

NORTHEAST SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE

Snapshot: 6-13 January 2020

Cash-Based Responses
Technical Working Group

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

INTRODUCTION

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

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

Data was collected this month (between 6-13 January 2020) by IRC, PIN, and Concern.

The accompanying [data from the month of January](#) 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

Similar to the Market Monitoring Exercise in December 2019, this month's coverage in NES was limited, covering a total of 9 sub-districts: Ain al Arab, Al-Malikeyye, Al-Thawrah, Ar-Raqqa, Jawadiyah, Kisreh, Mansura, Menbij, and Qahtaniyyeh. Due to limited coverage this month, findings and price comparisons are presented at the community level throughout this output. Dotted lines in the graphs indicate lack of data for the months of October and November 2019.

UN cross border resolution

After the previous cross-border resolution expired on 10 January, [the UN Security Council passed a limited extension to authorise the provision of humanitarian aid through two border crossings](#). Authorisation for two additional crossings, al-Ramtha and al-Yaroubiyah, was dropped. REACH will continue to monitor any

reported changes to markets in the coming months. REACH relies on data from OCHA to map border crossing status, and these changes are not yet reflected in the most recent dataset. Consequently, the border statuses shown on REACH maps in this output are accurate as of November 2019 and may not reflect the current reality on the ground.

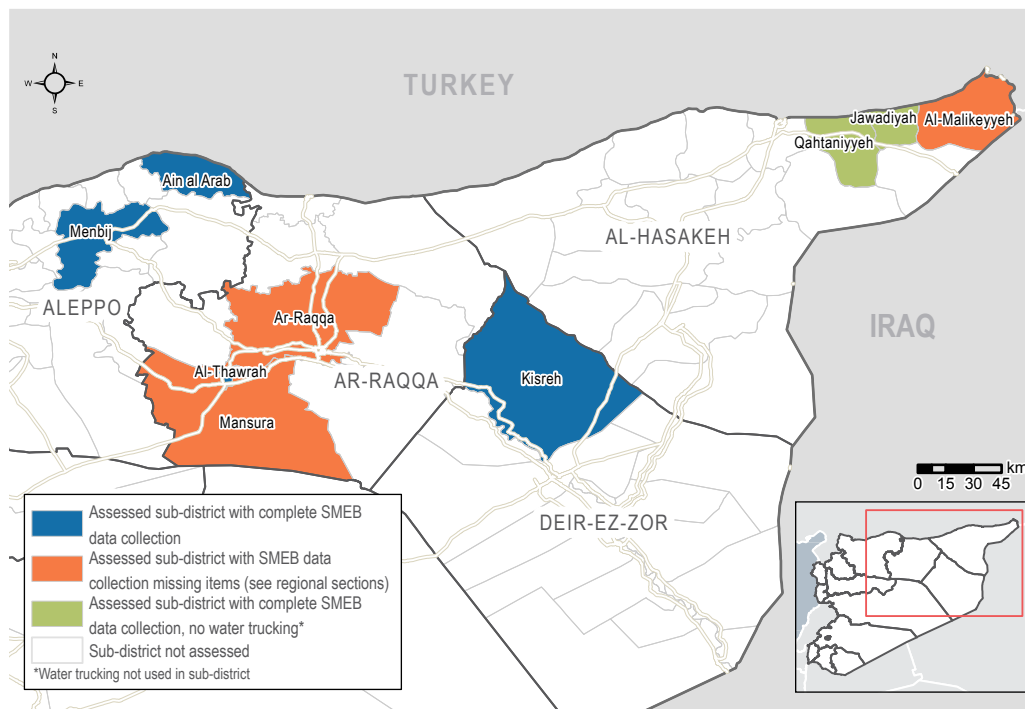
Continued depreciation of the SYP against the USD

The unofficial exchange rate of the Syrian Pound (SYP) against the United States Dollar (USD) continued its depreciation. In the assessed sub-districts in NES, the median exchange rate reached 954 SYP per USD during the week of data collection in January 2020. Reasons for the depreciation of the SYP are manifold, including the continued [financial crisis in neighbouring Lebanon and economic sanctions on Syria](#).

SMEB cost increased across assessed communities

The regional median SMEB cost in SYP continued to increase in January to 104,079 SYP, which represents a 9% increase from the December 2019 Market Monitoring Exercise (95,467 SYP) and a 30% increase since September 2019 (79,648 SYP). However, the SMEB cost in USD continued to decrease due to the depreciation of the SYP, from 131 USD in September 2019 to 111 USD in December 2019, and then to 109 USD in January 2020.

ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE

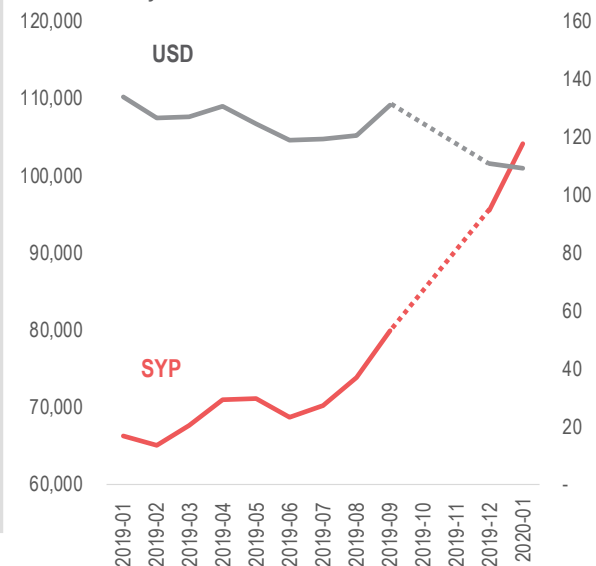


MEDIAN SMEB COST IN SYP (USD), BY REGION

104,079 SYP
(109 USD)
NORTHEAST SYRIA - AL-HASAKEH,
AL-RAQQA, DEIR-EZ-ZOR,
EASTERN ALEPPO GOVERNORATES

MEDIAN SMEB COSTS, BY MONTH

Thousand Syrian Pounds and US Dollars



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

104,079 SYP
(109 USD)

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

SMEB food component increased

At a regional level, the price of the SMEB food component overall increased by 15% in SYP between December 2019 and January 2020. The highest increase was recorded in Jawadiyah community (Jawadiyah sub-district), where the SMEB food component increased by 29% from 64,035 SYP in December 2019 to 82,775 SYP in January 2020.

