

NORTHWEST SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 6-13 April 2020

INTRODUCTION

To inform humanitarian cash programming, REACH, in partnership with the 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 was collected this month (between 6-13 April 2020) by GOAL, REACH, People In Need, Violet, and Solidarités International.

The accompanying [data from the month of April](#) is disseminated monthly and is distributed through partners across the humanitarian community.

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	
	Tomato paste	6 kg	
	Hygiene items	Bathing soap	12 bars
		Laundry/dish soap	3 kg
Sanitary pads		4 packs of 10	
Toothpaste		200 g	
Fuel	Cooking fuel*	25 L	
Water	Water trucking	4500 L	
Telecom	Smartphone data	1 GB	
Other	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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Coverage and data collection dates

This month, REACH and partners covered 32 sub-districts in northwest Syria for the Market Monitoring Exercise, including 2,019 individual shops. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and resulting market disruption, prices in the Market Monitoring dataset and output should be seen as representative only of the markets and dates where and when information was collected (6-13 of April). See pages 10 and 11 for COVID-19-related findings. Moreover, please note that border crossing status may have changed (as a result of COVID-19) since data collection.

Highest northwest SMEB cost recorded

In April 2020, the value of the regional SMEB reached 122,451 Syrian Pounds (SYP) / 101 United States Dollars (USD), increasing by 6% across comparable communities with consistent coverage since March (see Methodology) and re-setting the highest price recorded

by the Market Monitoring Exercise in NWS. When aggregating all assessed communities during April, the total median regional SMEB was recorded at 122,068 SYP / 100 USD. While the SMEB continued to rise in SYP, in USD the SMEB value decreased from 107 to 100 USD in April due to the further depreciation of the SYP against the USD (see below).

Sharp depreciation of the SYP against the USD

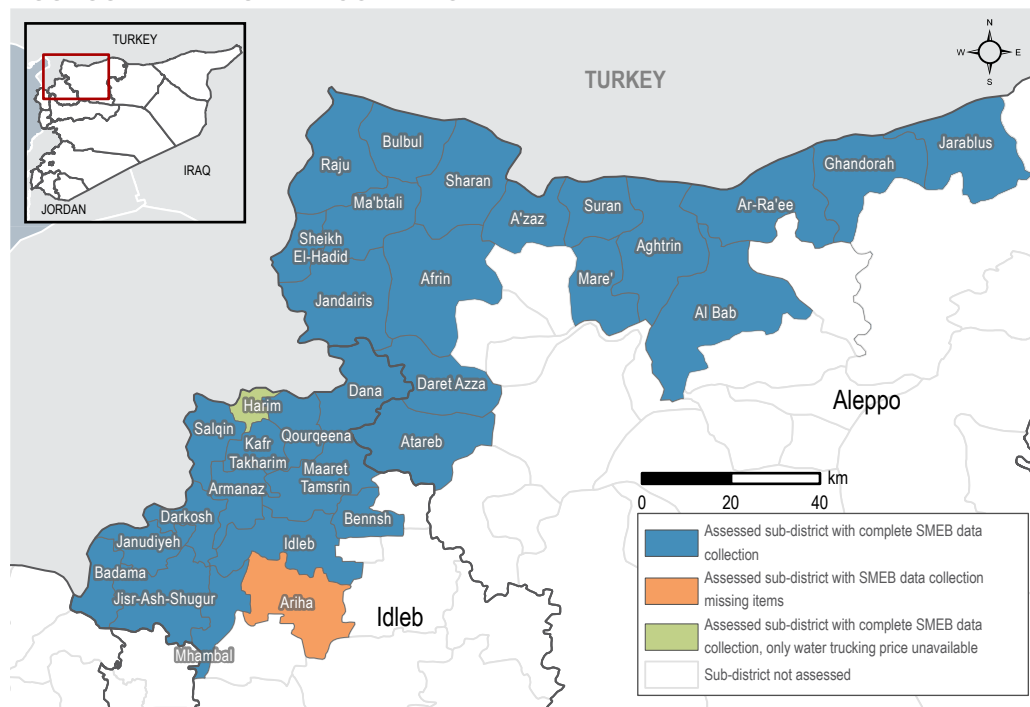
During data collection in April in NWS, the regional median of the informal SYP/USD exchange rate continued to show an upward trend, increasing by 12% from 1,080 to 1,215 SYP against 1 USD this month. The continued financial crisis in Lebanon, international economic sanctions on Syria, and the coronavirus pandemic are [reported as the main causes](#) for the sharp depreciation of the SYP informal exchange rate.

Water trucking prices decreased

Recent [OCHA findings](#) showed that access to water and sanitation were within the main priority needs of IDP communities in NWS in April. The price of water trucking, used for both drinking water and hygiene purposes in NWS, decreased by 10% since March. Price decreases may reflect OCHA findings reporting an increase in provision of water trucking by humanitarian organisations since the outbreak of COVID-19, which may have led to a demand decrease. The falling cost of transport fuel could also have impacted the decrease in water trucking prices.

The price of bottled drinking water was monitored for the first time as part of the Market Monitoring Exercise and its regional median was recorded at 150 SYP per litre.

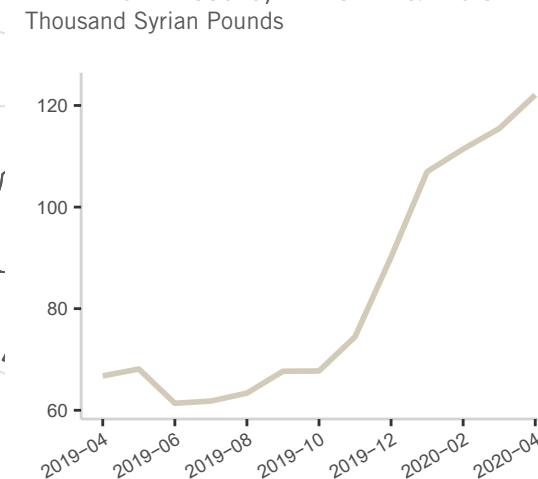
ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE



MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

122,068 SYP (100 USD) | NORTHWEST SYRIA - IDLEB, WESTERN & NORTHERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH & REGION



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

122,068 SYP
(100 USD)

NORTHWEST SYRIA - IDLEB, WESTERN & NORTHERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES

Food items prices sharply increased – especially bulk food

This month, the value of the regional SMEB food component increased by 8%, reaching 85,975 SYP. Field teams reported an increase in food item demand in northern Syria due to the partial closures of markets or community curfews following COVID-19 restrictions (see page 11 for information related to supply challenges), and preparations for the month of Ramadan. REACH's recent [Impact of COVID-19 on markets in northern Syria](#) assessment similarly found that 20% of surveyed vendors reported an increase in market demand after the emergence of COVID-19. Moreover, food prices in Syria continue to increase due to the sharp depreciation of the SYP, as also reported by the [World Food Programme](#). Bulk food items in particular have witnessed a significant increase since March. For example, bulgur increased by 14%, rice by 20%, and split and red lentils by 16% and 25%, respectively. Field teams reported a scarcity of bulk food items which resulted in price increases. As bulk food items were imported into NWS, the partial closure of

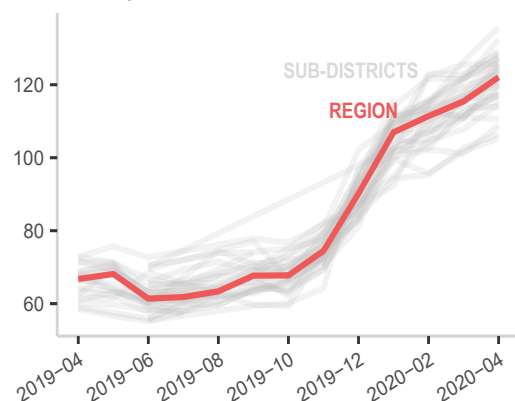
roads due to anti-COVID-19 measures were reportedly one of the main factors for the bulk food supply shortage. Moreover, the price of potatoes increased by 25% since March. Field teams reported that this inflation could be attributed to the significant loss of arable land to the Government of Syria over the last months.

Transport fuel prices decreased

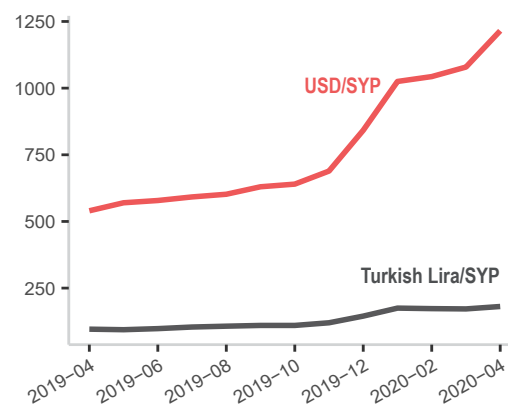
This month, transport fuel prices decreased by 4% at the regional level, reaching a median of 625 SYP per litre. In particular, prices of petrol greatly decreased since March, with high quality petrol prices falling by 25% and manually refined petrol prices falling by 20%. Diesel prices only slightly decreased: high quality diesel decreased by 3% and manually refined diesel decreased by 7% since March. The recent revival of importing manually refined fuel from NES, as well as the import of European high quality fuels from Turkey at low prices, were reportedly the potential causes of the price decrease. Moreover, the [global demand](#) for fuel witnessed a major decrease in the wake of COVID-19, which resulted in a worldwide decrease in prices.

