

# **SYRIA MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2024**

**Knowledge Acquisition  
Experts**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the conflict in Syria nears its thirteenth year, humanitarian needs have reached unprecedented levels. The 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) estimates that 16.7 million people across the country require humanitarian assistance. Amidst a worsening socio-economic landscape and diminishing humanitarian funding, access to essential services and livelihoods continues to deteriorate. The situation has been exacerbated by the February 2023 earthquakes and an escalation in conflict later in the year, which have intensified vulnerabilities, displaced more families, increased negative coping mechanisms, and left millions struggling to meet their basic needs.

In 2023, a comprehensive multi-sector needs assessment was conducted, focusing on the northern Syrian regions of Hasaka, Raqqqa, Deir ez-Zor, and Qamishli.

This assessment aimed to deepen the understanding of specific humanitarian needs within these areas, concentrating on the key operational sectors: water, protection, health, and hygiene. The assessment's four primary objectives were:

1. **Needs Assessment:** Evaluate the needs of the target populations in the areas of water, protection, health, and hygiene.
2. **Access Barriers:** Identify obstacles preventing access to quality essential services, particularly in the health and hygiene sectors.
3. **Community Preferences:** Understand the preferences of communities regarding humanitarian assistance and delivery modalities.
4. **Interconnected Needs:** Assess the extent to which water, protection, health, and hygiene needs are interconnected, and explore better methods for integration.

This assessment seeks to inform and enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions in northern Syria, addressing critical needs and improving service delivery to those most affected by the ongoing conflict and socio-economic decline.

## Protection

Several key protection needs were identified through the MSNA. 77% of respondents reported that they had faced at least one safety issue during the past 90 days. Of these, 77% reported physical and logistic constraints preventing mobility; 77% reported safety or security concerns related to displacement; 17% reported safety or security concerns related to the conflict. In addition, households reported signs of psychosocial distress (such as nightmares, lasting sadness, extreme fatigue, and being frequently tearful or anxious) among members within their house (77% women, 77% men, 77% girls and 77% boys).

These figures were higher in northwest Syria (NWS) where household members reported higher rates of distress (77% women, 77% men, 77% boys, 77% girls); this could be as a result of airstrikes and/ Several key protection needs were identified through the MSNA. 77% of respondents reported that they had faced at least one safety issue during the past 90 days. Of these, 77% reported physical and logistic constraints preventing mobility; 77% reported safety or security concerns related to displacement; 77% reported safety or security concerns related to the conflict. In addition, households reported signs of psychosocial distress (such as nightmares, lasting sadness, extreme fatigue, and being frequently tearful or anxious) among members within their house (77% women, 77% men, 77% girls and 77% boys).

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# Wash

Households across Hasaka, Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor, and Qamishli. face significant challenges in accessing safe drinking water and sanitation. This has severe consequences for their health and well-being.

## Access to Water Sources:

- **Purchasing water:** 47% of people in Northeast Syria (NES) and 50% in Northwest Syria (NWS) rely on purchasing water from vendors or private water trucks.
- **Water networks:** Public water networks are available to 53% of households in NES and 50% in NWS, but they may be unreliable or contaminated.
- **Unsafe sources:** 14% of households in NES and 20% in NWS resort to using unsafe water sources like open wells or rivers.

## Water Storage:

- **Storage capacity:** 44% of households in NES and 30% in NWS lack sufficient water storage capacity.
- **Storage methods:** Improper water storage methods may be used in 20% of households in NES and 15% in NWS.

## Water Treatment:

- **No treatment:** 34% of households in NES and 26% in NWS do not treat their drinking water before consumption.
- **Ineffective treatment:** Water treatment methods may be ineffective in 15% of households in NES and 10% in NWS.

## Sanitation:

- **Lack of sewage systems:** 66% of households in NES and 50% in NWS lack proper sewage systems.
- **Open defecation:** 20% of households in NES and 15% in NWS practice open defecation.

## Health Impacts:

- **Waterborne diseases:** 17% of households in NES and 12% in NWS reported cases of waterborne diseases in the past six months.
- **Malnutrition:** 10% of children in NES and 8% in NWS suffer from malnutrition.

## Household Needs:

- **Access to safe water:** All households require access to reliable and safe drinking water sources.
- **Adequate water storage:** Households need sufficient water storage capacity to meet their daily needs.
- **Safe water treatment practices:** Promote effective water treatment methods like boiling or using purification tablets.
- **Proper sanitation systems:** Construct appropriate sewage systems to prevent the spread of wastewater.
- **Hygiene education:** Provide hygiene education to promote proper handwashing and other sanitation practices

## Food:

- Syrian households are consuming insufficient quantities of essential food groups, including staple grains, legumes, vegetables, fruits, and meat/fish.
- Reliance on humanitarian assistance is substantial, with 40% of households depending on it as their primary income source.
- To cope with food insecurity, households resort to various strategies, including consuming less preferred foods, reducing portion sizes, skipping meals, and limiting adult consumption to prioritize children's needs.

