# AFGHANISTAN JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE (JMMI)

14 - 26 July 2020

## INTRODUCTION

The Afghanistan Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was launched by **the Afghanistan Cash and Voucher Working Group (CVWG) and partners,** in collaboration with REACH Initiative (REACH), and funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). The objective is to provide regular updates on prices of key items and market functionality to inform Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA). Data from the third round of the JMMI was collected between 14 and 26 July, in 29 provinces of Afghanistan.

| | |
|---|---|
| 17 | participating agencies |
| 29 | assessed provinces |
| 304 | assessed marketplaces |
| 996 | key informants interviews (KIIs) |
| 24 | commodities assessed |

## JMMI PARTNERS

**AADA**
**AAH**
**ACTD**
**ACTED**
**Caritas Germany (with RCDC and VOPOFA)**
**CRDSA**
**DRC**
**IOM**
**IRC**
**JACK**
**JIA**
**OHW**
**Save the Children International**
**WHH**
**World Vision**

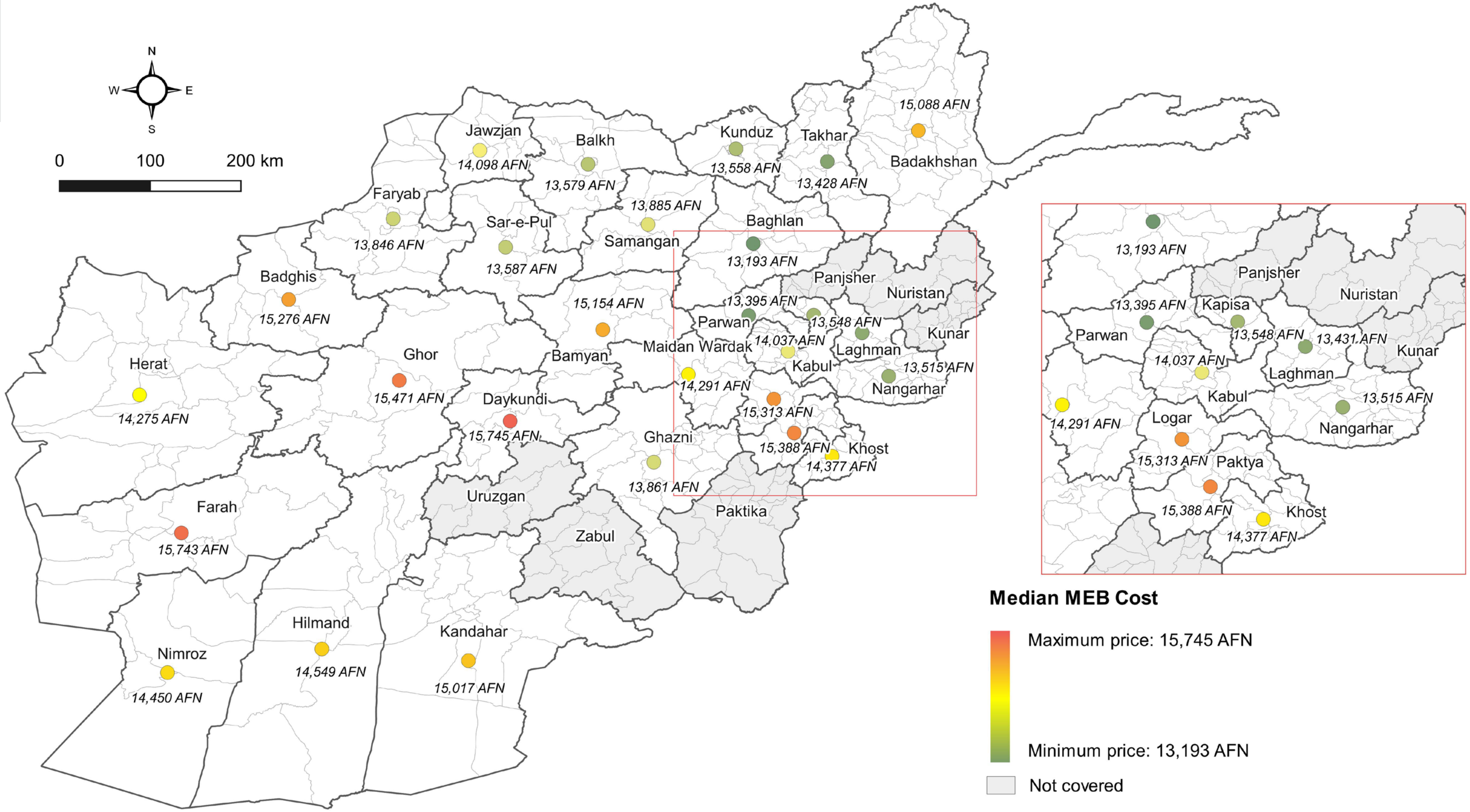
**Median cost of MEB[1]**
**13,830 AFN**
176.05 USD[2]
▼ 395 AFN -3%[3]

