AFGHANISTAN JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE (JMMI)

10 - 22 February 2021

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 tenth round of the JMMI was collected between 10 and 22 February, in 29 provinces of Afghanistan.

19	participating agencies
29	assessed provinces
233	assessed marketplaces
673	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

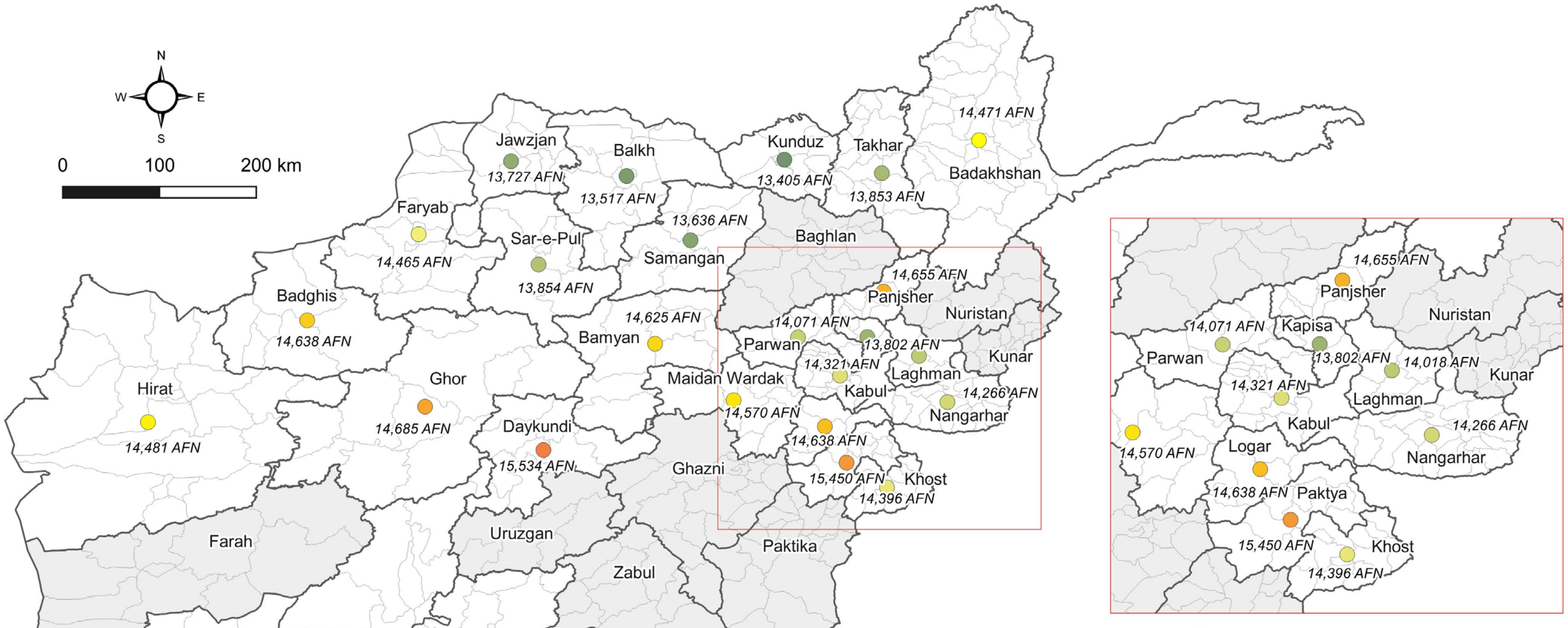
AADA
ACF
ACTD
ACTED
Caritas Germany (with RCDC and VOPOFA)
CRDSA
DRC
HAADAF
IOM
IRC
JACK
JIA
Medair
OHW
Save the Children International
WHH
World Vision

Median cost of MEB[1]
14,188 AFN
184.50 USD[2]
▲ 68 +0%[3,4]

Median cost of Food Basket
5,373 AFN
68.88 USD[2]
▲ 70 +1%[3,]

