

INTRODUCTION

To inform humanitarian cash programming, the northeast of Syria (NES) Cash Working Group (CWG) conducts a monthly Joint Market Monitoring Initiative in northern Syria. The exercise assesses 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 cell phone data.

Of these, 18 items comprise the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB; see [fig. 8-9](#); and [11](#)) which represents the minimum, culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month. For further information, please see our [methodology](#).

ON-LINE DASHBOARD

To facilitate the interaction with the JMMI, an interactive dashboard is available on-line. The dashboard is designed to allow users to navigate more easily and draw geographical and temporal comparisons across different currencies. To use the on-line interactive dashboard, click [here](#).

7 supporting partners

4 governorates

11 districts

30 subdistricts

63 communities

1,651 shops (vendor key informants)

COST OF NES SMEB¹

555,730 SYP ▼ -3%

139 USD ▼ -4%

COST OF NES FOOD BASKET¹

424,622 SYP ▼ -1%

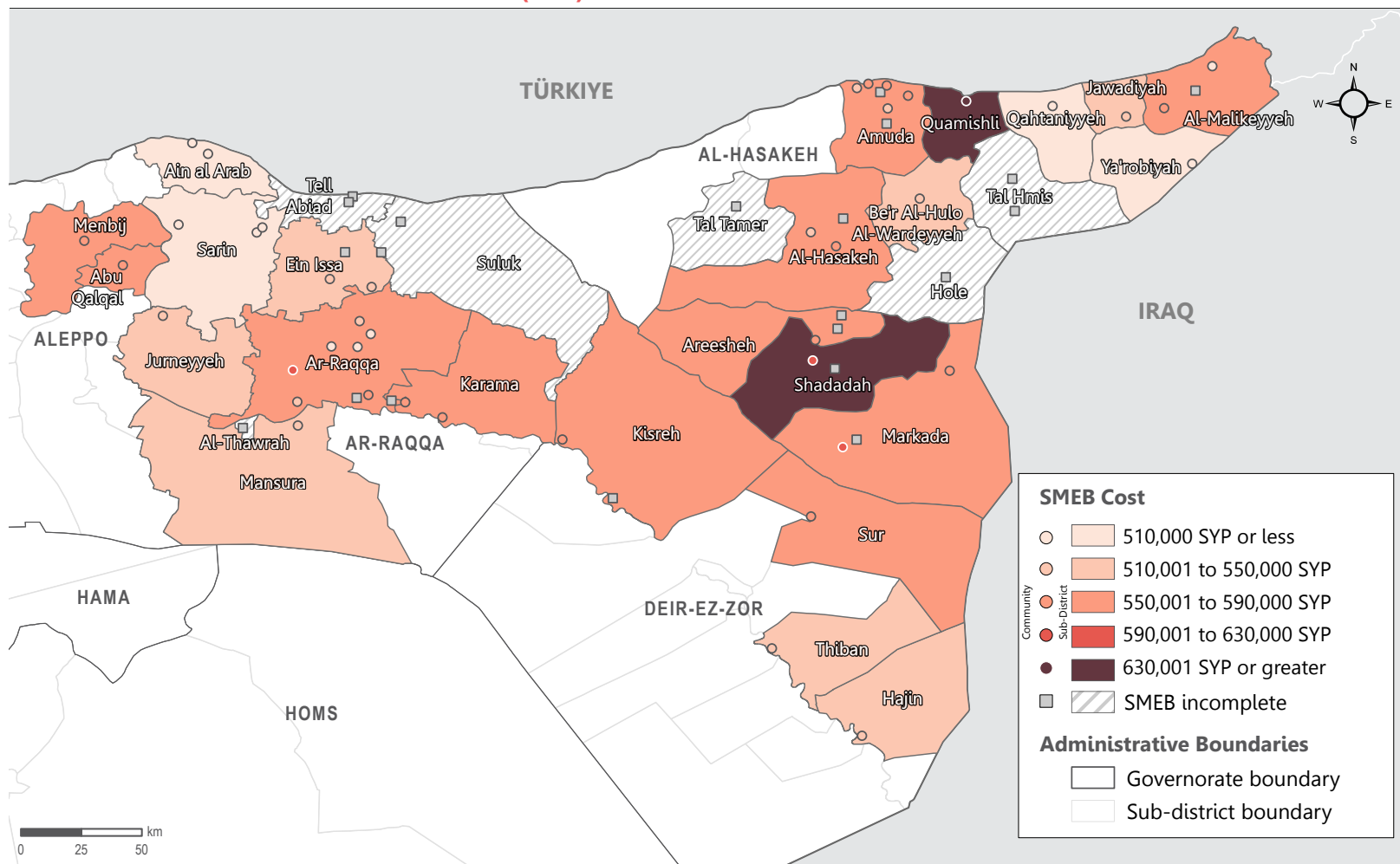
106 USD ▼ -3%

NES EXCHANGE RATE¹

USD/SYP

4,000 SYP ▲ 1%

MEDIAN SMEB PRICE PER SUB-DISTRICT (SYP) - FIG. 1



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

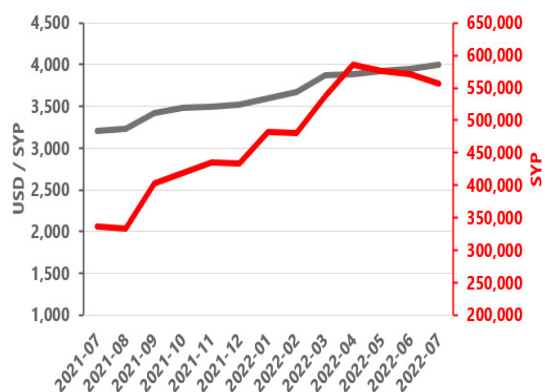
IN THIS FACTSHEET

As the JMMI generates a large amount of data, this factsheet is limited to a high level analysis. For more detailed data, consult the [dataset](#) and [online dashboard](#).

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NORTHEAST SYRIA SMEB PRICE TRENDS VS USD TO SYP INFORMAL EXCHANGE RATES - FIG. 2



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In July **the regional price of the SMEB was recorded at 555,730 SYP (139 USD)**, representing a **3% decrease** from June. This means that for the past three months there has been no increase in the SMEB price, which has come down from the peak price recorded in April 2022. This potentially indicates that prices are being balanced by the market.

The informal USD/SYP exchange rate was recorded at 4,000 SYP representing a **1% increase** (depreciation) since June. (fig. 2). As was observed in June this potentially indicates relative stabilisation in the rate of increase recorded since the beginning of 2022, which could have contributed to stabilisation of the SMEB price. Nevertheless, on-going volatility and depreciation of the SYP continues to impact prices and the **purchasing power of the population**.

The regional SMEB food component was recorded at 424,622 SYP (106 USD), representing a **1% decrease** for the SYP price since June. This means that while food prices have continued to decline it has been as a reduced rate compared to the previous month. The decrease in July was largely attributed to reductions in the cost of vegetables and to a lesser extent chicken and cooking oils. July also saw a **16% increase** in the price of water, representing the highest price for water recorded since 2016.

Transport fuels increased overall largely due to a 90% increase in the price of high-quality diesel. The price of manually refined (low quality) fuels remained stable and there was a decrease in the price of high-quality petrol. High quality transport fuels remain highly unavailable across NES.

