



Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) | Syria

SUMMER 2021 REPORT SERIES

SHELTER SITUATION



SYRIAN

ARAB REPUBLIC

METHODOLOGY

From mid-May to mid-June 2021, HNAP conducted a nationwide demographic household survey across all 14 governorates of Syria. Fieldwork was carried out by experienced HNAP field teams who were trained on coded surveys by data collection experts. The survey collected data on key demographic and socio-economic indicators, which is representative at the country, governorate and sub-district level.

The sample frame was sourced from the list of (p-coded) locations, updated by OCHA in August 2020, while the population figures were obtained from HNAP's population baseline, updated in April 2021. Households were estimated considering an average household size of 5 members throughout the country. In total, 20,723,559 individuals and 4,144,684 households living in 264 sub-districts were considered for the sample frame. Accordingly, a stratified sample of 24,397 households were selected to be interviewed and 24,573 were ultimately assessed, representative of the Syrian population at sub-district level with a 95% confidence interval and a 10% margin of error.¹

Weights were calculated with reference to the population estimates at sub-district level. The design weights were computed as the inverse of the probability of inclusion of each household. These weights were then adjusted in order to reproduce the exact population of households living in each sub-district.

The figures in the report are weighted population estimates, i.e. they represent the reference population not the sample

population. Figures on absent members rely on the recall of the interviewed households, and as such may not include the entire absent population.

Note: To better inform humanitarian partners based on their regions of operation, HNAP refers to the following regions of Syria:²

- Central and south Syria (CSS)
- North Syria (NS)
- North-west Syria (NWS)
- North-east Syria (NES)

Any boundaries, areas and names shown, and the designations used in this report, do not imply any form of official endorsement or acceptance. Reference is made to these designations as HNAP revised area of control (AOC) frontlines to better account for the comparative similarity of conditions and access to services within designated boundaries, as well as the sampling methodology employed during data collection.

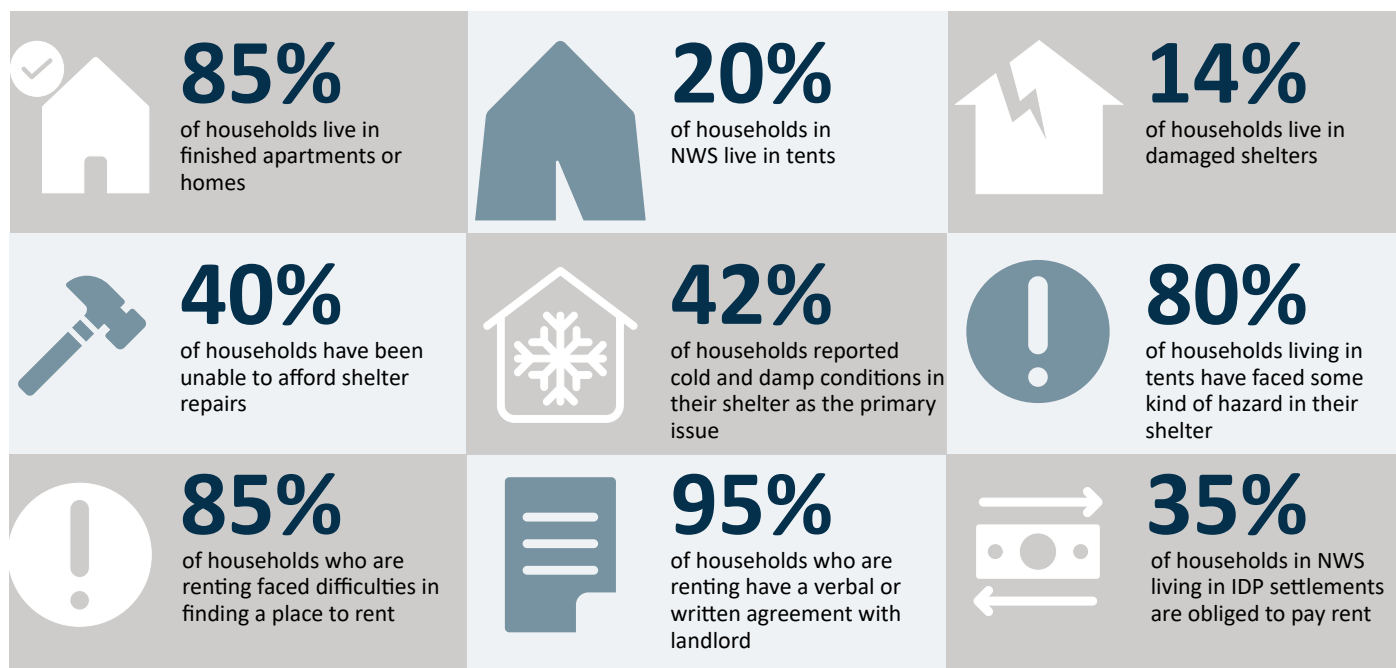
This round, HNAP also included a classification of location as either rural or urban to provide an additional layer for analysis aimed at enhancing the understanding of ground conditions. Specifically, an urban area is a non-empty location that is either classified as a neighbourhood by OCHA or if the location has more than 20,000 inhabitants. All other (non-empty) locations are considered rural.

KEY FINDINGS

This fact-sheet investigates shelter conditions across the whole of Syria. Specifically, the following areas are explored: shelter types; settlement types; shelter damages; problems or issues

reported in shelters; hazards; evictions; occupancy status and rental conditions.

Key findings are summarized below:



HNAP

The Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) for Syria is a joint UN assessment initiative which tracks displacement and return movements, conducts sector and multi-sectoral assessments, and monitors humanitarian needs inside Syria. HNAP is implemented with technical support from UN Agencies, through local Syrian NGOs, whose collection of data, often in difficult circumstances, is deeply appreciated.

Shelter/NFI Sector

HNAP would also like to thank the Shelter/NFI Sector for their support in survey design and providing technical feedback on the analysis and report.

¹ The geographical boundaries used do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by HNAP.

² List of locations were provided primarily by OCHA and supplemented with the CCCM and SSWG list of camps across the north-west and north-east.

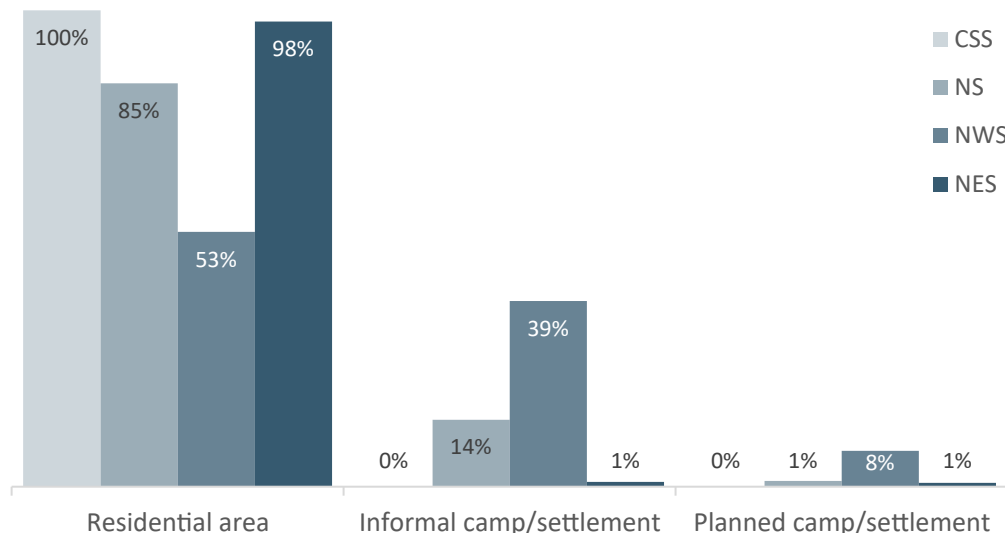
SETTLEMENT & SHELTER TYPE

TYPE OF SETTLEMENT

Across the whole of Syria, 92 percent of households live in residential areas, 7 percent live in informal camps and 1 percent live in formal camps. The rate of households living in IDP

settlements is highest in NWS, where 39 percent live in informal camps and 8 percent live in planned camps. The complete regional breakdown is provided below:

Type of settlement by region (% of HHs)

