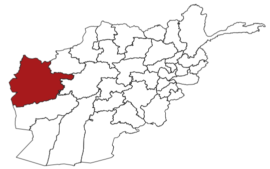
JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE (JMMI)

Earthquake Response in Herat Province

Afghanistan

10 October 2023



OVERVIEW

A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck the western region of Afghanistan on 7 October 2023, affecting an estimated 12,000 people across five districts of Herat province. As response mechanisms mobilized to provide assistance to affected communities in Ghoryan, Guzara, Herat, Injil, Karukh, and Zindajan districts, information gaps were highlighted around the functionality of markets and availability and accessibility of relevant items within these markets.

As multiple organizations prepared to conduct market assessments to inform their individual responses, REACH initiated an ad-hoc round of the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative in order to provide one joint assessment for the entire response that could reduce duplication of efforts. The JMMI assessment employs a quantitative key informant interview (KII) approach. The methodology includes surveys with purposively sampled traders, acting as key informants (KIs) for their respective markets. The findings are indicative and may not always fully reflect market activity in the assessed areas.[1] More details on the approach are available in the methodology note section at the end.

Data from this round was collected on 10 October by the REACH Initiative in Afghanistan.

Amidst on-going aftershocks, market functionality and conditions continue to change and may not be captured by this assessment.

Median cost of Food Basket

78.53 USD | 5,848 AFN

National value[2] (September)

72.26 USD

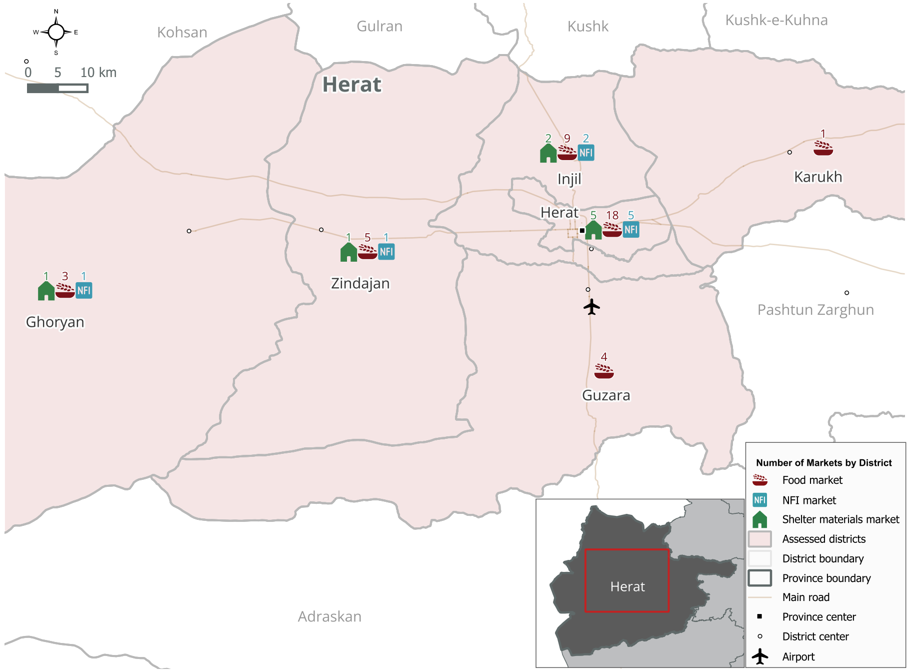
Median cost of MEB[3]

242.28 USD | 18,041 AFN

National value[2] (September)

234.59 USD

MARKETPLACES ASSESSED, BY DISTRICT[4]



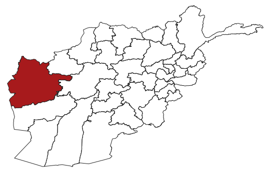
6	Districts assessed
79	Key informants (KIs) interviewed
34	Commodities assessed
58	Wholesalers
21	Retailers
40	Marketplaces assessed

