NORTHERN SYRIA MARKET MONITORING EXERCISE: JUNE – NOVEMBER 2015 OVERVIEW

SYRIA

REPORT

JANUARY 2016
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About REACH
REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH’s mission is to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.
Northern Syria Market Monitoring Exercise: June-November 2015 Overview

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List of Acronyms

CBR-TWG  Cash Based Responses Technical Working Group
HSOS  Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria
IRC  International Rescue Committee
NFI  Non Food Items
SMEB  Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket
SYP  Syrian Pound
USD  US Dollar
WoSA  Whole of Syria Assessment
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INTRODUCTION

The conflict in Syria has had devastating effects on the country’s economy, posing complex challenges to local economies as well as individual households. Better access to markets, together with income-generating opportunities, are critical components of the humanitarian response and early recovery efforts. Market-based approaches, when supported by an understanding of market functionality, avoid doing harm to local systems that already support livelihoods and provide continuity for communities’ way of life. With markets as an integral component of Syrian life, they must be considered in the context of an integrated multi-sector response.

To support these efforts, the Cash-Based Responses Technical Working Group (CBR–TWG) and REACH have conducted monthly monitoring of prices and stock levels of selected food, hygiene non-food items (NFIs), fuels, exchange rates, and water trucking services throughout northern Syria. Starting as a REACH pilot project in Idlib Governorate in February 2015, and led by CBR-TWG since June, the Market Monitoring Exercise expanded to other governorates throughout northern Syria in subsequent months. During each round, data on a range of goods and commodities, including information on availability, prices, and stock levels is collected from the main markets in each subdistrict before being analysed and mapped.

With the aim of informing and guiding cash-based response programs in northern Syria, the Market Monitoring Exercise complements other multi-sectoral and macroeconomic efforts to understand markets in Syria. Recent assessments have indicated that despite the toll taken by years of fighting, markets are available and accessible throughout many parts of the country. According to data collected during the Whole of Syria Assessment (WoSA)¹, residents of approximately two-thirds of subdistricts had access to functioning markets where they could purchase food. Data collected as part of the Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS) project² found that only 22% of surveyed villages reported lack of access to markets as a barrier to obtaining enough food.

This report summarises key findings of the Market Monitoring Exercise from June to November 2015. Its main objective is to identify and analyse trends related to market access, prices, availability, and supply chains during the past months as well as the impact of these on the humanitarian situation and needs. Because variations in coverage have meant that it is not always feasible to make consistent comparisons in and across subdistricts, another goal is to examine the limits of information collected to date and identify areas for future research.

¹ Whole of Syria Assessment (WoSA): A multi-agency assessment conducted in August 2015 to support the Humanitarian Needs Overview, WoSA covered 227 subdistricts in Syria. Relying on over 1,400 interviews, the assessment acted as a gap-filling exercise with over 70 staff from different hubs in Syria leading the analysis.
² Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS): A monthly multi-sector village-level data collection effort in which refugee participants in Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon collect data through key pre-identified informants who still live in their sub-district of origin in Syria. (Key informants inside Syria are also contacted directly by assessment staff from Turkey.)
**BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY**

From February through to July 2015, coverage of the Market Monitoring Exercise was able to obtain consistent coverage in 12 subdistricts throughout Idleb Governorate. With the leadership of the CBR-TWG, facilitation by REACH, and the participation of its partners, the project has expanded to cover markets throughout Idleb, Lattakia, Aleppo, Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor and al-Hasakeh Governorates. So far, 11 partners (CARE/Shafak, Concern, Global Communities, GOAL, IRC, Mercy Corps, the Norwegian Refugee Council, People in Need, REACH, Save the Children and Solidarités International) have contributed resources to the Market Monitoring Exercise, collecting data in 40 subdistricts, at some point in time during the past six months. While it has been possible to visit many locations on a nearly monthly basis, in many instances markets that were accessible in one round were not in the next.

In addition to new locations, additional items have also been included in the survey over time. Water trucking and exchange rates were added to the Market Monitoring Exercise in September and fresh vegetables were added in the November round. An assessment of winterization NFI items also took place in November and will occur at key points throughout the year. ³

During each round, data collection takes place during the third week of each month, with survey forms for each commodity group deployed on the KoBoCollect Android application. In most cases, enumerators affiliated with CBR–TWG members collect detailed information about the availability and prices of key food items, non-food items and fuel in northern Syria by visiting stores and directly surveying shopkeepers. Once data collection has been completed, enumerators upload the survey forms to a server. The REACH assessment team compiles and cleans all partners’ data, normalizing prices, cross-checking outliers, and triangulating the results using secondary sources. The cleaned data is then analysed by commodity and by subdistrict.

