

NORTHEAST SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 4th-11th October 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. 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 [below](#)), which represents the minimum, culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month. For further information about our methodology, please see [Appendix 2](#).

The accompanying data is disseminated monthly and is distributed through partners across the humanitarian community. Please see the [October 2021 dataset](#) for further information.

Coverage and data collection dates

In October 2021, REACH and partners covered:

- 4 governorates
- 11 districts
- 29 subdistricts
- 66 communities
- 1,710 individual shops

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 (4th-11th October 2021).

Partners

Data collection for this month was supported by REACH and the following partners

- ACTED
- ATAA
- CARE NES
- Danish Church Aid
- Mercy Corps
- Nasaem Kheir
- People in Need
- Solidarités International
- CWG NES

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

NES SMEB Price Increase

SYP

SMEB October value: 419,536 SYP

One month change (compared to September): **increase of 4%**

Six month change (compared to April): **increase of 20%**

United States Dollar (USD)

SMEB October value: 121 USD

One month change: **increase of 3%**

Six month change: **increase of 19%**

October had the highest recorded SMEB in SYP in the Market Monitoring exercise, attributed to the protracted hyperinflation of the Syrian economy, especially due to last month's (September) sudden increase in the cost of key food items (see [page 5](#) for further food information). The SMEB in USD also increased to 121 USD, the highest recorded cost in USD since December 2019.

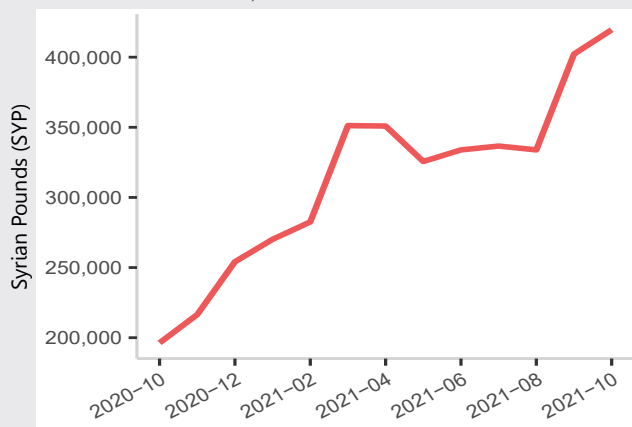
Days Needed to Work to Afford the SMEB #1

The median daily wage for residents and IDPs in NES was **5,000 SYP**. This means a household of six whose sole income is from an unskilled daily labourer would need the equivalent of **84 days of work** to cover the price of the NES SMEB.

MEDIAN SMEB COST FOR NES

419,536 SYP (121 USD)

MEDIAN SMEB COST, BY MONTH



SMEB Water Trucking Price Increase #2

NES average: 16,875 SYP per 4,500 litres

One month change: **increase of 8%**

Six month change: **increase of 20%**

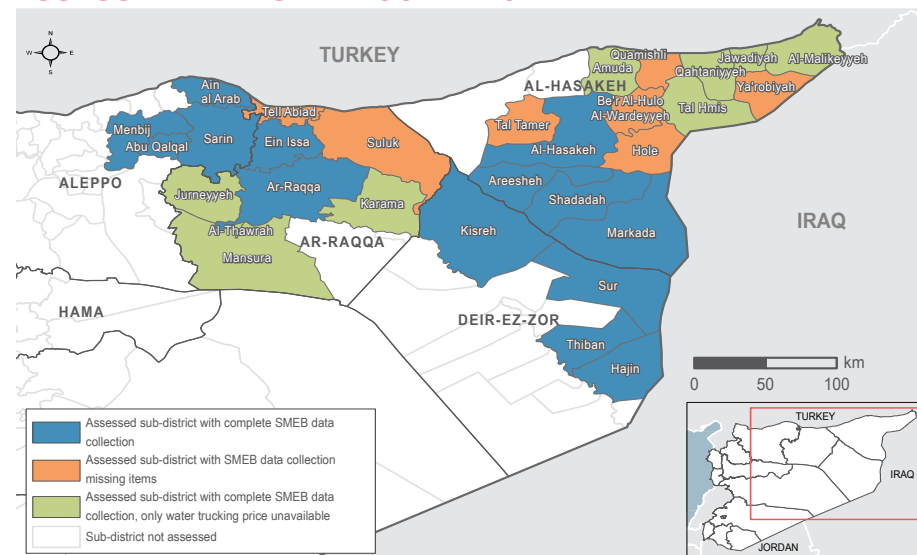
% of surveyed vendors reporting water trucking as unavailable in their community/ neighbourhood: 0%

Water trucking is the main source of clean water for most individuals and water challenges in each governorate have led to erratic prices across the region. Water prices in October rose slightly in NE Aleppo and Al-Raqqa, and fell slightly in Al-Hasakeh and Deir-Ez-Zor.

- Al-Hasakeh: 20,455 SYP per 4,500 litres
- Aleppo: 19,578 SYP per 4,500 litres
- Ar-Raqqa: 16,875 SYP per 4,500 litres
- Deir-Ez-Zor: 8,550 SYP per 4,500 litres

According to the REACH Humanitarian Situation Overview of Syria (HSOS) [water and electricity trends](#), the average number of households across NES with access to sufficient water (for all purposes) has stabilised at an average of 80% since May 2021, yet an average of 41% of communities have reported problems with drinking water since June 2021. Furthermore, the falling water levels of water wells means water tankers drive to remote areas, which requires more transport fuel and hence, increased costs. According to [Doctors Without Borders](#) (MSF), "in Northern Syria, a decade of war has left water and sanitation infrastructure damaged and neglected. More than three million people [...] now face a water crisis that has dire health consequences." For more context surrounding the water crisis in northern Syria, please see the [OCHA ROSC WOS Water Response Plan for September 2021](#), or the [FAO Precipitation Analysis for 1980-2021](#) for longer term trends.

ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE



#1 According to the Humanitarian Situation Overview of Syria (HSOS) NES October 2021 dataset

#2 Equates to 25L per person for day. See [page 7](#) for further water trucking data

NORTHEAST SYRIA - KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND OVERVIEW

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS & CHANGES

SYRIAN POUNDS

Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	419,536	4%	20%
Abu Qalqal	407,413	5%	34%
Ain al Arab	396,500	13%	17%
Al-Hasakeh	447,602	6%	24%
Al-Malikeyyeh	379,905	1%	24%
Al-Thawrah	407,664	21%	28%
Amuda	409,450	8%	18%
Areeshah	424,234	3%	13%
Ar-Raqqa	419,465	3%	21%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	422,815	5%	17%
Hajin	427,689	6%	NA
Hole	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	361,039	1%	2%
Jurneyyeh	372,918	5%	15%
Karama	420,111	NA	10%
Kisreh	403,842	-1%	NA
Mansura	416,634	NA	4%
Markada	419,606	4%	22%
Menbij	424,878	3%	34%
Qahtaniyyeh	303,974	-1%	-5%
Quamishli	NA	NA	NA
Sarin	378,020	NA	NA
Shadadah	422,498	NA	12%
Suluk	NA	NA	NA
Sur	361,077	5%	NA
Tal Hmis	400,254	1%	23%
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA
Thiban	388,344	5%	NA
Ya'robiyah	NA	NA	NA

* 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: For price and change calculations, only the communities within a sub-district with consistent coverage across months are included. The above applies to all tables.

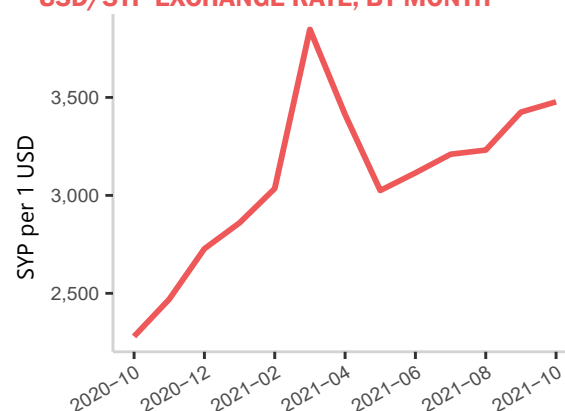
SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB) CONTENTS

	Item	Quantity
Food Items	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
Hygiene items	Tomato paste	6 kg
	Bathing soap	12 bars
	Laundry/dish soap	3 kg
	Sanitary pads	4 packs of 10
Fuel	Toothpaste	200 g
	Cooking fuel+	25 L
Water	Water trucking	4500 L
Telecom	Smartphone data	1 GB
Other	Float (other costs)++	7.5% of total value

+Kerosene in northern Syria

++ Float only applied to observations where prices of all SMEB contents could be collected. Note: Lack of data for a SMEB item does not necessarily imply a shortage.

USD/SYP EXCHANGE RATE, BY MONTH



KEY DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUED

High Quality Transport Fuel Prices^{#3}

High quality fuels are mostly imported, and our REACH field teams report that typical challenges include restrictions on imports from Government of Syria (GoS) areas due to their own limited supply, lack of production materials in the region and general road closures. High quality transport fuels in NES were more expensive in Ar-Raqqa, where fuel costs have been increasing since April 2021.

Across NES, the price of high quality diesel increased notably in October and remains largely unavailable in many communities.

High Quality Diesel

430 SYP per litre

One month price change: **increase of 35%**

Six month price change: **increase of 8%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting high quality diesel as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 76%

High Quality Petrol

2,500 SYP per litre

One month price change: **increase of 10%**

Six month price change: **increase of 11%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting high quality petrol as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 71%

Manually Refined Transport Fuel Prices

REACH field teams report that manually refined (low quality) fuels are often used in place of high quality fuel for transport and generators because high quality fuels are rarely available. Manually refined fuels are reported as widely available across NES. However, the price of manually refined fuels vary greatly - both across governorates and month to month - typically because of high transportation costs and other regional challenges.

Manually Refined Diesel

410 SYP per litre

One month price change: **increase of 3%**

Six month price change: **increase of 228%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting manually refined diesel as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 5%

In October, manually refined petrol prices rose most notably in Deir-Ez-Zor governorate. Manually refined diesel has seen sharp increases in Deir-Ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates since August 2021, while prices in NE Aleppo and Al-Hasakeh have remained lower and relatively stable throughout the year.

Manually Refined Petrol

750 SYP per litre

One month change: **increase of 7%**

Six month change: **increase of 58%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting manually refined petrol as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 6%

In October, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-Ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh saw sharp increases in manually refined petrol prices. Conversely, NE Aleppo continued to remain stable in price, and has done so throughout the past year.

