is not appropriate for the culture of the community (Male KII, Off-Camp, Teacher, Ein Issa, Tell Abiad district, Ar-Raqqa governorate).*

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Factors affecting girls’ education include the social and cultural perceptions that girls do not need much education, and that it is better for them to get married.

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*Customs and traditions say that girls are only to learn reading and writing, so they leave school and get married when they are only 14 years old (Male KII, Off Camp, Teacher, Salqin, Harim district, Idlib governorate).*

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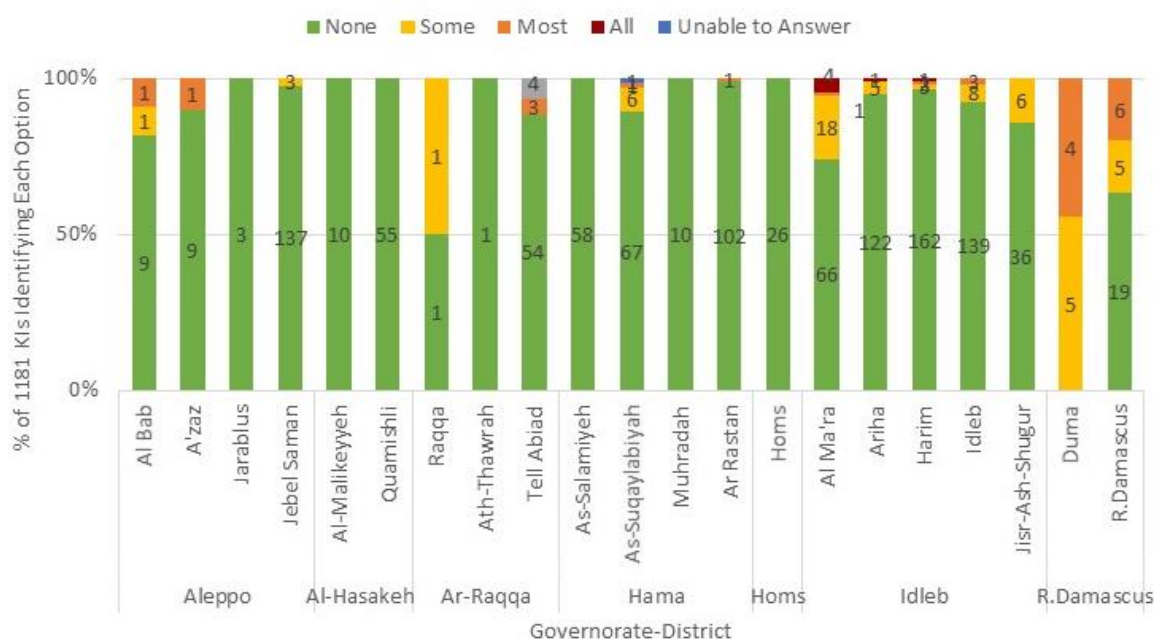


Has There Been Any Education Infrastructure Damaged by Clashes/Shelling in This Community in the Last Three Weeks?



All key-informants from Duma district of Rural Damascus governorate stated that either some or most education infrastructure was damaged in their communities. Several KIs from Kafr Batna of Rural Damascus district, Rural Damascus governorate also indicated that all schools in their community have been damaged. The findings correlate with escalation of conflict activity such as shelling and airstrikes and change of lines of control during this period.

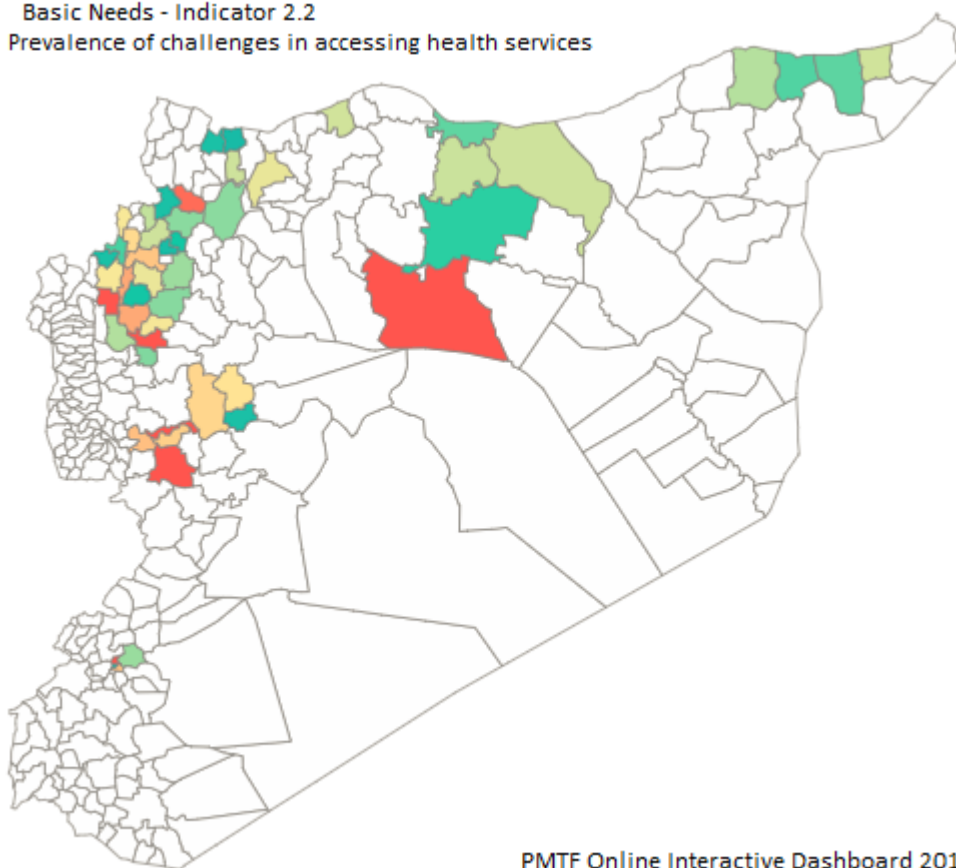
Has There Been Any Education Infrastructure Damaged by Clashes/Shelling in This Community in the Last Three Weeks?





### 3.2.2 Access to Health

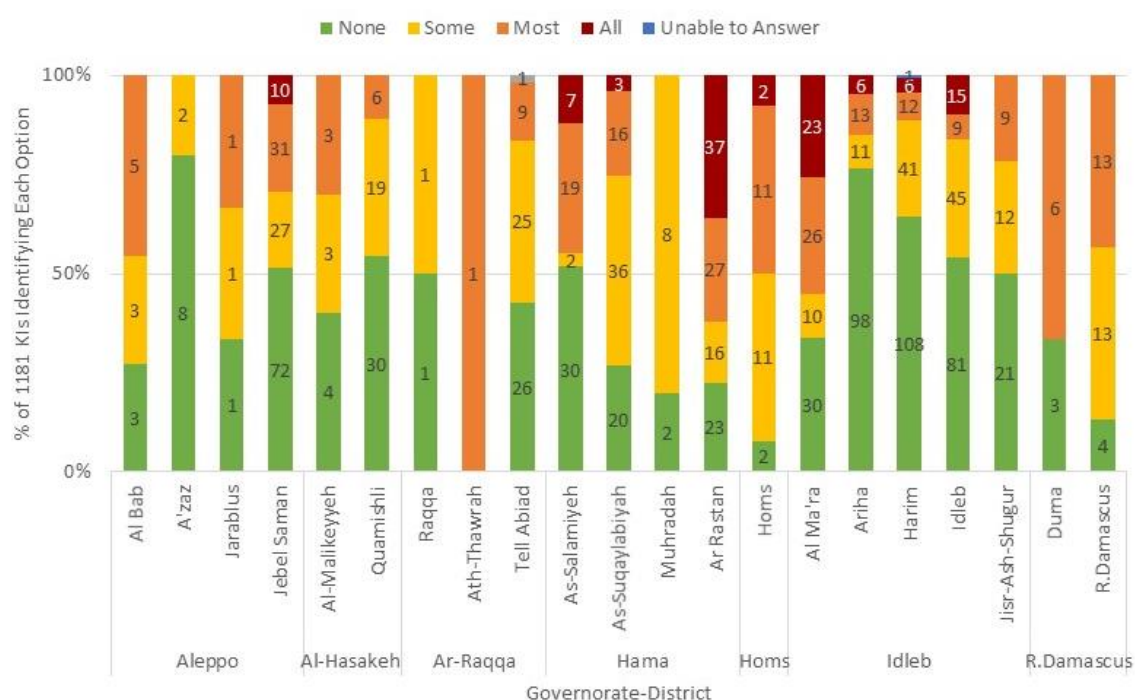
**Basic Needs - Indicator 2.2**  
Prevalence of challenges in accessing health services



Is It A Challenge for Members of the Community to Access Health Services?

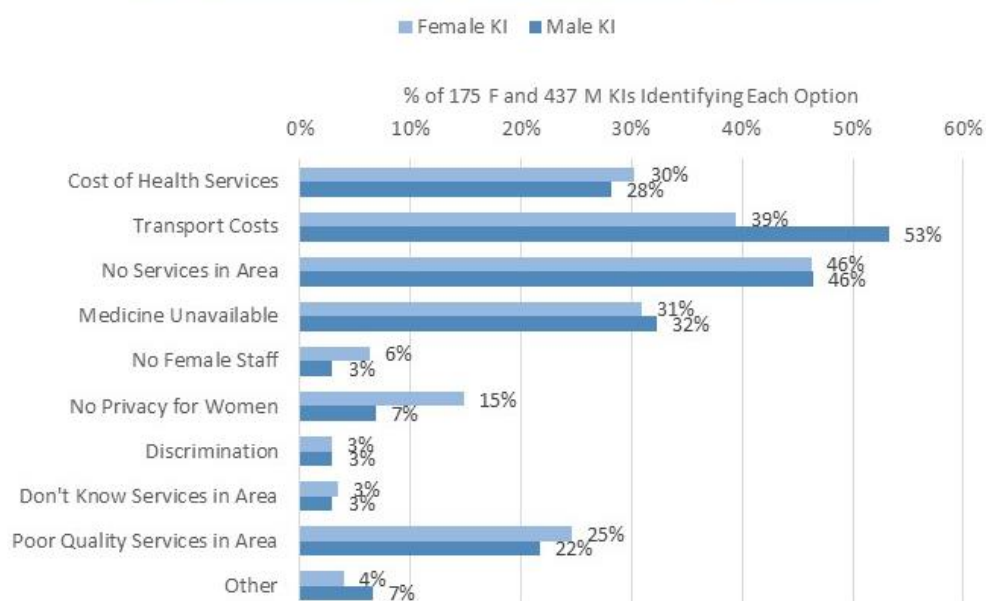


### Is It A Challenge for Members of the Community to Access Health Services?



Female and male key informants indicated the same degree of community members' access to health services. It is noted that a significant percentage of KIs in Ar-Rastan district of Hama and Al Ma'ra district of Idleb stated that all community members are experiencing this challenge. Both of these locations host large numbers of IDPs, suggesting that the need and demand for health care is disproportionately high in relation to available services in these communities. Humanitarian actors are recommended to increase health service provision in these locations.

### What Barriers Does the Community Face When Accessing Health Services?



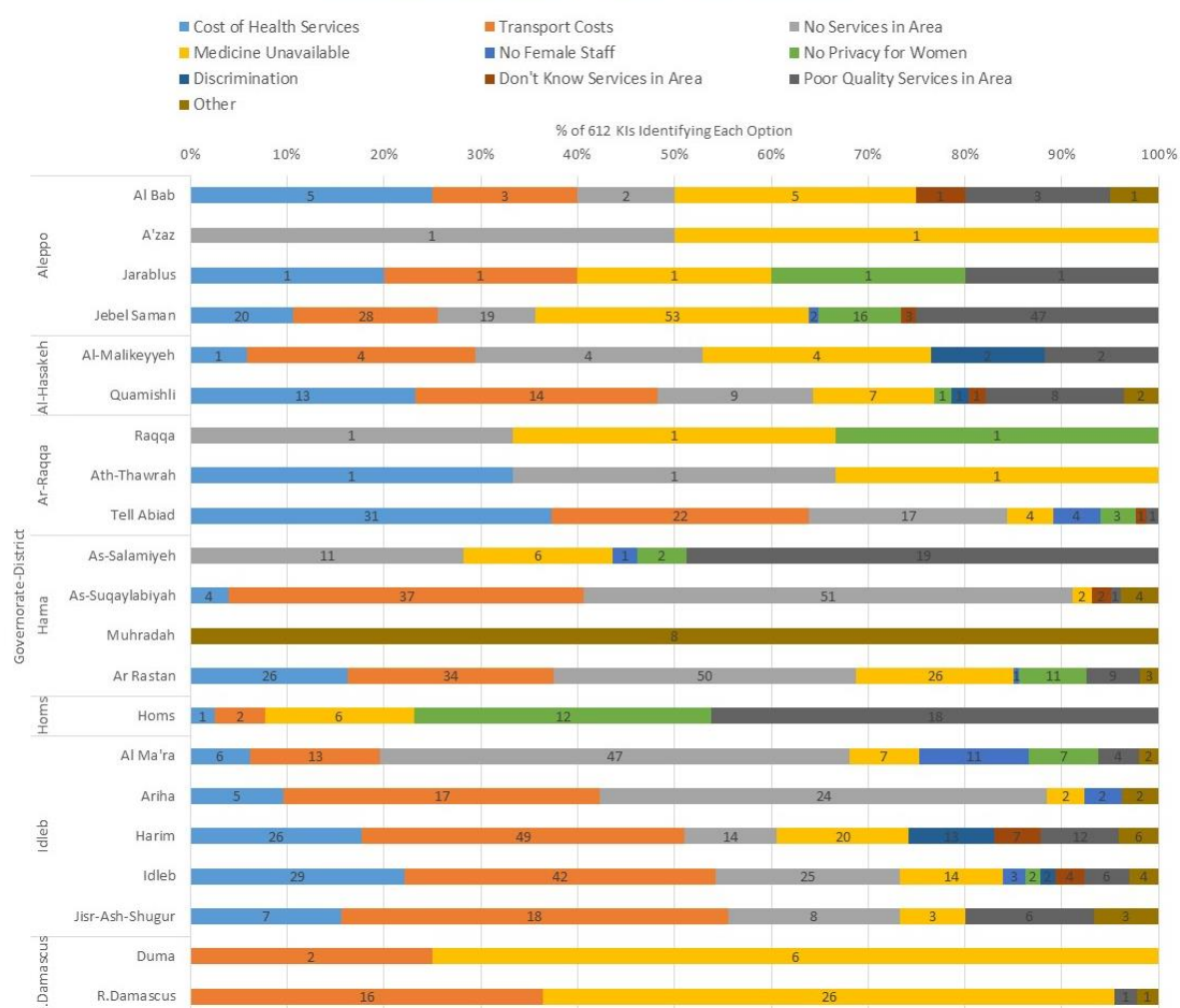
Transport costs, lack of health services, unavailability of medication, the cost of health services, and the poor quality of services are the main barriers that community members face in accessing health services. Male KIs were more likely to identify transport costs as a barrier, while female KIs were more likely to identify lack of privacy for women and lack of female medical staff.



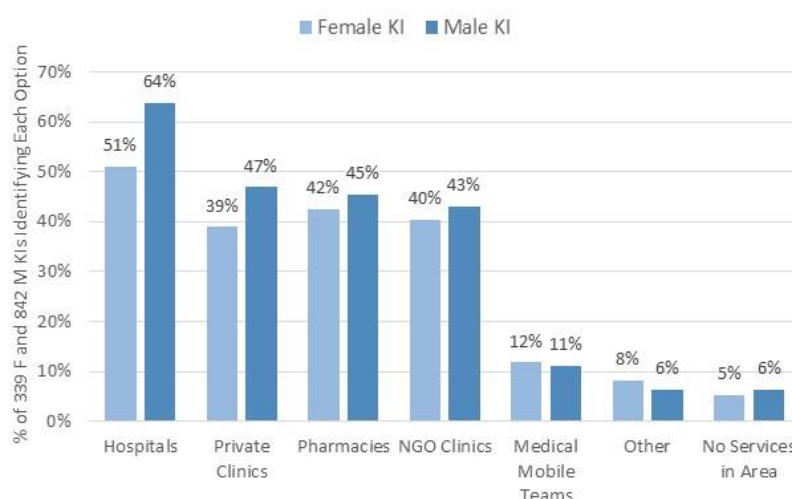


Even in locations with high concentrations of humanitarian actors and services, such as Idleb and Harim districts of Idleb governorate, some KIs state that community members do not know about health services in the area. This may be due to high numbers of new arrivals. Humanitarian actors are recommended to continue information-sharing and awareness-raising activities among IDPs in these areas to ensure that communities are aware of available services. It is also noted that lack of privacy for women, particularly in Homs district of Homs, Raqqa district of Ar-Raqqa, and Jarablus district of Aleppo is a barrier for women's access to health services.

What Barriers Does the Community Face When Accessing Health Services?



Where Do Community Members Go If They Need Health Services?

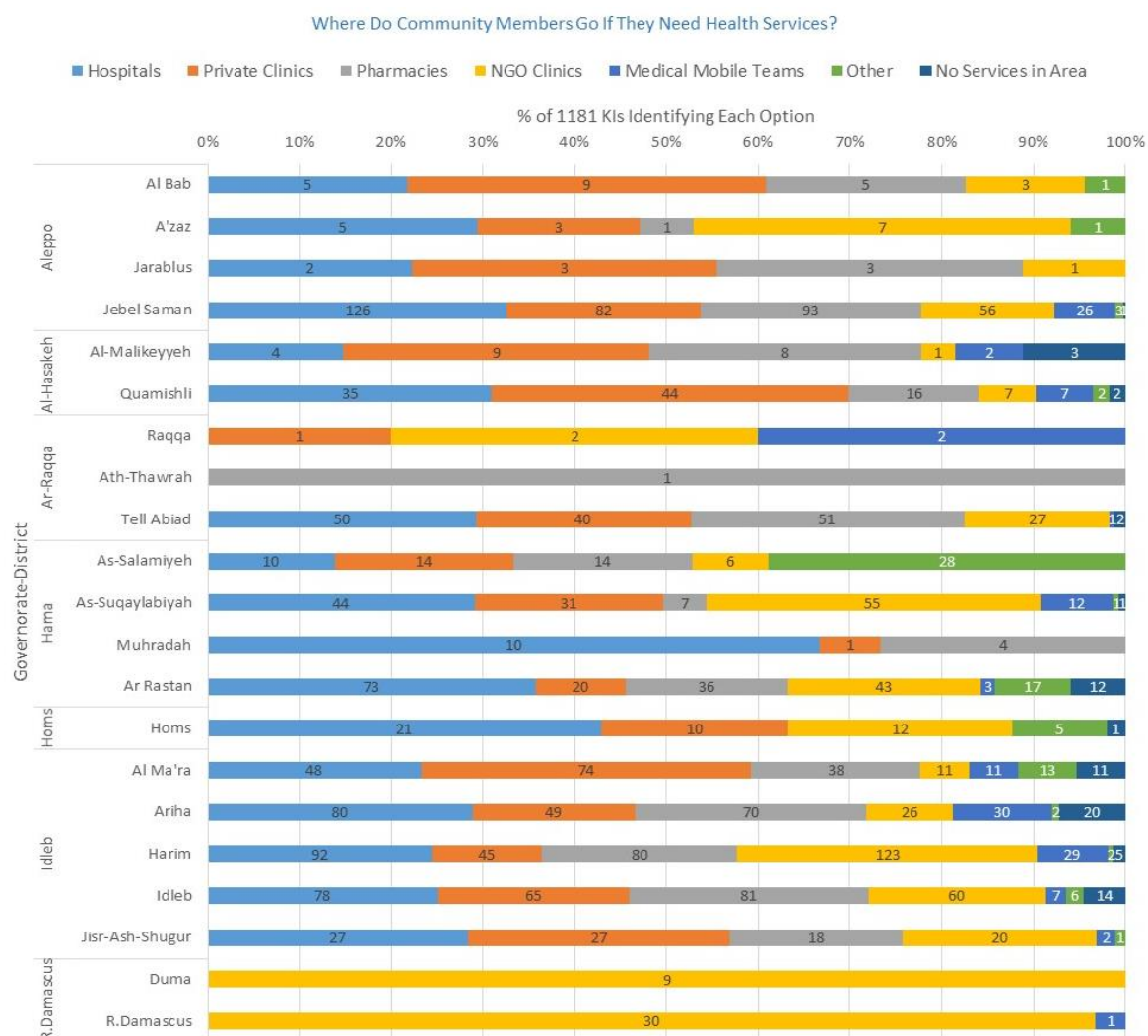


Among "other" barriers to accessing health services, KIs most frequently mentioned issues of distance and security. Many KIs stated that the closest medical facility that they can approach is located around 10 kilometers (around 6 miles) away. Additionally, families are concerned about security and are naturally only willing to

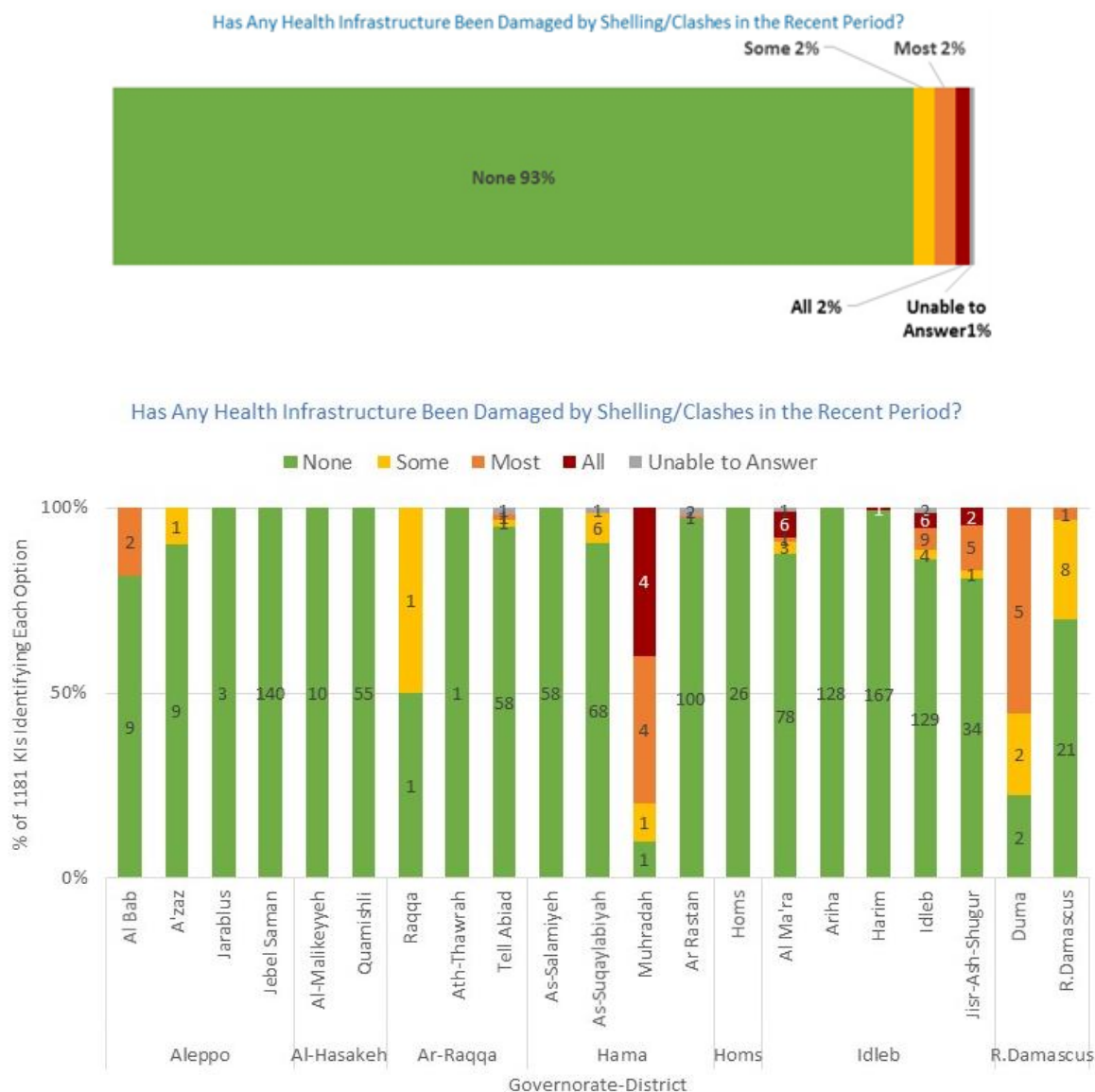


travel to safe locations (without ongoing clashes or violence) for medical assistance.

