

# NORTHEAST SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 6-13 April 2020

## INTRODUCTION

To inform humanitarian cash programming, REACH in partnership with the northeast (NES) and northwest (NWS) Syria Cash Working Group (CWG) conducts monthly Market Monitoring Exercises in northern Syria to assess the availability and prices of 36 basic commodities that are typically sold in markets and consumed by average Syrian households, including food and non-food items, water, fuel, and cellphone data.

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

Data was collected this month (between 6-13 April 2020) by REACH, Concern, Mercy Corps, PIN, and DCA.

The accompanying [data from the month of April](#) 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
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 28 sub-districts in northeast Syria for the Market Monitoring Exercise, including approximately 978 individual shops. Dotted lines in the graphs indicate lack of data for the months of October and November 2019. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and resulting market disruption, prices should be seen as representative only of the markets and dates where and when information was collected (6-13 April). See pages 10 and 11 for COVID-19-related findings. Moreover, please note that border crossing status may have changed (as a result of COVID-19) since data collection.

### Highest SMEB cost recorded under northeast Market Monitoring Exercise

In April 2020, the value of the regional SMEB reached 123,543 Syrian Pounds (SYP) / 100 United States Dollars (USD), increasing by 10% across comparable communities

with consistent coverage since March (see Methodology) and setting the highest price in SYP recorded by the Market Monitoring Exercise in NES. When aggregating all assessed communities during April, the total median regional SMEB was recorded at 123,355 SYP / 99 USD. While the SMEB continued to rise in SYP, in USD the SMEB value decreased from 105 to 99 USD in April due to the further depreciation of the SYP against the USD (see below).

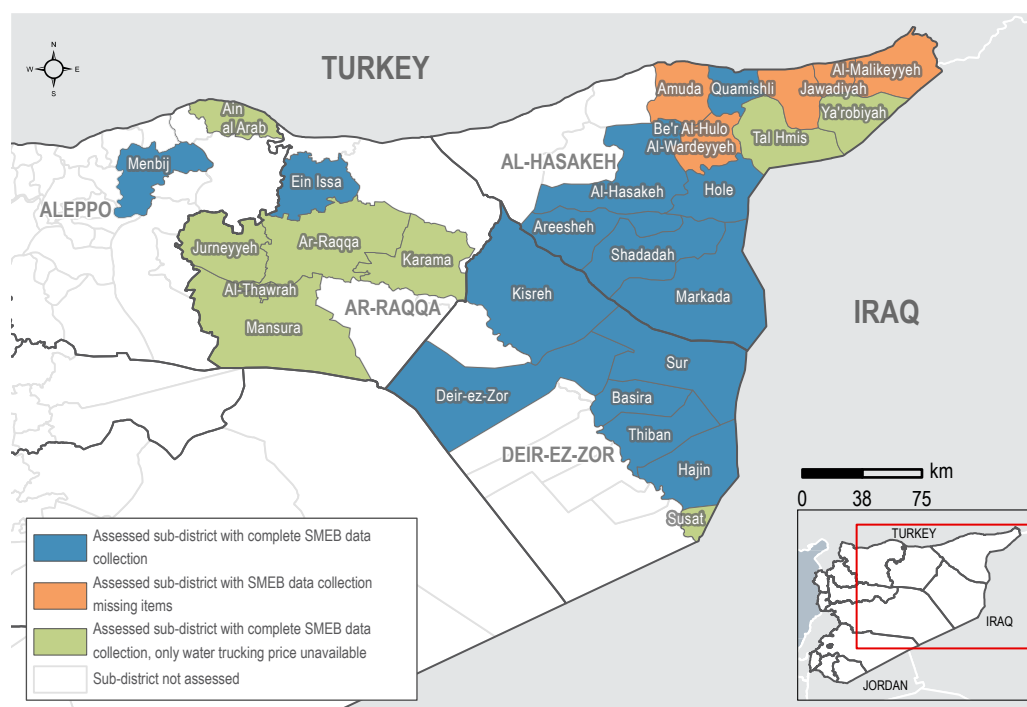
### Continued sharp depreciation of the SYP against the USD

During data collection in April, the informal SYP/USD exchange rate continued to sharply increase across the region. The total median regional informal exchange rate was recorded at 1,240 SYP/USD, a 15% increase since last month. The financial crisis in Lebanon, international economic sanctions on Syria, and the coronavirus pandemic are [reported as the main causes](#) for the sharp depreciation of the SYP informal exchange rate.

### Water and hygiene items increased

This month, the price of water trucking, used for both drinking water and hygiene purposes, increased by 29% since March. Furthermore, the SMEB hygiene component increased by 12%. The price of soap, used for handwashing and considered a preventive measure against COVID-19 by [WHO](#), increased by 14% since March. These price increases may reflect an increased demand for these items under the COVID-19 environment. According to REACH's [Impact of COVID-19 on Markets in northern Syria assessment](#) ("COVID-19 Market Assessment"), 90% of hygiene vendors and 78% of pharmacists reported an increase in demand. Furthermore, recent [Human Rights Watch](#) findings showed that approximately half of the displaced population in NES in April did not have access to vital services such as water, sanitation, and shelter. Finally, this month, bottled drinking water was monitored for the first time as part of the Market Monitoring Exercise and its regional median was recorded at 200 SYP per litre.

## ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE



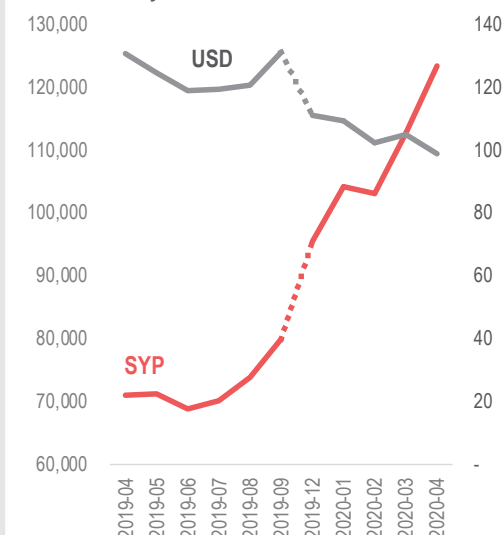
## MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

123,355 SYP  
(99 USD)

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

## MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds and US Dollars



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

**123,355 SYP  
(99 USD)**

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

### Food items prices sharply increased

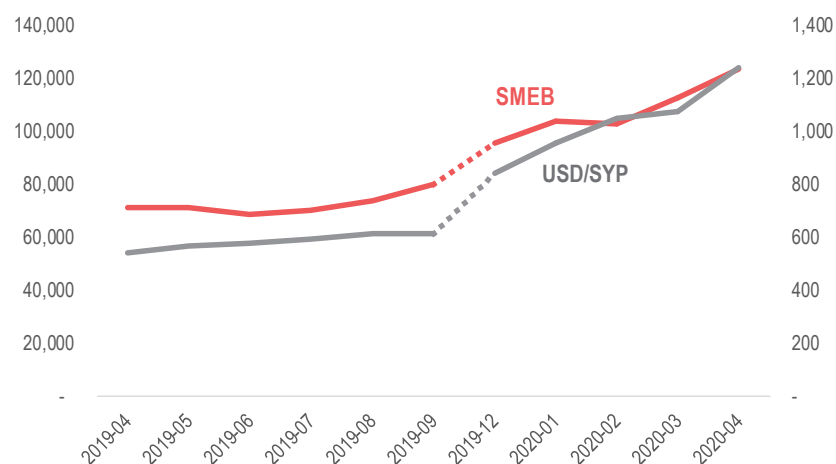
This month, the value of the regional SMEB food component increased by 11%, reaching 89,582 SYP. Field teams reported an increase in food item demand in northern Syria due to the partial closures of markets or community curfews following COVID-19 restrictions (see page 11 for information related to supply challenges) and preparations for the month of Ramadan. REACH's recent [COVID-19 Market Assessment](#) similarly found 46% of surveyed vendors reported an increase in market demand and 20% of vendors, including general food shops and vegetable shops vendors, reported stockpiling behaviour after the emergence of COVID-19. Moreover, food prices in Syria continue to increase due to the continued sharp depreciation of the SYP, as reported by the [World Food Programme](#). In particular, bulk food items have witnessed a significant increase since March. For example, lentils increased by 17%, pasta by 25%, flour by 43%, and salt by 50%. Field teams reported a scarcity of bulk food items during data collection, which could be an explanation for the increase in prices. As bulk food items are largely

imported into NES, road closures due to COVID-19 mitigation measures were reportedly the main factor for the bulk food supply shortage. Moreover, the SMEB vegetable component sharply increased by 23%, with potatoes increasing by 36% and tomatoes by 37%. The increase in vegetable prices is reportedly due to the high cost of importing vegetables and the lack of agricultural equipment available in NES.

### Diesel prices decreased

This month, transport fuel prices in NES were recorded at a median of 88 SYP per litre. Prices of diesel greatly decreased since March, with high quality diesel prices falling by 33% and manually refined diesel prices falling by 8%. These findings were not reflected in petrol prices, which have remained stable since March. Field teams reported a decrease in diesel demand in NES due to the closures of roads in the region following the COVID-19 restrictions, which led to a decrease in vehicle circulation. Moreover, the [global demand](#) for fuel witnessed a major decrease in the wake of COVID-19, which resulted in a worldwide decrease in prices.

