

NORTHWEST SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 4-11 August 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 collection took place between 4-11 August 2020 and was conducted by ACTED, CARE-Shafak, GOAL, People In Need, REACH, Solidarités International, the Syrian Association for Relief and Development, and Violet.

The accompanying [data from the month of August](#) 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 |
| | 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 33 sub-districts and 2,281 individual shops in northwest Syria for the Market Monitoring Exercise. In light of the recent 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 where and when information was collected (4-11 August).

Third highest northwest SMEB SYP cost recorded; SMEB USD increased

In August 2020, the value of the regional SMEB reached 223,238 SYP / 103 United States Dollars (USD), a similar level to July but increasing by 92% since March, setting the third highest recorded price in the Market Monitoring Exercise in NWS. While the SMEB value remained stable in SYP, in USD the SMEB value increased from 94 USD to 103 USD between July and August due to slight appreciation of the SYP against the USD (see next paragraph).

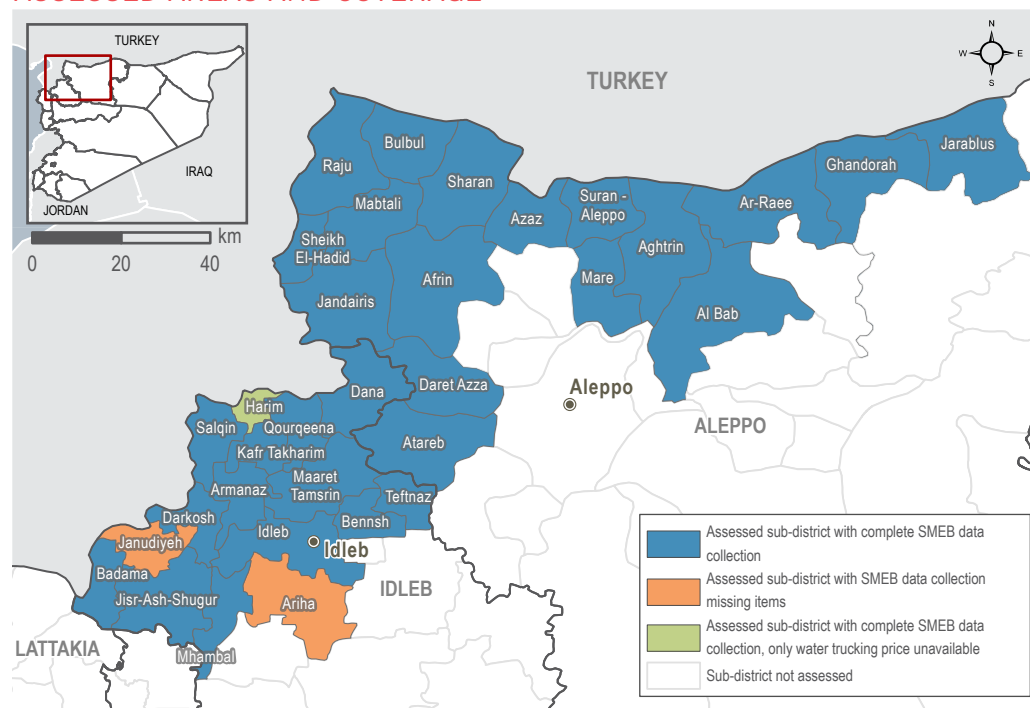
Slight appreciation of the SYP against the USD; increased adoption of TRY

During data collection throughout August, the informal SYP/USD exchange rate slightly decreased across the region. The total median regional informal exchange rate was recorded at 2,158 SYP/USD, a 7% decrease since last month. However, the six-month change, a 100% increase since March, demonstrates that the USD/SYP informal exchange rate remained high. The highest exchange rate was recorded at 2,245 SYP/USD in Dana community in Idlib governorate. In face of the plummet of the SYP in June, select local authorities across NWS attempted to mitigate the dire economic situation by replacing SYP with Turkish Lira (TRY). For instance, in the [REACH NWS Rapid Market Functionality Assessment conducted in late July](#), 61% of the surveyed informal currency exchange vendors reported that local authorities were standardising the TRY/SYP exchange rate in Idlib governorate. The effects of switching currencies is still unclear in the region.

Fuel prices slightly decreased; manually refined petrol and kerosene remained widely unavailable

This month, the median price of transport fuels decreased by 4% at the regional level, reaching 1,188 SYP per litre. The price of manually refined kerosene (used for cooking) decreased by 3% since July. The price of high quality petrol and diesel decreased similarly by 3% and 2%, respectively, over the past month. The price of manually refined petrol and diesel also decreased since July, by 10% and 7%, respectively. Nevertheless, surveyed vendors selling fuel and gas reported a continued scarcity of manually refined kerosene and petrol, with 48% reporting that manually refined kerosene was unavailable in their market, and 80% reporting the same for manually refined petrol. Field teams reported that this scarcity was likely due to the challenges of importing manually refined fuels into NWS from NES where they are largely produced. Despite this continued scarcity in NWS, the increased availability of importing high quality fuel along with the improvement of the exchange rate of SYP against USD were likely causes of the fuel prices' small decrease during data collection in August.

ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE

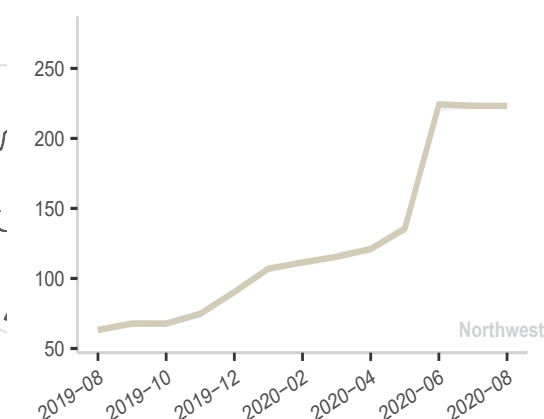


MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

223,238 SYP (103 USD) NORTHWEST SYRIA - IDLEB, WESTERN & NORTHERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES

REGIONAL MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Food items prices slightly increased

This month, the regional SMEB food component reached 153,443 SYP, a small 2% increase since July and a 93% increase since March. The SMEB vegetable/fresh food component also increased by 19% since July. The end of the local agricultural season and stocking practice in preparation for the winter were reported by field teams as the main factors contributing to the inflation of vegetable prices during August data collection. As with the regional SMEB, the SMEB food component value increased from 64 USD to 71 USD, a small increase of 11%. Among surveyed vendors who reported supply challenges during the Market Monitoring Exercise, 98% reported price inflation as their main supply challenge (see page 10 for Market Functionality findings). Increasing demand combined with supply challenges and a slightly appreciated currency are likely contributing factors to the small increase in food prices. Moreover, field teams reported that surveyed vendors kept their prices high to avoid potential losses due to the ongoing fluctuation of the informal exchange rate. Nonetheless, bulk food items have witnessed a price decrease since July. For example, the price of red lentils decreased by 4%, salt by 13% and sugar by 3% since July. This could be explained by the lack of demand for bulk food in summer, the availability of these items from relief distribution and the increased difficulty to sell the locally produced bulk food to the Government of Syria (GoS)-held areas due to road closure, as reported by REACH field teams. Prices of flour and bread

MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

223,238 SYP
(103 USD)

NORTHWEST SYRIA - IDLEB, WESTERN & NORTHERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES

also remained relatively stable. Flour remained at 800 SYP since July, and a bag of 8 pieces of bread decreased by 7%, reaching a median of 578 SYP. Field teams reported that the local authorities' subsidisation of bread purchases and their strict enforcement of a price ceiling since bread bundles began to be sold in TRY as well as the free distribution of bread in the region's countryside have led to the price decrease. Finally, other SMEB basic food items, such as eggs (30% increase) and chicken (19% increase), have seen their prices continue to increase since July.

Hygiene items and water trucking prices decreased

This month, the value of the SMEB hygiene component decreased by 4% at the regional level, reaching a median of 12,221 SYP. In particular, prices of dishwashing soap decreased by 16% since July and laundry soap by 10%. The price of soap, used for handwashing and considered a preventive measure against COVID-19 by the [World Health Organisation](#), decreased by 20% since July. The same price trend also applied to water trucking as the SMEB water trucking component decreased by 12% across NWS, reaching a median of 8,696 SYP. As with bulk foods, hygiene items are largely imported into NWS and there is also a reliance of fuel for water trucking, and thus the decrease in transport fuel prices and the appreciation of the SYP likely contribute to the small decrease in prices.

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS & CHANGES*

Syrian Pounds

| Sub-district | SMEB | One month change | Six month change |
|------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|
| Northwest Syria | 222,190 | 0% | 92% |
| Afrin | 199,852 | -4% | 81% |
| Aghtrin | 203,083 | 2% | 104% |
| Al Bab | 220,010 | -3% | 91% |
| Ariha | NA | NA | NA |
| Armanaz | 238,335 | 4% | 90% |
| Ar-Ra'ee | 187,670 | -8% | 86% |
| Atareb | 239,766 | -1% | NA |
| A'zaz | 218,385 | -10% | 79% |
| Badama | 239,860 | 2% | 105% |
| Bennsh | 243,560 | 6% | 111% |
| Bulbul | 232,784 | 3% | 109% |
| Dana | 231,070 | 1% | 99% |
| Daret Azza | 210,125 | -6% | 71% |
| Darkosh | 203,952 | -7% | 65% |
| Ghandorah | 209,593 | -2% | 104% |
| Harim** | 214,812 | -2% | 106% |

| Sub-district | SMEB | One month change | Six month change |
|------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|
| Idleb | 228,147 | 6% | 113% |
| Jandairis | 227,713 | 4% | 106% |
| Janudiyeh | NA | NA | NA |
| Jarablus | 210,675 | 1% | 86% |
| Jisr-Ash-Shugur | 215,839 | -5% | 85% |
| Kafr Takharim | 212,577 | -6% | 81% |
| Maaret Tamsrin | 231,986 | 3% | 102% |
| Ma'tali | 184,765 | -1% | 47% |
| Mare' | 226,391 | 2% | 105% |
| Mhambal | 226,681 | 2% | 92% |
| Qourqeena | 225,357 | 0% | 85% |
| Raju | 224,370 | 2% | 89% |
| Salqin | 232,399 | -5% | 92% |
| Sharan | 219,402 | -1% | 103% |
| Sheikh El-Hadid | 216,505 | 4% | 78% |
| Suran | 210,280 | -4% | 83% |
| Teftnaz | 246,691 | 9% | NA |

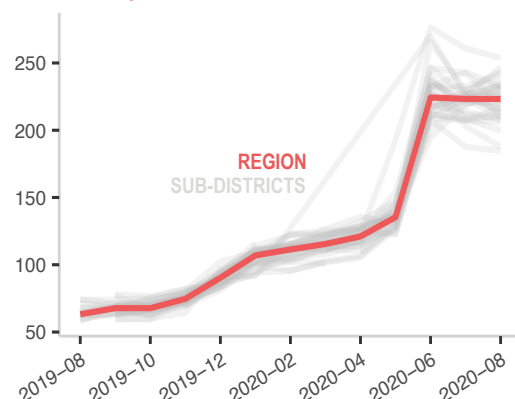
* For price and change calculations, only the communities within a sub-district with consistent coverage across months are included.

