Overview

Ar-Raqqa governorate, located in northern Syria bordering Turkey, is predominantly under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces in the north of the governorate and the government of Syria in the south. The results in this factsheet are indicative of sub-districts under control of the Syrian Democratic Forces in the north of Ar-Raqqa. Large numbers of the residents of Ar-Raqqa governorate have returned to their homes since the decline of conflict in October 2017. Despite initial efforts in reconstruction, damage remains widespread, basic services limited, and the risk of unexploded ordnance remains high.

In the framework of the Whole of Syria Education Sector, REACH conducted an assessment of access and quality of education in opposition-held areas of northeast, northwest and south Syria to inform the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Findings in this factsheet were drawn from a randomly selected sample of 873 households and 126 schools surveyed across 8 sub-districts in Ar-Raqqa governorate. Data was collected from 7 May to 21 June 2018. Household survey findings are representative at the sub-district level with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error. School survey findings are indicative. Findings presented in this factsheet are based on household surveys unless noted otherwise. All findings pertain to the eight assessed sub-districts during the 2017/2018 school year.

Demographics

Distribution of children (aged 3-17) in assessed households by age and gender:

- Girls: 7% - 15-17 years, 9% - 12-14 years, 27% - 6-11 years, 6% - 3-5 years
- Boys: 5% - 15-17 years, 9% - 12-14 years, 31% - 6-11 years, 7% - 3-5 years

There were approximately 11 boys for every 10 girls (aged 3-17).

Households consisted on average of 6 members, including 3 children aged 3 to 17. 42% of households were female-headed.

Population Groups

Displacement status of children (aged 3-17) in assessed households:

- Residents: 78%
- IDPs: 16%
- Spontaneous returns: 6%

Out of the 16% of displaced children, 60% were found to be displaced from within Ar-Raqqa governorate.

Access to Education

Total Net Attendance

Percentage of pre-primary aged children (aged 3-5) that attended early childhood education or primary school:

- Girls: 8%
- Boys: 11%

84% of pre-primary aged children attended formal education.

Key Findings

This assessment found that 12% of children aged 6-11 and 50% of children aged 12-17 were out of school in assessed sub-districts in Ar-Raqqa governorate, mostly due to needing to work or help family. Many children were in grades lower than expected for their age, especially secondary school-aged children. The most urgent educational needs in assessed sub-districts in Ar-Raqqa are appropriate WASH facilities and qualified teachers.

Percentage of primary school-aged children (aged 6-11) that attended school:

- Girls: 87%
- Boys: 89%

98% of primary school-aged children that attended school attended formal education.

Percentage of secondary school-aged children (aged 12-17) that attended school:

- Girls: 44%
- Boys: 56%

90% of secondary school-aged children that attended school attended formal education.

Grade and Age

Percentage of primary school-aged students (aged 6-11) that attended the correct grade for their age:

- Girls: 63% Correct grade
- Boys: 59% Correct grade

37% Grade lower than expected for age

On average, 61% of primary school-aged students attended the correct grade for their age.

Percentage of secondary school-aged students (aged 12-17) that attended the correct grade for their age:

- Girls: 22% Correct grade
- Boys: 20% Correct grade

78% Grade lower than expected for age

On average, 79% of secondary school-aged students attended the correct grade for their age.

1 The term ‘spontaneous returns’ encompasses a broad spectrum of individuals, including IDPs and refugees who have returned to the community they lived in prior to their displacement but not necessarily to their former homes. Origins of displaced children should be considered indicative due to the small number of displaced children in the sample population.

2 The total net attendance rate is the total number of students of the official age group for a given level of education who attended school at any level of education, expressed as a percentage of the corresponding population. The household survey asked “At any time during the current school year (2017-2018) did the person attend school or any early childhood education care programme?”. Households reported that a child attended school even if they only attended part of the school year.
Access to Education (continued)

Repetition and Dropout
- Percentage of primary school-aged children that repeated a grade at some point:
  - Girls: 10%
  - Boys: 10%
- Percentage of second school-aged children that repeated a grade at some point:
  - Girls: 1%
  - Boys: 2%

4% of school-aged children (aged 5-17) repeated a grade at some point, and 8% of students dropped out in 2017/2018.

Barriers to Education

Barriers to Attendance for Out-of-School Children
- Most commonly reported barriers for children aged 5-14:
  - Households: Child needs to work/help family (1), Lack of learning materials (2), Poor quality of teaching (3)
  - Schools: Child needs to work/help family (1), Lack of adequate WASH facilities (2), Lack of learning materials (3)
- Most commonly reported barriers for children aged 15-17:
  - Households: Child needs to work/help family (1), Lack of learning materials (2), Poor quality of teaching (3)
  - Schools: Child needs to work/help family (1), Lack of adequate WASH facilities (2), Lack of learning materials (3)

Quality of Education

School Certification and Curriculum
- Sub-districts with the lowest percentage of school-aged children that received certification with completion of grade/degree:
  - Al-Thawrah: 92%
  - Ein Issa: 94%
  - Jurneyyeh: 96%
- 69% of children attending school used the Syrian Interim Government curriculum.

Teacher Certification and Training
- Percentage of teachers certified prior to teaching:
  - 45%
- Percentage of teachers who received professional development training in 2017/2018:
  - 29%

Teacher Salaries and Sources of Compensation
- 99% of teachers received financial compensation, of which 98% received it on a regular basis in the form of salaries or incentives.
- Sources of teacher compensation:
  - 93% Local Council
  - 4% Other local authority
  - 3% Other

Access and Education

Educational Needs

Most Urgent Educational Needs
- Most commonly reported urgent educational needs:
  - Households: WASH facilities (1), Qualified teachers (2), Provision of teaching supplies/kits (3)
  - Schools: WASH facilities (1), Provision of teaching supplies/kits (2), School equipment (3)

School Supplies and Support
- Percentage of school-aged children (aged 5-17) with access to uniforms, shoes and bags:
  - Access: 7%
  - No access: 93%
- Less than 3% of children attending school had access to school supplies in 7 out of the 8 assessed sub-districts.
- Percentage of school-aged children (aged 5-17) that received tuition or material support:
  - Received: 25%
  - Did not receive: 75%
- Less than 12% of children received tuition or material support in 7 out of the 8 assessed sub-districts.

- Repetition refers to whether the student has repeated a grade at any point since starting school. Repetition rates should be considered indicative since only 35% of households responded to this question. Dropout rates are based on school surveys and findings should be considered indicative.
- Findings based on school surveys. Results should be considered indicative.
Percentage of households in assessed sub-districts that reported urgent educational needs in each category

For further information about responses included in the different needs categories, please refer to the report annex.

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Note: Data, designations and boundaries contained on this map are not warranted to be error-free and do not imply acceptance by the REACH partners, associates or donors mentioned on this map.
Percentage of out-of-school children in assessed sub-districts facing barriers to attendance in each category

For further information about responses included in the different barrier categories, please refer to the report annex.

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