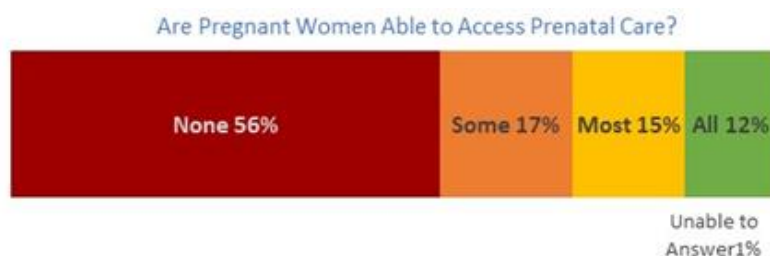
In the January-March reporting period, hospitals emerged as the primary health care provider for community members at 60 percent, followed by private clinics at 45 percent, pharmacies at 45 percent, and NGO clinics at 42 percent. It is noted that male KIs were more likely to identify these than female KIs, while female KIs were slightly more likely to mention mobile medical clinics.



While in many of the monitored locations, communities are relying on several different types of health service providers, it is noted that in some communities, people have access to fewer providers. For example, in districts of Rural Damascus, KIs reported that much of the community relies on NGO clinics. In Raqqa district, private clinics, NGO clinics and medical mobile teams are the primary health service providers depended on by community members. Key informants who stated “other” predominantly noted that the health service provider closest to their community is ten or more kilometers away, and that the need to travel these distances makes it very challenging to access health services.

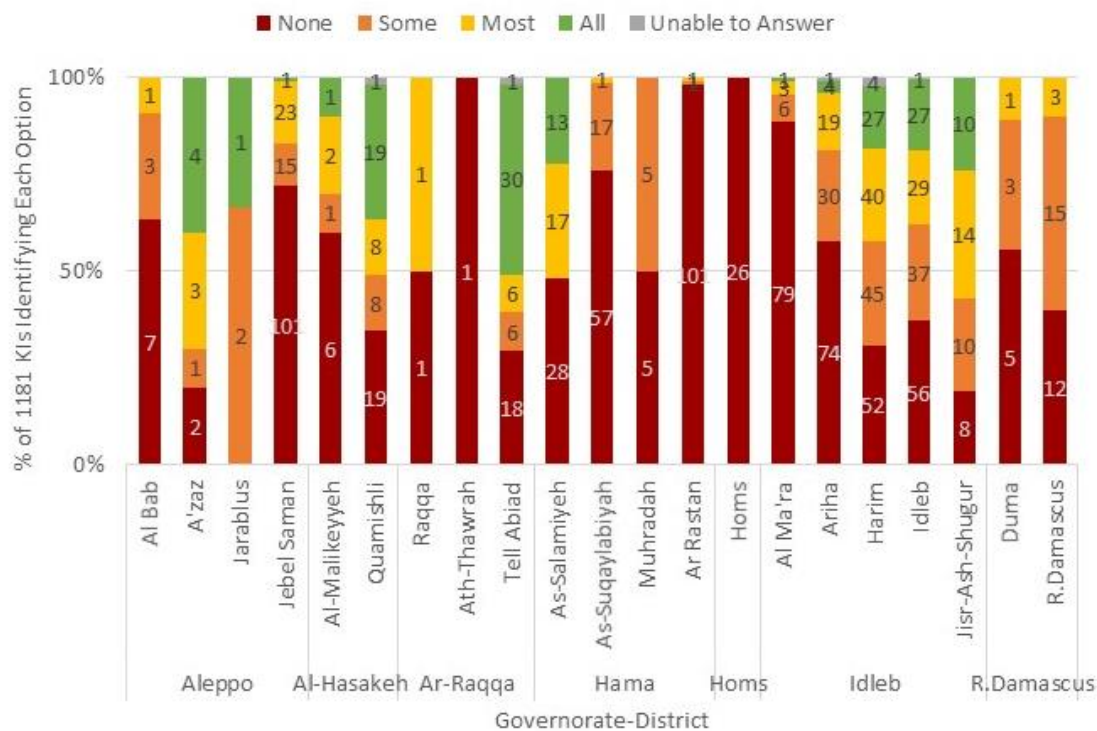


It is noted that in Muhradah district of Hama, a large percentage of responding KIs indicated that most or all health infrastructure has been damaged in the recent period. Similarly, in communities in Rural Damascus and Idleb where there is ongoing conflict, health infrastructure has been damaged in the recent period.



More than half of key informants stated that pregnant women are not able to access prenatal care in their communities. The below chart visualizes the severity of lack of access to prenatal care in monitored locations. Humanitarian actors are therefore encouraged to improve pregnant women's access to prenatal care across the affected areas. While specific data on causes is not available, the lack of access to prenatal care is mostly likely caused by factors that restrict KI's access to health services due to distance and security as described above.

### Are Pregnant Women Able to Access Prenatal Care?

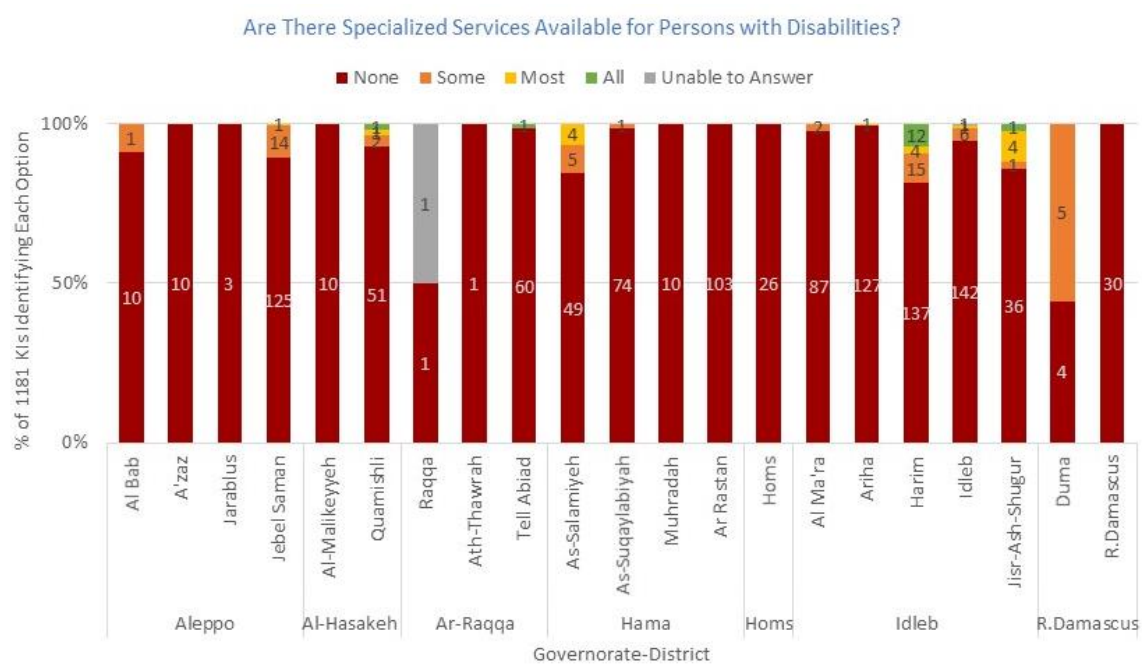


### 3.2.3 Specialized Services

#### Are There Specialized Services Available for Persons with Disabilities?



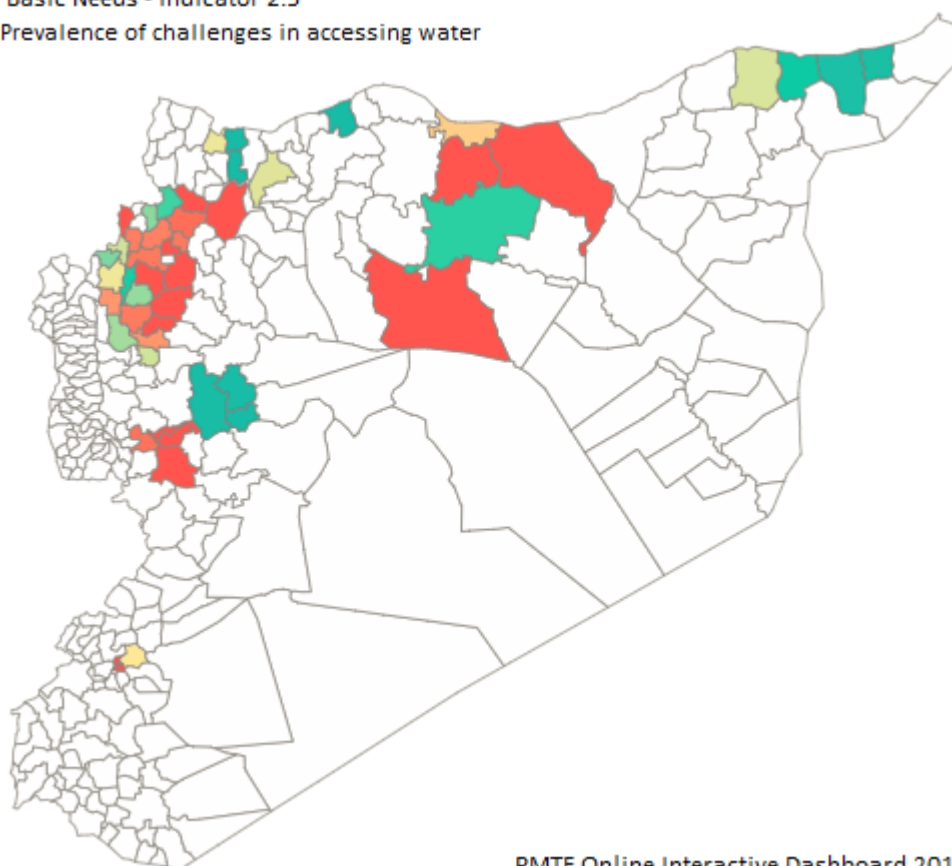
Key informants continue to indicate a significant gap in specialized services for persons with disabilities and older persons. 93 percent of key informants stated that there are no specialized services available for persons with disabilities in their area. Considering the continued movement of IDPs into Northwest Syria during the monitoring period, and external reports that indicate a growing number of physically impaired and disabled civilians and the insufficiency of the services and support available to them (AAR Japan, 2017), there is a significant need to scale up and expand dedicated and specialized services. Disabilities that result in lack of or reduction in mobility may result in additional challenges in accessing food, water, non-food items, and other vital humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian actors responsible for providing basic humanitarian assistance must specifically plan logistics, transportation, and access to ensure that persons with specialized needs—the sick and disabled, as well as the elderly—have equal and sufficient access to these resources.



### 3.2.4 Access to Water

#### Basic Needs - Indicator 2.5

Prevalence of challenges in accessing water

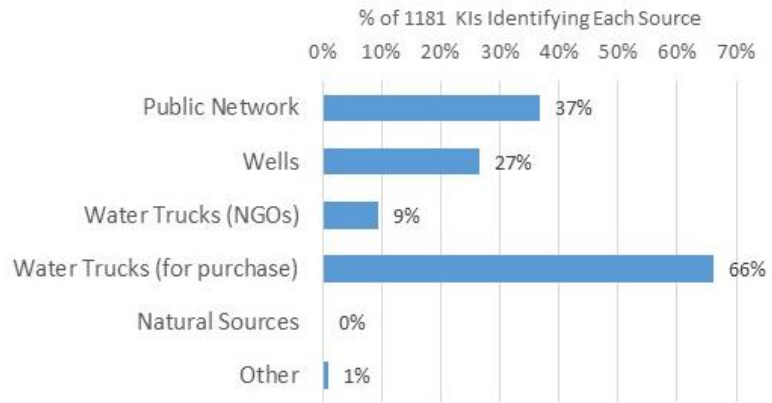


PMTF Online Interactive Dashboard 2018

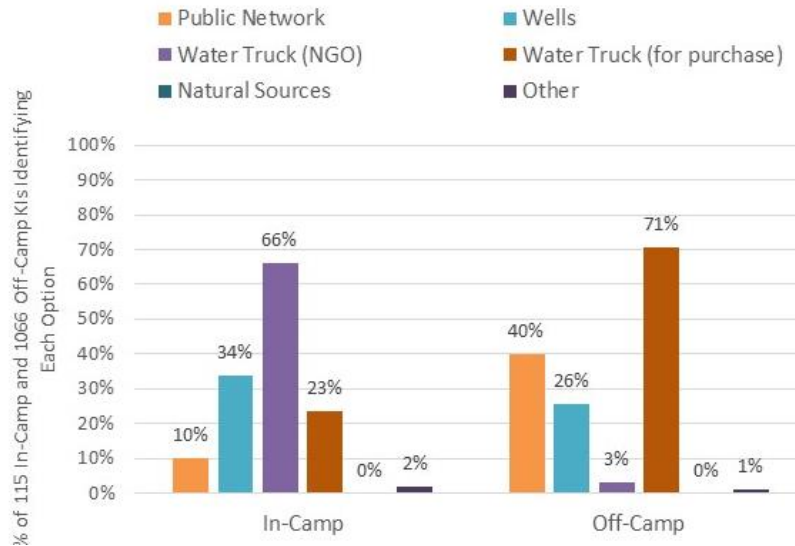


### How Do People Access Water in the Area?

Overall, the most commonly cited source of water for community members was water trucks (for purchase) at 66 percent, followed by the public water network and wells. For in-camp locations, free water trucks provided by NGOs is the primary water source. For off-camp locations, water trucks for purchase are the primary source.



### In-Camp and Off-Camp Access to Water

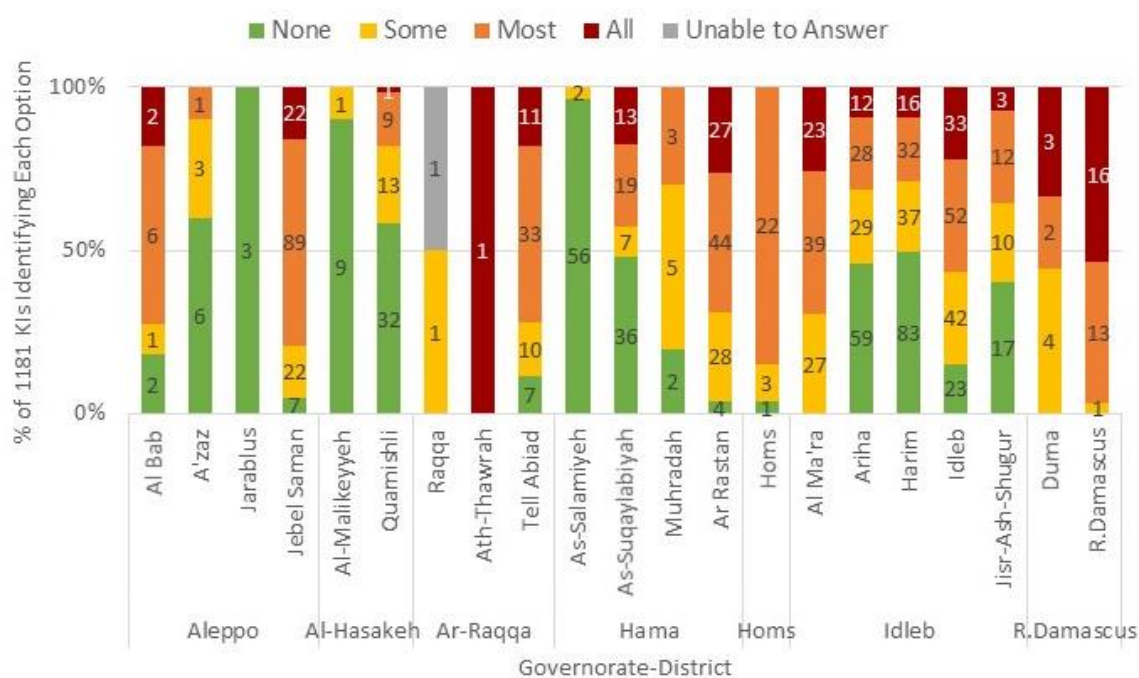


### Does the Community Face Challenges in Accessing Water?



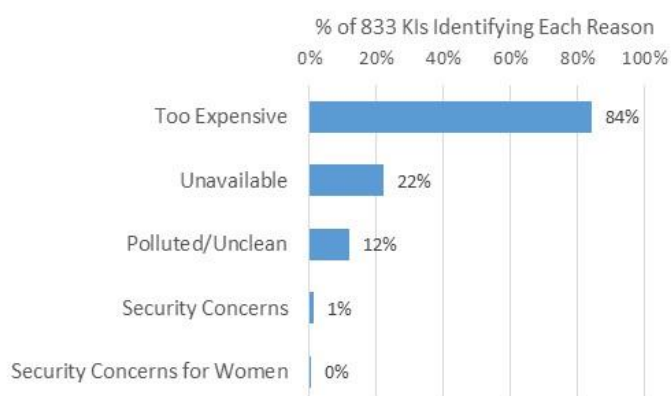
During the January-March reporting period, overall 29 percent of key informants indicated that there were no challenges in accessing water in the community, 21 percent indicated that some of the community faces challenges, 34 percent stated that most of the community faces challenges and 15 percent stated that all of the community faces challenges. In-camp communities receive much more regular and comprehensive coverage due to organized assistance and service provision by humanitarian actors. Off-camp communities face greater challenges in accessing basic needs, including water, as demonstrated in the above chart. Communities in nearly all monitored districts experience challenges in accessing water. It is noted that around half of KIs in the following districts indicated that either most or all community members face challenges in accessing water: Al Bab and Jebel Saman district of Aleppo, Tell Abiad district of Ar-Raqqa, Ar-Rastan district of Hama, Homs district of Homs, Al Ma'ra district of Idleb and Duma and Rural Damascus districts of Rural Damascus.

### Does the Community Face Challenges in Accessing Water?

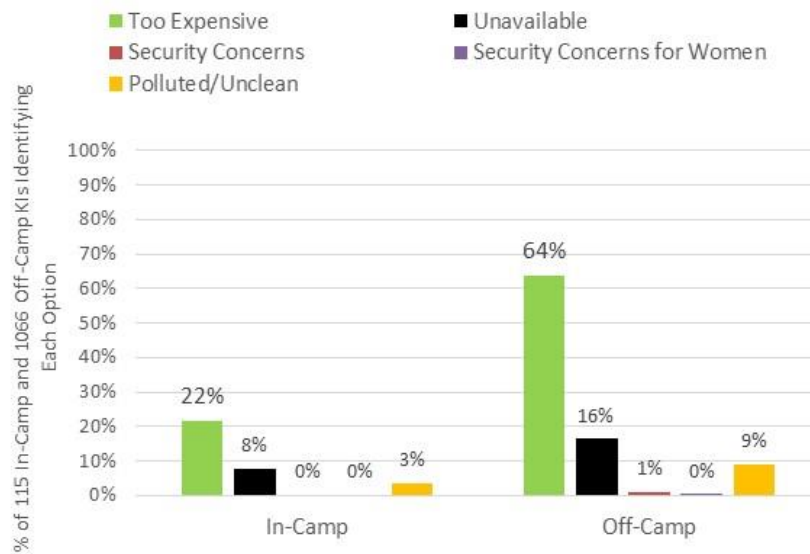


### What Are the Challenges in Accessing Water?

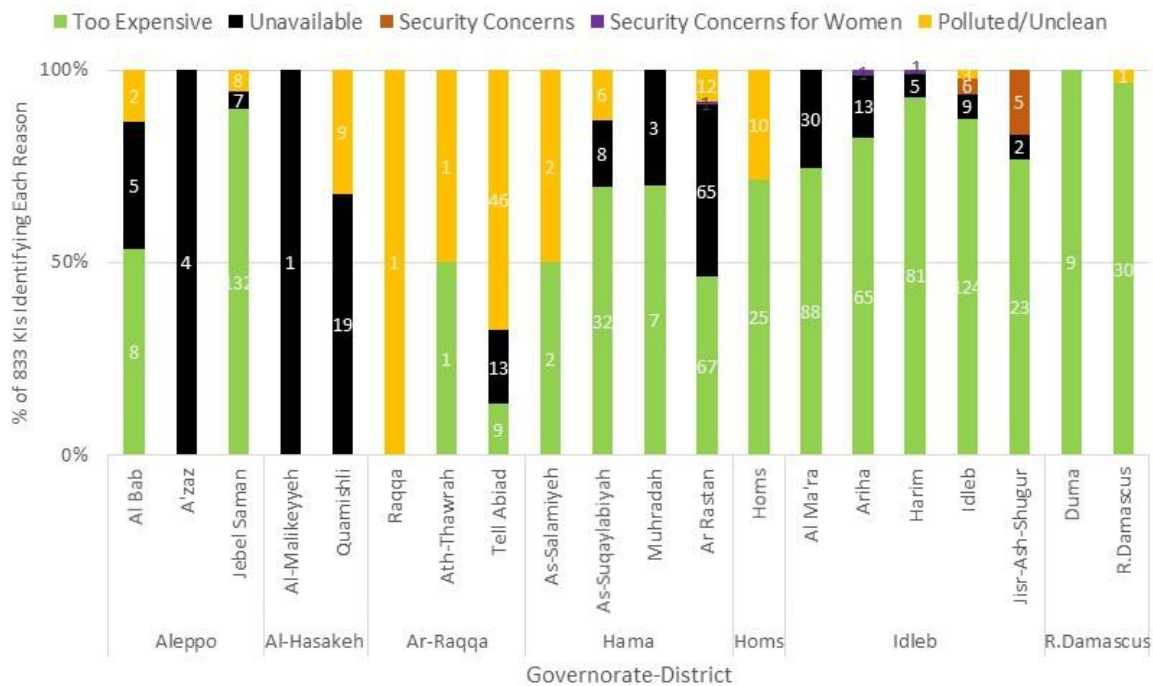
Key informants continue to report that the cost of water is a primary challenge to access, followed by water being unavailable and water being polluted or unclear.



### In-Camp and Off-Camp Challenges to Accessing Water

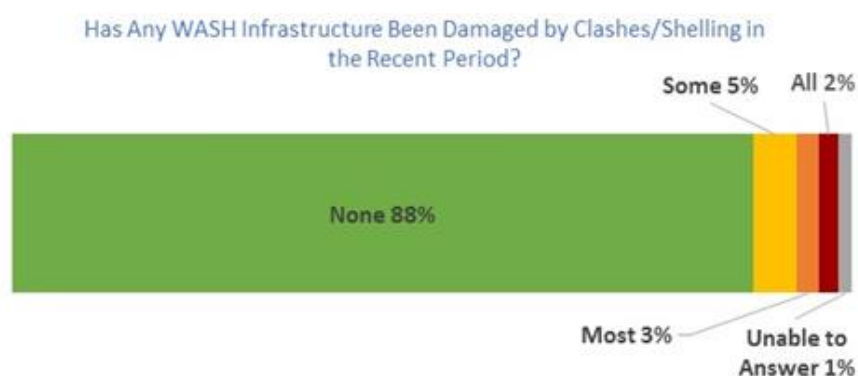


### What Are the Challenges in Accessing Water?

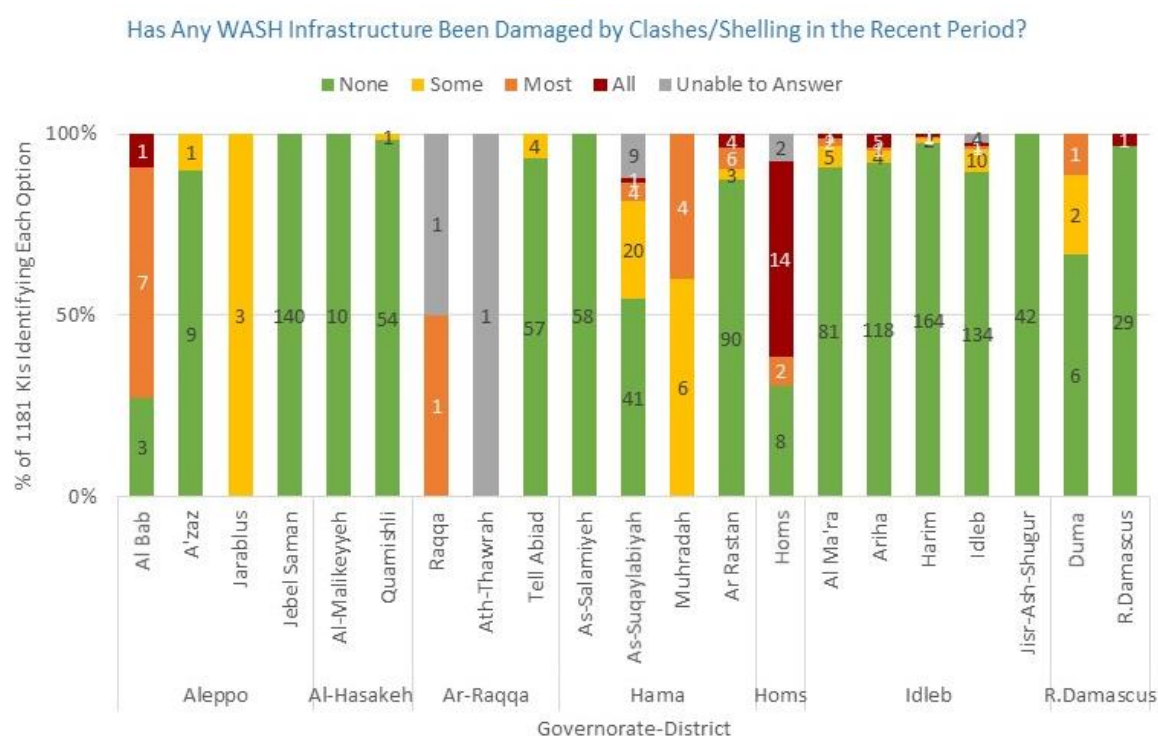


In the following districts, the majority of key informants indicated that water is either unavailable or polluted/unclean: A'zaz district of Aleppo, Al-Malikeyyeh and Quamishli districts of Al-Hasakeh, Raqqqa and Tell Abiad districts of Ar-Raqqa, and Ar-Rastan district of Hama.





