Market Monitor – Refugee Hosting Areas

Refugee Settlement Price and Market Functionality Snapshot, 1-31 August 2020

UGANDA

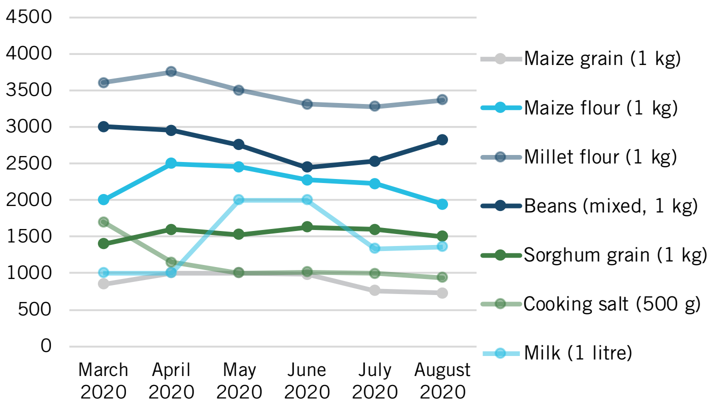
OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

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 1,425,040[1] refugees as of 30 June 2020, with nearly 95% of refugees living in settlements primarily in the West Nile and Southwest regions of Uganda.

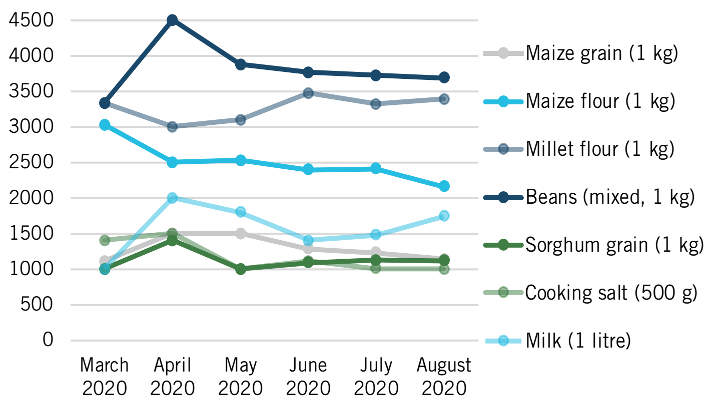
In view of this situation, the World Food Programme (WFP) has established a regular market price monitoring system across refugee settlements to inform cash-based response approaches. These monitoring efforts predate the COVID-19 crisis. However, due to the changing situation since the Ugandan government 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 1-31 August 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 regional[2] levels, unless stated otherwise. In total, **336 traders** were interviewed nationwide in this round, of these **94 in the Southwest Region (SWR)** and **242 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 August 2020:
457,656 UGX
▼ **-9%** compared to the full MEB in March 2020.[3]

Average cost of the **food MEB** in August 2020:
293,821 UGX
▼ **-12%** compared to the food MEB in March 2020.

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

- At the national level half of the traders (50%) reported that the **number of vendors** has not changed compared to the week before the COVID-19 outbreak (18th of March). Further, this indicator showed no significant difference between the regions.
- At the national level, the reported average **number of customers received per day by interviewed vendors** during the last week was 21, representing a 11% increase from July. However, the regional breakdown shows that traders from SWR reported a higher number of customers (34 representing a 36% increase) than those of WNR (18 representing no change from July).
- More than half (57%) of vendors were reported to accept **mobile money.** This proportion was slightly higher in SWR (67%) as compared to WNR (52%).
- Thirty percent of interviewed traders reported **difficulties in meeting demand.** However, in the SWR only 12% of the traders reported difficulties, while in the WNR the proportion is higher (35%).
- Nationwide 24% of traders reported being concerned about their **stocks running out.** In SWR this proportion rose from 4% to 17% and decreased slightly in WNR from 31% in the second half of July to 26% in August.
- The proportion of traders reporting **feeling less secure** in relation to operating in the market increased from 3% to 11% nationwide this reporting round. This figure is mainly driven by an increase in this proportion from 3% to 22% in SWR.

