

# NORTHEAST SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 5-13th April 2021

## INTRODUCTION

To inform humanitarian cash programming, REACH in partnership with the northeast (NES) and northwest (NWS) Syria Cash Working Group (CWG) conducts monthly Market Monitoring Exercises in northern Syria to assess the availability and prices of 36 basic commodities that are typically sold in markets and consumed by average Syrian households, including food and non-food items, water, fuel, and cellphone data.

Of these, 18 items comprise the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB; see below), which represents the minimum, culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month.

Data collection took place between 5-13th April 2021 and was conducted by REACH, CARE, Shafak, Global Communities, Danish Church Aid, Mercy Corps, People In Need, Solidarités International and Samaritan's Purse.

The accompanying data is disseminated monthly and is distributed through partners across the humanitarian community. See REACH Resource Centre for the [April 2021 data](#).

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Coverage and data collection dates

In April 2021, REACH and partners covered:

- 3 governorates
- 8 districts
- 24 subdistricts
- 47 communities
- 1,307 individual shops

Please note that prices should be seen as representative only of the markets and dates where and when information was collected (5-13th April).

### NES SMEB stabilises at highest recorded cost in SYP

In April, the value of the regional SMEB stabilized at 350,898 Syrian pounds (SYP), a minor decrease (0.2%) compared to April, but a 72% increase since October 2020. This remains at the highest ever recorded price in the Market Monitoring exercise in NES. The SMEB in United States Dollars (USD) increased from 90 USD in March to 102 USD in April, the highest recorded cost in USD since March 2020.

### Notable appreciation of the SYP against the USD

In April, the SYP appreciated against the USD. The informal USD/SYP regional median exchange rate decreased by 11%, seeing a regional median of 3,413 USD/SYP. The highest exchange rate was recorded at 3,550 SYP for 1 USD in Shaddadah community, in Al-Hasakeh governorate.

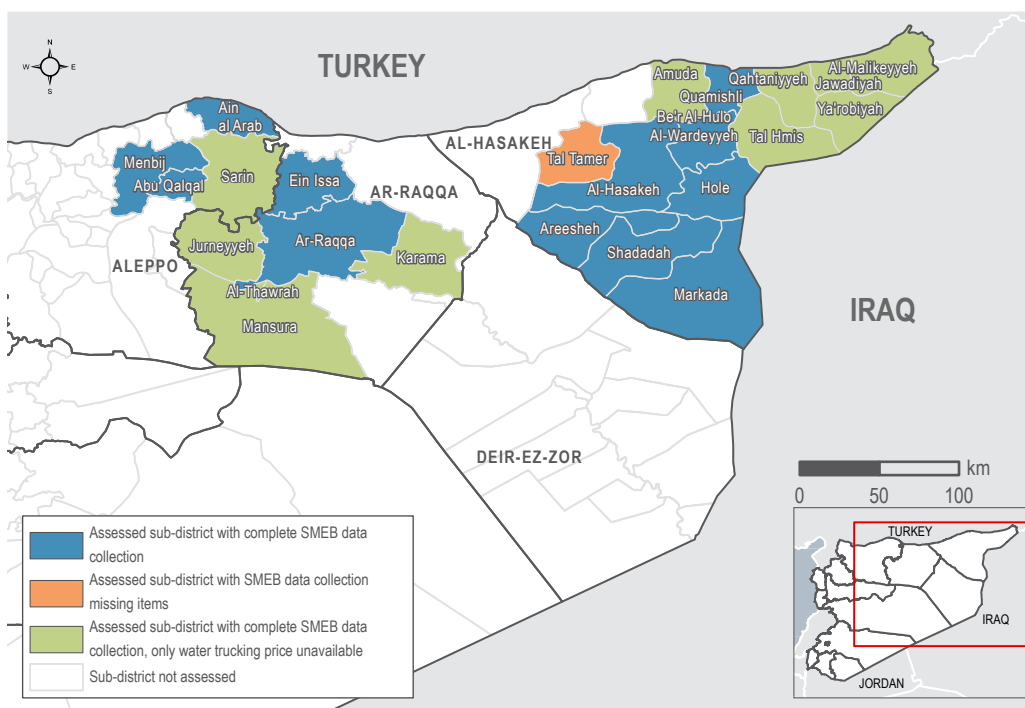
## SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB) CONTENTS

Item	Quantity
<b>Food Items</b>	
Bread	37 kg
Bulgur	15 kg
Chicken	6 kg
Eggs	6 kg
Fresh vegetables	12 kg
Ghee/vegetable oil	7 kg/L
Red lentils	15 kg
Rice	19 kg
Salt	1 kg
Sugar	5 kg
Tomato paste	6 kg
<b>Hygiene items</b>	
Bathing soap	12 bars
Laundry/dish soap	3 kg
Sanitary pads	4 packs of 10
Toothpaste	200 g
<b>Fuel</b>	
Cooking fuel*	25 L
<b>Water</b>	
Water trucking	4500 L
<b>Telecom</b>	
Smartphone data	1 GB
<b>Other</b>	
Float (other costs)**	7.5% total value

\* Kerosene in northern Syria

\*\* Float only applied to observations where prices of all SMEB contents could be collected

## ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE



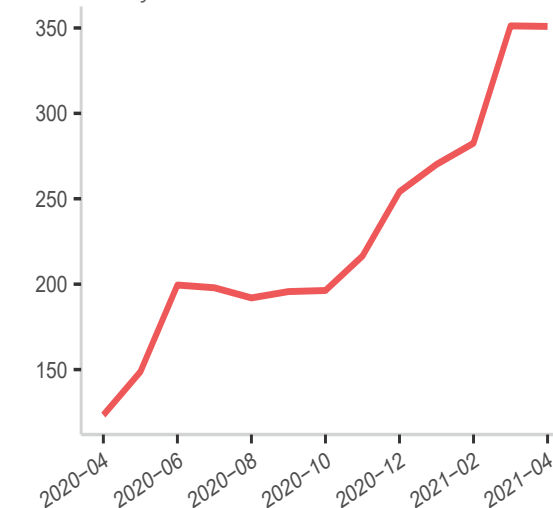
## MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

**350,898 SYP (102 USD)**

**NORTHEAST SYRIA**  
- AL-HASAKEH, AL-RAQQA, AND EASTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES

## MEDIAN SMEB COST, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Prices increased slightly for transport fuels overall; high quality fuels remained unavailable

In April, the regional median price for transport fuel was 575 SYP per litre, an increase of 2% since March and an increase of 77% since October 2020. The price of high-quality petrol increased by 6% since March, and by 60% since October 2020. The price of high-quality diesel saw the greatest change, which increased by 167% since March, a 191% increase since October 2020. As in previous months, high quality transport fuels were reported widely unavailable in assessed markets due to high demand and fuel smuggling between NES and Government of Syria (GoS)-held areas, as well as from NWS. 79% of fuel vendors reported that high quality diesel was not available in their market, although this is a drop of 8 percentage points since March. 65% reported the same regarding high quality petrol, a drop of 4 percentage points since March.

Prices for manually refined fuels showed different price developments between March and April. Manually refined diesel decreased by 17% since March, returning to the same price as 6 months ago in October 2020. Conversely, manually refined petrol increased by 46% since March, an increase of 58% since October 2020. The price of manually refined kerosene, primarily used for cooking and heating, increased by 13% since March. This continues an 80% six-month price increase since October 2020. The price increase is attributed to an increase in unavailability. In April, manually refined kerosene was reported as unavailable by 16% of vendors, an increase of 5 percentage points since March. However, LP gas remained stable with no change since March, decreased by 3% in price since October 2020, and continued to be recorded as available by 100% of surveyed vendors.

### Stabilisation of food item prices, bread prices dropped notably in the short and medium term

The value of the regional SMEB food component increased slightly by 1% between March and April, again reaching a record high median value of 267,750 SYP. The price of the SMEB vegetable component increased by 33% since March. The price development for monitored vegetables varied. Increases in price were seen for cucumbers (58%), onions (40%), and tomatoes (50%). According to REACH field teams, these price developments are likely due to the more expensive reliance on the import of fresh foods from GoS areas, affected by high transportation costs and increasing dollar exchange rates. However, potatoes decreased in price by 4% since March as they are now in season and produced locally.

The cost of chicken decreased by 16% since March, primarily as a result of SYP gaining back some value, and partially due to the reduced requirements of heating needed for poultry farming. However, this is a 65% increase in price since October 2020. The cost of eggs also decreased by 7% since March, yet increased by 58% since October 2020.

The average price for bulk foods stabilized since March (0.2% decrease overall), but this is a 63% increase since October 2020. At the item level, only red lentils increased in price, by 3%. All other items decreased in price: bulgur and rice decreased by 4%, sugar and tomato paste decreased by 8%, and salt decreased by 5%. According to REACH field teams, these prices decreased due to appreciation of the SYP, however red lentils increased in price due to an increase in demand during the Ramadan period.

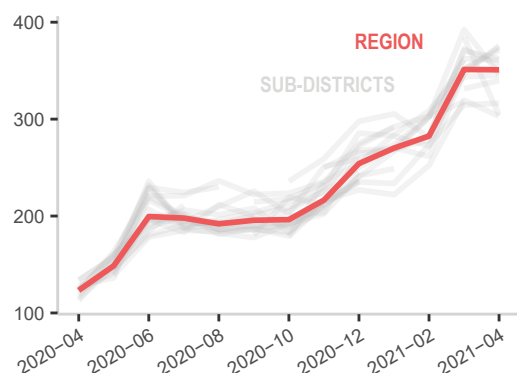
The price of bread also decreased considerably across NES by 45% between March and April, a 37% decrease since October 2020. This is attributed to both the appreciation of the SYP and general subsidies by the authorities. The average bread prices varied between governorates: Northeast Aleppo: 263 SYP, Al-Hasakeh: 250 SYP, Ar-Raqqa: 200 SYP per 8 pieces. Conversely, flour prices increased by 8% in April, contributing to a 133% increase in the same six-month period.

