

# SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 18-26 June 2018

Cash-Based Responses  
Technical Working Group

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

## INTRODUCTION

To inform humanitarian cash programming, REACH and the Cash-Based Responses Technical Working Group (CBR-TWG) conduct monthly market monitoring throughout 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 by ACTED, CARE, Shafak, Concern, GOAL, Ihsan, IRC, Mercy Corps, People in Need, REACH, Solidarités International, Violet, and Watan.

Datasets are available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#), [the Humanitarian Data Exchange](#), and are also distributed through partners across the humanitarian community.

## SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB) CONTENTS

Food Items	Item	Quantity
	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; LP Gas in southern Syria

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

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### WoS: Dollar exchange rate fluctuations

The US Dollar to Syrian Pound exchange rate fell for the third consecutive month in the northwest and south of Syria. However, the exchange rate has increased by 4% in northeast Syria. While the Pound has not strengthened to the degree seen in December 2017, the median SMEB cost for the northwest and south has continued to decrease; for the northeast, where the exchange rate increased, the median complete SMEB cost has increased by 4.2%.

### WoS: Eid al-Fitr prices

Eid al-Fitr occurred during the middle of May and is the most likely reason for fluctuation in some prices. Food items in particular varied between sub-districts, as some items were in higher demand for the holiday.

### Northwest: Harvest leads to price decreases

During harvest season, vegetable prices are expected to decrease; following this trend the median vegetable SMEB cost has decreased by 14.3%. However, the decrease in price was not as high as expected due to limited rainfall and poor growing conditions, which led to higher production costs.

### Northeast: New industrial bakery opens

Local authorities opened a bakery facility capable of producing 10 tons of bread per day in the town of Tal Hmis located in northeast Al-Hasakeh Governorate. This facility will increase the availability of bread for surrounding under-served communities, which have previously relied on home production or have had to travel long distances to purchase bread.

### South: SMEB prices decrease

The median regional SMEB cost saw a slight decrease between May and June, decreasing by approximately 1,177 SYP (-1.8%). However, this is expected to change in the coming months.

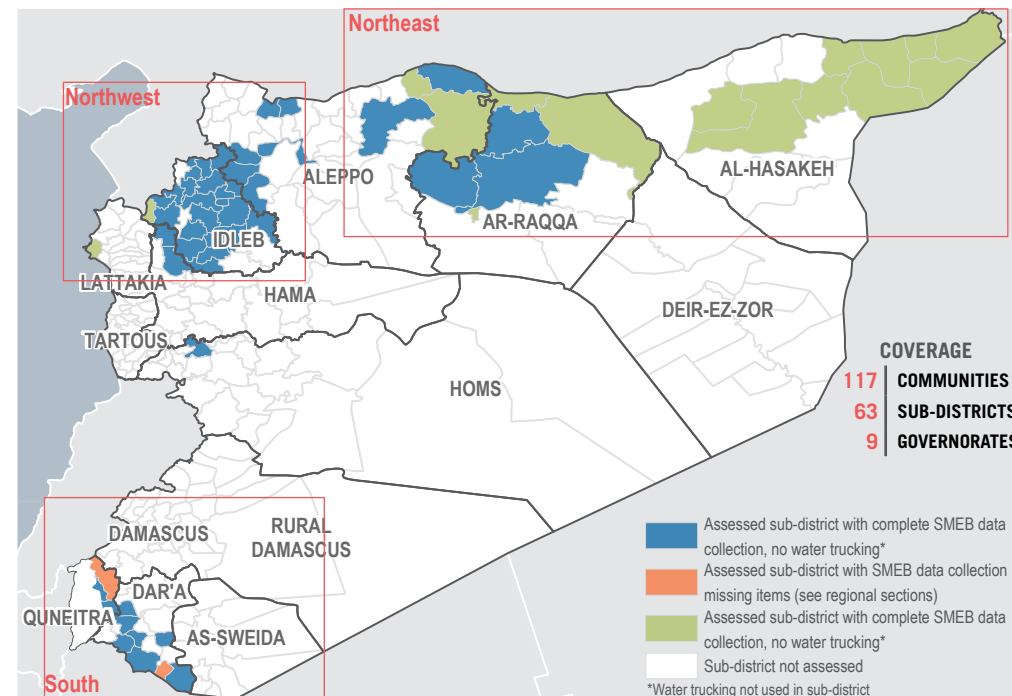
### South: Fuel prices increase

Transport fuel has increased by an average of 27% since May 2018. Prices are expected to continue to increase during the southern offensive, as road closures and security incidents lead to communities having limited access to transport fuel supplies.

### South: Coverage changes

While coverage remained consistent in June, in the future there may be coverage changes due to the offensive in the south. For a regular update on markets in the south REACH is conducting [rapid market assessments](#).

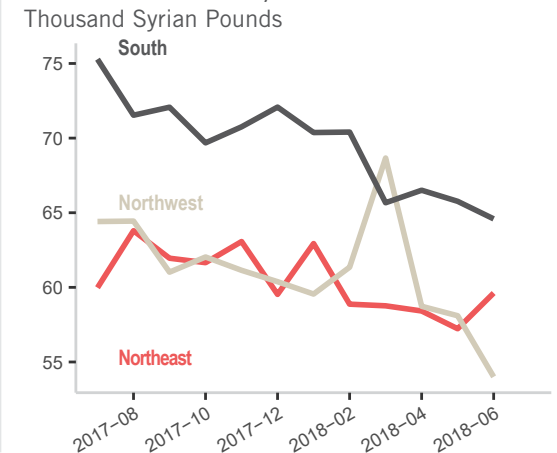
## ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE



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

<b>54,006 SYP</b> <b>(120.97 USD)</b>	<b>NORTHWEST SYRIA - IDLEB, LATTAKIA, &amp; WESTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES</b>
<b>59,618 SYP</b> <b>(141.87 USD)</b>	<b>NORTHEAST SYRIA - AL-HASAKEH, AL-RAQQA, &amp; EASTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES</b>
<b>64,588 SYP</b> <b>(145.95 USD)</b>	<b>SOUTH SYRIA - DAR'A &amp; QUNEITRA GOVERNORATES</b>

## MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH & REGION



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Median SMEB cost continues decline

The median regional SMEB cost continued to decline for the sixth consecutive month since December 2017. While most assessed sub-districts reported decreases or no change, assessed communities in Al-Hasakeh and Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh reported that the median SMEB cost increased by greater than 5%.

### Trucking load to prioritise agricultural goods

In previous years, there had been agreements where trucks coming to Al-Hasakeh governorate to transport

agricultural products elsewhere in Syria will come loaded with non-food items that will be sold in Al-Hasakeh. However, these agreements are not in place this year and as such it is likely that the region will see relatively higher prices for non-food items during the harvest season while trucks prioritise transporting agricultural goods.

