

CASH-BASED RESPONSE FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT IN NORTHERN SYRIA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
Acknowledgements	6
Introduction	7
Methodology	10
Study Design Overview	10
Desk Review	11
Household Survey	11
Key Informant Interviews	13
Data Analysis	13
Triangulation and Synthesis of Findings	13
Receipt of Humanitarian Assistance and Unmet Needs	15
Cash Feasibility Analysis	18
Acceptability	18
Infrastructure	21
Implementation Capacity	24
Value-for-Money	26
Risks	28
Flexibility/Responsiveness	29
Summary of Findings	32
Recommendations	35
References	36
Annexes	38

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the conflict in Syria extends beyond the fourth year, there is need for a widespread humanitarian response focused on urban areas that addresses humanitarian needs and promotes resilience for the 13.5 million people in need of protection and humanitarian assistance within Syria. The majority of humanitarian assistance both in Syria and worldwide is provided as in-kind aid. However, over the past decade a transition has occurred and cash-based approaches, including both conditional and unconditional cash-transfers and voucher programs, are becoming increasingly common. The cash-based response within Syria to date is small when compared to in-kind assistance and geographic coverage has been somewhat limited.

In light of the significant challenges to providing assistance in Syria, there is a need to shift the programming focus towards sourcing assistance from within Syria rather than importing in-kind assistance; interventions to support job creation, rehabilitation of industry and local markets; and empowering beneficiaries by responding to their feedback on which type of assistance is preferred. Provision of in-kind aid has been subject to security and logistical constraints, which challenges the assumption that it is the most secure and reliable modality in the Syrian context. While the majority of assistance to date has been delivered in-kind, there is widespread interest in expanding the use of cash-based approaches. Perhaps the most significant challenge in implementing cash-based responses in Syria is the lack of a functional electronic bank system or regulated cash transfer system for movement of funds into the country; currently many use informal “value transfer” or hawala networks to transfer funds, which poses legal and other concerns. This study explores the feasibility of cash-based assistance modalities and beneficiary preferences with the aim of informing future humanitarian assistance delivery strategies in Syria.

Population and Needs Profile

The household survey included 400 households from 20 communities in 10 districts of Aleppo, Idlib and Al-Hasakeh governorates. Overall, 64.5% of interviewed households reported receiving some form of humanitarian assistance in the four months preceding the assessment, with in-kind aid most commonly received. However, humanitarian assistance was generally perceived as insufficient, both in terms of the proportion of households receiving assistance and the amount of aid received. Nearly all households had unmet needs, and 74% of households identified food as the priority unmet need followed by non-food items (13%) and health needs (5%). A total of 58.8% of households reported borrowing and 34.5% reported sales of assets in the month preceding the survey, indicating that incomes are insufficient and households are struggling to meet basic needs.

Cash Feasibility Analysis

Acceptability

Cash assistance was acceptable to the greatest number of household survey respondents (94.2%), followed by in-kind assistance (91.0%) and vouchers (79.4%). Cash assistance was preferred most often for all sectors except education, for which there was a stronger preference for in-kind assistance. Community key informants also expressed preferences for cash assistance with cash identified as the preferred form of assistance for food assistance and non-food items. Consensus among community key informants was that vouchers are the least appealing form of assistance; although few participants had received voucher assistance, most expressed concerns that this modality would be least effective in meeting beneficiary needs because vendors will raise prices for items purchased with vouchers. NGO key informants and donor agency representatives also expressed a general preference for cash assistance, where operating conditions allow (e.g. markets are functioning), largely based on the assumption that beneficiaries prefer cash. Mixed experiences were reported with voucher programs. Local council members expressed a need for more consistent assistance programs with broader population coverage, community level programming to address both short term humanitarian needs and medium to long term recovery.

Infrastructure

For all assistance modalities, the process of moving currency and/or goods into Syria is a challenge. In all documents reviewed and interviews with key informants, only two options were identified as mechanisms for importing cash into Syria: physically carrying cash across the border or transferring cash via informal hawala networks which are common throughout the Middle East. The hawala system, which enables money transfers between individuals and organizations in different locations, relies on trust between brokers and tracking of debts and does not necessitate physical movement of cash, written contracts, or promissory

notes. While used on a widespread basis, there numerous risks and concerns associated with use of the hawala system, in particular unrecognized brokers, though the hawala system does appear to have the capacity to handle larger scale transfers if use was scaled up by the humanitarian community. When asked to identify preferred delivery mechanisms for each assistance modality, household survey respondents reported preferring to receive cash assistance through a local store/vendor (45.9%) or hawala agent (43.5%), and preferring paper-based vouchers (52.4%) over electronic vouchers (28.1%). Key informant interviews with community members, local councils and NGOs confirmed that markets were relatively functional in nearly all communities visited; however, increasing prices of food, water and fuel were raised as a major issue by all stakeholders.

Implementation Capacity

Documents reviewed for this assessment yielded limited information on the implementation capacity of organizations currently providing humanitarian assistance in Syria. Many key informants noted that to implement assistance programs effectively, humanitarian organizations need to have adequate capacity to ensure security and accountability in cash transfers as well as good understanding of feasible delivery mechanisms in the specific operating environment. Given the many risks associated with cash transfers, monitoring and accountability mechanisms are an essential component of program implementation. The Cash-Based Response Technical Working Group, established in 2014 to scale up cash-based intervention in Northern Syria, is a central component of efforts to improve coordination across sectors and organizations and ensure effective cash-based programming.

Value-for-Money

Although cost-effectiveness and value for money are increasingly considered as a major factors in the design and evaluation of humanitarian assistance programs, many other political and programmatic factors must be taken into account. There is no clear consensus among donors or other stakeholders as to how to evaluate trade-offs in value for money with other benefits (such as overall effectiveness, beneficiary preferences, and lower risks). With all assistance modalities, the continued devaluation of the Syrian pound, the increase in food and non-food item costs (especially fuel), unpredictability of security conditions and associated operating costs, and lack of functional banking systems within Syria create immense challenges in planning and budgeting for assistance programs. CBR-TWG member perceptions of which assistance modalities are the most costly in the current operating environment varied substantially, in large part due to whether the interview participants were thinking about the overall program budget for different types of assistance programs, factoring in gains/losses in the actual value of assistance provided to beneficiaries, or overall value for money.

For the most part, donor and NGO preferences for either cash or in-kind assistance seemed to be driven by their perceptions of intervention effectiveness in a given context. NGO key informants generally perceived cash transfers to be the most effective modality for assisting people in need within Syria. In-kind assistance programs were perceived by NGO and donor key informants as less effective than cash-transfers and voucher programs were perceived as the least effective modality within Syria, not because of a lack of functional markets or any objections to the way voucher programs are intended to work, but because of additional management and monitoring systems that must be put in place to process vouchers and prevent fraud or manipulation.

Risks

Despite the humanitarian community's repeated calls for the respect of International Humanitarian Law, protection of civilians, and unhindered and sustained humanitarian access, activities in countries with ongoing armed conflict carry security risks for both humanitarian agency staff and the populations they are working to assist. Given the widespread use of hawala networks for money transfer, the operational security risks associated with cash-based assistance in Syria are no greater than those associated with alternative forms of assistance. In fact, expanding cash-based assistance modalities may reduce risks associated with in-kind assistance. Recent assessments suggest that hawala networks have the capacity to transfer cash assistance on a broader scale, and have proven to be reliable in delivering funds where and when agreed. There are also strong indications that markets have the capacity to absorb this additional injection of cash. A more in-depth understanding of fiduciary risks and greater engagement with government authorities, regulatory bodies, and financial/legal experts on many levels is needed to mitigate and manage risks that assistance could be delayed or interrupted.

Flexibility/Responsiveness

Organizations must approach decisions about transfer modalities with flexibility and be able to adapt to locally-determined needs as they arise, demonstrating an ability to meet changes in beneficiary needs. While the need for rapid implementation is not as great in Syria as in rapid-onset crises, it is critical to appropriately plan, during the design stage of assistance programming, for a defined exit strategy to phase out cash assistance when programs end. The security situation throughout Syria poses immense challenges to both local and international actors providing in-kind assistance to beneficiaries. The possibility of more sustained, continuous assistance provided through cash transfer or voucher mechanisms negates many of the barriers faced in providing in-kind assistance. Consideration of the feasibility of cash as an alternative to other modalities relies on local-level assessment of capacity, available resources, political environment, beneficiary needs and preferences, and lessons learned from previous programs in those areas.

Recommendations

Key recommendations include shifting away from in-kind assistance towards a blended response of cash-based approaches with in-kind assistance provided where necessitated by sector-specific needs or contextual constraints. Cash-based approaches that should be considered include multi-purpose (unconditional) cash transfers and cash for work programming that can generate employment and livelihood opportunities, rehabilitate infrastructure and benefit local markets in addition to addressing immediate humanitarian needs. Vouchers should also be considered as part of a blended response however the advantages and disadvantages of this assistance modality should be weighed carefully. Community key informants expressed concerns that vouchers are highly susceptible to supply and price manipulation (although few had firsthand experience or evidence of this) and NGO key informants expressed concerns about program infrastructure and staff capacity required to effectively and efficiently implement voucher programming, as well as beneficiary preferences for other modalities.

Increasing responsiveness to beneficiary needs and harmonizing response efforts through multi-agency partnerships and supporting humanitarian agencies to strengthen organizational structures and include administrative, financial and logistics staff in all aspects of program planning, management and evaluation for cash-based assistance modalities will improve the humanitarian response. Development of technical guidance and establish standard operating procedures for engagement with money transfer agents across all humanitarian partners and appointment of a high-level interlocutor to facilitate dialogue related to fiduciary risk mitigation and management issues will improve the feasibility and acceptability of cash-based programming. Exploring the potential for creating common standards and mechanisms for conducting due diligence on money transfer agents and formalizing relationships with money transfer agents or networks as partners in humanitarian assistance programming are also required if cash transfer programming is to be achieved at scale in Syria.



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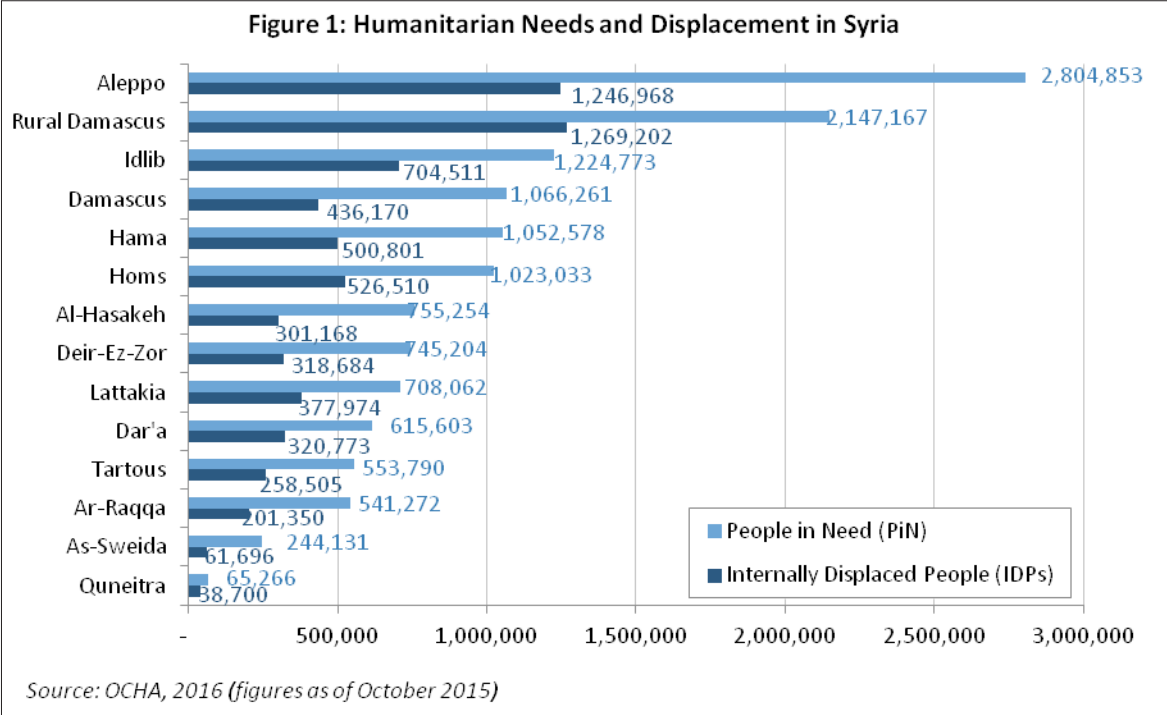
ACRONYMS

CALP	Cash Learning Partnership
CBR-TWG	Cash-Based Response Technical Working Group
CFW	Cash for Work
DfID	UK Department for International Development
FSL	Food security and livelihoods
IDP	Internally displaced people
IVTS	Informal Value Transfer System
PiN	People in need
NFI	Non-food items
NGO	Non-governmental organization
SYP	Syrian Pound
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNHCR.	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USD	US Dollar
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

INTRODUCTION

The conflict in Syria is the largest driver of displacement worldwide with an average of 50 Syrian families being displaced every hour of every day since 2011.¹ In addition to the 4.1 million Syrians who have left the country as refugees, there are more than 6.5 million people displaced within Syria.² While all governorates have been impacted, the most acutely affected areas include are those closest to conflict lines, besieged communities, areas with movement restrictions and limitations on the passage of goods, and locations with a high concentration of internally displaced people (IDPs). There are currently 13.5 million people in need (PiN) of protection and humanitarian assistance within Syria including 8.7 million people are unable to meet basic food needs and 4.5 million in hard to reach areas. Humanitarian needs are wide-ranging and include food assistance, emergency shelter and shelter rehabilitation, non-food items and access to essential services such as water and sanitation, health services and education. The number of PiN continues to increase, even as the total population in Syria declines, and the largest concentrations of PiNs and IDPs are in the governorates of Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Idlib (Figure 1).³

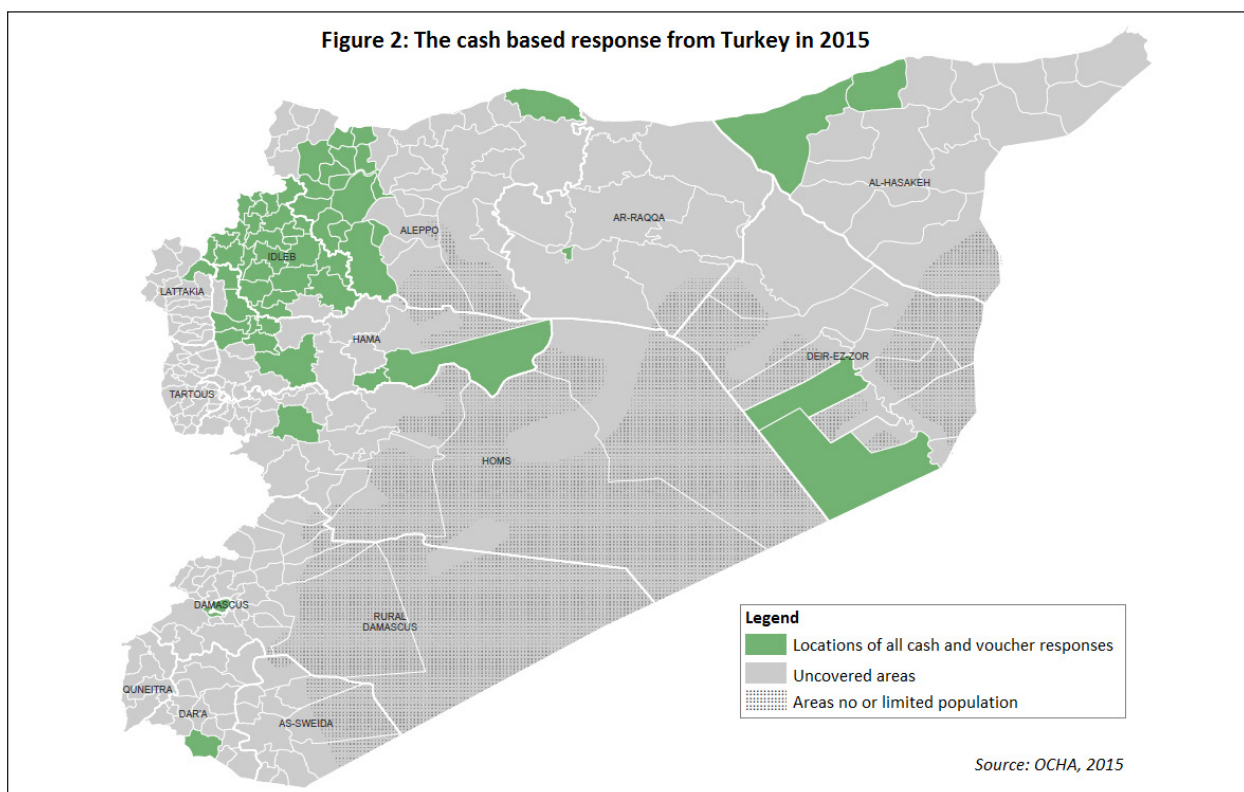
The humanitarian response in Syria is complex with assistance delivered from multiple hubs (inside Syria as well as from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq) and coordinated under the Whole of Syria Approach. Numerous UN agencies, international organizations, local and international NGOs are engaged in protection and humanitarian assistance efforts which will target 13.5 million people and require \$3.18 billion in funding in 2016 alone.⁴ There have been significant challenges in both the humanitarian and security situation since the beginning of the crisis; all parties to the conflict disrespect obligation under international humanitarian law which has resulted in widespread targeting of civilian infrastructure, an absence of protection for a large portion of the population and denial of humanitarian access. The humanitarian situation has worsened over the past year due to a number of factors including insecurity, economic and financial measures imposed on Syria, economic decline and diminished availability of basic services.⁴



The majority of humanitarian assistance both in Syria and worldwide is provided as in-kind aid. However, over the past decade a transition has occurred and cash-based approaches, including both conditional and unconditional cash-transfers and voucher programs, are becoming increasingly common. Within the humanitarian community there is growing consensus that cash transfers should be a part of response programming, however, questions remain as to how they can be provided efficiently and effectively at scale and if and how they will transform humanitarian response.⁵ Cash is not always appropriate—markets need to be functioning and able to absorb large injections of cash, and delivery strategies must be tailored to the context and account for security risks. If designed well, cash can be more effective, efficient and acceptable to

beneficiaries than in-kind assistance, though the efficiency of cash compared to in-kind assistance can vary significantly and depends on transportation and storage costs as well as local market prices.^{6,7,8} Estimates on global spending for humanitarian cash transfers are varied and range from US\$1.5 billion to \$692 million between 2009 and 2013 which corresponds to 1.5-3.5% of total humanitarian assistance spending, indicating the predominance of in-kind aid.^{9,10} However, cash assistance programming can be difficult to track and accurately estimate, thus it is likely that not all cash transfer programs are included in this estimate. In the Syria refugee response, cash transfers are prominent: the 2012-2015 budget for World Food Program vouchers was US\$2 billion and an estimated US\$134 million was spent on cash programming in Lebanon in 2014 alone.^{11,12}

The cash-based response within Syria to date is small when compared to in-kind assistance and geographic coverage has been somewhat limited (Figure 2). With respect to the cash-based response from Turkey, the most widespread cash assistance* in 2015 was in food security and livelihoods (FSL) for which voucher programs were implemented in 56 sub-districts and cash transfers in 12 districts. Voucher programs were implemented more consistently, with 31,400-175,300 beneficiaries monthly whereas cash transfers were provided in only three months to between 12,500 to 14,400 beneficiaries.



Cash programs for shelter and non-food items (NFIs) were implemented on a smaller scale with voucher assistance to 3,600 beneficiaries in seven sub-districts in two months of 2015 and cash assistance to 2,800 to 15,000 households in eight sub-districts in three months of 2015. In water and sanitation (WASH) the cash-based response included voucher programs in three sub-districts and cash assistance in seven sub-districts with 1,400 to 1,700 cash beneficiaries in three months and 3,400 voucher beneficiaries in one month. Voucher assistance for protection was provided in seven sub-districts to 700-2,900 beneficiaries in eight months of 2015.¹³

Perhaps the most significant challenge in implementing cash-based responses in Syria is the lack of a functional electronic banking system or regulated cash transfer system for movement of funds into the country. Currently many organizations use *hawala* or informal “value transfer” networks to transfer funds into Syria to reimburse voucher vendors, which poses legal and other concerns. Hawala systems are a type of Informal Value Transfer System (IVTS) common throughout the Middle East which are independent of formal financial institutions. Hawala brokers operate either in parallel to or in the absence of formal bank money transfer systems and may or may not be registered with local or national governments. Through hawala, an

*All figures on 2015 cash and voucher transfer in Syria are reported for a 10 month period from January to October 2015.

individual wishing to transfer money approaches and provides the transfer amount to a local hawala broker. This broker then contacts a hawala broker in the recipient's location, and through use of a security code, most often delivered by SMS or phone, the recipient can collect the transfer from the hawala broker in their location. This system relies on trust between brokers and tracking of debts amongst brokers and does not necessitate physical movement of cash, written contracts, or promissory notes. The importance to brokers' maintaining their standing and trust in their trading network provides assurance to those using the hawala system.^{14,15,16}

As the conflict in Syria extends beyond the fourth year, there is need for widespread response focused on urban areas that addresses humanitarian needs and promotes resilience.⁴ This includes sourcing assistance from within Syria rather than importing in-kind assistance; interventions to support job creation, rehabilitation of industry and local markets; and empowering beneficiaries with choice in what assistance they receive. Provision of in-kind aid has been subject to security and logistical constraints which challenges the assumption that it is the most secure and reliable modality in the Syrian context. While the majority of assistance to date has been delivered in-kind, interest in expanding the use of cash-based approaches is widespread. This study explores the feasibility of cash-based assistance modalities and beneficiary preferences with the aim of informing future humanitarian assistance delivery strategies in Syria.



METHODOLOGY

Study Design Overview

A mixed methods approach was used that included quantitative and qualitative primary data collection in addition to secondary analysis of relevant literature. Primary data collection consisted of a survey of 400 households and key informant interviews with both potential beneficiaries and local councils, which are community leadership structures, in accessible areas of Idlib, Aleppo and Al-Hasakeh governorates.

The geographic scope of the cash feasibility assessment was defined by a Security Assessment that was conducted by Global Communities in January 2016.¹⁷ The risk assessment was based on data from the last quarter of 2015 and included the governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Idlib and Al-Hasakeh. A two stage selection process was used where sub-districts were first evaluated for inclusion followed by communities within included sub-districts. A total of 18 sub-districts in 10 districts (out of a possible 24 districts) met inclusion criteria across the four governorates. Sub-districts had to meet the following criteria for inclusion in the study reference area:

- Accessible
- Not in a contested area
- More than 95% of the sub-district area is controlled by the same faction
- Not threatened to be under siege
- Decreasing number of incidents reported through October, November and December 2015

The second stage of selection was done at the community level and included a total of 478 communities within the 18 accessible sub-districts. The number of communities assessed within each sub-district varied widely, and in some cases there were eligible sub-districts where no communities were assessed. The total number of security incidents (including both airstrikes and artillery) was used to classify communities by risk level as follows:

Table 1: Overview of Accessible Locations

Included Districts (n=10)*	Included Sub-districts (n=18)	Included Communities by Risk Level					
		High	Moderate	Acceptable	Low	Total (N)	Total (%)
Aleppo (3 of 10 districts)		0	3	14	75	92	19.2%
Mount Simeon	Darrat Izzah	0	1	4	8	13	2.7%
Ayn al-Arab	Ayn al-Arab	0	0	3	53	56	11.7%
Atarib	Atarib	0	2	7	14	23	4.8%
Hama (1 of 4 districts)		2	3	1	0	6	1.3%
Mahardeh	Kafr Zita	2	3	1	0	6	1.3%
al-Hasakah (1 of 4 districts)		0	0	5	135	140	29.3%
al-Malikiyah	al-Malikiyah	0	0	3	91	94	19.7%
	al-Yarubiyah	0	0	2	44	46	9.6%
Idlib (5 of 5 districts)		5	7	62	166	240	50.2%
Ariha	Ariha	0	1	5	17	23	4.8%
	Ihsim	0	1	15	3	19	4.0%
Harem	al-Dana	0	0	5	9	14	2.9%
Idlib	Abu al-Duhur	0	0	3	22	25	5.2%
	Saraqib	1	0	4	19	24	5.0%
	Taftanaz	0	1	1	3	5	1.0%
	Maarat Misrin	0	0	2	13	15	3.1%
Jisr al-Shugur	Jisr al-Shugur	1	0	5	31	37	7.7%
Ma'arrat al-Nu'man	Ma'arrat al-Nu'man	0	1	12	19	32	6.7%
	Khan Shaykun	2	2	2	2	8	1.7%
	al-Tamanah	1	1	2	19	23	4.8%
	Hish	0	0	6	9	15	3.1%
*from 24 districts total	Total (n)	7	13	82	376	478	
	Total (%)	1.5%	2.7%	17.2%	78.7%		100.0%

- High Risk Level (n=6 communities): more than 50% of incidents in the 4th quarter of 2015.
- Moderate Risk Level (n=13 communities): 11-50% of incidents reported in the 4th quarter of 2015
- Acceptable Risk Level (n=82 communities): 1-10% of incidents reported in the 4th quarter of 2015
- Low Risk Level (n=377 communities): less than 1% of incidents reported in the 4th quarter of 2015

A summary of communities determined as accessible and eligible for inclusion in the assessment by sub-district and risk level is presented in Table 1. For the purposes of the cash feasibility assessment, high and moderate risk level communities were combined into a single category because they were relatively few in number (priority was given to high risk communities in site selection).

The cash feasibility assessment therefore included high/moderate risk (4.2% of included communities), acceptable risk (17.2% of included communities) and low risk (87.7% of included communities). This risk classification served as the primary basis for study design where feasibility of cash interventions by risk level was the priority research question. A stratified design was used to ensure good representation from communities of all risk levels. For both the household survey and community key informant interviews, approximately 25% of participants were from high/moderate risk communities, 25% from acceptable risk communities and 50% from low risk communities. While the stratified design is useful for comparing across different types of locations, it is important to note that the sample is not representative of the population in the four included governorates or in the accessible areas that serve as the assessment frame of reference.

