



Winterization Needs in Northwestern Syria Camps

Harsh winter conditions negatively affect camps for displaced civilians, Azaz, northern Syria, Jan. 2022 ,9 1. (AA Photo)

Introduction

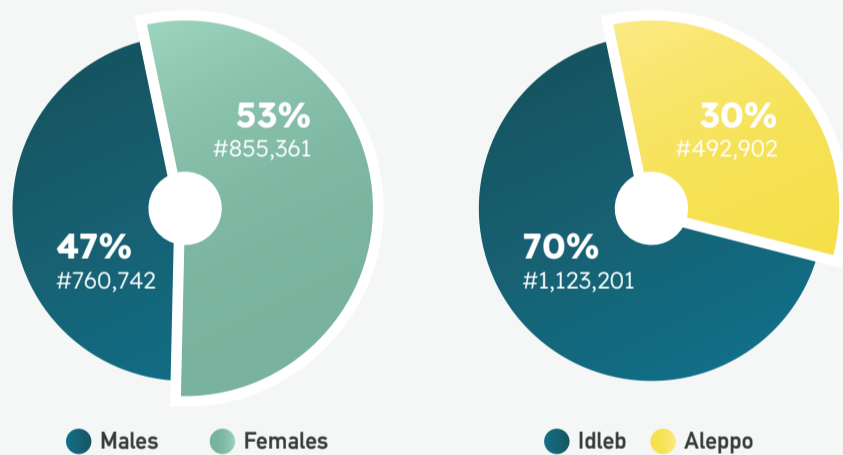
The Information Management Unit (IMU) of the Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) released the 8th edition of the "Winter Needs in Northwestern Syria Camps" report for the year 2023. The study includes demographic information about the population of the camps, the nature of IDPs' shelters, their preparedness for the winter, the most critical needs, and priorities for the coming winter.

Demographics in NWS Camps

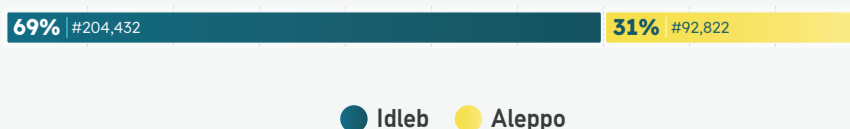
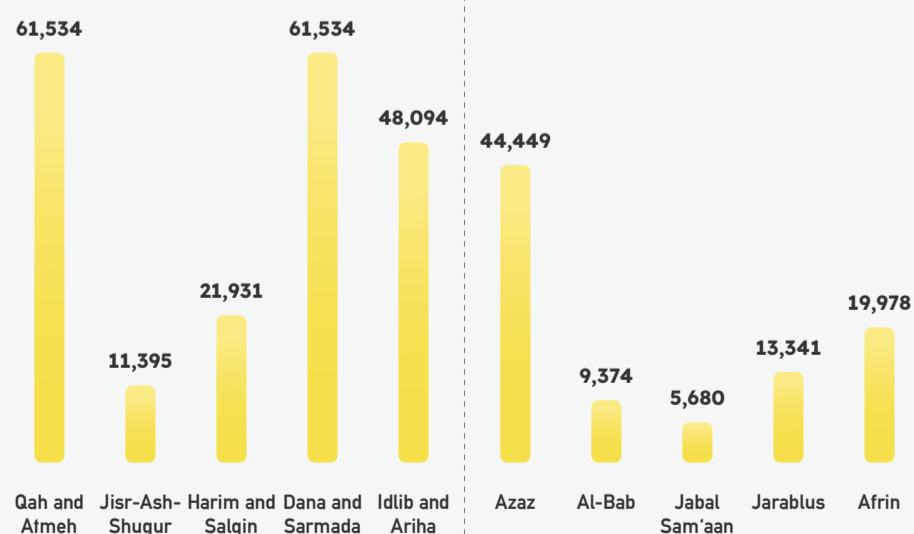
The Population of IDP Camps

Based on the interviews with the camp management, the study found the population of the assessed IDP camps is 1,616,103.

The Population of IDP Camps



Numbers of Families within IDP Camps



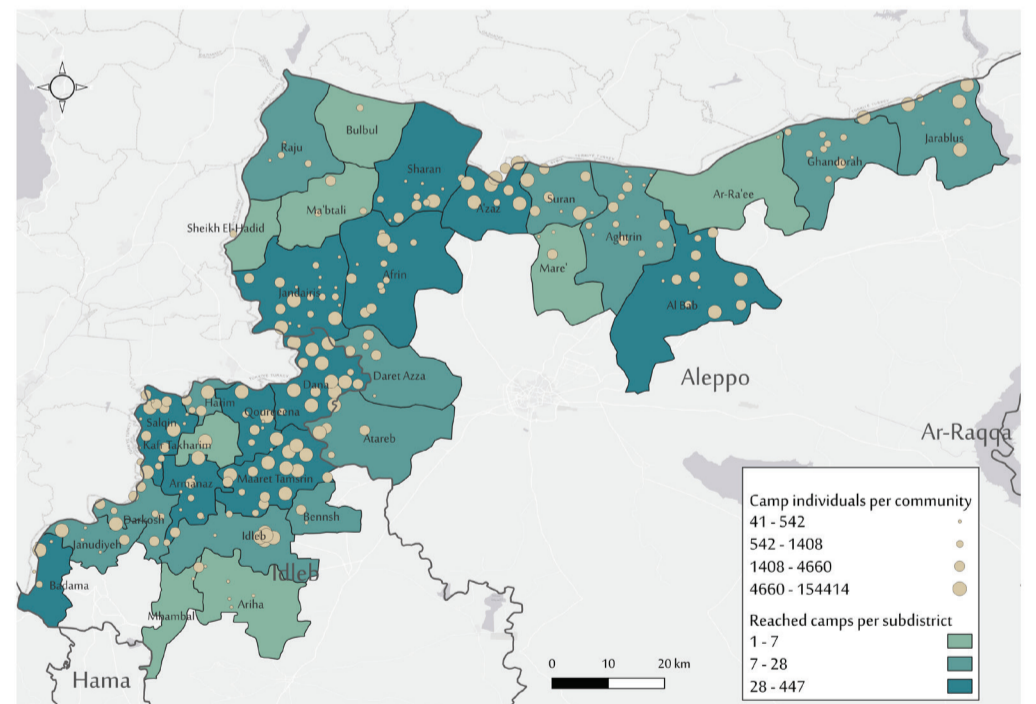
Methodology

The IMU developed a questionnaire to collect data for the study. The questionnaire was shared with various actors to seek their feedback, including the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster in Turkey (CCCM) and Shelter Cluster, and their feedback was reflected on the questionnaire.

In this edition of the study, 68 enumerators collected data from 1295 camps in the governorates of Aleppo and Idleb. The enumerators conducted interviews with various key informants (KIs) represented by the camp management, humanitarian organizations operating in northern Syria camps, community leaders, local councils, and IDPs living at the camp. The IDPs' opinions were surveyed about their most critical needs and priorities.

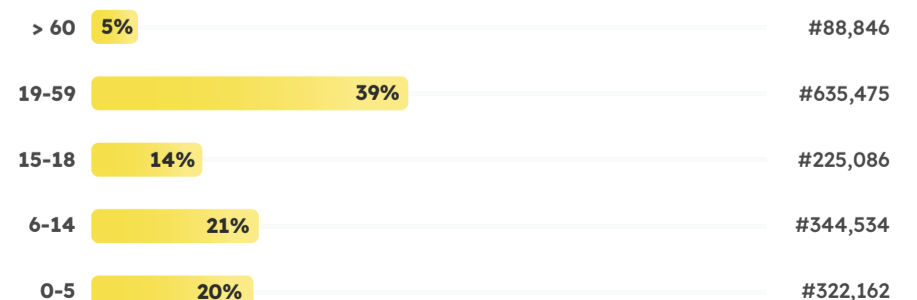
After receiving training on the questionnaire, The IMU field researchers completed 1259 surveys through interviews with various KIs¹. Data collection for the study was done between 04 and 20 August 2023.

Population within the assessed camps



Age Groups of IDPs in the Camps

The study found that the largest population group is children (0-18 years of age), who account for 55% of the overall population at the IDP camps in NWS.



