

WINTER SPECIAL REPORT

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ON-LINE DASHBOARD

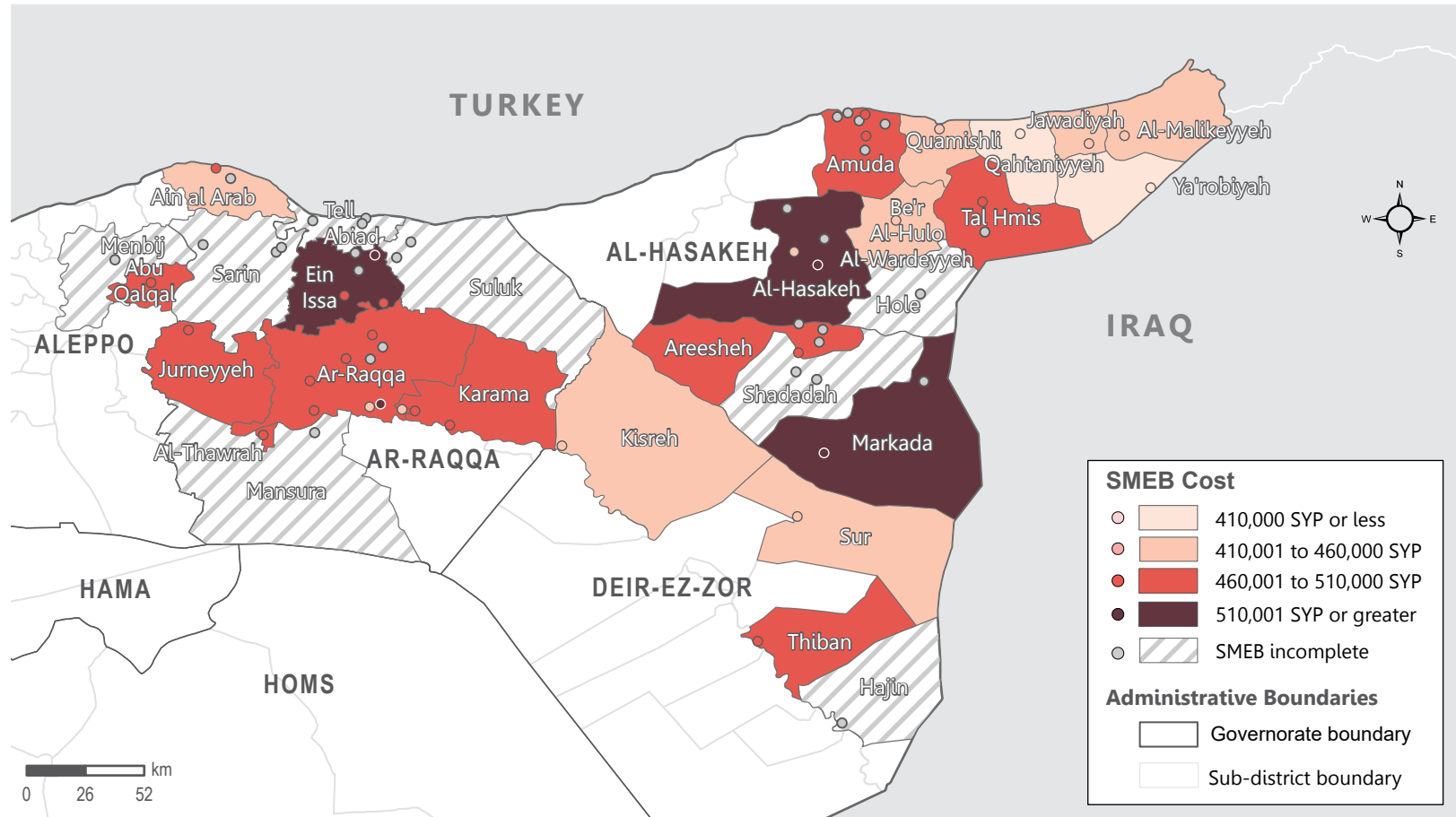
To facilitate the interaction with the JMMI, an interactive dashboard is available on-line. The dashboard is designed to allow users to navigate more easily and draw geographical and temporal comparisons across different currencies - Syrian Pound (SYP), US Dollar (USD) and Turkish Lira (TRY). To use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

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.

MEDIAN SMEB PRICE PER SUB-DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES (SYP) - FG. 1



FEBRUARY 2022 COVERAGE

- 9 supporting partners
- 4 governorates
- 11 district
- 29 subdistricts
- 63 communities
- 2,032 shops (vendor key informants)

The accompanying data is disseminated monthly and is distributed through partners across the humanitarian community. See here for the [February 2022 JMMI dataset](#)

FEEDBACK ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THIS PRODUCT CAN BE GIVEN ANONYMOUSLY USING THE FOLLOWING [LINK](#)

INTRODUCTION

To inform humanitarian cash programming, REACH - in partnership with the northeast (NES) and northwest (NWS) Syria Cash Working Group (CWG) - conducts a monthly Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (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.

Of these, 18 items comprise the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB; see fig. 2, 5 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](#).

The accompanying data is disseminated monthly and is distributed through partners across the humanitarian community. Please see the [February 2022 dataset](#) as well as further information, including historical price data which dates back to 2016 for many items. For a weekly analysis of market trends please also refer to the [CWG Joint Rapid Assessment of Markets \(JRAM\)](#) NES assessment.

This special winter report considers important trends seen over the past year in the JMMI that relate to current prices, and their potential impact, with reference to applicable reports. This special winter report also contains shelter and non-food items (SNFI) winter and shelter market price trends on [page 10](#). The report attempts to contextualise the current economic fragility in Idleb governorate and northeast (NE) Aleppo governorate in light of the current pressures. While the conflict has continued for over ten years, the [Humanitarian Needs Overview for Syria 2022 \(HNO 2022\)](#) defines the current status in northern Syria as follows:

While the March 2020 Idleb ceasefire agreement led to an overall reduction in hostilities and large-scale displacement, hostilities have intensified throughout 2021 along frontlines across the northwest, northeast and south of the country that have not shifted significantly since 2020.

This context of both stability and fragility are reflected in the economic situation in Northern Syria:

Macro-economic conditions continued to deteriorate in 2021, and appear to be worsening further. The combined effects of currency depreciation, soaring prices, reduced fiscal revenue and increasing domestic debt and widespread losses in livelihoods have plunged additional segments of the population into humanitarian need, most notably in areas historically less affected by hostilities and displacement [ibid].

SMEB CONTENTS - FG. 2

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	12 kg
Red lentils	15 kg	(fresh)	
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.



SMEB PRICE BY GOVERNORATE AND SUB-DISTRICT#2 - FG. 3

	SMEB SYP	1 month change	6 month change	1 year change	SMEB USD ¹
Northeast Syria SMEB³	480,418	0%	44%	70%	130
NE Aleppo Governorate Median	462,821	1%	46%	74%	126
Abu Qalqal	472,834	NA	41%	NA	129
Ain al Arab	452,808	7%	53%	NA	124
Menbij	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sarin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al-Hasakeh Governorate Median	490,200	0%	43%	67%	134
Al-Hasakeh	512,128	1%	44%	NA	140
Al-Malikiyyeh*	440,320	7%	39%	62%	121
Amuda*	469,685	-1%	NA	55%	129
Areeshah	490,200	0%	49%	NA	134
Be'r Al-Hulo	443,429	NA	31%	NA	121
Al-Wardeyyeh					
Hole	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jawadiyah*	453,525	7%	52%	NA	124
Markada	524,431	6%	51%	NA	142
Qahtaniyyeh*	369,961	6%	NA	49%	101
Quamishli	454,418	-1%	25%	NA	124
Shadadah	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tal Hmis*	476,564	2%	NA	62%	131
Ya'robriyah*	409,606	3%	50%	36%	112
Ar-Raqqa Governorate Median	501,902	4%	48%	65%	137
Al-Thawrah*	479,477	2%	37%	65%	130
Ar-Raqqa	501,902	4%	50%	NA	137
Ein Issa	548,234	10%	59%	NA	149
Jurneyyeh*	503,261	13%	57%	79%	NA
Karama	497,535	3%	NA	NA	135
Mansura	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Suluk	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tell Abiad	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Deir-ez-Zor Governorate Median	441,592	2%	37%	43%	121
Hajin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kisreh	439,935	2%	41%	NA	121
Sur	441,592	4%	32%	NA	121
Thiban	480,418	-7%	49%	NA	130

#1 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.