Camps and collective shelters were excluded from primary data collection due to the fact that, while perceived as among the more vulnerable populations in Syria, they represent only a small proportion of the population (less than 1% of affected population and returnees and 10% of IDPs).¹⁸ Because of the small survey sample size and the fact that findings from these settings would not be generalizable to programming outside of camps and formal settlements, they were not included in the assessment.

Desk Review

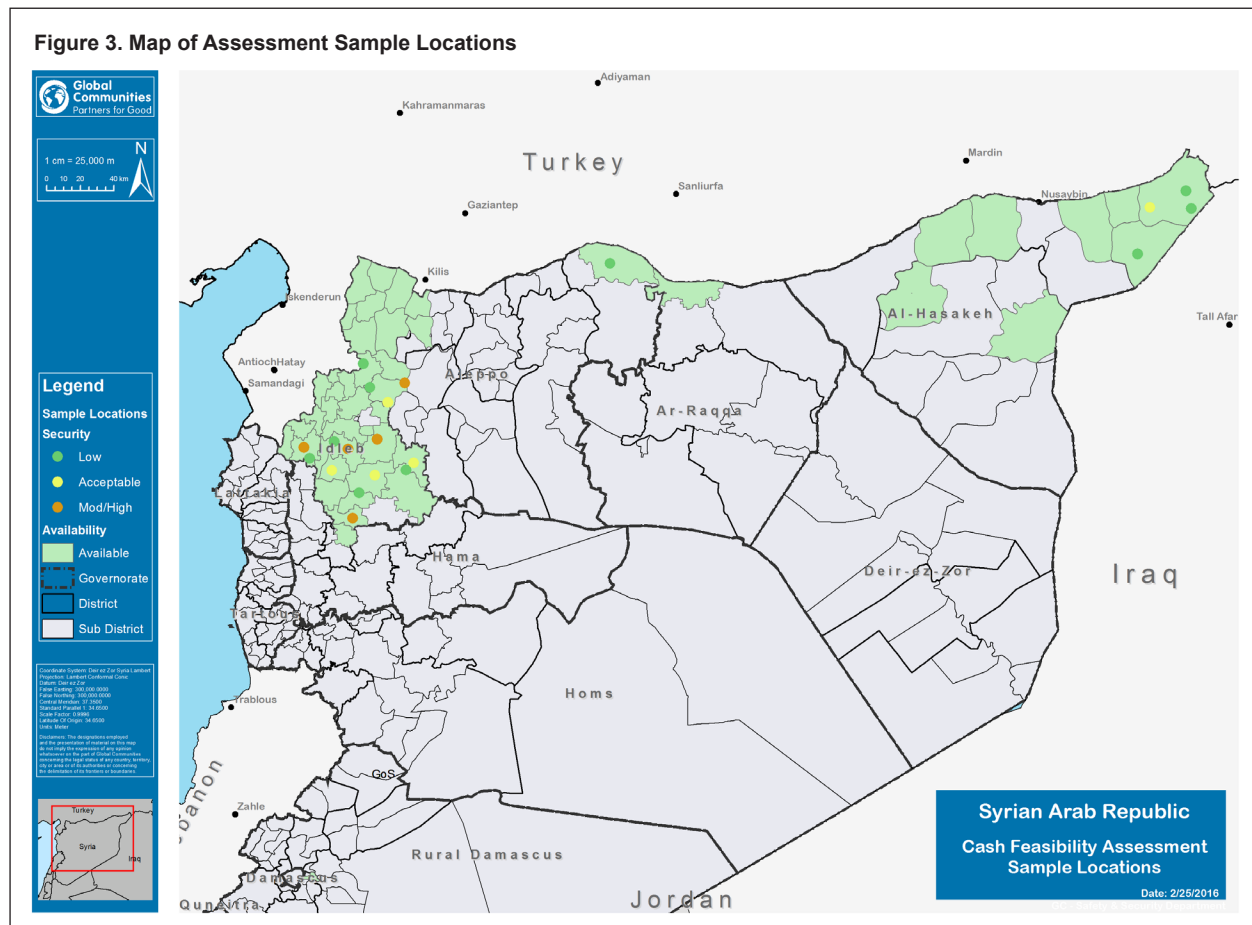
The desk review included information on current humanitarian assistance and transfer modalities in Syria with the aim of contextualizing primary data findings and informing recommendations. Given the volatile nature of the conflict, particularly in recent months, the desk review was limited to information published from January 2015 through January 2016. A comprehensive review of publically available information on humanitarian assistance programs and activities in Syria was conducted with a focus on assessment and evaluation reports for all sectors. Additional key documents such as working group synthesis reports and a number of documents identified by Global Communities were also included for a more robust assessment of programs and activities. Documents relevant to regional cash-based response for Syrian refugees were screened to further contextualize findings; however, given the dramatic differences in providing cash assistance in neighboring countries as compared to in Syria, the extent to which these documents were referenced was limited. In addition to grey literature, peer-reviewed literature was also searched to identify research on assistance modalities, programming, and context in Syria since the start of 2015; however, no articles relevant to this study were found. Following the initial search, documents were assessed to identify those containing information about the cash-based response topic areas for this assessment. A matrix mapping each of the relevant documents to topic areas (acceptability, infrastructure, implementation capacity, value for money, risk, flexibility/responsiveness) is provided in Annex 1. Findings from the literature review are presented along with primary data by topic area.

Household Survey

A total of 20 communities were visited in the household survey and within each 20 households were interviewed (total = 400 households). A stratified sample design was used to enable comparison of areas with different security risk levels because this was perceived as a major determinant of feasibility and preferences for cash transfers. Furthermore, because many areas were not accessible, oversampling in higher and more moderate risk areas was thought to be likely to yield findings that are more applicable in higher risk locations outside the scope of the assessment area. Sampled communities are presented in Figure 3 and a detailed list of sampled locations is presented in Annex 2.

A multi-stage allocation process was used. First clusters were assigned by risk level as follows: high risk and moderate risk areas, 25%; acceptable risk areas, 25%; and low risk areas, 50%. Next clusters were allocated within each risk category using probability proportional to size sampling, (where sub-districts with more communities were more likely to be sampled). Cluster allocation was done first at the governorate lev-

el, then at the district level and finally at the sub-district level. One community from within each sub-district was randomly selected as survey location. In addition, two alternate locations within the same sub-district (or an adjacent sub-district if no other communities in the originally sampled sub-district fell into the same risk category) were selected in case the sampled location could not be included due to security concerns. Two locations were replaced due to inaccessibility; only one sub-district in the governorate of Hama was included in the list of accessible areas for the assessment, however, the team was not able to reach this area, thus the final coverage area of the assessment included Idlib, Aleppo and Al-Hasakeh.



Within each selected community, teams were instructed to visit two different locations within the community and interview ten households in each location. The starting location for interviewing was determined by segmentation, where the community was divided into four quadrants and two quadrants opposite from one another randomly selected. The team then located the center of the quadrant, randomly selected a direction and approached the nearest dwelling in that direction for an interview. Dwellings included any occupied space, such as a house, apartment, vacant building, construction site or temporary shelter. Replacement sampling was used, meaning that if nobody was at home and the household couldn't be located in a very short time period, then another household was identified in its place. No more than two households per apartment building were sampled to ensure diversity.

Only adult respondents were eligible to participate in the survey, and interviewers were instructed to prioritize the household head and/or the primary caretaker of children in each household. Prior to commencing the interview, a brief explanation of the survey and its purpose was provided and oral informed consent was obtained. Participation was anonymous; names and other unique identifying information were not collected in order to ensure confidentiality. Interviewers were Syrian nationals and were recruited in each governorate; all interviewers received training prior to conducting the survey and were provided with a field guide to serve as a reference while conducting interviews.

The questionnaire was developed based on the terms of reference for the assessment; where possible questions from other household surveys with Syrians (either in Syria or refugees) were used or adapted. The questionnaire was developed in English and translated to Arabic; the translation was reviewed by mul-

multiple team members before a consensus version was finalized. The survey was conducted on smart phones using Magpi, a mobile data platform by Datadyne LLC (Washington, DC).

Key Informant Interviews

Group and individual key informant interviews were conducted to better understand the perspectives and experiences of donors, Syrian and international non-government organizations (NGOs), local councils which are community leadership structures, and community members (including both current beneficiaries and those who had not received assistance). In addition, several key informant interviews were conducted with money traders in the Hawala system, wholesalers of goods in Syria (including humanitarian assistance) and researchers who had recently conducted work on relevant topics within Syria. A total of 91 key informants in Turkey and Syria were interviewed during the assessment. A summary of key informant interviews by type is presented below:

- **NGOs:** 25 key informants total, including 15 key informants from 9 international NGOs (iNGOs) involved in the cross-border response and 10 key informants from 5 local NGOs that work with iNGOs to deliver assistance in Syria
- **Community members:** 33 key informants from 7 communities in 6 districts in 4 governorates (3 groups of women, 2 groups of men and 2 mixed groups; 2 high/moderate risk communities, 3 acceptable risk communities, 2 low risk communities)
- **Local Councils:** 25 key informants from 5 communities in 5 districts in 3 governorates (mostly men; 1 high/moderate risk community, 2 acceptable risk communities, 2 low risk communities)
- **Others:** 8 key informants total, including 2 donors, 2 researchers, 3 money transfer agents (Idlib and Al-Hasakeh) and 1 wholesaler (Al-Hasakeh)

The locations of key informant interviews conducted in Syria is presented in Annex 2; to improve logistical efficiency and the ability to triangulate findings, key informant interviews were conducted in the same communities as where the household survey was conducted. In general, all community and local council interviews conducted in Syria were group interviews; with one exception (iNGO staff), the remainder of the interviews were with individual key informants. All key informant interviews were conducted in person by team members fluent in Arabic and English that were familiar with cross-border humanitarian assistance. One team member conducted the interview and another took notes; interviews were conducted in the language of preference of the respondent(s). Following each interview, detailed notes were written up and the both the interviewer and note taker reached consensus on the final version of the notes.

Data Analysis

Upon completion of the household survey, data files were exported, merged and cleaned. Data was analyzed using the Stata 13 software package (College Station, TX). The Stata 'svy' command was used to account for the cluster survey design so that standard errors of the point estimates were adjusted for survey design effects. Descriptive statistics presented in the report include frequencies, means, medians, confidence intervals and ranges for the all households surveyed. Cross tabulations with statistical tests (chi-square or ANOVA) for comparison by risk level are included in Annex 4, though relatively few significant differences by risk level were observed. Analysis of variables by governorate was conducted but is not presented for all variables because sampled areas are representative of the governorate and analysis by risk level was considered to be more useful for applying results to non-sampled areas throughout Syria. However, statistically significant differences in many indicators for living conditions and beneficiary preferences were observed by governorate; a summary of key findings of interest by governorate is also included in Annex 4. Monetary indicators, mostly related to household economic measures, are presented to the nearest Syria Pound (SYP) or U.S. Dollar (USD) and were converted using an exchange rate of 188.8 SYP/USD which was the current international exchange rate.¹⁹ This rate was preferred to exchange rates reported within Syria because of the instability across time and place of exchange rates reported in market monitoring; furthermore values using standard exchange rates are more readily comparable to figures reported from other sources.

Individual and group key informant interview data were analyzed using content analysis methods with the aim of identifying key themes, consensus viewpoints and viewpoints of a minority (within groups) or that were unique to certain contexts or locations.

Triangulation and Synthesis of Findings

Household survey and key informant interview data were analyzed separately and then compared to triangulate information from beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, implementing partners and stakeholders at multiple levels. Results were then synthesized using a Balanced Scorecard approach to consolidate findings

from multiple perspectives into an easily usable tool for decision-makers to understand the acceptability, infrastructure, implementation capacity, value-for-money, risks, and potential benefits of expanding cash-based humanitarian assistance initiatives in northern Syria. Finally, the extent to which findings related to each feasibility metric varied by community risk level and governorate was documented based on household survey, key informant interview and desk review findings.



RECEIPT OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND UNMET NEEDS

A population profile and overview of survey respondents' needs is provided in Annex 3 followed by detailed household survey findings in Annex 4. Key findings from household survey results are also provided in the summary at the end of the report to contextualize cash feasibility results.

Overall, 64.5% of households reported receiving some form of humanitarian assistance during the four month period from October 2015 through January 2016 (Table 2). In-kind assistance was most common, with 59.2% of households receiving food items and 21.8% receiving other in-kind assistance (most commonly cooking supplies, clothes and medicines). Food vouchers were received by 6.0% of households and unrestricted vouchers by 2.5% of households; unrestricted cash assistance was received by only one household. The average value of vouchers was approximately US\$100 per transfer for both food and unrestricted vouchers. Most households received one or two distributions over the four month period. There were no significant differences in receipt of assistance by risk level or governorate.

There was little to no sale of humanitarian assistance reported. Overall, 90.3% of households receiving in-kind food assistance and 91.3% of households receiving food vouchers reported never selling assistance. Among households that sold food items (n=23), the main reasons for selling assistance were to pay for utilities (39.1%), to buy other foods (34.8%) and to pay debts (21.7%). Among households that sold food vouchers (n=2), reasons for selling aid were to pay for utilities and because this type of assistance was not needed.

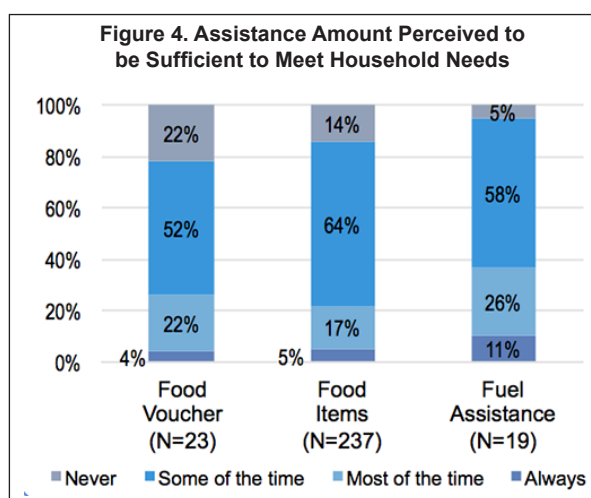
Table 2: Humanitarian Assistance Received (October 2015 to January 2016)

	Households Reporting Receipt			Number of times received			Average Value (USD)		
	N	%	[95% CI]	Median	Mean	[95% CI]	Median	Mean	[95% CI]
In-Kind Food Assistance	237	59.2%	[51.9,66.2]	2	2.1	[1.8,2.3]	---	---	---
Other In-Kind Assistance	87	21.8%	[14.6,31.1]	---	--	---	---	--	---
Food Vouchers	24	6.0%	[2.1,16.3]	1	1.6	[1.4,1.9]	85	99.3	[76.4,122.1]
Fuel Assistance	20	5.0%	[1.6,15.0]	1	1.1	[0.9,1.2]			
Unrestricted Vouchers	10	2.5%	[0.5,12.5]	2	1.6	[1.3,1.9]	85	102.8	[81.0,124.5]
Rent Assistance	2	0.5%	[0.1,2.1]	0.5	0.5	[-0.3,1.3]	103	103.3	[-21.4,227.9]
Cash Assistance	1	0.2%	[0.0,2.0]	1	1.0	[1.0,1.0]	185	185.4	[185.4,185.4]

Among surveyed households that received assistance, the majority indicated that assistance was not sufficient to meet household needs (Figure 4). Only 22% of those that received in-kind food assistance and 26% of those that received voucher assistance perceived the quantity as sufficient always or most of the time.

In key informant interviews with community members and local councils, in-kind food assistance was the most commonly discussed form of humanitarian assistance, which is consistent with the higher levels of receipt reported in the household survey. Key informant interview participants from some low and acceptable risk communities also mentioned awareness of vouchers and cash transfers being provided for food assistance. In other communities, local council members mentioned programs providing non-food items, one-time distributions of vouchers for electric stoves and/or diesel, and piecemeal support for health services and education.

Key informant interviews also illuminated a number of challenges in providing humanitarian assistance, and resulting tensions that strained relations between community members. Across all communities, participants noted that assistance programs target the most vulnerable households (IDPs, widows, households with many children, and the elderly), but do not have sufficient resources to cover all households that

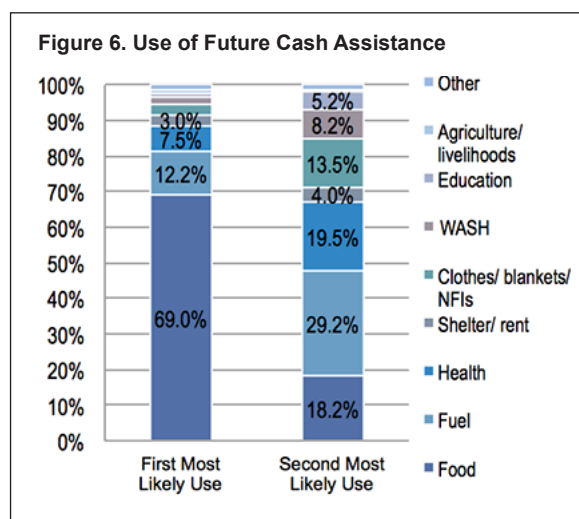
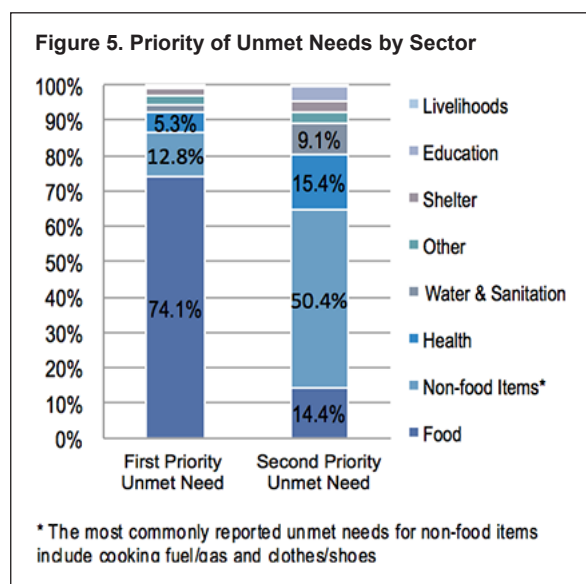


meet inclusion criteria, or to assist other poor households in need of assistance. Local council members explained how strict selection criteria and short distribution timeframes can hinder programs from reaching some of the most vulnerable households, and that perceived inequities can strain relations within the community. In low and acceptable risk areas, community members expressed similar concerns that many other households are also in desperate need of humanitarian assistance and that even though recipients of humanitarian assistance often share food and non-food items with other families, assisting only a select number of households causes tension within the community. In high risk areas, community members also highlighted tensions related to distribution of humanitarian assistance, but related these to 1) misperceptions that households with a steady income source (such as government employment) are relatively “rich” and not in need of assistance, and 2) direction of a majority of humanitarian assistance to friends and relatives of those involved in distributions. Some local council members in low and acceptable risk areas suggested that tensions could be avoided if assistance programs were designed to benefit the whole community rather than certain households.

During discussions about preferred assistance modalities (in-kind, voucher, cash), some group interview participants mentioned selling of in-kind assistance as a means of meeting basic household needs. In all interviews where this was mentioned, selling of in-kind assistance (either food or, less commonly, non-food items) was mentioned as a way for households to buy more needed items. In most cases, the reasons for selling assistance had to do with composition of food baskets received; community members mentioned the need, at times, to sell items to purchase more needed food items not included in assistance packages. There were no patterns in the mention of reselling in-kind assistance by governorate or risk-level, or indications this was a widespread practice or income generating opportunity.

While more than half (64.5%) of surveyed households received assistance between October 2015 and January 2016, almost all households (99.5%) reported unmet needs. Unmet needs are summarized in Figure 5 and presented in detail in Annex 4. The highest priority unmet needs were food (74.1%), non-food items (12.8%), health (5.3%) and water and sanitation (2.5%). Second priority unmet needs were non-food items (50.4%), food (14.4%), health (15.4%) and water and sanitation (9.1%). There were no significant differences in unmet needs by risk level or governorate. Household survey findings strongly suggest that food assistance, followed by non-food items, are relatively universal unmet needs.

Unmet needs listed and ranked by key informant interview participants confirmed and reinforced household survey findings, where food was consistently identified as the greatest expense or most pressing need for households in their community. Other unmet needs varied from one community to the next, but no clear patterns emerged when comparing findings by risk level or governorate. These needs included water, fuel, medicines and health services, education, shelter, employment opportunities and support for small businesses.



Household survey respondents most often reported that future cash assistance would most likely be spent on food (69.0%) with a much smaller proportion reporting priority spending on fuel (12.2%) and health (7.5%). The second most likely use of future cash assistance was more varied, but the most commonly reported spending areas were also fuel (29.2%), health (19.5%), and food (18.2%). Timing of interviews during winter likely influenced respondents' priorities; fuel may be a lower priority in warmer months.

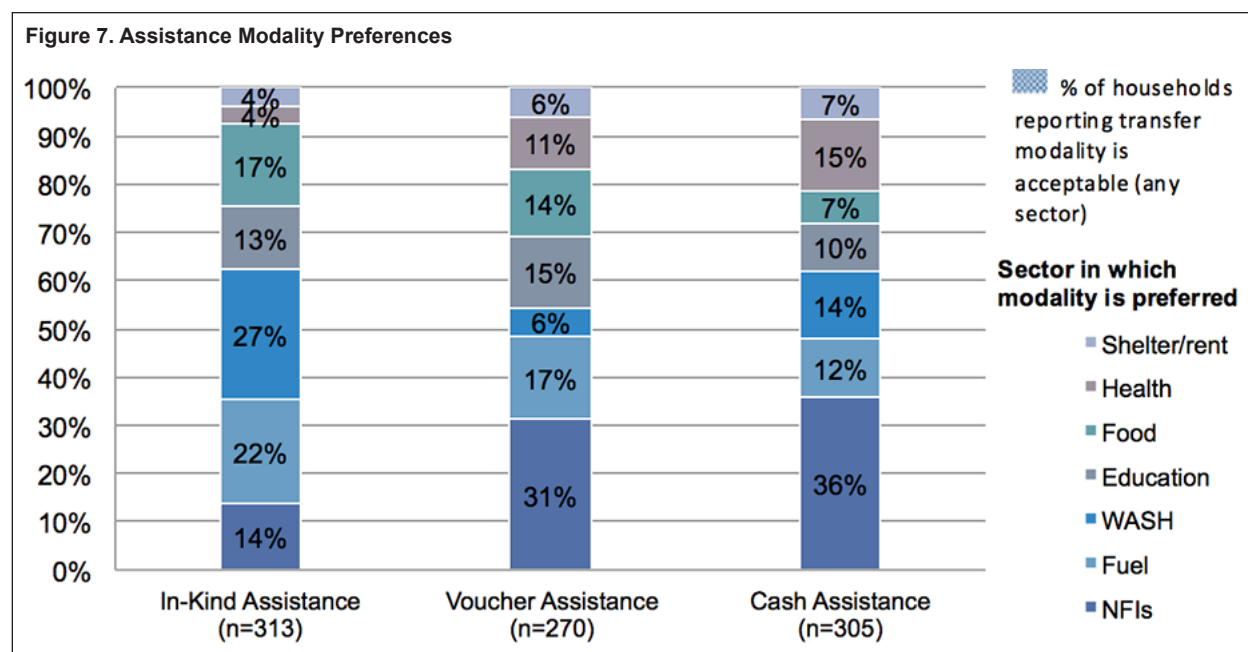


CASH FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

Acceptability

Beneficiary acceptance & preferences

Household survey participants were asked to identify specific types of assistance they would prefer to receive as in-kind goods or services, vouchers and cash transfers. Overall, cash assistance was preferred by the greatest number of beneficiaries (94.2%), followed by in-kind assistance (91.0%) and vouchers (79.4%) (Figure 7). Among those that expressed a preference for cash assistance, the sectors for which cash assistance was most commonly preferred were non-food items (36.1%), health (14.8%), WASH (14.1%), and fuel (11.8%). Among those that expressed a preference for voucher assistance, the most common sector reported was also non-food items (31.1%), followed by fuel (17.4%), education (14.8%), and food (13.7%). In-kind assistance preferences were most often reported for WASH (26.8%), fuel (21.7%), and food (16.9%).



When analyzed by sector, cash assistance was preferred most often for all sectors except WASH, for which respondents preferred in-kind assistance. There were no significant differences in assistance modality preference by risk level; however, statistically significant differences in modality preference by governorate were observed in all sectors except shelter/rent (Figure 8, following page). Reported preferences in al-Hasakeh most often differed from those reported by households in Aleppo and Idlib. Vouchers were preferred for food assistance by a significantly greater proportion of respondents in al-Hasakeh (41.7%) than in Aleppo (29.8%) and Idlib (15.1%) where in-kind and cash food assistance were preferred, respectively ($p=0.006$). Health assistance was also preferred through in-kind aid in both Aleppo (37.2%), whereas cash was the preferred modality for health assistance in al-Hasakeh (64.9%) and in Idlib (though for a significantly smaller proportion) (41.5%) ($p=0.005$). Modality preferences for education assistance also significantly differed in al-Hasakeh as compared to Aleppo and Idlib with respondents in al-Hasakeh preferring to receive education assistance through vouchers (64.3%) and respondents in Aleppo and Idlib preferring in-kind (53.7% and 48.2%, respectively) ($p<0.001$). Contrary to other sectors and despite relatively high preferences for in-kind WASH assistance in all governorates, a significantly greater proportion of respondents in al-Hasakeh preferred in-kind WASH assistance (87.5%) than in Aleppo and Idlib (61.1% and 40.2%, respectively) ($p=0.023$). Cash assistance was preferred for non-food items in both Aleppo and Idlib (47.6% and 52.1%, respectively) whereas vouchers were preferred for NFIs in al-Hassakeh (46.7%) ($p=0.019$).

