

NORTHEAST SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 11-21 May 2020

INTRODUCTION

To inform humanitarian cash programming, REACH in partnership with the northeast (NES) and northwest (NWS) Syria Cash Working Group (CWG) conducts monthly Market Monitoring Exercises in northern 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 11-21 May 2020) by CHF, Concern, DCA, HRD, Samaritan's Purse, REACH, IRC, Mercy Corps, NPA, DAN, KR, and People In Need.

The accompanying [data from the month of May](#) 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

Coverage and data collection dates

This month, REACH and partners covered 28 sub-districts in northeast Syria for the Market Monitoring Exercise, including approximately 1,198 individual shops. Dotted lines in the graphs indicate lack of data for the months of October and November 2019. In light of the rapid depreciation of the Syrian Pound (SYP) and resulting market disruption, prices should be seen as representative only of the markets and dates where and when information was collected (11-21 May). Data collection dates in May were extended for the month of Ramadan.

Highest SMEB cost recorded under northeast Market Monitoring Exercise

In May 2020, the value of the regional SMEB reached 148,705 SYP / 92 United States Dollars (USD), increasing by 20% since April and setting the highest price recorded by the Market Monitoring Exercise in NES. While the SMEB continued to rise in SYP, in USD the SMEB value decreased from 99 to 92 USD in May due to the further depreciation of the SYP against the USD (see below).

Continued sharp depreciation of the SYP against the USD

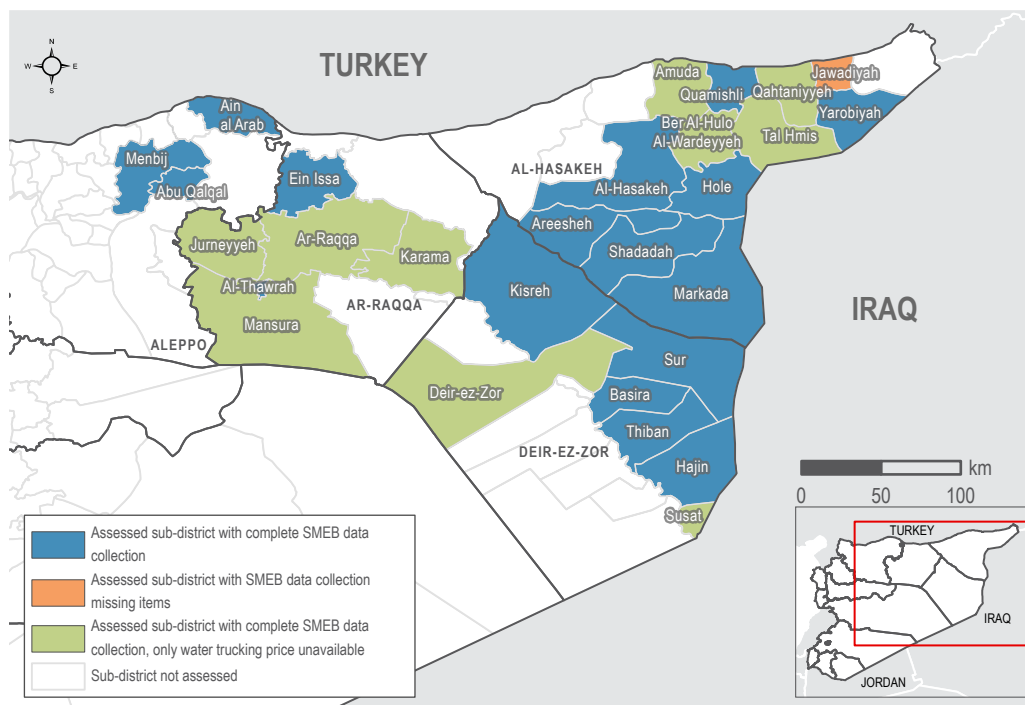
During data collection in NES in May 2020, the informal SYP/USD exchange rate continued to sharply increase across the region. The total median regional informal exchange rate was recorded at 1,675 SYP/USD, a 35% increase since last month.

The highest exchange rate was recorded at 1,845 SYP for 1 USD in Al-Hasakeh city. The continued financial crisis in Lebanon, international economic sanctions on Syria, COVID-19, decline in remittances into Syria, and internal disputes between actors in Syria are [reported as the main causes](#) for the sharp depreciation of the SYP informal exchange rate.

High quality fuels widely unavailable

This month, transport fuel prices in NES were recorded at a median of 259 SYP per litre. Moreover, high quality petrol and diesel were reportedly widely unavailable across NES during data collection. High quality petrol and diesel were reportedly unavailable by 54% and 67% of surveyed fuel vendors, respectively, which may further affect prices in the future.

ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE

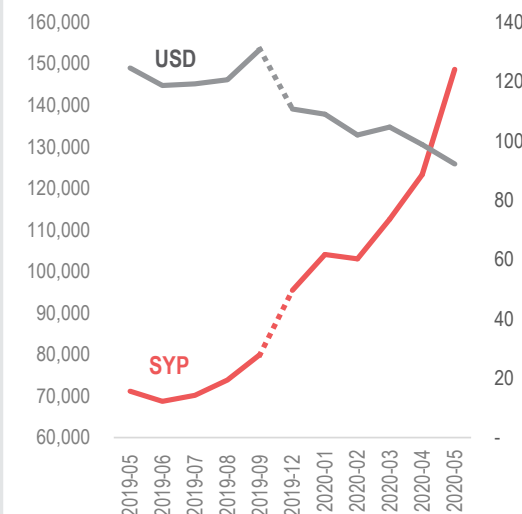


MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

148,705 SYP (92 USD)
NORTHEAST SYRIA - AL-HASAKEH, AL-RAQQA, DEIR-EZ-ZOR, EASTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds and US Dollars



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

**148,705 SYP
(92 USD)**

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

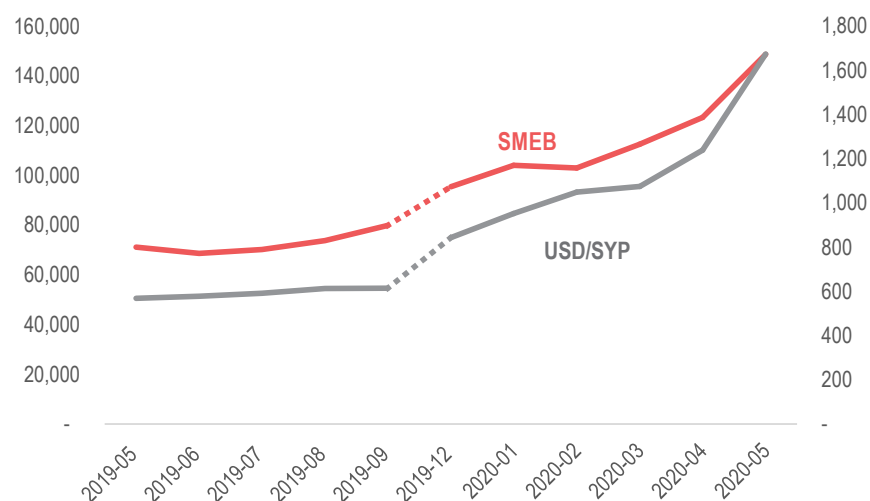
Food items prices sharply increased

This month, the regional SMEB food component increased by 25%, reaching a median of 111,865 SYP. Among vendors who reported supply challenges during the Market Monitoring Exercise, 92% reported price inflation as their main supply challenge (see page 11 for Market Functionality findings). Supply challenges combined with the collapsing currency may be contributing factors to the sharp increase in food prices in markets in NES. Bulk food items in particular have witnessed a significant increase since April. For example, prices for rice increased by 38%, red lentils by 46%, and chickpeas by 50% since April. As bulk food items are largely imported into NES, these sharp price increases may be due to the unavailability of transport fuel and the depreciation of the SYP. In contrast, the SMEB vegetable component decreased for the first time since July 2019 (by 29% since April) as the local vegetable production season in NES is ongoing.

Hygiene products prices increased

This month, the SMEB hygiene component increased by 26%, reaching a median of 11,926 SYP. The price of soap, used for handwashing and considered a preventive measure against COVID-19 by WHO, increased by 25% since April. Moreover, prices of dishwashing soap increased by 50% since April, sanitary pads by 41%, toothpaste by 36%, and laundry soap by 30%. As with bulk foods, hygiene items are largely imported into NES, and thus the unavailability of high-quality transport fuel and the depreciation of the SYP likely contribute to the sharp increase in prices. These price increases of hygiene items may also reflect an increased demand for these items under the COVID-19 environment. See page 12 for COVID-19-related findings.

SMEB COST (SYP) AND EXCHANGE RATE (USD/SYP), BY MONTH



MEDIAN SMEB COSTS & CHANGES*

Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	148,705	20%	56%	Jurneyyeh**	141,308	22%	NA
Abu Qalqal	138,715	NA	NA	Karama**	150,284	30%	NA
Ain al Arab	147,465	NA	68%	Kisreh	155,438	41%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	157,852	30%	NA	Mansura**	131,438	27%	NA
Al-Thawrah	145,020	NA	NA	Markada	136,176	6%	NA
Amuda**	145,965	NA	NA	Menbij	139,689	12%	36%
Areeshah	145,801	16%	NA	Qahtaniyyeh**	152,790	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa**	138,543	15%	66%	Qamishli	163,515	32%	NA
Basira	143,820	17%	NA	Shadadah	160,352	29%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	147,442	NA	68%	Sur	156,816	17%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh**	144,655	28%	NA	Susat**	136,643	19%	NA
Deir-ez-Zor**	144,655	28%	NA	Tal Hmis**	137,013	15%	NA
Ein Issa	146,171	28%	NA	Thiban	161,344	30%	NA
Hajin	154,340	30%	NA	Ya'robiyah	148,705	NA	NA
Hole	158,511	19%	NA				
Jawadiyah**	NA	NA	NA				

* For price and change calculations, only the communities within a sub-district with consistent coverage across months are included. This applies to all the following tables.