### MEDIAN SMEB COSTS & CHANGES\*

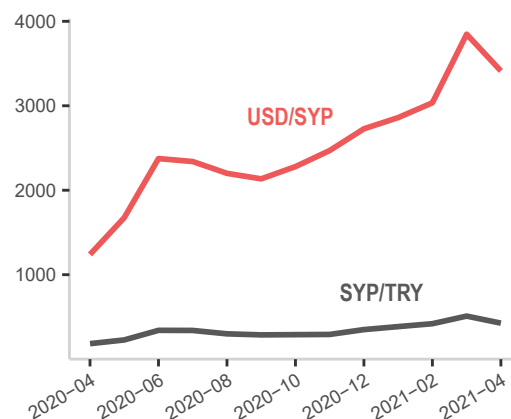
Syrian Pounds

### MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



### EXCHANGE RATES, BY MONTH AND CURRENCY



Sub-district	SMEB	One month change*	Six month change*	Sub-district	SMEB	One month change*	Six month change*
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	<b>350,898</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>Jawadiyah</b>	353,321	1%	112%
Abu Qalqal	303,062	-5%	65%	Jurneyyeh	324,526	0%	56%
Ain al Arab	339,769	3%	77%	Karama	383,168	11%	106%
Al-Hasakeh	361,098	0%	66%	Mansura	401,818	17%	92%
Al-Malikeyyeh	305,245	2%	60%	Markada	345,120	0%	71%
Al-Thawrah	319,496	-5%	43%	Menbij	316,406	1%	64%
Amuda	345,769	8%	69%	Qahtaniyyeh	320,646	6%	54%
Areeshah	373,915	6%	74%	Quamishli	371,311	6%	66%
Ar-Raqqa+	346,357	-12%	NA	Sarin	330,761	3%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	355,439	-5%	51%	Shadadah	375,747	8%	83%
Al-Wardeyyeh	355,439	-5%	51%	Tal Hmis	325,513	-4%	80%
Ein Issa	362,334	-2%	81%	Tal Tamer**	NA	NA	NA
Hole	304,155	-21%	46%	Ya'robiyah	316,144	-11%	52%

+ For price and change calculations, only the communities within a sub-district with consistent coverage across months are included. This applies to all the following tables.

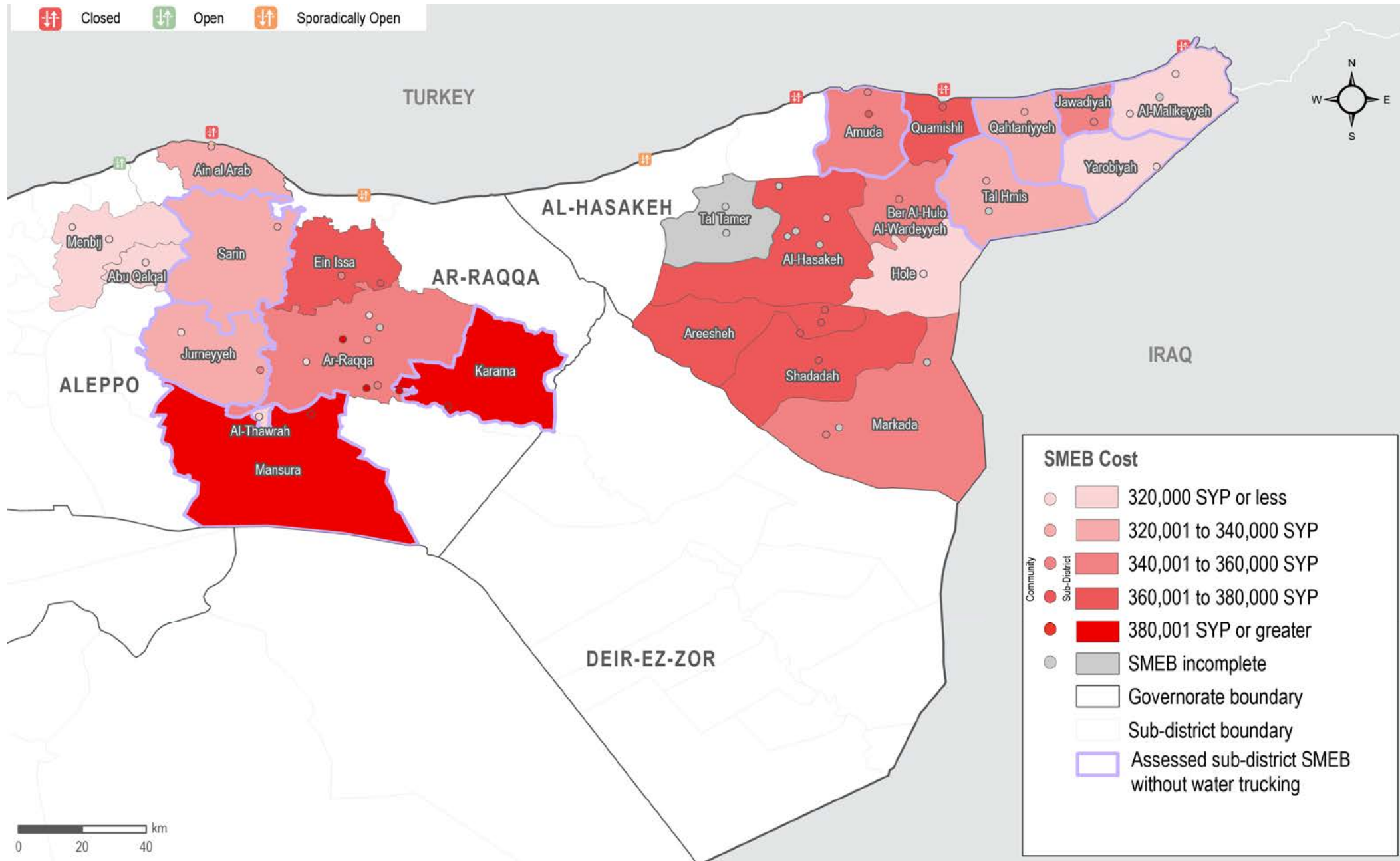
\* For these sub-districts, more than 50% of the SMEB items median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

\*\* For these sub-districts, all of the SMEB items median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

Note: Lack of data for a SMEB item does not necessarily imply a shortage.

# NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST RANGES

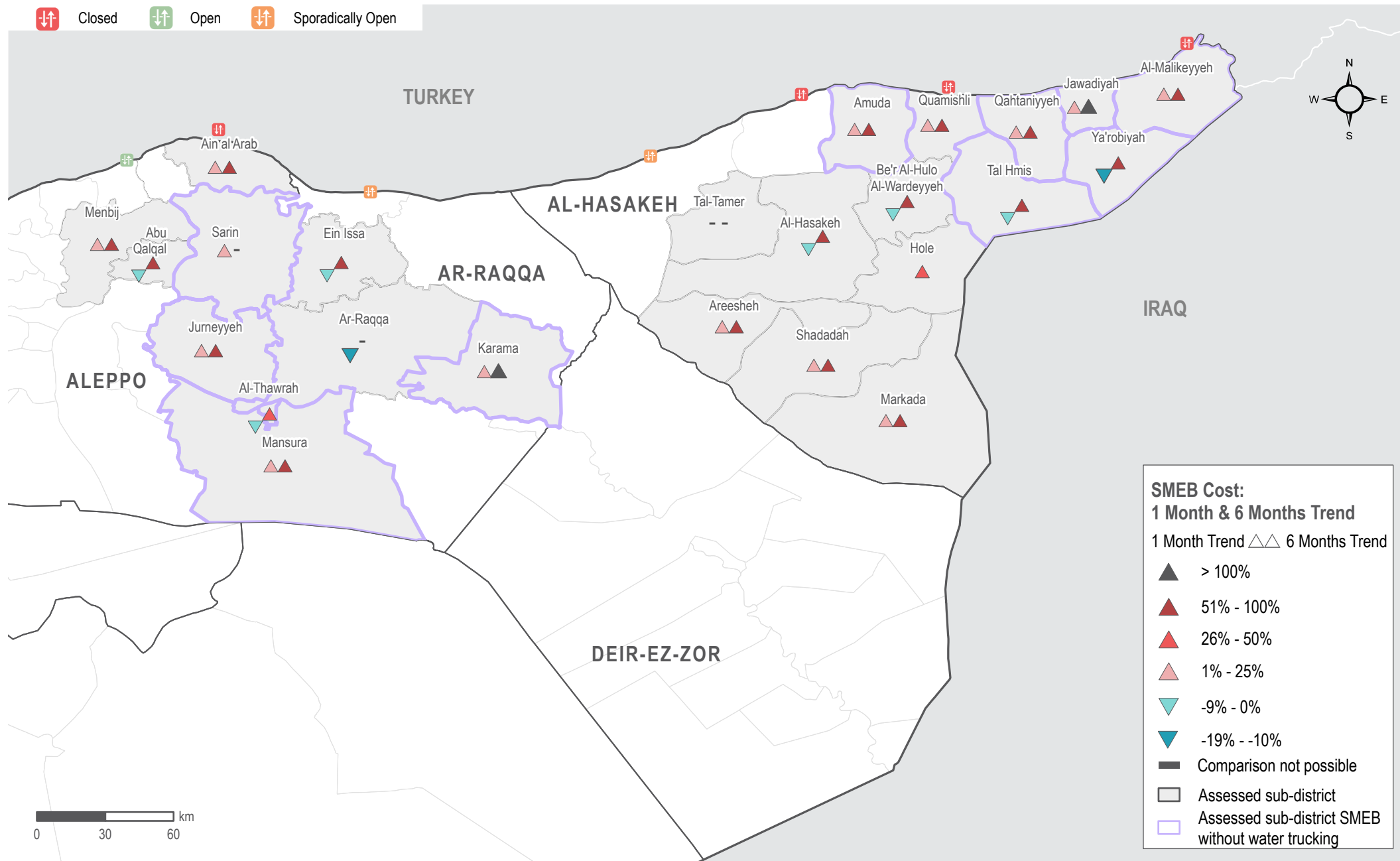
## SMEB COST RANGES (SYP), BY SUB-DISTRICTS



# NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST RANGES

## SMEB COST: ONE MONTH & SIX MONTHS TREND

⬆️⬆️ Closed   
 ⬆️⬆️ Open   
 ⬆️⬆️ Sporadically Open



# NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS

## MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

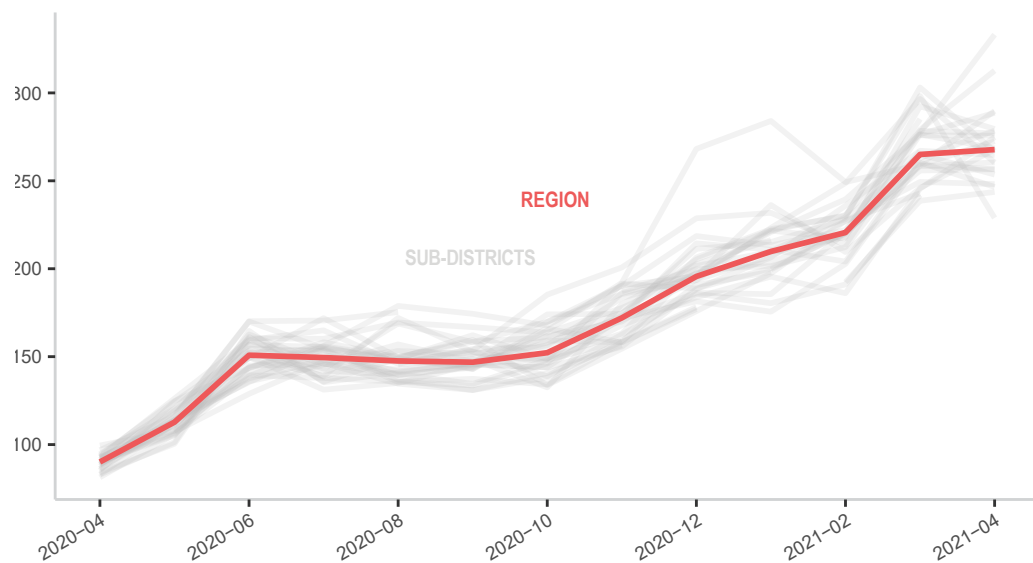
Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change*	Six month change*	Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change*	Six month change*
Northeast Syria	267,750	1%	70%	Jawadiyah	275,671	0%	108%
Abu Qalqal	246,525	-5%	71%	Jurneyyeh	256,588	-1%	59%
Ain al Arab	272,525	5%	84%	Karama	312,664	12%	113%
Al-Hasakeh	276,975	-1%	72%	Mansura	333,150	20%	99%
Al-Malikeyyeh	248,127	-1%	60%	Markada	260,454	1%	75%
Al-Thawrah	253,550	-4%	46%	Menbij	256,563	0%	72%
Amuda	289,679	12%	76%	Qahtaniyyeh	267,750	9%	58%
Areeshah	278,525	6%	76%	Quamishli	288,650	4%	76%
Ar-Raqqa	266,850	-12%	70%	Sarin	243,660	2%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	268,466	-3%	45%	Shadadah	274,803	12%	88%
Al-Wardeyyeh	268,466	-3%	45%	Tal Hmis	264,679	-1%	84%
Ein Issa	279,458	-4%	76%	Tal Tamer**	NA	NA	NA
Hole	228,888	-23%	53%	Ya'robiyah	260,400	-12%	53%

\* For these sub-districts, more than 50% of the SMEB Food items median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

\*\* For these sub-districts, all of the SMEB Food items median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

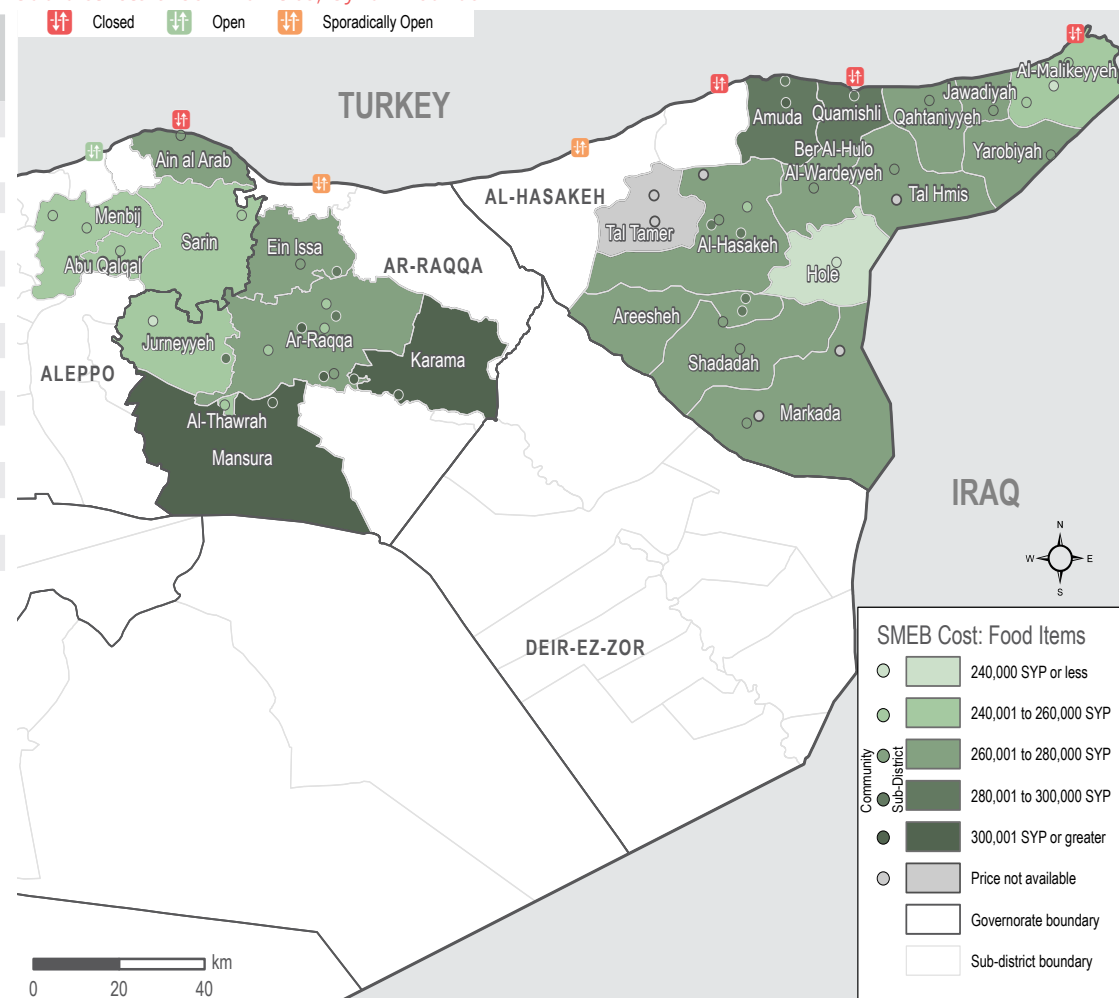
## MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



## SMEB FOOD ITEMS' COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



# NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: WATER TRUCKING

## MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICE

4,500L, Syrian Pounds

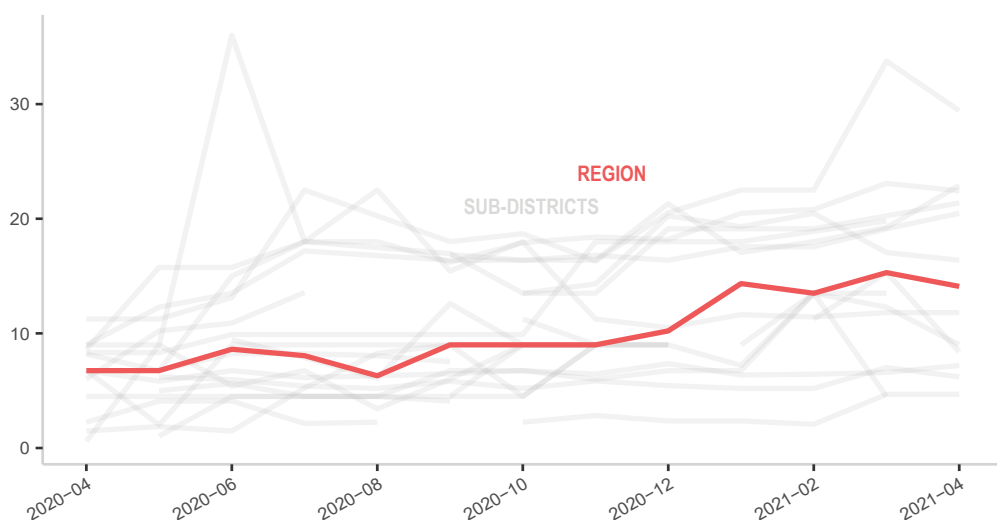
Sub-district	SMEB Water	One month change*	Six month change*
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	<b>14,096</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Abu Qalqal	6,210	-12%	19%
Ain al Arab	9,000	-27%	33%
Al-Hasakeh	22,905	19%	40%
Al-Malikeyyeh**	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah**	NA	NA	NA
Amuda**	NA	NA	NA
Areeshah	20,475	7%	25%
Ar-Raqqa	8,393	-45%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh**	21,375	6%	58%
Ein Issa**	4,680	0%	108%
Hole**	22,433	-3%	25%

\* For these sub-districts, more than 50% of water median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

\*\* For these sub-districts, all of the water median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

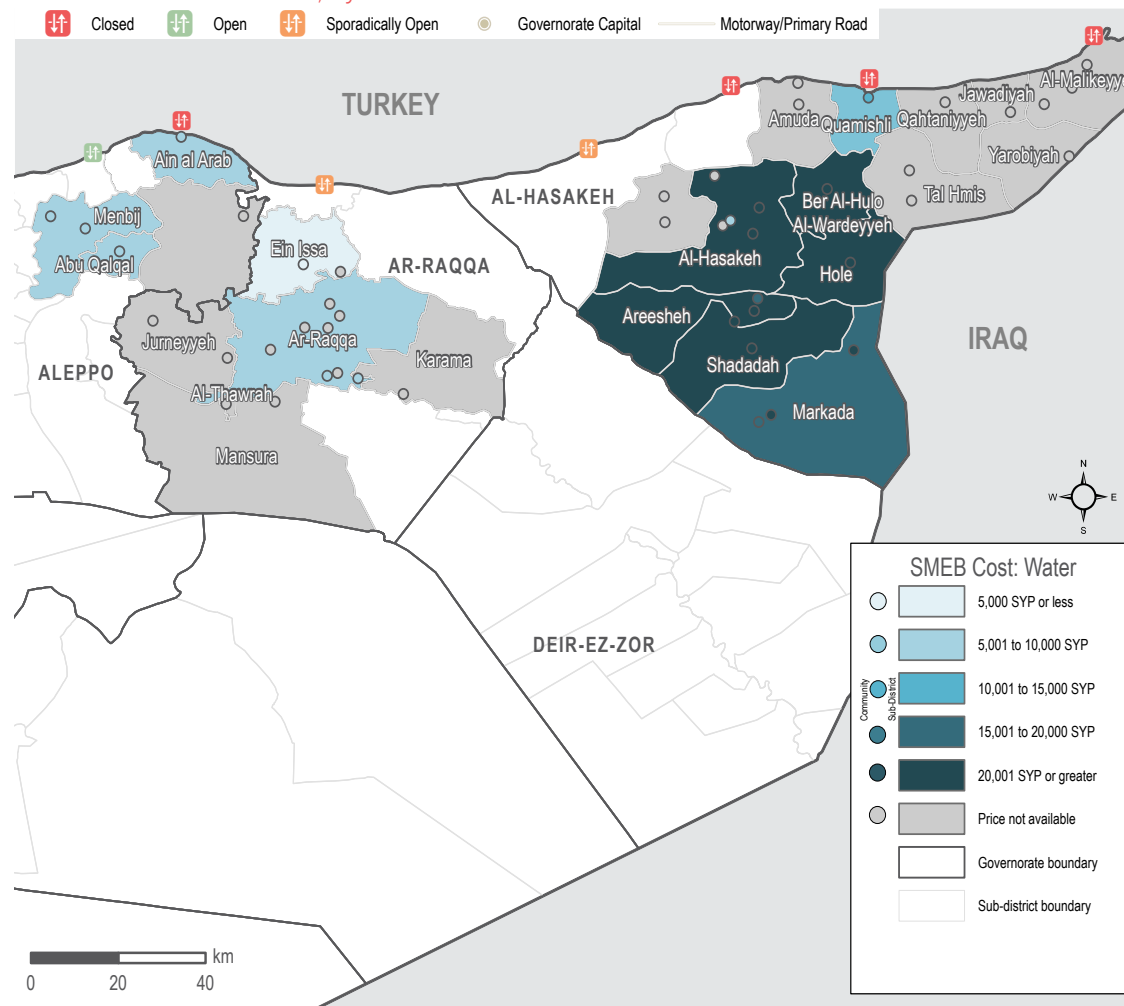
## MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



