



SHELTER CONDITIONS ACROSS NORTH-WEST SYRIA

SUMMER 2021



METHODOLOGY

From mid-May to mid-June 2021, HNAP conducted a nationwide demographic household survey across all 14 governorates of Syria. Fieldwork was carried out by experienced HNAP field teams who were trained on coded surveys by data collection experts. The survey collected data on key demographic and socio-economic indicators, which is representative at the country, governorate and sub-district level.

The sample frame was sourced from the list of (p-coded) locations, updated by OCHA in August 2020, while the population figures were obtained from HNAP's population baseline, updated in April 2021. Households were estimated considering an average household size of 5 members throughout the country. In total, 20,723,559 individuals and 4,144,684 households living in 264 sub-districts were considered for the sample frame. Accordingly, a stratified sample of 24,397 households were selected to be interviewed and 24,573 were ultimately assessed, representative of the Syrian population at sub-district level with a 95% confidence interval and a 10% margin of error.¹

Weights were calculated with reference to the population estimates at sub-district level. The design weights were

computed as the inverse of the probability of inclusion of each household. These weights were then adjusted in order to reproduce the exact population of households living in each sub-district.

The figures in the report are weighted population estimates, i.e. they represent the reference population not the sample population. Figures on absent members rely on the recall of the interviewed households, and as such may not include the entire absent population.

This round, HNAP also included a classification of location as either rural or urban to provide an additional layer for analysis aimed at enhancing the understanding of ground conditions. Specifically, an urban area is a non-empty location that is either classified as a neighbourhood by OCHA or if the location has more than 20,000 inhabitants. All other (non-empty) locations are considered rural.

Although the scope of data collection was across the whole of Syria, this report only utilizes the data collected across locations in Idlib and northern Aleppo, comprising north-west Syria.

Please note, the geographical scope of this joint-report is north-west Syria (NWS), which is considered for operational purposes, and therefore only includes relevant sub-districts in Idlib and northern Aleppo. For the purposes of this joint-report, 'NWS' differs from the way in which it was reported for HNAP's 2021 Summer Report Series.

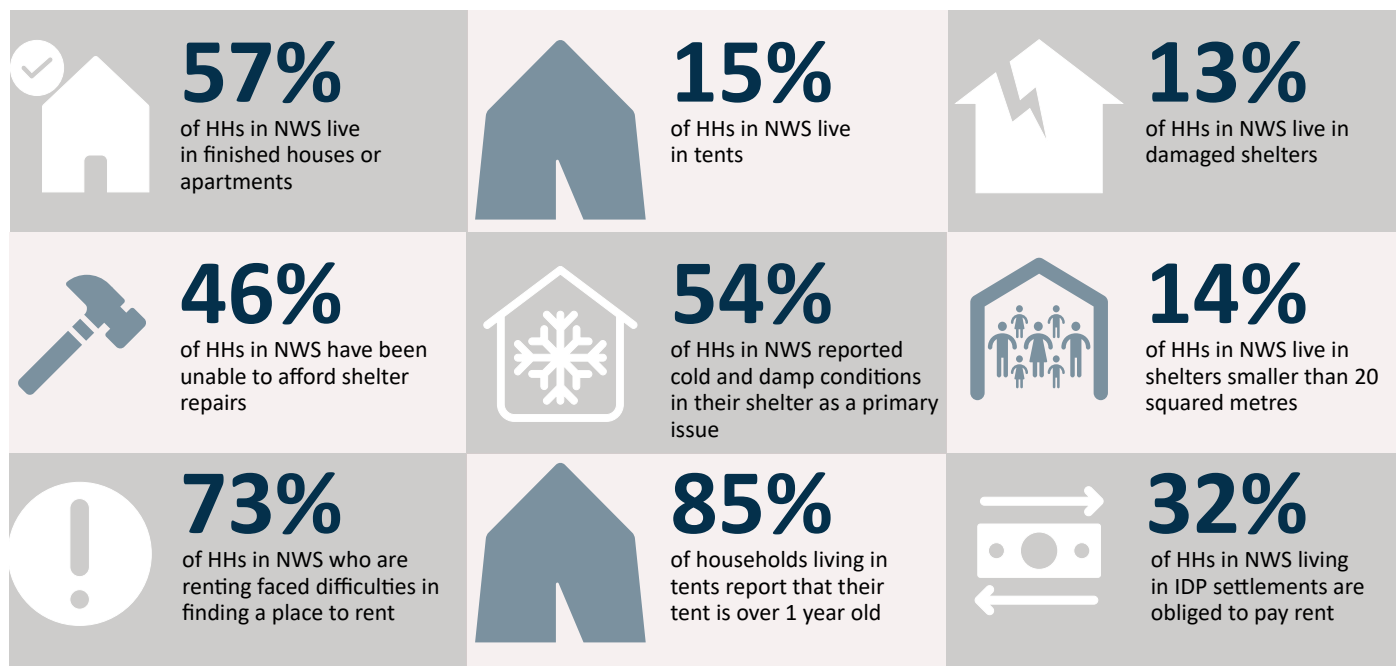
Survey questions pertaining to shelter situation were made in conjunction with NWS Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster (S/NFI), who provided technical expertise and guidance. This report - a joint HNAP and S/NFI report - provides an overview of shelter conditions across the north-west of Syria.

KEY FINDINGS

This fact-sheet investigates shelter conditions across north-west Syria. Specifically, the following areas are explored: shelter types; settlement types; shelter damages; problems or issues

reported in shelters; hazards; evictions; occupancy status, tent status, rental conditions and access to fuel and markets.

Key findings are summarized below:



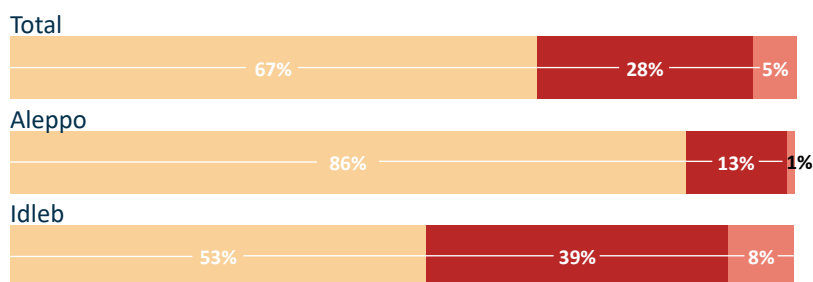
¹ List of locations were provided primarily by OCHA and supplemented with the CCCM and SSWG list of camps across the north-west and north-east.

SETTLEMENT & SHELTER TYPE

TYPE OF SETTLEMENT

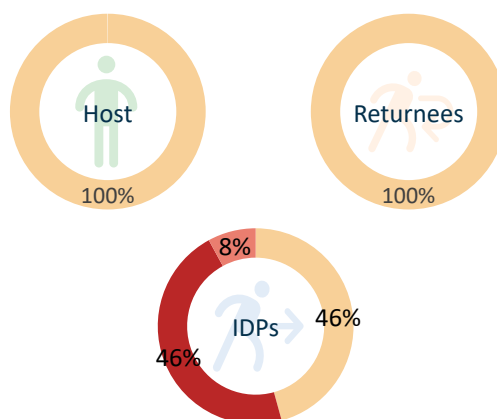
In north-west Syria, when considering all population groups (residents, returnees and IDPs), 67 percent of households live in residential areas, 28 percent live in informal IDP settlements and 5 percent live in formal (planned) IDP settlements. In Aleppo governorate, significantly higher rates of households live in residential areas (86 percent) compared to Idleb (53 percent).

Type of settlement by governorate (% of HHs)²



Conversely, a lower percentage in Aleppo live in informal or planned IDP settlements (14 percent) compared to Idleb (47 percent). Across the north-west, host population and returnees are only represented in residential areas, whereas IDPs live in residential areas (46 percent), informal IDP settlements (46 percent), and planned IDP settlements (8 percent).

Type of settlement by population type (% of HHs)

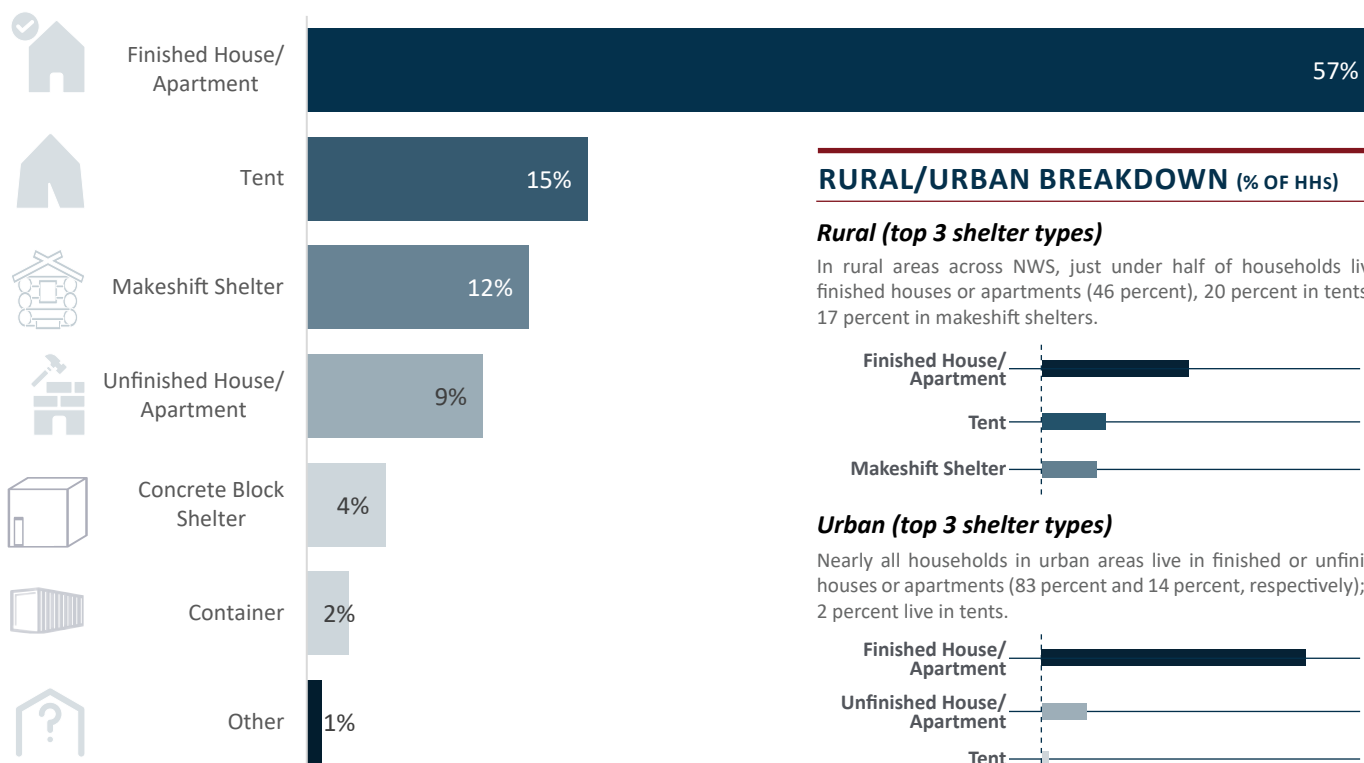


TYPE OF SHELTER

Over half of households across NWS (57 percent) report living in finished houses or apartments, 15 percent report living in tents, 12 percent in makeshift shelters, 9 percent in unfinished houses

or apartments, 4 percent in concrete block shelters (of which 85 percent are self-constructed), 2 percent in containers and less than 1 percent in other shelter types.³

