

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

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

* 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.

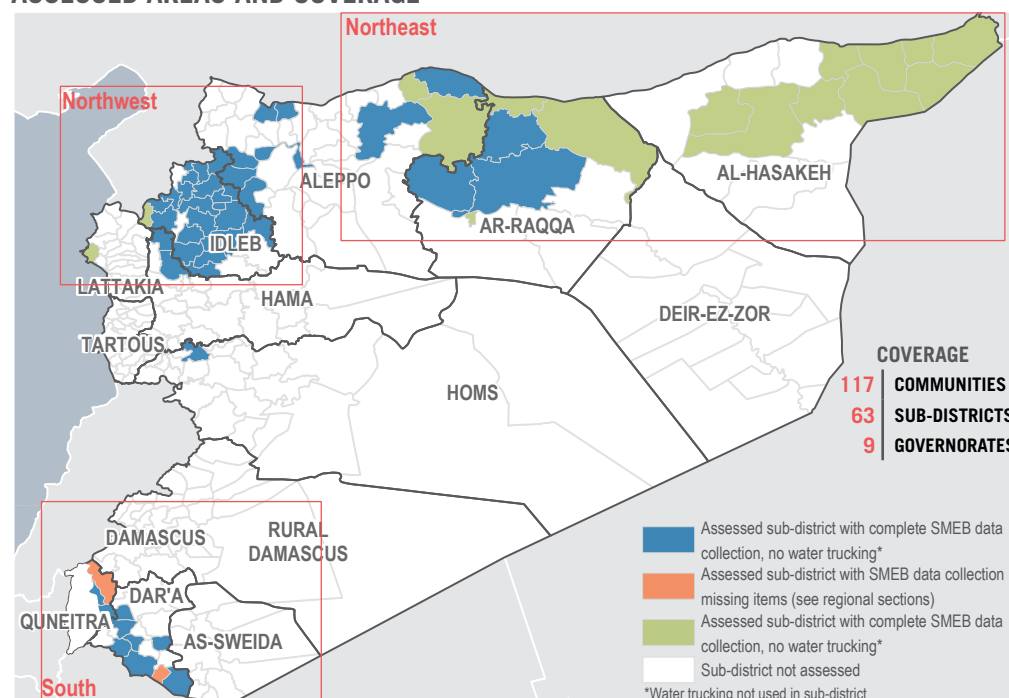
South: Fuel prices increase

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](#).

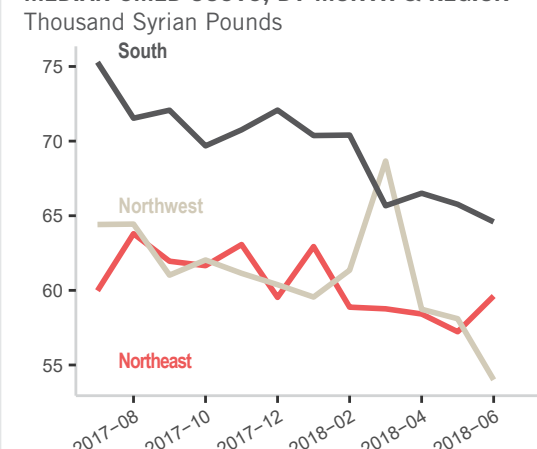
ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE



MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

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

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH & REGION



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Median SMEB cost decreases

The median regional SMEB cost saw a slight decrease between May and June, decreasing by approximately 1,177 SYP (-1.8%). With the exception of Da'el and Mzeireb, all other sub-districts SMEB costs decreased or increased in value between -5% and 5%. However, over the coming months that is expected to change due to the south offensive currently taking place.

South cut from primary fuel routes

While the total SMEB has not shown a dramatic change (-1.8% decrease), fuel is often the first item to be affected by change and it is not included in the SMEB. Transport fuels have increased by an average of 27% since May 2018, fuel has been reported as being unavailable or having high prices in sub-districts including Quneitra, Izra' and Dar'a. In Izra', transport fuels have increased by 93% since May, 2018, with manually refined petrol increasing by 133%.

Coverage limitations

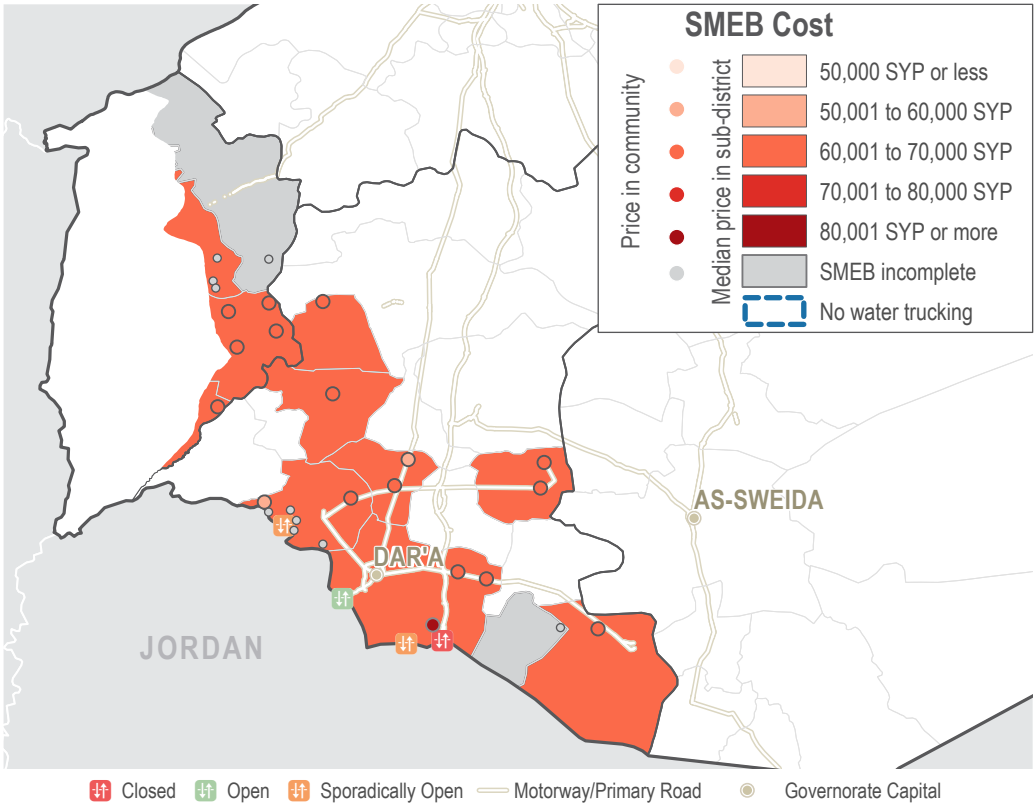
While information was able to be collected for June 2018 until 27th June, coverage is expected to be reduced due to access limitations and increasing safety and security concerns when collecting data. Data was unable to be collected from certain sub-districts, including Kherbet Ghazala and Fiq, where there were access limitations due to the south offensive.