To ensure consistency amongst various partners, enumerators are trained in data collection techniques and are provided with guidelines regarding the types of commodities and shops to assess. Food retailers, for example, must be located in permanent structures, be small to medium sized, and stock multiple items included in the survey. Additional criteria have been developed for shops selling food and NFIs; water vendors; and currency exchange houses.

To ensure that data collected each month is as accurate as possible, CBR–TWG members have aligned their efforts by harmonising procedures, using a single set of online survey forms, and uploading all data to a central server. However, the expansion of geographic coverage and variation in the availability of items means that more precise comparisons over time are not yet possible. While general trends are outlined in this report, these are not necessarily representative of the situation in markets across the subdistricts assessed, and should therefore be considered indicative.

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³ Items included: sweatshirts, winter jackets, trousers, wool hats, winter boots, mattresses, winter blankets and lamps.
ACCESS

CBR–TWG partners closely monitor the security context in the subdistricts where they have committed to collect data and are encouraged not to expose their enumerators to undue risk. In some subdistricts, this means that enumerators cannot collect data from certain communities or neighbourhoods. These challenges are particularly acute in the divided cities of Deir ez-Zor, Aleppo, and al-Hasakeh. In light of these challenges, it has been necessary to develop alternative means of collecting data in some areas. In October, CBR-TWG partners were able to expand coverage to areas controlled by Government of Syria (GoS) and other armed groups through interviewing key informants such as shop owners, suppliers, and consumers. Typically, this is done through social media and Skype, using the same forms as the ones used to collect data through market visits. To date, it has not been possible to access besieged areas.

Access challenges have varied each month and while they have tended to be highly localised, they have increased as the Market Monitoring Exercise has expanded. In July and August, enumerators faced difficulties accessing markets in northern Aleppo, specifically markets in Tal Refaat and Mare, as well as markets near the remaining Government of Syria-held areas in Idleb Governorate.

Beginning in late September, airstrikes and subsequent ground operations in southern Idleb and northern Hama prevented a number of subdistricts from being assessed for the first time. Security concerns also prevented data collection from taking place in Jebel Saman and Haritan subdistricts, both in central Aleppo Governorate.

Map 1: Number of months subdistricts have been surveyed between June and November 2015

Expansion in conflict activity throughout October and November continued to affect access to a number of locations in northern Hama and southern Idleb where data collection had been planned. Assessments of two markets in northern Hama and one in southern Idleb were not possible because they were no longer active and many of the markets that needed to be excluded in October for security concerns were also not assessable in November.
As the Market Monitoring Exercise expands, access challenges are likely to expand as well. It will become increasingly important to monitor these challenges as well as to provide a baseline of information about market functionality in areas where full assessments cannot be conducted. It will be important to develop and explore new methodologies to prevent information gaps and shed light on market functionality in areas in accessible to enumerators.

WHAT IS MONITORED?

The market monitoring exercise questionnaire asks participants to record currency exchange rates, the price of fuel, and basic food and non-food items. The majority of food items and NFIs assessed each month contribute to the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), a consumable household basket that includes food, hygiene NFIs, kerosene, and water for a family of six for one month, as shown below:

Table 1: Items Included in the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>37 kg</td>
<td>Laundry/dish soap</td>
<td>2 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>19 kg</td>
<td>Individual soap</td>
<td>12 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgur</td>
<td>15 kg</td>
<td>Toothpaste</td>
<td>2 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghee</td>
<td>7 kg</td>
<td>Sanitary pads</td>
<td>4 packs of 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>5 kg</td>
<td>Dried pulses</td>
<td>19 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato paste</td>
<td>6 kg</td>
<td>Fresh vegetables</td>
<td>6 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>4 kg</td>
<td>Kerosene (manually refined)</td>
<td>25 L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>6 kg</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>2790 L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>6% float*</td>
<td>6% total value</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* not included in SMEB calculations

PRICES

The overall cost of items included in the monthly Market Monitoring Exercise has generally risen over the past six months, although significant variation has been observed in the prices of individual commodities. The price of a Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), as detailed above, has risen over the past months. Looking at the individual components of the SMEB, food has generally gone up in price, while NFIs have gone down.

Median prices for fuel have been observed to decrease more dramatically, although this trajectory may have more to do with the gradual inclusion of subdistricts where it is subsidized, rather than as a result of macroeconomic trends.

