

INTRODUCTION

To inform humanitarian cash programming, the northeast of Syria (NES) Cash Working Group (CWG) conducts a monthly Joint Market Monitoring Initiative 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 [fig. 8-9](#); and [11](#)) which represents the minimum, culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month. For further information, please see our [methodology](#).

ON-LINE DASHBOARD

To facilitate the interaction with the JMMI, an interactive dashboard is available on-line. The dashboard is designed to allow users to navigate more easily and draw geographical and temporal comparisons across different currencies. To use the on-line interactive dashboard, click [here](#).

- 7 supporting partners
- 4 governorates
- 11 districts
- 30 sub-districts
- 61 communities
- 1,879 shops (vendor key informants)

COST OF NES SMEB^A

707,654 SYP ▲ +7%
129 USD ▼ -2%

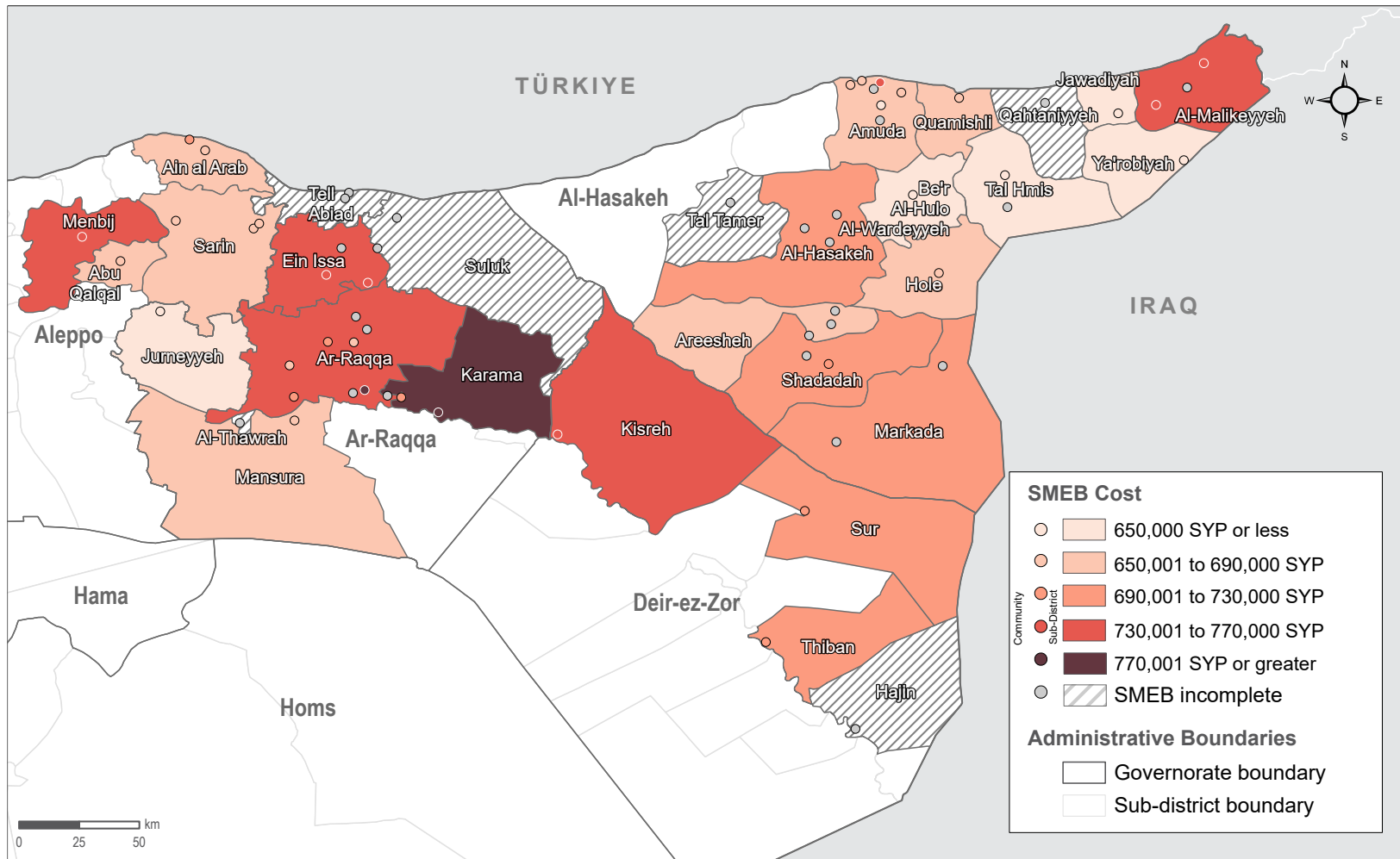
COST OF NES FOOD BASKET^A

540,156 SYP ▲ +5%
100 USD ▼ -4%

NES EXCHANGE RATE^A

USD/SYP
5,400 SYP ▲ +9%

MEDIAN SMEB PRICE PER SUB-DISTRICT (SYP) - FIG. 1



A. For price and change % calculations, only the communities within a sub-district with consistent coverage across months are included. This also applies to the following tables.

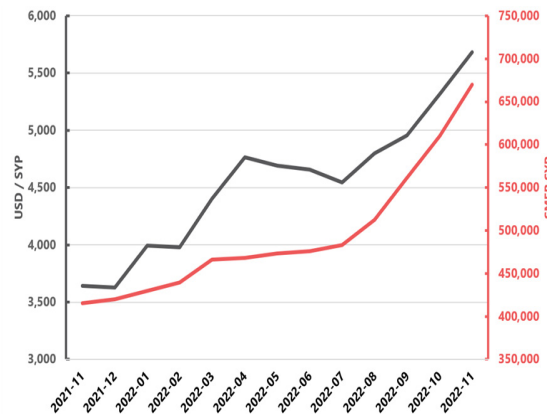
IN THIS FACTSHEET

As the JMMI generates a large amount of data, this factsheet is limited to a high level analysis. For more detailed data, consult the [dataset](#) and [online dashboard](#).

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NORTHEAST SYRIA SMEB PRICE TRENDS VS USD TO SYP INFORMAL EXCHANGE RATES - FIG. 2



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In November, the regional price of the SMEB was recorded to be 707,654 SYP (129 USD), representing an 7% increase from October. The continued increase in price is in large part due to ongoing depreciation of the SYP against the USD prompting traders to raise prices to avoid losses.¹ The USD/SYP exchange rate was recorded at 5,400 SYP representing an 9% increase (depreciation) since October.

