

Syria Market Monitoring Exercise

Snapshot: 9-16 April 2018

Cash-Based Responses
Technical Working Group

REACH
Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

KEY FINDINGS

In the month of April, the USD/SYP exchange rate across Syria fell by approximately 3% to 1 USD/451 SYP compared to 1 USD/466 SYP in March 2018. While this decrease was the largest observed since January 2018, the rate was not as low as the drop seen in December 2017 where the exchange rate fell to approximately 1 USD/420 SYP.

In the northwest, the median complete SMEB cost with 7.5% float decreased by 9,934 SYP (-14%) to 58,730 SYP (128.23 USD) from 68,664 SYP in March. This was the steepest month-to-month decrease and the lowest SMEB cost observed in the past 12-months. This decrease in the northwest was due to decreases in the cost of cooking fuel (-7,500 SYP) and water trucking services (-1,014 SYP) because of increased availability and decreasing prices of transport fuel following renewed access to Afrin district. Other SMEB item categories saw little to no change.

In the south, the median cost of a complete SMEB with 7.5% float increased by less than 5% to 66,507 SYP (148.78 USD) from 65,668 SYP. Over the last 6 months, the cost has decreased by less than 5% from 69,681 SYP in October 2017.

However, SMEB starches and SMEB proteins and pulses saw the most volatile 3-month period in at least the past 12 months.¹ On average over the past 12 months, SMEB starch foods (bread, bulgur, and rice) and proteins (chicken, eggs, and red lentils) saw month-to-month decreases of 99 SYP (-0.04%) and 375 SYP (-2%), respectively. However, between February and April, starches fell by 1,344 SYP (-7%) and rose by 1,574 SYP (9%), while proteins fell by 2,643 SYP (-17%) and rose by 1050 SYP (8%).

Partners in the south have reported that market actors may be adjusting their behaviours in response to food distributions. While the exact household and retailer decisions-making processes in this case are not fully understood, REACH will continue to monitor and gather contextual information regarding this trend.

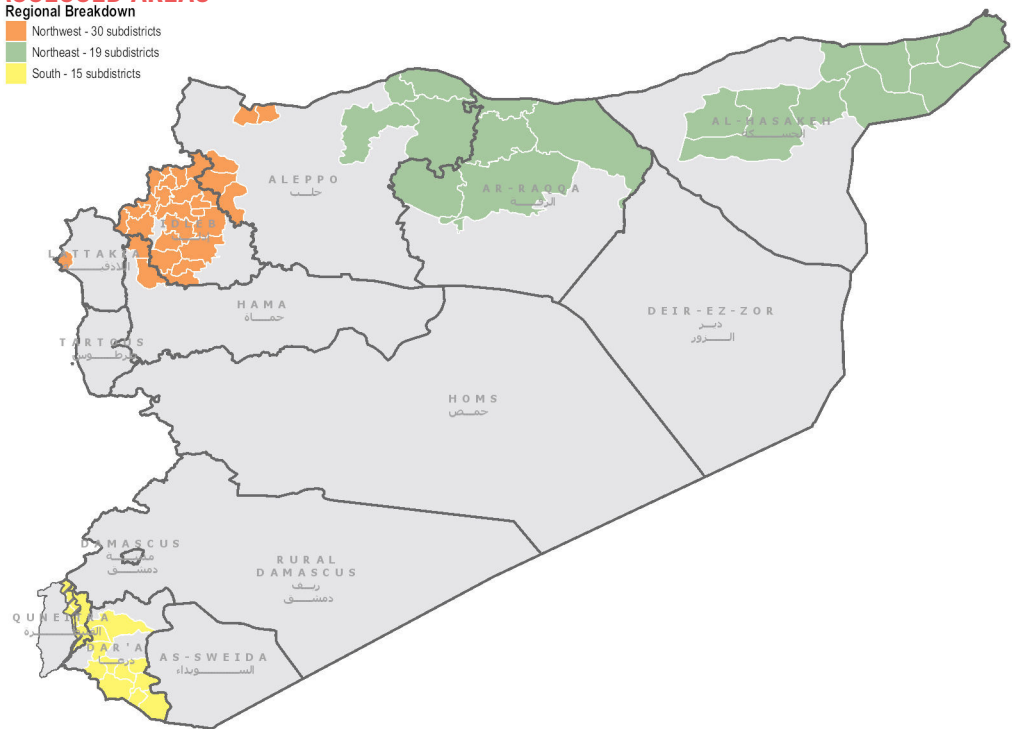
¹ Volatility measured as the average absolute percentage change over 3-month periods.

The cost of bread also saw some volatility, as prices in some sub-districts that increased in March reportedly decreased in April. Partners suggest that this volatility and differences in trends may be due to localized and varied responses to the announced decrease of flour aid. Some local councils have taken steps since March to decrease bread prices despite diminished supplies of flour, which may explain the decrease in price. REACH will continue to monitor bread prices in the south.

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 - 30 subdistricts
Northeast - 19 subdistricts
South - 15 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 (CBRTWG) 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 9 - 16 April 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 110 communities in 63 sub-districts spanning 8 governorates. For coverage, see the map below.
- Written outputs and datasets 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

	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
	Tomato paste	6 kg
Non-Food 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	4500 L
Telecom	Smartphone data	1 GB
Other	Float (other costs)**	7.5% total value

* Kerosene in northern Syria; Liquefied Petroleum Gas in southern Syria.
** Float is only included for regional aggregations and for subdistricts where data for all SMEB items were collected

CURRENCY

Median cheapest exchange rates

458 USD/SYP
▼ 14

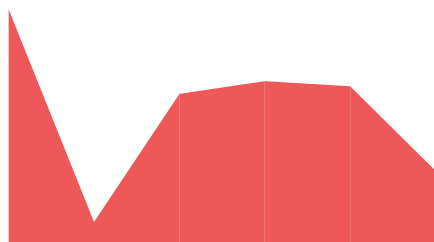
112 TRY/SYP
▼ 11

730 JOD/SYP*
▲ 43

* Lattakia and Kafr Nobol were the only sub-districts to report the availability and price for this currency

