



JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE (JMMI)

Earthquake Response in Herat Province - Round 2

Afghanistan



25 October 2023

OVERVIEW

Between 7 and 15 October, western Afghanistan experienced three powerful earthquakes with magnitudes exceeding 6.0 and numerous aftershocks. Amidst widespread destruction, 114,000 of the most affected people have been prioritised for emergency response over the winter period (Oct '23 – March '24) across six districts of Herat province (Ghoryan, Guzara, Herat, Injil, Karukh, and Zindajan).

In the immediate aftermath, REACH initiated an ad-hoc round of the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative in order to provide one joint assessment for the entire response to address information gaps around the continuing functionality of markets and availability and accessibility of relevant items within these markets, and reduce duplication of efforts. In order to continue informing humanitarian actors and monitor the situation, REACH is implementing fortnightly monitoring rounds. The JMMI assessment employs a quantitative key informant interview (KII) approach. The methodology includes surveys with purposively sampled traders, acting as key informants (KIs) for their respective markets. The findings are indicative and may not always fully reflect market activity in the assessed areas.¹ More details on the approach are available in the methodology note section at the end.

Data from this round was collected on 25 October by REACH in Herat province of Afghanistan.

Median cost of Food Basket

75.42 USD | 5,617 AFN

Herat value² (Round 1 - 10 Oct)

78.53 USD

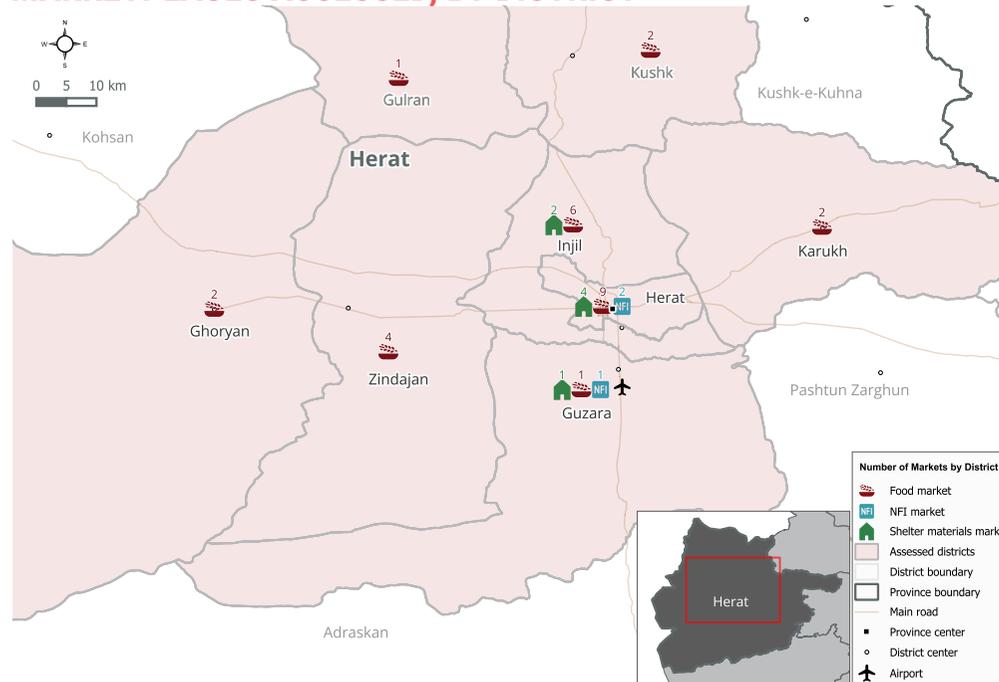
Median cost of MEB³

243.09 USD | 18,101 AFN

Herat value² (Round 1 - 10 Oct)