** SMEB calculated without water trucking component.

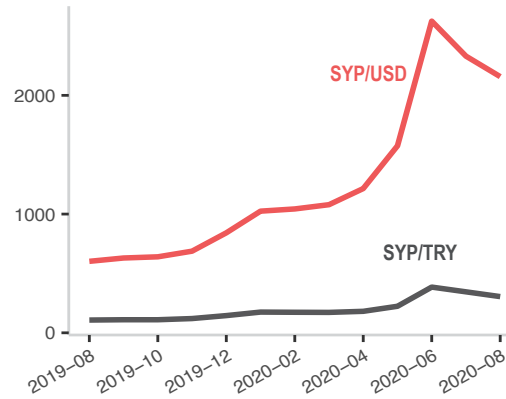
Note: Lack of data for a SMEB item does not necessarily imply a shortage.

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



EXCHANGE RATES, BY MONTH & CURRENCY



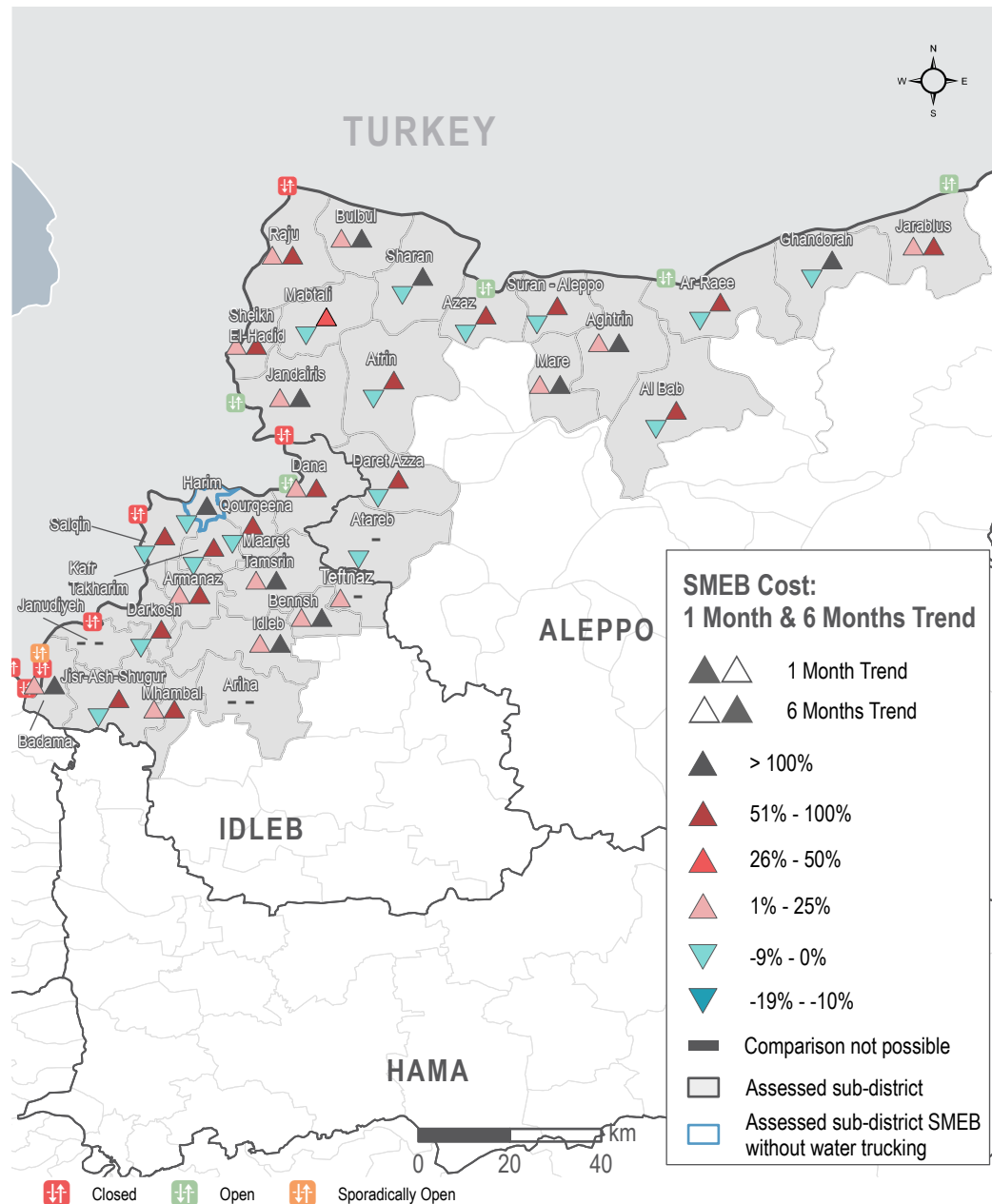
SUB-DISTRICTS WITH INCOMPLETE SMEB IN AUGUST

Ariha Bread, Manually refined kerosene

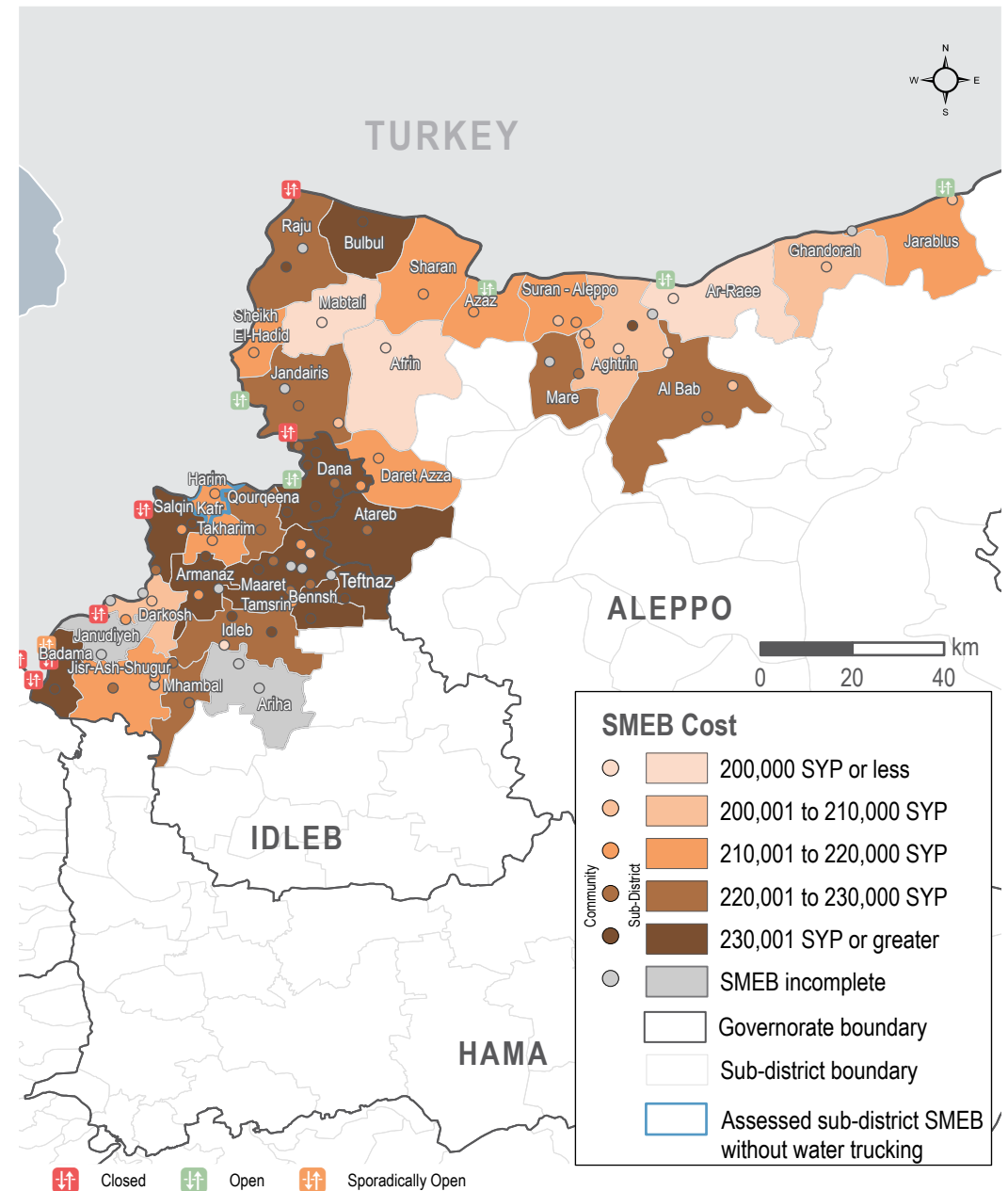
Janudiyeh Manually refined kerosene, Toothpaste

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



NORTHWEST SYRIA - SMEB FOOD ITEMS

Idlib, Western & Northern Aleppo governorates

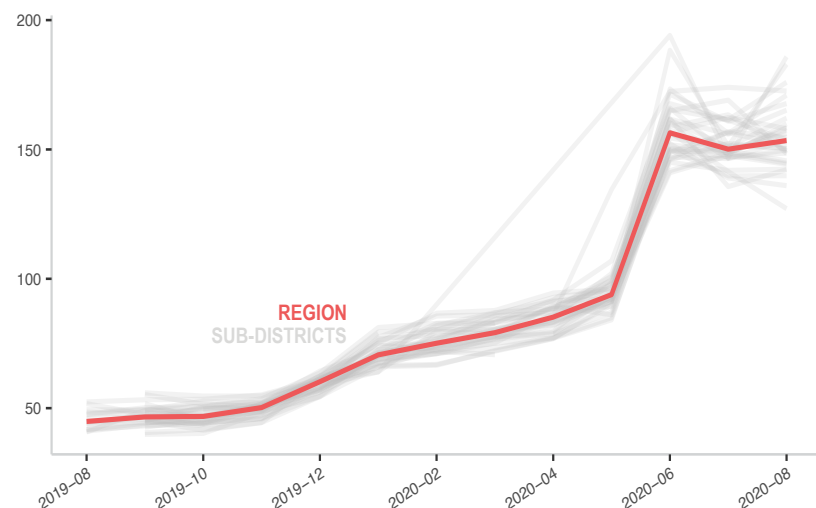
MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS

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 | 153,443 | 2% | 93% | Idlib | 168,355 | 8% | 130% |
| Afrin | 145,579 | -3% | 85% | Jandairis | 158,650 | 7% | 97% |
| Aghtrn | 138,463 | 3% | 96% | Janudiyeh | 159,920 | 8% | 101% |
| Al Bab | 149,030 | -3% | 84% | Jarablus | 141,959 | 5% | 84% |
| Ariha | NA | NA | NA | Jisr-Ash-Shugur | 140,250 | -7% | 79% |
| Armanaz | 165,760 | 9% | 92% | Kafr Takharim | 153,793 | -5% | 85% |
| Ar-Ra'ee | 127,105 | -10% | 80% | Maaret Tamsrin | 155,101 | 5% | 99% |
| Atareb | 166,759 | 4% | NA | Ma'bтали | 136,000 | -2% | 56% |
| A'zaz | 148,403 | -12% | 79% | Mare' | 162,975 | 6% | 105% |
| Badama | 160,561 | 5% | 108% | Mhambal | 166,771 | 4% | 103% |
| Bennsh | 182,915 | 21% | 121% | Qourqeena | 153,255 | 2% | 79% |
| Bulbul | 153,630 | 5% | 110% | Raju | 167,011 | 4% | 99% |
| Dana | 157,739 | 4% | 104% | Salqin | 158,063 | -3% | 90% |
| Daret Azza | 149,400 | -9% | 70% | Sharan | 144,275 | -2% | 87% |
| Darkosh | 144,540 | -8% | 72% | Sheikh El-Hadid | 144,700 | -3% | 68% |
| Ghandorah | 139,846 | 0% | 93% | Suran | 146,000 | -2% | 89% |
| Harim | 150,250 | -1% | 100% | Tefnaz | 185,840 | 27% | NA |

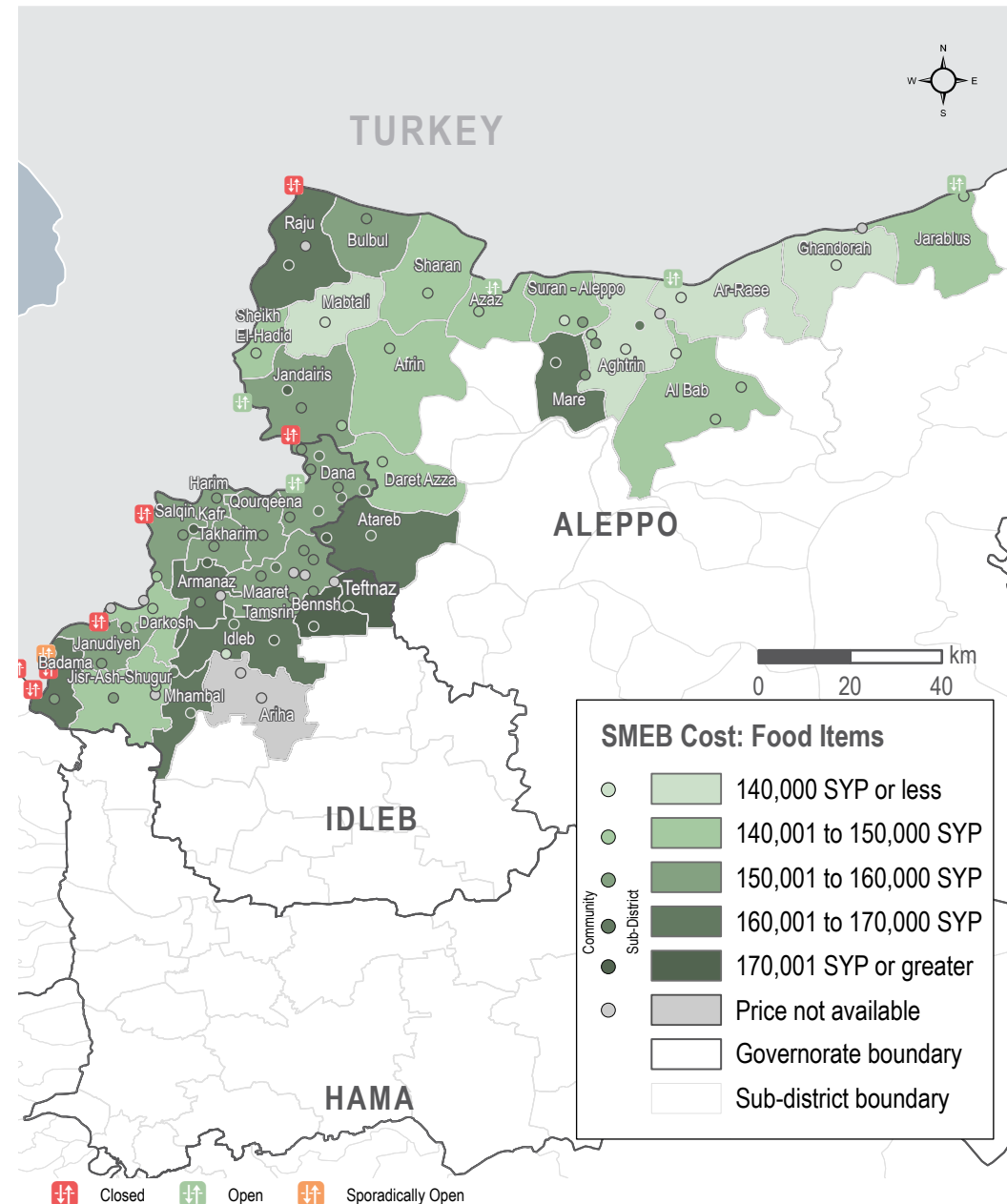
MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB FOOD ITEMS' COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



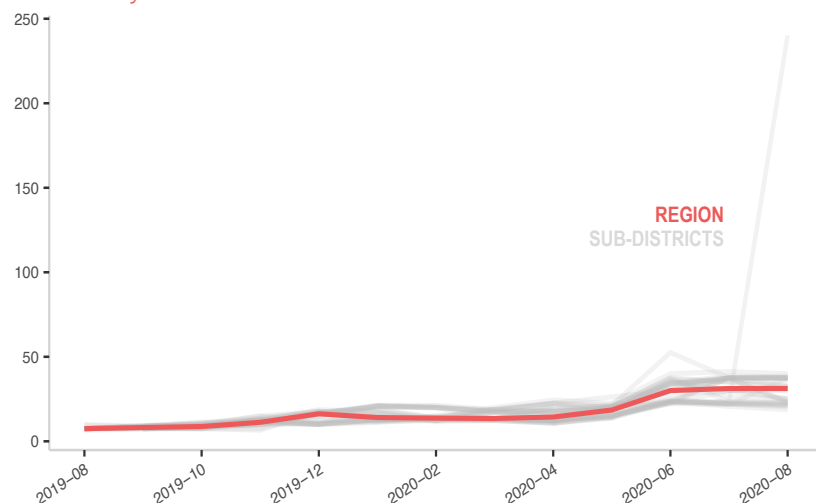
MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL PRICE

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 |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Northwest Syria | 31,250 | -7% | 131% | Idlib | 21,688 | -5% | 64% |
| Afrin | 18,750 | -9% | 50% | Jandairis | 37,500 | 0% | 186% |
| Aghtrín | 31,250 | 4% | 157% | Janudiyeh | 23,125 | 3% | 32% |
| Al Bab | 30,000 | 0% | 145% | Jarablus | 32,500 | -7% | 86% |
| Ariha | NA | NA | NA | Jisr-Ash-Shugur | 37,500 | 0% | 100% |
| Armanaz | 35,438 | -2% | 89% | Kafr Takharim | 21,875 | -7% | 65% |
| Ar-Ra'ee | 25,000 | -5% | 96% | Maaret Tamsrin | 37,500 | 0% | 114% |
| Atareb | 32,500 | -13% | NA | Ma'b'tali | 21,250 | -3% | 70% |
| A'zaz | 32,500 | 8% | 86% | Mare' | 25,000 | -17% | 95% |
| Badama | 37,500 | -3% | 111% | Mhambal | 23,125 | -1% | 73% |
| Bennsh | 22,703 | -39% | 71% | Qourqeena | 38,750 | 3% | 107% |
| Bulbul | 37,500 | 0% | 119% | Raju | 20,750 | -4% | 48% |
| Dana | 36,250 | -3% | 104% | Salqin | 40,000 | -3% | 100% |
| Daret Azza | 22,250 | 0% | 68% | Sharan | 37,500 | 0% | 183% |
| Darkosh | 21,938 | -4% | 17% | Sheikh El-Hadid | 37,500 | 72% | 183% |
| Ghandorah | 31,250 | -11% | 131% | Suran | 28,750 | -15% | 64% |
| Harim | 37,500 | 0% | 178% | Teftnaz | 23,156 | -38% | NA |

