

EatSafe: Evidence and Action Towards Safe, Nutritious Food

COVID-19 Traditional Market Report Brief

Dhaka, Bangladesh | December 2021 | Issue 4

The quarterly Traditional Market Report (TMR), developed by EatSafe, tracks behaviors and daily decisions made by vendors and consumers in two wet markets in Dhaka, Bangladesh (Bonolota and Islambagh City Corporation). In addition to summarizing perceptions on COVID-19 and the difficulties faced by market actors in these two traditional markets, the TMR tracks prices of selected nutritious foods every two weeks. The TMR report tracks several accepted indicators that help determine the resilience of market systems as market actors cope with business and food security choices under COVID-19 conditions. The TMR highlights three new surveys from July, August and September 2021 phone interviews of a panel of vendors (n=30) and consumers (n=30). [Previous TMR issues are available online.](#)

Insights from vendor perspective between July and September 2021

- Most vendors (80% Jul; 97% Aug; 87% Sep) found it somewhat difficult to follow new COVID-19 rules and regulations in the market.
- None of the vendors stated having started to share resources with other vendors or having changed practices due to competitors between July and September.
- All vendors reported being aware of business support (information, awareness) offered by market authorities due to COVID-19, however only a few (3% Jul) and one in Aug/Sep used their own business strategies to increase the number of customers or sales.
- Share of vendors that borrowed money due to COVID-19 decreased substantially between July and September (17% Jul; 10% Aug; 7% Sep). Overall, the money borrowed mainly came from relatives (80% Jul; 100% Aug/Sep) and informal cooperatives (20% Jul; 33% Aug; 0% Sep).
- Share of vendors aiming to continue with their business even if COVID-19 continues remains high (90% Jul; 100% Aug; 97% Sep).

Insights from consumer perspective between July and September 2021

- Share of consumers that reported that their households' financial situation worsened as compared to before COVID-19 changed from 73% (Jul) to 43% (Aug) and 57% (Sep).
- Share of consumers that reported doing most of their food shopping at the market remained high throughout (93% Jul; 87% Aug; 83% Sep). Share of consumers that reported good quality and freshness of food as a reason for buying food at the market increased from 43% in July to 83% in September.
- Consumers who reported visiting the markets at least once a week increased from 67% (Jul) to 73% (Sep).
- Share of consumers who considered most of their vendors majorly or extremely trustworthy increased from 80% to 87% (Jul-Sep).
- Throughout the three months none of the consumers reported being asked for feedback by vendors and/or market officials during the last 30 days.

Food Prices between April and September 2021

While prices for green papaya and sour yoghurt decreased (25%, 11%, respectively), the prices for fish, red amaranth, and eggs increased (33%, 19%, 17%, respectively), and the prices for pulses fluctuated only slightly (+5% chickpeas; 0% lentils)

I. BACKGROUND ON COVID-19 SITUATION

While the incidence of Bangladesh’s national COVID-19 cases was extremely high in July 2021 and reached almost 100,000 weekly cases, the incidence decreased again in August and fell further in September (**Fig. 1**).

Between January 3 and September 27, 2021, [1,557,964 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 27,573 deaths](#) have been reported by the Directorate General of Health Services, under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of Bangladesh. As of September 27, the daily and weekly rate of confirmed cases was 1,212 and 6,613, respectively (**Fig. 1**). On

February 7, Bangladesh launched a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination campaign to immunize 80% of its 170 million people. The government has created a web portal, [Surokkha](#), to simplify vaccine registration. Due to supply disruptions, the rollout of vaccination has been delayed, but picked up and increased substantially between July and September. While about 10 million doses were administered in early July, by 30 September the number increased to over [48 million doses](#), reaching 28% of the population with at least one of the two doses of the vaccine.

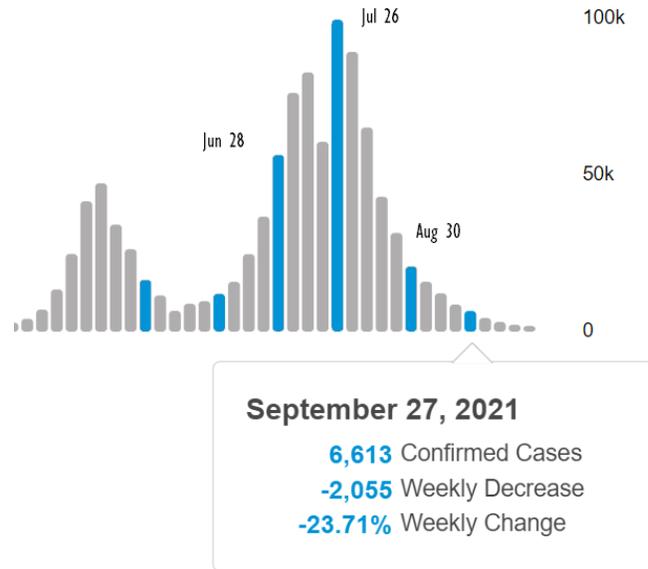


Fig. 1 Weekly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Bangladesh ([WHO, Nov. 2021](#)).

Since October 2020, the Bangladesh government has adopted the "No Mask, No Service" policy at all offices in the country and introduced a fine of 500-1000 BDT (USD \$6-\$12) as punishment for not wearing masks in public places to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following a record of new cases in June and July, the government announced a lockdown at the start of July 2021. While the lockdown was relaxed for the Eid festival, it was reimposed on July 22. Despite essential services linked to electricity, water, fuel, telephone, internet, media, private security, postal services, banking, pharmacies, and emergency services (e.g., transportation of agricultural products and foods, relief distribution, healthcare, COVID-19 vaccination, revenue collection activities, firefighting) which were exempted from lockdown restrictions, all public and private institutions (including garment factories and other export-oriented industries, which were allowed to operate in the previous lockdowns), and any public transportation and domestic flights remained closed/suspended. Moreover, open-air markets operating times were restricted to 9 am to 3 pm in compliance with hygiene rules and restaurants were only allowed to stay open for home deliveries. The government lifted the lockdown from August 11 and re-opened schools and colleges which had been closed nationwide since mid-March 2020.

2. MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19

Bonolota wet market and **Islambagh City Corporation wet market** are both located in Old Dhaka under the Dhaka South City Corporation (**Fig. 2**). Both wet markets are large-scale markets that sell a wide range of products including poultry, fish, meat, eggs, vegetables, fruits, grains, legumes and other food and non-food items. Most of the vendors selling in the markets are male.

2.1 Bonolota Wet market, Dhaka

The Bonolota wet market is the smaller market of the two wet markets assessed in this survey. The market has over 100 vendors and approximately 1,000-1,200 consumers visit the market daily.

2.2 Islambagh City Corporation wet market, Dhaka

The Islambagh City Corporation wet market is one of the largest markets in Old Dhaka. The market has separated food sections, one for fish, livestock, and poultry, a second for cereals, pulses, and vegetables, and a third section for eggs and edible oil. In total about 200 vendors operate in the market and on average, approximately 2,500 consumers visit the market daily.

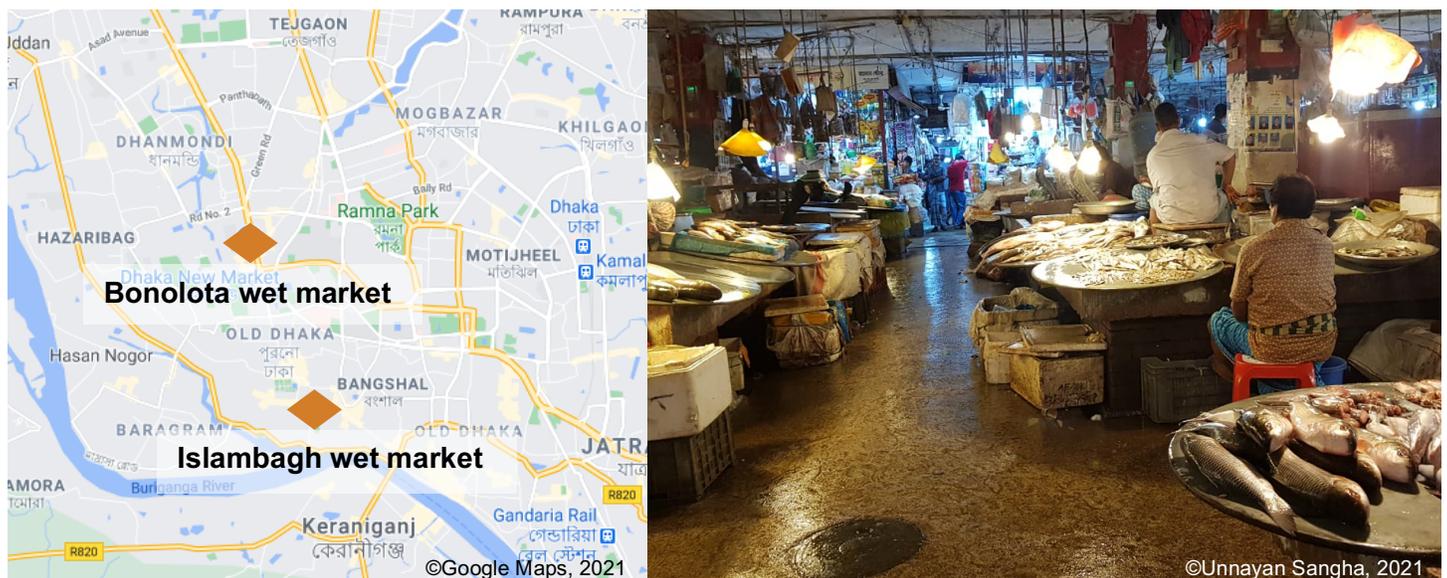


Fig. 2 Location of Bonolota and Islambagh City Cooperation wet market in Dhaka, Bangladesh (left); Bonolota wet market, Dhaka, Bangladesh (right).

3.4 Bi-Weekly Consumer and Vendor Survey Results under COVID-19

In addition to the resilience assessment, EatSafe continues to conduct rapid COVID-19 market surveys of 40 consumers and 40 vendors from each market. This activity began in September 2020 and has since been repeated every two weeks, with results summarized and published in market-specific bulletins every month. Results below are from both markets including all data rounds between July and September 2021.¹

¹ Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. 2021. COVID Bulletin. Bangladesh Issue #19-20. July-August 2021. A USAID EatSafe Project Bulletin. [Available online.](#)

2.4.1 Impact of COVID-19 in the Markets

Based on the rapid assessment, 48% of consumers reported concerns when shopping in the market in the last couple of weeks before the assessment. **Fig. 3** shows that those with concerns identified the following three issues: (1) fear of contracting COVID-19 (48%), (2) inconvenience of taking protective measures (8%), and (3) not trusting the market to take appropriate precautions (2%). When asked about the measures consumers saw currently implemented in the markets, 89% of the consumers mentioned hand washing/ sanitizer stations, mandate of masks for vendors and consumers (82% and 81% respectively), cleaning of markets with disinfectant (67%), provision of COVID-19 communication (31%), and demand of cleanliness behavior (13%).

More than half of consumers (61%) considered the mandate to wear a face mask when shopping in the market as most useful to reducing their individual risk of contracting COVID-19.

Currently, 69% of vendors interviewed in the bi-weekly assessments stated that the pandemic impacted their business. **Fig. 4** highlights that 63% of the vendors experienced a decrease in customers, 49% a decrease in sales and 8% faced difficulties accessing financing besides other aspects mentioned by only a few vendors.