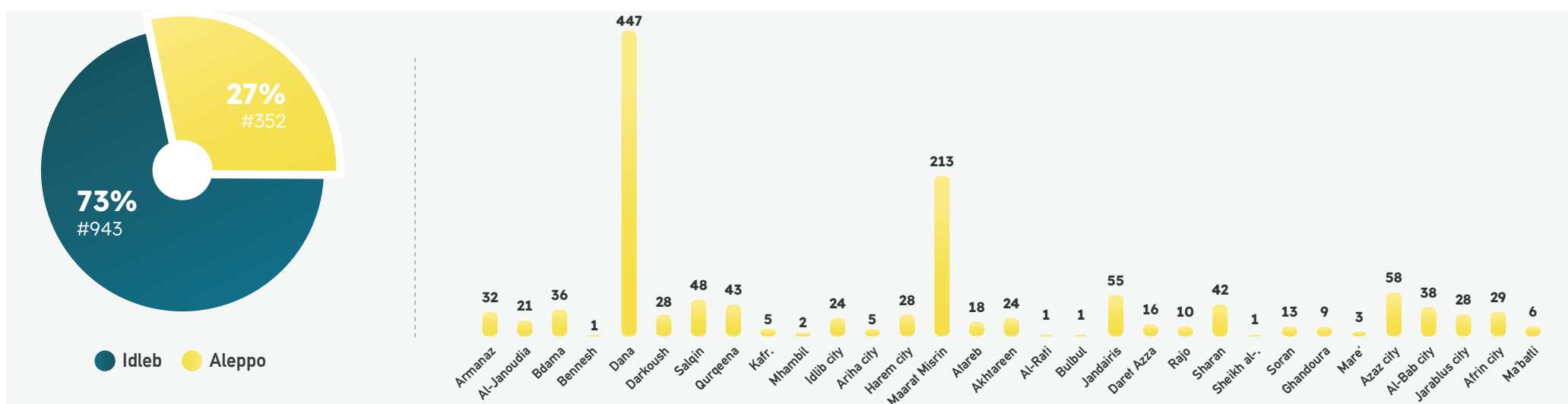
¹ Each survey requires several interviews to be completed based on the information required.



General Information About the Camps

Number of Assessed Camps

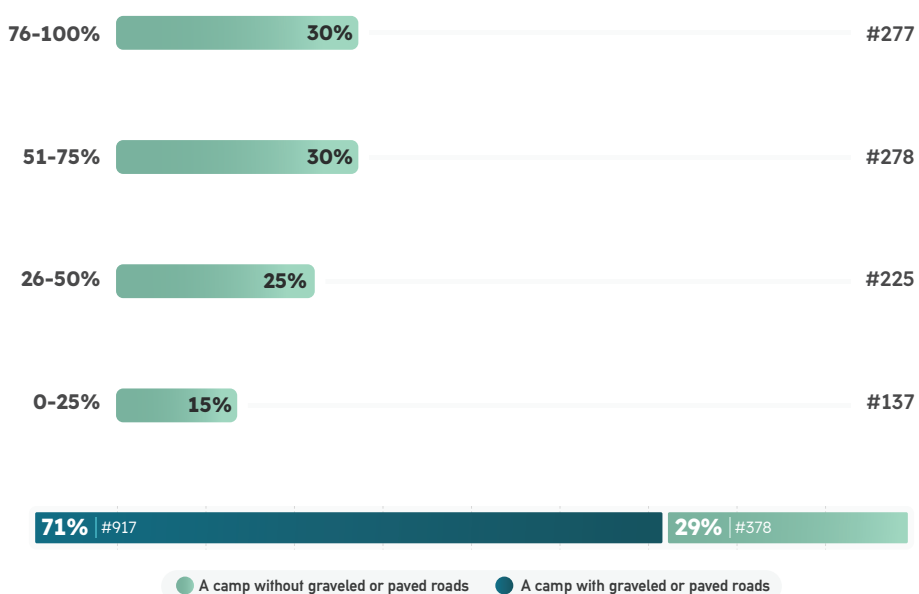
This edition of the study covered 1295 camps in Idlib and Aleppo governorates. The camps were grouped into groups to facilitate data visualization of the report. The following chart shows the number of camps by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM), and those not classified were attached to the nearest cluster or subdistrict.



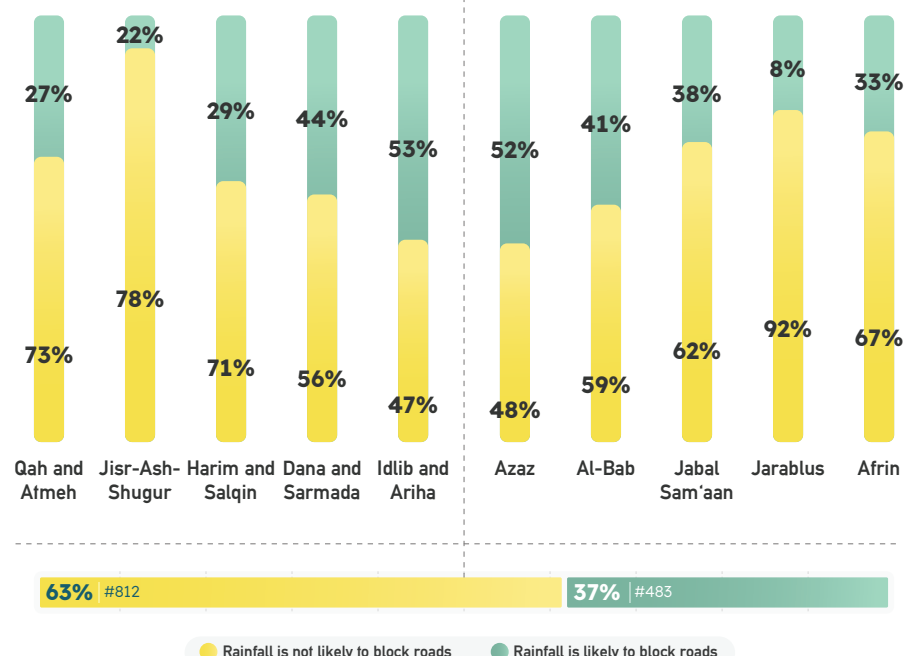
Roads at the Camps

According to Sphere standards, "Access: Consider the condition of local roads and the proximity to transport hubs for the supply of relief assistance and other goods. The supply of relief assistance must avoid damaging the local road infrastructure." The study looked at the nature of roads within the assessed IDP camps in NWS. The following chart highlights the percentage of paved or asphalted roads within the IDP camps.