### Bread price remains stable as bakery opens

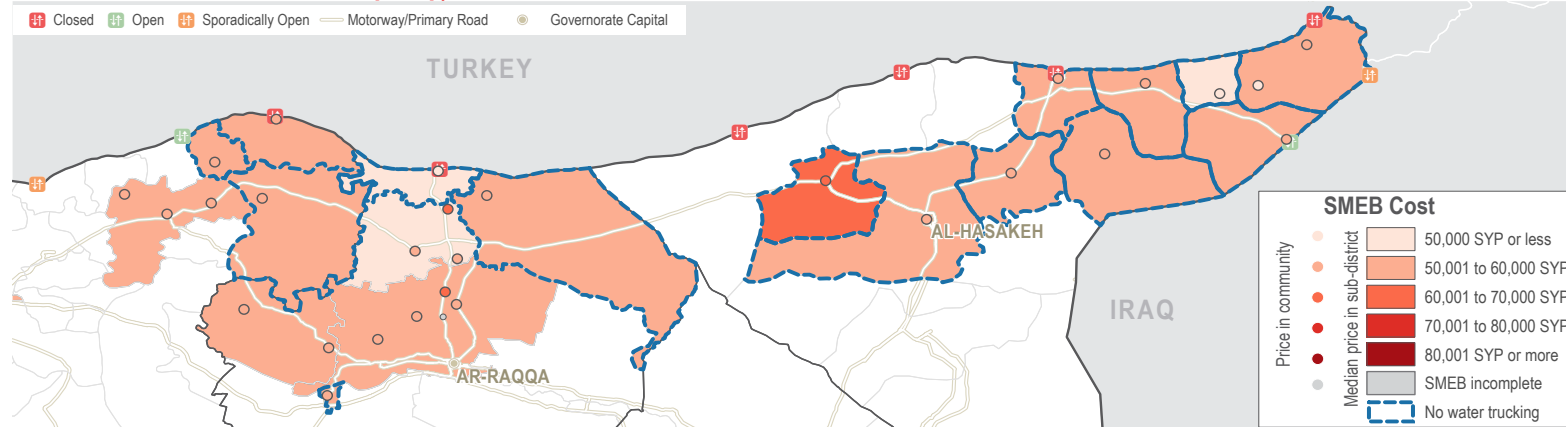
In Al-Hasakeh governorate, local authorities have opened a bakery capable of producing 10 tons of bread per day. Median bread prices for Al-Hasakeh have remained stable, possibly due to this, with other sub-districts varying in

median price change, up to 60%. In contrast, in Ya'robiyah the price of bread has increased by 233%.

### SMEB food costs diverging

While the median sub-district cost of SMEB food items converged between December 2017 and March 2018, prices have been diverging again since April 2018.

## MEDIAN SMEB COST RANGES (SYP), BY SUB-DISTRICT



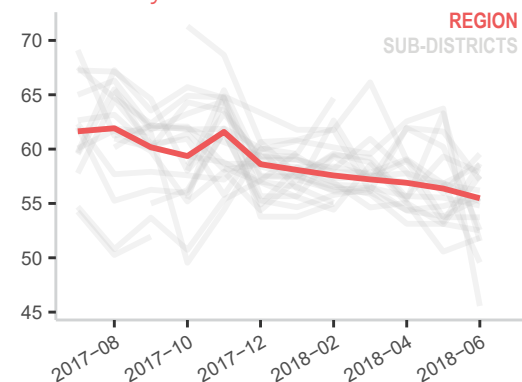
## SUB-DISTRICTS WITH INCOMPLETE SMEBS IN JUNE

SUB-DISTRICT	MISSING ITEMS
Tell Tamer	Water
Sairn	Water, Kerosene
Lower Shyookh	Water, Kerosene

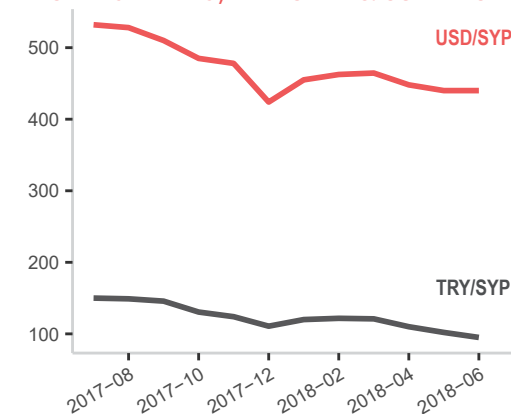
Note: A lack of data for a SMEB item does not imply a shortage

## MEDIAN SMEB COSTS SANS WATER, 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
<b>Northeast Syria Complete</b>	59,618	+4.2%	-5.3%
<b>Northeast Syria Non-Water Trucking</b>	55,474	-1.6%	-4.5%
Ain al Arab	57,752	-0.4%	-2.2%
Al-Hasakeh*	57,851	-2.5%	+0.5%
Al-Malikeyyeh*	52,542	-12.7%	-6.8%
Al-Thawrah*	55,604	+1.6%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	61,483	+5.3%	-4.2%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh*	51,538	-18.6%	-10.3%
Ein Issa	62,914	+2.8%	-4.4%
Jawadiyah*	45,564	-28.5%	-25.0%
Jurneyyeh*	52,515	-1.1%	NA
Lower Shyookh	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	55,084	+2.6%	-10.7%
Qahtaniyyeh*	57,165	-7.2%	-6.0%
Quamishli*	53,729	0.0%	-3.5%
Sarin	NA	NA	NA
Suluk*	55,158	-3.1%	-5.5%
Tal Hmis*	56,185	-1.0%	-5.3%
Tal Tamer*	60,896	NA	NA
Tell Abiad*	49,564	-12.9%	-16.8%
Ya'robiyah*	58,668	+10.1%	-0.6%

\* Denotes sub-districts where water trucking is not common, and therefore does not have water trucking prices in the SMEB cost

## SMEB FOOD ITEMS

See Page 1, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Food Items	One month change	Six month change
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	41,055	<b>-3.7%</b>	<b>-4.0%</b>
Ain al Arab	40,095	-1.5%	-5.9%
Al-Hasakeh	44,153	-1.3%	+4.4%
Al-Malikeyyeh	37,827	-12.4%	-11.2%
Al-Thawrah	41,055	+0.2%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	43,764	+11.4%	-0.6%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	39,450	-19.4%	-7.7%
Ein Issa	44,443	+6.9%	+6.8%
Jawadiyah	34,495	-20.5%	-21.9%
Jurneyyeh	39,902	+1.7%	NA
Lower Shyookh	41,380	6.7%	+1.1%
Menbij	39,566	+2.5%	-10.5%
Qahtaniyyeh	38,727	-14.6%	-14.3%
Quamishli	39,683	-7.0%	-5.5%
Sarin	41,635	+3.0%	-0.7%
Suluk	42,024	-3.2%	-2.2%
Tal Hmis	42,710	-1.3%	-2.3%
Tal Tamer	48,163	-0.9%	NA
Tell Abiad	37,494	-15.2%	-13.0%
Ya'robiyah	45,625	+10.7%	+0.9%