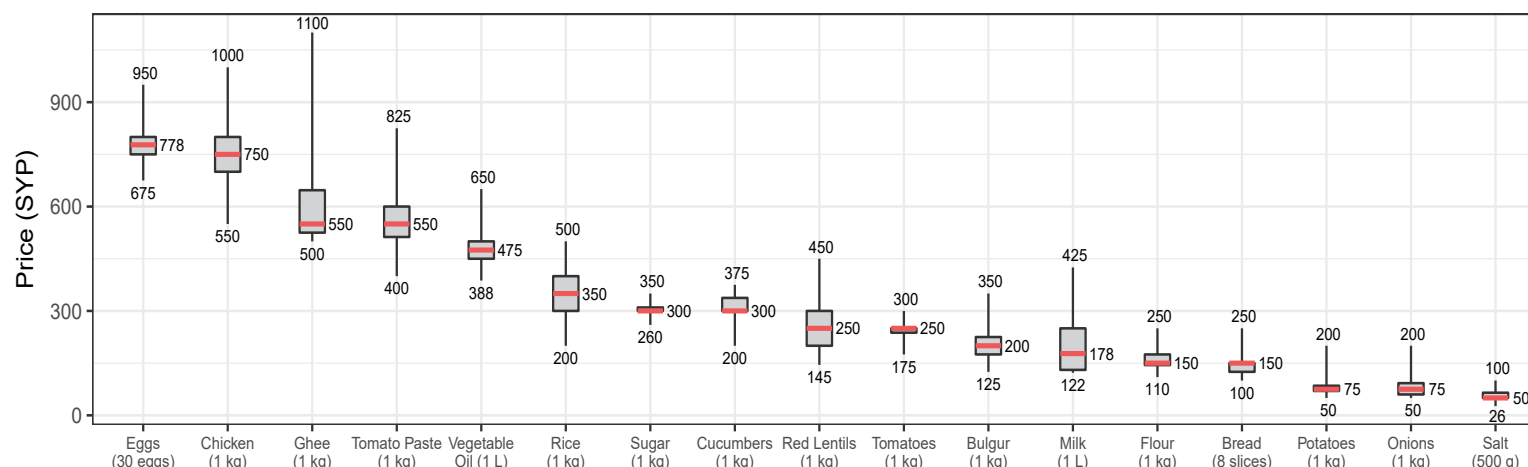
Median cheapest USD/SYP exchange rate

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
478	425	462	465	473	458



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

Spread of cheapest reported food prices



FOOD ITEMS

The median cost of food items in the SMEB (see page 1) remained largely stable compared to last month, increasing by less than 5% to 40,193 SYP from 39,857 SYP. Over the past 6 months, the cost decreased by less than 5% from 41,890 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Lattakia, A'az, and Ehsem sub-districts reported the highest median values at 50,698, 45,775, and 44,940 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of starch food items in the SMEB (bread 37kg, bulgur 15kg, rice 19kg) cost was largely stable, decreasing by less than 5% to 15,643 from 16,150 SYP in March. However, Armanaz and Dana sub-districts reported increases of 20% and 17%, respectively. Over the last 6 months, the cost of these items decreased by 1,456 SYP (-8%) from 17,100 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Saraqab, A'az and Bannsh sub-districts reported the highest median values at 18,850, 18,800 and 18,662 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of fresh vegetables in the SMEB (cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, onions 12kg) cost decreased by 214 SYP (-9%) to 2,111 from 2,325 SYP from March. However, Armanaz and Ehsem sub-districts reported decreases by 29%

and 25%, respectively. Over the past 6 months, the cost increased by 412 SYP (+24%) from 1,698 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Lattakia, Ariha, and Kafr Takharim sub-districts reported the highest median values at 2,700, 2,550 and 2,400 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of protein and pulses in the SMEB (chicken 6kg, eggs 6kg, lentils 15kg) cost was largely stable, decreasing from March by less than 5% to 13,462 from 13,950 SYP. However, Harim and A'az sub-districts reported 11% and 10% increases, respectively. Over the past 6 months, the cost of proteins and pulses decreased by less than 5% from 15,618 SYP in September 2017. In April, assessed communities in Lattakia, A'az, and Harim sub-districts reported the highest median values at 18,450, 15,750 and 15,600 SYP, respectively.

WATER

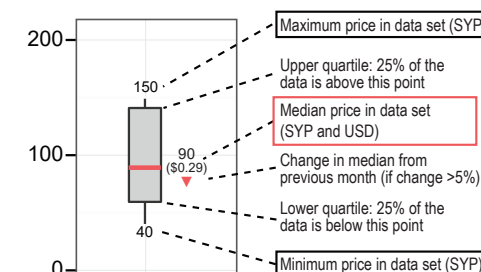
The median cost of SMEB water (4,500L) cost decreased from the last month by 1,014 (-28%) to 2,565 SYP/4,500L from 3,579 SYP/4,500L. Over the last 6 months, the cost increased by 221 SYP (8%) from 2,786 SYP/4,500L. In April, assessed communities in Idlib, Kafr Takharim, and A'az

sub-districts reported the highest median values at 4,500, 3,750 and 3,600 SYP/4,500L, respectively.

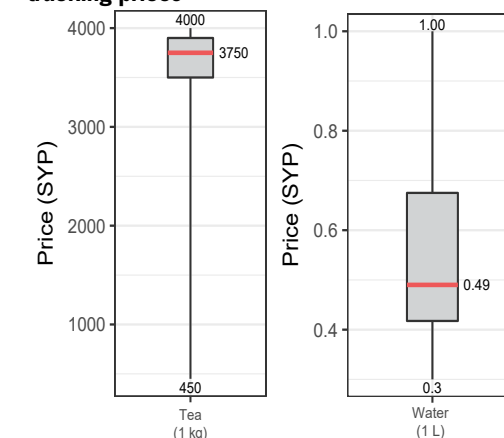
MOBILE DATA

The median SMEB phone data cost increased by 62 SYP (12%) to 562 from 500 SYP/gb. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 62 SYP (-12%) from 500 SYP/gb in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Lattakia, A'az, and Salqin sub-districts reported the highest median values at 4,000, 1,000 and 1,000 SYP/gb, respectively.

How to read a box plot

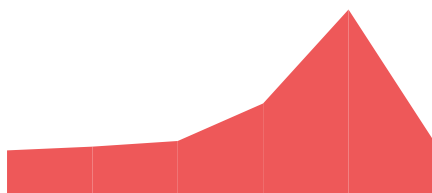


Spread of cheapest reported tea and water trucking prices



Median cheapest kerosene prices (SYP)

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

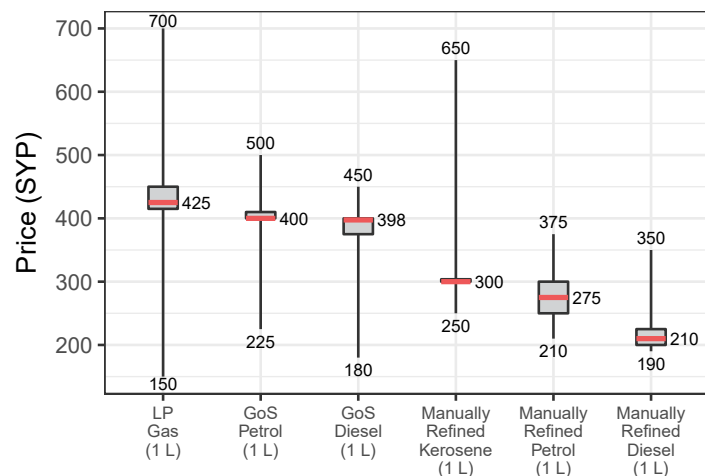


FUEL

The median SMEB cooking fuel (kerosene 25L) cost decreased from March by 7,500 SYP (-50%) to 7,500 SYP/25L from 15,000 SYP/25L. Compared to 6 months previous, the cost was unchanged from October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Dana, Sarmin, and Idlib sub-districts reported the highest median values at 15,938, 8,750 and 8,750 SYP/25L, respectively.

The median cheapest prices of diesel refined manually and by the Government of Syria decreased from March by 337 (-61%) and 210 SYP (-35%) to 212 and 390 SYP/L, respectively.