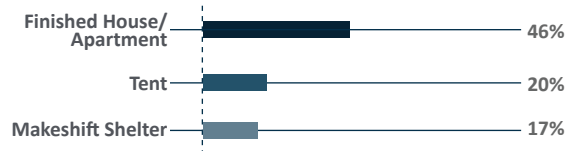
Type of shelter (% of HHs)



RURAL/URBAN BREAKDOWN (% OF HHs)

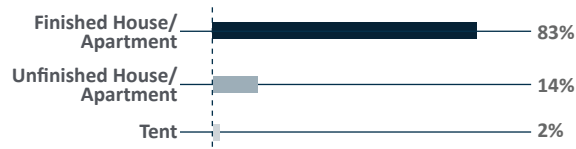
Rural (top 3 shelter types)

In rural areas across NWS, just under half of households live in finished houses or apartments (46 percent), 20 percent in tents and 17 percent in makeshift shelters.



Urban (top 3 shelter types)

Nearly all households in urban areas live in finished or unfinished houses or apartments (83 percent and 14 percent, respectively); only 2 percent live in tents.



² In this governorate breakdown, along with all the following governorate breakdowns, Idleb and Aleppo refer only to those sub-districts which are operationally relevant.

³ 'Other' shelter types, which culminate <1 percent of total shelter types, include the following: collective shelters, non-residential buildings, containers, refugee housing units, hotels and other, unspecified shelters.

SHELTER CHARACTERISTICS

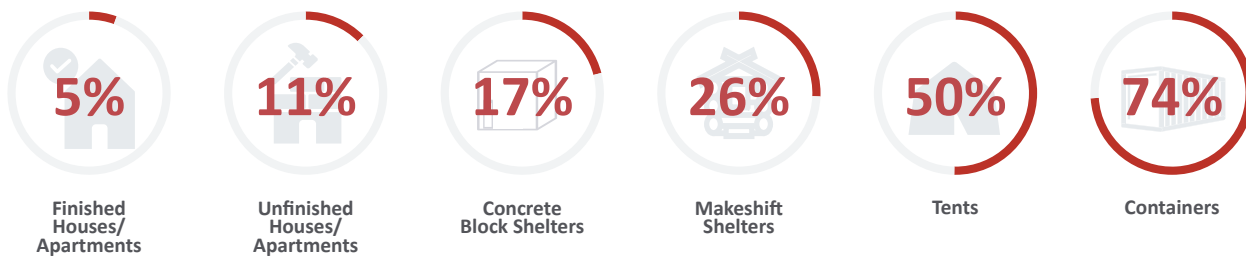
ACCESS TO TOILETS

98%
of HHS
have access to a
functioning toilet in
their shelter

17%
of HHS
with access to a
functioning toilet
share it with
another HH

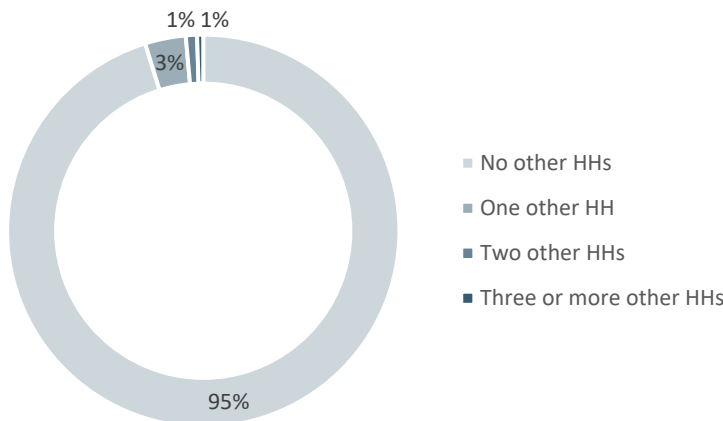
Almost all households report having access to a functioning toilet (98 percent), with little variation between households living in different shelter types, apart from those living in tents, for whom rates of access to functional toilets are lowest (89 percent). Of households with access to a toilet, around one in six (17 percent) report that they are sharing their toilet with other households. Rates of sharing toilets are much higher in containers (74 percent) and tents (50 percent); they are also higher than average in makeshift shelters (26 percent).

HHS sharing their toilet by shelter type (% of HHS with access to a functioning toilet)



SHELTER SHARING

of HHS with whom shelter is shared (% of HHS)



GOVERNORATE BREAKDOWN (% OF HHS)

Sharing with one other HH



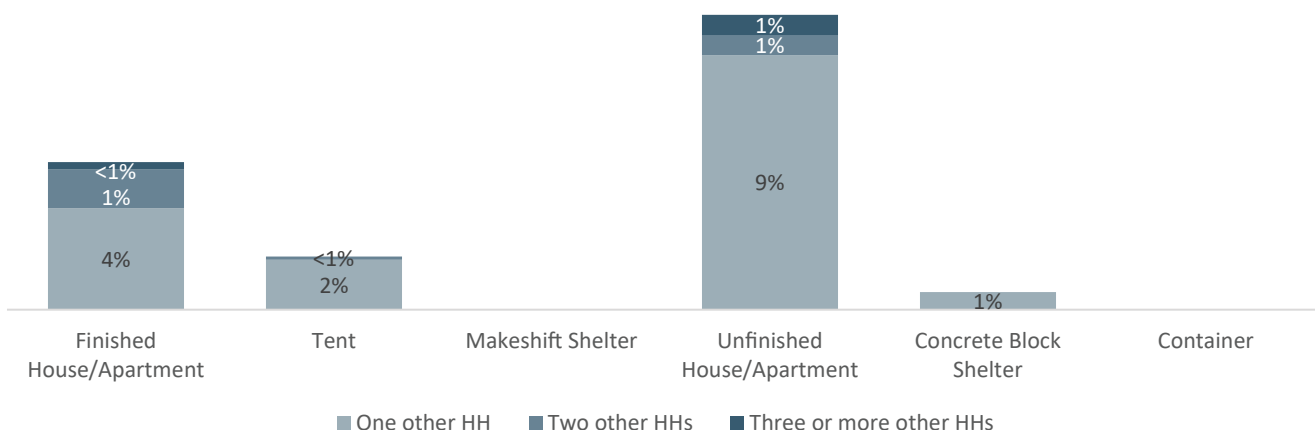
Sharing with two other HHS



Sharing with three or more other HHS

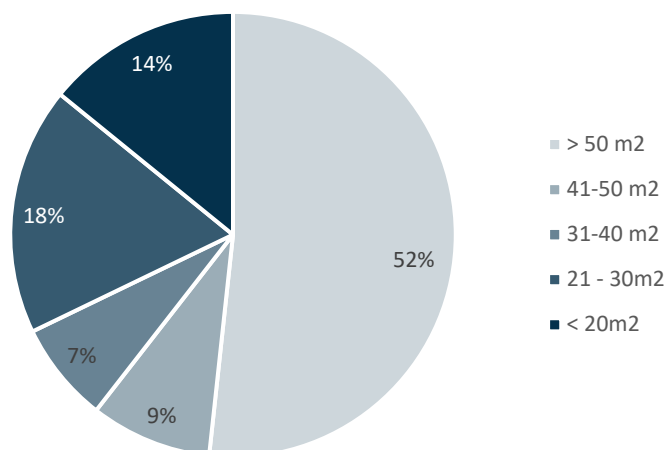


of HHS with whom shelter is shared by shelter type (% of HHS)



SIZE OF SHELTER

Shelter size (% of HHs)

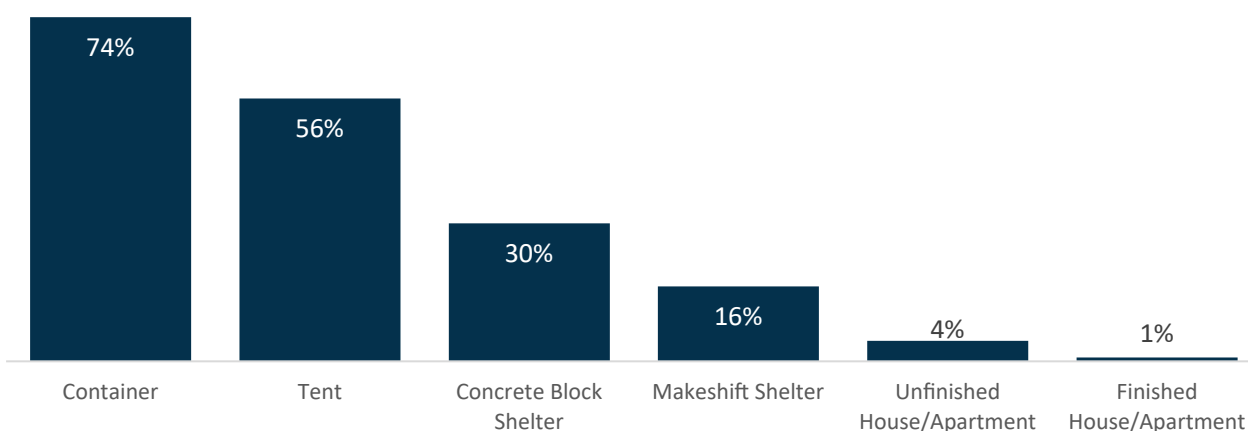


14%
of HHs in NWS
live in a shelter smaller
than 20 square metres

5
HH members
average HH size
across NWS

Just over half of the households across north-west Syria (52 percent) live in a shelter that is sized over 50 square metres. 14 percent of households live in critically small shelters (below 20 square metres), which will often lack space for essential materials (cookers, heaters) and will likely also be overcrowded, lacking adequate privacy or partitions. Rates of households living in critically small shelters are highest among those living in containers (74 percent), tents (56 percent) and concrete block shelters (30 percent).

