AFGHANISTAN JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE (JMMI)

10 - 23 January 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 ninth round of the JMMI was collected between 10 and 23 January, in 29 provinces of Afghanistan.

19	participating agencies
29	assessed provinces
233	assessed marketplaces
730	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

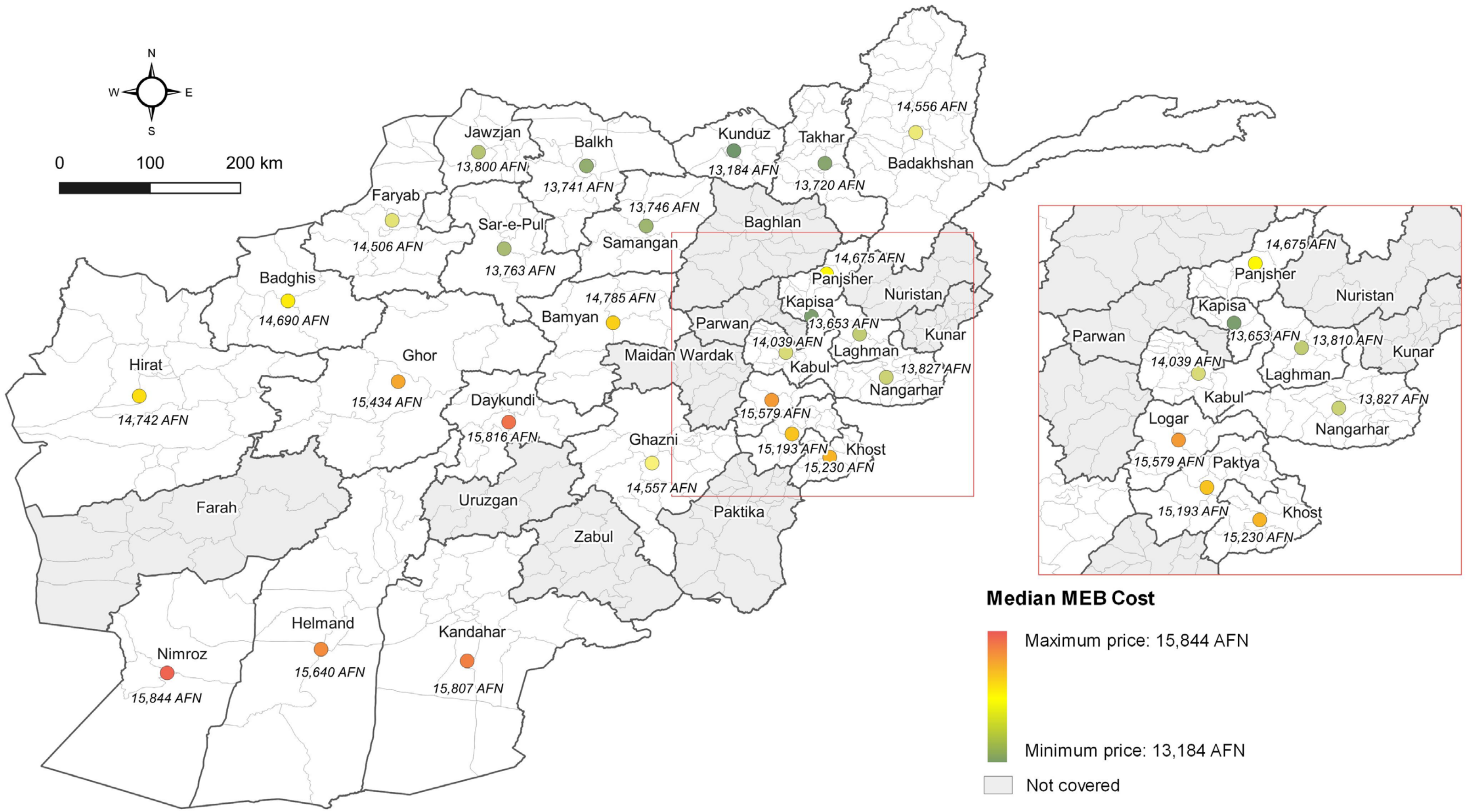
AADA
ACF
ACTD
ACTED
Caritas Germany (with RCDC and VOPOFA)
CRDSA
DRC
HAADAF
IOM
IRC
JACK
JIA
Medair
OHW
Save the Children International
WHH
World Vision