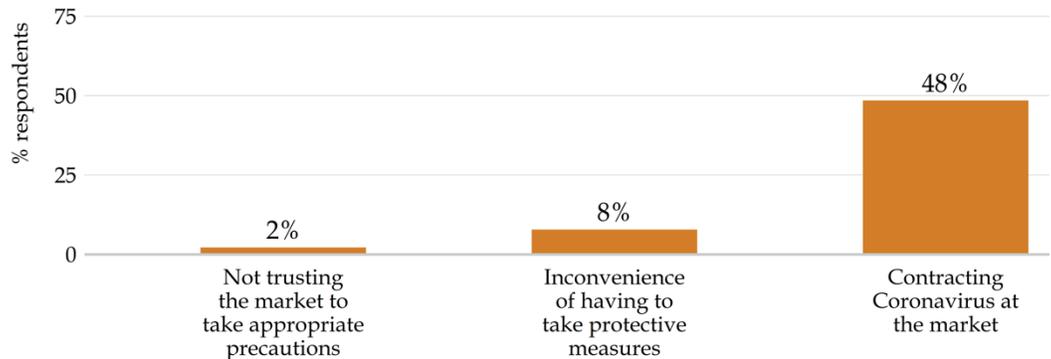


Fig. 3 Consumers: Greatest concerns when currently shopping at the market.

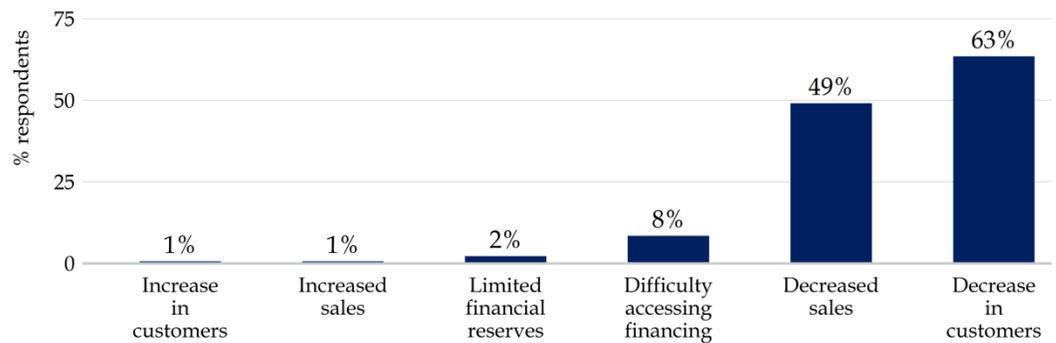


Fig. 4 Vendors: Impact on business due to COVID-19

3. MARKET RESILIENCE UNDER COVID-19

This TMR highlights three new data sets from July, August, and September. Data were collected through monthly panel interviews with 30 vendors and 30 consumers from both the Bonolota and Islambagh City Corporation wet markets. Food prices for this report were assessed between April 10 and September 2 2021.

3.1 Connectivity

Connectivity includes not only the extent of connections vendors or other market actors might have but also the relationships between connected actors. Too many or too few connections can hamper the capacity to generate or sustain the growth of the market system. In this assessment connectivity is analyzed based on the vendors’ observations regarding the number and changes in customers and suppliers.

Between July to September 2021, the vendors reporting a lower number of customers in the last 30 days has decreased overtime (97% Jul; 93% Aug; 67% Sep) and the share of vendors reporting that the numbers stayed “about the same” increased from 3% in July to 7% August and then to 27% in September. This is also reflected in the actual number of customers on a typical day during the last 30 days (**Fig. 5**). In August and September, the share of vendors reported to have “26-35 customers” increased from 23% in July to 47% while the share of vendors with “35-50 customers” decreased from 13% in July and 17% in August to 7% in September and those with “more than 50

customers” decreased from 30% in July to 0% in September. While number of customers changed slightly, 80%-83% of vendors mentioned that the number of suppliers from which they purchased their goods in the last 30 days stayed “about the same” overall. **Fig. 6** shows that more than half of vendors relied on “2-3 suppliers” (57% Jul; 43% Aug; 57% Sep) and about a third relied on “more than 7 suppliers” (37% Jul; 30% Aug/Sep).