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

SUB-DISTRICTS WITH INCOMPLETE SMEB IN MAY

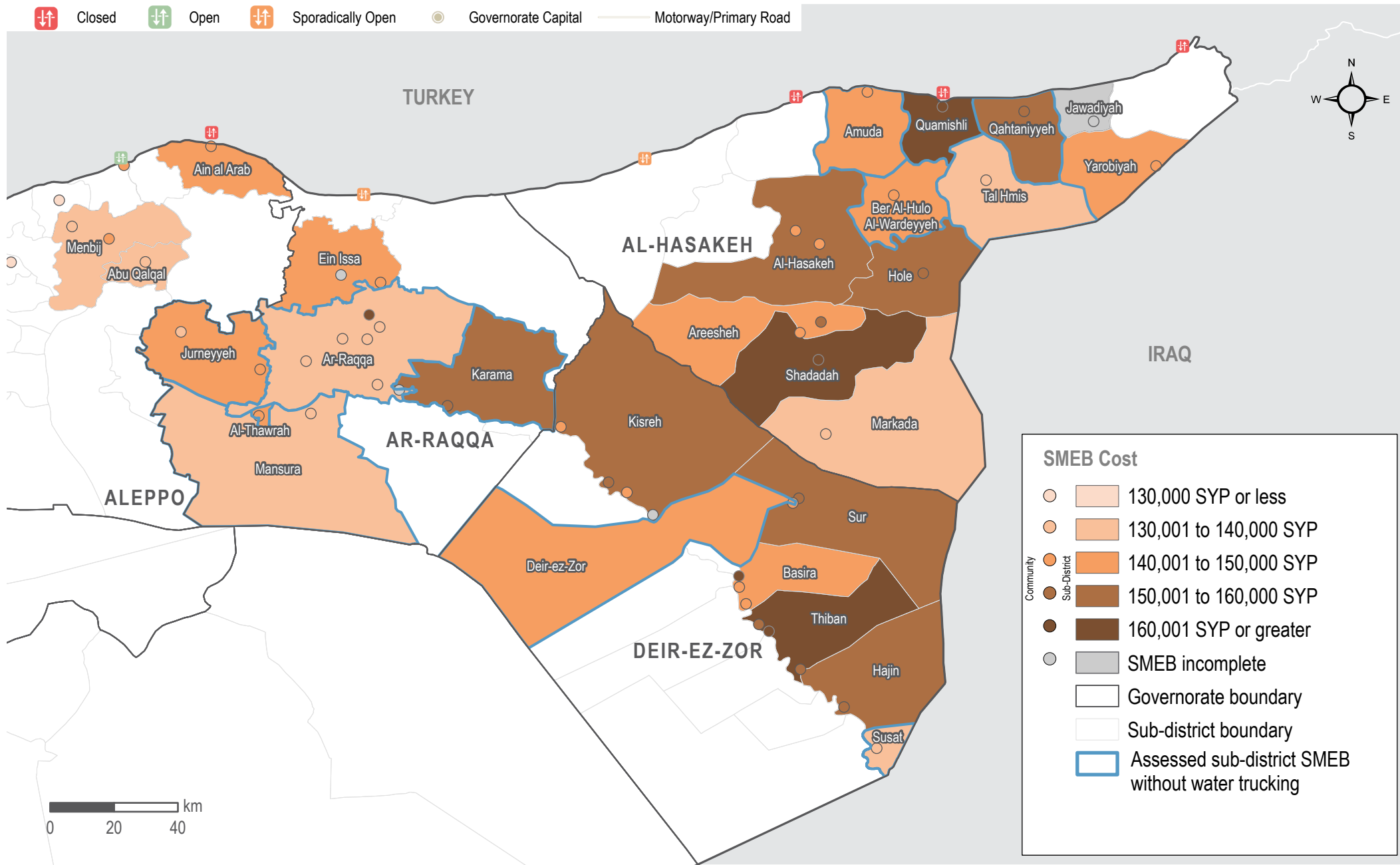
SUB-DISTRICT	MISSING ITEMS
Jawadiyah	Water trucking, Bulgur, Manually refined kerosene, LP gas

Note: Lack of data for a SMEB item does not necessarily imply a shortage.

NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST RANGES

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

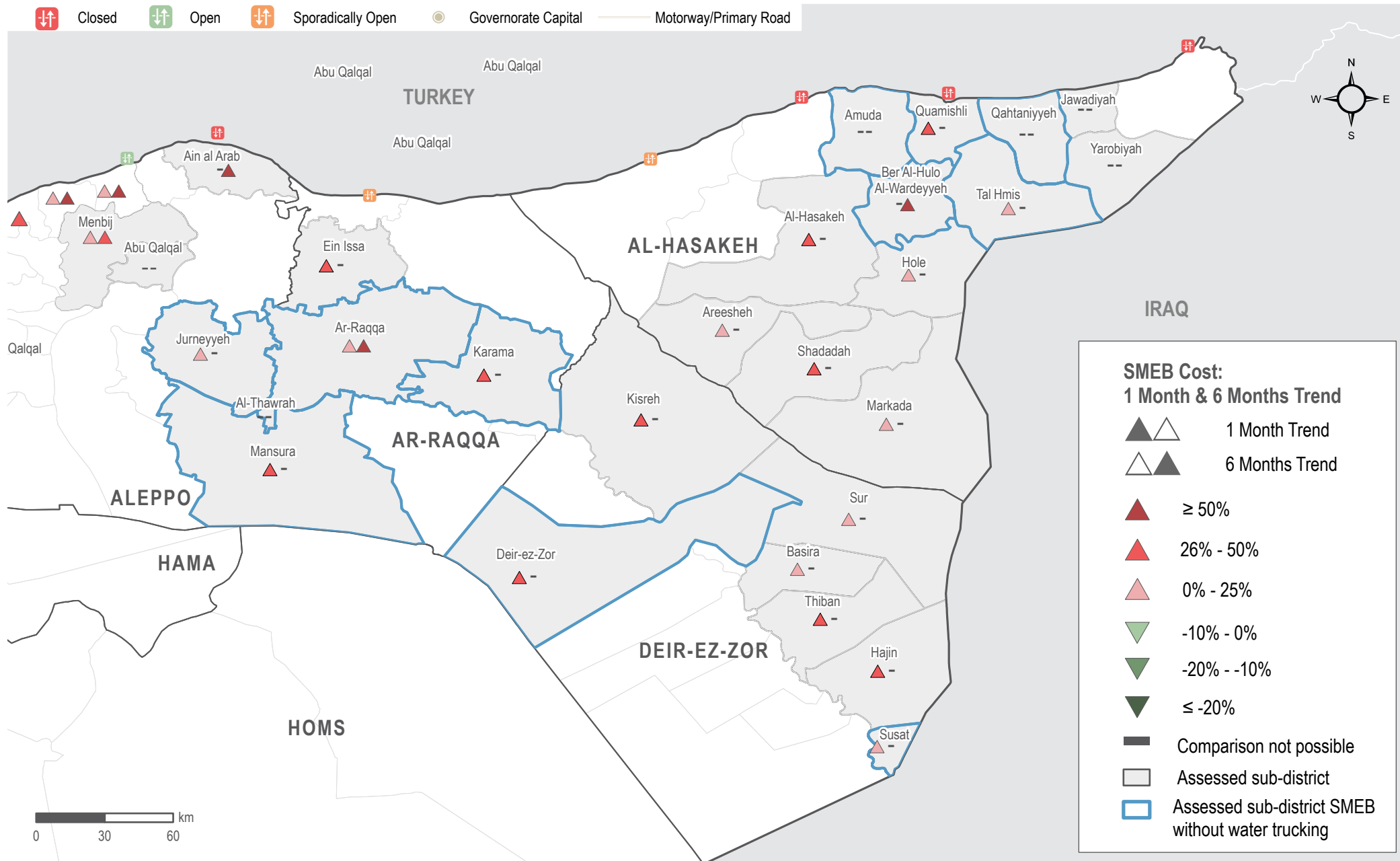
SMEB COST RANGES (SYP), BY SUB-DISTRICTS



