

**EatSafe: Evidence and Action Towards Safe,  
 Nutritious Food**
**COVID-19 Impacts on Traditional Food Market Bulletin Summaries**
*September 2020 – December 2021*

Developed by EatSafe, the summaries contained in this document provide insights into the behaviors and daily decisions made by vendors and consumers in two traditional food markets in Dhaka (Bonolota and Islambagh Wet Markets). Issues are as follows:

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For more details on EatSafe program activities, visit [gainhealth.org/EatSafe](https://gainhealth.org/EatSafe) or contact [EatSafe@gainhealth.org](mailto:EatSafe@gainhealth.org).

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**Summary Market #1 – Bonolata Market, New Market Dhaka**

- 50% of consumers observed changes in the availability of food, while 85% of vendors reported reduced sales volume
- 95% of consumers are concerned contracting COVID19 at the market, and 70% reported changed shopping behaviours.
- The Bonolata Market Association reported that the disposal of waste was a major concern in the market as the cleaners appointed by the city corporation were not disposing wastes from the market anymore.
- 100% of vendors faced the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their businesses. The impacts included decrease in customers (98%), decreased sales (88%), difficulty accessing financing (28%), difficulty transporting products (8%), limited financial reserves/liquidity (8%), difficulty accessing products to sell (5%), difficulty getting to the market due to transportation disruption (3%), increase in customers (3%), and increased sales (3%).

**Summary Market #2 -Islambagh Bazar, Puran Dhaka**

- 65% of consumers observed changes in the availability of food, while 88% of vendors reported decreased sales. The reported food types that saw a decrease in availability were: poultry (65%), eggs (63%), meat (57%), fish (55%), dairy (48%), fresh fruits (48%) and fresh vegetables (40%).
- 80% of consumers are concerned contracting COVID19 at the market, and 73% reported changed shopping behaviors
- 98% vendors faced the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their businesses. The impacts included decreased sales (88%), decrease in customers (85%), limited financial reserves/liquidity (40%), difficulty accessing financing (25%), and difficulty accessing products to sell (3%).
- About 64% of consumers thought foods at the market is safe to eat in general, beyond the COVID-19 situation

**Survey Methodology**

Quantitative data were collected from Bonolata Market, New Market Dhaka and Islambagh Bazar, Puran Dhaka using two separate structured questionnaires developed for the vendors and consumers. The questionnaires were translated in Bangla. The data were collected by trained enumerators using Open Data Kit (ODK) platform.

Two enumerators were hired and trained on the ODK based questionnaires to conduct the face-to-face interviews with vendors and consumers. The enumerators were provided with health-safety equipment and training to ensure health safety during surveying in the markets while COVID-19 emergency persists.

The first round of data was collected from 1 September 2020 to 3 September 2020. The enumerators invited the vendors purposively to participate in the survey covering various types of goods sellers from all over the markets. Forty vendors were surveyed from each of the markets. The enumerators invited consumers to participate in the surveys standing in the exit gate of the markets and interviewed 40 consumers from each market.

Citation: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. 2020. COVID Bulletin Summary. Bangladesh Issue 1. December 2020. A USAID EatSafe Project Bulletin.

**Summary Market #1 – Bonolata Market, New Market Dhaka**

- 75% of the consumer observed no change in the availability of food compared to 50% in the first round of survey
- 88% of consumers are concerned about contracting COVID-19 at the market which is 7 percentage points less than the previous round of survey.
- Compared to the first round of surveys, in the second round results showed that there is a growing perception among the consumers that mandated mask/nose cover for consumers, mandated mask/nose cover for vendors, and mandated distancing is no longer among the most useful changes, but more consumers thought setting up hand washing/sanitizer stations (55%) was useful.
- The demand for cleanliness of the market by the consumers has increased by 15 percentage points from the last round of survey.
- 45% of the vendors have reported decreased sales in comparison to 85% in the first round of survey
- The waste disposal continues to be major impediment to cleanliness and hygiene in the market.

**Summary Market #2 - Islambagh Bazar, Puran Dhaka**

- 73% of the consumers observed no change in the availability of food which is 38 percentage points higher than the first round of survey
- 85% of the consumer are concerned about contracting COVID-19 at the market which is 5 percentage point more than the first round of survey
- 67% of the consumer reported that they had changed shopping behavior because of the COVID-19. 50% of the consumers avoid peak hours of shopping.
- 73% of the vendors reported decreased volume of sales compared to 60% vendors in the first round of survey
- Around 83% of consumers noticed any market response to COVID-19, which was only 68% during the first wave of surveys. Interestingly, unlike the first wave of surveys, in this wave no vendor reported to notice awareness campaign on COVID-19 or regulating customer inflow.

**Survey Methodology**

Quantitative data were collected from Bonolata Market, New Market Dhaka and Islambagh Bazar, Puran Dhaka using two separate structured questionnaires developed for the vendors and consumers. The questionnaires were translated in Bangla. The data were collected by trained enumerators using Open Data Kit (ODK) platform.

Two enumerators were hired and trained on the ODK based questionnaires to conduct the face-to-face interviews with vendors and consumers. The enumerators were provided with health-safety equipment and training to ensure health safety during surveying in the markets while COVID-19 emergency persists.

The first round of data was collected from 1 September 2020 to 3 September 2020. The enumerators invited the vendors purposively to participate in the survey covering various types of goods sellers from all over the markets. Forty vendors were surveyed from each of the markets. The enumerators invited consumers to participate in the surveys standing in the exit gate of the markets and interviewed 40 consumers from each market.

Citation: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. 2020. COVID Bulletin Summary. Bangladesh Issue 2. December 2020. A USAID EatSafe Project Bulletin.

**Summary Market #1 – Bonolota Market, New Market Dhaka**

- 76.2% of consumers reported that they are not concerned while shopping, while 21.4% were concerned about contracting COVID-19.
- Consumers' understanding on measure to reduce COVID-19 risk have decreased compared to the last round: wearing gloves dropped from 52.5% to 19.0%, distancing from 75% to 45.2%, and cleaning surface/areas before touching from 27.5% to 2.4%.
- Consumers' perspective on most useful measures taken in the market have also changed: only 2.4% believed that hand washing/ sanitizer stations are a useful measure, compared to 55% in round 2.
- For vendors, decrease in sales and in customers remained high (87.5% and 80%, compared to 67.5% in round 2). However, vendors reported less difficulties with financial reserves/liquidity (from 17.5% to 0%) and accessing finance (from 22.5% to 2.5%). Most vendors (82.5%) adopted some protective measures.
- In this round, consumers have noticed a mixed change in the availability of vegetables, where 45% consumers reported an increase and 21% reported a decrease.
- 28.6% of consumers believed that foods available in the market were unsafe to eat, similarly to previous rounds.
- The disposal of waste, the cleaning of the market premises and the blocked drainage system are persistent problem faced by the Bonolota market.

**Summary Market #2 -Islambagh Wet Market, Puran Dhaka**

- 82.5% of the consumers claimed they are not concerned while shopping compared to 12% in the last round.
- Consumers' awareness of how to avoid COVID-19 sharply declined over time. While masks are still mentioned by 100% of consumers, all other measures were notes much less: frequent hand washing (from 67.5% in round 2 to 52.5%), wearing gloves (from 42.5% to 7.5%) and distancing (from 62.5% to 25%). None mentioned cleaning surfaces or not touching food.
- Vendors' understanding of safety measures paint a more positive picture: 100% mentioned the need to wear masks and 72.5% are aware of the mandate to social distance.
- In the last two weeks, consumers have noticed an increase in the availability of foods in the market. 85% consumers have reported that the availability of vegetables has increased.
- Decreased sales and customers remain top impacts for vendors (87.5% and 80.0%).
- 30% of consumers felt that foods available in the market were unsafe to eat, even before COVID-19.
- The leaking roofing system of Islambagh Bazar continues to be major infrastructure problem.

**Survey Methodology.** Data were collected using Mixed Method from Bonolota Market, New Market Dhaka and Islambagh Bazar, Puran Dhaka using two separate structured questionnaires developed for the vendors and consumers. The questionnaires were translated in Bangla. The data were collected by trained enumerators using Open Data Kit (ODK) platform. Two enumerators were hired and trained on the ODK based questionnaires to conduct the face-to-face interviews with vendors and consumers. The enumerators were provided with health-safety equipment and training to ensure health safety during surveying in the markets while COVID-19 emergency persists.