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

FEBRUARY 2022 STATUS - KEY DEVELOPMENTS



FEB 2022 NES COST OF SMEB³

480,418 SYP ▼ 0%
130 USD ▲ 6%

FEB 2022 NES COST OF FOOD BASKET³

381,031 ▲ 4%
104 USD ▲ 2%

FEB 2022 NES EXCHANGE RATE³

USD/SYP
3,670 SYP ▲ 2%

- The NES February SMEB total was the **highest seen in SYP** in the seven years of the JMMI
- Falling currency exchange rates and increases in transport fuel costs are the **main drivers** of SMEB price increases
- Winter clothing was widely **available** across NES in the winter of 2021-2022, but essential household winter items and fuels saw lower availability across the region
- Markets and supply chains were under pressure, but **continued to function** and respond to external pressures
- High quality transport fuels were **expensive** and widely **unavailable**
- Manually refined (low quality fuels) were **expensive** but widely **available**
- Key food items were **expensive** but widely **available**
- **Access to sufficient water** (for all purposes) in NES was stable throughout the winter for over 4/5 of households

In NES the price of the SMEB in SYP for February remained stable compared to January, and continued to be the highest recorded SMEB in SYP in the seven years of the JMMI. The value of the SMEB in USD fell slightly but remains the second highest recorded SMEB in USD since September 2019.⁴ Costs of fresh vegetables, cooking oils and cooking fuels rose. Water trucking prices remained high although they have been stable throughout much of the second half of 2021 and the start of 2022. Prices of bulk foods and non-food items (NFI) were stable in February and remained the highest prices they have ever been in the JMMI. These high prices can be attributed to the sharp depreciation of the Turkish Lira against the USD in November and December 2021, as many of these items are imported from Turkey. The exchange rate has remained at a high 14 TRY to the dollar since December 2021, which is double the price compared to the same time last year (7 TRY). The SYP continues to depreciate against the USD, although at a much slower rate.



COMPARED TO LAST WINTER - CHANGES SINCE FEBRUARY 2021:

Increased prices and falling exchange rates made winter 2021-2022 even more challenging for people in NES:



▲ SMEB up 70%



▲ Food up 73%



▲ Water up 29%



▲ NFIs up 34%

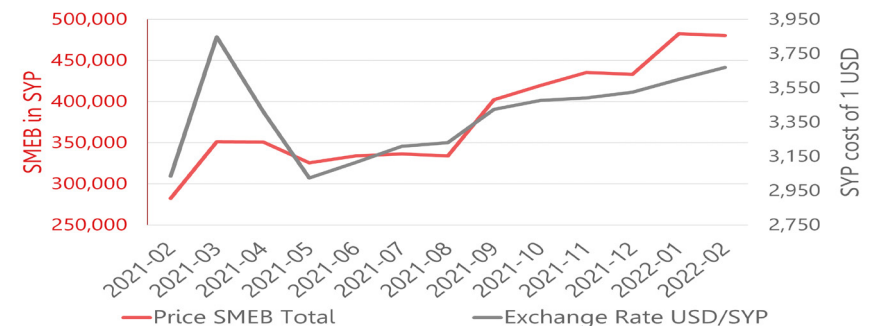


▲ Cooking fuels up 6%



▲ USD/SYP exchange rate up 21%

NORTHEAST SYRIA SMEB PRICE TRENDS VS USD TO SYP INFORMAL EXCHANGE RATES - FG. 4



#3 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.

#4 The SMEB value in USD has been much more stable in the history of the JMMI relative to the SMEB value in SYP, due to the stability of the USD currency.



SMEB FOOD ITEMS OVERVIEW

In NES, food prices continued to increase in February 2022. The [HNO 2022](#) reported that “[a]cross the country food insecurity remains extremely high: with an estimated 12 million severely food insecure people, Syria ranks amongst the ten most food-insecure countries globally by mid-2021.” This occurred at the same time that “people’s ability to meet basic needs has further decreased compared to 2020, with a consistently disproportionate impact on female-headed households, older persons without family support, persons with disabilities and children” [ibid].

The food component of the SMEB has increased in price in a uniform manor throughout the past twelve months across NES. Ar-Raqqa governorate experienced the highest food basket price which was predominantly driven by a large increase in the prices of cooking fuels ([fg. 6](#)) and vegetables ([fg. 7](#)), especially cucumbers ([fg.11](#)). JMMI field teams reported that these increases were due to vegetables being out of season, and hence the increased costs associated with greenhouse-based production and imports. Indeed, the SMEB items with the greatest increase in price compared to six months ago – before the start of the winter period – are tomatoes (up 163%) and cucumbers (122%). However, the prices of these seasonal items have also increased compared to the same time last year, by 91% and 43%, respectively ([fg. 11](#)).

JMMI findings on price increases are in line with winter reports from the [World Food Program \(WFP Syria\)](#) that “[f]ood prices have reached a new record high for the

fourth consecutive month in December. Food prices are now 97% higher compared to the same time last year.”⁶ As [Pax for Peace](#) stated in their special report on climate and conflict in rural Syria:

The circumstances are ripe for future tensions if the mismatch between resources and requirements continues to expand. [...] Imports of animal feed have been unviable for all but the wealthiest herders since the Syrian pound (SYP) lost much of its value [...] with much of the collapse coming since 2019. The worsening economic outlook has also reduced farmers’ capacity to buy more resilient seeds, which is especially problematic in the northeast due to many agro-humanitarian organisations’ unwillingness or inability to operate beyond government-controlled areas. Dependence on these old seeds threatens to drastically reduce yields in the years to come.

Due to these concerns, Syria was listed in the February to May 2022 outlook report [Hunger Hotspots: FAO-WFP Early Warnings On Acute Food Insecurity](#). The report stated that Syria remained on of the countries of particular concern based on the high numbers of people in critical food insecurity, attributed to “increasing difficulties in financing imports, along with liquidity shortages and extreme price spikes. [...] High levels of acute food insecurity continue to be driven by a lingering economic crisis, protracted displacement and drought-like conditions impacting agricultural production”. In addition, the “below-average rainfall and

resulting drought conditions due to the ongoing La Niña [weather] event negatively affect the current agricultural season” [ibid].

Food prices are expected to further increase, exacerbated by high feed prices and lack of access to pasture [ibid]. Indeed, in February, the JMMI recorded that chicken continued to increase in price in many areas in NES. JMMI field teams also attributed this to the high costs of feed, animal medicines, and costs of transportation and heating for poultry.

Furthermore, the joint [iMMAP-FSL Northeast Syria Flash Report: Deterioration of the Livestock Feed and Fodder Market](#) warn of the upcoming “catastrophic impact of water scarcity on farmers and livestock producers in the 2022 season [...] due in large part to failed rain crops. [...] The situation is forcing farmers to reach an extreme coping strategy level of selling their livestock for lower prices.”

The 2021 [FAO Crop and Food Supply Assessment](#) reported on the “[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.” Furthermore, [COAR](#) reported in January that “[t]here is a bread crisis in all regions of Syria, as prices have gone up and production has declined.”

In mid-January, [Alaraby](#) reported that authorities in NES had raised the price of sugar due to the falling exchange rate of the SYP to the USD. In February, vendors assessed by the JMMI in NES reported that sugar was unavailable in 9% of communities/

neighbourhoods.

All bulk food items, apart from salt and tomato paste, saw price increases in NES in February. According to JMMI field teams, bulk food items are typically imported. As such, their prices likely increased due to the depreciation of the SYP and Turkish Lira (TRY) against the USD and the impact of the border closures, which have been reported by the [Syrian Observatory for Human Rights \(SOHR\)](#) and [ECHO Daily Flash](#).

Bread prices are influenced both by depreciation of the SYP and general subsidies from the authorities. In February 2022 these prices continued to fluctuate, and remained highest in Deir-Ez-Zor governorate ([fg. 8](#)). As such, although bread was one of the only key food items to decrease in price on average, prices varied largely between governorates. Additionally, there are reports – such as those by [SOHR](#) – that the quality of subsidised bread is falling across the region. Flour has been increasing in price in a more stable pattern across the region, relative to bread ([fg. 9](#)).⁷

SMEB COMPOSITION⁵ FOR NORTHEAST SYRIA - FG. 5



#5 Due to rounding figures may not total 100%

#6 This may contribute to the critical levels of food insecurity reported by [MC HAT's Thematic Report: Food \(in\)security in government-held Syria](#), that “[f]ood insecurity has reached critical levels in Syria, with 59% of the population now food insecure.”

#7 For a deeper analysis of the agricultural context in Syria, please see the [FAO Agriculture Input and Commodity Bulletin for February 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. For a broader, national overview of the market context in Syria, please view the [WFP Syria mVAM Bulletin for February 2022](#). For insights on food security across Syria, please see the [WFP Hunger Map](#) or the latest [WFP Syria Emergency Dashboard](#).



