

INTRODUCTION

To inform humanitarian cash programming, REACH, in partnership with the Cash-Based Responses Technical Working Group (CBR-TWG), conducts monthly market monitoring exercises throughout Syria to assess the availability and prices of 36 basic commodities that are typically sold in markets and consumed by average Syrian households, including food and non-food items, water, fuel, and cellphone data.

Of these, 18 items comprise the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB; see below), which represents the minimum, culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month.

Data was collected this month (between 10-17 June) by ACTED, CARE Shafak, Concern, GOAL, IRC, Mercy Corps, People in Need, REACH, SARD, Solidarités International, STC Shafak, Violet, and Watan.

The accompanying [dataset from the month of June](#) 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; LP Gas in southern Syria

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Northwest: SMEB cost continued to decrease

The SMEB cost decreased by approximately 8% from 66,348 SYP (116 USD) to 61,331 SYP (106 USD) in June 2019 in the northwest. The June SMEB cost is the lowest observed since January 2019. The decrease in SMEB costs this month was mainly driven by a decrease in food and non-food items' prices ([see page 2](#)).

Northeast: SMEB cost decreased

The SMEB cost decreased by approximately 2% to 68,687 SYP (119 USD) in June 2019 in the northeast. The decrease in SMEB costs this month was mainly driven by a decrease in the prices of food and non-food items. Aside from April and May, the June SMEB cost is still the highest measured since August 2017 ([see page 12](#)).

North: The Syrian Pound continued to depreciate

In June 2019, the US Dollar appreciated against the Syrian Pound by approximately 1% to 578 SYP. In addition, since March 2019, wholesalers reportedly preferred the use of USD instead of SYP to avoid losses due to the depreciating Syrian Pound.

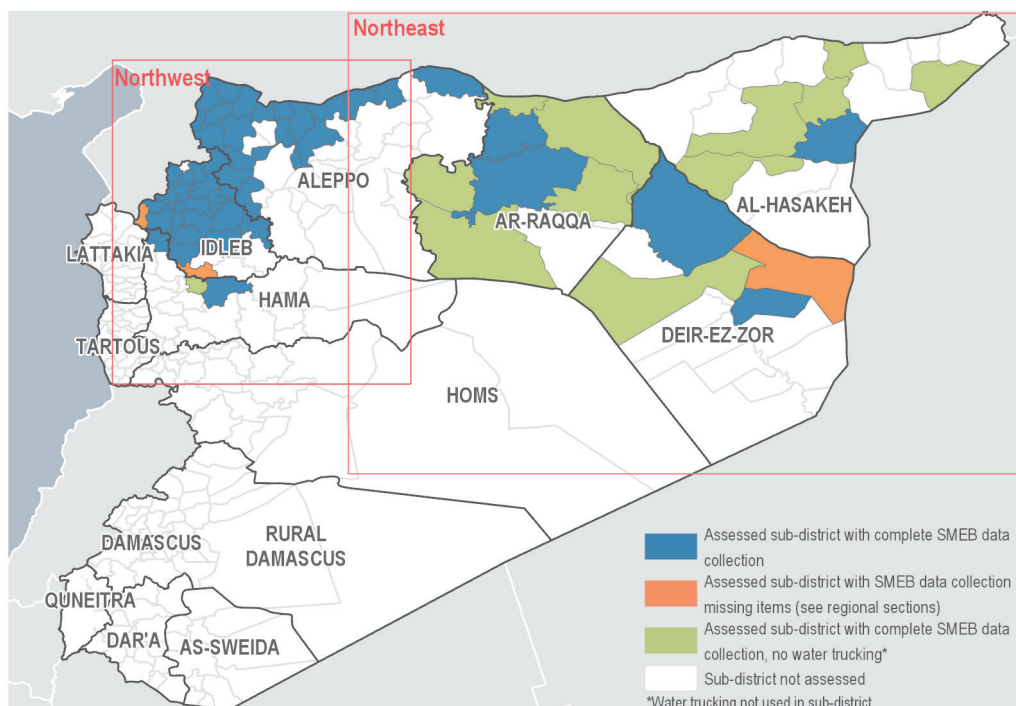
Northwest: Bread price increased

In June 2019, the price of bread increased by approximately 7% from 150 SYP to 160 SYP. This may be explained by the previous reports on massive fires destroying crops across both northeast and northwest Syria; it is expected that bread prices may increase in the upcoming months.

Northeast: REACH continued to collect market monitoring data inside camps in the northeast

In June 2019, REACH continued to collect data in markets inside three camps in the northeast (Al-Houl, Ein Eissa and Areeshah camps). Key findings confirmed the previous month observations, including the lack of non-food items, and high prices of bread in camps inside Al-Hasakah governorate (Al-Houl and Areeshah camps). By contrast, certain SMEB food items such as bulgur and lentils, as well as some non-food items, were sold at relatively lower prices in comparison to items sold in markets outside of camps.

ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE

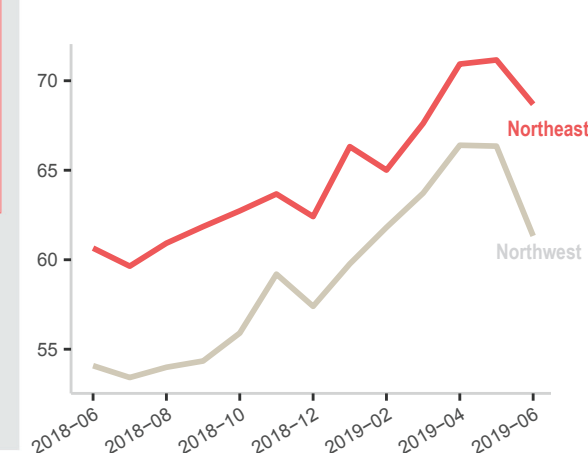


MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

61,331 SYP (106 USD)	NORTHWEST SYRIA - NORTHERN HAMA, IDLEB, WESTERN & NORTHERN ALEPPO
68,687 SYP (119 USD)	NORTHEAST SYRIA - AL-HASAKEH, AL-RAQQA, DEIR-EZ-ZOR & EASTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH & REGION

Thousand Syrian Pounds



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

66,348 SYP | NORTHWEST SYRIA - NORTHERN HAMA, IDLEB, WESTERN & NORTHERN ALEPPO

Decreased data price in June

The price of 1 GB of cellphone data in the northeast decreased by approximately 10% this month, from 1,800 SYP to 1,625 SYP. Data prices have been unstable since January 2019.

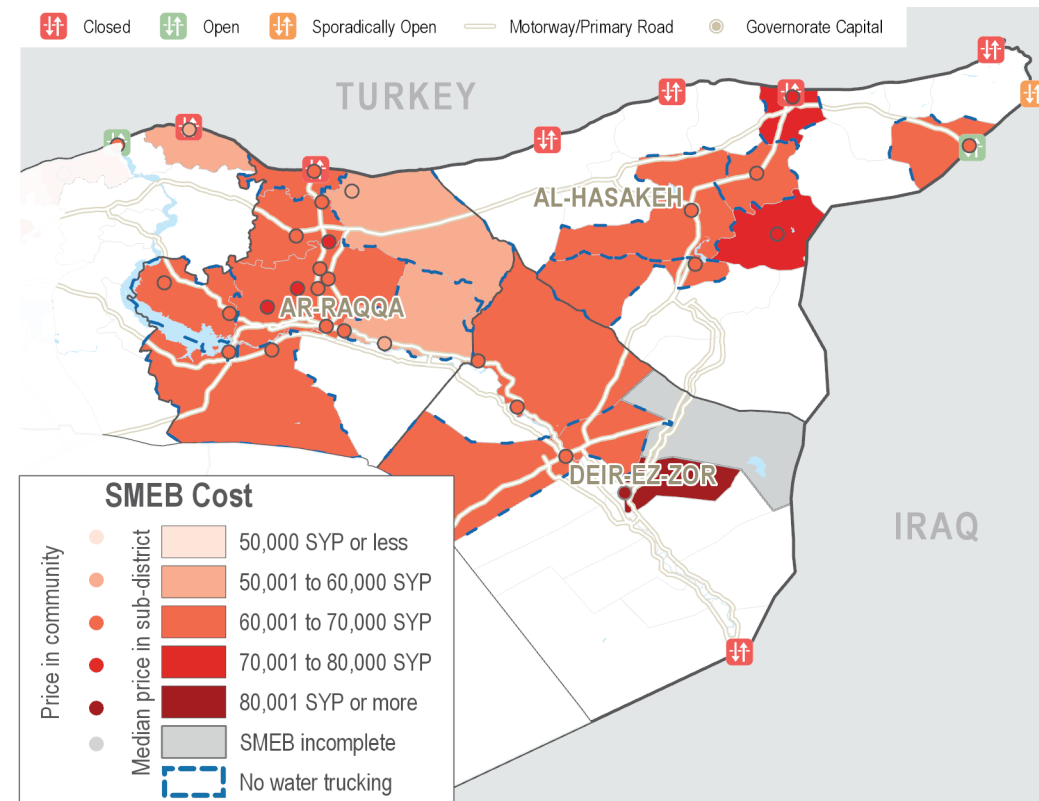
Transportation fuel cost continued to rise

