

INTRODUCTION

The Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMIMI) 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 JMIMI to begin assessing the potential impact of the pandemic on markets and on respondents' businesses. The JMIMI continues to collect price data for fuel, water, hygiene products, and food items including all the components of the WASH and food 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 (by rounds #R)*. Findings are based on 229 interviews with vendor key informants (KIs), and are to be considered indicative only. Additional methodology can be found in the [full JMIMI fact sheet](#).

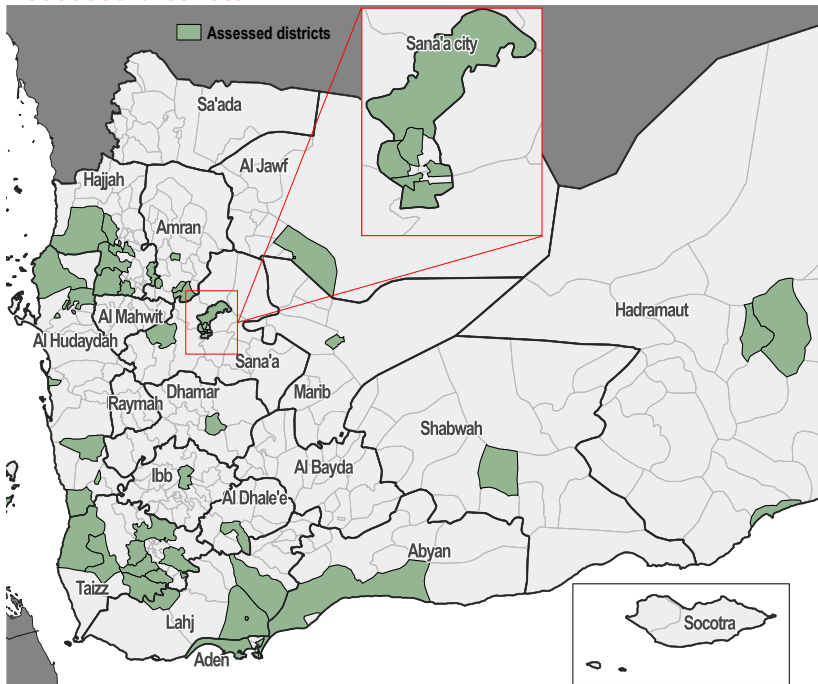
*Containing the minimum, culturally adjusted set of WASH and food items to support an average Yemeni 6-person household for the duration of 1 month.

^August Round 1, 9-17 August 2020

KEY FINDINGS: 9 - 17 AUGUST 2020

- The reported number of open businesses within a 2 minute walk from KIs' stalls increased compared to last round.
- Sana'a city has recorded the highest cost of a cubic meter of water trucking compared to other assessed governorates, thus causing an increase in WASH SMEB cost in the governorate.
- Principle inflation remains the most commonly reported economic issue when obtaining fuel, WASH, food items, and water trucking services.
- The food SMEB cost was found to have increased by 1.8% since July, and the WASH SMEB cost also increased by 0.8%, contributing to a 1.6% increase in the overall SMEB cost.
- The average reported restocking time for food items was found to be lower than for fuel and WASH items.
- Exchange rates continue to differ across the country: rates under 600 Yemeni Riyals (YER) to one US dollar (USD) were reported in Al Hudaydah, Sana'a, Ibb, and Sana'a City. Meanwhile, the highest exchange rates were reported in Aden and Abyan.

Assessed districts



Price tracking for key items since COVID-19 outbreak (YER)

Assessed items	Mar-2020	Jul-2020 (R2)	Aug-2020 (R1)	Change (from Jul-2020 R2)
Full SMEB	NA	50150	50935	+1.6%
WASH SMEB*	11300	12850	12950	+0.8%
Soap (100g)	150	150	150	0.0%
Laundry powder (100g)	120	120	120	0.0%
Sanitary napkins (10 Pack)	512	500	550	+10.0%
Water trucking (1m ³)	2000	2500	2500	0.0%
Petrol (1L)	365	400	335	-16.3%
Diesel (1L)	430	425	400	-5.9%
Bottled water (0.75L)	138	131	150	+14.5%
Treated water (10L)	120	100	100	0.0%
Bleach (1L)	NA	700	700	0.0%
Cooking gas (1 cylinder)	NA	4000	4000	0.0%
Food SMEB^	NA	37300	37985	+1.8%
Wheat flour (1 kg)	NA	300	308	+2.7%
Rice (1 kg)	NA	650	775	+19.2%
Dry Kidney beans (1 kg)	NA	700	700	0.0%
Canned kidney beans (1 15oz can)	NA	300	300	0.0%
Lentils (1 kg)	NA	700	659	-5.9%
Vegetable Oil (1 Liter)	NA	850	845	-0.6%
Sugar (1 kg)	NA	400	410	+2.5%
Salt (1 kg)	NA	100	100	0.0%
Potatoes (1 kg)	NA	450	500	+11.1%
Onions (1 kg)	NA	400	500	+25.0%