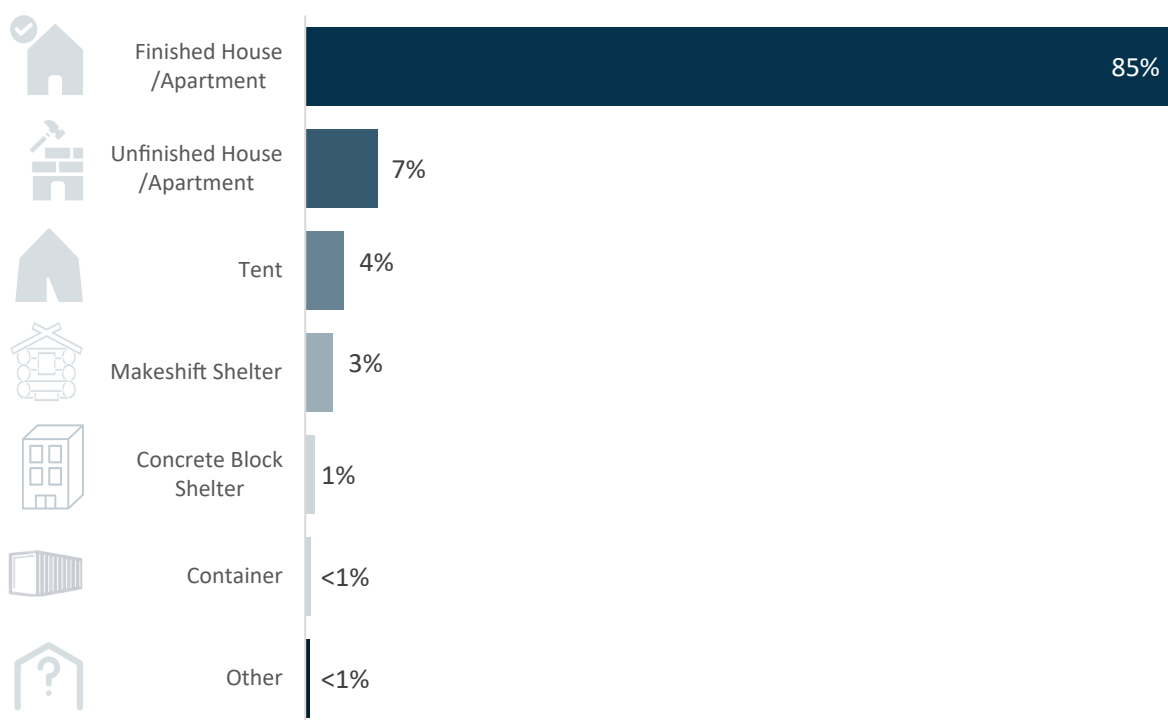


TYPE OF SHELTER ³

At the national level, the vast majority of households (92 percent) report living in finished or unfinished houses or apartments - 85 percent of households report living in finished houses or apartments, 7 percent in unfinished houses or apartments, 4 percent in tents, 3 percent in makeshift shelters, 1 percent in concrete-block shelter and 1 percent in containers. Shelter types are highly variant when comparing across regions

- please see next page. More vulnerable households also have higher rates of being reported in more non-durable shelter types, although it is important to note that this is likely most connected to the fact that being an IDP is considered a facet of vulnerability and IDPs have higher rates of being represented in non-durable shelters.⁴ Almost no differences were found in shelter type between male and female-headed households.

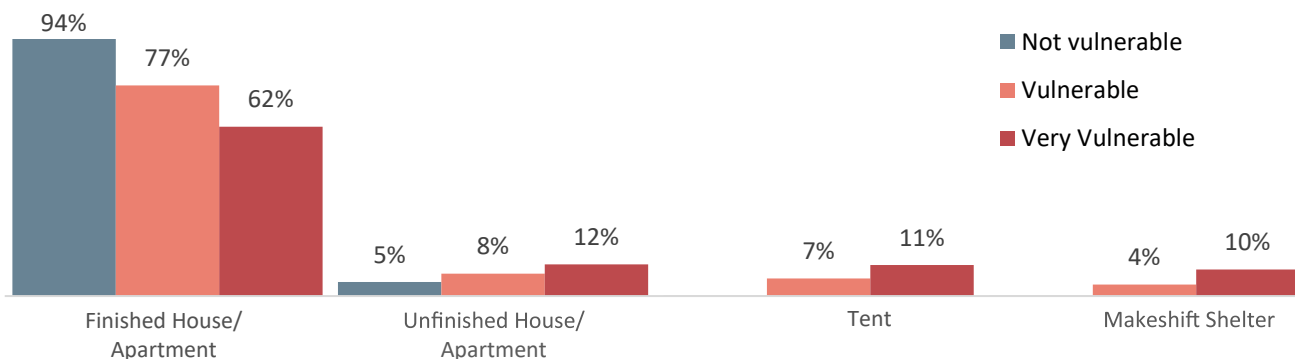
Type of shelter (% of HHs)



³ 'Other' shelter types, which culminate <1 percent of total shelter types, include the following: collective shelters, non-residential buildings, containers, refugee housing units, hotels and other, unspecified shelters.

⁴ Please refer to the next page to view the vulnerability by shelter type breakdown, as well as HNAP's categorisation of household vulnerability.

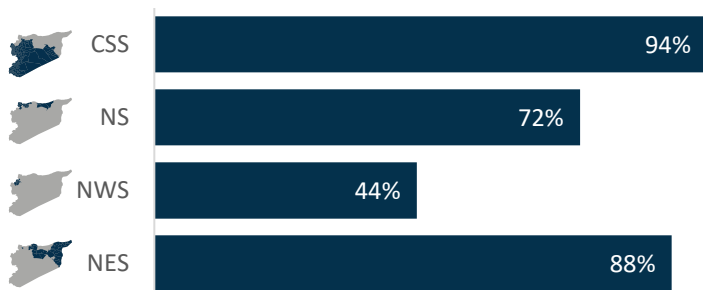
Type of shelter by vulnerability (% of HHs)⁵



TYPE OF SHELTER (REGIONAL BREAKDOWN)

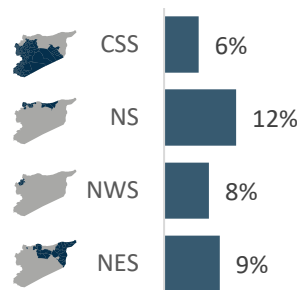
FINISHED HOUSES/APARTMENTS (% OF HHs)

Finished houses or apartments are the most common shelter types overall, as reported by a total of 85 percent of households. They are more frequently reported in CSS (94 percent) and much less frequently reported in NWS (44 percent).



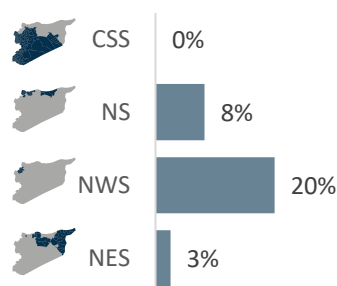
UNFINISHED HOUSES/APARTMENTS (% OF HHs)

The proportion of households living in unfinished houses or apartments is lowest in CSS (6 percent) - where the remaining 94 percent live in finished houses or apartments - and is highest in NS (12 percent).



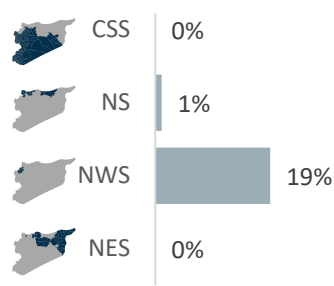
TENTS

Overall, 4 percent of households across Syria live in tents. This rate is much higher in NWS and NS, where 20 percent and 8 percent, respectively, of households live in tents.



MAKESHIFT SHELTERS

Makeshift shelters are not reported to any significant extent in any geographical region apart from in NWS, where they are reported by around one in five households (19 percent).



