

**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](#).

- 8 supporting partners

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- 4 governorates

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- 11 districts

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- 30 subdistricts

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- 64 communities

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- 1,769 shops (vendor key informants)

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

585,524 SYP ▲ 8%  
151 USD ▲ 9%

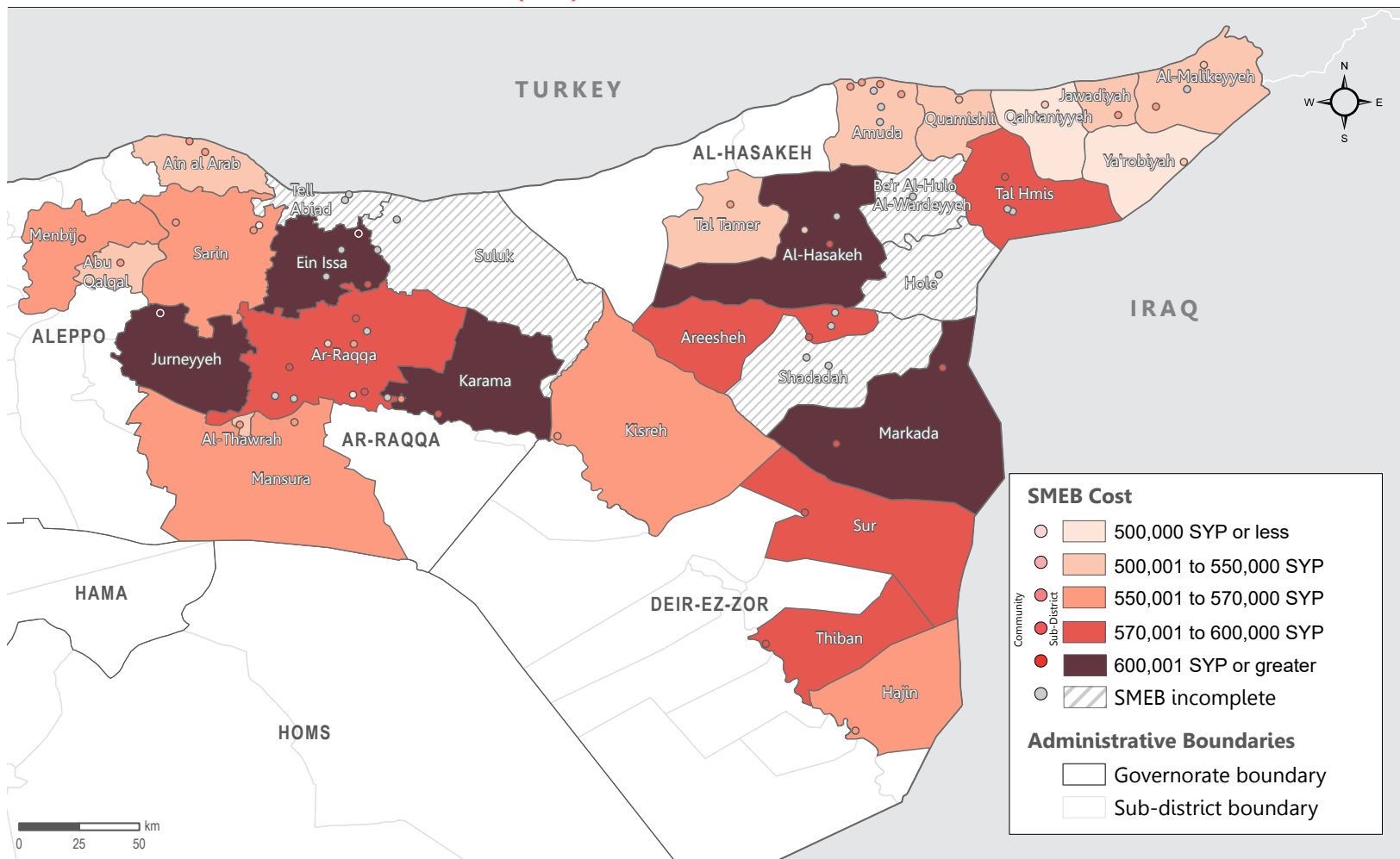
**COST OF NES FOOD BASKET<sup>1</sup>**

457,871 SYP ▲ 10%  
118 USD ▲ 10%

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

USD/SYP  
3,884 SYP ▲ 0%

**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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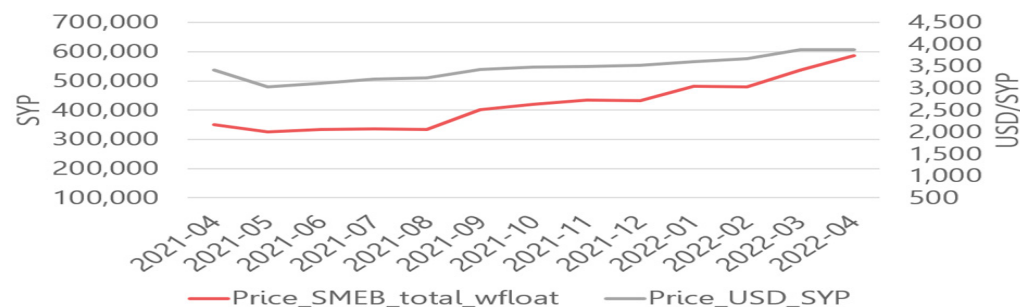
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## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In NES the price of the SMEB in SYP for April increased by 8%, reaching 585,524 SYP (151 USD). **The NES SMEB price in both SYP and USD is now the highest recorded SMEB in the six years of the JMMI.** The SMEB food component saw the largest increase, and this was mostly due to a 60% increase in fresh vegetable prices. At the current rate of price inflation, the NES SMEB food component alone is expected to exceed 500,000 SYP before the end of the year in 2022. Non-food items (NFI) and water trucking prices also increased ([fg.11](#)).

Transport fuel prices continue to increase, and high-quality fuels remained widely unavailable across NES, and the USD/SYP informal exchange rate also worsened slightly. Both the average cost of transport fuels and changes in the exchange rate both typically contribute to a rise in key item prices in the region. The USD/TRY is currently 15 TRY to the USD, which is almost double the exchange rate compared to this time last year. With this ongoing price inflation over a sustained period of many months, these values remain unaffordable for most and raise serious concerns about the difficulties Syrian households have in affording necessities.