## SMEB WATER TRUCKING COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



# NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: HYGIENE ITEMS

## MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' PRICE

12 bars of soap, 4 packs of 10 sanitary pads, 3kg of laundry/dish soap, 200g of toothpaste, Syrian Pounds

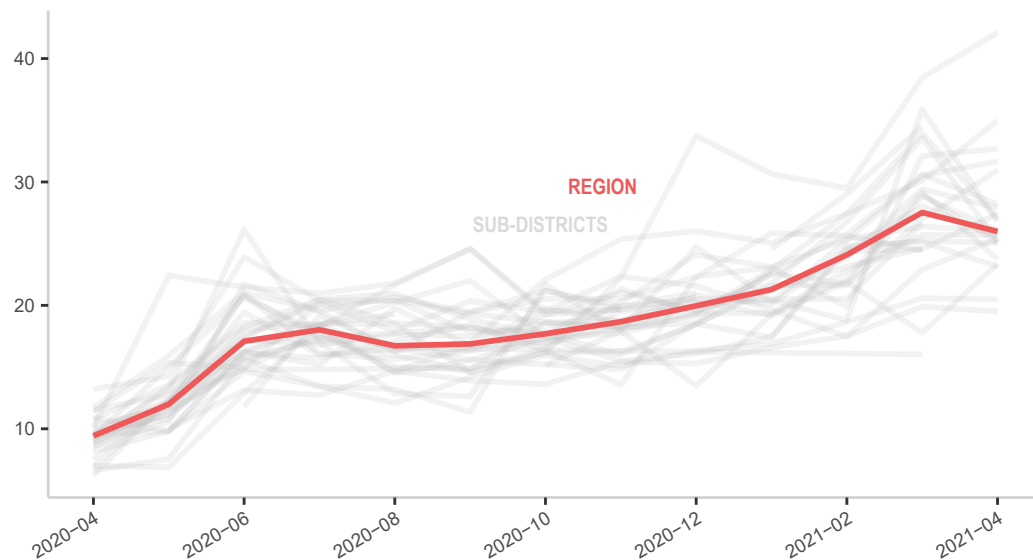
Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene Items	One month change*	Six month change*
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	<b>25,986</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>50%</b>
Abu Qalqal	19,505	-2%	43%
Ain al Arab	25,540	-9%	68%
Al-Hasakeh	26,075	-10%	54%
Al-Malikeyyeh	23,372	31%	25%
Al-Thawrah	23,741	-19%	10%
Amuda	26,967	-21%	22%
Areeshesh	32,703	2%	100%
Ar-Raqqa	27,900	-5%	58%
Be'r Al-Hulo	26,800	-25%	62%
Al-Wardeyyeh	31,667	4%	109%
Ein Issa	31,667	4%	109%
Hole	25,065	-14%	34%

\* For these sub-districts, more than 50% of the hygiene items median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

\*\* For these sub-districts, all of the hygiene items median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

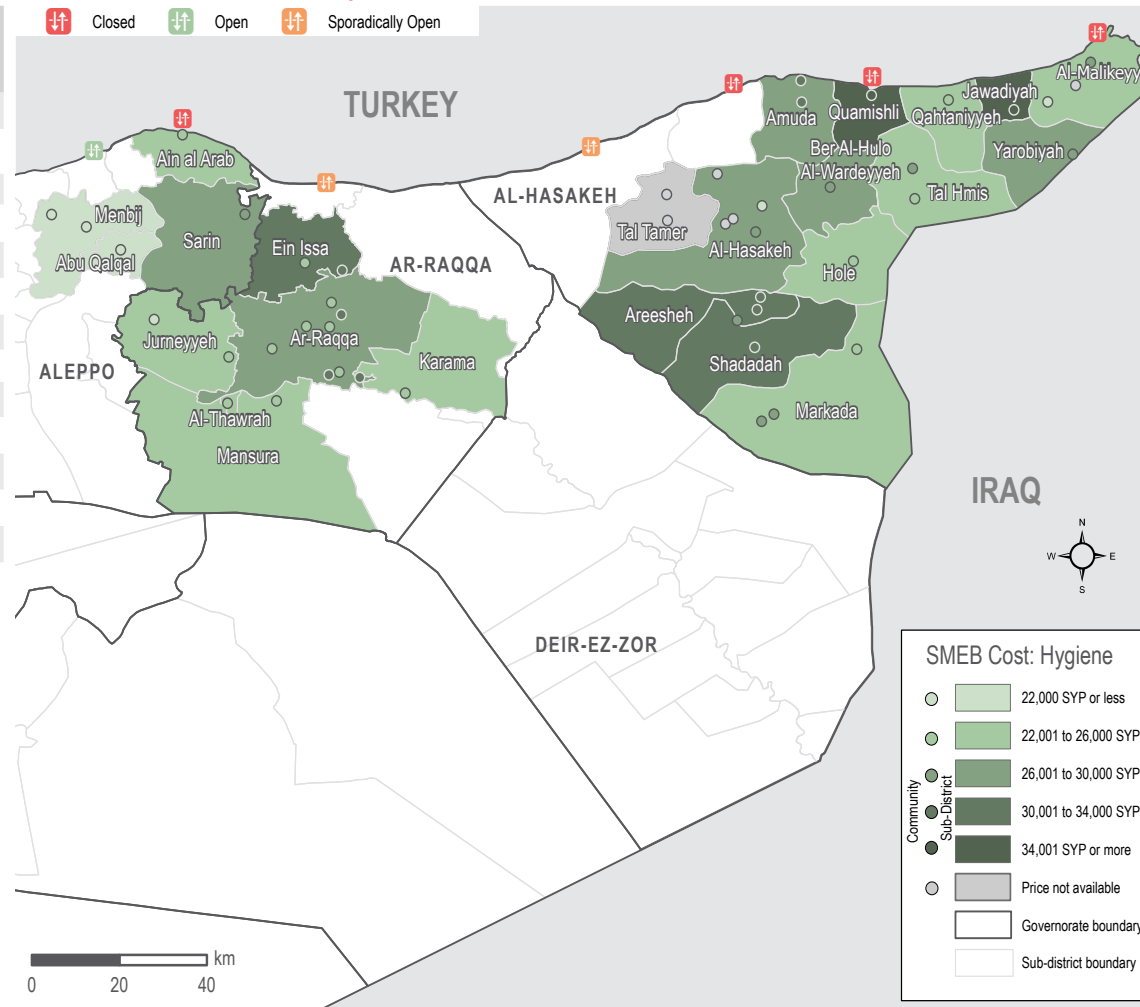
## MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



## SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



# NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: PHONE DATA

## MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA PRICE

1GB data, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Data	One month change*	Six month change*
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>38%</b>
Abu Qalqal	6,554	-3%	25%
Ain al Arab	5,500	0%	10%
Al-Hasakeh	2,450	-18%	23%
Al-Malikeyyeh	1,200	20%	92%
Al-Thawrah	4,915	0%	-2%
Amuda	2,500	38%	300%
Areeshesh	3,000	0%	20%
Ar-Raqqa	2,800	12%	40%
Be'r Al-Hulo	4,000	0%	300%
Ein Issa	2,500	25%	25%
Hole	3,300	-18%	32%

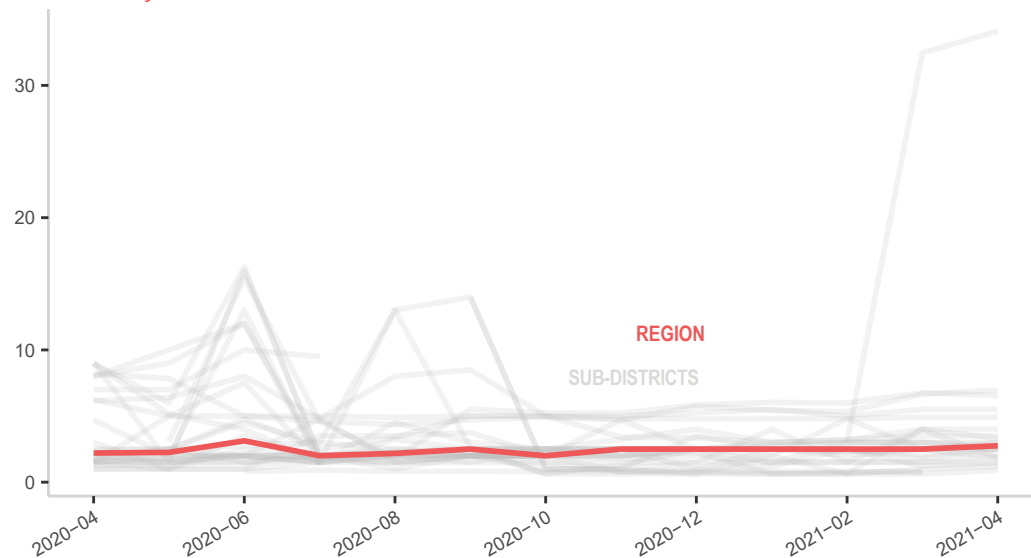
Sub-district	SMEB Data	One month change*	Six month change*
Jawadiyah	900	44%	-10%
Jurneyyeh	2,750	-8%	-45%
Karama	1,536	0%	-23%
Mansura	2,500	0%	25%
Markada	3,500	0%	40%
Menbij	6,963	5%	42%
Qahtaniyyeh	2,000	33%	33%
Qamishli	1,843	-26%	-26%
Sarin	34,099	5%	NA
Shadadah	1,843	-54%	-26%
Tal Hmis	3,000	20%	200%
Tal Tamer**	NA	NA	NA
Ya'robiyah	1,425	19%	-29%

\* For these sub-districts, more than 50% of cellphone data median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

\*\* For these sub-districts, all of cellphone data median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