SMEB hygiene component increase varied across communities

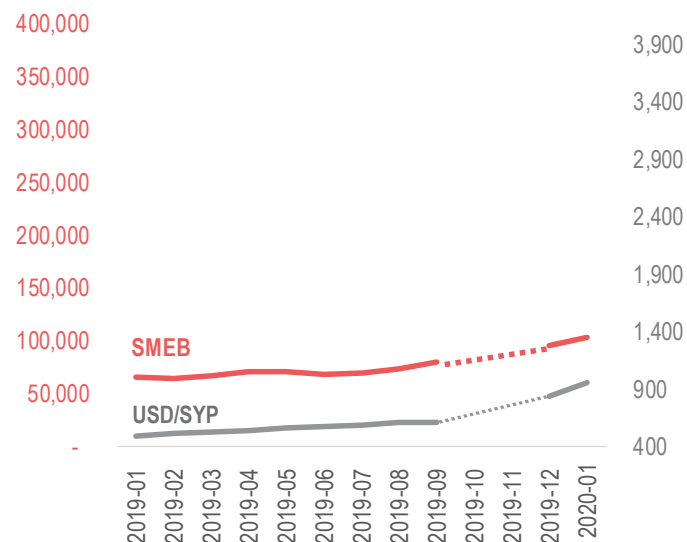
The SMEB NFI component increased with a variation across comparable communities. Between December 2019 and January 2020, the largest increases were reported in Al-Malikeyyeh and Qahtaniyyeh communities located in Al-Hasakeh governorate, where the SMEB NFI component increased by 124% and 114%, respectively. On the other hand, in the community of Ain Al Arab in Aleppo governorate, the SMEB NFI only increased by 1% since December 2019.

More specifically, the prices of sanitary pads increased considerably in Menbij community with a reported increase of 400%, and in Quahtaniyyeh community with an increase of 350%.

Winterisation items available but expensive

Winterisation items monitored by the Market Monitoring Exercise were widely available across the assessed communities in NES, with the exception of heaters which were reportedly unavailable in Jawadiyah, and plastic sheets that were reportedly unavailable in Al-Malikeyyeh and Jawadiyah. The Market Monitoring Exercise in January 2020 found a high price volatility among winterisation items by governorate. For example, manually refined kerosene increased overall by 33% in the comparable communities since December 2019 and was reported the highest in Al-Thawrah and Mansura communities in Ar-Raqqa governorate, which reached 250 and 240 SYP in January 2020, respectively. However, in

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



MEDIAN SMEB COSTS & CHANGES*

Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	Community	SMEB	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria		104,079	9%	48%
Ain al Arab	Ain Al Arab	91,915	4%	42%
Al-Malikeyyeh	Al-Malikeyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	Hassaniyeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	Al-Thawrah	105,218	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa	Tishrine	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	Hamra	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	Jawadiyah**	113,036	NA	73%
Jawadiyah	Shabak	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	Ali	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	Jazaret	99,978	NA	21%
Kisreh	Kasra	96,976	NA	50%
Mansura	Mansura	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	Asaliyeh	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	Menbij	101,695	-1%	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	Bayandur	NA	NA	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	Hilweh	NA	NA	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	Qahtaniyyeh**	132,620	NA	92%
Qahtaniyyeh	Tanuriyeh	NA	NA	NA

* For price and change calculations, only the communities within a sub-district with consistent coverage across months are included.

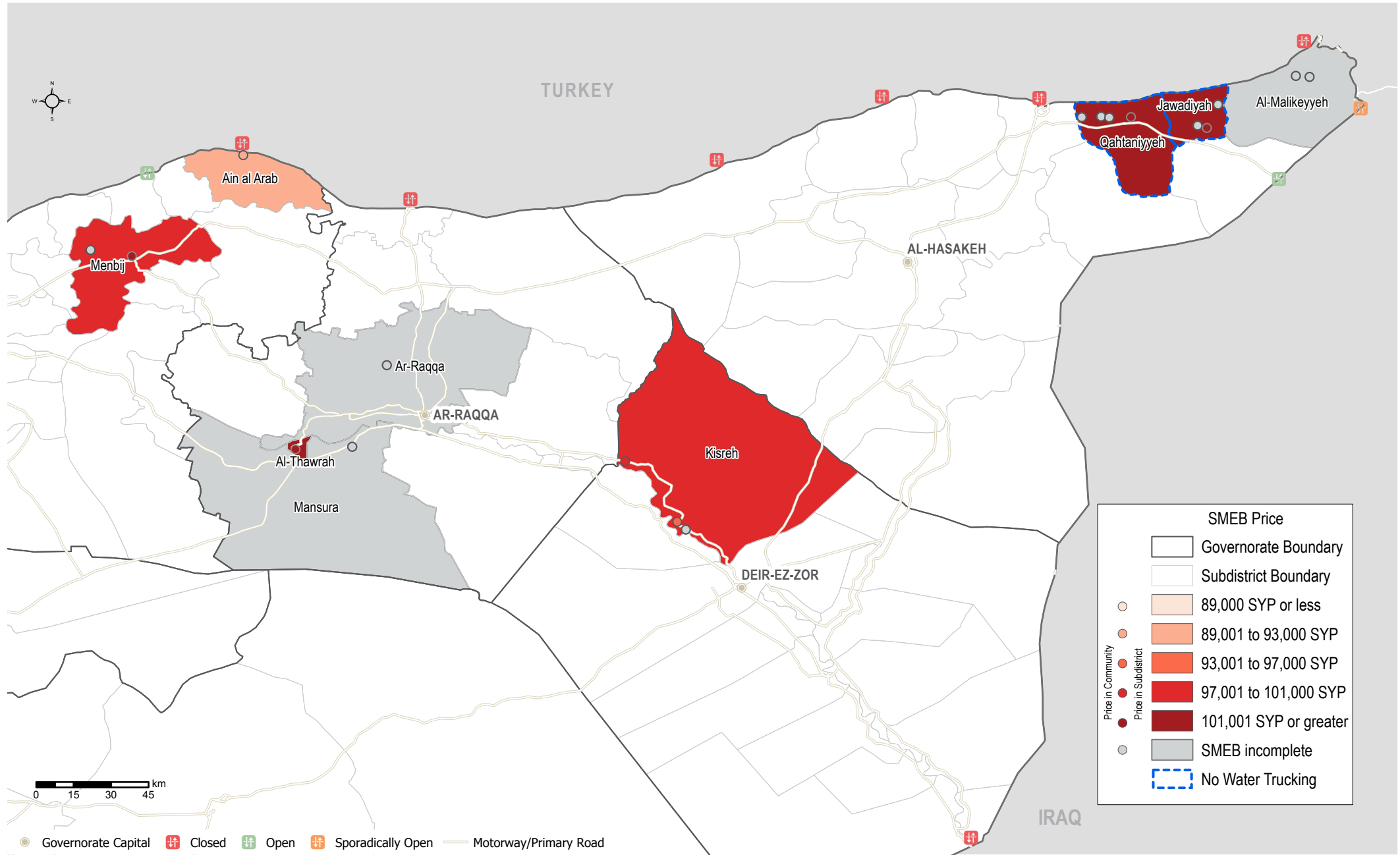
** Denotes sub-districts where water trucking is not common, and therefore does not have water trucking prices in the SMEB cost

