AFGHANISTAN JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE (JMMI)

10 - 22 November 2020

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 seventh round of the JMMI was collected between 10 and 22 November, in 30 provinces of Afghanistan.

19	participating agencies
30	assessed provinces
264	assessed marketplaces
765	key informants 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

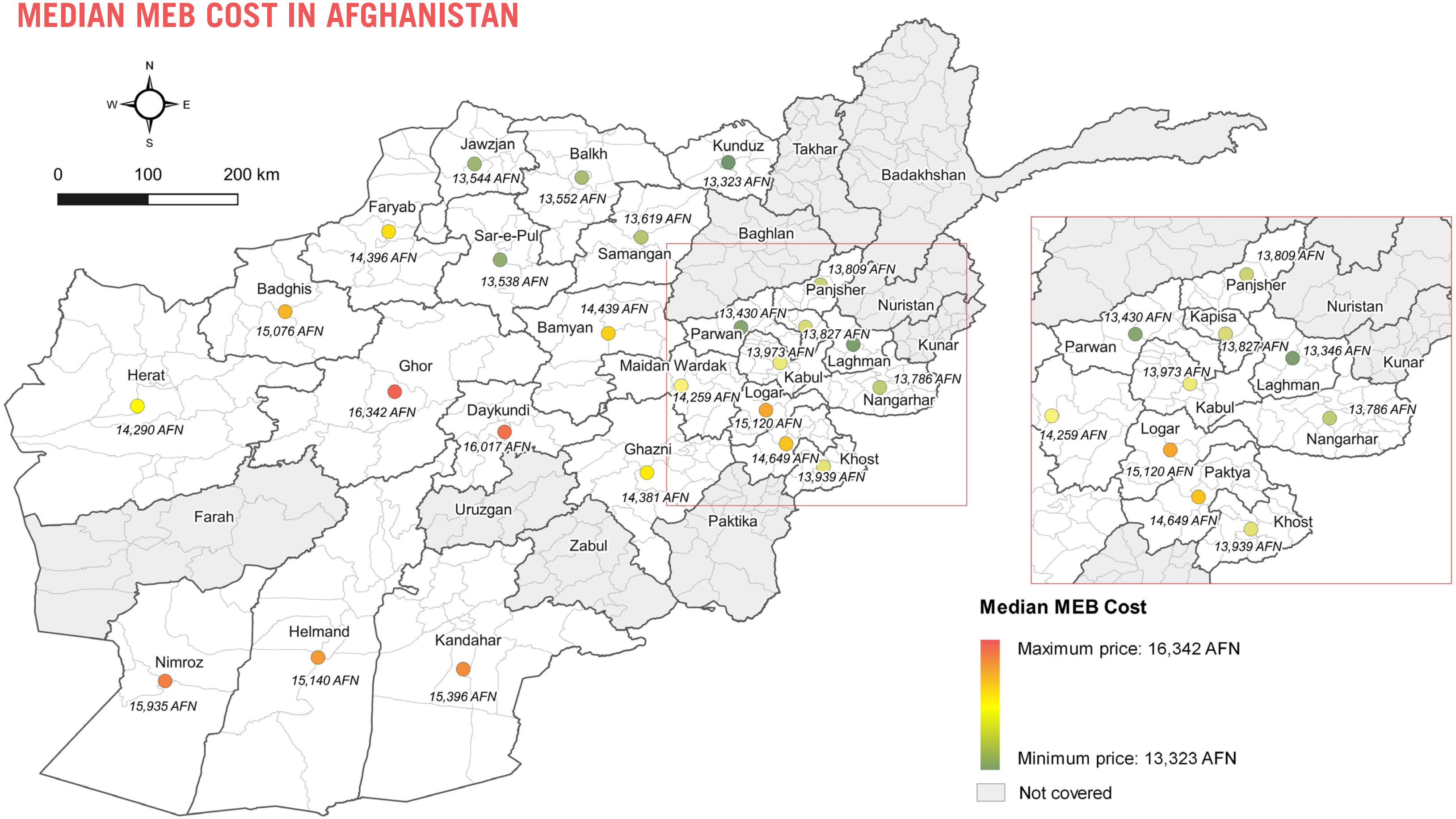
AADA
AAH
ACTD
ACTED
Caritas Germany (with RCDC and VOPOFA)
CRDSA
DRC
HAADAF
IOM
IRC
JACK
JIA
Medair
OHW
Save the Children International
WHH
World Vision

Median cost of MEB[1]
14,046 AFN
182.66 USD[2]
▲ 48 +1%[3]

Median cost of Food Basket
5,237 AFN
67.92 USD[2]
▲ 14 +1%[3]

79% 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



Some shops in Uruzgan were covered during data collection, however, not sufficient data were gathered to report at province level. Yet, data from Uruzgan were included in overall findings at national level.

Funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (MEB) CALCULATIONS

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)

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 which 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.*

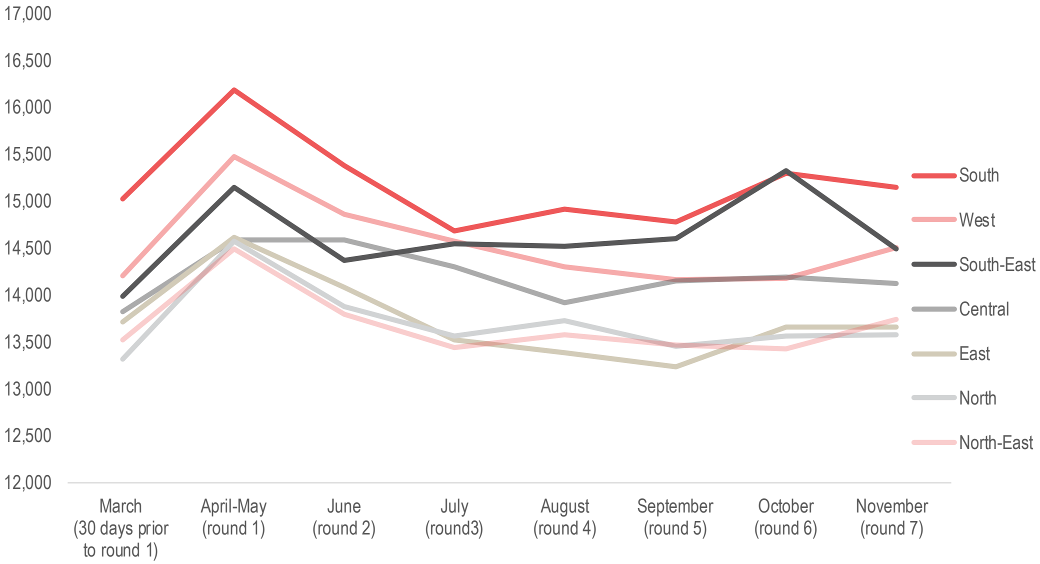
**** The standard fixed CVWG price for toothbrush (child) and women's underwear was used in the calculation of the MEB, as these items are not monitored as part of the JMMI.*

USD/AFN buy rate
(parallel market)
77.00 AFN

USD/AFN buy rate
(official)[2]
76.94 AFN

MEDIAN MEB COST OVER TIME, BY ROUND

IN AFN



MEDIAN MEB PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW AND CHANGE SINCE THE JMMI 6TH ROUND (OCTOBER 2020), AT REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL

Province	MEB in AFN	MEB in USD	Change since 6th round	MEB (Round 6) in AFN	MEB (Round 6) in USD
North	13,572	176.48	▲ 1%	13,569	176.44
Balkh	13,552	176.23	▲ 1%	13,452	174.93
Faryab	14,396	187.20	▲ 1%	13,962	181.56
Jawzjan	13,544	176.13	▼ 1%	13,626	177.19
Samangan	13,619	177.10	▼ 1%	13,752	178.83
Sar-e-Pul	13,538	176.05	▲ 2%	13,512	175.71
North-East	13,743	178.71	▲ 2%	13,430	174.64
Badakhshan	N/A	N/A	N/A	13,628	177.21
Baghlan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kunduz	13,323	173.25	▲ 1%	13,285	172.76
Takhar	N/A	N/A	N/A	13,327	173.30
East	13,658	177.61	▼ 0%	13,663	177.67
Laghman	13,346	173.55	▼ 3%	14,068	182.94
Nangarhar	13,786	179.28	▲ 1%	13,502	175.58
South-East	14,486	188.38	▼ 5%	15,329	199.34
Ghazni	14,381	187.01	▲ 2%	13,950	181.41
Khost	13,939	181.26	▼ 1%	14,179	184.38
Paktya	14,649	190.49	▼ 8%	16,010	208.19
South	15,143	196.91	▼ 1%	15,291	198.84
Helmand	15,140	196.88	▼ 3%	15,827	205.81
Kandahar	15,396	200.21	▼ 1%	15,426	200.60
Nimroz	15,935	207.21	▼ 2%	16,660	216.65
Uruzgan	N/A	N/A	N/A	14,689	191.02
West	14,511	188.69	▲ 2%	14,174	184.31
Badghis	15,076	196.04	▲ 2%	14,670	190.76
Farah	N/A	N/A	N/A	14,616	190.06
Ghor	16,342	212.51	▲ 4%	15,105	196.43
Herat	14,290	185.83	▲ 1%	14,075	183.02
Central	14,122	183.64	▼ 1%	14,190	184.53
Bamyan	14,439	187.76	▲ 2%	13,924	181.06
Daykundi	16,017	208.28	▲ 1%	15,897	206.73
Kabul	13,973	181.70	▼ 1%	14,082	183.12
Kapisa	13,827	179.80	▼ 1%	14,124	183.67
Logar	15,120	196.61	▲ 6%	13,791	179.33
Maidan Wardak	14,259	185.43	▼ 3%	14,932	194.18
Panjsher	13,809	179.58	▼ 2%	14,104	183.41
Parwan	13,430	174.64	▼ 1%	13,543	176.11

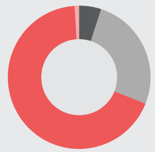
NATIONWIDE MEDIAN ITEM PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW AND CHANGE REPORTED SINCE THE 6TH JMMI ROUND (OCTOBER 2020)

Item	Unit	Price in AFN	Price in USD	Change since 6th round	Price (Round 6) in AFN	Price (Round 6) in USD
Food Items						
Wheat flour (local)	1 kg	33	0.43	▲ 3%	32	0.41
Wheat flour (imported)	1 kg	36	0.47	▲ 3%	35	0.45
Local rice	1 kg	50	0.65	*no change*	50	0.65
Vegetable oil	1 L	91	1.18	▼ 2%	93	1.21
Pulses[4]	1 kg	55	0.72	▼ 3%	57	0.74
Salt	1 kg	14	0.18	▼ 5%	15	0.19
Sugar	1 kg	50	0.65	*no change*	50	0.65
Tomatoes	1 kg	40	0.52	▲ 60%	25	0.32
Potatoes	1 kg	20	0.26	*no change*	20	0.26
Onions	1 kg	19	0.25	▲ 11%	17	0.22
Eggs	1 egg	8	0.10	*no change*	8	0.10
NFIs						
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	1 pc	90	1.17	▲ 12%	80	1.04
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	1 pc	30	0.39	*no change*	30	0.39
Toothpaste	1 pc	45	0.59	▲ 12%	40	0.52
Toothbrush (adult)	1 pc	25	0.33	*no change*	25	0.32
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	▼ 39%	95	1.23
Firewood	1 kg	13	0.17	*no change*	13	0.16
Kindling	1 kg	14	0.18	*no change*	14	0.18
Cooking fuel	1 kg	55	0.72	*no change*	55	0.71
Jerry can (calculated)*	1 pc	125	1.63	N/A	N/A	N/A

** In previous rounds, JMMI partners collected prices for safe water with and without the price of the jerry can. Lower prices (ranging between 15 to 120 AFN) were found to be without the jerry can - either refilling, or having to return it. Higher prices (greater than 120 AFN) were reportedly due to the price of the jerry can. In this round, the price of the jerry can was included by subtracting the two median prices at national and at province level.*

REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF FOOD ITEMS IN 30 DAYS PRIOR TO DATA COLLECTION, AND REPORTED REASONS FOR INCREASE IN PRICE[7]

% of KIs reporting change in price for food items in the 30 days prior to data collection:

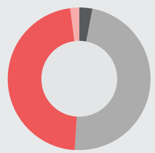


Out of those KIs reporting a increase in food prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:

1. **61%** Increased cost of supplies
2. **59%** Seasonality
3. **31%** 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[7]

