

# SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 10-17 September 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, STC Shafak 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	
<b>Food Items</b>	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	
	<b>Hygiene items</b>	Bathing soap	12 bars
		Laundry/dish soap	3 kg
Sanitary pads		4 packs of 10	
Toothpaste		200 g	
<b>Fuel</b>	Cooking fuel*	25 L	
<b>Water</b>	Water trucking	4500 L	
<b>Telecom</b>	Smartphone data	1 GB	
<b>Other</b>	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

### North: US dollar price fluctuates

The US dollar (USD) rate has increased in northwest by 2% and northeast Syria by 3%, since August 2018. The median exchange rate is 459 Syrian Pounds (SYP) to 1 USD and 461 SYP to 1 USD in northwest and northeast Syria, respectively. Both of these exchange rates are the highest recorded prices since April 2018 in the northwest and March 2018 in the northeast. Both northwest and northeast prices are significantly lower than a year ago at 511.25 and 510 SYP to 1 USD, respectively. The increases in the cost of USD to SYP can increase the cost of all SMEB items in USD and consequently increase the overall SMEB cost.

### North: transport fuel increases

In northwest Syria there has been a reported increase in transport fuel (petrol and diesel) by 4% to a median price of 319 SYP per litre. These increases in prices

were reportedly due to road closures and due to the associated costs of importing petrol from Turkey. In northeast Syria, transport fuel prices have increased by 46% to a median price of 170 SYP per litre. Fuel prices have reportedly increased in some sub-districts due to winter approaching and a higher demand of fuel for heating.

### Northeast: cellphone data prices fluctuate

Throughout north Syria cellphone data prices have fluctuated. In northeast Syria there has been a 0% change in median price since August 2018, however, Al-Malikeyyeh had a reported decrease in price by 78% to 1,000 SYP per GB. In contrast there was a large increase in the sub-district Karama, which reported a 64% increase in price to 4,096 SYP per gigabyte (GB), since August 2018. These fluctuations in price by sub-district and since August 2018 are reportedly due to current and previous deals on cellphone data.

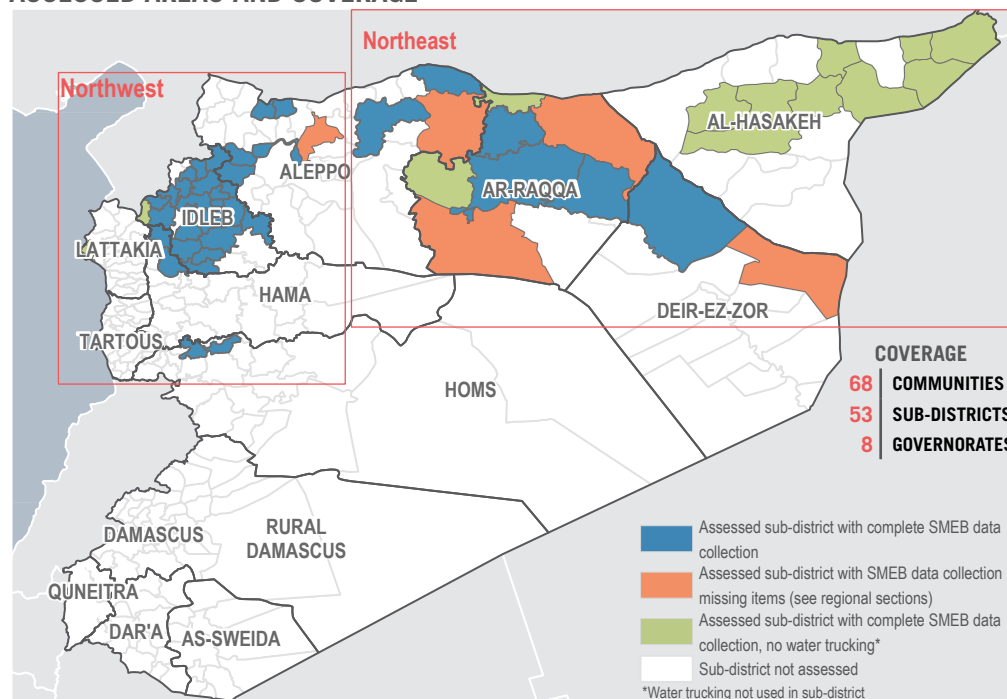
### Northwest: water prices increase

Within north Syria, water prices have reportedly increased. The reported median price in northwest Syria was 2,455 SYP, which has increased by 5% since August 2018. In the sub-district Bannsh water trucking prices have increased dramatically, by 47% to 1,980 SYP per 4,500 L. The increases in water trucking prices may be associated with the increases in transport fuel costs.

### North: winterisation items

During this market monitoring round, 10 winterisation items were introduced including men's, women's and children's winter jackets and boots, adult and children's winter hats as well as mattresses and winter blankets. These items will be included over the winter months in [northwest Syria](#) and [northeast Syria](#).

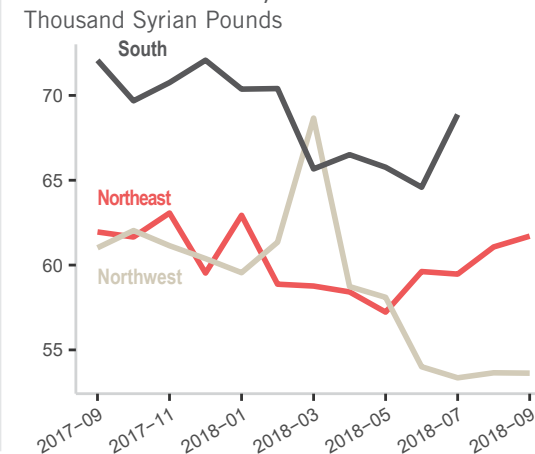
## ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE



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

<b>53,628 SYP</b> <b>(116.96 USD)</b>	<b>NORTHWEST SYRIA - HOMS, HAMA, IDLEB, LATTAKIA, &amp; WESTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES</b>
<b>61,704 SYP</b> <b>(132.69 USD)</b>	<b>NORTHEAST SYRIA - AL-HASAKEH, AL-RAQQA, DEIR-EZ-ZOR &amp; EASTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES</b>

## MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH & REGION





## SMEB FOOD ITEMS

See Page 1, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Food Items	One month change	Six month change
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	42,436	-2%	0%
Ain al Arab	39,399	+2%	-4%
Al-Hasakeh	46,475	+3%	+9%
Al-Malikeyyeh	43,566	0%	-7%
Al-Thawrah	42,484	0%	+4%
Ar-Raqqqa	46,287	+5%	+10%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	41,485	+11%	-2%
Ein Issa	42,388	-2%	-2%
Jawadiyah	42,258	+17%	-9%
Jurneyyeh	41,301	0%	+4%
Karama	46,609	+20%	NA
Kisreh	43,100	NA	NA
Mansura	41,983	-10%	NA
Menbij	40,723	-1%	-4%
Quamishli	41,539	+2%	-8%
Sarin	39,750	NA	-3%
Suluk	NA	NA	NA
Sur	39,525	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	43,675	-3%	-2%
Tal Tamer	48,830	+4%	+8%
Tell Abiad	43,410	-2%	+22%
Ya'robiyah	47,365	-1%	+6%

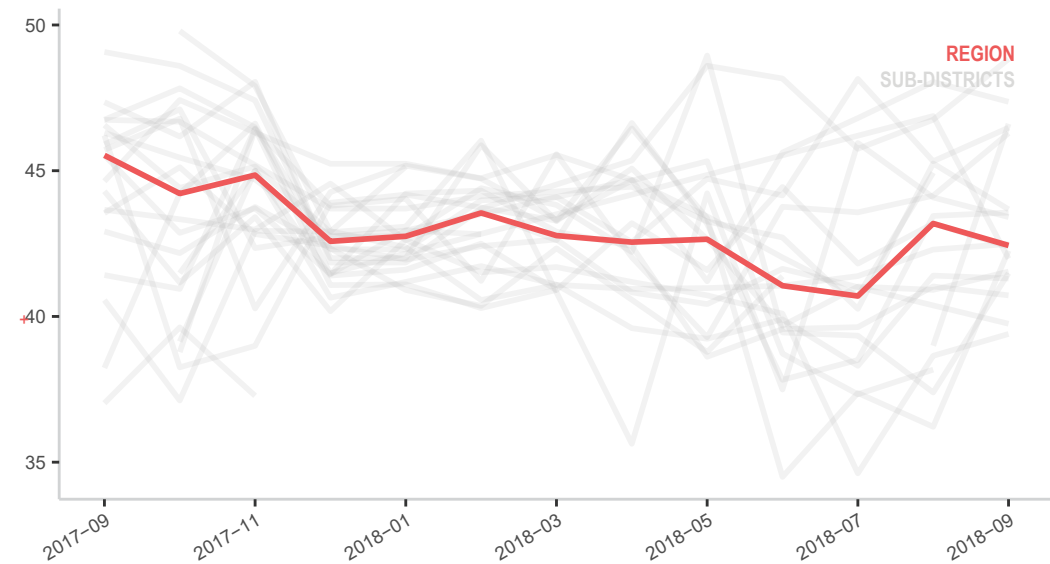
## SMEB COOKING FUEL

Kerosene 25L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
<b>Northeast</b>	3,125	-17%	+19%
Ain al Arab	3,000	+4%	+14%
Al-Hasakeh	3,125	+25%	+56%
Al-Malikeyyeh	5,000	+78%	+86%
Al-Thawrah	3,750	0%	+36%
Ar-Raqqqa	3,125	0%	+25%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	3,750	+25%	+88%
Ein Issa	3,125	-17%	+25%
Jawadiyah	4,375	+17%	-13%
Jurneyyeh	3,656	-3%	+27%
Karama	3,125	-4%	NA
Kisreh	2,500	NA	NA
Mansura	3,750	0%	NA
Menbij	2,750	0%	+5%
Quamishli	4,375	+17%	+52%
Sarin	NA	NA	NA
Suluk	3,125	-17%	+39%
Sur	2,500	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	3,750	0%	+88%
Tal Tamer	2,500	0%	NA
Tell Abiad	5,000	0%	+100%
Ya'robiyah	2,500	0%	+33%

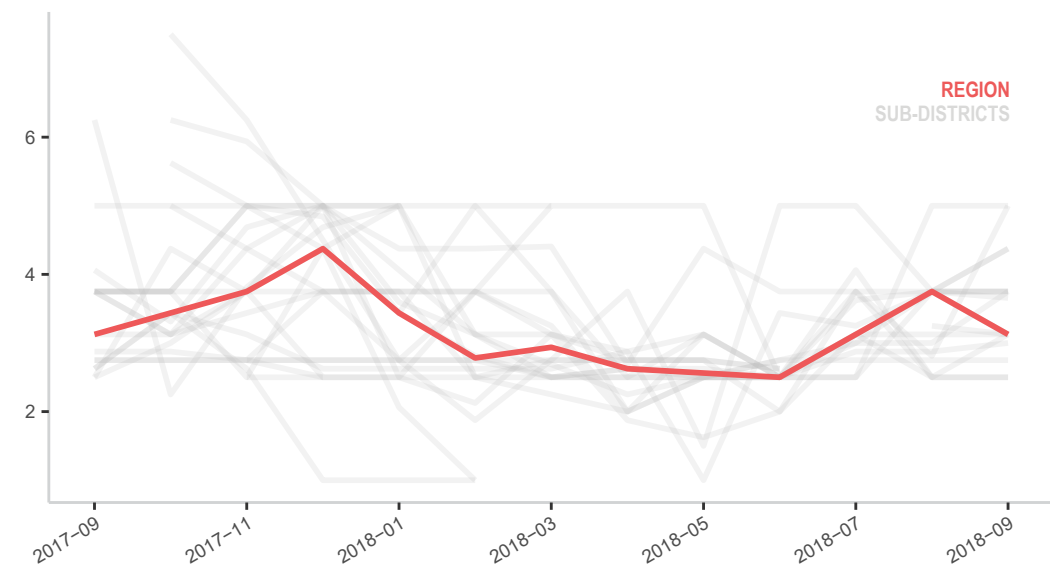
## MEDIAN SMEB FOOD COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



