

## 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 subdistricts

57 communities

1,717 shops (vendor key informants)

### COST OF NES SMEB<sup>1</sup>

575,488 SYP ▼ -2%

147 USD ▼ -3%

### COST OF NES FOOD BASKET<sup>1</sup>

458,075 SYP ▲ 0%

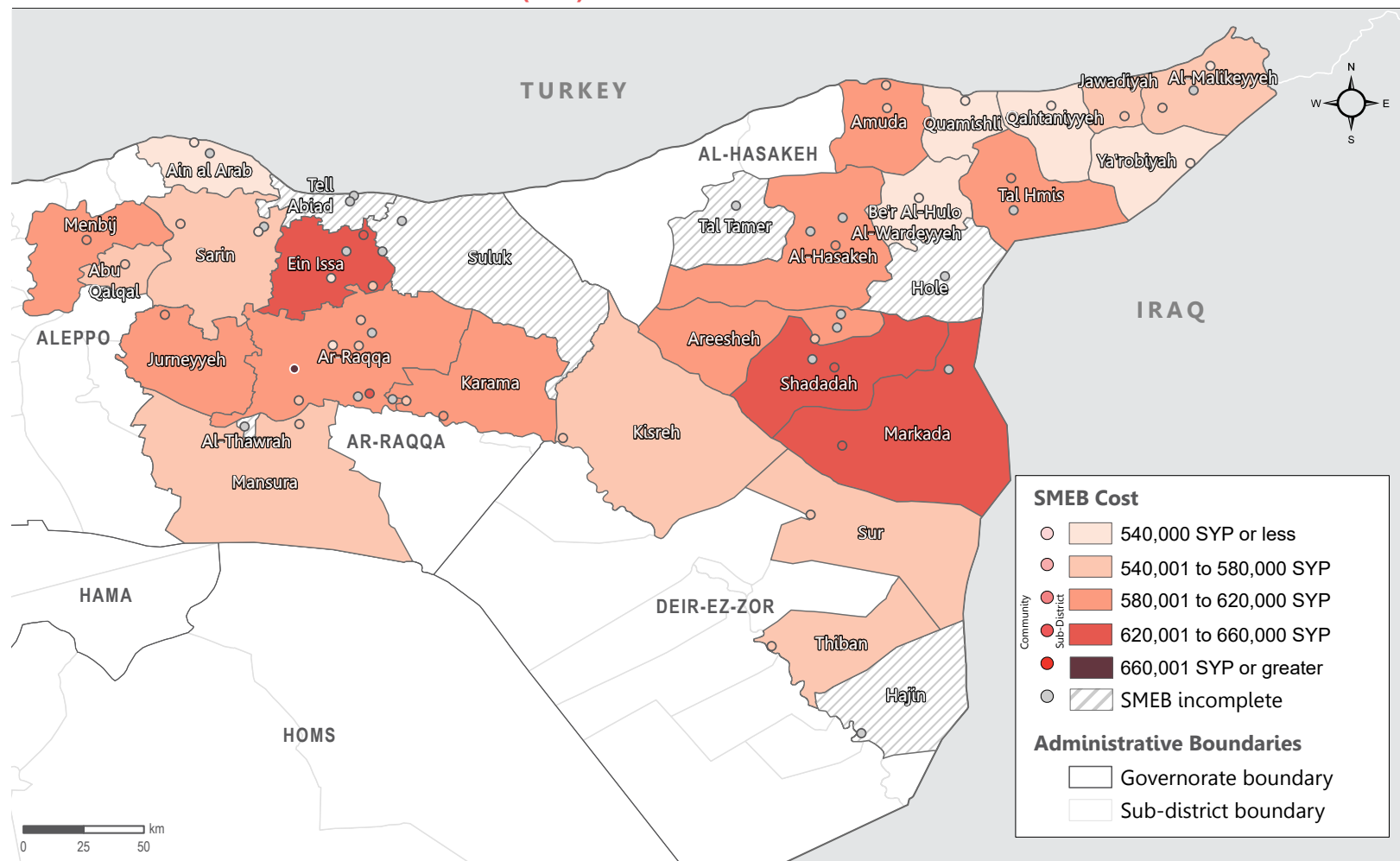
117 USD ▼ -1%

### NES EXCHANGE RATE<sup>1</sup>

USD/SYP

3,925 SYP ▲ 1%

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



#1 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

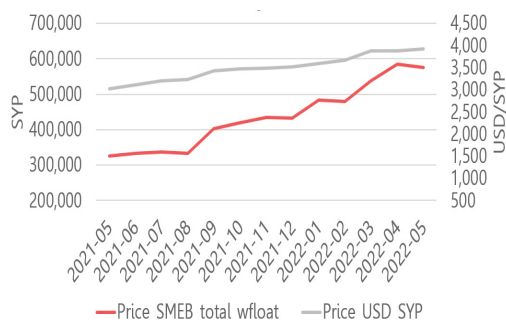


As the JMMI generates a large amount of data, this factsheet is limited to a high level analysis. For more detailed data, consult the [dataset](#) and [online dashboard](#).

