

# Northeast Syria | Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

1-12 September 2024

## MARKET OVERVIEW

## INTRODUCTION

To facilitate humanitarian cash programming, the Northeast of Syria Cash Working Group (NES CWG), in collaboration with local and international NGOs, conducts a monthly Joint Market Monitoring Initiative in Northern Syria. This initiative assesses the availability and prices of basic commodities typically sold in markets and consumed by the average Syrian household. These commodities include food, water, and non-food items such as fuel, internet, and hygiene items.

Among these, 18 components (measured by 24 items) form the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which signifies the minimum culturally adjusted items necessary to sustain a household of six individuals for a month.

5	Participating agencies
4	Assessed governorates
11	Assessed districts
29	Assessed sub-districts
59	Assessed communities
1652	Shops surveyed

## KEY INDICATORS

### Cost of SMEB

2,280,813 SYP **+3.5%** ▲  
147 USD 0%

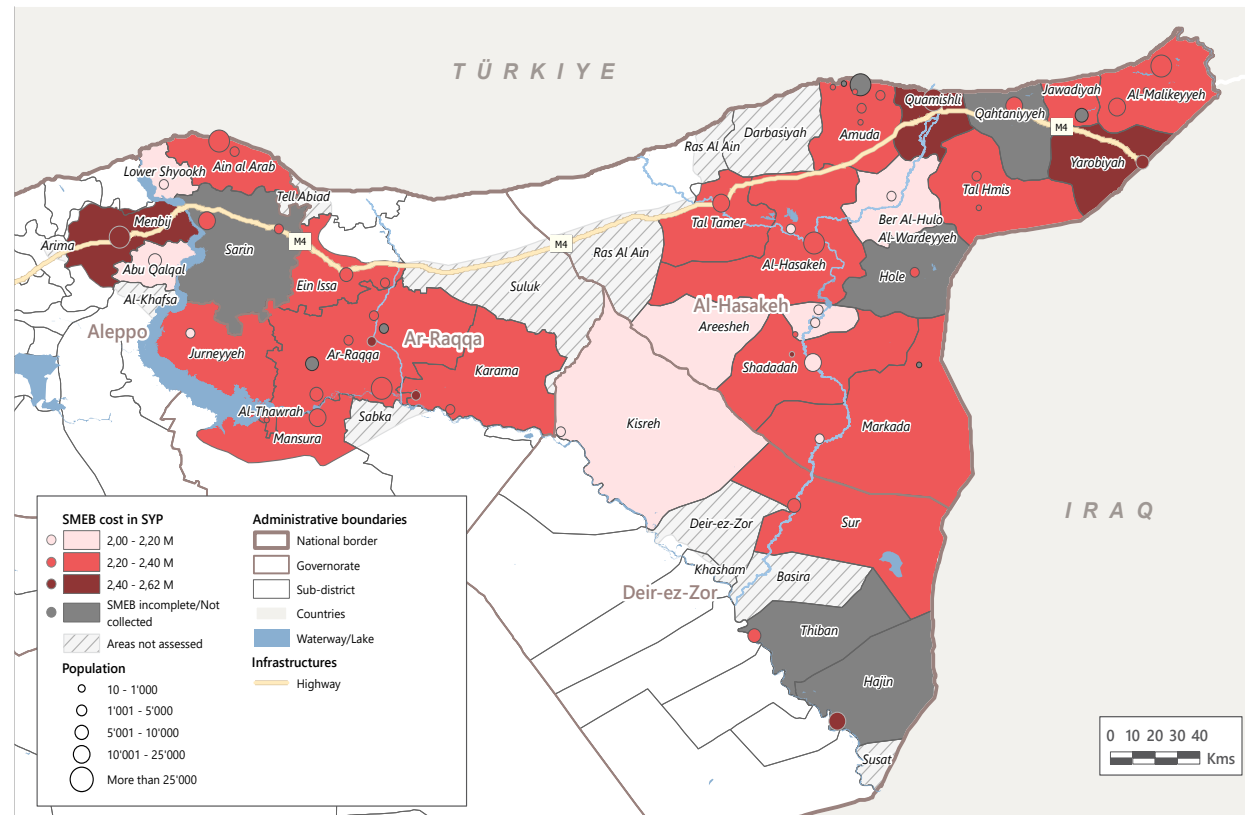
### Cost of SMEB Food

1,719,643 SYP **+8%** ▲  
111 USD **+0.08%** ▲

### SYP/USD

informal exchange rate  
15,500 SYP **+4%** ▲

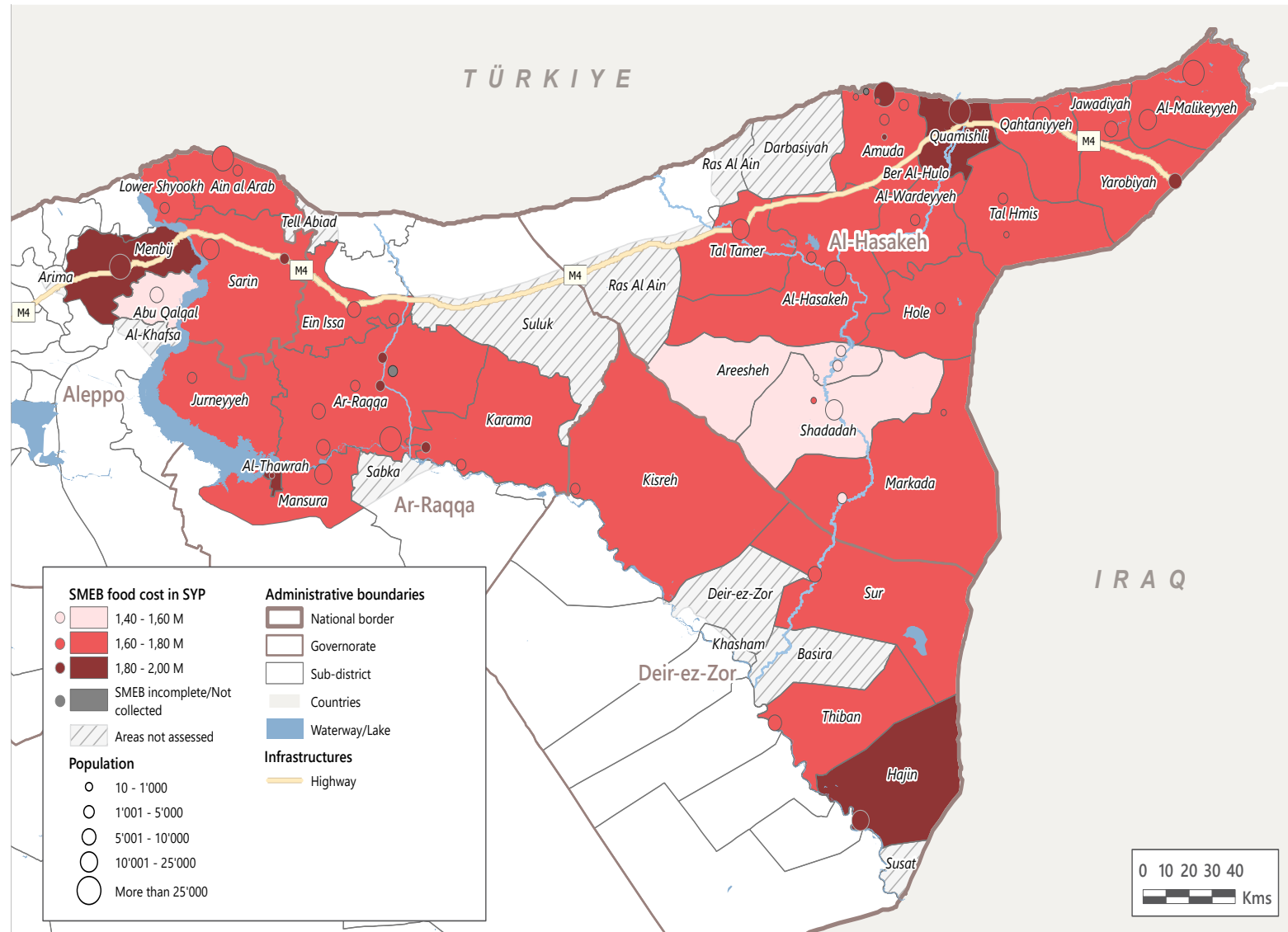
## Cost of the SMEB, Sub-districts in Northeast Syria, SYP



## KEY FINDINGS

- Between June and September 2024, the regional median **informal exchange rate slightly increased in Northeast Syria (NES)** (4% change) leading to the expecting more price increases in prices for the upcoming month.
- In September 2024, the **SMEB price increased across NES**: the increases were noticed in all of the assessed governorates. In **Deir ez Zor**, the increase stood at 15%, **Aleppo** at 10%, **Ar Raqqa** at 7% and **Al Hasakeh** at 3%.
- In September 2024, the **SMEB food cost in NES increased by 14%** over the past **6 months**, and **by 50%** over the **past year** (Since the beginning of its assessment in August 2023).