Median cost of MEB[1]
14,119 AFN
183.60 USD[2]
▲ 62 +0%[3,4]

Median cost of Food Basket
5,303 AFN
68.96 USD[2]
▲ 28 +0%[3,4]

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



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.*

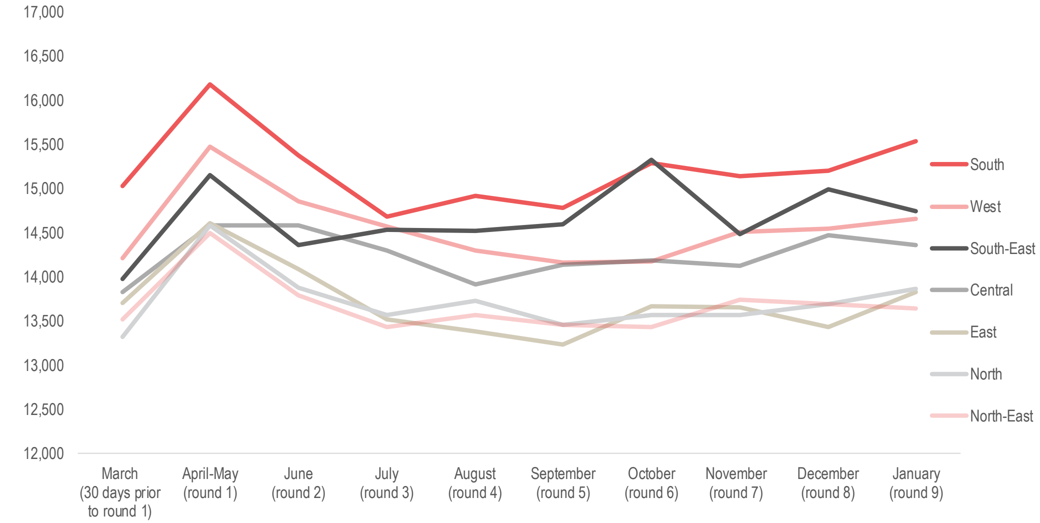
**** The standard fixed CVWG price for toothbrush (child) and women's underwear was used in the calculation of the MEB, as these items are not monitored as part of the JMMI.*

USD/AFN buy rate (parallel market)
77.00 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 8TH ROUND (DECEMBER 2020), AT REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL[5]

