

AL-BAB ASSESSMENT FINDINGS REPORT

24 - APRIL - 2018



PREPARED BY: AL-AMEEN FOR HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

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UPDATE ON SITUATION IN NORTH SYRIA / AL-BAB /:

The number of people from war-weary Syria to have recently sought shelter in Syria's northern city of Al Bab has reached 75.000 IDPs, while the total population of the city is 165.000 people. During the last year Al Bab District and its surrounding witnessed heavy clashes between the Turkey – backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) and Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL), which resulted in huge Internally Displaced People towards safer areas to the nearby governorates. Now, Al Bab has become a safe haven for IDPs fleeing other locations from Syria, it's estimated that 150.000 people returned to their houses in Al Bab Ever since IS were purged from it last year within the context of Turkey's Euphrates Shield Operation, the city has become a destination for IDPs from elsewhere in Syria. As of 2017 the districts host Thousands of IDPs. Those people came to these safer areas without belongings, savings, and their children, women and youth are in need of several basic needs services, including Food, Education, WASH, and Health, which is overstretching and exhausting the already existing poor services available in the host communities.

During Feb 2018 Al Ameen conducted rapid need assessment for 3.762 families in Al Bab District, the assessment included questions under the sectors of:

- Food Security
- Non-Food Items
- Livelihoods
- Shelter

In spite of the needs across all sectors, instability of the political situation is governing the situation in Al-Bab and overshadowing the ability for a full-scale humanitarian response. In addition, the waves of recently displaced people arriving to the are from different locations in Syria, this added to the scale of need across the area.

The assessment main purpose is capture the change in norms, provide better understanding for the humanitarian situation and the needs in the area.

METHODOLOGY:

Al-Ameen for Humanitarian Support, in attempt to capture a view of the humanitarian situation in Al-Bab District performed a Rapid Needs Assessment under 4 sectors, Data collection was completed through interviews with the families during the registration for winterization items distribution.

Al-Ameen conducted face to face KI interviews. The selection of interviewees was based on the activities of the area of intervention for the winterization items distribution project.

A total number of 3.762 families were interviewed, the assessment covered 24 communities across Al-Bab District.

The assessment was provided to the enumerators on smart phones and tablets for onsite completion using Kobo-Collect software, all interviewees were instructed to provide answers to the best of their knowledge about the topics.

FINDINGS:

- Families Profile:**

Number of families:

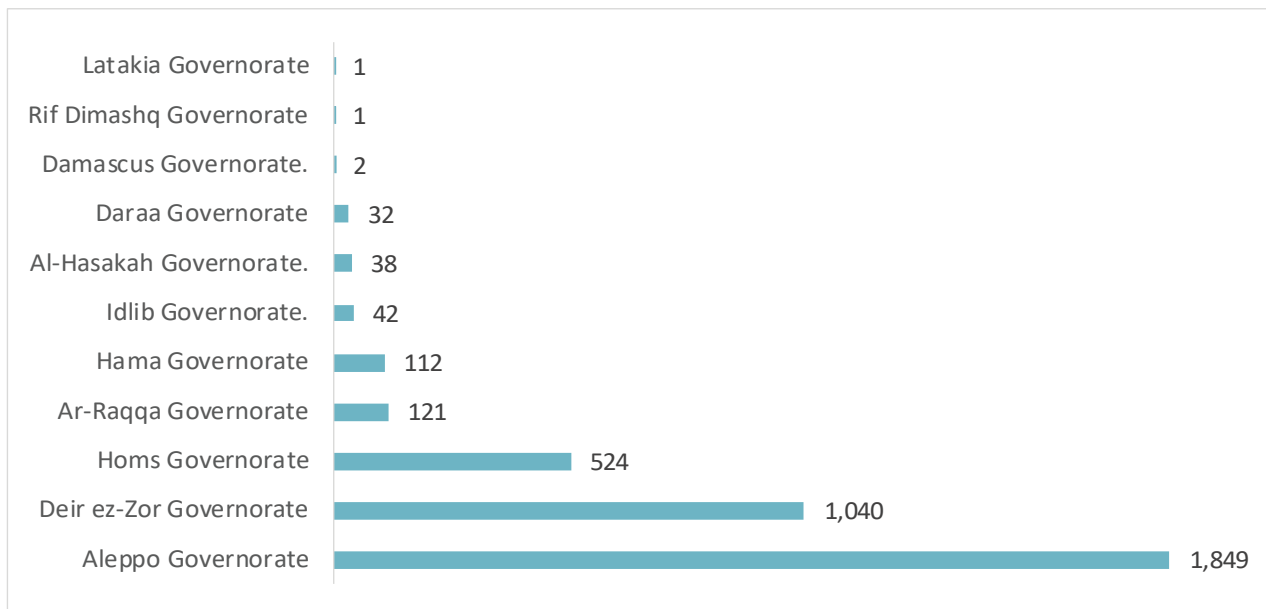
The population in the assessed sub-district of Al-Bab, which was approximately 125.000 prior to the crisis in 2011, was found to have increased to approximately 165.000 including 70.000 IDPs.

Al-Ameen interviewed 3.762 families, divided in 24 Communities.

Families Governorate of Origin:

The origins of families interviewed in Al-Bab was mainly from Aleppo Governorate as 49 % of the respondents indicated. Following Aleppo, Deir Ezzor had the second stage where 28 % of the respondents referred to that.

Total Number of families: 3.762:



- Family members age groups:**

The 3.762 families whom interviewed, consist of 9492 Males 53 % & 8304 Females 47% total 17796 individuals, divided according to the following age groups:

Total Number individuals:



8.304

families

17.796

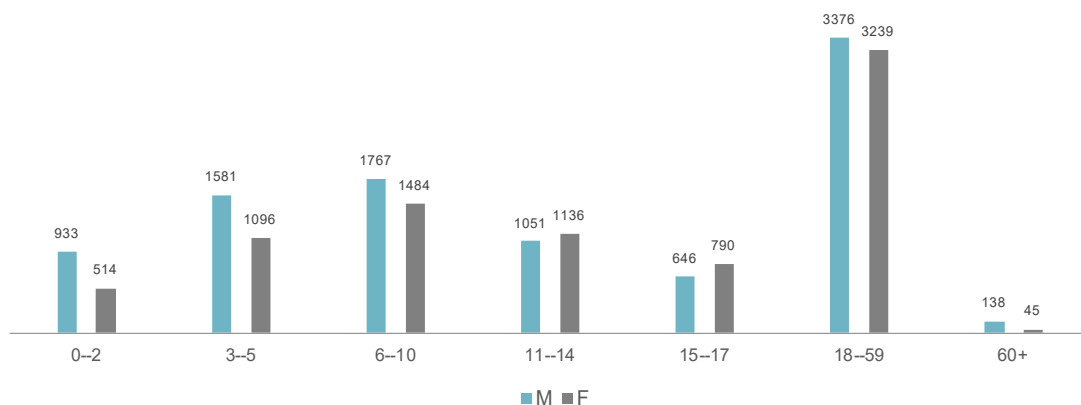
individuals

9.492

Males



Total Number individuals:



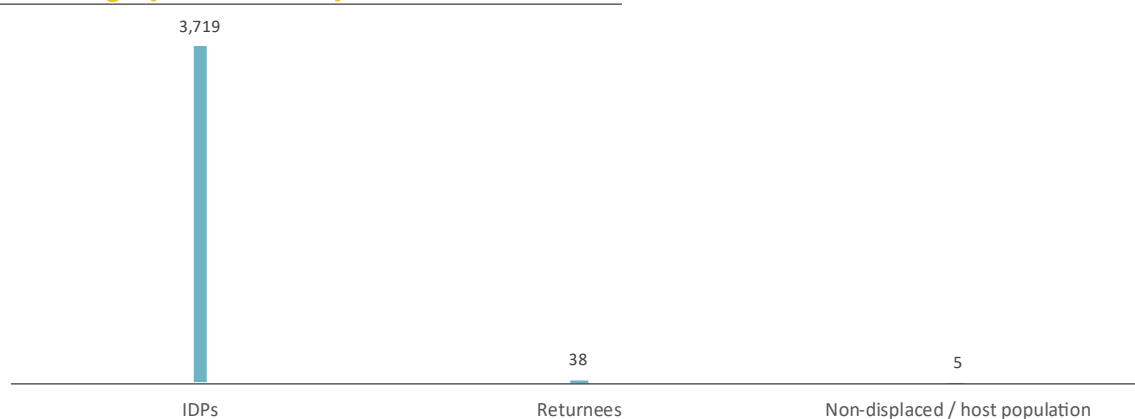
3.1.4 Gender of the interviewees:

18 % of the interviews were conducted with women while 82 % with men.

3.1.5 Interviewee category:

99 % or 3719 interviews were conducted with IDPs, while the other 1 % with returnees & Host population.

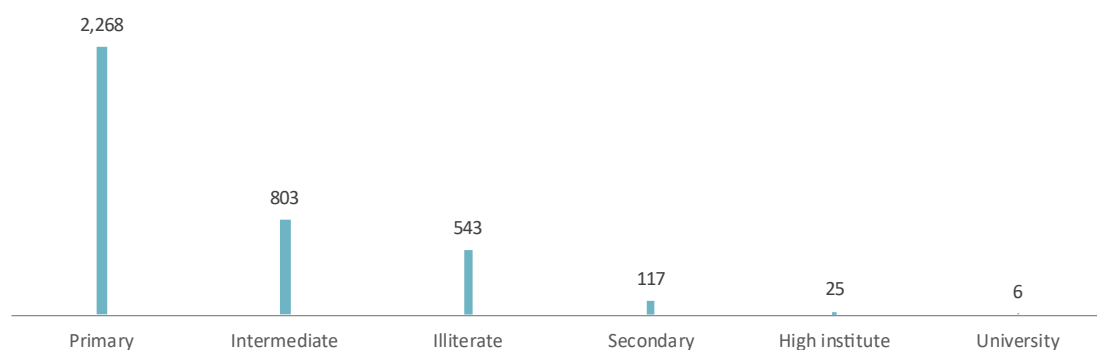
The category of the Family whom interviewed:



3.1.6 Head of Family Education Level & Children not attending schools:

Each head of family was asked about his/her education level during the interviews, we can notice from the below chart that 2268 HHs have primary education level.

HoH Education level:



Among the families interviewed, in total there are 3068 children not attending schools.

3.2 FOOD SECURITY:

Since 2011, cultivation decreased throughout the area, which has had a negative impact on the local economy. The overall decrease appears to be driven by the high cost of cultivation, and a lack of fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, and irrigation. These challenges are compounded by the fact that power and water sources remain scarce.

Food security is a general concern across Syria but the most commonly cited issue relating to food in Al-Bab was lack of purchasing power to meet basic food requirements.

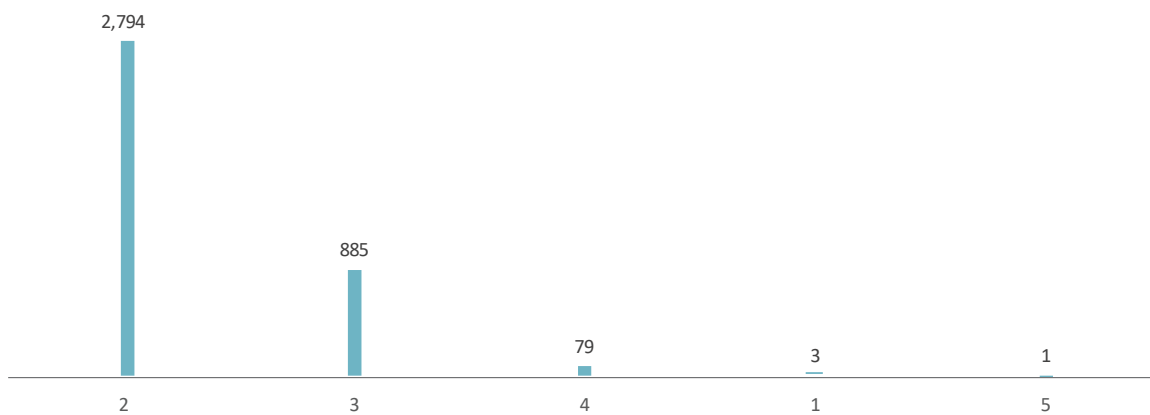
3.2.1 Bakeries availability in the area of Al-Bab:

100 % of the bakeries are functioning in Al-Bab area.