242.28 USD

MARKETPLACES ASSESSED, BY DISTRICT⁴



8 Districts assessed
205 Key informants (KIs) interviewed
35 Commodities assessed

73 Food traders
62 NFIs traders
73 Shelter materials traders

KEY FINDINGS

- Overall, 96% of KIs reported that all or almost all traders usually present in the market were currently open; this is compared to 42% of KIs in the first round (10 Oct). This **indicates that marketplaces are returning to the pre-earthquake status-quo across the 6 districts.**
- Almost all KIs reported that food prices had stayed the same or decreased since the earthquake (96%), with the **food basket cost returning to the pre-earthquake average. This suggests that food markets have since stabilized following the initial shock**, which may be due to increased availability, and greater supply from the provincial centre and reduced reliance on imports.
- However, the **average MEB cost has not reduced to pre-earthquake levels.** Whilst availability increased for all recorded NFIs, reported change in prices of NFIs varied. This **indicates different levels of NFI marketplace resilience across districts:** there was no reported increase in NFI prices in Ghoryan, Guzara, and Karukh, compared to Herat (26%), Injil (23%), and Zindijan (11%).
- **Increased prices of NFIs and shelter items** recorded across the two rounds of assessment was reportedly **due to increased demand despite overall improved availability.** This may be **due to more households starting to invest in reconstruction as aftershocks have eased.**
- **However, availability of safe water notably decreased (from 39% of KIs reporting it unavailable on 10 Oct to 54% in this round).** This indicates continuing concerns around public health, with lack of availability reported in all districts except Herat.

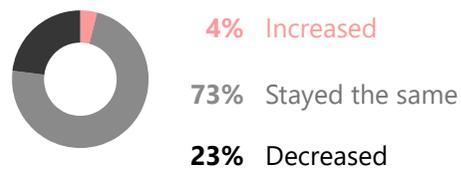


MEDIAN FOOD ITEM PRICES AT THE TIME OF INTERVIEW

Food Items	Unit	Price (AFN)	Price (USD)
Local rice	1 Kg	76	1.02
Pulses	1 Kg	75	1.01
Salt	1 Kg	13	0.17
Sugar	1 Kg	70	0.94
Tomatoes	1 Kg	20	0.27
Vegetable oil	1 L	82	1.10
Wheat flour (imported)	1 Kg	31	0.42
Wheat flour (local)	1 Kg	30	0.40

REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF FOOD ITEMS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE, AND REPORTED PERCEIVED REASONS FOR PRICE INCREASE⁵

% of KIs reporting a change in price for food items since the earthquake:



Out of those KIs reporting an increase in food items prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:⁶

- 1 33% Less availability of items to stock / sell
- 2 33% Increased cost from supplier

Although most KIs reported that food prices had stayed the same since the earthquake, KIs more frequently reported that prices had decreased in Ghoryan (83%); conversely, reported increase in food prices was highest in Karukh (33%).

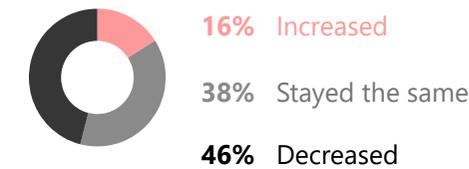
Compared to the first round (10 Oct) where 20% KIs reported that food prices had increased, this **suggests that food markets have since stabilized following the initial shock**. This is also reflected in **reported prices of food items remaining similar across the two rounds of assessment**.

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF FOOD ITEMS FROM OPERATIONAL TRADERS

Food Items	Available (% KIs)	Limited availability (% KIs)	Unavailable (% KIs)	Median time for stock to last (days)
Local rice	76%	18%	6%	12
Pulses	89%	9%	2%	12
Salt ¹¹	99%	1%	0%	-
Sugar ¹¹	98%	2%	0%	-
Tomatoes	81%	17%	2%	4
Vegetable oil	99%	1%	0%	9
Wheat flour (imported)	85%	13%	1%	11
Wheat flour (local)	87%	13%	1%	12

REPORTED CHANGE IN DEMAND OF FOOD ITEMS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE

% of KIs reporting a change in demand for food items since the earthquake:

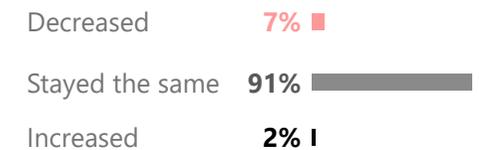


Decreased demand for food items was reported by larger proportions of vendors in Ghoryan, Gulran and Guzara (50%) and Herat (54%). Overall, the most commonly reported reason for the decrease in demand was the lack of income (84%).

Compared to the first round (10 Oct) where 26% KIs reported that demand for food items had increased, this suggests that **food markets have since stabilized**. This may be due to **more shops reported to be open at the time of data collection and increased reported availability** of individual food items between the two rounds of assessment.