**Median cost of Food Basket**
**5,124 AFN**
62.27 USD[2]
▼ 305 AFN -6%[3]

**18%** of KIs reported that less than half of traders in their market were open

**11%** of KIs reported that the number of shops open in the market had decreased in the 30 days prior to data collection

## MEDIAN MEB COST IN AFGHANISTAN





Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid

AFGHANISTAN CASH AND VOUCHER WORKING GROUP

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

## 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 |

**Non-Food Item (NFI) basket**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Antiseptic soap (95-110g) | 18 pc | Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece) | 2 pc |
| Toothpaste | 2 pc | Sanitary pad | 2 box |
| Toothbrush (adult) | 3 pc | Women's underwear[3] | 2 pc |
| Toothbrush (child)*** | 4 pc | | |

**Healthcare component** (fixed at 667 AFN)

**Shelter component** (fixed at 5,850 AFN)

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

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a six-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 in this factsheet were calculated using the relevant food and non-food item prices monitored. For items which 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.*

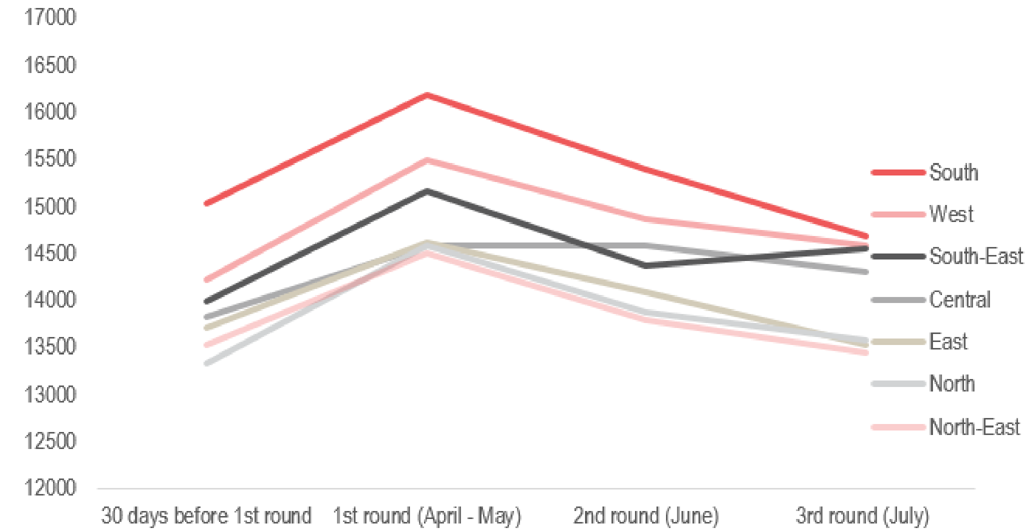
**** The standard fixed CVWG price for toothbrush (child) and women's underwear was used in the calculation of the MEB, as these items are not monitored as part of the JMMI.*

**USD/AFN buy rate**
**(parallel market)**
**77.10 AFN**

**USD/AFN buy rate**
**(official)[2]**
**77.75 AFN**

## MEDIAN MEB COST OVER TIME

**IN AFN**




## MEDIAN MEB PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW AND CHANGE SINCE THE JMMI 2ND ROUND (JUNE, 2020), AT REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL

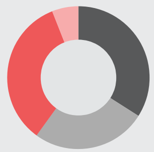
| Province | MEB in AFN | MEB in USD | Change since 2nd round | MEB (Round 2) in AFN | MEB (Round 2) in USD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **North** | 13,566 | 172.82 | ▼ 2% | 13,877 | 176.78 |
| Balkh | 13,579 | 172.98 | ▼ 3% | 13,999 | 178.33 |
| Faryab | 13,845 | 176.38 | ▼ 4% | 14,367 | 183.01 |
| Jawzjan | 14,097 | 179.59 | ▲ 2% | 13,802 | 175.82 |
| Samangan | 13,885 | 176.88 | ▲ 1% | 13,821 | 176.06 |
| Sar-e-Pul | 13,587 | 173.09 | ▼ 2% | 13,865 | 176.62 |
| **North-East** | 13,434 | 171.14 | ▼ 2% | 13,793 | 175.71 |
| Badakhshan | 15,088 | 192.21 | ▲ 4% | 14,593 | 185.90 |
| Baghlan | 13,193 | 168.07 | ▼ 4% | 13,794 | 175.72 |
| Kunduz | 13,558 | 172.72 | ▼ 2% | 13,756 | 175.23 |
| Takhar | 13,428 | 171.06 | ▼ 1% | 13,538 | 172.45 |
| **East** | 13,518 | 172.20 | ▼ 4% | 14,084 | 179.42 |
| Laghman | 13,430 | 171.09 | ▼ 5% | 14,093 | 179.53 |
| Nangarhar | 13,515 | 172.17 | ▼ 5% | 14,232 | 181.29 |
| **South-East** | 14,541 | 185.24 | ▲ 1% | 14,367 | 183.02 |
| Ghazni | 13,861 | 176.57 | ▲ 1% | 13,765 | 175.36 |
| Khost | 14,376 | 183.14 | ▼ 2% | 14,659 | 186.74 |
| Paktya | 15,388 | 196.03 | ▲ 4% | 14,527 | 185.06 |
| **South** | 14,681 | 187.01 | ▼ 4% | 15,383 | 195.96 |
| Helmand | 14,549 | 185.34 | ▼ 1% | 14,752 | 187.92 |
| Kandahar | 15,016 | 191.29 | ▼ 6% | 16,030 | 204.21 |
| Nimroz | 14,449 | 184.07 | ▼ 10% | 16,080 | 204.84 |
| **West** | 14,573 | 185.64 | ▼ 2% | 14,857 | 189.26 |
| Badghis | 15,275 | 194.59 | ▲ 2% | 14,923 | 190.10 |
| Farah | 15,743 | 200.55 | ▲ 4% | 15,150 | 193.00 |
| Ghor | 15,470 | 197.08 | ▲ 2% | 15,237 | 194.10 |
| Herat | 14,274 | 181.84 | ▼ 3% | 14,668 | 186.85 |
| **Central** | 14,294 | 182.09 | ▼ 2% | 14,581 | 185.75 |
| Bamyan | 15,154 | 193.05 | ▲ 2% | 14,903 | 189.84 |
| Daykundi | 15,745 | 200.58 | ▼ 2% | 16,150 | 205.74 |
| Kabul | 14,037 | 178.82 | ▼ 4% | 14,675 | 186.94 |
| Kapisa | 13,547 | 172.58 | ▲ 2% | 13,301 | 169.44 |
| Maidan Wardak | 14,291 | 182.05 | ▲ 3% | 13,878 | 176.78 |
| Logar | 15,313 | 195.07 | ▲ 7% | 14,297 | 182.13 |
| Panjsher | N/A | N/A | N/A | 14,710 | 187.39 |
| Parwan | 13,394 | 170.63 | ▼ 2% | 14,165 | 180.45 |

## NATIONWIDE MEDIAN ITEM PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW AND CHANGE REPORTED SINCE THE 2ND JMMI ROUND (JUNE, 2020)

| Item | Unit | Price in AFN | Price in USD | Change since 2nd round | Price (Round 2) in AFN | Price (Round 2) in USD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Food Items** | | | | | | |
| Wheat flour (local) | 1 kg | 32 | 0.42 | ▼ 3% | 33 | 0.42 |
| Wheat flour (imported) | 1 kg | 35 | 0.47 | ▼ 5% | 37 | 0.47 |
| Local rice | 1 kg | 50 | 0.64 | *no change* | 50 | 0.64 |
| Vegetable oil | 1 L | 94 | 1.27 | ▼ 6% | 100 | 1.27 |
| Pulses[4] | 1 kg | 50 | 0.76 | ▼ 16% | 60 | 0.76 |
| Salt | 1 kg | 10 | 0.25 | ▼ 50% | 20 | 0.25 |
| Sugar | 1 kg | 50 | 0.64 | *no change* | 50 | 0.64 |
| Tomatoes | 1 kg | 20 | 0.25 | *no change* | 20 | 0.25 |
| Potatoes | 1 kg | 20 | 0.32 | ▼ 20% | 25 | 0.32 |
| Onions | 1 kg | 15 | 0.19 | *no change* | 15 | 0.19 |
| Eggs | 1 egg | 7 | 0.09 | *no change* | 7 | 0.09 |
| **NFIs** | | | | | | |
| Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece) | 1 pc | 90 | 1.08 | ▲ 6% | 85 | 1.08 |
| Antiseptic soap (95-110g) | 1 pc | 26 | 0.38 | ▼ 13% | 30 | 0.38 |
| Toothpaste | 1 pc | 40 | 0.51 | *no change* | 40 | 0.51 |
| Toothbrush (adult) | 1 pc | 25 | 0.32 | *no change* | 25 | 0.32 |
| Sanitary pad | 1 box | 39 | 0.64 | ▼ 22% | 50 | 0.64 |
| Washing detergent | 1 pc | 50 | 0.64 | *no change* | 50 | 0.64 |
| Bleach | 1 L | 55 | 0.76 | ▼ 8% | 60 | 0.76 |
| **Other NFIs** | | | | | | |
| Safe (drinking) water | 1 L | N/A | N/A | N/A | 13 | 0.17 |
| Firewood | 1 kg | 12 | 0.15 | *no change* | 12 | 0.15 |
| Kindling[6] | 1 kg | 13 | 0.17 | *no change* | 13 | 0.17 |
| Cooking fuel | 1 kg | 45 | 0.57 | *no change* | 45 | 0.57 |

## REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF FOOD ITEMS IN 30 DAYS PRIOR TO DATA COLLECTION, AND REPORTED REASONS FOR DECREASE IN PRICE[7]

**% of KIs reporting change in price for food items in the past 30 days:**



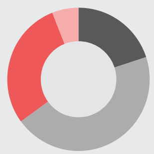
**34%** Decreased
26% Stayed the same
34% Increased
6% Don't know

**Out of those KIs reporting a decrease in food prices,** the most frequently cited reasons were:

1. **49%** Increased number of shops
2. **48%** Seasonality
3. **25%** Demand increased[8]

## REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF NFIs IN THE IN 30 DAYS PRIOR TO DATA COLLECTION, AND REPORTED REASONS FOR DECREASE IN PRICE[7]

**% of KIs reporting change in price for NFIs in the past 30 days:**



**20%** Decreased
45% Stayed the same
29% Increased
6% Don't know

**Out of those KIs reporting a decrease in NFIs prices,** the most frequently cited reasons were:

1. **49%** Increased number of shops
2. **48%** Seasonality
3. **25%** Demand increased[8]

## LOCATION OF MAIN SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD ITEMS AND NFIS[9]

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

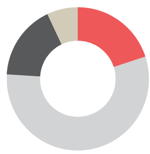
| | |
|---|---|
| 4% | Imported |
| 34% | Different province |
| 37% | Province capital city |
| 10% | Same province |
| 15% | Same district |
| 2% | Other |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 2% | Imported |
| 34% | Different province |
| 36% | Province capital city |
| 10% | Same province |
| 16% | Same district |
| 2% | Other |

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD ITEMS AND NFIS[9]

**Proportion of KIs reporting a change in the number of food suppliers in the past 30 days:**



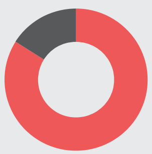
| | |
|---|---|
| 20% | Decreased |
| 56% | Stayed the same |
| 17% | Increased |
| 7% | Didn't know |

**Proportion of KIs reporting a change in the number of NFI suppliers in the past 30 days:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 20% | Decreased |
| 60% | Stayed the same |
| 13% | Increased |
| 7% | Didn't know |

## BARRIERS TO MARKET ACCESS FOR CONSUMERS

**Proportion of KIs that reported consumers faced at least one of the mentioned barriers[10] to accessing the market in the past 30 days:**



| | |
|---|---|
| 84% | Barriers to access reported |
| 16% | No barriers reported |

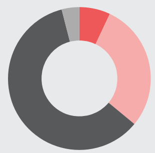
**Of those KIs reporting at least one barrier to accessing the market, the most frequently cited were:**

1. 85% Fear of exposure to COVID-19, and public health restrictions
2. 21% Distance and travelling costs
3. 21% Financial barriers

**Proportion of KIs that reported consumers faced security constraints to accessing the market in the 30 days prior to data collection:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 5% | Security context prevents access to the marketplace |
| 95% | No security related barriers |

**Proportion of KIs reporting the ability of women, in general, to safely access the market:**



| | |
|---|---|
| 7% | No access at all |
| 29% | Accompanied access |
| 60% | Unaccompanied access |
| 4% | Don't know |

**In the North-East and North, lower proportions of KIs reported barriers to accessing the market in the past 30 days, faced by consumers.** Respectively, the proportion was 51% and 76%, compared to the national 84%.

## CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS FROM SUPPLIERS[11]

| Item | Available (% KIs) | Limited (% KIs) | None (% KIs) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Food Items** | | | |
| Wheat flour (local) | 94% | 4% | 2% |
| Wheat flour (imported) | 95% | 4% | 1% |
| Local rice | 93% | 5% | 2% |
| Vegetable oil | 96% | 3% | 1% |
| Pulses[4] | 97% | 2% | 1% |
| Salt | 96% | 3% | 1% |
| Sugar | 96% | 3% | 1% |
| Tomatoes | 91% | 8% | 1% |
| Potatoes | 94% | 5% | 1% |
| Onions | 94% | 4% | 2% |
| Eggs | 92% | 6% | 2% |
| **NFIs** | | | |
| Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece) | 88% | 9% | 3% |
| Antiseptic soap (95-110g) | 96% | 4% | 0% |
| Toothpaste | 94% | 5% | 1% |
| Toothbrush (adult) | 94% | 5% | 1% |
| Sanitary pad | 88% | 10% | 2% |
| Washing detergent | 95% | 4% | 1% |
| Bleach | 92% | 6% | 2% |
| **Other NFIs** | | | |
| Safe (drinking) water | 93% | 5% | 2% |
| Firewood | 87% | 9% | 4% |
| Kindling | 88% | 9% | 3% |
| Cooking fuel | 93% | 5% | 2% |

