

# KENYA JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE (JMMI)

October-December, 2022

## KEY MESSAGES

- The overall cost of the MEB seems to have decreased from KES 20,364 in September to KES 17,425 in December 2022. **Lamu and Wajir were found to have a greater decrease of the cost of the MEB (24.9%)** because of the reduced price of vegetables and cost of refilling a 20L jerrycan of water. The change in these prices might have been occasioned by the availability of water from the short rains received between October and December 2022.
- Mandera and Makueni were found to have the highest cost of the MEB** (KES 20,945 and KES 20,099 respectively). The cost of refilling a 6kg LPG in Mandera (KES 2,450) and the price of solar lamp in Makueni (KES 1,625) was almost twice the overall median cost of refilling a 6 Kg LPG and solar lamp (KES 1,300 and KES 600 respectively), which drove up the MEB cost.
- Similar to September 2022 (**60%**), a considerably high proportion (**65%**) of vendors **reportedly experienced challenges in restocking** commodities in the 30 days prior to data collection. Their top reported restocking challenges were increased price of commodities by suppliers (64%) and high cost of transportation (62%).

## CONTEXT & RATIONALE

With the critical drought situation in Kenya, following five consecutive failed rainy seasons, prices of essential food and non-food items have remained high. The high prices are a result of continuing high inflation (9.1%)<sup>1</sup>, in addition to reported food stock shortages (particularly vegetable oil, maize flour and sugar), by retailers during the December 2022 JMMI across the assessed counties.

Furthermore, the populations in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) counties have received below-average harvest as a result of the failed 2022 short rains.<sup>2</sup> This could exacerbate commodity shortages and drive up prices of essential items.

The Kenya Cash Working Group (KCWG) initiated the JMMI in March 2022 to inform cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in the ASAL counties, as well as to enable regular updates of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).

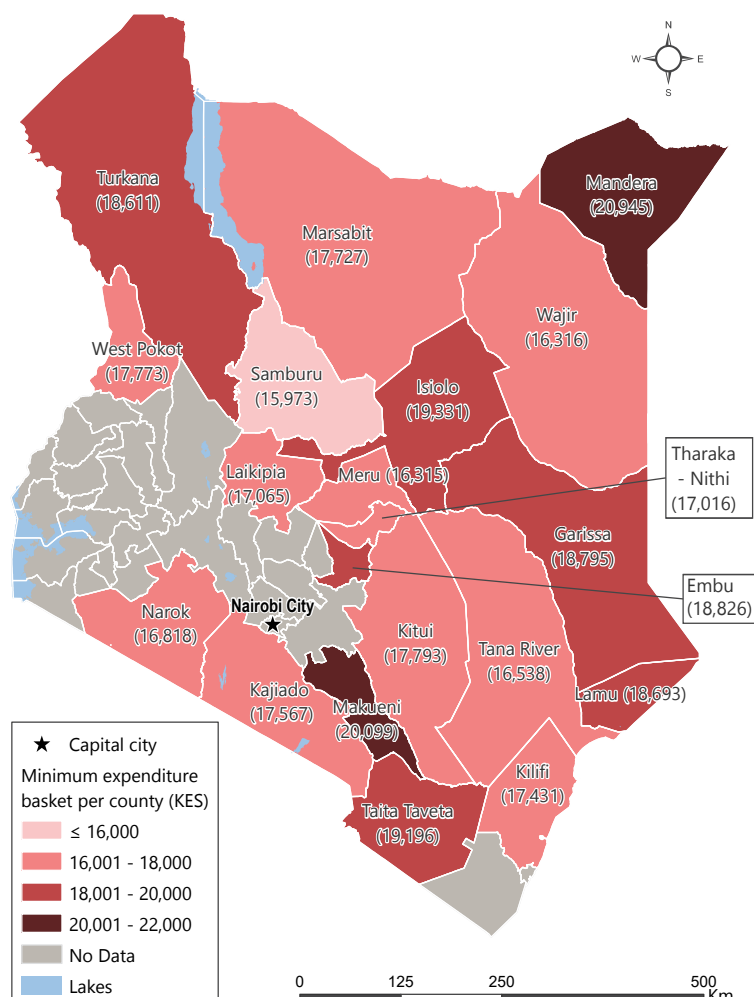
### METHODOLOGY:

Data was collected between 13 December 2022 and 17 January 2023 by partners through key informant interviews with market vendors. For each assessed market, enumerators recorded at least three prices for each assessed food and non-food items as well as other market indicators. Findings are presented at county level and should be considered indicative rather than generalisable. Therefore, the narrative only summarizes general trends at the time of data collection.

