AFGHANISTAN JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE (JMMI)

11 - 22 October 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 sixth round of the JMMI was collected between 11 and 22 October, in 30 provinces of Afghanistan.

17	participating agencies
30	assessed provinces
268	assessed marketplaces
790	key informants interviews (KIIs)
24	commodities assessed

For more information on the methodology, please refer to the methodology section in Annex 2 on page 8

JMMI PARTNERS

AADA

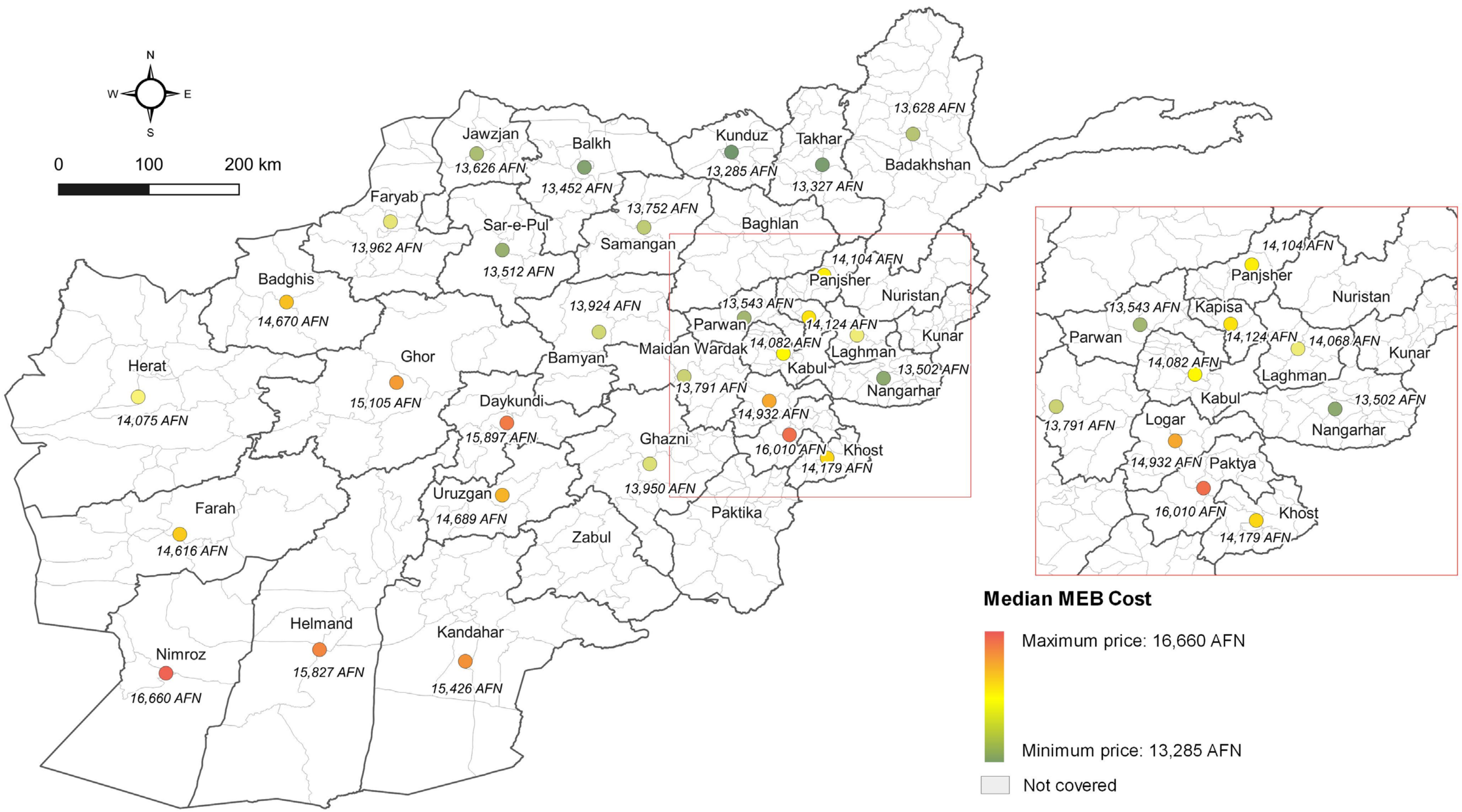
AAH
ACTD
ACTED
Caritas Germany (with RCDC and VOPOFA)
CRDSA
DRC
IOM
IRC
JACK
JIA
Medair
OHW
Save the Children International
WHH
World Vision

