



RMTeam Rapid Needs Assessment for Eastern Hama and Idleb

Key Informant Interviews
24 January 2018



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This publication has not been formally edited.

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

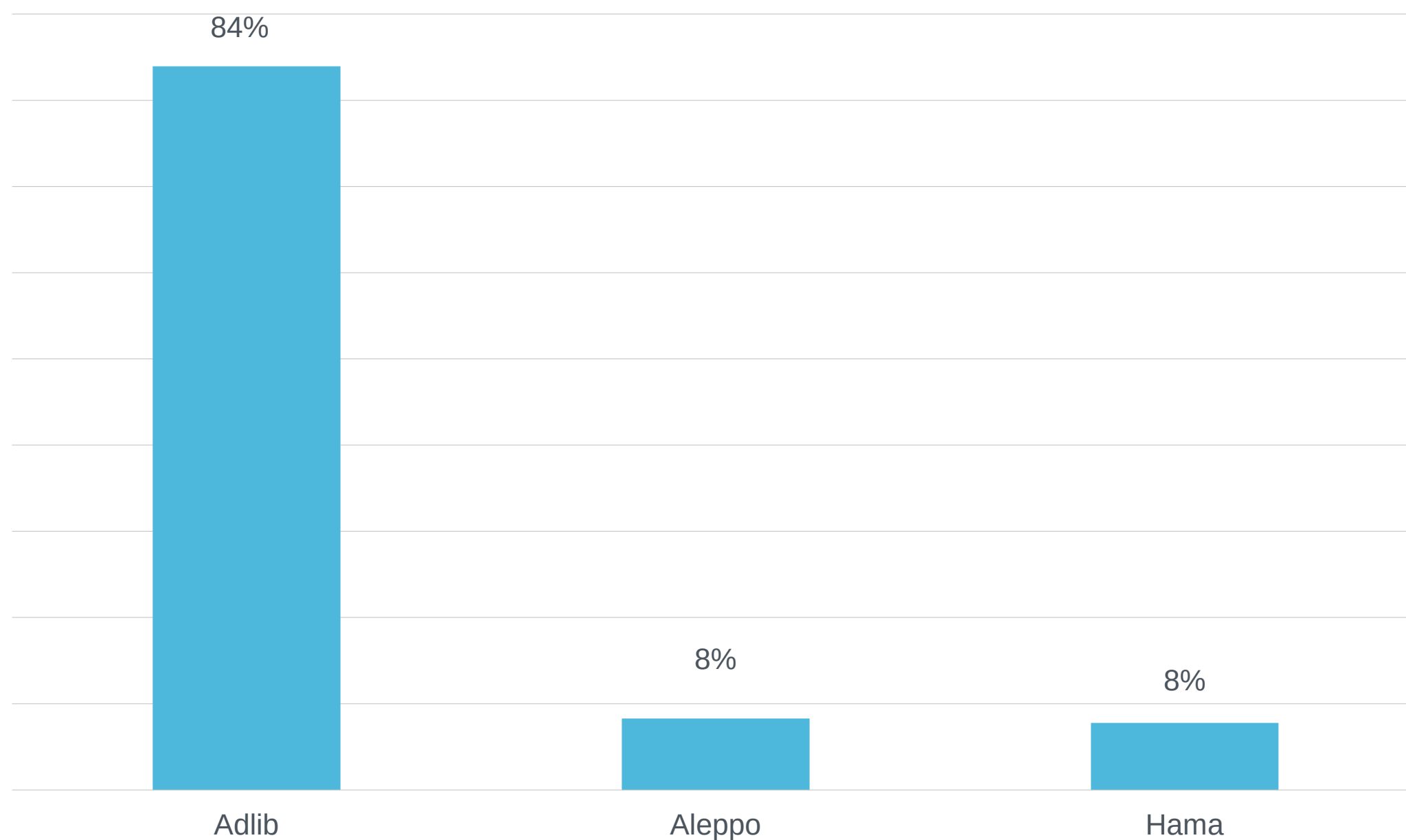
- As a result of the escalating conflict in Eastern Idleb, Hama, and Southern Aleppo, almost all people living in those areas have vacated their villages and towns.
- Estimated numbers refer to **351,503 individuals or 62,159 HHs** distributed over **410** displacement points between **15/12/2017** and **21/01/2018**.
- The sudden spike has created challenges and population pressures on the local community and the camps, as available resources were already overstretched.
- The start of winter has exacerbated the desperation. Both IDPs and local communities were already facing life-threatening challenges and miserable humanitarian conditions.
- Humanitarian actors were not prepared for this sudden massive displacement. Given the large numbers and the winter timing of displacement, it is considered one of the most acute spikes in the last seven years of the Syrian crisis.

METHODOLOGY OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- RMTeam conducted **193 key informant interviews** in select areas of Idleb, Aleppo, and Hama (between the **17th** and **22nd of January, 2018**), where most IDPs had fled, based on recent situation reports.
- The choice of KIIs enabled RMTeam to cover as many areas as possible in a short period of time. Given the emergency situation, there was a need to provide humanitarian actors with information they could act on quickly in their programmatic interventions.
- The choice of KIIs ensured that, one way or another, we acquired a better understanding of the needs from well-informed individuals and respondents involved in the response.

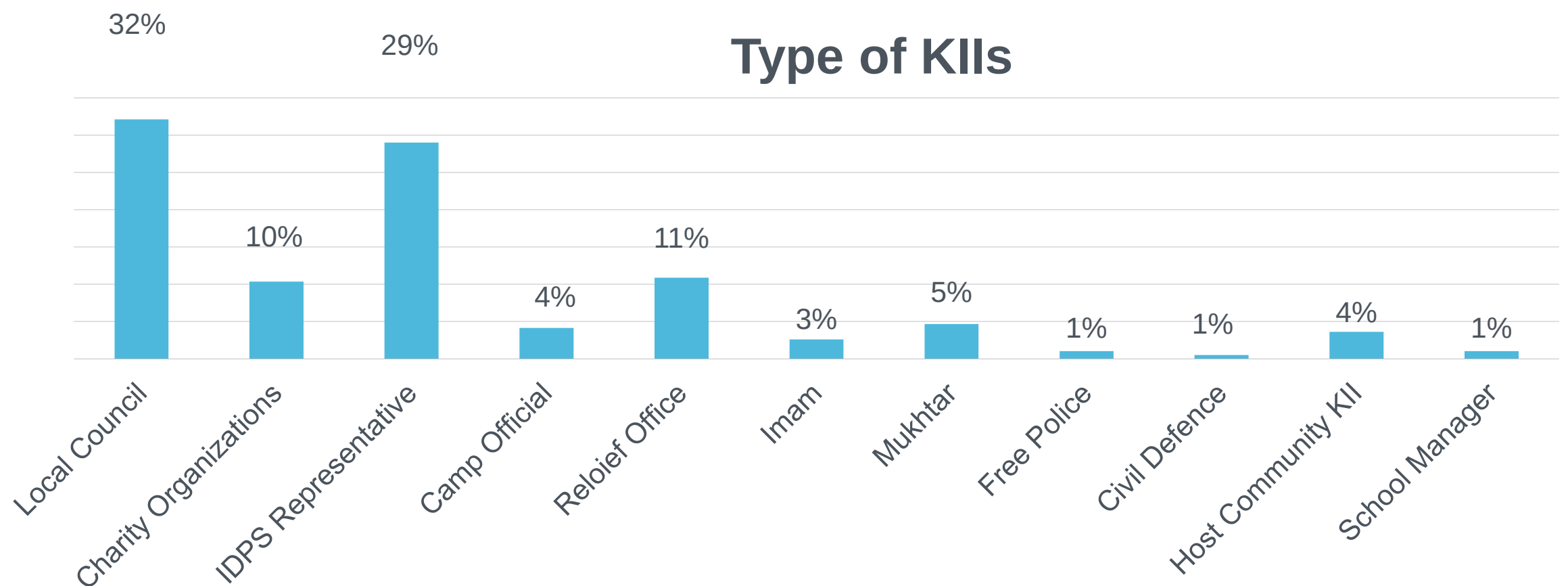
CHARTS AND TABLES BELOW PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION ON WHERE KIIS WERE CONDUCTED