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



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In NES the price of the SMEB in SYP for May decreased by 2%, reaching 575,488 SYP (147 USD). **The NES SMEB price in both SYP and USD is now the second highest recorded SMEB in the six years of the JMMI after April 2022.** There was no overall change in the price of the SMEB food component which remains at the highest recorded price. While there were increases in most bulk food items, this was balanced by a 31% decrease in fresh vegetable prices, mostly due to an increase in the availability of fresh vegetables and a decrease in demand for imports. The observed stabilization in the overall price of the SMEB could indicate that prices are being corrected by the market and the increases seen in the first few months of 2022 are now being balanced; price monitoring over the coming months will support validation of this trend. Transport fuel prices decreased slightly, while water trucking prices also decreased. However, Non-food items (NFI) prices increased. (fg.11).

Only high-quality fuels (typically the highest price of fuel) remained widely unavailable across NES at a slightly higher rate than reported in April. The informal exchange rate also showed the SYP depreciate slightly against the USD. Both the average cost of transport fuels and changes in the exchange rate typically contribute to a fluctuation in key item prices in the region. The USD/TRY is currently 15.11 TRY to the USD, which is almost double the exchange rate compared to this time last year. Given the reliance on imports from Türkiye the overall price inflations that have been observed over a sustained period of many months mean basic necessities remain unaffordable for most Syrian households.

## MEDIAN SMEB PRICE PER SUB-DISTRICT - FG. 3

	SMEB SYP	1 month change	6 month change	SMEB USD <sup>2</sup>
<b>Northeast Syria SMEB <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>575,488</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>147</b>
Northeast Aleppo Governorate	548,694	-1%	34%	126
Abu Qalqal	550,445	2%	30%	140
Ain al Arab	513,495	-7%	31%	130
Menbij	582,716	3%	NA	NA
Sarin	546,943	-2%	34%	NA
Al-Hasakeh Governorate	593,000	0%	34%	134
Al-Hasakeh	603,305	-3%	32%	154
Al-Malikeyyeh*	556,769	3%	50%	142
Amuda*	593,368	8%	32%	151
Areesh	582,695	-2%	29%	149
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	523,247	NA	23%	NA
Jawadiyah*	549,271	0%	48%	140
Markada	625,965	1%	42%	158
Qahtaniyyeh*	500,746	-1%	61%	128
Quamishli	515,681	-3%	18%	132
Shadadah	636,799	NA	38%	NA
Tal Hmis	616,443	8%	55%	158
Ya'robiyah*	513,068	7%	25%	NA
Ar-Raqqa Governorate	596,653	-5%	34%	137
Ar-Raqqa	596,653	2%	36%	152
Ein Issa	623,312	-2%	40%	NA
Jurneyyeh*	598,829	-8%	NA	NA
Karama	592,964	-6%	32%	NA
Mansura*	566,254	-1%	40%	NA
Deir-ez-Zor Governorate	567,295	-2%	36%	121
Kisreh	568,281	-1%	31%	146
Sur	567,295	-4%	50%	144
Thiban	560,881	-5%	37%	142

#2 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.

SMEB FOOD ITEMS

Overall, the SMEB food component did not change from the previous month. The highest food component price was recorded in Tal Tamer subdistrict in Al-Hasakeh governorate (fg.10). In May, the fresh vegetable component decreased in price compared with April, which field teams reported is likely due to the increased availability of local produce in addition to imports.