The regional SMEB food component was recorded at 540,156 SYP (100 USD) which represents a 5% increase in price since October. The majority of food items increased in price in November, most notably fresh vegetables and bulk food items (fig. 11).

Bread prices increased overall and remain substantially more expensive in Deir ez-Zor governorate due low availability of subsidised bread (fig. 5). There was a notable increase in the price of flour in November which has been steadily increasing since July (fig.6).

The price of cooking fuels rose again in November (fig. 11) following the large jump in price recorded in October; this has been largely attributed to a notable increase in the price of LPG gas following a dramatic reduction in the subsidy.² Increases in the price of basic commodities and gas, as well as other commodities including petrol, diesel, kerosene, bread, and sugar, led to the Autonomous Administration making a decision to raise the salaries of its employees to cope with the difficult livelihood situation.³

Turkish attacks on important infrastructure and facilities including grain facilities, power stations, and oil fields has resulted in delays and disruptions of services.⁴ Power outages in several areas in Al-Hasakeh governorate have disrupted markets and forced many to rely on generators with associated diesel costs.⁴

Unavailability of heating fuel which was reported by 56% of vendors in NES is likely to leave many without heating over the winter months. In the absence of fuel for heating households are forced to rely on blankets and warm clothes to manage the winter temperatures. The price of adult's winter jackets has increased by approximately 40% compared to this time last year and winter blankets have increased in price by approximately 60%. For more details on winter items see the [dataset](#) for November.