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



#2 USD and TRY 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.

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

#4 Sub-district with incomplete SMEB, one and six-month changes calculation is not applicable.

## 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>585,524</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>151</b>
Northeast Aleppo Governorate	552,858	7%	38%	126
Abu Qalqal	537,864	1%	32%	138
Ain al Arab	549,857	12%	39%	141
Menbij	563,447	3%	33%	NA
Sarin	555,859	10%	47%	NA
Al-Hasakeh Governorate	594,819	8%	40%	134
Al-Hasakeh	620,653	11%	39%	159
Al-Malikiyyeh*	541,333	14%	42%	138
Amuda*	549,594	-2%	34%	140
Areesheh	596,341	8%	41%	152
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hole <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah*	546,584	11%	51%	140
Markada	618,897	13%	47%	159
Qahtaniyyeh*	504,105	28%	66%	129
Quamishli	529,330	6%	NA	136
Shadadah <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tal Hmis	593,297	NA	NA	151
Tal Tamer	530,432	NA	NA	137
Ya'robiyah*	480,073	15%	NA	NA
Ar-Raqqa Governorate	628,992	10%	49%	137
Al-Thawrah*	532,641	NA	31%	138
Ar-Raqqa	585,524	10%	40%	151
Ein Issa	637,864	5%	51%	NA
Jurneyyeh*	653,708	23%	75%	NA
Karama	628,992	10%	NA	NA
Mansura*	569,906	12%	37%	NA
Suluk <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor Governorate	581,494	10%	47%	121
Hajin	561,365	NA	31%	145
Kisreh	572,330	9%	42%	148
Sur	590,748	12%	64%	153
Thiban	590,659	9%	52%	152

## SMEB FOOD ITEMS

Overall, key food items saw the largest increase, and the highest food basket price was recorded in Karama subdistrict in the Ar-Raqqa governorate (fig. 10). In April, the fresh vegetable component witnessed the highest prices in the six years of the JMMI. The field team reported vegetables are either produced relying on greenhouses or most of them imported which causes high transportation costs.

