INTRODUCTION

In an effort to inform cash-based interventions and better understand market dynamics in Libya, the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was created by the Libya Cash Working Group (CWG) in June 2017. The initiative is guided by the CWG Markets Taskforce, led by REACH and supported by the CWG members. It is funded by OFDA and UNHCR.

Markets in key urban areas across Libya are assessed on a monthly basis. In each location, field teams record prices and availability of basic food and non-food items (NFIs) sold in local shops and markets. This factsheet presents an overview of price ranges and availability of basic food and non-food items on a monthly basis. In each location, field teams record prices and availability of basic food and non-food items (NFIs) sold in local shops and markets.

This factsheet presents an overview of price ranges and medians for key food items and NFIs in the assessed locations, as well as the costs associated with key elements of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).

ASSESS LOCATIONS

KEY FINDINGS

- **Unofficial Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) prices in south Libya have doubled since January 2020.** The median price in the south of Libya for an 11-kg cylinder is 85 LYD, with some cities (Algatroun and Ghat) reaching up to 100 LYD. LPG prices in the west have increased by 21% from January to February 2020, adding up to a 114% increase from December 2019 to February 2020. However, there has been a 33% drop in LPG prices in the east. Overall in Libya, unofficial LPG prices in February 2020 were 350% more expensive than in January 2019.

- Fuel shortages can be attributed to the oil blockade implemented by eastern authorities on the 17th January. As of 18th February, Libyan oil production fell to 123,537 barrels per day (bpd) from 1.13 million in December 2019. Consequently Libya's largest oil refinery in Azzawaya stopped operating due to a lack of crude oil. This may have affected the supply of fuel to west and south Libyan markets, despite Libya's oil refining capacity only accounting for 25% of domestic fuel consumption.

- Fuel shortages mean that the population will have less access to subsidised fuel and must rely more on parallel markets. Additionally, many power stations are struggling to operate due to an insufficient supply of gas/fuel. This may lead to a greater number of power cuts in Libya.

- Some eastern cities have witnessed spikes in the cost of the food portion of the MEB. For example, the MEB's food portion has increased by 19.9% in Tobruk, 14.5% in Albayda, and 12.4% in Ejdabia. Cities in west Libya have also experienced similar increases in the cost of the food portion of the MEB, such as Tarhuna (11.9 %), Zliten (10.2%) and Bani Waleed (9.7%). This may be attributed to the recent rise in the parallel market exchange rate, where the USD/LYD rate has risen by 10.3% from December 2019 to February 2020.

- The General Authority for Communication and Informatics has announced that all affiliated communications companies shall decrease internet service prices by 50% from the beginning of March 2020.

MARKET SHORTAGES

- Fuel shortages reported in the west and south Libya

EXCHANGE RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currency Pair</th>
<th>Rate as of 8 February 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD/LYD</td>
<td>1.404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUR/LYD</td>
<td>4.370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUR/USD</td>
<td>4.650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data collection from 1 - 8 February 2020

4 participating agencies (ACTED, DRC, REACH, WFP)

32 assessed cities

34 assessed items

480 assessed shops
The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a six-person Libyan household for one month. The cost of the MEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households in different locations. The MEB’s contents were defined by the CWG in consultation with relevant sector leads. Only the MEB’s key elements (food and non-food items) were incorporated into the calculations in this factsheet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cost of MEB (LYD)</th>
<th>Since Jan 2020</th>
<th>Since Jan 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gharyan</td>
<td>621.9</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nalut</td>
<td>799.6</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghadamis</td>
<td>772.5</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashhashga</td>
<td>730.5</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>No data*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azzintan</td>
<td>728.0</td>
<td>-4.6%</td>
<td>-2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yefren</td>
<td>713.2</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>No data*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bani Walied</td>
<td>707.6</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripoli</td>
<td>706.2</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
<td>-6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Msalata</td>
<td>703.1</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>No data*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zillen</td>
<td>702.2</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarhuna</td>
<td>691.6</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sir</td>
<td>672.8</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>-4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janzour</td>
<td>666.8</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
<td>No data*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misrata</td>
<td>666.0</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>-21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median West</td>
<td>687.5</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>-7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobruk</td>
<td>728.8</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>-6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alkhums</td>
<td>842.6</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>-6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabratha</td>
<td>607.9</td>
<td>-2.0%</td>
<td>-20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azzawyia*</td>
<td>597.4</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
<td>-20.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median East</td>
<td>691.6</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>-11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alghatroun</td>
<td>1138.7</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghant</td>
<td>1099.8</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ubari</td>
<td>1087.0</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wadi Elba</td>
<td>890.9</td>
<td>-4.1%</td>
<td>No data*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ajufra</td>
<td>851.3</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>-6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sehha</td>
<td>785.1</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>-6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brak</td>
<td>744.5</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>-11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median South</td>
<td>906.0</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>-9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Overall</td>
<td>705.7</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>-8.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A lack of information is due to data collection beginning from March 2019 onwards.
Cost of MEB Key Elements by Location