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST RANGES

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

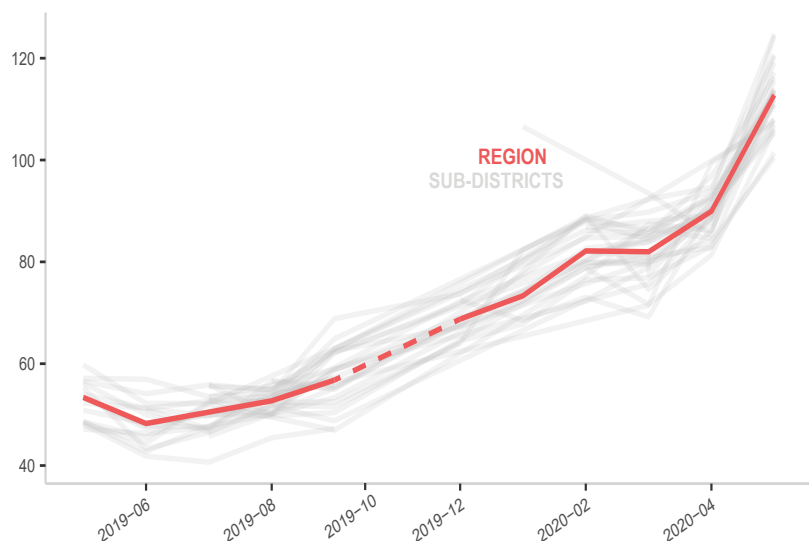
SMEB COST: ONE MONTH & SIX MONTHS TREND



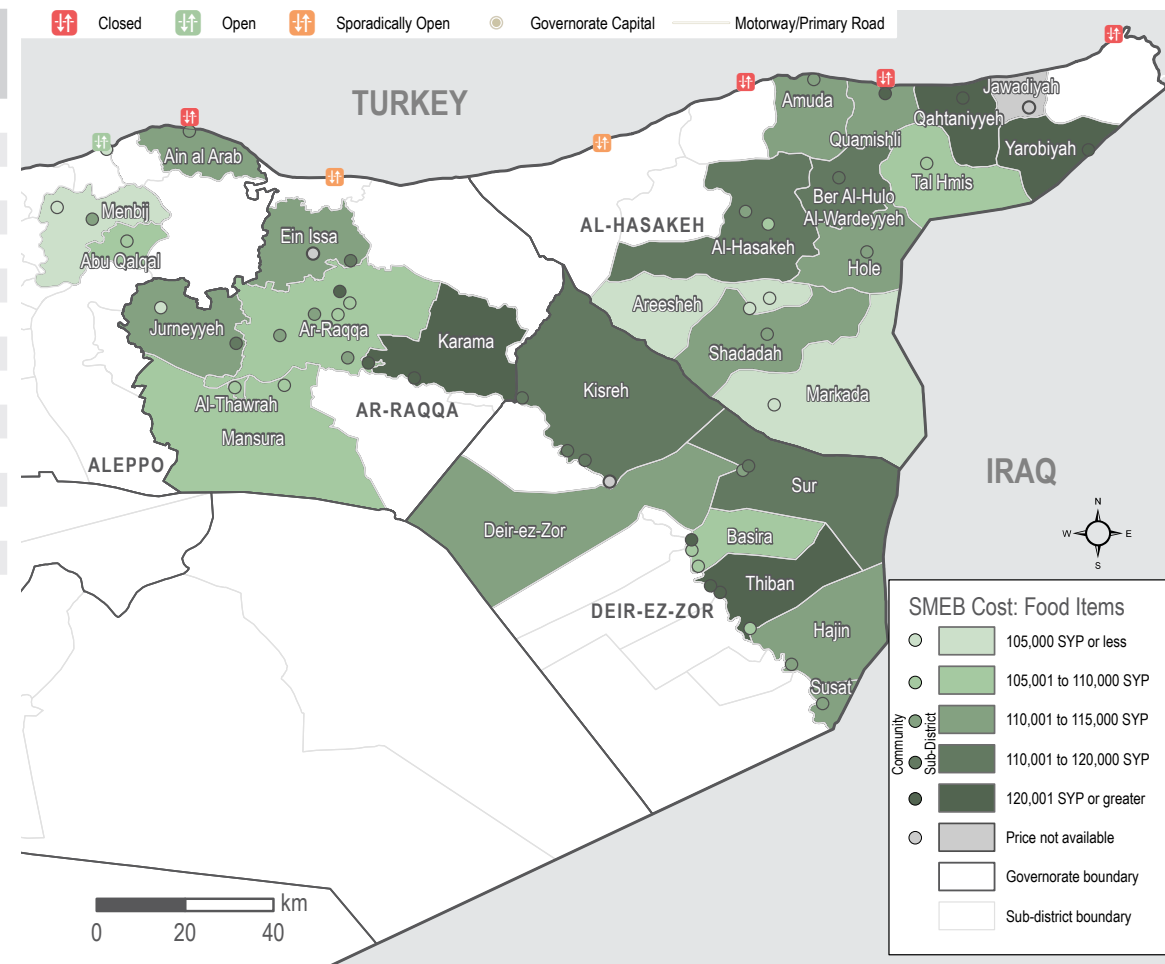
MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS See Page 1, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	111,865	25%	63%	Jurneyyeh	110,514	27%	NA
Abu Qalqal	107,270	NA	NA	Karama	120,375	32%	NA
Ain al Arab	111,865	35%	74%	Kisreh	116,238	37%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	116,688	29%	58%	Mansura	105,880	30%	NA
Al-Thawrah	107,950	18%	NA	Markada	100,475	19%	NA
Amuda	113,950	23%	69%	Menbij	104,269	15%	44%
Areeshah	102,536	20%	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	124,357	46%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	109,850	19%	71%	Quamishli	112,082	25%	52%
Basira	107,000	15%	NA	Shadadah	113,650	28%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	119,175	35%	73%	Sur	116,275	20%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	113,350	28%	NA	Susat	110,810	24%	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	113,350	28%	NA	Tal Hmis	107,912	8%	NA
Ein Issa	113,188	32%	NA	Thiban	125,638	34%	NA
Hajin	110,863	28%	NA	Ya'robiyah	120,675	28%	68%
Hole	110,977	20%	NA				
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA				

MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS, BY MONTH Thousand Syrian Pounds



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



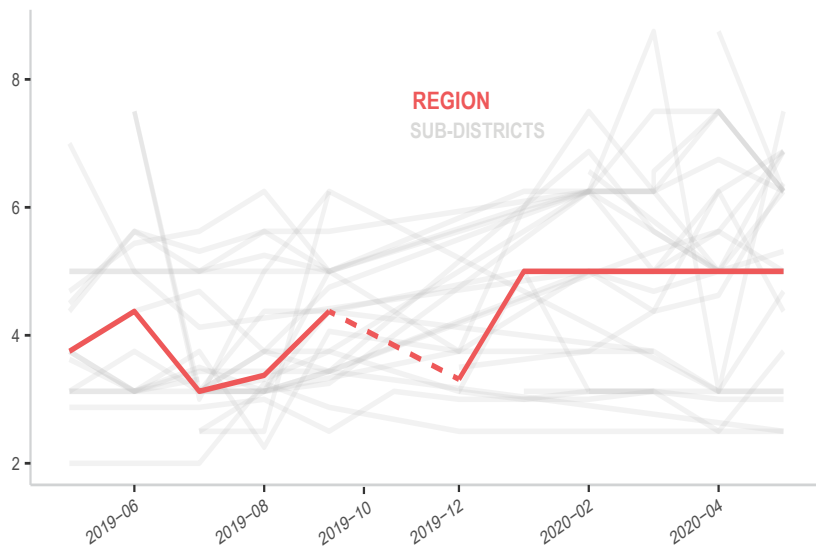
MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL PRICE

Kerosene 25L, Syrian Pounds

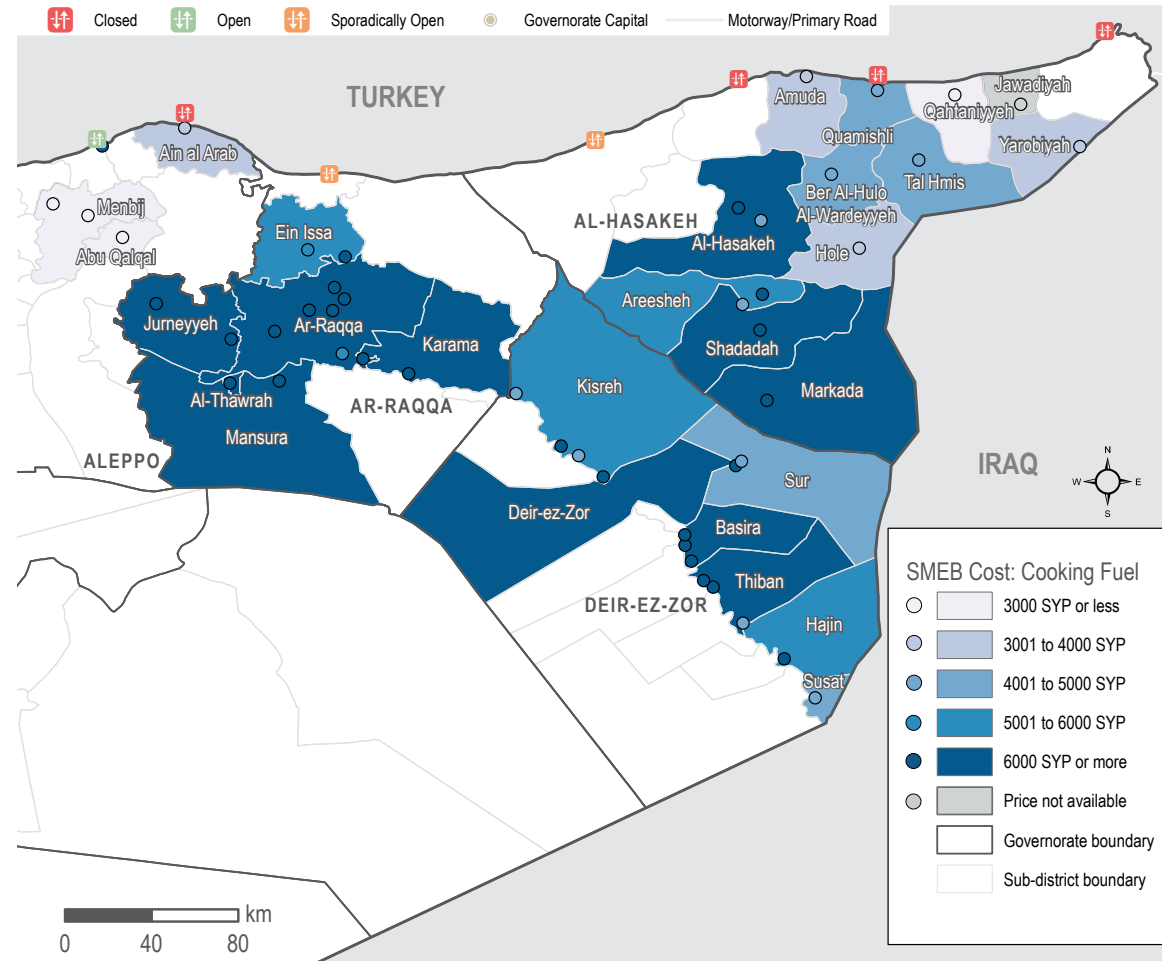
Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	5,625	13%	70%	Jurneyyeh	6,875	-8%	NA
Abu Qalqal	2,500	NA	NA	Karama	6,250	25%	NA
Ain al Arab	3,125	0%	4%	Kisreh	5,625	13%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	6,250	11%	67%	Mansura	7,500	140%	NA
Al-Thawrah	6,250	-7%	NA	Markada	6,250	-29%	NA
Amuda	3,125	NA	NA	Menbij	2,500	0%	-20%
Areeshah	5,625	9%	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	3,000	0%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	6,250	-17%	67%	Quamishli	4,375	-30%	25%
Basira	6,875	22%	NA	Shadadah	6,875	38%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	4,250	NA	13%	Sur	5,000	0%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	4,250	NA	13%	Susat	5,000	0%	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	6,375	38%	NA	Tal Hmis	4,688	50%	NA
Ein Issa	5,781	-23%	NA	Thiban	6,875	10%	NA
Hajin	5,625	13%	NA	Ya'robiyah	3,750	50%	50%
Hole	3,125	0%	NA				
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA				

MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB COOKING FUEL COST Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: HYGIENE ITEMS

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

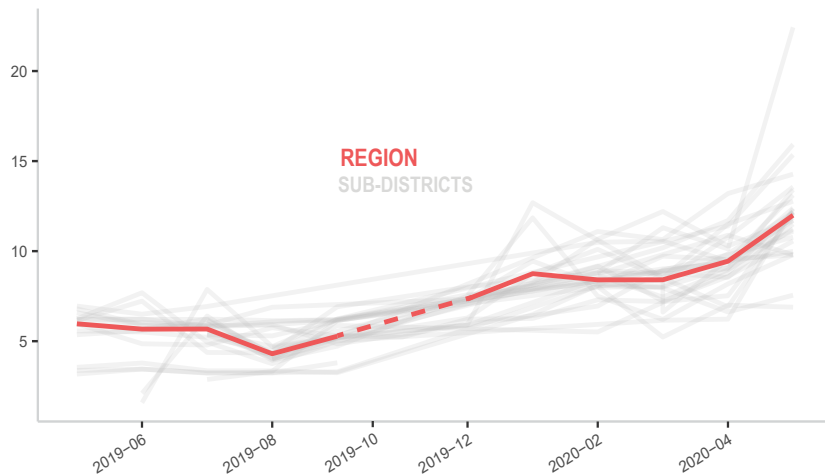
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' PRICE

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

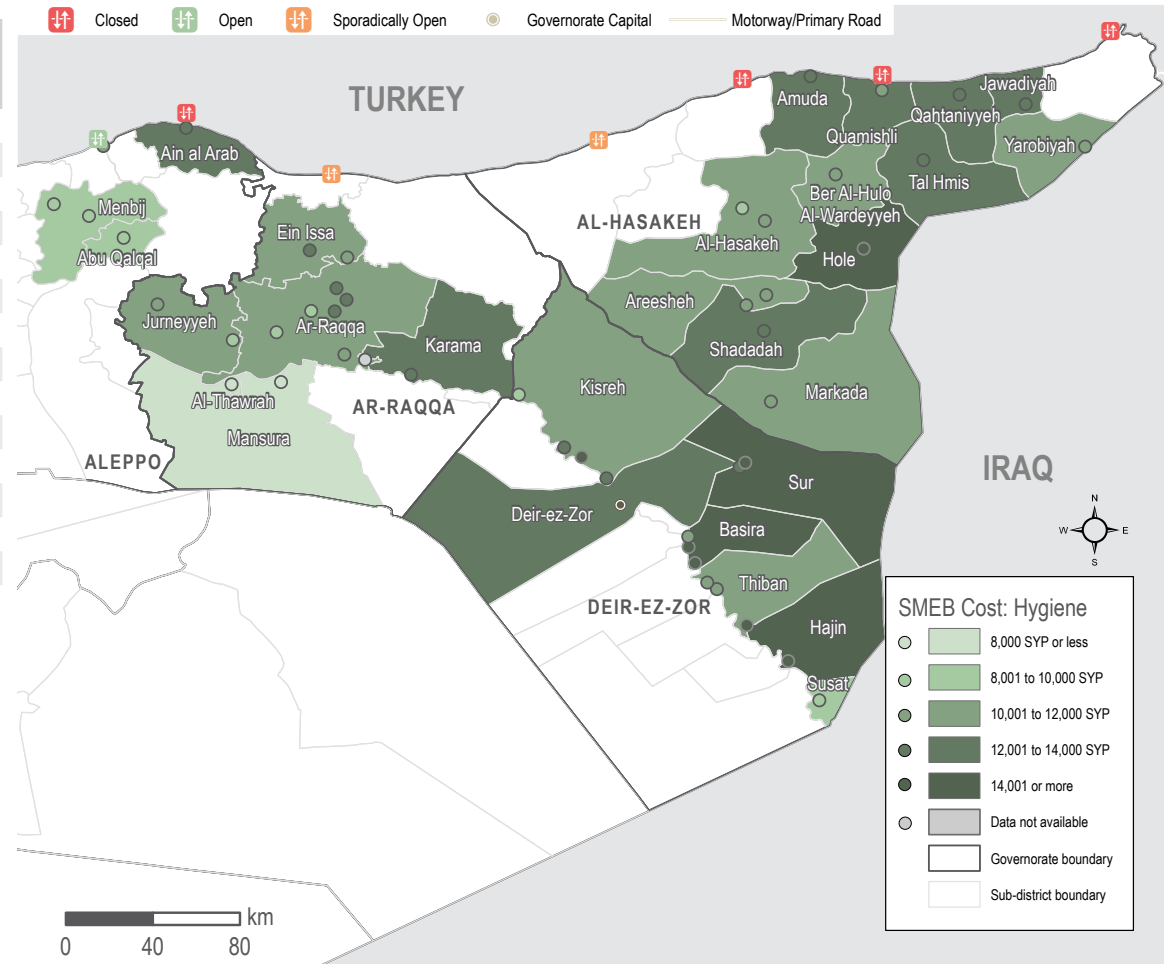
Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	11,926	26%	72%	Jurneyyeh	10,411	4%	NA
Abu Qalqal	9,986	NA	NA	Karama	12,150	23%	NA
Ain al Arab	12,192	62%	96%	Kisreh	11,981	14%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	11,152	21%	71%	Mansura	6,888	-2%	NA
Al-Thawrah	7,552	14%	NA	Markada	11,700	24%	NA
Amuda	13,566	26%	130%	Membij	9,600	17%	27%
Areeshah	11,600	31%	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	12,774	11%	116%
Ar-Raqqa	11,277	6%	54%	Quamishli	13,275	47%	66%
Basira	15,926	36%	NA	Shadadah	12,390	34%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	11,230	25%	50%	Sur	14,275	8%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	11,230	25%	50%	Susat	9,800	-10%	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	13,113	39%	NA	Tal Hmis	12,355	98%	NA
Ein Issa	11,410	13%	NA	Thiban	10,575	24%	NA
Hajin	22,429	122%	NA	Ya'robiyah	11,870	31%	57%
Hole	15,351	35%	NA				
Jawadiyah	12,118	75%	93%				

MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



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



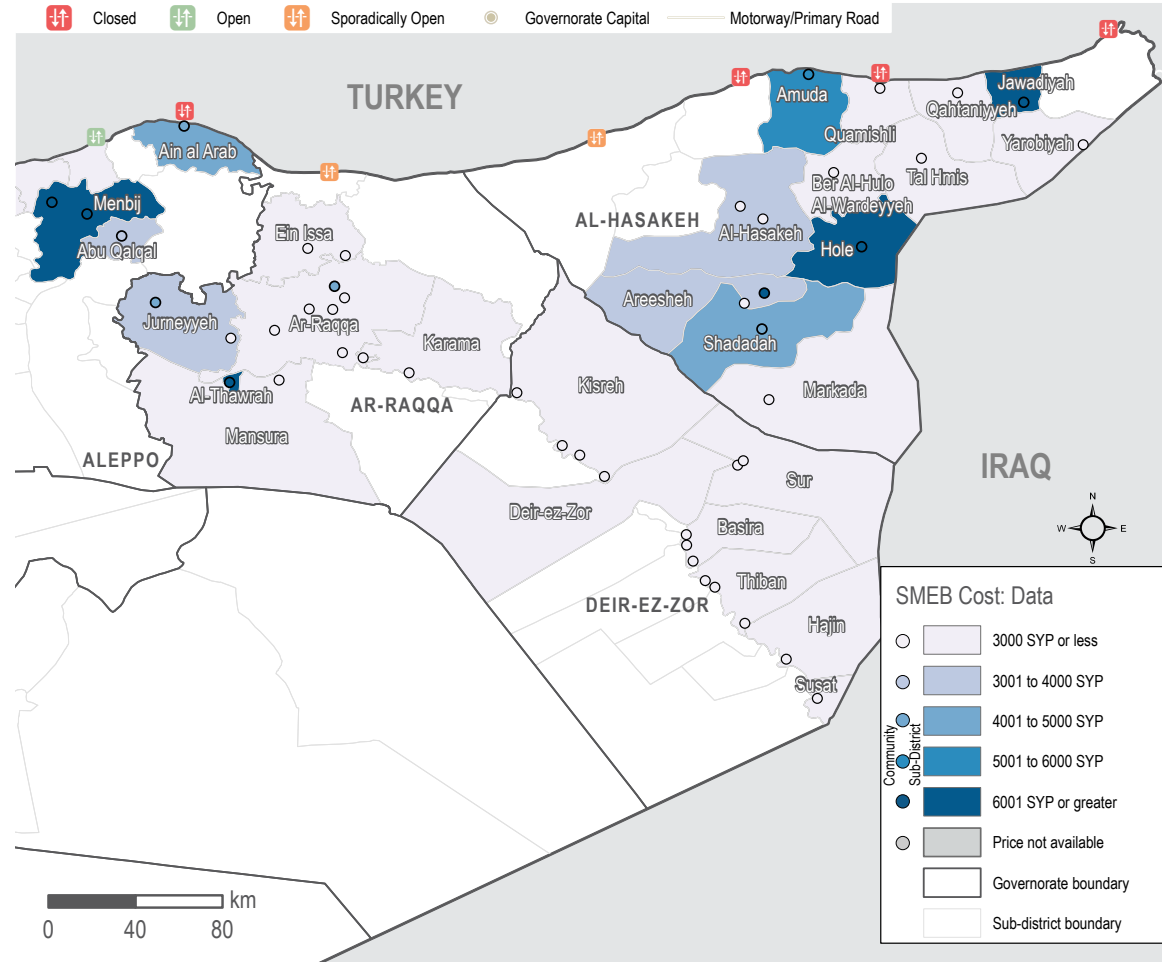
NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: PHONE DATA