Governorate where the KII was conducted



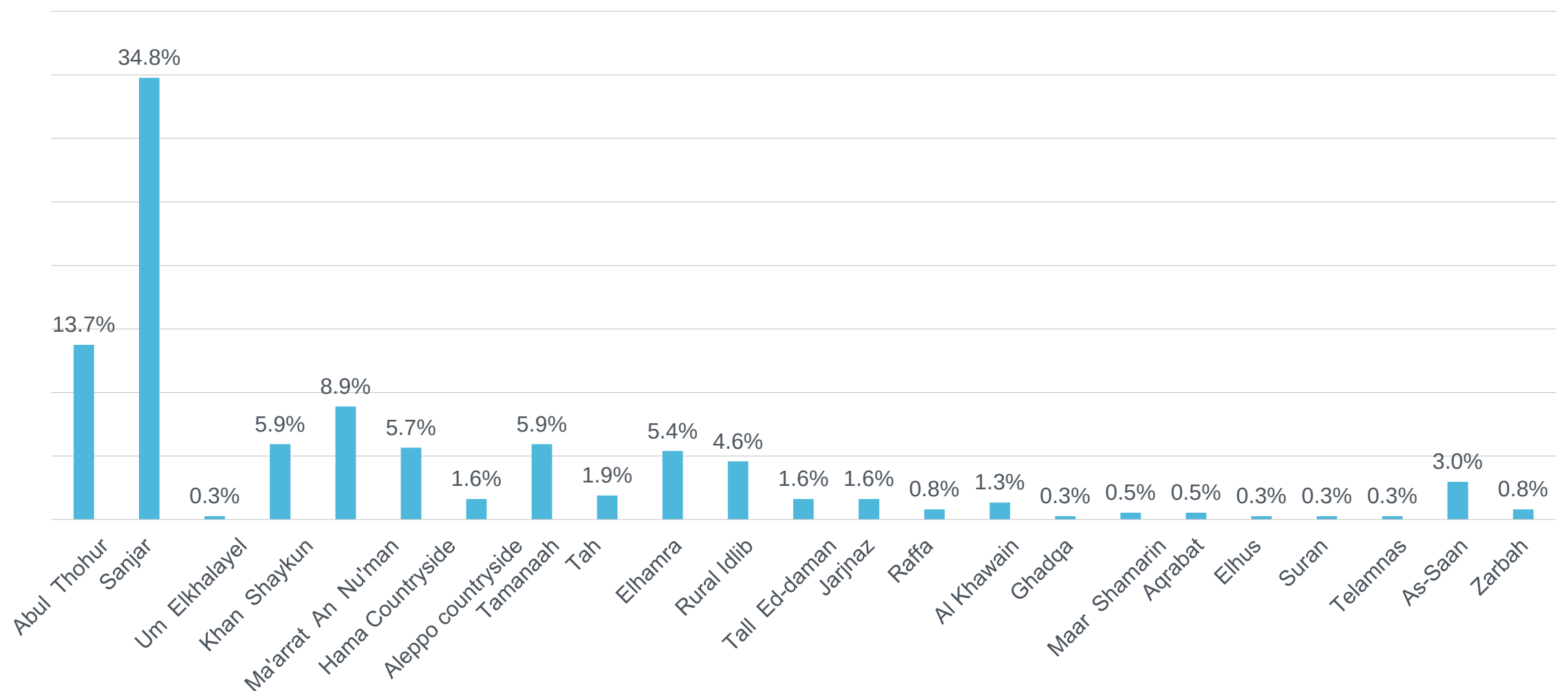
District	Total	Percentage
Adlib	23	12%
Ariha	56	29%
Jisr-Ash- Shugur	3	2%
Harim	21	11%
Khan Shaykun	5	3%
Sarmada	1	1%
Sahyan	1	1%
Frikeh	2	1%
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	46	24%
Maar Tamsarin	3	2%
Aleppo	9	5%
Atarib	6	3%
Jbl Smaan	1	1%
Ziyara	9	5%
As Suqaylabi yah	5	3%
Muhradah	1	1%

- As the chart below shows, **32%** of the KIIs were with **local councils**, **29%** with **IDP representatives**, **11%** with **relief offices**, and **10%** with **charity organizations**.
- We focused on both **LCs** and spokespeople of **IDPs**, in addition to locals involved in the response, in order to obtain a better and more trustworthy understanding of it.
- KIIs are all **males**. Their average age is **41**.
- We covered **69 communities** and **23 sub-districts** in our KII interviews.



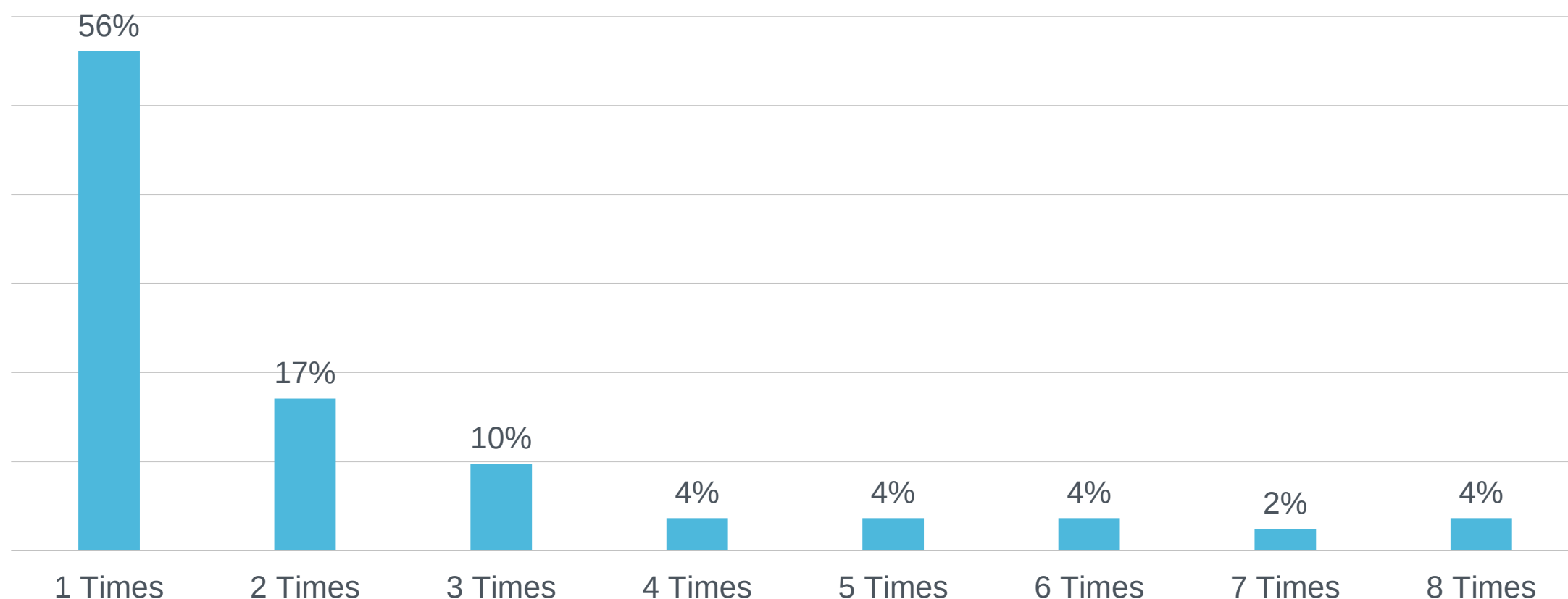
- The chart below shows where most IDPs came from on a sub-district level.
- The majority came from **Sinjar (34.48%)** and **Abu Thuhur (13.7%)**.

Where have the majority of IDPs came from? (Sub-district)



- More than half of the IDPs (**56%**) have been displaced just once — the spike in question.
- **17%** have been displaced twice, **10%** thrice. **4%** have been 4, 5, or 6 times.
- Most KIIs think IDPs will stay here for maximum 3 months before moving to a new area.
- Those IDPs who were displaced multiple times come from Homs, Hama, Raqqa, and rural areas in eastern Aleppo.

How many times have IDPs been displaced?



LIMITATIONS

Limitations to this needs assessment include:

- All interviewees were male. Our assessors and enumerators were not able to find any female respondents willing to provide feedback given the level of information that was required.
- We were not able to reach some areas as planned, because of the security situation and lack of information.
- Our coverage was based on basic information as to where most IDPs had fled, based on both local sources and our assessors' feedback.
- Due to lack of accurate numbers and locations, the sample size has been randomly based on the enumerators' local knowledge, thus allowing for further limitations.
- At the time of the assessment, displacement was continuing in areas such as Southern Aleppo, making these findings to some extent backdated.
- Now, at the time of preparing this presentation, people from areas in Ma'aret Nouman and Saraqeb, along other nearby areas, were leaving, ensuring that needs would change and increase.

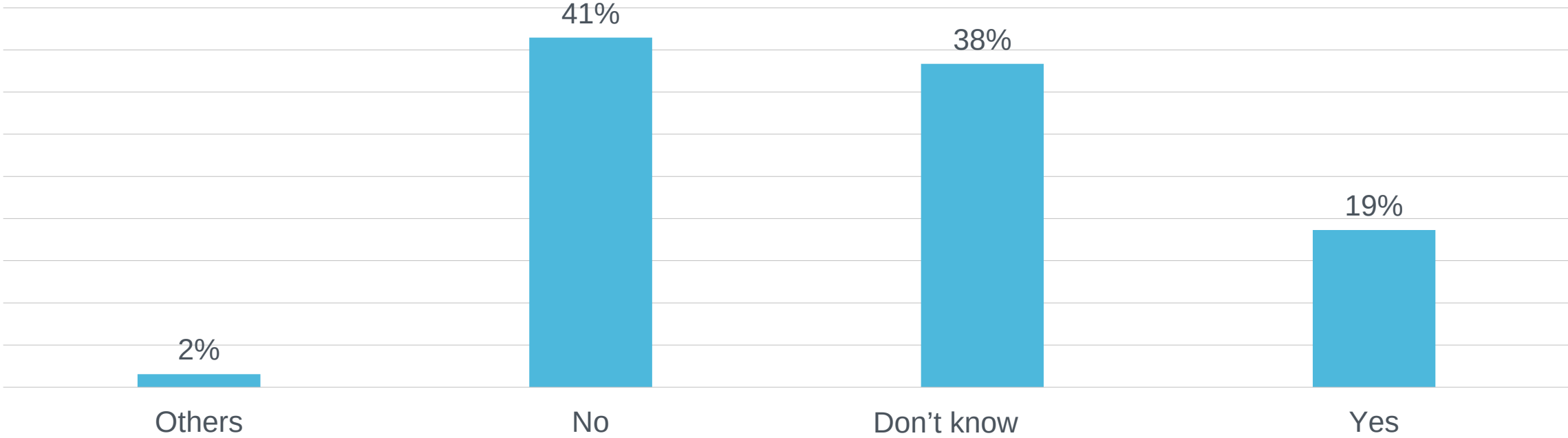


NEEDS ASSESSMENT KEY FINDINGS

GENERAL FINDINGS

- While **41%** of the KIIs think IDPs will continue moving, **38%** do not know.
- When asked where they will move, KIIs reported that **58%** will move to other sub-districts within the same governorate, **14%** to their sub-district of origin, and **14%** to another governorate. **14%** responded “other” (Turkey, Atmeh Camps, other safer areas on the borders, and Western Aleppo).
- **Safety** was reported to be the first reason (**37%**), followed by **availability of services** (**33%**), then **the great numbers of IDPS in their current area** (**21%**), and finally **family or friends** (**9%**).