REPORTED CHANGE IN NUMBER OF FOOD SUPPLIERS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE

% of KIs reporting a change in the number of food suppliers since the earthquake:



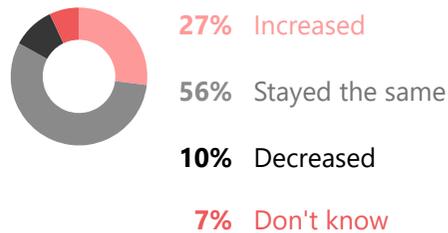


MEDIAN NFI (WINTERISATION) PRICES AT THE TIME OF INTERVIEW

NFIs	Unit	Price (AFN)	Price (USD)
Blanket	1 Piece	850	11.42
Coal*	1 Kg	12	0.17
Cooking pot*	1 Piece	750	10.07
Diesel	1 Liter	68	0.91
Firewood*	1 Kg	11	0.15
Liquefied petroleum gas	1 Liter	60	0.81
Safe water ⁵	18 L	55	0.74
Sanitary pad	1 Bag	90	1.21
Soap	1 Piece	30	0.40
Water container*	1 Piece	195	2.62
Winter jacket*	1 Piece	600	8.06

REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF NFIs SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE, AND REPORTED PERCEIVED REASONS FOR PRICE INCREASE⁶

% of KIs reporting a change in price for NFIs since the earthquake:



Out of those KIs reporting an increase in NFIs prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:⁶

- 74% Demand increased
- 63% Increased cost from suppliers
- 42% Less availability of items to stock

100% of KIs in Ghoryan and Kushk districts reported that NFI prices had stayed the same since the earthquake. However, KIs reported increase in NFI prices was highest in Karukh (100%), Zindajan (67%), and Gulran (50%).

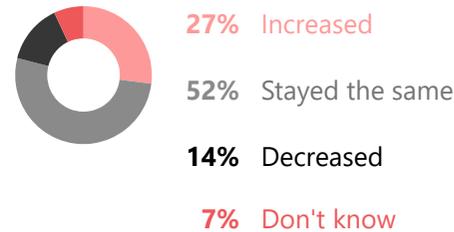
Compared to the first round (10 Oct) where 20% KIs reported that NFI prices had increased, and 1% that prices had decreased, this suggests that **resilience of NFI markets has varied across districts.**

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF NFIs FROM OPERATIONAL TRADERS

NFIs	Available (% KIs)	Limited availability (% KIs)	Unavailable (% KIs)	Median time for stock to last (days)
Blanket	50%	28%	22%	17
Coal*	40%	24%	33%	25
Cooking pot*	73%	15%	12%	15
Diesel	81%	16%	3%	13
Firewood*	62%	27%	10%	20
Liquefied petroleum gas	83%	13%	3%	8
Safe water ⁵	23%	23%	54%	4
Sanitary pad ¹¹	83%	14%	3%	-
Soap	95%	4%	1%	16
Water container*	66%	20%	14%	15
Winter jacket*	66%	15%	18%	15

REPORTED CHANGE IN DEMAND OF NFIs SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE⁶

% of KIs reporting a change in demand for NFIs since the earthquake:

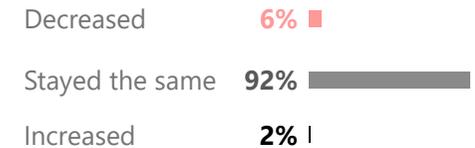


No KIs reported an increase in demand for NFIs in their stores since the earthquake in Gulran, Karukh, and Kushk. However, 56% of KIs reported an increase in demand in Zindajan, with the most frequently reported reason being the increased need for construction

This **indicates an increased demand compared to the first round (10 Oct)**, where 17% KIs reported that demand for NFIs had increased. This may be due to more shops reported to be open, and more households starting to invest in reconstruction as aftershocks have eased.

REPORTED CHANGE IN NUMBER OF NFI SUPPLIERS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE

% of KIs reporting a change in the number of NFI suppliers since the earthquake:





Earthquake Response Market Assessment - Round 2

Shelter Materials

25 October 2023



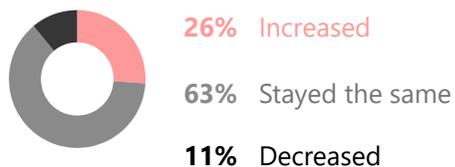
As part of the JMMI earthquake response assessment, data on additional NFI Shelter Materials was collected; this required speaking to KIs that specifically traded in these materials. Similarly, data on availability of construction labour was added to inform the earthquake response, for which specific KIs with knowledge of this market were consulted.

