

Ethiopia | Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

02 - 18 September, 2024

MARKET OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the Ethiopia JMMI is to provide regular and reliable information on prices and market functionality through the use of harmonised tools and validated analysis. The Ethiopia JMMI is a joint exercise led by REACH in close collaboration with Ethiopia Cash Working Group (ECWG) members. This initiative aims to collaboratively develop an evidence base for the wider use of cash and voucher assistance (CVA), as well as facilitate discussions of changes in critical market dynamics, which are an integral part of cash feasibility considerations.

With a uniform methodology, ECWG members collect data from their respective areas of operation on a voluntary basis. The geographical coverage of the exercise depends on the ability of ECWG members to consistently collect data and thus the coverage varies from month to month.

Data for the September round was collected using key informant interviews (KIIs) conducted in woreda capitals between September 2nd and 18th, 2024. A minimum of three vendors were interviewed for each assessed commodity in each woreda. For commodity prices and stock levels, the median prices/stock levels are calculated for each item within each assessed woreda. The national and regional median prices are aggregated results of the woreda median prices.

KEY INDICATORS

Median Cost of JMMI Full Basket

12,174.72 ETB

114.79 USD¹

▼ 99 ETB -1%

Median Cost of JMMI Food Basket

11,642.22 ETB

109.78 USD¹

▼ 92 ETB -1%

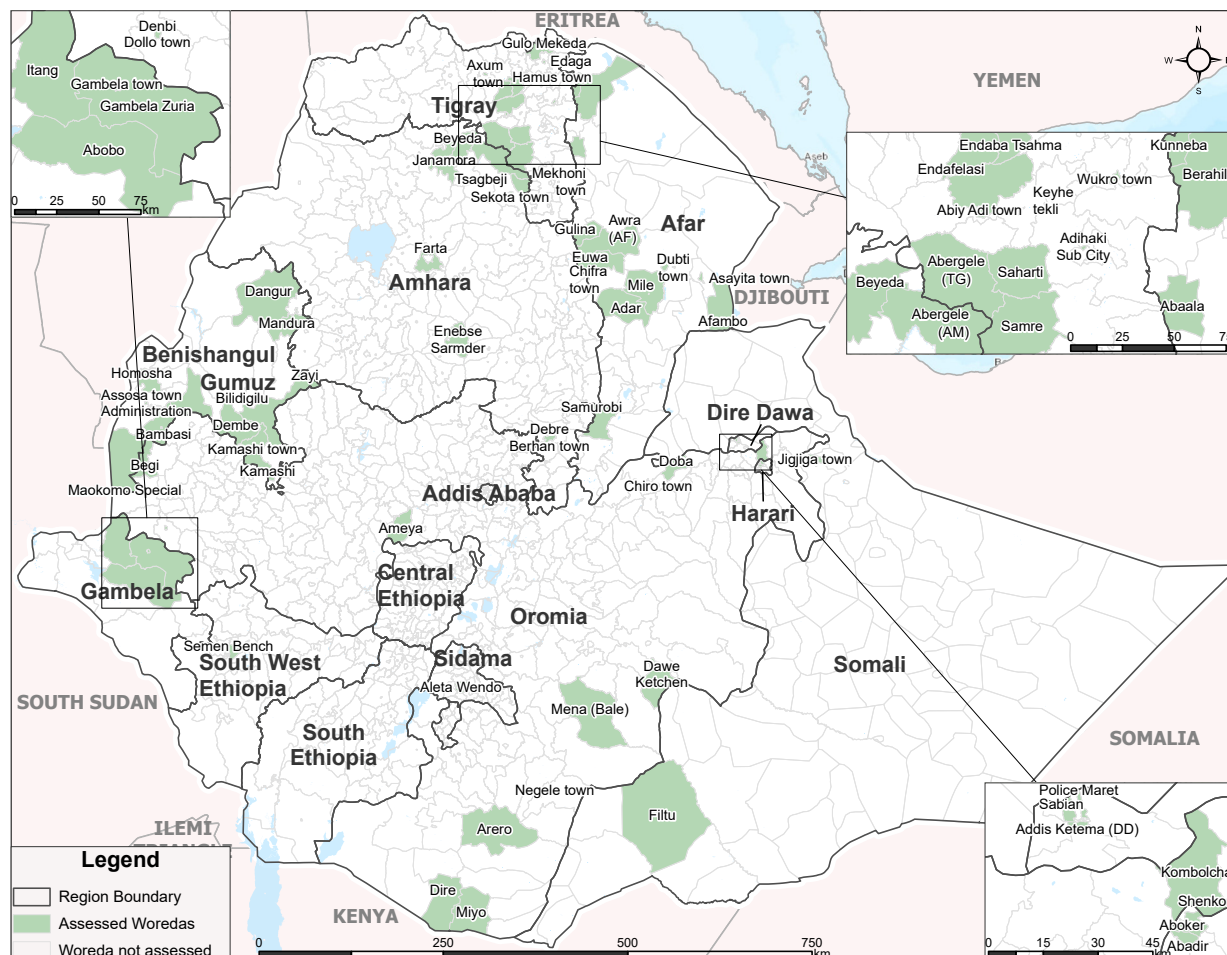
Median Cost of NFI Basket

532.50 ETB

5.02 USD¹

▲ 8 ETB +1%

Map 1: Assessed Marketplaces, By Woreda



Key Messages

