AFGHANISTAN JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE (JMMI) - PILOT

23 April - 8 May 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 programming. Data from the pilot round of the JMMI was collected between 23 April and 8 May, in 27 provinces of Afghanistan.

17	participating agencies
27	assessed provinces
210	assessed marketplaces
697	key informants interviews (KIIs)
27	commodities assessed

JMMI PARTNERS

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

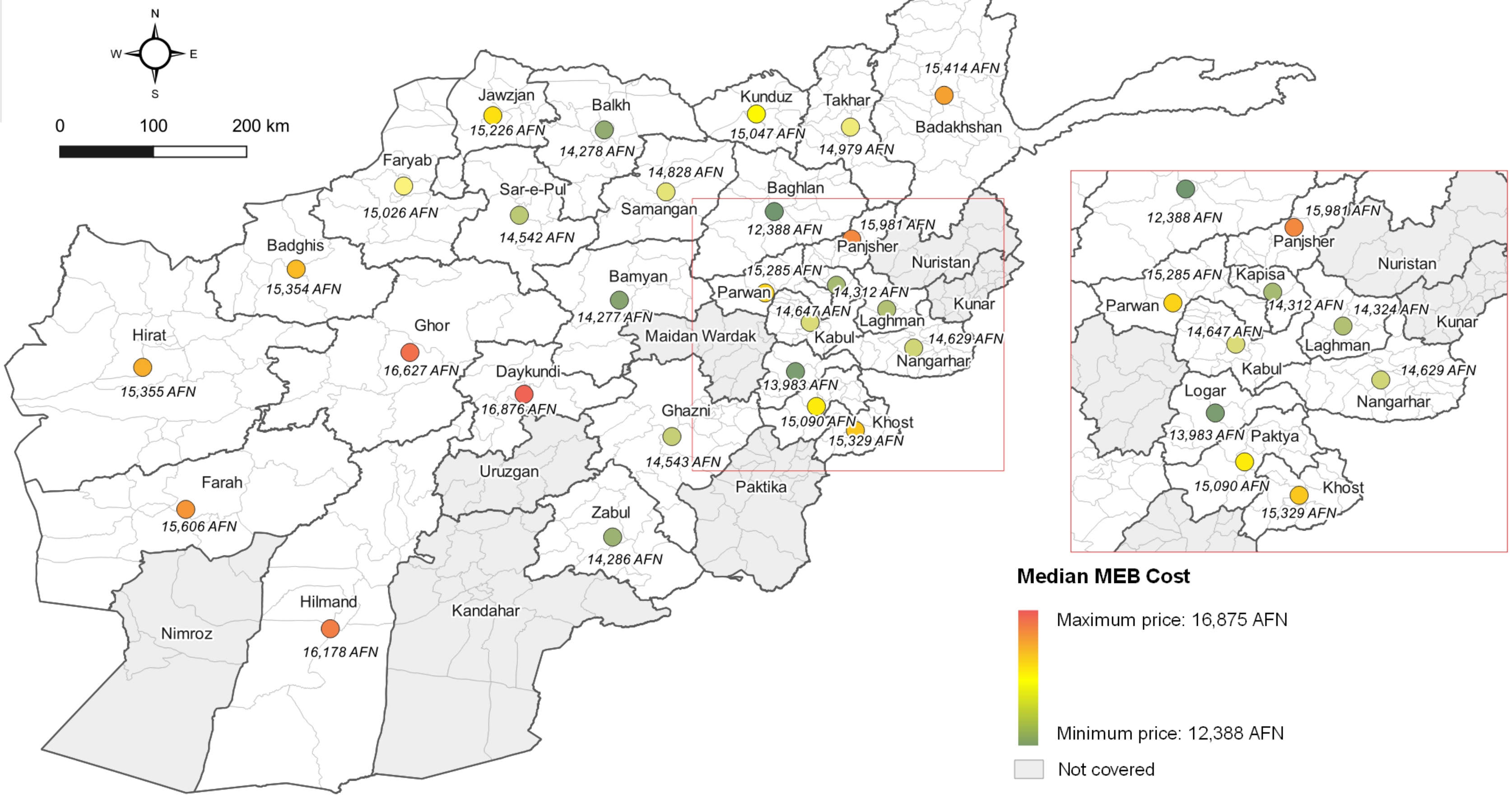
Cost of MEB[1]
14,871 AFN
189.43 USD[2]
▲ 1,097 AFN +8%[3]