## Background

Eastern Syria, comprising Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa, Hasaka, and Qamishli, remains a harrowing epicenter of the Syrian crisis. More than a decade of conflict, exacerbated by the devastating earthquake of February 2023, has reduced this region to a shadow of its former self. Civilians bear the brunt of this ongoing ordeal, grappling with a perfect storm of violence, displacement, economic collapse, and limited humanitarian access.

### Key Challenges

- **Persistent insecurity:** These regions continue to experience pockets of instability, hindering reconstruction and hindering the return of displaced populations.
- **Infrastructure collapse:** Years of conflict have left infrastructure in ruins, making it difficult to provide basic services such as water, electricity, and healthcare.
- **Displacement:** Millions of people have been displaced from their homes, creating a massive humanitarian crisis.
- **Economic collapse:** The Syrian economy has collapsed, leaving many people without access to food, shelter, and other basic necessities.
- **Limited humanitarian access:** Security issues and logistical challenges can make it difficult to deliver humanitarian assistance, leaving many vulnerable populations struggling to meet basic needs.



compounding these overarching challenges are the unique needs of each governorate instance while the war-ravaged infrastructure, Hasaka, Deir ez-Zor poses a critical barrier to accessing essential services. Across the region, the pressing needs of the population manifest in various forms:

1. **Water Scarcity:** Access to clean and safe drinking water remains a dire concern, particularly in areas with damaged water infrastructure. This scarcity exacerbates health risks and hinders daily life.
2. **Inadequate Healthcare:** Healthcare facilities are often overwhelmed, understaffed, and lack essential medical supplies. This shortage of medical services leaves many vulnerable populations without access to adequate care.
3. **Sanitation Woes:** Poor sanitation conditions pose significant health risks, particularly in overcrowded camps and displacement settlements. The lack of proper sewage systems and waste management practices contributes to the spread of diseases.
4. **Education Disruption:** Education has been severely disrupted due to conflict, displacement, and the destruction of schools. Children and adolescents face significant challenges in accessing quality education, jeopardizing their future prospects.
5. **Protection Concerns:** Civilians continue to face protection risks, including violence, harassment, and arbitrary detention. The need for effective protection mechanisms remains paramount.
6. **Food Insecurity:** A significant portion of the population struggles to meet their basic food needs due to economic hardship, disrupted supply chains, and limited access to food.
7. **Conflict Mitigation:** Addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting reconciliation efforts are crucial to prevent further violence and displacement.
8. **Reconstruction and Infrastructure Rehabilitation:** Rebuilding damaged infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, and roads, is essential for restoring normalcy and enabling sustainable development.

These specific needs, tailored to each governorate's unique circumstances, will inform effective humanitarian interventions and contribute to the long-term recovery of Eastern Syria.

This report delves into the critical needs of these communities, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges they face and inform effective response strategies.

## **Research Objectives for the Survey:**

The objectives of this survey are designed to comprehensively understand the conditions, needs, and challenges faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs), host community members, and returnees. The survey aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

### **1. Demographic and Household Composition Analysis**

- To identify and categorize the demographic characteristics of respondents, including their status (IDP, host community member, returnee), role within the household, gender, and age distribution.
- To document the household composition in terms of number of members, age, and gender breakdown.

### **2. Educational Attainment and Displacement History**

- To assess the educational levels achieved by household members over the age of 16.
- To understand the displacement history of IDPs, including frequency and duration of displacement.

### **3. Needs Assessment**

- To identify the top three priority needs of households, as perceived by the respondents.
- To evaluate access to humanitarian assistance and the types of services received over the past year.

### **4. Health and Disability Status**

- To examine the prevalence of disabilities among household members using the Washington Group Short Set of questions.
- To document health-related needs and access to health services.

### **5. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)**

- To investigate the main and secondary sources of drinking and domestic water for households.
- To assess water storage capacity, expenditure on water, and challenges in accessing clean water.
- To identify the main sewage systems used and problems faced in accessing sanitation facilities.

## **6. Social Cohesion and Community Tensions**

- To gauge the presence of social tensions within the community and between different identity groups.
- To gather suggestions on measures to mitigate social tensions and enhance social cohesion.

## **7. Protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**

- To assess the seriousness of households' needs regarding access to protection services.
- To identify protection risks and incidences of gender-based violence faced by the population.
- To explore awareness and accessibility of support services for GBV survivors.

