

SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 9 - 16 September 2019

Cash-Based Responses
Technical Working Group

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

INTRODUCTION

To inform humanitarian cash programming, REACH, in partnership with the Cash-Based Responses Technical Working Group (CBR-TWG), conducts monthly market monitoring exercises 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 (between 9-16 September) by ACTED, CARE Shafak, Concern, GOAL, IRC, Mercy Corps, People in Need, REACH, SARD, Solidarités International, STC Shafak, Violet, and Watan.

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

SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB) CONTENTS

	Item	Quantity	
Food Items	Bread	37 kg	
	Bulgur	15 kg	
	Chicken	6 kg	
	Eggs	6 kg	
	Fresh vegetables	12 kg	
	Ghee/vegetable oil	7 kg/L	
	Red lentils	15 kg	
	Rice	19 kg	
	Salt	1 kg	
	Sugar	5 kg	
	Tomato paste	6 kg	
	Hygiene items	Bathing soap	12 bars
		Laundry/dish soap	3 kg
Sanitary pads		4 packs of 10	
Toothpaste		200 g	
Fuel	Cooking fuel*	25 L	
Water	Water trucking	4500 L	
Telecom	Smartphone data	1 GB	
Other	Float (other costs)**	7.5% total value	

* Kerosene in northern Syria

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Winterisation items

This month, REACH and partners started to collect data on various winterisation items (heaters, plastic sheets, mattresses, winter blankets and clothing items). In the northwest, items are starting to become available in the markets, though in limited quantity as the weather is hot and shops prefer to display summer items. Vendors are starting to stock up on items and are reportedly expecting to sell these by mid-October for the northwest and by early November in the northeast. According to vendors, items are expected to be sold at higher prices than last year, which might result in some winterisation items being unaffordable for many people across both regions. The prices of winterisation items in September [can be found here](#).

Northwest SMEB cost increase

The SMEB cost increased by 7% from 63,000 SYP to 67,681 SYP from August to September. The increase was reportedly mainly due to prices of bulk foods increasing, coupled with further inflation of the Syrian Pound against foreign currencies. In USD, the SMEB cost increased by 2% from 104 to 107 USD.

Northeast SMEB cost increase

In September, the SMEB cost increased in the northeast by 8% from 73,701 SYP to 79,950 SYP, which is the highest price ever recorded by the Market Monitoring Exercise. In USD, it equally increased by 8% from 120 to 131 USD. The increase was mainly driven by further inflation of the Syrian Pound, higher fuel prices, and a

sharp increase in the price of flour, soap items as well as bulk food items.

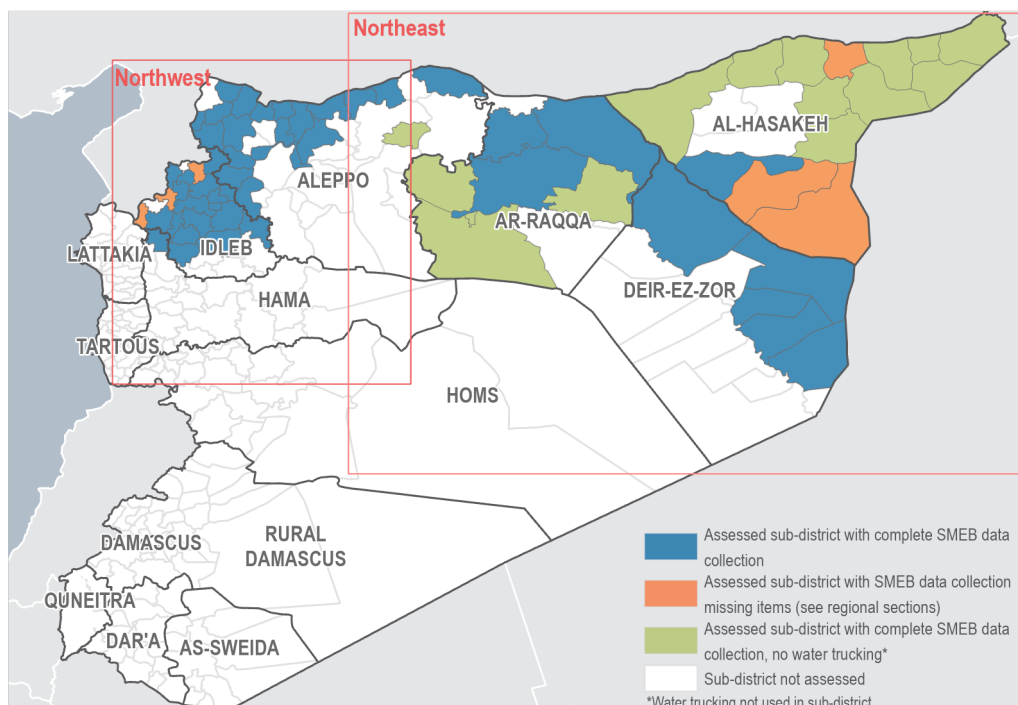
USD/SYP exchange rate highest recorded under Market Monitoring Exercise

During data collection week, the USD/SYP informal exchange rate saw fluctuations, with the highest rate recorded at 674 SYP in Qourqeena sub-district in the Idlib governorate. Ultimately, the median price of the USD/SYP exchange rate increased by 5% in the northwest from 602 SYP to 630 SYP, while remaining stable in the northeast at 615 SYP.

Expansion of coverage

In September, REACH and partners expanded coverage for the Market Monitoring, which now covers 230 communities across the north of Syria.

ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE

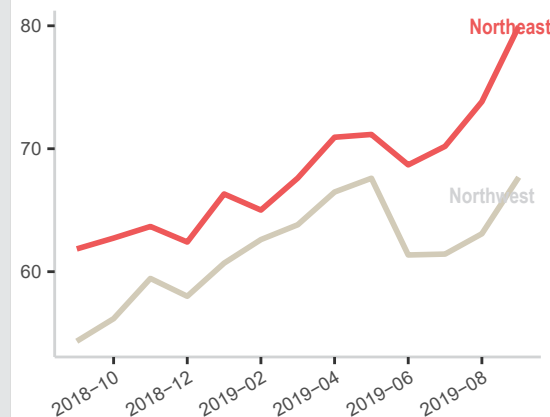


MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

67,681 SYP (107 USD)	NORTHWEST SYRIA - NORTHERN HAMA, IDLEB, WESTERN & NORTHERN ALEPPO
79,950 SYP (131 USD)	NORTHEAST SYRIA - AL-HASAKEH, AL-RAQQA, DEIR-EZ-ZOR & EASTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH & REGION

Thousand Syrian Pounds



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

79,950 SYP
(131USD)

NORTHEAST SYRIA - AL-HASAKEH, AL-RAQQA, DEIR-EZ-ZOR & EASTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES

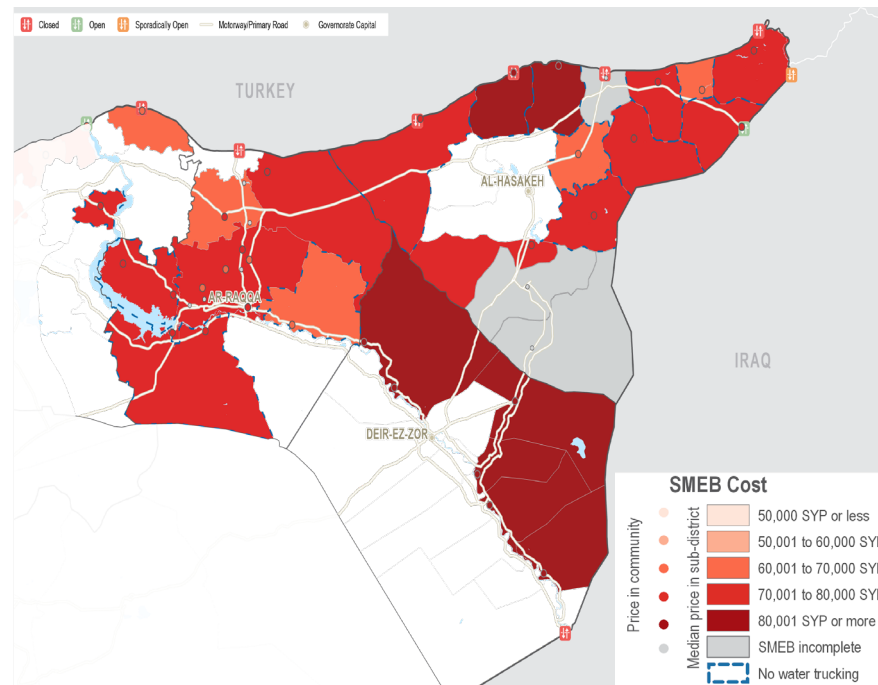
Sharp increase in the price of flour

In September, the median flour price increased by 17% across the northeast from 300 SYP to 350 SYP, marking a doubling of prices over the past six months. Sub-districts such as Basira, El-Thawrah, Hole, Jawadiyeh, Malikeyyeh, Kisreh and Ras al Ain all witnessed an increase in flour prices of more than 30% in the past month. The increase was reportedly due to higher prices of fuel and transportation fees coupled with the further depreciation of the Syrian Pound. The price of bread, however, remained relatively stable (from 140 SYP in August to 139 SYP in September).

