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 & Markets Working Group (CMWG) in June 2017. The initiative is led by REACH and supported by the CMWG members. It is funded by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (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 medians for key food items and NFIs in the assessed areas, as well as the costs associated with key elements of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).

REACH has also conducted analysis highlighting economic vulnerability for at-risk population groups that can be accessed through an interactive dashboard.

COVERAGE

KEY FINDINGS
• The cost of the MEB fell across the country between June - July 2020 (-3.7%), especially in the west (-6.9%) and south (-5.6%). However, the MEB in July was still 8.0% higher than pre-COVID levels in March 2020 - see page 2 for a detailed price breakdown.
• The drop in the MEB for Libya overall was driven by a 43% reduction in unofficial fuel prices and an increase in official fuel vendors facilitated by the National Oil Company (NOC). In June 2020, 17/33 cities reported that official fuel was available, compared to 24/33 in July 2020. This has been attributed to a continuing crackdown on smuggling, particularly in the south; as the Fezzan Libyan Organisation (FLO) reported on 25th July 2020, “government priced petrol is becoming more available in Sebha after tougher restrictions on smugglers and more petrol is sent to the South”. Nonetheless, the JMMI July data collection reveals that southern unofficial prices for cooking fuel (+390%) and gasoline (+100%) are still disproportionately more expensive than in the rest of Libya.
• During JMMI price observation, enumerators reported that authorities in Bani Walid and Tarhuna were distributing free fuel to its inhabitants, in order to partially compensate for the 13-month fuel shortages.
• The discussion of lifting the fuel subsidies has been revived for the 13-month fuel shortages.
• The market impact of removing fuel subsidies and implementing direct cash transfers will need to be closely monitored.
• The lifting of the fuel subsidies will help stifle smuggling, rationalise consumption and liberate resources to create a “deliberate social security umbrella”.
• According to Kis, fuel subsidies disproportionately benefit households from higher socio-economic standing, due to larger ownership of fuel powered machinery and motor vehicles. The economic impact of removing fuel subsidies and implementing direct cash transfers will need to be closely monitored.
• The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) announced the finalisation of the international audit process for both the western and eastern central banks.

MARKET SHORTAGES
• None reported

REACH
Informing more effective humanitarian action

Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)
1 - 9 July 2020

Libya Cash Working Group

JMMI KEY FIGURES
Data collection from 1 - 9 July 2020
- 3 participating agencies (DRC, REACH, WFP)
- 33 assessed cities
- 45 assessed items
- 556 assessed shops

EXCHANGE RATES
1.406 USD/LYD
5.590 EUR/LYD
6.150 USD/LYD
-0.5% official
-0.5% parallel market
-9.7% parallel market
-7.5% parallel market

KEY MONTHLY CHANGES IN MEB
Median monthly cost of MEB
-681.07 LYD
-5.6%
-5.6%
-5.6%

Food items
Cooking fuel
-43%
-39%
-39%

MEDIAN COST OF MEB BY REGION

West
685.2 LYD
-5.6%

East
710.9 LYD
-6.9%

South
890.6 LYD
-5.1%

MARKET SHORTAGES
• None reported

Access the JMMI online dashboard
**MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (MEB)**

**Key Elements: Food Items**
- Bread: 32 kg
- Rice: 10.5 kg
- Pasta: 9.5 kg
- Couscous: 5.5 kg
- Beans: 6 kg
- Chicken: 7.5 kg
- Tuna: 4 kg
- Eggs: 4 kg
- Milk: 8.5 L