Spread of cheapest reported fuel prices



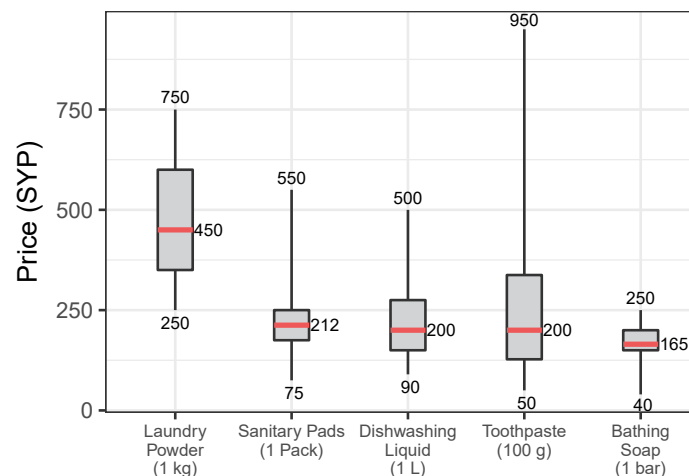
The median cheapest prices of petrol refined manually and by the Government of Syria decreased from March by 136 (-34%) to 263 SYP/L and 150 SYP (-27%) to 400 SYP/L, respectively.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION ITEMS

The median SMEB hygiene item component (bathing soap 12 bars, laundry/dish soap 3kg, sanitary pads 4 10-packs, toothpaste 200g) cost decreased from March by less than 5% to 4,466 from 4499 SYP. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 284 SYP (6%) from 4,750 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Qourqeena, Zarbah, and Lattakia sub-districts reported the highest median values.

The median cheapest price of sanitary pads increased by 18 SYP (9%) to 218 SYP/10-pack from 200 SYP/10-pack in April. However, A'zaz sub-district reported a 50% increase. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 31 SYP (-12%) from 250 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Idlib, Sarmin, and Khan Shaykun sub-districts reported the highest median values at 550, 550 and 400 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 a 7.5% float decreased this month by 9,933 SYP (-14%) to 58,730 SYP (128 USD) from 68,664 SYP. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 3,303 SYP (-5%) from 62,034 SYP in October 2017.

Complete SMEBs could be assembled for 28 of the 30 assessed sub-districts in northwest Syria.

Selected sub-district's complete SMEB in April

Most expensive

Dana (69,337 SYP, 151.36 USD)
A'zaz (66,505 SYP, 145.18 USD)
Ehsem (65,597 SYP, 143.205 USD)

Least expensive

Madiq Castle (53,748 SYP, 117.33 USD)
Ma'arrat An Nu'man (51,500 SYP, 112.42 USD)
Heish (50,918 SYP, 111.155 USD)

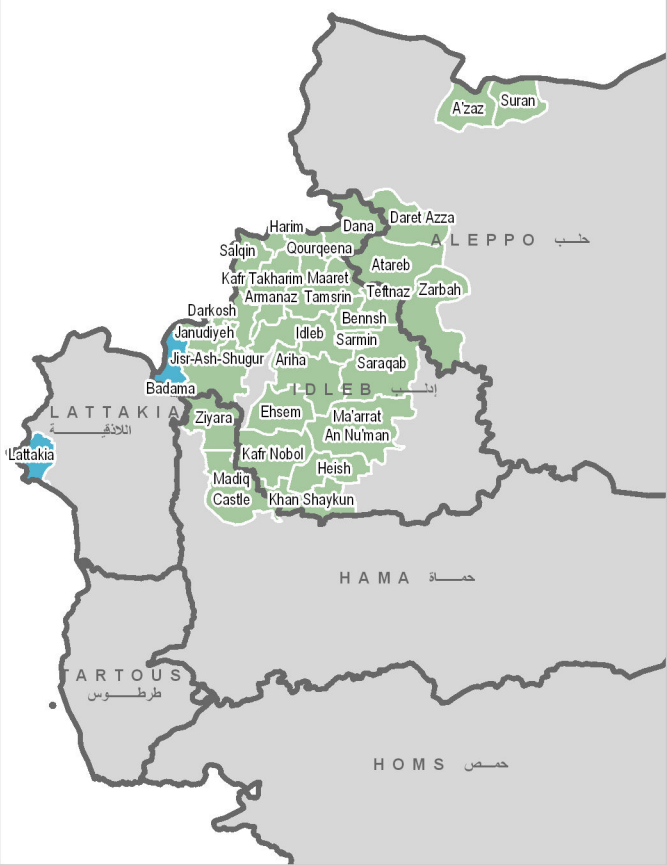
Sub-districts with incomplete SMEB data in April

Sub-district	Missing items
Lattakia	Water
Badama	

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 Nobol (▼ -24%)
Darkosh (▼ -23%)
Jisr-Ash-Shugur (▼ -21%)

