

# Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

6 - 18 November 2020

Libya Cash Working Group

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

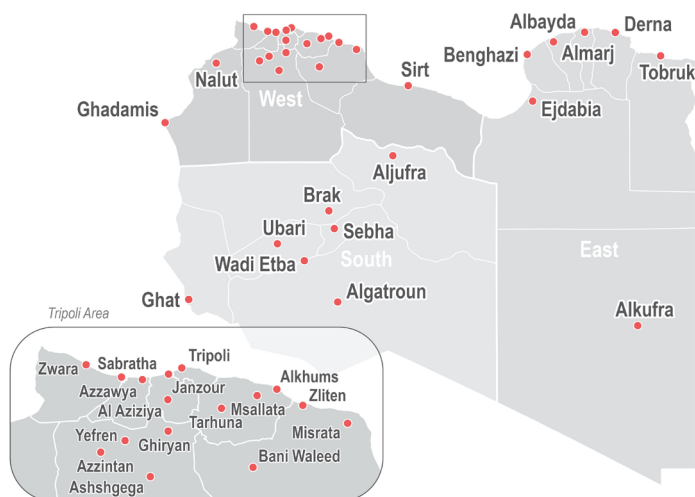
## INTRODUCTION

- In an effort to inform cash-based interventions and better understand market dynamics in Libya, the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was created by the Libya Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG) in June 2017. The initiative is led by REACH and supported by the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- Markets in key urban areas across Libya are assessed on a monthly basis. In each location, field teams record prices and availability of basic food and non-food items (NFIs) sold in local shops and markets. This factsheet presents an overview of price ranges and medians for key food items and NFIs in the assessed areas, as well as the costs associated with key elements of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).
- REACH has also conducted analysis highlighting economic vulnerability for at-risk population groups that can be accessed through an [interactive dashboard](#).

## METHODOLOGY

- Field staff familiar with the local market conditions identified shops representative of the general price level in their respective locations.
- At least **four** prices per assessed item were collected within each location. In line with the purpose of the JMMI, only the price of the cheapest available brand was recorded for each item.
- Enumerators were trained on methodology and tools by REACH. Data collection was conducted through the KoBoCollect mobile application.
- Following data collection, REACH compiled and cleaned all partner data, normalising prices, cross-checking outliers and calculating the median cost of the MEB in each assessed market.
- Qualitative information is also gathered from local sources and economic experts through key informant (KI) interviews.
- REACH has extracted prices on a daily basis from the website, "Open Souq" and conducted KI interviews to better understand the rental market in Libya.
- Enumerators have also surveyed customers from a number of shops to ask questions focused on access to cash and alternative payment modalities.
- More details are available in the Methodology section of the [Appendix](#).

## COVERAGE



## KEY FINDINGS

- Across Libya, the cost of the MEB rose by 1.3% from October to November 2020. Thus, the MEB is 16% more expensive in November, when comparing to pre-COVID-19 levels in March 2020.
- As of 12th December 2020, the parallel market USD/LYD exchange rate dropped by 7% compared to 1st October 2020. Nonetheless, the USD/LYD exchange rate was still 42.7% lower in December 2020 than December 2019.
- After two months of functioning oil refineries, parallel cooking fuel prices in south Libya have decreased by 48%, particularly in Alqatroun, Ghat and Ubari. Amongst these three cities the median costs of a cooking fuel cylinder in October were between 115 LYD and 220 LYD, compared to between 55 LYD and 95 LYD in November 2020. Southern fuel prices in November 2020 were only 24% more expensive than before the oil blockade in January 2020. The drop in the cost of cooking fuel prices should partially alleviate the financial burdens for southern households that witnessed fuel prices increase by 370% from January to April 2020.
- Between August to November 2020, there have been large price fluctuations for domestically produced agricultural goods, such as onions (+44%), eggs (+47%) and tomatoes (+51%). According to KIs, the price increases can be attributed to a delay in western output. These delays in production were caused by the summer power cuts and conflict related barriers in the Aljufra region.<sup>1</sup>
- After the lifting of the oil blockade in September 2020, disagreements surrounding the distribution of the oil revenues have meant that approximately 2.6bn EUR are frozen in a Libyan Foreign Bank account.<sup>2</sup> Without appropriate allocation to the relevant authorities, the parallel market exchange rate is likely to remain high, whilst also preventing any redress of the ongoing liquidity crisis. For more details on how the liquidity crisis is affecting spending, refer to our liquidity section at [page 6](#).
- According to a November IOM report, "more than half of migrants (54%) reported adopting livelihood coping strategies to be able to afford rental costs". For more details, refer to our rental section at [page 10](#).<sup>3</sup>

