

Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative

March 2018



WASH Cluster
Water Sanitation Hygiene

CMWG

Intersector Cash
and Market
Working Group

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

INTRODUCTION

This is the first monthly factsheet for the Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI). The JMMI has been launched by REACH in collaboration with the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster and Cash and Market Working Group (CMWG) to support humanitarian actors and with the objective of harmonizing price monitoring among all cash actors in Yemen. The JMMI will incorporate information on market systems including price levels and supply chains. The basket of goods to be assessed comprises eight Non-Food Item (NFI) products, including fuel, water and hygiene products, reflecting programmatic areas of the WASH Cluster.

METHODOLOGY

Data collection for the first round of the JMMI took place between the 21 and 27 March 2018. Enumerators from seven partner organisations collected data in 29 districts across 11 governorates, through Key Informant (KI) interviews. The sample of vendors was selected from markets of various sizes in both urban and rural areas. The data collected has been analysed in comparison with the price quotations recorded during the Multi-Agency Joint Cash Study in September 2017 and previous Weekly Price Monitoring Initiative, which began during the economic blockade of Yemen in November 2017. Findings of this analysis will be presented in the form of both this factsheet and a supplementary dataset, published on a monthly basis.

KEY FINDINGS

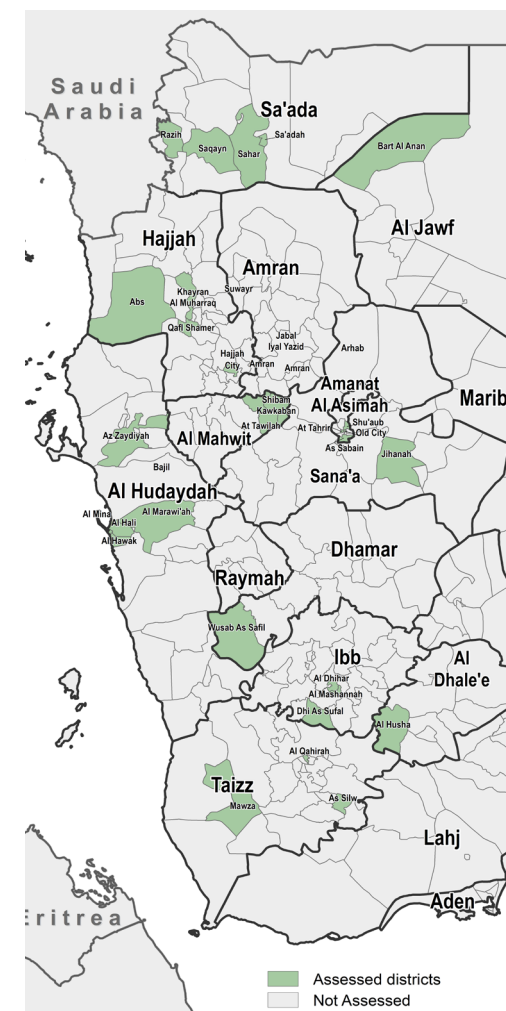
PRICE MONITORING OVERVIEW

- Price levels of the basket of goods have decreased and stabilised following the end of the economic blockade imposed in November 2017. Nevertheless, as of March 2018, price levels for all goods remain above the baseline prices recorded in September 2017.
- Price and diesel prices are generally more consistent than other prices across all governorates assessed, with a variance of 17% between the highest and lowest median fuel prices calculated per governorate.
- While hygiene price levels were generally stable, Al Jawf recorded the highest prices for soap and laundry powder, with price levels 143% and 39% above the respective national medians.
- Price inflation remains the primary challenge cited by vendor KIs across all districts assessed, as was the case in September 2017, while concerns of instability and insecurity, and liquidity shortages, were highlighted by vendor KIs in some areas of the country.

SUPPLY OVERVIEW

- Al Hudaydah and Marib remain the primary supply points for fuel vendors in the north west of Yemen, while vendors for water and hygiene products generally source their products from suppliers within their own governorate.
- Vendor KIs in Amanat Al Asimah and Sana'a noted the longest restocking times for fuel, requiring at least 11 days to restock petrol or diesel items.
- Vendor KIs in Al Hudaydah consistently recorded some of the lowest average price quotations and restocking times across all product groups, which is likely due to the proximity to a major port.
- Despite a shift in the line of conflict, fuel vendor KIs in Al Dhale'e continue to have some of the shortest restocking times in Yemen, as was the case in September 2017.
- Restocking times for water and hygiene products were more consistent than fuel. Vendor KIs in Ibb had the shortest restocking time, stating they could restock within one day.