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

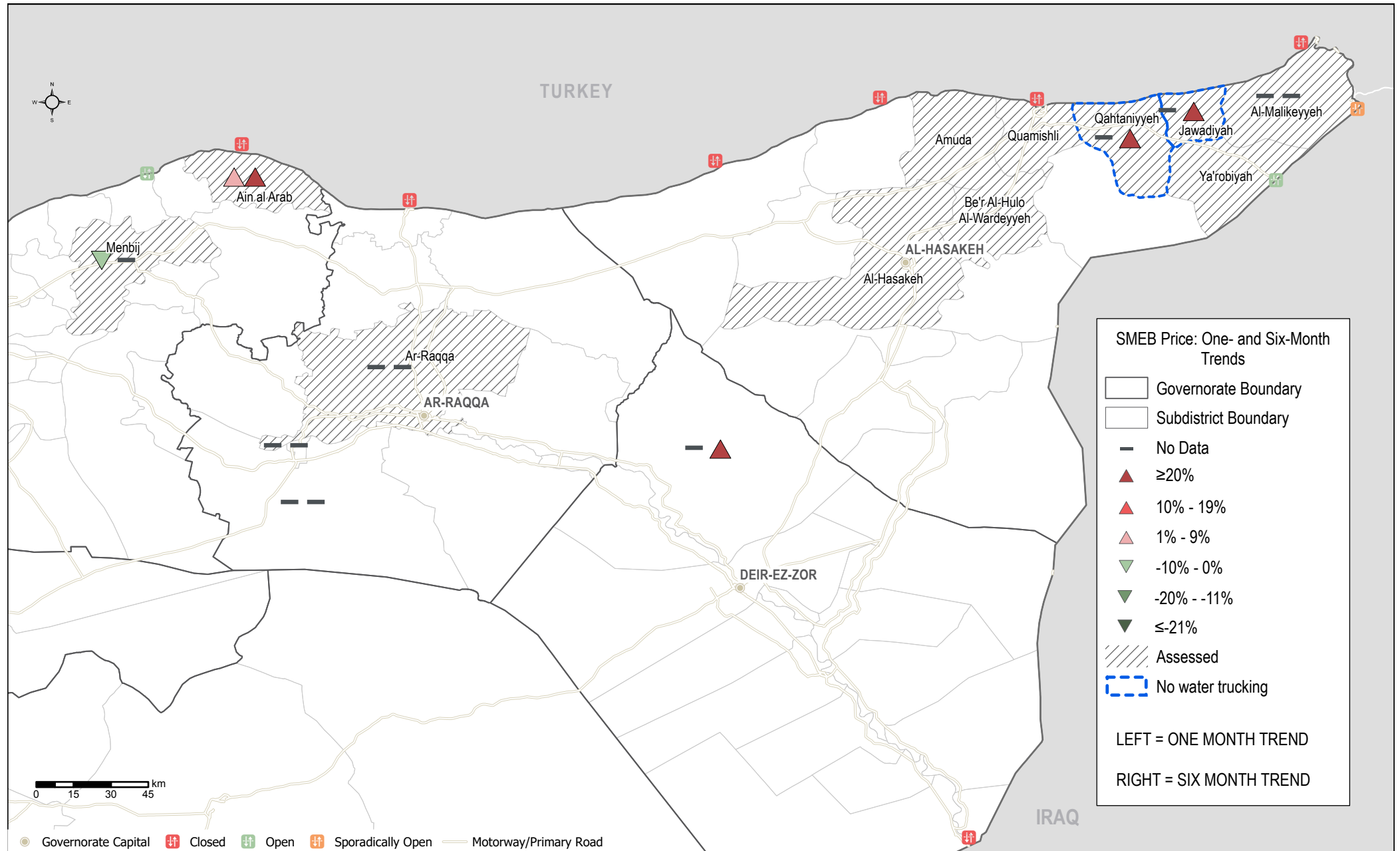
COMMUNITIES WITH INCOMPLETE SMEB IN JANUARY

Ali, Al Malikeyyeh, Asaliyeh, Beyandur, Hamra, Hassaniyeh, Hilweh, Jawadiyah, Mansura, Qahtaniyyeh, Shabak, Tanuriyeh, Tishrine.

SMEB COST RANGES (SYP), BY SUB-DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES



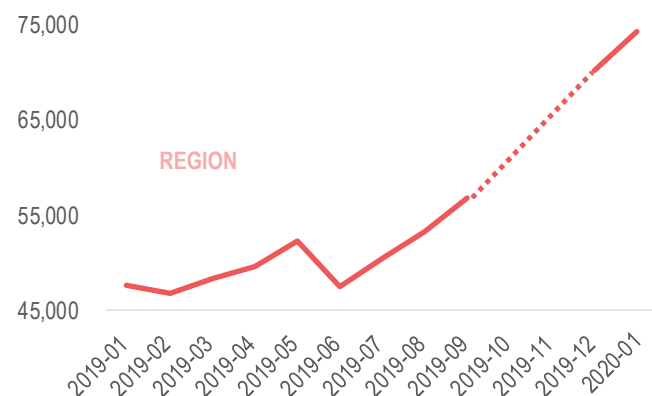
SMEB COST: ONE MONTH & SIX MONTHS TREND



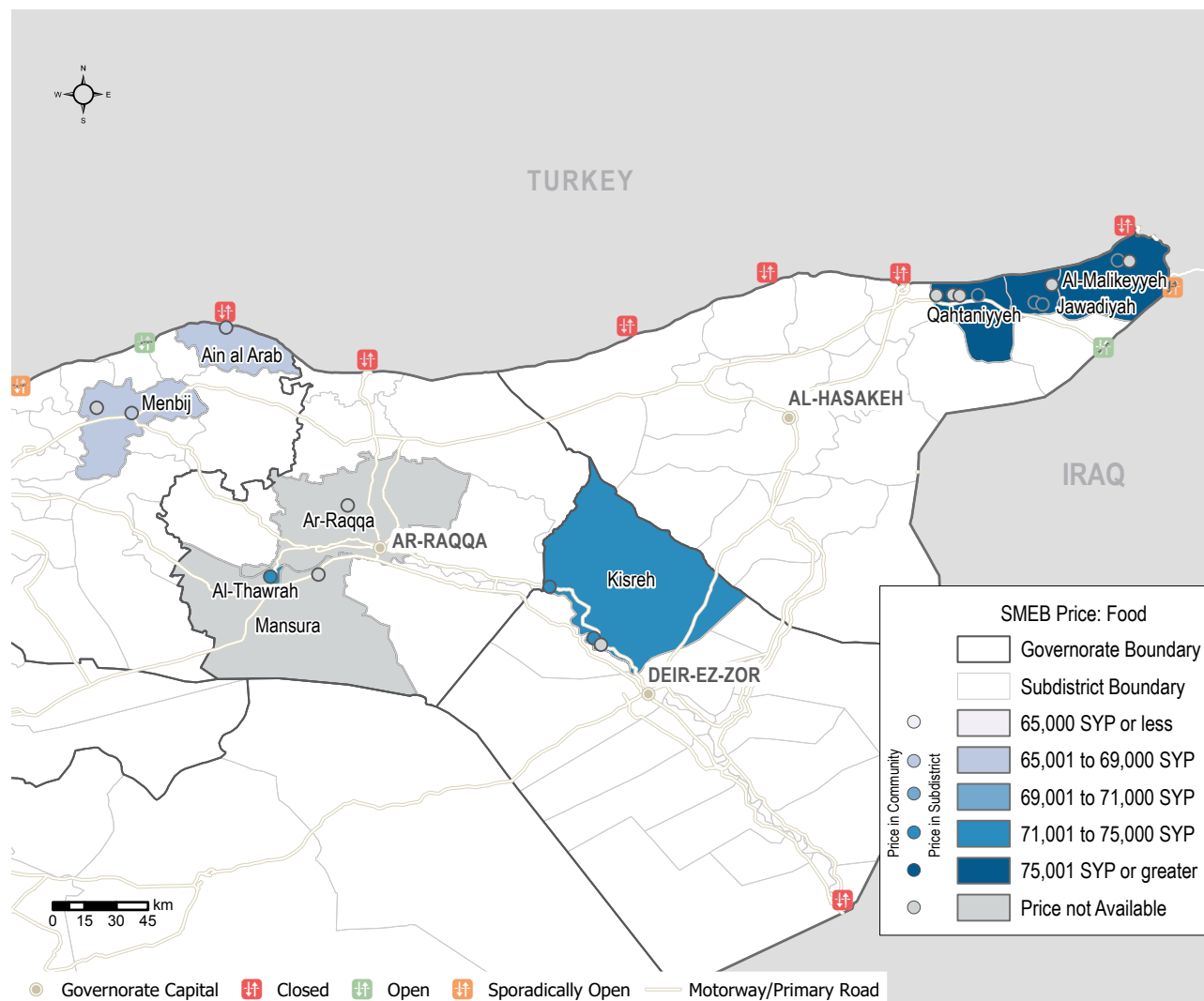
MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS See Page 1, Syrian Pounds

