**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 1,425,040 refugees as of 30 June 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 15 - 31 July 2020. Data was collected in person and loose items purchased and weighted where possible. Nakivale and Oruchinga settlements remained inaccessible for WFP data collectors. Data for these settlements was collected remotely, using the mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) phone-based survey system. Key informants were purposively sampled, meaning the findings are not representative of all traders.

**MARKET FUNCTIONALITY**

- At the national level, most traders (62%) reported that the number of vendors has not changed compared to the previous month. More vendors in the WNR (25%) reported an increase compared to vendors in the WNR (9%).

- The newly introduced indicator tracking the number of mobile money and banking agents shows that interviewed traders reported significantly more agents in settlements of the SWR (30%) compared to the ones of the WNR (9%).

- At the national level, the reported average number of customers received per day by interviewed vendors during the last week was 23. However, the regional breakdown shows that traders from SWR reported a higher number of customers (33) than those of WNR (19).

- Twenty-four percent of interviewed traders reported difficulties in meeting demand. However, in the SWR only 8% of the traders reported difficulties, while in the WNR the proportion is higher (32%).

- A low proportion (4%) of the traders in the SWR reported difficulties concerning about their stocks running out. The national figure (22%) is driven by traders of the WNR, 31% of which reported being concerned by stocks.

- There is a slight decrease as compared to the previous round in the proportion of traders of the SWR reporting feeling more secure in operating in the market (from 45% to 35%).

**KEY CHALLENGES**

- **Top 3 challenges reported by traders**:
  1. Increased price of transportation: 19%
  2. Price fluctuation of commodities: 19%
  3. Lack of cash to purchase more stock: 15%

**FURTHER RESOURCES**

To see further detail on MEB calculation methodology, [click here](#). A full data set with commodity prices can be provided upon request.

---

2. For analysis purposes, the 13 refugee settlement locations have been aggregated to two regions: West Nile (Palorinya, Pajok, Bidi Bidi, Imvepi, Rhino Camp, Lira, Adjumani, Kanyandongo 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

Uganda Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

Food Items (monthly)
- Maize flour: 44 kg
- Beans: 27 kg
- Sorghum grain: 8 kg
- Oil: 4 L
- Milk: 2 L

Non-Food Items (monthly)
- Laundry soap: 2.25 kg
- Firewood: 165 kg

Other Components (monthly)
- Water*: 3,750 UGX
- Education**: 22,667 UGX
- Health*: 2,669 UGX
- Lighting*: 5,000 UGX

Other Items (once per year)
- Reusable sanitary pads: 8 pc
- Jerry can (20 L): 2 pc
- Jerry can (5 L): 1 pc
- Bucket with lid: 1 pc
- Blanket: 5 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.

Refugee Settlement Price and Market Functionality Snapshot, 15-31 July 2020

Settlements with the least expensive average full MEB costs:
1. Imvepi
2. Palorinya
3. Rhino Camp

Settlements with the most expensive average full MEB costs:
1. Kyaka II
2. Kiryandongo
3. Kyangwali

Full MEB cost percentage change since March (left) and last round (right):
- Adjumani: -19% +1%
- Bidibidi: -17% +8%
- Imvepi: +4% -8%
- Kiryandongo: -3% +8%
- Lobule: +4% +7%
- Kyaka II: +2% +15%
- Kyangwali: -20% +15%
- Nakivale: +16% +5%
- Oruchinga: +2% +11%
- Palabek: -5% +5%
- Palorinya: -25% -2%
- Rhino Camp: +17% +1%
- Rwamwanja: -1% +8%

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.
## Market Monitor – Refugee Hosting Areas

### Refugee Settlement Price and Market Functionality Snapshot, 15-31 July 2020

### COMMODITY PRICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item (unit)</th>
<th>Nationwide</th>
<th>Southwest</th>
<th>South West Nile Region</th>
<th>Adjumani</th>
<th>Bidiibidi</th>
<th>Imvepi</th>
<th>Kiryandongo</th>
<th>Kyangwali</th>
<th>Loboke</th>
<th>Nakivale</th>
<th>Onublinga</th>
<th>Palabek</th>
<th>Palorinya</th>
<th>Rhino Camp</th>
<th>Rwamaggi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize flour (1 kg)</td>
<td>2323</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-0%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>-6%</td>
<td>-6%</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish (smoked, 1kg)</td>
<td>18153</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>+11%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans (mixed, 1kg)</td>
<td>3110</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorghum grain (1kg)</td>
<td>1273</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking oil (1 litre)</td>
<td>5788</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh cassava* (1 kg)</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking salt (500g)</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leafy greens* (1kg)</td>
<td>1578</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk (1 litre)</td>
<td>1535</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firewood (1kg)</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry soap (1kg)</td>
<td>3299</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underwear (1 piece)</td>
<td>2915</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big jerry can (20L, 1 piece)</td>
<td>6879</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry cells (1 packet)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposable torch (1 packet)</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millet flour (1kg)</td>
<td>3326</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize grain (kg)</td>
<td>1017</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charcoal* (1kg)</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 in litres or kg, but can be estimated based on local usage. Therefore, they are 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. If price data is not collected, the price table above shows the latest 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 MEI item prices in the Uganda response since June 2020, the methodology was adjusted to report average commodity prices.

6. One United States Dollar (USD) was equivalent to 1,347 Uganda Shillings (UGS) on 2nd August 2020, according to

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 MEI 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 FUNCTIONALITY

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

#### TRADER AND CUSTOMER BEHAVIOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
<th>No Change</th>
<th>% of interviewed traders reporting a change in the number of vendors in their marketplace vs pre-COVID-19 week:9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>Current Week 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Region</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Nile Region</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>Current Week 19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### STOCK AND SUPPLY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>% of interviewed traders reporting difficulty in obtaining enough supply to meet demand:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Region</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Nile Region</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### PAYMENT AND LIQUIDITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>% of interviewed traders accepting mobile money payments when data was collected:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Region</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Nile Region</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top reported reasons by traders for feeling more or less secure:**10

1. Non compliance with official rules and regulations: 43%
2. Increased awareness about health risks and appropriate behaviour: 23%

#### SAFETY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Less Secure</th>
<th>More Secure</th>
<th>No Difference</th>
<th>% of interviewed traders reporting changes in perceptions of security relating to operating in their marketplace:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Region</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Nile Region</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. Supplier unable to provide enough: 57%
2. Can no longer obtain items due to restrictions: 24%
3. Difficulty transporting items to marketplace: 19%

---

9. Pre-COVID-19 week is considered the week before declaration of restriction in Uganda (18th of March 2020)
10. This indicator refers to the subset of traders who reported feeling more or less secure respectively. Respondents could select multiple response options.
11. This indicator refers to the subset of traders who reported difficulties in meeting demand. Respondents could select multiple response options.

For more information on this factsheet please contact: Anders Petersson, WFP, anders.petersson@wfp.org or REACH Uganda, uganda@reach-initiative.org