

Syria Market Monitoring Exercise

Snapshot: 12-19 March 2018

Cash-Based Responses
Technical Working Group

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

KEY FINDINGS

Due to a notable increase in conflict beginning on 18 February, coverage was lost in Kafr Batna, Duma and Arbin of Eastern Ghouta. The incomplete Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) cost from February was 427,829 SYP.

In the northwest, the median complete SMEB cost with 7.5% float increased by 7,438 SYP (+12%) to 68,664 SYP (145 USD) from 61,226 SYP in February. This was the steepest month-to-month increase and highest SMEB cost observed in the past year.

This increase in the northwest was largely due to increases in the cost of cooking fuel (+5,000 SYP) and water trucking services (+1,000 SYP). Other SMEB item categories saw little to no change.

Partners reported that continued violence in the northwest disrupted the availability of all assessed transport fuels, which then led to increased prices of water and cooking fuels. In contrast, food item prices were not as affected by rising fuel prices due to the relatively shorter distances between the sources of production and location of consumption.

In the south, the median complete SMEB cost with 7.5% float decreased by 4,735 SYP (-6%) to 65,668 SYP (141.87 USD) from 70,403 SYP since February. This was the largest monthly change, as well as the lowest SMEB cost observed in the northwest in at least 12 months.

This decrease was largely due to decreasing food item prices. Partners reported two likely factors affecting food prices: first, there is an increased availability of many food items due to wide distribution of food baskets across Dar'a and Quneitra starting in January 2018; and second, changes to checkpoint payment rules lowered shipping costs. Previously, trucks were obliged to pay at each checkpoint. Now, trucks make one payment at Abu Kaser and present a receipt at each subsequent checkpoint.

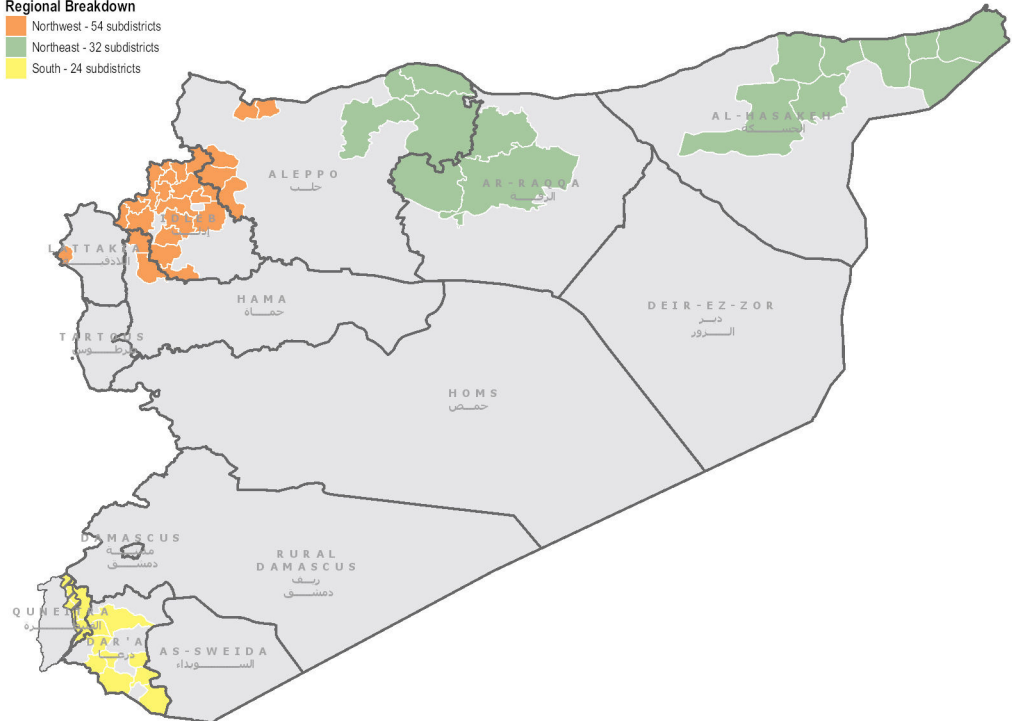
While the price of most food items decreased in the south, the price of bread increased in response to the start of a gradual decrease of

support for bakeries in the region over the course of this calendar year, at which point the program supporting bakeries will end. Partners pointed out that the price of bread will likely increase incrementally over the course of 2018.

In the northeast, the median complete SMEB cost with 7.5% float decreased by less than 5% from 58,872 in the last month to 58,763 SYP (126.50 USD). Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 3,188 SYP (-5%) from 61,951 SYP in September 2017.

ASSESSED AREAS

Regional Breakdown
Northwest - 54 subdistricts
Northeast - 32 subdistricts
South - 24 subdistricts



* Subdistrict classified as besieged if containing an assessed UNOCHA defined besieged community

INTRODUCTION

- To inform humanitarian actors' cash and voucher programming, REACH and the Cash-Based Responses Technical Working Group (CBR-TWG) conduct monthly monitoring of key markets throughout Syria to assess the availability and affordability of basic commodities.
- Monitored commodities reflect those that are typically available, sold in markets and consumed by an average Syrian household, including food and non-food items, fuel, water and cellular data.
- 18 of those items comprise the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), detailed below, which represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a six-person Syrian household for one month.

- Between 12-19 March 2018, 14 non-governmental organisations involved in cash-based responses in Syria (ACTED, CARE, Shafak, Concern, Danish Church Aid, GOAL, Ihsan, IRC, Mercy Corps, People in Need, REACH, Save the Children, Solidarités International and Violet) contributed data from 91 communities in 55 subdistricts spanning 9 governorates. For coverage, see the map below.
- Written outputs and data sets from all months of the Market Monitoring Exercise are available on the REACH Resource Centre and are distributed to the broader humanitarian community.
- For methodology and shifts in coverage, please see the appendix at the end of this document.

SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB) CONTENTS

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
Non-Food Items	Tomato paste	6 kg
	Bathing soap	12 bars
	Laundry/dish soap	3 kg
	Sanitary pads	4 packs of 10
Fuel	Toothpaste	200 g
	Cooking fuel*	25 L
Water	Water	4500 L
Telecom	Smartphone data	1 GB
Other	Float (other costs)**	7.5% total value

* Kerosene in northern Syria; LPG in southern Syria.

** Float was excluded from SMEB values in narrative report due to the commonality of incomplete baskets.

CURRENCY

Median cheapest exchange rates

473 USD/SYP
▲8

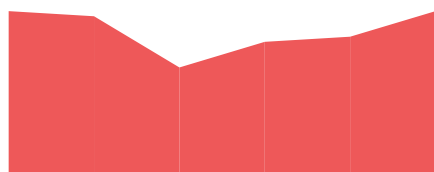
123 TRY/SYP
▲1

686 JOD/SYP*
▲51

* Lattakia and Kafr Nobol were the only subdistricts to report the availability and price for this currency

Median cheapest USD/SYP exchange rate

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
484	478	425	462	465	473



Note: Visualisations of monthly trends in this overview do not account for monthly variations in subdistrict coverage.