- A 1% decline in the national JMMI full basket cost was observed between August and September 2024. This decrease can be attributed to the subsidies on imported items and strict price enforcement measures implemented by the Ethiopian government.² Since the introduction of the new macroeconomic policy, the government has been closely monitoring market conditions and imposing penalties on vendors who increase prices beyond the stipulated limits.
- Despite minimal changes in the national JMMI full and food baskets (-1% and -1%, respectively), certain commodities experienced significant price increases. Camel meat, onions, tomatoes, goat meat, and green leafy vegetables saw price surges of 60%, 44%, 43%, 33%, and 30%, respectively. These increases are likely attributable to the holiday season, escalating conflicts in Amhara, and other seasonal factors such as the rainy season.
- In September, 29% of assessed markets nationwide experienced severe market functionality issues, particularly in terms of availability and resilience. This made CVA implementation challenging, likely due to traders' limited funds and their inability to meet demand. This represents a slight increase from August, when 25% of assessed markets faced similar issues.

1. Exchange rates are taken from the United Nations (UN) Operational Rates of Exchange.

2. Ethiopian News Agency (ENA), Ethiopia Embarking on Full Implementation of Macroeconomic Reform Policy (2024).

3. World Bank Group (WB), Ethiopia - Climatology - Climate Change Knowledge Portal (2024).

Market Functionality Score (MFS)

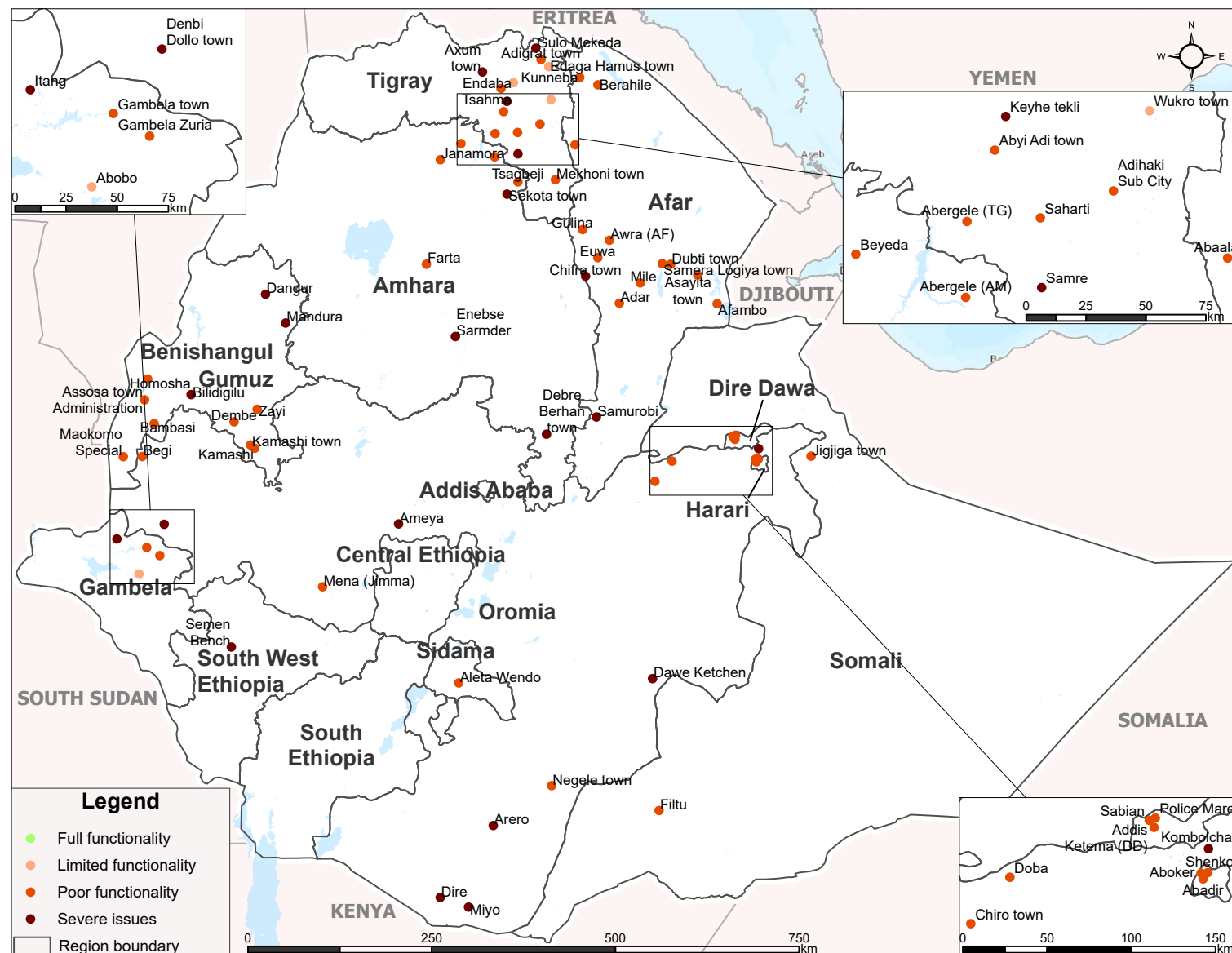
The Market Functionality Score (MFS) is a method of classifying markets based on their level of functionality, helping aid actors understand which markets function well enough to support cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and which may require alternative interventions. The MFS is divided into five dimensions:

- **Accessibility (25%):** physical and social access to markets
- **Availability (30%):** ability of markets to consistently supply core commodities
- **Affordability (15%):** financial access to markets and price volatility
- **Resilience (20%):** vulnerability of supply chains and ease of restocking
- **Infrastructure (10%):** state of markets' physical and financial infrastructure

Key Findings

- 29% of the markets experienced severe market functionality issues in September, while 66% reported poor functionality. In August, 25% of the markets reported severe market functionality issues while 65% experienced poor functionality.
- In September 2024, Oromia, Amhara, and Tigray reported the highest rates of severe market functionality issues, with 58%, 38%, and 29% of markets affected, respectively. This trend persisted from August, where these regions reported 46%, 40%, and 30% of markets with severe issues. Oromia, Tigray, and Amhara also faced the same issues in July 2024, in 76%, 75%, and 60% of assessed markets, respectively.
- 97% of the market places assessed in September reported availability issues.
- In September, resilience issues were observed in 90% of assessed markets, the situation was particularly severe in Afar, Benishangul Gumuz, Dire Dawa, Harari, Oromia, Sidama, Somali, and South West Ethiopia where 100% of markets faced these issues.

Map 2: Market Functionality Score (MFS), By Woreda



JMMI Basket

The JMMI full basket is a set of food and hygiene items that represent some of the core monthly expenditures incurred by an average Ethiopian household (6 persons) in an average month (30 days). The food basket is designed to incorporate different sets of four staple crops in each region in order to reflect consumption patterns in the regions while the NFI basket consists of two hygiene items. The JMMI basket is based in part on the Ethiopia Cash Working Group’s effort to develop a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) for the Somali region in 2020³, it is not a complete MEB itself and does not reflect the full spectrum of regular household expenditures in Ethiopia. It can, however, be tracked over time to understand how household financial burdens are evolving.

Food Items

Cereals & root crops (maize, sorghum, wheat, teff, Barley, rice & enset)	72 kg	Tomatoes	5 kg
Meat	2.7 kg	Potatoes	3 kg
Green leafy vegetables	5 kg	Onions	5 kg
		Egg	18 pieces
		Cooking oil	5.86 L

Non-Food Items

Bath soap	0.375 kg (3* 125g bars)
Laundry soap	1.2 kg (6* 200g bars)

USD/ETB official exchange rate⁴

106.052 ETB

Food basket composition according to regional consumption patterns:

Beef	Addis Ababa, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambela, Oromia, South Ethiopia, Harari, Dire Dawa, Sidama, SWE ⁵
Beef and goat meat	Afar
Camel and goat meat	Somali
Maize, sorghum, teff, wheat	Addis Ababa, Gambela, Oromia, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Harari, Dire Dawa
Maize, sorghum, wheat, rice	Somali
Maize, sorghum, teff, barley	Afar
Maize, teff, barley, enset	South Ethiopia, Sidama, SWE

MOST COMMONLY USED PAYMENT MODALITIES

Proportion of vendors reporting accepting different types of payment in the 30 days prior to data collection⁶:

- 1

91%

Cash (ETB)
- 2

20%

Mobile money
- 3

16%

Mobile transfer

Table 1: JMMI Full Basket Median Price Per Region

Region	Full basket median price in Sep (ETB)	Full basket median price in Sep (USD)	Full basket median price in Aug (ETB)	Full basket median price in Aug (USD)	Change since Aug 2024
Addis Ababa			11,789.55	157.74	
Afar	11,607.24	109.45	12,985.88	153.32	▼ 11%
Amhara	10,983.47	103.57	11,418.13	146.95	▼ 4%
Benishangul Gumuz	10,762.37	101.48	11,274.73	146.98	▼ 5%
Dire Dawa	11,540.00	108.81	12,292.10	160.45	▼ 6%
Gambela	13,755.29	129.70	13,719.78	176.34	0%
Harari	10,291.22	97.04	10,075.70	130.39	▲ 2%
Oromia	9,630.45	90.81	9,220.73	119.16	▲ 4%
Sidama	11,520.26	108.63	11,185.59	145.65	▲ 3%
South Ethiopia					
Somali	11,517.97	108.61	11,588.28	151.03	▼ 1%
SWE	10,950.61	103.26	12,024.31	156.07	▼ 9%
Tigray	11,368.81	107.20	11,266.28	145.92	▲ 1%
JMMI full basket	12,174.72 ETB		114.79 USD ¹	▼ ETB 99	▼ -1%
JMMI food basket	11,642.22 ETB		109.78 USD ¹	▼ ETB 92	▼ -1%

Key Findings

- Both the national JMMI full and food basket median prices decreased by 1% between August and September 2024.
- In September, 4 of the 11 assessed regions experienced JMMI full basket median price increase.
- In September, the highest JMMI full basket median price increase was observed in Oromia (+4%) compared to the regional median price in August 2024.
- Compared to the price in September 2023, the national JMMI full basket median price increased by 20%.

