







MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT (MSNA) REPORT ON JARABLUS DISTRICT NEEDS THROUGH FOCUSED DISCUSSION GROUPS, INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS, AND QUESTIONNAIRES.

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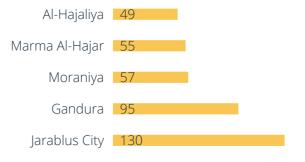
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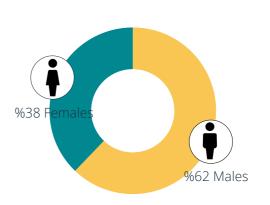
## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

We conducted a sector-by-sector and within-sector analysis and prioritization of the needs of the local population in the five main areas in the Jarablus District. (Jarablus City, Gandura, Omraniya, Marma Al-Hajar, Al-Hajaliya). For the purpose of this assessment, we carried out 51 key-informant interviews, 386 Households questionnaires, and eight focus-group discussions. Seventy percent of questionnaires were conducted with internally displaced persons, and almost %38 of questionnaires were conducted with female participants.

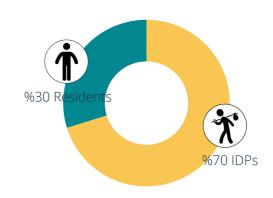
Food security, shelter and housing, and livelihood were identified as the top three priority sectors by the local population; followed by health and education. Within-sectors the local population had clear preferences in most sectors. For the top priority sectors, the main needs identified were providing oil and flour (food security), restoring the homes of IDPs and providing cladding (shelter), and providing fertilizers and seeds for the agricultural sector (livelihood). For health and education, needs were more heterogenous. In health ,participant needs spanned addressing medical staffing shortages, reducing the cost of medications and providing clinic services. In education, needs were mainly concentrated on building new schools and filling gaps in educational staff. In terms of women empowerment, small livelihood projects and cash subsidies for vulnerable women were priority needs for women in the area. Furthermore, in the remaining sectors, local participants specifically requested cleaning materials (non-food items), and expanded sewage networks and access to drinking water in summer months (WASH).



Number of questionnaires per location



Particpant gender



Residency status

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In partnership with the Syria Development Centre, Nasaem Khair Organization, conducted a multi-sectoral needs assessment of the Jarablus District in April 2021 through on-the-ground data collection of local populations. The rationale behind the assessment came from our prior knowledge of the low level of services in all sectors, the high prevalence of camps and random living arrangements, and internally displaced persons ('IDPs') constituting a large proportion of the population. Furthermore, the team aimed to obtain information about the general demographic and geographic nature of the region and the challenges facing the delivery of humanitarian aid to support sectors.



SHELTER



LIVELIHOOD



**NON-FOOD-ITEMS** 



**WATER SUPPLY** 



**FOOD SECURITY** 



**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT** 



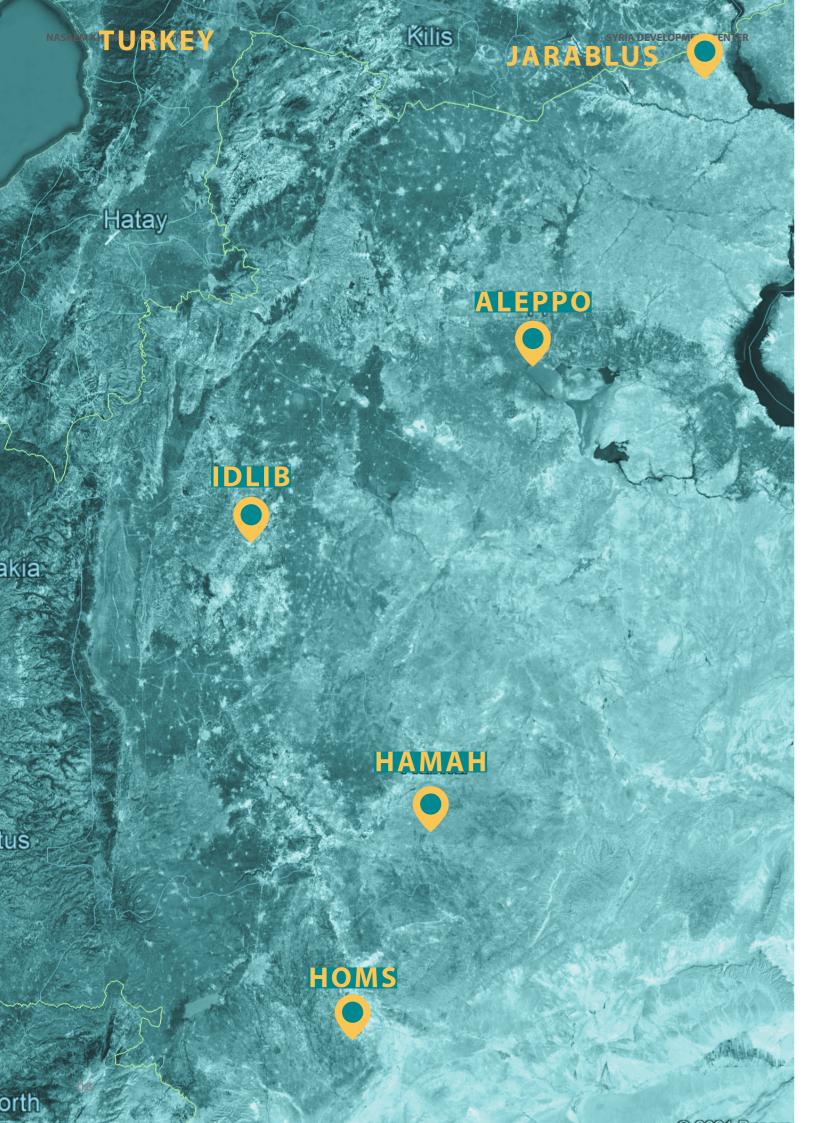
**HEALTH** 



**EDUCATION** 

# **OBJECTIVES**

- The MSNA seeks to understand multi-sectoral priorities of humanitarian needs of populations in five localities in Jarablus district.
- The findings intend to provide timely updates on key sectoral needs and priorities in order to inform humanitarian programs in the region, especially the ones that focus on IDPs.
- Inform Nasaem Khair Response Plan in Jarablus.
- · Contribute to a more targeted and evidence-based humanitarian response



## **METHODOLOGY**

The needs assessment recruited a mixed methodology using a sequential approach where the qualitative element was done first to inform the quantitative one.

The first phase – the qualitative element:

The first stage included focus groups discussions ('FGD') and key informant interviews (KIIs). The MEAL team prepared interview guides which were uploaded onto the Kobo Toolbox Platform to be downloaded in the Kobo Collect App later in the field by enumerators. The guides aimed to collect narrative qualitative data about the region's needs. Open-ended questions were used to obtain participants' honest opinions and to not restrict to any pre-written answers. The FGD template is available <a href="here">here</a>, and the quantitative questionnaire <a href="here">here</a>.

