AFGHANISTAN JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE (JMMI)

10 - 24 December 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 eighth round of the JMMI was collected between 10 and 24 December, in 29 provinces of Afghanistan.

19	participating agencies
29	assessed provinces
239	assessed marketplaces
739	key informant interviews (KIIs)
24	commodities assessed

For more information on the methodology, please refer to the methodology section in Annex 3 on page 9

JMMI PARTNERS

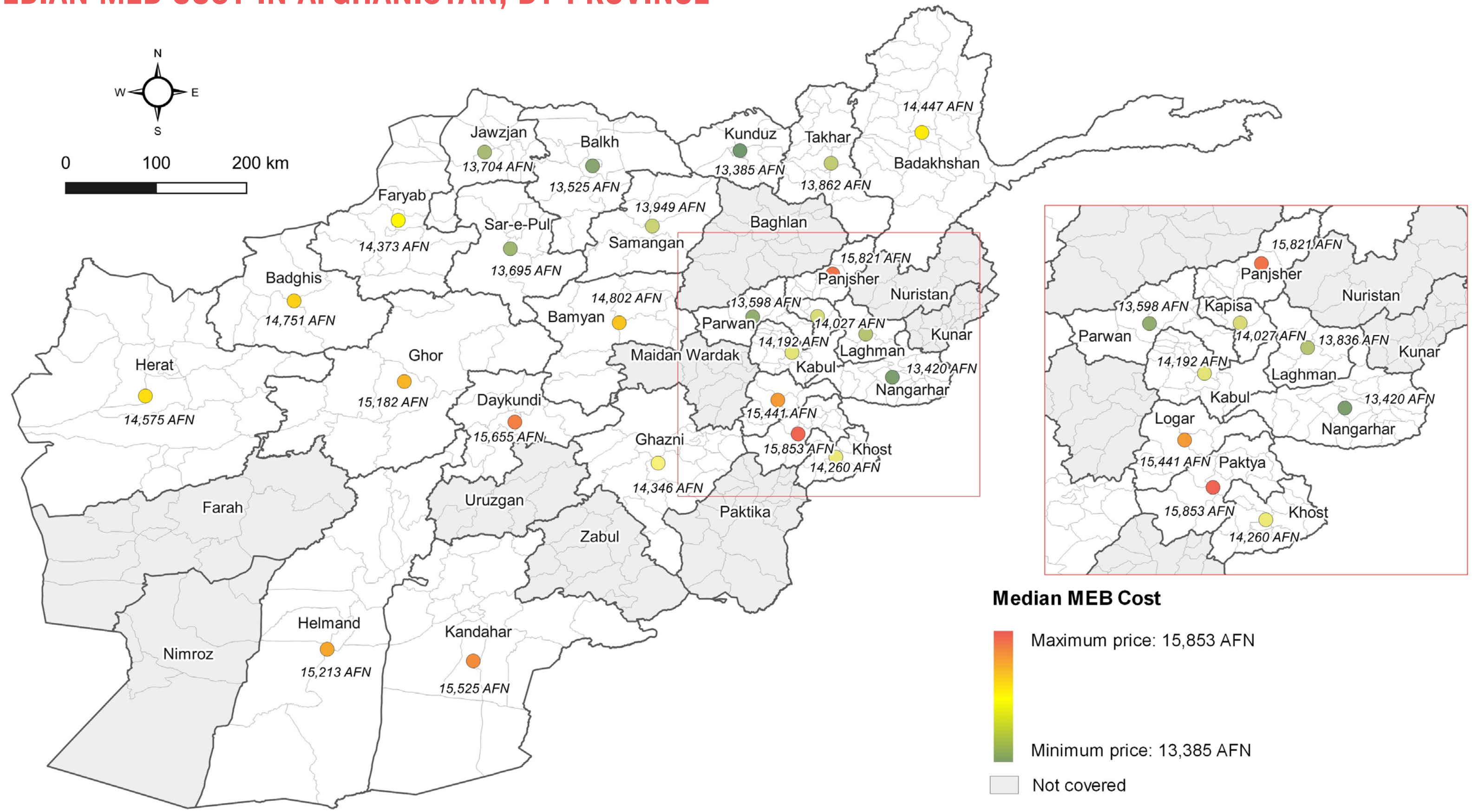
AADA
ACF
ACTD
ACTED
Caritas Germany (with RCDC and VOPOFA)
CRDSA
DRC
HAADAF
IOM
IRC
JACK
JIA
Medair
OHW
Save the Children International
WHH
World Vision