Exchange Rates (see graph, left)^{#4}

Informal USD/SYP regional median exchange rate: 3,478 SYP to 1 USD

One month rate change: **increase of 2%**

Six month rate change: **increase of 2%**

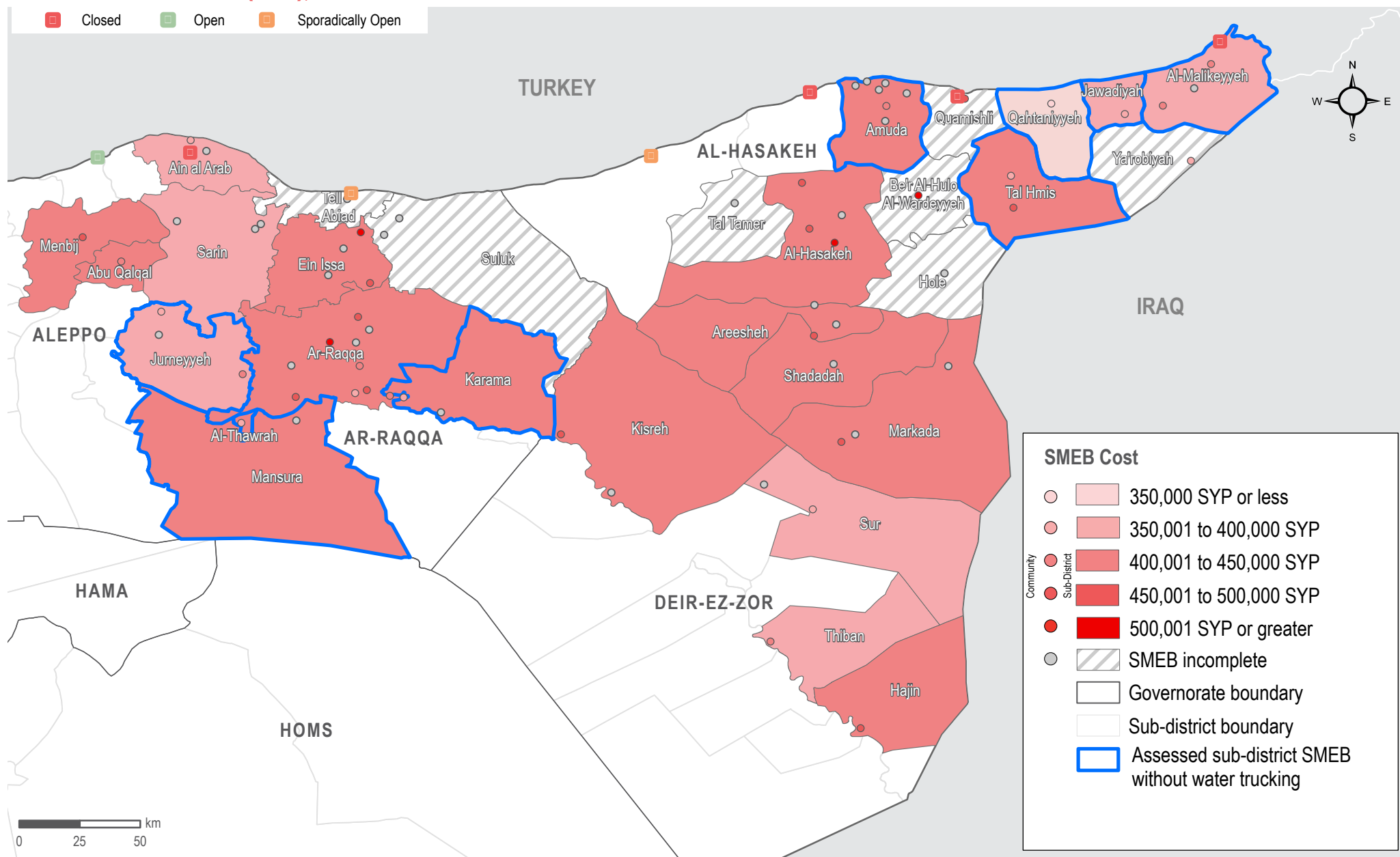
In October, the SYP depreciated slightly against the USD, and this has been a continuing trend since May 2021. The highest exchange rate was recorded at 3,600 SYP for 1 USD in Sur community in Deir-Ez-Zor governorate. For an overview of the USD/SYP exchange rate across all of Syria, please see the [WFP VAM Food Security Analysis for October 2021](#).

^{#4} To compare SYP prices to USD or TRY, the [October 2021 dataset](#) provides informal exchange rates at the regional, district, subdistrict and community levels (where data is available).

^{#3} See [page 11](#) for further fuel data

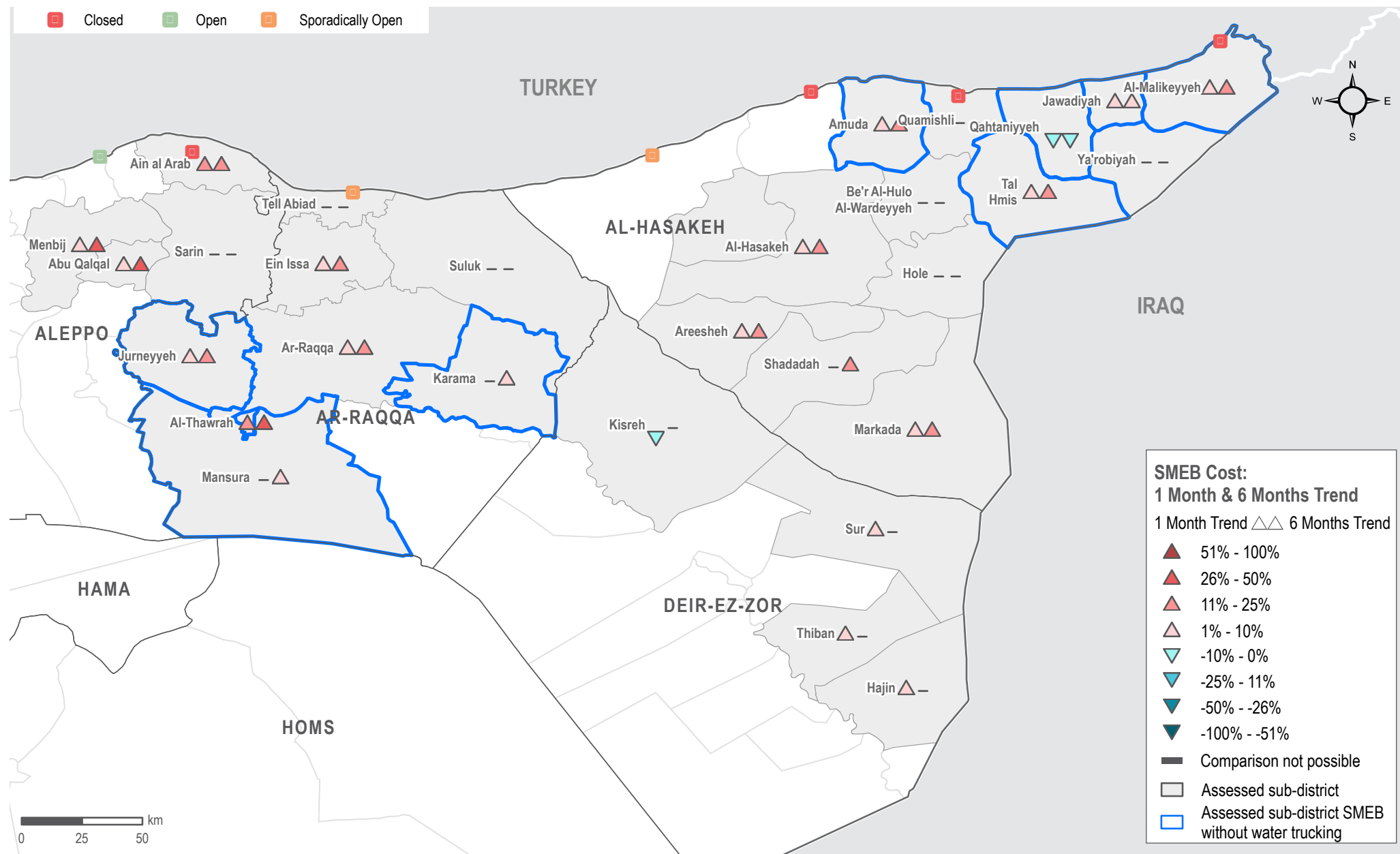
NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST RANGES

SMEB COST RANGES (SYP), BY SUB-DISTRICTS



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST RANGES

SMEB COST: 1 MONTH AND 6 MONTHS TREND



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS



SMEB FOOD COMPONENT 319,850 SYP (92 USD)

One month price change: **increase of 3%**

Six month price change: **increase of 19%**

Highest % of surveyed vendors reporting a SMEB food item as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood:

- 9% for bread

Highest % of surveyed vendors reporting SMEB food item as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood for previous month:

- 19% for sugar

Overall food prices increased greatly, although at a much slower rate than seen last month. There were price increases for almost all fresh vegetables and bulk foods as well as flour, bread, LP gas cooking fuel and water trucking.

According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations ([FAO Precipitation Analysis](#)), "the impact of the poor harvest from the 2020/21 agricultural season on Syrian families is compounded by interrelated issues that include economic constraints, currency depreciation, poverty, conflict, population displacement and climate-induced factors. The consequences of uneven temporal distribution of rainfall combined with high temperatures will not only affect the current cropping season but the effects may also be felt in the next one to two years." For a broader, national overview of the market context in Syria, please view the [WFP Syria mVAM Bulletin for October 2021](#). For insights on food security across Syria, please see the [WFP Hunger Map](#) or the [WFP Syria Emergency Dashboard for October](#).



SMEB VEGETABLE COMPONENT 16,200 SYP (4.66 USD)

One month price change: **increase of 29%**

Six month price change: **increase of 8%**

- Tomatoes: increased by **90%**
- Potatoes: increased by **20%**
- Onions: increased by **17%**
- Cucumbers: no change (**0%**)

In October prices increased greatly for the vegetable component of the SMEB – most notably for tomatoes - and prices are higher than 6 months ago, before the agricultural period began.



SMEB BULK FOODS 154,500 SYP (44 USD)

One month price change: **increase of 10%**

Six month price change: **increase of 14%**

- Bulgur: increased by **12%**
- Rice: increased by **9%**
- Tomato paste: increased by **9%**
- Red lentils: increased by **7%**
- Salt: no change (**0%**)
- Sugar: decreased by **5%**

According to REACH field teams, these items are typically imported, as such their prices mostly increased due to depreciation of the SYP against the Turkish Lira (TRY) and USD.



BREAD 400 SYP PER 8 PIECE BUNDLE (0.12 USD)

One month price change: **decrease of 15%**

Six month price change: **increase of 100%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting bread as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 9%

Price fluctuations are attributed to both the depreciation of the SYP and general subsidies by the authorities. The average bread prices varied greatly between governorates. Prices in Al-Hasakeh governorate dropped slightly

in October but remain high, and prices in Deir-Ez-Zor rose sharply this month.

- Al-Hasakeh: 857 SYP per bundle
- Deir-Ez-Zor: 525 SYP per bundle
- Aleppo: 438 SYP per bundle
- Ar-Raqqa: 350 SYP per bundle



FLOUR 1,800 SYP PER KILO (0.52 USD)

One month price change: **increase of 11%**

Six month price change: **increase of 29%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting flour as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 6%

For a deeper analysis of the agricultural context in Syria, please see the [FAO Agriculture Input and Commodity Bulletin for September 2021](#).



CHICKEN 5,300 SYP PER KILO (1.52 USD)

One month price change: **decrease of 11%**

Six month price change: **increase of 23%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting chicken as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 7%



EGGS 9,100 SYP FOR 30 EGGS (2.62 USD)

One month price change: **increase of 7%**

Six month price change: **increase of 50%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting eggs as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 1%



COOKING FUELS

Cooking fuels are typically far more expensive in Ar-Raqqa compared to other governorates in NES, and prices have been rising here throughout the year. Kerosene is the typical cooking fuel across NES and is also used for heating but may on occasion be substituted with LP gas.

In October, LP gas prices rose across the region. However, the especially sharp increase in price for this month was due to an increase of recorded fuel prices in Tell Abiad district in Ar-Raqqa governorate, where it is much more expensive – averaging 40,510 SYP per canister. For further background information on Tell Abiad please see the [OCHA October 2021 situation report](#).

