

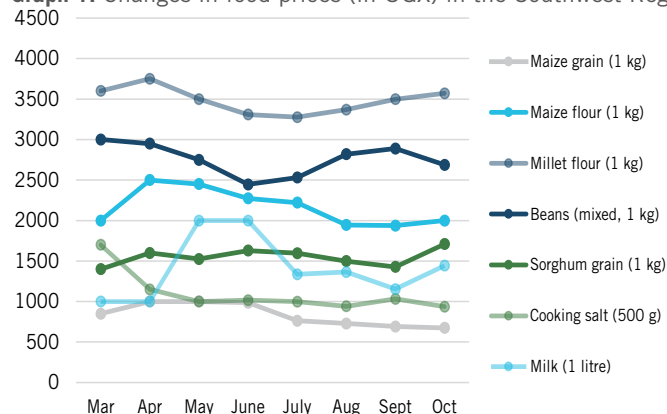
OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

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 1,431,477¹ refugees as of 30 September 2020, with nearly 95% of refugees living in settlements primarily in the West Nile and Southwest regions of Uganda.

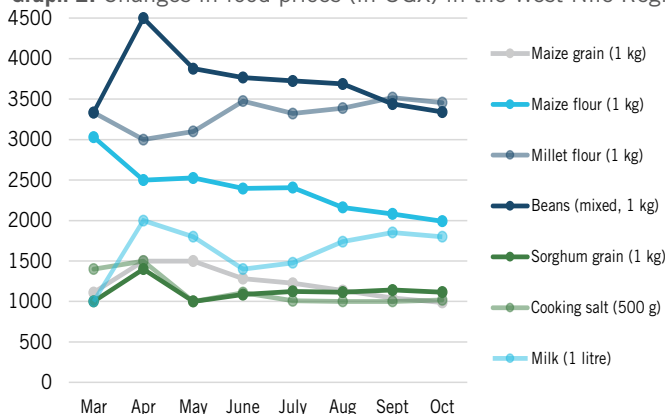
In view of this situation, the World Food Programme (WFP) has established a regular market price monitoring system across refugee settlements to inform cash-based response approaches. These monitoring efforts predate the COVID-19 crisis. However, due to the changing situation since the Ugandan government 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 interviews with traders, individuals selling key commodities, in markets across 13 refugee settlement locations from 1-31 October 2020. Data was collected in person and loose items purchased and weighted where possible. Kyangwali was the only settlement that WFP data collectors could not physically access. Data for this settlement was collected remotely, using the mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) phone-based survey system. Key informants were purposively sampled, meaning the findings are indicative only. The figures represented in this factsheet are presented at the national and regional² levels, unless stated otherwise. In total, **304 traders** were interviewed nationwide in this round, of these **91 in the Southwest Region (SWR)** and **213 in the West Nile Region (WNR)**.

Graph 1: Changes in food prices (in UGX) in the Southwest Region



Graph 2: Changes in food prices (in UGX) in the West Nile Region



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.

KEY FINDINGS

Average cost of the **full MEB** in October 2020: **432,791 UGX**
 Average cost of the **food MEB** in October 2020: **268,739 UGX**
 ▼ -14% compared to the full MEB in March 2020.³ ▼ -19% compared to the food MEB in March 2020.

- At the national level, the large majority (86%) of the interviewed traders reported that the **number of vendors** has not changed compared to the week before the COVID-19 outbreak (18th of March). A larger proportion of traders in SWR (13%) reported a decrease in the number of vendors compared with WNR (7%).
- More than half (52%) of vendors reported accepting **mobile money**. Across regions, this proportion was higher in SWR (68%) as compared to WNR (45%).
- Nationwide, 14% of the interviewed traders reported difficulties in **meeting demand**, showing an improvement from last round (23%). A larger proportion of vendors from SWR (19%) reported facing difficulties in meeting demand compared with vendors from WNR (12%).
- The proportion of traders feeling **more secure** is stable as compared with the past round in both regions. However, the proportion of traders in SWR who reported feeling less secure has decreased (from 21% to 8%).
- The cost of the **general food assistance (GFA)** basket decreased by 4% from September to October 2020. Despite the GFA basket cost being higher in the WNR than in SWR, the WFP cash transfer value covered 116% (WNR) and 143% (SWR) of their costs.
- The cost of the **MEB** remained relatively stable from the past round. The WFP cash transfer value could cover, on average, only 41% of the food MEB cost.