In June 2019, the average price of transportation fuel per litre increased by approximately 18% in assessed communities in the northeast, from 195 SYP to 230 SYP. The main driver of this increase was reportedly related to the fuel shortage across WoS.

SMEB vegetables' cost sharply decreased

In June 2019 alongside with beginning of the harvest season, the prices of fresh vegetables within the SMEB food basket decreased by approximately 40% from 3,600 SYP to 2,175 SYP in assessed communities in the northeast. Previously, the price of the vegetables component had continuously been increasing since August 2018.

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



MEDIAN SMEB COSTS & CHANGES

Syrian Pounds

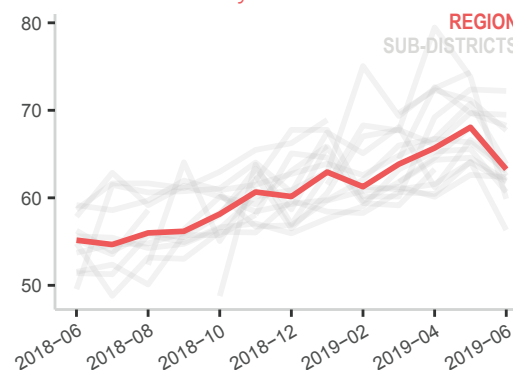
Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria Complete	68,687	-2%	3%
Northeast Syria Non-Water Trucking	63,265	-7%	1%
Ain al Arab	59,555	-11%	-3%
Al-Hasakeh*	68,246	-2%	4%
Al-Thawrah	61,821	-3%	-2%
Areeshah*	64,400	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	63,773	-9%	-2%
Basira	69,486	0%	15%
Be'r Al-Hulo			
Al-Wardeyyeh*	62,517	-8%	5%
Deir-ez-Zor*	69,028	NA	NA
Ein Issa	62,585	-4%	-1%
Hole	70,127	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh*	61,912	-6%	8%
Karama*	59,886	-19%	-3%
Kisreh	63,098	-3%	4%
Mansura*	62,377	0%	5%
Quamishli*	72,213	0%	7%
Suluk*	58,574	NA	-9%
Sur	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad*	63,488	-5%	-6%
Ya'robayah*	67,709	-5%	-2%

SUB-DISTRICTS WITH INCOMPLETE SMEBS IN JUNE

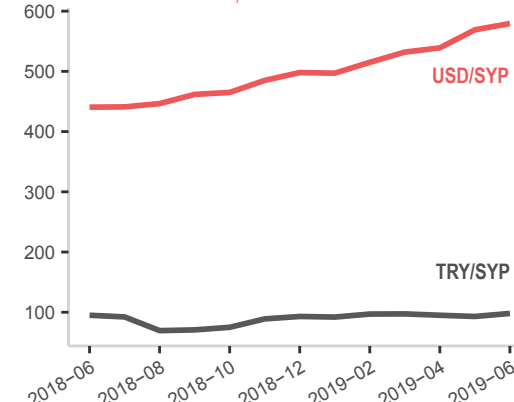
Sur - Phone Data

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS WITHOUT WATER, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds

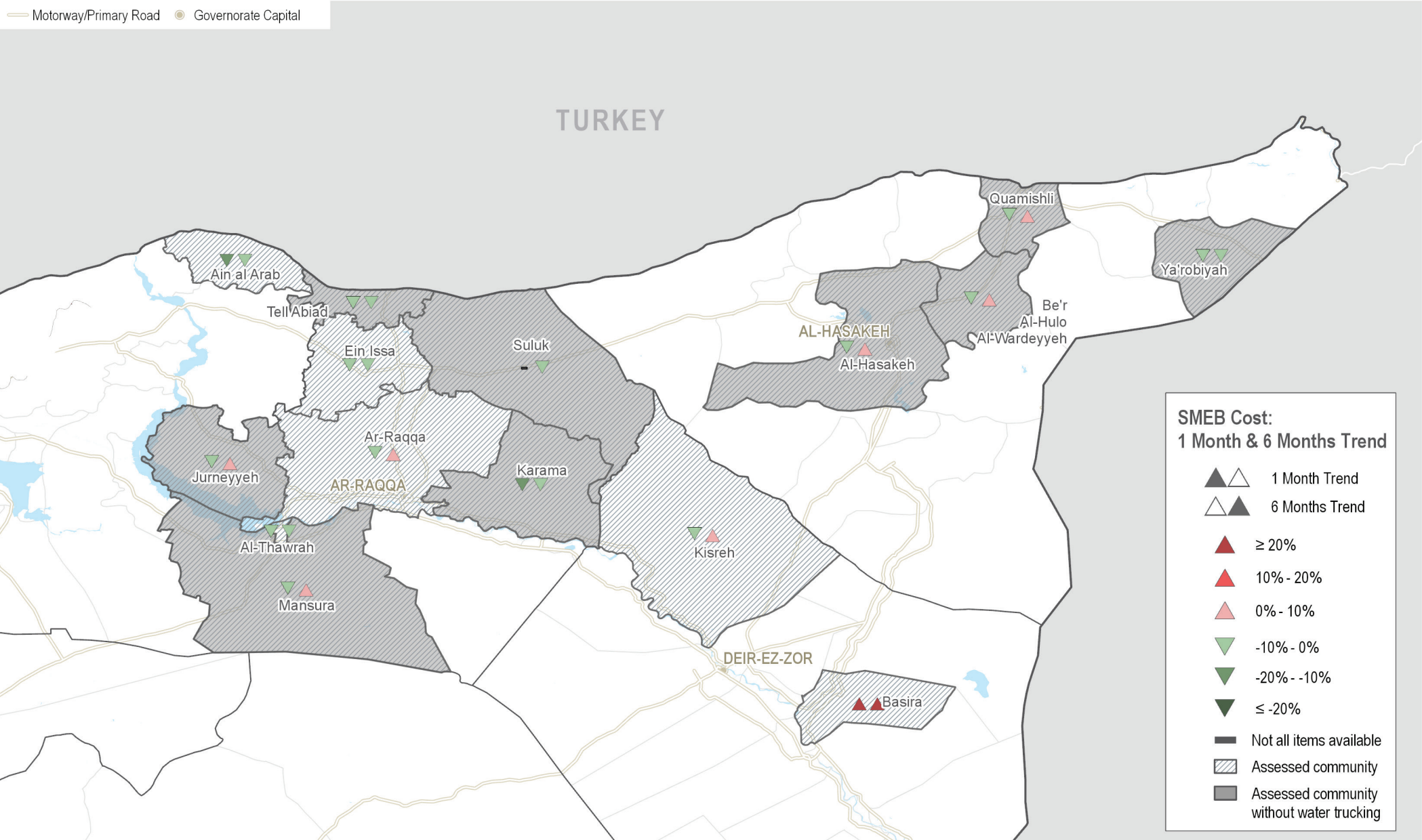


EXCHANGE RATES, BY MONTH & CURRENCY



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

SMEB COST: ONE MONTH & SIX MONTHS TREND



SMEB FOOD ITEMS' COST

See Page 1, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Food Items	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	47,790	-9%	0%
Ain al Arab	41,852	-13%	-4%
Al-Hasakeh	51,200	-5%	1%
Al-Thawrah	46,283	-2%	-6%
Areesheh	48,250	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	47,140	-10%	-4%
Basira	51,263	-2%	13%
Be'r Al-Hulo	47,790	-11%	5%
Al-Wardeyyeh			
Deir-ez-Zor	52,200	-13%	NA
Ein Issa	45,763	-7%	-5%
Hole	51,030	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh	43,968	-11%	2%
Karama	43,285	-22%	-6%
Kisreh	48,196	-3%	3%
Mansura	44,350	-8%	-5%
Quamishli	56,940	0%	9%
Suluk	43,638	NA	-9%
Sur	50,025	-11%	5%
Tell Abiad	47,725	-4%	-7%
Ya'robiyah	54,100	-4%	-2%