KEY CHALLENGES

Top 3 challenges reported by traders[4]:

1	**Increased price of transportation**	**20%**
2	**Limited supply of some commodities**	**19%**
3	**Price fluctuation of commodities**	**19%**

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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WFP U-LEARN

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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)

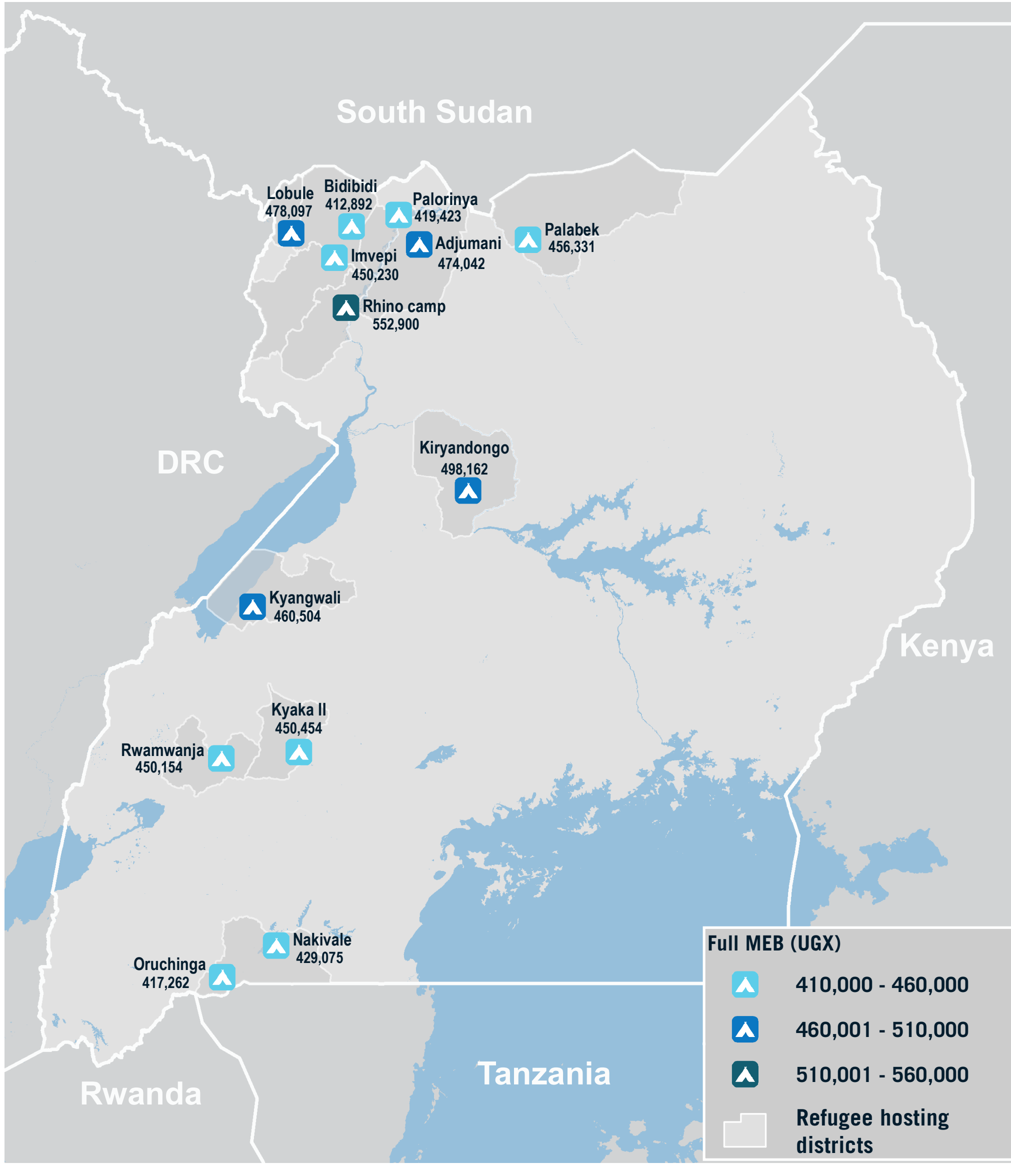
Reusable sanitary pads	8 pc	Saucepan	3 pc
Jerry can (20 L)	2 pc	Plate	5 pc
Jerry can (5 L)	1 pc	Serving spoon	2 pc
Bucket with lid	1 pc	Cup	5 pc
Blanket	5 pc	Mingle (stirrer)	2 pc

