



Multi-sectorial Rapid Need Assessment Report

09 April 2020



1. INTRODUCTION

1: 1- Purpose

The conflict in Southern Idlib and Western Aleppo continues and the situation deteriorates due to escalated violence, which started on 18th December 2019. The violence has paved the way for a surge of forcibly displaced individuals. According to the latest UN Humanitarian Needs Assessment Program snapshot, which was issued on 22nd March 2020, since 1st December 2019, around 939,000 individuals have been displaced mainly from Southern Idlib and Western Aleppo, moving further north away from the hostilities. According to UN OCHA's latest Sit-Rep #10, which was issued on 12th March 2020, 81% of the displaced individuals are women and children and the most pressing needs continue to be for shelter, WASH, food, and protection assistance. As noted recently, the number of the IDPs in NWS continues to decrease as a considerable number of people who were settling in the reception centers are returning to their origin areas to avoid the infection of COVID-19, impacted by the closure of many reception centers. However, there are still several people in the reception centers who don't have another available shelter to move or to return to their areas. This put people under a risk of gathering, where some solutions are still required to ensure their safety.

Over the last week, the situation in NW Syria remained relatively calm, with only small scale clashes reported. Borders remain closed for public transport but open for humanitarian aid transfers. Additionally, the emergency context has highly been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, which was announced as a pandemic by WHO. According to the COVID-19 Situation Report #72 published by WHO on 1st April, ten COVID-19 cases and two deaths were confirmed in Syria as of 1st April and the areas of concern are reported as densely population areas. In NWS, the Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) conducted 21 tests, 19 of which came out negative and two are pending results and no cases have been confirmed so far. WHO delivered 5,000 COVID-19 diagnostic kits to Idlib governorate this week and announced the preparations for the procurement of an additional testing machine. Humanitarian organizations and partners continue delivering much-needed help in the middle of the outbreak. The COVID-19 Situation Report #72, issued by WHO on 1st April.

According to the INSO report of 30th March, a movement restriction at all border crossings have been announced for the period of 1st-15th April by the Public Administration for Crossings (NSG) as a precautionary measure in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The circular forbids the public movement while requesting humanitarian and emergency movements to seek the permission of the Ministry of Health. As of 30th March, HTS blocked access between Afrin and Idlib to limit the potential spread of COVID-19.

The purpose of this (RNA) report is to pinpoint the main pressing needs of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) who fled from their communities. CARE, through its partner (Shafak), conducted this rapid needs assessment to capture the situation of the IDPs in 2 sub-districts (2 communities) in A'zaz. Aleppo governorate as mentioned in the following table and highlight on their needs to be able to cover them according to their capacity.

Governorate	District	Sub-district	Community
Aleppo	A'zaz	A'zaz	A'zaz
Aleppo	A'zaz	Aghtrin	Akhtrein

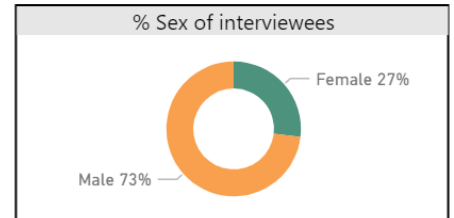
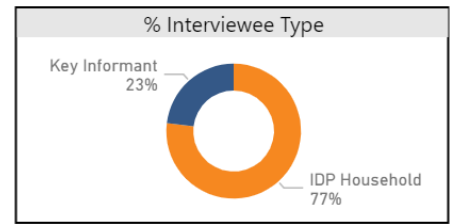
This report is focused on the needs in terms of shelter, NFI, hygiene, and food to develop the response plan according to the available capacity which can meet the needs of IDPs with high efficiency.

The rapid response team, with support from the IDPs tracking team, tracked the movements of the IDPs and collected the data in March 30th 2020.

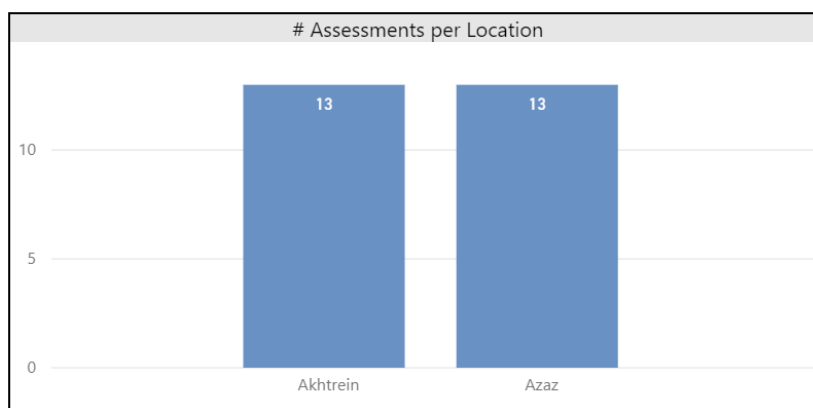
1: 2- Methodology

The RNA tool which was developed by CARE was used by Shafak teams to collect the data from those who were recently affected in the last weeks, the data is based on information from the rapid response team, and IDPs tracking team. The interviewers' team consisted of four interviewers, using the KoBo tool which is developed especially for the RNA purpose. The data was analyzed and cleaned by the MEAL officer and uploaded to CARE's RNA dashboard.