- **Minimum cost:** 597 LYD (Azzawya)
- **Maximum cost:** 1184 LYD (Algatroun)

### Tripoli Area

- **Tripoli:** 1100 LYD
- **Janzour:** 667 LYD
- **Al Aziziya:** 608 LYD
- **Zwara:** 610 LYD
- **Azzawya:** 597 LYD
- **Azintan:** 728 LYD
- **Yefren:** 713 LYD
- **Gharian:** 822 LYD
- **Bani Waleed:** 708 LYD
- **Ashishga:** 731 LYD

### Other Locations

- **Derna:** 657 LYD
- **Benghazi:** 671 LYD
- **Tobruk:** 729 LYD
- **Albayda:** 699 LYD
- **Alkufra:** 724 LYD
- **Ejdabia:** 700 LYD
- **Ghadamis:** 772 LYD
- **Alkufra:** 724 LYD
- **Sirt:** 673 LYD
- **Ghadamis:** 772 LYD
- **Ubari:** 1087 LYD
- **Sebha:** 785 LYD
- **Wadi Etba:** 891 LYD

### Additional Information

- **MEB Cost:**
  - Maximum: 1184 LYD (Algatroun)
  - Minimum: 597 LYD (Azzawya)
## PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Median price (LYD)</th>
<th>Change since Jan 2020</th>
<th>Change since Jan 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food items</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickpeas</td>
<td>400 g</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>-30.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>3.44</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condensed milk</td>
<td>200 ml</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>-27.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black tea</td>
<td>250 g</td>
<td>5.50</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>-18.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>30 eggs</td>
<td>10.63</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>8.75</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>-5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couscous</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>-5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>400 g</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>-30.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>-26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb meat</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasta</td>
<td>500 g</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peppers</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato paste</td>
<td>400 g</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable oil</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>5 pieces</td>
<td>1.19</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
<td>-5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
<td>-7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green tea</td>
<td>250 g</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>-7.7%</td>
<td>-22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canned tuna</td>
<td>200 g</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>-11.3%</td>
<td>-31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hygiene items</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry detergent</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby diapers</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>-6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handwashing soap</td>
<td>1 bar</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary pads</td>
<td>10 pads</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shampoo</td>
<td>250 ml</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-32.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothbrush</td>
<td>1 brush</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry powder</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>6.69</td>
<td>-4.5%</td>
<td>-10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dishwashing liquid</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>-8.8%</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothpaste</td>
<td>100 ml</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>-22.2%</td>
<td>-41.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other items</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unofficial LPG</td>
<td>11 kg</td>
<td>45.00</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td>350.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official LPG</td>
<td>11 kg</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottled water</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FOOD PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, March 2019 = 1.00)

![Graph showing food prices over time](image)

## HYGIENE ITEM PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, March 2019 = 1.00)

![Graph showing hygiene item prices over time](image)

## PRICES FROM UNOFFICIAL COOKING FUEL VENDORS (11-KG LPG CYLINDER)

(since March 2019, non-normalised)

![Graph showing official and unofficial LPG prices](image)

## NOTABLE MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGES

- Unofficial LPG: ▲ +28.6%
- Toothpaste: ▼ -22.2%
- Chickpeas: ▲ +16.7%
- Milk: ▲ +14.6%
- Condensed Milk: ▲ +13.6%
Distribution of Prices in Libya

**FOOD ITEMS**

![Boxplot for Food Items]

**HYGIENE ITEMS**

![Boxplot for Hygiene Items]

**ITEMS WITH HIGHEST PRICES**

![Boxplot for Items with Highest Prices]

**How to read a boxplot**

- **Maximum location median in dataset (LYD)**
- **Upper quartile**: 25% of location medians are above this point
- **Overall median price across location medians (LYD)**
- **Change in overall median since previous month (LYD)**
- **Lower quartile**: 25% of location medians are below this point
- **Minimum location median in dataset (LYD)**

The ‘location median’ is calculated by first finding the median price of a given item in each assessed location, then taking the median of the resulting set of median prices.
Main Food and Fuel Supply Routes

This map indicates the source and flow of transported fuel and food products according to the shop owner and vendor key informants (KIs). The arrow sizes are determined by the quantity of responses and provide an indicative scale of the supply routes.

The routes show the flow of goods from mantika to mantika, but does not show the proportion of goods that are sourced locally.
Datasets
PREVIOUS JMMI OUTPUTS
Factsheets
Datasets
2020
January
January
2019
December
December
November
November
October
October
September
September
August
August
July
July
June
June
May
May
April
April
March
March
February
February
January
January
2018
December
December
November
November
October
October
September
September
August
August
July
July
June
June
May
May
April
April
March
March
February
February
January
January
Trends Analyses
January–June 2018
June–December 2017
MARK-UPS FOR ALTERNATIVE MODALITIES
E-cards (credit, debit) NA
Certified cheques 0-30%
Mobile money 0%

What is the CWG?
The Libya Cash Working Group (CWG), established in August 2016, is a community of humanitarian actors that support and coordinate cash-based interventions in Libya. The CWG, based jointly in Tripoli and Tunis, is currently led by UNHCR and co-led by Mercy Corps.