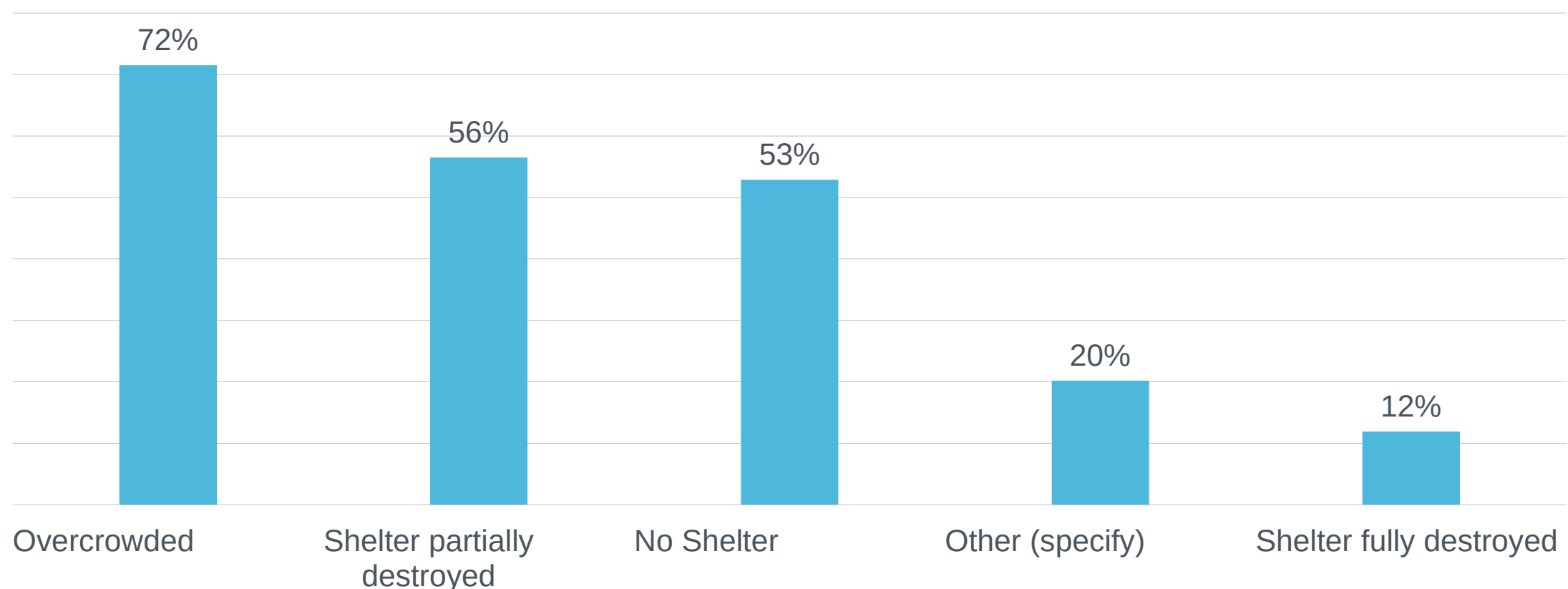
Do IDPs expect to continue moving?



SHELTER

- **72%** of the KIIs reported **crowdedness** as one of the main problems now in terms of shelter, while **56%** reported that **shelter was partially destroyed**. **53%** reported that there is **no shelter**. **12%** reported that **shelter was fully destroyed** and **20%** reported **other reasons**.
- **Other reasons** included: many people live in tents because there are insufficient houses, rents are expensive, and a lot of families live in one place, meaning tents are a more suitable choice.

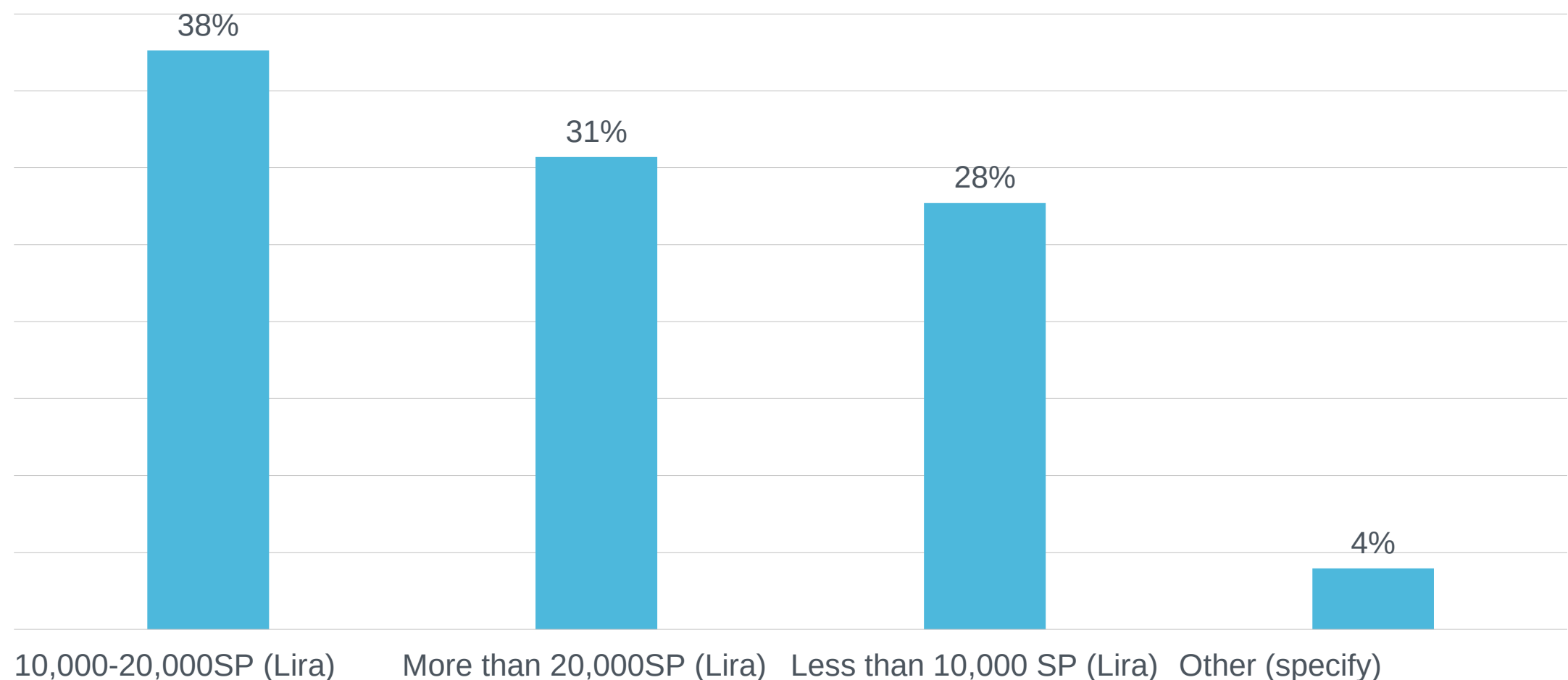
Current problems with shelter



- **Regarding the type of shelter IDPs have access to:**
 - o **24%** are hosted by relatives or another family
 - o **21%** have tents that have been provided
 - o **20%** have rented accommodation
 - o **17%** have self-made tents
 - o **15%** have access to public buildings like schools

- **38%** reported rent to be between **10 and 20 thousand SYPs**, while **31%** reported rent exceeded **20 thousand SYPs**. **28%** reported their rent at **less than 10 thousand SYPs**.

If rented accommodation, how much is the rent per month? (select one option)



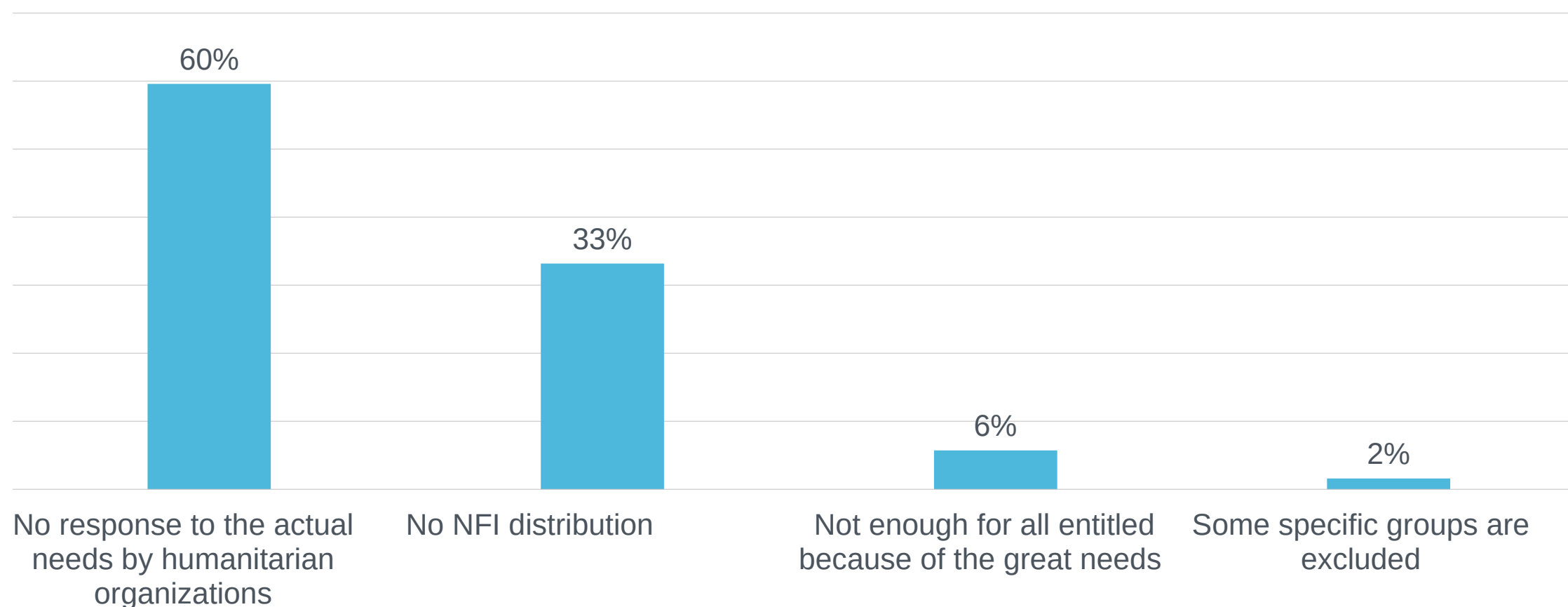
- **With respect to the number of families sharing shelter:**
 - o **39%** reported that more than 3 families share the same shelter
 - o **27%** reported 2 families share the same shelter
 - o **25%** reported 3 families share the same shelter
 - o **6%** reported their shelter is not shared
 - o **2%** reported women sharing with non-family members, which is socially sensitive and imposes privacy limitations