3.2.2 Meals consumption per day:

74 % of the families are consuming 2 meals a day, while other 24 % consume 3.

meals families consume a day:



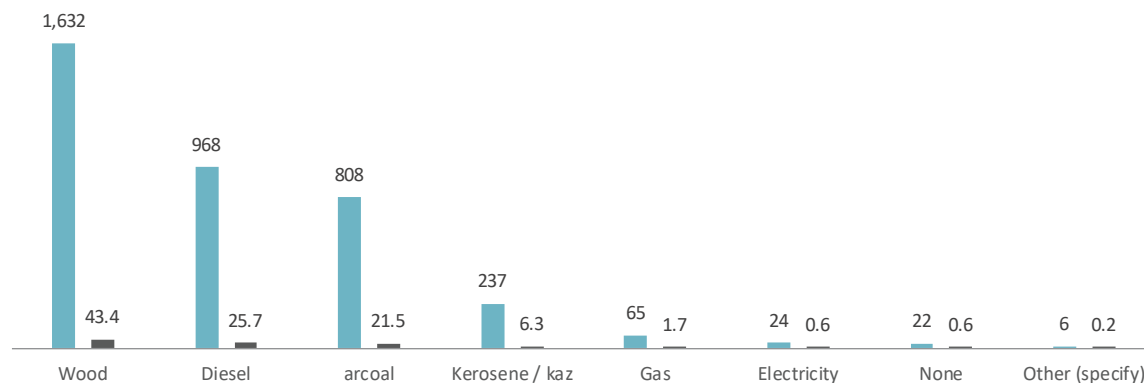
3.3 Non-Food Items, NFIs:

Due to repeated waves of displacement into the area, there is a severe need for non-food items such as clothing, furniture, mattresses, blankets, and kitchen equipment. Needs have been made more severe by the high price of these goods in area markets, and the weak purchasing power of civilians. IDPs during movement cannot carry even their simple needs especially that displacement and decision to move often occur during the shelling or clashes. Moreover, the higher prices of these materials in the markets and the weak purchasing power of civilians were a key cause of the increasing need to provide these materials as aid in the area.

3.3.1 Main Heating Sources:

Wood is the highest source of heating used in Al-Bab, where 1632 families use it for heating. Diesel and coal are the 2nd & 3rd main heating sources.

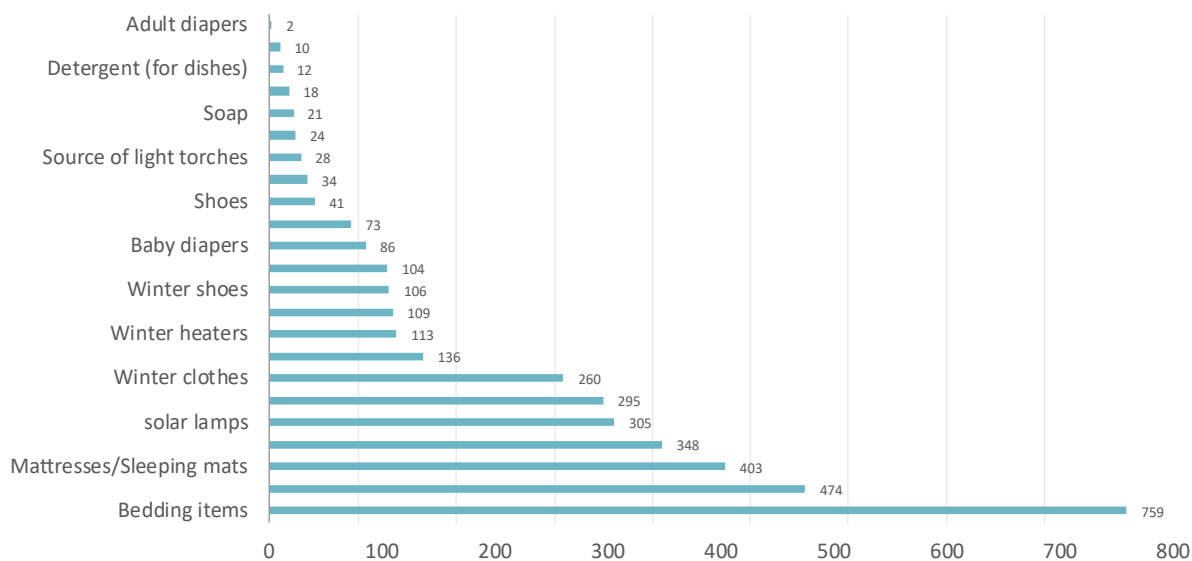
the main source of heating fuel used by the household



3.3.2 NFIs Priority Needs:

Bedding items, heating fuel, mattresses, and blankets are the main 4 NFIs priorities according to the need for the families interviewed.

NFI Priority needs of the following groups:



LIVELIHOODS:

Having a working household member does not imply a decent salary on a regular basis. In most cases, IDPs have low incomes, a few dollars per month, which is enough maybe to cover the rent or food expenses but not enough to maintain a normal lifestyle.

As the need for seasonal agricultural labor decreases in the winter months, survival for small families becomes more challenging.

Key Findings

3.3.3 Families main source of income:

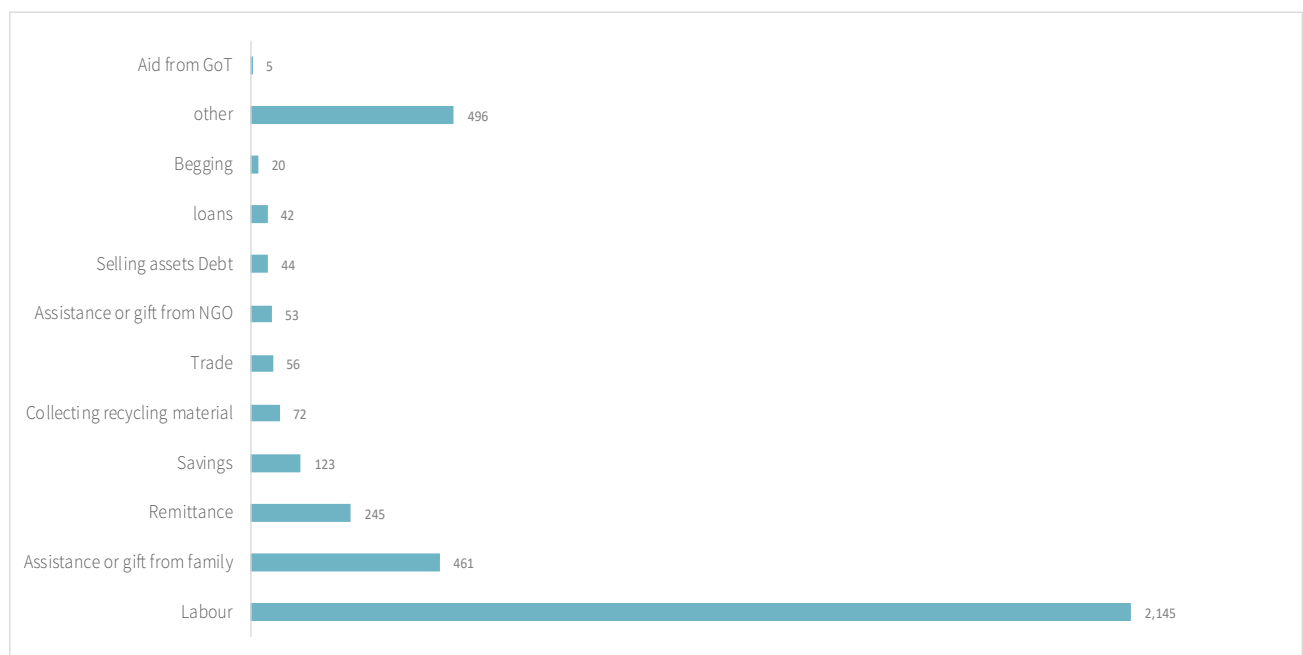
The coping mechanisms of the Syrian IDPs refer to their capacity to adapt to new environments. To overcome stressful situations, being faced with armed violence, fleeing their homes due to conflict, abandoning their land, property and goods, leaving behind family members and resettling in a new place are all potentially traumatic experiences for the displaced population who have become IDP in a different land.

