



INTRODUCTION

The Rapid Market Monitoring Initiative (RMMI) was launched by REACH in collaboration with the Food Security Sector (FSS) and the Cash Working Group (CWG) to support humanitarian actors providing cash and voucher assistance (CVA), especially in adjusting the response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Northeast Nigeria.

In Northeast Nigeria, food prices are collected on a monthly basis by the World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian organizations based on their programmatic needs. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, FSS set up a COVID-19 taskforce in collaboration with REACH and other CVA partners to monitor prices of critical household items on a fortnightly⁴ basis due to the rapid nature of the pandemic, and its negative effects on market systems and the movement of goods and services.

The RMMI will collect prices for fuel, water and critical non-food items (NFI), including all the components of the Food Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB). In addition, indicators specific to the COVID-19 crisis and its potential impact on markets are now being tracked on a fortnightly basis from May 2020 onwards.

Food SMEB Items Price Tracking: Fortnightly (NGN)

Items	17 Jun 2020 ⁷	30 Jun 2020 ⁷	% change
Cost of Food SMEB*	21,787	22,319	2%
Local rice (22.5 kg)	8,212	9,033	10%
Maize (37.5 kg)	6,904	6,128	11%
White beans (11.25 kg)	2,363	2,363	0%
Palm oil (1.5 L)	750	938	25%
Groundnut oil (3 L)	1,700	1,830	8%
Groundnuts (2.25 kg)	818	920	13%
Sugar (1.5 kg)	692	692	0%
Salt (0.75 kg)	144	105	27%
Onion (1.2 kg)	203	309	52%

*Contains the items listed below it. The cost of the Food SMEB is for a household of size 5

Exchange rate (NGN/USD)

Exchange Rate ¹	17 Jun 2020 ⁷	30 Jun 2020 ⁷	% change
Official rate	387	388	0.3%

KEY FINDINGS: 29 JUNE - 07 JULY, 2020

- The cost of the food SMEB in Maiduguri and Jere LGAs was **22,319** naira during the week of 29 June - 07 July 2020.
- The cost of the food SMEB increased by **2%** during the week of 29 June - 07 July 2020 when compared to 16-20 June 2020.
- The rise in cost of the food SMEB was predominantly driven by rise in prices of four items, namely local rice, groundnut, groundnut oil and palm oil.
- Among the interviewed vendors, **51%** reported not being aware of or adhering to the government mandated market restrictions even though the federal government mandated guidelines have been in effect since 2nd of June.²
- Fuel vendors reported a **15%** drop in diesel prices. This was primarily driven by a slump in demand due to COVID-19 restrictions.

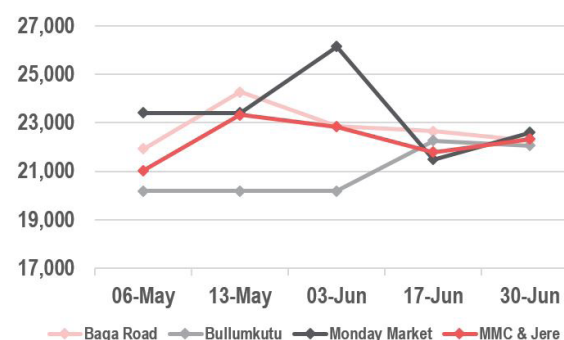
COVID-19 MARKET INDICATORS

Of the **102** respondents surveyed, **1%** of vendors stated that they were limiting the number of certain items sold per household in order to prevent shortages.

Top 3 reported COVID-19 precautions taken by vendors³

Customer handwashing stations	67%	<div><div></div></div>
Compulsory masks for customers	51%	<div><div></div></div>
Antibacterial gel for customers	11%	<div><div></div></div>

Cost of the Food SMEB over time (NGN)



METHODOLOGY

Data was remotely collected through interviews with vendor key informants (KIs) purposively sampled across three major markets in Maiduguri and Jere LGAs. The key markets were chosen in consultation with all participating partners from the Food Security Sector (FSS) COVID-19 Taskforce. The cost of the food SMEB for the overall LGA is computed by considering the median of individual market's food SMEB costs. Variation in the cost of the food SMEB is computed against prices collected during the previous fortnightly⁴ data collection. Findings are indicative for the assessed location and time frame in which the data was collected.

