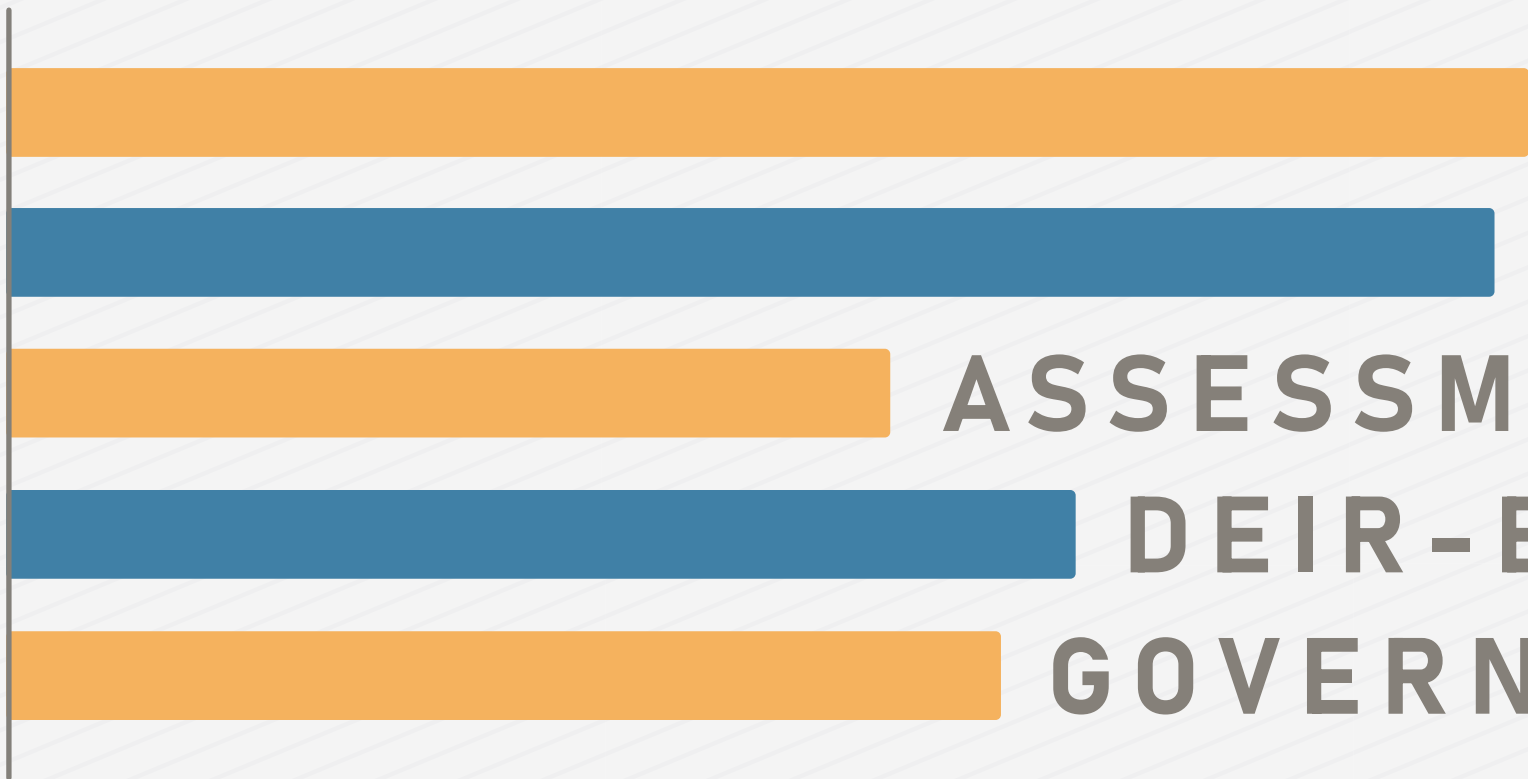




RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN DEIR-EZ-ZOR GOVERNORATE



For more detailed analysis and insights on Deir-ez-Zor, please contact MECS directly.



info@meconsulting.solutions

CONTENTS

Demographic Overview	3
Return Intentions	4
Household Income and Expenses	5
Access to Food	6
Water and Sanitation	7
Housing and Electricity	8
Landmines and Unexploded Ordnances	9
Priority Sectors of Support	10