NRC reported “[h]ow families across Syria are struggling to cope as their incomes rapidly lose value in the face of spiraling price inflation. This has forced people to devise new survival strategies such as eating less, selling fuel aid to buy food, burning old shoes to keep warm, and skipping urgent medical procedures”. Moreover, WHO reported that “[s]even hundred thousand more children face hunger in Syria due to the country’s continuously deteriorating economy, especially in northeast Syria. In the last six months, the total number of food-insecure children across the country has risen to more than 4.6 million.” Furthermore, WFP reported “[w]ith years of conflict, a severe economic downturn, and food prices rising relentlessly since 2020, the Ukraine crisis is exacerbating what was already an alarming food security scenario in Syria. In March, food prices increased by 24 percent in just one month, following an 800 percent increase in the last two years. This has brought food prices to their highest level since 2013”. The Syria report reported “[t]he WFP has indicated that the prices of food and non-food items in Syria increased significantly in March as a result of Ukraine’s unfolding crisis and the conflict’s repercussions on global food and energy markets”.

These price impacts are further compounded by climate and resource issues. According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Precipitation Analysis “[i]nsufficient and poorly distributed rainfall in the 2020/21 agricultural season, together with several heatwaves, the high cost of inputs, limited availability of irrigation water and high cost of fuel for pumping, resulted in a contraction of

the harvestable cereal area. The harvested wheat area is estimated at 787,000 hectares, slightly over half of the area harvested in 2019.” For a broader, national overview of the market context in Syria, please view the WFP Syria mVAM Bulletin for March 2022. For insights on food security across Syria, please see the WFP Hunger Map or the WFP Syria Emergency Dashboard for March 2022.

In general, all bulk food items saw price increases in May except for red lentils and tomato paste which decreased in price. The highest price of bulk food was recorded at 277,000 SYP in Tal Hmis subdistrict in Al-Hasakeh governorate. According to JMMI field teams, bulk food items are typically imported and as such prices likely increased due to the depreciation of the SYP and TRY against the USD as reported by Al-Monitor.

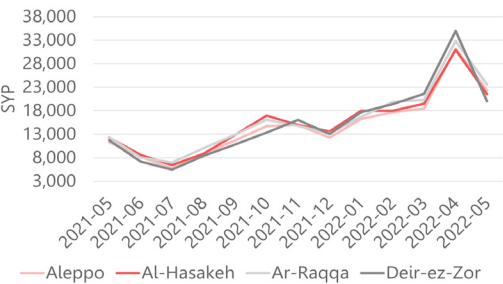
While bread prices remained stable in May, the on-going fluctuations observed over the past year are a result of the the depreciation of the SYP as well as changing subsidies. Further, the monopolization of certain commodities and the need to transport goods to remote areas contributes to the higher price trends that have been witnessed over the past year.

In May flour also remained stable in price, although it is yet to be seen if this is a reverse in the trend of steadily increasing prices over the last year which have largely been attributed to the worsening exchange rate of the SYP and limited availability. For a deeper analysis of the agricultural context in Syria, please see the FAO Agriculture Input and Commodity Bulletin for April 2022. For further understanding of how agricultural inputs and food price fluctuations in Syria affect a household’s overall food security and livelihood restoration, please see the iMMAP Quarter 3 Bulletin which incorporates both REACH and WFP market data.

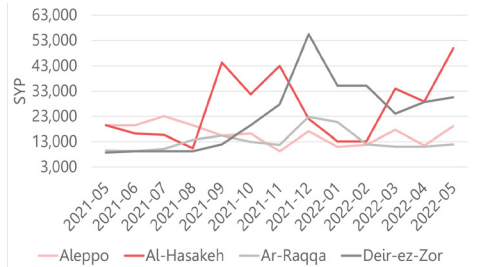
Overall water prices decreased in NES by 10% despite a slight increase in both Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor (fg.7). SOHR reported “[T]he water level

of the Euphrates River had reduced below 400 cubic meters per second, putting the population of northern and eastern Syria in the face of a humanitarian catastrophe due to water depletion, sources of Tishreen Dam Department reported”.

