

NORTHWEST SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 11-21 May 2020

INTRODUCTION

To inform humanitarian cash programming, REACH, in partnership with the 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 Solidarites International, GOAL, Violet, REACH, SARD, CARE-Shafak, 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
	Bathing soap	12 bars
Hygiene items	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 32 sub-districts and 1,902 individual shops in northwest Syria for the Market Monitoring Exercise. In light of the current rapid depreciation of the Syrian Pound (SYP) and resulting market disruption, prices in the Market Monitoring dataset and output should be seen as representative only of the markets and dates when and where information was collected (11-21 May). Data collection dates in May were extended for the month of Ramadan.

Highest northwest SMEB cost recorded

In May 2020, the value of the regional SMEB reached 135,276 SYP / 86 United States Dollars (USD), increasing by 10% across comparable communities with consistent coverage since April (see Methodology) and setting a new highest recorded price in the Market Monitoring Exercise in NWS. When aggregating all

assessed communities in NWS during May 2020, the total median regional SMEB was recorded at 135,380 SYP / 86 USD. While the SMEB continued to rise in SYP, in USD the SMEB value decreased from 99 to 86 USD in May due to the further depreciation of the SYP against the USD (see below).

Sharp depreciation of the SYP against the USD

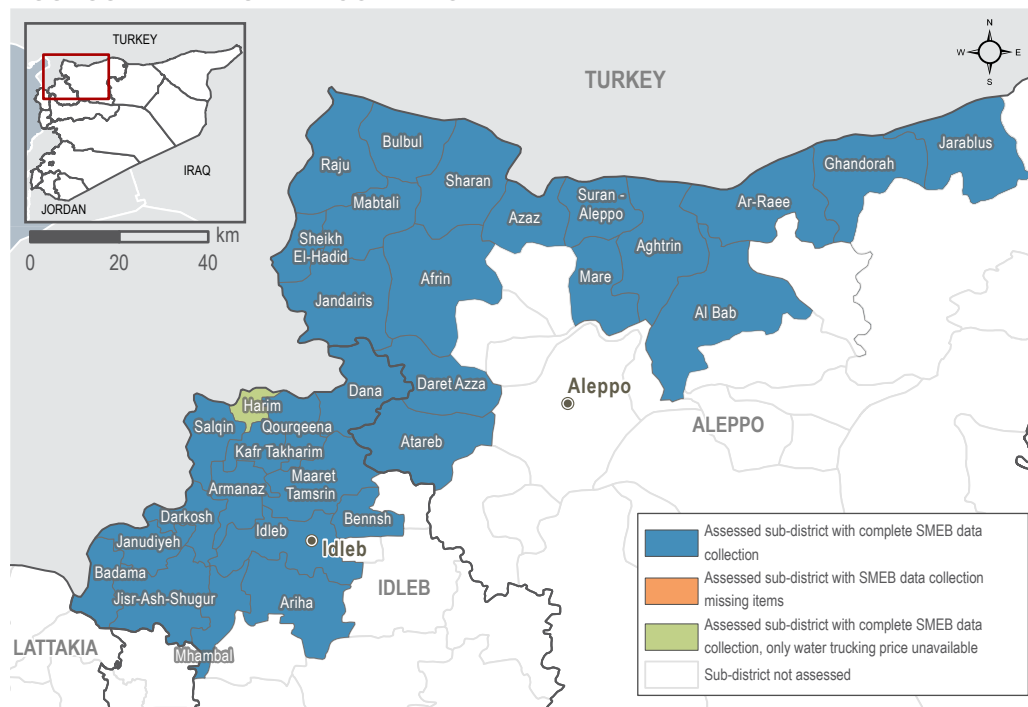
During data collection throughout May, the informal SYP/USD exchange rate continued to increase sharply across the region. The total median regional informal exchange rate was recorded at 1,575 SYP/USD, a 30% increase since last month. The highest exchange rate was recorded at 1,940 SYP to 1 USD in Batbu community in Aleppo governorate. 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.

Transport fuel prices increased

This month, the price of transport fuel increased by 20% at the regional level, reaching a median of 750 SYP per litre. The price of high quality petrol increased by 26% in one month, while manually refined petrol remained relatively steady, only increasing by 3% since April. Moreover, the price of high quality diesel increased by 15% and of manually refined diesel by 18% since April. The depreciation of the SYP against the USD, along with the cost of importing high quality European fuels from Turkey, were potential causes of the price increases for high quality products. On the other hand, manually refined fuels were reportedly difficult to acquire due to road closures as a result of COVID-19, potentially impacting their prices.

ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE

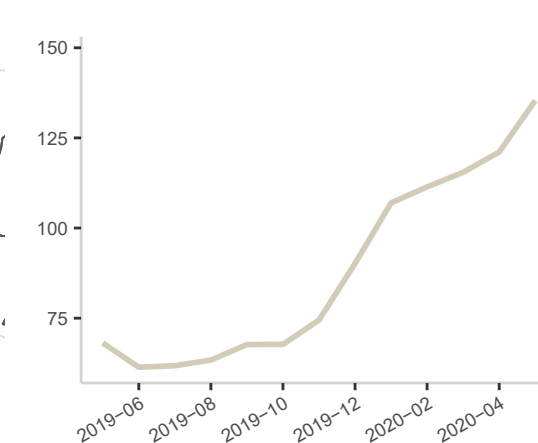


MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

135,380 SYP (86 USD) NORTHWEST SYRIA - IDLEB, WESTERN & NORTHERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

135,380 SYP (86 USD) **NORTHWEST SYRIA - IDLEB, WESTERN & NORTHERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES**

Food items prices sharply increased – especially bulk food

This month, the regional SMEB food component increased by 9%, reaching 93,685 SYP. REACH's recent [NWS Rapid Market Functionality assessment](#) found that 45% of surveyed vendors reported an increase in demand in the two weeks prior to data collection. Moreover, among vendors who reported supply challenges during the Market Monitoring Exercise, 99% reported price inflation as their main supply challenge (see page 10 for Market Functionality findings). Increasing demand combined with supply challenges and the collapsing currency may be contributing factors to the sharp increase in food prices in markets in NWS. Bulk food items in particular have witnessed a significant increase since April. For example, bulgur increased by 20%, flour by 30%, rice by 33%, and chickpeas by 36% since April. As bulk food items are largely imported into NWS, these sharp price increases may be due to the increased cost of transport fuel cost and the depreciation of the SYP. In contrast, the SMEB vegetable component decreased by 37%

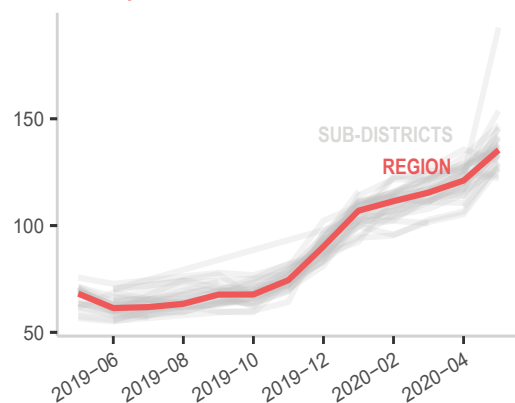
since April as the local vegetable production season in NWS is ongoing.

Hygiene items prices increased – except bathing soap

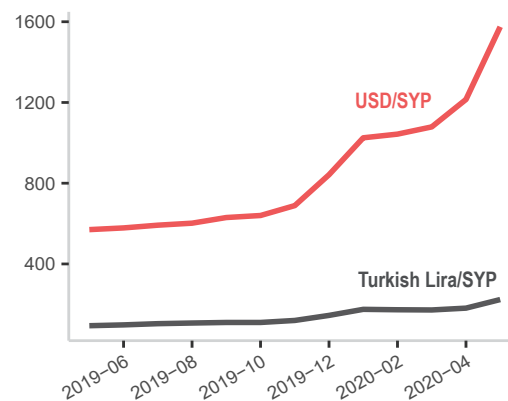
This month, the SMEB hygiene component value increased by 33% at the regional level, reaching a median of 8,406 SYP. More specifically, prices of sanitary pads increased by 22% since April, laundry soap by 33%, dishwashing soap by 47%, and toothpaste by 56%. As with bulk foods, hygiene items are largely imported into NWS, and thus the increase in the price of transport fuel and the depreciation of the SYP likely contribute to the sharp increase in prices. Moreover, the latest [NWS Rapid Market Functionality assessment](#) found that 41% of hygiene items vendors and 19% of pharmacists reported an increase in demand during late May. An increased demand may also explain price increases. In contrast, the cost of bathing soap decreased by 2% since April. Field teams reported bathing soap demand decreased as humanitarian organisations donated this item as a preventive measure against COVID-19. See page 11 for COVID-19-related findings.