KEY CHALLENGES

Top 3 challenges reported by traders⁴:

1	Increased price of transportation	62%
2	Price fluctuation of commodities	58%
3	Lack of cash to purchase more stock	58%

1. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, [Uganda Comprehensive Refugee Response Portal](#).

2. For analysis purposes, the 13 refugee settlement locations have been aggregated to two regions: West Nile (Palorinya, Palabek, Bidi Bidi, Imvepi, Rhino Camp, Lobule, Adjumani, Kiryandongo settlements) and Southwest (Kyangwali, Rwamwanja, Kyaka, Oruchinga, Nakivale).

3. The March full MEB cost constitutes the reference MEB cost for refugee settlements in Uganda in 2020. For more detailed information please refer to the "Updated Guidance for Uganda Cash Working Group" (Last updated: 12.05.2020).

4. These challenges are presented at the national level.

Market Monitor – Refugee Hosting Areas

Refugee Settlement Price and Market Functionality Snapshot, 1-31 October 2020

UGANDA

Uganda Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

Food Items (monthly)

Maize flour	44 kg	Cassava (fresh)	3 kg
Beans	27 kg	Salt	1 kg
Sorghum grain	8 kg	Leafy vegetables	15 kg
Oil	4 L	Fish (smoked)	3 kg
Milk	2 L		

Non-Food Items (monthly)

Laundry soap	2.25 kg	Clothing*	3,806 UGX
Firewood	165 kg		

Other Components (monthly)

Water*	3,750 UGX	Livelihoods*	37,705 UGX
Education**	22,667 UGX	Transport*	11,001 UGX
Health*	2,669 UGX	Communication*	4,256 UGX
Lighting*	5,000 UGX		

Other Items (once per year)

Reusable sanitary pads	8 pc	Saucepan	3 pc
Jerry can (20 L)	2 pc	Plate	5 pc
Jerry can (5 L)	1 pc	Serving spoon	2 pc
Bucket with lid	1 pc	Cup	5 pc
Blanket	5 pc	Mingle (stirrer)	2 pc