WATER

The [HNO 2022](#) reported that “[i]n 2021, climatic and human-caused shocks affecting natural resources, particularly water, have intensified. Erratic rainfall [...] triggered substantial harvest and income losses, decreased hydroelectricity generation, an increase in water-borne diseases, and additional protection risks.” At the national level, “[w]ater treatment and distribution networks continue to degrade – 47 per cent of Syrians now rely on often unsafe alternatives to piped water [...] and at least half of the sewerage systems are not functional. Waterborne disease is on the rise” [ibid]. JMMI data aligns with this outlook for NES. In winter 2021-2022, water prices remained stable at the regional level, but some areas in NES were already seeing some increases in water trucking costs by February 2022 ([fg. 10](#)).

In February the highest price for the SMEB water component⁸ was recorded at 45,000 SYP in ‘Forty Seven’ and ‘Shaddadah’ communities, both in Al-Hasakeh. Water prices increased in Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor, decreased in Ar-Raqqa and stayed the same price in Al-Hasakeh.

The [ECHO Daily Flash](#) report states that “[f]ive million people are increasingly losing access to water, food, [and] electricity”. Water trucking is the main source of clean water for most individuals, and JMMI field teams report that some towns have experienced water cuts resulting in increased prices. In February 2022, JMMI water trucking costs were highest in Al-Hasakeh governorate.

WASH partners continue to provide water trucking to fill the gaps where possible,

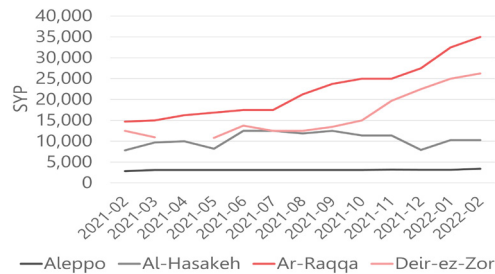
but as costs rise and water levels fall, their operations will likely be further limited. For more context surrounding the water crisis in northern Syria, as well as longer-term trends, please see the [FAO Precipitation Analysis for 1980 - 2021](#).



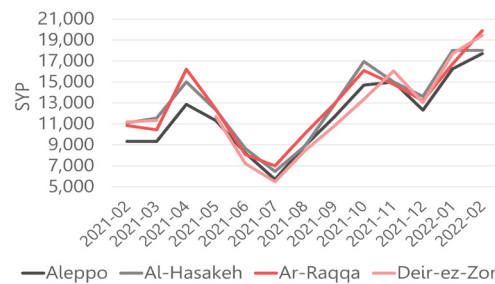
COOKING FUELS

JMMI data shows that the average price of cooking fuels (a combination of manually refined kerosene and LP Gas) has increased by 15% compared to 6 months ago, and by 64% compared to February 2021 ([fg. 6](#) and [11](#)).