### Q4 2022 COVERAGE:

- 15** Participating agencies.
- 21** Assessed counties.
- 261** Markets covered.
- 3,414** Vendors interviewed.
- 35** Commodities assessed.

## ASSESSED COUNTIES AND MEDIAN MEB VALUES



### Cost of the MEB in KES<sup>4</sup> and change since previous round (Q3)

County	Food MEB	Change	Non-food items MEB	Change	MEB	Change
Wajir	12,056	31.6% ▼	4,206	11.1% ▼	16,316	24.9% ▼
Lamu	14,453	13.6% ▲	4,240	65.7% ▼	18,826	24.9% ▼
Marsabit	12,823	20.9% ▼	4,906	18.8% ▼	17,727	20.3% ▼
Makueni	13,080	6.2% ▼	7,019	37.0% ▼	20,099	20.0% ▼
Garissa	13,815	10.3% ▼	4,980	35.0% ▼	18,795	18.4% ▼
Mandera	13,618	21.0% ▼	7,327	2.8% ▲	20,945	14.1% ▼
Samburu	11,930	10.7% ▼	4,043	22.3% ▼	15,973	13.9% ▼
Laikipia	13,259	3.0% ▼	3,806	38.0% ▼	17,065	13.8% ▼
Baringo	12,489	3.3% ▼	3,602	36.6% ▼	16,091	13.5% ▼
Kitui	13,278	4.3% ▼	4,515	28.2% ▼	17,793	11.8% ▼
Isiolo	13,253	12.1% ▼	6,079	8.9% ▼	19,331	11.1% ▼
Turkana	14,010	13.6% ▼	4,601	1.1% ▲	18,611	10.4% ▼
Tana River	12,324	7.3% ▼	4,214	4.9% ▼	16,538	6.7% ▼
West Pokot	12,866	2.0% ▲	4,906	23.1% ▼	17,773	6.4% ▼
Kilifi	13,332	6.5% ▼	4,099	4.6% ▲	17,431	4.1% ▼
Taita Taveta*	12,951		6,246		19,196	
Embu*	12,570		6,256		18,826	
Kajiado*	11,446		6,120		17,567	
Tharaka Nithi*	12,454		4,563		17,016	
Narok*	12,564		4,254		16,818	
Meru*	10,729		5,587		16,315	

### ABOUT THE MEB

The MEB is used as an operational tool to identify and quantify the average minimum cost of the culturally adjusted basic items required to support a six-person household for one month. The cost of the MEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households.

### MEB COMPONENTS

Sector	Item	Quantity
Food items	Maize flour	32.25 Kg
	Rice	22.5 Kg
	Cowpeas	7.5 Kg
	Dried beans	7.5 Kg
	Vegetables oil	5.25 l
	Cow milk, whole, not fortified	22.5 Kg
	Leafy vegetables, dark green	15 Kg
	Salt, Iodized	0.75 Kg
	Sugar	0.75 Kg
	Water	1,125 l
WASH	Multi-purpose soap	2.2 Kg
	Toothpaste	0.425 l
	Sanitary pads (8 pack)	2 packs
Education	School materials (pen, pencil, book, rubber and sharpener)	2 Kits
Energy	Charcoal	12 Kg
	Solar lamp	1 piece
Health	National health insurance fund	KES 500
Communica-tion	Communication (airtime)	KES 300
Transport	Public transportation	KES 200

- The overall cost of MEB has decreased across all the counties between Q3 and Q4, with a **greater decrease (24.9%) observed in Wajir and Lamu Counties.**
- Despite the overall decrease in the cost of MEB, **in Lamu, median prices of some food items increased particularly starkly between Q3 and Q4; the median price of cattle milk, for instance, increased from 80 to 120 KES.**
- **Mandera and Makueni were found to have the highest cost of the MEB** (KES 20,945 and KES 20,099 respectively). The cost of refilling a 6kg LPG in Mandera (KES 2,450) and the price of solar lamp in Makueni (KES 1,625) was almost twice the overall median cost of refilling a 6 Kg LPG and solar lamp (KES 1,300 and KES 600 respectively), which drove up the MEB cost.
- On the other side, **Baringo (KES 16,091) and Samburu (KES 15,973) were found to have the lowest cost of the MEB.**
- There was a slight increase in the price of non-food items basket in Kilifi (4.6%), Mandera (2.8%) and Turkana (1.1%). The increase is likely a result of the high transport cost as reported by 65% of the vendors.

