

Integrated Market Monitoring Initiative (IMMI)

Bulletin Quarter 1 (Spring/Summer Season), 2022

Price Monitoring for Agriculture and Livestock Inputs, and Food Items



Introduction

Price of commodities is an overarching indicator that provides key information for many Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) activities. As an outcome of supply and demand forces, commodity price monitoring can give timely insight into many different drivers that influence the functioning of a market, and this is relevant for food assistance and agro-based livelihood programming. The scope of this initiative is based on qualitative and quantitative data collection that is used to monitor the price, availability, and affordability of agriculture and livestock inputs, and food commodities across the targeted geographical locations on a seasonal basis. Monitoring prices and trends of the cost value of selected agriculture and livestock inputs, and food items, provide evidence to inform the FSL Cluster, humanitarian partners/agency members in deciding on Cash Transfer Values for respective agricultural inputs/kits distributions over time and space to support crop and livestock holders in improved agriculture production, the same way the standard food basket and survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB) values inform cash transfer values for Food assistance programming.

Study Objectives

This initiative aims to monitor the agricultural markets in Northwest Syria (NWS) on a seasonal basis, to assess the availability, country of origin, and prices of agricultural inputs. **This report covers the spring/summer agriculture production season of NWS in 2022¹.** Furthermore, the initiative incorporated consolidated data of food item prices collected across NWS by two different sources, namely, Cash Working Group-Joint Market Monitoring Initiative-Northern Syria (CWG-JMMI) and Syria WFP VAM. This food items price data was analyzed to highlight the price fluctuation and monthly trends of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB). The analysis provided an understanding of how food price fluctuations in Syria impact the food security of households.

Study Methodology, Geographical Coverage and Study Respondents

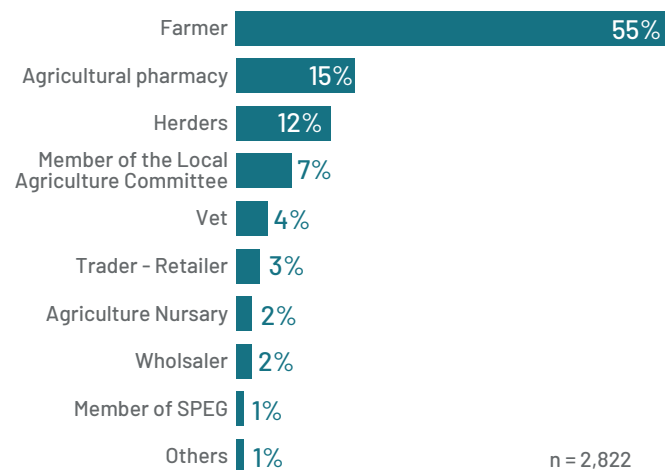
The set of agriculture inputs covered in this round (spring/summer season) were identified by the FSL cluster and Agriculture Technical Working Group (ATWG). The study covered 60 agriculture inputs categorized into five different groups.

Prior to the start of data collection, the specifications and naming of the selected agriculture inputs were validated with ATWG members. **Sixteen FSL partners² collected input price data across 40 subdistricts in the governorates of Aleppo, Idlib, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh. The data collection teams reached 2,822 respondents in total from various agricultural backgrounds (see figure 1).** The reported prices of agricultural inputs were later validated through discussions with the technical and field experts of ATWG participating organizations. The outliers' data were revised based on the identified acceptable market price range generated in the validation workshop.

Interactive Dashboard

For detailed analysis and visualization of the agricultural inputs' availability, country of origin, and prices of inputs and food items at different geographical levels (sub-district, district, governorate), refer to the produced interactive dashboard through this [link](#).

Figure 1. Data Collection Respondents



Key Findings – Agriculture Inputs General Findings

Exchange Rate and Currency Used for Trading Inputs

Most study respondents reported that the use of US Dollar (USD) and Turkish Lira (TRY) is more common, **and in Idlib governorate the use of Syrian Pound (SYP) was totally absent for trading agriculture inputs**. There has been a notable depreciation in exchange rates of both the TRY and SYP against the USD in the last two years. According to CWG-JMMI data, the exchange rate of the SYP against the USD depreciated by 15% in quarter one (January, February, March) of 2022 compared to quarter one of 2021 (15% in Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa, and 16% in Idlib), and the exchange rate of the TRY against the USD recorded a magnanimous depreciation of 102% in quarter one of 2022 compared to quarter one of 2021 (105% in Aleppo and 100% in Idlib), as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 2. Currency Used in Trading Agriculture Inputs

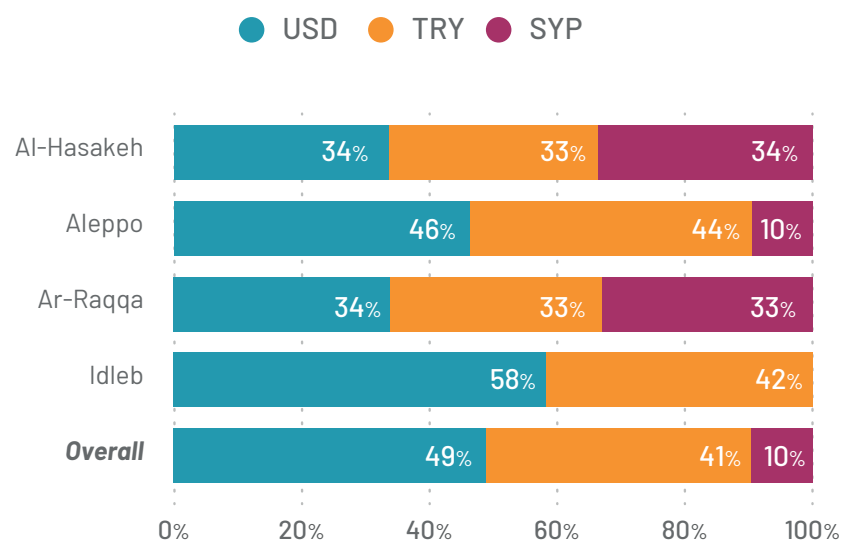
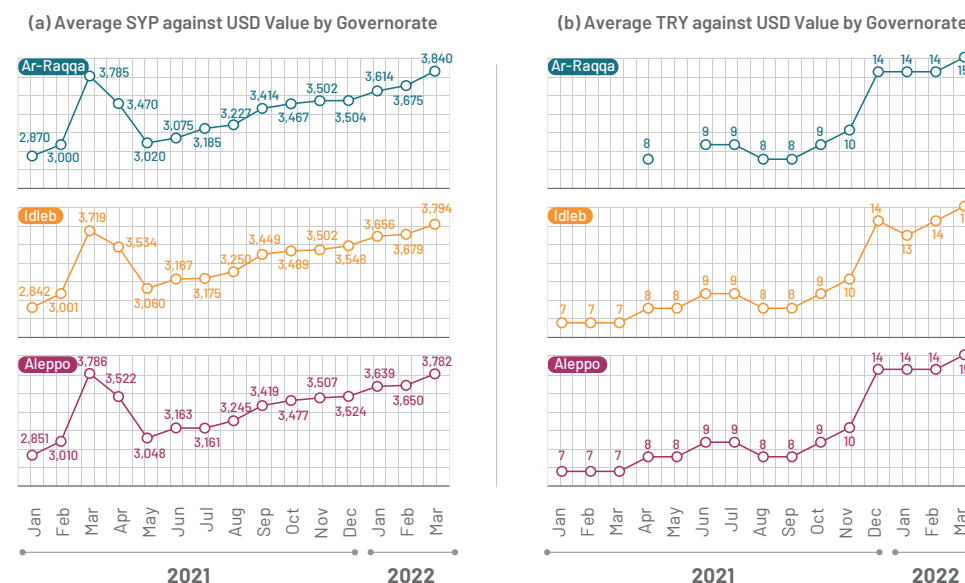