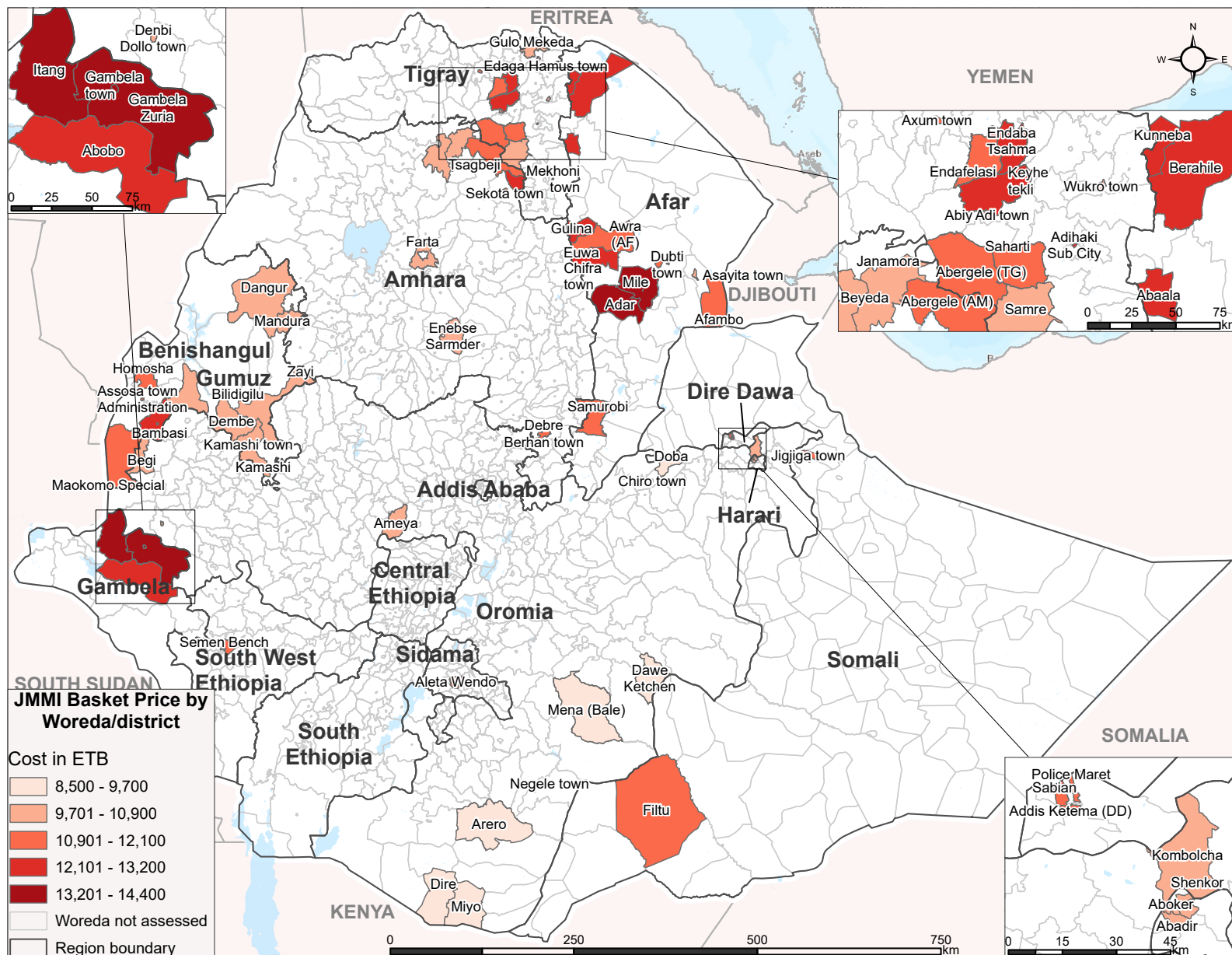
3. Minimum Expenditure Basket for Somali Region Guidance Note, June 2020. Additional sources consulted to assemble the JMMI Basket include the Ethiopia Food Security and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sectors, World Food Programme (WFP) vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM), and publications by the Global WASH Cluster, Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

4. Exchange rates are taken from the United Nations (UN) Operational Rates of Exchange.

5. South West Ethiopia.

6. Percentages do not add up to 100% as vendors were allowed to give multiple answers.

Map 3: Cost of JMIMI Full Basket, By Woreda



All items listed under the shelter and education sections are not included in the JMMI basket. These items are assessed solely to inform humanitarian actors involved in CVA about the price evolution of the items.

- The prices of most cereal items (i.e., sorghum, teff, wheat, barley, enset) remained stable between August and September.
- Prices of all pulses increased in September, with faba beans and garden peas seeing the highest hikes at 10% and 7%, respectively.
- In September, camel meat prices surged by 60%, followed by a 33% increase in goat meat prices.
- Onions (44%) and tomatoes (43%) had the largest price increases among the vegetables compared to the prices in August 2024.