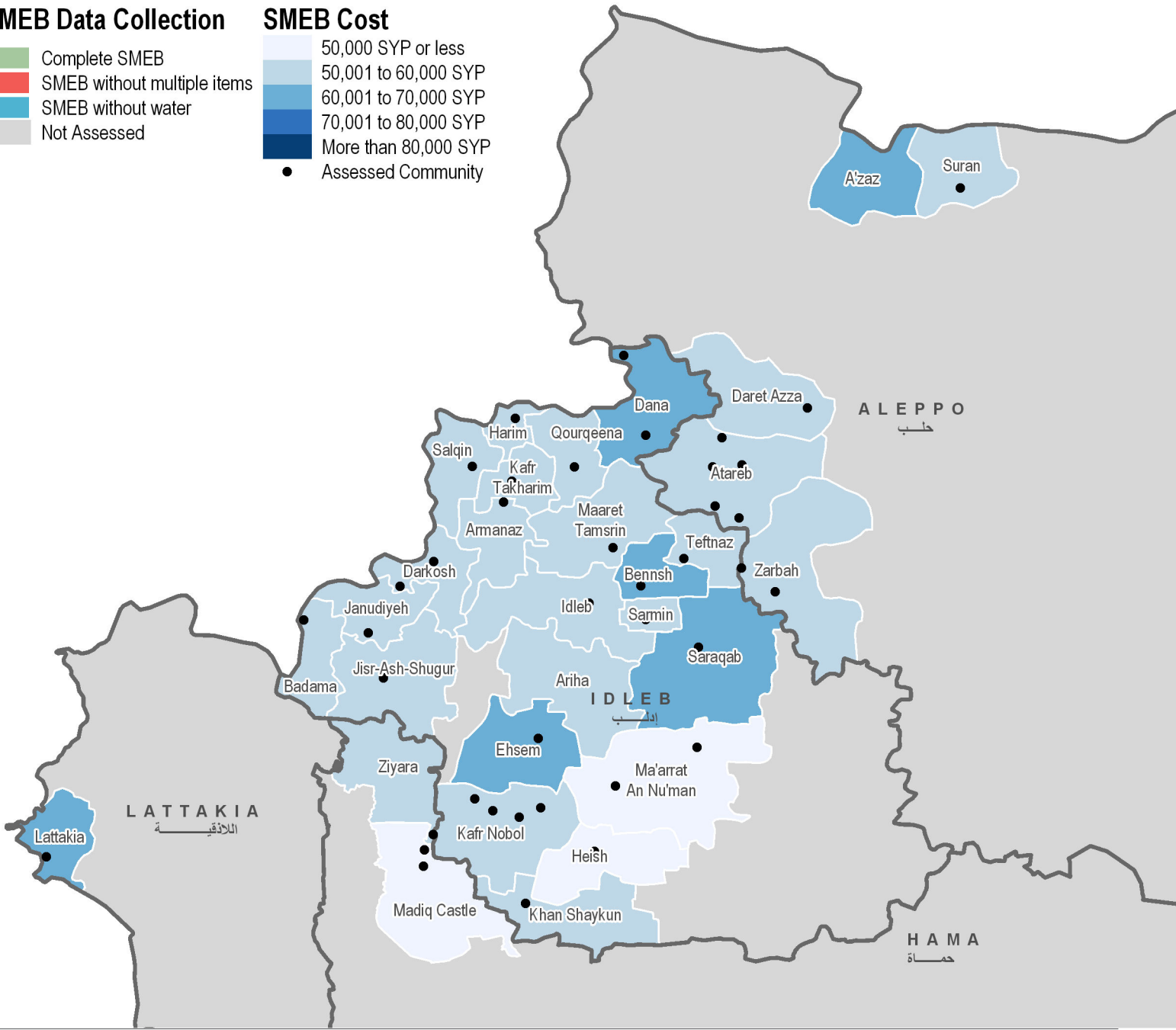


SMEB Data Collection

- Complete SMEB
- SMEB without multiple items
- SMEB without water
- Not Assessed

SMEB Cost

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



CURRENCY

Median cheapest exchange rates

448
USD/SYP
▼16

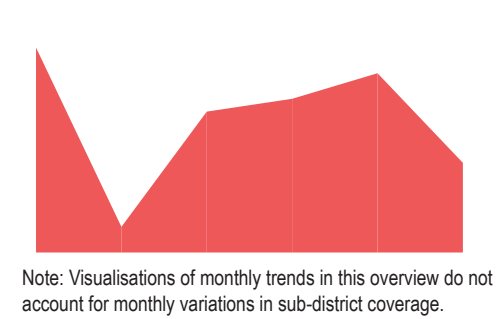
110
TRY/SYP
▼11

607
JOD/SYP*
▼18

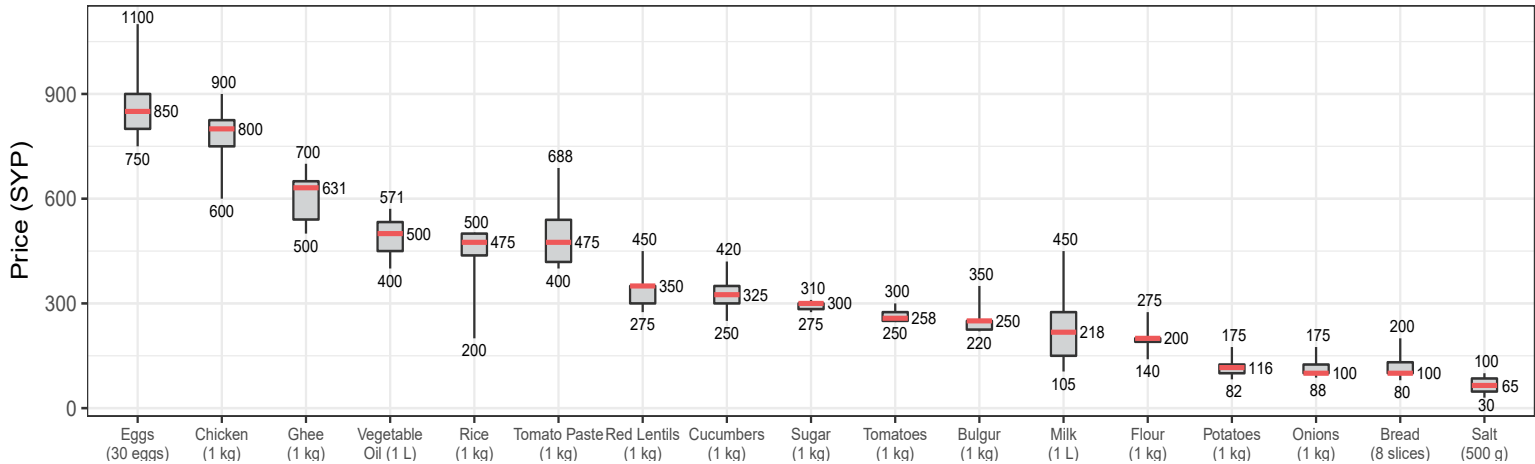
* Menbij was the only sub-district to report this exchange rate.

Median cheapest SYP/USD exchange rate

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
478	424	455	462	464	448



Spread of cheapest reported food prices



FOOD ITEMS

The median cost of food items in the SMEB (see page 1) cost decreased from March by less than 5% to 42,550 SYP from 42,774 SYP. While most sub-districts reported increases or decreases of 5%, Al-Malikeyyeh sub-district reported a 9% increase. Over the last 6 months, the median cost of food items decreased by less than 5% from 43,334 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Al-Malikeyyeh, Jawadiyah, and Tal Tamer sub-districts reported the highest values median values at 46,638, 46,451, and 45,350 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of starch food items in the SMEB (bread 37kg, bulgur 15kg, rice 19kg) cost decreased from the last month by less than 5% to 16,950 SYP from 17,095 SYP. However, Jawadiyah sub-district reported a 41% increase. Over the last 6 months, the cost of starch foods has gradually increased by 1,250 SYP (+8%) from 15,700 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Jawadiyah, Al-Malikeyyeh, and Tal Tamer sub-districts reported the highest median values at 20,450, 20,110 and 19,700 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of fresh vegetables in the SMEB (cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, onions 12kg) cost increased from 2,221 SYP in the last month by 231 SYP (10%) to 2,452 SYP in April 2018. Over the

last 6 months, the cost of vegetables increased by 435 SYP (+21%) from 2,017 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Al-Hasakeh, Ya'robiyah, and Quamishli sub-districts 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 14,850 SYP from 14,803 SYP. Over the past 6 months, the cost of proteins and pulses decreased by 2,186 SYP (-13%) from 17,036 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Tal Hmis, Suluk, and Ya'robiyah sub-districts reported the highest median values at 16,650, 16,650 and 16,050 SYP, respectively.

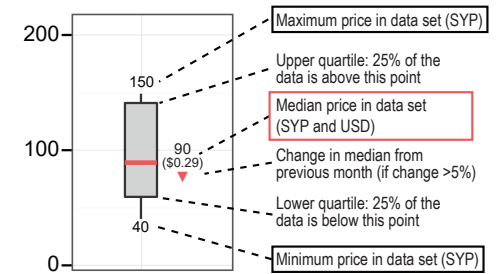
WATER

The median cost of SMEB water, among sub-districts where water trucking is common, decreased from the last month by 293 SYP (-10%) to 2,542 SYP/4,500L from 2,835 SYP/4,500L. Over the last 6 months, the cost of SMEB water decreased by 295 SYP (-10%) from 2,838 SYP/4,500L. In April, assessed communities in Ein Issa, Menbij, and Lower Shyookh sub-districts reported the highest median values at 5,175, 3,015 and 2,835 SYP/4,500L, respectively.