General increase in prices of high quality fuel items

In the past six months, fuel prices have been increasing across the northeast. Prices of Government of Syria (GoS) diesel have almost doubled from 55 SYP to 108 SYP since March. In the same period, the price of GoS petrol increased by 40% from 300 SYP to 419 SYP.

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



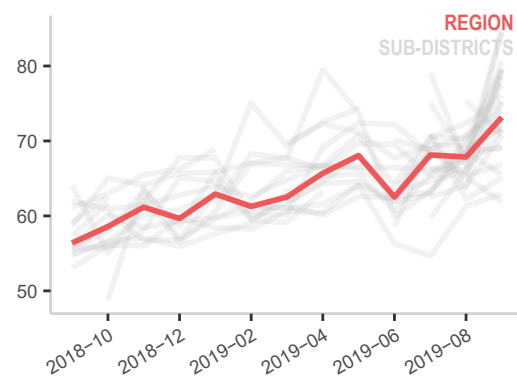
MEDIAN SMEB COSTS & CHANGES*

Syrian Pounds

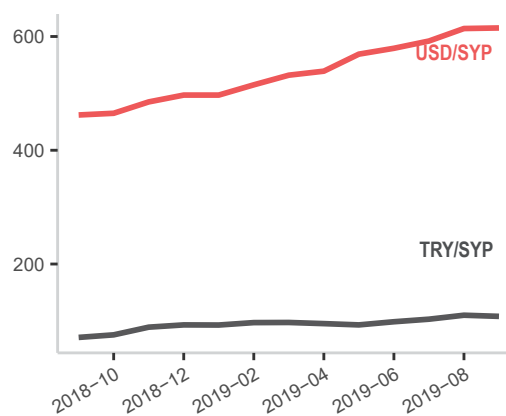
Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria Complete	79,648	8%	12%
Northeast Syria Non-Water Trucking	73,175	8%	12%
Abu Qalqa**	70,750	10%	NA
Ain al Arab	66,002	2%	4%
Al-Malikeyyeh**	70,853	-6%	NA
Al-Thawrah**	75,258	7%	22%
Amuda**	80,608	19%	NA
Areesheh	72,326	6%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	71,154	NA	-7%
Basira	93,189	NA	31%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh**	69,356	2%	7%
Darbasiyah**	84,522	27%	NA
Ein Issa	67,045	NA	-1%
Hajin	81,888	-3%	NA
Hole**	74,050	5%	NA
Jawadiyah**	66,865	2%	NA
Jurneyyeh**	72,563	5%	12%
Karama**	65,523	-4%	-18%
Kisreh	81,283	10%	14%
Mansura**	76,094	5%	27%
Markada	NA	NA	NA
Qahtaniyyeh**	71,691	4%	NA
Quamishli	NA	NA	NA
Ras Al Ain**	79,479	25%	NA
Shadadah	NA	NA	NA
Suluk	78,013	NA	15%
Sur	91,763	-10%	12%
Tal Hmis**	71,567	8%	NA
Thiban	87,338	NA	NA
Ya'robiyah**	77,508	12%	7%

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS WITHOUT WATER, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



EXCHANGE RATES, BY MONTH & CURRENCY



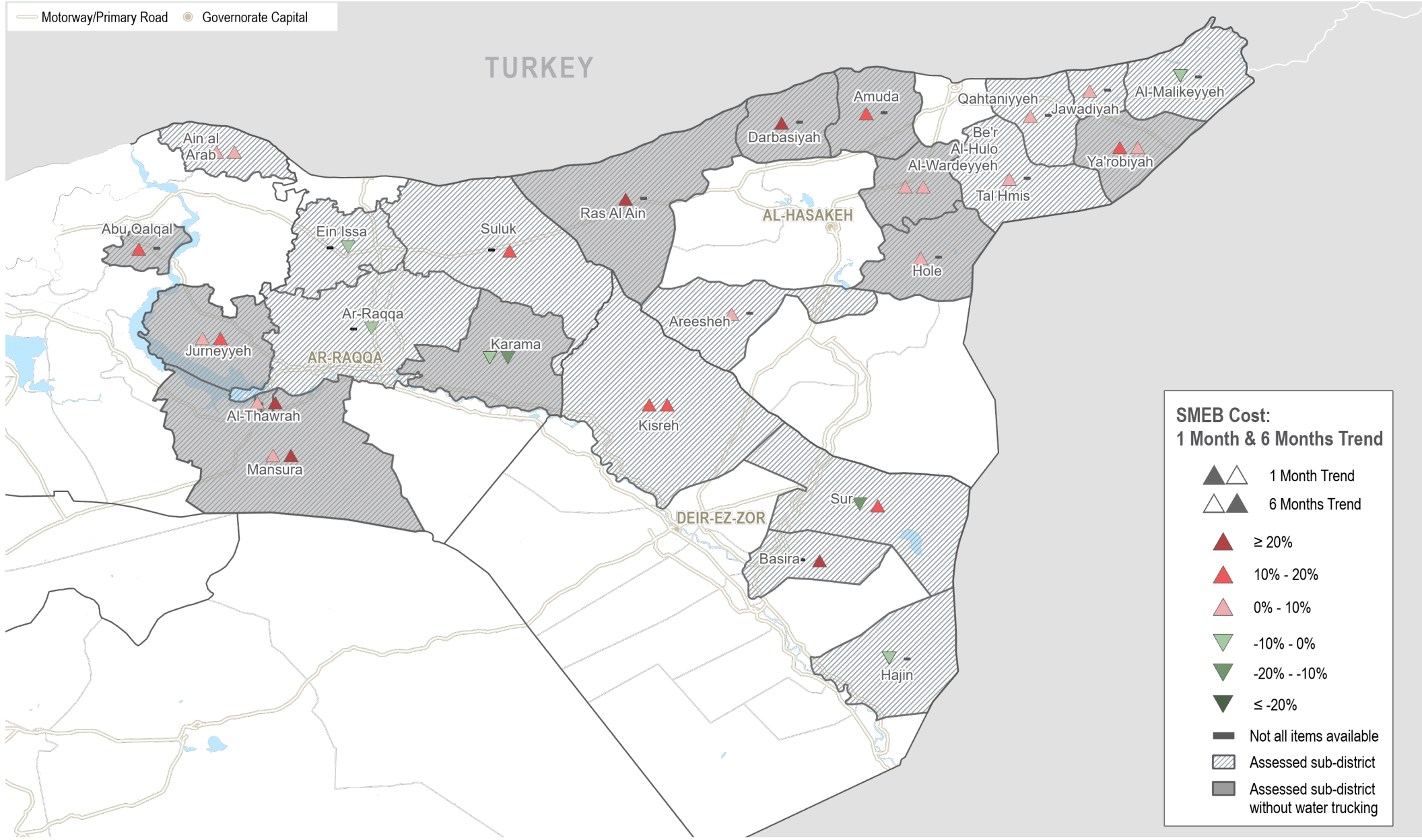
SUB-DISTRICTS WITH INCOMPLETE SMEB IN SEPTEMBER

SUB-DISTRICT	MISSING ITEMS
Quamishli	Kerosene, data, cooking fuels
Markada	Kerosene, cooking fuels
Shadadah	Cooking fuels

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

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

SMEB COST: ONE MONTH & SIX MONTHS TREND



SMEB FOOD ITEMS' PRICE

See Page 1, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Food Items	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	56,783	7%	14%
Abu Qalqal	55,234	10%	NA
Ain al Arab	47,263	4%	5%
Al-Malikeyyeh	54,770	-9%	NA
Al-Thawrah	57,258	6%	19%
Amuda	62,500	14%	NA
Areeshah	50,405	1%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	51,369	1%	2%
Basira	62,250	17%	25%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	54,980	-3%	9%
Darbasiyah	64,700	20%	NA
Ein Issa	46,843	-6%	1%
Hajin	62,800	14%	NA
Hole	55,400	1%	NA
Jawadiyah	52,525	0%	NA
Jurneyyeh	53,897	6%	10%
Karama	48,791	-6%	-20%
Kisreh	59,325	17%	15%
Mansura	57,185	7%	26%
Markada	58,950	6%	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	55,720	-2%	NA
Quamishli	68,850	27%	26%
Ras Al Ain	61,225	23%	NA
Shadadah	58,900	18%	NA
Suluk	52,745	NA	14%
Sur	62,925	21%	19%
Tal Hmis	56,380	5%	NA
Thiban	64,900	22%	NA
Ya'robiyah	62,125	24%	8%

