

INTRODUCTION

In order to provide an evidence base on evolving market dynamics in Rohingya refugee camps in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Bangladesh, REACH launched the COVID-19 Market Monitoring Initiative (MMI) in April 2020.

This factsheet presents an overview of trends in prices for key food and non-food items (NFIs), as well as indicators on the impact of COVID-19 in the assessed markets. A reduced set of commodities were selected for initial monitoring rounds but are subject to change as the situation evolves. Data collection will be conducted on a bi-weekly basis remotely through phone interviews with market vendors. A more detailed methodology can be found on the last page.

PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS

Item	Unit	# of KIs	Median price in BDT	Change since 22-23 April 2020
Food Items			90	▲ 15%
Rice	1 kg	4	37.5	▼ 6%
Lentils	1 kg	3	30	▼ 25%
Cooking oil	1 L	8	85	▲ 6%
Leafy greens	0.5 kg	4	15	► 0%
Bananas	12 pcs	4	115	▲ 28%
Eggs	12 pcs	11	100	▲ 5%
Dry fish	1 kg	5	150	► 0%
Chicken	1 kg	4	130	▲ 8%
Non-Food Items			32.5	▼ 15%
Soap	100 g	10	18	▼ 40%
Washing powder	0.5 kg	5	45	► 0%
Paracetamol	12 pcs	No KIs	No Data	No Data
Tarpaulin	1 pc	No KIs	No Data	No Data

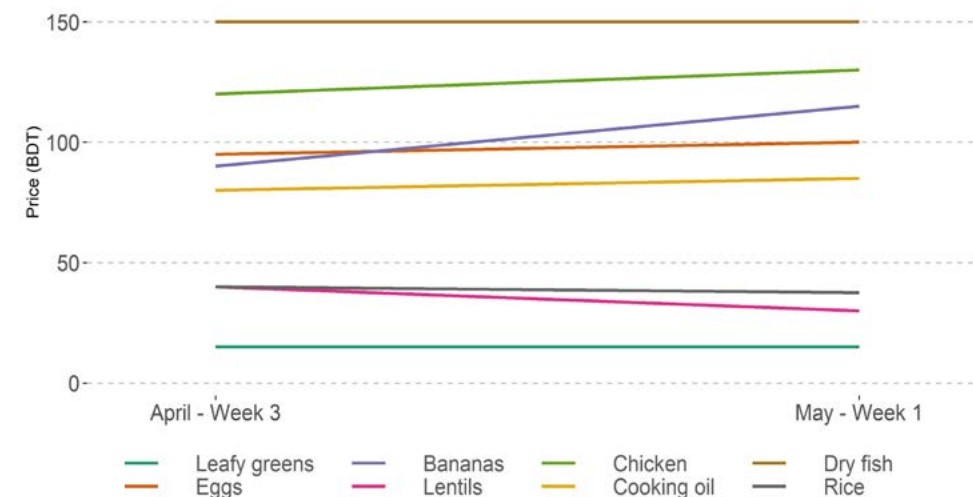
Key findings

Overall price change since previous round: ▲ 3%

- Prices of tracked commodities overall have **remained consistent** with the previous round, with a decrease in the price of soap the most notable change. Stocks of all commodities remain available, with all KIs reporting that all items could be **restocked within 3 days**.
- As with the previous round, half of KIs reported facing restocking issues, with the most common issue reported to be a **shortage of carriers to transport supplies to markets**.
- For all monitored items, KIs predominantly sourced these items from **outside of the camp**.
- All KIs reported continuing to take safety measures in response to COVID-19, with a notable increase in the number of those **implementing social distancing** in queues and **providing handwashing facilities** for customers.
- Most KIs reported that the number of vendors in their market had stayed the same relative to two weeks prior, but the number of **customers and income reduced** over this period.

