

NORTHEAST SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 2nd-9th August 2021

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. The exercise assesses 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 cell phone 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.

The accompanying data is disseminated monthly and is distributed through partners across the humanitarian community. See REACH Resource Centre for the [August 2021 dataset](#).

Coverage and data collection dates

In August 2021, REACH and partners covered:

- 4 governorates
- 11 districts
- 29 subdistricts
- 57 communities
- 1,499 individual shops

In light of the fluctuation of the Syrian Pound (SYP)'s value and resulting market disruption, prices should be seen as representative only of the markets and dates where and when information was collected (2nd-9th August 2021).

Partners

Data collection for this month was conducted by REACH and the following partners:

- ATAA
- CARE NES
- Danish Church Aid
- Mercy Corps
- People in Need
- Solidarités International
- CWG NES

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

NES SMEB Basket Value Decrease

Syrian Pound (SYP)

SMEB August value: 333,893 SYP

One month change (compared to July): **decrease of 1%**

Six month change (compared to February): **increase of 18%**

United States Dollar (USD)

SMEB May value: 103 USD

One month change: **decrease of 2%**

Six month change: **increase of 10%**

Despite minor decreases in May and August, the first half of 2021 has seen the highest recorded SMEB in SYP in the Market Monitoring exercise, attributed to the protracted hyperinflation of the Syrian economy. The SMEB in United States Dollars (USD) has remained somewhat stable throughout the summer months of 2021.

Days Needed to Work to Afford the SMEB #1

The median daily wage for residents and IDPs in NES was 5,000 SYP. This means a household of six whose sole income is from an unskilled daily labourer would need the equivalent of **67 days** of work to cover the price of the NES SMEB.

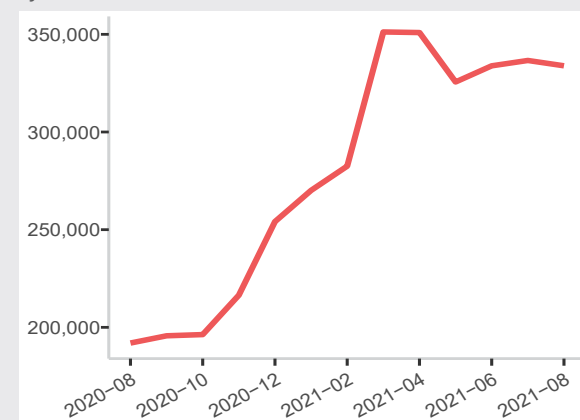
MEDIAN SMEB COST FOR NES

333,893 SYP (103 USD)

NES COVERAGE: AL-HASAKEH, AL-RAQQA, DEIR-EZ-ZOR AND EASTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES

MEDIAN SMEB COST, BY MONTH

Syrian Pounds



#1 According to the [August 2021 Humanitarian Situation Overview of Syria Dataset](#)

SMEB Water Trucking Price Increase #2

NES average: 15,188 SYP per 4,500 litres

One month change: **increase of 9%**

Six month change: **increase of 13%**

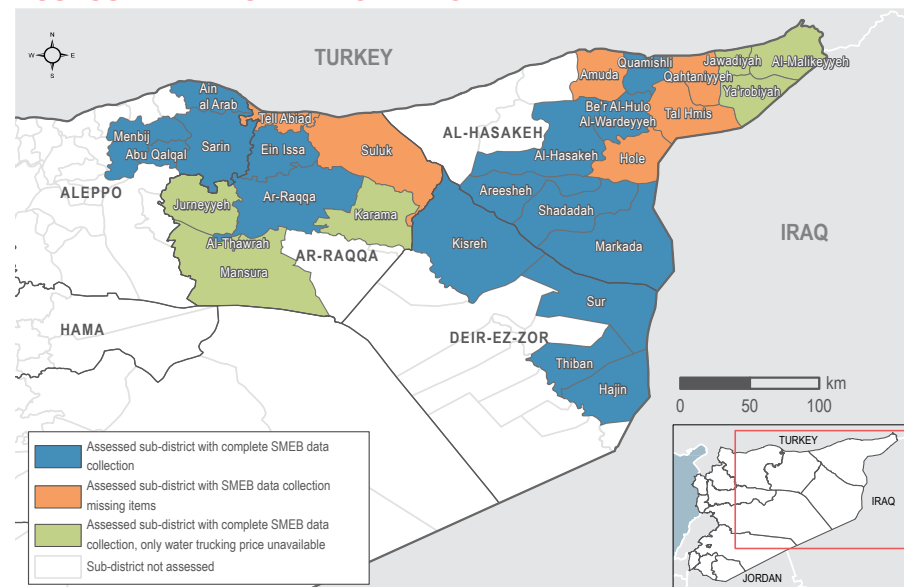
% of surveyed vendors reporting water trucking as unavailable in their community/ neighbourhood: 0%

Water trucking is the main source of clean water for most individuals. Water challenges in each governorate have led to erratic prices across the region, with Al-Hasakeh experiencing the highest costs by far. Recent months have also seen a concerning price spike for Ar-Raqqa governorate:

- Al-Hasakeh: 24,525 SYP
- Ar-Raqqa: 16,875 SYP
- Deir-Ez-Zor: 11,250 SYP
- Aleppo NE: 10,238 SYP

According to REACH Humanitarian Situation Overview of Syria (HSOS) [water and electricity trends](#), there has been an increasing downward trend of households able to access sufficient water for all purposes across NES. At the same time, problems with drinking water have seen notable increases in August, with 46% of communities reporting water problems and 20% of communities reporting specifically that water is perceived to be making people sick. This upward trend was most notable across Deir-Ez-Zor.

ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE



#2 Equates to 25L per person for day. See page 7 for further water trucking data

NORTHEAST SYRIA - KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND OVERVIEW

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS & CHANGES

Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB	One month change	Six month change								
Northeast Syria	333,893	-1%	18%								
Abu Qalqal*	335,483	0%	33%								
Ain al Arab	296,705	6%	NA								
Al-Hasakeh	356,260	2%	18%								
Al-Malikeyyeh	315,667	-3%	16%								
Al-Thawrah	351,177	9%	21%								
Amuda	NA	NA	NA								
Areeshah	329,443	-2%	21%								
Ar-Raqqa	334,459	-1%	10%								
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	338,114	-4%	20%								
Ein Issa	345,070	-1%	22%								
Hajin	322,325	-4%	7%								
Hole	NA	NA	NA								
Jawadiyah	299,311	-2%	NA								
Jurneyyeh	320,232	-2%	14%								
Karama	335,277	2%	21%								
Kisreh	313,040	0%	NA								
Mansura	333,813	2%	18%								
Markada	348,025	5%	15%								
Menbij	351,864	1%	29%								
Qahtaniyyeh*	NA	NA	NA								
Quamishli	362,757	1%	18%								
Sarin	289,270	NA	NA								
Shadadah	324,491	1%	24%								
Suluk	NA	NA	NA								
Sur	333,327	-2%	20%								
Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA								
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA </tr <tr> <td>Thiban</td> <td>322,231</td> <td>3%</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ya'robiyah</td> <td>272,883</td> <td>-3%</td> <td>-10%</td> </tr>	Thiban	322,231	3%	7%	Ya'robiyah	272,883	-3%	-10%
Thiban	322,231	3%	7%								
Ya'robiyah	272,883	-3%	-10%								

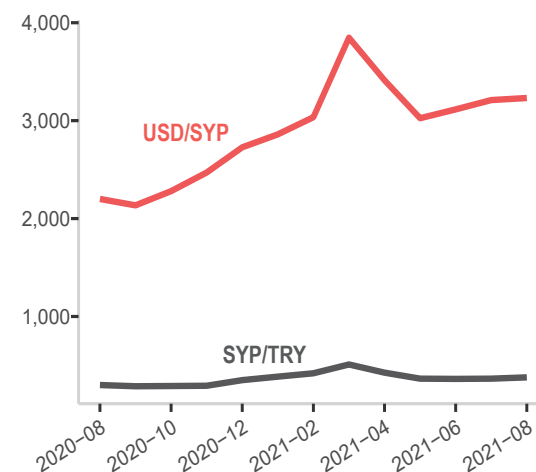
SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB) CONTENTS

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

EXCHANGE RATES, BY MONTH AND CURRENCY



KEY DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUED

High Quality Fuel Prices^{#3}

High quality diesel prices decreased notably in July and August after sharp increases over the preceding months, although it remains largely unavailable in many communities. High quality petrol has remained high in price year round and also remains largely unavailable. High quality fuels are mostly imported, and our REACH field teams report that typical challenges include restrictions on imports from Government of Syria (GoS) areas due to their own limited supply, lack of production materials in the region and general road closures.

High Quality Diesel

150 SYP per litre

One month price change: **decrease of 35%**

Six month price change: **no change (0%)**

% of surveyed vendors reporting high quality diesel as unavailable in their community/ neighbourhood: 78%

High Quality Petrol

2,300 SYP per litre

One month price change: **increase of 10%**

Six month price change: **increase of 35%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting high quality petrol as unavailable in their community/ neighbourhood: 64%

Manually Refined Fuel Prices

REACH field teams report that manually refined (low quality) fuels are often used in place of high quality fuel for transport and generators because high quality fuels are rarely available. Manually refined fuels are reported as widely available across NES.