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



EXCHANGE RATES, BY MONTH & CURRENCY



MEDIAN SMEB COSTS & CHANGES*

Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Northwest Syria	135,276	10%	51%
Afrin	122,277	-2%	41%
Agthrin	121,320	15%	36%
Al Bab	129,932	15%	60%
Ariha	151,459	NA	61%
Armanaz	140,729	9%	50%
Ar-Ra'ee	127,997	18%	48%
Atareb	182,351	48%	107%
A'zaz	145,457	16%	43%
Badama	138,662	12%	53%
Bennsh	133,542	7%	61%
Bulbul	126,865	10%	31%
Dana	134,837	15%	44%
Daret Azza	135,732	6%	42%
Darkosh	131,870	-5%	42%
Ghandorah	129,116	21%	54%

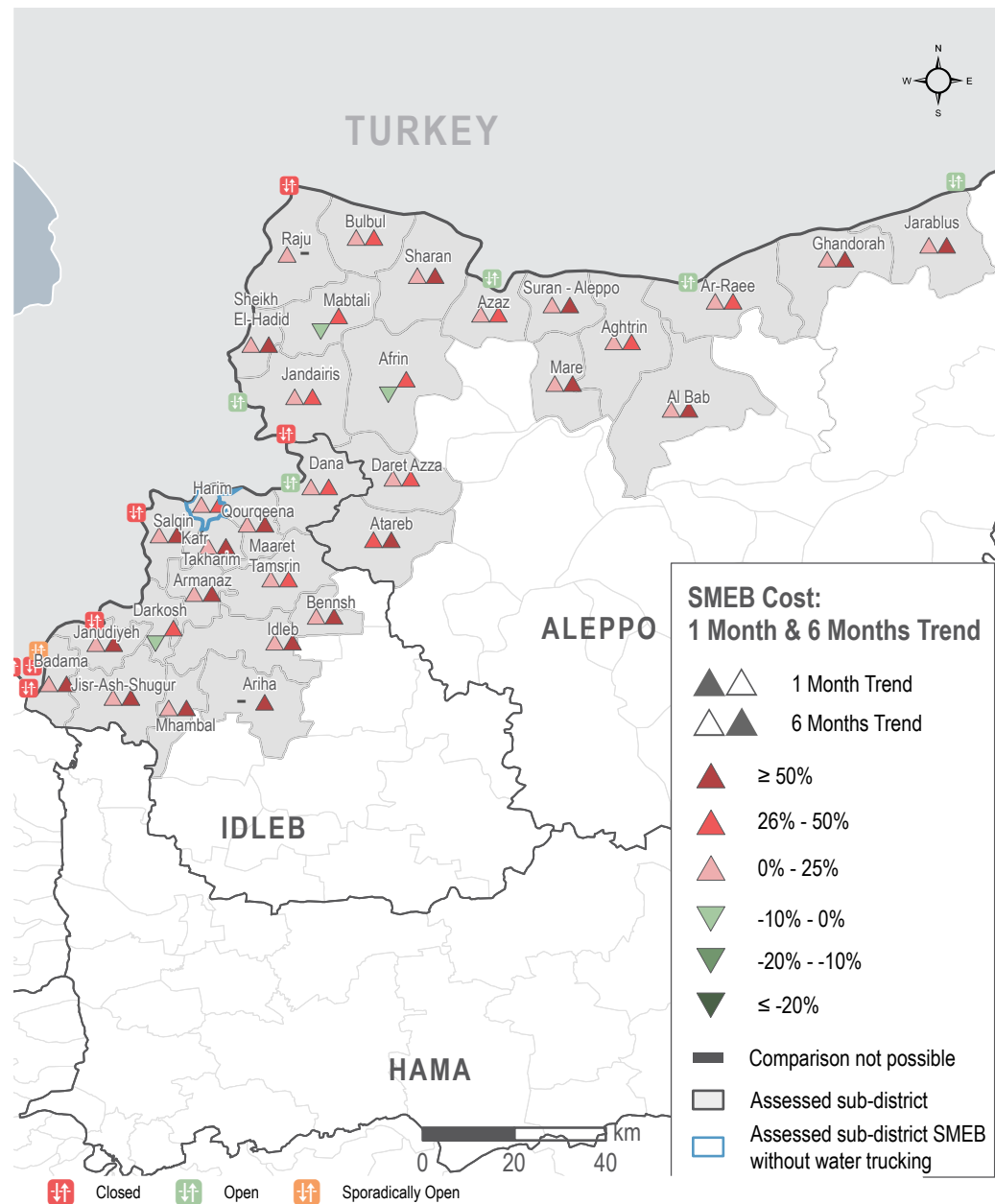
Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Harim**	129,059	17%	41%
Idleb	134,464	24%	61%
Jandairis	131,516	8%	45%
Janudiyeh	137,052	14%	67%
Jarablus	145,650	24%	57%
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	134,372	7%	56%
Kafr Takharim	149,309	20%	64%
Maaret Tamsrin	135,276	12%	45%
Ma'btali	123,265	-2%	43%
Mare'	136,459	13%	51%
Mhambal	143,903	19%	64%
Qourqeena	135,990	7%	61%
Raju	140,432	17%	NA
Salqin	147,079	11%	55%
Sharan	133,189	16%	53%
Sheikh El-Hadid	134,278	5%	58%
Suran	137,110	7%	52%

* For price and change calculations, only the communities within a sub-district with consistent coverage across months are included.

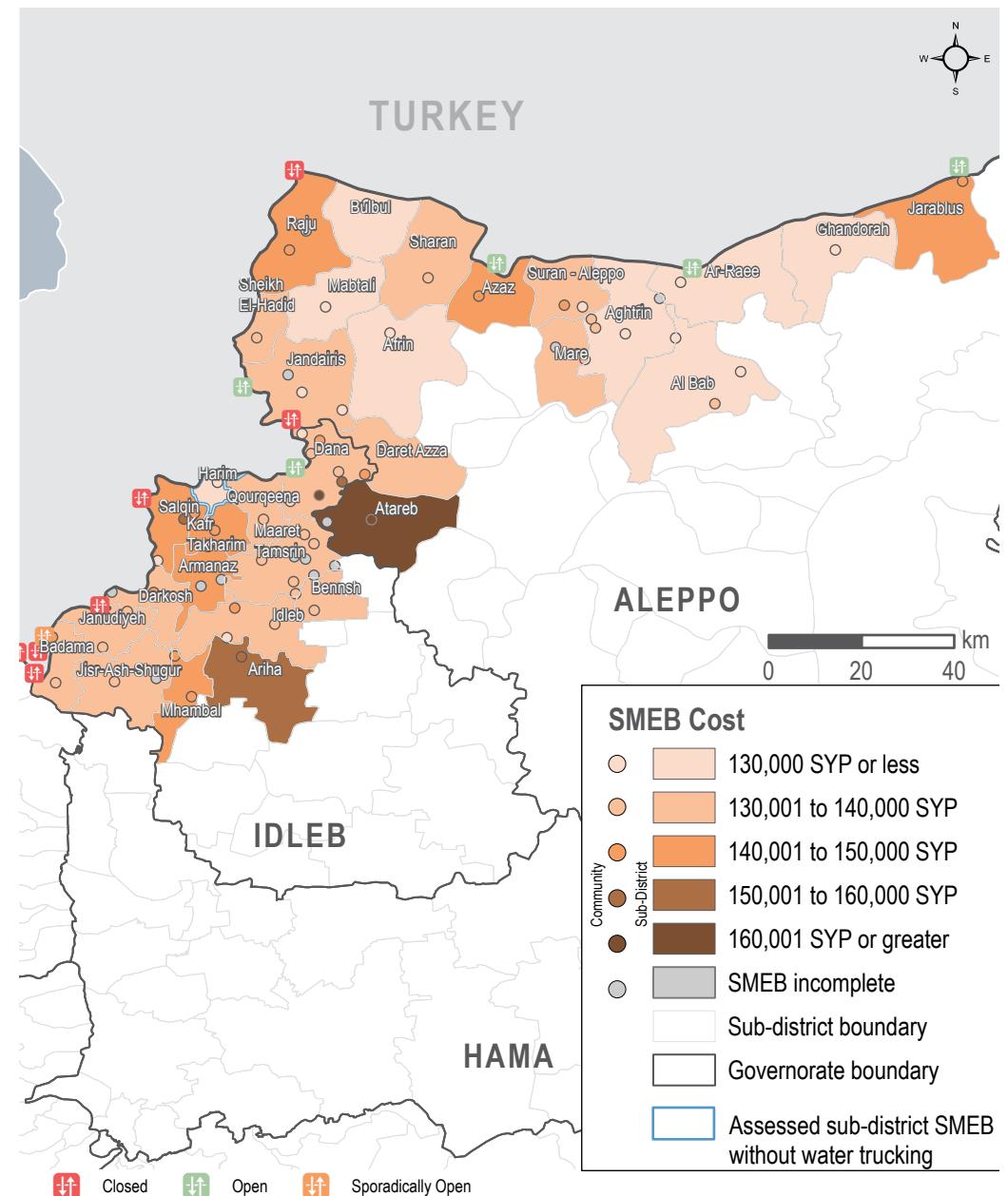
** SMEB calculated without water trucking component.

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

SMEB COST: ONE MONTH & SIX MONTHS TREND



SMEB COST RANGES (SYP), BY SUB-DISTRICTS & COMMUNITIES



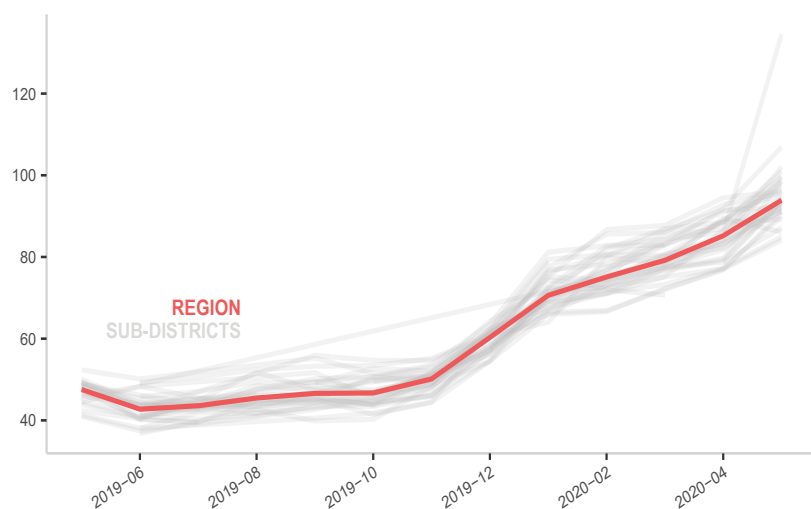
MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS

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
Northwest Syria	93,685	9%	55%	Harim	89,875	16%	44%
Afrin	86,063	-4%	42%	Idleb	93,513	21%	71%
Agthrin	86,138	12%	51%	Jandairis	91,315	8%	53%
Al Bab	91,950	12%	69%	Janudiyeh	99,425	12%	73%
Ariha	106,225	NA	73%	Jarablus	98,518	24%	58%
Armanaz	96,010	6%	55%	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	90,020	9%	65%
Ar-Ra'ee	87,150	11%	43%	Kafr Takharim	106,965	17%	71%
Atareb	127,160	48%	100%	Maaret Tamsrin	91,862	10%	52%
A'zaz	97,713	11%	52%	Ma'btali	89,225	1%	56%
Badama	95,650	13%	64%	Mare'	100,176	11%	66%
Bennsh	91,975	7%	59%	Mhambal	104,866	21%	70%
Bulbul	84,985	10%	38%	Qourqeena	94,288	9%	67%
Dana	93,130	18%	52%	Raju	99,944	16%	NA
Daret Azza	96,050	2%	59%	Salqin	101,375	14%	65%
Darkosh	93,570	0%	60%	Sharan	91,213	10%	67%
Ghandorah	84,141	9%	41%	Sheikh El-Hadid	95,650	3%	66%
				Suran	93,800	9%	62%

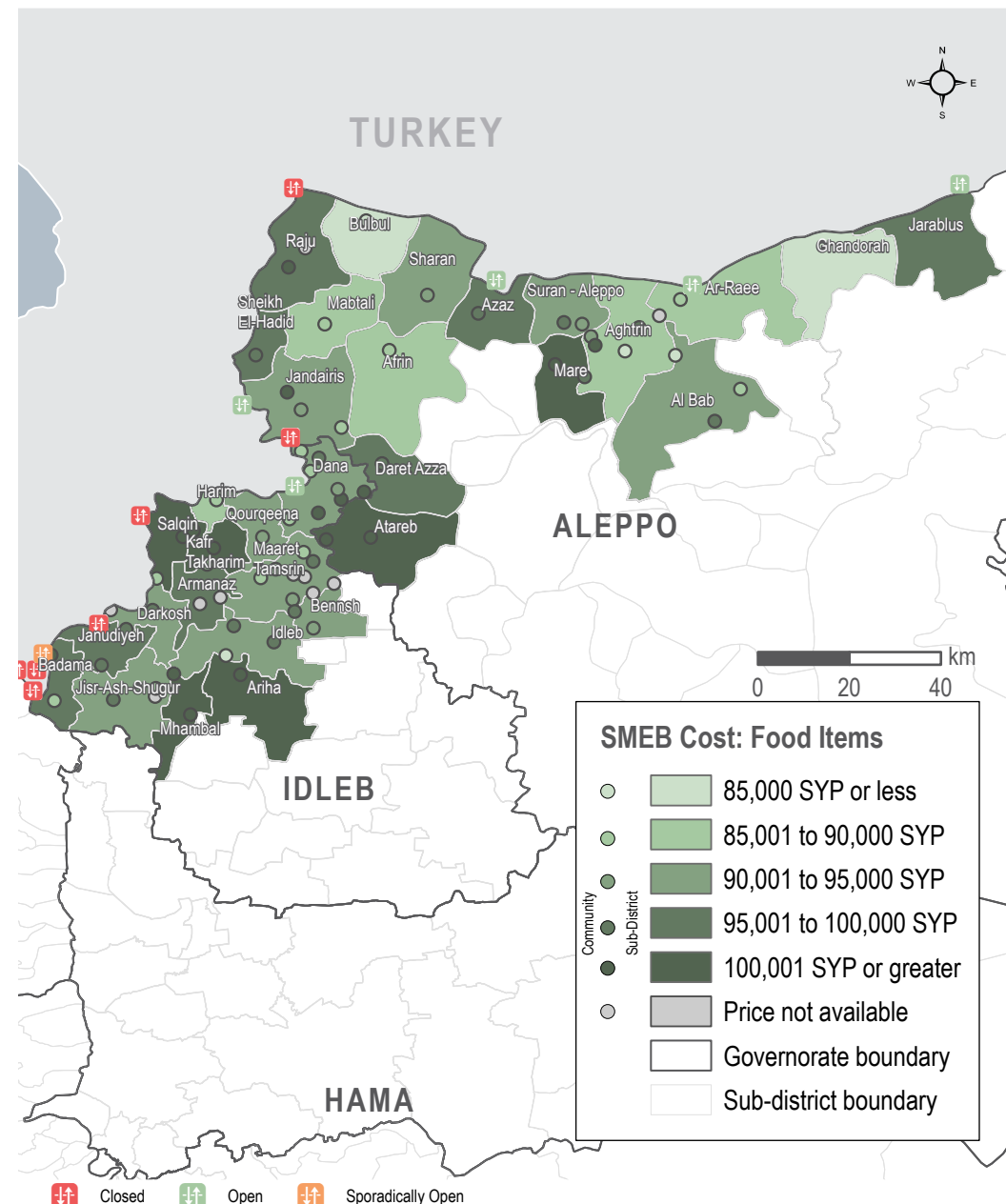
MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB FOOD ITEMS' COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



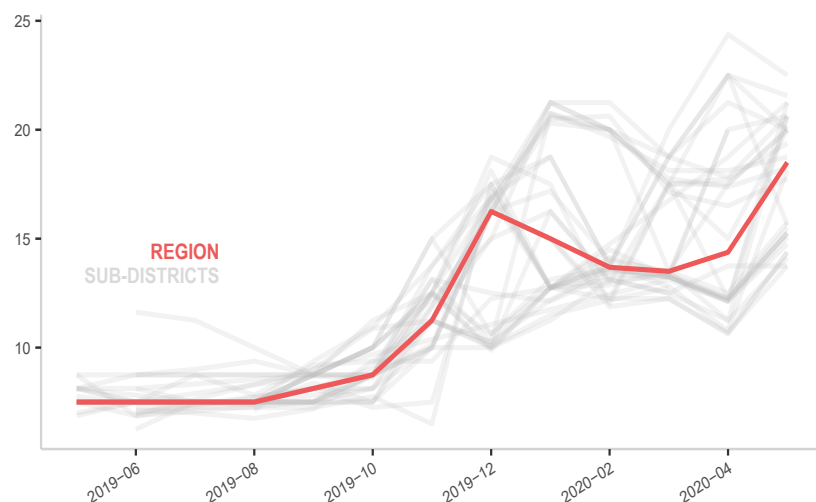
MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL PRICE

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
Northwest Syria	18,156	26%	12%	Harim	20,000	14%	19%
Afrin	13,750	0%	38%	Idlib	15,375	26%	54%
Aghttrin	14,063	32%	-13%	Jandairis	20,625	3%	20%
Al Bab	13,750	29%	12%	Janudiyeh	15,250	24%	49%
Ariha	15,750	26%	-4%	Jarablus	20,000	14%	33%
Armanaz	21,250	19%	28%	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	21,563	-4%	33%
Ar-Ra'ee	18,125	67%	80%	Kafr Takharim	16,500	35%	32%
Atareb	21,250	13%	107%	Maaret Tamsrin	19,375	9%	19%
A'zaz	20,000	33%	7%	Ma'btali	14,125	26%	41%
Badama	18,750	3%	15%	Mare'	14,063	24%	-20%
Bennsh	20,000	0%	95%	Mhambal	15,500	27%	57%
Bulbul	17,750	8%	6%	Qourqeena	20,000	-6%	33%
Dana	18,188	5%	10%	Raju	15,125	25%	NA
Daret Azza	14,750	22%	-19%	Salqin	21,875	-10%	25%
Darkosh	15,250	-32%	-13%	Sharan	21,250	75%	26%
Ghandorah	20,625	83%	94%	Sheikh El-Hadid	15,250	24%	44%
				Suran	20,000	-11%	21%