Median cost of MEB[1]
13,998 AFN
182.03 USD[2]
▲ 228 +2%[3]

Median cost of Food Basket
5,223 AFN
67.92 USD[2]
▲ 181 +2%[3]

80% 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



Funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

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.*

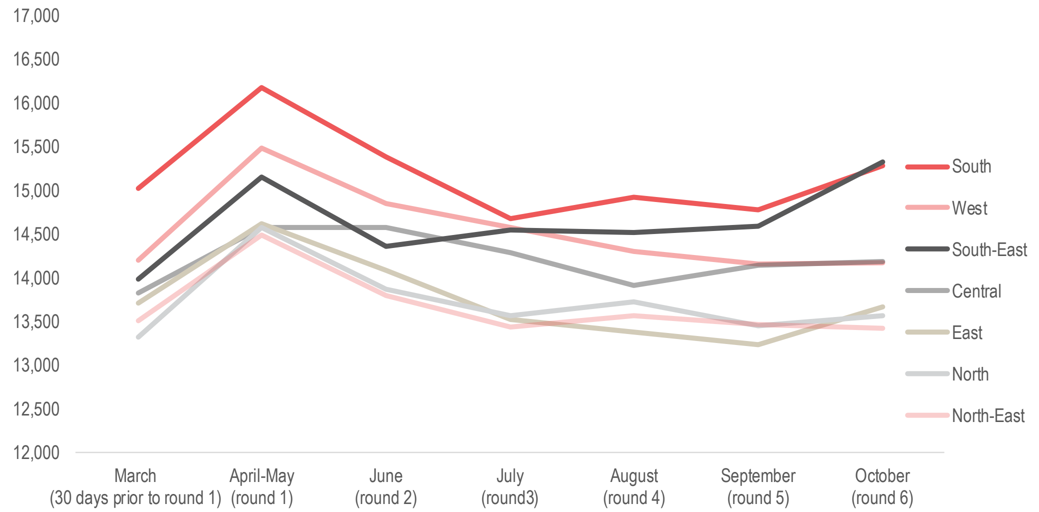
**** The standard fixed CVWG price for toothbrush (child) and women's underwear was used in the calculation of the MEB, as these items are not monitored as part of the JMMI.*

USD/AFN buy rate (parallel market)
76.91 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 5TH ROUND (SEPTEMBER 2020), AT REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL

Province	MEB in AFN	MEB in USD	Change since 5th round	MEB (Round 5) in AFN	MEB (Round 5) in USD
North	13,569	176.44	▲ 1%	13,453	174.95
Balkh	13,452	174.93	▼ 1%	13,503	175.59
Faryab	13,962	181.56	▼ 1%	14,226	184.99
Jawzjan	13,626	177.19	▼ 1%	13,673	177.80
Samangan	13,752	178.83	▲ 1%	13,239	172.16
Sar-e-Pul	13,512	175.71	▲ 1%	13,254	172.35
North-East	13,430	174.64	▼ 1%	13,462	175.05
Badakhshan	13,628	177.21	▼ 1%	14,233	185.09
Baghlan	N/A	N/A	N/A	13,171	171.27
Kunduz	13,285	172.76	▼ 1%	13,506	175.63
Takhar	13,327	173.30	▲ 1%	13,170	171.27
East	13,663	177.67	▲ 2%	13,240	172.17
Laghman	14,068	182.94	▲ 1%	13,239	172.16
Nangarhar	13,502	175.58	▲ 1%	13,487	175.38
South-East	15,329	199.34	▲ 2%	14,599	189.84
Ghazni	13,950	181.41	▼ 3%	14,098	183.32
Khost	14,179	184.38	▲ 1%	14,115	183.55
Paktya	16,010	208.19	▲ 2%	15,775	205.14
South	15,291	198.84	▲ 2%	14,781	192.21
Helmand	15,827	205.81	▲ 8%	14,381	187.01
Kandahar	15,426	200.60	▲ 3%	14,919	194.01
Nimroz	16,660	216.65	▲ 3%	16,019	208.31
Uruzgan	14,689	191.02	▲ 6%	12,994	168.98
West	14,174	184.31	▲ 1%	14,166	184.21
Badghis	14,670	190.76	▲ 2%	14,245	185.24
Farah	14,616	190.06	▲ 6%	13,319	173.19
Ghor	15,105	196.43	▲ 4%	14,308	186.06
Herat	14,075	183.02	▼ 2%	14,268	185.54
Central	14,190	184.53	▲ 1%	14,145	183.95
Bamyan	13,924	181.06	▼ 4%	14,406	187.33
Daykundi	15,897	206.73	▲ 2%	15,507	201.65
Kabul	14,082	183.12	▼ 1%	14,120	183.61
Kapisa	14,124	183.67	▲ 2%	13,736	178.62
Maidan Wardak	13,791	179.33	▼ 1%	13,861	180.25
Logar	14,932	194.18	▼ 1%	14,995	194.99
Panjsher	14,104	183.41	▲ 1%	13,988	181.90
Parwan	13,543	176.11	▼ 1%	13,639	177.36