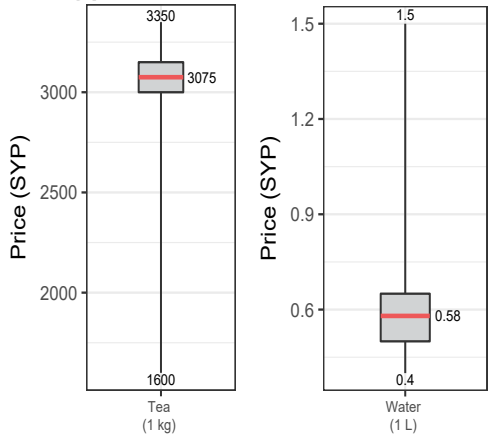
MOBILE DATA

The median SMEB phone data cost increased from the last month by 560 SYP (28%) to 2,560 from 2,000 SYP/gb. Over the last 6 months, the cost of SMEB phone data decreased by 440 SYP (-14%) from 3,000 SYP/gb in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Ar-Raqqa, Qahtaniyyeh, and Jurneyyeh sub-districts reported the highest median values at 5,120, 4,00 and 4,000 SYP/gb, respectively.

How to read a box plot

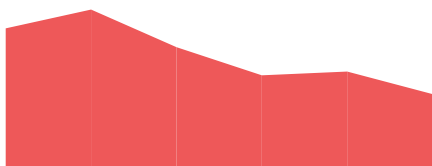


Spread of cheapest reported tea and water trucking prices



Median cheapest kerosene prices (SYP)

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
175	175	140	125	125	100



FUEL

The median SMEB cooking fuel (kerosene 25L) cost increased from March by 312 SYP (-10%) to 2,625 SYP/25L from 2,937 SYP/25L. Qahtaniyyeh sub-district, on the other hand, reported increases of 36%. Over the last 6 months, the cost of SMEB cooking fuel decreased by 1,125 SYP (-30%) from 3,750 SYP/25L in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Jawadiyah, Qahtaniyyeh, and Jurneyyeh sub-districts reported the highest median values at 5,000, 3,750 and 2,875 SYP/25L, respectively.

The median cheapest prices of diesel refined manually increased by less than 5% to 60 SYP/L and diesel refined by the Government of Syria

increased by 7.5 SYP/L (17%) to 50 SYP/L. Menbij sub-district reported the highest median price of 160 SYP/L.

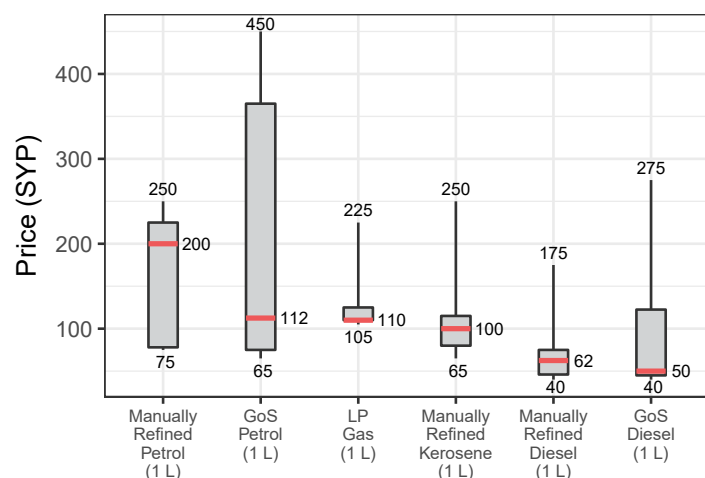
The median cheapest prices of petrol refined manually decreased by 12 SYP (-7%) to 150 SYP/L and refined by the Government of Syria increased by 37 SYP (49%) to 112 SYP/L. Menbij sub-district reported the highest average price of 264 SYP/L.

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 decreased by less than 5% to 5,180 SYP from 5,264 SYP from March. Over the last 6 months, the cost of SMEB hygiene component fell by less than 5% from 4,950 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Tal Hmis Ya'robiyah, and Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh sub-districts reported the highest median values at 5,592, 5,475 and 5,325 SYP, respectively.

The median cheapest price of sanitary pads cost decreased from March by 18 (-7%) to 218 from 237 SYP/10-pack. Over the last 6 months, the cost fell by less than 5% from 225 SYP/10-pack in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Qahtaniyyeh, Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh, and Al-

Spread of cheapest reported sanitation and hygiene item prices



AVAILABILITY ISSUES

None confirmed

Hasakeh sub-districts reported the highest median values at 330, 300 SYP and 275 SYP/10-pack, respectively.

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 58,416 SYP (138.96 USD) from 58,763 SYP. Over the past 6 months, the cost decreased by 3,839 SYP (-6%) from 62,255 SYP in October 2017.

Complete SMEBs could be assembled for 7 of the 19 assessed sub-districts in northeast Syria.

The median cost of a SMEB without water decreased by less than 5% from the last month to 56,898 SYP (127 USD) from 57,209 SYP. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by less than 5% from 59,358 SYP in October 2017.

SMEBs only without water could be assembled for 10 of the 19 assessed sub-districts in northeast Syria.

Selected sub-district's complete SMEB in April

Most expensive

Sarin (56,954 SYP, 127.12 USD)

Ain al Arab (58,416 SYP, 130.38 USD)

Lower Shyookh (58,090 SYP, 129.655 USD)

Least expensive

Ein Issa (64,632 SYP, 144.26 USD)

Suluk (59,3175 SYP, 132.39 USD)

Menbij (58,303 SYP, 130.134 USD)

Sub-districts with incomplete SMEBs in April

Sub-district	Missing items
All in Al-Hasakeh Governorate	Water Trucking
Tal Tamer	Cooking Fuel, Phone data
Tell Abid	Phone data

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

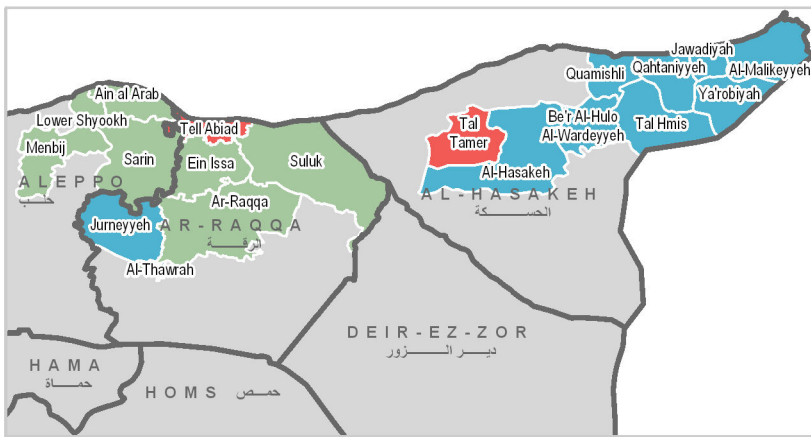
Largest changes in monthly SMEB costs*

Ar-Raqqa (▼ -11%)

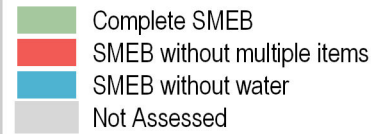
Lower Shyookh (▼ -5%)

Sarin (▼ -3%)