Roads at the Camps

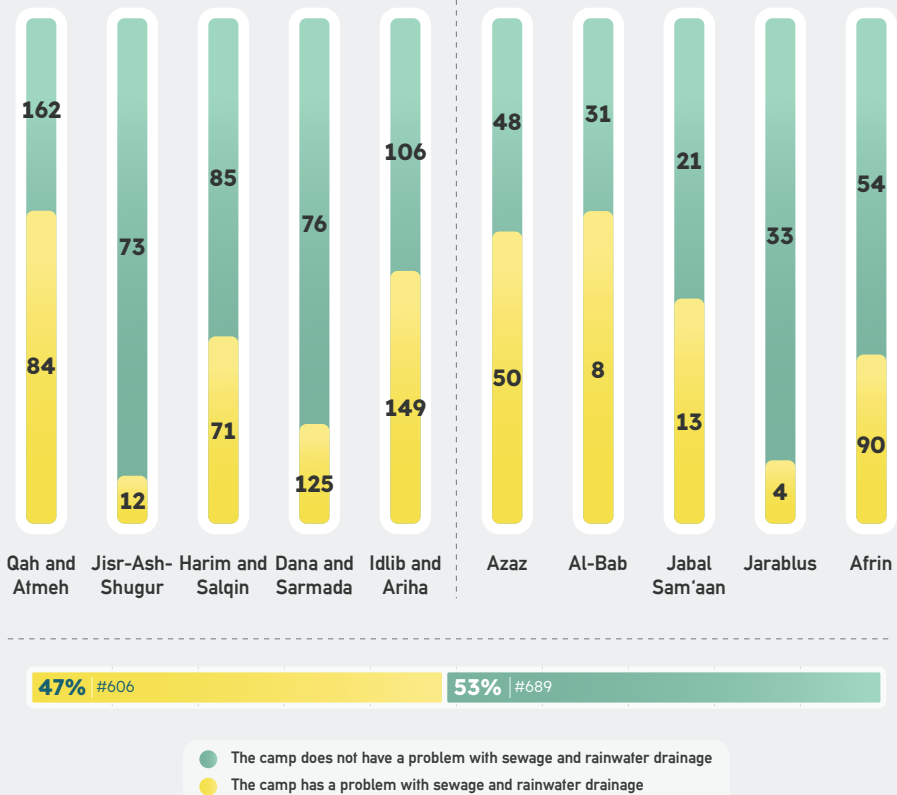


Camp Roads That Can Get Blocked in Heavy Rain



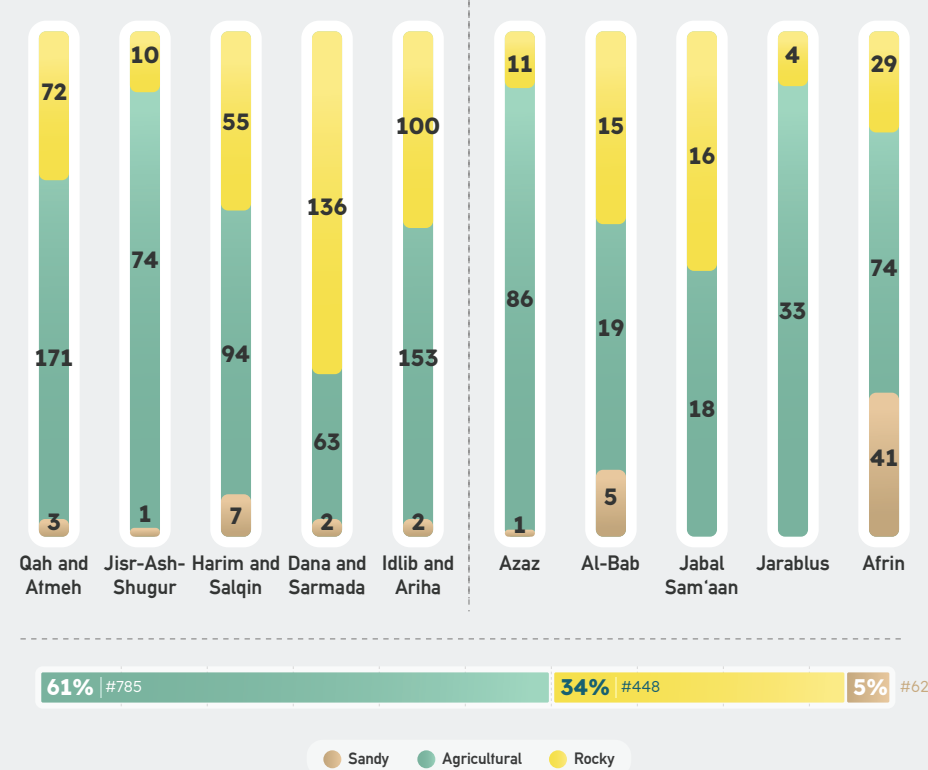
Water Drainage at Camps

The study tried to identify the camps that face problems with water drainage, which may result in floods in case of heavy rains.

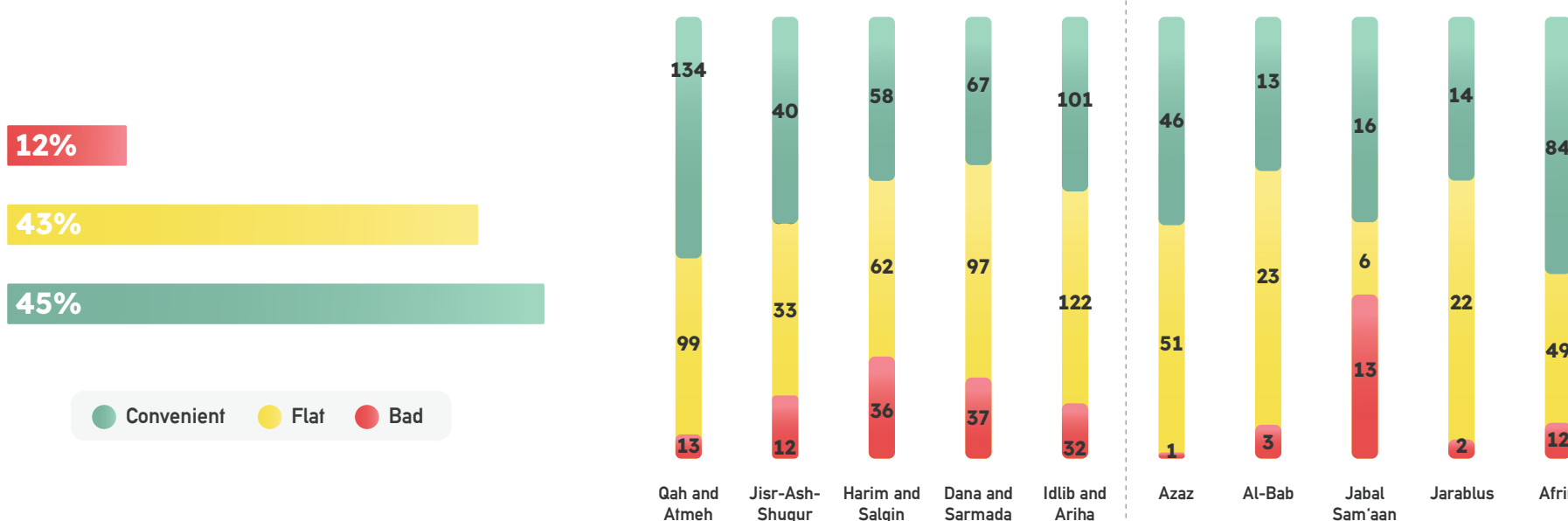


Nature of the Camp Land

The study tries to identify the nature of the land of the IDP camps. Agricultural and sandy lands are more vulnerable to floods if they do not have suitable gradient or water drainage systems.



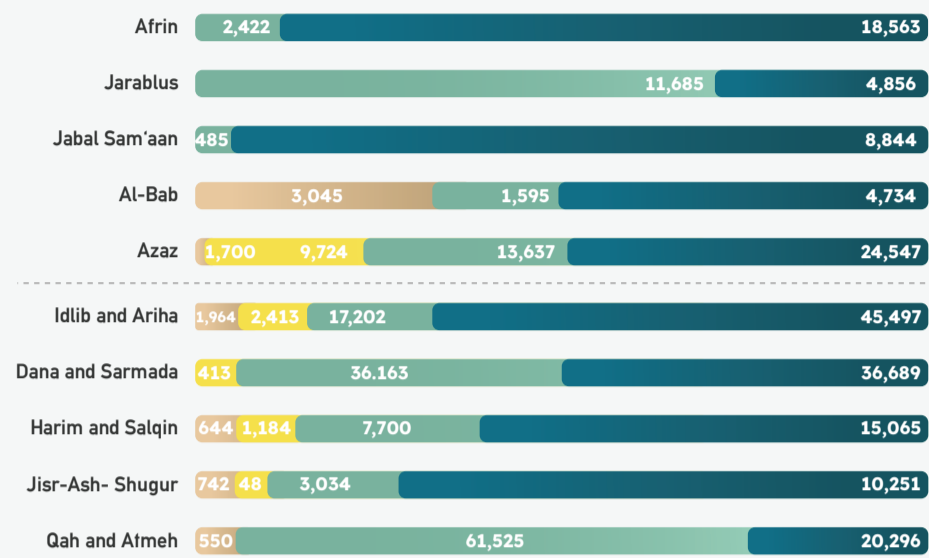
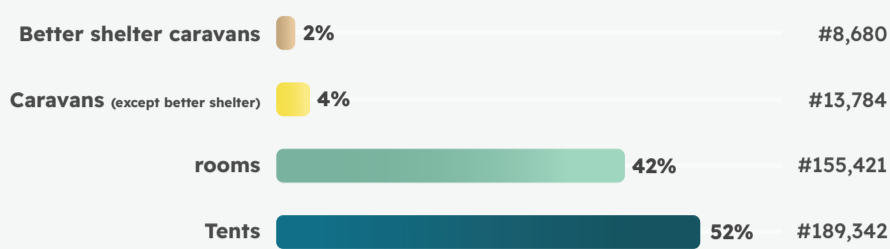
The Gradient of the Camp Lands