Province	MEB in AFN	MEB in USD	Change since 8th round	MEB (Round 8) in AFN	MEB (Round 8) in USD
North	13,862	180.26	▲ 1%	13,696	178.10
Balkh	13,741	178.69	▲ 1%	13,525	175.87
Faryab	14,506	188.63	▲ 1%	14,373	186.91
Jawzjan	13,800	179.45	▲ 1%	13,704	178.20
Samangan	13,746	178.75	▼ 2%	13,949	181.39
Sar-e-Pul	13,763	178.98	▲ 1%	13,695	178.09
North-East	13,640	177.37	▼ 0%[4]	13,691	178.04
Badakhshan	14,556	189.28	N/A	14,447	187.86
Baghlan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kunduz	13,184	171.45	▼ 2%	13,385	174.06
Takhar	13,720	178.41	N/A	13,862	180.26
East	13,835	179.91	▲ 2%	13,436	174.72
Laghman	13,810	179.58	▼ 0%[4]	13,836	179.93
Nangarhar	13,827	179.81	▲ 3%	13,420	174.51
South-East	14,746	191.76	▼ 1%	14,992	194.96
Ghazni	14,557	189.30	▲ 2%	14,346	186.56
Khost	15,230	198.05	▲ 7%	14,260	185.44
Paktya	15,193	197.57	▼ 4%	15,853	206.15
South	15,535	202.01	▲ 2%	15,210	197.79
Helmand	15,640	203.38	▲ 3%	15,213	197.83
Kandahar	15,807	205.55	▲ 2%	15,525	201.88
Nimroz	15,844	206.04	N/A	N/A	N/A
Uruzgan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
West	14,656	190.59	▲ 1%	14,548	189.17
Badghis	14,690	191.03	▼ 1%	14,751	191.82
Farah	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ghor	15,434	200.70	▲ 2%	15,182	197.42
Herat	14,742	191.70	▲ 1%	14,575	189.53
Central	14,363	186.78	▼ 1%	14,475	188.23
Bamyan	14,785	192.26	▼ 1%	14,802	192.48
Daykundi	15,816	205.67	▲ 2%	15,655	203.58
Kabul	14,039	182.57	▼ 1%	14,192	184.55
Kapisa	13,653	177.54	▼ 3%	14,027	182.41
Logar	15,579	202.59	▲ 1%	15,441	200.79
Maidan Wardak	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Panjsher	14,675	190.83	▼ 8%	15,821	205.74
Parwan	N/A	N/A	N/A	13,598	176.83

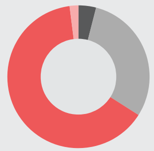
NATIONWIDE MEDIAN ITEM PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW AND CHANGE REPORTED SINCE THE 8TH JMMI ROUND (DECEMBER 2020)

Item	Unit	Price in AFN	Price in USD	Change since 8th round	Price (Round 8) in AFN	Price (Round 8) in USD
Food Items						
Wheat flour (local)	1 kg	33	0.42	▼ 3%	34	0.43
Wheat flour (imported)	1 kg	35	0.46	▼ 3%	36	0.47
Local rice	1 kg	50	0.65	*no change*	50	0.65
Vegetable oil	1 L	100	1.18	*no change*	97	1.18
Pulses[6]	1 kg	60	0.81	▲ 9%	55	0.72
Salt	1 kg	13	0.18	*no change*	13	0.18
Sugar	1 kg	50	0.65	*no change*	50	0.65
Tomatoes	1 kg	40	0.43	▼ 3%	50	0.52
Potatoes	1 kg	20	0.24	▼ 10%	22	0.26
Onions	1 kg	18	0.25	*no change*	18	0.25
Eggs	1 egg	9	0.09	▼ 11%	10	0.10
NFIs						
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	1 pc	90	1.23	▲ 5%	85	1.17
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	60	0.78	*no change*	60	0.78
Other NFIs						
Safe (drinking) water without jerry can	20 L	60	0.78	*no change*	60	0.78
Firewood	1 kg	13	0.17	*no change*	13	0.17
Kindling[7]	1 kg	14	0.18	*no change*	14	0.18
Cooking fuel	1 kg	55	0.72	*no change*	55	0.72
Jerry can (calculated)*	1 pc	170	1.63	▲ 174%	62	1.63

** Due to changes in how water and jerry can prices were collected in Round 8 compared to Round 9, further analysis is needed to reconcile trends, and as such, prices are not reported here. This will be addressed in the next round (Round 10).*

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:



4% Decreased

30% Stayed the same

64% Increased

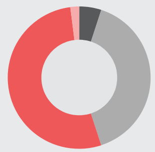
2% Don't know

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

1. 64% Seasonality
2. 58% Increased cost of supplies
3. 42% Increased transportation costs

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:



5% Decreased

40% Stayed the same

52% Increased

2% Don't know

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

1. 64% Seasonality
2. 54% Increased cost of supplies
3. 48% Increased transportation costs