Interviews were done with 26 individuals in 2 communities. The interviewees varied between key informants and households. The 6 key informants interviewed also varied between local administrative councils, local relief committees and representatives of an IDP Group. In addition to 20 interviews with displaced HHs. Out of 26, 7 of the respondents (27%) were females and 19 (73%) were males.



The locations were distributed as the following (community level):

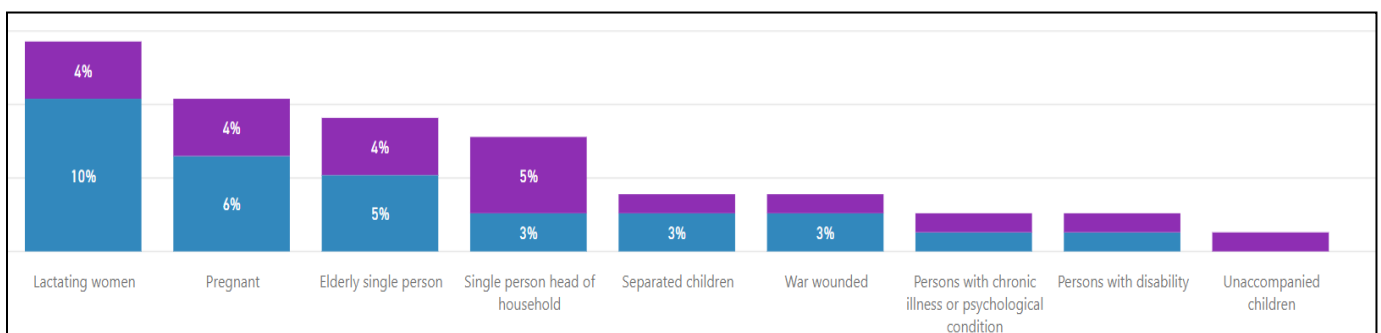
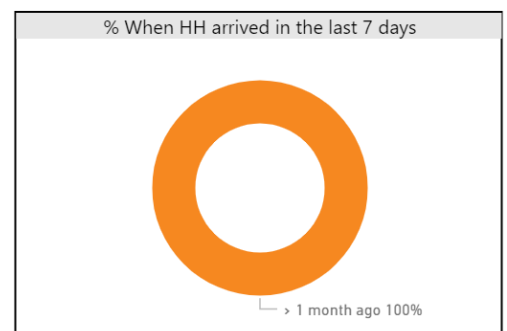


2. DISPLACEMENT INFORMATION

Most of IDPs in the assessed locations are coming mainly from Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Saraqab, Atareb, Haritan, Zarbah, and a few numbers from other locations such as Ariha, Ehsem and Idleb.

100% of those newly IDPs displaced before more than a month, mainly after 18th of December

Among the assessed locations, 24% of the vulnerable individuals are lactating women or pregnant, 9% elderly single persons, 8% single persons head of household, 4% are separated children, 4% are war wounded, and a few percentages are persons with chronic diseases and persons with a disability.



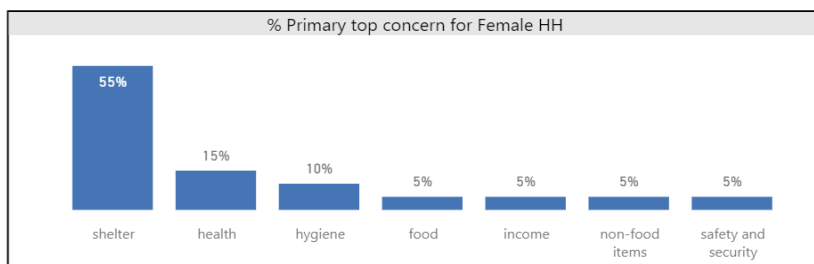
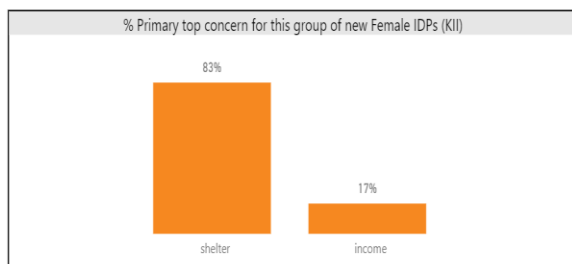
3. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND PRIORITY OF NEEDS

3: 1- Humanitarian assistance:

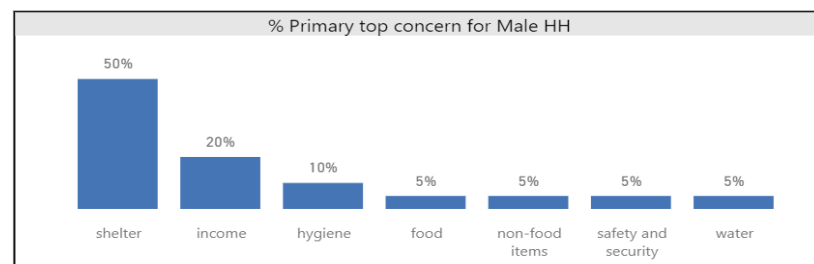
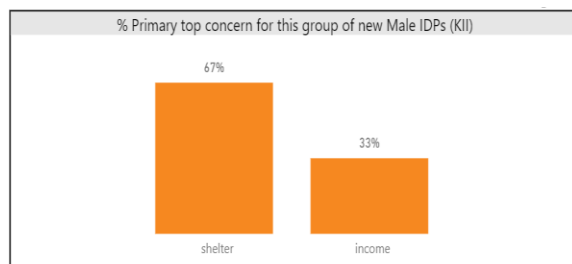
As far as access is concerned, all respondents confirmed that there are no constraints in humanitarian access to the affected populations in the IDP's destination in the 2 communities, In contrast, 23% confirmed that beneficiaries have some constraints in accessing the humanitarian assistance due to the lack of information on the humanitarian aid for affected people.

3: 2- Priority of needs:

The conducted RNA was able to highlight the most pressing needs among IDPs. The primary top concerns for females varied between shelter and income based on the Key informants' point of view, while based on the HH respondents, the needs have been prioritized as following, shelter, health, hygiene, food, income, NFI and S & S. As showing in the below charts.



Regarding males' top concerns, key informants' points of view, shelter and income while based on the HHs' point of view, the top concern is shelter, then income, hygiene, food, NFI, S & S and water. The charts below show the percentage of each concern.

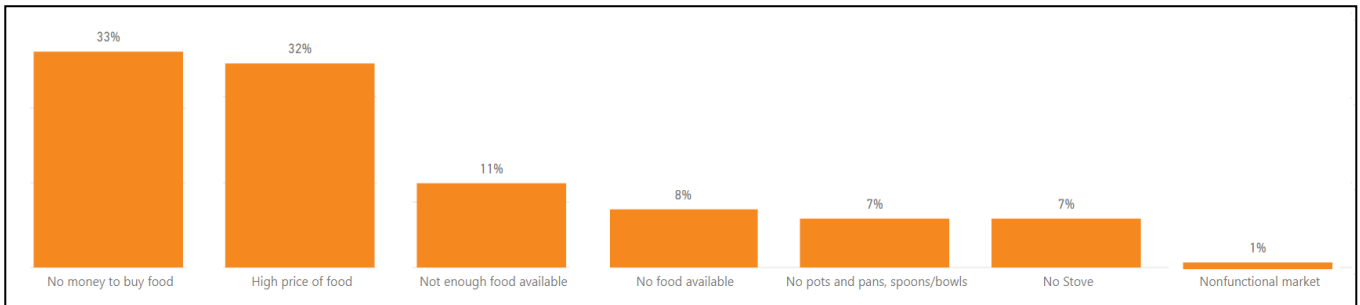


4. SECTORS' FINDINGS

4: 1- Food

83% of the respondents confirmed that many people in the assessed communities are facing real shortages in receiving food items while 17% of them mentioned that this shortage is not life-saving threatening.

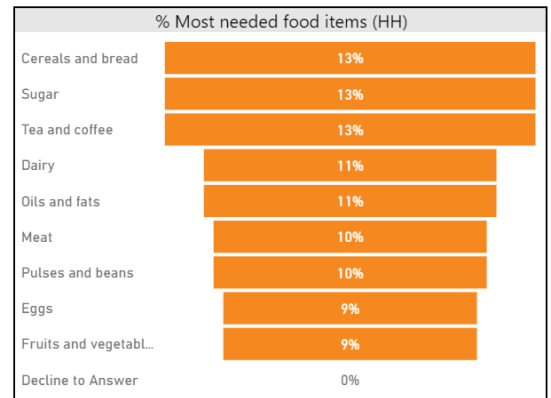
33% of the difficulties and shortages in securing food were due to lack of money to buy food and 32% because of the high price of food when available, while 11% mentioned that the food, not enough available, with few respondents mentioned that food is not even available or they have some concerns in terms of cooking materials especially such as kitchen utensils and stoves.



The available food in these locations comes either through food distribution by NGOs or the host population (42%), support for the host communities (33%) or as credit available markets (25%).

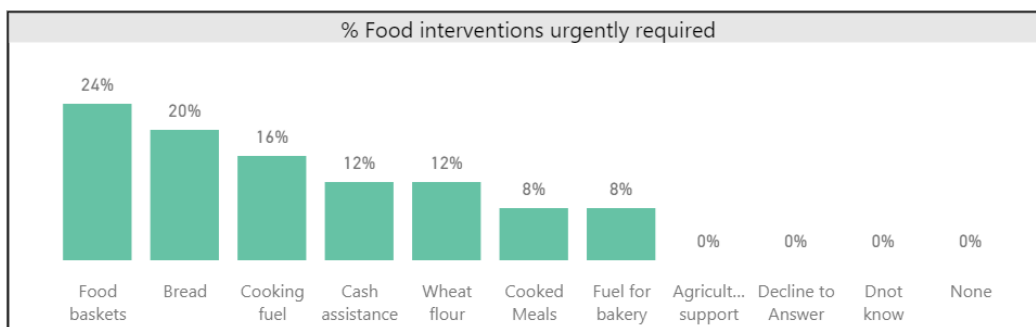
In case of food access difficulties, IDPs are coping this challenge by purchase food on credit (31%), reducing the numbers of meals eaten in a day (17%), limiting the portion size at mealtime (15%), relying on less preferred and less expensive food (12%), borrow food from relatives (5%), or even send children to eat with neighbors.