ASSESSED DISTRICTS



MONTHLY FIGURES

7 Participating partners
29 Districts assessed
164 Vendors surveyed

EXCHANGE RATES

1 US Dollar (USD)
is equivalent to
250 Yemeni Riyal (YER)
Source: XE.com

PARTNERS

CYF	LFD
Old City	ROC
SDF	YFCA

ASSESSED ITEMS

Petrol	Water trucking	Soap
Diesel	Treated water	Laundry powder
	Bottled water	Sanitary napkins

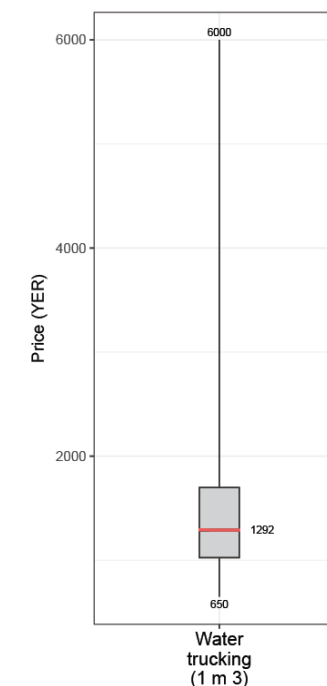
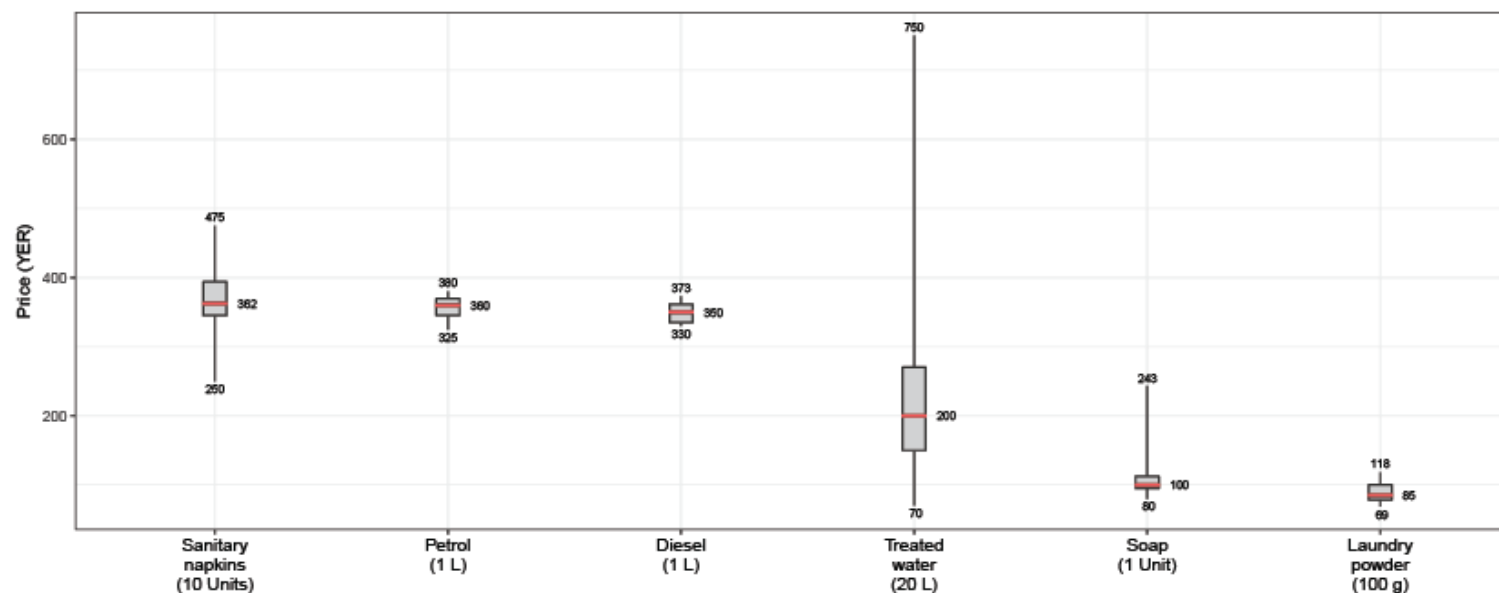
PRICE MONITORING OVERVIEW FOR YEMEN

