

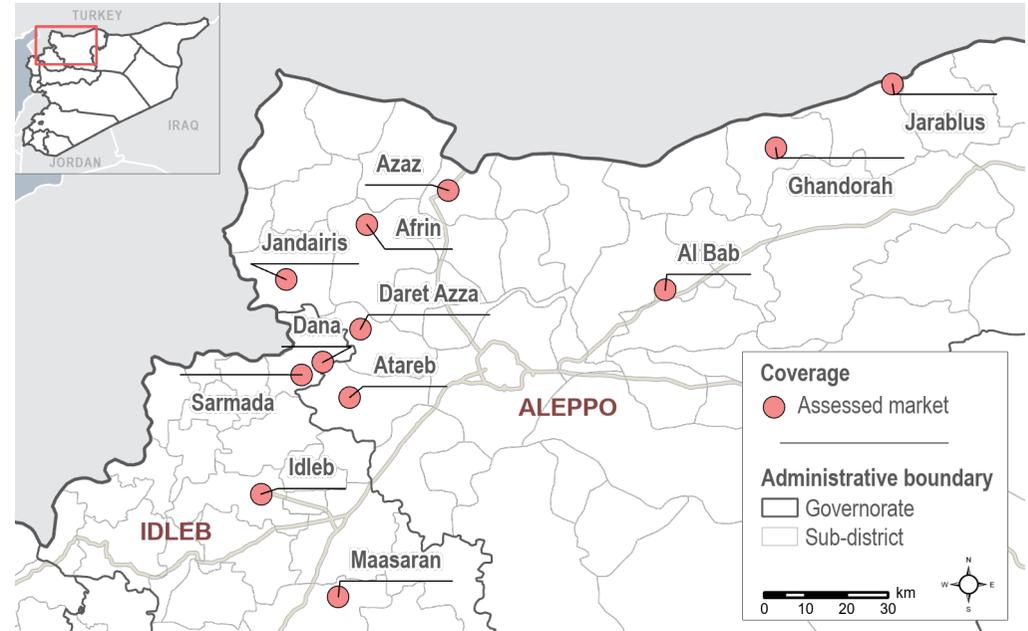
## CONTEXT & METHODOLOGY

To inform humanitarian cash programming, REACH conducted a Rapid Market Monitoring (RMM) of 12 major markets in northwest Syria (NWS), in response to the [rapidly depreciating Syrian Pound \(SYP\)](#) against the US Dollar (USD). The 12 markets were Afrin, Al Bab, Atareb, Azaz, Dana, Daret Azza, Ghandorah, Idleb, Jandaris, Jarablus, Maasaran, and Sarmada. This is the second RMM conducted across these markets this year. [The 21 October RMM is available here.](#)

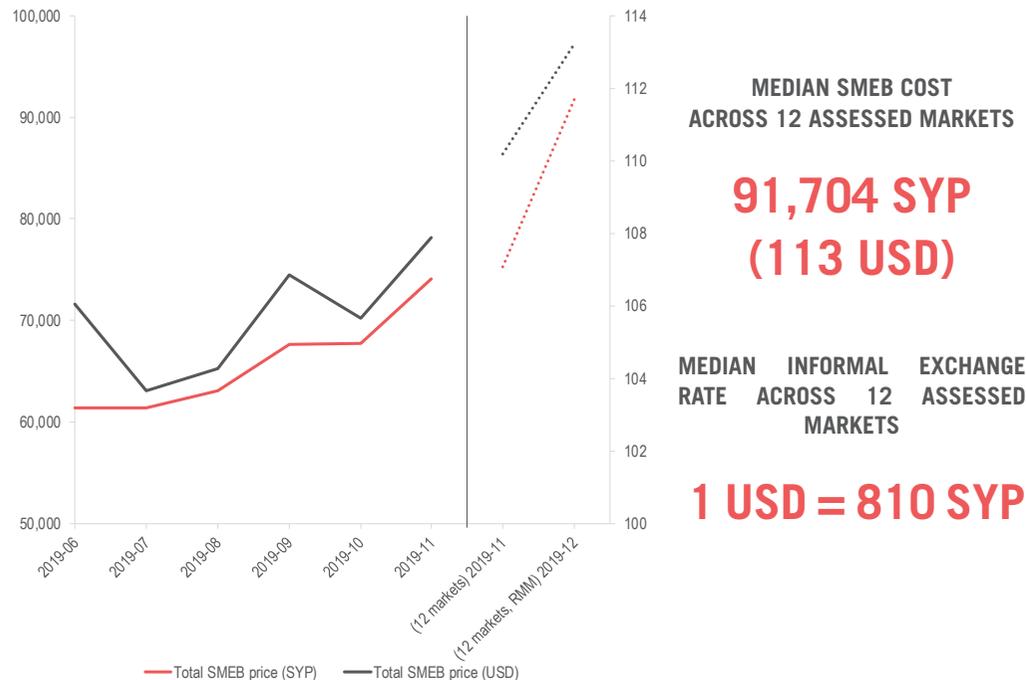
The REACH team identified these 12 markets as supplying key commodities to a large number of communities. This RMM assessed the availability and prices of the 18 items that comprise the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB; for SMEB components, please see our regular [monthly Market Monitoring Exercise \(MM\)](#)), 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. Enumerators attempted to collect three minimum price-points per item per market.