Where the most needed food items according to the interviewed HHs are cereals, bread, sugar, tea and coffee, dairy, oils and fat, meat, pulses and beans, and other items as the chart shows:



Regarding the type of provided food support in the last 7 days: 66% of interviewed HHs confirmed that they haven't received food, 9% confirmed receiving food baskets, 9% benefitted by cash assistance 8% mentioned that they received bread, and 8% received cooked meals.

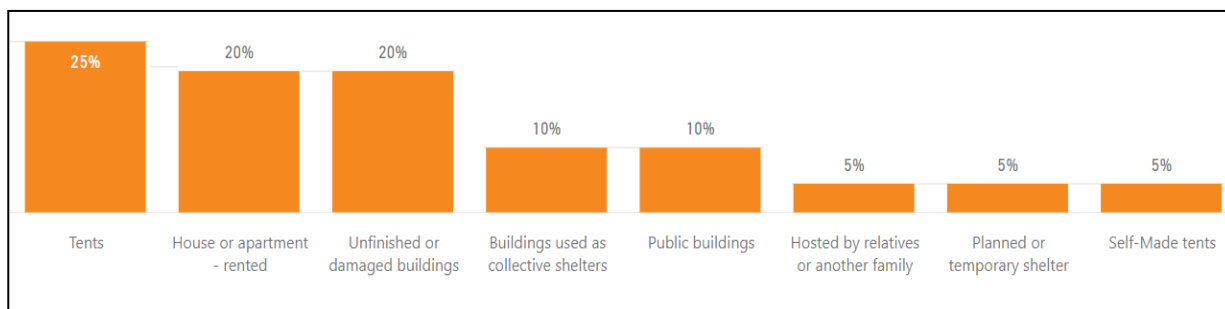
The most urgent food interventions required in the assessed locations are, as the chart below, food baskets, bread. Cooking fuel, cash assistance, and, in addition to some other needs such as wheat flour, cooked meals and fuel for cooking and bakeries.



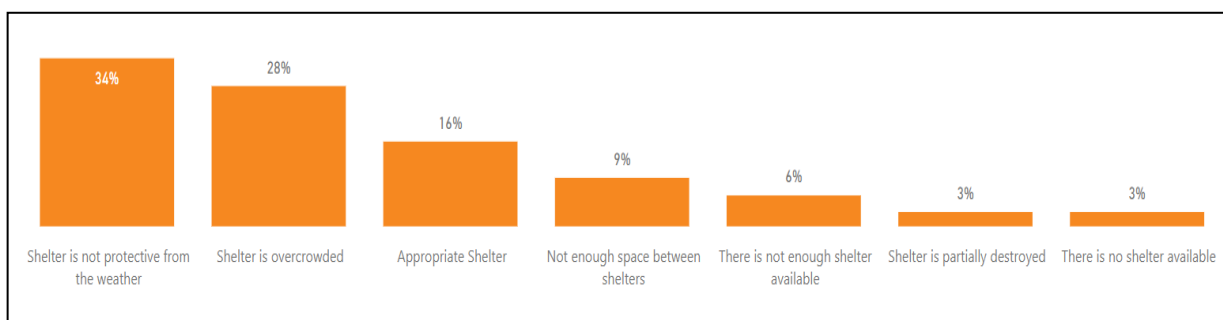
4: 2- Shelter

50% of the interviewed KILs mentioned that shortages are affecting many of the HHs in the 2 locations, 33% mentioned that not all people are facing challenges in the shelter, while 17% mentioned that it's not life-threatening.

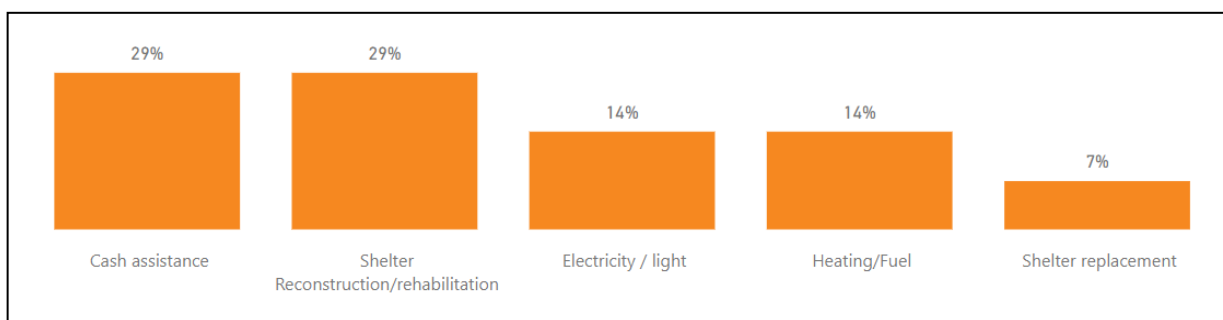
So people have stayed in various places, where 25% living in formal tents, 20% in a rented house, 20% living in unfinished or damaged buildings, 10% in collective centers, 10% public building, 5% hosted by another family, 5% settled in a temporary shelter and 5% self-made tents.