Being able to generate income is crucial for those IDPs especially those who settle outside the camps. To be able to cover the daily expenses of food, accommodation, medicine, and many other basic needs, families are forced to find channels of income.

For some families, every single day is a fight for survival. Analyzing a family's sources of income helps to better understand the situation of these vulnerable people and to provide adequate response.

The diversity of income sources among IDP families settled in the Al-Bab is given in the chart below:

the main sources of income for the HH

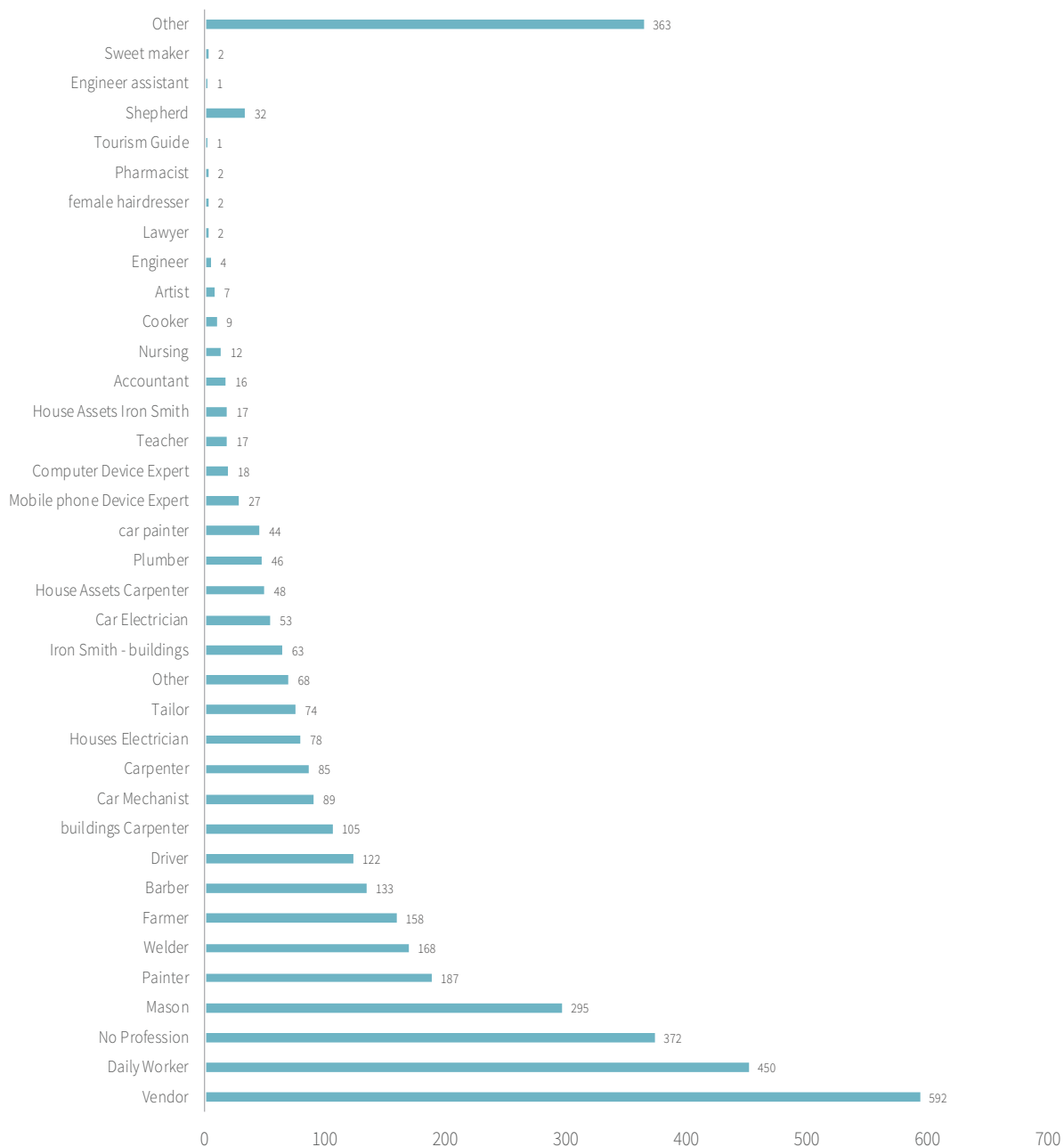


2145 of the families interviewed have Labor as the main source of income for the IDPs in Al-Bab area, while 461 families depend on the assistance from family or relatives.

3.3.4 Head of family General Skill / Profession:

592 vendors, 450 daily workers are the highest 2 main profession among the head of the families interviewed.

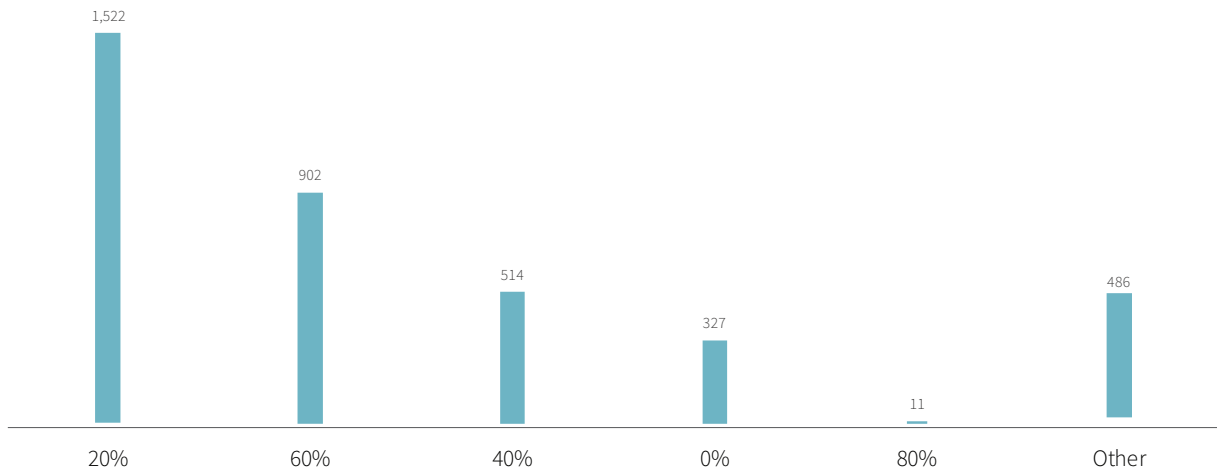
HoH General Skills/ Profession (Choose one main profession)



3.3.5 Head of Family Access to Job:

During the assessment we asked to assess the possibility to get job in the area according to the main skill/profession that they already possess, 1522 head of family answered that the possibility to get a job in the area where they reside is 20 %. 902 answered 60 %, the other answers as below chart.