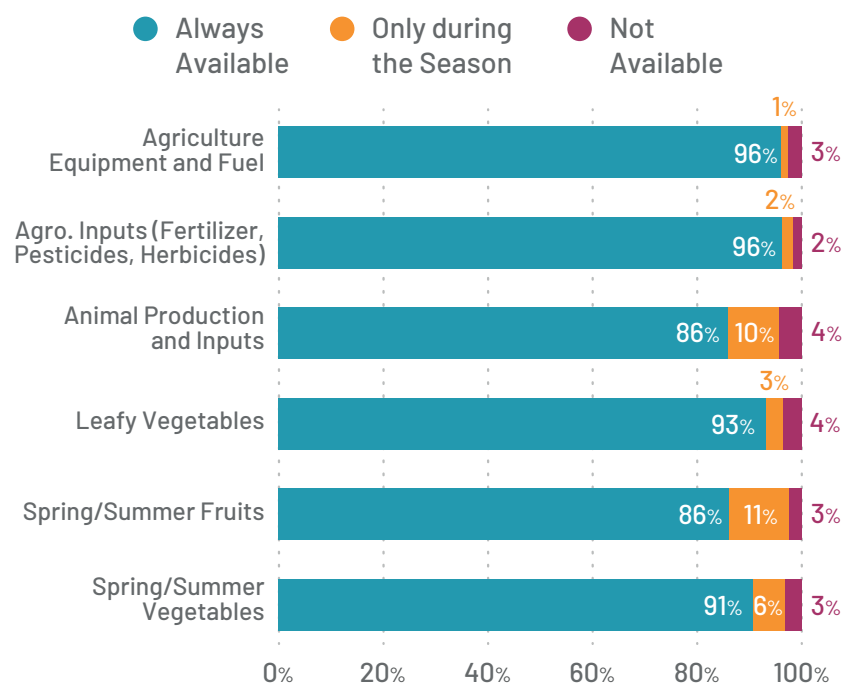
Figure 3. Average SYP and TRY Exchange Rate Against USD



Availability

Generally, most respondents considered the agricultural inputs as available in the markets of Northwest Syria during the study period of the spring/summer season of 2022 (see figure 4). However, **“Elite Potato Seeds (Banella)” was not available in most markets in NWS. This particular type of potato is usually imported, and this is the second season in a row when this item recorded as not available from the markets.** The availability percentage for Animal Production inputs and Fruits groups were noticeably lower than other groups. Alfalfa hay recorded relatively lower availability percentage (54% always available), and grazing services namely green pasture and agriculture services were considered available only during the spring season. Overall, the agriculture inputs were considered widely available; affordability remained a significant issue considering the continuous increase in prices, particularly for imported agriculture inputs.

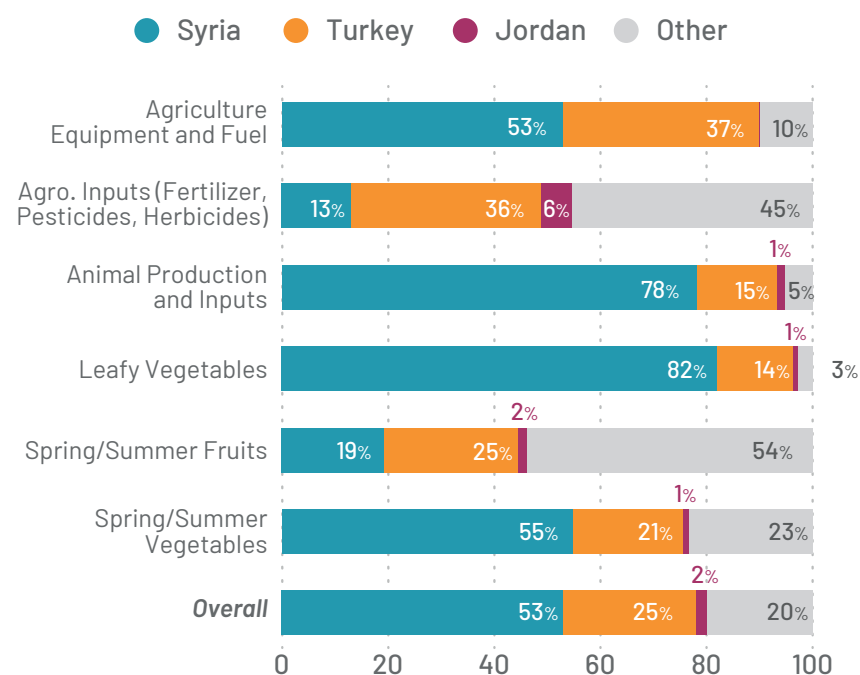
Figure 4. Reported Availability of Agriculture Inputs



Country of Origin

The available spring/summer agriculture inputs across the NWS markets mostly originated from Syria or Turkey (78%), while on a group level, Spring/Summer Fruits, and Pesticides, Fertilizer and Herbicides recorded the highest percentage of imports from outside the region. For Spring/Summer Fruits most of the input originated from the USA, European countries, China, and for the Pesticides, Fertilizer and Herbicides group, the reported country of origin outside of the region were mainly China, and some European countries (including Ukraine).