To carry out the FGDs and KIIs, a team of volunteers were recruited and trained in the Jarablus District. The first training session was held in the field (Jarablus City) by the MEAL Officer, followed by online training provided by the MEAL Coordinator. The results were documented onto the Kobo platform between 13.04.2021 and 12.05.2021. Participant responses were collected from the Kobo platform, and then analyzed using thematic analysis. In total, eight FGDs and 51 KIIs were conducted in Jarablus and its subdistricts.

The second phase – the quantitative element:

In the second stage, a questionnaire was developed based on the results of the FGDs and KIIs conducted in the first stage. Given the majority IDP population, %70 of questionnaires were conducted on IDPs. Additionally, and to ensure gender balanced representative sample, almost %38 of questionnaires were conducted on female participants. The questionnaires were conducted face to face using Kobo toolbox, and then transferred into Excel sheets for analysis. In total 386 questionnaires were carried out in five locations in the Jarablus District as follows:



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## **KEY FINDINGS**

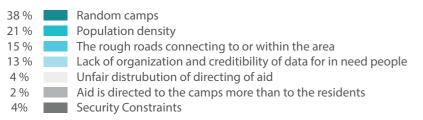
#### **Demographics and geography**

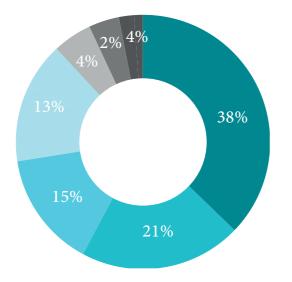
The participants in the FGDs and KIIs described the demography and geography of the region generally as follows. Demographically, the population is a mix of Arabs, Turkmens, and Kurds in varying proportions. There has been a significant inflation in the population to almost 400,000, mainly IDPs. This is largely due to its relative safety and stability. Geographically, the region is a mixture of mountains and plains. The area is generally considered safe because of its proximity to the Turkish border. The relative safety coupled with the subsequent influx of IDPs have resulted in the establishment of a large number of regular and random camps.

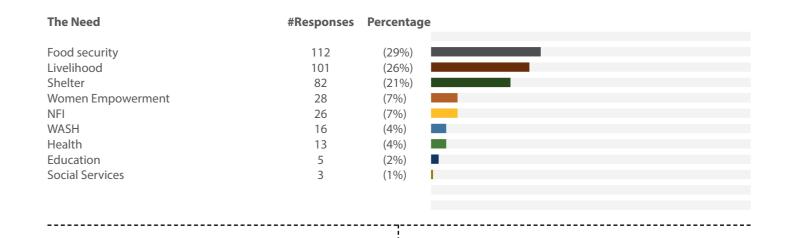
### Challenges facing the delivery of humanitarian aid

Through our KIIs and FGDs, we identified key challenges facing the delivery of humanitarian aid to the different sectors in the region; these challenges are presented in the figures below. We then asked participants in the households survey on how they perceive the importance of these challenges. More than two-thirds of participants felt that the most important obstacle was the presence of a large number of random and unorganized camps. Participants reported that these random camps lacked basic infrastructure and had large numbers of IDPs without personal identification documents.

The humanitarian response in Jarablus district is characterized by a lack of resources and coping mechanisms on various levels of beneficiaries, local authorities, and humanitarian actors. IDPs have no coping strategy because they do not have the capacity and resources to assist themselves; they rely mostly on host communities. At the same time, host communities also do not have sufficient resources to support IDPs as their livelihoods have been severely affected by the crisis. Local authorities have very limited resources to address local needs. Furthermore, NGOs working in Jarablus district have limited operational and financial capacity to meet the huge humanitarian needs. Some interviewees pointed out that most beneficiaries, especially IDPs, do not know where to get assistance from and how to reach services; which affects accessibility of humanitarian aid.

