

## INTRODUCTION

The Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was launched by REACH in collaboration with the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster and the Cash and Market Working Group (CMWG) to support humanitarian actors with the harmonisation of price monitoring among all cash actors in Yemen. With the current global COVID-19 pandemic, REACH has adapted the JMMI to begin assessing the potential impact of the pandemic on markets and on respondent businesses. The JMMI continues to collect price data for fuel, water, and hygiene products, including all the components of the WASH Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB). In addition, new indicators specific to the COVID-19 crisis and its potential impact on markets are now being tracked on a bi-weekly basis from April 2020.\* Additional methodology can be found in the [full JMMI fact sheet](#).

\*May Round 1 - May 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, May Round 2 - May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>

## KEY FINDINGS: 27 MAY - 4 JUNE, 2020

- There have reportedly been minimal store closures in the two weeks prior to data collection.
- Eighty-one per cent (81%) of vendors did not report any added difficulty acquiring goods due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.
- The price of water trucking was reported to have dropped by almost half, which has caused a decrease in the overall SMEB cost.
- The WASH SMEB cost in Sana'a City reportedly decreased by almost 60%.
- Restocking times in Marib and Amran were reportedly the highest of surveyed governorates.
- The ability of vendors to adapt to changing demand of 50% and 100% has reportedly continued to decrease.
- Vendors reported supply and demand issues as two of the top COVID-19 related constraints.

## Price tracking for key items: 3 months (YER)

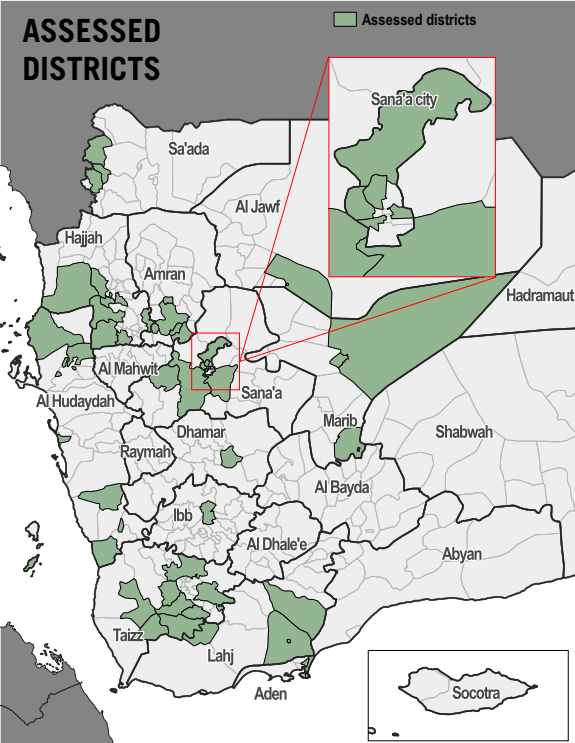
Items	Mar-20	May(R1)-20	May(R2)-20	Change (from May R1)
WASH SMEB*	11300	11824	8942	-24.4%
Soap (100g)	150	150	150	0.0%
Laundry powder (100g)	120	120	119	-0.8%
Sanitary napkins (10 Pack)	512	512	525	2.5%
Water trucking (1m <sup>3</sup> )	2000	2166	1250	-42.3%
Petrol (1L)	365	295	295	0.0%
Diesel (1L)	430	345	345	0.0%
Bottled water (0.75L)	138	132	150	13.6%
Treated water (10L)	120	128	112	-12.5%
Bleach (1L)	NA	700	675	-3.6%

\*Contains soap (10.5 Kg), laundry powder (2 Kg), sanitary napkins (20 units), and water (3.15 m<sup>3</sup>)

## Exchange rate (YER/USD)\*

Governorate	Mar 2020	May (R1) 2020	May (R2) 2020
Aden	658 (658)	688 (688)	703 (702)
Al Bayda	596 (596)	598	NA
Al Hudaydah	595 (597)	598	598 (690)
Al Jawf	650	670	670
Amran	595	599	600
Dhahran	595	601	601
Hajjah	594	598	597
Ibb	592	598	598
Lahj	654 (654)	686 (687)	702 (700)
Marib	628	690	700 (690)
Sa'ada	598	599	600
Sana'a	595	598	599
Sana'a City	598 (628)	597	598
Taizz	654 (656)	680 (685)	695 (690)