MEDIAN SMEB PRICE PER SUB-DISTRICT - FIG. 3

	SMEB SYP	1 month change	6 month change	SMEB USD ²
Northeast Syria SMEB ³	555,730	-3%	15%	139
Northeast Aleppo Governorate	531,085	6%	16%	133
Abu Qalqal	555,730	11%	NA	139
Ain al Arab	490,660	-1%	16%	123
Menbij	571,331	NA	17%	142
Sarin	506,439	-5%	11%	126
Al-Hasakeh Governorate	576,902	-1%	18%	144
Al-Hasakeh	555,671	-5%	10%	139
Al-Malikeyyeh*	571,955	4%	40%	143
Amuda*	551,305	-8%	16%	139
Areesheh	574,426	-2%	18%	144
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	540,065	NA	NA	135
Jawadiyah*	519,682	-4%	23%	130
Markada	579,377	1%	17%	144
Qahtaniyyeh*	496,415	2%	42%	124
Quamishli	660,365	14%	44%	165
Shadadah	666,420	5%	43%	167
Ya'robiyah*	477,723	3%	20%	120
Ar-Raqqa Governorate	561,488	-2%	16%	140
Ar-Raqqa	561,488	-2%	16%	140
Ein Issa	515,991	-11%	3%	129
Jurneyyeh*	530,351	-5%	19%	NA
Karama	578,294	4%	20%	145
Mansura*	546,810	NA	NA	136
Deir-ez-Zor Governorate	549,441	-1%	27%	137
Hajin	530,217	NA	NA	133
Kisreh	560,738	-1%	30%	141
Sur	553,105	4%	30%	139
Thiban	545,778	-2%	6%	138

#2 USD values are calculated as per the informal exchange rate recorded in the same geographical area. Please see this month's JMMI dataset for informal exchange rates by area.

#3 * For these sub-districts, water trucking prices were not available and is not included in the SMEB price.

SMEB COMPONENT ANALYSIS

The price of the regional SMEB food component decreased slightly although at a reduced rate compared to June (fig. 3). The decrease in price was largely attributed to reductions in the cost of vegetables and to a lesser extent chicken and cooking oils likely due to seasonality of local produce and traders reducing the price of heat-sensitive oil products in summer. JMMI analysis has observed a decrease in the price of cooking oils since April after being initially heavily impacted by the outbreak of war in Ukraine. This is supported by recent findings from Mercy Corps that indicate the price of cooking oil in NES increased by approximately 50% between January and May 2022.

The price of bulk foods overall decreased slightly with most items remaining stable, and small increases in the price of bulgur and red lentils (fig. 11). The price of bulk food items is generally linked to the USD/SYP exchange rate as these items are imported. The relative stabilisation of the exchange rate could therefore account for the stabilisation these prices that has been observed since April 2022. Other factors such as increased taxes on shops and commercial warehouses as well as monopolization of commodities that have lower availability can also contribute to price increases.

The price of bread increased overall as a result of a sharp increase in Aleppo governorate; this represented the largest increase in one month in this governorate for the past year (fig. 5). Flour has comparatively remained stable in price since April 2022. This is potentially linked to the availability of flour reserves in NES which Mercy Corps reported are sufficient for up to six months, however may increasingly be impacted by "the increased cost of flour imports, reduced relief flour, and the insufficient local wheat production which is at great risk of worsening if drought and poor climate conditions continue".

NES in particular has suffered increasing intensity of drought conditions. It is estimated that there was a decrease of 68% rainfall between the 2021 and 2022 growing

seasons. Agricultural production in 2022 decreased up to 84% compared to non-drought seasons and up to 29% compared to other drought seasons. This trend is expected to continue according to WFP due to climatic conditions and the scarcity of agricultural inputs. This combined with increased wheat prices, decreased global supply due to the Ukraine war, poor water management, and high fuel prices has caused shortages of wheat that will continue to exacerbate food insecurity in Syria.

Some hope has been shed on the situation by the recently brokered grain deal between Russia, Türkiye, and Ukraine that will allow Ukraine to resume exports through the Black Sea. However, the impacts on food security remain to be seen as Al-Monitor reported that global "wheat prices are up again, reversing the drop in response to the Turkish-brokered agreement" and according to the BBC it may take considerable time to resume full transport across the Black Sea.