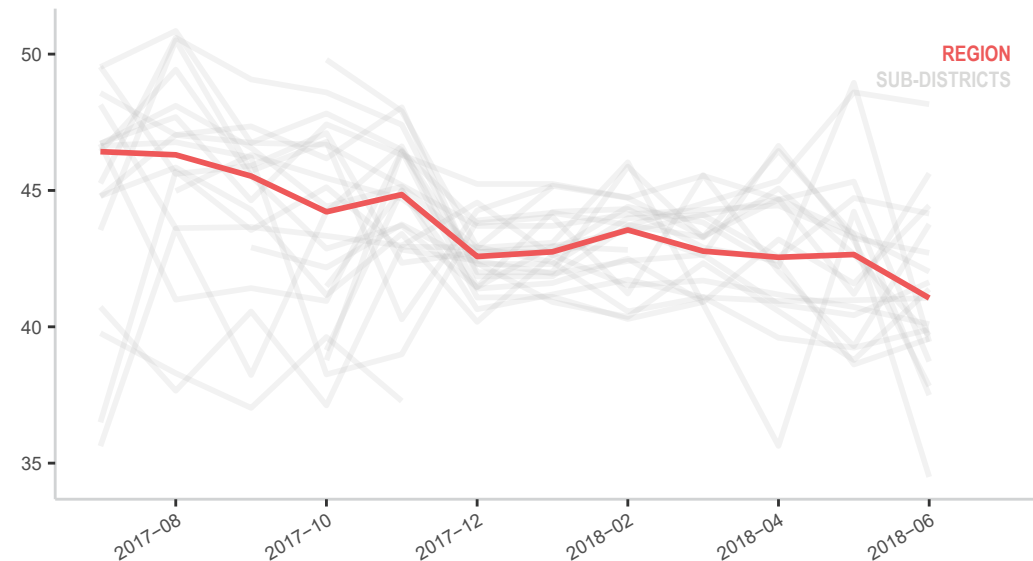
## SMEB COOKING FUEL

Kerosene 25L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	2,500	<b>-2.4%</b>	<b>-27.3%</b>
Ain al Arab	2,500	-4.8%	-9.1%
Al-Hasakeh	2,500	-20.0%	-33.3%
Al-Malikeyyeh	3,750	-14.3%	-14.3%
Al-Thawrah	2,000	-27.3%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	2,500	0.0%	-27.3%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	2,750	+10.0%	-26.7%
Ein Issa	2,500	-20.0%	-50.0%
Jawadiyah	2,500	-50.0%	0.0%
Jurneyyeh	2,500	-20.0%	NA
Lower Shyookh	2,625	-4.5%	-4.5%
Menbij	2,750	+10.0%	+10.0%
Qahtaniyyeh	5,000	+233.3%	0.0%
Quamishli	3,438	+243.8%	+31.0%
Sarin	2,625	-4.5%	-4.5%
Suluk	2,500	0.0%	-30.4%
Tal Hmis	2,500	0.0%	-33.3%
Tal Tamer	2,500	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	2,500	0.0%	-50.0%
Ya'robiyah	2,000	+23.1%	-20.0%

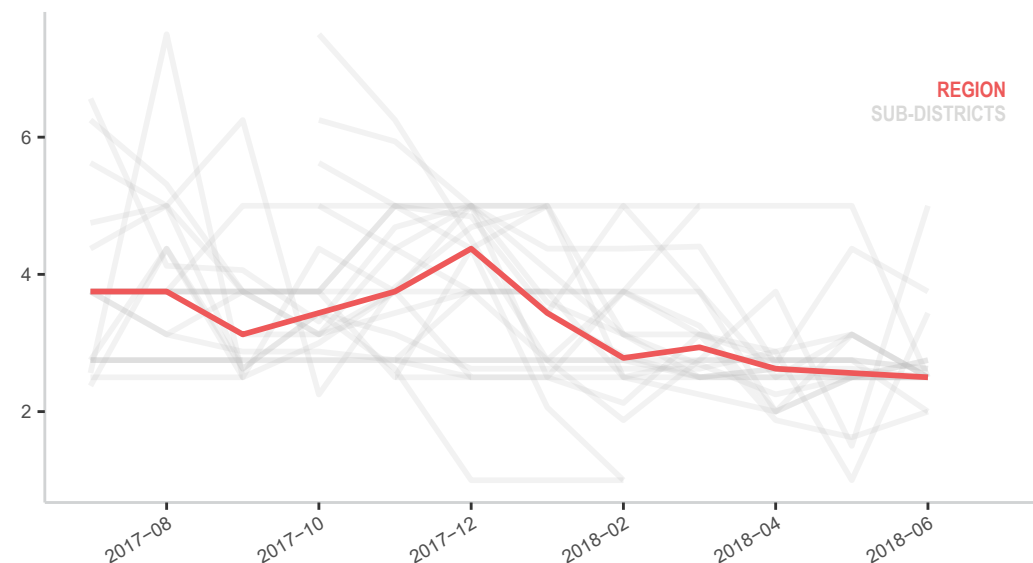
## MEDIAN SMEB FOOD COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



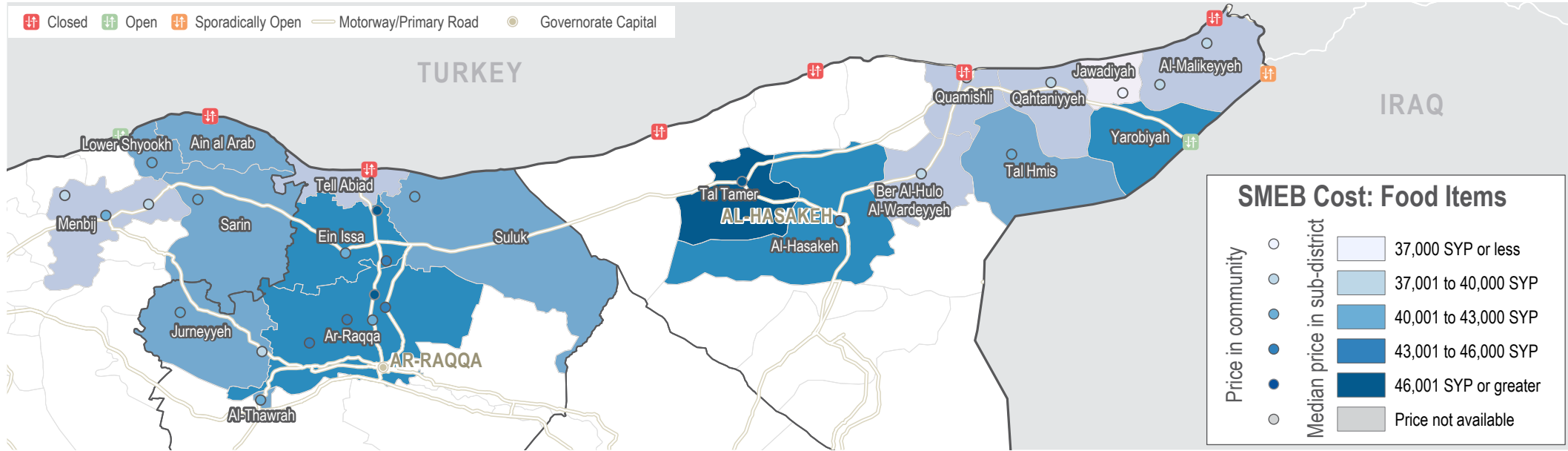
## MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



