



JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE (JMMI)

Earthquake Response in Herat Province - Round 3

Afghanistan



3-14 December 2023



OVERVIEW

Between 7 and 15 October, western Afghanistan experienced three powerful earthquakes with magnitudes exceeding 6.0 and numerous aftershocks. Amidst widespread destruction, 114,000 of the most affected people have been prioritised for emergency response over the winter period (Oct '23 – March '24) across six districts of Herat province (Ghoryan, Guzara, Herat, Injil, Karukh, and Zindajan).

In the immediate aftermath, REACH initiated an ad-hoc round of the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative in order to provide one joint assessment for the entire response to address information gaps around the continuing functionality of markets and availability and accessibility of relevant items within these markets, and reduce duplication of efforts.

The JMMI assessment employs a quantitative key informant interview (KII) approach. The methodology includes surveys with purposively sampled traders, acting as key informants (KIs) for their respective markets. The findings are indicative and may not always fully reflect market activity in the assessed areas.¹ More details on the approach are available in the methodology note section at the end.

Data from this round was collected between 3rd and 14th December 2023 by REACH in Herat province of Afghanistan.

Median cost of Food Basket

73.44 USD | 5,030 AFN

Herat value (Round 1 - 10 Oct)

78.53 USD

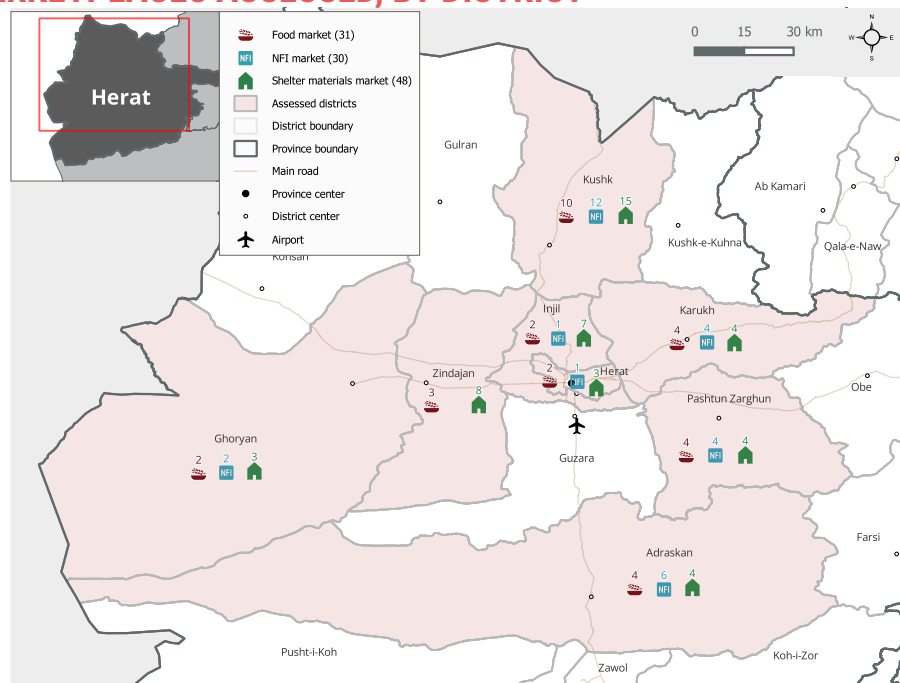
Median cost of MEB²

254.13 USD | 17,405 AFN

Herat value (Round 1 - 10 Oct)

242.28 USD

MARKETPLACES ASSESSED, BY DISTRICT³



8 Districts assessed
109 Key informants (KIs) interviewed
35 Commodities assessed

31 Food traders
30 NFIs traders
48 Shelter materials traders



KEY FINDINGS

- Overall, 94% of KIs reported that all or almost all traders usually present in the market were currently open; this is compared to 42% of KIs in the [first round](#) (10 Oct), and 96% in the [second round](#) (25 Oct). This **indicates that marketplaces are returning to the pre-earthquake status-quo across the 8 districts.**
- Almost all KIs reported that food prices had decreased or stayed the same since the earthquake (97%), with the **food basket cost returning to less than pre-earthquake average. This suggests that food markets have since stabilized following the initial shock**, which may be due to increased availability, and greater supply from the provincial centre and reduced reliance on imports.
- In round three, **the average MEB cost dropped to the level below before the earthquake.** The availability increased for all recorded food and NFIs, and reported a decrease in prices for the majority of recorded items **suggesting a resilient marketplace.**
- Increased prices of NFIs and shelter items** recorded across the three rounds of assessment was reportedly **due to increased demand despite overall improved availability.** This may be due to more households starting to invest in reconstruction as aftershocks have eased.
- The **availability of winter items** (coal, firewood, and jackets) **has increased with price increase**, which may be due to the increase in demand during winter.
- Availability of safe water notably decreased in second round and increased in third round (from 39% to 54% to 14% of KIs reporting it unavailable).** This change may be due to functional supply routes from the provincial centre.

