

RAPID MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Afrin, Al Bab, Armanaz, Atma, Azaz, Dana, Daret Azza, Darkosh, Ghandorah, Idleb, Jandairis, Jarablus, Kafr Deryan, Kafr Takharim, Ma'arrat Tamasrin, Ma'batali, Salqin, Sarmada, Sharan & Suran

Snapshot: 1 March 2020

Cash-Based Responses
Technical Working Group

REACH An initiative of
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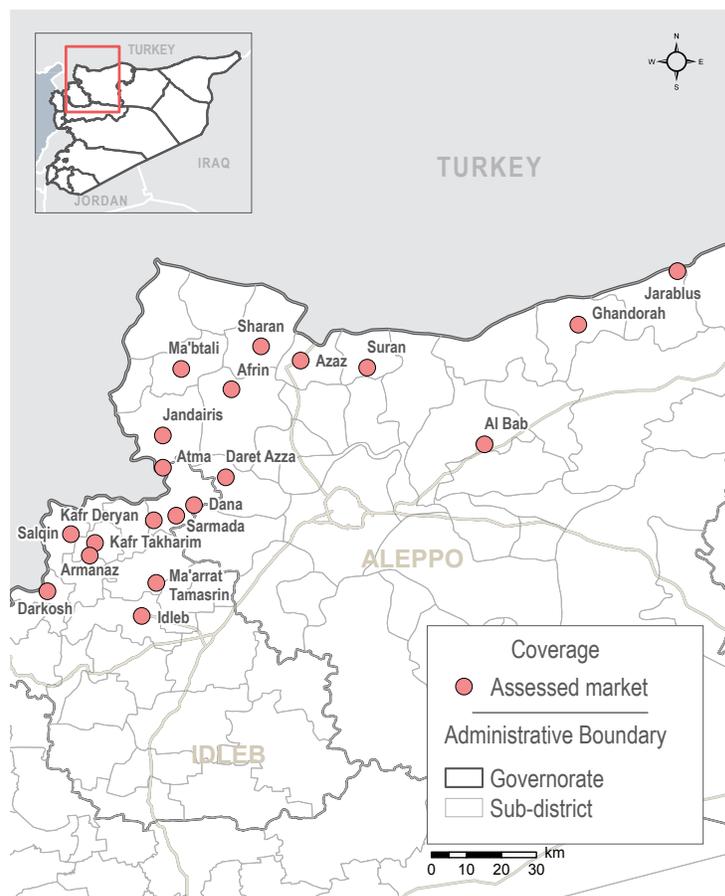
CONTEXT & METHODOLOGY

To inform humanitarian cash programming, REACH conducted a Rapid Market Monitoring (RMM) of 20 major markets in northwest Syria (NWS), in response to the rapidly [depreciating Syrian Pound \(SYP\) against the US Dollar \(USD\)](#) and reports of fuel types being unavailable.

The 20 markets were selected based on recommendations by REACH Team Leaders, who prioritised markets witnessing significant price increases, as well as markets reportedly supplying key commodities to a large number of communities. This RMM assessed the availability and prices of the 18 items that comprise the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB; for SMEB components, please see our [regular monthly Market Monitoring Exercise \(MM\)](#)), which represents the minimum, culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month. The commodities are typically sold in markets and consumed by average Syrian households. Items include fresh food and bulk food, non-food items (NFIs), water, fuel, and cell phone data. For this RMM, enumerators attempted to collect three minimum price-points per item per market.

The data for this RMM exercise was collected by REACH on 1 March 2020. Data collection was conducted both remotely and directly through market vendor key informants (KIs) in markets which are usually covered by the MM. Comparisons were made to the [February MM for Northwest Syria](#) (Data collection 10-17 February). Findings should only be considered as indicative of the current prices and reported unavailability of items in the assessed markets as reported by market vendor KIs. [The RMM dataset is available on the REACH Resource Centre.](#)

COVERAGE MAP OF ASSESSED MARKETS



**MEDIAN SMEB COST
ACROSS 20 ASSESSED MARKETS**

111,181 SYP (107 USD)

**MEDIAN INFORMAL EXCHANGE RATE
ACROSS 20 ASSESSED MARKETS**

1 USD = 1,120 SYP

SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB) CONTENTS

	Item	Quantity	
Food Items	Bread	37 kg	
	Bulgur	15 kg	
	Chicken	6 kg	
	Eggs	6 kg	
	Fresh vegetables	12 kg	
	Ghee/vegetable oil	7 kg/L	
	Red lentils	15 kg	
	Rice	19 kg	
	Salt	1 kg	
	Sugar	5 kg	
	Tomato paste	6 kg	
	Hygiene items	Bathing soap	12 bars
		Laundry/dish soap	3 kg
Sanitary pads		4 packs of 10	
Toothpaste		200 g	
Fuel	Cooking fuel*	25 L	
Water	Water trucking	4500 L	
Telecom	Smartphone data	1 GB	
Other	Float (other costs)**	7.5% total value	

*If available, kerosene, otherwise LP gas.