The third round of data was collected from 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020. The enumerators invited the vendors purposively to participate in the survey covering various types of goods sellers from all over the markets. Forty two vendors and consumers were surveyed in Bonolota Market and forty vendors and consumer were surveyed in Islambagh Market.

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*Suggested Citation: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. 2020. COVID Bulletin. Bangladesh Issue #3. October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. A USAID EatSafe Project Bulletin.*

## Bulletin Issue 4: October 28, 2020

## BANGLADESH

Schools and educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings are barred since March 2020. Wearing facemasks is mandatory at public areas. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases had been stable over the last two weeks with a slight increasing trend, but with more than 1368 cases per day.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, vendors of market mentioned that they are always wearing mask (95.0%) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which increased from 80.0% of previous round.
- Consistently, fewer consumers (30.0%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping, which increased from 21.4% of earlier rounds.
- More consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (27.5% from 23.8%): reduce in-store shopping hours (17.5%) and reduce shopping frequency (27.5%).
- In 4<sup>th</sup> round, vendors reported decreased customers (70.0% from 80.0%) and decreased sales (92.5% from 87.5%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to previous round.
- Fewer consumers observed changes in food availability (42.5% from 69.0%). Top changes: increase in eggs (0.0% from 23.8%), increase in fish (2.5% from 38.1%) and decrease in fresh vegetables (0.0% from 21.4%). For the last two rounds, consumers reported an increase in fresh vegetables as one of the most observed changes in food availability at the market, though declined from 45.2% to 42.5%.
- Among most useful measures implemented by market committee in reducing risk of contracting COVID-19, consumers (55.0%) mentioned handwashing stations while vendors (57.5%) mentioned handwashing stations and mandate all consumers wear masks.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, vendors of market mentioned that they are always wearing mask (92.5%) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which decreased from 100% of previous round.
- Consistently, fewer consumers (20.0%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping, which continued declining over the last three rounds (from 17.5% of 3<sup>rd</sup> round).
- More consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (27.5% from 25.0%): reduce shopping frequency (27.5%) and reduce in-store shopping hours (10.0%).
- In 4<sup>th</sup> round, vendors reported decreased customers (92.5% from 75.0%) and decreased sales (85.0% from 87.5%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to previous round.
- Fewer consumers observed changes in food availability (45.0% from 87.5%). Top changes: increase in eggs (0.0% from 42.5%), increase in fresh vegetable (40.0% from 85.0%), increase in fish (0.0% from 55.0%) and increase in poultry (0.0% from 42.5%). For the last two rounds, consumers reported an increase in fresh vegetables as one of the most observed changes in food availability at the market, though declined from 85.0% to 40.0%.
- Among most useful measures implemented by market committee in reducing risk of contracting COVID-19, consumers (17.5%) mentioned handwashing stations, cleaning market with disinfects and mandate all consumers-vendors wear masks while vendors (80.0%) mentioned handwashing station.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

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*Suggested citation: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. 2020. COVID Bulletin. Bangladesh Issue #4. 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020. A USAID EatSafe Project Bulletin.*

## Bulletin Issue 5: November 15, 2020

BANGLADESH

Schools and educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings are barred since March 2020. Wearing facemasks is mandatory at public areas. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases had been stable over the last two weeks with a slight increasing trend, but with more than 1370 cases per day.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, vendors of market mentioned that they are always wearing mask (100%) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which increased from 95.0% of previous round.
- Consistently, fewer consumers (12.5%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping, which declined from 30.0% compared to previous round.
- Fewer consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (7.5% from 27.5%): reduce in-store shopping hours (5.0%), avoiding peak hours (2.5%) and reduce frequency of shopping (2.5%).
- In 5<sup>th</sup> round, vendors reported decreased customers (85.0% from 70.0%) and decreased sales (100% from 92.5%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to previous round.
- More consumers observed changes in food availability (60.0% from 42.5%). Top changes: increase in fish (47.5% from 2.5%), increase in eggs (30.0% from 0.0%). For the last three rounds, consumers reported an increase in fresh vegetables as one of the most observed changes in food availability at the market, though the response rate fluctuates from 42.5% to 55.0% over rounds.
- Among most useful measures implemented by market committee in reducing risk of contracting COVID-19, consumers (10.0%) mentioned handwashing stations and mandate that all consumers wear masks while vendors (85.0%) mentioned mandate that all vendors wear masks.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, vendors of market mentioned that they are always wearing mask (100%) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which increased from 92.5% of previous round.
- However, more consumers (22.5%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping which continued increasing over the last three rounds (from 17.5% of 3<sup>rd</sup> round).
- Fewer consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (12.5% from 27.5%): reduce shopping frequency (7.5%), reduce in-store shopping hours (5.0%), avoiding peak hours (5.0%) and increased demand of cleanliness behaviors from vendor (5.0%).
- In 5<sup>th</sup> rounds, vendors reported decreased customers (75.0% from 92.5%) and decreased sales (87.5% from 85.0%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to previous round.
- More consumers observed changes in food availability (67.5% from 45.0%). Top changes: increase in fish (50.0% from 0.0%), increase in vegetables (62.5% from 40.0%). For the last three rounds, consumers reported an increase in fresh vegetables as one of the most observed changes in food availability at the market, though the response rate fluctuated over the last three rounds (from 40.0% to 85.0%).
- Among most useful measures implemented by market committee in reducing risk of contracting COVID-19, consumers (30.0%) mentioned mandate all vendors wear mask while vendors (50.0%) mentioned cleaning with disinfect and mandate distancing.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

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*Suggested citation: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. 2020. COVID Bulletin. Bangladesh Issue #5. 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020. A USAID EatSafe Project Bulletin.*

Schools and educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings are barred since March 2020. Wearing facemasks is mandatory at public areas. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases had shown an increasing trend over the last two weeks where number jumped from 1725 cases per day to 2100 cases per day

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, vendors of market mentioned that they are always wearing mask (97.5%) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which decreased from 100% of previous rounds.
- Consistently, fewer consumer (10.0%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping which continued declining over the last three rounds (from 30.0% of 4<sup>th</sup> round).
- More consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (22.5% from 7.5%): reduce in-store shopping hours (22.5%) and reduce frequency of shopping (17.5%).
- In 6<sup>th</sup> rounds, vendors reported decreased customers (70.0% from 85.0%) and decreased sales (90.0% from 100.0%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to previous round.
- Fewer consumers observed changes in food availability (32.5% from 60.0%). Top changes: increase in fish (2.5% from 47.5%), increase in eggs (0.0% from 30.0%) and increase in fresh vegetables (32.5% from 55.0%). For the last three rounds, consumers reported an increase in fresh vegetables as one of the most observed changes in food availability at the market, though the response rate fluctuated from 32.5% to 85.0% over rounds.
- Among most useful measures implemented by market committee in reducing risk of contracting COVID-19, consumers (50%) mentioned handwashing station, using disinfect and mandate that all consumers wear masks while vendors (75.0%) mentioned handwashing station.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, vendors of market mentioned that they are always wearing mask (100%) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which remained similar in the previous round.
- However, more consumers (32.5% -highest in the last three rounds) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping which continued increasing over the last three rounds (from 20.0% of 4<sup>th</sup> round).
- More consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (15.0% from 12.5%): reduce frequency of shopping (10.0%) and reduce in-store shopping hours (12.5%).
- In 6<sup>th</sup> round, vendors reported decreased customers (60.0% from 75.0%) and decreased sales (77.5% from 87.5%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to previous round.
- Fewer consumers observed changes in food availability (57.5% from 67.5%). Top changes: increase in fish (25.0% from 50.0%). Consumers reported an increase in fresh vegetables as one of the most observed changes in food availability at the market which shown a gradual decline reached to 32.5% from 62.5% of 5<sup>th</sup> round.
- Among most useful measures implemented by market committee in reducing risk of contracting COVID-19, vendors (95.0%) mentioned handwashing station as the most useful measures while consumers did not observe any measures in this round.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

