

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](#).

*April Round 2 - April 25th to 30th, May Round 1 - May 10th to 14th

KEY FINDINGS: 10-14 MAY, 2020

- There have reportedly been minimal store closures in the two weeks prior to data collection.
- Ninety-three per cent (93%) of vendors did not report any added difficulty acquiring goods due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.
- The price of treated water reportedly returned to more normal levels, however the overall WASH SMEB increased due to a reported rise in water trucking prices.
- The WASH SMEB in Taizz reportedly increased by more than 100%.
- Restocking times in Marib and Amran were reportedly the highest of surveyed governorates.
- Many vendors are experiencing issues with price inflation, with a shortage of demand being reported for water trucking vendors.
- Vendors reported supply issues as the top COVID-19 related constraints.

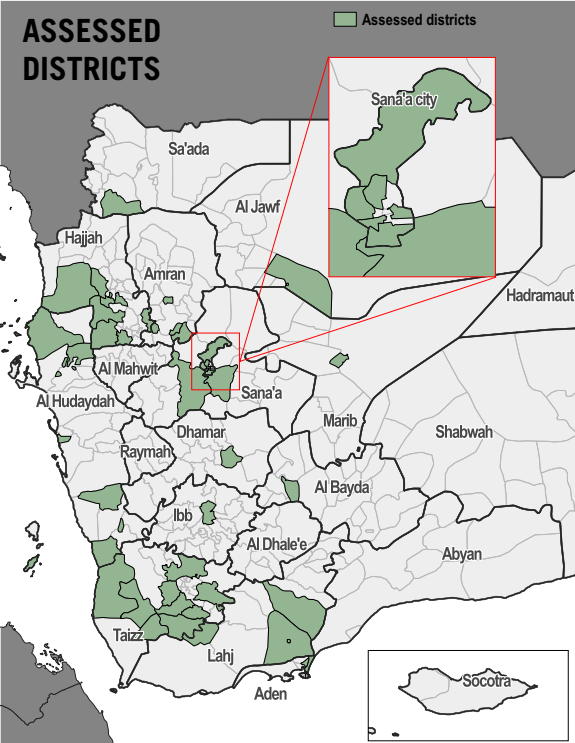
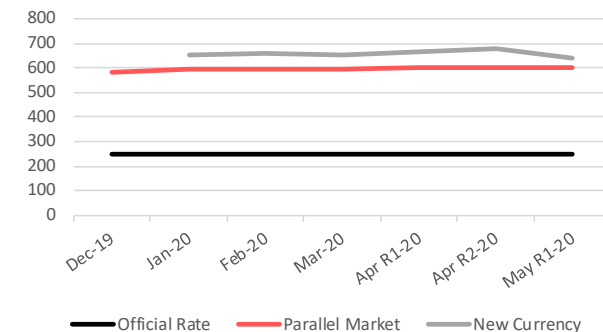
Price tracking for key items: 3 months (YER)

Items	Mar-20	Apr(R2)-20	May(R1)-20	Change (from Apr R2)
WASH SMEB*	11300	9916	11824	19.2%
Soap (100g)	150	148	150	1.4%
Laundry powder (100g)	120	116	120	3.4%
Sanitary napkins (10 Pack)	512	500	512	2.4%
Water trucking (1m ³)	2000	1600	2166	35.4%
Petrol (1L)	365	295	295	0.0%
Diesel (1L)	430	345	345	0.0%
Bottled water (0.75L)	138	129	132	2.3%
Treated water (10L)	120	168	128	-23.8%
Bleach (1L)	NA	700	700	0.0%

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

Exchange rate (YER/USD)

Exchange Rate	Mar-20	Apr(R2)-20	May(R1)-20
Official rate	250	250	250
Parallel market	597	600	599
New currency market	655	679	642



COVID-19 MARKET INDICATORS

Business closures

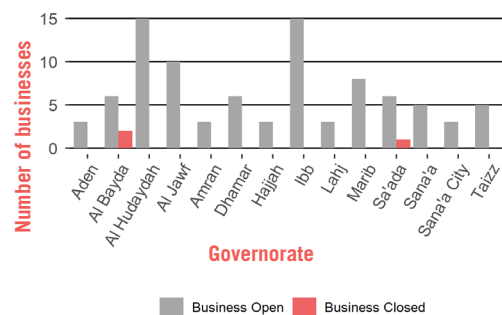
Average Number of Nearby Businesses Open[^]



Average Number of Nearby Businesses Closed[^]



Average business closures by governorate[^]



[^]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

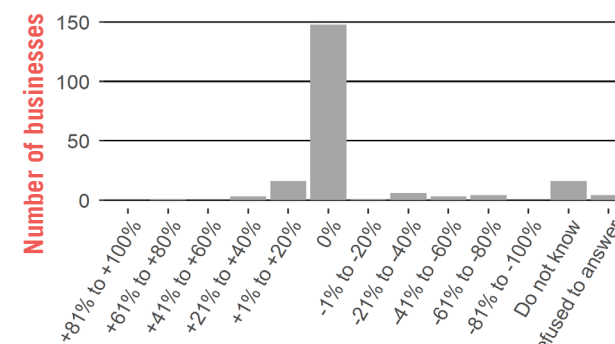
Overall, 148 respondents indicated that there has been no change in the amount of customers they have seen over the two weeks prior to data collection. The graph to the right highlights how many of those businesses have seen change in the number of clientele in the two weeks prior to data collection.