All key food items and non-food items (NFIs) prices increased significantly in April, there is already speculation that these April price increases in Northern Syria were attributed to global price increases following the [escalation of hostilities in Ukraine](#). As [WFP](#) reported mid-April, “[a]ccording to the latest data from WFP[...], between 2019 and 2021, the price of basic foods increased by a staggering 800 percent [in SYP]. By the second week of March 2022, with the war in Ukraine having started, food prices were up 18 percent on early February. Families are now being forced to choose between buying food, fuel or medicine”.

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 April except salt items which decreased in price. The highest price of

SMEB bulk food was recorded at 281,600 SYP in Jurneyyeh subdistrict in Ar-Raqqa governorate. According to JMMI field teams, bulk food items are typically imported, and their prices increased due to the depreciation of the SYP and Turkish Lira (TRY) against the USD as [Al-Monitor](#) reported Turkey Lira inflation in April. Notably, fluctuations in the exchange rate are negatively reflected in the prices of items.

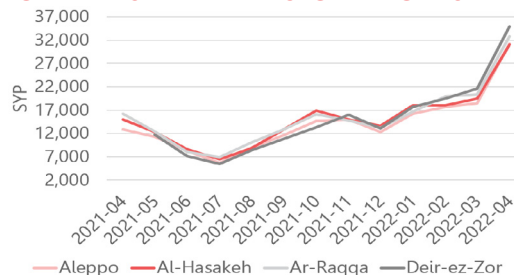
Bread prices remained stable in April, as bread was one of the key food items to increase in price in March. The fluctuation of bread prices is attributed to both the depreciation of the SYP and general subsidies by the authorities, furthermore, the monopolization of vendors and vehicles driving to remote areas requires more transport fuel. The [Syrian observer](#) reported “[w]heat prices have risen by 27 percent since the beginning of 2022, coinciding with the disruption of grain shipments to the breadbasket in the Black Sea region. The rise in geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine[...has] contributed to the paralysis of the agricultural chain in that region, beginning with the cultivation process to export shipments. “The highest price for bread was recorded at 2,000 SYP per 8-piece bundle in Shaddadah community in Al-Hasakeh governorate.

Flour remained stable in price attributed to the worsening exchange rate of the SYP and its limited availability. For a deeper analysis of the agricultural context in Syria, please see the [FAO Agriculture Input and Commodity Bulletin for March 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.

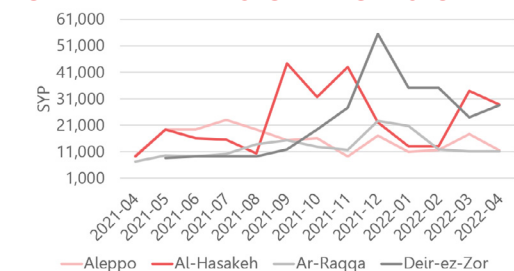
Water prices in NES increased by 6% but remained stable at the governorate levels (fig. 7). The [REACH Syria Briefing Note on water in April 2022](#) reported “the water

crisis in Northeast Syria (NES) spans multiple dimensions – a meteorological drought, reduced flow in the Euphrates River, and a long-term reduction in groundwater levels. Together, these have led to a severe deterioration in the humanitarian situation. The drought began in late 2020 with a delayed onset of winter rains and low rainfall, later made worse by heatwaves and an early cessation of rains in the spring of 2021.” As such, prices for water are expected to increase as the oncoming summer months of 2022 exacerbate an already complex water situation for the region.