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Schools and educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings are barred since March 2020. Wearing facemasks is mandatory at public areas. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases had been stable over the last two weeks with a slight decreasing trend, but with more than 1750 cases per day.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, vendors of market mentioned that they are always wearing mask (100%) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which increased from 97.5% of previous round.
- Consistently, fewer consumers (10.0%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping, which continued declining over the last three rounds (from 12.5% of 5<sup>th</sup> round).
- More consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (27.5% from 22.5%): reduce in-store shopping hours (12.5%) and reduce frequency of shopping (25.0%).
- In 7<sup>th</sup> round, vendors reported decreased customers (85.0% from 70.0%) and decreased sales (65.0% from 90.0%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to previous round.
- More consumers observed changes in food availability (87.5% from 32.5%). Top changes: increase in fresh vegetable (85.0% from 32.5%) and increase in fish (22.5% from 2.5%). For the last three rounds, consumers reported an increase in fresh vegetables as one of the most observed changes in food availability at the market, though the response rate fluctuated from 32.5% to 85.0% over rounds.
- Among most useful measures implemented by market committee in reducing risk of contracting COVID-19, consumers (50%) mentioned handwashing station, using disinfect and mandate that all consumers wear masks while vendors (75.0%) mentioned handwashing station.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, vendors of market mentioned that they are always wearing mask (100%) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which remained same as earlier round.
- Consistently, fewer consumers (2.5%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping, which declined from 32.5% compared to previous round.
- More consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (25.0% from 15.0%): reduce frequency of shopping (22.5%) and reduce in-store shopping hours (12.5%).
- In 7<sup>th</sup> round, vendors reported decreased customers (35.0% from 60.0%), difficulty accessing finance (42.5% from 5.0%) and decreased sales (87.5% from 77.5%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to previous round.
- Fewer consumers observed changes in food availability (37.5% from 57.5%). Top changes: increase in fresh vegetable (32.5% from 57.5%), increase in fish (10.0% from 25.0%), decrease in fresh fruits (20.0% from 0.0%). For the last three rounds, consumers reported an increase in fresh vegetables as one of the most observed changes in food availability at the market which shown a gradual decline reached to 32.5% from 62.5% of 5<sup>th</sup> round.
- Among most useful measures implemented by market committee in reducing risk of contracting COVID-19, vendors (95.0%) mentioned handwashing station as the most useful measures while consumers did not notice any initiatives from the last two rounds.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

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Schools and educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings are barred since March 2020. Wearing facemasks is mandatory at public areas. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases had declined over the last two weeks and reached 1130 cases per day from 1750 cases.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, vendors of market mentioned that they are always wearing mask (100%) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which stayed the same as the previous round.
- More consumers (10.3%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping, which slightly increased from the previous round (10%) but stayed within 10.3% over the last three rounds.
- None of the surveyed consumers observed any changes in their shopping behaviour in this round. While, in earlier rounds (Round 1 to 7), consumers consecutively reported about reduce in-store shopping hours and reduce frequency of shopping.
- In 8<sup>th</sup> round, vendors reported decreased sales (92.5% from 65.0%) and decreased customers (77.5% from 85.0%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to previous round.
- Over the last three rounds, response rate of both the consumers (35.9% from 85.0%) and vendors (0.0% from 90.0%) on the understanding of social distancing as one of the protective measure against COVID-19 continued to decline.
- Fewer consumers observed changes in food availability (46.2% from 87.5%). Top changes: increase in fish (15.4% from 22.5%) and increase in poultry (10.3% from 5.0%).
- In the 8<sup>th</sup> round, more vendors (100% from 75%) observed initiatives in the market to protect against COVID-19 compared to the previous round while the consumers' response rate increased notably to 84.6% from 7.5%. Among most useful measures implemented by the market committee in reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19, both consumers (84.6%) and vendors (95.0%) mentioned mandating all vendors wear masks.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, vendors of market mentioned that they are always wearing mask (100%) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which stayed the same over the previous four rounds.
- More consumers (12.8%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping, which increased from 2.5% compared to previous round.
- Fewer consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (7.7% from 25.0%), other changes in shopping behaviour include increased demand for cleanliness behaviors from vendors (2.6%) and avoid peak shopping hours (7.7%).
- In 8<sup>th</sup> round, vendors reported decreased sales (90.0% from 87.5%) and decreased customers (90.0% from 35.0%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to previous round.
- Over the last three rounds, response rate of both the consumers (43.6% from 82.5%) and vendors (5.0% from 80.0%) on the understanding of social distancing as one of the protective measures against COVID-19 continued to decline.
- More consumers observed changes in food availability (69.2% from 37.5%). Top changes: increase in fish (41.0% from 10.0%).
- In the 8<sup>th</sup> round, more vendors (100% from 97.5%) observed initiatives in the market to protect against COVID-19 compared to the previous round while the consumers' response rate increased notably to 79.5% from 0% of the previous two rounds. Among most useful measures implemented by market committee in reducing risk of contracting COVID-19, consumers (46.2%) mentioned using disinfect while vendors (57.5%) mentioned mandating all consumers wear mask.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

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Schools and educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings have been barred since March 2020. Facemasks are mandatory in public areas. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases had declined over the last two weeks now at 858 cases per day from 1130.

#### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

##### Insights from consumers:

- More consumers (51.3%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping, a notably increase from the previous three rounds where the response rate stayed within 10.3%.
- More consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (48.7% from 0.0%), while increased demand for cleanliness behaviors from vendors (46.2%) and avoid peak shopping hours (43.6%) were the most reported changes.
- Changes in food availability was observed by the consumers continued to decline over the last three rounds (23.1% from 87.5%). Top changes observed in the 9<sup>th</sup> round include an increase in fresh vegetables and eggs (both 23.1% from 0.0%) and an increase in fresh fruits (20.5% from 0.0%) from the previous round.
- Among most useful measures implemented by the market committee in reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19, 97.5% of vendors mentioned setting up hand washing or sanitizer station.

##### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, 97.5% of vendors in the market mentioned that they always wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19, a slight decrease from 100% over the previous two rounds.
- More vendors (57.5% from 50.0%) reported a decrease in overall volume of food they sold compared to the previous round.
- Fewer vendors (97.5% from 100%) observed initiatives in the market to protect against COVID-19 compared to the previous round while the consumers' response rate increased to 97.4% from 84.6%.
- Vendors reported decreased sales (95.0% from 92.5%) and decreased customers (92.5% from 77.5%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to the previous round.

#### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

##### Insights from consumers:

- Fewer consumers (5.1%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping, which stayed within 12.8% over the previous two rounds.
- Fewer consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (2.6% from 7.7%), while increased demand for cleanliness behaviors from vendors (2.6%) was the most reported changes.
- Fewer consumers observed changes in food availability (2.6% from 69.2%). Top changes observed in the 9<sup>th</sup> round include a decrease in fresh vegetables (2.6% from 7.7%) from the previous round.
- Among most useful measures implemented by the market committee in reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19, 46.2% of consumers mentioned thorough cleaning of markets with disinfectant.

##### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, 65% vendors in the market mentioned that they always wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19, a slight decrease from 100% over the previous four rounds.
- Fewer vendors (37.5% from 50.0%) reported decrease in overall volume of food they sold compared to the previous round.
- Fewer vendors (52.5% from 100%) and consumers (53.8% from 79.5%) observed initiatives in the market to protect against COVID-19 compared to the previous round.
- Vendors reported decreased sales (70.0% from 90.0%) and decreased customers (72.5% from 90.0%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to the previous round.
- Among most useful measures implemented by the market committee in reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19, 52.5% of vendors mentioned setting up hand washing or sanitizer station.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