Sub-district	Community	SMEB Food	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria		74,291	15%	40%
Ain al Arab	Ain Al Arab	67,803	5%	49%
Al-Malikeyyeh	Al-Malikeyyeh	82,450	1%	37%
Al-Malikeyyeh	Hassaniyeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	Al-Thawrah	72,400	NA	34%
Ar-Raqqqa	Tishrine	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	Hamra	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	Jawadiyah	82,775	29%	58%
Jawadiyah	Shabak	82,800	NA	NA
Kisreh	Ali	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	Jazaret	74,250	NA	39%
Kisreh	Kasra	74,333	NA	55%
Mansura	Mansura	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	Asaliyeh	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	Menbij	68,500	-5%	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	Bayandur	NA	NA	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	Hilweh	NA	NA	NA
Qahtaniyyeh	Qahtaniyyeh	105,050	NA	85%
Qahtaniyyeh	Tanuriyeh	NA	NA	NA

MEDIAN SMEB COST: FOOD ITEMS, BY MONTH Syrian Pounds



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



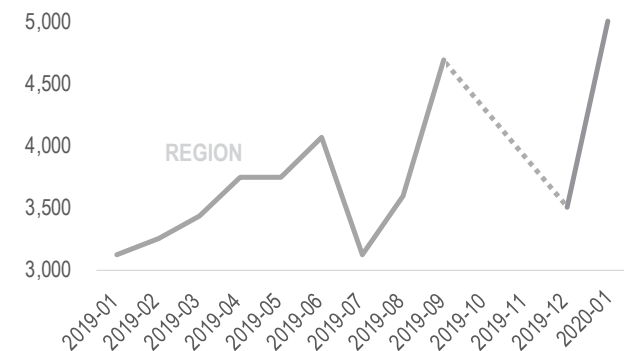
MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL PRICE

Kerosene 25L, Syrian Pounds

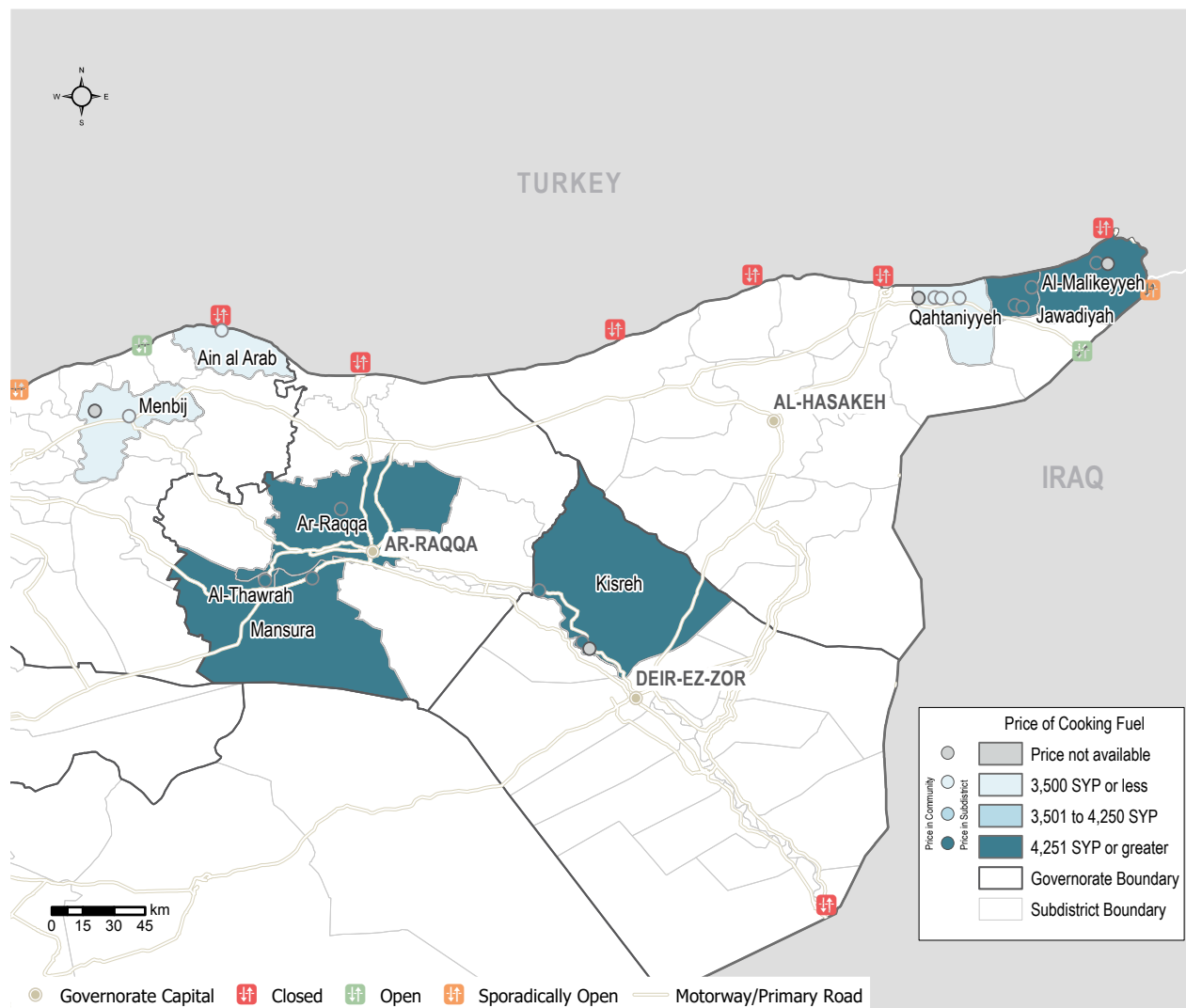
Sub-district	Community	SMEB Cooking Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria		5,000	60%	28%
Ain al Arab	Ain Al Arab	3000	0%	0%
Al-Malikeyyeh	Al-Malikeyyeh	5000	0%	14%
Al-Malikeyyeh	Hassaniyeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	Al-Thawrah	6250	NA	0%
Ar-Raqqqa	Tishrine	6000	NA	20%
Jawadiyah	Hamra	5000	60%	NA
Jawadiyah	Jawadiyah	5625	NA	70%
Jawadiyah	Shabak	5000	NA	NA
Kisreh	Ali	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	Jazaret	5000	NA	14%
Kisreh	Kasra	5000	NA	100%
Mansura	Mansura	6000	NA	7%
Menbij	Asaliyeh	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	Menbij	3000	-4%	NA
Qahtaniyeh	Bayandur	3125	NA	NA
Qahtaniyeh	Hilweh	3125	NA	NA
Qahtaniyeh	Qahtaniyeh	3125	NA	0%
Qahtaniyeh	Tanuriyeh	NA	NA	NA