REACH

Informing
more effective
humanitarian action



Earthquake Response Market Assessment - Round 3

Food Items

3-14 December 2023

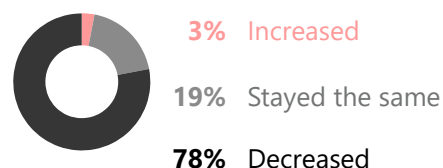


MEDIAN FOOD ITEM PRICES AT THE TIME OF INTERVIEW

Food Items	Unit	Price (AFN)	Price (USD)
Local rice	1 Kg	70	1.02
Pulses ⁴	1 Kg	70	1.02
Salt	1 Kg	10	0.15
Sugar	1 Kg	75	1.10
Tomatoes	1 Kg	50	0.73
Vegetable oil	1 L	79	1.15
Wheat flour (imported)	1 Kg	27	0.39
Wheat flour (local)	1 Kg	27	0.39

REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF FOOD ITEMS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE

% of KIs reporting a change in price for food items since the earthquake:



Although most KIs reported that food prices had decreased since the earthquake, all KIs in Adraskan, Herat, Injil, Karukh, and Kushk reported that prices had decreased; conversely, 25% of KIs reported increase in food prices in Pashtun Zarghon.

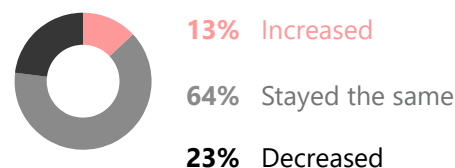
Compared to the first round (10 Oct) where 20% of KIs reported that food prices had increased, this **suggests that food markets have since stabilized following the initial shock**. This is also reflected in **reported prices of food items decreasing compared to the both first and second rounds of assessment**.

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF FOOD ITEMS FROM OPERATIONAL TRADERS

Food Items	Available (% KIs)	Limited availability (% KIs)	Unavailable (% KIs)	Median time for stock to last (days)
Local rice	78%	10%	10%	18
Pulses ⁴	84%	6%	10%	17
Salt ⁵	84%	7%	8%	-
Sugar ⁵	85%	6%	8%	-
Tomatoes	82%	5%	14%	7
Vegetable oil	84%	6%	9%	16
Wheat flour (imported)	84%	6%	10%	16
Wheat flour (local)	84%	6%	10%	17

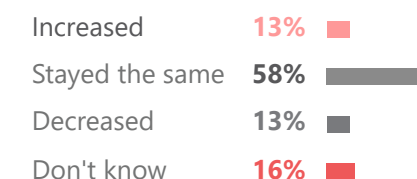
REPORTED CHANGE IN DEMAND OF FOOD ITEMS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE

% of KIs reporting a change in demand for food items since the earthquake:



REPORTED CHANGE IN NUMBER OF FOOD SUPPLIERS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE

% of KIs reporting a change in the number of food suppliers since the earthquake:



Decreased demand for food items was reported by larger proportions of vendors in Herat (100%), Kushk (54%), and Injil (50%). Overall, the most commonly reported reason for the decrease in demand was the lack of income (100%), and in-kind supplies distribution (43%).

Compared to the first round (10 Oct) where 26% KIs reported that demand for food items had increased, this suggests that **food markets have since stabilized**. This may be due to more shops reported to be open at the time of data collection and increased reported availability of individual food items between the three rounds of assessment.

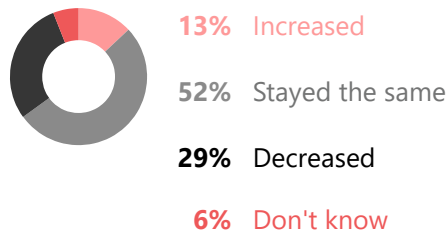


MEDIAN NFI (WINTERISATION) PRICES AT THE TIME OF INTERVIEW

NFIs	Unit	Price (AFN)	Price (USD)
Blanket	1 Piece	825	12.05
Coal	1 Kg	50	0.73
Cooking pot	1 Piece	600	8.76
Diesel	1 Liter	65	0.95
Firewood	1 Kg	34	0.49
Liquefied petroleum gas	1 Liter	55	0.80
Safe water ⁶	18 L	80	1.17
Sanitary pad	1 Bag	35	0.51
Soap	1 Piece	30	0.44
Water container	1 Piece	250	3.65
Winter jacket	1 Piece	450	6.57

REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF NFIs SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE, AND REPORTED PERCEIVED REASONS FOR PRICE INCREASE⁷

% of KIs reporting a change in price for NFIs since the earthquake:



Out of those KIs reporting an increase in NFIs prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:⁷

- 100% Increased cost from suppliers
- 74% Demand increased
- 25% Increased transportation costs

All KIs in Adraskan, and Ghoryan districts reported that NFI prices had stayed the same since the earthquake. However, KIs reported increase in NFI prices in Pashtun Zarghun (50%), and Kushk (20%).

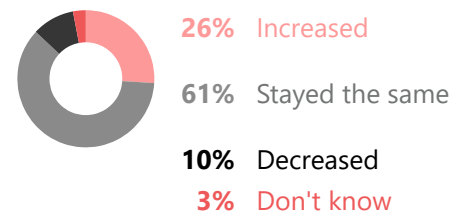
Compared to the first round (10 Oct) where 20% KIs reported that NFI prices had increased, and 1% that prices had decreased, this suggests that **resilience of NFI markets has varied across districts**.

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF NFIs FROM OPERATIONAL TRADERS

NFIs	Available (% KIs)	Limited availability (% KIs)	Unavailable (% KIs)	Median time for stock to last (days)
Blanket	71%	16%	13%	13
Coal	46%	27%	27%	8
Cooking pot	82%	6%	10%	14
Diesel	83%	6%	11%	11
Firewood	78%	9%	13%	13
Liquefied petroleum gas	81%	9%	10%	12
Safe water ⁶	67%	19%	14%	9
Sanitary pad ⁵	73%	14%	13%	-
Soap	87%	7%	6%	18
Water container	80%	7%	12%	14
Winter jacket	73%	14%	12%	15

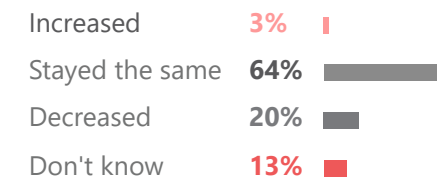
REPORTED CHANGE IN DEMAND OF NFIs SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE⁷

% of KIs reporting a change in demand for NFIs since the earthquake:



REPORTED CHANGE IN NUMBER OF NFI SUPPLIERS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE

% of KIs reporting a change in the number of NFI suppliers since the earthquake:



No KIs reported an increase in demand for NFIs in their stores since the earthquake in Guoryan, Herat, Injil, Kushk, Pashtun Zarggun, and Zindajan. However, 100% of KIs reported an increase in demand in Adraskan, and Karukh with the most frequently reported reason being the increased need for construction.

This **indicates an decreased demand compared to the second round (25 Oct)**, where 17% KIs reported that demand for NFIs had increased. This may be due to more shops reported to be open, and more households starting to invest in reconstruction as aftershocks have eased.



Earthquake Response Market Assessment - Round 3

Shelter Materials

3-14 December 2023



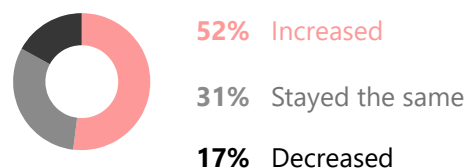
As part of the JMMI earthquake response assessment, data on additional NFI Shelter Materials was collected; this required speaking to KIs that specifically traded in these materials. Similarly, data on availability of construction labour was added to inform the earthquake response, for which specific KIs with knowledge of this market were consulted.

MEDIAN SHELTER MATERIAL PRICES AT THE TIME OF INTERVIEW

Shelter Materials	Unit	Price (AFN)	Price (USD)
Nails	1 Kg	100	1.46
Plastic sheeting	1 Meter	50	0.73
Rope	1 Meter	15	0.22
Shovel	1 Piece	170	2.48
Tent	1 Piece	2000	29.20
Tarpaulin	1 sq. meter	75	1.10

REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF SHELTER MATERIALS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE, AND REPORTED PERCEIVED REASONS FOR PRICE INCREASE⁷

% of KIs reporting a change in price for shelter materials since the earthquake:



Out of those KIs reporting an increase in shelter material prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:⁷

- 1 92% Increased cost from supplier
- 2 76% Demand increased
- 3 26% Seasonality