Median cost of MEB[1]
14,057 AFN
182.79 USD[2]
▲ 11 +0%[3]

Median cost of Food Basket
5,257 AFN
68.36 USD[2]
▲ 20 +0%[3]

81% of KIs reported the number of shops open to have remained the same in the 30 days prior to data collection

MEDIAN MEB COST IN AFGHANISTAN, BY PROVINCE



In Baghlan, Nimroz, and Maidan Wardak, the number of assessed shops was not sufficient to allow analysis at provincial level. Hence, findings from these provinces were only included in national level analysis. [5]

Funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

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***	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 an average 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 was calculated in this factsheet 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.*

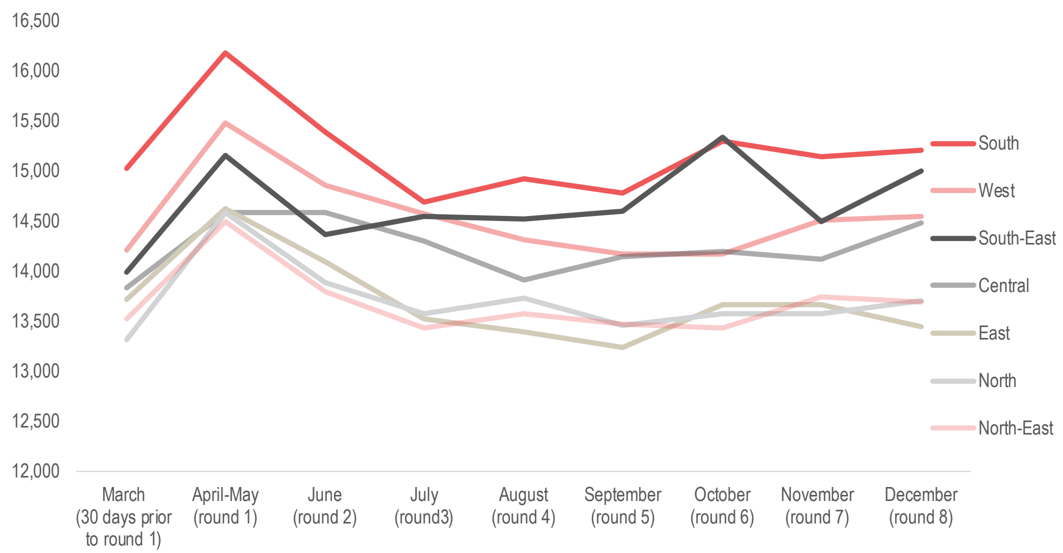
*** Pulses in this factsheet are calculated as the average price of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.*

**** 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)
77.00 AFN

USD/AFN buy rate (official)[2]
76.90 AFN

MEDIAN MEB COST OVER TIME, BY ROUND
IN AFN



MEDIAN MEB PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW AND CHANGE SINCE THE JMMI 7TH ROUND (NOVEMBER 2020), AT REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL[5]