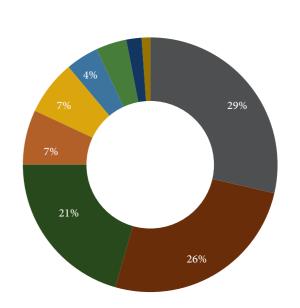




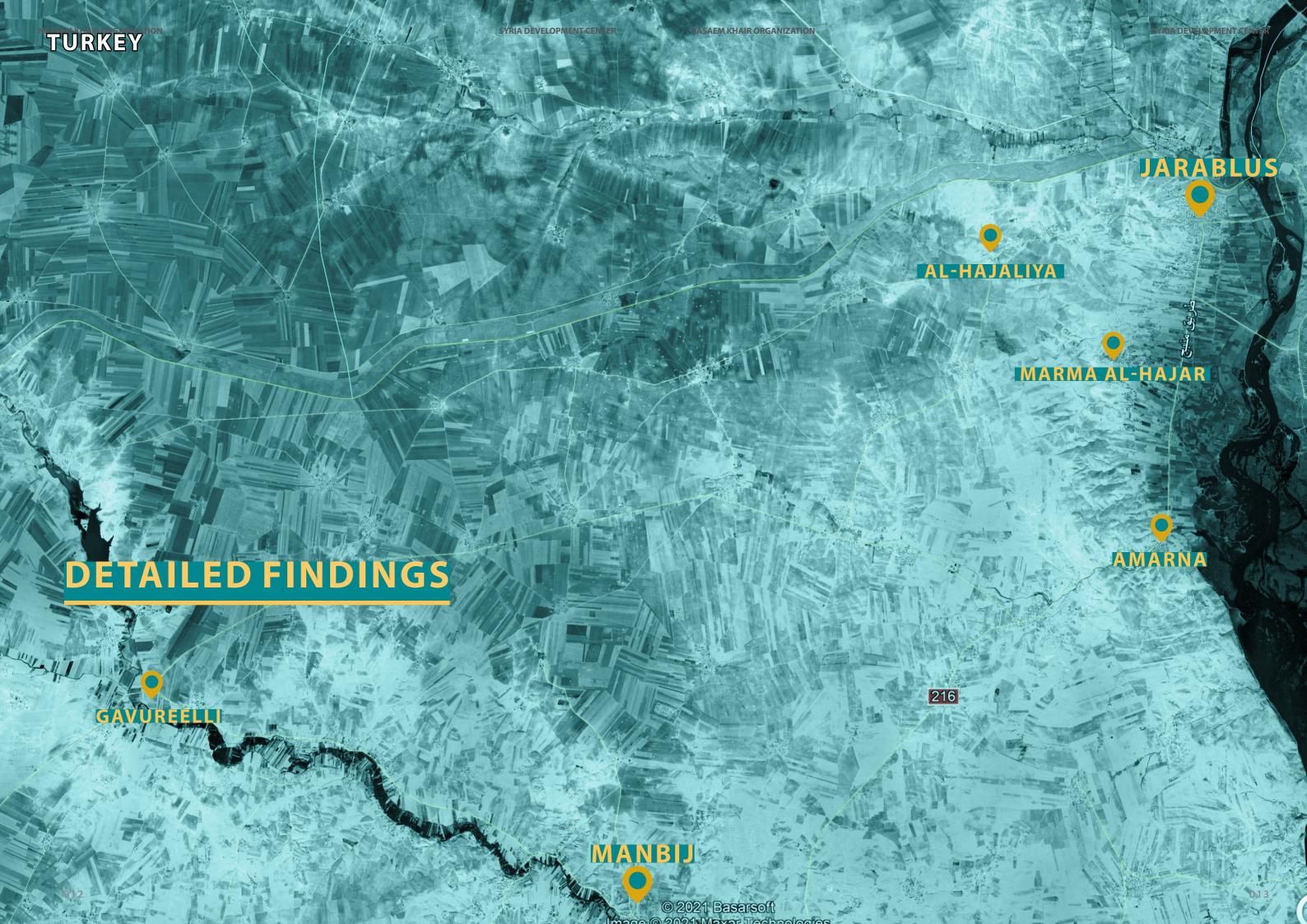


#### Food security, livelihood, and shelter as top-priority sectors

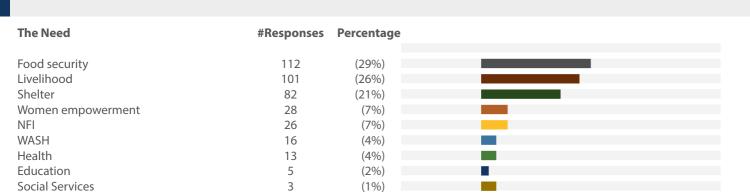
Most participants chose food security as their top-priority sector, with almost a third of participant responses. The livelihood sector was close second, and third was the shelter and housing sector, as shown in the charts. This was true overall and in three out of five regions within Jarablus. In the other two regions the ranking of these top priorities differed but they remained top three, with Al-Hajaliya prioritizing the livelihood sector, and Marma Al-Hajar prioritizing shelter and housing.

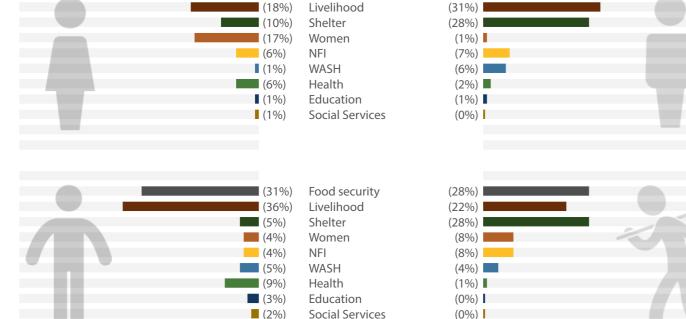


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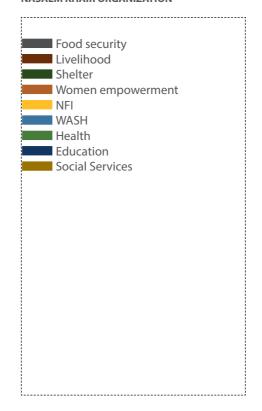


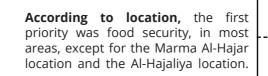
# Stratified results for top priority sectors , there are some geographical differences with regards to top priority sectors. The top priority of participants was the food security sector in most areas, except for in Marma Al-Hajar which prioritized the livelihood sector and Al-Hajaliya which prioritized the shelter and housing sector. It is important to note that in other areas the livelihood sectors and shelter and housing sectors were choosen second and third in terms of participants' top priority.



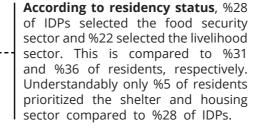


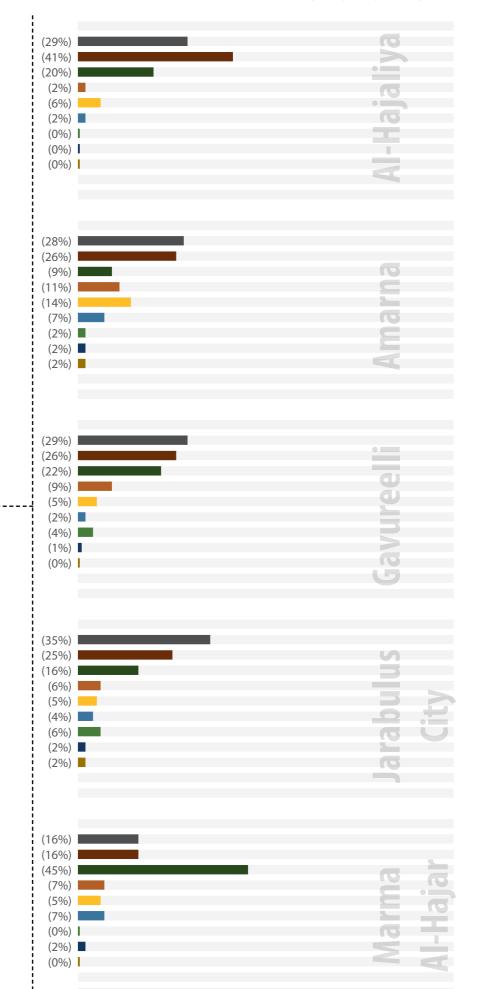
Food security











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Oil

Flour

Rice

Sugar

Cash

Grains

Vouchers

(35%)

(3%)

(11%)

(3%)

(0%)

Data from the KIIs and the FGDs indicated that %40 of households in Jarablus are experiencing significant food consumption gaps. Accordingly, they hardly meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies such as liquidating livelihood assets. Consequently, it is expected to find various levels of malnutrition among local communities.

The majority (over %70) of the interviewed households in all the province s reported they had physical access to the markets to meet their HH needs. It was noted that most markets in assessed areas are functioning well (%90) and are stocking both food and non-food items. Most of the items sold in the markets are imported from Turkey (%85).

The lack of storage facilities is a huge issue among traders in the markets. This has affected the food supply and ultimately contributed to food insecurity. For most traders, the barriers to responding to increasing demand include insecurity, a stock shortage, lack of purchasing resources, transportation, and lack of storage facilities. Most traders were unsure of whether there were any shortages of food and non-food items in the market.