FOOD ITEMS

The median cost of food items in the SMEB (see page one) was largely stable since last month, increasing by less than 5% to 39,857 SYP from 39,575 SYP. Over the past 6 months, the cost decreased by 3,138 SYP (-15%) from 47,281 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Lattakia, Binnsh, and Jisr-Ash-Shugur subdistricts reported the highest median values at 52,058, 46,482, and 46,275 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of starchy food items in the SMEB (bread 37kg, bulgur 15kg, rice 19kg) cost was stable, increasing by less than 5% to 16,150 from 15,909 SYP in February. However, Badama and Kafr Takharim subdistricts reported increases of 60% and 20%, respectively. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by less than 5% from 16,478 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Saraqab, Binnsh and Zarbah subdistricts reported the highest median values at 19,130, 18,900 and 18,600 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of fresh vegetables in the SMEB (cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, onions 12kg) cost decreased by less than 5% to 2,325 from 2,400 SYP from February. However, Ehsem and

Idlib subdistricts reported increases by 15% and 23%, respectively. Over the past 6 months, the cost increased by 755 SYP (+48%) from 1569 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Idlib, Ehsem, and Ariha subdistricts reported the highest median values at 2,775, 2,655 and 2,550 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of protein and pulses in the SMEB (chicken 6kg, eggs 6kg, lentils 15kg) cost was largely stable, increasing from February by less than 5% to 13,950 from 13,481 SYP. However, Kafr Nobol subdistrict reported a 68% increase. Over the past 6 months, the cost decreased by less than 5% from 15,618 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Lattakia, Binnsh, and Jisr-Ash-Shugur subdistricts reported the highest median values

WATER

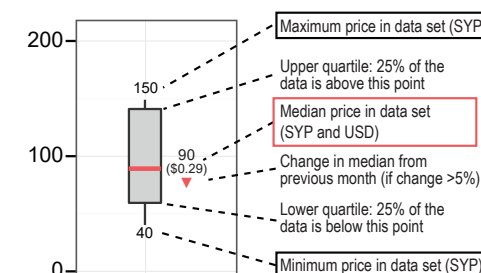
The median cost of SMEB water (4,500L) cost increased from the last month by 1,019 (+39%) to 3,579 from 2,560 SYP/4,500L. Over the last 6 months, the cost increased by 1,014 SYP (+39%) from 2,565 SYP/4,500L. In March, assessed communities in Badama, Darkosh, and Zarbah

subdistricts reported the highest median values at 9,495, 5,625 and 4,972 SYP/4,500L, respectively.

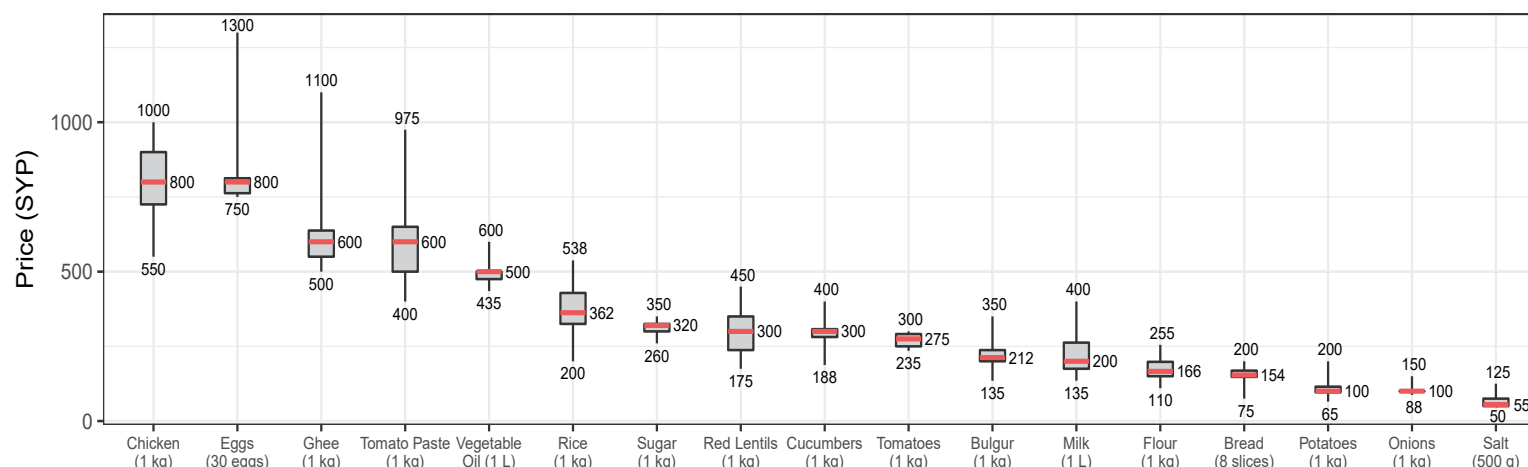
MOBILE DATA

The median SMEB phone data cost was unchanged from the last month at 500 SYP/gb. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 100 SYP (-16%) from 600 SYP/gb in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Lattakia, A'zaz, and Suran subdistricts reported the highest median values at 4,000, 1,000 and 850 SYP/gb, respectively.

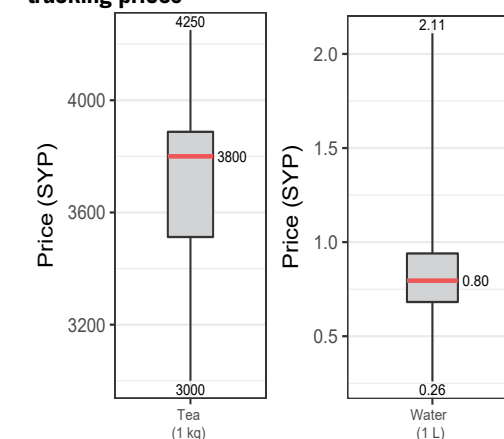
How to read a box plot



Spread of cheapest reported food prices

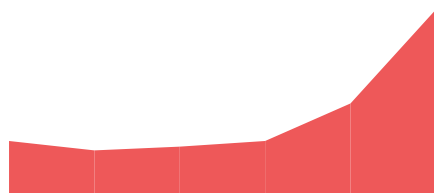


Spread of cheapest reported tea and water trucking prices



Median cheapest kerosene prices (SYP)

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
300	275	290	300	400	600



FUEL

The median SMEB cooking fuel (kerosene 25L) cost increased from the last month by 5,000 SYP (50%) to 15,000 from 10,000 SYP/25L. In addition, 6 subdistricts reported increases greater than 75%. Over the last 6 months, the cost increased by 7,500 SYP (100%) from 7,500 SYP/25L in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Kafr Nobol, Maaret Tamsrin, and Ehsem subdistricts reported the highest median values at 20,000, 17,500 and 17,500 SYP/25L, respectively.

The median cheapest prices of diesel refined manually and by the Government of Syria increased since the last month by 200 (57%) and

168 SYP (39%) to 550 and 600 SYP/L, respectively. Prices doubled in Idlib and Janudiyeh subdistricts.

The median cheapest prices of petrol refined manually and by the Government of Syria increased since the last month by 50 (14%) to 400 SYP/L and 50 SYP (10%) to 550 SYP/L, respectively.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION ITEMS

The median SMEB non-food item component (see page one) cost decreased from February by less than 5% to 4,499 from 4,528 SYP. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 300 SYP (6%) from 4,800 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Lattakia, Zarbah, and Atareb subdistricts reported the highest median values.

The median cheapest price of sanitary pads decreased by 25 (-12%) to 225 from 200 SYP/10 pack in February. However, Zarbah subdistricts reported an 83% increase. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 25 SYP (-11%) from 225 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Idlib, Lattakia, and Khan Shaykun subdistricts reported the highest median values at 550, 350 and 350 SYP/10 pack, respectively.