SHELTER CHARACTERISTICS

ACCESS TO TOILETS

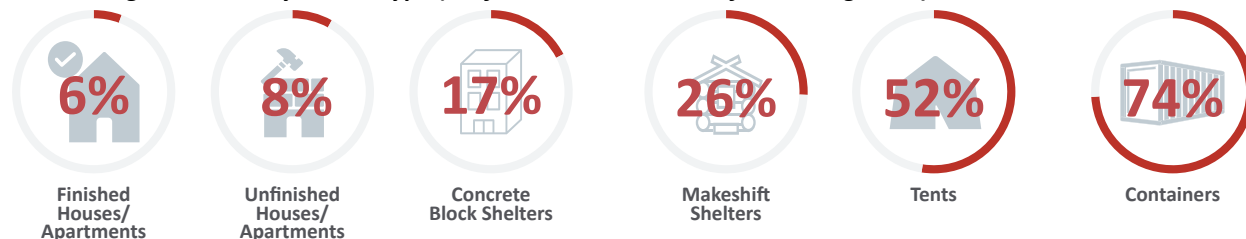
99%
of HHs
have access to a
functioning toilet in
their shelter

8%
of HHs
with access to a
functioning toilet
share it with
another HH

Almost all households report having access to a functioning toilet (99 percent), with little variation between households living in different shelter types, apart from those living in tents, for whom rates of access to functional toilets are lowest (87 percent). Of households with access to a toilet, 8 percent report that they are sharing their toilet with other households. Rates of sharing toilets are much higher in containers (74 percent), tents (52 percent), concrete block shelters, makeshift shelters (26 percent), and concrete block shelters (17 percent). Rates of sharing toilets are much lower, however, in finished houses or apartments (6 percent), which are the shelter type of 85 percent of households.

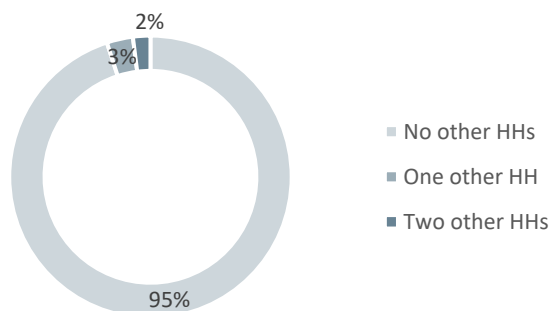
⁵ Vulnerability is calculated as a composite indicator, taking into account indicators attributed with increasing HH risk to external factors, including households with female head of household (HoH), disabled HoH, elderly HoH, more than two thirds as dependents, two or more members with disabilities, as well as households who are or have been displaced and households displaced two or more times. For more information on the process by which households were assigned weights and subsequently categorised into vulnerability, please contact us at hnap.syria@un.org.

HHs sharing their toilet by shelter type (% of HHs with access to a functioning toilet)



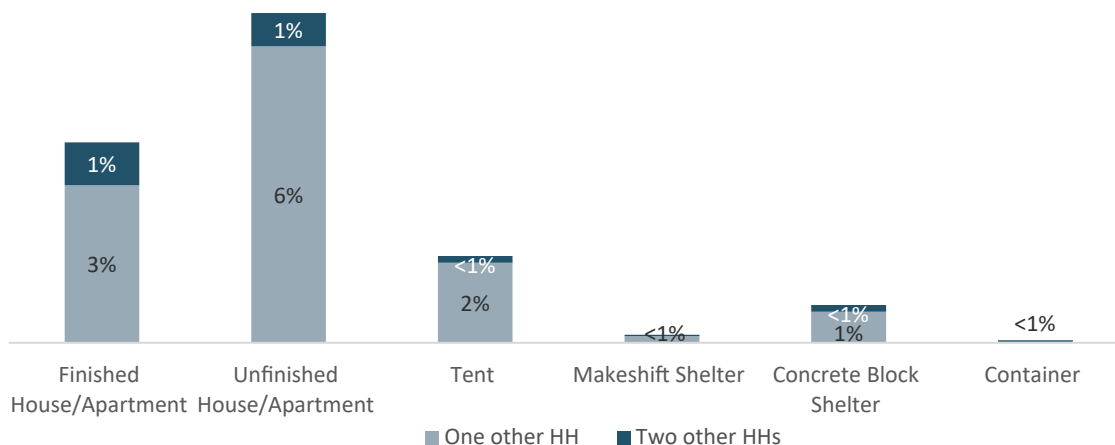
SHELTER SHARING

of HHs sharing shelter with (% of HHs)



95 percent of HHs report that they are not sharing their shelter with any other HHs. Cumulative shelter sharing rates are highest in NS, where 3 percent report sharing with one other HH, 2 percent report sharing with two other HHs, and 1 percent report sharing with three or more other HHs. Shelter sharing rates are highest in unfinished houses/apartments, where 6 percent of HHs share with one other HH and 1 percent share with two other HHs.

of HHs sharing shelter with by shelter type (% of HHs)



REGIONAL BREAKDOWN (% OF HHs)

Sharing with one other HH



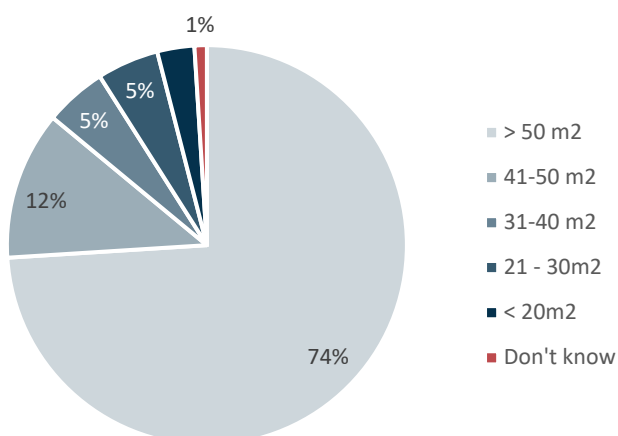
Sharing with two other HHs



Sharing with three or more other HHs



SIZE OF SHELTER

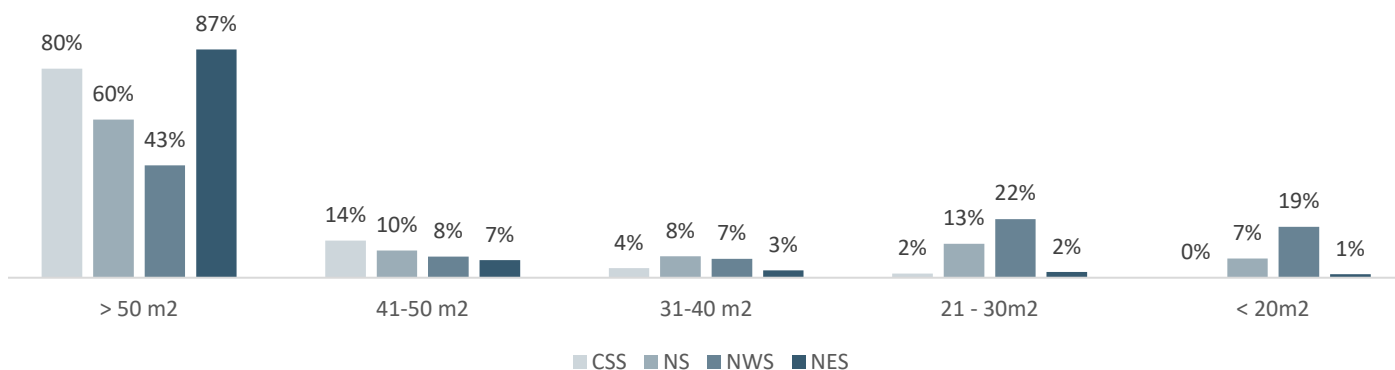


3% of HHs live in a shelter smaller than 20 metres²

19% of HHs in NWS live in a shelter smaller than 20 metres²

The majority of households (74 percent) live in a shelter that is sized over 50 metres². This is most frequent in NES (87 percent) and least frequent in NWS (43 percent). Critically small shelters (< 20m²) are most frequently reported in NWS (19 percent), followed by NS (7 percent), and are very infrequently reported in NES (1 percent) and not at all reported in CSS. Critically small shelters will often lack space for essential materials (cookers, heaters) and will likely also be overcrowded, lacking adequate privacy or partitions.