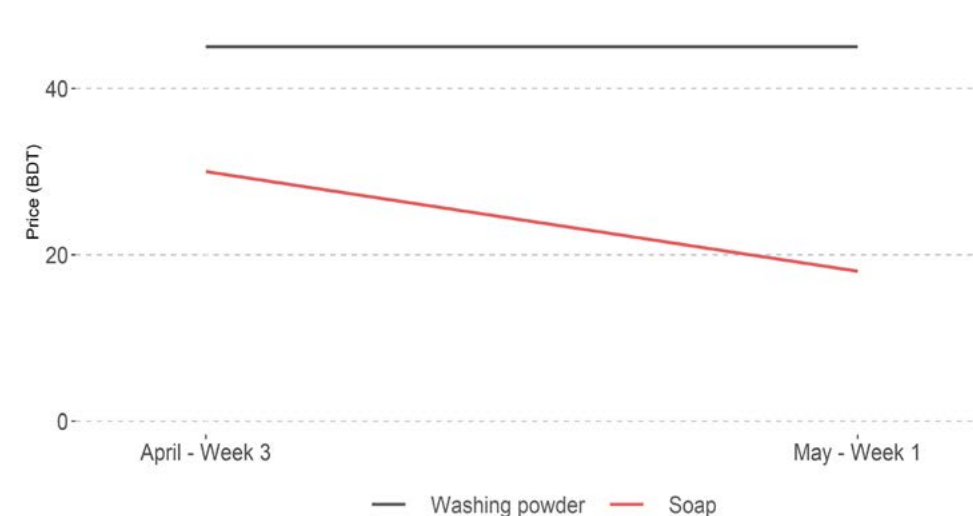
MEDIAN FOOD PRICES OVER TIME

in BDT



MEDIAN NFI PRICES OVER TIME

in BDT



STOCKS OF MONITORED ITEMS

Item	Unit	Days of stock available			Days to restock item		
		0-3 days	4-7 days	7+ days	0-3 days	4-7 days	7+ days
Food Items							
Rice	1 kg	0%	50%	50%	100%	0%	0%
Lentils	1 kg	0%	67%	33%	100%	0%	0%
Cooking oil	1 L	12%	50%	38%	100%	0%	0%
Leafy greens	0.5 kg	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Bananas	12 pcs	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Eggs	12 pcs	36%	45%	19%	100%	0%	0%
Dry fish	1 kg	0%	60%	40%	100%	0%	0%
Chicken	1 kg	75%	0%	25%	100%	0%	0%
Non-Food Items							
Soap	100 g	0%	20%	80%	100%	0%	0%
Washing powder	0.5 kg	0%	38%	62%	100%	0%	0%
Paracetamol	12 pcs	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tarpaulin	1 pc	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Restocking difficulties

50% of vendors reported facing restocking issues in the 2 weeks prior to data collection, of which the most commonly reported were:

There is a shortage of carriers to transport supplies	82%	
Suppliers no longer have the products I need	35%	
Unable to restock due to increased military / police presence	35%	
I don't have enough money to restock	35%	
Domestically, transport of supplies between districts has slowed down	24%	

The items reportedly most affected by restocking issues in the past 2 weeks were:

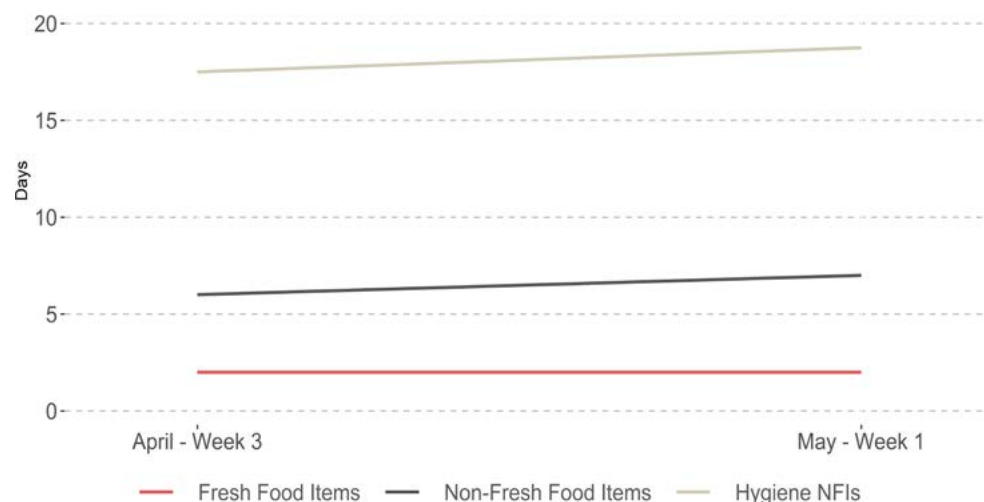
- Chicken
- Dry fish
- Leafy Greens
- Eggs
- Oil
- Bananas