AVAILABILITY ISSUES

Difficulties with access in Shamiyeh (Lattakia subdistrict) and Harim (Harim subdistrict)

Petrol and diesel

Difficulties with access in communities in Daret Azza, Harim, Kafr Nobol, Lattakia, Madiq Castle, Qourqeena, and Ziyara subdistricts

Manually refined kerosene

SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB)

The median cost of a complete SMEB with a 7.5% float increased this month by 7,467 SYP (12%) to 68,664 SYP (145 USD) from 61,226 SYP. Over the last 6 months, the cost increased by 7,645 SYP (12%) from 61,018 SYP in September 2017.

Complete SMEBs could be assembled for 22 of the 27 assessed subdistricts in northwest Syria.

Selected subdistrict's complete SMEB in March Most expensive

Badama (80,663 SYP, 170.53 USD)

Zarbah (78,532 SYP, 166.03 USD)

Jisr-Ash-Shugur (78,497 SYP, 167.02 USD)

Least expensive

Az'az (62,942 SYP, 134.50 USD)

Suran (60,937 SYP, 131.04 USD)

Daret Azza (59,236 SYP, 124.84 USD)

Subdistricts with incomplete SMEB data in March

Subdistrict	Missing items
Lattakia	Water
Qourqeena, Madiq Castle, Ziyara, Harim	Kerosene

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

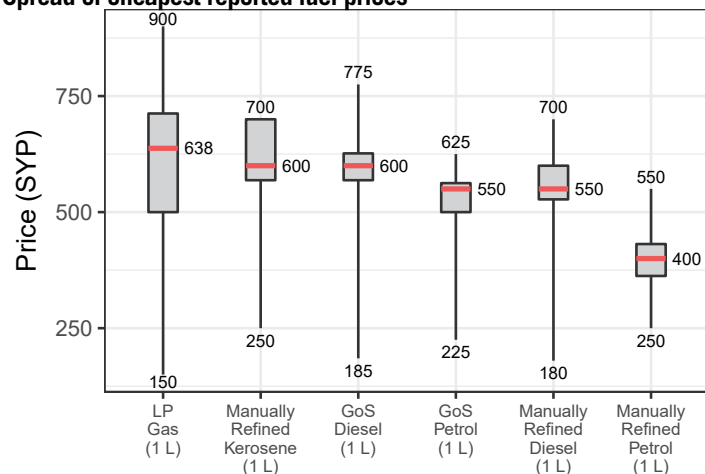
Largest changes in monthly SMEB costs*

Kafr Takharim (▲ +24%)

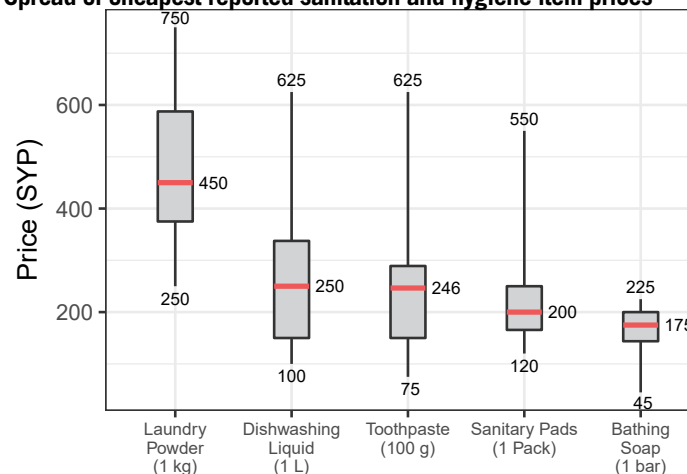
Badama (▲ +23%)

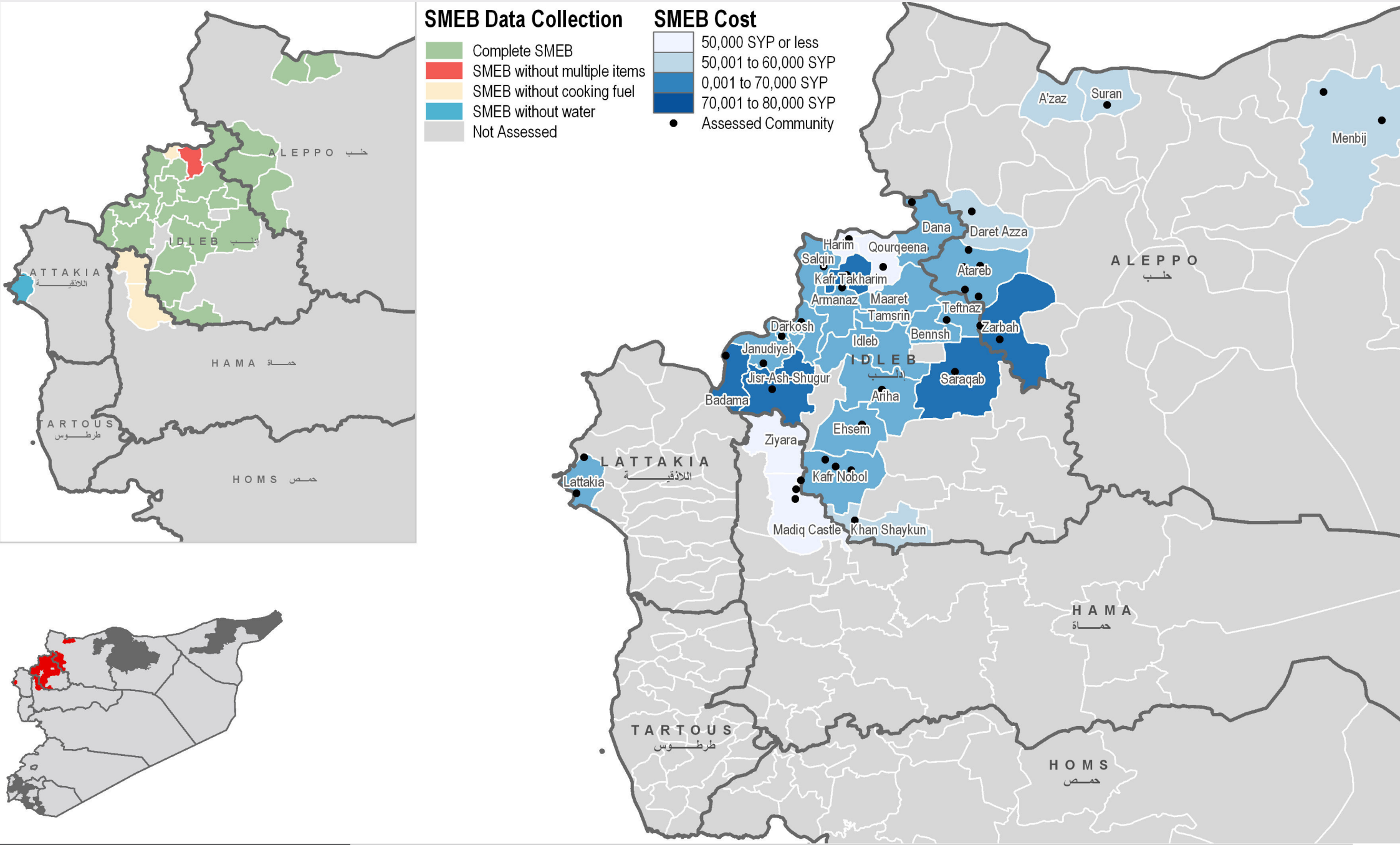
Maaret Tamsrin (▲ +22%)

Spread of cheapest reported fuel prices



Spread of cheapest reported sanitation and hygiene item prices





CURRENCY

Median cheapest exchange rates

464
USD/SYP
▲2

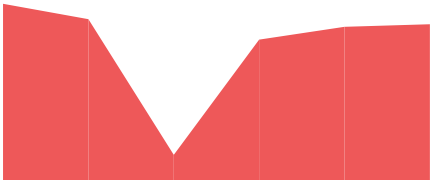
121
TRY/SYP
▼1

625
JOD/SYP*
▼9

* Menbij was the only subdistrict to report this exchange rate.