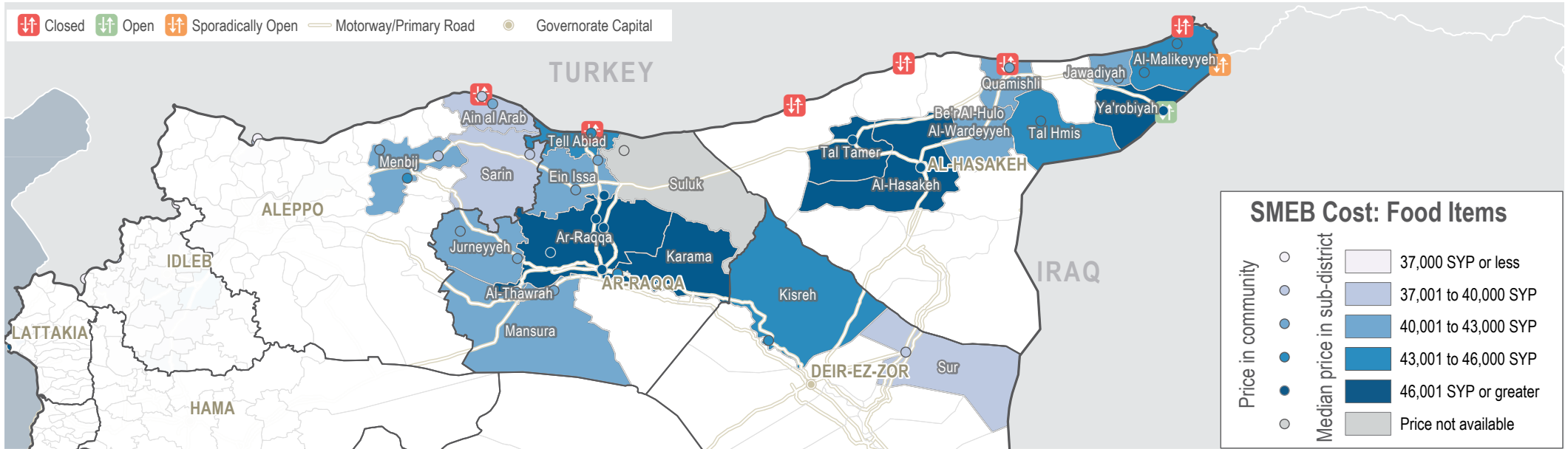
## MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



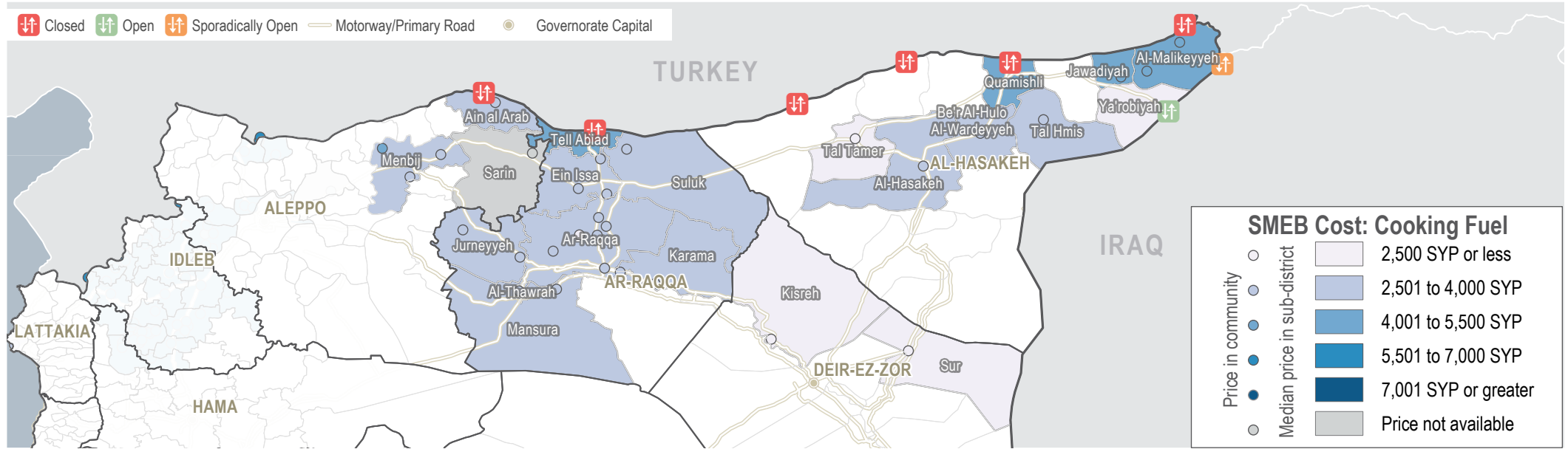
## SMEB FOOD ITEMS

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>	4,095	<b>+36%</b>	<b>+61%</b>
Ain al Arab	1,598	<b>+40%</b>	<b>+26%</b>
Al-Hasakeh*	NA	NA	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh*	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah*	6,750	<b>-40%</b>	NA
Ar-Raqqa	2,250	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh*	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	4,095	<b>-1%</b>	NA
Jawadiyah*	NA	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh*	NA	NA	NA
Karama	4,500	NA	NA
Kisreh	4,950	NA	NA
Mansura	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	3,015	NA	NA
Quamishli*	NA	NA	NA
Sarin*	1,485	NA	NA
Suluk*	4,095	NA	NA
Sur	4,950	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA
Tal Tamer	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA
Ya'robeyah	NA	NA	NA

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

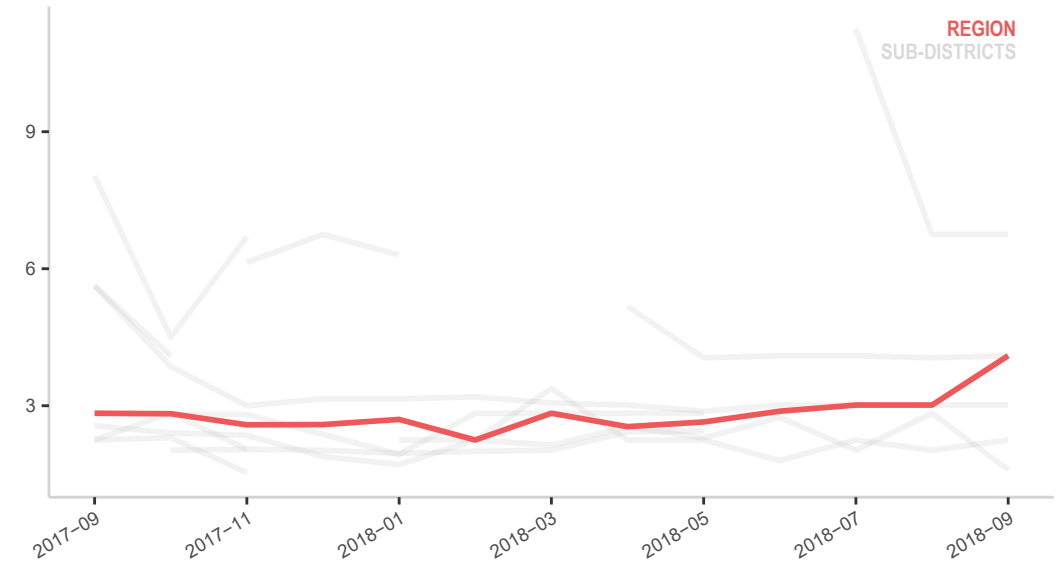
## MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