Cost of Food Basket
5,887 AFN
75 USD[2]
▲ 870 +17%[3]

40% of KIs reported that less than half of traders in their market were open

65% of KIs reported that the number of traders open in the market had decreased in the past 30 days

MEDIAN MEB COST IN AFGHANISTAN



[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 (23 April) was 76.0250 AFN to 1 USD (cash sell 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 30 days prior to data collection is reflected here.

Funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

AFGHANISTAN CASH AND VOUCHER WORKING GROUP

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

AFGHANISTAN MEB CONTENTS*

Basic Food Basket

Wheat flour (imported)	60 kg	Pulses[1]	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]	2 box
Toothbrush (adult)	3 pc	Women's underwear	2 pc
Toothbrush (child)	4 pc		

Healthcare component (fixed at 667 AFN)

Shelter component (fixed at 5,850 AFN)

Unmet needs (10% of sum of above)

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a 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 contents were defined by the CVWG in consultation with relevant sector leads.

**The MEB prices in this factsheet were calculated using the relevant food and non-food item prices monitored. For items where prices were not used, calculations included the existing price used by the CVWG as a baseline. For the healthcare and shelter components, the fixed amount listed above was used in the calculation. The AFN to USD conversion uses a fixed exchange rate of 78.5 AFN to 1 USD.*

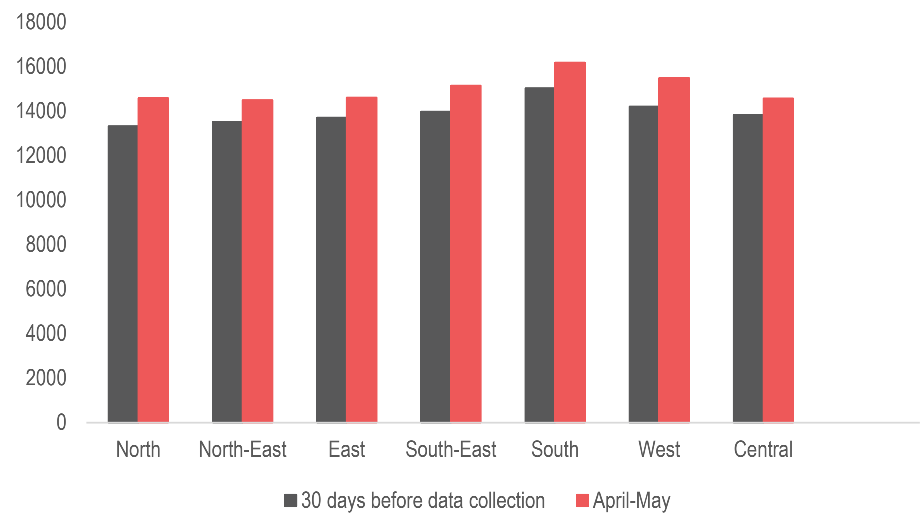
[1]Pulses in this factsheet are calculated as the average price of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.

[2]Sanitary pads were identified by their brand name 'Kotex' (the only available brand in Afghanistan) and referred to a box of 10 normal size pads. Prices for sanitary pads and jerry cans were not reported for this round due to uncertainty over the quality of data collected.