Table 2: National and Regional Median Prices Per Item⁷

Item ⁸	National change since Aug 2024	National	Addis Ababa	Afar	Amhara	Benishangul Gumuz	Dire Dawa	Gambela	Harari	Oromia	Sidama	South Ethiopia	Somali	SWE	Tigray
Cereals⁹															
Maize	▼ 5%	45	NA	50	42.50	35	51.25	60	44.50	35	39	NA	70.50	30	44
Sorghum	0	60	NA	60	60	44	85	60	70	60			52.50	25	65
Teff	0	130	NA	132	125	145	141.25	150	125	110	120	NA		115	139
Wheat	0	75	NA		76.25	80	78.75	150	80	50		NA	NA	120	70
Barley	0	100		100							80				
Enset	0	100									100	NA			
Rice	▼ 39%	121.25											121.25		
Pulses															
Garden peas	▲ 7%	117.50	NA	117.50	80	140	NA	125	NA	NA	NA	NA	100	60	120
Faba beans	▲ 10%	110	NA	117.50	90.50	110	NA	115	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	60	152.50
Lentils	▲ 3%	160	NA	120	147.50	185	NA	195	NA	180	NA	NA	NA	NA	120
Meat and Fish															
Beef ⁹	0	800	NA		800	600	700	925	600	700	800	NA		600	800
Goat meat ⁹	▲ 33%	800		700									900		
Camel meat ⁹	▲ 60%	800											800		
Dry fish	▲ 2%	285						285							
Vegetables															
Green leafy ⁹	▲ 30%	60	NA	80	150	55	NA	47.50	NA	30	40	NA	80	20	60
Tomatoes ⁹	▲ 43%	100	NA	120	85	100	110	100	75	77.50	70	NA	60	40	85
Onions ⁹	▲ 44%	130	NA	130	130	140	110	130	100	100	100	NA	122.50	120	120
Potatoes ⁹	0	50	NA	60	45	50	30	50	22	30	40	NA	68.75	40	55
Okra	▼ 20%	70						70							
WASH															
Bath soap ⁹	▼ 4%	57.50	NA	40	62.50	50	45	90	40	48.75	60	NA	47.50	50	62.50
Laundry soap ⁹	0	60	NA	70	60	60	60	82.50	57.50	50	50	NA	52.50	60	60
Sanitary pads	▼ 8%	60	NA	60	60	70	NA	70	NA	60	50	NA	70	60	80
Water purification	▲ 25%	37.50	NA	32.50	NA	25	NA	40	NA	NA	NA	NA	100	150	35
Shelter															
Plastic bucket	0	250	NA	200	195	325	NA	280	NA	115	NA	NA	275	150	240
Washing basin	▲ 3%	250	NA	180	150	400	NA	245	NA	400	NA	NA	287.50	120	250
Education															
Exercise book	▼ 8%	62.25	NA	70	60	65	NA	70	NA	62.50	NA	NA	50	50	52.50
Pen/pencil	0	20	NA	15	20	25	NA	20	NA	25	NA	NA	17.50	30	15
Rubbers	0	15	NA	15	10	13.75	NA	22.50	NA	15	NA	NA	10	15	15
Rulers	0	25	NA	20	70	21.25	NA	45	NA	20	NA	NA	30	15	27.50
Other															
Cooking oil ⁹	▼ 4%	240	NA	200	240	257.50	220	215	220	250	270	NA	250	250	250
Milk	▼ 3%	97.50	NA	92.50	66.25	98.75	NA	120	NA	75	NA	NA	185	100	92.50
Eggs ⁹	0	15	NA	15	10	16	14	20	12	14	12	NA	16	12	15
Salt	0	35	NA	30	40	60	NA	42.50	NA	41.25	NA	NA	75	30	30

7. The blank spaces represent the item is not part of the basket in that region.

8. The 'NA' means data for certain items prices is not available for this month.

9. These items are included in the JMMI basket. The remaining items are monitored monthly, but not included in the basket.

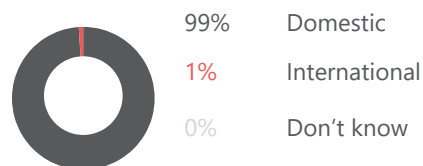
10. In September 2024, prices for pulses were not collected in Dire Dawa, Harari and Sidama. Similarly, green leafy vegetables, milk, salt, sanitary pads, water treatment, education and shelter items prices were not collected in Dire Dawa, Harari, Sidama and South Ethiopia, which could have likely affected the monthly price change reported in Table 1 and Table 2.

SUPPLY CHAIN AND MARKET ACCESSIBILITY

LOCATION OF MAIN SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD ITEMS

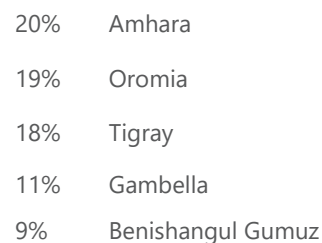
65% of vendors reported that their main supplier of food items was located in the same woreda.

Original location of suppliers, by % of suppliers whose main food items suppliers were outside the woreda:



35% of vendors reported that their main supplier of food items was not located in the same woreda as them.

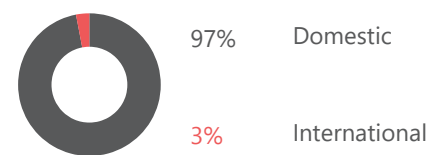
Location of suppliers, by % of vendors whose main food items suppliers were outside the woreda⁶:



LOCATION OF MAIN SUPPLIERS FOR NON-FOOD ITEMS

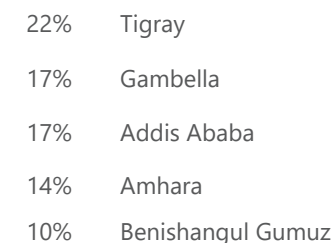
43% of vendors reported that their main supplier of NFIs was located in the same woreda.

Original location of suppliers, by % of suppliers whose main NFI suppliers were outside the woreda:



57% of vendors reported that their main supplier of NFIs was not located in the same woreda as them.

Location of suppliers, by % of vendors whose main NFI suppliers were outside the woreda⁶:



DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING DEMAND AND TRANSPORTING OR PROCURING SUPPLIES

29% (n= 110) of food items vendors reported having faced difficulties obtaining enough food items to meet demand in the 30 days prior to data collection.