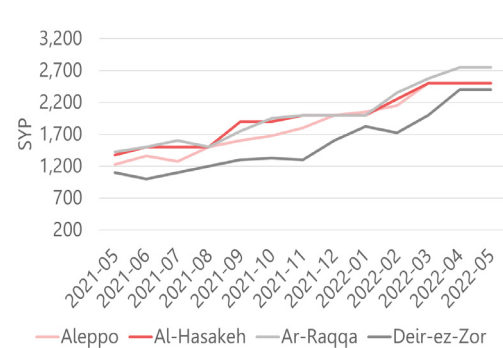
SMEB VEGETABLE PRICES IN NES - FG. 4



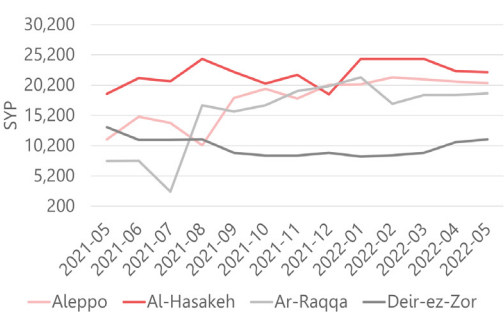
SMEB BREAD PRICES IN NES - FG. 5



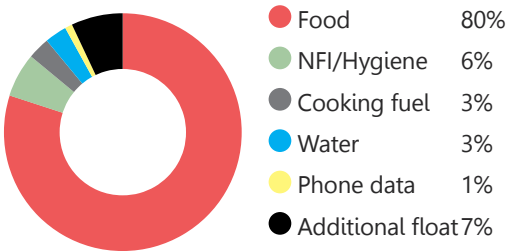
FLOUR (KILO) PRICES IN NES FG. 6



SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICES IN NES - FG. 7



SMEB COMPOSITION<sup>4</sup> FOR NORTHEAST SYRIA - FG. 8



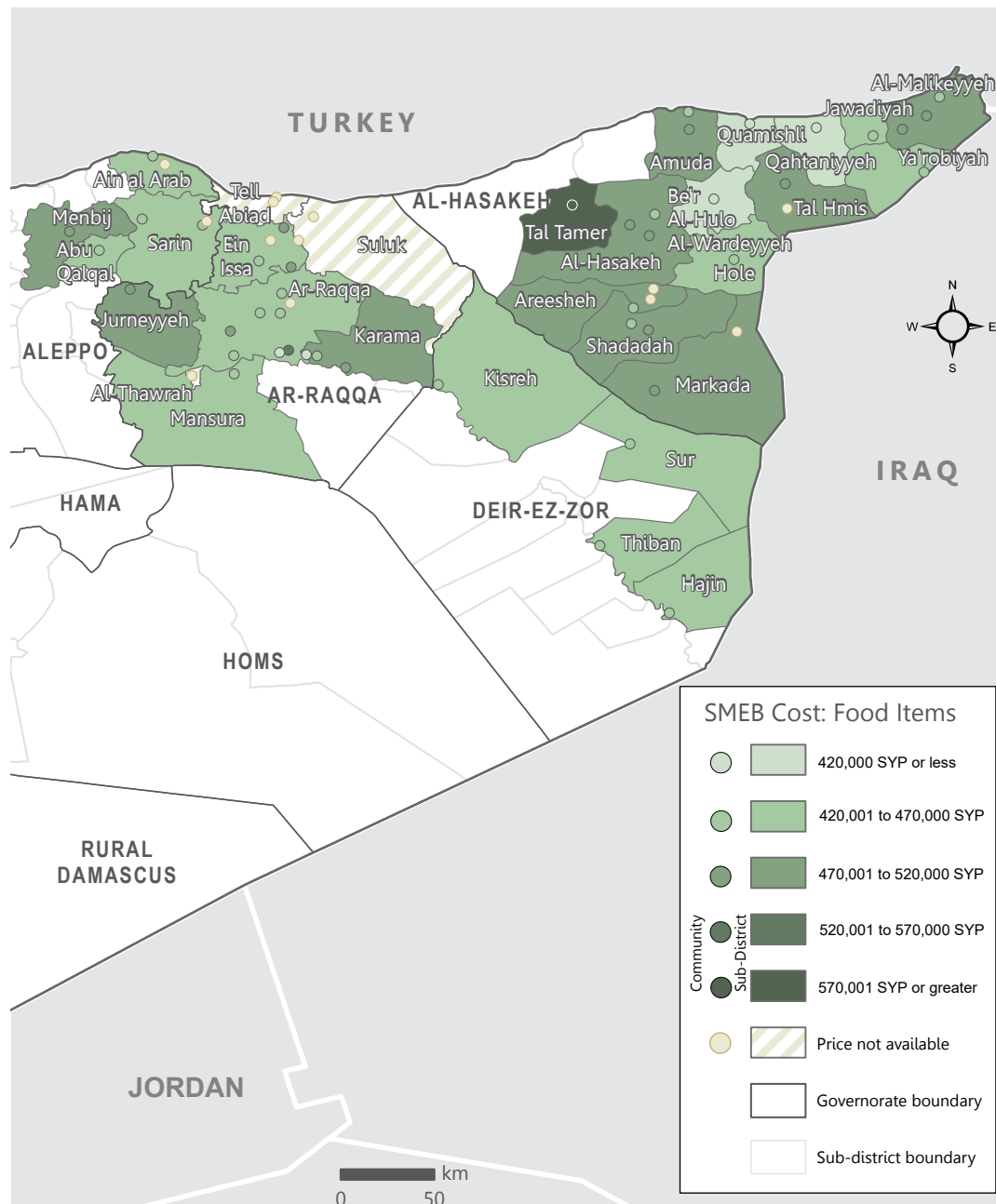
SMEB CONTENTS - FG. 9

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.