However, the price of manually refined fuels vary greatly - both across governorates and month to month - typically because of high transportation costs and other regional challenges.

Manually Refined Diesel:

363 SYP per litre

One month price change: **increase of 4%**

Six month price change: **increase of 38%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting manually refined diesel as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 2%

Manually Refined Petrol:

625 SYP per litre

One month change: **decrease of 6%**

Six month change: **increase of 79%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting manually refined petrol as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 4%

Exchange Rates^{#4}

Informal USD/SYP regional median exchange rate: 3,231 SYP to 1 USD

One month rate change: **increase of 1%**

Six month rate change: **increase of 6%**

In August, the SYP depreciated only slightly against the USD. The highest exchange rate was recorded at 3,270 SYP for 1 USD in Al Saleh community in Ar-Raqqa governorate.

For an overview of the USD/SYP exchange rate across all of Syria, please see the [WFP VAM Food Security Analysis for July 2021](#).

* For these sub-districts, more than 50% of the SMEB items median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

** For these sub-districts, all of the SMEB items median prices rely on less than 3 observations.

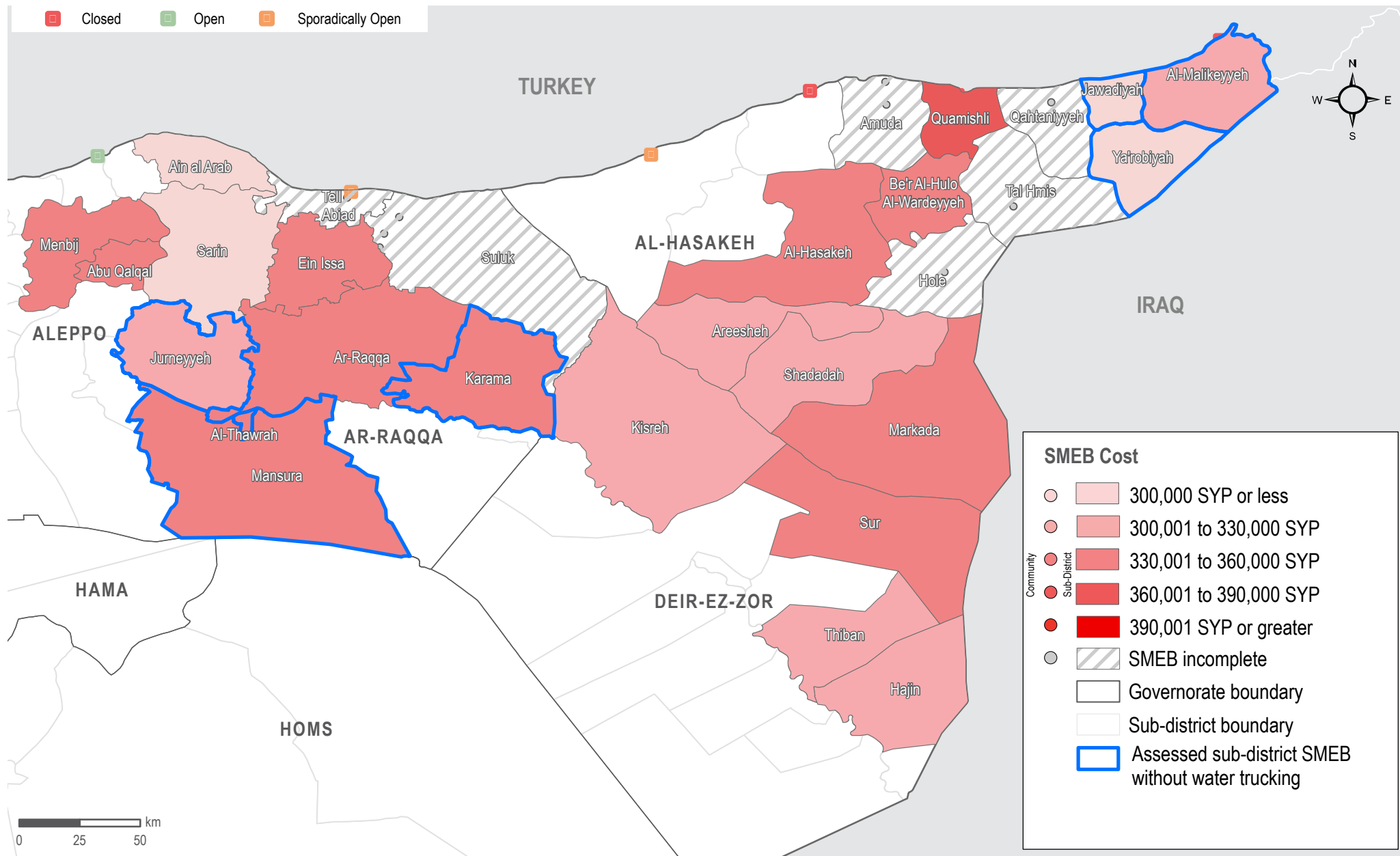
Note: For price and change calculations, only the communities within a sub-district with consistent coverage across months are included. The above applies to all tables.

^{#3} See page 11 for further fuel data

^{#4} To compare SYP prices to USD or TRY, our [August 2021 dataset](#) provides informal exchange rates at the regional, district, subdistrict and community levels, where data is available

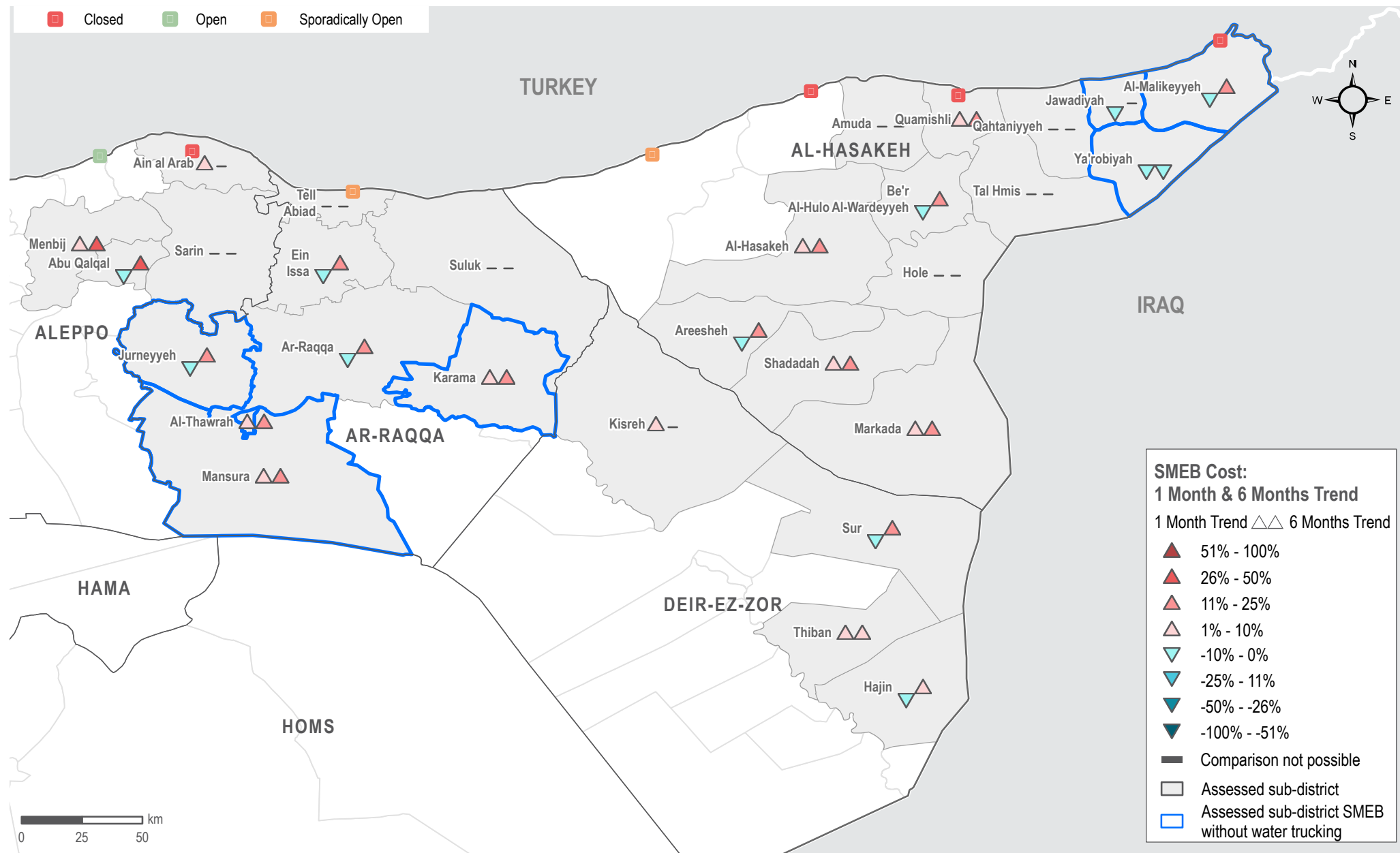
NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST RANGES