**Cost of MEB (LYD)**
- Since May 2020
- Since March 2019

**Location** | **Cost of MEB (LYD)** | **Since May 2020** | **Since March 2019**
--- | --- | --- | ---
Ghadamis | 834.6 | 7.3% | 20.8%
Azzintan | 822.8 | 1.8% | 22.2%
Ghinyan | 808.1 | -1.0% | 15.5%
Aaalghgega | 721.5 | -13.2% | 10.8%
Nalut | 712.3 | 5.8% | 0.8%
Yefren | 688.2 | -7.4% | 1.1%
Azzawya | 673.4 | 7.1% | 4.0%
Tarhuna | 670.1 | -20.2% | 5.2%
Msallata | 669.8 | -5.3% | 13.6%
Zwara | 665.4 | -7.1% | 0.3%
Zliten | 656.7 | 5.1% | 0.3%
Sabratha | 652.3 | -13.2% | 10.8%
Sirt | 648.8 | -4.6% | 11.3%
Nalut | 640.5 | -20.2% | 5.2%
Bani Waleed | 632.1 | -7.5% | 2.1%
Al Aziziya | 615.0 | -22.9% | 1.9%
Alkhums | 608.0 | -10.5% | -6.7%
Msallata | 584.0 | -16.5% | -7.6%
Zliten | 578.0 | -8.5% | -9.3%
Benghaz | 701.7 | -6.0% | 15.9%
Alkufra | 697.6 | -7.1% | 3.3%
Derna | 686.2 | -1.7% | 14.5%
Tobruk | 682.4 | -3.0% | 10.3%
Alkufra | 673.0 | -0.9% | 10.0%
Median West | 663.2 | -6.9% | 2.9%
Median East | 680.9 | -0.1% | 11.0%
Median South | 691.1 | -5.6% | 12.7%
Median Overall | 681.1 | -3.7% | 1.7%

**Optional Elements**
- Water (drinking use only)
- 458 L

**Median rent for 3-rm flat**
- 1 month

**Median Overall MEB** 681.07 LYD

**EXCHANGE RATES OVER TIME**

**MEB PRICE INDEX**

Since August 2019 (normalised, August 2019 = 1.00)

**COST OF MEDIAN OVERALL MEB**

681.07 LYD

**Change since June 2020**
- ▼ -25.97 LYD (-3.7%)

**Change since March 2019**
- ▲ +26.17 LYD (+1.7%)
Cost of MEB Key Elements by Location

MEB Cost
- Maximum cost: 1411 LYD (Ubari)
- Minimum cost: 578 LYD (Alkhums)

Tripoli Area
- Zwara 665 LYD
- Azzawya 673 LYD
- Al-Aziziya 584 LYD
- Azzintan 823 LYD
- Sabratha 655 LYD
- Yefren 688 LYD
- Gharyan 808 LYD
- Ashshgega 721 LYD
- Tripoli 632 LYD
- Alkhums 578 LYD
- Khoms 549 LYD
- Misrata 641 LYD
- Bani Waleed 615 LYD
- Tarhuna 670 LYD
- Msallata 670 LYD
- Zliten 657 LYD
- Ghadamis 835 LYD
- Ghat 1407 LYD
- Nalut 712 LYD
- Sirt 649 LYD
- Tobruk 682 LYD
- Derna 590 LYD
- Tobruk 682 LYD
- Al-Marj 686 LYD
- Al-Bayda 673 LYD
- Tobruk 682 LYD

Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI): 1 - 9 July 2020
Libya Cash Working Group
PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS

Food items
- Green tea: 250 g, 4.00 (LYD), 3.2% change since May 2020, 14.3% change since March 2019
- Chicken: 1 kg, 10.25 (LYD), 2.5% change since May 2020, 13.9% change since March 2019
- Black tea: 250 g, 6.06 (LYD), 1.0% change since May 2020, -4.9% change since March 2019
- Bread: 5 pieces, 1.25 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 0.0% change since March 2019
- Condensed milk: 200 ml, 2.50 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 12.4% change since March 2019
- Eggs: 30 eggs, 10.25 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 12.4% change since March 2019

Hygiene items
- Hand Sanitiser: 1 L, 24.13 (LYD), 9.7% change since May 2020, no data
- Toothpaste: 100 ml, 4.00 (LYD), 3.2% change since May 2020, -20.0% change since March 2019
- Dishwashing liquid: 1 L, 3.00 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 100.0% change since March 2019
- Handwashing soap: 1 bar, 1.50 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, -25.0% change since March 2019
- Sanitary pads: 10 pads, 3.50 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 16.7% change since March 2019
- Baby diapers: 30, 15.38 (LYD), -3.9% change since May 2020, -3.9% change since March 2019
- Laundry detergent: 1 L, 2.75 (LYD), -8.3% change since May 2020, 111.5% change since March 2019
- Toothbrush: 1 brush, 2.25 (LYD), -10.0% change since May 2020, -10.0% change since March 2019
- Bleach: 1 L, 9.33 (LYD), -12.6% change since May 2020, no data
- Shampoo: 250 ml, 5.00 (LYD), -16.7% change since May 2020, -16.7% change since March 2019
- Laundry powder: 1 kg, 5.00 (LYD), -33.3% change since May 2020, -28.6% change since March 2019