MEDIAN PRICE PER GOVERNORATE (IN YER)

Governorate	Petrol (1L)	Diesel (1L)	Sanitary napkins (10 Units)	Treated water (20L)	Bottled water (0.75L)	Soap (1 Unit)	Laundry powder (100g)	Water trucking (1m³)
Al Dhale'e	330	380	475	NA	100	100	100	900
Al Hudaydah	350	360	305	135	100	100	69	1,000
Al Jawf	358	325	NA	270	100	243	118	1,100
Al Mahwit	358	358	345	750	79	100	78	1,550
Amanat Al Asimah	350	355	375	150	70	85	80	650
Dhamar	365	365	250	70	100	90	75	1,750
Hajjah	373	365	375	200	100	100	100	2,500
Ibb	330	330	350	400	100	100	90	6,000
Sa'ada	370	374	345	270	95	159	105	1,250
Sana'a	340	375	430	180	80	80	NA	NA
Taizz	330	335	400	NA	125	125	80	1,333

Note: red indicates the highest median price; and green the lowest.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRICES ACROSS GOVERNORATES



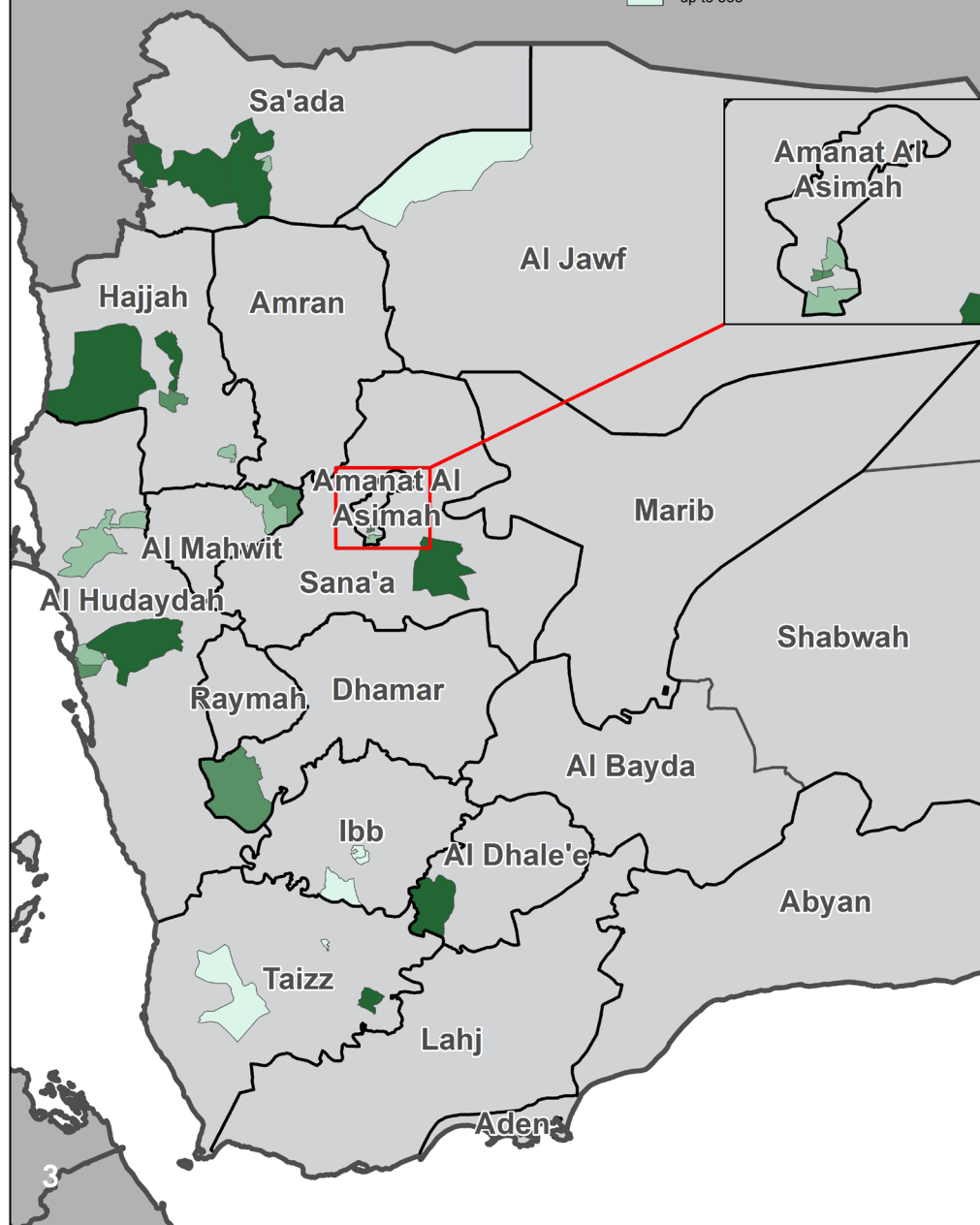
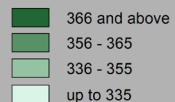
MEDIAN PRICE PER ITEM SINCE SEPTEMBER 2017 (IN YER)