Figure 5. Country of Origin



Key Findings – Agriculture Input Prices

Livestock and Animal Production Inputs

Figure 6. Median Prices in USD of Live Animals – Q1 2022







Animal	Governorate	Median Price
 1 kg Live Chicken – Meat	Al-Hasakeh	\$2.00
	Aleppo	\$2.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$2.00
	Idleb	\$1.78
 1 kg Live Cow – Meat	Al-Hasakeh	\$2.00
	Aleppo	\$3.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$2.00
	Idleb	\$2.35
 1 kg Live Sheep – Meat	Al-Hasakeh	\$3.00
	Aleppo	\$3.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$3.00
	Idleb	\$3.10
 1 Live Cow Head – Milking	Al-Hasakeh	\$600.00
	Aleppo	\$1,300.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$600.00
	Idleb	\$1,500.00
 1 Live Hen – Eggs (young layers)	Al-Hasakeh	\$0.85
	Aleppo	\$3.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$0.98
	Idleb	\$0.55
 1 Live Sheep Head – Milking	Al-Hasakeh	\$60.00
	Aleppo	\$120.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$65.00
	Idleb	\$110.00

Figure 7. Median Prices in USD of Animal Production Input – Q1 2022

Animal Production Input	Governorate	Median Price
1 kg of Alfalfa Hay	Al-Hasakeh	\$1.00
	Aleppo	\$0.73
	Ar-Raqqa	\$1.00
	Idleb	\$0.55
250 ml Bottle Enterotoxaemia Vaccination	Al-Hasakeh	\$15.00
	Aleppo	\$18.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$15.00
	Idleb	\$15.00
50 kg Chicken Feed (for layers)	Al-Hasakeh	\$45.00
	Aleppo	\$28.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$40.00
	Idleb	\$23.00
Cost of Enterotoxaemia Vaccination per Sheep	Al-Hasakeh	\$0.25
	Aleppo	\$0.40
	Ar-Raqqa	\$0.25
	Idleb	\$0.25
Styro Box	Al-Hasakeh	\$5.00
	Aleppo	\$10.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$5.00
	Idleb	\$14.00

This category covers live animal prices, and inputs and services related to animal production. Live animal Prices ranged depending on the animal production purpose whether for meat or milk, where naturally live cow animals are considered the most expensive and particularly for milking purposes. Cow meat was reported not available in Tell Abiad, Ein Issa and Suluk subdistricts in Ar-Raqqa governorate, and Ras Al Ain subdistrict in Al-Hasakeh governorate. Study respondents in these areas reported that compared to lamb meat, beef or cow meat were much more expensive and were not as widely available. As for poultry meat, Tell Abiad subdistrict in Ar-Raqqa governorate and Ras Al Ain subdistrict in Al-Hasakeh reported to have very limited number of poultry producers and chicken meat was not widely available compared to other subdistricts in NWS.

The most common raised concern was the shortage in green pastureland and increased prices of animal production inputs, namely, livestock feed and fodder. This round of the study did not cover the prices of all livestock feed and fodder inputs which will be covered in the next summer season round (e.g. soya silage, cotton silage and corn fodder) however, farmers reported that the increased prices of livestock feed and fodder was forcing some farmers to sell the animal at lower prices.

Figure 8. Median Animal Grazing Costs in USD – Q1 2022








Grazing Services	Governorate	Median Price
The Cost of Grazing One Livestock Head (sheep/goat) per Month	Al-Hasakeh	\$50.00
	Aleppo	\$35.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$45.00
	Idlib	\$30.00
The Fee of Renting One Donum of Agriculture Residuals	Al-Hasakeh	\$15.00
	Aleppo	\$10.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$15.00
	Idlib	\$20.00
The Fee of Renting One Donum of Green Pasture	Al-Hasakeh	\$100.00
	Aleppo	\$70.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$100.00
	Idlib	\$100.00

Agriculture Equipment and Fuel

Figure 9 summarizes the reported prices in each governorate for the tools and equipment used in agriculture practices. **The major reported challenges were the increased price of diesel and the machine's operating cost. The average overall price of European diesel reached \$0.97/liter, and the reported prices ranged between \$0.7 – \$1.7 per liter (at the time of data collection, March 2022).** Aleppo governorate recorded the highest median diesel price, followed by Idleb, Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates, respectively.

The overall average cost of harvesting wheat using a combine harvester was \$10/donum, where Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates reported the highest median price, followed by Idleb and Aleppo governorates, respectively. Study respondents in Afrin subdistrict in Aleppo governorate reported that farmers did not have access to advanced combine harvesters, and they were using old machineries affecting the quality of harvested wheat grain.

Figure 9. Median Prices in USD of Agriculture Equipment – Q1 2022

Equipment	Governorate	Median Price
 1 Canvas Bag	Al-Hasakeh	\$1.00
	Aleppo	\$1.50
	Ar-Raqqa	\$1.00
	Idleb	\$1.00
 Axe	Al-Hasakeh	\$2.00
	Aleppo	\$6.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$3.00
	Idleb	\$5.00
 Billhook	Al-Hasakeh	\$1.00
	Aleppo	\$2.50
	Ar-Raqqa	\$1.00
	Idleb	\$2.50
 Hand Agricultural Spray	10 liter	Al-Hasakeh \$9.50
		Aleppo \$10.00
		Ar-Raqqa \$10.00
		Idleb \$8.50
	16 liter	Al-Hasakeh \$15.00
		Aleppo \$16.00
		Ar-Raqqa \$15.00
		Idleb \$16.00
	20 liter	Al-Hasakeh \$19.00
		Aleppo \$21.00
		Ar-Raqqa \$17.00
		Idleb \$20.00
 Mattock	Al-Hasakeh	\$2.00
	Aleppo	\$3.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$2.75
	Idleb	\$3.50
 Shovel	Al-Hasakeh	\$5.00
	Aleppo	\$5.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$4.00
	Idleb	\$5.00
 Trowel	Al-Hasakeh	\$1.00
	Aleppo	\$3.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$1.00
	Idleb	\$3.00

Fertilizers, Pesticides and Herbicides

There were no major differences in the prices of items listed in this category when compared across governorates, especially that most of these items are imported (figure 10). Study respondents raised concerns regarding the continuous increase of agriculture inputs, and the prices of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides and highly volatile.