Other items
- Water: 1 L, 0.29 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 0.0% change since March 2019

PRICES OF FUEL AND HEALTH ITEMS

Fuel items
- Official LPG: 11 kg, 5.00 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 0.0% change since March 2019
- Unofficial LPG: 11 kg, 25.50 (LYD), -43.3% change since May 2020, 70.0% change since March 2019
- Official Gasoline: 1 litre, 0.15 (LYD), no data
- Unofficial Gasoline: 1 litre, 0.14 (LYD), no data

Pharmaceutical items
- Paracetamol: 500 mg (12 pack), 6.00 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, -11.1% change since March 2020
- Ibuprofen: 400 mg (20 pack), 6.13 (LYD), 11.4%* change since May 2020, no data
- Vitamin B: 40 mg (40 pack), 12.00 (LYD), 17.1%* change since May 2020, no data
- Amoxicillin: 500 mg (21 pack), 9.63 (LYD), 6.9%* change since May 2020, no data
- Metoclopramide: 10 mg (40 pack), 11.42 (LYD), 14.2%* change since May 2020, no data
* Due to a lack of data, the comparison month is March 2020

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

(since August 2019, non-normalised)

Food items
- Chicken: 1 kg, 40.00 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 29.0% change since March 2019
- Lamb meat: 1 kg, 40.00 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 28.0% change since March 2019
- Onions: 1 kg, 2.50 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 11.1% change since March 2019
- Peppers: 1 kg, 2.50 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 10.0% change since March 2019
- Flour: 1 kg, 3.00 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 0.0% change since March 2019
- Chickpeas: 400 g, 1.50 (LYD), -25.0% change since May 2020, -33.3% change since March 2019

Other items
- Laundry powder: 1 kg, 5.00 (LYD), -33.3% change since May 2020, -28.6% change since March 2019
- Water: 1 L, 0.29 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 0.0% change since March 2019

HYGIENE ITEM PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, August 2019 = 1.00)
- Hand Sanitiser: 1 L, 24.13 (LYD), 9.7% change since May 2020, no data
- Toothpaste: 100 ml, 4.00 (LYD), 3.2% change since May 2020, -20.0% change since March 2019
- Dishwashing liquid: 1 L, 3.00 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 100.0% change since March 2019
- Handwashing soap: 1 bar, 1.50 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, -25.0% change since March 2019
- Sanitary pads: 10 pads, 3.50 (LYD), 0.0% change since May 2020, 16.7% change since March 2019
- Baby diapers: 30, 15.38 (LYD), -3.9% change since May 2020, -3.9% change since March 2019
- Laundry detergent: 1 L, 2.75 (LYD), -8.3% change since May 2020, 111.5% change since March 2019
- Toothbrush: 1 brush, 2.25 (LYD), -10.0% change since May 2020, -10.0% change since March 2019
- Bleach: 1 L, 9.33 (LYD), -12.6% change since May 2020, no data
- Shampoo: 250 ml, 5.00 (LYD), -16.7% change since May 2020, -16.7% change since March 2019
- Laundry powder: 1 kg, 5.00 (LYD), -33.3% change since May 2020, -28.6% change since March 2019

NOTABLE MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGES

- Unofficial LPG: ▼ -43.3%
- Laundry Powder: ▼ -33.3%
- Chickpeas: ▼ -25.0%
- Shampoo: ▼ -16.7%
- Bleach: ▼ -12.6%
Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI): 1 - 9 July 2020

Distribution of Prices in Libya

**FOOD ITEMS**

**HYGIENE ITEMS**

**ITEMS WITH HIGHEST PRICES**

**How to read a boxplot**

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.

**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)**

How to read a boxplot:

- **Price (LYD)**: The price range is shown on the y-axis.
- **Location medians**: Each box represents the range of location medians for a specific item.
- **Median**: The line inside the box indicates the median price.
- **Interquartile Range (IQR)**: The box shows the middle 50% of the data.
- **Outliers**: Individual points outside the range indicate outliers.