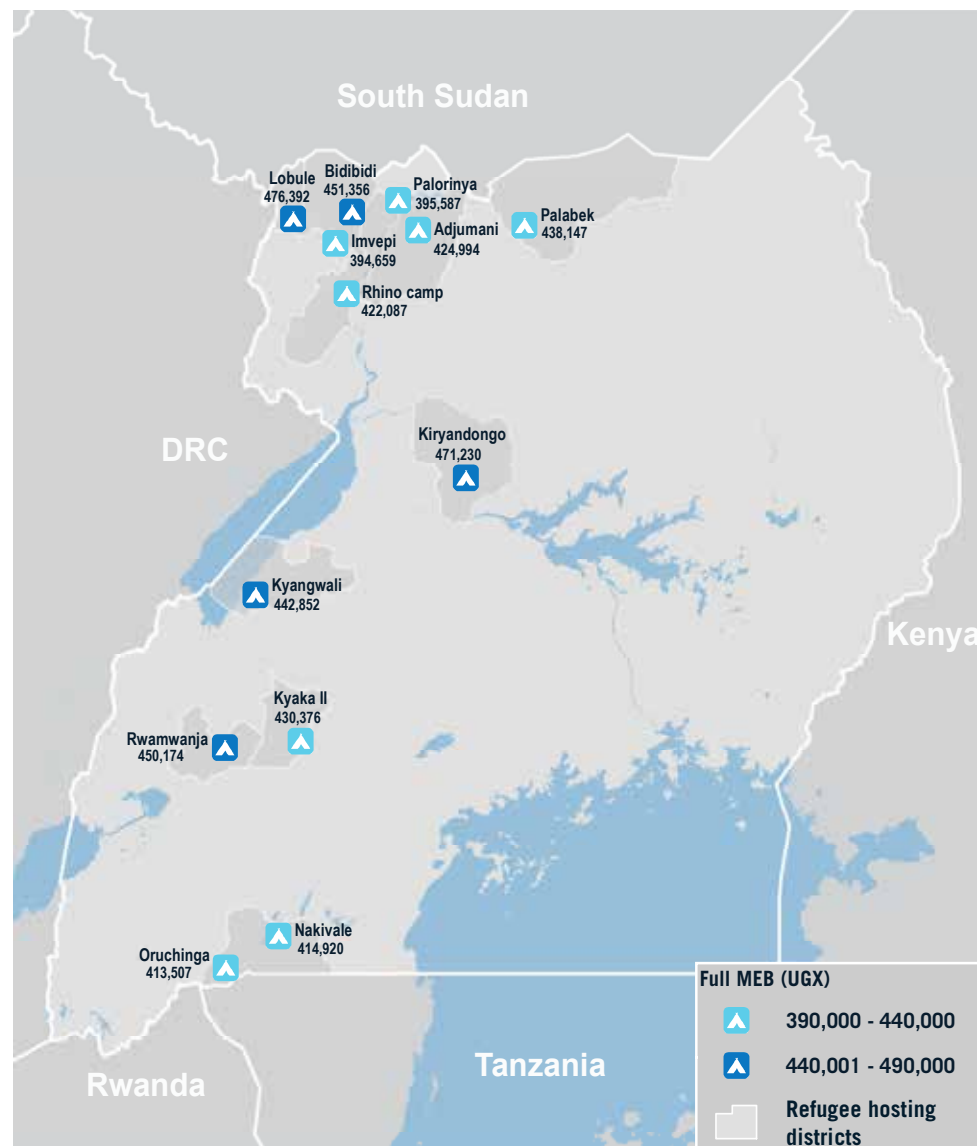
The MEB represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a five-person refugee household in Uganda for one month. It is used as an operational tool to identify and quantify the average minimum cost of the regular or seasonal basic needs of a median household that can be covered 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.

Map 1: Average cost of full MEB by settlement



Settlements with the least expensive average full MEB costs:

1. Imvepi
2. Palorinya
3. Oruchinga

Settlements with the most expensive average full MEB costs:

1. Lobule
2. Kiryandongo
3. Bidibidi

Full MEB cost percentage change since March (left) and September (right):

Adjumani	-30%	-7%
Bidibidi	-28%	+4%
Imvepi	-9%	-1%
Kiryandongo	-12%	-5%
Lobule	-3%	+8%
Kyaka II	-10%	-2%
Kyangwali	-18%	-3%
Nakivale	+2%	+6%
Oruchinga	-5%	+8%
Palabek	-15%	-2%
Palorinya	-26%	-1%
Rhino Camp	-8%	-5%
Rwamwanja	-9%	+1%

Market Monitor – Refugee Hosting Areas

Refugee Settlement Price and Market Functionality Snapshot, 1-31 October 2020

COMMODITY PRICES

Table 1: Average⁵ commodity prices in Uganda Shillings (UGX)⁶, by refugee settlement location, and percentage price change since March (upper)⁷ and last round 1-30 Sept 2020 (lower) respectively.⁸