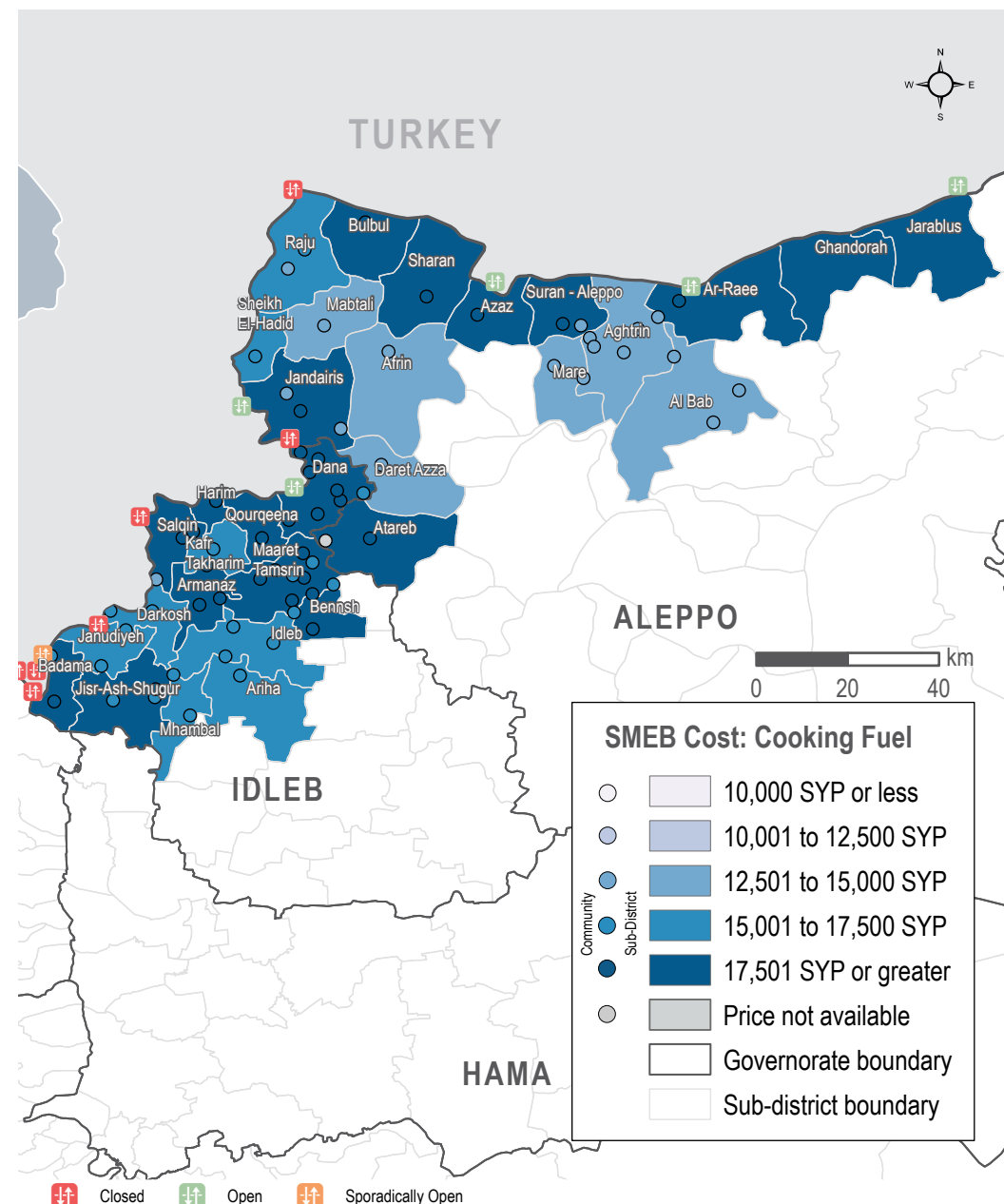
MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB COOKING FUEL COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



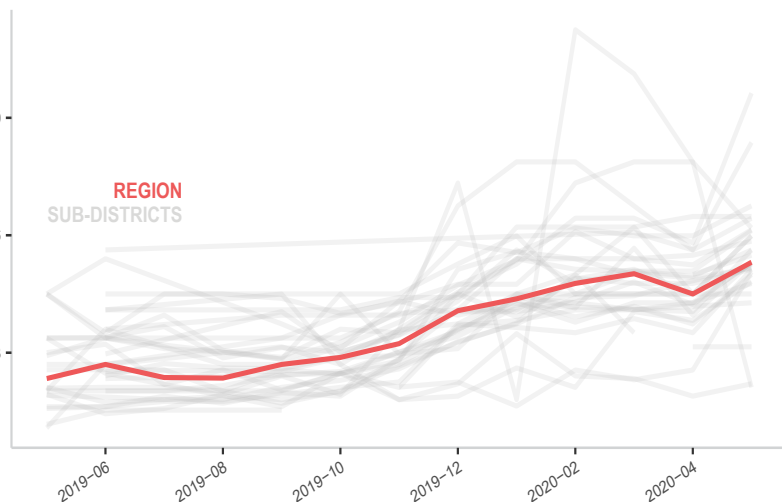
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICE

4,500L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Water Truck	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Water Truck	One month change	Six month change
Northwest Syria	5,288	18%	32%	Harim	NA	NA	NA
Afrin	6,750	13%	16%	Idlib	8,370	49%	24%
Agthrin	5,625	25%	30%	Jandairis	2,250	6%	2%
Al Bab	6,480	0%	44%	Janudiyeh	5,265	17%	41%
Ariha	9,630	66%	83%	Jarablus	6,120	20%	39%
Armanaz	4,950	16%	45%	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	5,130	5%	25%
Ar-Ra'ee	5,490	10%	34%	Kafr Takharim	5,318	26%	31%
Atareb	5,625	39%	56%	Maaret Tamsrin	4,905	31%	38%
A'zaz	6,143	17%	29%	Ma'btali	2,115	-73%	-71%
Badama	5,625	13%	52%	Mare'	3,600	-13%	90%
Bennsh	3,150	0%	-3%	Mhambal	5,873	-21%	27%
Bulbul	5,850	7%	14%	Qourqeena	4,219	65%	88%
Dana	5,288	7%	55%	Raju	6,491	6%	NA
Daret Azza	5,175	7%	58%	Salqin	5,130	46%	34%
Darkosh	4,500	0%	0%	Sharan	4,275	2%	16%
Ghandorah	5,288	24%	34%	Sheikh El-Hadid	5,985	33%	14%
				Suran	4,421	11%	21%

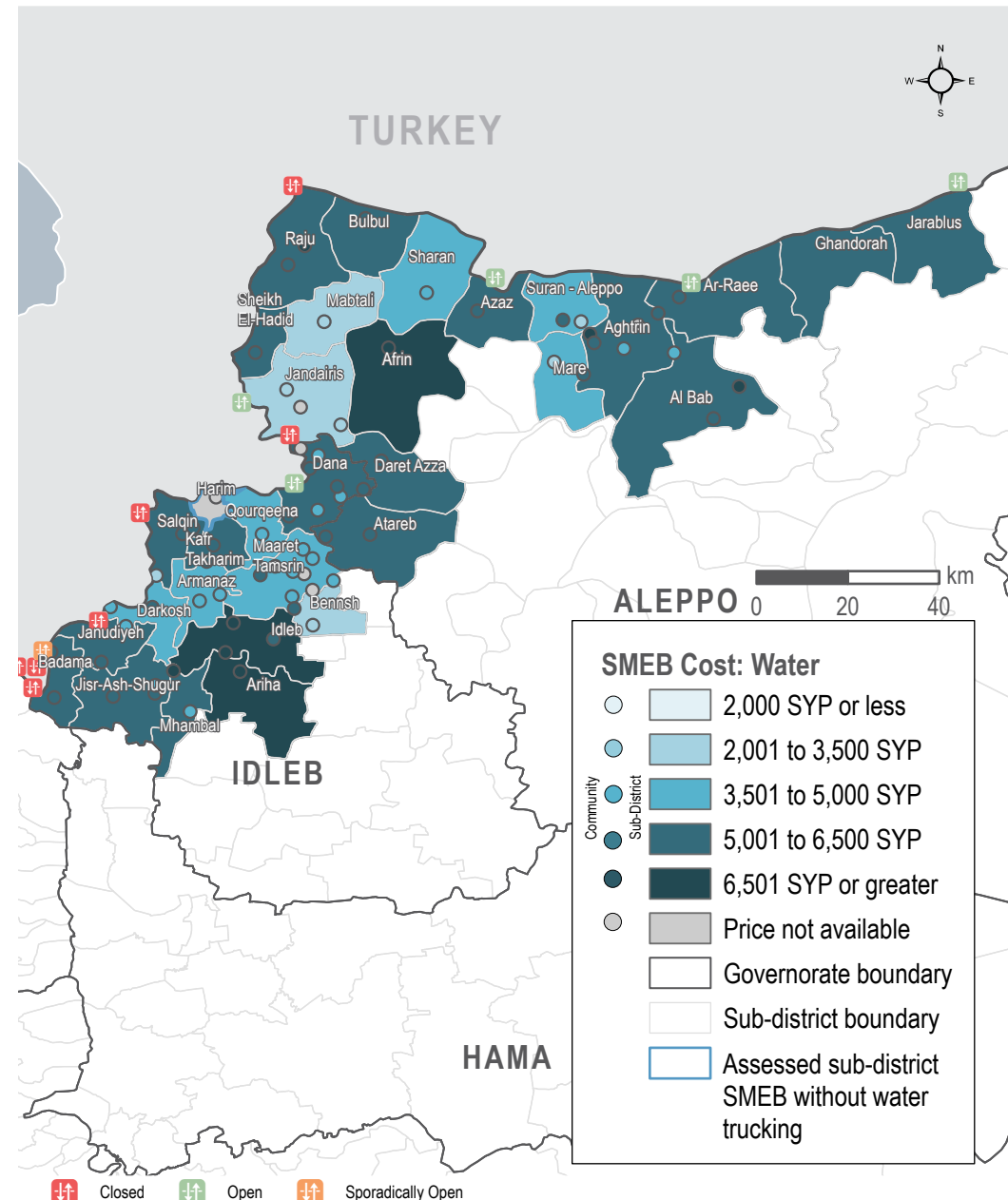
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB WATER TRUCKING COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



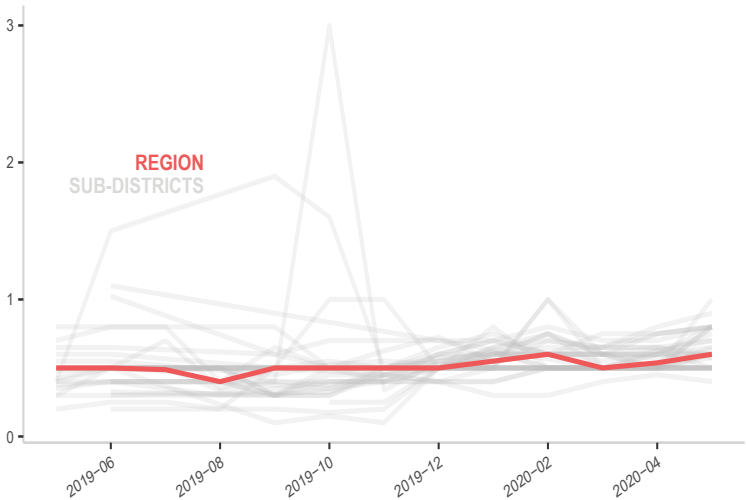
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA PRICE