The data for this RMM exercise was collected by REACH on 4-5 December 2019. 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 [November 2019 MM](#). Findings should only be considered as indicative of the current prices 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 PRICE TRENDS: Jun-Nov 2019 MM & Dec 2019 RMM



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Sharp increase in median SMEB value since November 2019 MM

This RMM Exercise indicates a 22% increase in the overall SMEB value across the 12 assessed markets, from a median SMEB cost of 75,266 SYP, or 110 USD in November 2019 to 91,704 SYP (113 USD) for this RMM in December. This is the highest median SMEB price ever recorded by the MM Exercise in NWS.

### Rapid depreciation of SYP against USD

The median reported USD/SYP informal exchange rate across the 12 assessed markets was USD/SYP 810. The reported exchange rate indicates a sharp increase from the November 2019 MM-reported rate of USD/SYP 690 across the same 12 markets. This rapid depreciation may be linked to the current situation in Lebanon [where some banks set USD withdrawal limits](#), causing an increased demand for USD in the informal exchange market in Syria as well as challenges related to financing fuel imports.

### Continued rise in prices of fuel

Assessed markets in NWS continued to witness an increase in the prices of various fuel types since the November 2019 MM. Due to the current situation in northeast Syria, importing fuel has become increasingly difficult, as indicated by the growing lack of availability in various transportation fuel types reported by vendor KIs. This lowered supply, coupled with the recent depreciation of the SYP, has contributed to a further increase in fuel prices. The price of kerosene, used as heating and cooking fuel, also increased across the 12 markets.

## Transport fuel

**669 SYP** - Median price of average transport fuel prices (diesel and petrol; quality and manually refined) per litre across assessed markets.

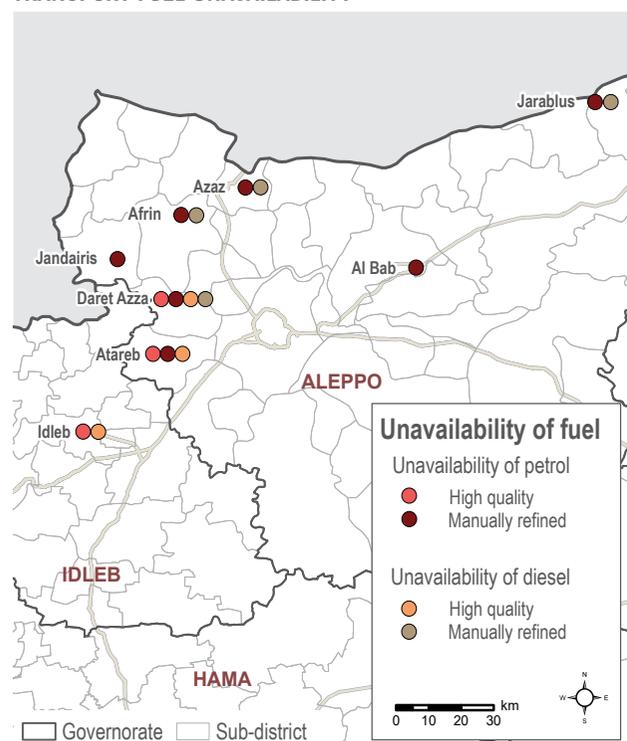
The median price of the average transport fuel prices **spiked by 42%** across the 12 assessed markets, from a median of 471 SYP per litre in the November 2019 MM to 669 SYP in this RMM.