NON-FOOD ITEMS

The **main problems with NFI** as shown below:

- **60%** reported that there is no response by humanitarian actors
- **33%** reported no NFI distribution
- **6%** reported insufficient NFIs for all IDPs
- **2%** reported that some specific groups are excluded

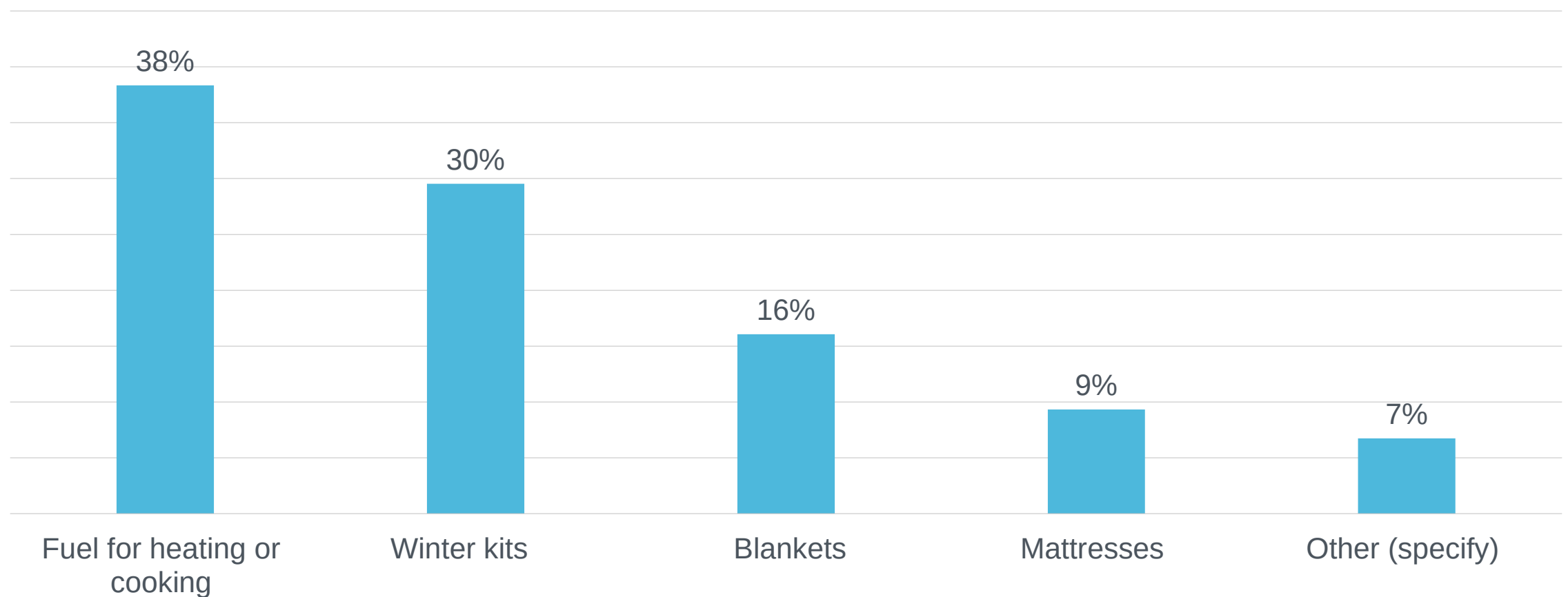
What are the top three main problems with NFI? first main problem



Regarding the first needed NFIs:

- **38%** reported fuel for heating to be the first need
- **30%** reported winter kits
- **16%** reported blankets
- **9%** reported mattresses
- **7%** reported other (materials to prepare tents and other tent-maintenance items)

If NFIs are needed, which ones? first main need



The adjacent tables provide information on second and third NFI needs.

Regarding **second needs**, we can note the following:

- **Fuel for heating or cooking** is the leading second need at **35%**
- **Winter kits** next at **25%**
- **Mattresses** next at **21%**

Regarding third NFI needs:

- **Blankets** are first at **25%**
- Then **cooking items** at **21%**
- **Fuel for heating or cooking** and **winter kits** were then equally reported at **15%**

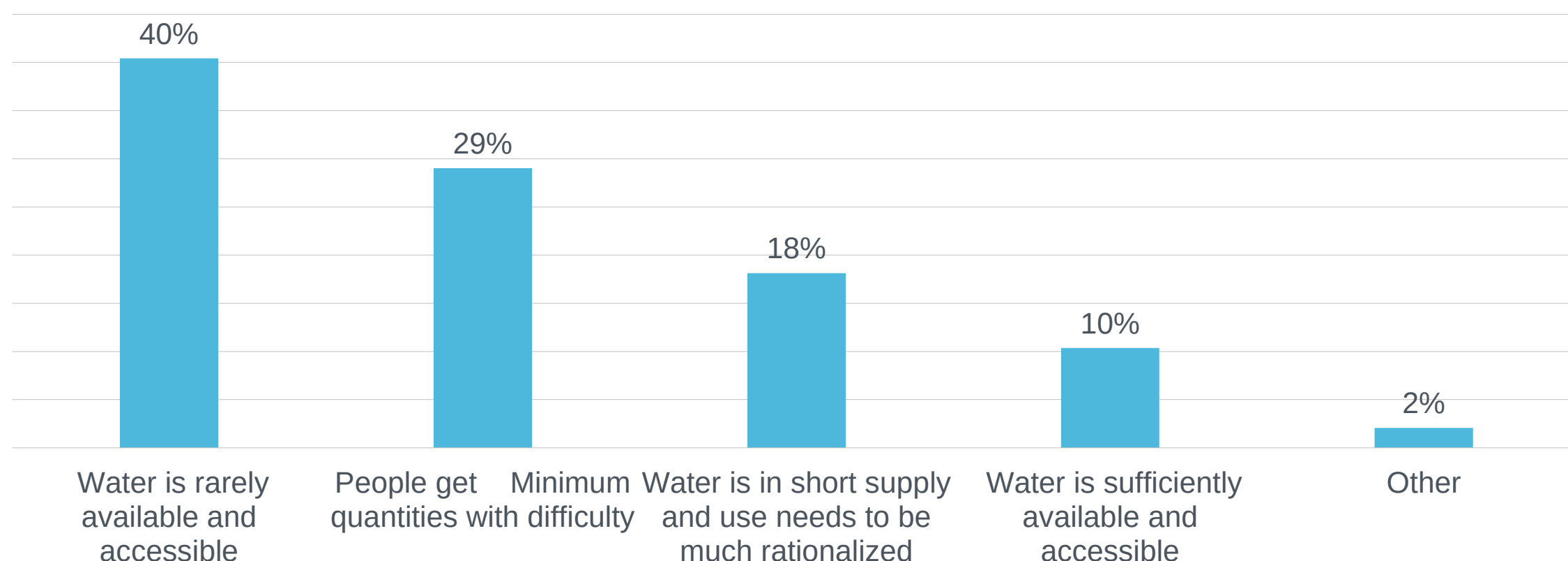
Main Second NFI Needs	
Fuel for heating or cooking	%35
Winter kits	%25
Mattresses	%21
Blankets	%11
Cooking Material	%5
Clothing	%3
Main Third NFI Needs	
Blankets	%25
Cooking Material	%21
Mattresses	%16
Fuel for heating or cooking	%15
Winter kits	%15
Solar Lamp	%5
Clothing	%3

WASH

Findings regarding access to water show that:

- **40%** of the KIIs reported that water is rarely available and accessible.
- **29%** reported that people get the very minimum quantities with difficulties
- **18%** reported that water is in short supply
- **10%** reported that water is sufficiently available and accessible

Which of the following categories better describes drinking water accessibility and availability problem in your area (Select only one option)



Regarding **sources of water**:

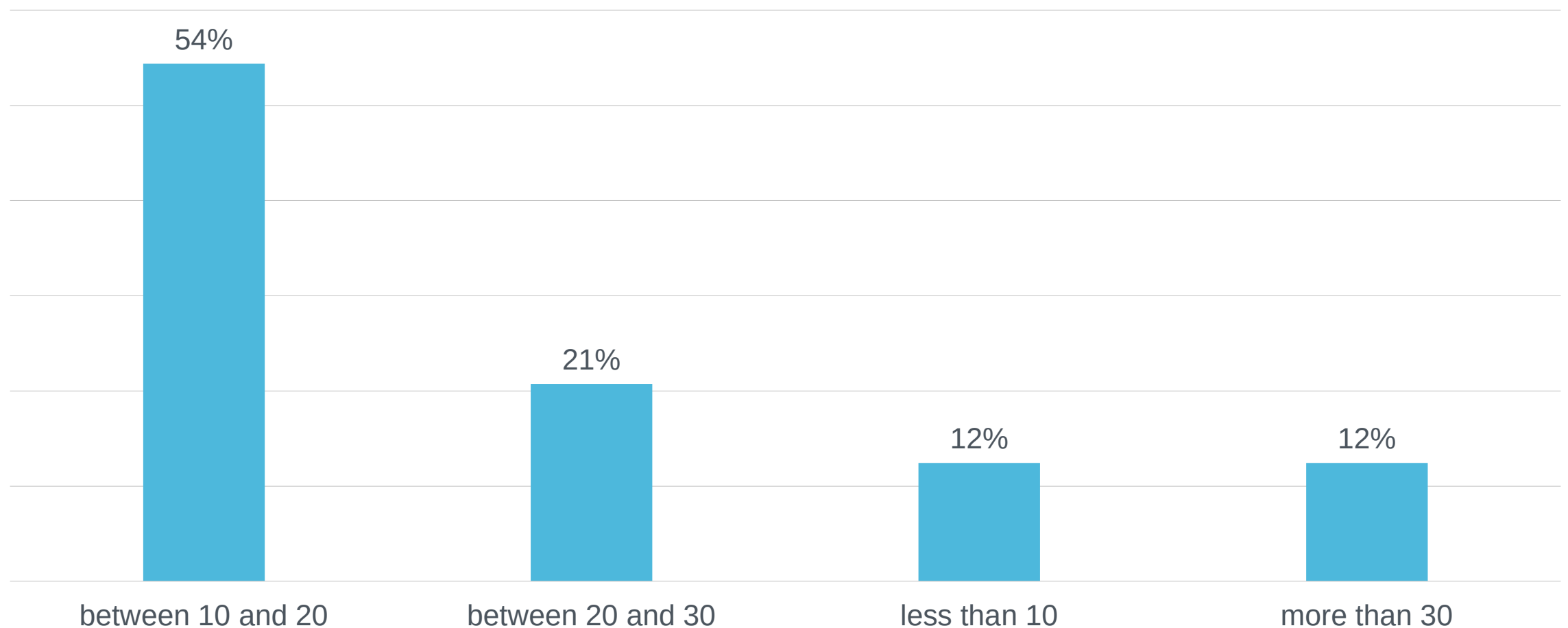
- **74%** of the KIIs reported water trucks to be first and most used source
- **15%** reported water taps to be the second source
- Wells were reported at **9%**

Moreover, **83%** reported there are no problems with the water, while **11%** reported it looks bad (suspended particulates), and 4% reported it tastes bad.

Regarding latrines, as reported by the key informants:

- **54%** of the latrines are shared by **10-20** people.
- **21%** of the latrines are shared by **20 and 30** people.
- **12%** are shared by less than **10** people.
- **12%** are shared by more than **30** people as well.

In case of IDPs, what is the average number of people sharing one latrine?



- Additionally, **84%** reported that there are no separate latrines for women and men.
- **87%** reported that latrines are not lit.
- **91%** of the IDPs are not showering sufficiently.
- **89%** do not have access to hygiene items.
- Most **needed hygiene items**, as reported by KIIs, are:
 - o Soap and other detergents (**83%**)
 - o Children's needs (**15%**)
 - o Special hygiene needs for women (**2%**)

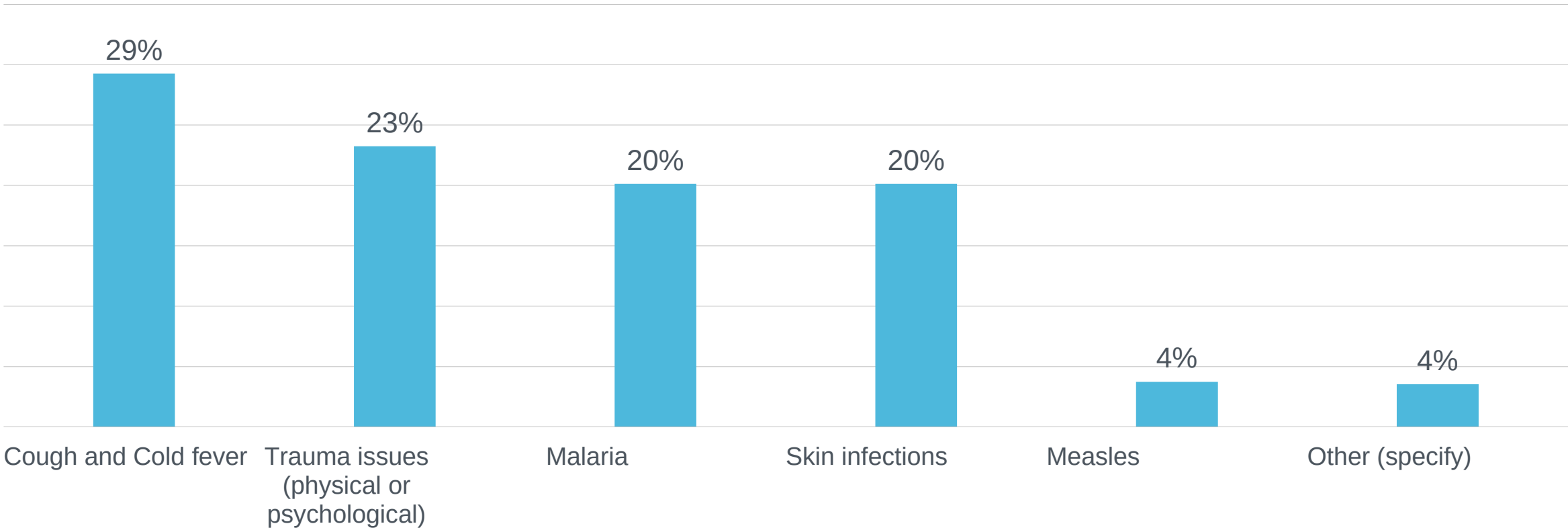
Regarding the problems faced by IDPS with regard to **sanitation**, they are:

- **33%** reported no hygiene items
- **23%** difficulty in accessing toilets
- **20%** reported garbage heaps nearby
- **18%** reported pools of water surrounding the shelter of the IDPs

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

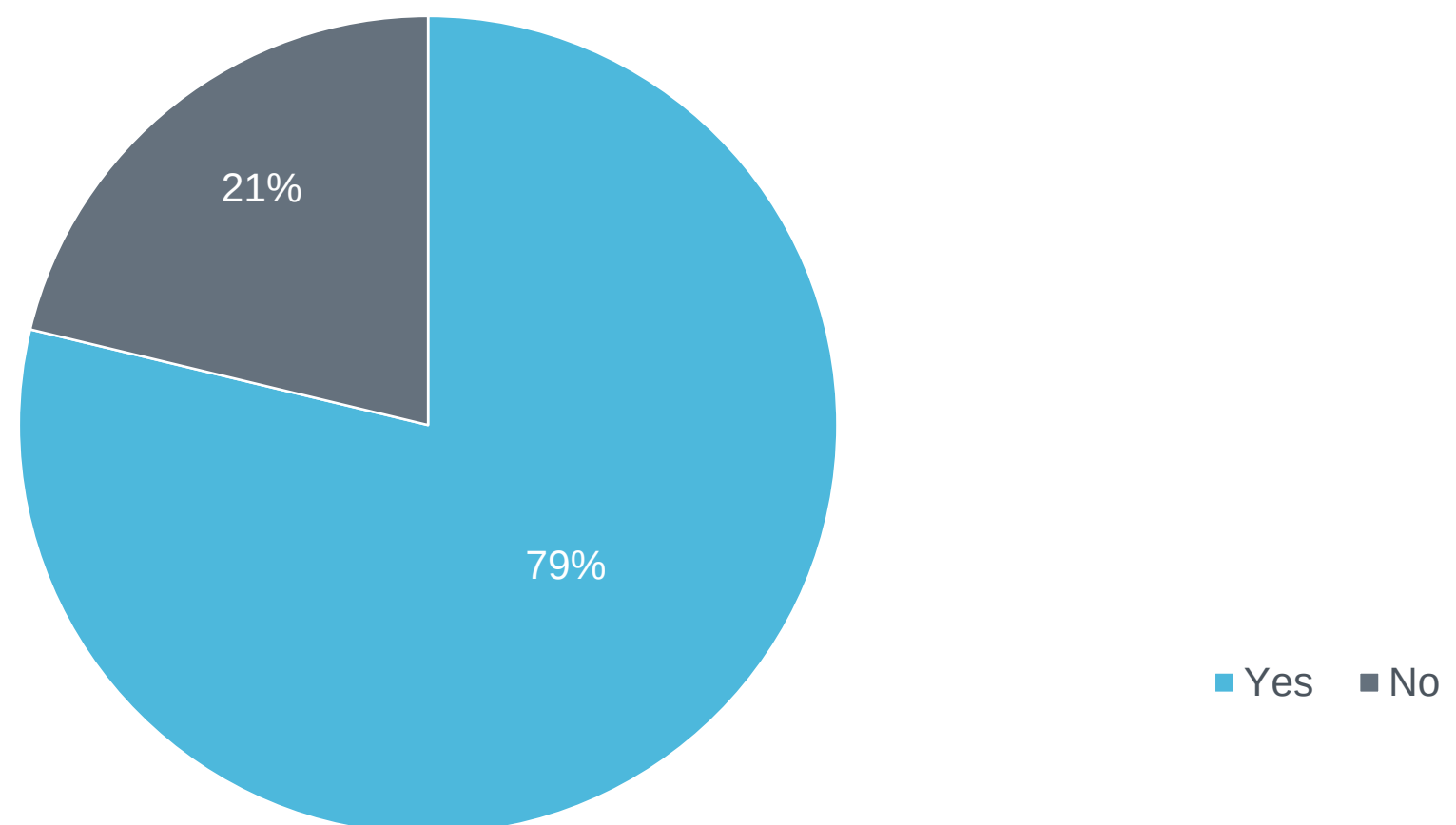
- As KIIs reported, **88%** of the IDPs and their families face some health problems.
- When asked about the main health problems IDPs are facing, we found:
 - o **29%** reported cough and cold fever
 - o **23%** reported trauma issues (physical or psychological)
 - o **20%** reported malaria
 - o **20%** skin infections (like leishmaniasis)
 - o **4%** reported measles

What are the main health problems affecting displaced families?