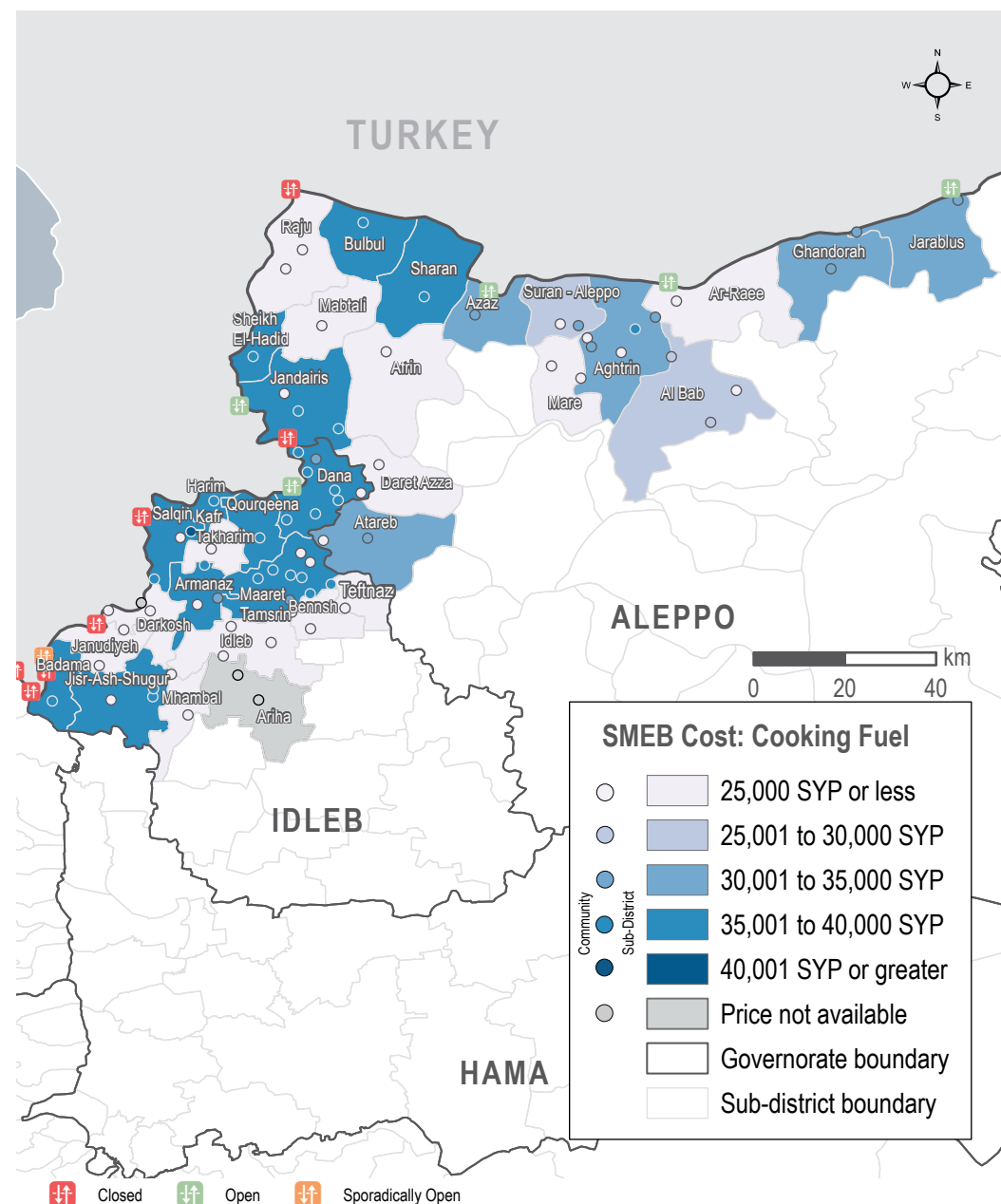
MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB COOKING FUEL COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



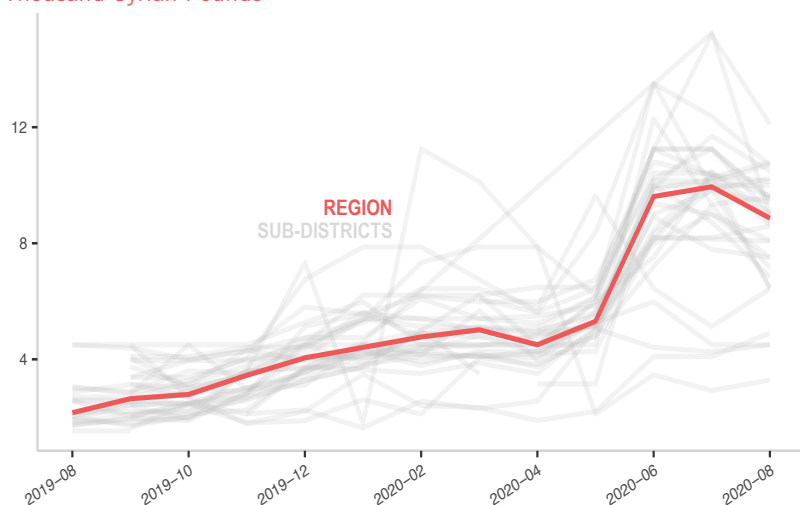
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICE

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 | 8,696 | -12% | 73% | Idleb | 10,688 | -12% | 56% |
| Afrin | 9,630 | -7% | 61% | Jandairis | 3,926 | 10% | 68% |
| Aghtrin | 9,585 | -15% | 88% | Janudiyeh | 4,500 | 0% | 0% |
| Al Bab | 12,105 | -10% | 95% | Jarablus | 10,125 | -3% | 99% |
| Ariha | 6,435 | 25% | 0% | Jisr-Ash-Shugur | 9,405 | 0% | 99% |
| Armanaz | 7,159 | -23% | 75% | Kafr Takharim | 8,640 | -16% | 80% |
| Ar-Ra'ee | 9,990 | 0% | 100% | Maaret Tamsrin | 9,900 | 0% | 150% |
| Atareb | 8,100 | -18% | NA | Ma'bitali | 3,285 | 12% | -68% |
| A'zaz | 9,000 | -41% | 67% | Mare' | 8,753 | 7% | 116% |
| Badama | 10,575 | -15% | 81% | Mhambal | 8,798 | -13% | 18% |
| Bennsh | 6,840 | -22% | 95% | Qourqeena | 4,500 | 6% | 95% |
| Bulbul | 10,800 | 5% | 100% | Raju | 8,055 | -18% | 32% |
| Dana | 7,965 | -9% | 53% | Salqin | 6,435 | -38% | 66% |
| Daret Azza | 7,515 | -3% | 69% | Sharan | 8,595 | 5% | 110% |
| Darkosh | 10,418 | -1% | 103% | Sheikh El-Hadid | 9,000 | -14% | 100% |
| Ghandorah | 10,710 | 6% | 151% | Suran | 7,869 | 0% | 56% |
| Harim | NA | NA | NA | Tefnaz | 6,480 | -35% | NA |

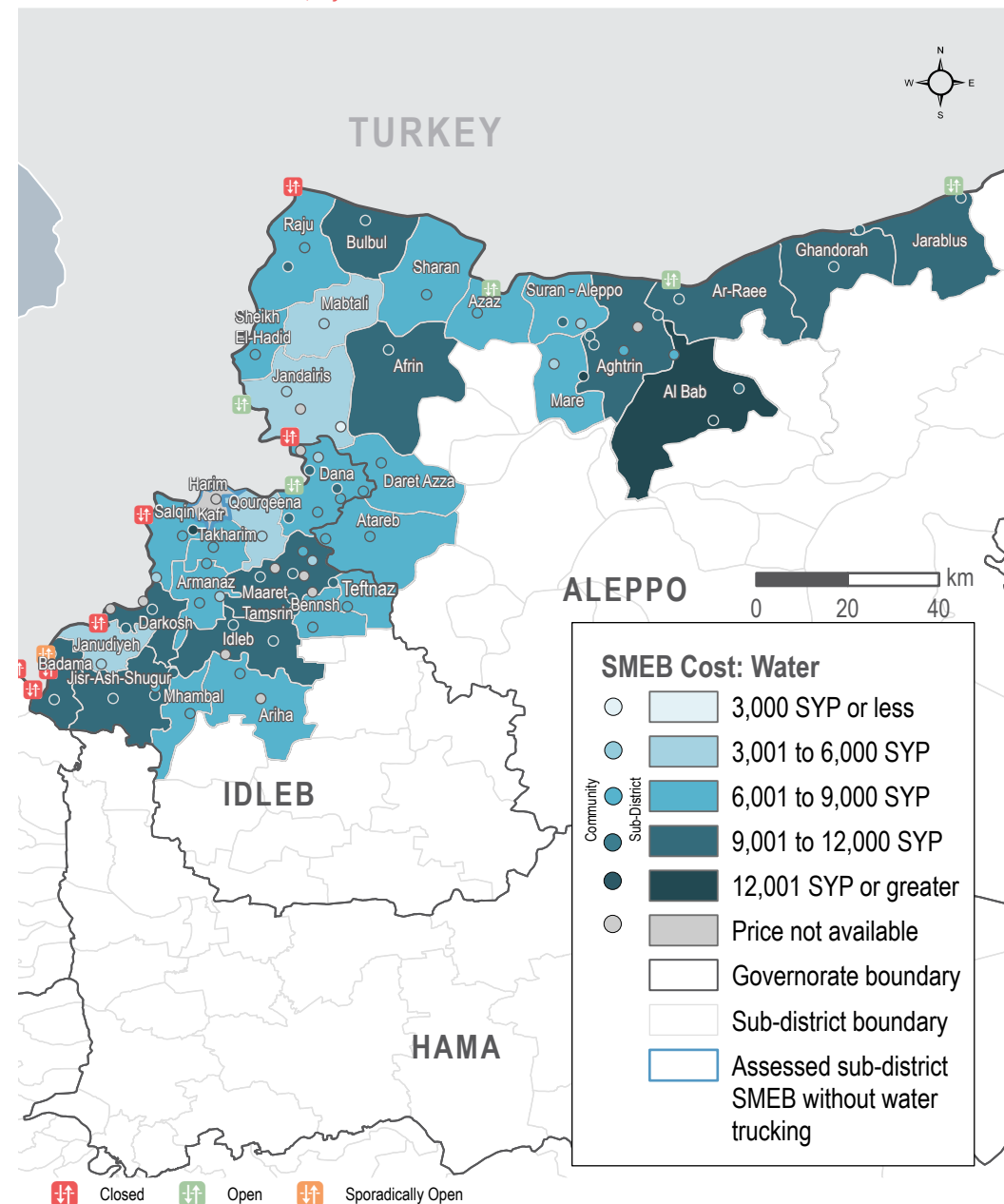
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB WATER TRUCKING COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



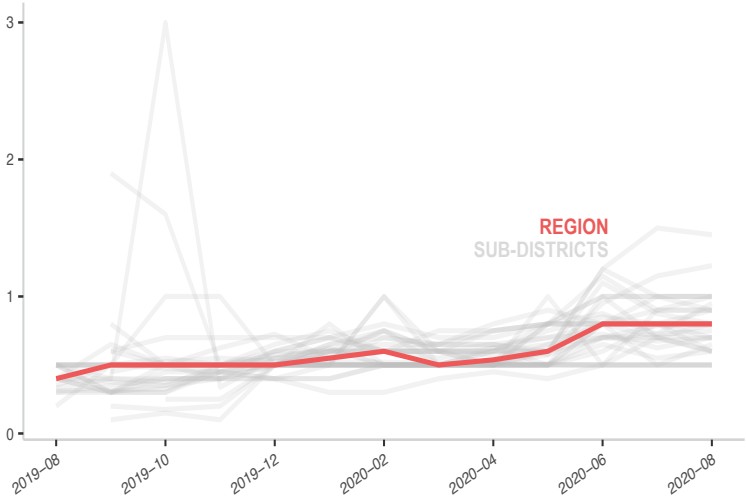
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA PRICE