34% said that shelter is not protective of weather conditions, 28% of interviewed HHs mentioned that shelter is overcrowded, only 16% of the respondents confirmed living in appropriate shelters, 9% mentioned that there is no enough space between shelters, 6% said that there is not enough shelter available and 3% mentioned that shelter is partially destroyed.

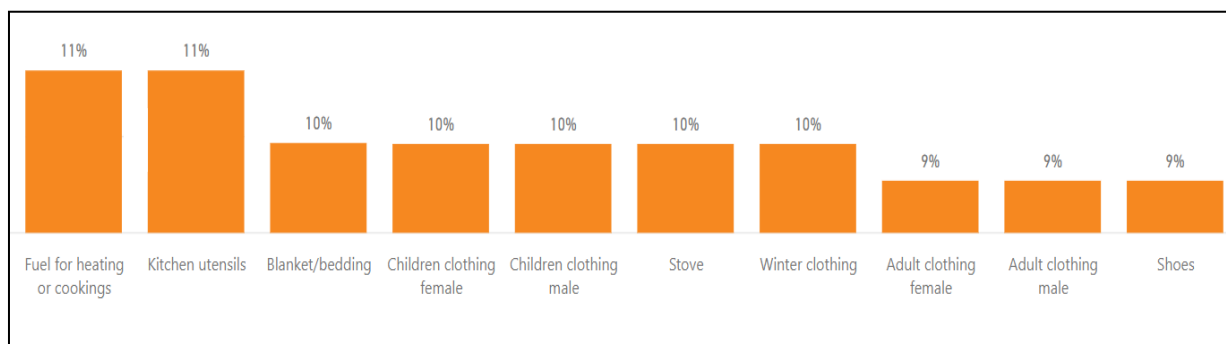


Regarding the provided assistance since the displacement took place, 92% of the interviewees confirmed there was no shelter support provided in the past 15 days, while 8% received cash assistance for shelter. As seen in the figure below, the shelter interventions urgently required varied between cash assistance, shelter replacement, and rehabilitation in addition to heating and electricity.

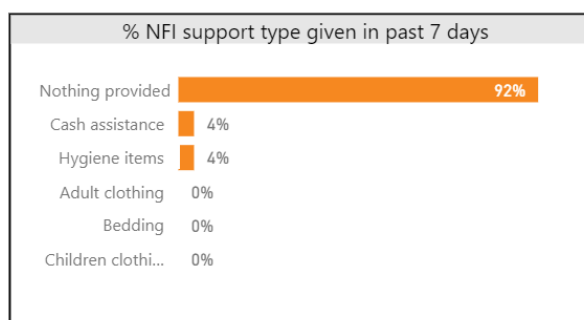


4: 3- NFI

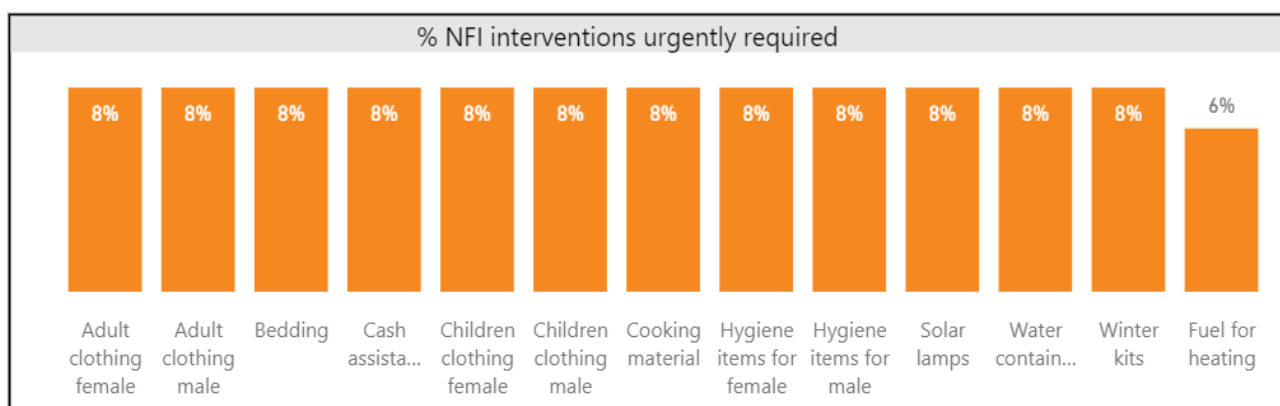
100% of the interviewees confirmed that many people are facing shortages in NFI. Where the most urgent NFI items needed are fuel for heating, kitchen utensils, blankets, children's clothing, stoves, winter clothes, Adult clothing and shoes as being shown in the figure below:



92% of the interviewees confirmed there was no support in terms of NFI items in the last period. While 4% mentioned that they received cash assistance and, 4% mentioned that they received hygiene items, where nothing else under NFI have been distributed.