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

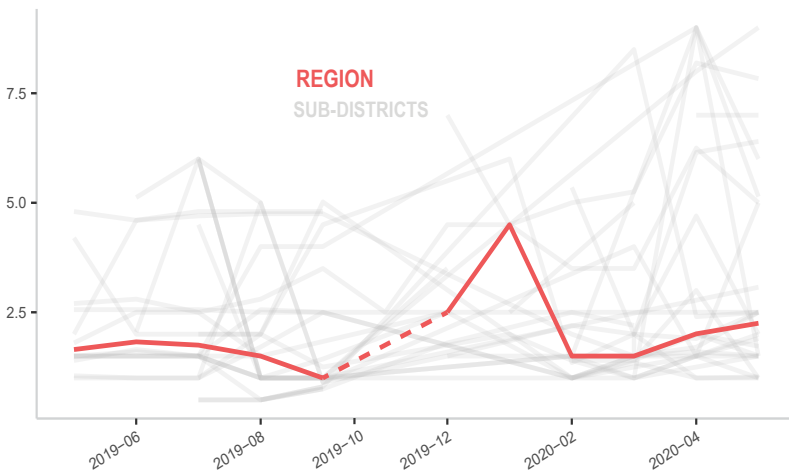
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA PRICE 1GB data, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Data	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Data	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	2,500	11%	0%	Jurneyyeh	3,650	9%	NA
Abu Qalqal	3,072	NA	NA	Karama	1,024	2%	NA
Ain al Arab	5,000	-20%	11%	Kisreh	1,750	17%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	3,750	67%	50%	Mansura	2,000	-57%	NA
Al-Thawrah	6,400	4%	NA	Markada	1,500	-83%	NA
Amuda	5,140	-43%	47%	Menbij	7,680	-6%	10%
Areeshah	3,875	-44%	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	2,000	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqqa	1,500	-9%	-40%	Quamishli	1,000	0%	-33%
Basira	2,500	0%	NA	Shadadah	5,000	233%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	2,500	NA	39%	Sur	2,000	33%	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	1,725	-14%	NA	Susat	1,500	0%	NA
Ein Issa	1,500	20%	NA	Tal Hmis	2,500	4%	NA
Hajin	1,506	-25%	NA	Thiban	2,500	47%	NA
Hole	9,000	13%	NA	Ya'robiyah	1,000	-33%	-33%
Jawadiyah	7,000	0%	NA				

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



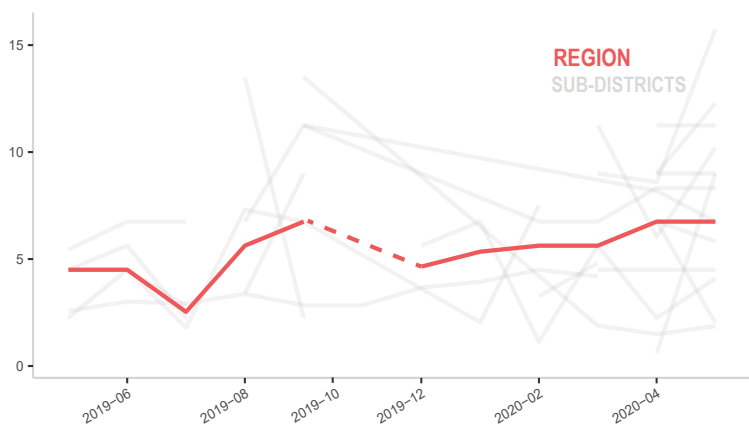
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST, BY MONTH Thousand Syrian Pounds



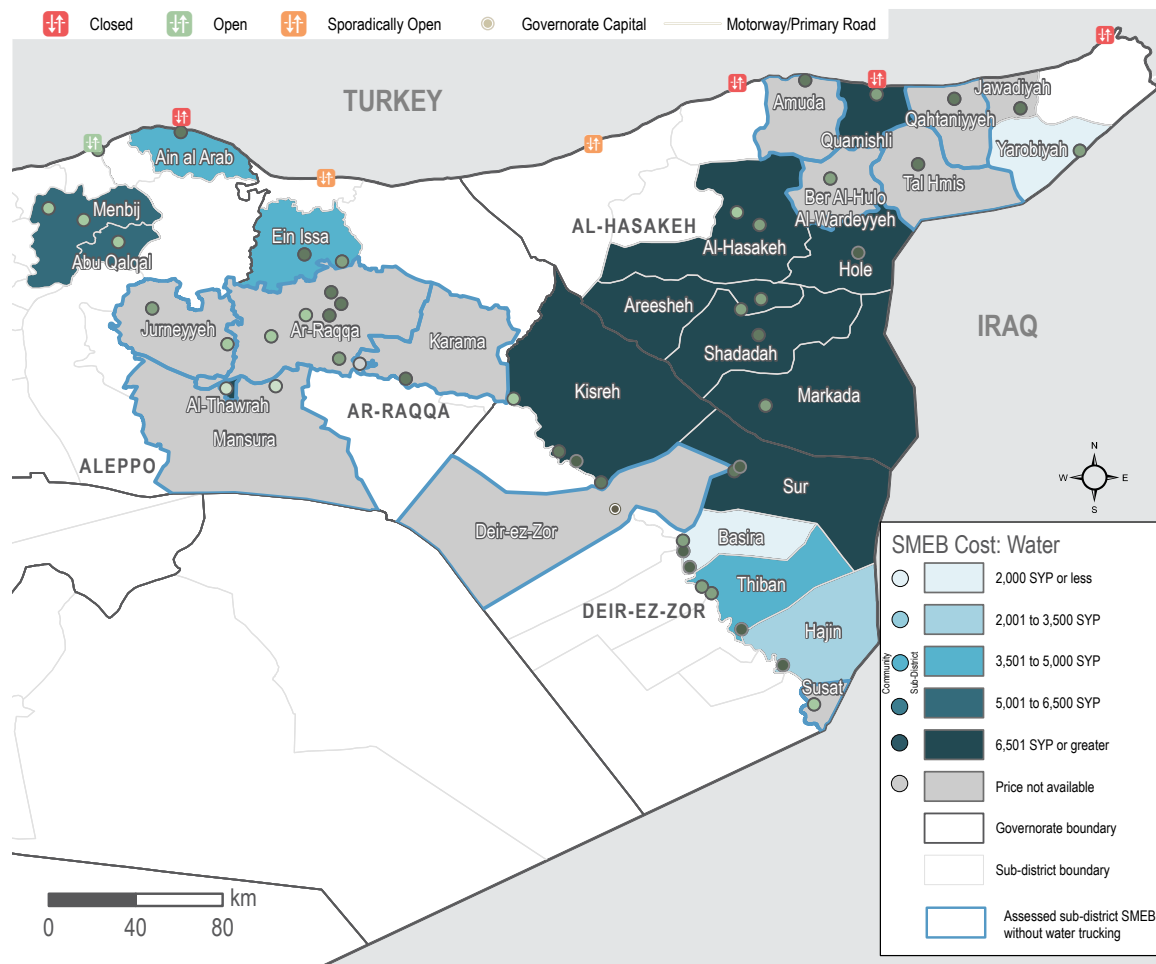
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICE 4,500L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Water	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Water	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	6,750	2%	45%	Jurneyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Abu Qalqal	6,210	NA	NA	Karama	NA	NA	NA
Ain al Arab	4,995	NA	36%	Kisreh	9,000	1438%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	9,000	49%	NA	Mansura	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	6,750	NA	NA	Markada	6,750	-18%	NA
Amuda	NA	NA	NA	Menbij	5,895	-13%	5%
Areeshah	11,993	12%	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	NA	NA	NA	Quamishli	21,375	149%	NA
Basira	1,485	0%	NA	Shadadah	11,250	0%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	Sur	8,325	0%	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	NA	NA	NA	Susat	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	4,095	82%	NA	Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA
Hajin	3,150	-52%	NA	Thiban	4,500	0%	NA
Hole	9,000	0%	NA	Ya'robiyah	1,035	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA				

MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH Thousand Syrian Pounds



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



NORTHEAST SYRIA - TRANSPORT FUEL

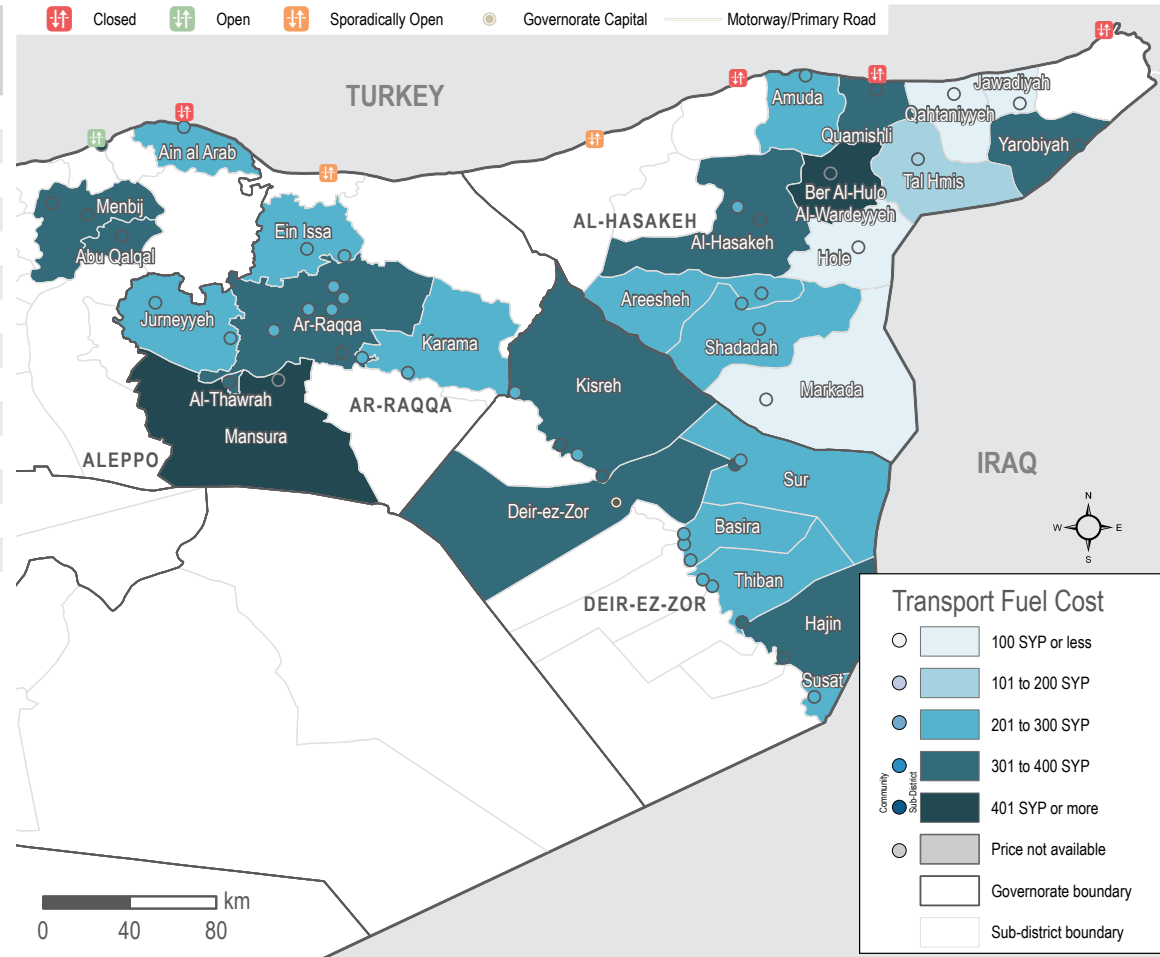
Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Eastern Aleppo governorates

MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

Diesel and Petrol, 1L (High Quality and Manually Refined), Syrian Pounds

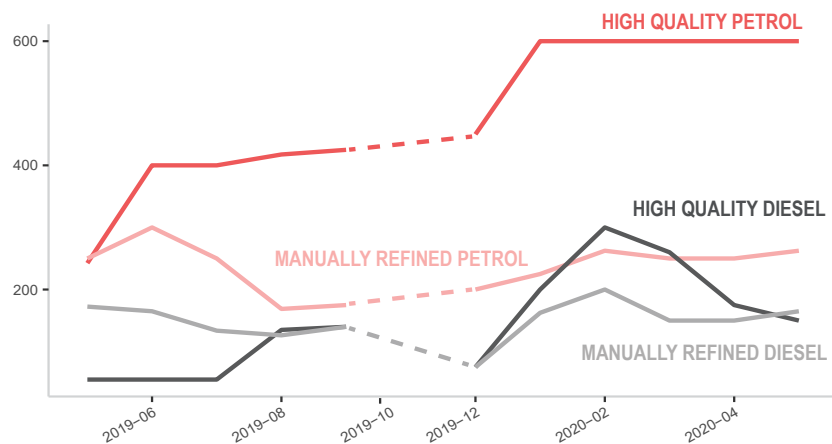
Sub-district	Transport Fuel	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	Transport Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	259	0%	80%	Jurneyyeh	260	-4%	NA
Abu Qalqal	312	NA	NA	Karama	248	-1%	NA
Ain al Arab	259	-15%	48%	Kisreh	315	8%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	316	20%	110%	Mansura	483	76%	NA
Al-Thawrah	357	-2%	NA	Markada	88	0%	NA
Amuda	259	-11%	NA	Menbij	312	0%	302%
Areeshah	219	-1%	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	88	0%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	313	-26%	89%	Qamishli	321	80%	133%
Basira	250	-10%	NA	Shadadah	220	-15%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	442	NA	221%	Sur	225	0%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	442	NA	221%	Susat	289	1%	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	341	55%	NA	Tal Hmis	138	57%	NA
Ein Issa	245	-22%	NA	Thiban	250	6%	NA
Hajin	313	-11%	NA	Ya'robayah	372	57%	170%
Hole	100	0%	NA				
Jawadiyah	88	0%	NA				

TRANSPORT FUEL COST Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



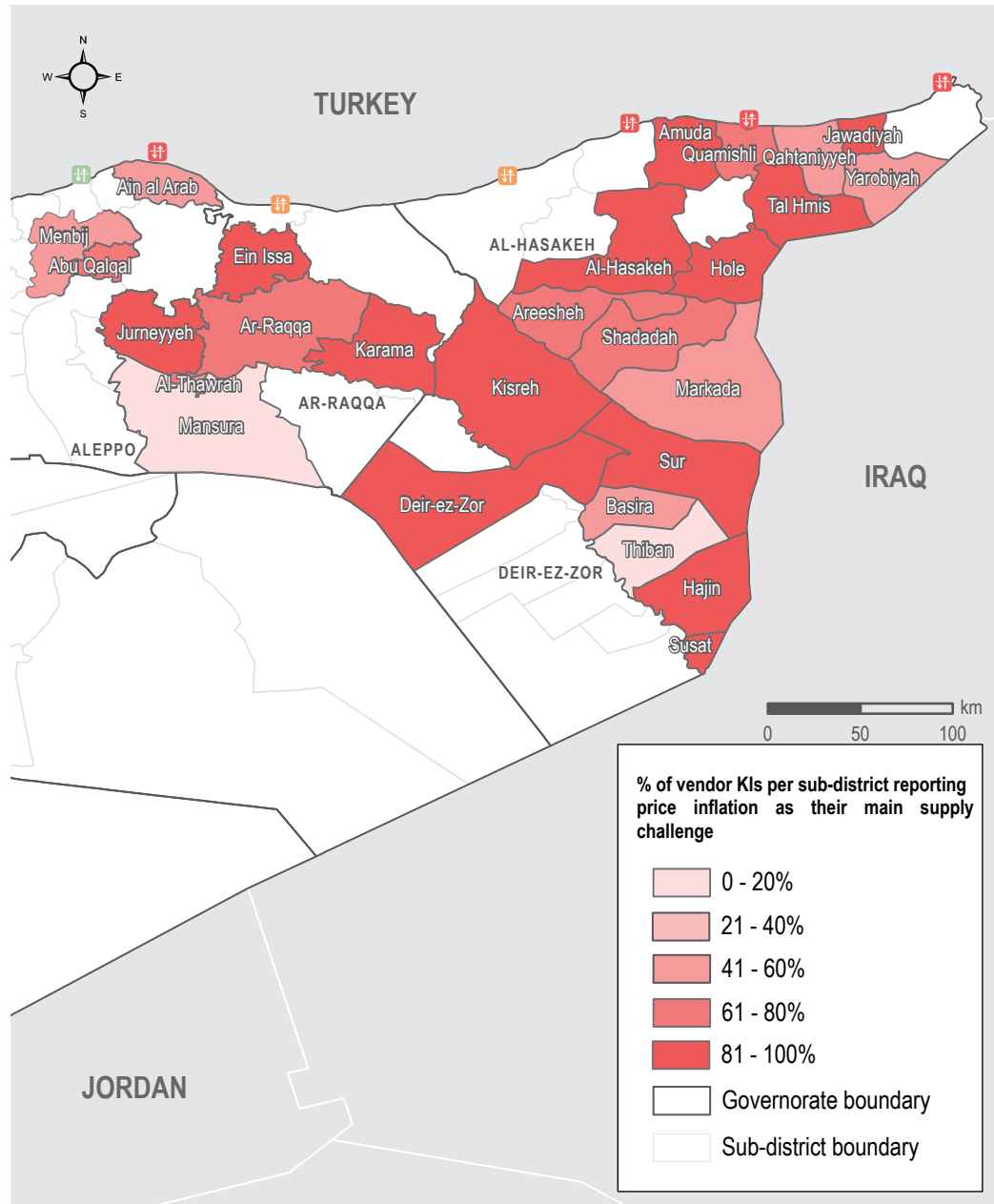
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE

Syrian Pounds



SUPPLY CHALLENGES - PRICE INFLATION

Sub-districts



MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

In May, no surveyed vendors in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates, and only 1% in Al-Hasakeh reported having closed their shops as a result of COVID-19.