2 percent of key informants stated that all, 3 percent stated most, 5 percent stated some and 88 percent stated that no WASH infrastructure had been damaged in their community in the recent 3-week period.



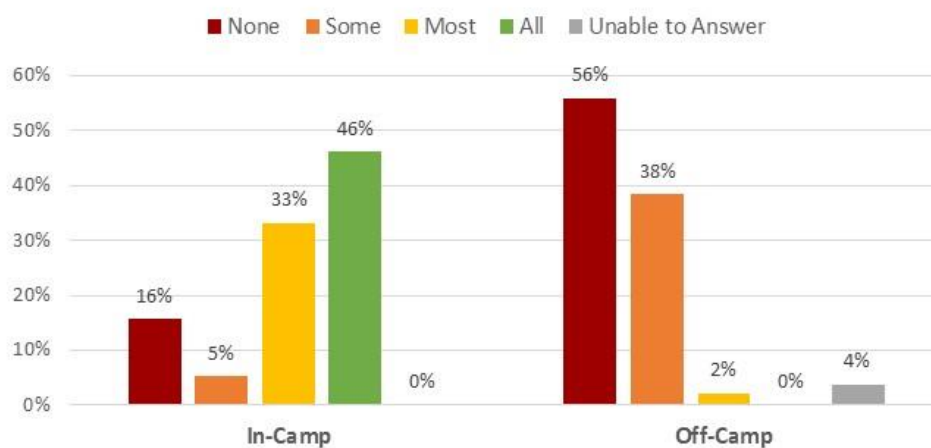
The majority of key informants in the following districts indicated that either some, most or all WASH infrastructure have been damaged in the recent period in their communities: Al Bab and Jarablus districts of Aleppo, Raqqa district of Ar-Raqqa, Muhradah district of Hama and Homs district of Homs governorate.

### 3.2.5 Humanitarian Assistance

Has the Community Received Humanitarian Assistance in the Recent Period?

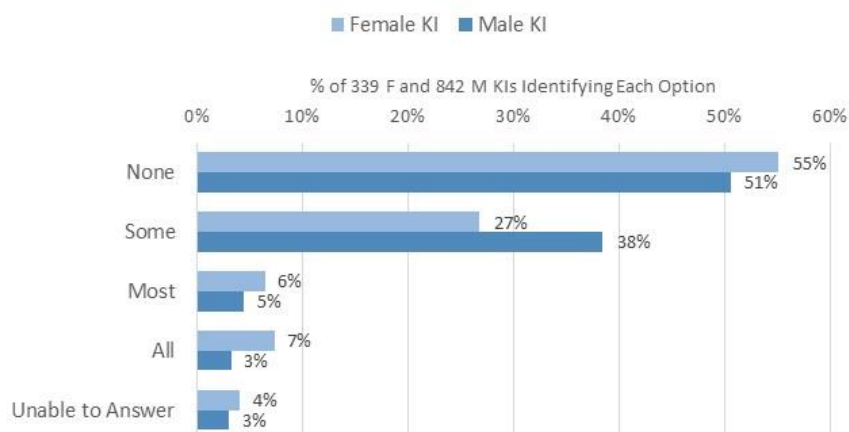


Has the Community Received Humanitarian Assistance in the Recent Period?



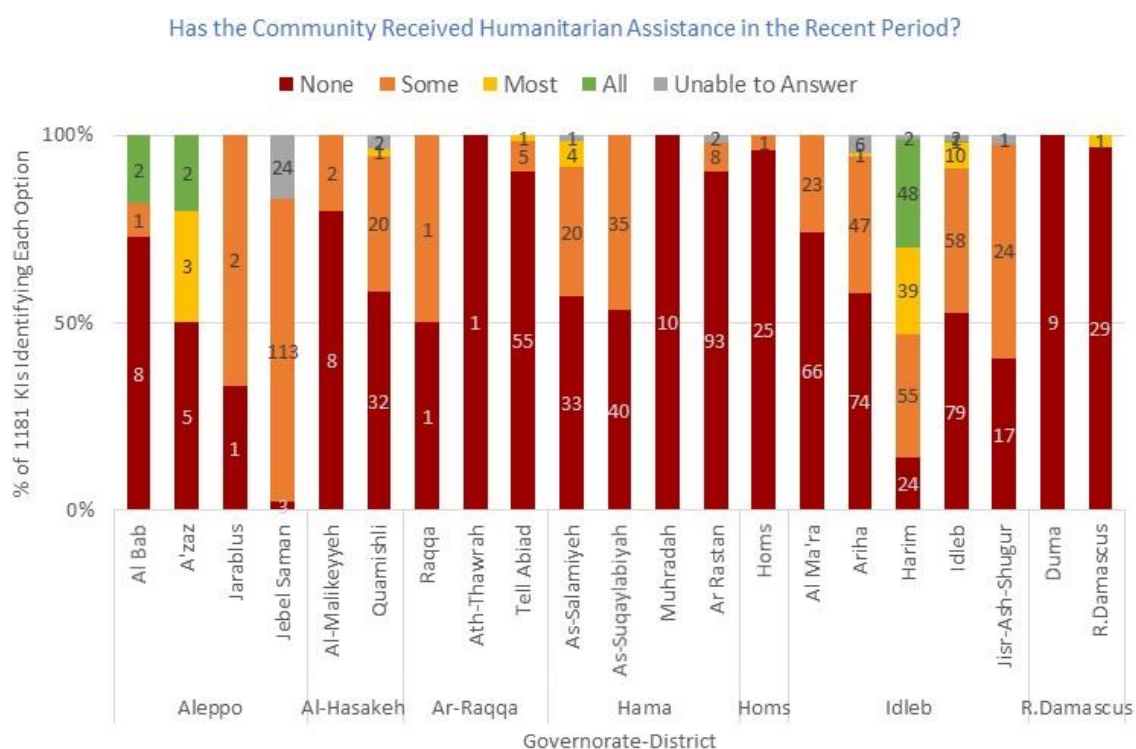
Overall, 52 percent of KIs stated that no one in the community received humanitarian assistance in the recent period. Humanitarian assistance includes food, water, NFI, cash, medical, PSS, counseling or other protection assistance. 35 percent of KIs stated that some of the community received assistance, 5 percent stated that most of the community received assistance and 4 percent stated that all of the community received assistance. KIs in off-camp locations were far more likely to state that no one in the community or only some of the community had received humanitarian assistance, while in-camp KIs were more likely to state that

Has the Community Received Humanitarian Assistance in the Recent Period?



most or all of the community received assistance. This difference is of course due to the systematic and comprehensive nature of organized humanitarian assistance in IDP camps.

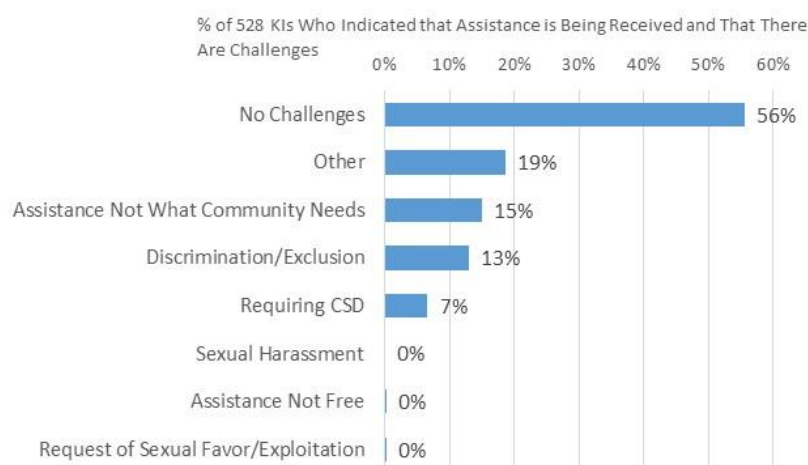
There was no significant difference in the level of access to humanitarian assistance indicated by male and female KIs.



Key informants who stated that the community has received humanitarian assistance in the recent period were asked to identify any challenges. 56 percent stated that there were no challenges. 15 percent stated that the assistance is not what is needed by the community, 13 percent stated that there is discrimination or exclusion, 7 percent stated that civil status documentation is required to access assistance. Additionally, one KI stated that assistance is not free and one KI stated that there is request of sexual favor or exploitation in exchange for assistance.

The 19 percent of key informants who stated “other” challenges explained that the assistance is not sufficient to meet the needs of the community and that the community perceives assistance criteria to be too strict and excluding of many community members who are in need of assistance.

Where There Any Challenges in Receiving Humanitarian Assistance?




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*The humanitarian aid that we have received from some humanitarian organizations is insufficient, which has caused resentment from the people who do not receive this assistance or who do not meet the criteria set by the organizations (Male KII, Off-Camp, NGO Staff, Madiq Castle, As-Suqaylabiyah district, Hama Governorate).*

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*Aid is limited to certain groups like widows and the disabled (Male KII, Off-Camp, Teacher, Ehsem, Ariha District, Idleb Governorate).*

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*The aid was only for the displaced people and was not given to the residents who are also in need (Male KII, Off-Camp, Local Authority, Heish, Al Ma'ra District, Idleb Governorate).*

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While it is recognized that extensive information sharing regarding assistance criteria may negatively affect or undermine assistance provision, recipients of humanitarian assistance express confusion about criteria and perceive that the criteria are not fair. This perception is magnified by the constantly growing demand for humanitarian assistance in many of these locations due to continued arrival of IDPs, and the near complete reliance upon this assistance for survival. To the extent that it is possible, reasonable, and safe, humanitarian actors may consider increasing transparency in regards to criteria among communities. Additionally, humanitarian actors are encouraged to review and update their beneficiary lists periodically in order to ensure that assistance is received by those who are most in need.

The findings of the PMTF monitoring repeatedly indicate that host communities feel resentment about assistance provision being specifically targeted for IDPs. They believe that they are equally in need and would like to be considered for its eligibility.

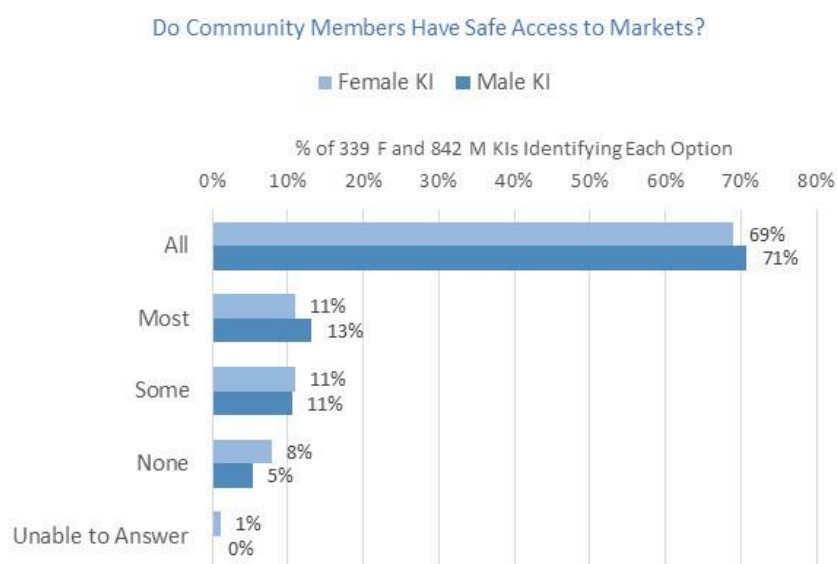


Aside from the perceptions of communities about humanitarian assistance provision, the humanitarian sector must also engage in discussions regarding the long-term effects of reliance on humanitarian assistance, and must brainstorm and implement alternative economic solutions to the massive needs in north and northwestern Syria, such as long-term and sustainable livelihood creation projects. Livelihood creation that is community-based, that takes into account the resources and needs of the community, and which can be continued over a long period of time, especially after the humanitarian actor is no longer involved with it, will create permanent and sustainable economic and survival opportunities for these communities.

### 3.2.6 Access to Markets



Overall, 70 percent of all KIs stated that all community members have safe access to markets. 13 percent stated most, 11 percent stated some, and 6 percent stated that none of the community members have safe access to markets. All KIs stating that no one in the community has safe access where located in off-camp locations, and community members in off-camp locations experience more challenges in safely accessing markets. Overall, female and male KIs reported safe access to markets at similar levels.

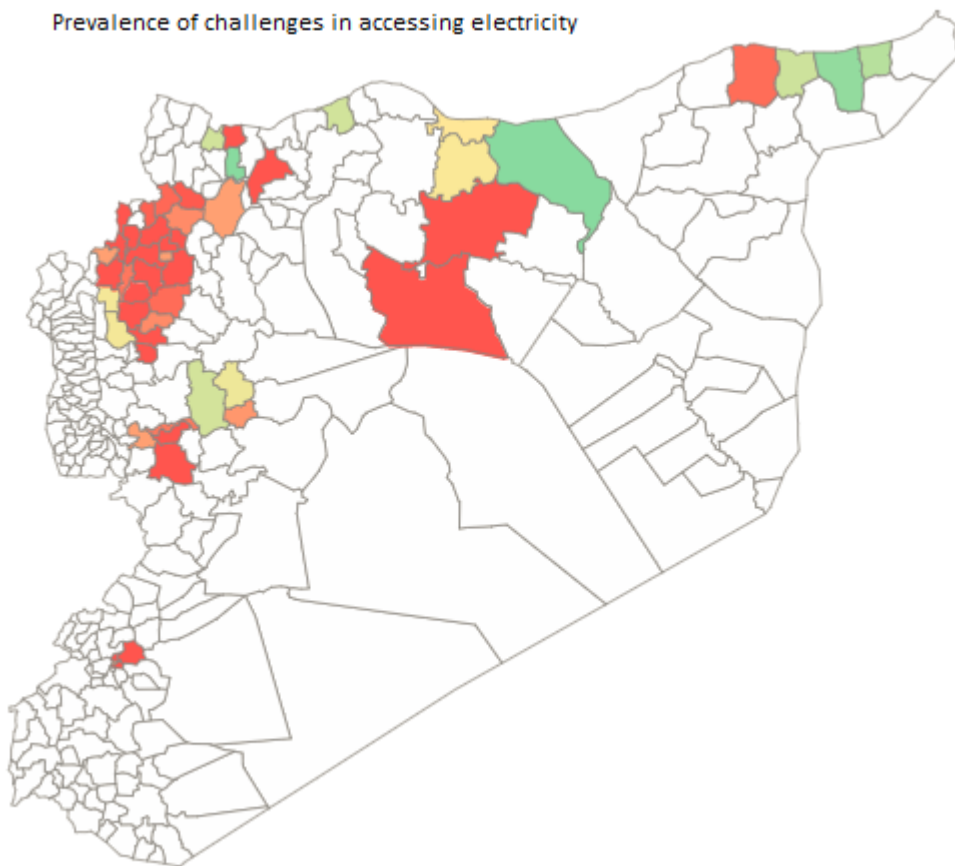




The majority of KIs in Duma and Rural Damascus districts of Rural Damascus governorate stated that no one in the community has safe access to markets. No KIs in Muhradah district of Hama stated that anyone of the community has safe access, and only 4 KIs in Homs district of Homs stated that all of the community has safe access. The majority of KIs explained that lack of safe access is due to security concerns and the fear of shelling and harm while visiting the markets.

### 3.2.7 Access to Electricity

Basic Needs - Indicator 2.7  
Prevalence of challenges in accessing electricity



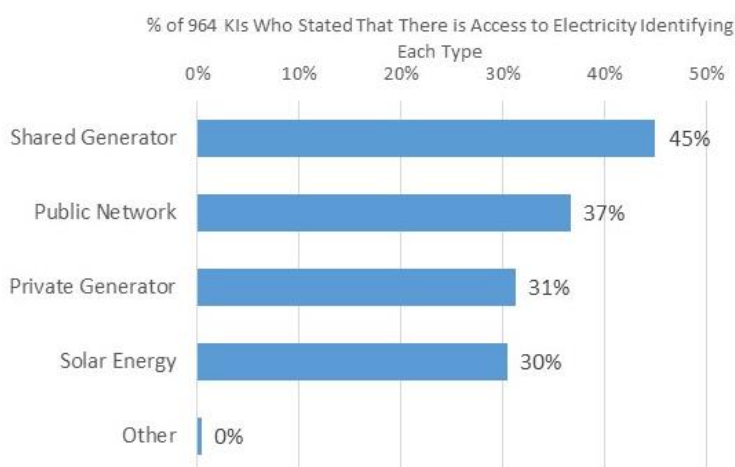
PMTF Online Interactive Dashboard 2018

Do Community Members Have Access to Electricity in the Area?





### How Do Community Members Access Electricity?



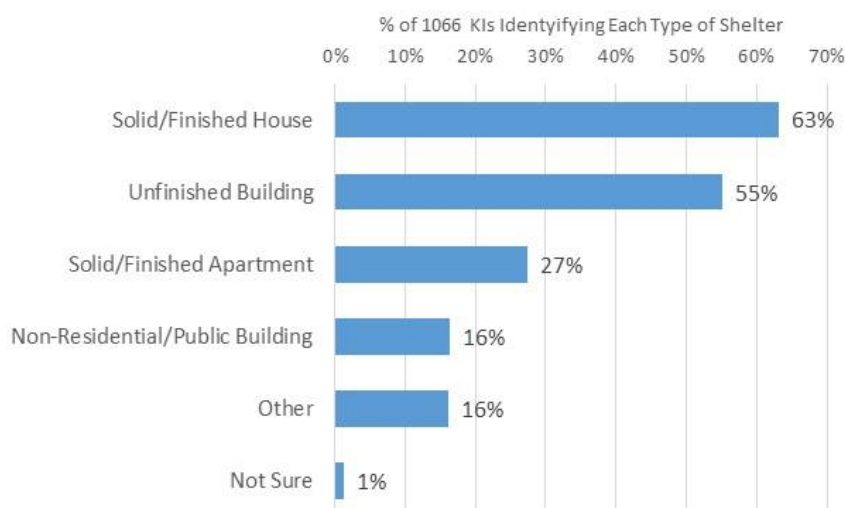
Of the KIs who indicated that there is access to electricity in the community, 45 percent noted that it is through shared generators, 37 percent stated public network, 31 percent stated private generator and 30 percent stated solar energy. KIs also noted that the cost of electricity is extremely high and one ampere (amp) of electricity costs three thousand Syrian pounds (SYP) (approximately 14 USD).

Both in-camp and off-camp communities primarily rely on shared generators for electricity. Off-camp communities have access to the public network, which is not available in camps. It is noteworthy that solar energy is a significant source of electricity for both in-camp and off-camp community members.

Conflict conditions present many barriers to regular and reliable access to electricity. Ongoing conflict, damage to critical infrastructure, barriers to freedom of movement and shortage of resources such as diesel are some of the causes. The absence of reliable access to electricity not only negatively affects families' quality of life and capacity to cope in conflict conditions, but is also often a barrier to basic services and even life-saving interventions, in the case of medical facilities. Conflict-affected communities have adapted by investing in generators. Some humanitarian actors have also successfully implemented solar energy projects, and the use of solar energy has been increasing since the onset of the conflict.

### 3.2.8 Access to Housing and Shelter

#### In What Type of Shelters Do IDPs Live?

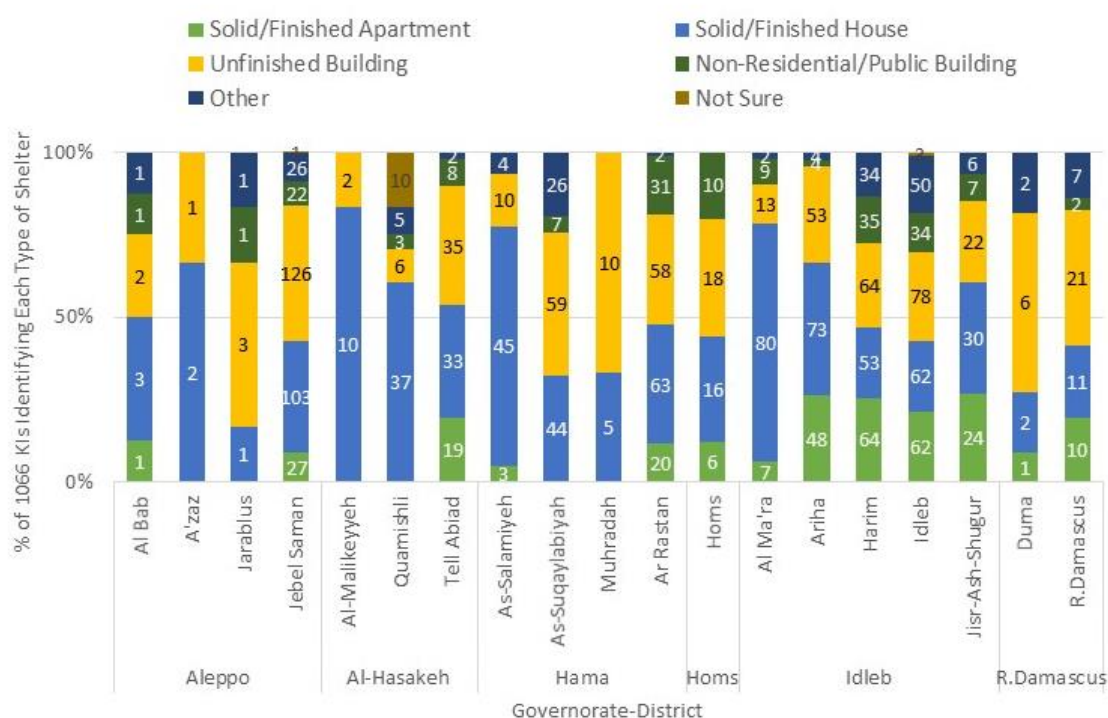


Overall, responding KIs identified solid/finished houses and unfinished buildings as the most common types of shelters in which IDPs reside, at 63 percent and 55 percent. This was followed by solid/finished apartment at 27 percent, non-residential/public building and "other" both at 16 percent. 1 percent of KIs were not sure of the type of shelter.



Among “other,” KIs mentioned that some community members live in apartments/housing damaged by shelling and in poor conditions, and other IDPs live in tents.

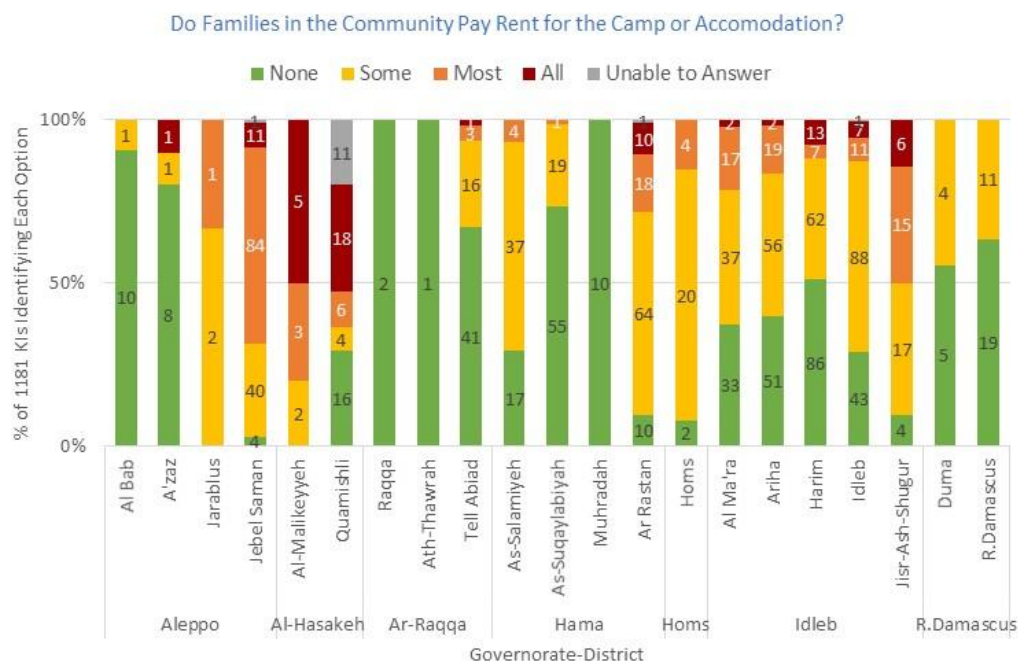
In What Type of Shelters Do IDPs Live?