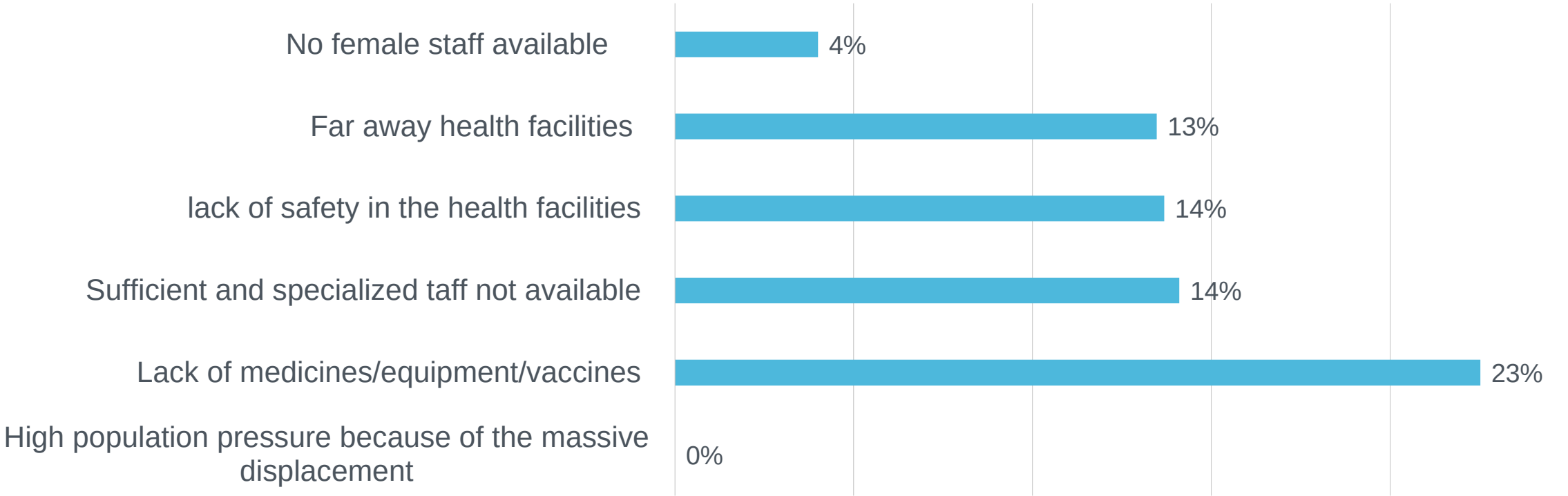
- As can be seen below, **79%** reported that there are functioning health facilities within an hour's walking distance.
- The average distance is **4.5** kilometres, and the average time is **33** minutes.

Is there a functioning health facility within one hour walking distance from this location?



- Moreover, as indicated in the chart below, the **most important health challenges**, as reported by the key informants, are:
- As expected, high population pressure because of the massive displacement at **32%**
 - Lack of medicines, equipment, and vaccines at **23%**
 - Both unavailability of sufficient and specialized staff and a lack of safety in the health facilities at **14%**
 - Distant health facilities at **13%**

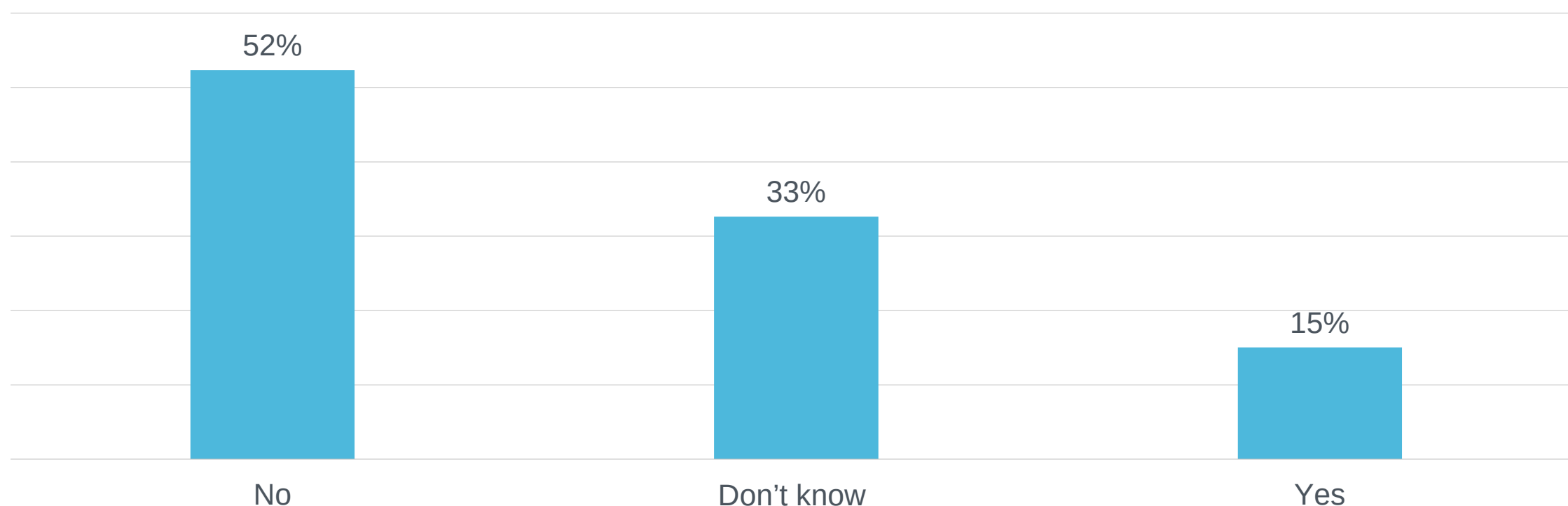
What are the most important health challenges that prevent IDPs from accessing health service



As indicated by the data:

- **15%** of the KIIs reported that there are babies less than **12 months old** living without their mothers, while **33% do not know** and **52%** reported that there are **not**.
- As reported by the KIIs, in the **69** communities surveyed, the number of children living without their mothers, aged **0 to 5 months** are: **197** for boys and **180** girls.
- The number of such children aged **6 to 12 months** old are **283** boys and **180** girls.

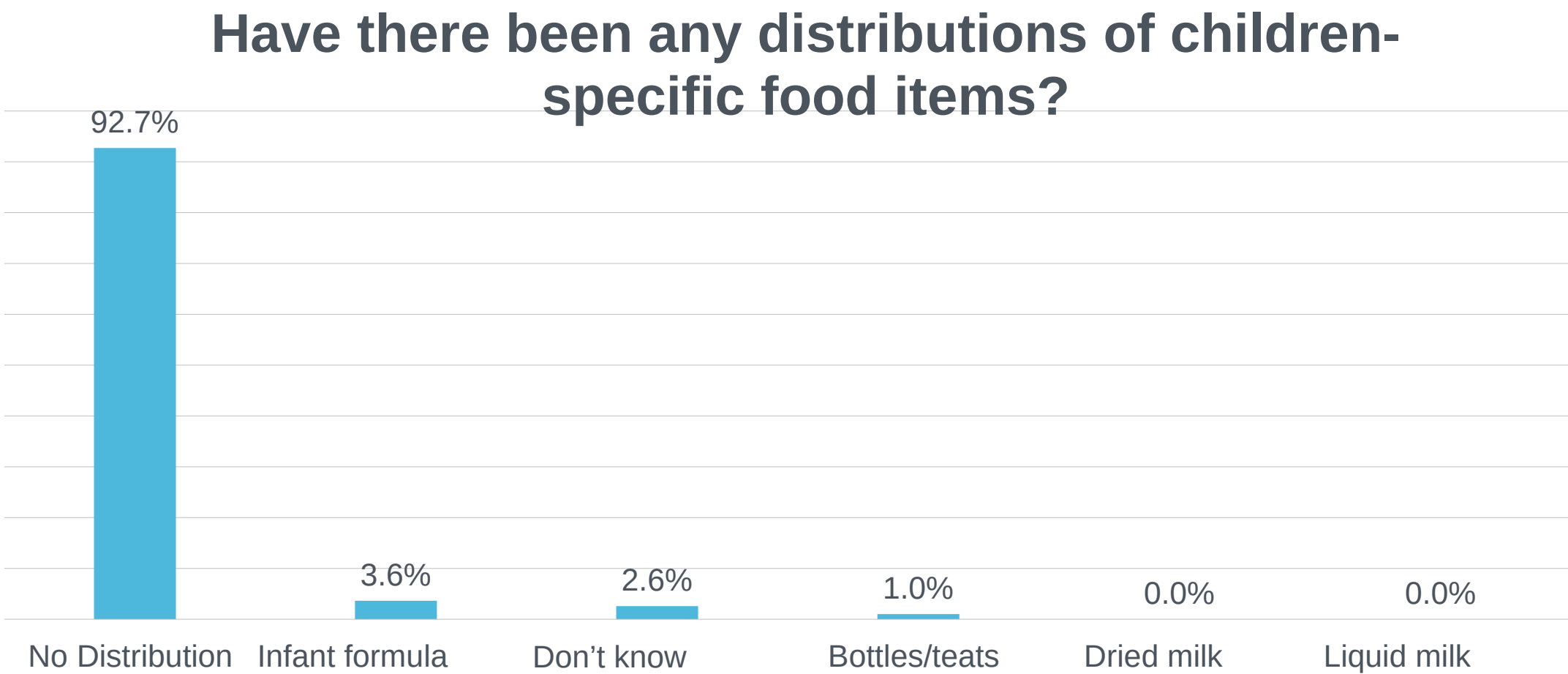
Are there babies aged less than 12 months living without their mothers?