SUB-DISTRICTS WITH INCOMPLETE SMEBS IN JUNE

SUB-DISTRICT	MISSING ITEMS
Jizeh	Tomato paste, dishsoap
Khan Arnaba	Dishsoap

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

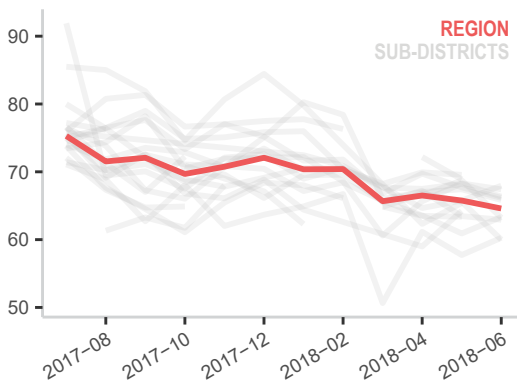
COMPLETE SMEB COST RANGES (SYP), BY SUB-DISTRICT



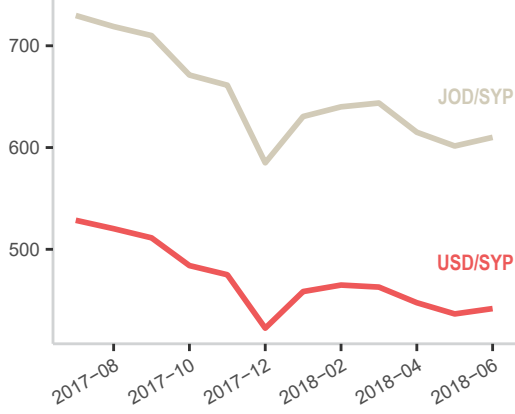
SMEB COST & CHANGES

Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
South Syria	64,588	-1.8%	-8.2%
Al-Khashniyyeh	66,342	-2.8%	-6.0%
Busra Esh-Sham	66,151	-2.3%	-7.7%
Da'el	60,004	-8.5%	-3.7%
Dar'a	65,847	-2.3%	-18.0%
Fiq	67,949	+3.3%	-6.2%
Hrak	67,413	-1.3%	-6.6%
Jasim	60,270	+4.4%	-7.1%
Jizeh	NA	NA	NA
Khan Arnaba	NA	NA	NA
Mzeireb	63,226	-8.0%	-9.1%
Nawa	63,329	+4.0%	-5.7%
Quneitra	62,933	-0.8%	-8.8%

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH
Thousand Syrian Pounds



EXCHANGE RATES, BY MONTH & CURRENCY



SMEB FOOD ITEMS

See Page 1, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Food Items	One month change	Six month change
South Syria	44,315	-2.6%	-5.8%
Al-Khashniyyeh	44,945	-3.9%	-2.2%
Busra Esh-Sham	44,000	-3.3%	-4.6%
Da'el	40,748	-7.4%	-1.0%
Dar'a	44,753	-5.6%	-19.4%
Fiq	47,640	+1.5%	-3.9%
Hrak	48,617	+2.0%	+1.7%
Jasim	37,825	-3.4%	-11.0%
Jizeh	NA	NA	NA
Khan Arnaba	43,500	+0.2%	-6.9%
Mzeireb	44,315	-12.0%	-6.4%
Nawa	44,852	+7.7%	-0.8%
Quneitra	42,388	-4.4%	-5.5%

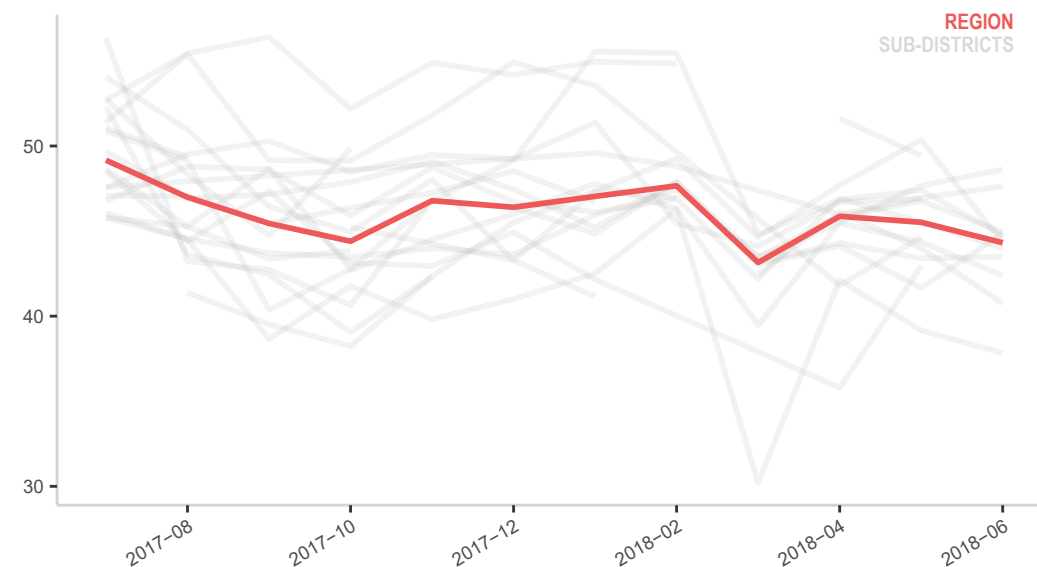
SMEB COOKING FUEL

LP Gas 25L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
South Syria	7,500	+15.4%	-19.5%
Al-Khashniyyeh	7,281	+7.1%	-22.3%
Busra Esh-Sham	7,500	+18.2%	-18.2%
Da'el	6,563	-1.9%	-23.6%
Dar'a	7,500	18.8%	-20.0%
Fiq	7,500	+9.1%	-20.0%
Hrak	5,516	-14.3%	-37.6%
Jasim	9,000	+44.0%	-2.7%
Jizeh	8,125	+25.0%	-15.6%
Khan Arnaba	NA	NA	NA
Mzeireb	7,000	+7.7%	-25.3%
Nawa	5,625	-10.9%	-38.4%
Quneitra	7,500	+13.2%	-20.5%

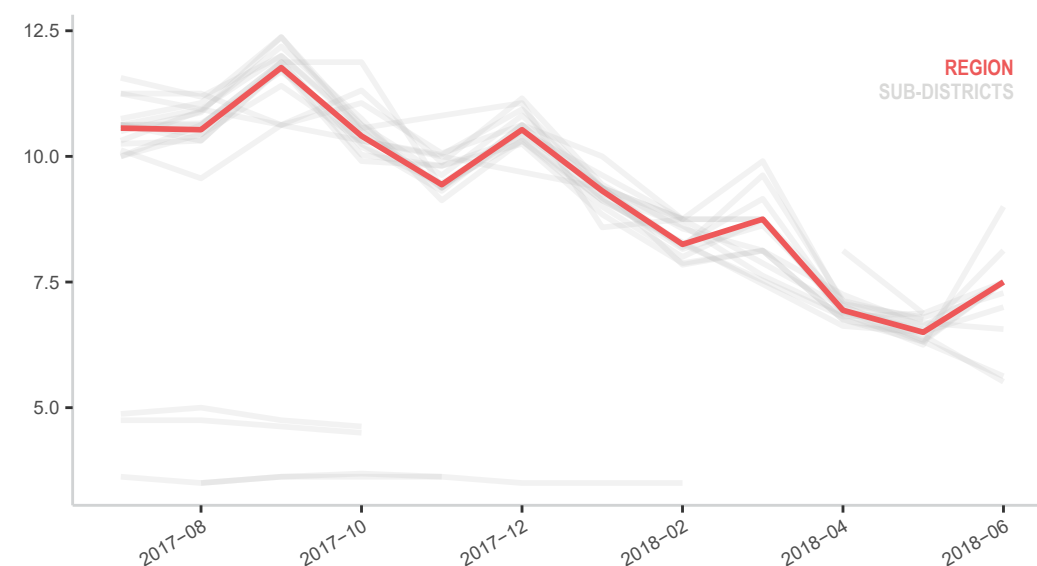
MEDIAN SMEB FOOD COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds

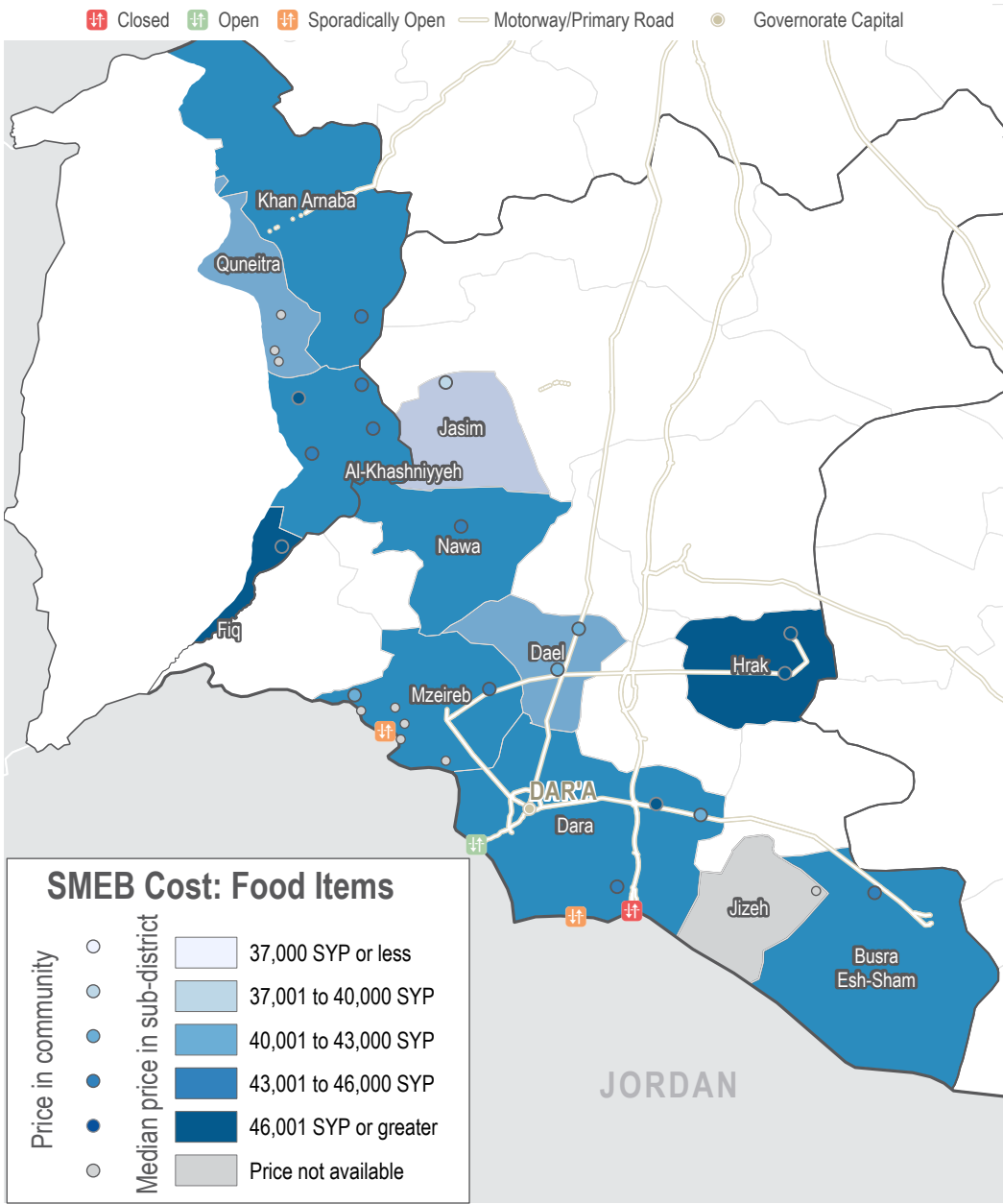


MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

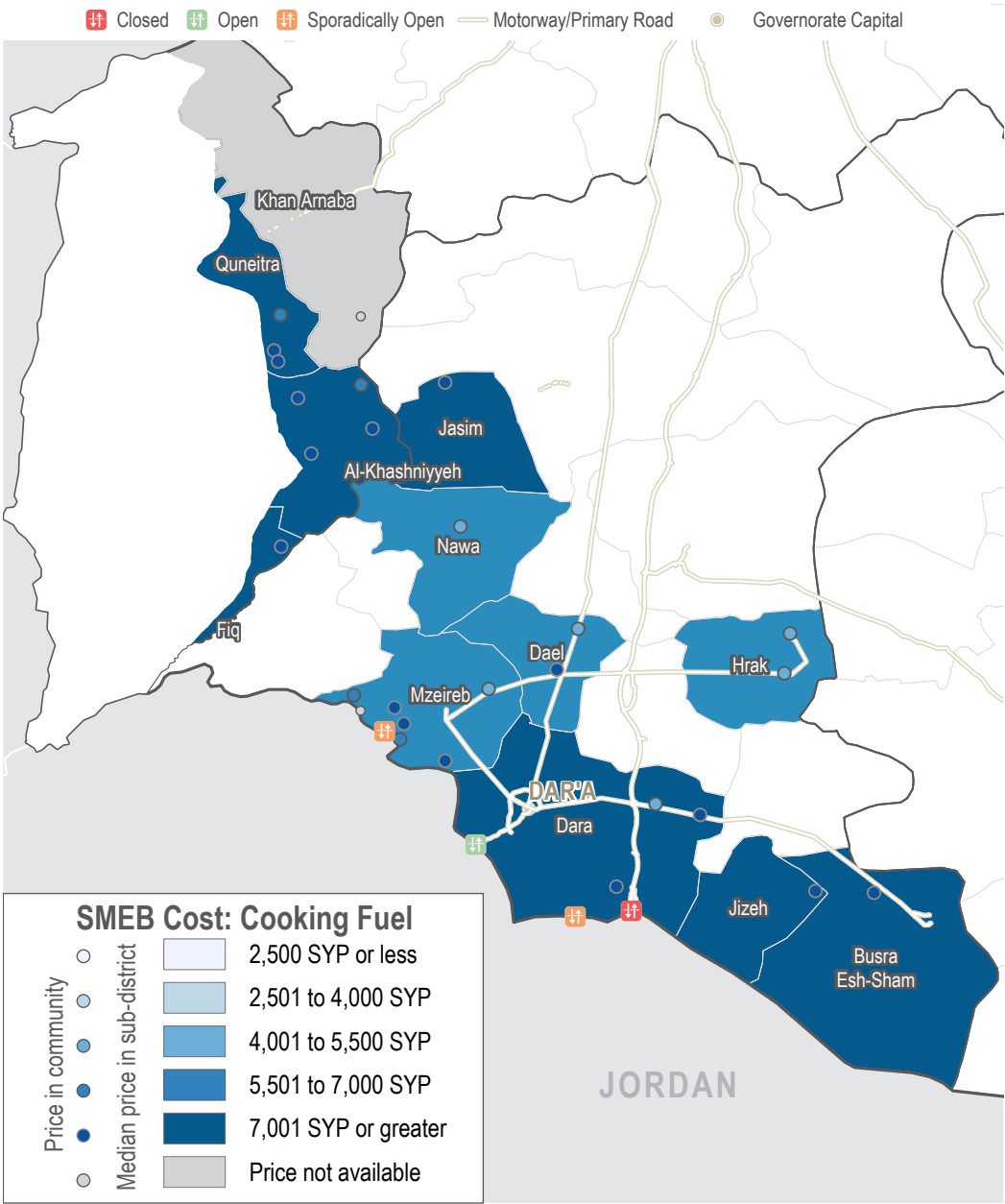
Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB FOOD ITEMS
Sub-districts & communities, Syrian Pounds