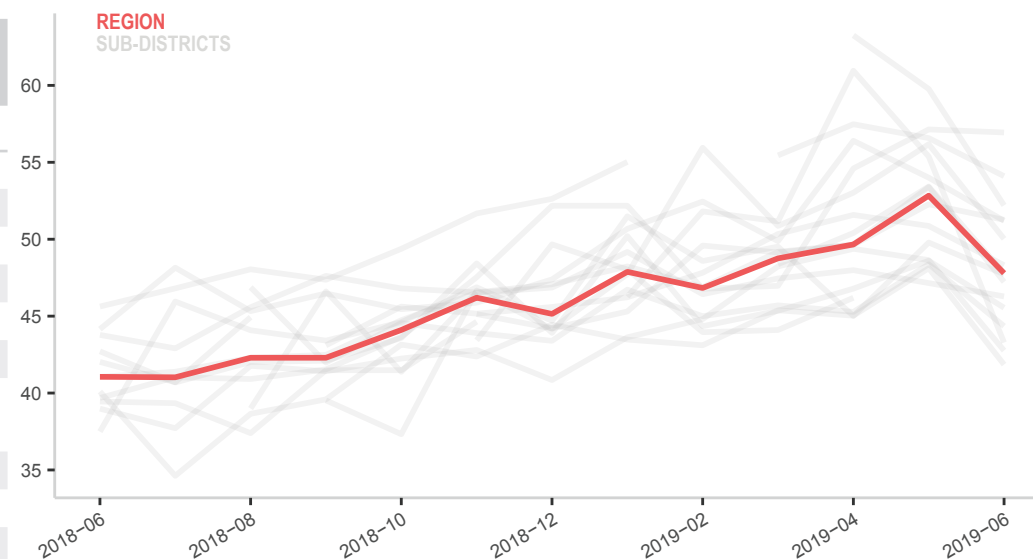
SMEB COOKING FUEL COST

Kerosene 25L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	4,375	17%	32%
Ain al Arab	2,875	0%	0%
Al-Hasakeh	3,750	20%	20%
Al-Thawrah	5,438	16%	74%
Areesheh	7,500	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	5,000	0%	33%
Basira	3,125	-17%	0%
Be'r Al-Hulo	3,125	0%	4%
Al-Wardeyyeh			
Deir-ez-Zor	5,000	-30%	NA
Ein Issa	4,375	17%	17%
Hole	7,500	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh	5,625	29%	50%
Karama	5,000	0%	25%
Kisreh	3,125	-14%	0%
Mansura	5,625	25%	50%
Quamishli	3,125	0%	-11%
Suluk	3,750	NA	0%
Sur	3,125	-17%	0%
Tell Abiad	4,688	25%	25%
Ya'robiyah	2,000	0%	19%

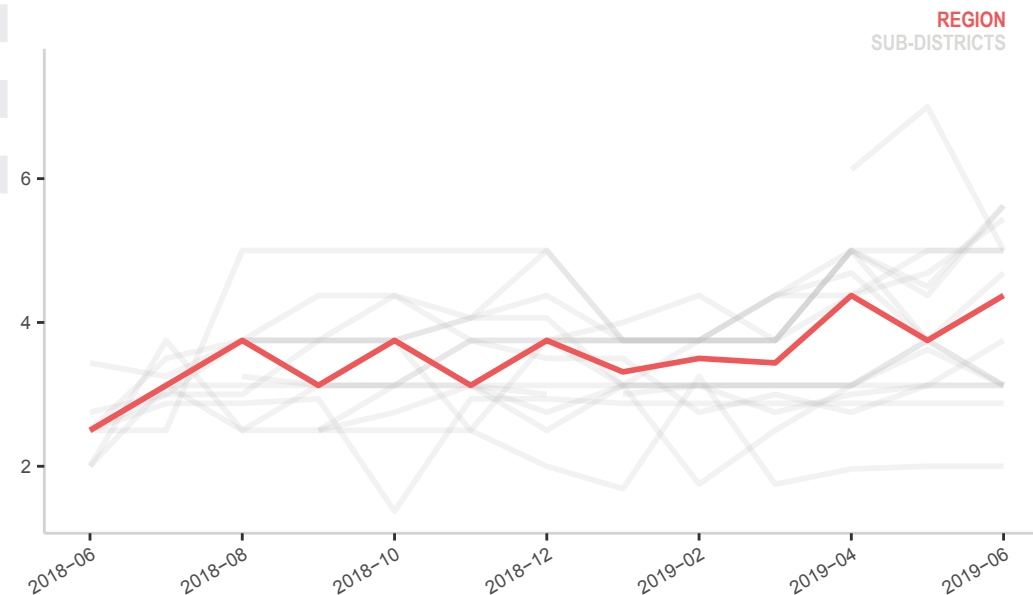
MEDIAN SMEB FOOD COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



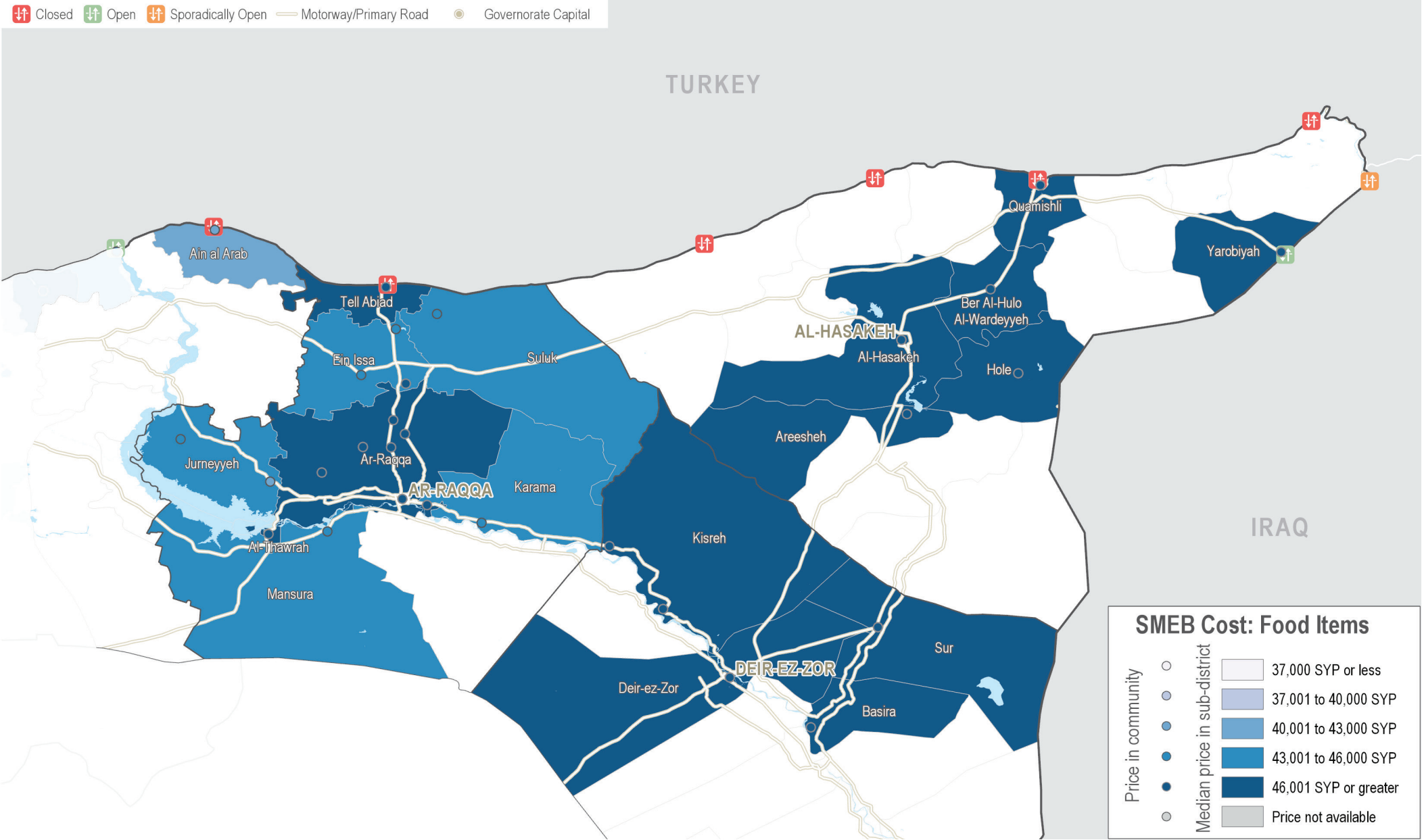
MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