*Contains soap (10.5 Kg), laundry powder (2 Kg), sanitary napkins (20 units), and water (3.15 m³)

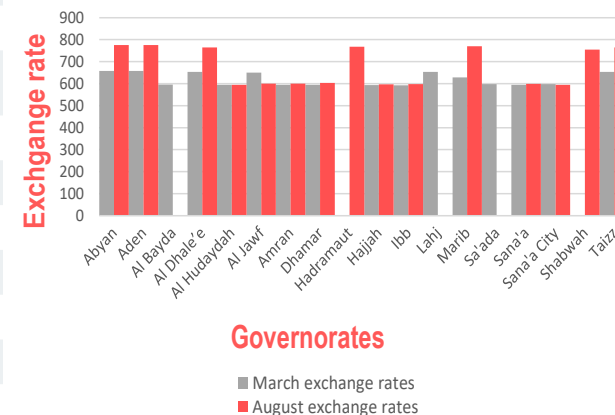
^ Contains wheat flour (75 kg), dry kidney beans (10 kg), vegetable oil (8 liters), sugar (2.5 kg), iodized salt (1)

Exchange rate per governorate (USD/YER)*

Governorate	March 2020	July (Round 2)	August (Round 1)
Abyan	658 (658)	750 (750)	775 (775)
Aden	658 (658)	750 (750)	775 (770)
Al Bayda	596 (596)	NA	NA
Al Dhale'e	654 (656)	748 (751)	765 (775)
Al Hudaydah	595 (597)	590 (590)	595 (593)
Al Jawf	650	680	600
Amran	595	597	600
Dhamar	595	602	603
Hadramaut	NA	752	768
Hajjah	594	595 (594)	597
Ibb	592	599	598
Lahj	654 (654)	752 (750)	(768)
Marib	628	740	770
Sa'ada	598	NA	NA
Sana'a	595	600	599
Sana'a City	598 (628)	593	595
Shabwah	NA	730 (745)	755 (767)
Taizz	654 (656)	750 (749)	765 (770)

*Exchange rate for the new currency released last year is in parenthesis

Exchange rate graph (USD/YER)*



Governorates

■ March exchange rates
■ August exchange rates

*Governorate labels point to two bars indicating March base values and August round 1 values, gaps between bars indicates that no exchange rate value was recorded in this governorate.

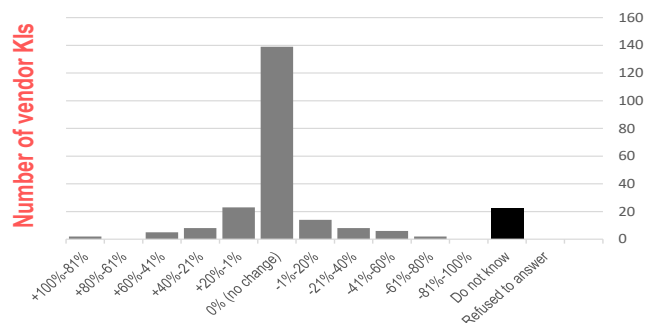
Median commodity prices per governorate, August 9th - August 17th 2020 (YER)*