USD/AFN buy rate (parallel market)
76.22 AFN

USD/AFN buy rate (official)*
75.83 AFN

MEB OVER TIME
IN AFN



MEDIAN MEB PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW AND CHANGE SINCE THE PAST 30 DAYS, AT REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL

Province	MEB in AFN	MEB in USD	Change since 30 days	MEB in AFN	MEB in USD
North	14,579	185.72	▲ 9%	13,317	169.64
Balkh	14,278	181.88	▲ 10%	12,942	164.87
Faryab	15,026	191.42	▲ 4%	14,507	184.80
Jawzjan	15,226	193.96	▲ 8%	14,149	180.25
Samangan	14,828	188.90	▲ 11%	13,338	169.90
Sar-e-Pul	14,542	185.24	▲ 10%	13,188	168.00
North-East	14,496	184.67	▲ 7%	13,516	172.18
Badakhshan	15,414	196.36	▲10%	13,987	178.18
Baghlan	12,388	157.81	▲ 12%	11,073	141.06
Kunduz	15,047	191.68	▲10%	13,722	174.80
Takhar	14,979	190.82	▲ 23%	12,181	155.17
East	14,615	186.18	▲ 7%	13,712	174.67
Laghman	14,324	182.47	▲ 8%	13,267	169.01
Nangahar	14,629	186.36	▲ 7%	13,719	174.76
South-East	15,151	193.00	▲ 8%	13,982	178.12
Ghazni	14,543	185.26	▲ 16%	12,555	159.94
Khost	15,329	195.28	▲ 8%	14,180	180.64
Paktya	15,090	192.23	▲ 8%	13,933	177.49
South	16,180	206.12	▲ 8%	15,027	191.42
Helmand	16,178	206.09	▲ 6%	15,222	193.92
Zabul	14,286	181.99	▲ 9%	13,110	167.01
West	15,480	197.19	▲ 9%	14,209	181.00
Badghis	15,354	195.59	▲ 14%	13,481	171.73
Farah	15,606	198.80	▲ 17%	13,375	170.38
Ghor	16,627	211.81	▲ 27%	13,142	167.41
Herat	15,355	195.61	▲ 9%	14,096	179.56
Central	14,573	185.64	▲ 5%	13,826	176.13
Bamyan	14,277	181.87	▲ 7%	13,315	169.61
Daykundi	16,876	214.98	▲ 8%	15,596	198.67
Kabul	14,647	186.58	▲ 6%	13,787	175.64
Kapisa	14,312	182.32	▲ 8%	13,292	169.33
Logar	13,983	178.13	▼ 1%	14,184	180.69
Panjsher	15,981	203.58	▲ 9%	14,675	186.94
Parwan	15,285	194.71	▲ 5%	14,577	185.70