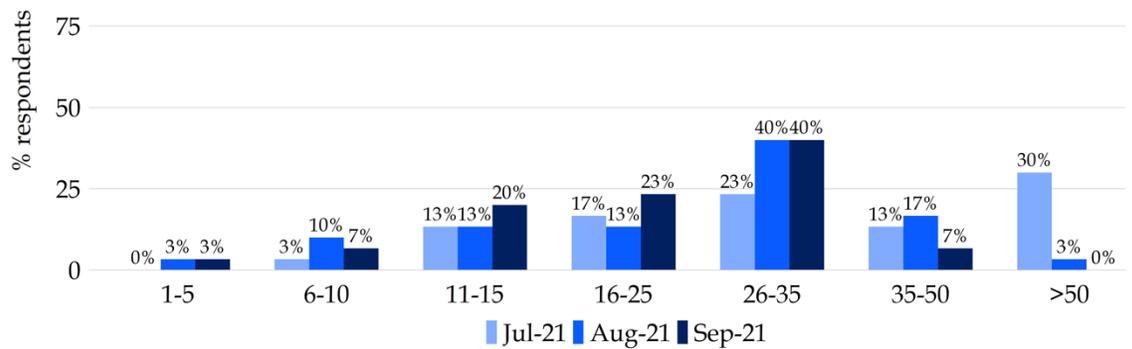


Fig. 5 Vendors: Number of customers on a typical day, last 30 days

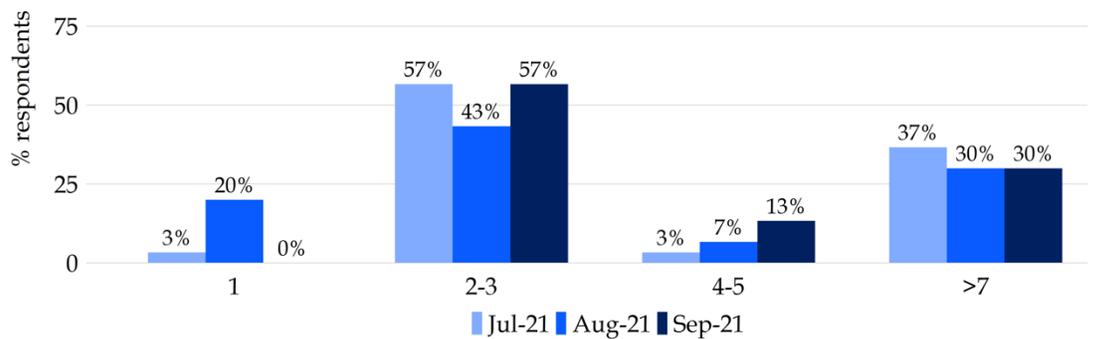


Fig. 6 Vendors: Number of different suppliers, last 30 days

3.2 Diversity

Diversity has multiple dimensions, including (1) the amount of variation in a system (including the frequency and purpose of visiting the markets from consumer perspective) and (2) the balance between different types (e.g., types of products, firm sizes, marketing channels, or end markets) or (3) market system composition, (i.e., how aspects of a market system are related to each other). In this assessment diversity is analyzed based on the vendors' observations regarding number and changes in the commodities sold and consumers' shopping behavior. The number of different products usually sold as reported by vendors did not change substantially (**Fig. 7**). During all the three months, most vendors sold one product (57% Jul/Aug/Sep) while a quarter of vendors sold more than 30 different products in their businesses (20% Jul; 23% Aug; 20% Sept).

Almost none (3% Jul/Aug; 0% Sep) of the vendors reported changing the products sold in their business in the previous month before the survey.

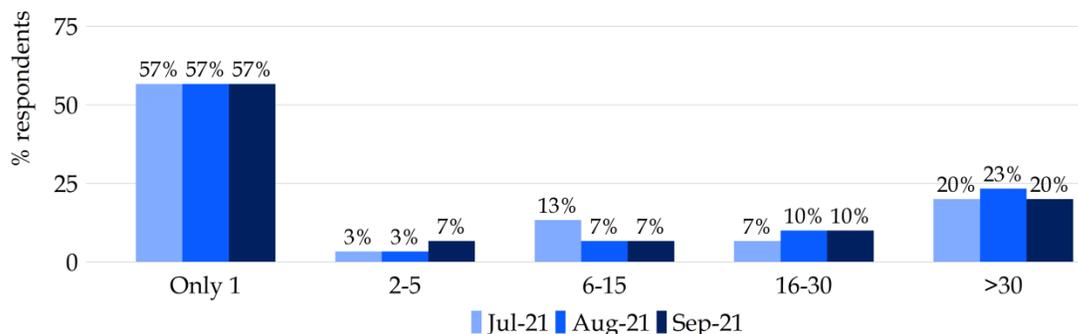


Fig. 7 Vendors: Number of different products usually sold

The frequency of visiting the markets during the last 30 days between July and September has increased slightly (**Fig. 8**). While the share of consumers that went shopping daily increased (23% Jul; 27% Aug; 37% Sep), those that went two to three times a week decreased (27% Jul; 17% Aug; 13% Sep). Overall, the share of consumers that went at least once a week increased from 67% in July to 73% in September. Almost all consumers (100% Jul; 90% Aug; 93% Sep) said the purpose for visiting the markets was to buy foods or other goods for themselves or their own family. There was also a small share of consumers (10% Jul; 7% Aug/Sep) who went to the market to buy foods or other goods for their own business.

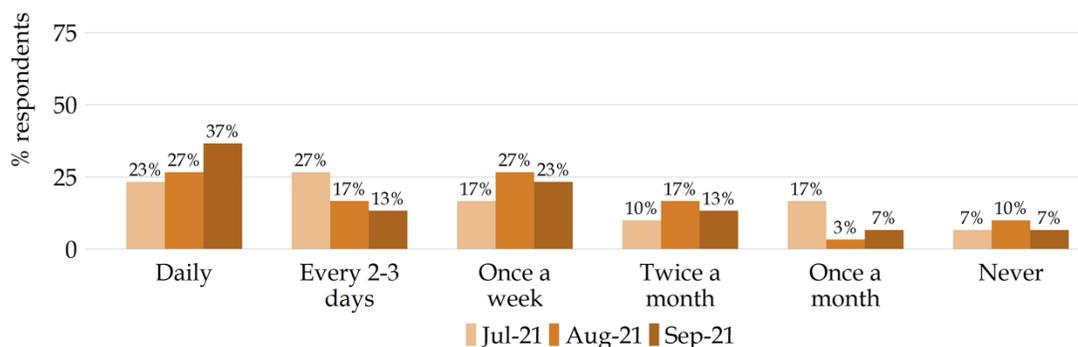


Fig. 8 Consumers: Frequency of visiting the markets, last 30 days

3.3 Equity and Fairness

From a systems perspective, this refers to the degree of **equality and fairness** within formal and informal rules and laws. The panel of vendors were asked how difficult it was for them to follow the new rules and regulations put in place due to COVID-19. Between July and September, most of the vendors (80% Jul; 97% Aug; 87% Sep) found it somewhat difficult to follow new rules and regulations (e.g., basic hygiene, social distancing, and the "No mask, no service" policy in the markets) (**Fig. 9**).

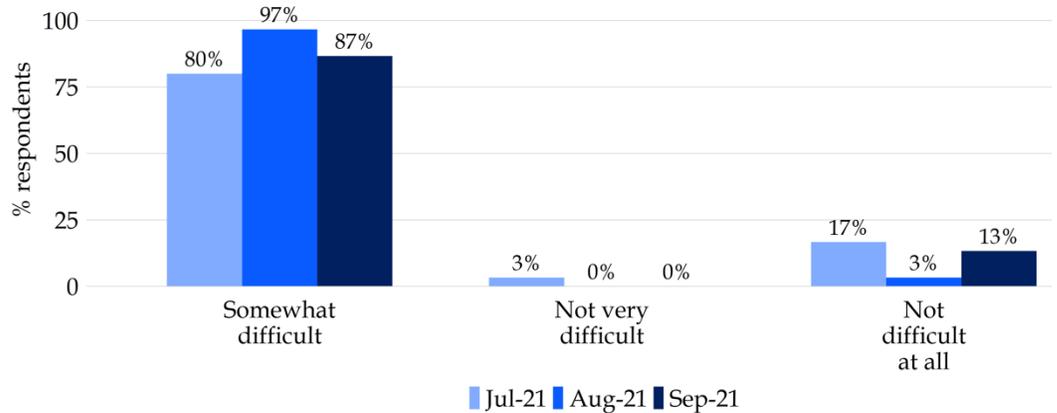


Fig.9 Vendors: Difficulty following COVID-19 rules, last 30 days

3.4 Cooperation

Cooperation refers to market actors

collaborating to achieve a common purpose or function. Cooperation is neither good nor bad and the contribution of cooperation depends on the purpose. In this assessment cooperation was measured by asking vendors if they have started sharing resources with other businesses due to COVID-19. In July, only one vendor reported sharing resources with other businesses (3%) in the last 30 days, while between August and September, no vendor reported sharing resources with other businesses.