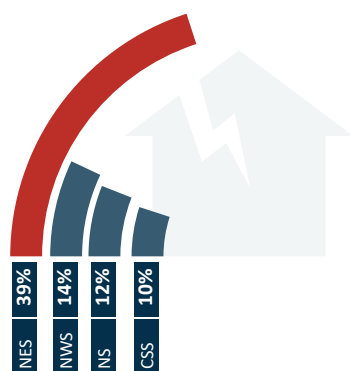
Shelter size by region (% of HHs)



SHELTER DAMAGES (SELECTED SHELTER TYPES ONLY)

14% of shelters nationwide are damaged⁶

Shelter damages (% of HHs)



For the purposes of shelter rehabilitation, unfinished houses/apartments, tents, makeshift shelters, refugee housing units and containers were excluded from the analysis. 14 percent of shelters (finished houses/apartments, hotels, non-residential buildings and collective shelters) are reportedly damaged, although high regional variance is observed. Conditions in NES are most critical, where a very critical 39 percent of shelters are damaged, compared to the much lower, but still critical, 10 percent in CSS, where the lowest rates are reported.

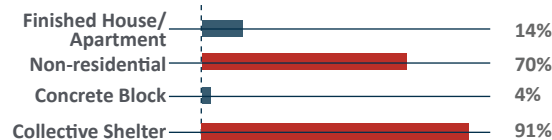
SEX OF HOH BREAKDOWN

Female-headed households are significantly more likely to report their shelters damaged than male-headed households, by 14 percentage points.



SHELTER TYPE BREAKDOWN

Rates of shelter damage are highly variant across shelter types. 91 percent of households living in collective shelters and 70 percent in non-residential buildings report damages, compared to a much lower 14 percent in finished houses and apartments and 4 percent in concrete block shelters.

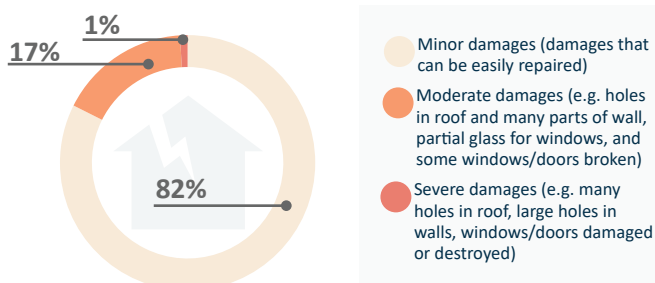


URBAN/RURAL BREAKDOWN



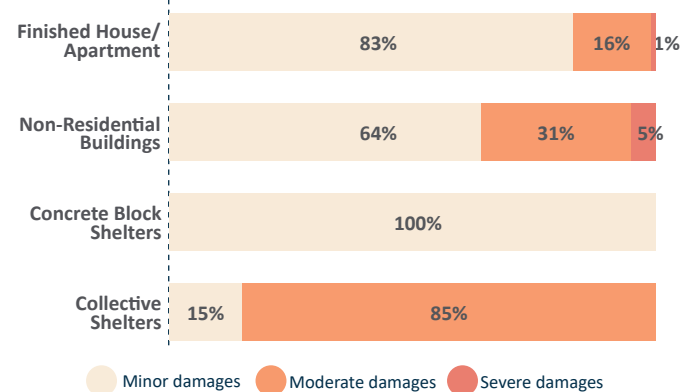
EXTENT OF DAMAGES (% of HHs who reported damages)

Extent of damages (% of HHs who reported damages)



Damages in collective shelters are most critical: of the 91 percent of households who are living in collective shelters reporting damages, 85 percent report moderate damages - a much higher rate than the 17 percent national average. Non-residential buildings also have a high rate of non-minor damages: of the 70 percent of households living in damaged non-residential buildings, 31 percent report moderate damages and 5 percent report severe damages (compared to the 1 percent national average).

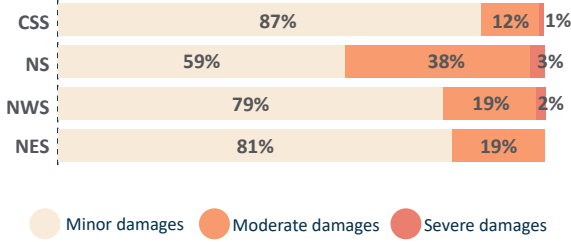
Extent of damages by shelter type (% of HHs who reported damages)



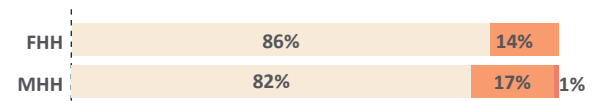
⁶ It is important to note that relatively low rates of reported damage across certain types of shelters do not imply that they are suitable for residence. Many will, for example, still be host to numerous issues or problems. See 'problems with shelter' section.

REGIONAL BREAKDOWNS

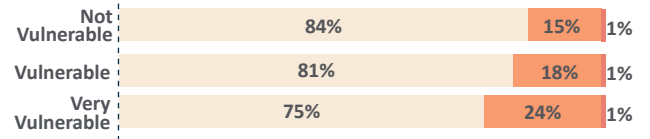
Damaged shelters in NS are most severe: 38 percent report moderate damages and 3 percent report severe damages. Damages are least severe in CSS, where 17 percent report moderate damages and one percent report severe damages. In NES, where 49 percent of shelters are damaged, 19 percent report moderate shelter damages.



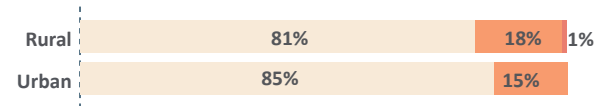
SEX OF HoH BREAKDOWN



VULNERABILITY BREAKDOWN



RURAL/URBAN BREAKDOWN

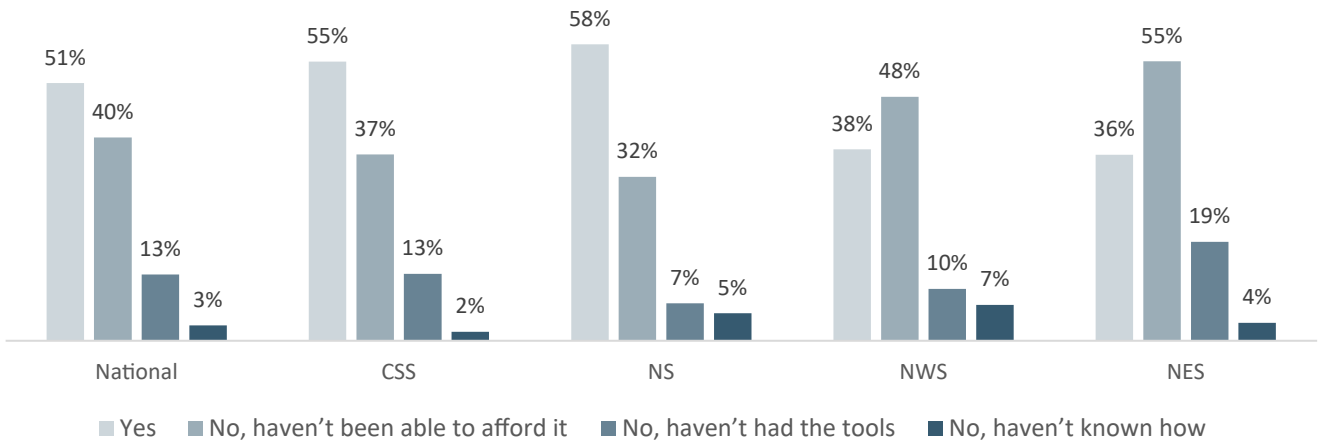


SHELTER REPAIRS

In total, over half (51 percent) of households report that they have been able to provide repairs to their current shelter, at any given time. Over half of households in both CSS and NS (55 percent and 58 percent, respectively) also reported being able to provide repairs to their shelter; however, a much lower 38 percent and 36 percent in NWS and NES, respectively, reported

the same. Inaffordability was the most frequently selected reason for not being able to carry out repairs (40 percent, nationally) and is most frequently selected in NES (55 percent), which is the region that also reports the highest rate of damaged shelters.

Shelter repairs, national and by region (% of HHs)



EVICCTIONS

2%
of HHs
have been evicted in the
past 12 months

Across the country, two percent of households reported that they have been evicted in the past 12 months.⁷ Rates of households who report having been evicted over the past 12 months are highest in NS and NES (4 percent). Female-headed households report slightly higher rates of having been evicted than male-headed households, which is indicative of being in a place of heightened vulnerability.