SMEB COST RANGES (SYP), BY SUB-DISTRICTS



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST RANGES

SMEB COST: 1 MONTH AND 6 MONTHS TREND



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS

MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS

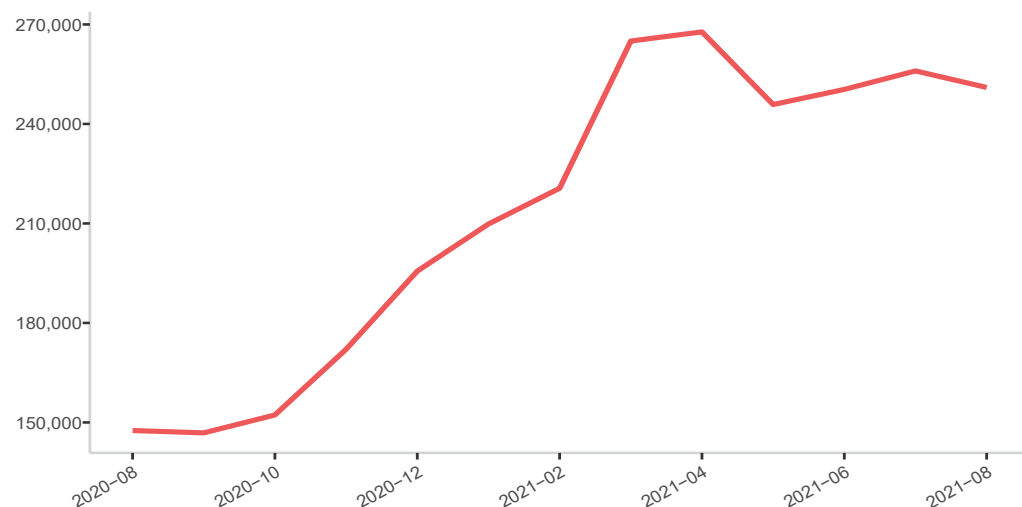
Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	251,000	-1%	14%
Abu Qalqal*	264,088	0%	30%
Ain al Arab	234,130	8%	NA
Al-Hasakeh	264,600	1%	15%
Al-Malikiyyeh	256,768	-5%	13%
Al-Thawrah	280,800	12%	23%
Amuda	307,475	11%	23%
Areesheh	237,850	-4%	17%
Ar-Raqqa	249,350	0%	9%
Be'r Al-Hulo	265,850	2%	24%
Al-Wardeyyeh	265,850	2%	24%
Ein Issa	251,000	-3%	15%
Hajin	250,400	-5%	14%
Hole	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	238,529	-2%	NA
Jurneyyeh	254,082	-1%	16%

Sub-district	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change
Karama	272,300	1%	25%
Kisreh	237,000	-1%	24%
Mansura	263,800	1%	19%
Markada	259,120	4%	18%
Menbij	273,978	0%	24%
Qahtaniyyeh*	221,661	-6%	6%
Quamishli	292,330	2%	22%
Sarin	233,976	2%	22%
Shadadah	235,314	2%	26%
Suluk	NA	NA	NA
Sur	242,797	-6%	14%
Tal Hmis	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA
Thiban	242,700	3%	7%
Ya'robiyah	221,600	-3%	-11%

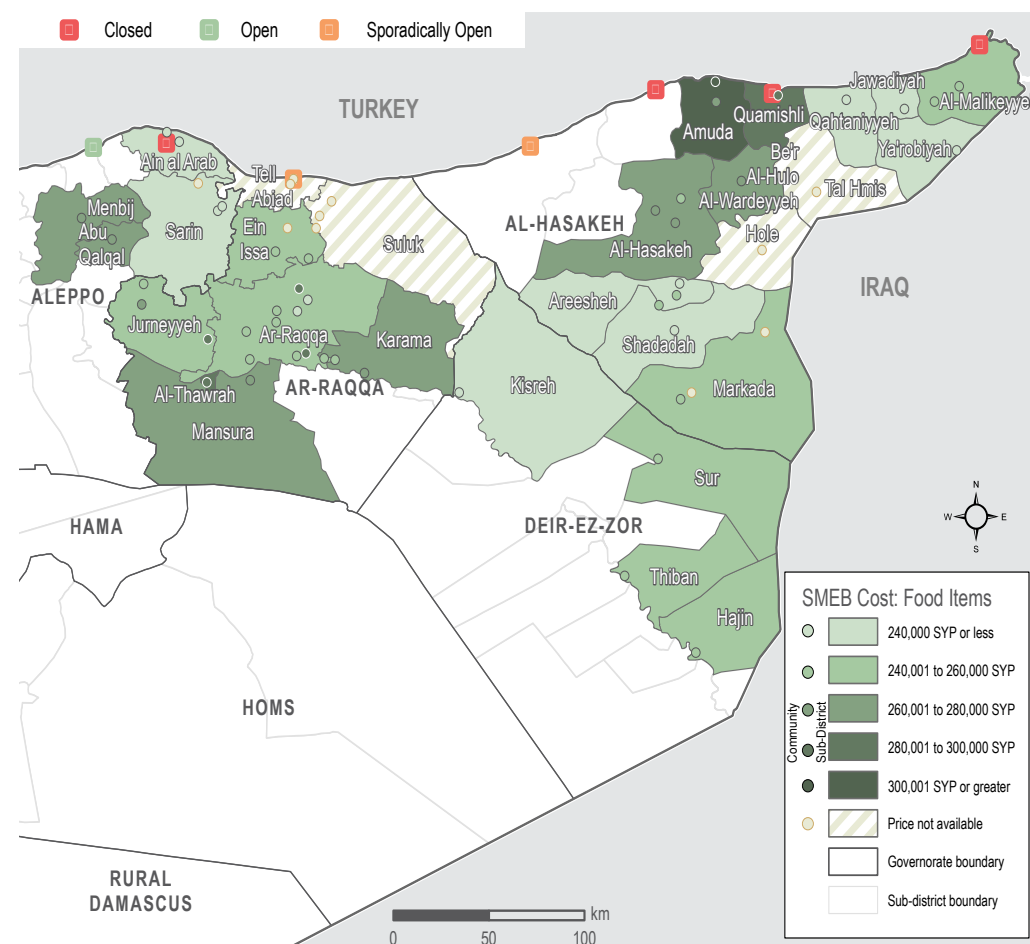
MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB FOOD ITEMS' COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



SMEB FOOD COMPONENT 251,000 SYP (78 USD)^{#5}

One month price change: **decrease of 1%**

Six month price change: **increase of 14%**

Highest % of surveyed vendors reporting a SMEB food item as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood

- 8% for bread

Highest % of surveyed vendors reporting SMEB food item as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood for previous month

- 6% for bread

At the regional level, food prices fell slightly. However, there were increases in the prices of fresh vegetables compared to July and eggs, bulgur, red lentils, sugar, flour, salt, cooking oils, water trucking and bottled water also saw price increases. The prices of rice and cooking fuels remained stable. There were price decreases for bread, chicken, tomato paste and baby formula.

SMEB BULK FOODS 130,000 SYP (40 USD)

One month price change: **increase of 2%**

Six month price change: **increase of 17%**

- Salt: increased by **11%**
- Bulgur: increased by **7%**
- Red lentils: increased by **4%**
- Sugar: increased by **1%**
- Rice: no change (**0%**)
- Tomato paste: decreased by **1%**

According to REACH field teams, these items are typically imported, as such their prices mostly increased due to depreciation of the SYP against the TRY (Turkish Lira) and USD.

SMEB VEGETABLE COMPONENT 9,150 SYP (2.83 USD)

One month price change: **increase of 42%**

Six month price change: **decrease of 15%**

- Tomatoes: increased by **100%**
- Cucumbers: increased by **64%**
- Potatoes: increased by **25%**
- Onions: increased by **20%**

In August prices increased dramatically compared to July as the peak of the agricultural season passed but they remain cheaper overall than six months ago, before the agricultural period began.

BREAD 284 SYP PER 8 PIECE BUNDLE (0.09 USD)

One month price change: **decrease of 6%**

Six month price change: **increase of 42%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting bread as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 8%

Price fluctuations are attributed to both the appreciation of the SYP and general subsidies by the authorities. The average bread prices varied greatly between governorates:

- Aleppo: 525 SYP per bundle
- Ar-Raqqa: 372 SYP per bundle
- Al-Hasakeh: 284 SYP per bundle
- Deir-Ez-Zor: 250 SYP per bundle

FLOUR 1,500 SYP PER KILO (0.46 USD)

One month price change: **increase of 3%**

Six month price change: **increase of 50%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting flour as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 4%

For a deeper analysis of the agricultural context in Syria, please see the [FAO Agriculture Input and Commodity Bulletin for July 2021](#).

CHICKEN 3,800 SYP PER KILO (1.18 USD)

One month price change: **decrease of 24%**

Six month price change: **decrease of 7%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting chicken as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 7%

EGGS 6,800 SYP FOR 30 EGGS (2.10 USD)

One month price change: **increase of 8%**

Six month price change: **increase of 13%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting eggs as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 0%

COOKING FUELS

Kerosene is the typical cooking fuel in NES and is also used for heating but may on occasion be substituted with LP gas.