3.5 Competition

Competition is defined as rivalry between two or more entities. Like cooperation, competition can be negative or positive. Its contribution to system resilience capacities depends on how and why the entities compete. Competition in this assessment was measured based on changing vendors practices reflecting what they saw of their competitors and consumers' reasons, trust, and loyalty in the vendors where they buy their food from.

Between July and September, none of the vendors in this panel reported any changes to their own business practices based on competitors. In contrast, over one third of consumers (40% Jul/Aug; 37% Sep) bought **less** foods and about one fifth of consumers (27% Jul; 20% Aug; 13% Sep) **stopped** buying certain foods that they used to buy before the pandemic (**Fig. 10**). However, a few consumers (7% Jul; 27% Aug; 3% Sep) also

mentioned that they bought **more** food than before COVID-19. Within the food group of meat, poultry and fish most changes (stopped, bought more or less from) applied. Reasons for stopping to buy or

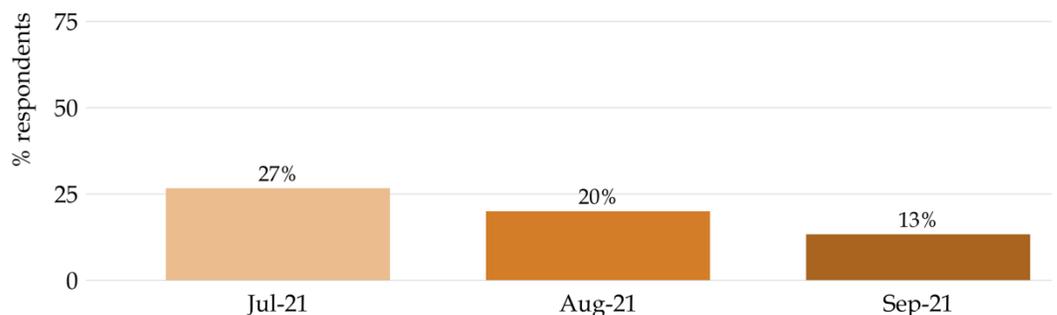


Fig. 10 Consumers: Stopped buying certain food groups, last 30 days

buying less were majorly due to prices. None of the consumers reported to buy any **new** foods in the last 30 days that they did not purchase before the pandemic. Further to this, the two markets under assessment were the most common places where consumers obtained food (93% Jul; 87% Aug; 83% Sep). Other places where consumers obtained food from were other open-air markets (30% Jul; 40% Aug; 33% Sep), small shops (20% Jul; 10% Aug; 13% Sep), or car boot sales (3% Jul; 7% Aug; 20% Sep), or car boot sales (3% Jul; 7% Aug; 20% Sep) (Fig. 11).

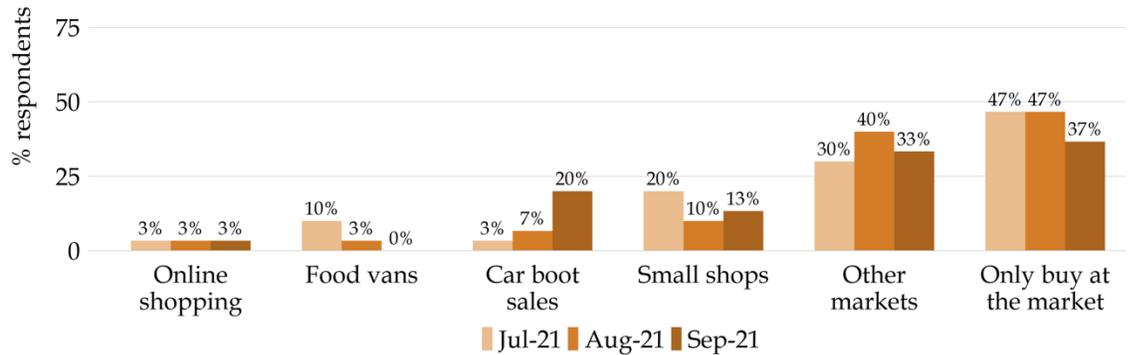


Fig. 11 Consumers: Other places consumers buy food from

The reasons for buying food at the two markets were similar during the three rounds.

Almost all consumers (93% Jul/Aug; 100% Sep) stated their main reason as good selection of food, convenience/easy reach from home (93% Jul; 80% Aug/Sep), good quality/freshness of food (43% Jul; 63%

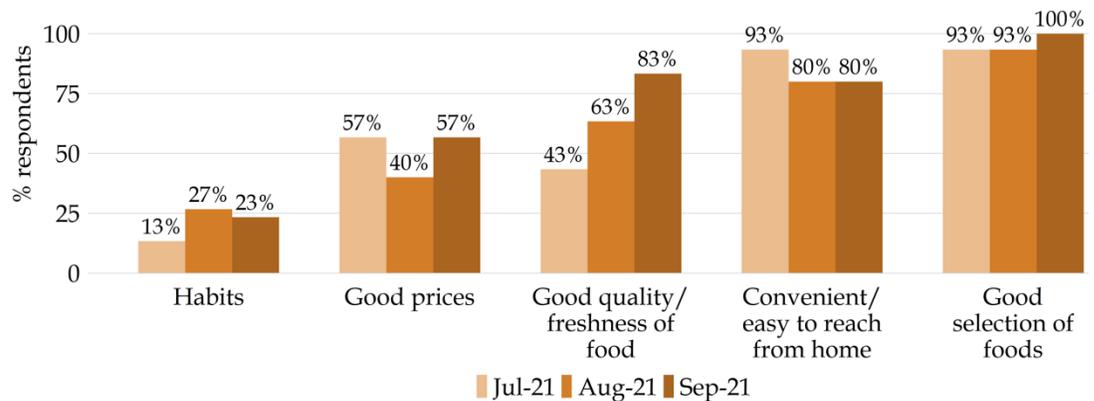


Fig. 12 Consumers: Reasons for visiting markets

Aug; 83% Sep), good prices (57% Jul; 40% Aug; 57% Sep), and habits (13% Jul; 27% Aug; 23% Sep). Worth noticing that the share of consumers mentioning “good quality/freshness of food” increased substantially from 43% to 83% between July and September (Fig. 12).