Item (unit)	Nationwide	Regions										Settlements																					
		Southwest Region	West Nile Region	Adjumani	Bidibidi	Imvepi	Kiryandongo	Kyaka II	Kyangwali	Lobule	Nakivale	Oruchinga	Palabek	Palorinya	Rhino Camp	Rwamwanja																	
MEB food items	Maize flour (1 kg)	1995	-19%	2000	-6%	1992	-27%	2011	+6%	1900	-41%	1619	+8%	2104	+6%	2046	-12%	2133	-8%	2250	-36%	1517	-22%	1700	-12%	2000	-47%	1833	+25%	2658	+6%	1975	-1%
			-2%		+3%		-4%		+8%		0%		-5%		+13%		-3%		+7%		0%		-16%		+4%		-19%		+4%		+9%		+1%
	Fish* (smoked, 1kg)	14997	n/a	16534	n/a	14733	n/a	11825	n/a	15937	n/a	19333	n/a	23333	n/a	12500	n/a	n/a	n/a	10000	n/a	16000	n/a	12019	n/a	23056	n/a	8889	n/a	9444	n/a	n/a	n/a
			-11%		-6%		-13%		-48%		-4%		+93%		+14%		-38%		n/a		-12%		n/a		+68%		+9%		+22%		0%		n/a
	Beans (mixed, 1 kg)	3097	-4%	2688	-18%	3340	+5%	3653	0%	3350	+4%	3443	-14%	3150	-20%	2415	-28%	2511	-15%	3250	-18%	2333	-26%	2580	-7%	3038	+22%	3042	+53%	3375	-6%	2762	-15%
			-4%		-7%		-3%		-6%		+10%		-11%		-11%		-4%		-22%		-17%		-4%		+10%		+12%		0%		+2%		-6%
	Sorghum grain (1 kg)	1295	+10%	1710	-21%	1115	+8%	1111	0%	953	+3%	1524	+60%	1245	+15%	1890	-6%	2711	+109%	1388	+4%	1583	+3%	1560	+5%	629	-2%	1100	+18%	1422	+35%	n/a	n/a
			+5%		+20%		-2%		0%		-6%		+3%		+13%		-2%		+31%		-4%		+19%		+10%		+3%		+7%		-3%		n/a
	Cooking oil (1 litre)	5674	0%	5906	0%	5559	0%	5961	-1%	5025	-5%	4119	-48%	5665	-9%	5978	+6%	6000	0%	5450	+1%	6000	+7%	6000	0%	6109	+22%	5592	+8%	5636	-10%	6000	+7%
			-1%		+1%		-2%		-1%		+3%		-3%		+1%		0%		0%		+1%		+7%		0%		+2%		+3%		-9%		+1%
Fresh cassava* (1 kg)	597	n/a	611	n/a	594	n/a	517	n/a	457	n/a	933	n/a	349	n/a	556	n/a	n/a	n/a	833	n/a	512	n/a	972	n/a	303	n/a	912	n/a	500	n/a	667	n/a	
		-2%		+37%		-7%		-14%		-10%		+3%		-13%		+41%		n/a		+14%		n/a		+22%		+1%		+305%		-49%		n/a	
Cooking salt (500 g)	991	-58%	936	-55%	1019	-60%	1053	+37%	1000	-59%	1038	-20%	945	-51%	865	-69%	1000	-44%	1000	-35%	1000	-47%	1000	-46%	1000	-80%	1000	-58%	1000	-79%	950	-66%	
		-2%		-9%		+2%		0%		0%		+4%		-6%		-12%		-33%		0%		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-3%	
Leafy greens* (1 kg)	1322	n/a	1270	0%	1325	-13%	828	-57%	2835	+9%	1067	+28%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	893	+9%	1270	n/a	n/a	n/a	1518	-8%	2056	+90%	733	-22%	n/a	n/a	
		-11%		0%		-13%		-57%		+9%		+28%		n/a		n/a		n/a		+9%		n/a	n/a	n/a	1518	-8%	2056	+90%	733	-22%	n/a	n/a	
Milk (1 litre)	1722	+21%	1443	+5%	1800	+24%	2000	-20%	1250	+25%	n/a	n/a	1433	-6%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2000	+7%	n/a	n/a	1500	+50%	2000	+67%	1333	-33%	2000	-20%	n/a	n/a	
		+6%		+25%		-3%		0%		0%		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0%			n/a	n/a	n/a	2000	+67%	1333	-33%	2000	-20%	n/a	n/a	
Firewood* (1 kg)	326	-14%	n/a	n/a	326	-3%	n/a	n/a	192	+6%	159	-47%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	560	+320%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	172	-13%	948	+90%	107	-52%	n/a	n/a	
		+49%		n/a		+52%		n/a		+6%		-31%		n/a		n/a		n/a		+130%		n/a	n/a	n/a	172	-13%	948	+90%	107	-52%	n/a	n/a	
Laundry soap (1 kg)	3334	+21%	3552	0%	3211	+36%	3042	-13%	3250	+62%	3300	+10%	3609	-10%	3667	-6%	n/a	n/a	3300	+65%	3300	-6%	3500	+40%	3300	-18%	3300	+65%	3300	+2%	3500	+17%	
		+1%		-2%		+1%		+3%		+8%		+10%		-9%		-6%		n/a		0%		-6%		+6%		0%		0%		+2%		-3%	
Underwear (1 piece)	2498	n/a	2389	n/a	2524	n/a	3000	n/a	1100	n/a	2500	n/a	2357	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1500	n/a	2000	n/a	3000	n/a	3500	n/a	2000	n/a	1167	n/a	n/a	n/a	
		+4%		-7%		+8%		+26%		0%		+3%		n/a		n/a		n/a	+50%		2000	-33%	3000	+50%	3500	0%	2000	0%	1167	-39%	n/a	n/a	
Big jerry can (20L, 1 piece)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Dry cells (1 packet)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Disposable torch (1 packet)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Millet flour (1 kg)	3507	-6%	3570	+1%	3455	-12%	3550	+9%	4000	-4%	3000	-14%	4165	+5%	3333	+11%	3211	-12%	3500	-2%	3167	-12%	3500	-12%	3500	0%	3800	+9%	3250	-35%	3583	+59%	
		0%		+2%		-2%		+9%		+6%		-4%		+7%		+2%		-1%		0%		-6%		-4%		+11%		-11%		-14%		+7%	
Maize grain (1 kg)	881	-14%	675	-22%	988	-13%	1033	-31%	1000	0%	1057	+6%	640	-43%	756	-20%	550	-15%	938	-24%	720	-12%	730	-9%	833	-17%	833	-35%	1208	-13%	678	-27%	
		-3%		-2%		-5%		-3%		0%		-6%		+11%		-4%		-8%		+7%		-9%		-7%		+18%		-9%		-22%		+3%	
Charcoal* (1 kg)	536	n/a	1080	n/a	502	-57%	509	-34%	331	-58%	733	+193%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	135	-74%	1080	-46%	n/a	n/a	588	-12%	439	-91%	511	+2%	n/a	n/a	
		-20%		+26%		-18%		-30%		-1%		+6%		n/a		n/a		n/a		+7%		n/a	n/a	588	-4%	439	-18%	511	-37%	n/a	n/a		

