

Market Monitor – Refugee Hosting Areas

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

UGANDA

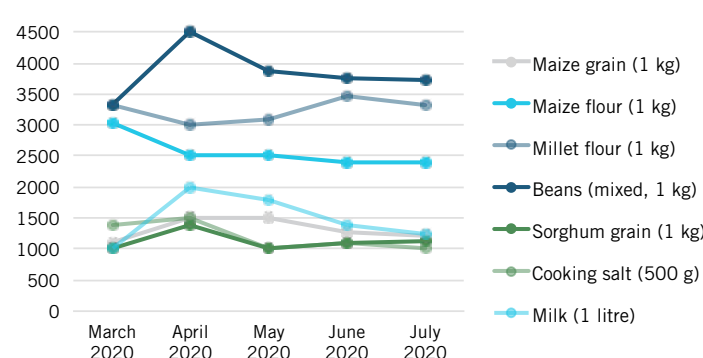
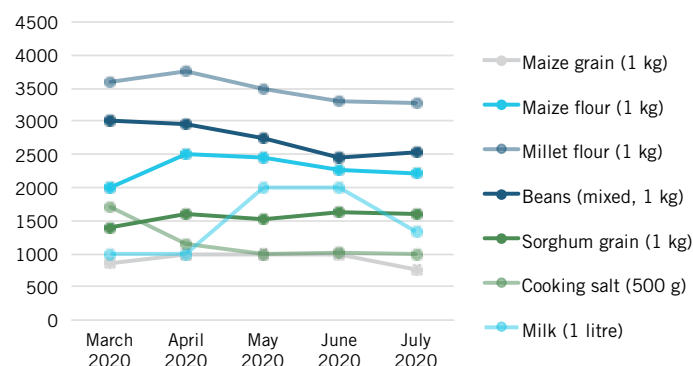
OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

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 1,425,040¹ 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 indicative only. The figures represented in this factsheet are presented at the national and regional² levels, unless stated otherwise. In total, **223 traders** were interviewed nationwide in this round, of these **71 in the Southwest Region (SWR)** and **152 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 July 2020: **481,039 UGX**
▼ -4% compared to the full MEB in March 2020.³

Average cost of the **food MEB** in July 2020: **299,570 UGX**
▼ -10% compared to the food MEB in March 2020.

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

- At the national level most traders (62%) reported that the **number of vendors** has not changed compared to the week before the COVID-19 outbreak (18th of March). More vendors in the SWR (25%) reported an increase compared to vendors in the WNR (9%).
- The newly introduced indicator tracking the **number of mobile money and banking agents** showed that interviewed vendors 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 being concerned about their **stocks running out**. The national figure (22%) is driven by traders of the WNR, where 31% of them 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 traders⁴:

1	Increased price of transportation	19%
2	Price fluctuation of commodities	19%
3	Lack of cash to purchase more stock	15%

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.

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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

