

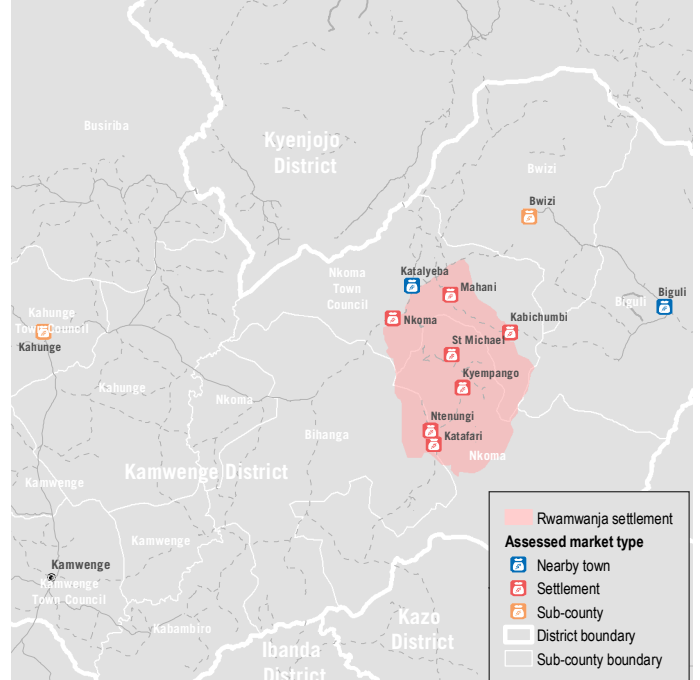


CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

Uganda is one of the world's top refugee-hosting states, having taken in more than 1.3 million refugees who exhibit diverse vulnerability profiles and capacities to cope.¹ Due to these variations, there is a need for a humanitarian delivery system that allows actors to more closely align the modality and amount of assistance provided with individual refugee households' economic and protection-related needs.

The objective of this market analysis, conducted under the framework of the Vulnerability and Essential Needs Assessment (VENA), was to assess market functionality and capacity in the vicinity of Uganda's refugee settlements and to understand the potential for market-based assistance to meet essential needs. Data collection took place between 9 August and 7 October 2019 in 13 refugee settlements.² Two parallel methodologies were employed: 2,820 structured individual interviews were conducted with market traders in or near each assessed settlement, supplemented by 35 semi-structured interviews with key informants who had knowledge of local markets. The assessment was led jointly by REACH, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with support from five additional partners (see page 5). Findings refer solely to the situation during the data collection period and should be considered indicative only.

AREA COVERED BY FACTSHEET



MARKET AND TRADER CHARACTERISTICS

Key informants (KIs) interviewed in two markets visited by Rwamwanja's refugees, reported each market having over 100 registered traders. KIs noted that Bisozi Market and St. Micheal Market operated every day, however, trade in these markets boomed twice and once a week respectively. Depending on the location of the market, traders were predominantly host community members or refugees. The markets' infrastructures also varied; in some markets temporary structures existed, and in others, traders operated on open ground.

11 Total number of markets assessed near this settlement (via **198** trader interviews and **2** key informant interviews)

Gender of interviewed traders:



51% Female
49% Male

Population group of interviewed traders:



79.8% Host community
20.2% Refugee

1% of traders interviewed reported employing at least one other person.

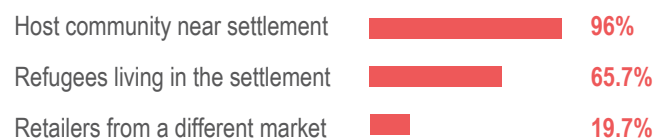
Top 3 nationalities of interviewed traders:



Classification of traders interviewed:³



Top 3 most common types of market customers reported by interviewed traders:³





SUPPLY, DEMAND, AND PRICES

Regarding market items, KIs noted that change in demand was largely influenced by seasonality. For example, during harvesting season, demand for food items such as maize flour and beans was reportedly low, but high during planting season. They further explained that during harvesting season, many people consume produce from their own gardens, which led to low demand for some of the food items. The same reportedly applied to scholastic materials; demand was reportedly high for books and pencils during school terms and low during school holidays.