Item	September (baseline)	October	November	December	January	February	March	Changes (March/Sept) in %
Diesel	235	NA	394	333	360	358	350	+48.94
Petrol	275	NA	349	355	370	360	360	+30.91
Treated water	NA	NA	175	200	145	150	200	NA
Bottled water	70	NA	100	100	100	100	100	+42.86
Soap	88	NA	NA	NA	98	100	100	+13.64
Sanitary napkins	250	NA	NA	NA	NA	338	363	+45.00
Laundry powder	50	NA	NA	NA	125	93	85	+70.00
Water trucking	825	NA	1700	1800	2000	2175	1292	+56.55

Data recorded in September 2017 for the Inter-Agency Joint Cash Study was used as the baseline for this analysis. The table above illustrates the rise in price levels observed during the economic blockade in November last year. While prices stabilised and then decreased over the past three months, price levels have not returned to the pre-blockade levels.

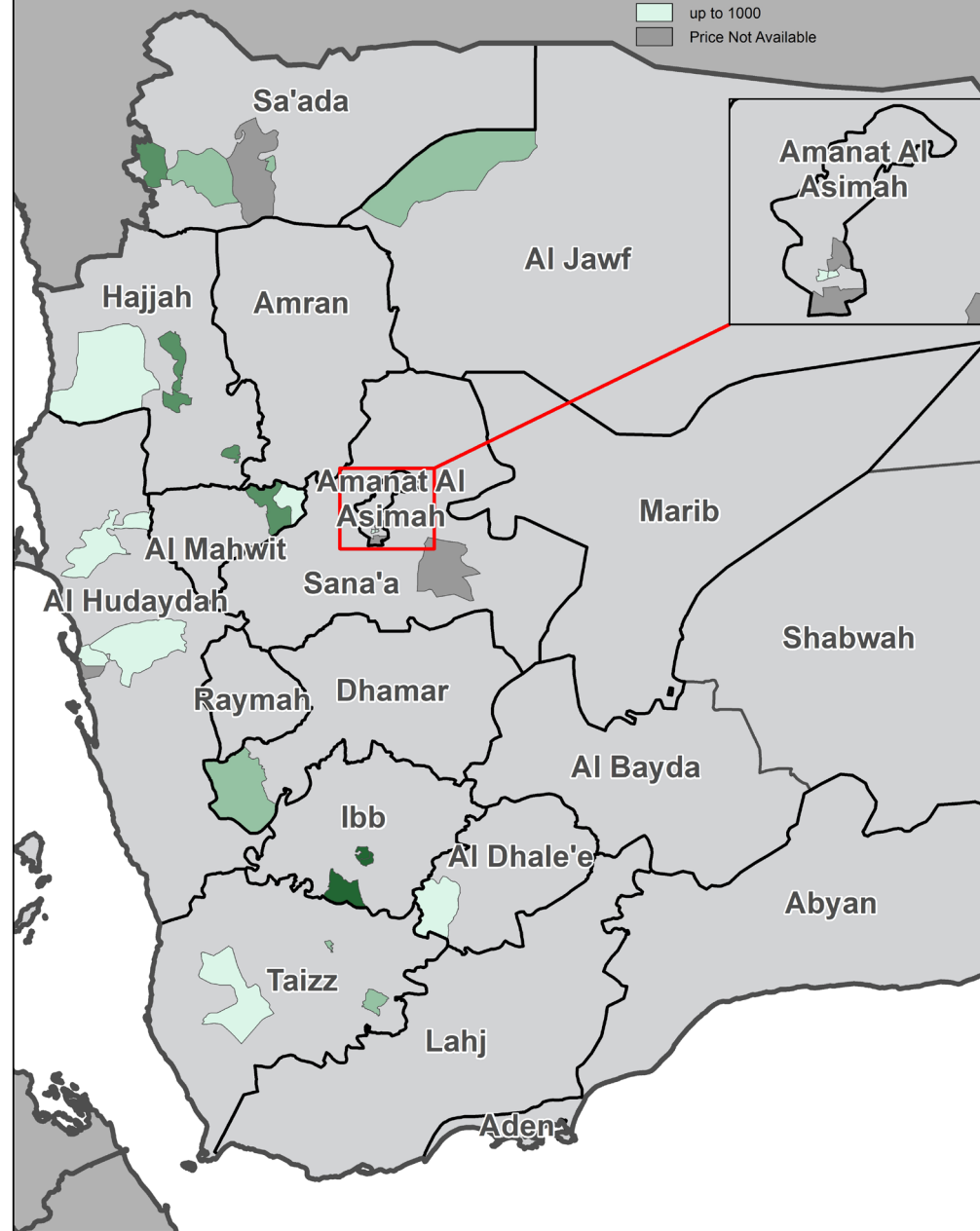
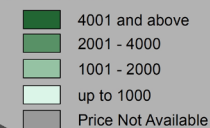
Petrol Prices

Median price of Petrol per district per liter (YER)



Water Trucking Prices

Median price of Water trucking per district (YER)
per cubic meter



SUPPLY OVERVIEW FOR YEMEN

AVERAGE RESTOCKING TIME REPORTED (DAYS)