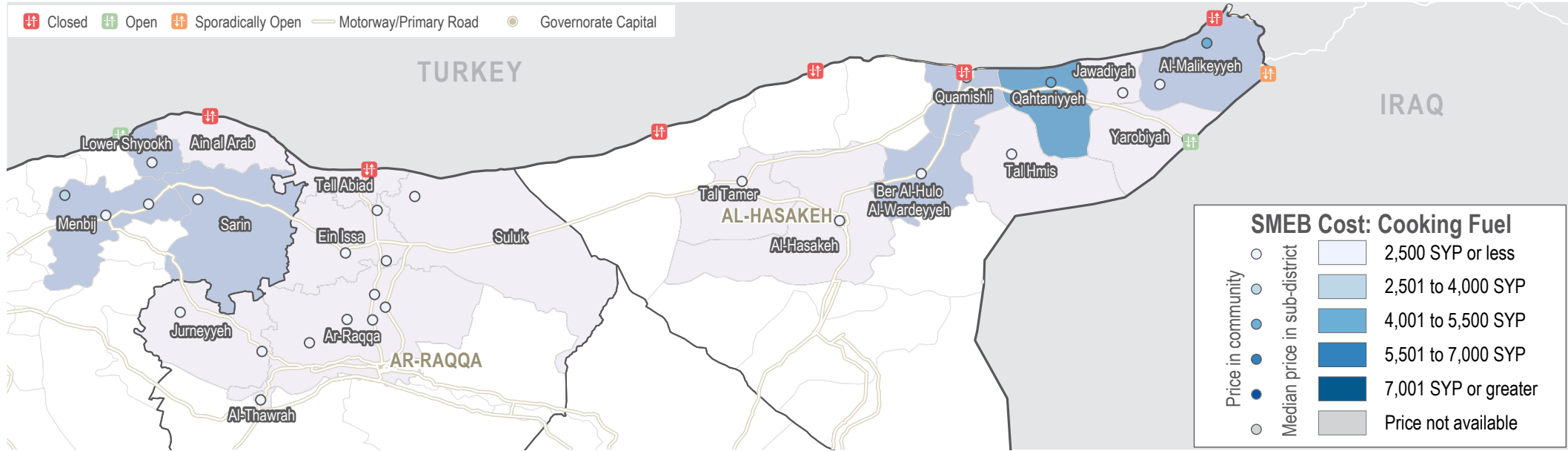
### SMEB FOOD ITEMS

Sub-districts & communities, Syrian Pounds



### SMEB COOKING FUEL

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



## MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING

4,500L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Water Truck	One month change	Six month change
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	2,880	<b>+8.9%</b>	<b>+6.7%</b>
Ain al Arab	2,745	<b>+19.6%</b>	<b>+60.5%</b>
Al-Hasakeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	1,800	<b>-20.0%</b>	<b>-20.0%</b>
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	4,095	<b>+1.1%</b>	<b>-35.0%</b>
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA
Jumeyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Lower Shyookh	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	3,015	<b>+4.7%</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>
Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Quamishli	NA	NA </td <td>NA</td>	NA
Sarin	NA	NA	NA
Suluk	NA	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA
Tal Tamer	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA
Ya'robiyah	NA	NA	NA

## MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

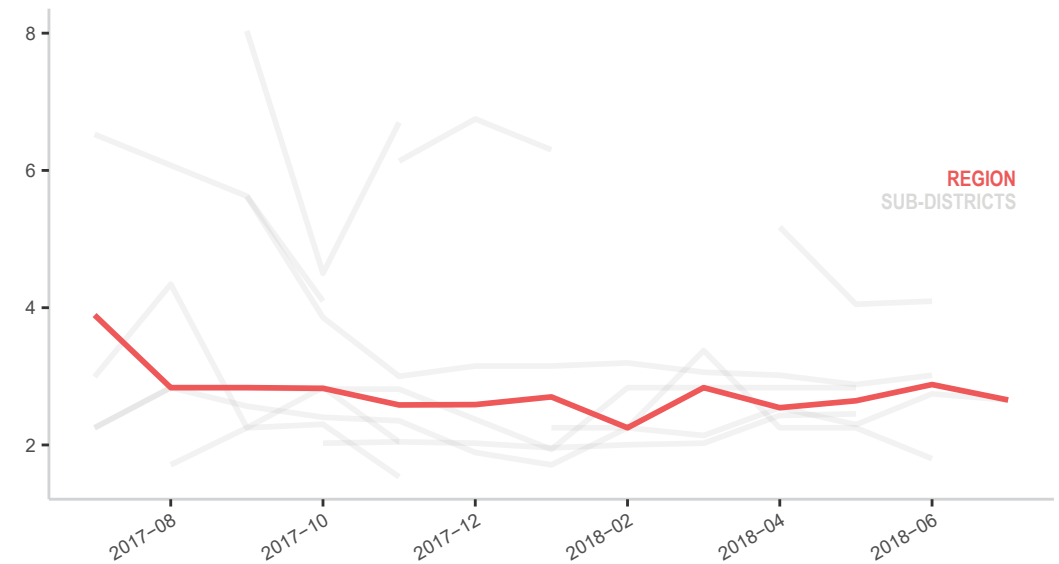
Diesel and Petrol 1L (Government of Syria and Manually Refined), Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	Diesel and Petrol	One month change	Six month change
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	145	<b>NA</b>	<b>+45.0%</b>
Ain al Arab	173	<b>+1.6%</b>	<b>+1.6%</b>
Al-Hasakeh	88	0.0%	<b>-15.9%</b>
Al-Malikeyyeh	146	<b>+9.3%</b>	<b>+49.5%</b>
Al-Thawrah	153	<b>+8.9%</b>	NA
Ar-Raqqa	164	<b>+45.6%</b>	<b>-4.7%</b>
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	103	<b>+17.0%</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>
Ein Issa	126	<b>+4.1%</b>	<b>-14.4%</b>
Jawadiyah	140	<b>-14.5%</b>	<b>+67.2%</b>
Jumeyyeh	145	<b>-14.7%</b>	NA
Lower Shyookh	65	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>+6.6%</b>
Menbij	197	<b>-10.8%</b>	<b>+220.3%</b>
Qahtaniyyeh	134	<b>-17.7%</b>	<b>+158.9%</b>
Quamishli	187	<b>+93.1%</b>	<b>+224.6%</b>
Sarin	65	<b>+6.6%</b>	<b>+6.6%</b>
Suluk	268	<b>130.6%</b>	<b>+82.6%</b>
Tal Hmis	125	<b>+41.0%</b>	<b>+28.9%</b>
Tal Tamer	150	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	256	<b>+83.0%</b>	<b>+57.7%</b>
Ya'robiyah	125	<b>+18.7%</b>	<b>+29.3%</b>

\* Denotes sub-districts where water trucking is not common, and therefore does not have water trucking prices