Figure 10. Median Prices in USD of Fertilizers, Pesticides and Herbicides - Q1 2022

Product	Governorate	Median Price
1 Can(100g) of Lannate	Al-Hasakeh	\$2.50
	Aleppo	\$2.50
	Ar-Raqqa	\$3.00
	Idleb	\$2.50
1 kg of Fungicide – Copper Oxychloride	Al-Hasakeh	\$11.00
	Aleppo	\$12.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$10.00
	Idleb	\$13.00
1 kg of Fungicide – Copper Sulphate	Al-Hasakeh	\$12.00
	Aleppo	\$12.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$10.00
	Idleb	\$14.00
1l Insecticide – Alpha Cypermethrin	Al-Hasakeh	\$10.00
	Aleppo	\$10.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$10.00
	Idleb	\$10.00
1l of Dimethoate	Al-Hasakeh	\$10.00
	Aleppo	\$9.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$10.00
	Idleb	\$9.00
1l of Decis Insecticide (Deltamethrin)- 2.5	Al-Hasakeh	\$10.00
	Aleppo	\$10.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$10.00
	Idleb	\$9.00
1 Liter Herbicide – Gramixin	Al-Hasakeh	\$5.00
	Aleppo	\$5.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$5.00
	Idleb	\$5.00
1 Scahet of Zinnet (100 g)	Al-Hasakeh	\$2.00
	Aleppo	\$2.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$2.00
	Idleb	\$1.50
1 kg of Soluble Fertilizer (all formulas)	Al-Hasakeh	\$2.00
	Aleppo	\$2.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$2.00
	Idleb	\$1.80
The Cost of Irrigating one Dunom of Landing in Spring	Al-Hasakeh	\$70.00
	Aleppo	\$65.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$80.00
	Idleb	\$55.00

Spring/Summer Vegetables

Figure 11. Median Prices in USD of Spring/Summer Vegetable Seeds - Q1 2022

Product		Governorate	Median Price
1 kg of Annual Local Radish Seeds		Al-Hasakeh	\$5.00
		Aleppo	\$4.00
		Ar-Raqqa	\$5.00
		Idleb	\$6.75
1 kg of Cucurbit Seeds		Al-Hasakeh	\$6.00
		Aleppo	\$5.75
		Ar-Raqqa	\$5.00
		Idleb	\$7.00
Beans	1 kg of Local	Al-Hasakeh	\$3.00
		Aleppo	\$2.00
		Ar-Raqqa	\$3.00
		Idleb	\$3.00
	1 kg of Hybrid	Al-Hasakeh	\$15.00
		Aleppo	\$12.00
		Ar-Raqqa	\$15.00
		Idleb	\$15.00
Cucumber	1 kg of Local Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$10.00
		Aleppo	\$6.00
		Ar-Raqqa	\$10.00
		Idleb	\$6.00
	1 Sachet (2500 seed) of Hybrid Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$35.00
		Aleppo	\$30.00
		Ar-Raqqa	\$35.00
		Idleb	\$30.00
Eggplant	1 kg of Local Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$6.00
		Aleppo	\$9.00
		Ar-Raqqa	\$6.00
		Idleb	\$10.00
	10 g of Hybrid Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$30.00
		Aleppo	\$25.00
		Ar-Raqqa	\$30.00
		Idleb	\$22.00

Product		Governorate	Median Price
Okra	1 kg of Local Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$5.50
		Aleppo	\$4.00
		Ar-Raqqa	\$5.00
		Idleb	\$3.25
	1 kg of Imported Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$15.00
		Aleppo	\$12.00
		Ar-Raqqa	\$15.00
		Idleb	\$22.00
Zucchini	1 kg of Local Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$9.00
		Aleppo	\$6.75
		Ar-Raqqa	\$10.00
		Idleb	\$7.00
	1 Sachet (500 seed) of Hybrid Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$21.00
		Aleppo	\$25.00
		Ar-Raqqa	\$20.00
		Idleb	\$25.00
Bell Pepper	1 kg of Local Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$6.00
		Aleppo	\$5.00
		Ar-Raqqa	\$5.70
		Idleb	\$5.00
	10 g of Hybrid Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$35.00
		Aleppo	\$22.00
		Ar-Raqqa	\$35.00
		Idleb	\$22.00
1 Sachet (1000 seed) Hybrid Tomato	Al-Hasakeh	\$25.00	
	Aleppo	\$32.00	
	Ar-Raqqa	\$25.00	
	Idleb	\$25.00	

There are a wide range of vegetables that are planted during spring season (figure 11). In NWS, for certain crops there are two types of seeds available, the local produced open pollinated seeds and the hybrid seeds. The hybrid seeds usually originate from outside Syria or the region, therefore, they tend to be higher in price compared to the local produced seeds. As mentioned in the availability section, Elite Potato Seeds (Banella) was reported to be totally not available from most markets in NWS. Traders were not importing this type of potato due to its significant high price, and low demand as there were other local alternatives.

The same applies for leafy vegetable seeds, generally hybrid and imported seeds recorded higher prices compared to local seeds. Hybrid Jew's mallow seeds were reported to be not as widely available as the local seeds, and some study respondents reported that local Jew's mallow seeds were preferred more.