Markets continued to face supply barriers and price inflation of various fuel types in early December 2019. Vendor KIs in assessed markets in Atareb, Daret Azza, and Idleb sub-districts reported that most fuel types were unavailable at the time of data collection. In Idleb and Atareb markets, only manually refined diesel was reportedly available among the four fuel types. Daret Azza market reported unavailability of all four fuel types during data collection.

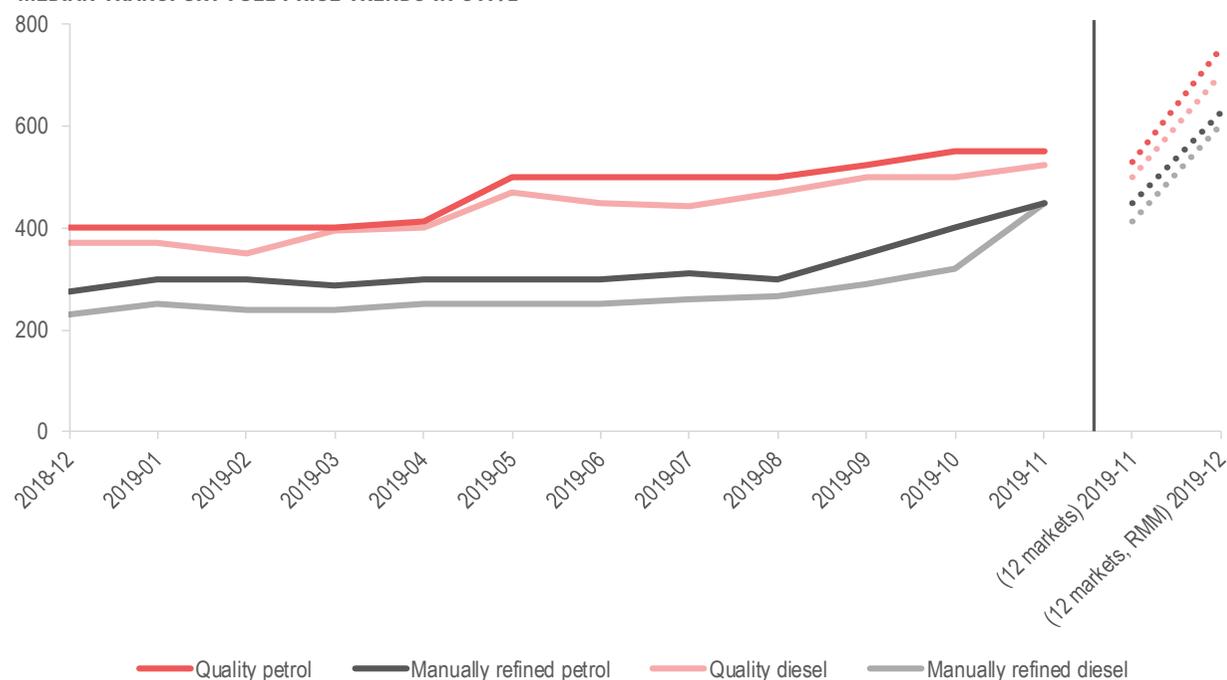
| Market     | Quality petrol |          | Manually refined petrol |          | Quality diesel |          | Manually refined diesel |          |
|------------|----------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
|            | Price (SYP)    | % Change | Price (SYP)             | % Change | Price (SYP)    | % Change | Price (SYP)             | % Change |
| Afrin      | 700            | 40%      | NA                      | NA       | 700            | 40%      | NA                      | NA       |
| Al Bab     | 800            | NA       | NA                      | NA       | 700            | NA       | 600                     | 71%      |
| Atareb     | NA             | NA       | NA                      | NA       | NA             | NA       | 670                     | 28%      |
| Azaz       | 775            | 55%      | NA                      | NA       | 650            | 30%      | NA                      | NA       |
| Dana       | 725            | 42%      | 625                     | NA       | 700            | 40%      | 625                     | NA       |
| Daret Azza | NA             | NA       | NA                      | NA       | NA             | NA       | NA                      | NA       |
| Ghandorah  | 700            | 17%      | 650                     | 44%      | 650            | NA       | 550                     | 38%      |
| Idleb      | NA             | NA       | NA                      | NA       | NA             | NA       | 700                     | 56%      |
| Jandairis  | 725            | 32%      | 625                     | NA       | 700            | 27%      | 600                     | NA       |
| Jarablus   | 750            | 30%      | 600                     | 33%      | 575            | NA       | NA                      | NA       |
| Maasaran   | 800            | NA       | 650                     | 86%      | 750            | NA       | 550                     | 38%      |
| Sarmada    | 700            | 40%      | 600                     | NA       | 675            | 35%      | 600                     | 50%      |