Manually Refined Kerosene:

500 SYP per litre (0.15 USD)

One month price change: **no change (0%)**

Six month price change: **increase of 43%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting manually refined kerosene as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 15%

LP Gas: ^{#6}

3,313 SYP per canister (1.03 USD)

One month price change: **decrease of 4%**

Six month price change: **increase of 6%**

% of surveyed vendors reporting LP gas as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood: 2%

^{#5} August informal regional exchange rate for NES: 3,231 SYP

^{#6} Prices are taken for the cheapest available canister at the time of data collection, which is typically 20-25 litres.

NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: WATER TRUCKING

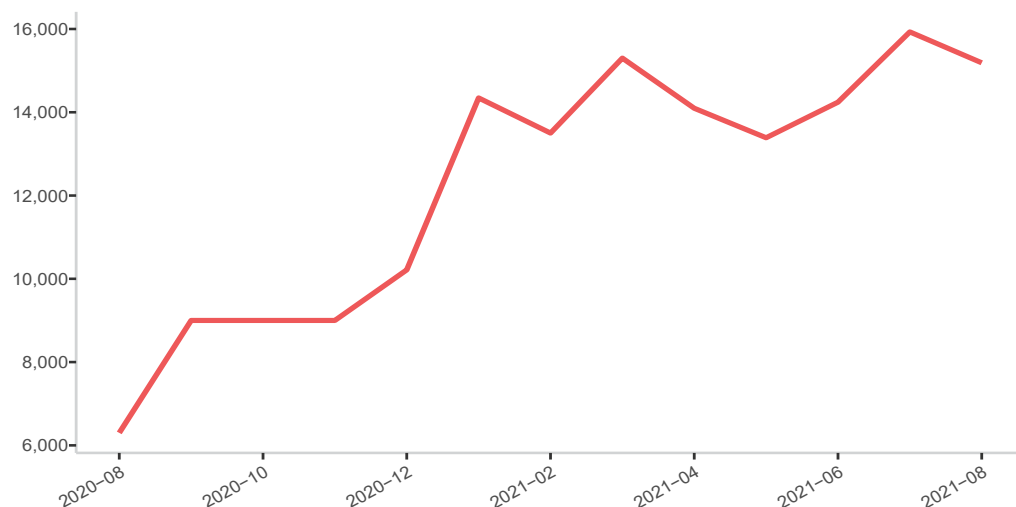
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICE

4,500L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Water	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	15,188	9%	13%
Abu Qalqal**	11,925	-15%	129%
Ain al Arab	8,550	-31%	-37%
Al-Hasakeh	24,525	9%	36%
Al-Malikiyyeh**	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah**	NA	NA	NA
Amuda**	NA	NA	NA
Areesheh	24,525	0%	40%
Ar-Raqqa	16,875	-6%	50%
Be'r Al-Hulo	11,250	-41%	-41%
Al-Wardeyyeh	11,250	-41%	-41%
Ein Issa	9,000	245%	335%
Hajin	6,300	0%	-53%
Hole	25,245	2%	21%
Jawadiyah**	NA	NA	NA
Jurneyyah**	NA	NA	NA

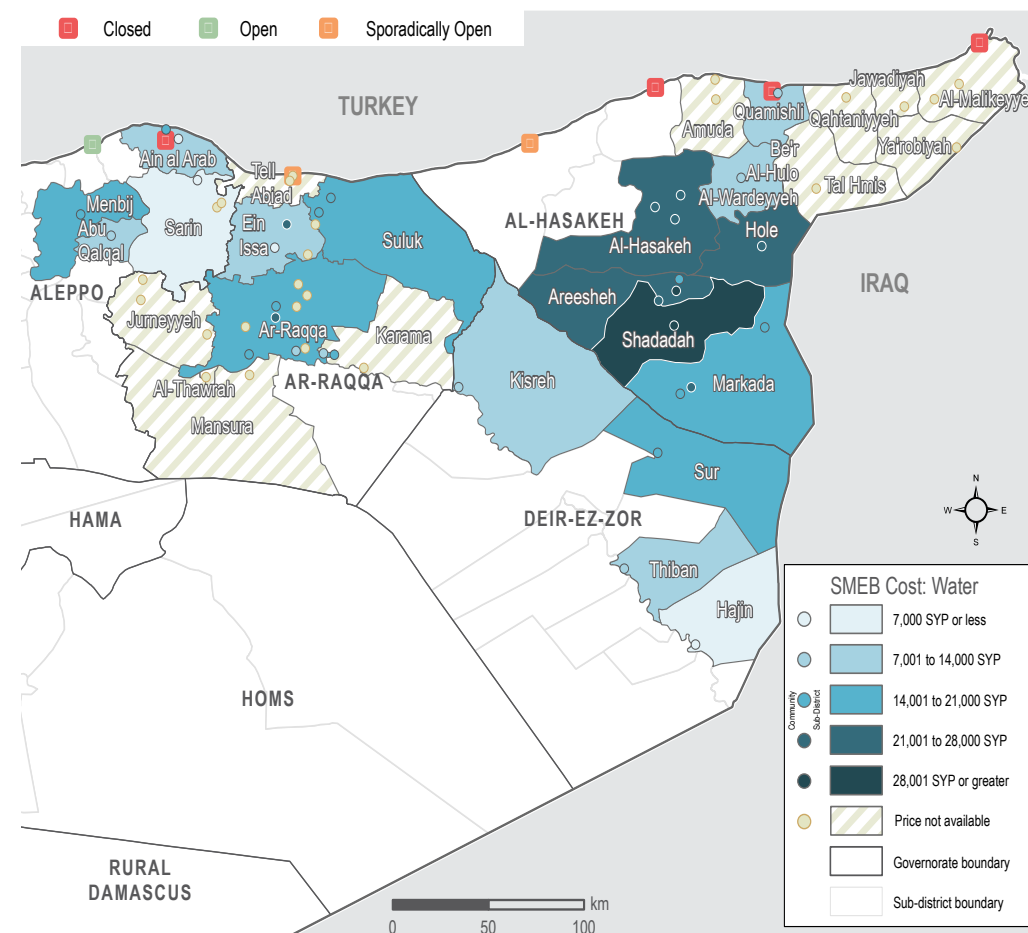
MEDIAN SMEB WATER TRUCKING COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB WATER TRUCKING COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



Water trucking prices varied greatly across NES in August:

- Al-Hasakeh: 24,525 SYP
- Ar-Raqqa: 16,875 SYP
- Deir-Ez-Zor: 11,250 SYP
- Aleppo NE: 10,238 SYP

NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: HYGIENE ITEMS

MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' PRICE

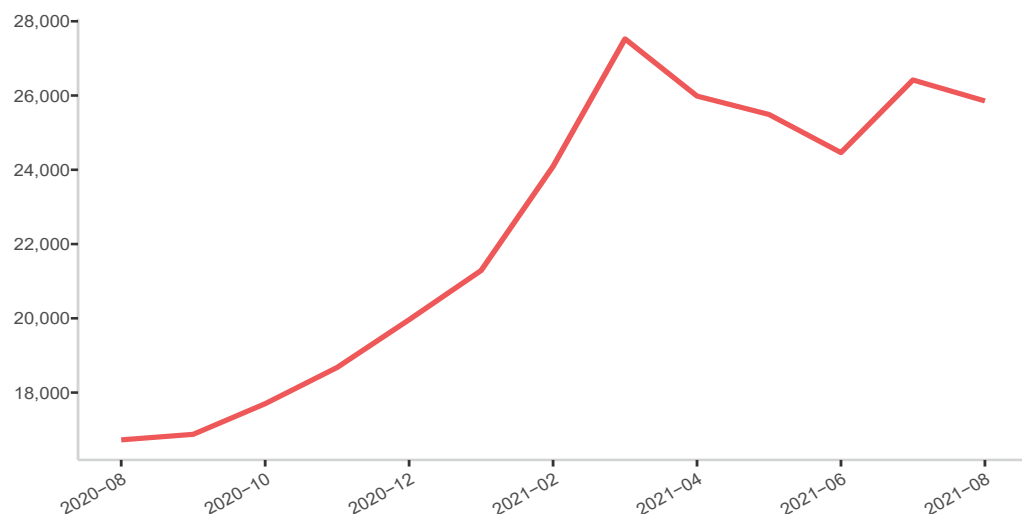
12 bars of soap, 4 packs of 10 sanitary pads, 3kg of laundry/dish soap, 200g of toothpaste, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene Items	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	25,854	-2%	7%
Abu Qalqal	23,161	4%	32%
Ain al Arab	24,825	5%	1%
Al-Hasakeh	26,980	2%	24%
Al-Malikeyyeh	24,626	-13%	12%
Al-Thawrah	18,676	-29%	-16%
Amuda	32,671	9%	19%
Areesheh	28,584	21%	44%
Ar-Raqqa	24,900	-4%	4%
Be'r Al-Hulo	25,675	-14%	37%
Al-Wardeyyeh	25,675	-14%	37%
Ein Issa	26,245	-7%	4%
Hajin	31,250	2%	8%
Hole	22,899	-8%	NA
Jawadiyah	26,500	-6%	-10%
Jurneyyeh	26,808	0%	9%