MEDIAN SMEB COOKING FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Syrian Pounds



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



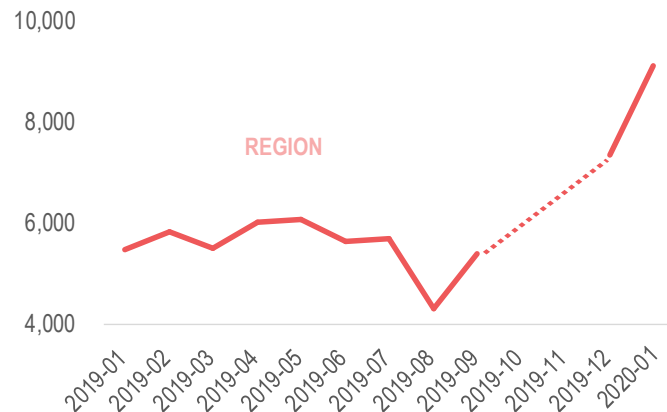
MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' PRICE

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

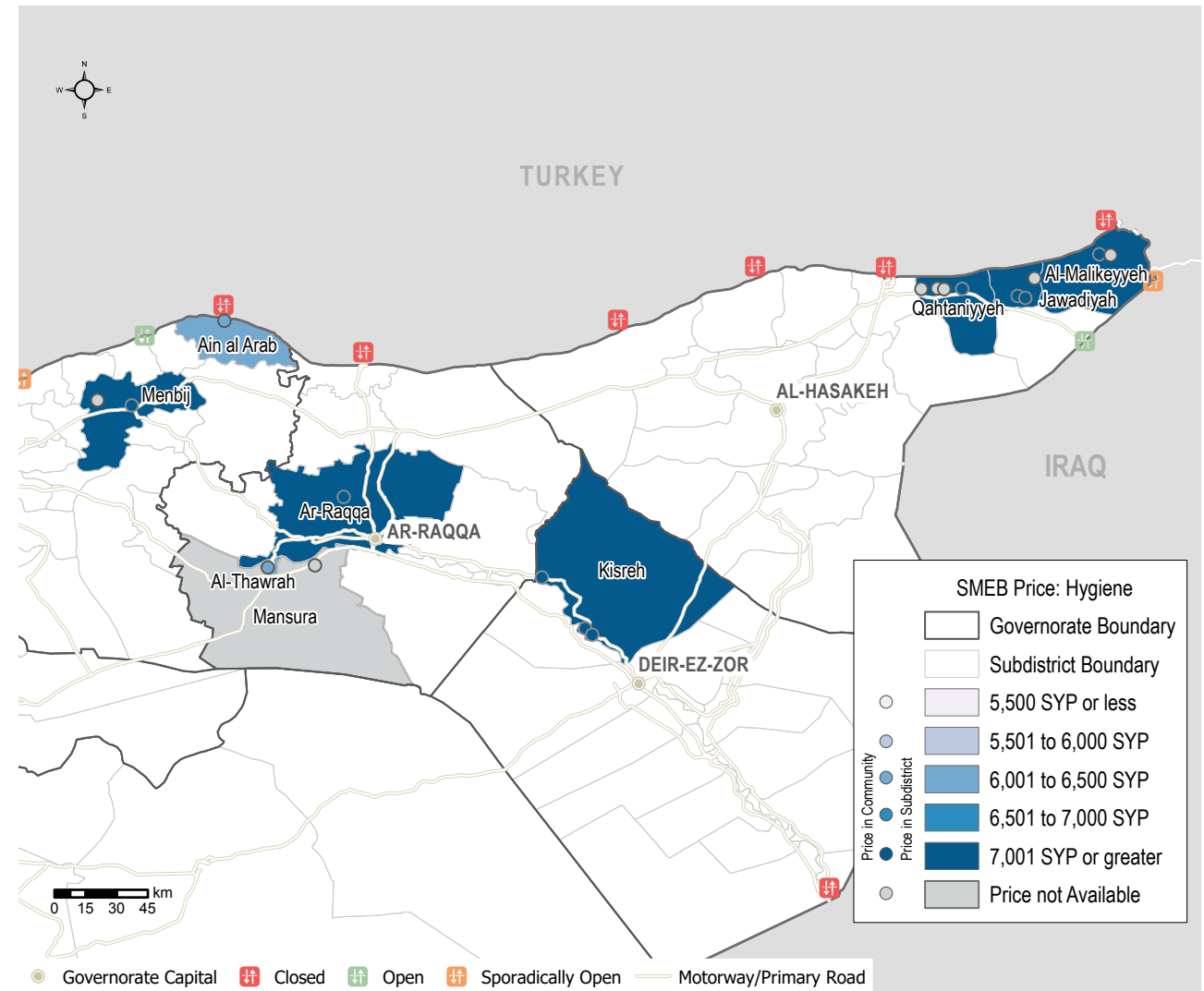
Sub-district	Community	SMEB Hygiene	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria		9,287	48%	94%
Ain al Arab	Ain Al Arab	6,263	1%	9%
Al-Malikeyyeh	Al-Malikeyyeh	11,650	124%	135%
Al-Malikeyyeh	Hassaniyeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	Al-Thawrah	6,477	NA	93%
Ar-Raqqqa	Tishrine	9,450	NA	42%
Jawadiyah	Hamra	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	Jawadiyah	8,750	39%	89%
Jawadiyah	Shabak	9,500	NA	NA
Kisreh	Ali	13,600	NA	NA
Kisreh	Jazaret	7,948	NA	25%
Kisreh	Kasra	8,438	NA	139%
Mansura	Mansura	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	Asaliyeh	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	Menbij	11,850	57%	NA
Qahtaniyeh	Bayandur	NA	NA	NA
Qahtaniyeh	Hilweh	NA	NA	NA
Qahtaniyeh	Qahtaniyeh	12,693	114%	218%
Qahtaniyeh	Tanuriyeh	NA	NA	NA