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

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

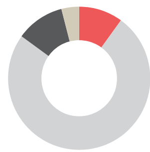
- 4% Imported from abroad
- 53% Different province
- 31% Province capital city
- 5% Same province
- 7% Same district
- 0% Other

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

- 5% Imported from abroad
- 52% Different province
- 30% Province capital city
- 5% Same province
- 8% Same district
- 0% Other

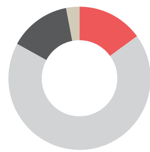
CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD ITEMS AND NFIs[9]

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



- 10% Decreased
- 75% Stayed the same
- 11% Increased
- 4% Didn't know

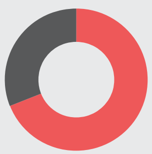
Proportion of KIs reporting a change in the number of NFI suppliers in the 30 days prior to data collection:



- 15% Decreased
- 68% Stayed the same
- 14% 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:

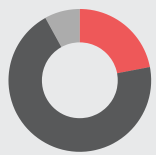


- 66% Barriers to access reported
- 34% No barriers reported

Among those KIs reporting people face barriers to accessing markets, the most frequently cited reasons were:[14]

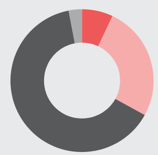
1. 29% Financial barriers
2. 26% Fear of exposure to COVID-19, and public health restrictions
3. 22% Insecurity travelling to the market

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



- 22% Security context may prevent access to the marketplace
- 70% No security related barriers
- 8% Don't know, prefer not to answer

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



- 7% No access at all
- 26% Accompanied access
- 64% Unaccompanied access
- 3% Don't know

In the East and North-East, 90% and 81% of KIs respectively reported consumers faced barriers to accessing markets in the 30 days prior to data collection, which are relatively high percentage compared to the national average of 66%.

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS FROM SUPPLIERS[11]

Item	Available (% KIs)	Limited (% KIs)	None (% KIs)
Food Items			
Wheat flour (local)	92%	7%	1%
Wheat flour (imported)	96%	3%	1%
Local rice	96%	4%	1%
Vegetable oil	98%	2%	1%
Pulses[6]	96%	3%	1%
Salt	98%	2%	0%
Sugar	98%	2%	0%
Tomatoes	96%	3%	1%
Potatoes	96%	3%	1%
Onions	96%	4%	1%
Eggs	98%	2%	0%
NFIs			
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	96%	3%	1%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	97%	2%	1%
Toothpaste	95%	5%	0%
Toothbrush (adult)	96%	4%	0%
Sanitary pad	96%	3%	1%
Washing detergent	98%	2%	0%
Bleach	96%	3%	1%
Other NFIs			
Safe (drinking) water*	93%	1%	6%
Firewood	98%	1%	1%
Kindling[7]	97%	2%	1%
Cooking fuel	99%	0%	1%

**61% 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)	36%	49%	15%
Wheat flour (imported)	35%	51%	14%
Local rice	37%	50%	11%
Vegetable oil	30%	58%	12%
Pulses[6]	39%	56%	13%
Salt	11%	83%	5%
Sugar	29%	66%	5%
Tomatoes	19%	30%	50%
Potatoes	39%	51%	8%
Onions	28%	65%	7%
Eggs	49%	32%	19%
NFIs			
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	7%	72%	19%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	25%	71%	3%
Toothpaste	21%	71%	6%
Toothbrush (adult)	18%	74%	7%
Sanitary pad	13%	78%	5%
Washing detergent	19%	74%	5%
Bleach	13%	77%	10%
Other NFIs			
Safe (drinking) water	15%	48%	34%
Firewood	78%	16%	5%
Kindling	71%	21%	7%
Cooking fuel	67%	31%	2%

***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

4% 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:[14]

1. **33%** Financial constraints and inability to purchase supplies
2. **33%** Limited availability of imported items
3. **22%** Difficulties in transporting items

58% 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:[14]