MANUALLY REFINED KEROSENE

538 SYP per litre (0.15 USD)

One month price change: **increase of 5%**

Six month price change: **increase of 19%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting manually refined kerosene as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 20%

LP GAS #6

13,550 SYP per canister (3.90 USD)

One month price change: **increase of 367%**

Six month price change: **increase of 402%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting LP gas as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 2%

#5 October informal regional exchange rate for NES: 3,478 SYP
#6 Prices are taken for the cheapest available canister at the time of data collection, which is typically 20-25 litres.

NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS

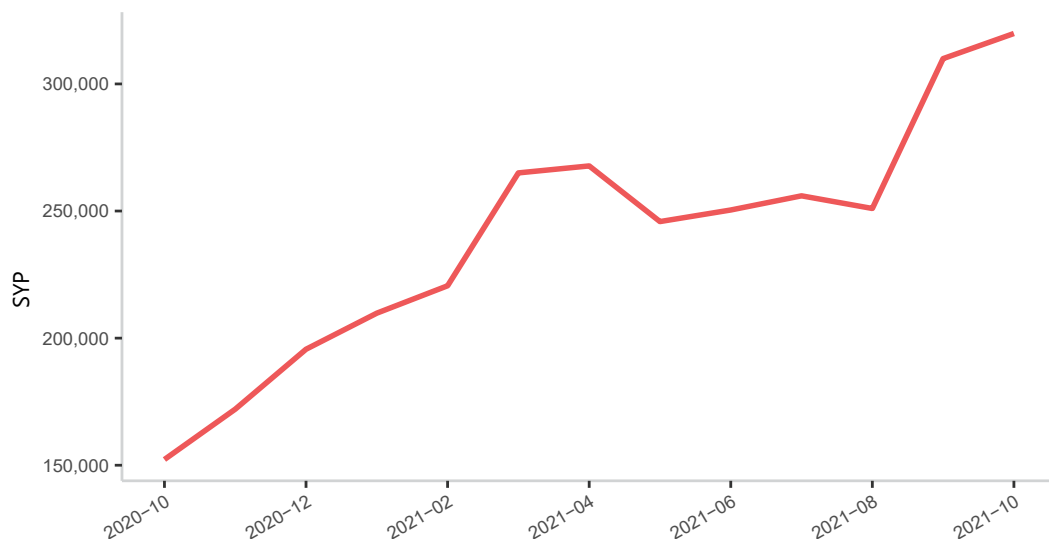
MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS

IN SYRIAN POUNDS

Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	319,850	3%	19%
Abu Qalqal	319,850	6%	30%
Ain al Arab	319,863	11%	17%
Al-Hasakeh	344,350	6%	24%
Al-Malikeyyeh	327,793	5%	32%
Al-Thawrah	323,572	24%	28%
Amuda	346,850	10%	20%
Areeshesh	320,175	3%	15%
Ar-Raqqa	317,700	2%	19%
Be'r Al-Hulo	291,686	-12%	9%
AL-Wardeyyeh			
Ein Issa	323,150	4%	16%
Hajin	340,750	7%	NA
Hole	267,614	2%	17%
Jawadiyah	295,450	2%	7%
Jurneyyeh	297,850	3%	16%

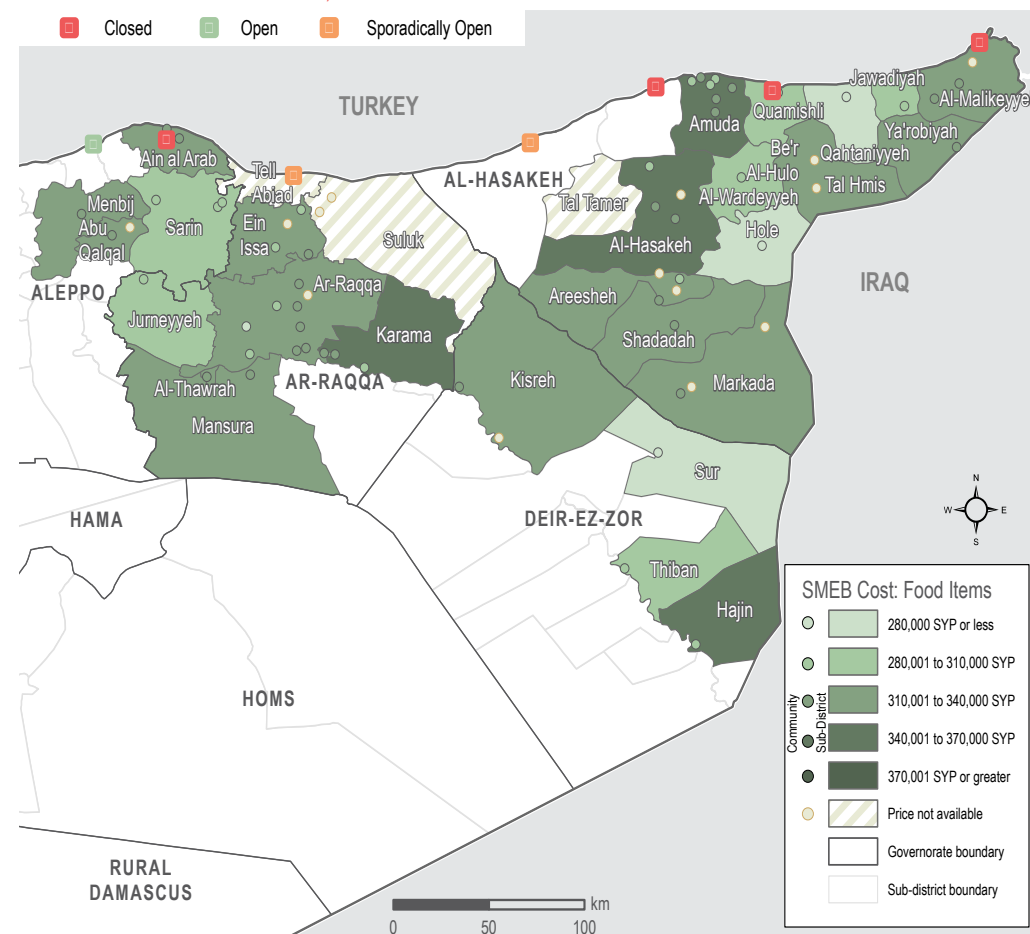
Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change
Karama	340,693	NA	9%
Kisreh	319,900	0%	NA
Mansura	333,644	NA	0%
Markada	317,677	3%	22%
Menbij	336,025	4%	31%
Qahtaniyyeh	254,500	-1%	-5%
Quamishli	288,886	-7%	0%
Sarin	299,050	NA	23%
Shadadah	329,800	NA	20%
Suluk	NA	NA	NA
Sur	271,700	3%	NA
Tal Hmis	318,117	0%	20%
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA
Thiban	303,900	7%	NA
Ya'robayah	312,414	13%	20%

MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS, BY MONTH



SMEB FOOD ITEMS' COST

SUB-DISTRICTS & COMMUNITIES, SYRIAN POUNDS



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: WATER TRUCKING

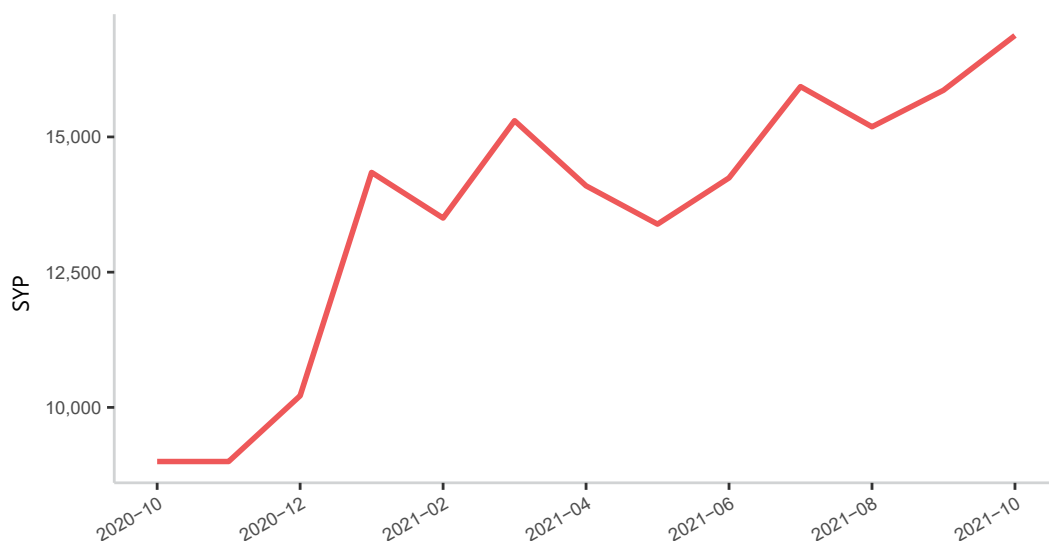
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICE

4,500L - IN SYRIAN POUNDS

Sub-district	SMEB Water	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	16,875	8%	20%
Abu Qalqal	21,156	2%	241%
Ain al Arab	4,950	10%	-45%
Al-Hasakeh	25,824	5%	13%
Al-Malikeyyeh**	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah**	NA	NA	NA
Amuda**	NA	NA	NA
Areeshesh	28,636	17%	40%
Ar-Raqqa	16,875	6%	101%
Be'r Al-Hulo	16,875	-17%	-21%
Al-Wardeyyeh**	16,875	-17%	-21%
Ein Issa	9,000	0%	92%
Hajin	7,200	0%	NA
Hole	14,882	0%	-34%
Jawadiyah**	NA	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh**	NA	NA	NA

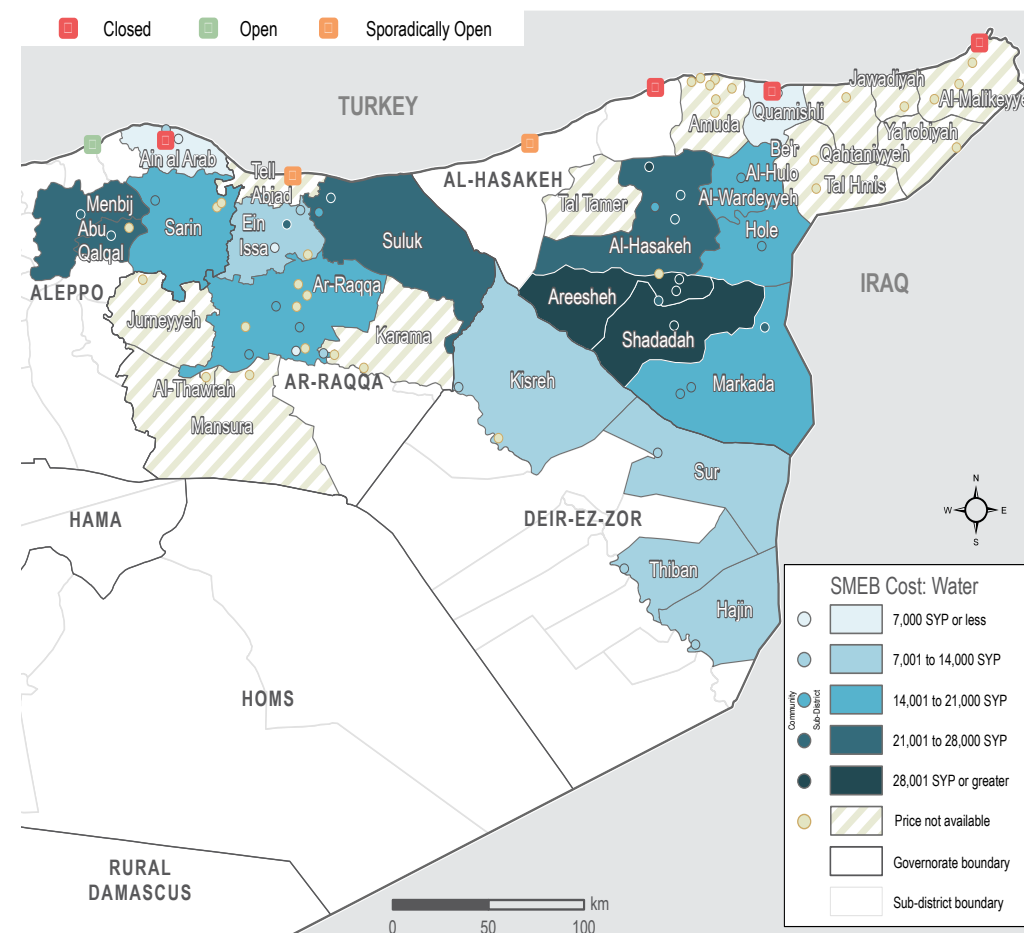
Sub-district	SMEB Water	One month change	Six month change
Karama**	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	8,100	-10%	NA
Mansura**	NA	NA	NA
Markada	20,455	25%	25%
Menbij	22,500	-6%	213%
Qahtaniyyeh**	NA	NA	NA
Quamishli	6,375	16%	-46%
Sarin**	18,000	18%	NA
Shadadah	33,750	0%	15%
Suluk	22,500	4%	NA
Sur	9,000	0%	NA
Tal Hmis**	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad**	NA	NA </td <td>NA</td>	NA
Thiban	13,500	0%	NA
Ya'robiyah**	NA	NA	NA

MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH



SMEB WATER TRUCKING COST

SUB-DISTRICTS & COMMUNITIES, SYRIAN POUNDS



WATER TRUCKING PRICES VARIED GREATLY ACROSS NES IN SEPTEMBER:

- Al-Hasakeh: 20,455 SYP per 4,500 litres
- Aleppo: 19,578 SYP per 4,500 litres
- Ar-Raqqa: 16,875 SYP per 4,500 litres
- Deir-Ez-Zor: 8,550 SYP per 4,500 litres

NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: HYGIENE ITEMS

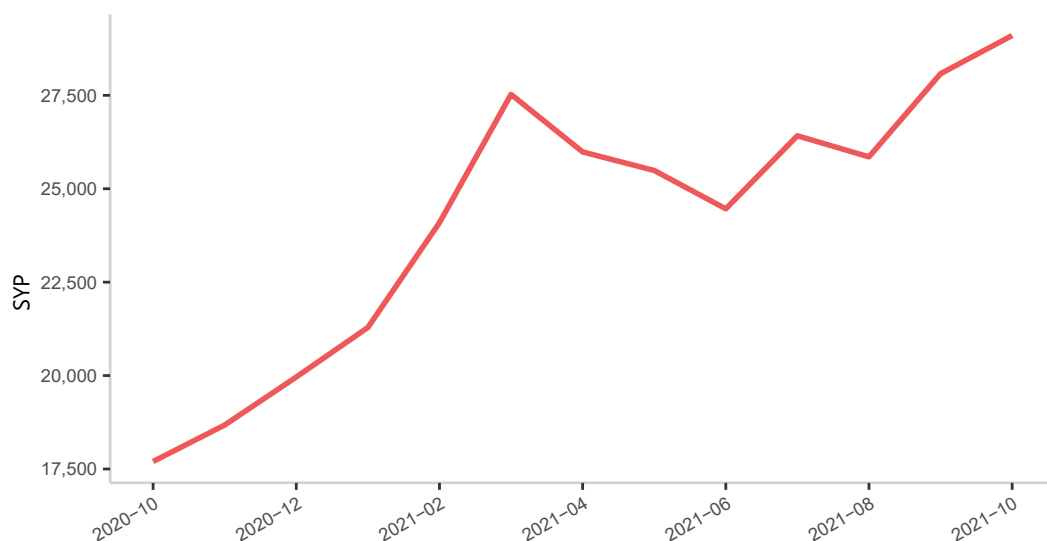
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' PRICE

12 BARS OF SOAP, 4 PACKS OF 10 SANITARY PADS, 3KG OF LAUNDRY/DISH SOAP, 200G OF TOOTHPASTE - IN SYRIAN POUNDS

Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene Items	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	29,102	3%	12%
Abu Qalqal	29,108	-6%	49%
Ain al Arab	30,925	22%	21%
Al-Hasakeh	30,850	5%	18%
Al-Malikeyyeh	21,107	-16%	-10%
Al-Thawrah	28,150	14%	19%
Amuda	30,533	-5%	13%
Areeshesh	29,200	-3%	-11%
Ar-Raqqa	28,125	1%	1%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	33,167	23%	5%
Hajin	32,400	-1%	NA
Hole	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	26,900	0%	-36%
Jurneyyeh	31,250	34%	25%

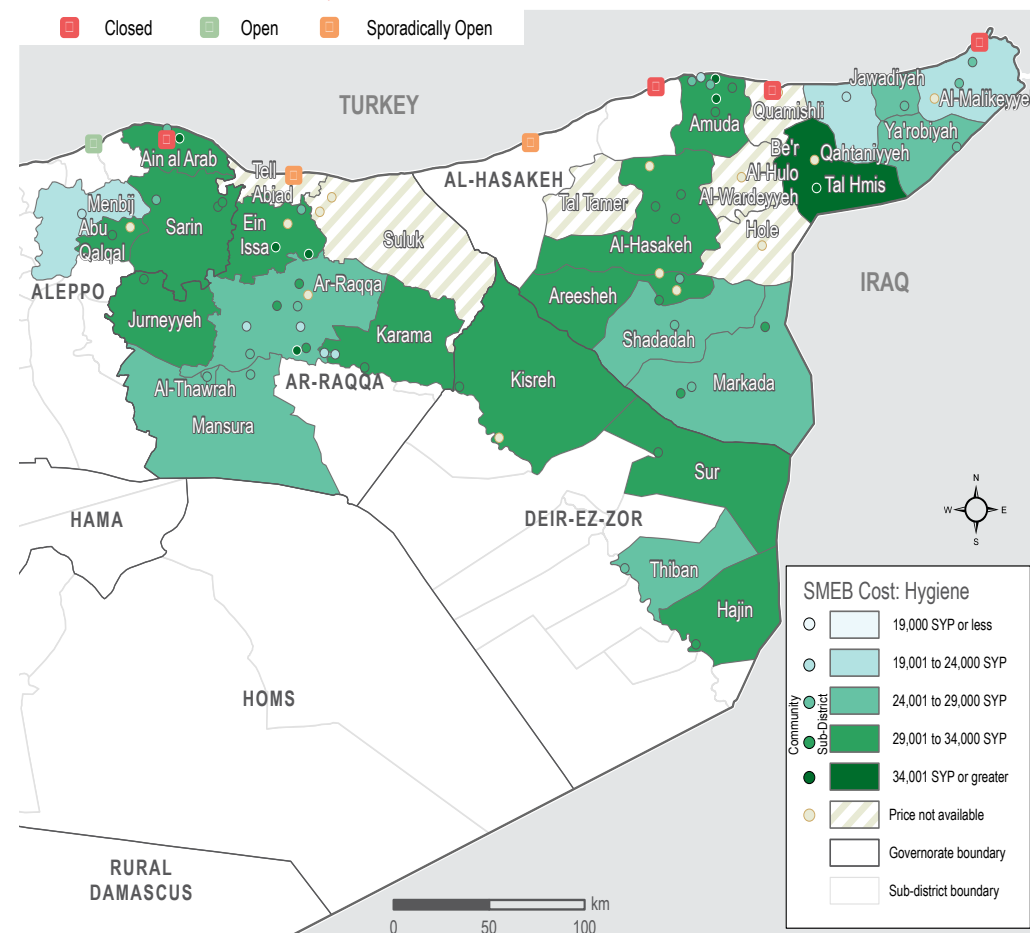
Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene Items	One month change	Six month change
Karama	29,198	12%	12%
Kisreh	31,417	-4%	NA
Mansura	27,923	-12%	21%
Markada	27,450	-4%	7%
Menbij	23,585	-5%	15%
Qahtaniyyeh*	23,267	-5%	-8%
Quamishli	NA	NA	NA
Sarin	29,096	7%	6%
Shadadah	25,800	-8%	-17%
Suluk	NA	NA	NA
Sur	30,186	-5%	NA
Tal Hmis	36,212	15%	44%
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA
Thiban	26,350	-13%	NA
Ya'robiyah	25,215	-9%	-11%

MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COSTS, BY MONTH



SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COST

SUB-DISTRICTS & COMMUNITIES, SYRIAN POUNDS



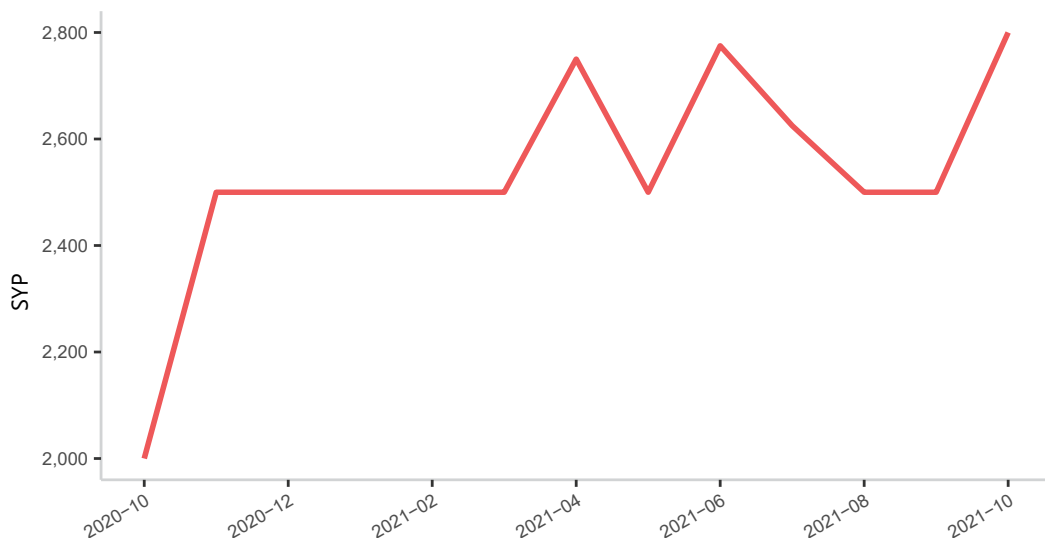
NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: PHONE DATA

MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA PRICE

1GB DATA - IN SYRIAN POUNDS

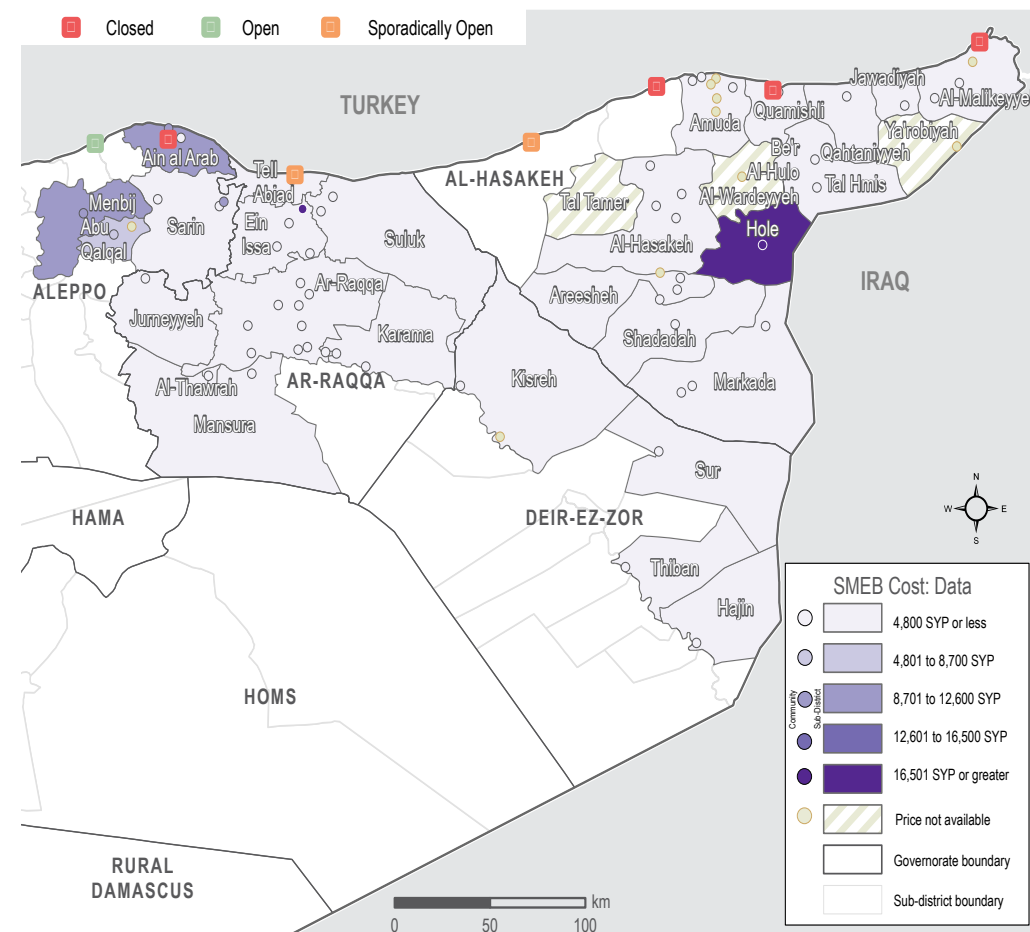
Sub-district	SMEB Data	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	2,800	12%	2%
Abu Qalqal	4,813	2%	-27%
Ain al Arab	10,000	100%	82%
Al-Hasakeh	2,850	-5%	16%
Al-Malikeyyeh	1,500	0%	25%
Al-Thawrah	2,500	14%	-49%
Amuda	1,000	-67%	-60%
Areeshah	3,500	11%	17%
Ar-Raqqa	2,500	0%	-11%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh**	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	3,000	20%	20%
Hajin	2,500	0%	NA
Hole	20,000	471%	506%
Jawadiyah	1,000	11%	11%
Jurneyyeh	2,800	2%	2%

MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST, BY MONTH



SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST

SUB-DISTRICTS & COMMUNITIES, SYRIAN POUNDS



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: COOKING FUEL

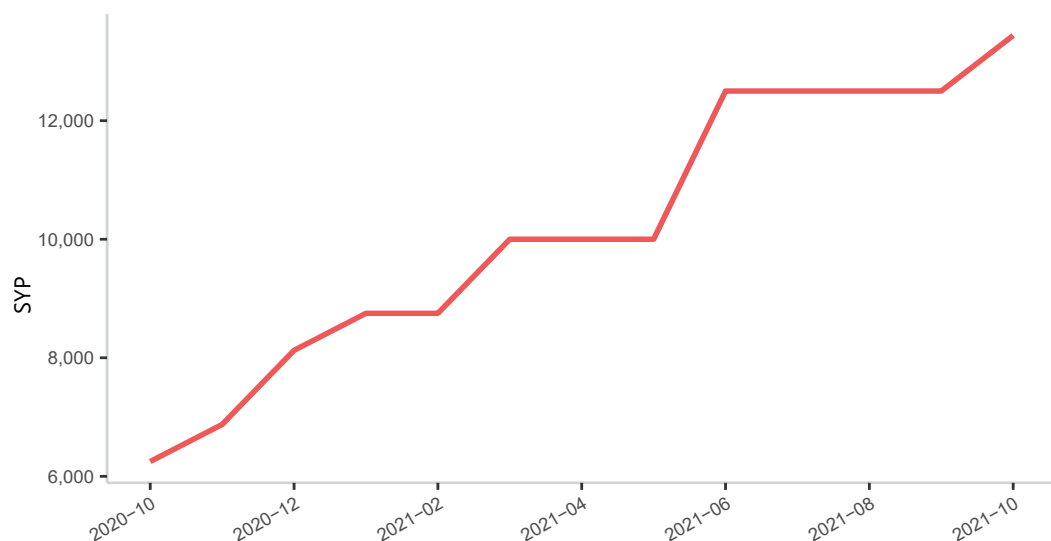
MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL PRICE

KEROSENE 25L - IN SYRIAN POUNDS

Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	13,438	8%	34%
Abu Qalqal	4,063	30%	30%
Ain al Arab*	3,100	3%	11%
Al-Hasakeh	12,500	0%	67%
Al-Malikiyyeh*	3,000	-76%	-73%
Al-Thawrah	25,000	0%	67%
Amuda*	2,500	4%	0%
Areeshah	13,125	5%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	25,000	25%	54%
Be'r Al-Hulo	10,000	0%	0%
Al-Wardeyyeh*	10,000	0%	0%
Ein Issa	25,000	0%	33%
Hajin**	15,000	20%	NA
Hole**	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah**	12,500	0%	25%
Jurneyyeh*	15,000	-4%	-14%

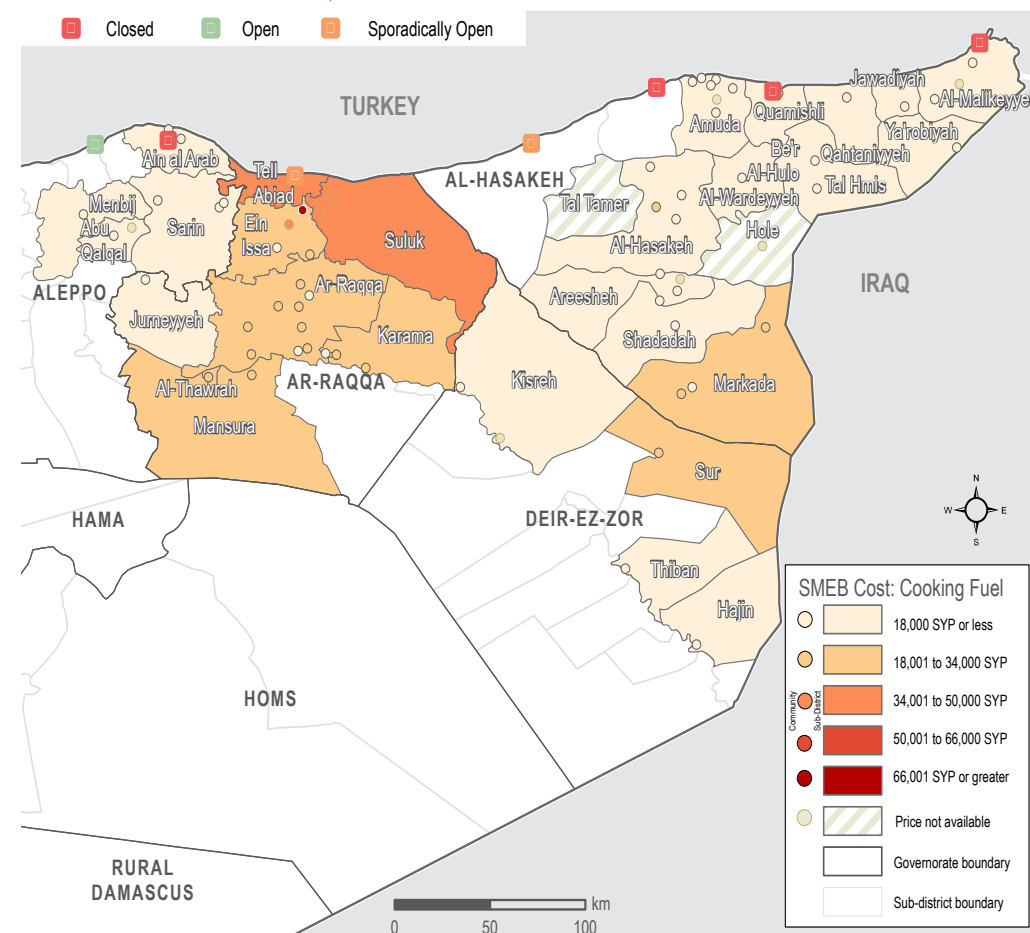
Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Karama*	19,375	48%	19%
Kisreh**	13,750	-4%	NA
Mansura*	24,000	7%	60%
Markada	21,250	21%	42%
Menbij	3,125	0%	0%
Qahtaniyyeh**	2,500	0%	0%
Quamishli	10,250	37%	26%
Sarin	2,500	0%	0%
Shadadah	2,750	-84%	-78%
Suluk*	40,000	-9%	NA
Sur	22,500	80%	NA
Tal Hmis*	15,000	0%	50%
Tell Abiad*	40,000	-9%	NA
Thiban*	15,000	0%	NA
Ya'robiyah**	12,500	346%	285%

MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH



SMEB COOKING FUEL COST

SUB-DISTRICTS & COMMUNITIES, SYRIAN POUNDS



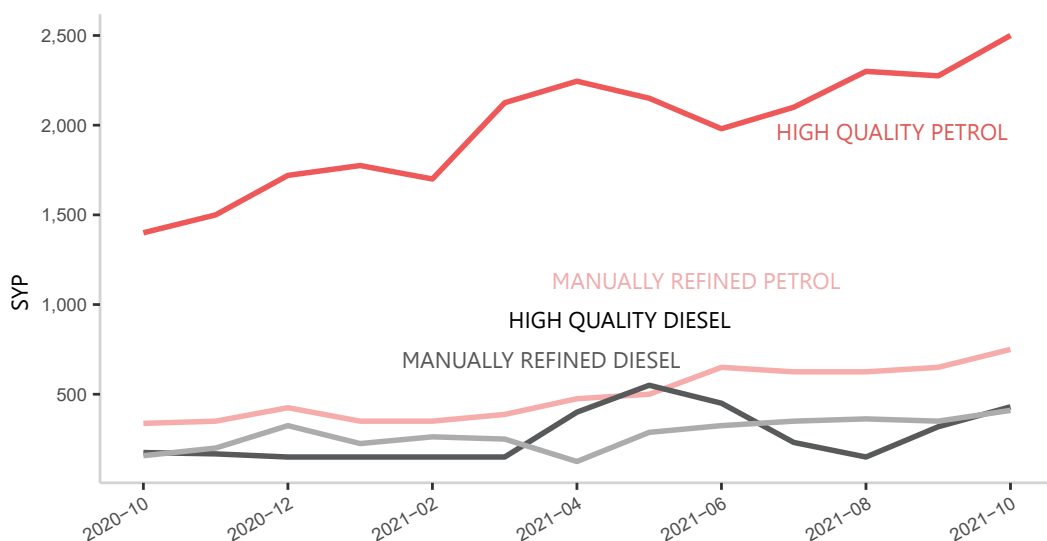
NORTHEAST SYRIA - TRANSPORT FUEL

MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

DIESEL AND PETROL, 1L (HIGH QUALITY AND MANUALLY REFINED) - IN SYRIAN POUNDS

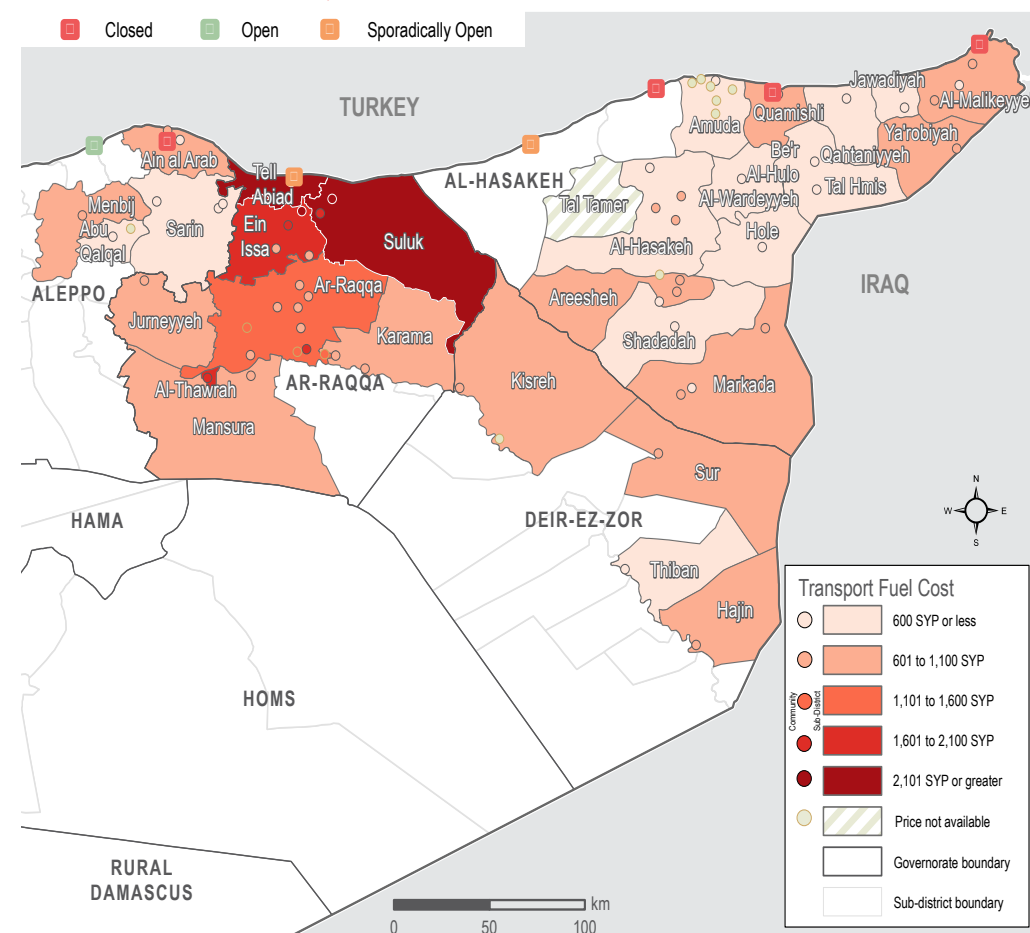
Sub-district	Transport Fuel	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	Transport Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	818	14%	42%	Karama*	875	15%	77%
Abu Qalqal*	199	8%	-83%	Kisreh**	838	6%	NA
Ain al Arab*	818	-19%	-13%	Mansura*	1,025	3%	71%
Al-Hasakeh	371	-45%	-57%	Markada*	800	7%	39%
Al-Malikeyyeh	876	25%	2%	Menbij	878	8%	-20%
Al-Thawrah	1,733	93%	189%	Qahtaniyyeh**	143	0%	-2%
Amuda**	310	92%	118%	Quamishli*	937	23%	26%
Areeshah*	631	12%	53%	Sarin*	248	54%	54%
Ar-Raqqa	1,413	-5%	63%	Shadadah*	143	0%	-12%
Be'r Al-Hulo	500	69%	84%	Suluk*	2,342	-2%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh*	500	69%	84%	Sur*	825	3%	NA
Ein Issa*	1,650	43%	149%	Tal Hmis*	445	-1%	11%
Hajin**	988	41%	NA	Tell Abiad	2,342	-1%	NA
Hole**	143	0%	0%	Thiban*	600	0%	NA
Jawadiyah**	288	0%	21%	Ya'robiyah**	828	13%	201%
Jurneyyeh	800	11%	15%				

MEDIAN FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE



TRANSPORT FUEL COST

SUB-DISTRICTS & COMMUNITIES, SYRIAN POUNDS

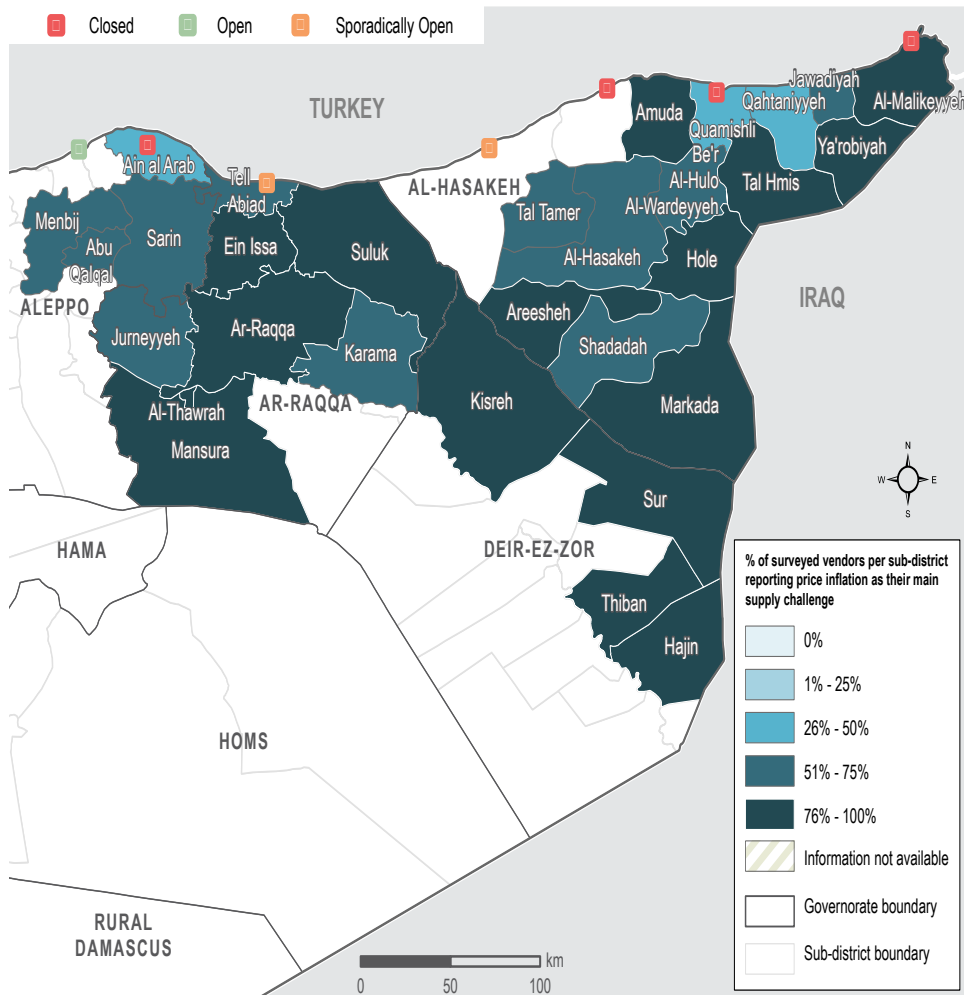


MANUALLY REFINED FUEL PRICES VARIED GREATLY ACROSS NES IN SEPTEMBER:

Location	Manually Refined Diesel (SYP per litre)	Manually Refined Petrol (SYP per litre)
NES	350	650
Ar-Raqqa:	775	1,300
Deir-ez-Zor:	713	950
NE Aleppo:	156	210
Al-Hasakeh:	150	480

NORTHEAST SYRIA - MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

SUPPLY CHALLENGES - PRICE INFLATION

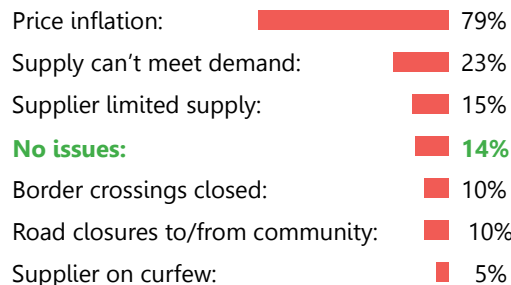


SUPPLY CHALLENGES

(SEE FIGURE 1, BELOW)

Total surveyed vendors: 1,647
 % of vendors who reported facing supply challenges: 86%
 One month change for % of vendors who reported facing supply challenges: **increase of 2 percentage points (pp)**
 Most reported supply challenge: price inflation (79%). (See map, left)
 One month change for % of vendors who reported facing price inflation: **increase of 6 pp**

FIGURE 1: MOST COMMONLY REPORTED SUPPLY CHALLENGES BY ALL SURVEYED VENDORS



RESTOCKING

(SEE FIGURE 2, RIGHT)

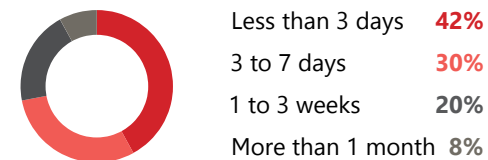
Number of surveyed vendors who were asked if they would be unable to restock if they were to run out of supplies: 1,647
 Number of surveyed vendors reporting that they would be unable to restock if they were to run out of supplies: 18 shops = 1.1% of all surveyed vendors.
 One month change: **increase of 0.1 pp**
 Surveyed vendors were asked after how many days they would hypothetically run out of stock if supply lines were to be cut:
 Vendors reporting less than 3 days: 42%

One month change for less than 3 days: **decrease of 5 pp**

Across shop types in NES, surveyed water trucking vendors (89%), vegetable vendors (86%) and butchers (82%) 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 Deir-Ez-Zor and NE Aleppo governorate reported that they would run out of supply in less than 3 days if supply lines were cut, followed by 94% of water trucking vendors in Ar-Raqqa and 80% in Al-Hasakeh. Furthermore, 100% of vegetable vendors in NE Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor and 97% of vegetable vendors in Ar-Raqqa reported the same, although this dropped to 61% in Al-Hasakeh.

FIGURE 2: REPORTED NUMBER OF DAYS BEFORE ALL TYPES OF VENDORS WOULD HYPOTHETICALLY RUN OUT OF STOCK, IF SUPPLY LINES WERE TO BE CUT



AVAILABILITY OF USD BANKNOTES

Informal currency exchange vendors were asked about their stock levels for USD banknotes of different denominations.
 Surveyed currency vendors: 143
 Surveyed vendors reporting having limited stock of one or more USD denomination: 99%
 One month change for limited stock of one or more USD denominations: increase of 3%
 The majority of surveyed vendors reported having a limited stock of all denominations of USD banknotes above 1 USD.
 See the [October 2021 dataset](#) for full USD availability.

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

In October - of the 1,709 total surveyed vendors - 75 vendors closed their shop. 59 of those vendors were in AL-Hasakeh governorate, 9 were in NE Aleppo, 4 in Ar-Raqqa and 3 in Deir-Ez-Zor. This was a much higher number than for previous months, and REACH field teams report that this was due to the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions across NES that occurred 2-11th October, and so these closures were largely temporary closures.