#4 Due to rounding figures may not total 100%

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



## PRICE OF ALL SMEB ITEMS - FG. 11

Item	Unit <sup>s</sup>	Price SYP	1 month change	6 month change	Price USD <sup>2</sup>
<b>Northeast food Syria SMEB</b>		<b>458,075</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>117</b>
SMEB bulk component	SMEB	229,600	0%	38%	58.50
Bulgur	1 kg	3,400	4%	70%	0.87
Red lentils	1 kg	4,500	-4%	29%	1.15
Rice	1 kg	3,500	10%	40%	0.89
Salt	500 g	550	5%	10%	0.14
Sugar	1 kg	3,500	1%	59%	0.89
Tomato paste	1 kg	5,000	-2%	23%	1.27
<b>SMEB vegetables component</b>		<b>21,900</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>5.58</b>
Tomatoes	1 kg	2,700	-23%	80%	0.69
Potatoes	1 kg	2,000	0%	67%	0.51
Cucumbers	1 kg	1,525	56%	-8%	0.39
Onions	1 kg	1,200	0%	66%	0.31
Cooking oils	SMEB	65,686	-4%	62%	16.74
Ghee	1 kg	9,111	-4%	66%	2.32
Vegetable oil	1 L	9,531	-5%	59%	2.43
<b>SMEB non-veg perishables</b>					
Bread	8 pc	400	0%	20%	0.10
Chicken	1 kg	7,800	11%	84%	1.99
Eggs	30 pc	10,150	-6%	7%	2.59
<b>Non-food items component</b>		<b>37,454</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>9.54</b>
Bathing soap	1 pc	1,000	0%	25%	0.25
Sanitary pads	10 pc	2,000	5%	33%	0.51
Toothpaste	100 g	2,500	-4%	25%	0.64
Laundry powder	1 kg	4,393	8%	10%	1.12
Dish soap	1 L	3,375	-4%	16%	0.86
<b>Cooking fuels component</b>		<b>16,250</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4.14</b>
Kerosene (manually refined)	1 L	750	15%	15%	0.19
LP gas	1 L	175	0%	0%	0.04
<b>Water trucking component</b>		<b>19,125</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>4.87</b>
Water trucking (1000 L)	1 m3	3,813	-10%	-5%	0.97
<b>Other</b>					
Phone data	1 gb	2,650	3%	6%	0.68

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

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

Market functionality indicators in NES suggested that traders are facing slightly lower trade issues overall. Nevertheless, all governorates recorded a high percentage of vendors reporting price inflation as a supply challenge, albeit at slightly lower rate compared to April. High quality fuels remained widely unavailable, while manually refined (lower quality) fuels were widely available. Such lower quality fuels cause more issues in the long run with higher long-term maintenance costs for those forced to use them for transportation and energy generators.