HHs with shelter smaller than 20 square metres by shelter type (% of HHs)



SHELTER DAMAGES (SELECTED SHELTER TYPES ONLY)

13% Shelters in NWS are reportedly damaged⁴

14% in Idleb **11%** in Aleppo

MOST IMPACTED SUB-DISTRICTS

Governorate	Sub-District	% of HHs
Idleb	Saraqab	68%
Idleb	Ariha	44%
Aleppo	Tadaf	41%
Idleb	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	32%
Aleppo	Sheikh El-Hadid	30%

For shelter rehabilitation purposes, unfinished houses/apartments, tents, makeshift shelters, refugee housing units and containers were excluded from the analysis on damages. 13 percent of selected shelters (finished houses/apartments, hotels, non-residential buildings, concrete block shelters, and collective shelters) are reportedly damaged, with slightly higher rates of damage observed in Idleb (14 percent) than Aleppo (11 percent).

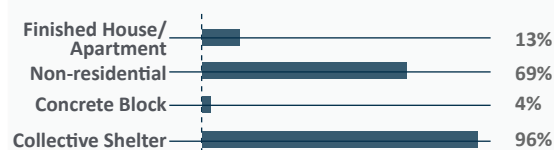
SEX OF HOH BREAKDOWN (% OF HHs)

Female-headed households are more likely to report their household damaged (16 percent) than male-headed households.



SHELTER TYPE BREAKDOWN (% OF HHs)

Rates of shelter damage are highly variant across shelter types. They are relatively infrequently reported among those living in finished houses/apartments and concrete block shelters, but much more frequently reported in non-residential buildings and collective shelters, which together shelter less than 1 percent of households across NWS.

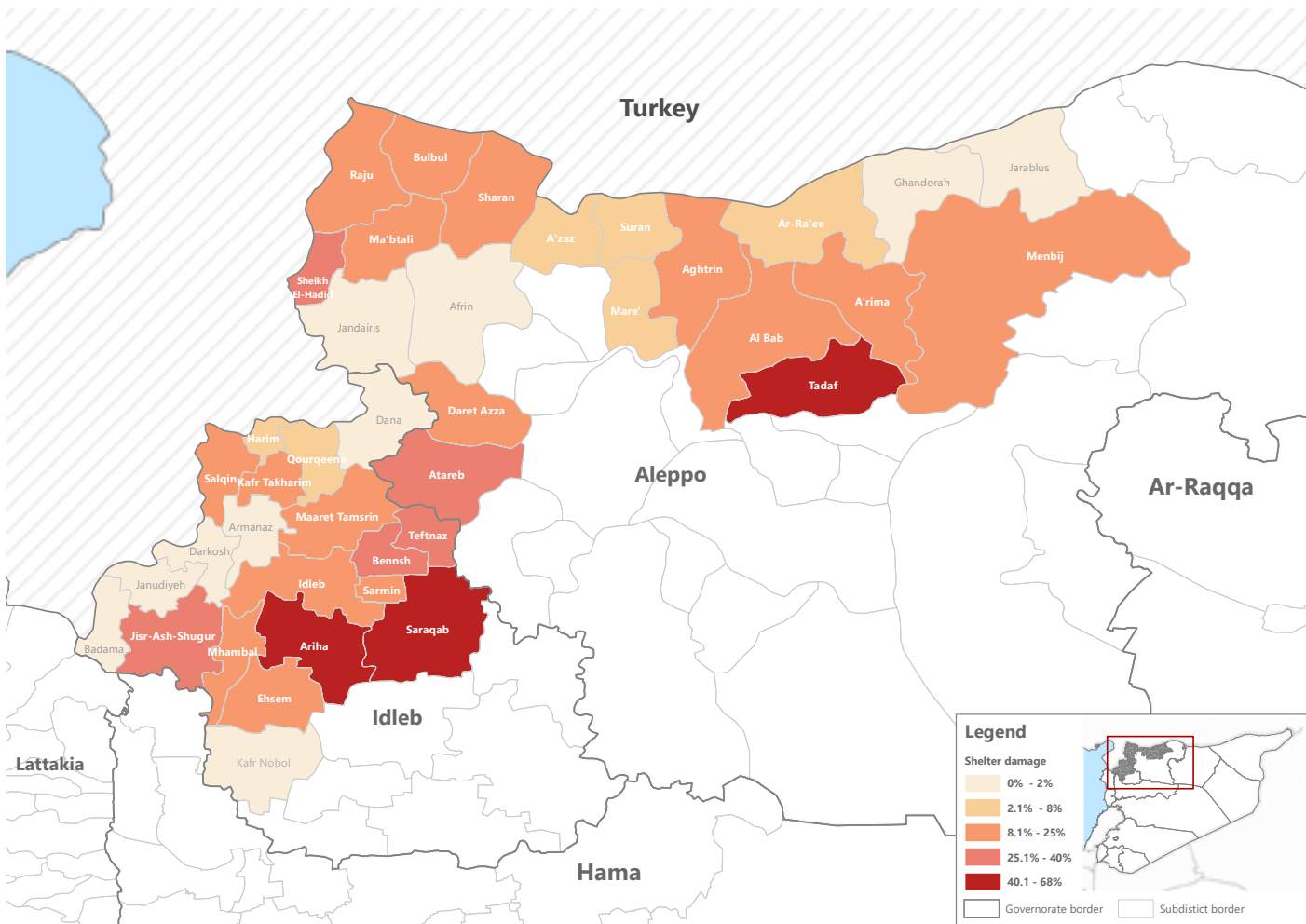


URBAN/RURAL BREAKDOWN (% OF HHs)



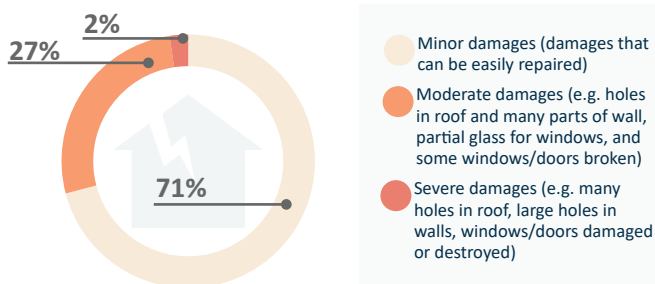
⁴It is important to note that relatively low rates of reported damage across certain types of shelters do not imply that they are suitable for residence. Many will, for example, still be host to numerous issues or problems. See 'problems with shelter' section.

% of HHs reporting shelter damage by sub-district



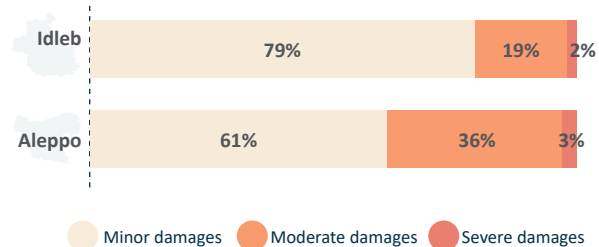
EXTENT OF DAMAGES (% of HHs who reported damages)

Extent of damages (% of HHs who reported damages)



The extent of shelter damages across NWS is significant. 27 percent of households report moderate damages and 2 percent report severe damages, as compared to the national average, where 17 percent report moderate damages and 1 percent report severe damages. More critical levels of shelter damage are reported in Aleppo (36 percent report moderate damages and 3 percent report severe damages) than in Idlib (19 percent report moderate damages and 2 percent report severe damages).

Extent of damages by governorate (% of HHs who reported damages)



Severe damages by sub-district (top 3 sub-districts reporting severe damages)

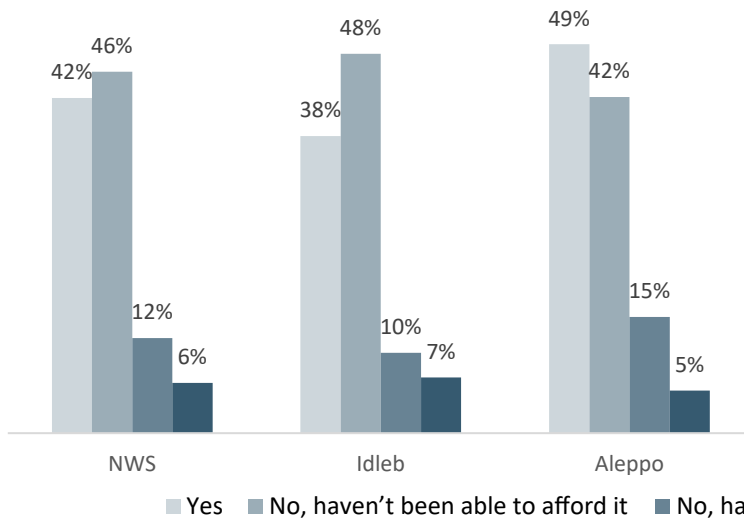
Governorate	Sub-District	% of HHs
Idlib	Janudiyeh	100%
Idlib	Saraqab	21%
Aleppo	Atareb	14%

SHELTER REPAIRS

Across NWS, 42 percent of households report that they have been able to carry out repairs to their current shelter, at any given time. Rates of being able to carry out repairs are lower in Idleb (38 percent) than in Aleppo (49 percent). Across NWS,

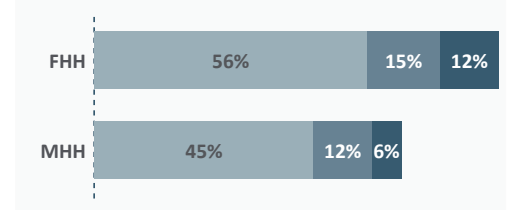
inaffordability was the most frequently selected reason for not being able to undertake repairs (46 percent, across NWS), followed by not having the knowledge to undertake repairs (12 percent), and not having the appropriate tools (6 percent).

Shelter repairs (% of HHs)



SEX OF HOH BREAKDOWN

Female-headed households in NWS report higher rates than male-headed households across all categories of not being able to carry out repairs, especially in not being able to afford repairs, which is reported by 56 percent of female-headed households compared to 45 percent of male-headed households.



EVICTIONS

3%
of HHs
have been evicted in the
past 12 months

Across north-west Syria, 3 percent of households reported that they have been evicted in the past 12 months.⁵ Rates of evictions are much higher among returnee households as compared to other population groups and slightly higher in Aleppo than in Idleb.

POPULATION GROUP BREAKDOWN (% OF HHs)



GOVERNORATE BREAKDOWN (% OF HHs)



⁵ Evictions refer to the permanent or temporary removal against the will of a household from the shelter which they occupy by any party (e.g. landlord, security, armed forces, etc.) for any reason.

