

## METHODOLOGY

Working through the Cash and Voucher Working Group (CVWG) and its partners, REACH facilitated the implementation of a partner-driven Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) in Afghanistan. It is intended to be conducted on a monthly basis to provide longitudinal market and price data.

The JMMI assessment employed a quantitative key informant interview (KII) approach. The methodology includes surveys with purposively sampled traders (both retail and wholesale), acting as key informants (KIs) for their respective markets. Participants are selected through partner KI networks in their respective market areas.

Each KI was asked to report on general market functionality indicators, as well as prices for all relevant items that they trade. Depending on access and availability, partners conducted 4 KIIs per item with retail traders, and 2 KIIs per item for wholesale traders (for food and non-food items (NFIs)). KIs were asked for information encompassing the 30 days prior to data collection. Findings rely on the knowledge of KIs regarding their respective markets. The findings are, therefore, indicative and may not always fully reflect market activity in the assessed area.

Data from the 15<sup>th</sup> round of the JMMI was collected between August 11<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

- 7 participating agencies
- 20 assessed provinces
- 185 key informant interviews (KIIs)
- 22 commodities assessed

Median cost of MEB<sup>1</sup>

19,458 AFN

242.96 USD

▲ 2%<sup>2</sup>

Median cost of Food Basket

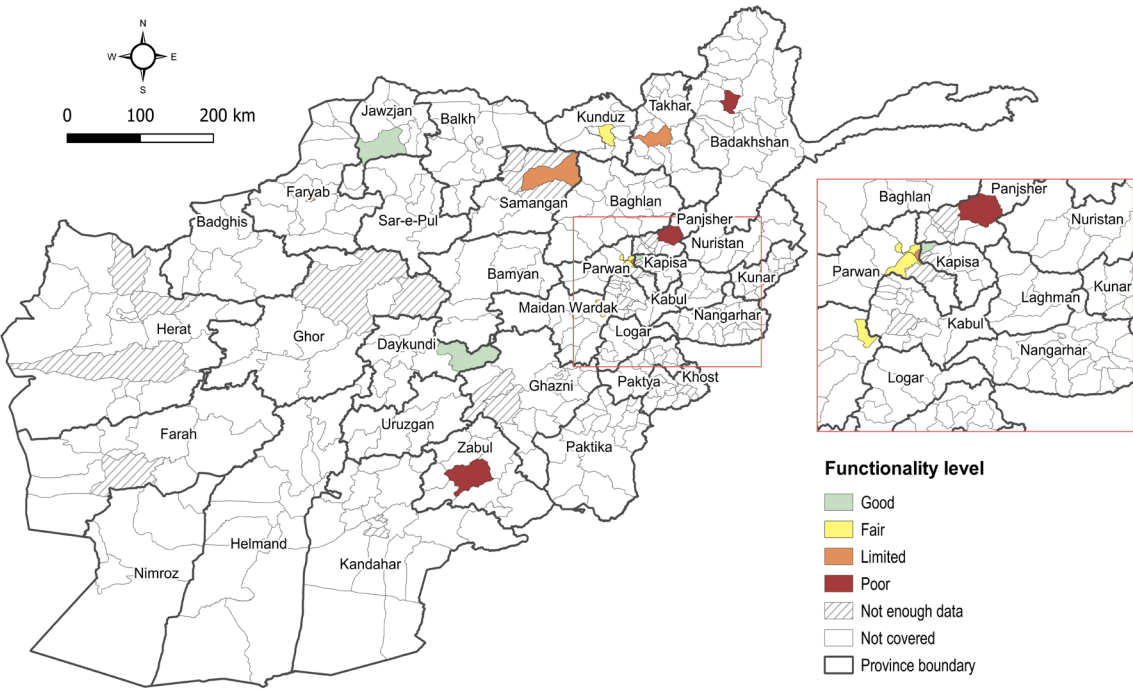
6,071 AFN

75.81 USD

▲ 7%<sup>2</sup>

38% of KIs reported difficulties in restocking and obtaining commodities. The key items reportedly more difficult to obtain and restock are vegetable oil (76%), cereals (75%) and pulses (41%).

## MARKET FUNCTIONALITY INDEX (MFI), BY DISTRICT



The MFI is based on a percentage calculated at district level. If 4 or more retailers in the district are interviewed, then the MFI is calculated. If less than 4 are interviewed, then there is insufficient data and the MFI is not calculated in that district.