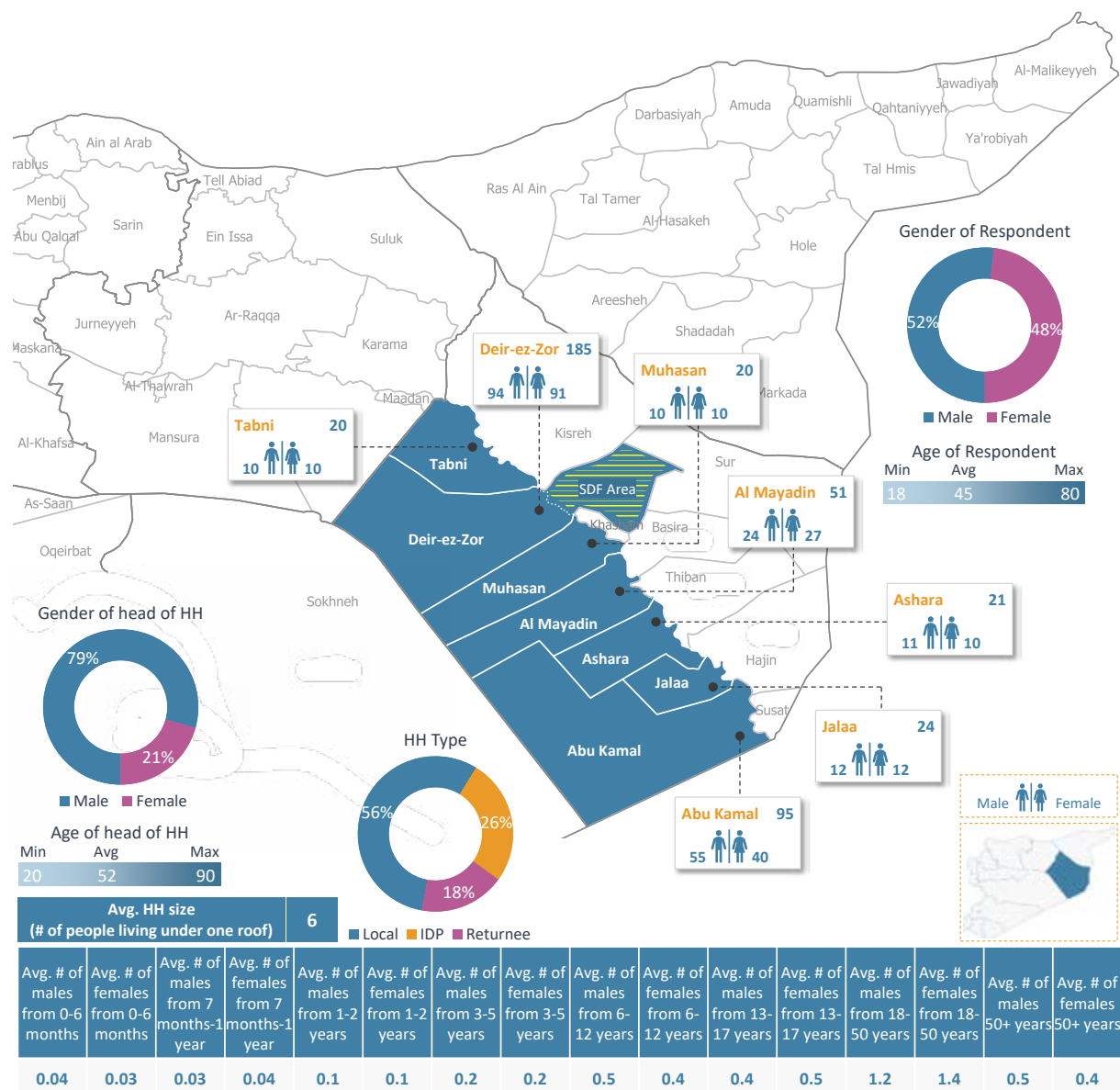
• DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

Approximately one month after the sudden collapse of the Assad regime in Syria on 8 December 2024, Middle East Consulting Solutions (MECS) conducted a **Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA)** covering **416 surveyed households across seven communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate**, namely Tabni (20), Deir-ez-Zor (185), Muhasan (20), Al-Mayadin (51), Ashara (21), Jalaa (24) and Abu Kamal (95).

These interviews, which were delivered in-person by MECS' field researchers, identified and engaged a randomly selected sample of respondents. This sampling plan reached an **evenly balanced mix of female (52%) and male (48%) respondents**, with an age range of between 18- and 80-years-old, and an average age of 45-years-old. According to respondents, 79% of surveyed households are headed by males while 21% are headed by females, with an age range of between 20- and 90-years-old, and an average age of 52-years-old.

In terms of residency status, **56% of surveyed households represent local host communities, 26% identify as IDP communities and 18% are from returnee communities**. Across these different groups, the size of households is largely similar, with an average of six people living under one roof. Additionally, the average number of females and males living within these households remains closely aligned across age groups, with the slightly lower average number of males between 18- and 50-years old featuring as a noticeable difference.

Figure 1 - Demographic Overview of Surveyed Sample in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate



● RETURN INTENTIONS

Following the events of December 2024, **29% of surveyed respondents in Deir-ez-Zor governorate report that they currently have family members displaced outside Syria**. Of these 119 respondents, three-quarters of them indicate that these family members intend to return. In both cases, while Deir-ez-Zor and Abu Kamal represent the overall majority of households reporting the presence and positive return intentions of family members outside Syria, the recorded proportion of households within Ashara and Al-Mayadin also remains high.

For the 25% of respondents revealing that their family members have no intention of returning to Syria, the main reasons cited include **ongoing instability**, with family members outside Syria also **either settled or responsible for providing financial assistance** to relatives inside Syria amid sluggish economic conditions.

Relatedly, **16% of surveyed households in Deir-ez-Zor governorate report that they currently have family members displaced inside Syria**. Over half of this figure is represented by households in Abu Kamal, with a high proportion of households within Al-Mayadin (25%) and Ashara (33%) also contributing almost one-third of responses to this overall figure.