Province	MEB in AFN	MEB in USD	Change since 7th round	MEB (Round 7) in AFN	MEB (Round 7) in USD
North	**13,696**	**178.10**	**▲ 1%**	**13,572**	**176.48**
Balkh	13,525	175.87	▼ 1%	13,552	176.23
Faryab	14,373	186.91	▼ 1%	14,396	187.20
Jawzjan	13,704	178.20	▲ 1%	13,544	176.13
Samangan	13,949	181.39	▲ 2%	13,619	177.10
Sar-e-Pul	13,695	178.09	▲ 1%	13,538	176.05
North-East	**13,691**	**178.04**	**▼ 0%**	**13,743**	**178.71**
Badakhshan	14,447	187.86	N/A	N/A	N/A
Baghlan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kunduz	13,385	174.06	▲ 0%	13,323	173.25
Takhar	13,862	180.26	N/A	N/A	N/A
East	**13,436**	**174.72**	**▼ 1%**	**13,658**	**177.61**
Laghman	13,836	179.93	▲ 2%	13,346	173.55
Nangarhar	13,420	174.51	▼ 2%	13,786	179.28
South-East	**14,992**	**194.96**	**▲ 2%**	**14,486**	**188.38**
Ghazni	14,346	186.56	▼ 0%	14,381	187.01
Khost	14,260	185.44	▲ 2%	13,939	181.26
Paktya	15,853	206.15	▼ 4%	14,649	190.49
South	**15,210**	**197.79**	**▲ 1%**	**15,143**	**196.91**
Helmand	15,213	197.83	▲ 1%	15,140	196.88
Kandahar	15,525	201.88	▲ 1%	15,396	200.21
Nimroz	N/A	N/A	N/A	15,935	207.21
Uruzgan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
West	**14,548**	**189.17**	**▲ 0%[6]**	**14,511**	**188.69**
Badghis	14,751	191.82	▼ 2%	15,076	196.04
Farah	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ghor	15,182	197.42	▼ 4%	16,342	212.51
Herat	14,575	189.53	▲ 1%	14,290	185.83
Central	**14,475**	**188.23**	**▲ 1%**	**14,122**	**183.64**
Bamyan	14,802	192.48	▲ 3%	14,439	187.76
Daykundi	15,655	203.58	▼ 2%	16,017	208.28
Kabul	14,192	184.55	▲ 1%	13,973	181.70
Kapisa	14,027	182.41	▲ 1%	13,827	179.80
Logar	15,441	200.79	▲ 3%	15,120	196.61
Maidan Wardak	N/A	N/A	N/A	14,259	185.43
Panjsher	15,821	205.74	▲ 5%	13,809	179.58
Parwan	13,598	176.83	▲ 1%	13,430	174.64

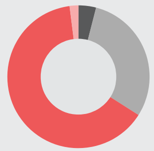
NATIONWIDE MEDIAN ITEM PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW AND CHANGE REPORTED SINCE THE 7TH JMMI ROUND (NOVEMBER 2020)

Item	Unit	Price in AFN	Price in USD	Change since 7th round	Price (Round 7) in AFN	Price (Round 7) in USD
Food Items						
Wheat flour (local)	1 kg	34	0.43	▲ 3%	33	0.43
Wheat flour (imported)	1 kg	36	0.47	*no change*	36	0.47
Local rice	1 kg	50	0.65	*no change*	50	0.65
Vegetable oil	1 L	97	1.18	▲ 6%	91	1.18
Pulses[4]	1 kg	55	0.72	*no change*	55	0.72
Salt	1 kg	13	0.18	▼ 7%	14	0.18
Sugar	1 kg	50	0.65	*no change*	50	0.65
Tomatoes	1 kg	50	0.52	▲ 25%	40	0.52
Potatoes	1 kg	22	0.26	*no change*	20	0.26
Onions	1 kg	18	0.25	▼ 5%	19	0.25
Eggs	1 egg	10	0.10	*no change*	8	0.10
NFIs						
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	1 pc	85	1.17	▼ 5%	90	1.17
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	1 pc	30	0.39	*no change*	30	0.39
Toothpaste	1 pc	45	0.59	*no change*	45	0.59
Toothbrush (adult)	1 pc	25	0.33	*no change*	25	0.33
Sanitary pad	1 box	50	0.65	*no change*	50	0.65
Washing detergent	1 pc	50	0.65	*no change*	50	0.65
Bleach	1 L	60	0.78	*no change*	60	0.78
Other NFIs						
Safe (drinking) water without jerry can	20 L	60	0.78	*no change*	60	0.78
Firewood	1 kg	13	0.17	*no change*	13	0.17
Kindling[7]	1 kg	14	0.18	*no change*	14	0.18
Cooking fuel	1 kg	55	0.72	*no change*	55	0.72
Jerry can (calculated)*	1 pc	62	1.63	▼ 52%	125	1.63