Governorate	Diesel	Petrol	Bottled water	Treated water	Soap	Sanitary napkins	Laundry powder
Al Dhale'e	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Al Hudaydah	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Al Jawf	11	11	2	2	2	N/A	2
Al Mahwit	3	4	2	1	2	2	2
Amanat Al Asimah	12	13	1	1	4	2	4
Dhamar	3	3	1	N/A	1	1	2
Hajjah	6	4	2	1	2	2	2
Ibb	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
Sa'ada	8	8	2	1	3	5	3
Sana'a	19	11	N/A	2	5	4	5
Taizz	3	5	2	N/A	1	3	1

OVERVIEW FOR WATER TRUCKING

67% of interviewed water trucking vendors stated that they charged additional delivery costs based upon the distance between the water source and delivery point.

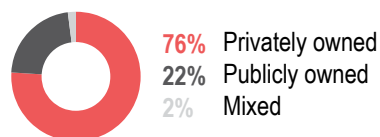
73% of water trucking vendors stated that they sell non-chlorinated water.

The median distance from the water source to the point of delivery for the assessed vendor KIs was **7 km**.

The median capacity (in cubic meters) of the primary water truck operated by the vendor KIs was **6m³**.

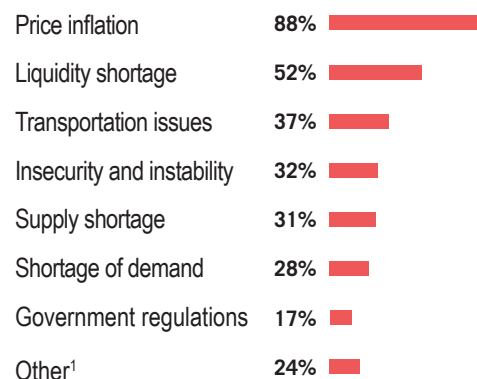
Proportion of water vendor KIs reporting sourcing water from each type of source: **94%** from a pumping station or a borehole and **6%** from water spring.