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Unavailability of fuel

Since the escalation of conflict in northeast Syria in October 2019, importing fuel to NWS has become increasingly difficult, as indicated by the growing lack of availability in various transportation fuel types reported by vendor KIs. Across all 20 assessed markets, high quality fuel (petrol/diesel) was reported as unavailable, whereas vendor KIs in 17/20 markets reported unavailability of manually refined petrol and vendor KIs in 15/20 markets reported unavailability of manually refined diesel. Similarly, manually refined kerosene (used for heating and cooking) was also reported as unavailable by vendor KIs in 15/20 assessed markets.

Continued depreciation of SYP against USD

The median reported informal exchange rate across 20 markets was recorded at 1,120 SYP to the USD. This marks a 7% increase since the regular MM in February.

Reported increases in prices of SMEB food component across most markets

This RMM recorded a 5% increase in the price of the SMEB food component compared to the recorded price across the same markets in the regular February MM - from 73,590 SYP to 77,515 SYP. At the market level the cost of the SMEB food component reportedly increased across 13/20 markets with the biggest increases being reported in Ghandorah (15%) and Dana (12%).

Transport fuel

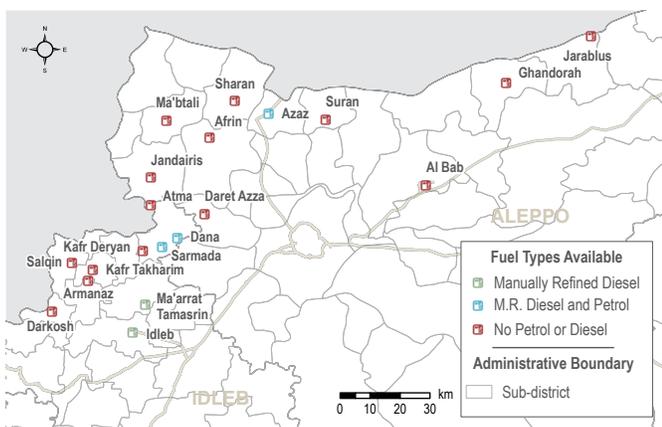
N/A - Median price of transport fuel across assessed markets

Markets in northwest Syria continue to face supply disruptions. The costs associated with importing fuel affects both NWS fuel availability and prices. The regular February MM reported that manually refined kerosene was unavailable in 79% of comparable markets. All types of transport fuel were unavailable in 68% of comparable markets and fuel vendors reported widespread procurement issues, mainly driven by the increase of prices and cut-off of regular supply routes. **This RMM similarly recorded unavailability of most fuel types across assessed markets.** High quality fuels (petrol and diesel) were reportedly unavailable in all assessed markets. According to fuel vendor KIs, lower quality fuels such as manually refined diesel were only available in 5/20 markets and manually refined petrol in 3/20 markets ([see page 3](#)). Hence, due to low availability of fuel types across markets, data from this RMM did not allow for a calculation of a median average transport fuel price.

Market	Quality petrol		Manually refined petrol		Quality diesel		Manually refined diesel	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Afrin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al Bab	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Armanaz	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Atma	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Azaz	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Daret Azza	NA	NA	800	NA	NA	NA	800	NA
Darkosh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ghandorah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Idleb	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jandairis	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	700	NA
Jarablus	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	820	NA
Kafr Deryan	NA	NA	800	NA	NA	NA	710	NA
Kafr Takharim	NA	NA	810	-10%	NA	NA	710	NA
Ma'arrat Tamasrin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ma'btali	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Salqin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sarmada	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sharan	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Suran	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

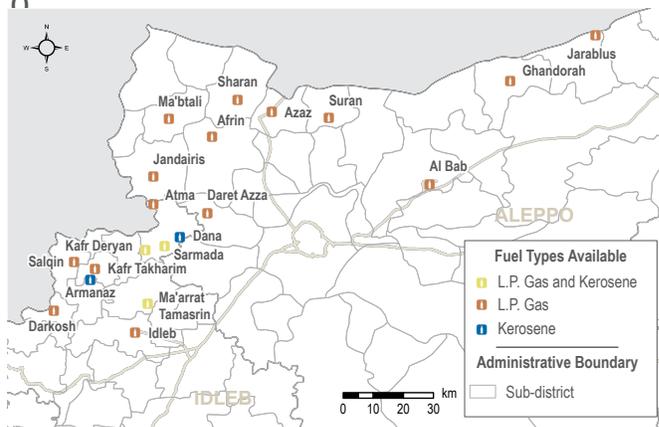
Median prices in SYP/L and percentage change from February 2020 MM.