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN (% OF HHs)



SEX OF HoH BREAKDOWN (% OF HHs)

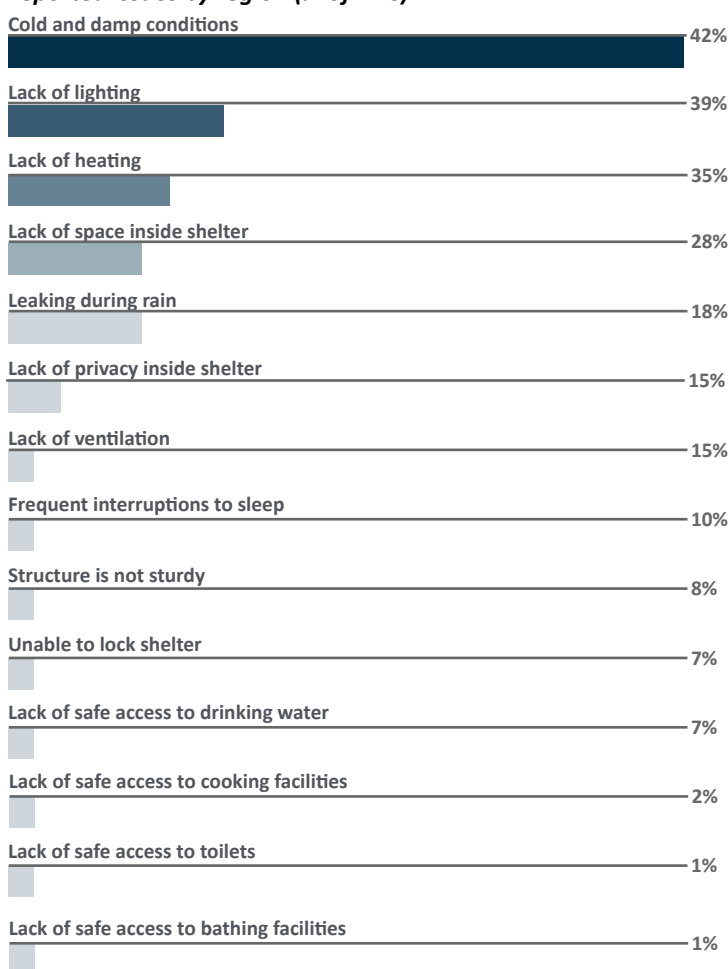


⁷ Evictions refer to the permanent or temporary removal against the will of a household from the household which they occupy by any party (e.g. landlord, security, armed forces, etc.) for any reason.

PROBLEMS WITH SHELTER

The below chart displays the most important issues or problems with current shelter (aggregated from the top three selected). The most clear shelter issue was heating: 42 percent of households reported cold and damp conditions as a major issue and 35 percent reporting lack of heating. Lack of lighting was also a significant problem, as reported by 39 percent of households. Households in NWS had higher than average rates of reporting cold and damp conditions (53 percent), while households in NES more frequently reported lack of lighting (59 percent). Households in rural settings were more likely to report cold and damp conditions (47 percent) as compared to households in urban settings (38 percent). There are no significant differences in shelter issues when comparing between female and male-headed households; however, female-headed households were more likely to report lack of heating (by 6 percentage points) and cold and damp conditions (by 4 percentage points).

Reported issues by region (% of HHs)



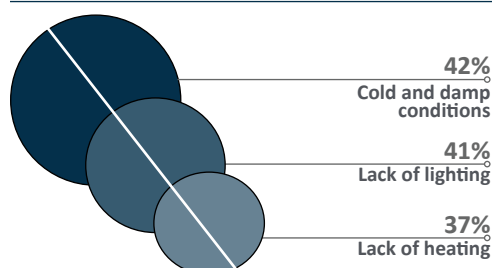
Reported issues by region, urban/rural and sex of HoH (% of HHs)

Reported issues	CSS	NS	NWS	NES	Urban	Rural	FHH	MHH
Cold and damp conditions	40%	47%	53%	39%	38%	47%	46%	42%
Lack of lighting	39%	32%	21%	59%	39%	39%	38%	39%
Lack of heating	34%	26%	39%	41%	30%	40%	40%	34%
Lack of space inside shelter	27%	23%	43%	25%	26%	31%	27%	29%
Leaking during rain	13%	21%	33%	27%	14%	23%	16%	18%
Lack of privacy inside shelter	11%	21%	27%	20%	11%	20%	12%	16%
Lack of ventilation	17%	12%	12%	10%	19%	10%	12%	16%
Frequent interruptions to sleep	12%	9%	4%	10%	14%	6%	8%	11%

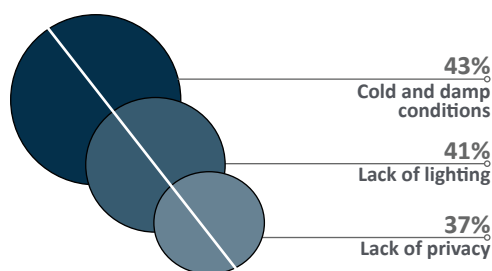
BREAKDOWN BY SHELTER TYPE

Reported shelter issues vary greatly by shelter type. Lack of space is not reported in the top three issues by households living in finished or unfinished houses/apartments; however, it is reported extensively by households living in tents or makeshift shelters (61 percent and 71 percent, respectively). Tents and makeshift shelters also have higher rates of leaking during rain (37 percent and 59 percent, respectively).

