

# SYRIA CRISIS: MONTHLY MARKET MONITORING

## PRINCIPLES OF THE JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ENGLISH

## Key Principles of the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative

1. The aim of the joint market monitoring initiative is to ensure collaboration and information sharing between CBR partners, reducing overlap and participant assessment fatigue.
2. The initiative is dependent on all committed partners carrying out the data collection at the same time each month and submitting the data to REACH by the assigned deadline.
3. In the event of an absence in the team, cover must be found to ensure the data collection goes ahead, or REACH and the CBR-TWG coordinator must be informed that there will be a gap in coverage that month.
4. Data collection can be integrated into wider market monitoring as required by each partner as long as the basic SMEB data is submitted using the REACH methodology and questionnaire.
5. Data will be analyzed and compiled by REACH then shared throughout the CBR-TWG partners and WoS networks for use by all interested CBR actors.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is this initiative, and why we are doing this?

The market monitoring system is a project that each partner will contribute to every month. Collecting data on a monthly basis will allow humanitarian actors to better understand how markets in Syria are functioning and reacting to the crisis.

Each month, after each partner has collected price and stock levels, REACH and the CBR – TWG will analyze this information and disseminate the findings to NGOs working in northern Syria. These NGOs are already implementing or will implement programs for which they need to know the average prices and stock levels for basic commodities. Depending on those findings, NGOs will be able to identify which kind of humanitarian assistance is best for the populations who depend on those markets.

### 2. When is data collected each month?

Each month, the data collection will happen for a period of one week. Normally, this period will be during the third week of each month. REACH and the CBR – TWG will send an updated schedule for data collection and data cleaning each month.

### 3. Who is collecting the data?

Field staff from different organizations collect the data every month. These organizations are members of the CBR – TWG and have agreed to participate jointly in the Market Monitoring Initiative.

It is essential that the data collection happens for each partner during the same agreed period of time. This will make the data analysis stronger and more reliable, will enable us to use a single exchange rate, and will ensure that partners' data sets can be directly compared to each other.

#### **4. How and where is data being collected?**

Data is collected via the KOBO platform every month. New questionnaires are uploaded each month to make sure field staff has access to the latest updated forms. REACH and the CBR have set up a CBR KOBO account for partners participating in this project. Partners will receive access to this account to download the KOBO form and all uploaded data for cleaning.

In cases where enumerators cannot use KOBO, paper forms will be available. However, partners will have to input all information into the KOBO web interface or mobile app once it has been recorded on paper.

Data is being collected in many sub-districts of northern Syria. Coverage of the different sub-districts has been agreed with the different partners. This coverage is always subject to changes in the security context.

#### **5. What do I do if there is any delay or security issue during data collection?**

As soon as your field teams identify a delay in data collection or a security context that prevents your field teams from accessing the areas of the markets, communicate it immediately to both REACH and the CBR – TWG coordinator. They will then be able to adjust the coverage accordingly for that month and keep track of ongoing incidents.

#### **6. Who cleans the data?**

Raw data will be sent to REACH who will clean the data before analysis. Any anomalies in the data will be checked with the partner.

Cleaning the data implies checking the entries of the data, identifying any anomalies, and correcting all values that need to be corrected before further analysis.

#### **7. Who analyzes the data?**

REACH will compile and analyze the data on behalf of all the partners and the CBR – TWG. This will allow it to collate and aggregate all the information from the different sub-districts and partners. REACH will proceed to create box plots, maps, and a monthly report on behalf of all members.

#### **8. What do I need to do if I – or any of my field staff - can't upload the form?**

Please contact REACH directly at [christopher.paci@reach-initiative.org](mailto:christopher.paci@reach-initiative.org) CC Ana Garcia ([ana.garcia@reach-initiative.org](mailto:ana.garcia@reach-initiative.org))

#### **9. Who can I contact if I have questions during the process?**

Each field team will communicate directly with their respective organizations during the process of data collection. However, if there are any questions about the process, please contact the following people:

- During data collection (challenges in data collection, questions about the form and/or security updates, delays, technical issues with access to KOBO, etc): [abdullah.fardous@reach-initiative.org](mailto:abdullah.fardous@reach-initiative.org), Noama Fawakhiirjy ([antakya.nsa@acted.org](mailto:antakya.nsa@acted.org)), and CC Ana Garcia ([ana.garcia@reach-initiative.org](mailto:ana.garcia@reach-initiative.org))
- On coverage: Ana Garcia ([ana.garcia@reach-initiative.org](mailto:ana.garcia@reach-initiative.org)), Jen McAteer ([Jennifer.McAteer@savethechildren.org](mailto:Jennifer.McAteer@savethechildren.org))
- On forms, questionnaires, and the data cleaning process: Chris Paci ([christopher.paci@reach-initiative.org](mailto:christopher.paci@reach-initiative.org)) CC Ana Garcia ([ana.garcia@reach-initiative.org](mailto:ana.garcia@reach-initiative.org))