Sub-district	SMEB Hygiene Items	One month change	Six month change
Karama	24,925	12%	-2%
Kisreh	30,200	11%	30%
Mansura	25,424	7%	3%
Markada	25,650	4%	12%
Menbij	22,712	6%	22%
Qahtaniyyeh**	21,950	-4%	26%
Quamishli	25,854	-4%	-6%
Sarin	26,512	16%	9%
Shadadah	23,400	0%	8%
Suluk	NA	NA	NA
Sur	30,300	1%	48%
Tal Hmis	32,203	7%	20%
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA
Thiban	28,550	8%	11%
Ya'robiyah	27,820	-8%	8%

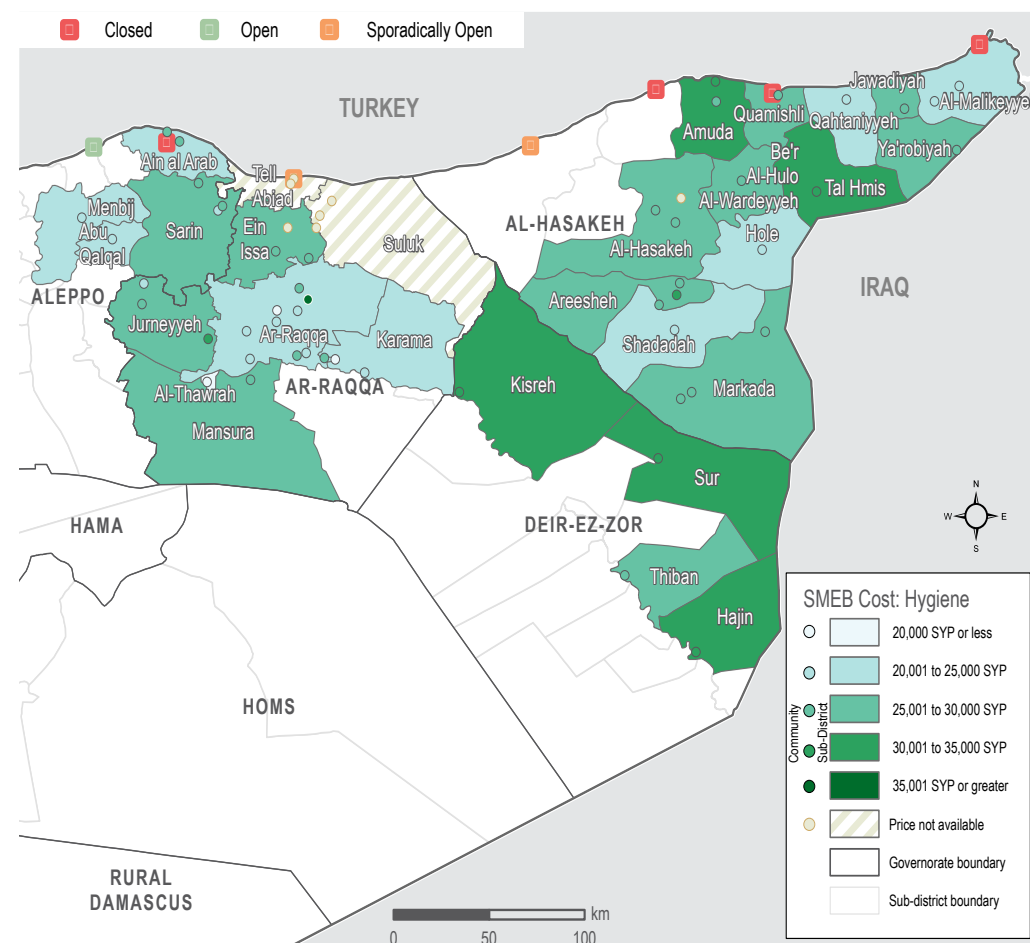
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: PHONE DATA

MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA PRICE

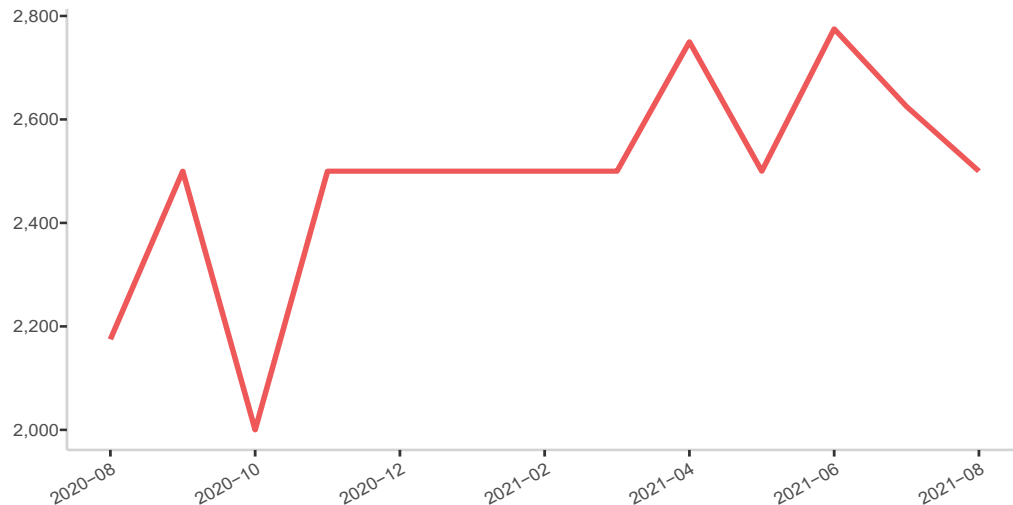
1GB data, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Data	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	2,500	-9%	0%
Abu Qalqal**	9,779	9%	63%
Ain al Arab	5,000	0%	0%
Al-Hasakeh	2,800	-7%	-7%
Al-Malikeyyeh	1,000	-33%	60%
Al-Thawrah	2,200	-55%	-54%
Amuda	1,262	-26%	-50%
Areesheh	3,000	0%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	2,500	0%	4%
Be'r Al-Hulo	1,750	-46%	17%
Al-Wardeyyeh	1,750	-46%	17%
Ein Issa	2,250	-10%	-10%
Hajin	2,200	0%	-4%
Hole	3,600	9%	13%
Jawadiyah	900	0%	44%
Jurneyyeh	2,000	-27%	-33%

Sub-district	SMEB Data	One month change	Six month change
Karama	1,536	0%	0%
Kisreh	2,500	0%	0%
Mansura	3,800	52%	-21%
Markada	3,500	0%	9%
Menbij	9,500	5%	78%
Qahtaniyyeh	2,000	0%	33%
Quamishli	1,750	-30%	-30%
Sarin	2,500	-71%	-19%
Shadadah	1,138	0%	78%
Suluk	3,686	5%	NA
Sur**	4,000	14%	421%
Tal Hmis**	3,000	0%	50%
Tell Abiad	3,891	4%	NA
Thiban	2,500	0%	0%
Ya'robriyah	1,300	0%	-48%

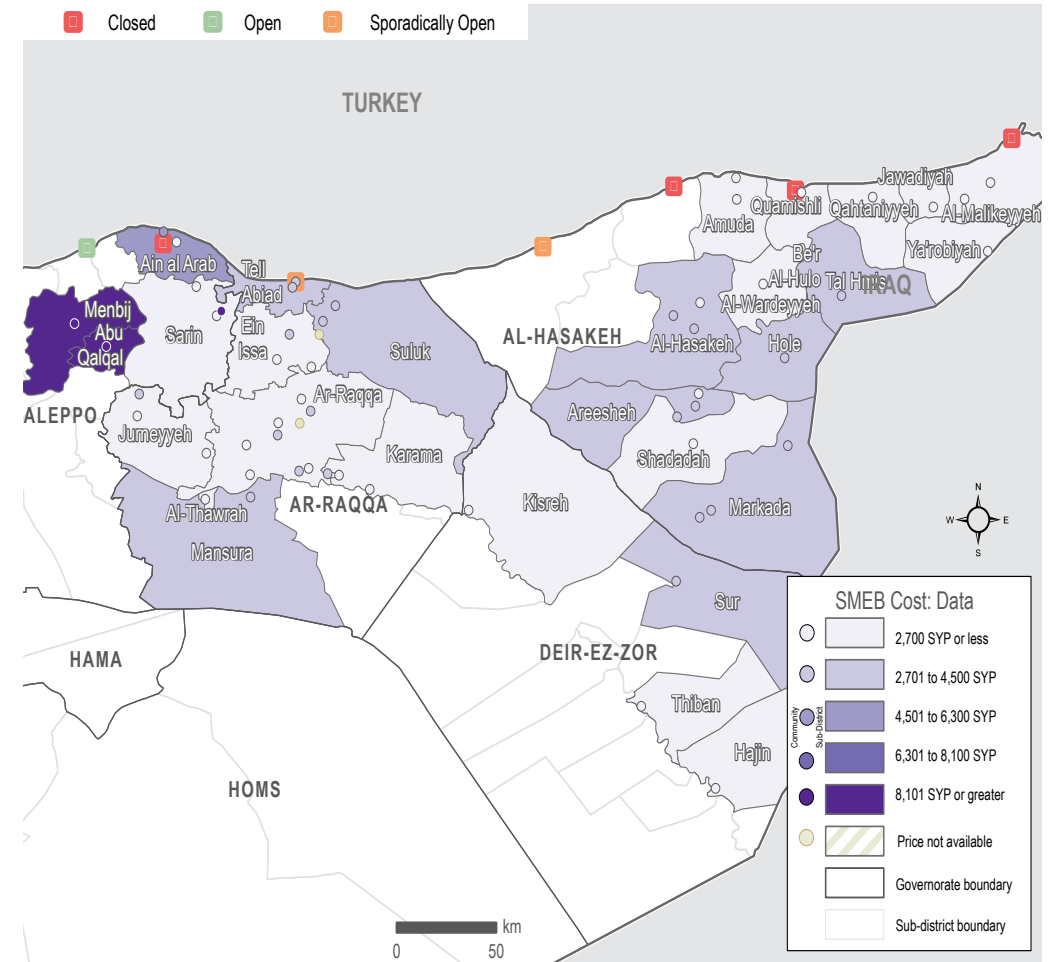
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST

Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



NORTHEAST SYRIA - SMEB COST: COOKING FUEL

MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL PRICE

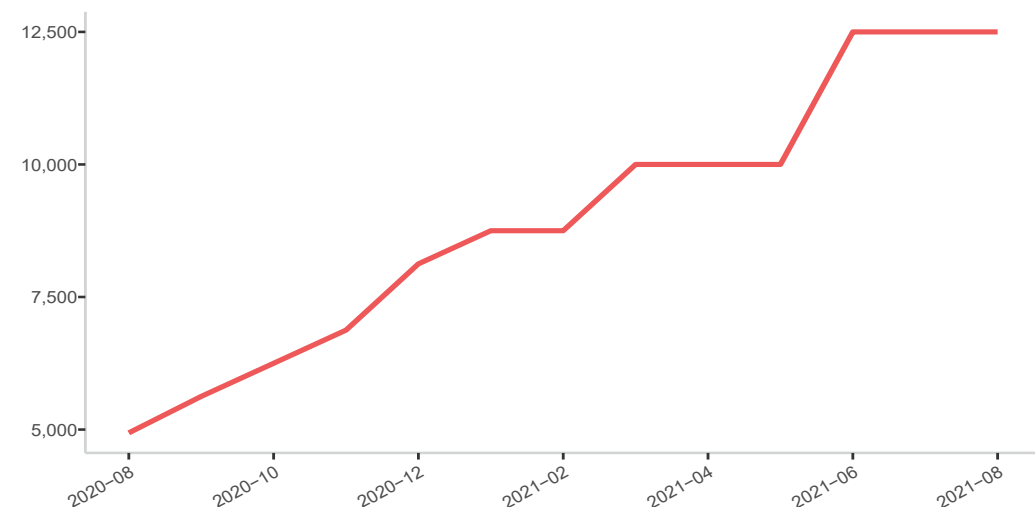
Kerosene 25L, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria	12,500	0%	43%
Abu Qalqal**	3,125	0%	0%
Ain al Arab*	3,500	0%	0%
Al-Hasakeh	12,500	0%	43%
Al-Malikeyyeh*	3,500	-69%	12%
Al-Thawrah	17,500	8%	17%
Amuda**	2,500	0%	0%
Areesheh	12,500	0%	43%
Ar-Raqqa	17,500	0%	27%
Be'r Al-Hulo	12,500	0%	43%
Al-Wardeyyeh*	12,500	0%	43%
Ein Issa	30,000	23%	100%
Hajin**	11,250	-10%	-27%
Hole**	3,375	NA	35%
Jawadiyah**	12,500	0%	82%
Jurneyyeh	17,500	0%	60%

Sub-district	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Karama*	12,500	-5%	11%
Kisreh	12,500	0%	0%
Mansura	16,250	-7%	8%
Markada*	12,500	0%	0%
Menbij	3,125	0%	0%
Qahtaniyyeh**	12,500	0%	300%
Quamishli*	12,500	22%	67%
Sarin**	2,500	0%	NA
Shadadah*	10,125	59%	-10%
Suluk	45,000	20%	NA
Sur*	12,500	-17%	25%
Tal Hmis*	15,000	0%	100%
Tal Tamer*	2,500	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	44,375	18%	NA
Thiban	12,500	-17%	-17%
Ya'robiyah**	3,125	-9%	0%

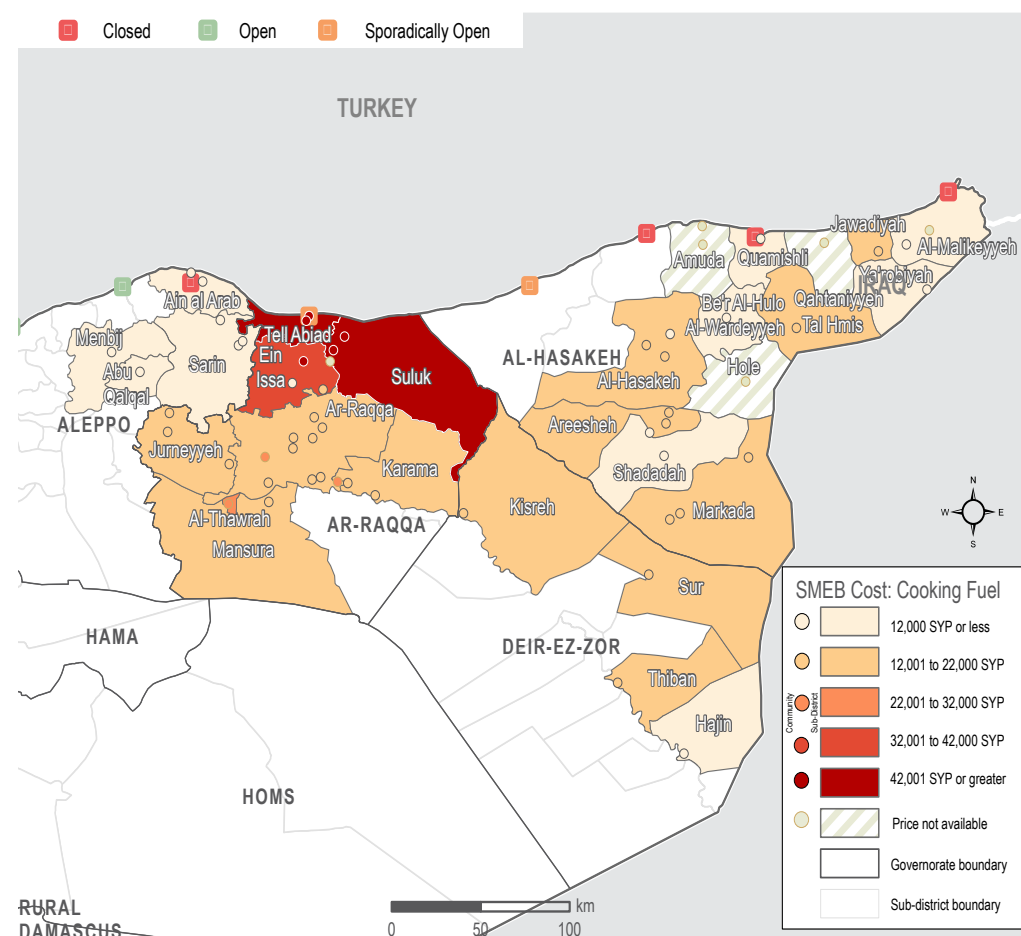
MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds



SMEB COOKING FUEL COST

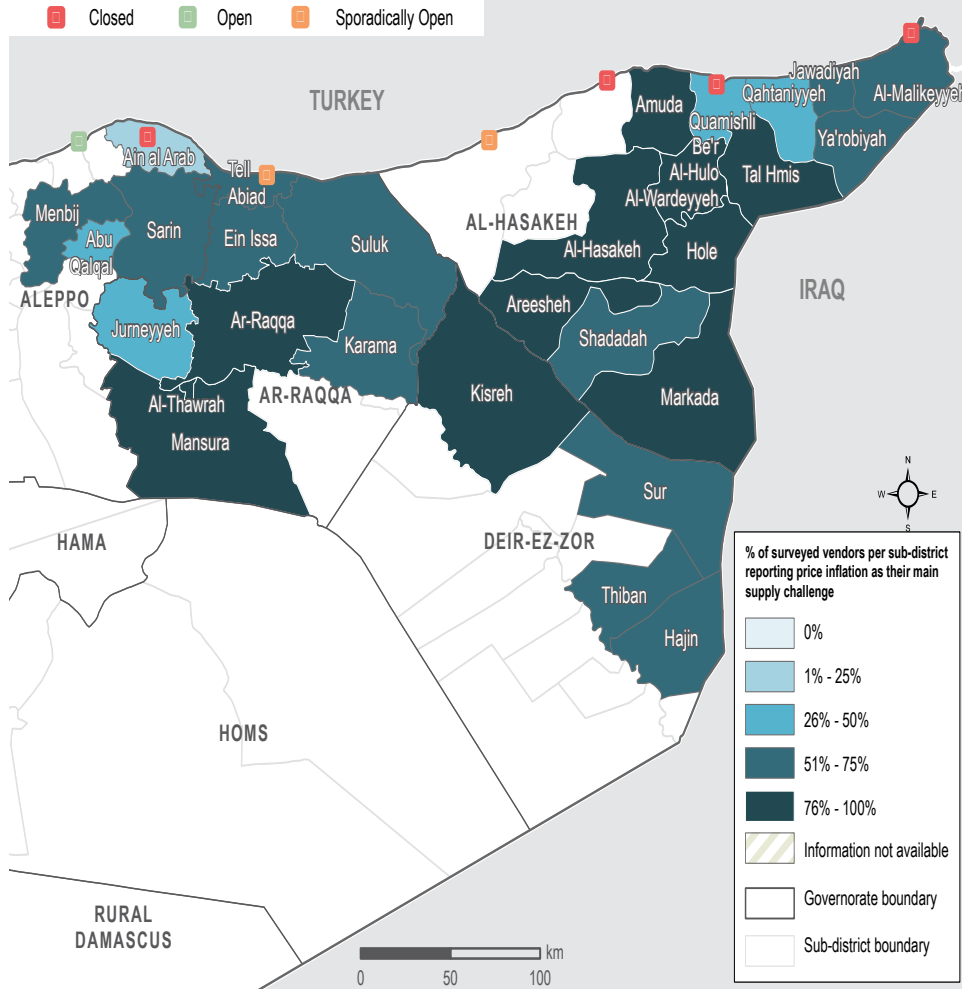
Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