SMEB COOKING FUEL
Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



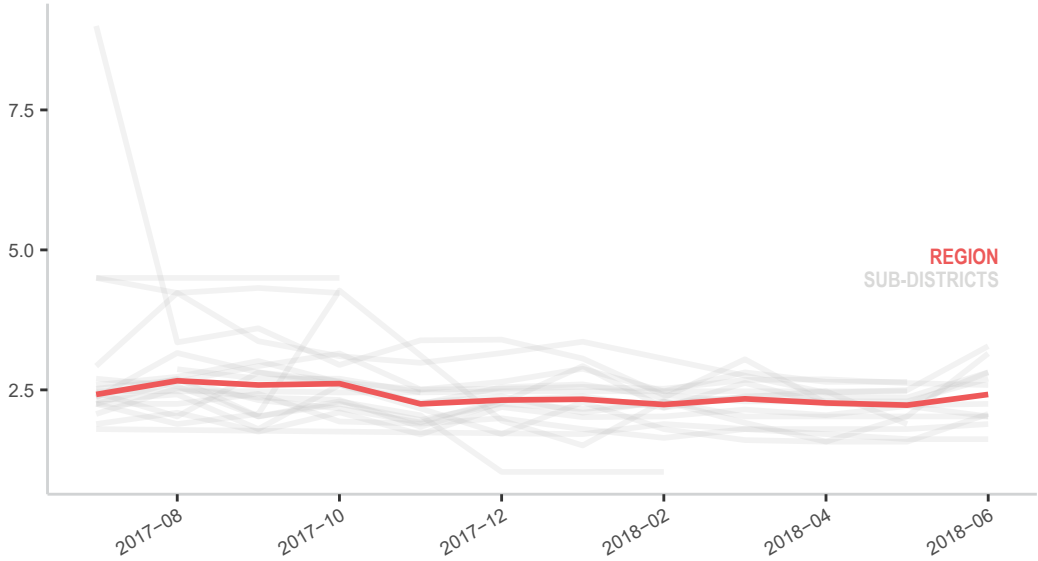
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING
4,500L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Water Truck	One month change	Six month change
South Syria	2,419	+8.6%	+3.7%
Al-Khashniyyeh	2,588	-1.3%	+1.3%
Busra Esh-Sham	2,813	+25.3%	+8.2%
Da'el	2,025	0.0%	+34.3%
Dar'a	2,813	+19.0%	+17.9%
Fiq	1,620	0.0%	-5.3%
Hrak	2,250	+1.0%	-23.1%
Jasim	2,070	+31.4%	-9.2%
Jizeh	3,281	+31.5%	-2.3%
Khan Arnaba	3,150	+55.6%	+50.5%
Mzeireb	1,890	+5.0%	+5.0%
Nawa	2,025	-8.5%	+0.6%
Quneitra	2,700	+17.6%	-11.8%

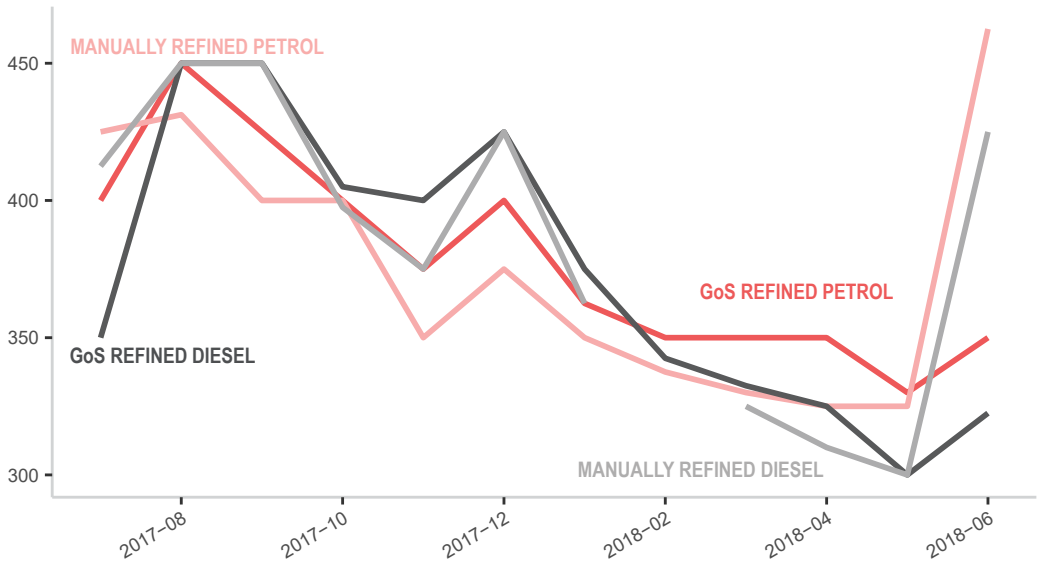
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE
Diesel and Petrol 1L (Government of Syria and Manually Refined), Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	Diesel and Petrol	One month change	Six month change
South Syria	405	+28.4%	+11.7%
Al-Khashniyyeh	410	+30.2%	+14.2%
Busra Esh-Sham	375	+15.4%	+3.4%
Da'el	436	+42.2%	+17.1%
Dar'a	346	+14.5%	-3.5%
Fiq	388	+14.8%	+3.3%
Hrak	316	+1.6%	-10.6%
Jasim	600	+92.8%	+63.8%
Jizeh	475	+50.8%	+23.8%
Khan Arnaba	475	+38.9%	+28.4%
Mzeireb	431	+39.1%	+20.5%
Nawa	319	+4.7%	-8.9%
Quneitra	399	+22.9%	+5.3%