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 | 800 | 0% | 45% | Idlib | 500 | 0% | 0% |
| Afrin | 1,450 | -3% | 123% | Jandairis | 600 | 20% | -4% |
| Aghtrin | 875 | -8% | 75% | Janudiyeh | 500 | 0% | 0% |
| Al Bab | 700 | -18% | 17% | Jarablus | 900 | 0% | 80% |
| Ariha | 600 | -25% | 0% | Jisr-Ash-Shugur | 825 | 0% | 32% |
| Armanaz | 900 | 13% | 80% | Kafr Takharim | 1,225 | 7% | 145% |
| Ar-Ra'ee | 600 | -14% | 20% | Maaret Tamsrin | 775 | 0% | 29% |
| Atareb | 900 | 0% | NA | Ma'tbali | 1,000 | 0% | 43% |
| A'zaz | 950 | 31% | 27% | Mare' | 800 | -9% | 33% |
| Badama | 625 | 4% | 9% | Mhambal | 600 | 20% | 33% |
| Bennsh | 500 | 0% | 0% | Qourqeena | 700 | 12% | 27% |
| Bulbul | 800 | 0% | 23% | Raju | 800 | 0% | 60% |
| Dana | 788 | -2% | 31% | Salqin | 800 | 14% | 60% |
| Daret Azza | 900 | -10% | 80% | Sharan | 800 | 0% | 23% |
| Darkosh | 600 | -14% | 20% | Sheikh El-Hadid | 700 | 0% | 40% |
| Ghandorah | 1,000 | 0% | 100% | Suran | 1,075 | 43% | 65% |
| Harim | 800 | 0% | 23% | Teftnaz | 500 | 0% | NA |

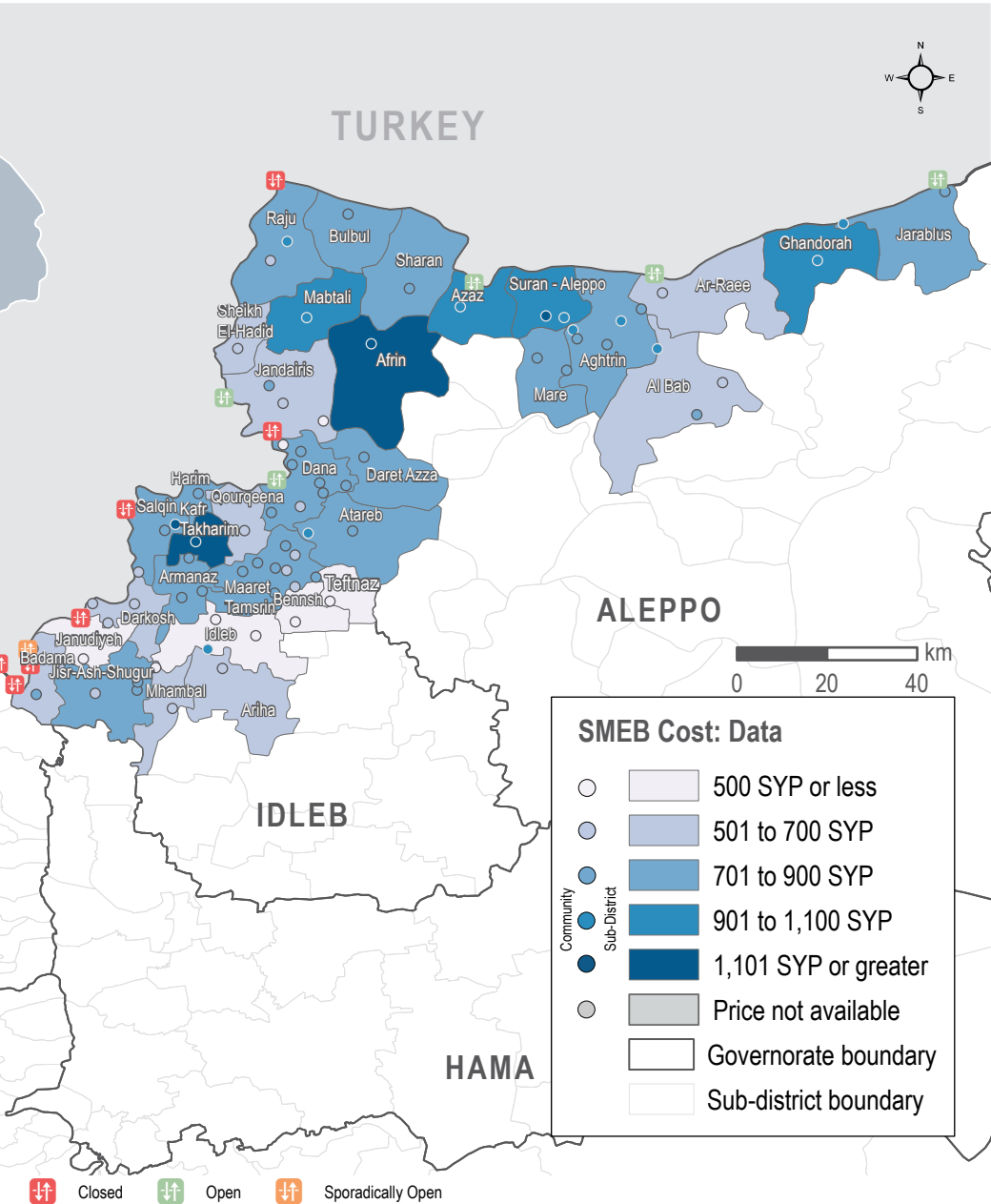
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



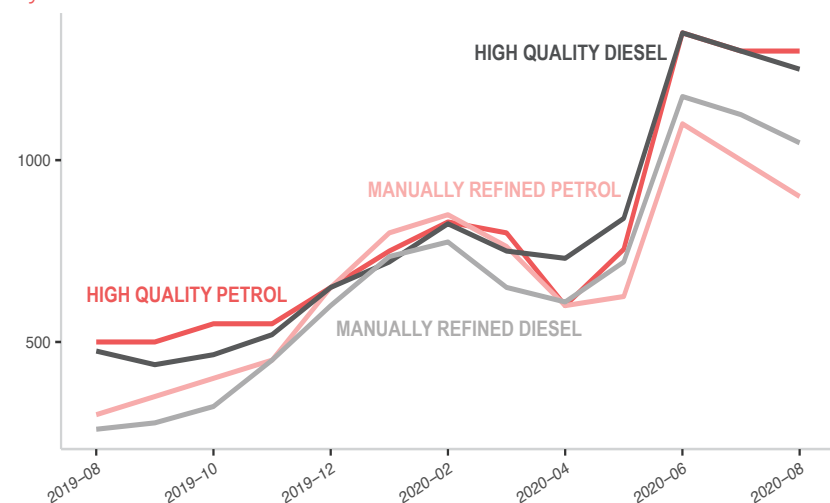
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

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 | 1,200 | -4% | 85% | Idlib | 1,208 | -8% | 86% |
| Afrin | 1,067 | -16% | 42% | Jandairis | 1,217 | -1% | 60% |
| Aghtrín | 1,059 | -5% | 63% | Janudiyeh | 1,325 | -5% | 104% |
| Al Bab | 1,106 | -6% | NA | Jarablus | 1,163 | -7% | 79% |
| Ariha | 1,238 | -8% | 61% | Jisr-Ash-Shugur | 1,183 | -6% | 63% |
| Armanaz | 1,295 | 0% | 73% | Kafr Takharim | 1,325 | 3% | 82% |
| Ar-Ra'ee | 1,088 | -3% | NA | Maaret Tamsrin | 1,200 | -3% | 64% |
| Atareb | 1,258 | -2% | NA | Ma'bitali | 1,250 | -4% | NA |
| A'zaz | 1,138 | -1% | 49% | Mare' | 1,106 | -6% | 53% |
| Badama | 1,250 | -4% | 89% | Mhambal | 1,268 | -11% | NA |
| Bennsh | 1,223 | -7% | NA | Qourqeena | 1,283 | -1% | 75% |
| Bulbul | 1,050 | -18% | 62% | Raju | 1,188 | -9% | 98% |
| Dana | 1,200 | -3% | 71% | Salqin | 1,183 | -6% | 51% |
| Daret Azza | 1,150 | -4% | 77% | Sharan | 1,183 | -5% | NA |
| Darkosh | 1,228 | -1% | 69% | Sheikh El-Hadid | 1,183 | 1% | NA |
| Ghandorah | 1,138 | -5% | NA | Suran | 1,094 | -5% | 37% |
| Harim | 1,208 | -2% | 61% | Teftnaz | 1,247 | -7% | NA |