Preferences expressed by participants in key informant interviews with community members varied more than household survey findings. Participants in acceptable and moderate/high risk communities expressed pref-

Figure 8. Preferred Assistance Modality by Sector



ferences for cash assistance. For food assistance, cash was preferred because in-kind food baskets may not provide the quantity or quality of items desired. Cash was also identified as the preferred form of assistance for non-food items and education support in settings where higher education opportunities are available.

Some participants in each group key informant interview either noted a preference for cash assistance in USD or expressed preferences for in-kind assistance over cash (assuming cash assistance would be in local currency) because of the declining value of the Syrian pound. In one rural, low risk community, interview participants voiced a preference for in-kind assistance, explaining that there are only two shops in the village, which have very limited stock, the declining value of the Syrian pound, and because the village has no hawala offices or transfer mechanisms which meant that residents would have to travel to other villages (incurring large transport costs) to send or receive money transfers. Consensus among key informant interviews with community members with participants across all risk levels was that vouchers are the least appealing form of assistance, because vendors will raise prices for items purchased with vouchers. However, experience with vouchers was relatively limited and experience shows that shop monitoring can prevent manipulation of prices.³⁴

NGO acceptance & preferences

NGO key informants consistently expressed the perception that beneficiaries prefer cash, followed by vouchers, and finally in-kind assistance.* NGO key informants indicated beneficiary preferences were largely due to the relative flexibility of each assistance modality and likelihood of receiving the full intended value of each distribution. Given this understanding of beneficiary preferences, NGO key informants expressed a general preference for cash assistance, where operating conditions allow (e.g. markets are functioning). Staff from the Cash-based Response Technical Working Group (CBR-TWG) member organizations described different levels of experience with each assistance modality, and challenges faced in implementation of programs depending on the objectives, duration, scale, and setting of implementation. None however, expressed an explicit organizational preference for one assistance modality over another. Many key informants emphasized that program design considerations like assistance modality and delivery mechanism should be largely driven by beneficiary preferences and evidence of effectiveness, not NGO or donor preferences. That said, a few key informant interview participants shared information about both voucher pilot programs that were stopped because of negative feedback from beneficiaries, and cash transfer pilot programs that were stopped due to donor preferences and lack of alternative funding sources.

As noted above there was widespread agreement among NGO key informants that cash-based assistance is preferable to in-kind assistance where markets are functioning. Most key informants did not differentiate between the acceptability of cash-based assistance in low, acceptable or moderate/high risk communities per se, but many provided examples of settings where each assistance modality would be most suitable. To start, some noted that cash-for-work programs are most likely to be effective in addressing basic needs of households in relatively stable communities but may not be suitable for newly displaced households; unconditional cash transfers (if markets are functioning) or in-kind assistance are more suitable for addressing the immediate needs of these households.

There were also varied perceptions among NGO key informants as to whether markets continue to function in besieged areas, and thus whether unconditional cash assistance would be more or less appropriate than in-kind assistance which may be difficult to bring through check points. For example, staff of a local NGO working in multiple governorates reported that in-kind assistance is preferable in besieged areas because, although markets may be functioning, prices will be dramatically inflated due to limited supply. The same staff later mentioned that cash-based assistance modalities may still be more effective and efficient than in-kind assistance, even at a higher cost, due to challenges of transporting in-kind assistance across checkpoints into besieged areas. Other local NGO staff similarly suggested that cash transfers are more likely to reach intended beneficiaries in besieged areas than in-kind assistance, but also shared an example of community members in a besieged area of Idlib refusing cash/voucher interventions because there was no functioning market. International NGO key informants also shared examples of higher hawala commissions and commodity prices in besieged areas, suggesting markets are functioning but with inflated prices and supply limitations. Individual interview participants expressed varied opinions and group interview participants were not able to reach consensus about the feasibility of specific assistance modalities in besieged areas.

Donor acceptance & preferences

Like other key informants, the two donor agency representatives interviewed expressed the understanding or assumption that populations in need of humanitarian assistance within Syria would prefer cash assistance because of its flexibility. That said, neither are currently funding cash transfer programs or expressed plans do so in 2016. To a large extent, donor policies and preferred approaches for addressing humanitarian needs within Syria are governed by global policy positions, funding approval mechanisms and reporting requirements. However, within organizational policy constraints, both key informants expressed commitments to provide maximum flexibility in selection of assistance modalities.

One key informant, representing one of the three largest donors to humanitarian assistance in Syria, explained that their current policy position is to wait until cash transfer programs funded by other donors provide sufficient assurances against risk before considering funding for these types of programs. In terms of other assistance modalities, they expressed a strong preference for voucher programs over in-kind assistance where markets are functioning. Where markets are not functioning or there are urgent emergency needs, in-kind assistance should be purchased in Turkey and transported cross-border, with in-kind

*NGO perceptions of beneficiary preferences differed from preferences expressed in the household survey, where Syrian households preferred to receive cash, followed by in-kind aid and vouchers.

assistance provided for no more than three months before transitioning to voucher-based assistance if at all possible. The second key informant, representing a donor with a comparatively smaller funding footprint, shared achievements of a relatively small scale unconditional cash transfer program implemented during the first half of 2015, as well as challenges faced in a more recent program that initially planned to provide unconditional cash assistance but shifted to vouchers for winter-related non-food items (e.g. blankets, etc.) due to difficulties in finding a transfer mechanism that met due diligence requirements. While the views and experiences shared by these key informants are by no means representative of all donor agencies contributing to the humanitarian response within Syria, they illustrate both the lack of consensus on appropriate and acceptable assistance modalities and concerted efforts to engage with implementing agencies, provide flexible funding, and respond to changing needs and operating conditions.

Political/local council acceptance & preferences

Above all else, local council members expressed a need for more consistent assistance programs with broader population coverage. In terms of assistance modalities, local council members raised a number of concerns about vouchers. In addition to concerns that vendors may take advantage of voucher conditionalities to raise prices or try to force beneficiaries to purchase certain items, local council members in low risk, rural communities did not see vouchers as a suitable form of assistance as past programs have contracted larger shops in neighboring villages, requiring beneficiaries to incur 'hidden' transport costs and yielding no secondary benefits for the village economy. In one rural, low risk community, a local council member explained that while his personal preference as a potential beneficiary would be for cash assistance, his preference, speaking as a local council member, is for in-kind assistance because it is more easily shared and less likely to cause tensions among community members. In semi-urban communities with acceptable risk levels, local council members also took a broader perspective, expressing preferences for cash transfers or unconditional vouchers exchangeable for cash, with caveats that fuel or other items not available in the local market should be provided in-kind. Finally, participants in both community member and local council interviews in semi-urban and urban areas expressed unmet needs for programs that can have more lasting impacts for the community as a whole, such as employment opportunities, rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure, and support for small businesses.

Infrastructure

Transfer mechanisms

For all assistance modalities, the process of moving currency and/or goods into Syria is a challenge. In all documents reviewed and interviews with key informants, there were only two options identified as mechanisms for importing cash into Syria: physically carrying cash across the border or transferring cash via informal hawala networks that rely on personal connections between individuals in different locations to deposit funds for the purpose of making an equivalent payment to a third party without physically moving money. No documents described the amounts transferred into Syria by either mechanism. Both options have major risks and limitations for the humanitarian community. Turkish law requires that all cash withdrawn from a Turkish bank must be accounted for and spent within Turkey, and physically carrying cash across the border carries substantial security and legal risks. Hawala, though a well-established and widely available service, is legally restricted within Turkey, and the implications surrounding use of these systems for cross-border assistance remains unclear. That said, the bulk of humanitarian money is transferred through hawala. There is evidence that the existing system has the capacity to handle larger-scale cash transfer programming.¹⁴ Indications of increasing openness (or recognition of the necessity) to discuss donor and implementing agency risk thresholds, the potential for "formalizing" use of the hawala system for humanitarian purposes, and engagement with governments to explore ways of minimizing fiduciary, legal and political risk in cross-border fund transfers are emerging.²⁰

For in-kind food assistance, the primary mechanism for sourcing food and non-food items for distribution to populations in need is purchasing goods in Turkey and physically transporting them across the border. In addition to the substantial direct and indirect costs of such operations, there are widespread concerns that this is not a viable option for long term assistance due to regular closure of many border points, risk of seizure or interference by parties to the conflict, and safety/security concerns for all involved.

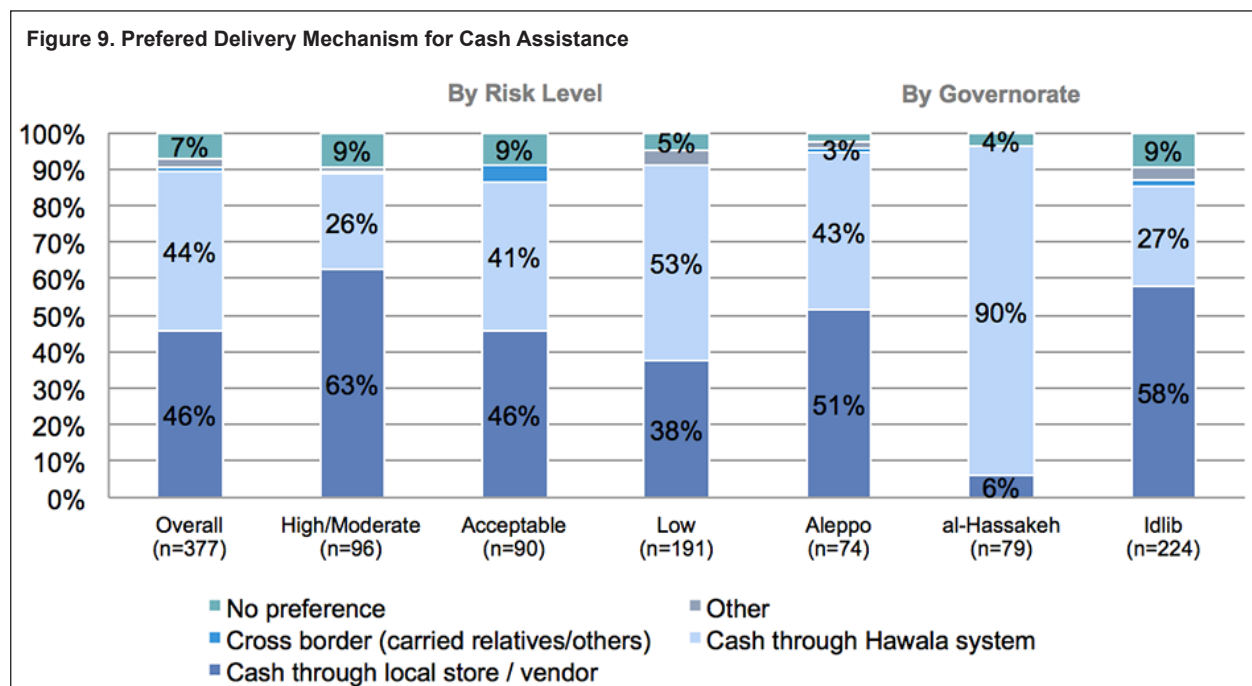
For voucher programs, transfer mechanisms vary. In most cases, paper vouchers are printed within Syria or printed in Turkey and sent to Syria. Contracts are signed with selected vendors who will accept vouchers for purchase of specific items or an agreed upon value of items available in the shop. Once exchanged, vendors compile and submit used vouchers with detailed receipts or transaction records to the implementing NGO, and payments are processed after verification of implementing agency staff. In many cases, hawala

networks are used to facilitate fund transfer to vendors, or from international NGOs to local implementing partners within Syria.

Some iNGOs have also chosen to establish and maintain a revolving cash fund for field staff to use for daily expenditures within Syria. With such funds, a fixed cash balance is established so that as money is spent, the cash is replenished up to the level of the fixed balance. Hawala networks are often used to replenish these funds, as needed.¹⁴

Delivery mechanisms

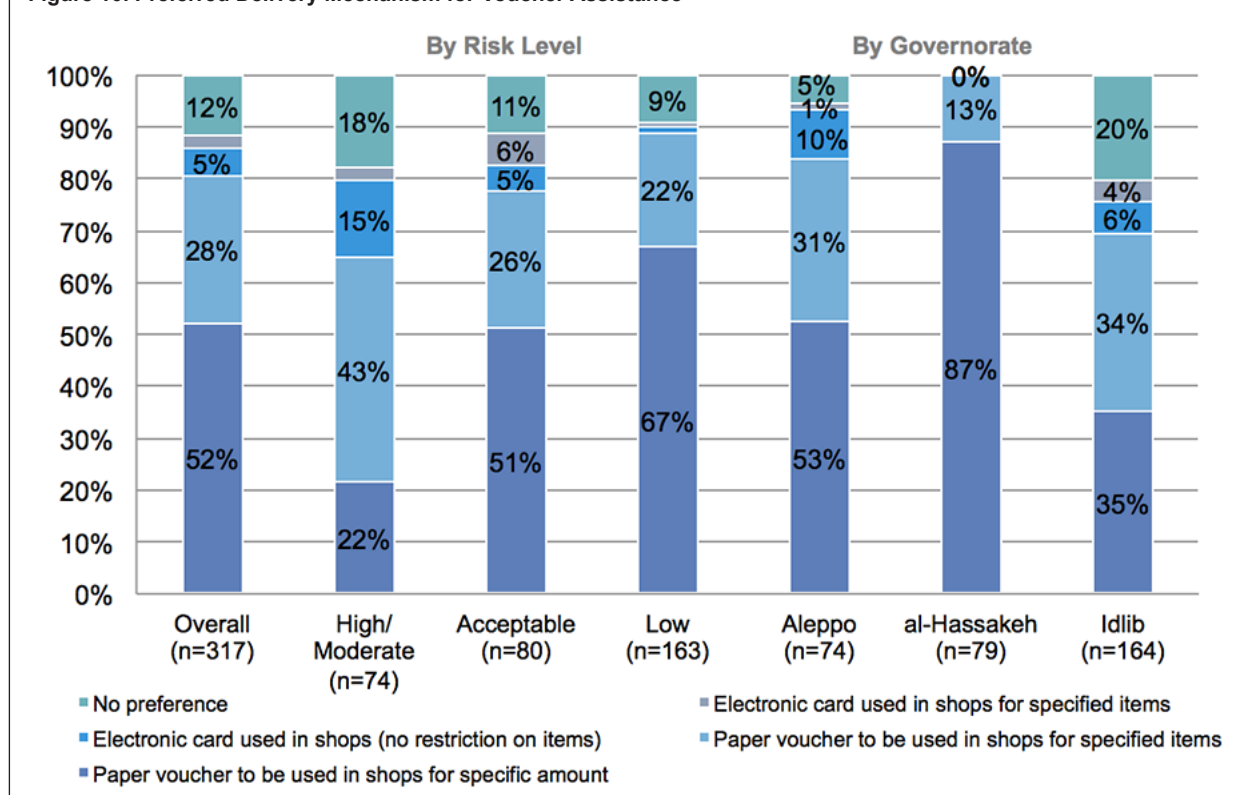
Household survey participants were asked to identify preferred delivery mechanisms for each assistance modality. Most respondents reported preferences for receiving cash assistance through a local store/vendor (45.9%, CI: 32.7-59.6) or hawala agent (43.5, CI: 29.2-58.9). No statistically significant differences in delivery mechanism preference for cash assistance were found by risk level ($p=0.257$); however, differences by governorate were statistically significant ($p=0.002$). Preferred cash assistance delivery mechanisms by risk level and governorate are presented in Figure 9. A significantly higher proportion of respondents in al-Hasakeh preferred cash through a hawala agent (89.9%) compared to Aleppo (43.2%) and Idlib (27.2%) where cash through a local store/vendor was preferred.



When asked which delivery mechanism was preferred for voucher assistance there was a strong preference for paper vouchers over electronic vouchers. The preference for paper vouchers may be due to lack of familiarity with voucher programming in general, and electronic voucher programming in particular. Just over half (52.4%, CI: 38.4-66.0) of household survey respondents reported a preference for paper vouchers to be used in shops for a specific amount and a much smaller proportion (28.1%, CI: 20.3-37.5) reported a preference for paper vouchers to be used in shops for specific items. Differences in preferences for voucher delivery mechanism were statistically significantly different by risk level ($p=0.005$) and governorate ($p=0.008$) and are presented in Figure 10 (following page). Most notably, respondents in high/moderate risk areas reported a stronger preference for paper vouchers to be used in shops for specific items (43.2%) rather than for a set amount (21.6%). While only reported by a small proportion of households in other governorates, no households in al-Hasakeh reported a preference for electronic vouchers, with or without restrictions. Again, this may be because of no prior experience with this transfer type or because electronic transfers are perceived as unfeasible in many areas of Syria.

Program documents and key informants described a range of delivery mechanisms currently used for each assistance modality in different operating environments. For cash transfers, delivery mechanisms include door-to-door distribution of cash, distribution at a central location (either a hawala agent or by program staff or “middle men” at a separate distribution point), and distribution of paper vouchers that can be exchanged for a set value with pre-identified hawala agents or shops. For vouchers, delivery mechanisms include paper vouchers and, in a few programs, electronic vouchers that can be exchanged for specific items or a set

Figure 10. Preferred Delivery Mechanism for Voucher Assistance



monetary value worth of items at contracted shops. For in-kind assistance, delivery mechanisms include door-to-door distribution and distribution at a central location by program staff, local councils, or both. Not all mechanisms are feasible in all areas of Syria, however. For example, key informants in low risk rural areas reported only having a few shops and no money transfer agents (either shops or hawala offices) in their community. Similarly, key informants in more urban moderate/high risk communities described challenges in reaching all intended beneficiaries with in-kind assistance distributions that must happen within a limited time frame and the impracticality of cash or voucher distribution in besieged areas if markets are not functional. Both international and local NGO staff interviewed reported using different delivery mechanisms in different areas and modifying delivery mechanisms mid-program when necessary.

Availability of markets for goods/services

Globally, how markets function in crises is not well understood, nor is the comparative impact of different humanitarian assistance modalities on market dynamics. To inform adjustments to ongoing assistance programs, the CBR-TWG and REACH, a joint initiative of ACTED and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Program, monitor exchange rate volatility, availability and prices of essential food and non-food items in key markets in northern Syria on a monthly basis. Recent assessments indicate that as of November 2015, functional food markets were available in approximately 67% of sub-districts in Syria and 29% of sub-districts had markets for most items functional and less than 2% of sub-districts had very limited access to markets.²¹ Monitoring data also suggests that where markets are functioning, key commodities and goods tend to be available, and occasional shortages localized in areas cut off by heavy fighting for a temporary period.²¹ During the most recent monitoring period (Jan 2016), however, large-scale shifts in the frontlines have prevented data collectors from visiting markets in the government-held areas of al-Hasakeh, Qamishli and Deir-ez-Zor and eastern Aleppo.²²

Key informant interviews with community members, local councils and NGOs confirmed that markets were relatively functional markets in nearly all communities visited, with lack of market access only raised as a concern in one small low-risk rural community, and with regards to high-risk urban communities during periods under siege. Shortages of food and non-food items were not mentioned in any communities, with the exception of fuel shortages raised as an unmet need and issue for consideration in selection of assistance modalities in some semi-urban areas with acceptable risk levels and moderate/high risk urban areas.

Although key informant interview participants generally confirmed the availability of functional markets, increasing prices of food, water, and fuel were raised as a major issue by all stakeholders. Market monitor-

ing reports provide documentation that prices of most commodities have increased steadily over the last year. Of note, over the last three months, prices of both food and non-food items have increased at rates in excess of inflation and continue to rise. The Syrian Pound remains the main trading currency despite US dollars being the major currency for savings.²² Currency exchange rates, were also raised as a major issue by nearly all key informants, affecting both humanitarian agencies' implementation capacity and beneficiary needs and preferences. Exchange rates within Syria have declined in recent months; in late 2015, the value of the US dollar in Northern Syria was reportedly more than twice the exchange rate in global markets (377 SYP/1USD in Syria compared to 188 SYP/USD elsewhere).^{19,22} Exchange rates for Turkish lira in the latter half of 2015 were relatively constant.²²

Implementation Capacity

Technical design/management

Appropriate design of humanitarian assistance programs requires a keen understanding of whether cash-based assistance can meet the needs specific to the target population. Additionally, understanding of what portion of beneficiaries' needs remain unmet by government, international, or local actors is essential to identify specific areas for intervention and the most effective means for addressing unmet needs. Once these questions have been answered, determining the most appropriate targeting strategy and delivery mechanism require organizational capacity to understand the context, foresee potential risks, and design assistance in a way that most effectively mitigates those risks. In 2015 guidance on multisector cash assistance, the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) proposed a series of questions to ask about the humanitarian community's (or an organization's) capacity for implementing cash-based interventions (CBIs), beginning with the humanitarian community's overall capacity.²³ Aside from broadly understanding this capacity, organizations need to have a clear understanding of what agencies are already delivering cash assistance and, if any, whether these efforts can be scaled up. Within the organization, CaLP identifies necessary experience with cash-based interventions and a need for capacity in human resources (leadership, technical, and support staff). Additionally, cash-based response requires organizations to have systematic capacity for managing program monitoring, beneficiary information, and financial tracking. For organizations with limited prior experience implementing cash assistance, the challenge and time needed to adjust to the learning curve for new systems and modalities may not be reasonable if they hinder or delay assistance to beneficiaries. Thus, consideration of short- and long-term benefits and challenges for implementing and managing cash programming should be specific to the organization and context for which the modality is being considered.²⁴

Documents reviewed for this assessment yielded a limited amount of information on the implementation capacity of organizations currently providing humanitarian assistance in Syria. While numerous organizations have implemented cash assistance programs in other settings, there was little publically available information or process evaluations that provided insight into the necessary capacity for designing and managing cash-based assistance within Syria. An evaluation of WFP's regional response to the Syrian crisis included information on the response both in Syria and in neighboring countries and identified numerous design challenges faced by WFP, most notably insufficient analysis of context, markets and dynamics for use in decision making on targeting and distribution modalities. This exemplifies the previously discussed need for reliable evidence upon which to design cash-based interventions and the far-reaching challenges in obtaining such data. While data is available through numerous market assessments conducted in 2015 in smaller areas of Syria or specific to key sectors, the volatility of the conflict and dramatically different market and operating environments throughout the country reduce the feasibility of relying too heavily on such assessments to inform program design and implementation.^{21,25,26}

Logistics/financial

As noted by many key informants, to implement assistance programs effectively, humanitarian organizations to have adequate capacity to ensure security and accountability in cash transfers as well as good understanding of feasible delivery mechanisms in the specific operating environment. Although formal, publically available reports published in the identified time frame are scarce, the presence of actors implementing such programs in Syria indicates that experience and knowledge of considerations in the country exist and is most readily accessible through the CBR-TWG.

Recent 2015 guidance from Beechwood International on the use of hawala in Syria for organizations conducting cross-border assistance operations provides insight into the technical complexities and challenges of negotiating and coordinating with financial institutions and providers in Syria.¹⁴ This guidance stresses the importance of organizations' engagement with money transfer agents. Given the nature of the conflict

in Syria and the number of actors operating inside Syria and cross-border from neighboring countries, coordination between organizations is essential for managing negotiations and understanding appropriate commission rates. The report highlights logistical challenges to implementing cash transfer programs given regulations in Syria, noting the presumably large informal money dealing sector in Syria, and provided a list of licensed money transfer businesses operating in Syria at the time of publication. In the absence of organizational capacity to identify such sources, the Beechwood report and the CBR-TWG provide a wealth of experience and information on logistics and financial implications of implementing cash base interventions. Previous assessments of logistics and operations in Syria conducted by the WFP Syria Logistics Team in 2009, while at one time useful, provide little information on the present state of logistics in Syria.²⁷

Monitoring/accountability

Given the many risks associated with cash transfers, monitoring and accountability mechanisms are an essential component of program implementation. Effective monitoring requires adequate systems, personnel, and capacity within an organization to collect information needed to manage risks, ensure program activities are responsive to beneficiary needs, and adjust implementation strategies as needed. As a whole, the CBR-TWG has demonstrated an in-depth understanding of monitoring and accountability needs associated with cross-border humanitarian assistance programming and capacity to establish and refine systems to address evolving stakeholder needs and concerns. Key informant interview findings suggest the strength of monitoring and accountability mechanisms within individual humanitarian agencies varies, however. Staff of both international and local NGOs identified promising practices such as use of “secret shoppers” to monitor prices set by voucher program vendors, as well as needs for stronger more systematic approaches to updating beneficiary lists, ensuring vouchers are exchanged and cash transfers distributed with the intended value, and providing mechanisms for beneficiaries to report issues of concern.

Challenges identified in the 2015 Evaluation of WFP’s Regional Response to Syrian Crisis included numerous shortcomings in monitoring and evaluation systems.²⁸ While monitoring activities were in place as early as mid-2013 for regional WFP response, the information collected was weak and did not include baseline data or important indicators such as encashment of assistance. WFP staff indicated that monitoring was not designed to inform programming but rather was intended solely for reporting needs. As a result, reports did not provide useful information on gaps in programming or areas for improvement and quite often were not available across different partner organizations. This was similar to earlier evaluations reporting that “significant data is collected on [cash and voucher] projects, but it is inconsistent and it is not utilized or analyzed in any systematic way.”²⁹ Even when adequate data is collected in a systematic way, ensuring appropriate dissemination and use of findings across sectors and organizations is central to adapting programming based on implementation lessons learned, how assistance is used, and remaining unmet needs.

CaLP recommends two key components of monitoring and accountability in multisector cash-based response: (1) a functioning grievance and complaints system, and (2) a monitoring and evaluation framework that tests the assumptions of cost efficiency and cost effectiveness.²³ Within these recommendations, organizations must have adequate capacity to maintain and respond to these feedback mechanisms for the duration of implementation. In addition to sustained capacity, roles and responsibilities within the organization must be clearly defined and understood.