KEY FINDINGS

- All 6 affected districts were found to have open marketplaces. Over half of all KIs in each district reported the **percentage of shops open had stayed the same since the earthquake, with the exception of Herat** – where the percentage open had reportedly decreased.
- All KIs in Guzara, Ghoryan, and Karukh said that **food prices had stayed the same since the earthquake.** Increases were reported among some KIs in Injil (39%) and Herat (26%). **However, the Food Basket cost had increased slightly compared to the JMMI in Herat** for September (5,695.75 AFN)**.**
- Moving into winter, coal was largely unavailable across the province. Except for Herat, 78% or more of KIs in all districts reported coal to be completely unavailable. Overall, **at least 10% of KIs reported fuel and heating sources to be completely unavailable** (coal, firewood, LPG, diesel, and petrol).
- **Safe water[5] was completely unavailable in 77% of assessed market places in Zindajan and Injil,** 30% in Herat, and 17% in Guzara. Preliminary needs assessments have found that up to one third affected households lack access to improved water sources and are at increased public health risk.
- Most KIs reported **no difficulties in transporting goods via road, except in Zindajan** where 22% said there were difficulties due to the earthquake.
- Almost all KIs **reported that women were safely able to access markets unaccompanied,** although in Injil 30% reported that women could only access markets if accompanied by a mahram.

Earthquake Response Market Assessment
Food Items

10 October 2023

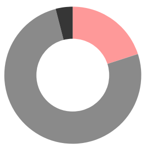


MEDIAN FOOD ITEM PRICES AT THE TIME OF INTERVIEW

Food Items	Unit	Price (AFN)	Price (USD)
Local rice	1 Kg	78	1.04
Pulses	1 Kg	87	1.17
Salt	1 Kg	13	0.18
Sugar	1 Kg	70	0.94
Tomatoes	1 Kg	20	0.27
Vegetable oil	1 L	84	1.13
Wheat flour (imported)	1 Kg	32	0.43
Wheat flour (local)	1 Kg	30	0.40

REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF FOOD ITEMS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE, AND REPORTED PERCEIVED REASONS FOR PRICE INCREASE[5]

% of KIs reporting a change in price for food items since the earthquake:



20% Increased

76% Stayed the same

4% Decreased

Out of those KIs reporting an increase in food items prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:[6]

1. 87% Demand increased
2. 73% Reduced number of shops
3. 53% Less availability to items to stock / Supply reduced
4. 47% Reduced availability of commodities

Although most KIs reported that food prices had stayed the same since the earthquake, KIs reported that prices had increased in Injil (reported by 38% of KIs) and Herat (reported by 26% of KIs).

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF FOOD ITEMS FROM OPERATIONAL TRADERS

Food Items	Available (% KIs)	Limited availability (% KIs)	Unavailable (% KIs)	Median time for stock to last (days)
Local rice	56%	25%	19%	14
Pulses	74%	17%	6%	10
Salt	81%	11%	9%	10
Sugar	75%	19%	6%	10
Tomatoes	53%	33%	14%	2
Vegetable oil	72%	20%	8%	10
Wheat flour (imported)	61%	23%	17%	12
Wheat flour (local)	49%	27%	23%	12

REPORTED CHANGE IN DEMAND OF FOOD ITEMS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE

% of KIs reporting a change in demand for food items since the earthquake:

26% Increased

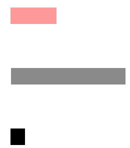
40% Stayed the same

34% Decreased

Median time for stock of food items to last (days): 10

REPORTED CHANGE IN NUMBER OF FOOD SUPPLIERS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE

% of KIs reporting a change in the number of food suppliers since the earthquake:



Decreased 26%

Stayed the same 65%

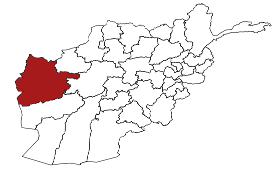
Increased 8%

Median restock time (days) of food items: 2

Increased demand for food items was reported by larger proportions of vendors in Herat (reported by 56% of KIs) and Injil (reported by 46% of KIs). The most commonly reported reason for the increase in demand was the reduced number of open shops.