The most commonly accepted payment modalities in the markets are cash (69%) and credit (49%).

Just (5%) of the KIs reported barter as a payment modality and only (3%) accepted mobile phone.

To further inform the CVWG's JMMI in Afghanistan, REACH developed the JMMI Market Functionality Index (MFI), based on the similar index by the same name designed by the World Food Program's (WFP's) Research, Assessment & Monitoring, and Supply Chain divisions. The aim of the MFI is to assess markets' health at the district level, in order to inform the humanitarian community on whether cash and voucher assistance (CVA) may or may not be the most appropriate response to meet the beneficiaries' needs. The MFI is based on the assumption that, should the markets not be functional, beneficiaries who received the CVA may be unable to access basic commodities.

This map presents findings from rounds 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of the JMMI's MFI, visualizing a scale of most functional assessed markets (dark shades) to the least functional ones (light shades) at the district level across Afghanistan.

For further information kindly consult the WFP technical guidance [here](#).

# MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (MEB) CALCULATIONS

## AFGHANISTAN MEB CONTENTS\*

### Basic Food Basket

Wheat flour (imported)	60 kg	Pulses**	14 kg
Local rice	29 kg	Salt	1 kg
Vegetable oil	6 L	Sugar	6 kg

### Healthcare (fixed at 3,000 AFN)

### Shelter (fixed at 5,828 AFN)

### Transportation (fixed at 359 AFN)

### Communication (fixed at 136 AFN)

### Water (20 L water drum) (fixed at 74 AFN)

### Fuel and Electricity (fixed at 716 AFN)

### Dignity-hygiene

Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	2 pc	Soft cotton cloth (2m <sup>2</sup> piece)	2 pc
Underwear	2 pc (fixed at 80 AFN)		

### Education (fixed at 1,200 AFN)

Monthly stationary costs	multiple items	Snacks and school lunch	24 pc
School transportation tickets	48	Uniforms (including shoes and sport clothing)	3 pc
Backpack	1 pc	Documentation and school fees	fixed

### Unmet needs (10% of sum of above)\*\*

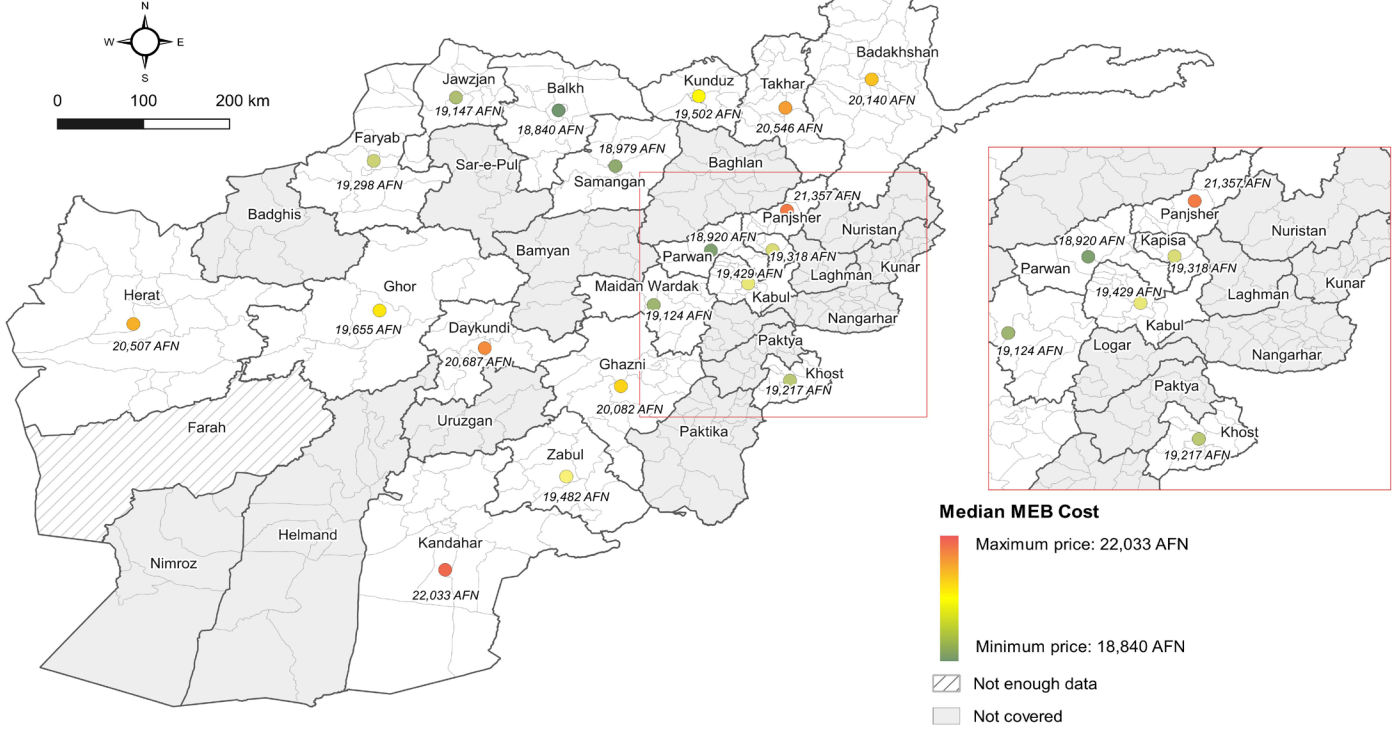
The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support an average seven-person Afghan household for one month. The cost of the MEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households in different locations. The MEB's content was defined by the CVWG in consultation with relevant sector leads.

