

NORTHEAST SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 4-11 August, 2020 - page 1

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 collection took place between 4-11 August 2020 and was conducted by ACTED, Concern, Danish Church Aid, Mercy Corps, People In Need, REACH, Solidarités International, and Samaritan's Purse.

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
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 27 sub-districts in northeast Syria for the Market Monitoring Exercise, including 1,048 individual shops. Dotted lines in the graphs indicate a lack of data for the months of October and November 2019. Please note that prices should be seen as representative only of the markets and dates where and when information was collected (4-11 August).

Third highest northeast SMEB cost in SYP recorded; SMEB cost in USD slightly increased

In August 2020, across comparable communities with consistent coverage since July (see Methodology), the value of the regional SMEB reached 191,959 Syrian Pounds (SYP). The SMEB in SYP decreased slightly by 3% since July but the value was still the third highest price recorded by the Market Monitoring Exercise in NES. While the value of the SMEB remained at a high level in SYP, in United States Dollars (USD) the SMEB value increased from 84 to 86 USD in August due to the slight appreciation of the SYP against the USD (see next paragraph).

Slight appreciation of the SYP against the USD

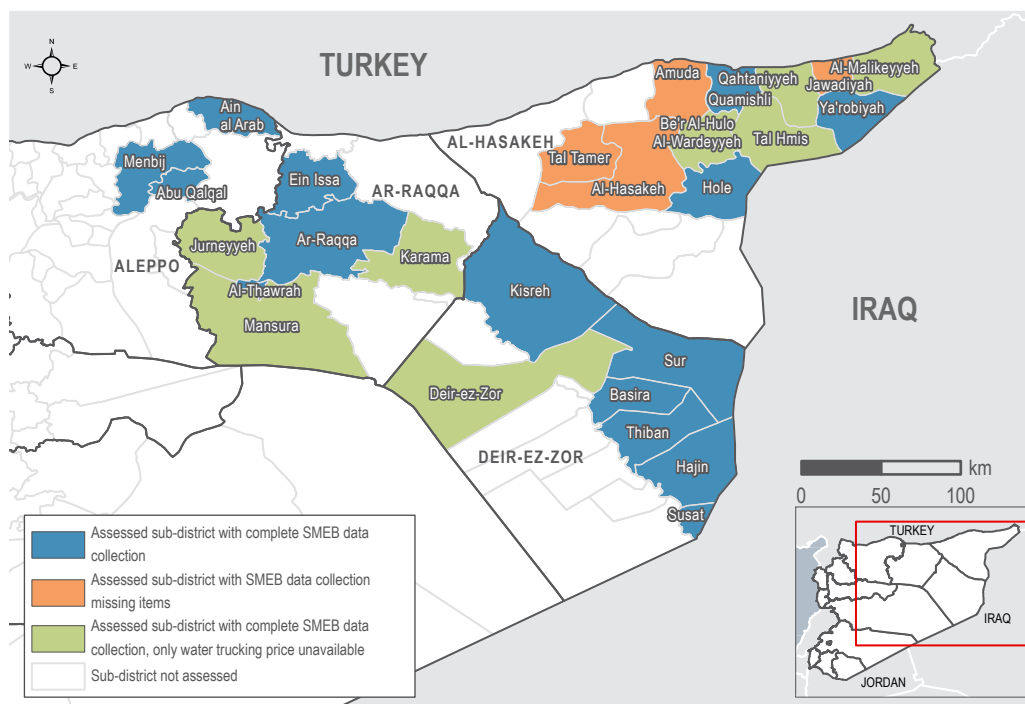
During data collection throughout August, the informal USD/SYP exchange rate slightly decreased across the region. The total median regional informal exchange rate was recorded at 2,200 USD/SYP, a small 6% decrease since last month. Nonetheless, the informal exchange rate remained at a very high level. The highest exchange rate was recorded at 2,300 SYP for 1 USD in Hajin and Sosa community in Deir-ez-Zor governorate. The continued financial crisis in Lebanon, international economic sanctions on Syria, COVID-19, decline in remittances into Syria, and internal disputes between actors in Syria were [reported as the main causes](#) for the continuously high SYP/USD informal exchange rate in August.

High quality fuels unavailable or at slightly decreasing prices

This month, high quality fuels were reportedly widely unavailable or at decreasing prices. The price of high quality petrol decreased by 2% since July, reaching a median of 1,300 SYP, and was reported unavailable by 40% of surveyed fuel and gas vendors. The price of high quality diesel also

decreased slightly by 3% since July; however, it was also reportedly widely unavailable with 59% of surveyed fuel and gas vendors reporting a scarcity in their market. The small price decrease could likely be explained by the slight appreciation of the informal exchange rate of the SYP against the USD. Meanwhile, high quality fuels are reportedly no longer imported from Government of Syria (GoS) areas but from Iraq into NES, which could potentially explain their unavailability due to the added complexity of importing fuel across international borders. This scarcity of quality products may further affect prices of commodities in the future, especially of imported items. On the other hand, prices and availability of manually refined fuels remained fairly stable or decreased since July. A 24% price decrease of manually refined diesel was even recorded in August. The fact that the manually refined fuels are locally produced in NES could plausibly explain the price and availability situation, as reported by REACH field teams.

ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE



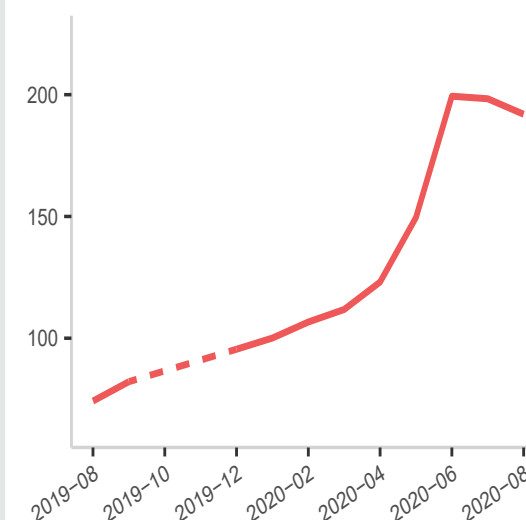
MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

191,959 SYP
(86 USD)

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

REGIONAL MEDIAN SMEB COST, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



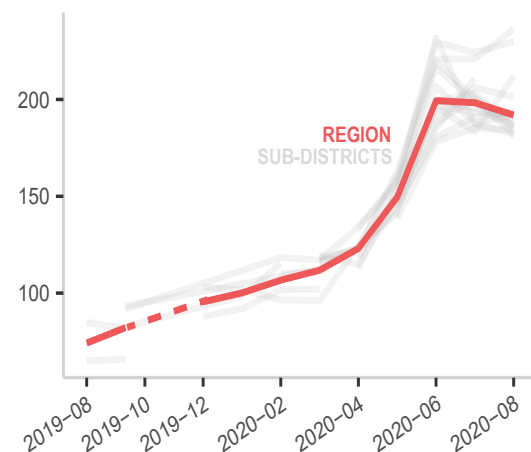
KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Food items prices slightly decreased

This month, the regional SMEB food component decreased by 3%, reaching a median of 147,094 SYP. Despite a price decrease recorded, the value of the regional SMEB food component remained extremely high. Among vendors who reported supply challenges during the Market Monitoring Exercise, 91% reported price inflation was a supply challenge (see page 11 for Market Functionality findings). The appreciating currency may be a contributing factor to the slight decrease of food prices in markets in NES. Bulk food items in particular have witnessed a price decrease since May. For example, prices for rice decreased by 10%, and sugar by 9% between July and August. As bulk food items are largely imported into NES, these price decreases might have been caused by the decreasing prices of transport fuel and the appreciation of the SYP. Finally, field teams reported that the continued reduction of flour subsidies negatively impacted the prices for bread, which increased by 3% since July. Overall, border closures, lack of price control in markets, and an increase in daily wages, despite being offset by the slight appreciation of the SYP, are the main factors plausibly contributing to the small inflation of food item prices during August data collection.

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

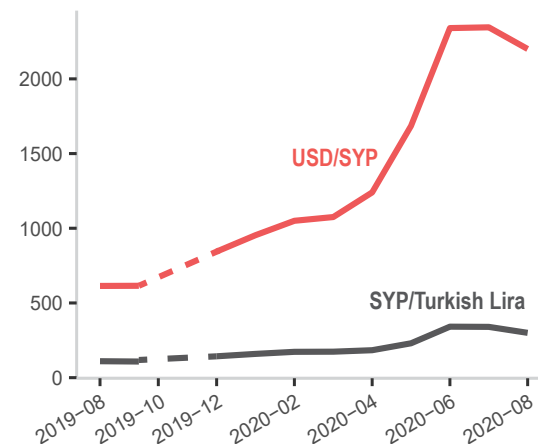
191,959 SYP
(86 USD)

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

Hygiene products prices and water trucking cost increased

In August, the value of the SMEB hygiene component decreased by 6%, reaching a median of 17,250 SYP. Specifically, prices of dishwashing soap decreased by 6% and toothpaste by 5% since July. As with bulk foods, hygiene items are largely imported into NES, and thus the decrease of high-quality transport fuel prices and the slight appreciation of the SYP likely contributed to the moderate decrease of prices. However, the price of soap, used for handwashing and considered a preventive measure against COVID-19 by the [World Health Organisation](#), increased by 13% since July. This price increase may also reflect an increased demand for these items in the COVID-19 environment. See page 12 for COVID-19-related findings. Meanwhile, the cost of the SMEB water trucking component increased by 10%, reaching a median of 6,750 SYP. The water trucking price increase could be attributed to high demand and temporary suspension of water supply from the Allouk station. In addition, disruption of water supply could negatively impact on efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the area.