NFI Earthquake Response Market Assessment
Non-Food Items

10 October 2023

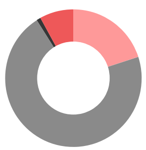


MEDIAN NFI (WINTERISATION) PRICES AT THE TIME OF INTERVIEW

NFIs	Unit	Price (AFN)	Price (USD)
Blanket	1 Piece	650	8.73
Coal*	1 Kg	N/A	N/A
Cooking pot*	1 Piece	N/A	N/A
Diesel	1 Liter	72	0.97
Firewood*	1 Kg	N/A	N/A
Liquefied petroleum gas	1 Liter	65	0.87
Safe water[5]	18 L	50	0.67
Sanitary pad	1 Bag	83	1.12
Soap	1 Piece	30	0.40
Water container*	1 Piece	N/A	N/A
Winter jacket*	1 Piece	N/A	N/A

REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF NFIs SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE, AND REPORTED PERCEIVED REASONS FOR PRICE INCREASE[6]

% of KIs reporting a change in price for NFIs since the earthquake:



20% Increased

71% Stayed the same

1% Decreased

8% Don't know

Out of those KIs reporting an increase in NFIs prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:[6]

1. 93% Demand increased
2. 60% Reduced number of shops
3. 40% Reduced supply of stock
4. 27% Increased prices

100% of KIs in Ghoryan, Guzara and Karukh districts reported an increase in NFI prices since the earthquake compared to the average over assessed areas[1] of 71%.

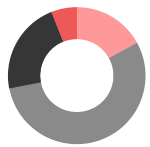
** Where there was insufficient availability of items, or traders selling items, price and stock data could not be collected and is therefore reported 'N/A'.*

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF NFIs FROM OPERATIONAL TRADERS

NFIs	Available (% KIs)	Limited availability (% KIs)	Unavailable (% KIs)	Median time for stock to last (days)
Blanket	27%	34%	37%	4
Coal*	10%	37%	52%	N/A
Cooking pot*	30%	27%	42%	N/A
Diesel	52%	33%	15%	3
Firewood*	22%	39%	38%	N/A
Liquefied petroleum gas	58%	27%	15%	4
Safe water[5]	43%	18%	39%	5
Sanitary pad	54%	22%	24%	14
Soap	79%	13%	9%	14
Water container*	29%	32%	37%	N/A
Winter jacket*	30%	32%	37%	N/A

REPORTED CHANGE IN DEMAND OF NFIs SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE[6]

% of KIs reporting a change in demand for NFIs since the earthquake:



17% Increased

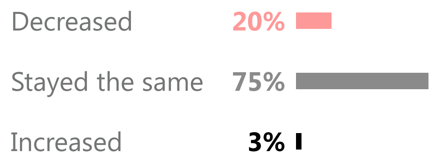
55% Stayed the same

22% Decreased

6% Don't know

REPORTED CHANGE IN NUMBER OF NFI SUPPLIERS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE

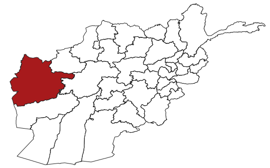
% of KIs reporting a change in the number of NFI suppliers since the earthquake:



100% of KIs in Karukh district reported an increase in demand for NFIs in their stores since the earthquake, compared to the average over assessed areas[1] of 54%. Out of those KIs reporting an increase in NFI demand, the most frequently reported reason was the reduced number of open shops since the earthquake.

Earthquake Response Market Assessment
Shelter Materials

10 October 2023



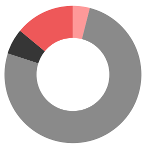
As part of the JMMI earthquake response assessment, data on additional NFI Shelter Materials was collected; this required speaking to KIs that specifically traded in these materials. Similarly, data on availability of construction labour was added to inform the earthquake response, for which specific KIs with knowledge of this market were consulted.