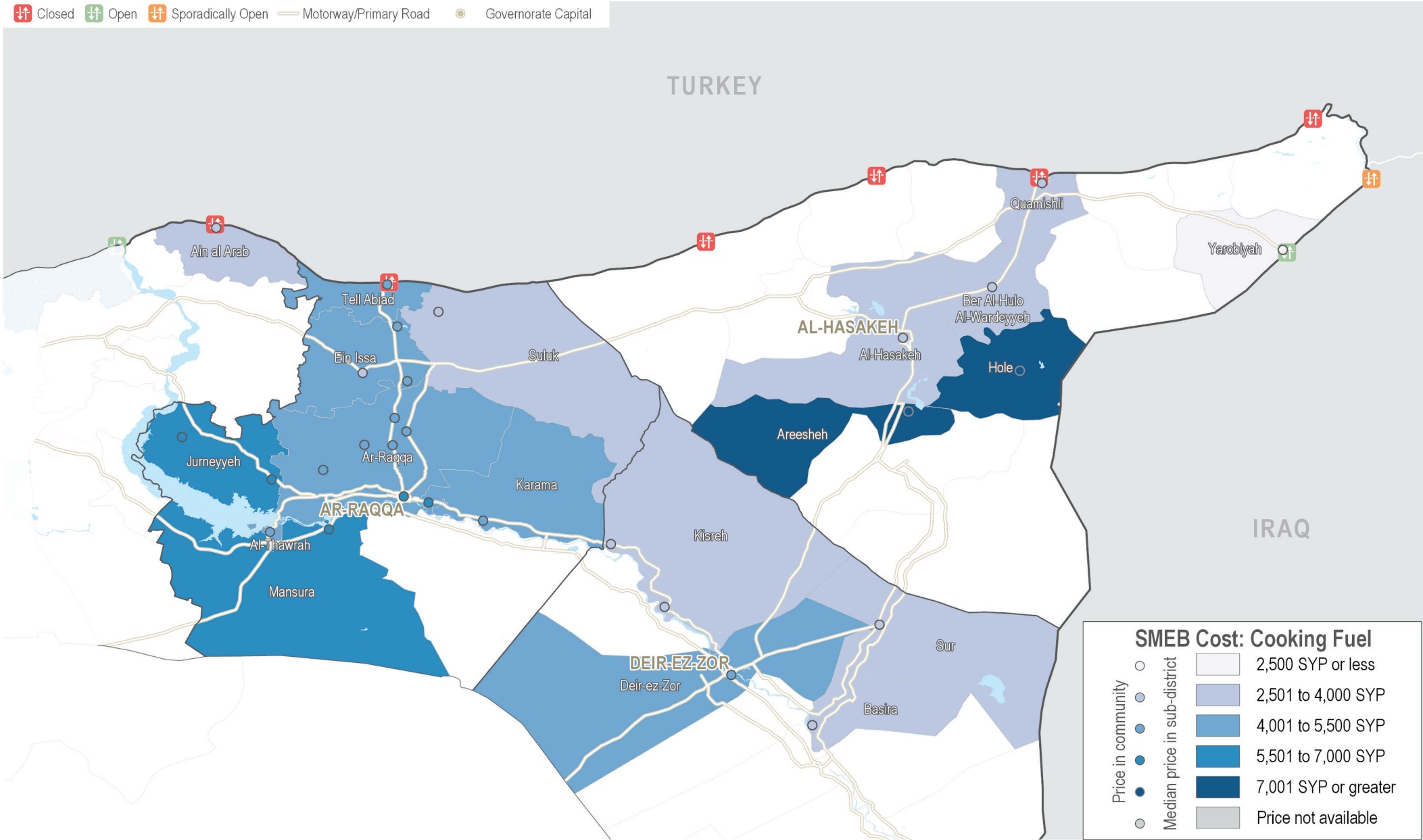
SMEB FOOD ITEMS' COST
Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds

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



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

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



MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COST

4,500L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Water Truck	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	4,500	0%	8%
Ain al Arab	3,015	18%	18%
Al-Hasakeh*	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	6,750	24%	NA
Areesheh*	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	4,500	100%	100%
Basira	4,727	50%	37%
Be'r Al-Hulo	NA	NA	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh*	NA	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor*	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	4,860	13%	19%
Hole	4,500	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh*	NA	NA	NA
Karama*	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	4,500	0%	122%
Mansura*	NA	NA	NA
Quamishli*	NA	NA	NA
Suluk*	NA	NA	NA
Sur*	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad*	NA	NA	NA
Ya'robiyah*	NA	NA	NA

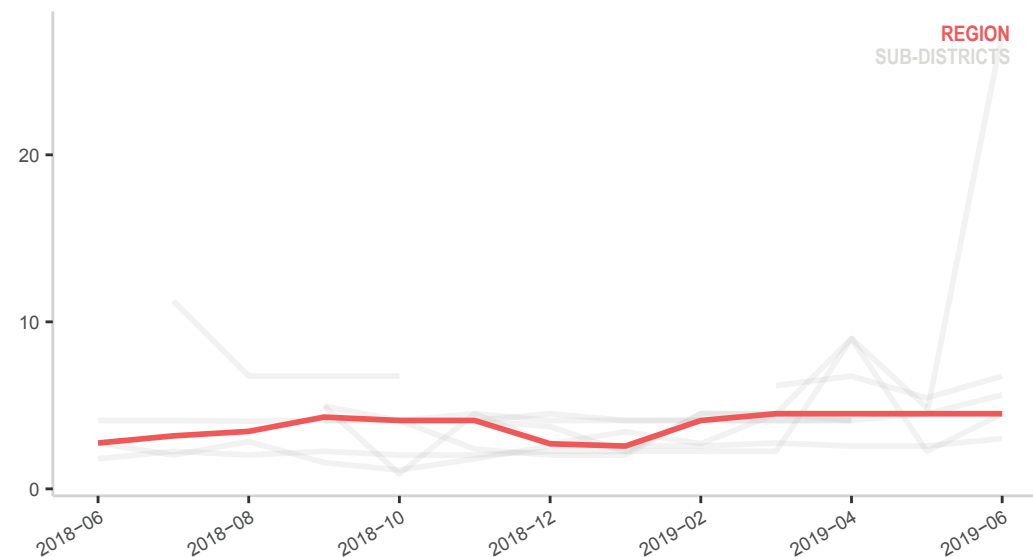
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL COST

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

Sub-district	Diesel and Petrol	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	230	18%	41%
Ain al Arab	277	53%	59%
Al-Hasakeh	108	16%	18%
Al-Thawrah	294	25%	151%
Areesheh	275	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	325	34%	82%
Basira	195	3%	30%
Be'r Al-Hulo	128	1%	35%
Al-Wardeyyeh	128	1%	35%
Deir-ez-Zor	303	0%	NA
Ein Issa	148	-11%	-21%
Hole	325	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh	389	14%	31%
Karama	233	-11%	23%
Kisreh	200	-10%	16%
Mansura	388	83%	153%
Quamishli	127	0%	27%
Suluk	230	NA	24%
Sur	195	-3%	-36%
Tell Abiad	120	-14%	-2%
Ya'robiyah	125	0%	25%