EXCHANGE RATES, BY MONTH AND CURRENCY



MEDIAN SMEB COSTS & CHANGES*

Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	191,959	-3%	72%
Abu Qalqal	184,395	0%	NA
Ain al Arab	182,320	-3%	79%
Al-Hasakeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh**	186,848	-9%	NA
Al-Thawrah	192,741	0%	74%
Amuda	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	205,150	NA	83%
Basira	186,057	-5%	65%
Be'r Al-Hulo	198,218	-5%	97%
Al-Wardeyyeh**	171,903	-10%	58%
Deir-ez-Zor**	171,903	-10%	58%
Ein Issa	187,863	-3%	61%
Hajin	186,747	-6%	NA
Hole	191,959	2%	NA

Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA
Jurneyyeh**	182,766	3%	78%
Karama**	212,690	17%	110%
Kisreh	193,153	-6%	NA
Mansura**	216,177	10%	129%
Menbij	187,396	-3%	95%
Qahtaniyyeh**	190,247	NA	61%
Quamishli	236,393	7%	103%
Sur	229,943	3%	96%
Susat	185,858	-8%	NA
Tal Hmis**	177,208	-10%	83%
Tal Tamer	NA	NA	NA
Thiban	204,843	0%	76%
Ya'robiyah	211,788	16%	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 AUGUST

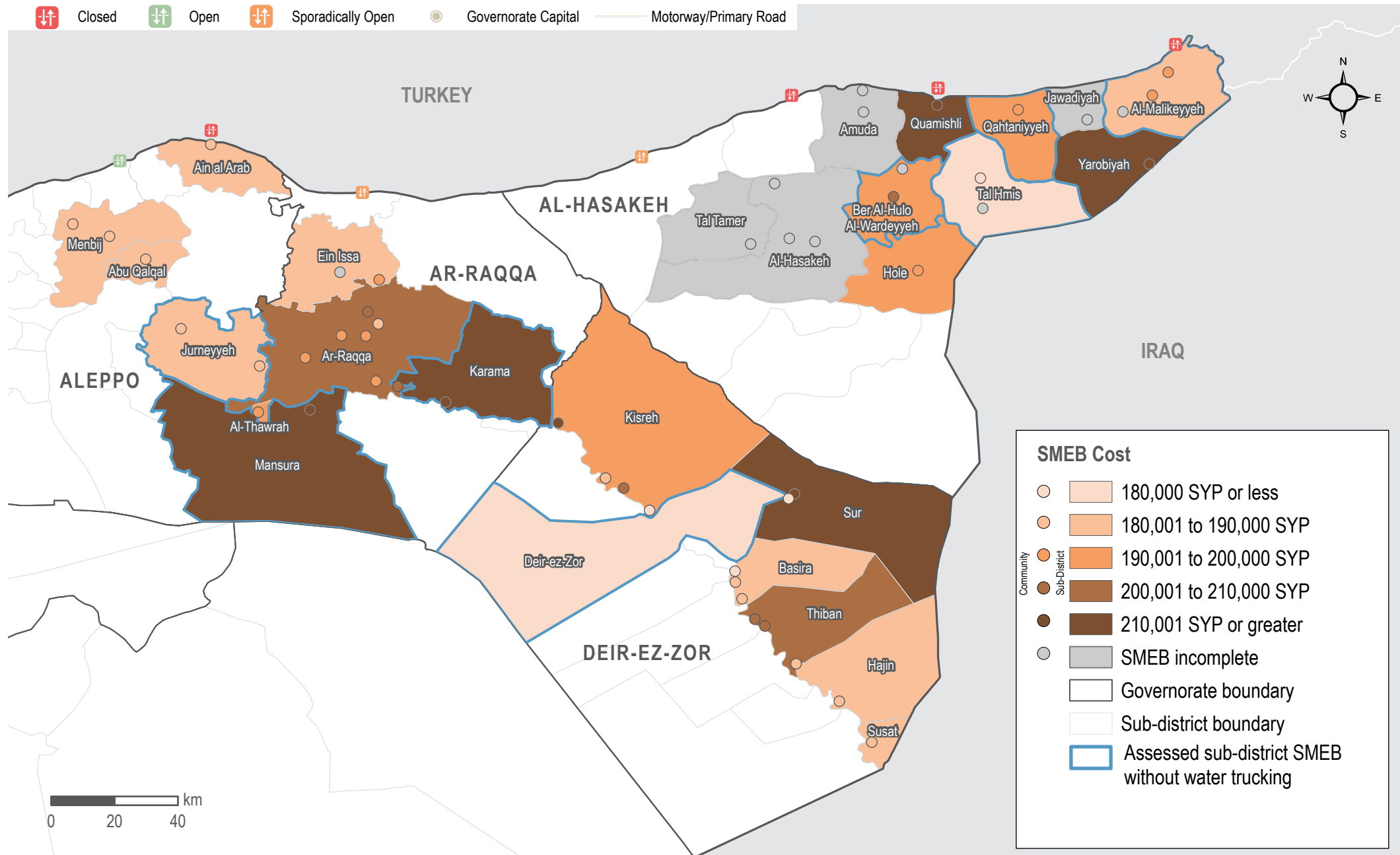
Al-Hasakeh	Water trucking, cellphone data, manually refined kerosene, LP gas
Amuda	Water trucking, cellphone data, manually refined kerosene
Jawadiyah	Water trucking, cellphone data, manually refined kerosene
Tal Tamer	Water trucking, salt, manually refined kerosene, LP gas

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

NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST RANGES

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

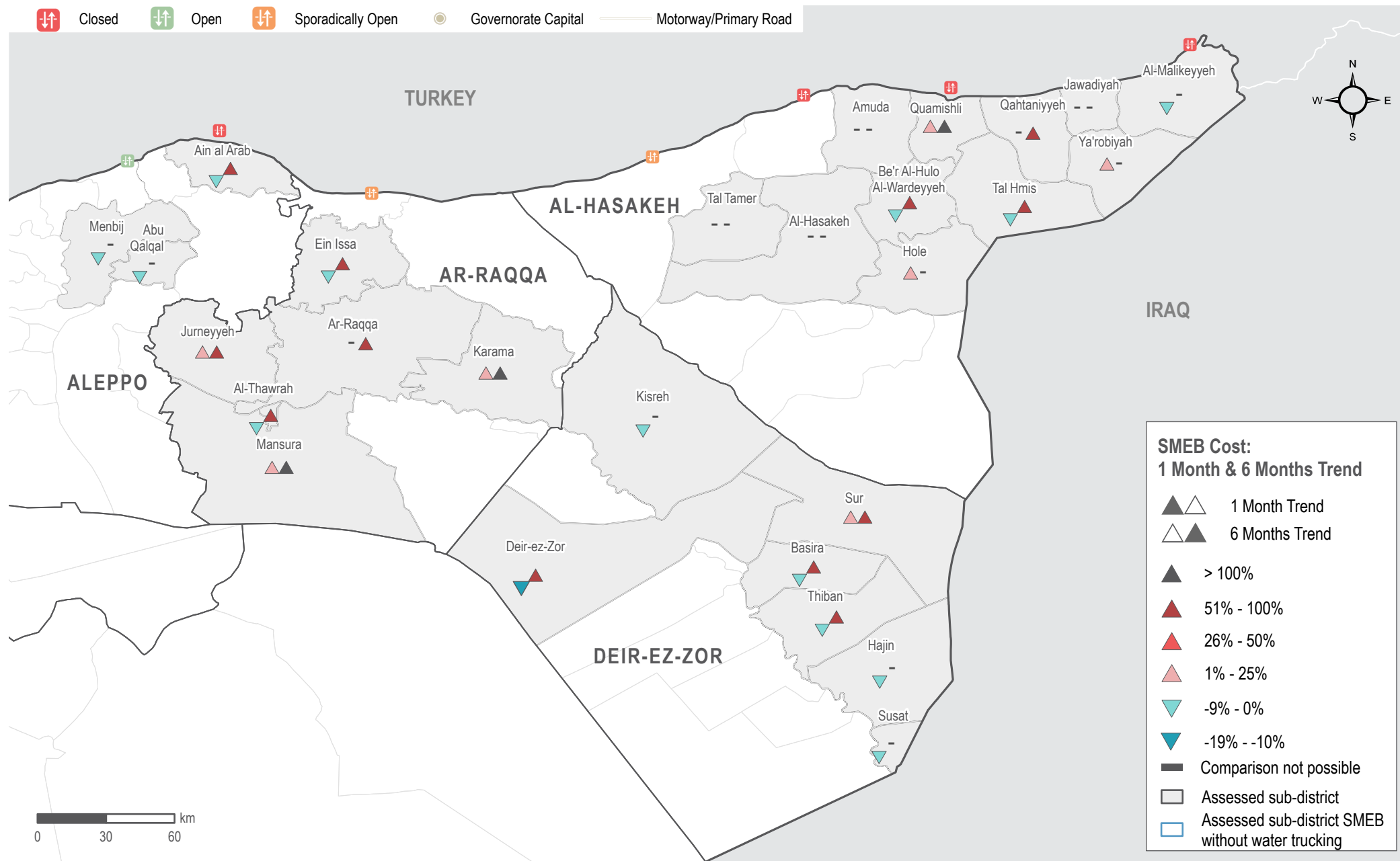
SMEB COST RANGES (SYP), BY SUB-DISTRICTS