The NFI Sector Working Group in Syria recently developed a working paper on NFI assistance monitoring that provides organizations with guidance on monitoring. In addition, the report outlines current practices, future planned activities, constraints, and proposed next steps based from a dozen organizations providing NFI assistance in Syria.²⁹ While these organizations report using a variety of monitoring activities, the NFI Working Group has proposed a streamlined reporting system including post-distribution beneficiary satisfaction surveys to be conducted by all organizations and uniformly reported and shared across the sector to better inform program design and implementation. Nearly all organizations reported access and necessary permissions as the main constraints to monitoring activities. Given these constraints and the number of organization implementing various types of cash and voucher assistance in Syria, coordination across organizations in all sectors is needed to appropriately ensure reliable monitoring and feedback from beneficiaries. Such efforts are being prioritized by the CBR-TWG for in-depth joint assessments, standard approaches, evaluations, and context-specific standards in Syria.³¹

Partnership management/coordination

The Cash-Based Response Technical Working Group, established in 2014 to scale up cash-based intervention in Northern Syria, is “a technical working group for cash and voucher programming in Syria,

non-sector specific, developing harmonized standards, technical coordination, and capturing and sharing learning.” As such, the CBR-TWG is a central component of efforts to improve coordination across sectors and organizations and ensure effective cash-based programming.³¹

While the importance of coordination across organizations has been discussed in previous sections, the additional need for capacity to manage and coordinate with implementing partners is also essential to effective cash-based intervention. Remote management of most programs in Syria relies strongly on organizations’ capacities to develop relationships with local actors and establish strong monitoring systems to prevent leakages. Overcoming barriers to coordination associated with competition for donor funds, implementing partners and trustworthy money transfer agents, may help to foster these relationships and provide opportunities to learn from experiences of previous programs when selecting partners and designing monitoring and management systems.

Another often tenuous coordination relationship is that between implementing organizations and governments. Since the start of the Syrian crisis, WFP has provided an example of the benefits of developing positive relationships with regional governments, ensuring access and mitigating barriers otherwise faced by many organizations; however, the nature of the conflict in Syria and the role of the Syrian government makes such coordination relationships difficult to manage while maintaining adherence to the humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality.²⁸

Value-for-Money

Value for money refers to the optimal use of resources to achieve the best outcomes for people in need of humanitarian assistance, and is often defined in terms of 3E’s: economy, efficiency and effectiveness.^{32,33} Although cost-effectiveness and value for money are increasingly considered as a major factors in the design and evaluation of humanitarian assistance programs, many other political and programmatic factors must also be taken into account. There is no clear consensus among donors or other stakeholders as to how to evaluate trade-offs in value for money with other benefits (such as overall effectiveness, beneficiary preferences, and lower risks).

Economy

Economy relates to the price at which program inputs are purchased. The costs and cost drivers of cash, voucher and in-kind assistance programs may vary substantially depending on the type, size, complexity, duration and location of the program; level of management oversight and monitoring required by the implementing agency and donor; and many other factors. Detailed analysis of economic inputs for ongoing assistance programs would require review of organizational structures, policies, program design elements and financial records and is beyond the scope of this assessment.

In most settings, cash-based assistance modalities are considered to be less costly than voucher or in-kind assistance programs. For example, evidence shows that in-kind food assistance programs can be two to three times costlier than alternative assistance modalities (vouchers or cash-based assistance) in the same setting.⁷ To the best of our knowledge, only one study has been conducted comparing the costs, cost-efficiency and cost-effectiveness of humanitarian assistance modalities within Syria. The study compared in-kind food assistance, food voucher and unrestricted voucher programs implemented by an international NGO in Harem District of Idlib Governorate in late 2014 and early 2015. The findings were consistent with global evidence that in-kind food assistance programs are substantially more costly than alternative assistance modalities, but may still be the most cost-effective strategy for achieving specific objectives or the only feasible implementation strategy in some settings. Furthermore, this study, as well as a recent systematic review of cash-based assistance in emergencies found that overall program costs are driven more

Table 3: Modality-Specific Cost Considerations

Cash	Vouchers	In-Kind Assistance
Selection, negotiation and contracting with money transfer agents	Selection, contracting and orientation of vendors	Selection and contracting of suppliers
Commission fees	Voucher printing (or e-card/point-of-sale set up)	Inspection
Transaction fees (for each transfer sent, received, or both)	Voucher distribution	Storage
Documentation fees (proof of receipt)	Verification of vouchers exchanged	Transport (including security)
	Fund transfer to vendors	VAT/duties if crossing borders
		Distribution

by other design considerations than the assistance modality itself.^{6,34} Modality specific cost-considerations that should be taken into account are presented in Table 2.

CBR-TWG member perceptions of which assistance modalities are the most costly in the current operating environment varied substantially, in large part due to whether the interview participants were thinking about the overall program budget for different types of assistance programs, factoring in gains/losses in the actual value of assistance provided to beneficiaries, or overall value for money. Key informants generally demonstrated a strong understanding of the modality-specific and context-specific cost considerations, and shared concerns about variability of specific costs associated with each assistance modality. With regards to cash transfers, local council and NGO key informants reported hawala agent commission fees ranging from 0.02% to 9%, depending on the agent, location, scale and frequency of transfers needed, and agreement details. For vouchers, the strongest and most pervasive concerns related to the level of time and effort required to set up mechanisms for voucher distribution, payment and redemption, and well as the potential value lost due to currency depreciation in that period as well as price and stock manipulation by vendors at the time of redemption.

With all assistance modalities, the continued devaluation of the Syrian pound, the increase in food and non-food item costs (especially fuel), unpredictability of security conditions and associated operating costs, and lack of functional banking systems within Syria create immense challenges in planning and budgeting for assistance programs. However, large strides have been made to streamline costs that are within the control of humanitarian agencies, and to provide guidance on managing costs determined by external market forces.^{35,36,37}

Efficiency

Efficiency relates to how well inputs are converted to the output of interest, and can be interpreted in many ways including timeliness, consistency, and cost-efficiency. CBR-TWG and NGO key informants demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the complexities, nuances and trade-offs associated with different assistance modalities. For example, many explained that cash transfers may be the fastest way to provide assistance to populations in need but are difficult to monitor and evaluate, while vouchers are easier to track but more time and effort intensive to implement. Others noted that vouchers may be more efficient than in-kind assistance if implementation systems are already established but can be equally if not more burdensome to establish anew. Cash-based assistance may require more administrative and financial management while in-kind assistance requires a larger logistics team. Some local council key informants expressed concerns about the efficiency of humanitarian assistance programs in general. For example, in one semi-urban community with acceptable risk levels, local council members discussed how time consuming targeting and distribution processes are, while others suggested that program operating costs may far exceed the value of the assistance provided.

Cost-efficiency analyses examine the relationship between the costs of an assistance program and the value of the assistance delivered to beneficiaries. The most common metrics for assessing cost-efficiency of humanitarian assistance programs include the cost per beneficiary per period and cost per unit of output (transfer received). Additional metrics include the ratio of program implementation costs (including all management, operations and monitoring costs) to the total value received by beneficiaries, and comparison of the intended value of in-kind assistance to its actual market value at the time of distribution. To the best of our knowledge, the aforementioned economic evaluation is the only recent study to compare the cost-efficiency of different assistance modalities within Syria, finding voucher programs to be more cost-efficient than in-kind food assistance in terms of cost per beneficiary and cost-transfer ratio. No studies have considered exchange rate volatility in evaluations of intervention efficiency or compared the cost-efficiency of cash transfers to vouchers and in-kind assistance in Syria.³⁴

Effectiveness

Effectiveness is the extent to which an intervention achieves its intended outcomes and impacts. Cost-effectiveness analysis compares the relative costs of achieving desired social and/or economic results with different interventions. For the purposes of this assessment, indications for how the use of different assistance modalities may influence the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance were sought.

For the most part, stakeholder preferences for either cash or in-kind assistance were driven by their perception of intervention effectiveness in a given context. Cash transfers were widely perceived to be the most effective modality for assisting people in need within Syria, assuming currency values remain relatively stable during the implementation period or mechanisms are put in place to ensure beneficiaries

receive the full transfer value intended. In-kind assistance programs were perceived to be less effective than cash-transfers, because beneficiaries may need to sell some of the items received to purchase more needed items, and resale is likely to occur below market value. Finally, voucher programs were perceived to be the least effective modality within Syria, not because of a lack of functional markets or any objections to the way voucher programs are intended to work, but because of concerns that voucher programs are more susceptible to fraud or manipulation than other assistance modalities.

These findings are consistent with a recent systematic review of cash-based approaches in humanitarian emergencies which concluded that how an intervention is designed and implemented plays a greater role in determining effectiveness of an assistance modality than the emergency context or sector of implementation.⁶

Risks

Security risks

The humanitarian community has repeatedly issued calls for the respect of International Humanitarian Law, protection of civilians, and unhindered and sustained humanitarian access, across conflict lines as well as borders, to ensure safe delivery of humanitarian aid and medical care to all people in need.³⁸ Nevertheless, any activities in countries with ongoing armed conflict carry security risks for both humanitarian agency staff and the populations they are working to assist. Given the widespread use of hawala networks for money transfer, the security risks associated with cash-based assistance in Syria are no greater than those associated with alternative forms of assistance. Neither community members, local councils nor NGO staff participating in key informant interviews identified security or protection risks specific to cash transfer or voucher program implementation in low, acceptable or medium/high risk communities.

Expanding cash-based assistance modalities may reduce risks associated with in-kind assistance. Cash transfers and electronic vouchers are “low profile” modalities that may be less likely to attract attention to beneficiaries than distribution of in-kind aid. Additionally, the ability to transfer funds each month to existing beneficiaries remotely reduces additional challenges and possible security threats to both field teams and beneficiaries that otherwise exist with in-kind distributions and increases regularity of aid.

Fiduciary risks

Fiduciary risks are risks that funds are not used for the intended purposes, do not achieve value for money, or are not properly accounted for. Limited understanding of these risks and lack of consensus on effective risk mitigation and management mechanisms are likely the greatest barrier to expansion of cash-based assistance modalities within Syria.

As noted above, the Beechwood International report provides a detailed analysis of money transfer services currently available within Syria, and between Turkey and Syria, as well as the laws related to cross-border cash flows and money transfers. It is an excellent resource for humanitarian community stakeholders and provides concrete recommendations for strengthening fiduciary risk mitigation and management capacity in the Syria response. Expansion of cash transfer programming within Syria will not be feasible, however, without much broader understanding of fiduciary risks by humanitarian stakeholders at multiple levels.¹⁴

For example, very few NGO staff interviewed were aware of how financial transactions take place within hawala networks, and widely reported the perception that by transferring money in this way, fiduciary risks are “shifted to the hawala provider.” Apart from discussion of Turkish regulations related to money transfers out of the country, few CBR-TWG members and NGO staff raised issues related to compliance with anti-terrorism and “know your customer” regulations, data and financial protection mechanisms, or either their own organization or donor agency’s financial and legal due diligence requirements.

In a recent Chatham House Workshop on integrated risk management for cross-border money flows to Syria, the dilemmas facing the humanitarian community were compared to those explored in a previous workshop involving banks and their corporate clients with global supply chains vulnerable to financial crime and human rights violations.²⁰ Donor participation in this workshop, as well as other recent meetings organized by the CBR-TWG in Turkey, indicates a recognition of these challenges and openness to explore opportunities for providing cash-based assistance within this environment. That said, the fact that participants were primarily interested in understanding how the hawala system functions and the legality of transferring money into terrorist held areas shows much work is still needed to understand system dynamics and reach agreements on acceptable risk thresholds for the humanitarian community and what due diligence looks like in a system that is largely unregulated by formal authorities and exposed both directly and indirectly to money laundering and terrorist financing activities.

Operational risks

Operational risks are present in any humanitarian setting, and may be unique to specific assistance modalities and working environments. In Syria, these include the risk that humanitarian assistance will be disrupted by insecurity or obstructed by parties to the conflict, that the most vulnerable are underserved, and that regulatory and due diligence procedures may delay or interrupt the implementation of humanitarian interventions. With cash transfers, additional concerns are market capacity to transfer and absorb increasingly large injections of cash.

Recent assessments suggest that hawala networks have the capacity to transfer cash assistance on a broader scale and have proven to be reliable in delivering funds where and when agreed. There are also strong indications that markets have the capacity to absorb this additional injection of cash. Key informant interviews suggest that international and national NGOs are finding innovative solutions, such as top-up vouchers, to ensure continued and rapid currency devaluation does not affect the value of assistance provided to beneficiaries and “secret shoppers” to prevent vendor price manipulation, that could be replicated by other agencies to further mitigate these operational risks. The challenge remaining is how to determine what due diligence and compliance mechanisms are needed to ensure humanitarian assistance is not directly or indirectly benefiting terrorism or money laundering. This requires more in-depth understanding of fiduciary risks and greater engagement with government authorities, regulatory bodies, and financial/legal experts on many levels to mitigate and manage risks that assistance could be delayed or interrupted.

Flexibility/Responsiveness

Ability to meet changes in beneficiary needs

The limited number of documents relevant to cash-based response in Syria identified in the desk review provided minimal evidence and guidance about responsiveness to beneficiary needs. A number of the cash-based response programs provided to date were designed to respond to emergency needs of particularly vulnerable populations, and the reach of hawala networks suggests potential to expand cash-based assistance efforts as needs arise. Essential to the ability to meet changes in beneficiary needs, however, are adequate monitoring mechanisms to receive up-to-date information on beneficiary needs and feasible approaches for meeting those needs. Standard beneficiary satisfaction surveys and post-distribution monitoring, when conducted and analyzed in a regular and timely manner, provide much of the information needed to monitor changing needs over time and better understand the effectiveness of various assistance modalities. Organizations must approach decisions about transfer modalities with flexibility and be able to adapt to locally-determined needs as they arise. While flexibility is essential, organizations must also consider implications for funding, procurement, delivery, and response programs as a whole when making program adaptations.

Phase-in/phase-out as substitute for other modalities as needed

In the Syrian context, rapid phase-in may not be as high of a priority as quality design and implementation. However, it is still critical for organizations to be able to design effective and efficient assistance programs to meet beneficiary needs as quickly as possible. The ability for rapid implementation of cash assistance programs depends largely on the organization’s capacity to collect necessary data, identify and work with local partners, and appropriately design context-specific program plans. It also depends on the infrastructure available and local experience working with cash assistance. While many organizations are implementing assistance through cash transfers for the first time, a number of organizations operating in Syria and neighboring countries have extensive experience with cash transfer programming. For example, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has extensive experience implementing cash transfer programs globally and, more specifically, in Syria and neighboring countries. In 2014, the IRC estimated they would be able to design and implement cash transfer programs in four to six weeks by prepositioning to respond to certain crises with context specific considerations. The model for this rapid phase-in process, Cash Preparedness Planning (CPP), provides a standardized process that other organizations can use as a model for prepositioning cash programs.³⁹ Additionally, coordination through the CBR-TWG in Syria provides an opportunity for sharing between organizations which can reduce the time needed for each organization to gather data that is duplicative of what has already been collected; this can reduce the overall time for designing and implementing cash programs in Syria.

Another key consideration for cash-based responses is appropriate planning during the design stage for a defined exit strategy to phase out cash assistance when programs end. Phase-out plans should be communicated to beneficiaries early to manage expectations for assistance over time. When designing cash transfer programs, detailed plans should be made about what happens to beneficiary cards and accounts

once the program ends. Additionally, seamless phase out necessitates capacity building of local financial institutions to ensure that beneficiaries' abilities to meet basic needs are not dependent upon the long-term presence of assistance organizations. Without local capacity to continue assistance in the absence of the organization's local presence, the possibility for abrupt stoppage of assistance is great and may have severe implications on beneficiaries and future attempts at reinstating assistance. Exit strategies should also outline the criteria to determine when to begin phasing out assistance. Most often, this begins when local markets recover to a sustainable level and income-generating activities are available for beneficiaries. Because the time it takes for this criteria to be met in protracted crises is often longer than organizations are able to provide cash assistance, additional components should be built into cash programming to support beneficiaries' ability to meet their needs after direct cash assistance ends (i.e. livelihoods training and support activities).⁴⁰

An assessment of market functioning in specific areas of intended operation is essential to claim feasibility of cash-based response as a substitute for in-kind aid. In addition to market function, political considerations must be taken into account when evaluating the feasibility of cash as an alternative to other assistance modalities. For example, cash assistance is not permitted in government-controlled areas of Syria while vouchers and in-kind aid are generally allowed, thus, cash assistance is not a feasible alternative to other modalities.¹⁴ Ultimately, consideration of the feasibility of cash as an alternative to other modalities relies on local-level assessment of capacity, available resources, political environment, beneficiary needs and preferences, and lessons learned from previous programs in those areas.

Cash For Work

Cash for Work (CFW) programming can lessen some of the challenges with both phasing in and phasing out cash assistance. CFW is a form of conditional cash transfer where beneficiaries receive payment in exchange for work on needed recovery activities including public works tasks, community development activities, shelter repairs/construction, and a number of other similar works. CFW provides an immediate means transferring funds to vulnerable households while stimulating local economies and contributing to clean-up efforts and rehabilitation and development of community infrastructure. Cash for work programs can be rapidly scaled up and meet the needs of large numbers of beneficiaries while longer-term assistance strategies are being planned. With adequate local capacity to oversee and manage such projects, CFW can also be used when phasing out other assistance programs.

Two key informants from Syrian NGOs reported experience with CFW programs. The first described a three month program in Rural Damascus to support WASH infrastructure. The second described a CFW program in Aleppo and Idlib. The program was designed based on assessment that found farmers in Idlib were unable to harvest the olive crop in 2015 because they could not afford picker's wages. The CFW program paid wages and supported 3,000 farmers and more than 3,650 workers in 2015. In addition, a voucher program was used to help farmers pay for olive oil refining and tree pruning.

Relatively few cash for work programs have been conducted in Syria to date that are reported on in the gray literature. One CFW program implemented by Solidarités International in Aleppo provided a set cash allowance (the value of which was based on the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) defined by the Cash-Based Response Working Group in Turkey) for beneficiaries in exchange for short-term "one-shot" work.⁴¹ In order to receive the cash assistance, beneficiaries were required to work four hours per day, 5 days per week for a duration of 16-20 days depending upon each beneficiary's residence arrangement (i.e. beneficiaries living in camps or informal settlements where no housing costs were incurred worked fewer days to account for the reduced cost of meeting basic needs). Work activities included waste management, street cleaning and restoration, sewer system restoration, and other similar public works tasks. In addition to cash transfers conditional on work in the CFW program, unconditional cash grants of the same monetary value were provided to households considered vulnerable and unable to work. While this program was not intended for long-term impact, it provided a means for injecting cash into vulnerable households to meet immediate short-term needs. A similar CFW program has also been implemented in Syria by People in Need since April 2015, though no formal evaluation of this program has been made available.⁴²

In conjunction with other activities with a longer-term focus on improving livelihoods and reducing use of negative economic coping strategies, similar CFW programs may prove beneficial to households by providing a short-term income source. Given local council feedback that assistance programming should be more community oriented, CFW programs may be a desirable approach because coverage levels can be relatively high, thus a larger proportion of the community could benefit as compared to other assistance

with strict eligibility criteria. Additionally, clean up and rehabilitation of community infrastructure resulting from these programs benefits all community members; these in-direct benefits may help to lessen tensions between those that do not receive aid and beneficiaries. However, because experience with CFW programs in Syria to date is limited, additional evidence is warranted to make an informed decision about the appropriateness of this cash transfer modality in the Syrian context.



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Assessing the feasibility of expanding cash-based assistance modalities (cash transfers and vouchers) to address humanitarian needs in Northern Syria involves myriad considerations. First and foremost is an understanding of population needs (Figure 11, following page). Although nearly two-thirds of households surveyed received some form of humanitarian assistance over the four months preceding the survey, households in assessment areas were struggling to meet basic needs for food, water, and heat during winter months. Nearly all humanitarian assistance was focused on meeting immediate sector-specific needs of targeted households. This assistance was perceived to be insufficient, both in terms of the proportion of the population in need that receives assistance and the amount of aid provided at any given time.

Little to no sale of humanitarian assistance was reported by household survey respondents, although key informants suggest that it is not uncommon for beneficiaries to share in-kind assistance received (e.g. food, cooking or heating fuel) with other families or to sell some items received in a food basket to purchase other, more needed commodities. Selling assets, borrowing, and, where possible, purchasing food on credit, are common financial coping mechanisms, the impacts of which are exacerbated by the continued devaluation of the Syrian pound and rising commodity prices over the last year.

This report is intended to provide an objective assessment of stakeholder preferences and potential for providing cash-based assistance to vulnerable populations in low, acceptable and medium/high risk communities. Stake holder preferences are summarized in Figure 12 (following page). Despite relatively limited coverage of cash and voucher assistance programs to date, community members in the assessment areas voiced a widespread preference for humanitarian cash transfers over in-kind assistance or vouchers. Vouchers are the least desired form of humanitarian assistance because they are perceived to be more susceptible to price or stock manipulation.

Humanitarian agencies in northern Syria have the technical and operational capacity to expand cash-based assistance programming, provided there is clarity on the legal and financial compliance mechanisms required to do so. The CBR-TWG is effectively leading efforts to harmonize cash-based assistance approaches, generate evidence to inform program planning, and engage stakeholders in dialogue about fiduciary risks and due diligence requirements but higher level engagement and consensus will be needed for any large-scale shifts in approaches to humanitarian assistance in the region. The Feasibility Scorecard presented in Table 3 (pg 36) synthesizes data from multiple primary and secondary data sources and highlights issues that vary by community risk level or governorate.

Figure 11: Overview of humanitarian needs and assistance received

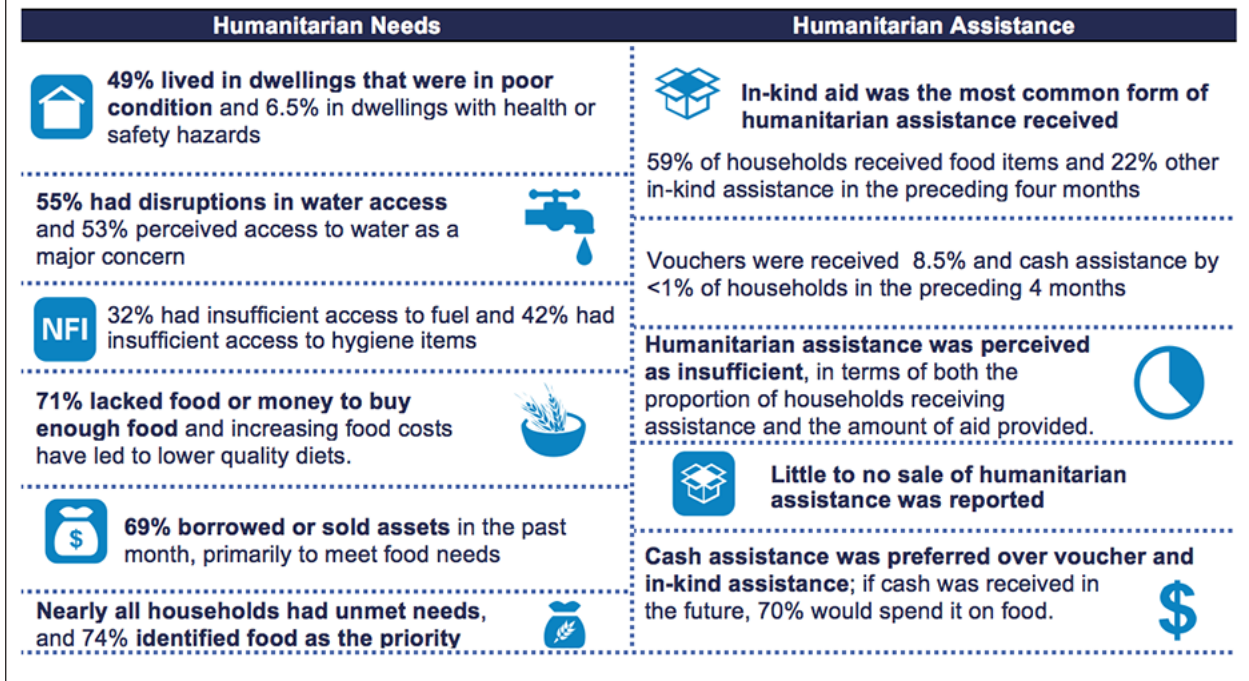


Figure 12: Stakeholder preferences for humanitarian assistance

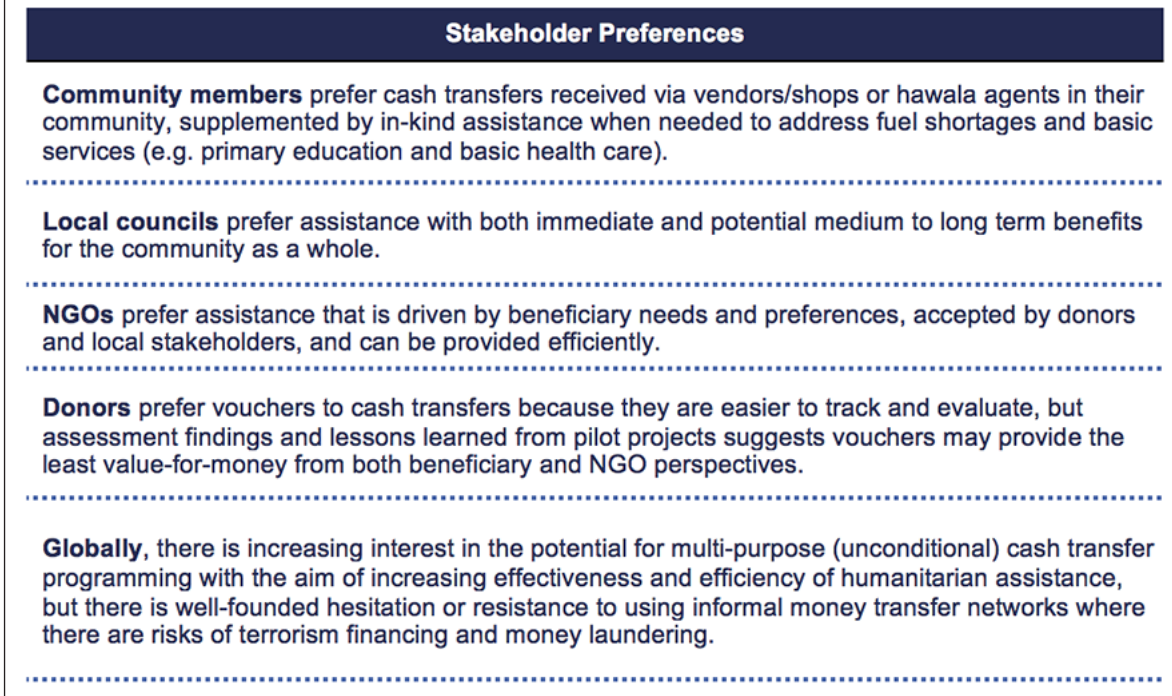


Table 3: Feasibility Scorecard

General Assessment		Varies by Risk Level	Varies by Governorate*
Acceptability			
Beneficiary acceptance & preferences	Widespread acceptance and preference for cash transfers, supplemented by in-kind assistance only when essential items are unavailable in local markets.	X	YES
NGO acceptance & preferences	Acceptance, preference and readiness in theory but limited by donor and organizational policies.	X	X
Donor acceptance & preferences	Acceptance in theory from major donors (EU, DFID, etc) but no explicit acceptance of working via the hawala system or clarity on due diligence requirements needed to mitigate legal/fiduciary risks.	X	X
Political/local council acceptance & preferences	Cash-based assistance is acceptable to local councils. However, many expressed preference for programs that benefit the community as a whole, not individual households, and that could have more lasting benefits for resilience and recovery.	X	X
Infrastructure			
Transfer mechanisms	Hawala networks provide infrastructure needed to expand cash-based responses to the Syrian crisis but are not currently acceptable	X	X
Delivery mechanisms	Cash and voucher delivery mechanisms are well-established. Preferred delivery mechanisms vary by risk level and governorate.	YES	YES
Availability of markets for goods/ services	Markets are functioning in most areas of northern Syria, albeit with fuel shortages in some areas and occasional stock-outs during periods where high risk areas cut off by heavy fighting.	X	X
Implementation capacity			
Technical design/ management	International and Syrian NGOs currently providing assistance in Syria are well positioned and have demonstrated capacity to provide cash-based assistance, in coordination and with technical leadership from the CBR-TWG. However, consensus on humanitarian community risk thresholds and a common strategy for design, management, monitoring and evaluation of multi-sector cash-based assistance and complementary sector-specific initiatives will be important for broader-reaching cash assistance programs.	X	X
Logistics/financial		YES	X
Monitoring/accountability		YES	X
Partnership management and coordination		X	X
Value-for-Money			
Economy	Cash transfers are less costly than alternative assistance modalities.	YES	X
Efficiency	Vouchers are more cost-efficient and cost-effective than in-kind food assistance. However, they may be more susceptible to fraud or manipulation than other assistance modalities.	YES	X
Effectiveness		X	X
Risks			
Security risks	Cash-based assistance is more discrete, and thus may present fewer security risks than in-kind assistance.	YES	NO
Fiduciary risks	The lack of common fiduciary risk thresholds and management strategies are the humanitarian community's greatest obstacle to expansion of cash-based assistance modalities.	X	X
Operational risks	The CBR-TWG and NGOs have a clear understanding of operational risks and are using innovative strategies to mitigate risks; scaling-up cash-based responses in a volatile environment may present new risks.	X	X
Flexibility / Responsiveness			
Ability to meet changes in beneficiary needs	Previous cash-based response programs were designed to respond to emergency needs of particularly vulnerable populations, and the reach of hawala networks suggests potential to expand cash-based assistance efforts as needs arise. The ability for rapid implementation of cash assistance programs depends largely on the organization's capacity to collect necessary data, identify and work with local partners, and appropriately design context-specific program plans.	YES	X
Ease of rapid phase-in/ phase-out as substitute for other modalities as needed		YES	X
* Interpret with caution; the household survey was not designed to be representative of populations at the governorate level or to detect differences by governorate.			