1. Fresh food items: leafy greens, bananas, eggs and chicken
3. Hygiene NFIs: soap and washing powder

2. Non-fresh food items: rice, lentils, cooking oil and dry fish

STOCKS OVER TIME

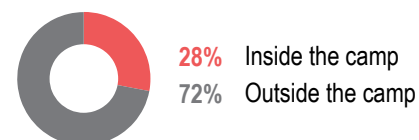
in days



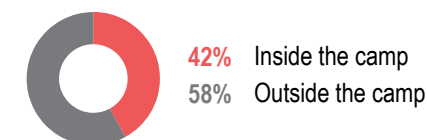
Location of suppliers

Main sources of assessed commodities in the 2 weeks prior to data collection, by % of vendors:

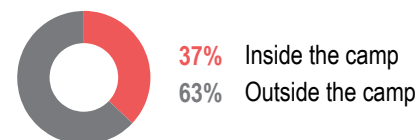
Fresh food items¹



Non-fresh food items²



Hygiene NFIs³



Reselling assistance items

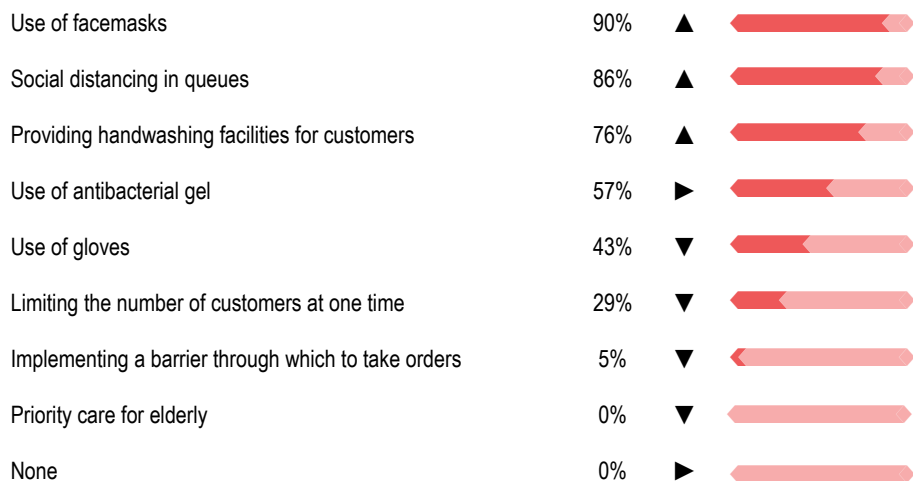
10% of vendors reported reselling assistance items in the 2 weeks prior to data collection, the most common types of which were:

- Food
- Clothing

COVID-19 market impacts

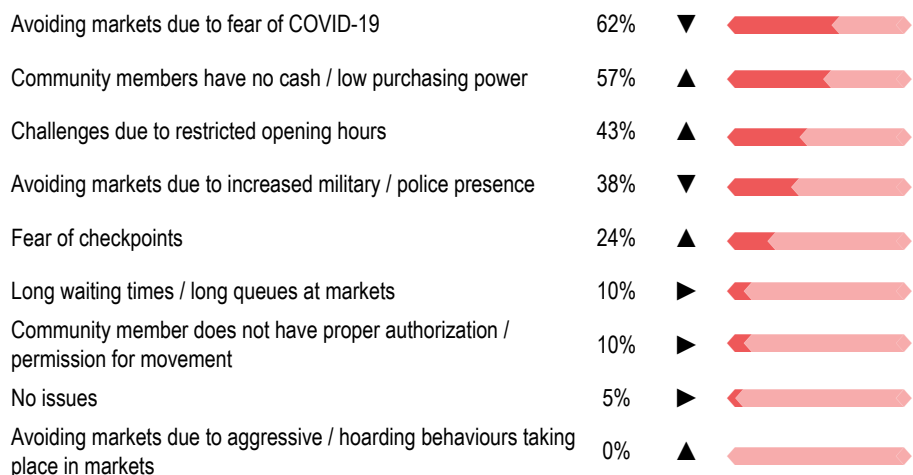
COVID-19 safety measures

% of vendors reporting taking measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the 2 weeks prior to data collection*