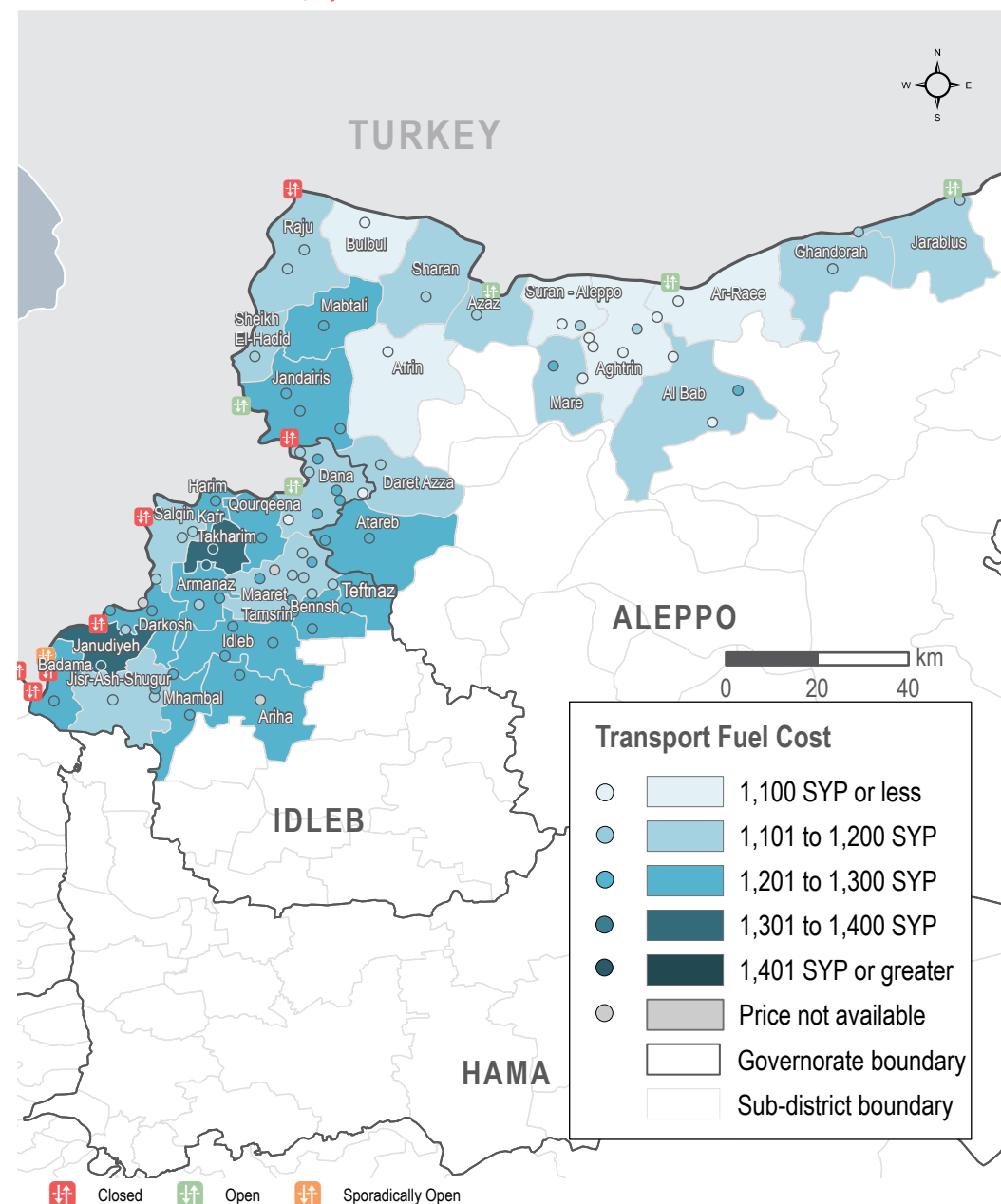
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE

Syrian Pounds



TRANSPORT FUEL COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



NORTHWEST SYRIA - SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS

Idlib, Western & Northern Aleppo governorates

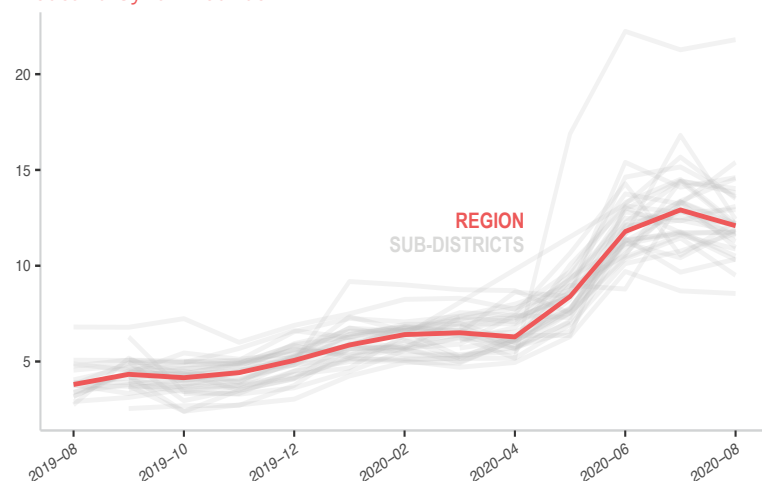
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' PRICE

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

| Sub-district | SMEB Hygiene Items | One month change | Six month change | Sub-district | SMEB Hygiene Items | One month change | Six month change |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Northwest Syria | 12,221 | -4% | 87% | Idlib | 11,000 | 8% | 98% |
| Afrin | 10,500 | -11% | 100% | Jandairis | 11,150 | -18% | 75% |
| Aghtrín | 8,742 | -5% | 99% | Janudiyeh | NA | NA | NA |
| Al Bab | 12,825 | 1% | 87% | Jarablus | 10,494 | -12% | 111% |
| Ariha | 14,588 | 3% | 172% | Jisr-Ash-Shugur | 12,800 | 1% | 123% |
| Armanaz | 12,450 | -12% | 83% | Kafr Takharim | 12,214 | -16% | 67% |
| Ar-Ra'ee | 11,882 | 14% | 129% | Maaret Tamsrin | 12,525 | 0% | 75% |
| Atareb | 14,780 | -7% | NA | Ma'btali | 10,340 | 7% | 59% |
| A'zaz | 12,297 | 17% | 79% | Mare' | 13,069 | -3% | 134% |
| Badama | 13,865 | 0% | 86% | Mhambal | 11,572 | -1% | 76% |
| Bennsh | 13,609 | -10% | 86% | Qourqeena | 12,429 | -26% | 110% |
| Bulbul | 13,814 | -4% | 92% | Raju | 12,100 | -3% | 115% |
| Dana | 12,207 | -14% | 78% | Salqin | 10,888 | -6% | 120% |
| Daret Azza | 15,400 | 16% | 86% | Sharan | 12,925 | 1% | 150% |
| Darkosh | 12,228 | -8% | 79% | Sheikh El-Hadid | 9,500 | -17% | 9% |
| Ghandorah | 12,165 | -3% | 147% | Suran | 11,915 | 7% | 83% |
| Harim | 11,275 | -13% | 49% | Teftnaz | 13,504 | -14% | NA |

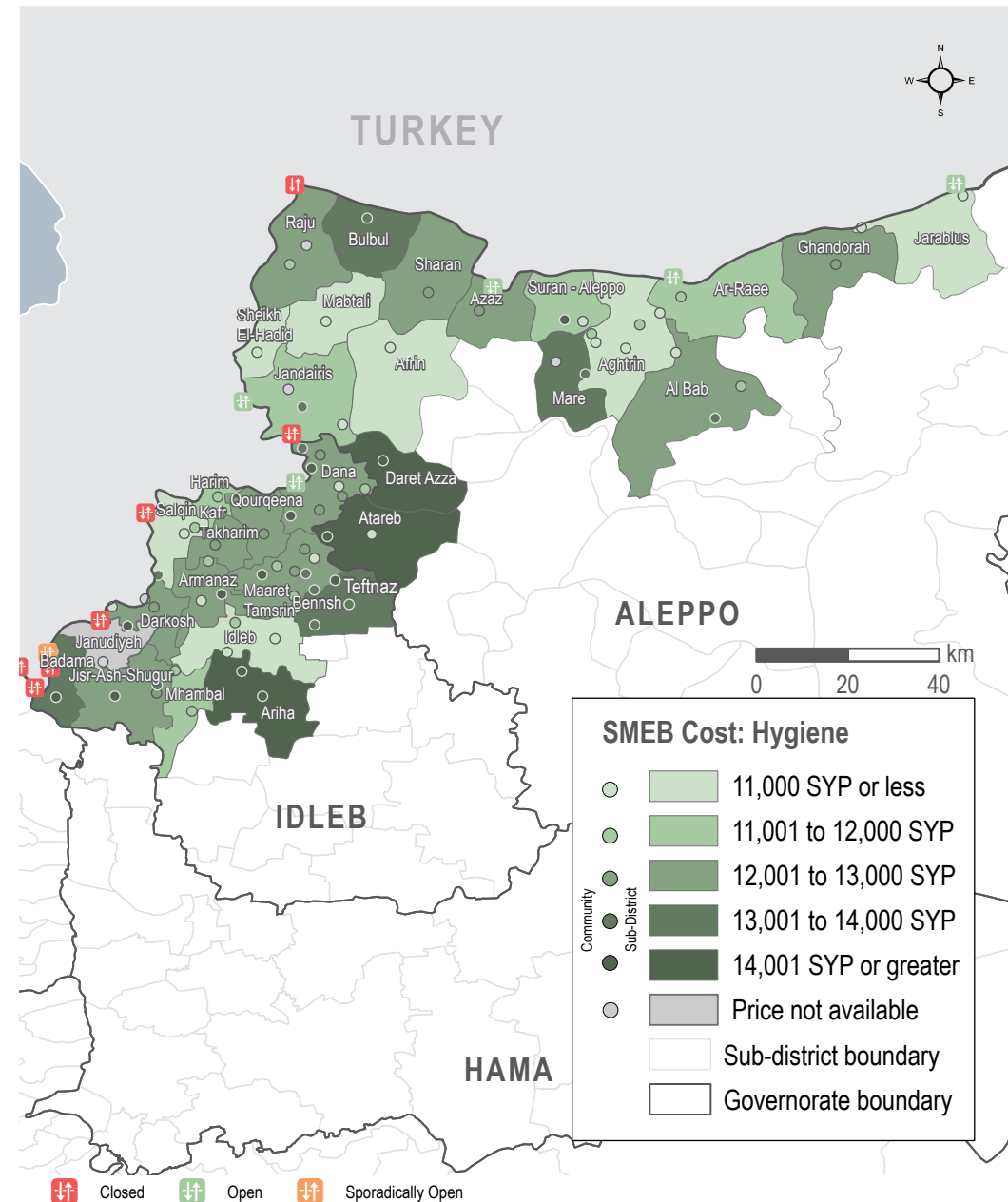
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