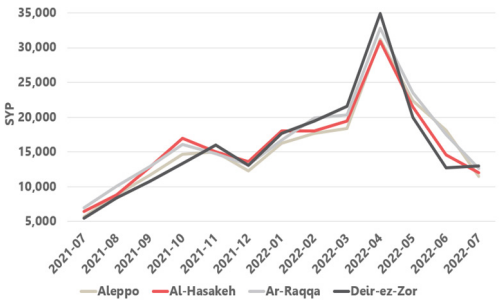
There was a 16% increase in the price of SMEB water trucking prices in July. This was the highest price for SMEB water trucking recorded through the JMMI, and the first time since 2016 that water has reached over 20,000 SYP (fig. 7). This is likely linked to rising water shortages, increased demand in the summer months, and increasing fuel costs. The highest prices for water were recorded in Al-Hasakeh governorate, in particular in Shaddadah community, which field teams reported is potentially linked to unavailability of transport fuels in the area.

The price of non-food items (NFIs) continued to increase in July at a similar rate to the previous month; the most notable increase was again observed in bathing soap. Such items are imported and linked to the USD/SYP exchange rate and susceptible to monopolization when there are shortages. Cooking fuel prices decreased by 29% largely due to decreases in the price of gas in Deir-ez Zor and Ar-Raqqa and a drop in the price of kerosene in Ar-Raqqa. Field teams reported such price decreases are likely due to reduced demand in the summer months

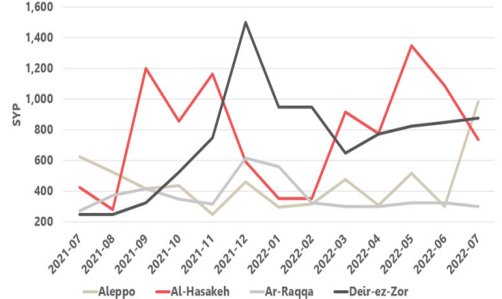
as well as more consistent distribution of gas compared to other areas.

For a broader, national overview of the market context in Syria, please view the WFP Syria Market Price Watch Bulletin for April 2022. For insights on food security across Syria, please see the WFP Hunger Map or the WFP Syria Emergency Dashboard for July 2022.