Figure 12. Median Prices in USD of Spring/Summer Leafy Vegetable Seeds - Q1 2022

Leafy Vegetable Seed	Governorate	Median Price
1 kg of Cress (rashede) Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$5.00
	Aleppo	\$4.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$5.50
	Idleb	\$5.00
1 kg of Arugula Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$5.00
	Aleppo	\$4.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$5.00
	Idleb	\$5.00
Jew's Mallow (Mulukhiyah)	Al-Hasakeh	\$5.00
	Aleppo	\$10.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$4.00
	Idleb	\$25.00
	Al-Hasakeh	\$2.75
	Aleppo	\$4.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$3.00
	Idleb	\$3.00
Parsley	Al-Hasakeh	\$5.50
	Aleppo	\$8.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$6.00
	Idleb	\$7.00
	Al-Hasakeh	\$4.50
	Aleppo	\$4.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$3.75
	Idleb	\$4.00

Animal Protein Group

Watermelon and melon were the only fruit seeds covered in this study, and the prices of both types recorded a small margin of difference (figure 13). However, farmers in Idleb governorate (Jisr-Ash-Shugur, Tefnaz, and Janudiyeh subdistricts) reported that there was not enough land area to plant fruits crops, plus the climate is not suitable for such types of crops. And the frost of the last winter season was harsh on fruits trees and other crop plants.

Figure 13. Median Prices in USD of Spring/Summer Fruit Seeds - Q1 2022

Fruit Seed	Governorate	Median Price
1 Sachet (1000 seed) of Melon Seeds	Al-Hasakeh	\$45.00
	Aleppo	\$40.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$45.00
	Idleb	\$45.00
Watermelon	Al-Hasakeh	\$25.00
	Aleppo	\$42.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$26.00
	Idleb	\$43.25
	Al-Hasakeh	\$25.00
	Aleppo	\$22.00
	Ar-Raqqa	\$25.00
	Idleb	\$35.00

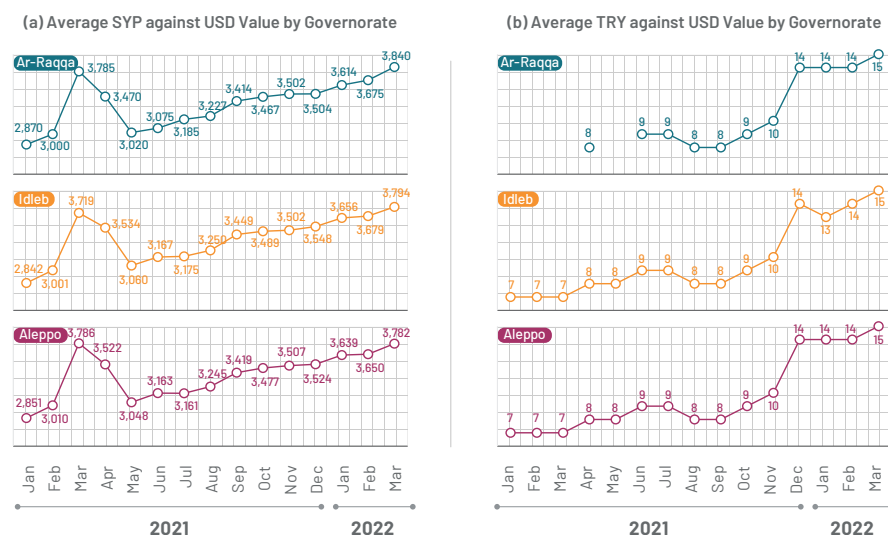
Key Finding - Food Market Prices

For detailed prices for food items and Food SMEB at the subdistrict level, follow this [link](#)

Food SMEB Prices and Cash Assistance

According to CWG-JMMI monthly price monitoring data Idleb governorate reported slightly higher food SMEB values compared to Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates in March 2022. However, the difference between the different governorates was not very significant (range: 432,409 SYP – 443,229 SYP). The SMEB value was on the rise since January 2021 and followed the trend of the SYP exchange rate against USD. As per figure 14, food SMEB prices notably increased by 62% in quarter one 2022 compared to quarter one 2021 (64% in Aleppo governorate, 68% in Ar-Raqqa governorate, and 54% in Idleb governorate). However, in March 2022, the SMEB value recorded the highest price since the start of 2021. Naturally, the cash/voucher assistance value followed the same trend as the SMEB Values, since the Cash Working Group (CWG) sets the cash/voucher assistance as 70% of the SMEB value.

Figure 14. Average SMEB and Average Food Cash/Voucher Assistance Values

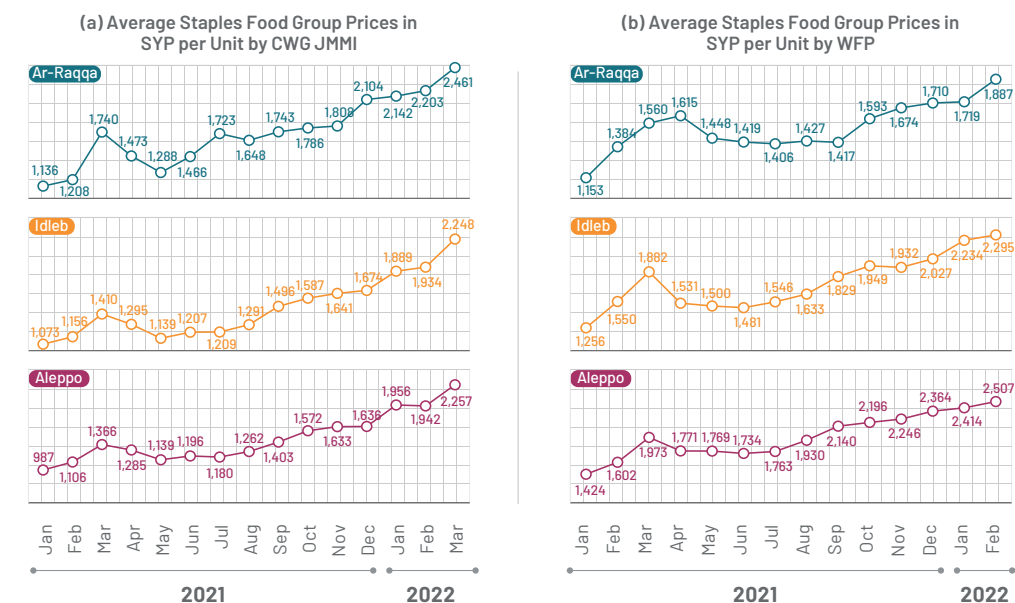


Food Groups Market Prices

Staple Group

CWG-JMMI staple food items: Bread (shop), Bulgur, Pasta, Potatoes, Rice, Wheat flour
WFP staple items: Bread (shop), Bread (bakery), Bulgur, Pasta, Potatoes, Rice, Wheat flour
Pasta and rice recorded the overall highest average prices across all governorates in NWS. While shop bread, bakery bread, potatoes recorded the lowest prices. Staples followed the same trend as the SMEB temporal price trend, where in March 2022 there was a record of the highest staple food prices. The overall prices of staples per governorate showed that Ar-Raqqa governorate recorded the highest for CWG-JMMI prices. As for WFP-VAM staple prices, Aleppo governorate recorded the highest prices. According to CWG-JMMI, staples food group prices increased by 70% in quarter one 2022 compared to quarter one 2021 (78% in Aleppo governorate, and 67% in Ar-Raqqa governorate and Idleb governorate). For WFP-VAM prices for staples, the prices was available until February 2022, accordingly, the average prices for the months of January and February of 2021 and 2022 will be compared. Therefore, staples food group prices increased by 56% in the first two months of 2022 compared to the first two months of 2021 (63% in Aleppo governorate, and 42% in Ar-Raqqa governorate, and 61% in Idleb governorate).