83% 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



Median MEB Cost
Maximum price: 15,792 AFN
Minimum price: 13,405 AFN
Not covered

In five provinces 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 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***	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 whose prices were not collected, calculations included the existing price used by the CVWG as a baseline. For the healthcare and shelter components, the listed fixed amount was used in the calculation. The AFN to USD conversion uses a fixed exchange rate of 78.5 AFN to 1 USD.*

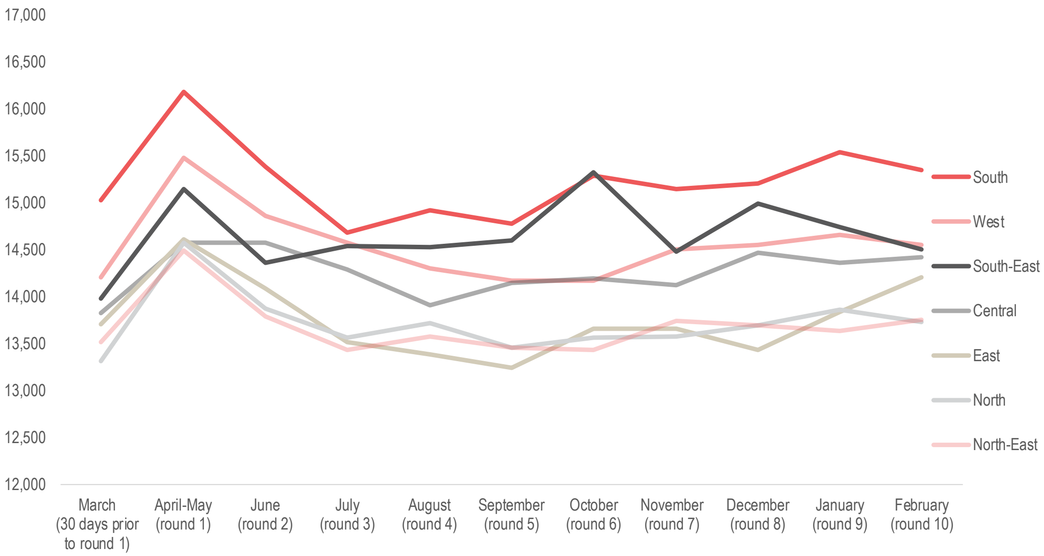
*** Pulses in this factsheet are calculated as the average price of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.*

**** 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]
76.90 AFN

MEDIAN MEB COST OVER TIME, BY ROUND
IN AFN



MEDIAN MEB PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW AND CHANGE SINCE THE JMMI 9TH ROUND (JANUARY 2021), AT REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL[5]

Province	MEB in AFN	MEB in USD	Change since 9th round	MEB (Round 9) in AFN	MEB (Round 9) in USD
North	13,734	178.59	▼ 1%	13,862	180.26
Balkh	13,517	175.77	▼ 2%	13,741	178.69
Faryab	14,465	188.10	▼ 2%	14,506	188.63
Jawzjan	13,727	178.50	▼ 2%	13,800	179.45
Samangan	13,636	177.32	▼ 2%	13,746	178.75
Sar-e-Pul	13,854	180.16	▲ 1%	13,763	178.98
North-East	13,751	178.81	▲ 0%[4]	13,640	177.37
Badakhshan	14,471	188.19	N/A	14,556	189.28
Baghlan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kunduz	13,405	174.32	▲ 1%	13,184	171.45
Takhar	13,853	180.14	N/A	13,720	178.41
East	14,203	184.69	▲ 2%	13,835	179.91
Laghman	14,018	182.29	▲ 1%	13,810	179.58
Nangarhar	14,266	185.52	▲ 3%	13,827	179.81
South-East	14,511	188.70	▲ 1%	14,746	191.76
Ghazni	N/A	N/A	N/A	14,557	189.30
Khost	14,396	187.20	▼ 2%	15,230	198.05
Paktya	15,450	200.92	▲ 1%	15,193	197.57
South	15,346	199.56	▼ 1%	15,535	202.01
Helmand	15,613	203.04	▼ 0%[4]	15,640	203.38
Kandahar	15,792	205.36	▼ 0%[4]	15,807	205.55
Nimroz	15,451	200.93	N/A	15,844	206.04
Uruzgan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
West	14,549	189.19	▼ 1%	14,656	190.59
Badghis	14,638	190.35	▼ 0%[4]	14,690	191.03
Farah	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ghor	14,685	190.96	▼ 2%	15,434	200.70
Herat	14,481	188.31	▼ 2%	14,742	191.70
Central	14,425	187.59	▲ 1%	14,363	186.78
Bamyan	14,625	190.18	▲ 2%	14,785	192.26
Daykundi	15,534	202.00	▼ 1%	15,816	205.67
Kabul	14,321	186.23	▲ 1%	14,039	182.57
Kapisa	13,802	179.48	▲ 1%	13,653	177.54
Logar	14,638	190.35	▼ 1%	15,579	202.59
Maidan Wardak	14,570	189.46	N/A	N/A	N/A
Panjsher	14,655	190.58	▼ 0%	14,675	190.83
Parwan	14,071	182.98	N/A	N/A	N/A