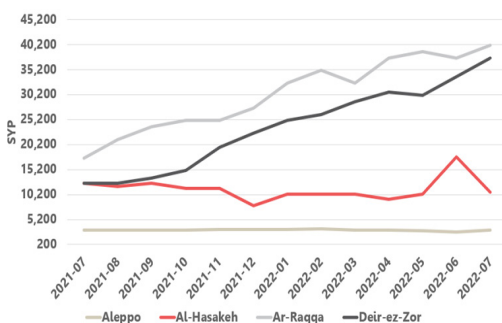
SMEB VEGETABLE PRICES IN NES - FIG. 4



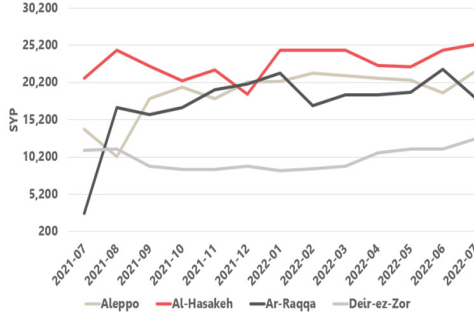
BREAD PRICES IN NES - FIG. 5



COOKING FUEL PRICES IN NES FIG. 6



SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICES IN NES - FIG. 7



SMEB COMPOSITION⁴ FOR NORTHEAST SYRIA - FIG. 8



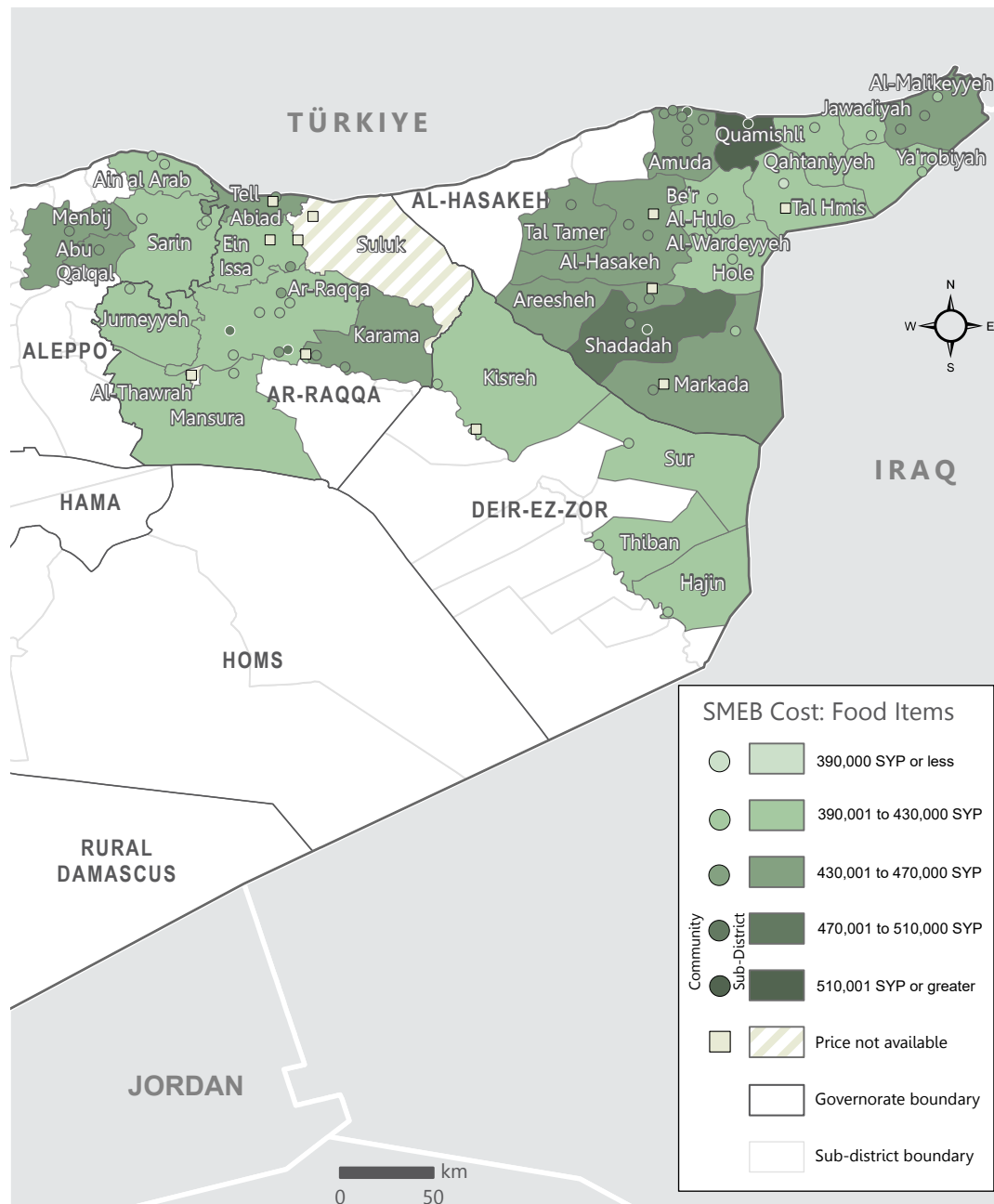
SMEB CONTENTS - FIG. 9

Food			
Bread	37 kg	Rice	19 kg
Bulgur	15 kg	Salt	1 kg
Chicken	6 kg	Sugar	5 kg
Eggs	6 kg	Tomato paste	6 kg
Ghee/veg. oil	7 kg/L	Vegetables (fresh)	12 kg
Red lentils	15 kg		
Hygiene (NFI)			
Bathing soap	12 bars	Toothpaste	200 g
Laundry/dish soap	3 kg	Sanitary pads	4 packs of 10
Other			
Cooking fuel	25 L	Phone data	1 GB
Water trucking	4500 L	"Float"/other costs	7.5% of total

The SMEB Total is the median cost of the minimum, culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month.