## SMEB food prices, SYP



## Price of SMEB Food, sub-district, SYP

Location	Median Price SYP	Change since June 2024
<b>Aleppo governorate</b>		
Abu Qalqal	1,582,125	+16% ▲
Ain al Arab	1,721,500	+8% ▲
Lower Shyookh	1,654,875	+14% ▲
Menbij	1,841,117	+18% ▲
Sarin	1,724,286	+7% ▲
<b>Al-Hasakeh governorate</b>		
Al-Hasakeh	1,692,100	+3% ▲
Al-Malikeyyeh	1,719,643	-0.5% ▼
Amuda	1,784,500	+13% ▲
Areesheh	1,493,250	+7% ▲
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	1,768,875	+5% ▲
Hole	1,702,167	NA
Jawadiyah	1,740,661	+21% ▲
Markada	1,713,250	+16% ▲
Qahtaniyyeh	1,694,500	+6% ▲
Quamishli	1,876,917	+21% ▲
Shadadah	1,541,900	+10% ▲
Tal Hmis	1,607,500	+3% ▲
Tal Tamer	1,674,250	NA
Ya'robiyah	1,785,554	+8% ▲
<b>Deir Ez-Zor governorate</b>		
Kisreh	1,606,750	+8% ▲
Sur	1,742,929	+17% ▲
Hajin	1,862,383	+20% ▲
Thiban	1,776,614	+17% ▲
<b>Ar-Raqqa governorate</b>		
Al-Thawrah	1,832,250	+10% ▲
Ar-Raqqa	1,797,528	+5% ▲
Ein Issa	1,702,800	+2% ▲
Jurneyyeh	1,697,438	+3% ▲
Karama	1,732,528	-1% ▼
Mansura	1,697,250	+6% ▲
Mansura	1,594,083	-3% ▼

## Price changes of monitored food items

Item	Unit	Median Price TRY	1-month change (TRY)
<b>Bulk food items</b>			
Bulgur	1kg	11,000	+5% ▲
Red lentils	1kg	15,000	+7% ▲
Rice	1kg	14,300	+6% ▲
Salt	500g	1,500	-50% ▼
Sugar	1kg	14,000	+3% ▲
Tomato paste	1kg	16,250	+8% ▲
<b>Vegetables</b>			
Tomatoes	1kg	6,500	+63% ▲
Potatoes	1kg	6,750	+23% ▲
Cucumbers	1kg	8,000	+100% ▲
Onions	1kg	5,000	0%
<b>Cooking oils</b>			
Ghee	1kg	23,333	+6% ▲
Vegetable oil	1L	20,250	+4% ▲
<b>Poultry</b>			
Chicken	1kg	29,500	+9% ▲
Eggs	1kg	44,000	+22% ▲
<b>Bread</b>			
Unsubsidised bread	8pc	4,000	0%

**+59% ▲**

The value of the price change in **total SMEB** in the last 12 months (Since June 2023).

**+50% ▲**

The value of the price change in **Food SMEB** in the last 12 months (Since June 2023).

**+199% ▲**

The value of the price change in **Water SMEB** in the last 12 months (Since June 2023).

**+33% ▲**

The value of the price change in **NFI SMEB** in the last 12 months (Since June 2023).