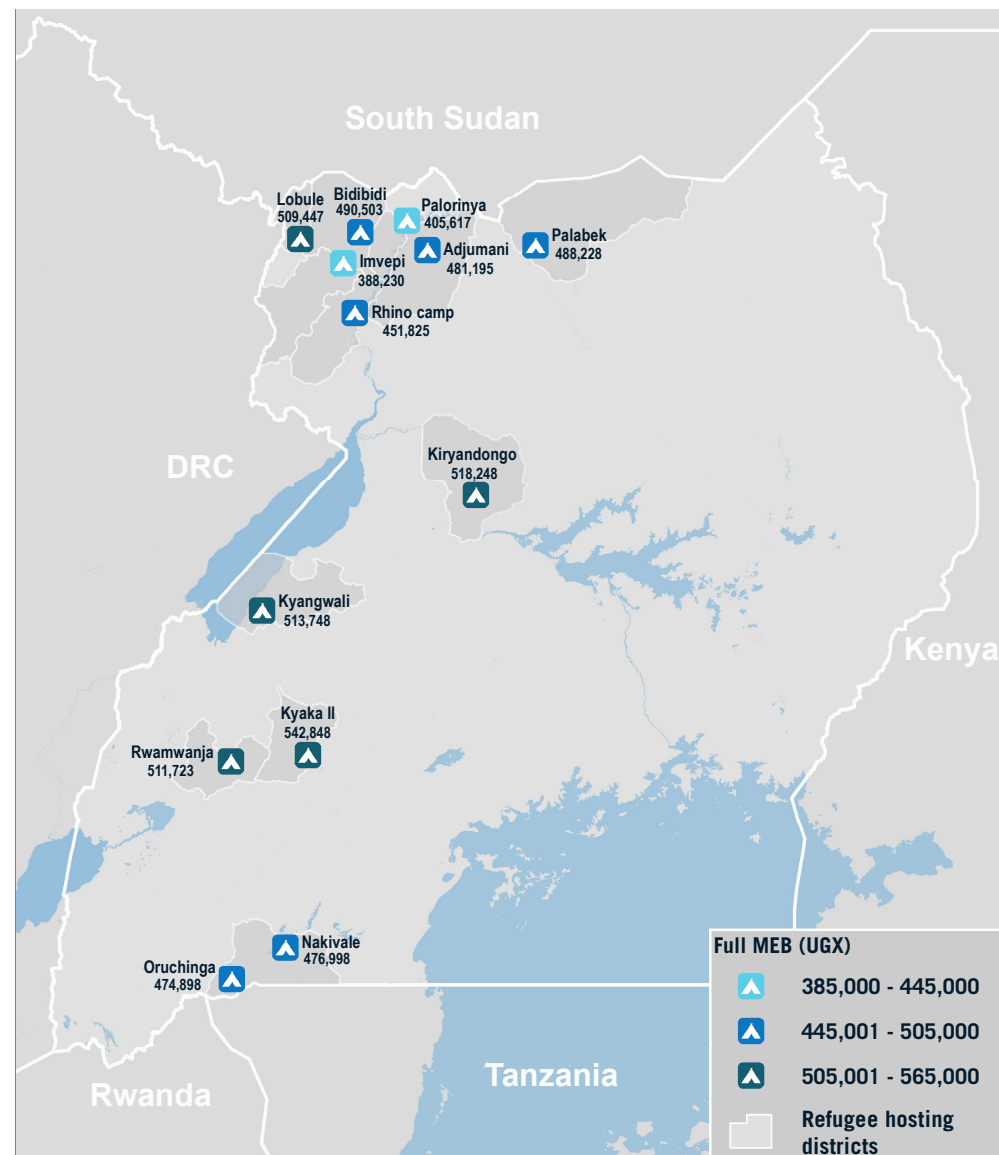
The MEB represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a five-person refugee household in Uganda for one month. It is used as an operational tool to identify and quantify the average minimum cost of the regular or seasonal basic needs of a median household that can be covered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