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>	170	<b>+46%</b>	NA
Ain al Arab	174	0%	<b>+2%</b>
Al-Hasakeh	91	<b>+7%</b>	<b>+1%</b>
Al-Malikeyyeh	163	<b>+10%</b>	<b>+26%</b>
Al-Thawrah	215	<b>-3%</b>	<b>+76%</b>
Ar-Raqqa	207	<b>+72%</b>	<b>+45%</b>
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	127	<b>+9%</b>	<b>+41%</b>
Ein Issa	184	<b>+52%</b>	<b>+37%</b>
Jawadiyah	163	<b>+28%</b>	<b>+73%</b>
Jurneyyeh	291	<b>-9%</b>	<b>+94%</b>
Karama	200	<b>33%</b>	NA
Kisreh	220	NA	NA
Mansura	292	0%	NA
Menbij	239	<b>+18%</b>	<b>+12%</b>
Quamishli	154	<b>+14%</b>	<b>+67%</b>
Sarin	66	NA	<b>+7%</b>
Suluk	175	<b>+51%</b>	<b>+15%</b>
Sur	100	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	92	0%	<b>-13%</b>
Tal Tamer	150	<b>+73%</b>	NA
Tell Abiad	170	<b>+58%</b>	<b>+18%</b>
Ya'robeyah	102	<b>-3%</b>	<b>+5%</b>

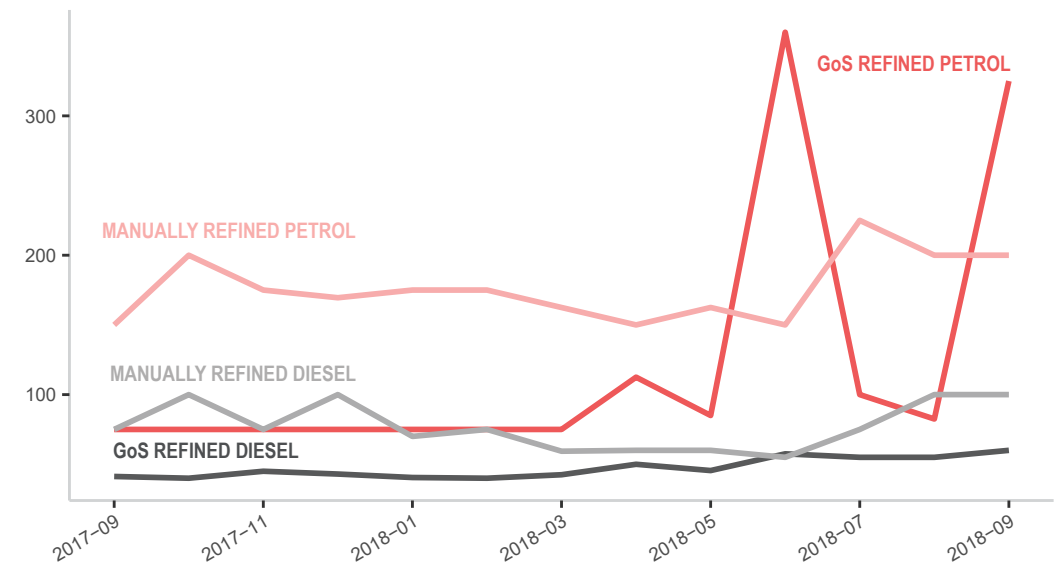
## MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



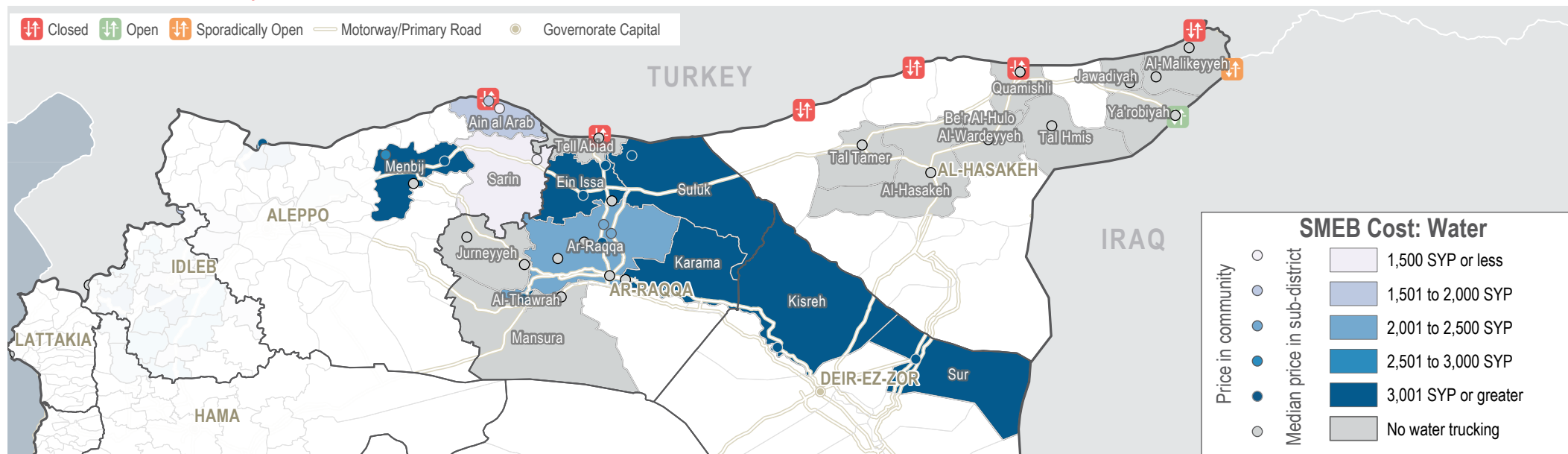
## TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE

Syrian Pounds



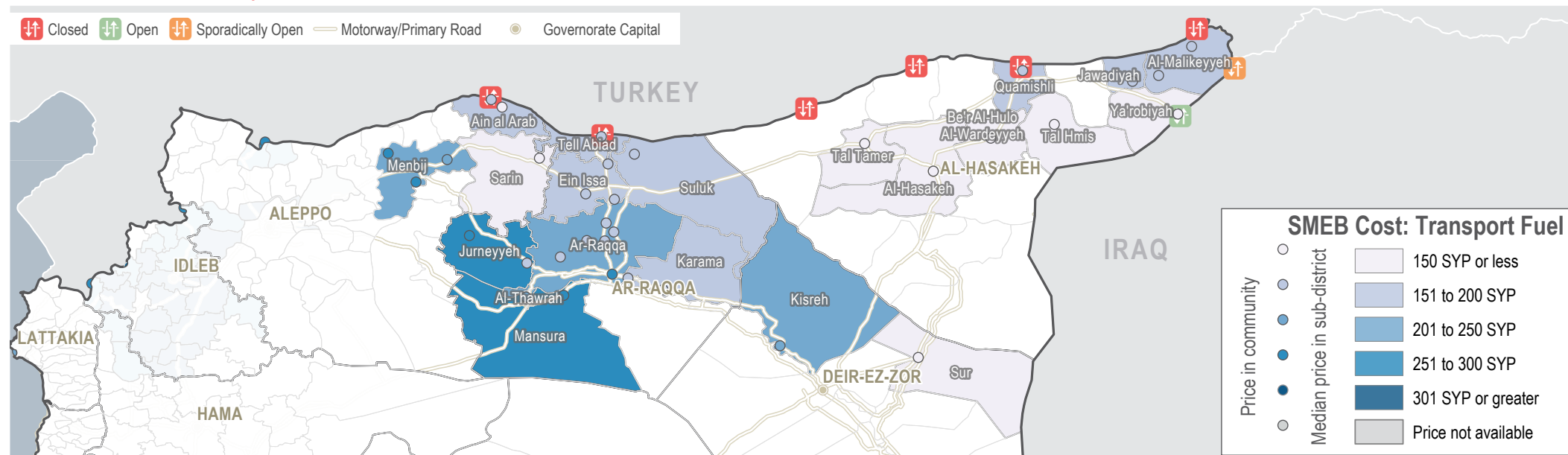
## SMEB WATER TRUCKING

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</b>	4,950	-1%	-4%
Ain al Arab	4,729	-13%	-9%
Al-Hasakeh	5,490	+6%	+7%
Al-Malikeyyeh	5,508	+9%	+7%
Al-Thawrah	3,188	+9%	+10%
Ar-Raqqa	5,333	-3%	+2%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	5,310	+6%	0%
Ein Issa	4,851	+1%	-8%
Jawadiyah	5,730	+21%	+12%
Jumeyyeh	2,659	-11%	-10%
Karama	5,761	+46%	NA
Kisreh	3,838	NA	NA
Mansura	4,800	+51%	NA
Menbij	3,414	-2%	-6%
Quamishli	4,950	-3%	-4%
Sarin	4,558	NA	-13%
Suluk	4,961	+4%	-3%
Sur	4,275	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	5,860	+5%	+5%
Tal Tamer	4,515	-12%	+4%
Tell Abiad	6,100	+15%	+45%
Ya'robiyah	5,680	+3%	+4%

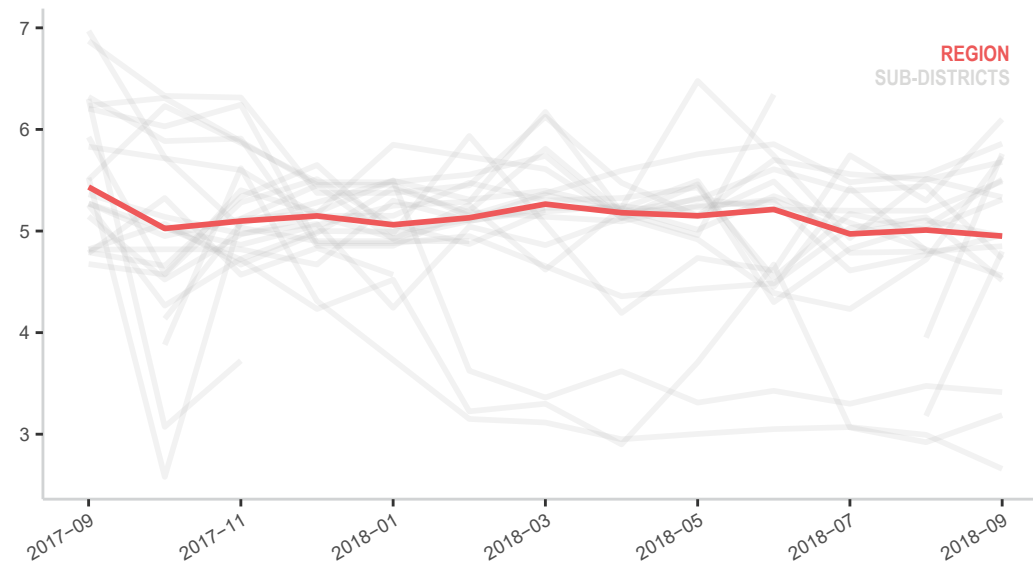
## MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA

1GB data, Syrian Pound

Sub-district	SMEB Phone Data	One month change	Six month change
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	1,500	0%	-41%
Ain al Arab	1,975	-21%	-29%
Al-Hasakeh	2,000	0%	0%
Al-Malikeyyeh	1,000	-78%	-68%
Al-Thawrah	1,500	0%	-63%
Ar-Raqqa	1,500	-25%	-71%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	1,300	+8%	-33%
Ein Issa	1,500	0%	-63%
Jawadiyah	1,000	0%	-38%
Jumeyyeh	3,400	+1%	-15%
Karama	4,096	+64%	NA
Kisreh	3,012	NA	NA
Mansura	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	2,816	+22%	+10%
Quamishli	1,200	0%	-29%
Sarin	1,500	NA	-14%
Suluk	1,500	+43%	+67%
Sur	NA	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	1,300	+8%	-24%
Tal Tamer	1,500	0%	NA
Tell Abiad	2,000	0%	NA
Ya'robiyah	1,300	0%	-28%

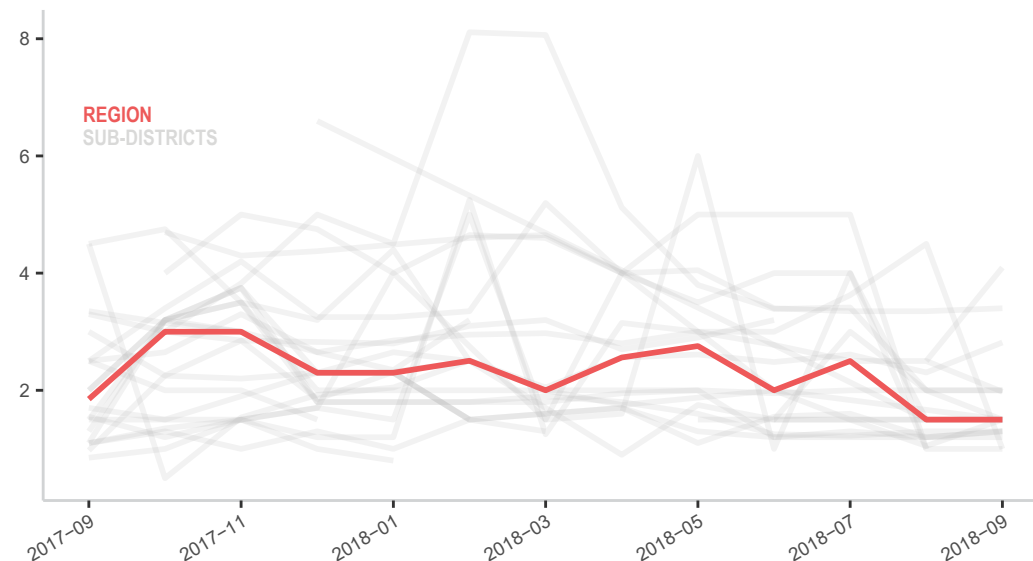
## MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