Rather than being driven by shortages or rising demand, the devaluation of the Syrian pound appears to have played the greatest role in many price increases, although in many cases, price increases are not consistent with the devaluation of the Syrian pound. Overall, most commodities cost less in US dollar terms than they did six months ago, but more in Syrian pounds.

Exchange rates

Across the assessed areas, the Syrian pound has continued to be the primary currency used in everyday transactions, though US dollars are a more desirable alternative for safeguarding household savings. Despite
initiatives in some areas of northern Syria to replace the pound with the Turkish lira or US dollar, particularly in urban Aleppo, in general, prices continue to be denominated in pounds, and efforts to switch currencies remain largely the subject of discussions only.

CBR-TWG partners first began collecting subdistrict-level exchange rate data for Syrian pounds and Turkish lira in September. These rates have proven remarkably consistent across all subdistricts, with the highest and lowest Syrian pound to US dollar sell rates separated by between 9 and 25 SYP. From June through November, the exchange rate for Syrian pounds to US dollars across northern Syria has risen by approximately 25%; increases over time have been constant but erratic.

Price of a Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)

The SMEB is based on the median price of individual commodities in each subdistrict. The median price for each commodity is then weighted based on the quantity that a household may be expected to consume each month and all of the values are summed to derive the total cost of the SMEB.

The median price of the SMEB in November stood at 33,414 SYP, having risen 24% or 6,464 SYP since June. Meanwhile, the equivalent cost in dollars of the median SMEB fell from 90.74 USD to 88.63 USD, a decrease of 2.3%. In other words, increases in prices have not kept pace with inflation. In July, the price of the SMEB fell by 2%, followed by increases of approximately 7% and 9% in August and September each, respectively. Recorded prices fell in October, before rebounding and rising slightly again in November.

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*Exchange rates used for June, July, and August were the market rates reported for Aleppo by Syrian Pound Today (http://www.sp-today.com/en); exchange rates reported for September, October, and November are derived from the median of SYP/USD sell rates collected in assessed subdistricts.*
It is important to mention that the monthly medians are derived from a sample of complete SMEBs in districts where they were obtainable in each month. Due to shortages and varying access issues each month, individual subdistricts included in the calculation of each month’s median have varied. For example, complete SMEBs were obtained for 17 subdistricts in November, 13 in October, September, and August, but only three in July and five in June.

There have been substantial geographic variations in the price of the SMEB, with prices in some subdistricts consistently higher than others. Only included in the October and November months of data collection, Deir ez-Zor reported markedly higher prices for both months: 35,841 SYP (105.73 USD) for October and 41,601 SYP (110.35 USD) for November, which was 24.5% higher than the median for November and 41.1% higher than the median in October. After Deir ez-Zor, markets in A’zaz, Tall Refaat and Haritan subdistricts, all of which are in northern Aleppo Governorate, have typically reported some of the highest SMEB costs, with prices well above the median.5

The following graph shows the Price Index, which is a representation of relative price changes over a given period of time, created by setting the initial price equal to one and reporting all subsequent prices as a fraction of the initial price.

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5 Data collected from Deir ez-Zor reflects prices and availability in ISIL-controlled areas; prices for goods, if available, are likely to be higher in besieged areas.
Food

To compare food prices over time, a basket and price index consisting of the food items included in the SMEB was analysed separately. Over the course of six months, the food price index rose by 22.8% in Syrian pounds while falling 3.2% in U.S. dollars. The food price index below measures the monthly change in the basket of food items assessed each month, which show monthly median prices of for rice bulgur, ghee, sugar, tomato paste, chicken, eggs, salt, and bread weighted according to the quantities they are allocated in the SMEB.

Figure 4: Food Price Index

While the food price index has been relatively stable over time, individual food items have been more unstable. Among food commodities, potatoes, bulgur, eggs, vegetable oil and chicken have seen the biggest increases over the past six months. The price of chicken in Syrian pounds has increased 82% since June, the price of potatoes by 76%, and the price of eggs by 50%. Notably, moderate price increases were seen with flour (24%), rice (12%) and ghee (12%), which decreased in dollar terms. In spite of rises in the price of flour, the price of bread has decreased over the past six months.