1GB data, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Data (1GB)	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Data (1GB)	One month change	Six month change
Northwest Syria	600	20%	20%	Harim	900	13%	80%
Afrin	600	-8%	20%	Idlib	500	0%	25%
Agthrin	775	55%	55%	Jandairis	500	0%	0%
Al Bab	750	25%	30%	Janudiyeh	500	0%	0%
Ariha	600	0%	0%	Jarablus	800	60%	60%
Armanaz	500	0%	0%	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	825	3%	65%
Ar-Ra'ee	500	0%	0%	Kafr Takharim	575	15%	5%
Atareb	800	60%	60%	Maaret Tamsrin	600	14%	0%
A'zaz	800	7%	10%	Ma'tbali	800	14%	14%
Badama	550	-4%	10%	Mare'	600	20%	20%
Bennsh	500	0%	25%	Mhambal	450	-10%	29%
Bulbul	700	8%	8%	Qourqeena	700	12%	27%
Dana	650	8%	30%	Raju	650	30%	NA
Daret Azza	600	20%	50%	Salqin	600	0%	20%
Darkosh	500	0%	0%	Sharan	800	7%	52%
Ghadorah	800	60%	60%	Sheikh El-Hadid	500	0%	0%
				Suran	550	-8%	2%

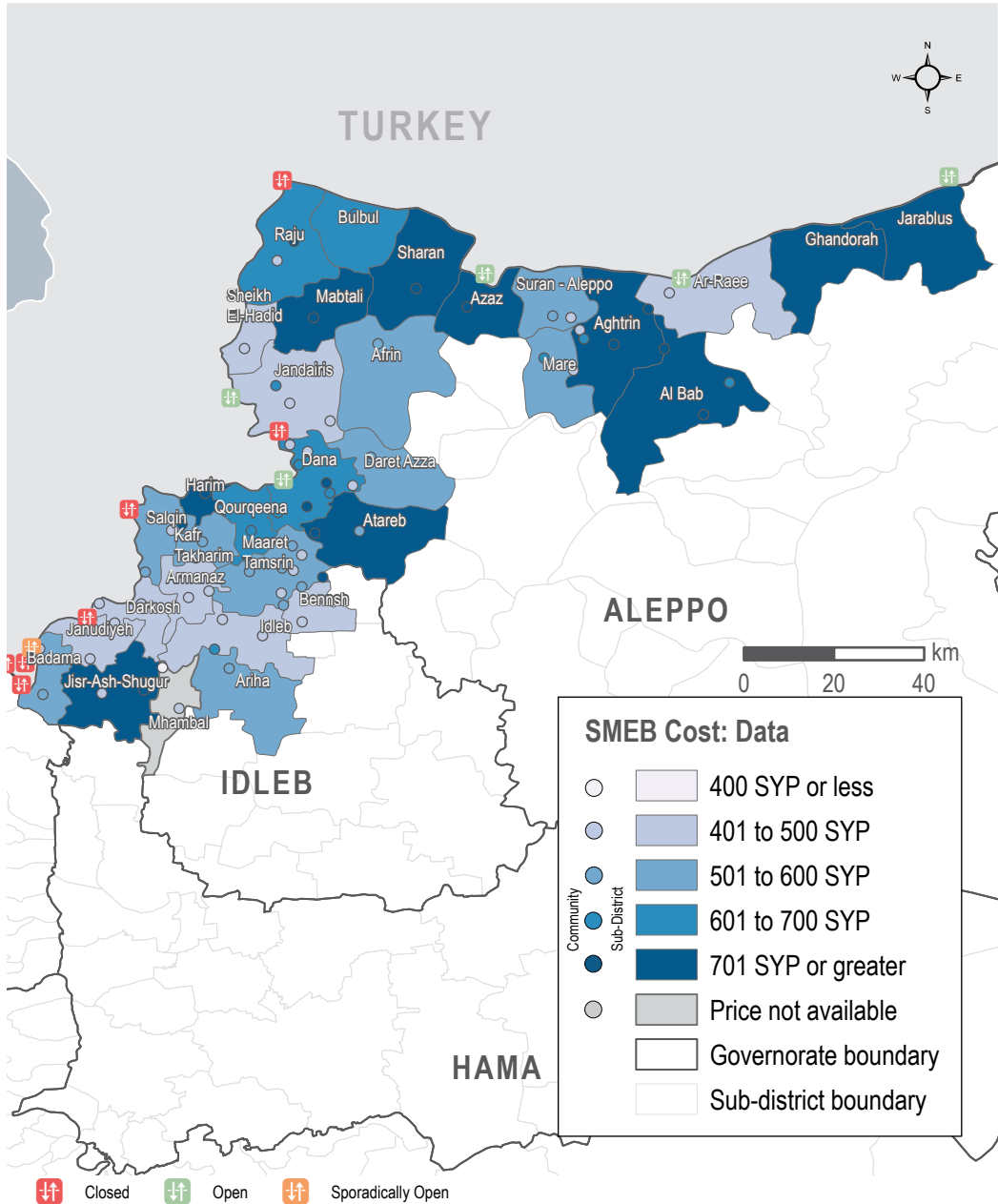
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



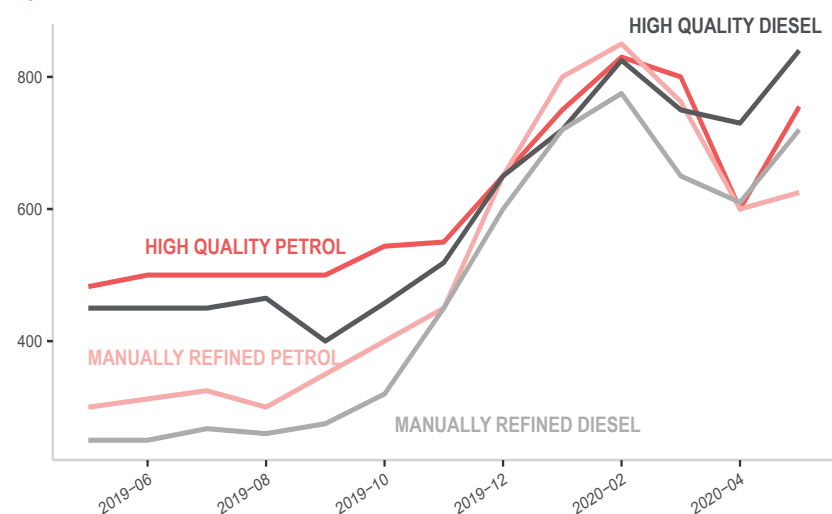
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

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
Northwest Syria	750	20%	25%	Harim	760	1%	27%
Afrin	NA	NA	NA	Idlib	808	33%	41%
Agthrin	709	16%	14%	Jandairis	750	20%	28%
Al Bab	714	18%	59%	Janudiyeh	800	NA	NA
Ariha	778	15%	30%	Jarablus	750	15%	NA
Armanaz	768	18%	18%	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	825	34%	38%
Ar-Ra'ee	725	NA	21%	Kafr Takharim	850	32%	43%
Atareb	848	24%	35%	Maaret Tamsrin	770	14%	25%
A'zaz	738	22%	17%	Ma'btali	750	NA	NA
Badama	813	30%	38%	Mare'	719	20%	20%
Bennsh	792	27%	15%	Mhambal	803	NA	25%
Bulbul	710	15%	NA	Qourqeena	796	24%	24%
Dana	773	30%	26%	Raju	773	26%	NA
Daret Azza	750	NA	22%	Salqin	772	16%	21%
Darkosh	779	26%	27%	Sharan	755	26%	NA
Ghandorah	744	19%	NA	Sheikh El-Hadid	753	26%	NA
				Suran	702	11%	12%

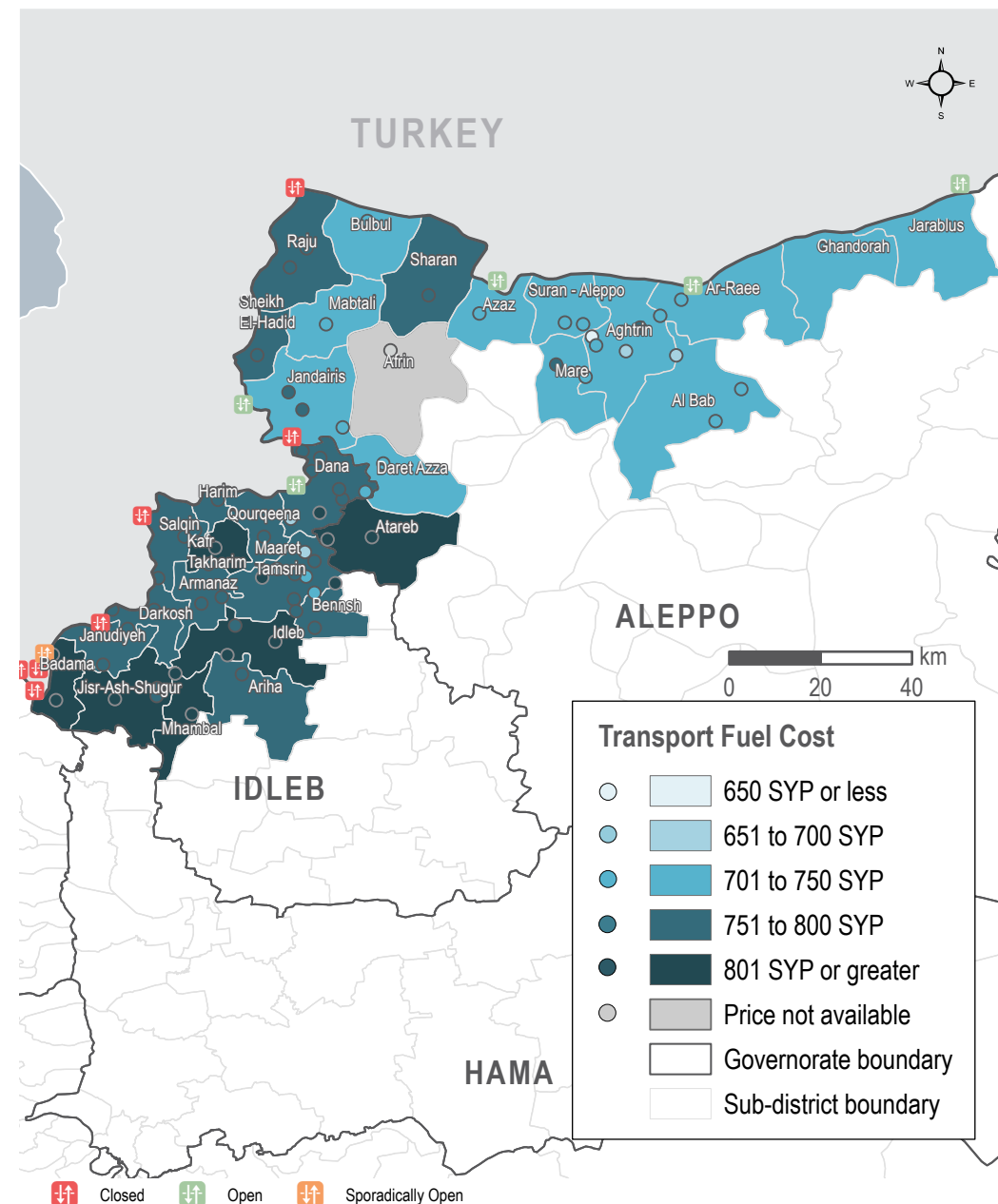
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE

Syrian Pounds



TRANSPORT FUEL COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



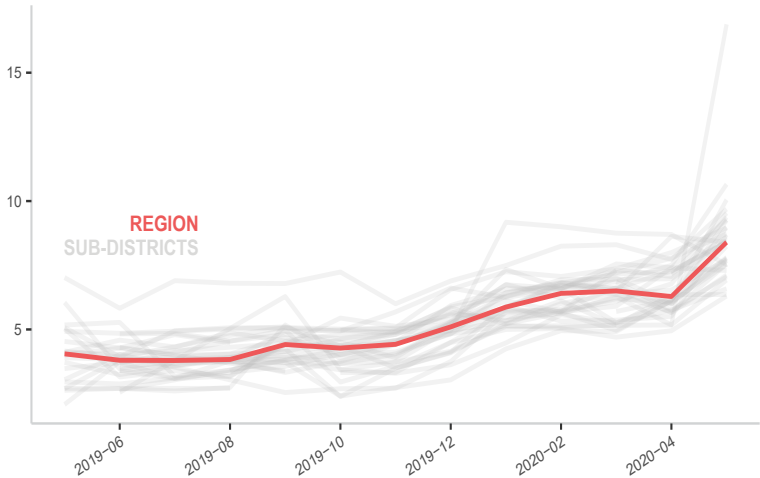
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' PRICE

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

Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene Items	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene Items	One month change	Six month change
Northwest Syria	8,406	33%	65%	Harim	9,280	25%	72%
Afrin	6,584	15%	81%	Idleb	7,325	40%	31%
Aghtrín	6,256	16%	31%	Jandairis	7,650	28%	66%
Al Bab	7,937	32%	111%	Janudiyeh	7,050	23%	59%
Ariha	8,688	58%	119%	Jarablus	10,050	64%	146%
Armanaz	8,201	16%	70%	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	7,460	28%	46%
Ar-Ra'ee	7,802	26%	61%	Kafr Takharim	9,534	35%	84%
Atareb	14,794	186%	264%	Maaret Tamsrin	9,097	32%	55%
A'zaz	10,654	42%	69%	Ma'tbali	8,400	-3%	65%
Badama	8,413	20%	50%	Mare'	8,500	43%	134%
Bennsh	8,600	20%	65%	Mhambal	7,174	28%	49%
Bulbul	8,729	12%	47%	Qourqeena	7,296	-1%	62%
Dana	8,175	10%	47%	Raju	8,424	30%	NA
Daret Azza	9,688	25%	42%	Salqin	7,838	34%	54%
Darkosh	8,850	15%	58%	Sharan	6,360	0%	13%
Ghandorah	9,254	51%	205%	Sheikh El-Hadid	7,525	-14%	52%
				Suran	8,773	40%	57%

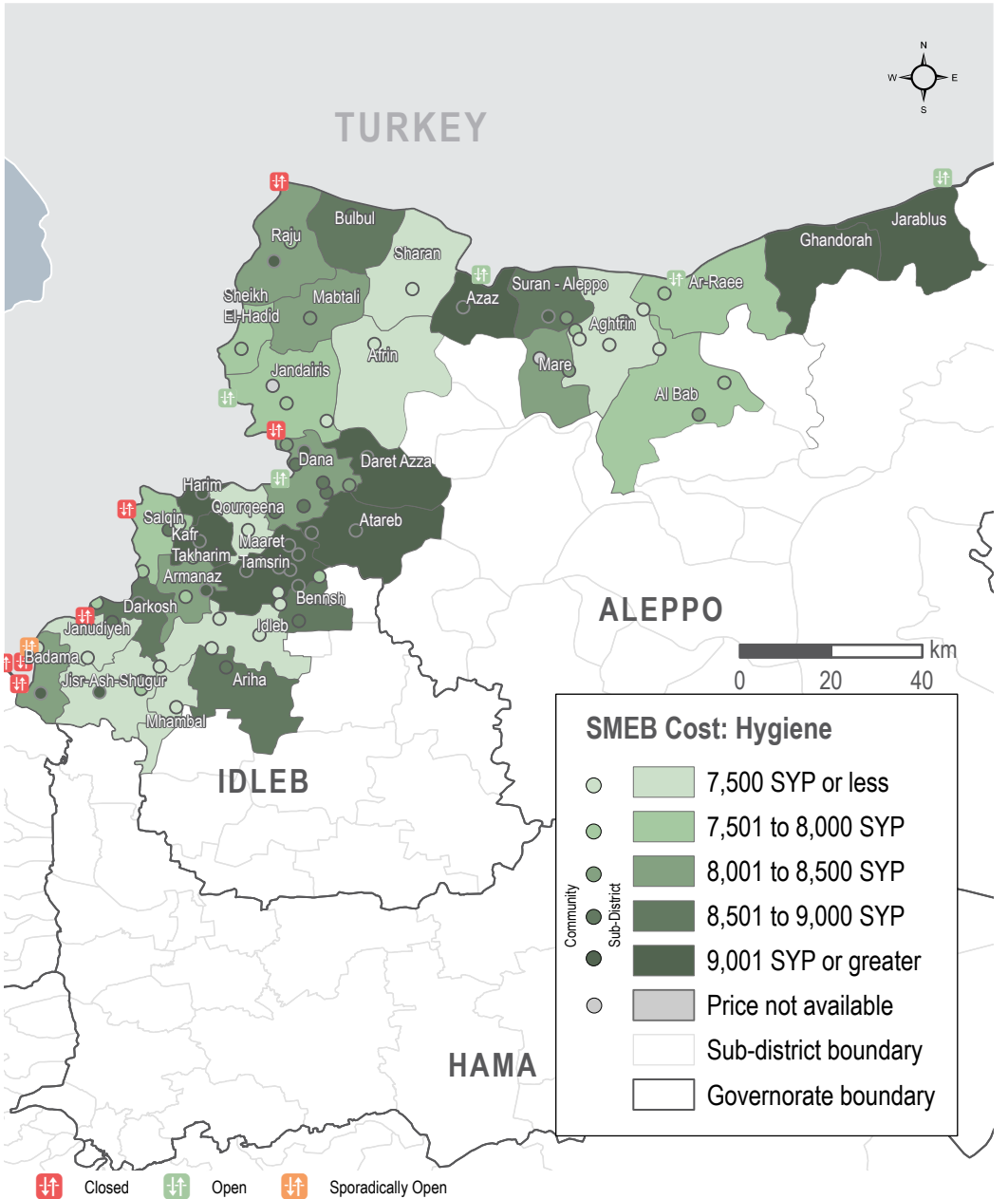
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