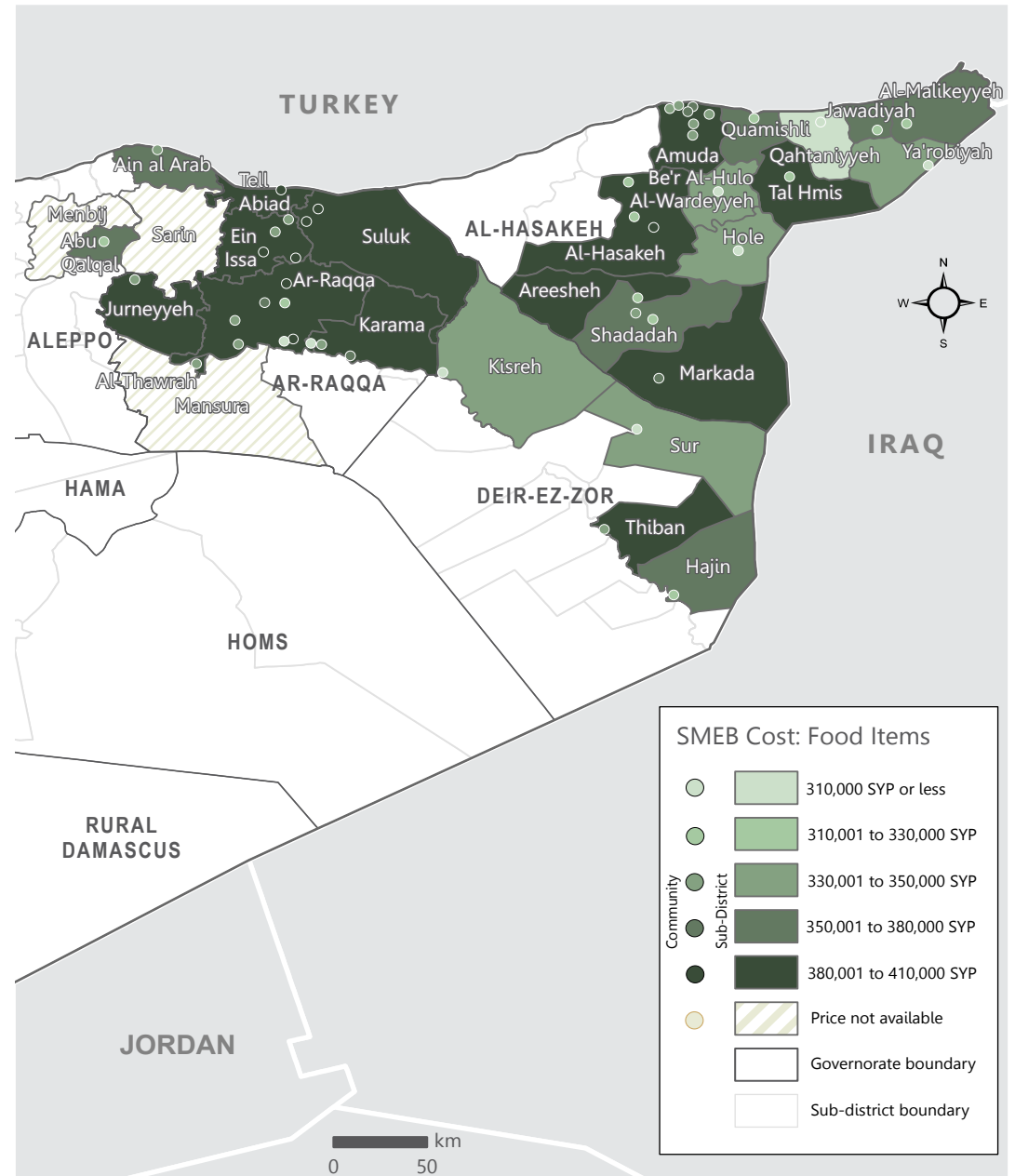
SMEB COOKING FUEL PRICES IN NES - FG. 6



SMEB VEGETABLE PRICES IN NES - FG. 7

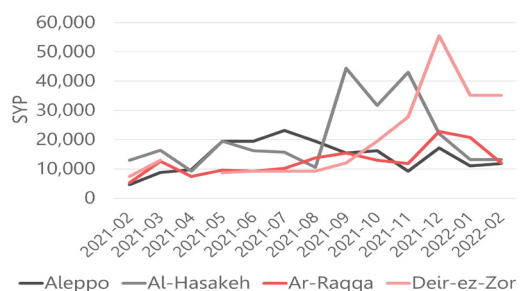


SMEB FOOD COMPONENT COST ACROSS NES, BY SUBDISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES - FG. 12

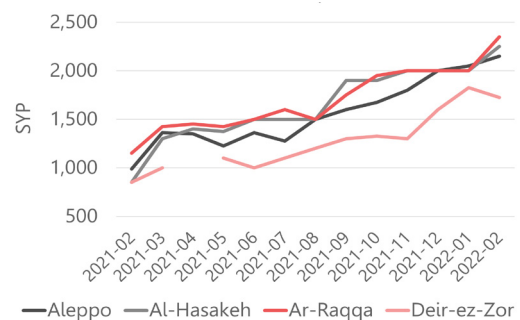


#8 45,000 L for a family of 6 for 1 month = 25 L per person per day

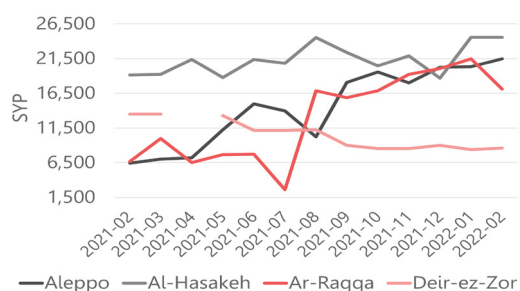
SMEB BREAD PRICES IN NES - FG. 8



KILO OF FLOUR PRICES IN NES - FG. 9



SMEB WATER TRUCKING PRICES - FG.10



PRICE OF ALL SMEB ITEMS - FG. 11

Item	Unit ⁹	Price SYP	1 month change	6 month change	1 year change	Price USD ²	Feb Unavailability ¹⁰
Northeast food Syria SMEB		381,031	4%	52%	73%	104	
SMEB bulk component	SMEB	190,700	1%	47%	72%	51.96	
Bulgur	1 kg	2,550	2%	59%	82%	0.69	0%
Red lentils	1 kg	4,200	5%	68%	110%	1.14	1%
Rice	1 kg	2,800	4%	40%	56%	0.76	0%
Salt	500 g	500	0%	0%	43%	0.14	0%
Sugar	1 kg	3,000	3%	58%	67%	0.82	9%
Tomato paste	1 kg	4,500	0%	33%	50%	1.23	0%
SMEB vegetables component	SMEB	18,450	7%	102%	71%	5.03	
Tomatoes	1 kg	2,100	5%	163%	91%	0.57	4%
Potatoes	1 kg	1,300	0%	73%	117%	0.35	4%
Cucumbers	1 kg	2,000	11%	122%	43%	0.54	4%
Onions	1 kg	800	0%	33%	33%	0.22	4%
Cooking oils	SMEB	45,500	5%	36%	69%	12.40	
Ghee	1 kg	6,500	4%	44%	86%	1.77	1%
Vegetable oil	1 L	6,300	5%	26%	58%	1.72	0%
SMEB non-veg perishables							
Bread	8 pc	356	-11%	25%	78%	0.10	6%
Chicken	1 kg	6,500	12%	71%	59%	1.77	7%
Eggs	30 pc	9,500	3%	40%	58%	2.59	1%
Non-food items component	SMEB	32,200	0%	25%	34%	8.77	
Bathing soap	1 pc	1,000	11%	43%	67%	0.27	0%
Sanitary pads	10 pc	1,500	0%	0%	25%	0.41	0%
Toothpaste	100 g	2,273	3%	45%	40%	0.62	5%
Laundry powder	1 kg	4,000	0%	6%	20%	1.09	0%
Dish soap	1 L	3,111	11%	32%	40%	0.85	0%
Cooking fuels component	SMEB	14,375	15%	15%	64%	3.92	
Kerosene (manually refined)	1 L	825	20%	65%	136%	0.22	24%
LP gas	1 L	175	0%	0%	21%	0.05	7%
Water trucking component	SMEB	17,438	0%	15%	29%	4.75	
Water trucking (1000 L)	1 m3	3,875	0%	15%	29%	1.06	0%
Other							
Phone data	1 gb	2,500	-11%	0%	0%	0.68	NA

#9 The SMEB unit refers to the current SMEB allocation of the item, as outlined in [fg.2](#) #10 Feb Unavailability refers to the % of surveyed vendors reporting items as unavailable in their community/neighbourhood, here aggregated at the regional level



IMPACT OF FUEL PRICES ON FOOD

According to JMMI data, in the past 12 months there has been a noticeable relationship between the increase in the SMEB price and the increase in the average transport fuel cost¹¹ (fg. 13). Although the price of different fuel types has been largely erratic over the past year, the average price of all fuels combined has increased largely in line with the SMEB cost, which has a comparable trend relative to the increase in the exchange rate (fg. 4).

HIGH QUALITY TRANSPORT FUELS

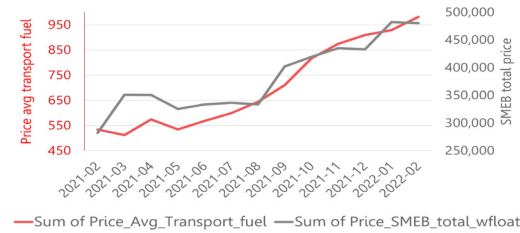
High quality fuels are mostly imported, and JMMI field teams reported that typical challenges included an increase in demand coupled with increased unavailability, which was even more common in the winter months across NES. High quality transport fuels were reportedly most expensive in Ar-Raqqa governorate, where fuel costs have increased sharply since April 2021. High quality fuels are rarely available in Deir-Ez-Zor governorate and so price data has not been available for this governorate since October 2020 (fg. 14).

LOW QUALITY TRANSPORT FUELS

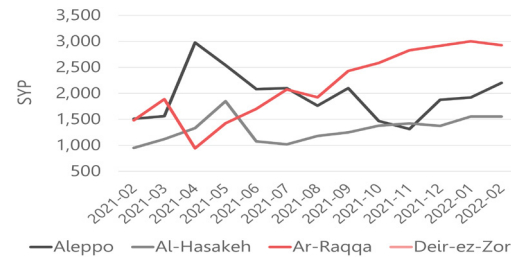
Manually refined (low quality) fuels were reported to be widely available across NES in February 2022. However, the prices of manually refined fuels varied greatly - both across governorates and month to month - typically because of high transportation costs and other regional challenges. In February 2022, manually refined fuels all increased in price, and Ar-Raqqa governorate saw the sharpest price increase (fg. 15). JMMI field

teams reported that manually refined fuels are often used in place of high quality fuel for transport and generators because high quality fuels are rarely available. However, it is important to note that lower quality fuels can be damaging to engines in vehicles and generators, compared to high quality fuels. Thus, although the lower quality fuels are cheaper in the short term, the cost of repairs is higher in the long run.

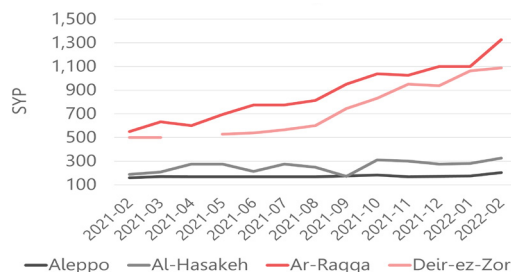
SMEB PRICE VS AVERAGE TRANSPORT FUEL COST PER LITRE - FG. 13