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST RANGES

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

SMEB COST: ONE MONTH & SIX MONTHS TREND



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS

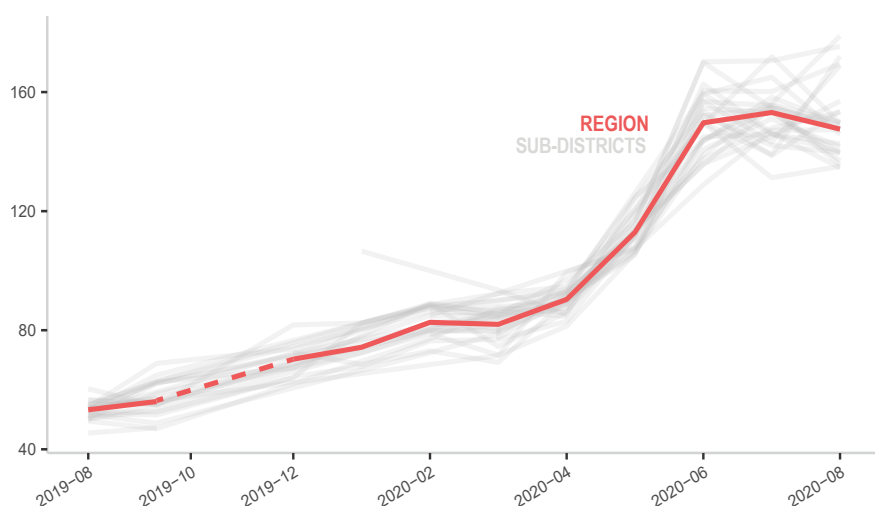
Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Eastern Aleppo governorates

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

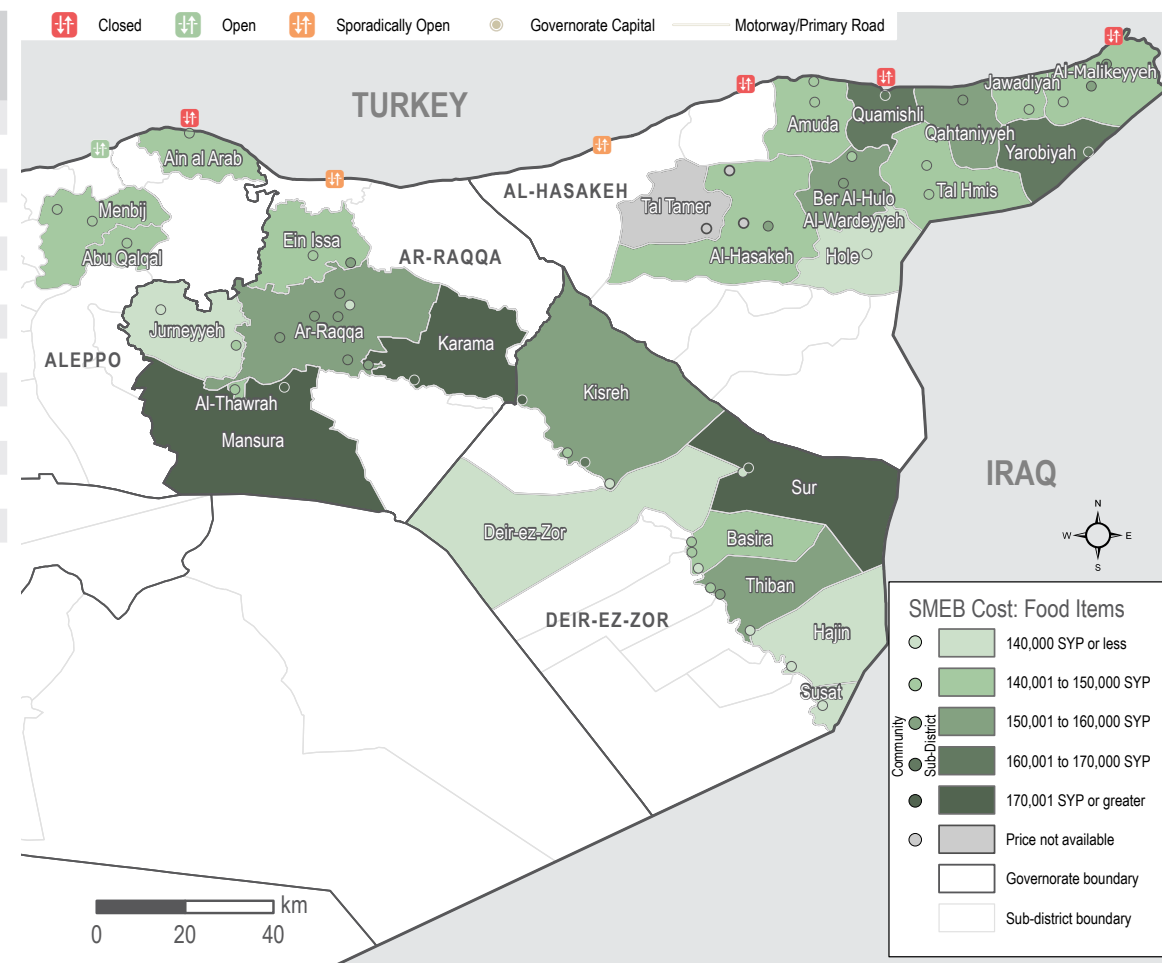
Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	147,094	-3%	82%	Jawadiyah	145,620	NA	NA
Abu Qalqal	147,355	0%	NA	Jurmeyyeh	139,588	0%	77%
Ain al Arab	140,200	-4%	82%	Karama	172,025	24%	119%
Al-Hasakeh	145,725	-4%	85%	Kisreh	150,745	-5%	81%
Al-Malikeyyeh	140,975	-15%	NA	Mansura	178,863	15%	150%
Al-Thawrah	142,663	-2%	79%	Menbij	146,834	-4%	112%
Amuda	148,150	-6%	73%	Qahtaniyyeh	153,653	11%	64%
Ar-Raqqa	156,243	9%	91%	Quamishli	169,450	6%	101%
Basira	141,346	-5%	66%	Sur	175,350	3%	105%
Be'r Al-Hulo	152,225	-9%	90%	Susat	136,900	-11%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	152,225	-9%	90%	Tal Hmis	141,513	-11%	98%
Deir-ez-Zor	139,425	-9%	64%	Tal Tamer	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	147,969	-1%	72%	Thiban	152,952	-3%	70%
Hajin	134,900	-8%	80%	Ya'robiyah	168,863	18%	83%
Hole	135,027	3%	NA				

MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB FOOD ITEMS' COST Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: COOKING FUEL

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

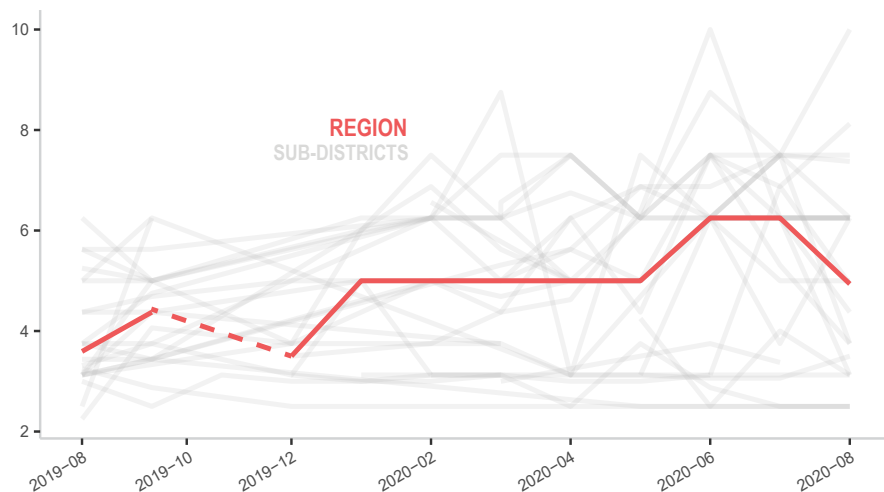
MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL PRICE