#4 Due to rounding figures may not total 100%

SMEB FOOD COMPONENT COST ACROSS NES, BY SUBDISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES - FIG. 10



PRICE OF ALL SMEB ITEMS - FIG. 11

Item	Unit ⁵	Price SYP	1 month change	6 month change	Price USD ²
Northeast food Syria SMEB		424,622	-1%	16%	106
SMEB bulk component	SMEB	234,338	-1%	24%	58.58
Bulgur	1 kg	3,500	3%	40%	0.88
Red lentils	1 kg	4,700	4%	18%	1.18
Rice	1 kg	3,500	0%	30%	0.88
Salt	500 g	600	0%	20%	0.15
Sugar	1 kg	3,000	0%	3%	0.75
Tomato paste	1 kg	5,000	0%	11%	1.25
SMEB vegetables component		12,300	-16%	-29%	3.08
Tomatoes	1 kg	1,100	-27%	-45%	0.28
Potatoes	1 kg	1,300	-19%	0%	0.33
Cucumbers	1 kg	800	-20%	-56%	0.20
Onions	1 kg	850	-6%	6%	0.21
Cooking oils	SMEB	61,250	-3%	41%	15.31
Ghee	1 kg	8,750	-3%	39%	2.19
Vegetable oil	1 L	31,500	-2%	50%	7.88
SMEB non-veg perishables					
Bread	8 pc	400	5%	0%	0.10
Chicken	1 kg	6,000	-9%	3%	1.50
Eggs	30 pc	9,550	1%	4%	2.39
Non-food items component		41,000	5%	28%	10.25
Bathing soap	1 pc	1,400	12%	56%	0.35
Sanitary pads	10 pc	2,000	0%	33%	0.50
Toothpaste	100 g	2,500	0%	13%	0.63
Laundry powder	1 kg	5,000	5%	25%	1.25
Dish soap	1 L	3,500	0%	25%	0.88
Cooking fuels component		17,750	-29%	42%	4.44
Kerosene (manually refined)	1 L	1,050	-5%	53%	0.26
LP gas	1 L	175	0%	0%	0.04
Water trucking component		21,938	16%	26%	5.48
Water trucking (1000 L)	1 m3	4,875	16%	26%	1.22
Other					
Phone data	1 gb	3,000	0%	7%	0.75

#5 The SMEB unit refers to the current SMEB allocation of the item, as outlined in [fig. 9](#)

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

Market functionality indicators remained relatively consistent in July, indicating that supply chains are still functioning despite the ongoing challenges of the cost and availability of transport fuels, price inflation over time, and currency depreciation. Majority of surveyed vendors (77%) across NES continued to report supply challenges in the month of July. Price inflation remained the most commonly reported challenge, most notably in Al-Hasakeh governorate (fig. 13). In sub-districts where price inflation was a less significant challenge, for example in Shadadah, vendors commonly reported that the supplier had limited or no stock, or that they were not facing supply issues.

Overall, **100% of butchers, 100% of gas vendors, and 100% of water vendors** reported that they would run out of stock in less than 3 days if unable to restock. Despite this, **all key food items remained available in over 94% of reporting communities.** Limited stock of USD

denominations remains a challenge across NES with only approximately **over half of vendors reporting adequate stock of 5 and 10 USD denominations.**