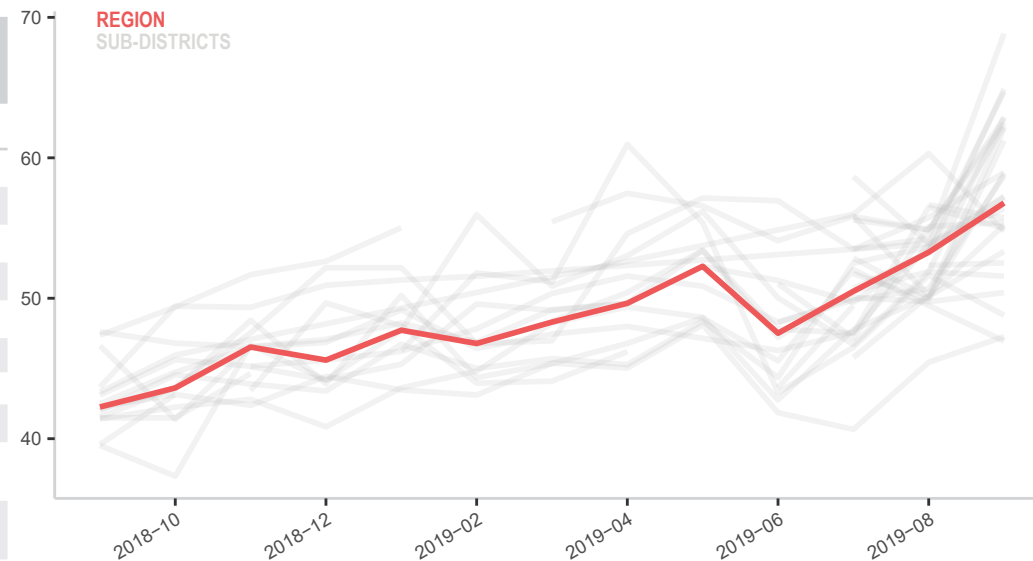
SMEB COOKING FUEL PRICE

Kerosene 25L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	4,688	36%	25%
Abu Qalqal	3,438	10%	NA
Ain al Arab	2,500	-17%	-13%
Al-Malikeyyeh	4,688	7%	NA
Al-Thawrah	5,000	-20%	14%
Amuda	6,250	150%	NA
Areeshah	3,250	4%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	5,000	0%	0%
Basira	3,438	10%	10%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	4,063	81%	35%
Darbasiyah	6,250	100%	NA
Ein Issa	5,000	33%	0%
Hajin	3,438	-8%	NA
Hole	6,250	25%	NA
Jawadiyah	3,750	13%	NA
Jurneyyeh	5,313	-6%	6%
Karama	5,000	-5%	14%
Kisreh	3,750	9%	20%
Mansura	5,000	-11%	0%
Markada	NA	NA	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	5,000	60%	NA
Quamishli	NA	NA	NA
Ras Al Ain	6,250	43%	NA
Shadadah	NA	NA	NA
Suluk	6,250	NA	25%
Sur	3,438	0%	10%
Tal Hmis	4,375	40%	NA
Thiban	3,750	0%	NA
Ya'robiyah	2,875	-12%	46%

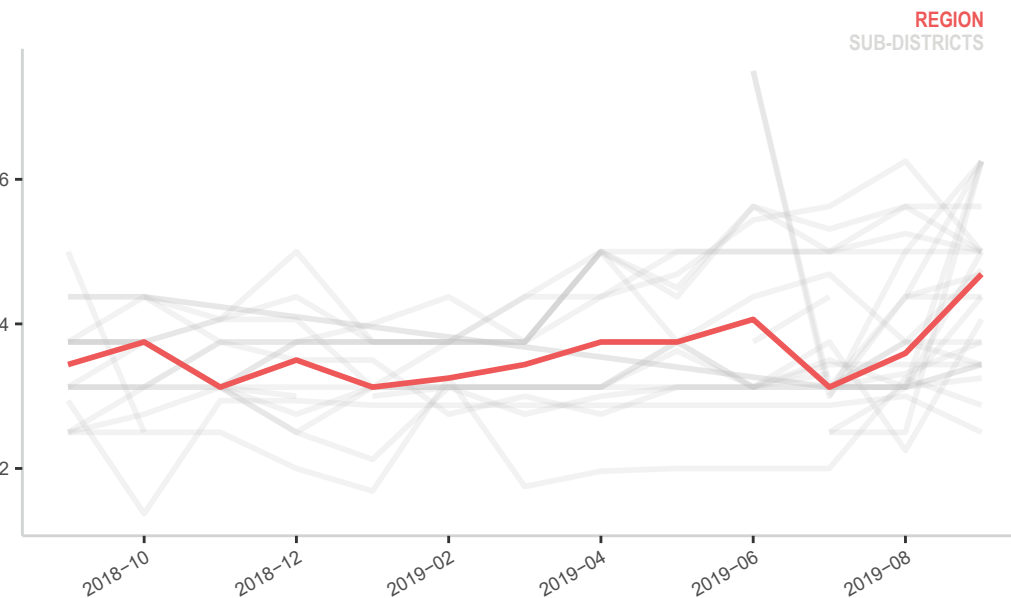
MEDIAN SMEB FOOD COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



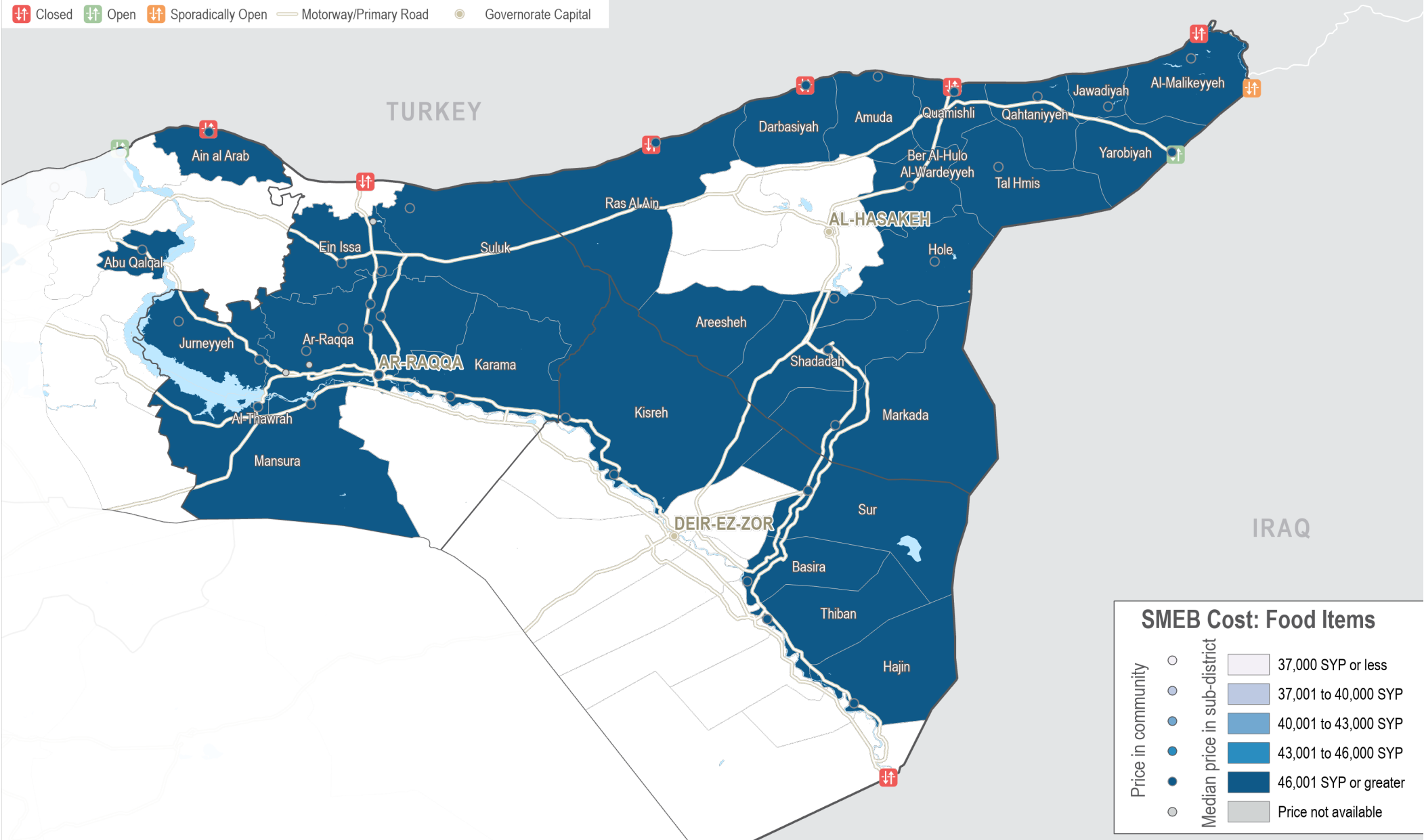
NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB FOOD ITEMS

