

YEMEN COVID-19 JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE

Dates of data collection: 23 August - 30 August 2020

Governorates: 16

Districts: 46

Total key informants (KIs): 277



WASH Cluster
Water Sanitation Hygiene

CWG

CASH
WORKING
GROUP

REACH

Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

INTRODUCTION

The Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMIMI) was launched by REACH in collaboration with the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster and the Cash and Market Working Group (CMWG) to support humanitarian actors with the harmonisation of price monitoring among all cash actors in Yemen. With the current global COVID-19 pandemic, REACH has adapted the JMIMI to begin assessing the potential impact of the pandemic on markets and on respondents' businesses. The JMIMI continues to collect price data for fuel, water, hygiene products, and food items including all the components of the WASH and food Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)*. In addition, new indicators specific to the COVID-19 crisis and its potential impact on markets are now being tracked on a bi-weekly basis from April 2020 (by rounds #R)*. Findings are based on 277 interviews with vendor key informants (KIs), and are to be considered indicative only. Additional methodology can be found in the [full JMIMI fact sheet](#).

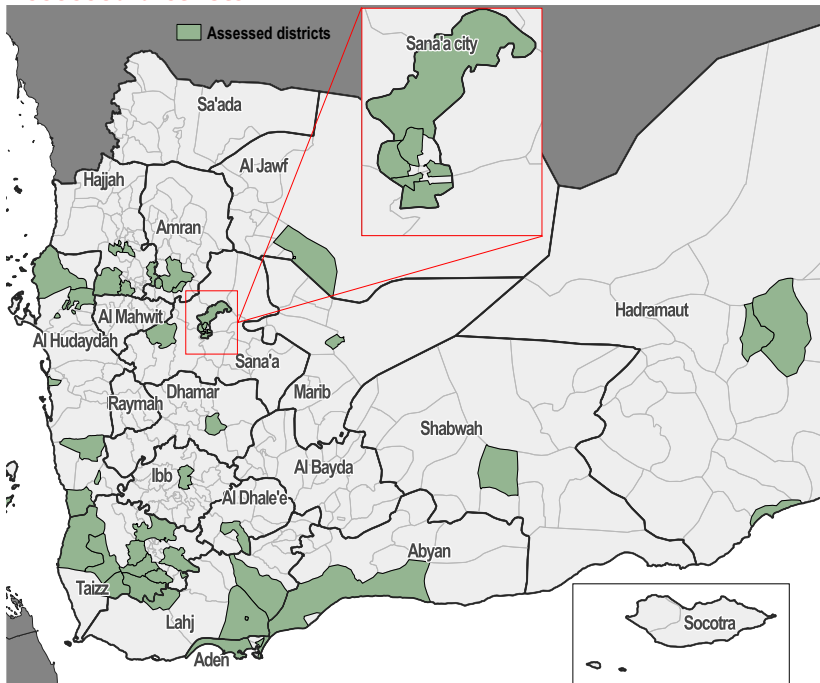
*Containing the minimum, culturally adjusted set of WASH and food items to support an average Yemeni 6-person household for the duration of 1 month.

^August Round 2, 23-30 August 2020

KEY FINDINGS: 23 - 30 AUGUST 2020

- The reported number of open businesses within a 2 minute walk from KIs' stalls increased compared to last round.
- Sana'a city has recorded the highest cost of a cubic meter of water trucking compared to other assessed governorates, thus causing an increase in WASH SMEB cost in the governorate.
- Price inflation remains the most commonly reported economic issue when obtaining fuel, WASH, food items, and water trucking services.
- The food SMEB cost was found to have increased by 3.7% since the first round of data collection in August, and the WASH SMEB cost also increased by 5.1%, contributing to a 4.0% increase in the overall SMEB cost.
- The proportion of vendor KIs reporting being able to absorb a 50% and 100% increase in demand for food items has dropped considerably.
- Exchange rates seemingly continued to differ across the country: rates under 600 Yemeni Riyals (YER) to one US dollar (USD) were reported in Al Hudaydah and Ibb. Meanwhile, the highest exchange rates were reported in Aden, Lahj, Abyan and Shabwah.