ISSUES WITH SHELTER

Top 3 reported shelter issues (% of HHs)



Cold and damp conditions

54%



Lack of heating

38%

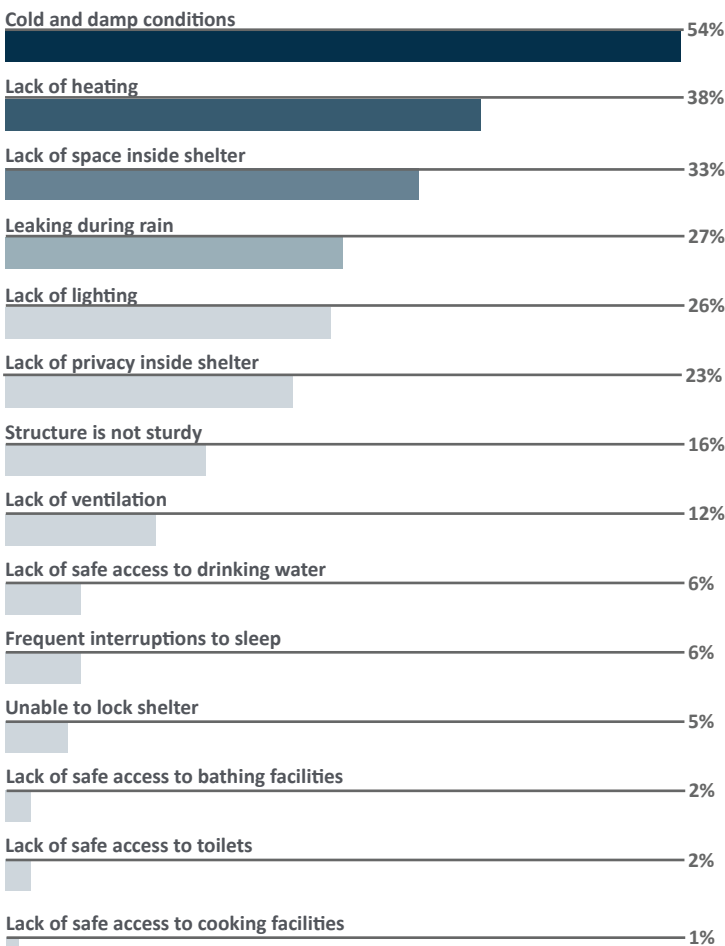


Lack of space inside shelter

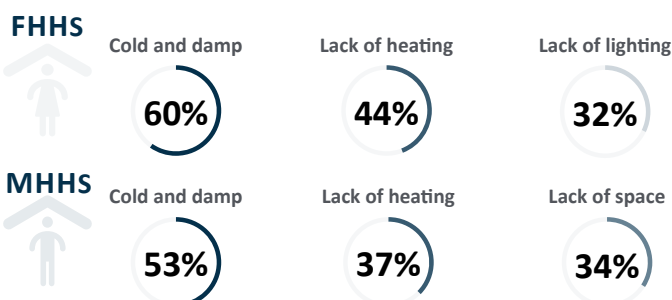
33%

The most frequently reported shelter issue was that of cold and damp conditions, as reported by over half of the households across NWS (54 percent). Lack of heating was the second most frequently reported issue (38 percent), followed by lack of space inside the shelter (33 percent). Cold and damp conditions were found to be especially of concern in finished and unfinished houses and apartments (as reported by 60 and 64 percent of households, respectively), whereas the most frequently reported issue by households living tents is that of a lack of space (61 percent), followed by a lack of privacy (49 percent) and leakages during rain (41 percent).

Reported shelter issues (% of HHs)



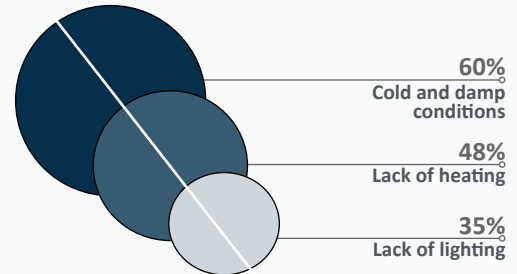
BREAKDOWN BY SEX OF HOH (TOP 3 REPORTED ISSUES)



BREAKDOWN BY SHELTER TYPE (% OF HHS)

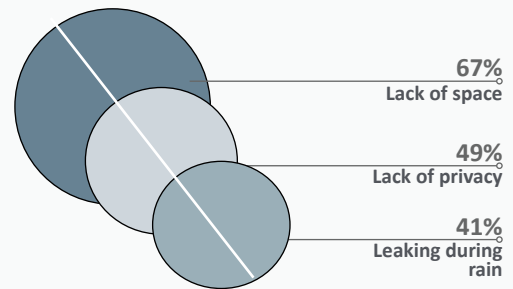
Finished house/apartment

Of households who live in finished houses or apartments (57 percent), the majority report cold and damp conditions in their shelter (60 percent), nearly half report lack of heating (48 percent), and just over a third report a lack of lighting (35 percent).



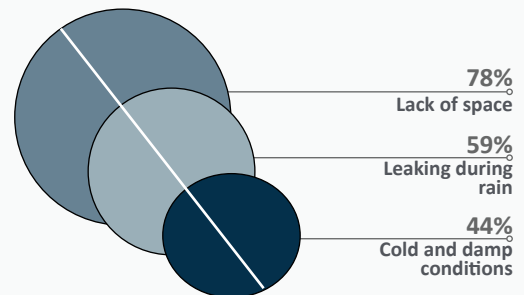
Tent

Over two thirds of the 15 percent who live in tents reported lack of space in their shelter (67 percent) and just under half report the connected problem of lack of privacy within the tent (49 percent). The third most reported issue is leakages during rain (41 percent).



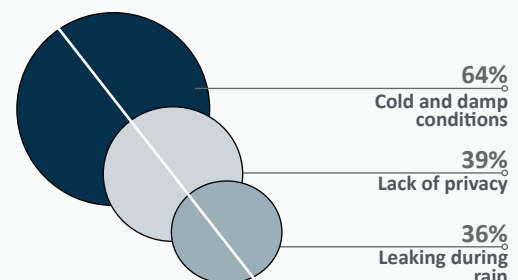
Makeshift shelter

The primary issue reported by households living in makeshift shelters is that of a lack of space (79 percent), which is a higher percentage than that which is reported for this issue by households in all other shelter types.