** In previous rounds, JMMI partners collected prices for safe water with and without the price of the jerrycan. Prices ranging between 15 to 120 AFN were found to be without the jerry can - either sold through refilling of jerry cans already owned by the customers, or customers having to return it. Higher prices (greater than 120 AFN) were reportedly due to the price of the jerry can. In this round, the price of the jerry can was included by subtracting the two median prices at national level.*

REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF FOOD ITEMS IN 30 DAYS PRIOR TO DATA COLLECTION, AND REPORTED REASONS FOR INCREASE IN PRICE[8]

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

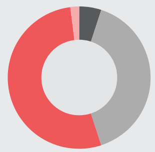


Out of those KIs reporting a increase in food prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:

1. **64%** Seasonality
2. **58%** Increased cost of supplies
3. **42%** Increased transportation costs

REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF NFIs IN THE IN 30 DAYS PRIOR TO DATA COLLECTION, AND REPORTED REASONS FOR INCREASE IN PRICE[8]

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



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

1. **64%** Seasonality
2. **54%** Increased cost of supplies
3. **48%** Increased transportation costs

MARKET SUPPLY & ACCESS CHALLENGES

LOCATION OF MAIN SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD ITEMS AND NFIs[9]

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

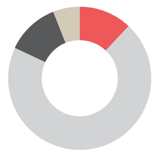
- 4% Imported from abroad
- 45% Different province
- 38% Province capital city
- 6% Same province
- 7% Same district
- 0% Other

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

- 3% Imported from abroad
- 44% Different province
- 38% Province capital city
- 6% Same province
- 9% Same district
- 0% Other

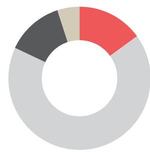
CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD ITEMS AND NFIs[9]

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



- 12% Decreased
- 70% Stayed the same
- 12% Increased
- 6% Didn't know

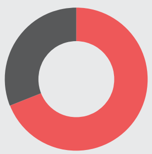
Proportion of KIs reporting a change in the number of NFI suppliers in the past 30 days:



- 15% Decreased
- 67% Stayed the same
- 13% Increased
- 5% Didn't know

BARRIERS TO MARKET ACCESS FOR CONSUMERS

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

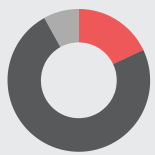


- 69% Barriers to access reported
- 31% No barriers reported

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

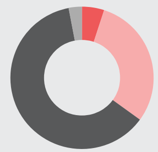
1. 32% Fear of exposure to COVID-19, and public health restrictions
2. 30% Financial barriers
3. 25% Insecurity travelling to the market

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



- 18% Security context may prevent access to the marketplace
- 74% No security related barriers
- 8% Don't know, prefer not to answer

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



- 5% No access at all
- 30% Accompanied access
- 62% Unaccompanied access
- 3% Don't know

In the East, 85% of KIs reported consumers faced barriers to accessing markets in the 30 days prior to data collection, which is relatively high compared to the national average of 69%.

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS FROM SUPPLIERS[11]

Item	Available (% KIs)	Limited (% KIs)	None (% KIs)
Food Items			
Wheat flour (local)	93%	6%	1%
Wheat flour (imported)	93%	6%	1%
Local rice	96%	4%	0%
Vegetable oil	97%	3%	0%
Pulses[4]	96%	3%	1%
Salt	98%	2%	0%
Sugar	96%	3%	1%
Tomatoes	94%	5%	1%
Potatoes	94%	5%	1%
Onions	95%	4%	1%
Eggs	97%	3%	0%
NFIs			
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	97%	2%	1%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	96%	3%	1%
Toothpaste	92%	7%	1%
Toothbrush (adult)	93%	6%	1%
Sanitary pad	95%	4%	1%
Washing detergent	96%	3%	1%
Bleach	96%	3%	1%
Other NFIs			
Safe (drinking) water*	86%	7%	7%
Firewood	98%	0%	2%
Kindling[7]	96%	2%	2%
Cooking fuel	98%	1%	1%