MEDIAN SMEB PRICE PER SUB-DISTRICT - FIG. 3

	SMEB SYP	1 month change	6 month change	SMEB USD ^B
Northeast Syria SMEB ^C	707,654	7%	23%	129
Northeast Aleppo Governorate	683,930	8%	25%	127
Abu Qalqal	678,537	6%	23%	127
Ain al Arab	686,365	10%	34%	127
Menbij	765,292	13%	31%	140
Sarin	681,495	11%	25%	126
Al-Hasakeh Governorate	695,067	6%	17%	129
Al-Hasakeh	720,216	-1%	19%	133
Al-Malikeyyeh*	741,306	8%	33%	137
Amuda*	675,745	-1%	14%	125
Areeshah	685,887	14%	18%	128
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh*	644,910	8%	28%	NA
Hole	654,150	-3%	NA	121
Jawadiyah*	649,784	2%	18%	121
Markada	726,574	10%	16%	136
Quamishli	653,093	0%	27%	120
Shadadah	704,248	NA	11%	NA
Tal Hmis*	622,516	-2%	1%	115
Ya'robayah*	619,882	7%	21%	115
Ar-Raqqa Governorate ³	759,836	11%	27%	139
Ar-Raqqa	759,836	16%	27%	141
Ein Issa	739,622	0%	19%	137
Jurneyyeh*	625,911	4%	5%	NA
Karama	793,540	16%	34%	NA
Mansura*	688,363	8%	22%	126
Deir-ez-Zor Governorate	711,059	6%	25%	132
Kisreh	747,304	9%	32%	138
Sur	711,059	15%	25%	132
Thiban	701,921	5%	25%	128

B. USD values are calculated as per the informal exchange rate recorded in the same geographical area. Please see this month's JMMI dataset for informal exchange rates by area.

C. * For these sub-districts, water trucking prices were not available and is not included in the SMEB price.

PRICE TREND ANALYSIS

The majority of food items increased in price in November, most notably fresh vegetables and bulk food items. Fresh vegetable prices have risen with increased reliance on imported produce at the end of the local production season (fig. 4). Continued price increases of imported bulk food items, as well as non-food items is strongly linked to the exchange rate. Food prices are expected to be increasingly sensitive to exchange rate fluctuations in the context of a recent decision to no longer issue price regulations in an effort to spur market competition.⁵ Communities have called for re-introduction and enforcement of price controls where basic commodities are increasingly unaffordable.⁶ These price increases also come within the context of an official decision to increase customs on imported food items, among other items, up to three times.⁷ Increasing enforcement of tax collection is putting further pressure on traders who are suffering from consistent currency depreciation.⁷ Such policies aim to increase governmental revenue to support the recent increase in salaries of civil employees.⁸

Bread prices increased overall and remain substantially more expensive in Deir ez-Zor governorate due to low availability of subsidised bread (fig. 5). The price of subsidised bread in some areas reportedly increased which may be linked to efforts from the authorities to improve the quality of bread.⁹ There was a notable increase in the price of flour in November which has been steadily increasing since July (fig. 6). The price of flour prices in Al-Hasakeh sub-district has in particular increased steeply since September. Poor wheat yields in NES have increased reliance on imported flour at much higher costs.¹⁰ The agricultural sector in NES has in general been heavily impacted by the protracted drought, increased costs of imported agricultural inputs, and fuel shortages increasing the likelihood that the region will face an acute food security crisis.¹¹ Flour in NES is largely imported from Türkiye with associated costs; it is unclear whether the recent attacks will impact these supply routes. Flour prices in 2022 have also been heavily impacted by the Ukraine crisis. The decision to continue wheat exports through the Black Sea has increased global supply chain certainty however price relief to consumers may take time, particularly where gains from global price cooling in Syria are hampered by the exchange rate.¹²

The price of cooking fuels rose again in November

(fig. 11) following the large jump in price recorded in October; this has been largely attributed to a notable increase in the price of LPG gas following a dramatic reduction in the subsidy.¹³ The Autonomous Administration issued a decision to raise the salaries of its civil employees after the basic commodities, transportation fuel and heating fuel raised in price.¹⁴ There were several delays across NES in the centrally administered distribution of gas increasing on high market prices. In addition, households are increasingly needing to purchase additional cylinders of gas following a reduction in the annual allocation from 12 to 9 canisters.¹⁵ Gas prices will also likely be impacted by the recent Turkish attacks which have caused significant damage to oil and gas facilities, notably the Swedish Gas Facility that produces domestic gas and generates electricity in Al-Hasakeh.¹⁶ Outage of such facilities will increase reliance on imported gas.