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



## MEDIAN SMEB COSTS & CHANGES\*

Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	123,543	10%	NA
Ain al Arab**	107,417	10%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	121,873	11%	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah**	119,364	16%	NA
Amuda	NA	NA	NA
Areesheh	126,147	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa**	120,437	13%	NA
Basira	123,071	9%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	NA	NA	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	113,047	NA	NA
Ein Issa	114,558	-2%	NA
Hajin	118,347	NA	NA
Hole	133,569	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA

Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Jurneyyeh**	116,198	13%	NA
Karama**	115,267	14%	NA
Kisreh	110,064	NA	NA
Mansura**	103,410	10%	NA
Markada	128,470	NA	NA
Menbij	124,683	30%	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Quamishli	123,419	6%	NA
Shadadah	124,324	NA	NA
Sur	134,241	15%	NA
Susat**	114,604	NA	NA
Tal Hmis**	119,567	24%	NA
Thiban	123,667	7%	NA
Ya'robiyah**	115,794	3%	NA

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

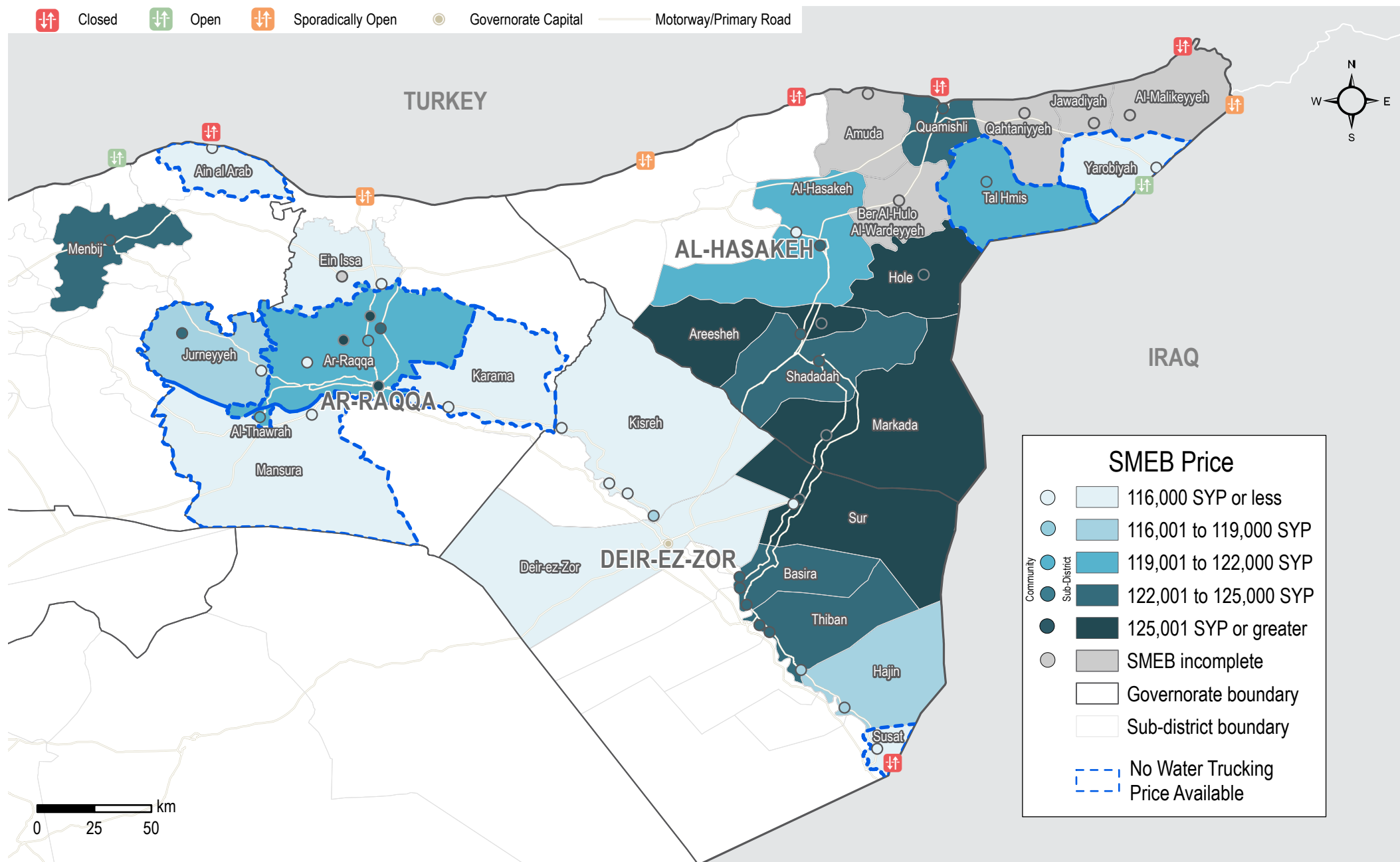
\*\* Denotes sub-districts where water trucking is not common, and therefore does not have water trucking prices in the SMEB cost

### SUB-DISTRICTS WITH INCOMPLETE SMEB IN APRIL

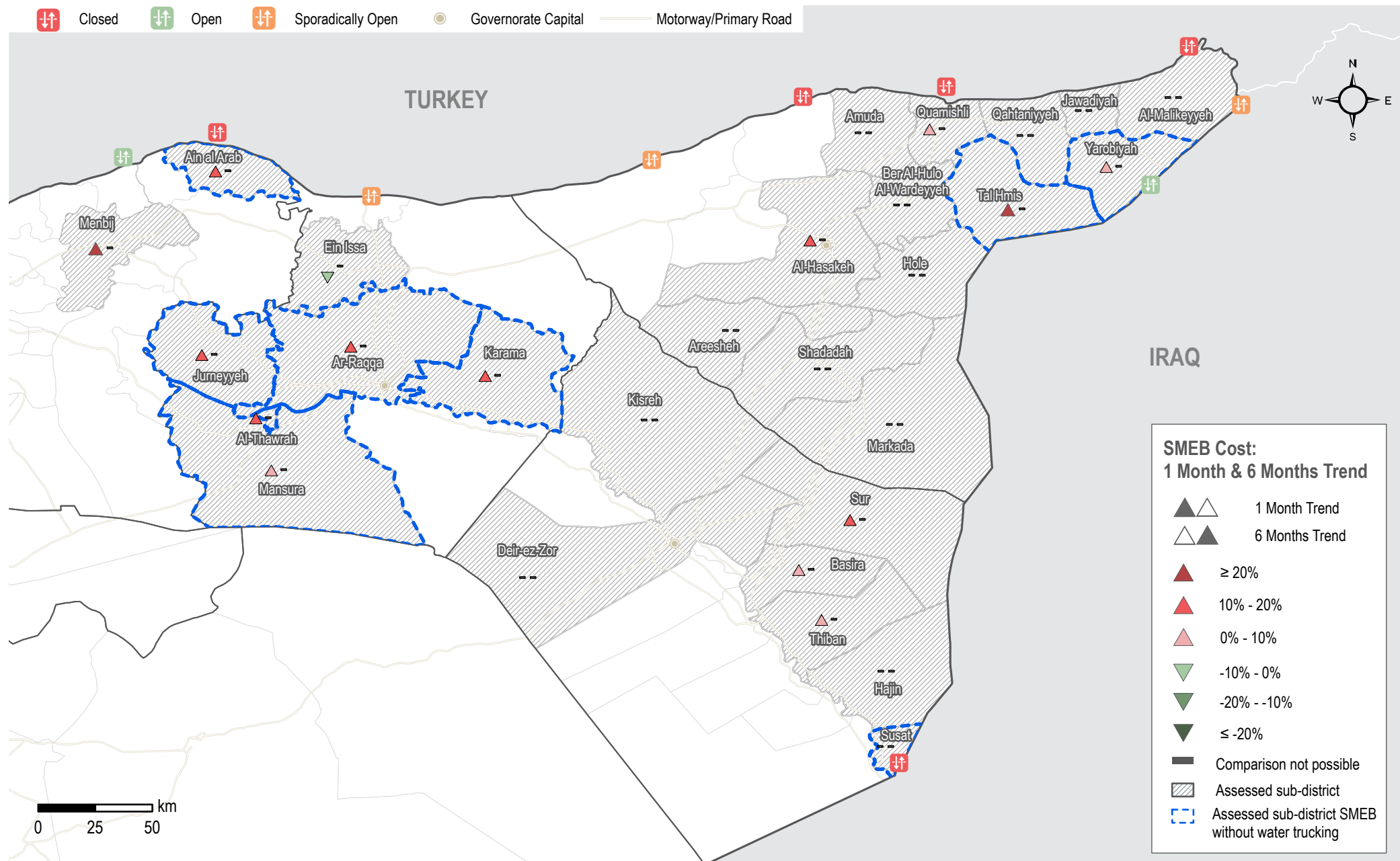
SUB-DISTRICT	MISSING ITEMS
Al-Malikeyyeh	Water trucking, Manually refined kerosene, LP gas
Amuda	Water trucking, Manually refined kerosene, LP gas
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	Water trucking, Phone data, Manually refined kerosene, LP gas
Jawadiyah	Water trucking, Manually refined kerosene, LP gas
Qahtaniyyeh	Water trucking, Phone data, Manually refined kerosene

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

## SMEB COST RANGES (SYP), BY SUB-DISTRICTS



## SMEB COST: ONE MONTH & SIX MONTHS TREND





# NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS

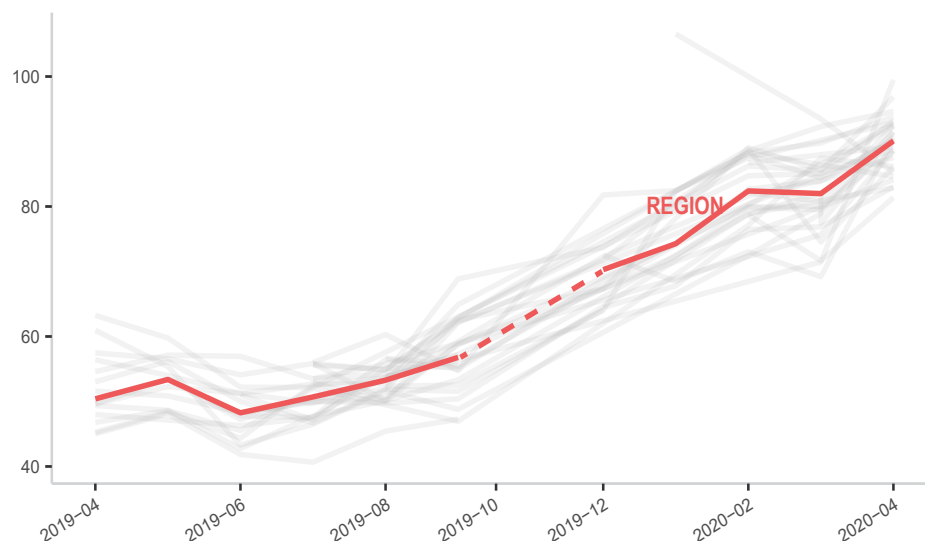
Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Eastern Aleppo governorates