## REPORTED CHANGE IN DEMAND FOR ITEMS IN THE 30 DAYS PRIOR TO DATA COLLECTION[12**]

| Item | Increase (% KIs) | Same (% KIs) | Decrease (% KIs) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Food Items** | | | |
| Wheat flour (local) | 41% | 36% | 21% |
| Wheat flour (imported) | 35% | 38% | 25% |
| Local rice | 31% | 47% | 18% |
| Vegetable oil | 39% | 46% | 13% |
| Pulses[4] | 0% | 97% | 0% |
| Salt | 19% | 75% | 4% |
| Sugar | 35% | 51% | 13% |
| Tomatoes | 53% | 37% | 9% |
| Potatoes | 46% | 44% | 8% |
| Onions | 37% | 50% | 9% |
| Eggs | 24% | 44% | 28% |
| **NFIs** | | | |
| Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece) | 21% | 59% | 15% |
| Antiseptic soap (95-110g) | 49% | 45% | 5% |
| Toothpaste | 31% | 60% | 7% |
| Toothbrush (adult) | 27% | 64% | 6% |
| Sanitary pad | 20% | 69% | 7% |
| Washing detergent | 38% | 54% | 6% |
| Bleach | 37% | 50% | 11% |
| **Other NFIs** | | | |
| Safe (drinking) water | 52% | 41% | 4% |
| Firewood | 15% | 48% | 33% |
| Kindling | 10% | 50% | 36% |
| Cooking fuel | 27% | 58% | 12% |

***KIs that reported selling assessed commodities were also asked about the change in demand for the item in the 30 days prior to data collection. These data are aggregated at national level.*

## DIFFICULTIES TO MEET DEMAND AND TO TRANSPORT OR PROCURE SUPPLIES

**7% of KIs rpeorted facing difficulties obtaining enough commodities to meet demand in the 30 days prior to data collection**. The three most frequently cited reasons by these KIs were:

1. **61%** Reduced movement due to fear of exposure to COVID-19
2. **48%** Supplier unable to provide enough
3. **43%** Public health restrictions on movement/lockdown

**29% of KIs reported difficulties in road-based transportation of goods.** The three most frequently cited ones were:

1. **21%** Roadblocks
2. **18%** Conflict
3. **14%** Government restrictions

**Most frequently reported food items difficult to restock and obtain in the 30 days prior to data collection:**

1. **78%** Vegetable oil
2. **69%** Wheat flour (imported)
3. **64%** Sugar

**Most frequently reported NFIs difficult to restock and obtain in the 30 days prior to data collection:**

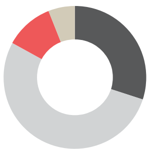
1. **19%** Washing detergent
2. **19%** Toothbrush
3. **18%** Antiseptic soap

## TRADER PRESENCE IN THE MARKET

**Proportion of KIs reporting the proportion of traders usually present in the marketplace to be open:**

- 54% All traders open
- 28% At least half of traders open
- 18% Less than half of traders open

**Proportion of KIs reporting the number of traders open to have changed in the 30 days prior to data collection:**



- 30% Increased
- 53% Stayed the same
- 11% Decreased
- 6% Don't know

Three most frequently cited **reasons for a reported decrease** in number of traders:[13]

1. 69% Due to COVID-19
2. 34% Government restrictions
3. 27% Financial constraints

## TRADERS' COPING MECHANISMS AND RELIANCE ON CREDIT

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

- 32% Borrow and rely on credit
- 19% Limit expenses
- 19% Restrict stocks
- 11% Spend savings
- 8% Increase working hours
- 9% Other

**Proportion of KIs reporting having borrowed money or purchased on credit to support their business in the 30 days prior to data collection:**[14, 15]

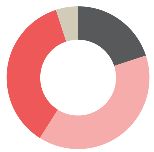
- 54% Yes, to purchase commodities
- 6% Yes, to pay rent
- 2% Yes, to pay salaries
- 44% No

## CONSUMERS, PAYMENT, & CREDIT

**Proportion of KIs reporting the number of customers per day to have changed in the 30 days prior to data collection:**

- 34% Increased
- 36% Stayed the same
- 26% Decreased
- 4% Don't know

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



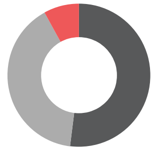
- 20% Decreased
- 39% Stayed the same
- 36% Increased
- 5% Don't know