NORTHEAST SYRIA - MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

SUPPLY CHALLENGES - PRICE INFLATION

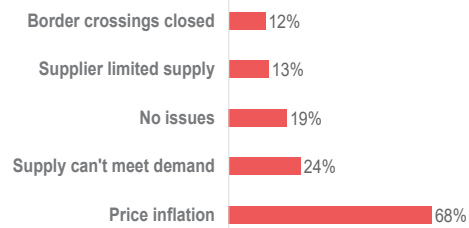
Sub-districts



SUPPLY CHALLENGES (SEE FIGURE 1)

Total surveyed vendors: 1,491
 % of vendors who reported facing supply challenges: 81%
 One month change for % of vendors who reported facing supply challenges: **increase of 1 pp**
 Most reported supply challenge: Price inflation 68% (see map, left)
 One month change for % of vendors who reported facing price inflation: **increase of 6 pp**

Figure 1: Most commonly reported supply challenges by all surveyed vendors (1,491 respondents)



RESTOCKING (SEE FIGURE 2)

Number of surveyed vendors who were asked **if they would be unable to restock** if they were to run out of supplies: 1,491
 Surveyed vendors reporting that they would be unable to restock if they were to run out of supplies: 14 shops = 0.9% of all surveyed shops.
 One month change for restocking: **no change (0 pp)**
 Surveyed vendors were asked **after how many days** they would hypothetically run out of stock if supply lines were to be cut:
 Less than 3 days: 46%
 One month change for less than 3 days: **no change (0 pp)**

Across shop types, surveyed water trucking vendors (92%), vegetable vendors (88%) and butchers (82%) most commonly reported that they would run out in less than 3 days if unable to restock.

Most notably, 100% of water trucking vendors in Ar-Raqqa, Deir-Ez-Zor and Northeast Aleppo governorate reported that they would run out of supply in less than 3 days if supply lines were cut, followed by 84% of water trucking vendors in Al-Hasakeh.

Figure 2: Reported number of days before all types of vendors would hypothetically run out of stock, if supply lines were to be cut (1,491 respondents)



AVAILABILITY OF USD BANKNOTES

Informal currency exchange vendors were asked about their stock levels for USD banknotes of different denominations.
 Surveyed currency vendors: 149
 Surveyed vendors reporting having limited stock of one or more USD denomination: 100%
 One month change for limited stock of one or more USD denomination: **increase of 1%**
 The majority of surveyed vendors reported having a limited stock of all denominations of USD banknotes above 1 USD.
 See [August 2021 dataset](#) for full USD denomination availability.

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

Total surveyed vendors: 1,499
 Surveyed vendors reported shop closure: 10 shops = 0.7% of all surveyed shops.
 8 of these 10 closed shops were in Al-Hasakeh, and 2 in Ar-Raqqa.
 One month change for number of closed shops: **1 percentage point (pp)**

NORTHEAST SYRIA - COVID-19



MEDIAN PRICE OF COVID-19 ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

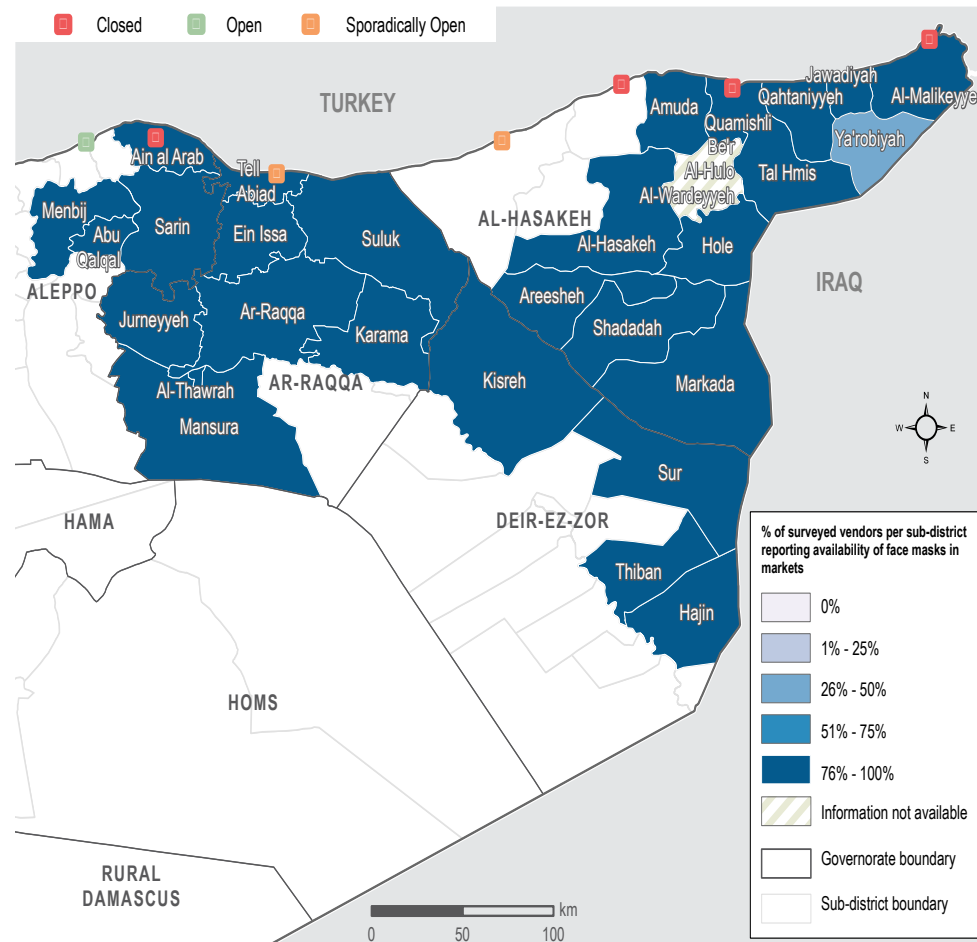
Sub-district	Face mask (1 piece)	Plastic gloves (box of 100)	Sterile alcohol (1 litre)	Hand sanitiser (500 ml)	Bottled bleach (1 litre)	Trash bags (roll of 30)
Northeast Syria	400	25,000	10,000	5,917	1,688	3,563
Abu Qalqal	400	24,000	8,000	7,500	1,600	3,500
Ain al Arab	350	28,500	7,500	5,000	1,500	4,000
Al-Hasakeh	500	25,000	11,000	6,000	1,500	5,100
Al-Malikeyyeh	300	25,000	12,000	3,500	1,838	NA
Al-Thawrah	110	22,500	15,000	9,167	1,100	3,700
Amuda	300	18,000	12,500	9,166	1,688	6,000
Areesheh	500	25,000	11,000	500	2,000	3,500
Ar-Raqqa	400	25,000	10,000	5,300	1,800	3,500
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardey	400	23,000	12,000	2,500	2,500	3,000
Ein Issa	400	29,000	10,000	7,892	2,000	3,500
Hajin	300	20,000	7,000	6,500	2,800	4,600
Hole	500	23,750	1,625	7,000	1,700	3,750
Jawadiyah	300	22,000	11,000	7,200	1,500	NA
Jurneyyeh	500	27,000	13,000	3,100	1,600	2,700
Karama	250	26,000	15,000	3,700	1,500	5,000
Kisreh	500	25,000	8,000	8,000	1,500	3,500
Mansura	500	35,000	10,000	3,500	2,000	4,000
Markada	500	25,000	16,000	5,833	2,000	NA
Menbij	400	24,000	8,000	7,500	1,700	3,625
Qahtaniyyeh	250	20,000	10,000	5,000	1,650	3,200
Quamishli	400	23,500	12,000	3,250	2,500	3,000
Sarin	250	27,500	10,000	5,400	1,500	3,400
Shadadah	300	25,000	10,000	5,000	1,000	3,500
Suluk	500	40,000	2,500	NA	1,500	NA
Sur	500	27,000	16,000	5,833	2,000	5,000
Tal Hmis	500	33,000	3,125	6,500	4,375	NA
Tell Abiad	500	40,000	2,500	12,500	1,650	NA
Thiban	500	28,500	7,500	8,000	2,000	4,500
Ya'robayah	400	18,000	8,000	6,000	1,400	NA
Ya'robayah	400	20,000	7,500	5,000	NA	NA

Prices in **bold** refer to COVID items where median prices rely on less than 3 observations.