## JMMI KEY FIGURES

Data collection from **6 - 18 November 2020**

**3** participating agencies  
(REACH, WFP)  
**33** assessed cities  
**45** assessed items  
**635** assessed shops

## EXCHANGE RATES<sup>4</sup>

<b>1.374</b> USD/LYD official ▲ +0.1%	<b>6.240</b> USD/LYD parallel market ▲ +1.1%	<b>7.260</b> EUR/LYD parallel market ▲ +3.0%
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## KEY MONTHLY CHANGES IN MEB

### Median cost of overall MEB

729.14 LYD ▲ 9.54 LYD ▲ +1.3%

Food items	Hygiene items	Cooking fuel <sup>9</sup>
▲ +2.1%	▼ -3.5%	▼ -4.2%

## MEDIAN COST OF MEB BY REGION

West	657.0 LYD	▲ +2.7%
East	712.2 LYD	▲ +4.1%
South	919.6 LYD	▼ -7.1%

## MARKET SHORTAGES

- None reported

*Reported changes are month-on-month*

**Access the JMMI online dashboard**

## MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (MEB)

### Key Elements: Food Items

Bread	32 kg	Tomatoes	10 kg
Rice	10.5 kg	Potatoes	12 kg
Pasta	9.5 kg	Onions	7 kg
Couscous	5.5 kg	Peppers	4.5 kg
Beans	6 kg	Tomato paste	6 kg
Chicken	7.5 kg	Black tea	2 kg
Tuna	4 kg	Vegetable oil	5 L
Eggs	4 kg	Sugar	2 kg
Milk	8.5 L	Salt	1 kg

### Key Elements: Non-Food Items

Bathing soap	1.4 kg (9 150-g bars)
Toothpaste	0.5 kg (5 100-g tubes)
Laundry detergent	1.3 L
Dishwashing liquid	1.3 L
Sanitary pads	4 packs of 10
Cooking fuel (LPG)	22 kg (2 11-kg refills)

### Optional Elements<sup>7</sup>

Water (drinking use only)	458 L
Median rent for 3-rm flat	1 month
Float <sup>8</sup>	20% of key elements

The **Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)** represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a five-person Libyan household (HH) for one month. The cost of the MEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households in different locations. The MEB's contents were defined by the CMWG in consultation with relevant sector leads.

Only the MEB's key elements (food and non-food items) were incorporated into the calculations in this factsheet.