** As reported by the Afghanistan Bank, for 23 April 2020.*

NATIONWIDE MEDIAN ITEM PRICE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW AND CHANGE OVER THE PAST 30 DAYS

Item	Unit	Price in AFN	Price in USD	Change since 30 days	Price in AFN	Price in USD	% KIs expect price to increase[6]
Food Items							
Wheat flour (local)	1 kg	35	0.45	▲ 17%	30	0.38	31%
Wheat flour (imported)	1 kg	38	0.48	▲ 15%	33	0.42	39%
Local rice	1 kg	50	0.64	▲ 11%	45	0.57	38%
Vegetable oil	1 L	100	1.27	▲ 22%	82	1.04	44%
Pulses[4]	1 kg	88	1.13	▲ 26%	69	0.88	37%
Salt	1 kg	20	0.25	▲ 14%	18	0.22	16%
Sugar	1 kg	50	0.64	▲ 19%	42	0.54	36%
Tomatoes	1 kg	50	0.64	*no change*	50	0.64	20%
Potatoes	1 kg	34	0.43	▲ 20%	29	0.36	28%
Onions	1 kg	35	0.45	▼ 13%	40	0.51	22%
Eggs	1 egg	8	0.11	▲ 39%	6	0.08	28%
NFIs							
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	1 pc	100	1.27	▲ 19%	84	1.07	21%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	1 pc	30	0.38	▲ 20%	25	0.32	38%
Toothpaste	1 pc	50	0.64	▲ 25%	40	0.51	17%
Toothbrush (adult)	1 pc	25	0.32	▼ 17%	30	0.38	17%
Toothbrush (child)	1 pc	20	0.25	*no change*	20	0.25	15%
Sanitary pad[5]	1 pc	*na*	*na*	*na*	*na*	*na*	*na*
Washing detergent	1 pc	45	0.57	▲ 13%	40	0.51	31%
Bleach	1 L	55	0.70	▲ 10%	50	0.64	36%
Other NFIs							
Safe water	1 L	16	0.20	▼ 20%	20	0.25	17%
Firewood	1 kg	11	0.14	▼ 14%	13	0.16	12%
Kindling	1 kg	10	0.13	▼ 17%	12	0.15	16%
Fuel gel	1 L	55	0.70	▲ 8%	51	0.65	10%
Cooking fuel	1 kg	39	0.50	▼ 22%	50	0.64	7%
Jerry can (20L)[5]	1 pc	*na*	*na*	*na*	*na*	*na*	*na*

[4] *Pulses in this table are calculated as the average price of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.*
[5] *NA: The items jerry can and sanitary pads are missing for this first round of JMMI due to issues with the reliability of the data.*
[6] *For each item, KIs were asked to report if they expected the item price to change in the next month (increase, decrease, no change, or don't know).*

REASONS FOR REPORTED CHANGE IN FOOD ITEM PRICES IN PAST 30 DAYS[7]

Of the **24% of KIs reporting a decrease in price for at least one food item**, the following reasons were explicitly reported:

1. **8%** Local production increased
2. **4%** Due to COVID-19 and lockdown
3. **2%** Borders opened again

Of the **85% of KIs reporting an increase in price for at least one food item**, the following reasons were explicitly reported:

1. **41%** Due to COVID-19
2. **18%** Border closed due to COVID-19
3. **8%** Reduced supply

REASONS FOR REPORTED CHANGE IN NFI PRICES IN PAST 30 DAYS[7]

Of the **28% of KIs reporting a decrease in price for at least one NFI**, the following reasons were explicitly reported:

1. **5%** Due to COVID-19
2. **4%** Reduced demand
3. **2%** Local production and supply increased

Of the **52% of KIs reporting an increase in price for at least one NFI**, the following reasons were explicitly reported:

1. **23%** Due to COVID-19 and lockdown
2. **11%** Border closed due to COVID-19
3. **8%** Increase in demand

[7] *Any KI that reported an increase or decrease in price of any food item or NFI was asked to report the main reason for this, for food items and NFIs respectively. Reasons given were entered as open text responses, meaning that answers may be open to interpretation of the enumerator. All responses were later categorized during data cleaning and processing. Therefore, findings may be over or under represented and should be considered indicative only.*

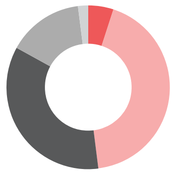
EXPECTED AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS FROM SUPPLIERS IN THE NEXT MONTH[8]

Item	Available (% KIs)	Limited (% KIs)	None (% KIs)
Food Items			
Wheat flour (local)	79%	16%	3%
Wheat flour (imported)	70%	22%	2%
Local rice	71%	21%	3%
Vegetable oil	74%	20%	1%
Pulses[9]	74%	19%	1%
Salt	84%	10%	1%
Sugar	78%	15%	1%
Tomatoes	78%	16%	0%
Potatoes	77%	17%	2%
Onions	77%	18%	0%
Eggs	66%	26%	2%
NFIs			
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	68%	17%	6%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	78%	18%	0%
Toothpaste	78%	14%	2%
Toothbrush (adult)	78%	14%	3%
Toothbrush (child)	79%	13%	3%
Sanitary pad[10]	67%	21%	2%
Washing detergent	79%	17%	1%
Bleach	74%	20%	1%
Other NFIs			
Safe water	82%	14%	0%
Firewood	80%	11%	7%
Kindling	73%	19%	1%
Fuel gel	69%	18%	6%
Cooking fuel	83%	4%	13%
Jerry can (20L)[10]	72%	21%	1%