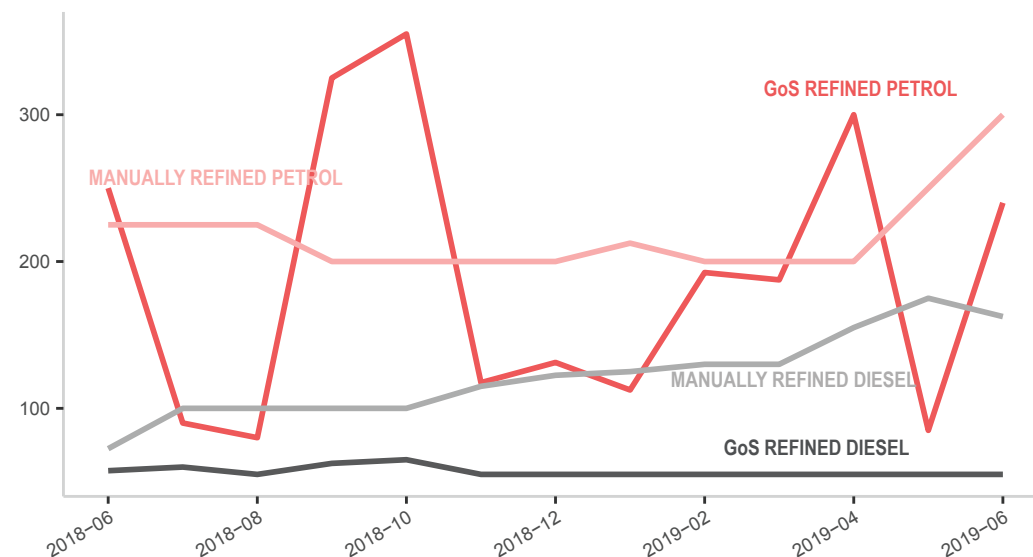
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COST, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



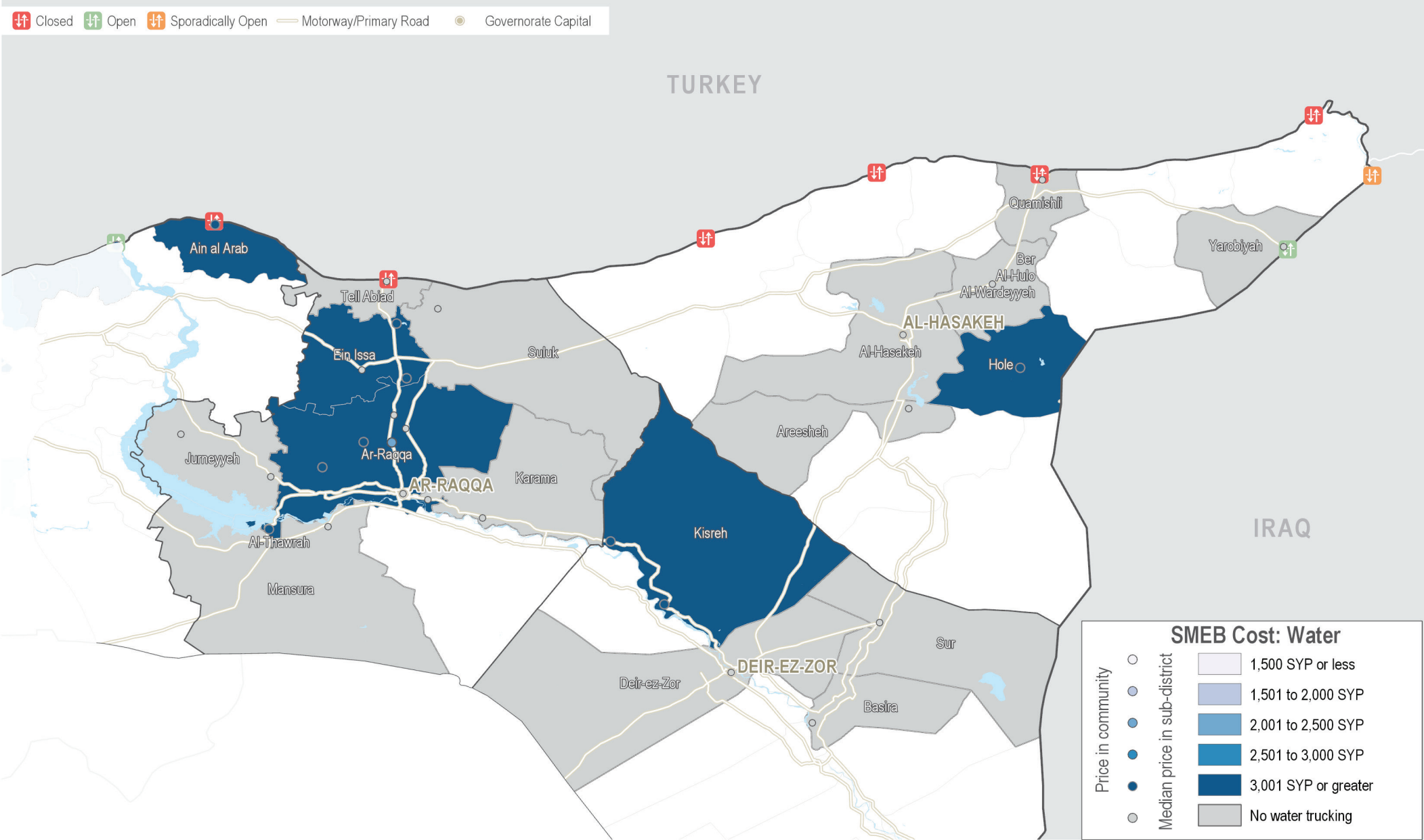
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL COST, BY MONTH & TYPE