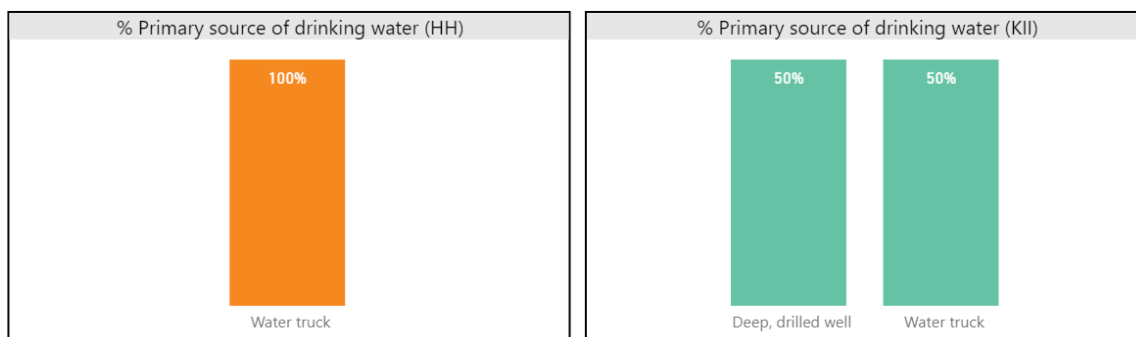
100% of the interviewees confirmed that all of the NFI items are available in the markets. But they also confirmed that not all NFI needs have been covered, while the most urgent NFI interventions are adults clothing, for males and females (8% each), bedding (8%), cash assistance (8%), children clothes for males and females (8% each), cooking materials (8%), Hygiene kits for males and females (8% each), solar lamps (8%), water containers (8%), winter kits (8%) and fuel for heating (6%), as shown in the chart below:



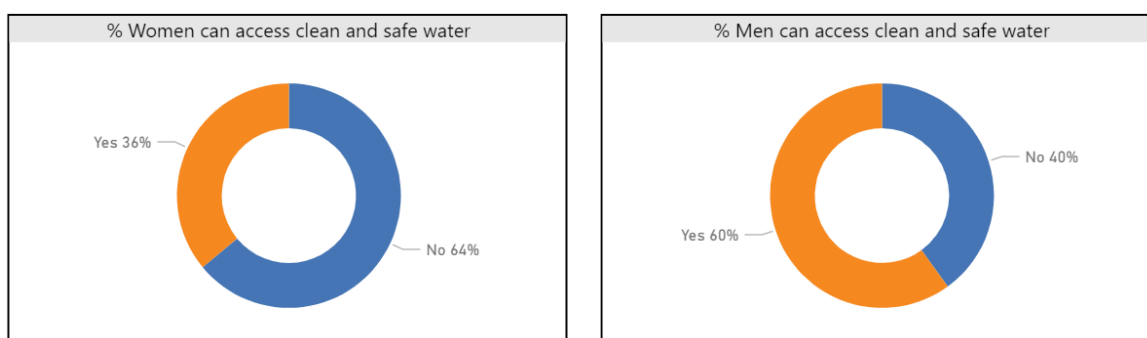
4: 4- WASH

50% of the interviewees confirmed that many people are facing a shortage of WASH services, while 50% mentioned that only a few people are facing shortages.

The primary source of water drinking as HHs mentioned is varied between water trucking (50%) and the piped deep, drilled well (50%). On the other hand, the KIIs confirmed that (100%) of the water source is through water trucks.

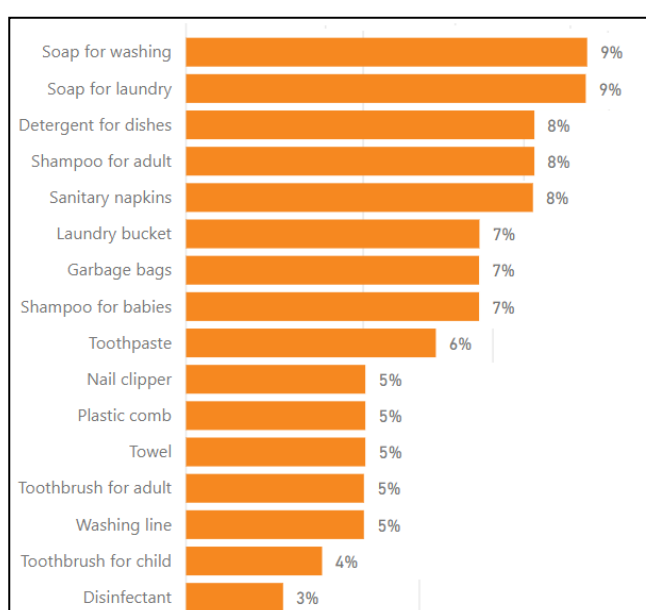


36% of the interviewed KIIs mentioned that women can't access clean and safe water, while 60% mentioned that for men. The most challenges of accessing for both women and men are (44%) the price of water, (25%) the distance to water, (13%) lack of household water storage capacity, (6%) no access to a water source. (6%) the water source controlled by the military and (6%) the water looks bad.