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Because different methods have been used to calculate the cost of fresh vegetables, these were not included in the calculation.
### Table 2: Percentage change in the price of key commodities over six months (June-November)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Percentage change in SYP</th>
<th>Percentage change in USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>-12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato Paste</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgur</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghee</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>-12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>-7%</td>
<td>-27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NFI

Prices for the basket of hygiene NFIs included in the SMEB (individual soap, sanitary pads, laundry soap, and toothpaste) have remained relatively stable, rising by just 3% since June in Syrian pounds and falling by 19% in US dollars. While individual commodities have tended to be more volatile and to bounce around from month to month, hygiene NFIs on the whole have been remarkably stable or have declined in price, with the period between the October and November rounds being the only exception to the longer-term trend observed.

**Figure 5: Hygiene NFI Price Index**

Laundry soap and dish soap were the only NFIs that increased in price, each by 17% and 49%, respectively. While rising in Syrian pounds laundry soap decreased in US dollar terms. Notably, the price of individual soap decreased by 14% in Syrian pounds (33% in US dollars). Sanitary pads, which are the most frequently unavailable NFI, also decreased in price despite localized and short-term shortages, while toothpaste remained the same, despite falling by 21% in US dollars. While relatively inconsistent, price changes in hygiene NFIs may also reflect variations in the brands available. The current methodology does not account for differences in brands, but it may be possible to include these in future rounds of data collection.
Table 3: NFI Price Changes over Six Months (June – November)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Percentage change in SYP</th>
<th>Percentage change in USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laundry Soap</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary Pads</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dish Soap</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothpaste</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>-21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Soap</td>
<td>-14%</td>
<td>-33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fuel

While kerosene is the only fuel included in the SMEB, the Market Monitoring Exercise asks for price information about several other fuels, including government petrol, government diesel, manually refined petrol, manually refined diesel and gasoline. To create a fuel price index, the sum of the median price of one litre of each fuel was compared with the price in June.

Over the course of six months, the median price for all fuels except gasoline fell dramatically (91% in Syrian pounds and 93% in US dollars). The price of government petrol remained stable in Syrian pounds, while the manually-refined petrol fell by 58%. Less dramatic, but still significant decreases were also seen for manually-refined petrol, manually refined diesel, and kerosene. Only the price of gasoline was reported to have increased, by 42% in Syrian pounds (13% in US dollars).
Table 4: Fuel Price Changes over Six Months (June – November)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Percentage of increase in SYP</th>
<th>Percentage of increase in USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Petrol</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>-21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Diesel</td>
<td>-91%</td>
<td>-93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manually Refined Petrol</td>
<td>-38%</td>
<td>-51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manually Refined Diesel</td>
<td>-58%</td>
<td>-67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerosene</td>
<td>-54%</td>
<td>-52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is worth noting that falling prices reflect, in part, a reversal of record-high prices in June which were the result of a fuel crisis in non-government-controlled areas. Lower median prices also reflect, in part, the inclusion of new subdistricts in northeastern Syria, such as al-Hasakeh and Ain al-Arab, where fuel is generally subsidized by local councils and prices are held far lower than in other areas of Syria.

**AVAILABILITY AND RESTOCKING**

Over the course of the past six months, supply chains have tended to function well, as measured by availability and restocking times, throughout a majority of subdistricts assessed. In most cases, markets stocked all of the items included in the survey and restocking times of four days or more appeared to be short term and in response to specific events. Median restock times of one day were reported in the majority of subdistricts across all assessed months. Restocking times of four days or more appear to be short-term and in response to specific events.

In some cases, it has been possible to link increases in the time that traders need to restock specific commodities to conflict events. A fuel crisis in June 2015 in opposition-held subdistricts coincided with a spike in the price of fuel as well as shortages of manually refined kerosene, manually refined petrol, and government diesel in six of the 12 subdistricts assessed that month. The arrival of approximately 200,000 IDPs into Idleb city and the surrounding areas in July led to a number of shortages for food and hygiene NFIs as well as longer restocking times. Aerial bombardments and military operations commencing in late September in southern Hama and northern Idleb Governorates, appear to have affected median restocking times in affected areas, which spiked at 4-12 days in many areas, before returning to normal the next month. The destruction of bakeries has led to shortages of bread in a number of subdistricts, particularly ones in northern Idleb Governorate.

Very few areas appear to have had long-term restocking difficulties. Since they were first assessed in August, Lower Shyookh, Ain al-Arab, and to a lesser extent, Tell Abiad, three adjacent subdistricts along the Turkish border, have reported the longest restocking times as well the largest number of goods unavailable. These areas are likely much more dependent upon the direct flow of goods from Turkey and may be more affected by border closures. In August, for example, Ain al-Arab and Lower Shyookh subdistricts reported shortages of 10 commodities and median restock times of between three and seven days for all remaining food items, NFIs and types of fuel. ISIL-controlled areas face similar difficulties, with Deir ez-Zor and ar-Raqqa reporting long restocking times as well.