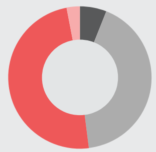
NATIONWIDE MEDIAN ITEM PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW AND CHANGE REPORTED SINCE THE 9TH JMMI ROUND (JANUARY 2021)

Item	Unit	Price in AFN	Price in USD	Change since 9th round	Price (Round 9) in AFN	Price (Round 9) in USD
Food Items						
Wheat flour (local)	1 kg	34	0.44	▲ 3%	33	0.42
Wheat flour (imported)	1 kg	36	0.47	▲ 3%	35	0.46
Local rice	1 kg	50	0.65	*no change*	50	0.65
Vegetable oil	1 L	102	1.33	▲ 2%	100	1.18
Pulses[6]	1 kg	60	0.78	*no change*	60	0.81
Salt	1 kg	11	0.15	▼ 16%	13	0.18
Sugar	1 kg	50	0.65	*no change*	50	0.65
Tomatoes	1 kg	30	0.39	▼ 25%	40	0.43
Potatoes	1 kg	21	0.27	▲ 5%	20	0.24
Onions	1 kg	19	0.24	▲ 6%	18	0.25
Eggs	1 egg	8	0.10	▼ 11%	9	0.09
NFIs						
Soft cotton cloth (2m² piece)	1 pc	86	1.12	▼ 4%	90	1.23
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	55	0.72	▼ 8%	60	0.78
Other NFIs						
Safe (drinking) water without jerry can	20 L	50	0.65	▼ 17%	60	0.78
Firewood	1 kg	13	0.16	*no change*	13	0.17
Kindling[7]	1 kg	12	0.16	▼ 14%	14	0.18
Cooking fuel	1 kg	60	0.78	▲ 9%	55	0.72
Jerry can (calculated)*	1 pc	120	1.56	▼ 29%	170	1.63

** Due to changes in how water and jerry can prices were collected in Round 8, further analysis and rounds of data are needed to reconcile trends. This will be addressed in the next round (Round 11).*

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:



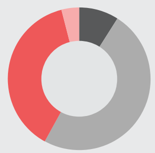
6% Decreased
42% Stayed the same
49% Increased
3% Didn't know

Out of those KIs reporting a increase in food prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:[14]

1. 71% Increased cost of supplies
2. 57% Increased transportation costs
3. 39% Seasonality

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:



9% Decreased
49% Stayed the same
38% Increased
4% Didn't know

Out of those KIs reporting a increase in NFIs prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:[14]

1. 75% Increased cost of supplies
2. 59% Increased transportation costs
3. 34% Seasonality

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

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

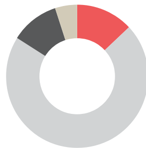
5% Imported from abroad
46% Different province
37% Province capital city
5% Same province
7% Same district
1% Other

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

4% Imported from abroad
45% Different province
39% Province capital city
5% Same province
6% Same district
1% Other

