

# SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 08-15 October 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: SMEB costs diverge regionally

The SMEB cost has increased in northwest Syria by 5% to 56,068 SYP since September 2018. While this is the highest cost observed in the past 4 months, the cost is 13% lower compared to October 2017 (62,034 SYP). In northeast Syria the SMEB for non-water trucking communities has risen for the third consecutive month increasing by 2% to 58,540 SYP since September 2018, however, the complete SMEB has decreased by 3% to 59,966 SYP. Throughout north Syria the SMEB price has been fluctuating over the past year with the October SMEB price reported as the highest price in northwest Syria since May 2018, but the lowest price reported since July 2018 in northeast Syria.

### North: SMEB food costs increase

Throughout north Syria SMEB food prices have increased since September 2018. In northwest Syria

prices have increased for the third consecutive month rising to 38,450 SYP since September 2018. However, compared to October 2017, the cost has decreased by 8%. Individual food prices have fluctuated but in particular, in northwest Syria sub-district Kafr Takharim, there was a 75% increase in the price of bread, reportedly due to less support from humanitarian organisations in providing flour. Whereas in northeast Syria there has been a 2% increase since May 2018, six months ago, to 43,424 SYP in October 2018. Since October 2017 costs in the northeast have been stable with a slight decrease of 2%.

### North: winterisation items fluctuate

Winterisation prices have fluctuated with winter blanket increasing the most at a median 115% and 65% in the northwest and northeast, respectively. Winter item prices have fluctuated throughout the north due to store competition and as some stores are selling last years clothing

items at a lower price and this years new styles at a higher price. However, winterisation items are reportedly not in stock in all locations yet due to the seasonality of the items. Furthermore, according to key informants humanitarian distributions of winter items have reportedly forced stores to lower prices to sell items.

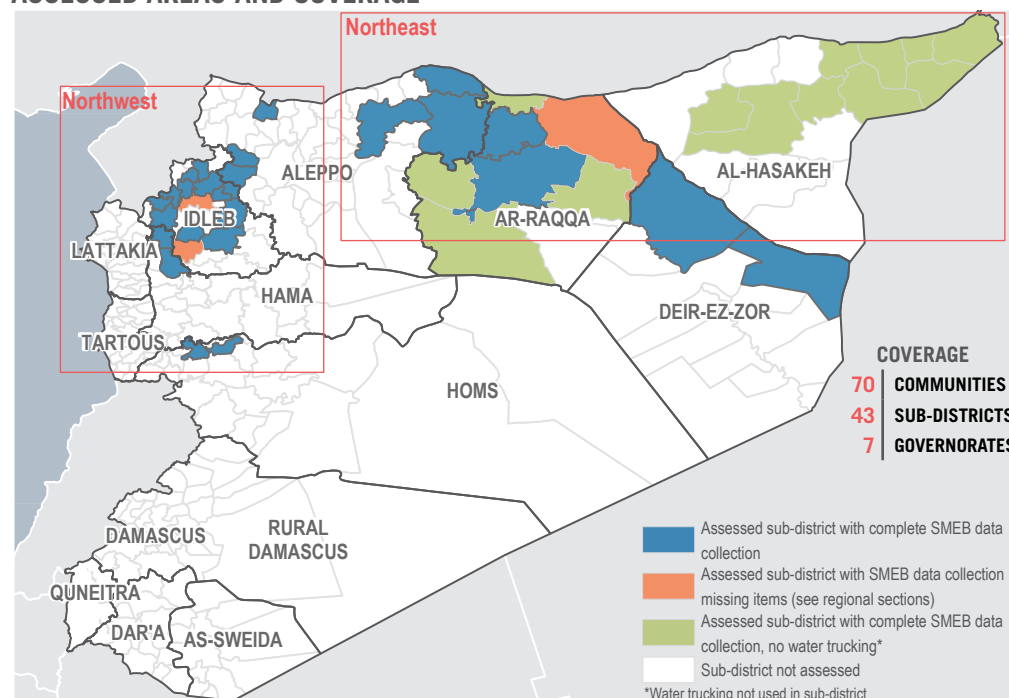
### Northwest: SMEB hygiene item prices increase

SMEB hygiene prices have steadily decreased over the past year, however, this trend has changed as prices increased by 13% since September 2018 to 4,275 SYP.

### Northeast: water prices decrease

Within northeast Syria, water prices have reportedly decreased by 26% to 3,015 SYP 4,500 litres, after steady increases since April 2018 and a peak in prices in September 2018. In Deir-ez-Zor sub-district Sur, water trucking prices have decreased dramatically by 82% to 900 SYP per 4,500 litres, since September 2018.

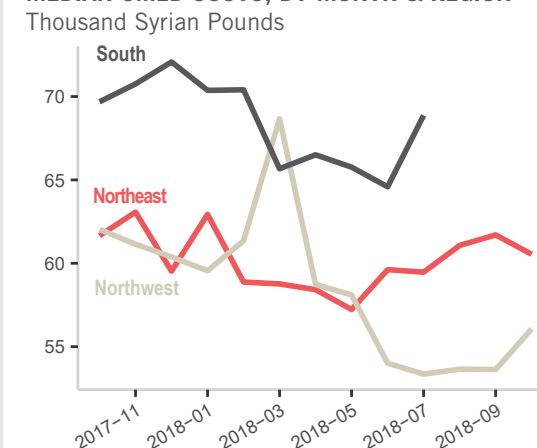
## ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE



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

<b>56,068 SYP</b> <b>(120.12 USD)</b>	<b>NORTHWEST SYRIA - HOMS, HAMA, IDLEB &amp; WESTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES</b>
<b>59,966 SYP</b> <b>(129.24 USD)</b>	<b>NORTHEAST SYRIA - AL-HASAKEH, AL-RAQQA, DEIR-EZ-ZOR &amp; EASTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES</b>

## MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH & REGION



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Cooking fuel prices increase

Median cooking fuel prices have increased 10% since September 2018, to 3,438 SYP per 25 litres. Within the last year median prices have fluctuated between 2,563 - 4,375 SYP, with a highest median cost of 4,375 SYP per 25 litres in December 2017. Jurneyyeh, Ein Issa (Ar-Raqqa Governorate) and Al-Hasakeh (Al-Hasakeh Governorate) sub-districts reported 20% increases and Kisreh (Deir-ez-Zor Governorate) reported a 25% increase in median price since September 2018. These increases may be linked to the 10% median increase in Kerosene, as this is also used as heating fuel and is in increased seasonal demand.

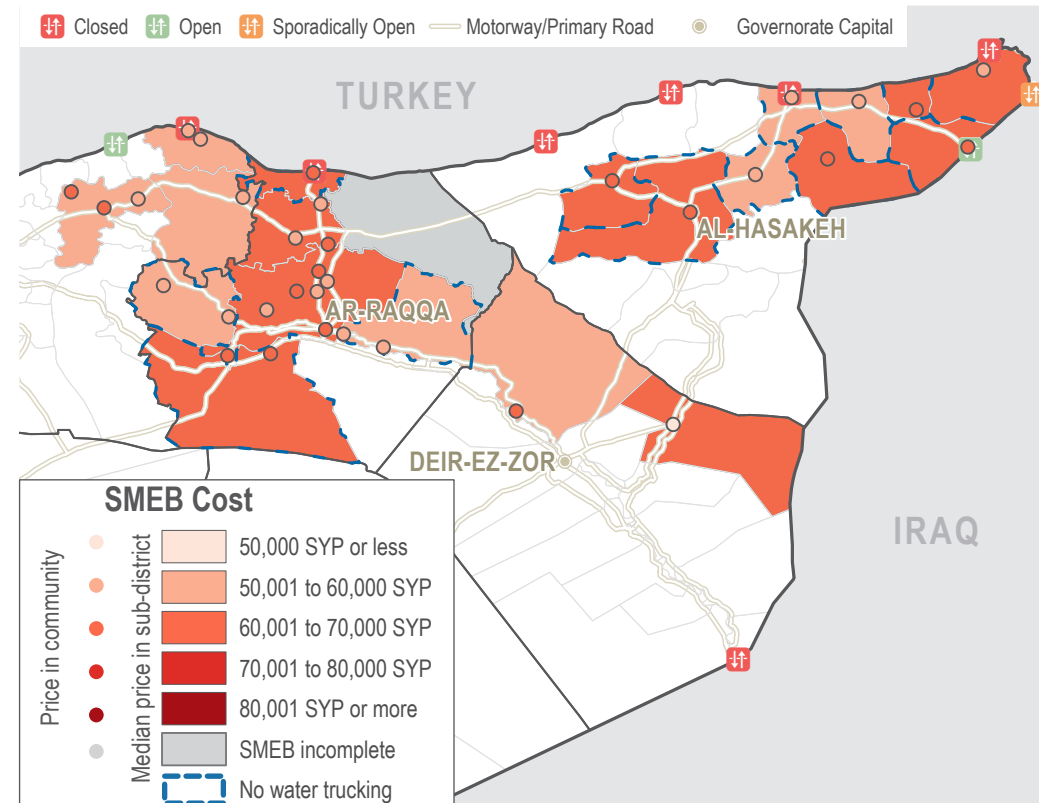
### Decrease in water trucking prices

Water prices have steadily increased since April 2018 and peaked in September 2018. However, the median price of water trucking has decreased 26% since September 2018 which is a decrease of 9% since October 2017, to 3,015 SYP per 4,500 litres. This sudden decrease has influenced the complete SMEB, leading to a decrease in price (3%), whereas the SMEB without water trucking has increased in price (2%).