Syrian Pounds

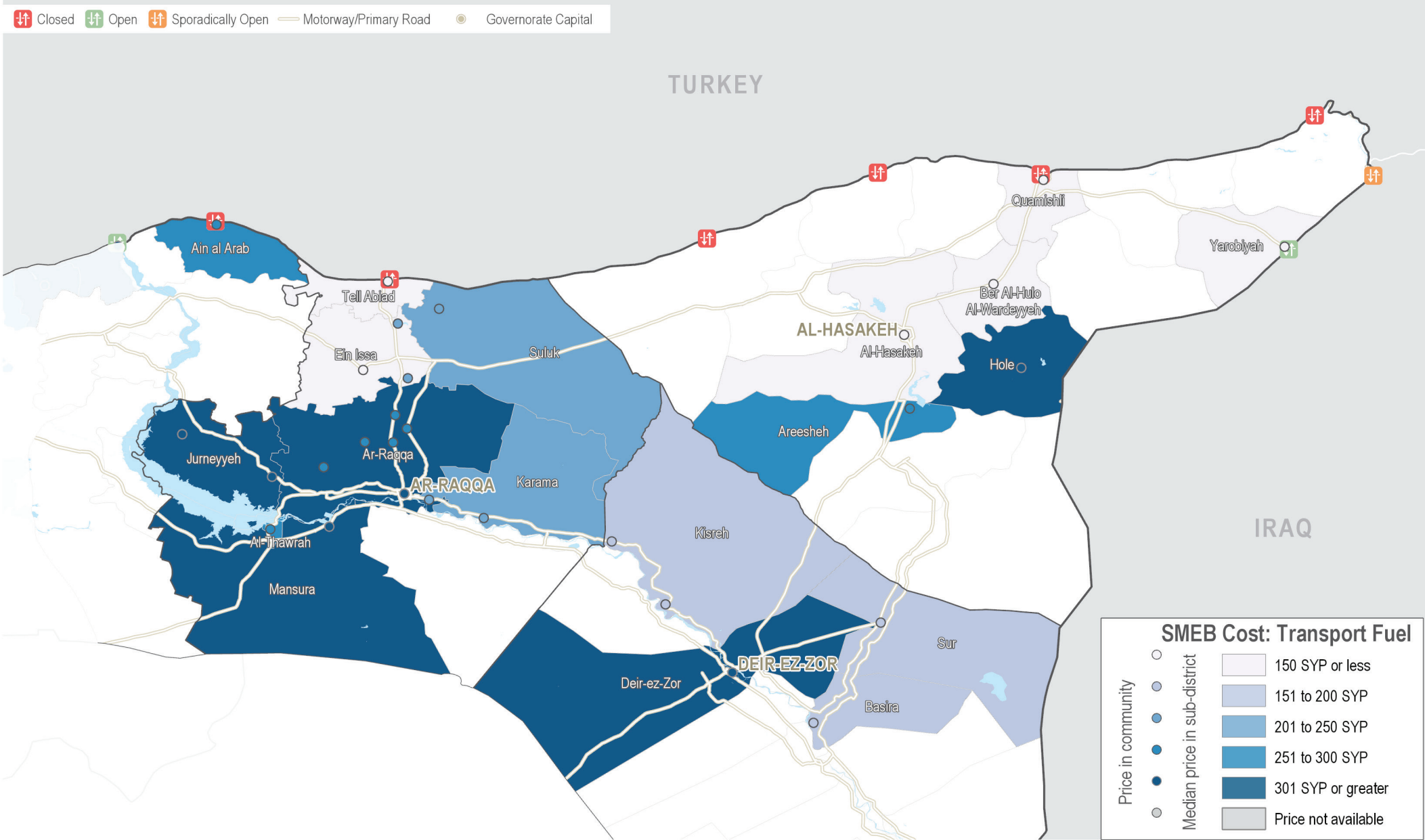


* Denotes sub-districts where water trucking is not common, and therefore does not have water trucking prices

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



TRANSPORT FUEL COST
Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COST

12 bars of soap, 4 packs of 10 sanitary pads, 200g toothpaste, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene Items	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	5,670	-5%	4%
Ain al Arab	4,858	-19%	-12%
Al-Hasakeh	6,035	2%	9%
Al-Thawrah	3,788	7%	21%
Areeshah	2,109	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	5,683	-5%	-6%
Basira	7,691	23%	57%
Be'r Al-Hulo	5,590	4%	3%
Deir-ez-Zor	6,500	-6%	NA
Ein Issa	6,581	4%	14%
Hole	1,584	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh	3,350	6%	17%
Karama	5,923	-13%	8%
Kisreh	6,375	3%	22%
Mansura	3,450	2%	-3%
Quamishli	5,510	-1%	-6%
Suluk	6,100	-10%	-10%
Sur	7,225	17%	55%
Tell Abiad	5,146	-5%	-7%
Ya'robayah	5,885	-11%	0%

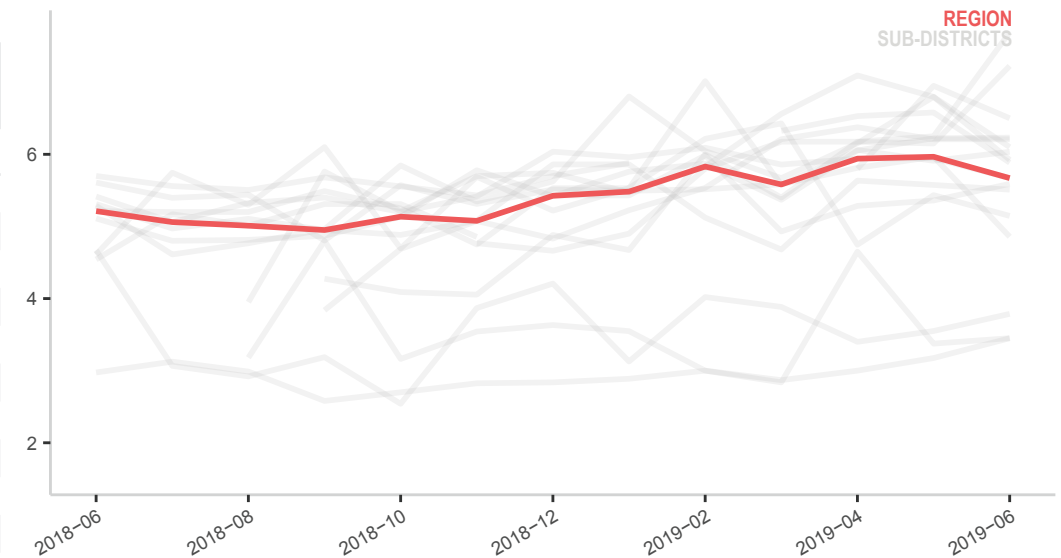
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST

1GB data, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Phone Data	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	1,625	-10%	8%
Ain al Arab	2,800	4%	12%
Al-Hasakeh	2,500	39%	25%
Al-Thawrah	2,000	-52%	-37%
Areeshah	2,048	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	1,500	0%	0%
Basira	2,560	0%	-15%
Be'r Al-Hulo	1,650	18%	14%
Deir-ez-Zor	512	NA	NA
Ein Issa	1,500	0%	0%
Hole	5,120	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh	4,650	-3%	39%
Karama	1,500	0%	0%
Kisreh	1,000	0%	-27%
Mansura	4,600	130%	207%
Quamishli	1,600	7%	7%
Suluk	1,000	NA	-33%
Sur	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	1,500	-50%	-25%
Ya'robayah	1,000	-5%	-33%

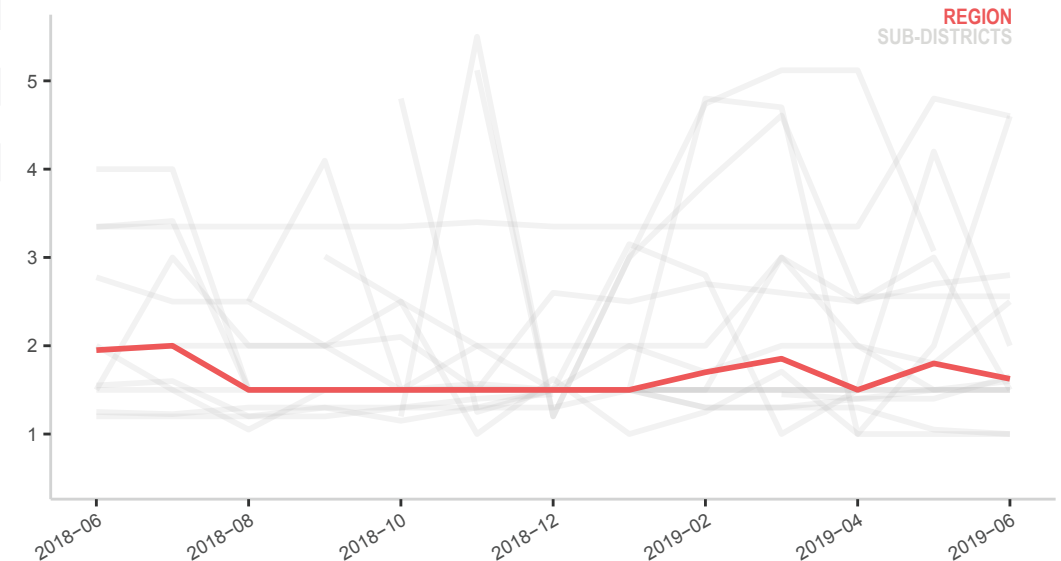
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COST, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