Assessed districts



Price tracking for key items since COVID-19 outbreak (YER)

Assessed items	Mar-2020	Aug-2020 (R1)	Aug-2020 (R2)	Change (from Aug-2020 R1)
Full SMEB	NA	50935	52987	4.0%
WASH SMEB*	11300	12950	13612	5.1%
Soap (100g)	150	150	154	2.7%
Laundry powder (100g)	120	120	125	3.8%
Sanitary napkins (10 Pack)	512	550	500	-9.1%
Water trucking (1m³)	2000	2500	2700	8.0%
Petrol (1L)	365	335	340	1.5%
Diesel (1L)	430	400	420	5.0%
Bottled water (0.75L)	138	150	150	0.0%
Treated water (10L)	120	100	100	0.0%
Bleach (1L)	NA	700	700	0.0%
Cooking gas (1 cylinder)	NA	4000	4000	0.0%
Food SMEB^	NA	37985	39375	3.7%
Wheat flour (1 kg)	NA	308	312	1.3%
Rice (1 kg)	NA	775	700	-9.7%
Dry Kidney beans (1 kg)	NA	700	800	14.3%
Canned kidney beans (1 15oz can)	NA	300	300	0.0%
Lentils (1 kg)	NA	659	700	6.2%
Vegetable Oil (1 Liter)	NA	845	850	0.6%
Sugar (1 kg)	NA	410	430	4.9%
Salt (1 kg)	NA	100	100	0.0%
Potatoes (1 kg)	NA	500	400	-20.0%
Onions (1 kg)	NA	500	500	0.0%

*Contains soap (10.5 Kg), laundry powder (2 Kg), sanitary napkins (20 units), and water (3.15 m³)

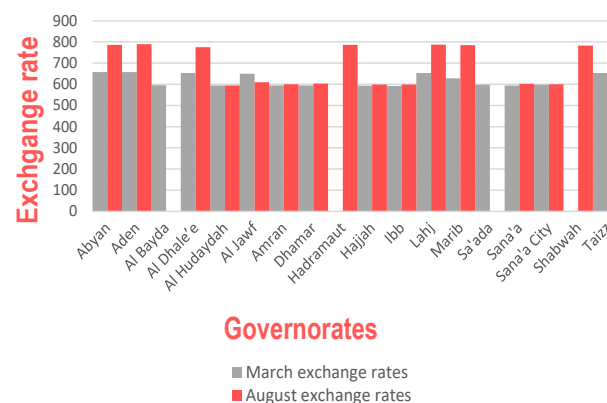
^ Contains wheat flour (75 kg), dry kidney beans (10 kg), vegetable oil (8 liters), sugar (2.5 kg), iodized salt (1)

Exchange rate per governorate (USD/YER)*

Governorate	March 2020	August (Round 1)	August (Round 2)
Abyan	658 (658)	775 (775)	786 (786)
Aden	658 (658)	775 (770)	790 (790)
Al Bayda	596 (596)	NA	NA (789)
Al Dhale'e	654 (656)	765 (775)	775 (775)
Al Hudaydah	595 (597)	595 (593)	595
Al Jawf	650	600	610
Amran	595	600	600
Dhamar	595	603	603
Hadramaut	NA	768	786
Hajjah	594	597	600
Ibb	592	598	599
Lahj	654 (654)	(768)	787 (787)
Marib	628	770	785
Sa'ada	598	NA	NA
Sana'a	595	599	602
Sana'a City	598 (628)	595	600
Shabwah	NA	755 (767)	783 (783)
Taizz	654 (656)	765 (770)	775 (770)

*Exchange rate for the new currency released last year is in parenthesis

Exchange rate graph (USD/YER)*



Governorates

■ March exchange rates
■ August exchange rates

*Governorate labels point to two bars indicating March base values and August round 1 values, gaps between bars indicate that no exchange rate value was recorded in this governorate for this particular round of data collection.