Proportion of water vendor KIs who acquired their water from privately owned or publicly owned sources:



CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

Respondents were asked to state which challenges they were currently facing in buying and selling their products. The figures below represent the proportion of vendor KIs who stated that they were facing each challenge:



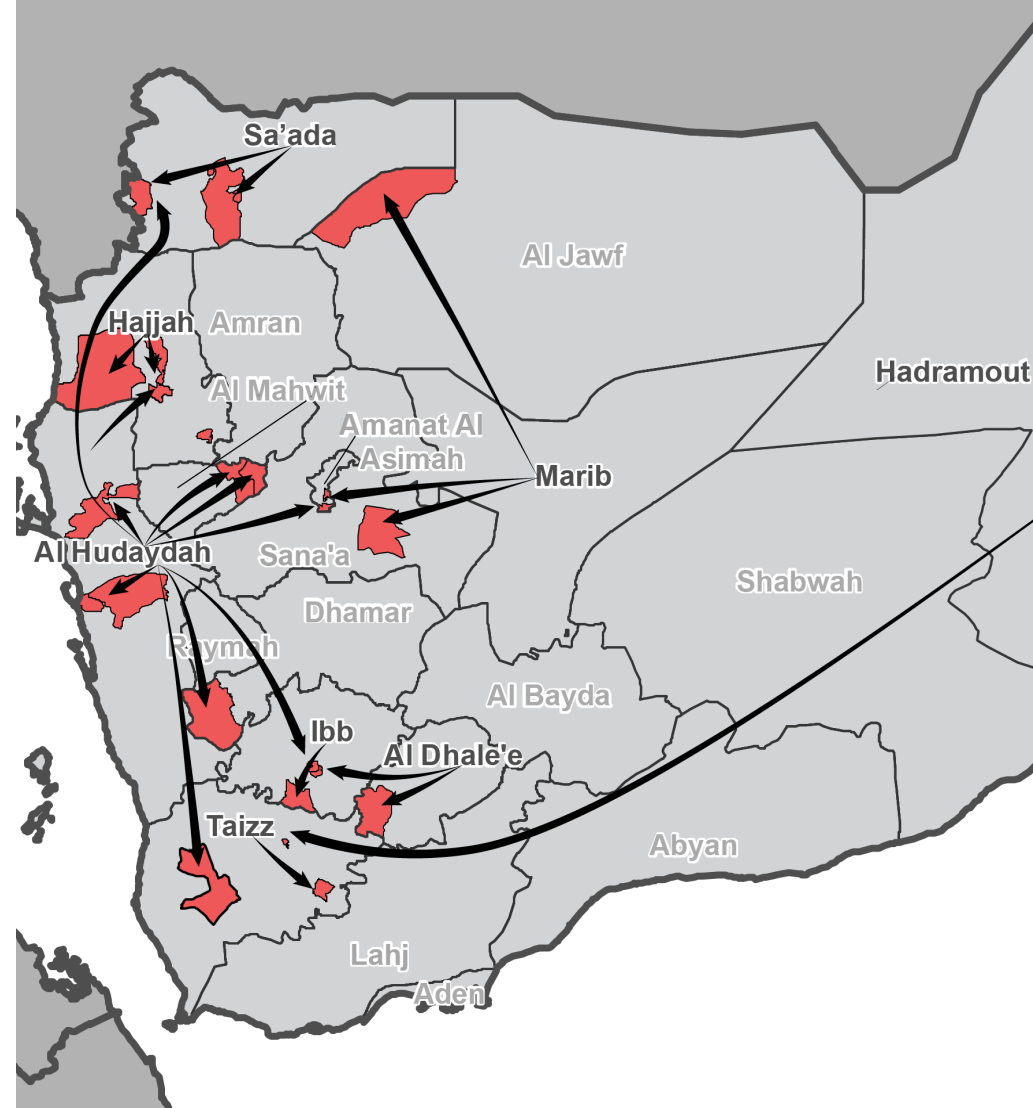
1. Other challenges mentioned include a decline of market functions and instability of prices over time

Petrol and Diesel main supply chains in assessed districts

Supply Destination

Assessed district

Governorate of origin



APPENDIX

WHAT IS THE INTERSECTOR CASH AND MARKET WORKING GROUP?