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

SMEB FOOD ITEMS' COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds

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



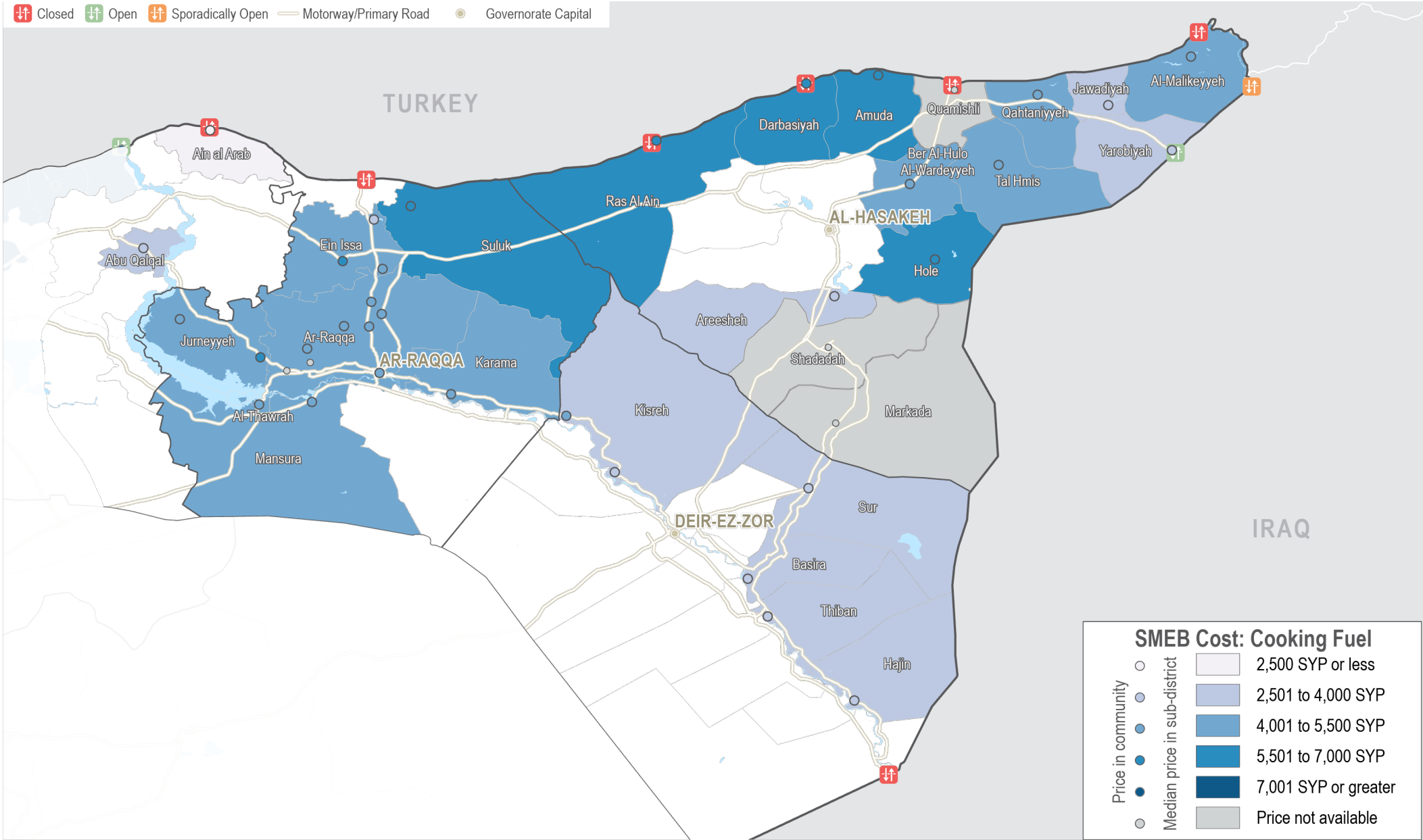
NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COOKING FUEL

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

SMEB COOKING FUEL COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds

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



SMEB Cost: Cooking Fuel

○	Price in community	Lightest Blue	2,500 SYP or less
●	Median price in sub-district	Light Blue	2,501 to 4,000 SYP
●		Medium Blue	4,001 to 5,500 SYP
●		Dark Blue	5,501 to 7,000 SYP
●		Darkest Blue	7,001 SYP or greater
○		Grey	Price not available

MEDIAN WATER TRUCKING PRICE

4,500L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Water Truck	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	5,063	-25%	13%
Abu Qalqal	NA	NA	NA
Ain al Arab	2,835	-16%	11%
Al-Malikeyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	NA	NA	NA
Amuda	NA	NA	NA
Areesheh	6,750	20%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	2,250	NA	-71%
Basira	13,500	NA	200%
Be'r Al-Hulo	NA	NA	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Darbasiyah	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	4,500	NA	10%
Hajin	2,250	-83%	NA
Hole	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Karama	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	5,625	-23%	25%
Mansura	NA	NA	NA
Markada	11,250	67%	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Quamishli	NA	NA	NA
Ras Al Ain	NA	NA	NA
Shadadah	9,000	167%	NA
Suluk	4,500	NA	10%
Sur	11,250	-67%	25%
Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA
Thiban	2,250	NA	NA
Ya'robiyah	NA	NA	NA

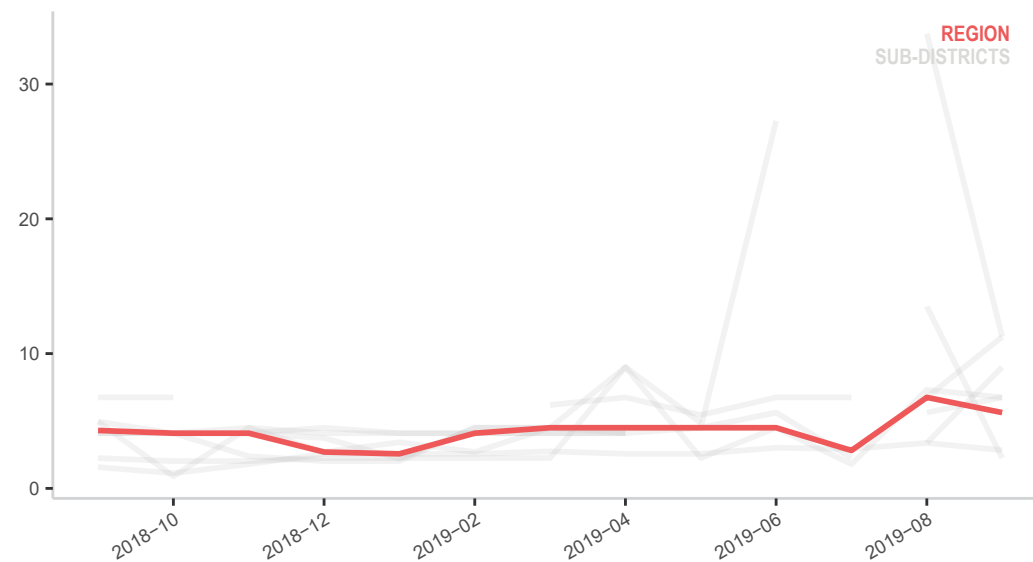
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

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

Sub-district	Diesel and Petrol	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	195	NA	9%
Abu Qalqal	355	69%	NA
Ain al Arab	195	8%	36%
Al-Malikeyyeh	195	9%	NA
Al-Thawrah	323	-24%	66%
Amuda	190	-3%	NA
Areesheh	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	393	17%	84%
Basira	223	-1%	-12%
Be'r Al-Hulo	195	9%	117%
Al-Wardeyyeh	195	9%	117%
Darbasiyah	88	40%	NA
Ein Issa	233	16%	72%
Hajin	206	10%	NA
Hole	138	120%	NA
Jawadiyah	195	9%	NA
Jurneyyeh	206	-51%	-34%
Karama	383	-2%	92%
Kisreh	229	-5%	41%
Mansura	355	-17%	16%
Markada	208	178%	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	195	-6%	NA
Quamishli	192	5%	105%
Ras Al Ain	88	40%	NA
Shadadah	63	0%	NA
Suluk	380	NA	80%
Sur	223	3%	48%
Tal Hmis	195	9%	NA
Thiban	188	7%	NA
Ya'robiyah	192	-8%	109%

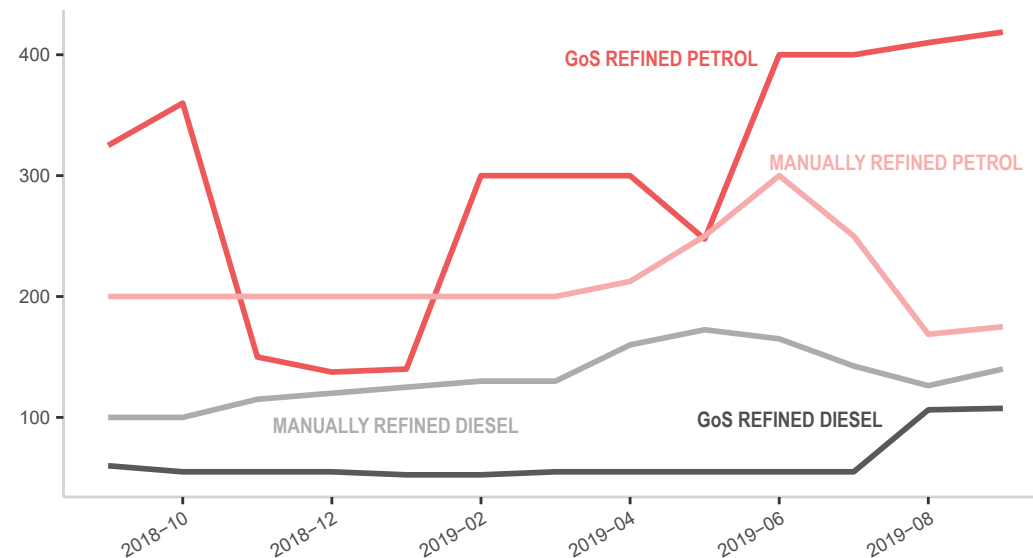
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