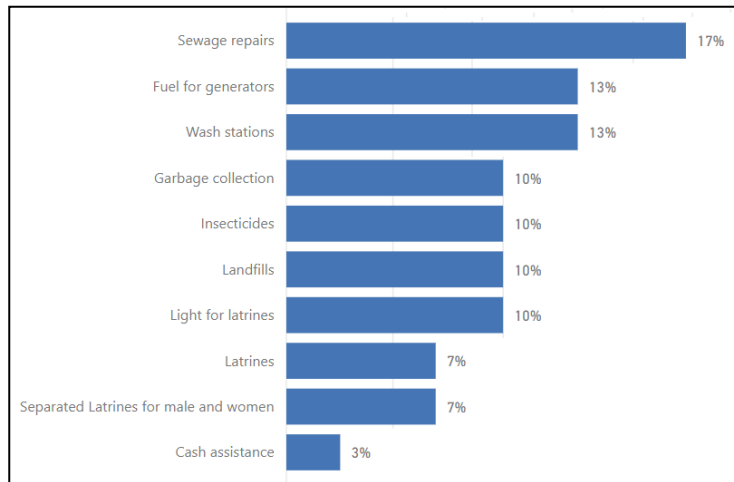
76% mentioned that they have access to private latrines, 14% of interviewees mentioned that the toilets are latrines are public or shared, while 10% mentioned that the toilets are makeshift made.

The most hygiene items needed according to the interviewed HHs and KIIs, are mainly, soap for washing and laundry, detergents for dishes, shampoo, sanitary napkins, laundry bucket, garbage packages, and other as in the figures on the side:

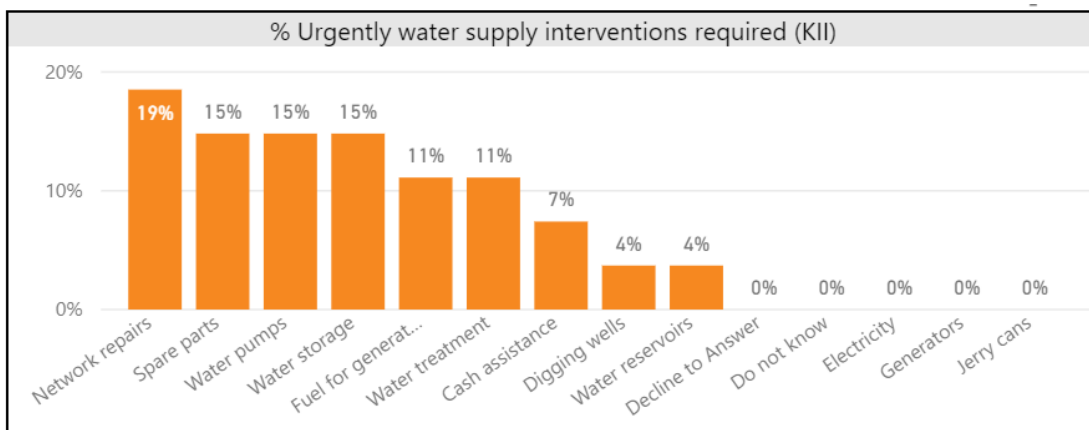


In terms of provided support, 100% confirmed there was no WASH support within the period of the last two weeks.

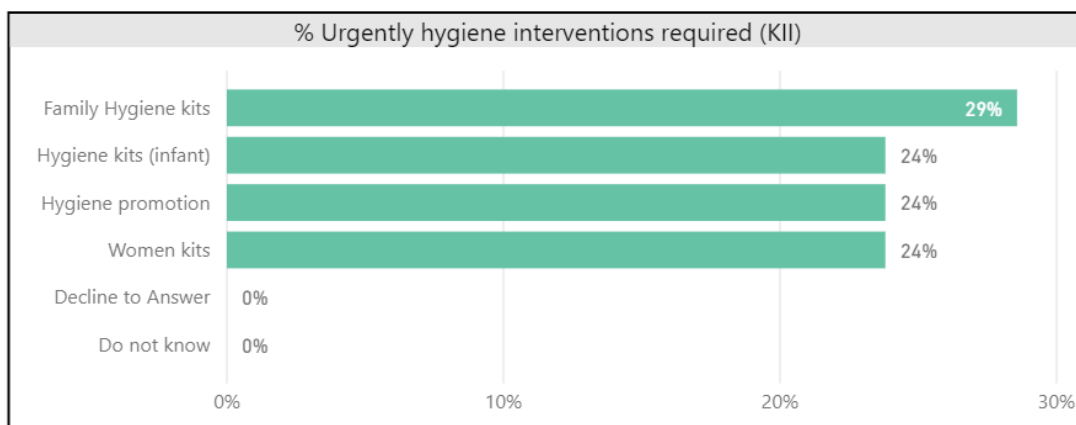
The main required sanitation interventions include sewage repairs, fuel for generators, wash stations, garbage collection, insecticides, landfills, light for latrines, latrines, and cash assistance as shown in the chart on beside.