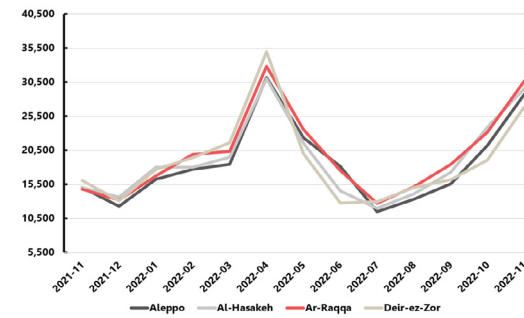
Water prices remained stable in November, however 30% higher than they were six months ago linked to the ongoing increases in the cost of fuel for transport and pumping (fig. 7). Water remains substantially more expensive in Al-Hasakeh governorate due to repeated cut offs from the Allouk water station which forces people to rely on water from private tanks at high prices.¹⁷ Given the spread of cholera people are increasingly relying on filtered water for drinking and cooking which is sold at higher prices.¹⁸

The price of low quality (manually refined) fuels remained stable in November and remain substantially more expensive in Deir ez-Zor governorate where subsidised fuel is not available.¹⁹ High quality (imported) fuel prices continued to increase in November, most notably in Ar-Raqqa subdistrict. Delays in transport fuel card distributions have forced many to rely on high market prices, and lack of supply frequently results in long queues at stations.²⁰

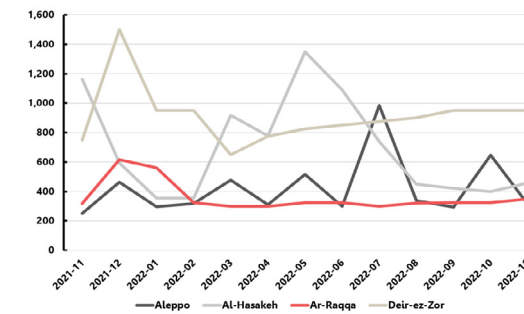
Unavailability of heating fuel which was reported by 56% of vendors in NES is likely to leave many without heating over the winter months. Distribution of heating diesel was delayed in November and there are concerns that delays will be exacerbated following Turkish bombardment of oil fields in Al-Hasakeh which almost entirely suspended production.²¹ Heating fuel allocations have been reduced this winter from 440 liters per family to 300 liters per family.²¹ Many households are unable to purchase additional diesel at high market prices and JMMI data shows that the

price of heaters themselves has increased by approximately 90% compared to this time last year. In the absence of fuel for heating households are forced to rely on blankets and warm clothes. The price of adult's winter jackets has increased by approximately 40% compared to this time last year and winter blankets have increased in price by approximately 60%.

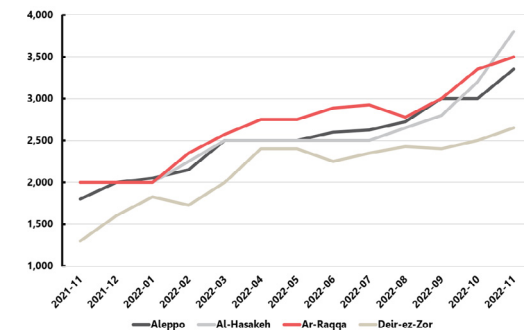
SMEB VEGETABLE PRICES IN NES - FIG. 4



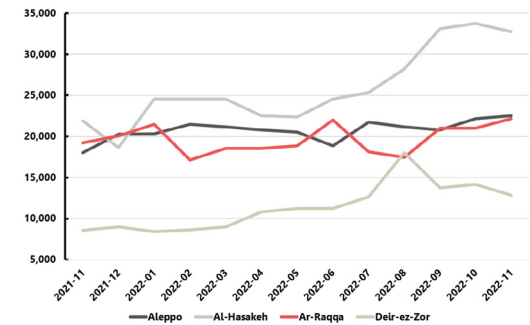
BREAD PRICES IN NES - FIG. 5



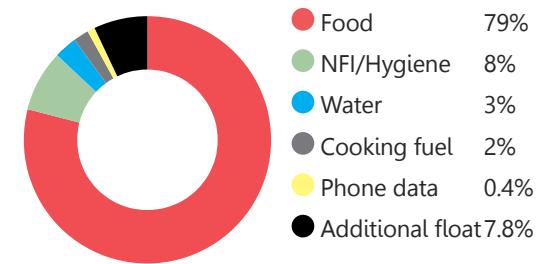
FLOUR PRICES IN NES - FIG. 6



SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICES IN NES - FIG. 7



SMEB COMPOSITION^p FOR NORTHEAST SYRIA - FIG. 8



SMEB CONTENTS - FIG. 9

Food

Bread	37 kg	Rice	19 kg
Bulgur	15 kg	Salt	1 kg
Chicken	6 kg	Sugar	5 kg
Eggs	6 kg	Tomato paste	6 kg
Ghee/veg. oil	7 kg/L	Vegetables (fresh)	12 kg
Red lentils	15 kg		