Of the 66 respondents reporting that they have family members displaced inside Syria, **89% indicate that these family members intend to return**. For the seven respondents reporting that their family members have no intention of returning, the most cited reason is that their **relatives are married, settled and living with their partners elsewhere**, with better conditions and healthcare treatment also mentioned.

Figure 2 - Presence and Return Intentions of Family Members Outside Syria

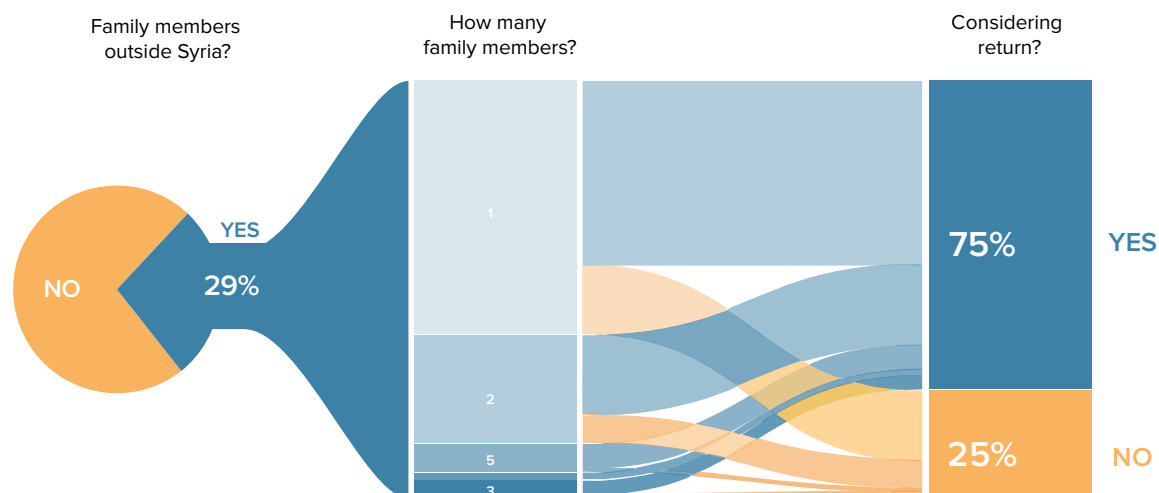
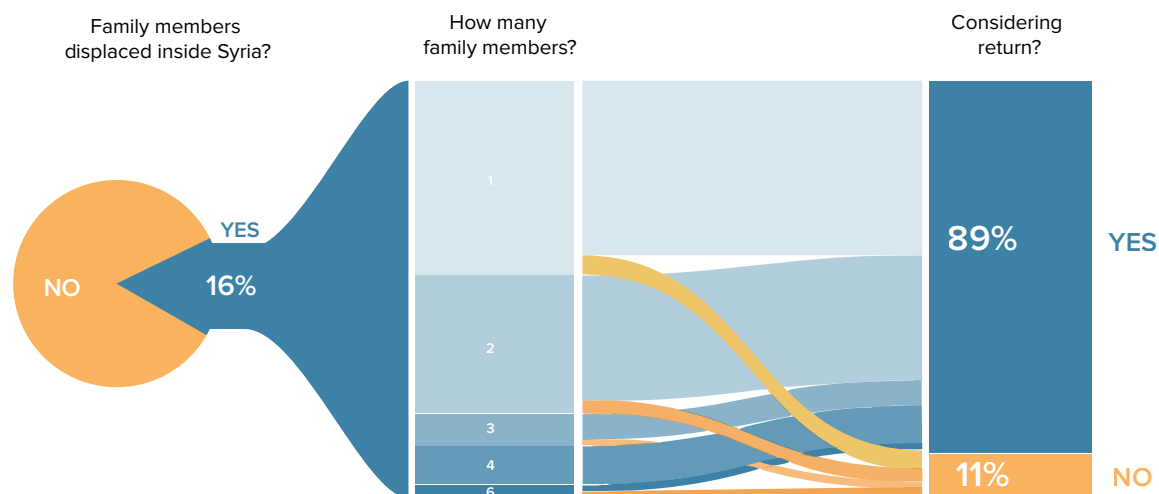


Figure 3 - Presence and Return Intentions of Family Members Inside Syria



HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENSES

There is a **wide variance in the average monthly incomes** of surveyed households across Deir-ez-Zor governorate. For example, households in Deir-ez-Zor report the highest average levels of monthly income (SYP 3.08m), whereas households in Ashara report the lowest (SYP 1.66m).

There are also **notable discrepancies in average monthly expenses** across surveyed households. For example, households in Jalaa report the highest average levels of monthly expenses (SYP 3.92m), while households in Muhasan report the lowest (SYP 2.50m).

Taken together, **Jalaa (SYP -1.68m) and Ashara (SYP -1.61m) represent the areas where households report the highest average levels of monthly deficits**. Albeit to a lesser extent, households in Abu Kamal (SYP -0.65m), Tabni (SYP -0.64m) and Al-Mayadin (SYP -0.39m) also report monthly deficits. In the remaining locations, surveyed households are reportedly breaking even (Muhasan) or recording a nominal surplus (Deir-ez-Zor).

According to responses collected across locations in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, **43% of household income is spent on "food"**. The other notable household expenses across locations include "non-food items" (14%), "public services" (10%), "health" (9%) and "education" (9%).