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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 (1-14 July 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)	2328	-5% 0%	2140	+1% -7%	2467	-9% +5%	2400	+26% +2%	2600	-19% +22%	1814	+21% +7%	2225	+12% -9%	2464	+6% +1%	2111	-9% -10%	2475	-30% +10%	1844	-5% -8%	1583	-18% -8%	2700	-28% 0%	2025	+38% +37%	2644	+6% +20%	2214	+11% -6%
	Fish* (smoked, 1kg)	18153	n/a +11%	24042	+91% +64%	17192	n/a -3%	24500	n/a n/a	16667	n/a 0%	10000	n/a n/a	22000	n/a +47%	27778	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	15312	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	23542	n/a +18%	13000	n/a n/a	9000	n/a n/a	21667	n/a +30%
	Beans (mixed, 1 kg)	3310	+3% +3%	2630	-20% +8%	3804	+20% +4%	3944	+8% 0%	3125	-3% -9%	3722	-7% +24%	3567	-9% +2%	2500	-26% +4%	2600	-12% +15%	4750	+20% +15%	2056	-35% -25%	2183	-22% -6%	4000	+60% +14%	3125	+58% +8%	4150	+16% +38%	2736	-16% +16%
	Sorghum grain (1 kg)	1273	+8% +2%	1575	-12% -3%	1115	+8% -2%	1200	-20% +5%	1067	+15% +7%	1100	+16% 0%	1267	+17% -13%	1900	-5% +2%	1867	+44% +8%	1175	-12% -25%	1457	-5% -14%	1367	-8% +1%	1000	0% +45%	1125	+20% +12%	1160	+10% -23%	n/a	n/a n/a
	Cooking oil (1 litre)	5788	+2% -1%	5974	+1% 0%	5674	+2% -1%	6000	0% 0%	5000	-6% -1%	5000	-37% 0%	5812	-6% -3%	6000	+7% 0%	6222	+4% +4%	5700	+6% 0%	5888	+5% -2%	6000	0% 0%	6000	+20% 0%	5738	+11% 0%	5560	-11% +1%	5909	+5% +1%
	Fresh cassava* (1 kg)	531	n/a +1%	262	n/a -52%	557	n/a +9%	562	n/a n/a	363	n/a -29%	1111	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	262	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	720	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	333	n/a n/a	706	n/a n/a	233	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a
	Cooking salt (500 g)	999	-58% -1%	996	-53% 0%	1000	-60% -2%	1000	+30% 0%	1000	-59% -13%	1000	-23% 0%	967	-50% -3%	1000	-64% 0%	1000	-44% 0%	1000	-35% 0%	1000	-47% 0%	1000	-46% 0%	1000	-80% 0%	1000	-58% 0%	1000	-79% +9%	1000	-64% 0%
	Leafy greens* (1 kg)	1578	n/a -4%	1680	n/a +61%	1566	n/a -30%	1353	n/a n/a	2917	n/a +8%	1200	n/a n/a	700	n/a -30%	2333	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	1083	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	935	n/a -30%	2133	n/a n/a	880	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a
MEB NFI items	Milk (1 litre)	1535	+8% +16%	1335	-3% -14%	1700	+17% +35%	2000	-20% n/a	1300	+30% +30%	n/a	n/a n/a	1400	-8% n/a	1000	0% n/a	1889	-6% +13%	1500	-20% n/a	1200	+20% 0%	1500	+50% n/a	1740	+45% -8%	1333	-33% +33%	2000	-20% n/a	1025	+2% n/a
	Firewood* (1 kg)	250	-34% -31%	583	+91% +16%	228	-45% +2%	187	-37% n/a	247	-58% +10%	302	+1% n/a	583	+75% +46%	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	337	+153% n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	87	-83% n/a	238	+51% n/a	n/a	n/a n/a
	Laundry soap (1 kg)	3299	+19% -2%	3422	-4% -1%	3220	+37% -3%	3125	-11% +2%	3188	+59% -4%	3300	+10% 0%	3300	-18% +65%	3614	-7% 0%	3183	-20% -4%	3300	+65% 0%	3300	-6% 0%	3300	+32% 0%	3300	-18% 0%	3300	+65% 0%	3100	+55% -22%	3643	+21% 0%
non-MEB items	Underwear (1 piece)	2915	n/a -3%	2538	n/a +2%	3010	n/a -7%	4375	n/a n/a	1000	0% n/a	2562	n/a n/a	3500	n/a +75%	n/a	n/a n/a	2833	n/a n/a	1250	n/a n/a	1750	n/a -42%	2000	n/a n/a	5000	n/a 0%	2625	n/a n/a	1500	n/a n/a	3000	n/a n/a
	Big jerry can (20L, 1 piece)	6879	+12% n/a	6205	+1% -2%	7188	+16% +11%	7308	+22% +39%	7000	+40% +8%	7875	+12% n/a	6000	0% -6%	6000	0% -2%	5333	-11% -20%	7500	-6% +11%	7000	+17% +17%	7750	+11% n/a	7000	-12% 0%	6400	+7% n/a	6800	-15% n/a	6000	0% -14%
	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
	Disposable torch (1 packet)	1000	-5% n/a	1000	-7% 0%	1000	-4% 0%	1000	0% n/a	1000	-9% 0%	1000	0% n/a	1000	-33% 0%	1000	0% 0%	1000	0% n/a	1000	0% n/a	1000	0% 0%	1000	0% n/a	1000	0% 0%	1000	0% n/a	1000	0% n/a	1000	0% 0%
	Millet flour (1 kg)	3336	-11% +2%	3286	-7% +1%	3395	-13% +5%	4000	+23% 0%	4000	-4% +14%	3000	-14% -6%	3767	-5% +8%	3038	+1% 0%	3111	-15% -15%	3500	-2% -3%	3375	-6% 0%	4000	0% 0%	3000	-14% +6%	4000	+14% +33%	3222	-36% +7%	3208	+43% -1%
	Maize grain (1 kg)	1017	-1% -4%	748	-14% -4%	1223	+7% 0%	1421	-5% +3%	1012	+1% +27%	1000	0% 0%	1033	-8% -14%	757	-20% +2%	733	+13% -4%	1500	+22% +19%	706	-14% -19%	692	-14% -9%	1292	+29% +8%	1000	-22% -2%	1230	-11% -18%	669	-28% -5%
	Charcoal* (1 kg)	745	n/a +1%	856	n/a -17%	720	-51% n/a	651	-16% n/a	945	-6% +29%	976	+290% n/a	1333	n/a +33%	769	n/a -15%	n/a	n/a n/a	135	-75% n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	625	-6% 0%	623	-88% n/a	668	n/a n/a	625	-38% -25%