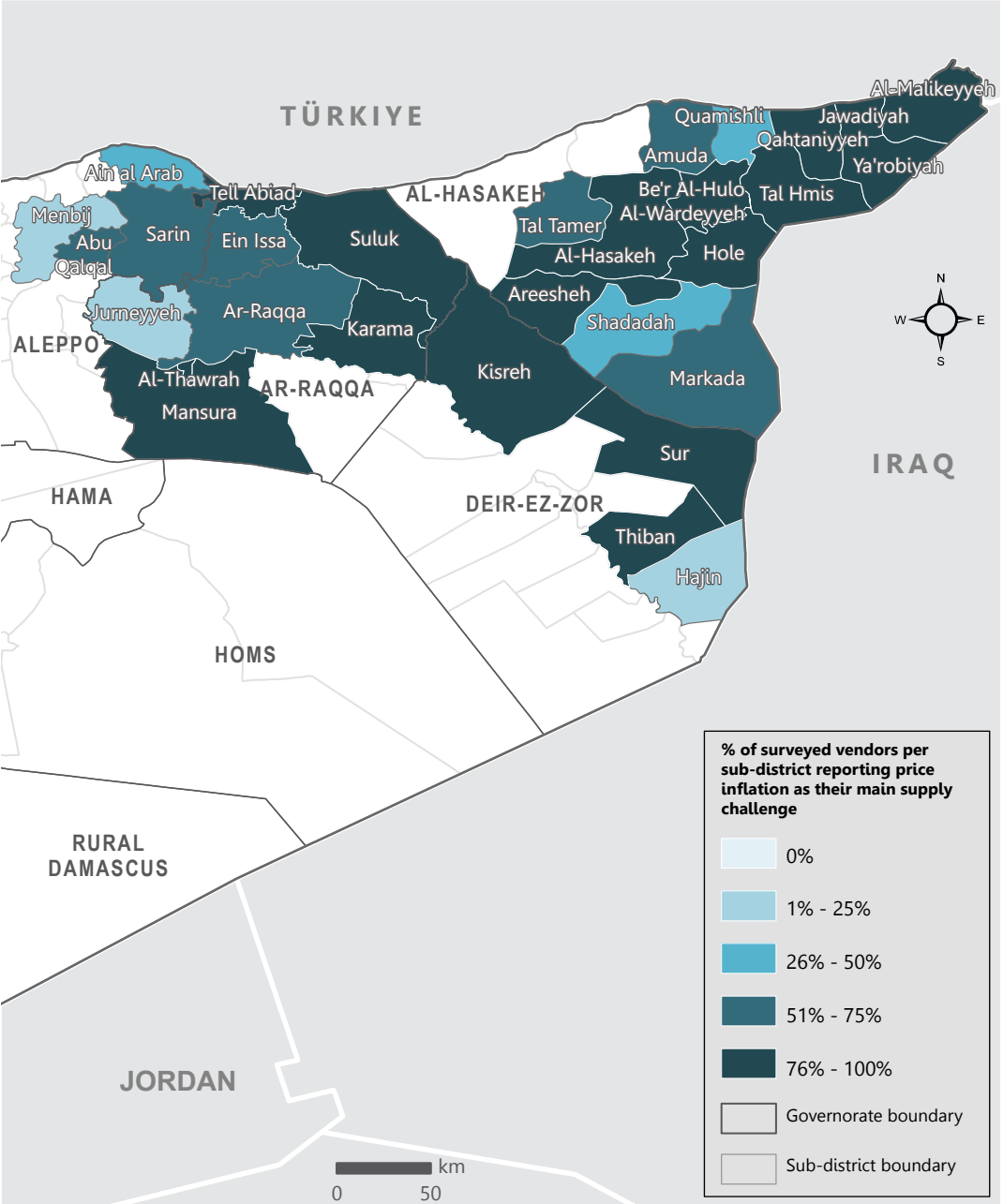
Transport fuels increased in price attributed to a **90% increase in the price of high-quality imported diesel.** Field teams reported that this could have been linked to border crossings and restricted movements during Eid Al-Adha, and generally impacted by official allocations and price setting. The price of manually refined fuels remained stable and there was a decrease in the price of high-quality petrol. The most notable increase in the price of transport fuels was observed in Aleppo while there was a moderate increase in Deir-ez Zor and Ar-Raqqa where it remains most expensive. While the price of fuel in NES has not increased at the same rate as other regions in Syria the population in NES are struggling to source fuel for both commercial and personal use.