RMMI WEEKLY FIGURES

Data collection **29th June - 07th July**
3 markets assessed
102 vendor KIs surveyed
19 key commodities being tracked

Top 3 reported market access barriers for community members³

No barriers	55%	<div><div></div></div>
Low purchasing power	43%	<div><div></div></div>
Fear of COVID-19	2%	<div><div></div></div>

Top 3 reported government regulations on vendors due to COVID-19³

No regulations	51%	<div><div></div></div>
Restricted number of customers	30%	<div><div></div></div>
Restricted opening hours	12%	<div><div></div></div>

Reported change in customer shopping frequency due to COVID-19 restrictions

Decreased	35%
Stayed the same	39%
Increased	26%





MARKET INDICATORS AND PRICES

Median commodity prices per market, 29 June - 07 July 2020 (NGN)

Market	Petrol (1 L)	Diesel (1 L)	Untreated water (20 L)	Hand sanitizer (100 ml)	PPE mask (1 unit)	Bathing soap (60 g)	Laundry soap (200 g)	Sanitary pads (pack of 8)	Charcoal (1 kg)	Firewood (1 small bundle)	Local rice (1 kg)	Maize (1 kg)	White beans (1 kg)	Palm oil (1 L)	Groundnut oil (1 L)	Groundnuts (1 kg)	Sugar (1 kg)	Salt (1 kg)	Onion (1 kg)	Food SMEB Cost
Baga Road	N/A ⁵	N/A ⁵	13	550	200	60	115	300	77	88	401	161	210	625	667	409	462	140	135	22,257
Bullamkutu	N/A ⁵	N/A ⁵	7	290	250	62	115	375	38	100	401	163	185	708	610	364	462	140	258	22,058
Monday	N/A ⁵	N/A ⁵	N/A ⁶	370	150	50	120	400	38	100	438	165	210	471	471	409	462	140	287	22,598
Overall (Maiduguri & Jere LGA)	124	188	N/A	370	200	60	115	375	38	100	401	163	210	625	610	409	462	140	258	22,319

Average reported remaining stock and restocking time (days)

Items	Days Of Stock Remaining	# Days Needed To Restock
Authorised diesel	4	4
Authorised petrol	10	4
Untreated water	1	1
Hand sanitizer	7	1
PPE mask	10	1
Bathing soap	7	1
Laundry soap	6	1
Sanitary pads	7	1
Charcoal	5	2
Firewood	7	2
Local rice	4	1
Maize	4	3
White beans	5	1
Palm oil	4	1
Groundnut oil	4	1
Groundnut	4	2
Sugar	3	1
Salt	7	1
Onion	3	1

Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for food vendors³

Price inflation	90%	<div></div>
Transport route insecurity	24%	<div></div>
Vendor liquidity shortage	10%	<div></div>

Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for water vendors³

No barriers	88%	<div></div>
Vendor liquidity shortage	12%	<div></div>

Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for NFI vendors³

Price inflation	91%	<div></div>
Transport route insecurity	29%	<div></div>
Vendor liquidity shortage	5%	<div></div>

Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for authorised fuel vendors³

No barriers	50%	<div></div>
Price inflation	50%	<div></div>
Transport route insecurity	50%	<div></div>

Top 3 reported financing barriers for vendors³

Vendors have limited cash	88%	<div></div>
No barriers	11%	<div></div>
Creditors have limited cash	9%	<div></div>

ABOUT REACH'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

As an initiative deployed in many vulnerable and crisis-affected countries, REACH is deeply concerned by the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the millions of affected people we seek to serve. REACH is currently working with Cash Working Groups and partners to scale up its programming in response to this pandemic, with the goal of identifying practical ways to inform humanitarian responses in the countries where we operate. COVID-19-relevant market monitoring and market assessments are a key area where REACH aims to leverage its existing expertise to help humanitarian actors understand the impact of changing restrictions on markets and trade. Updates regarding REACH's response to COVID-19 can be found in [a devoted thread](#) on the REACH website. Contact geneva@impact-initiatives.org for further information.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Average exchange for 30th June 2020 reported in [XE.com](#).
- ² The Nigeria Center for Disease Control published ([NCDC](#)) COVID-19 related regulations and guidelines for businesses and employers.
- ³ Values do not add up to 100% as vendor KIs were allowed to select multiple options.
- ⁴ The price monitoring started as a weekly exercise, but after the drawdown of the lockdown measures from May 13th, REACH along with the FSS taskforce decided to conduct the price monitoring on fortnightly basis.
- ⁵ Authorised fuel vendor shops are outside the 3 assessed markets. Hence reported fuel prices are the median prices at the LGA level.
- ⁶ Most of the water vendors in the monday market were non operational.
- ⁷ Dates depicted in the comparison section are listed as the Tuesday on which data collection was conducted.