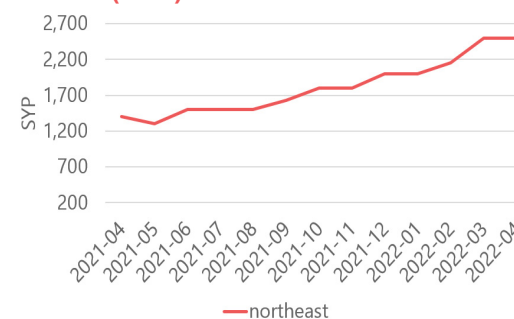
SMEB VEGETABLE PRICES IN NES - FG. 4



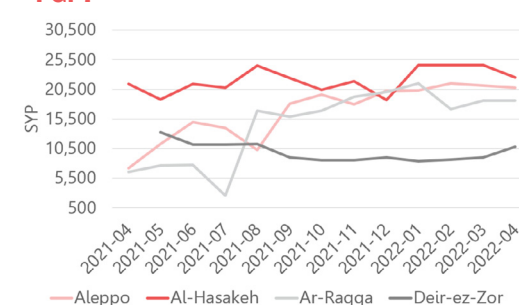
SMEB BREAD PRICES IN NES - FG. 5



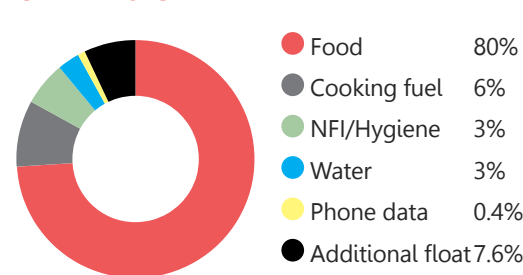
FLOUR (KILO) PRICES IN NES FG. 6



SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICES IN NES - FG. 7



SMEB COMPOSITION<sup>5</sup> FOR NORTHEAST SYRIA - FG. 8



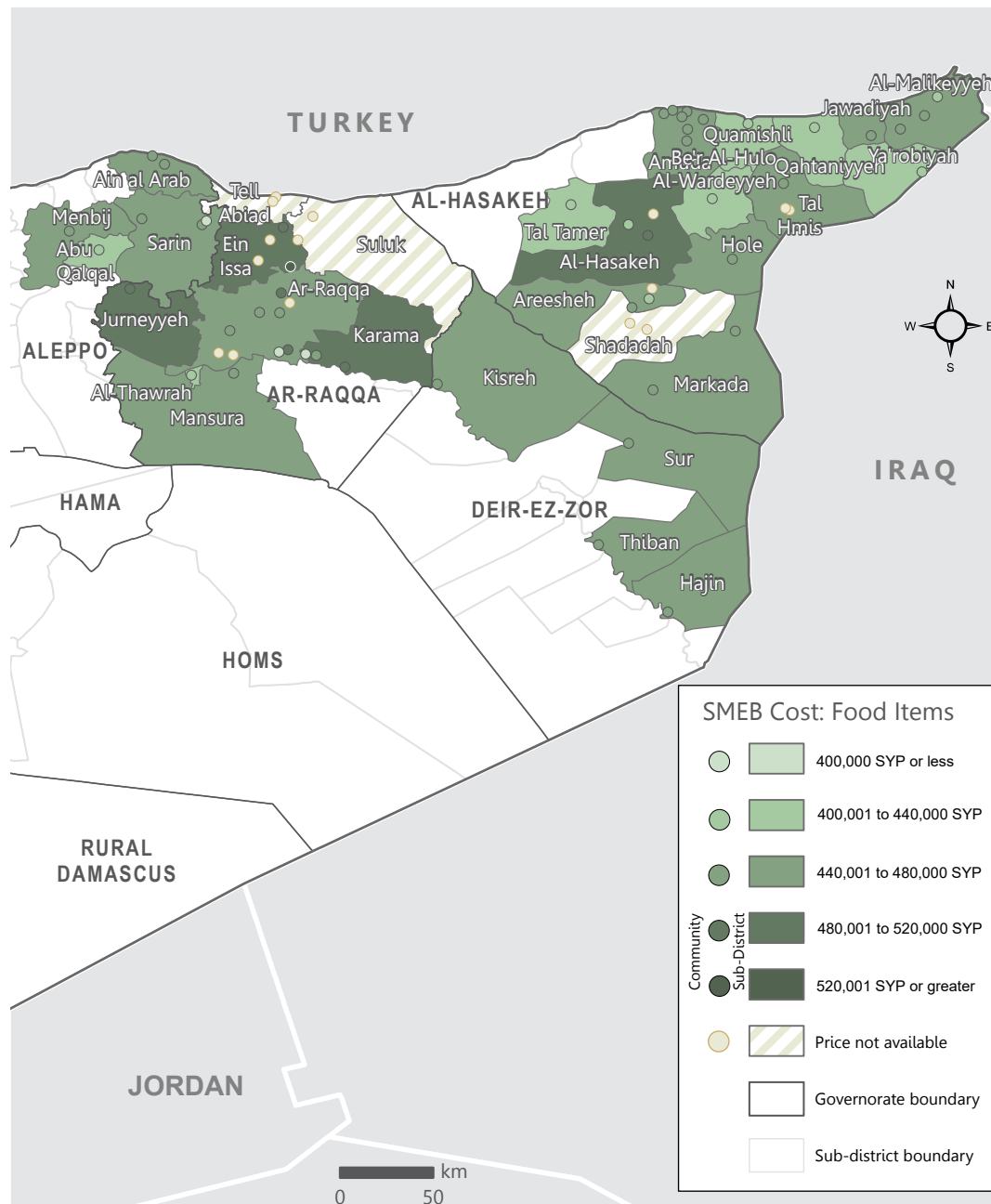
SMEB CONTENTS - FG. 9

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.