MEDIAN SHELTER MATERIAL PRICES AT THE TIME OF INTERVIEW

Shelter Materials	Unit	Price (AFN)	Price (USD)
Nails	1 Kg	200	2.68
Plastic sheeting	1 Meter	85	1.14
Rope	1 Meter	15	0.20
Shovel	1 Piece	350	4.70
Tent	1 Piece	950	12.74
Tarpaulin	1 sq. meter	30	0.40

REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF SHELTER MATERIALS SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE, AND REPORTED REASONS FOR PRICE INCREASE[6]

% of KIs reporting a change in price for shelter materials since the earthquake:



4% Increased
76% Stayed the same
6% Decreased
14% Don't know

Out of those KIs reporting an increase in shelter material prices, the most frequently cited reasons were:[7]

1. 100% Reduced number of shops
2. 67% Demand increased
3. 33% Increased transportation costs

100% of KIs in Ghoryan and Karukh districts reported that the shelter materials price stayed the same since the earthquake, compared to the average over assessed areas of 76%.

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF SHELTER MATERIALS FROM OPERATIONAL TRADERS

Shelter Materials	Available (% KIs)	Limited availability (% KIs)	Unavailable (% KIs)	Median time for stock to last (days)
Nails	43%	30%	25%	17
Plastic sheeting	37%	32%	28%	6
Rope	34%	34%	30%	20
Shovel	42%	25%	32%	35
Tent	13%	34%	43%	5
Tarpaulin	11%	41%	49%	4

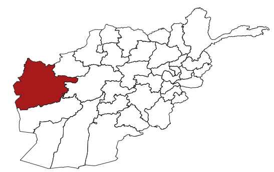
CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION LABOUR

% of assessed KIs by the reported availability of skilled construction labour in all markets:[7]

- Mason 58%
- Electrician 46%
- Plumber 37%
- Welder 37%
- Carpenter 29%
- Painter 29%
- Rodbuster 15%

% of assessed KIs by the reported availability of unskilled construction labour in all markets:[7]

- Clean up labor 60%
- Jobsite helper 54%
- Dig trenches 36%
- Erect scaffolding 17%



LOCATION OF MAIN SUPPLIERS FOR FOOD, NFIs AND SHELTER MATERIALS

Proportion of retailer KIs by reported location of their main supplier of **food items**:

58% Province capital city

5% Same province[8]

0% Different province

30% Imported from abroad

Proportion of retailer KIs by reported location of their main supplier of **NFIs**:

55% Province capital city

4% Same province[8]

0% Different province

39% Imported from abroad

Proportion of retailer KIs by reported location of their main supplier of **shelter materials**:

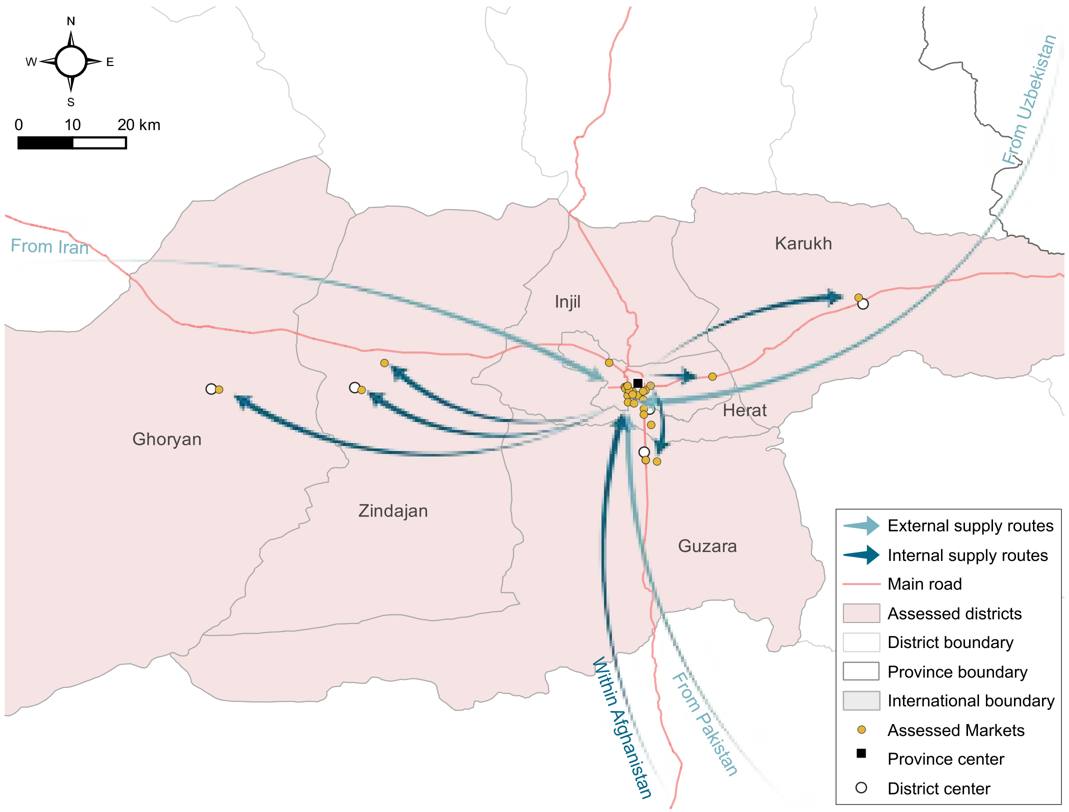
43% Province capital city

13% Same province[8]