Sources, prices, and restocking data for selected items⁴ sold in or near this settlement, as reported by interviewed traders:

Commodity	Most common source of item	Item price in markets in or near this settlement (October 2019) ⁵	Median # of days that remaining stock is estimated to last	Estimated median amount of time item remains in stock before sale
Maize flour	Retailer outside the subcounty	2,400 UGX ⁶ /Kg	6 days	Less than one week
Beans (dried, nambale)	Retailer in the subcounty	4,000 UGX /Kg	6 days	No consensus
Sorghum grain	Retailer in the subcounty	2,000 UGX /Kg	18 days	Less than one week
Cassava (whole, fresh)	No consensus	2,000 UGX /g	3 days	Less than one week
Leafy vegetables	Farmers within the subcounty	1,667 UGX /g	2 days	Less than one week
Laundry soap	Retailer in the subcounty	3,800 UGX /Kg	3 days	Less than one week
Sanitary pad (disposable)	Retailer in the subcounty	3,500 UGX /packet	3 days	Less than one week
Exercise books	Retailer in the subcounty	800 UGX /piece	30 days	One to four weeks
Jerry can (plastic, 20 L)	Retailer in the subcounty	6,000 UGX /piece	30 days	More than one month
Blanket (cotton)	Retailer in the subcounty	No data	18 days	One to four weeks
Mud bricks (unfired)	Retailer outside the subcounty	200 UGX /piece	30 days	More than one month
Grass thatch	No data	6,000 UGX /bundle	No data	No data
Charcoal	Own production	1,250 UGX /Kg	3.5 days	Less than one week
Firewood	Own production	364 UGX /Kg	3 days	One to four weeks

Seasonal fluctuations in supply for selected items⁴ sold in or near settlements in Southwest, Uganda, as reported by key informants (KIs):⁷

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maize flour	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Beans (dried, nambale)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Sorghum grain	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Cassava (whole, fresh)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Leafy vegetables	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Vegetable oil	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Cooking salt	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Tilapia (smoked)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Milk (fresh)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Laundry soap	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Sanitary pad (disposable)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Dry cells	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Torch	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Exercise books	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Jerry can (plastic, 20 L)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Plastic basin	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Blanket (cotton)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Mingle (wooden stirrer)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Panga (knife)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Hoe	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Steel roofing nails	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Nylon rope	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Eucalyptus poles	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Mud bricks (fired)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Mud bricks (unfired)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Grass thatch	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Charcoal	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Firewood	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High

Legend: Supply ■ High season (increased) ■ Low season (decreased) ■ Baseline levels / No high or low season

BARRIERS TO MARKET ACCESS⁸

KIs reported that traders accessed markets with ease and that there were no major security concerns raised by traders that affected their mobility from their homes to markets and back. However, they noted increased cases of pickpocketing and theft of animals. Some KIs proposed continuous sensitization of people on how to safeguard their animals and property, in order to address this issue.

3.4% of households (HHs) reported facing barriers when trying to access marketplaces.

Of this 3.4%, top 3 most commonly reported barriers:³

Long distance to the market		78.6%
Physical attacks by refugees		14.3%
Disability		7.1%

% of households that reported mainly accessing marketplaces using the following modes of transport:

71.2%	Walking
27.3%	Boda boda (motorcycle taxi)
1.5%	Bicycle






Median travel time reported by households to get to and from the nearest marketplace selling food: **30 min**

4.5% of interviewed traders reported having faced a security incident related to operating their business.

Of this 4.5%, top 3 most commonly reported types of incidents:³

Physical attack by host comm.		66.7%
Theft		22.2%
Physical attacks by unknown people		22.2%

Top 3 most common triggers for security incidents reported by interviewed traders:³

Money/business disputes		77.8%
None of the options listed		33.3%
Tension between refugees and hosts		11.1%

MARKET OPERATIONS & PRICES

KIs reported no shocks that prevented market activities. Furthermore, they noted that prices changed as the season changed. For example, during the harvesting season, prices of maize flour and beans went down and then increased during the planting season, due to the lower supply of the commodity. Other items, such as vegetable oil, cooking salt, dry cells, and torches, amongst others, were found to have constant prices throughout the year.