#5 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>6</sup>	Price SYP	1 month change	6 month change	Price USD <sup>2</sup>
<b>Northeast food Syria SMEB</b>		<b>457,871</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>SMEB bulk component</b>		<b>SMEB</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>59.03</b>
Bulgur	1 kg	3,275	9%	72%	0.84
Red lentils	1 kg	4,675	4%	56%	1.20
Rice	1 kg	3,175	6%	32%	0.82
Salt	500 g	525	-5%	5%	0.14
Sugar	1 kg	3,450	14%	64%	0.89
Tomato paste	1 kg	5,125	3%	35%	1.32
<b>SMEB vegetables component</b>		<b>SMEB</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>8.15</b>
Tomatoes	1 kg	3,500	59%	84%	0.90
Potatoes	1 kg	2,000	48%	67%	0.51
Cucumbers	1 kg	3,500	75%	133%	0.90
Onions	1 kg	1,200	41%	71%	0.31
Cooking oils	SMEB	68,250	11%	77%	17.57
Ghee	1 kg	9,500	19%	90%	2.45
Vegetable oil	1 L	10,000	0%	82%	2.57
<b>SMEB non-veg perishables</b>					
Bread	8 pc	400	0%	0%	0.10
Chicken	1 kg	7,000	7%	32%	1.80
Eggs	30 pc	10,750	13%	18%	2.77
<b>Non-food items component</b>		<b>SMEB</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>9.42</b>
Bathing soap	1 pc	1,000	0%	25%	0.26
Sanitary pads	10 pc	1,900	-5%	27%	0.49
Toothpaste	100 g	2,600	18%	39%	0.67
Laundry powder	1 kg	4,050	1%	1%	1.04
Dish soap	1 L	3,500	-3%	25%	0.90
<b>Cooking fuels component</b>		<b>SMEB</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>3.86</b>
Kerosene (manually refined)	1 L	650	-10%	21%	0.17
LP gas	1 L	175	0%	0%	0.05
<b>Water trucking component</b>		<b>SMEB</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>4.92</b>
Water trucking (1000 L)	1 m3	4,250	6%	13%	1.09
<b>Other</b>					
Phone data	1 gb	2,580	-1%	-8%	0.66

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



## MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

Market functionality indicators in NES showed slightly higher issues overall, compared to March. In all governorates the percentage of vendors reporting price inflation as a supply challenge slightly increased compared to March. All key food items remained available in over 94% of assessed communities. High quality fuels remained widely unavailable but cheaper, manually refined (lower quality) fuels were widely available. These lower quality fuels cause more issues in the long run though, creating higher long-term maintenance costs for those forced to use them for transportation and energy generators. More than half of all vendors reported an adequate stock of the 1 USD or 5 USD denominations.