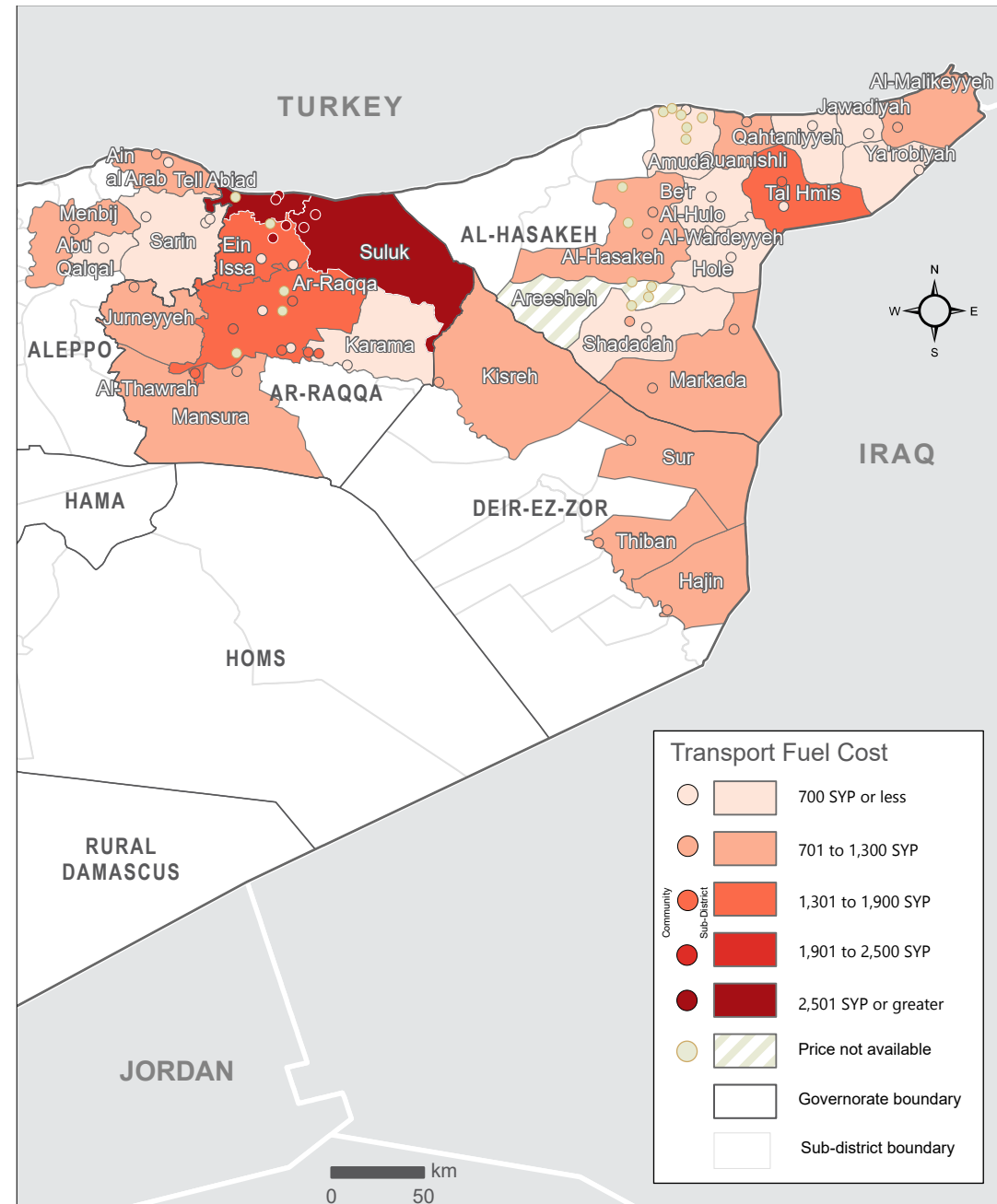
AVERAGE COST OF HIGH QUALITY TRANSPORT FUELS PER LITRE - FG. 14



AVERAGE COST OF LOW QUALITY TRANSPORT FUELS PER LITRE - FG. 15



AVERAGE TRANSPORT FUEL COST PER LITRE ACROSS NES, BY SUBDISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES - FG. 16



#11 The JMMI collects fuel prices per litre for high quality diesel, manually refined (low quality) diesel; high quality petrol, and manually refined (low quality) petrol. Average high quality fuel prices are calculated as an average of the high quality diesel and petrol prices, and average low quality fuel prices are calculated as an average of the manually refined diesel and petrol prices. The average fuel price is a calculated average of all collected fuel prices, adjusted for balancing and coverage.



CURRENCY

According to [Mercy Corp's Humanitarian Access Team \(MC HAT\): Syria Year in Review 2021](#), the "deteriorating economy poses the main threat to people's well-being, with widespread shortages and price increases of fuel, bread and other basic commodities causing protests throughout the country."

In February, the SYP depreciated slightly against the USD, which has been an ongoing trend since the start of 2020. The regional exchange rate for NES was recorded at 3,670 SYP to 1 USD, and the highest exchange rate was recorded at 3,690 SYP for 1 USD in Disheisha community in Al-Hasakeh governorate and in Rashid community in Ar-Raqqa governorate¹². For an overview of the USD/SYP exchange rate across all of Syria, please see the [WFP VAM Food Security Analysis](#) for February 2022.

The TRY depreciated notably against the USD in December 2021, but in January and February 2022 the TRY had stabilized at a high 14 TRY to the USD. That is double the exchange rate compared to this time last year, which had been stable at 7 TRY. As many bulk food items and NFI items are typically exported from Turkey, this has impacted prices across the region. In February, [BBC News](#) reported that "[i]nflation is a battle people all over the world are fighting. But the struggle is particularly acute in Turkey where people are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet".

[REACH Humanitarian Situation Overview of Syria \(HSOS\)](#)¹³ data shows that livelihoods has consistently been reported as one of the top priority needs among all population groups across northern Syria. For an understanding of the profile of the labour force, market demand, and various sectors of employment

#12 The official exchange rate for Syria remains 2,500 SYP to 1 USD, as reported by [WFP Syria's Price Bulletin for February 2022](#)

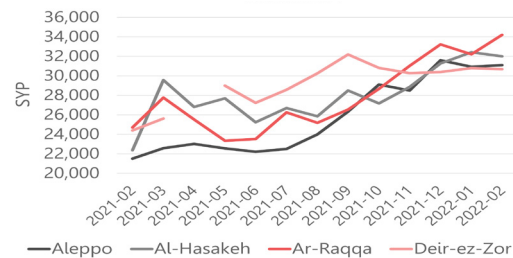
#13 REACH's HSOS data follows a community key informant methodology, as opposed to the JMIMI's vendor key informant methodology. Both assessments collect data at the community/neighbourhood level.

and professional networks, please see the [REACH Labour Market Assessment for Ar-Raqqa city and Al-Hasakeh city, March 2022](#).

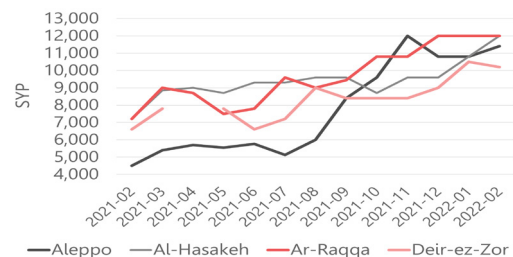
NFI NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIS)

NFI prices have increased overall (fg. 17) by 34% since the same time last year, and by 25% compared to 6 months ago (fg 11). Compared to January, NFI prices remained stable overall, except for dish soap, and bathing soap (fg. 18). These items were recorded to be widely available, but expensive. The [REACH HSOS NES February dataset](#)¹³ finds that bathing soap is available in the NE Aleppo governorate but not affordable for the majority of people as reported by KIs in roughly 89% of the assessed communities. Bathing soap is also available in the 3 other governorates in NES, but unaffordable for the majority of people as reported by KIs in roughly 80%, 74% and 70% of the assessed communities in Raqqa, Deir-Ez-Zor and Hasakeh governorate, respectively.