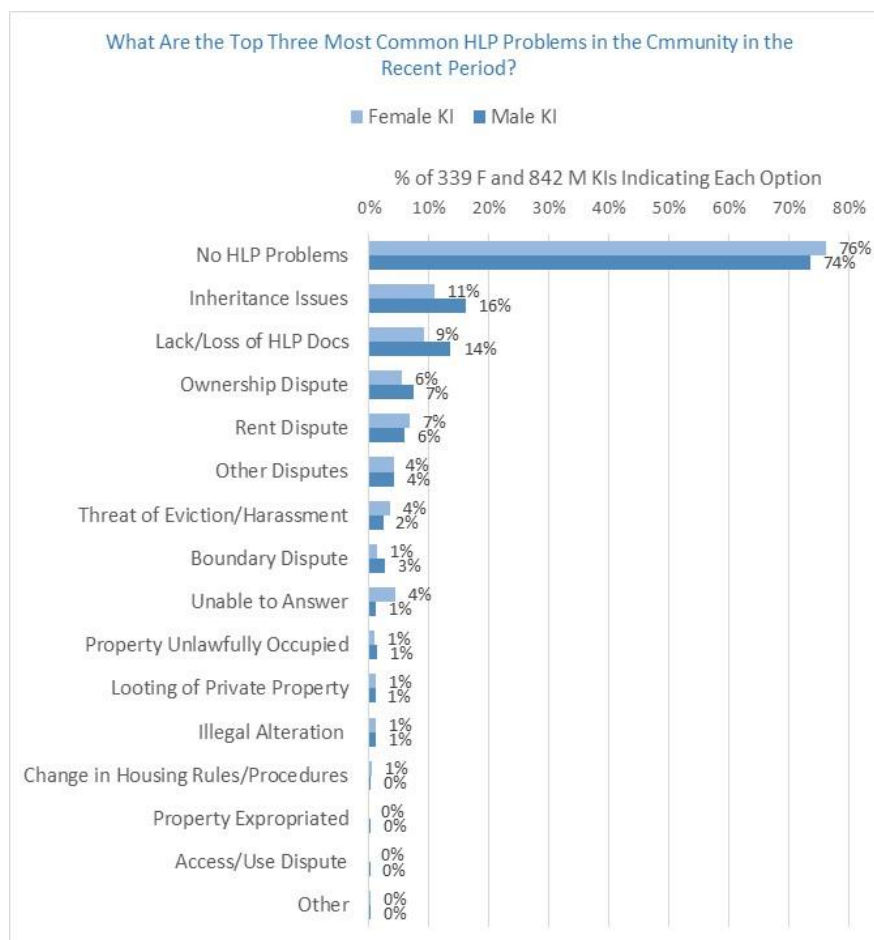
Overall, 35 percent of responding KIs stated that no families are paying rent in the community and 64 percent stated that at least some families are paying rent. However, KIs in off-camp locations more often indicated that at least some families are paying rent. For off-camp, 70 percent of KIs stated that at least some families pay rent, while on-camp, only 10 percent said the same.

Do Families in the Community Pay Rent for the Camp or Accommodation?

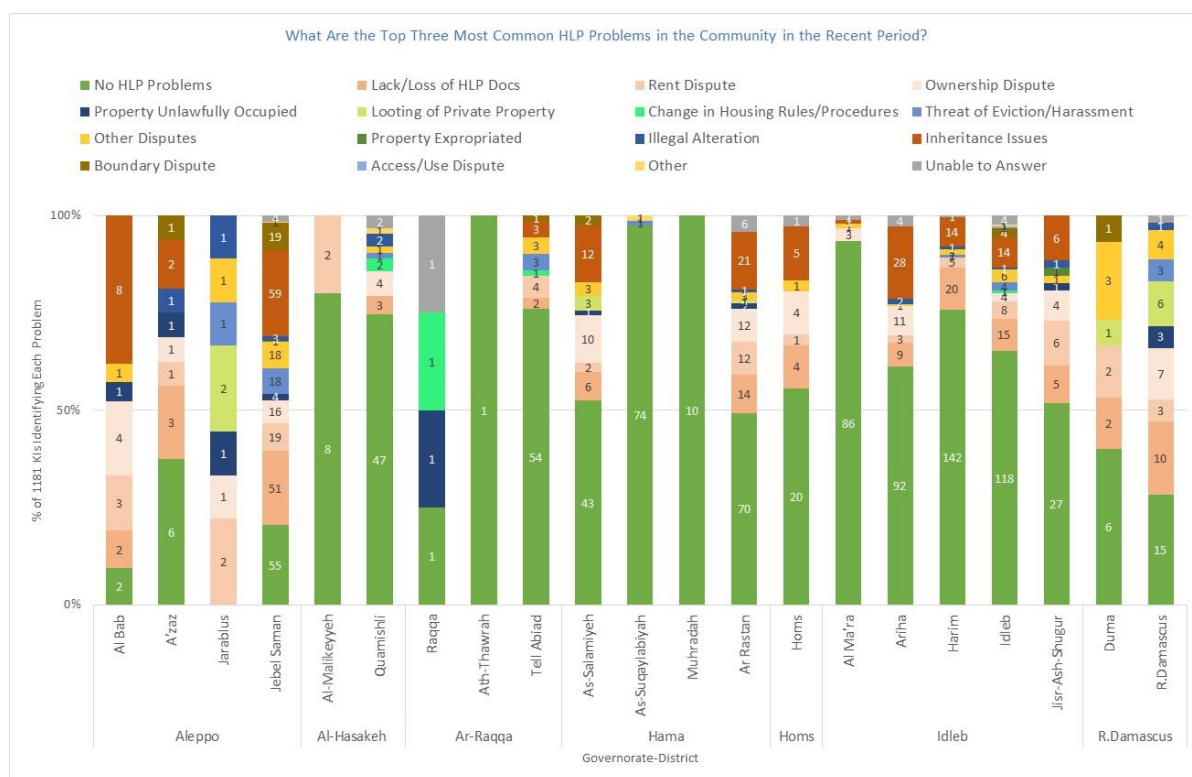




Districts where KI's were most likely to state that all families in the community pay rent were Al-Malikeyyeh and Quamishli districts of Al-Hasakeh. Additionally, in Jarablus and Jebel Saman districts of Aleppo and Jisr Ash-Shugur district of Idleb, all or nearly all KI's indicated that either some, most or all families pay rent for their accommodation.



Key informants were asked to identify the top three most common HLP problems experienced in their community in the recent period. While overall 74 percent of the KIs stated that there are no HLP problems, key informants identifying problems indicated inheritance issues (15 percent), lack or loss of HLP documentation (12 percent), ownership disputes (7 percent) and rent disputes (6 percent) as the most prominent HLP issues.



In terms of geographic location, HLP problems were most often indicated in some locations, such as Euphrates Shield areas of Al Bab, A'zaz, Jarablus and Jebel Saman districts of Aleppo; as well as Duma and Rural Damascus districts of Rural Damascus. Inheritance issues, ownership disputes, rent disputes and lack or loss of HLP docs are reported in these locations, in addition to issues such as property being unlawfully occupied and the threat of eviction or harassment.

HLP issues are also more prominent in Raqqah district of Ar-Raqqa and Rural Damascus district of Rural Damascus. In Ar-Raqqa district, KIs indicated that there has been a change in housing rules and procedures and that property is being unlawfully occupied. However due to the small number of KIs in this location, the findings may not reflect a comprehensive image of HLP issues in Ar-Raqqa. In Rural Damascus, there was again high mention of rent disputes, lack or loss of HLP documentation and ownership disputes. In addition, issues such as looting of private property and other disputes were mentioned for this location. Duma district of Rural Damascus is another location where looting was indicated by KIs.

Key informants' descriptions of HLP issues experienced demonstrate a variety of disputes and challenges. The lack of HLP documentation and the inability to prove ownership of property is a primary challenge and has resulted both from the loss or destruction of documentation due to damage and destruction of homes during conflict, but also due to the damage and destruction of government institutions that maintained records of property ownership. Additionally, the absence of institutions that issue property deeds and ownership documentation for newly purchased and inherited land is exacerbating problems.



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*As a result of displacement and the burning and demolition of some homes, a large proportion of citizens lost documents proving ownership (Male KII, Off-Camp, Medical Staff, Daret Azza, Jebel Saman district, Aleppo governorate).*

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*Because of the destruction of the infrastructure of state institutions, many documents have been lost (Female KII, Off-Camp, Civil Activist, Jisr-Ash-Shugur, Jisr-Ash-Shugur District, Idlib governorate).*

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*Disputes over proof of ownership of the land are due to the absence of competent departments to issue property documents (Female KII, Off-Camp, Teacher, Atareb, Jebel Saman District, Aleppo Governorate).*

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One KI also describes how many of these issues are intertwined and often result in one another:

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*Because of the lack of supporting papers, disputes have arisen about ownership, and forging/fraud has spread due to the complete security vacuum. This has led to looting of private property (Male KII, Off-Camp, Teacher, Jarablus, Jarablus District, Aleppo governorate).*

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However, some key informants also indicate that every community does not experience HLP disputes. Other KIs note that some property disputes, particularly inheritance disputes, relate to causes that pre-date the conflict.

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*People's understanding in the village, the good treatment between them and everyone's knowledge of his rights reduce reasons for disagreements among them (Male KII, Teacher, Off-Camp, Kafr Nobol, Al Ma'ra District, Idlib governorate).*

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*The main reason for disputes is that our ancestors were buying and selling land without official documents; now we experience disagreements about ownership and demarcation (Female KII, Teacher, Off-Camp, As-Salamiye, As-Salamiye District, Hama Governorate).*

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Data indicates that villages and small towns may be experiencing fewer HLP-related disputes. As these community members are familiar with one another and ownership of property is well known among all the community, there are fewer disputes over ownership, possibly even in the absence of HLP documentation.



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*The population is small, and the agricultural land and homes are mostly well-known property (Female KII, Off-Camp, Teacher, Saboura, As-Salamiyeh District, Hama Governorate).*

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*The region has an official record and the property of individuals is well-known. Some minor differences between the heirs may occur, but they are solved by law (Male KII, Off-Camp, Teacher, As-Salamiyeh, As-Salamiyeh District, Hama Governorate.)*

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Some KIIs indicated that the local authorities, Shari'a courts or the community itself successfully engages in HLP dispute mediation or prevention. In addition to inheritance-based disputes over personal property however, there are also disputes over ownership of public land that have arisen during conflict.

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*Due to absence of offices that were responsible for public land and property, some people have acquired public lands on the pretext that the lands were theirs before the conflict, and the government took control of it. (Male KII, Off-Camp, Medical Staff, Talbiseh, Ar-Rastan District, Homs Governorate).*

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Although it is not widespread and does not affect most monitored communities, there are also cases of threat of eviction or the unlawful occupation of property. Data indicates that both tenants of rental homes and owners/landlords of rental homes may each threaten or harass the other. Sometimes AOGs may also perpetrate HLP rights violations in areas of control.

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*Sometimes it happens that the tenant does not leave the house and threatens the landlord that he will not pay rent. And some landlords threaten the tenants that if they don't pay higher rent, they will be kicked out (Male KII, Off-Camp, NGO Staff, Jarablus, Jarablus District, Aleppo Governorate).*

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Humanitarian programming to increase shelter stock and reduce factors that place affected communities at risk of eviction and insecure tenure are needed. Humanitarian actors engaging in camp management and shelter programmes can help reduce these risks by ensuring that land used for camp and shelter establishment is verified, reliable, and sustainable for IDPs and affected communities, and have basic and essential amenities (Refer to *Shelter/NFI Cluster Due Diligence Guidelines*<sup>5</sup>).

### 3.2.9 Access to Employment

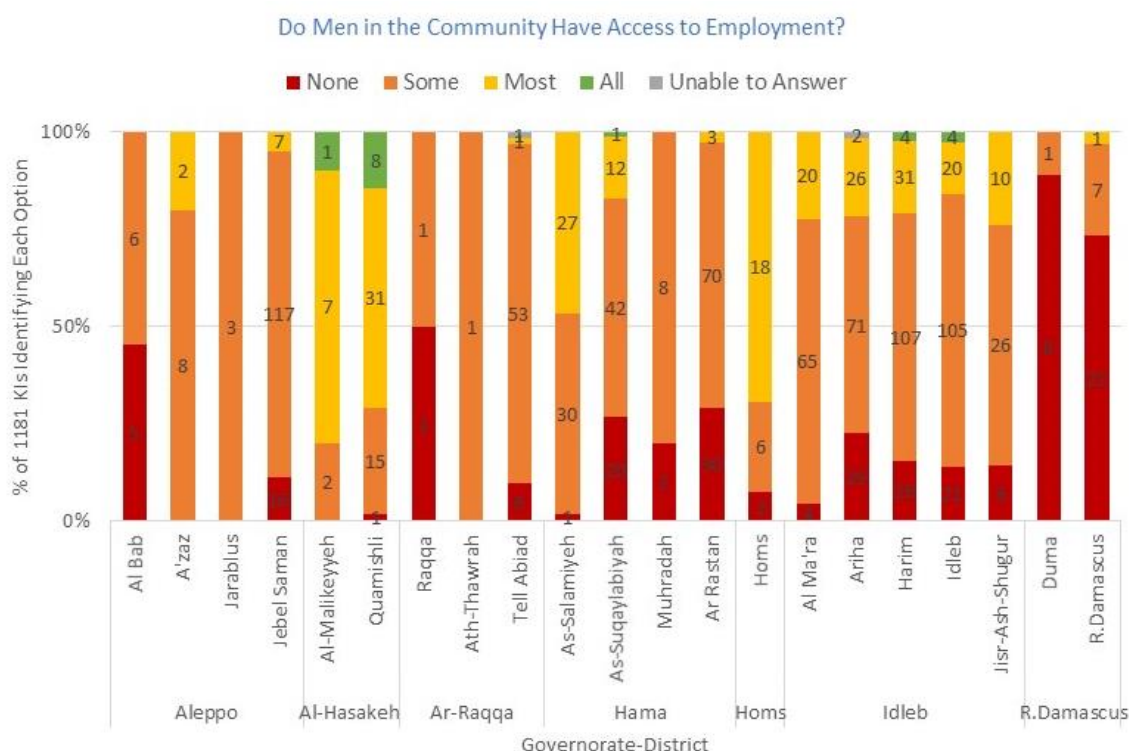


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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/hlp\\_xb\\_turkey\\_due\\_diligence\\_guidelines\\_final.pdf](https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/hlp_xb_turkey_due_diligence_guidelines_final.pdf)



17 percent of KIs stated that no men in the community have access to employment. 63 percent stated that some, 18 percent stated that most, and only 2 percent stated that all men in the community have access to employment in the community.

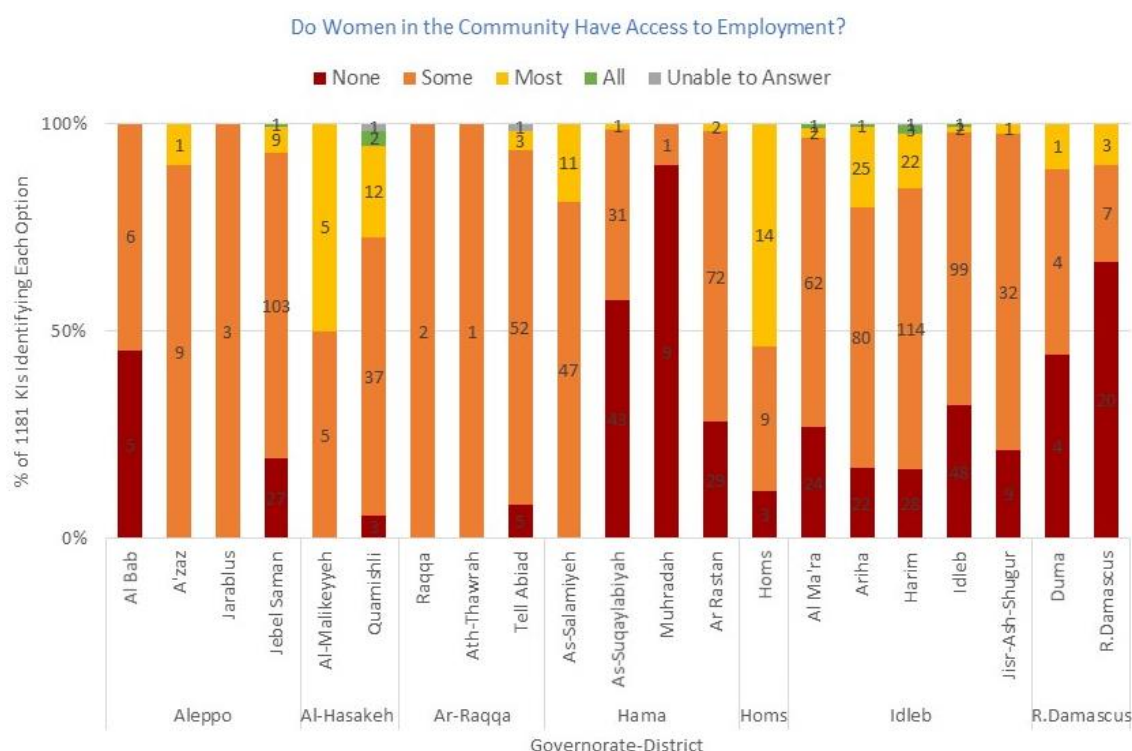


A larger percentage of KIs in the following locations stated that no men in the community have access to employment: Al Bab District of Aleppo, Raqqa district of Ar-Raqqa, and Duma and Rural Damascus districts of Rural Damascus.

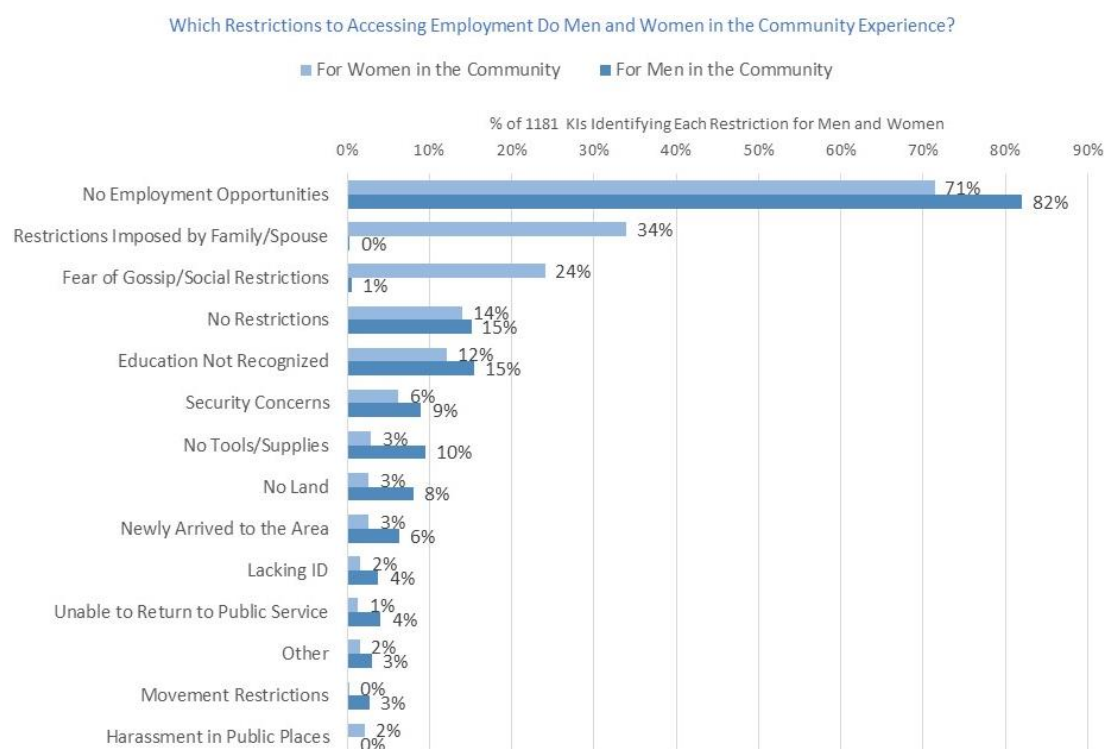


24 percent of KIs stated that no women in the community have access to employment. 66 percent stated that some women have access, 10 percent stated that most women have access and only 1 percent stated that all women have access to employment.





Women have greater access to employment in some communities, such as in Jebel Saman district of Aleppo, districts of Al-Hasakeh, Tell Abiad district of Ar-Raqqa, As-Salamiyyeh district of Hama and many of the monitored districts of Idlib like Ariha, Harim and Jisr-Ash-Shugur. In other communities, women have much less access to employment, such as in Al Bab, Aleppo, As-Suqaylabiyah and Muhradah of Hama and Rural Damascus district.



The lack of employment opportunities emerged as the primary restriction for men's and women's access to employment. KI responses indicate that men in the community are affected more by some restrictions than



women, such as lack of opportunities, lack of recognition of education, lack of tools/supplies, lack of land, and security concerns. This may be due to the fact that men have traditionally been considered the breadwinners in this context and are expected to work more than women. Some restrictions, on the other hand, were indicated solely for women and not men. For example, harassment in public places, fear of gossip/social restrictions and restrictions imposed by family/spouse were mentioned for women but not men. 34 percent of all KIs stated that restrictions imposed by family or spouse restrict women in the community from accessing employment. 24 percent of KIs stated that fear of gossip and other social restrictions restrict women in the community from accessing employment.

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*A lot of the agricultural lands belonging to people in our village have come under control by the regime forces, which caused us to be deprived of them and to lose that source of food and income. The people of the village suffer in general from lack of employment opportunities, and there is widespread unemployment. (Male KII, Off-Camp, Local Authority, As-Suqaylabiyah District, Hama Governorate)*

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*Agricultural resources are very expensive, including seeds, fertilizers, medicines; in addition, we lack and agricultural equipment. (Male KII, Off-Camp, NGO Staff, A'zaz District, Aleppo Governorate)*

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*All businesses are closed because of the siege, and agricultural lands [are inaccessible] due to their location beyond regime checkpoints and our fear of going to regime areas due to arbitrary arrests (Male KII, Off-Camp, Teacher, Homs District, Homs Governorate).*

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*Diplomas issued by the interim government are not recognized, and there are no job opportunities due to the embargo imposed by the regime (Male KII, Off-Camp, Medical Staff, Homs District, Homs Governorate).*

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*As some men lack documents, they cannot leave the village to work outside; this causes competition over the opportunities available in the village. Many of them cannot afford the price of a shop or equipment for the profession they want (Male KII, Off-Camp, Religious Leader, As-Salamiyyeh District, Homs Governorate).*

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### 3.3 Vulnerability

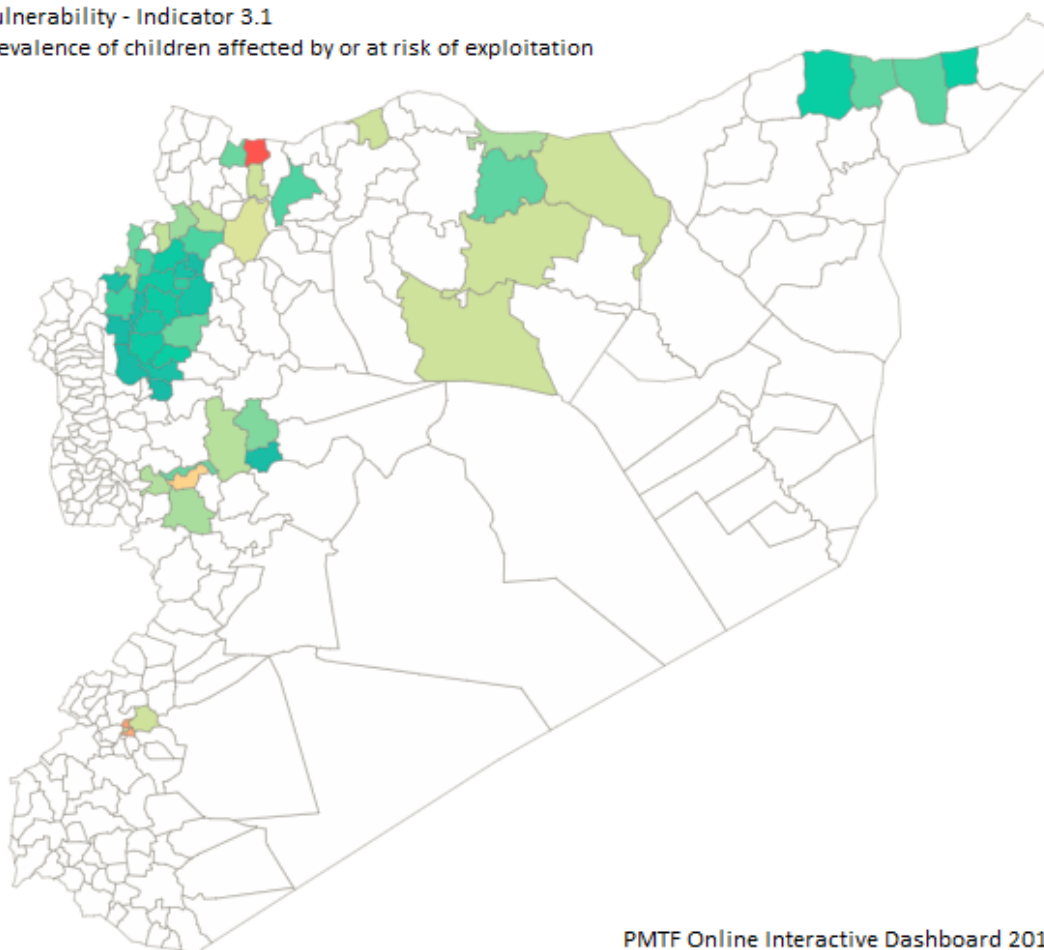
Amidst generalized violence and barriers to accessing basic items and services, conflict has placed persons with specific needs at risk of additional harm. Data moreover indicates that communities fear greater risk of harm for not only women, girls, boys, persons with disabilities, and older persons, but also for men. Communities take certain self-precautions and resort to certain negative coping mechanisms in order to reduce these risks for community members.