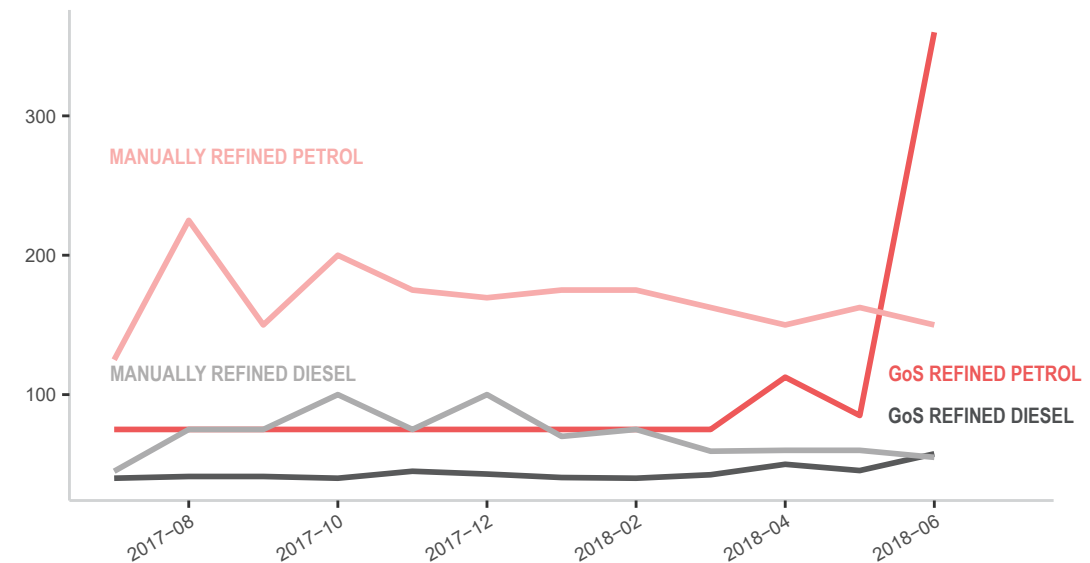
## MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



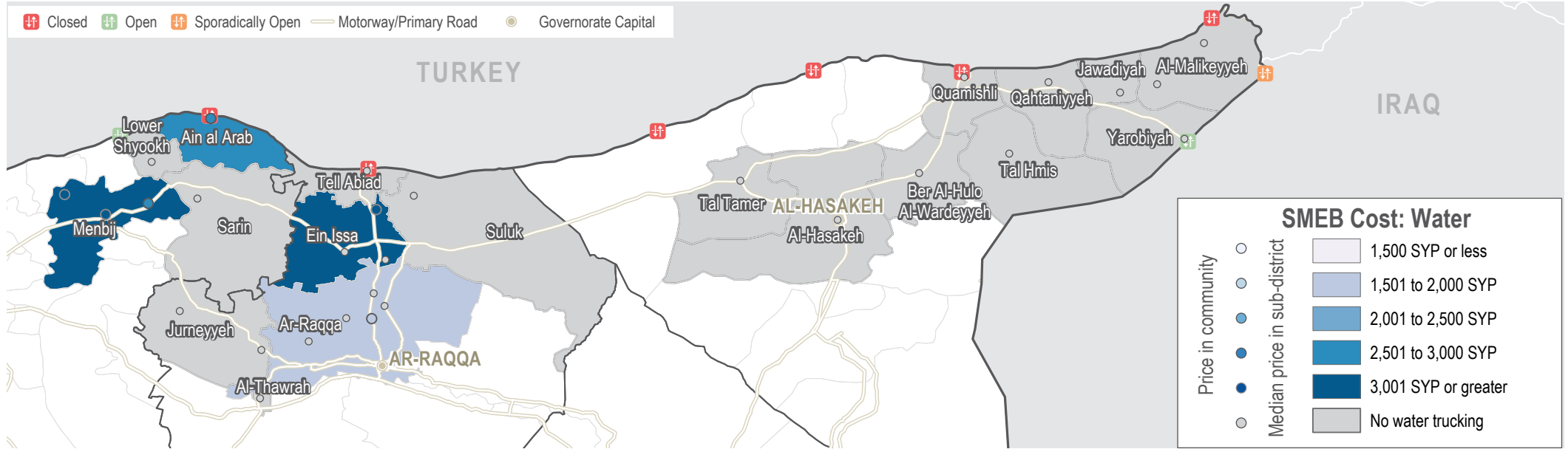
## TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE

Thousand Syrian Pounds



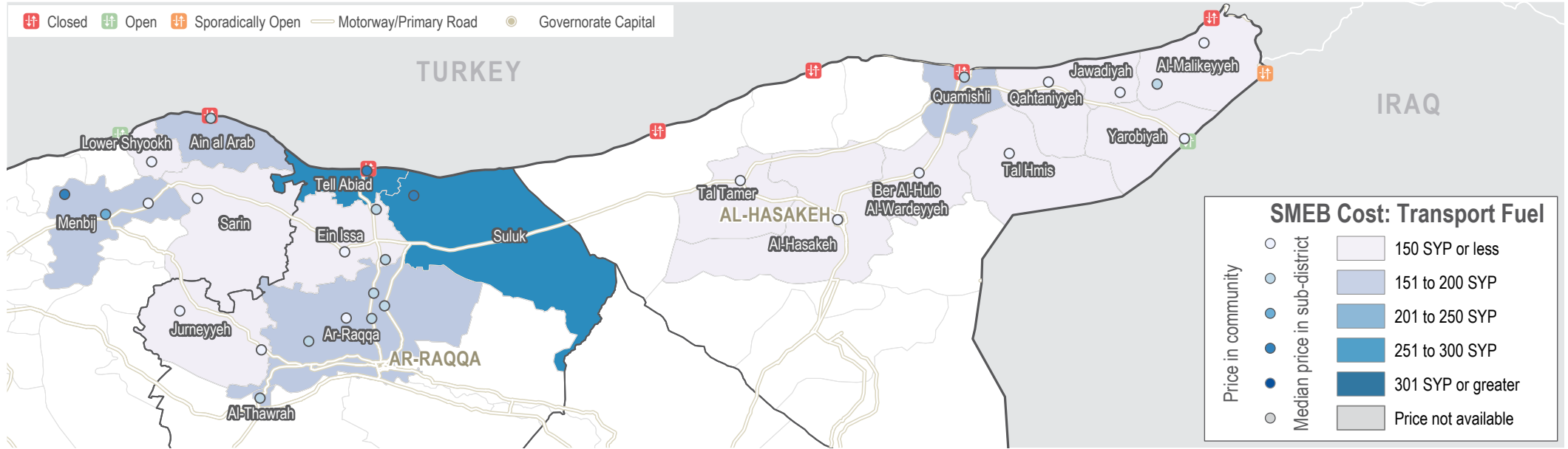
## SMEB WATER TRUCKING

Sub-districts & communities, Syrian Pounds



## TRANSPORT FUEL

Sub-districts & communities, Syrian Pounds



## MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS

12 bars soap, 4 packs of 10 sanitary pads, 200g toothpaste, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene items	One month change	Six month change
<b>Northeast Median</b>	<b>5,213</b>	<b>+1.2%</b>	<b>+3.0%</b>
Ain al Arab	5,608	+5.6%	+12.3%
Al-Hasakeh	5,213	-2.1%	-4.9%
Al-Malikeyyeh	4,300	-21.2%	+1.3%
Al-Thawrah	4,670	+26.0%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	5,741	-11.4%	+4.4%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	4,543	-16.3%	-11.8%
Ein Issa	5,488	+6.6%	+8.4%
Jawadiyah	4,390	-10.7%	-25.0%
Jurneyyeh	3,050	1.6%	NA
Lower Shyookh	6,344	27.9%	+20.8%
Menbij	3,427	+3.5%	-37.6%
Qahtaniyyeh	4,450	-19.0%	-9.6%
Quamishli	5,310	+1.4%	+9.4%
Sarin	5,344	+6.6%	+8.3%
Suluk	5,286	+0.7%	-2.5%
Tal Hmis	5,855	+1.7%	+7.3%
Tal Tamer	4,485	+1.2%	NA
Tell Abiad	4,611	-2.6%	-7.3%
Ya'robiyah	5,700	+10.7%	+6.0%

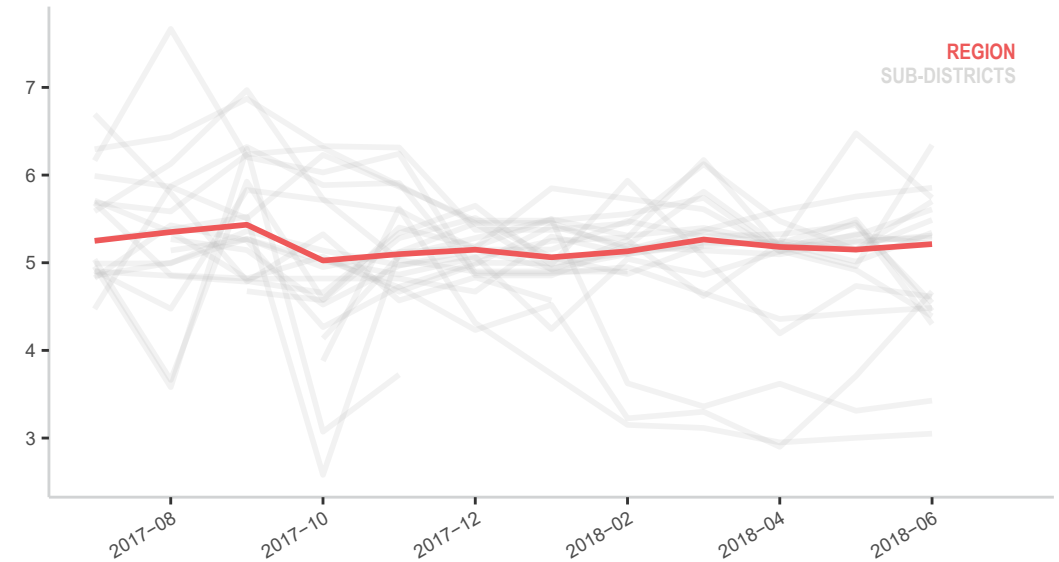
## MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA

1GB data, Syrian Pound

Sub-district	SMEB Phone Data	One month change	Six month change
<b>Northeast Median</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-27.4%</b>	<b>-13.0%</b>
Ain al Arab	2,775	-7.5%	-2.6%
Al-Hasakeh	1,950	-2.5%	-2.5%
Al-Malikeyyeh	3,000	0.0%	+150.0%
Al-Thawrah	4,000	+14.3%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	3,389	-10.8%	-24.7%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	1,200	-40.0%	-33.3%
Ein Issa	2,000	-33.3%	-38.5%
Jawadiyah	1,000	-83.3%	-75.0%
Jurneyyeh	3,400	-16.0%	NA
Lower Shyookh	3,200	+10.3%	+14.3%
Menbij	2,483	-4.9%	+21.2%
Qahtaniyyeh	5,000	0.0%	+233.3%
Quamishli	1,550	+40.9%	-32.6%
Sarin	2,000	+6.7%	-54.5%
Suluk	1,500	-14.3%	-35.2%
Tal Hmis	1,200	-7.7%	-47.8%
Tal Tamer	1,500	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	1,500	0.0%	-36.0%
Ya'robiyah	1,250	-21.9%	-30.6%

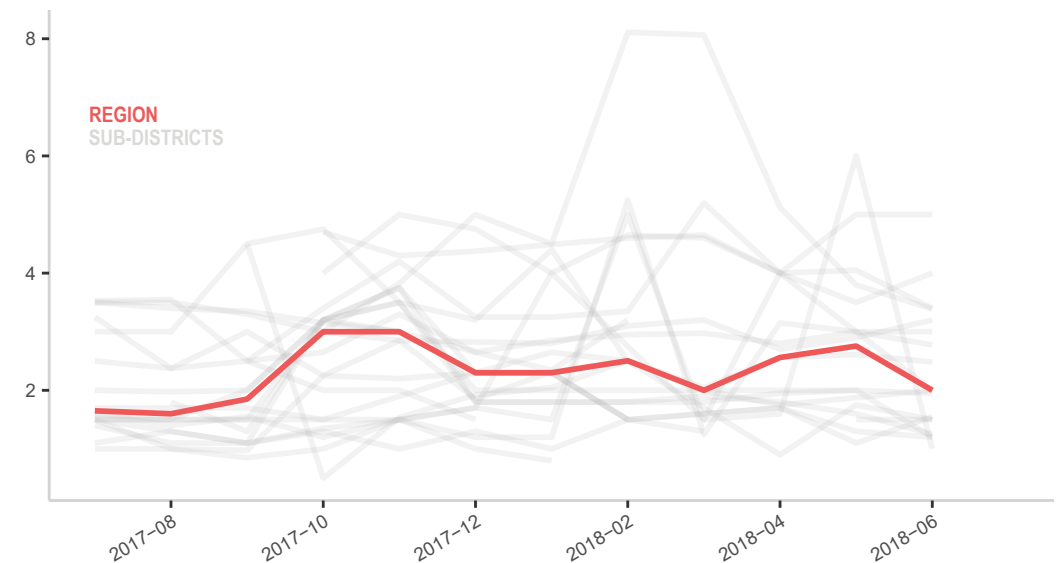
## MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