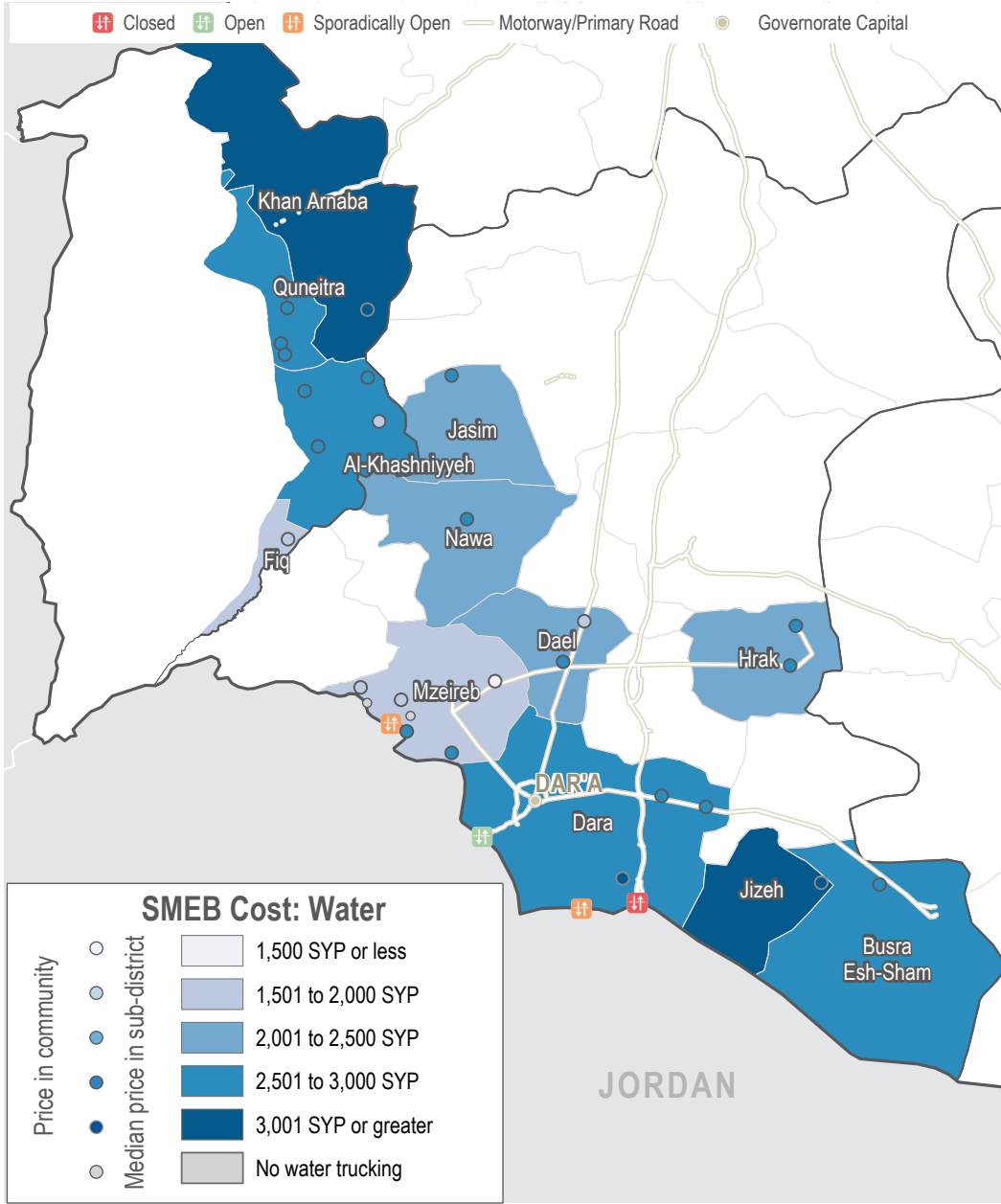
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH
Thousand Syrian Pounds



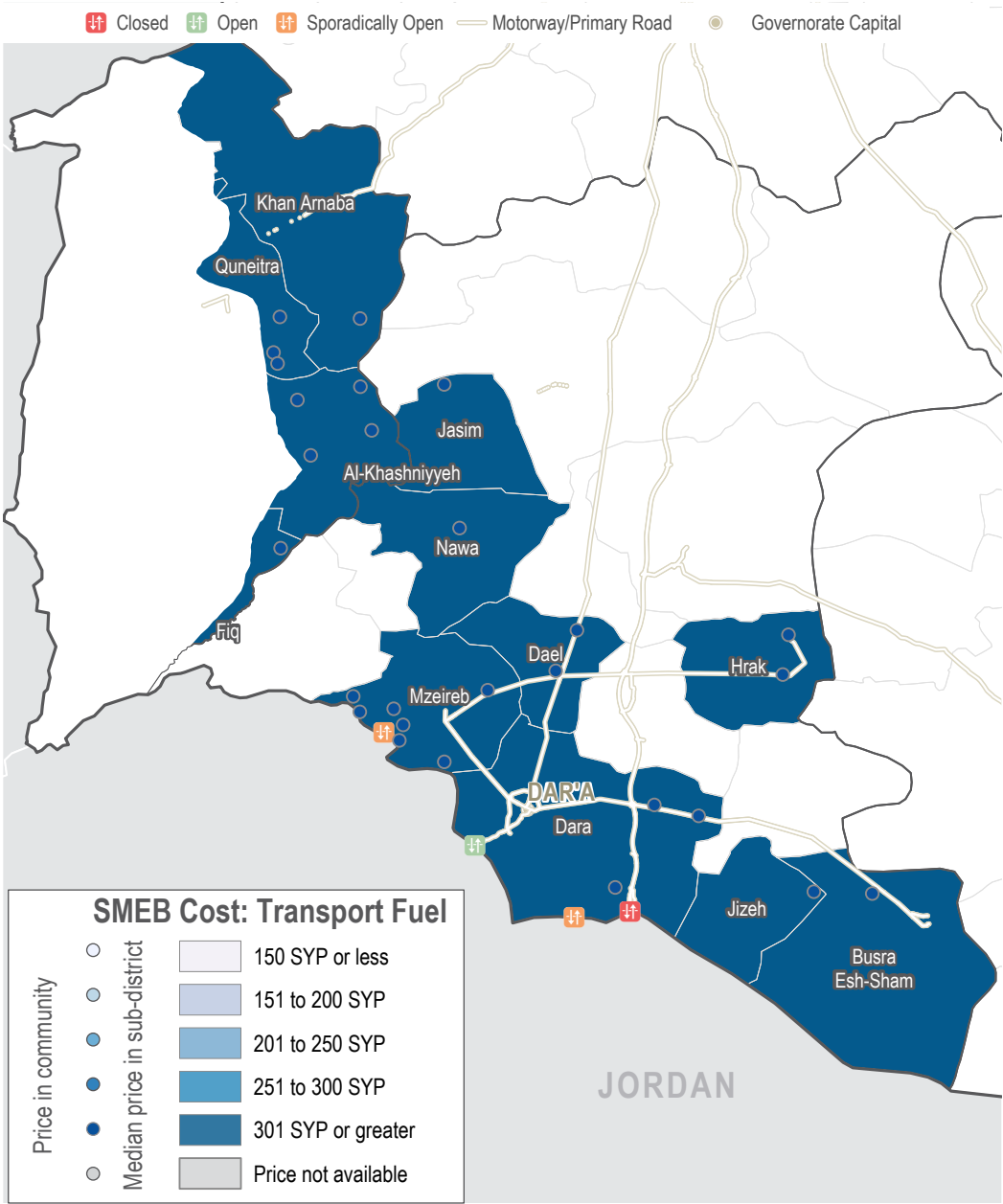
TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE
Thousand Syrian Pounds