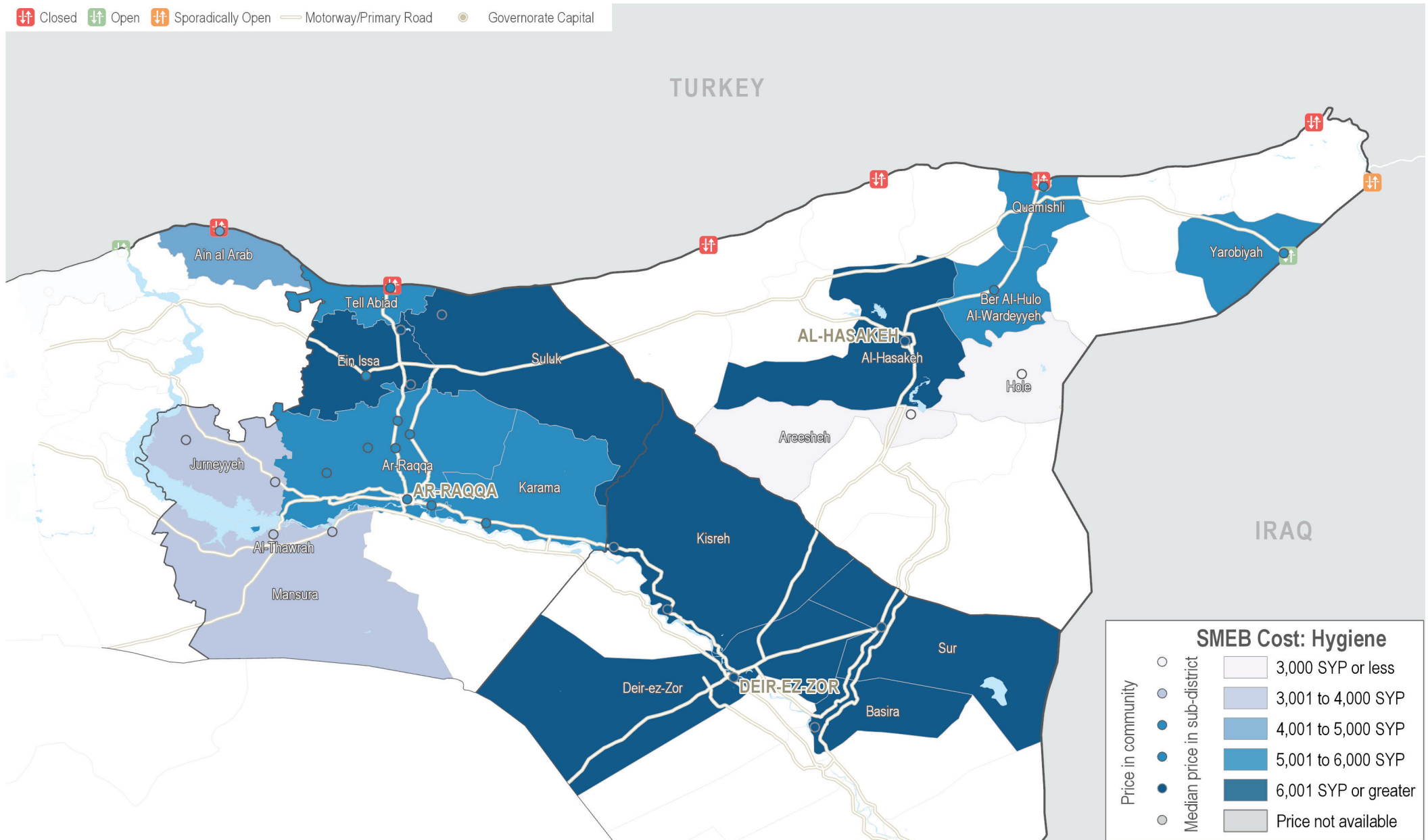
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