Median prices in SYP/L and percentage change from November 2019 MM  
"NA" = item reported unavailable in assessed market

### TRANSPORT FUEL UNAVAILABILITY



### MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE TRENDS IN SYP/L



## Food items

**61,502 SYP** - Median price of SMEB food items across assessed markets.

The median price of the food component of the SMEB **increased by 25%** from the November 2019 MM of 49,130 SYP to 61,502 SYP.

Items with the largest overall price changes across all 12 markets compared to the November 2019 MM included tomatoes (**78% increase**), tomato paste (**57% increase**), cucumbers (**45% increase**), and eggs (**44% increase**).

Potatoes were the only food item to not increase in median price across the 12 assessed markets between this RMM and the November 2019 MM.

While not a SMEB item, REACH and CBR-TWG partners also regularly collect the median price of baby formula. Between the November 2019 MM and this RMM, the price of baby formula increased from 5,300 to 7,000 SYP/kg (**32% increase**), across the 12 markets.

| Market     | Flour |      | Rice |      | Bulgur |      | Red lentils |      | Bread |     | Potatoes |      | Tomatoes |      | Onions |      |
|------------|-------|------|------|------|--------|------|-------------|------|-------|-----|----------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| Afrin      | 300   | 22%  | 600  | 109% | 425    | 42%  | 400         | 14%  | 250   | 0%  | 160      | -36% | 475      | 90%  | 300    | 9%   |
| Al Bab     | 275   | 10%  | 488  | 22%  | 350    | 17%  | 475         | 58%  | 250   | 33% | 175      | -22% | 375      | 50%  | 150    | 20%  |
| Atareb     | 350   | 8%   | 500  | -20% | 350    | 0%   | 500         | 67%  | 222   | 25% | 200      | 14%  | 400      | 78%  | 150    | 9%   |
| Azaz       | 275   | -8%  | 500  | 8%   | 400    | 14%  | 575         | 24%  | 250   | 67% | 175      | -13% | 375      | 67%  | 150    | -12% |
| Dana       | 313   | 33%  | 350  | -13% | 300    | -20% | 350         | -13% | 200   | 0%  | 215      | 32%  | 438      | 161% | 138    | -13% |
| Daret Azza | 350   | 40%  | 600  | 55%  | 375    | 20%  | 475         | 36%  | 222   | 11% | 200      | 14%  | 400      | 100% | 150    | 20%  |
| Ghandorah  | 275   | 22%  | 430  | 23%  | 400    | 14%  | 300         | 0%   | 185   | -8% | 175      | 0%   | 400      | 78%  | 125    | 25%  |
| Idleb      | 400   | 100% | 700  | 133% | 450    | 80%  | 625         | 150% | 222   | 11% | 200      | -11% | 300      | 20%  | 175    | 17%  |
| Jandairis  | 300   | 20%  | 325  | -35% | 300    | -14% | 350         | 27%  | 200   | 25% | 238      | -5%  | 463      | 85%  | 200    | 33%  |
| Jarablus   | 288   | -4%  | 500  | 43%  | 400    | 14%  | 500         | 25%  | 250   | 25% | 163      | -19% | 388      | 94%  | 138    | 10%  |
| Maasaran   | 240   | 7%   | 375  | 15%  | 290    | 16%  | 325         | 18%  | 240   | 35% | 300      | 20%  | 450      | 98%  | 240    | 20%  |
| Sarmada    | 325   | 30%  | 350  | -7%  | 275    | -21% | 350         | -13% | 200   | 0%  | 225      | 13%  | 450      | 140% | 163    | 3%   |