### Winter item prices increase

Men's, women's and children's winter boot median prices increased by 7%, 10% and 27%, respectively. The largest sub-district increase was reported in Kisreh (Deir-ez-Zor Governorate), with a median increase of 107% to 7,250 SYP. Winter blanket prices have increased by 65% from 4,000 SYP in September 2018 to 6,600 SYP. Winter item prices are reportedly increasing as newer stock arrives and last years stock is all sold at a lower price.

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



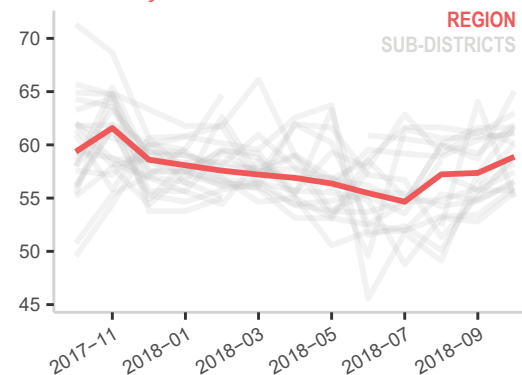
### SUB-DISTRICTS WITH INCOMPLETE SMEBS IN OCTOBER

SUB-DISTRICT	MISSING ITEMS
Suluk	Ghee, Eggs, Bread

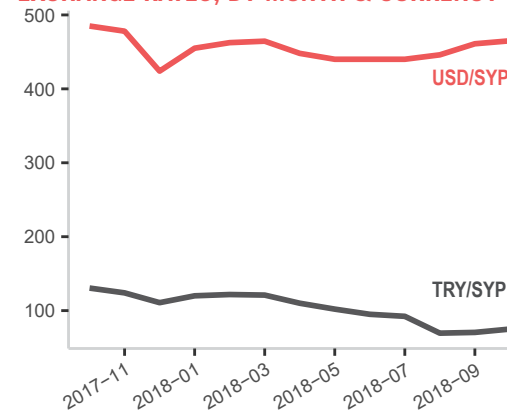
Note: A lack of data for a SMEB item does not imply a shortage

### 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>	<b>59,966</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>+5%</b>
<b>Northeast Syria Non-Water Trucking</b>	<b>58,540</b>	<b>+2%</b>	<b>+4%</b>
Ain al Arab	56,767	+4%	-2%
Al-Hasakeh*	60,146	-2%	+1%
Al-Malikeyyeh*	61,936	+5%	+3%
Al-Thawrah	63,721	+3%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	60,717	-3%	+4%
Be'r Al-Hulo	55,733	0%	-12%
Al-Wardeyyeh*	55,733	0%	-12%
Ein Issa	61,857	+3%	+1%
Jawadiyah*	61,694	+8%	-3%
Jurneyyeh*	56,583	+3%	+7%
Karama	55,056	-14%	NA
Kisreh	64,530	+5%	NA
Mansura	60,482	NA	NA
Menbij	59,216	+4%	+10%
Qahtaniyyeh	58,883	NA	-4%
Quamishli*	58,276	+4%	+8%
Sarin*	55,854	NA	-1%
Suluk*	NA	NA	NA
Sur	49,735	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	65,043	+11%	+15%
Tal Tamer	61,614	0%	NA
Tell Abiad	61,063	+1%	+7%
Ya'robiyah	62,974	+3%	+18%

\* 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>	<b>43,653</b>	<b>+3%</b>	<b>+2%</b>
Ain al Arab	42,603	+8%	+5%
Al-Hasakeh	45,450	-2%	+2%
Al-Malikeyyeh	45,505	+4%	+5%
Al-Thawrah	44,735	+5%	+9%
Ar-Raqqa	44,631	-4%	+14%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	41,485	0%	-15%
Ein Issa	43,106	+2%	+4%
Jawadiyah	43,140	+2%	-1%
Jurneyyeh	42,210	+2%	+8%
Karama	41,380	-11%	NA
Kisreh	45,620	+6%	NA
Mansura	44,550	+6%	NA
Menbij	43,345	+6%	+12%
Qahtaniyyeh	40,705	NA	-10%
Quamishli	43,653	+5%	+2%
Sarin	40,022	+1%	-1%
Suluk	NA	NA	NA
Sur	37,325	-6%	NA
Tal Hmis	49,440	+13%	+14%
Tal Tamer	48,800	0%	0%
Tell Abiad	44,608	+3%	+1%
Ya'robiyah	49,375	4%	20%

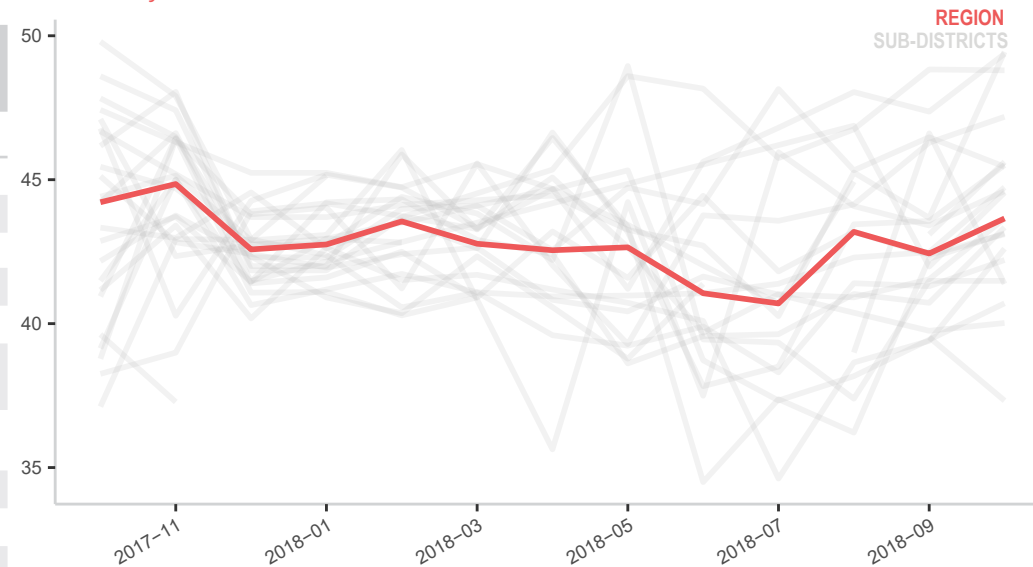
## SMEB COOKING FUEL

Kerosene 25L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	<b>3,438</b>	<b>+10%</b>	<b>+34%</b>
Ain al Arab	1,375	-54%	-48%
Al-Hasakeh	3,750	+20%	+20%
Al-Malikeyyeh	2,500	-50%	-43%
Al-Thawrah	3,750	0%	+36%
Ar-Raqqa	3,125	0%	+25%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	3,750	0%	+50%
Ein Issa	3,750	+20%	+20%
Jawadiyah	4,375	0%	-13%
Jurneyyeh	4,375	+20%	+40%
Karama	3,125	0%	NA
Kisreh	3,125	+25%	NA
Mansura	3,750	0%	NA
Menbij	2,625	-5%	+5%
Qahtaniyyeh	4,375	NA	+192%
Quamishli	4,375	0%	+338%
Sarin	1,375	NA	-50%
Suluk	3,125	0%	+25%
Sur	2,750	+10%	NA
Tal Hmis	3,750	0%	+50%
Tal Tamer	2,500	0%	NA
Tell Abiad	5,000	0%	100%
Ya'robiyah	2,500	0%	54%

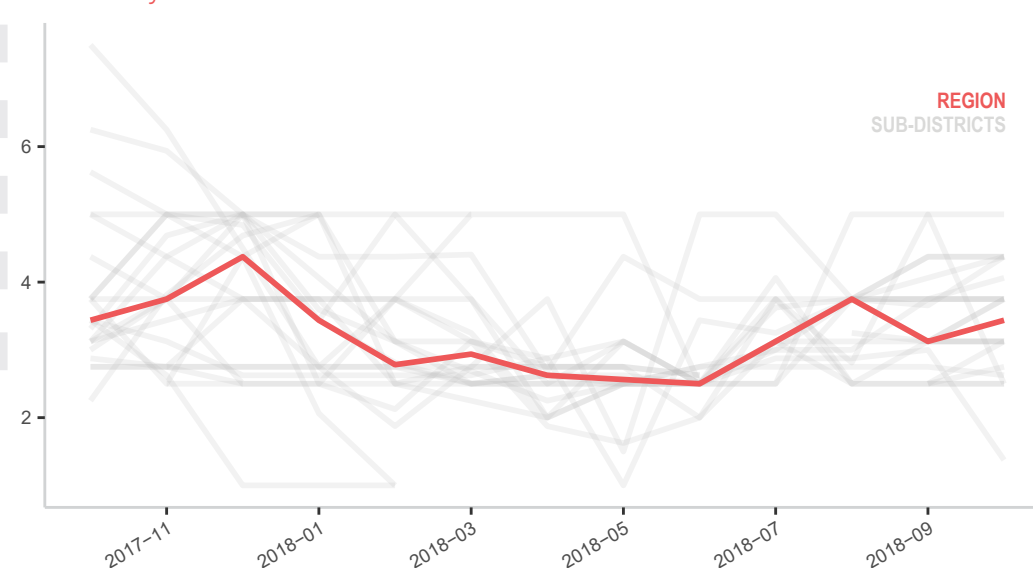
## MEDIAN SMEB FOOD COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



## MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

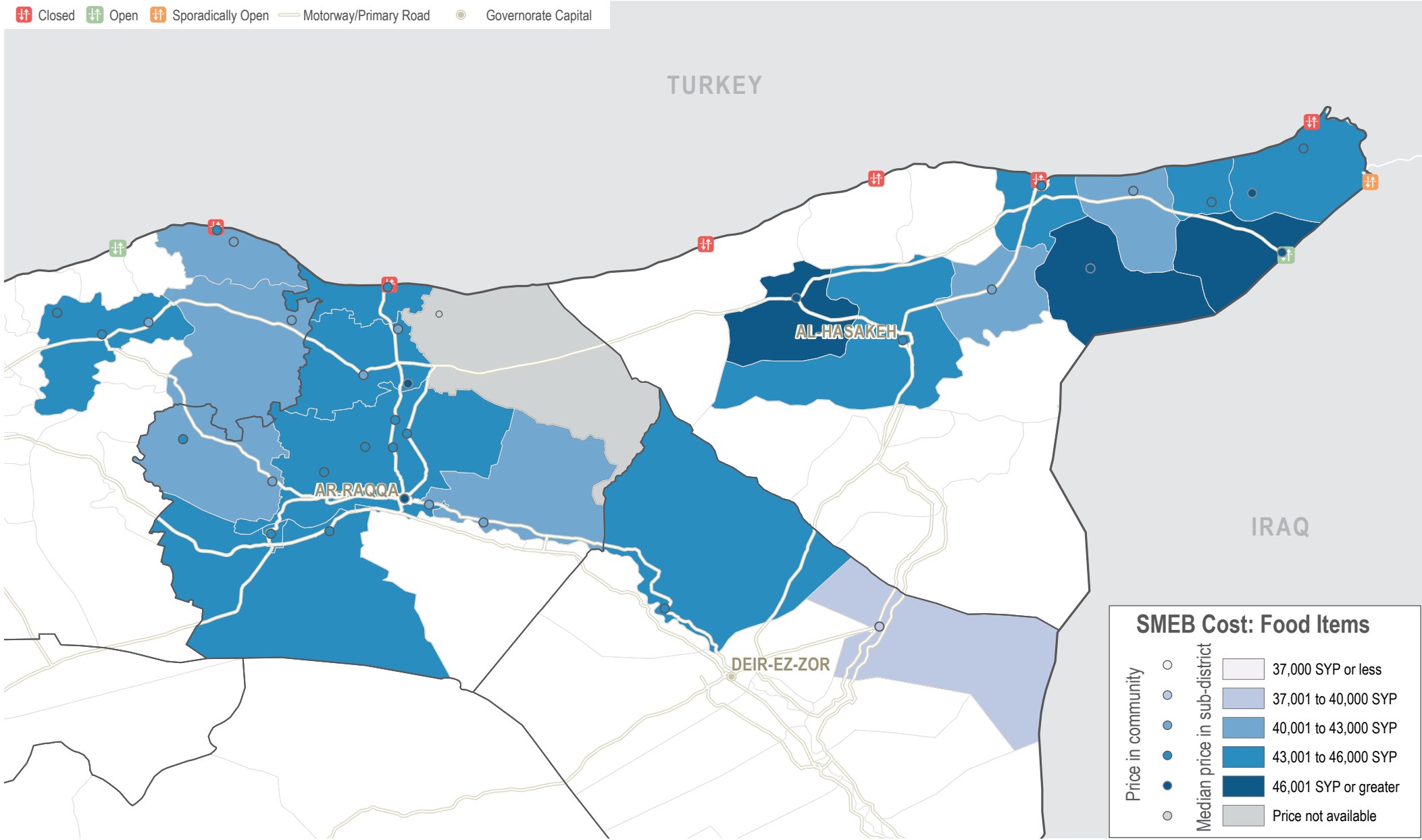
Thousand Syrian Pounds



## SMEB FOOD ITEMS

Sub-districts & communities, Syrian Pounds

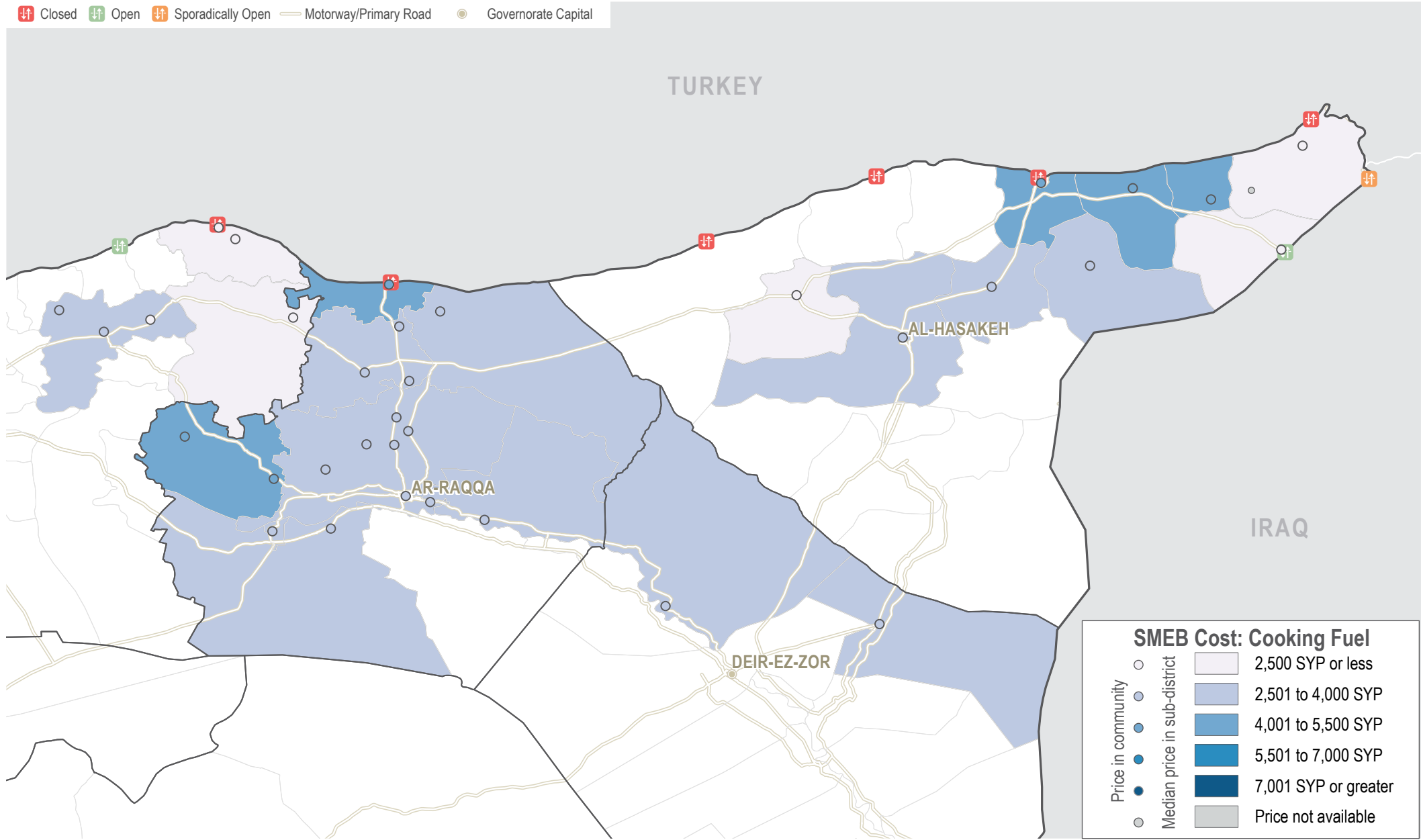
⚡ Closed 
 ⬆️ Open 
 ⚡ Sporadically Open 
 — Motorway/Primary Road 
 ● Governorate Capital



## SMEB COOKING FUEL

Sub-districts & communities, Syrian Pounds

⚡ Closed 
 ⚡ Open 
 ⚡ Sporadically Open 
 — Motorway/Primary Road 
 ● Governorate Capital



## MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING

4,500L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Water Truck	One month change	Six month change
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	<b>3,015</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>+14%</b>
Ain al Arab	1,091	-32%	-52%
Al-Hasakeh*	NA	NA	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh*	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah*	6,750	0%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	2,025	-10%	-10%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh*	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	4,095	0%	+1%
Jawadiyah*	NA	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh*	NA	NA	NA
Karama	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	4,095	-17%	NA
Mansura	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	3,015	0%	+5%
Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Quamishli*	NA	NA	NA
Sarin*	1,485	0%	-39%
Suluk*	4,095	0%	NA
Sur	900	-82%	NA
Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA
Tal Tamer	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA
Ya'robiyah	NA	NA	NA

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

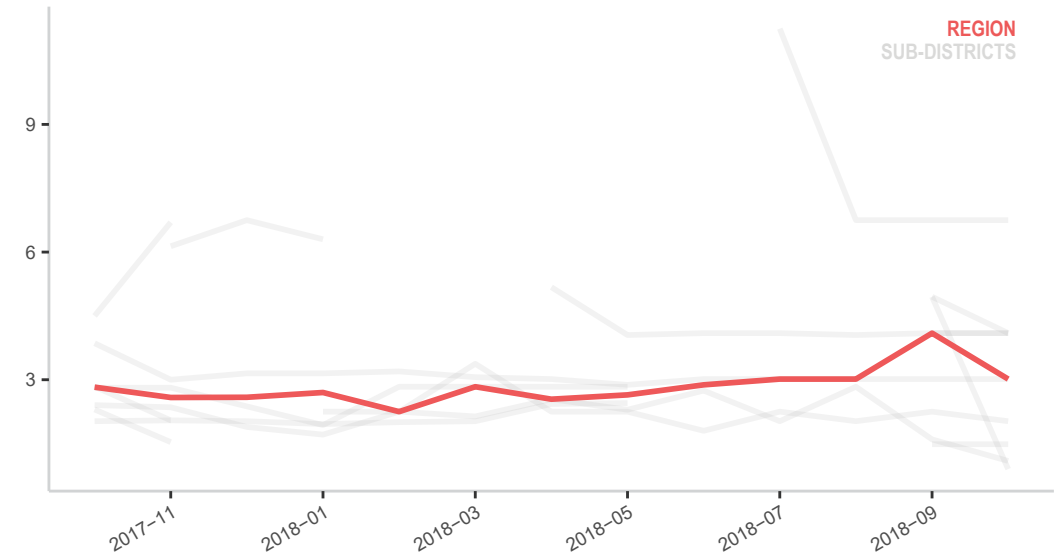
## MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

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>	<b>167</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>NA</b>
Ain al Arab	174	0%	+2%
Al-Hasakeh	91	+7%	+1%
Al-Malikeyyeh	163	+10%	+26%
Al-Thawrah	235	+9%	+68%
Ar-Raqqa	240	+16%	+113%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	127	+9%	+41%
Ein Issa	184	+52%	+37%
Jawadiyah	163	+28%	+73%
Jurneyyeh	291	-9%	+94%
Karama	200	+33%	NA
Kisreh	220	NA	NA
Mansura	292	0%	NA
Menbij	239	+18%	+12%
Qahtaniyyeh			
Quamishli	154	+14%	+67%
Sarin	66	NA	+7%
Suluk	175	+51%	+15%
Sur	100	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	92	0%	-13%
Tal Tamer	150	+73%	NA
Tell Abiad	170	+58%	+18%
Ya'robiyah	102	-3%	+5%

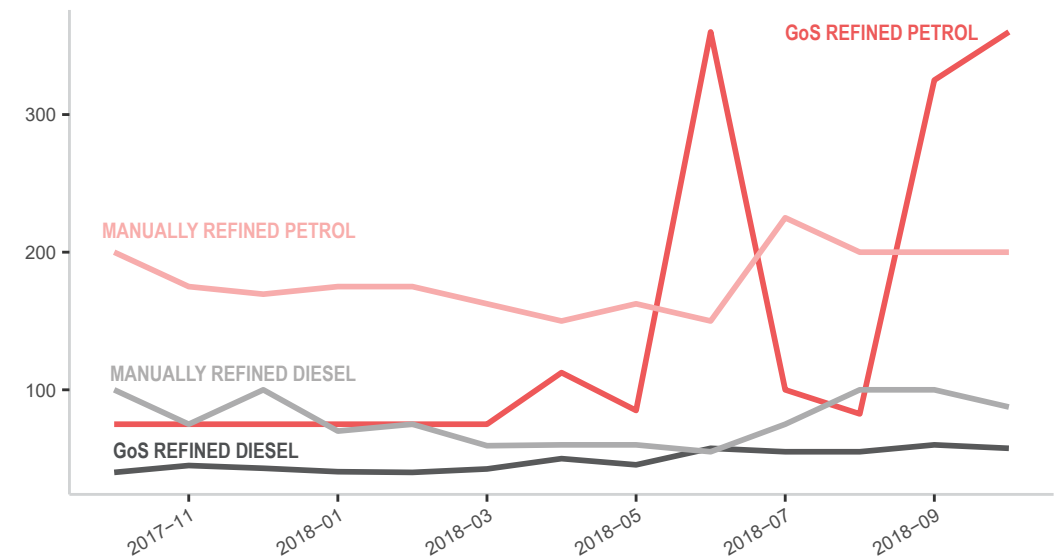
## MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds

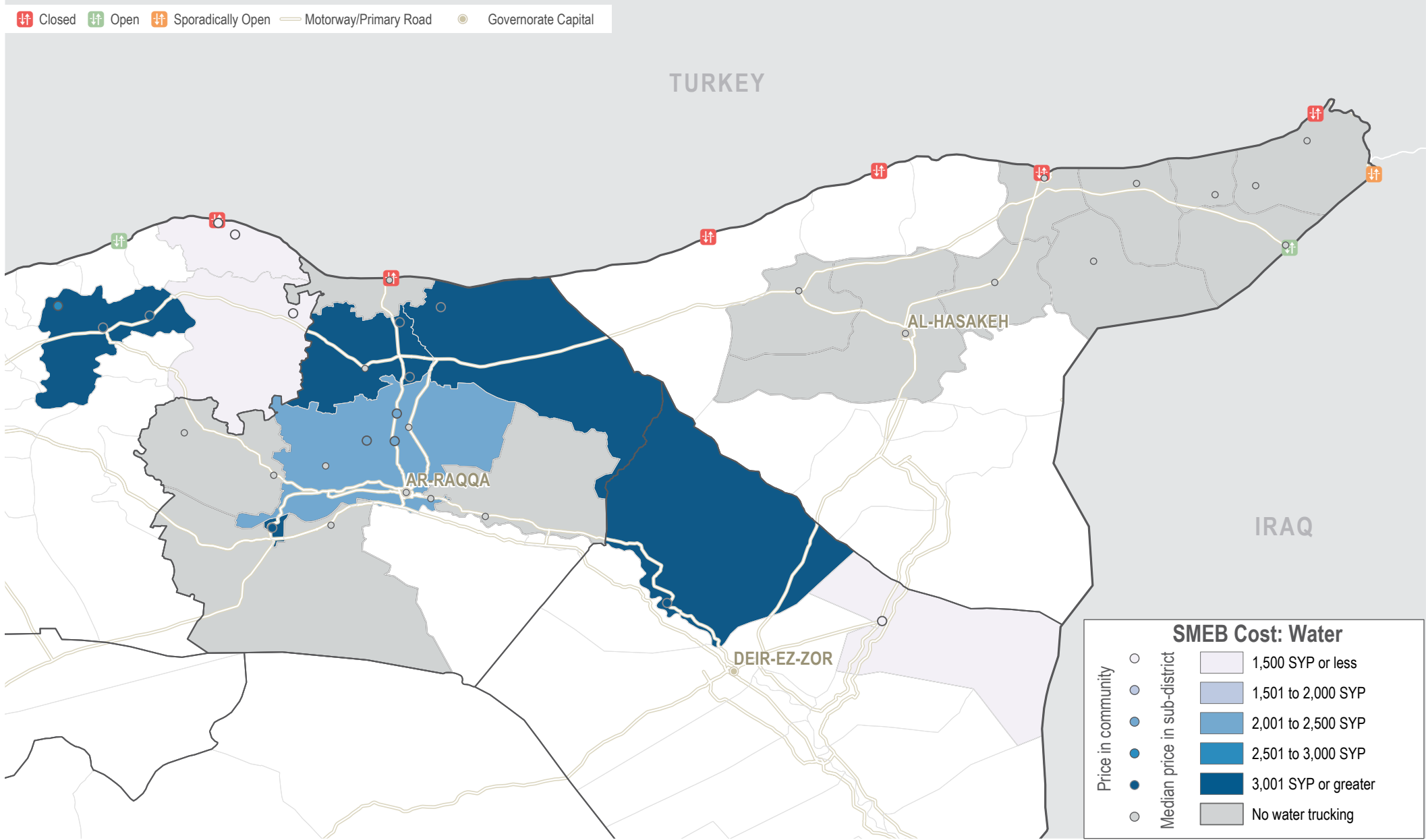


## TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE

Syrian Pounds

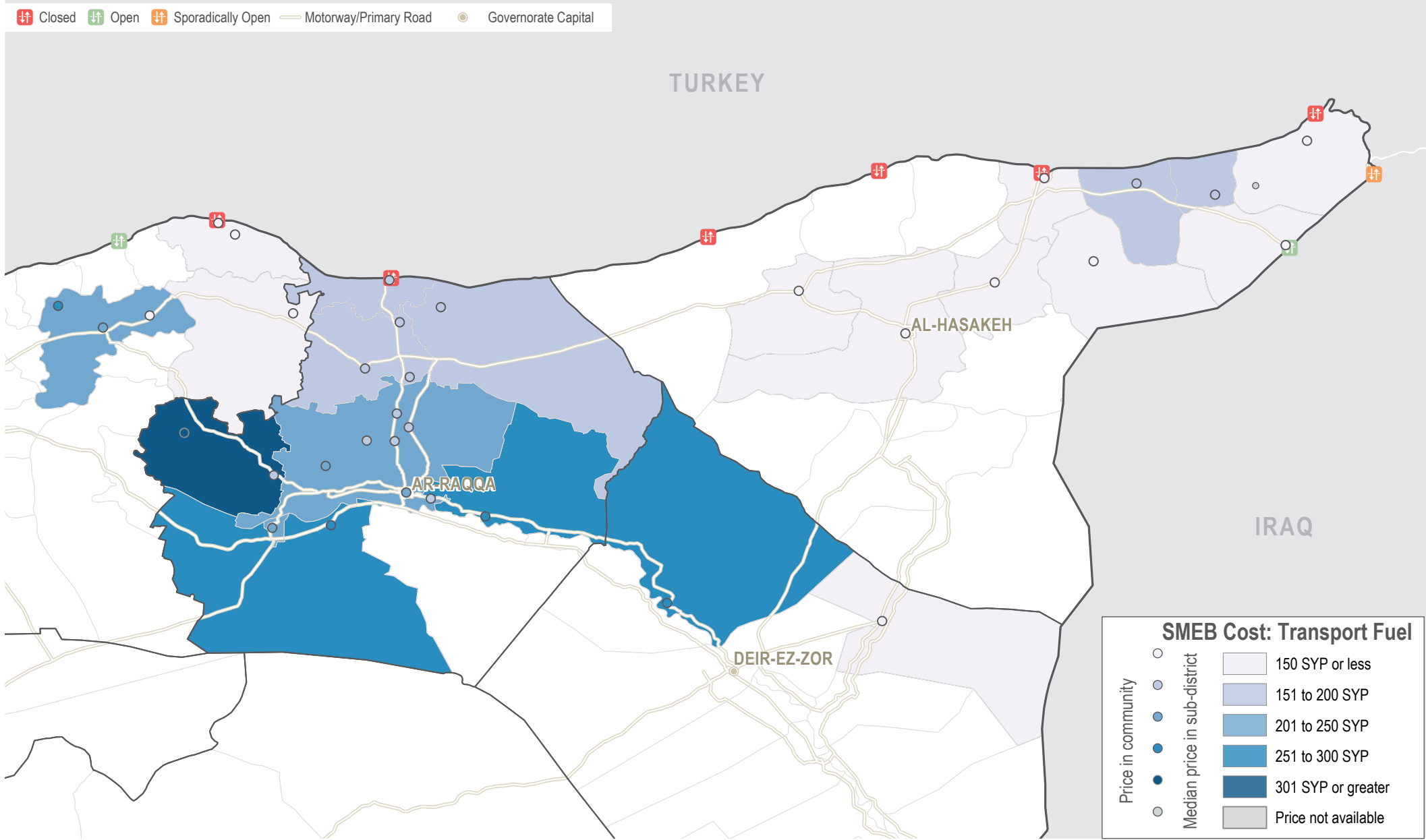


**SMEB WATER TRUCKING ITEMS**  
Sub-districts & communities, Syrian Pounds



## 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 Syria</b>	<b>4,879</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Ain al Arab	5,463	+16%	+3%
Al-Hasakeh	5,250	-4%	-1%
Al-Malikeyyeh	4,610	-16%	-16%
Al-Thawrah	2,541	-20%	-31%
Ar-Raqqqa	52,01	-2%	-20%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	5,310	0%	-2%
Ein Issa	5,090	+5%	-1%
Jawadiyah	4,875	-15%	-1%
Jurneyyeh	2,700	+2%	-10%
Karama	5,210	-10%	NA
Kisreh	4,688	+22%	NA
Mansura	3,163	-34%	NA
Menbij	3,438	+1%	+4%
Qahtaniyyeh	4,695	NA	-15%
Quamishli	4,883	-1%	-7%
Sarin	5,075	+11%	+1%
Suluk	5,846	+18%	+11%
Sur	4,090	-4%	NA
Tal Hmis	6,115	+4%	+6%
Tal Tamer	4,515	0%	+2%
Tell Abiad	4,695	-23%	-1%
Ya'robiyah	5,555	-2%	+8%

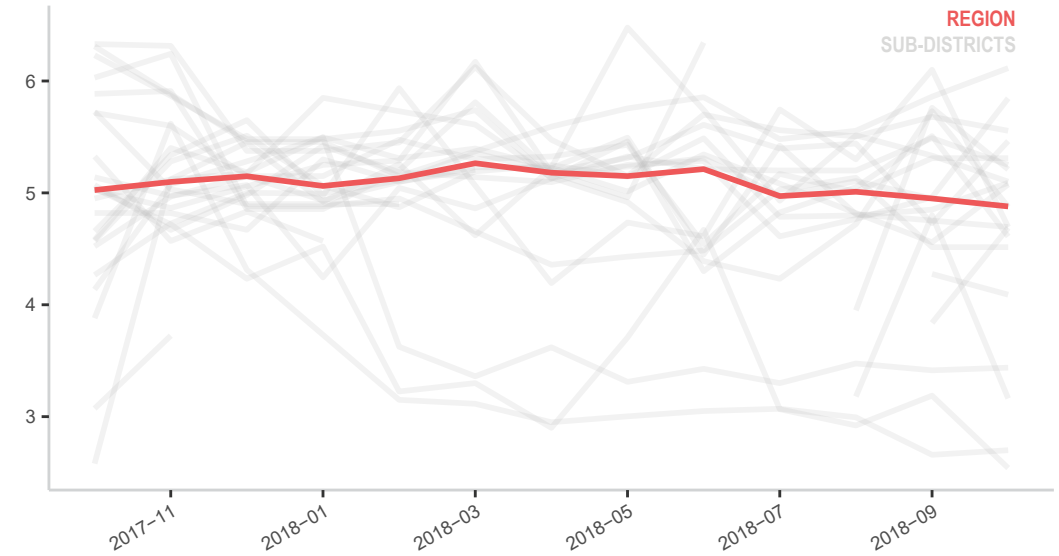
## MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA

1GB data, Syrian Pound

Sub-district	SMEB Phone Data	One month change	Six month change
<b>Northeast Syria</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-46%</b>
Ain al Arab	2,275	+15%	-24%
Al-Hasakeh	1,500	-25%	-25%
Al-Malikeyyeh	5,000	400%	+67%
Al-Thawrah	1,500	0%	-57%
Ar-Raqqqa	1,500	0%	-61%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	1,300	0%	-35%
Ein Issa	1,500	0%	-50%
Jawadiyah	5,000	400%	-17%
Jurneyyeh	3,350	-1%	-17%
Karama	1,500	-63%	NA
Kisreh	2,500	-17%	NA
Mansura	4,800	NA	NA
Menbij	2,662	-5%	+2%
Qahtaniyyeh	5,000	NA	0%
Quamishli	1,300	+8%	+18%
Sarin	4,000	+167%	+113%
Suluk	1,500	0%	-14%
Sur	1,200	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	1,200	-8%	-8%
Tal Tamer	1,500	0%	NA
Tell Abiad	2,500	+25%	+67%
Ya'robiyah	1,150	-12%	-28%

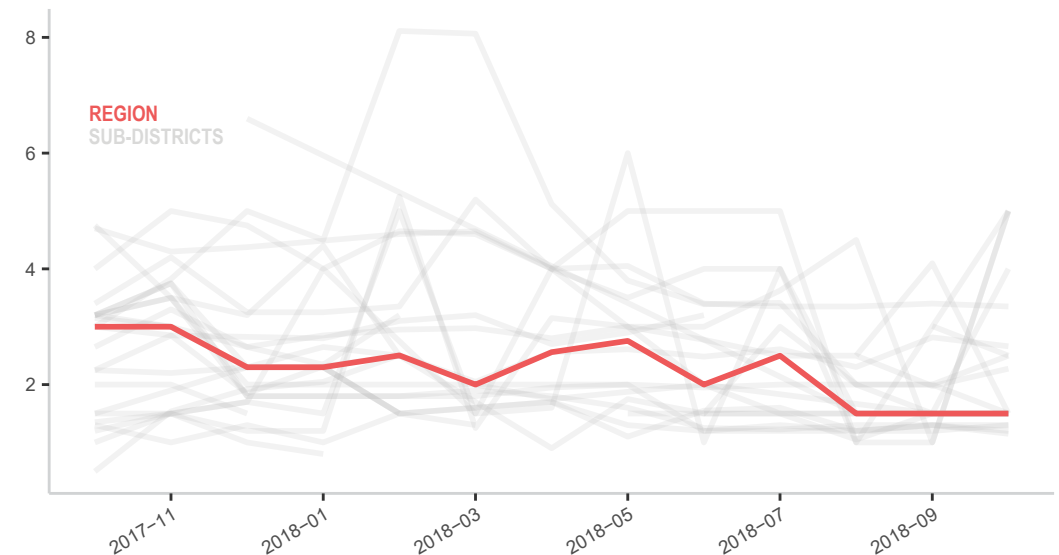
## MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



## MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



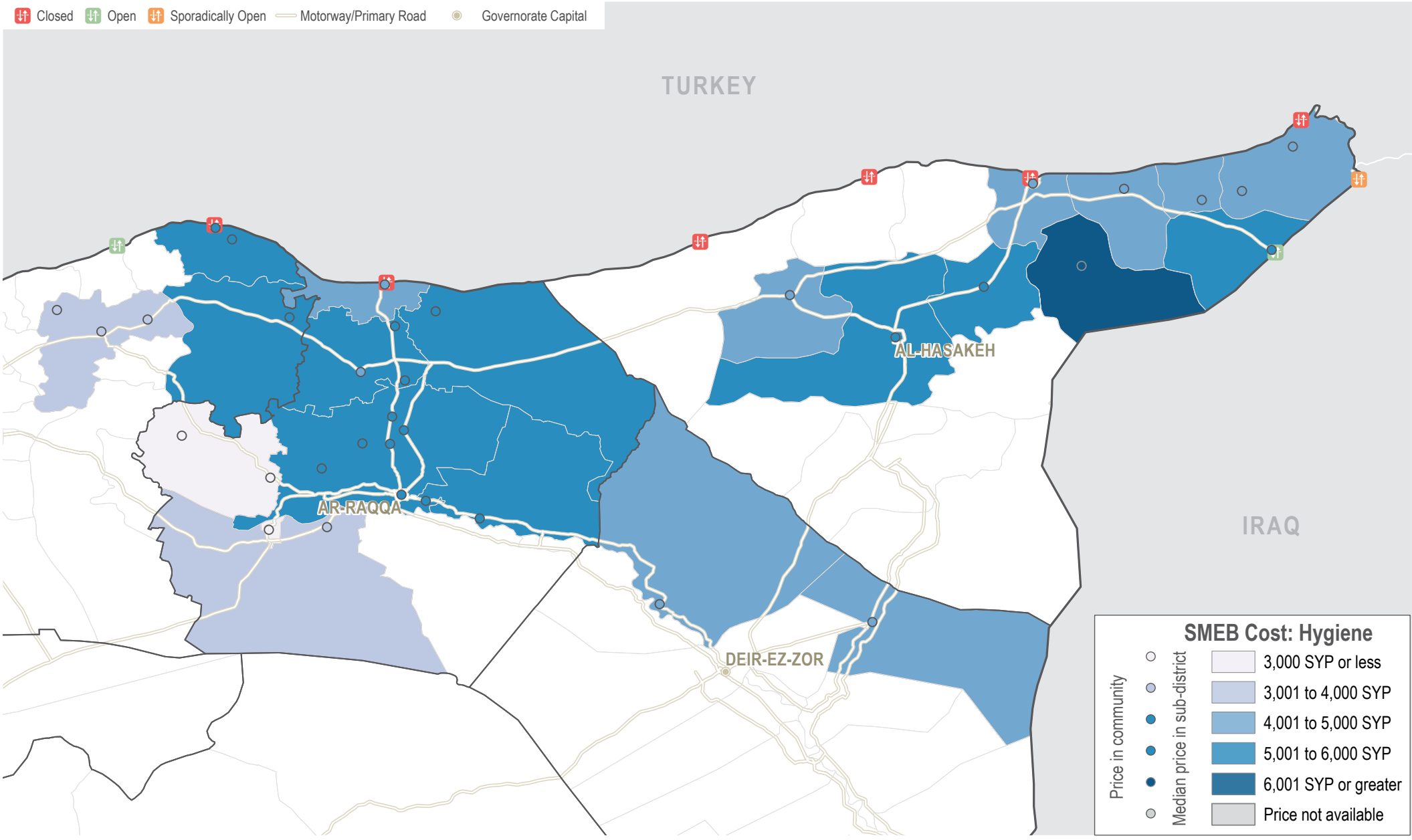
# NORTHEAST SYRIA: SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS

Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, eastern Aleppo governorates

## SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS

Sub-districts & communities, Syrian Pounds

⚡ Closed 
 ⚡ Open 
 ⚡ Sporadically Open 
 — Motorway/Primary Road 
 ● Governorate Capital

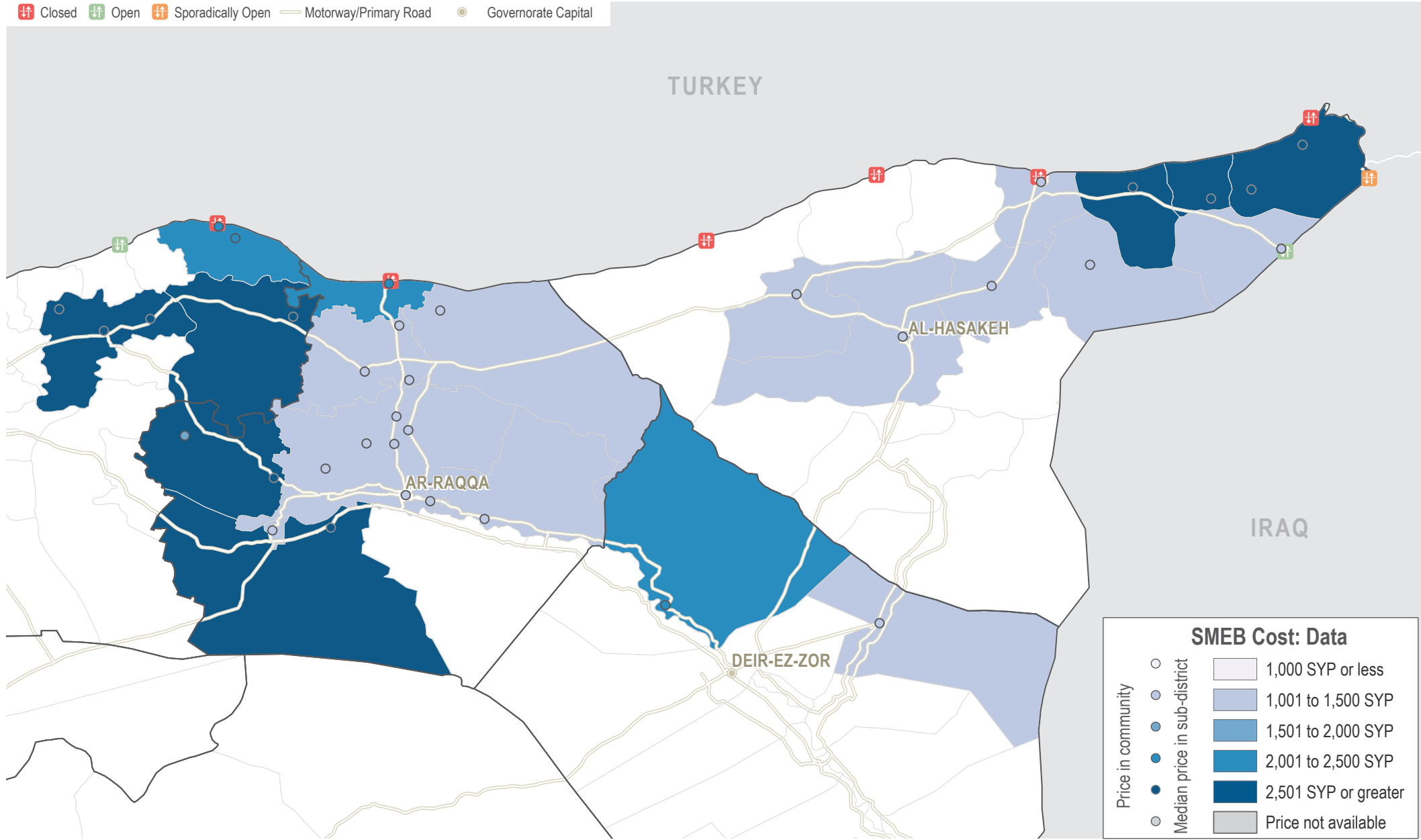


**SMEB Cost: Hygiene**

○ Price in community	3,000 SYP or less
○ Median price in sub-district	3,001 to 4,000 SYP
● Price in community	4,001 to 5,000 SYP
● Median price in sub-district	5,001 to 6,000 SYP
● Price in community	6,001 SYP or greater
○ Median price in sub-district	Price not available