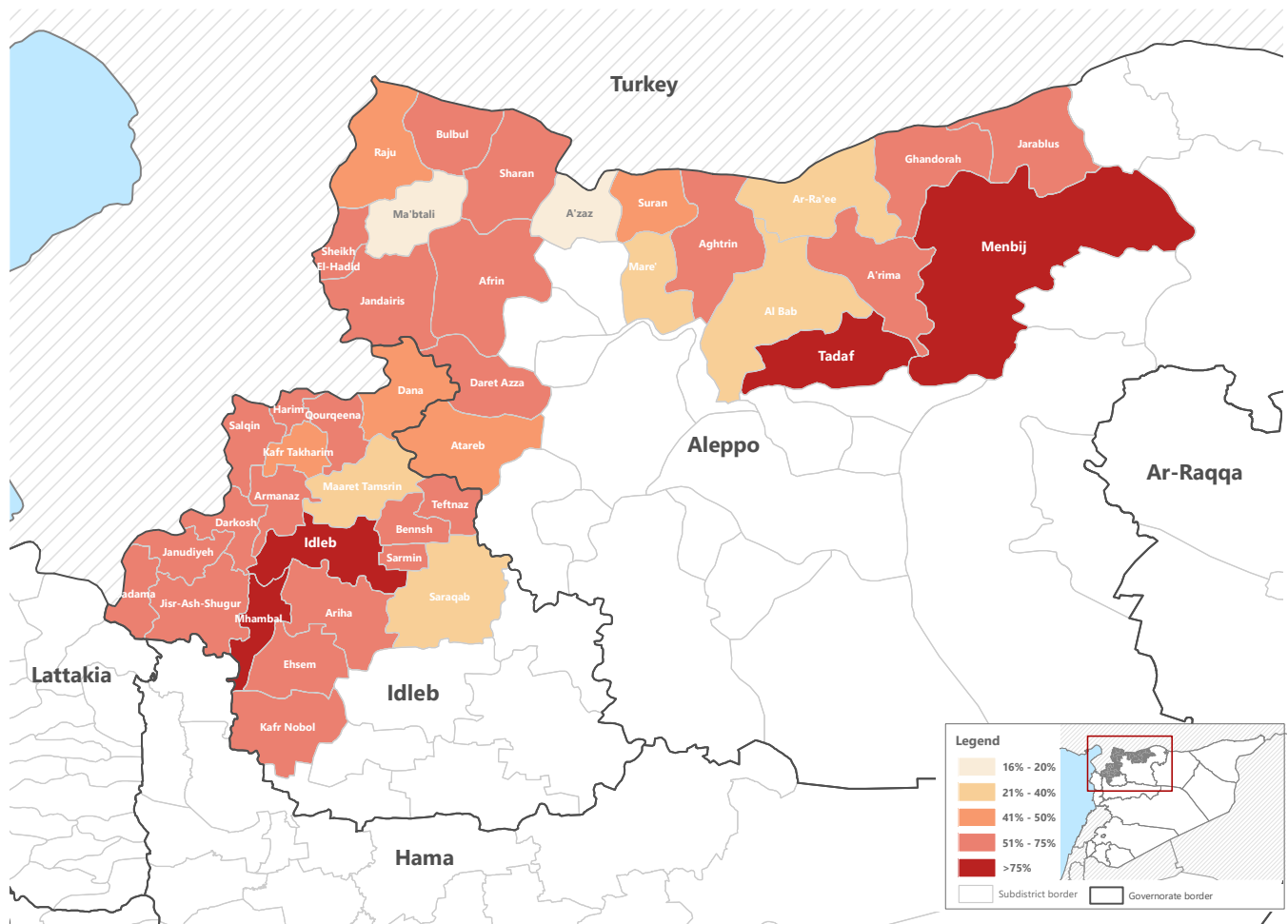


Unfinished house/apartment

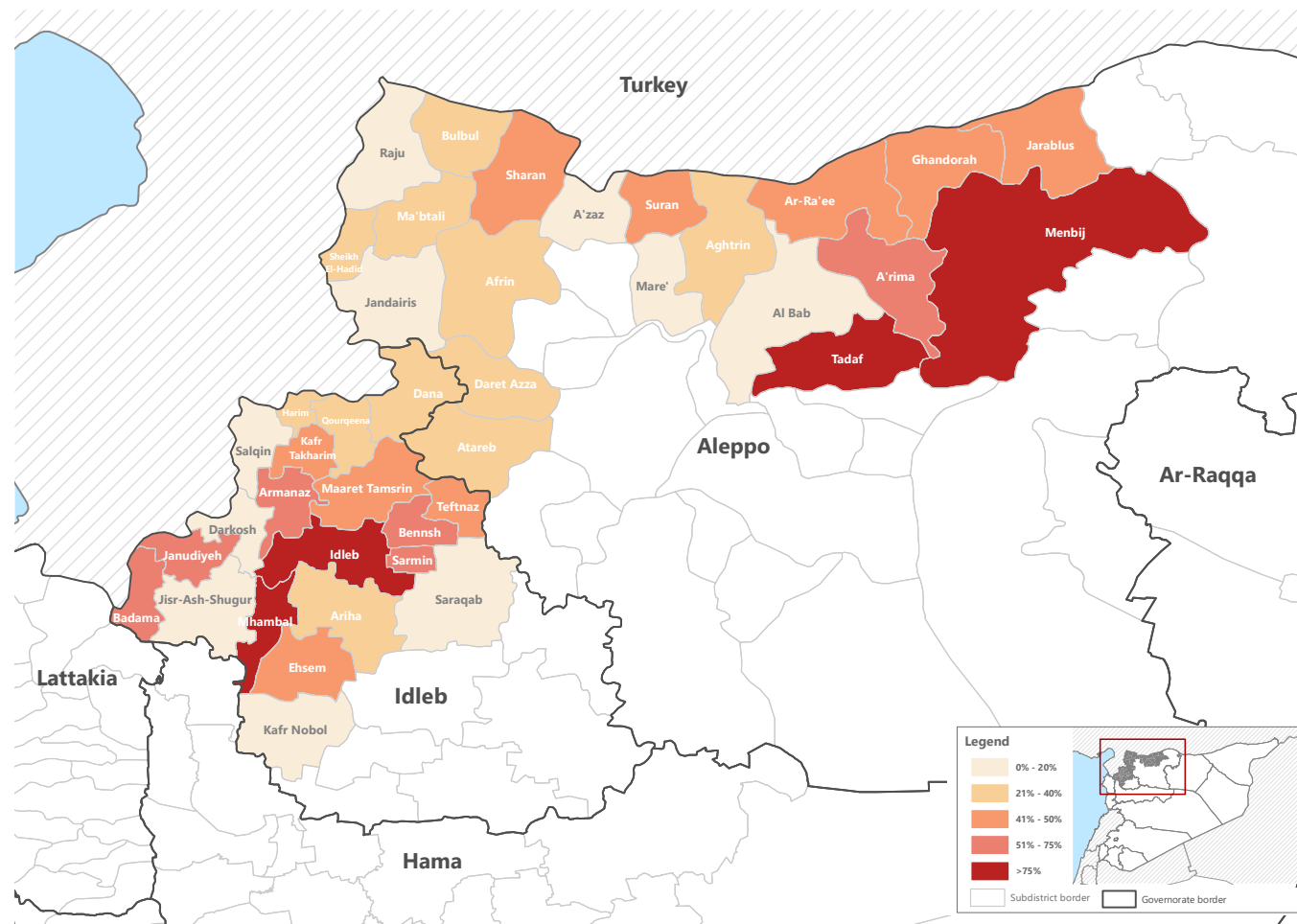
Similar to finished houses/apartments, households living in unfinished houses/apartments were most likely to report cold and damp conditions as an issue in their shelter (64 percent).



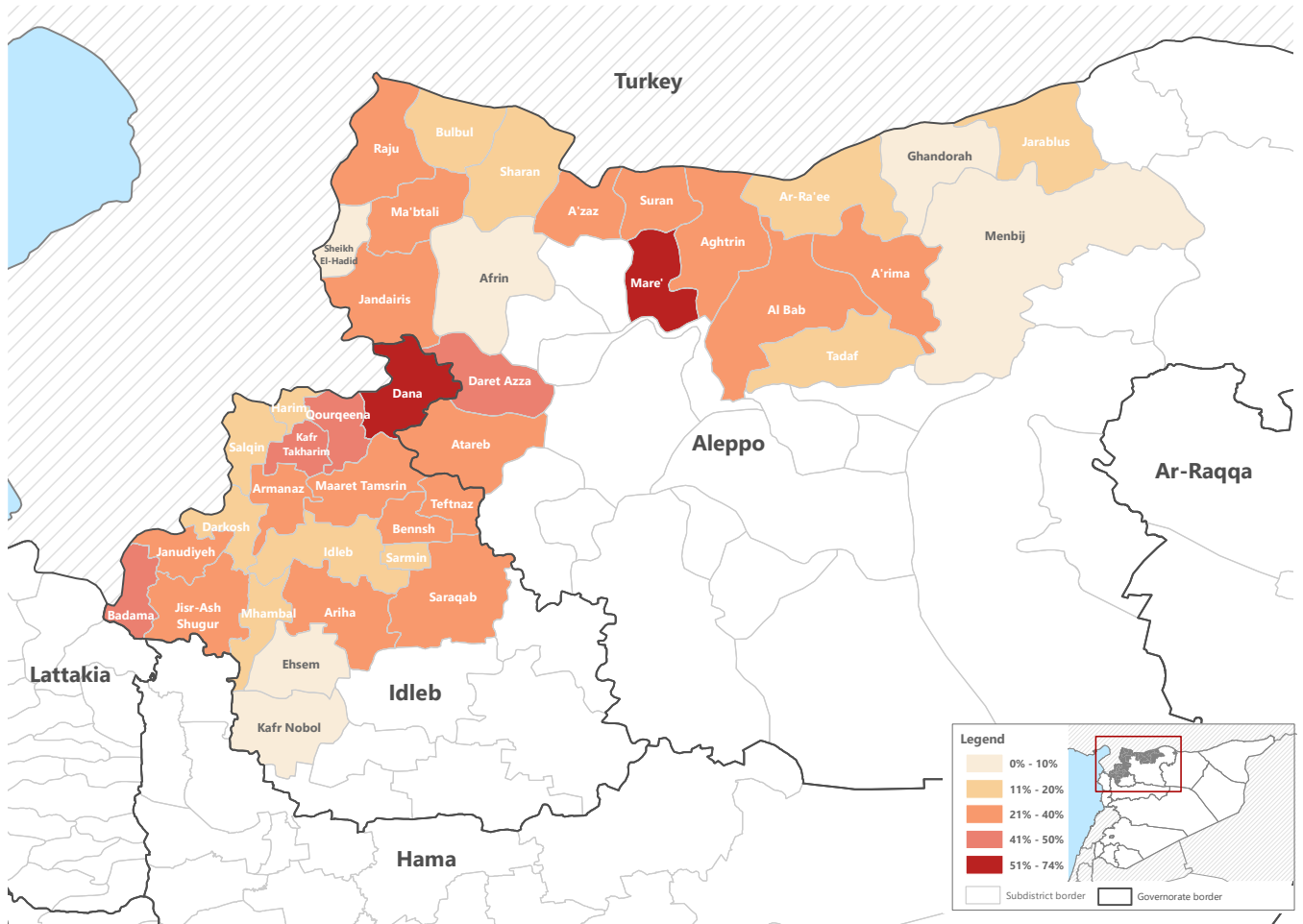
% of HHs reporting cold and damp conditions by sub-district



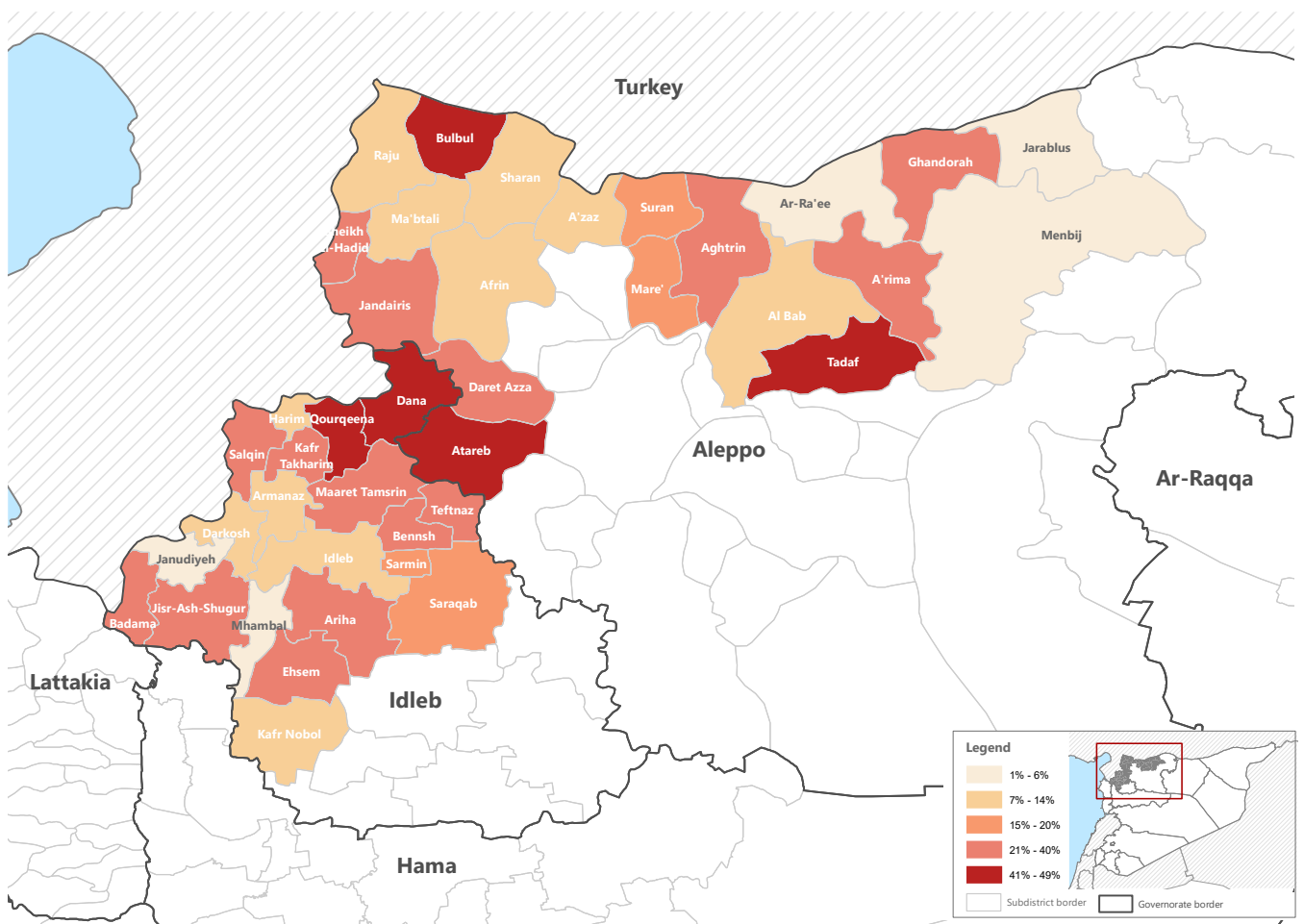
% of HHs reporting lack of heating by sub-district



% of HHs reporting lack of space by sub-district



% of HHs reporting leaking during rain by sub-district



HAZARDS

HAZARDS

35%
of HHs

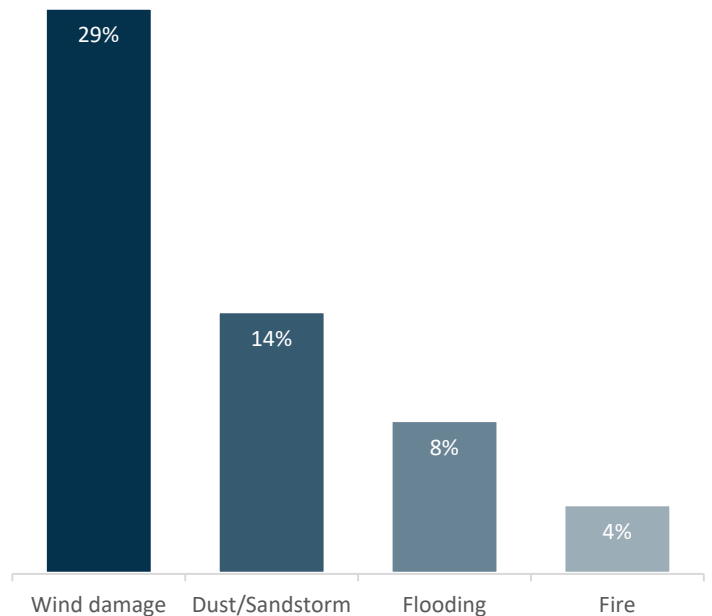
living in NWS reported having faced some kind of hazard in their shelter.