Hygiene (NFI)

Bathing soap	12 bars	Toothpaste	200 g
Laundry/dish soap	3 kg	Sanitary pads	4 packs of 10

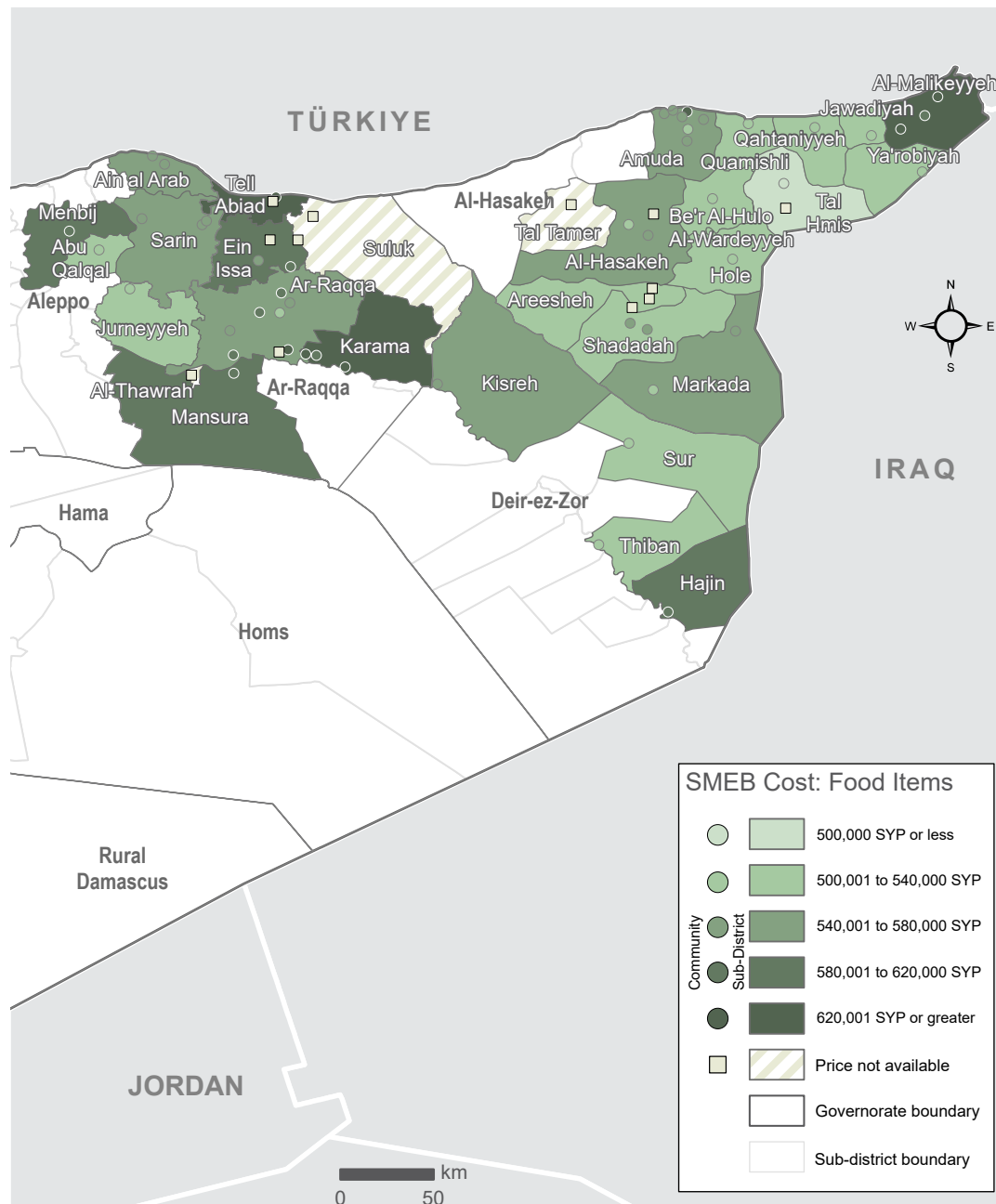
Other

Cooking fuel	25 L	Phone data	1 GB
Water trucking	4500 L	"Float"/other costs	7.5% of total

The SMEB Total is the median cost of the minimum, culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month.