AVAILABILITY OF FACE MASKS

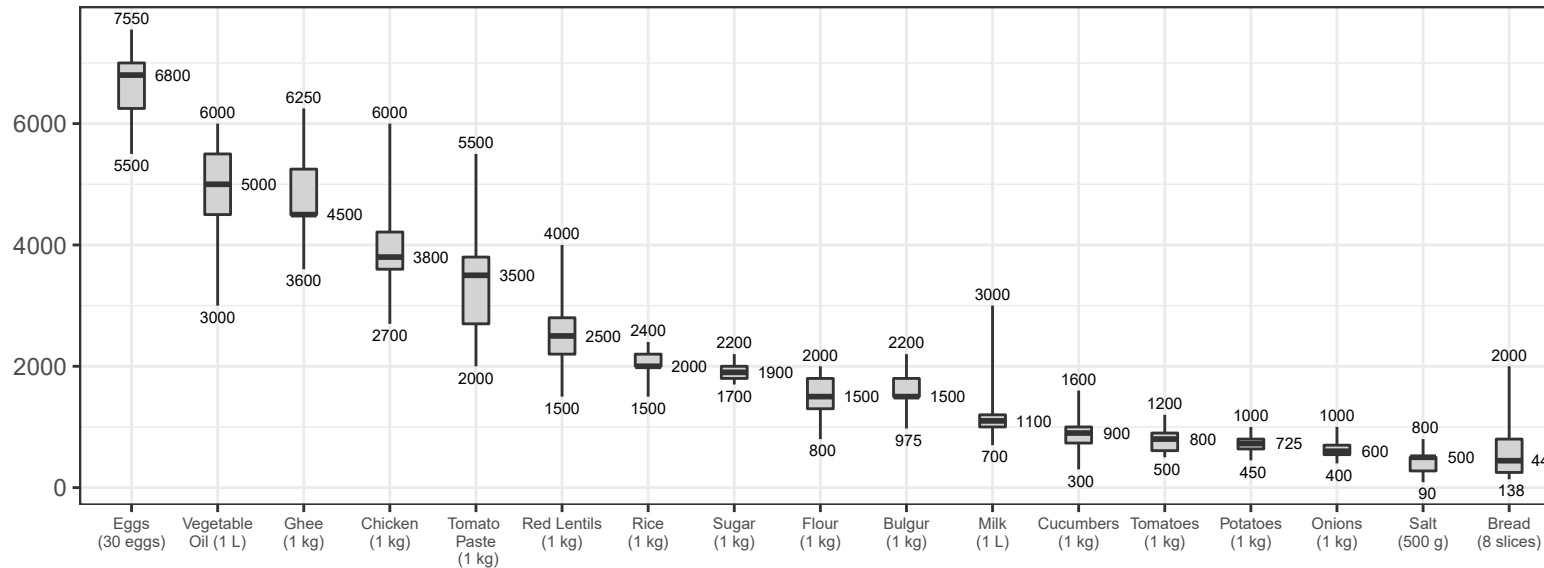
Northeast Syria



NORTHEAST SYRIA - DISTRIBUTION OF PRICES

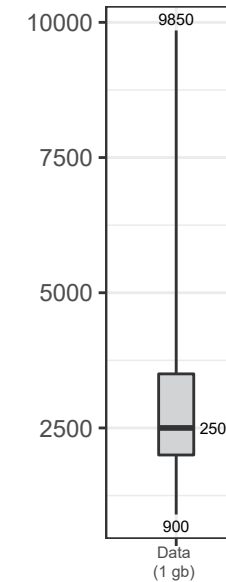
ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



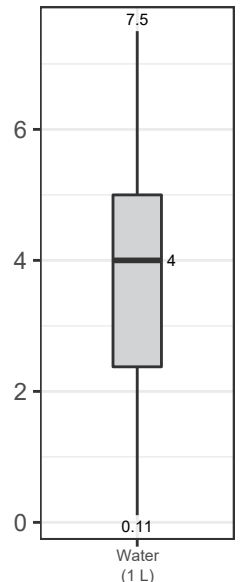
CELLPHONE DATA

Syrian Pounds



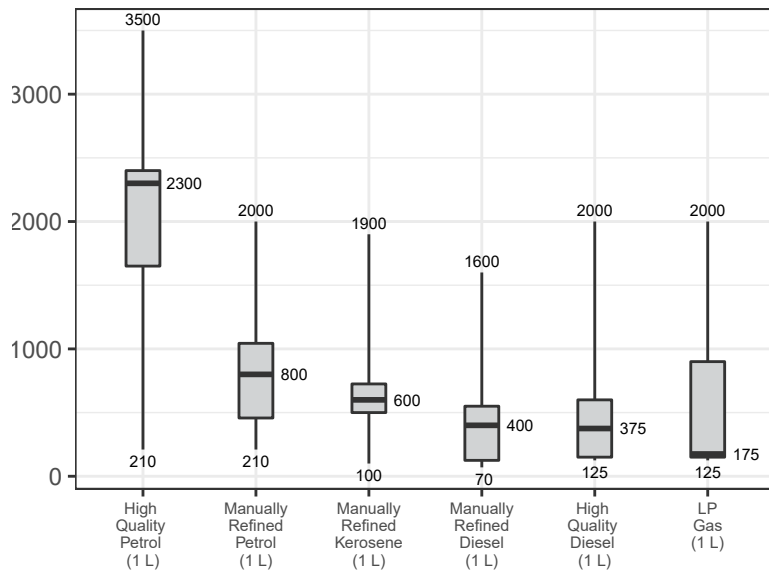
WATER TRUCKING

Syrian Pounds



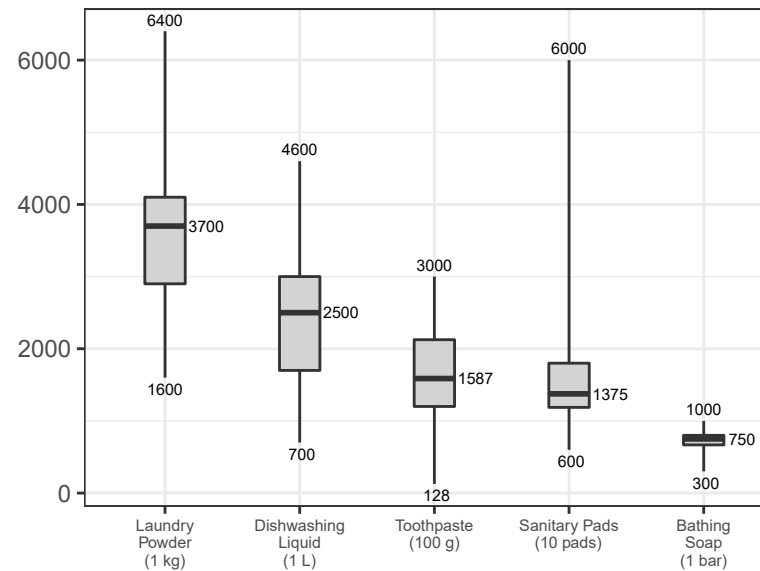
ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

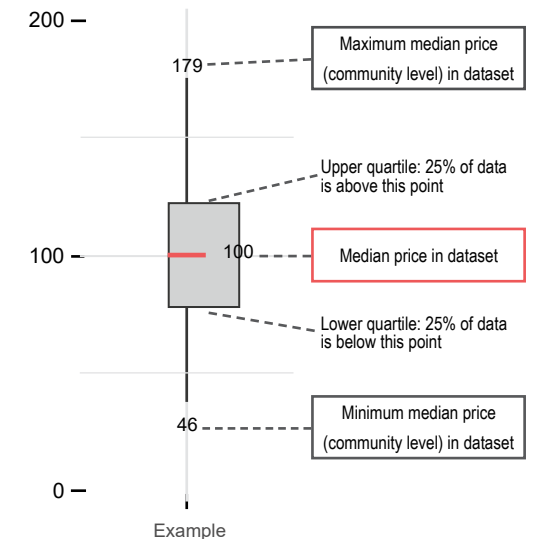


ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

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 community/neighbourhood, 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 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'

The regional figures are calculated by taking the medians of the minimum-reported prices of a region's sub-districts. In turn, the sub-district medians are calculated using the Market Monitoring base-data.

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 2](#). 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 December 2020 greatly increased (from 9 assessed sub-districts to 29 assessed sub-districts).

Challenges and limitations

As the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise currently includes 26 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. Since this exercise collects data directly from vendors and relies on partner organisations 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 works with Cash Working Groups and Partners to provide up-to-date evidence to inform the humanitarian responses in the countries where we operate. COVID-19-relevant market monitoring and market assessments is 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.