



### 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 organization 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 fortnightly<sup>4</sup> 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 (NFIs), 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	3 Jun 2020	17 Jun 2020	% change
<b>Cost of Food SMEB*</b>	<b>22,832</b>	<b>21,787</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Local rice (22.5 kg)	9,033	8,212	9%
Maize (37.5 kg)	6,566	6,904	5%
White beans (11.25 kg)	2,600	2,363	9%
Palm oil (1.5 L)	900	750	17%
Groundnut oil (3 L)	2,000	1,700	15%
Groundnuts (2.25 kg)	665	818	23%
Sugar (1.5 kg)	692	692	0%
Salt (0.75 kg)	98	144	48%
Onion (1.2 kg)	279	203	27%

\*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 <sup>1</sup>	3 Jun 2020	17 Jun 2020	% change
Official rate	387	387	0%

### KEY FINDINGS: 16-20 JUNE, 2020

- The cost of the food SMEB in Maiduguri and Jere LGAs was **21,787** naira during the week of 16-20 June 2020.
- The cost of the food SMEB dropped by **5%** during the week of 16-20 June 2020 when compared to 2-5 June 2020.
- The drop in cost of the food SMEB was predominantly driven by drop in prices of 4 items, namely local rice, white beans, groundnut oil and palm oil.
- Among the interviewed vendors, **23%** reported there were at least one COVID19 related government regulation still in effect.<sup>2</sup> These regulations were mainly restricted opening hours and restricted number of customers in the shop.
- Price inflation, transport route insecurity and vendor liquidity shortage were the top 3 reported supply barriers for food vendors

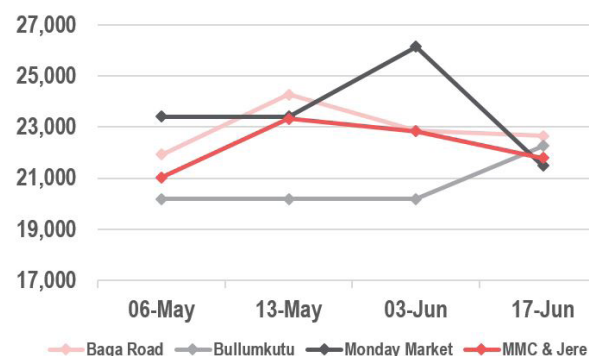
### COVID-19 MARKET INDICATORS

Of the **73** respondents surveyed, **0%** 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 vendors<sup>3</sup>

Compulsory masks for customers	52%	<div><div></div></div>
Customer handwashing stations	41%	<div><div></div></div>
Restricted number of customers	32%	<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 fortnightly<sup>4</sup> data collection. Findings are indicative for the assessed location and time frame in which the data was collected.

### RMMI WEEKLY FIGURES

Data collection **16<sup>th</sup> June - 20<sup>th</sup> June**  
**3** markets assessed  
**73** vendor KIs surveyed  
**19** key commodities being tracked

### Top 3 reported market access barriers for community members<sup>3</sup>

Low purchasing power	42%	<div><div></div></div>
No barriers	40%	<div><div></div></div>
Fear of COVID-19	14%	<div><div></div></div>

### Top 3 reported government regulations on vendors due to COVID-19<sup>3</sup>

No regulations	77%	<div><div></div></div>
Restricted number of customers	16%	<div><div></div></div>
Restricted opening hours	17%	<div><div></div></div>

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

Decreased	49%
Stayed the same	19%
Increased	32%





## MARKET INDICATORS AND PRICES

### Median commodity prices per market, 16-20 June 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 <sup>5</sup>	N/A <sup>6</sup>	10	420	200	72	120	280	44	100	438	165	210	408	567	364	462	280	161	22,646
Bullamkutu	N/A <sup>5</sup>	N/A <sup>6</sup>	11	620	100	48	240	375	42	100	365	194	168	583	750	318	462	192	169	22,258
Monday	N/A <sup>5</sup>	N/A <sup>6</sup>	13	550	225	71	160	375	45	100	347	184	235	500	500	364	481	160	183	21,482
Overall (Maiduguri & Jere LGA)	124	220	11	550	200	71	160	375	44	100	365	184	210	500	567	364	462	192	169	21,787

### Average reported remaining stock and restocking time (days)

Items	Days Of Stock Remaining	# Days Needed To Restock
Authorised diesel	21	3
Authorised petrol	10	3
Untreated water	1	1
Hand sanitizer	7	3
PPE mask	6	1
Bathing soap	6	1
Laundry soap	5	1
Sanitary pads	15	1
Charcoal	7	3
Firewood	8	5
Local rice	5	2
Maize	6	2
White beans	3	1
Palm oil	5	2
Groundnut oil	4	1
Groundnut	5	2
Sugar	6	1
Salt	11	1
Onion	3	1

### Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for food vendors<sup>3</sup>

Price inflation	53%	<div></div>
Transport route insecurity	38%	<div></div>
Vendor liquidity shortage	34%	<div></div>

### Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for water vendors<sup>3</sup>

No barriers	92%	<div></div>
No suppliers	8%	<div></div>
Supplier has no stock	8%	<div></div>

### Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for NFI vendors<sup>3</sup>

Price inflation	49%	<div></div>
Transport route insecurity	42%	<div></div>
Supplier has limited supply	23%	<div></div>

### Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for authorised fuel vendors<sup>3</sup>

No barriers	100%	<div></div>
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### Top 3 reported financing barriers for vendors<sup>3</sup>

Vendors have limited cash	65%	<div></div>
Creditors have limited cash	25%	<div></div>
No barriers	22%	<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](mailto:geneva@impact-initiatives.org) for further information.

### ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Average exchange for 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 reported in [XE.com](#).
- <sup>2</sup> The lockdown that commenced on 22<sup>nd</sup> April was [indefinitely suspended](#) since May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- <sup>3</sup> Values do not add up to 100% as vendor KIs were allowed to select multiple options.
- <sup>4</sup> The price monitoring started as a weekly exercise, but after the drawdown of the lockdown measures from May 13<sup>th</sup>, REACH along with the FSS taskforce decided to conduct the price monitoring on fortnightly basis.
- <sup>5</sup> Authorised fuel vendor shops are outside the 3 assessed markets. Hence reported fuel prices are the median prices at the LGA level.