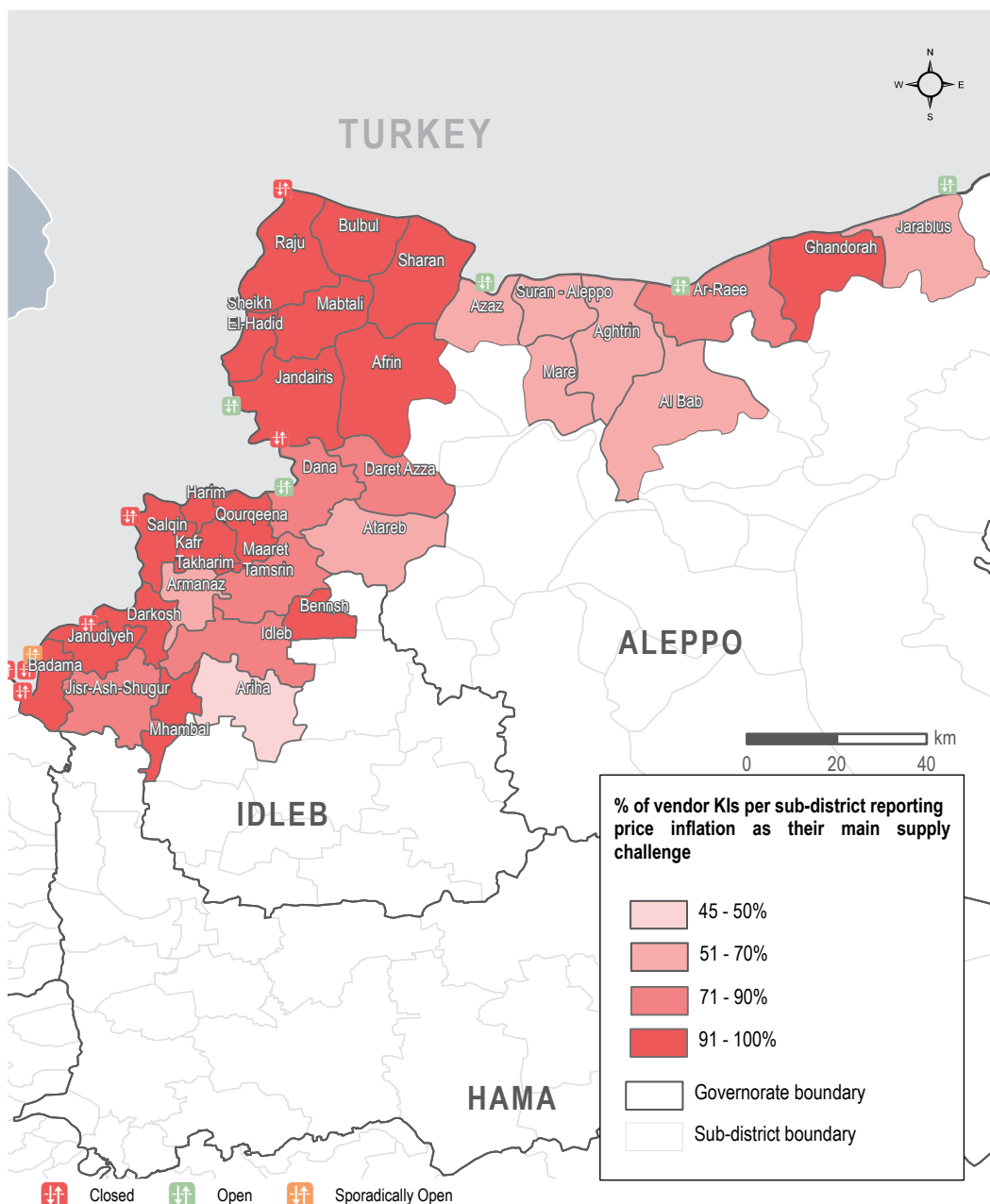
SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



SUPPLY CHALLENGES - PRICE INFLATION

Sub-districts



MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

During data collection, none of the surveyed vendors in both Aleppo and Idleb governorates reported having closed their shops as a result of COVID-19.

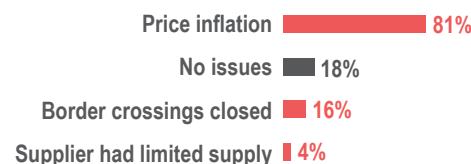
DELIVERY MECHANISMS

In addition to markets themselves, vendors were asked what delivery mechanisms existed in their communities; 74% of 1,815 vendor respondents reported that door-to-door delivery services were available in their communities. Water trucking deliveries were the most common delivery service, reported as available by 63% of vendors in Aleppo governorate and by 83% of vendors in Idleb governorate. Daily food deliveries were reported to be available by a small number of KIs in Aleppo and Idleb (7% and 11%, respectively). Finally, 11% of surveyed vendors in Idleb and 4% in Aleppo reported that daily bread deliveries were available in their communities.

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 1,804 surveyed vendors, 82% reported facing one or more supply challenges. Price inflation was the most commonly reported supply challenge, reported by 81% of total respondents and by 99% of vendors who reported facing supply challenges. This suggests that price inflation was a critical issue for vendors that may impact availability of items if the value of the SYP continues to fall. This challenge was followed by 13% of total respondents who reported closure of border crossings impacting supply and 4% reporting that their supplier had limited supply (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Top 4 most commonly reported supply challenges by vendor KIs (1,804 respondents)*



*Multiple answers allowed, thus findings may exceed 100%

RESTOCKING

In addition to reported supply challenges, 3% of 1,808 surveyed vendors reported that they would be unable to restock if they were to run out of supplies. Inability to restock was mainly reported by informal currency exchange vendors (8%). Challenges also existed with the amount of backstock vendors could draw upon. Vendors were asked after how many days they would run out of stock if supply was cut. Fifty-six percent (56%) of respondents reported they would run out of stock in less than three days and 26% would reportedly run out in 3 to 7 days (see figure 2). Mobile data and currency vendors in Aleppo governorate most commonly reported they would run out of stock in less than 3 days (58% and 57%, respectively), and informal exchange shop and fuel vendors most commonly reported similar timeframes in Idleb governorate (62% and 54%, respectively).

Figure 2: Reported number of days before all types of vendors would run out of stock, if supply lines were cut (1,808 respondents)



AVAILABILITY OF USD BANKNOTES

Of the 202 informal exchange vendors asked if they had limited stock of any USD banknote denominations, 95% of vendors in Idleb governorate and 54% of vendors in Aleppo governorate reported having limited stock of one or more denomination. Vendors in Idleb most commonly reported having limited stock of 10 USD banknotes (79% of vendors) as well as 5 USD and 20 USD banknotes (both reported by 71% of vendors). In Aleppo, 100 USD banknotes were most commonly reported to be limited in stock (45% of vendors), followed by 50 USD and 20 USD banknotes (42% and 39% of vendors, respectively).