The confidence in good quality of foods being sold in the markets was further reflected in the level of trust. Although the share of consumers that consider vendors as majorly trustworthy decreased from 37% to 10% (Fig. 13), the share of consumers that mentioned that all vendors they bought food from are extremely trustworthy increased from 43% to 77% between July and September.

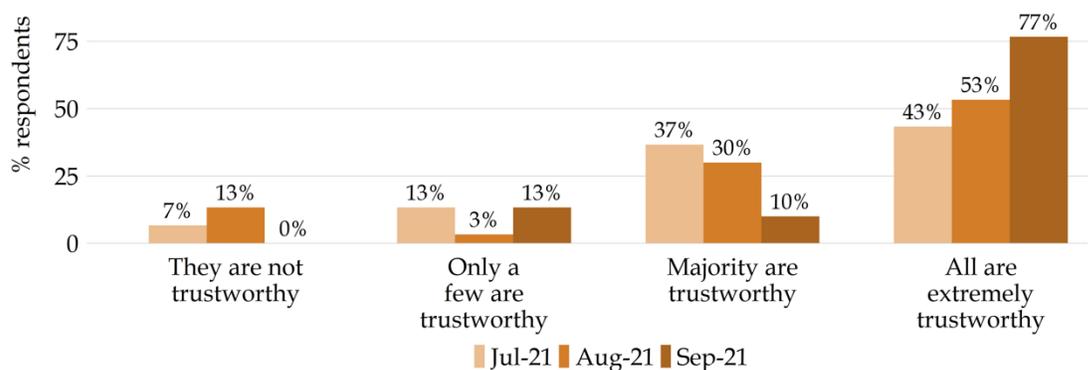


Fig. 13 Consumers: Level of trust for the vendors they buy food from

For those consumers that described the vendors as majorly trustworthy or extremely trustworthy, the reasons included knowing the vendors well/buying regularly from the same vendors (100% Jul/Aug; 96% Sep), the proximity to their home (79% Jul; 32% Aug; 81% Sep), and the good quality/freshness of products (38% Jul; 28% Aug; 38% Sep). For those consumers that described a few vendors as trustworthy or not at all trustworthy, major reasons included changing prices (67% Jul; 0% Aug; 75% Sep), not knowing the vendor well (33% Jul; 60% Aug; 0% Sep), and low or changing quality (17% Jul; 40% Aug; 75% Sep).

However, increased in trust levels was not reflected in the frequency of buying from the same vendor. **Fig. 14** depicts that most consumers (63% Jul; 57% Aug; 70% Sep) rarely buy from the same vendors or do not pay attention from which vendor they buy from.

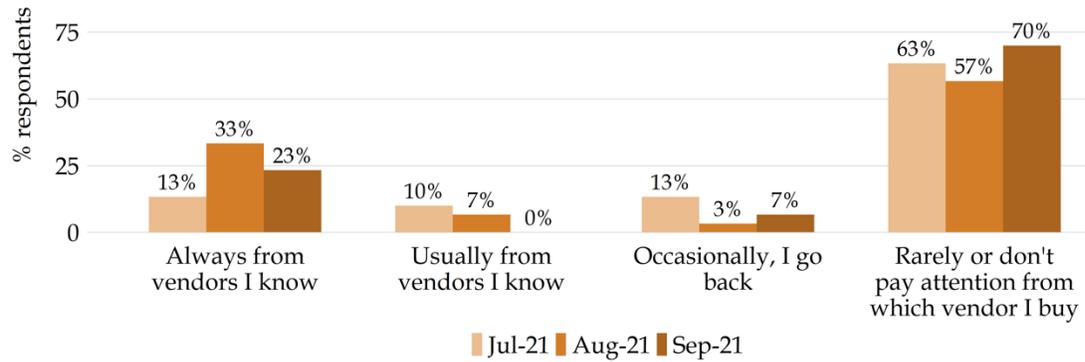


Fig. 5 Consumers: Frequency of buying at the same vendor

3.6 Business strategy

Business practices are oriented toward generating value for customers. They can be investments in understanding customers, in building customer relationships, in tracking customer retention and growth, in investing in staff and firm capacity, and in merit-based hiring. Business strategy in this assessment has been measured based on vendors' business practices, training possibilities and additional funding, as well as consumers' being asked for feedback.

While all vendors seemed to be aware of business support offered by the market due to COVID-19 (e.g., information, awareness and sometimes provision of masks), almost none of the vendors have used any business strategies to increase the number of customers and sales (3% Jul; 0% Aug/Sep). All vendors mentioned that they did not see need to use promotion. The share of vendors that borrowed money due to unexpected expenses during COVID-19 in the last 30 days declined (17% Jul; 10% Aug; 7% Sep). While in July and August, sources for this money were relatives (80% Jul; 100%) and informal cooperatives (20% Jul; 33% Aug), in

September vendors only relied on relatives (**Fig. 15**). From July to September, no consumers were asked by market officials or vendors to provide feedback.