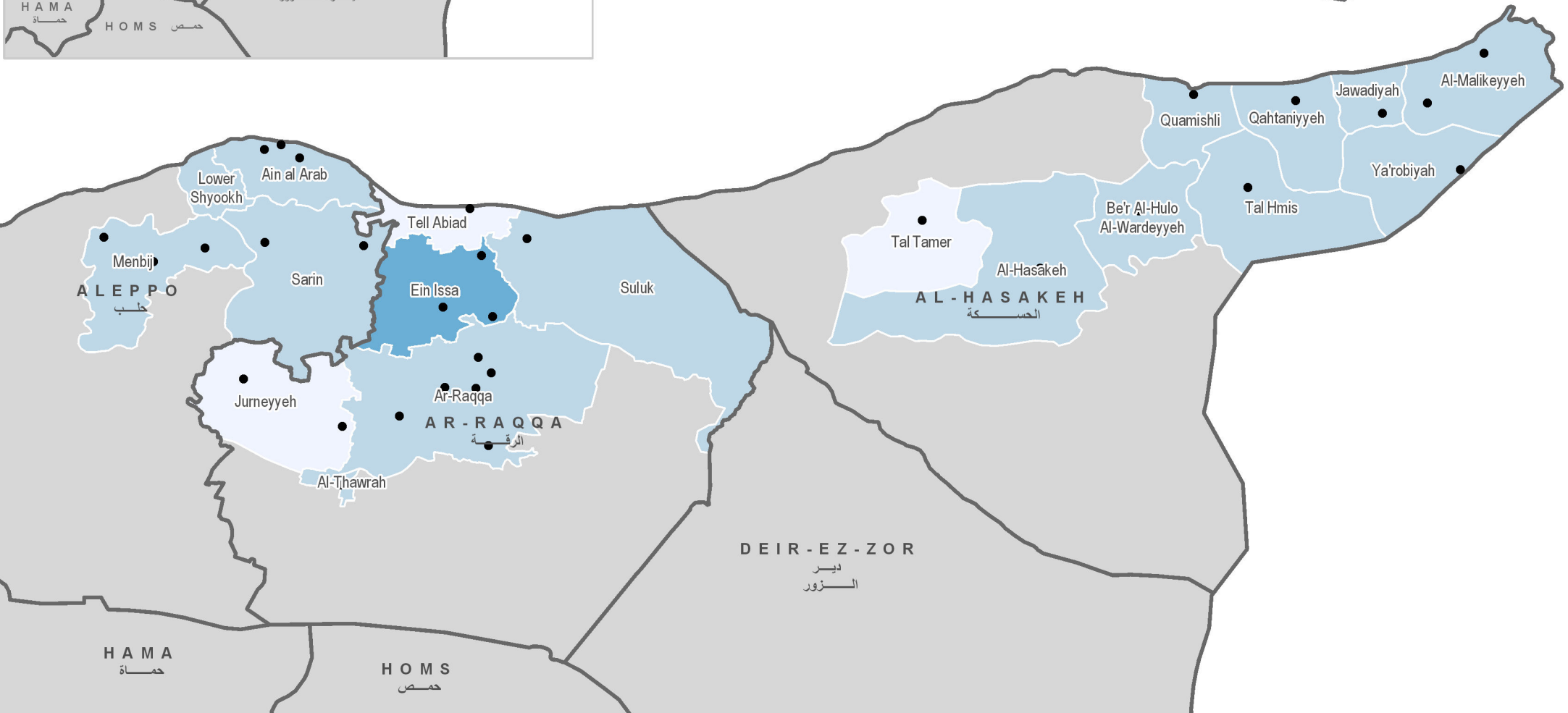
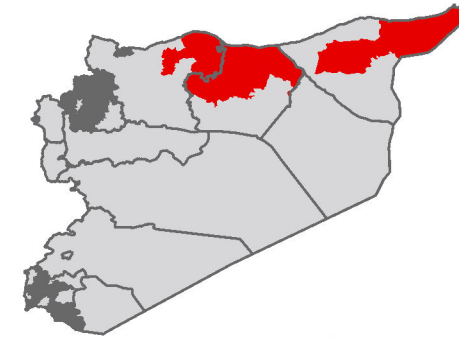
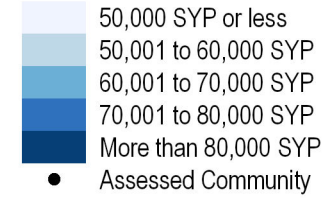
*Only for sub-districts with no change in SMEB composition in the previous round of data collection.