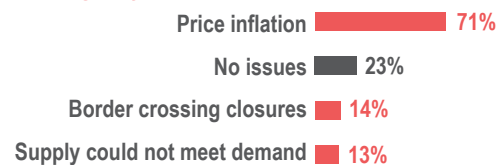
DELIVERY MECHANISMS

In addition to markets themselves, vendors were asked what delivery mechanisms existed in their communities; 35% of 1,095 vendor respondents reported that door-to-door delivery services were available in their communities. Water trucking delivery was the most commonly available delivery mechanism, as reported by 31% of KIs across the assessed governorates in NES. Moreover, bread and LP gas deliveries were reportedly available by 9% and 2% of KIs, respectively. Finally, the vast majority of surveyed vendors across governorates reported food deliveries (aside from bread) to be unavailable in NES. Only 3% and 1% of the vendor respondents reported food deliveries being available in Al-Hasakeh and Aleppo governorates, respectively.

SUPPLY CHALLENGES

While supply challenges reported by vendors were similar to last month's, the percentage of KIs reporting challenges increased since April. Out of 1,093 surveyed vendors, 77% reported facing one or more supply challenge. As in the April Market Monitoring Exercise, price inflation was the most commonly reported supply challenge, reported by 71% of total respondents and by 92% of vendors who reported facing supply challenges. This underscores how critical of a supply challenge price inflation was for vendors. Furthermore, 14% of total vendors reported that their supply was affected by the closure of border crossings, and 13% reported that their supplies could not meet the existing demand (see Figure 1). In addition, road closures to or from communities were reported as a supply challenge among 11% of total surveyed vendors.

Figure 1: Top 4 most commonly reported supply challenges by vendor KIs (1,093 respondents)*



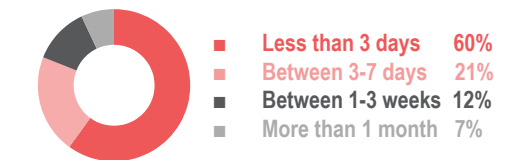
*Multiple answers allowed, thus findings may exceed 100%

RESTOCKING

In addition to the supply challenges reported earlier, 2% of 1,093 surveyed vendors reported that they would be unable to restock if they were to run out of supplies. When looking at specific shop types, 10% of gas vendors reported this challenge across the assessed governorates in NES. At a governorate-level, 36% of butchers in Aleppo governorate, and 21% of gas vendors in Al-Hasakeh governorate faced this restocking challenge.

Vendors were also asked after how many days they would run out of stock if supplies were cut. Sixty percent (60%) of respondents said that they would run out of supplies in less than 3 days and 21% in 3 to 7 days (see Figure 2). Across shop types, water trucking vendors, vegetable vendors, and butchers reported they would run out of supplies the fastest.

Figure 2: Reported number of days before all types of vendors would run out of stock, if supply lines were cut (1,093 respondents)



AVAILABILITY OF USD BANKNOTES

In May, informal currency exchange vendors were also asked about their stock situation of USD banknotes. Eighty-four percent (84%) of 202 surveyed currency vendors reported having limited stock of one or more denomination. Alarmingly, 93% of currency vendors in Ar-Raqqa governorate reported limited USD banknote stock. By banknote denomination, vendors most commonly reported limited supply of the 100 USD banknote (75% of KIs), followed by 50 USD banknote and 20 USD banknote (47% and 42%, respectively).



MEDIAN PRICE OF COVID-19 ITEMS

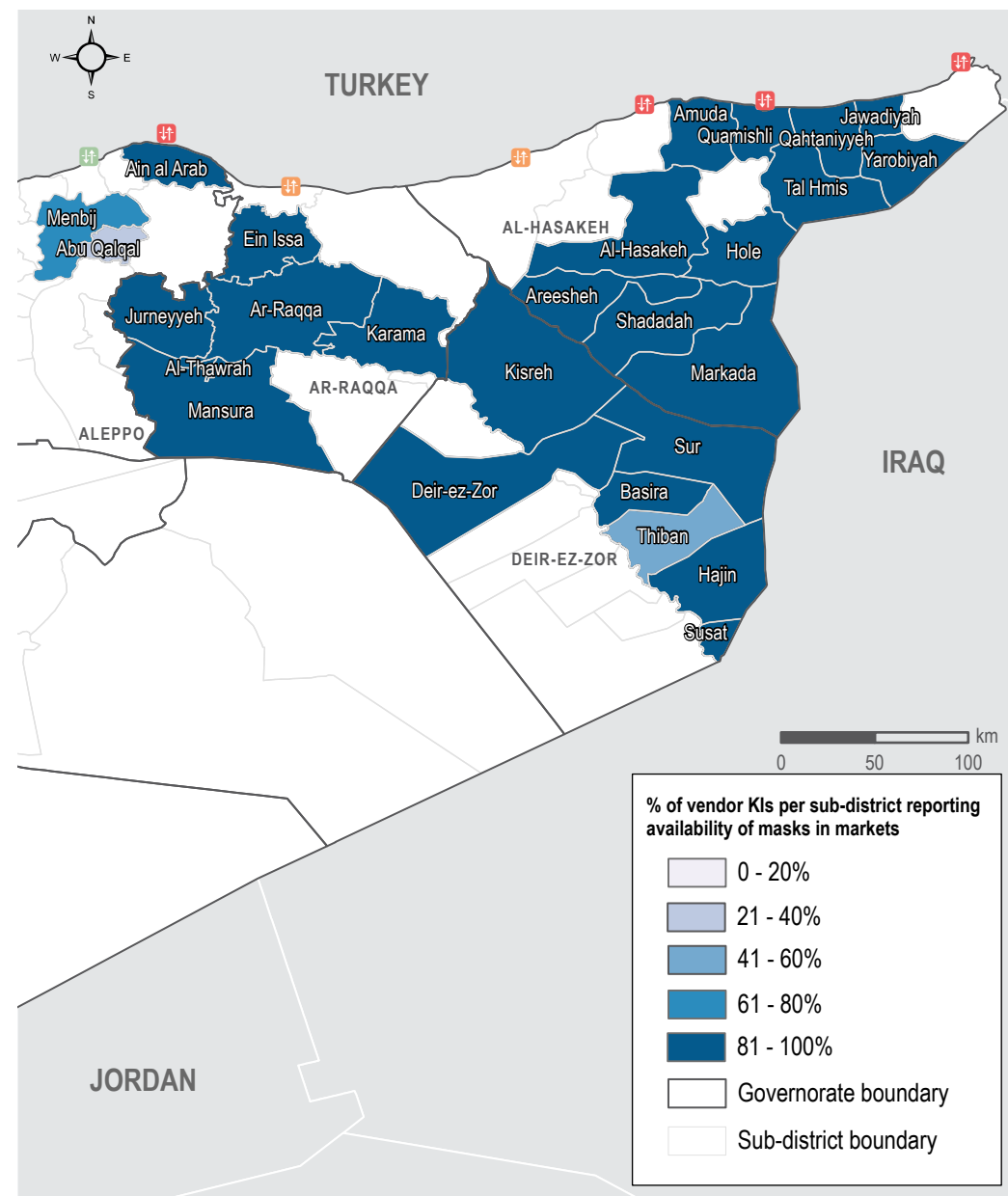
Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	Face mask (1 piece)	Plastic gloves (box of 100)	Sterile alcohol (1 litre)	Hand sanitiser (500 ml)	Bottled bleach (1 litre)	Trash bags (roll of 30)
Northeast Syria	350	10,000	5,750	3,600	900	1,700
Abu Qalqal	NA	NA	NA	NA	700	1,500
Ain al Arab	500	8,500	3,550	3,600	800	1,600
Al-Hasakeh	250	7,000	6,000	1,000	800	1,500
Al-Thawrah	NA	10,000	NA	NA	800	1,700
Amuda	350	11,250	9,000	2,000	1,200	1,900
Areeshah	500	10,000	8,000	1,500	900	800
Ar-Raqqa	250	9,000	1,500	4,000	800	1,700
Basira	500	NA	6,000	6,000	550	1,500
Be'r Al-Hulo	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	338	10,000	4,625	4,750	1,050	2,550
Ein Issa	250	8,000	1,500	4,400	900	1,800
Hajin	300	10,000	4,500	5,000	1,000	2,500
Hole	NA	NA	NA	NA	400	1,700
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA	NA	850	2,325
Jurneyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,000	900
Karama	NA	NA	NA	NA	800	NA
Kisreh	350	10,000	4,500	625	1,000	2,500
Mansura	NA	NA	NA	NA	700	1,500
Markada	400	10,000	8,000	1,500	900	NA
Menbij	600	16,000	5,500	5,000	900	1,650
Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	907	3,750
Quamishli	300	10,500	8,500	1,900	1,200	1,900
Shadadah	NA	NA	NA	NA	900	NA
Sur	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,000	3,000
Susat	NA	NA	NA	1,800	800	2,000
Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,000	NA
Thiban	500	NA	8,000	6,000	775	1,500
Ya'robiyah	NA	NA	NA	NA	850	NA