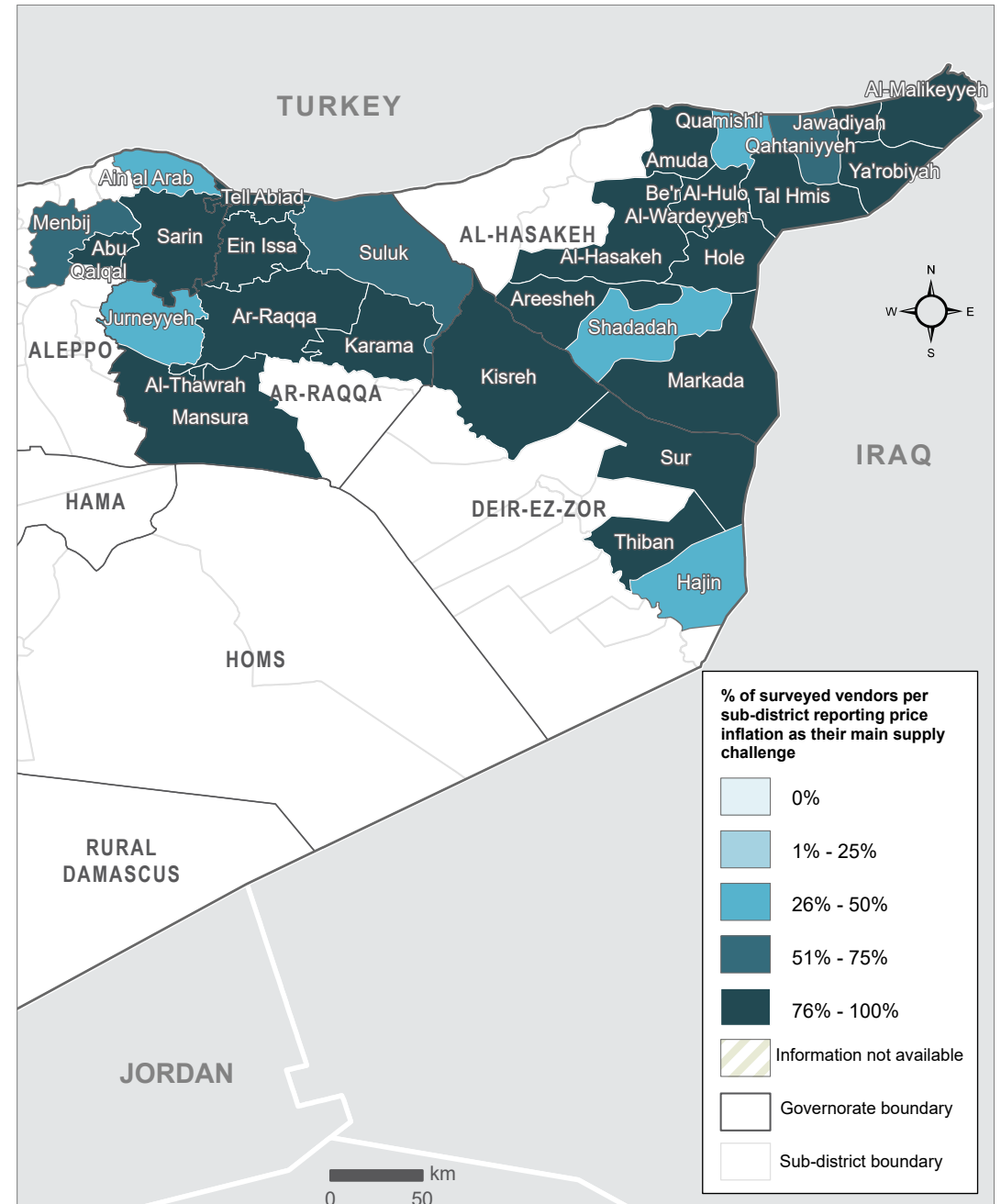
SMEB NFI PRICES IN NES - FG. 17



SMEB BATHING SOAP PRICES IN NES - FG. 18



VENDORS REPORTING PRICE INFLATION AS THEIR MAIN SUPPLY CHALLENGE ACROSS NES - FG. 19





MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

Market functionality¹⁴ indicators in NES showed somewhat positive trends despite both the high prices and the border closures that most likely caused the price increases seen in early 2022. There was a minor decrease in vendors who reported supply challenges and the number of vendors citing price inflation as their main challenge fell somewhat compared to January 2022.

There was a **minor increase** (up 3 percentage points) compared to last month in the number of **vendors who cited that they would run out of stock in the next 3 days** if supply lines were cut, which is currently over one third (34%) of all vendors. This is a marked improvement compared to 6 months ago in the summer, where nearly half of all surveyed vendors (46%) reported the same issue, and a minor improvement compared to the same time last year (36%).

In February 2022, **86% of surveyed vendors reported facing supply challenges** in NES, which represents a **slight decrease** from the previous month. It also represents a slight deterioration compared to 6 months ago in August (81%), and an improvement when compared to the same time last year (90%).

The most commonly reported supply challenge was **price inflation reported by 76% of vendors** (fg. 20), which also represents a **slight decrease** from the previous month. This has remained the number one challenge in the region over the past year. Compared to 6 months ago, it has gotten worse (68%), although it has improved compared to the same time last year (82%).

Across shop types, surveyed **water trucking vendors (89%), butchers (83%) and vegetable vendors (81%)** most commonly

reported that they would **run out of stock in less than 3 days if supply lines were cut**. These types of vendors are typically only able to keep small stores of stock at any one time due to the perishable nature of their products.

Notably, **100% of water trucking vendors** in Deir-Ez-Zor, 89% in Al-Hasakeh, 85% in Ar-Raqqa and 84% in NE Aleppo reported that they would **run out of supply in less than 3 days if supply lines were cut**. Furthermore, **100% of vegetable vendors and butchers** in Deir-Ez-Zor and NE Aleppo reported the same.

95% of informal currency exchange vendors reported having **limited stock of one or more USD denominations**. This has remained relatively consistent over the past year. **More than half** of reporting vendors appeared to have an **adequate supply¹⁵ of the 1 USD and 5 USD** denominations, a proportion which has also remained relatively consistent over the past year. However, this time last year over half of vendors were reporting that they also had an adequate supply of the 10 USD and 20 USD, which is no longer the case.

This relative stability across market functionality indicators suggests that supply chains are still functional in NES. However, JMMI data suggests that the effects of additional challenges, including currency woes and price inflation are expected to have long term impacts well into 2022.

For more insight into market connections at the end of the winter 2022 period, please see the [REACH Market Network Analysis \(MNA\) for March 2022](#).

SUPPLY CHALLENGES REPORTED¹⁶ BY SURVEYED VENDORS, BY REGION AND GOVERNORATES - FG. 20

	AREA	CURRENT STATUS REPORTED FEB 2022	STATUS 6 MONTHS AGO REPORTED AUG 2021	STATUS 1 YEAR AGO REPORTED FEB 2021
PRICE INFLATION	NES	76%	68%	82%
	Al-Hasakeh	76%	73%	84%
	NE Aleppo	62%	40%	69%
	Ar-Raqqa	83%	70%	80%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	80%	77%	92%
SUPPLY CANT MEET DEMAND	NES	18%	24%	19%
	Al-Hasakeh	28%	34%	25%
	NE Aleppo	7%	15%	17%
	Ar-Raqqa	10%	13%	4%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	29%	54%	40%
NO ISSUES	NES	14%	19%	10%
	Al-Hasakeh	9%	10%	5%
	NE Aleppo	30%	47%	22%
	Ar-Raqqa	9%	20%	15%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	18%	16%	3%
BORDER CROSSINGS CLOSED	NES	13%	12%	5%
	Al-Hasakeh	17%	12%	4%
	NE Aleppo	2%	5%	1%
	Ar-Raqqa	14%	14%	3%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	16%	16%	25%
SUPPLIER LIMITED SUPPLY	NES	12%	13%	14%
	Al-Hasakeh	21%	24%	20%
	NE Aleppo	9%	7%	1%
	Ar-Raqqa	5%	6%	5%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	3%	8%	22%
ROAD CLOSURES TO/ FROM COMMUNITY	NES	8%	8%	1%
	Al-Hasakeh	6%	3%	0%
	NE Aleppo	0%	1%	0%
	Ar-Raqqa	15%	12%	1%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	16%	19%	0%
TRANSPORT ROADS INSECURE	NES	3%	2%	2%
	Al-Hasakeh	6%	3%	3%
	NE Aleppo	1%	0%	0%
	Ar-Raqqa	1%	1%	0%
	Deir-Ez-Zor	1%	0%	0%

#14 Market functionality 6-month and 1-year comparisons are not adjusted for changes in JMMI coverage
#15 "Adequate supply" refers to vendors who do not report having a limited supply of a particular denomination

#16 multiple choice, responses not expected to total 100%. Please see the corresponding month's JMMI dataset for all supply challenges reported by vendors by region and governorate.

SNFI – SHELTER AND WINTER ITEMS REVIEW - OCTOBER TO MARCH 2022



SNFI WINTER ITEMS

Winter shelter and non-food item (SNFI) monitoring¹⁷ has taken place every winter since 2019, and historical data for individual items can be found in the [March 2022 JMMI dataset](#) at the regional, governorate, district, subdistrict and community level. For this summary, winter items have been divided into four components:

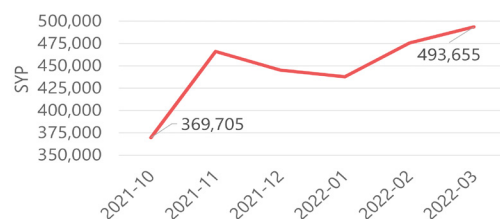
- Winter household NFIs - (consists of 9 items)
- New winter clothing - (consists of 8 items)
- Second-hand winter clothing - (consists of 8 items)
- Alternative fuels - (consists of 4 items)

WINTER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Monitored Winter Household NFI items – consists of 9 items:

- Jerrycan
- Plastic sheet
- Winter carpet
- Kerosene/diesel heater
- Winter blanket
- Mattress
- Solid fuel stove
- Fire extinguisher
- Fire blanket

SNFI HOUSEHOLD ITEMS COMPONENT PRICES IN NES - FG. 21

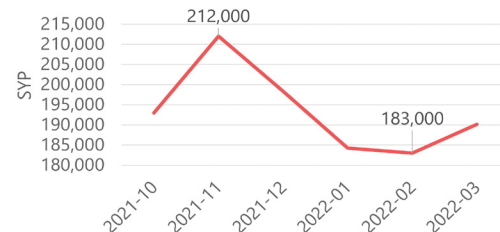


NEW WINTER CLOTHING

Monitored new winter clothing - consists of 8 items:

- Men's winter jacket
- Women's winter jacket
- Children's winter jacket
- Men's winter boots
- Women's winter boots
- Children's winter boots
- Adult's winter hat
- Children's winter hat

SNFI NEW CLOTHING COMPONENT PRICES IN NES - FG. 22

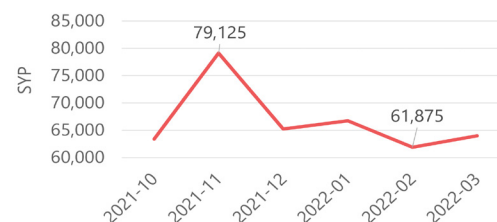


SECOND-HAND WINTER CLOTHING

Monitored second-hand winter clothing - consists of 8 items:

- Second-hand men's winter jacket
- Second-hand women's winter jacket
- Second-hand children's winter jacket
- Second-hand men's winter boots
- Second-hand women's winter boots
- Second-hand children's winter boots
- Second-hand adult's hat
- Second-hand children's hat

SNFI SECOND-HAND CLOTHING COMPONENT PRICES IN NES - FG. 23

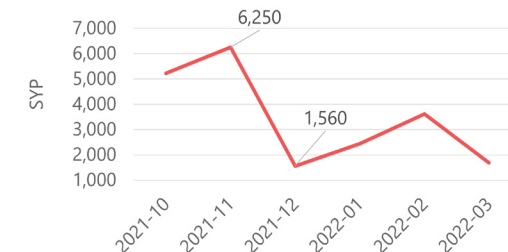


ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Monitored alternative fuels - consists of 4 items:

- Firewood
- Olive Residues
- Pistachio shells
- Coal

SNFI ALTERNATIVE FUELS COMPONENT PRICES IN NES - FG. 24



UNAVAILABILITY OF WINTER ITEMS – MID-WINTER JANUARY SNAPSHOT¹⁸

Vendors were asked whether particular items were available or unavailable in their particular community/neighbourhood. [Fig. 26](#) shows compiled **unavailability** by item group and the average for the regional and subdistrict levels in **January 2022**.