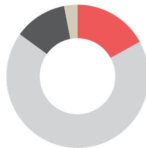
CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD ITEMS AND NFIs[9]

Proportion of KIs reporting a change in the number of food suppliers in the 30 days prior to data collection:



13% Decreased
71% Stayed the same
11% Increased
5% Didn't know

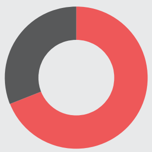
Proportion of KIs reporting a change in the number of NFI suppliers in the 30 days prior to data collection:



17% Decreased
68% Stayed the same
12% Increased
3% 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 30 days prior to data collection:



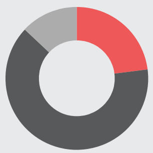
67% Barriers to access reported
33% No barriers reported

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

1. 30% Financial barriers
2. 26% Insecurity travelling to the market
3. 22% Fear of exposure to COVID-19, and public health restrictions

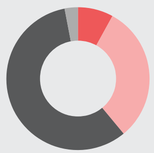
In the East, 87% of KIs reported consumers faced at least one barrier to accessing markets in the 30 days prior to data collection, which is a relatively high percentage compared to the national average of 67%.

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



23% Security context may prevent access to the marketplace
64% No security related barriers
13% Don't know, prefer not to answer

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



8% No access at all
31% Accompanied access
58% Unaccompanied access
3% Don't know

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS FROM SUPPLIERS[11]

Item	Available (% KIs)	Limited (% KIs)	None (% KIs)
Food Items			
Wheat flour (local)	90%	9%	1%
Wheat flour (imported)	96%	3%	1%
Local rice	97%	3%	1%
Vegetable oil	99%	1%	0%
Pulses[6]	94%	3%	3%
Salt	99%	1%	0%
Sugar	99%	1%	0%
Tomatoes	96%	3%	1%
Potatoes	97%	2%	1%
Onions	97%	2%	1%
Eggs	97%	2%	0%
NFIs			
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	95%	4%	2%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	99%	1%	1%
Toothpaste	98%	2%	1%
Toothbrush (adult)	98%	2%	1%
Sanitary pad	97%	2%	2%
Washing detergent	96%	3%	1%
Bleach	95%	4%	1%
Other NFIs			
Safe (drinking) water*	93%	2%	5%
Firewood	95%	3%	2%
Kindling[7]	96%	2%	2%
Cooking fuel	97%	2%	1%

**57% 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)	18%	55%	16%
Wheat flour (imported)	28%	56%	15%
Local rice	25%	61%	13%
Vegetable oil	27%	60%	14%
Pulses[6]	17%	62%	20%
Salt	14%	81%	5%
Sugar	23%	67%	9%
Tomatoes	32%	48%	20%
Potatoes	38%	55%	7%
Onions	27%	66%	7%
Eggs	39%	47%	13%
NFIs			
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	7%	72%	22%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	23%	70%	7%
Toothpaste	19%	71%	8%
Toothbrush (adult)	18%	73%	7%
Sanitary pad	13%	76%	9%
Washing detergent	21%	71%	8%
Bleach	12%	70%	18%
Other NFIs			
Safe (drinking) water	19%	52%	27%
Firewood	36%	40%	23%
Kindling	31%	45%	22%
Cooking fuel	38%	47%	14%

***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

8% 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. **40%** Limited production
2. **27%** Limited availability of imported items from the suppliers
3. **26%** Financial constraints and inability to purchase supplies

57% 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. **42%** Conflict
2. **39%** Roadblocks
3. **15%** Seasonality

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

1. **46%** Wheat flour (local and imported)
2. **44%** Vegetable oil
3. **20%** Sugar

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

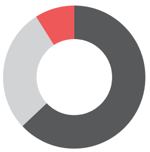
1. **24%** Firewood
2. **22%** Kindling
3. **16%** Cooking fuel

****This finding is driven by a considerably high regional reporting of road-based difficulties in the North-East and Central regions where 83% and 76% of KIs respectively reported having experienced challenges in restocking their supplies due to road-based transportation difficulties. Round 10 data does not allow for an analysis of the causes of this sudden increase - additional assessments could be considered to further explore this dynamic.*