We asked the KIIs if there was any distribution of food items specific to children, the findings show:

- **92.7%** reported no distribution
- **3.6%** reported distribution of infant formula
- **2.6%** do not know
- **1%** reported bottles and treats

When asked by whom the distribution was done, they reported it was **international organizations** and **local charity organizations**.

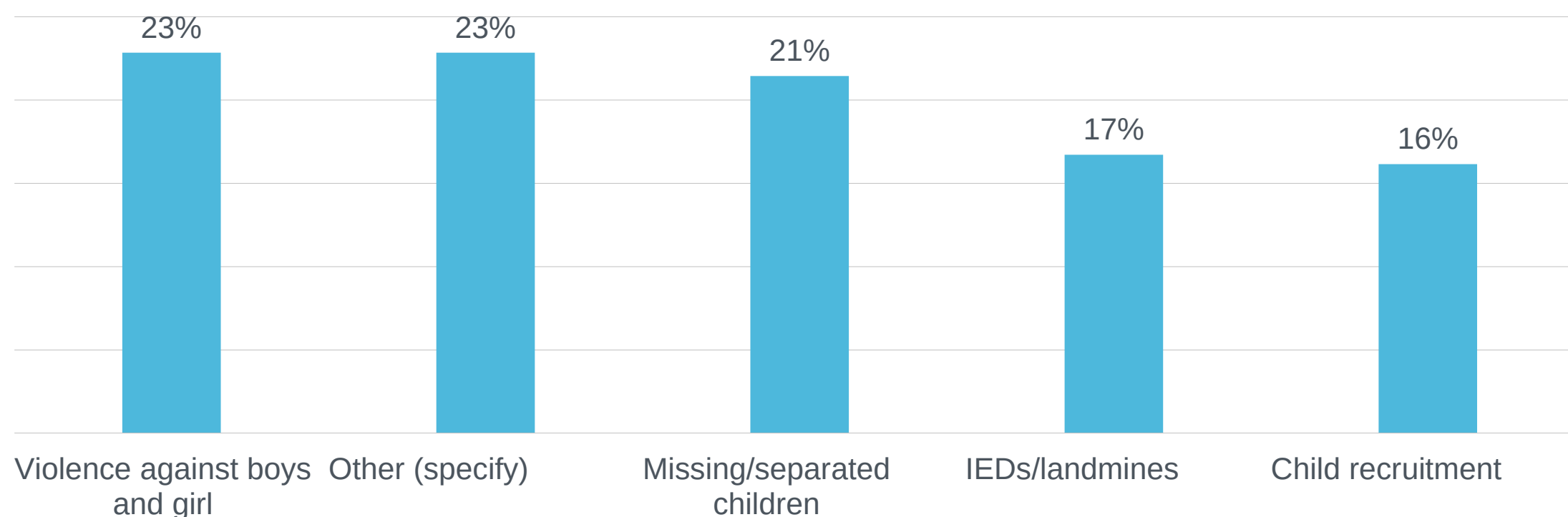


PROTECTION

Regarding problems with safety and child welfare, we can note the following:

- **23%** reported violence against boys and girls
- **21%** reported missing or separated children
- **17%** reported land mines and other dangers
- **16%** reported child recruitment
- Regarding the **23%** who reported **other issues**, they included **excessive fear of bombardment and warplanes, not attending schools, other psychological issues, etc.**

Are there any problems with safety or child welfare?



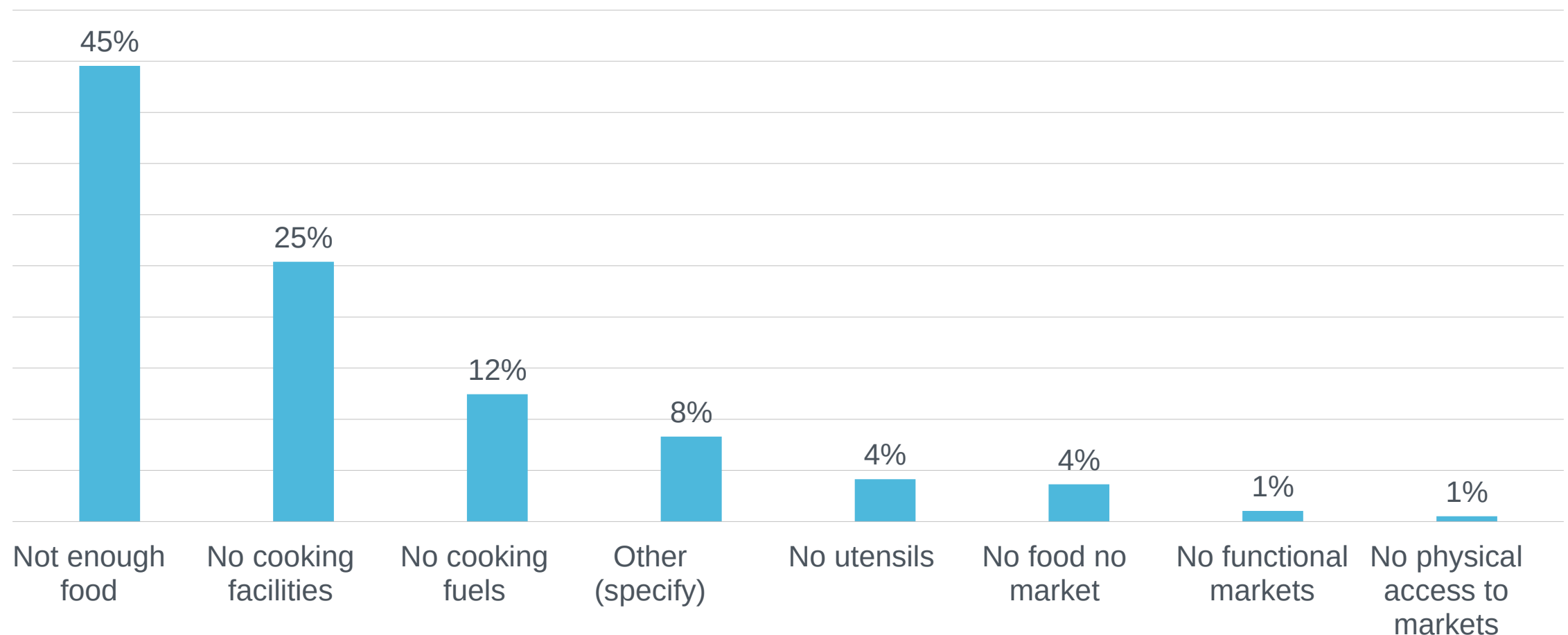
- When asked if they know of any children separated from their usual caregivers, **16%** of the KIIs reported that they do, while **84%** reported they do not.
- We asked them with whom they are living and they reported:
 - **70%** with relatives
 - **20%** with friends

FOOD SECURITY

The following chart shows the top three problems:

- **45%** of the KIIs reported **not enough food**
- **25%** reported **no cooking facilities**
- **12%** reported **no cooking fuel**
- **8%** reported ***other reasons***, including IDPs having insufficient money to buy food.