## COST OF MEDIAN OVERALL MEB

**729.1 LYD**

Change since  
October 2020

**▲ +9.54 LYD**  
(+1.3%)

Change since  
March 2019

**▲ +59.51 LYD**  
(+8.9%)

## MEDIAN MEB COST BY LOCATION

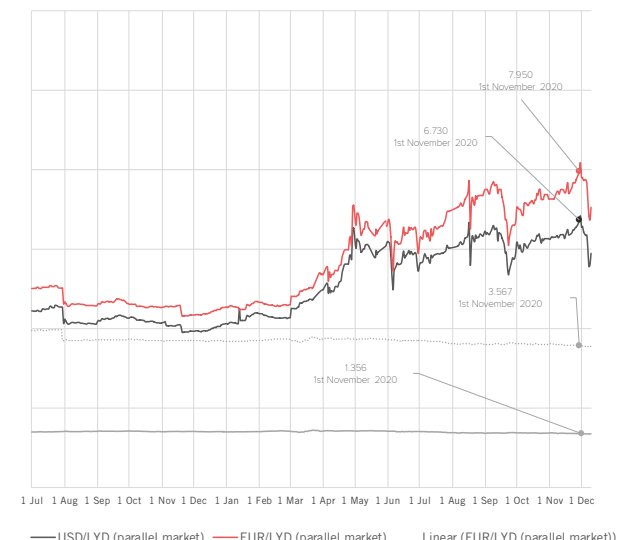
Location	Cost of MEB (LYD)	Since Oct 2020	Since March 2019
Azzintan	823.2	0.0%	22.3%
Ghiryan	811.6	4.9%	16.0%
Nalut	809.6	1.3%	14.6%
Msallata	796.8	1.9%	35.1%
Zwara	756.1	3.2%	14.0%
Zliten	739.3	3.8%	12.9%
Sabratha	736.2	4.3%	15.1%
Azzawya	732.3	4.3%	13.1%
Ghadamis	732.1	5.8%	6.0%
Ashshgega	727.9	-11.8%	11.8%
Al Aziziya	720.4	4.8%	14.0%
Yefren	711.5	-11.8%	4.6%
Tripoli	699.0	-3.7%	8.2%
Bani Waleed	680.7	4.8%	8.5%
Sirt	675.3	3.7%	15.8%
Tarhuna	673.8	4.0%	5.8%
Alkhums	660.1	6.7%	3.6%
Misrata	646.2	8.1%	3.7%
Janzour	618.9	9.1%	6.5%
<b>Median West</b>	<b>713.7</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
Albayda	882.6	-4.5%	44.3%
Ejdabia	842.1	20.1%	35.5%
Benghazi	807.4	5.6%	33.3%
Alkufra	736.6	2.7%	11.4%
Derna	716.3	-2.1%	16.2%
Almarj	698.3	4.5%	16.5%
Tobruk	683.4	1.6%	10.5%
<b>Median East</b>	<b>754.3</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>22.9%</b>
Ghat	1,185.8	-14.1%	12.7%
Ubari	1,128.6	-12.1%	14.3%
Algatroun	1,120.7	-7.3%	6.1%
Wadi Etba	958.0	-0.2%	No data
Sebha	812.1	-1.5%	18.0%
Brak	794.6	-2.2%	13.1%
Aljufra	786.8	1.2%	4.9%
<b>Median South</b>	<b>883.2</b>	<b>-7.1%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
<b>Median Overall</b>	<b>729.1</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>