Through our KIIs and FGDs we identified key items that local communities rely on for their food. These items are listed in the figures below. Oil came first with %51 of participants reporting it as their top priority, this was true regardless of location or gender of the participant. Flour was second (%28 of answers). According to the residential status of the participants, however, %55 of host residents chose flour first, and %63 of IDPs chose oil in alignment with the general result; the detailed results are shown in the figures.

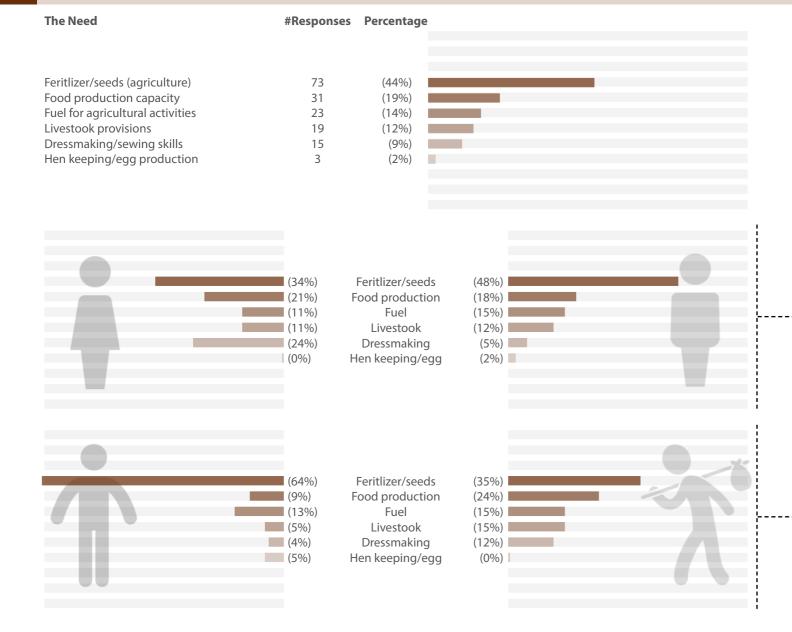
#### result; the detailed results are shown in the figures. The Need #Responses Percentage Oil 144 (51%)Flour 81 (28%)Rice 19 (7%)**According to location,** the first 16 (6%) priority was oil in all of the areas and Vouchers 11 (4%)flour was second Sugar Cash 8 (3%)Grains (1%)Oil Flour (3%) According to gender, %54 of females Rice selected oil, vs. %48 of males Vouchers Sugar Cash Grains Oil Flour Rice According to residency, %63 of IDPs Vouchers selected oil, %55 of resident selected flour Sugar as a first priority food item. Cash Grains

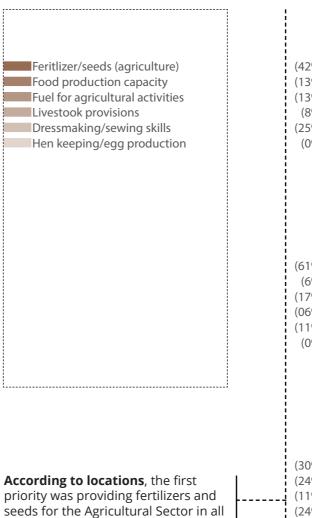
Our KIIs reported that men represent the majority of breadwinners at the household level are men approximately %75 as compared to about %25 of female. The majority of the working-age respondents in all assessed areas reported daily skilled labour (%20) and Daily unskilled labour (%50) as their current main source of income. Government employees represent %5 of all employed people. Unemployment is observed in all the sub-districts; however, the levels vary with the minimum being 30 % in Jarablus city followed by 40 % in Al-Hajaliya and %45 in the other assessed areas. Business ownership is present but somewhat limited. Less than %9 of the interviewed HHs reported having owned business.

From the qualitative data analysis (FGDs and KIIs), the most common sources of livelihood include agriculture and livestock, animal husbandry, unskilled labour, business, and salaried employees. In most of the villages sampled, agriculture and livestock keeping were the main sources of livelihood. However, due to the prolonged periods of conflict exacerbated by climate change, these sectors have been gravely affected. The unpredictable weather patterns and frequent droughts have demotivated many people from engaging in agriculture. Also, due to conflicts and insecurity, most people have lost agricultural land and are unwilling to engage in these agriculture and livestock keeping. This resulted in various levels of food insecurity, malnutrition, loss of livelihoods, and increasing poverty levels.

Through our KIIs and FGDs we developed a list of key items that can help local communities find better options for their livelihood. These items are presented in the figures below. Providing fertilizers and seeds for the agricultural sector was the overwhelming need of participants regardless of residency status, location, or gender. In the chart below, the detailed results according to several determinants are shown.

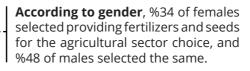
It was noted that more farmers in Jarablus have started to shift towards renewable energy. In targeted areas, energy becomes a rare commodity, along with water, food and shelter. The unavailability of this service hinders the development and resilience building efforts of entire communities in post-disaster situations. It was reposted that more farmers are using solar power system for irrigation



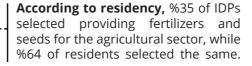


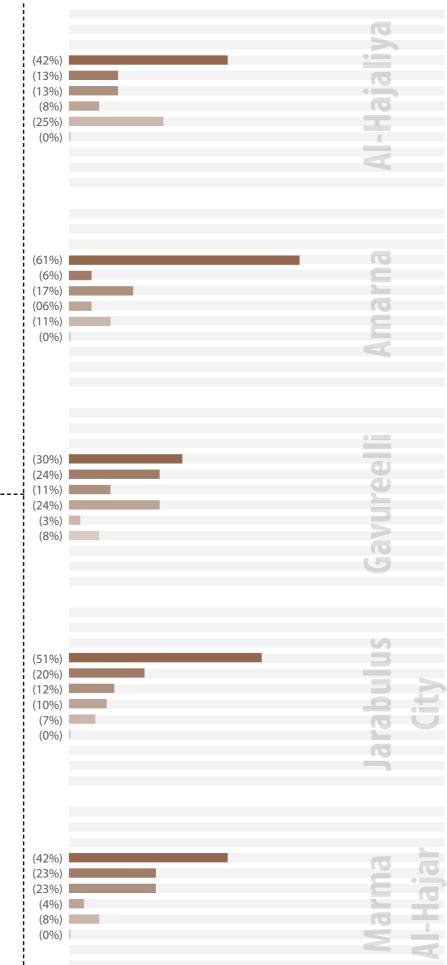
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of the areas.