MEDIAN SMEB HYGIENE ITEMS' COSTS, BY MONTH

Syrian Pounds



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



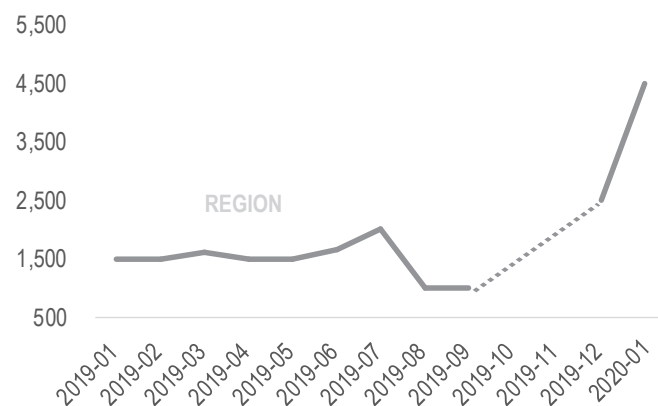
MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA PRICE

1GB data, Syrian Pounds

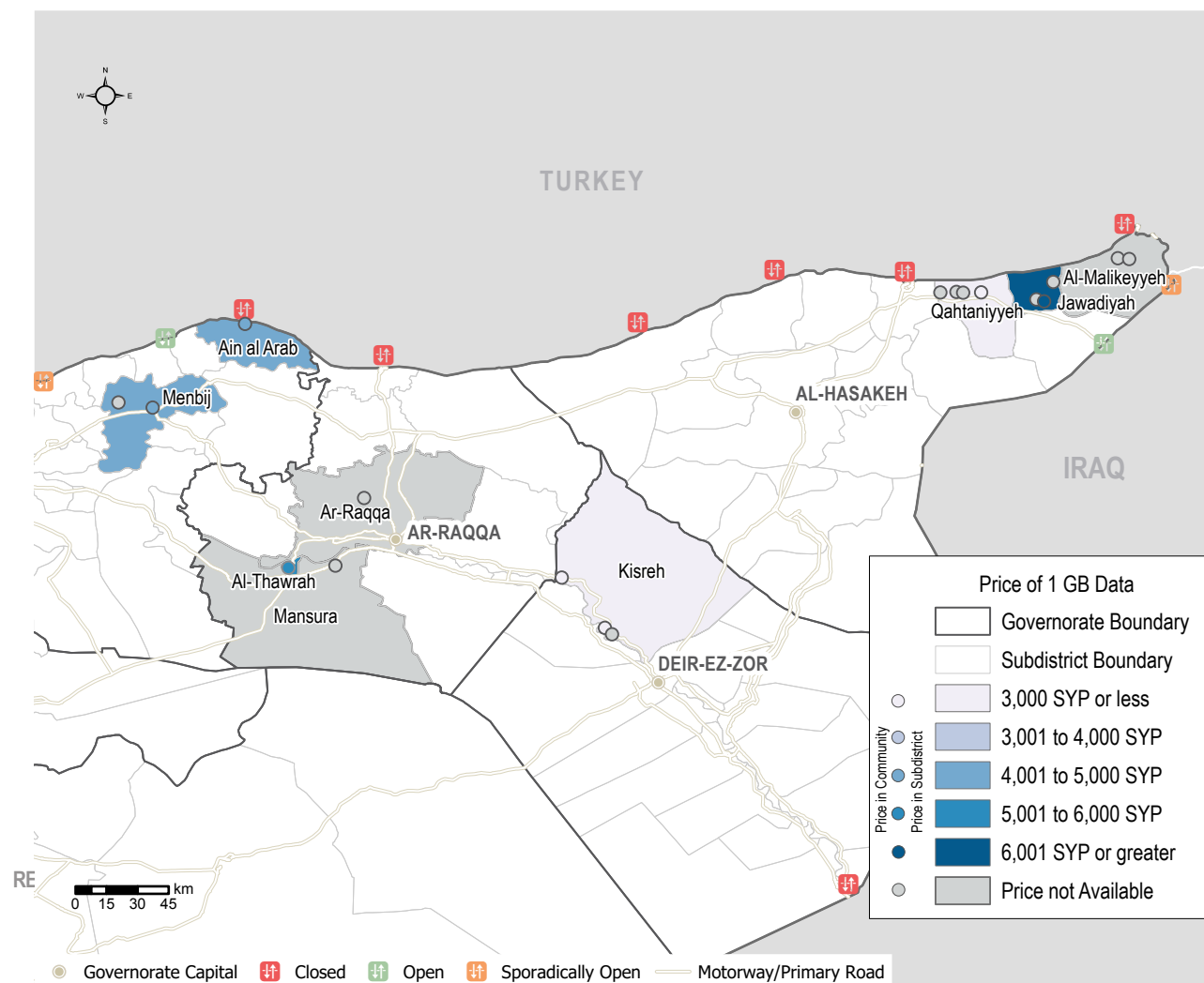
Sub-district	Community	SMEB Data	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria		4,500	0%	400%
Ain al Arab	Ain Al Arab	4,500	0%	61%
Al-Malikeyyeh	Al-Malikeyyeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Malikeyyeh	Hassaniyeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	Al-Thawrah	6,000	NA	200%
Ar-Raqqa	Tishrine	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	Hamra	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	Jawadiyah	8,000	NA	1500%
Jawadiyah	Shabak	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	Ali	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	Jazaret	2,250	NA	50%
Kisreh	Kasra	1,900	NA	-26%
Mansura	Mansura	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	Asaliyeh	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	Menbij	4,500	-36%	NA
Qahtaniyeh	Bayandur	NA	NA	NA
Qahtaniyeh	Hilweh	NA	NA	NA
Qahtaniyeh	Qahtaniyeh	2,500	NA	400%
Qahtaniyeh	Tanuriyeh	NA	NA	NA

MEDIAN SMEB CELLPHONE DATA COST, BY MONTH

Syrian Pounds



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



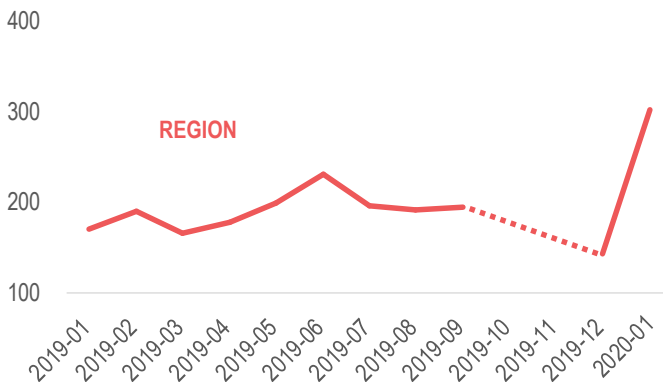
MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL PRICE