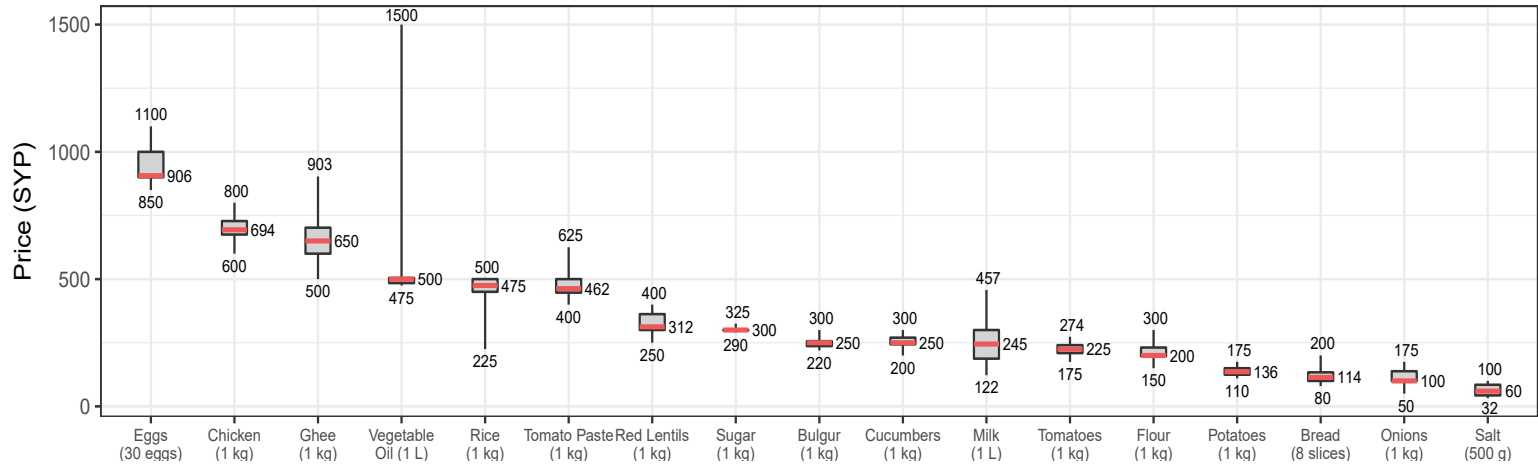
Median cheapest SYP/USD exchange rate

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
485	478	424	455	462	464



Note: Visualisations of monthly trends in this overview do not account for monthly variations in subdistrict coverage.

Spread of cheapest reported food prices



FOOD ITEMS

The median cost of food items in the SMEB (see page one) cost decreased from February by less than 5% to 42,774 from 43,551 SYP. While all subdistricts, reported increases or decreases of 5%, Ar-Raqqa subdistrict reported a 10% increase. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 2,823 SYP (-6%) from 45,597 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Ar-Raqqa, Ya'robiyah, and Al-Hasakeh subdistricts reported the highest values median values at 45,566, 45,540, and 44,100 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of starchy food items in the SMEB (bread 37kg, bulgur 15kg, rice 19kg) cost increased from the last month by less than 5% to 17,095 from 16,475 SYP. However, Ar-Raqqa subdistrict reported an 18% increase. Over the last 6 months, the cost has gradually increased by 1,155 SYP (+7%) from 15,940 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Qahtaniyyeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Al-Hasakeh subdistricts reported the highest median values at 19,700, 18,750 and 18,250 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of fresh vegetables in the SMEB (cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, onions 12kg) cost decreased from the last month by less than 5% to 2,221 SYP from 2,317 SYP. Over the last 6 months,

the cost increased by 219 SYP (+11%) from 2,002 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Ain al Arab (Kobani), Al-Hasakeh, and Al-Malikeyyeh subdistricts reported the highest median values.

The median cost of protein and pulses in the SMEB (chicken 6kg, eggs 6kg, lentils 15kg) cost increased from the last month by less than 5% to 13,950 from 13,481 SYP. Over the past 6 months, the cost decreased by 2,521 SYP (-14%) from 17,325 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Ya'robiyah, Be'r AL-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh, and Lower Shyookh subdistricts reported the highest median values at 16,800, 16,050 and 15,900 SYP, respectively.

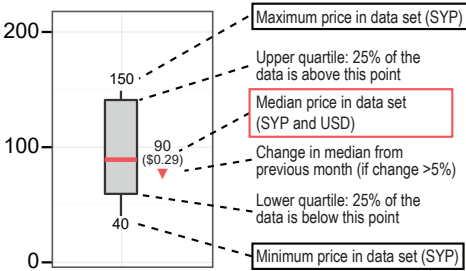
WATER

The median cost of SMEB water, among subdistricts where water trucking is common, increased from the last month by 585 (+26%) to 2,835 from 2,250 SYP/4,500L. Over the last 6 months, the cost was unchanged. In March, assessed communities in Ar-Raqqa, Menbij, and Lower Shyookh subdistricts reported the highest median values at 3,375, 3,060 and 2,835 SYP/4,500L, respectively.

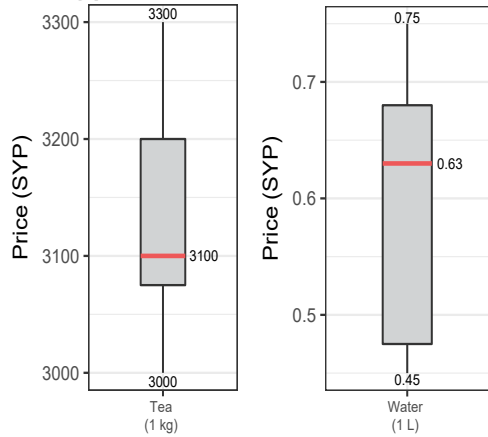
MOBILE DATA

The median SMEB phone data cost decreased from the last month by 504 SYP (-20%) to 2,000 from 2,504 SYP/gb. Over the last 6 months, the cost increased by 150 SYP (+8%) from 1,850 SYP/gb in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Ar-Raqqa, Ein Issa, and Jurneyyeh subdistricts reported the highest median values at 8,064, 5,197 and 4,650 SYP/gb, respectively.