Kerosene 25L, Syrian Pounds

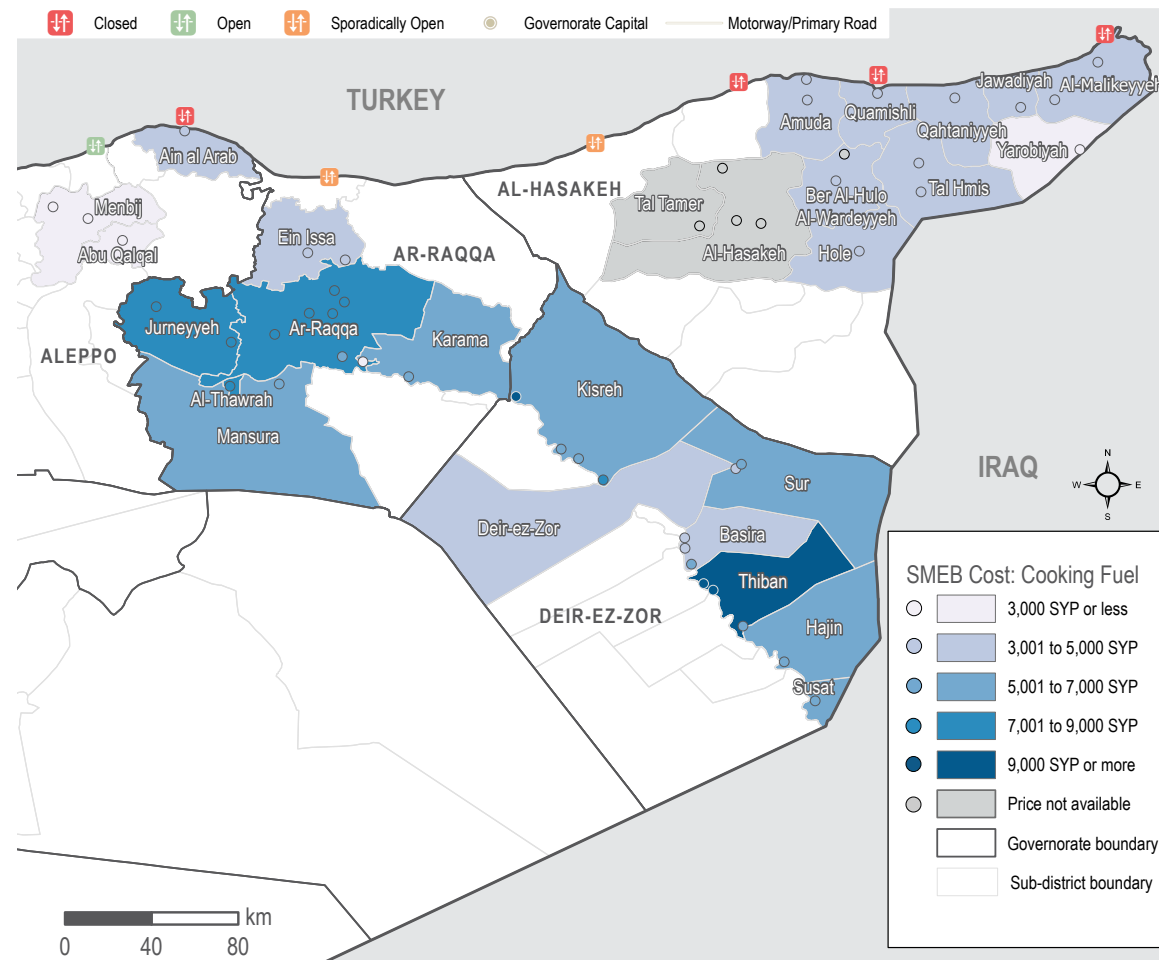
Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	4,938	-21%	-1%	Jawadiyah	3,125	NA	NA
Abu Qalqal	2,500	0%	NA	Jurneyyeh	8,125	4%	30%
Ain al Arab	3,500	14%	12%	Karama	6,250	-17%	0%
Al-Hasakeh	NA	NA	NA	Kisreh	6,875	10%	38%
Al-Malikeyyeh	4,938	-28%	NA	Mansura	6,250	67%	-29%
Al-Thawrah	7,375	-2%	18%	Menbij	2,500	0%	-20%
Amuda	4,422	-29%	42%	Qahtaniyyeh	3,375	NA	8%
Ar-Raqqa	7,500	0%	20%	Quamishli	3,750	-29%	-14%
Basira	5,000	-20%	-6%	Sur	6,250	0%	25%
Be'r Al-Hulo	3,125	-22%	-17%	Susat	6,250	0%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	3,125	-50%	-29%	Tal Hmis	5,000	0%	33%
Ein Issa	3,750	-50%	-45%	Tal Tamer	NA	NA	NA
Hajin	6,250	0%	11%	Thiban	10,000	39%	100%
Hole	3,125	0%	NA	Ya'robiyah	2,500	0%	0%

MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB COOKING FUEL COST Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: HYGIENE ITEMS

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

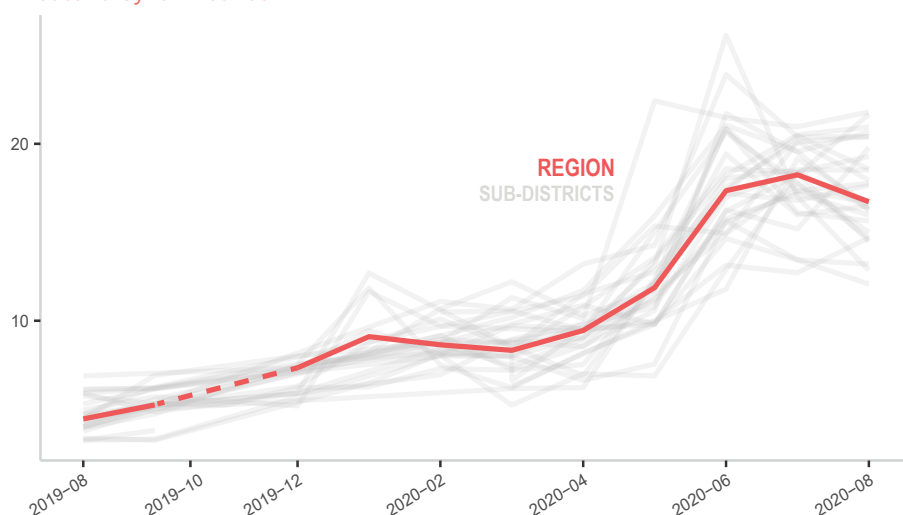
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' PRICE

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

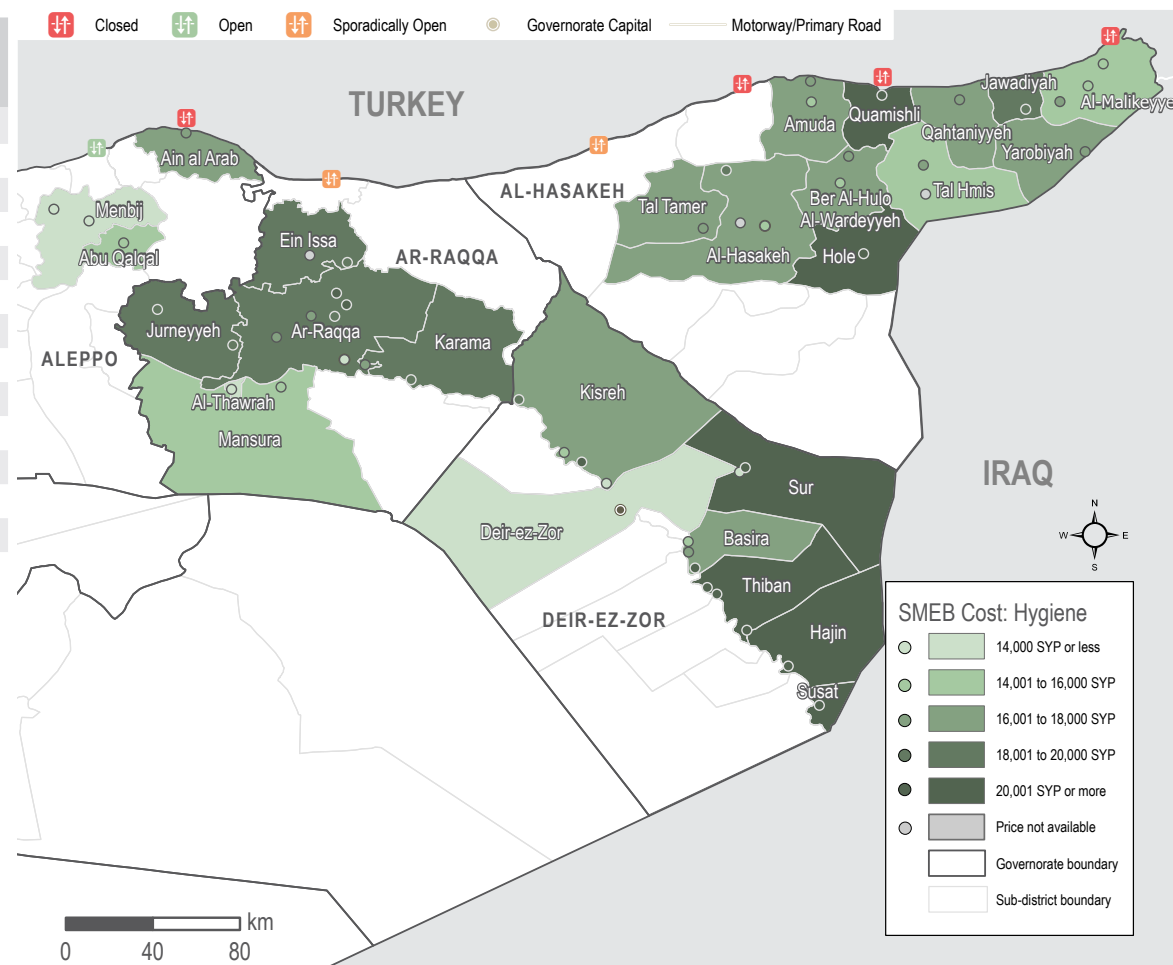
Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene Items	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene Items	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	17,250	-6%	111%	Jawadiyah	18,517	0%	NA
Abu Qalqal	14,686	15%	NA	Jurneyyeh	19,152	31%	179%
Ain al Arab	16,500	3%	129%	Karama	18,577	-9%	131%
Al-Hasakeh	17,250	3%	102%	Kisreh	16,388	-4%	34%
Al-Malikeyyeh	14,900	-16%	NA	Mansura	14,482	-21%	177%
Al-Thawrah	13,201	-2%	66%	Menbij	13,525	-5%	118%
Amuda	16,041	-17%	93%	Qahtaniyyeh	17,946	-11%	110%
Ar-Raqqah	18,845	9%	90%	Quamishli	20,950	2%	139%
Basira	16,223	-17%	59%	Sur	20,400	0%	92%
Be'r Al-Hulo	16,039	-18%	115%	Susat	21,666	19%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	16,039	-18%	115%	Tal Hmis	15,833	-3%	157%
Deir-ez-Zor	12,860	-24%	22%	Tal Tamer	16,550	-14%	163%
Ein Issa	19,037	1%	108%	Thiban	20,600	6%	185%
Hajin	21,568	3%	86%	Ya'robiyah	17,650	5%	121%
Hole	20,415	2%	NA				

MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COST Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: PHONE DATA