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Schools and educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings have been barred since March 2020. Facemasks are mandatory in public areas. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases had declined over the last two weeks now at 454 cases per day from 858.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- Fewer consumers (30.0% vs 51.3%) reported contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping at the market compared to the previous round.
- Fewer consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors compared to previous round (5.0% vs 48.7%), while increased demand for cleanliness behaviors from vendors (5.0% from 46.2% of previous round) and avoid peak shopping hours (2.5% from 43.6% of previous round) were the most reported changes.
- None of the consumers observed any changes in the overall food availability in the market in this round which consistently declined over the last four rounds (0.0% vs 87.5%).
- Fewer consumers (40.0% vs 97.4%) noticed any useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 compared to the previous round.
- Among most useful measures implemented by the market committee in reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19, 40.0% of consumers (declined from 97.4% of previous round) mentioned setting up hand washing or sanitizer station.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, 72.5% vendors in the market mentioned that they always wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19, a notable decrease from the previous four rounds where the rate stayed over 97.0%.
- Fewer vendors (7.5% vs 57.5%) reported a decrease in overall volume of food they sold compared to the previous round while 85.0% vendors reported no change.
- Fewer vendors (30.0% vs 97.5%) observed initiatives in the market to protect against COVID-19 compared to the previous round.
- Vendors reported decreased sales (90.0% vs 95.0% in the last round) and decreased customers (47.5% vs 92.5%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to the previous round.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- More consumers (38.5% from 5.1%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the top concern while shopping at the market compared to the previous round.
- Slightly more consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (7.7% from 2.6%), while increased demand for cleanliness behaviors from vendors (5.1%) was the most reported changes.
- Over the last two rounds, less than 10% of consumers observed any changes in the overall food availability at the market. However, 7.7% (up from 0.0% in the last round) of consumers did report an increase in fresh vegetables as one of the most observed changes.
- In the 10<sup>th</sup> round, none of the surveyed consumers noticed any useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 (decreased from 53.8% in 9<sup>th</sup> round).
- 37.5% of consumer respondents did not think the food in the market is safe to eat which increased from 2.5% of 9<sup>th</sup> round.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, 100.0% vendors in the market mentioned that they always wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19, a notable increase from 65.0% of the previous round.
- All the surveyed vendors reported no changes in overall volume of food which increased from 42.5% of the previous round.
- In the 10<sup>th</sup> round, 100% of the surveyed vendors noticed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 (increased from 52.5% of 9<sup>th</sup> round).
- Vendors reported decreased sales (100.0% vs 70.0%) and decreased customers (100.0% vs 72.5%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to the previous round.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

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*Suggested citation: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. 2021. COVID Bulletin. Bangladesh Issue #10. 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021. A USAID EatSafe Project Bulletin.*

Schools and educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings are barred since March 2020. Wearing facemasks is mandatory in public areas. Bangladesh launched a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive with the Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine on 7th February 2021. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Bangladesh had declined slightly over the last two weeks and reached 394 cases per day from 454 cases.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- In the 11<sup>th</sup> round, more consumers (67.5% from 30.0%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the most reported concern while shopping at the market compared to the previous round.
- More consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (62.5% from 5.0%), while increased demand for cleanliness behaviors from vendors (60.0%) and avoid peak shopping hours (60.0%) were the most reported changes compared to previous round.
- More consumers observed any changes (65.0% from 0.0%) in the overall food availability in the market compared to the previous round. Whereas 62.5% (increased from 0.0% in the last round) of consumers reported an increase in fresh vegetables as one of the most observed changes.
- More consumers (97.5% from 40.0%) noticed any useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 compared to the previous round.
- Among most useful measures implemented by the market committee in reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19, consumers mentioned that (90.0%) consumers and (77.5%) vendors wear masks.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, 97.5% vendors in the market mentioned that they always wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19, a notable increase from 72.5% of the previous round.
- More vendors (25.0% from 7.5%) reported a decrease in overall volume of food they sold compared to the previous round while 12.5% vendors reported no change.
- In this round, all surveyed vendors (30.0% in the previous round) observed initiatives in the market to protect against COVID-19.
- Vendors reported decreased sales (87.5% from 90.0%) and decreased customers (72.5% from 47.5%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to the previous round.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- In the 11<sup>th</sup> round, fewer consumers (37.5% from 38.5%) expressed contracting COVID-19 as the most reported concern while shopping at the market compared to the previous round though the percentage declined slightly.
- More consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors overall (17.5% from 7.7%), while purchasing more plastic packaged foods (17.5%) was the most reported changes compared to previous round.
- More consumers (35.0% from 7.7%) observed changes in the overall food availability at the market compared to the previous round. While consumers reported an increase in fresh vegetables (35.0% from 7.7%) and fresh fruits (35.0% from 2.6%) as one of the most observed changes
- In the 11<sup>th</sup> round, all the surveyed consumers (100.0% from 0.0%) observed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 compared to the previous round.
- Among most useful measures implemented by the market committee in reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19, all the surveyed consumers (100.0%) mentioned mandating all consumers wear masks.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, 97.5% vendors in the market mentioned that they always wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19, decreased from 100.0% of the previous round.
- More vendors (60.0% from 0.0%) reported an increase in overall volume of food they sold compared to the previous round while 32.5% vendors reported no change.
- In the 11<sup>th</sup> round, fewer vendors (97.5% from 100.0%) noticed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 compared to the previous round.
- Vendors reported decreased sales (90.0% from 100.0%) and decreased customers (75.0% from 100.0%) as top impacts of COVID-19 on businesses compared to the previous round.
- Among most useful measures implemented by the market committee in reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19, 97.5% of vendors mentioned mandating all vendors and consumers wear masks.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

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## Bulletin Issue 12-13: March 2021

## BANGLADESH

Schools and all other educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings are barred since March 2020. Wearing facemasks is mandatory in public areas. Bangladesh launched a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive with the Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine on 7th February 2021. However, from February 21, 2021 to March 24, 2021, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases had increased rapidly and reached 2579 cases per day from 394 cases which indicating the country's second wave of COVID-19 infection spread.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- Over last three rounds, consumers' concern regarding contracting COVID-19 while shopping in the market had declined. Fewer consumers (22.5% of 13<sup>th</sup> round and 45.0% of 12<sup>th</sup> round from 67.5% of 11<sup>th</sup> round) were concerned about contracting COVID-19 at the market.
- Consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors declined over last three rounds (13<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>) and reached to 2.5% and 7.5% from 62.5% respectively.
- A downshift also observed in case of perceived changes in food availability in the market where no consumers reported any changes during 13<sup>th</sup> round. Earlier, during 12<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> rounds, the rate was 2.4% and 65.0% respectively.
- Fewer consumers (24.4% of 12<sup>th</sup> round) noticed any useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 compared to 11<sup>th</sup> round (97.5%). However, in 13<sup>th</sup> round, the percentage increased to 45.0% compared to previous round.
- Consumers mentioned cleaning of markets with disinfectant (25.0%) in 13<sup>th</sup> round and mandate all consumers and vendors wear mask (24.4%) in 12<sup>th</sup> round as most useful measures adopted by the market.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, vendors (above 94%) mentioned that they always wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19 from the last three consecutive rounds. However, in the last three rounds (13<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>) a decline also observed in terms of increase cleaning of surface by vendors to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which reached to 0.0% and 42.5% from 85.0% respectively.
- In 13<sup>th</sup> round, vendors reported about decrease in customers (87.5% followed by 55.0% of 12<sup>th</sup> and 72.5% of 11<sup>th</sup>) and decreased sales (100% followed by 70.0% of 12<sup>th</sup> and 87.5% of 11<sup>th</sup>) as the top impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on businesses.
- 30.0% (13<sup>th</sup> round) and 47.5% (12<sup>th</sup> round), of the surveyed vendors noticed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 which declined from 100.0% of 11<sup>th</sup> round.
- In the 13<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> round, vendors mentioned cleaning of markets with disinfectant as most useful measures adopted by the market (25.0% and 22.5% respectively).