D. Due to rounding figures may not total 100%

SMEB FOOD COMPONENT COST ACROSS NES, BY SUBDISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES - FIG. 10



PRICE OF ALL SMEB ITEMS - FIG. 11

Item	Unit ^E	Price SYP	1 month change	6 month change	Price USD ^F
Northeast food Syria SMEB		540,156	5%	18%	100
Bulk food items	SMEB	295,850	9%	29%	54.79
Bulgur	1 kg	4,500	13%	32%	0.83
Red lentils	1 kg	5,750	13%	28%	1.06
Rice	1 kg	4,450	11%	27%	0.82
Salt	500 g	800	14%	45%	0.15
Sugar	1 kg	4,175	10%	19%	0.77
Tomato paste	1 kg	8,125	5%	63%	1.50
Fresh vegetables	SMEB	29,775	31%	36%	5.51
Tomatoes	1 kg	2,500	14%	-7%	0.46
Potatoes	1 kg	2,600	4%	30%	0.48
Cucumbers	1 kg	3,000	94%	97%	0.56
Onions	1 kg	1,575	31%	31%	0.29
Cooking oils	SMEB	64,750	1%	-1%	11.99
Ghee	1 kg	9,500	6%	4%	1.76
Vegetable oil	1 L	9,000	0%	-6%	1.67
Non-veg perishables					
Bread	8 pc	400	10%	0%	0.07
Chicken	1 kg	8,575	1%	10%	1.59
Eggs	30 pc	14,500	4%	43%	2.69
Non-food items	SMEB	52,542	11%	40%	9.73
Bathing soap	1 pc	2,000	33%	100%	0.37
Sanitary pads	10 pc	2,300	3%	15%	0.43
Toothpaste	100 g	3,247	12%	30%	0.60
Laundry powder	1 kg	5,325	-1%	21%	0.99
Dish soap	1 L	4,347	9%	29%	0.81
Cooking fuels	SMEB	10,313	18%	NA	1.91
Kerosene (manually refined)	1 L	1,500	7%	NA	0.28
LP gas	1 L	400	60%	NA	0.07
Water trucking	SMEB	22,500	0%	31%	4.17
Water trucking (1000 L)	1 m3	5,000	0%	31%	0.93
Other					
Phone data	1 gb	3,000	9%	13%	0.56

E. The SMEB unit refers to the current SMEB allocation of the item, as outlined in [fig. 9](#)

F. USD values are calculated as per the informal exchange rate recorded in the same geographical area. Please see this month's JMMI dataset for informal exchange rates by area.

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

Among other supply-based indicators price inflation remains the key pressure on market functionality with 81% of vendors reporting on it as a key challenge (fig. 12). Price inflation and currency depreciation have not been mitigated by increased salaries for majority of the population impacting access to basic commodities and spurring several protests across NES.²²

In addition, Turkish attacks on important infrastructure and facilities including grain facilities, power stations, and oil fields has resulted in delays and disruptions of services.²³ Power outages in several areas in Al-Hasakeh governorate have disrupted markets and forced many to rely on generators with associated diesel costs.²³ Repeated outages of electricity generators as a result of the diesel shortage has led to the closure of several bakeries and factories across NES as well as prevented farmers from operating their machinery and irrigating farms.²⁴