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



EXCHANGE RATES, BY MONTH & CURRENCY



MEDIAN SMEB COSTS & CHANGES*

Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Northwest Syria	122,451	6%	66%
Afrin	124,361	12%	72%
Aghtrin	105,381	6%	43%
Al Bab	113,450	-1%	62%
Ariha	NA	NA	NA
Armanaz	129,682	4%	70%
Ar-Ra'ee	108,901	8%	42%
Atareb	123,061	NA	55%
A'zaz	125,588	3%	56%
Badama	124,065	6%	72%
Bennsh	125,200	8%	67%
Bulbul	115,775	4%	80%
Dana	117,178	1%	62%
Daret Azza	128,651	5%	67%
Darkosh	138,826	12%	72%
Ghandorah	106,582	4%	45%

Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Harim**	110,597	6%	53%
Idleb	108,363	1%	49%
Jandairis	121,841	10%	61%
Janudiyeh	120,201	3%	NA
Jarablus	117,048	4%	53%
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	125,039	7%	76%
Kafr Takharim	124,472	6%	62%
Maaret Tamsrin	120,762	5%	74%
Ma'bтали	125,694	0%	69%
Mare'	120,835	10%	NA
Mhambal	120,632	2%	45%
Qourqeena	127,562	5%	80%
Raju	120,086	1%	NA
Salqin	132,098	9%	67%
Sharan	114,574	6%	66%
Sheikh El-Hadid	127,646	5%	56%
Suran	128,266	12%	74%

* For price and change calculations, only the communities within a sub-district with consistent coverage across months are included.

** SMEB calculated without water trucking component.

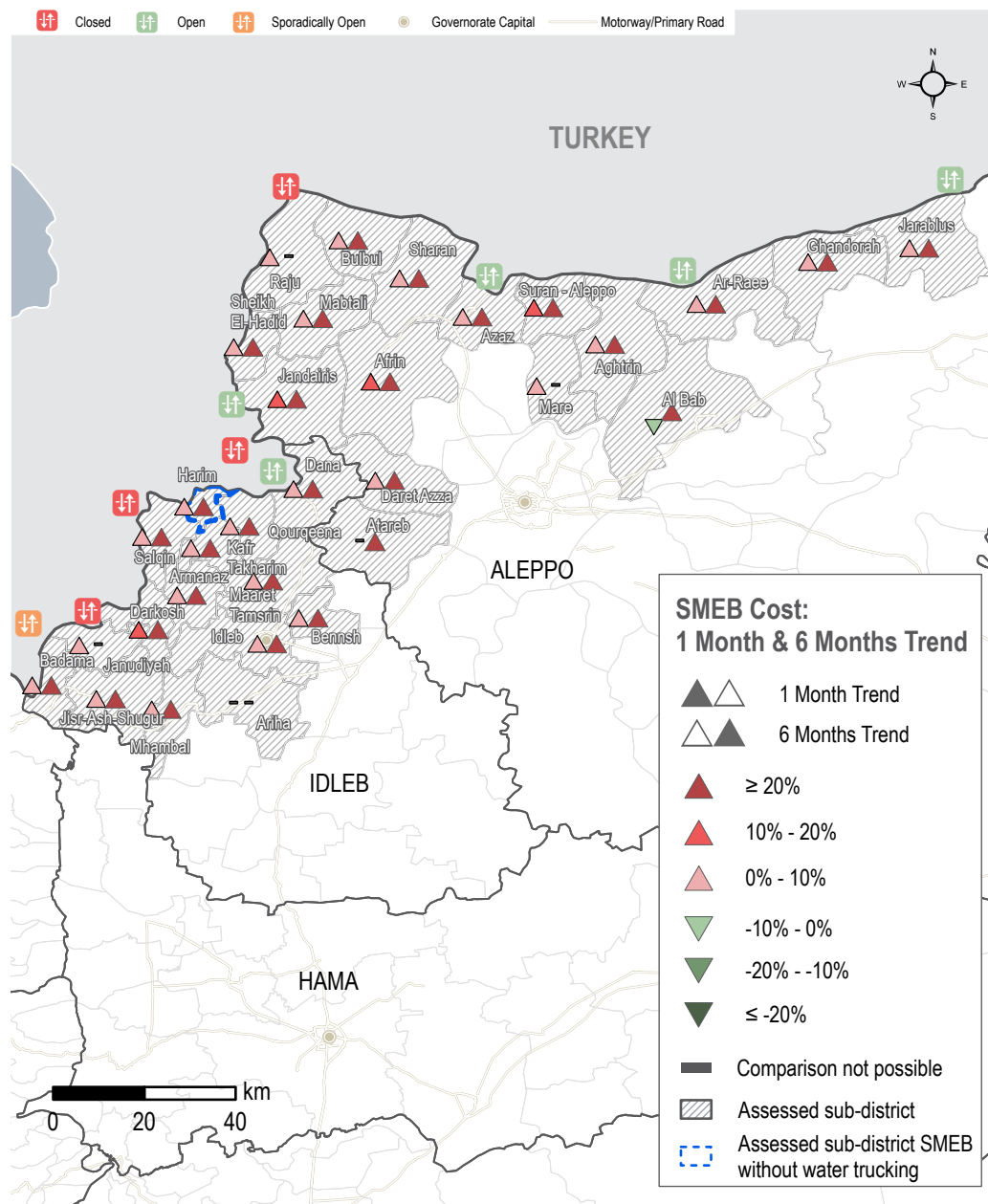
SUB-DISTRICT WITH INCOMPLETE SMEB IN APRIL

SUB-DISTRICT MISSING ITEMS

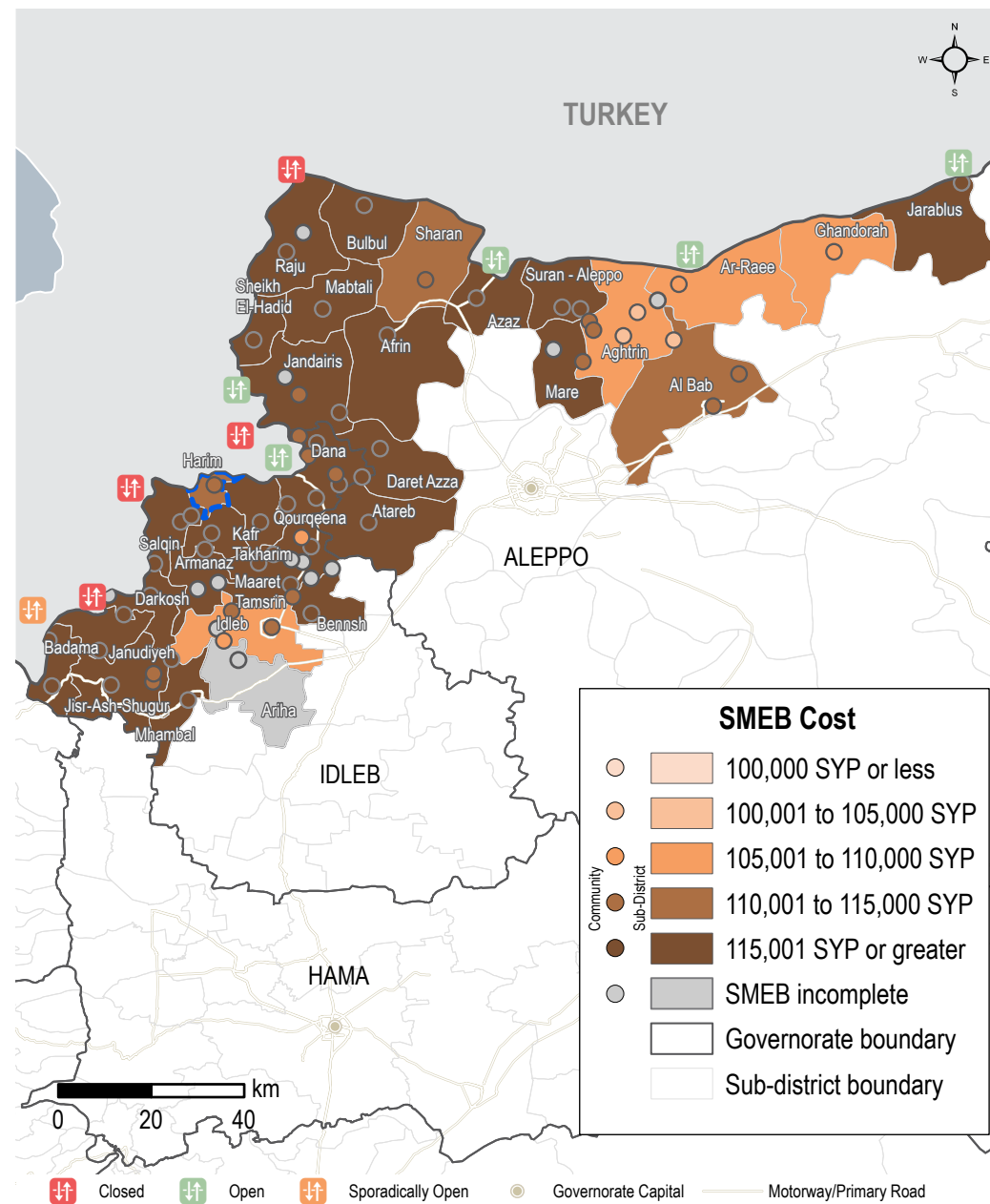
Ariha Bread, manually refined kerosene

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

SMEB COST: ONE MONTH & SIX MONTHS TREND



SMEB COST RANGES (SYP), BY SUB-DISTRICTS & COMMUNITIES



NORTHWEST SYRIA - SMEB FOOD ITEMS

Idleb, Western & Northern Aleppo governorates

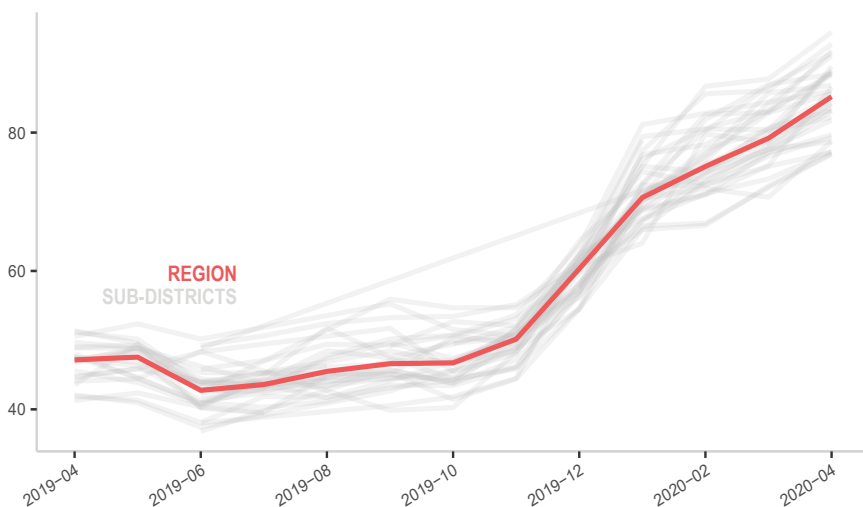
MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS