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- In the last two rounds, consumers expressed concern of contracting COVID-19 while shopping in the market increased to 25.0% from 15.8%. During 11<sup>th</sup> round, 37.5% consumers expressed similar concern.
- Over the last four rounds, consumers understanding of safety measures to avoid contracting COVID-19 maintained a static response rate for washing hand frequently (above 92.0%) and wearing mask (above 97.0%).
- From the last three consecutive rounds, none of the consumers of Islambagh market reported about their intention of going to a different market due to COVID-19 safety concerns (usually response rate remains below 5.0%).
- During 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> rounds all of the consumers reported that they observed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19. However, in 13<sup>th</sup> round, only 52.5% of consumers observed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, 92.5% (13<sup>th</sup>) and 77.5% (12<sup>th</sup>) vendors in the market mentioned that they always wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19. However, it decreased from 97.5% compared to 11<sup>th</sup> round.
- In the last two rounds, vendors mentioned setting up hand washing/sanitizer stations (70.0% in 13<sup>th</sup>) and mandate that all consumers wear masks (62.5% in 12<sup>th</sup>) as most useful measures adopted by the market.
- Comparing the last four rounds, more vendors (80.0% of 13<sup>th</sup> round from 0.0% of 10<sup>th</sup> round), understood that social distancing as a protective measure against COVID-19 while understanding on wearing mask were above 97% and washing hands frequently were equal to 100%.
- Vendors identified decrease in customers (response rate fluctuated from 45.0% to 100%) and decrease in sales (response rate fluctuated from 77.5% to 100%) as top two impact of COVID-19 pandemic on businesses over the last four rounds (13<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>) consistently.
- Only 70.0% of the surveyed vendors noticed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 during 13<sup>th</sup> round which declined from 97.5% of 11<sup>th</sup> round and 100.0% 12<sup>th</sup> round. Vendors mentioned setting up hand washing/sanitizer stations (70.0% in 13<sup>th</sup>) and mandate that all consumers wear masks (62.5% in 12<sup>th</sup>) as most useful measures adopted by the market.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

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## Bulletin Issue 14-15: April-May 2021

BANGLADESH

Schools and all other educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings are barred since March 2020. Wearing facemasks is mandatory in public areas. Bangladesh launched a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive with the Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and secured vaccines from different sources. The number of daily COVID-19 confirmed cases in between mid-February 2021 to early-April 2021 (during the second wave), had increased rapidly to 7000 cases from 380 cases which is highest since first COVID-19 cases confirmed on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020. However, after first week of May 2021, the number of daily COVID-19 confirmed cases declined to 1672 cases.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- In last two rounds, more consumers (67.5% of 15<sup>th</sup> and 66.7% of 14<sup>th</sup> from 22.5% of 13<sup>th</sup> round) were concerned about contracting COVID-19 while shopping in the market. However, such concerns are not affecting consumers' shopping behaviors which has changed very slightly over the last three rounds.
- More consumers observed perceived changes (10.0% of 15<sup>th</sup> round and 5.1% of 14<sup>th</sup> round) in the overall food availability of the market compared to 0.0% of 13<sup>th</sup> round. While 7.5% of the consumers observed decrease and 2.5% of the consumers observed increase in the availability of fresh vegetables in 15<sup>th</sup> round. However, during 14<sup>th</sup> round, 2.6% of consumers expressed both increase and decrease in the availability of fresh vegetables.
- In the 15<sup>th</sup> round (12.5%) and 14<sup>th</sup> round (7.7%), fewer consumers noticed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 compared to 45.0% of 13<sup>th</sup> round. However, consumers observed better measures for hand washing or sanitizer stations (12.5% from 5.1%), cleaning of markets with disinfectant (7.5% from 0.0%) and mandate all vendors wear masks (10.0% from 5.1%) in 15<sup>th</sup> round compared to 14<sup>th</sup> round.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, 95.0% vendors of 14<sup>th</sup> round mentioned that they always wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which declined to 65.0% in 15<sup>th</sup> round. However, reminding social distance among consumers by the vendors reached to 50.0% in 15<sup>th</sup> round which is highest since 4<sup>th</sup> round.
- In the last three consecutive rounds, all of the vendors mentioned that COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their businesses. Considering 15<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> rounds, decrease in consumers (62.5%, 35.0% and 87.5% respectively) and decreased sales (77.5%, 100% and 100% respectively) were the most reported impacts.
- None of the surveyed vendors noticed any useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 in 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> round which decreased from 30.0% of 13<sup>th</sup> round and 47.5% of 12<sup>th</sup> round. Such declining trend took place in 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> rounds due to month-long Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitar celebration in Bangladesh as vendors were more involved to serve consumers in limited business hours.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- Consumers' concern of contracting COVID-19 while shopping in the market has increased in the last two rounds (52.5% of 15<sup>th</sup> round and 62.5% of 14<sup>th</sup> round) compared to 25.0% of 13<sup>th</sup> round. Avoid peak shopping hours (25.0%) in 15<sup>th</sup> round and increased demand of cleanliness behaviors (12.5%) in 14<sup>th</sup> round were the most reported changes in shopping behaviour mentioned by consumers.
- More consumers observed perceived changes (7.5% of 15<sup>th</sup> round and 20.0% of 14<sup>th</sup> round) in the overall food availability of the market compared to 0.0% of 13<sup>th</sup> round. Increase in the availability of the fresh vegetables (7.5% of 15<sup>th</sup> and 17.5% in 14<sup>th</sup>) were the most reported change in the food availability.
- In the 15<sup>th</sup> round, fewer consumers (declined to 10.0% from 57.5% of 14<sup>th</sup> round) noticed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19. Earlier in the 13<sup>th</sup> round, this rate was 52.5%. In the last three rounds, 10.0% (15<sup>th</sup>), 17.5% (14<sup>th</sup>) and 50.0% (13<sup>th</sup>) of consumers reported hand washing and sanitizer stations as the most useful measures implemented by market committee.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, 87.5% (15<sup>th</sup>) and 82.5% (14<sup>th</sup>) vendors in the market mentioned that they always wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19, decreased from 92.5% of 13<sup>th</sup> round. But 67.5% vendors reported about reminding social distance among consumers which is highest in the previous rounds,
- Over the last four consecutive rounds, vendors (above 97%) reported their understanding about washing hands and wearing mask. However, 80% (15<sup>th</sup>) and 75% (14<sup>th</sup>) vendors mentioned maintaining distance as a useful measure to avoid contracting COVID-19 while working in the market.
- Decrease in customer (85.7% in 15<sup>th</sup>) compared to 14<sup>th</sup> round (2.5%) was reported by the vendor. They also reported about decreased sale (77% in 15<sup>th</sup> decreased from 100% of 14<sup>th</sup>) in the market.
- This wet market also observed a downshift of vendors' observation regarding useful measures implemented by the market committee to protect people against COVID-19 due to Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitar celebration in Bangladesh. While 80.0% of vendors noticed useful changes in 14<sup>th</sup> round compared to 70% of 13<sup>th</sup> round, none of the surveyed vendors noticed any useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 in 15<sup>th</sup> round.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

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Schools and all other educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings are barred since March 2020. Wearing facemasks is mandatory in public areas. Bangladesh launched a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive with the Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and secured vaccines from different sources. In the beginning of the June 2021, number of daily confirmed COVID-19 cases jumped to 2,059 cases from 839 cases of mid-May 2021.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- Fewer consumers (37.5% of 17<sup>th</sup> round compared to 95.0% of 16<sup>th</sup> round) were concerned about contracting COVID-19 while shopping in the market. However, 10.0% consumers have expressed that such concern has changed their shopping behavior in 17<sup>th</sup> round which is the highest among last five rounds.
- None of the surveyed consumers noticed any changes in food supply in the market in 16<sup>th</sup> round. However, 7.5% consumers of 17<sup>th</sup> round have expressed such changes and reported decrease in fruits (5.0%) and fresh vegetables (2.5%) in the market.
- In last two rounds, more consumers (100% in 16<sup>th</sup> and 45.0% in 17<sup>th</sup> from 12.5% of 15<sup>th</sup> round) have noticed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19.
- Consumers observed hand washing station (100% in 16<sup>th</sup> and 45.0% in 17<sup>th</sup>) and mandating all vendor wear mask (100% in 16<sup>th</sup> and 42.5% in 17<sup>th</sup>) in the market as useful measure adopted by the market committee. Thorough cleaning with disinfectant (70.0% in 16<sup>th</sup> and 35.0% in 17<sup>th</sup>) and mandating all consumer to wear mask (97.5% in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17.5% in 17<sup>th</sup>) also noticed by the consumer in the market.