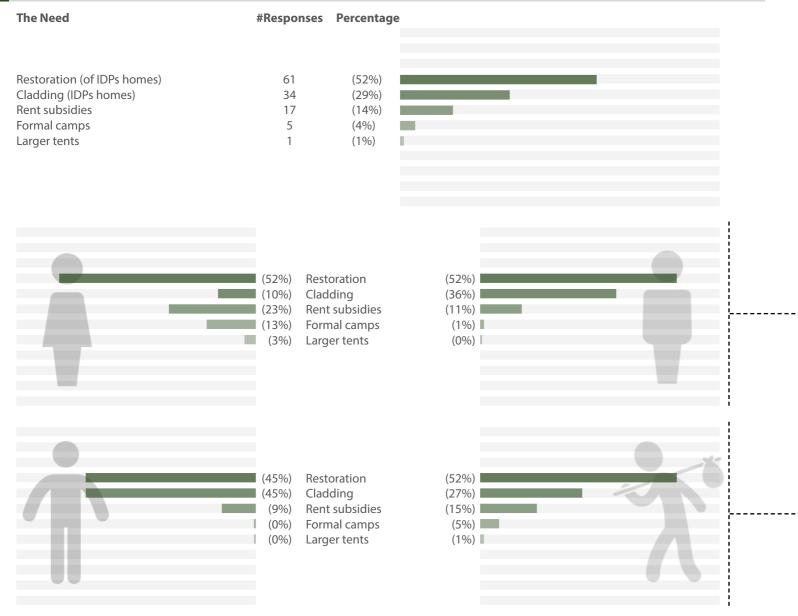
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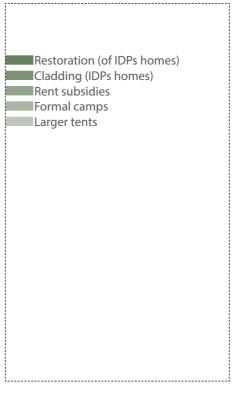
Shelter is one of the most pressing needs for IDPs and returnees. Most IDPs and returnees live in informal settlements and makeshift shelters, which makes them highly vulnerable to protection threats and diseases. Poverty, unemployment, and lack of livelihoods are also one of the main factors affecting people's choice of shelter. With limited income, people share spaces hence leading to more protection threats for women and girls and more spread of communicable diseases. Many of those who fled also remain in a state of displacement for prolonged periods, with no short-term plans to return to places of origin.

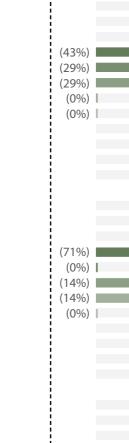
The results of FDGs indicated that many IDPs and host communities are residing in sub-standard shelters providing inadequate privacy and dignity; poor protection from harsh weather (particularly during winter); inadequate access to safe water and sanitation and hygiene facilities; lack of connection to basic infrastructure and services. It was mentioned that the sewage system is functioning only in Jarablus city; however, the sewage system in other targeted areas needs either rehabilitation or establishment.

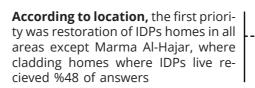
Apart from shelter, most people are also in need of NFIs such as kitchen equipment, winterization equipment, warm clothing, and bedding items among others.

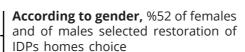
Restoration of homes of IDPs was identified as the main need in this sector (%52 of answers). This result was the same regardless of residency status and gender of participants. This was also true in almost all locations except for Marma Al-Hajar, where the top priority was cladding homes where IDPs live. In the charts, detailed results according to several determinants are shown.

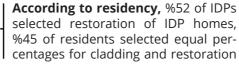


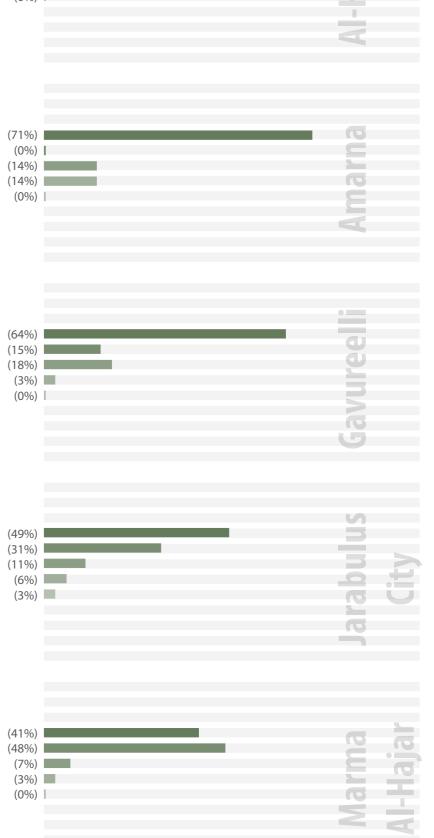












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Small livelihood projects

Cash support

Livestook

(42%)

(50%) (8%)

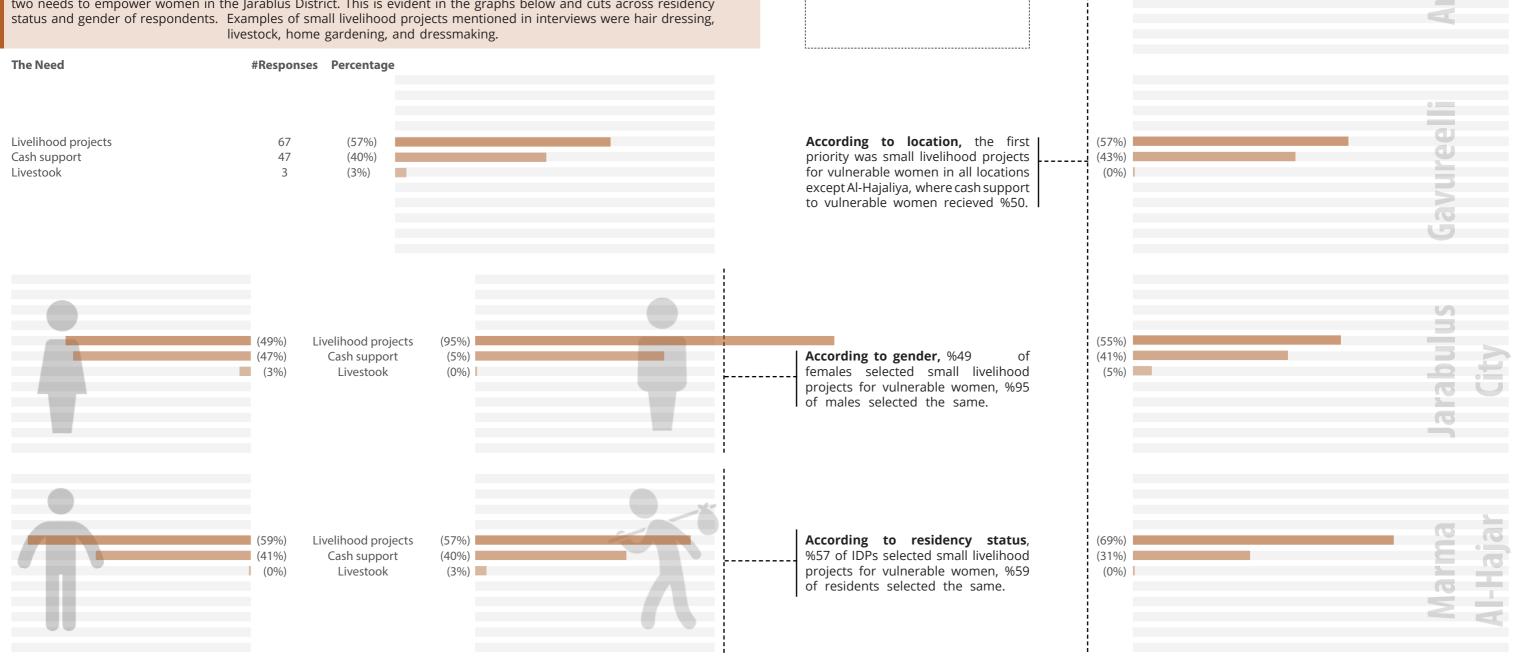
Key issues related to women empowerment were identified during our KIIs and FGDs including: early marriage, gender discrimination, and GBV.