Across NWS, 35 percent of households report having had faced some kind of hazard in their shelter, which is higher than the 17 percent reported nationwide. The most frequently encountered type of hazard is wind damage (29 percent).

Most impacted sub-districts (% of HHs having faced a hazard)

Governorate	Sub-District	% of HHs
Idleb	Dana	93%
Idleb	Qourqeena	56%
Idleb	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	54%
Idleb	Badama	47%
Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	45%

Type of hazards reported (% of HHs)



53%

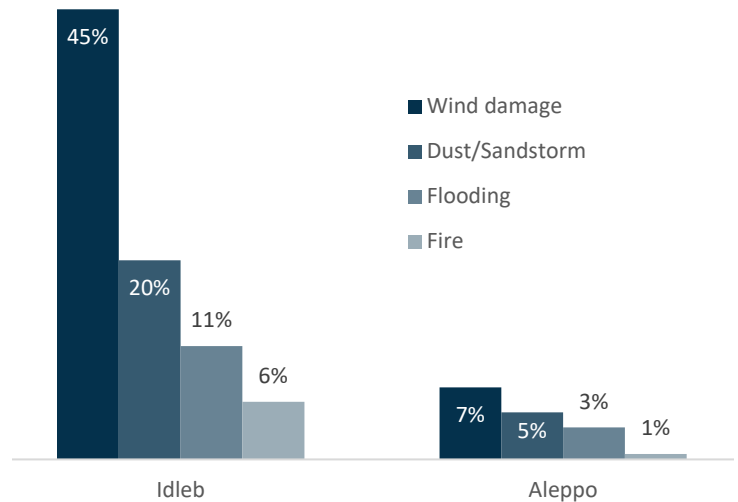
of households living in **Idleb** report having faced some kind of hazard in their shelter

10%

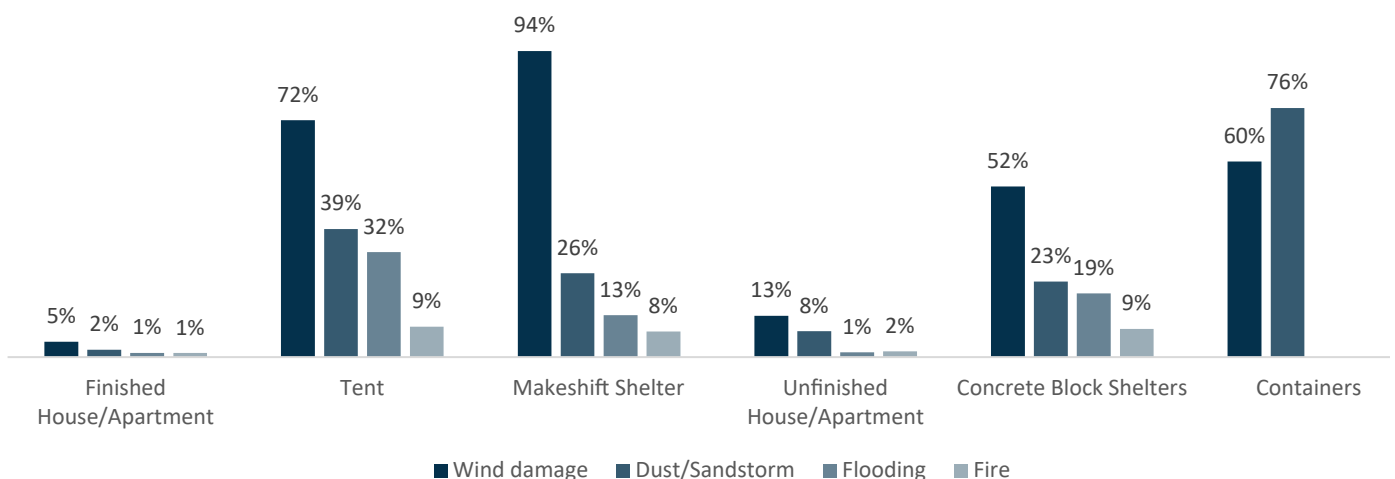
of households living in **Aleppo** report having faced some kind of hazard in their shelter

Hazards are much more frequently encountered by households living in Idleb, of whom 53 percent reported having faced some kind of hazard in their shelter, as compared to a much lower 10 percent of households in Aleppo. 45 percent of households in Idleb reported having experienced wind damage (compared to just 7 percent in Aleppo) and 20 percent reported experiencing dust or sandstorms (compared to just 5 percent in Aleppo).

Type of hazards reported by governorate (% of HHs)



Type of hazards reported by shelter type (% of HHs)

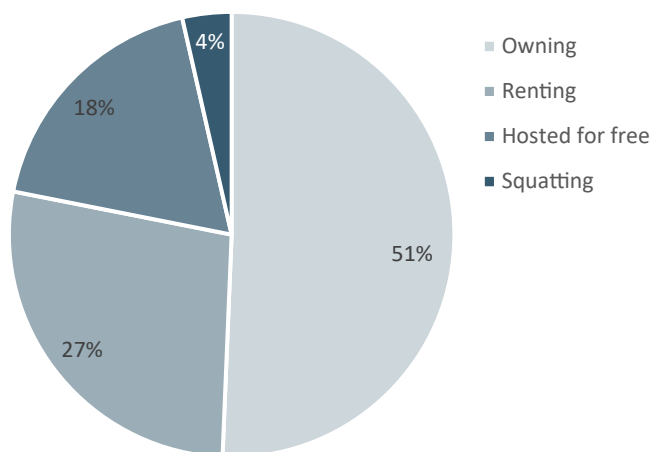


OCCUPANCY STATUS⁶

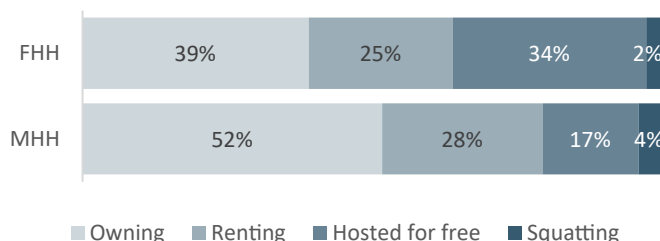
Around half of the households living across north-west Syria report that they own the shelter in which they live (51 percent), which is much lower than the national average of 72 percent. A higher rate of households in north-west Syria report renting their current shelter (27 percent compared to 17 percent, at the national level) and being hosted for free (18 percent compared to 10 percent, at the national level). Households in Aleppo report lower rates of renting than households in Idleb (by 7 percentage points); conversely, they report higher rates of

squatting for free (7 percent), compared to less than 1 percent of households in Idleb. Differences also emerge when comparing across the sex of head of household, highlighting the additional vulnerabilities of female-headed households, who have much lower rates of owning their shelter (39 percent compared to 52 percent of male-headed households), and significantly higher rates of being hosted for free (34 percent compared to 17 percent).

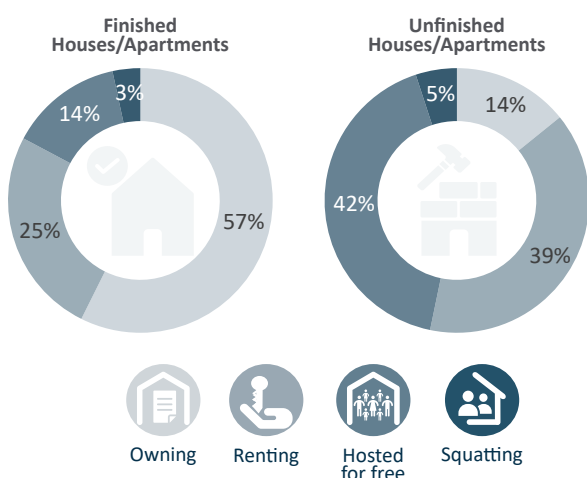
Occupancy status (% of HHs)



Occupancy status by sex of HoH (% of HHs)

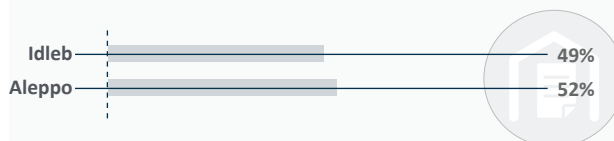


Occupancy status by type of shelter (% of HHs)

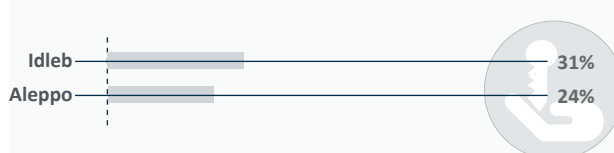


GOVERNORATE BREAKDOWN (% OF HHs)

Owning



Renting



Hosted for free⁷



Sub-districts with highest % of HHs hosted for free

Governorate	Sub-District	% of HHs
Idleb	Kafr Nobol	71%
Aleppo	Jandairis	52%
Idleb	Bennsh	49%
Aleppo	Raju	48%
Idleb	Mhambal	37%

Squatting



Sub-districts with highest % of HHs squatting

Governorate	Sub-District	% of HHs
Aleppo	Sharan	57%
Aleppo	Bulbul	45%
Aleppo	Sheikh El-Hadid	31%
Aleppo	Afrin	28%
Aleppo	Raju	19%

⁶Occupancy situation is recorded only for those in residential settings and not for those living in formal or informal settlements. For this reason, the breakdown by shelter type in this section only covers finished and unfinished houses/apartments, since other shelter types are not found in non-residential settings, apart from 1 percent who live in tents.

