**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.

**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%.
- Ninety-three per cent (93%) of vendors did not report any added difficulty acquiring goods due to COVID-19 (was 7.4% in April Round 2).
- 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).

**COVID-19 MARKET INDICATORS**

**Business closures**

- Average Number of Nearby Businesses Closed\(^*\): 0
- Average Number of Nearby Businesses Open\(^*\): 3

**Average business closures by governorate**

- Aden: 5
- Haymah: 4
- Lahj: 3
- Abyan: 3
- Al-Jawf: 3
- Hadhramaut: 2
- Saada: 2
- al-Mahwit: 2
- Sana'a: 2
- Sana'a - M: 2
- Mocha: 2
- Taiz: 2
- Ibb: 1
- Ghaida: 1
- Hodeidah: 1
- Taiz - M: 1
- Abyan - M: 1
- Amran: 1
- Dhamar: 1
- al-Mah wast - M: 1
- Yebel-Khati: 1
- Sana'a - L: 1
- Shabwah: 1
- Marib: 1

**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%

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Mar-20</th>
<th>Apr(R2)-20</th>
<th>May(R1)-20</th>
<th>Change (from Apr R2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH SMEB*</td>
<td>11300</td>
<td>9916</td>
<td>11824</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap (100g)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry powder (100g)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary napkins (10 Pack)</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water trucking (1m(^3))</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>2166</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petrol (1L)</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diesel (1L)</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottled water (0.75L)</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treated water (10L)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>-23.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bleach (1L)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Contains soap (10.5 Kg), laundry powder (2 Kg), sanitary napkins (20 units), and water (3.15 m\(^3\)).

**Exchange rate (YER/USD)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exchange Rate</th>
<th>Mar-20</th>
<th>Apr(R2)-20</th>
<th>May(R1)-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Official rate</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parallel market</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New currency market</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>642</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on the responses from the 7.4% of vendors who had difficulty obtaining goods due to COVID-19.
MARTKET 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.

Vendor capacity to respond to a sudden increase in demand

*Change in days from April Round 2 JMMI in brackets

Governorate | Fuel Items | 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 NFI | SMEB | Change from Apr(R2) JMMI
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Aden | 2 (-1) | 2 (0) | | | | | | | | | | | 30.8% |
Al Bayda | Na (Na) | Na (Na) | | | | | | | | | | | |
Al Hudaydah | 7 (1) | 5 (-1) | | | | | | | | | | | 11.9% |
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) | | | | | | | | | | | |

Average reported restocking time (days)*

Governorate | Fuel Items | 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 NFI | SMEB | Change from Apr(R2) JMMI
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Aden | 2 (-1) | 2 (0) | | | | | | | | | | | 30.8% |
Al Bayda | Na (Na) | Na (Na) | | | | | | | | | | | |
Al Hudaydah | 7 (1) | 5 (-1) | | | | | | | | | | | 11.9% |
Al Jawf | 4 (-2) | 4 (0) | | | | | | | | | | | |
Amran | 12 (2) | 13 (4) | | | | | | | | | | | |
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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) | | | | | | | | | | | |

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%

Payment modalities accepted by vendors*

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

* 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