Governorate	Petrol (1L)	Diesel (1L)	Cooking gas	Bottled water (0.75L)	Treated water (10L)	Bleach (1L)	Soap (1 Unit)	Laundry powder (100g)	Sanitary napkins (10)	Water trucking (1m³)	WASH SMEB	Wheat flour (1Kg)	Rice (1Kg)	Beans Dry (1Kg)	Beans cans (1 15oz can)	Lentils (1 Kg)	Vegetable oil (1L)	Sugar (1Kg)	Salt (1Kg)	Potatoes (1Kg)	Onions (1 Kg)	Food SMEB
Abyan	335	400	3500	100	100	900	158	100	550	2000	11059	350	800	700	280	NA	800	500	100	500	600	41000
Aden	330	400	5500	150	100	900	150	100	600	3500	15800	350	1000	850	350	800	1000	500	100	450	600	44100
Al Dhale'e	330	390	3500	100	100	950	200	100	500	3000	14550	350	500	800	NA	600	1000	500	100	500	500	43600
Al Hudaydah	425	500	3800	160	100	460	140	130	460	1400	9400	250	800	NA	300	700	690	400	100	400	400	NA
Al Jawf	500	450	NA	200	1000	560	250	130	780	1300	10880	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Amran	295	345	NA	120	100	700	150	120	500	1000	8125	300	475	NA	300	500	760	350	150	500	400	NA
Dharmar	295	345	NA	150	500	720	150	120	550	1000	8225	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hadramaut	335	305	3000	100	540	740	183	100	600	4000	17722	315	600	700	300	650	720	420	200	550	450	37635
Hajjah	500	600	7000	150	100	450	150	120	500	2500	12850	300	650	500	300	600	900	400	100	500	500	35800
Ibb	295	345	5000	150	100	650	178	150	556	3000	15431	400	400	NA	325	625	550	400	150	300	300	NA
Lahj	330	400	4650	100	100	1000	225	125	600	1875	11959	320	1000	1400	350	800	1000	450	113	400	550	47238
Marib	175	350	NA	65	50	700	130	120	500	900	7600	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sana'a	NA	NA	3950	120	100	725	128	105	450	1100	7799	300	350	NA	300	500	900	400	200	375	400	NA
Sana'a City	295	345	NA	120	130	400	148	120	500	8000	30149	300	900	600	300	500	781	400	100	500	500	35848
Shabwah	365	350	3200	100	100	750	150	200	500	2500	14450	316	514	NA	350	NA	1000	380	100	NA	NA	NA
Taizz	400	425	3500	185	100	675	150	135	600	3000	14925	350	525	350	350	600	900	450	150	450	400	38225

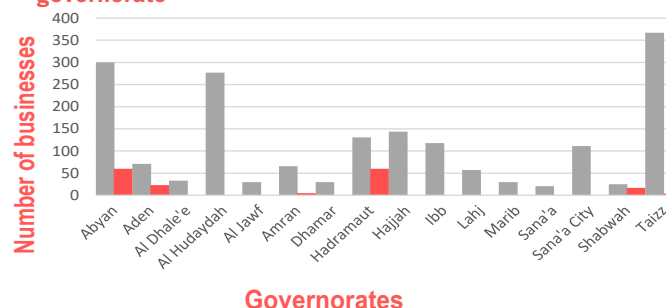
*Darker colours indicate high outliers for each commodity, lighter colours indicate the low outliers of each commodity.

Impact of COVID-19 on respondents' businesses

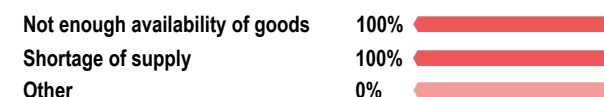
Reported change in number of customers in the two weeks prior to data collection



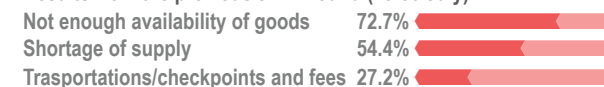
Average number of businesses closures/openings by governorate[^]



Top 3 COVID-19 related constraints according to vendors KIs*



Results from the previous JMMI round (23-30 July)



*Based on the responses from the 1.7% of vendor KIs who had difficulties obtaining goods due to COVID-19.

Overall, 30 vendor KIs indicated that there has been a decrease, while 38 vendor KIs saw an increase, in the number of customers they have seen over the two weeks prior to data collection. The graph above highlights the number of KIs reporting having seen a change in the number of customers in their business in the two weeks prior to data collection.

Of the 229 vendor KIs surveyed, 1.7% (4/229) reported having faced difficulties obtaining key commodities due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 measures in the two weeks prior to data collection. (compared to 4.4% reporting this during previous round of data collection July).

Governorates

■ Open businesses ■ Closed businesses

Average reported Number of Nearby Businesses that are Open[^]



Average reported Number of Nearby Businesses that are Closed[^]

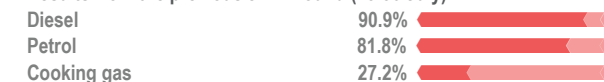


[^]Average number of businesses within a two minute walk from KIs' businesses that were reportedly open/closed due to COVID-19 in the two weeks prior to data collection.

Top 3 most difficult goods to obtain according to vendor KIs*



Results from the previous JMMI round (23-30 July)