Of the 202 respondents surveyed, 7.4% stated that they had difficulty obtaining key commodities due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 (was 17.6% in April Round 2).

Top most difficult goods to obtain according to vendors*:

Soap, Sanitary napkins	51.3%
Vegetables, Cereals (flours), Sugar, Laundry powder, Cooking gas, Vegetable Oil	20.0%
Previous JMMI List (April Round 2, 2020)	
Cereals (flours)	51.3%
Sugar	51.3%
Cooking gas	41.0%

*Based on the responses from the 7.4% of vendors who had difficulty obtaining goods due to COVID



Reported change in amount of customers

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

Not enough supply	66.7%
Transportation restrictions	53.3%
Import item less available	53.3%

Previous JMMI List (April Round 2, 2020)

Not enough supply	77.6%
Transportation restrictions	53.1%
Increased checkpoint fees	28.6%

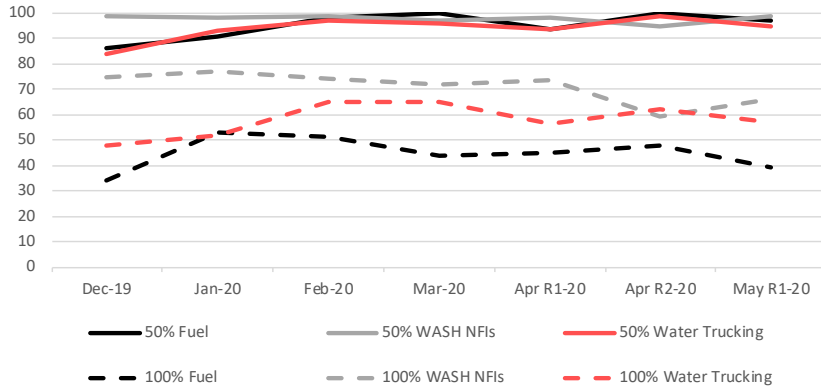
*Based on the responses from the 7.4% of vendors who had difficulty obtaining goods due to COVID

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	2 (-1)	2 (0)
Al Bayda	Na (Na)	Na (Na)
Al Hidaydah	7 (1)	5 (-1)
Al Jawf	4 (-2)	4 (0)
Amran	12 (2)	13 (4)
Dhamar	1 (-6)	4 (0)
Hajjah	8 (0)	6 (-1)
Ibb	12 (5)	3 (1)
Lahj	3 (-3)	3 (-2)
Marib	12 (-5)	30 (17)
Sa'ada	Na (Na)	Na (Na)
Sana'a	Na (Na)	Na (Na)
Sana'a City	7 (-1)	3 (-2)
Taizz	9 (3)	5 (1)

*Change in days from April Round 2 JMMI in brackets

Top 3 reported economic constraints for fuel vendors*

Price inflation	50.4%
Transportation	29.1%
Insecurity	27.7%

Top 3 reported economic constraints for WASH NFI vendors*

Price inflation	60.8%
Insecurity	31.0%
Transportation	27.2%

Top 3 reported economic constraints for water trucking vendors*

Price inflation	47.2%
Shortage of demand	28.1%
Insecurity	27.0%

*Values do not add up to 100% as vendor KIs were allowed to select multiple options. Shortage of demand was 13.4% for fuel and 15.8% for WASH NFIs

Median commodity prices per governorate, 10-14 May 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 Apr(R2) JMMI
Aden	165	250	180	95	800	130	90	500	2000	10465	30.8%
Al Bayda	295	345	100	170	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al Hidaydah	295	348	150	105	500	130	104	500	2500	12320	11.9%
Al Jawf	275	328	200	400	500	250	100	625	1300	9970	0.0%
Amran	295	345	128	175	712	175	119	500	1023	8440	3.1%
Dhamar	295	345	130	500	700	150	120	500	1000	8125	10.7%
Hajjah	295	348	150	150	400	150	140	550	2500	13350	7.0%
Ibb	295	345	150	100	750	200	150	556	2166	13036	4.2%
Lahj	165	250	125	100	800	150	96	550	2250	11682	22.7%
Marib	175	250	80	500	750	130	130	500	833	7589	-7.2%
Sa'ada	295	345	100	165	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sana'a	295	345	98	168	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sana'a City	295	345	110	100	538	148	115	525	3875	17105	92.6%
Taizz	200	275	150	100	750	150	130	525	6000	24125	113.0%

Payment modalities accepted by vendors*

Modality	Fuel Vendors	WASH NFI Vendors	Water Trucking Vendors
Bartering	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)
Cash	100% (1.2%)	100% (0%)	100% (0%)
Credit	12.8% (-1.3%)	24.7% (-3.3%)	15.7% (4.3%)
Credit / debit card	0.7% (-0.3%)	7% (5.5%)	2.2% (-5.5%)
Mobile money	1.4% (0.4%)	1.3% (-0.8%)	0% (-)
Prepaid cards	2.1% (0.3%)	0% (-)	0% (-)
Vouchers	0.7% (0.7%)	0% (-1%)	0% (-)
Other	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)
Do not know	0% (-)	0% (-)	0% (-)

*The percentage change from the April Round 2 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 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



CMWG | Intersector Cash and Market Working Group

REACH | Informing more effective humanitarian action