Interviewee assess of the Job opportunities for their profession in the area

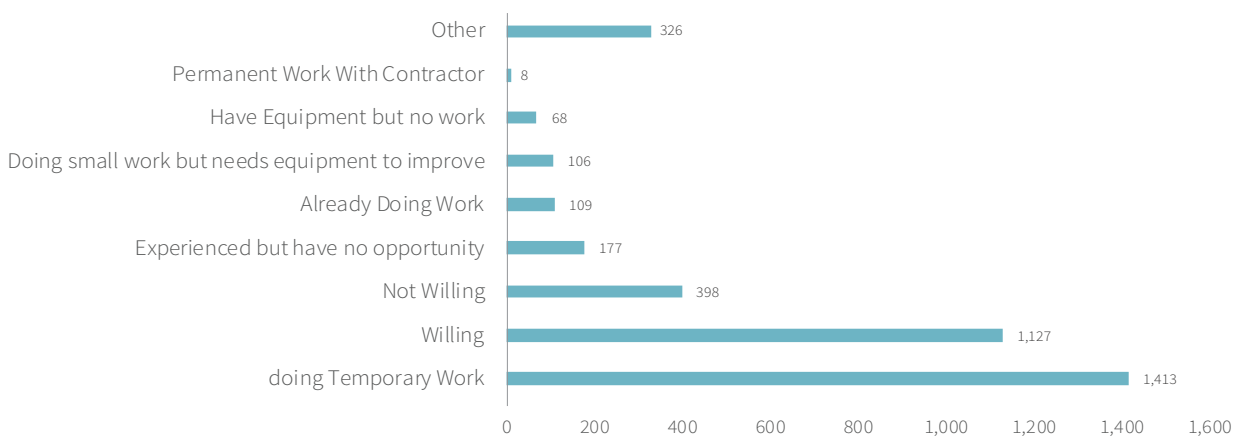


3.3.6 Interviewee Current Job condition:

1413 head of family are doing temporary works, while 1127 are willing to do work. Other 398 not willing.

Other categories are in the below chart:

Interviewee willing to work and Experience



3.4 Shelter:

Having a safe, clean place to live, eat and socialize is vital for the millions of IDPs seeking safety. So, Shelter is a vital survival mechanism in times of crisis or displacement. It is also key to restoring personal security, self-sufficiency and dignity.

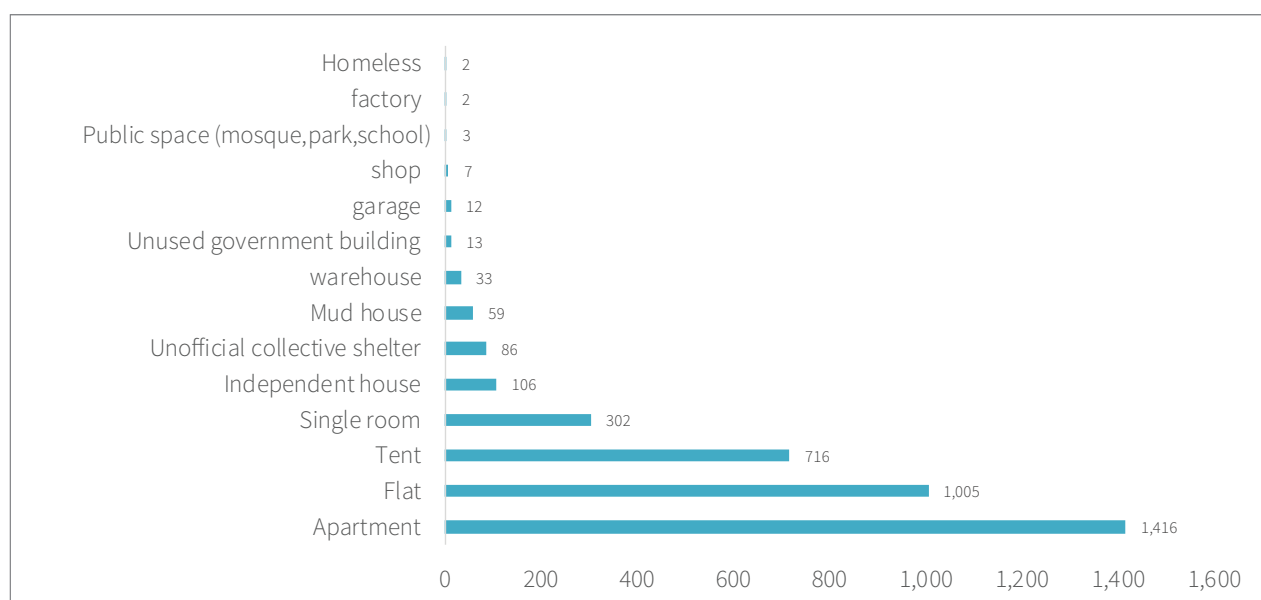
In urban areas, Temporary housing situations often lack several qualities, many IDPs share accommodation or live in non-functional public buildings, collective centers, slums and informal types of settlements. Conditions are often substandard and providing shelter poses major challenges. In rural settings, it is not better to live than the urban areas, but the more different shelter types can be noticed.

It's worth thinking about ways to improve existing shelters in order to ensure that IDPs have the best quality of life possible. They deserve to have a home, even if it is temporary that allows them to rebuild their lives.