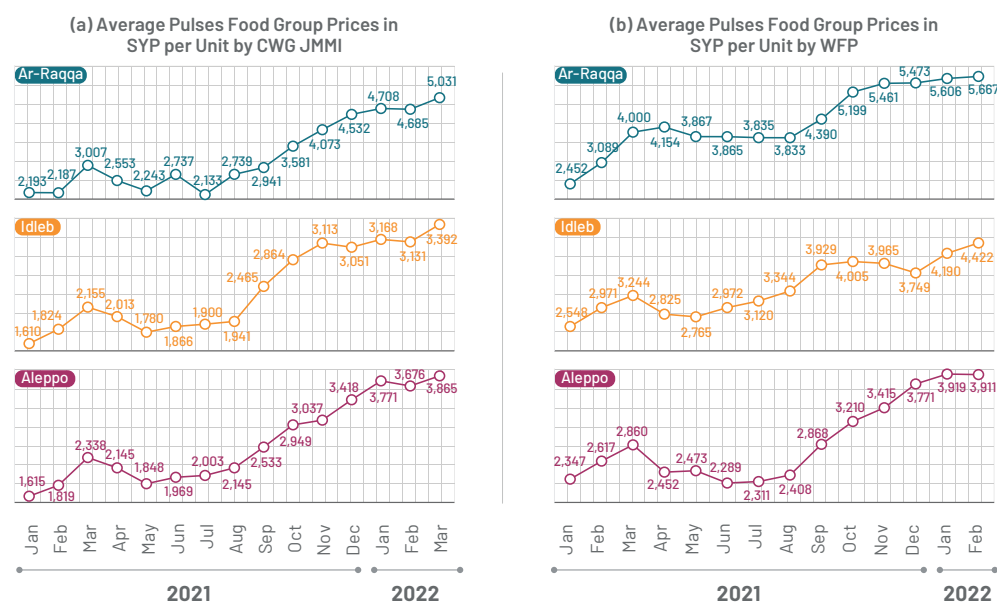
Figure 15. Staple Food Group Monthly Average Prices (SYP/kg)



Pulses Group

CWG-JMMI pulses items: red lentils, split lentils, chickpeas, and green peas WFP pulses items: white beans, chickpeas, and lentils Overall, according to both data sources, chickpeas recorded the lowest average price across all governorates in NWS, followed by split lentils. While green peas recorded the highest price according to CWG-JMMI data, and white beans recorded the highest price according to WFP data. As a group, prices of pulses were higher compared to the staples group prices. Ar-Raqqa governorate recorded the highest prices of pulses in both CWG-JMMI and WFP-VAM prices. According to CWG-JMMI, pulses food group prices increased by 89% in quarter one 2022 compared to quarter one 2021 (96% in Aleppo, 95% in Ar-Raqqa, and 73% in Idleb)

Figure 16. Pulses Food Group Monthly Average Prices (SYP/kg)



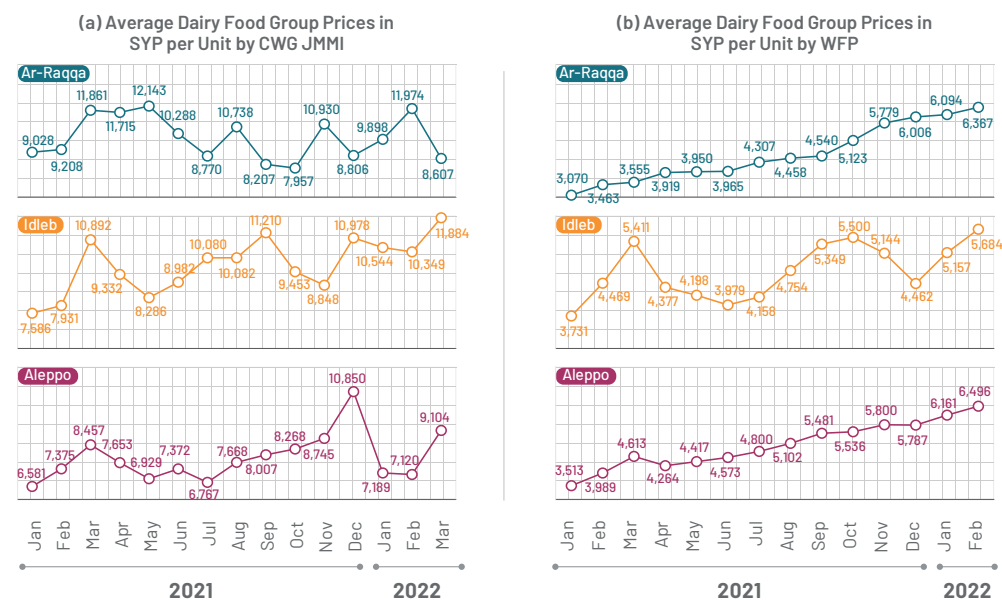
Dairy Group

CWG-JMMI dairy items: milk, and powder milk

WFP dairy items: yoghurt, and cheese

For CWG-JMMI data, powder milk recorded significantly higher price compared to regular milk which inflated CWG-JMMI dairy group prices. As for WFP data, yogurt recorded lower price compared to cheese. Dairy prices (regular milk and yogurt) were in general higher than staples prices and lower than pulses, which made dairy products more accessible for households to purchase than pulses. Idleb governorate recorded a significant higher price for dairy prices than Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates for CWG-JMMI prices. According to CWG-JMMI, dairy food group prices were the least inflated compared to other food groups, dairy food group price increased by 10% in quarter one 2022 compared to quarter one 2021 (4% in Aleppo, 1% in Ar-Raqqa, and 24% in Idleb)