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. Bidibidi
2. Oruchinga
3. Palorinya

Settlements with the most expensive average full MEB costs:

1. Rhino Camp
2. Kiryandongo
3. Lobule

Full MEB cost percentage change since March (left) and July[5] (right):

Adjumani	-27%	-2%
Bidibidi	-25%	-10%
Imvepi	-8%	+16%
Kiryandongo	-7%	-2%
Lobule	-3%	-3%
Kyaka II	+1%	-15%
Kyangwali	-7%	+2%
Nakivale	+2%	-9%
Oruchinga	+25%	-8%
Palabek	-11%	-6%
Palorinya	-22%	+12%
Rhino Camp[6]	-3%	+23%
Rwamwanja	-17%	-10%

5. The percentage change since July is calculated considering the whole month of July (aggregation of round 6 and round 7).
6. The large percentage change in the MEB cost compared to July increase for this location was mainly driven by the increase in the price and changes in the conversion rates of leafy greens, cassava and charcoal.

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COMMODITY PRICES

Table 1: Average[7] commodity prices in Uganda Shillings (UGX)[8], by refugee settlement location, and percentage price change since March (upper)[9] and last round (July 2020, lower), respectively.[10]

	Item (unit)	Nationwide		Southwest Region		West Nile Region		Adjumani		Bidibidi		Imvepi		Kiryandongo		Kyaka II		Kyangwali		Lobule		Nakivale		Oruchinga		Palabek		Palorinya		Rhino Camp		Rwamwanja	
				Regions				Settlements																									
MEB food items	Maize flour (1 kg)	2083	-15% -11%	1945	-8% -12%	2161	-20% -10%	1963	+3% -17%	1929	-40% -19%	1650	+10% -8%	1888	-5% -17%	2050	-12% -16%	2000	-13% -8%	2333	-34% 0%	1736	-10% -9%	1725	-11% +5%	2718	-28% +1%	1892	+29% +3%	2333	-7% -5%	1994	0% -13%
MEB food items	Fish* (smoked, 1kg)	17912	n/a 0%	n/a	n/a n/a	17912	n/a +4%	22393	n/a -9%	16288	n/a -2%	13294	n/a +33%	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	10638	n/a -31%	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	22000	n/a -4%	10972	n/a -16%	16319	n/a +81%	n/a	n/a n/a
MEB food items	Beans (mixed, 1 kg)	3404	+6% +4%	2819	-14% +10%	3687	+16% -1%	4047	+11% +3%	2860	-11% -11%	3972	-1% +9%	3694	-6% +4%	2506	-26% +3%	2622	-12% +4%	4667	+18% +8%	2430	-23% +7%	2250	-19% 0%	3067	+23% -19%	3292	+66% +8%	3950	+10% +6%	2787	-14% +8%
MEB food items	Sorghum grain (1 kg)	1239	+6% -2%	1498	-6% -6%	1116	+8% -1%	1100	-27% -6%	1167	+26% +12%	1100	+16% 0%	1194	+11% -9%	1742	-13% -8%	1778	+37% -3%	1317	-2% -8%	1540	0% 0%	1350	-9% -1%	900	-10% +3%	1142	+22% +6%	1333	+27% +4%	1600	-3% n/a
MEB food items	Cooking oil (1 litre)	5836	+2% +1%	5986	+2% 0%	5769	+4% +1%	6000	0% 0%	5192	-2% +3%	4722	-41% -6%	5679	-8% -3%	5955	+6% -1%	6444	+7% +5%	5817	+8% +2%	6082	+9% +3%	6000	0% 0%	6000	+20% 0%	5675	+10% -1%	5833	-7% +5%	5971	+6% +1%
MEB food items	Fresh cassava* (1 kg)	719	n/a +35%	400	n/a -5%	730	n/a +32%	561	n/a 0%	459	n/a +11%	1457	n/a +31%	400	n/a -40%	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	690	n/a -4%	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	303	n/a -9%	723	n/a +2%	646	n/a +177%	n/a	n/a n/a