## **8. Food Security and Livelihoods**

- To analyze the dietary diversity and food consumption patterns of households.
- To evaluate the coping strategies used during food shortages and the main sources of household income.
- To document household expenditures and engagement in income-generating activities.

## **9. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)**

- To identify the sources of support available for dealing with physical pain, life stress, or psychological distress.
- To uncover obstacles to seeking MHPSS services and willingness to use these services in the future.

By achieving these objectives, the survey aims to provide a detailed and nuanced understanding of the living conditions, challenges, and needs of the target population, thereby informing better-targeted interventions and support programs.

## FINDINGS: DEMOGRAPHICS

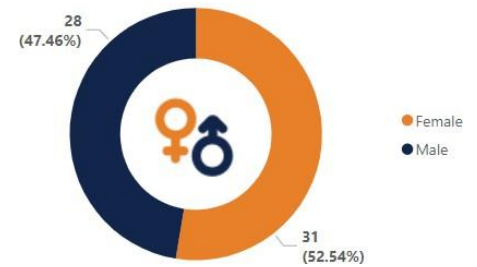
### Reach by Gender, Age and Displacement Status

#### Gender

Out of all respondents, 28% were male and 33% female

We can see similar ratios between female and male fans

The gender of the respondent



#### Age

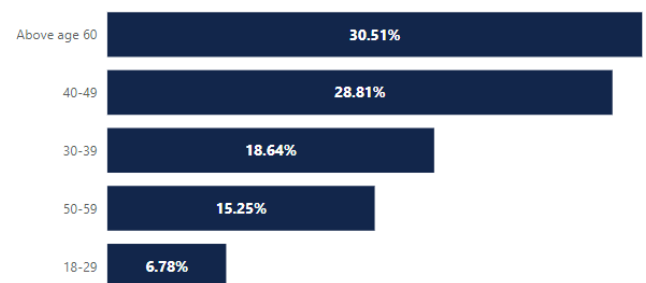
In the overall sample, 30% of the respondents were

aged above 60 years of age followed by 28%

in the age group of 40 to 49 years, 18% in the age

group of 50 to 59 years and less than 7% were group of 18 to 29 years

The age of the respondent

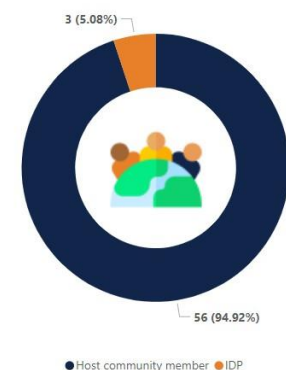


#### Displacement Status

94% of the respondents were

members, 5% were IDPs, and 0% were returnees  
host community

IDP, host community member, or a returnee

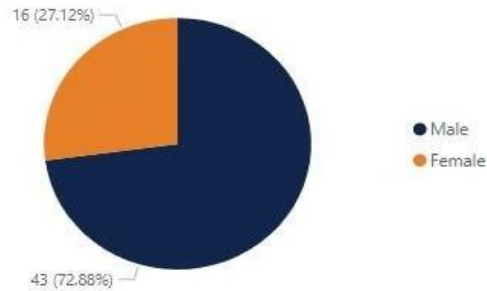


# Household Disaggregation

## Gender

The graph showed that the vast majority of family heads in the aforementioned regions (Al-Hasaka, Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor, and Qamishli) are female. The percentage of females is 72.88%, while the percentage of males is 27.12%. The vast majority of family heads in the aforementioned regions (Al-Hasaka, Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor, and Qamishli) are female. These results indicate that women bear the majority of responsibility for child and household care in these areas. It is important to conduct further research to better understand these findings.