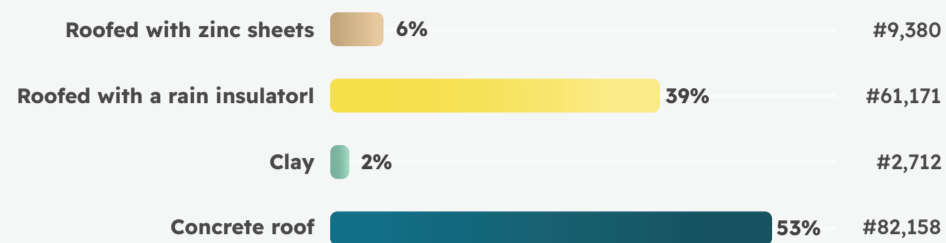


Shelters at IDP Camps

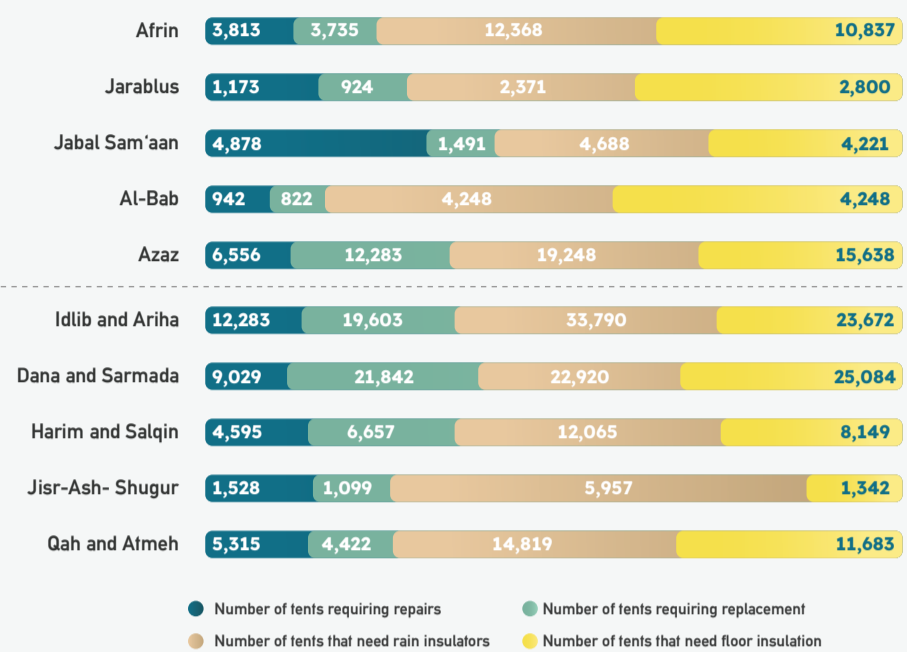
Types of IDP Shelters at the Camps



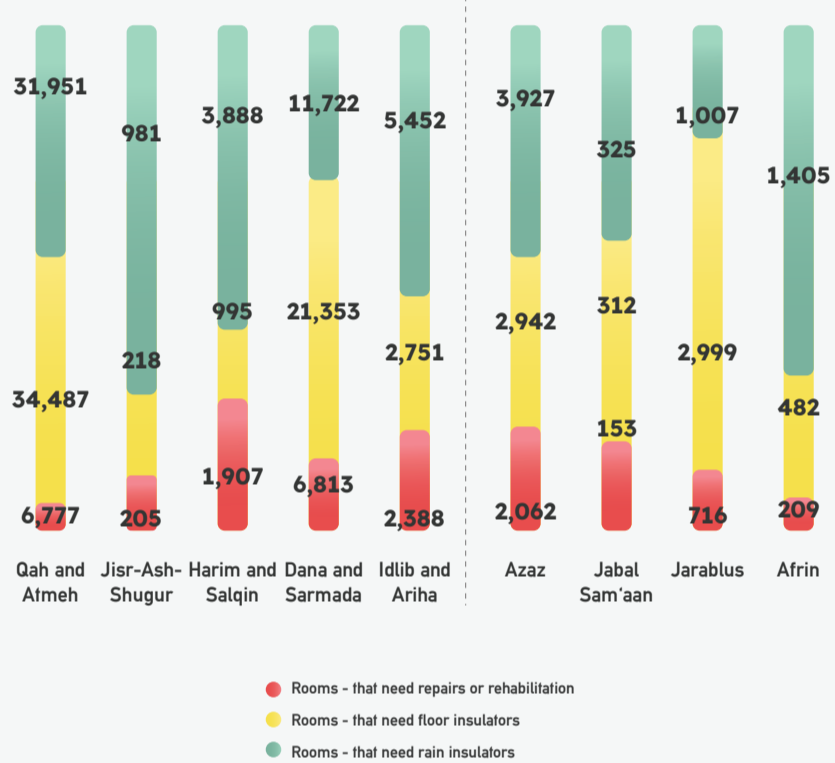
Types of Rooms at IDP camps



Rooms that Need Support

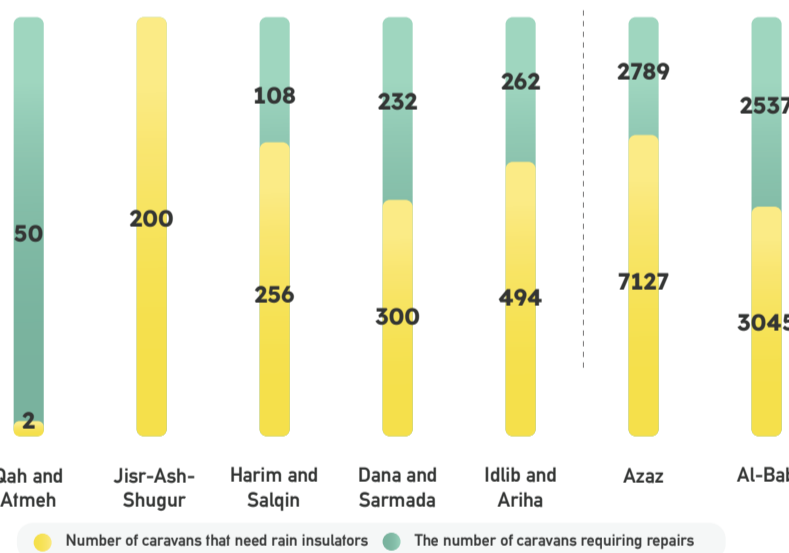


Rooms Needing Support

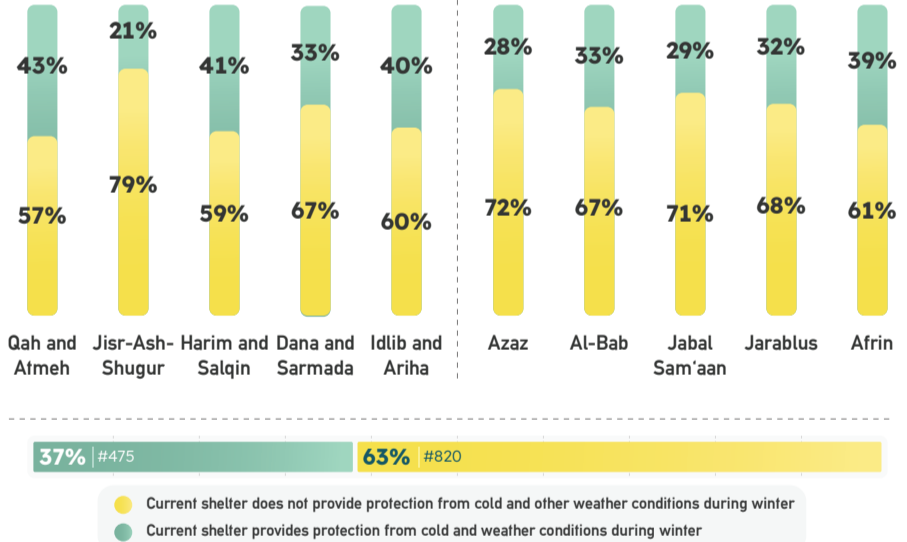


Snow covers Salat Zagrouh Camp for internally displaced Syrians, in the Afrin District, Aleppo Governorate, northern Syria, Jan. 2022 ,19.