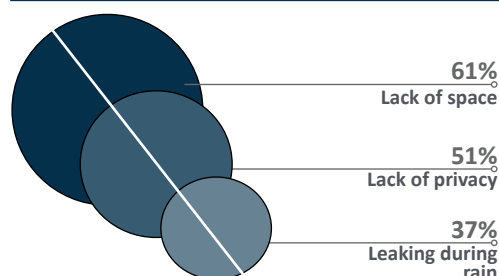
FINISHED HOUSE/APARTMENT



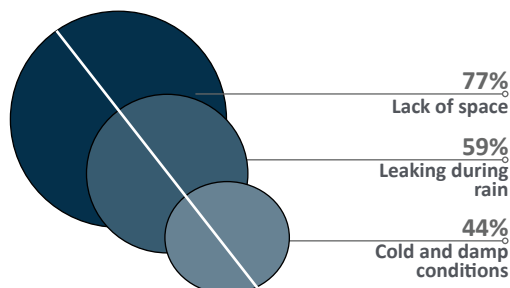
UNFINISHED HOUSE/APARTMENT



TENT



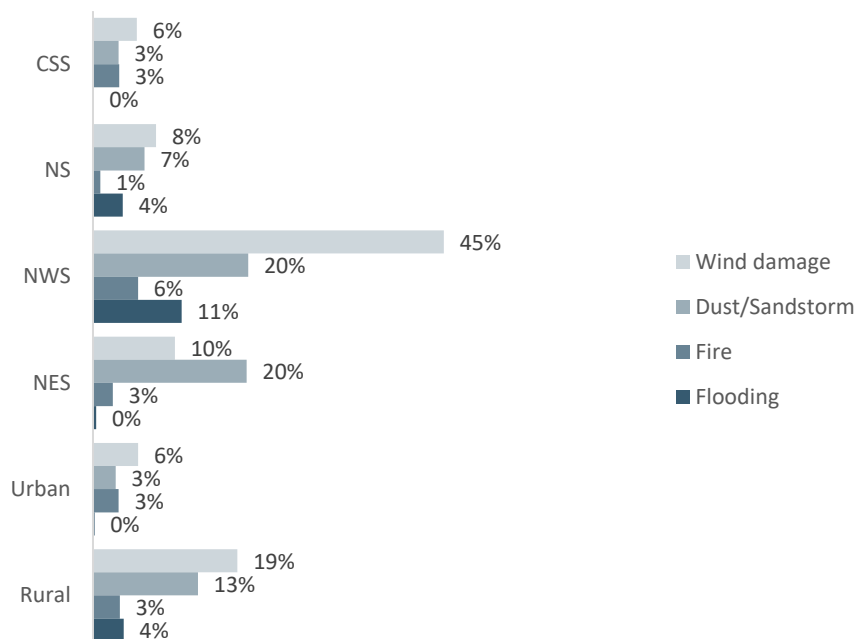
MAKESHIFT SHELTERS



HAZARDS & EVICTIONS

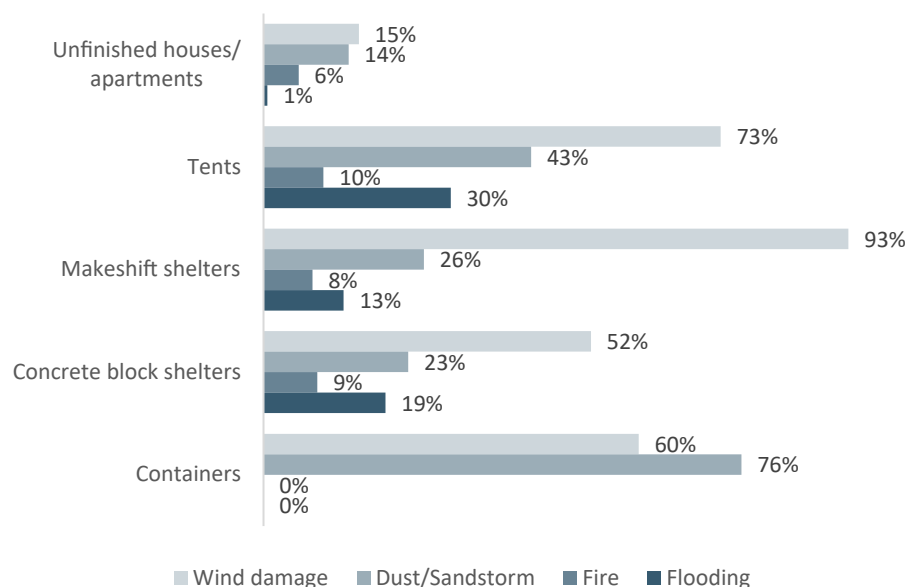
HAZARDS

Type of hazards reported by region and rural/urban (% of HHs)



Households were asked about the types of hazards they had faced in their current shelter, including damages caused by wind, dust/sandstorms, fire and flooding. At the regional level, hazards were most reported in NWS, likely due to the much higher rates of households living in non-durable shelters, which are more prone to damage from natural disasters.

Hazards faced by households in non-durable shelters (% of HHs)



Households who reported that they had faced hazards were much more likely to have been living in non-durable shelter types. Tents and makeshift shelters were found to be the shelter types that were most prone to experiencing damage caused by hazards, highlighting their fragility to the natural elements as well as the increased vulnerabilities of the households which they shelter. Nearly all households living in makeshift shelters (98 percent) and a very significant 80 percent of households living in tents reported having faced some kind of hazard, compared to just 10 percent of households living in finished houses or apartments. The most common hazard was wind damage, as reported by 93 percent of those living in makeshift shelters and 73 percent of those living in tents.

17%

of households reported having faced some kind of hazard in their current shelter

26%

of households living in **rural settings** reported having faced some kind of hazard in their current shelter

53%

of households living in **NWS** reported having faced some kind of hazard in their current shelter

10%

of households in **finished houses or apartments** reported having faced some kind of hazard in their shelter

80%

of households living in **tents** reported having faced some kind of hazard in their current shelter

98%

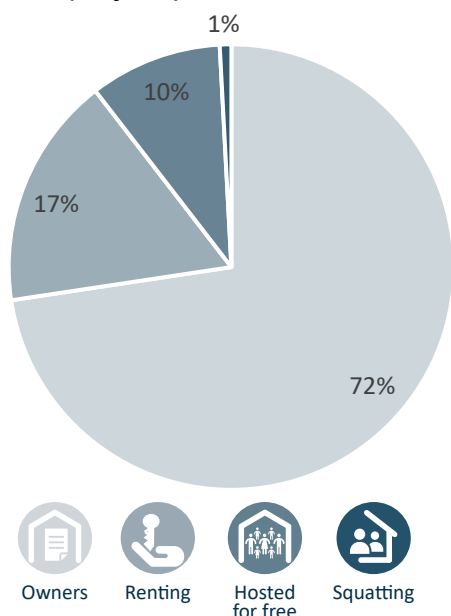
of households living in **makeshift shelters** reported having faced some kind of hazard in their current shelter

OCCUPANCY STATUS⁸

Across the whole of Syria, the vast majority of households report that they own the shelter in which they live (72 percent), just under one in five (17 percent) report renting their shelter, 10 percent are hosted for free and 1 percent are squatting. Rates of owning shelters are highest in CSS (77 percent) and NES (72 percent), while rates of renting and being hosted for free are highest in NS and NWS. Male-headed households display higher rates of owning their shelter (73 percent compared to 69 percent of female-headed households), while female-

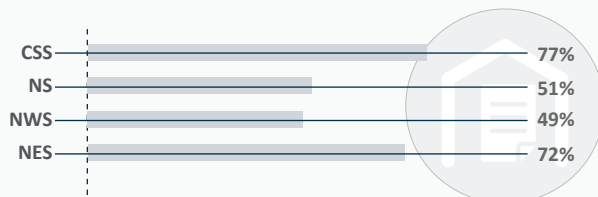
headed households have higher rates of being hosted for free (13 percent compared to 9 percent). Occupancy status also varies by type of shelter (see next page). Those living in finished houses or apartments have the highest rates of owning their own shelter (75 percent), followed by those living in unfinished houses/apartments (43 percent). On the other hand, those living in non-residential buildings and makeshift shelters have the highest rates of being hosted for free (41 percent and 48 percent, respectively).

Occupancy status (% of HHs)

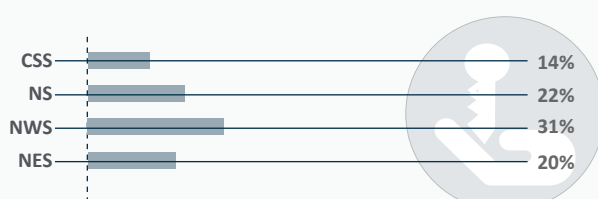


REGIONAL BREAKDOWN (% OF HHs)

OWNERS



RENTING



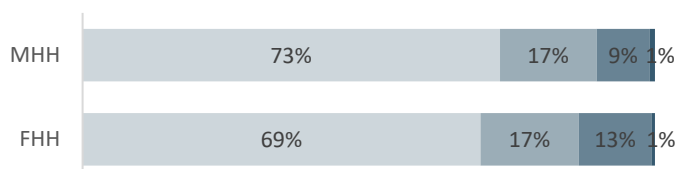
HOSTED FOR FREE⁹



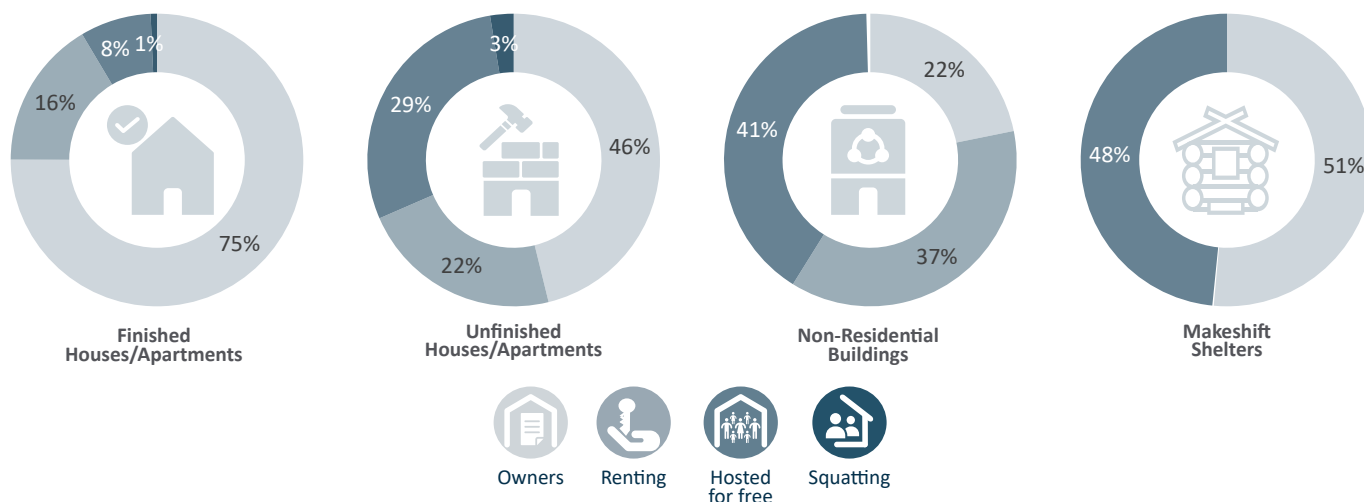
SQUATTING



Occupancy status by sex of HoH (% of HHs)