\* The MEB cost was calculated in this factsheet using the relevant food and non-food item prices monitored. For items whose prices were not collected, calculations included the existing price used by the CVWG as a baseline. For the healthcare and shelter components, the listed fixed amount was used in the calculation. The AFN to USD conversion uses a fixed exchange rate of 78.5 AFN to 1 USD.

\*\* Pulses in this factsheet are calculated as the average price of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.

\*\*\* An additional percentage has been included to take into account unmet needs which are not mentioned above (this can also include leisure and free time). The Afghanistan MEB unmet needs is defined as 10% of the total sum of the MEB.

## MEDIAN MEB COST, BY PROVINCE IN AFN



# ITEM PRICE MONITORING

## NATIONWIDE MEDIAN ITEM PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW, AND RECORDED CHANGE (%) SINCE THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ROUND OF DATA COLLECTION

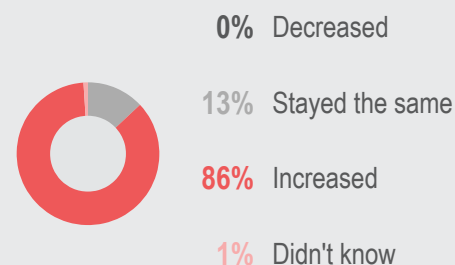
Item	Unit	Price in AFN	Price in USD	Change (%)
<b>Food Items</b>				
Wheat flour (local)	1 kg	36	0.45	▲ 5%
Wheat flour (imported)	1 kg	39	0.49	▲ 11%
Local rice	1 kg	60	0.75	▲ 7%
Vegetable oil	1 L	134	1.68	▲ 12%
Pulses <sup>7</sup>	1 kg	60	0.75	▼ 8%
Salt	1 kg	15	0.19	▲ 20%
Sugar	1 kg	55	0.69	▲ 10%
Tomatoes	1 kg	25	0.31	No change
<b>NFIs</b>				
Pen and pencil	1 pc	10	0.12	No change
Notebook	1 pc	20	0.25	No change
Rubber	1 pc	5	0.06	No change
Cotton cloth (2m <sup>2</sup> )	1 pc	83	1.03	▼ 8%
Toothbrush (adults)	1pc	27	0.33	▼ 8%
Toothpaste	1 pc	40	0.50	▼ 6%
Sanitary pads	1 box	50	0.62	No change
Antiseptic soap bar	1 pc	30	0.37	No change
<b>Other NFIs</b>				
Safe (drinking) water without jerry can	20 L	50	0.62	▼ 17%
Coal or charcoal	1 kg	10	0.12	▼ 23%
LPG	1 L	80	1.00	▲ 23%
Firewood	1 kg	13	0.16	▲ 2%
Cooking fuel	1 kg	75	0.94	▲ 12%

## CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS FROM SUPPLIERS

Item	Available (% KIs)	Limited (% KIs)	None (% KIs)
<b>Food Items</b>			
Wheat flour (local)	91%	7%	2%
Wheat flour (imported)	96%	3%	1%
Local rice	94%	4%	2%
Vegetable oil	96%	3%	2%
Pulses <sup>7</sup>	97%	1%	2%
Salt	96%	2%	2%
Sugar	96%	2%	2%
Tomatoes	95%	3%	2%
<b>NFIs</b>			
Pen and pencil	95%	1%	4%
Notebook	95%	1%	4%
Rubber	98%	0%	2%
Cotton cloth (2m <sup>2</sup> )	98%	0%	2%
Toothbrush (adults)	98%	2%	0%
Toothpaste	97%	3%	0%
Sanitary pads	86%	3%	11%
Antiseptic soap bar	97%	3%	0%
<b>Other NFIs</b>			
Safe (drinking) water without jerry can	91%	4%	4%
Coal or charcoal	98%	0%	2%
LPG	100%	0%	0%
Firewood	96%	2%	2%
Cooking fuel	99%	1%	0%

## REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF FOOD ITEMS IN 30 DAYS PRIOR TO DATA COLLECTION, AND REPORTED REASONS FOR INCREASE IN PRICE<sup>4</sup>

% of KIs reporting change in price for food items in the 30 days prior to data collection:

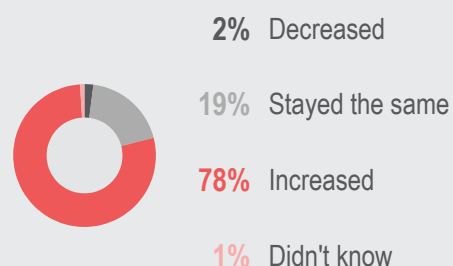


Out of those KIs reporting an increase in food prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:

- 1 82% Increased cost of supplies
- 2 40% Increased transportation costs
- 3 4% Seasonality

## REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF NFIs IN THE IN 30 DAYS PRIOR TO DATA COLLECTION, AND REPORTED REASONS FOR INCREASE IN PRICE<sup>4</sup>

% of KIs reporting change in price for NFIs in the 30 days prior to data collection:



Out of those KIs reporting an increase in NFIs prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:

- 1 91% Increased cost of supplies
- 2 42% Increased transportation costs
- 3 5% Seasonality

# MARKET SUPPLY & ACCESS CHALLENGES

## LOCATION OF MAIN WHOLESALE AND RETAILER SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD ITEMS<sup>5</sup>

Proportion of wholesalers KIs by reported location of their main supplier of food items:



Proportion of retailers KIs by reported location of their main supplier of food items:



3% Imported from abroad

66% Different province

24% Province capital city

3% Same province

3% Same district

1% Other

0% Imported from abroad

58% Different province

29% Province capital city

8% Same province

5% Same district

0% Other

## LOCATION OF MAIN WHOLESALE AND RETAILER SUPPLIERS FOR NFIs<sup>5</sup>

Proportion of wholesalers KIs by reported location of their main supplier of NFIs:



Proportion of retailers KIs by reported location of their main supplier of NFIs:



3% Imported from abroad

65% Different province

24% Province capital city

4% Same province

3% Same district

1% Other

0% Imported from abroad

54% Different province

27% Province capital city

14% Same province

5% Same district

0% Other

## BARRIERS TO MARKET ACCESS FOR CONSUMERS

Proportion of KIs reporting **consumers faced at least one of the mentioned barriers** to accessing the market in the 30 days prior to data collection:



64%

Barriers to access reported

36%

No barriers reported

Among those KIs reporting that people face barriers to accessing markets, the most frequently cited reasons were:

- 1 32% Financial barriers
- 2 32% Insecurity travelling to the market
- 3 10% Fear of exposure to COVID-19, and public health restrictions

In the South and South-Eastern, **100%** of KIs reported consumers faced at least one barrier to accessing markets in the 30 days prior to data collection, which is a relatively high percentage compared to the national average of 83%.

## DIFFICULTIES TO MEET DEMAND AND TO TRANSPORT OR PROCURE SUPPLIES<sup>5</sup>

**38%** of KIs reported having faced difficulties obtaining enough commodities to meet demand in the 30 days prior to data collection. The three most frequently cited reasons were:

- 1 55% Financial constraints and inability to purchase supplies
- 2 54% Difficulties in transporting commodities
- 3 49% Limited availability of imported items and commodities