[8] For each item, KIs were asked to report if they expected the item to be available from suppliers in the next month (available, limited availability, unavailable, or don't know/ don't want to answer). As 'don't know' is not included here, the total may be less than 100%.
[9] Pulses in this table are calculated as the average percentage of KIs of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.
[10] The items jerry can and sanitary pads are missing for this first round of JMMI due to issues with the reliability of the data.

SOURCE AND TRANSPORTATION OF MAIN SUPPLIER OF FOOD ITEMS[11]

Proportion of KIs by source of their main supply of food items

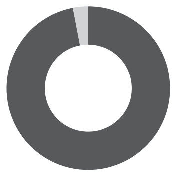


5% Imported
43% Different province
35% Same province
15% Same district
2% Other

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

52% Decrease
39% Stay the same
9% Increase

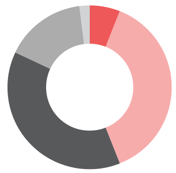
Proportion of KIs by means of transportation of food items from their main supplier



97% Road
3% Other

SOURCE AND TRANSPORTATION OF MAIN SUPPLIER OF NFIs[11]

Proportion of KIs by source of their main supply of NFIs

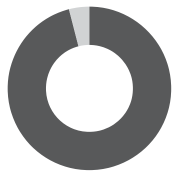


6% Imported
38% Different province
38% Same province
16% Same district
2% Other

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

58% Decrease
34% Stay the same
8% Increase

Proportion of KIs by means of transportation of NFIs from their main supplier



96% Road
4% Other

[11] 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.

GENERAL MARKET SUPPLY CHALLENGES

Of the **36% of KIs reporting that they faced difficulties obtaining enough commodities to meet demand in the past 30 days**, the three most frequently cited **reasons were:**

1. **79%** Reduced movement due to fear of exposure to COVID-19
2. **58%** Public health restrictions on movement/lockdown
3. **42%** Not enough money

Proportion of KIs reporting difficulties in road-based transportation of goods

39% Yes (new to the past 30 days)
16% Yes (issue prior to the past 30 days)
8% Yes (don't know since when)
37% No, none

REPORTED CHANGE IN DEMAND FOR ITEMS IN THE PAST 30 DAYS[12]

Item	Increase (% KIs)	Same (% KIs)	Decrease (% KIs)
Food Items			
Wheat flour (local)	64%	13%	21%
Wheat flour (imported)	62%	13%	23%
Local rice	53%	21%	22%
Vegetable oil	54%	22%	22%
Pulses[13]	46%	29%	22%
Salt	16%	77%	4%
Sugar	52%	31%	15%
Tomatoes	47%	28%	22%
Potatoes	49%	24%	23%
Onions	46%	29%	23%
Eggs	39%	27%	31%
NFIs			
Soft cotton cloth ($2m^2$ piece)	25%	49%	21%
Antiseptic soap (95-110g)	63%	31%	3%
Toothpaste	16%	74%	6%
Toothbrush (adult)	14%	75%	7%
Toothbrush (child)	16%	74%	7%
Sanitary pad[14]	30%	60%	3%
Washing detergent	39%	53%	5%
Bleach	56%	36%	5%
Other NFIs			
Safe water	19%	66%	10%
Firewood	12%	51%	37%
Kindling	20%	42%	31%
Fuel gel	11%	53%	28%
Cooking fuel	41%	30%	22%
Jerry can (20L)[14]	19%	69%	4%

REASONS FOR REPORTED CHANGE IN DEMAND FOR FOOD ITEMS IN THE PAST 30 DAYS[15]