3.4.1 Type of Shelter:

IDPs interview live in different types of shelters, 1416 of them live in an apartment, while 1005 in flat, 716 in tents and 302 in single rooms.

type for shelter:



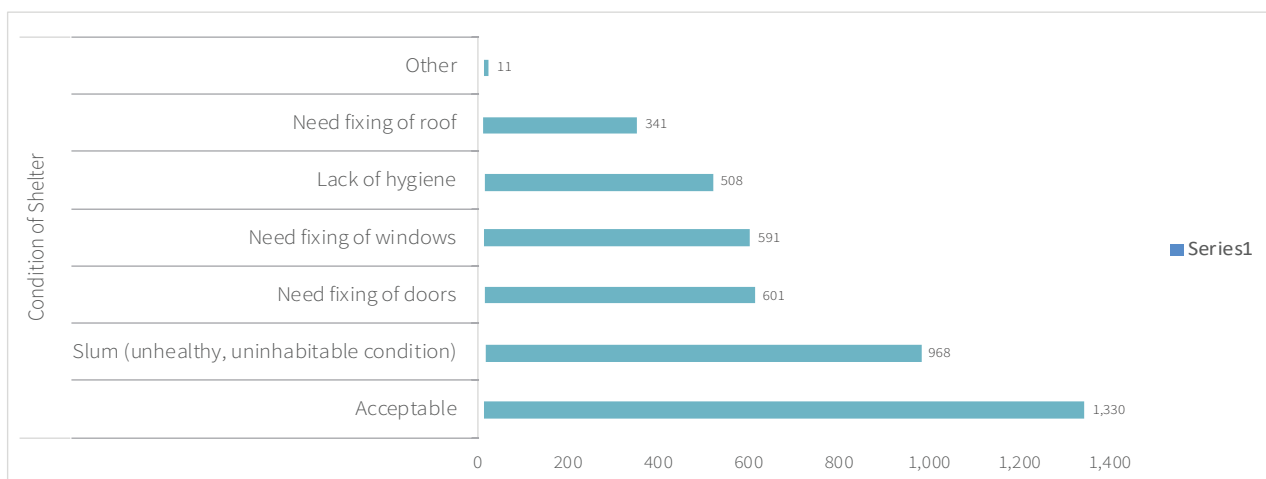
3.4.2 Condition of Shelter:

Many of the IDPs are reported to have no good quality shelter, exposing them to various protection risks and harsh winter conditions. IDPs are reported to live in makeshift tent settlements without sanitation and lack winterization equipment.

Over 40 IDP sites in Idleb, providing shelter for over 20,000 people, have been heavily affected by fighting and the influx of the newly displaced. The IDP sites in the governorate report serious congestion, which increases pressure on host communities. Infrastructure damage in Idleb is extensive and therefore shelter capacity is weak.

968 Shelters are slum (Unhealthy, uninhabitable conditions), while 1192 are living in shelters which need fixing of windows and doors.

Other categories of the condition of shelter are in the below chart:



3.4.3 Shelter Sector Priorities

Housing rehabilitation

Cash assistance

Securing temporary shelters

3.5 Key Priorities:

3.5.1 1st Priority Need:

The key objectives of Al-Ameen priority need assessment are:

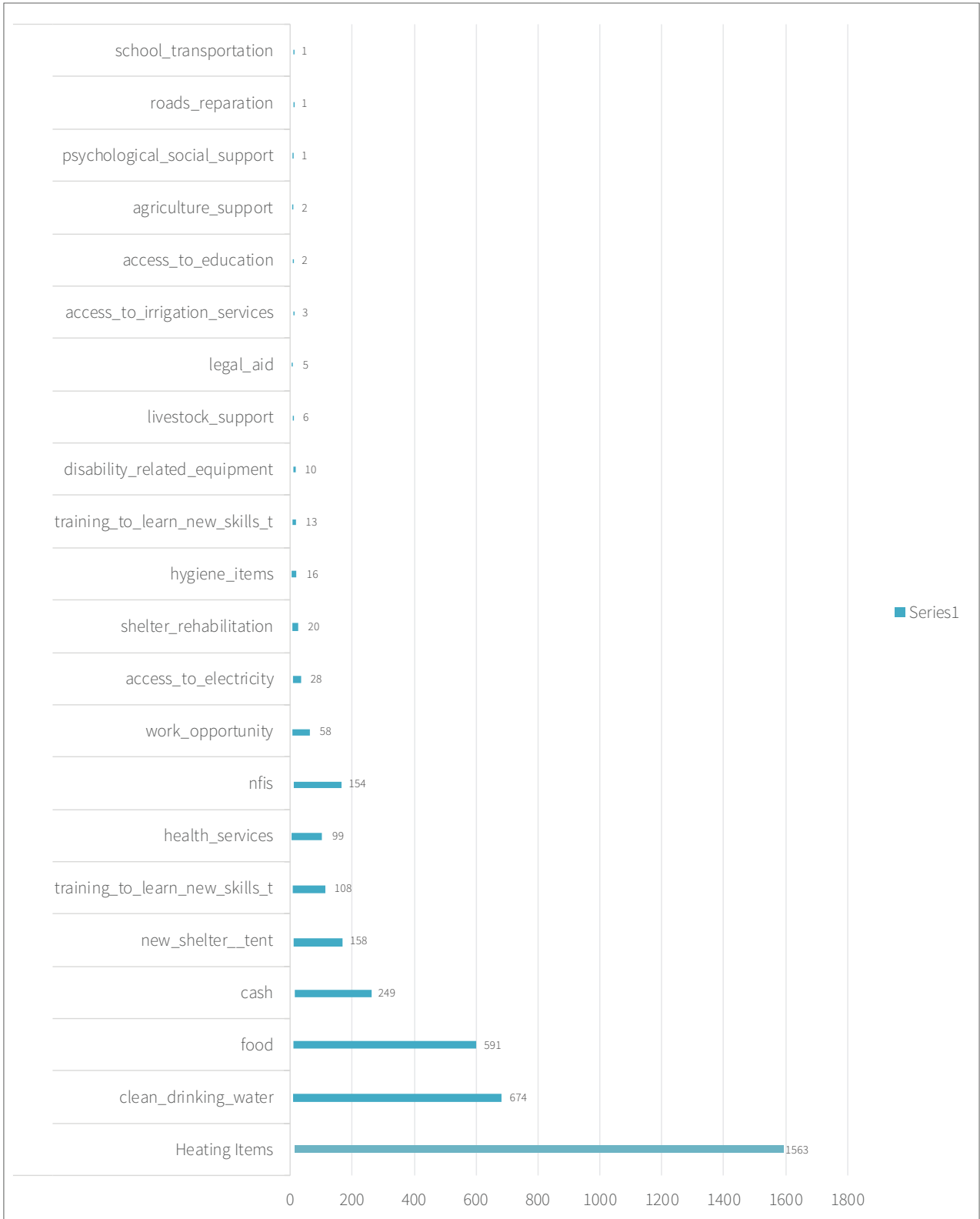
- To ensure that humanitarian aid is based on need.
- To ensure that humanitarian aid promotes and does not undermine safe local coping mechanisms.
- To identify and understand the unique and respective needs of different populations.
- To make sure that decisions on humanitarian aid are based on facts.