% of KIs reporting change in price for NFIs in the 30 days prior to data collection:



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

1. **71%** Seasonality
2. **55%** Increased cost of supplies
3. **32%** 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:

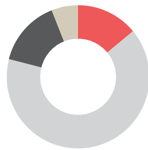
4% Imported from abroad
49% Different province
35% Province capital city
3% Same province
8% Same district
1% Other

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

5% Imported from abroad
46% Different province
34% Province capital city
5% Same province
9% Same district
1% Other

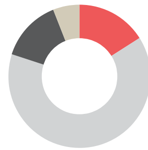
CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD ITEMS AND NFIs[9]

Proportion of KIs reporting a change in the number of food suppliers in the past 30 days:



14% Decreased
65% Stayed the same
15% Increased
6% Didn't know

Proportion of KIs reporting a change in the number of NFI suppliers in the past 30 days:



16% Decreased
64% Stayed the same
14% Increased
6% 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 past 30 days:

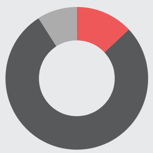
60% Barriers to access reported
40% No barriers reported

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

1. 30% Financial barriers
2. 21% Insecurity travelling to the market
3. 17% Fear of exposure to COVID-19, and public health restrictions

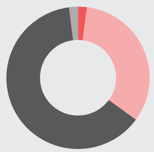
In the East, 94% of KIs reported consumers faced barriers to accessing markets in the 30 days prior to data collection, which is relatively high compared to the national average of 60%.

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



13% Security context may prevent access to the marketplace
78% No security related barriers
9% Don't know, prefer not to answer

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



2% No access at all
33% Accompanied access
63% Unaccompanied access
2% Don't know

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS FROM SUPPLIERS[11]

Item	Available (% KIs)	Limited (% KIs)	None (% KIs)
Food Items			
Wheat flour (local)	93%	5%	2%
Wheat flour (imported)	99%	1%	1%
Local rice	98%	1%	1%
Vegetable oil	99%	1%	0%
Pulses[4]	98%	1%	1%
Salt	99%	1%	0%
Sugar	99%	1%	0%
Tomatoes	94%	5%	1%
Potatoes	97%	3%	1%
Onions	96%	3%	1%
Eggs	98%	2%	0%
NFIs			
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	94%	5%	1%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	98%	2%	0%
Toothpaste	98%	2%	0%
Toothbrush (adult)	97%	2%	1%
Sanitary pad	99%	0%	0%
Washing detergent	99%	0%	0%
Bleach	97%	3%	0%
Other NFIs			
Safe (drinking) water	91%	4%	5%
Firewood	97%	1%	1%
Kindling	98%	2%	1%
Cooking fuel	97%	2%	1%

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)	44%	45%	11%
Wheat flour (imported)	47%	40%	13%
Local rice	40%	50%	10%
Vegetable oil	34%	57%	8%
Pulses[4]	41%	49%	9%
Salt	11%	83%	6%
Sugar	36%	58%	6%
Tomatoes	32%	23%	44%
Potatoes	51%	41%	7%
Onions	34%	57%	9%
Eggs	54%	32%	14%
NFIs			
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	16%	69%	14%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	29%	66%	5%
Toothpaste	19%	74%	7%
Toothbrush (adult)	18%	78%	4%
Sanitary pad	18%	77%	4%
Washing detergent	22%	71%	6%
Bleach	18%	67%	14%
Other NFIs			
Safe (drinking) water	17%	46%	36%
Firewood	86%	11%	2%
Kindling	80%	14%	5%
Cooking fuel	78%	19%	3%

**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

5% **of KIs reported facing 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%** Financial constraints and inability to purchase supplies
2. **34%** Difficulties in transporting items
3. **29%** Reduced movements

50% **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. **36%** Conflict
2. **29%** Roadblocks
3. **22%** Seasonality

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

1. **50%** Vegetable oil
2. **29%** Rice
3. **29%** Wheat flour (imported)

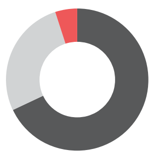
Most frequently reported NFIs difficult to restock and obtain in the 30 days prior to data collection:

1. **24%** Cooking fuel
2. **11%** Cotton cloth ($2m^2$)
3. **11%** Kindling

***This finding is particularly driven by a considerably high regional reporting of road-based difficulties in the northeast, where 73% of KIs reported having experienced challenges in restocking their supplies due to road-based transportation difficulties. Round 7 data does not allow for an analysis of the causes of this sudden increase - additional assessments could be considered to further explore this dynamic.*

TRADER PRESENCE IN THE MARKET

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

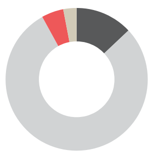


68% All traders open

27% At least half of traders open

5% Less than half of traders open

Proportion of KIs reporting on the number of traders open to have changed in the 30 days prior to data collection:



13% Increased

79% Stayed the same

5% Decreased

3% Don't know

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

1. 27% Financial constraints
2. 20% COVID-19
3. 58% Other reasons not included in the answer options*

**Further investigation is needed in this regard. In round 8, the tool will include an open text "Other (Specify)" answer option to better capture the reasons behind this change.*

TRADERS' COPING MECHANISMS AND RELIANCE ON CREDIT

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

29% Borrow and rely on credit

24% Restrict stocks

16% Limit expenses

14% Spend savings

4% Increase working hours

13% 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]

50% Yes, to purchase commodities

4% Yes, to pay rent

1% Yes, to pay salaries

48% 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:

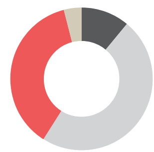
28% Increased

47% Stayed the same

22% 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:



11% Decreased

48% Stayed the same

37% Increased

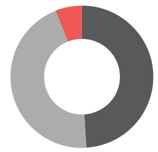
4% Don't know

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

1. 82% Cash
2. 47% Credit
3. 4% Barter
4. 1% 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:



49% Two or more types

45% One type

6% None

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

1. 82% Hawala
2. 39% Banks
3. 12% 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. 71% Supplier (buy on credit)
2. 23% 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)	Firewood (1 kg)	Kindling (1 kg)	Cooking fuel (1 kg)
North	30	35	45	92	45	20	50	25	20	17	8	110	20	40	45	50	25	60	60	10	55	10	10	60
Balkh	29	34	50	83	60	100	45	20	55	35	25	20	9	55	20	40	40	50	25	60	60	10	12	55
Faryab	26	32	45	104	75	100	50	40	60	50	25	20	10	120	50	100	45	50	50	60	50	15	16	65
Jawzjan	33	35	44	92	60	100	40	20	50	35	25	20	10	95	20	45	50	55	25	60	30	12	14	60
Samangan	32	34	45	106	60	100	40	20	55	60	20	20	10	73	30	50	30	58	30	48	60	9	10	55
Sar-e-Pul	26	35	45	90	60	100	45	11	50	30	24	15	8	120	20	40	50	50	20	60	35	8	7	60
North-East	33	36	42	96	43	20	50	29	17	14	8	55	20	40	40	70	25	70	100	10	60	10	11	60
Badakhshan	33	37	43	110	86	88	40	25	50	40	19	14	10	N/A	20	38	40	100	30	60	60	11	13	60
Baghlan	33	35	39	87	70	90	43	18	50	40	20	16	8	N/A	20	20	50	65	20	60	90	6	13	N/A
Kunduz	35	35	40	110	60	100	40	15	50	40	20	18	8	100	20	25	50	55	20	55	100	9	11	60
Takhar	33	43	39	114	60	94	43	6	52	57	19	14	10	N/A	30	50	50	75	30	100	140	8	10	60
East	33	35	39	80	60	10	47	21	19	17	8	125	30	41	55	52	30	55	95	10	55	9	9	54
Laghman	34	35	36	84	83	95	46	9	46	43	20	19	8	100	38	40	60	49	30	50	N/A	11	9	60
Nangarhar	33	35	37	85	80	93	75	10	45	37	20	20	8	100	30	50	55	54	30	50	78	11	10	55
South-East	35	36	68	93	70	10	47	25	23	20	8	35	30	85	60	40	55	70	80	14	55	13	14	55
Ghazni	35	36	50	100	70	85	80	20	57	60	17	18	8	75	20	60	55	50	30	60	N/A	14	14	57
Khost	35	35	38	88	96	100	67	9	46	40	24	21	8	45	20	45	60	32	50	45	110	13	11	51
Paktya	34	36	45	91	75	82	86	10	46	44	24	26	8	53	40	90	60	36	50	70	60	13	13	52
South	32	38	78	80	70	10	49	25	20	12	8	125	30	50	40	40	30	40	85	11	50	10	12	50
Helmand	33	38	80	80	65	110	45	10	46	45	16	18	8	140	30	40	49	50	38	50	80	12	25	52
Kandahar	34	38	76	88	73	115	75	18	49	33	23	20	8	53	45	65	60	50	37	40	50	15	15	50
Nimroz	35	37	95	82	75	110	60	10	55	50	25	23	10	143	35	80	50	45	35	55	23	12	15	58
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
West	30	35	70	85	45	10	50	20	15	15	8	68	25	45	30	50	21	50	100	18	50	17	15	50
Badghis	32	35	90	100	66	130	50	10	60	50	25	25	8	120	20	35	50	30	20	50	20	11	15	55
Farah	26	34	88	98	60	123	53	12	50	20	N/A		8	N/A	75	85	N/A	50	30	N/A	200	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ghor	34	36	92	97	90	118	90	10	60	74	21	18	8	125	30	75	100	35	35	60	110	17	20	70
Herat	30	36	65	85	65	100	50	9	50	40	15	15	8	95	25	40	35	40	25	40	120	12	13	48
Central	32	36	50	97	65	20	50	25	20	20	8	80	25	40	50	50	30	60	100	14	60	14	16	60
Bamyan	34	35	60	105	60	115	85	20	55	50	20	20	9	98	32	34	42	57	26	65	70	15	23	65
Daykundi	36	38	100	95	49	95	55	20	58	35	20	19	9	95	30	50	60	55	40	65	37	17	20	75
Kabul	33	34	44	90	70	100	80	14	50	33	22	20	8	120	20	38	55	50	30	50	180	16	16	55
Kapisa	33	34	45	90	65	100	70	18	50	43	22	20	8	60	25	38	50	55	30	55	43	14	15	55
Logar	33	35	79	89	81	109	80	20	50	22	21	16	9	100	20	50	70	40	25	50	180	14	12	55
Maidan Wardak	30	32	65	90	80	100	67	18	50	70	18	20	8	60	25	45	38	60	25	60	35	15	15	55
Panjsher	35	36	43	100	60	100	80	14	50	48	21	20	8	43	20	30	50	58	30	60	45	17	17	60
Parwan	33	35	42	100	70	100	70	14	50	50	22	18	8	53	23	35	50	60	20	55	45	15	16	55

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY INDEX (MFI), BY DISTRICT - PILOT

METHODOLOGY

The MFI developed by REACH for the CVWG's JMMI in Afghanistan is based on the MFI designed by the World Food Program (WFP)'s Research, Assessment & Monitoring and Supply Chain divisions. The aim of the MFI is to assess market's 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. Where markets are not functional, beneficiaries may still not be able to access basic commodities in spite of receiving cash or vouchers.
The findings from round 6 and 7 of the JMMI (pilot MFI rounds) are hereby presented from the most functional markets (darker colours) to the least functional (lighter colours) across Afghanistan.

For further information kindly consult the WFP technical guidance here, or contact the REACH Afghanistan Cash and Markets Focal Point.