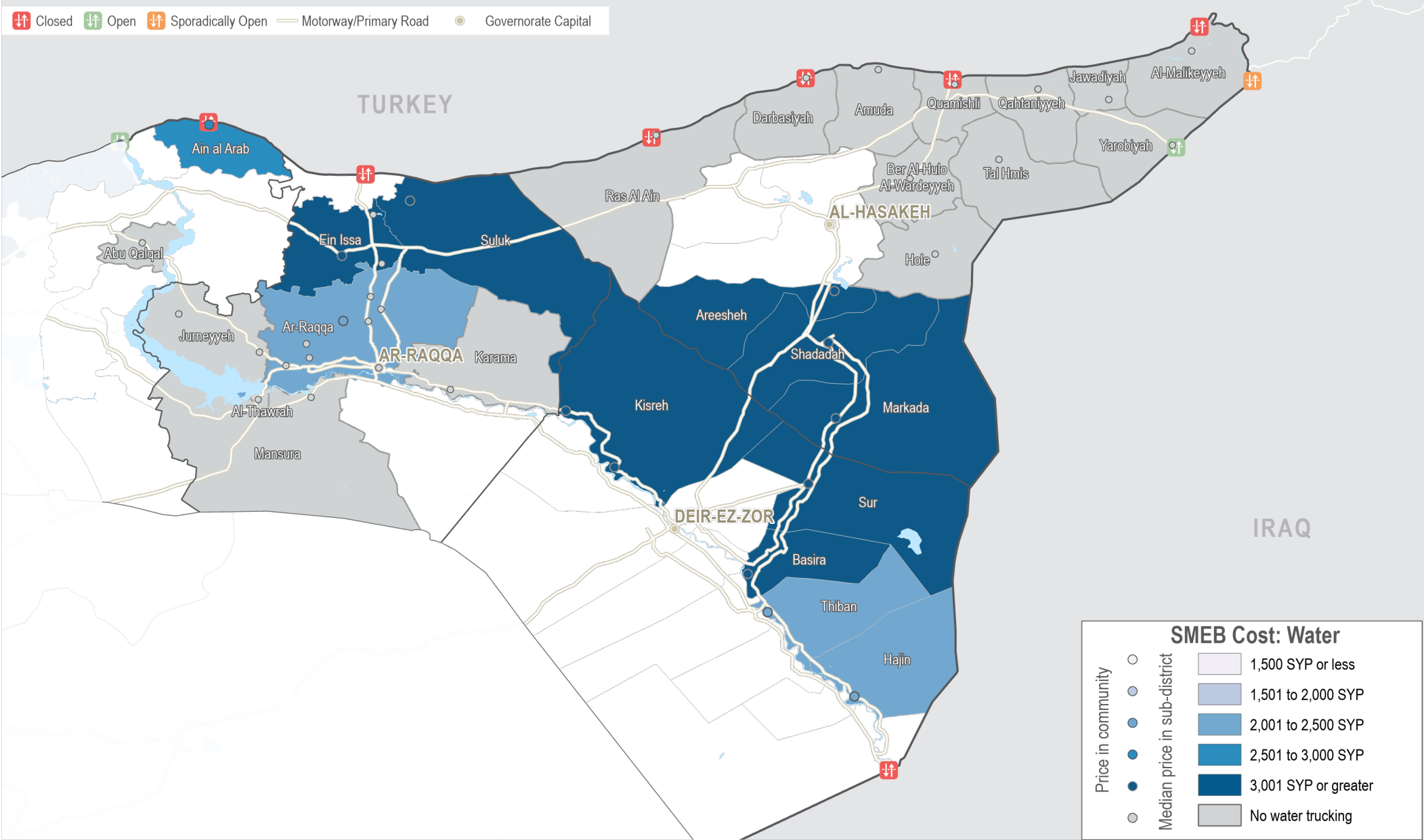
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE

Syrian Pounds



* In many sub-districts in the northeast water trucking is not common; for those districts, there are no water trucking prices listed.

SMEB WATER TRUCKING ITEMS' COST
Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



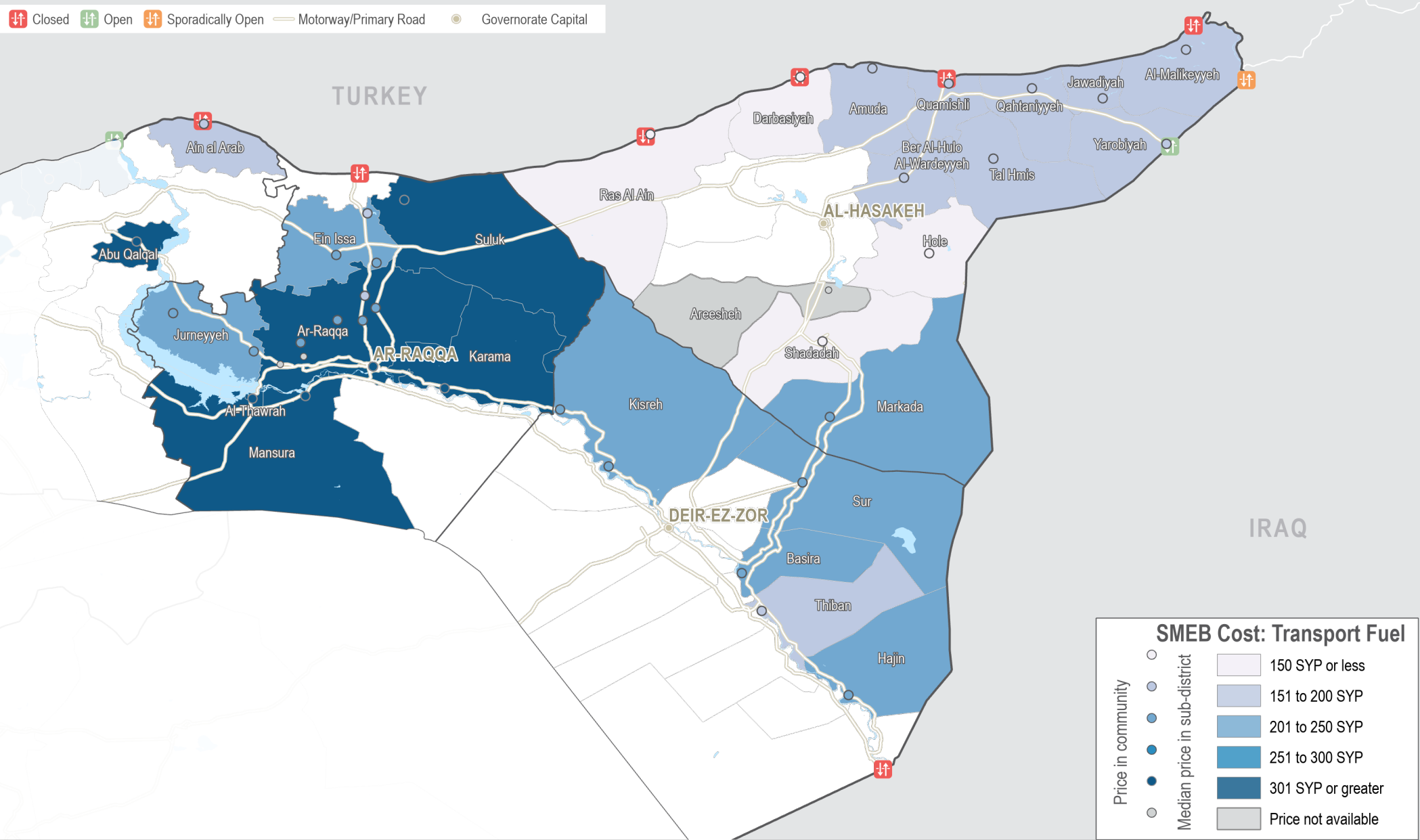
NORTHEAST SYRIA - TRANSPORT FUEL

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

TRANSPORT FUEL COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds

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



MEDIAN HYGIENE ITEMS' PRICE

12 bars of soap, 4 packs of 10 sanitary pads, 3kg of laundry/dish soap, 200g of toothpaste, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene Items	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	5,392	25%	-11%
Abu Qalqal	6,143	16%	NA
Ain al Arab	5,300	-8%	-9%
Al-Malikeyyeh	5,702	15%	NA
Al-Thawrah	3,250	-3%	-4%
Amuda	5,234	11%	NA
Areeshah	5,875	46%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	6,138	-6%	3%
Basira	5,000	33%	-19%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	4,725	20%	-11%
Darbasiyah	6,675	62%	NA
Ein Issa	5,025	-16%	-18%
Hajin	5,188	23%	NA
Hole	6,234	33%	NA
Jawadiyah	5,175	12%	NA
Jurneyyeh	3,541	9%	15%
Karama	6,161	4%	-13%
Kisreh	5,663	15%	-11%
Mansura	3,800	17%	-18%
Markada	6,150	85%	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	5,169	30%	NA
Quamishli	6,913	55%	23%
Ras Al Ain	5,459	38%	NA
Shadadah	6,225	45%	NA
Suluk	6,075	-2%	-1%
Sur	5,250	21%	-15%
Tal Hmis	5,019	25%	NA
Thiban	5,325	32%	NA
Ya'robiyah	6,200	2%	-5%