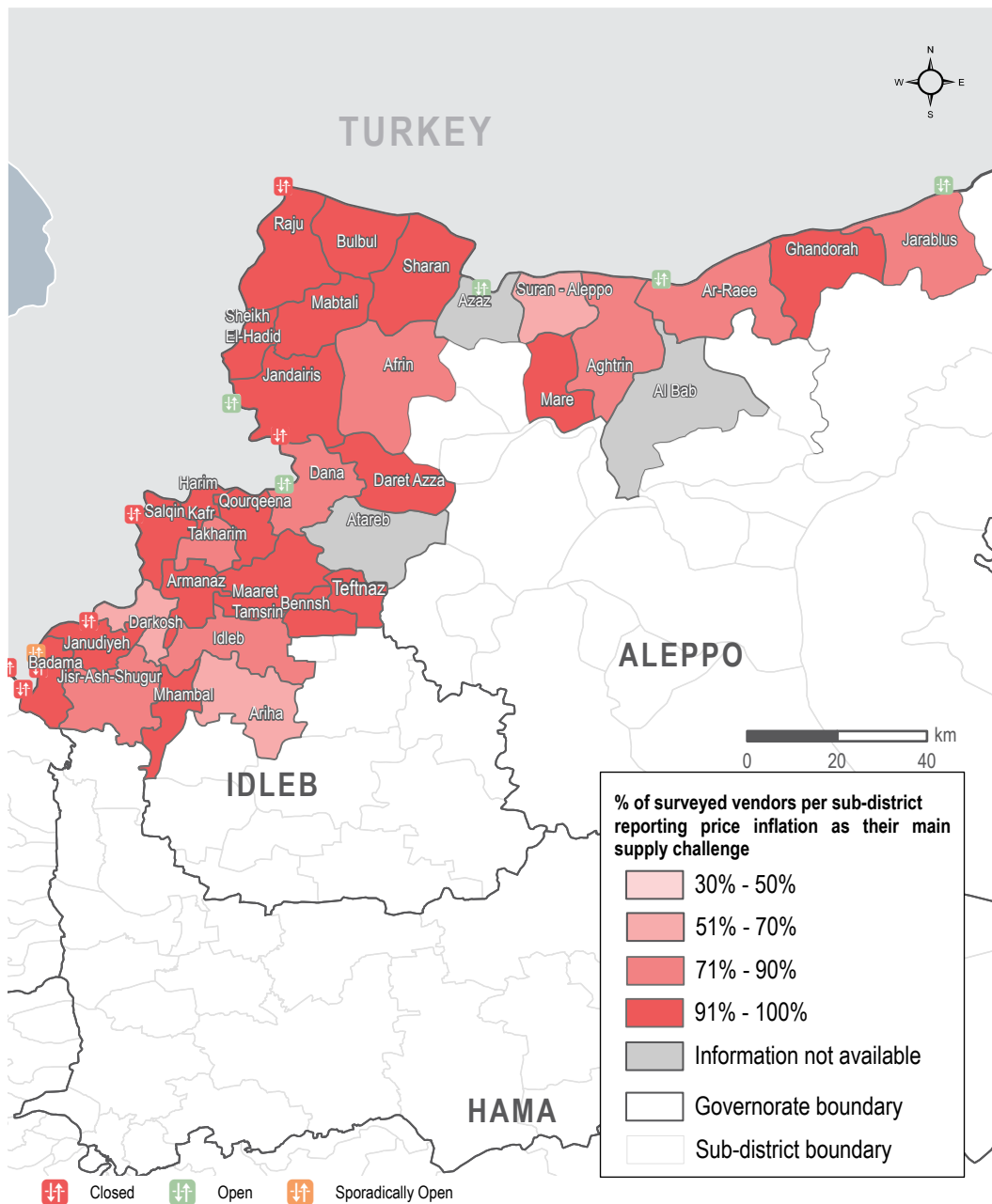
SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



SUPPLY CHALLENGES - PRICE INFLATION

Sub-districts



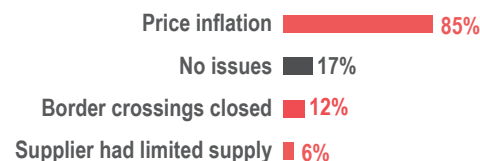
MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

During data collection, only 0.5% of the 2,218 surveyed vendors across Aleppo and Idleb governorates reported having closed their shops.

SUPPLY CHALLENGES

While supply challenges reported by surveyed vendors were similar to last month's, the percentage of surveyed vendors reporting challenges decreased since July. Out of 2,184 surveyed vendors, 83% reported facing one or more supply challenges. Price inflation was again the most commonly reported supply challenge, reported by 85% of all surveyed vendors and by 98% of surveyed vendors who reported facing supply challenges. This suggests that price inflation was a critical issue for surveyed vendors that may negatively impact availability of items if the value of the SYP continues to fall. This challenge was followed by 12% of total respondents who reported closure of border crossings impacting supply and 6% reporting that their suppliers had limited supply (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Top 4 most commonly reported supply challenges by surveyed vendors (2,184 respondents)*



*Multiple answers allowed, thus findings may exceed 100%

RESTOCKING

In addition to reported supply challenges, 2% of 2,268 surveyed vendors reported that they would be unable to restock if they were to run out of supplies. Inability to restock was most commonly reported by the surveyed bakery vendors (5%), followed by butchers, water trucking vendors and pharmacists (3% each). Challenges also existed with the amount of backstock

surveyed vendors could draw upon. Vendors were asked after how many days they would hypothetically run out of stock if supply was to be cut; fifty percent (50%) of respondents reported that they would run out of stock in less than three days and 26% would run out in 3 to 7 days (see Figure 2). Surveyed vegetable and water trucking vendors in Aleppo governorate most commonly reported that they would run out of stock in less than 3 days (4% and 3%, respectively), and surveyed vegetable vendors and butchers most commonly reported similar timeframes in Idleb governorate (both recorded at 5% approximately).

Figure 2: Reported number of days before all types of vendors would hypothetically run out of stock, if supply lines were to be cut (2,268 respondents)



AVAILABILITY OF USD BANKNOTES

Of the 219 surveyed informal exchange vendors who were asked if they had limited stock of any USD banknote denominations, 88% of surveyed vendors in Aleppo governorate and all surveyed vendors in Idleb governorate reported having limited stock of one or more denomination. Surveyed vendors in Aleppo most commonly reported having limited stock of 20 USD banknotes (57% of surveyed vendors) as well as 5 USD and 10 USD banknotes (both reported by 56% of surveyed vendors). In Idleb, 20 USD banknotes were most commonly reported to be limited in stock (75% of surveyed vendors), followed by 50 USD and 10 USD banknotes (72% and 71% of surveyed vendors, respectively).