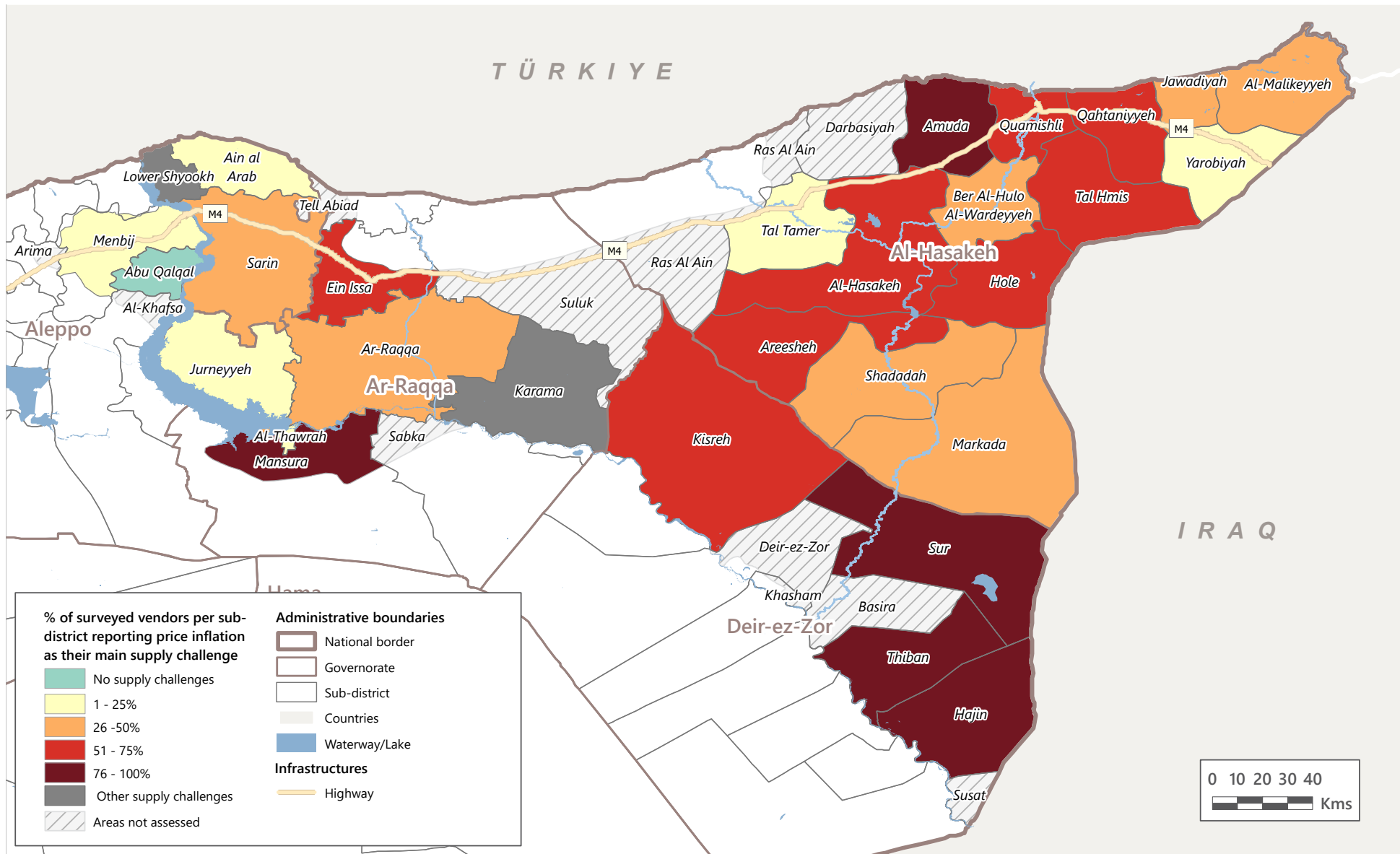
**+900% ▲**

The value of the price change in **Cooking Fuel SMEB** in the last 12 months (Since June 2023).

## Price changes of monitored non-food items

Item	Unit	Median Price TRY	1-month change (TRY)
<b>Non-food items</b>			
Bathing soap	1pc	5,000	0%
Sanitary pads	10pc	7,000	+2% ▲
Toothpaste	100g	11,000	+1% ▲
Dish soap	1L	13,888	+7% ▲
<b>Cooking fuels</b>			
Kerosene	1L	6,500	0%
LPG gas	1L	NA	NA
<b>Water trucking</b>			
Water trucking	1L	25	-2% ▼
<b>Internet</b>			
Mobile data	1gb	3,111	+4% ▲
<b>Transportation fuels</b>			
Subsized diesel	1L	2,350	0%
Unsubsidized diesel	1L	4,700	0%
Diesel (parallel market)	1L	6,000	+2% ▲
Subsized petrol	1L	425	0%
Unsubsidized petrol	1L	4,700	0%
Petrol (parallel market)	1L	8,000	0%
Imported petrol	1L	16,500	+10% ▲

### % of surveyed vendors reporting lack of funds impacting their capacity to secure stocks



## Methodology

The JMMI aims to inform market-based programming in Northern Syria.