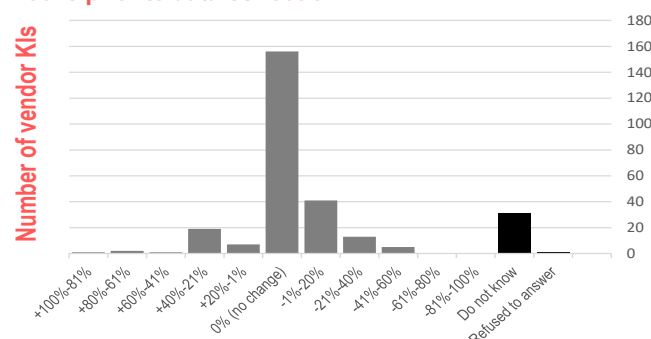
Median commodity prices per governorate, August 23rd - August 30th 2020

Governorate	Petrol (1L)	Diesel (1L)	Cooking gas	Bottled water (0.75L)	Treated water (10L)	Bleach (1L)	Soap (1 Unit)	Laundry powder (100g)	Sanitary napkins (10)	Water trucking (1m³)	WASH SMEB	Wheat flour (1Kg)	Rice (1Kg)	Beans Dry (1Kg)	Beans cans (1 15oz can)	Lentils (1 Kg)	Vegetable oil (1L)	Sugar (1Kg)	Salt (1Kg)	Potatoes (1Kg)	Onions (1 Kg)	Food SMEB
Abyan	335	420	3500	100	100	1000	158	100	600	2000	11159	350	800	7000	310	NA	800	500	100	400	700	104000
Aden	330	420	5500	200	100	825	150	100	625	2200	11755	350	965	800	400	900	1000	500	100	400	500	43600
Al Dhale'e	340	410	3500	100	100	950	200	100	500	3000	14550	300	450	600	NA	600	1000	500	100	500	600	37850
Al Hudaydah	450	450	3900	150	50	460	140	130	470	2000	11310	280	700	NA	300	700	700	400	100	400	450	NA
Al Jawf	450	425	NA	200	1000	560	250	130	650	1300	10620	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Amran	295	345	NA	120	100	700	150	120	500	900	7810	300	450	NA	300	600	880	350	150	400	450	NA
Dhamar	295	345	NA	150	500	720	150	120	550	1000	8225	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hadramaut	335	325	3000	100	540	730	183	150	600	4000	18722	320	580	725	300	775	755	420	200	550	500	38540
Hajjah	500	500	7000	150	100	800	150	110	500	2000	11075	250	800	5000	350	750	850	350	100	450	475	76525
Ibb	295	345	5000	150	100	650	200	150	613	3000	15775	375	400	800	300	650	600	450	125	300	350	42175
Lahj	330	425	5650	200	100	850	200	125	575	1600	10780	330	945	1400	400	1000	1000	450	150	325	400	48025
Marib	175	450	NA	65	50	680	165	135	500	1000	8583	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sana'a	NA	NA	4000	120	100	725	120	105	450	1100	7715	300	350	NA	300	500	900	400	200	375	400	NA
Sana'a City	295	345	3700	130	125	400	140	115	500	7000	26820	270	400	NA	300	575	791	350	100	300	300	NA
Shabwah	390	400	3500	100	1000	800	180	250	500	3000	17340	300	690	NA	350	1000	750	370	117	500	500	NA
Taizz	390	430	4000	159	100	800	150	150	600	3000	15225	350	478.5	1350	350	600	919	450	100	400	500	48327

*Darker colours indicate high outliers for each commodity, lighter colours indicate the low outliers of each commodity.