Caravans that Need Support

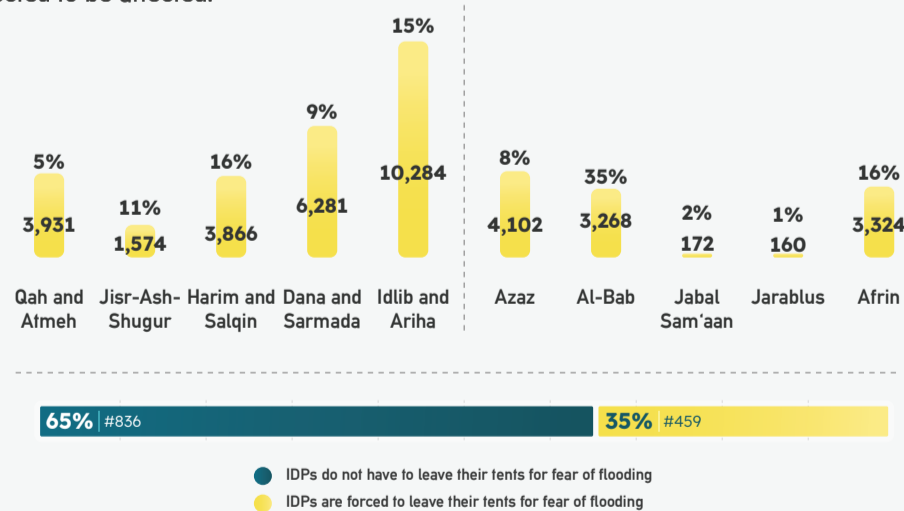


Shelters that protect from cold and other weather conditions

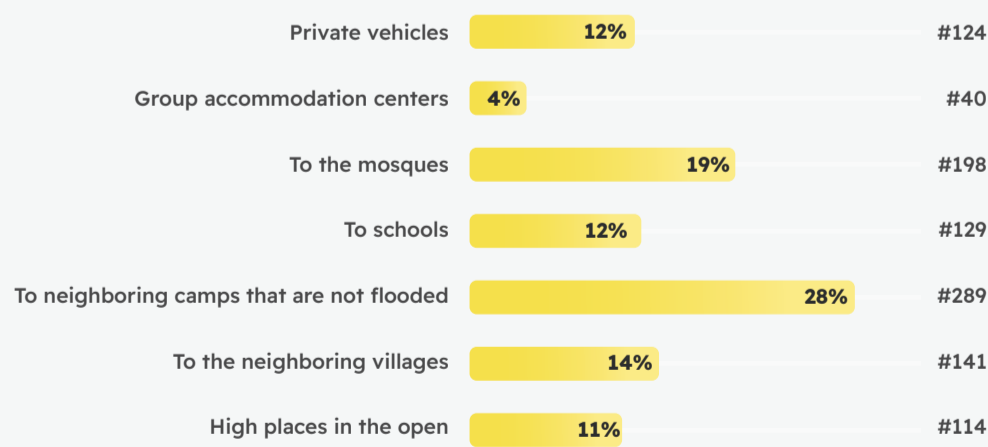


Impacts of floods on IDP camps

The following charts highlight the camps at risk of floods and the number of shelters expected to be affected.

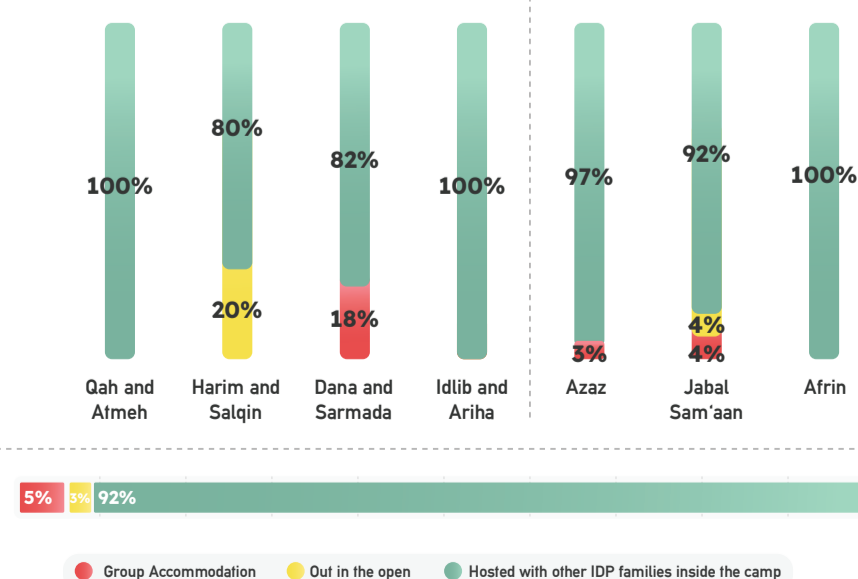


Alternative Shelters in cases of floods



Families without Independent Shelter

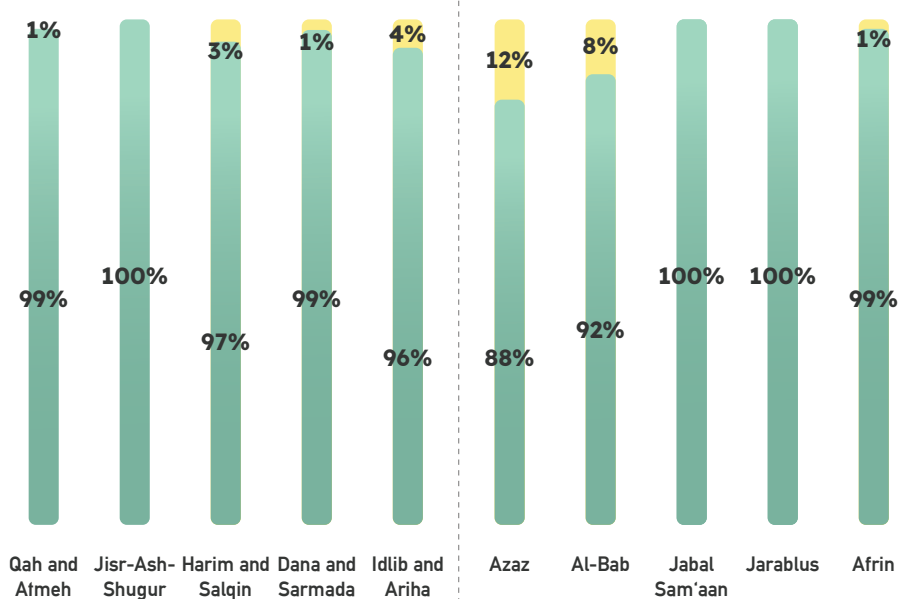
The study revealed that a total of 2,291 families lacked access to independent shelter.