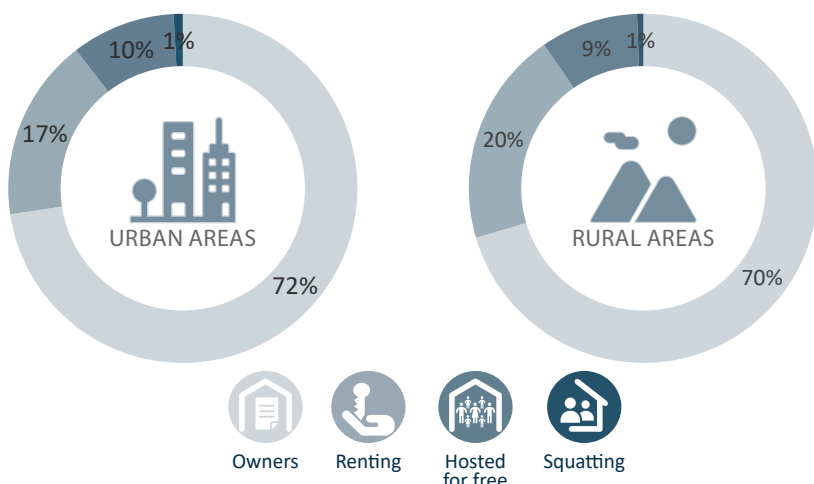
Occupancy status by type of shelter (% of HHs)



⁸ Occupancy situation is recorded only for those in residential settings and not for those living in formal or informal camps.

⁹ Hosted for free refers to the situation whereby a household lives in a shelter without paying but with the permission of the owner.

Occupancy status by urban/rural (% of HHs)

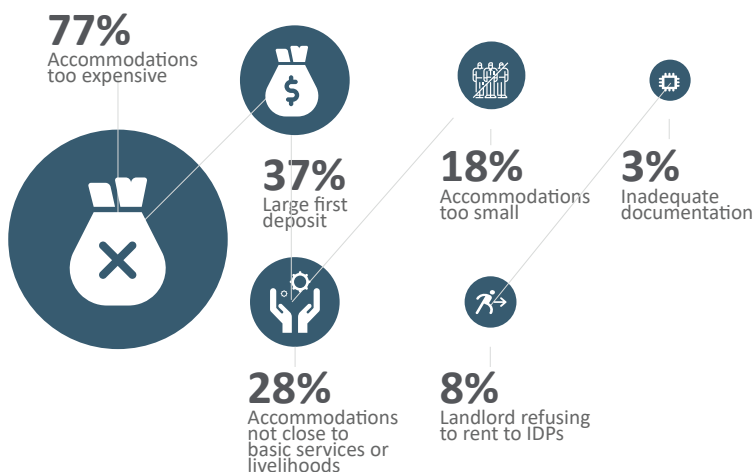


DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING A PLACE TO RENT

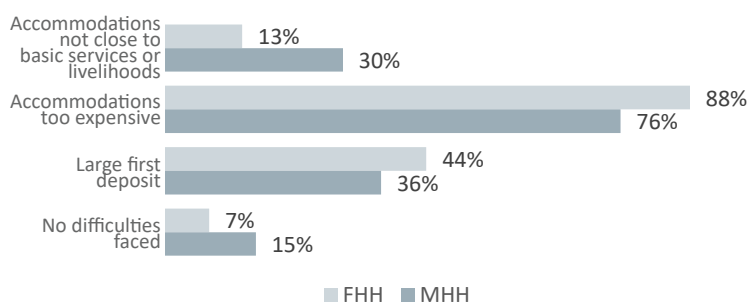
85%
of renting HHs
report that they faced
some sort of difficulty
when finding a place to
rent

Of the 17 percent of households who are renting their current shelter, only 15 percent reported that they faced no difficulties in finding a place to rent. In NS, however, the rental situation was much better: of the 22 percent of households who were renting, nearly half reported no difficulties (47 percent). Nationwide, the most frequently faced problem was affordability: 77 percent reported that accommodations were too expensive and 37 percent reported that the first deposit was too large. Difficulties pertaining to accommodations being too expensive were most pertinent in NES (85 percent), CSS (82 percent) and NWS (73 percent), but much less pertinent in NS (46 percent). Similarly, households in NES and NWS more frequently reported the issue of a large first deposit (43 percent and 41 percent, respectively), as compared to households in NWS (25 percent) and NS (18 percent).

Difficulties faced when trying to find a place to rent (% of HHs who are renting)

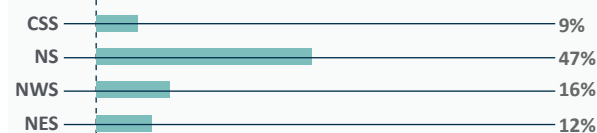


Difficulties faced when trying to find a place to rent by sex of HoH (only includes variables with largest percentage point difference)

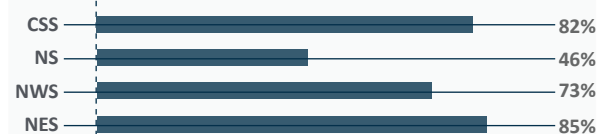


REGIONAL BREAKDOWN (% OF HHs)

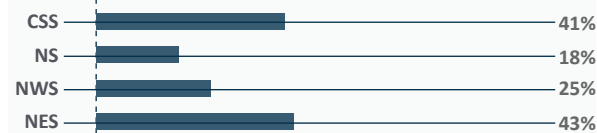
No difficulties faced



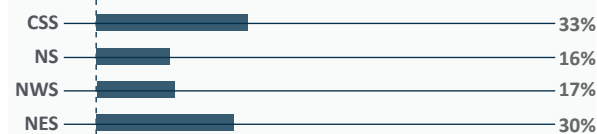
Accommodations too expensive



Large first deposit



Accommodations not close to basic services or livelihoods

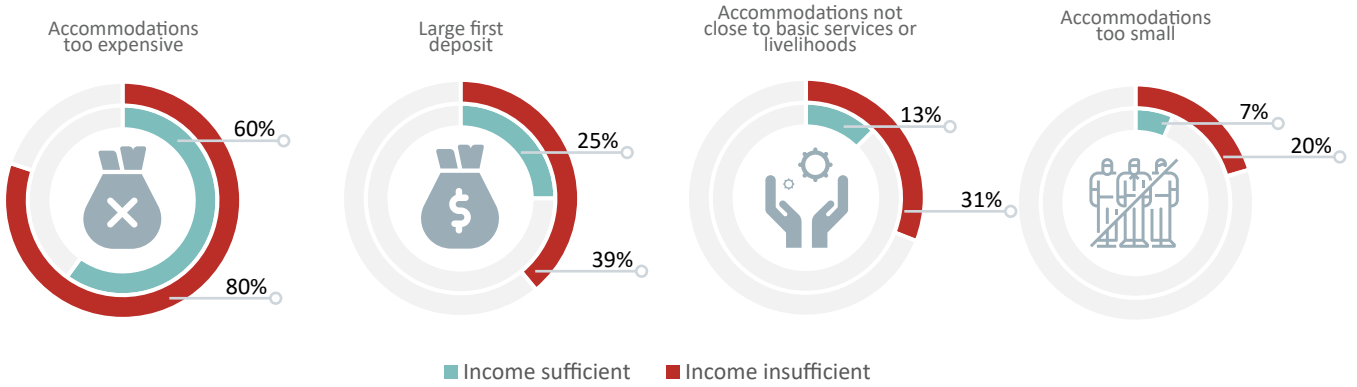


89%

of income insufficient HHs reported that they some sort of difficulty in finding a place to rent (compared to 64 percent of income sufficient HHs)

Illustrating the prevalence of financial barriers when seeking a place to rent, a very critical 89 percent of households who reported that their income was insufficient to meet their needs also reported difficulties in finding a place to rent, as compared to 64 percent of income sufficient households. Income insufficient households reported significantly higher rates of facing problems around accommodations being too expensive (20 percentage point (pp) difference), initial deposits being too expensive, (14 pp difference), accommodations not being close enough to basic services or livelihoods (18 pp difference), and accommodations being too small (13 pp difference).