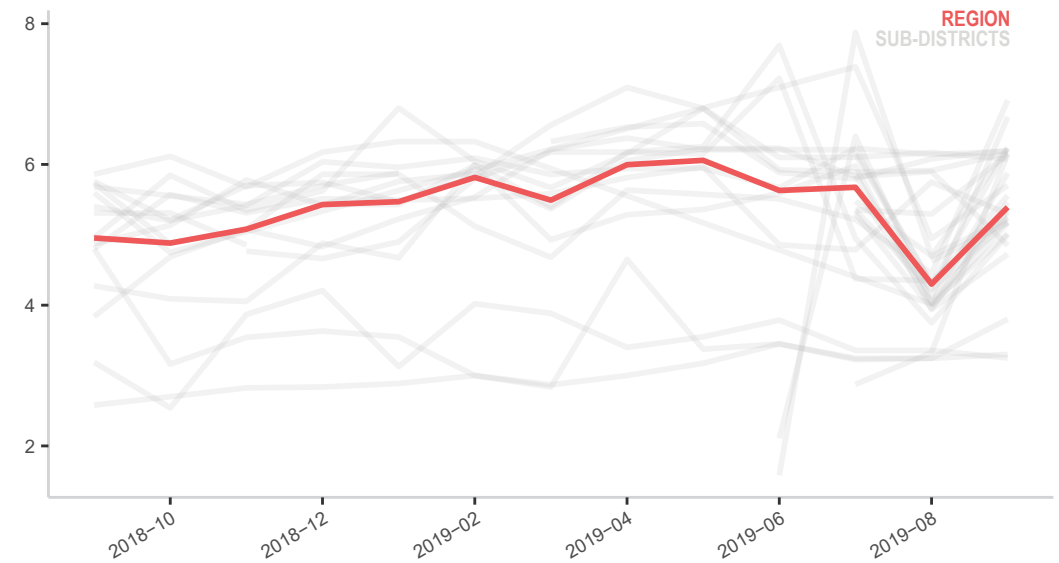
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA PRICE

1GB data, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Phone Data	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	1,000	0%	-33%
Abu Qalqal	1,000	0%	NA
Ain al Arab	3,500	25%	40%
Al-Malikeyyeh	750	50%	NA
Al-Thawrah	4,500	125%	200%
Amuda	1,000	0%	NA
Areeshah	1,000	0%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	1,433	43%	-5%
Basira	2,500	0%	-2%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	750	50%	-46%
Darbasiyah	1,000	0%	NA
Ein Issa	1,000	-20%	-33%
Hajin	2,500	-2%	NA
Hole	1,000	0%	NA
Jawadiyah	750	50%	NA
Jurneyyeh	4,750	0%	42%
Karama	1,000	0%	-33%
Kisreh	1,250	-38%	25%
Mansura	4,800	0%	380%
Markada	4,000	0%	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	800	60%	NA
Quamishli	NA	NA	NA
Ras Al Ain	1,000	0%	NA
Shadadah	900	-82%	NA
Suluk	3,000	200%	100%
Sur	2,498	46%	-51%
Tal Hmis	800	60%	NA
Thiban	5,020	151%	NA
Ya'robiyah	900	-82%	-31%

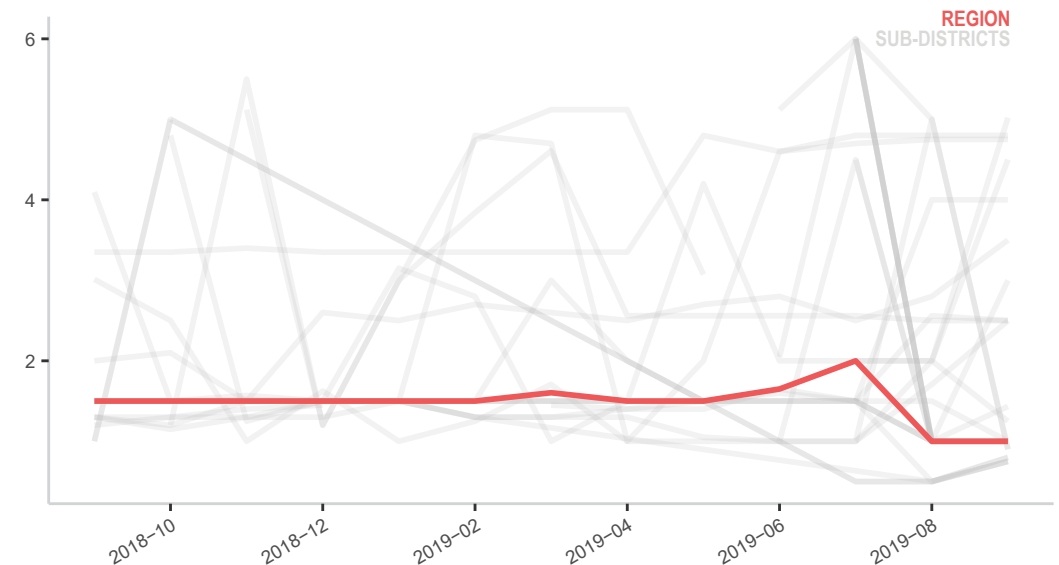
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COSTS, BY MONTH