RECOMMENDATIONS

The international community has a responsibility to protect the 13.5 million vulnerable and displaced people within Syria, and assist them to meet short, medium and long-term relief and recovery needs. As the conflict extends beyond the fourth year, there is need for new approaches to humanitarian assistance that will increase the reach, efficiency and effectiveness of international response efforts and promote resilience of populations in need within Syria. The following recommendations should be considered with regards to expansion of cash-based assistance modalities:

- **Shift away from in-kind assistance** towards a **blended-response** including more preferred cash-based assistance modalities and in-kind assistance only where necessitated by sector-specific needs or contextual constraints.
- Promote program approaches that **generate employment and livelihood opportunities, rehabilitate infrastructure** and **benefit local markets**. This may include **cash-for-work** programs for clean up, rehabilitation and repair of infrastructure in low and acceptable risk communities, and support for **small businesses** that can provide employment opportunities and services for fellow community members.
- Exercise caution in expanding voucher programs, promoting these in circumstances where less burdensome cash-based assistance modalities (e.g. multi-purpose cash transfers) are not feasible.
- Increase responsiveness to beneficiary needs and harmonize response efforts by forging **multi-agency partnerships** able to **phase-in and out different assistance modalities** and delivery mechanisms where and as needed.
- Support humanitarian agencies to examine and strengthen organizational structures to **fully involve administrative, financial and logistics team members** in all aspects of program planning, management and evaluation for cash-based assistance modalities.
- Continue supporting the CBR-TWG to provide **technical guidance** and establish **standard operating procedures** for engagement with money transfer agents across all humanitarian partners.
- As recommended at the recent Chatham House workshop on integrated risk management for cross-border humanitarian money flows to Syria, humanitarian and development partners should appoint a high-level interlocutor to facilitate **dialogue with relevant national and international regulatory authorities** related to fiduciary risk mitigation and management issues.
- Explore potential for creating common standards and mechanisms including a dedicated agency with expertise and responsibility for conducting **due diligence** on money transfer agents for all humanitarian partners. This could be done under the umbrella of the CBR-TWG.
- Pursue opportunities to **formalize relationships with money transfer agents** or networks as partners in humanitarian assistance programming.

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Annex 1. Desk Review Documents and Contents

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Desk Review Documents and Content

Annex 2. Sampled Locations

Annex 3. Population and Needs Profile

Annex 4. Household Survey Findings

ANNEX I. DESK REVIEW DOCUMENTS AND CONTENT

Report	Balanced Scorecard Area																				
	Acceptability				Implementation Capacity				Infrastructure			Flexibility/ Responsiveness		Value for Money			Risks				
	Beneficiary acceptance & preferences	NGO acceptance & preferences	Donor acceptance & preferences	Political/local council acceptance & preferences	Technical design/ management	Logistics/ financial	Monitoring/ accountability	Partnership management/ coordination	Transfer mechanisms	Delivery mechanisms	Availability of markets for goods/ services	Ability to meet changes in beneficiary needs	Ease of rapid phase-in/ phase-out	Feasibility as substitute for other modalities as needed	Economy	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Security risks	Fiuciary risks	Operational risks	
Syria Cash Based Response Documents																					
Save the Children: Jan 2015. Understanding livelihoods in northern Syria- how people are coping with repeated shocks, constant change and an uncertain future.																					
REACH: Feb 2015. Northern Syria Market Monitoring Exercise - Idleb Governorate.																					
REACH: Mar 2015. Northern Syria Market Monitoring Exercise - Idleb Governorate.																					
REACH: Nov 2015. Northern Syria Market Monitoring Exercises.																					
People in Need: Feb 2015. PIN's Brief for Supporting the Recovery of Poor Families' Livelihoods in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates, Syria.																					
ACAPS: Feb 2015. Syria four years on- No end in sight.																					
ACU: March 2015. Syria Dynamic Monitoring Report - DYNAMO Issue 4.																					
NFI Working Group: Mar 2015. Working Paper - NFI Assistance Review.																					
WFP: Apr 2015. An Evaluation of WFP's Regional Response to the Syrian Crisis: 2011-2014 Evaluation Report.																					
OCHA: Jun 2015. Assessment of the Needs and Humanitarian Situation within Syria.																					
REACH: Jun 2015. Eastern Aleppo Food Security and Livelihoods Household Assessment.																					
Chatham House: Jun 2015. Syria's Economy - Picking up the Pieces.																					
NRC: Jul 2015. Remittances to Syria.																					
UNDP: Aug 2015. Building Resilience in response to the Syria Crisis. UNDP Integrated Project Portfolio.																					
Sim: Aug 2015. Syria Crisis Common Context Analysis Update.																					
REACH: Sept 2015. Assessment of Needs and Humanitarian Situation Inside Syria- Livelihoods.																					
GOAL: Sept 2015. Emergency Transfers in Northern Syria. An Economic Evaluation of GOAL Food Assistance Programs in Idleb Governorate.																					
WFP: Oct 2015. Food Security Assessment Report Syria.																					
Fernstein International Center (Kimberly Howe, Elizabeth Siles, and Danya Chudacov). 2015. Breaking the Hourglass: Partnerships in Remote Management Settings - The Cases of Syria and Iraq/ Kurdistan.																					
Solidarities International: Nov 2015. Cash Transfer Program in Northern Syria. Case Study. Implementation of cash-based projects in Aleppo governorate.																					
Cash-Based Responses Technical Working Group: Nov 2015. Market Access and Functionality in Syria.																					
Bechtwood International: 2015. Technical Assessment: Humanitarian use of Hawala in Syria.																					
Regional Cash Based Response Documents																					
DRC (Karen Jacobsen and Paula Armstrong): Jan 2016. Cash Transfer Programming for Syrian Refugees: Lessons Learned on Vulnerability, Targeting, and Protection from the Danish Refugee Council's E-Voucher Intervention in Southern Turkey.																					
UNHCR/WFP (Kay Sharp): Jul 2015. Review of Targeting of Cash and Food Assistance for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt																					
UNHCR/WFP (Pantaleo Creff): Nov 2015. Evaluation of the OneCard Pilot in Lebanon																					

ANNEX II: SAMPLED LOCATIONS

Districts (n=10)*	Sub-districts (n=18)	Accessible Communities		Survey Cluster Assignment		Group Key Informant Interviews
		N	%	N	%	(community=7, local council=5)
High/ Moderate Risk Communities (n=20, 4.2% of communities)*				5	25%	
Aleppo		3	15.0%	1	20%	
Mount Simeon	Darrat Izzah	1	5.0%	0	0%	
Atarib	Atarib	2	10.0%	1	20%	
Hama**		5	25.0%	0	0%	
Mahardeh	Kafr Zita	5	25.0%	0	0%	
Idlib		12	60.0%	3	60%	
Ariha	Ariha	1	5.0%	1	20%	Local council
	Ihsim	1	5.0%	0	0%	
Idlib	Saraqib	1	5.0%	1	20%	
	Taftanaz	1	5.0%	0	0%	
Jisr al-Shugur	Jisr al-Shugur	1	5.0%	1	20%	Community (males)
Ma'arrat al-Nu'man	Ma'arrat al-Nu'man	1	5.0%	0	0%	Community (females)
	Khan Shaykun	4	20.0%	1	20%	
	al-Tamanah	2	10.0%	0	0%	
Acceptable Risk Communities (n=82, 17.2% of communities)				5	25%	
Aleppo		14	17.1%	1	20%	
Mount Simeon	Darrat Izzah	4	4.9%	0	0%	
Ayn al-Arab / Kobani	Ayn al-Arab	3	3.7%	0	0%	Local council
Atarib	Atarib	7	8.5%	1	20%	Community (females)
Hama		1	1.2%	0	0%	
Mahardeh	Kafr Zita	1	1.2%	0	0%	
al-Hasakah		5	6.1%	1	20%	
al-Malikiyah	al-Malikiyah	3	3.7%	1	20%	Community (mixed), Local council
	al-Yarubiyah	2	2.4%	0	0%	
Idlib		62	75.6%	3	60%	
Ariha	Ariha	5	6.1%	0	0%	
	Ihsim	15	18.3%	1	20%	
Harem	al-Dana	5	6.1%	0	0%	
Idlib	Abu al-Duhur	3	3.7%	1	20%	Community (males)
	Saraqib	4	4.9%	0	0%	
	Taftanaz	1	1.2%	0	0%	
	Maarat Misrin	2	2.4%	0	0%	
Jisr al-Shugur	Jisr al-Shugur	5	6.1%	0	0%	
Ma'arrat al-Nu'man	Ma'arrat al-Nu'man	12	14.6%	1	20%	
	Khan Shaykun	2	2.4%	0	0%	
	al-Tamanah	2	2.4%	0	0%	
	Hish	6	7.3%	0	0%	

Districts (n=10)*	Sub-districts (n=18)	Accessible Communities		Survey Cluster Assignment		Group Key Informant Interviews
		N	%	N	%	
Low Risk Communities (n=376, 87.7% communities)				10	50%	
Aleppo		75	19.9%	2	20%	
Mount Simeon	Darrat Izzah	8	2.1%	0	0%	
Ayn al-Arab / Kobani	Ayn al-Arab	53	14.1%	1	10%	
Atarib	Atarib	14	3.7%	1	10%	Local council
al-Hasakah		135	35.9%	3	30%	
al-Malikiyah	al-Malikiyah	91	24.2%	2	20%	
	al-Yarubiyah	44	11.7%	1	10%	
Idlib		166	44.1%	5	50%	
Ariha	Ariha	17	4.5%	1	10%	
	Ihsim	3	0.8%	0	0%	
Harem	al-Dana	9	2.4%	1	10%	Community (female)
	Abu al-Duhur	22	5.9%	1	10%	
	Saraqib	19	5.1%	0	0%	
	Taftanaz	3	0.8%	0	0%	
	Maarat Misrin	13	3.5%	0	0%	
Jisr al-Shugur	Jisr al-Shugur	31	8.2%	1	10%	Community (mixed)
	Ma'arrat al-Nu'man	19	5.1%	1	10%	Local council
	Khan Shaykun	2	0.5%	0	0%	
Ma'arrat al-Nu'man	al-Tamanah***	19	5.1%	0	0%	
	Hish	9	2.4%	0	0%	

*high risk communities prioritized; alternate locations provided in case areas are inaccessible

**Hama was not accessible and the cluster was re-assigned to Jisr-al-Shugur because it was the only district with high/moderate risk communities that had not already been sampled

***al-Tamanah sub-district was originally sampled as a low risk community but was not accessible; Ma'arrat al-Nu'man sub-district was used as a replacement because it had the largest number of low risk communities of the remaining sub-districts within Ma'arrat al Nu'man district.

ANNEX III: POPULATION AND NEEDS PROFILE

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Demographics

Demographic characteristics of household survey participants are summarized in Table 1. Households that participated in the survey included a mix of different types of households as follows: 43.2% were affected by the conflict but had not been displaced, 26.5% were currently displaced, and 30.2% had been displaced but since returned to their homes.

Among those that had ever been displaced, the average number of displacements was 1.9. The average household consisted of 7 members (range: 1-26) and 12.5% of households were headed by women. Household heads averaged 44 years in age (range: 29-50) and educational attainment among household heads was relatively low with 43.2% having completed secondary education and 23.8% having no formal schooling. Household head education attainment differed significantly by risk level, and was significantly lower in high/moderate risk communities as compared to acceptable and low risk communities (16.5% secondary school completion rate compared to 31-32% completion rate in acceptable and low risk communities; $p=0.033$). Otherwise, few statistically significant differences were observed by risk level and governorate for demographic characteristics.

With respect to vulnerable groups, the majority of households had children, and approximately one third had pregnant or lactating women, older adults or members with a chronic disease (Figure 1). Among all households, 62.3% had one or more children <5 years and 75.5% had children 5-17 years of age. Slightly more than one third (36.2%) of households had pregnant or lactating women. Slightly less than one third (29.5%) of households had an older adult 60 years or above or a member with a chronic medical condition (30.8%) and nearly one in five (18.5%) reported a member with a disability.

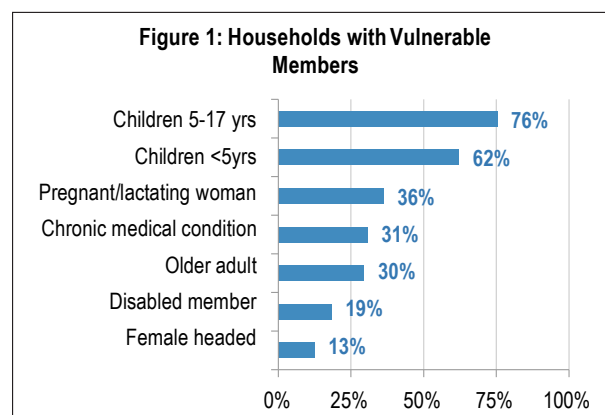


Table 1: Demographic Characteristics

		N	Point Estimate	[95% CI]
Household Characteristics				
Household Type	Affected	173	43.2%	[32.6,54.6]
	Displaced	106	26.5%	[18.6,36.3]
	Returnee	121	30.2%	[18.4,45.5]
Number of times displaced	Median	227	2	---
	Mean	227	1.9	[1.7,2.1]
Household Size	Median	400	7	---
	Mean	400	7.0	[6.5,7.5]
Head of Household Characteristics				
Sex	Male	350	87.5%	[82.5,91.2]
	Female	50	12.5%	[8.8,17.5]
Age	Median	400	44	---
	Mean	400	45.4	[44.0,46.7]
Highest Education Level Completed	None	95	23.8%	[17.1,32.0]
	Primary	132	33.0%	[28.5,37.8]
	Preparatory	77	19.2%	[15.4,23.9]
	Secondary	36	9.0%	[6.4,12.5]
	Institute/technical degree	32	8.0%	[5.3,11.9]
	University or higher	28	7.0%	[3.5,13.5]

* median among households with at least one member in age range

Household Economy

An overview of economic measures for surveyed households is presented in Table 2. Average income in the month preceding the survey was US\$ 130 (median=US\$ 106) and households had an average of one working member and 1.4 income sources. A total of 58.8% of households reported borrowing and 34.5% reported sales of assets in the month preceding the survey, indicating that incomes are insufficient and households are struggling to meet basic needs.

Among households reporting asset sales in the preceding month, average income was significant (mean=US\$ 716, median=US\$ 241); 22.3% of

households that sold assets reported sales in excess of US\$ 1000. There were no significant differences in the proportion of households selling assets or the average value of assets sold by risk level or governorate. Household items were the most common assets sold (45.7%) followed by livestock (22.5%) and savings (gold or other types, 19.6%) (Figure 2). The most common reason for selling assets, reported by 73.2% of households with asset sales, was to purchase food; the second most common reason was to pay for health services or medicines (10.1%).

Table 2: Household Economy (US Dollars)*

		N	Point Estimate	[95% CI]
Household Income				
Average household income	Median	400	106	
	Mean	400	129.8	[101.9,157.7]
Number of income sources	Median	400	1	---
	Mean	400	1.4	[1.3,1.5]
Number of working household members	Median	400	1	---
	Mean	400	1.0	[0.9,1.1]
Asset Sales in Month Preceding Survey				
Households reporting asset sales		138	34.5%	[25.8,44.4]
Income from asset sales**	Median	138	241	---
	Mean	138	716.2	[481.2,951.1]
Borrowed Money/Credit in Month Preceding Survey				
Households reporting borrowing money or receiving credit		235	58.8%	[52.9,64.4]
Total amount of debt (among all households)	Median	400	185	---
	Mean	400	633.5	[309.6,957.5]
Household Savings				
Households with savings		45	11.2%	[5.4,22.1]
Type of savings***	Cash - SYP	0	0%	
	Cash - USD	28	62.2%	[41.4,79.4]
	Cash - Other	6	13.3%	[5.8,27.6]
	Gold	18	40.0%	[24.3,58.1]
	Savings account (in bank)	0	0%	
	Other	2	4.4%	[1.4,13.3]

* all costs reported in USD; ** among households reporting asset sales; *** each item as a percent of all households reporting savings

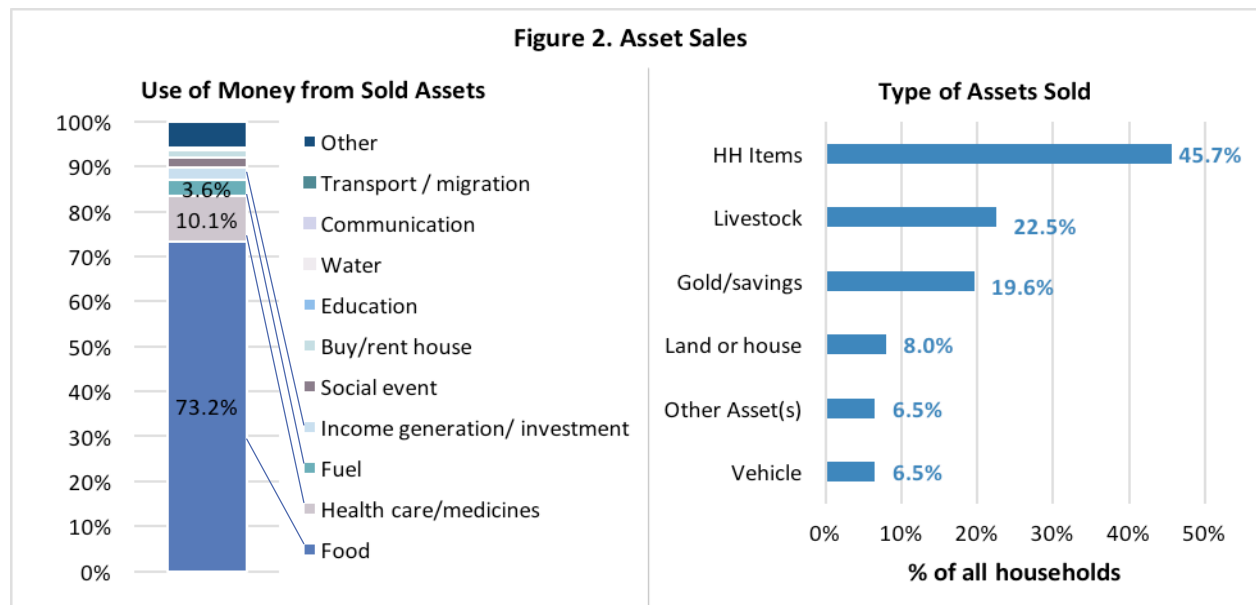
With respect to borrowing, 58.8% of households reported borrowing in the month preceding the survey. There were no significant differences in the frequency of borrowing or the amount borrowed by risk level or governorate. Borrowing sources and reasons are summarized in Figure 3. The majority of households reported borrowing from friends or relatives in Syria (81.3%) and a lesser proportion used credit from shops (13.6%). Similar to asset sales, the most common reasons for borrowing included to purchase food (66.4%), health services or medicines (10.6%), and for transportation or migration (8.5%).

Asset sales and borrowing findings reinforce observations from the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview which observed that while incomes have remained stagnant, the cost of a standard food basket was three times greater in mid-2015 than in the pre-crisis period.² The Needs Assessment estimated that nationwide, 6.3 million people (46.7% of those in need) have extreme, negative or significant food consumption gaps with extreme loss of livelihoods assets or are only marginally able to meet food needs using irreversible coping strategies. An additional 2.4 million people (17.8% of those in need) are in need of food and are able to maintain minimally adequate food consumption only by engaging in irreversible coping strategies and/or receiving

humanitarian assistance. These Humanitarian Needs Assessment figures, which suggest that 64.5% of the population is unable to meet basic needs without use of negative coping strategies such as borrowing or asset sales, are similar to household survey findings where 69.3% (CI: 62.9-75.0) of households reported borrowing and/or selling assets in the month preceding the survey, primarily to meet food needs.

The average outstanding debt among all households surveyed was US\$ 634 (median=US\$ 185). Overall, 35.8% of households reported having no outstanding debts; a high level of debt (more than US\$ 1000)

Figure 2. Asset Sales



was reported by 16.1% of households (though <1% of households reported outstanding debt in excess of US\$ 5000. Household survey findings suggest a higher rate of borrowing than nationwide averages, where 64.2% of surveyed households reported debt as compared to an estimated one in three in the Humanitarian Needs Assessment; in both cases, the main reason for debt is food costs.²

Savings was relatively uncommon and was reported by only 11.2% of households. The most common forms of savings were US dollars (62.2%), gold (40.0%), and other currencies (13.3%); no households reported having cash savings in Syrian pounds or a savings account at a bank.

Key informant interview findings reinforced household survey findings, and did not reveal noteworthy differences in income sources by community risk level. Specific income sources mentioned by community members included selling assets, borrowing, and various forms of day labor ranging from selling food and resources (namely water and cooking/heating fuel) in high risk urban communities to weaving handicrafts, and agriculture and cattle breeding in semi-rural/rural communities classified as low and accepted risk areas. In both high and low risk communities, participants recalled depending on remittances as an income source in the past, but explained that relatives no longer have money to send or that this is not a reliable income source.

Financial coping mechanisms shared by key informant interview participants were also similar across communities and governorates. These including sharing water and electricity with neighbors to reduce costs, borrowing money from other community members where possible, purchasing food on credit and, in some low and acceptable risk communities, sending children to work as agricultural day laborers. Within each group of participants, at least one or two individuals also mentioned more extreme coping mechanisms such as using blankets instead of heat to save money and noted that the most vulnerable households in their communities have no income sources and depend entirely on zakat (charity) when available or humanitarian assistance.

Living Conditions

Living conditions of household survey participants are summarized in Table 3. More than half of households (51.5%) reported living in a dwelling that was in good physical condition. The most common problems reported were high humidity (31.0%), water leakage (13.8%), rodent infestation (11.5%), general lack of cleanliness (11.0%) and missing doors (9.8%) or windows (6.8%). Health and safety hazards were reported by 6.5% of households overall, however, these were significantly more common in high and moderate risk areas (9.0%) than moderate (5.0%) and low (4.0%) risk areas (p=0.019).