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

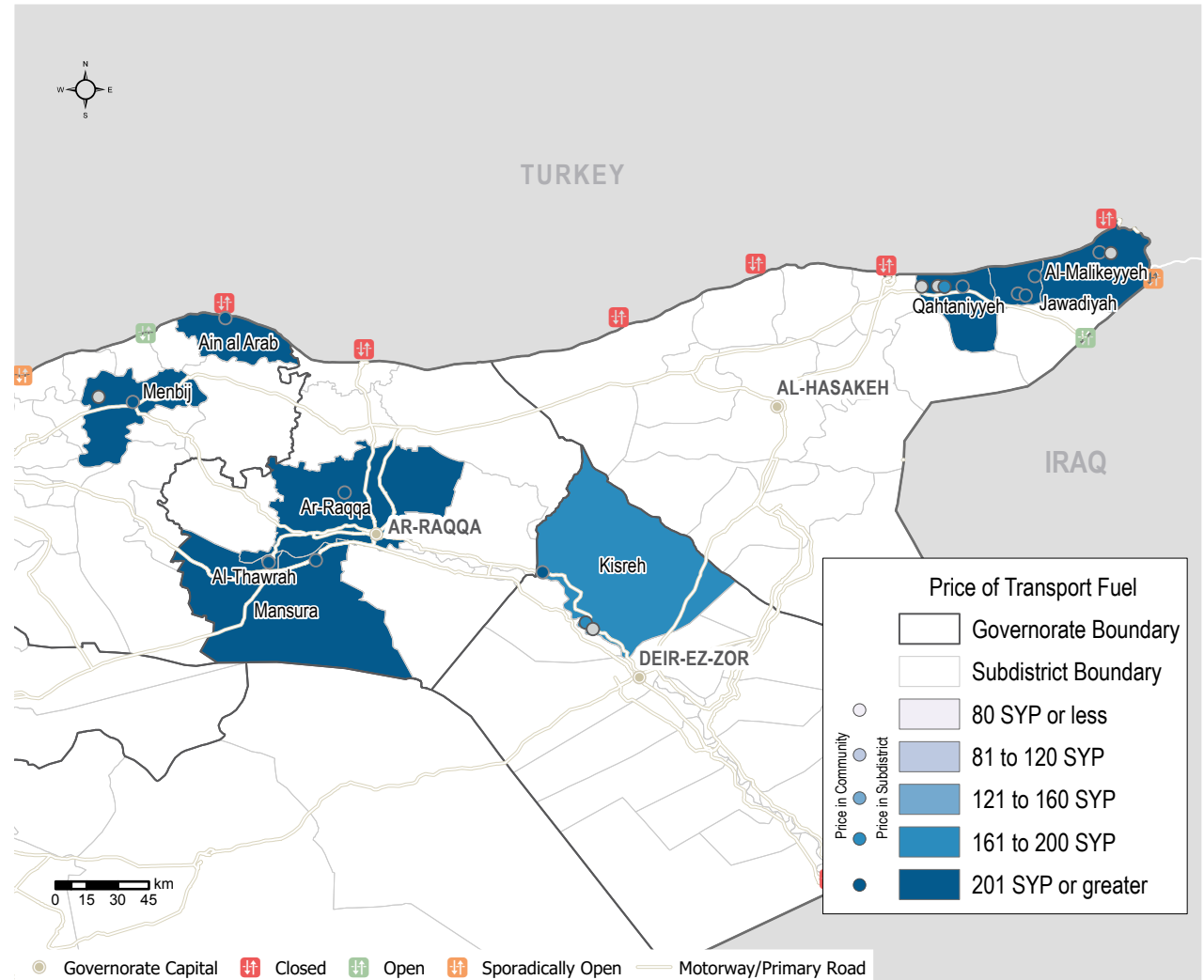
Sub-district	Community	SMEB Fuel	One month change	Six month change
Northeast Syria		303	NA	35%
Ain al Arab	Ain Al Arab	248	42%	37%
Al-Malikeyyeh	Al-Malikeyyeh	257	20%	44%
Al-Malikeyyeh	Hassaniyeh	NA	NA	NA
Al-Thawrah	Al-Thawrah	300	NA	-30%
Ar-Raqqqa	Tishrine	303	NA	21%
Jawadiyah	Hamra	350	NA	NA
Jawadiyah	Jawadiyah	342	NA	92%
Jawadiyah	Shabak	350	NA	NA
Kisreh	Ali	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	Jazaret	214	NA	-22%
Kisreh	Kasra	180	NA	-14%
Mansura	Mansura	303	NA	-29%
Menbij	Asaliyeh	NA	NA	NA
Menbij	Menbij	319	311%	NA
Qahtaniyeh	Bayandur	NA	NA	NA
Qahtaniyeh	Hilweh	168	NA	NA
Qahtaniyeh	Qahtaniyeh	308	NA	48%
Qahtaniyeh	Tanuriyeh	NA	NA	NA