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 3,665 UGX as of 5th of August 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.

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MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

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

TRADER AND CUSTOMER BEHAVIOR

	% of interviewed traders reporting a change in the number of vendors in their marketplace vs pre-COVID-19 week: ⁹	Average numbers of customers per day reported by interviewed traders:
Nationwide	INCREASE 14% DECREASE 24% NO CHANGE 62%	CURRENT WEEK 23
Southwest Region	INCREASE 25% DECREASE 28% NO CHANGE 46%	CURRENT WEEK 33
West Nile Region	INCREASE 9% DECREASE 22% NO CHANGE 69%	CURRENT WEEK 19

SAFETY

	% of interviewed traders reporting changes in perceptions of security relating to operating in their marketplace:	Top reported reasons by traders for feeling more or less secure: ¹⁰
Nationwide	LESS SECURE 3% MORE SECURE 17% NO DIFFERENCE 79%	1 Non compliance with official rules and regulations 43% 2 Increased awareness about health risks and appropriate behaviour 23%
Southwest Region	LESS SECURE 3% MORE SECURE 35% NO DIFFERENCE 62%	1 Increased presence of security personnel 26% 2 Increased awareness about health risks and appropriate behaviour 23%
West Nile Region	LESS SECURE 3% MORE SECURE 9% NO DIFFERENCE 88%	1 Non compliance with official rules and regulations 60% 2 Increased awareness about health risks and appropriate behaviour 23%

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 24% NO 76%	YES 22% NO 78%
Southwest Region	YES 8% NO 92%	YES 4% NO 96%
West Nile Region	YES 32% NO 68%	YES 31% NO 69%

PAYMENT AND LIQUIDITY

	% of interviewed traders accepting mobile money payments when data was collected:	Average numbers of mobile money and banking agents active in the market:
Nationwide	YES 60% NO 40%	CURRENT WEEK 15
Southwest Region	YES 82% NO 18%	CURRENT WEEK 30
West Nile Region	YES 50% NO 50%	CURRENT WEEK 9

Nationwide	Top 3 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%
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PREPARED BY:

ON BEHALF OF:

Uganda Cash Working Group, Market Analysis Task Force

REACH

Informing more effective humanitarian action

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.