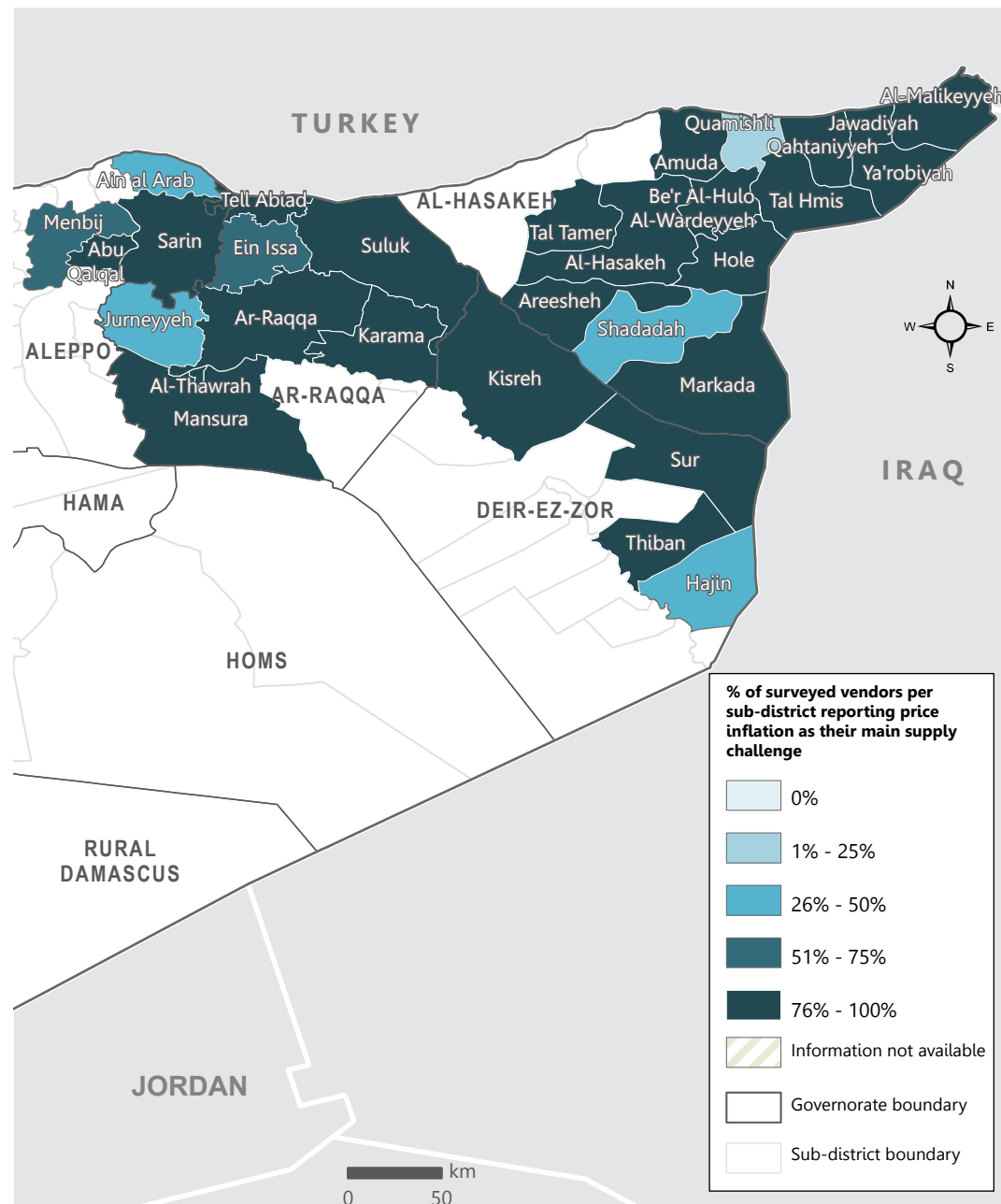
These minor changes in market fluctuations suggest supply chains are still managing to function in NES. However, the effects of additional challenges including transport fuel pressures, currency woes, and price inflation are expected to have long-term impacts well into 2022.

In April, 86% of surveyed vendors reported facing supply challenges in NES (fg. 12), which is a slight decrease compared with the previous month. The most reported supply challenge was price inflation at 77% (fg. 12 and 13), which was an increase from the previous month.

## SUPPLY CHALLENGES REPORTED<sup>7</sup> BY SURVEYED VENDORS - FG. 12

	AREA	REPORTED %
<b>PRICE INFLATION</b>	<b>NES</b>	<b>77%</b>
	NE Aleppo	61%
	Al-Hasakeh	83%
	Ar-Raqqa	78%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	79%
<b>SUPPLY CANT MEET DEMAND</b>	<b>NES</b>	<b>19%</b>
	NE Aleppo	9%
	Al-Hasakeh	29%
	Ar-Raqqa	10%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	26%
<b>SUPPLIER LIMITED SUPPLY</b>	<b>NES</b>	<b>16%</b>
	NE Aleppo	12%
	Al-Hasakeh	28%
	Ar-Raqqa	5%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	5%
<b>NO ISSUES</b>	<b>NES</b>	<b>14%</b>
	NE Aleppo	30%
	Al-Hasakeh	4%
	Ar-Raqqa	16%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	21%

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



#7 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 (4th - 11th April 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 and producing outputs.



## 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](#).