**SMEB CELLPHONE DATA**  
Sub-districts & communities, Syrian Pounds

🚫 Closed 
 🟢 Open 
 🚧 Sporadically Open 
 🛣️ Motorway/Primary Road 
 ● Governorate Capital



## MEDIAN WINTERISATION AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

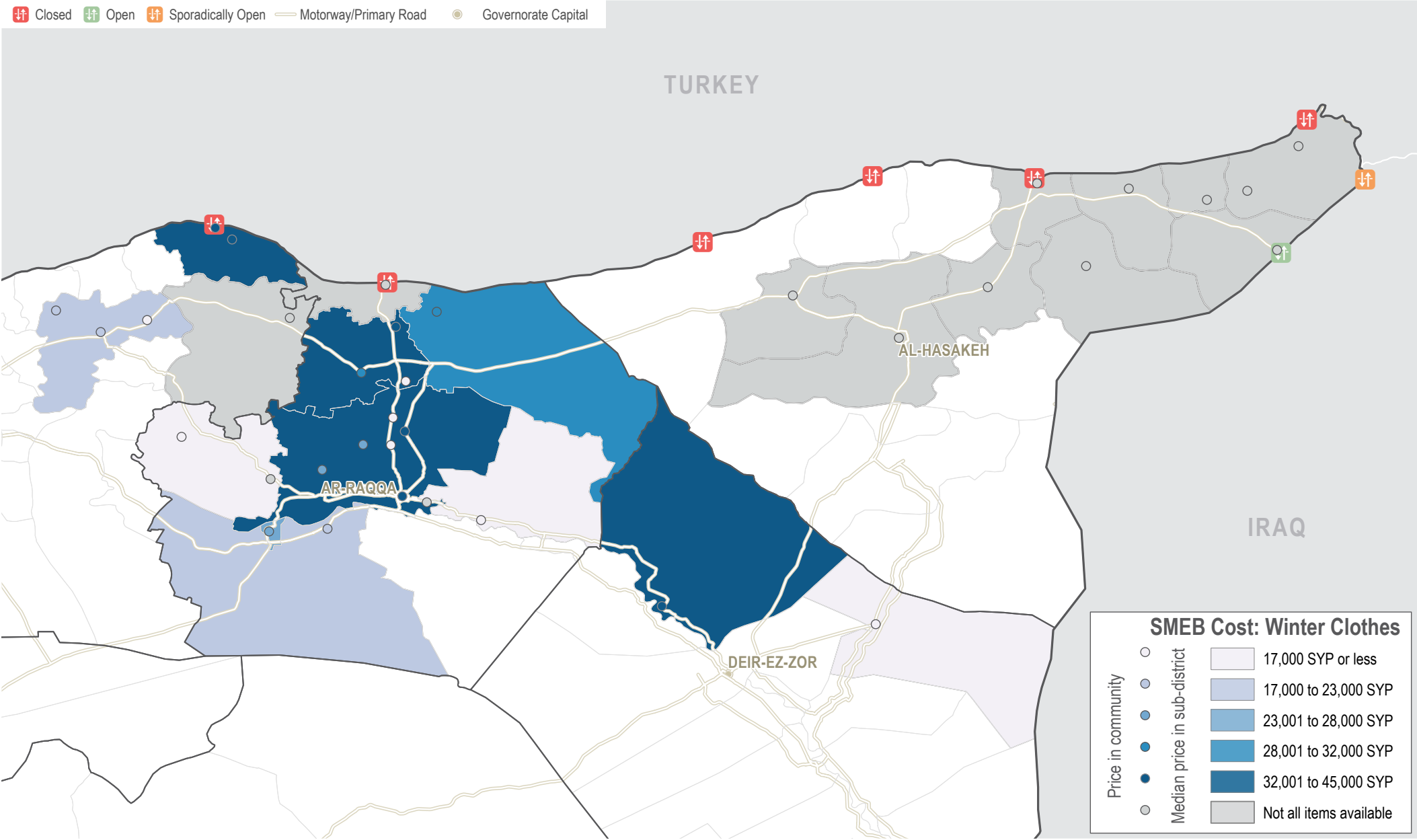
Per 1 winter item, Syrian Pounds

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 Syria</b>	<b>6,750</b>	<b>+13%</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>+37%</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>+27%</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>+6%</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>+65%</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>0%</b>
Ain al Arab	8,250	-4%	10,250	+78%	3,750	-18%	7,000	+27%	4,875	-13%	2,150	-31%	538	-79%	425	-69%	6,500	-4%	5,500	0%
Al-Hasakeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	6,000	0%	7,000	-13%	3,500	-22%	3,500	-14%	2,500	+25%	2,250	+50%	650	+30%	500	+33%	4,500	+13%	6,500	+8%
Ar-Raqqa	10,000	NA	9,500	NA	6,000	NA	3,000	NA	2,500	NA	2,000	NA	900	NA	600	NA	7,625	NA	5,000	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	8,875	NA	8,625	NA	5,875	NA	3,000	NA	2,500	NA	2,000	NA	975	NA	625	NA	8,500	NA	5,500	NA
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh	NA	NA	4,000	-11%	2,500	-17%	3,000	-14%	2,000	-20%	1,500	0%	800	+14%	500	0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Karama	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,500	NA	3,500	NA	3,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,500	NA	4,500	NA
Kisreh	5,000	NA	6,500	-30%	3,500	-22%	6,000	NA	7,250	+107%	3,500	+40%	1,500	NA	1,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mansura	5,000	0%	4,000	-11%	3,000	+20%	4,000	+60%	2,500	+11%	2,000	+21%	850	-15%	500	-23%	4,000	+33%	5,000	+25%
Menbij	3,700	+6%	3,000	0%	2,000	+33%	3,200	+7%	2,700	+8%	1,700	+13%	900	+6%	600	+20%	6,700	+3%	7,700	+3%
Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	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	7,500	NA	7,500	NA	5,500	NA	3,750	NA	3,500	NA	2,400	NA	1,000	NA	500	NA	9,000	NA	6,500	NA
Sur	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000	NA	2,500	NA	1,500	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	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	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

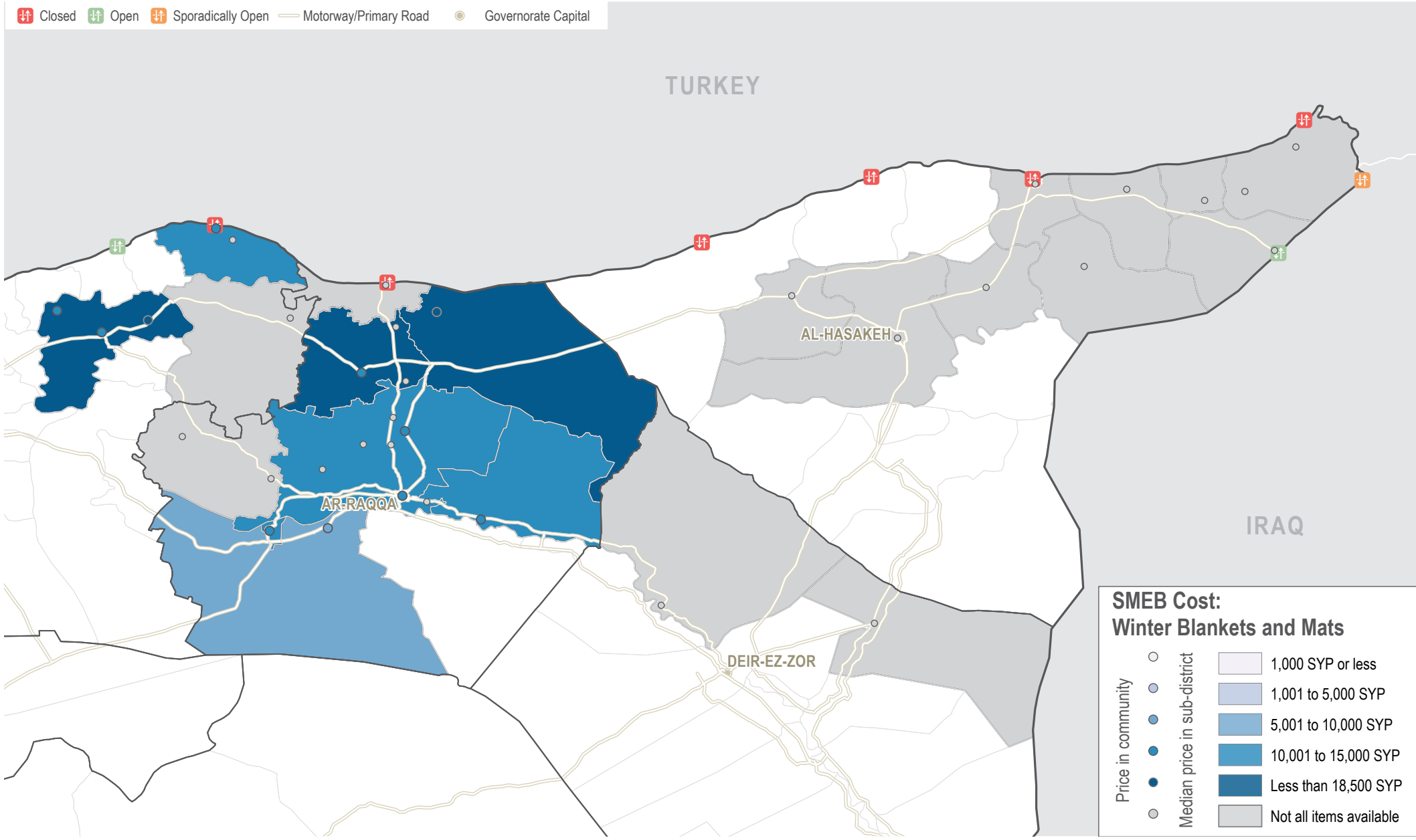
Sub-districts & communities, Syrian Pounds