Of the **47% of KIs reporting a decrease in demand for at least one food item**, the following reasons were explicitly reported:

1. 17% Prices increased and items are too expensive
2. 10% Customers can't afford items due to unemployment and poverty
3. 8% Due to COVID-19

Of the **72% of KIs reporting a increase in demand for at least one food item**, the following reasons were explicitly reported:

1. 40% Due to COVID-19
2. 9% Hoarding behaviour from customers
3. 5% Due to Ramadan

REASONS FOR REPORTED CHANGE IN DEMAND FOR NFIs IN THE PAST 30 DAYS[15]

Of the **25% of KIs reporting a decrease in demand for at least one NFI,** the following reasons were explicitly reported:

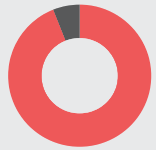
1. 9% Prices increased and items are too expensive
2. 6% Due to COVID-19

Of the **52% of KIs reporting a increase in demand for at least one NFI,** the following reasons were explicitly reported:

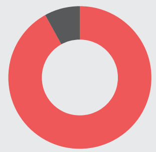
1. 25% Due to COVID-19
2. 3% Border closed due to COVID-19

BARRIERS TO MARKET ACCESS FOR CONSUMERS

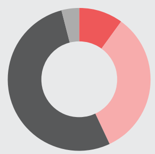
Proportion of KIs that reported consumers faced financial barriers to accessing the market in the past 30 days



Proportion of KIs that reported consumers faced non-financial barriers to accessing the market in the past 30 days



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



[12] For each item, KIs were asked to report if demand for the item had changed in the past 30 days (increased, stayed the same, decreased).
[13] Pulses in this table are calculated as the average percentage of KIs of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.
[14] The item prices of jerry can and sanitary pads are missing for this first round of JMMI due to issues with the reliability of the data.

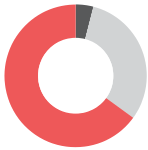
[15] Any KI that reported an increase or decrease in demand of any food item or NFI was asked to report the main reason for this, for food items and NFIs respectively. Reasons given were entered as open text responses, meaning that answers may be open to interpretation of the enumerator. All responses were later categorized during data cleaning and processing. Therefore, findings may be over or under represented and should be considered indicative only.

TRADER PRESENCE IN THE MARKET

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

- 18% All traders open
- 42% At least half of traders open
- 40% Less than half of traders open

Proportion of KIs reporting the number of traders open to have changed in the past 30 days



- 4% Increased
- 31% Stayed the same
- 65% Decreased

The three most frequently cited **reasons for a reported decrease** in number of traders were:[16]

1. 63% Due to COVID-19
2. 1% Shops closed due to lockdown
3. 1% Increased prices of commodities

TRADER RELIANCE ON CREDIT

Proportion of KIs reporting having borrowed money or purchased on credit to support their business[17]

- 47% No, not in the last year
- 7% Yes, in the last year
- 44% Yes, in the last 30 days
- 2% Prefer not to say

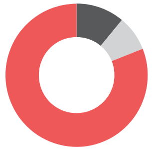
Proportion of KIs that borrowed money or purchased on credit to support their business in the past 30 days, by reason[18]

1. 85% To purchase commodities
2. 6% To pay rent
3. 3% To pay salaries

Of the 85% of KIs reporting to borrow in the past 30 days to purchase commodities, **19% reported that half or more of their commodities were purchased on credit**

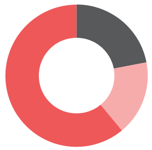
CONSUMERS, PAYMENT, & CREDIT

Proportion of KIs reporting the number of customers per day to have changed in the past 30 days



- 11% Decreased
- 8% Stayed the same
- 81% Increased

Proportion of KIs reporting the number of customers purchasing on credit to have changed in the past 30 days



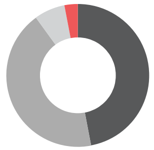
- 22% Decreased
- 17% Stayed the same
- 61% Increased