Some of the above listed commodities (*) are not traded in standard units (litres or kg), 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.

5. In April and May 2020, this market monitor snapshot reported median commodity prices, rather than average prices. Because surveys were conducted remotely, without weighting items, 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.

6. One United States Dollar (USD) was equivalent to 3,692 UGX as of 11th of October 2020, according to [Qanda currency converter](#).

7. Pre-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).

8. 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.

Market Monitor – Refugee Hosting Areas

Refugee Settlement Price and Market Functionality Snapshot, 1-31 October 2020

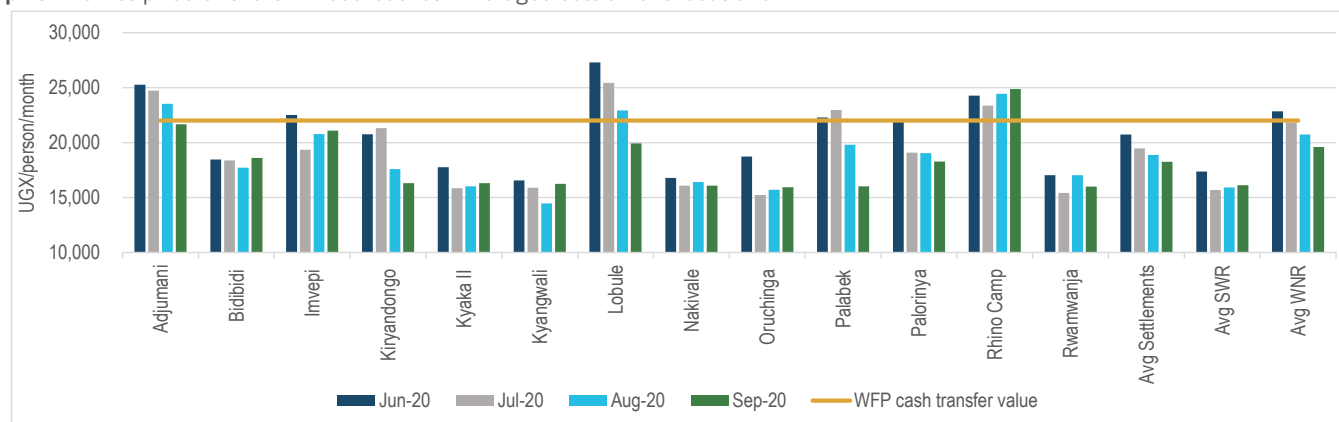
UGANDA

ANALYSIS OF WFP GENERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE (GFA) FOOD BASKET