SUPPLY CHALLENGES REPORTED⁶ BY SURVEYED VENDORS - FIG. 12

	AREA	REPORTED %
PRICE INFLATION	NES	70%
	NE Aleppo	47%
	Al-Hasakeh	79%
	Ar-Raqqa	73%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	71%
NO ISSUES	NES	23%
	NE Aleppo	46%
	Al-Hasakeh	12%
	Ar-Raqqa	21%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	24%
SUPPLY CANT MEET DEMAND	NES	14%
	NE Aleppo	4%
	Al-Hasakeh	18%
	Ar-Raqqa	11%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	29%
SUPPLIER LIMITED SUPPLY	NES	12%
	NE Aleppo	12%
	Al-Hasakeh	17%
	Ar-Raqqa	5%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	8%

#6 multiple choice, responses not expected to total 100%. Please see this month's JMMI dataset for all supply challenges reported by vendors.

VENDORS REPORTING PRICE INFLATION AS THEIR MAIN SUPPLY CHALLENGE ACROSS NES - FIG. 13



ABOUT

To inform humanitarian cash programming, the northeast of Syria (NES) Cash Working Group (CWG) - in partnership with local and international NGOs - conducts a monthly JMMI in northern Syria. The exercise assesses 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 cell phone data.

METHODOLOGY

In order to be included in the JMMI, 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.

Prices are calculated by taking the median of the next level of aggregation: community prices draw their medians from different vendors, sub-districts from communities, districts from sub-districts, and regional figures are calculated by taking the medians of the minimum reported prices of a region's districts.

For more details about the methodology, access the online [JMMI dashboard](#).

In light of the fluctuation of the Syrian Pound (SYP)'s value and resulting market disruption, prices should be seen as representative only of the markets and dates where and when information was collected (3rd - 7th July 2022).

LIMITATIONS

All JMMI data is only indicative for the specific timeframe within which it was collected, and trend lines in graphs may not be continuous where data is missing. Usually, data is collected during the first Monday-to-Monday of each month. The JMMI data collection tool requires enumerators to record the cheapest available price for each item, but does not require a specific brand, as brand availability may vary. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slight variants of the same product. Non-food items (NFIs) are particularly challenging to standardize as they vary significantly in terms of types, brands, and specifications. The JMMI methodology aims to balance consistency and comparability considerations with geographical variations in availability.

Due to issues of access, security and partner capacity, the markets included in the JMMI may vary on a monthly basis. As such, the reported changes in the more aggregate levels (governorate, district) may be driven by shifts in coverage rather than actual changes. For this reason, we recommend all users to consider local markets and lower levels of aggregation (sub-district, community) when using JMMI data for more specific trend analyses.

It is important to keep in mind that some vendors might feel more or less inclined to share their actual experiences (fearing that the information shared might be used by competitors or in some way against their business), while others might adjust their answers based on the expected effect that they will have on humanitarian programming. Similarly, even though all enumerators received the same training,

some might have more previous experience and might therefore be better able to produce higher quality data.

Part of the data collection takes place remotely using vendor contact information collected in advance by the JMMI partners, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Market monitoring can be challenging, especially through remote interviews. At the same time, the JMMI has over seven years of accumulated experience, strong internal coordination and external relation with vendors, and vast longitudinal data, which supports the accuracy of findings.

JMMI AND THE CASH WORKING GROUP

The JMMI exists within the framework of the Cash Working Group (CWG). In northwest Syria (NWS), the 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. In northeast Syria (NES), the CWG was established in 2018, to fulfil a similar purpose in that region.

For more information about the CWG in NES, please contact the cash working group coordinator at cashcoordnes@gmail.com

PARTNERS

Each month, around 20 different organizations work together to collect market data. Participating organisations train their enumerators on the JMMI

methodology and data collection tools using standard training materials developed by REACH, who is then responsible for processing the data.



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.

For more information about REACH, please contact the REACH JMMI focal point, Safa'a Harahsheh, at safaa.harahsheh@reach-initiative.org or visit the [REACH Syria Resource Centre](#).