MEDIAN SHELTER MATERIAL PRICES AT THE TIME OF INTERVIEW

Shelter Materials	Unit	Price (AFN)	Price (USD)
Nails	1 Kg	160	2.15
Plastic sheeting	1 Meter	60	0.81
Rope	1 Meter	10	0.13
Shovel	1 Piece	200	2.69
Tent	1 Piece	1200	16.12
Tarpaulin	1 sq. meter	80	1.07

REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF SHELTER MATERIALS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE, AND REPORTED PERCEIVED REASONS FOR PRICE INCREASE⁶

% of KIs reporting a change in price for shelter materials since the earthquake:



Out of those KIs reporting an increase in shelter material prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:⁷

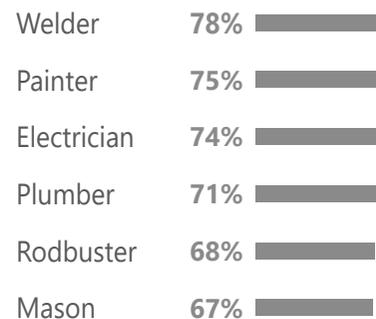
- 1 79% Demand increased
- 2 58% Increased cost from supplier
- 3 26% Reduced availability of items

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF SHELTER MATERIALS FROM OPERATIONAL TRADERS

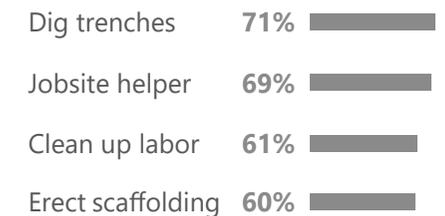
Shelter Materials	Available (% KIs)	Limited availability (% KIs)	Unavailable (% KIs)	Median time for stock to last (days)
Nails	84%	14%	1%	20
Plastic sheeting	82%	18%	0%	20
Rope	84%	14%	2%	19
Shovel	82%	15%	3%	20
Tent	28%	18%	51%	8
Tarpaulin	36%	18%	43%	13

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION LABOUR

% of assessed KIs by the reported availability of skilled construction labour in all markets:⁷



% of assessed KIs by the reported availability of unskilled construction labour in all markets:⁷



100% of KIs in Karukh district reported that the shelter materials price had increased since the earthquake, compared to the average over assessed areas of 26%. Overall, **reporting shows an increase in price of shelter materials compared to the first round (10 Oct)**, where only 4% of KIs reported an increase in prices. This is reflected in the recorded prices of certain items, with e.g. the average cost of a tent increasing from 950 AFN to 1200 AFN between the two rounds of assessment.



Earthquake Response Market Assessment - Round 2

Market Supply

25 October 2023



LOCATION OF MAIN SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD, NFIs AND SHELTER MATERIALS

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



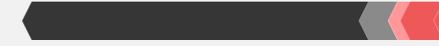
- 83%** Province capital city
- 7%** Same province⁸
- 1%** Different province
- 9%** Imported from abroad