1. **37%** Roadblocks
2. **33%** Conflict
3. **31%** Seasonality

Most frequently reported food items difficult to restock and obtain in the 30 days prior to data collection:[14]

1. **67%** Vegetable oil
2. **59%** Wheat flour (imported)
3. **48%** Wheat flour (local)

Most frequently reported NFIs difficult to restock and obtain in the 30 days prior to data collection:[14]

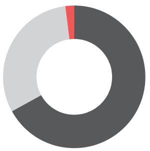
1. **18%** Cooking fuel
2. **11%** Kindling
3. **7%** Firewood

****This finding is driven by a considerably high regional reporting of road-based difficulties in the North-East and South-East, where 73% and 80% of KIs reported having experienced challenges in restocking their supplies due to road-based transportation difficulties. Round 9 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

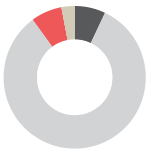
TRADER PRESENCE IN THE MARKET

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



- 67% All shops open
- 31% At least half of shops open
- 2% 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:



- 7% Increased
- 83% Stayed the same
- 7% Decreased
- 3% Don't know

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

1. 53% COVID-19
2. 52% Financial constraints
3. 43% Lack of commodities provided by the suppliers

TRADERS' COPING MECHANISMS AND RELIANCE ON CREDIT

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

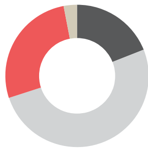
- 33% Borrow and rely on credit
- 21% Restrict stocks
- 18% Limit expenses
- 18% Spend savings
- 3% Increase working hours
- 7% Other

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]

- 46% Yes, to purchase commodities
- 4% Yes, to pay rent
- 0% Yes, to pay salaries
- 50% No

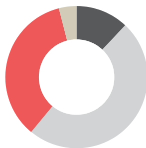
CONSUMERS, PAYMENT, & CREDIT

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



- 19% Increased
- 51% Stayed the same
- 27% 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:



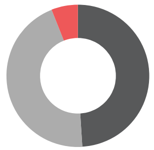
- 12% Decreased
- 49% Stayed the same
- 35% Increased
- 4% Don't know

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

1. 66% Cash
2. 46% Credit
3. 4% Barter
4. 2% 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:



- 44% Two or more types
- 46% One type
- 10% None

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

1. 82% Hawala
2. 41% Banks
3. 13% 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. 24% Family and friends
3. 6% 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	32	35	50	110	65	100	45	15	50	60	24	20	10	100	20	45	50	50	25	60	50	80	11	13	55
Balkh	29	35	50	100	60	100	40	15	55	50	20	20	10	110	15	40	45	50	25	65	60	N/A	11	14	55
Faryab	34	36	55	100	75	120	53	10	55	70	27	20	12	83	55	65	70	53	35	83	43	N/A	12	15	60
Jawzjan	32	35	50	120	70	100	40	13	50	50	22	17	10	90	20	50	45	55	25	60	30	N/A	13	14	60
Samangan	34	35	43	100	60	100	50	27	50	70	25	20	9	75	30	50	50	50	30	47	60	N/A	9	11	55
Sar-e-Pul	30	34	45	110	70	100	45	10	50	50	25	20	8	120	20	40	50	40	30	60	30	80	10	10	60
North-East	33	36	43	100	70	100	46	15	50	50	20	14	10	73	20	40	50	70	25	70	50	N/A	9	11	60
Badakhshan	33	38	43	100	86	93	50	25	55	60	19	14	10	75	23	40	40	93	30	70	N/A	N/A	9	11	63
Baghlan	33	34	40	105	80	100	50	15	50	40	19	10	8	N/A	20	25	50	50	20	60	50	N/A	6	9	60
Kunduz	32	34	33	100	70	90	55	16	50	33	23	18	9	70	20	50	50	50	20	70	50	N/A	11	10	57
Takhar	33	36	43	120	43	100	40	8	52	50	21	14	10	80	20	40	50	80	30	100	50	N/A	8	11	60
East	34	34	36	95	78	100	80	10	46	28	16	17	10	100	30	55	70	50	30	60	60	240	10	9	60
Laghman	34	35	34	95	71	104	83	10	47	29	14	17	10	100	30	60	80	56	30	65	N/A	250	10	9	60
Nangarhar	34	34	36	95	79	100	79	10	45	28	16	17	9	100	29	50	70	50	30	60	60	230	10	10	60
South-East	34	36	50	100	70	91	79	10	49	35	21	19	9	61	30	70	60	36	50	70	80	N/A	13	13	56
Ghazni	36	37	50	125	74	86	80	20	50	65	19	19	9	80	20	60	60	50	30	60	N/A	N/A	16	16	60
Khost	34	35	67	97	69	100	78	9	43	36	23	19	8	50	28	55	60	32	58	60	100	N/A	15	13	55
Paktya	34	36	70	101	69	80	71	10	49	31	22	19	10	63	30	90	60	40	50	100	60	N/A	13	13	56
South	33	39	77	98	83	117	63	11	50	35	22	18	9	135	39	45	59	50	36	60	25	N/A	15	14	55
Helmand	33	41	80	94	85	120	56	12	50	35	20	18	9	153	35	44	59	50	35	69	18	N/A	17	14	56
Kandahar	38	39	78	100	80	106	80	10	50	30	25	20	10	60	50	58	60	50	40	45	50	N/A	15	15	53
Nimroz	34	38	75	105	80	120	65	7	55	38	24	18	10	143	48	50	48	45	50	39	25	N/A	11	11	60
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	35	75	100	75	110	60	10	50	31	20	19	10	85	30	40	30	47	20	51	65	80	13	15	55
Badghis	30	35	81	98	70	110	40	10	51	50	20	19	10	100	20	30	30	53	20	55	28	20	13	10	58
Farah	30	32	86	103	60	118	48	13	53	20	20	18	10	N/A	80	100	N/A	48	30	38	N/A	35	N/A	N/A	55
Ghor	37	39	76	106	120	120	60	12	60	14	22	20	10	150	60	60	80	60	20	80	140	N/A	16	20	75
Herat	32	35	69	100	76	110	73	10	50	30	15	16	8	80	30	38	30	40	25	40	63	80	14	15	50
Central	33	35	55	107	70	107	67	19	50	45	20	20	9	110	25	40	50	55	30	60	60	100	16	16	60
Bamyan	34	35	64	113	71	113	70	20	52	60	21	20	10	110	23	40	60	55	30	60	40	100	17	11	67
Daykundi	41	38	93	105	50	105	76	20	65	70	25	25	10	120	29	50	50	50	35	63	38	N/A	18	18	70
Kabul	33	34	40	115	79	100	80	18	48	35	20	16	9	80	25	45	50	55	28	55	50	300	16	16	57
Kapisa	33	34	39	109	65	100	75	20	50	50	21	16	8	123	20	35	58	50	30	53	30	100	16	15	55
Logar	33	35	90	85	94	100	77	12	48	45	22	16	8	120	20	40	50	59	35	40	70	N/A	13	12	55
Maidan Wardak	32	34	49	105	60	105	55	20	50	40	21	15	9	90	25	45	N/A	60	30	60	40	N/A	15	14	60
Panjsher	34	36	75	110	64	110	53	19	50	50	20	18	9	100	20	30	50	60	20	60	60	N/A	18	19	60
Parwan	33	35	43	105	70	110	60	15	50	21	18	18	9	N/A	25	40	50	60	25	60	60	N/A	18	20	60

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 & Montiroing, 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 8 and 9 of the JMMI's MFI pilot 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