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

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

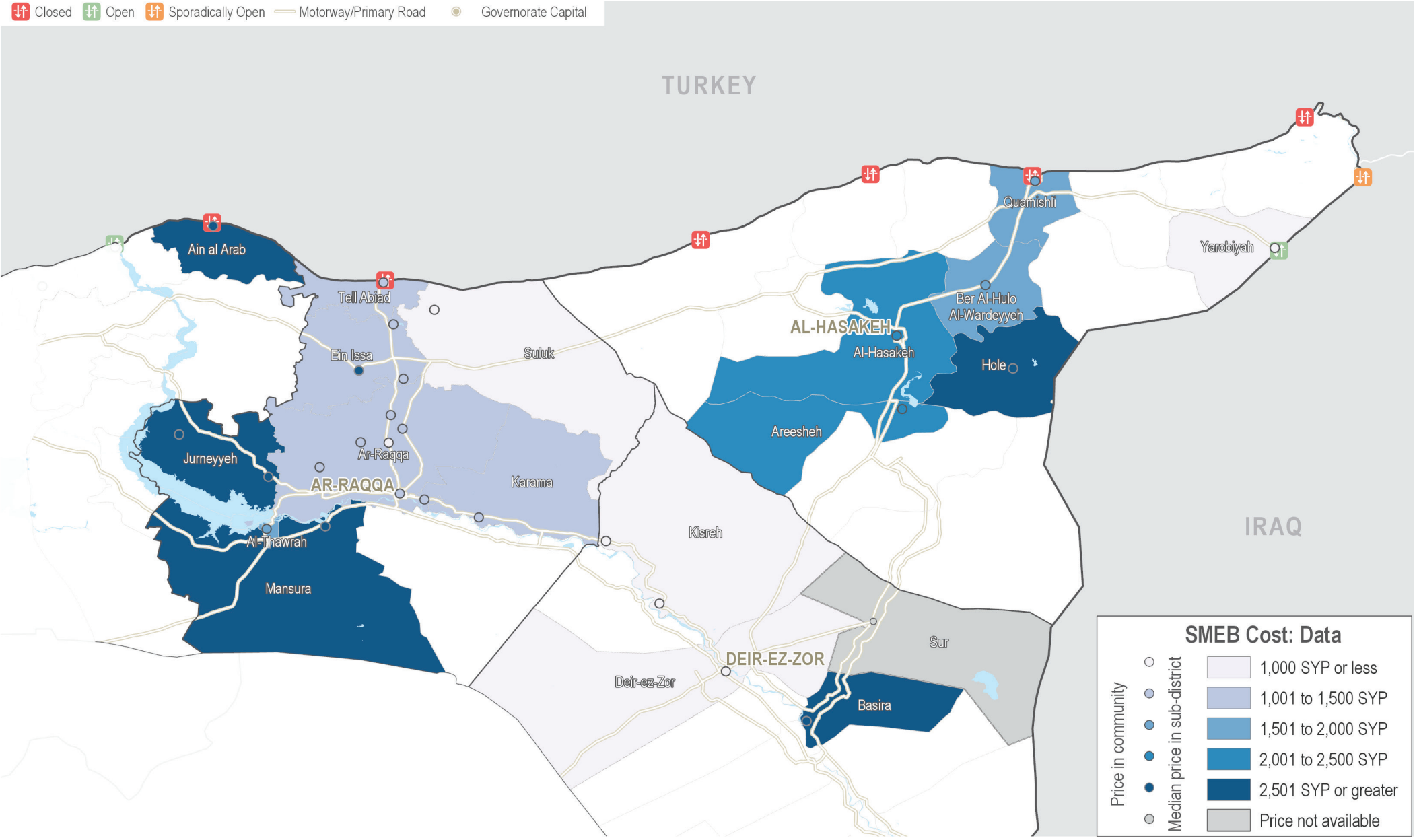


SMEB Cost: Hygiene

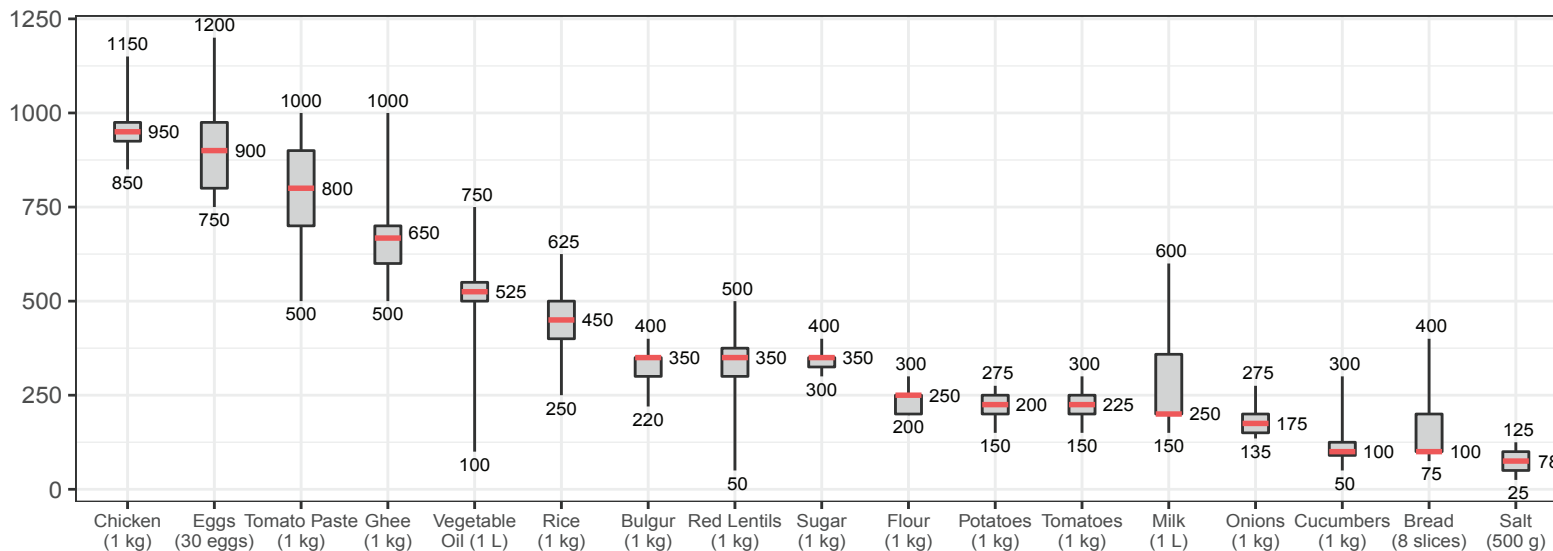
○ Price in community	3,000 SYP or less
○ Price in sub-district	3,001 to 4,000 SYP
● Price in community	4,001 to 5,000 SYP
● Price in sub-district	5,001 to 6,000 SYP
● Price in community	6,001 SYP or greater
○ Price in sub-district	Price not available

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

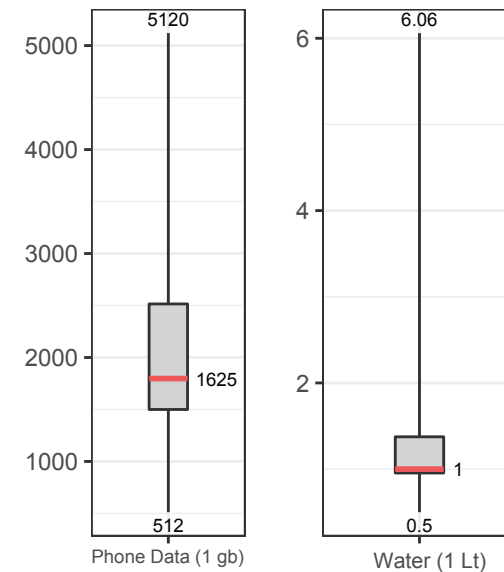
⬇️⬆️ Closed
 ⬆️⬆️ Open
 ⬆️⬆️ Sporadically Open
 — Motorway/Primary Road
 ● Governorate Capital



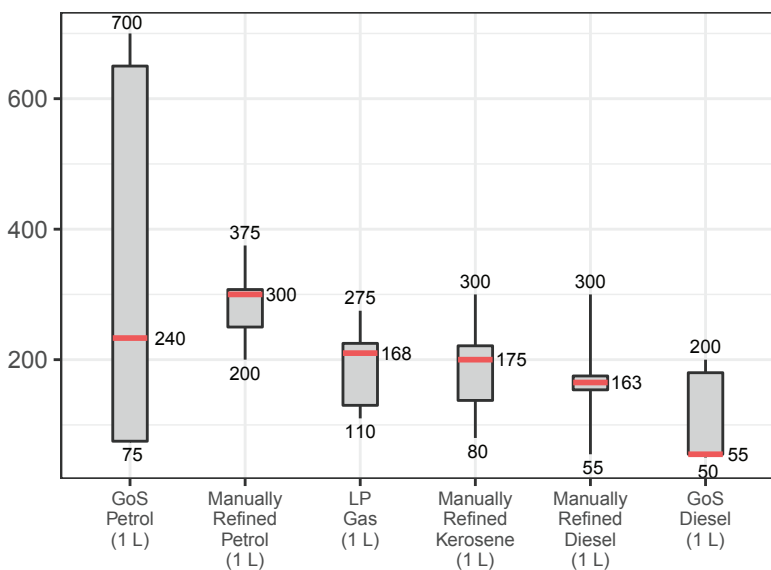
ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS Syrian Pounds



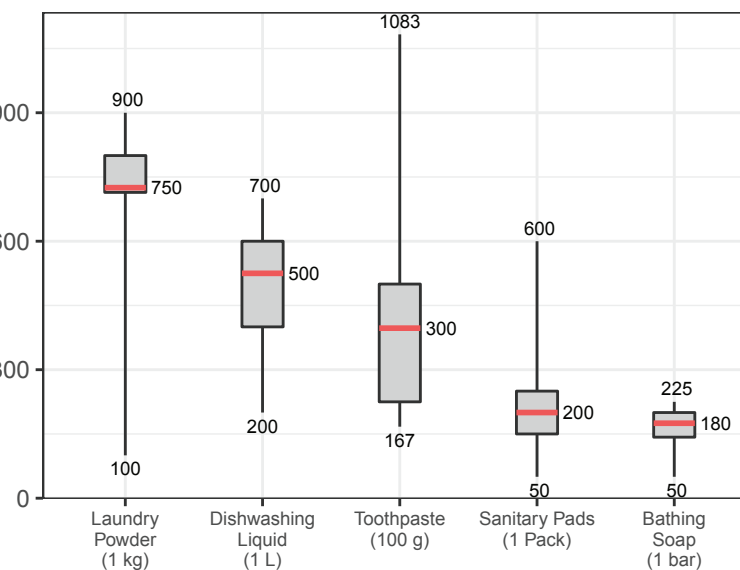
CELLPHONE DATA WATER TRUCKING Syrian Pounds



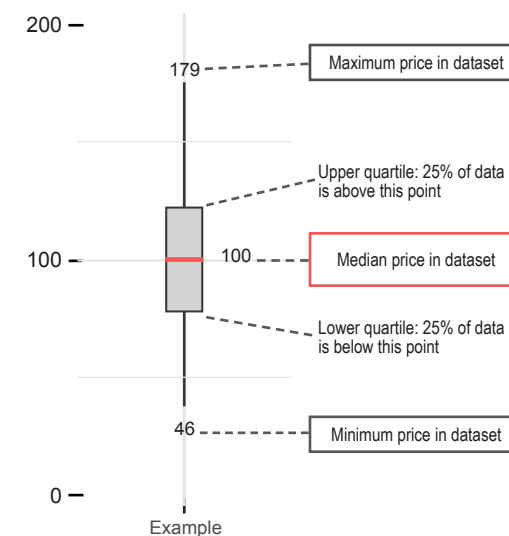
ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS Syrian Pounds



ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS Syrian Pounds



READING BOXPLOTS



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 Deir-ez-Zor, 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 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 the SMEB in each sub-district and adds illustrations of surrounding border crossings, with data sourced from OCHA. In addition,

each SMEB component costs and transport fuel prices are graphed to visualize trends over time. The cleaned datasets are available on the 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 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.

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.

Because this exercise collects data directly from vendors and because it relies on partner organizations for its wide coverage, the exercise may lose coverage sporadically or for longer periods of time owing to challenges in accessing locations or due to loss in the shared data collection capacity of the project. This impacts the ability to report on trends, as can be seen in the line graphs and 'NA' values in the tables.

CHANGES TO COVERAGE

Given security and access constraints in the south of Syria, data collection has been unable to take place since July 2018. Due to access issues and an escalation of conflict, coverage was lost in Eastern Ghouta in March 2018.

CALCULATING 'MEDIAN CHEAPEST PRICE'

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

CALCULATING SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB) COSTS

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

WHAT IS THE CASH-BASED RESPONSES TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP?

The Cash-Based Responses Technical Working Group (CBR-TWG) was established in May 2014 to analyse the impact of the ongoing conflict on markets in Syria and guide the implementation of humanitarian cash and voucher programmes within those markets. REACH and the CBR-TWG have been partners on the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise since early 2015. 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. However, we have since lost coverage in the south of Syria.

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. 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).