**Proportion of KIs reporting types of payments they accepted from consumers in the 30 days prior to data collection:**[14]

1. 72% Cash
2. 41% Credit
3. 3% Mobile money transfer
4. 2% Barter

## PRESENCE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Proportion of KIs reporting there to be any functional money transfer services in or near their market area:**



- 52% Two or more types
- 40% One type
- 8% None

The three most frequently cited **available money transfer services** were:[14]

1. 83% Hawala
2. 47% Banks
3. 14% Mobile money agents

**Main reported sources from which KIs borrowed money or purchased on credit to support their business in the 30 days prior to data collection, in spite of the availability of financial services:**

1. 59% Supplier (buy on credit)
2. 37% Family and friends
3. 3% Informal services

## MEDIAN ITEM PRICES PER UNIT PER PROVINCE (in AFN)

| Province | Wheat flour local (1 kg) | Wheat flour imported (1 kg) | Local rice (1 kg) | Vegetable oil (1 l) | Lentils (1 kg) | Beans (1 kg) | Split Peas (1 kg) | Salt (1 kg) | Sugar (1 kg) | Tomatoes (1 kg) | Potatoes (1 kg) | Onions (1 kg) | Eggs | Soft cotton cloth[5] ($2m^2$ piece) | Tooth-brush (adult) (1) | Tooth-paste (1) | Sanitary pad (box of 10) | Washing detergent (1 l) | Soap (1 bar, 150 gm) | Bleach (1 l) | Safe (drinking) water (1 l) | Firewood (1 kg) | Kindling (1 kg) | Cooking fuel (1 kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **North** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Balkh | 30 | 35 | 49 | 94 | 60 | 112 | 40 | 32 | 51 | 20 | 22 | 18 | 6 | 60 | 15 | 25 | 27 | 50 | 25 | 43 | N/A | 10 | 15 | 60 |
| Faryab | 34 | 35 | 35 | 90 | 80 | 120 | 40 | 35 | 50 | 20 | 25 | 15 | 10 | 99 | 50 | 70 | 45 | 45 | 50 | 70 | N/A | 13 | 13 | 45 |
| Jawzjan | 32 | 35 | 50 | 90 | 65 | 110 | 65 | 9 | 50 | 11 | 20 | 17 | 8 | 100 | 20 | 45 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 65 | N/A | 14 | 14 | 45 |
| Samangan | 30 | 35 | 49 | 100 | 60 | 120 | 50 | 15 | 55 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 9 | 50 | 30 | 50 | 35 | 60 | 25 | 70 | N/A | 11 | 14 | 50 |
| Sar-e-Pul | 30 | 38 | 45 | 95 | 60 | 115 | 45 | 10 | 55 | 15 | 18 | 17 | 8 | 100 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 20 | 60 | N/A | 9 | 10 | 45 |
| **North-East** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Badakhshan | 32 | 42 | 46 | 92 | N/A | 114 | 29 | 21 | 53 | 16 | 18 | 14 | 10 | 190 | 27 | 50 | 50 | 80 | 20 | 80 | N/A | 12 | N/A | 60 |
| Baghlan | 32 | 34 | 40 | 88 | 66 | 92 | 42 | 13 | 54 | 13 | 18 | 12 | 7 | N/A | 30 | 30 | 50 | 60 | 20 | 50 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 52 |
| Kunduz | 31 | 36 | 39 | 99 | 70 | 102 | 50 | 30 | 51 | 15 | 20 | 14 | 7 | 20 | 20 | 45 | 50 | 50 | 25 | 60 | N/A | 11 | 11 | 45 |
| Takhar | 30 | 36 | 41 | 90 | 43 | 93 | 43 | 15 | 54 | 10 | 17 | 14 | 8 | N/A | 20 | 30 | 50 | 60 | 20 | 68 | N/A | 8 | 8 | 50 |
| **East** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Laghman | 31 | 34 | 38 | 92 | 63 | 121 | 79 | 10 | 50 | 21 | 21 | 8 | 7 | 120 | 25 | 40 | 19 | 50 | 30 | 58 | N/A | 8 | 9 | 45 |
| Nangarhar | 32 | 34 | 40 | 91 | 42 | 70 | 113 | 10 | 50 | 22 | 21 | 10 | 7 | 105 | 25 | 50 | 45 | 40 | 30 | 55 | N/A | 10 | 11 | 43 |