#### Insights from vendors:

- More vendors (100% of 17<sup>th</sup> compared to 77.5% of 16<sup>th</sup> round) reported that COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their businesses. Decrease in customer (75.0% of 17<sup>th</sup> and 77.5% of 16<sup>th</sup> from 62.5% of 15<sup>th</sup> round) was the most reported impacts. However, decrease in sales remained constant (77.5%) in the last three consecutive rounds.
- In the last two rounds, Vendors (100%) expressed that they always wear mask to protect themselves from COVID-19. Reminding social distance among customer by the vendor has increased in 17<sup>th</sup> round (52.5%) compared to (0.0%) 16<sup>th</sup> round.
- More vendors (100% of 16<sup>th</sup> compared to 0.0% of 15<sup>th</sup> round) have noticed useful measures taken by the market committee to protect people against COVID-19. However, none of the surveyed vendors mentioned such measures in the market in 17<sup>th</sup> round. In between 15<sup>th</sup> round to 16<sup>th</sup> round, two outdoor campaigns took place in Bonolota market which were more visible and engaging for both consumers and vendors. Hence, both consumers and vendors observed notable measures taken by market committee in 16<sup>th</sup> round.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- Concern about contracting COVID-19 while shopping in the market among consumers has declined (27.5% of 17<sup>th</sup> and 35.0% of 16<sup>th</sup>) in the last two rounds compared to 52.5% of 15<sup>th</sup> round. None of the surveyed consumers reported any changes in their shopping behavior during these two rounds.
- In the last two rounds, consumers (100%) have expressed their understanding about washing hand frequently and wearing mask as a useful measure to keep themselves safe from COVID-19. Consumers also mentioned they didn't notice any changes of food availability in the market.
- More consumers (100%) in 16<sup>th</sup> round compared to 10.0% (15<sup>th</sup>) have reported useful measure implemented by the market committee. In the last three rounds, 10.0% (15<sup>th</sup>), 100% (16<sup>th</sup>) and 0.0% (17<sup>th</sup>) of consumers reported mandating all consumers and vendors wear mask as useful measure taken by the market committee.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, 100% (17<sup>th</sup>) and 97.5% (16<sup>th</sup>) of the vendors mentioned that they wear mask. More vendors, 100% (17<sup>th</sup>) and 90.0% (16<sup>th</sup>) reported about washing hand as useful measure to reduce the risk of COVID-19.
- In 17<sup>th</sup> round, 100% vendors increased from 90.0% (16<sup>th</sup>) have reported the impact of pandemic on their business. Decreased in customer (92.5% in 17<sup>th</sup> and 42.5% in 16<sup>th</sup> from 82.5% of 15<sup>th</sup> round) were reported by the vendors.
- The vendors mentioned more decreased in sales (90.0% in 16<sup>th</sup> from 77.5% of 15<sup>th</sup> round) but it reduced to 75.0% in 17<sup>th</sup> round. An increased number (35.0% of 17<sup>th</sup> round) of vendors also mentioned difficulties in accessing financing which is highest in the last six rounds.
- Compared to 15<sup>th</sup> round (0.0%), in 16<sup>th</sup> round more vendors (100%) have noticed useful measure implemented in the market mostly mandating all consumer and vendor to wear mask. However, none of the surveyed vendors in 17<sup>th</sup> round have noticed such implementation. In between 15<sup>th</sup> round to 16<sup>th</sup> round, two outdoor campaigns took place in Islambagh market which were more visible and engaging for both consumers and vendors. Hence, both consumers and vendors observed notable measures taken by market committee in 16<sup>th</sup> round.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

This bulletin is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of GAIN and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

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Schools and all other educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings are barred since March 2020. Wearing facemasks is mandatory in public areas. Bangladesh launched a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive with the Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and secured vaccines from different sources. The number of daily COVID-19 confirmed cases from 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021, had increased rapidly to 5,015 cases from 2,059 cases which is highest after mid-May 2021 (recorded 833 cases only).

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- More consumers (41.0% in 18<sup>th</sup> from 37.5% of 17<sup>th</sup> round) reported their concern about contracting COVID-19 while shopping in the market. However, such concern has changed their shopping behavior was reported in 18<sup>th</sup> round (20.5%) which is the highest among last six rounds and reported avoidance of pick hour (20.5%) as a result of this concern.
- The understanding about useful measures such as washing hand frequently (100.0%), wearing mask (100.0%) and maintaining distance (71.8% increased from 22.5% of 17<sup>th</sup> round) to keep themselves safe from COVID-19 was mentioned by more consumers (100.0%) in round 18.
- In 18<sup>th</sup> round, none of the surveyed consumers noticed any changes in food availability in the market (92.5% in 17<sup>th</sup> round) and protective measures (55.0% in 17<sup>th</sup> round) taken by the market committee to protect people against COVID-19.

#### Insights from vendors:

- More vendors in 18<sup>th</sup> round (100.0%) have reported COVID-19 has influenced their business i.e. decreased in customer (87.5% increased from 75.0% of 17<sup>th</sup> round) and decreased in sale (87.5%) increased from 77.5% (17<sup>th</sup>) were most reported impacts due to the pandemic.
- In 18<sup>th</sup> round, more vendors (100.0%) expressed wearing mask (100.0%) and reminding social distance (37.5% decreased from 52.5% of 17<sup>th</sup> round) as the useful measures taken by them to protect themselves and others from contracting COVID-19.
- Decrease in sell (62.5%) in round 18 has reported by the vendors which is the highest in the last six rounds. 55.0% of the vendors (18<sup>th</sup>) also reported the highest percentage among last eight rounds of changed shopping behavior of the consumer (55.0%) and rate of frequently shopping (42.5%) was another mostly reported changes.
- In last two rounds, none of the surveyed vendors have noticed any useful measures taken by the market committee to protect people against COVID-19.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- Concern about contracting COVID-19 while shopping in the market among consumers has declined 25.0% in round 18<sup>th</sup> from 27.5% of 17<sup>th</sup> round. Only 5.0% of the surveyed consumers reported any changes in their shopping behavior during this round.
- 100% of the consumers in 18<sup>th</sup> round have expressed their understanding about washing hand frequently and wearing mask as a useful measure to keep themselves safe from COVID-19. Consumers also mentioned they didn't notice any changes of food availability in the market as like round 17.
- In 18<sup>th</sup> round, more consumers (50.0%) increased from 0.0% (17<sup>th</sup>) have reported useful measure implemented by the market committee. Setting up hand washing station, cleaning the surface with disinfectant, mandating all consumer and vendor to wear mask are reported as the protective measures implemented by the market committee.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, 100% (18<sup>th</sup>) of the vendors mentioned that they wear mask. More vendors have reported washing hand (100.0%) and maintaining social distance (57.5%) as useful measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19.
- In 18<sup>th</sup> round, 100% vendors have reported the impact of pandemic on their business. Decrease in customer (92.5%) remained same as 17<sup>th</sup> round and decrease in sale (90.0% of 18<sup>th</sup>) compared to 17<sup>th</sup> round (75.0%) were reported by the vendors.
- Difficulties of financing (27.5%) has declined in round 18<sup>th</sup> compared to 35.0% of 17<sup>th</sup> round reported by the vendor.
- More vendors (100.0%) reported wearing mask (100.0%) and reminding customer to maintain social distance (27.5%) as useful measure taken by themselves to prevent contracting COVID-19. However, none of the surveyed vendors has mentioned any useful measure taken by the market committee to protect people from the current pandemic.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

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## Bulletin Issue 19-20: July-August 2021

BANGLADESH

Schools and all other educational institutes were closed from March 2020. Government decided to re-open schools from mid-September 2021. In between, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the number of daily COVID-19 confirmed cases had increased to 9,315 cases from 6,946 cases. During 1<sup>st</sup> week of August, the number of daily COVID-19 confirmed cases was more than 13,500.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- Fewer consumers (47.5% in round 19 and 45.0% in round 20) reported having concerns while shopping in the market compared to 59.0% of round 18. Contracting COVID-19 in the market was the most reported concern which was 47.5% in round 19 and 50.0% in round 20.
- Within the market, the protective measures observed by fewer consumers in round 17 (45.0%) and round 18 (0.0%) which have increased in these recent rounds (97.5% in round 19 and 100% in round 20). Market committee has increased awareness and monitoring activities in the market including mask day and disinfection day celebration on monthly basis.
- From round 17 to 20, consumers consistently mentioned about wearing mask (95.0%, 100%, 97.5% and 97.5% consecutively) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- According to consumers, avoid peak shopping hours (10.0%, 20.5%, 50.0% and 65.0% consecutively) was the most reported change of the consumers' purchase behavior in the last four rounds (round 17 to 20). Only 2.5% of round 19 consumers reported changes in food availability in the market while 0.0% reported in round 20.