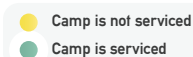
Response to Emergencies

Availability of Civil Defense Centers at Camps

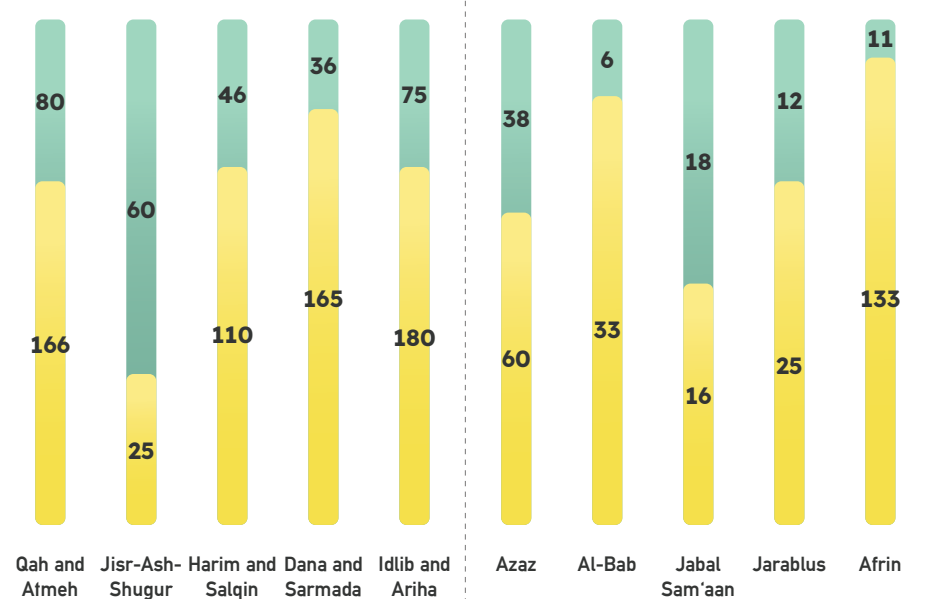


97% | #1,258

3% | #37

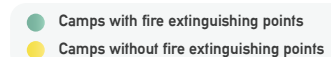


Availability of Fire Prevention Points at the Camps

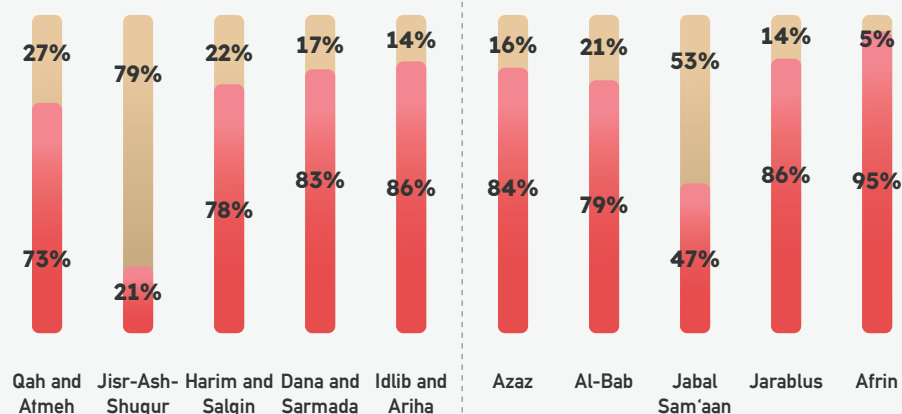


71% | #913

29% | #382

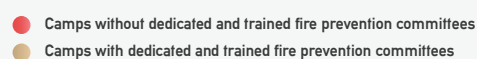


The Presence of a Dedicated and Trained Committee to Fight Fires at the Camps



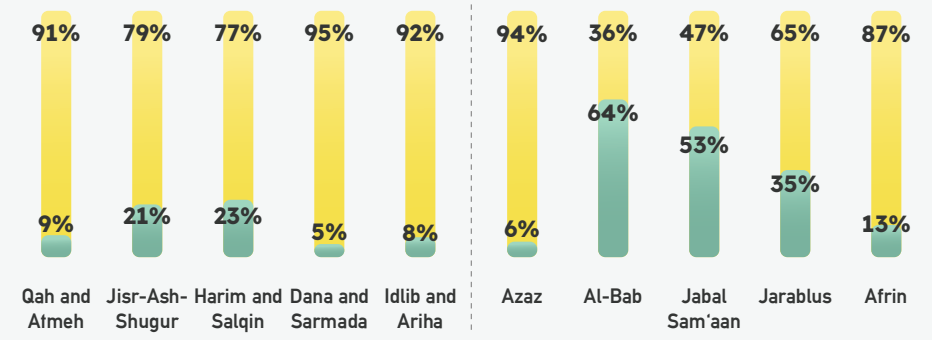
77% | #1,003

23% | #292



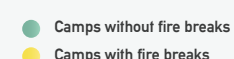
Availability of Firebreaks to Prevent the Spread of Fires at the Camps

These firebreaks are designed to partition the camp into blocks, limiting the potential spread of fires in case of an outbreak.



86% | #1,110

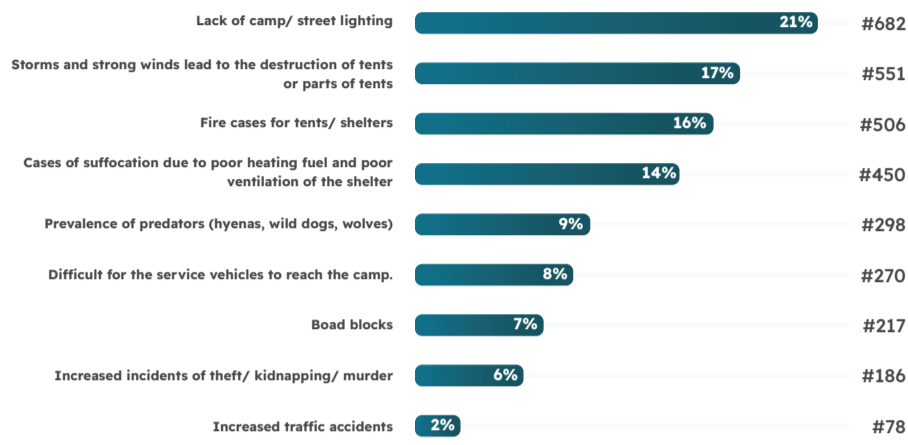
14% | #185





Concerns and Difficulties at IDP Camps in Winter

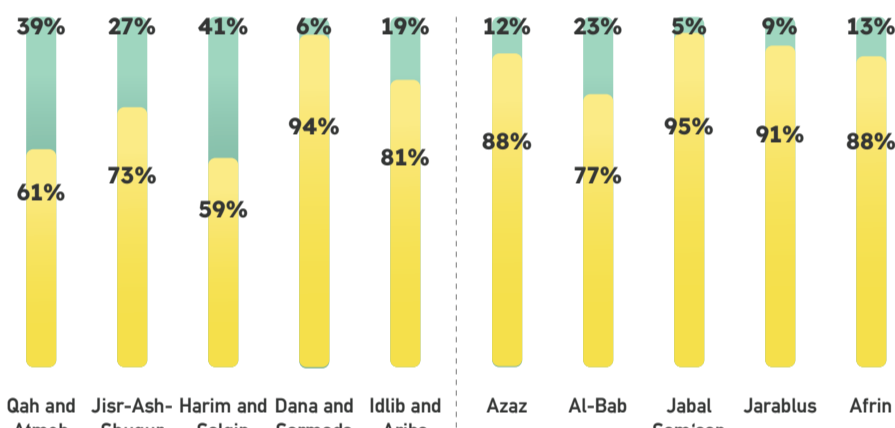
Security Concerns or Risks Associated with Winter



● There are no security concerns in the camp associated with winter
 ● There are security concerns or risks associated with winter

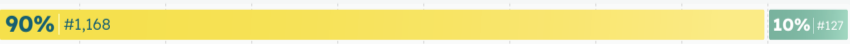
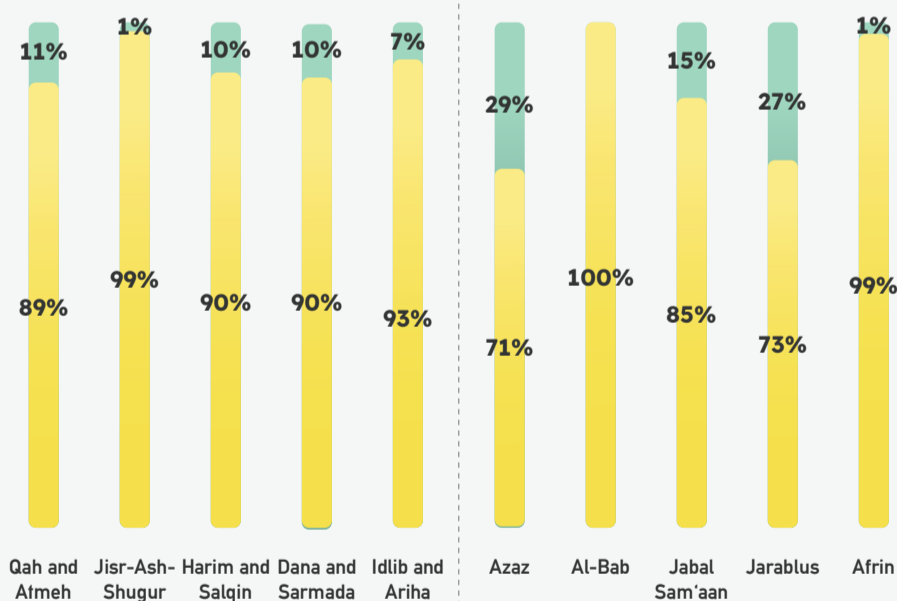
Difficulties in Getting Nutritious Food

The study tried to identify the camps where the IDPs face difficulties ensuring food that is rich with the necessary nutrients.