See Page 1, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change
Northwest Syria	85,975	8%	72%	Harim	77,170	3%	53%
Afrin	89,550	14%	87%	Idleb	77,178	5%	68%
Aghtrin	76,988	9%	57%	Jandairis	84,725	5%	59%
Al Bab	81,750	1%	68%	Janudiyeh	88,815	12%	NA
Ariha	NA	NA	NA	Jarablus	79,676	3%	54%
Armanaz	90,990	5%	76%	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	82,300	5%	83%
Ar-Ra'ee	78,725	11%	53%	Kafr Takharim	91,808	10%	85%
Atareb	86,000	NA	60%	Maaret Tamsrin	83,370	7%	80%
A'zaz	88,338	7%	70%	Ma'btali	88,475	2%	76%
Badama	84,718	10%	75%	Mare'	90,450	14%	65%
Bennsh	85,640	3%	68%	Mhambal	86,408	5%	54%
Bulbul	77,280	5%	74%	Qourqeena	86,828	1%	84%
Dana	78,678	2%	61%	Raju	86,523	3%	NA
Daret Azza	94,488	8%	87%	Salqin	88,565	6%	68%
Darkosh	93,915	12%	81%	Sharan	83,163	8%	87%
Ghandorah	76,990	6%	59%	Sheikh El-Hadid	92,790	8%	83%
				Suran	85,975	11%	73%

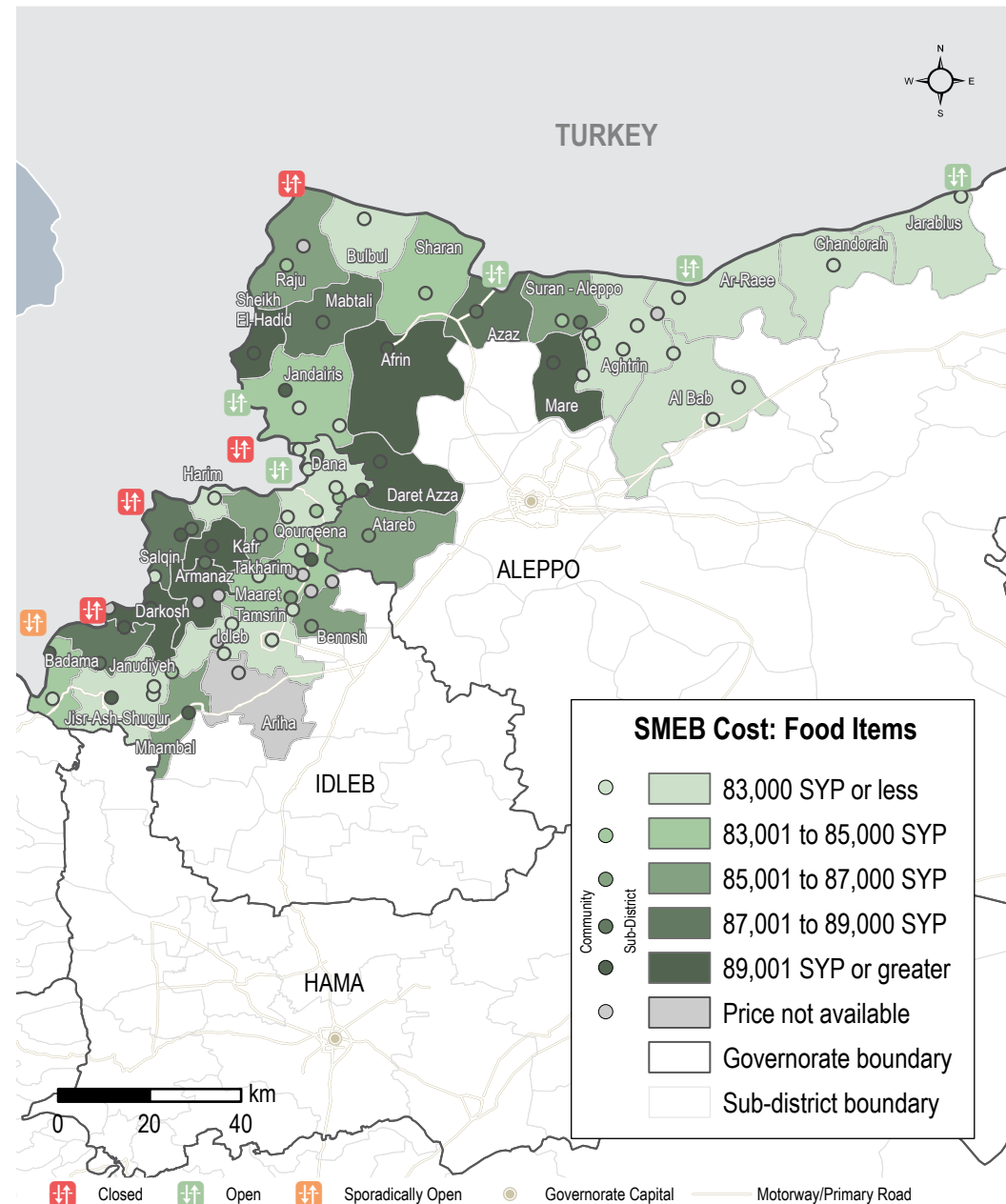
MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB FOOD ITEMS' COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



NORTHWEST SYRIA - SMEB COOKING FUEL

Idleb, Western & Northern Aleppo governorates

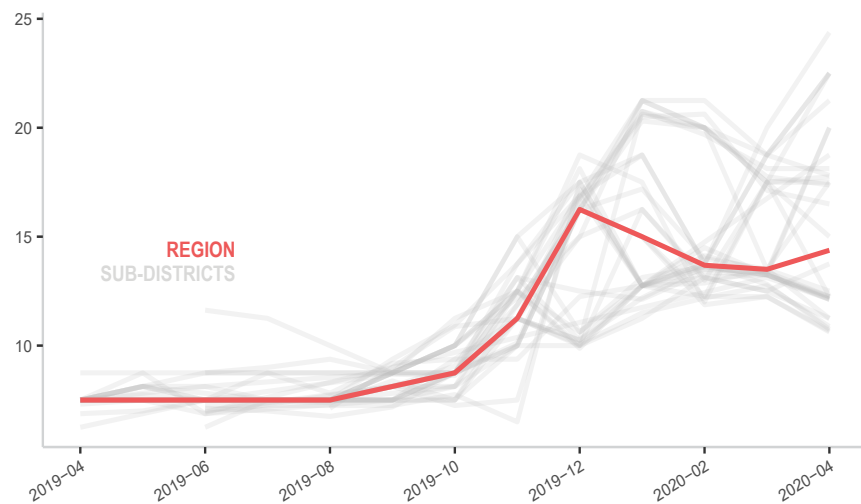
MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL PRICE

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
Northwest Syria	14,375	6%	28%	Harim	17,500	30%	56%
Afrin	13,750	10%	22%	Idleb	12,250	-8%	-2%
Aghtrin	10,625	-13%	-11%	Jandairis	20,000	52%	78%
Al Bab	10,688	-13%	14%	Janudiyeh	12,250	-30%	9%
Ariha	12,500	-7%	33%	Jarablus	17,500	0%	56%
Armanaz	17,813	-5%	43%	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	22,500	20%	80%
Ar-Ra'ee	10,875	-15%	-3%	Kafr Takharim	12,188	-8%	-7%
Atareb	18,750	NA	43%	Maaret Tamsrin	17,813	2%	78%
A'zaz	15,000	-14%	20%	Ma'btali	11,250	-10%	13%
Badama	18,125	2%	81%	Mare'	11,375	-11%	75%
Bennsh	20,000	51%	78%	Mhambal	12,250	-8%	-2%
Bulbul	16,500	-4%	120%	Qourqeena	21,250	13%	74%
Dana	17,375	-2%	72%	Raju	12,125	-14%	NA
Daret Azza	12,125	-8%	-3%	Salqin	24,375	22%	86%
Darkosh	22,500	20%	50%	Sharan	12,125	-8%	-3%
Ghandorah	11,250	-17%	-10%	Sheikh El-Hadid	12,250	-8%	-18%
				Suran	22,500	29%	109%