Figure 17. Dairy Food Group Monthly Average Prices (SYP/kg)



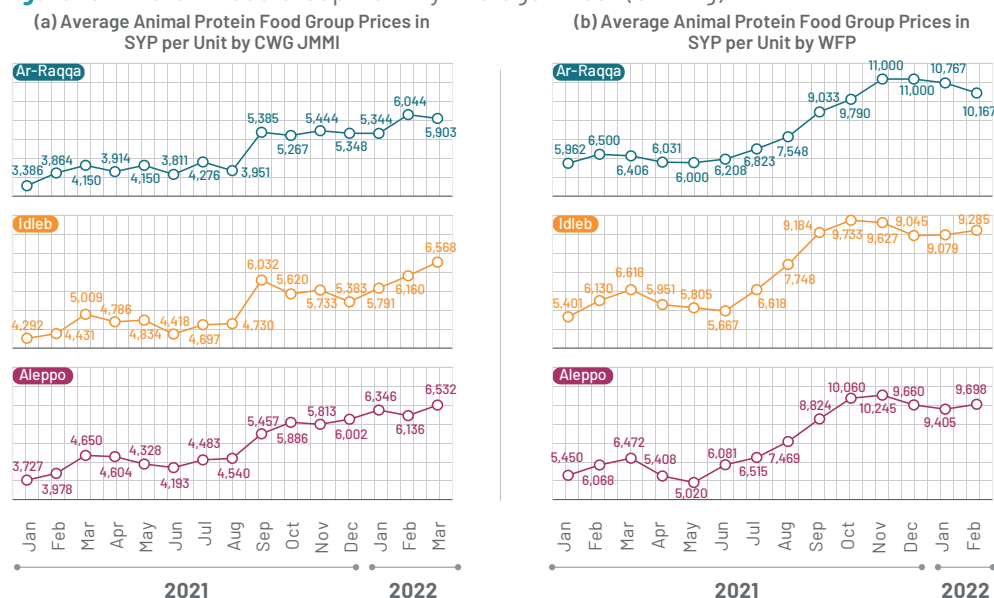
Animal Protein Group

CWG-JMMI animal protein items: canned fish, chicken, and eggs

WFP animal protein items: canned fish, plucked chicken, chicken legs, minced beef, and eggs

Overall, according to both data sources, canned fish recorded the lowest average prices of the animal protein group across all governorates in NWS. While according to WFP data, minced beef was considered the most expensive item in the animal protein group. The price of minced beef was significantly higher than other animal protein food items, which inflated the prices of this group as per the record from the WFP data. In general, the group was the most expensive of all other food groups. CWG-JMMI For Idleb recorded the highest prices of animal protein group prices compared to Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates. As for WFP data, Ar-Raqqa governorate recorded the highest prices of animal protein group in quarter one of 2022 compared to Aleppo and Idleb governorates. According to CWG-JMMI, animal protein food group prices inflated by 46% in quarter one 2022 compared to quarter one 2021 (54% in Aleppo governorate, 52% in Ar-Raqqa governorate, and 35% in Idleb governorate). For WFP-VAM prices for protein group, the prices were available until February 2022, accordingly, the average prices for the months of January and February of 2021 and 2022 will be compared. Therefore, protein food group prices increased by 64% in the first two months of 2022 compared to the first two months of 2021 (66% in Aleppo governorate, and 68% in Ar-Raqqa governorate, and 59% in Idleb governorate).

Figure 18. Protein Food Group Monthly Average Prices (SYP/kg)



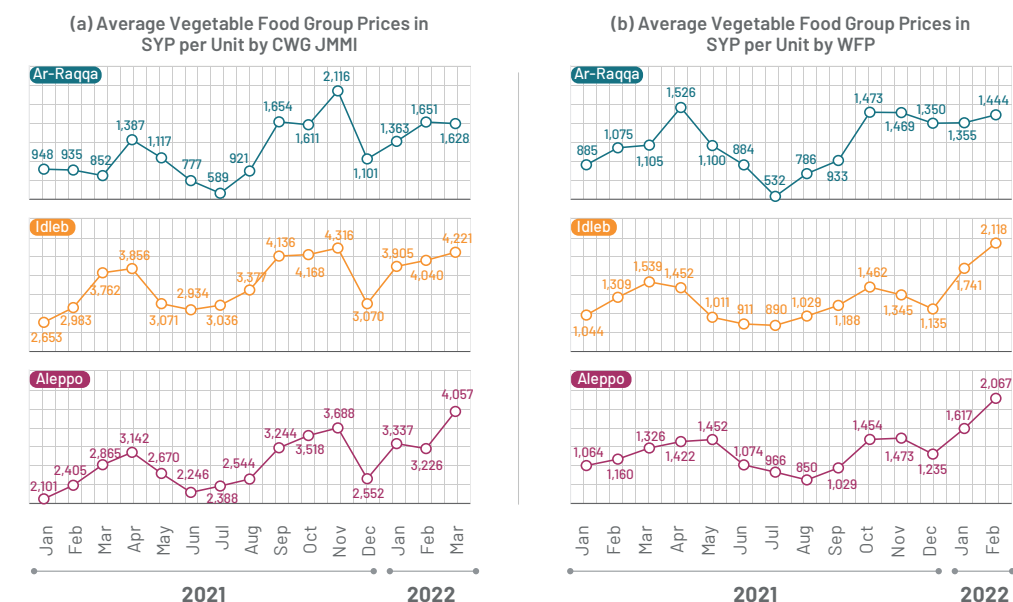
Vegetable Group

CWG-JMMI vegetable items: cucumbers, onions, tomatoes, kale, and Jew's mallow (mulukhiya)

WFP vegetable items: cucumbers, onions, tomatoes, carrots, eggplants, and parsley

Leaf vegetables like parsley and kale reported relatively low prices in WFP and CWG-JMMI data respectively, while according to CWG-JMMI group Jew's mallow (mulukhiya) reported the highest price in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, and Idleb governorates. It is worth mentioning that mulukhiya is a seasonal leaf vegetable which may be the reason for the high price of this vegetable produce. Apart from leaf vegetables, onions and Turnips recorded the lowest vegetable price in both data sources and across all governorates in NWS. Cucumbers, tomatoes, and eggplants recorded the highest prices. Idleb governorate recorded the highest vegetables group prices compared to Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates. According to CWG-JMMI, vegetable food group prices increased by 41% in quarter one 2022 compared to quarter one 2021 (44% in Aleppo governorate, 70% in Ar-Raqqa governorate, and 29% in Idleb governorate).