The other living conditions indicator that varied significantly by risk category was access to water. Overall, 53.5% of households reported having no water access for two or more days in the three months preceding the survey. When compared by risk category, the proportions of households with disruptions in access to water were as follows: high/moderate risk, 77.0%; acceptable risk, 61.0%; and low risk, 38.0% (p=0.045). Overall, 53.0% of households reported they perceived access to water as a major concern and 18.5% as

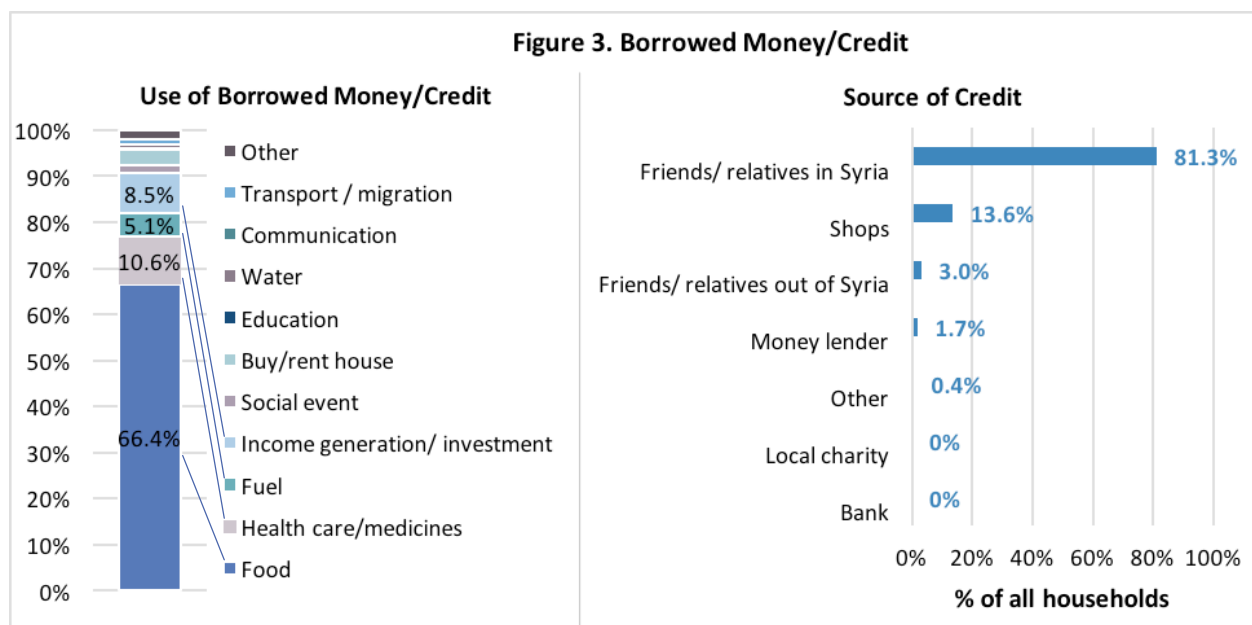


Table 3. Living Conditions

	N	Percent	[95% CI]
Residence Condition*			
General good conditions	206	51.5	[40.4,62.4]
High humidity	124	31.0	[23.9,39.1]
Dirty	44	11.0	[6.5,18.1]
No doors	39	9.8	[5.9,15.8]
Walls/roof of temporary materials	23	5.8	[3.2,10.0]
No windows	27	6.8	[3.8,11.6]
Water leakage	55	13.8	[8.0,22.6]
No ventilation	25	6.2	[3.5,10.9]
Rodents	46	11.5	[5.8,21.5]
Broken stairs/debris around shelter	20	5.0	[2.0,11.8]
Health hazards**	26	6.5	[3.4,12.0]
Other concern	1	0.2	[0.0,2.0]
HH with no water access for 2 or more days at a time in the past 3 months	214	53.5	[37.8,68.6]
Households without access to sufficient fuel for cooking and heating	126	31.5	[21.9,43.0]
Households reporting insufficient soap and hygiene items	166	41.5	[30.4,53.5]
* Each item presented as percent of all households; ** including open drops, poor electrical wiring, concrete rebar sticking out of the ground, and other similar hazards			

somewhat of a concern; patterns of perceived concern mirrored those of access disruptions with the highest levels of perceived concern in high/moderate risk communities (75.0%) and the lowest levels in low risk communities (39.0%), however, differences were not statistically significant. Insufficient access to fuel for heating and cooking and hygiene items did not vary by risk level and were reported by 31.5% and 41.5% of households, respectively. A full summary of living conditions, including water and lighting sources, by risk level is presented in Annex 4.

While the assessment was not designed to capture representative samples of populations in each governorate, noteworthy differences in living conditions by governorate were observed. These should be interpreted with caution and cannot be generalized to reflect living conditions in the governorates more broadly, however they suggest that shelter and other basic service needs vary greatly by location. Key differences in living conditions by governorate are presented in Annex 4. In general, living conditions and access to wa-

ter, fuel and hygiene items appeared better in Al-Hasakeh than in Idlib and Aleppo. In Al-Hasakeh, 73.8% of households reported their dwelling was in relatively good condition compared to 43.2% in Aleppo and 47.1% in Idlib ($p=0.052$). Disruption in access to water was much more problematic in Idlib (72.1%) and Aleppo (48.1%) than in Al-Hasakeh ($p<0.001$). Insufficient access to heating and cooking fuel was more common in Idlib (40.0%) and Aleppo (35.8%) compared to Al-Hasakeh (1.2%) ($p=0.001$). Insufficient access to heating and cooking fuel was more common in Idlib (50.0%) and Aleppo (51.9%) compared to Al-Hasakeh (5%) ($p<0.001$). These findings are generally aligned with inter-sectoral severity of need scores for included sub-districts presented in the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Assessment.²

Table 4. Food Security

	N	Point Estimate	95% CI
Meals consumed by the household daily	Mean	400	2.6 [2.5,2.7]
	2 meals daily	400	39.9% [28.2,53.1]
	≤1 meal daily	400	0% ---
Meals consumed by children <5 yrs daily	Mean	249	4.1 [3.8,4.3]
	≤2 meals daily	249	4.4% [2.1,9.2]
Household diet from humanitarian assistance			
None	116	29.0	[23.1,35.7]
1-24%	146	36.5	[30.7,42.7]
25-49%	68	17.0	[12.9,22.1]
50-74%	37	9.2	[6.5,13.0]
75-100%	32	8.0	[4.9,12.8]
Households with lack of food or money for food in the past month	283	70.8	[62.0,78.2]

Food Security

Household food security measures are summarized in Table 4. Households included in the survey consumed an average of 2.6 (median=3.) meals per day; 39.9% (95% CI: 28.2-53.1) of households consumed two meals per day and no households consumed one or fewer meals per day. Children consumed an average of 4.1 (median=4) meals per day; children in 4.4% (95% CI: 2.1-9.2) of households were reported as eating two or less times per day. Despite relatively high frequency of food consumption, as measured by meals per day, 70.8% of households reported they lacked food or money to buy enough food to meet household needs within the month preceding the survey. There were no significant differences in the proportion of

households or children with low frequency of meal consumption or the proportion of households reporting lack of food by risk level or governorate.

Markets were the primary source of food for almost all (97.0%) households. With respect to the proportion of the household diet from humanitarian assistance, just over one third of households (36.5%) reported

that food assistance comprised 1-24% of the household and 17.0% of households reported food assistance accounted for 25-49% of the household diet. In a small minority of households (17.2%), food assistance made up more than half of the household diet and in 29.0% of households food assistance did not account for any of the household diet. There were no significant differences in proportion of the household diet from humanitarian assistance either by risk level or governorate.

Key informant interview findings were consistent with household survey findings, and did not reveal noteworthy differences food related coping mechanisms by risk level or governorate. Participants in all community key informant interviews described dramatic increases in food costs since the start of the crisis, causing shifts in dietary patterns (eliminating meat and purchasing lower quality foods) and, for those with somewhat reliable income sources or personal relationships with shopkeepers, purchasing food on credit.

2. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). (2016) 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Retrieved from https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/system/files/documents/files/2016_hno_syrian_arab_republic.pdf

ANNEX IV: HOUSEHOLD SURVEY FINDINGS

Table 1. Household Demographic and Displacement Characteristics

		Overall (N=400)		High/Moderate (N=100)		By Risk Level Acceptable (N=100)		Low (N=200)		Risk level comparison p-value
		N	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI				
Head of Household Characteristics										
Age	Median	400	44	44	43	45				
	Mean	400	45.4 [44.0,46.7]	45.2 [42.7,47.6]	44.3 [41.3,47.3]	46 [44.2,47.9]			0.451	
Sex										
	Male	350	87.5 [82.5,91.2]	87 [79.0,92.3]	94 [89.2,96.7]	84.5 [76.3,90.2]			0.058	
	Female	50	12.5 [8.8,17.5]	13 [7.7,21.0]	6 [3.3,10.8]	15.5 [9.8,23.7]				
Highest level of education completed	None	95	23.8 [17.1,32.0]	12 [6.5,21.2]	22 [15.7,30.0]	30.5 [19.9,43.7]			0.033	
	Primary	132	33 [28.5,37.8]	38 [27.2,50.1]	27 [19.9,35.5]	33.5 [28.9,38.4]				
	Preparatory	77	19.2 [15.4,23.9]	19 [17.2,21.0]	19 [10.5,32.0]	19.5 [13.8,26.9]				
	Secondary	36	9 [6.4,12.5]	13 [8.8,18.7]	7 [5.0,9.7]	8 [4.3,14.3]				
	Institute/technical degree	32	8 [5.3,11.9]	9 [4.8,16.4]	11 [6.1,19.2]	6 [2.8,12.4]				
	University or higher	28	7 [3.5,13.5]	9 [3.1,23.6]	14 [5.2,32.4]	2.5 [1.0,6.1]				
Household Composition										
Household Size	Median	400	7	6	7	7				
	Mean	400	7 [6.5,7.5]	6.4 [6.0,6.9]	7.3 [6.2,8.5]	7.1 [6.3,7.9]			0.241	
Household members under 5 years	Median	400	1	1	1	1				
	Mean	400	1.2 [1.0,1.4]	1.1 [0.9,1.4]	1.2 [0.7,1.7]	1.2 [1.0,1.4]			0.752	
Household members 5 to 17 years	Median	400	2	2	2	2				
	Mean	400	2.4 [2.1,2.6]	2 [1.6,2.4]	2.5 [2.2,2.7]	2.5 [2.1,2.9]			0.150	
Household members 18 to 59 years	Median	400	2	2	2	2				
	Mean	400	3 [2.8,3.2]	2.9 [2.5,3.3]	3.2 [2.8,3.5]	2.9 [2.7,3.2]			0.976	
Household members over 60 years	Median	400	0	0	0	0				
	Mean	400	0.4 [0.3,0.5]	0.3 [0.2,0.5]	0.4 [0.2,0.6]	0.4 [0.3,0.6]			0.411	
Household Members with Special Needs										
Households w/ pregnant or lactating women		145	36.2 [30.3,42.6]	30 [24.3,36.4]	34 [25.0,44.4]	40.5 [31.0,50.8]			0.187	
Households w/ disabled members		74	18.5 [14.5,23.3]	14 [8.3,22.6]	23 [14.6,34.3]	18.5 [13.5,24.8]			0.293	
Households w/ members w/ chronic disease		123	30.8 [23.8,38.7]	22 [10.5,40.4]	34 [22.1,48.3]	33.5 [24.3,44.2]			0.369	
Households w/ non-family children members		9	2.2 [0.9,5.3]	1 [0.1,6.6]	5 [1.4,15.9]	1.5 [0.5,4.2]			0.120	
Displacement										
Population Type										
	Affected	173	43.2 [32.6,54.6]	43 [22.6,66.1]	44 [23.0,67.4]	43 [29.0,58.2]			0.205	
	Displaced	106	26.5 [18.6,36.3]	13 [7.0,22.9]	39 [27.0,52.5]	27 [15.7,42.4]				
Returnee	121	30.2 [18.4,45.5]	44 [24.7,65.3]	17 [7.9,33.0]	30 [12.6,56.1]					
Number of times displaced*	Median	227	2	2	1	2				
	Mean	227	1.9 [1.7,2.1]	1.9 [1.6,2.2]	1.9 [1.4,2.4]	1.9 [1.5,2.2]			0.708	

* among households displaced during the conflict

Table 2. Household Economy

		By Risk Level				Risk level comparison p-value	
		Overall (N=400)	High/Moderate (N=100)	Acceptable (N=100)	Low (N=200)		
	N	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI		
Household Income in Month Preceding Survey							
Average household income (in USD)	Median	400	105.9	79.4	132.4	95.3	0.757
	Mean	400	129.8 [101.9,157.7]	113.6 [65.1,162.1]	147.5 [114.8,180.1]	128.2 [78.2,178.1]	
Number of income sources	Median	400	1	1	1	1	0.042
	Mean	400	1.4 [1.3,1.5]	1.3 [1.1,1.4]	1.3 [1.0,1.6]	1.5 [1.3,1.7]	
Number of working household members	Median	400	1	1	1	1	0.975
	Mean	400	1.0 [0.9,1.1]	1.0 [0.8,1.1]	1.1 [1.0,1.3]	1.0 [0.8,1.2]	
Households with school-aged children generating income (%)*		18	6.0 [3.7,9.4]	2.9 [0.4,17.1]	3.9 [1.0,14.2]	8.3 [5.7,12.1]	0.521
Asset Sales in Month Preceding Survey							
Households reporting asset sales in month preceding survey (%)		138	34.5 [25.8,44.4]	42 [26.2,59.6]	28 [21.4,35.7]	34 [20.5,50.7]	0.770
Income from asset sales (in USD)**	Median	138	241	119.2	323.1	296.6	0.517
	Mean	138	716.2 [481.2,951.1]	551.2 [294.7,807.6]	960.1 [310.8,1609.4]	720.4 [396.6,1044.2]	
Reason for asset sales**							
To buy food		101	73.2 [62.9,81.4]	71.4 [54.4,84.0]	53.6 [34.1,72.0]	82.4 [71.5,89.7]	0.609
To pay for health care/Rx		14	10.1 [6.5,15.5]	9.5 [3.8,22.0]	14.3 [4.7,35.8]	8.8 [5.7,13.5]	
To purchase fuel		5	3.6 [1.7,7.5]	7.1 [3.4,14.2]	3.6 [0.6,18.1]	1.5 [0.2,8.8]	
For income generating activities/investment		4	2.9 [1.1,7.2]	2.4 [0.4,14.2]	7.1 [2.2,20.9]	1.5 [0.2,8.8]	
To pay social event		3	2.2 [0.6,7.4]	2.4 [0.2,20.4]	3.6 [0.6,18.1]	1.5 [0.2,12.3]	
To buy / rent house		2	1.4 [0.2,11.0]	0	7.1 [1.2,32.9]	0	
To pay education		1	0.7 [0.1,5.8]	2.4 [0.3,16.5]	0	0	
To purchase water		0	0	0	0	0	
For communication (phone, internet)		0	0	0	0	0	
For transport / migration		0	0	0	0	0	
Other		8	5.8 [2.8,11.6]	4.8 [1.5,14.3]	10.7 [2.4,37.0]	4.4 [1.7,11.0]	
Types of assets sold***							
Household items		63	45.7 [29.2,63.1]	73.8 [61.4,83.3]	50.0 [29.6,70.4]	26.5 [10.4,52.9]	0.508
Livestock		31	22.5 [9.1,45.7]	0	14.3 [3.6,42.7]	39.7 [16.1,69.4]	0.160
Gold or other savings		27	19.6 [8.9,37.7]	19.0 [9.8,33.8]	10.7 [5.0,21.6]	23.5 [6.4,58.0]	0.846
Land or house		11	8.0 [3.6,16.9]	4.8 [1.7,12.4]	17.9 [7.4,37.1]	5.9 [1.2,24.7]	0.005
Vehicle		9	6.5 [2.8,14.6]	4.8 [1.0,20.3]	7.1 [2.6,18.3]	7.4 [2.0,23.7]	0.067
Business		0	0	0	0	0	---
Other		9	6.5 [2.5,15.8]	2.4 [0.4,14.2]	10.7 [2.4,37.0]	7.4 [1.9,25.0]	0.465
Credit and Debt							
Households reporting borrowing money or receiving credit in month preceding survey (%)		235	58.8 [52.9,64.4]	53 [39.7,65.9]	64 [56.7,70.7]	59 [50.9,66.6]	0.325
Reason for borrowing****							
To buy food		156	66.4 [57.0,74.6]	66.0 [44.6,82.4]	57.8 [42.7,71.6]	71.2 [58.0,81.6]	0.571
To pay for health care/Rx		25	10.6 [6.4,17.1]	7.5 [3.8,14.5]	9.4 [4.3,19.3]	12.7 [6.0,25.0]	
For income generating activities/investment		20	8.5 [4.4,16.0]	3.8 [1.3,10.1]	17.2 [6.4,38.6]	5.9 [2.7,12.5]	
To purchase fuel		12	5.1 [2.7,9.6]	11.3 [4.7,25.0]	4.7 [2.0,10.5]	2.5 [0.9,7.2]	
To buy / rent house		8	3.4 [1.6,7.2]	5.7 [1.9,15.5]	3.1 [1.0,9.7]	2.5 [0.6,10.0]	
To pay social event		4	1.7 [0.6,4.4]	1.9 [0.3,12.5]	3.1 [0.9,10.6]	0.8 [0.1,6.0]	
To purchase water		2	0.9 [0.2,3.4]	0	1.6 [0.2,9.7]	0.8 [0.1,5.9]	
For transport / migration		2	0.9 [0.2,3.5]	1.9 [0.3,9.6]	0	0.8 [0.1,6.4]	
To pay education		1	0.4 [0.1,3.3]	0	0	0.8 [0.1,6.0]	
For communication (phone, internet)		0	0	0	0	0	
Other		5	2.1 [0.8,5.8]	1.9 [0.2,13.0]	3.1 [0.5,18.3]	1.7 [0.4,6.3]	

	N	By Risk Level				Risk level comparison p-value	
		Overall	High/Moderate	Acceptable	Low		
		(N=400)	(N=100)	(N=100)	(N=200)		
		% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI		
Source of credit****							
Friends/relatives in Syria	191	81.3 [72.4,87.8]	86.8 [74.9,93.5]	82.8 [65.6,92.4]	78.0 [63.4,87.9]	0.676	
Shops	32	13.6 [8.0,22.1]	9.4 [4.8,17.7]	10.9 [3.7,28.0]	16.9 [8.2,31.9]		
Friends/relatives out of Syria	7	3.0 [0.9,9.8]	1.9 [0.2,13.0]	1.6 [0.2,9.7]	4.2 [0.8,18.8]		
Money lender	4	1.7 [0.3,8.3]	0	4.7 [0.7,26.9]	0.8 [0.1,6.5]		
Bank	0	0	0	0	0		
Local associations/charity	0	0	0	0	0		
Other	1	0.4 [0.1,3.5]	1.9 [0.2,13.5]	0	0		
Refused to respond	0	0	0	0	0		
		n=400	n=100	n=100	n=200		
Total amount of debt (among all households; in USD)	Median	400	185.4	37.1	211.9	238.3	0.205
	Mean	400	633.5 [309.6,957.5]	308.1 [165.5,450.6]	711.2 [342.0,1080.4]	759.5 [149.6,1369.3]	
Household Savings							
Households with savings (%)	45	11.2 [5.4,22.1]	9 [4.0,19.0]	7 [4.0,12.0]	14.5 [4.7,36.6]	0.373	
Type of savings*****							
		n=45	n=9	n=7	n=29		
Cash - SYP	0	0	0	0	0	---	
Cash - USD	28	62.2 [41.4,79.4]	44.4 [24.3,66.6]	42.9 [16.8,73.6]	72.4 [47.9,88.2]	0.104	
Cash - Other	6	13.3 [5.8,27.6]	11.1 [1.0,61.5]	14.3 [2.0,57.3]	13.8 [5.1,32.3]	0.975	
Gold	18	40.0 [24.3,58.1]	44.4 [26.7,63.8]	42.9 [10.3,83.0]	37.9 [16.9,64.7]	0.906	
Savings account (in bank)	0	0	0	0	0	---	
Other	2	4.4 [1.4,13.3]	0	0	6.9 [2.3,19.1]	0.681	

* among households with school-aged children; ** among households reporting asset sales; *** each item as a percent of all households reporting asset sales; **** as a percent of households reporting borrowing money or receiving credit; ***** each item as a percent of all households reporting savings

Table 3. Living Conditions

	N	By Risk Level				Risk level comparison p-value
		Overall (N=400) % 95% CI	High/Moderate (N=100) % 95% CI	Acceptable (N=100) % 95% CI	Low (N=200) % 95% CI	
Residence						
Residence type						
Entire apartment or house	325	81.2 [70.5,88.7]	91.0 [83.6,95.2]	76.0 [47.6,91.7]	79.0 [63.8,88.9]	0.749
Room within an apartment or house	32	8.0 [5.1,12.3]	5.0 [2.7,9.1]	12.0 [5.1,25.8]	7.5 [4.3,12.7]	
Tent / Temporary shelter	18	4.5 [1.1,16.4]	0.0	8.0 [1.1,41.2]	5.0 [0.8,26.4]	
Addition to house	15	3.8 [1.9,7.4]	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	3.0 [1.4,6.5]	5.5 [2.3,12.5]	
Unfinished building	8	2.0 [0.8,4.8]	3.0 [1.4,6.5]	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	2.0 [0.4,9.1]	
Collective center/communal shelter	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	2	0.5 [0.1,2.1]	0	0	1.0 [0.3,3.9]	
Residence Arrangement						
Own	271	67.8 [61.0,73.8]	72.0 [66.9,76.6]	55.0 [39.8,69.3]	72.0 [64.3,78.6]	0.574
Stay with permission and no payment	87	21.8 [16.8,27.7]	17.0 [11.4,24.5]	27.0 [14.7,44.3]	21.5 [15.9,28.4]	
Rent	37	9.2 [5.6,15.0]	10.0 [4.1,22.4]	16.0 [9.7,25.2]	5.5 [1.8,15.3]	
Stay without permission	4	1.0 [0.3,3.4]	0	2.0 [0.3,12.7]	1.0 [0.3,3.9]	
Pay to occupy land	1	0.2 [0.0,2.0]	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	0	0	
Stay in exchange for work	0	0	0	0	0	
Residence Condition*						
General good conditions	206	51.5 [40.4,62.4]	44.0 [37.1,51.1]	57.0 [33.6,77.7]	52.5 [34.9,69.5]	0.574
High humidity	124	31.0 [23.9,39.1]	29.0 [22.0,37.2]	27.0 [12.4,49.1]	34.0 [23.9,45.8]	0.646
Water leakage	55	13.8 [8.0,22.6]	6.0 [2.7,12.8]	11.0 [3.5,29.5]	19.0 [9.9,33.4]	0.781
Rodents	46	11.5 [5.8,21.5]	6.0 [3.3,10.8]	7.0 [2.7,17.0]	16.5 [6.7,35.0]	0.459
Dirty	44	11.0 [6.5,18.1]	9.0 [6.0,13.3]	13.0 [2.9,42.6]	11.0 [6.0,19.4]	0.725
No doors	39	9.8 [5.9,15.8]	14.0 [6.7,26.9]	8.0 [4.3,14.5]	8.5 [3.4,19.8]	0.074
No windows	27	6.8 [3.8,11.6]	13.0 [6.4,24.7]	6.0 [2.7,12.8]	4.0 [1.4,11.2]	0.138
Health hazards**	26	6.5 [3.4,12.0]	9.0 [5.3,14.9]	5.0 [0.7,28.4]	6.0 [2.1,15.7]	0.019
No ventilation	25	6.2 [3.5,10.9]	13.0 [5.6,27.2]	4.0 [1.6,9.6]	4.0 [2.1,7.4]	0.093
Walls/Roof of wood, iron, fabrics or plastic	23	5.8 [3.2,10.0]	4.0 [0.6,23.6]	5.0 [1.7,13.7]	7.0 [3.7,12.9]	0.069
Broken stairs/debris around shelter	20	5.0 [2.0,11.8]	12.0 [5.1,25.8]	6.0 [0.8,33.0]	1.0 [0.3,3.8]	0.724
Other concern	1	0.2 [0.0,2.0]	0	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	0	0.735
Main lighting source						
Generator	249	62.3 [42.2,78.8]	86.0 [75.6,92.4]	62.0 [27.4,87.6]	50.5 [22.8,77.9]	0.677
Electricity	80	20 [7.1,45.0]	0	20.0 [2.2,73.4]	30.0 [9.1,64.8]	
Gas/paraffin lantern/light	35	8.8 [3.6,19.9]	5.0 [2.7,9.1]	10.0 [2.9,29.1]	10.0 [2.3,34.1]	
Batteries	27	6.8 [2.9,15.0]	8.0 [3.2,18.8]	5.0 [1.7,13.7]	7.0 [1.5,26.5]	
Candles	8	2 [0.5,7.0]	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	3.0 [0.4,18.3]	2.0 [0.3,14.0]	
Solar light	1	0.2 [0.0,2.0]	0	0	0.5 [0.1,3.7]	
Wood/charcoal	0	0	0	0	0	
No light in household	0	0	0	0	0	
Main water source						
Tanker/truck water (paid)	240	60.0 [39.1,77.8]	79.0 [30.4,97.0]	74.0 [30.8,94.8]	43.5 [19.9,70.5]	0.410
Household water tap/water network	74	18.5 [6.9,40.9]	16.0 [1.9,65.2]	20.0 [2.2,73.4]	19.0 [5.1,50.8]	
Protected well	50	12.5 [4.0,32.9]	2.0 [0.6,6.3]	0	24.0 [7.6,54.9]	
Unprotected well	24	6.0 [1.0,29.0]	0	0	12.0 [2.0,47.9]	
Tanker/truck water (not paid)	7	1.8 [0.8,3.8]	1 [0.1,6.6]	5.0 [2.7,9.1]	0.5 [0.1,3.7]	
Public water source (tap, spring, etc.)	5	1.2 [0.5,2.9]	2.0 [0.6,6.3]	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	1.0 [0.3,3.8]	
Bottled mineral water	0	0	0	0	0	
Water access						
Households with no water access for several days at a time	214	53.5 [37.8,68.6]	77.0 [60.6,87.9]	61.0 [32.5,83.6]	38.0 [18.9,61.7]	0.045
Perceived level of water access problem						
No problem	114	28.5 [13.0,51.6]	4.0 [1.2,12.4]	21.0 [2.6,72.4]	44.5 [18.4,74.0]	0.122
Somewhat of a problem	74	18.5 [12.9,25.8]	21.0 [13.2,31.8]	20.0 [9.5,37.4]	16.5 [8.9,28.5]	
Big problem	212	53.0 [36.4,69.0]	75.0 [58.8,86.3]	59.0 [28.8,83.7]	39.0 [17.9,65.3]	
Access to other basic needs						
Households with access to sufficient cooking fuel to cover cooking and heating needs	274	68.5 [57.0,78.1]	62.0 [45.9,75.8]	62.0 [37.0,81.9]	75.0 [57.9,86.7]	0.404
Households reporting enough soap and hygiene items for female and male household members	234	58.5 [46.5,69.6]	53.0 [35.0,70.2]	55.0 [29.0,78.6]	63.0 [46.0,77.3]	0.699