NORTHEAST SYRIA - COVID-19



MEDIAN PRICE OF COVID-19 ITEMS

IN SYRIAN POUNDS

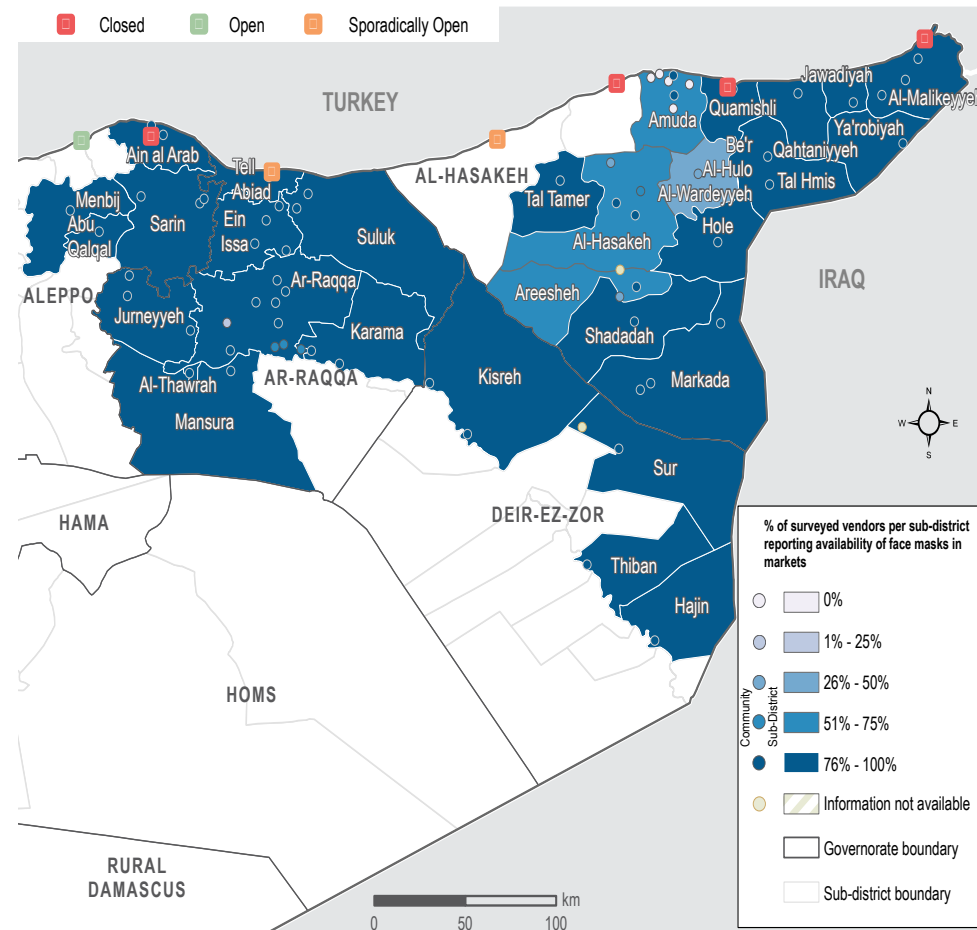
Sub-district	Face mask (1 piece)	Plastic gloves (box of 100)	Sterile alcohol (1 litre)	Hand sanitiser (500 ml)	Bottled bleach (1 litre)	Trash bags (roll of 30)
Northeast Syria	400	25,750	11,500	6,500	2,000	4,450
Abu Qalqal	400	28,900	10,000	8,500	1,900	3,850
Ain al Arab	300	30,750	9,000	6,000	2,000	4,000
Al-Hasakeh	500	27,000	13,167	6,500	2,000	6,000
Al-Malikeyyeh	300	28,000	15,000	2,500	1,875	6,250
Al-Thawrah	300	25,000	12,000	2,000	1,500	NA
Amuda	300	28,500	9,500	6,667	2,000	7,000
Areesheh	500	22,000	15,000	500	2,000	NA
Ar-Raqqa	500	29,000	10,000	4,833	2,000	4,400
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyeh	400	20,000	14,000	8,333	2,000	NA
Ein Issa	500	25,000	10,000	3,000	2,000	4,500
Hajin	300	23,000	8,500	5,800	3,500	5,000
Hole	300	25,000	10,000	9,375	2,000	NA
Jawadiyah	300	23,000	12,000	8,333	1,500	NA
Jurneyyeh	500	25,000	15,000	7,917	2,500	3,500
Karama	300	31,000	15,000	6,000	1,333	5,850
Kisreh	300	23,000	7,750	6,000	3,300	5,000
Mansura	500	26,000	7,530	13,750	1,900	NA
Markada	500	25,750	11,500	6,000	2,000	NA
Menbij	400	28,000	10,000	6,500	1,900	3,700
Qahtaniyyeh	250	20,000	14,000	4,500	1,800	3,300
Quamishli	500	20,000	14,500	8,333	2,000	NA
Sarin	300	31,000	10,000	8,333	2,000	3,800
Shadadah	300	25,000	10,000	10,000	800	5,500
Suluk	500	45,000	33,333	NA	1,650	NA
Sur	500	23,500	8,500	8,000	1,500	3,500
Tal Hmis	400	31,500	12,000	8,125	2,625	3,500
Tell Abiad	500	45,000	33,333	NA	2,000	NA
Thiban	500	30,000	8,000	6,500	2,000	4,500
Ya'robiyah	300	20,000	15,000	3,500	1,800	NA

Prices in **bold** refer to COVID-19 items where median subdistrict prices rely on less than 3 observations.



AVAILABILITY OF FACE MASKS

NORTHEAST SYRIA



NORTHEAST SYRIA - WINTERISATION

MEDIAN WINTERISATION ITEMS' PRICE - HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

PER 1 PIECE - IN SYRIAN POUNDS

Sub-district	Jerrycan	Plastic sheet	Winter carpet	Kerosene/diesel heater	Winter blanket	Mattress	Solid fuel stove	Fire extinguisher	Fire blanket
Northeast Syria	5,500	25,750	99,250	60,000	35,000	27,500	48,720	46,360	21,625
Abu Qalqal	4,000	22,000	31,000	32,500*	23,500	25,000	14,750*	22,250*	18,250*
Ain al Arab	4,000	23,000	112,500	38,000*	35,000	27,500	NA	NA	NA
Al-Hasakeh	NA	42,500*	537,500*	60,000*	67,500	75,000	NA	NA	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	7,000	32,000	65,000	85,000	50,000	NA	105,000	75,000*	25,000
Amuda	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Areeshah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	6,000	25,500	107,880	105,000	50,000	36,000	48,720*	70,470*	46,980*
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	3,000	19,000*	25,000	50,000*	15,000*	12,000*	105,000*	NA	NA
Hajin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hole	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh	5,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Karama	6,000*	26,000*	98,500*	105,000*	41,000*	25,500*	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mansura	6,500*	30,000*	125,000*	NA	45,000*	NA	NA	NA	NA
Markada	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	3,700	21,500	30,000	31,500	22,000	24,500	15,000	21,000	18,000
Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Quamishli	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sarin	5,500	25,000	50,000*	38,000*	22,000*	32,000*	NA	NA	NA
Shadadah	5,500*	16,000*	NA	NA	42,000*	30,000*	NA	NA	NA
Suluk	6,000	50,000*	100,000	90,000	30,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sur	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	5,000	33,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	6,000*	50,000*	100,000	90,000*	35,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Thiban	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ya'robiyah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NORTHEAST SYRIA - WINTERISATION

MEDIAN WINTERISATION ITEMS' PRICE - NEW CLOTHING

PER 1 PIECE/PAIR - IN SYRIAN POUNDS

Sub-district	Men's winter jacket	Women's winter jacket	Children's winter jacket	Men's winter boots	Women's winter boots	Children's winter boots	Adult's winter hat	Children's winter hat
Northeast Syria	62,500	50,000	25,500	17,500	16,750	12,500	5,750	2,500
Abu Qalqal	30,500*	35,000*	17,000*	16,500*	17,000*	13,000*	2,750*	2,000*
Ain al Arab	NA	40,000*	25,500*	16,000*	17,000*	12,500*	3,000*	2,000*
Al-Hasakeh	57,500	50,000	50,000	41,500*	35,000	25,000	8,000*	5,000
Al-Malikeyyeh	45,000	40,000	35,000	20,000	15,000	10,000	7,000	4,000
Al-Thawrah	70,000	65,000	40,000	20,000	12,000	8,000	7,000*	5,000*
Amuda	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Areeshah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	60,000	55,000	25,000	17,500	16,500	13,000	7,250*	5,000*
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	70,000*	75,000*	52,500*	18,500*	15,000*	11,000*	6,500*	5,500*
Hajin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hole	75,000*	NA	NA	15,000*	NA	NA	5,000*	NA
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Karama	65,000	48,000	25,000	15,000*	12,000*	6,000*	3,000*	2,500*
Kisreh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mansura	62,500*	55,000*	25,000	NA	NA	NA	3,500	2,500
Markada	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	30,000	35,000	18,000	16,000	16,000	12,500	2,500	1,600
Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Quamishli	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sarin	35,000*	32,000*	20,000*	15,000*	18,000*	12,000*	2,200*	1,800*
Shadadah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Suluk	66,300	78,000*	39,000*	48,750	48,750*	37,050*	11,700*	NA
Sur	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	70,200	87,750	58,500	50,700	46,800*	30,225*	11,700	NA
Thiban	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ya'robayah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

MEDIAN WINTERISATION ITEMS' PRICE - SECOND HAND CLOTHING

PER 1 PIECE/PAIR - IN SYRIAN POUNDS

Sub-district	Second hand men's winter jacket	Second hand women's winter jacket	Second hand children's winter jacket	Second hand men's winter boots	Second hand women's winter boots	Second hand children's winter boots	Second hand adult's hat	Second hand children's hat
Northeast Syria	15,000	12,500	7,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	2,250	1,650
Abu Qalqal	8,250*	9,750*	4,500*	6,750*	7,000*	3,600*	1,200*	800*
Ain al Arab	13,750*	12,500*	6,500*	7,500*	6,500*	3,750*	1,250*	800*
Al-Hasakeh	22,500*	22,500*	25,000*	10,000	10,000*	5,000*	3,250*	2,750*
Al-Malikeyyeh	20,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	2,000	2,000
Al-Thawrah	18,000	15,000	10,000	15,000	10,000	7,000	NA	NA
Amuda	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Areeshah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	16,000	12,000	6,000	7,750	7,350	5,000	2,000	1,650
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	10,500*	12,500*	6,250*	10,500*	10,250*	6,000*	3,000*	2,750*
Hajin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hole	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh	15,000	13,000	10,000	12,000*	11,000*	8,500*	3,500*	3,000*
Karama	11,000*	8,500*	3,750*	NA	NA	NA	2,500*	1,500*
Kisreh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mansura	20,000	15,000*	10,000	NA	NA	NA	1,500*	1,000*
Markada	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	8,000	9,000	4,000	7,000	7,000	3,500	1,200	800
Qahtaniyyeh	16,000*	16,000*	12,000*	NA	NA	NA	2,500*	2,000*
Quamishli	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sarin	10,000*	10,000*	5,000*	8,000*	7,500*	4,000*	1,000*	600*
Shadadah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Suluk	10,000	10,000	7,000	15,000	10,000	7,000	2,500	2,000
Sur	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	17,500	14,500	10,000	15,000	10,000	9,500*	3,000*	NA
Thiban	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ya'robayah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