Proportion of KIs reporting types of payments they accepted from consumers in the past 30 days[19]

1. 79% Cash
2. 48% Credit
3. 4% Barter
4. 1% Mobile money transfer

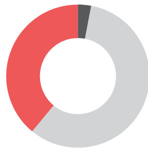
PRESENCE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Proportion of KIs reporting there to be any functional money transfer services in or near their market area



- 47% Two or more types
- 43% One type
- 7% Prefer not to say
- 3% None

Proportion of KIs reporting the availability of money transfer services to have changed in the past 30 days



- 3% More services
- 58% No change
- 39% Fewer services

The three most frequently cited **available money transfer services** were:[19]

1. 80% Hawalas (unregistered)
2. 45% Banks
3. 13% Formal transfer services (registered hawalas)

16 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%.

17 KIs were first asked to report if they had borrowed money or purchased on credit to support their business in the last year. Of those that said 'yes' they were then asked if they had done so in the last 30 days; KIs could select only 'no, never', or multiple 'yes' options.

18 Of the KIs that reported borrowing money or purchasing on credit in the past 30 days. Multiple options could be selected and findings may therefore exceed 100%.

19 Multiple options could be selected and findings may therefore exceed 100%.

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 (dozen)	Soft cotton cloth (2m² piece)	Tooth-brush (adult) (1)	Tooth-brush (child) (1)	Tooth-paste (1)	Sanitary pad (box of 10)	Washing detergent (1 l)	Soap (1 bar, 150 gm)	Bleach (1 l)	Safe water (20 l)	Jerry can (20 l)	Firewood (20 kg)	Kindling (20 kg)	Fuel gel (1)	Cooking fuel (5 kg)
North																											
Balkh	31	37	46	100	60	125	40	35	49	90	50	35	9	na	20	20	35	32	70	25	50	20	3	na	na	na	35
Faryab	36	36	50	115	95	103	90	20	60	100	50	30	na	na	40	20	28	na	50	33	110	na	na	na	na	na	na
Jawzjan	34	38	73	100	60	120	40	45	50	80	43	50	10	na	20	45	50	na	65	20	60	15	60	na	na	na	na
Samangan	37	37	47	105	70	130	50	40	50	100	39	35	12	na	30	20	50	na	50	40	70	na	na	na	na	40	60
Sar-e-Pul	39	40	45	100	63	120	40	14	50	90	41	28	10	70	35	23	70	25	50	25	60	14	40	na	na	50	na
North-East																											
Badakhshan	35	49	46	100	na	114	29	50	50	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Baghlan	18	20	22	100	na	57	na	9	50	na	na	na	na	na	15	na	20	na	15	na	na	10	na	na	na	na	na
Kunduz	34	38	49	110	65	130	50	25	53	70	49	34	10	na	25	40	50	15	55	38	60	11	4	na	na	na	50
Takhar	34	na	50	106	na	121	50	16	50	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
East																											
Laghman	35	38	34	100	40	125	85	7	45	41	32	20	11	na	25	20	45	na	15	35	65	20	na	12	na	na	35
Nangahar	36	38	39	102	90	130	83	20	45	50	35	30	10	100	20	15	40	40	38	30	50	10	20	10	na	38	40
South-East																											
Ghazni	34	36	58	97	na	100	67	19	40	na	na	na	na	na	25	25	50	90	50	16	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Khost	38	39	46	99	75	129	88	50	45	50	42	40	9	100	50	30	70	100	32	40	50	13	13	15	19	60	40
Paktya	36	45	50	94	80	80	80	20	45	50	48	50	10	100	20	15	50	20	60	30	50	20	15	11	11	60	35
South																											
Helmand	40	44	81	105	65	135	73	10	45	32	32	28	7	90	30	15	60	105	20	25	65	10	8	8	7	45	40
Zabul	39	38	45	107	41	90	89	10	47	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	20	20	50	na	na	na	na	60	na
West																											
Badghis	33	38	80	125	55	120	40	25	50	70	30	50	9	60	20	10	30	150	20	20	60	13	3	12	na	75	50
Farah	33	33	85	100	70	130	60	40	50	na	na	na	9	200	20	na	30	15	38	20	53	na	8	na	na	na	na
Ghor	26	na	100	110	80	130	28	10	50	90	30	80	10	70	50	40	150	65	20	30	100	20	na	20	20	50	60
Herat	30	36	77	110	65	125	65	14	50	30	26	20	7	110	20	15	40	30	50	20	45	13	6	9	8	55	35
Central																											
Bamyan	29	32	50	85	64	120	52	13	50	80	31	43	8	100	40	30	60	10	50	27	65	16	17	11	11	55	49
Daykundi	43	42	92	100	79	121	59	50	60	80	35	57	14	150	30	20	55	80	50	40	80	23	na	17	20	55	55
Kabul	36	38	40	97	78	119	90	20	46	90	43	40	9	na	30	20	58	40	45	30	53	40	76	na	na	50	39
Kapisa	35	37	39	100	70	128	60	15	44	80	na	na	7	na	20	15	40	na	50	30	58	9	na	na	na	na	na
Logar	36	38	40	94	75	93	40	12	47	35	32	20	7	75	20	12	25	70	33	28	60	20	9	11	12	65	40
Panjsher	35	39	77	96	63	128	125	20	52	na	na	na	10	na	40	na	40	na	70	30	50	na	na	na	na	na	na
Parwan	35	37	68	94	60	133	82	25	49	29	26	14	9	na	23	10	30	na	60	30	60	7	na	na	na	na	na