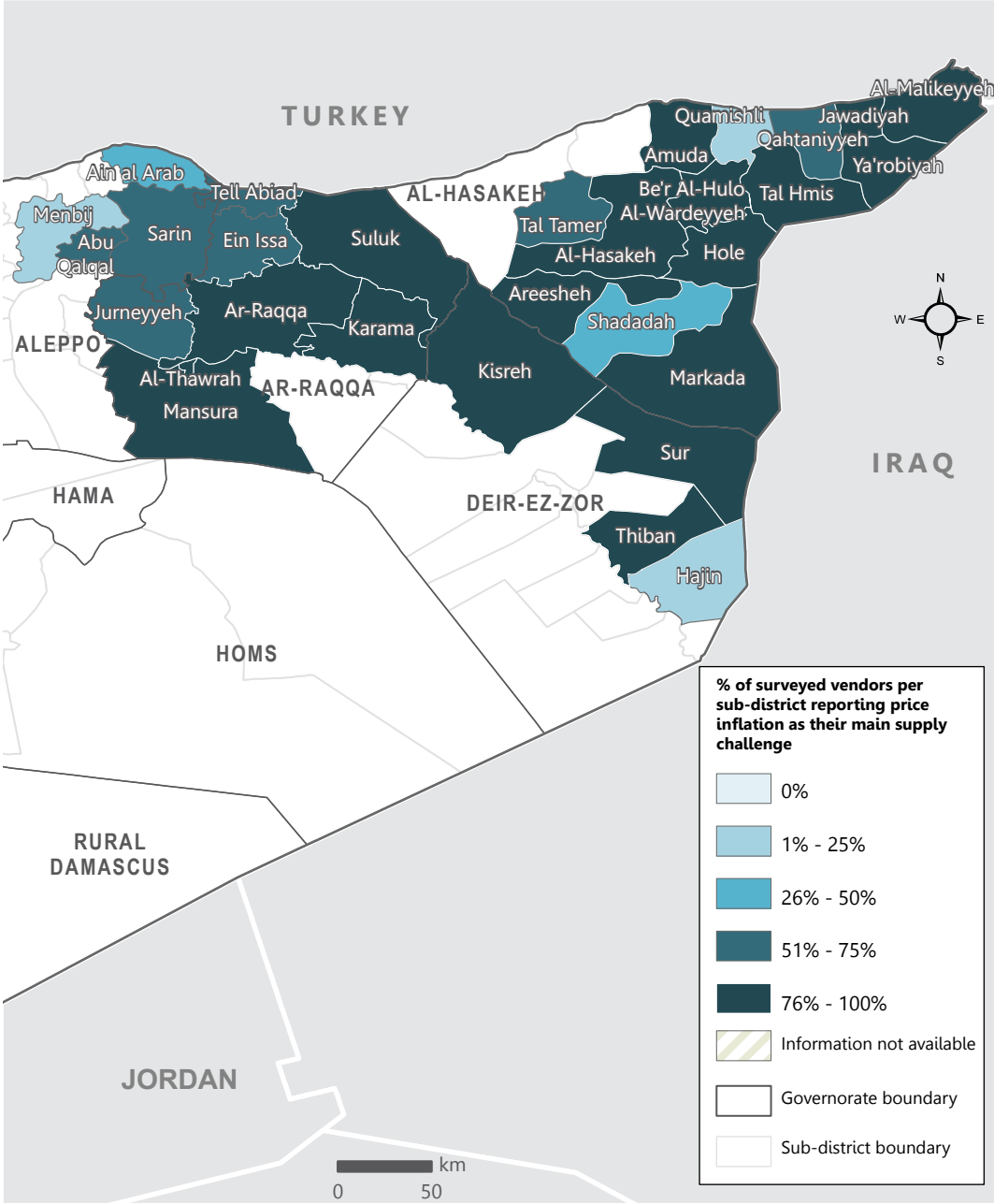
In May, **81%** of surveyed vendors reported facing supply challenges in NES (fg. 12 and 13), representing a **decrease** from the previous month. The most commonly reported supply challenge was **price inflation at 72%** (fg. 12), which was a **decrease** from the previous month.

These minor changes in market fluctuations from the previous month suggest supply chains are still managing to function in NES. However, the ongoing effects of transport fuel pressures, currency woes, and price inflation are expected to have long term impacts well into the second half of 2022.

SUPPLY CHALLENGES REPORTED<sup>6</sup> BY SURVEYED VENDORS - FG. 12

	AREA	REPORTED %
PRICE INFLATION	NES	72%
	NE Aleppo	49%
	Al-Hasakeh	80%
	Ar-Raqqa	75%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	68%
NO ISSUES	NES	19%
	NE Aleppo	44%
	Al-Hasakeh	6%
	Ar-Raqqa	18%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	28%
SUPPLY CANT MEET DEMAND	NES	18%
	NE Aleppo	4%
	Al-Hasakeh	29%
	Ar-Raqqa	11%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	28%
SUPPLIER LIMITED SUPPLY	NES	13%
	NE Aleppo	10%
	Al-Hasakeh	23%
	Ar-Raqqa	5%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	6%

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



#6 multiple choice, responses 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 prices draw their medians from different vendors, sub-districts from communities, districts from sub-districts, and regional figures are calculated by taking the medians of the minimum reported prices of a region's districts.

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 (5th - 11th May 2022).

## LIMITATIONS

All JMMI data is only indicative for the specific timeframe 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](mailto: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](mailto:safaa.harahsheh@reach-initiative.org) or visit the [REACH Syria Resource Centre](#).