### 3.3.1 Risks for Children

#### Vulnerability - Indicator 3.1

Prevalence of children affected by or at risk of exploitation

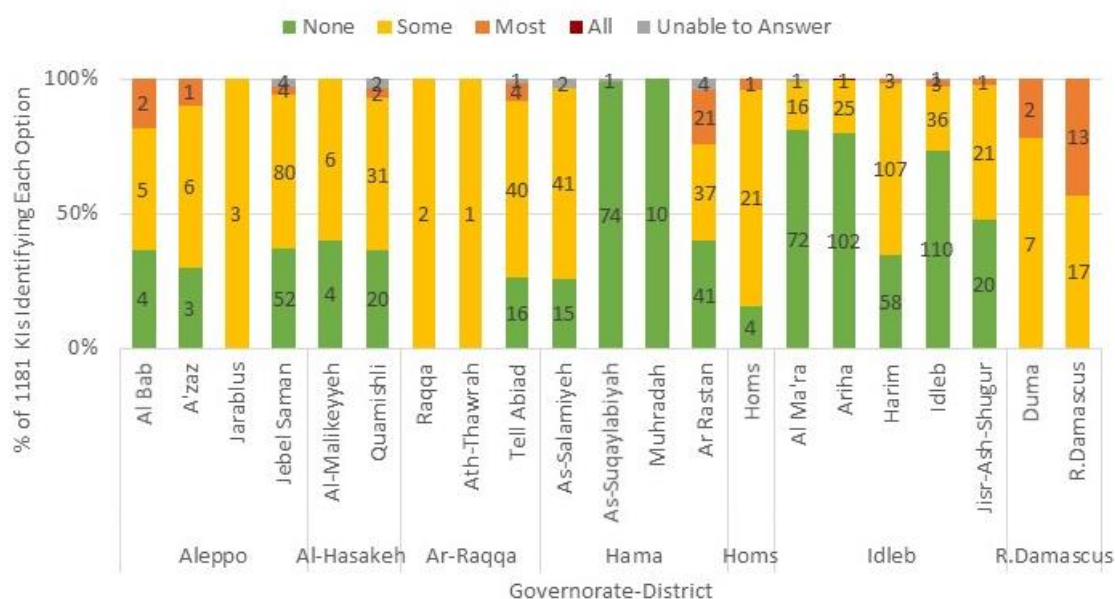


PMTF Online Interactive Dashboard 2018

51 percent of key informants stated that no children in the community are affected or at risk of violence or exploitation in the community. 43 percent stated that some children are at risk and 5 percent stated that most children are at risk. In-camp KIs were slightly more likely to state that children in the community are affected or at risk of violence or exploitation.



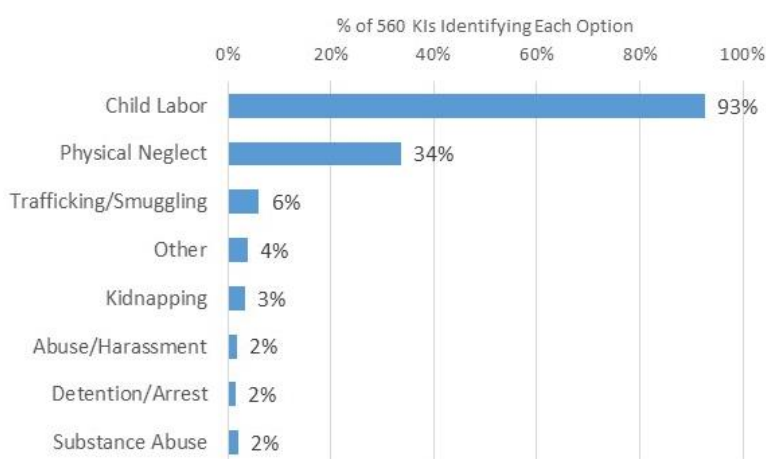
### Are There Children Affected or At Risk of Violence or Exploitation in the Community?



All KIs in the following districts stated that some or most children in the community are affected or at risk of violence or exploitation in the community: Jarablus district of Aleppo, Raqqa and Ath-Thawrah districts of Ar-Raqqa, and Duma and Rural Damascus districts of Rural Damascus governorate.

93 percent of 560 responding KIs stated that children in the community are at risk of engaging in child labor. 34 percent stated that children in the community are at risk of physical neglect. 6 percent of KIs stated that children are at risk of trafficking or smuggling. The risk of child labor was mentioned in every community where key informants responded to this question. The risk of physical neglect was also widely indicated and was mentioned in nearly every monitored community. Other risks were identified by KIs in particular communities. For example, the risk of detention and arrest was mentioned in Al Bab, Ariha and Idleb districts. The risk of trafficking or smuggling was mentioned the highest in As-Salamiyyeh district of Hama, as well as in Quamishli, Homs and Jisr-Ash-Shugur. The risk of kidnapping was mentioned in Jarablus, As-Salamiyyeh, Idleb and Jisr-Ash-Shugur. The risk of substance abuse was mentioned the most number of times in Jarablus, followed by Jebel Saman, Quamishli, Tell Abiad and Rural Damascus. KIs have explained that due to poverty and displacement, children are increasingly at risk of neglect and are heavily depended on for economic survival, which exposes them to a variety of protection risks.

### Types of Risk of Violence or Exploitation Affecting Children in the Community



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*Many children are doing different jobs to help their families to meet their needs....There are also many neglected children, especially children of displaced families (Male KII, Off-Camp, Medical Staff, Ar-Rastan District, Homs Governorate).*

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*A significant number of children under the age of 18 work in different vocations and jobs, and there are children whose heads of household don't care about them and are unable to provide care for them. (Male KII, Off-Camp, NGO Staff, Ar-Rastan District, Homs Governorate).*

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*Most parents can't secure their children's needs (Male KII, Off-Camp, Teacher, Jisr-Ash-Shugur District, Idleb Governorate).*

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*Child labor is probably [the primary risk] because of the economic situation of families. Some volunteers in the armed groups are exploiting the children to sell the pillaged goods that they bring from the areas they attack (Female KII, Teacher, Off-Camp, As-Salamiyeh District, Hama Governorate).*

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*Neglect [is a risk for children.] Their educational needs are neglected, families neglect them while raising them (Male KII, Off-Camp, Pharmacist, Idleb District, Idleb Governorate).*

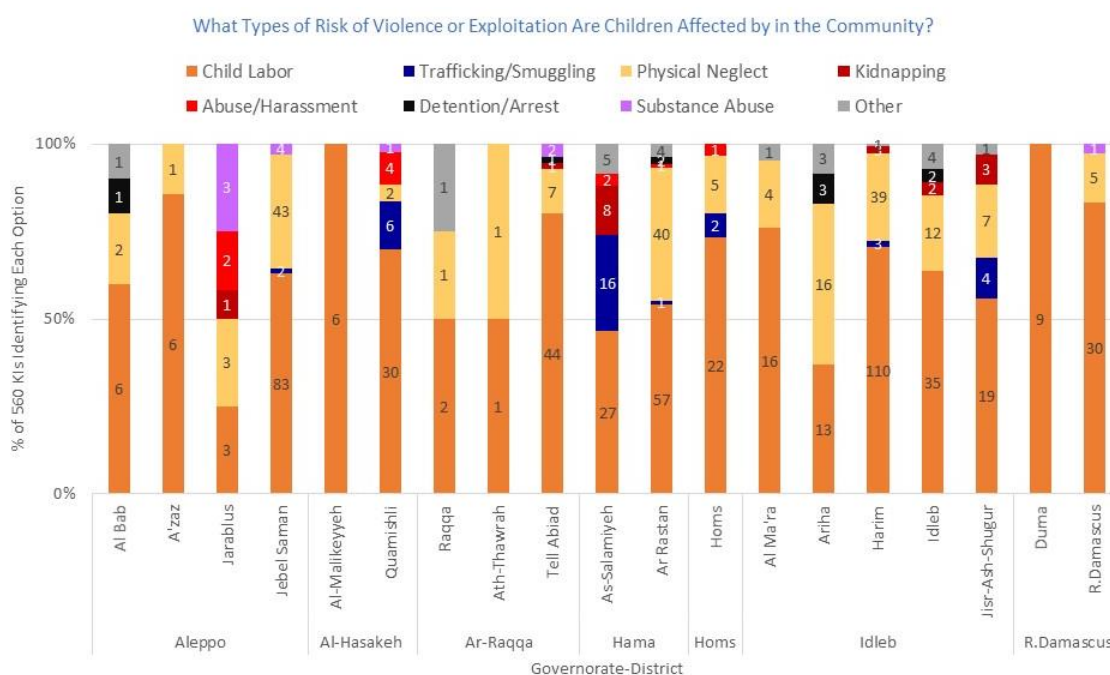
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*During the attack of ISIS on the southern neighbourhood of the village, the children were exposed to violence and witnessed scenes of the executions of their relatives (Male KII, Off-Camp, Religious Leader, As-Salamiyeh District, Hama Governorate).*

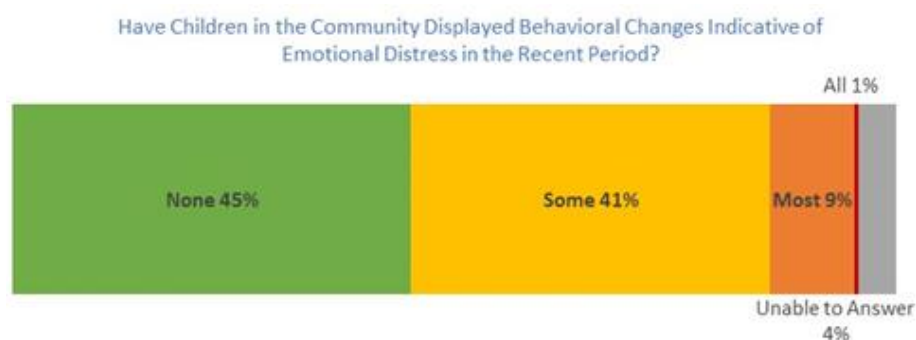
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Kidnapping as a current risk affecting children in the community was most mentioned by KIs from As-Salamiyyeh district of Hama. KIs from Hama explained that children in their communities are sometimes kidnapped for ransom. As indicated by one KI from Hama, children who are employed by or affiliated with armed groups as volunteers are also implicated in these groups' illegal activities, including theft and kidnapping. The risk of trafficking/smuggling was also mentioned by 17 KIs in Hama, a higher number than in any other location.

### 3.3.2 Impact of Conflict on Child Psychology



Key informants were asked whether children in the community had in the recent period displayed behavioral changes indicative of emotional distress, such as isolation, non-participation in social activities, finger-sucking, bedwetting, extreme fear, shyness, anxiety, aggression, irregular sleep patterns, and learning difficulties. Overall, 45 percent of KIs stated that none of the children in the community displayed behavioral changes. 41 percent stated that some, 9 percent stated that most, and 1 percent stated that all children display such behavioral changes. Key informants explain that children demonstrate a variety of symptoms of psychological distress caused by high levels of fear and anxiety caused by witnessing violence.

The examples provided by KIs of current living conditions of conflict-affected children in Northwest Syria indicate that Syrian children are growing up with unmet physical and emotional needs. Not only are children exposed to poverty and lack of access to basic physical needs like food and clothing; the circumstances of war, displacement and family separation expose children to various forms of emotional neglect and abuse.

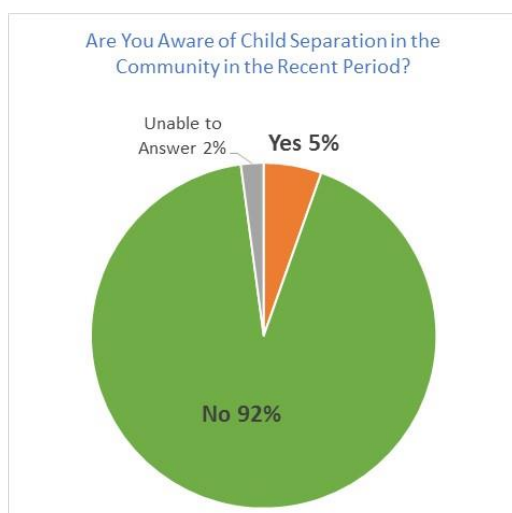


By being forced to work to provide for the family and take on responsibility that is normally carried out by adults within a family, Syrian children are experiencing systemic “parentification,” in which the roles carried out within a family are reversed and distorted. Children are forced to take on physical and emotional pressure they are not yet prepared to handle. Considering the abusive and high-risk nature of the work in which these children are engaged, the emotional and physical burdens are abnormally high and harmful. Additionally, parents and adults who are themselves traumatized by conflict and difficult life conditions are unable to provide children with physical care and affection required for healthy development, resulting in physical and emotional neglect that is likely to have long-term consequences extending through adulthood.

Humanitarian actors carry out psychosocial support (PSS) activities in conflict-affected communities to mitigate and reduce these risks and harms, and they are encouraged to continue and expand on these activities. Humanitarian actors are recommended to carry out PSS programs that reach all members of the community. Ensuring that parents/adult caretakers and children receive PSS support simultaneously may help reduce and help mitigate the complex and inter-related nature of trauma present in these families and communities. Some children have been exposed to severe forms of violence and are in need of intensive and long-term PSS support. Humanitarian actors providing PSS services are encouraged to assess PSS needs on a case-by-case basis, and carry out follow-up activities to ensure that PSS services have met the needs of the child. Additionally, creating opportunities that allow children in the community to experience normalcy, such as opportunities for sport, study and play, will bolster the impact of PSS activities and can help reduce the effects of traumatic living conditions.

Protection staff specializing in child protection and PSS can carry out awareness raising among parents and adult caretakers on the importance of providing reliable and unconditional emotional care and the necessary physical care to support children’s healthy development, in spite of the challenging life conditions the family is currently experiencing. Furthermore, child-focused PSS activities can model for children methods of coping with difficult emotions such as fear and anxiety that often become systemic in conflict-affected communities<sup>6</sup>.

### 3.3.3 Child Separation



92 percent of all KIs stated that they are not aware of any cases of child separation in their community in the recent period. 5 percent stated that they are aware of such cases in their community. The majority of key informants who described child separation cases in their community described situations where the children were left with distant relatives due to either divorce of the parents, the death of both parents, or the death of one parent and the re-marriage of the other parent.

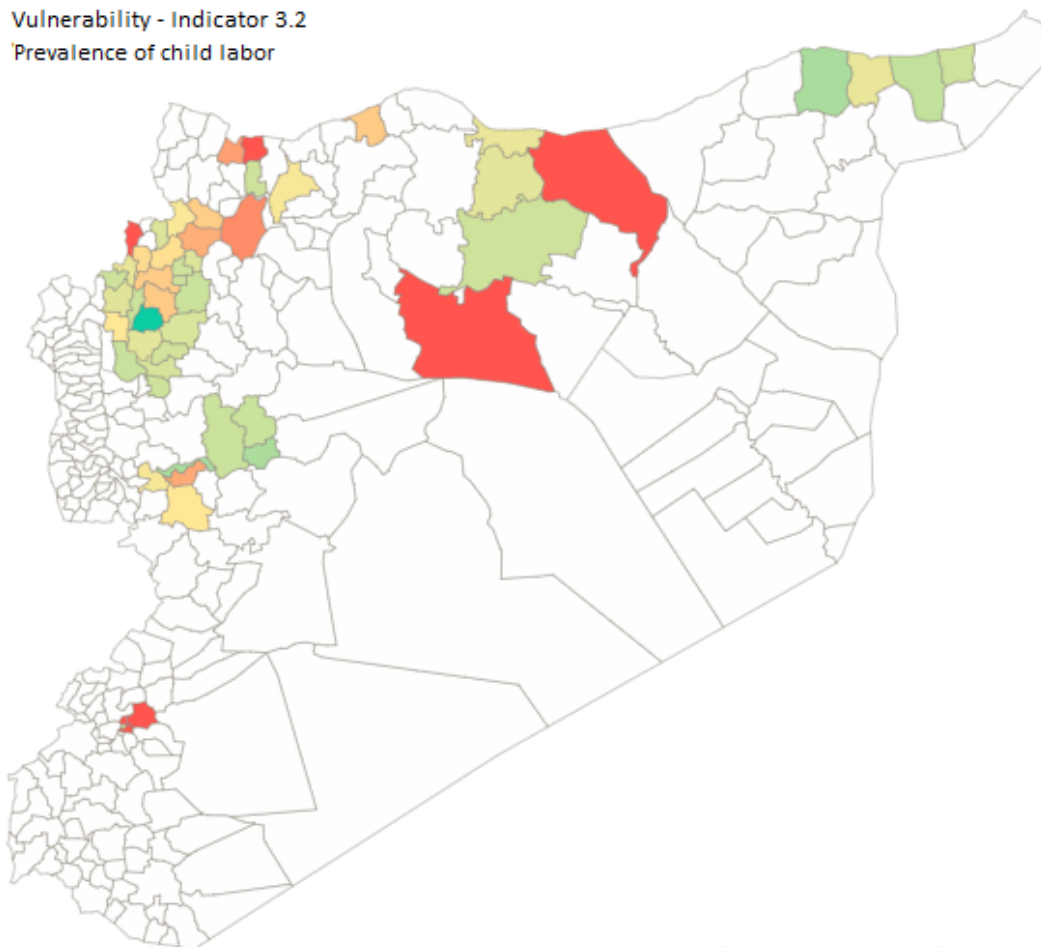
<sup>6</sup> <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/mental-health-matters/social-and-emotional-learning/emotional-development>





### 3.3.4 Child Labor

Vulnerability - Indicator 3.2  
Prevalence of child labor

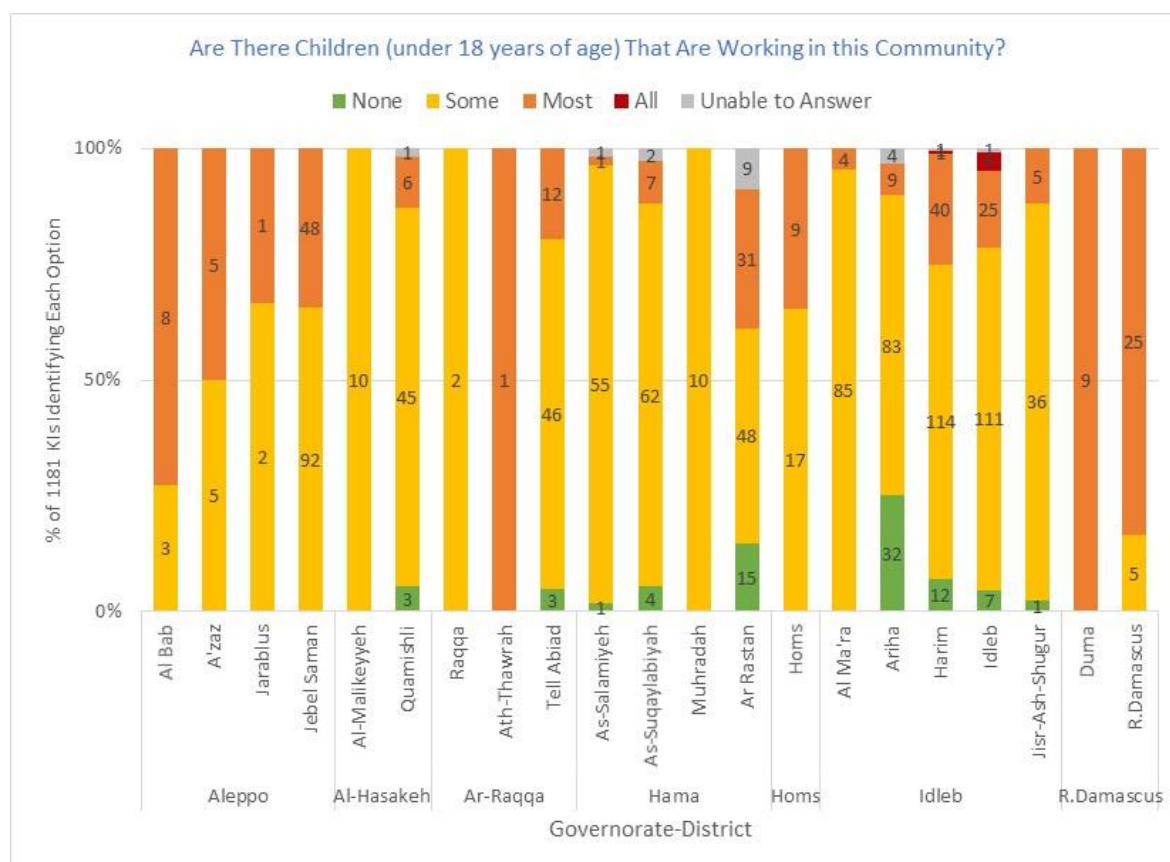


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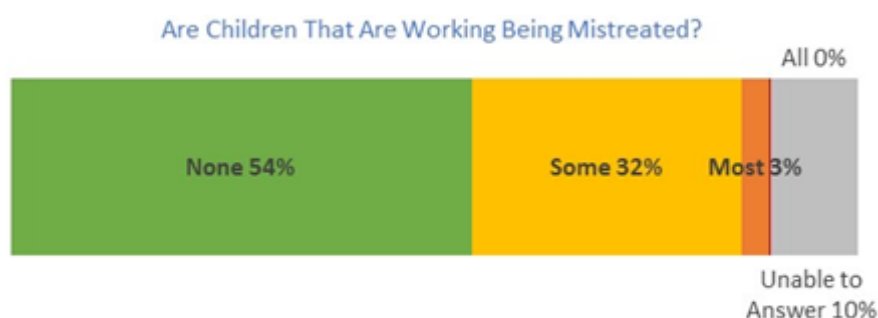


Child labor is the most-mentioned child protection risk during the reporting period. While only 7 percent of all KIs stated that no children in the community are working, 70 percent stated that some children are working and 21 percent stated that most children in the community are working. It is noted that more than half of KIs in Al Bab district of Aleppo and Duma and Rural Damascus districts of Rural Damascus stated that most children in the community are working. Children are most commonly involved in agriculture, sales (both in

shops and on the street), skilled work (including industry/manufacturing and manual trades), and grazing/herding, as well as construction, loading, and unloading.



### 3.3.5 Violence and Exploitation in Child Labor



54 percent of 1071 KIs stated that no working children are being mistreated. 32 percent stated that some are being mistreated and 3 percent stated that most of them are being mistreated.

Consistent with previous reports, key informants continue to report that children experience mistreatment in the form of long working hours and low pay, labor that is not proportional to their age and physical capacity, verbal and physical violence, humiliation, and denial of rest and basic needs like food, which results in exhaustion and malnutrition. Children are not only engaging in work that places them in physical harm due to its physically strenuous or over-demanding nature; one comment also indicates that some children are engaged in work of criminal nature, placing them at additional risks.



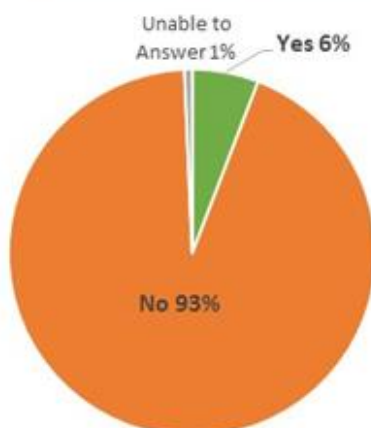
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*[Children are] exploited by being made to sell stolen things which negatively affects their and their parents' reputation (Female KII, Off-Camp, Teacher, As-Salamiyeh District, Hama Governorate).*

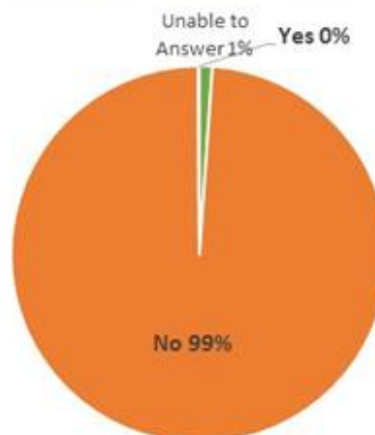
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### 3.3.6 Services for Older Persons and Persons with Special Needs

Are There Dedicated Services for Special Needs?



Are There Dedicated Services for Elderly People?



Key informants were asked to state whether there are any dedicated services for people with special needs in their communities, including boys and girls at risk, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), persons with serious health conditions, persons with special legal/physical protection needs, single women, female headed households, older persons and persons with disabilities. 93 percent of KIs stated that there are no dedicated services for special needs. The dedicated services described by key informants include kindergarten for children with special needs, physical therapy and special care centers for disabilities caused by health disorders such as cerebral palsy, financial support programs for widows and orphans, crutches and wheelchair distribution for disabled persons, housing and shelter services for widows, and a specialized support center for women survivors of violence. While there are some special needs services as described above in monitored communities, 99 percent of key informants stated that there are no services dedicated especially for older people.