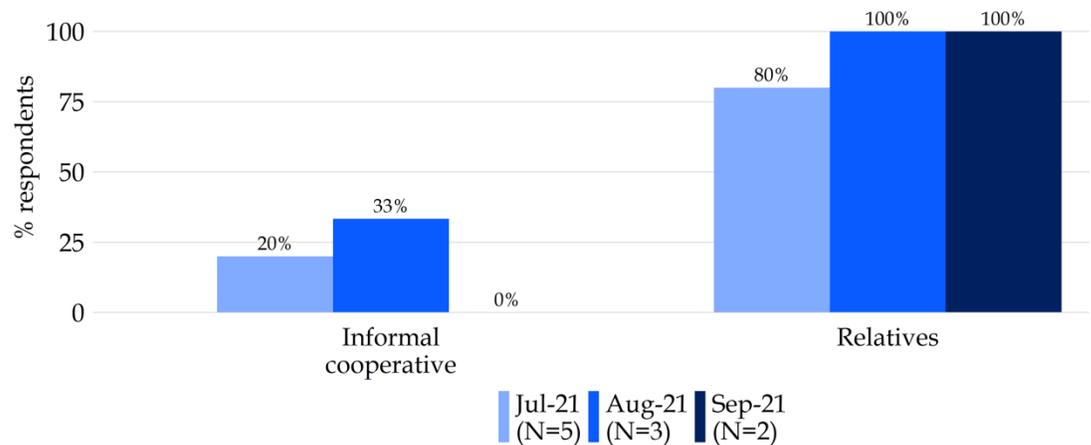


Fig. 15 Vendors: Source of borrowed money due to COVID-19, last 30 days

4. FOOD PRICES

Tracking food prices allows market stakeholders to assess supply and demand of particular foods in the market. In this assessment, prices of different nutritious commodities and food groups have been tracked over time in BDT.² While prices for chickpeas showed a slight increase over the last 6 months (Apr-Sep 5%) prices for lentils remained almost unchanged between April and September and August and September (**Fig. 16**).

Vegetable prices for this report were assessed from green papaya and red amaranth (**Fig. 17**). While prices for green papaya decreased by 25% and 21% between Apr-Sep and Aug-Sep, respectively, the prices for red amaranth increased by 19% since April 2021.

Under the group of animal source foods, prices for fresh fish (Rui, locally named as *Nola*), eggs and sour yoghurt were assessed (**Fig. 18**). While prices for fish and eggs increased by 33% and 17%, respectively, prices for sour yoghurt decreased by 11% between April and September. Changes were similar for the last month (Aug-Sep), where fish and eggs increased by 17% and 9%, respectively, and sour yoghurt decreased by 24%.

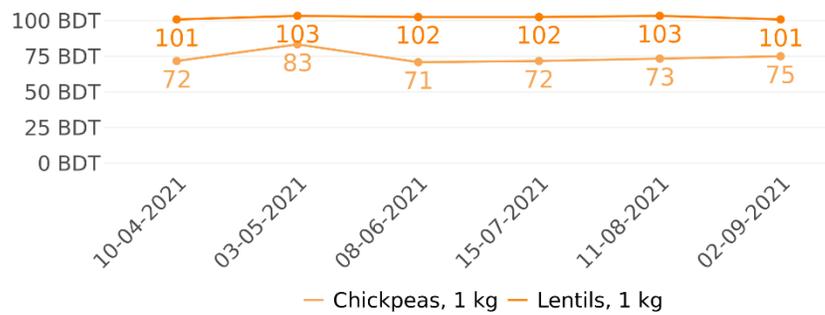


Fig. 16 Prices for selected pulses, in BDT/kg

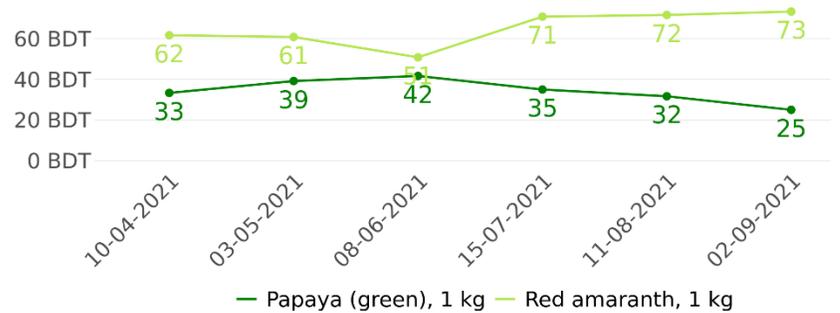


Fig. 17 Prices for selected vegetables, in BDT/kg

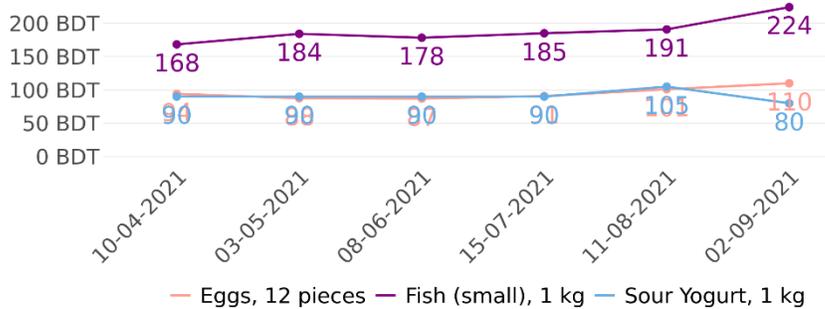


Fig. 18 Prices for eggs, fish, and sour yoghurt in BDT

² As of September 2, 2021, [100 BDT \$\cong\$ 1.17 US\\$](#).

5. CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENT SAMPLE

VENDOR (n=30)	CONSUMER (n=30)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All vendors in this panel are male (Tab. 1) 40% of vendors have primary education; 23% have secondary education and 27% have higher education and 10% have never attended school. 50% of vendors sold poultry, meat, and fish; 30% sold grains, pulses, roots and tuber; 23% sold packaged foods; 20% sold egg and dairy and 17% sold fruits and vegetables. 73% of vendors have been operating in the market for 10 years or longer; and 93% operate in small shops. As of September 2021, 97% of vendors aim to continue with their business even if COVID-19 continues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67% of the consumers in this panel are male. 50% of consumers had attended higher education; 10% have not attended school. 50% of consumers have lived in Dhaka for over 10 years. The financial situation of most consumers and their households has either worsened (73% Jul; 43% Aug; 57% Sep) or stayed about the same (27% Jul; 53% Aug; 40% Sep) compared to before the start of COVID-19. Of those financially affected almost all reported a reduced income through loss of job. Most consumers (95% Jul; 92% Aug; 100% Sep) relied on savings or borrowed from friends/family (45% Jul; 54% Aug; 0% Sep) to cope with the situation.