MEDIAN PRICE OF COVID-19 ITEMS

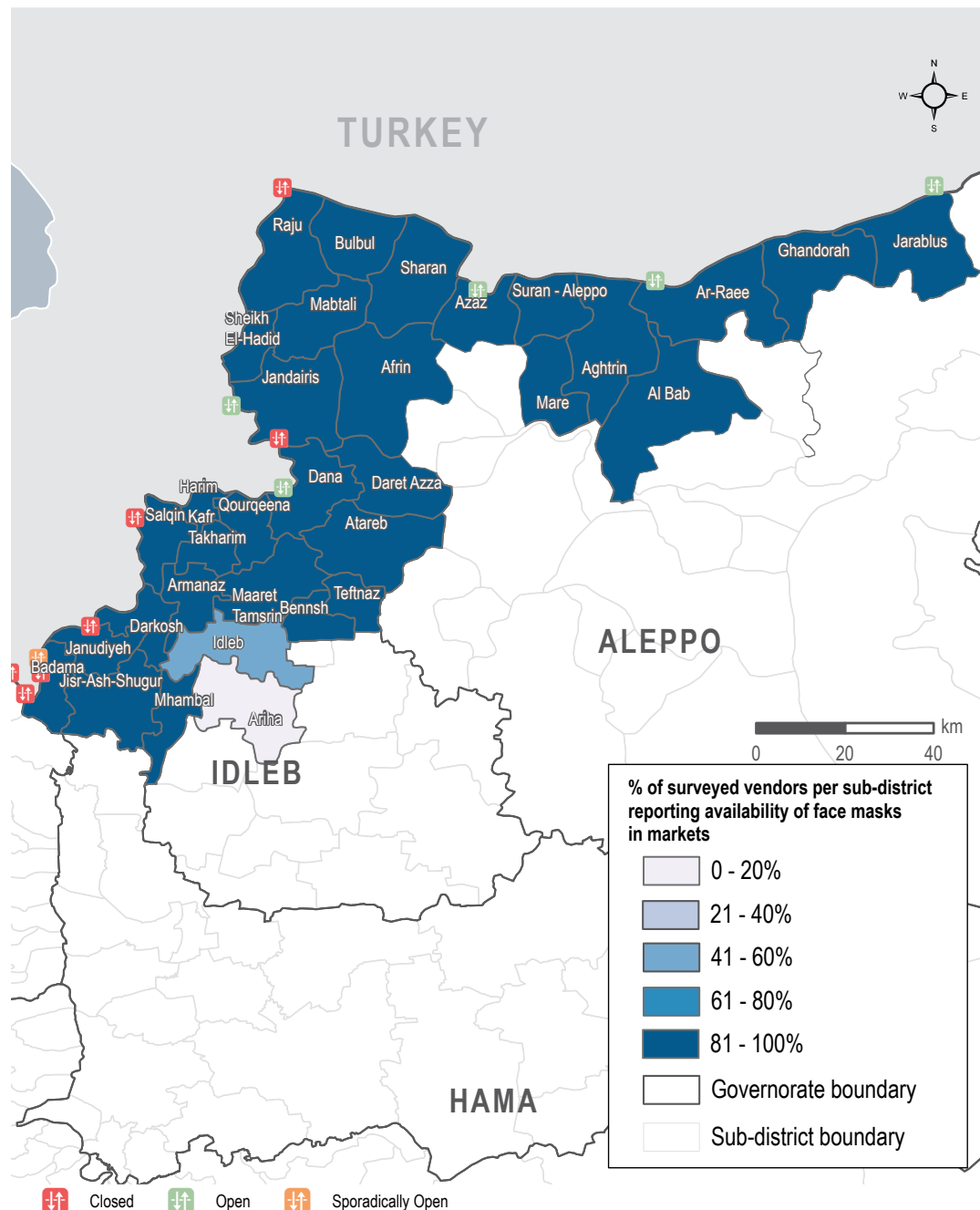
Syrian Pounds

| 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 | 12,000 | 8,000 | 3,350 | 1,200 | 2,950 |
| Afrin | 600 | 20,000 | 8,000 | 2,500 | 1,800 | 2,500 |
| Aghtrn | 400 | 8,000 | 6,000 | 3,200 | 1,300 | 1,700 |
| Al Bab | 400 | 15,000 | 7,500 | 3,000 | 1,500 | 1,800 |
| Ariha | NA | 14,850 | NA | NA | 1,500 | NA |
| Armanaz | 400 | 9,000 | 5,500 | 3,400 | 1,300 | 3,275 |
| Ar-Ra'ee | 500 | 15,000 | 6,500 | 2,200 | 1,300 | 1,300 |
| Atareb | 350 | 13,100 | 11,000 | 4,000 | 1,250 | 2,300 |
| A'zaz | 300 | 450 | 8,100 | 2,500 | 1,500 | 2,500 |
| Badama | 450 | 9,100 | 6,300 | 3,400 | 1,288 | 3,325 |
| Bennsh | 500 | 14,900 | 12,500 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 4,900 |
| Bulbul | 300 | 8,500 | 5,500 | 3,200 | 1,200 | 3,200 |
| Dana | 500 | 12,500 | 10,100 | 4,000 | 1,200 | 3,000 |
| Daret Azza | 500 | 13,000 | 10,500 | 3,400 | 1,100 | 1,500 |
| Darkosh | 450 | 14,000 | 10,750 | 5,000 | 1,050 | 2,200 |
| Ghandorah | 400 | 17,500 | 6,000 | 2,000 | 1,150 | 1,020 |
| Harim | 400 | 10,500 | 8,000 | 3,200 | 1,200 | 3,000 |
| Idleb | 450 | 12,000 | 7,000 | 5,400 | 1,200 | 3,500 |
| Jandairis | 400 | 10,000 | 8,500 | 4,000 | 1,200 | 3,200 |
| Janudiyeh | 500 | 18,500 | 11,000 | 5,500 | 1,400 | 2,900 |
| Jarablus | 400 | 15,400 | 4,350 | 2,150 | 1,000 | 1,020 |
| Jisr-Ash-Shugur | 400 | 8,500 | 5,500 | 3,500 | 1,200 | 3,500 |
| Kafr Takharim | 350 | 13,800 | 15,000 | 2,800 | 1,000 | 3,200 |
| Maaret Tamsrin | 400 | 9,200 | 6,200 | 3,400 | 1,200 | 3,300 |
| Ma'btali | 500 | 25,000 | NA | 3,125 | 950 | NA |
| Mare' | 500 | 300 | 8,000 | 3,350 | 1,500 | 1,800 |
| Mhambal | 500 | 20,000 | 14,000 | NA | 1,200 | NA |
| Qourqeena | 400 | 9,000 | 6,000 | 3,500 | 1,400 | 3,500 |
| Raju | 350 | 7,500 | 7,100 | 3,350 | 1,250 | 3,300 |
| Salqin | 400 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 4,000 | 1,200 | 2,650 |
| Sharan | 400 | 8,000 | 6,000 | 3,350 | 1,225 | 3,250 |
| Sheikh El-Hadid | 500 | 400 | 11,000 | 4,500 | 800 | 1,500 |
| Suran | 500 | 10,000 | 8,000 | 3,300 | 1,300 | 1,800 |
| Teftnaz | 500 | 15,000 | 12,500 | 950 | 1,000 | 5,000 |



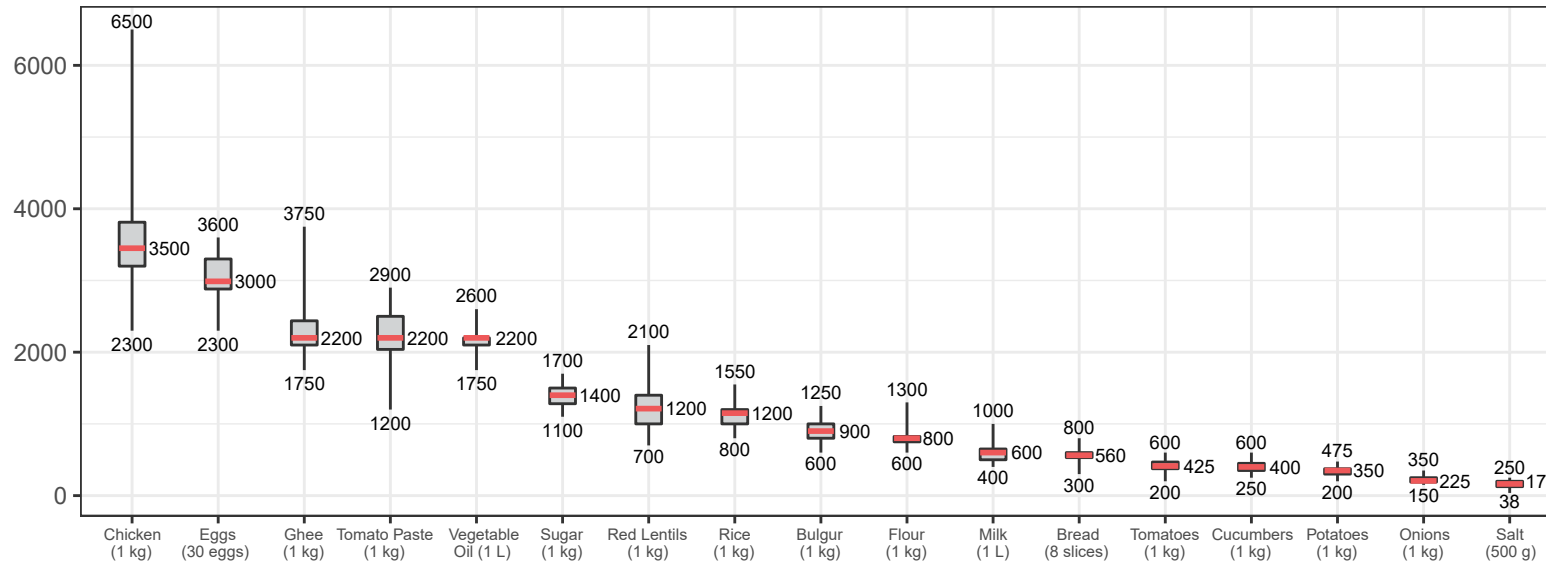
AVAILABILITY OF FACE MASKS

Sub-districts



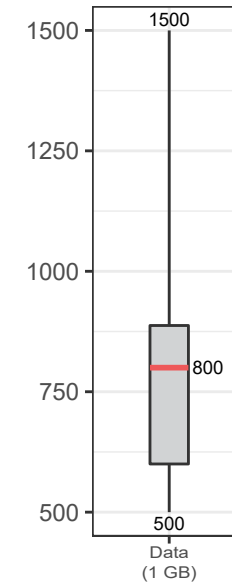
ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



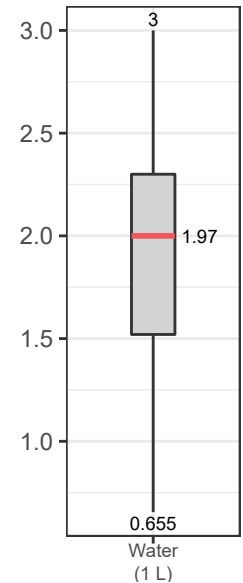
CELLPHONE DATA

Syrian Pounds



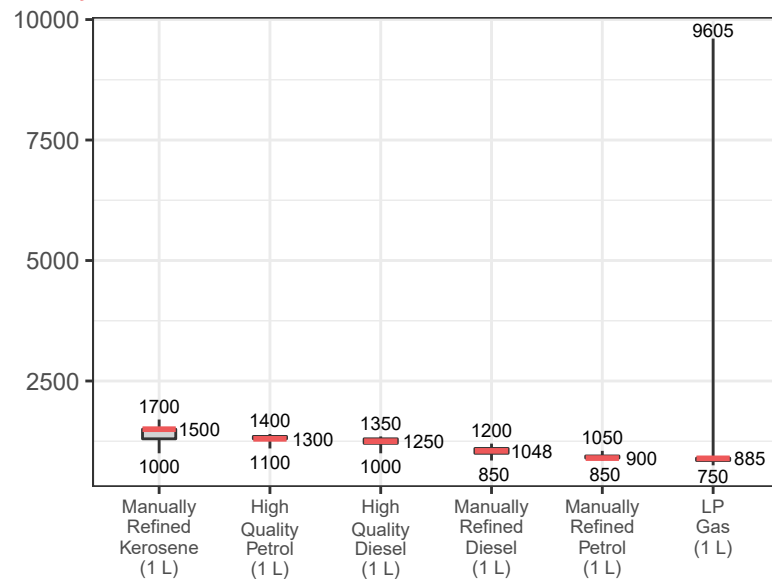
WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



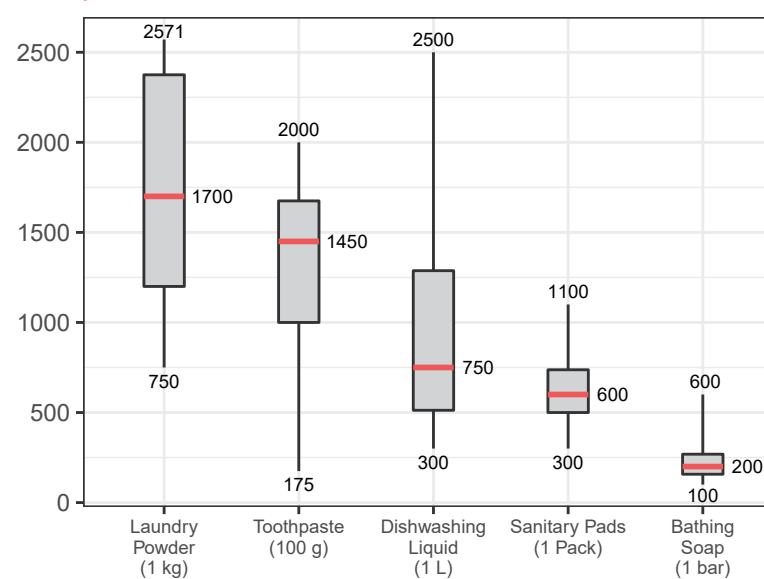
ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

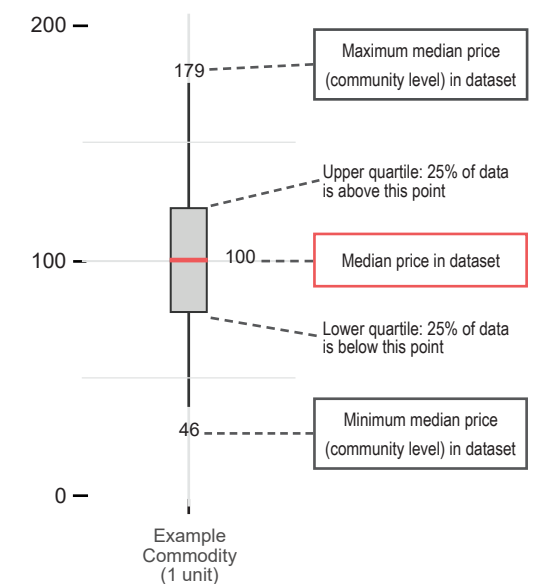


ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

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 cost and transport fuel prices are graphed to visualise trends over time.

The cleaned datasets are available on the [Humanitarian Data Exchange](#) website and the [REACH Resource Centre](#) 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](#). The SMEB vegetables index 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 into 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 into 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 23 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. As 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.