Figure 19. Vegetables Food Group Monthly Average Prices (SYP/kg)



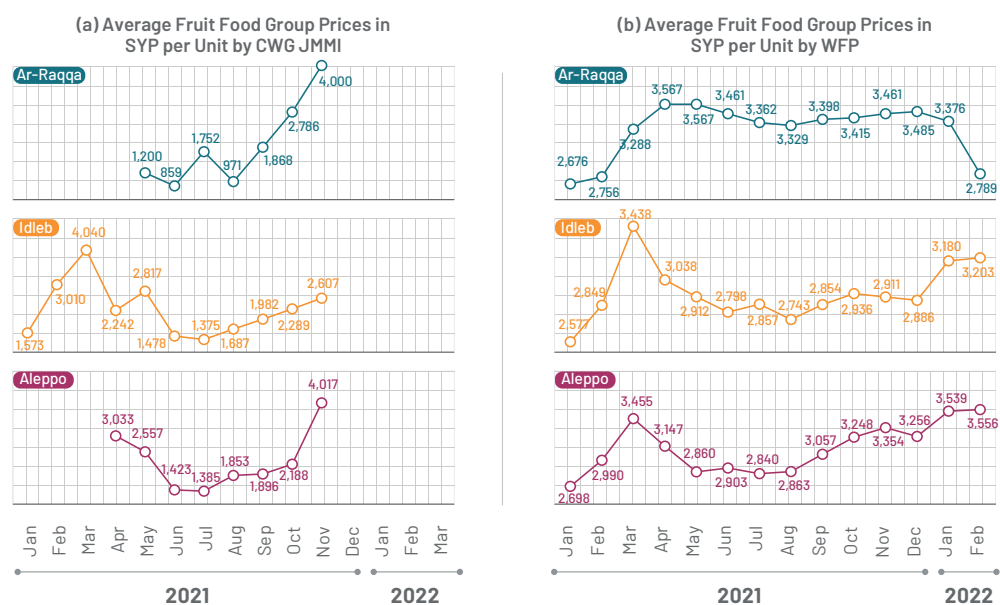
Fruit Group

CWG-JMMI fruit items: nectarines, and watermelon

WFP fruit items: bananas, apples, and dates

CWG-JMMI collects prices of nectarines and watermelon, which does not represent the most commonly consumed fruits in NWS. These items are also seasonal products and might not be accessible throughout the year to many households. As for WFP data, apples recorded the lowest price, while dates recorded the highest price.

Figure 20. Fruits Food Group Monthly Average Prices (SYP/kg)



Recommendations

- Where possible, the humanitarian partners need to gradually **promote the distribution of locally procured quality open pollinated varieties which are locally adapted seeds (cereals, pulses and vegetables). Distribution of open pollinated varieties has a merit upon harvest, it is possible for seed selection and seed retainment for subsequent planting in future cropping seasons**, thereby, breaking the cycle of seed shortage or prohibitive cost of imported hybrid seeds which at harvest cannot be retained for subsequent cropping, thus, setting donor dependence syndrome tendencies year in year out as beneficiaries would need seed distributions. Furthermore, support for agriculture nursery and seed multiplication projects is needed from donors, partners and local authorities.
- The prohibitive cost of livestock feed ingredients and fodder has been persistently mentioned across NWS and these prices might increase over the year as the crop residues and the pastures become exhausted with climate induced aridity. High livestock feed and fodder prices were particularly noticeable in spring/summertime when livestock, particularly cattle, are fed with expensive feed concentrates (barley) and crop residue. Partners ought to **support livestock keepers to locally purchase grain and farm by-products from farmers and import feed additives to produce fodder/feed concentrates through livestock local feed formulations at household level**. In that regard, it is also recommended for donors, partners and local authorities to support the fodder crops value chain.
- Expensive chemical fertilizers can be substituted by farmers' **application of compost manure and crop residue in-cooperation to improve soil fertility, especially for vegetable production to reduce the cost of production**.
- Expensive herbicides and pesticides can be complemented with farmers' **adoption of the integrated pest and disease management practices of crop rotation and mulching**.
- **Item selection and analysis approach**; the number of selected agriculture input items were large **Monitoring of agricultural input prices and trends of the cost value of standard agricultural kits was recommended and this will inform humanitarian partners in deciding on Cash Transfer Values per targeted farming household for a respective Agricultural Inputs/Kit distributions over time and space**, the same way the standard food basket and SMEB values inform cash transfer values for Food Assistance programming.
- **Limited Scope**: the scope of this initiative is limited to quantitative data that was used to monitor the price, availability, and country of origin of agricultural inputs. It is recommended to add a qualitative assessment part that could be useful to justify and contextualize the findings. For instance, how the current Russia-Ukraine conflict affect the price of commodities (food and agricultural inputs) in NWS and comparison between this round with previous one. **However, for future rounds of the related study, the Syria FSL Clusters and iMAP can consider dropping the food items study and analysis component for it seems there is less added value in analyzing and interpreting the two data sets on price of food items as adopted from the two data sources of WFP Syria VAM and CWG-JMMI**. In case there is need, the WoS FSL Cluster can strengthen the food item analysis within the respective study reports from the two data sources.
- Given the recorded price increase rate of change for various food items, then as FSL Cluster and its partners that design and plan for food aid and food provision programming would then need to **factor in, the respective food price increase changes, thereby affecting the SMEB value over time and space when deciding the cash transfer value or unit cost per individual targeted for food assistance**.
- Given the recorded price increase rate of change for various agricultural inputs, then as FSL Cluster and its partners that design and plan for agricultural input and livelihood provision programming would then need to **factor in, the respective agriculture input price increase changes over time when deciding the cash transfer value or unit cost per farming household targeted for agriculture input support**.