How to read a box plot



Spread of cheapest reported tea and water trucking prices



Median cheapest kerosene prices (SYP)

Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
150	138	175	175	140	125

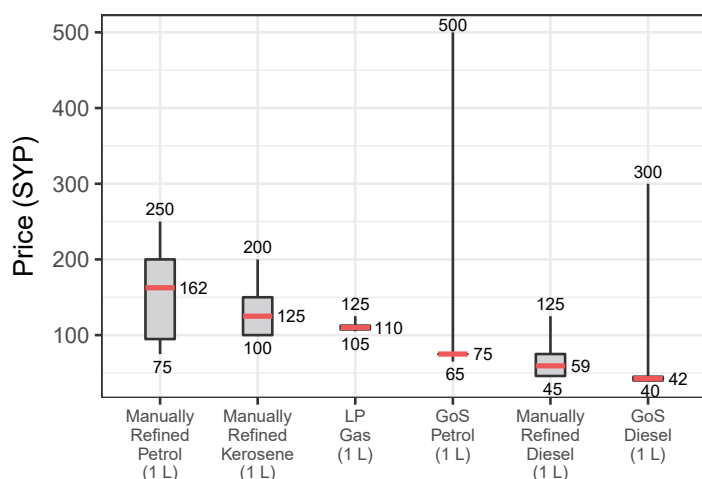


FUEL

The median SMEB cooking fuel (kerosene 25L) cost increased from the last month by 156 SYP (5%) to 2,937 from 2,781 SYP/25L. Yar'obiyah and Lower Shyookh subdistricts, on the other hand, reported increases of 47 and 46%, respectively. Over the last 6 months, the cost increased by 187 SYP (6%) from 3,125 SYP/25L in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Jawadiyah, Amuda, and Al-Malikeyyeh subdistricts reported the highest median values at 5,000, 5,000 and 4,406 SYP/25L, respectively.

The median cheapest prices of diesel refined manually decreased by 15 SYP (-20%) to 59 SYP/L and diesel refined by the Government of Syria increased by 2.5 (6%) to 42 SYP/L. Menbij subdistrict reported the highest average price of 172 SYP/L.

Spread of cheapest reported fuel prices



Syria increased by 2.5 (6%) to 42 SYP/L. Menbij subdistrict reported the highest average price of 172 SYP/L.

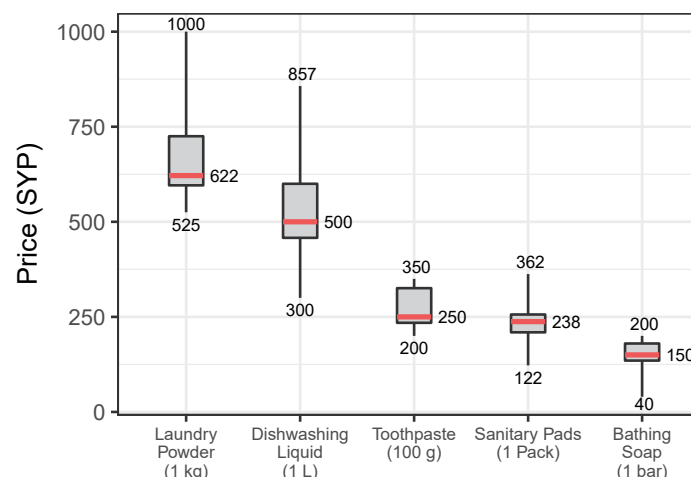
The median cheapest prices of petrol refined manually decreased by 12 SYP (-12%) to 162 SYP/L and refined by the Government of Syria was unchanged at 75 SYP/L. Menbij subdistrict reported the highest average price of 289 SYP/L.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION ITEMS

The median SMEB hygiene component (see page one) cost decreased by less than 5% to 5,264 from 5,130 SYP from February. Over the last 6 months, the cost fell by less than 5% from 5,433 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Lower Shyookh, Ya'robayah, and Quamishli subdistricts reported the highest median values at 6,172, 6,125 and 5,810 SYP, respectively.

The median cheapest price of sanitary pads cost decreased from February by 25 (-5%) to 250 from 237 SYP/10 pack. Over the last 6 months, the cost fell by 25 SYP (-5%) from 250 SYP/in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Lower Shyookh, Al-Hasakeh, and Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh subdistricts reported the highest median values at 362, 300 SYP and 275 SYP/10 pack, respectively.

Spread of cheapest reported sanitation and hygiene item prices



AVAILABILITY ISSUES

None confirmed

SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB)

The median cost of a complete SMEB with 7.5% float decreased by less than 5% from the last month to 58,763 SYP (126.50 USD) from 58,872. Over the past 6 months, the cost decreased by 3,188 SYP (-5%) from 61,951 SYP in September 2017.

Complete SMEBs could be assembled for 5 of the 16 assessed subdistricts in northwest Syria.

The median cost of a SMEB missing water with 7.5% float decreased by less than 5% from the last month to 57,209 (123.16 USD) from 57,576 SYP. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by less than 5% from 60,170 SYP in September 2017.

SMEBs only without water could be assembled for 1 of the 16 assessed subdistricts in northeast Syria.

Selected subdistrict's complete SMEB in March

Most expensive

Ar-Raqqa (69,769 SYP, 148.76 USD)
Lower Shyookh (61,591 SYP, 131.04 USD)
Ain al Arab (58,763 SYP, 126.50 USD)

Least expensive

Sarin (58,744 SYP, 125.99 USD)
Menbij (57,916 SYP, 125.36 USD)

Subdistricts with incomplete SMEBs in March

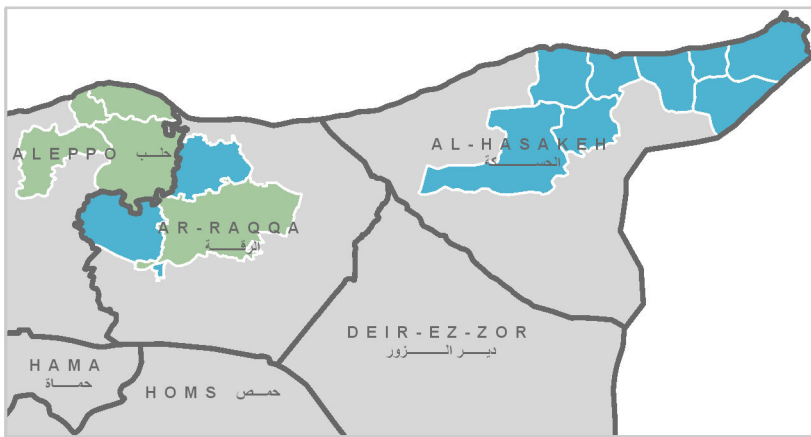
Subdistrict	Missing items
All in Al-Hasakeh Governorate	Water Trucking

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

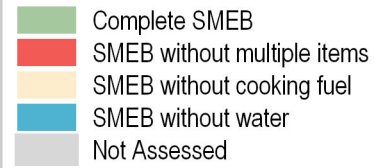
Largest changes in monthly SMEB costs*

Ar-Raqqa (▲ +8%)
Lower Shyookh (▲ +7%)
Menbij (▼ -4%)

