OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Uganda is one of the top refugee-hosting countries in the world, with a protracted refugee situation and ongoing influxes of refugees from neighboring countries. The country hosts 1,494,505 refugees as of 31 May 2021, with nearly 95% of refugees living in settlements primarily in the West Nile and Southwest regions of Uganda.

In view of this situation, the World Food Programme (WFP) has established a regular market price monitoring system across refugee settlements to inform cash-based response approaches. These monitoring efforts predate the COVID-19 crisis. However, due to the changing situation since the Ugandan government introduced COVID-19 containment measures in mid-March 2020, there is a risk that markets could be significantly affected and beneficiaries receiving cash assistance may not be able to access critical goods. In response, with the technical support of the Market Analysis Task Force and REACH in particular, this market price monitoring system has been expanded to capture crucial information to understand the impact of COVID-19 on commodity prices and functionality of markets in refugee communities across Uganda.

WFP collected the data through key informant (KI) interviews with traders, individuals selling key commodities, in markets across 13 refugee settlement locations from 1-31 May 2021. Data was collected remotely, using the mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) phone-based survey system. Data for sold loose items was collected in person with items purchased and weighted where possible. KIs were purposively sampled, meaning the findings are indicative only. The figures represented in this factsheet are presented at the national and regional levels, unless stated otherwise. In total, 172 traders were interviewed nationwide in this round. Of these, 108 were from the Southwest Region (SWR) and 64 were from the West Nile Region (WNR).

FURTHER RESOURCES:

To see the past products as part of this series, [click here](#).
To see further detail on MEB calculation methodology, [click here](#).
A full data set with commodity prices can be provided upon request.
The Uganda Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a five-person refugee household in Uganda for one month. It is used as an operational tool to identify and quantify the average minimum cost of the regular or seasonal basic needs of a median household that can be covered through the local market.

Several core items were identified as being required once per year, so the total cost was divided by 12 to calculate the monthly amount. The MEB's contents were defined by the Cash Working Group in consultation with relevant sector leads. Some components were calculated based on item cost and others through a combination of analysis of household expenditures and sector-expert opinion.

*The starred items or components were calculated based on average sectoral or component cost per month based on expenditure data.

**Education costs were calculated based on average cost of school fees per year.

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*The starred items or components were calculated based on average sectoral or component cost per month based on expenditure data.

**Education costs were calculated based on average cost of school fees per year.

The average cost of full MEB by settlement is as follows:

- **Palabek**: 508,111 UGX
- **Rwamwanja**: 404,625 UGX
- **Kyangwali**: 408,953 UGX
- **Kisama**: 474,700 UGX
- **Kinyandongo**: 432,250 UGX
- **Kapalinya**: 427,350 UGX
- **Adjumani**: 412,001 UGX
- **Rhino Camp**: 412,000 UGX
- **Bidibidi**: 447,686 UGX
- **Kiryandongo**: 438,925 UGX
- **Kyaka II**: 388,219 UGX
- **Kakuma**: 382,947 UGX
- **Nakivale**: 378,131 UGX
- **Oruchinga**: 362,000 UGX

The settlements with the least expensive average full MEB costs:
1. Oruchinga
2. Nakivale
3. Kyaka

The settlements with the most expensive average full MEB costs:
1. Palabek
2. Rhino Camp
3. Lobule

The full MEB cost percentage change since March 2020 (left) and April 2021 (right):

- **Adjumani**: -31% -8%
- **Bidibidi**: -22% -1%
- **Imvepi**: -3% +1%
- **Kiryandongo**: -18% -2%
- **Lobule**: -6% -3%
- **Kyaka II**: -17% +1%
- **Kyangwali**: -15% -3%
- **Nakivale**: -14% -1%
- **Oruchinga**: -18% -2%
- **Palabek**: -1% -1%
- **Palorinya**: -24% -13%
- **Rhino Camp**: +2% -6%
- **Rwamwanja**: -19% 0%
## Market Monitor – Refugee Hosting Areas