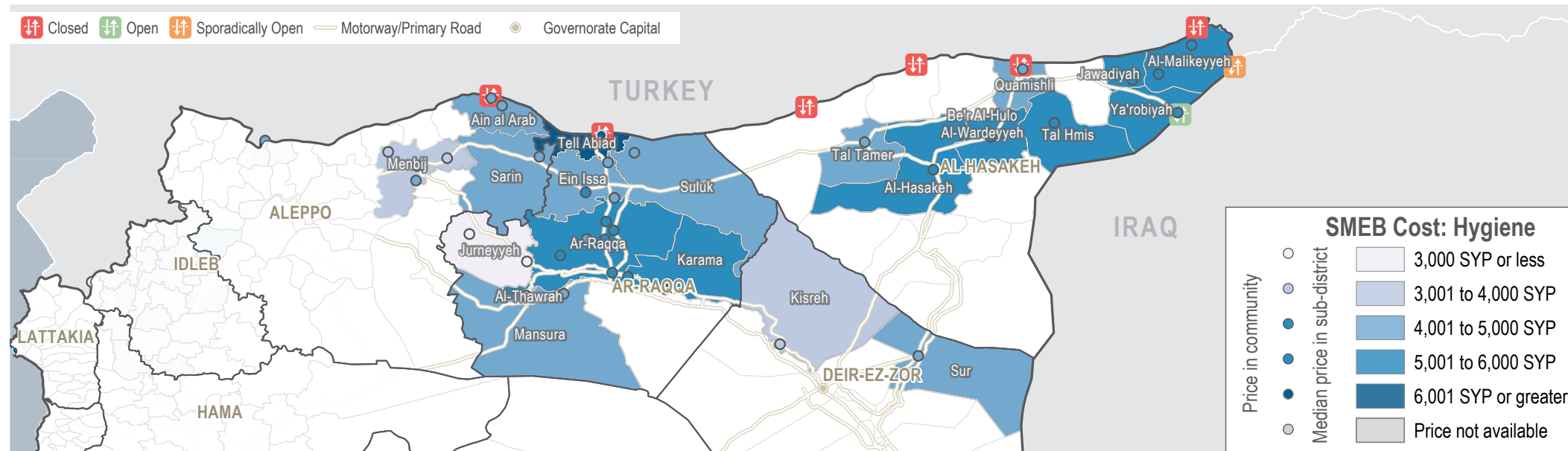
## MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



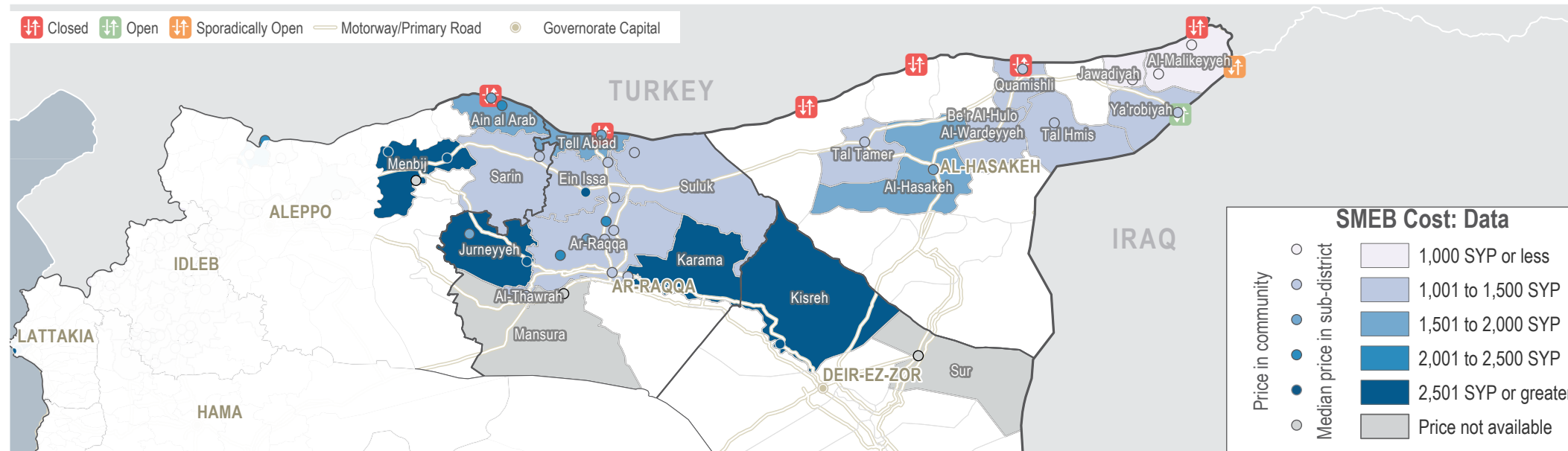
## SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