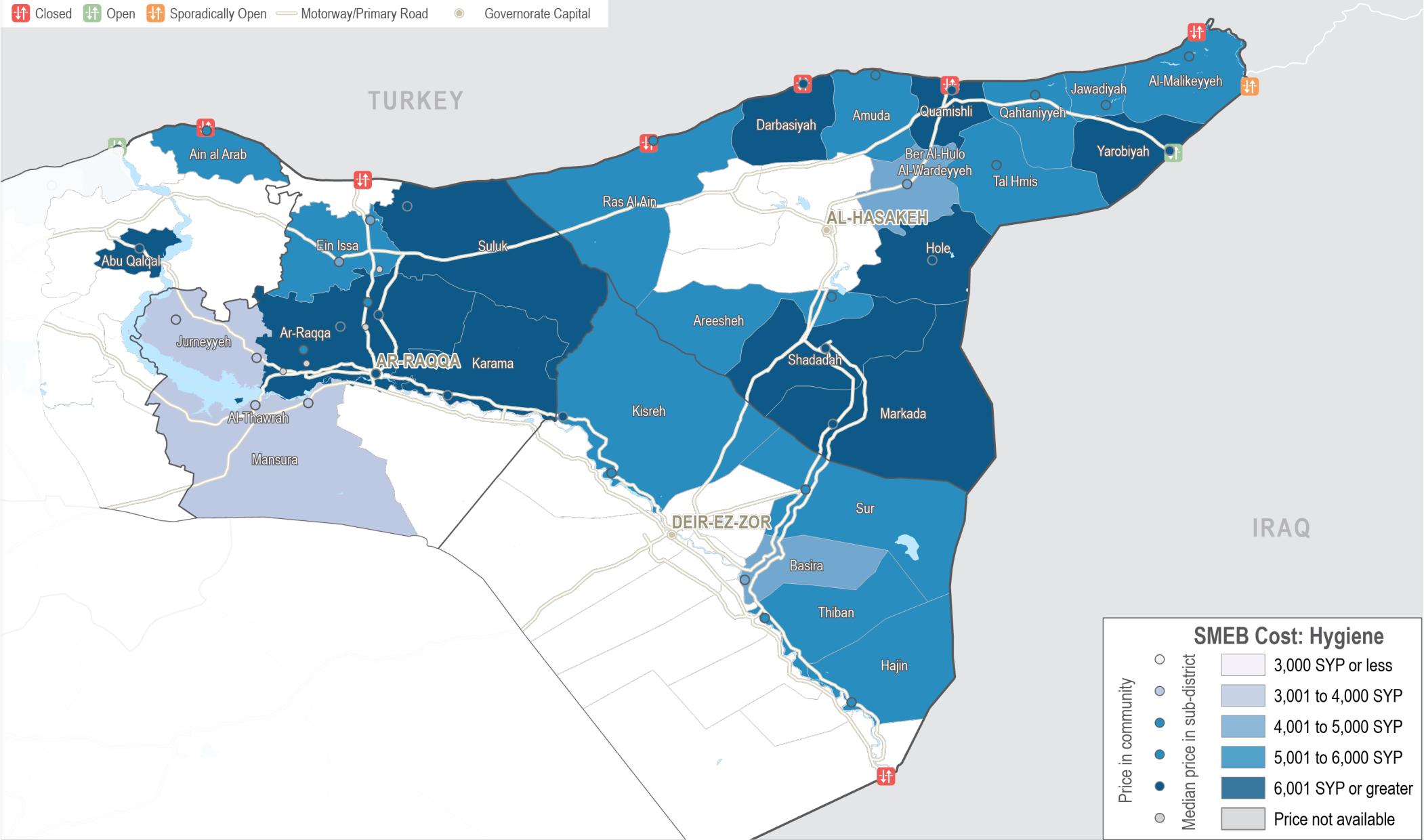
Thousand Syrian Pounds



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS

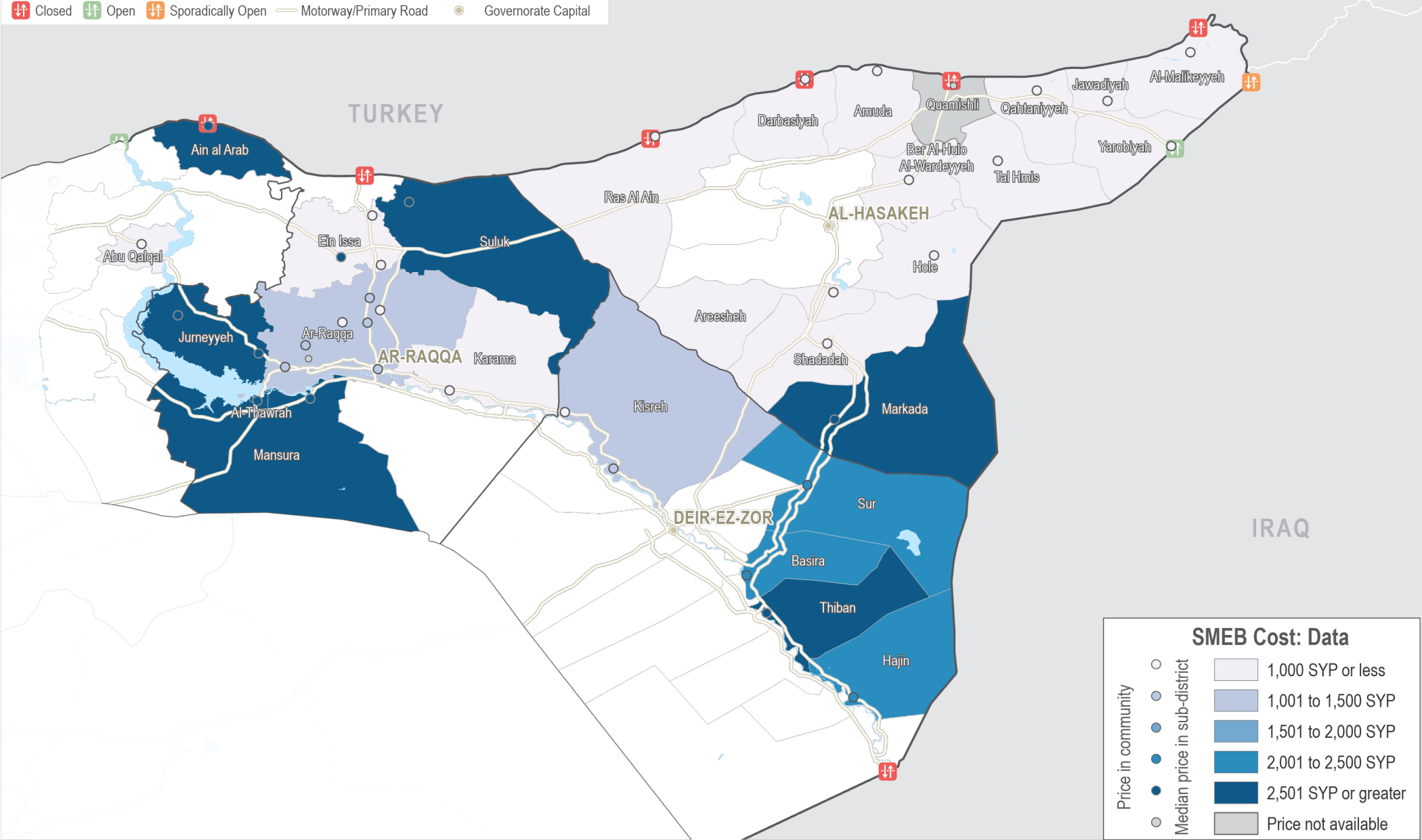
Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, eastern Aleppo governorates

SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COST Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST
Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds

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



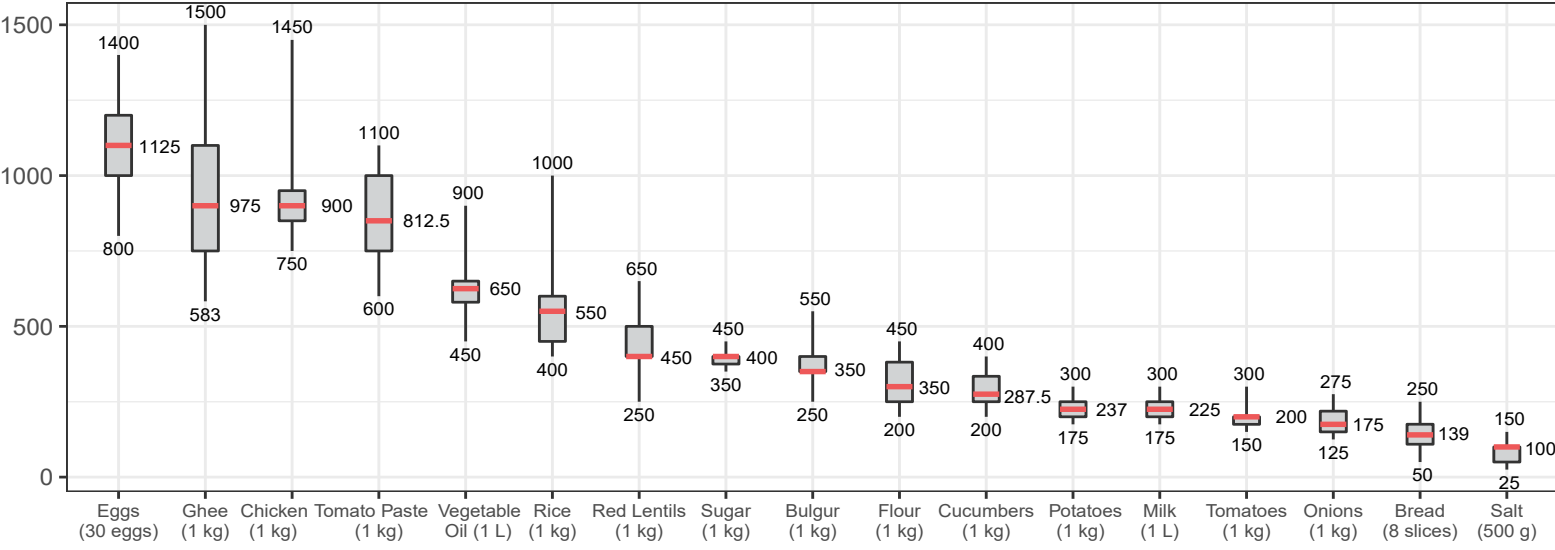
MEDIAN WINTERISATION ITEMS

Per 1 piece, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	Jerry cans	Plastic sheets	Winter carpets	Kerosene/diesel heaters	Winter blanket	Mattress	Men's winter jacket	Women's winter jacket	Children's winter jacket	Men's winter boots	Women's winter boots	Children's winter boots	Adult hat	Children's hat
Northeast Syria	750	4,500	10,000	7,500	8,000	5,375	7,500	7,000	6,000	3,750	3,250	2,500	2,000	1,500
Abu Qalqal	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ain al Arab	1,000	4,000	25,000	NA	7,500	5,000	8,500	9,000	4,500	4,250	2,750	2,100	300	275
Al-Malikeyyeh	3,000	3,000	6,500	7,000	6,000	5,250	8,000	8,000	7,000	3,500	3,500	3,000	2,500	2,000
Al-Thawrah	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,500	4,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Amuda	NA	NA	NA	NA	18,000	8,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Areesheh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	NA	NA	40,000	NA	8,500	5,000	NA	NA	NA	1,800	2,000	1,500	NA	NA
Basira	700	4,600	NA	NA	NA	2,400	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	2,500	3,000	8,000	7,500	5,000	6,000	6,500	7,000	6,000	4,000	3,500	3,500	2,000	1,500
Darbasiyah	1,200	NA	NA	NA	15,000	7,500	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	500	NA	10,000	NA	10,000	5,500	NA	NA	NA	2,500	2,000	1,700	NA	NA
Hajin	500	4,600	NA	NA	NA	2,300	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hole	3,000	3,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	3,000	3,500	5,000	6,000	6,000	4,500	7,500	7,000	6,000	4,500	3,000	2,500	2,000	1,500
Jurneyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Karama	NA	NA	14,000	NA	8,500	5,750	NA	NA	NA	1,500	1,300	1,500	NA	NA
Kisreh	600	5,250	NA	NA	8,500	2,300	NA	NA	NA	4,500	4,000	2,500	NA	NA
Mansura	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000	4,500	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Markada	600	5,000	NA	NA	8,000	7,000	NA	NA	NA	4,000	5,000	3,000	NA	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	3,500	3,250	6,250	7,500	6,000	5,500	7,500	8,000	7,000	3,500	3,000	3,000	2,000	1,500
Quamishli	550	6,000	NA	NA	8,000	7,000	NA	NA	NA	4,250	4,750	2,250	NA	NA
Ras Al Ain	3,500	NA	NA	NA	11,000	8,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Shadadah	600	5,000	NA	NA	8,500	7,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Suluk	750	4,000	18,000	7,500	9,000	8,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,500
Sur	750	4,500	NA	NA	NA	2,400	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	3,000	3,000	6,000	7,500	6,000	5,000	6,500	7,000	6,500	3,500	3,500	3,000	2,000	1,500
Thiban	600	4,500	NA	NA	NA	2,200	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ya'robiyah	600	5,000	60,000	NA	8,000	6,000	NA	NA	NA	4,000	5,000	2,750	NA	NA