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

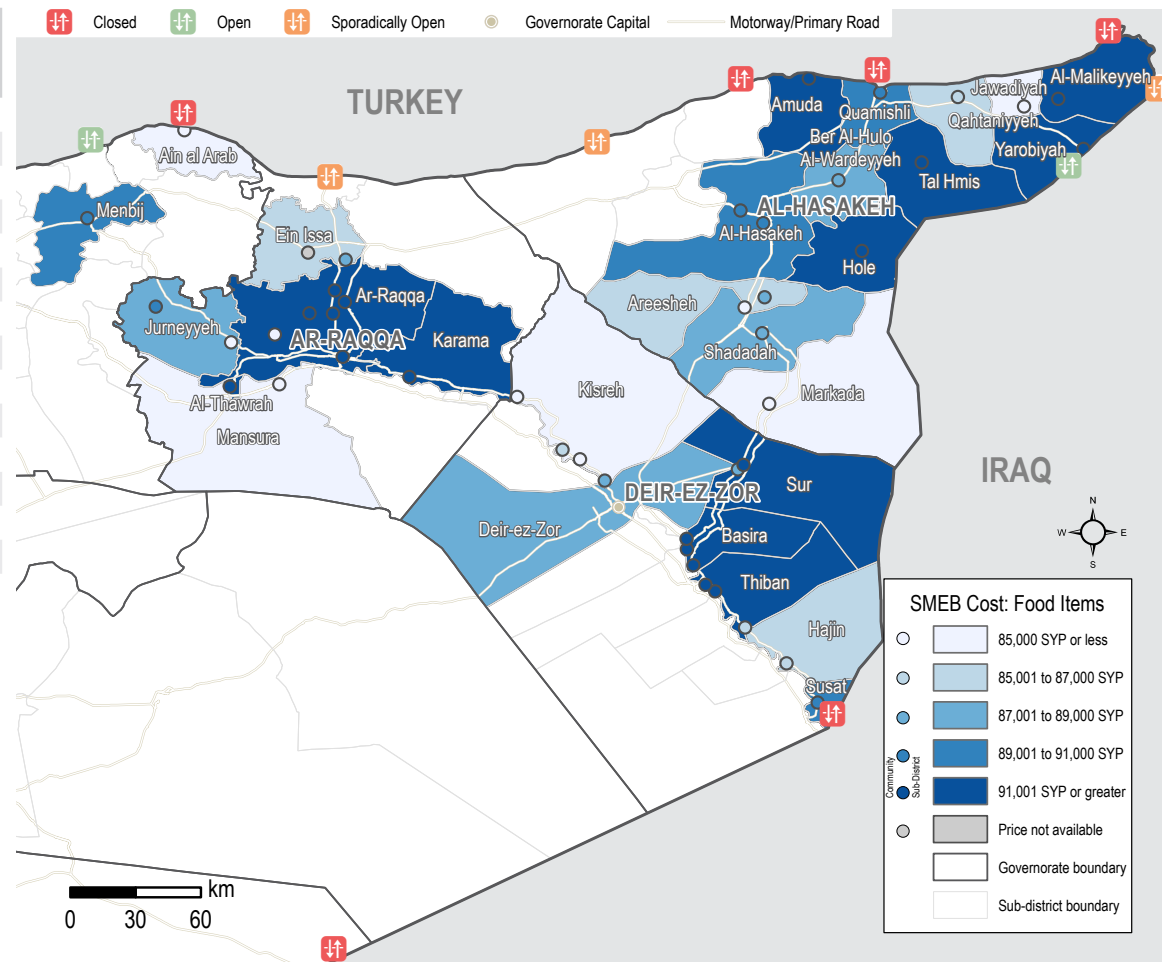
Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	89,582	11%	NA	Jurneyyeh	87,238	10%	NA
Ain al Arab	83,023	8%	NA	Karama	91,375	16%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	90,225	14%	NA	Kisreh	84,798	2%	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	92,900	NA	NA	Mansura	81,370	14%	NA
Al-Thawrah	91,513	15%	NA	Markada	84,125	NA	NA
Amuda	92,403	8%	NA	Menbij	90,361	31%	NA
Areeshah	85,765	NA	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	85,200	-9%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	92,281	13%	NA	Quamishli	89,938	7%	NA
Basira	93,175	10%	NA	Shadadah	88,625	17%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	88,525	11%	NA	Sur	96,850	13%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	88,725	4%	NA	Susat	89,225	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	88,725	4%	NA	Tal Hmis	99,475	39%	NA
Ein Issa	85,495	-1%	NA	Thiban	94,026	5%	NA
Hajin	86,444	15%	NA	Ya'robiyah	94,625	3%	NA
Hole	92,725	NA	NA				
Jawadiyah	84,620	NA	NA				

## MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS, BY MONTH

Region (red) and Sub-districts (grey), Thousand Syrian Pounds



## SMEB FOOD ITEMS' COST Sub-districts, Syrian Pounds



# NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: COOKING FUEL

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

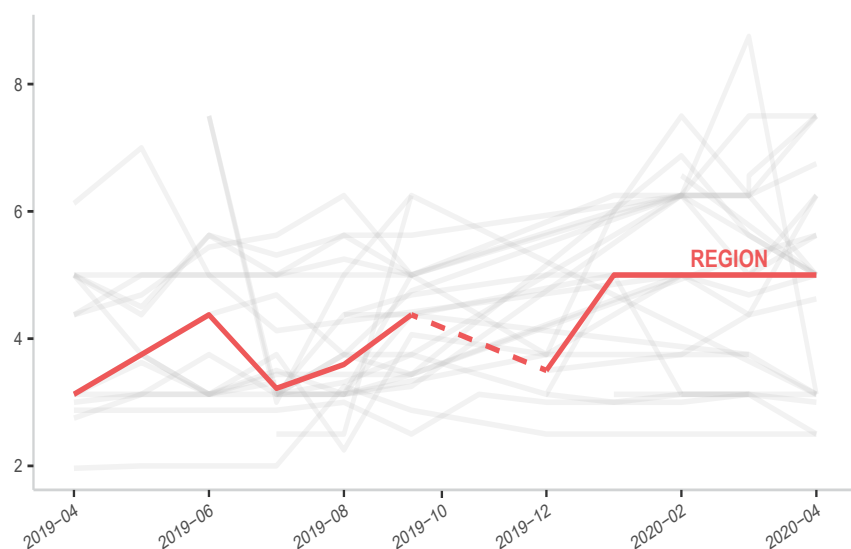
## MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL PRICE

Kerosene 25L, Syrian Pounds

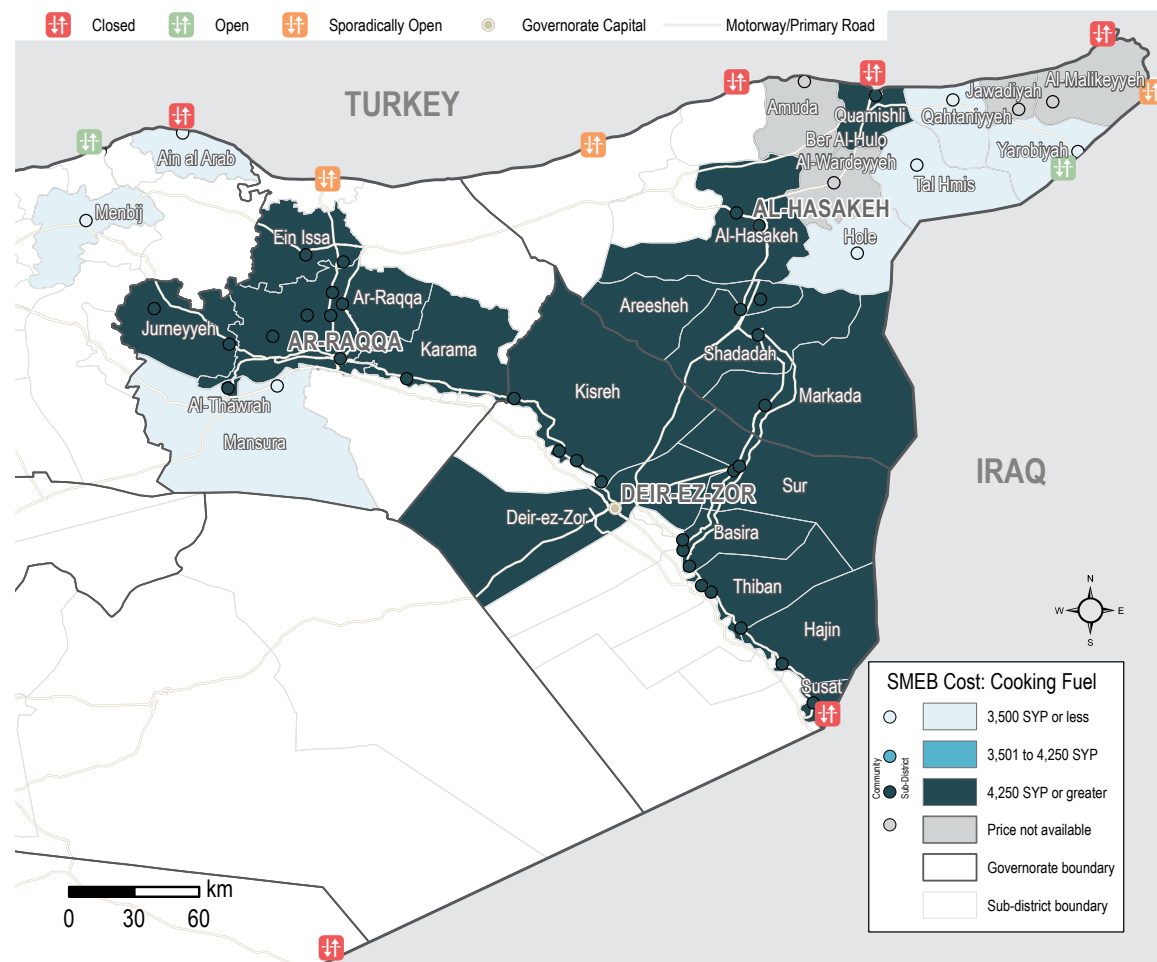
Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	5,000	0%	NA	Jurneyyeh	7,500	20%	NA
Ain al Arab	3,125	0%	0%	Karama	5,000	-20%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	5,625	6%	NA	Kisreh	5,000	0%	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	Mansura	3,125	-64%	NA
Al-Thawrah	6,750	8%	NA	Markada	8,750	NA	NA
Amuda	NA	NA	NA	Menbij	2,500	-20%	NA
Areeshah	5,156	NA	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	3,000	-4%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	7,500	20%	NA	Quamishli	6,250	43%	NA
Basira	5,625	6%	NA	Shadadah	5,000	NA	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	NA	NA	NA	Sur	5,000	0%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	Susat	5,000	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	4,625	6%	NA	Tal Hmis	3,125	-17%	NA
Ein Issa	7,500	9%	NA	Thiban	6,250	25%	NA
Hajin	5,000	-11%	NA	Ya'robiyah	2,500	0%	NA
Hole	3,125	NA	NA				
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA				

## MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Region (red) and Sub-districts (grey), Thousand Syrian Pounds



## SMEB COOKING FUEL COST Sub-districts, Syrian Pounds



# NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: HYGIENE ITEMS

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

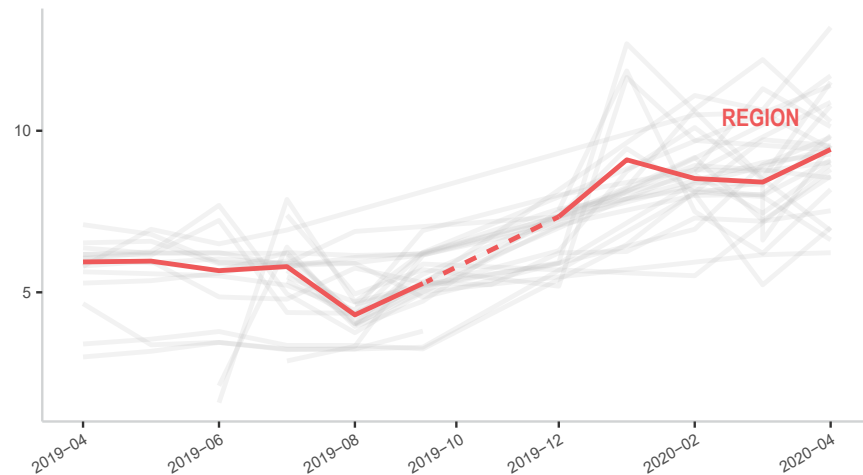
## MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' PRICE

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

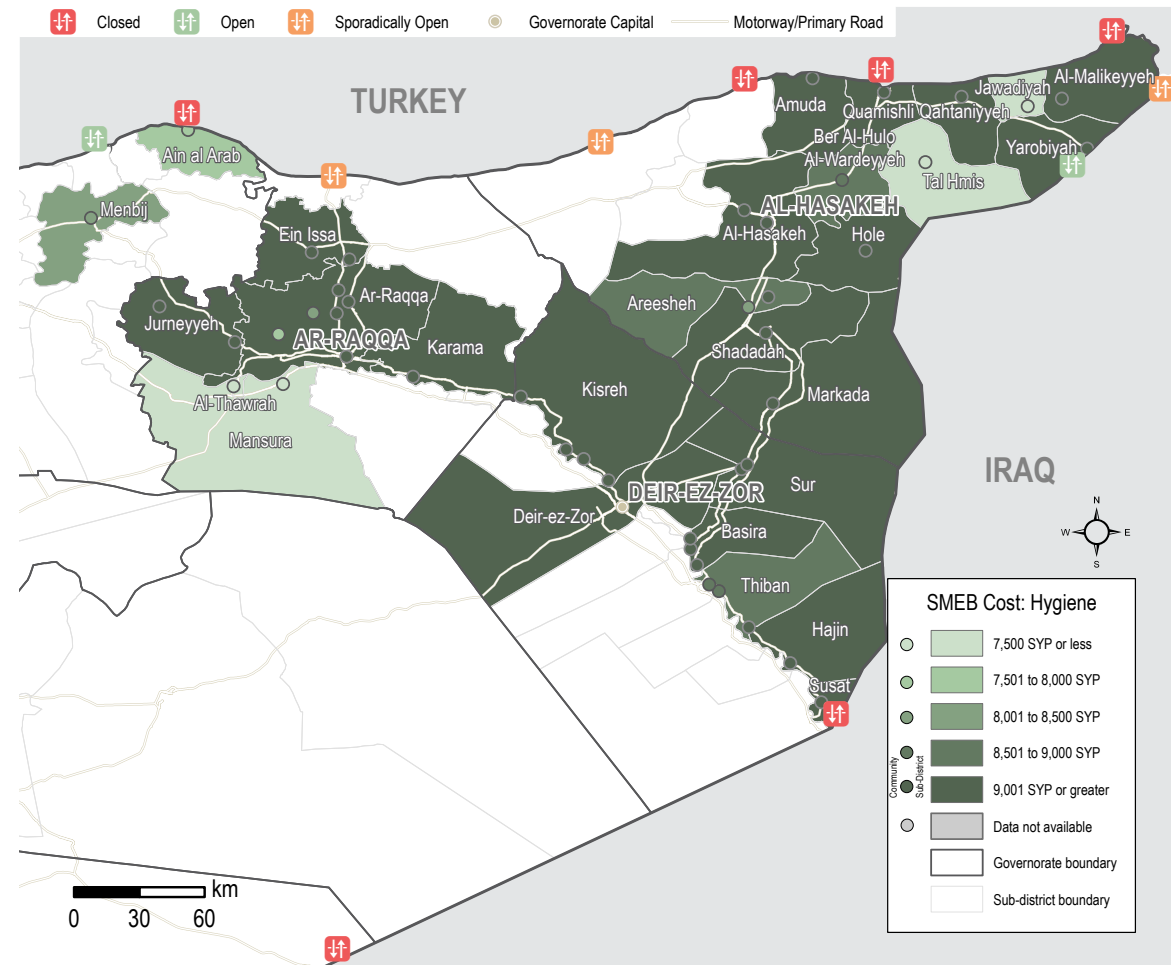
Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	9,422	12%	NA	Jurneyyeh	10,003	46%	NA
Ain al Arab	7,525	5%	NA	Karama	9,850	23%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	9,240	8%	NA	Kisreh	10,503	-14%	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	9,403	NA	NA	Mansura	7,000	34%	NA
Al-Thawrah	6,624	-17%	NA	Markada	9,442	NA	NA
Amuda	10,775	29%	NA	Menbij	8,182	32%	NA
Areeshah	8,863	NA	NA		11,506	35%	NA
Ar-Raqqa	10,604	7%	NA	Quamishli	9,025	3%	NA
Basira	11,700	15%	NA	Shadadah	9,275	3%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	8,965	20%	NA	Sur	13,200	24%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	8,965	20%	NA	Susat	10,883	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	9,450	-10%	NA	Tal Hmis	6,225	1%	NA
Ein Issa	10,071	10%	NA	Thiban	8,556	18%	NA
Hajin	10,125	-13%	NA	Ya'robiyah	9,090	14%	NA
Hole	11,400	NA	NA				
Jawadiyah	6,907	NA	NA				

## MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COSTS, BY MONTH

Region (red) and Sub-districts (grey), Thousand Syrian Pounds



## SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COST Sub-districts, Syrian Pounds



# NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: PHONE DATA

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

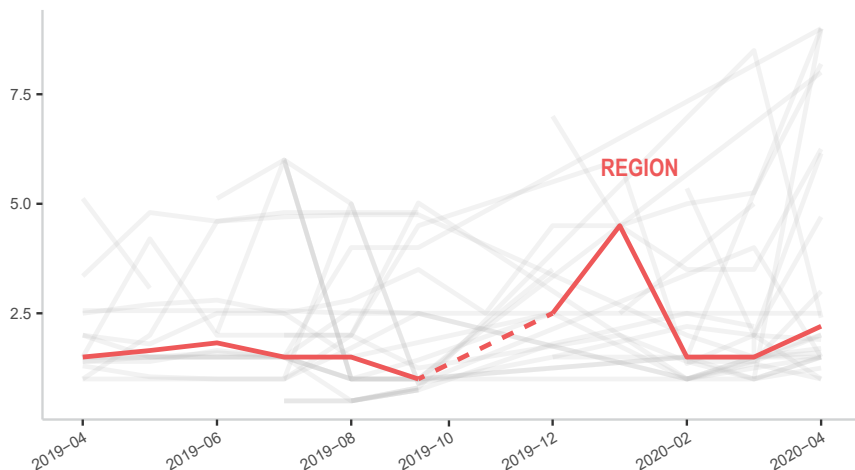
## MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA PRICE