There was an increase in the number of

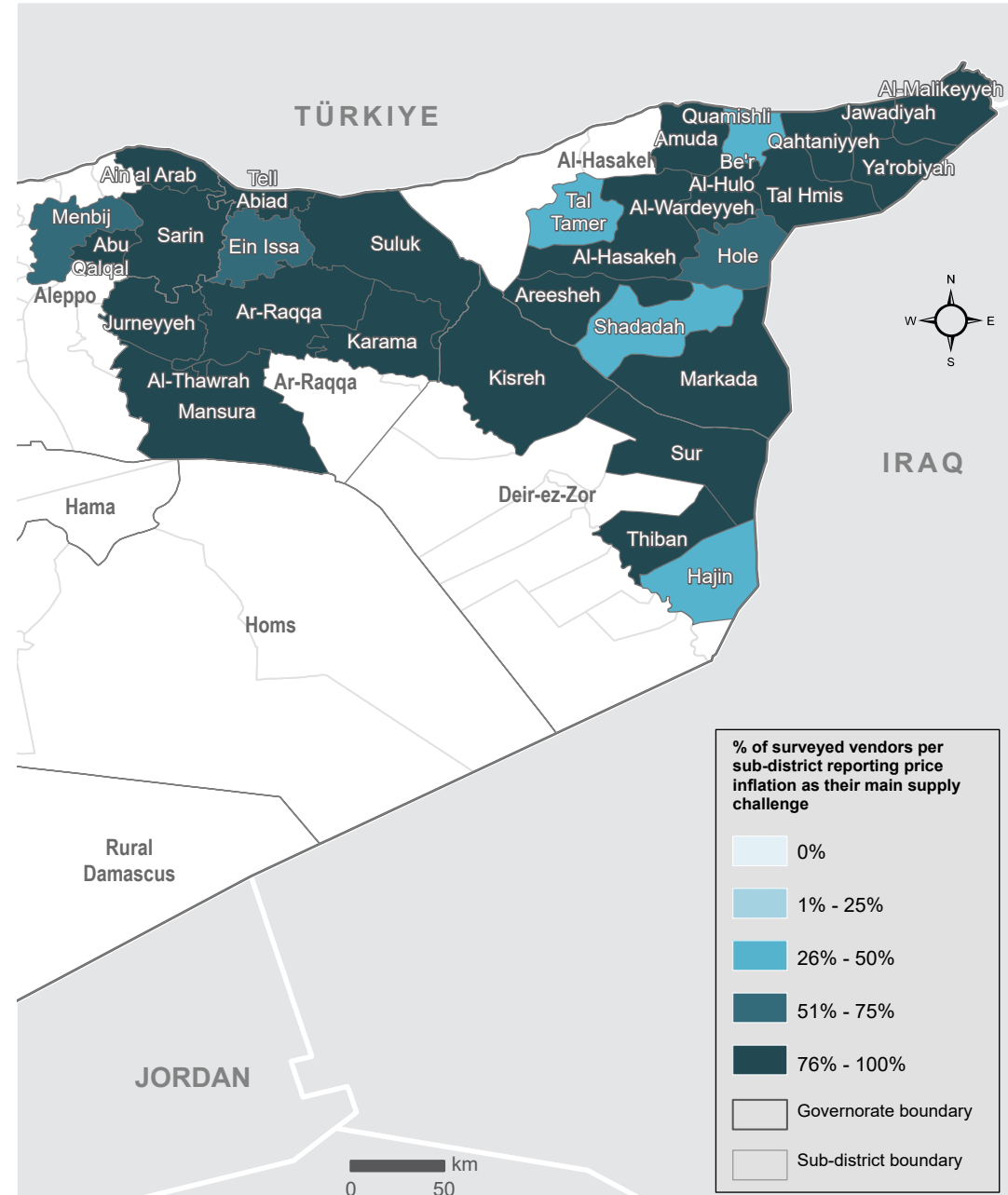
vendors reporting they had limited stock of USD in November. This is potentially linked to increased demand for USD in the context of the Turkish military attacks and fears of potential displacement where many prefer to have cash in USD for greater security. 100% of surveyed vendors in NES reported they had limited stock of at least one USD denomination, with limited stocks of higher value USD denominations being a significant challenge across all governorates.

A lack of USD in the market may in turn impact vendors' ability to re-stock in the future. While key food items remained widely available in reporting communities in November, there was an increase of 9% in the number of vendors (54% of vendors in total) who reported they would run out of stock in less than three days if unable to re-stock. In particular, 100% of vegetable vendors in NES said they would run out of stock in less than three days if unable to re-stock and 100% of fuel vendors in Ar-Raqqa governorate said they would run out of stock in less than three days if unable to re-stock.