#### Insights from vendors:

- Fewer vendors (60.0% of round 19 and 70.0% of round 20 from 100.0% of round 18) have reported impacts of COVID-19 on their businesses. Decrease in the number of consumers (37.5% of round 19 and 70.0% in round 20 from 87.5% in round 18) and decrease in sale (47.5% in round 19 and 55.0% in round 20 from 87.5% in round 18) were the most reported impact of pandemic.
- Similar to consumers, more vendors (100% in both 19 and 20 round) have reported about observing protective measures within the market taken by market committee compared to 0.0% in round 18.
- Vendors expressed increased cleaning of surface (47.5% in both round 19 and 20), always wear mask (92.5% in round 19 and 100% in round 20), remind customers to maintain distance (60.0% in round 19 and 50.0% in round 20) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- In the case of consumers' shopping behaviors, vendors observed avoid peak shopping hours (52.5% in round 19 and 60.0% in round 20), reduce time spent in the market (22.5% in round 19 and 17.5% in round 20) and increased hygiene/protective measure (47.5% in both round 19 & 20).

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- Concern about contracting COVID-19 while shopping in the market among consumers has increased (47.5%) in round 19 but decreased in round 20 (35.0%) compared to 38.5% of round 18.
- Within the market, the protective measures observed by fewer consumers in round 17 (0.0%) and round 18 (50.0%) which have increased in these recent rounds (100.0% both in round 19 and 20). Set up hand washing station (97.5% in R19 & R20), thorough cleaning of market with disinfectant (82.5% in R19 and 77.5% in R20), mandate all consumers (60.0% in round 19 and 97.5% in round 20) and vendors (65.0% in round 19 and 92.5% in round 20) wear mask are the most effective measures reported by the consumers.
- From round 17 to 20, consumers consistently mentioned about wearing mask (100.0%, 100.0%, 97.5% and 100.0% consecutively) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- According to consumers, avoid peak shopping hours (0.0%, 5.0%, 62.5% and 52.5% consecutively) was the most reported change of the consumers' purchase behavior in the last four rounds (round 17 to 20). Consumers also mentioned they didn't notice any changes of food availability in the market.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, fewer vendors (55.0% of round 19 and 68.5% of round 20 from 100.0% of round 18) have reported impacts of COVID-19 on their businesses. Decrease in the number of consumers (55.0% of round 19 and 57.5% in round 20 from 92.5% in round 18) and decrease in sale (47.5% in round 19 and 62.5% in round 20 from 90.0% in round 18) were the most reported impact of pandemic.
- Compared to round 18 (0.0%), more vendors (100%) both in 19 and 20 round have noticed useful measure implemented in the market mostly setting up the hand washing station, mandating all consumers and vendors to wear mask.
- Vendors expressed increased cleaning of surface (47.5% in both round 19 and 20), always wear mask (100.0% in round 19 and 95.0% in round 20), remind customers to maintain distance (50.0% in round 19 and 55.0% in round 20) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- Vendors have mentioned increased hygiene maintenance (50.0% in round 19 and 45.0% in round 20) and avoid shopping in peak hours (47.5% both in round 19 & 20) as the consumer's changed shopping behavior.

## Bulletin Issue 21-22: September 2021

BANGLADESH

After March 2020, Government has re-opened schools from 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021. In between, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021, the number of daily COVID-19 confirmed cases had declined from 8,153 cases to 1,125 cases. Since the beginning of August, the number of daily COVID-19 confirmed cases in a declining trend.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- More consumers (80.0%) in round 22 which was 30.0% in round 21 reported having concerns while shopping in the market compared to 45.0% of round 20. Contracting COVID-19 in the market was the most reported concern which was 30.0% in round 21 and 80.0% in round 22.
- Within the market, the protective measures observed by more consumers in round 21 (97.5%) and round 22 (100.0%) which have similar percentage of recent rounds (97.5% in round 19 and 100% in round 20). Increased awareness and monitoring activities of market committee have remained consistent in the market including mask day and disinfection day celebration on monthly basis.
- In the last four rounds (19 to 22), consumers consistently mentioned about wearing mask (97.5%, 97.5%, 100% and 100.0% consecutively) and using hand sanitizer (80.0%, 70.0%, 90.0% and 77.5%) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- According to consumers, avoid peak shopping hours (50.0%, 65.0%, 50.0% and 100.0% consecutively) was the most reported change of the consumers' purchase behavior in the last four rounds (round 19 to 22). None of the consumers reported changes in food availability in the market in last two rounds.

#### Insights from vendors:

- More vendors (70.0% of round 21 and 60.0% of round 22 from 55.0% of round 20) have reported impacts of COVID-19 on their businesses. Decrease in the number of consumers (55.0% of round 21 and 97.5% in round 22 from 70.0% in round 20) and decrease in sale (15.0% in round 21 and 55.0% in round 22 from 55.0% in round 20) were the most reported impact of pandemic.
- In the last four consecutive rounds (19 to 22) more vendors (100%) have reported about observing protective measures within the market taken by market committee.
- Vendors reported always wear mask (100.0% in round 21 and 97.5% in round 22), remind customers to maintain distance (40.0% in round 21 and 70.0% in round 22) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- In the case of consumers' shopping behaviors, vendors observed avoid peak shopping hours (50.0% in round 21 and 90.0% in round 22), reduce time spent in the market (40.0% in round 21 and 92.5% in round 22) as the most changed shopping behavior among the consumer.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- Concern about contracting COVID-19 while shopping in the market among consumers has increased (40.0%) in round 21 and round 22 (62.5%) compared to 35.0% of round 20.
- Within the market, the protective measures observed by more consumers (100.0%) in the last consecutive round 19 to 22. Set up hand washing station (100.0% in R21 & 95.0% in R22), thorough cleaning of market with disinfectant (87.5% in R21 and 35.0% in R22), mandate all consumers (100.0% in round 21 and 55.0% in round 22) and vendors (100.0% in round 21 and 70.0% in round 22) wear mask are the most effective measures reported by the consumers.
- From round 19 to 22, consumers consistently mentioned about wearing mask (97.5%, 100.0%, 100.0%, and 100.0% consecutively) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- According to consumers, avoid peak shopping hours (62.5%, 52.5%, 50.0% and 52.5% consecutively) and reduced shopping time (32.5%, 7.5%, 27.5% and 90.0%) were the most reported change of the consumers' purchase behavior in the last four rounds (round 19 to 22). 12.5% of round 22 consumers have mentioned any changes of food availability in the market.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, more vendors (55.0% of round 21 and 92.5% of round 22 from 67.5% of round 20) have reported impacts of COVID-19 on their businesses. Decrease in the number of consumers (50.0% of round 21 and 85.0% in round 22 from 57.5% in round 20) and decrease in sale (20.0% in round 21 and 90.0% in round 22 from 62.5% in round 20) were the most reported impact of pandemic.
- In the last four rounds (19 to 22) more vendors (100%) have noticed useful measure implemented in the market. They have reported setting up the hand washing station, mandating all consumers and vendors to wear mask as most effective measures implemented by the market.
- Vendors expressed always wear mask (100.0% in both round 21 and 22), remind customers to maintain distance (47.5% in round 21 and 95.0% in round 22) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- Vendors have mentioned avoid shopping in peak hours (50.0% in round 21 and 92.5% in round 22) and reduce time spent in the market (45.0% in round 21 and 82.5% in round 22) as the consumer's changed shopping behavior.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

## Bulletin Issue 23-24: October-November 2021

BANGLADESH

After March 2020, Government has re-opened schools from 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and universities from October 15 2021. Bangladesh Govt. has started to vaccinated school going students age form 12-17 on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. In between, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to 7<sup>th</sup> November, the number of daily COVID-19 confirmed cases had declined from 1084 cases to 210 cases. Since the beginning of August, the number of daily COVID-19 confirmed cases in a declining trend.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- More consumers (92.5%) in round 23 which was reduced to 57.5% in round 24 reported having concerns while shopping in the market compared to 80.0% of round 22. Contracting COVID-19 in the market was the most reported concern which was 92.5% in round 23 and 57.5% in round 24.
- Within the market, the protective measures observed by more consumers in round 23 and round 24 (100.0%) which have similar percentage of recent rounds (100% in round 22 and 97.5% in round 21). Increased awareness and monitoring activities of market committee have remained consistent in the market including mask day and disinfection day celebration on monthly basis.
- In the last two rounds (23 and 24), consumers mentioned about wearing mask (95.0% and 100.0% respectively) and maintaining social distance (67.5% and 82.5%) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- According to consumers, avoid peak shopping hours (100.0%, 100.0%) and reduce shopping time (90.0% and 87.5%) were the most reported changes of the consumers' purchase behavior in the last two rounds (round 23 and 24). None of the consumers reported changes in food availability in the market in last two rounds.