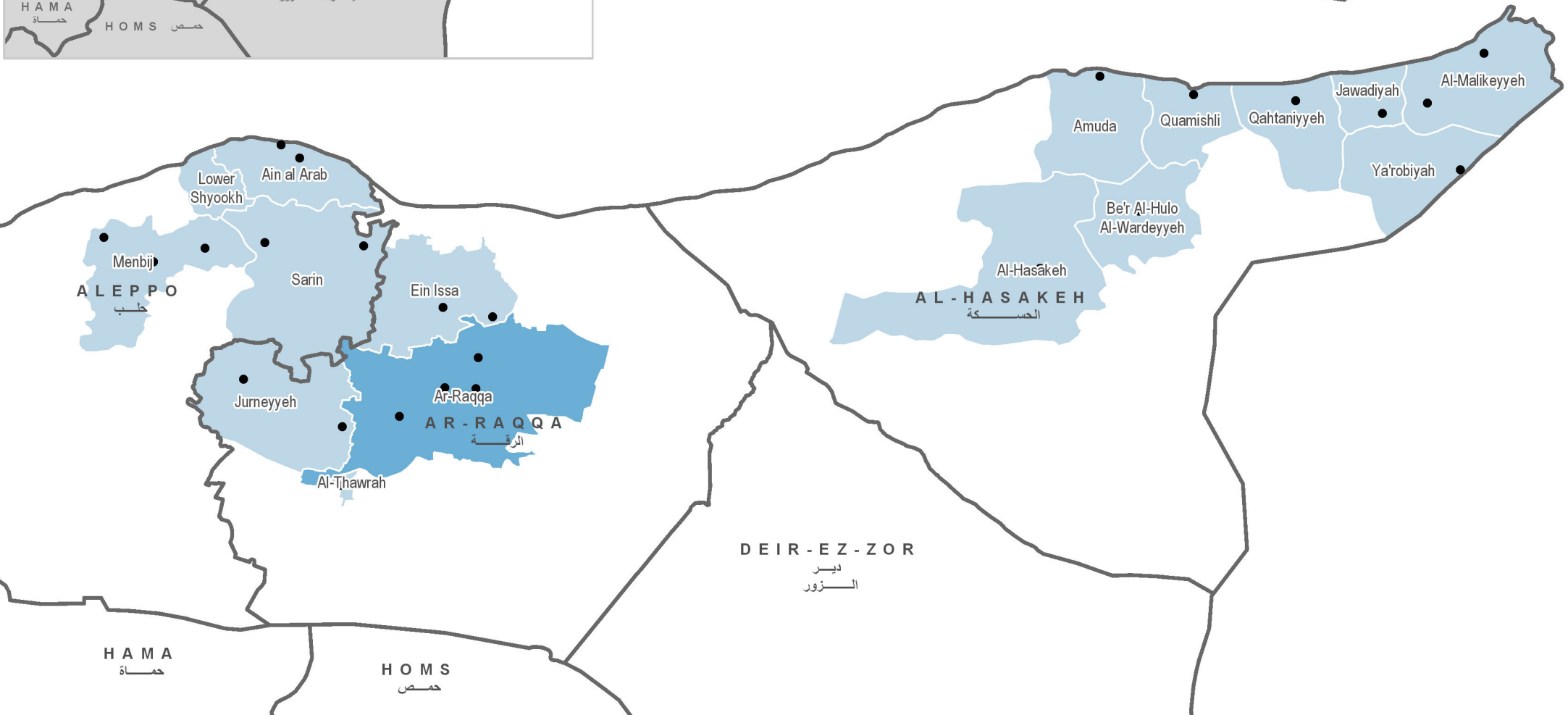
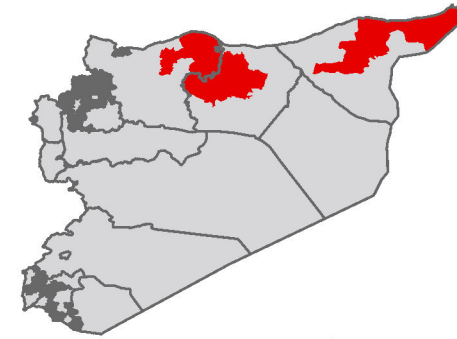
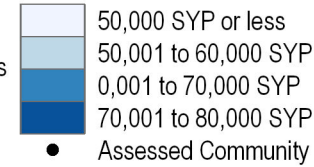
*Only for subdistricts with no change in SMEB composition in the previous round of data collection.



SMEB Data Collection



SMEB Cost



CURRENCY

Median cheapest exchange rates

462 SYP/USD
▼ 5

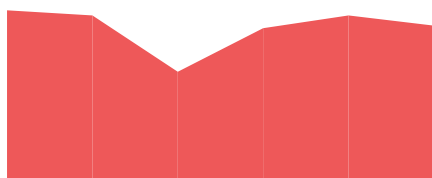
123 SYP/TRY
▼ 4

643 SYP/JOD
▲ 3

* Qseibeh in Al-Khashniyyeh subdistrict was the only community to report this exchange rate.

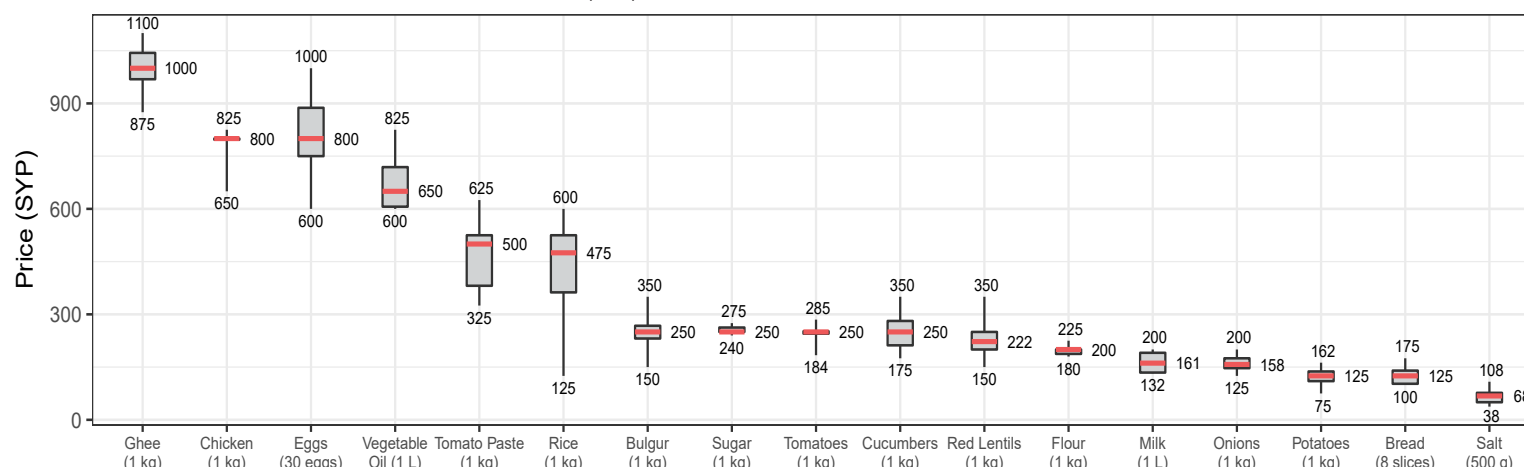
Median cheapest SYP/USD exchange rate

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
490	477	423	460	465	462



Note: Visualisations of monthly trends in this overview do not account for monthly variations in subdistrict coverage.