## 3.4 Demographic Groups and Movements

Security is the major factor influencing movement and displacement, which remain frequent and vast. In addition, all demographic groups experience restrictions on freedom of movement within the community. Not only generalized violence from armed combat, but also smaller and specific criminalized activity affects freedom of movement. Insufficient or nonexistent rule of law, disintegration of community structures, high strain on limited resources, proliferation of weapons, and the negative psychological consequences experienced by members of society because of high-intensity, long-duration conflict are all factors in the deterioration of security (Protection Needs Overview, 2018).

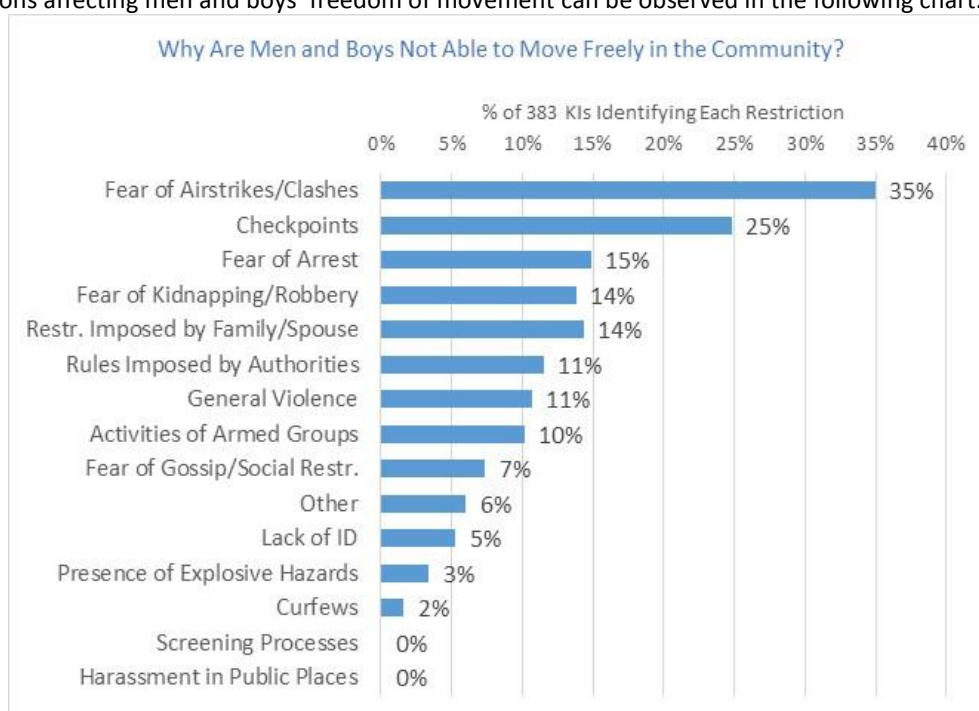
### 3.4.1 Freedom of Movement / Movement Restrictions

*Restrictions and impact for men and boys:*

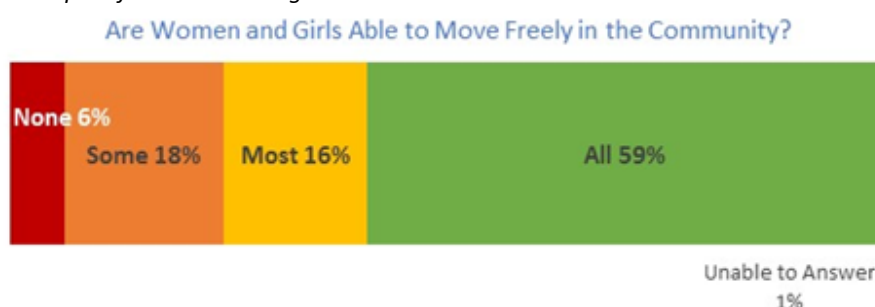




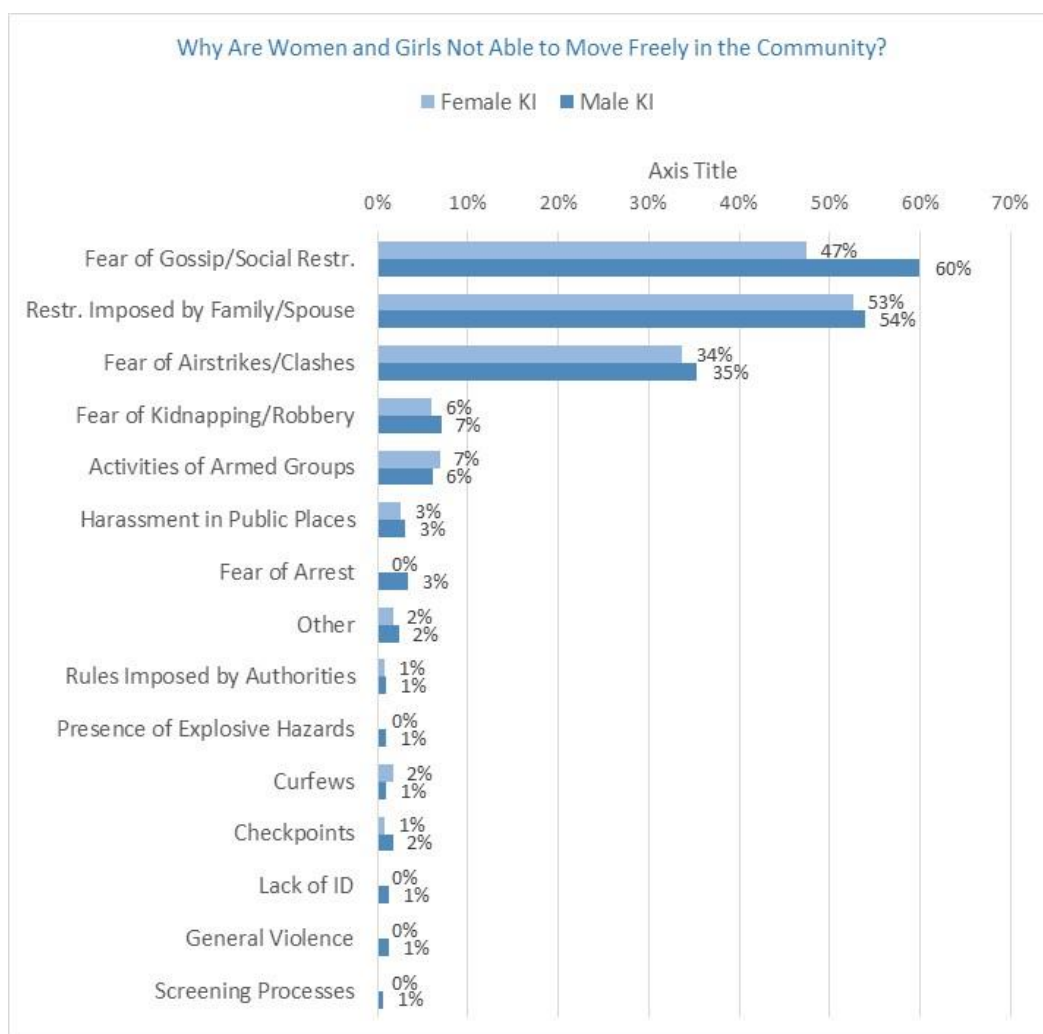
61 percent of all KIs stated that men and boys are able to move freely in the community. 17 percent stated that most are able to move freely, 17 percent stated that some are able to move freely and 5 percent stated that none are able to move freely in the community. Of the KIs who stated that some, most and none are able to move freely, the causes of restricted movement were identified as: fear of airstrikes and clashes (35 percent), the presence of checkpoints (25 percent), fear of arrest (15 percent), fear of kidnapping and robbery (14 percent), restrictions imposed by family or spouse (14 percent), rules imposed by concerned authorities (11 percent), general violence (11 percent), and activities of armed groups (10 percent). Additional restrictions affecting men and boys' freedom of movement can be observed in the following chart.



*Restrictions and impact for women and girls:*

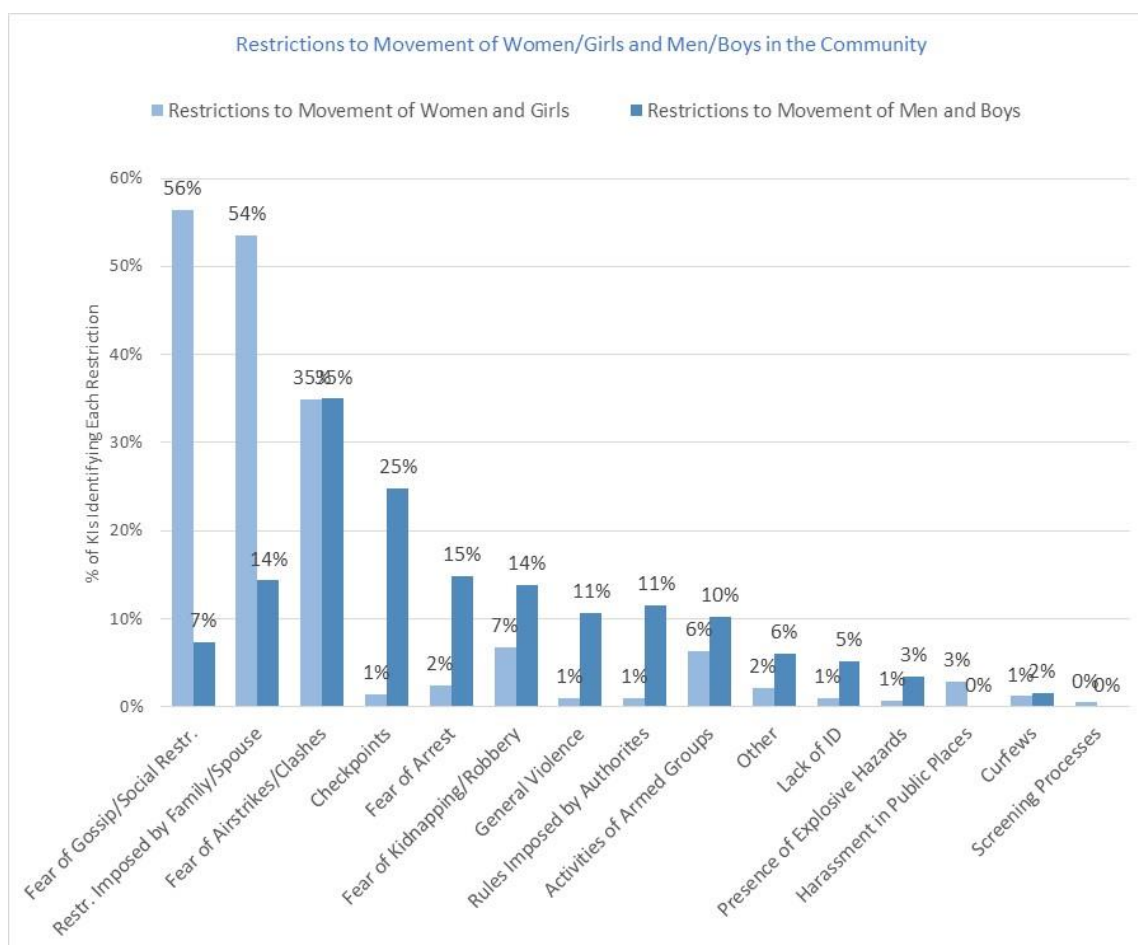


59 percent of all KIs stated that women and girls are able to move freely in the community. 16 percent stated that most are able, 18 percent stated that some are able and 6 percent stated that no women and girls are able to move freely in the community.



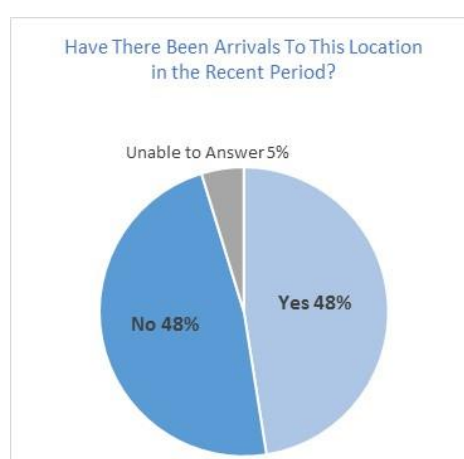
The most-cited restriction affecting women and girls' freedom of movement was fear of gossip and social restrictions, mentioned by 56 percent of KIs identifying movement restrictions. It is noted that male KIs were more likely to state this restriction to movement of women and girls than female KIs. Restrictions imposed by family and spouse were mentioned by 54 percent of key informants. 35 percent of KIs stated that fear of airstrikes and clashes restrict women and girls' movement, as well as fear of kidnapping and robbery (7 percent) and activities of armed groups (6 percent). More than half of the KIs who identified movement restrictions for women and girls cited societal and cultural factors, while only 35 percent cited security concerns.

Findings indicate that fear of airstrikes and clashes is the one restriction that impacts both women and girls and men and boys' freedom of movement equally. While some other restrictions affect men far more than women, there are also restrictions that affect women far more greatly than men. For example, restrictions such as checkpoints, rules imposed by authorities, general violence, fear of arrest, and fear of kidnapping or robbery was mentioned more frequently for men and boys than women and girls. Restrictions such as fear of gossip and social restrictions, and restrictions imposed by family or spouse were mentioned far more frequently for women and girls than men and boys. Harassment in public places as a restriction to freedom of movement was solely identified for women and girls in this monitoring period.



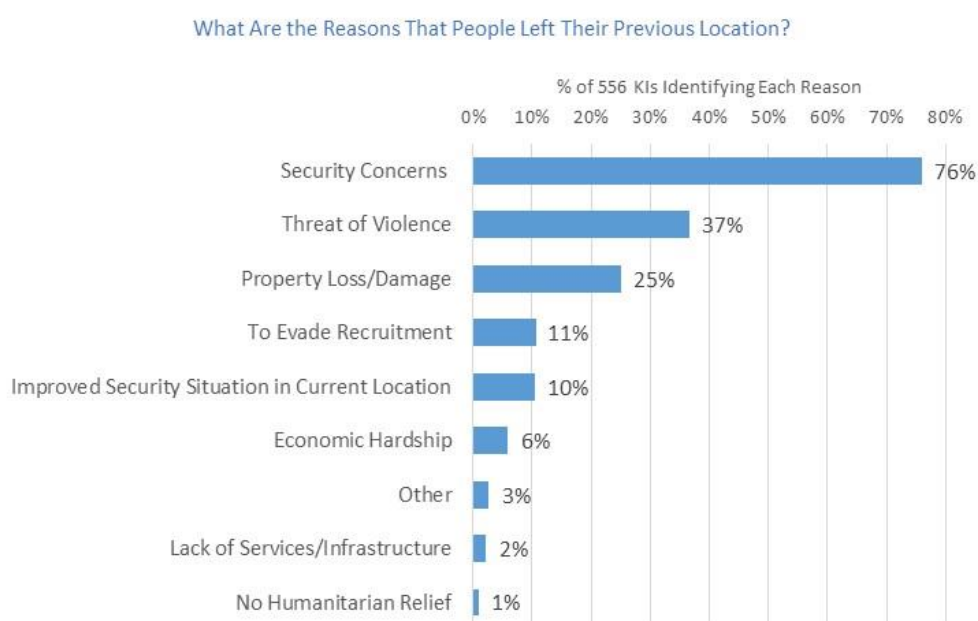
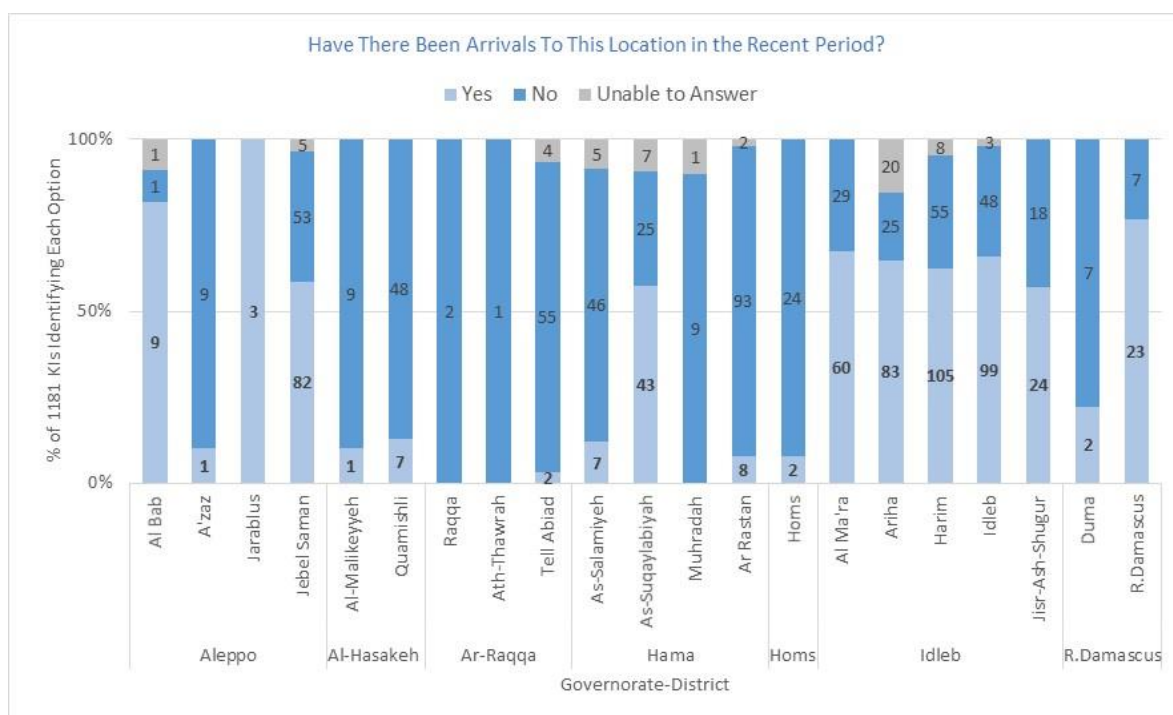
### 3.4.2 IDP Movement

#### Arrivals



48 percent of key informants stated that there had been arrivals to their location in the recent period. An equal percentage of key informants stated that there had not been arrivals to their location. More than half of key informants in the following locations stated that there had been arrivals: Al Bab, Jarablus and Jebel Saman districts of Aleppo, As-Suqaylabiyah district of Hama, all monitored districts of Idleb governorate, and Rural Damascus district of Rural Damascus governorate.





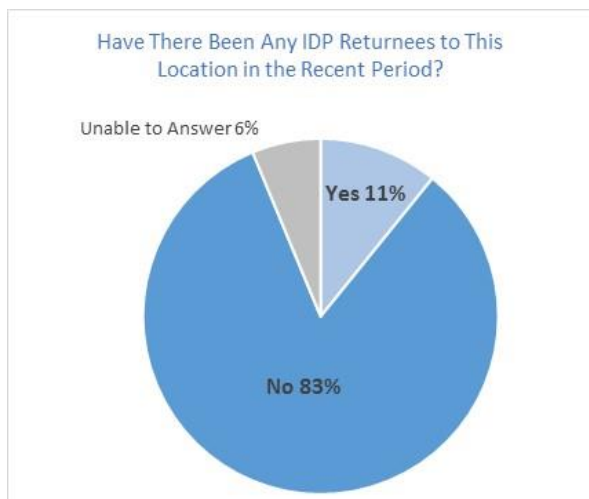
According to 76 percent of key informants who indicated recent arrivals in their area, the displaced left their previous locations because of security concerns. Other reasons include threat of violence (37 percent), property loss or damage (25 percent), to avoid recruitment (11 percent), due to improved security situation in current location (10 percent) and economic hardship (6 percent).

KIs explained that IDPs who recently arrived to their communities left their previous locations due to security reasons: clashes, shelling, and advance of GoS forces into the area. Southern and eastern countryside of Idleb and eastern Hama countryside were frequently mentioned to be the previous location of newly arrived IDPs

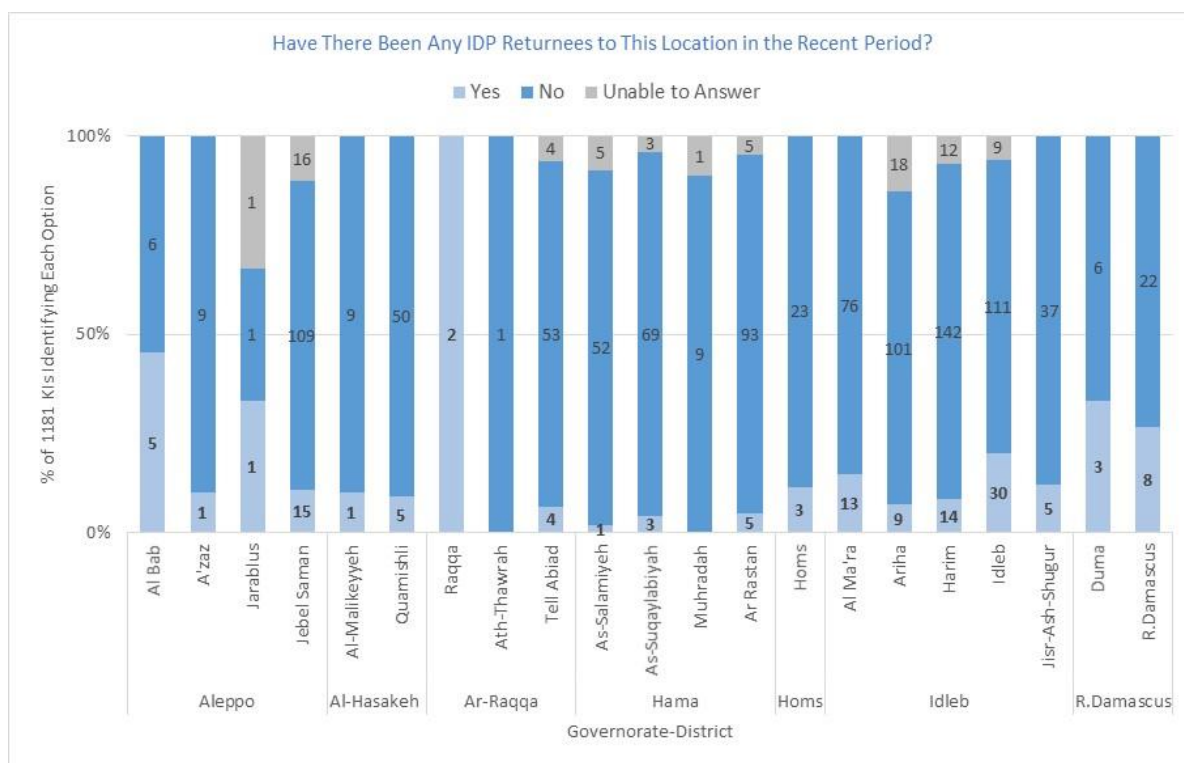
#### Returnees



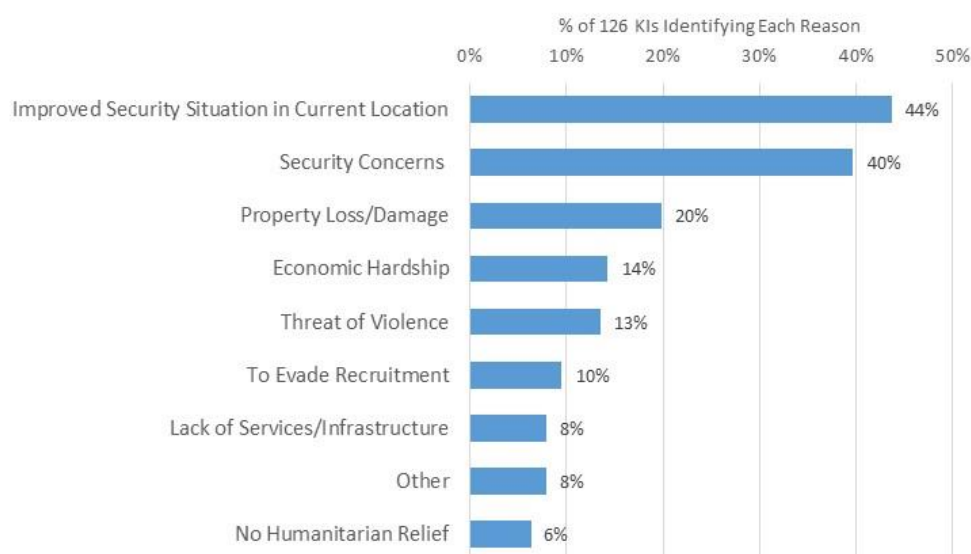




83 percent of all KIs stated that there had not been any IDP returnees to their location in the recent period, while 11 percent stated that there had been and 6 percent were unable to answer. The data indicates that some spontaneous IDP returns are taking place in small numbers across all monitored communities, as can be observed in the following chart.



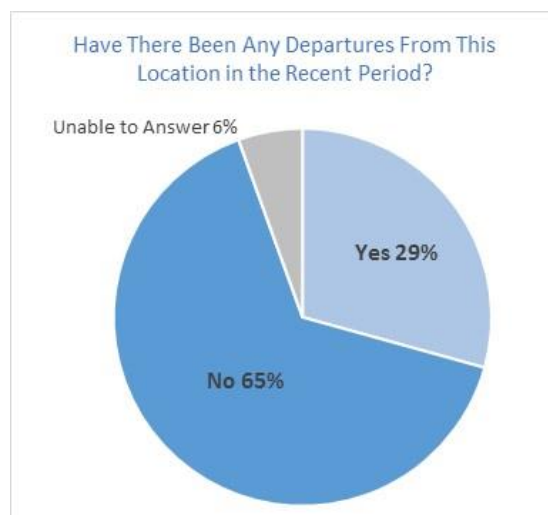
### What Are the Reasons That People Left Their Previous Location?