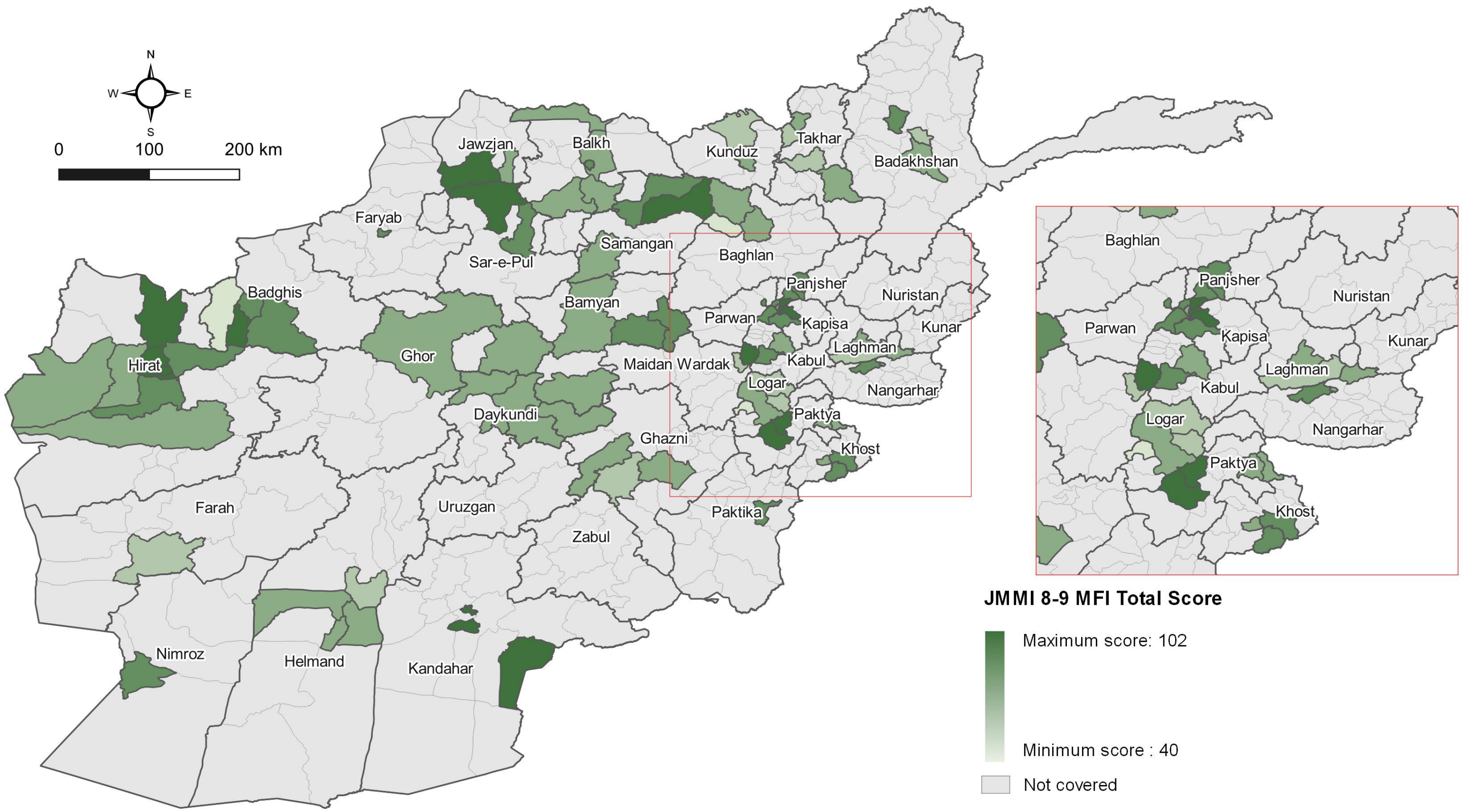
Safety and Security

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 ninth round of data collection took place between 10th and 23rd January 2021, and a total of 730 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 eighth 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 ninth round of the JMMI (10 January) 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 eight round of the JMMI (December 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 was not reported. The national median price 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 the period of the JMMI round 3 to 5 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