Tab. 1 Characteristics of respondents in this panel (as of September 2021)

	VENDOR (n=30)	CONSUMER (n=30)
Gender (male female)	100% 0%	67% 33%
<i>Age group</i>		
18-24 years	17%	23%
25-30 years	20%	20%
31-40 years	20%	23%
41-50 years	20%	17%
51-65 years	17%	10%
66-75 years	7%	3%
>75 years	3%	3%
<i>Highest level of school attended</i>		
Primary school	40%	20%
Secondary school	23%	20%
Higher education	27%	50%
No school attended	10%	10%
<i>Length of operating in the market (vendor) living in Dhaka (consumer)</i>		
<1 year	3%	10%
1-3 years	3%	10%
3-5 years	7%	7%
5-10 years	13%	23%
>10 years	73%	50%

6. METHODS ASSESSING MARKET CHARACTERISTICS UNDER COVID-19, RESILIENCE AND FOOD PRICES

Insights into **market system resilience** of this report was based on interviews of 30 consumers and 30 vendors from two traditional markets in Dhaka, who were interviewed between July 21 and September 21, 2021.^{3,4} The panel of vendors and consumers was purposefully selected from Bonolota and Islambagh City Corporation wet markets in Dhaka in December 2020 and January 2021, and the first round of assessment started on January 7, 2021. The panel was based on the respondent's gender and age profiles, which were previously examined in rapid assessments (see below). The same panel of consumers and vendors were interviewed monthly via phone interviews and following a structured questionnaire.

The [USAID Market System Resilience Framework](#) defines market system resilience as "...the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth." For market systems, resilience further includes the ability to allocate resources, draw on optimal resources, and innovate to solve problems in the face of shocks and stresses. This report uses six of the eight domains highlighted in the USAID framework to characterize resilience capacities (connectivity, diversity, equity and fairness, cooperation, competition, business strategy) with both fast and slow indicators.

In addition to data on market system resilience, this report conducted a **rapid assessment** from 1,627 consumers and 1,627 vendors from Bonolota and Islambagh City Corporation wet markets (since September 2020). Approximately every two weeks, 40 consumer and 40 vendors in each market were randomly selected for surveys. All assessments combined responses from the vendors and consumers in both markets, and all surveys were conducted in adherence with global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control. Data included in this report ("[Market characteristics and changes due to COVID-19](#)") are based on 320 consumer and 320 vendors interviews between July 15 and September 29, 2021. All data were collected via Open Data Kit and stored on KoBo Toolbox; Stata version 15.1 was used for data analysis.

Food prices for selected nutritious foods (pulses, vegetables, and animal source foods) were collected approximately every two weeks from each market. Prices were collected on April 10, May 3, June 8, July 15, August 11, and September 2, 2021. Foods were selected based on its nutritive value, availability, and cultural acceptance. Data for foods were collected in standard units (kilogram or pieces), and prices were averaged using BDT ([100 BDT \$\triangleq\$ 1.17 US\\$](#)). For each round and food item, three comparative prices from three vendors in each market were collected by trained enumerators at similar times and days of the week. The weight of pulses, fish, and vegetables were collected together with the price assessment, and average weights for standard units were then calculated.

³ The panel included 30 consumers in January and February, due to attrition the panel size was only 29 in March-June.

⁴ Due to unavailability of respondents three interviews for the round in June were taken on July 1.

7. GAIN'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

The necessary COVID-19 lockdowns have placed a spotlight on the weaknesses of food systems across the world. In the COVID-19 context the single most important thing that can be done for the health and resilience of people and economies is to protect the nutritional status of current and future generations. GAIN has developed the [Keeping Food Markets Working \(KFMW\) program](#) as an emergency response to the COVID-19 crisis, providing rapid support to food system workers, to small and medium enterprises supplying nutritious foods, and to keeping fresh food markets open. While disease control responses to the pandemic are essential, they also disrupt food systems, depress income, and put a strain on social protection programs, which can threaten the nutritional status of the most vulnerable. The KFMW program is focused on mitigating those risks and keeping affordable nutritious foods flowing in African and Asian markets to the people who most need it. The KFMW program consists of five workstreams:

1. Building resilience of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
2. Maintaining and reinforcing efforts in Large-Scale Food Fortification
- 3. Ensuring food markets stay open and are operating safely**
4. Investing in nutrition security for key workers in the food system
5. Supporting effective policymaking and coordination during the pandemic

Through KFMW, EatSafe is working to better understand the rapidly changing situation in traditional food markets from the vendor and consumer perspective under workstream #3.

8. EATSAFE DATA COLLECTION FOR MUNICIPALITIES

EatSafe: Evidence and Action Towards Safe, Nutritious Food, is a five-year project aiming to enable lasting improvements in the safety of nutritious foods in traditional markets by focusing on the consumer. The COVID-19 pandemic has plunged the world into an unprecedented global health crisis. Difficult to manage at the best of times, traditional markets are generally crowded with customers and vendors creating ideal conditions for transmission of the virus. When market vendors and other food system workers cannot do their jobs, increased food prices and/or food shortages are likely to result in reducing demand for fresh, nutritious foods and eroding market resilience. Furthermore, real, and perceived risks can undermine consumer trust in the health and safety of food markets.

EatSafe's COVID-19 response is working to better understand the rapidly changing situation in traditional food markets from the vendor and consumer perspective. Through bi-weekly market surveys and monthly key informant interviews, EatSafe is assessing the accessibility of safe nutritious food, availability of health and safety information and the resilience of traditional markets. EatSafe will continue to use and disseminate results to help ensure food markets remain open, that safe, nutritious food is available under COVID-19 and to support future programming for safe and resilient nutritious food markets.

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[Previous TMR issues are available online.](#)

For more details on EatSafe program activities, visit gainhealth.org/EatSafe or contact EatSafe@gainhealth.org.



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