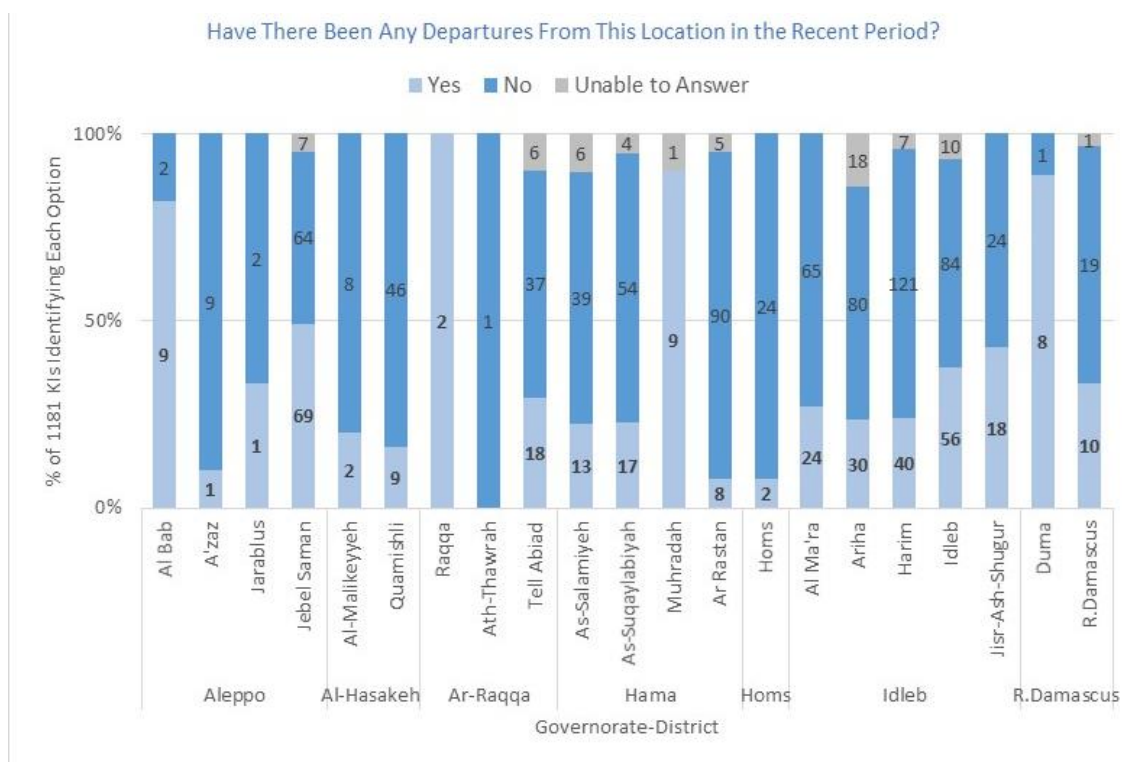


According to KIs who indicated that there had been returnees to their location in the recent period, people left their previous location due to the improvement in the security situation in the current location (44 percent), in addition to the security concerns in the previous location (40 percent). This was followed by property loss/damage (20 percent), economic hardship (14 percent), threat of violence (13 percent), and to evade recruitment (10 percent).

KIs explained that return of security and access to basic needs and services are primary reasons why IDPs return to their earlier communities.

### Departures





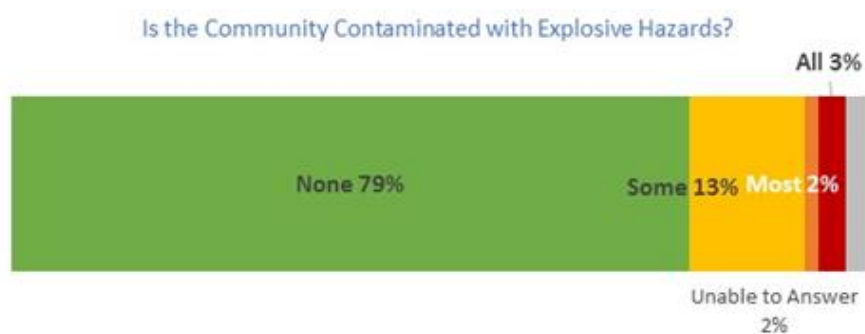
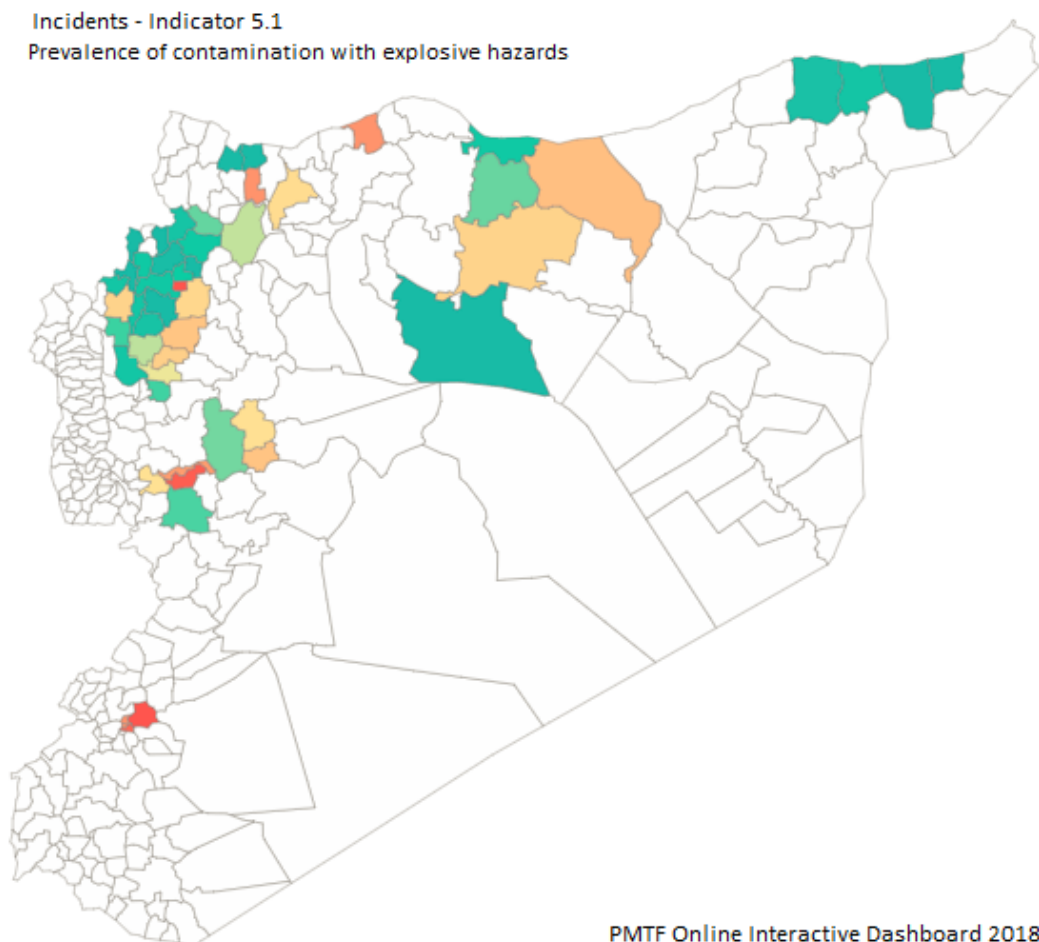
65 percent of KIs stated that there had not been departures from their location in the recent period and 29 percent stated that there had been departures. A large percentage of KIs in the following locations indicated that there have been departures recently: Al Bab and Jebel Saman district of Aleppo governorate, Raqqa district of Ar-Raqqa, Muhradah district of Hama and Duma district of Rural Damascus governorate.



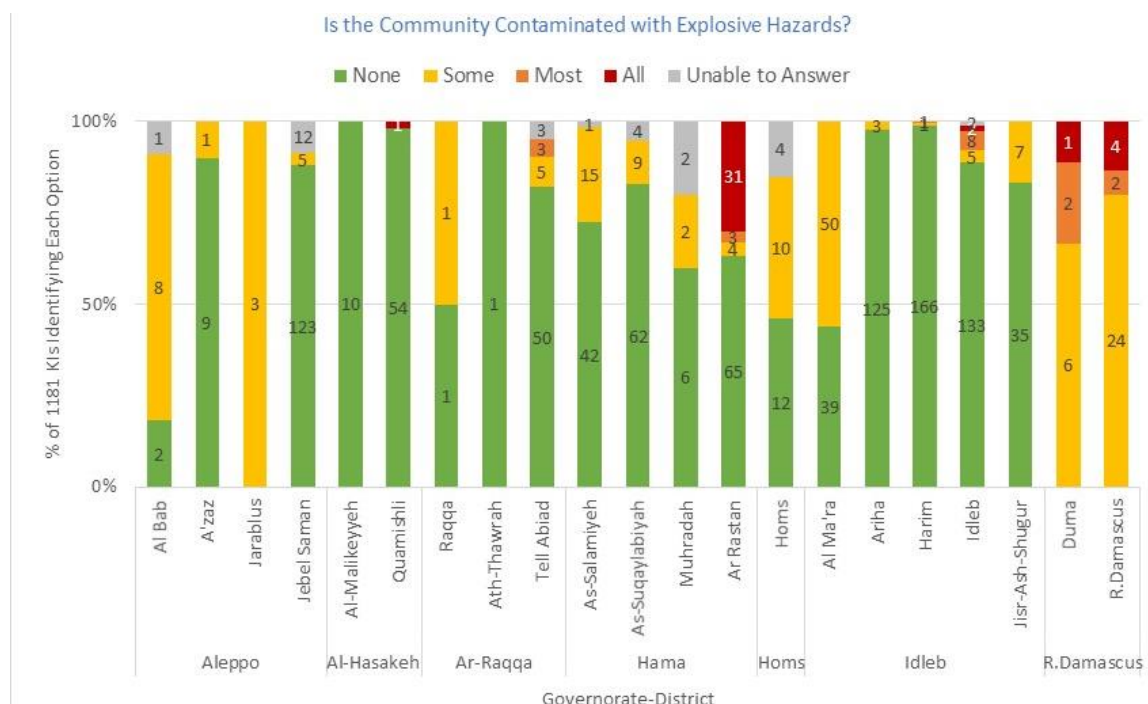
KIs who indicated that there have been departures from their location in the recent period mentioned the following primary reasons that people left: to return home (62 percent), due to safety and security reasons (26 percent), due to lack of access to employment (25 percent), poor living conditions (20 percent), and cannot afford rent (14 percent).

## 3.5 Explosive Hazards, Security Incidents, and Community Structures

### 3.5.1 Explosive Hazards



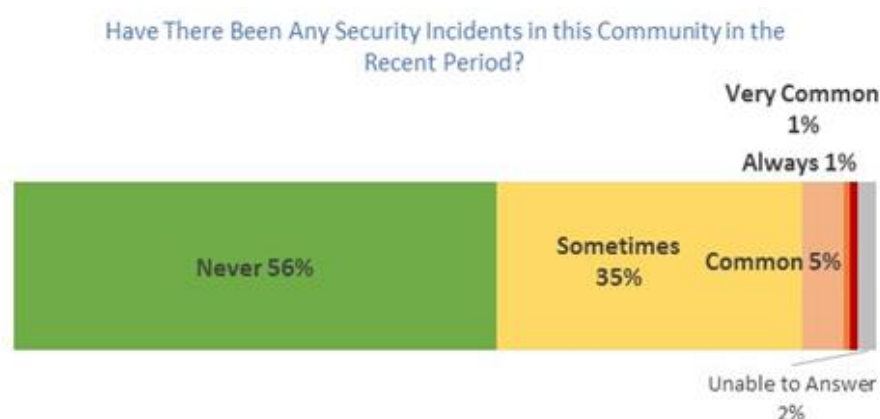
79 percent of key informants indicated that their community is not affected by explosive hazards, including mines and other explosive remnants of war. 13 percent stated that some of the community is contaminated, 2 percent stated that most of the community is contaminated and 3 percent indicated that all of their community is contaminated with explosive hazards.



Large percentages of KIs in the following locations stated that some of the community is contaminated with explosive hazards: Al Bab and Jarablus of Aleppo, Raqqa of Ar-Raqqa, Homs of Homs, and Al Ma'ra of Idleb governorate. Close to half of KIs in Ar-Rastan district of Hama stated that all of their community is contaminated with explosive hazards. The findings indicate that the most severe contamination is in Duma and Rural Damascus districts of Rural Damascus governorate, where ever KI stated that either some, most, or all of the community is contaminated. Some communities of Al Ma'ra, a location which hosts many IDPs, were also identified as contaminated by KIs. It should be noted however that this data does not identify or confirm exact locations contaminated with explosive hazards. It reflects the perceptions of key informants who participated in the survey, and cannot be generalized for the entire governorate, or for locations not covered by monitoring.

During the same reporting period of January – March 2018, Clash Data findings indicated the following number of reported incidents: 3013 in Rural Damascus, 2774 in Aleppo, 1060 in Homs, 1003 in Hama, 902 in Idleb and 815 in Al-Hasakeh. These findings are consistent with PMTF findings in which KIs in Rural Damascus and Aleppo were more likely to state that their community is contaminated with explosive hazards. It is noted that these findings do not indicate confirmed explosive hazard contamination and only potential contamination. Humanitarian actors seeking data on risks in specific locations can apply to UNMAS for information.

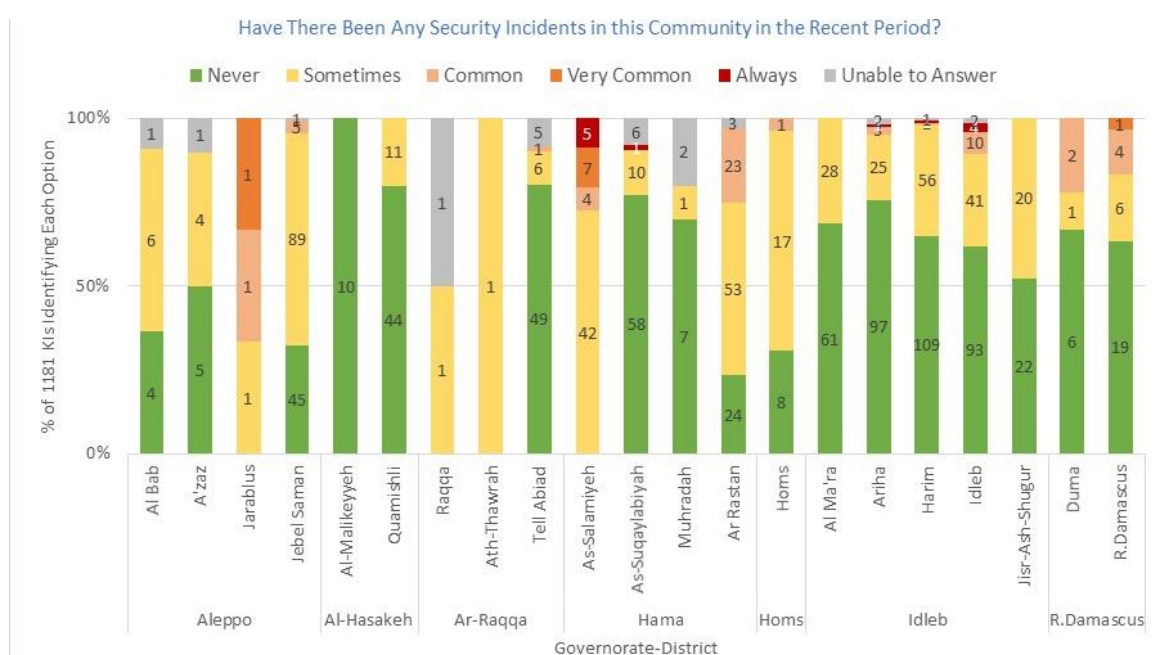
### 3.5.2 Security Incidents



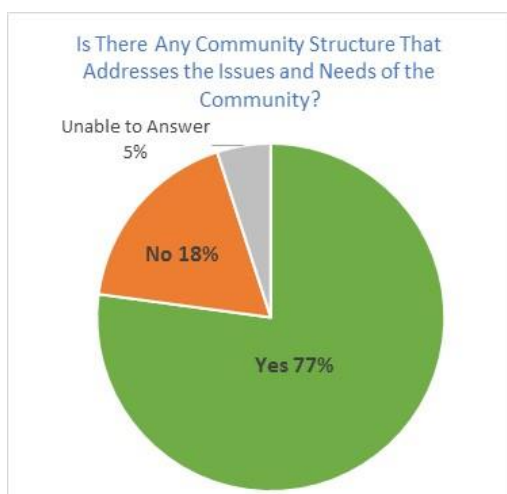
All KIs in Jarablus district of Aleppo said that security incidents occur sometimes, commonly or very commonly in their communities. Similarly, in As-Salamiyyeh district of Hama, security incidents were indicated to be sometimes, common, very common or always. Ar-Rastan district of Hama is another location where there was high mention of security incidents.

KIs described two types of security incidents taking place in their communities: clashes between armed groups and crime. Armed conflict - clashes between armed groups, shelling and explosions - took place in monitored areas during this reporting period. In addition, KIs most often described crimes affecting their communities, including kidnapping for ransom, murder, theft and burglary. KIs explain that much of the street crime, such as kidnapping and murder, is driven by the motive to steal money or valuable goods from individuals. This includes cash and gold, but also motor vehicles, electronics and similar property which are high in demand and useful and which can also be easily resold for money, such as automobiles and motorcycles, solar panels, generators, livestock such as sheep, and work-related tools and equipment.

An incident that was mentioned by numerous KIs and which has left a lasting negative impact on the community's sense of security in the recent period was the kidnapping and murder of a 9-year-old girl in Jisr-Ash-Shugur district of Idlib governorate. Her body was discovered two days after her kidnapping on the banks of the Orontes River.



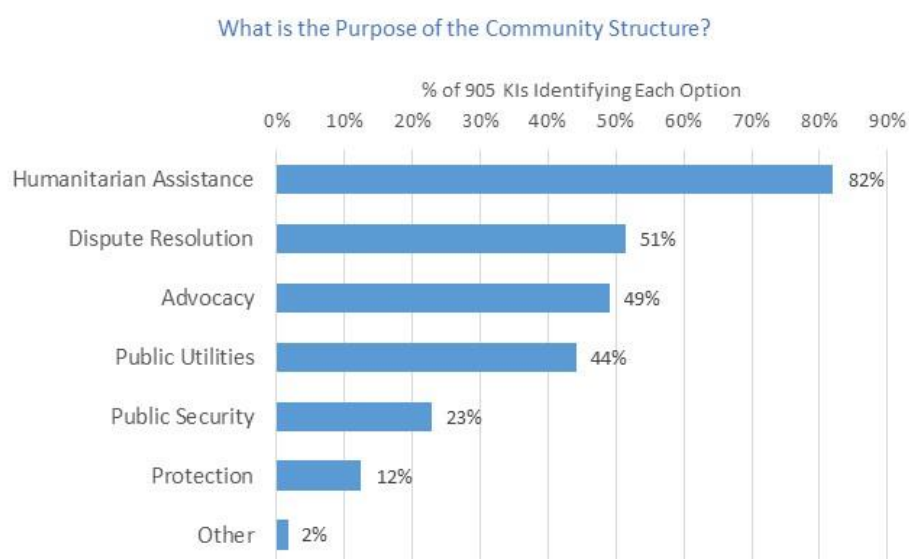
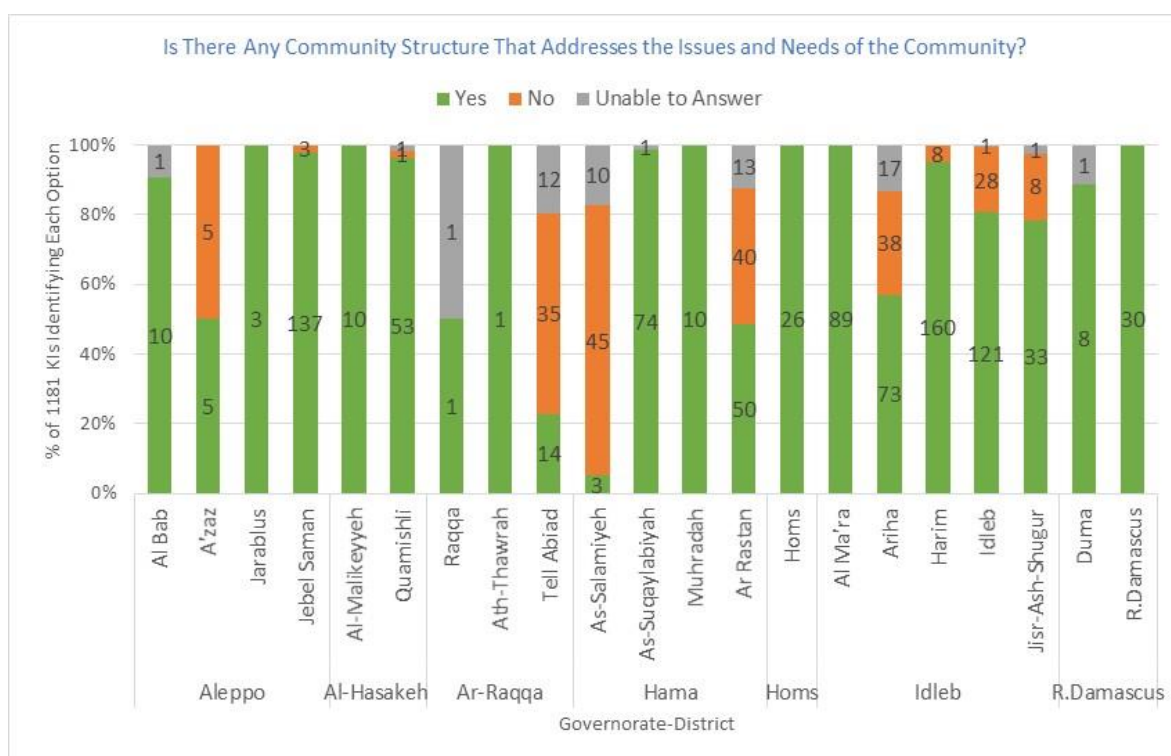
### 3.5.3 Community Structures



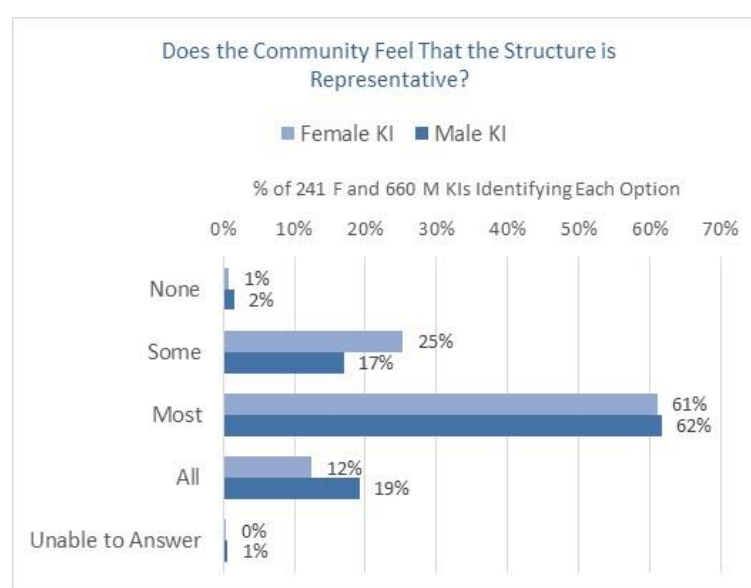
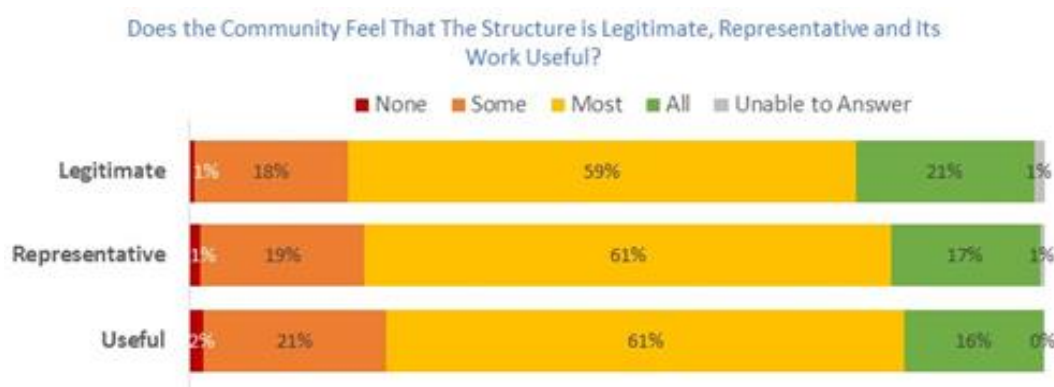
77 percent of key informants stated that there is a community structure, organization, association or group of leaders that meets or is organized to discuss and address issues and needs of the community. 18 percent stated that there is no such structure and 5 percent were unable to answer.