Community barriers

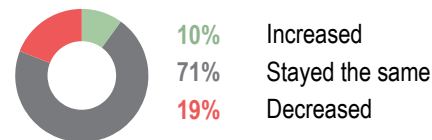
Reported perceptions of barriers faced by the community due to COVID-19 in the 2 weeks prior to data collection, by % of vendors*



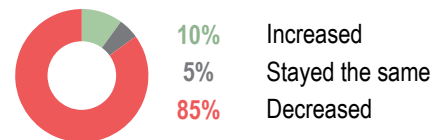
▲ indicates an increase of more than 5 percentage points relative to the previous round
 ▶ indicates no change of more or less than 5 percentage points relative to previous round
 ▼ indicates a decrease of more than 5 percentage points relative to the previous round

Vendor dynamics

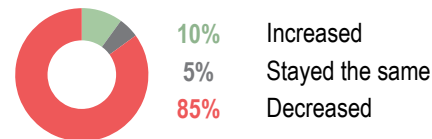
% of vendors reporting a change in the number of vendors in the 2 weeks prior to data collection



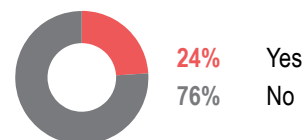
% of vendors reporting a change in the number of customers in the 2 weeks prior to data collection



% of vendors reporting a change in income in the 2 weeks prior to data collection

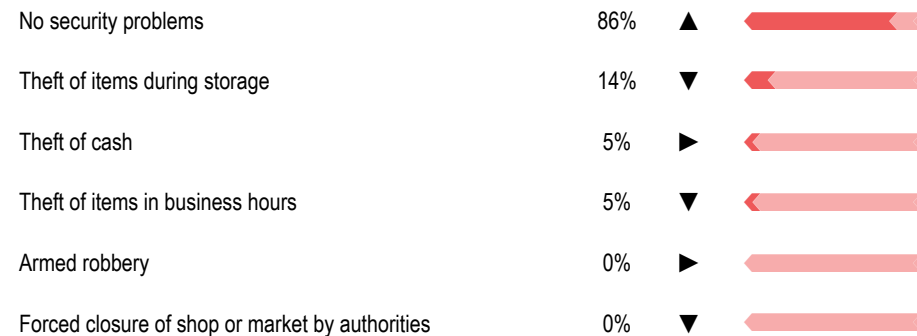


% of vendors reporting witnessing stockpiling behaviour by customers in the 2 weeks prior to data collection



Security threats

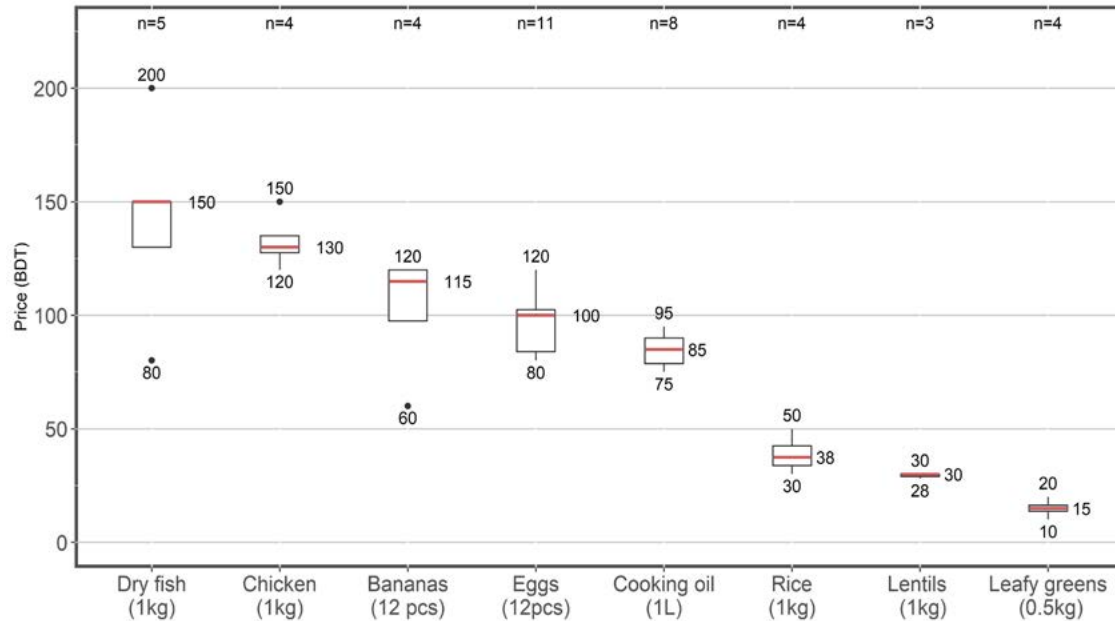
% of vendors reporting witnessing security incidents in the 2 weeks prior to data collection*