Overall, kerosene/diesel heaters were widely available across NES.

Winter clothing was reported as widely available across NES, although unavailability was highest (44% unavailable) in Markada subdistrict in Al-Hasakah governorate and Mansura subdistrict in Ar-Raqqa governorate ([fig. 26](#)). At the regional level, second-hand winter jackets were available more widely than new ones. Conversely, new winter boots and hats were more widely available than their second-hand equivalents ([fig. 25](#)).

Winter household NFIs reportedly had variable availability across NES in January, with items unavailable in one third of

#17 For the item specifications that guided JMMI data collection please contact the JMMI Syria team directly

#18 Availability of winter items in this factsheet focuses on January items to serve as a mid-winter snapshot of winter item availabilities

assessed communities. These NFI items were most widely available in Menbij subdistrict (NE Aleppo governorate), and least available in Jurneyyeh subdistrict (Ar-Raqqa governorate).

Furthermore, the availability of fuel varied across parts of NES. Half of all assessed vendors reported that certain types of fuel were unavailable in their specific community or neighbourhood. Fuel was most commonly reported to be available across Suluk subdistrict in Ar-Raqqa governorate, and least commonly across Areesheh subdistrict in Al-Hasakeh governorate. Overall, Areesheh subdistrict appeared to have the lowest availability of all winter items, based on an unweighted average of these item groups, followed by Mansura subdistrict in Ar-Raqqa governorate (fig. 26).

UNAVAILABILITY OF 1ST HAND WINTER ITEMS VERSUS SECOND HAND WINTER ITEMS IN JANUARY 2022 (MID-WINTER) IN NES - FG. 25

ITEM	REPORTED UNAVAILABILITY	
	NEW WINTER ITEM	SECOND-HAND WINTER ITEM
WOMEN'S WINTER BOOTS	12%	17%
CHILDREN'S WINTER HAT	11%	16%
CHILDREN'S WINTER BOOTS	10%	16%
ADULT'S WINTER HAT	9%	14%
MEN'S WINTER BOOTS	9%	11%
MEN'S WINTER JACKET	7%	0%
CHILDREN'S WINTER JACKET	6%	0%
WOMEN'S WINTER JACKET	6%	0%

SUMMARY

The findings highlighted can be used to inform future winter SNFI programming, particularly when considering cash and voucher assistance (CVA) versus in-kind assistance modalities. In general, cost efficiency may be achieved by delivering in-kind assistance when prices are higher and/or when availability is lower, and CVA may be more appropriate when when prices are lower and/or when availability is higher.

In NES, new and second-hand clothing were most expensive between the start and the middle of the winter and as such, in-kind assistance may be considered during these periods. CVA may be most effective at the end of the winter, when reported market prices were lower. Alternative fuels prices appeared more erratic but overall showed a similar downward trend throughout the winter.

Prices for winter household items were lowest at the start of the winter period and highest at the end. Based on this observation, CVA may be more efficient at the start of the winter season when prices are typically lowest.

AVERAGE % OF SURVEYED VENDORS REPORTING UNAVAILABILITY OF WINTER ITEMS, BY SUB-DISTRICT LEVEL¹⁹ - FG. 26

Sub-district	Group 1: Winter clothes	Group 2: NFI	Group 3: Fuels	Group 4: Kerosene/diesel heaters
Average	8%	33%	50%	1%
Abu Qalqal	0%	5%	48%	0%
Ain al Arab	8%	34%	60%	0%
Al-Hasakeh	20%	36%	50%	13%
Al-Malikeyyeh	0%	29%	46%	0%
Al-Thawrah	0%	14%	50%	0%
Amuda	21%	14%	40%	0%
Areesheh	16%	50%	93%	0%
Ar-Raqqa	15%	35%	56%	13%
Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh	17%	36%	60%	0%
Ein Issa	4%	67%	61%	0%
Hajin	0%	29%	50%	0%
Hole	NA	NA	78%	NA
Jawadiyah	0%	29%	60%	0%
Jurneyyeh	0%	86%	40%	0%
Karama	0%	33%	60%	0%
Kisreh	19%	29%	40%	0%
Mansura	44%	43%	57%	0%
Markada	44%	29%	67%	0%
Menbij	0%	0%	10%	0%
Qahtaniyyeh	0%	14%	60%	0%
Quamishli	0%	7%	30%	0%
Sarin	2%	39%	53%	0%
Shadadah	0%	29%	74%	0%
Suluk	0%	36%	5%	0%
Sur	0%	29%	60%	0%
Tal Hmis	0%	55%	47%	0%
Tell Abiad	0%	43%	20%	0%
Thiban	0%	14%	50%	0%
Ya'robiyah	13%	71%	20%	0%

Group 1: Winter clothes and second-hand winter clothes (boots, jackets, hats for children and adults)
 Group 2: "NFI" (fire blankets, fire extinguishers, winter blanket, winter carpet, plastic sheet, mattress, jerrycans)
 Group 3: Fuel (high quality petrol, high quality diesel, manually refined petrol, manually refined diesel, LP gas, manually refined kerosene, coal, olive residuals, pistachio shells, firewood)
 Group 4: Heater (Kerosene/diesel heaters)

#19 NA indicates that no data was collected for these items in the sub-district. Lack of data does not necessarily suggest item unavailability

SNFI SHELTER ITEMS

To support the SNFI cluster, the JMMI began monitoring shelter construction materials selected by the cluster in December 2021. Historical data for individual items²⁰ can be found in the [March 2022 JMMI dataset](#) at the regional, governorate, district, subdistrict and community levels. NES SNFI shelter materials data collection will continue every month until further notice. Monitoring includes nine items found in four types of shops. For this summary, shelter items have been divided into four components, organised by shop types:

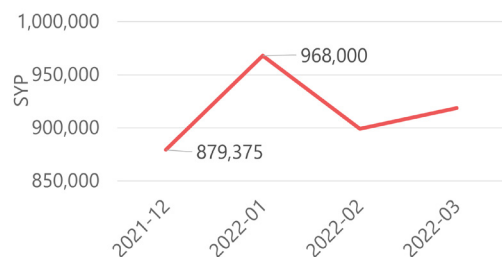
- Carpentry Workshops
- Health and Hardware Stores
- Block Lab
- Iron Selling Centres

CARPENTRY WORKSHOPS

Monitored items:

- Wooden Swedish²¹ doors
- Wooden Swedish frame windows (or PVC where available)

SNFI SHELTER CARPENTRY COMPONENT PRICES IN NES - FG. 27

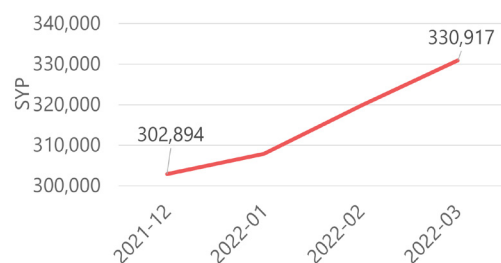


HEALTH AND HARDWARE STORES

Monitored items:

- Plastic water tank
- Sewer pipes
- Drinking water pipes
- Stainless-steel basin

SNFI SHELTER HEALTH AND HARDWARE COMPONENT PRICES IN NES - FG. 28

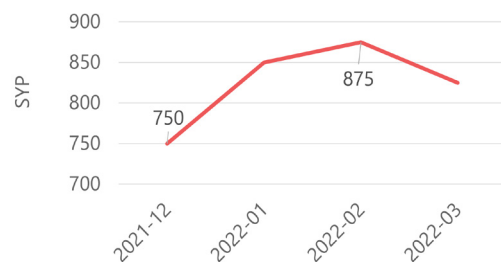


BLOCK LAB

Monitored items:

- Concrete hollow blocks

SNFI SHELTER BLOCK LABS COMPONENT PRICES IN NES - FG. 29

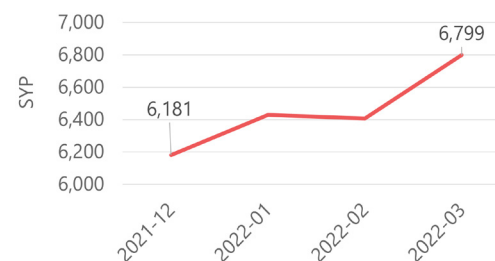


IRON SELLING CENTRES

Monitored items:

- Steel reinforcement bar - Type 1 (twisted)
- Steel Reinforcement bar – Type 2 (mild)

SNFI SHELTER IRON SELLING CENTRES COMPONENT PRICES IN NES - FG. 30



UNAVAILABILITY OF WINTER ITEMS – MID-WINTER JANUARY SNAPSHOT¹⁶

Vendors were asked if particular items were available or unavailable in their particular community/neighbourhood, and fg. 31 shows this **unavailability** of each shelter item at the regional level in **January 2022**.

Overall, the monitored shelter construction items were available across NES, and all items were available in more than 75% of reporting communities. The items with the lowest availability were steel reinforcement bars (14mm mild) and stainless steel basins, which about a fifth of vendors reported to be unavailable in their community/neighbourhood.

% OF SURVEYED VENDORS REPORTING UNAVAILABILITY OF SHELTER ITEMS ACROSS NES IN JANUARY 2022 - FG. 31

ITEM	JANUARY 2022 UNAVAILABILITY
Reinforcement bar (twisted) 14 mm	22%
Stainless steel basin	20%
Wooden 'swedish' window	18%
Plastic water tank	15%
Wooden 'swedish' door	11%
Reinforcement bar (mild) 8 mm	7%
Sewer pipes	6%
Drinking water pipes	1%
Concrete hollow blocks	1%



#20 For item specifications that guided JMMI data collection please contact the JMMI Syria team directly

#21 'Swedish' here refers to the use of Swedish wood, a type of imported wood

CLIMATE CONTEXT

The long winter of 2021-2022 had far-reaching impacts across the region. The [HNO 2022](#) mentions that in Syria, “the accelerating economic deterioration and impacts of climate change have increasingly become additional key drivers of needs, compounding vulnerabilities even further.” More people rely on fragile water sources and are at risk from water scarcity across NES. As per the [HSOS Briefing Note](#) on the water situation in NES in June 2021, “The impacts of lower water levels in the Euphrates and a lack of rainfall are far-reaching, the most

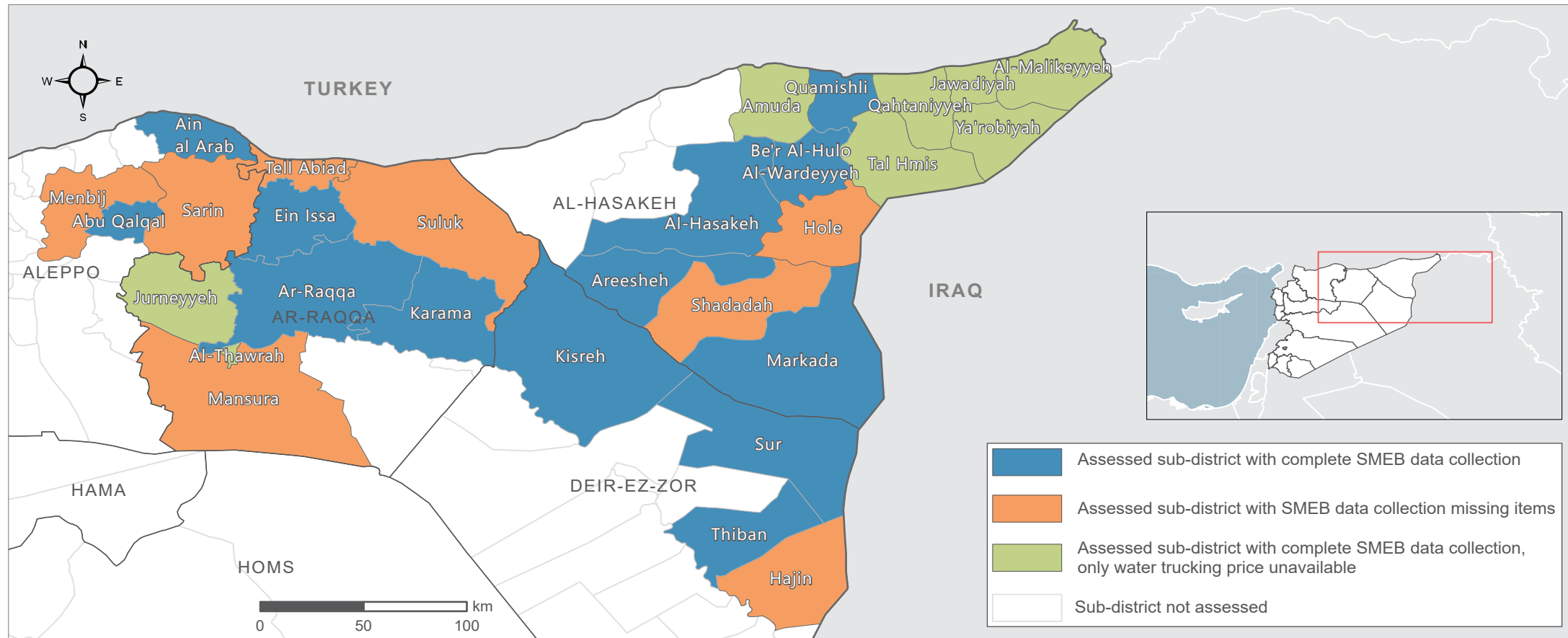
direct being increased insufficiency of water for many communities. Direct access issues and price of water are major barriers, only to be exacerbated by water shortages. Reported coping strategies point to limiting water consumption and using lower quality water, which are particularly concerning with regard to health risks in the middle of summer.”

Based on the JMMI trend of increasing water trucking prices combined with the rising cost of average fuel prices, these pressures are

expected to continue throughout summer 2022. These water pressures are expected to extend to food security too, since “reduced rainfall combined with decreasing water levels in the Euphrates basin have placed significant pressures on a population bound at the intersection of agriculture and livestock production and distribution, resulting in combined shrinkages in food production and availability,” [ibid]. These issues go beyond the issue of climate, and require a need to adapt by committing to sustainable, long-term water management,

the expertise for which is not readily available in NES. “Additionally, over-extraction of groundwater is shown to decrease water levels over time, without being influenced much by rain levels. Responsible water usage will be just as important, if not more so, than predicting weather patterns going forward for NES. Without proper mitigation planning and water conservation, severe water shortages will continue to affect Syrians in the future.” [ibid].

FEBRUARY 2022 ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE OF THE JMMI IN NES - FG. 32



ABOUT

To inform humanitarian cash programming, the northeast (NES) and northwest (NWS) Syria 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 (7th - 14th February 2022).

SNFI WINTER ITEMS AND SHELTER ITEMS ANALYSIS

Items monitored in the SNFI winter and shelter items sections were selected by the SNFI working group and its advisors. As with SMEB items and other items monitored in the JMMI, these items are intended to serve

as proxy items that represent the cost of similar market items to help inform CVA assistance and support cluster programmes. For further details about individual items and item specifications that guided JMMI data collection, please contact the JMMI Syria team.

Both the SNFI winter items and SNFI shelter items were grouped into their respective categories in this factsheet to offer a summarised analysis, which allows the reader to see the winter trends, rather than individual prices. Furthermore, the availability of winter items in this factsheet focused only on the January data collection period (3rd-10th January 2021) to serve as a mid-winter snapshot of winter item availabilities, when the winter weather is typically at its most severe and beneficiaries experience the greatest pressures presented by the season.

For individual prices at all aggregate levels, the prices for SNFI items remain available in the most recent dataset, which includes historical price data. Market functionality data - including all item availabilities - is only available on the summary pages of the corresponding dataset. E.g., for January item availability, see the summary tab of the January dataset, for February item availability, see the summary tab of the February dataset.

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

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, Gemma Bennett, at gemma.bennett@reach-initiative.org or visit the [REACH Syria Resource Centre](#).