\*: no price data available for Q3.

Median price of items per County in KES<sup>4</sup>

Item	Overall median cost	Baringo	Embu	Garissa	Isiolo	Kajiado	Kilifi	Kitui	Laikipia	Lamu	Makueni
White maize (1 Kg)	90	85	100	100	80	90	77.5	70	90	52.5	70
Maize flour (1 Kg)	100	100	100	110	100	100	85	100	90	90	90
Beans (1 Kg)	140	130	140	150	180	130	190	140	140	135	150
Cow peas (1 Kg)	130	130	140	na	140	120	140	130	140	130	140
Pigeon peas (1 Kg)	130	na	130	na	140	130	140	125	140	135	130
Rice (1 Kg)	120	100	110	140	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
Sugar (1 Kg)	160	150	150	160	160	150	160	160	160	150	220
Wheat flour (1 Kg)	110	110	110	120	120	110	105	110	110	110	110
Vegetable oil (1 l)	240	250	240	285	280	135	220	240	285	260	240
Tea leaves (500 g)	25	40	20	20	20	35	30	20	20	40	50
Salt (1 Kg)	30	30	30	20	10	30	20	20	20	30	30
Cattle milk (1 l)	80	100	65	100	100	70	120	75	70	120	70
Camel milk (1 l)	120	85	na	120	120	120	100	120	120	na	na
Onions (1 Kg)	80	120	80	100	80	100	90	70	50	70	100
Tomatoes (1 Kg)	70	na	50	85	80	55	100	55	50	60	90
Kales (1 Kg)	90	90	50	120	95	60	115	150	95	110	70
Spinach (1 Kg)	100	100	20	120	100	140	120	140	100	175	100
Traditional vegetables (1 Kg)	100	90	45	na	150	110	100	150	50	120	70
Cabbage (500 g)	80	95	60	155	75	60	65	80	32.5	60	80
Soap (200 g)	40	30	40	50	50	50	25	25	50	57.5	120
Jerry can (20 l)	150	200	300	200	200	120	100	100	200	80	100
Bucket (20 l)	250	250	250	200	200	230	200	220	280	na	195
Sanitary pads (8 pack)	80	60	70	100	100	65	70	60	65	65	77.5
LPG 6KG refill	1,300	1,375	1,200	654	1,500	1,250	1,250	1,350	1,250	na	1,300
Firewood (1 bundle)	100	100	150	50	100	600	50	100	150	na	100
Charcoal (2 Kg)	50	35	100	80	50	100	50	50	50	40	50
Kerosene (1 l)	160	190	160	na	200	160	170	122.5	160	180	125
Pencil (1 pc)	10	10	10	10	5	10	10	10	10	10	10
Pen (1 pc)	10	10	10	15	10	15	10	10	10	10	10
Exercise book (1 pc)	15	15	10	15	15	20	20	15	15	32.5	15
Rubber (1 pc)	10	5	10	10	5	10	5	5	5	10	10
Water refill from borehole (20 l)	10	7.5	10	20	27.5	35	10	20	5	10	30
Toothpaste (15 ml)	35	30	100	30	65	35	35	30	30	30	35
Solar lamp (1 pc)	600	500	500	555	500	850	560	675	525	na	1,625

na: no price data available.