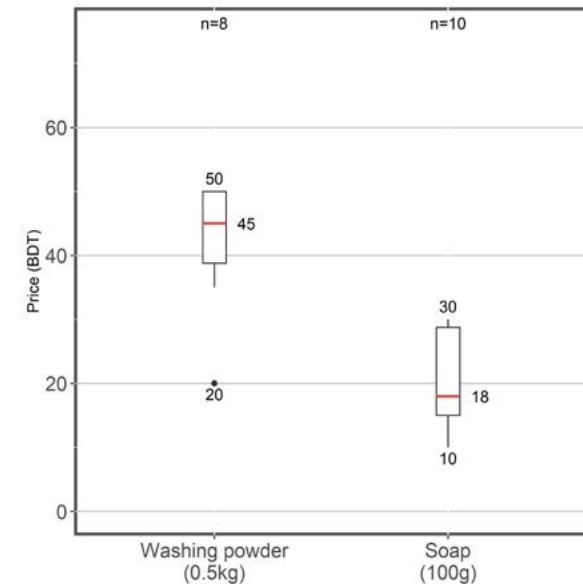
* Values do not add up to 100% as traders were allowed to select multiple options.

Distribution of Prices

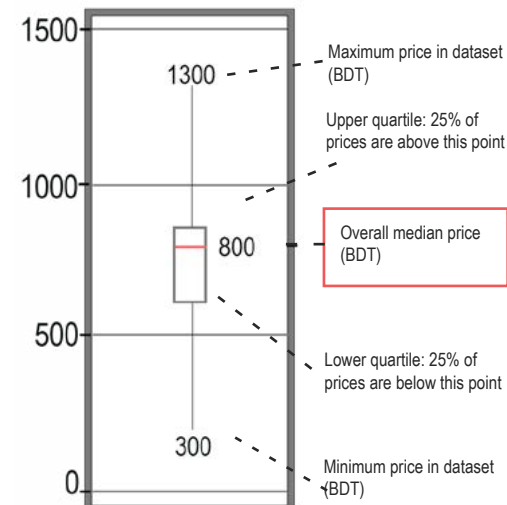
Food Items



Non-Food Items



How to read a boxplot



METHODOLOGY

The aim of the COVID-19 MMI is to better understand market dynamics and changes in the prices of goods in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and associated social control measures in Bangladesh.

Coverage is determined by the extent of REACH's key informant (KI) network of market vendors. All KIs are vendors who are selling directly to consumers. As the initiative is currently being built up, coverage will likely be expanded in future data collection rounds as the KI network is expanded. In this round, market coverage included 21 vendors across Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion (KBE) site, (not inclusive of camps 14, 15, or 16). To the extent possible, the same vendors are re-contacted in every round of data collection.

Data is collected by REACH field staff remotely through structured phone interviews with KIs using the KoBoCollect phone application. REACH compiles and cleans all data in line with internal standard operating procedures. The data collection tool is published alongside the dataset on a biweekly basis and disseminated to the humanitarian community. When a comparison with previous rounds is made, it refers to the data collection happening 2 weeks prior.

Challenges and Limitations

- All data is only indicative for the time frame within which it was collected. Prices may vary between data collection rounds.
- The MMI data collection tool requests the cheapest available type of each item to be recorded, as availability varies across vendors. Therefore, price comparisons across vendors may be based on slightly varying products, and as data collection took place remotely, it is not possible to verify this.
- Standardising unit sizes of certain items (e.g. bananas) may be difficult as many traders sell commodities by volume or weight rather than number of items. This may create a measurement error.
- With current coverage, data is mostly collected from main markets, which may not be representative of smaller markets.
- As the MMI continues to expand and is extended to additional locations, the reported changes in the overall median prices may be driven by shifts in coverage rather than actual price changes.

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.