Urgently water supply interventions required include network repairs, spare parts, water pumps, water storage, fuel for generators, water treatment, cash assistance and other as mentioned in the figure:

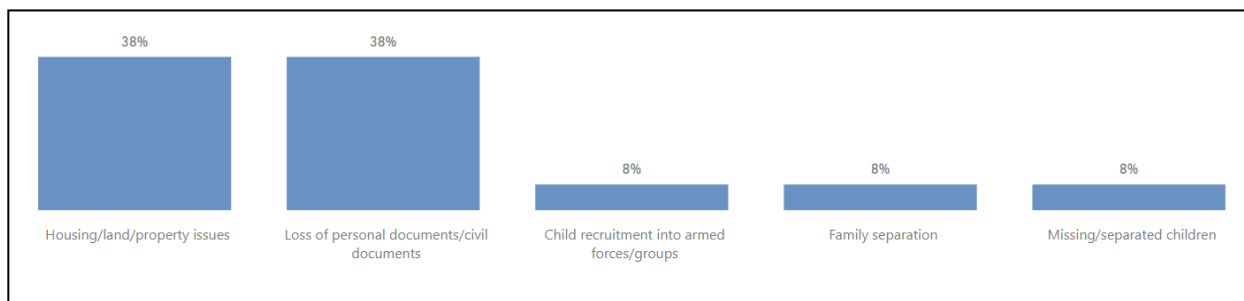


In the figure are the needed hygiene interventions which are (29%) family hygiene kits, (24%) children hygiene kits, (24%) dignity kits and (24%) hygiene promotion.

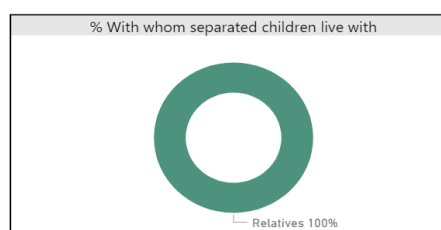
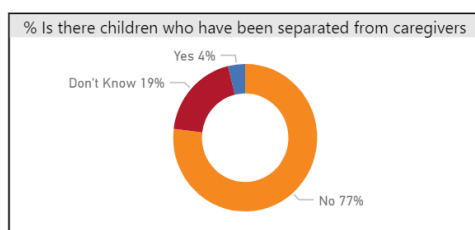


4: 5- Safety and Security

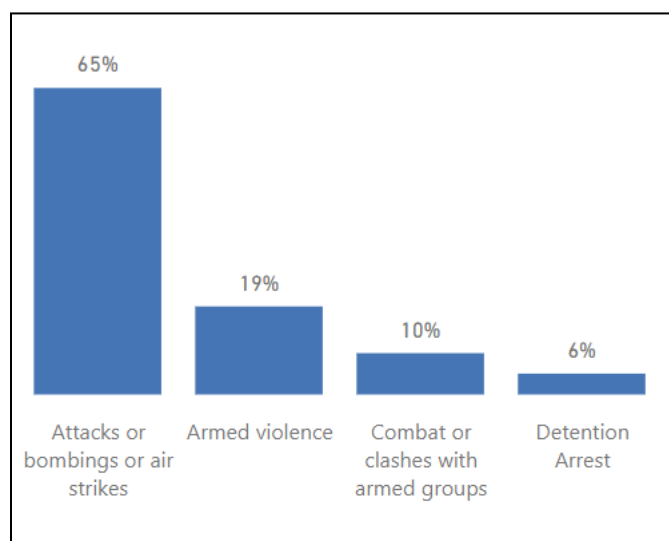
In the 2 communities which have been assessed, the people both IDPs had some concerns regarding the security situation, where 38% of the interviewees confirmed that the Housing Land Proprieties (HLP) issue is the main concern, 38% mentioned that loss of personal documents is the second concern of people, 8% have some concerns about missing children and 8% are worried about the family separation.



The interviewees mentioned that 4% of children are separated from caregivers and they also mentioned that 100% of these children are accompanying their relatives.



The interviewees confirmed that the majority 65% of people who recently displaced, were fleeing the engagement and moved as a result of the attacks or bombing, where 19% displaced escaping from the armed violence, 10% displaced to flee the engagement and clashes, and 6% had concerns about the detention arrest.



5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- In terms of the shelter which usually considered as the main concern in the Syrian conflict in most of the communities in Northern Syria, but it's clearly mentioned in the report that the shelter is not a big issue in the 2 assessed communities. However, in Azaz, 17% mentioned receiving cash for shelter while nothing provided in Akhtrein.
- Regarding NFI needs, in both communities, all items are available in the markets. In Azaz, 8% of people mentioned receiving cash and 8% Hygiene kits while nothing has been provided in Akhtrein. Mostly all NFI items are needed in both communities.
- In terms of food, in A'zaz 16% confirmed receiving cash for food, 16% received food baskets, 11% cooked meals and 11% bread. While nothing provided in Akhtrein.
- As for WASH, the only resource of the water in A'zaz is the water trucks, while it's various in Akhtrein between trucks, piped water or deep drilled wells. In terms of latrines, it's 100% private in A'zaz while it's varied between private, shared latrines and makeshift made in Akhtrein.
- Finally, and considering the last situation of global COVID -19 (Coronavirus) spreading around the world, it's highly recommended to improve the provision of hygiene items for both, the field teams of the organization working in the response, and for the beneficiaries and newly IDPs who are living in risky areas with bad living conditions, even in camps and outside. Also, serious procedures should be taken into account during the implementation of the activity to avoid the gathering of people which increases the possibility of infection.



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