| Market     | Cucumbers |      | Tomato paste |     | Chicken |     | Eggs |     | Sugar |     | Salt |      | Vegetable oil |     | Ghee |     |
|------------|-----------|------|--------------|-----|---------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|------|------|---------------|-----|------|-----|
| Afrin      | 500       | 25%  | 800          | 14% | 800     | 14% | 1150 | 28% | 470   | 25% | 100  | 33%  | 700           | 27% | 900  | 50% |
| Al Bab     | 400       | 0%   | 775          | 29% | 1000    | 5%  | 1300 | NA  | 463   | 16% | 75   | 0%   | 750           | 25% | 575  | -4% |
| Atareb     | 350       | 17%  | 1250         | 79% | 900     | 18% | 1300 | 44% | 500   | 18% | 100  | 33%  | 750           | 15% | 800  | 19% |
| Azaz       | 450       | 29%  | 700          | -3% | 1000    | 11% | 1400 | 56% | 500   | 32% | 75   | -25% | 800           | 31% | 775  | 7%  |
| Dana       | 388       | 82%  | 1200         | 60% | 925     | -3% | 1200 | NA  | 500   | 25% | 100  | 33%  | 725           | 16% | 1200 | 71% |
| Daret Azza | 500       | 122% | 1300         | 86% | 875     | 11% | 1300 | 44% | 525   | 31% | 100  | 25%  | 750           | 22% | 850  | 28% |
| Ghandorah  | 400       | 45%  | 1100         | 38% | 1125    | 22% | 1200 | 33% | 500   | 43% | 100  | 33%  | 800           | 33% | 740  | 14% |
| Idleb      | 400       | 167% | 900          | 29% | 975     | 22% | 1400 | 56% | 550   | 57% | 100  | 100% | 800           | 33% | 950  | 36% |
| Jandairis  | 363       | 32%  | 1200         | 85% | 887.5   | 11% | 1300 | 44% | 550   | 38% | 100  | 0%   | 650           | 8%  | 1250 | 79% |
| Jarablus   | 425       | 55%  | 800          | 0%  | 1000    | 14% | 1300 | 44% | 500   | 43% | 75   | -25% | 750           | 7%  | 750  | 0%  |
| Maasaran   | 400       | 33%  | 1150         | 24% | 825     | 6%  | 1525 | NA  | 500   | 54% | 100  | 33%  | 700           | 27% | 750  | -6% |
| Sarmada    | 383       | 70%  | 1150         | 53% | 912.5   | NA  | 1200 | 26% | 475   | 25% | 90   | 20%  | 725           | 21% | 1175 | 68% |