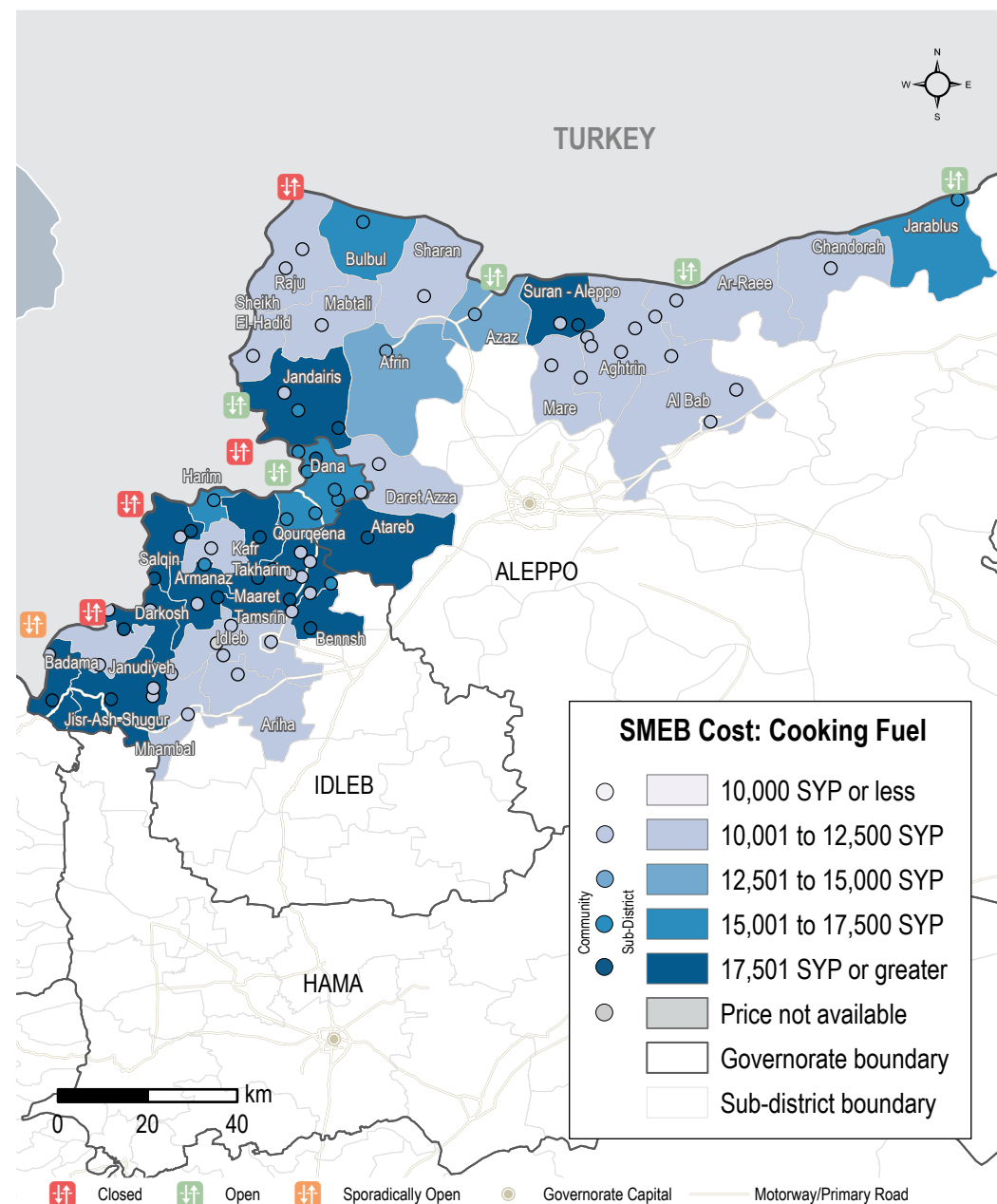
MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB COOKING FUEL COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



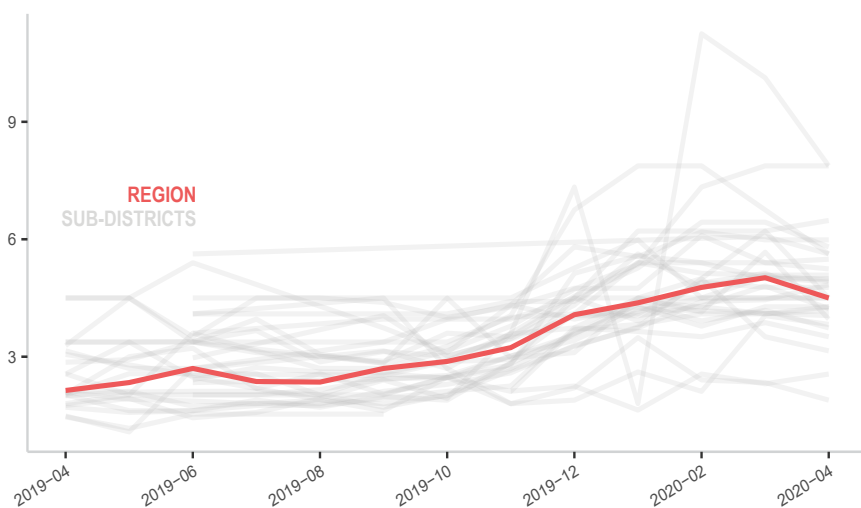
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICE

4,500L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Water Truck	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Water Truck	One month change	Six month change
Northwest Syria	4,500	-10%	44%	Harim	NA	NA	NA
Afrin	5,985	0%	39%	Idleb	5,625	-18%	39%
Aghtrin	4,500	-12%	39%	Jandairis	2,115	-10%	18%
Al Bab	6,480	4%	64%	Janudiyeh	4,500	0%	100%
Ariha	5,805	-10%	82%	Jarablus	5,085	0%	15%
Armanaz	4,275	4%	67%	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	4,905	4%	68%
Ar-Ra'ee	4,995	0%	25%	Kafr Takharim	4,230	-12%	23%
Atareb	4,050	NA	43%	Maaret Tamsrin	3,735	-6%	24%
A'zaz	5,243	-3%	23%	Ma'btali	7,875	-22%	119%
Badama	4,973	-15%	35%	Mare'	4,118	2%	129%
Bennsh	3,150	-10%	19%	Mhambal	7,448	0%	97%
Bulbul	5,490	2%	97%	Qourqeena	2,557	11%	-17%
Dana	4,950	-5%	64%	Raju	6,098	0%	NA
Daret Azza	4,838	9%	87%	Salqin	3,510	-9%	11%
Darkosh	4,500	-12%	64%	Sharan	4,185	2%	98%
Ghandorah	4,275	0%	-1%	Sheikh El-Hadid	4,500	0%	0%
				Suran	3,983	-21%	29%

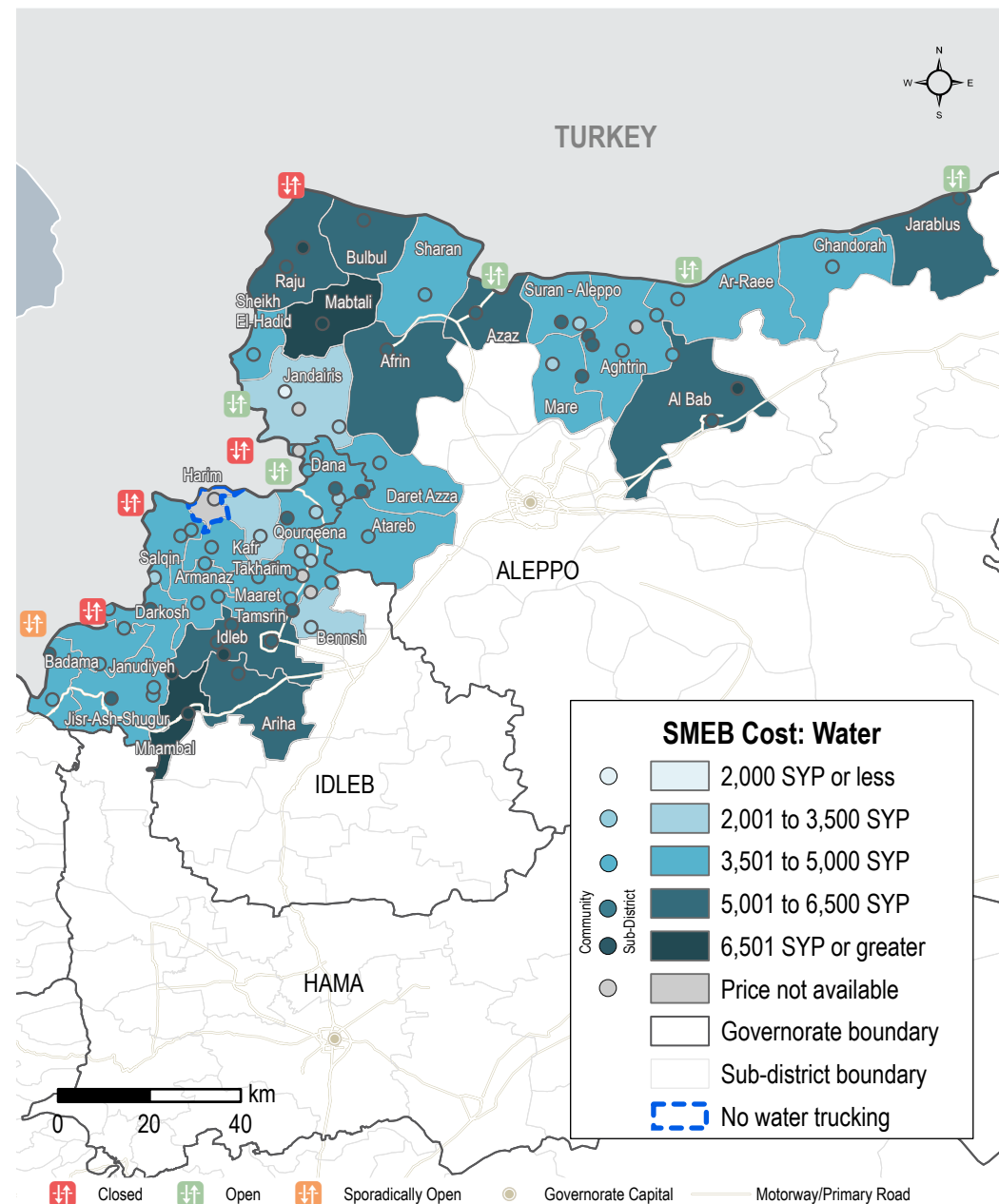
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB WATER TRUCKING COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



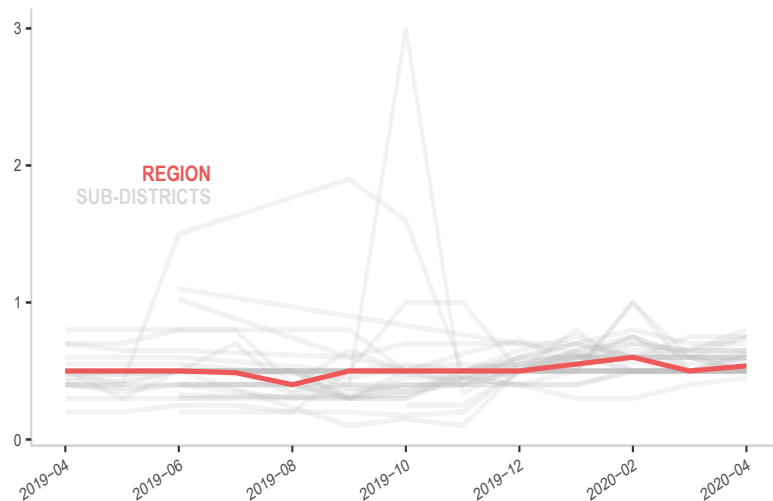
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA PRICE