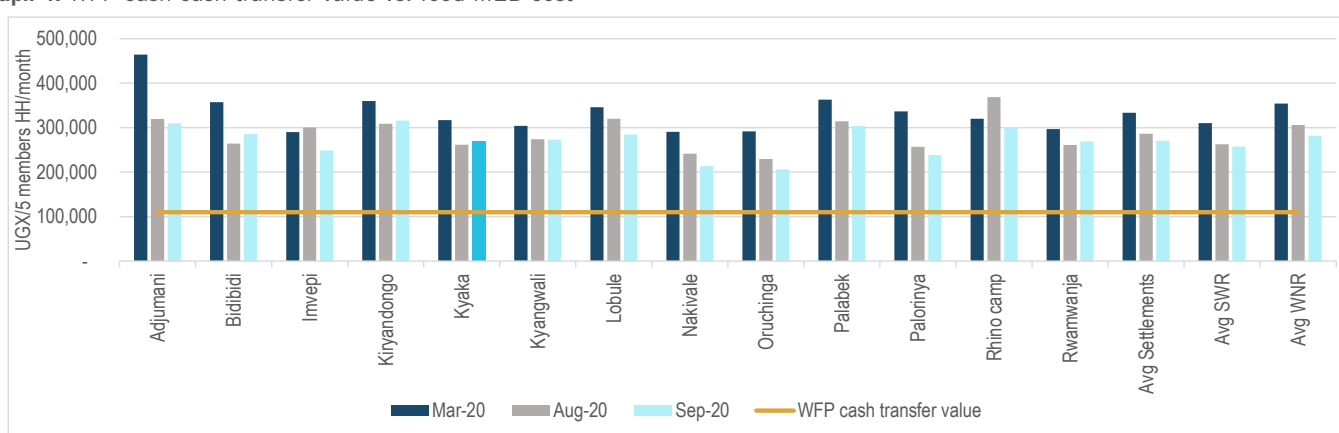
The analysis focuses on the market prices of commodities that make up the in-kind food basket that WFP provides to refugees for GFA and compares the price of the GFA food basket with the GFA cash transfer value (22,000 UGX per person per month). The food basket consists of the following items and quantities: 8.84 kg of maize grain, 2.1 kg of beans, 0.63 kg of vegetable oil, and 0.15 kg of salt per person per month. The quantities represent 70% of the normal WFP GFA basket as a result of ration cuts that were implemented starting April 2020.

- The average market price of the GFA food basket has consistently decreased since June 2020. In most settlements, the average market price in October 2020 was lower than in September 2020. Overall, the cost of the GFA food basket reduced by 4% from September to October (Graph 3).
- As a result of the decrease in cost, the WFP cash transfer value on average covered 125% of the cost of the food basket. In the month of October, the cash transfer value covered the cost of the food basket in all settlements (116% in WNR and 143% in SWR respectively).
- The average price of the food basket in the SWR was lower than in the WNR. In the SWR, the average market price of the food basket was 15,431 UGX while in the WNR, the average price of the food basket was 18,971 UGX.
- In October, the food basket was most expensive in Rhino Camp (21,260 UGX) and Adjumani (20,876 UGX) settlements, where the WFP cash transfer value covered 102% and 105% of the cost of the food basket respectively.
- In October, the food basket was least expensive in Kyangwali (14,215 UGX) and Nakivale (15,345 UGX) settlements, where the WFP cash transfer value covered 155% and 143% of the cost of the food basket respectively.

Graph 3: Market price of the GFA food basket in refugee settlement locations



Graph 4: WFP cash transfer value vs. food MEB cost



The analysis further compares the WFP cash transfer value with the cost of the food MEB (detailed in page 2) across settlements.