## SMEB CELLPHONE DATA

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



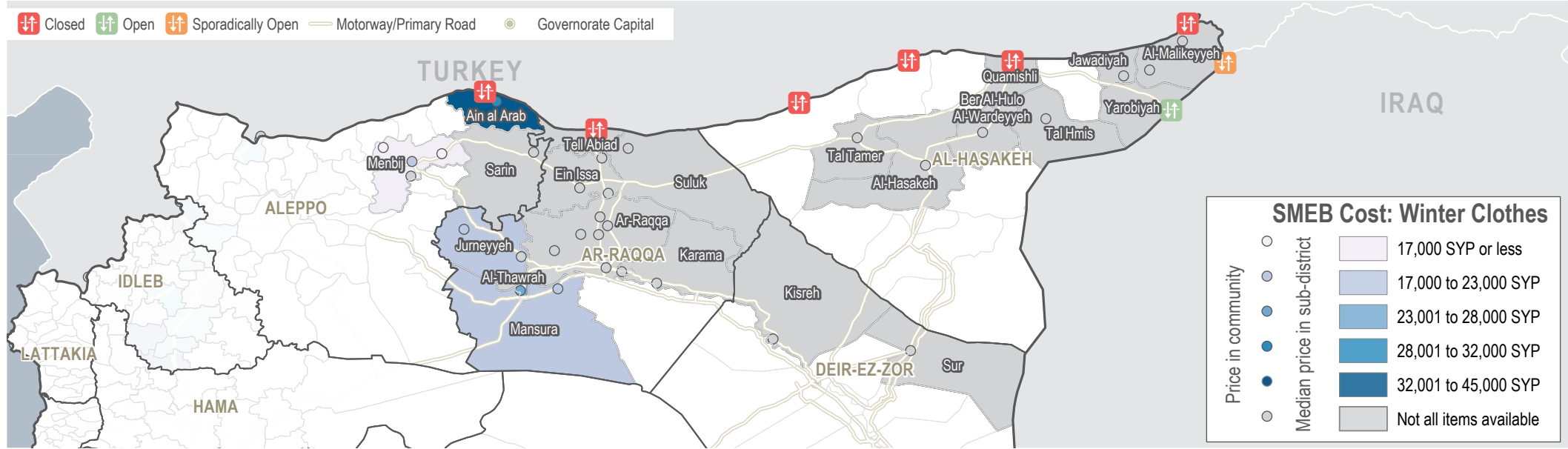
## MEDIAN WINTERISATION AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Per 1 winter item, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	Mens jacket	One month change	Wom-ens jacket	One month change	Child's jacket	One month change	Mens boots	One month change	Wom-ens boots	One month change	Child's boots	One month change	Adult hat	One month change	Child's hat	One month change	Blanket	One month change	Mat-tress	One month change
<b>Northwest</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>5,756</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>3,250</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>NA</b>
Ain al Arab	8,625	NA	5,756	NA	4,600	NA	5,500	NA	5,625	NA	3,125	NA	2,500	NA	1,350	NA	6,500	NA	7,500	NA
Al-Hasakeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al-Malikiyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	6,000	NA	8,000	NA	4,500	NA	3,500	NA	2,000	NA	1,500	NA	500	NA	375	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Karama	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	NA	NA	9,250	NA	4,500	NA	NA	NA	3,500	NA	2,500	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mansura	5,000	NA	4,500	NA	2,500	NA	2,500	NA	2,250	NA	1,650	NA	1,000	NA	650	NA	1,500	NA	5,000	NA
Menbij	3,500	NA	3,000	NA	1,500	NA	3,000	NA	2,500	NA	1,500	NA	850	NA	500	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Quamishli	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sarin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Suluk	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sur	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tal Tamer	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000	NA	6,000	NA
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,000	NA	4,000	NA
Ya'robayah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