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

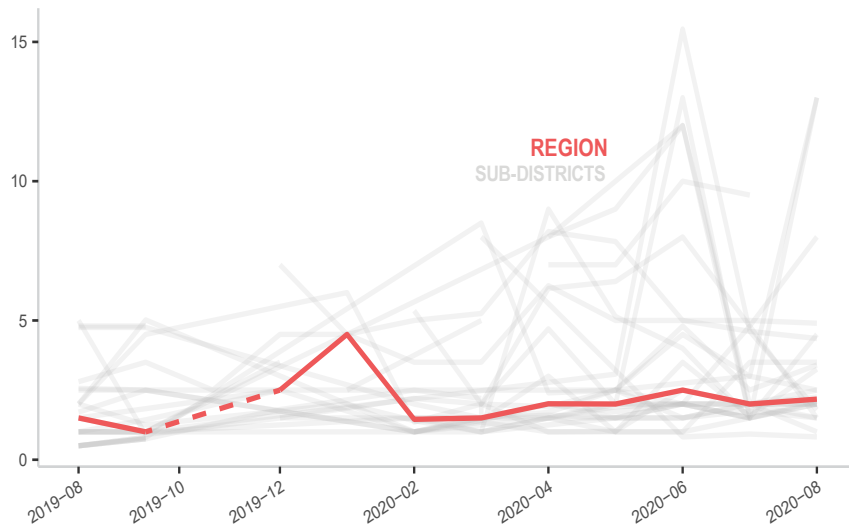
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA PRICE

1GB data, Syrian Pounds

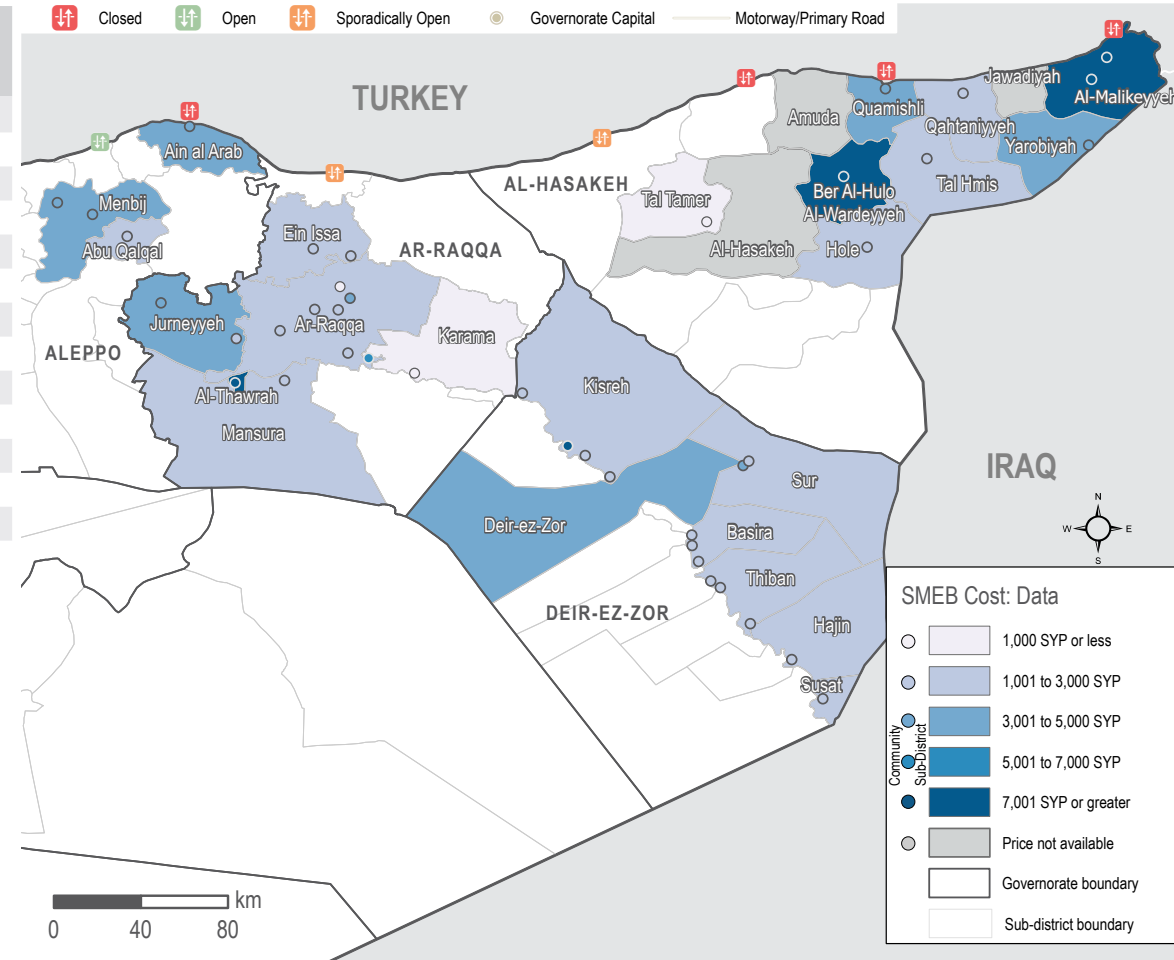
Sub-district	SMEB Data	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Data	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	2,250	13%	13%	Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA
Abu Qalqal	1,792	-61%	NA	Jurneyyeh	3,150	-16%	0%
Ain al Arab	4,900	-2%	40%	Karama	1,000	-50%	-26%
Al-Hasakeh	NA	NA	NA	Kisreh	2,250	50%	80%
Al-Malikeyyeh	13,000	767%	NA	Mansura	1,500	-69%	-25%
Al-Thawrah	8,000	67%	300%	Menbij	4,399	-7%	-16%
Amuda	NA	NA	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	2,000	33%	-60%
Ar-Raqqa	1,500	-25%	0%	Quamishli	3,250	108%	63%
Basira	2,250	13%	-10%	Sur	2,000	33%	100%
Be'r Al-Hulo	13,000	478%	491%	Susat	2,000	0%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	13,000	478%	491%	Tal Hmis	2,500	-17%	-71%
Deir-ez-Zor	4,500	200%	221%	Tal Tamer	819	-11%	-90%
Ein Issa	1,750	0%	75%	Thiban	2,500	25%	67%
Hajin	2,000	7%	33%	Ya'robiyah	3,500	0%	133%
Hole	2,000	0%	NA				

MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



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



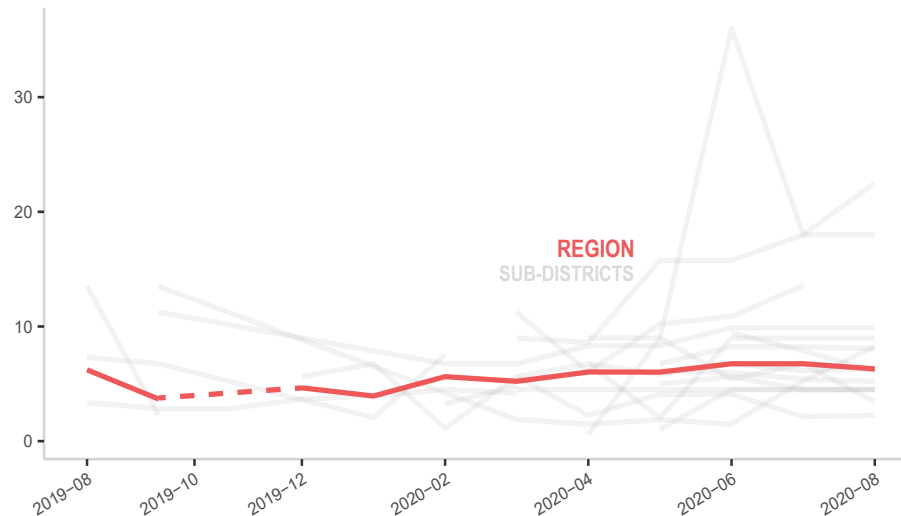
NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: WATER TRUCKING

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

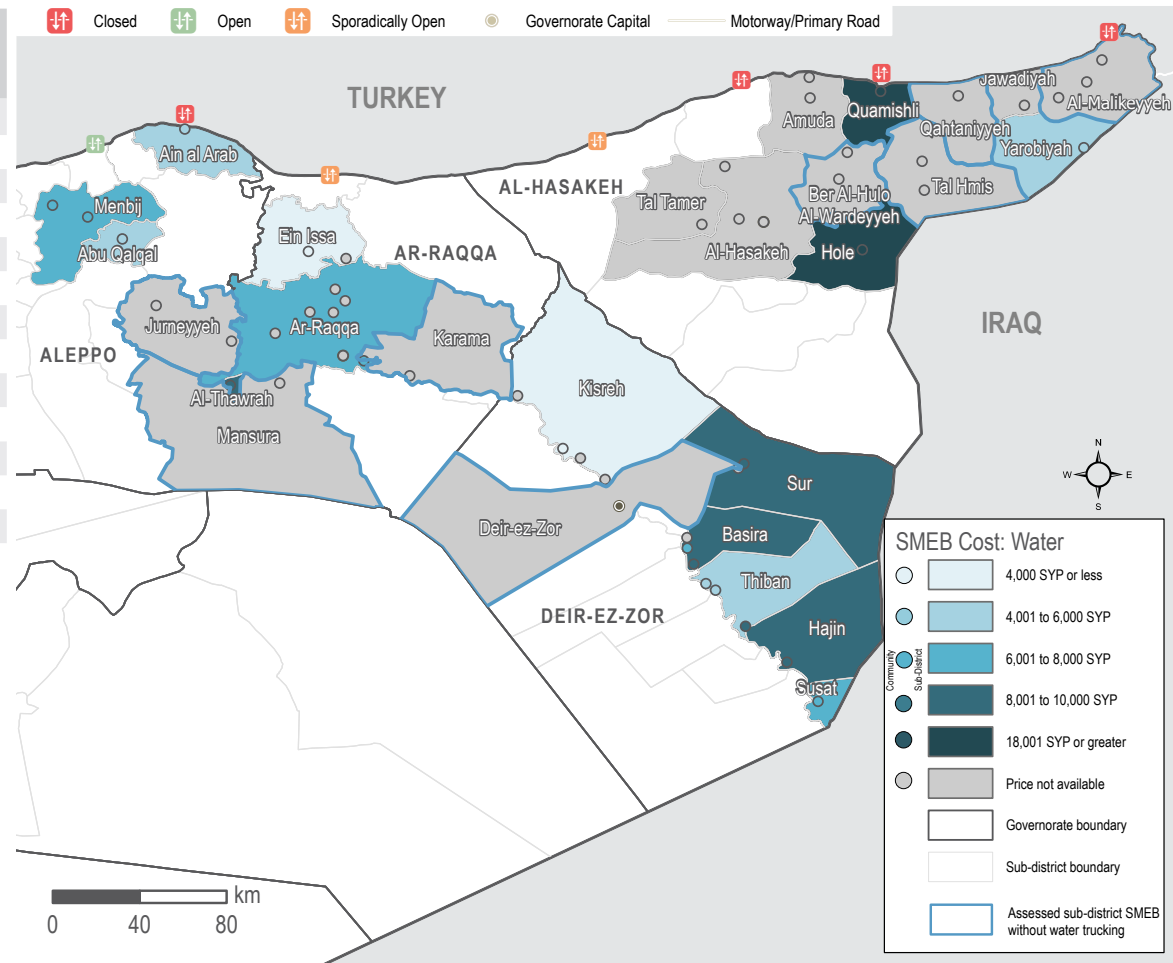
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICE 4,500L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Water	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	SMEB Water	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	6,750	10%	36%	Jawadiyah	NA	NA	NA
Abu Qalqal	5,198	-4%	NA	Jurneyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Ain al Arab	4,500	0%	8%	Karama	NA	NA	NA
Al-Hasakeh	NA	NA	NA	Kisreh	3,420	-44%	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	Mansura	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	8,055	-2%	7%	Menbij	7,065	24%	26%
Amuda	NA	NA	NA	Qahtaniyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	6,750	NA	40%	Quamishli	22,500	25%	150%
Basira	8,258	38%	365%	Sur	9,900	0%	47%
Be'r Al-Hulo	NA	NA	NA	Susat	6,075	-23%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor	NA	NA	NA	Tal Tamer	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	2,250	5%	-60%	Thiban	4,500	0%	0%
Hajin	9,000	0%	NA	Ya'robiyah	4,500	0%	NA
Hole	18,000	0%	NA				

MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH Thousand Syrian Pounds



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



NORTHEAST SYRIA - TRANSPORT FUEL

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

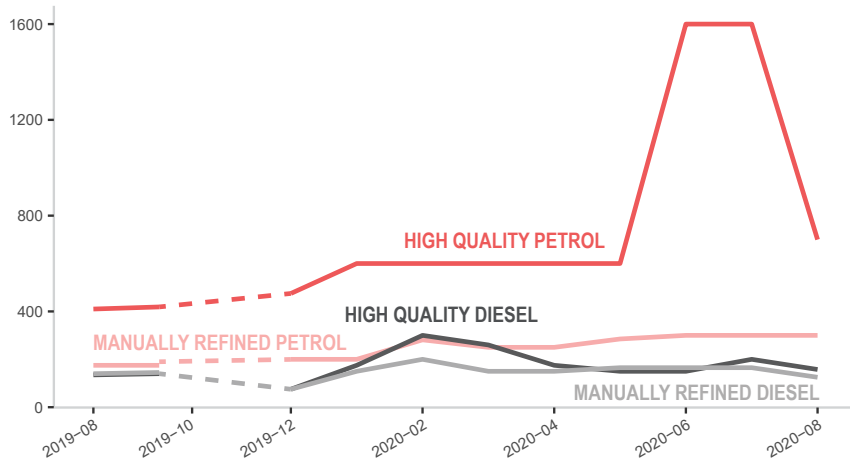
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

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

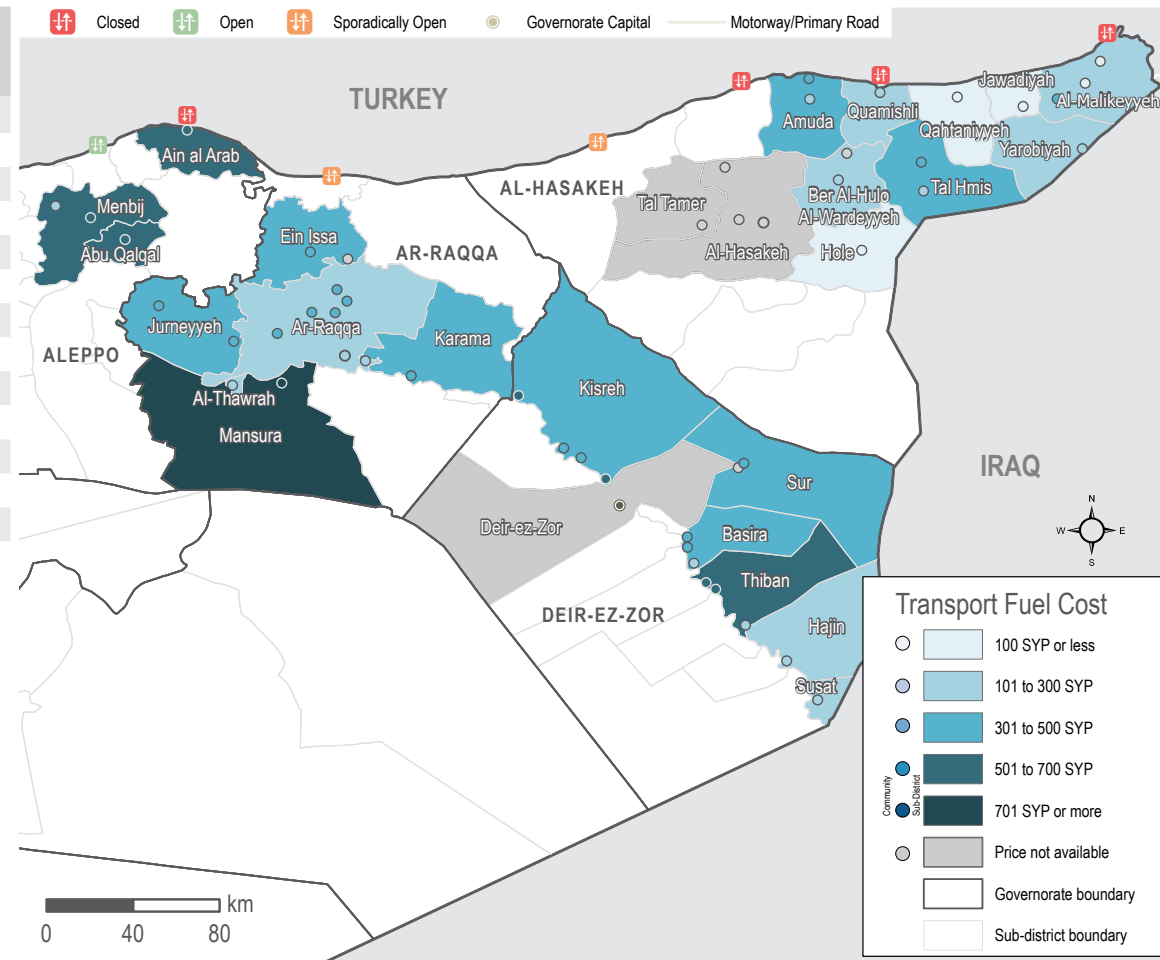
Sub-district	Transport Fuel	One month change	Six month change	Sub-district	Transport Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	305	-7%	5%	Jawadiyah	88	0%	NA
Abu Qalqal	612	-1%	NA	Jurneyyeh	338	41%	16%
Ain al Arab	562	-8%	79%	Karama	363	21%	-1%
Al-Hasakeh	NA	NA	NA	Kisreh	458	96%	37%
Al-Malikeyyeh	256	-58%	NA	Mansura	717	187%	341%
Al-Thawrah	291	3%	-1%	Menbij	615	0%	189%
Amuda	301	-44%	-5%	Qahtaniyyeh	88	0%	-72%
Ar-Raqqa	230	-63%	-24%	Quamishli	162	-76%	-59%
Basira	322	-43%	29%	Sur	341	47%	9%
Be'r Al-Hulo	167	-76%	18%	Susat	291	17%	NA
Al-Wardeyyeh	NA	NA	NA	Tal Hmis	309	123%	253%
Deir-ez-Zor	NA	NA	NA	Tal Tamer	NA	NA	NA
Ein Issa	350	10%	19%	Thiban	588	-1%	99%
Hajin	291	0%	29%	Ya'robiyah	150	-77%	-40%
Hole	88	0%	NA				

MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH & TYPE

Syrian Pounds



TRANSPORT FUEL COST Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds

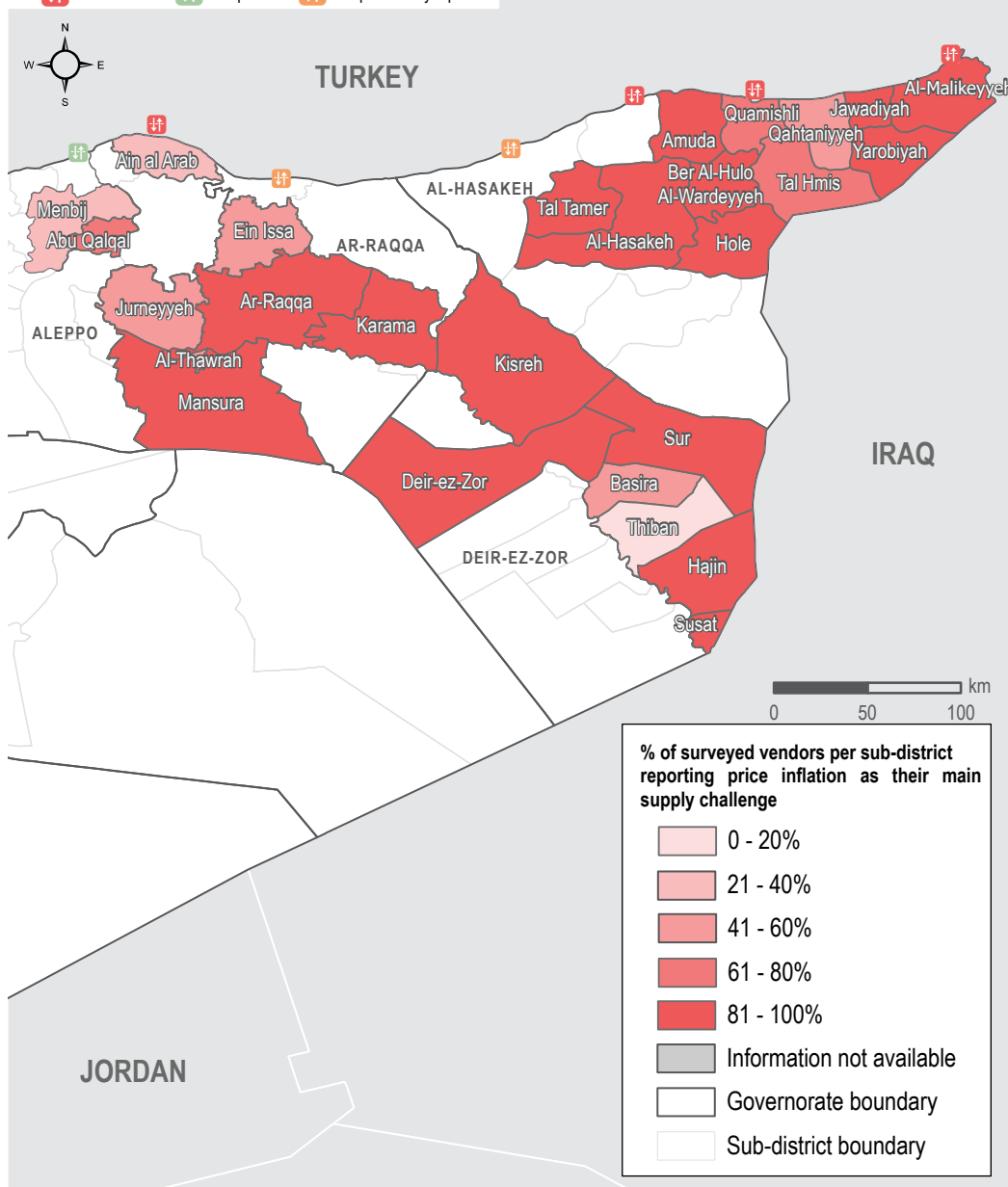




SUPPLY CHALLENGES - PRICE INFLATION

Sub-districts

Closed
 Open
 Sporadically Open



MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

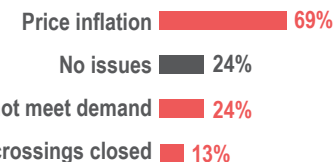
In August, none of the surveyed vendors in Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates reported shop closure. Meanwhile, 6% of surveyed vendors reported their shops were closed in Deir-ez-Zor governorate and 10% in Al-Hasakeh governorate.



SUPPLY CHALLENGES

While supply challenges reported by surveyed vendors were similar to last month's, the percentage of surveyed vendors reporting facing one or more supply challenges slightly decreased from 79% to 76% since July. As in the [June Market Monitoring Exercise](#), price inflation was the most commonly reported supply challenge, reported by 69% of all surveyed vendors and by 91% of surveyed vendors who reported facing supply challenges. This underscores how critical of a supply challenge price inflation was for surveyed vendors and how it may negatively impact the availability of items. Furthermore, 24% of total surveyed vendors reported that their supplies could not meet the existing demand and 13% reported that their supplies were affected by the closure of border crossings (see figure 1). In addition, their supplier being out of stock was reported as a supply challenge among 13% of the total surveyed vendors.

Figure 1: Top 4 most commonly reported supply challenges by % of surveyed vendors (936 respondents)*



*Multiple answers allowed, thus findings may exceed 100%

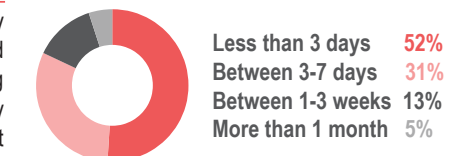


RESTOCKING

In addition to the supply challenges reported earlier, 1% of the 936 surveyed vendors reported that they would be unable to restock if they were to run out of supplies. When looking at specific shop types, 5% of surveyed bakery vendors reported facing a restocking challenge across the assessed governorates in NES. At a governorate-level, 20% of surveyed bakery vendors and 7% of butchers in Deir-ez-Zor governorate as well as 7% of pharmacists in Al-Hasakeh governorate reported facing this restocking challenge. Surveyed vendors were also asked after how

many days they would hypothetically run out of stock if supplies were to be cut. Fifty-two percent (52%) of respondents said that they would run out of supplies in less than 3 days and 31% in 3 to 7 days (see figure 2). Across shop types, surveyed vegetables vendors and butchers reported they would run out of supplies the fastest.

Figure 2: Reported number of days before all types of surveyed vendors would run out of stock, if supply lines were cut (936 respondents)



AVAILABILITY OF USD BANKNOTES

In August, informal currency exchange vendors were also asked about their stock of USD banknotes. Ninety percent (90%) of the 88 surveyed currency vendors reported having limited stock of one or more denomination. In Aleppo and Al-Hasakeh governorates, all surveyed informal currency vendor reported having a limited USD banknote stock. By banknote denomination, surveyed vendors most commonly reported limited supply of the 100 USD banknote (78% of vendor respondents), followed by the 50 USD banknote and by the 20 USD banknote (72% and 47%, 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)
Northeast Syria	450	15,000	6,125	3,625	1,500	3,000
Abu Qalqal	400	15,000	4,500	7,500	1,700	2,350
Ain al Arab	500	15,000	6,500	4,000	1,300	3,000
Al-Hasakeh	NA	NA	NA	NA	500	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	525	13,860	2,075	2,000	1,700	3,500
Al-Thawrah	400	20,000	15,385	5,000	1,400	3,400
Amuda	888	16,750	2,250	2,000	2,175	NA
Ar-Raqqa	400	20,000	7,000	5,000	1,500	3,000
Basira	500	16,750	2,450	2,200	2,150	2,500
Be'r Al-Hulo	400	13,860	12,000	4,600	1,215	4,000
Al-Wardeyyeh	400	13,860	12,000	4,600	1,215	4,000
Deir-ez-Zor	425	7,500	6,250	4,250	1,500	5,000
Ein Issa	550	800	16,334	2,500	1,500	NA
Hajin	500	18,000	7,000	2,200	1,000	2,500
Hole	200	12,000	10,000	6,000	1,500	2,200
Jawadiyah	300	13,000	10,000	1,500	1,400	3,000
Jurneyyeh	400	20,000	1,667	5,000	1,500	3,500
Karama	500	15,000	6,000	5,000	1,500	3,500
Kisreh	425	16,750	5,500	2,300	1,800	3,500
Mansura	500	15,000	1,077	5,000	1,500	1,500
Menbij	400	14,750	5,000	7,500	1,675	2,450
Qahtaniyyeh	400	20,000	7,000	6,000	1,575	3,100
Quamishli	675	17,750	3,500	3,250	2,550	2,000
Sur	400	17,000	6,000	2,000	1,000	2,500
Susat	500	18,000	7,000	2,200	1,000	2,500
Tal Hmis	475	16,000	1,950	1,913	2,235	NA
Tal Tamer	500	15,000	5,500	1,500	1,500	NA
Thiban	500	7,500	7,500	4,000	1,750	2,400
Ya'robiyah	250	10,000	7,000	750	1,450	3,000