ITEM PRICE MONITORING

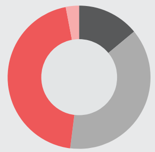
NATIONWIDE MEDIAN ITEM PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW AND CHANGE REPORTED SINCE THE 5TH JMMI ROUND (SEPTEMBER 2020)

Item	Unit	Price in AFN	Price in USD	Change since 5th round	Price (Round 5) in AFN	Price (Round 5) in USD
Food Items						
Wheat flour (local)	1 kg	32	0.41	▲ 3%	31	0.40
Wheat flour (imported)	1 kg	35	0.45	▲ 3%	34	0.44
Local rice	1 kg	50	0.65	*no change*	50	0.65
Vegetable oil	1 L	93	1.21	▲ 3%	90	1.17
Pulses[4]	1 kg	57	0.74	▲ 14%	50	0.65
Salt	1 kg	15	0.19	▲ 25%	12	0.16
Sugar	1 kg	50	0.65	*no change*	50	0.65
Tomatoes	1 kg	25	0.32	▲ 25%	20	0.26
Potatoes	1 kg	20	0.26	*no change*	20	0.26
Onions	1 kg	17	0.22	▲ 21%	14	0.19
Eggs	1 egg	8	0.10	*no change*	7	0.09
NFIs						
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	1 pc	80	1.04	*no change*	80	1.04
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	1 pc	30	0.39	*no change*	30	0.39
Toothpaste	1 pc	40	0.52	*no change*	40	0.52
Toothbrush (adult)	1 pc	25	0.32	▲ 25%	20	0.26
Sanitary pad	1 box	50	0.65	▲ 25%	40	0.52
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*	20 L	95	1.23	▼ 53%	200	2.60
Firewood	1 kg	13	0.16	*no change*	13	0.16
Kindling	1 kg	14	0.18	▲ 8%	13	0.16
Cooking fuel	1 kg	55	0.71	▼ 3%	57	0.74

** In previous rounds, JMMI partners collected prices for safe water in two units of measure, after which REACH re-adjusted and harmonized those measures into one 20L unit. However, during the current round (6), partners only collected prices fo 18/20 liter jugs, which might have contributed to the apparent reduction in prices between this round and previous rounds.*

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:



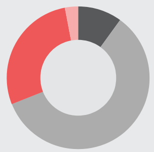
14% Decreased
38% Stayed the same
45% Increased
3% Don't know

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

1. **58%** Increased cost of supplies
2. **44%** Seasonality
3. **36%** 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:



10% Decreased
59% Stayed the same
28% Increased
3% Don't know

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

1. **63%** Increased cost of supplies
2. **60%** Seasonality
3. **46%** 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:

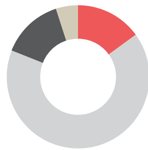
- 4% Imported from abroad
- 44% Different province
- 36% Province capital city
- 6% Same province
- 10% Same district
- 0% Other

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

- 4% Imported from abroad
- 46% Different province
- 34% Province capital city
- 6% Same province
- 9% Same district
- 1% Other

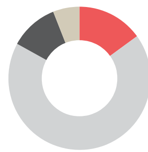
CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD ITEMS AND NFIs[9]

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



- 15% Decreased
- 66% Stayed the same
- 14% Increased
- 5% Didn't know

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



- 15% Decreased
- 68% Stayed the same
- 11% 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:

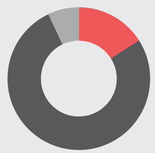
- 61% Barriers to access reported
- 39% No barriers reported

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

1. 24% Insecurity travelling to the market
2. 23% Financial barriers
3. 18% Fear of exposure to COVID-19, and public health restrictions

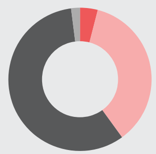
In the East, 88% of KIs reported consumers faced barriers to accessing markets in the 30 days prior to data collection, which is relatively high compared to the national average of 61%.