The 1st priority need chart below shows the collected answers by the vulnerable IDPs interviewed during the data collection process:

Due to repeated waves of displacement into Al-Bab, there is a severe need for non-food items such as clothing, furniture, mattresses, blankets, and kitchen equipment. IDPs during migration cannot carry even their simple needs especially that migratory movements often occur during the shelling or clashes. Moreover, the higher prices of these materials in the markets and the weak purchasing power of civilians were a key cause of the increasing need to provide these materials as aid in the affected areas.

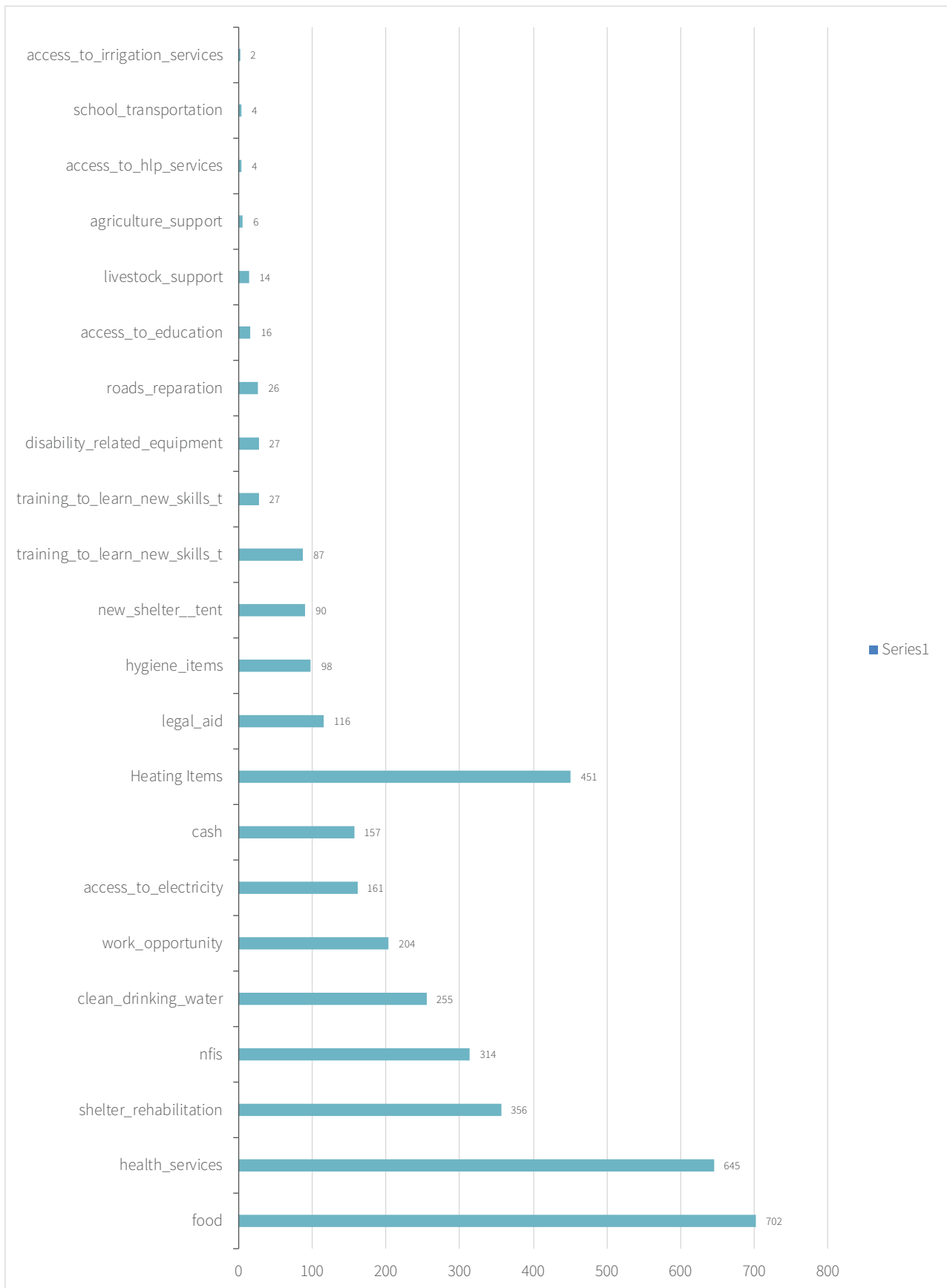
The 1st priority need is for heating items since the assessment were conducted during the winter and Needs have been made more sever by the high price of these goods in area markets, and the weak purchasing power of civilians.

Clean Drinking water & Food are among the 1st priorities needed as well.



3.5.2 2nd Priority Need:

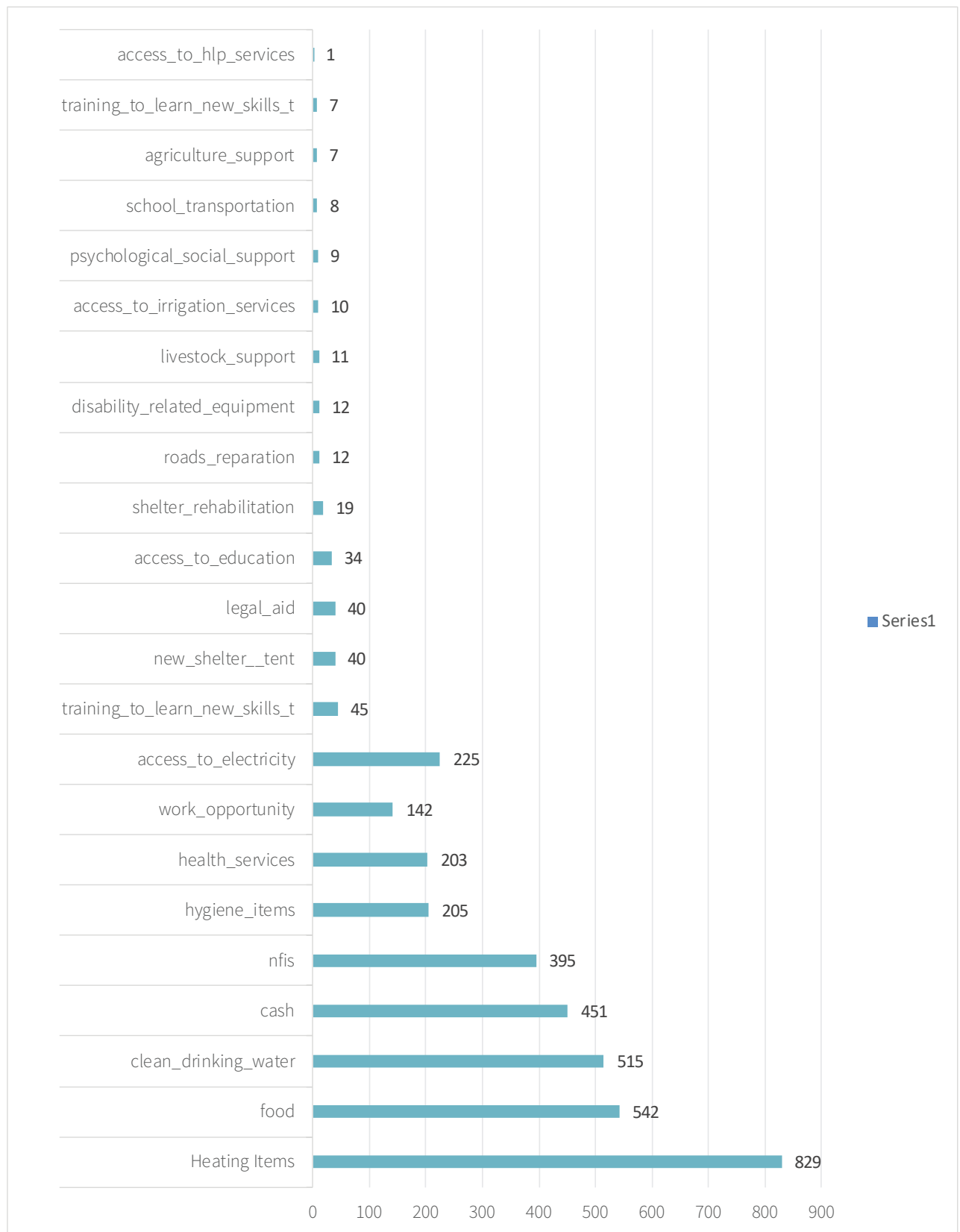
Food, Health Services and Heating items are the top 2nd Priority needs as per the results of the assessment & interviews.