KIs stating that there is a community structure indicated the following structures. Local council was mentioned the greatest number of times (645), followed by the Shura Council (54), village elders (25), police (15), Shari'a Court (5) and Tribal Council (2).

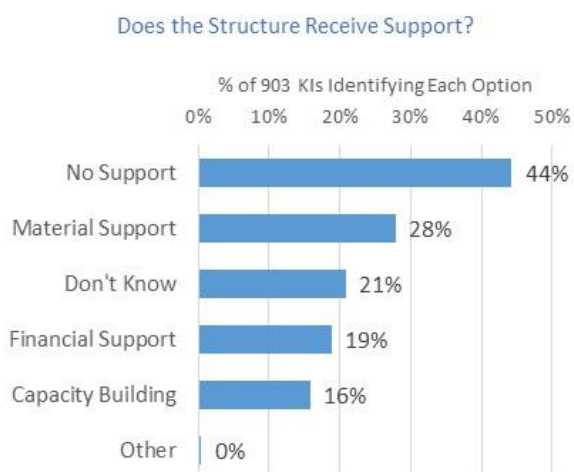




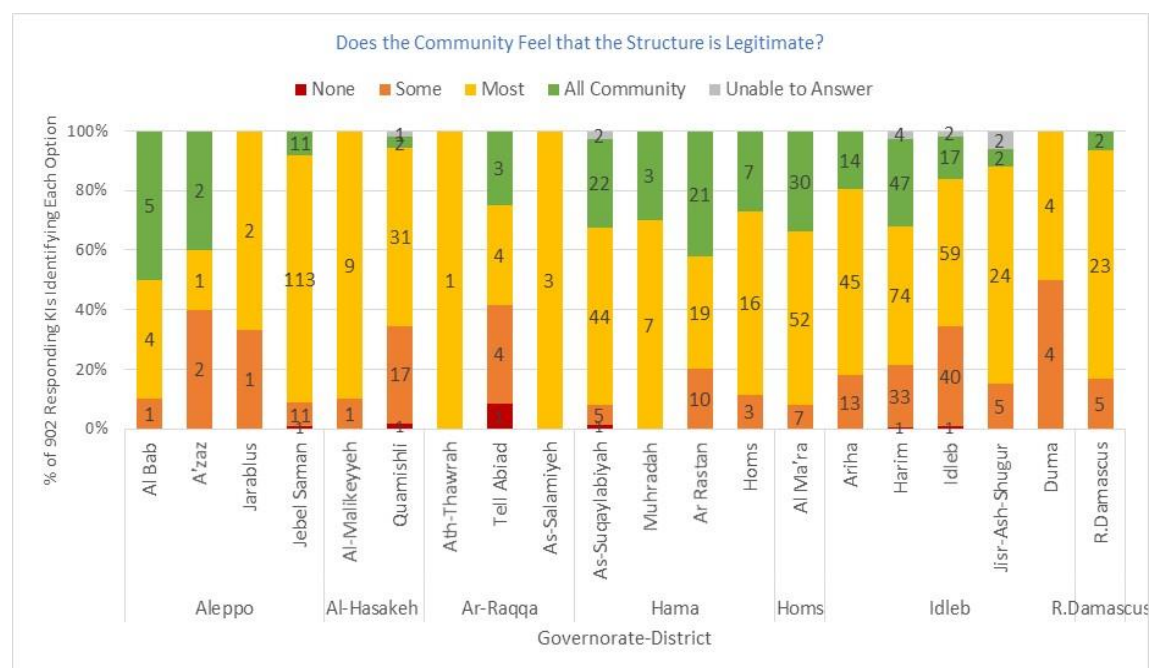
82 percent of KI's who indicated that they have a community structure that addresses issues and needs of the community identified the oversight or management of humanitarian assistance as one of its purposes. 51 percent named as a purpose dispute resolution between community members, 49 percent advocacy for community needs, 44 percent oversight or management of access to public utilities such as water and electricity, 23 percent oversight of public security, and 12 percent protection of vulnerable community members.



Around 20 percent of KIs stated that some of the community feels that the community structure is legitimate, representative and useful. Around 60 percent of KIs stated that most of the community feels that the structure is legitimate, representative and useful. The remaining 16-21 percent stated that all community members feel this way about the community structure. Consistent with the findings of previous monitoring reports and as demonstrated in the above chart, there is an indication that male KIs are slightly more likely to find community structures representative than female KIs. This may be indicative of lack of representation of women in community structures and/or a need for community structures to focus great attention on the needs and concerns of women and girls in the community.



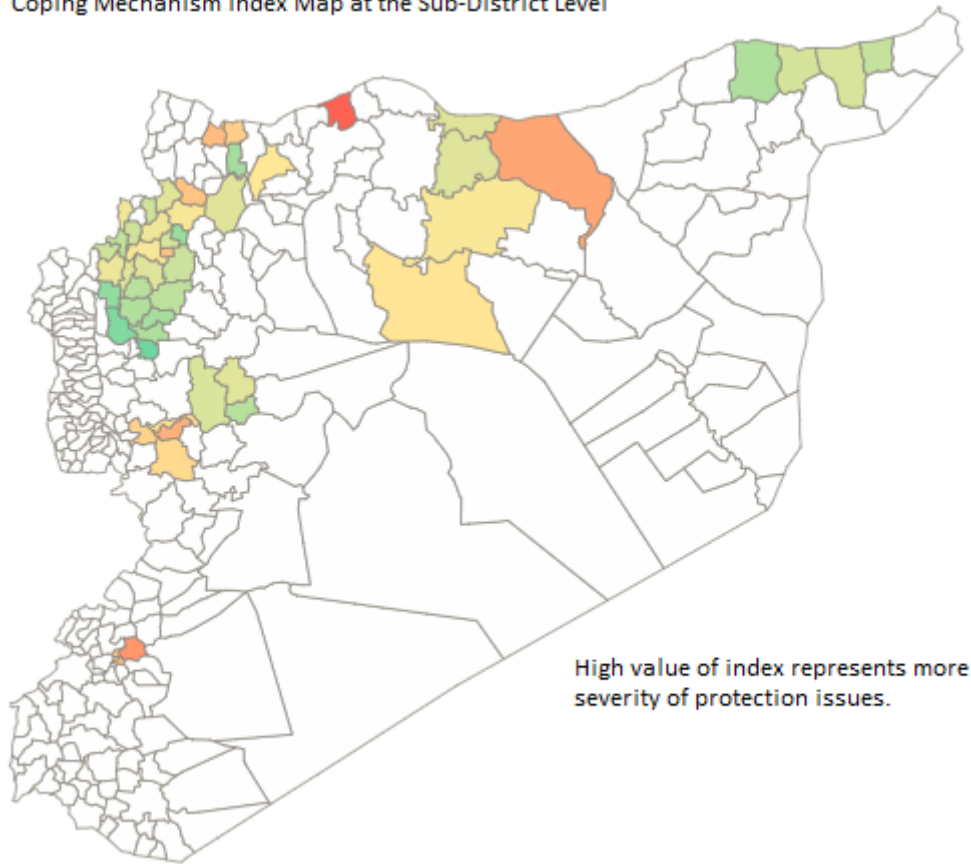
44 percent of KIs stated that the community structure does not receive any support. 29 percent stated that the structure receives material support, 19 percent stated that the structure receives financial support and 16 percent stated that the structure receives capacity building support. 21 percent of KIs stated that they do not know how the structure is supported.



This chart demonstrates the extent to which communities feel that the community structure is legitimate. The findings relating to the extent in which community structures are found to be representative and useful are similar to the above chart.

### 3.6 Coping Mechanisms

Coping Mechanism Index Map at the Sub-District Level



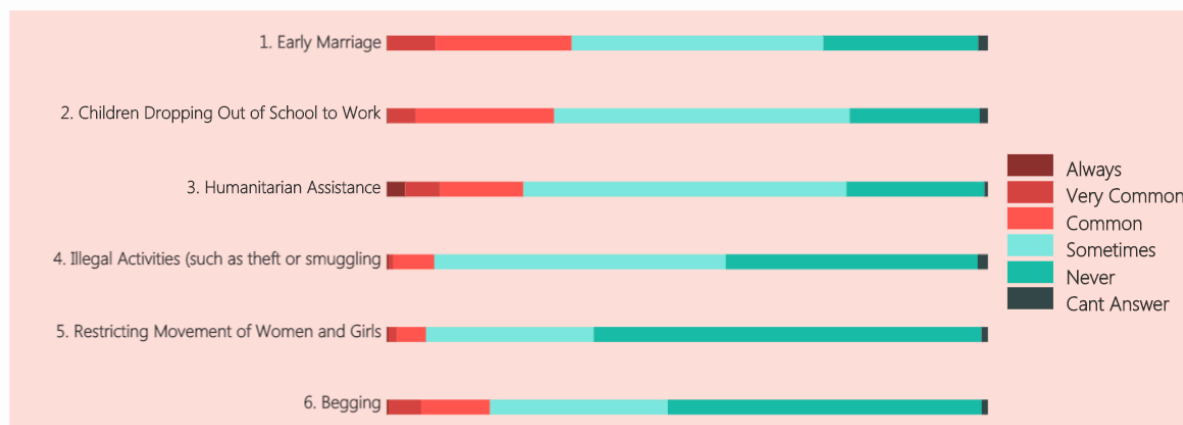
PMTF Online Interactive Dashboard 2018

The below charts indicate how often community members have relied in the recent period upon the following coping mechanisms: early marriage, dropping out of school to work, humanitarian assistance, illegal activities (such as theft or smuggling), restricting movement of women and girls, begging, accessing community services (community centers, women centers), and local/community support. While some coping mechanisms, such as early marriage and dropping out of school are damaging, causing individuals and communities harm by increasing their protection risks in the longer term, others are considered positive coping mechanisms, such as reliance on community services and community support.

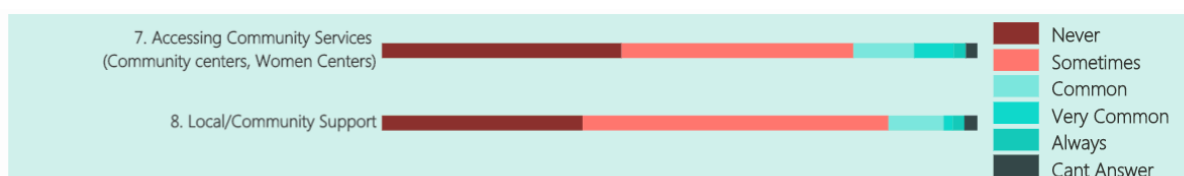
These findings continue to demonstrate the high level of strength, resilience and adaptability of these communities and the individuals who constitute them. KIs explain that communities face a variety of difficulties that challenge their ability to survive, and that they naturally adapt to the present conditions, utilize the opportunities and means available to them for their survival and well-being. While some negative coping mechanisms such as early marriage can be affected through awareness raising and advocacy work, communities also need better access to positive coping mechanisms. Findings indicate that communities are not currently accessing positive coping mechanisms such as community services and community support much.

#### *Harmful or Neutral Coping Mechanisms*

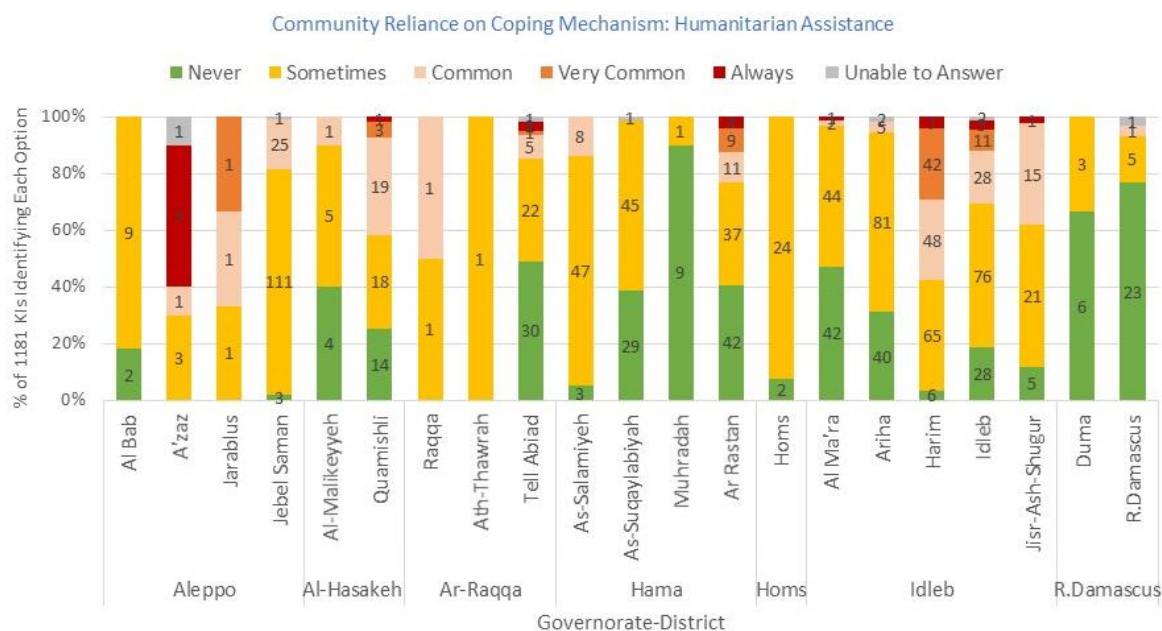
## How often have community members relied on the following as a coping mechanism in the last three weeks?



### Positive Coping Mechanisms



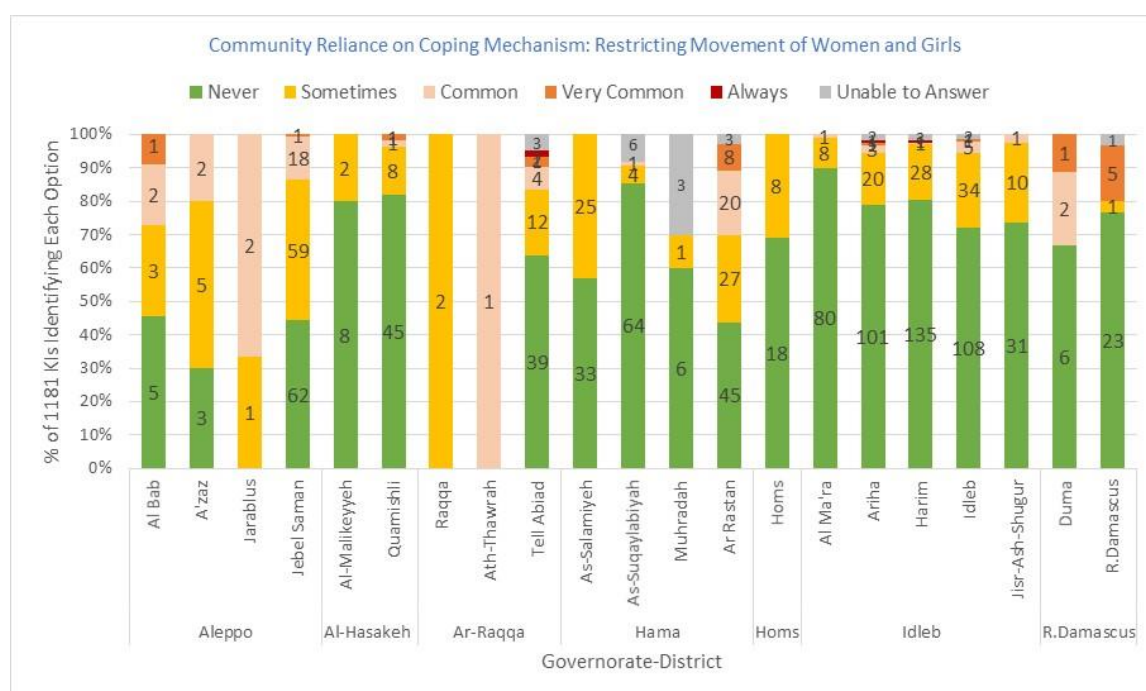
While the nature of the conflict and displacement forces many communities to rely on humanitarian assistance for survival, the humanitarian community recognizes that dependency on this assistance cannot be sustained indefinitely and that communities must also develop resiliency and sources of livelihood for the long term. Until the circumstances make it feasible for communities to become self-sufficient, humanitarian assistance is vital for the survival and recuperation of these communities.



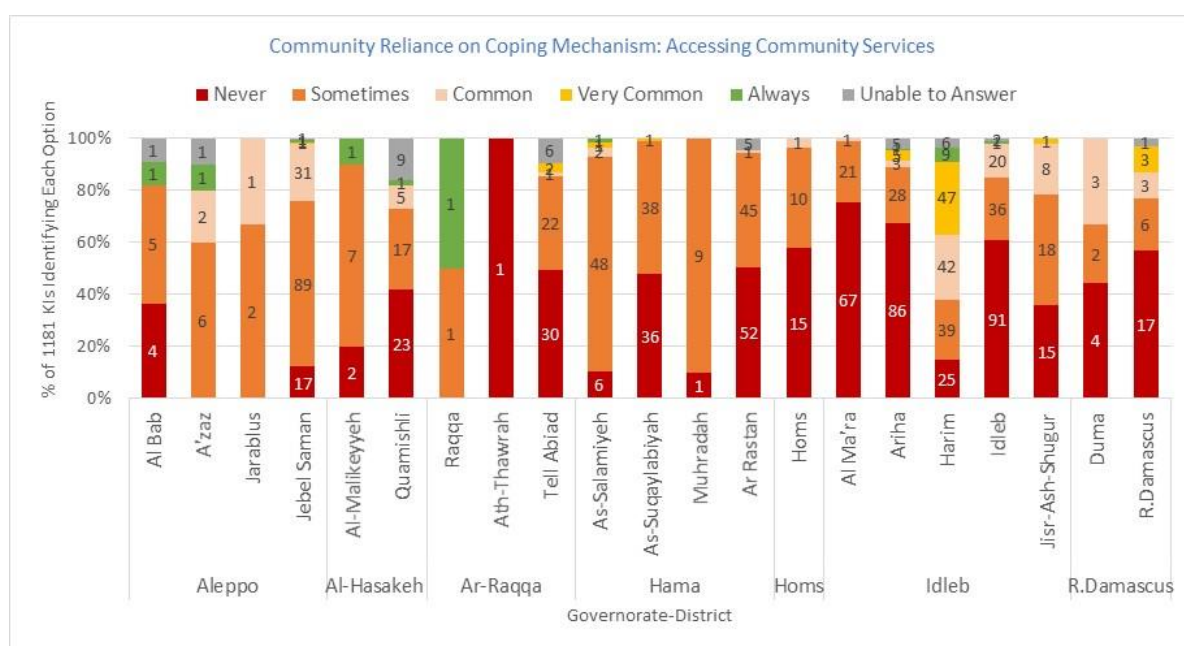
While projects that help generate livelihood and strengthen the self-sufficiency of communities are encouraged, these initiatives must be implemented after careful assessment of community needs and capacities. In many communities where conflict is ongoing or is newly slowing down, communities are concerned with meeting their essential, basic needs and are not yet prepared for longer-term sustainable livelihood projects that require factors such as security, resources such as land, and most importantly, time



to meet their objectives. It is essential to communicate with communities prior to initiating these projects. Humanitarian actors are recommended to take the approach of assessing short-term and long-term needs of the community, and to work towards fulfilling short-term needs prior to initiating longer-term projects such as livelihood generation.



While communities in every monitored location indicated some reliance on the negative coping mechanism of restricting movement of women and girls, it was indicated by a greater percentage of KIs in the following locations: Al Bab, A'zaz, Jarablus, Jebel Saman, Raqqa, Ath-Thawrah and Ar-Rastan. Communities often limit women and girls' movement as a preventative protective measure and the reliance on this coping mechanism can increase due certain factors such as IDPs living in crowded, close quarters and the presence of security incidents in the community. The coping mechanism however significantly reduces women and girls' quality of life, restricts their access to services such as education, health care, occupation and markets, and has a negative impact on their psychosocial experience.





The above chart visualizes the extent to which community members rely on community services as a coping mechanism. Although this is a positive coping mechanism, the findings indicate that communities do not or cannot access community services very often. This is true even in areas where there are a high number of IDPs and humanitarian actor presence, such as districts in Idlib governorate.

## Conclusion

Communities of north and northwest Syria that protection monitors visited during the January-March 2018 reporting period continued to experience volatile and unpredictable security situations and displacement. Findings during this period indicate that communities continue to experience challenges in accessing basic needs and services, and experience a variety of protection risks. The humanitarian community continues its efforts to provide life-saving assistance and protection services to these communities and has demonstrated great agility and practicality in responding to emergencies, particularly caused by displacement and movement influx. The detailed explanations and observations provided by key informants participating in protection monitoring indicates that communities require continued support and assistance for their survival, and also need the humanitarian community to increase receptivity to community needs and concerns and help formulate solutions that are effective and beneficial.

The need for more transparent and streamlined assistance distribution processes, considering the short-term and long-term needs of communities when developing livelihood solutions, broadening PSS activities with emphasis on mitigating and preventing physical and emotional neglect, raising awareness about the importance of education and potentially formulating more flexible approaches to education and occupational needs are some of the very important recommendations emerging from this monitoring. Humanitarian actors are encouraged to take these recommendations into consideration for future programming.

## Online Interactive Dashboard

The PMTF Online Interactive Dashboard presents an overview, and detailed analysis of protection monitoring findings from north and northwest Syria described in this report. The dashboard provides a user-friendly and practical approach for quick, location based protection risk assessment, and makes it possible to follow trends and changes in the protection environment. As it is updated on a weekly basis, it provides a real-time understanding of the protection situation in these communities. Humanitarian actors are encouraged to utilize the dashboard for their analysis needs, and can analyze the findings available in this and future reports through the indicator specific analysis that is a new addition in 2018. The interactive dashboard is available online at: <http://tiny.cc/jwnory><sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The user guide for the Online Interactive Dashboard is accessible at: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/p65twgp53lwbeq6/User percent20Guide.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/p65twgp53lwbeq6/User%20Guide.pdf?dl=0)





## Protection Monitoring - Interactive Dashboard - 2018



### Introduction

The PMTF Dashboard provides a picture of the protection threats affecting civilians in non-government-held areas of Syria. Data is collected on the ground on a regular basis, via community-level key informant interviews and observation checklists. This Dashboard is generated automatically from partners' data and is updated weekly; it is intended to be used in conjunction with periodic narrative reports.

PMTF Index

**0.43**

Filter Panel: Monthly and Geographic zoom in

Specific risk categories can be filtered by country, location

Month	Interviews	In/Off Camp	KI Gender
All	2032	All	All

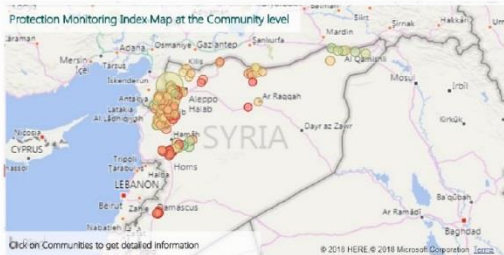
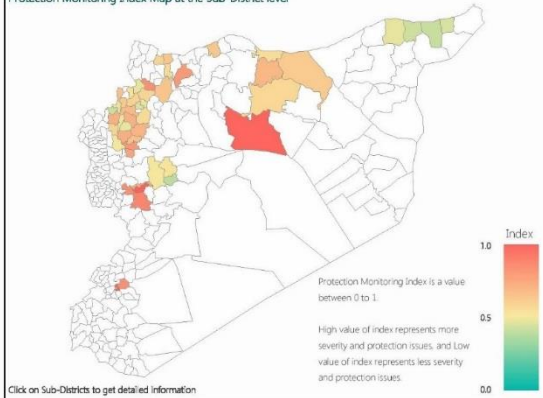
Various administrative levels can be filtered by selecting appropriate buttons

Governorates: 7	Districts: 21	Sub-Districts: 50	Communities: 175
All	All	All	All

List of locations at various administrative levels

Governorate_Name	District_Name	Subdistrict_Name	Community_Name
Aleppo	Al Bab	Al Bab	Abdin
Al-Hasakeh	Al Ma'ra	Arnuda	Abin Saman
Ar-Raqqa	Al-Malikiyyeh	Arbin	Abu Dafneh

### Protection Monitoring Index Map at the Sub-District level



### Indicators of Protection Risks/Threats Reported



Feedback: Katherine Dunn (dunnk@unhcr.org), Emily Krehm (Emily.Krehm@rescue.org), Burcin Cevik (Burcin.Cevik@rescue.org), Alen Chalaki (chalaki@unhcr.org)  
This dashboard is updated on a weekly basis

## Acronyms

AOG	Armed opposition group
CAAFAG	Children associated with armed forces or armed groups
FGD	Focus group discussions
GoS	Government of Syria
HLP	House, land, and property
HNO	Humanitarian needs overview
IDP	Internally displaced people
INGO	International non-governmental organization
KI	Key informant
KII	Key informant interview
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PMTF	Protection Monitoring Task Force
PNO	Protection Needs Overview
UASC	Unaccompanied and separated children
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service



WASH

Water, sanitation, and hygiene