MEB food items	Cooking salt (500 g)	981	-58% -2%	941	-55% -6%	1000	-60% -1%	1000	+30% 0%	1000	-59% -6%	1000	-23% 0%	844	-56% -13%	900	-67% -10%	1000	-44% 0%	1000	-35% 0%	1000	-47% 0%	1000	-46% 0%	1000	-80% 0%	1000	-58% 0%	1000	-79% +3%	1000	-64% 0%
MEB food items	Leafy greens*[11] (1 kg)	2025	n/a +27%	2167	n/a +63%	2016	n/a +22%	1373	n/a +2%	2519	n/a -12%	2971	n/a +148%	3333	n/a +279%	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	943	n/a -13%	1000	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	1417	n/a +38%	1672	n/a -22%	4167	n/a +373%	n/a	n/a n/a
MEB food items	Milk (1 litre)	1632	+15% +9%	1364	-1% 0%	1789	+23% +13%	2000	-20% 0%	1333	+33% +14%	n/a	n/a n/a	1400	-8% 0%	1000	0% 0%	2000	0% +9%	1500	-20% 0%	1467	+47% +22%	1600	+60% +7%	1840	+53% +2%	1400	-30% +17%	2000	-20% 0%	1000	0% -2%
MEB NFI[12] items	Firewood* (1 kg)	247	-35% -9%	333	+9% -37%	243	-41% +7%	231	-22% +24%	205	-65% -15%	189	-37% -37%	333	0% -36%	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	250	+87% -26%	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	154	-22% n/a	284	-43% +226%	408	+158% +72%	n/a	n/a n/a
MEB NFI[12] items	Laundry soap (1 kg)	3276	+19% -2%	3418	-4% 0%	3192	+35% -2%	3000	-14% -3%	3125	+56% -4%	3300	+10% 0%	3300	-18% +15%	3571	-8% -1%	2833	-29% -12%	3300	+65% 0%	3250	-7% -2%	3300	+32% 0%	3300	-18% 0%	3300	+65% 0%	3300	+65% -4%	3667	+22% +1%
MEB NFI[12] items	Underwear (1 piece)	2813	n/a -4%	2722	n/a +8%	2835	n/a -7%	2545	n/a -42%	1475	n/a +48%	2800	n/a +9%	n/a	n/a n/a	3000	n/a 0%	3167	n/a +12%	1250	n/a 0%	2500	n/a +15%	2000	n/a 0%	4889	n/a -2%	2333	n/a -11%	1167	n/a -22%	3000	n/a 0%
MEB NFI[12] items	Big jerry can (20L, 1 piece)	6439	+5% n/a	5789	-6% -8%	6850	+11% -3%	6227	+4% -11%	7500	+50% +10%	7800	+11% -1%	5000	-17% -19%	5857	-2% -3%	6000	0% 0%	7500	-6% +3%	5500	-8% -19%	6000	-14% -23%	7000	-12% 0%	6167	+3% -4%	7000	-12% +3%	6000	0% -3%
non-MEB items	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
non-MEB items	Disposable torch (1 packet)	940	-11% n/a	950	-12% -5%	932	-11% -7%	864	-14% -14%	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	1000	0% 0%	1000	0% 0%	1000	0% 0%	1000	0% 0%	500	-50% -50%	1000	0% 0%	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	1000	0% 0%
non-MEB items	Millet flour (1 kg)	3379	-10% +2%	3369	-4% +3%	3388	-13% +1%	3931	+21% -2%	3833	-8% -1%	3000	-14% -1%	3489	-12% -6%	3422	+14% +13%	3111	-15% -4%	3500	-2% -2%	3333	-7% -1%	3750	-6% -6%	3000	-14% +1%	4125	+18% +18%	3000	-40% -4%	3292	+46% +2%
non-MEB items	Maize grain (1 kg)	996	-3% -4%	728	-16% -4%	1135	0% -7%	1245	-17% -11%	920	-8% -1%	1033	+3% +3%	700	-38% -35%	766	-19% +2%	511	-21% -31%	1033	-16% -23%	800	-2% +5%	800	0% +11%	1024	+2% -19%	933	-27% -7%	1375	-1% +3%	773	-16% +13%
non-MEB items	Charcoal* (1 kg)	1063	n/a +36%	n/a	n/a n/a	1063	-28% n/a	824	+6% +27%	668	-33% -9%	2000	+700% +105%	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	137	-74% -81%	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a n/a	972	+46% +56%	509	-90% -18%	2167	n/a +224%	n/a	n/a n/a