TRADERS & MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

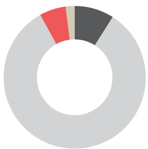
TRADER PRESENCE IN THE MARKET

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



63% All shops reported being open
28% At least half of shops open
9% 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:



9% Increased
83% Stayed the same
6% Decreased
2% Don't know

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

1. 72% Financial constraints
2. 43% Lack of commodities provided by the suppliers
3. 36% COVID-19

TRADERS' COPING MECHANISMS AND RELIANCE ON CREDIT

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

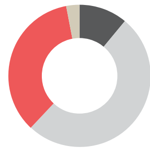
30% Borrow and rely on credit
20% Restrict stocks
20% Limit expenses
9% Spend savings
3% Increase working hours
20% Other

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]

45% Yes, to purchase commodities
6% Yes, to pay rent
2% Yes, to pay salaries
50% No

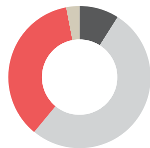
CONSUMERS, PAYMENT, & CREDIT

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



11% Increased
51% Stayed the same
35% 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:



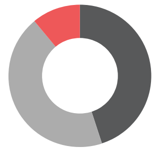
9% Decreased
52% Stayed the same
36% Increased
3% Don't know

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

1. 68% Cash
2. 42% Credit
3. 5% Barter
4. 5% 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:



45% Two or more types
44% One type
11% None

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

1. 83% Hawala
2. 39% Banks
3. 11% 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. 69% Supplier (buy on credit)
2. 25% 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 ($2m^2$ 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 (20 l)	Jerry can (1 piece)	Firewood (1 kg)	Kindling (1 kg)	Cooking fuel (1 kg)
North	30	34	46	110	70	100	45	14	50	43	25	19	8	80	25	50	40	50	30	50	50	N/A	10	11	60
Balkh	28	33	53	98	60	100	40	20	55	50	23	19	8	55	15	25	25	50	25	60	60	N/A	11	14	55
Faryab	30	34	48	118	85	105	50	8	53	60	25	20	10	95	65	100	55	50	43	70	50	N/A	14	15	60
Jawzjan	32	34	50	110	75	108	40	13	50	40	30	16	8	109	20	40	43	50	25	65	30	N/A	12	13	58
Samangan	33	35	43	95	65	100	50	27	50	60	24	19	9	75	30	50	25	60	28	47	53	N/A	8	10	60
Sar-e-Pul	28	33	50	110	70	100	40	13	50	30	26	20	7	120	25	65	50	41	30	50	30	N/A	10	11	60
North-East	33	37	40	120	70	100	43	15	50	31	21	14	10	70	20	40	50	70	25	70	50	N/A	9	10	63
Badakhshan	33	38	43	119	86	89	36	25	50	50	20	16	10	73	25	45	40	100	23	60	60	N/A	9	11	65
Baghlan	33	37	40	120	80	100	50	15	50	N/A	20	13	8	N/A	20	40	50	55	23	60	50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kunduz	31	35	35	110	70	100	50	13	50	30	21	14	8	70	20	50	50	50	20	60	50	N/A	11	9	60
Takhar	31	39	42	120	53	100	37	9	54	29	21	14	10	80	20	40	50	80	30	100	50	N/A	7	10	63
East	34	36	39	96	86	107	86	10	47	23	17	17	8	100	25	50	80	40	30	60	50	240	10	9	60
Laghman	34	34	36	96	86	101	86	10	47	23	14	17	8	100	28	50	80	34	30	60	N/A	250	9	9	60
Nangarhar	35	37	39	96	88	107	86	10	47	23	19	17	8	100	25	40	60	45	30	60	50	160	10	10	60
South-East	35	36	40	101	80	100	79	10	49	25	21	19	8	70	30	80	66	35	45	78	50	90	13	13	60
Ghazni	35	35	80	85	80	120	80	10	40	25	16	30	7	180	23	30	N/A	80	20	50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Khost	35	36	40	102	80	103	79	10	43	20	20	19	7	170	30	80	60	30	30	40	50	100	13	13	60
Paktya	34	36	70	103	84	81	71	7	50	29	23	19	10	50	33	90	70	35	50	100	70	90	13	13	63
South	37	40	76	98	68	118	50	10	50	25	22	18	9	73	35	60	50	49	40	55	50	N/A	13	13	55
Helmand	38	42	85	95	55	106	48	10	58	24	23	15	8	75	25	54	50	33	35	60	19	N/A	12	12	55
Kandahar	33	38	76	110	80	120	80	10	50	25	22	20	9	60	50	75	60	50	40	40	50	N/A	14	14	52
Nimroz	36	38	80	100	75	105	48	6	50	15	15	12	8	155	45	60	53	38	35	38	23	N/A	11	15	50
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	N/A
West	32	36	65	100	70	110	55	10	50	30	20	20	9	120	30	40	35	50	26	50	80	100	14	12	55
Badghis	31	36	65	100	60	118	50	15	55	50	20	20	10	130	30	40	35	50	30	65	25	20	12	11	60
Farah	30	32	75	100	60	120	50	13	50	30	20	20	10	N/A	30	80	35	58	30	38	120	20	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ghor	32	37	54	101	88	112	50	10	60	30	20	25	10	170	60	92	45	47	30	77	N/A	108	19	23	65
Herat	32	35	66	100	70	110	65	9	50	25	17	15	8	80	25	35	32	40	25	40	80	120	14	11	50
Central	34	36	53	104	75	105	75	20	50	41	21	20	8	90	20	40	50	50	30	55	45	N/A	15	16	75
Bamyan	31	36	53	120	72	107	73	20	57	60	20	20	8	80	30	40	55	52	30	60	N/A	N/A	12	16	68
Daykundi	37	38	88	103	55	100	78	20	58	45	22	28	10	75	28	50	53	55	35	60	38	N/A	16	18	80
Kabul	34	35	50	115	72	110	75	20	50	35	21	19	7	68	25	40	53	55	30	60	50	N/A	17	17	60
Kapisa	34	36	42	105	64	100	75	20	50	28	21	21	8	83	20	40	50	50	30	55	40	N/A	16	16	90
Logar	33	34	77	85	85	91	48	15	45	30	20	19	7	105	15	20	53	35	35	33	80	N/A	13	12	60
Maidan Wardak	34	35	55	120	80	120	73	20	53	53	22	17	8	90	25	45	30	60	30	60	45	N/A	17	16	60
Panjsher	35	37	55	110	75	110	70	20	51	50	21	18	8	90	25	45	60	60	30	60	45	N/A	17	17	80
Parwan	35	37	40	80	82	115	90	10	50	45	20	17	8	50	20	40	55	45	30	50	50	N/A	15	20	90

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 & Monitoring, 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 rounds 9 and 10 of the JMMI's MFI 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