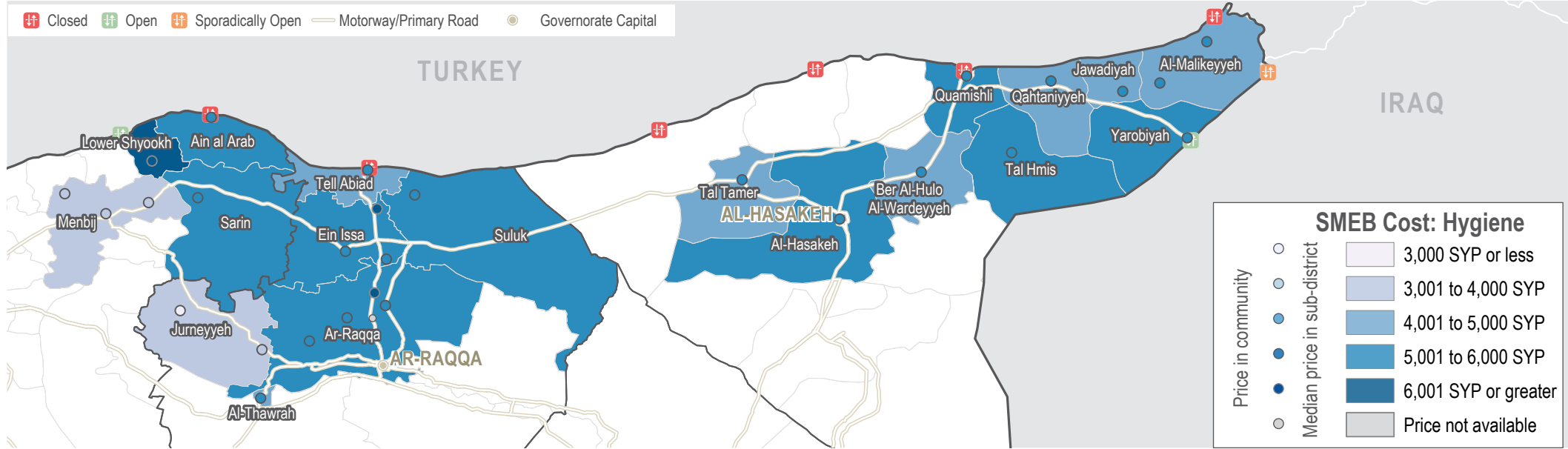
## MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



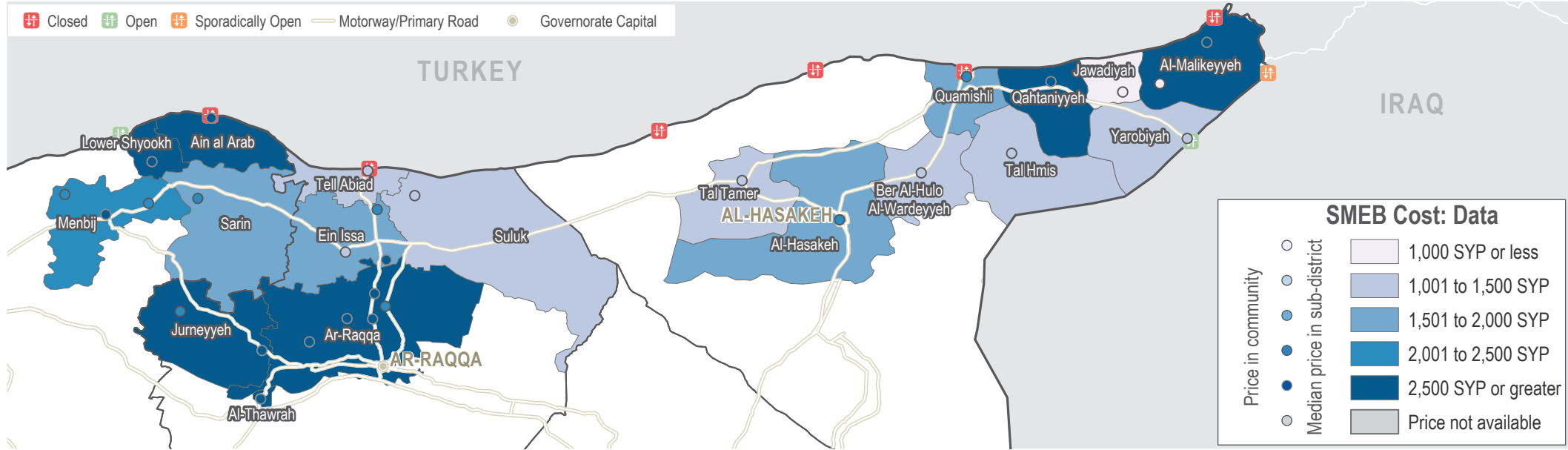
## SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



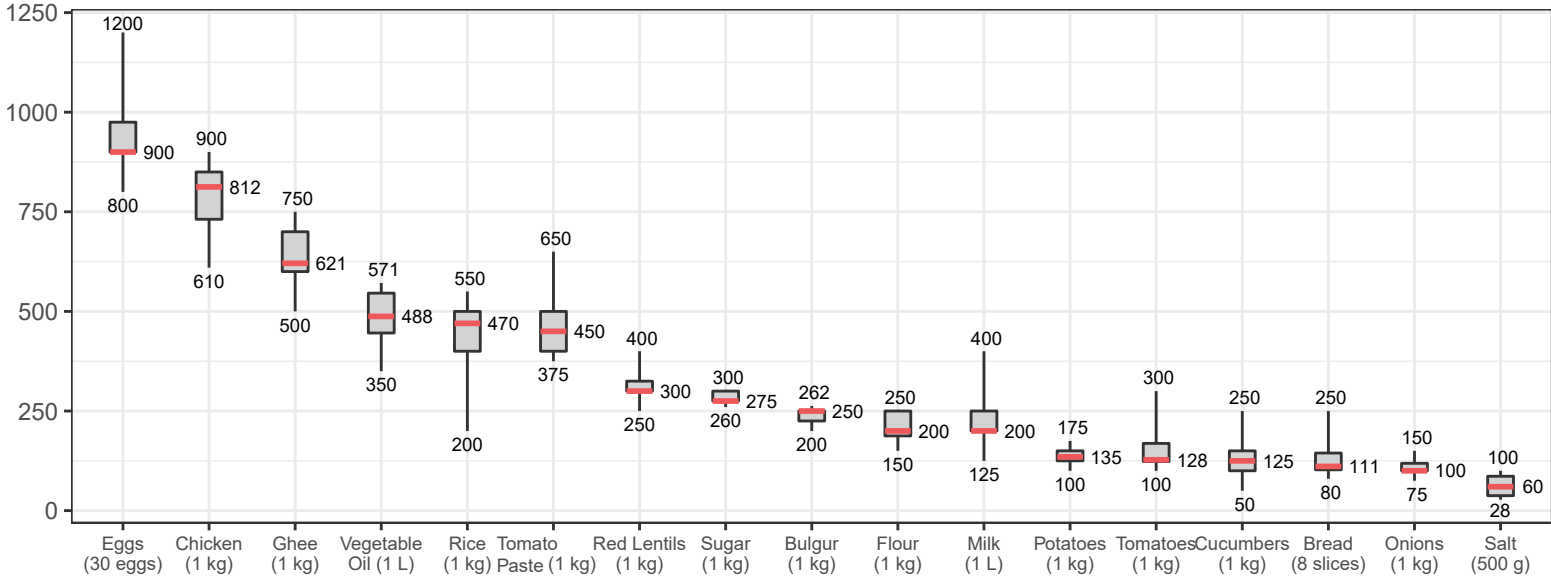
## SMEB CELLPHONE DATA

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



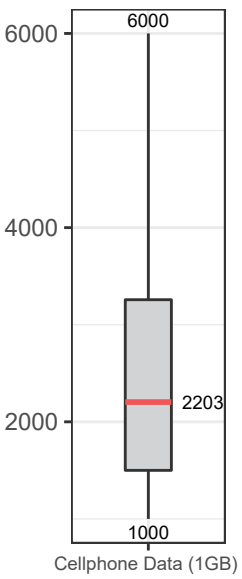
### ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