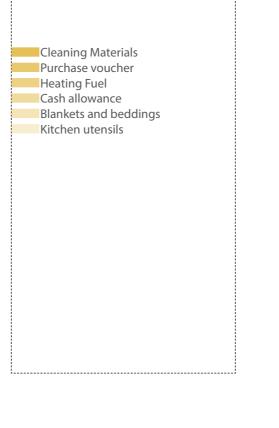
Cases of early marriages are still rife in many villages in Jarablus. These issues have been aggravated by acute and chronic poverty in most sub-districts. As a result of the worsening economic conditions, many families view early marriages as a way of alleviating the pressures they experience in terms of basic needs.

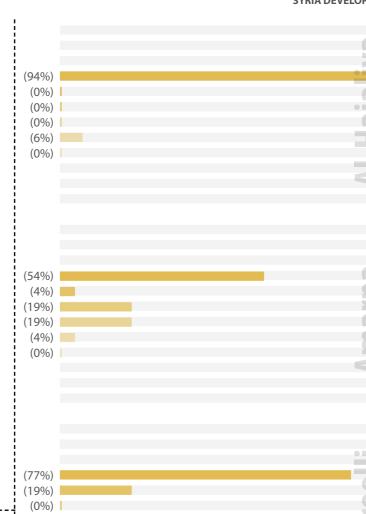
Gender discrimination is also a common problem in most assessed areas in Jarablus and has led to many women being denied their rights to education, health care, and employment. Moreover, women are denied the chance to participate in decision-making processes in their communities. As a result of discrimination, most women are unable to report some of the issues that they experience including domestic violence. Discrimination has also prevented women from engaging in activities that could generate income such as employment and businesses. Moreover, given that many of the assessed communities are highly conservative, women are banned from engaging in some activities usually seen as a preserve for men. Consequently, women are limited to traditional roles such as household chores and caring for children.

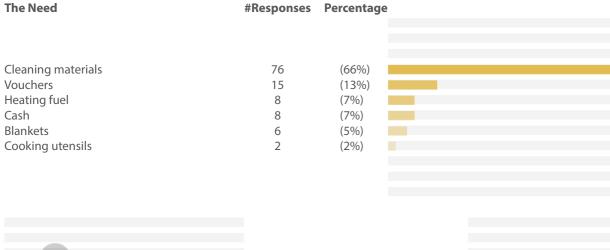
Domestic violence and Gender Based Violence (GBV) is another issue that affects women in Jarablus district. Due to societal perceptions and cultural beliefs, many women continue to be subjected to violence from men. This violence has been aggravated further by conflict and related acute and chronic poverty, poor economy, and gender discrimination among other issues.

Small livelihood projects for vulnerable women (%57 of answers), then cash for vulnerable women (%40), were the top two needs to empower women in the Jarablus District. This is evident in the graphs below and cuts across residency

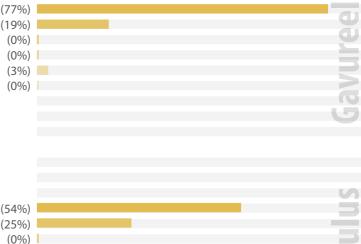


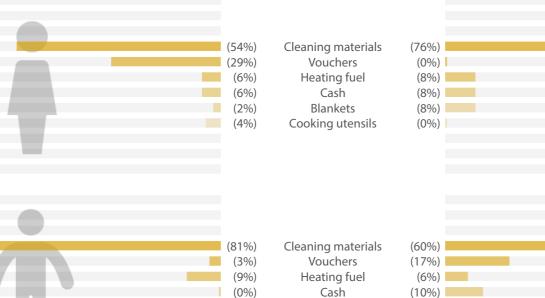






**According to location,** the first priority was: cleaning materials in all locations.





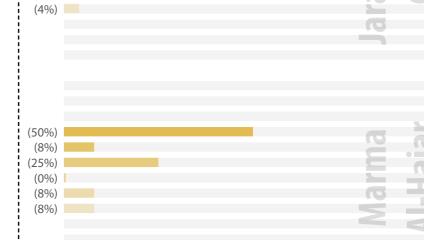
Blankets

Cooking utensils

selected cleaning materials, 76% of males selected the same.

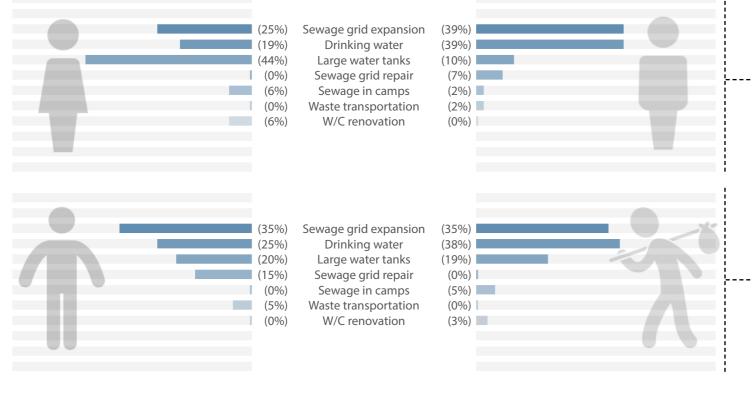
**According to gender,** 54% of Females

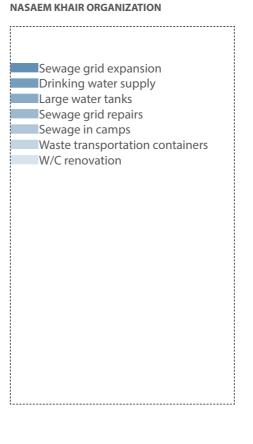
According to residency status, 60% of IDPs selected cleaning materials, while 81% of residents selected the same.