TRANSPORT FUEL AVAILABILITY ACROSS ASSESSED MARKETS



MANUALLY REFINED KEROSENE AND LP GAS AVAILABILITY ACROSS ASSESSED MARKETS

See page 3 for SMEB cooking fuel component



SMEB Water Trucking

4,793 SYP - Median price of SMEB water trucking across assessed markets

Market	SMEB Water Trucking		Market	SMEB Water Trucking	
	\$	%		\$	%
Afrin	7,200	16%	Jandairis	4,500	-9%
Al Bab	6,210	0%	Jarablus	4,905	-4%
Armanaz	NA	NA	Kafr Deryan	5,850	5%
Atma	4,320	-4%	Kafr Takharim	3,195	-26%
Azaz	10,305	69%	Ma'arrat Tamasrin	NA	NA
Dana	3,690	8%	Ma'btali	6,750	-40%
Daret Azza	4,680	6%	Salqin	4,320	0%
Darkosh	5,625	0%	Sarmada	4,500	0%
Ghandorah	3,960	5%	Sharan	4,095	0%
Idleb	7,875	0%	Suran	6,210	9%

Median prices in SYP and percentage change from February 2020 MM

SMEB Food Component

77,515 SYP - Median price of SMEB food items across assessed markets

The median SMEB food component price was slightly higher than the regional median price recorded during the regular February MM, which was 73,590 SYP across comparable markets. The increase was mainly driven by increases in food items such as rice (11%), lentils (10%), potatoes (11%), chicken (10%) and bulgur (6%). This RMM also recorded decreases in some food items, such as tomato paste (-10%) and onions (-14%).

SMEB Cooking Fuel

22,500 SYP - Median price of SMEB cooking fuel across assessed markets (Note that **markets in red** indicate unavailability of kerosene, thus LP gas was used to calculate the SMEB cooking fuel component.)

Market	SMEB cooking fuel			Market	SMEB Cooking Fuel		
	\$	%	%		\$	%	%
Afrin	13,750	5%		Jandairis	13,750	2%	
Al Bab	12,250	0%		Jarablus	12,750	0%	
Armanaz	22,500	13%		Kafr Deryan	22,500	8%	
Atma	14,000	2%		Kafr Takharim	13,750	3%	
Azaz	12,750	6%		Ma'arrat Tamasrin	22,500	NA	
Dana	17,500	-7%		Ma'btali	13,125	0%	
Daret Azza	14,000	-3%		Salqin	13,750	0%	
Darkosh	13,750	-2%		Sarmada	17,500	-7%	
Ghandorah	13,125	2%		Sharan	13,750	1%	
Idleb	13,125	0%		Suran	12,125	-1%	

Median prices in SYP and percentage change from February 2020 MM.

SMEB Hygiene Items

6,070 SYP - Median price of SMEB hygiene items across assessed markets

Market	SMEB Hygiene Items		Market	SMEB Hygiene Items	
	\$	%		\$	%
Afrin	4,910	-12%	Jandairis	6,200	4%
Al Bab	5,865	1%	Jarablus	6,224	10%
Armanaz	6,553	9%	Kafr Deryan	7,245	9%
Atma	6,113	0%	Kafr Takharim	6,675	1%
Azaz	8,695	32%	Ma'arrat Tamasrin	7,904	NA
Dana	4,563	-20%	Ma'btali	7,100	4%
Daret Azza	8,650	5%	Salqin	6,425	6%
Darkosh	6,566	-12%	Sarmada	4,763	-18%
Ghandorah	4,979	1%	Sharan	5,859	-4%
Idleb	4,663	-17%	Suran	5,105	-12%

Median prices in SYP and percentage change from February 2020 MM.

Market	SMEB Food		Market	SMEB Food	
	\$	%		\$	%
Afrin	76,965	-4%	Jandairis	77,290	7%
Al Bab	73,775	-2%	Jarablus	73,723	4%
Armanaz	76,690	4%	Kafr Deryan	76,440	8%
Atma	78,665	7%	Kafr Takharim	76,660	-5%
Azaz	87,300	6%	Ma'arrat Tamasrin	76,060	NA
Dana	78,085	12%	Ma'btali	81,500	0%
Daret Azza	89,825	4%	Salqin	80,615	7%
Darkosh	89,240	1%	Sarmada	77,535	7%
Ghandorah	76,473	15%	Sharan	70,938	-3%
Idleb	72,150	0%	Suran	73,800	2%

Median prices in SYP and percentage change from February 2020 MM.

SMEB Cellphone Data

500 SYP - Median price of SMEB cellphone data across assessed markets

Market	SMEB Data		Market	SMEB Data	
	\$	%		\$	%
Afrin	600	-8%	Jandairis	400	-20%
Al Bab	600	0%	Jarablus	500	0%
Armanaz	650	-7%	Kafr Deryan	650	8%
Atma	500	0%	Kafr Takharim	550	10%
Azaz	800	33%	Ma'arrat Tamasrin	500	NA
Dana	600	0%	Ma'btali	700	-13%
Daret Azza	500	0%	Salqin	500	0%
Darkosh	NA	NA	Sarmada	500	0%
Ghandorah	500	0%	Sharan	650	-7%
Idleb	500	0%	Suran	500	0%

Median prices in SYP/1 GB and percentage change from February 2020 MM