* each item as a percent of all households

** health hazards include open drops, poor electrical wiring, concrete rebars sticking out of the ground, and other similar hazards

Table 4. Living Conditions

	Overall		By Governorate				Governorate comparison p-value
	(N=400)		Aleppo	Al-Hasakeh	Idlib	Governorate comparison p-value	
	N	% 95% CI	(N=81) % 95% CI	(N=79) % 95% CI	(N=240) % 95% CI		
Main lighting source							
Generator	249	62 [42.0,78.7]	85 [56.2,96.3]	0	75.0 [52.2,89.2]	< 0.001	
Electricity	81	20 [7.2,45.3]	0	100	0.4 [0.1,3.2]		
Gas/paraffin lantern/light	35	8.7 [3.5,19.9]	9.9 [3.4,25.3]	0	11.2 [3.8,29.1]		
Batteries	27	6.7 [2.9,14.9]	1.2 [0.2,7.6]	0	11 [4.9,22.4]		
Candles	8	2.0 [0.5,7.0]	3.7 [0.6,21.1]	0	2.1 [0.4,10.4]		
Solar light	1	0.2 [0.0,2.0]	0	0	0.4 [0.1,3.2]		
Wood/charcoal	0	0	0	0	0		
No light in household	0	0	0	0	0		
Main water source							
Tanker/truck water (paid)	240	60 [38.9,77.7]	59.3 [21.5,88.5]	0	80.0 [54.7,93.0]	< 0.001	
HH water tap/water network	74	18.5 [6.9,40.8]	4.9 [0.7,26.4]	47.5 [10.4,87.6]	13.3 [3.0,43.2]		
Protected well	51	12.7 [4.1,33.5]	4.9 [1.3,16.8]	51 [12.5,88.5]	2.5 [0.8,8.0]		
Unprotected well	24	6.0 [1.0,29.0]	28 [4.3,77.7]	1.2 [0.2,7.7]	0		
Tanker/truck water (not paid)	7	1.7 [0.8,3.8]	1.2 [0.2,7.6]	0	2.5 [1.1,5.5]		
Public water source (tap, spring, etc.)	5	1.2 [0.5,2.8]	1.2 [0.2,7.6]	0	1.7 [0.7,4.0]		
Bottled mineral water	0	0	0	0	0		
Water access							
Households with no water access for several days at a time	215	53.6 [38.0,68.6]	48.1 [19.2,78.4]	3.8 [2.0,6.9]	72.1 [60.5,81.3]	0.001	
Perceived level of water access problem							
No problem	115	28.7 [13.1,51.8]	24.7 [2.7,79.7]	98.8 [92.3,99.8]	6.7 [1.8,21.7]	0.001	
Somewhat of a problem	74	18.5 [12.8,25.8]	13.6 [7.0,24.6]	1.2 [0.2,7.7]	25.8 [19.6,33.2]		
Big problem	212	52.9 [36.2,68.9]	61.7 [24.5,88.9]	0	67.5 [52.5,79.6]		
Access to other basic needs							
Households with access to sufficient cooking fuel to cover cooking and heating needs	275	68.6 [57.1,78.2]	64.2 [41.4,82.0]	98.8 [92.3,99.8]	60.0 [48.8,70.2]	0.001	
Households reporting enough soap and hygiene items for female and male household	235	58.6 [46.6,69.7]	48.1 [29.7,67.1]	95.0 [89.5,97.7]	50.0 [38.9,61.1]	< 0.001	

Table 5. Food Security

		Overall (N=400)		High/Moderate (N=100)	By Risk Level Acceptable (N=100)	Low (N=200)	Risk level comparison p-value
		N	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	
Number of meals eaten by the household daily	Median	400	3	2	3	3	0.215
	Mean	400	2.6 [2.5,2.7]	2.5 [2.3,2.7]	2.6 [2.4,2.9]	2.7 [2.5,2.8]	
	% of households consuming 2 meals daily	160	40.0 [28.2,53.1]	53.0 [33.9,71.2]	39.0 [19.0,63.5]	34.0 [18.2,54.4]	
Number of meals eaten by children under 5 daily	Median	249	4	4	4	4	0.041
	Mean	249	4.1 [3.8,4.3]	3.8 [3.6,4.0]	4 [3.4,4.5]	4.3 [4.0,4.6]	
	% of HH w/ U5s consuming ≤2 meals daily	11	4.4 [2.1,9.2]	0	7.9 [4.4,13.8]	4.9 [1.6,14.0]	
Percent of household's diet provided fro by humanitarian assistance							
None		116	29.0 [23.1,35.7]	32 [20.8,45.8]	35.0 [23.7,48.3]	25 [17.5,33.2]	0.586
0-24%		146	37 [30.7,42.7]	29 [21.0,38.5]	32.0 [24.7,40.2]	43 [34.0,51.4]	
25-49%		68	17.0 [12.9,22.1]	20 [15.3,25.8]	14.0 [8.3,22.6]	17.0 [10.5,26.4]	
50-74%		37	9.2 [6.5,13.0]	15 [9.4,23.1]	8.0 [4.3,14.5]	7.0 [4.1,11.8]	
75-100%		32	8.0 [4.9,12.8]	4 [1.6,9.6]	11.0 [5.0,22.3]	8.5 [4.3,16.2]	
Don't know		1	0.2 [0.0,2.0]	0	0	0.5 [0.1,3.7]	
Most frequent food source							
Market		389	97 [95.1,98.5]	97.0 [93.5,98.6]	99.0 [93.4,99.9]	97 [92.6,98.4]	0.711
Neighbors/extended family		5	1.2 [0.5,2.9]	3.0 [1.4,6.5]	0	1.0 [0.3,3.8]	
Home production/garden		5	1.2 [0.4,4.1]	0	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	2.0 [0.5,7.6]	
Food distribution		1	0.2 [0.0,2.0]	0	0	0.5 [0.1,3.7]	
Other		0	0	0	0	0	
Households experiencing lack of food or money to buy enough food to meet household's needs in the last 30 days		283	71 [62.0,78.2]	68 [59.8,75.3]	66 [56.2,74.6]	75 [57.5,86.3]	0.451

Table 6. Receipt of Humanitarian Assistance Since October 2015*

	N	Overall (N=400)		High/Moderate (N=100)		By Risk Level Acceptable (N=100)		Low (N=200)		Risk level comparison p- value		
		%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI			
Households receiving any humanitarian assistance	258	64.5	[55.6,72.5]	59	[38.6,76.7]	62	[46.9,75.1]	68.5	[56.6,78.4]	0.584		
Food Vouchers												
% households receiving food vouchers	24	6.0	[2.1,16.3]	8.0	[1.1,41.2]	2.0	[0.3,12.7]	7.0	[1.7,24.5]	0.607		
Source of food vouchers*		n=24		n=8		n=2		n=14				
United Nations	0	0		0		0		0				
International NGO	8	33.3	[9.5,70.5]	0		100		42.9	[16.4,74.1]	0.175		
Local NGO/charity	10	41.7	[25.2,60.2]	62.5	[62.5,62.5]	0		35.7	[22.6,51.4]	0.199		
Local council	3	12.5	[1.3,61.1]	0		0		21.4	[1.9,79.2]	0.724		
Don't know	4	16.7	[4.4,46.8]	37.5	[37.5,37.5]	0		7.1	[0.8,41.7]	0.215		
# times food vouchers received**		Median	24	1		1		2				
		Mean	24	1.6	[1.4,1.9]	1.8	[1.8,1.8]	1	[1.0,1.0]	1.6	[1.3,2.0]	0.675
Value of food vouchers received (in USD)**		Median	24	84.7		100.6		161.5		79.4		
		Mean	24	99.3	[76.4,122.1]	113.9	[113.9,113.9]	161.5	[161.5,161.5]	80.7	[63.4,97.9]	0.063
Type of voucher received**												
Cash value	2	7.4	[0.7,46.3]	0		50	[50.0,50.0]	6.2	[0.8,34.8]	0.102		
Commodity value	25	92.6	[53.7,99.3]	100		50	[50.0,50.0]	93.8	[65.2,99.2]			
Food Items												
% households receiving food basket/food items	237	59.2	[51.9,66.2]	57	[38.8,73.5]	53	[44.1,61.7]	63.5	[53.8,72.2]	0.401		
Source of food items*		n=237		n=57		n=53		n=127				
United Nations	3	1.3	[0.4,4.0]	0		1.9	[0.3,12.4]	1.6	[0.4,6.4]	0.647		
International NGO	60	25.3	[12.4,44.8]	10.5	[4.8,21.6]	26.4	[8.8,57.3]	31.5	[11.4,62.3]	0.301		
Local NGO/charity	158	66.7	[49.9,80.1]	84.2	[72.0,91.7]	64.2	[42.1,81.5]	59.8	[33.9,81.2]	0.172		
Don't know	19	8.0	[4.7,13.2]	8.8	[5.0,15.0]	7.5	[3.5,15.4]	7.9	[3.2,18.3]	0.942		
# times food items received		Median	237	2		2		2				
		Mean	237	2.1	[1.8,2.3]	2.3	[1.7,2.9]	2.3	[2.1,2.5]	1.9	[1.5,2.2]	0.177
Rent Assistance												
% households receiving rent/housing assistance	2	0.5	[0.1,2.1]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	0		0.337		
Source of rent assistance*		n=2		n=1		n=1		n=0				
United Nations	0	0		0		0		0		---		
International NGO	1	50.0	[4.6,95.4]	0		100		0		---		
Local NGO/charity	1	50.0	[4.6,95.4]	100		0		0		---		
Don't know	0	0		0		0		0		---		
# times rent assistance received**		Median	2	0.5		0		1		0		
		Mean	2	0.5	[-0.3,1.3]	0	[0.0,0.0]	1	[1.0,1.0]	0		--
Value of each rent transfer (in USD)**		Median	2	103.3		21.2		185.4				
		Mean	2	103.3	[-21.4,227.9]	21.2	[21.2,21.2]	185.4	[185.4,185.4]			---
Fuel Assistance												
% households receiving fuel assistance	20	5.0	[1.6,15.0]	4.0	[1.6,9.6]	3.0	[1.4,6.5]	6.5	[1.1,30.4]	0.552		
Source of fuel assistance*		n=20		n=4		n=3		n=13				
United Nations	0	0		0		0		0		---		
International NGO	8	40.0	[10.5,79.1]	0		0		61.5	[32.2,84.4]	0.044		
Local NGO/charity	9	45.0	[21.8,70.6]	50.0	[6.7,93.3]	100		30.8	[22.6,40.4]	0.137		
Don't know	3	15.0	[2.1,59.0]	50.0	[6.7,93.3]	0		7.7	[0.5,57.4]	0.277		
# times fuel assistance received**		Median	20	1		1		1				
		Mean	20	1.1	[0.9,1.2]	1.2	[0.9,1.6]	1	[1.0,1.0]	1	[1.0,1.0]	0.195
Type of fuel assistance received**												
Cash value	1	5.3	[0.3,52.5]	25.0	[1.4,88.6]	0		0		0.431		
Commodity value	18	94.7	[47.5,99.7]	75.0	[11.4,98.6]	100		100				

	N	Overall (N=400)		High/Moderate (N=100)		By Risk Level Acceptable (N=100)		Low (N=200)		Risk level comparison p value
		%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	
Unrestricted Vouchers										
% households receiving unrestricted vouchers	10	2.5	[0.5,12.5]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	0		4.5	[0.7,23.7]	0.412
Source of vouchers*		n=10		n=1		n=		n=9		
United Nations	0	0		0		0		0		---
International NGO	0	0		0		0		0		---
Local NGO/charity	10	100		100		0		100		---
Don't know	0	0		0		0		0		---
# times unrestricted vouchers received**	Median	10	2	1		---		2		
	Mean	10	1.6 [1.3,1.9]	1	[1.0,1.0]	---		1.7	[1.4,1.9]	0.035
Value of each voucher (in USD)**	Median	10	84.7	127.1		---		84.7		
	Mean	10	102.8 [81.0,124.5]	127.1	[127.1,127.1]	---		100.0	[80.2,119.9]	0.139
Cash Assistance										
% households receiving cash assistance	1	0.2	[0.0,2.0]	0		1	[0.1,6.6]	0		0.735
Source of cash assistance*		n=1		n=0		n=1		n=0		
United Nations	0	0		0		0		0		---
International NGO	1	100		0		100		0		---
Local NGO/charity	0	0		0		0		0		---
Don't know	0	0		0		0		0		---
# times cash assistance received**	Median	1	1	---		1		---		
	Mean	1	1 [1.0,1.0]	---		1	[1.0,1.0]	---		---
Amount of cash assistance received**	Median	1	185.4	---		185.4		---		
	Mean	1	185.4 [185.4,185.4]	---		185.4	[185.4,185.4]	---		---
Modality cash assistance received										
Cash through Hawala system	0	0		---		0		---		
Cash through local store/vendor	1	100		---		100		---		---
Cross border (carried relatives/others)	0	0		---		0		---		---
Other	0	0		---		0		---		---
Other In-Kind Assistance										
% households receiving other in-kind assistance	87	21.8	[14.6,31.1]	19	[9.5,34.3]	25	[10.3,49.1]	21.5	[12.2,35.1]	0.846
Source of other in-kind assistance*		n=87		n=19		n=25		n=43		
United Nations	0	0		0		0		0		---
International NGO	25	28.7	[11.7,55.2]	5.3	[0.5,36.9]	44	[14.0,79.2]	30.2	[7.5,69.7]	0.265
Local NGO/charity	55	63.2	[41.2,80.8]	89.5	[68.7,97.0]	52	[20.1,82.3]	58.1	[28.6,82.8]	0.197
Don't know	7	8	[3.0,19.7]	5.3	[1.0,23.1]	4	[1.0,14.1]	11.6	[3.0,35.6]	0.372
Type of in-kind assistance received*										
Cooking supplies	31	35.6	[19.9,55.3]	26.3	[13.6,44.7]	60.0	[29.7,84.2]	25.6	[7.7,58.7]	
Clothes	18	20.7	[10.1,37.6]	15.8	[3.9,46.2]	20.0	[5.1,53.9]	23.3	[8.3,50.3]	0.380
Medicines	16	18.4	[8.0,37.0]	10.5	[1.0,58.8]	36.0	[14.3,65.5]	11.6	[4.9,25.1]	0.431
Shelter materials	5	5.7	[2.0,15.2]	5.3	[1.0,23.1]	0		9.3	[2.9,25.9]	---
Heater/heating stoves	2	2.3	[0.3,14.5]	0		8.0	[2.0,26.7]	0		---
Hygiene items	2	2.3	[0.3,17.7]	0		8.0	[0.7,50.1]	0		0.126
Water-related items	0	0		0		0		0		0.551
Bedding	0	0		0		0		0		0.161
Education materials	0	0		0		0		0		0.880
Agriculture supplies	0	0		0		0		0		---
Other	29	33.3	[16.2,56.4]	47.4	[31.0,64.3]	12.0	[1.0,63.7]	39.5	[14.4,71.7]	0.267

* each item as a percent of all households

** among households receiving this type of assistance

Table 7. Sale of Humanitarian Assistance

	Overall		By Risk Level				Risk level comparison p-value
	N	% 95% CI	High/Moderate % 95% CI	Acceptable % 95% CI	Low % 95% CI		
Food Voucher		n=23	n=8	n=2	n=13		
Households selling or exchanging food vouchers							
Never	21	91.3 [84.8,95.2]	87.5 [87.5,87.5]	100	92.3 [81.3,97.1]		0.700
Some of the time	0	0	0	0	0		
Most of the time	0	0	0	0	0		
Always	2	8.7 [4.8,15.2]	12.5 [12.5,12.5]	0	7.7 [2.9,18.7]		
Amount earned from selling food vouchers (in USD)	Median	n=2	n=1	n=0	n=1		
	Mean	2 25.2 [23.1,27.2]	23.8 [23.8,23.8]	---	26.5 [26.5,26.5]		---
Reason for selling food vouchers*							
Do not need this type of assistance received	1	50.0 [4.6,95.4]	0	0	50.0 [4.6,95.4]		0.532
To pay for utilities (water, fuel, etc.)	1	50 [4.6,95.4]	100	0	50.0 [4.6,95.4]		0.532
Do not like this type of assistance received	0	0	0	0	0		---
Received too much of this type of assistance	0	0	0	0	0		---
To buy food	0	0	0	0	0		---
To pay for rent/housing	0	0	0	0	0		---
To pay for health care/medicines	0	0	0	0	0		---
To pay debts	0	0	0	0	0		---
Other	0	0	0	0	0		---
Food Items		n=237	n=57	n=53	n=127		
Households selling or exchanging food items							
Never	214	90.3 [85.8,93.5]	84.2 [76.0,90.0]	90.6 [80.0,95.8]	92.9 [86.6,96.4]		0.649
Some of the time	22	9.3 [6.0,14.1]	15.8 [10.0,24.0]	9.4 [4.2,20.0]	6.3 [2.8,13.4]		
Most of the time	1	0.4 [0.1,3.4]	0	0	0.8 [0.1,5.9]		
Always	0	0	0	0	0		
Reason for selling food items*		n=23	n=9	n=5	n=9		
To pay for utilities (water, fuel, etc.)	9	39.1 [19.8,62.6]	55.6 [26.5,81.2]	20.0 [3.2,65.1]	33.3 [8.5,72.8]		0.360
To buy food	8	34.8 [17.5,57.3]	33.3 [11.6,65.6]	40.0 [9.7,80.5]	33.3 [8.5,72.8]		0.961
To pay debts	5	21.7 [7.6,48.3]	22.2 [4.8,61.8]	0	33.3 [8.5,72.8]		0.412
To pay for health care/medicines	2	8.7 [1.9,32.2]	11.1 [1.0,60.1]	0	11.1 [1.4,51.7]		0.772
Do not like this type of assistance received	1	4.3 [0.5,28.2]	0	20.0 [3.2,65.1]	0		0.307
Received too much of this type of assistance	1	4.3 [0.5,28.2]	0	20.0 [3.2,65.1]	0		0.307
To pay for rent/housing	1	4.3 [0.5,30.2]	0	0	11.1 [1.1,58.7]		0.616
Do not need this type of assistance received	0	0	0	0	0		---
Other	0	0	0	0	0		---
Fuel Assistance		n=19	n=4	n=3	n=12		
Households selling or exchanging fuel assistance							
Always	0	0	0	0	0		---
Most of the time	0	0	0	0	0		
Some of the time	0	0	0	0	0		
Never	19	100	100	100	100		
Unrestricted Vouchers		n=10	n=1	n=	n=9		
Households selling or exchanging unrestricted vouchers							
Always	0	0	0	0	0		---
Most of the time	0	0	0	0	0		
Some of the time	0	0	0	0	0		
Never	10	100	100	0	100		

* each item as a percent of all households selling this type of assistance

Table 8. Priority Unmet Needs

	N	Overall (N=400)		High/Moderate (N=100)		By Risk Level Acceptable (N=100)		Low (N=200)		Risk level comparison p value
		%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	
% households reporting any unmet needs	398	99.5	[97.9,99.9]	99.0	[93.4,99.9]	99.0	[93.4,99.9]	0		0.337
Priority unmet need*										
More food	267	67.1	[57.6,75.4]	56.6	[51.8,61.3]	71.7	[55.4,83.8]	70.0	[53.2,82.7]	0.749
Cooking fuel, gas, electricity	37	9.3	[5.8,14.7]	14.1	[7.7,24.6]	9.1	[4.4,17.8]	7.0	[2.7,16.8]	
Better quality food	27	6.8	[4.4,10.4]	9.1	[5.3,15.3]	3.0	[0.4,18.4]	7.5	[4.3,12.7]	
Medicines/health	19	4.8	[3.1,7.3]	4.0	[1.6,9.6]	5.1	[2.7,9.2]	5.0	[2.5,9.7]	
Clothes/shoes	12	3.0	[1.5,6.0]	5.1	[1.7,13.9]	4.0	[1.6,9.7]	1.5	[0.3,6.2]	
Drinking water	9	2.3	[0.8,6.3]	3.0	[0.8,10.4]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	2.5	[0.5,12.1]	
Support for rent/improved shelter	8	2.0	[0.8,5.2]	2.0	[0.6,6.5]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	2.5	[0.6,9.6]	
More security	5	1.3	[0.5,2.9]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	2.0	[0.6,6.5]	1	[0.3,3.8]	
Education/books	3	0.8	[0.2,3.4]	1.0	[0.1,6.8]	0		1.0	[0.1,7.3]	
Psycho-social support	2	0.5	[0.1,2.1]	0		2.0	[0.6,6.4]	0		
Kitchen assets for cooking	1	0.3	[0.0,2.0]	0		0		0.5	[0.1,3.7]	
Other HH assets	1	0.3	[0.0,2.0]	0		1.0	[0.1,6.6]	0		
Vocational training	1	0.3	[0.0,2.0]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	0		0		
Sanitation/sewage	1	0.3	[0.0,2.0]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	0		0		
Baby food	1	0.3	[0.0,2.0]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	0		0		
Agricultural inputs	0	0		0		0		0		
Transport	0	0		0		0		0		
Youth activities	0	0		0		0		0		
Other	4	1.0	[0.4,2.6]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	0		1.5	[0.5,4.2]	
Second priority unmet need										
Cooking fuel, gas, electricity	132	33.2	[26.0,41.2]	34.3	[26.2,43.5]	31.3	[19.3,46.5]	33.5	[22.1,47.2]	0.779
Medicines/health	59	14.8	[9.6,22.2]	13.1	[6.3,25.2]	16.2	[5.8,37.5]	15.0	[8.3,25.7]	
Clothes/shoes	57	14.3	[10.2,19.8]	19.2	[11.0,31.3]	6.1	[3.3,11.0]	16.0	[10.6,23.4]	
More food	39	9.8	[6.3,15.0]	11.1	[4.4,25.4]	10.1	[5.4,18.2]	9.0	[4.5,17.3]	
Drinking water	32	8.0	[4.7,13.5]	5.1	[2.1,11.6]	12.1	[6.9,20.5]	7.5	[2.8,18.5]	
Education/books	17	4.3	[2.4,7.5]	6.1	[2.7,12.9]	5.1	[1.7,13.8]	3.0	[1.0,8.3]	
Better quality food	13	3.3	[1.6,6.6]	3.0	[0.8,10.4]	0		5.0	[2.3,10.3]	
Support for rent/improved shelter	13	3.3	[1.4,7.6]	0		6.1	[1.6,20.4]	3.5	[1.3,9.1]	
Other HH assets	10	2.5	[1.2,5.1]	4.0	[1.0,15.2]	3.0	[1.4,6.6]	1.5	[0.5,4.2]	
Baby food	5	1.3	[0.4,3.5]	0		3.0	[0.8,10.4]	1.0	[0.3,3.8]	
Sanitation/sewage	4	1.0	[0.3,3.4]	1.0	[0.1,6.8]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	1.0	[0.1,7.3]	
More security	3	0.8	[0.2,2.4]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	1.0	[0.1,6.8]	0.5	[0.1,3.7]	
Psycho-social support	2	0.5	[0.1,2.1]	0		1.0	[0.1,6.6]	0.5	[0.1,3.7]	
Agricultural inputs	1	0.3	[0.0,2.0]	0		1.0	[0.1,6.6]	0		
Kitchen assets for cooking	0	0		0		0		0		
Transport	0	0		0		0		0		
Vocational training	0	0		0		0		0		
Youth activities	0	0		0		0		0		
Other	8	2	[0.8,4.8]	2	[0.6,6.4]	2.0	[0.3,12.7]	2.0	[0.5,7.5]	
No other unmet need	3	0.8	[0.2,3.4]	0		1.0	[0.1,6.6]	1.0	[0.1,7.3]	
Priority unmet need by category*										
Food	295	74.1	[66.3,80.6]	66.7	[59.4,73.2]	74.7	[62.3,84.1]	77.5	[63.3,87.3]	0.761
Non-food Items	51	12.8	[8.5,18.8]	19.2	[12.2,28.8]	14.1	[7.7,24.6]	9.0	[3.9,19.5]	
Health	21	5.3	[3.5,8]	4.0	[1.6,9.6]	7.1	[4.1,12]	5.0	[2.5,9.7]	
Water & Sanitation	10	2.5	[0.9,6.6]	4.0	[1.2,12.5]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	2.5	[0.5,12.1]	
Other	9	2.3	[1.1,4.6]	2.0	[0.3,12.7]	2.0	[0.6,6.5]	2.5	[1.6,1]	
Shelter	8	2.0	[0.8,5.2]	2.0	[0.6,6.5]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	2.5	[0.6,9.6]	
Education	3	0.8	[0.2,3.4]	1.0	[0.1,6.8]	0		1.0	[0.1,7.3]	
Livelihoods	1	0.3	[0.2]	1.0	[0.1,6.6]	0		0		
Second priority unmet need by category										
Non-food Items	199	50.4	[43.3,57.4]	57.6	[50.4,64.5]	40.8	[25.2,58.5]	51.5	[42.6,60.3]	0.774
Health	61	15.4	[10.23]	13.1	[6.3,25.2]	17.3	[6.5,38.7]	15.7	[8.6,26.8]	
Food	57	14.4	[10.8,19.1]	14.1	[7.1,26.2]	13.3	[9.19,1]	15.2	[9.9,22.5]	
Water & Sanitation	36	9.1	[5.6,14.6]	6.1	[2.7,13]	13.3	[7.1,23.5]	8.6	[3.7,18.7]	
Education	17	4.3	[2.4,7.6]	6.1	[2.7,12.9]	5.1	[1.8,13.9]	3.0	[1.1,8.4]	
Shelter	13	3.3	[1.4,7.6]	0		6.1	[1.6,20.5]	3.5	[1.3,9.2]	
Other	11	2.8	[1.4,5.6]	3.0	[0.8,10.4]	3.1	[0.8,10.8]	2.5	[0.8,7.4]	
Livelihoods	1	0.3	[0.2]	0		1.0	[0.1,6.6]	0		