1GB data, Syrian Pounds

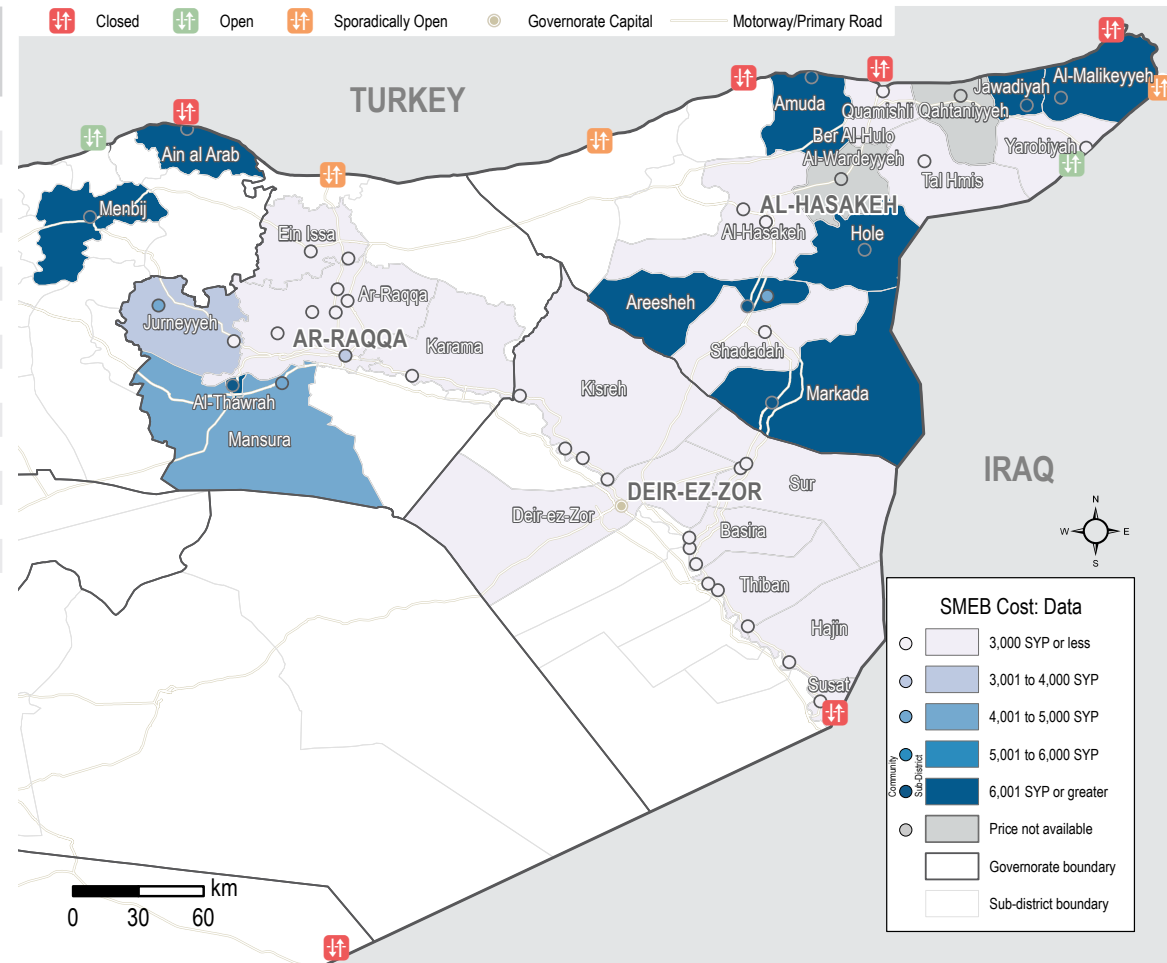
Sub-district	SMEB Data	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Data	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	2,325	16%	NA	Jurneyyeh	3,350	6%	NA
Ain al Arab	6,250	79%	NA	Karama	1,000	-26%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	2,250	-44%	NA	Kisreh	1,500	20%	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	8,000	NA	NA	Mansura	4,700	135%	NA
Al-Thawrah	6,150	208%	NA	Markada	9,000	NA	NA
Amuda	9,000	800%	NA	Menbij	8,192	56%	NA
Areeshah	6,875	NA	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqah	1,650	10%	NA	Quamishli	1,000	-50%	NA
Basira	2,500	0%	NA	Shadadah	1,500	-63%	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	NA	NA	NA	Sur	1,500	50%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	Susat	1,500	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	2,000	43%	NA	Tal Hmis	2,400	-72%	NA
Ein Issa	1,250	25%	NA	Thiban	1,706	14%	NA
Hajin	2,008	34%	NA	Ya'robiyah	1,500	0%	NA
Hole	8,000	NA	NA				
Jawadiyah	7,000	NA	NA				

## MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST, BY MONTH

Region (red) and Sub-districts (grey), Thousand Syrian Pounds



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





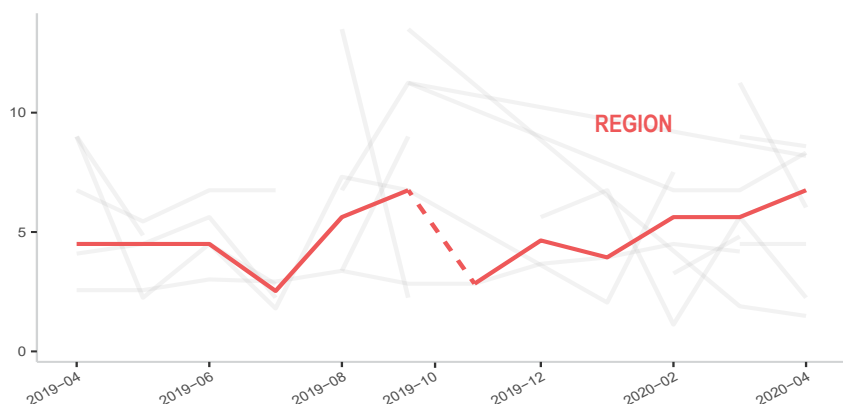
# NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: WATER TRUCKING

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

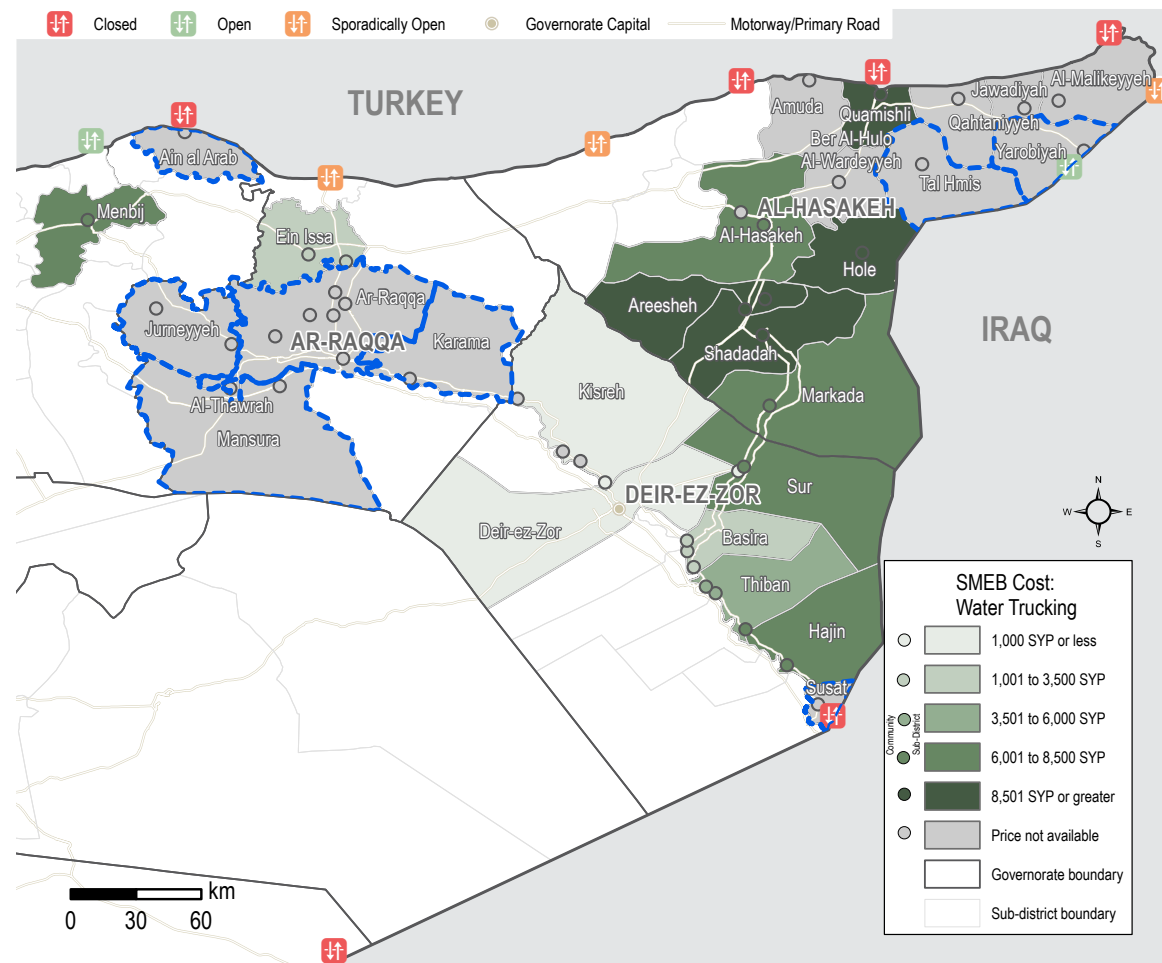
## MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICE 4,500L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Water	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Water	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	6,632	29%	NA	Jurneyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Ain al Arab	NA	NA	NA	Karama	NA	NA	NA
Al-Hasakeh	6,030	18%	NA	Kisreh	585	NA	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	Mansura	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	NA	NA	NA	Markada	8,190	NA	NA
Amuda	NA	NA	NA	Menbij	6,750	20%	NA
Areeshah	10,688	NA	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	NA	NA	NA	Quamishli	8,595	-5%	NA
Basira	1,485	-16%	NA	Shadadah	11,250	NA	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	NA	NA	NA	Sur	8,325	23%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	Susat	NA	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	360	NA	NA	Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	2,250	-60%	NA	Thiban	4,500	0%	NA
Hajin	6,514	NA	NA	Ya'robiyah	NA	NA	NA
Hole	9,000	NA	NA				
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA				

## MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH Region (red) and Sub-districts (grey), Thousand Syrian Pounds



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



# NORTHEAST SYRIA - TRANSPORT FUEL

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

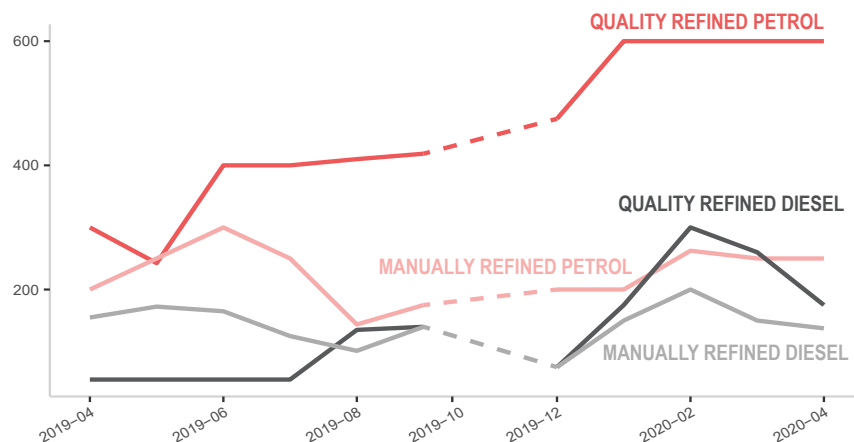
## MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

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

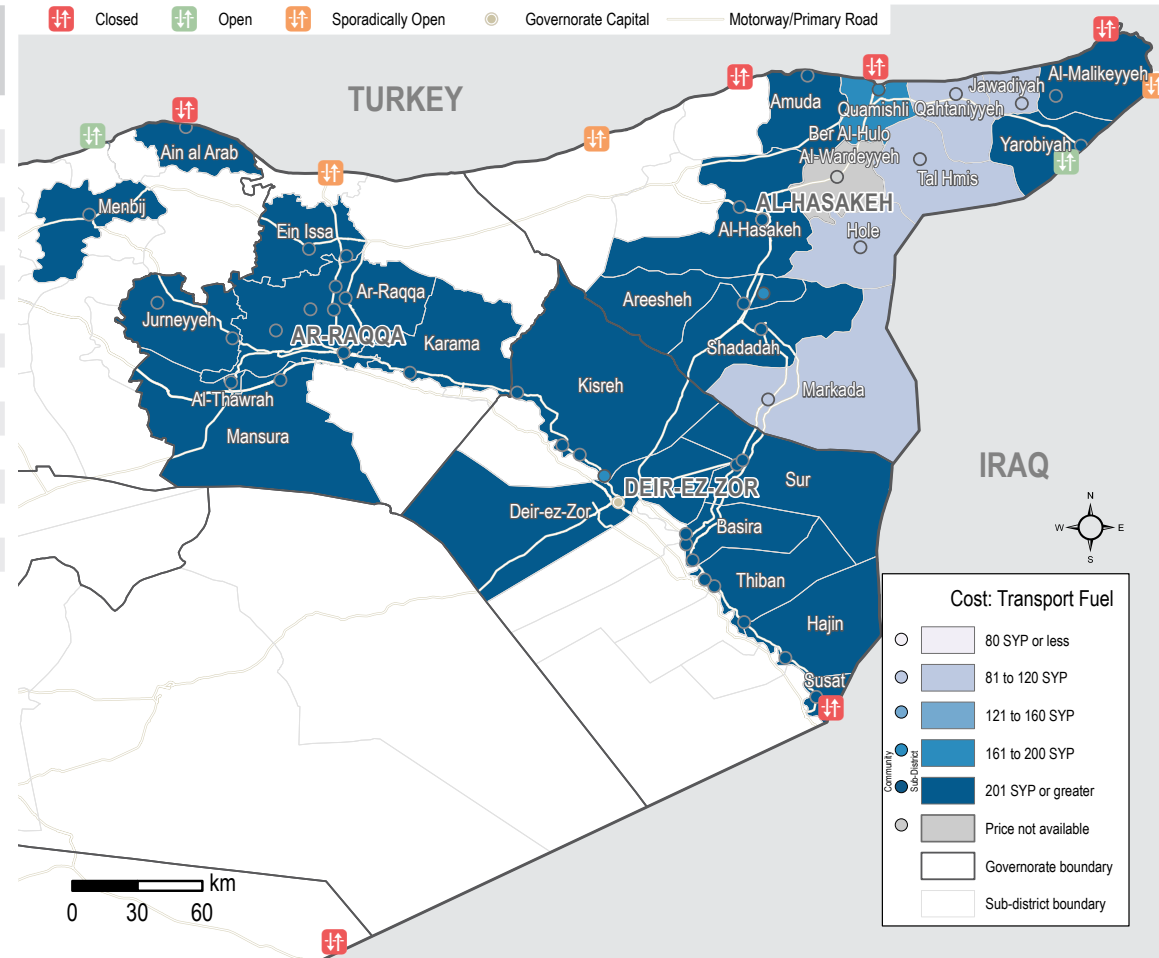
Sub-district	Transport Fuel	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	Transport Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	88	NA	NA	Jurneyyeh	271	-7%	NA
Ain al Arab	303	-3%	NA	Karama	250	-32%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	263	-33%	NA	Kisreh	293	-12%	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	258	NA	NA	Mansura	275	69%	NA
Al-Thawrah	363	23%	NA	Markada	88	NA	NA
Amuda	292	-8%	NA	Menbij	312	47%	NA
Areeshah	223	NA	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	88	-72%	NA
Ar-Raqqah	421	38%	NA	Qamishli	178	-55%	NA
Basira	278	11%	NA	Shadadah	258	NA	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	NA	NA	NA	Sur	225	-28%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	Susat	288	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	220	-28%	NA	Tal Hmis	88	0%	NA
Ein Issa	313	6%	NA	Thiban	235	-20%	NA
Hajin	350	56%	NA	Ya'robiyah	238	-5%	NA
Hole	100	NA	NA				
Jawadiyah	88	NA	NA				

## MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE

Syrian Pounds



## TRANSPORT FUEL COST Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds





## MEDIAN PRICE OF COVID-19 ITEMS

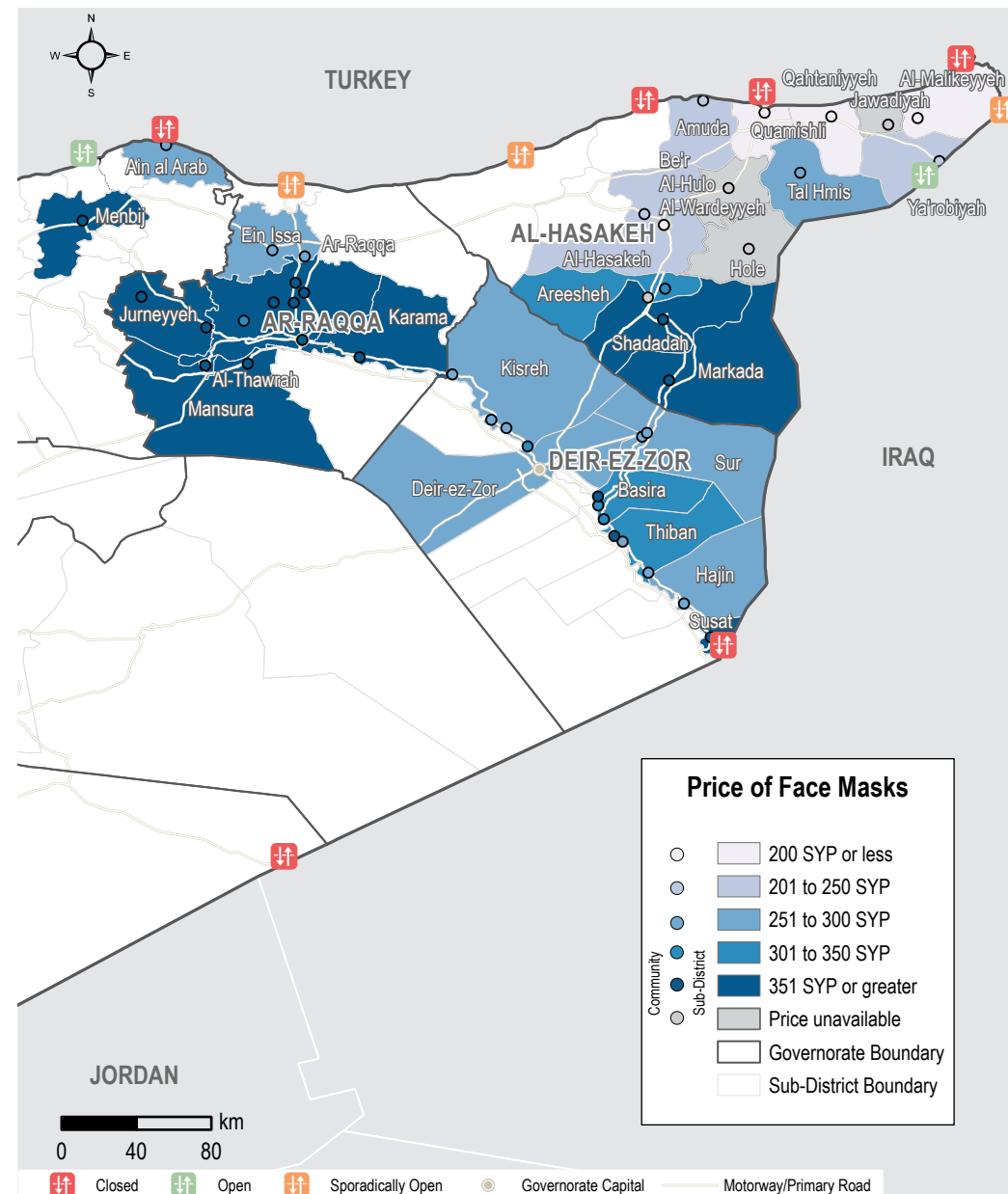
Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	Face mask (1 piece)	Plastic gloves (box of 100)	Sterile alcohol (1 litre)	Hand sanitiser (500 ml)	Bottled bleach (1 litre)	Trash bags (roll of 30)
Northeast Syria	300	6,000	3,700	2,500	700	1,400
Ain al Arab	300	7,450	5,796	2,000	650	1,500
Al-Hasakeh	250	7,500	3,333	4,584	850	1,000
Al-Malikeyyeh	200	5,000	6,000	1,500	500	1,500
Al-Thawrah	500	5,000	6,667	4,500	722	1,500
Amuda	250	6,000	1,200	3,000	650	1,400
Areesheh	313	7,100	4,000	3,750	675	700
Ar-Raqqa	400	5,000	6,667	4,250	600	1,200
Basira	350	3,500	4,500	2,500	500	NA
Be'r Al-Hulo	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	300	5,500	2,000	725	750	1,000
Ein Issa	300	7,000	3,000	3,467	750	1,300
Hajin	300	3,500	4,500	2,500	1,000	1,500
Hole	NA	4,000	3,000	NA	722	NA
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA	2,500	750	NA
Jurneyyeh	400	5,000	2,000	800	700	1,900
Karama	400	6,000	8,500	800	400	NA
Kisreh	300	4,750	1,500	800	600	700
Mansura	500	NA	NA	800	650	500
Markada	500	7,000	8,000	1,500	700	NA
Menbij	400	6,300	1,450	1,800	900	1,400
Qahtaniyyeh	200	10,000	4,250	4,500	600	2,250
Quamishli	150	7,500	3,700	1,500	1,600	1,800
Shadadah	400	6,500	2,500	4,167	725	650
Sur	300	3,500	4,500	2,500	500	NA
Susat	500	5,000	2,500	1,900	650	1,500
Tal Hmis	300	5,800	3,000	3,500	650	NA
Thiban	350	6,500	1,650	3,750	750	900
Ya'robiyah	250	10,000	5,500	2,800	700	1,400