MEDIAN PRICE OF COVID-19 ITEMS

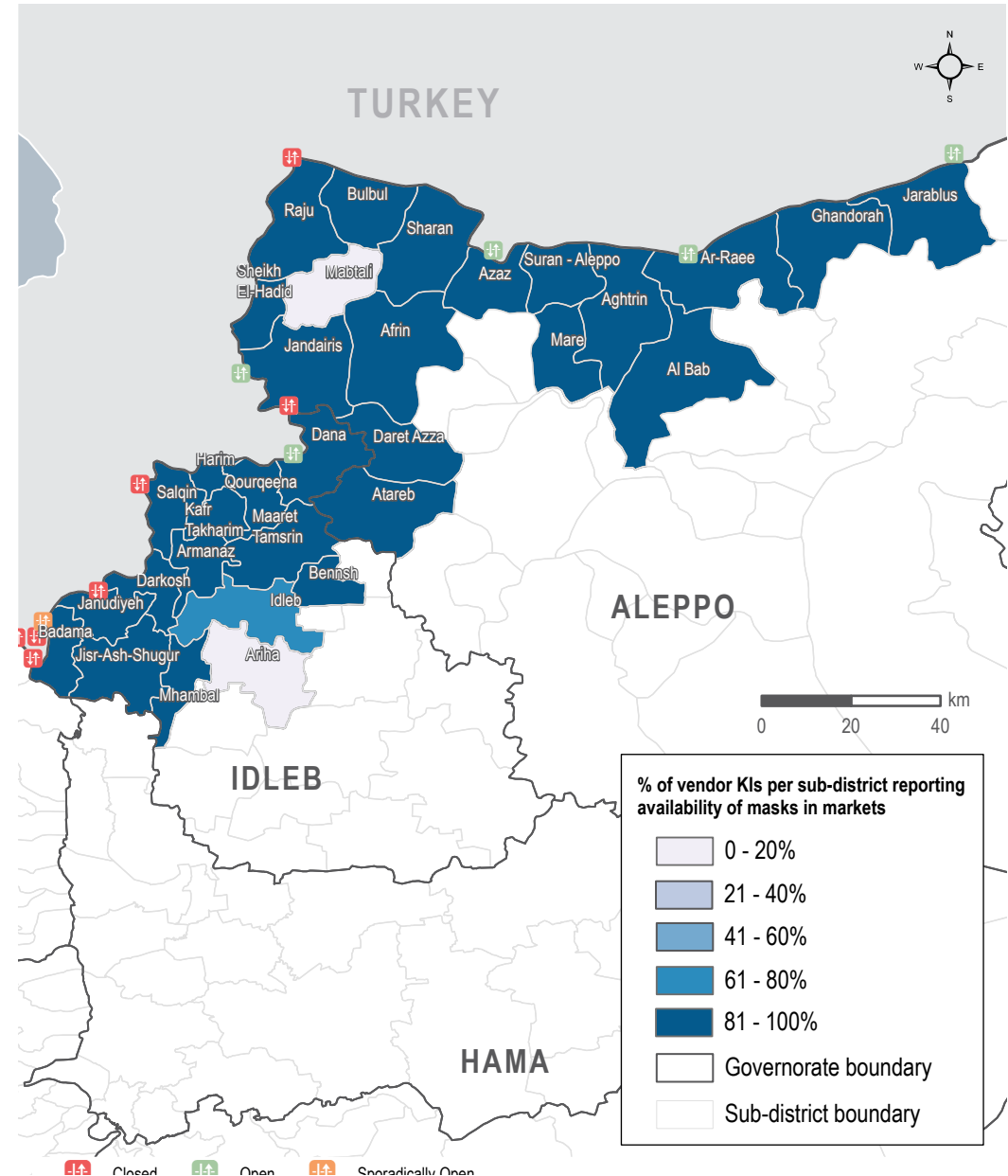
Syrian Pounds

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)
Northwest Syria	400	8,250	5,800	2,550	731	1,700
Afrin	NA	7,500	5,000	4,667	725	2,850
Aghtrin	500	9,500	6,000	2,500	800	750
Al Bab	400	10,000	6,000	4,500	900	900
Ariha	NA	10,800	5,000	NA	725	NA
Armanaz	400	4,800	5,800	2,500	738	1,875
Ar-Ra'ee	NA	NA	NA	NA	725	900
Atareb	NA	7,000	NA	3,500	1,000	1,850
A'zaz	500	10,000	7,500	2,300	900	1,200
Badama	400	4,750	5,775	2,550	700	1,825
Bennsh	500	13,000	7,000	5,000	800	1,800
Bulbul	400	4,700	5,600	2,600	725	1,700
Dana	400	5,000	5,900	2,300	750	1,800
Daret Azza	400	6,500	4,700	1,600	800	650
Darkosh	350	12,250	10,000	3,500	650	1,500
Ghandorah	400	13,500	5,500	9,167	800	750
Harim	400	4,450	7,200	2,550	750	1,800
Idlib	325	8,000	5,500	3,350	900	1,650
Jandairis	400	4,800	5,500	2,600	700	1,500
Janudiyeh	500	12,000	6,000	5,000	700	1,700
Jarablus	400	13,700	5,300	3,235	800	900
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	400	4,500	6,100	2,400	700	1,650
Kafr Takharim	225	10,500	9,000	2,450	950	2,100
Maaret Tamsrin	400	7,000	5,800	2,500	700	1,700
Ma'btali	NA	8,500	NA	1,500	800	NA
Mare'	500	10,000	2,000	1,100	600	1,000
Mhambal	NA	NA	NA	NA	800	NA
Qourqeena	400	5,000	5,500	2,700	725	1,700
Raju	313	12,500	7,000	5,000	750	2,100
Salqin	450	4,500	5,500	2,150	700	1,800
Sharan	400	4,500	5,500	2,300	700	1,700
Sheikh El-Hadid	600	15,000	10,000	1,500	600	1,000
Suran	400	9,500	6,000	2,350	700	1,500



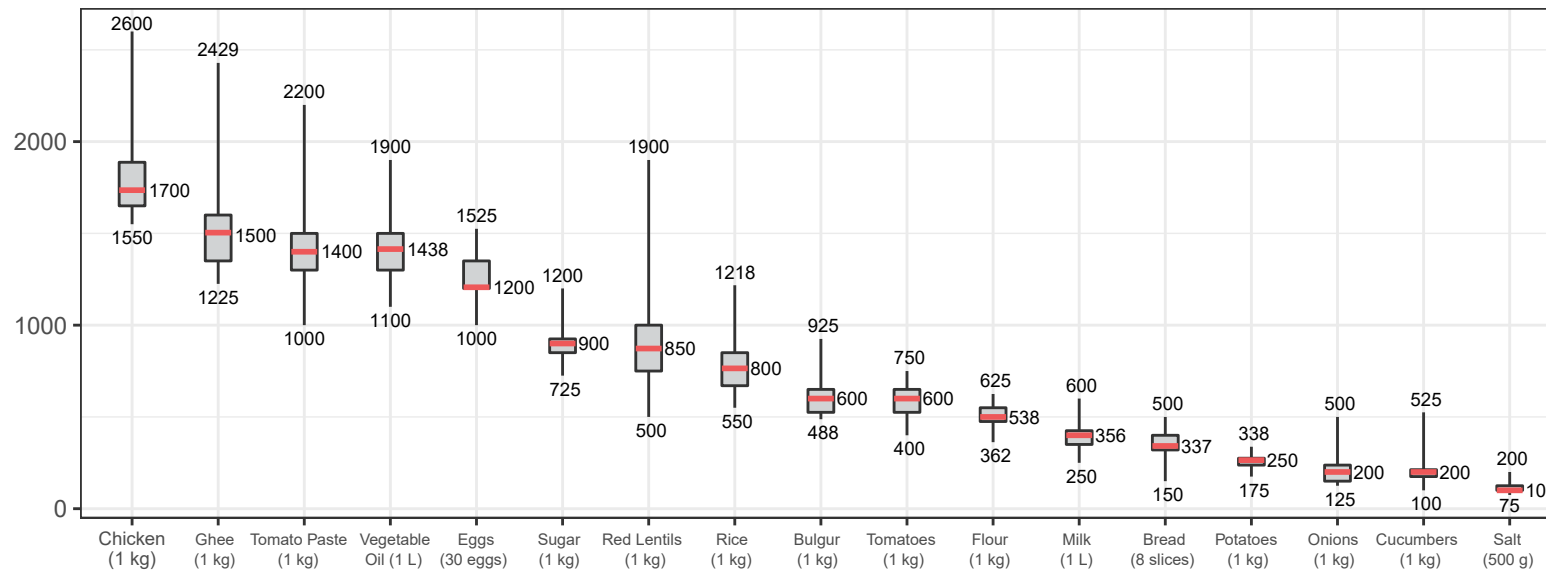
AVAILABILITY OF FACE MASKS

Sub-districts



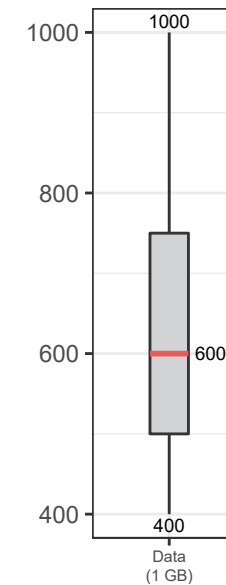
ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



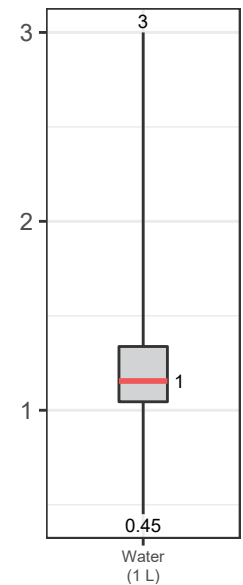
CELLPHONE DATA

Syrian Pounds



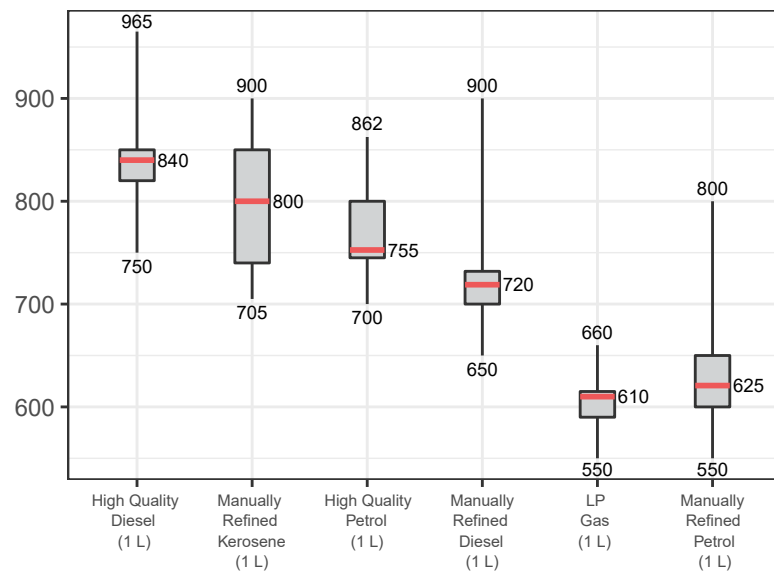
WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



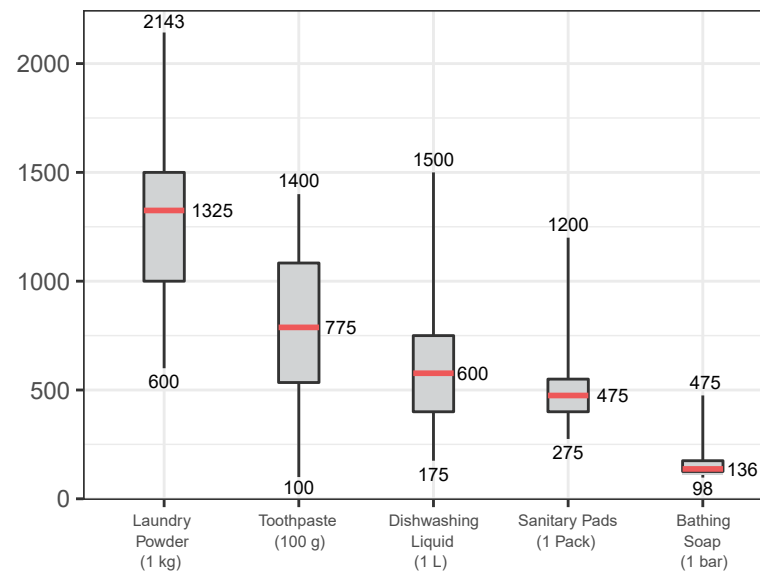
ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

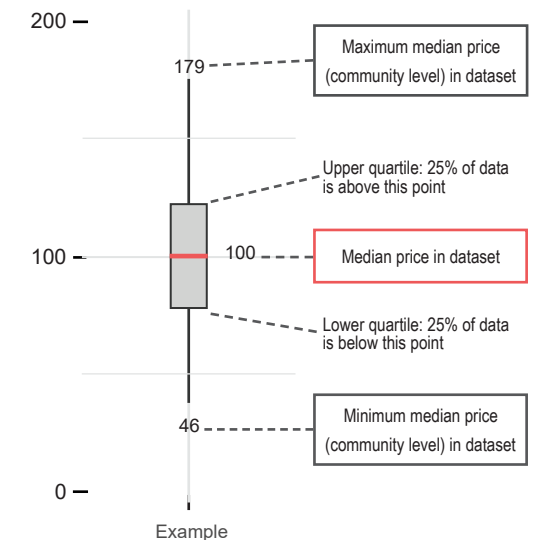


ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

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.

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.

Challenges and limitations

As the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise currently includes 17 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 due to challenges in accessing locations or 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.