| **South-East** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ghazni | 32 | 35 | 53 | 91 | 60 | 100 | 44 | 15 | 50 | 30 | 20 | 13 | 7 | 70 | 28 | 35 | 30 | 35 | 30 | 70 | N/A | 13 | 13 | 45 |
| Khost | 32 | 35 | 45 | 92 | 77 | 110 | 75 | 14 | 48 | 25 | 22 | 19 | 7 | 105 | 30 | 51 | 50 | 50 | 42 | 100 | N/A | 14 | 17 | 42 |
| Paktya | 34 | 36 | 68 | 98 | 82 | 107 | 90 | 8 | 50 | 21 | 21 | 18 | 6 | 45 | 29 | 75 | 10 | 60 | 40 | 100 | N/A | 17 | 20 | 50 |
| **South** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Helmand | 33 | 36 | 70 | 95 | 54 | 120 | 45 | 10 | 50 | 13 | 20 | 8 | 7 | 120 | 25 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 56 | N/A | 8 | 10 | 45 |
| Kandahar | 33 | 37 | 80 | 88 | 60 | 114 | 70 | 8 | 48 | 20 | 18 | 10 | 6 | 70 | 27 | 32 | 32 | 45 | 25 | 35 | N/A | 12 | 12 | 37 |
| Nimroz | 23 | 34 | 75 | 65 | 65 | 115 | 60 | 5 | 55 | 25 | 20 | 5 | 7 | 250 | 25 | 52 | 53 | 40 | 20 | 48 | N/A | 12 | 19 | 30 |
| **West** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Badghis | 30 | 39 | 90 | 104 | 60 | 128 | 40 | 18 | 58 | 40 | 25 | 25 | 8 | 80 | 20 | 30 | 50 | 50 | 25 | 50 | N/A | 14 | 20 | 50 |
| Farah | 37 | 45 | 91 | 97 | 65 | 120 | 48 | 10 | 45 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 7 | N/A | 25 | 35 | 30 | 52 | 25 | 35 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Ghor | 34 | 43 | 78 | 110 | 176 | 140 | 42 | 11 | 60 | 20 | 25 | 20 | 8 | 65 | 45 | 45 | 60 | 60 | 30 | 59 | N/A | 18 | 10 | 50 |
| Herat | 28 | 35 | 70 | 90 | 60 | 120 | 55 | 10 | 50 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 7 | 110 | 20 | 30 | 25 | 35 | 20 | 40 | N/A | 13 | 9 | 38 |
| **Central** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bamyan | 33 | 35 | 85 | 100 | 56 | 120 | 60 | 15 | 55 | 40 | 22 | 15 | 8 | 112 | 33 | 45 | 47 | 55 | 30 | 60 | N/A | 12 | 17 | 55 |
| Daykundi | 36 | 37 | 88 | 100 | 70 | 115 | 60 | 15 | 60 | 40 | 25 | 20 | 9 | 60 | 30 | 50 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 80 | N/A | 14 | 17 | 50 |
| Kabul | 33 | 34 | 46 | 94 | 80 | 106 | 80 | 15 | 50 | 20 | 21 | 15 | 7 | 85 | 25 | 37 | 45 | 48 | 30 | 50 | N/A | 12 | 13 | 45 |
| Kapisa | 34 | 33 | 40 | 90 | 65 | 102 | 80 | 10 | 51 | 25 | 20 | 11 | 7 | N/A | 20 | 30 | 50 | 48 | 30 | 58 | N/A | N/A | 9 | 45 |
| Logar | 31 | 34 | 81 | 98 | 80 | 108 | 85 | 10 | 50 | 23 | 20 | 15 | 7 | 150 | 25 | 33 | 50 | 33 | 30 | 50 | N/A | N12 | 11 | 45 |
| Maidan Wardak | 31 | 35 | 50 | 96 | 70 | 121 | 80 | 10 | 51 | N/A | 21 | 25 | 7 | N/A | 30 | 60 | N/A | 55 | 30 | 60 | N/A | N/A | 13 | 50 |
| Panjsher | 29 | 35 | 47 | 100 | 66 | 115 | 50 | 20 | 50 | N/A | 21 | 11 | 7 | N/A | N/A | 50 | N/A | 50 | 28 | 58 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Parwan | 32 | 35 | 40 | 90 | 50 | 107 | 50 | 10 | 50 | 15 | 17 | 14 | 7 | 90 | 20 | 20 | 50 | 55 | 25 | 55 | N/A | 15 | 11 | 45 |

## METHODOLOGY

Working through the CVWG and its partners, and funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), 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 is led by the CVWG and coordinated through a JMMI Task Force (JMMI-TF) established for this purpose. REACH operates as the technical lead, by providing input on the research and tool design, providing training to partners, compiling and cleaning all data collected, and conducting analysis. The World Food Programme (WFP) provided support in the tool review and development.