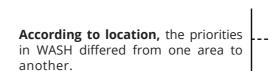


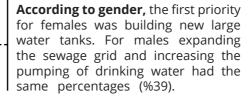
Expanding the sewage network and the need for drinking water in general are the two main WASH issues in the Jarablus District. Expanding the sewage network was the most prevalent priority in this sector; however, the degree of this priority naturally differed from one location to another. Sewage expansion was especially relevant in Jarablus City and Marma Al-Hajar. However, in Gavur Elli, the top priority was increased pumping of drinking water, especially during the summer, and the top priority in Amarna was building water tanks for drinking water.

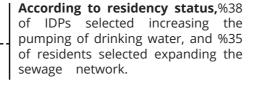
#### The Need #Responses Percentage Sewage grid expansion 20 (35%)(33%)Drinking water supply 19 Large water tanks 11 (19%)Sewage grid repairs (5%)(4%)Sewage in camps Waste transportation containers (2%)W/C renovation (2%)

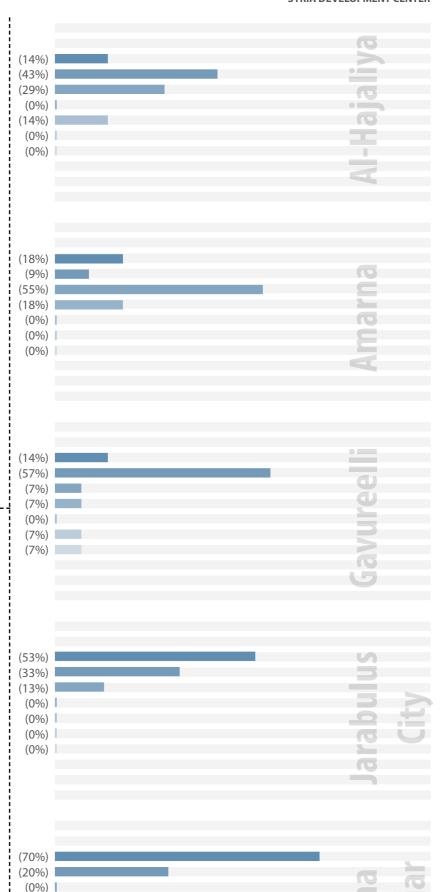














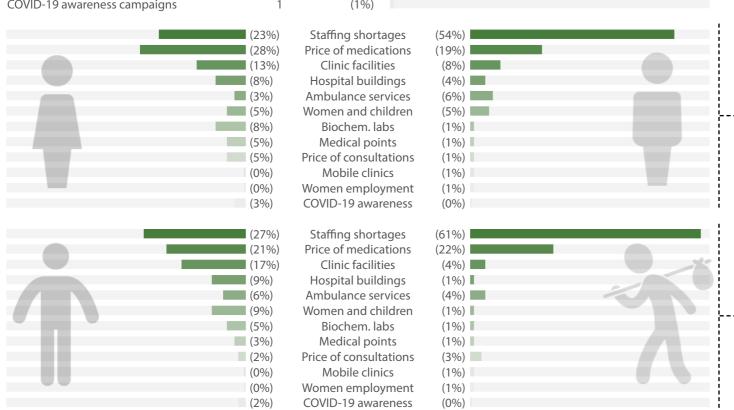
As per our KIs, there is one public district hospital in Jarablus, and another one in kangora; nevertheless, both hospitals suffer from lack of medicine, medical staff, equipment, utilities and consumables. The interviewers reported that there are no health centers in the other three targeted areas. In addition, KIs reported that there is only one vaccination center in a small village near Jarablus city.

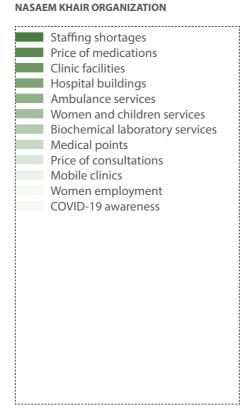
It is also evident that the current health system in the region suffers from huge gaps in areas of governance, resourcing, supplies, information and even infrastructure.. One of the KIs reported when asked whether the health system can meet local needs in emergency situations, "No, the existing health facilities are not able to respond to the needs of people even in ordinary situations."

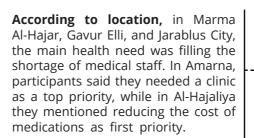
Some of the barriers to access health care as reported by KIs include: Distance to health facilities, lack of transportation, road closures, insecurity, cultural barriers, and economic challenges when it comes to accessing private healthcare.

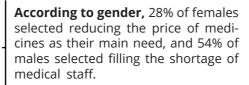
Health needs differed according to location, however the majority need was filling the shortage in medical staffing. This was mainly due to due to the lack of specialties such as women's health, pediatrics, and cardiac specialties in certain locations.

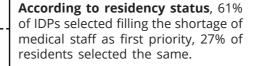
The Need	#Responses	Percentage
Staffing shortages	66	(45%)
Price of medications	31	(21%)
Clinic facilities	14	(9%)
Hospital buildings	7	(5%)
Ambulance services	7	(5%)
Women and children services	7	(5%)
Biochemical laboratory services	4	(3%)
Medical points	3	(2%)
Price of medical consultations	3	(2%)
Mobile clinics	1	(1%)
Women employment	1	(1%)
COVID-19 awareness campaigns	1	(10%)

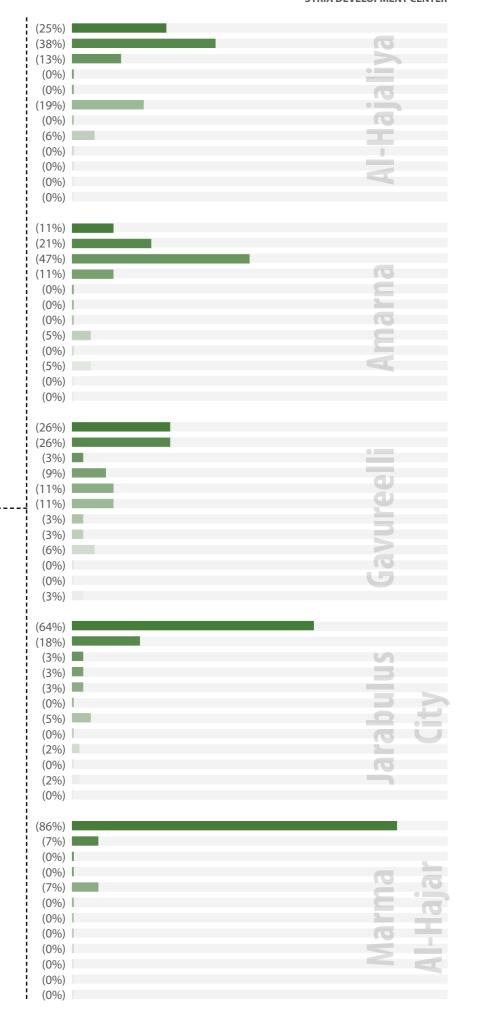












KIIs reported high numbers of children out of school across all five locations. Cost of schooling, security concerns, distance, and child labour were cited as the main barriers for not attending school. The huge number of IDPs and returnees in the assessed areas have affected the access to quality education with teacher-student ratios in these locations regularly as high as 1:50. There is only one high school for girls in Jarablus city. There are urgent needs to build new schools to absorb the growing number of students, especially that in the conservative communities is not allowed for girls and boys to be in the same school.