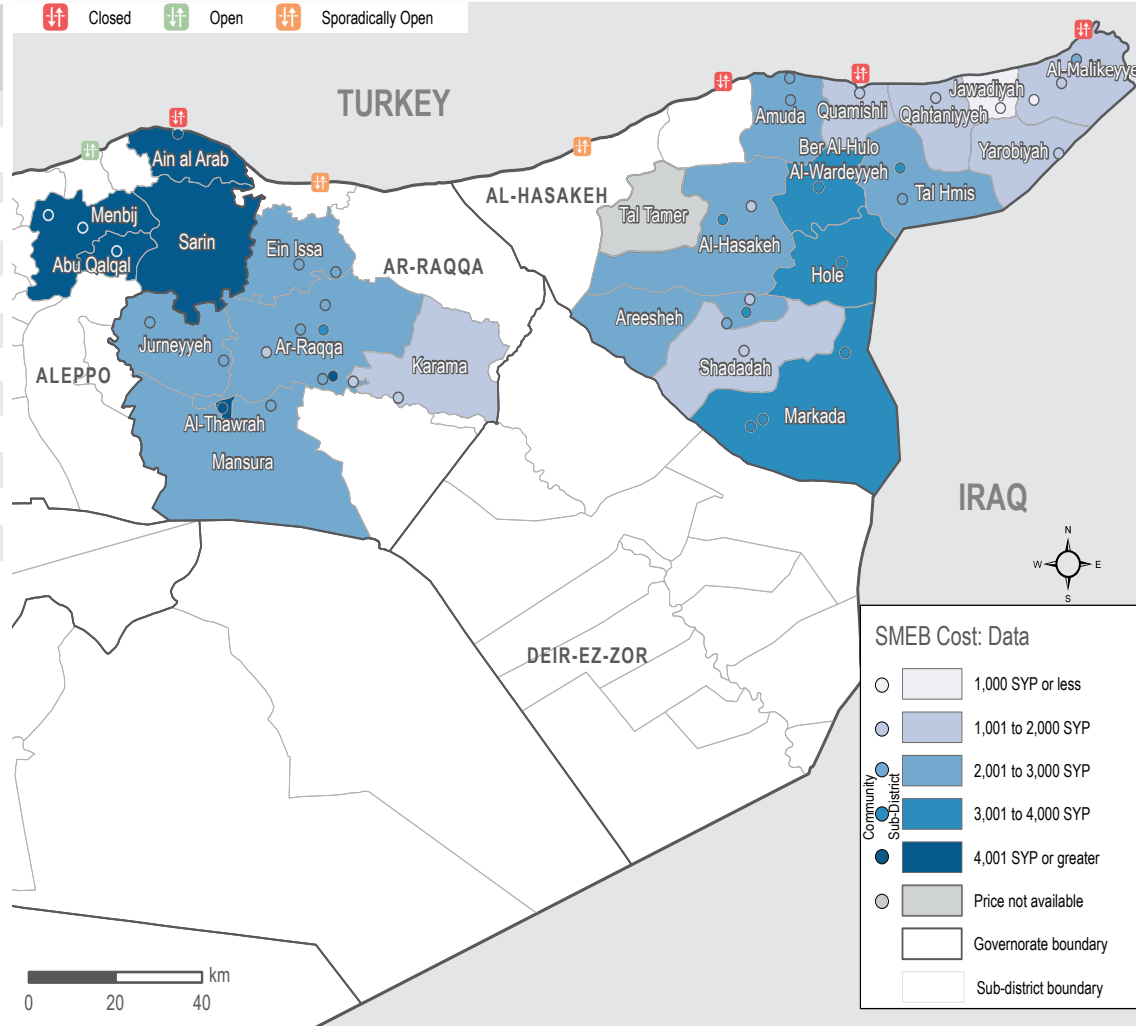
## MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



## SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



**SMEB Cost: Data**

- 1,000 SYP or less
- 1,001 to 2,000 SYP
- 2,001 to 3,000 SYP
- 3,001 to 4,000 SYP
- 4,001 SYP or greater
- Price not available
- Governorate boundary
- Sub-district boundary

# NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: COOKING FUEL

## MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL PRICE

Kerosene 25L, Syrian Pounds

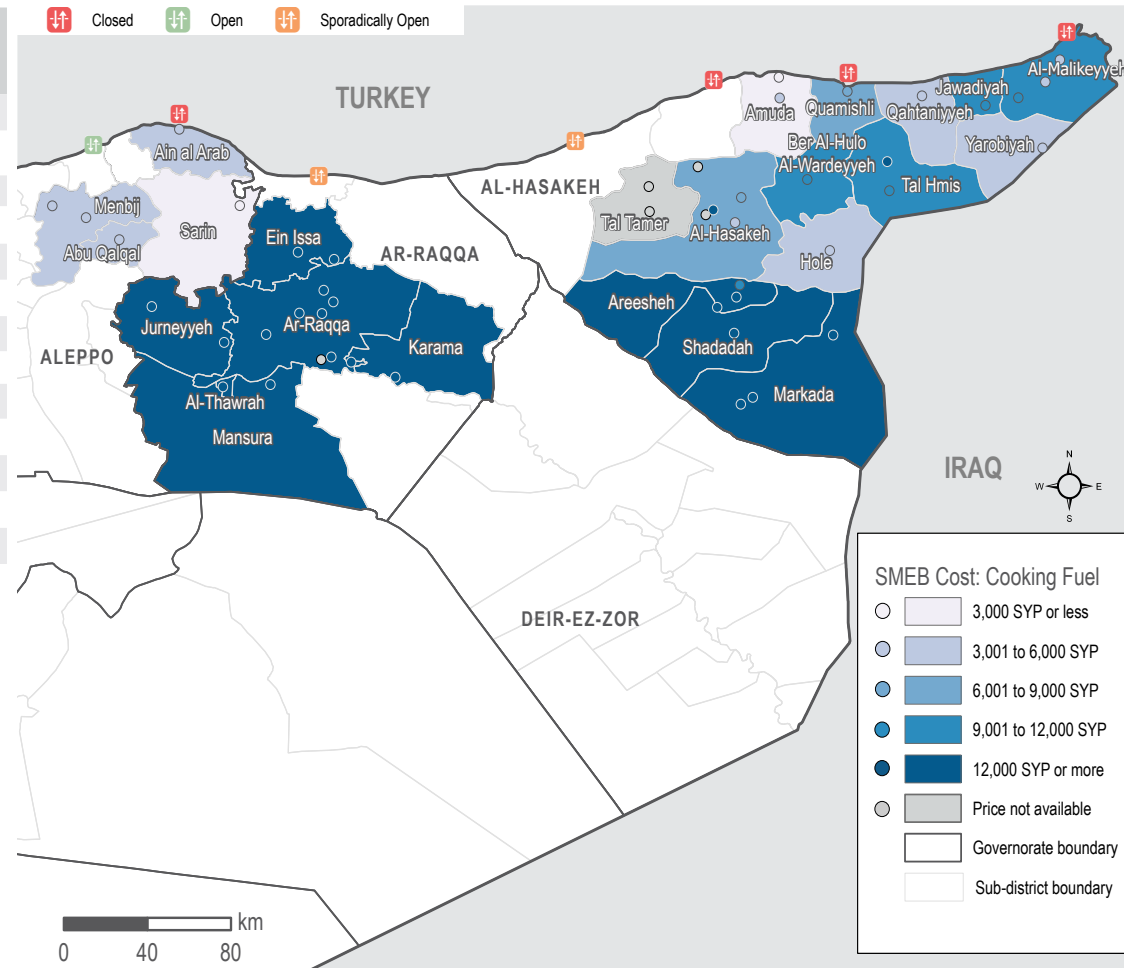
Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change*	Six month change*	Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change*	Six month change*
Northeast Syria	10,000	0%	60%	Jawadiyah**	10,000	0%	100%
Abu Qalqal*	3,125	0%	25%	Jurneyyeh	17,500	27%	133%
Ain al Arab*	3,500	0%	0%	Karama**	16,250	8%	117%
Al-Hasakeh	7,500	0%	20%	Mansura*	15,000	0%	100%
Al-Malikeyyeh*	11,250	0%	260%	Markada	15,000	0%	140%
Al-Thawrah	15,000	0%	100%	Menbij	3,125	0%	25%
Amuda	2,500	0%	-20%	Qahtaniyyeh**	3,125	-69%	-4%
Areeshesh	13,125	40%	91%	Quamishli	8,125	30%	30%
Ar-Raqqa	16,250	11%	117%	Sarin**	2,500	0%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	10,000	0%	220%	Shadadah*	12,500	0%	67%
Al-Wardeyeyh*	10,000	0%	220%	Tal Hmis*	10,000	-20%	60%
Ein Issa	18,750	25%	150%	Tal Tamer**	NA	NA	NA
Hole**	3,250	0%	-48%	Ya'robiyah*	4,063	8%	63%

\* For these sub-districts, more than 50% of cooking fuel median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

\*\* For these sub-districts, all of cooking fuel median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

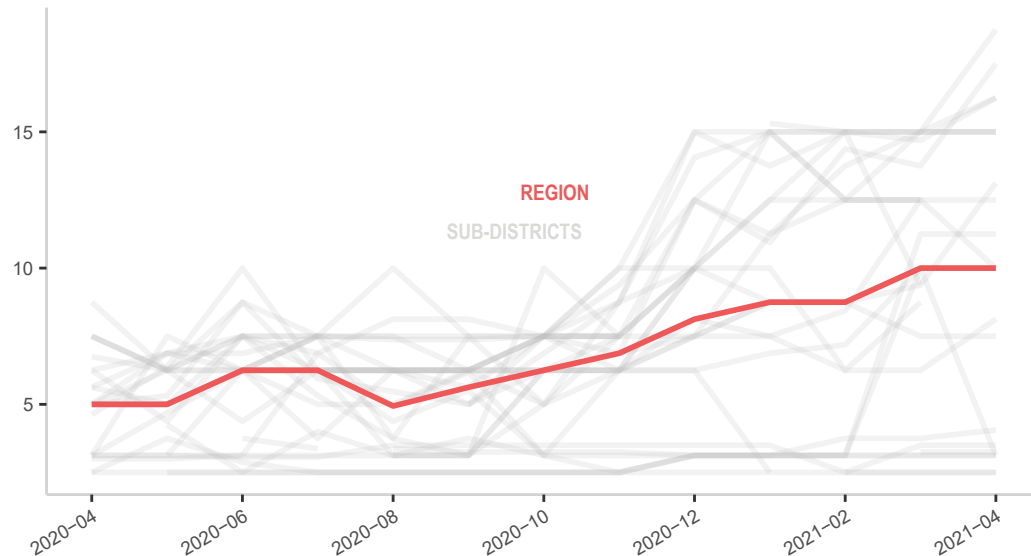
## SMEB COOKING FUEL COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



## MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



# NORTHEAST SYRIA - TRANSPORT FUEL

## MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

Diesel and Petrol, 1L (High Quality and Manually Refined), Syrian Pounds

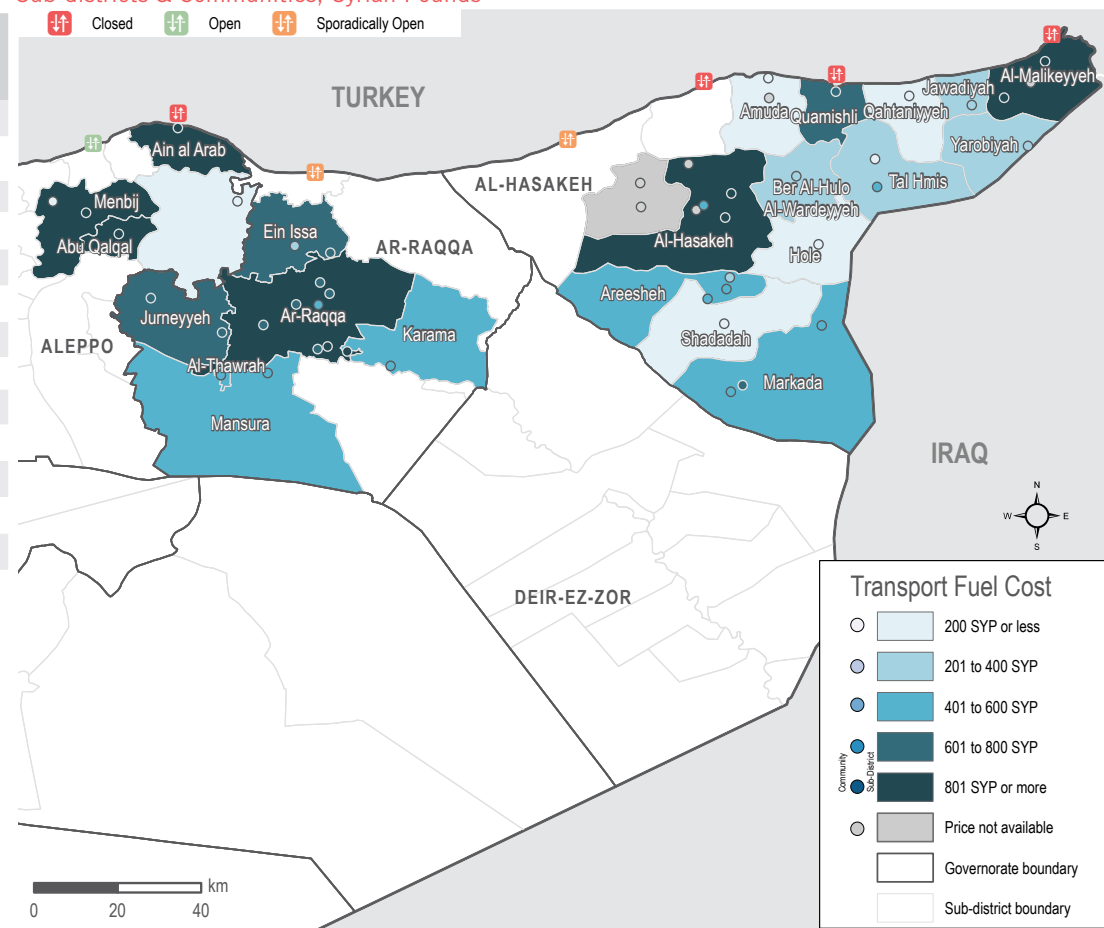
Sub-district	Transport Fuel	One month change*	Six month change*	Sub-district	Transport Fuel	One month change*	Six month change*
Northeast Syria	575	2%	77%	Jawadiyah**	238	6%	46%
Abu Qalqal*	1,145	81%	104%	Jurneyyeh	694	11%	127%
Ain al Arab*	945	3%	61%	Karama*	495	-18%	52%
Al-Hasakeh	870	27%	74%	Mansura*	600	-8%	92%
Al-Malikeyyeh	856	501%	63%	Markada*	575	10%	100%
Al-Thawrah*	600	-53%	100%	Menbij*	1,103	79%	101%
Amuda*	143	-25%	NA	Qahtaniyyeh**	145	0%	66%
Areesheh*	413	18%	74%	Quamishli	741	9%	45%
Ar-Raqqa	869	-9%	27%	Sarin*	161	0%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	271	-62%	-55%	Shadadah*	163	14%	-39%
Al-Wardeyyeh*	663	4%	89%	Tal Hmis*	400	7%	116%
Ein Issa*	663	4%	89%	Tal Tamer**	NA	NA	NA
Hole**	143	0%	-39%	Ya'robiyah*	275	5%	-40%

\* For these sub-districts, more than 50% of transport fuel median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

\*\* For these sub-districts, all of transport fuel median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

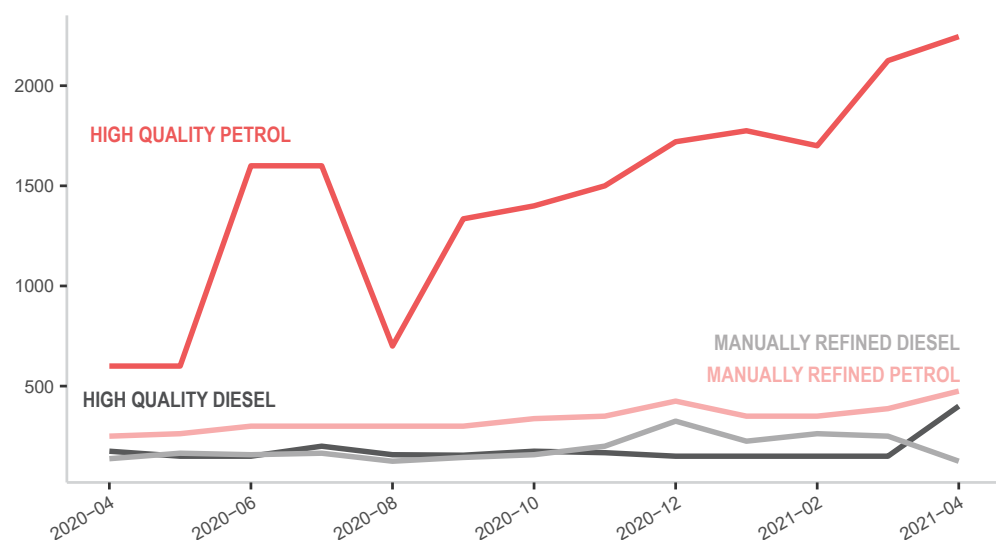
## TRANSPORT FUEL COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



## MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE

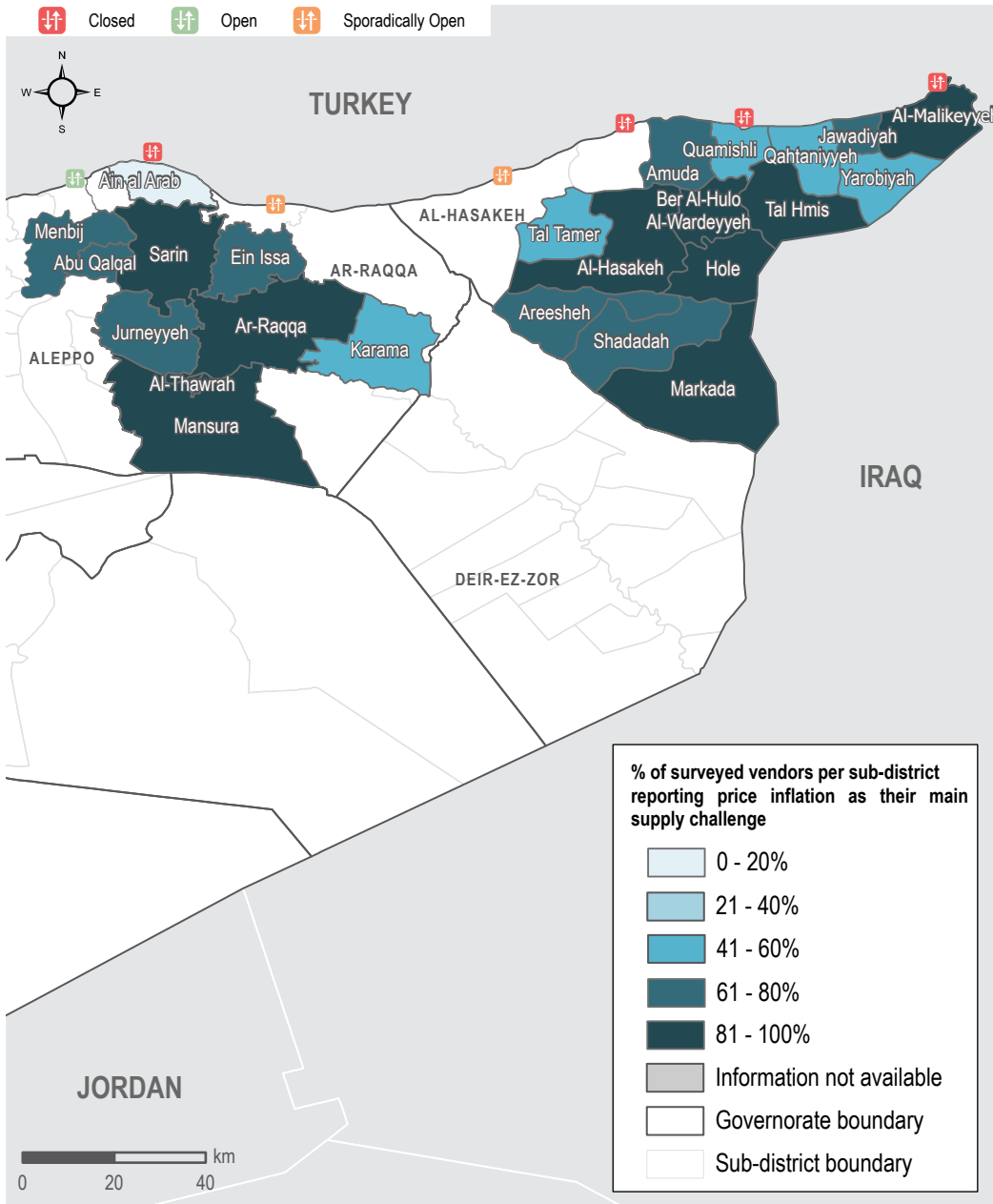
Syrian Pounds



# NORTHEAST SYRIA - MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

## SUPPLY CHALLENGES - PRICE INFLATION

Sub-districts



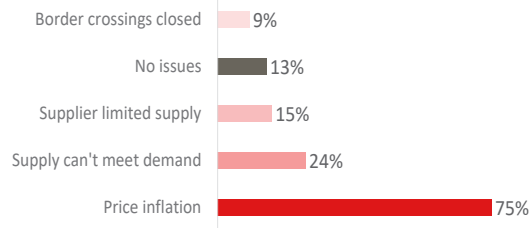
## MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

In April, 63 out of the 1,307 surveyed vendors across NES reported having closed their shops. 57 of these shops were in Al-Hasakeh, 6 were in Ar-Raqqa and Northeast Aleppo reported no closed shops, of those surveyed.