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 which they trade. Depending on access and availability, partners conduct 4 KIIs per item with retail traders, and 2 KIIs per item for wholesale traders (for food and NFIs). KIs were asked for information encompassing the 30 days prior to data collection. Findings represent KIs' understanding of the situation in their markets and therefore are **indicative only.**

The third round of data collection took place between 14th to the 26th July 2020, and a total of 996 KIIs were conducted. This round covered 304 markets, which were sampled by partners nationwide based on their access and existing areas of intervention. This includes markets in 29 out of 34 provinces in Afghanistan.

## Challenges & Limitations

- Due to COVID-19 and related government restrictions data collection continued to be difficult as enumerators had difficulties finding KIs to interview at the markets.
- Despite having the tool shortened following the pilot round, the length of the questionnaire remained challenging as KIs were unable to participate for too long whilst working. Therefore, the tool will be further shortened again for the fourth round.
- A total of 29 provinces were covered in the third round of the JMMI, maintaining the same coverage as the previous (second) round.
- Due to the aforementioned difficulties in data collection, data from the third round of JMMI was disaggregated at the province-level. In the next rounds of JMMI, the aim of the JMMI is to have data at the district-level.
- Due to limited data points and strong regional variation, the median price for the item 'safe water' was not reported.

## JMMI Partners

- **AADA -** *Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan*
- **AAH -** *Action Against Hunger*
- **ACTD -** *Afghanistan Center for Training and Development*
- **ACTED**
- **Caritas Germany (with RCDC and VOPOFA)**
- **RCDC -** *Rural Capacities Development Committee*
- **VOPOFA -** *Village of Peace Organization for Afghans*
- **CRDSA** - *Centre of Rehabilitation and Development Services for Afghanistan*
- **DRC -** *Danish Refugee Council*
- **IOM -** *International Organization for Migration*
- **IRC -** *International Rescue Committee*
- **JACK -** *Just for Afghan Capacity and Knowledge*
- **JIA** - *The Johanniter International*
- **OHW -** *Organization of Human Welfare*
- **Save the Children**
- **WHH -** *Welthungerhilfe*
- **World Vision**

## 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 and 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. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.

## 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. All AFN to USD conversions in this factsheet use a fixed exchange rate of 78.5 AFN to 1 USD, unless otherwise stated. This is taken from the standard exchange rate used by the Afghanistan CVWG in MEB calculations. The official exchange rate on the first day of data collection of the third round of the JMMI (14 July) was 77.75 AFN to 1 USD (cash sell rate) and 77.06 (cash buy rate) as reported by the Afghanistan Bank.
3. The % of change between the price of the MEB and the Food Basket during data collection, and the price of the MEB and the Food Basket in the second round of the JMMI (June 2020) are reflected here.
4. Pulses in this table are calculated as the median (normalized) price of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.
5. N/A: Due to limited data points and strong regional variation, the national median price of some items were used to calculate the MEB, and are not reflected in the province-level disaggregations.
6. The item 'kindling' is a highly seasonal winter item, and therefore, not frequently sold during the period of the JMMI round 3 data collection. Therefore, the price of this item should be considered purely indicative.
7. All KIs were asked in general about changes in prices of food and NFI items, and those that reported an increase or decrease were asked to report on the main reason for this.
8. The answer option "Demand increased" followed the assumption that availability of commodities would have proportionally increased too. It will be changed from round 5.
9. 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.
10. The answer options for the question " What, if any, do you think are the barriers consumers have faced in accessing the market in the past 30 days?" included: insecurity travelling to/from the marketplace, insecurity at the marketplace, distance, restrictions on movement and/or lockdown, fear of going outside due to COVID-19, financial constraints, other.
11. For each item, KIs were asked to report if the item was currently available in the shop (available, limited availability or unavailable).
12. For each item, KIs were asked to report if demand for the item had changed in the past 30 days (increased a lot, increased, slightly increased, stayed the same, slightly decreased, decreased, decreased a lot). The results were then aggregated as increased, decreased, stayed the same. For further information and analysis please contact us or consult the publicly available dataset). The answer options also included "don't know", which may affect the sum of the responses. Where the sum of reported increase, same, and decreased doesn't add up to 100%, the remaining percentage corresponds to "don't know".
13. Of the KIs that reported the number of traders open in the market to have decreased in the past 30 days. Multiple options could be selected and findings may therefore exceed 100%.
14. Multiple options could be selected and findings may therefore exceed 100%.
15. Of the 55% of KIs reporting to borrow in the past 30 days to purchase commodities, 10% reported that half or more of their commodities was purchased on credit.

## RESOURCES FROM PREVIOUS ROUNDS OF DATA COLLECTION

**Pilot round (April - May 2020)**

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Factsheet

Dataset

**Second round (June 2020)**

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Factsheet

Dataset