### Coverage

Coverage is determined through a combination of identifying key market hubs and partners' field capacity. Firstly, key market hubs are identified using the [Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria](#) (HSOS), classifying all communities that 5 or more other communities report to rely on for markets as a key market hub. Secondly, these "key market hubs" are reviewed by the field teams for validity purposes. In this step, additional important markets in communities are included. These could be communities that either a) have significant markets but were not included in HSOS coverage, or b) communities that have markets that are important for people living in camps. Finally, we compare the ideal coverage with the capacity of partners and aim to ensure that key market hubs are covered. The actual coverage is, therefore, restricted to the capacity of partners.

### Data Collection

In each assessed location, at least three prices (ideally 4) per food & non-food item need to be collected from different traders to ensure the quality and consistency of the collected data. In line with the purpose of the JMMI, only the prices of the cheapest, most commonly bought type of item are recorded for each product, except in cases where otherwise indicated. For example, certain NFI items specific products are monitored at the request of the shelter cluster.

### SMEB Calculation:

The cost of the SMEB is determined by multiplying the median price of each item in the respective location by the quantity listed in the table on page 2.

### Identification of traders

Field teams identify traders to assess based on the following criteria:

- Traders are retailers selling directly to consumers.
- Traders need to be representative of the local price level.
- Traders have knowledge of the shop operations.

To the extent possible, the same traders are revisited in every data collection round.

### Enumerators and training

The data are collected by field staff familiar with local market conditions. They undergo training on the methodology and tools provided by REACH. Training sessions occur each time a new partner joins the JMMI, at partner request, and at scheduled intervals throughout the year, such as when the assessment undergoes changes. Additionally, field teams are equipped with a JMMI Standardised Operational Procedure (SOP) offering guidance on market identification, trader assessment, and pricing. The REACH JMMI team manages the integration of partner feedback on the JMMI SOP, sharing updates, and conducting re-training with the field, as needed. Data collection is carried out using the KOBO Collect mobile application.

### Data cleaning and analysis

After data collection, REACH compiles and cleans all partner data, standardizing prices, cross-checking outliers, and calculating the median cost of prices in each assessed location. Follow-ups are initiated with field teams to address data queries, including outliers, missing data, and incorrect entries. The median item prices reported in this factsheet are 'location medians,' designed to mitigate the impact of outliers and variations in data quantity among assessed locations.

### Aggregation

The published data is presented at the community, sub-district, district, governorate, and regional levels. At each aggregation level, the median of all prices collected within the unit of analysis is calculated. For example, at the regional level, the median of all prices collected for a specific product in the entire region is calculated, while at the governorate level, the median of all prices collected in that governorate is calculated, and so forth. All SMEB and price index calculations utilize this method.

### Challenges and limitations

- Price data is only indicative for the time frame within which it was collected. Prices may vary between data collection rounds.
- The JMMI data collection tool requests the cheapest, most commonly bought type of each item to be recorded, as availability varies across regions. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slightly varying products.
- With current coverage, data is mostly collected from main markets, which may not be representative of rural areas.
- As the JMMI continues to expand and is extended to additional locations, the reported changes in the overall median prices may be driven by shifts in coverage rather than actual price changes.

JMMI data is updated monthly through the [Interactive Dashboard](#) where users can filter for SMEB components of interest, currencies, and assessed areas. The [full dataset](#) is also available for download.

## 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).

## About the CWG

The JMMI exists within the framework of the Cash Working Group (CWG). In northeast Syria (NES), the 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. For more information about the CWG in NES, please contact the cash working group coordinator at [cashcoordnes@gmail.com](mailto:cashcoordnes@gmail.com).

## 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. All activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms.

More details on the methodology can be found in the JMMI [terms of reference \(ToR\)](#). For more information about REACH, please contact the REACH JMMI focal point, Adna Maiteh, at [adna.maiteh@reach-initiative.org](mailto:adna.maiteh@reach-initiative.org) or visit the REACH Syria Resource Centre.

## Participating organisations

Each month, around 20 different organisations work together to collect market data. Participating organisations train their enumerators on the JMMI methodology and data collection tools using standard training materials developed by REACH, who is then responsible for processing the data.