MEDIAN WINTERISATION ITEMS' PRICE - ALTERNATIVE FUELS

PER 1 KG - IN SYRIAN POUNDS

Sub-district	Firewood	Olive residues	Pistachio shells	Coal
Northeast Syria	NA	NA	NA	NA
Abu Qalqal	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ain al Arab	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al-Hasakeh	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	NA	NA	NA	NA
Amuda	NA	NA	NA	NA
Areeshah	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	NA	NA	NA	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hajin	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hole	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA
Karama	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mansura	NA	NA	NA	NA
Markada	NA	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	NA	NA	NA	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA
Quamishli	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sarin	NA	NA	NA	NA
Shadadah	NA	NA	NA	NA
Suluk	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sur	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA	NA
Thiban	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ya'robayah	NA	NA	NA	NA

UNAVAILABILITY OF WINTER ITEMS AT SUB-DISTRICT LEVEL - PER GROUP (AVERAGE)

Sub-district	Group 1: Winter clothes	Group 2: NFI	Group 3: Fuels	Group 4: Kerosene/ diesel heaters
Abu Qalqal	0%	5%	43%	33%
Ain al Arab	25%	33%	58%	67%
Al-Hasakeh	47%	54%	59%	75%
Al-Malikeyyeh	0%	NA	40%	NA
Al-Thawrah	4%	0%	30%	0%
Amuda	NA	NA	40%	NA
Areeshah	NA	NA	64%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	39%	37%	57%	31%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	60%	NA
Ein Issa	33%	38%	63%	33%
Hajin	NA	NA	60%	NA
Hole	63%	NA	78%	NA
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	40%	NA
Jurneyyeh	0%	86%	40%	100%
Karama	19%	29%	60%	0%
Kisreh	NA	NA	60%	NA
Mansura	48%	43%	57%	100%
Markada	NA	NA	63%	NA
Menbij	0%	0%	10%	0%
Qahtaniyyeh	0%	NA	45%	NA
Quamishli	NA	NA	57%	NA
Sarin	0%	57%	57%	67%
Shadadah	100%	43%	60%	100%
Suluk	0%	43%	55%	0%
Sur	NA	NA	50%	NA
Tal Hmis	100%	71%	61%	100%
Tell Abiad	0%	43%	40%	0%
Thiban	NA	NA	50%	NA
Ya'robayah	NA	NA	20%	NA

NA indicates that no data was collected for these items in the sub-district. Lack of data does not necessarily suggest item unavailability

Group 1: Winter clothes and second-hand winter clothes (boots, jackets, hats for children and adults)

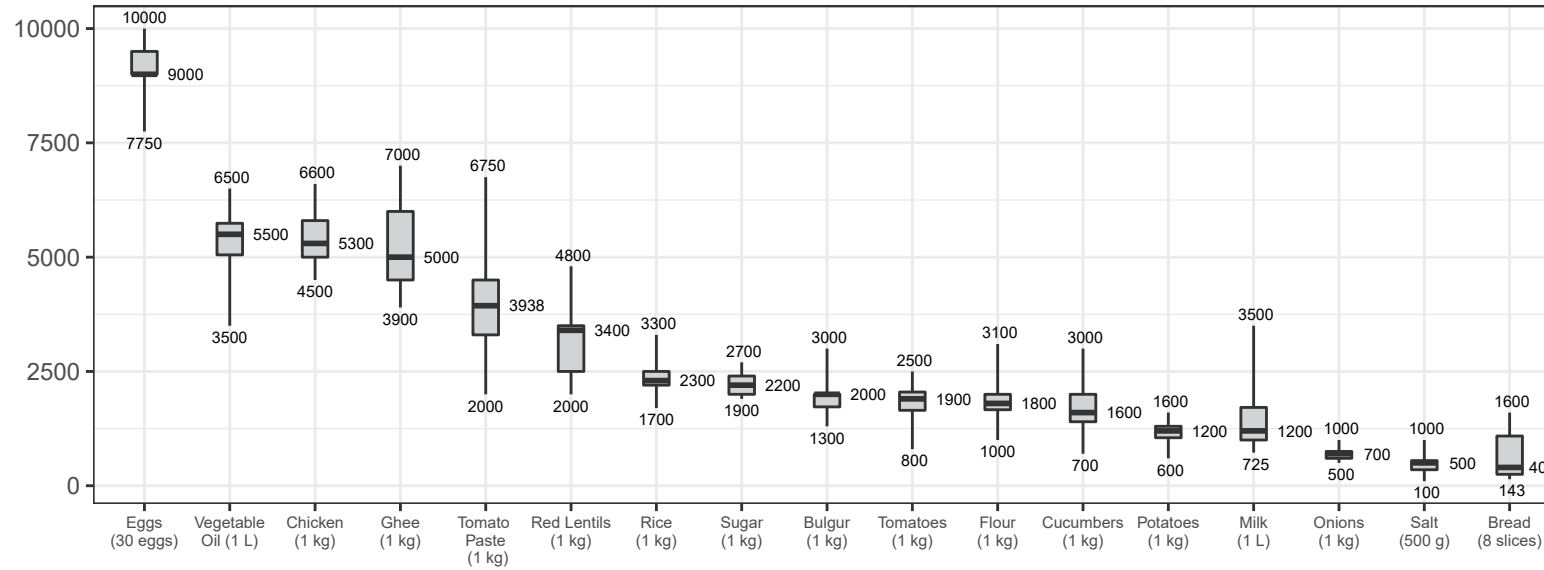
Group 2: "NFI" (fire blankets, fire extinguishers, winter blanket, winter carpet, plastic sheet, mattress, jerrycans)

Group 3: Fuel (high quality petrol, high quality diesel, manually refined petrol, manually refined diesel, LP gas, manually refined kerosene, coal, olive residuals, pisthells, firewood)

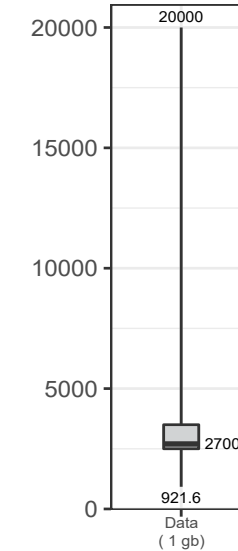
Group 4: Heater (Kerosene/diesel heaters)

APPENDIX 1: NORTHEAST SYRIA - DISTRIBUTION OF PRICES

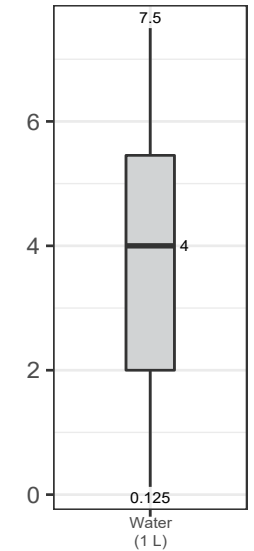
ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS IN SYRIAN POUNDS



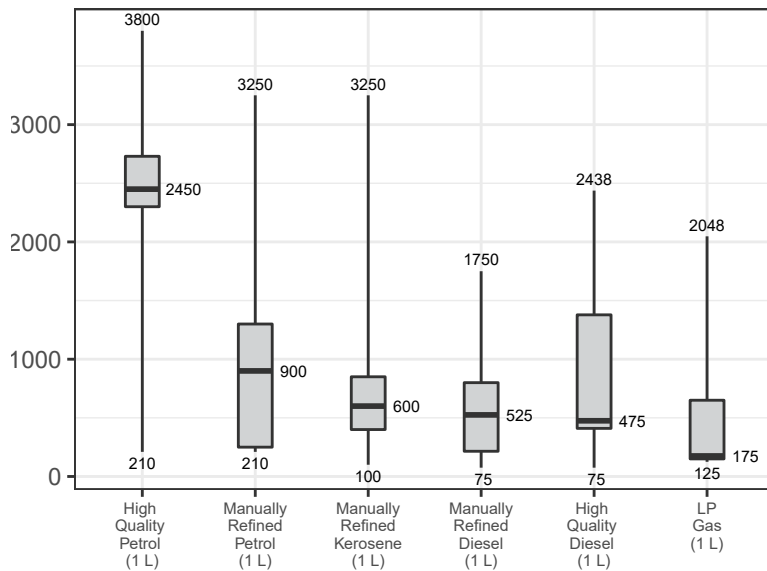
CELLPHONE DATA IN SYRIAN POUNDS



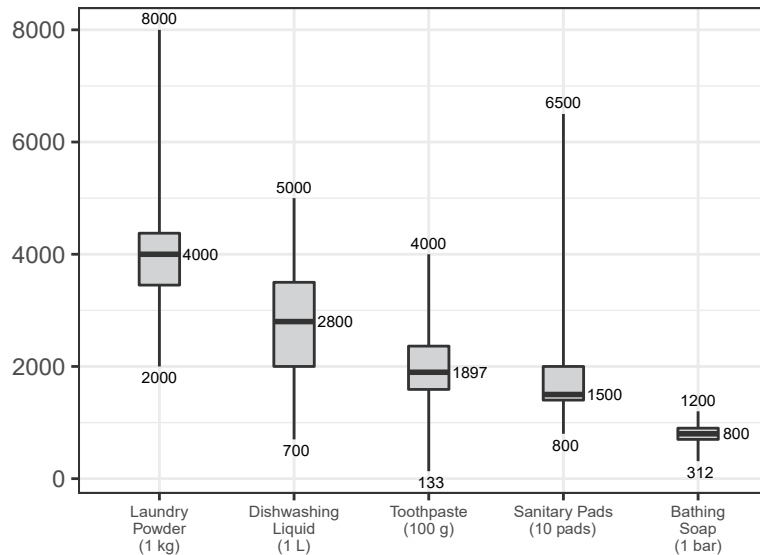
WATER TRUCKING IN SYRIAN POUNDS



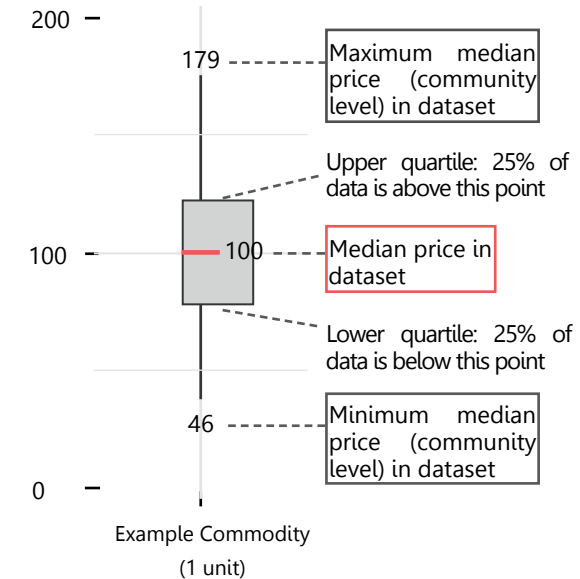
ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS IN SYRIAN POUNDS



ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS IN SYRIAN POUNDS



READING BOXPLOTS EXAMPLE



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 SMEB total is the median cost of the minimum, culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month. The SMEB Food and other SMEB groupings are subsections of the SMEB total. For individual SMEB items such as red lentils, the price is available as per standard weight (red lentils price per kilo) and 'SMEB' red lentils (15kg of red lentils, to meet the survival needs of a family of 6). The composition of the SMEB and the SMEB item quantities can be found on [page 2](#).

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 greatly 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. You can contact us directly at: 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 works with Cash Working Groups and Partners to provide up-to-date evidence to inform the humanitarian responses in the countries where we operate. COVID-19-relevant market monitoring and market assessments is 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 for further information.