Restocking difficulties do not appear to coincide with high prices, although more data would be necessary to infer direct relationships between supply chain interruptions and prices. In fact, in many cases, traders in subdistricts with longer reported restock times sometimes report less costly SMEBs and lower prices for individual items than ones in subdistricts where goods more easily replenished. Apart from several instances in which conflict events had clearly observable short-term effects on supply lines, it is difficult to infer corresponding impacts on prices.

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CONCLUSION

Markets have shown remarkable resilience in the face of protracted conflict. For the most part, markets included in the Market Monitoring Exercise over the past six months have been well stocked and contain most essential commodities and food items. In the event of shortages or supply chain disruptions, traders are typically able to source additional stock within several days. At the same time, prices have increased over time, but many individual commodities have exhibited greater stability over time than others.

The depreciation of the Syrian pound is likely to continue to exert pressure on individual households, even if prices in hard currency continue to decline, making households without access to hard currency or steady incomes more vulnerable. Households without access to foreign currency through remittances are likely to be more vulnerable to rising prices, and may face additional challenges meeting their basic needs. Continued effort to monitor these effects will be crucial in providing continued cash-based support.

At the same time, the existence of relatively well-stocked and stable markets in many parts of Syria suggests that a significant proportion of the population in many subdistricts may have access to cash and is able to make purchases on the market. Work, in addition to other sources of income, such as remittances, are likely the main sources in many locations. For example, data regarding the prevalence of remittances from WoSA and HSOS found that remittances were among the main three income sources in as many as half of the subdistricts where data collection was possible. In this context, cash-based responses are appropriate in many areas of northern Syria as long as market conditions are monitored regularly and may target the most vulnerable households that likely do not have access to cash.

As the Market Monitoring Exercise continues in 2016, expanded coverage will provide valuable information on additional commodities and market functionality in new areas. At the same time, continued coverage of the same subdistricts will make it possible to infer long-term trends on the relationship between conflict and markets. This will allow for analysis of trends over time linking local results with macroeconomic trends.

One main objective of this exercise has been to examine available data and highlight information gaps to be filled in future rounds of the Market Monitoring Exercise or through other assessments. While the current approach has been trader-focused, to gain a fuller picture of market functionality, it may be necessary to collect additional information from consumers as well.

Identified information gaps for further research include the following:

- Household-level assessments in northern Syria have been limited but suggest that households rely on a combination of markets and in-kind assistance to meet their basic needs. The relative importance of each, however, is unclear, and there may be significant variations by location. Similarly, little information has been collected about the effects of humanitarian assistance, particularly in-kind assistance, on overall market functionality.

- Data collection efforts have provided a baseline of information about supply chains based on availability, shortages, and restocking times. However, less is known about how traders source their stocks and strategies they may deploy when channels are interrupted. With many goods and commodities likely arriving from Turkey, still less is known about how changes in Turkish and global markets may affect prices and availability on the other side of the border. In the event of shortages or long restocking times, additional questions to traders may help shed light on some of the challenges markets face.

- In each round of the Market Monitoring Exercise, some markets have not been assessed due to security concerns or other access constraints. More needs to be done to distinguish between markets that are inaccessible to enumerators and markets that have completely stopped functioning or have become inaccessible to local populations.
• **While shortages observed to date have tended to be temporary and localised, only anecdotal information has been collected about their causes.** Moreover, while the Market Monitoring Exercise has collected data about the amount of time necessary to restock goods that are currently available, data on the amount of time it would take to replenish the supplies that have been completely exhausted has not. Further methodological refinements may be able to provide this information.

• **Current understanding of market access may also be enhanced with better information on market catchment areas.** Currently, many households may rely on markets outside of their sub-districts, or on multiple markets. Mapping these may be particularly important for understanding levels of access that households may have in the event markets in their own subdistricts are unavailable.

• **Data on income sources, such as wages in each subdistrict, may provide a baseline of information about households’ purchasing power and terms of trade.** As the Syrian pound depreciates, many households may see their purchasing power reduced, particularly if wages do not keep pace with rising costs. Collecting data on the prevailing daily unskilled labour wage in each subdistrict would help better understand the impact of rising costs.