AVAILABILITY OF FACE MASKS

Sub-districts



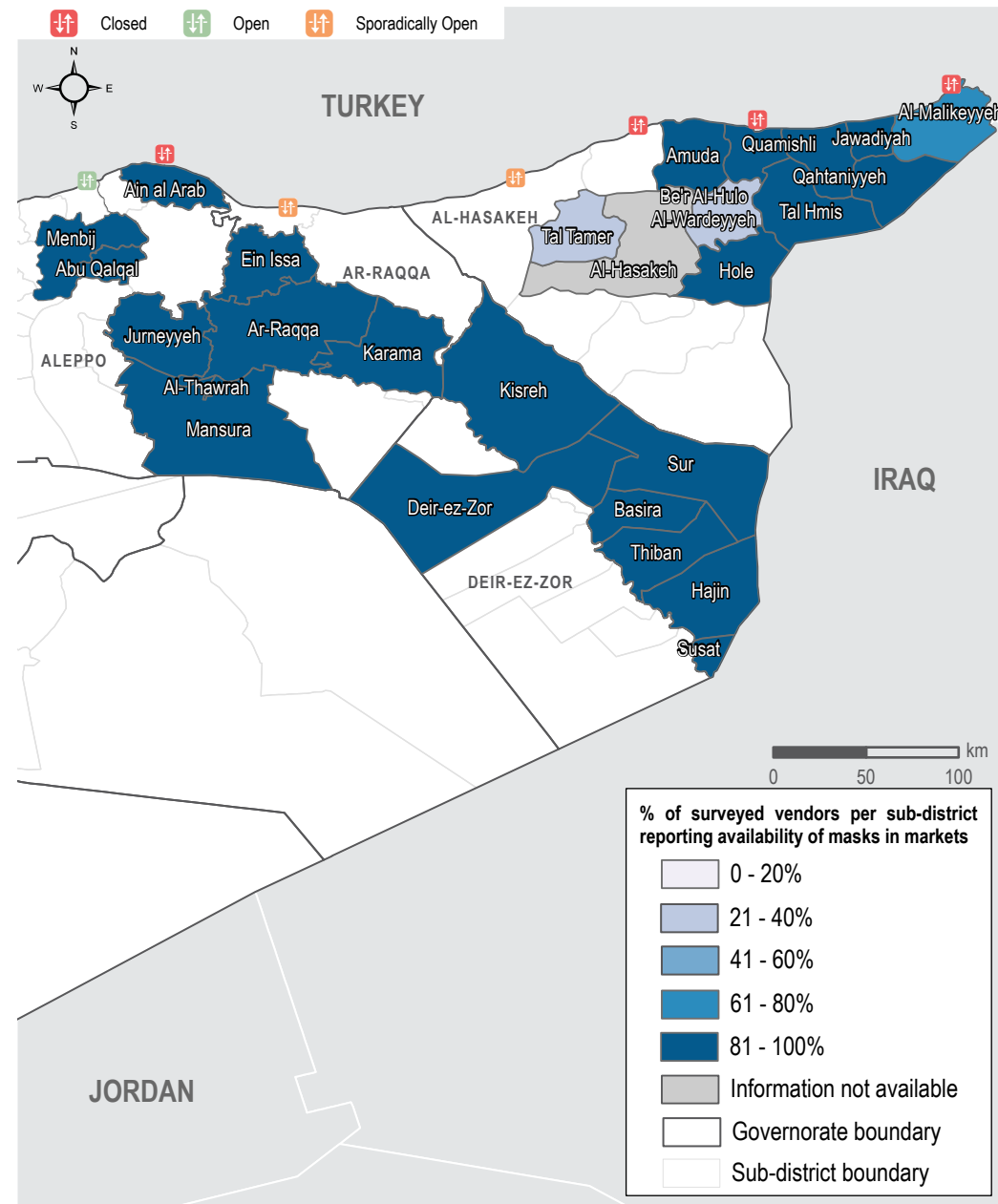
Closed



Open

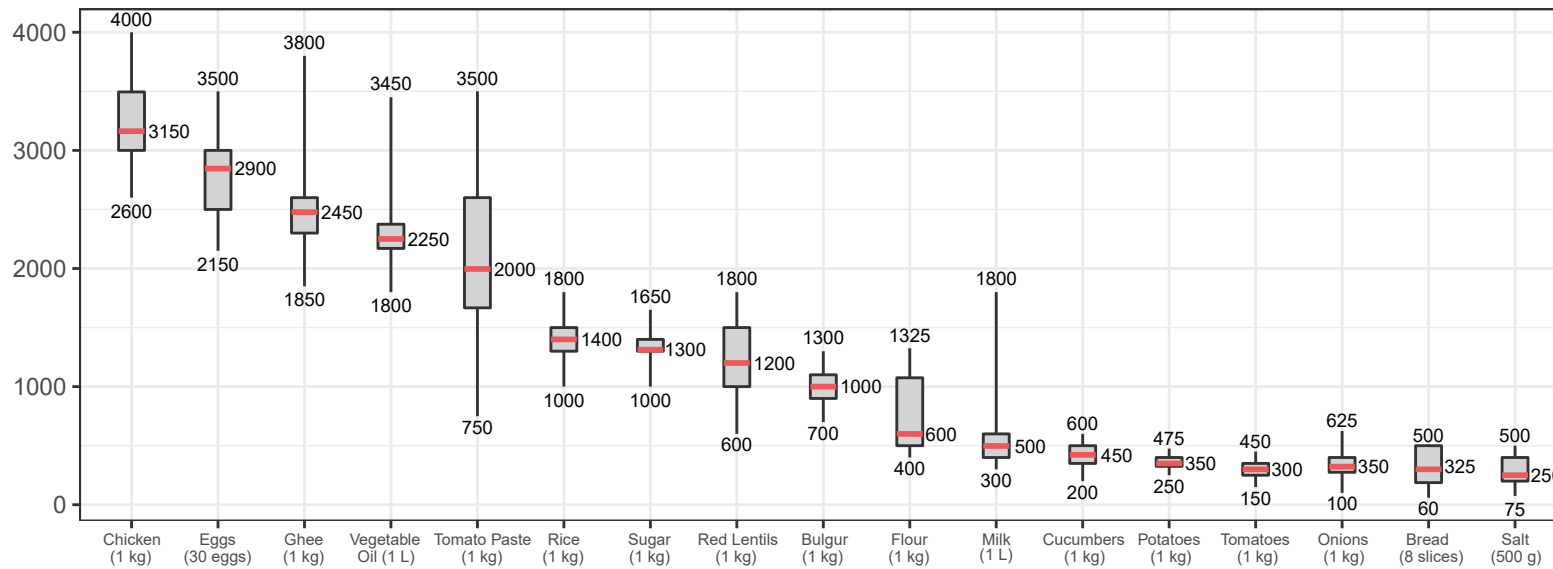


Sporadically Open



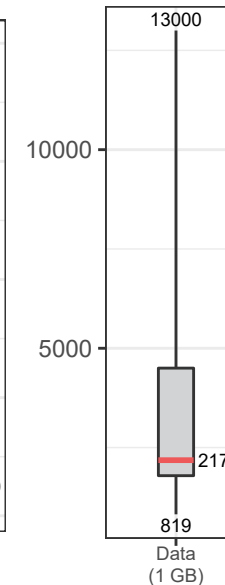
ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



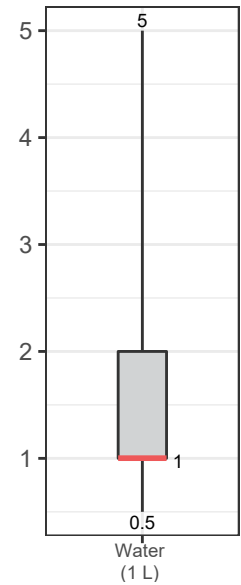
CELLPHONE DATA

Syrian Pounds



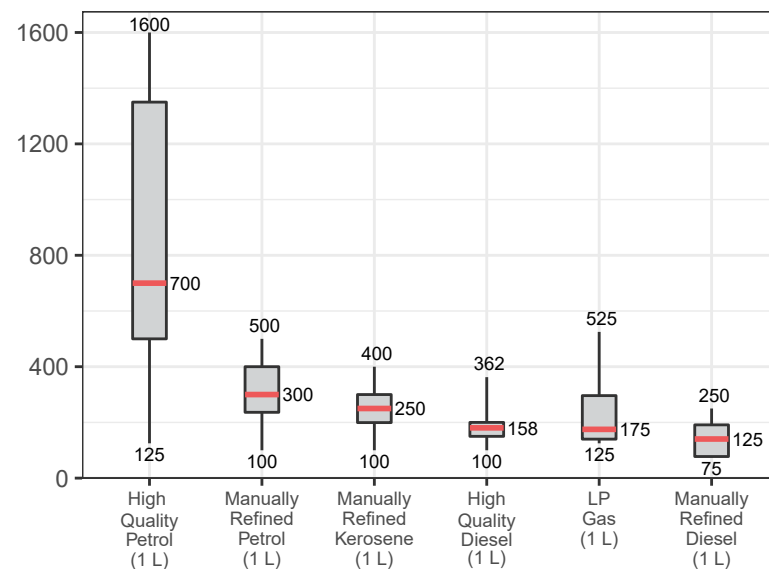
WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



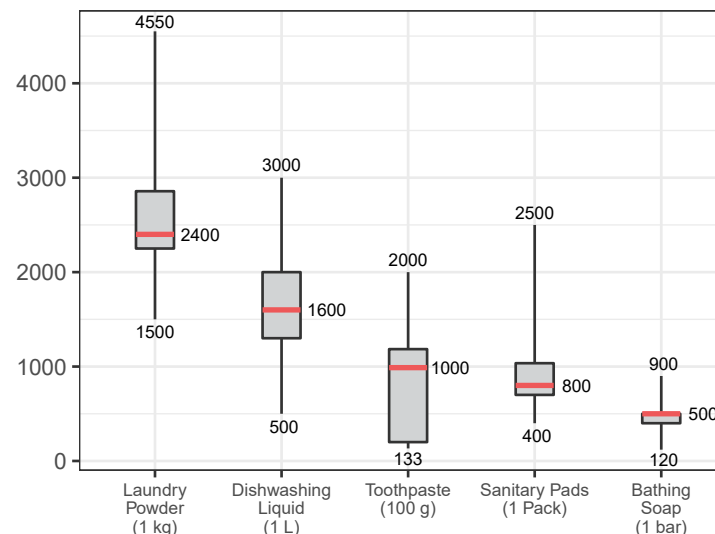
ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

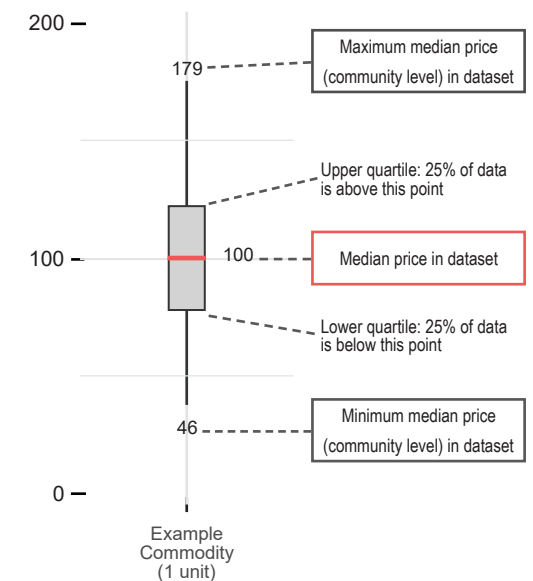


ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

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 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 June 2020 significantly increased (from 9 assessed sub-districts to 27 assessed sub-districts).

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 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. 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.