MEDIAN TRANSPORT FUEL COSTS, BY MONTH

Syrian Pounds

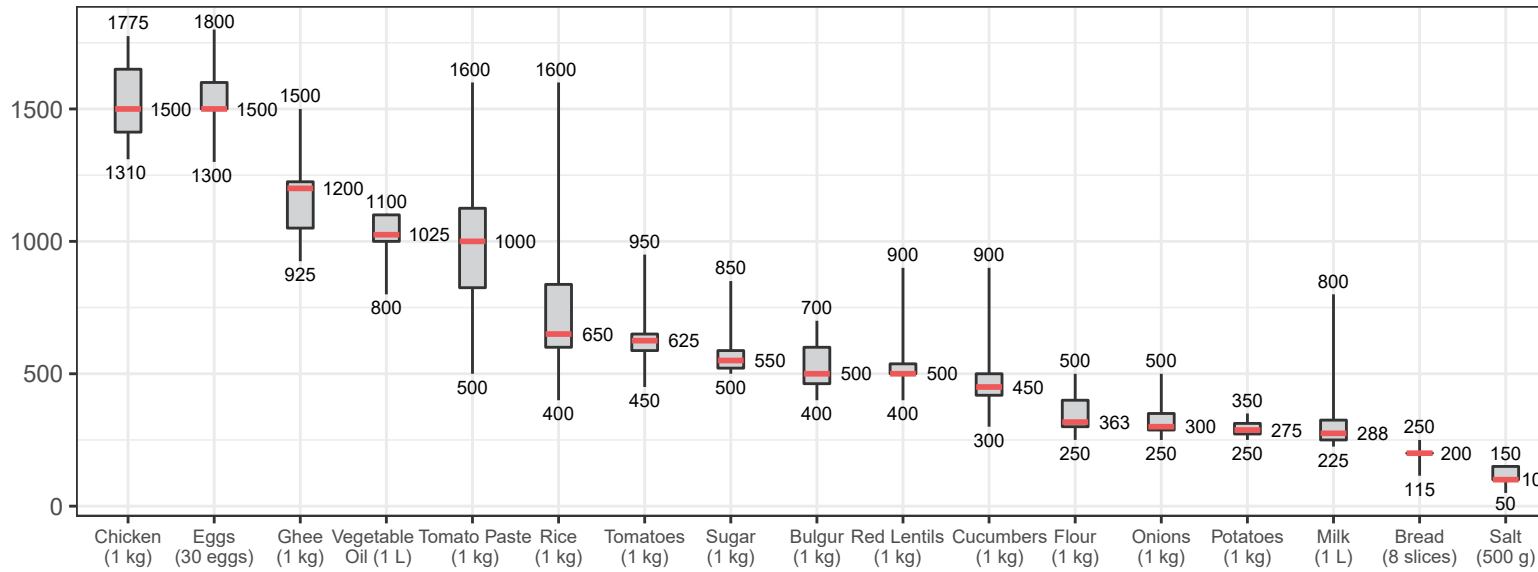


TRANSPORT FUEL COST Sub-districts & Communities, Syrian Pounds



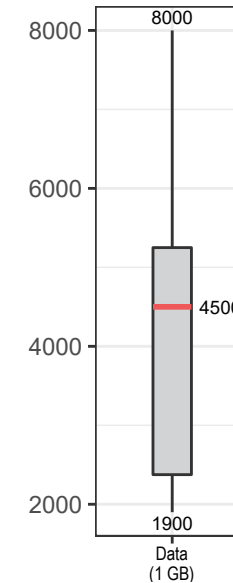
ASSESSED FOOD ITEMS

Syrian Pounds



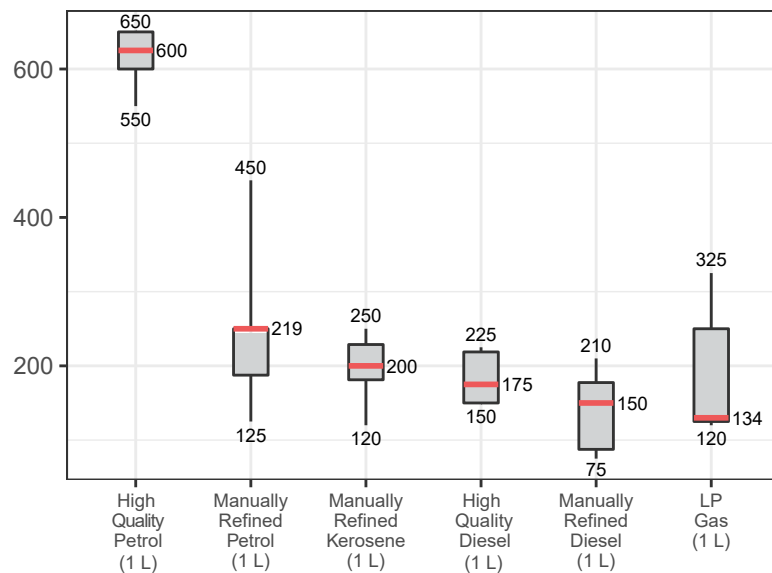
CELLPHONE DATA

Syrian Pounds



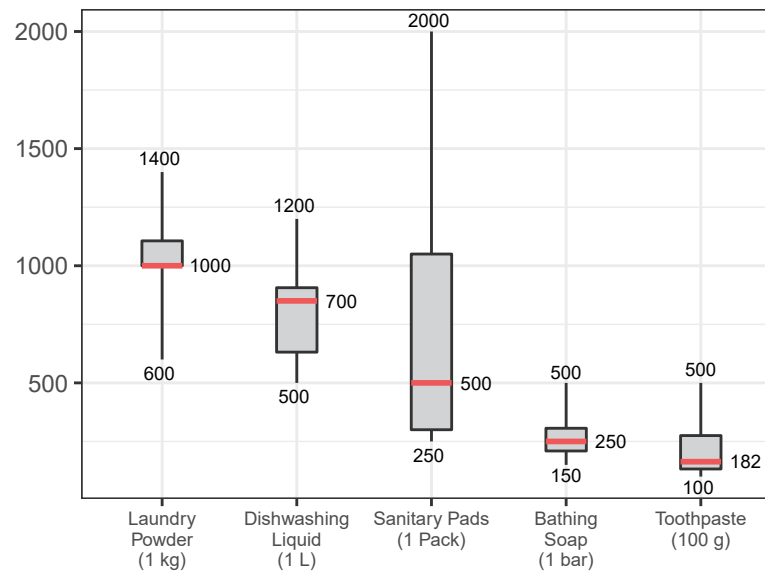
ASSESSED FUEL ITEMS

Syrian Pounds

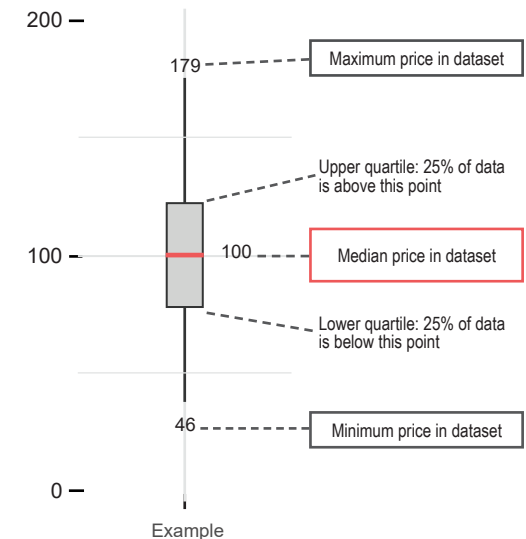


ASSESSED HYGIENE ITEMS

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 CBR-TWG members in understanding the distribution of prices across the northeast and

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

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

Calculating 'median cheapest price'

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

Calculating Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) costs

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

Calculating price trends over time

One month and six-month price changes and trends are calculated only with the communities of a sub-district with consistent coverage across months. For the current month's regional SMEB cost, all assessed communities are included in determining medians; thus, prices and percentage changes within the Costs and Changes tables may differ from the current month's regional SMEB cost.

Seasonal items

Winterisation items have been added to the market monitoring exercise and data collection will continue for these items over winter, until mid-March 2020. Whilst other commodities are bought regularly by families, winterisation items are not expected to be bought regularly and may be one-off purchases for each family member.

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.

Challenges and limitations

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

January's Situation Overview

Due to limited coverage across Northeast Syria this month, trends and price comparisons were presented at the community-level, rather than at sub-district level.

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-BASED RESPONSES TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

The Cash-Based Responses Technical Working Group (CBR-TWG) 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 CBR-TWG have been partners on the Syria Market Monitoring Exercise since early 2015.