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.

7. 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.
8. One United States Dollar (USD) was equivalent to 3,671 UGX as of 9th of September 2020, according to Oanda currency converter.
9. 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).
10. 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.
11. During the last round of data collection the conversion rate for leafy greens changed so that a "bundle" previously consisting of 0.4 kg only contained 0.12kg in August causing a spike in the reported price for this item.
12. NFI stands for "non-food items".

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MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

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

TRADER AND CUSTOMER BEHAVIOR

% of interviewed traders reporting a change in the number of vendors in their marketplace vs pre-COVID-19 week:[13]

	INCREASE	DECREASE	NO CHANGE
Nationwide	7%	43%	50%
Southwest Region[14]	9%	37%	53%
West Nile Region[14]	6%	44%	49%

Average numbers of customers per day reported by interviewed traders:[15]

	JULY	AUGUST
Nationwide	19	21
Southwest Region	25	34
West Nile Region	18	18

SAFETY

% of interviewed traders reporting changes in perceptions of security relating to operating in their marketplace:

	LESS SECURE	MORE SECURE	NO DIFFERENCE
Nationwide	11%	9%	80%
Southwest Region	22%	16%	62%
West Nile Region	6%	6%	88%

Top reported reasons by traders for feeling more or less secure:[16]

		Reason	%
Nationwide	1	Non compliance with official rules and regulations (less secure)	41%
	2	Implementation of rules and regulations (more secure)	24%
Southwest Region	1	Appropriate behaviour of security personnel (more secure)	27%
	2	Fear of theft (less secure)	24%
West Nile Region	1	Non compliance with official rules and regulations (less secure)	50%
	2	Implementation of rules and regulations (more secure)	24%

STOCK AND SUPPLY

	% of interviewed traders reporting difficulty in obtaining enough supply to meet demand: YES	NO	% of interviewed traders reporting concern that their stocks will run out within one week following data collection: YES	NO
Nationwide	30%	70%	24%	76%
Southwest Region	12%	88%	17%	83%
West Nile Region	35%	65%	26%	74%

Nationwide — Top 3 reasons why traders reported difficulty in obtaining enough supply to meet demand:[17]

	Reason	%
1	Supplier unable to provide enough	59%
2	Can no longer obtain items due to restrictions	24%
3	Producers not producing enough	16%

PAYMENT AND LIQUIDITY

% of interviewed traders accepting mobile money payments when data was collected:

	YES	NO
Nationwide	57%	43%
Southwest Region	67%	33%
West Nile Region	52%	48%

PREPARED BY: WFP World Food Programme, U-LEARN

ON BEHALF OF: Uganda Cash Working Group, Market Analysis Task Force

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action; DRC Danish Refugee Council; UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency; NORCAP Norwegian Capacity | CASHCAP; The Lutheran World Federation

13. Pre-COVID-19 week is considered the week before declaration of restriction in Uganda (18th of March 2020).
14. The numbers in this category do not add up to 100% due to rounding.
15. The averages reported in this category reflect data collected in the last half of July while those reported for August concern the whole month.
16. This indicator refers to the subset of traders who reported feeling more or less secure respectively. Respondents could select multiple response options.
17. 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:
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