#### Insights from vendors:

- Decrease in the number of consumers (90.0% of round 23 and 97.5% in round 24) and decrease in sale (55.0% in round 23 and 15.0% in round 24 from 55.0% in round 22) were the most reported impact of pandemic by the vendors on their business.
- In the last four consecutive rounds (21 to 24) more vendors (100%) have reported about observing protective measures within the market taken by market committee. Setting up hand washing station, mandating all consumers and vendors to wear mask and thorough cleaning of the market were the most reported protective measures mentioned by the vendors.
- Vendors reported always wear mask (100.0% in round 23 and 97.5% in round 24), maintaining social distance (75.0% in round 23 and 95.0% in round 24) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- In the case of consumers' shopping behaviors, vendors observed avoid peak shopping hours (100.0% in both round 23 and 24), reduce time spent in the market (87.5% in round 23 and 95.0% in round 24) as the most changed shopping behavior among the consumer.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- Concern about contracting COVID-19 while shopping in the market among consumers has increased (97.5%) in round 23 but decreased in round 24 (25.0%) compared to 62.5% of round 22.
- Within the market, the protective measures observed by more consumers (100.0%) in the last consecutive round 21 to 24. Set up hand washing station (100.0% in R23 and 95.0% in R24), thorough cleaning of market with disinfectant (97.5% in R21 and 85.0% in R22), mandate all consumers (97.5% in round 23 and 100.0% in round 24) and vendors (95.0% in round 23 and 100.0% in round 24) wear mask are the most effective measures reported by the consumers.
- In last two rounds (23 and 24), Consumers mentioned about wearing mask (95.0% and 97.5%) and maintain distancing from other people (95.0% and 85.0%) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- According to consumers, avoid peak shopping hours (50.0%, 52.5%, 100.0% and 100.0% consecutively) and reduced shopping time (27.5%, 90.0%, 92.5% and 90.0%) were the most reported change of the consumers' purchase behavior in the last four rounds (round 21 to 24). None of the consumers reported any perceived changes in the food availability during 23<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> rounds.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, more vendors (100.0% in both round 23 and 24 from 92.5% of round 22) have reported impacts of COVID-19 on their businesses. Decrease in the number of consumers (95.0% of round 23 and 100.0% in round 24 from 85.0% in round 22) and decrease in sale (17.5% in round 23 and 5.0% in round 24 from 90.0% in round 22) were the most reported impact of pandemic.
- In the last four rounds (21 to 24) more vendors (100%) have noticed useful measure implemented in the market. They have reported setting up the hand washing station, mandating all consumers and vendors to wear mask as most effective measures implemented by the market.
- Vendors expressed always wear mask (100.0% in both round 23 and 24), remind customers to maintain distance (70.0% in round 23 and 90.0% in round 24) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- Vendors have mentioned avoid shopping in peak hours (97.5% in round 23 and 92.5% in round 24) and reduce time spent in the market (92.5% in round 23 and 97.5% in round 24) as the consumer's changed shopping behavior.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

## Bulletin Issue 25-26: November-December 2021

BANGLADESH

After March 2020, Government has re-opened schools from 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and universities from October 15 2021. Bangladesh Govt. has started to vaccinated school going students age form 12-17 on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. In between, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to 9<sup>th</sup> December, the number of daily COVID-19 confirmed cases had slightly increased from 210 cases to 246 cases. Since the beginning of August, the number of daily COVID-19 confirmed cases in a declining trend.

### Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- Fewer consumers (27.5%) in round 25 which was reduced to 7.5% in round 26 reported having concerns while shopping in the market compared to 58.5% of round 24. Contracting COVID-19 in the market was the most reported concern which was 27.5% in round 25 and 7.5% in round 26.
- Within the market, the protective measures observed by more consumers in round 25 and round 26 (100.0%) which have similar percentage of recent rounds (100% in round 22 and round 21). Increased awareness and monitoring activities of market committee have remained consistent in the market including mask day and disinfection day celebration on monthly basis.
- In the last two rounds (25 and 26), consumers mentioned about wearing mask (100.0%) and maintaining social distance (82.5% and 100.0%) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- According to consumers, avoid peak shopping hours (100.0%, 100.0%) and reduce shopping time (90.0% and 87.5%) were the most reported changes of the consumers' purchase behavior in the last two rounds (round 23 and 24). None of the consumers reported changes in food availability in the market in last two rounds.

#### Insights from vendors:

- Decrease in the number of consumers (100.0% of round 25 and 55.5% in round 26) and decrease in sale (22.5% in round 25 and 42.5% in round 26 from 15.0% in round 24) were the most reported impact of pandemic by the vendors on their business.
- In the last four consecutive rounds (23 to 26) more vendors (100%) have reported about observing protective measures within the market taken by market committee. Setting up hand washing station, mandating all consumers and vendors to wear mask and thorough cleaning of the market were the most reported protective measures mentioned by the vendors.
- Vendors reported always wear mask (97.5% in round 23 and round 24), maintaining social distance (97.5% in round 25 and 20.0% in round 26) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- In the case of consumers' shopping behaviors, vendors observed avoid peak shopping hours (100.0% in round 25 reduced to 12.5% in round 26), reduce time spent in the market (92.5% in round 25 and round 26) as the most changed shopping behavior among the consumer.

### Summary - Market #2 (Islambagh Wet Market, Dhaka)

#### Insights from consumers:

- Concern about contracting COVID-19 while shopping in the market among consumers has increased (50.0%) in round 25 but decreased in round 24 (32.5%).
- Within the market, the protective measures observed by more consumers (100.0%) in the last consecutive round 23 to 26. Set up hand washing station (92.5% in R25 and 80.0% in R26), thorough cleaning of market with disinfectant (97.5% in R25 and 60.0% in R26), mandate all consumers (57.5% in round 25 and 95.0% in round 26) and vendors (95.0% in round 25 and 100.0% in round 26) wear mask are the most effective measures reported by the consumers.
- In last two rounds (25 and 26), Consumers mentioned about wearing mask (95.0% and 92.5%) and maintain distancing from other people (40.0% and 87.5%) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- According to consumers, avoid peak shopping hours (100.0%, 100.0%, 62.5% and 92.5% consecutively) and reduced shopping time (92.5%, 90.0%, 85.05 and 90.0%) were the most reported change of the consumers' purchase behavior in the last four rounds (round 23 to 26). None of the consumers reported any perceived changes in the food availability during 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> rounds.

#### Insights from vendors:

- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, more vendors (27.5% in round 25 and 47.5% in round 26) have reported impacts of COVID-19 on their businesses. Decrease in the number of consumers (25.0% of round 25 and 40.0% in round 26 from 100.0% in round 24) and decrease in sale (25.0% in round 25 and 40.0% in round 26 from 5.0% in round 24) were the most reported impact of pandemic.
- In the last four rounds (23 to 26) more vendors (100%) have noticed useful measure implemented in the market. They have reported setting up the hand washing station, mandating all consumers and vendors to wear mask as most effective measures implemented by the market.
- Vendors expressed always wear mask (100.0% in round 25 and 82.5% in round 26), remind customers to maintain distance (12.5% in both round 25 and round 26) as their practiced personal protective measures to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.
- Vendors have mentioned avoid shopping in peak hours (52.5% in round 25 and 5.5% in round 26) and reduce time spent in the market (80.0% in round 25 and 90.0% in round 26) as the consumer's changed shopping behavior.

**Methodology:** The KFMW/EatSafe market survey was designed to provide timely information on vendor and consumer's attitudes and behavior in informal markets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The survey is carried out in the Bonolota Wet Market and Islambagh Wet Market in Dhaka. 80 consumers and vendors (40 each) are surveyed every two weeks in each market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.