Median price of items per County in KES<sup>4</sup>

Item	Mandera	Marsabit	Meru	Narok	Samburu	Taita Taveta	Tana River	Tharaka Nithi	Turkana	Wajir	West Pokot
White maize (1 Kg)	135	80	90	100	80	75	100	75	100	120	90
Maize flour (1 Kg)	122.5	105	90	100	80	100	100	100	120	125	120
Beans (1 Kg)	130	130	135	140	140	160	160	125	120	140	160
Cow peas (1 Kg)	120	na	120	120	130	120	120	130	120	na	140
Pigeon peas (1 Kg)	110	na	125	100	140	120	130	120	140	na	na
Rice (1 Kg)	125	120	110	120	130	120	110	120	120	130	130
Sugar (1 Kg)	170	140	150	160	160	150	140	160	140	160	200
Wheat flour (1 Kg)	120	120	110	90	120	110	100	110	120	120	120
Vegetable oil (1 l)	105	300	230	230	300	240	240	260	250	120	215
Tea leaves (500 g)	50	30	20	20	40	20	25	20	30	50	55
Salt (1 Kg)	65	30	25	15	40	27.5	20	25	30	50	40
Cattle milk (1 l)	100	70	60	80	70	110	87.5	95	100	80	90
Camel milk (1 l)	135	130	na	na	100	na	90	na	100	na	na
Onions (1 Kg)	100	100	70	60	100	70	100	70	120	120	60
Tomatoes (1 Kg)	110	120	60	75	100	60	60	60	125	100	55
Kales (1 Kg)	120	120	40	90	60	60	80	60	120	60	40
Spinach (1 Kg)	150	180	50	100	60	70	90	55	130	135	45
Traditional vegetables (1 Kg)	na	100	60	120	100	80	65	80	140	na	20
Cabbage (500 g)	80	120	37.5	40	100	60	120	50	150	160	50
Soap (200 g)	50	45	40	50	30	50	50	30	30	na	40
Jerry can (20 l)	300	200	100	150	200	100	150	100	200	200	220
Bucket (20 l)	300	200	200	250	300	270	300	225	200	200	200
Sanitary pads (8 pack)	800	110	70	80	80	70	70	65	100	100	115
LPG 6KG refill	2,450	1,500	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,300	1,350	1,250	1,700	1,500	1,400
Firewood (1 bundle)	60	50	30	100	20	na	100	na	100	80	100
Charcoal (2 Kg)	130	100	80	50	65	80	50	50	40	190	50
Kerosene (1 l)	100	200	160	155	165	158	150	na	250	100	140
Pencil (1 pc)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	5
Pen (1 pc)	20	20	10	10	20	10	10	10	10	20	15
Exercise book (1 pc)	40	15	10	15	15	20	15	15	20	10	20
Rubber (1 pc)	5	10	5	10	10	5	5	10	10	10	5
Water refill from borehole (20 l)	20	5	20	10	10	10	10	20	5	na	25
Toothpaste (15 ml)	35	55	50	35	30	100	35	52.5	30	30	30
Solar lamp (1 pc)	1,000	500	825	1,000	500	500	500	na	1,500	1,050	500

na: no price data available.

## STOCK AVAILABILITY, SHORTAGES AND RESTOCKING CHALLENGES

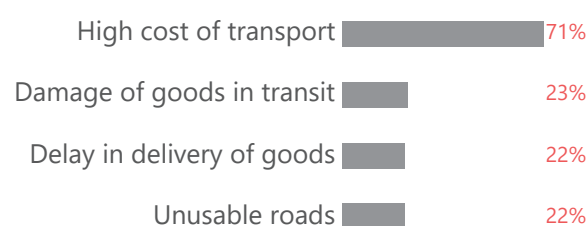
Item	# Of vendors interviewed per item	% Of vendors reporting shortage	% Change* in proportion of vendors reporting shortage	Remaining stock (days)	Time needed to restock (days)
White maize	842	13%	-25%	14	5
Maize flour	1,446	19%	5%	12	4
Beans	1,087	15%	-11%	15	5
Cow peas	214	4%	-1%	18	8
Pigeon peas	187	4%	1%	16	6
Rice	1,561	12%	-6%	12	4
Sugar	1,512	18%	-5%	12	4
Wheat flour	1,329	13%	-1%	12	4
Vegetable oil	1,258	19%	-5%	13	4
Tea leaves	1,141	4%	-1%	14	4
Salt	1,291	5%	-1%	19	6
Cattle milk	622	8%	-2%	7	3
Camel milk	73	5%	-1%	2	1
Onions	876	6%	-5%	7	3
Tomatoes	861	9%	-3%	3	5
Kales	437	6%	-3%	3	2
Spinach	384	4%	-4%	3	2
Traditional vegetables	202	5%	-1%	2	2
Cabbage	754	10%	-3%	4	2
Soap	1,206	7%	-3%	14	5
Jerry can	470	3%	0%	24	10
Plastic bucket	347	5%	4%	27	11
Sanitary pads	698	3%	-1%	19	7
LPG 6KG refill	347	10%	2%	18	7
Firewood	147	3%	-1%	8	4
Charcoal	416	6%	-4%	10	4
Kerosene	129	4%	-1%	16	9
Pencil	748	3%	-1%	27	10
Pen	823	2%	-3%	25	9
Exercise book	671	4%	-1%	27	9
Rubber	465	2%	-1%	29	11
Toothpaste	584	2%	0%	18	7
Solar lamp	166	3%	0%	31	10