Table 9. Beneficiary Preferences

	By Risk Level					Risk level comparison p-value
	Overall (N=400)	High/Moderate (N=100)	Acceptable (N=100)	Low (N=200)		
	N % 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI		
Prefer in-kind assistance						
Households preferring in-kind assistance for items from any sector	364	91.0 [84.9,94.8]	87.0 [76.1,93.3]	91.0 [76.4,96.9]	93.0 [82.3,97.4]	0.535
Households preferring in-kind assistance for item type*						
Food	176	44.0 [36.2,52.1]	42.0 [33.9,50.5]	44.0 [29.9,59.1]	45.0 [32.3,58.4]	0.916
Fuel	165	41.2 [32.4,50.7]	34.0 [22.4,47.9]	35.0 [24.3,47.5]	48.0 [33.6,62.7]	0.191
Health	127	31.8 [27.2,36.6]	30.0 [24.3,36.4]	32.0 [22.0,44.1]	32.5 [26.1,39.7]	0.872
WASH	102	25.5 [18.5,34.1]	32.0 [21.0,45.4]	28.0 [17.7,41.4]	21.0 [11.3,35.8]	0.369
Education	100	25.0 [20.0,30.8]	32.0 [25.9,38.8]	24.0 [12.8,40.6]	22.0 [16.2,29.1]	0.280
Shelter/rent	61	15.2 [10.0,22.5]	19.0 [14.7,24.2]	21.0 [12.5,33.0]	10.5 [3.9,25.4]	0.209
Clothes, blankets, similar NFIs	58	14.5 [9.8,21.0]	11.0 [7.9,15.1]	11.0 [7.1,16.7]	18.0 [9.9,30.5]	0.158
Other	0	0	0	0	0	--
Prefer voucher assistance						
Households preferring voucher assistance for items from any sector	317	79.4 [68.8,87.1]	74.0 [50.5,88.8]	80.0 [57.8,92.1]	81.9 [66.2,91.3]	0.752
Households preferring voucher assistance for item type*						
Food	119	29.8 [19.9,41.9]	19.0 [10.8,31.4]	18.0 [7.8,36.4]	41.0 [25.3,58.8]	0.028
Clothes, blankets, similar NFIs	116	29.0 [22.2,36.9]	28.0 [16.0,44.3]	28.0 [18.9,39.4]	30.0 [19.6,42.9]	0.948
Health	103	25.8 [19.6,33.1]	22.0 [12.8,35.1]	25.0 [19.4,31.5]	28.0 [17.9,41.0]	0.629
Fuel	89	22.2 [16.0,30.0]	17.0 [11.4,24.5]	23.0 [15.3,33.1]	24.5 [14.2,38.9]	0.470
Education	63	15.8 [10.8,22.5]	12.0 [7.3,19.0]	15.0 [5.9,33.3]	18.0 [10.8,28.6]	0.597
Shelter/rent	45	11.2 [8.3,15.1]	11.0 [7.1,16.7]	16.0 [9.3,26.0]	9.0 [5.8,13.7]	0.154
WASH	36	9.0 [5.6,14.2]	11.0 [5.3,21.3]	9.0 [4.0,19.0]	8.0 [3.5,17.3]	0.801
Other	0	0	0	0	0	
Preferred modality for voucher assistance		<i>n=317</i>	<i>n=74</i>	<i>n=80</i>	<i>n=163</i>	
Paper voucher to be used in shops for specific amount	166	52.4 [38.4,66.0]	21.6 [13.0,33.7]	51.2 [34.4,67.8]	66.9 [48.5,81.2]	
Paper voucher to be used in shops for specified items	89	28.1 [20.3,37.5]	43.2 [31.7,55.6]	26.2 [15.8,40.3]	22.1 [12.6,35.9]	
Electronic card to be used in shops (no restriction on items)	17	5.4 [2.8,9.9]	14.9 [11.2,19.5]	5 [2.0,12.2]	1.2 [0.3,4.8]	0.005
Electronic card to be used in shops for specified items	8	2.5 [0.8,7.3]	2.7 [0.9,8.2]	6.2 [1.4,23.3]	0.6 [0.1,4.4]	
No preference	37	11.7 [6.2,20.8]	17.6 [5.1,45.7]	11.2 [3.1,33.3]	9.2 [4.3,18.6]	
Prefer cash assistance						
Households preferring cash assistance for items from any sector	375	94.2 [88.6,97.2]	96.0 [84.4,99.0]	90.0 [72.7,96.8]	95.5 [87.7,98.4]	0.401
Households preferring cash assistance for item type*						
Food	194	48.5 [40.5,56.5]	37.0 [32.3,42.0]	51.0 [37.2,64.6]	53.0 [40.2,65.4]	0.120
Health	151	37.8 [28.0,48.5]	30.0 [21.3,40.4]	37.0 [16.3,63.9]	42.0 [28.2,57.2]	0.546
Clothes, blankets, similar NFIs	143	35.8 [28.2,44.1]	35.0 [21.6,51.2]	27.0 [14.1,45.4]	40.5 [30.8,51.0]	0.353
Fuel	134	33.5 [25.1,43.0]	39.0 [28.6,50.5]	21.0 [10.6,37.3]	37.0 [24.2,51.9]	0.150
WASH	88	22.0 [15.0,31.1]	26.0 [14.5,42.2]	22.0 [10.8,39.5]	20.0 [10.3,35.2]	0.791
Education	82	20.5 [16.9,24.7]	19.0 [11.7,29.4]	20.0 [11.8,31.9]	21.5 [17.8,25.7]	0.872
Shelter/rent	76	19.0 [13.1,26.7]	30.0 [23.1,37.9]	13.0 [7.0,22.9]	16.5 [8.3,30.3]	0.064
Other	1	0.2 [0.0,2.0]	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	0	0	0.735
Preferred modality for cash assistance**		<i>n=377</i>	<i>n=96</i>	<i>n=90</i>	<i>n=191</i>	
Cash through local store / vendor	173	45.9 [32.7,59.6]	62.5 [40.9,80.1]	45.6 [21.4,72.0]	37.7 [21.4,57.3]	
Cash through Hawala system	164	43.5 [29.2,58.9]	26.0 [11.3,49.3]	41.1 [14.7,73.9]	53.4 [33.3,72.5]	
Cross border (carried relatives/others)	5	1.3 [0.3,5.1]	1.0 [0.2,6.9]	4.4 [1.0,17.8]	0	0.257
Other	9	2.4 [0.8,7.3]	1.0 [0.1,7.2]	0	4.2 [1.3,13.0]	
No preference	26	6.9 [3.9,11.8]	9.4 [3.7,22.0]	8.9 [3.1,22.9]	4.7 [2.0,10.8]	
Most likely use for future cash assistance		<i>n=400</i>	<i>n=100</i>	<i>n=100</i>	<i>n=200</i>	
Food	276	69.0 [63.3,74.2]	67.0 [58.2,74.8]	64.0 [53.3,73.5]	72.5 [63.9,79.7]	
Fuel	49	12.2 [8.7,17.0]	20.0 [11.8,31.9]	12.0 [7.9,17.8]	8.5 [5.3,13.4]	
Health	30	7.5 [5.7,9.8]	5.0 [2.7,9.1]	11.0 [7.9,15.1]	7.0 [4.8,10.2]	
Shelter/rent	12	3.0 [1.8,5.1]	4.0 [2.5,6.4]	3.0 [0.8,10.4]	2.5 [1.0,6.1]	
Clothes, blankets, similar NFIs	12	3.0 [1.5,5.9]	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	4.0 [1.6,9.6]	3.5 [1.3,9.1]	0.681
WASH	8	2.0 [0.5,7.4]	0	3.0 [1.4,6.5]	2.5 [0.3,17.2]	
Education	4	1.0 [0.4,2.6]	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	1.0 [0.3,3.8]	
Agriculture/livelihoods	3	0.8 [0.2,2.3]	0	0	1.5 [0.5,4.2]	
Other	6	1.5 [0.5,4.1]	2.0 [0.6,6.3]	2.0 [0.3,12.7]	1.0 [0.1,7.3]	

	By Risk Level					Risk level comparison p-value
	Overall	High/Moderate	Acceptable	Low		
	(N=400)	(N=100)	(N=100)	(N=200)		
	N	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	
Second most likely use for future cash assistance						
Fuel	117	29.2 [22.4,37.1]	32.0 [23.8,41.5]	21.0 [11.0,36.3]	32.0 [21.6,44.6]	0.695
Health	78	19.5 [12.6,29.0]	12.0 [5.5,24.1]	28.0 [11.5,53.7]	19.0 [11.0,30.9]	
Food	73	18.2 [14.8,22.2]	22.0 [14.0,32.8]	16.0 [11.8,21.3]	17.5 [13.2,22.8]	
Clothes, blankets, similar NFIs	54	13.5 [9.5,18.8]	17.0 [10.5,26.3]	8.0 [3.5,17.4]	14.5 [8.8,22.9]	
WASH	33	8.2 [5.2,12.8]	8.0 [3.5,17.4]	12.0 [6.1,22.2]	6.5 [2.9,13.8]	
Education	21	5.2 [3.3,8.3]	6.0 [3.3,10.8]	6.0 [2.7,12.8]	4.5 [1.9,10.4]	
Shelter/rent	16	4.0 [2.4,6.7]	3.0 [0.8,10.4]	5.0 [2.1,11.5]	4.0 [1.9,8.3]	
Agriculture/livelihoods	2	0.5 [0.1,2.1]	0	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	0.5 [0.1,3.8]	
Other	5	1.2 [0.4,3.5]	0	2.0 [0.6,6.3]	1.5 [0.3,6.2]	
No second most likely use	1	0.2 [0.0,2.0]	0	1.0 [0.1,6.6]	0	
Preferred modality for assistance by sector						
Food						
In-kind	121	39.7 [33.6,46.1]	44.4 [35.3,53.9]	37.6 [23.2,54.7]	37.7 [30.6,45.4]	0.419
Voucher	64	21.0 [15.4,27.9]	18.9 [9.6,33.8]	15.3 [7.9,27.7]	26.2 [18.2,36.1]	
Cash	120	39.3 [32.0,47.2]	36.7 [29.0,45.0]	47.1 [29.3,65.6]	36.2 [26.4,47.2]	
Shelter/rent						
In-kind	60	34.5 [25.0,45.3]	32.1 [25.1,40.1]	43.8 [35.0,52.9]	30.0 [12.5,56.3]	0.186
Voucher	42	24.1 [19.1,30.1]	17.9 [12.4,24.9]	31.2 [22.8,41.1]	24.3 [16.9,33.7]	
Cash	72	41.4 [29.9,53.9]	50.0 [42.4,57.6]	25.0 [14.8,38.9]	45.7 [23.6,69.7]	
Health						
In-kind	90	35.2 [28.4,42.6]	38.9 [30.7,47.8]	31.3 [17.5,49.6]	35.0 [24.9,46.7]	0.932
Voucher	62	24.2 [18.5,31.0]	23.6 [16.2,33.2]	25.4 [16.2,37.5]	23.9 [14.6,36.6]	
Cash	104	40.6 [31.8,50.1]	37.5 [24.5,52.6]	43.3 [25.8,62.7]	41.0 [27.7,55.9]	
Fuel						
In-kind	134	45.9 [37.4,54.6]	40.2 [26.5,55.7]	44.3 [29.5,60.2]	50.4 [37.4,63.4]	0.228
Voucher	61	20.9 [16.2,26.5]	15.9 [11.2,22.0]	29.1 [19.8,40.7]	19.1 [13.3,26.6]	
Cash	97	33.2 [24.9,42.8]	43.9 [28.5,60.5]	26.6 [13.5,45.7]	30.5 [20.0,43.6]	
Education						
In-kind	92	44.2 [36.4,52.4]	52.5 [44.9,59.9]	43.6 [24.4,65.0]	39.1 [29.7,49.5]	0.657
Voucher	50	24.0 [15.7,34.9]	18.0 [9.4,31.8]	23.6 [8.6,50.3]	28.3 [15.5,45.9]	
Cash	66	31.7 [25.5,38.7]	29.5 [17.6,45.0]	32.7 [21.2,46.8]	32.6 [24.8,41.5]	
WASH						
In-kind	97	45.5 [35.1,56.4]	47.7 [28.0,68.1]	47.5 [35.5,59.7]	42.7 [25.7,61.6]	0.974
Voucher	33	15.5 [9.9,23.5]	13.8 [6.2,28.0]	15.3 [8.0,27.1]	16.9 [7.6,33.3]	
Cash	83	39.0 [30.6,48.0]	38.5 [24.1,55.2]	37.3 [25.1,51.4]	40.4 [26.8,55.8]	
Clothes, blankets, similar NFIs						
In-kind	43	18.1 [12.4,25.7]	14.3 [9.9,20.1]	17.2 [10.9,26.0]	21.4 [10.5,38.6]	0.611
Voucher	84	35.4 [27.2,44.6]	38.6 [21.9,58.5]	42.2 [27.0,59.0]	29.1 [20.6,39.4]	
Cash	110	46.4 [35.3,57.9]	47.1 [28.1,67.1]	40.6 [21.7,62.8]	49.5 [33.2,66.0]	

* each preferred item reported as percent of interviewed households

** among households reporting cash assistance preference

Table 10. Beneficiary Preferences

	Overall (N=400)		Aleppo (N=81)		By Governorate Al-Hasakeh (N=79)		Idlib (N=240)		Governorate comparison p- value
	N	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI			
Prefer in-kind assistance									
Households preferring in-kind assistance for items from any sector									
Households preferring in-kind assistance for item type*									
Food	176	44.0 [36.2,52.1]	59.3 [32.4,81.5]	35.4 [29.4,42.0]	41.7 [34.8,48.9]	0.161			
Fuel	165	41.2 [32.4,50.7]	49.4 [32.9,66.0]	58.2 [30.8,81.4]	32.9 [26.2,40.4]	0.089			
Health	127	31.8 [27.2,36.6]	35.8 [33.2,38.5]	35.4 [22.6,50.8]	29.2 [23.9,35.1]	0.328			
WASH	102	25.5 [18.5,34.1]	29.6 [14.8,50.5]	8.9 [5.3,14.4]	29.6 [21.2,39.6]	0.038			
Education	100	25.0 [20.0,30.8]	32.1 [27.4,37.2]	7.6 [2.5,20.7]	28.3 [23.8,33.4]	0.004			
Shelter/rent	61	15.2 [10.0,22.5]	24.7 [11.8,44.6]	1.3 [0.2,7.7]	16.7 [11.5,23.5]	0.012			
Clothes, blankets, similar NFIs	58	14.5 [9.8,21.0]	18.5 [7.0,40.7]	22.8 [11.8,39.3]	10.4 [7.0,15.3]	0.162			
Other	0	0	0	0	0	---			
Prefer voucher assistance									
Households preferring voucher assistance for items from any sector									
Households preferring voucher assistance for item type*									
Food	119	29.8 [19.9,41.9]	46.9 [19.0,76.9]	53.2 [47.3,59.0]	16.2 [10.9,23.5]	0.008			
Clothes, blankets, similar NFIs	116	29.0 [22.2,36.9]	34.6 [16.6,58.3]	41.8 [31.1,53.3]	22.9 [16.9,30.3]	0.097			
Health	103	25.8 [19.6,33.1]	27.2 [19.7,36.1]	45.6 [35.6,55.9]	18.8 [13.3,25.8]	< 0.001			
Fuel	89	22.2 [16.0,30.0]	38.3 [18.2,63.4]	17.7 [10.3,28.9]	18.3 [14.4,23.0]	0.060			
Education	63	15.8 [10.8,22.5]	14.8 [8.4,24.9]	35.4 [25.6,46.7]	9.6 [6.6,13.6]	< 0.001			
Shelter/rent	45	11.2 [8.3,15.1]	11.1 [6.0,19.8]	5.1 [4.9,5.2]	13.3 [9.5,18.4]	0.043			
WASH	36	9.0 [5.6,14.2]	11.1 [5.3,21.7]	1.3 [0.2,7.9]	10.8 [6.3,17.9]	0.050			
Other	0	0	0	0	0				
Preferred modality for voucher assistance									
Paper voucher to be used in shops for specific amount									
Paper voucher to be used in shops for specified items	89	28.1 [20.3,37.5]	31.1 [14.7,54.2]	12.7 [5.1,28.2]	34.1 [25.0,44.7]	0.008			
Electronic card to be used in shops (no restriction on items)									
Electronic card to be used in shops for specified items	8	2.5 [0.8,7.3]	1.4 [0.2,7.9]	0	4.3 [1.4,12.4]				
No preference	37	11.7 [6.2,20.8]	5.4 [2.5,11.5]	0	20.1 [11.8,32.2]				
Prefer cash assistance									
Households preferring cash assistance for items from any sector									
Households preferring cash assistance for item type*									
Food	194	48.5 [40.5,56.5]	46.9 [21.2,74.3]	60.8 [53.8,67.3]	45.0 [37.9,52.3]	0.339			
Health	151	37.8 [28.0,48.5]	21.0 [11.2,35.9]	74.7 [63.3,83.5]	31.2 [24.9,38.4]	< 0.001			
Clothes, blankets, similar NFIs	143	35.8 [28.2,44.1]	40.7 [28.6,54.1]	29.1 [15.5,47.9]	36.2 [26.2,47.7]	0.553			
Fuel	134	33.5 [25.1,43.0]	37.0 [14.2,67.7]	20.3 [9.6,37.8]	36.7 [28.4,45.8]	0.375			
WASH	88	22.0 [15.0,31.1]	8.6 [3.5,20.0]	0	33.8 [27.8,40.2]	0.019			
Education	82	20.5 [16.9,24.7]	13.6 [7.6,23.0]	24.1 [19.1,29.9]	21.7 [17.1,27.0]	0.105			
Shelter/rent	76	19.0 [13.1,26.7]	12.3 [3.6,34.6]	2.5 [0.8,7.3]	26.7 [20.7,33.6]	0.009			
Other	1	0.2 [0.0,2.0]	0	0	0.4 [0.1,3.2]	0.884			
Preferred modality for cash assistance**									
Cash through local store / vendor									
Cash through Hawala system	173	45.9 [32.7,59.6]	51.4 [20.4,81.3]	6.3 [3.0,12.8]	58.0 [47.2,68.2]	0.002			
Cross border (carried relatives/others)	164	43.5 [29.2,58.9]	43.2 [15.1,76.5]	89.9 [79.2,95.4]	27.2 [18.2,38.6]				
Other	5	1.3 [0.3,5.1]	1.4 [0.2,9.5]	0	1.8 [0.4,8.5]				
No preference	9	2.4 [0.8,7.3]	1.4 [0.2,7.9]	0	3.6 [1.0,11.5]				
Most likely use for future cash assistance									
Cash through local store / vendor									
Cash through Hawala system	276	69.0 [63.3,74.2]	61.7 [53.7,69.2]	81.0 [70.0,88.7]	67.5 [60.8,73.5]	0.547			
Cross border (carried relatives/others)	49	12.2 [8.7,17.0]	18.5 [8.1,36.8]	3.8 [2.1,6.8]	12.9 [10.2,16.2]				
Other	30	7.5 [5.7,9.8]	8.6 [5.2,13.9]	7.6 [4.1,13.8]	7.1 [4.8,10.3]				
No preference	12	3.0 [1.8,5.1]	2.5 [0.8,7.0]	1.3 [0.2,7.7]	3.8 [2.1,6.8]				
Cash through Hawala system									
Cash through Hawala system	12	3.0 [1.5,5.9]	4.9 [1.3,17.3]	3.8 [1.2,11.8]	2.1 [0.8,5.3]				
Cross border (carried relatives/others)									
Cross border (carried relatives/others)	8	2.0 [0.5,7.4]	1.2 [0.2,7.6]	0.0	2.9 [0.7,12.0]				
Other									
Other	4	1.0 [0.4,2.6]	1.2 [0.2,7.6]	0.0	1.2 [0.4,3.6]				
Agriculture/livelihoods									
Agriculture/livelihoods	3	0.8 [0.2,2.3]	1.2 [0.2,7.6]	2.5 [0.9,7.2]	0				
Other									
Other	6	1.5 [0.5,4.1]	0.0	0.0	2.5 [1.0,6.3]				

	By Governorate					Governorate comparison p-value
	Overall	Aleppo	Al-Hasakeh	Idlib		
	(N=400)	(N=81)	(N=79)	(N=240)		
N	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI	% 95% CI		
Second most likely use for future cash assistance						
Fuel	117	29.2 [22.4,37.1]	37.0 [24.7,51.4]	7.6 [1.6,28.8]	33.8 [27.6,40.5]	
Health	78	19.5 [12.6,29.0]	7.4 [2.5,20.1]	46.8 [31.8,62.4]	14.6 [9.8,21.1]	
Food	73	18.2 [14.8,22.2]	25.9 [16.9,37.6]	12.7 [7.9,19.7]	17.5 [14.5,21.0]	
Clothes, blankets, similar NFIs	54	13.5 [9.5,18.8]	12.3 [7.4,19.9]	19.0 [8.5,37.1]	12.1 [7.7,18.4]	
WASH	33	8.2 [5.2,12.8]	3.7 [0.6,21.1]	0.0	12.5 [9.1,16.9]	0.068
Education	21	5.2 [3.3,8.3]	2.5 [0.8,7.2]	10.1 [5.9,16.8]	4.6 [2.4,8.6]	
Shelter/rent	16	4.0 [2.4,6.7]	7.4 [4.0,13.4]	2.5 [0.4,15.2]	3.3 [1.7,6.6]	
Agriculture/livelihoods	2	0.5 [0.1,2.1]	1.2 [0.2,7.6]	1.3 [0.2,7.9]	0	
Other	5	1.2 [0.4,3.5]	1.2 [0.2,7.6]	0.0	1.7 [0.5,5.2]	
No second most likely use	1	0.2 [0.0,2.0]	1.2 [0.2,7.6]	0.0	0	
Preferred modality for assistance by sector						
Food						
In-kind	121	39.7 [33.6,46.1]	43.9 [35.2,52.9]	27.8 [13.8,48.0]	40.6 [33.2,48.4]	0.006
Voucher	64	21.0 [15.4,27.9]	29.8 [24.5,35.8]	41.7 [24.9,60.6]	15.1 [10.3,21.6]	
Cash	120	39.3 [32.0,47.2]	26.3 [23.0,29.9]	30.6 [12.8,56.9]	44.3 [35.8,53.2]	
Shelter/rent						
In-kind	60	34.5 [25.0,45.3]	54.1 [34.3,72.6]	14.3 [2.0,57.3]	30.0 [21.2,40.6]	0.093
Voucher	42	24.1 [19.1,30.1]	21.6 [12.2,35.3]	57.1 [41.8,71.3]	23.1 [17.5,29.8]	
Cash	72	41.4 [29.9,53.9]	24.3 [6.4,60.2]	28.6 [9.6,60.0]	46.9 [34.7,59.6]	
Health						
In-kind	90	35.2 [28.4,42.6]	45.5 [37.9,53.3]	10.8 [2.6,35.7]	37.2 [30.2,44.7]	0.005
Voucher	62	24.2 [18.5,31.0]	32.7 [22.8,44.5]	24.3 [13.2,40.5]	21.3 [14.7,29.9]	
Cash	104	40.6 [31.8,50.1]	21.8 [13.5,33.2]	64.9 [41.4,82.8]	41.5 [33.1,50.4]	
Fuel						
In-kind	134	45.9 [37.4,54.6]	47.3 [33.0,62.0]	79.1 [70.8,85.4]	38.1 [30.7,46.2]	< 0.001
Voucher	61	20.9 [16.2,26.5]	29.1 [15.3,48.2]	14.0 [8.3,22.5]	20.1 [15.4,25.8]	
Cash	97	33.2 [24.9,42.8]	23.6 [19.6,28.2]	7.0 [5.8,8.3]	41.8 [32.3,51.9]	
Education						
In-kind	92	44.2 [36.4,52.4]	53.7 [34.8,71.5]	10.7 [4.2,24.7]	48.2 [43.1,53.4]	< 0.001
Voucher	50	24.0 [15.7,34.9]	26.8 [16.7,40.1]	64.3 [50.5,76.1]	15.1 [9.0,24.2]	
Cash	66	31.7 [25.5,38.7]	19.5 [12.4,29.4]	25.0 [13.6,41.4]	36.7 [29.4,44.6]	
WASH						
In-kind	97	45.5 [35.1,56.4]	61.1 [60.3,61.9]	87.5 [44.2,98.4]	40.2 [28.8,52.8]	0.023
Voucher	33	15.5 [9.9,23.5]	22.2 [15.9,30.1]	12.5 [1.6,55.8]	14.2 [7.9,24.3]	
Cash	83	39.0 [30.6,48.0]	16.7 [11.1,24.2]	0.0	45.6 [37.7,53.7]	
Clothes, blankets, similar NFIs						
In-kind	43	18.1 [12.4,25.7]	14.3 [10.3,19.4]	40.0 [16.8,68.8]	15.2 [9.9,22.5]	0.019
Voucher	84	35.4 [27.2,44.6]	38.1 [19.0,61.7]	46.7 [23.7,71.2]	32.7 [24.0,42.9]	
Cash	110	46.4 [35.3,57.9]	47.6 [28.3,67.7]	13.3 [6.0,27.2]	52.1 [38.9,65.1]	

* each preferred item reported as percent of interviewed households

** among households reporting cash assistance preference

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