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



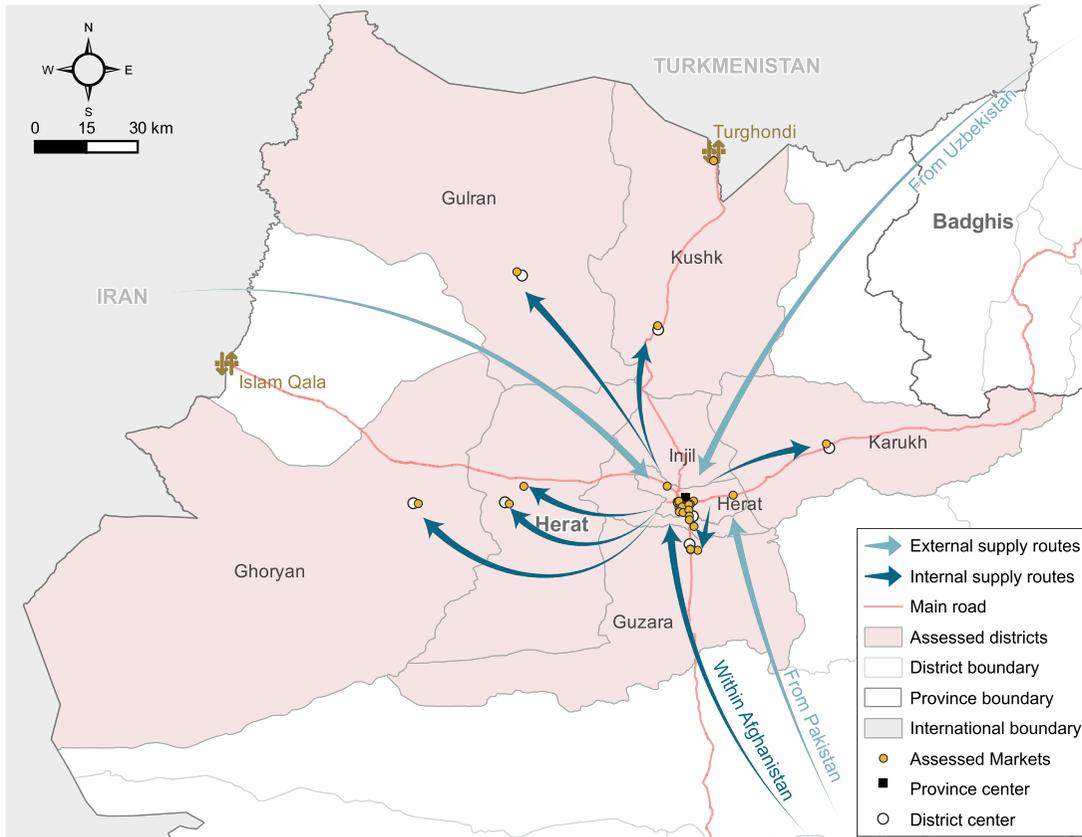
- 87%** Province capital city
- 2%** Same province⁸
- 1%** Different province
- 10%** Imported from abroad

Proportion of retailer KIs by reported location of their main supplier of **shelter materials**:

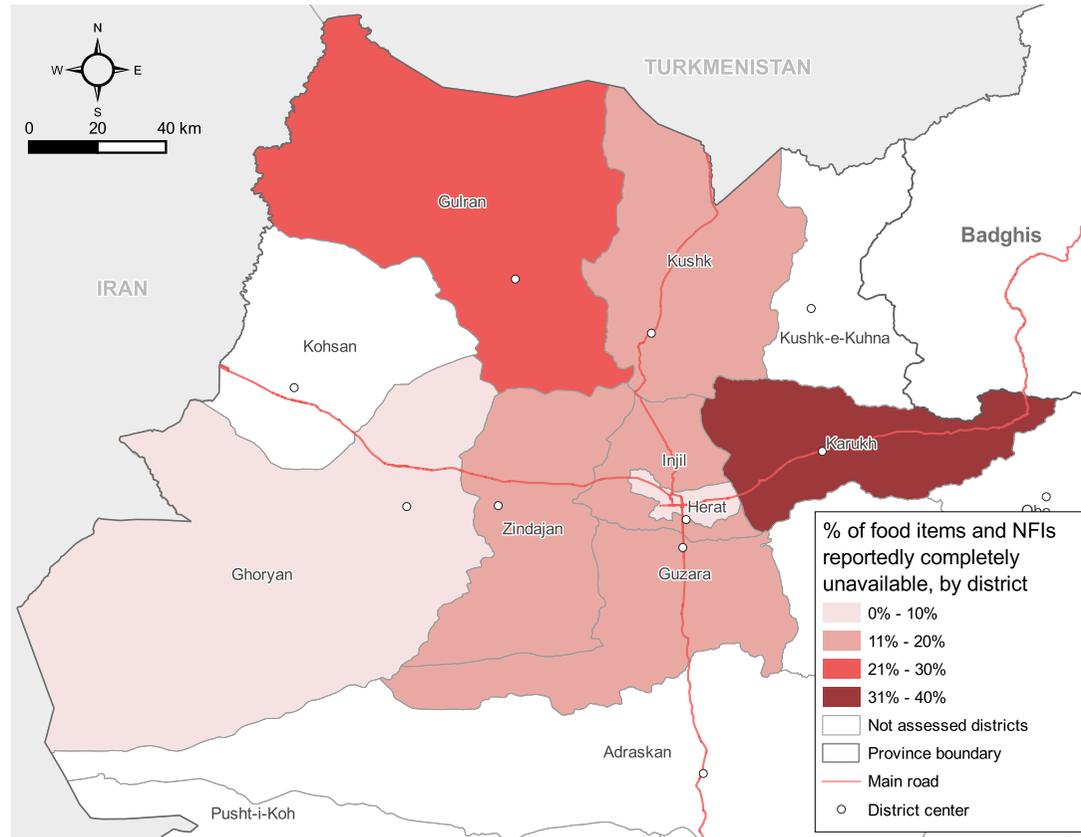


- 82%** Province capital city
- 7%** Same province⁸
- 3%** Different province
- 8%** Imported from abroad

FOOD & NFI SUPPLY ROUTE MAP



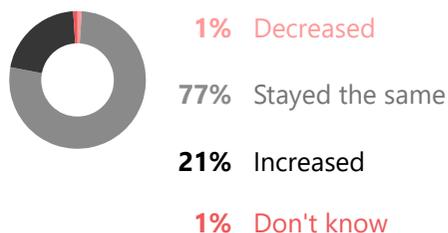
% OF FOOD ITEMS AND NFIs REPORTEDLY WIDELY AVAILABLE, BY DISTRICT⁹





TRADER PRESENCE IN THE MARKET

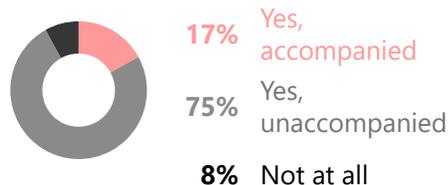
KIs perceived the following changes in the number of shops that have been open since the earthquake:



Overall, **96% of KIs reported that all or almost all traders usually present in the market were currently open.** This is reflected in the increased percentage of KIs reporting that the number of shops open had stayed the same or increased since the earthquake: from 58% to 98% between the two rounds of assessment. However, this was lowest in Gulran district (83%).

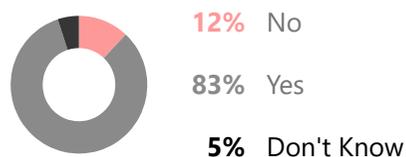
WOMEN'S ACCESS

Proportion of KIs reporting women were able to safely access the market:



CASH ACCESS

Proportion of KIs reporting that cash was accessible:



PRESENCE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Proportion of KIs reporting on the presence of functional money transfer services in or near their market area, by type:⁷



ENDNOTES

1. Herat indicative values are based on the first round of the Earthquake Response Market Assessment on 10 October 2023.
2. The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a seven-person Afghan household for one month.
3. Pulses in this table are calculated as the median (normalised) price of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.
4. The numbers indicate KIs reporting per each type of market; individual KIs may have reported on more than 1 type of market.
5. Safe water refers here to 105 liters of clean drinking water for a family of 7 members. This mostly refers to 20L Jugs.
6. All KIs were asked about changes in prices of food items, NFIs, and shelter materials in general. KIs that reported an increase or decrease were asked to report on the main reason for this.
7. Respondents could report multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.
8. Same province: location of the main supplier is the same district and the same province, except the provincial capital city.
9. Key Informants were asked about the level of availability of 10 food items and 18 NFIs in their market. The map displays the share of items that KIs regarded to be "widely available" in their market; results are aggregated at the district level.
10. The hawala system is an informal method of transferring money, including across borders, through a network of money brokers. Hawala is used today as an alternative remittance channel that exists outside of traditional banking systems.
11. Considering the rapid nature of the earthquake response market assessment and to keep the tool length precise, we have only asked for stock and re-stock for limited items.

METHODOLOGY

Markets were selected purposively with the consultation of REACH field teams in order to target markets that were most likely to be used by populations and responders in affected areas. Markets were then classified as 'large', 'medium', or 'small' by field teams. For 'small' markets, 1 KI retailer was conducted. For 'medium' and 'large' markets, 3 to 6 KIs were conducted, depending on accessibility to vendors. Enumerators sampled a mixture of wholesalers and retailers. KIs were asked questions about the days since the 7 October 2023 earthquake. All reported findings are based on data collected from the operational and partially operational shops.

About the REACH Initiative

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, 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](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).