Median prices in SYP/L or kg and percentage change from November 2019 MM

## Hygiene items

**4,098 SYP** - Median price of SMEB hygiene items across assessed markets.

| Market     | Laundry soap per kg |      | Bathing soap per piece |      | Dishsoap per litre |      | Toothpaste per 100g |      | Sanitary pads per 10 pads |      |
|------------|---------------------|------|------------------------|------|--------------------|------|---------------------|------|---------------------------|------|
| Afrin      | 500                 | -17% | 60                     | 20%  | 250                | 54%  | 275                 | -8%  | 200                       | -16% |
| Al Bab     | 550                 | 0%   | 50                     | 25%  | 350                | 155% | 380                 | 27%  | 200                       | 33%  |
| Atareb     | 450                 | -10% | 80                     | 23%  | 250                | 67%  | 900                 | 374% | 375                       | 20%  |
| Azaz       | 750                 | -12% | 50                     | -71% | 250                | 11%  | 400                 | 0%   | 200                       | -33% |
| Dana       | 613                 | 145% | 60                     | -40% | 375                | 150% | 650                 | 30%  | 338                       | 23%  |
| Daret Azza | 550                 | -31% | 100                    | -50% | 200                | 0%   | 900                 | 200% | 350                       | 0%   |
| Ghandorah  | 700                 | 100% | 80                     | 60%  | 400                | 14%  | 162.5               | 14%  | 255                       | 28%  |
| Idleb      | 450                 | -5%  | 75                     | -63% | 225                | 13%  | 900                 | 800% | 350                       | 40%  |
| Jandairis  | 675                 | 4%   | 63                     | -17% | 438                | 9%   | 700                 | 124% | 338                       | 13%  |
| Jarablus   | 725                 | -4%  | 50                     | 25%  | 300                | -14% | 330                 | 65%  | 225                       | 13%  |
| Maasaran   | 750                 | 6%   | 90                     | -35% | 600                | 300% | 338                 | 13%  | 260                       | 30%  |
| Sarmada    | 525                 | 110% | 50                     | -43% | 350                | 133% | 600                 | 20%  | 313                       | 19%  |

Median prices in SYP and percentage change from November 2019 MM

## Water Trucking

**4,208 SYP** - Median price of SMEB water trucking per 4,500 litres across assessed markets.

| Market     | Water trucking |     | Market    | Water trucking |     |
|------------|----------------|-----|-----------|----------------|-----|
| Afrin      | 5,625          | 30% | Ghandorah | 4,095          | -5% |
| Al Bab     | 6,750          | 70% | Idleb     | 7,650          | 83% |
| Atareb     | 3,150          | 63% | Jandairis | 4,770          | -4% |
| Azaz       | 5,130          | 20% | Jarablus  | 4,500          | 2%  |
| Dana       | 3,330          | 57% | Maasaran  | 2,700          | 7%  |
| Daret Azza | 3,150          | 22% | Sarmada   | 3,420          | 62% |

Median prices in SYP/4,500L and percentage change from November 2019 MM

## Cooking/heating fuel

**15,000 SYP** - Median price of SMEB cooking/heating fuel per 25 litre across assessed markets.

The median price of kerosene fuel increased by 20% from the November 2019 MM of 500 SYP per litre to 600 SYP. During October's regular MM, it was reported that individuals were relying on alternative heating sources, including firewood, coal, and olive residue, which are cheaper and more widely available. REACH is assessing the prices of these items in the December 2019 regular MM.

| Market     | Kerosene |     | Market    | Kerosene |     |
|------------|----------|-----|-----------|----------|-----|
| Afrin      | 675      | 50% | Ghandorah | 600      | 20% |
| Al Bab     | 525      | 40% | Idleb     | NA       | NA  |
| Atareb     | NA       | NA  | Jandairis | 625      | 39% |
| Azaz       | 525      | 5%  | Jarablus  | 525      | 17% |
| Dana       | 625      | 14% | Maasaran  | 500      | 61% |
| Daret Azza | NA       | NA  | Sarmada   | 625      | 14% |

Median prices in SYP/L and percentage change from November 2019 MM

## Cellphone data

**500 SYP** - Median price of SMEB cellphone data per 1 gigabyte (GB) across assessed markets.

| Market     | Data |      | Market    | Data |     |
|------------|------|------|-----------|------|-----|
| Afrin      | 500  | 0%   | Ghandorah | 625  | 25% |
| Al Bab     | 700  | 40%  | Idleb     | 450  | 50% |
| Atareb     | 500  | 48%  | Jandairis | 250  | 25% |
| Azaz       | 800  | 28%  | Jarablus  | 500  | 0%  |
| Dana       | 450  | -25% | Maasaran  | 800  | 60% |
| Daret Azza | 500  | 11%  | Sarmada   | 600  | 20% |

Median prices in SYP/GB and percentage change from November 2019 MM