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	S,MEB Hygiene items	One month change	Six month change
South Syria	4,710	-3.7%	-5.9%
Dar'a	5,200	-1.9%	-3.0%
Busra Esh-Sham	5,223	-8.7%	-5.2%
Da'el	4,733	-12.4%	-9.0%
Mzeireb	4,688	-3.1%	-17.0%
Jizeh	4,948	+16.7%	-5.2%
Jasim	4,279	-15.9%	-14.8%
Hrak	3,670	-7.4%	+6.8%
Nawa	6,293	+15.4%	+21.3%
Quneitra	4,583	+1.3%	+5.1%
Khan Arnaba	4,360	+1.5%	-9.9%
Al-Khashniyyeh	4,909	-0.9%	+6.1%
Fiq	4,455	+4.6%	+2.9%

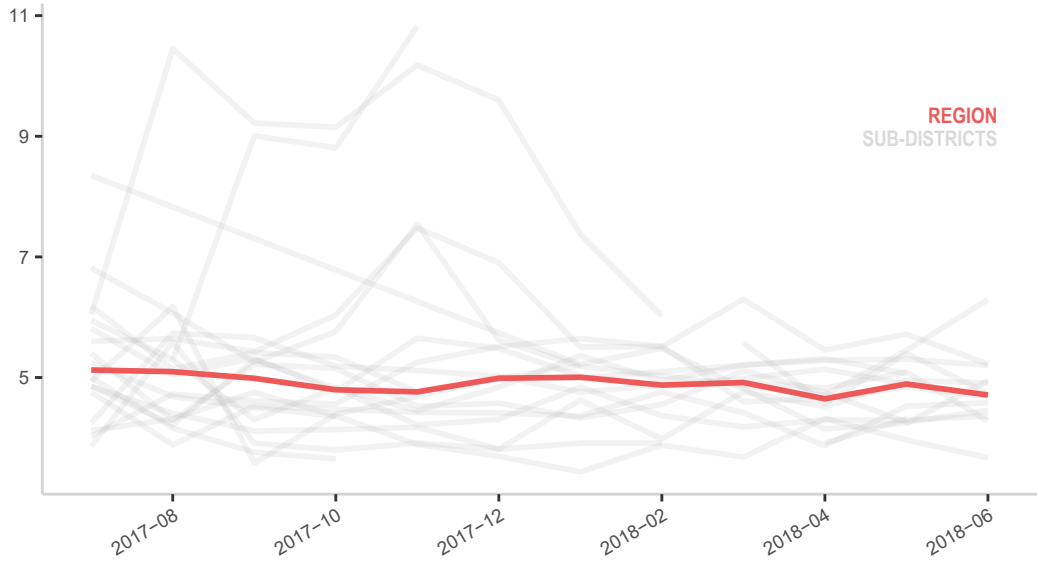
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA

1GB data, Syrian Pound

Sub-district	SMEB Phone Data	One month change	Six month change
South Syria	1,725	-13.8%	-29.4%
Dar'a	1,700	-15.0%	-28.8%
Busra Esh-Sham	2,000	-36.8%	-38.5%
Da'el	1,750	-39.7%	+16.7%
Mzeireb	1,500	-17.0%	-11.8%
Jizeh	1,500	0.0%	0.0%
Jasim	2,048	-3.1%	-20.0%
Hrak	3,500	+27.3%	+20.7%
Nawa	2,000	+14.3%	-20.0%
Quneitra	2,500	+11.1%	-9.1%
Khan Arnaba	1,250	+25.0%	-3.8%
Al-Khashniyyeh	1,500	-1.6%	-0.6%
Fiq	1,500	0.0%	-40.0%

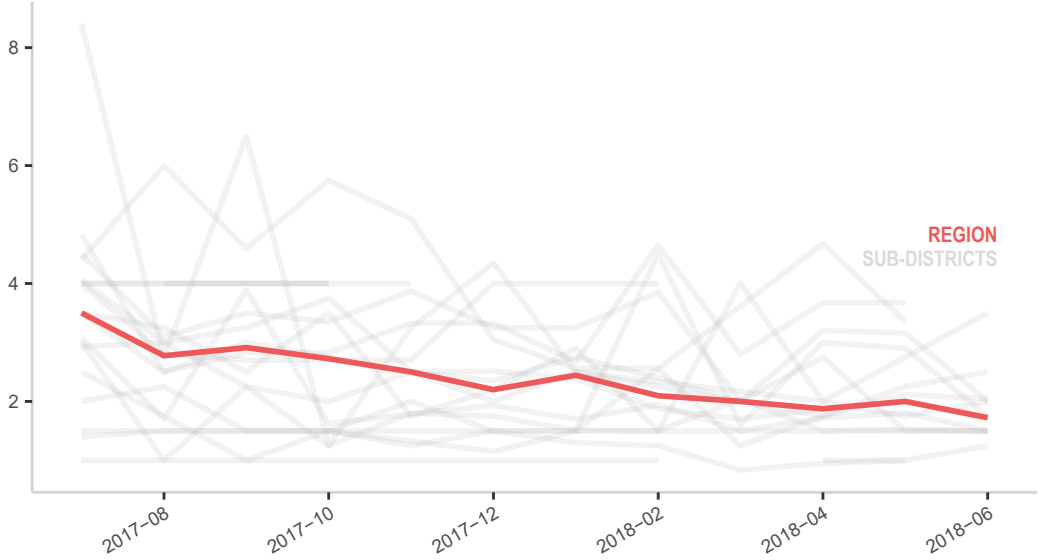
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds

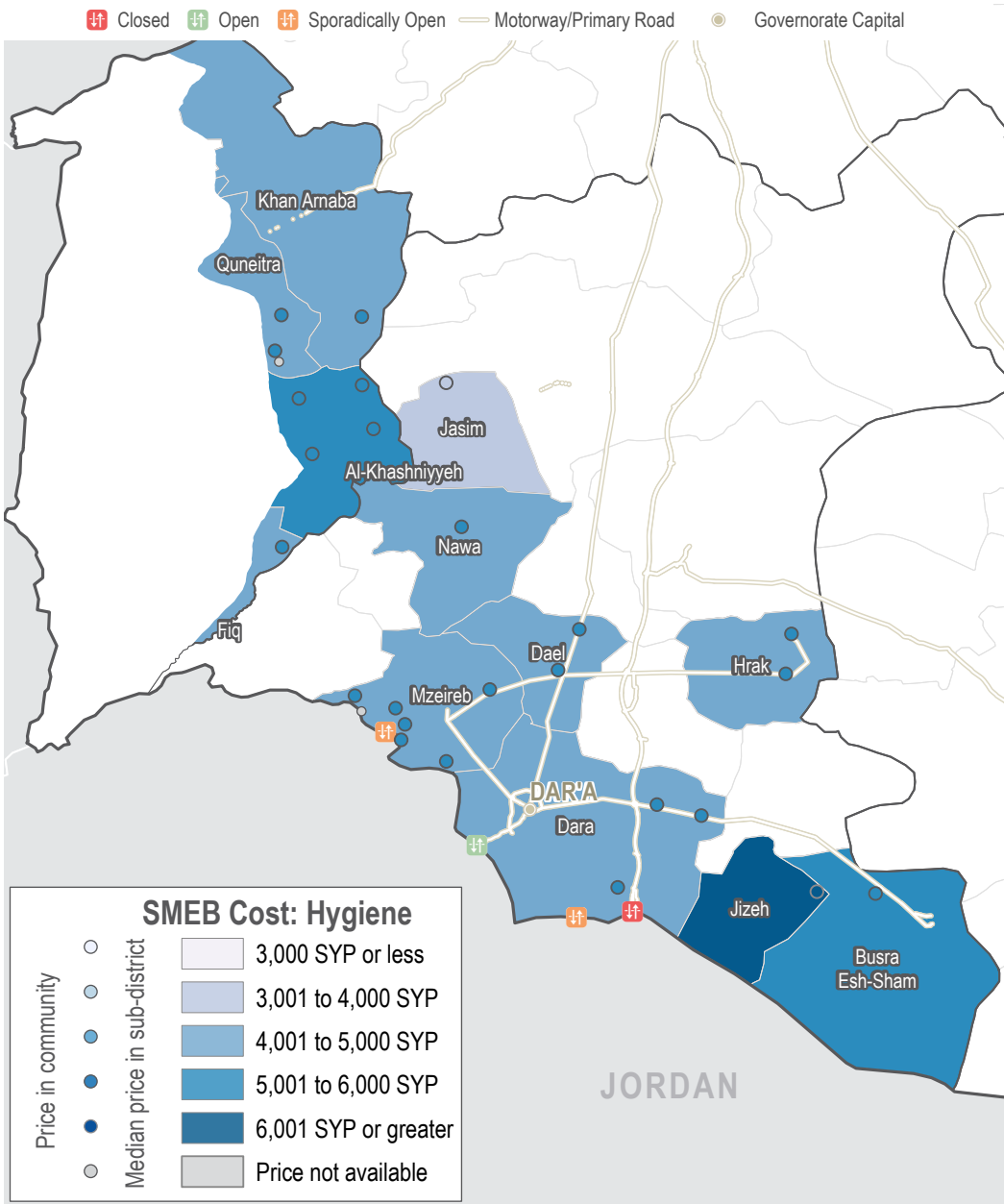


MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COSTS, BY MONTH

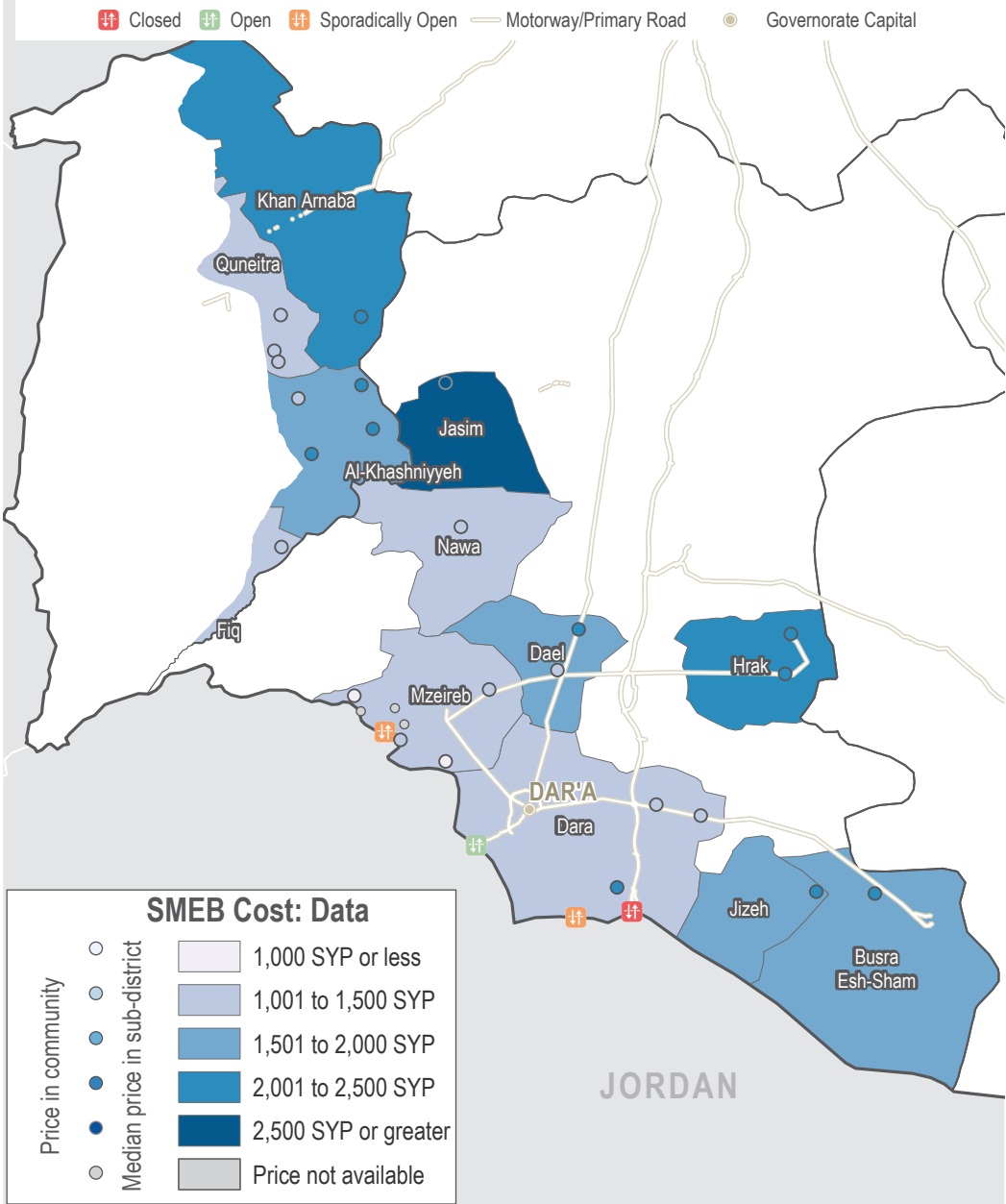
Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS
Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds

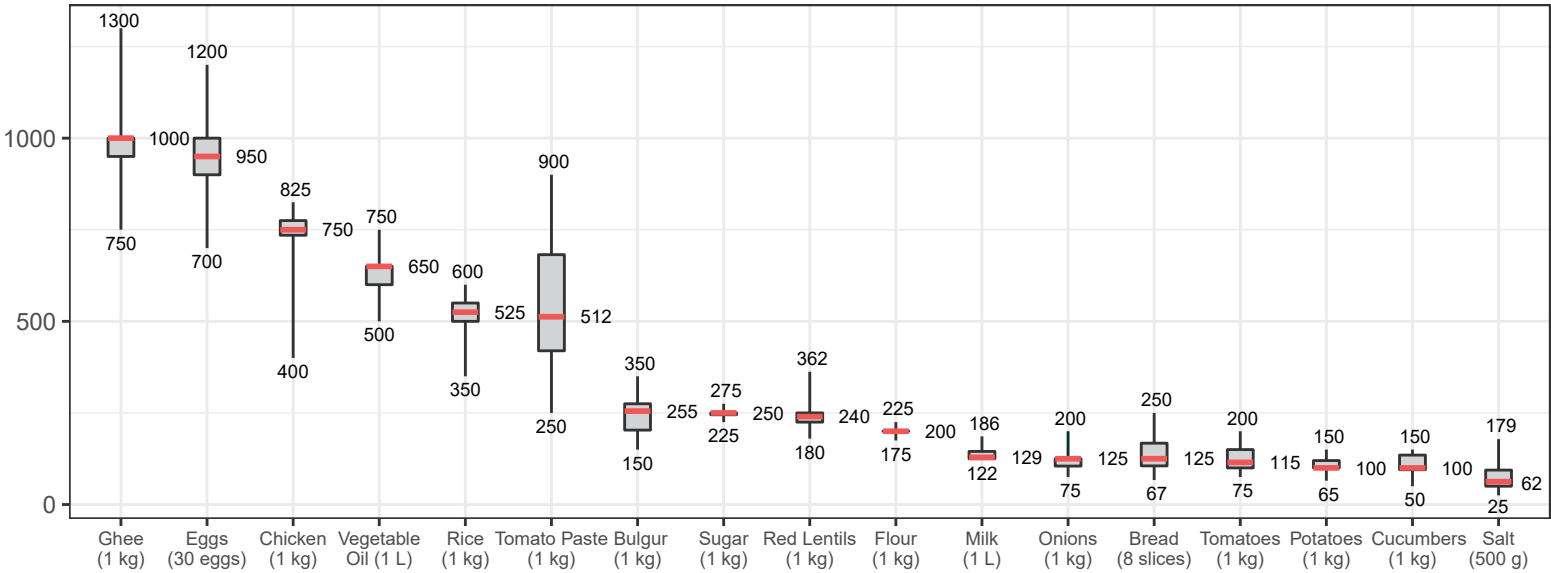


SMEB CELLPHONE DATA
Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



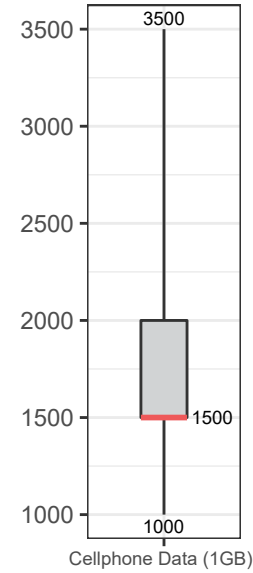
ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



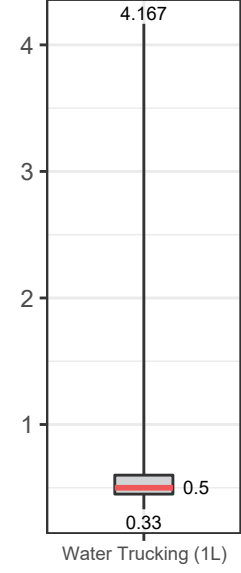
CELLPHONE DATA

1GB



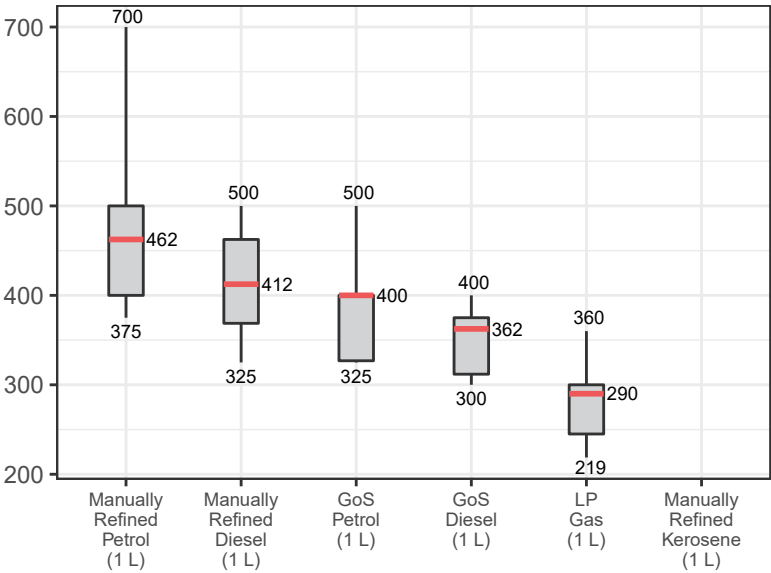
WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



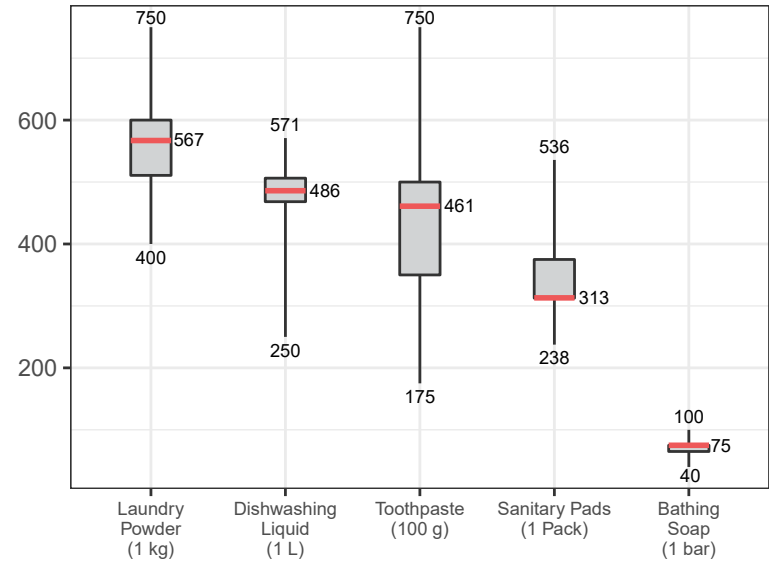
ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

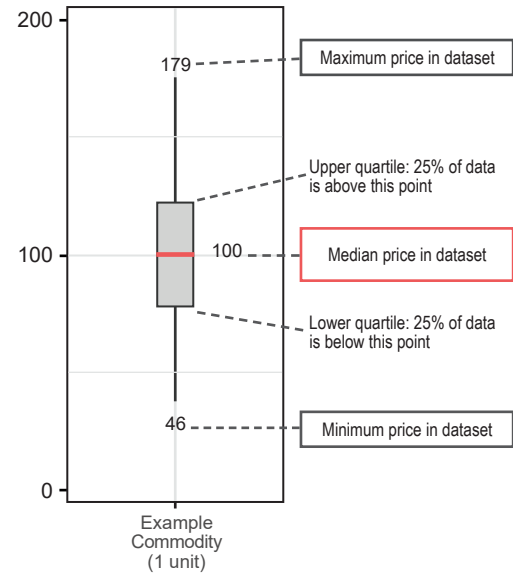


ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

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, contact us directly at geneva@reach-initiative.org or follow us on Twitter at [@REACH_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).