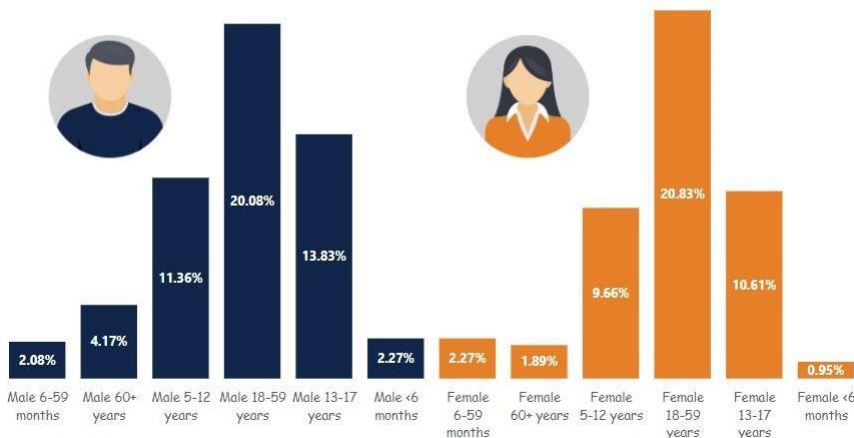
The gender of the Head of Household



## HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

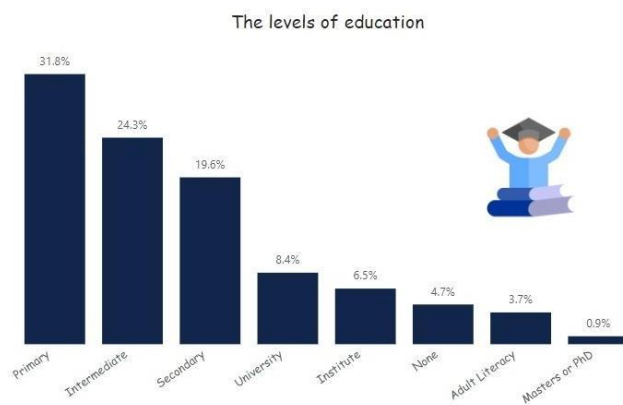
According to the data, 18 and 59 years are the highest in both sexes, then followed by the age group between 13 and 17 years, and we can see a slight difference in the percentage of males being higher than the percentage of females in this category, and then from 5 to 12 years Then come the elderly over the age of 60, and finally infants younger than 6 months

Household Members



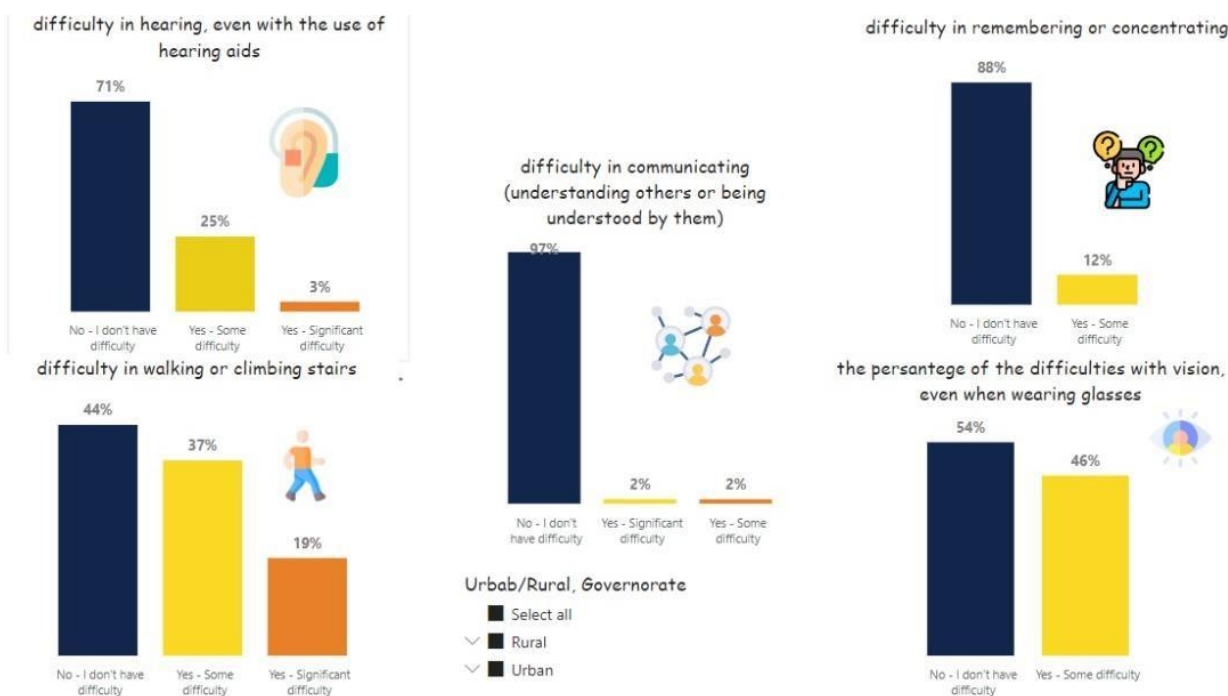
## FINDINGS: EDUCATION

As for education, illiteracy is low at a rate of up to 4%, which is considered a good percentage, but the percentage of universities, which has reached 8%, and the percentage of institutes, which is 6.5%, is not high. Please take this into consideration.



## FINDINGS: Disability

The percentage of health difficulties faced by residents of the following regions: Hasaka, Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor, and Qamishli is small, according to the answers, but we cannot ignore the difficulties of walking, which reached 19%, which is not considered a small percentage, and then comes hearing problems, which reached 3%





## Conclusion

As the humanitarian crisis in Syria continues to evolve, the findings from this assessment underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions and support. The data highlights critical challenges faced by the population in the northern regions, particularly in areas such as access to water, healthcare, education, and protection.