Spread of cheapest reported food item prices



FOOD ITEMS

The median SMEB food items component (see page one) cost decreased to 43,155 SYP by 4,036 (-8%) from 47,191 SYP in February. All subdistricts reported a decrease except Khan Arnaba, which reported an increase of approximately 5,000 SYP (+13%). Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by less than 1% from 45,086 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Dar'a, Mzeireb, and Mseifra subdistricts reported the highest median values at 44,800, 44,643, and 44,114 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of starchy food items in the SMEB (bread 37kg, bulgur 15kg, rice 19kg) cost decreased by 1,344 SYP (-7%) to 16,887 from 18,232 SYP in February. However, Khan Arnaba reported an increase of approximately 5,000 SYP (40%). Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by less than 5% from 17,187 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Khan Arnaba, Mzeireb, and Da'el subdistricts reported the highest median values at 19,775, 18,660 and 18,200 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of fresh vegetables in the SMEB (cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, onions 12kg) cost decreased from the last month by 228 SYP (-8%) to 2,336 from 2,565 SYP. All subdistricts

reported decreases or no changes. Over the last 6 months, the cost increased by 843 SYP (+56%) from 1,492 SYP in September 2017. Mseifra, Busra Esh-Sham, and Mzeireb subdistricts reported the highest median values at 2,625, 25,50 and 2,531 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of protein and pulses in the SMEB (chicken 6kg, eggs 6kg, lentils 15kg) cost decreased from the last month by 2,643 SYP (-17%) to 12,900 from 15,543 SYP. The largest decrease was observed in Jasim. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 2,521 SYP (-14%) from 17,325 SYP in September 2017. Dar'a, Nawa, and Mzeireb subdistricts reported the highest median values at 13,200, 12,750 and 13,856 SYP, respectively.

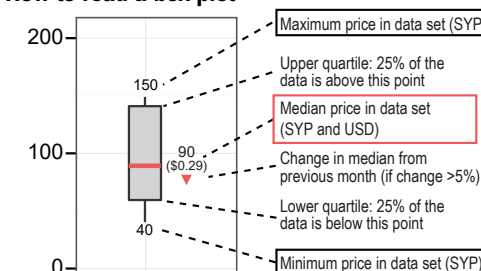
WATER

The median SMEB water cost increased from the last month by less than 5% to 2,340 SYP/4,500L. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 246 SYP (-9%) from 2,587 SYP/4,500L. In March, assessed communities in Busra Esh-Sham, Mseifra, and Al-Khashniyyeh subdistricts reported the highest median values at 3,046, 2,812 and 2,677 SYP/4,500L, respectively.

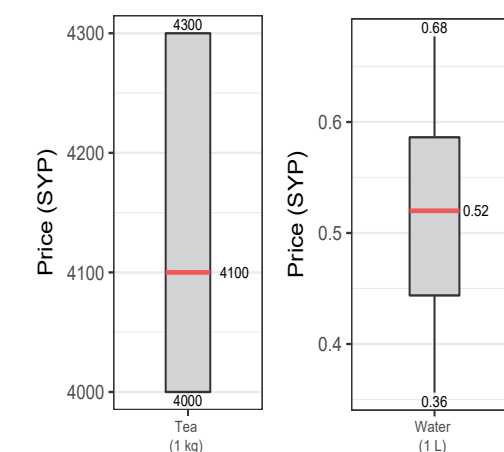
MOBILE DATA

The median SMEB phone data cost decreased from the last month by less than 5% to 2,000 SYP/gb. Over the last 6 months, the cost increased by 912 SYP (30%) from 2,912 SYP/gb in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Jasim, Mseifra, and Nawa subdistricts reported the highest median values at 4,000, 2,800 and 2,037 SYP/gb, respectively.

How to read a box plot

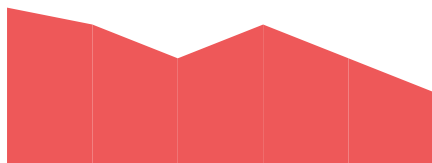


Spread of cheapest reported tea and water trucking prices



Median cheapest LPG price (SYP)

Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
475	425	375	425	371	330

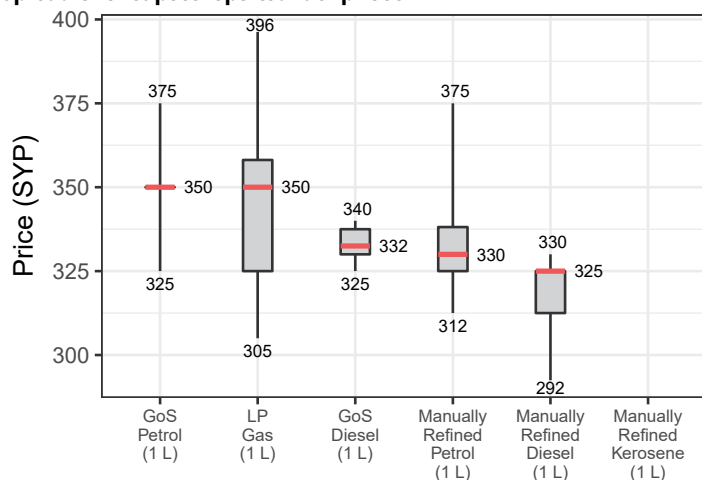


FUEL

The median SMEB cooking fuel (LP gas 25L) cost increased since last month by 500 SYP (+6%) to 8,750 from 8,250 SYP/25L. The greatest increase was observed in Mzeireb subdistrict with an increase of 1,437 SYP (+17%). Over the last 6 months, the cost increased by 3,015 SYP (-25%) from 11,765 SYP/25L in September 2017. This month, Al-Khashniyyeh, Mzeireb, and Nawa subdistricts reported the highest median values with 9,906, 9,625 and 9,516 SYP/25L, respectively.

The median cheapest prices of Government of Syria refined diesel increased from the last month by less than 5% to 332 SYP/L.

Spread of cheapest reported fuel prices



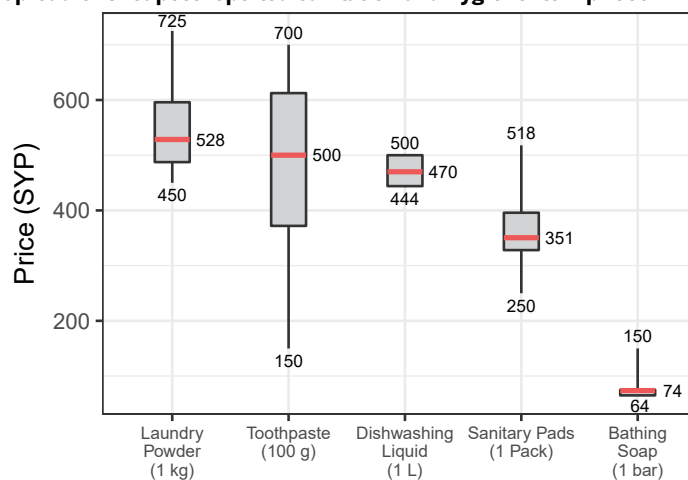
The median cheapest prices of petrol refined manually decreased from the last month by less than 5% to 330 SYP/L and refined by Government of Syria refined petrol was unchanged at 350 SYP/L.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION ITEMS

The median SMEB hygiene component (bathing soap 12 bars, laundry/dish soap 3kg, sanitary pads 4 10 packs, toothpaste 200g) cost increased from February by less than 5% to 4,916 from 4,817 SYP. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by less than 5% from 4,986 SYP in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Lower Busra Esh-Sham, Da'el, and Al-Khashniyyeh subdistricts reported the highest median values at 6,296, 5,575 and 5,204 SYP, respectively.

The median cheapest price of sanitary pads increased from the last month by less than 5% to 350 SYP/10 pack. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 43 SYP (-11%) from 394 SYP/10 pack in September 2017. In March, assessed communities in Busra Esh-Sham, Hrak, and Khan Arnaba subdistricts reported the highest median values at 517, 428 and 416 SYP/10 pack, respectively.

Spread of cheapest reported sanitation and hygiene item prices



AVAILABILITY ISSUES

None Confirmed

SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB)

The median cost of a complete SMEB with 7.5% float decreased by 4,734 SYP (6%) to 65,668 (141.87 USD) from 70,403 SYP. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 6,401 SYP (-8%) from 72,070 SYP in September 2017.