The three most frequently cited reasons for shortage of food items supply were⁶:

- 1 53% (n=58) Not enough money
- 2 27% (n= 30) Not enough credit
- 3 24% (n= 26) Suppliers can't meet demand

21% (n= 23) of NFI vendors reported having faced difficulties obtaining enough NFIs to meet demand in the 30 days prior to data collection.

BARRIERS TO MARKET ACCESS FOR CUSTOMERS

Customer groups that were reported to have faced difficulties visiting markets in the 30 days prior to data collection, by proportion of vendors (e.g., due to movement restrictions)⁶:

- 1 3% Children
- 2 2% Women
- 3 2% Chronically ill people

Proportion of the vendors reporting having observed or heard of any safety or security incidents in their market place in the 30 days prior to data collection.

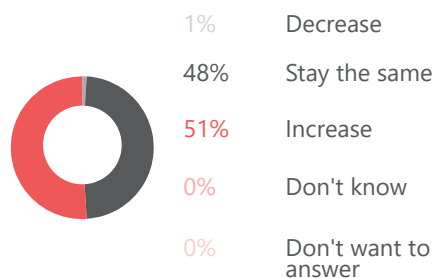
- 1 5% Fear of robbery
- 2 4% Curfew
- 3 3% Fear of violence
- 4 3% Fear of looting

6. Percentages do not add up to 100% as vendors were allowed to give multiple answers.

VENDOR AND CUSTOMER DYNAMICS AND PREDICTED PRICE CHANGES

REPORTED PREDICTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF FOOD ITEMS

% of vendors reporting predicted price changes for food items in the 30 days following data collection:

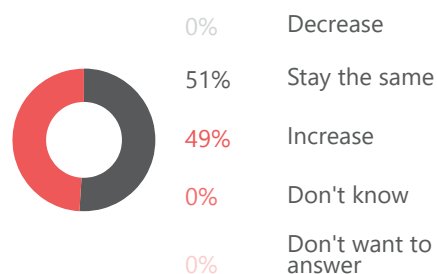


Out of those vendors predicting an increase in food prices, the most frequently cited reasons were⁶:

- 1 79% Rising exchange rate
- 2 20% Customers running out of these items
- 3 17% Vendors cannot obtain these items

REPORTED PREDICTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF NON-FOOD ITEMS

% of vendors reporting predicted price changes for hygiene items in the 30 days following data collection:

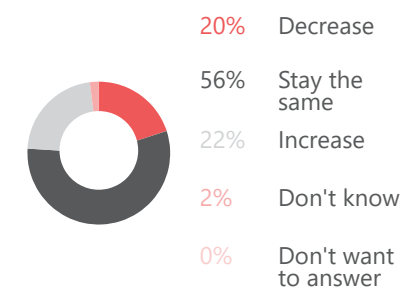


Out of those vendors predicting an increase in non-food item prices, the most frequently cited reasons were⁶:

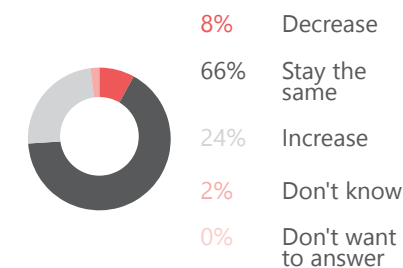
- 1 91% Rising exchange rate
- 2 24% Customers running out of these items
- 3 9% Vendors cannot obtain these items

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AND VENDORS

Proportion of vendors reporting perceived changes in the number of customers coming to their shop as compared to previous month:



Proportion of vendors reporting perceived changes in the number of active traders in their marketplace as compared to previous month:



6. Percentages do not add up to 100% as vendors were allowed to give multiple answers.

Table 3: Availability of Items in the Market, Available Stock and Time Needed to Restock in August 2024¹¹

Item	Availability			Stock and Restock	
	Available (% Kls)	Limited Available (% Kls)	Not available (% Kls)	Days stock available	Days needed to restock
Cereals					
Maize	64%	28%	6%	20	4
Sorghum	42%	32%	16%	18	4
Teff	52%	35%	9%	15	3
Wheat	39%	31%	25%	15	3
Barley	36%	21%	31%	15	3
Enset	5%	6%	62%	3	2
Rice	24%	26%	35%	3	1
Pulses					
Garden pea	100%	0%	0%	6	3
Faba bean	100%	0%	0%	7	3
Lentils	100%	0%	0%	6	3
Meat and Fish					
Beef	54%	14%	32%	2	1
Goat meat	82%	15%	3%	1	1
Camel meat	100%	0%	0%	1	1
Dry fish	90%	5%	0%	3	3
Vegetables					
Green leafy	42%	38%	15%	2	1
Tomatoes	52%	42%	3%	3	2
Onions	56%	42%	2%	5	2
Potatoes	62%	36%	2%	5	2
Okra	76%	24%	0%	2	1
WASH					
Bath soap	78%	19%	3%	15	2
Laundry soap	77%	18%	4%	15	2
Sanitary pads	58%	24%	13%	20	2
Water treatment	24%	14%	47%	5	2
Shelter					
Plastic bucket	42%	19%	28%	15	2
Washing basin	39%	17%	30%	14	3
Education					
Exercise book	61%	22%	9%	17	2
Pen/pencil	57%	25%	9%	15	2
Rubber	40%	22%	28%	15	2
Ruler	37%	26%	25%	20	2
Other					
Cooking oil	61%	26%	6%	11	3
Milk	25%	33%	26%	1	1
Egg	45%	35%	8%	5	2
Salt	70%	17%	8%	15	3

- All interviewed retailers reported 100% availability of garden peas, faba beans, lentils, and camel meat in September 2024.
- In September 2024, limited availability was reported for tomatoes (42%), onions (42%), green leafy vegetables (38%), potatoes (36%), and teff (35%). Limited availability of teff (33%) was also reported for the previous month.
- Enset (62%), water treatment (47%), rice (35%), beef (32%), and barley (31%) were the items reported to have the highest unavailability issue.