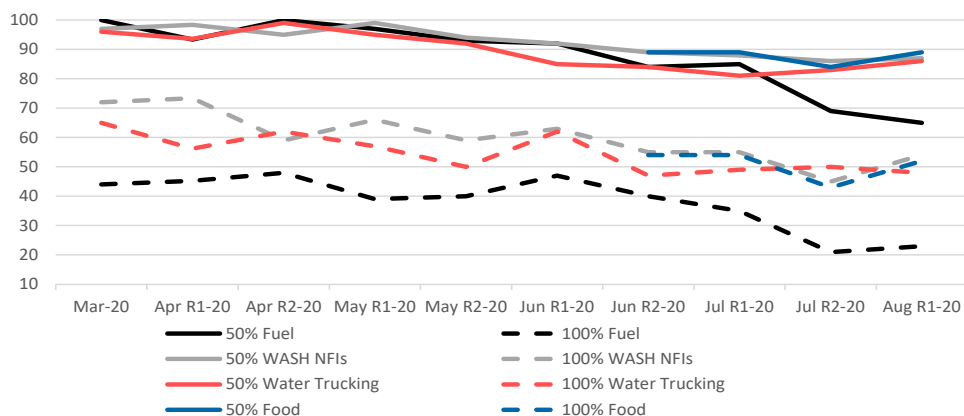
*Based on the responses from the 1.7% (4 out of 229) of vendor KIs who had difficulties obtaining goods due to COVID-19.

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 in this round of data collection.

Proportion of vendor KIs reporting being able to absorb a 50% and 100% increase in demand for key item

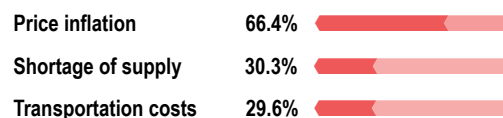


Payment modalities reportedly accepted by vendor KIs*

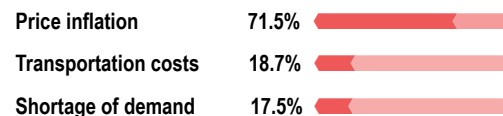
Modality	Fuel Vendor KIs	WASH NFI Vendor KIs	Food Vendor KIs	Water Trucking Vendor KIs
Cash	99.3% (- 0.7%)	100% (0.6%)	100% (0.7%)	100% (-)
Credit	20.6% (-2.2%)	37.5% (- 0.8%)	40.1% (-4.7%)	25.4% (7%)
Credit / debit card	0.6% (0.6%)	3.0% (0.1%)	2.7% (-0.7%)	1.9% (1.9%)
Mobile money	0.6% (0.6%)	0.6% (-)	0.7% (0.1%)	0% (-)
Vouchers	3.2% (0.8%)	0% (-)	0.7% (0.7%)	0% (-)
Prepaid cards	1.3% (0.1%)	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)
Other	2.5% (2.5%)	3.6% (2.5%)	3.4% (-0.7%)	0% (- 1%)
Do not know	0.6% (0.6%)	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)
Bartering	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)

*The percentage change from the July Round 2 JMMI is in brackets, (-) indicating no change.

Top 3 reported economic constraints by fuel vendor KIs*

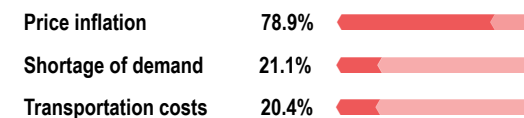


Top 3 reported economic constraints by WASH NFI vendor KIs*

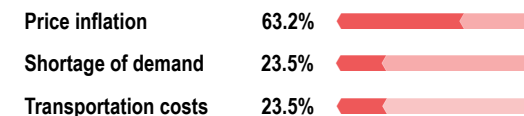


*Values do not add up to 100% as vendor KIs were allowed to select multiple options.

Top 3 reported economic constraints by food vendor KIs*



Top 3 reported economic constraints by water trucking vendor KIs*



Average reported restocking time (days)*

Governorate	Fuel Items	WASH Items	Food Items
Abyan	10 (6)	9 (1)	6 (-5)
Aden	4 (1)	2 (-1)	2 (NA)
Al Dhale'e	4 (1)	2 (1)	2 (NA)
Al Hudaydah	6 (1)	6 (-2)	5 (1)
Al Jawf	8 (-12)	4 (NA)	NA (NA)
Amran	13 (7)	14 (NA)	2 (-3)
Dhamar	7 (-15)	2 (-7)	NA (NA)
Hadramaut	3 (-1)	5 (-2)	3 (1)
Hajjah	7 (-1)	4 (-3)	4 (-3)
Ibb	4 (-5)	6 (NA)	4 (-1)
Lahj	7 (3)	8 (4)	7 (3)
Marib	6 (-3)	22 (-8)	NA (NA)
Sana'a	3 (-4)	2 (NA)	2 (NA)
Sana'a City	6 (-2)	5 (-2)	3 (NA)
Shabwah	2 (NA)	2 (1)	2 (NA)
Taizz	5 (NA)	4 (-1)	4 (-2)

*Change in days from July Round 2 JMMI in brackets, the negative indicates a reported reduction in restocking time.

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 for further information.

PARTNER LIST



For more information, please visit our website at www.reach-initiative.org, or contact us directly at yemen@reach-initiative.org

CWG

CASH WORKING GROUP



WASH Cluster
Water Sanitation Hygiene

REACH

Informing more effective humanitarian action