Complete SMEBs could be assembled for 11 of the 11 assessed subdistricts in south Syria

Selected subdistrict's complete SMEB in March Most expensive

Mseifra (68,216 SYP, 147.65 USD)

Al-Khashniyyeh (67,689 SYP, 146.35 USD)

Busra Esh-Sham (66,815 SYP, 144.62 USD)

Least expensive

Da'el (64,810 SYP, 139.90 USD)

Hrak (60,603 SYP, 131.46 USD)

Jasim (50,641 SYP, 108.90 USD)

Subdistricts with incomplete SMEBs in March

Subdistrict Missing items

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

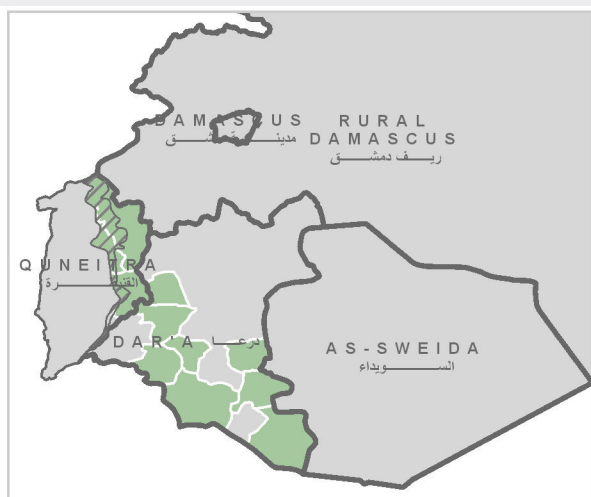
Largest changes in monthly SMEB costs*

Jasim (▼ -24%)

Dar'a (▼ -15%)

Hrak (▼ -11%)

*Only for subdistricts with no change in SMEB composition in the previous round of data collection.

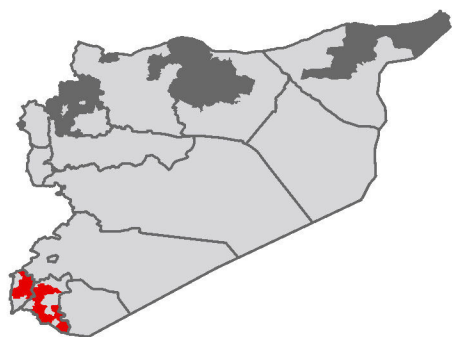
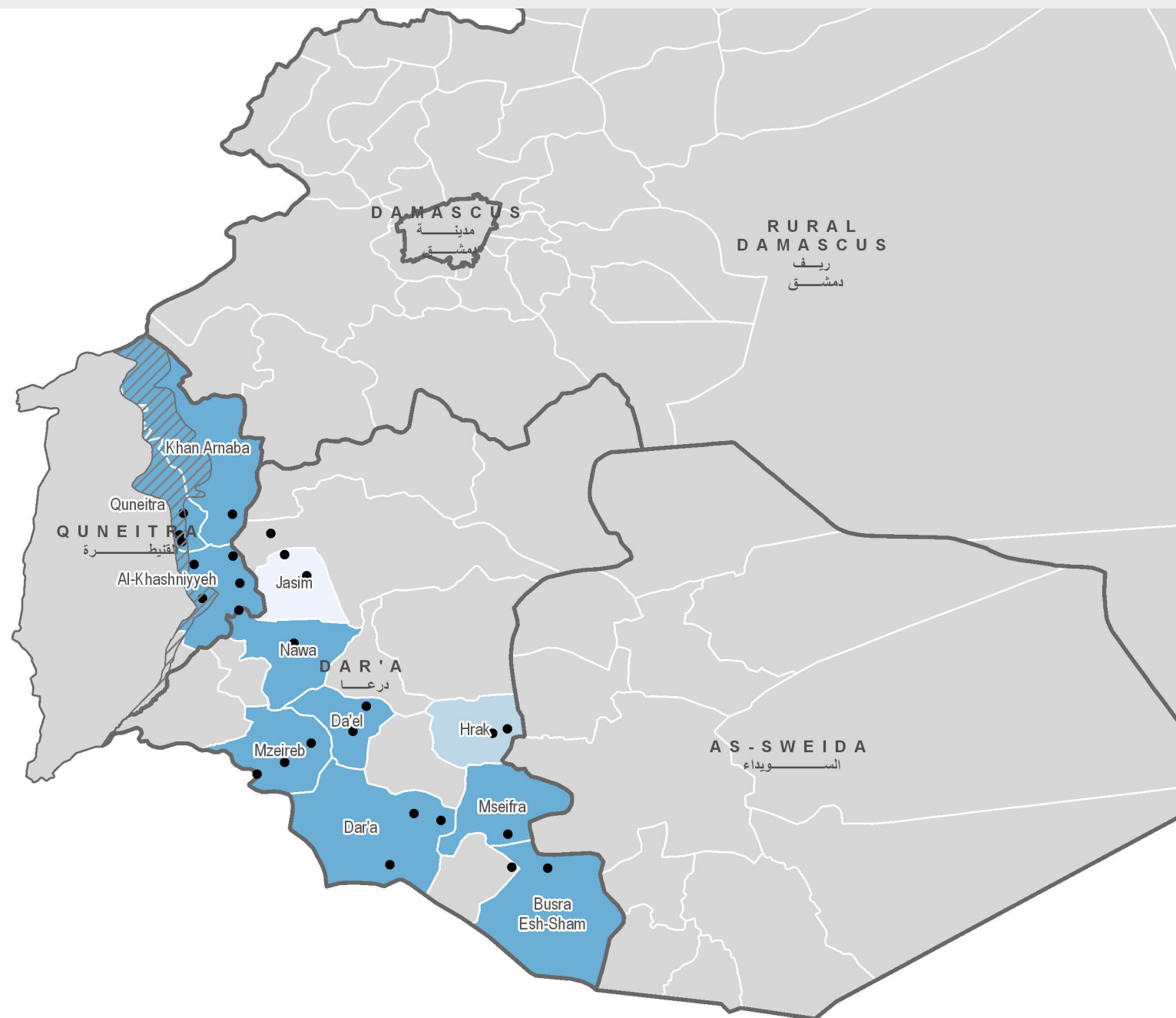


SMEB Data Collection

- Complete SMEB
- SMEB without multiple items
- SMEB without cooking fuel
- SMEB without water
- Not Assessed
- ▨ UNDOF area of operation

SMEB Cost

- 50,000 SYP or less
- 50,001 to 60,000 SYP
- 0,001 to 70,000 SYP
- 70,001 to 80,000 SYP
- Assessed Community



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 subdistrict, using surveys to collect information about prices, current product inventory and the time needed to replace current stocks. In subdistricts 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.

Five survey forms are 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 commodity and by subdistrict. 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 subdistrict. 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.

Coverage declined from previous rounds, with several partners dropping coverage in areas due to operational constraints.

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 violence, coverage was lost in Eastern Ghouta and southeast Idleb governorate.

CALCULATION OF '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.

CALCULATION OF SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB) COSTS

The cost of a SMEB is calculated for each assessed subdistrict by calculating the median cheapest price of each SMEB commodity in that subdistrict, 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.

WHAT IS THE CASH-BASED RESPONSES TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP?

The Cash-Based Responses Technical Working Group (CBR-TWG) was established in March 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).