## PRICE OF FACE MASKS

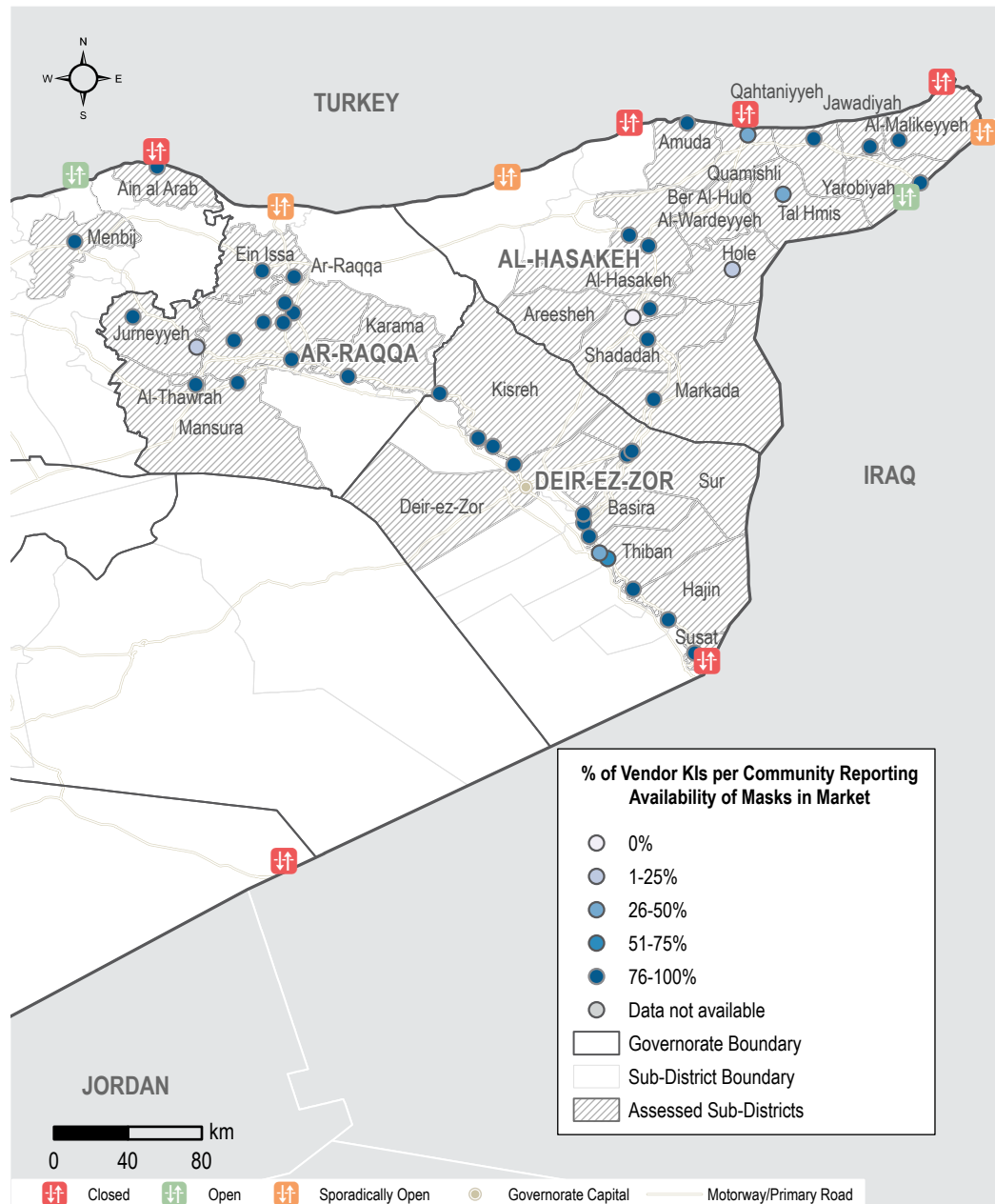
Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds





## AVAILABILITY OF FACE MASKS

Communities



## MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

During data collection, 7% of vendors surveyed reported having closed their shops as a result of COVID-19. In Aleppo governorate, the highest percentage of KIs reporting closure were among communication vendors (80% closed) and vendors selling water trucking (33% closed). In Al-Hasakeh governorate, 97% of communication shop vendors and 64% of informal currency exchange vendors reported closure. On the other hand, 99% of respondents in Ar-Raqqa governorate and 97% of vendors in Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported that their shops were still fully functioning.



## DELIVERY MECHANISMS

Thirty-four percent (34%) of 899 vendor respondents reported that door-to-door delivery services were available in their communities within the current COVID-19 environment. Water trucking delivery was the most commonly available delivery mechanism, reported by 31% of KIs. Moreover, bread and LP gas deliveries were reportedly available by 7% and 2% of KIs, respectively. Finally, all surveyed vendors across governorates reported food deliveries (aside from bread) to be unavailable in NES.



## SUPPLY CHALLENGES

Supply challenges under the current COVID-19 situation were also reported by vendor KIs. Out of 834 surveyed vendors, 70% reported facing one or more supply challenges. Price inflation was the most commonly reported supply challenge, as reported by 57% of total respondents. This represents 81% of vendors who reported facing supply challenges, suggesting that price inflation was a critical issue for vendors. This was followed by 36% of total vendors who reported that their supply could not meet the demand, and 21% who reported that road closures to/from their communities caused challenges with supply (see figure 1). Border crossing closures were also reported as a supply challenge among 12% of total surveyed vendors.

Figure 1: Top 4 most commonly reported supply challenges by vendor KIs (834 respondents)\*



\*Multiple answers allowed, thus findings may exceed 100%



## RESTOCKING

In addition to supply challenges reported, 16% of 834 surveyed vendors reported that they would be unable to restock if they were to run out of supplies. When looking at specific shop types, 23% of pharmacists, 22% of hygiene vendors, and 19% of surveyed water trucking vendors reported this challenge. The same vendors were also asked after how many days they would run out if supply was cut. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents said they would run out of supplies in less than 3 days and 28% in 3 to 7 days (see Figure 2). Vendor types which would run out of supplies the fastest were reportedly water trucking vendors, vegetables vendors, and butchers. Related to COVID-19, 17% of hygiene vendors and 13% of pharmacies reported that they would run out of supplies in less than 3 days if they were unable to restock.