What are the top three main problems with food? first main problem

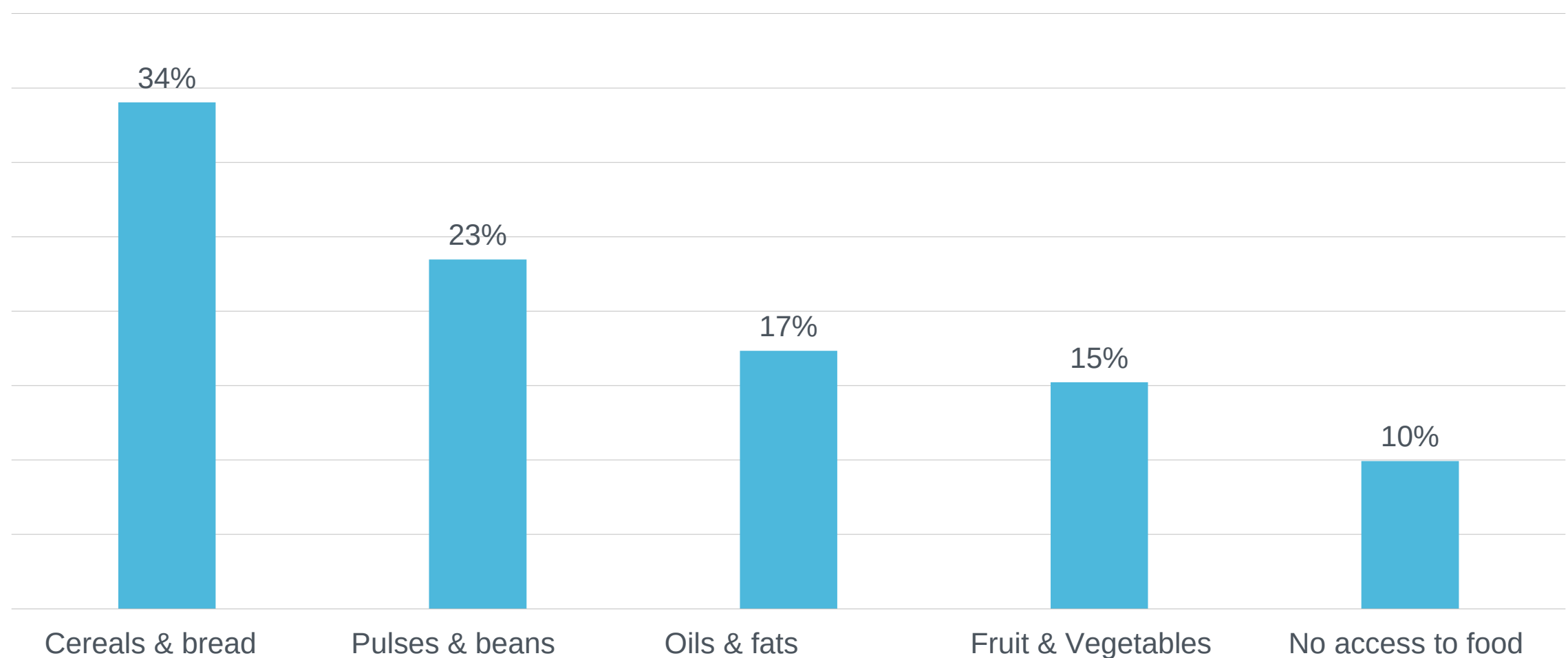


- Regarding the **secondary problem with food**, **no cooking fuel** was identified at **42%**, **not enough food** at **18%**, and **no cooking facilities** at **13%**. These are the top three issues.
- Regarding the **third problem with food**, figures showed that main three issues were: **no utensils** at **29%**, **no cooking fuel** at **19%**, and **not enough food** at **16%**.

According to KIIs, IDPs have **access to the following food items:**

- **34%** of the IDPs have access to cereals and bread
- **23%** have access to pulses and beans
- **17%** have access to oils and fats
- **15%** have access to fruit and vegetables
- **10%** do not have access to food

What can IDPs (men/women and boys/girls) have access to in the following?



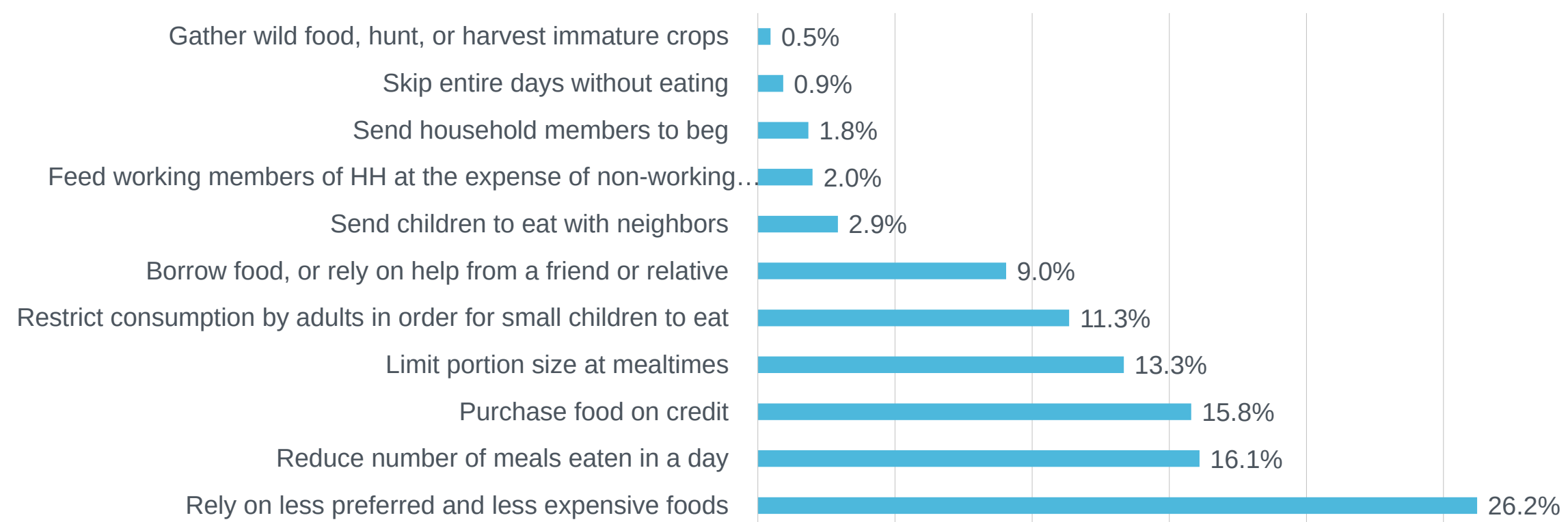
- When asked from **where IDPs can get food**, we found:
- **51%** of the IDPs buy food
- **20%** from host population
- **17%** through own production
- **11%** through food distribution by NGO or charity
- Regarding **how long IDPs can continue to have access**, we found:
- **41%** of the KIIs reported 10 to 30 days
- **21%** for more than 2 months
- **20%** less than 2 days
- **16%** 1 -2 months
- **3%** do not know

Regarding **coping mechanisms that IDPs are adopting**, the most noticeable trends show that:

- **26.2%** rely on less preferred and less expensive foods
- **16.1%** reduce the number of meals eaten in a day
- **15.8%** purchase food on credit
- **13.3%** limit portion size at meal times
- **11.3%** restrict consumption by adults so small children eat more
- **9%** borrow food or rely on help from a friend
- **2.9%** send children to eat with neighbours

Thus, **purchasing food on credit** and **reducing number of meals** are signals to be taken into account for any emergency response planning and design.

If no access, how do IDPs cope?



- Furthermore, 52% of the KIIs reported that IDPs do not have access to cooking sets.

Regarding the source of cooking fuel:

- 44% use *babor* (local small oven working with Kaz)
- 33% use *wood*
- 15% have *difficulty in getting the fuel needed for cooking*
- 8% use *gas*

TOP PRIORITIES

The first-choice main priorities for IDPs are:

- Shelter at 40%
- Safety and security at 33%
- Health at 12%

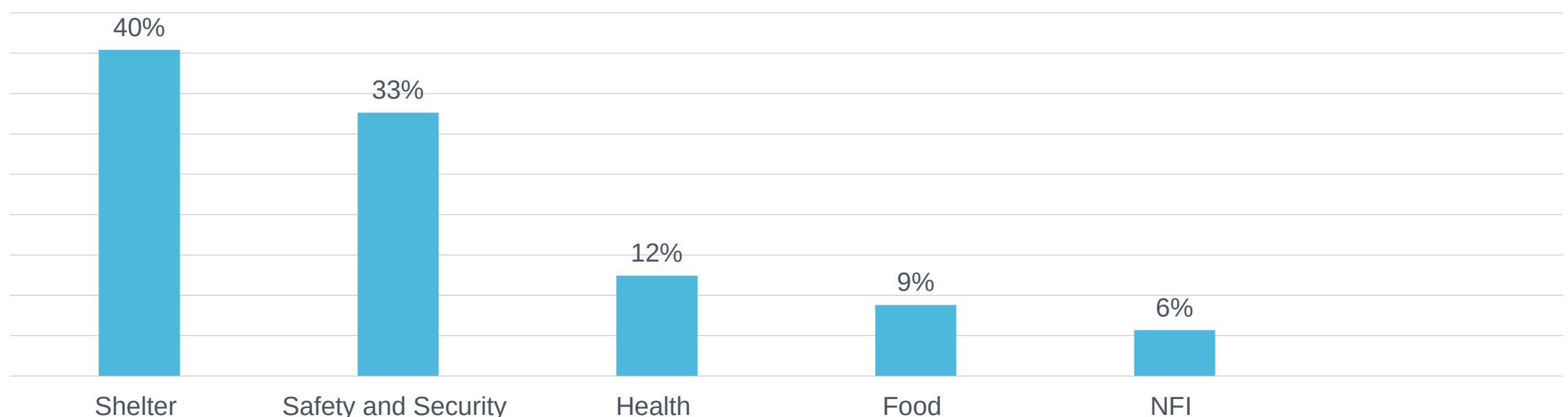
The second-choice main priorities are:

- Food at 37%
- Safety and security at 21%
- Shelter at 17%
- Health at 15%

The third-choice main priorities are:

- Food at 28%
- Health at 19%
- Safety and security at 15%
- NFI at 13%

Overall, what are the top three priorities of IDPs?
first priority



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Fuel and other warming means** are very important.
- Distribution of **hygiene and NFI items** (especially blankets) are highly recommended.
- **Access to safe water** is a big challenge. It is important to think of appropriate responses, such as trucked water and other options.
- **Sanitation facilities** are either not available or available in a very limited sense, especially in informal camps.
- Health facilities are available, but under pressure. **Mobile clinics** are therefore highly advisable to respond to the immediate needs.
- A serious problem with **nutrition** exists. Appropriate interventions are needed.
- **Family reunification** projects are needed along with other protection projects.

- **Shelter** is one of the most urgent needs. The findings show the large influx of IDPs has resulted in **crowdedness**. Solutions include setting up more formal camps, delivering shelter equipment, and implementing voucher projects to pay rents.
- **Food** is an important need and it should be responded to through distribution of food baskets and fresh-food vouchers or ready-to-eat, as cooking sets and fuel are needed.
- **Cooking sets and fuel** are a much needed provision, prior to any food intervention.
- Negative coping mechanisms signal a need for rapid food intervention.