1GB data, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Data (1GB)	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Data (1GB)	One month change	Six month change
Northwest Syria	500	-9%	0%	Harim	800	23%	220%
Afrin	650	0%	30%	Idleb	500	0%	25%
Aghtrin	500	0%	0%	Jandairis	500	-20%	150%
Al Bab	600	0%	20%	Janudiyeh	500	0%	25%
Ariha	600	0%	50%	Jarablus	500	0%	0%
Armanaz	500	0%	25%	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	800	28%	52%
Ar-Ra'ee	500	0%	0%	Kafr Takharim	500	0%	0%
Atareb	500	NA	0%	Maaret Tamsrin	525	-13%	5%
A'zaz	750	0%	20%	Ma'b'tali	700	0%	0%
Badama	575	0%	35%	Mare'	500	-17%	400%
Bennsh	500	0%	11%	Mhambal	500	11%	46%
Bulbul	650	0%	30%	Qourqeena	625	14%	85%
Dana	600	0%	20%	Raju	500	0%	NA
Daret Azza	500	0%	11%	Salqin	600	20%	33%
Darkosh	500	0%	0%	Sharan	750	15%	36%
Ghandorah	500	0%	0%	Sheikh El-Hadid	500	0%	-50%
				Suran	600	-8%	20%

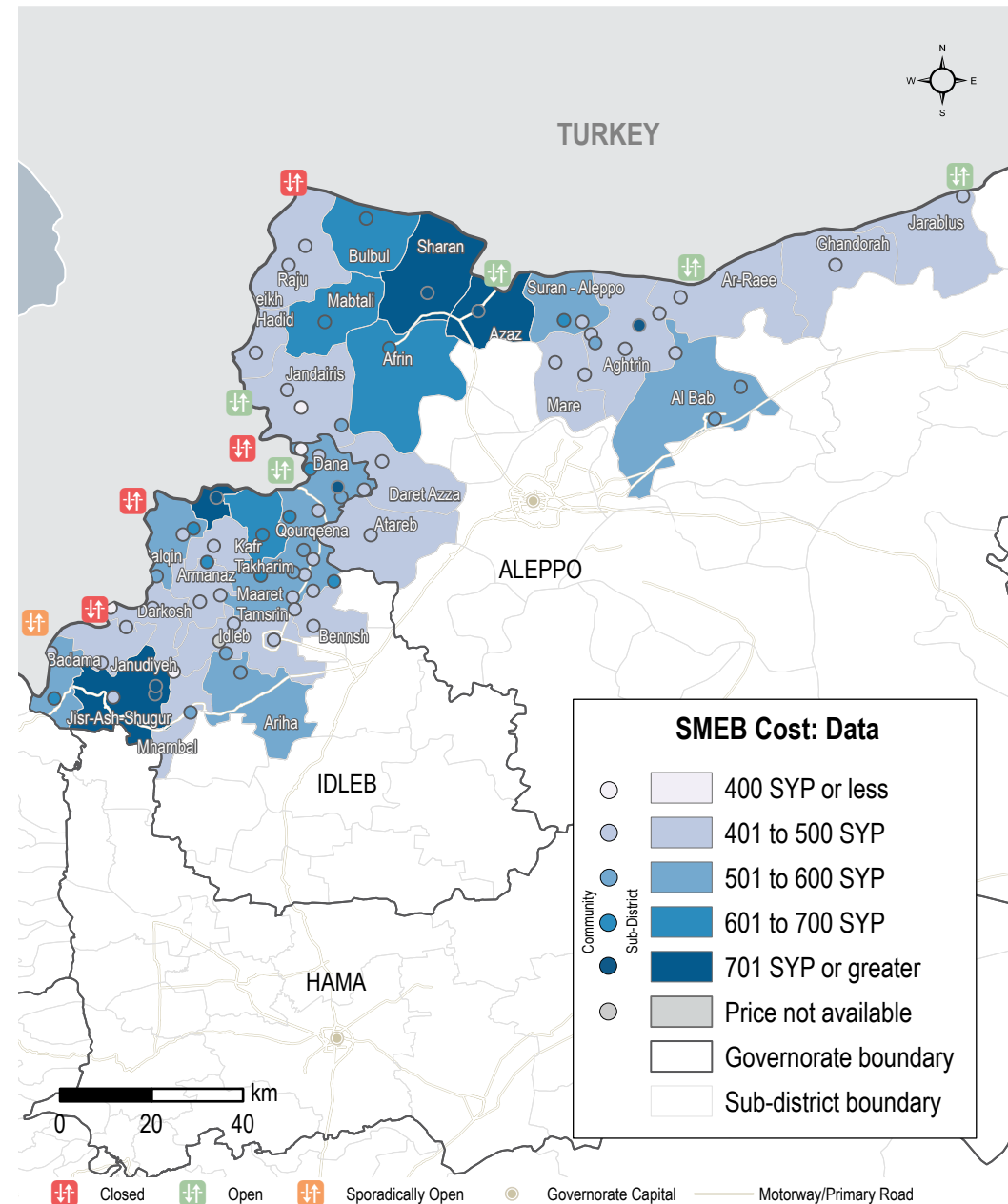
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



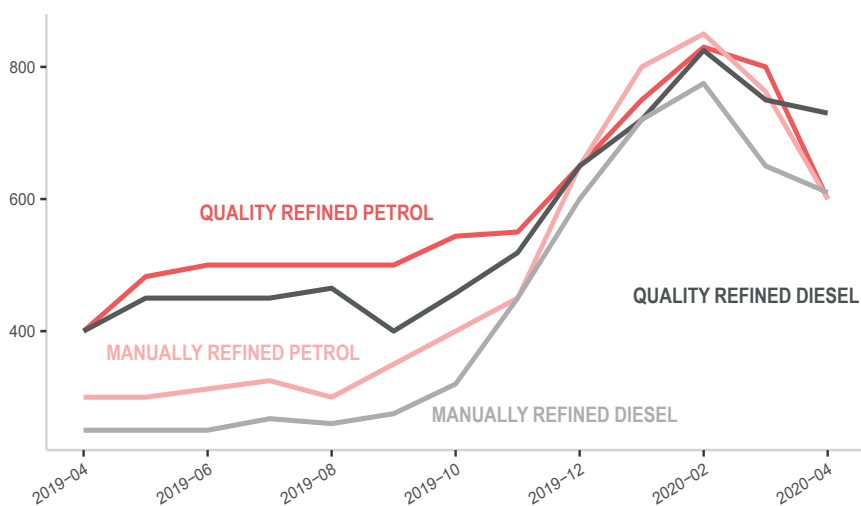
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

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
Northwest Syria	625	-4%	32%	Harim	750	0%	72%
Afrin	NA	NA	NA	Idleb	610	-6%	36%
Aghtrin	613	-6%	40%	Jandairis	625	-18%	37%
Al Bab	606	NA	56%	Janudiyeh	NA	NA	NA
Ariha	675	-12%	49%	Jarablus	650	0%	37%
Armanaz	649	-13%	33%	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	615	-15%	31%
Ar-Ra'ee	NA	NA	NA	Kafr Takharim	643	-12%	28%
Atareb	683	NA	31%	Maaret Tamsrin	678	-7%	38%
A'zaz	606	-20%	28%	Ma'bтали	NA	NA	NA
Badama	625	-6%	39%	Mare'	600	-17%	58%
Bennsh	625	NA	26%	Mhambal	NA	NA	NA
Bulbul	620	-5%	34%	Qourqeena	643	-12%	37%
Dana	595	-15%	29%	Raju	613	2%	NA
Daret Azza	NA	NA	NA	Salqin	664	-15%	30%
Darkosh	618	-15%	19%	Sharan	600	NA	31%
Ghadorah	625	NA	29%	Sheikh El-Hadid	600	NA	23%
				Suran	631	-21%	29%