\*New currency exchange rate is in parenthesis



## COVID-19 MARKET INDICATORS

### Business closures

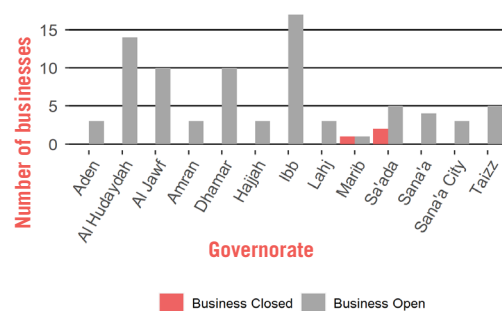
Average Number of Nearby Businesses Open<sup>^</sup>



Average Number of Nearby Businesses Closed<sup>^</sup>



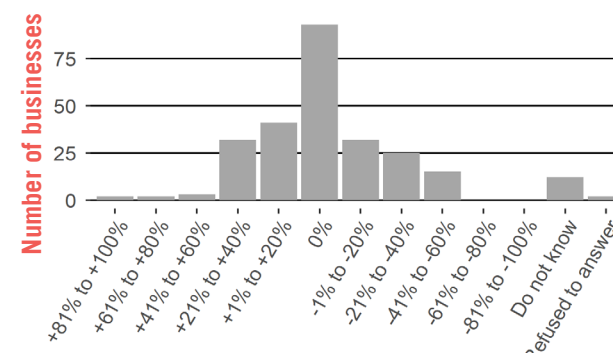
### Average business closures by governorate<sup>^</sup>



<sup>^</sup>Average number reported for the respondent's stores within a two-minute walk and in the two weeks prior

### Impact of COVID-19 on respondents' businesses

Overall, **93** respondents indicated that there has been no change in the amount of customers they have seen over the two weeks prior to data collection. The graph to the right highlights how many of those businesses have seen change in the number of clientele in the two weeks prior to data collection.



Of the **259** respondents surveyed, **19.3%** stated that they had difficulty obtaining key commodities due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 (was **7.4%** in May Round 1).

### Top 3 most difficult goods to obtain according to vendors<sup>\*^</sup>

Cooking gas	42.2%	<div style="width: 42.2%;"></div>
Sanitary napkins	31.1%	<div style="width: 31.1%;"></div>
Diesel	26.7%	<div style="width: 26.7%;"></div>

Previous JMMI List (May Round 1, 2020)

Soap, Sanitary napkins	51.3%	<div style="width: 51.3%;"></div>
Vegetables, Cereals (flours), Sugar, Laundry powder, Cooking gas, Vegetable oil	20.0%	<div style="width: 20.0%;"></div>

\*Based on the responses from the 19.3% of vendors who had difficulty obtaining goods due to COVID

<sup>^</sup>Other was 33.3%, including items such as medicine, hand sanitizer, and imported goods

### Reported change in amount of customers

### Top 3 COVID-19 related constraints according to vendors<sup>\*</sup>

Imported item less available	62.0%	<div style="width: 62.0%;"></div>
Not enough supply	50.0%	<div style="width: 50.0%;"></div>
Not enough demand	30.0%	<div style="width: 30.0%;"></div>

Previous JMMI List (May Round 1, 2020)

Not enough supply	66.7%	<div style="width: 66.7%;"></div>
Transportation restrictions	53.3%	<div style="width: 53.3%;"></div>
Import item less available	53.3%	<div style="width: 53.3%;"></div>

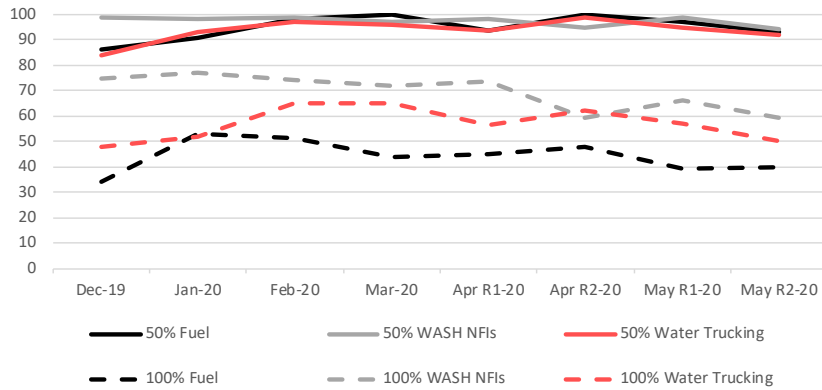
\*Based on the responses from the 19.3% of vendors who had difficulty obtaining goods due to COVID

# MARKET INDICATORS AND PRICES

## Vendor capacity to respond to a sudden increase in demand

To understand vendor capacity to cope with sudden increases in the demand for water trucking, fuel, and WASH items, vendor KIs were asked if they would be able to increase their stock by 50% and 100% respectively. Responses indicated that KIs are better able to absorb a 50% increase in demand, compared to a 100% increase in demand, regardless of the item in question.