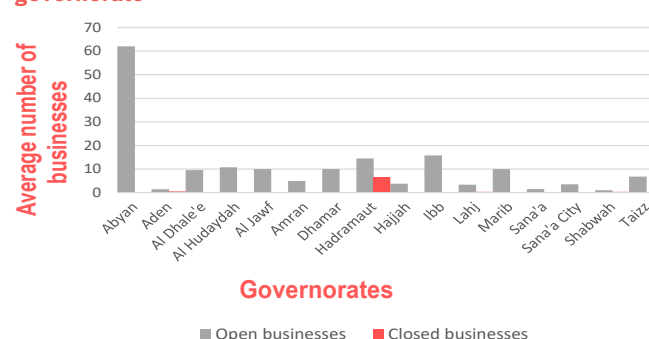
Impact of COVID-19 on respondents' businesses

Reported change in number of customers in the two weeks prior to data collection



Overall, **21.2% (59/277)** vendor KIs indicated that there has been a decrease, while **10.8% (30/277)** vendor KIs saw an increase, in the number of customers they have seen over the two weeks prior to data collection. The graph above highlights the number of KIs reporting having seen a change in the number of customers in their business in the two weeks prior to data collection. Of the **277** vendor KIs surveyed, **3.6% (10/277)** reported having faced difficulties obtaining key commodities due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 measures in the two weeks prior to data collection. (compared to **1.7%** reporting this during previous round of data collection in early August).

Average number of businesses closures/openings by governorate^



Average reported number of nearby businesses that are open^

7 8 in August R1

Average reported number of nearby businesses that are closed^

0 0 in August R1

^Average number of businesses within a two minute walk from KIs' businesses that were reportedly open/closed due to COVID-19 in the two weeks prior to data collection.

Top 3 COVID-19 related constraints according to vendors KIs*

Shortage of supply 90%

Cost of transportation 70%

Not enough availability of goods 50%

Results from the previous JMIMI round (9-17 August)

Not enough availability of goods 100%

Shortage of supply 100%

Other 0%

*Based on the responses from the 3.6% of vendor KIs who had difficulties obtaining goods due to COVID-19.

Top 3 most difficult goods to obtain according to vendor KIs*

Diesel 70%

Petrol 70%

Sanitary napkins 50%

Results from the previous JMIMI round (9-17 August)

Diesel 100%

Petrol 100%

Sanitary napkins 100%

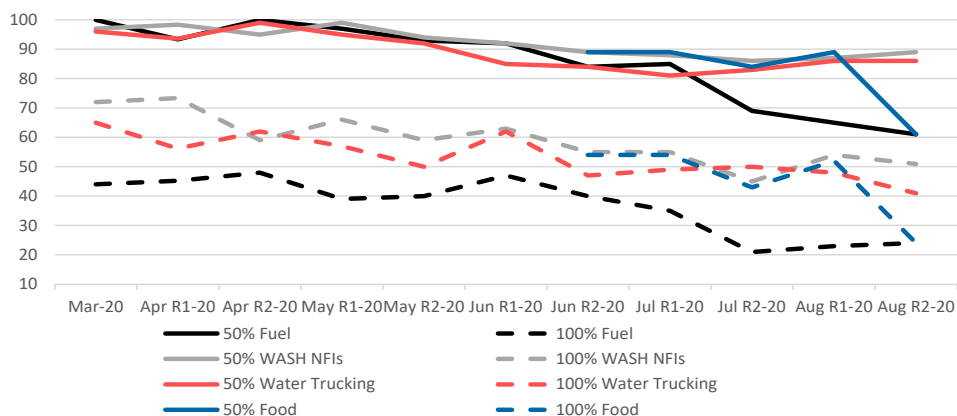
*Based on the responses from the 3.6% (10 out of 277) of vendor KIs who had difficulties obtaining goods due to COVID-19.