## SUPPLY CHALLENGES

In April, 87% of vendors reported facing supply challenges. The primary supply challenge cited remained price inflation, reported by 75% of all surveyed vendors in Northeast Syria (NES). As a seemingly widespread supply challenge, price inflation issues may also impact vendors' ability to keep markets stocked with essential items. The second cited issue reported was that supply was unable to keep up with consumer demand, reported by 24% of all surveyed vendors. Furthermore, 15% of surveyed vendors reported that their suppliers had limited supply, and 9% reported that their supply had been affected by border crossing closures (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Most commonly reported supply challenges by all surveyed vendors (1,307 respondents)

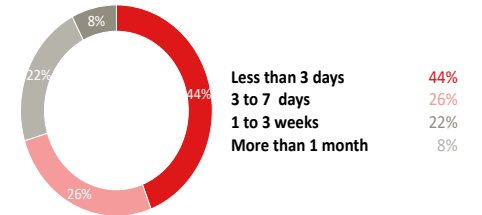


## RESTOCKING

While supply challenges were reported, most vendors reported that they would be able to restock if they were to run out of supplies, with only 1% - or 16 of the 1,249 total surveyed vendors - reporting that they would be unable to restock if they were

to run out of supplies. When asked after how many days they would hypothetically run out of stock if supplies were to be cut, 44% of surveyed vendors said that they would run out of supplies in less than 3 days and 26% said in 3 to 7 days (see figure 2). Across shop types, surveyed water trucking vendors (90%), butchers (80%), vegetable vendors (78%), bakers (66%) most commonly reported that they would run out in less than 3 days if unable to restock. Most notably, 100% of water trucking vendors in Ar-Raqqa and Eastern Aleppo governorate reported that they would run out of supply in less than 3 days if unable to restock.

Figure 2: Reported number of days before all types of vendors would hypothetically run out of stock, if supply lines were to be cut (1,249 respondents)



## AVAILABILITY OF USD BANKNOTES

In April, informal currency exchange vendors were also asked about their stock levels for USD banknotes of different denominations. Across NES, 98% of the 116 surveyed currency vendors reported having limited stock of one or more denomination. Vendors most commonly reported limited supplies of larger denomination notes such as 100 USD (69%) and 50 USD (59%), potentially as these are more commonly used for exchange transactions and therefore in higher demand. However, shortages of smaller notes were also reported across different governorates, with 5 USD banknotes most commonly reported as limited in Al-Hasakeh governorate (by 64% of surveyed currency vendors).

# NORTHEAST SYRIA - COVID-19



## MEDIAN PRICE OF COVID-19 ITEMS

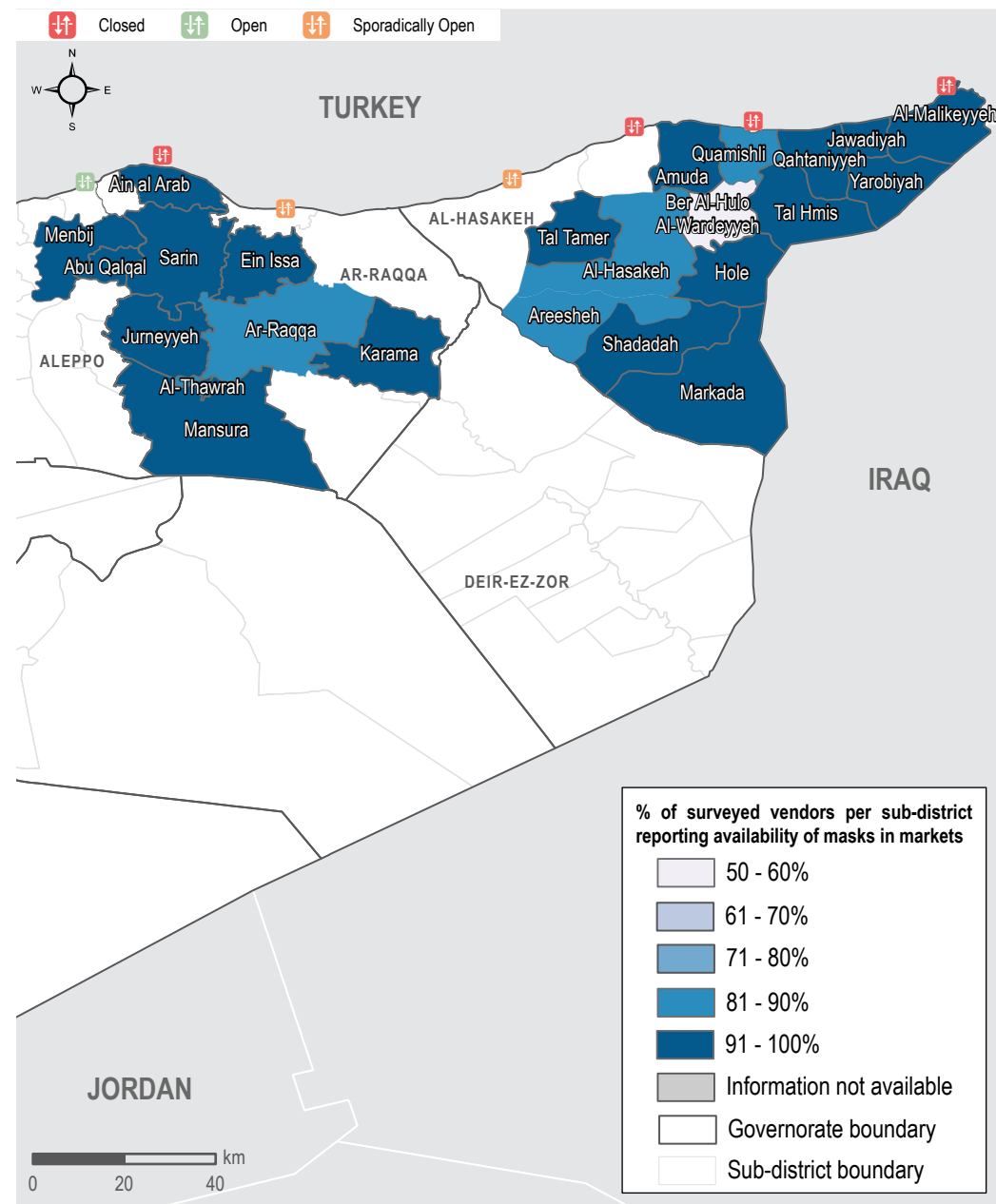
Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	Face mask (1 piece)	Plastic gloves (box of 100)	Sterile alcohol (1 litre)	Hand sanitiser (500 ml)	Bottled bleach (1 litre)	Trash bags (roll of 30)
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>5,550</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>3,500</b>
Abu Qalqal	400	24,000	7,000	8,000	1,600	3,500
Ain al Arab	500	30,000	7,000	5,000	1,500	4,750
Al-Hasakeh	500	23,000	11,000	5,550	1,800	4,300
Al-Malikeyyeh	300	25,000	10,000	4,167	1,500	4,000
Al-Thawrah	400	23,000	13,000	3,400	1,500	4,000
Amuda	400	28,000	25,000	9,250	2,000	3,500
Areeshah	500	22,000	12,000	6,000	2,000	3,500
Ar-Raqqa	500	24,000	13,000	3,000	1,700	4,000
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Ward	425	22,250	10,000	12,500	1,850	3,500
Ein Issa	500	32,000	20,000	4,000	2,500	4,000
Hole	400	22,750	1,125	7,000	1,500	4,250
Jawadiyah	400	22,000	11,000	6,667	1,600	NA
Jurneyyeh	500	24,000	11,429	4,200	2,000	3,500
Karama	300	32,500	16,667	2,500	2,667	4,000
Mansura	500	22,500	13,000	3,300	1,500	NA
Markada	1,000	20,000	10,000	6,000	1,800	NA
Menbij	500	25,000	7,500	8,500	1,500	3,500
Qahtaniyyeh	400	20,000	8,333	5,500	1,800	3,500
Quamishli	400	30,000	19,000	6,500	1,800	4,850
Sarin	325	30,000	1,250	7,250	1,450	3,300
Shadadah	400	29,000	1,429	4,000	2,000	3,500
Tal Hmis	325	30,000	10,500	9,000	2,500	NA
Tal Tamer	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,400	NA
Ya'robiyah	475	23,000	8,750	4,225	1,700	2,950



## AVAILABILITY OF FACE MASKS

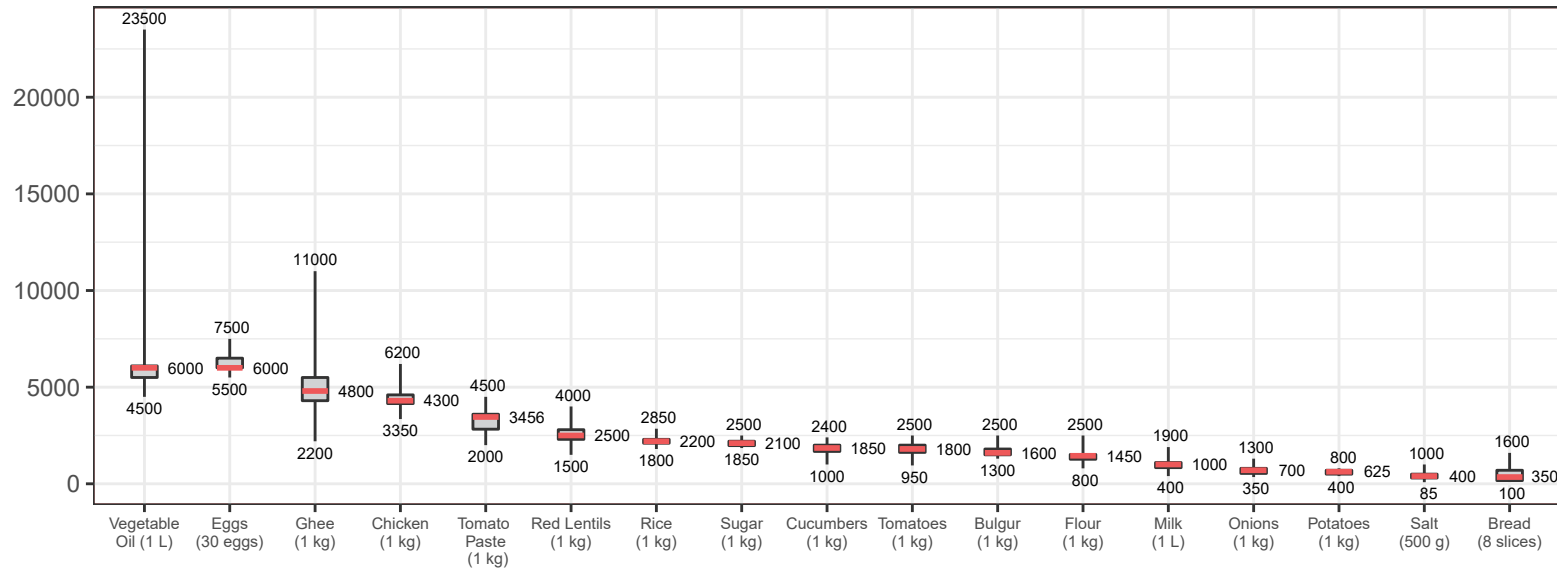
Northeast Syria



# NORTHEAST SYRIA - DISTRIBUTION OF PRICES

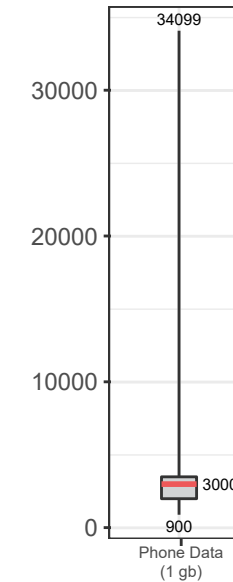
## ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