**59% of the KIs that reported selling safe water, estimated to have sufficient stock for less than two weeks.*

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)	36%	49%	15%
Wheat flour (imported)	35%	51%	14%
Local rice	37%	50%	11%
Vegetable oil	30%	58%	12%
Pulses[4]	39%	56%	13%
Salt	11%	83%	5%
Sugar	29%	66%	5%
Tomatoes	19%	30%	50%
Potatoes	39%	51%	8%
Onions	28%	65%	7%
Eggs	49%	32%	19%
NFIs			
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	7%	72%	19%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	25%	71%	3%
Toothpaste	21%	71%	6%
Toothbrush (adult)	18%	74%	7%
Sanitary pad	13%	78%	5%
Washing detergent	19%	74%	5%
Bleach	13%	77%	10%
Other NFIs			
Safe (drinking) water	15%	48%	34%
Firewood	78%	16%	5%
Kindling	71%	21%	7%
Cooking fuel	67%	31%	2%

***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

4% 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 by these KIs were:

1. **62%** Financial constraints and inability to purchase supplies
2. **44%** Reduced movements
3. **38%** Difficulties in transporting items

56% 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. **39%** Conflict
2. **31%** Roadblocks
3. **27%** Seasonality

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

1. **53%** Wheat flour (local and imported)
2. **44%** Rice
3. **31%** Vegetable oil

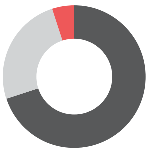
Most frequently reported NFIs difficult to restock and obtain in the 30 days prior to data collection:

1. **22%** Firewood
2. **13%** Cooking fuel
3. **9%** Kindling

****This finding is driven by a considerably high regional reporting of road-based difficulties in the northeast and southeast, where 73% and 80% of KIs reported having experienced challenges in restocking their supplies due to road-based transportation difficulties. Round 8 data does not allow for an analysis of the causes of this sudden increase - additional assessments could be considered to further explore this dynamic.*

TRADER PRESENCE IN THE MARKET

Proportion of KIs reporting on the estimated proportion of shops usually present in the marketplace to be open:



70% All shops open
25% At least half of shops open
5% Less than half of shops open

Proportion of KIs reporting on the perceived change in the number of shops that have been open in the 30 days prior to data collection:

7% Increased
81% Stayed the same
9% Decreased
3% Don't know

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

1. 80% COVID-19
2. 20% Financial constraints
3. 58% Lack of commodities provided by the suppliers

TRADERS' COPING MECHANISMS AND RELIANCE ON CREDIT

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

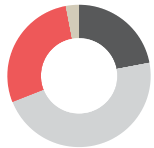
31% Borrow and rely on credit
21% Spend savings
19% Limit expenses
13% Restrict stocks
1% Increase working hours
15% Other

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]

47% Yes, to purchase commodities
5% Yes, to pay rent
3% Yes, to pay salaries
51% No

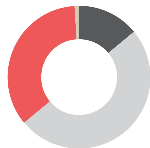
CONSUMERS, PAYMENT, & CREDIT

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



22% Increased
47% Stayed the same
28% Decreased
3% Don't know

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



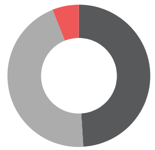
14% Decreased
50% Stayed the same
35% Increased
1% Don't know