While **household expenses related to "non-food items", "health" and "water supply" are relatively consistent across locations, there are some imbalances**. In Muhasan, Tabni, Deir-ez-Zor and Ashara, households report allocating a higher proportion of income to "food" costs. By comparison, "food" features as the main cost for households in Abu Kamal, Al-Mayadin and Jalaa, but they also report spending a slightly higher proportion of income on "education" and "public services".

Figure 4 - Average Monthly Household Income, Expenses and Deficits Across Communities in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate

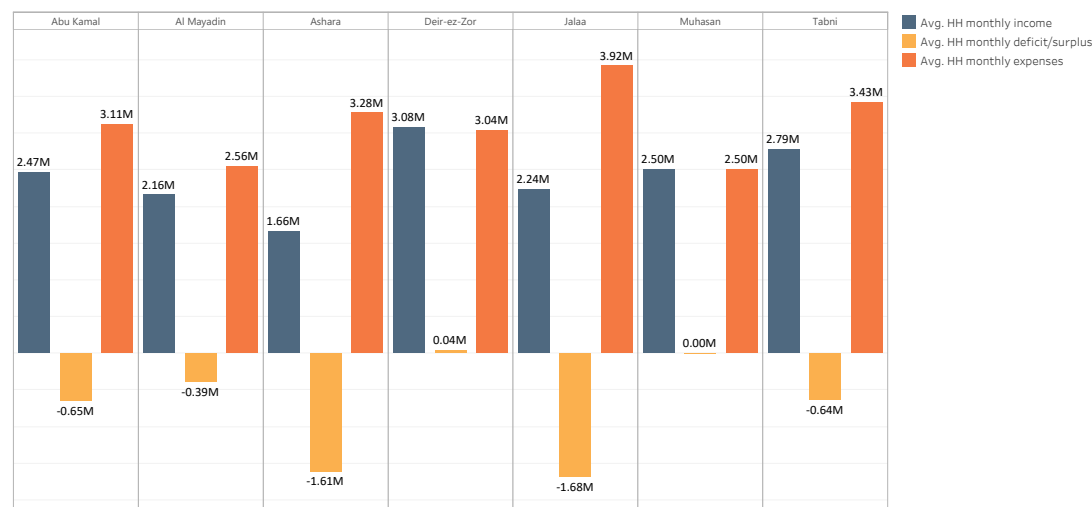


Figure 5 - Allocation and Spend of Household Income Across Communities in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate

	Abu Kamal	Al Mayadin	Ashara	Deir-ez-Zor	Jalaa	Muhasan	Tabni	Grand Total
Food	38%	30%	46%	48%	33%	59%	52%	43%
Non-food items	15%	16%	15%	12%	16%	12%	15%	14%
Health	10%	10%	9%	8%	8%	4%	8%	9%
Water supply	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%
Education	10%	12%	9%	7%	16%	5%	9%	9%
Transportation	3%	4%	2%	5%	3%	7%	5%	4%
Public services	14%	14%	10%	7%	14%	7%	6%	10%
Housing	2%	3%	2%	5%	1%	1%	0%	3%
Other expenses	3%	6%	1%	1%	3%	0%	0%	2%

● ACCESS TO FOOD

Across assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, **50% of surveyed households report either “good” (42%) or “full” (8%) access to food**. While responses reporting “good” access to food are particularly high in Jalaa, but also evident in Abu Kamal, Al-Mayadin and Muhasan, households in Deir-ez-Zor and Abu Kamal comprise the majority of those reporting “full” access to food.

Meanwhile, **40% of surveyed households report “fair” access to food**. These results range from very high (Tabni, Muhasan) to very low (Jalaa), with the remaining communities either slightly below (Deir-ez-Zor, Abu Kamal) or above (Ashara, Al-Mayadin) the reported average.

However, **10% of surveyed households report “limited” access to food**, with notably high responses in Ashara, followed by Al-Mayadin and Deir-ez-Zor. According to these households, the most prominent reason for the lack of access is their **insufficient income amid high food prices**.

Against the backdrop of challenges related to accessing or affording food, **364 surveyed households (87.5%) report that they have resorted to coping behaviours over the seven days prior to the interview**. More specifically, the four most applied coping behaviours across communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate range from “relying on less preferred or less expensive foods” (26.6%) and “limiting portion sizes at mealtimes” (20.4%) to “reducing the number of meals eaten in one day” (19.7%) and “purchasing food on credit” (18.8%). It is also worth noting that the proportion of households within communities that report applying coping behaviours, particularly Deir-ez-Zor (49.1%), but also Abu Kamal (20.7%) and Al-Mayadin (12%), correspond to those that comprise almost 80% of the total surveyed sample.

