

Sudan | Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

May 2025

KEY INDICATORS

Cost of MEB
439,696 SDG
211 USD

Change since April 2025:

▼ - 25,881 SDG
 ▼ - 6%

Cost of MEB with top-up items
513,746 SDG
247 USD

Change since April 2025:

▼ - 4,456 SDG
 ▼ - 1%

USD / SDG
2,083 SDG

Change since April 2025:

▲ + 63 SDG
 ▲ + 3%

Key Findings*

- Overall, the highest median prices for the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) without top-up were observed in Kassala, South Kordofan and North Darfur states. The **most expensive MEBs both with and without top-up items were recorded in Al Fasher locality**, in North Darfur state (2,313,347 SDG and 2,242,347 SDG respectively). Other localities with high MEBs with top-up items included: Kadugli (802,219 SDG) in South Kordofan, Medeinat Kassala (665,616 SDG) in Kassala, and Dilling in South Kordofan (628,067 SDG).
- The **median cost of the non-food items (NFIs) with top-up in the MEB indicated an increase of 13% from April (168,921 SDG) to May 2025 (191,651 SDG)**, driven by a sharp price increase of gas cylinder (+39%) and water container (+51%). The most expensive NFIs component of the MEB (with top-up items) was reported in Al Fasher, in North Darfur (475,667 SDG), and the lowest in Kosti, White Nile (147,108 SDG).
- The **median cost of the non-food items (NFIs) without top-up in the MEB increased by 1% from April (116,296 SDG) to May 2025 (117,601 SDG)**. The most expensive NFIs component of the MEB (without top-up items) was reported in Al Fasher, in North Darfur (404,667 SDG), and the lowest in Mukjar, Central Darfur (83,167 SDG).
- The median cost of food items in the national MEB decrease by 12% between April (233,635 SDG) and May 2025 (206,438 SDG)**. The most expensive food components of the MEB were reported in **Al Fasher, North Darfur (1,722,024 SDG)**, while the lowest food prices were reported in Kerenik, West Darfur (136,006 SDG).
- Overall, **markets were found to be least functional in South Kordofan, where 3 out of 8 assessed markets scored less than 50** out of a maximum of 100, notably in Heiban (41/100), Kadugli (42/100) and Delami (47/100) localities. Additional below-average market functionality scores were recorded in **Central Darfur** (Bendasi= 37/100; and Azum=42/100), and in **North Darfur** (Al Fasher= 39/100). Furthermore, these markets recorded security and financial barriers to access the markets, followed by price volatility and challenges in the supply chain & restocking.

INTRODUCTION

Given the rapidly changing humanitarian context in Sudan, the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was established under the guidance of the Sudan Cash Working Group (CWG) to inform cash-based interventions and to gain a deeper understanding of market dynamics in the country. The JMMI aims to inform market-based programming in Sudan through monthly monitoring of prices of selected food and non-food items (NFI) as well as other critical market indicators.

Marketplaces across Sudan are assessed through two different channels: (i) in some state capitals, prices of food items are monitored by the World Food Programme (WFP), (ii) in other locations, prices and other critical market indicators are recorded every month by JMMI partners through interviews with purposively sampled retailers. Data for the latest round of the JMMI was collected from **19th to 31st May 2025**.

The factsheet presents an overview of median prices for food and non-food items (NFIs) in the main markets of the localities assessed, a comprehensive breakdown of the cost of the interim Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), and the Market Functionality Score (MFS) for the markets assessed at locality level.

10	Participating partners
11	Assessed states
45	Assessed localities
1559	Key informants (vendors)
19	Commodities assessed

* In May 2025, WFP released the updated lumpsums components' prices, collected between January and April 2025. The current factsheet presents the MEB calculation based on the updated lumpsums (also applied to the previous month, April 2025, to allow for comparison).

Methodology

The JMMI aims to inform market-based programming in Sudan through monthly monitoring of prices of selected food and NFI items as well as other critical market indicators.

The coverage of the JMMI may vary between months as it depends on the interest of the partner organisations and their field teams' capacities to regularly collect market data. Locations are added once partners willing to cover them are identified, and their field teams are trained. As the initiative is currently being built up, coverage will likely be expanded in future data collection rounds.

Findings presented in this factsheet are based on the JMMI conducted from 19th to 31st May 2025. The factsheet presents an overview of median prices for food and non-food items (NFIs) in the main markets of the localities assessed, a comprehensive breakdown of the cost of the interim Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), and the Market Functionality Score (MFS) for the markets assessed at locality level. You can find specific information on the coverage of the current round on page 1.

In each assessed location, the aim is to collect at minimum four prices per item from different retailers to ensure quality and consistency of the collected data. In line with the purpose of the JMMI, only the prices of the cheapest available types are recorded for each item.

Retailers are selected to interview based on the following criteria:

- Vendors are retailers selling directly to consumers.
- Vendors with weight scales are prioritised when recording prices of dry food items.
- Vendors are representative of the local price level (no wholesaler, vendors or upmarket or luxury goods).
- To the extent possible, the same vendors are revisited in every data collection round.

The data is collected by enumerators familiar with the local market conditions, and have all received comprehensive training prior to the data collection.

The median item prices reported in this factsheet are 'locality

medians', designed to minimise the effects of outliers and differing amounts of data among assessed locations. The median prices of all assessed items are calculated within each assessed locality. Because items monitored by WFP was only available as means, these figures have been used to calculate the overall medians at state and national level.

All MEB and price index calculations are created using this method.

- The cost of the Interim MEB is calculated by multiplying the median price of each item in the respective locality by the quantity listed in the table on page 2, adding to it the lump sums listed in the same page.
- In localities where items are not available, the national median is used to calculate the MEB per district, state and at national level. This allows to compare the interim MEB from locality to locality.

In May 2025, WFP released the updated lumpsums components' prices, collected between January and April 2025. The current factsheet presents the MEB calculation based on the updated lumpsums (also applied to the previous month, April 2025, to allow for comparison).

Challenges and Limitations

- Price data is only indicative for the time frame within which it was collected. Prices may vary between data collection rounds.
- The JMMI data collection tool requests the cheapest available type of each item to be recorded, as availability varies across regions. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slightly varying products.
- Standardising local unit sizes of dry food and household items is inherently difficult in Sudan, as many traders sell commodities by volume rather than weight, additionally the same units of measurements varies slightly from one locality to another.
- Due to the challenges of converting some of the unit of measurements the prices based on volume should, if possible, be triangulated with other data sources.

About the CWG

Created in 2015, the national Sudan Cash Working Group (CWG) serves as the principal coordination forum for all humanitarian cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in Sudan. Composed of over 50 member organizations (UN agencies, local and international NGOs, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society, donors, and financial service providers), the CWG provides technical support to and across sectors, advises on issues related to CVA, and provides evidence and knowledge in response option analysis processes.

Participating agencies

- ADRA - Adventist Development Council Agency
- ARC: African Relief Committee
- CARE
- DCA - DanChurch Aid
- DRC - Danish Refugee Council
- GOAL
- IRC - International Rescue Committee
- MC - Mercy Corps
- NRC - Norwegian Refugee Council
- UNHCR

JMMI outputs

Factsheet

[NA](#)
[November](#)
[December](#)
[January](#)
[February](#)
[April](#)

Dataset

[October](#)
[November](#)
[December](#)
[January](#)
[February](#)
[April](#)
[May](#)

About REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).