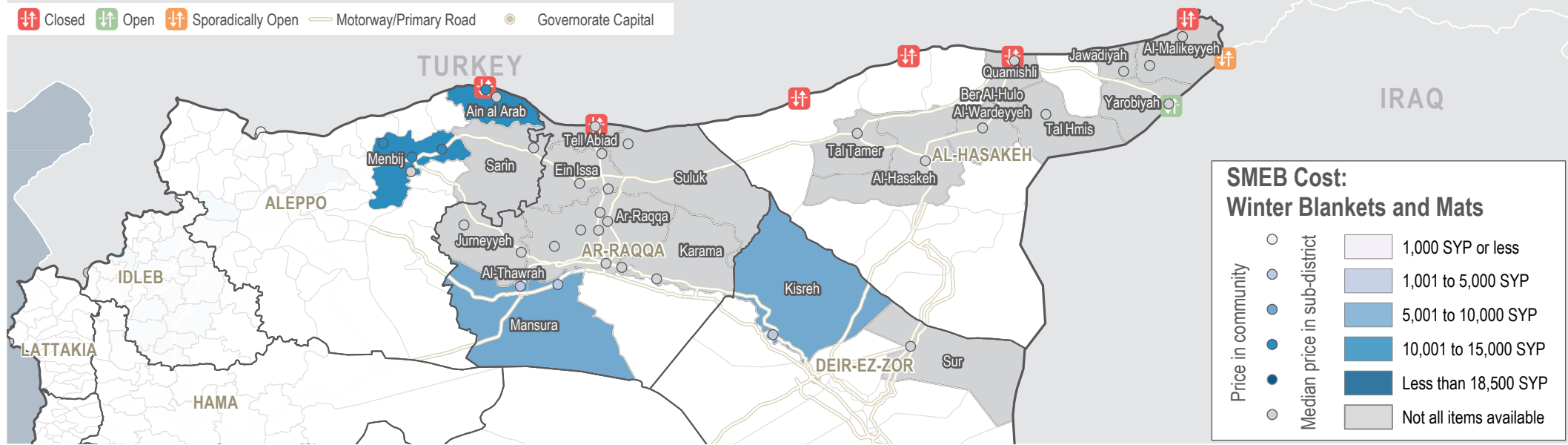
## WINTER CLOTHES

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



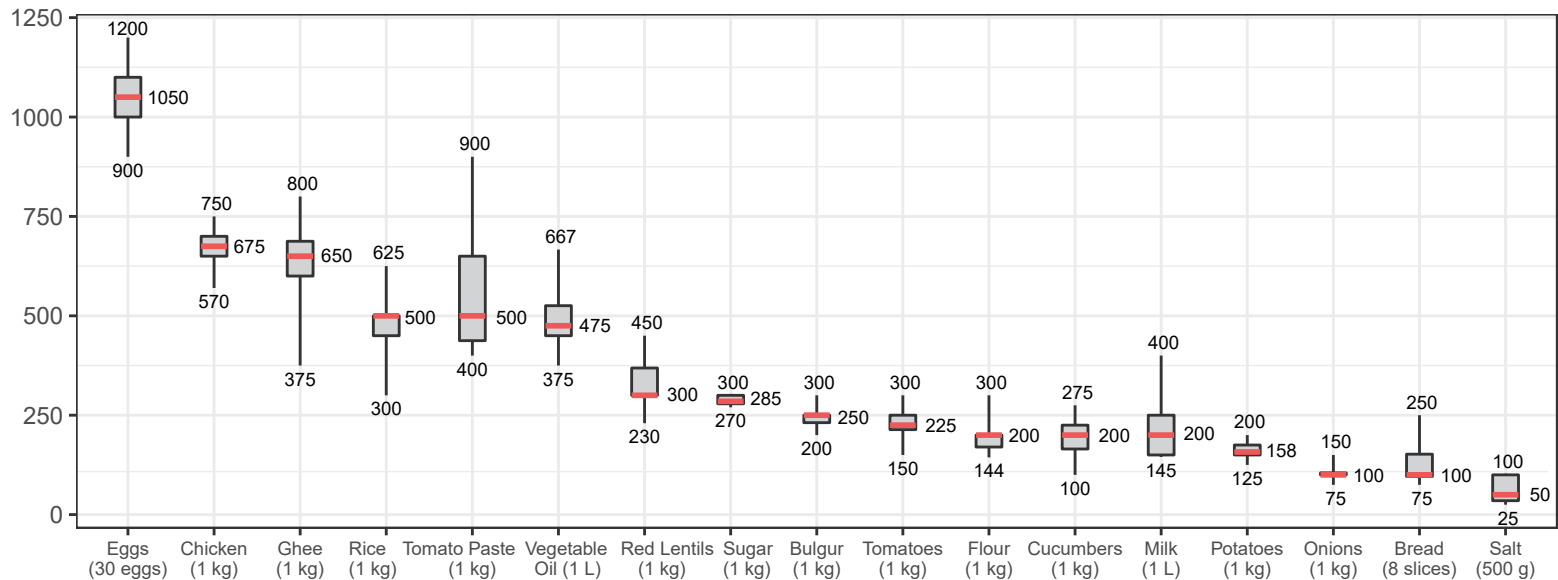
## WINTER BLANKETS

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



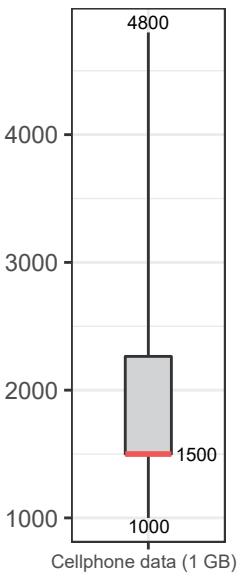
## ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



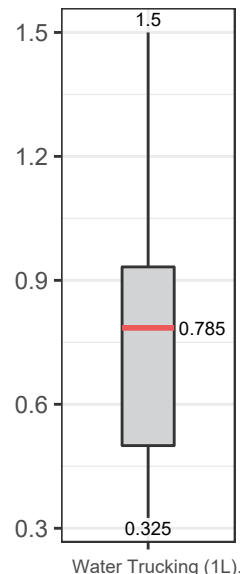
## CELLPHONE DATA

1GB



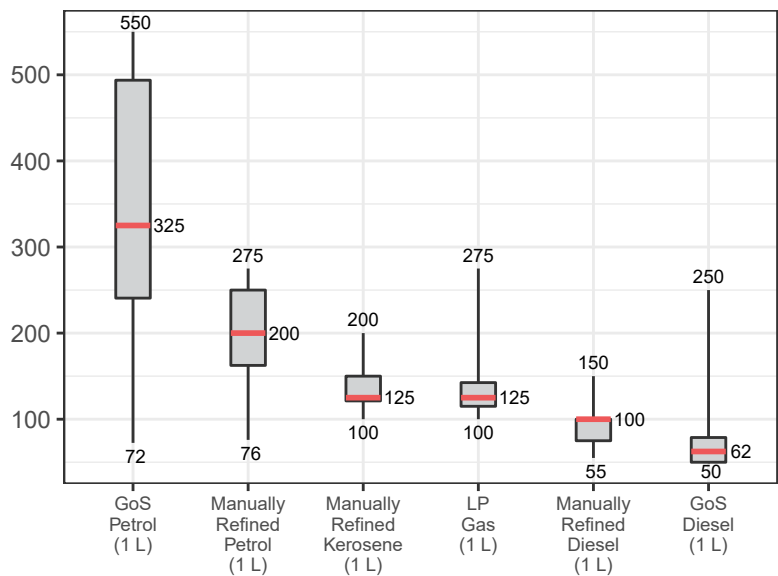
## WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



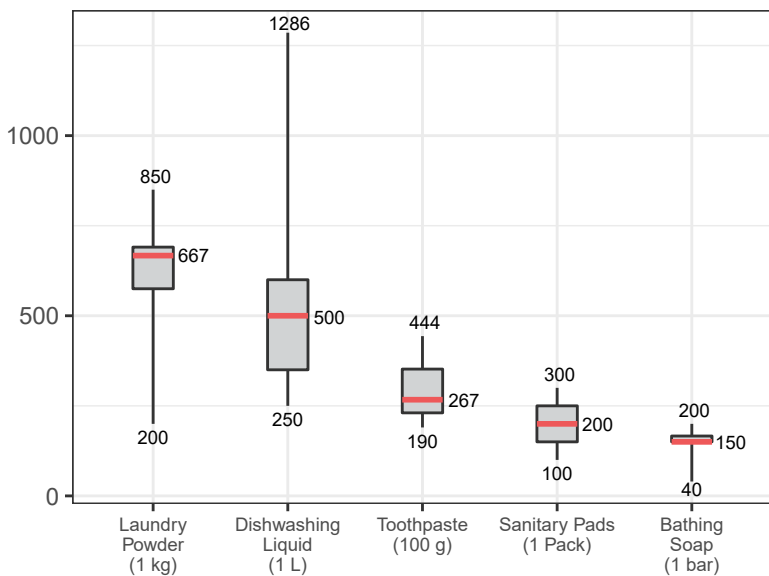
## ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

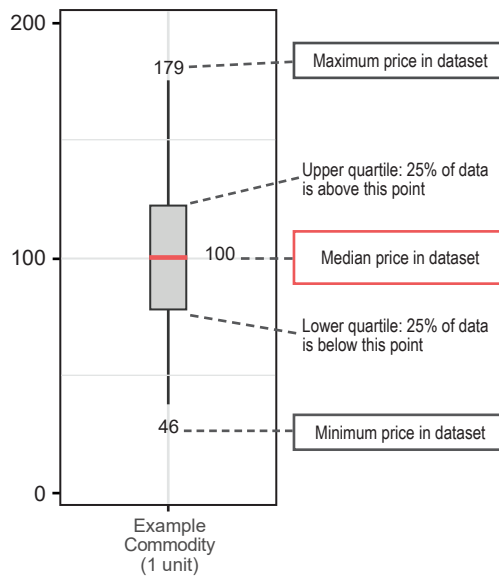


## ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

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.

Winterisation items have been added to the market monitoring exercise and data collection will continue for these items over winter, until February 2019. Whilst other commodities are bought regularly by families, winterisation items are not expected to be bought regularly and may be one off purchases for each family member.

## CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

As the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise currently includes 14 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.

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 south of Syria, data collection has been unable to take place since July 2018. Due to access issues and an escalation of conflict, coverage was lost in Eastern Ghouta in March 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. However, we have since lost coverage in the south of Syria.

## 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).