ERI / Plan your next market move

309 distinct merchants in Yaba, Sabo and Tejuosho, Lagos; 41 completed return interviews across 23 linked businesses.

Field visits: 7 October 2026 - 10 November 2026. 309 initial observations.

For distribution teams, these findings raise practical questions about order sizes, replenishment and how merchants want to buy.

WHAT MERCHANTS TOLD US

The cost of restocking: 204 of 279 respondents who restock reported spending more than about three months earlier. 279 usable responses out of 309 initial observations. 30 answers were missing, unclear, inconsistent or not applicable. Spending can rise because prices, quantities or the products purchased have changed. We have not separated those factors yet.

Orders beyond the stall: 187 of 308 respondents accept orders remotely, either regularly or occasionally. 308 usable responses out of 309 initial observations. 1 answers were missing, unclear, inconsistent or not applicable. Phone and messaging orders are included. The responses do not tell us how much revenue those orders generate.

How customers pay: 218 of 297 respondents said transfers account for the largest share of their customer payments. 297 usable responses out of 309 initial observations. 12 answers were missing, unclear, inconsistent or not applicable. This shows the main payment method reported by each business, not the value or number of transactions.

BEFORE YOU ACT: Higher restocking spend does not tell us whether prices rose or merchants bought more. Product choices, quantities and delivery costs need a closer look.

YOUR NEXT STEP: Ask ERI to investigate purchasing patterns and delivery needs before you choose a pilot location or offer.

These findings describe the businesses we visited, not every business in Lagos. Each figure uses the responses available for that question.

Tell us what you need to understand before your next decision.

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