11. Red numbers in this table flag the rate of unavailability of items.

Methodology

JMMI data is collected in the form of key informant interviews (KIIs), with retailers in target markets serving as the key informants (KIs). 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.

A woreda's largest urban market place(s) devoted to retail is/are prioritised for data collection, with expansion to rural areas depending on the availability of contributing partners. For the purposes of the Ethiopia JMMI, a market place is defined as an area with a relatively sizable concentration of traders in close proximity to each other. Within each target market place, field teams are responsible for identifying a sufficient number of traders to interview those who sell directly to consumers, who sell at least one item of that region's JMMI Basket and who are patronised by average consumers in the area. Field teams aim to collect a minimum of three prices per assessed item per assessed woreda.

Once data has been collected, it is uploaded to a secure KoBo server for cleaning and analysis. As the data is collected at the KI level, the following steps are undertaken to aggregate the trader level data to the location level:

- Availability is defined categorically (available, limited, unavailable) for each item
- Commodity prices and stock levels are collected from individual traders and median prices/stock levels are calculated for each item within each assessed woreda
- National and regional medians are then calculated using a "median of medians" approach, i.e. by calculating a new median from all woreda-level medians

- All vendors are asked about their ability to restock and whether a trader has restocked in the last month. If any given trader states they are able to restock an item or, if at least one trader restocked in the last month, respectively, then those abilities are assumed for that woreda.

Data collection for this round took place between 2 and 18 September 2024. In September, 17 of the Ethiopia Cash Working Group (CWG) JMMI partners conducted a total of 590 KIIs. This round covered 174 market places, which were sampled by partners nationwide based on their access and existing areas of intervention. This round includes 73 out of 1142 woredas in Ethiopia.

Challenges and limitations

- The Central Ethiopia and South Ethiopia regions were not assessed due to the unavailability of data collection partners.
- In September 2024, prices for pulses were not collected in Dire Dawa, Harari and Sidama. Similarly, green leafy vegetables, milk, salt, sanitary pads, water treatment, education and shelter items prices were not collected in Dire Dawa, Harari, and Sidama, which could have likely affected the monthly price change reported in Table 1 and Table 2. Similarly, it was not able to collect data in Addis Ababa and South Ethiopia.
- The JMMI methodology specifies that three prices should be collected per commodity, per woreda. For this round of data collection, less than three prices were collected per woreda for faba beans, lentils, plastic buckets, rubbers, rulers, washing basins and water treatment items.
- All findings are indicative and not statistically generalisable at any level.

About the CWG

The Ethiopia Cash Working Group (ECWG) is a forum of technical professionals dedicated to enhancing the quality of CVA. Established in 2016, the ECWG serves as an inter-agency and inter-sectoral platform providing strategic and technical support on cash programming across sectors and clusters, social-protection mechanisms and development and resilience-based response. The CWGs support includes both technical functions that focus on process and strategic functions that focus more on results and impact.

Participating agencies

- ACF – Action Contre le Faim
- ACTED – Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
- AIE – Action Aid Ethiopia
- ASDEPO – Action for Social Development and Environmental Protection Organization
- Ayuda en Acción Ethiopia
- CARE
- Caritas Switzerland
- DCA – Danish Church Aid
- EECMY DASSC
- GOAL
- IRC – International Rescue Committee
- Mercy Corps
- NRC – Norwegian Refugee Council
- PC – Pastoralist Concern
- Plan International
- RHSPDO – Renaissance for Health and Socioeconomic Progress Development Organization
- SCI – Save the Children
- Welthungerhilfe
- WVI – World Vision International

17	Participating agencies
11	Assessed regions
73	Assessed woredas
590	Key informant interviews (KIIs)
34	Commodities assessed