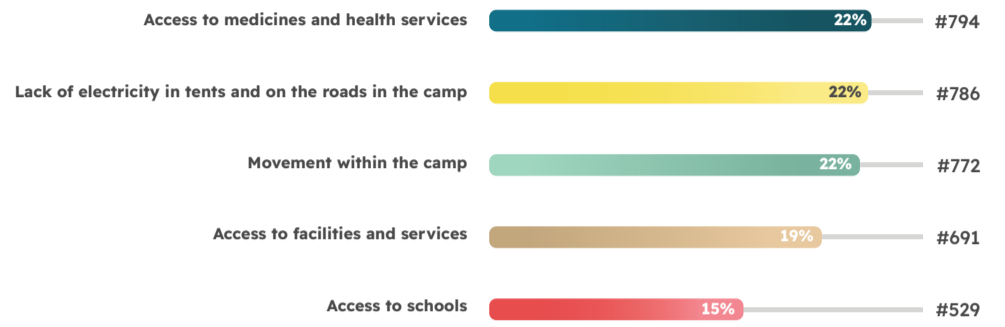
● Camp residents did not have difficulties accessing adequately nutritious food
 ● Camp residents have difficulties accessing adequately nutritious food

Closure of Schools Due to the Weather Conditions



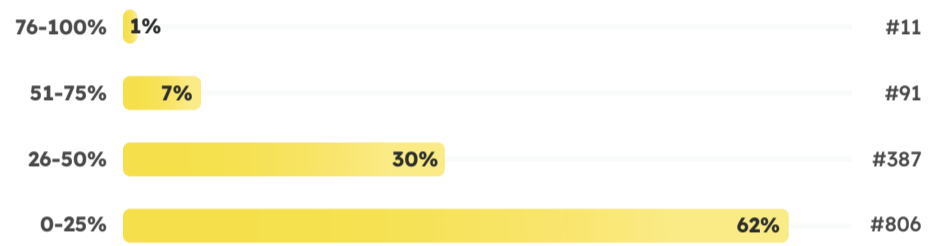
● Schools are not closed due to harsh weather conditions
 ● Schools are closed due to harsh weather conditions

Challenges Faced by Vulnerable During the Winter

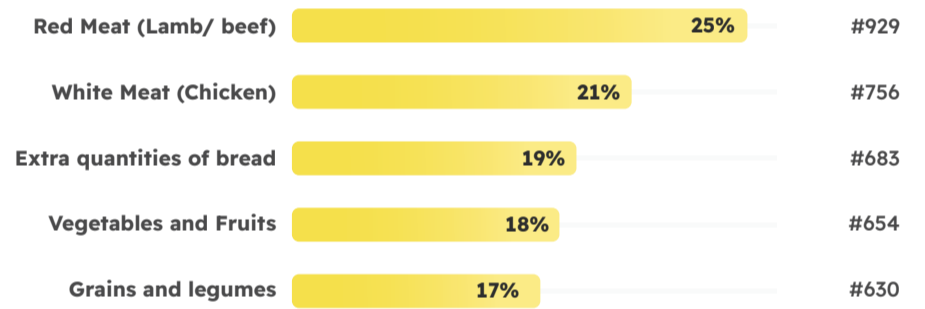


Percentage of Vulnerable Groups That Need Protection in Winter

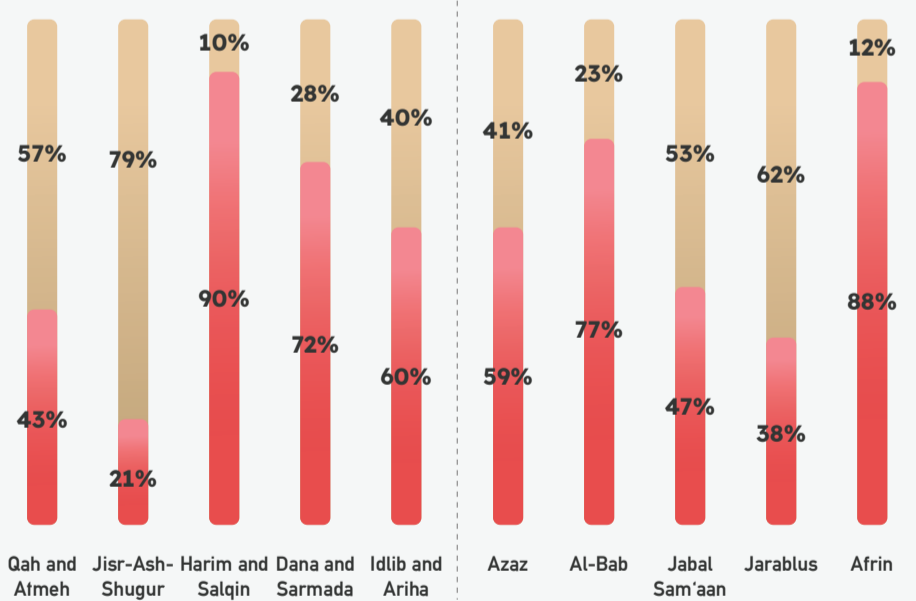
The study tried to identify the percentage of vulnerable groups who might be at greater risk in winter and need protection for extreme weather conditions if it is not provided. The vulnerable groups include pregnant and lactating women, older people unaccompanied by a caregiver, and unaccompanied and separated children. The following chart shows the percentages of vulnerable groups needing winter protection.



The Most Urgent Needs for Food During the Winter

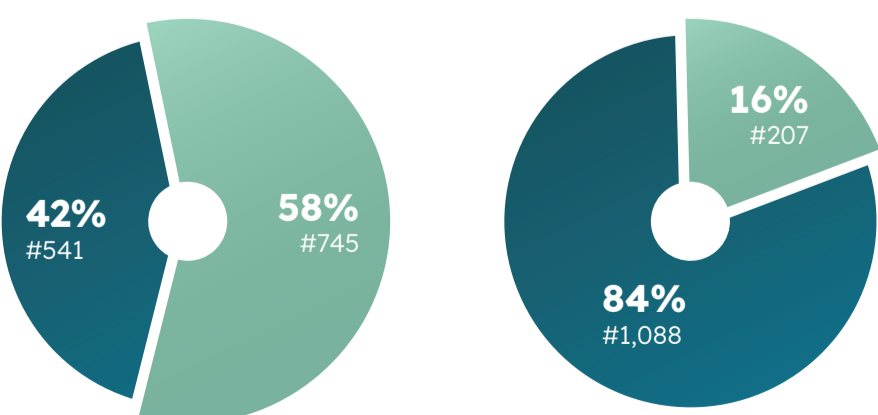


The Schools' Need for Heating Fuel



● Schools are not provided with their needs of heaters and heating fuel
 ● Schools are provided with their needs of heaters and heating fuel

Access to Primary Health Care Centers in Winter



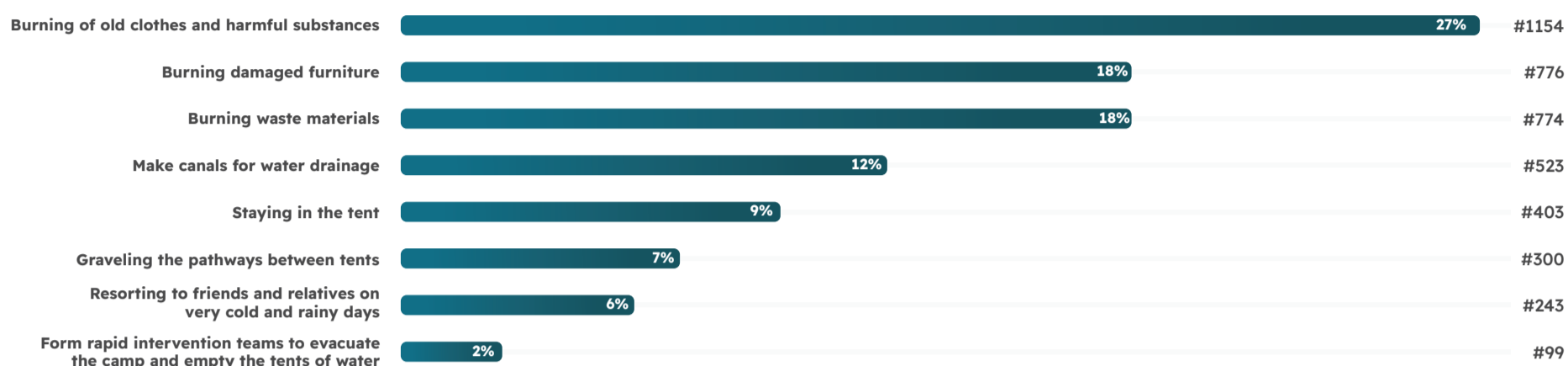
● No transportation is available to the PHC
 ● Transportation is available to the PHC
 ● The road to the center is blocked
 ● The road to the center is clear in all circumstances