SMEB Data Collection



SMEB Cost



CURRENCY

Median cheapest exchange rates

447
USD/SYP
▼ 15

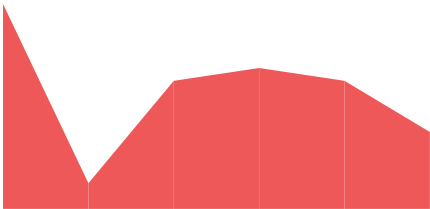
120
TRY/SYP
▼ 3

615
JOD/SYP
▼ 28

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

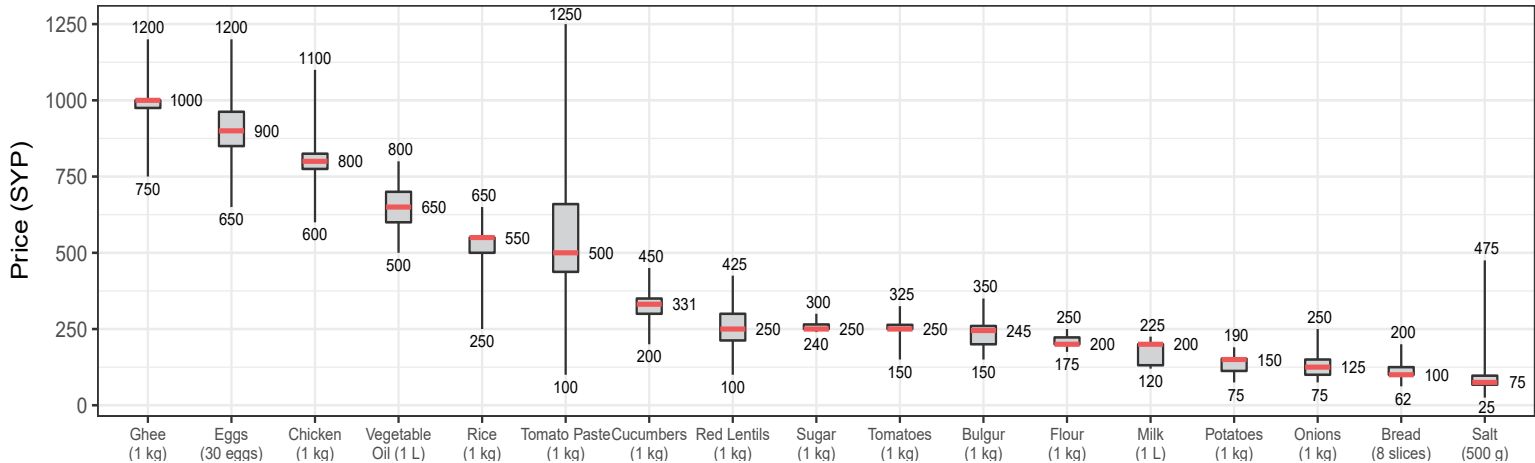
Median cheapest SYP/USD exchange rate

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
477	423	460	465	462	447



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

Spread of cheapest reported food item prices



FOOD ITEMS

The median SMEB food items component (see page 1) cost increased to 45,869 SYP by 2,773 (6%) from 43,095 SYP in March. All sub-districts reported an increase between 2% and 39%. Over the last 6 months, the cost of SMEB food decreased by less than 5% from 44,401 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in As-Sanamayn, Mzeireb, and Busra Esh-Sham sub-districts reported the highest median values at 51,625, 47,695, and 46,917 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of starch food items in the SMEB (bread 37kg, bulgur 15kg, rice 19kg) cost increased by 1,575 SYP (9%) to 18,462 SYP from 16,887 SYP in March. However, Jasim reported an increase of approximately 7,422 SYP (80%) from March. Over the last 6 months, the cost of SMEB starch foods increased by 1,110 SYP (6%) from 17,352 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Mzeireb, Fiq, and As-Sanamayn sub-districts reported the highest median values at 21,600, 19,750 and 19,425 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of fresh vegetables in the SMEB (cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, onions 12kg) cost increased from the last month by 236 SYP (10%) to 2,572 SYP from 2,336 SYP. All sub-districts reported increases, except Quneitra sub-

district, which reported a 3% decrease. Over the last 6 months, the cost of SMEB vegetables increased by 881 SYP (+52%) from 1,691 SYP in October 2017. Dar'a, Busra Esh-Sham, and Khan Arnaba sub-districts reported the highest median values at 2,914, 2,888 and 2,753 SYP, respectively.

The median cost of protein and pulses in the SMEB (chicken 6kg, eggs 6kg, lentils 15kg) cost increased from the last month by 1,050 SYP (8%) to 13,950 SYP from 12,900 SYP. The largest decrease was observed in Jasim. Over the last 6 months, the cost of SMEB proteins and pulses decreased by 1,678 SYP (-10%) from 15,628 SYP in October 2017. As-Sanamayn, Quneitra, and Mseifra sub-districts reported the highest median values at 18,375, 15,488 and 14,925 SYP, respectively.

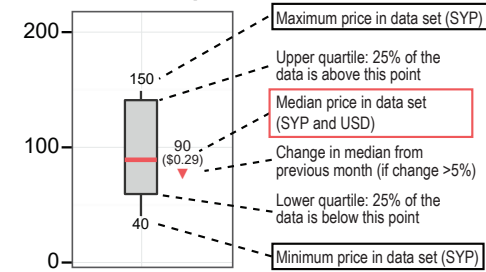
WATER

The median SMEB water cost increased from the last month by less than 5% to 2,266 SYP/4,500L. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 345 SYP (-13%) from 2,612 SYP/4,500L. In April, assessed communities in Al-Khashniyyeh, Mseifra, and As-Sanamayn sub-districts reported the highest median values at 2,689, 2,644 and 2,475 SYP/4,500L, respectively.

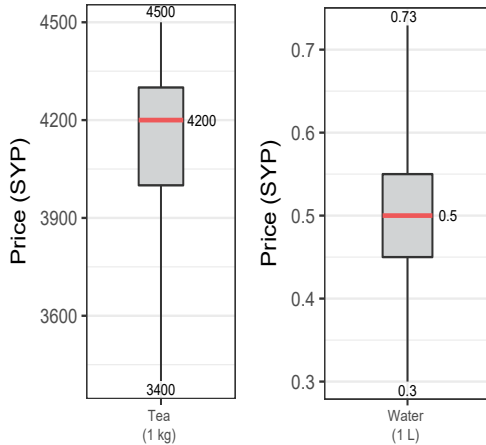
MOBILE DATA

The median SMEB phone data cost decreased from the last month by 125 SYP (-6%) to 1,875 SYP/gb from 2,000 SYP/gb. Over the last 6 months, the cost increased by 850 SYP (31%) from 2,725 SYP/gb in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Kherbet Ghazala, Mseifra, and Busra Esh-Sham sub-districts reported the highest median values at 4,675, 3,675 and 3,200 SYP/gb, respectively.

How to read a box plot

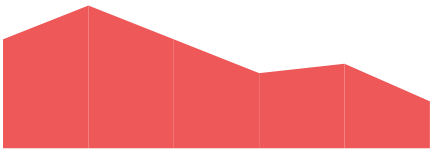


Spread of cheapest reported tea and water trucking prices



Median cheapest LPG price (SYP)

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
375	425	371	330	350	277

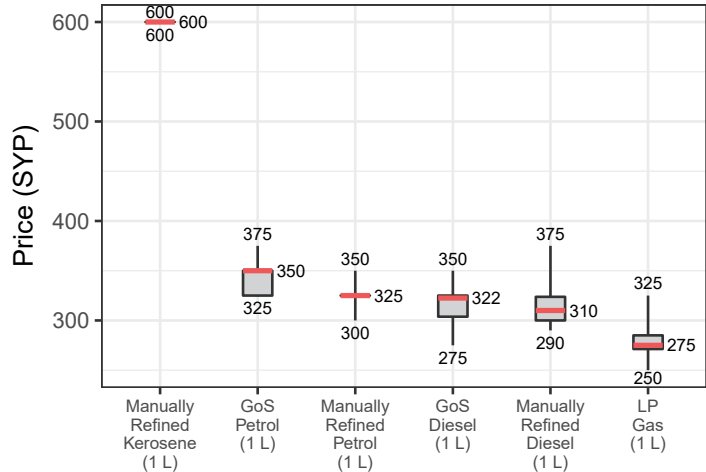


FUEL

The median SMEB cooking fuel (LP gas 25L) cost decreased from March by 1,813 SYP (-20%) to 6,937 SYP/25L from 8,750 SYP/25L. The greatest decrease was observed in Al-Khashniyyeh sub-district with an decrease of 2,843 SYP (-28%). Over the last 6 months, the cost increased by 3,468 SYP (-33%) from 10,406 SYP/25L in October 2017. In April, As-Sanamayn, Quneitra, and Khan Arnaba sub-districts reported the highest median values with 8,125, 7,250 and 7,125 SYP/25L, respectively.

The median cheapest prices of Government of Syria refined diesel decreased from the last month by less than 5% to 325 SYP/L.

Spread of cheapest reported fuel prices



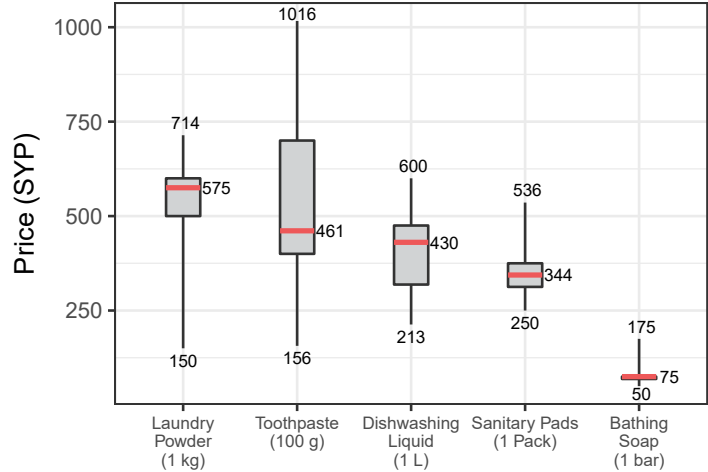
The median cheapest prices of petrol refined by Government of Syria refined petrol was unchanged at 350 SYP/L.