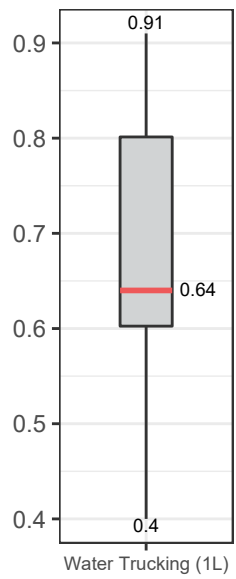
### CELLPHONE DATA

1GB



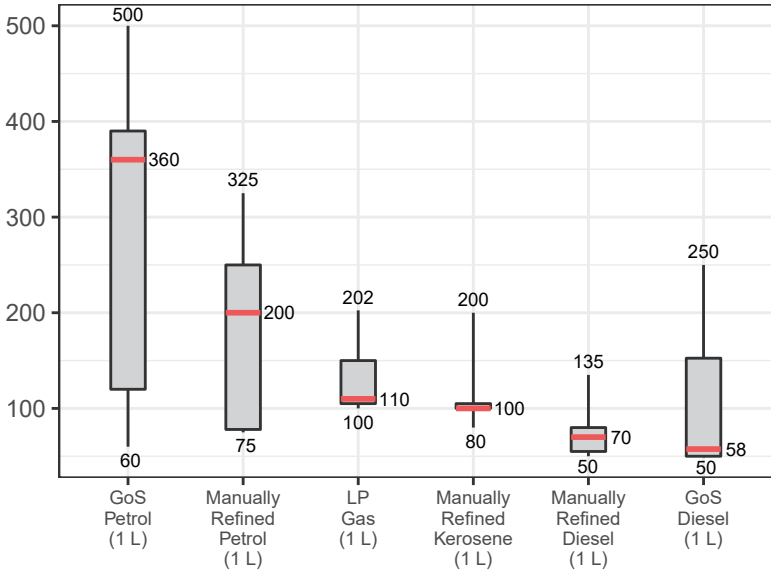
### WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



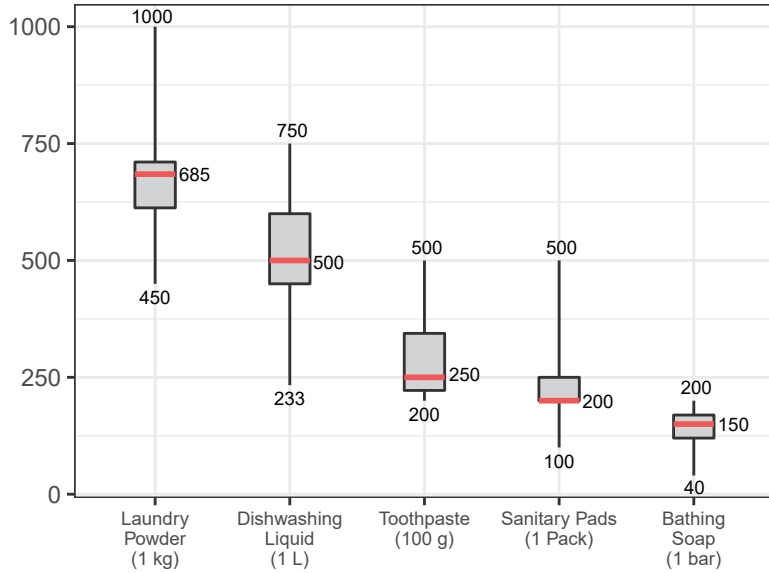
### ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

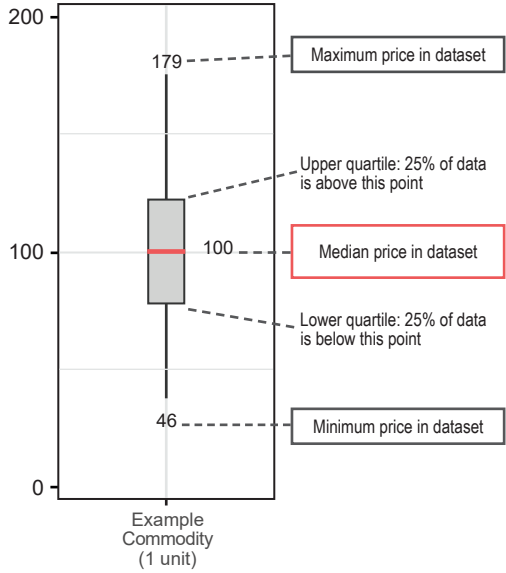


### ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



### READING BOXPLOTS



## METHODOLOGY

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. 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 prices, current product inventory and the time needed

to replace current stocks. In sub-districts where direct surveying by enumerators is not possible, such as Lattakia and Deir-ez-Zor, 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 help CBR-TWG members understand the distribution of prices. To illustrate local variations in prices and availability, REACH uses the collected data to map the price of an SMEB in each sub-district and

adds illustrations of surrounding border crossings, with data sourced from OCHA. In addition, each SMEB component costs and transport fuel prices are graphed to visualize trends over time. The cleaned data sets are available on the REACH Resource Centre and are distributed to all participating partners, as well as to interested clusters and the broader humanitarian community.

## CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

As the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise currently includes 14 partners based in 3 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.

Confirming commodity shortages in certain communities was difficult due to a lack of information about general market availability. When follow-ups were unable to confirm these shortages, this is stated in the text.

Because this exercise collects data directly from vendors and because it relies on partner organizations for its wide coverage, the exercise may lose coverage sporadically 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.

## CHANGES TO COVERAGE

Given security and access constraints in the divided cities of Al-Hasakeh and Quamishli, markets on only one side of the city could be surveyed. Due to access issues and an escalation of conflict, coverage was lost in Eastern Ghouta in March 2018, while most recently some coverage in southern Syria has been lost due to an escalation of conflict beginning in June 2018.

## 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-districts 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 and SMEB vegetables includes potatoes, tomatoes, onions and cucumbers.

## WHAT IS THE CASH-BASED RESPONSES TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP?

The Cash-Based Responses Technical Working Group (CBR-TWG) 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 CBR-TWG have been partners on the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise since early 2015. Since February 2017, the exercise expanded coverage into the south, bringing monthly market assessments to communities in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dar'a and Quneitra governorates.

## ABOUT REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations — ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives — and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH 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. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, please visit our website at [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org), contact us directly at [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) or follow us on Twitter at [@REACH\\_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).