⬇️ Closed 
 ⬆️ Open 
 ⬆️ Sporadically Open 
 — Motorway/Primary Road 
 ● Governorate Capital



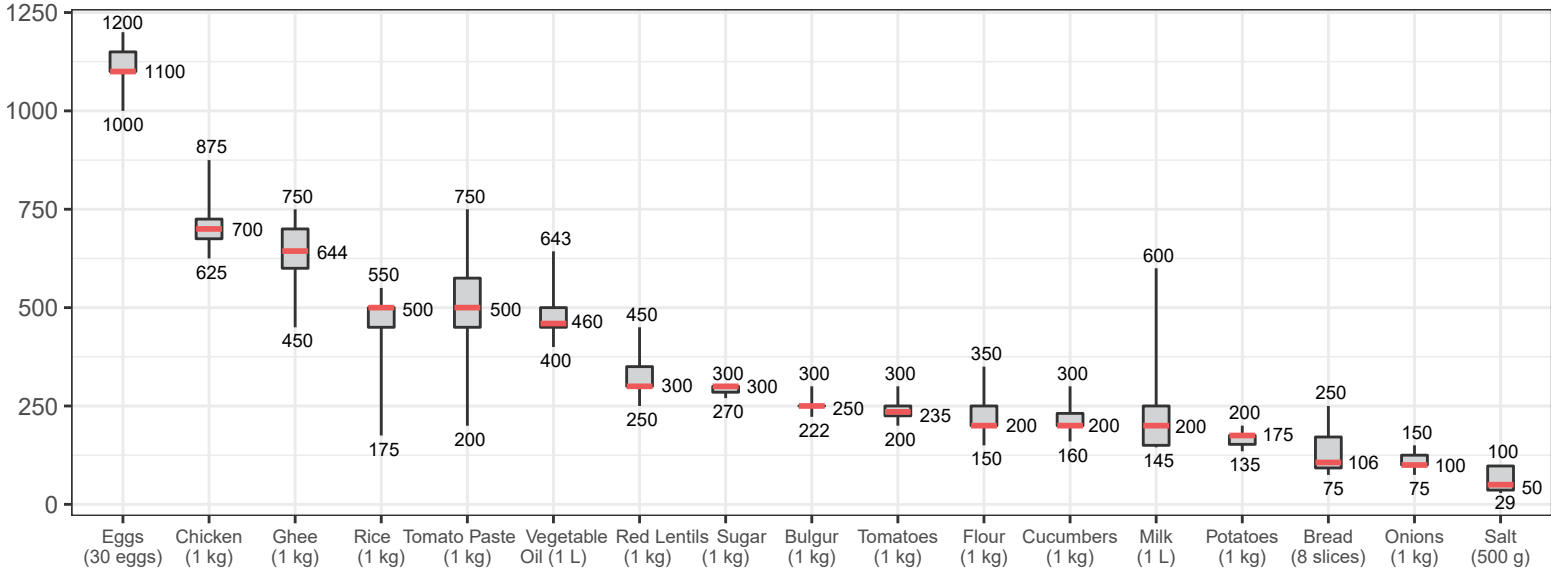
## WINTER BLANKETS

Sub-districts & communities, Syrian Pounds



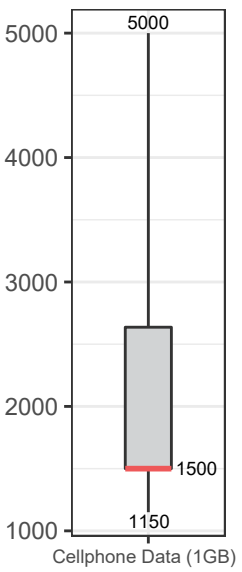
### ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



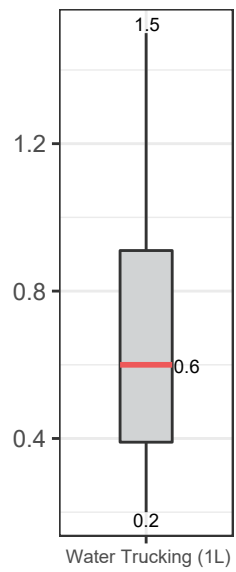
### CELLPHONE DATA

1GB



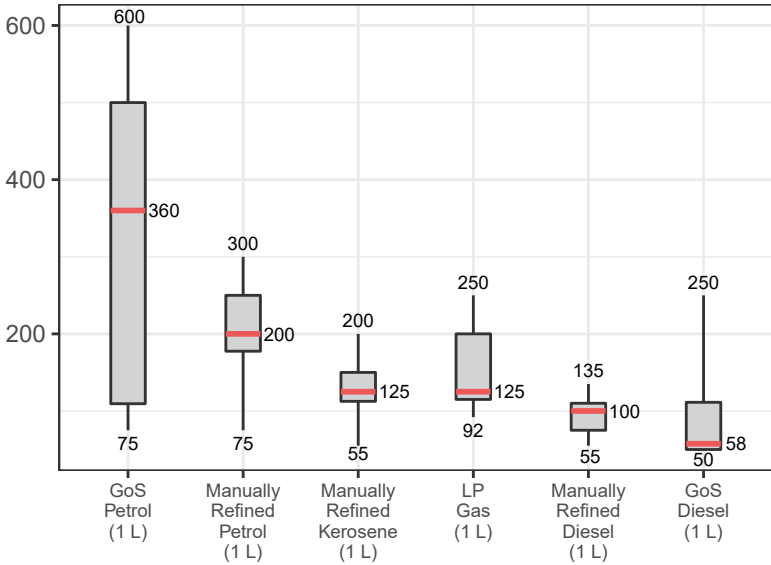
### WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



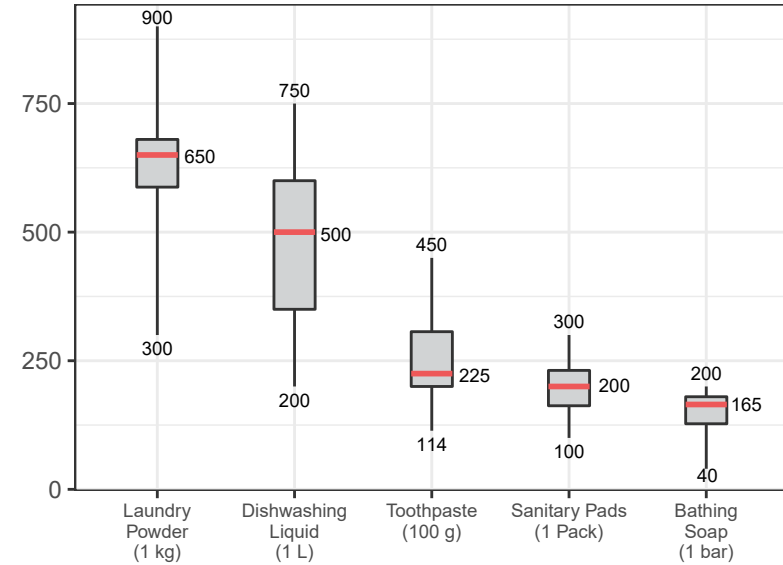
### ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

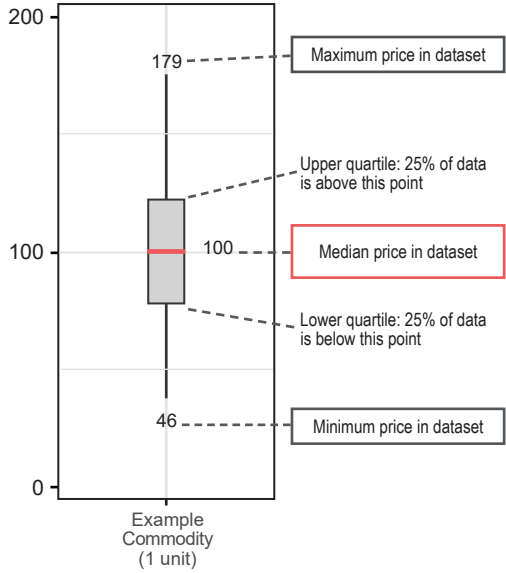


### ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

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).