***na:** no price data available*

METHODOLOGY

Working through the 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 which 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 first (pilot) round of data collection took place between 23 April and 8 May 2020, and a total of 697 KIIs were conducted. This round covered 210 markets, which were sampled by partners nationwide based on their access and existing areas of intervention. This includes markets in 27 out of 34 provinces in Afghanistan.

In the questions regarding change in demand/prices of food and NFIs, the answer option 'Due to COVID-19' encompasses multiple factors where participants explicitly mentioned COVID-19 to be a factor, including closure of borders due to COVID-19, reduced movement due to public health restrictions and/or government lockdown measures, etc.

Challenges & Limitations

- While KIIs are ideally conducted in person, due to COVID-19 related access restrictions, a number of interviews were conducted remotely via phone, in line with REACH guidelines and best practices on remote data collection.
- The length of the questionnaire posed challenges as KIs were sometimes unwilling or unable to to participate for too long whilst working. This was especially challenging for interviews conducted remotely. Following partner feedback, the tool has been shortened.
- Data was collected under limiting circumstances in that many areas were under government-sanctioned lockdown in response to COVID-19. Furthermore, the pilot data collection period fell during the month of Ramadan, where many traders are closed or operating on shorter hours. These two factors likely affected findings.
- Determining the price per unit proved difficult, as unit measurements can vary across Afghanistan. To solve this issue, the units in which the items were sold have been normalized in this dataset (i.e. converted to the same standard unit of measurement, and prices adjusted accordingly).

JMMI Partners

- **AADA -** *Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan*
- **AAH -** *Action Against Hunger*
- **ACTD -** *Afghanistan Center for Training and Development*
- **ACTED -** *Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development*
- **Caritas Germany (with RCDC and VOPOFA)**
- **RCDC -** *Rural Capacities Development Committee*
- **VOPOFA -** *Village of Peace Organization for Afghans*
- **DRC -** *Danish Refugee Council*
- **IOM -** *International Organization for Migration*
- **IRC -** *International Rescue Committee*
- **JACK -** *Just for Afghan Capacity and Knowledge*
- **JIA** - *The Johanniter International*
- **OHW -** *Organization of Human Welfare*
- **Oxfam**
- **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.