The average reported number of days needed to restock food items (4 days) was less than the average number of days needed to restock non-food items (8 days). However, the number of days required for restocking remained relatively high. The relatively high number of days required for restocking essential items could be indicative of imminent shortages. In line with this, most vendors (65%) reported having experienced restocking challenges in the 3 months prior to data collection.

A considerable proportion of vendors (58%)<sup>5</sup> reported that suppliers delivered commodities directly to their shops when they needed to restock. However, 48%<sup>5</sup> of vendors reported that they had to travel to get some commodities from the suppliers. Since most vendors (71%) reported high transportation costs as a challenge, it is likely that transportation costs are among the factors driving up prices for some commodities.

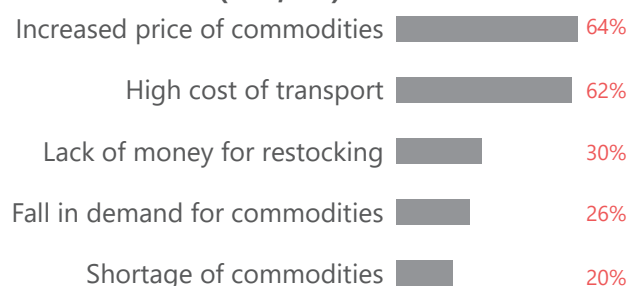
The most common means of transport for both vendors and suppliers were vehicles (68%) and motorcycles (19%). Almost all vendors (99%) reported that they or their suppliers faced challenges when transporting the commodities.

**Figure 1: Most reported transportation challenges, by % of vendors who reported they or their suppliers had faced transportation challenges in the 3 months prior to data collection (n=2,241):<sup>5</sup>**



Two-thirds (65%) of the interviewed vendors reported having faced challenges in restocking items in the 30 days prior to data collection. Particularly, interviewed vendors in Mandera (100%), Kajiado (93%) and Turkana (83%) commonly reported difficulties in restocking most of the commodities. With the increased price of commodities being the top reported restocking challenge by 64% of vendors.

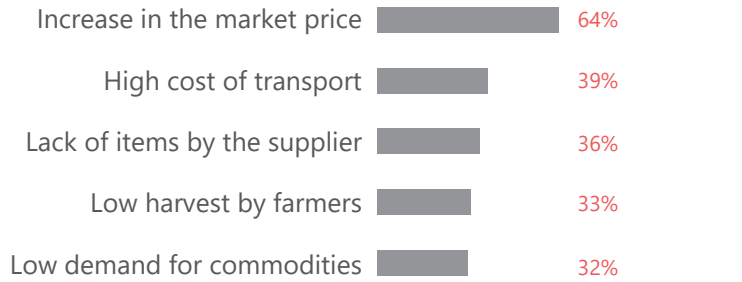
**Figure 2: Most reported restocking challenges, by % of vendors who reported they or their suppliers had faced transportation challenges in the 3 months prior to data collection (n=2,207):<sup>5</sup>**



\*: Change since Q3.