Proportion of Vendors able to absorb a 50% and 100% increase in demand for key items



## Average reported restocking time (days)\*

Governorate	Fuel Items	WASH Items
Aden	4 (2)	2 (0)
Al Hudaydah	8 (1)	7 (2)
Al Jawf	5 (1)	4 (0)
Amran	12 (0)	14 (1)
Dhamar	2 (1)	3 (-1)
Hajjah	9 (1)	9 (3)
Ibb	9 (-3)	3 (0)
Lahj	4 (1)	5 (2)
Marib	12 (0)	11 (-19)
Sa'ada	6 (NA)	6 (NA)
Sana'a	1 (NA)	1 (NA)
Sana'a City	7 (0)	2 (-1)
Taizz	9 (0)	6 (1)

\*Change in days from May Round 1 JMMI in brackets

## Top 3 reported economic constraints for fuel vendors\*

Price inflation	45.9%
Transportation	42.5%
Insecurity	30.1%

## Top 3 reported economic constraints for WASH NFI vendors\*

Price inflation	57.8%
Transportation	37.0%
Insecurity	34.1%

## Top 3 reported economic constraints for water trucking vendors\*

Price inflation	42.9%
Transportation	35.2%
Insecurity	29.7%

\*Values do not add up to 100% as vendor KIs were allowed to select multiple options. Shortage of demand was 19.9% for fuel, 23.1% for WASH NFIs, and 28.6% for water trucking

## Median commodity prices per governorate, May 27th - June 4th 2020 (YER)

Governorate	Petrol (1L)	Diesel (1L)	Bottled water (0.75L)	Treated water (10L)	Bleach (1L)	Soap (1 Unit)	Laundry powder (100g)	Sanitary napkins (10)	Water trucking (1m³)	WASH SMEB	Change from May(R1) JMMI
Aden	165	185	200	100	1000	150	98	550	1200	8405	-19.7%
Al Hudaydah	295	345	150	55	625	130	130	525	2750	13678	11.0%
Al Jawf	225	325	200	1000	550	250	100	750	1250	10062	0.9%
Amran	295	345	125	100	410	275	118	500	900	9082	7.6%
Dhamar	295	345	150	500	750	150	120	500	1000	8125	0.0%
Hajjah	295	345	150	125	625	150	120	500	2000	11275	-15.5%
Ibb	295	345	150	100	750	200	150	600	2166	13124	0.7%
Lahj	168	252	150	250	300	150	108	550	1800	10505	-10.1%
Marib	175	235	100	125	700	150	140	550	833	8099	6.7%
Sa'ada	300	350	130	NA	NA	140	230	550	3000	16620	NA
Sana'a	295	345	98	168	750	120	109	700	800	7360	NA
Sana'a City	295	345	110	100	675	139	110	500	750	7022	-58.9%
Taizz	255	325	150	100	862	150	116	541	2292	12196	-49.4%

## Payment modalities accepted by vendors\*

Modality	Fuel Vendors	WASH NFI Vendors	Water Trucking Vendors
Bartering	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)
Cash	99.3% (-0.7%)	100% (0%)	98.9% (-1.1%)
Credit	8.9% (-3.9%)	24.9% (0.2%)	9.9% (-5.8%)
Credit / debit card	1.4% (0.7%)	1.2% (-5.8%)	2.2% (0%)
Mobile money	0% (-1.4%)	1.2% (-0.1%)	0% (-)
Prepaid cards	0% (-2.1%)	0% (-)	0% (-)
Vouchers	0% (-0.7%)	0% (-)	0% (-)
Other	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)
Do not know	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)

\*The percentage change from the May Round 1 JMMI is in brackets

## ABOUT REACH'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

As an initiative deployed in many vulnerable and crisis-affected countries, REACH is deeply concerned by the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the millions of affected people we seek to serve. REACH is currently working with Cash Working Groups and partners to scale up its programming in response to this pandemic, with the goal of identifying practical ways to inform humanitarian responses in the countries where we operate. COVID-19-relevant market monitoring and market assessments are a key area where REACH aims to leverage its existing expertise to help humanitarian actors understand the impact of changing restrictions on markets and trade. Updates regarding REACH's response to COVID-19 can be found in [a devoted thread](#) on the REACH website. Contact [geneva@impact-initiatives.org](mailto:geneva@impact-initiatives.org) for further information.

## PARTNER LIST



For more information, please visit our website at [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org), or contact us directly at [yemen@reach-initiative.org](mailto:yemen@reach-initiative.org)



CMWG | Intersector Cash and Market Working Group

REACH | Informing more effective humanitarian action