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



- 16% Security context prevents access to the marketplace
- 77% No security related barriers
- 7% Don't know, prefer not to answer

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



- 4% No access at all
- 36% Accompanied access
- 58% 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)	97%	2%	1%
Wheat flour (imported)	99%	1%	0%
Local rice	98%	1%	1%
Vegetable oil	99%	1%	0%
Pulses[4]	97%	2%	1%
Salt	99%	1%	0%
Sugar	99%	1%	0%
Tomatoes	95%	5%	0%
Potatoes	97%	3%	0%
Onions	96%	4%	0%
Eggs	97%	2%	1%
NFIs			
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	97%	2%	1%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	99%	1%	0%
Toothpaste	98%	2%	0%
Toothbrush (adult)	98%	1%	0%
Sanitary pad	97%	2%	1%
Washing detergent	99%	1%	0%
Bleach	95%	3%	2%
Other NFIs			
Safe (drinking) water	94%	3%	3%
Firewood	96%	2%	2%
Kindling	95%	2%	3%
Cooking fuel	98%	1%	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)	35%	55%	10%
Wheat flour (imported)	39%	50%	11%
Local rice	34%	58%	7%
Vegetable oil	35%	58%	7%
Pulses[4]	30%	58%	11%
Salt	15%	84%	1%
Sugar	31%	65%	4%
Tomatoes	37%	42%	21%
Potatoes	44%	46%	9%
Onions	37%	54%	9%
Eggs	46%	48%	6%
NFIs			
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	14%	69%	16%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	30%	67%	3%
Toothpaste	20%	75%	5%
Toothbrush (adult)	15%	79%	5%
Sanitary pad	12%	79%	8%
Washing detergent	29%	66%	4%
Bleach	22%	71%	6%
Other NFIs			
Safe (drinking) water	21%	56%	22%
Firewood	60%	33%	6%
Kindling	61%	31%	6%
Cooking fuel	47%	49%	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

3% 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. **54%** Financial constraints and inability to purchase supplies
2. **35%** Difficulties in transporting items
3. **27%** Suppliers not producing or providing enough commodities

48% 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. **42%** Conflict
2. **31%** Roadblocks
3. **12%** Seasonality

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

1. **69%** Wheat flour (imported)
2. **58%** Vegetable oil
3. **39%** Beans

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

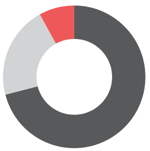
1. **27%** Cooking fuel
2. **19%** Antiseptic soap
3. **16%** Hygiene items (sanitary pads, bleach, and washing detergent)

***This finding is particularly driven by a considerably high regional reporting of road-based difficulties in the northeast, where 76% of KIs reported having experienced challenges in restocking their supplies due to road-based transportation difficulties. Round 6 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

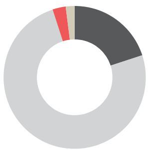
TRADER PRESENCE IN THE MARKET

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



71% All traders open
21% At least half of traders open
8% 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
80% Stayed the same
4% Decreased
3% Don't know

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

1. 43% COVID-19
2. 36% Other reasons not included in the answer options
3. 27% Financial constraints

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% Restrict stocks
23% Borrow and rely on credit
16% Spend savings
11% Limit expenses
5% Decreased employment
12% 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]

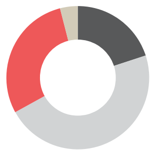
53% Yes, to purchase commodities
7% Yes, to pay rent
1% Yes, to pay salaries
45% No

CONSUMERS, PAYMENT, & CREDIT

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

33% Increased
41% Stayed the same
23% 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:



20% Decreased
47% Stayed the same
29% 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. 42% 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:

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

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

1. 78% Hawala
2. 40% 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. 63% Supplier (buy on credit)
2. 32% 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 (2m² 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	30	34	50	82	60	110	40	20	50	25	25	15	8	110	20	40	50	50	20	60	50	10	11	50
Faryab	31	34	40	90	80	100	50	21	55	25	20	15	9	113	43	78	63	50	40	80	53	15	16	60
Jawzjan	33	34	46	89	55	105	39	28	50	20	20	18	8	110	25	43	50	50	28	60	50	13	15	50
Samangan	32	35	45	95	55	110	50	25	50	40	20	20	9	70	30	50	35	60	30	60	60	8	9	60
Sar-e-Pul	26	36	45	96	58	110	45	8	50	15	20	15	10	120	20	40	38	50	20	60	90	8	9	58
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	97	86	86	37	25	50	30	14	14	10	80	20	40	50	90	30	70	100	10	12	65
Baghlan	35	36	43	99	50	86	48	15	50	30	17	14	8	N/A	20	30	40	60	20	60	100	6	14	60
Kunduz	32	35	36	90	70	94	50	15	50	20	20	16	7	40	40	50	40	50	25	62	110	12	12	58
Takhar	32	36	42	92	56	92	42	6	52	20	16	14	9	60	20	20	60	80	20	60	50	9	9	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	30	35	39	80	80	114	76	10	49	20	17	14	8	130	30	42	60	55	35	55	100	10	N/A	55
Nangarhar	33	34	37	80	55	100	75	10	47	21	19	19	7	120	30	40	50	52	30	50	90	11	12	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	34	36	45	95	70	95	70	20	50	30	20	20	8	70	28	40	48	50	30	63	180	14	14	55
Khost	36	35	36	84	63	106	73	9	43	23	19	20	7	60	21	40	60	30	65	60	240	14	9	50
Paktya	35	37	81	100	84	86	80	10	50	31	26	20	10	33	30	98	65	43	55	75	70	14	16	60
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	30	35	95	79	83	120	95	9	50	20	15	15	8	142	30	32	40	35	29	44	100	11	18	50
Kandahar	32	38	74	106	75	115	70	13	47	30	24	12	9	50	50	70	62	50	35	40	50	14	14	50
Nimroz	35	39	98	78	68	127	68	14	50	25	25	22	8	104	40	60	45	35	68	33	73	9	12	56
Uruzgan	36	42	74	80	44	84	84	9	49	20	19	10	8	100	30	50	35	38	17	100	180	12	12	55
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	30	35	89	85	50	90	40	15	55	27	20	17	8	80	15	24	30	55	20	50	100	9	11	60
Farah	29	29	82	89	63	110	58	13	50	30	20	16	7	103	50	70	95	55	23	100	73	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ghor	34	37	75	100	70	120	60	10	60	40	20	20	8	140	50	50	40	60	20	80	100	20	20	60
Herat	30	35	66	81	50	110	50	10	48	20	15	15	7	60	22	45	30	45	25	41	100	19	21	45
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	32	35	50	93	63	110	62	20	54	25	17	20	8	115	25	30	40	50	30	60	175	14	17	65
Daykundi	34	37	100	95	70	94	67	20	60	30	18	20	8	80	30	50	55	50	30	100	120	17	19	70
Kabul	33	35	45	100	70	106	80	20	50	25	20	17	8	75	25	40	55	50	30	60	90	15	15	55
Kapisa	32	37	50	98	70	97	70	25	55	25	30	20	8	80	30	35	50	50	25	70	105	14	16	60
Logar	33	36	79	89	60	107	83	19	50	16	19	16	8	95	20	43	70	40	25	50	95	13	13	55
Maidan Wardak	32	34	40	100	69	100	80	20	50	20	20	18	8	80	25	30	50	49	28	50	35	N/A	N/A	60
Panjsher	29	35	50	97	68	100	70	20	52	25	25	20	8	78	20	40	30	55	30	60	90	16	14	65
Parwan	32	34	38	100	65	96	80	18	50	20	20	13	7	55	25	30	50	50	25	52	43	N/A	N/A	57

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 sixth round of data collection took place between 11th and 22th October 2020, and a total of 790 KIIs were conducted. This round covered 268 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 sixth 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*
- **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 third round of the JMMI (31 August) was 78.25 AFN to 1 USD (cash sell rate) and 76.94 (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 fifth round of the JMMI (September 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 53% of KIs reporting to borrow in the past 30 days to purchase commodities, 17% reported that up to half or more of their commodities was 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