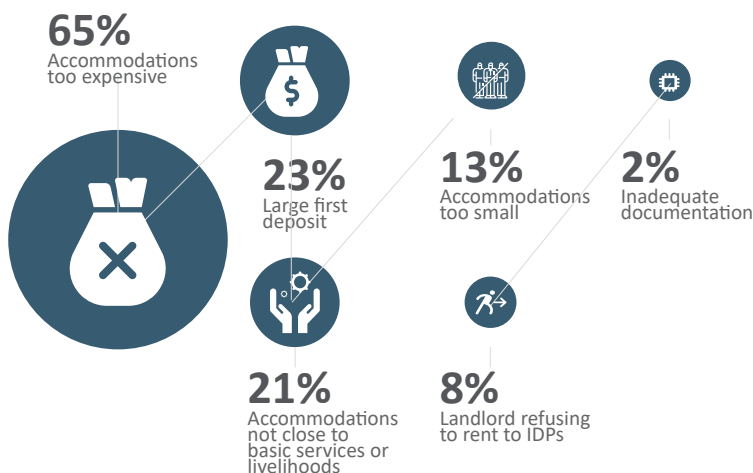
⁷Hosted for free refers to the situation whereby a household lives in a shelter without paying but with the permission of the owner.

DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING A PLACE TO RENT

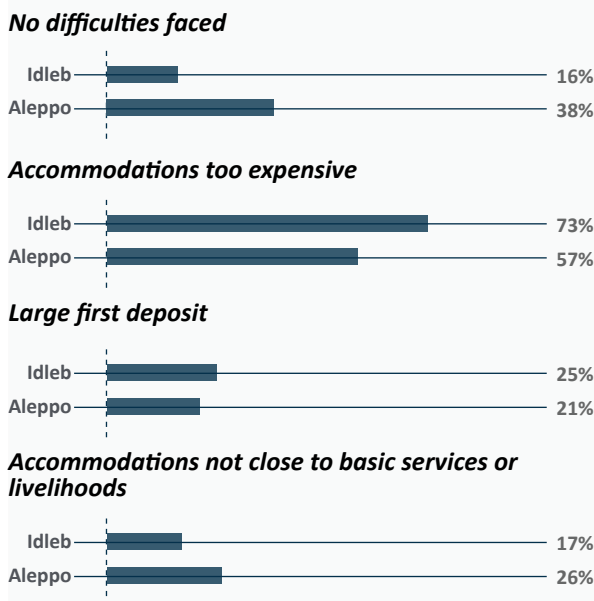
73%
of renting HHS report that they faced some sort of difficulty when finding a place to rent

Of the 27 percent of households who are renting their current shelter across NWS, only 27 percent reported that they faced no difficulties in finding a place to rent, while 73 percent faced some sort of difficulty. Across the region, the most frequently faced problem was affordability: 65 percent reported that accommodations were too expensive and 23 percent reported that the first deposit was too large. Difficulties in finding a place to rent were more frequently faced by female-headed households, especially when relating to accommodations being too expensive - as reported by 85 percent of female-headed households, compared to 63 percent of male-headed households. Illustrating the prevalence of financial barriers when seeking a place to rent, households who reported that their income was sufficient were much less likely to face difficulties in finding a place to rent.

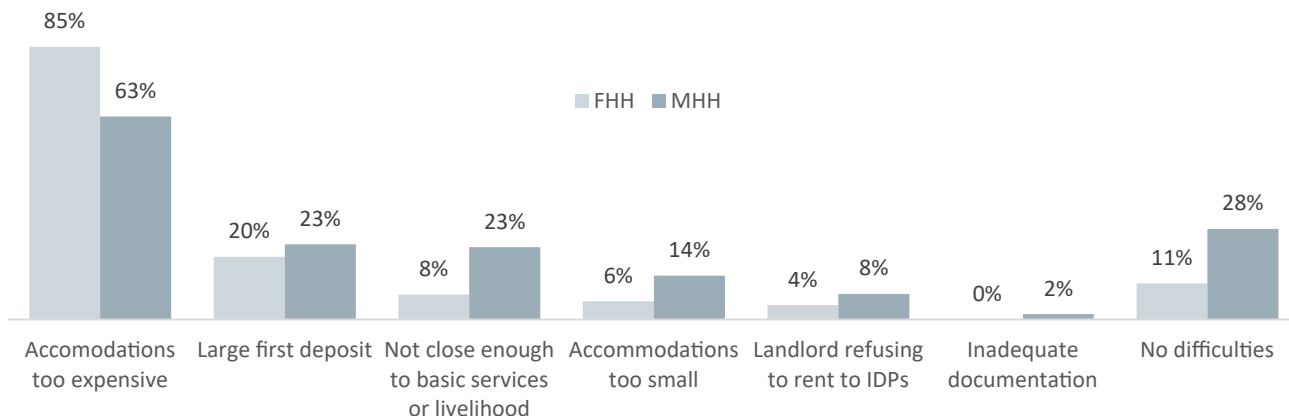
Difficulties faced when trying to find a place to rent (% of HHs who are renting)



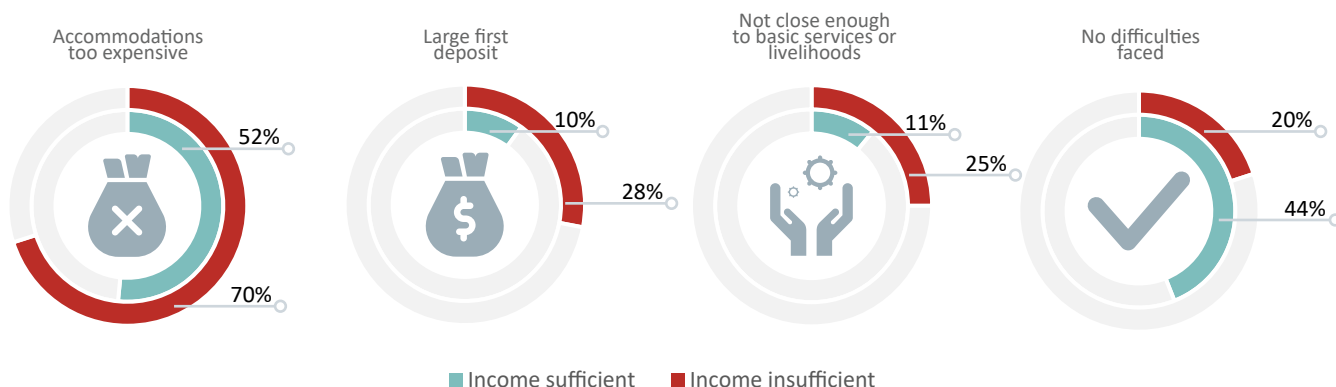
GOVERNORATE BREAKDOWN (% OF HHS)



Difficulties faced when trying to find a place to rent by sex of HoH (% of HHs who are renting)

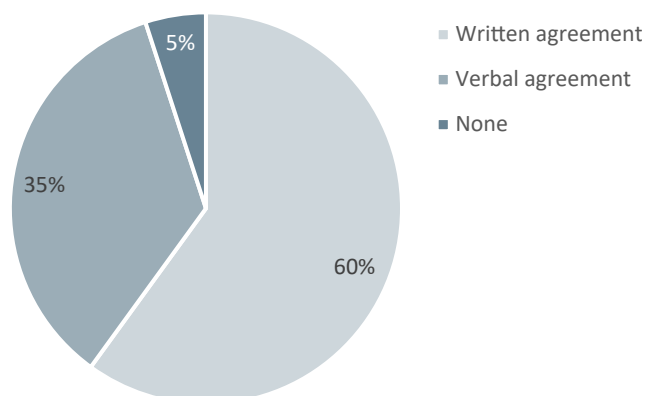


Difficulties faced when trying to find a place to rent by HH income sufficiency (only includes variables with largest percentage point difference)



RENTAL AGREEMENT

Type of rental agreement (% of HHs who are renting)



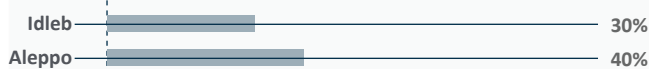
Of households who are renting, 60 percent reported that they had a written agreement, 35 percent reported a verbal agreement and 5 percent reported that they had neither. Notably, rates of having a written agreement were found to be higher among male-headed households (61 percent) than female-headed households (47 percent), indicating increased security on the part of male-headed households. Households renting in Idleb also reported higher rates of having written agreements (65 percent) than those living in Aleppo (53 percent).

GOVERNORATE BREAKDOWN (% OF HHS)