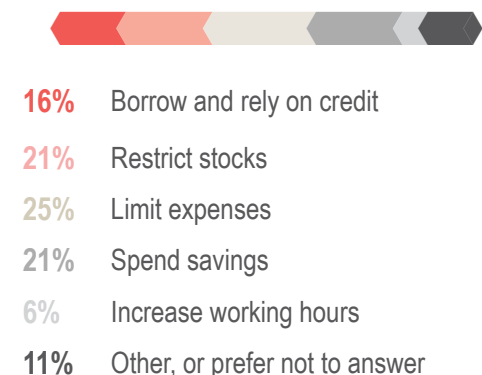
**55%** of KIs reported having faced difficulties in road-based transportation of goods in the 30 days prior to data collection. The three most frequently cited difficulties were:

- 1 51% Conflict
- 2 31% Roadblocks
- 3 14% Restrictions from the authorities

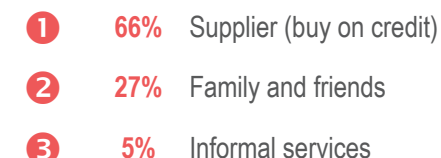


## TRADERS' COPING MECHANISMS AND RELIANCE ON CREDIT

Proportion of KIs reporting on the use of main coping mechanisms to address reduced or limited income:

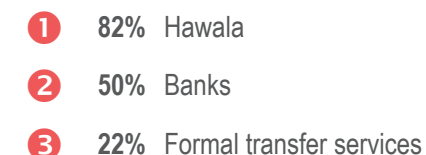


Main reported sources from which KIs borrowed money or purchased on credit to support their business in the 30 days prior to data collection:



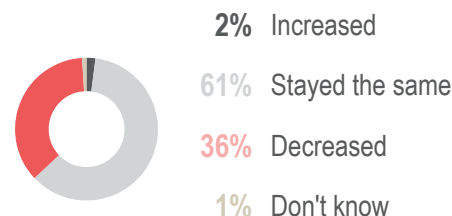
## PRESENCE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Proportion of KIs reporting on the presence of functional money transfer services in or near their market area, by type:

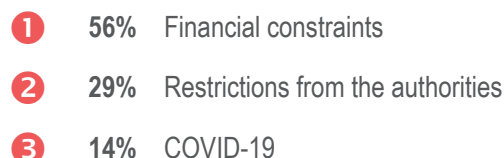


## TRADER PRESENCE IN THE MARKET

27% of KIs reported that (almost) all shops in the marketplace are open. Furthermore, KIs reported on the perceived change in the number of shops that have been open in the 30 days prior to data collection:<sup>6</sup>

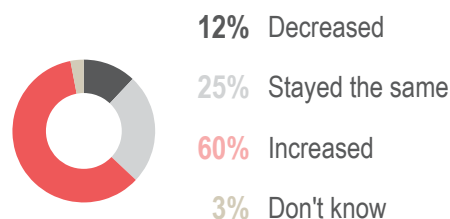


Three most frequently cited reasons for a reported decrease in number of traders present and open in the marketplace:



## CONSUMERS, PAYMENT, & CREDIT

Proportion of KIs reporting on the number of customers purchasing on credit to have changed in the 30 days prior to data collection:



## ENDNOTES

1. The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a six-person Afghan household for one month.
2. The % of change between the price of the MEB and the Food Basket during data collection refers to the changes recorded since the previous (14th) round of the JMML.
3. Where JMML data recorded a MEB price variation of less than 100 AFN, it was chosen to present the variation as 0% because the amount is too small to be approximated as 1%, but too significant to be categorized as "no change".
4. All KIs were asked about changes in prices of food items and NFIs in general. KIs that reported an increase or decrease were asked to report on the main reason for this.
5. Any KI that reported selling any food item or NFI was asked to report the location of their main supplier, whether the number of suppliers had changed in the last 30 days, and the main means of transportation of goods.
6. KIs that reported the number of shops open in the market to have decreased in the past 30 days. Multiple options could be selected and findings may therefore exceed 100%.
7. Pulses in this table are calculated as the median (normalized) price of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.

## About the Afghanistan Cash and Voucher Working Group and REACH Initiative

The Afghanistan Cash and Voucher Working Group (CVWG) is an inter-cluster technical working group set up to ensure cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in Afghanistan is coordinated, follows a common rationale, is context specific and is undertaken in a manner that does not inflict harm or exacerbate vulnerabilities of the affected population. The working group was initially established in 2012 under the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC), but since 2014 it has become an inter-cluster working group which is overseen by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT). The working group is currently co-chaired by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the World Food Programme (WFP). For more information, please visit <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/cash-voucher>.

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, in-depth analysis and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) and follow us on Twitter [@REACH\\_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).