SUPPLY CHALLENGES REPORTED^G BY SURVEYED VENDORS - FIG. 12

	AREA	REPORTED %
	NES	81%
PRICE INFLATION	NE Aleppo	79%
	Al-Hasakeh	83%
	Ar-Raqqa	82%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	77%
	NES	17%
SUPPLY CANT MEET DEMAND	NE Aleppo	3%
	Al-Hasakeh	24%
	Ar-Raqqa	11%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	25%
	NES	13%
NO ISSUES	NE Aleppo	17%
	Al-Hasakeh	8%
	Ar-Raqqa	16%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	26%
	NES	9%
SUPPLIER LIMITED SUPPLY	NE Aleppo	9%
	Al-Hasakeh	11%
	Ar-Raqqa	5%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	7%

VENDORS REPORTING PRICE INFLATION AS THEIR MAIN SUPPLY CHALLENGE ACROSS NES - FIG. 13



G. Multiple choice responses are not expected to total 100%. Please see this month's JMMI dataset for all supply challenges reported by vendors.

ABOUT

To inform humanitarian cash programming, the northeast of Syria (NES) Cash Working Group (CWG) - in partnership with local and international NGOs - conducts a monthly JMMI 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.

METHODOLOGY

In order to be included in the JMMI, 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.

Prices are calculated by taking the median of the next level of aggregation: community and sub-district prices are both drawn from the median prices collected from different vendors. District medians are calculated from sub-district medians, governorate figures are calculated from district medians, and regional figures are calculated from governorate medians.

For more details about the methodology, access the online [JMMI dashboard](#).

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 (7 - 14 November 2022).

LIMITATIONS

All JMMI data is only indicative for the specific time frame within which it was collected, and trend lines in graphs may not be continuous where data is missing. Usually, data is collected during the first Monday-to-Monday of each month. The JMMI data collection tool requires enumerators to record the cheapest available price for each item, but does not require a specific brand, as brand availability may vary. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slight variants of the same product. Non-food items (NFIs) are particularly challenging to standardize as they vary significantly in terms of types, brands, and specifications. The JMMI methodology aims to balance consistency and comparability considerations with geographical variations in availability.

Due to issues of access, security and partner capacity, the markets included in the JMMI may vary on a monthly basis. As such, the reported changes in the more aggregate levels (governorate, district) may be driven by shifts in coverage rather than actual changes. For this reason, we recommend all users to consider local markets and lower levels of aggregation (sub-district, community) when using JMMI data for more specific trend analyses.

It is important to keep in mind that some vendors might feel more or less inclined to share their actual experiences (fearing that the information shared might be used by competitors or in some way against their business), while others might adjust their answers based on the expected effect that they will have on humanitarian programming. Similarly, even though all enumerators received the same training,

some might have more previous experience and might therefore be better able to produce higher quality data.

Part of the data collection takes place remotely using vendor contact information collected in advance by the JMMI partners, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Market monitoring can be challenging, especially through remote interviews. At the same time, the JMMI has over seven years of accumulated experience, strong internal coordination and external relation with vendors, and vast longitudinal data, which supports the accuracy of findings.

JMMI AND THE CASH WORKING GROUP

The JMMI exists within the framework of the Cash Working Group (CWG). In northwest Syria (NWS), the 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. In northeast Syria (NES), the CWG was established in 2018, to fulfil a similar purpose in that region.

For more information about the CWG in NES, please contact the cash working group coordinator at cashcoordnes@gmail.com

PARTNERS

Each month, around 20 different organizations work together to collect market data. Participating organisations train their enumerators on the JMMI methodology and data collection tools using standard training materials developed

by REACH, who is then responsible for processing the data.



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.

For more information about REACH, please contact the REACH JMMI focal point, Safa'a Harahsheh, at safaa.harahsheh@reach-initiative.org or visit the [REACH Syria Resource Centre](#).

ENDNOTES

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19. Euphrates Appeal Media Network, 'The fuel crisis is worsening and the Assad regime is content to distribute its militias in Deir Ezzor', 1 December 2022, <https://furat-sy.com/2022/01/12/8381/>

20. Mercy Corps, Humanitarian Access Team Syria, Syria Monthly Report, October 2022
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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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