Photo: NRC



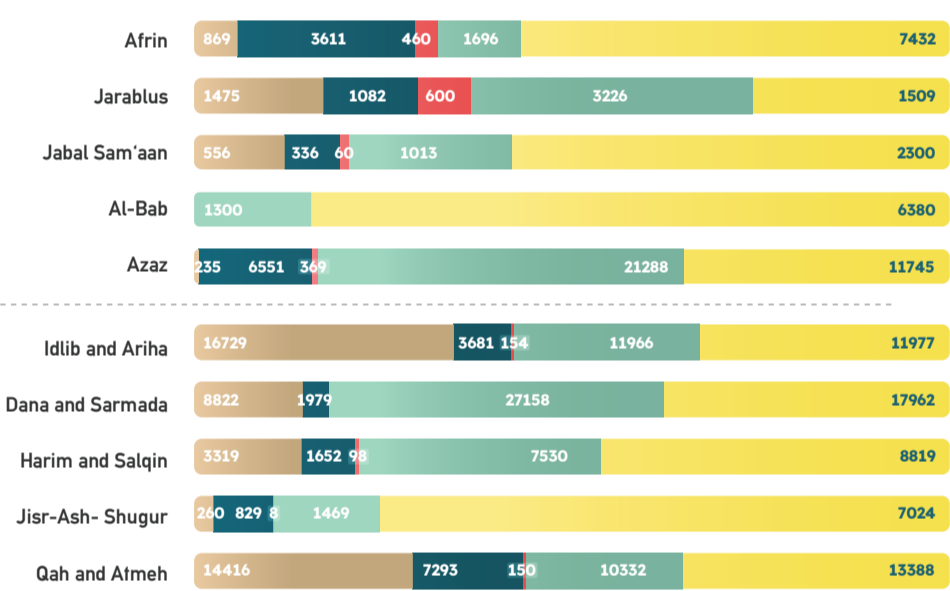
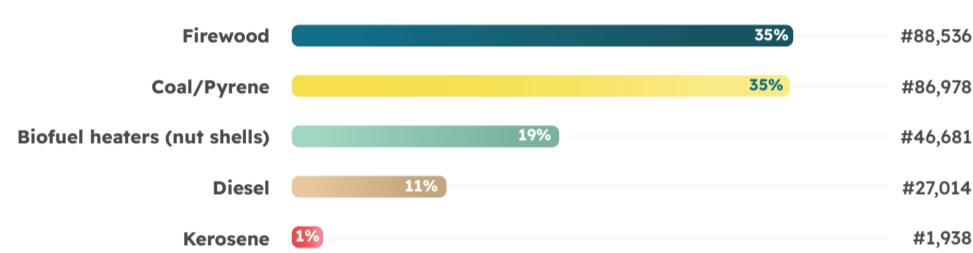
Coping Mechanism During Winter



Winter Needs of the Camps

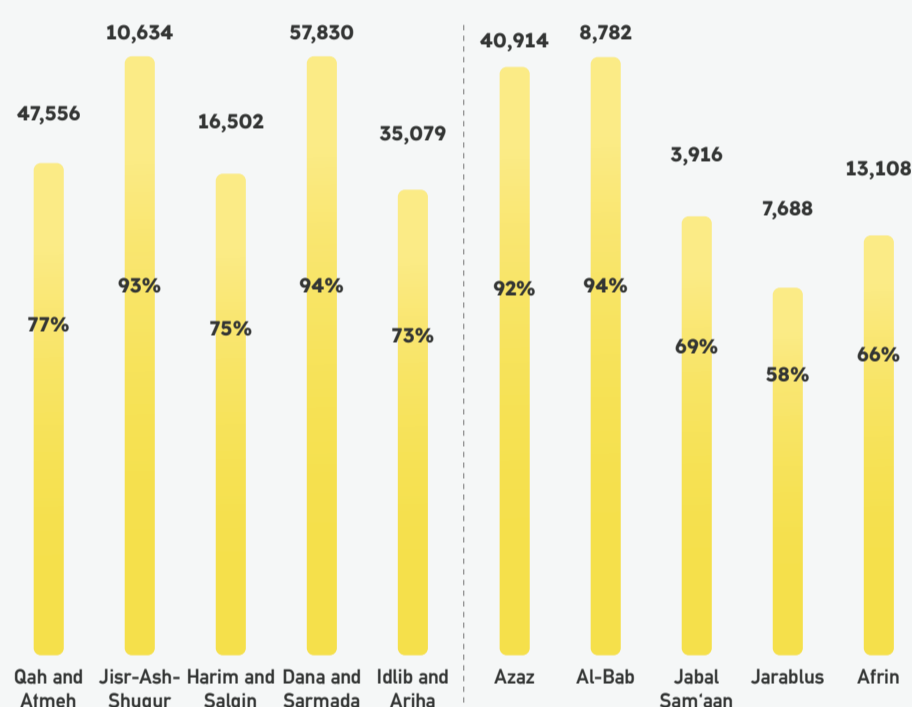
Heaters in the Camps

The study found that the assessed NWS camps required a total of 204,466 heaters. Within these camps, IDPs employ different types of heaters during the winter season, depending on the accessibility and cost of fuel sources for heating.



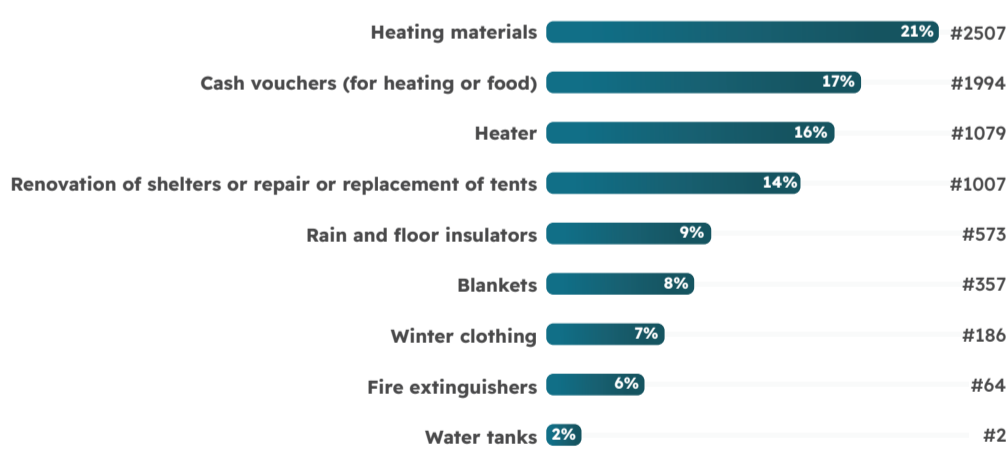
Needed Blankets

The study revealed that 81% (242,018 households) of the total IDP households in NWS camps required blankets. The highest demand for blankets was observed in Dana, Sarmada, and the surrounding areas of Idlib governorate, with 57,830 households in need.



Priorities

The study sought the input of KIs to identify the top three most pressing winter needs for the IDPs in the assessed camps.



Priorities of the winter needs at the camps by district level

Cluster	District	Heating materials	Cash vouchers (for heating and food)	Heaters	Shelter repairs or replacement of tents	Rain and floor insulators	Blankets	Winter clothes	Fire extinguishers	Water tanks
Idlib	Atmeh and Qah									
	Jisr-Ash-Shugur									
	Harim and Salqin									
	Dana and Sarmada									
	Idlib and Ariha									
Aleppo	Azaz									
	Al-Bab									
	Jarablus									
	Afrin									
	Afrin									
Total										

Recommendations

- 1- Families lacking independent shelters should be provided with independent shelters that preserve their dignity.
- 2- The humanitarian actors need to set up a strategy to improve the quality of shelters for the IDPs to preserve their dignity and ensure the minimum level of privacy according to the SHPERE standards. While tents are used as emergency shelters in crises, a better form of shelter needs to be provided to mitigate the suffering of the affected communities.
- 3- The camp lands are unsuitable for establishing camps because they do not facilitate the drainage of water, and thus make the camps vulnerable to floods in winter. Humanitarian actors should address this issue by providing drainage systems at these camps to protect them from floods in winter and wastewater in summer.
- 4- Humanitarian actors working on the provision of winter needs should work to provide heaters with suitable fuel to protect the IDPs from the extremely cold winters, especially children and elderly persons who are the most affected by the cold weather.
- 5- Suitable numbers of blankets of proper quality should be provided to the families, especially those still in tents.
- 6- Sufficient numbers of fire prevention points should be in the camps where tents are still used as shelters. In addition, sufficient numbers of dedicated committees should be trained in using fire extinguishers to mitigate the risk of spreading fires in winter.