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

1. 70% Cash
2. 43% Credit
3. 6% Barter
4. 2% Mobile money transfer

PRESENCE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

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



47% Two or more types
46% One type
7% None

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

1. 85% Hawala
2. 43% Banks
3. 13% Formal transfer services

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

1. 72% Supplier (buy on credit)
2. 25% Family and friends
3. 2% Bank

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 (2m² 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 (20 l)	Firewood (1 kg)	Kindling (1 kg)	Cooking fuel (1 kg)
North	30	35	45	92	45	20	50	25	20	17	8	110	20	40	45	50	25	60	60	10	55	10	10	60
Balkh	28	33	45	89	70	100	45	15	55	60	25	20	10	120	20	40	50	50	25	60	50	9	7	55
Faryab	35	36	55	113	80	110	50	10	55	53	30	25	13	53	45	55	83	50	33	90	45	13	16	60
Jawzjan	33	35	50	113	65	102	40	13	50	49	25	19	9	98	21	43	58	60	20	60	30	15	15	55
Samangan	32	35	47	110	60	110	50	27	50	75	25	20	10	75	30	50	50	55	30	70	60	10	11	55
Sar-e-Pul	28	35	45	95	70	100	40	8	50	50	25	15	10	240	20	30	50	50	20	60	30	11	12	55
North-East	33	36	42	96	43	20	50	29	17	14	8	55	20	40	40	70	25	70	100	10	60	10	11	60
Badakhshan	34	37	43	117	79	91	43	25	51	57	19	14	10	70	25	45	40	100	28	70	N/A	9	11	65
Baghlan	33	36	39	95	70	100	49	15	50	54	21	14	9	N/A	20	30	40	50	20	60	50	7	11	N/A
Kunduz	35	37	37	95	70	100	48	15	50	50	21	14	10	75	20	40	35	50	20	60	50	10	12	60
Takhar	34	39	40	120	50	106	41	12	51	71	21	16	10	100	20	30	50	80	30	110	50	8	11	60
East	33	35	39	80	60	10	47	21	19	17	8	125	30	41	55	52	30	55	95	10	55	9	9	54
Laghman	34	35	36	90	64	103	79	9	48	43	14	14	8	78	30	60	80	58	38	80	N/A	10	10	55
Nangarhar	34	35	35	90	78	100	50	10	45	26	19	14	10	110	25	40	65	44	30	50	80	11	10	55
South-East	35	36	68	93	70	10	47	25	23	20	8	35	30	85	60	40	55	70	80	14	55	13	14	55
Ghazni	36	37	50	100	70	85	80	20	50	50	15	17	9	63	20	45	60	55	30	60	N/A	16	16	55
Khost	35	36	37	90	65	100	78	9	45	43	24	17	9	55	30	70	60	32	58	50	100	13	6	50
Paktya	35	36	79	105	79	90	81	10	50	54	29	29	10	38	33	90	90	60	50	140	90	17	19	63
South	32	38	78	80	70	10	49	25	20	12	8	125	30	50	40	40	30	40	85	11	50	10	12	50
Helmand	35	38	80	85	68	115	50	10	45	40	20	16	9	150	30	40	50	45	35	55	N/A	16	25	55
Kandahar	32	38	78	90	80	115	80	18	50	30	25	13	10	58	50	65	60	50	35	43	50	15	12	50
Nimroz	33	37	73	95	93	118	50	7	55	30	20	15	9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	38	40	35	25	13	13	55
Uruzgan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
West	30	35	70	85	45	10	50	20	15	15	8	68	25	45	30	50	21	50	100	18	50	17	15	50
Badghis	26	35	88	90	68	120	45	11	50	50	25	17	10	40	20	40	30	50	20	55	20	13	10	60
Farah	26	30	88	99	60	110	53	15	50	20	25	10	10	N/A	63	85	N/A	47	30	38	20	N/A	N/A	55
Ghor	38	37	82	94	63	107	30	10	51	43	20	25	10	114	50	100	100	68	35	117	100	19	26	65
Herat	32	37	70	90	70	110	55	5	50	40	20	15	9	100	25	34	30	40	25	40	60	11	10	50
Central	32	36	50	97	65	20	50	25	20	20	8	80	25	40	50	50	30	60	100	14	60	14	16	60
Bamyan	34	35	60	110	75	115	88	20	55	70	30	30	10	88	40	41	42	50	30	65	45	14	19	67
Daykundi	36	38	100	95	49	95	55	20	58	35	20	19	9	95	30	50	60	55	40	65	35	17	20	75
Kabul	32	35	45	110	79	114	85	20	50	63	21	18	9	73	20	40	45	50	30	50	40	17	16	55
Kapisa	33	35	50	95	70	110	60	20	50	65	20	20	10	60	25	45	50	58	30	60	50	18	18	58
Logar	34	36	88	90	70	101	86	11	48	50	21	16	9	88	20	48	62	78	30	50	80	14	12	59
Maidan Wardak	34	35	45	94	48	110	50	20	53	65	23	18	10	N/A	25	45	23	55	20	55	38	N/A	N/A	65
Panjsher	35	38	90	130	75	114	55	10	55	60	25	18	9	80	32	30	60	75	35	60	50	17	17	55
Parwan	35	35	45	95	65	107	50	20	50	68	30	18	9	110	20	40	50	60	20	60	55	17	17	60