Refugee Settlement Price and Market Functionality Snapshot, 1-31 May 2021

### COMMODITY PRICES

Table 1: Average commodity prices in UGX², by refugee settlement location, and percentage price change since March 2020 (upper)⁶ and last round 1-30 April 2021 (lower) respectively.⁹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item (unit)</th>
<th>Nakapiripirit</th>
<th>Southwest Region</th>
<th>West Nile Region</th>
<th>Adjumani</th>
<th>Bidibidi</th>
<th>Imvepi</th>
<th>Kyrangogo</th>
<th>Kyangwali</th>
<th>Kalera</th>
<th>Oruchinga</th>
<th>Pabok</th>
<th>Palorinya</th>
<th>Rhino Camp</th>
<th>Rwenzori</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize flour (1kg)</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>1008</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>1778</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>1784</td>
<td>2250</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>1700</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish* (smoked, 1kg)</td>
<td>1647</td>
<td>1674</td>
<td>1636</td>
<td>1375</td>
<td>1258</td>
<td>1636</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>1916</td>
<td>2900</td>
<td>15311</td>
<td>15311</td>
<td>15311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans (mixed, 1kg)</td>
<td>2256</td>
<td>1485</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorghum grain (1kg)</td>
<td>1232</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>1399</td>
<td>1125</td>
<td>1017</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>1017</td>
<td>1017</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking oil (1litre)</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh cassava* (1kg)</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>787</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking salt (500g)</td>
<td>966</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leafy greens* (1kg)</td>
<td>1661</td>
<td>1530</td>
<td>2360</td>
<td>1290</td>
<td>1290</td>
<td>1290</td>
<td>1290</td>
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<td>1290</td>
<td>1290</td>
<td>1290</td>
<td>1290</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk (1 litre)</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>1270</td>
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<td>1270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food MEB</td>
<td>24796</td>
<td>22065</td>
<td>9716</td>
<td>23380</td>
<td>23380</td>
<td>23380</td>
<td>23380</td>
<td>23380</td>
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<td>23380</td>
<td>23380</td>
<td>23380</td>
<td>23380</td>
<td>23380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firewood* (1kg)</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>186</td>
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<td>186</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underwear (1 piece)</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Jerry can (20L, 1 piece)</td>
<td>3606</td>
<td>3516</td>
<td>3778</td>
<td>4050</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>3500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposable toothbrush (1 packet)</td>
<td>936</td>
<td>1613</td>
<td>1334</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize grain (1kg)</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>944</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some of the above listed commodities (*) are not traded in standard units (kilograms or litres), but in informal units (“bundles” or “basins”). These informal units are not strictly defined by weight, can vary from vendor to vendor or by time, and are therefore not directly comparable. To address this issue, price data needs to be determined via the actual purchase of a given commodity, by its weight and conversion into standard units. The price data of these commodities is collected only in the last week of the month; when price data is not collected, the price table above shows the last price data available.

⁶ In April and May 2020, this market monitor snapshot reported median commodity prices, rather than average prices. Because surveys were conducted remotely, without weightings, there was a higher possibility of outlier prices, which would have a greater impact on averages. To align with WFP’s global methodology and past reporting of MEB item prices in the Uganda response, since June 2020, the methodology was changed to report average commodity prices.

⁷. The United States Dollar (USD) was equivalent to 3,689 UGX as of 31 January 2021, according to the World Bank Exchange Rate.

⁸. For COVID-19 price data for Adjumani settlement corresponds to prices collected in December 2019. For all other settlements, March 2020 data is used. Price data for items listed under “other MEB items” and underwear are only collected once every 6 months and can therefore only be compared against prices from January 2020 (upper).

⁹. Regional and national price aggregations are only reported, if enough price data exists across various settlements. Price changes are only reported where price data for a given item exists for both this reporting round and the reference periods, i.e. March 2020 and the last reporting round.

3
The analysis focuses on the market prices of commodities that make up the in-kind food basket that WFP provides to refugees for GFA and compares the price of the GFA basket with the WFP cash transfer value (19,000 UGX/person/month). The food basket consists of the following items and quantities: 7.56kg of maize grain, 1.8kg of beans, 0.54kg of vegetable oil and 0.09kg of salt per person per month. The quantities represent 60% of the normal WFP GFA basket as a result of ration cuts that were implemented starting February 2021. The analysis further compares the cost of the food MEB basket with the cash transfer value.

The market price of the WFP GFA food basket in May 2021 remained similar to that of April 2021. Previously, the cost of the basket had registered a marginal month-to-month increase of 2 percent from February to April 2021.

