

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 respondent businesses. The JMIMI 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 JMIMI fact sheet.

KEY FINDINGS: 12 - 19 APRIL, 2020

- There have reportedly been minimal store closures in the two weeks prior to data collection.
- Eighty-six per cent (86%) of vendors did not report any added difficulty acquiring goods due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.
- Prices for petrol and diesel reportedly decreased considerably compared to the price data collected in the month prior.
- The WASH SMEB in Al Jawf was found to have risen by almost 80%.
- Restocking times in Marib and Amran have reportedly risen significantly.
- Prices for bottled water and treated water reportedly rose 8.7% and 16.7% respectively from the month prior to data collection.
- Many vendors are experiencing issues with price inflation.

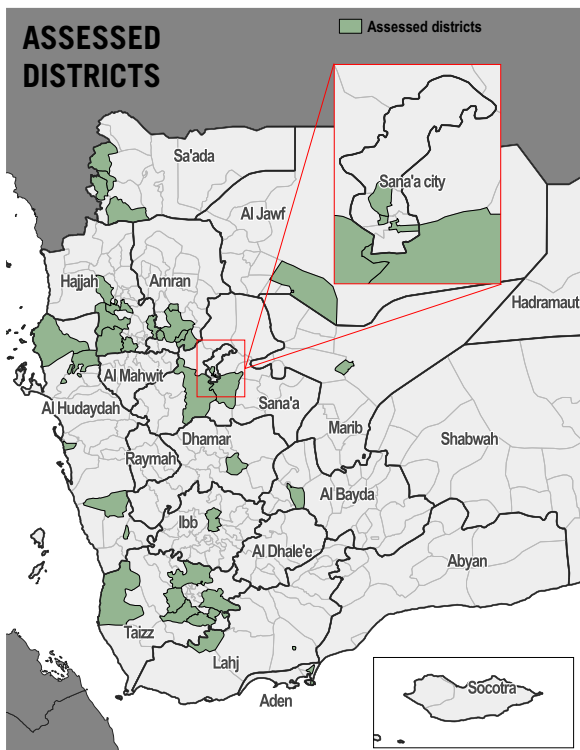
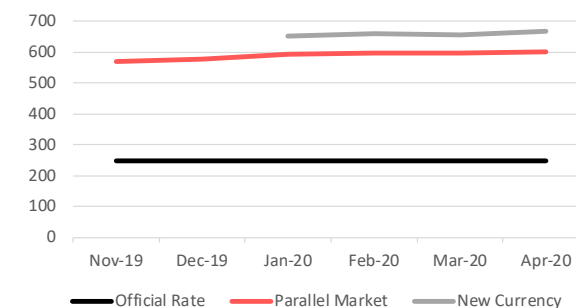
Price tracking for key items: 3 months (YER)

Items	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	Change (Mar-Apr)
WASH SMEB*	12033	11300	11208	-0.8%
Soap (100g)	150	150	145	-3.3%
Laundry powder (100g)	112	120	118	-1.7%
Sanitary napkins (10 Pack)	500	513	513	0.0%
Water trucking (1m ³)	2292	2000	2000	0.0%
Petrol (1L)	370	365	295	-19.2%
Diesel (1L)	424	430	345	-19.8%
Bottled water (0.75L)	135	138	150	+8.7%
Treated water (10L)	122	120	140	+16.7%
Bleach (1L)	NA	NA	700	NA

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

Exchange rate (YER/USD)

Exchange Rate	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20
Official rate	250	250	250
Parallel market	596	597	600
New currency market	660	655	666



COVID-19 MARKET INDICATORS

Business closures

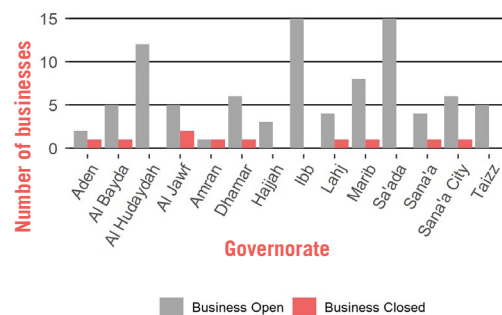
Average Number of Nearby Businesses Open[^]



Average Number of Nearby Businesses Closed[^]



Average business closures by governorate[^]

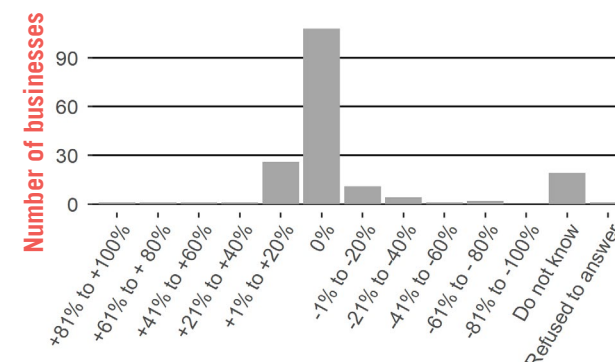


[^]average number reported for the respondent's stores within a two-minute walk and in the two weeks prior

Impact of COVID-19 on respondents' businesses

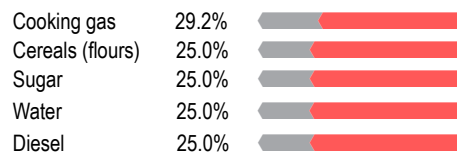
Overall, **108** respondents indicated that there has been no change in the amount of customers they have seen over the two weeks prior to data collection. The graph to the right highlights how many of those businesses have seen change in the number of clientele in the two weeks prior to data collection.

