EatSafe: Evidence and Action Towards Safe, Nutritious Food

COVID-19 Impacts on Traditional Food Market Bulletin Summaries

September 2020 – May 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 or contact 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 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 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.

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 points 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 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 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.

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 measures 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 problems 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 noted 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 19th October 2020 to 21st 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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Bulletin Issue 4: October 28, 2020

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 4th 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 increased 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 3rd 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 4th 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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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 5th 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 3rd 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 5th 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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Bi from 1725 cases per day to 2100 cases per day public areas. The number of Schools and educational institutes are closed, and public gatherings are barred since March 2020. Wearing facemasks is mandate guidelines on COVID market. Consumers and vendors were randomly selected in each market. Surveys are conducted in complete adherence to global

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
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## Bulletin Issue 7: December 15, 2020

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 5th 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 7th 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 7th 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 5th 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 8th 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 8th 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 8th round, vendors reported decreased sales (90.0% from 87.5%) and decreased customers (90.0% 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 (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 8th 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 9th 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 9th 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 behaviors 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 10: February 1, 2021

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 10th round, none of the surveyed consumers noticed any useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 (decreased from 53.8% in 9th round).
- 37.5% of consumer respondents did not think the food in the market is safe to eat which increased from 2.5% of 9th 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 10th round, 100% of the surveyed vendors noticed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 (increased from 52.5% of 9th 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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Summary - Market #1 (Bonolota Wet Market, Dhaka)

Insights from consumers:
- In the 11th 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 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 11th 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 11th 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 11th 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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cases which indicating the country's second wave of COVID from February 21, 2021 to March 24, 2021, the number of confirmed COVID areas.

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 13th round and 45.0% of 12th round (67.5% of 11th round) were concerned about contracting COVID-19 at the market.
- Consumers reported changes in shopping behaviors declined over last three rounds (13th to 11th) 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 13th round. Earlier, during 12th and 11th rounds, the rate was 2.4% and 65.0% respectively.
- Fewer consumers (24.4% of 12th round) noticed any useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 compared to 11th round (97.5%). However, in 13th round, the percentage increased to 45.0% compared to previous round.
- Consumers mentioned cleaning of markets with disinfectant (25.0%) in 13th round and mandate all consumers and vendors wear mask (24.4%) in 12th 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 (13th to 11th) 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 13th round, vendors reported about decrease in customers (87.5% followed by 55.0% of 12th and 72.5% of 11th) and decreased sales (100% followed by 70.0% of 12th and 87.5% of 11th) as the top impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on businesses.
- 30.0% (13th round) and 47.5% (12th round), of the surveyed vendors noticed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 which declined from 100.0% of 11th round.
- In the 13th and 12th 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 11th 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 Islambag 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 11th and 12th rounds all of the consumers reported that they observed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19. However, in 13th 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% (13th) and 77.5% (12th) 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 11th round.
- In the last two rounds, vendors mentioned setting up hand washing/sanitizer stations (70.0% in 13th) and mandate that all consumers wear masks (62.5% in 12th) as most useful measures adopted by the market.
- Comparing the last four rounds, more vendors (80.0% of 13th round from 0.0% of 10th 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 (13th to 10th) consistently.
- Only 70.0% of the surveyed vendors noticed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 during 13th round which declined from 97.5% of 11th round and 100.0% 12th round. Vendors mentioned setting up hand washing/sanitizer stations (70.0% in 13th) and mandate that all consumers wear masks (62.5% in 12th) 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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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 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 8th 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 15th and 66.7% of 14th from 22.5% of 13th 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 15th round and 5.1% of 14th round) in the overall food availability of the market compared to 0.0% of 13th round. While 7.5% of the consumers observed decrease and 2.5% of the consumers observed increase in the availability of fresh vegetables in 15th round. However, during 14th round, 2.6% of consumers expressed both increase and decrease in the availability of fresh vegetables.
- In the 15th round (12.5%) and 14th round (7.7%), fewer consumers noticed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 compared to 45.0% of 13th 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 15th round compared to 14th round.

#### Insights from vendors:
- In line with ongoing national guidelines for COVID-19 prevention, 95.0% vendors of 14th round mentioned that they always wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19 which declined to 65.0% in 15th round. However, reminding social distance among consumers by the vendors reached to 50.0% in 15th round which is highest since 4th round.
- In the last three consecutive rounds, all of the vendors mentioned that COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their businesses. Considering 15th, 14th and 13th 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 14th and 15th round which decreased from 30.0% of 13th round and 47.5% of 12th round. Such declining trend took place in 14th and 15th rounds due to month-long Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr 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 15th round and 62.5% of 14th round) compared to 25.0% of 13th round. Avoid peak shopping hours (25.0%) in 15th round and increased demand of cleanliness behaviors (12.5%) in 14th round were the most reported changes in shopping behaviour mentioned by consumers.
- More consumers observed perceived changes (7.5% of 15th round and 20.0% of 14th round) in the overall food availability of the market compared to 0.0% of 13th round. Increase in the availability of the fresh vegetables (7.5% of 15th round and 17.5% in 14th) were the most reported change in the food availability.
- In the 15th round, fewer consumers (declined to 10.0% from 57.5% of 14th round) noticed useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19. Earlier in the 13th round, this rate was 52.5%. In the last three rounds, 10.0% (15th), 17.5% (14th) and 50.0% (13th) 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% (15th) and 82.5% (14th) vendors in the market mentioned that they always wear a mask to reduce the risk of COVID-19, decreased from 92.5% of 13th 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% (15th) and 75% (14th) vendors mentioned maintaining distance as a useful measure to avoid contracting COVID-19 while working in the market.
- Decrease in customer (85.7% in 15th) compared to 14th round (2.5%) was reported by the vendor. They also reported about decreased sale (77% in 15th decreased from 100% of 14th) 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-Fitr celebration in Bangladesh. While 80.0% of vendors noticed useful changes in 14th round compared to 70% of 13th round, none of the surveyed vendors noticed any useful measures in the market to protect people against COVID-19 in 15th 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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