The location median is calculated by finding the median price of a given item in each assessed location, then taking the median of the resulting set of median prices.
Rent Monitoring - Tripoli District

Introduction

Ever since the onset of the conflict in and around Tripoli and Murzuk in April 2019, Tripoli has been a key displacement destination for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), with the municipalities of Suq Aljuma, Hai Andalus, and Tajoura particularly hosting an estimated 71% of the approximate 108,003 IDPs in the region.14 When arriving in Tripoli, IDPs typically seek to enter the rental market – with 60% of IDPs reporting to live in rented accommodation as of April 2020.15 REACH is therefore exploring rent monitoring as part of the JMMI, in order to provide humanitarian actors with a more accurate overview of key expenditures facing IDPs in Tripoli. For more information please refer to the JMMI June 2020.

Methodology

From May 2020, REACH extracted prices on a daily basis from the website ‘Open Souq’. In July 2020, 1958 rental prices were collected in Tripoli and Benghazi. In order to standardise property prices, key features were isolated through consultation with KIs to identify the average apartment specification for typical households in Tripoli and Benghazi. The average apartment for typical households was found to be a furnished, 3-bedroom apartment with 1 bathroom. All rental prices presented in this report have been standardised to this accommodation type. Benghazi consists of only one municipality, therefore neighbourhoods were grouped together to 11 areas in the city.

Tripoli - Municipality Level

Hai Alandalus 2174 LYD
Tripoli 2355 LYD
Abusliem 2000 LYD
Suq Aljuma 2181 LYD
Ain Zara 1855 LYD
Janzour 2168 LYD

Median rent price
Max.: 2355 LYD
Min.: 1855 LYD

Frontline 1/6/20

Benghazi - Neighborhood Level

1:300,000

Median rent price
Max.: 2499 LYD
Min.: 1707 LYD

Location | Stand. price (LYD) | Since June 2020 |
--- | --- | --- |
Abusliem | 2000 | -9.1% |
Ain Zara | 1855 | -19.6% |
Hai Alandalus | 2174 | -8.3% |
Janzour | 2168 | +2.9% |
Suq Aljuma | 2181 | -12.1% |
Tajoura | 2000 | -5.3% |
Tripoli Center | 2355 | -13.5% |
Tripoli Overall | 2168 | -5.0% |
Benghazi Overall | 2056 | No data |

Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI): 1 - 9 July 2020
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 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.
Appendix

PREVIOUS JMMI OUTPUTS

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MARK-UPS FOR ALTERNATIVE MODALITIES

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<td>E-cards (credit, debit)</td>
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<td>Mobile money</td>
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What is the CMWG?

The Libya Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG), 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 prices. 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 prices. The CWG, 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 mantika (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 Fezzan Libya Org, Twitter, 25th July 2020
2 Enumerators collection data for the JMMI in Bani Walid and Tarhuna
4 Libya’s Economic Reform Scheme proposes reforms for the country’s fuel subsidies, Libya Herald, 27th July 2020
5 Stephanie Williams announces finalization of process to initiate the international audit of Libya Central Bank branches, 28th July 2020
6 Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (1 July 2020), Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 July 2020). The rates from 1 March 2020 and 1 July 2020 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.
7 The cooking fuel price is calculated by taking the average of the official LPG median and the unofficial LPG median.
8 Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (1 July 2020), Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 July 2020). The rates from 1 March 2020 and 1 July 2020 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.
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 20% float includes expenses on healthcare, medicine, education, utilities, transportation, and communications.
11 The MEB price index was normalised by setting August 2019 as the baseline and dividing each month’s price by the price in August 2019.
12 The food prices were normalised by setting August 2019 as the baseline and dividing each month’s price by the price in August 2019.
13 The hygiene prices were normalised by setting August 2019 as the baseline and dividing each month’s price by the price in August 2019.
14 Libya IOD and Returnee March - April 2020, DTM IOM, June 2020
15 Ibid.

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 2011, ACTED has been providing humanitarian aid and has supported civil society and local governance throughout Libya, from its offices in Tripoli, Sebha and Benghazi.