Of the **176** respondents surveyed, **13.6%** stated that they had difficulty obtaining key commodities due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.

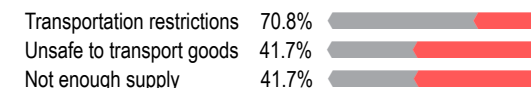


Reported change in amount of customers

Top 5 most difficult goods to obtain according to vendors:



Top 3 COVID-19 related constraints according to vendors:

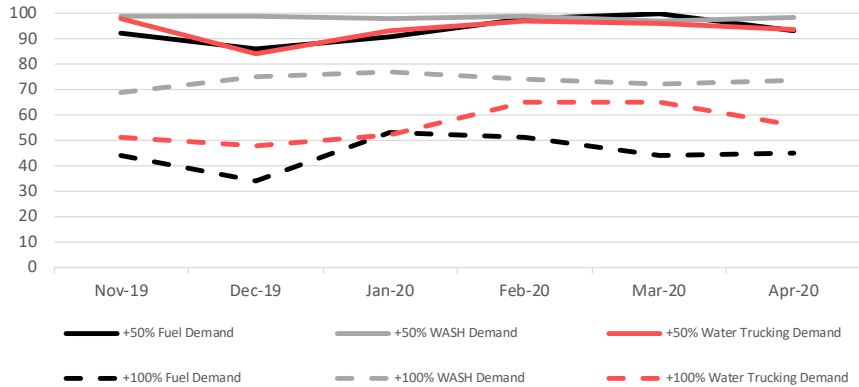


MARKET INDICATORS AND PRICES

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	3 (0)	2 (-1)
Al Bayda	NA (NA)	NA (NA)
Al Hudaydah	7 (1)	6 (3)
Al Jawf	5 (2)	5 (1)
Amran	9 (5)	11 (10)
Dhamar	2 (0)	11 (7)
Hajjah	10 (4)	10 (6)
Ibb	8 (-1)	2 (0)
Lahj	4 (-3)	4 (-12)
Marib	11 (-14)	27 (15)
Sa'ada	6 (0)	6 (0)
Sana'a	NA (NA)	NA (NA)
Sana'a City	8 (-1)	3 (0)
Taizz	4 (-1)	2 (-1)

*Change in days from March JMMI in brackets

Top 3 reported economic constraints for fuel vendors*

Price inflation	46.4%
Transportation	32.0%
Liquidity shortage	29.7%

Top 3 reported economic constraints for WASH NFI vendors*

Price inflation	59.4%
Insecurity	35.7%
Liquidity shortage	29.4%

Top 3 reported economic constraints for water trucking vendors*

Price inflation	60.3%
Insecurity	34.6%
Transportation	28.2%

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

Median commodity prices per governorate, 12-19 April 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 Mar JMMI
Aden	165	225	125	100	750	140	108	500	1500	9355	-23.4%
Al Bayda	295	345	100	170	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Al Hudaydah	295	345	150	100	602	135	115	562	2000	11142	-23.3%
Al Jawf	295	NA	200	1000	490	270	100	650	3500	17160	+79.2%
Amran	295	345	120	150	300	150	118	500	1000	8085	-0.5%
Dhamar	295	345	150	500	800	160	120	500	750	7442	-8.4%
Hajjah	295	345	150	150	400	150	130	600	2650	13722	+8.5%
Ibb	290	340	150	100	775	200	160	578	2000	12756	-9.4%
Lahj	165	235	100	NA	750	125	92	500	2000	10452	+8.7%
Marib	175	300	65	50	616	120	108	500	1083	7831	-25.1%
Sa'ada	300	348	145	158	NA	150	220	650	3000	16725	+18.2%
Sana'a	295	345	95	162	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sana'a City	295	345	120	100	700	150	110	500	1300	8870	+4.4%
Taizz	225	300	150	100	725	132	120	530	2000	11146	-7.6%

Payment modalities accepted by vendors*

Modality	Fuel Vendors	WASH NFI Vendors	Water Trucking Vendors
Bartering	0 (0%)	0.7% (+0.1%)	0% (0%)
Cash	100% (0%)	100% (+1.2%)	97.4% (-2.6%)
Credit	5.6% (+0.9%)	16.1% (-7.4%)	7.7% (+1.8%)
Credit / debit card	3.2% (+2.5%)	4.2% (-0.6%)	7.7% (+1.8%)
Mobile money	4.0% (+3.3%)	2.1% (-3.9%)	0% (0%)
Prepaid cards	2.4% (+2.4%)	0% (-1.2%)	0% (0%)
Vouchers	0% (0%)	0% (-2.4%)	0% (0%)
Other	0% (0%)	0% (0%)	0% (0%)
Do not know	0% (0%)	0% (0%)	0% (0%)

*The percentage change from the March 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