Written agreement

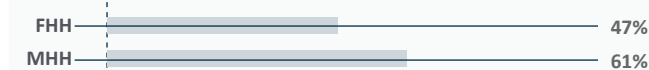


Verbal agreement

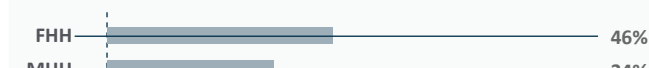


SEX OF HOH BREAKDOWN

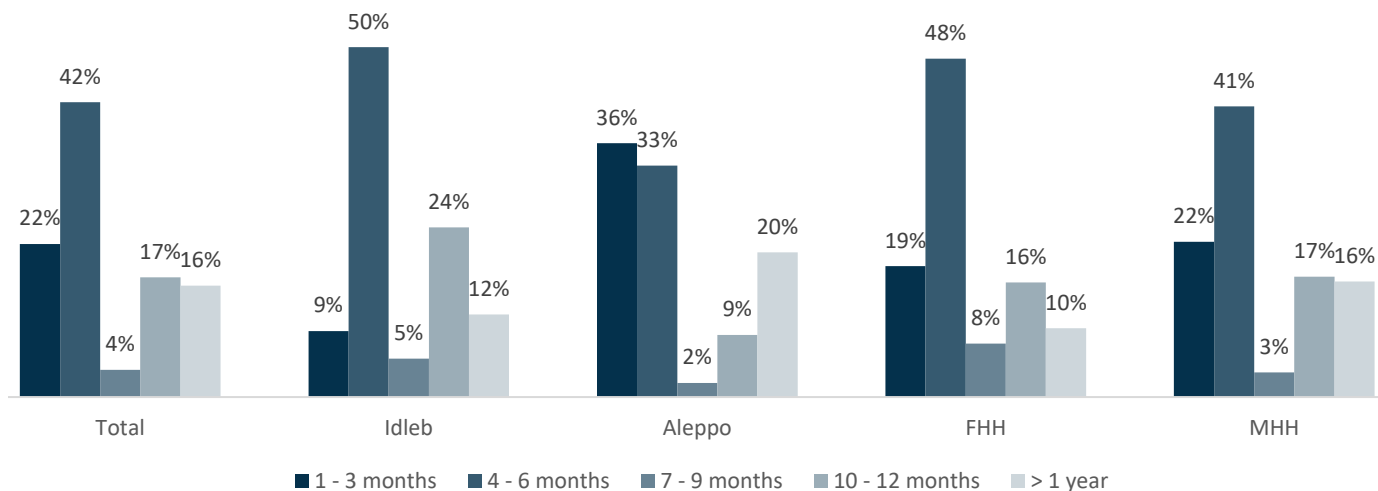
Written agreement



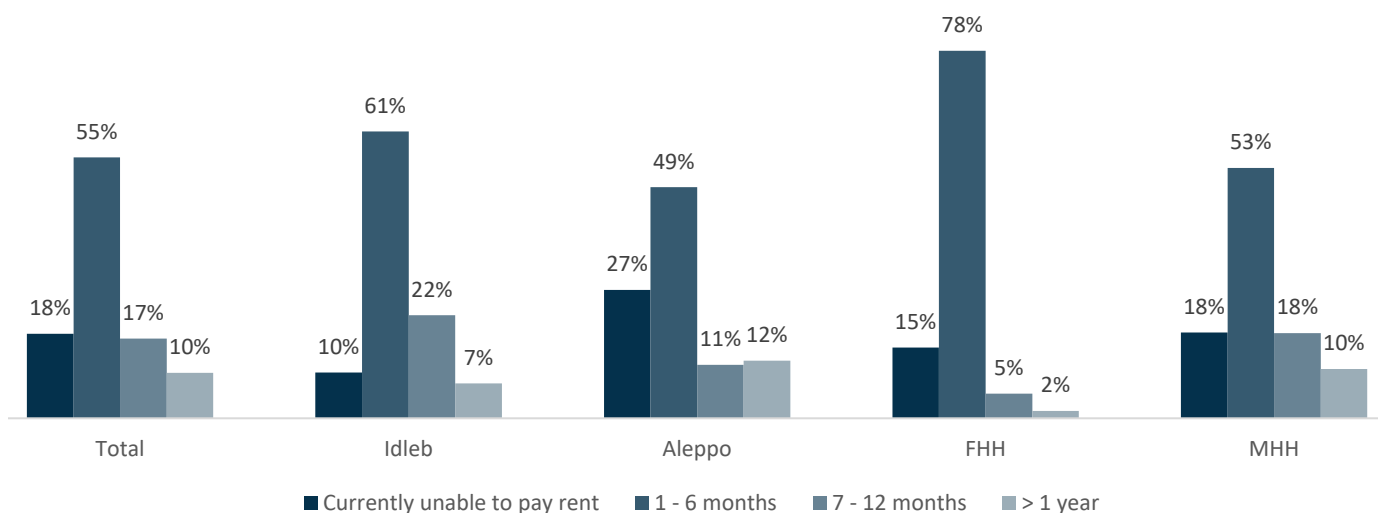
Verbal agreement



Length of time for which the agreement (verbal or written) to stay in shelter lasts (% of HHS)



Length of time for which HHs believe they can continue paying rent (% of HHS)



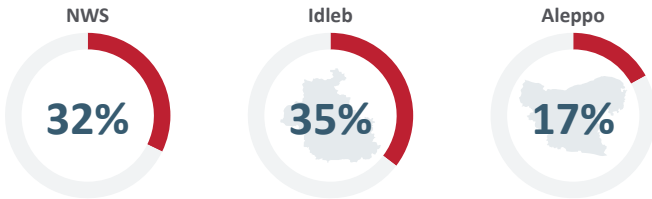
TENTS



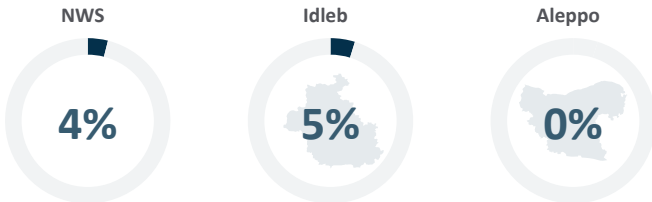
33%
Of HHs in NWS live in formal or informal IDP settlements

33 percent of households across NWS report that they live in formal or informal IDP settlements. The precarious and vulnerable nature of these households is exacerbated in situations where they are made to pay rent for their shelter. Overall 32 percent of households in IDP settlements across NWS pay money for their shelter (35 percent in Idleb and 17 percent in Aleppo). Male-headed households have a higher preponderance of being obliged to pay rent (by 18 percentage points). Only 5 percent of households report owning the land on which they are staying, all of whom are male-headed households in Idleb.

Obligated to pay rent to stay in IDP settlement (% of HHs who live in formal or informal IDP settlements)



Ownership of land on which they are staying (% of HHs who live in formal or informal IDP settlements)



SEX OF HOH BREAKDOWN (% OF HHS OBLIGED TO PAY RENT)

North-west Syria



Idleb

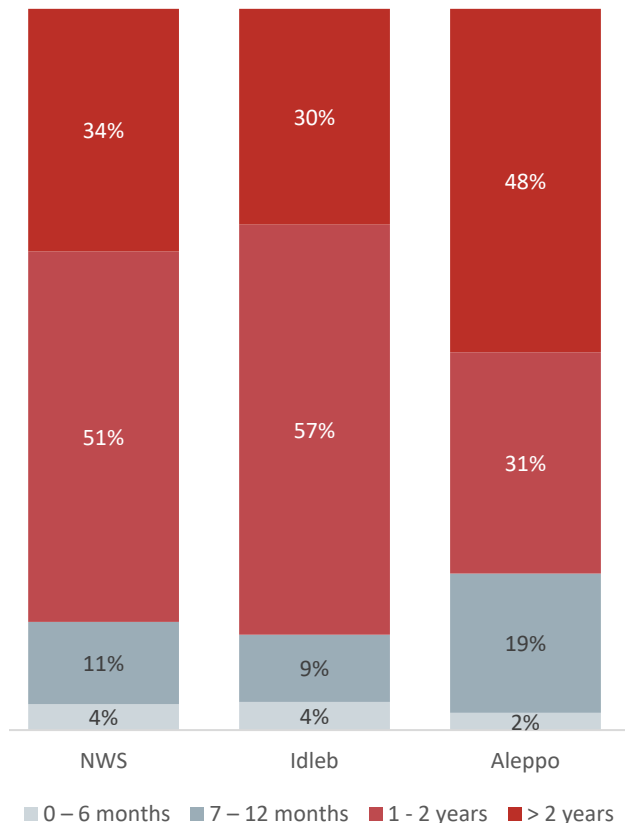


Aleppo



TENT AGE

Tent age (% of HHs living in tents)



According to the S/NFI Cluster, the expected lifespan of a tent is between 6-12 months, depending on the specifications of the tent. Of the 15 percent of households across NWS who reported living in tents, only 15 percent reported that their tent was less than one year old, leaving a significant 85 percent of households in a vulnerable situation where their tent is more likely to be damaged, less resistant to weather conditions and prone to leakage. Households in Idleb had a higher aggregated rate of living in tents over one year old (87 percent, compared to 79 percent in Aleppo); however, households in Aleppo had higher rates of living in tents that were over two years old (48 percent compared to 30 percent in Idleb).

Sub-districts within which 100% of HHs live in tents that are > 1 year old⁸

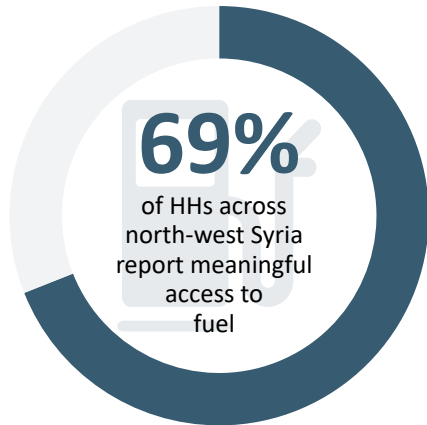
Governorate	Sub-District	% of HHs
Idleb	Janudiyeh	100%
Idleb	Darkosh	100%
Aleppo	Afrin	100%
Aleppo	Jarablus	100%
Idleb	Idleb	100%
Aleppo	A'rima	100%
Idleb	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	100%
Aleppo	Jandairis	100%
Aleppo	Sharan	100%
Idleb	Bennsh	100%
Aleppo	Ar-Ra'ee	100%

⁸ Sub-districts in this table are ordered by those within which the highest number of households live in tents.

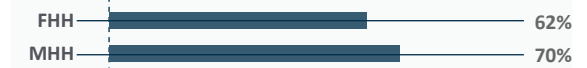
MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO SERVICES

Meaningful access is defined as a household reporting that a basic service is available in the surrounding area, the household needs or uses that service and that they themselves can access that service to the extent that they need to meet their basic needs.

MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO FUEL



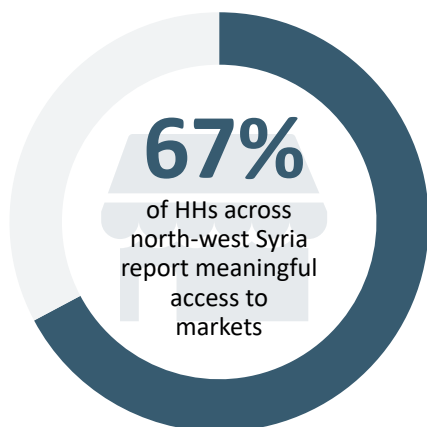
SEX OF HOH BREAKDOWN (% OF HHS)



GOVERNORATE BREAKDOWN (% OF HHS)



MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO MARKETS



SEX OF HOH BREAKDOWN (% OF HHS)



GOVERNORATE BREAKDOWN (% OF HHS)



Shelter/NFI Cluster

The Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster (S/NFI Cluster) is co-led by UNHCR and CARE, coordinating the efforts of around 75 member organizations who implement activities in the Cross Border Operation. The Cluster has been remotely coordinating Shelter and NFI response in north-west Syria for more than 6 years. During the first half of 2021, SNFI cluster members addressed the shelter needs of close to 500,000 individuals and reached more than 1.2 million individuals with NFI assistance

HNAP

The Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) for Syria is a joint UN assessment initiative which tracks displacement and return movements, conducts sector and multi-sectoral assessments, and monitors humanitarian needs inside Syria. HNAP is implemented with technical support from UN Agencies.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In order to support the humanitarian community in responding to the needs of the mobile Syrian population, HNAP produces regular updates and thematic reports. None of this would be possible without the hard work of our implementing partners, who collect data - often in very difficult circumstances. Their efforts are deeply appreciated.

DISCLAIMER

The contents of this report are based on data collected by field staff using a questionnaire. HNAP endeavours to ensure that the information provided is accurate and current, but it is important to keep in mind that the reported findings and conclusions represent the views and opinions of the surveyed households, for which HNAP cannot be held responsible. Challenges to bear in mind include standard forms of survey bias, as well as data collection obstacles in a challenging environment.