3.5.3 3rd Priority Need:

Heating Items, Food, Clean Drinking water and Cash are the top 3rd priority needs.

3rd_priority_need:



New arrivals Mar-Apr 2018 :

Since 09 March 2018, after years of besiegement and an intensification of hostilities over the last two months, advances by the Government of Syria (GoS) have triggered the displacement of tens of thousands of people outside of besieged East Ghouta. The vast majority of individuals have left besieged East Ghouta through established corridors, following a series of local agreements, leading to evacuations from Duma and Al Dmayr areas, A total of 23.200 IDPs arrived from these areas during Mar & Apr 2017- to Al-Bab area.

Needs:

The situation on the ground remains very fluid, and the needs of the affected population are evolving as the context unfolds. There are critical Non-Food Items (NFIs) and shelter gaps for people arriving to Al-Bab. sustainable housing solutions for people is needed.

All incoming IDPs as individuals facing acute food insecurity and as being in need of immediate food assistance. IDPs in shelters lack access to cooking facilities and are therefore should be assisted with ready-to-eat food rations, cooked meals and bread packs.

Its needed to Support the provision of civil status documentation to facilitate freedom of movement. And Support resilience and access for IDPs to a multiplicity of protection services already in place in Al-Bab. And Introduce gender-sensitive measures at the IDP sites and distribution sites, particularly as a way to deter incidents of gender-based violence, and in general mainstream GBV risk mitigation across sectors. & Reinforce mobile teams and the establishment of Protection Units in the area, to support the provision of a variety of services. Acute shortages of healthcare staff and functioning health care facilities mean that people with life-threatening illnesses or injuries may not receive life-saving care. Unsafe water and poor hygiene practices among displaced people in shelters increase the risk of water- and food-borne diseases. Unvaccinated children are at high risk of contracting life-threatening diseases such as measles and polio. There is Lack of mental health and psycho-social support services for both children and adults.

Following years of besiegement, extreme food shortages and limited health services, the nutritional status of the IDP population from East Ghouta particularly children under five years of age and pregnant lactating mothers is poor and requires urgent and comprehensive response. Cases of acute and chronic malnutrition among children were identified in shelters in Al-Bab and amongst IDPs from Eastern Ghouta.

All school-aged children from East Ghouta have had their education affected due to the crisis for the past seven years. Inside East Ghouta, schools that were partially functional were shut down for the past three to four months. When education was provided, children were not receiving a structured and well-organized education. Families were taking refuge in basements of buildings, and space was rarely found to provide learning opportunities to children.

From an initial rapid assessment in some shelter sites, discussions with school-aged children and their parents revealed that many do not know how to read or write, and those who missed out many years of schooling have lost learned skills.

Children need immediate integration in education in emergencies interventions before they can sit in an organized and disciplined education, interventions that include psycho-social support are the most needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Food Security & Livelihoods Sector

- Building resilience and restoring livelihoods of internally displaced people and host communities through Quick Impact In-Kind Livelihoods Grants for the Most Vulnerable Skilled Groups.
- Job placement Support.
- Promoting agricultural mechanization and maintenance of agricultural mechanisms.
- Supporting the livestock sector by securing feed at incentive prices and opening agricultural extension centers that provide vaccines and medicines for livestock keepers.
- Supporting development projects and strategic crops and creating markets for agricultural products, and facilitating export procedures.
- Securing sources of water for irrigation in the shadow of the scarcity of water resources.
- Bakeries support to contribute to lower the price of bread and rehabilitating Non-functional bakeries.
- Systematic support for the neediest families including regular food baskets / Food Vouchers.
- Supporting the agricultural sector by providing inputs of fertilizers and pesticides with promotional prices.

Health Sector

Financial support including operational costs and equipment.

- Establishing mobile health clinics & PHC centers
- Activating specialists services
- Improving & strengthening referral pathway system among facilities and agencies
-

WASH Sector

Securing water resource and water tanks maintenance.

- Monetary support for the water and sanitation sector and supporting operating expenses.
- Maintenance and repair of pumping lines and water networks.
- Maintenance of the sewage network.
- Garbage collection vehicles.
-

Education Sector

Restoration of partially destroyed schools and rebuilding completely destroyed schools.

- Periodic assessment of the educational process, including students, teachers and administrative staff performance.

Shelter and NFI Sector

- Small Shelter Units Rehabilitation and cash support.
- Supporting all non-food items including clothes, cooking fuel and cash assistance.

Demography Section

- Building the capacity of specialized staff concerned with the monitoring and registration of the population and the IDPs and following up the displacement movements.
- Securing jobs for displaced people and supporting small projects and development assistance.
- Financial support for displaced persons living in rented premises because the rent of the house is a burden on them.
- Implementing housing projects in order to provide better shelter for the displaced.

For any further information regarding this report please contact with:

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