Difficulties faced when trying to find a place to rent by income sufficiency (only includes variables with largest percentage point difference)

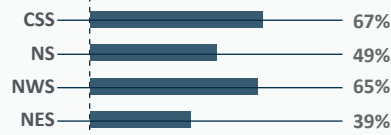


RENTAL AGREEMENT

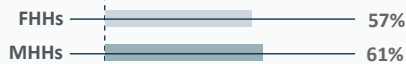
61%

of renting households report that they have a written agreement to stay in their shelter

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN



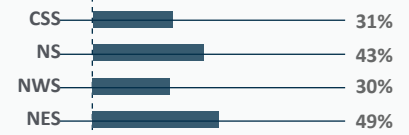
SEX OF HOH BREAKDOWN



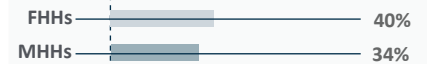
35%

of renting households report that they have a verbal agreement to stay in their shelter

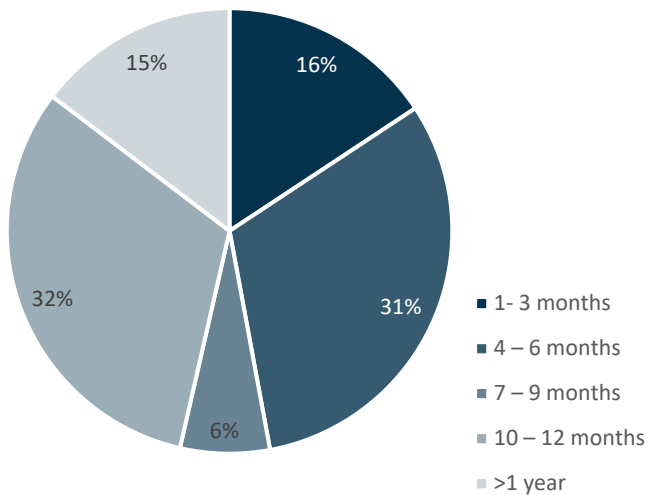
REGIONAL BREAKDOWN



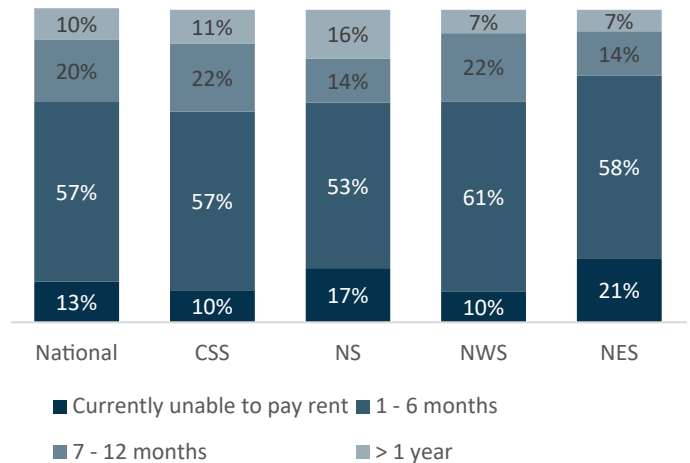
SEX OF HOH BREAKDOWN



Length of time for which the agreement (verbal or written) to stay in shelter lasts, (% of HHs)



Length of time for which hhs believe they can continue paying rent (% of HHs)



TENTS ¹⁰

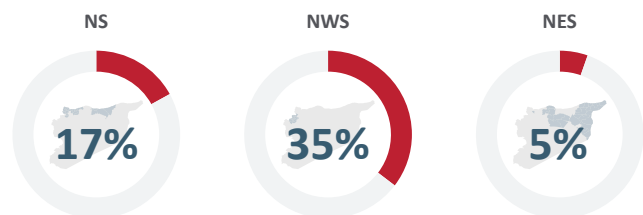


8%

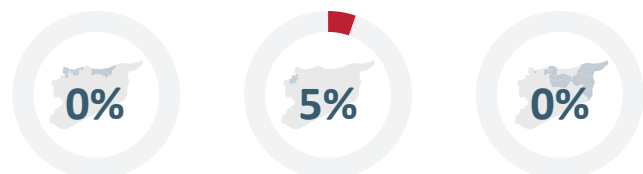
Of HHs nationwide live in formal or informal IDP settlements

8 percent of households nationwide report that they live in formal or informal IDP settlements. The precarious and vulnerable nature of these households is exacerbated in situations where they are made to pay rent for their shelter. This situation is most critical in NWS, where over one third (35 percent) of those in formal or informal settlements report that they are obliged to pay rent. Only five percent of households report that they own the land on which they stay in their settlement, all of whom are MHHs in NWS.

Obligated to pay rent to stay in IDP camp by region (% of HHs who live in formal or informal IDP settlements)



Ownership of land on which they are staying (% of HHs who live in formal or informal IDP settlements)



SEX OF HOH BREAKDOWN BY REGION

NORTH SYRIA



NORTH-WEST SYRIA

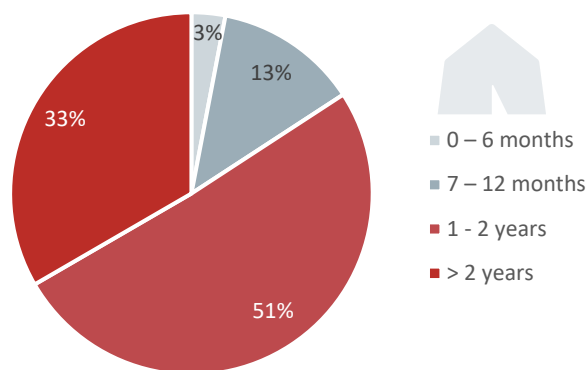


NORTH-EAST SYRIA



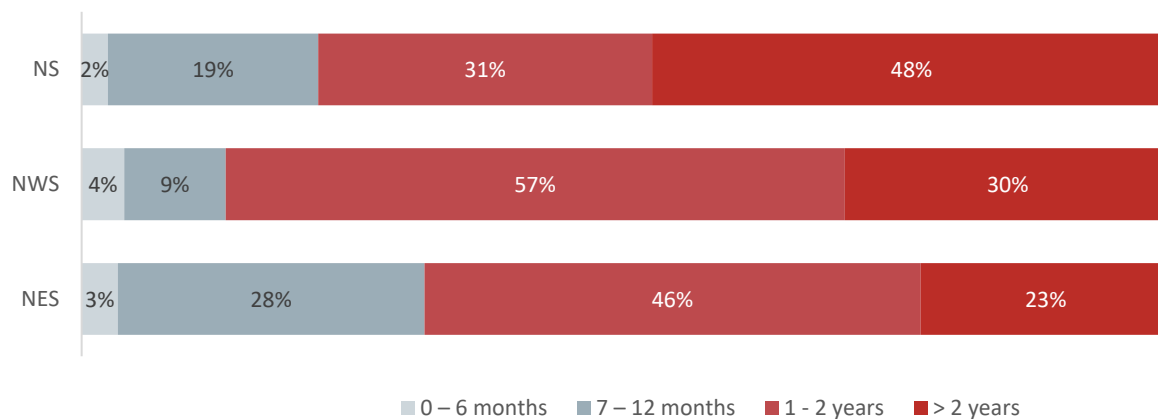
TENT AGE

Tent age (% of HHs living in tents)



According to the S/NFI Cluster, the expected lifespan of a tent is between 6-12 months, depending on the specifications of the tent. Of the 4 percent of households nationwide who reported living in tents, only 16 percent reported that their tent was less than one year old, leaving a significant 84 percent of households living in tents in a vulnerable situation where their tent is more likely to be damaged, less resistant to weather conditions and prone to leakage. Households in NS had the highest rates of reporting living in tents that were more than two years old (48 percent), and households in NWS had the highest cumulative rates of living in tents that were either between one and two years old and over two years old (87 percent).

Tent age by region (% of HHs living in tents)



¹⁰ CSS is excluded from the analysis of this page, because a very low proportion live in tents.