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY INDEX (MFI), BY DISTRICT - PILOT

METHODOLOGY

To further inform the CVWG's JMMI in Afghanistan, REACH developed the JMMI MFI, based on the similar index by the same name designed by the Wold Food Program's (WFP's) Research, Assessment & Montiroing, and Supply Chain divisions. The aim of the MFI is to assess markets' health at the province and 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, even if beneficiaries receive CVA, they may not be able to access basic commodities if markets are not functional.

This map presents findings from round 7 and 8 of the JMMI's MFI pilot rounds, 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, or contact the REACH Afghanistan Cash and Markets Focal Point.

Dimensions included in the MFI

Availability of basic commodities

Affordability (prices) of basic commodities*

Resilience of the supply chain

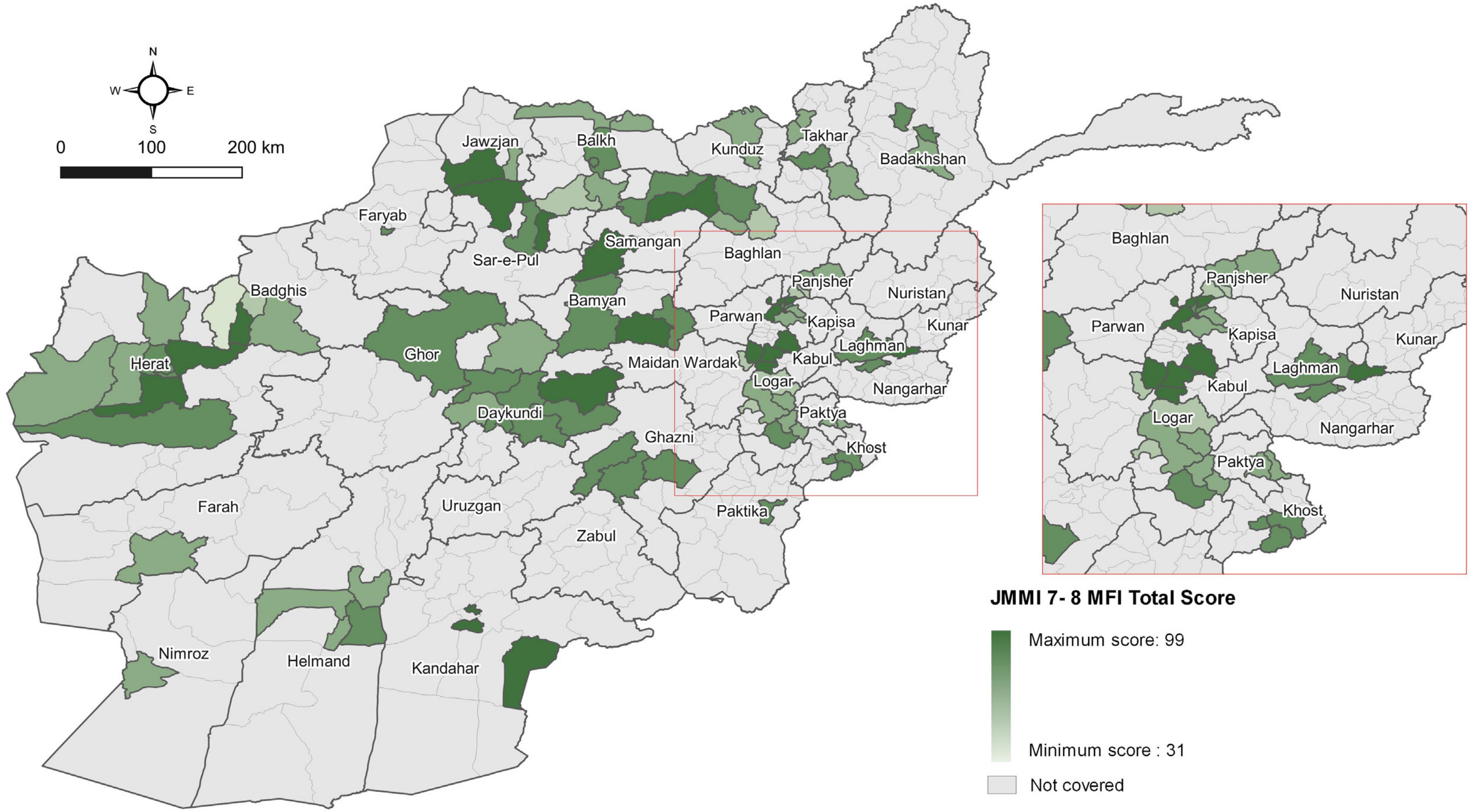
Safety and Security

Gender dimension

Possible total/highest score

120 points

* This section also considers findings from the Whole of Afghanistan assessment (WoAA) 2020. The cost of the MEB is compared to the average reported monthly income in WoAA (displaced population). The intent is to understand not only how much key items cost, but also whether such items are purchasable by the displaced population..



Further analysis on trends and key findings will be provided in the upcoming rounds based on district-level coverage consistency.

METHODOLOGY

Working through the Cash and Voucher Working Group (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 that 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 eighth round of data collection took place between 10th and 24th December 2020, and a total of 739 KIIs were conducted. This round covered 239 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, data collection continued to be difficult as enumerators faced challenges 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.
- A total of 29 provinces were covered in the eighth round of the JMMI, yet, nationwide coverage remains to be achieved.
- Due to the aforementioned difficulties in data collection, data from the eighth 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 to allow for more precise, location-specific findings.

JMMI Partners

- **AADA -** *Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan*
- **ACF -** *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*