MARKET INDICATORS AND PRICES

Vendor capacity to respond to a sudden increase in demand

To understand vendor capacity to cope with sudden increases in the demand for water trucking, fuel, and WASH items, vendor KIs were asked if they would be able to increase their stock by 50% and 100% respectively in this round of data collection.

Proportion of vendor KIs reporting being able to absorb a 50% and 100% increase in demand for key item



Payment modalities reportedly accepted by vendor KIs*

Modality	Fuel Vendor KIs	WASH NFI Vendor KIs	Food Vendor KIs	Water Trucking Vendor KIs
Cash	99.3% (-)	99.4% (-0.6%)	100% (-)	100% (-)
Credit	18.9% (-1.1%)	33.3% (-4.2%)	41.3% (-1.2%)	14.4% (-11%)
Credit / debit card	1.2% (2%)	4.5% (1.5%)	3.7% (1%)	0% (-1.9%)
Mobile money	0.6% (0.6%)	0.5% (-0.1%)	0% (-0.7%)	0.9% (0.9%)
Vouchers	1.8% (-1.4%)	0% (-)	0% (-0.7%)	0% (-)
Prepaid cards	0% (-1.3%)	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)
Other	0% (-2.5%)	1.1% (-2.5%)	3.4% (0.3%)	0.9% (0.9%)
Do not know	0.6% (0.6%)	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)
Bartering	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)

*The percentage change from the August Round 1 JMMI is in brackets, (-) indicating no change.

Top 3 reported economic constraints by fuel vendor KIs*

Price inflation	58.2%
Shortage of supply	33.5%
Transportation costs	31.0%

Top 3 reported economic constraints by WASH NFI vendor KIs*

Price inflation	71.2%
Transportation costs	21.8%
Shortage of demand	18.9%

*Values do not add up to 100% as vendor KIs were allowed to select multiple options.

Top 3 reported economic constraints by food vendor KIs*

Price inflation	71.2%
Insecurity and instability	26.8%
Transportation costs	25.6%

Top 3 reported economic constraints by water trucking vendor KIs*

Price inflation	59.4%
Shortage of demand	33.6%
Transportation costs	28.7%

Average reported restocking time (days)*

Governorate	Fuel Items	WASH Items	Food Items
Abyan	5(10)	3(9)	4(6)
Aden	4(4)	1(2)	1(2)
Al Dhale'e	2(4)	1(2)	2(2)
Al Hudaydah	5(6)	8(6)	7(5)
Al Jawf	10(8)	4(4)	NA(NA)
Amran	8(13)	15(14)	5(2)
Dhamar	7(7)	3(2)	NA(NA)
Hadramaut	4(3)	4(5)	3(3)
Hajjah	4(7)	9(4)	7(4)
Ibb	9(4)	7(6)	5(4)
Lahj	7(7)	8(8)	7(7)
Marib	10(6)	16(22)	NA(NA)
Sana'a	5(3)	2(2)	2(2)
Sana'a City	7(6)	3(5)	1(3)
Shabwah	3(2)	2(2)	2(2)
Taizz	5(5)	5(4)	6(4)

*Change in days from August Round 1 JMMI in brackets, the negative numbers indicates a reported reduction in restocking time.

ABOUT REACH'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

As an initiative deployed in many vulnerable and crisis-affected countries, REACH is deeply concerned by the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the millions of affected people we seek to serve. REACH is currently working with Cash Working Groups and partners to scale up its programming in response to this pandemic, with the goal of identifying practical ways to inform humanitarian responses in the countries where we operate. COVID-19-relevant market monitoring and market assessments are a key area where REACH aims to leverage its existing expertise to help humanitarian actors understand the impact of changing restrictions on markets and trade. Updates regarding REACH's response to COVID-19 can be found in [a devoted thread](#) on the REACH website. Contact geneva@impact-initiatives.org for further information.

PARTNER LIST



For more information, please visit our website at www.reach-initiative.org, or contact us directly at yemen@reach-initiative.org

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