Figure 6 - Household Access to Food Across Communities in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate

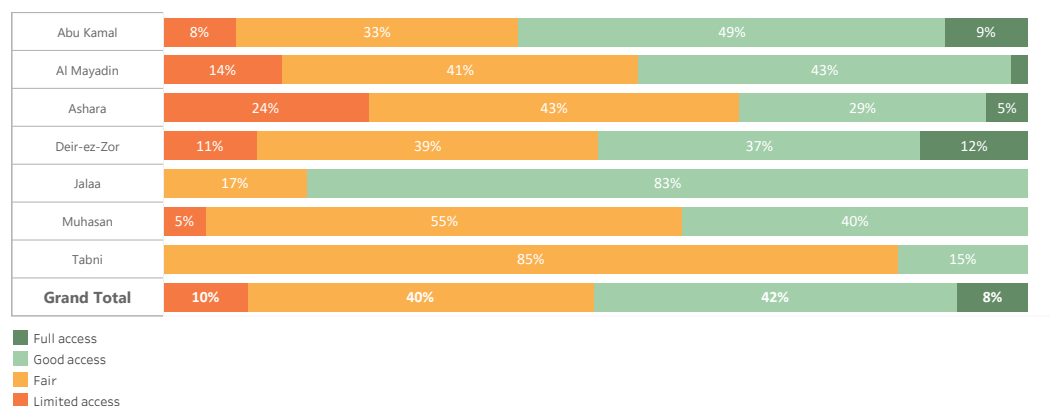


Figure 7 - Household Coping Behaviours Amid the Lack of Access to Food Across Communities in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate

	Abu Kamal	Al Mayadin	Ashara	Deir-ez-Zor	Jalaa	Muhasan	Tabni	Grand Total
Borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative	1.3%	0.8%	0.3%	2.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.6%	5.4%
Consume seed stock held for next season?	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	1.0%
Feed working members at the expense of non-working members	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
Gather wild food, hunt, or harvest immature crops?	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Limit portion size at mealtimes?	4.3%	2.3%	1.5%	9.7%	0.5%	0.7%	1.4%	20.4%
Purchase food on credit?	5.0%	1.7%	1.1%	7.5%	1.1%	1.3%	1.1%	18.8%
Reduce the number of meals eaten in a day	2.8%	2.0%	0.3%	13.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	19.7%
Rely on less preferred and less expensive foods?	4.9%	3.5%	1.2%	13.5%	0.6%	1.6%	1.3%	26.6%
Restrict consumption by adults for small children to eat	0.7%	0.6%	0.3%	1.9%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	3.9%
Send household members to eat elsewhere?	0.6%	0.3%	0.1%	0.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%
Skip entire days without eating	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Grand Total	20.7%	12.0%	5.3%	49.1%	3.3%	4.3%	5.2%	100.0%

● WATER AND SANITATION

Based on collected responses across Deir-ez-Zor governorate, **74% of surveyed households report either "good" (58%) or "full" (16%) access to safe drinking water**. Responses for "good" access to water are particularly high in Jalaa, Muhasan and Deir-ez-Zor, with Abu Kamal and Al-Mayadin reporting average levels of access. In terms of "full" access, results are most evident in Deir-ez-Zor, but also feature prominently in Abu Kamal and Al-Mayadin.

Of the **22% of surveyed households reporting "fair" access to safe drinking water**, responses in Tabni and Ashara are notably higher compared to other communities. Similarly, Tabni accounts for the highest proportion of households across all communities that report "limited" access to safe drinking water (4% overall).

As for the main source of drinking water, **67% of surveyed households report relying on the "main water station"**, 20% on "surface water (river)" and 11% on "water trucking". Some communities are almost completely dependent on the "main water station" (Muhasan, Al-Mayadin) or "surface water (river)" (Tabni), with others more balanced, namely combining the "main water station" with either "water trucking" (Ashara, Jalaa, Abu Kamal) or "surface water (river)" (Deir-ez-Zor).

Regarding sanitation, **90% of surveyed households report that they are connected to the "public sewage system"**. For 40% of these households, this system is either "partially" (39%) or "totally" (1%) destroyed, with households in Deir-ez-Zor, Abu Kamal, Ashara and Tabni particularly affected. Whereas the "river" is identified as the most common destination for sewage from the public network (66%), it also represents the main destination for the majority of surveyed households reportedly exposed to "partially destroyed" sewage systems.

Figure 8 - Household Access to Safe Drinking Water Across Communities in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate

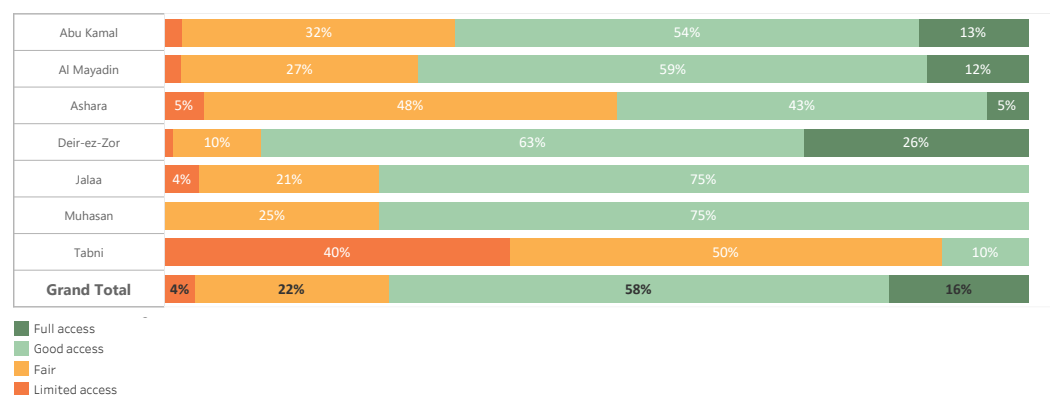
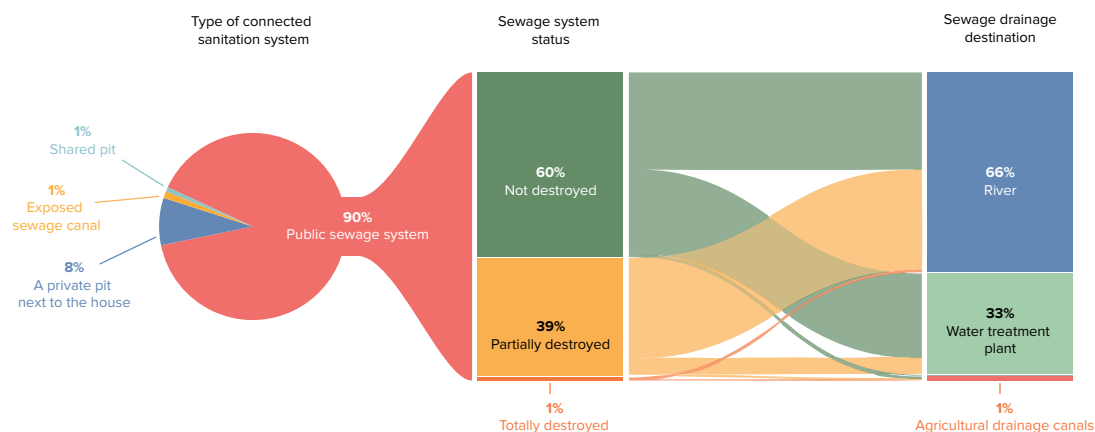


Figure 9 - Type and Status of Sanitation Systems Across Communities in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate



● HOUSING AND ELECTRICITY

According to responses from communities across Deir-ez-Zor governorate, **94% of surveyed households report that the population suffers from varying levels of housing shortages.** For 46% of households, these shortages apply to between 26% and 50% of the population, with responses particularly high in Tabni, Ashara and Deir-ez-Zor. Moreover, 18% of households report that shortages affect up to (14%) and over (4%) three-quarters of the population, with Muhasan and Deir-ez-Zor returning the highest level of responses. While 30% of households report that housing shortages impact less than one-quarter of the population, especially in Al-Mayadin, Abu Kamal and Jalaa, only 6% report no issues in the sector, with results mostly centred in Jalaa and Abu Kamal.

Shifting to the main sources of electricity across communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, **69% of surveyed households report that they access electricity from the main public network.** This source of electricity is particularly evident amongst households in Deir-ez-Zor, Muhasan and Tabni. Meanwhile, 22% of surveyed households report receiving electricity from "solar energy", with responses mostly concentrated amongst households in Ashara, followed by Jalaa and Al-Mayadin. Whereas 8% of surveyed households report accessing electricity from a "private network", with results exclusively located in Abu Kamal, only 1% of households, almost all of which are located in Al-Mayadin and Tabni, report the use of a "private generator".

Figure 10 - Status of Housing Across Communities in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate

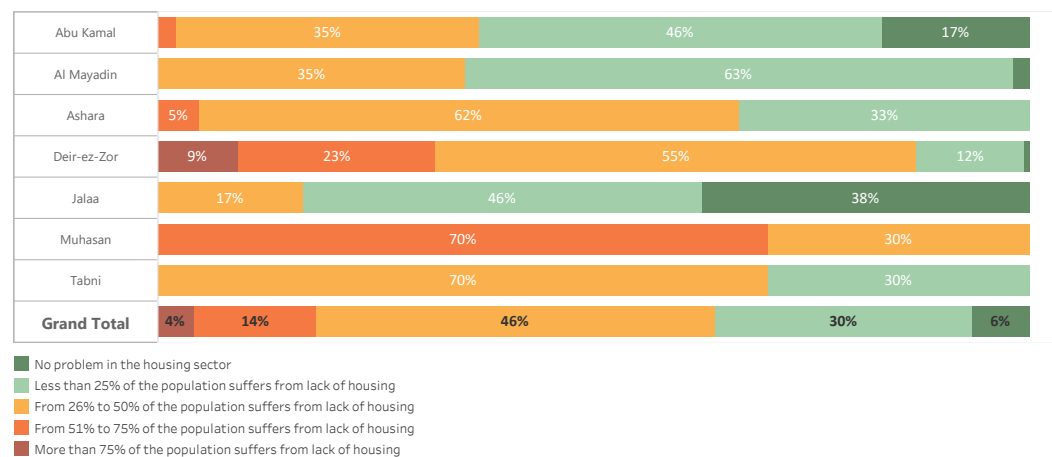
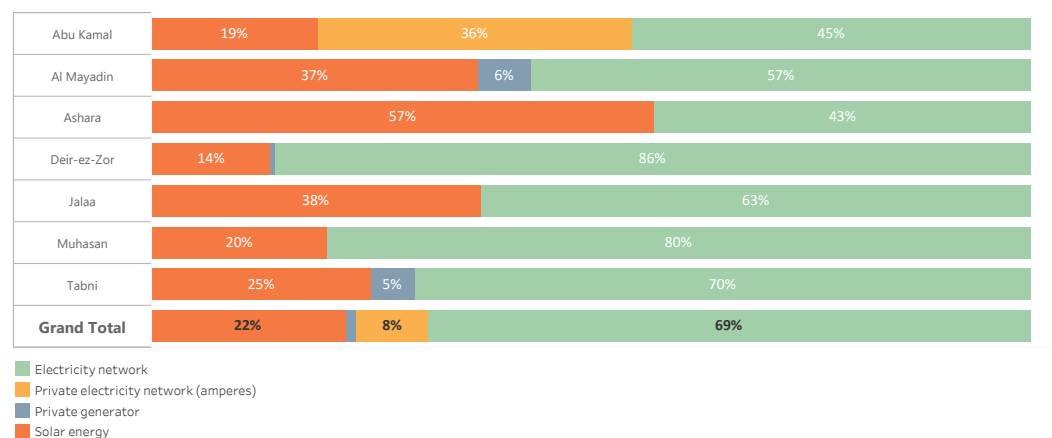