- **HAADAF** - *Humanitarian Assistance And Development Association for Afghanistan*
- **IOM -** *International Organization for Migration*
- **IRC -** *International Rescue Committee*
- **JACK -** *Just for Afghan Capacity and Knowledge*
- **JIA** - *The Johanniter International*
- **MEDAIR**
- **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 seventh round of the JMMI (10 December) was 76.90 AFN to 1 USD (cash sell rate) and 77.15 (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 seventh round of the JMMI (November 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, disaggregations at the province-level was not reported. The national median price of some items (with less than 4 data points per province) were used to calculate the MEB.*
6. *In the Western Region, JMMI data recorded a MEB price variation of 37 AFN between November and December 2020. This represents a 0.2% increase, which is a too little percentage to be approximated to 1%, but still sufficient not to be described as "no change".*
7. *The item 'kindling' is a highly seasonal winter item, and therefore, not frequently sold during the period of the JMMI round 3 to 5 data collection. Therefore, the price and changes in prices of this item should be considered purely indicative.*
8. *All KIs were asked in general about changes in prices of food items and NFIs, and those that reported an increase or decrease were asked to report on the main reason for this.*
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 REACH or consult the publicly available dataset). The answer options also included "do not know", which may affect the sum of the responses. Where the sum of reported "increase", "same", and "decreased" does not add up to 100%, the remaining percentage corresponds to "do not 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 49% of KIs reporting having borrowed in the past 30 days to purchase commodities, 17% reported that up to half or more of their commodities were 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

Third round (July 2020)

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Factsheet

Dataset

Fourth round (August 2020)

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Factsheet

Dataset

Fifth round (September 2020)

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Factsheet

Dataset

Sixth round (October 2020)

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Factsheet

Dataset

Seventh round (November 2020)

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Factsheet

Dataset