Methodology (cont. from page 1)
The methodology for the JMMI is based on purposive sampling. In each assessed market, at least four prices per item need to be collected from different shops to ensure the quality and consistency of collected data. Partner field teams, in coordination with the CWG, identify shops to assess based on the following criteria:

1. Shops need to be large enough to sell all or most assessed items.
2. Prices in these shops need to be good indicators of the general price levels in the assessed area.
3. Shops should be located in different areas within the assessed city or baladiya.

In locations where it is not possible to identify four large markets that fulfil criterion (1), smaller shops, such as grocery shops, vegetable vendors, butchers and bakeries, are added to the shop list, as long as they fit criteria (2) and (3), in order to guarantee at least four prices per item of interest. Each month, price data is collected from the same shops whenever possible to ensure comparability across months.

The CWG primarily targets urban areas throughout Libya, aiming to ensure coverage of markets that serve as commercial hubs for surrounding regions.

Data is collected via the KoBo mobile data collection application. The CWG maintains a joint KoBo account for the JMMI. The data collection tool is published alongside the dataset every month and disseminated to the humanitarian community.

Analyses
The median prices reported in this factsheet are 'location medians', designed to minimise the effects of outliers and differing amounts of data among assessed locations. First, the median prices of all assessed items are calculated within each assessed location (city or mahalla); then, REACH calculates the median of this list of medians. All boxplots, as well as MEB and price index calculations, are created using this method.

The cost of the MEB is calculated by multiplying the median price of each item in the MEB's 'Key Elements' section by the quantity listed in the table on page 2. In cases where no median price is available for an item in a particular location, the median price for that item across the region (west, east, or south) is substituted.

Challenges and limitations
• Price data is only indicative for the time frame within which it was collected. Prices may vary during the weeks between adjacent data collection rounds.
• The data is only indicative of the general price levels in each assessed location. Representativeness on the manika (district) level cannot be claimed. Even on the city level, price data must be interpreted with caution, particularly in larger cities with substantial variation in neighbourhoods’ socioeconomic levels.
• The JMMI data collection tool requires enumerators to record the cheapest available price for each item, but does not require a specific brand, as brand availability may vary. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slight variants of the same product.
• The JMMI does not intend to measure general inflation levels on Libyan markets. As per JMMI methodology, only the cheapest available price per item is collected, meaning that changes in middle-market and upmarket goods are not captured.

Endnotes
1 Libya faces ‘catastrophic financial crisis’ due to oil blockade, Al Jazeera, 16 February 2020
2 Libya oil production at 122,537 bpd as of Feb.18 – NOC statement, Reuters, 18th February 2020
3 Libya’s Al Zawiyah stops refining operations due to lack of crude, February 9th 2020
4 Libya: rich in oil, leaking fuel, Tim Eaton, Chatham House, October 2019
5 Weekly Energy: Economic and Geopolitical Outlook, MEES, 24th January 2020
6 Libya internet prices reduced by 50 percent, Libya Herald, 23rd February
7 Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (1 February 2020), Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 February 2020). The rates from 1 January 2020 and 1 February 2020 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.
8 The cooking fuel price is calculated by taking the average of the official LPG median and the unofficial LPG median
9 The optional Elements’ section of the MEB includes basic expenditures that are incurred by some, but not all, Libyan households, as well as expenditures that extend beyond basic survival and dignity needs. They are not included in the JMMI’s MEB calculations.
10 The ‘Optional Elements’ section of the MEB includes basic expenditures that are incurred by some, but not all, Libyan households, as well as expenditures that extend beyond basic survival and dignity needs. They are not included in the JMMI’s MEB calculations.
11 The MEB price index was normalised by setting March 2019 as the baseline and dividing each month’s price by the price in March 2019.
12 The food prices were normalised by setting March 2019 as the baseline and dividing each month’s price by the price in March 2019.
13 The hygiene prices were normalised by setting March 2019 as the baseline and dividing each month’s price by the price in March 2019.
14 The fuel, food and hygiene prices were normalised by setting March 2019 as the baseline.

REACH is a program of ACTED. It strengthens evidence based decision-making by humanitarian actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis in contexts of crisis.
ACTED is an international NGO, independent, private and non-profit. ACTED respects a strict political and religious impartiality, and operates following principles of non-discrimination, and transparency.
Since 1997, ACTED has been providing humanitarian aid and has supported civil society and local governance throughout Libya from its offices in Tripoli, Sebha and Benghazi.