Sections included in the MFI

Availability of basic commodities

Affordability (prices) of basic commodities*

Resilience of the supply chain

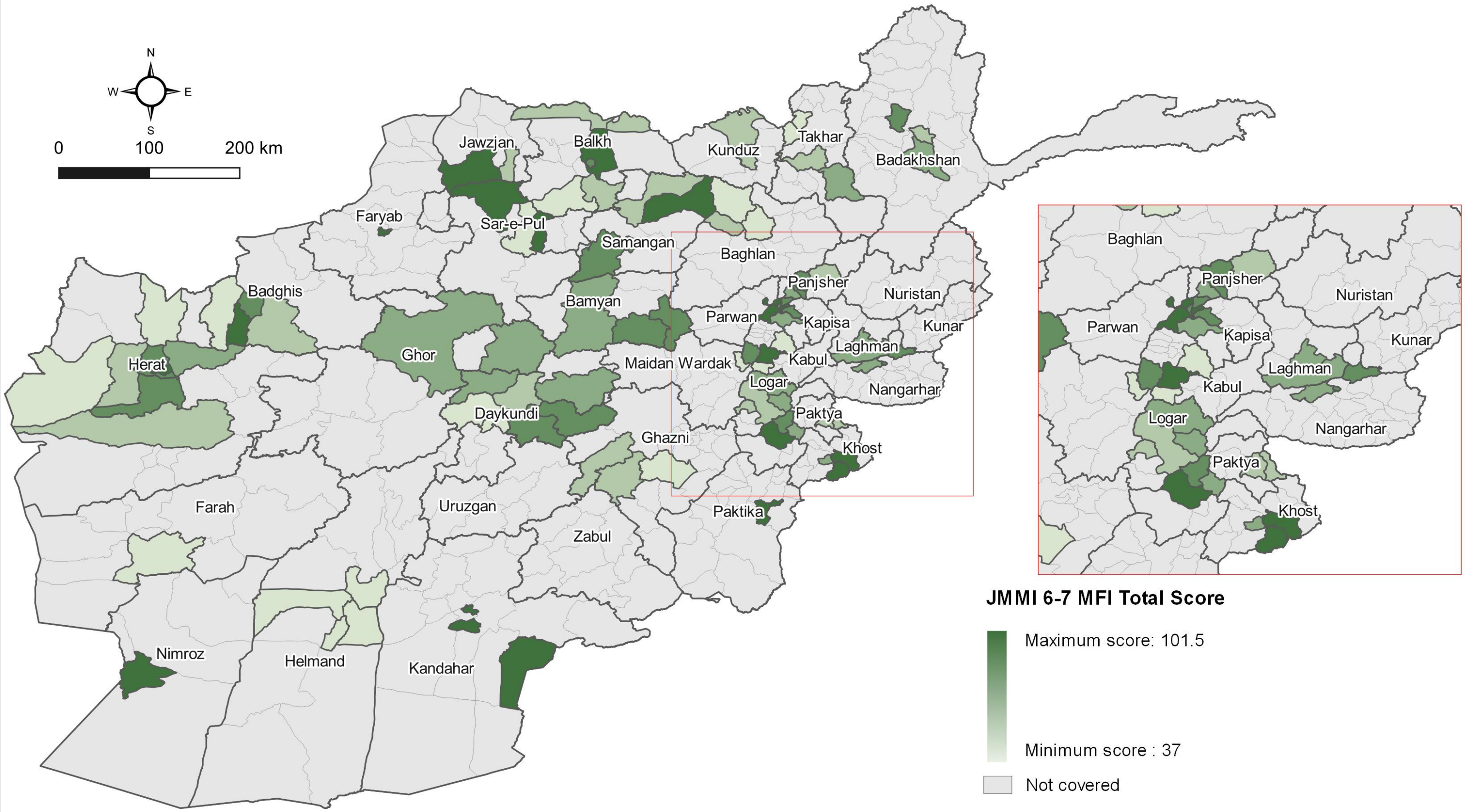
Safety and Security

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 just how much items cost, but whether these can be actually purchased by the displaced population.



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 seventh round of data collection took place between 10th and 22th November 2020, and a total of 765 KIIs were conducted. This round covered 264 markets, which were sampled by partners nationwide based on their access and existing areas of intervention. This includes markets in 30 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 30 provinces were covered in the sixth round of the JMMI, yet, nationwide coverage remains to be achieved.
- Due to the aforementioned difficulties in data collection, data from the seventh round of JMMI was disaggregated 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*
- **AAH -** *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 seventh round of the JMMI (10 November) was 76.82 AFN to 1 USD (cash sell rate) and 77.14 (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 sixth round of the JMMI (October 2020) are reflected here.*
4. *Pulses in this table are calculated as the median (normalized) price of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.*
5. *N/A: Due to limited data points and strong regional variation, the national median price of some items were used to calculate the MEB, and are not reflected in the province-level disaggregations.*
6. *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.*
7. *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.*
8. *The answer option "Demand increased", up to round 4, followed the assumption that availability of commodities would have proportionally increased too. It was changed from round 5, in order to have a clearer understanding of the market dynamics.*
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 52% of KIs reporting having borrowed in the past 30 days to purchase commodities, 17% 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