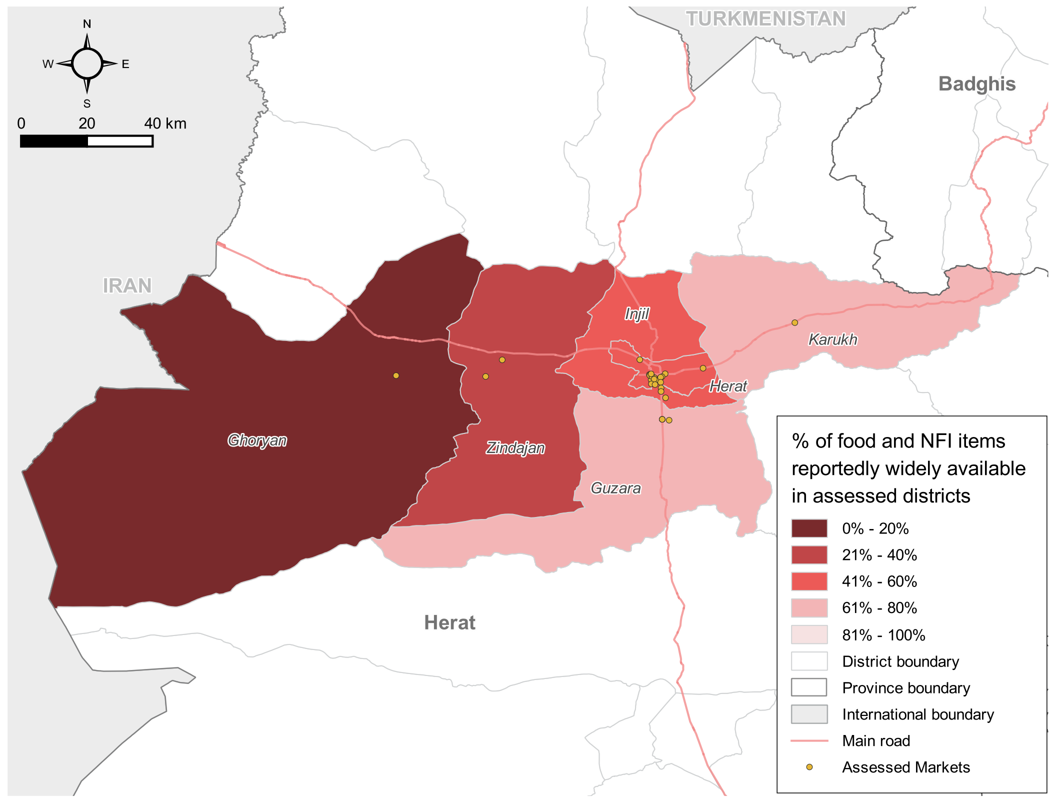
5% Different province

35% Imported from abroad

FOOD & NFI SUPPLY ROUTE MAP

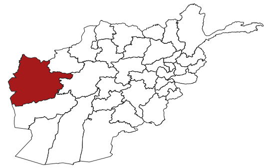


% OF FOOD ITEMS AND NFIS REPORTEDLY WIDELY AVAILABLE, BY DISTRICT[9]



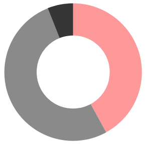
Earthquake Response Market Assessment
Traders and Financial Service Presence, Access

10 October 2023



TRADER PRESENCE IN THE MARKET

KIs perceived the following changes in the number of shops that have been open since the earthquake:



42% Decreased

52% Stayed the same

6% Increased

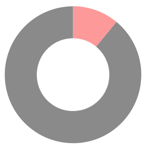
0% Don't know

Among those KIs who reported having perceived a decrease in the number of shops open in the marketplace, the most cited reasons for this decrease were:[7]

1. 52% Fear or damage from earthquake
2. 26% Lack of commodities
3. 21% Financial constraints

WOMEN'S ACCESS

Proportion of KIs reporting women were able to safely access the market:

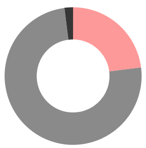


11% Yes, accompanied

89% Yes, unaccompanied

CASH ACCESS

Proportion of KIs reporting that cash was accessible:



23% No

75% Yes

2% Don't Know

PRESENCE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Proportion of KIs reporting on the presence of functional money transfer services in or near their market area, by type:[7]

Banks	53%
Hawala[10]	49%
No money transfer services	23%
Mobile money agents	11%
Financial services provided by members of the community	11%

ENDNOTES

1. National indicative values are based on the September 2023 round of JMMI.
2. The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a seven-person Afghan household for one month.
3. Pulses in this table are calculated as the median (normalised) price of all three types of pulses monitored: lentils, beans, and split-peas.
4. The numbers indicate KIs reporting per each type of market; individual KIs may have reported on more than 1 type of market.
5. Safe water refers here to 105 liters of clean drinking water for a family of 7 members. This mostly refers to 20L Jugs.
6. All KIs were asked about changes in prices of food items, NFIs, and shelter materials in general. KIs that reported an increase or decrease were asked to report on the main reason for this.
7. Respondents could report multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.
8. Same province: location of the main supplier is the same district and the same province, except the provincial capital city.
9. Key Informants were asked about the level of availability of 10 food items and 18 NFIs in their market. The map displays the share of items that KIs regarded to be "widely available" in their market; results are aggregated at the district level.
10. The hawala system is an informal method of transferring money, including across borders, through a network of money brokers. Hawala is used today as an alternative remittance channel

METHODOLOGY

Markets were selected purposively with the consultation of REACH field teams in order to target markets that were most likely to be used by populations and responders in affected areas. Markets were then classified as 'large', 'medium', or 'small' by field teams. For 'small' markets, 1 KII retailer was conducted. For 'medium' and 'large' markets, 3 to 6 KIIs were conducted, depending on accessibility to vendors. Enumerators sampled a mixture of wholesalers and retailers. KIs were asked questions about the days since the 7 October 2023 earthquake. All reported findings are based on data collected from the operational and partially operational shops.

About the REACH Initiative

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection, in-depth analysis and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.