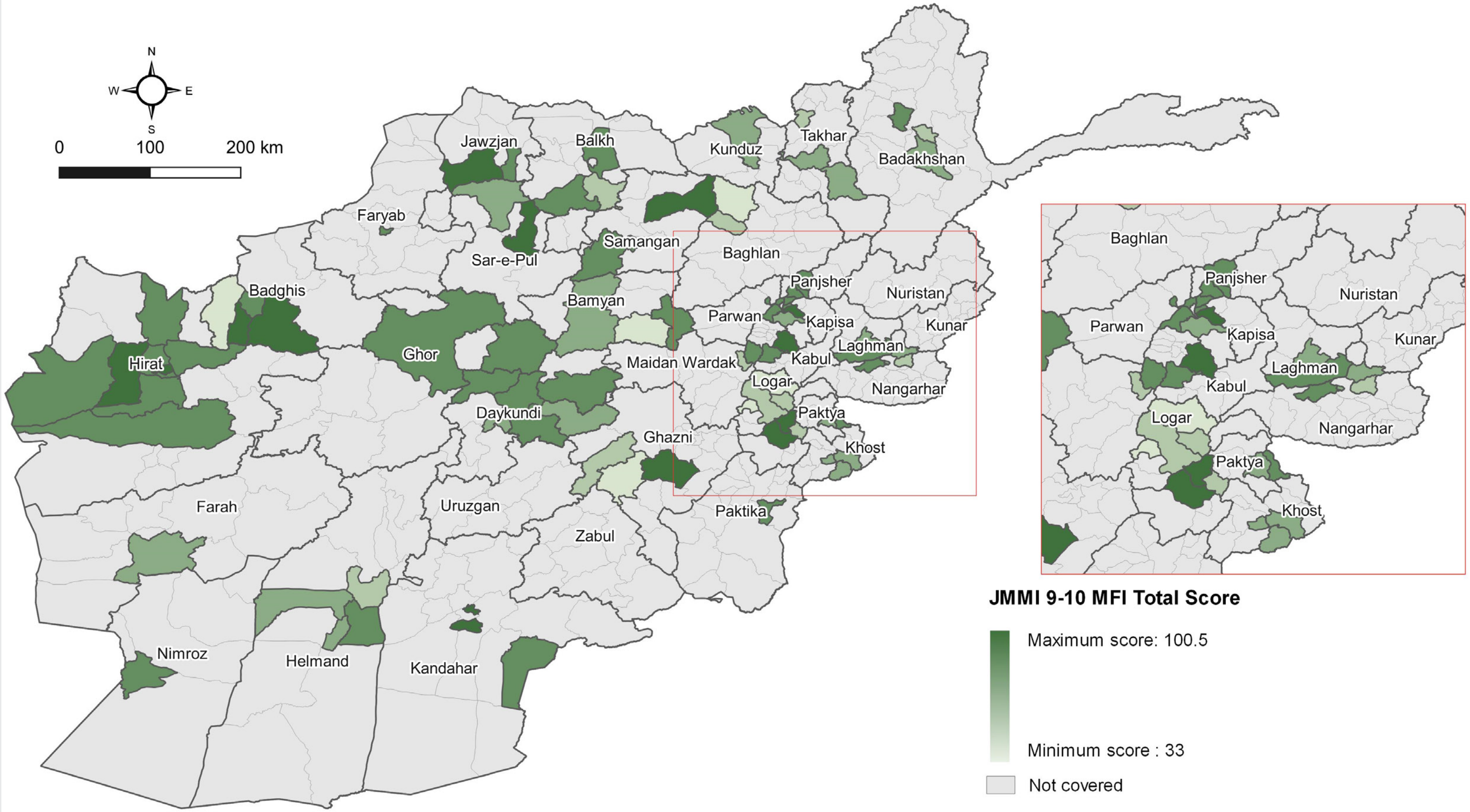
Safety and Security

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 tenth round of data collection took place between 10th and 22nd February 2021, and a total of 673 KIIs were conducted. This round covered 233 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 tenth round of the JMMI, yet, nationwide coverage remains to be achieved.
- Due to the aforementioned difficulties in data collection, data from this round of JMMI was presented 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 tenth round of the JMMI (10 February) 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 ninth round of the JMMI (January 2020) are reflected here.*
4. *Where JMMI data recorded a MEB price variation of less than 100 AFN, it was chosen to present the variation as 0%, as it is a too little amount to be approximated to 1%, but still sufficient not to be described as "no change".*
5. *N/A: Due to limited data points and strong regional variation, disaggregations at the province-level were not reported. The national median prices of some items (with less than 4 data points per province) were used to calculate the MEB.*
6. *Pulses in this table are calculated as the median (normalized) price of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.*
7. *The item 'kindling' is a highly seasonal winter item, and therefore, not frequently sold during some rounds of JMMI 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 50% of KIs reporting having borrowed in the past 30 days to purchase commodities, 22% 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

Eight round (December 2020)

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Factsheet

Dataset

Ninth round (January 2021)

Situation Overview

COVID-19 Factsheet

Dataset