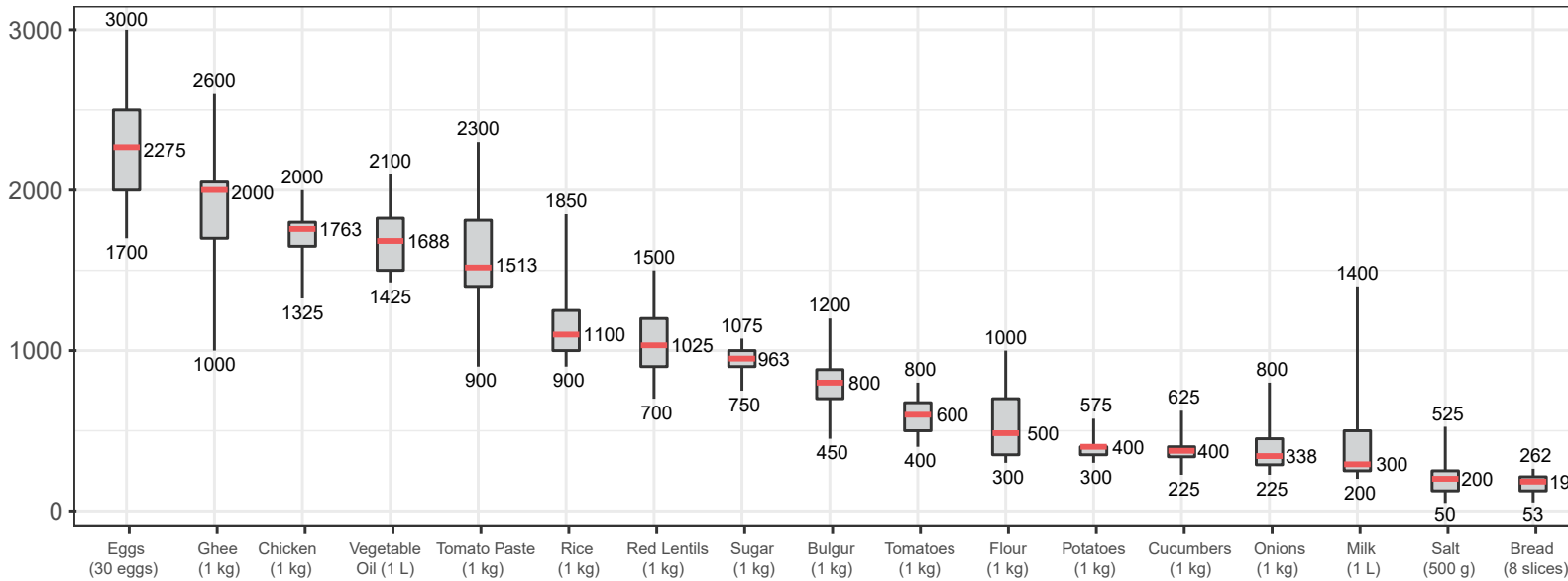
AVAILABILITY OF FACE MASKS

Sub-districts



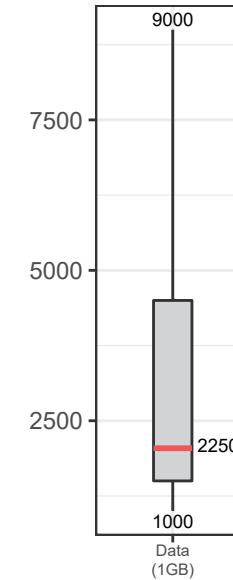
ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



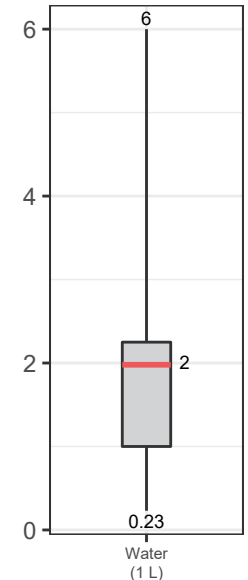
CELLPHONE DATA

Syrian Pounds



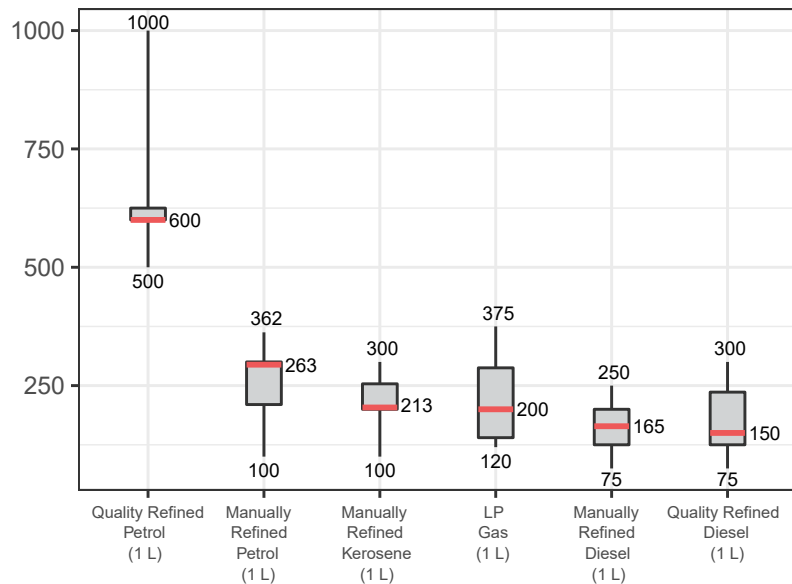
WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



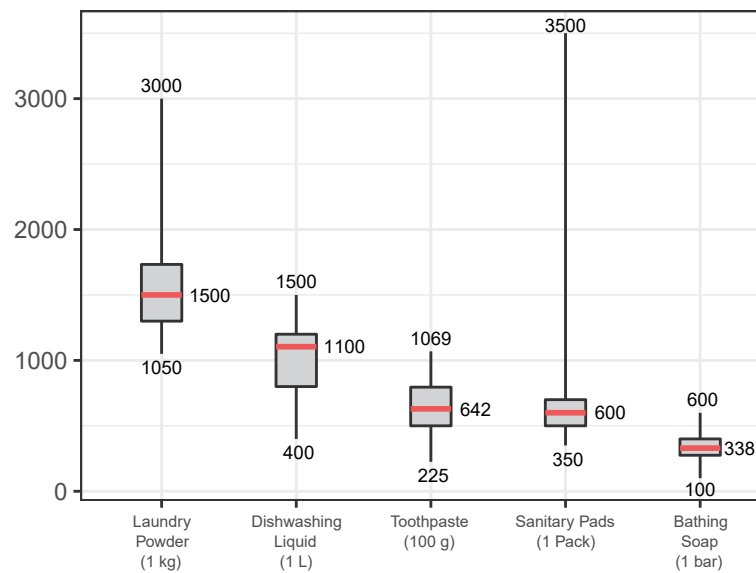
ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

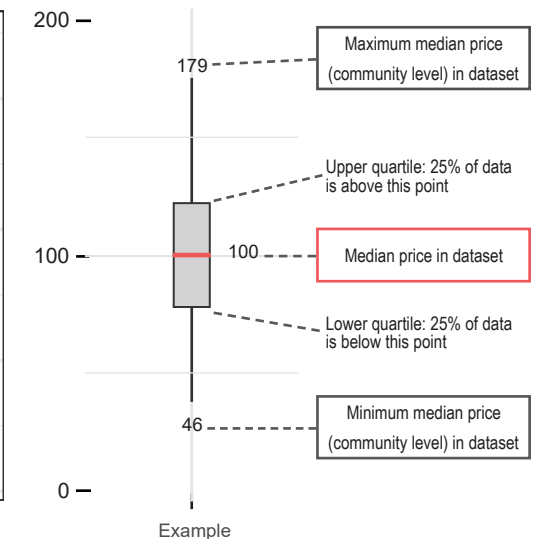


ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

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 CWG 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 visualise 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.

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 in this factsheet are calculated only with the comparable assessed communities of a sub-district with consistent coverage across months. On the other hand, in the dataset medians are calculated taking all assessed communities for the current month in consideration. Therefore, prices and percentage changes within the tables of this factsheet may slightly differ from the current

month's dataset medians. In the narrative, both regional median SMEB values are shared; the SMEB value including all assessed communities that specific month, and the SMEB value only taking in consideration communities with consistent coverage since the previous month.

Calculating regional SMEB costs with limited coverage

For the months of January and February 2020, the regional full SMEB cost as well as the regional full SMEB cost without water were calculated by summing the medians of each regional SMEB component. This was done due to the lower coverage at a sub-district level in January and February 2020, which affected the regional median SMEB calculations.

Changes to coverage

Given security and access constraints in the south of Syria, data collection has been unable to take place since July 2018. Escalation of conflict in October 2019 has resulted in limited coverage in northeast Syria since then. However, coverage between January and May 2020 significantly increased (from 9 assessed sub-districts to 28 assessed sub-districts).

Challenges and limitations

As the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise currently includes 13 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.

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](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).

ABOUT THE CASH WORKING GROUP

The Cash Working Group (CWG) 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 CWG have been partners on the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise since early 2015.

About REACH's COVID-19 response

As an initiative deployed in many vulnerable and crisis-affected countries, REACH is deeply concerned by the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the millions of affected people we seek to serve. REACH is currently working with Cash Working Groups and partners to scale up its programming in response to this pandemic, with the goal of identifying practical ways to inform humanitarian responses in the countries where we operate. COVID-19-relevant market monitoring and market assessments are a key area where REACH aims to leverage its existing expertise to help humanitarian actors understand the impact of changing restrictions on markets and trade. Updates regarding REACH's response to COVID-19 can be found in a [devoted thread](#) on the REACH website. Contact geneva@impact-initiatives.org for further information.