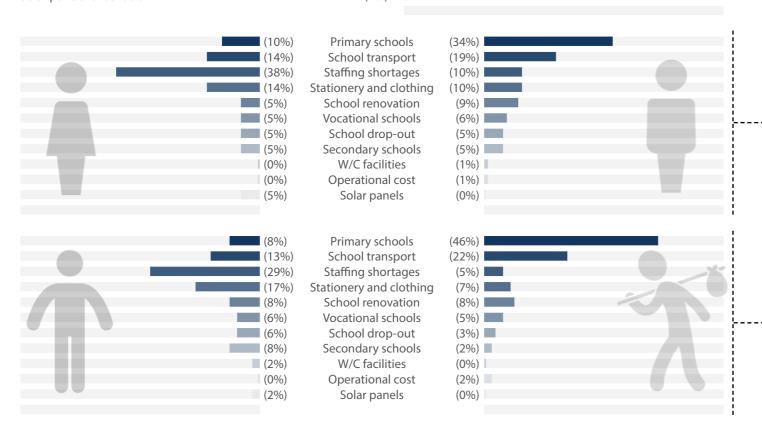
Cultural barriers to education were mentioned as an additional challenge relation to education. In some villages some men might deny women the right to education, however, this practice is not common in larger towns and cities.

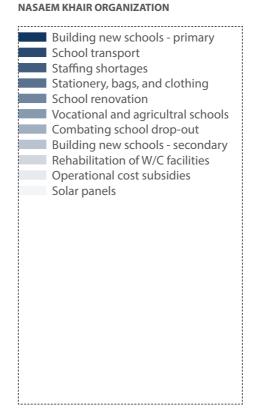
Most of the respondents noted that there is an urgent need to prioritize girl-child education as they have been worst affected by the conflict. This constant interruption to education, as well as the inadequate availability of schools and teachers have grave consequences for children's capacity to thrive and contribute to the economic and society future of their district. Another repeated problem in the education sector is the lack of printed curriculum (student's book). furthermore, it was noted that the education sector is dominated by free education system where the student attend the exam of the high school (Baccalaureate) without attending the courses in the school (normal system).

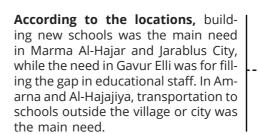
The top priority in the educational services sector was, in general, building new schools, but needs differed from one location to another; furthermore, the results were different according to the participants' gender and residency status.

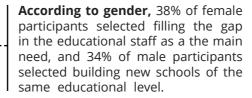
The graphs below show the results according to the mentioned determinants.

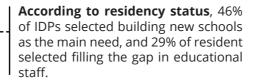
#### The Need #Responses Percentage Building new school of the same exist educational & Vel (29%)Transportation to transport students to school (18%)Filling the gap in the educational staff shortage 17 (16%)Stationery, bags, and clothing for school children 12 (11%)School restoration (8%)Vocational and agricultral school opening (5%)(5%)Combating children droppoing out of school Secondary school opening (5%)Rehabilitation of bathroom in school (5%)Provide school with operation costs (1%)Solar panels for schools (1%)

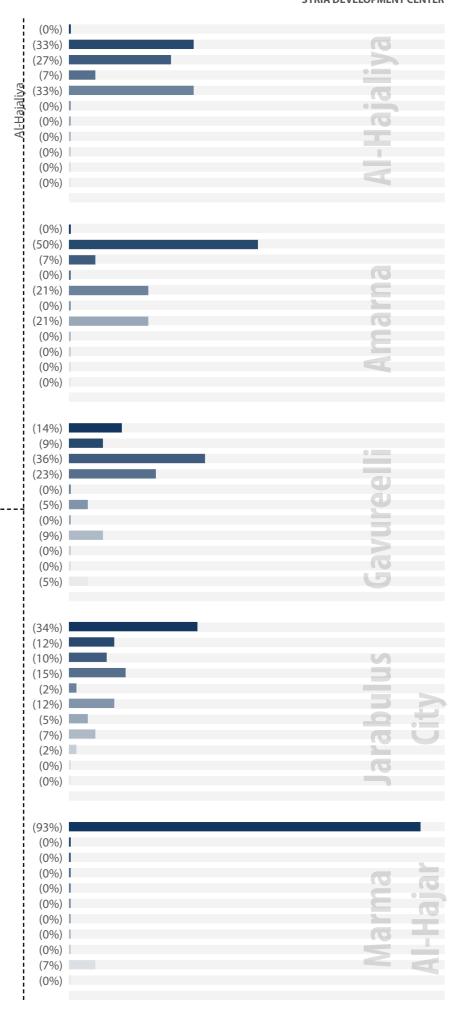












#### **TOP PRIORITY SECTOR: FOOD SECURITY**



Food security, shelter and housing, and livelihood were identified as the top three priority sectors by the local population. Followed by health and education.



The first priority within the livelihood sector was providing fertilizers and seeds for the agricultural



#### **WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

Small livelihood projects and cash subsidies for vulnerable women were women's top priorities.



#### **FOOD SECURITY**

Within the food security sector, the main need was providing oil and flour.



Educational needs were mainly concentrated on building new schools and filling gaps in educational staff.



Local participants specifically requested cleaning materials within non-food items.



Expanding sewage networks and access to drinking water in summer months, were the top concerns.



The main needs within the shelter and housing sector were restoring the homes of IDPs and providing cladding.



Participant needs spanned addressing medical staffing shortages, reducing the cost of medications and providing clinic services.

**SUMMARY** 

**JARABLUS** 

NASAEM KHAIR ORGANIZATION SYRIA DEVELOPMENT CENTER NASAEM KHAIR ORGANIZATION SYRIA DEVELOPMENT CENTER

## **Annexes**

Individual interview form: <u>LINK</u>.

FDG form: LINK.

Quantitative questionnaire form: <u>LINK</u>.

## **END OF REPORT**

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