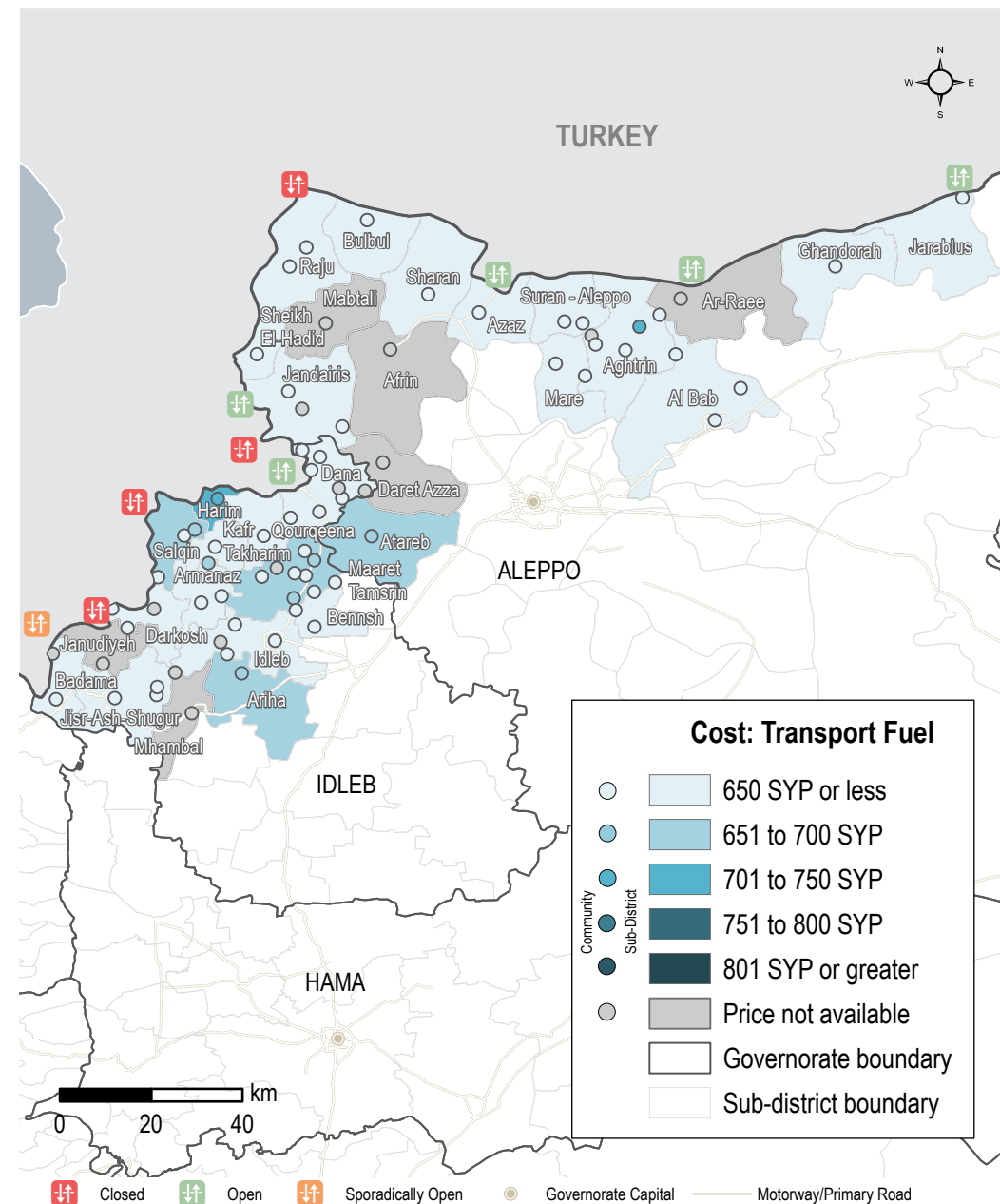
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE

Syrian Pounds



TRANSPORT FUEL COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



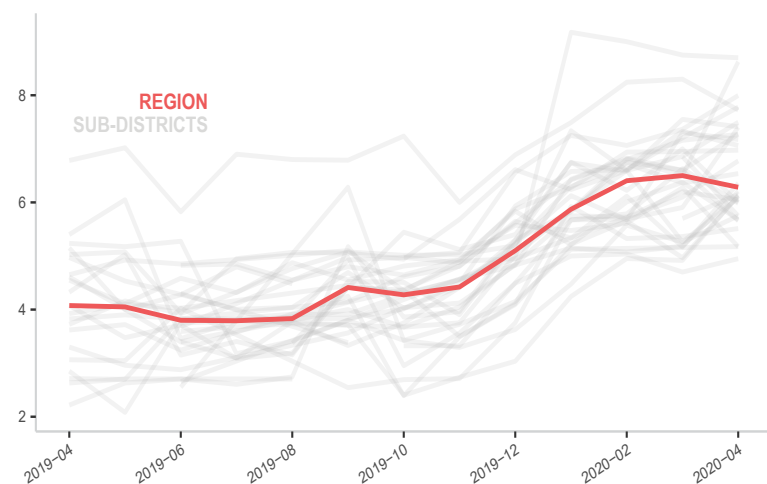
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' PRICE

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	Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene Items	One month change	Six month change
Northwest Syria	6,309	-3%	40%	Harim	7,411	-2%	45%
Afrin	5,750	9%	75%	Idlib	5,250	-6%	8%
Aghtrin	5,416	23%	46%	Jandairis	6,000	-6%	50%
Al Bab	6,018	-12%	122%	Janudiyeh	5,750	-16%	NA
Ariha	5,513	3%	58%	Jarablus	6,121	23%	75%
Armanaz	7,057	4%	81%	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	5,810	1%	16%
Ar-Ra'ee	6,208	20%	51%	Kafr Takharim	7,063	-4%	41%
Atareb	5,175	NA	39%	Maaret Tamsrin	6,895	-4%	49%
A'zaz	7,497	9%	32%	Ma'btali	8,625	33%	90%
Badama	7,019	-6%	55%	Mare'	5,963	7%	NA
Bennsh	7,175	-2%	62%	Mhambal	5,611	-15%	24%
Bulbul	7,778	8%	73%	Qourqeena	7,403	25%	123%
Dana	7,400	8%	52%	Raju	6,463	15%	NA
Daret Azza	7,725	-7%	30%	Salqin	5,832	18%	40%
Darkosh	7,725	13%	59%	Sharan	6,358	23%	32%
Ghadorah	6,131	25%	124%	Sheikh El-Hadid	8,700	-1%	78%
				Suran	6,260	-4%	44%

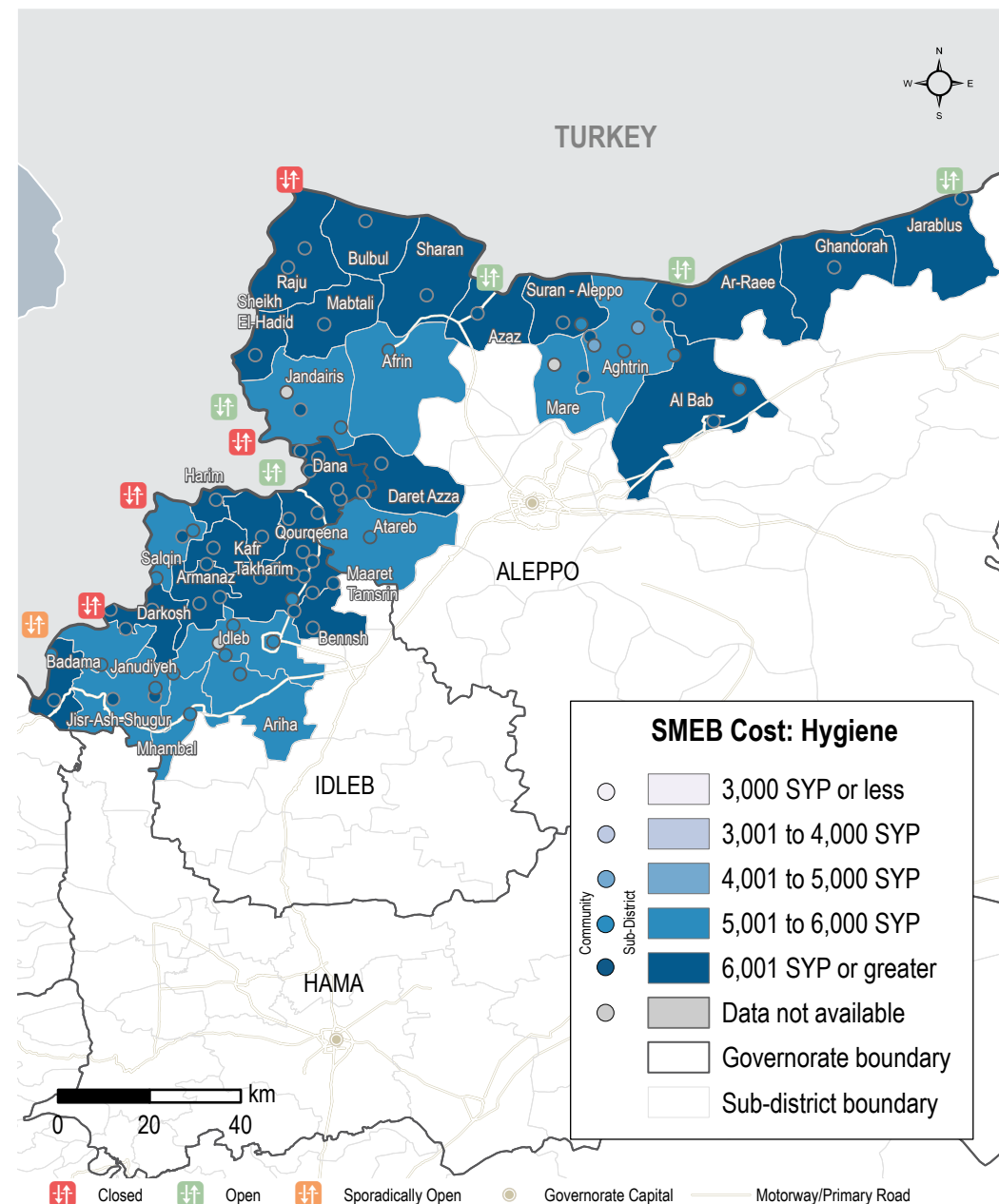
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds





MEDIAN PRICE OF COVID-19 ITEMS

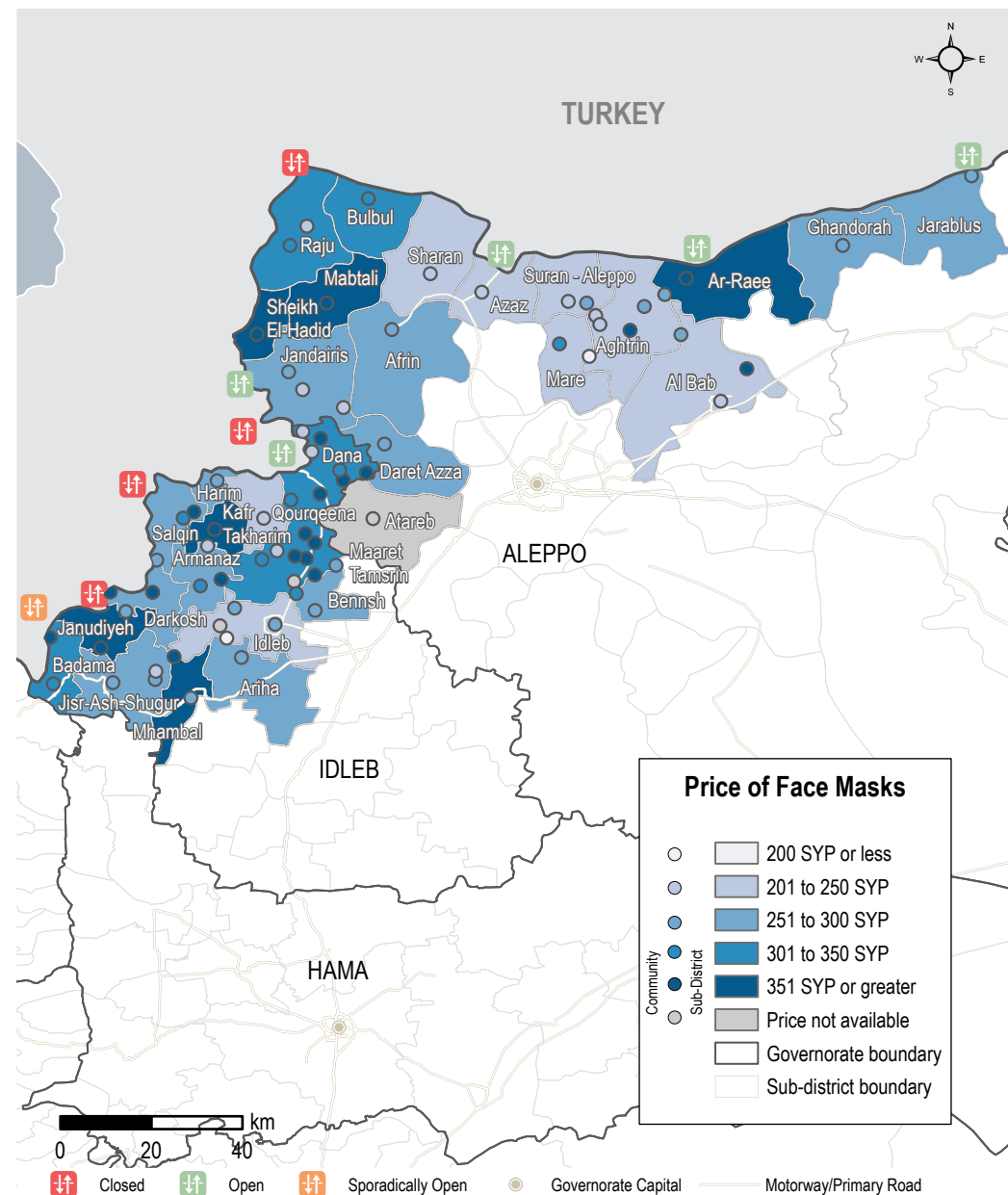
Syrian Pounds

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)
Northwest Syria	300	7,500	4,713	2,000	613	1,000
Afrin	300	7,750	4,500	3,250	750	2,000
Aghtrin	250	10,000	6,500	1,800	500	600
Al Bab	250	10,000	1,600	1,000	700	750
Ariha	300	10,000	5,000	500	600	NA
Armanaz	300	7,625	4,500	2,200	700	1,100
Ar-Ra'ee	400	8,000	5,000	1,400	434	425
Atareb	NA	NA	NA	NA	500	NA
A'zaz	238	8,250	4,200	2,300	750	725
Badama	325	4,300	4,450	2,000	613	1,650
Bennsh	300	5,000	8,000	4,500	600	1,500
Bulbul	325	4,600	4,600	2,050	675	1,650
Dana	350	4,600	4,600	2,100	700	1,200
Daret Azza	300	4,500	4,000	4,450	500	300
Darkosh	300	10,000	4,286	800	500	1,000
Ghandorah	300	8,000	6,000	4,500	700	800
Harim	300	4,900	4,500	2,000	700	1,100
Idleb	250	7,750	5,000	3,000	450	1,500
Jandairis	300	7,500	5,000	925	500	925
Janudiyeh	400	6,000	5,500	2,000	500	NA
Jarablus	300	8,200	7,000	3,100	550	800
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	300	10,000	4,286	800	550	1,000
Kafr Takharim	400	6,000	7,200	525	613	1,600
Maaret Tamsrin	350	4,900	4,825	2,000	600	1,500
Ma'btali	500	5,000	6,500	2,500	750	NA
Mare'	250	4,167	1,500	800	725	600
Mhambal	400	7,500	7,000	NA	700	NA
Qourqeena	238	4,900	3,500	2,100	700	1,300
Raju	325	5,600	6,100	3,300	650	1,600
Salqin	300	7,600	7,500	800	550	1,000
Sharan	250	4,500	4,500	2,000	725	350
Sheikh El-Hadid	500	7,500	NA	NA	500	500
Suran	250	7,500	4,000	800	700	600

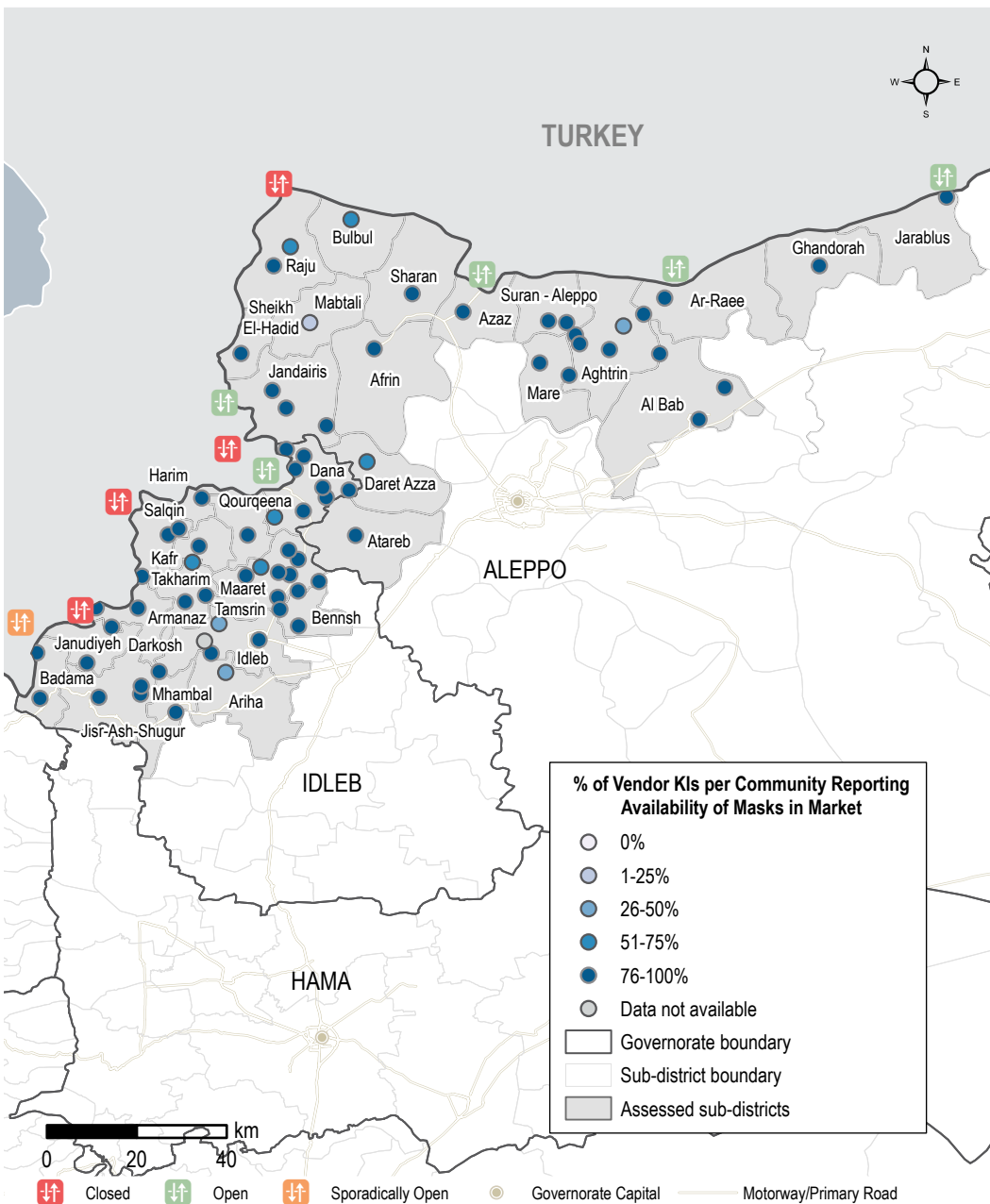


PRICE OF FACE MASKS

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



AVAILABILITY OF FACE MASKS Communities



MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

During data collection, only 1% of vendors surveyed reported having closed their shops as a result of COVID-19. In Aleppo governorate, closed shops were most commonly reported by hygiene, communication, and informal currency exchange vendors, as reported by 7% of each of these vendor types. In Idleb, nearly all vendor types reported that their shops were still fully functioning, with the exception of 5% of bread vendors who reported closure.

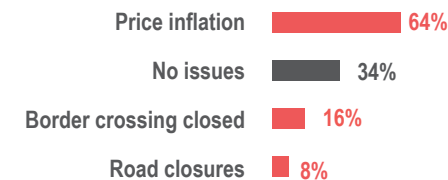
DELIVERY MECHANISMS

Sixty-three percent (63%) of 2,006 vendor respondents reported that door-to-door delivery services were available in their communities within the current COVID-19 environment. Water trucking deliveries were most commonly reported as available by 69% of vendors in Aleppo governorate and by 75% of vendors in Idleb governorate. Daily food deliveries were reportedly available by 17% of KIs in Aleppo and by 5% of KIs in Idleb. Finally, 13% of surveyed vendors in Aleppo and 3% in Idleb reported that LP gas deliveries were available in their communities.

SUPPLY CHALLENGES

While supply challenges were largely similar to pre-COVID-19 issues, vendors were facing new issues under the current situation. Out of 1,910 surveyed vendors, 66% reported facing one or more supply challenges. Sixty-four percent (64%) reported price inflation as their main supply challenge. This was followed by 16% of vendors who reported closure of border crossings negatively impacting supply and 8% reporting that road closures to/from their community were a challenge to supply (see figure 1). When asked about their suppliers, 2% of vendors said that suppliers were out of stock while 6% of vendors reported that suppliers had limited stock. Yet, no vendors reported that their suppliers were unavailable.