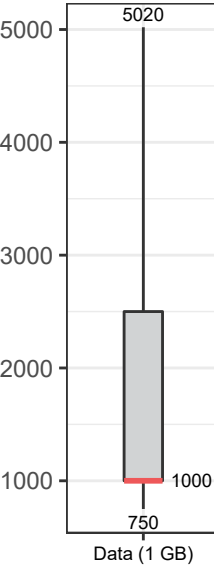
ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



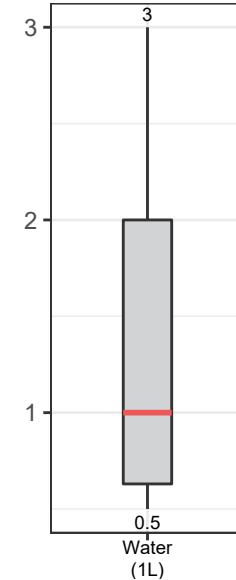
CELLPHONE DATA

Syrian Pounds



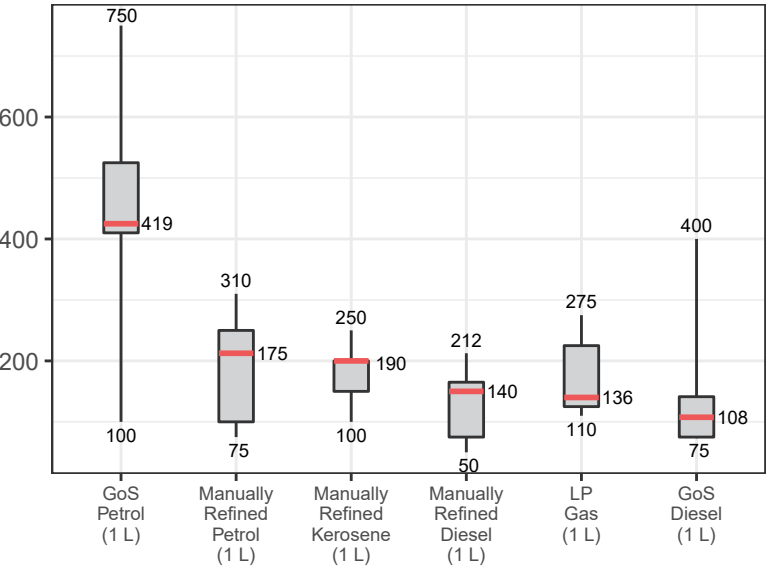
WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



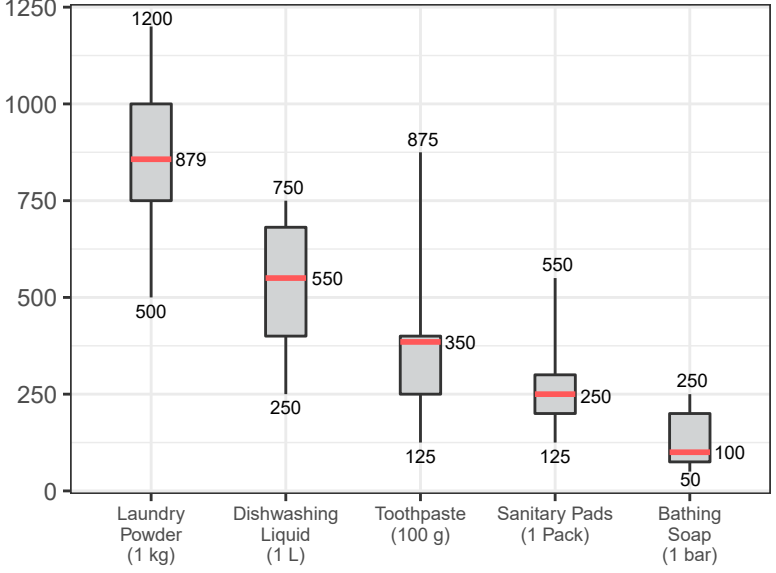
ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

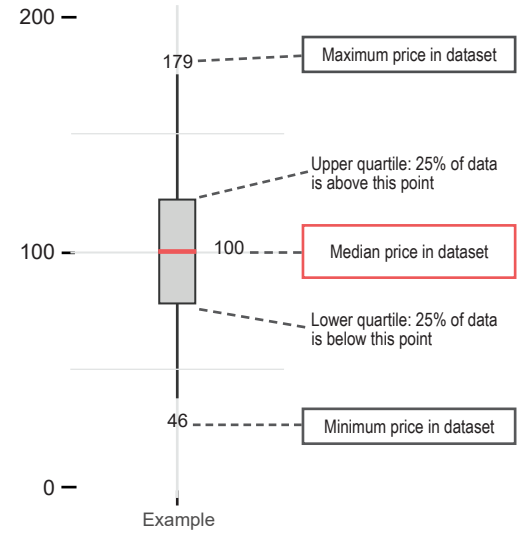


ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



READING BOXPLOTS



METHODOLOGY

In order to be included in the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise, markets must be permanent in nature, large enough to support at least two wholesalers, and diverse enough to provide a sufficient variety of goods and commodities. Additionally, the shops surveyed within each market must be housed in permanent structures and must sell certain items to be eligible for inclusion. Participating organisations train their enumerators on the Market Monitoring methodology and data collection tools using standard training materials developed by REACH. Each enumerator aims to assess three to five shops of each type in the main market in their assigned sub-district, using surveys to collect information about the cheapest prices of each item and whether there are any barriers in the supply chain. In

sub-districts where direct surveying by enumerators is not possible, data collection is conducted remotely through key informants such as shop owners, suppliers and consumers. A survey form is deployed on KoBo each month to capture price and stock information from different types of establishments, including grocery stores, fuel traders, currency exchange shops, water trucking services and mobile phone shops, among others. Nearly all participating partners submit their data to these KoBo forms, using the KoBoCollect Android app to upload data. A small number of partners, by prior permission, collect data using fully harmonised data collection tools deployed on other platforms, then submit their raw data to REACH for standardisation, compilation and cleaning. Following

data collection, REACH compiles and cleans all partners' data, normalising prices and cross-checking outliers. The cleaned data is then analysed by SMEB costs, components of the SMEB, and by commodities. These trends are observed at the sub-district-level and, when possible, at the community-level. Prices are divided into quartiles and boxplots are created to assist CBR-TWG members in understanding the distribution of prices across the northeast and northwest of Syria. To illustrate local variations in prices and availability, REACH uses the collected data to map the price of the SMEB in each sub-district and adds illustrations of surrounding border crossings, with data sourced from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In addition, each SMEB

component costs and transport fuel prices are graphed to visualize trends over time. The cleaned datasets are available on the [Humanitarian Data Exchange](#) website and are distributed to all participating partners, as well as to interested clusters and the broader humanitarian community.

Seasonal items

Winterisation items have been added to the market monitoring exercise and data collection will continue for these items over winter, until February 2020. 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. Because this exercise collects data directly from vendors and relies on partner organizations for its wide coverage, Market Monitoring may sporadically lose coverage temporarily or for longer periods of time 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.

CALCULATING 'MEDIAN CHEAPEST PRICE'

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

CALCULATING SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB) COSTS

The cost of a SMEB is calculated for each assessed sub-district by calculating the median cheapest price of each SMEB commodity in that sub-district, then multiplying these medians by the number of units that an average Syrian household requires to purchase in a month. The composition of the SMEB can be found on [page 1](#). SMEB vegetables includes potatoes, tomatoes, onions and cucumbers.

CALCULATING PRICE TRENDS OVER TIME

One month and six-month price changes and trends are calculated only with the communities of a sub-district with consistent coverage across months. For the current month's regional SMEB cost, all assessed communities are included in determining medians; thus, prices and percentage changes within the Costs and Changes tables may differ from the current month's regional SMEB cost.

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.

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website:

www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter [@REACH_info](#)