With the emerging crisis in 2014, the humanitarian actors in Yemen started using cash and vouchers as a response tool to meet the immediate needs of the Yemeni population. The CMWG was established to provide a platform for discussion and setting standards/recommendations on cash and market-based responses (inclusive of cash and vouchers) for the people in need in Yemen. REACH and the CMWG have worked together on joint assessments since the Inter-Agency Joint Cash Study published in December 2017².

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON METHODOLOGY

To be included in the Yemen Market Monitoring Initiative, markets must be either a single permanent market, or a local community where multiple shops are located in close proximity to one another. Where possible, markets are selected when there is at least one wholesaler operating in the market and there are enough shops located in the market to provide a minimum of three price quotations per product.

Participating organisations train their enumerators on the Market Monitoring methodology and data collection tools using standard training materials developed by REACH. Each month, enumerators conduct key informant interviews with market vendors to collect price quotations for each product from a minimum of two markets, from which a median price is identified.

Two separate data collection tools are used within the JMMI framework. The general tool is used for all products, except for water trucking which has a separate tool tailored to the unique market mechanisms of the product. For the general tool, enumerators record the location and type of market before obtaining price quotations. In addition to price levels, vendors are asked to state the current availability of the product in their local area, the location of their supplier, the number of days it takes to restock the product in their local area, and the constraints which they are facing in purchasing and retailing the item in question. The water trucking tool has additional questions, to gauge the impact of delivery distance upon price level.

Following data collection, REACH compiles and cleans all partners' data, normalising prices and cross-checking outliers. The cleaned data is then analysed by commodity and by governorate. Prices are divided into quartiles and boxplots are created to help CMWG members understand the distribution of prices. To illustrate local variations in prices and availability, REACH uses the collected data to map the price of each type of item in each district. The cleaned data sets are available on the REACH Resource Centre and are distributed to all participating partners, as well as to interested clusters and the broader humanitarian community.

2. REACH, Inter-agency Joint Cash Study: Market Functionality and Community Perception of Cash Based Assistance. December 2017 (link : <https://bit.ly/2FqH4UV>).

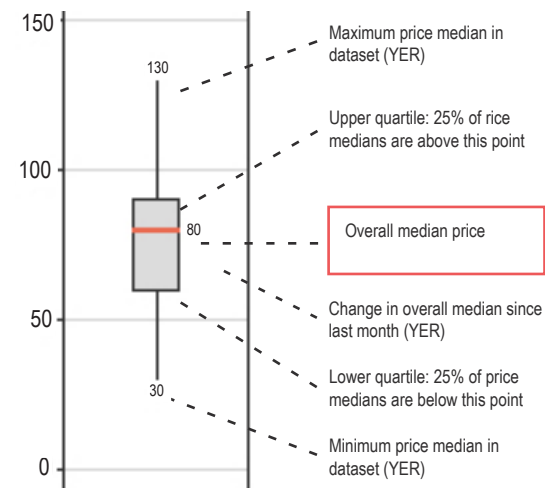
LIMITATIONS

Due to issues of access and security across Yemen, the districts included in the JMMI will vary on a monthly basis, and as such there are a limited number of districts for which trends can be assessed over time. Governorate level data is composed of the respective districts assessed in a given month, and so the findings are not representative of markets in all areas of the governorate. Finally, the market monitoring process has been coordinated remotely by REACH, which inherently presents further challenges in terms of enumerator training, consistent communication and verification of results which are harder to resolve from afar.

CALCULATION OF MEDIAN CHEAPEST PRICE

The aggregated median price table is calculated by taking the median of the minimum-reported prices of a governorate's districts. In turn, the minimum-reported prices for each district are calculated from the average of the minimum reported prices of the constituent markets assessed.

HOW TO READ A BOXPLOT



ABOUT REACH

REACH is a joint initiative that 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. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, please visit our website at www.reach-initiative.org, contact us directly at yemen@reach-initiative.org or follow us on Twitter at [@REACH_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).