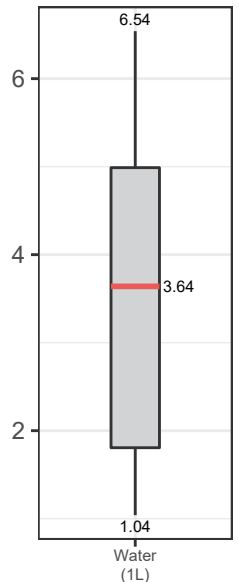
## CELLPHONE DATA

Syrian Pounds



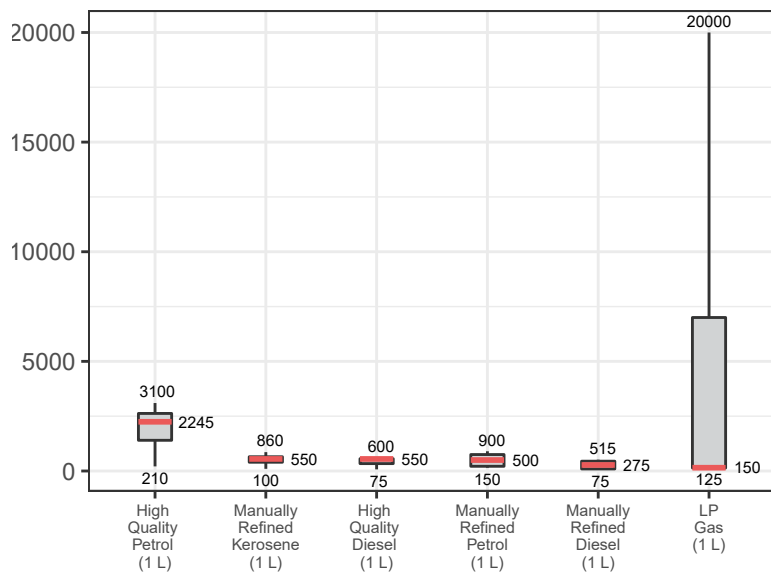
## WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



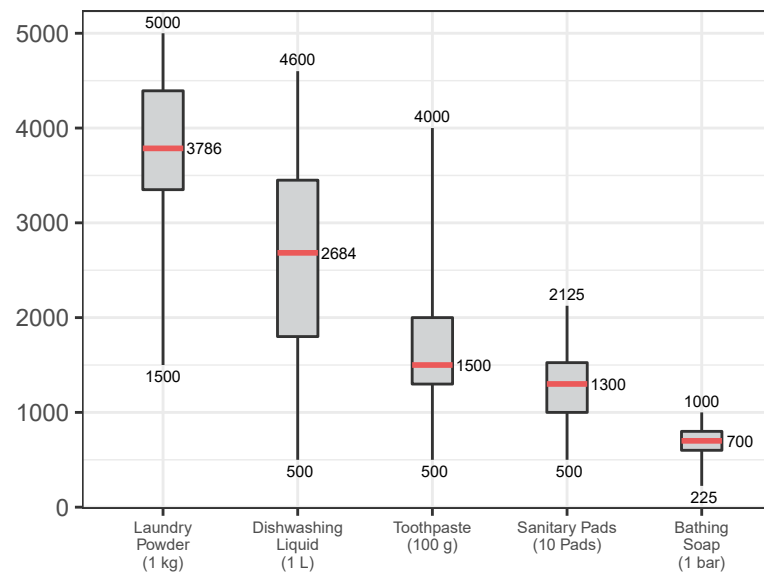
## ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

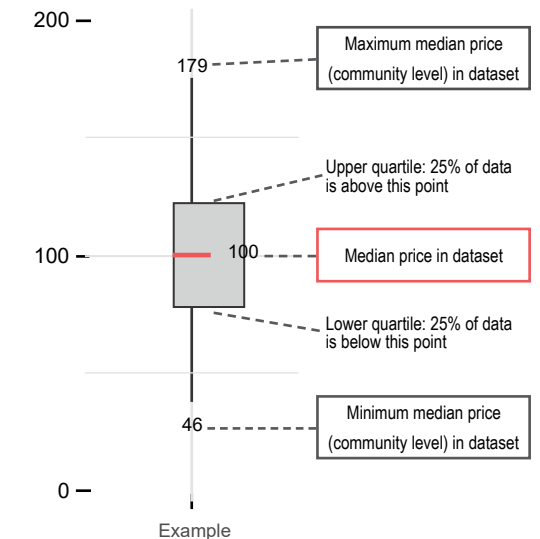


## ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



## READING BOXPLOTS



## METHODOLOGY

In order to be included in the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise, markets must be permanent in nature, large enough to support at least two wholesalers, and diverse enough to provide a sufficient variety of goods and commodities. Additionally, the shops surveyed within each market must be housed in permanent structures and must sell certain items to be eligible for inclusion. Participating organisations train their enumerators on the Market Monitoring methodology and data collection tools using standard training materials developed by REACH. Each enumerator aims to assess three to five shops of each type in the main market in their assigned community/neighbourhood, using surveys to collect information about the cheapest prices of each item and whether there are any barriers in the supply chain. In sub-districts where direct surveying by enumerators is not possible, data collection is conducted remotely through key informants such as shop owners, suppliers and consumers. A survey form is deployed on KoBo each month to capture price and stock information from different types of establishments, including grocery stores, fuel traders, currency exchange shops, water trucking services and mobile phone shops, among others. Nearly all participating partners submit their data to these KoBo forms, using the KoBoCollect Android app to upload data. A small number of partners, by prior permission, collect data using fully harmonised data collection tools deployed on other platforms, then submit their raw data to REACH for standardisation, compilation and cleaning.

Following data collection, REACH compiles and cleans all partners' data, normalising prices and cross-checking outliers. The cleaned data is then analysed by SMEB costs, components of the SMEB, and by commodities. These trends are observed at the sub-district-level and, when possible, at the community-level. Prices are divided into quartiles and boxplots are created to assist CWG members in understanding the distribution of prices across the northeast and

northwest of Syria. To illustrate local variations in prices and availability, REACH uses the collected data to map the price of the SMEB in each sub-district and adds illustrations of surrounding border crossings, with data sourced from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In addition, each SMEB component costs and transport fuel prices are graphed to visualise trends over time.

The cleaned datasets are available on the [Humanitarian Data Exchange](#) website and the [REACH Resource Centre](#) and are distributed to all participating partners, as well as to interested clusters and the broader humanitarian community.

### Calculating 'median cheapest price'

The regional figures are calculated by taking the medians of the minimum-reported prices of a region's sub-districts. In turn, the sub-district medians are calculated using the Market Monitoring base-data.

### Calculating Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) costs

The cost of a SMEB is calculated for each assessed sub-district by calculating the median cheapest price of each SMEB commodity in that sub-district, then multiplying these medians by the number of units that an average Syrian household requires to purchase in a month. The composition of the SMEB can be found on [page 1](#). SMEB vegetables includes potatoes, tomatoes, onions, and cucumbers.

### Calculating price trends over time

One month and six-month price changes and trends in this factsheet are calculated only with the comparable assessed communities of a sub-district with consistent coverage across months. On the other hand, in the dataset medians are calculated taking all assessed communities for the current month in consideration. Therefore, prices and percentage changes within the tables of this factsheet may slightly differ from the current month's dataset medians. In the narrative, both

regional median SMEB values are shared; the SMEB value including all assessed communities that specific month, and the SMEB value only taking in consideration communities with consistent coverage since the previous month.

### Calculating regional SMEB costs with limited coverage

For the months of January and February 2020, the regional full SMEB cost as well as the regional full SMEB cost without water were calculated by summing the medians of each regional SMEB component. This was done due to the lower coverage at a sub-district level in January and February 2020, which affected the regional median SMEB calculations.

### Changes to coverage

Given security and access constraints in the south of Syria, data collection has been unable to take place since July 2018. Escalation of conflict in October 2019 has resulted in limited coverage in northeast Syria since then. However, coverage between January and December 2020 significantly increased (from 9 assessed sub-districts to 29 assessed sub-districts).

### Challenges and limitations

As the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise currently includes 26 partners based in 2 hubs, achieving a consistent approach is inherently challenging. Participating organisations are therefore requested to adopt harmonised data collection methodologies and tools to ensure that the data uploaded is as accurate as possible. Since this exercise collects data directly from vendors and relies on partner organisations for its wide coverage, Market Monitoring may sporadically lose coverage temporarily or for longer periods of time owing to challenges in accessing locations or due to loss in the shared data collection capacity of the project. This impacts the ability to report on trends, as can be seen in the line graphs and 'NA' values in the tables.

## ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website:

[www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) and follow us on Twitter [@REACH\\_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).

## ABOUT THE CASH WORKING GROUP

The Cash Working Group (CWG) was established in May 2014 to analyse the impact of the ongoing conflict on markets in Syria and guide the implementation of humanitarian cash and voucher programmes within those markets. REACH and the CWG have been partners on the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise since early 2015.

## About REACH's COVID-19 response

As an initiative deployed in many vulnerable and crisis-affected countries, REACH is deeply concerned by the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the millions of affected people we seek to serve. REACH is currently working with Cash Working Groups and partners to scale up its programming in response to this pandemic, with the goal of identifying practical ways to inform humanitarian responses in the countries where we operate. COVID-19-relevant market monitoring and market assessments are a key area where REACH aims to leverage its existing expertise to help humanitarian actors understand the impact of changing restrictions on markets and trade. Updates regarding REACH's response to COVID-19 can be found in a [devoted thread](#) on the REACH website. Contact [geneva@impact-initiatives.org](mailto:geneva@impact-initiatives.org) for further information.