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 decreased from March by less than 5% to 4,647 SYP from 4,841 SYP. Over the last 6 months, the cost of SMEB hygiene items decreased by less than 5% from 4,797 SYP in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Busra Esh-Sham, Kherbet Ghazala, and Al-Khashniyyeh sub-districts reported the highest median values at 5,455, 5,313 and 5,285 SYP, respectively.

The median cheapest price of sanitary pads increased from March by less than 5% to 347 SYP/10-pack. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by 39 SYP (-10%) from 386 SYP/10-pack in October 2017. In April, assessed communities in Mseifra, Jizeh, and Quneitra sub-districts reported the highest median values at 438, 424 and 394 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 increased by less than 5% to 66,507 SYP (148.78 USD) from 65,668 SYP in March. Over the last 6 months, the cost decreased by less than 5% from 69,681 SYP in October 2017.

Complete SMEBs could be assembled in all assessed sub-districts (15) in south Syria.

Selected sub-district's complete SMEB in April
Most expensive

- As-Sanamayn (72,172 SYP, 161.45 USD)
- Mseifra (69,922 SYP, 156.41 USD)
- Busra Esh-Sham (69,7345 SYP, 155.99 USD)

Least expensive

- Jizeh (62,321 SYP, 139.41 USD)
- Jasim (61,1505 SYP, 136.79 USD)
- Kherbet Ghazala (58,992 SYP, 131.96 USD)

Sub-districts with incomplete SMEBs in April

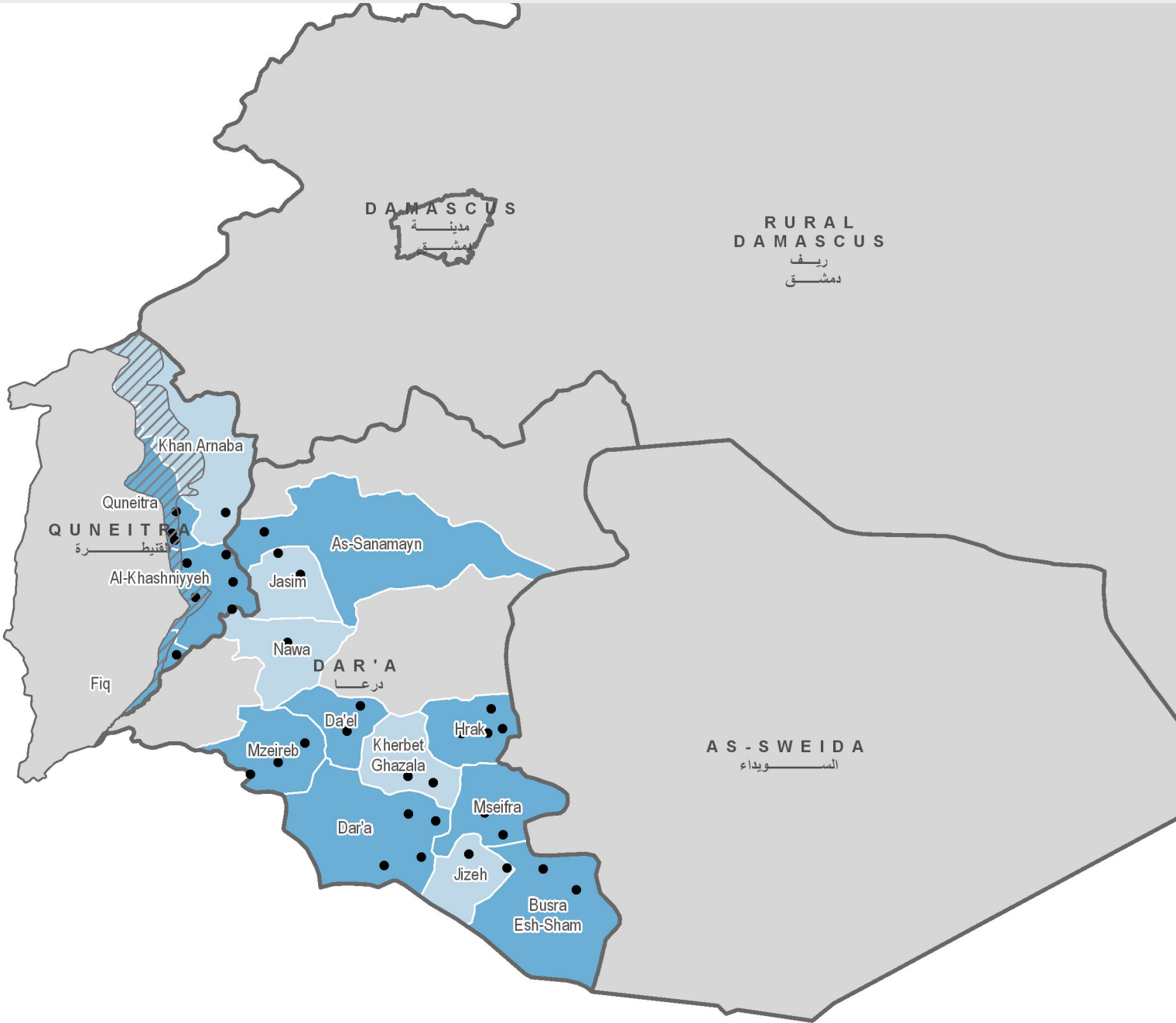
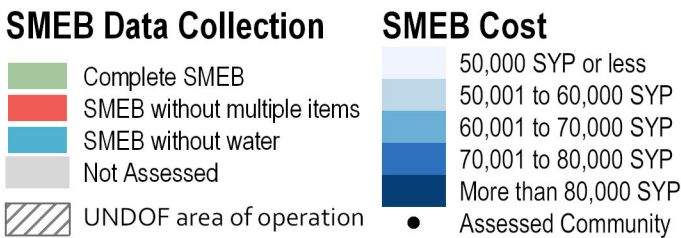
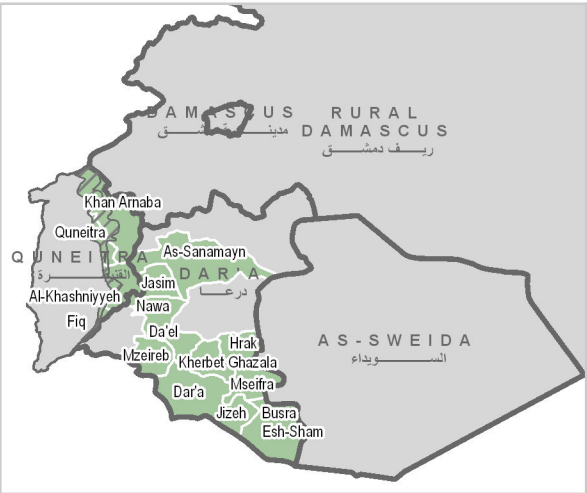
Sub-district	Missing items
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Note: A lack of data for a SMEB item does not necessarily imply a shortage of that item.

Largest changes in monthly SMEB costs*

- Jasim (▲ 20%)
- Hrak (▲ 8%)
- Busra Esh-Sham (▲ 4%)

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



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.

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 sub-district. 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. 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 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 one.

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).