Figure 11 - Main Sources of Electricity Across Communities in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate

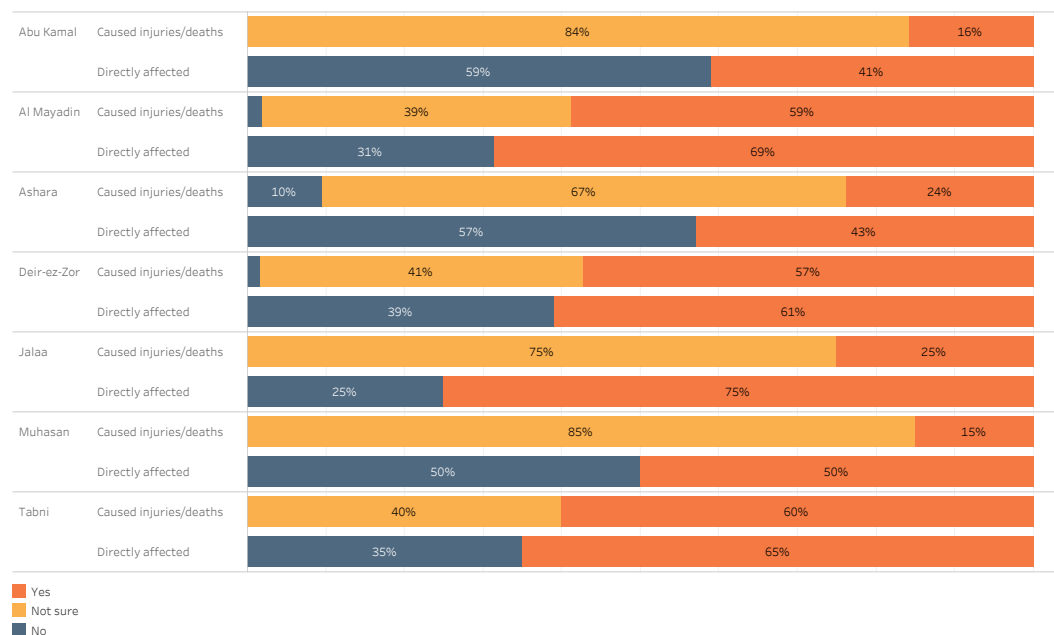


● LANDMINES AND UNEXPLODED ORDNANCES

Across assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, **57% of surveyed households report that they have been directly impacted by the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs)**. Considering the geographic location of assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, which are mostly situated along the Euphrates River, these areas have been directly and significantly subjected to multiple phases of conflict intensity, ranging from the rise and demise of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) to frontline tensions and activity from the Government of Syria (GoS) and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

More specifically, **the proportion of surveyed households reporting direct exposure to and the effects of landmines and UXOs is particularly high in Jalaa (75%), Al-Mayadin (69%), Tabni (65%) and Deir-ez-Zor (61%)**. However, responses from surveyed households also reveal that direct exposure does not always correspond to high levels of resulting casualties or fatalities. For example, while the proportions of surveyed households reporting both direct exposure to and resulting casualties from landmines and UXOs are relatively aligned in Deir-ez-Zor, Al-Mayadin and Tabni, this is not the case in Jalaa, where there is a notable discrepancy between the proportion of households reporting their direct exposure (75%) compared to the share of those reporting resulting casualties or fatalities (25%).

Figure 12 - Proximity and Impact of Landmines and UXOs Across Communities in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate



● PRIORITY SECTORS OF SUPPORT

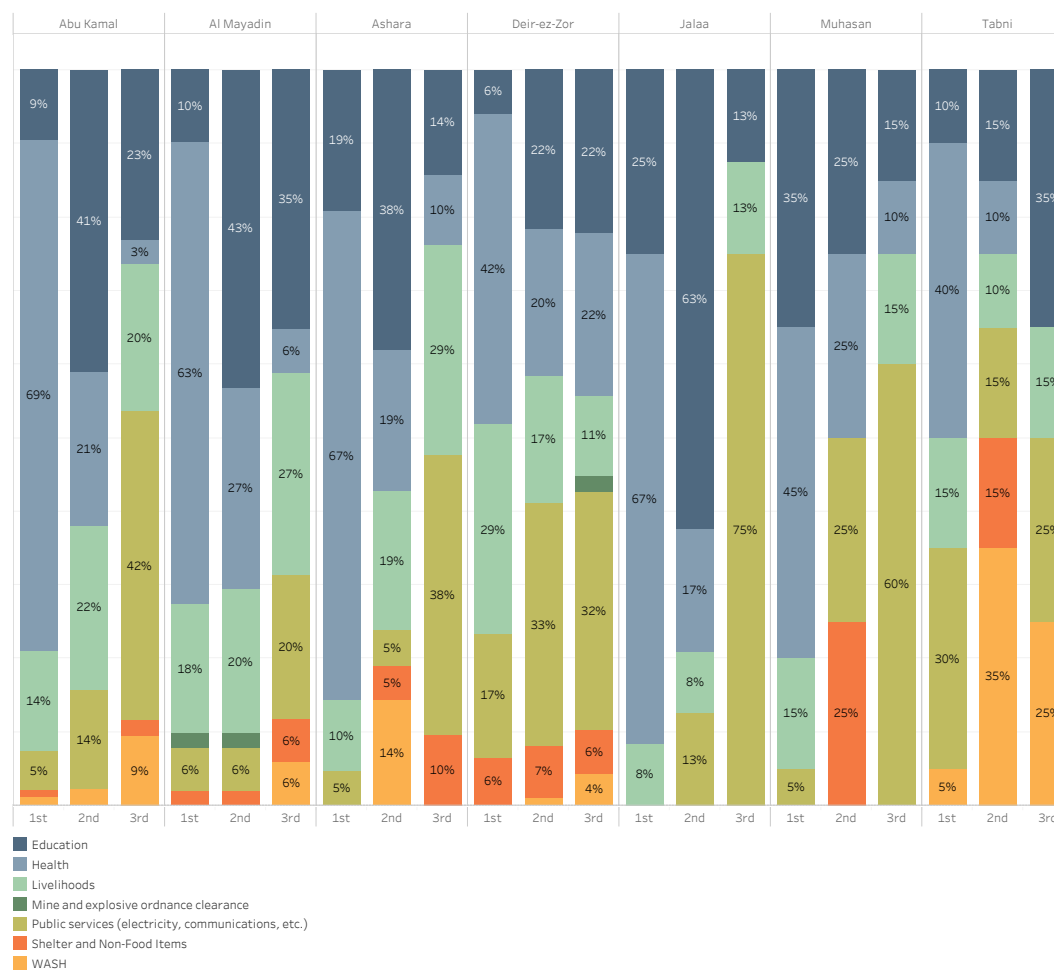
From the perspective of surveyed households in assessed communities across Deir-ez-Zor governorate, **there are several priority sectors of support required to effectively address their immediate needs.**

Albeit to varying degrees, **surveyed households select “health” as the first priority and most pressing area for support.** Although responses are particularly high (63% to 69%) in Abu Kamal, Al-Mayadin, Ashara and Jalaa, they remain high (40% to 45%) in Deir-ez-Zor, Muhasan and Tabni. Amongst the other notable first priority concerns expressed by surveyed households include “livelihoods”, especially in Abu Kamal, Al-Mayadin and Deir-ez-Zor, “education”, mostly in Ashara, Jalaa and Muhasan as well as “public services”, particularly in Deir-ez-Zor and Tabni.

As for the **second priority and pressing sector for support, responses highlighting “education” are noticeably high** in Abu Kamal, Al-Mayadin and Ashara (38% to 43%), but are highest in Jalaa (63%). Furthermore, support related to “education” is also evident (15% to 25%) amongst households in Deir-ez-Zor, Muhasan and Tabni. Amongst other notable second priority issues expressed by surveyed households include “livelihoods” and “health”, mostly in Abu Kamal, Al-Mayadin, Ashara and Deir-ez-Zor, as well as “public services”, especially in Deir-ez-Zor and Muhasan. It is also worth noting the specific importance of “shelter and NFIs” in Muhasan and “WASH” in Tabni as priority sectors for support.

Regarding the third priority and pressing sector for support, **“public services” features prominently for surveyed households**, with responses particularly high in Jalaa and Muhasan (60% to 75%), but also apparent across the other five communities (20% to 42%). Amongst other notable third priority sectors for support expressed by surveyed households include “livelihoods” and “education”.

Figure 13 - Priority Sectors of Support for Assessed Communities in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate



ABOUT MIDDLE EAST CONSULTING SOLUTIONS

Middle East Consulting Solutions (MECS) is a certified research company registered in Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Ukraine and Portugal. Established in 2016, MECS aims to be the leading company in the region for examining conflict challenges and providing practical solutions that facilitate social impact. MECS is committed to offering its partners across the humanitarian and development sectors with independently sourced data and locally driven insights towards outcomes that are grounded in, reach and benefit the communities they intend to serve. Over the last eight years, MECS has developed a proven track record in improving the quality of programme delivery, with services ranging from multi-sector assessments, conflict sensitivity analyses and thematic research to third party monitoring, project evaluations and perceptions studies. Through partnerships with 40 reputable organisations, MECS has successfully delivered over 200 service contacts across Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya, Turkey and Ukraine.



www.meconsulting.solutions



info@meconsulting.solutions