In May 2021, the average cost of the WFP GFA food basket when averaged across all settlements was UGX 15,010. There were regional differences in the cost of the food basket. The cost of the WFP GFA food basket in West Nile (UGX 17,676) was 57% greater than the cost of the food basket in South West (UGX 11,219).

In May 2021, the WFP cash transfer value could, on average, cover 125% of the cost of the WFP GFA food basket (107% in West Nile and 169% in the South West).

The WFP cash transfer value was enough to meet the cost of the WFP GFA food basket in all the refugee settlements except in Palabek and Rhino camp settlements where it could cover 93% and 96% of the cost of the GFA food basket.

In May 2021, the WFP GFA food basket was most expensive in Palabek (UGX 20,399) where the WFP cash transfer value could cover 93% of the cost of the GFA food basket. Conversely, the GFA food basket was least expensive in Nakivale settlement (UGX 10,194) where the WFP cash transfer value could cover 186% of the cost of the WFP GFA food basket.

The analysis further compares the WFP cash transfer value with the cost of the food MEB (detailed in graph 3) across settlements.

• The average cost of the food MEB increased marginally by 1% from UGX 271,046 in April to UGX 274,687 in May 2021. Previously, the cost of the food MEB decreased by 6% from March to April 2021 (Graph 3).

• Overall, the cost of the food MEB in May 2021 was 18% lower than the reference value of March 2020. At regional level, the cost of the food MEB in West Nile was 9% lower than reference value of March 2020. On the other hand, the cost of the food MEB in South West was 32% lower than the reference value of March 2020.

• By May 2021, the WFP cash transfer value could cover only 35% of the food MEB (42% in South West and 31% in West Nile).

• The food MEB was most expensive in Palabek settlement (UGX 357,034), where the WFP cash transfer value could cover only 27% of the food MEB. The food MEB was least expensive in Oruchinga settlement (UGX 202,880) where the WFP transfer value could cover 47% of the food MEB.
MARKET FUNCTIONALITY
Unless specified otherwise, the following results refer to a recall period of one week prior to data collection.

TRADER AND CUSTOMER BEHAVIOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of interviewed traders reporting a change in the number of vendors:</th>
<th>Average numbers of customers per day reported by interviewed traders:</th>
<th>% of interviewed traders reporting changes in perceptions of security relating to operating in their marketplace:</th>
<th>Top reported reasons by traders feeling more secure:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>INCREASE 6%</td>
<td>MARCH 26</td>
<td>LESS SECURE 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DECREASE 10%</td>
<td>APRIL 28</td>
<td>MORE SECURE 21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO CHANGE 84%</td>
<td>MAY 33</td>
<td>NO DIFFERENCE 78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWR</td>
<td>INCREASE 6%</td>
<td>MARCH 29</td>
<td>LESS SECURE 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DECREASE 16%</td>
<td>APRIL 31</td>
<td>MORE SECURE 31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO CHANGE 78%</td>
<td>MAY 33</td>
<td>NO DIFFERENCE 67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WNR</td>
<td>INCREASE 5%</td>
<td>MARCH 24</td>
<td>LESS SECURE 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DECREASE 0%</td>
<td>APRIL 25</td>
<td>MORE SECURE 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO CHANGE 95%</td>
<td>MAY 33</td>
<td>NO DIFFERENCE 97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STOCK AND SUPPLY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of interviewed traders reporting difficulty in obtaining enough supply to meet demand:</th>
<th>% of interviewed traders reporting concern that their stocks will run out within one week following data collection:</th>
<th>% of interviewed traders accepting mobile money payments when data was collected:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>YES 12%</td>
<td>YES 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO 88%</td>
<td>NO 91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWR</td>
<td>YES 1%</td>
<td>YES 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO 99%</td>
<td>NO 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WNR</td>
<td>YES 31%</td>
<td>YES 23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO 69%</td>
<td>NO 77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PAYMENT AND LIQUIDITY

Top reported reasons by traders feeling more secure:

1. Appropriate behaviour of security personnel (12%)
2. Implementation of rules and regulations (11%)
3. Increased presence of security personnel (7%)

11. This indicator refers to all the interviewed traders. Respondents could select multiple response options.

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or REACH Uganda, uganda@reach-initiative.org