Figure 1: Top 4 most commonly reported supply challenges by vendor KIs (1,910 respondents)*

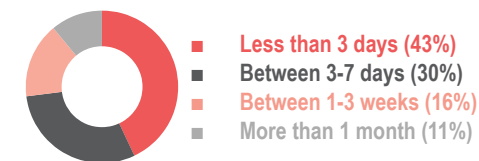


*Multiple answers allowed, thus findings may exceed 100%

RESTOCKING

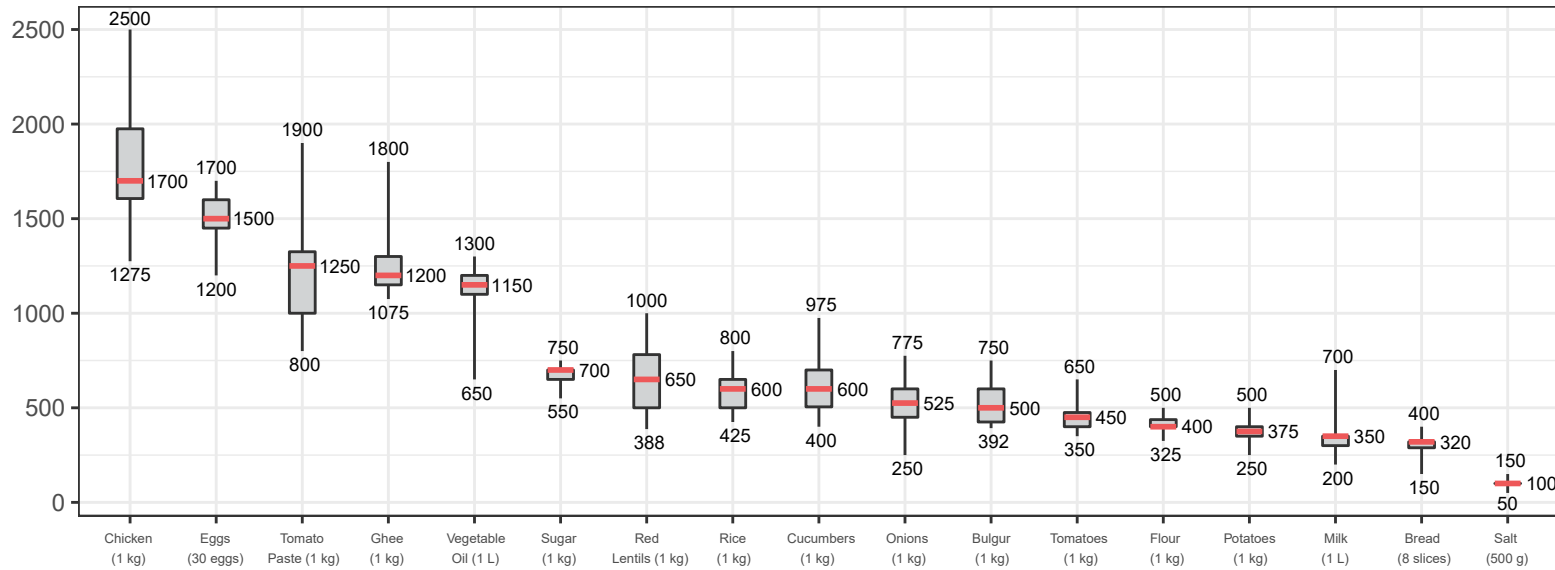
In addition to supply challenges being reported, 7% of 1,978 surveyed vendors reported that they would be unable to restock if they were to run out of supplies. When looking at specific shop types, 13% of informal currency exchange vendors, 11% of fuel vendors, and 10% of surveyed communication vendors reported that they would not be able to restock if they were to run out of supplies. The same vendors were asked after how many days they would run out if supply was cut. Forty-three percent (43%) of respondents said they would run out of supplies in less than 3 days and 30% in 3 to 7 days (see Figure 2). Vendor types which would run out of supplies the fastest were reportedly water trucking vendors, vegetables vendors, and butchers. Related to COVID-19, 23% of hygiene vendors and 18% of pharmacists reported that they would run out of supplies in less than 3 days if they were unable to restock.

Figure 2: Reported number of days before all types of vendors would run out of stock, if supply lines were cut (1,978 respondents)



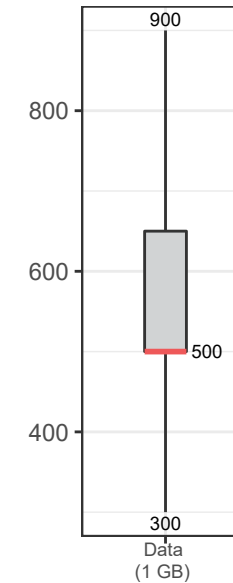
ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



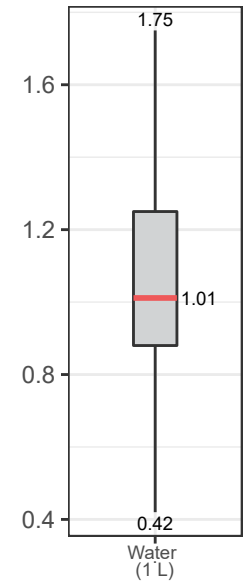
CELLPHONE DATA

Syrian Pounds



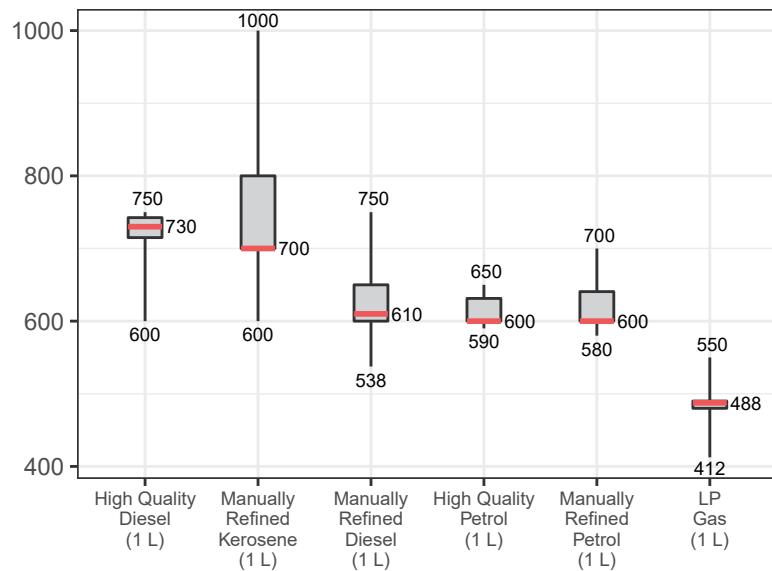
WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



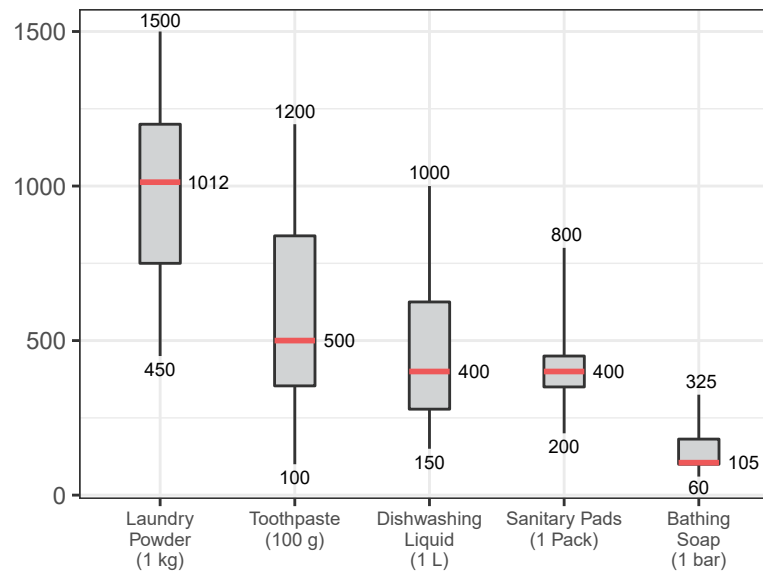
ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

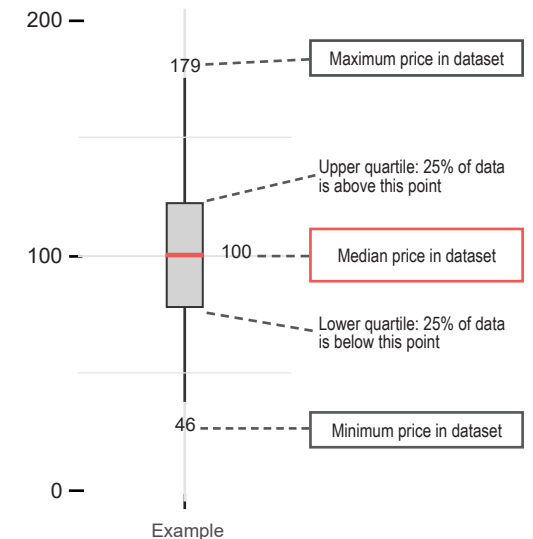


ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

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 sub-district, 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 are distributed to all participating partners, as well as to interested clusters and the broader humanitarian community.

Calculating 'median cheapest price'

This figure is calculated by taking the median of the minimum-reported prices of a region's sub-districts. In turn, the minimum-reported prices for each sub-district were taken from the median of the minimum-reported prices of the constituent towns assessed.

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.

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.

Challenges and limitations

As the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise currently includes 17 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. Because this exercise collects data directly from vendors and relies on partner organizations for its wide coverage, Market Monitoring may sporadically lose coverage temporarily or for longer periods of time due to challenges in accessing locations or 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 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 for further information.