75.8% of interviewed traders reported having a license to operate in their market.

86.4% of interviewed traders reported paying market dues.

% of interviewed traders reporting using the following types of storage:

68.1%	Own storage
22.7%	Rented storage
9.1%	No storage



30.8% of interviewed traders reported having taken out at least one loan in the past to support their business.

Estimated median amount of outstanding debt reported by interviewed traders:⁹ **250,000 UGX**

% of interviewed traders reporting that they currently use each of the following sources of capital:³

Own savings		86.4%
Credit or loans		17.7%
Other		13.6%
Shared with HH/business partners		6.6%

Estimated median monthly expenditures reported by interviewed traders in the following categories:

Market dues (past month)	10,000 UGX
Rental of storage space	55,000 UGX
Round-trip transport to restock retail items	10,000 UGX
Transaction cost to obtain new stock (loading, unloading, storage, tax, etc.)	5,000 UGX



ABILITY TO SCALE UP

Most common predictions of interviewed traders regarding their ability to meet increased demand stimulated by cash programmes¹⁰:

Category of commodities

In case of doubled demand...

	Would you be able to stock enough of your current items to meet the demand?	If yes, how long would it take you to obtain additional stock to meet the demand?	Would you be able to obtain this amount using only your current supplier?	If unable to stock enough, what would make it most difficult for you to increase your supply?
Fresh food	Yes (88.6%)	One week (64.5%)	Yes (87.1%)	Lack of capital
Non-fresh food	Yes (88.2%)	One week (67.2%)	Yes (91%)	Lack of capital
Sanitary items	Yes (85.7%)	One week (66.7%)	Yes (100%)	Lack of capital
Household items	Yes (88.2%)	One week (42.2%)	Yes (95%)	Lack of quality supply
Shelter and livelihoods items	Yes (80%)	One week (50%)	Yes (95%)	Lack of capital
Lighting items	Yes (87.5%)	One week (57.1%)	Yes (95.2%)	Lack of capital
Educational items	Yes (80.8%)	One week (76.2%)	Yes (95.2%)	Lack of capital
Cooking fuel	Yes (76.9%)	One week (65%)	Yes (100%)	Lack of capital

Endnotes

1 Figures based on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) refugee population figures, updated as of September 2019, retrieved from <https://ugandarefugees.org/en/country/uga> on 8 November 2019.

2 For the purposes of sampling and analysis, the 18 settlements in Adjumani district were grouped into a single refugee hosting location.

3 Respondents were able to select more than one option when answering this question.

4 In total, 34 market commodities were assessed, but due to space limitations, a selection are displayed in this factsheet. The list of selected commodities was based on a subjective determination of which items were most central to Ugandan households, and was then modified to ensure representation of all assessed categories of items. Data on other assessed commodities is available upon request.

5 Price data was derived from WFP, Minimum Expenditure Basket in Uganda: Joint Price Monitoring, October 2019, retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/minimum-expenditure-basket-uganda-joint-price-monitoring-october-2019> on 12 December 2019.

6 The Ugandan shilling to United States dollar exchange rate was 3,668.05 on 24 December 2019. <https://www.xe.com/>

7 Seasonality calendars were constructed on a regional level to capture variations in agriculture and livelihoods across Uganda while encompassing enough interviews to allow for meaningful aggregation. The regions used were: Northwest (Adjumani, Bidibidi, Imvepi, Lobule, Palabek, Palorinya, Rhino, Kiryandongo) and Southwest (Kyaka II, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Rwamwanja, Kyangwali).

8 All indicators referencing the household were derived from the VENA household-level assessment, which was conducted concurrently with this market assessment and in the same settlements. A total of 5,737 household interviews were conducted between 12 August and 7 October 2019. Methodological details of this component of the VENA are available [here](#).

9 Among traders who reported non-zero expenditures and/or debt in each of the following categories.

10 All indicators in the box that follows are subjective, with results based on self-reporting by market traders. A full capacity assessment to objectively determine these traders' ability to scale up was not conducted.

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