- The cost of the food MEB in October was lower than the reference value (March 2020) in all settlements (Graph 4). Overall, similar to September, the cost of the food MEB was 19% lower than the reference food MEB cost, remaining stable from 270,630 UGX in September to 268,739 UGX in October.
- Regional differences exist in terms of the cost of the food MEB. In the SWR and WNR, the food MEB cost was 22% and 17% lower than the national reference food MEB cost respectively.
- In October, the WFP cash transfer value only covered 41% of the food MEB cost (42% in the SWR and 40% in WNR).
- The food MEB cost was most expensive in Bidibidi (301,889 UGX) and Kiryandongo (293,268 UGX) settlements, where the WFP cash transfer value only covered 36% and 38% of the food MEB cost respectively. It was least expensive in Oruchinga (236,220 UGX) and Nakivale (238,083 UGX) settlements where the WFP transfer value covered 47% and 46% of the food MEB cost respectively.

Market Monitor – Refugee Hosting Areas

Refugee Settlement Price and Market Functionality Snapshot, 1-31 October 2020

UGANDA

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

Unless specified otherwise, the following results refer to a recall period of one week prior to data collection.

TRADER AND CUSTOMER BEHAVIOR

	% of interviewed traders reporting a change in the number of vendors: ⁹			Average numbers of customers per day reported by interviewed traders:		
Nationwide	INCREASE	5%	■	AUGUST	29	■
	DECREASE	9%	■	SEPTEMBER	20	■
	NO CHANGE	86%	■	OCTOBER	21	■
Southwest Region	INCREASE	2%	■	AUGUST	40	■
	DECREASE	13%	■	SEPTEMBER	21	■
	NO CHANGE	85%	■	OCTOBER	20	■
West Nile Region	INCREASE	7%	■	AUGUST	18	■
	DECREASE	7%	■	SEPTEMBER	20	■
	NO CHANGE	87%	■	OCTOBER	22	■

SAFETY

	% of interviewed traders reporting changes in perceptions of security relating to operating in their marketplace:			Top reported reasons by traders feeling more or less secure: ¹⁰		
Nationwide	LESS SECURE	3%	■	1	Increased awareness about health risks and appropriate behaviour	5%
	MORE SECURE	9%	■	2	Non compliance with official rules and regulations	2%
	NO DIFFERENCE	88%	■			
Southwest Region	LESS SECURE	8%	■	1	Increased presence of security personnel	15%
	MORE SECURE	21%	■	2	Non compliance with official rules and regulations	4%
	NO DIFFERENCE	71%	■			
West Nile Region	LESS SECURE	1%	■	1	Non compliance with official rules and regulations	1%
	MORE SECURE	3%	■	2	Appropriate behaviour of security personnel	2%
	NO DIFFERENCE	95%	■			

STOCK AND SUPPLY

	% of interviewed traders reporting difficulty in obtaining enough supply to meet demand:			% of interviewed traders reporting concern that their stocks will run out within one week following data collection:		
Nationwide	YES	14%	■	YES	23%	■
	NO	86%	■	NO	77%	■
Southwest Region	YES	19%	■	YES	11%	■
	NO	81%	■	NO	89%	■
West Nile Region	YES	12%	■	YES	28%	■
	NO	88%	■	NO	72%	■

PAYMENT AND LIQUIDITY

	% of interviewed traders accepting mobile money payments when data was collected:		
Nationwide	YES	52%	■
	NO	48%	■
Southwest Region	YES	68%	■
	NO	32%	■
West Nile Region	YES	45%	■
	NO	55%	■

- Supplier unable to provide enough 7%
- Other 3%
- Difficulty transporting items to market place 2%

Top 3 reasons why traders reported difficulty in obtaining enough supply to meet demand:¹¹

PREPARED BY: World Food Programme

ON BEHALF OF: Uganda Cash Working Group, Market Analysis Task Force

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9. Pre-COVID-19 week is considered the week before declaration of restrictions in Uganda (18th of March 2020).

10. This indicator refers to all the interviewed vendors. Respondents could select multiple response options.

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