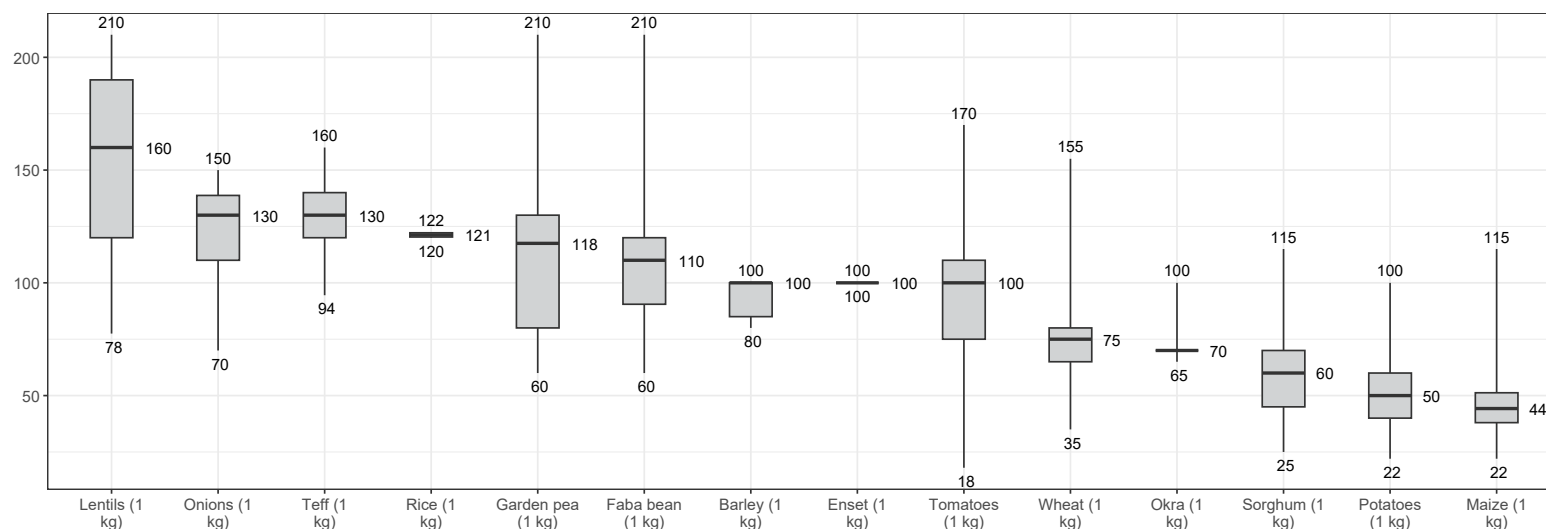
About REACH

REACH 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](#). You can contact us directly at geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.

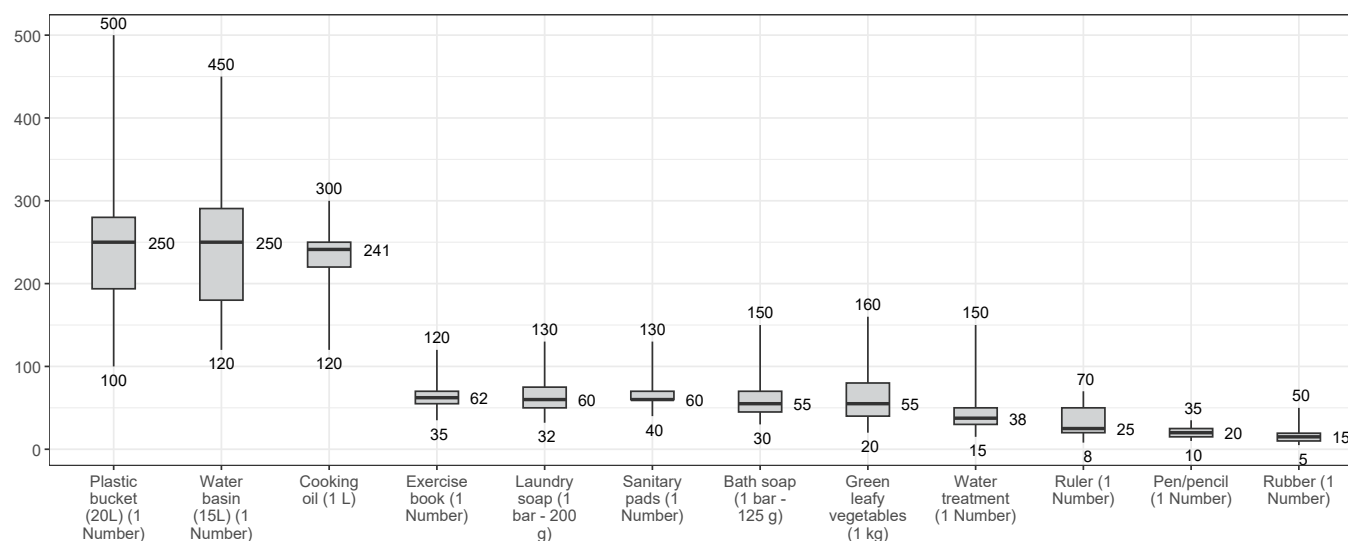
All the Ethiopia JMMI and other assessment outputs, including factsheets and datasets, are openly available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).

ANNEX 1: Distribution of Prices

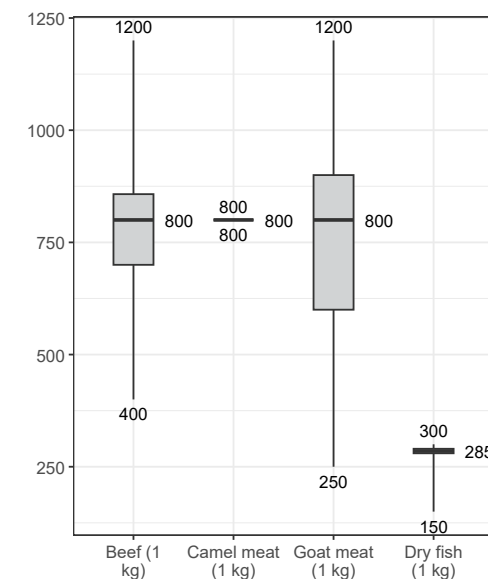
Food Items



NFIs



Meat and Fish Items



Other Food Items