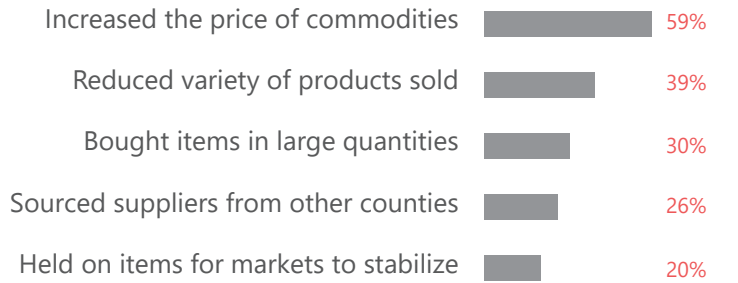
Among the 20% of vendors reporting shortage of commodities as a challenge for restocking, the items most commonly reported as having shortages in the 3 months prior to data collection were vegetable oil (19%), maize flour (19%) and sugar (18%). It should be noted that vendors were only asked about items that they currently had in stock, not for items that were reportedly unavailable.

**Figure 3: Most reported causes of shortages for commodities, by % of vendors who reported that some commodities were experiencing shortages in the 3 months prior to data collections (n=433):<sup>5</sup>**



The vendors reporting shortages of some commodities were asked how they addressed unavailability of commodities in the 3 months prior to data collection. More than half of them (59%) reported increasing the price of commodities.

**Figure 4: Most reported strategies used by interviewed vendors to address unavailability of commodities by % of vendors who reported that some commodities were experiencing shortages in the 3 months prior to data collections (n=433):<sup>5</sup>**



In addition to restocking challenges, most interviewed vendors (80%) reported that the number of customers buying from their shops had changed in the 3 months prior to data collection, most of whom (80%) reported that this number had decreased.

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The JMMI is conducted jointly with KCWG partners. The geographic coverage was determined by the access and capacity of participating partners. Mapping of JMMI coverage was closely coordinated by the MEB workstream of the KCWG to minimise duplication.

The participating agencies collectively developed and reviewed the data collection tools, trained their enumerators on the JMMI methodology and data collection tools and collected the data. Primary data was collected through interviews with vendors (retailers who sell directly to customers) in the targeted marketplaces. Enumerators were asked to record three prices per item in each targeted marketplace. Data was collected through the Open Data Kit (ODK) mobile application and was uploaded to a secure Kobo server for cleaning and analysis. For each item, the median prices per marketplace were calculated after which the median of all those locations was calculated to derive the aggregated median prices presented in this factsheet.

REACH performed daily data quality checks with the partners during and after data collection. This process includes checking for duplicate interviews and numerical outliers (particularly item prices). Data was analysed at county level using R statistical software. All findings are indicative and only apply to the period within which data was collected. Moreover, item specifications may vary slightly between locations according to the different brands available, and comparability between the locations assessed is limited.

LIMITATIONS

For some questions, vendors were asked to recall events over a 3 month period. This is a long period of time, which might somewhat impact the accuracy of answers.

Some vendors might have adjusted their answers based on the expected effect their answers might have on humanitarian programming, leading to potential bias. To mitigate this, enumerators were asked to explain the clause “responses received have no effect on the delivery of humanitarian assistance” in the introductory session of the tool.

About the Kenya Cash Working Group

The KCWG is a multi-agency, inter-cluster technical working group set up to ensure that CVA in Kenya is coordinated, harmonised, and context specific, and is undertaken in a manner that does not inflict harm or exacerbate vulnerabilities of the affected population. The working group was established to provide an enabling environment for collective learning, operational and technical collaboration. The KCWG sought technical support from Cash Cap to undertake the required steps toward reviewing the interim MEB guidance document and additionally, develop a common reference point for both national and international actors for the harmonization of MPCA across the country. The KCWG is currently co-chaired by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and Kenya Red Cross (KRCS), and the MEB work stream is co-chaired by the World Food Programme (WFP) and REACH.



**ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup> [Kenya inflation in December by Focus economics](#), 30 December 2022.

<sup>2</sup> [The FEWSNET food security outlook update](#), December 2022.

<sup>3</sup> The JMMI in Kenya is conducted every quarter of the year with the first (Q1) being done in March, the second (Q2) in June, the third (Q3) in September and the fourth (Q4) in December.

<sup>4</sup> [1 USD-122.5964 KES in December 2022](#).

<sup>5</sup> Vendors could select multiple responses hence the percentages may add up to more than 100%.

**PARTICIPATING PARTNERS, October-December 2022**

In December 2022, 15 different organisations participated in the JMMI. The partners collectively developed and reviewed the data collection tools, trained their enumerators on the JMMI methodology and data collection tools and collected the data. REACH was responsible for data processing and developing the outputs.