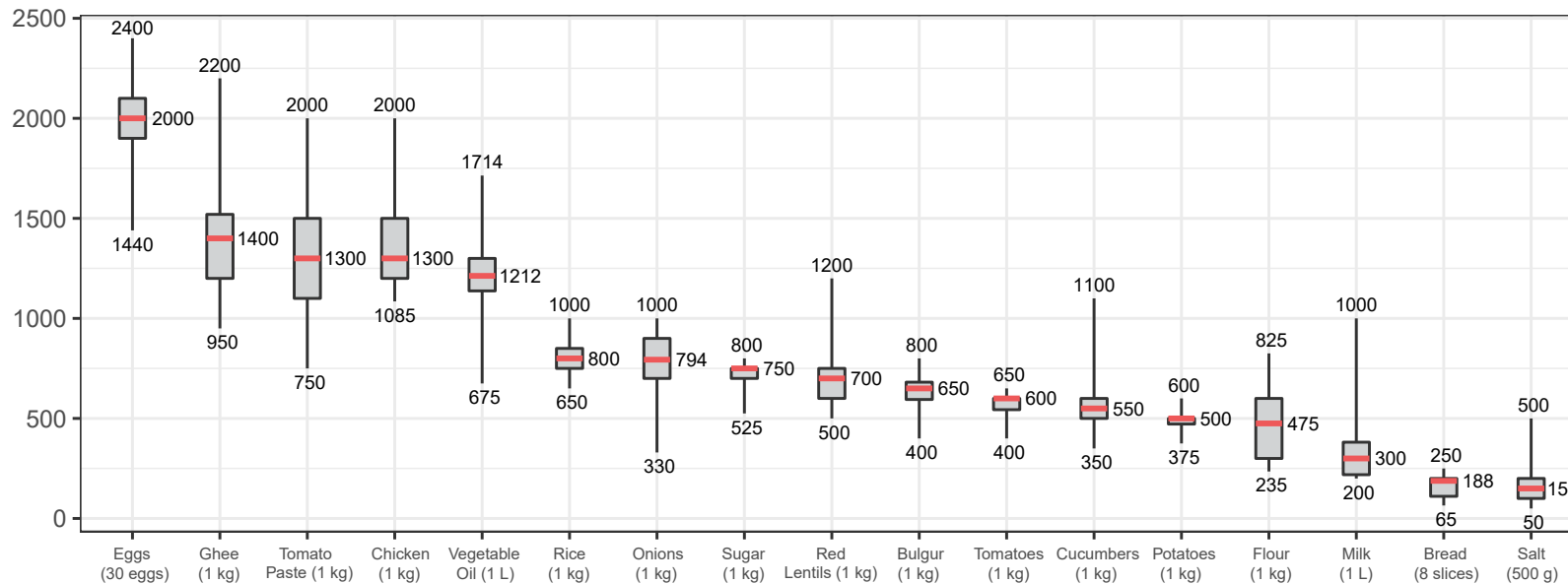
Figure 2: Reported number of days before all types of vendors would run out of stock, if supply lines were cut (834 respondents)





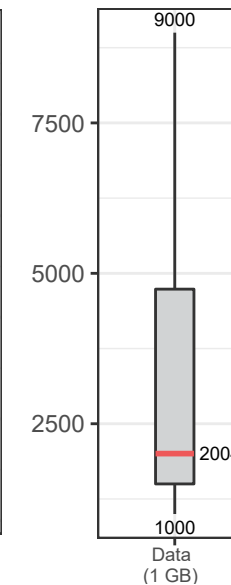
## ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



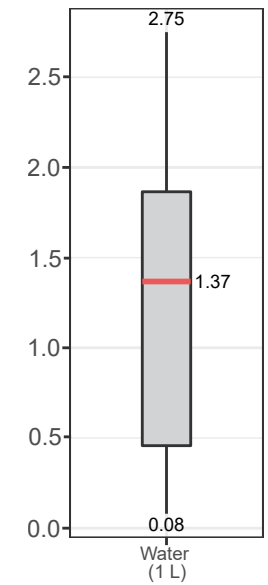
## CELLPHONE DATA

Syrian Pounds



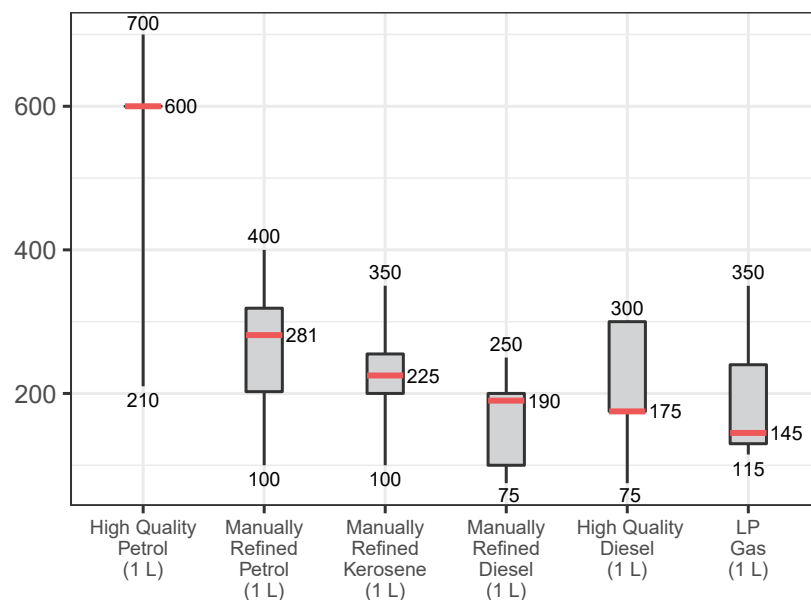
## WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



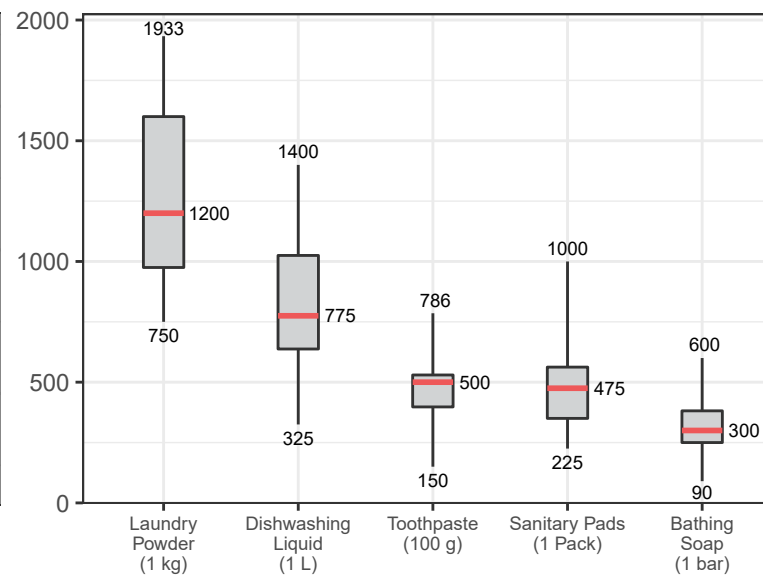
## ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

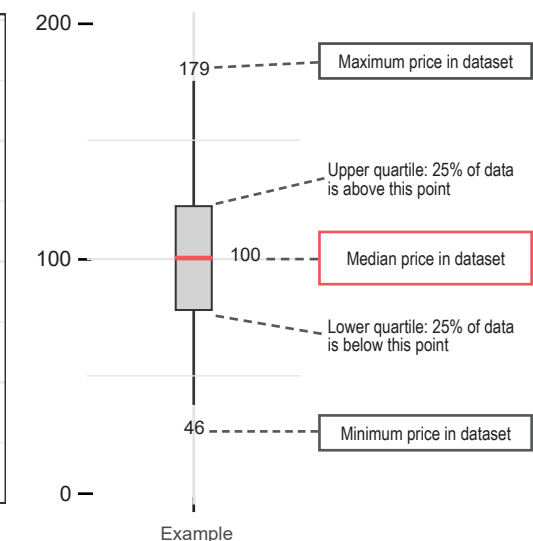


## ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



## READING BOXPLOTS



## METHODOLOGY

In order to be included in the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise, markets must be permanent in nature, large enough to support at least two wholesalers, and diverse enough to provide a sufficient variety of goods and commodities. Additionally, the shops surveyed within each market must be housed in permanent structures and must sell certain items to be eligible for inclusion. Participating organisations train their enumerators on the Market Monitoring methodology and data collection tools using standard training materials developed by REACH. Each enumerator aims to assess three to five shops of each type in the main market in their assigned sub-district, using surveys to collect information about the cheapest prices of each item and whether there are any barriers in the supply chain. In sub-districts where direct surveying by enumerators is not possible, data collection is conducted remotely through key informants such as shop owners, suppliers and consumers. A survey form is deployed on KoBo each month to capture price and stock information from different types of establishments, including grocery stores, fuel traders, currency exchange shops, water trucking services and mobile phone shops, among others. Nearly all participating partners submit their data to these KoBo forms, using the KoBoCollect Android app to upload data. A small number of partners, by prior permission, collect data using fully harmonised data collection tools deployed on other platforms, then submit their raw data to REACH for standardisation, compilation and cleaning.

Following data collection, REACH compiles and cleans all partners' data, normalising prices and cross-checking outliers. The cleaned data is then analysed by SMEB costs, components of the SMEB, and by commodities. These trends are observed at the sub-district-level and, when possible, at the community-level. Prices are divided into quartiles and boxplots are created to assist CWG members in understanding the distribution of prices across the northeast and

northwest of Syria. To illustrate local variations in prices and availability, REACH uses the collected data to map the price of the SMEB in each sub-district and adds illustrations of surrounding border crossings, with data sourced from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In addition, each SMEB component costs and transport fuel prices are graphed to visualise trends over time.

The cleaned datasets are available on the [Humanitarian Data Exchange](#) website and are distributed to all participating partners, as well as to interested clusters and the broader humanitarian community.

### Calculating 'median cheapest price'

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

### Calculating Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) costs

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

### Calculating price trends over time

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

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

### Calculating regional SMEB costs with limited coverage

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

### Changes to coverage

Given security and access constraints in the south of Syria, data collection has been unable to take place since July 2018. Escalation of conflict in October 2019 has resulted in limited coverage in northeast Syria since then. However, coverage between January and March 2020 significantly increased (from 9 assessed sub-districts to 25 assessed sub-districts).

### Challenges and limitations

As the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise currently includes 13 partners based in 2 hubs, achieving a consistent approach is inherently challenging. Participating organisations are therefore requested to adopt harmonised data collection methodologies and tools to ensure that the data uploaded is as accurate as possible. Because this exercise collects data directly from vendors and relies on partner organizations for its wide coverage, Market Monitoring may sporadically lose coverage temporarily or for longer periods of time owing to challenges in accessing locations or due to loss in the shared data collection capacity of the project. This impacts the ability to report on trends, as can be seen in the line graphs and 'NA' values in the tables.

## ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website:

[www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto: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](mailto:geneva@impact-initiatives.org) for further information.