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF SHELTER MATERIALS FROM OPERATIONAL TRADERS

Shelter Materials	Available (% KIs)	Limited availability (% KIs)	Unavailable (% KIs)	Median time for stock to last (days)
Nails	83%	9%	6%	19
Plastic sheeting	83%	12%	5%	18
Rope	76%	16%	6%	19
Shovel	82%	10%	6%	18
Tent	22%	56%	21%	12
Tarpaulin	32%	53%	14%	16

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION LABOUR⁷

% of assessed KIs by the reported availability of skilled construction labour in all markets:⁷

Mason	92%
Carpenter	83%
Welder	77%
Plumber	75%
Painter	58%
Electrician	54%
Rodbuster	54%

% of assessed KIs by the reported availability of unskilled construction labour in all markets:⁷

Clean up labor	92%
Jobsite helper	90%
Dig trenches	85%
Erect scaffolding	38%

100% of KIs in Pashtun Zarghun district reported that the shelter materials price had increased since the earthquake, compared to the average over assessed areas of 52%. Overall, **reporting shows an increase in price of shelter materials compared to the first round (10 Oct), and second round (25 Oct)** where only 4% and 26% of KIs reported an increase in prices. This is reflected in the recorded prices of certain items, with e.g. the average cost of a tent increasing from 950 AFN to 1200 AFN to 2000 AFN between the three rounds of assessment.



Earthquake Response Market Assessment - Round 3

Market Supply

3-14 December 2023



LOCATION OF MAIN SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD, NFIs AND SHELTER MATERIALS

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



81% Province capital city

19% Same district

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



77% Province capital city

23% Same district

Proportion of retailer KIs by reported location of their main supplier of **shelter materials**:

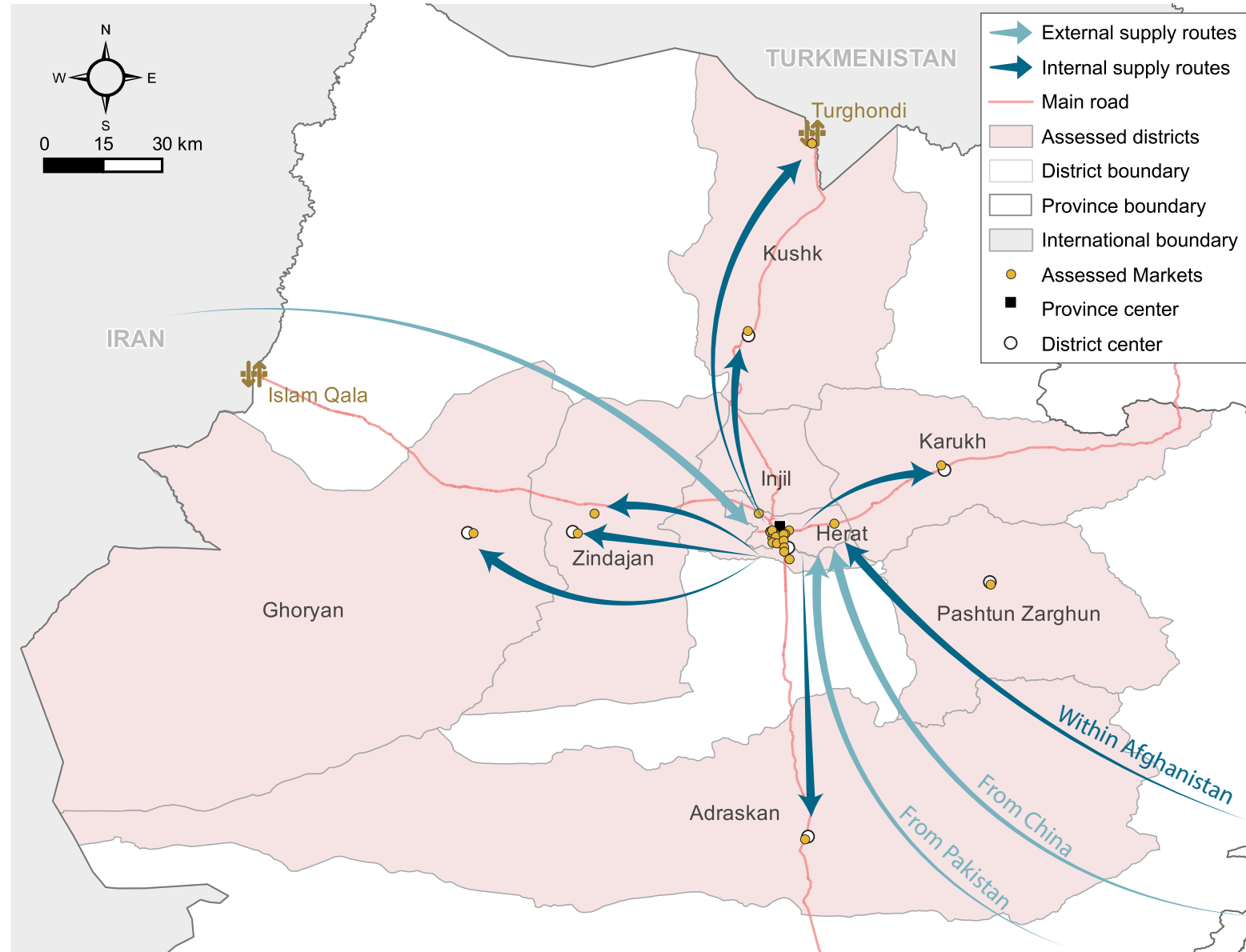


94% Province capital city

2% Same district

4% Other

FOOD & NFI SUPPLY ROUTE MAP





Earthquake Response Market Assessment - Round 3

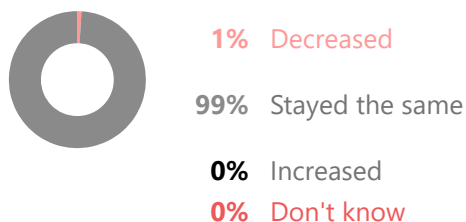
Traders and Financial Service Presence, Access

3-14 December 2023



TRADER PRESENCE IN THE MARKET

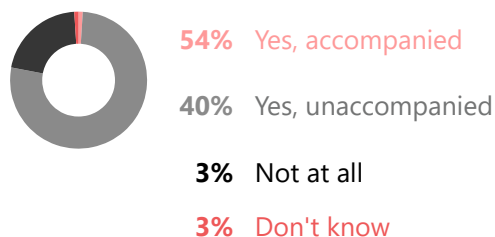
KIs perceived the following changes in the number of shops that have been open since the earthquake:



Overall, **94% of KIs reported that all or almost all traders usually present in the market were currently open.** This is reflected in the increased percentage of KIs reporting that the number of shops open had stayed the same or increased since the earthquake: from 58% to 94% between the three rounds of assessment. However, this was lowest in Zindajan district (64%).

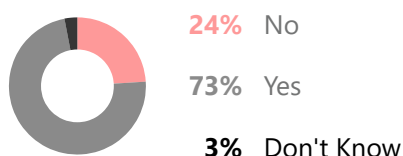
WOMEN'S ACCESS

Proportion of KIs reporting women were able to safely access the market:



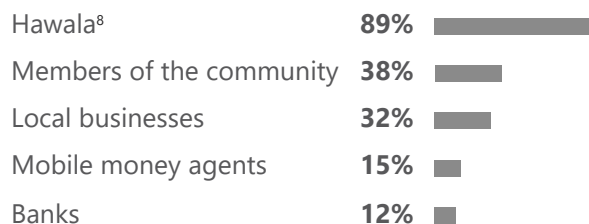
CASH ACCESS

Proportion of KIs reporting that cash was accessible:



PRESENCE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Proportion of KIs reporting on the presence of functional money transfer services in or near their market area, by type:⁷



ENDNOTES

1. Herat indicative values are based on the third round of the Earthquake Response Market Assessment on 3 December 2023.
2. The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a seven-person Afghan household for one month.
3. The numbers indicate KIs reporting per each type of market; individual KIs may have reported on more than 1 type of market.
4. Pulses in this table are calculated as the median (normalised) price of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.
5. Considering the rapid nature of the earthquake response market assessment and to keep the tool length precise, we have only asked for stock and re-stock for limited items.
6. Safe water refers here to 105 liters of clean drinking water for a family of 7 members. This mostly refers to 20L Jugs.
7. Respondents could report multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.
8. The hawala system is an informal method of transferring money, including across borders, through a network of money brokers. Hawala is used today as an alternative remittance channel that exists outside of traditional banking systems.

METHODOLOGY

Markets were selected purposively with the consultation of REACH field teams in order to target markets that were most likely to be used by populations and responders in affected areas. Markets were then classified as 'large', 'medium', or 'small' by field teams. For 'small' markets, 1 KII retailer was conducted. For 'medium' and 'large' markets, 3 to 6 KIIs were conducted, depending on accessibility to vendors. Enumerators sampled a mixture of wholesalers and retailers. KIs were asked questions about the days since the 7 October 2023 earthquake. All reported findings are based on data collected from the operational and partially operational shops.

About the REACH Initiative

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, 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](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).