## EXCHANGE RATES OVER TIME<sup>6</sup>

### January 2016-July 2019

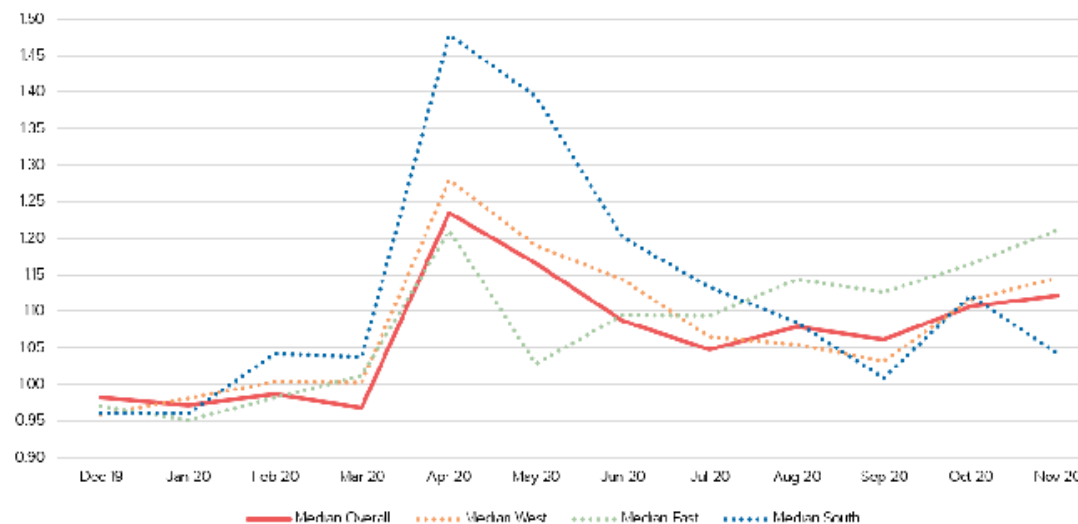


### Since July 2019

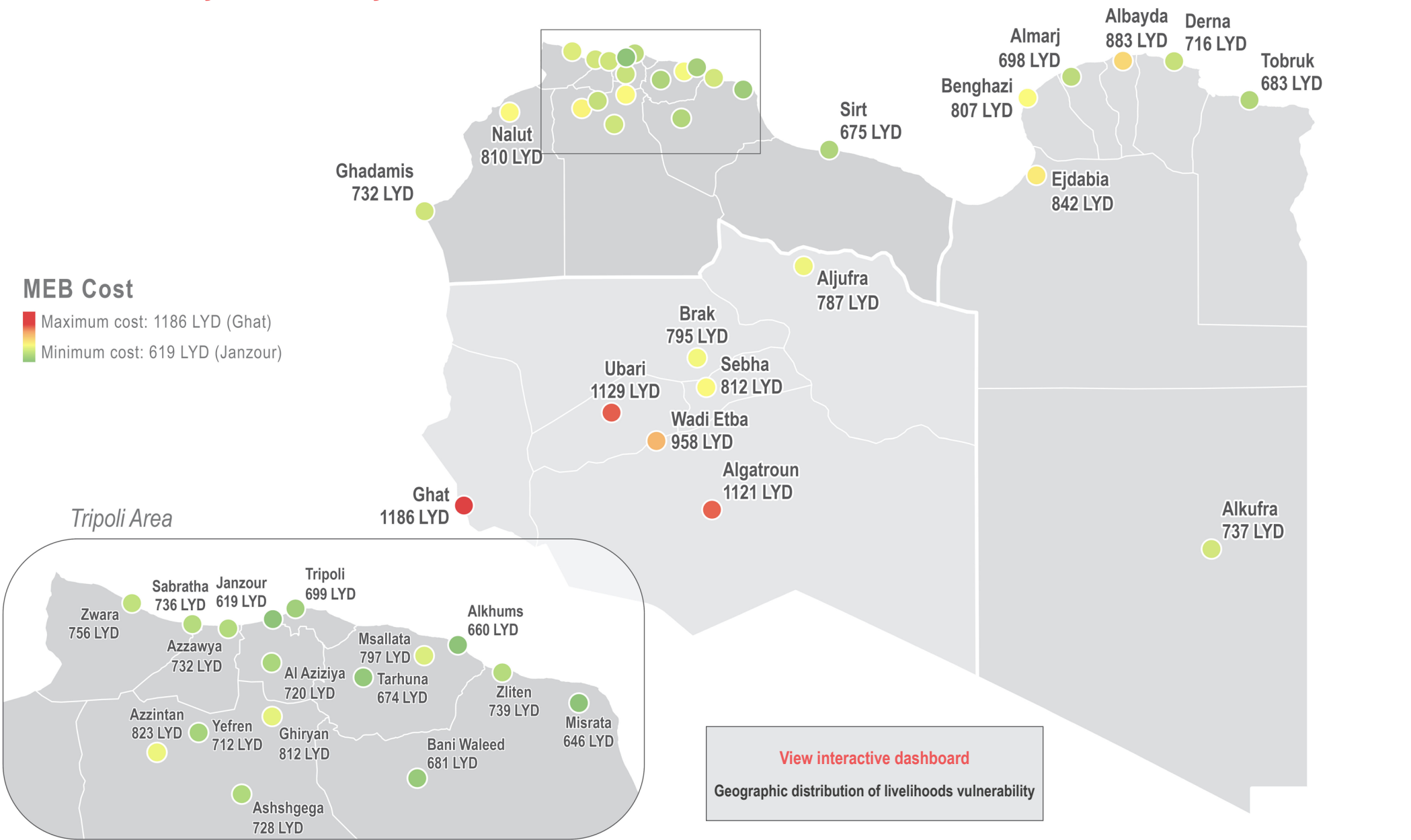


## MEB PRICE INDEX

### Since November 2019 (normalised. November 2019 = 1.00)<sup>9</sup>



# Cost of MEB Key Elements by Location

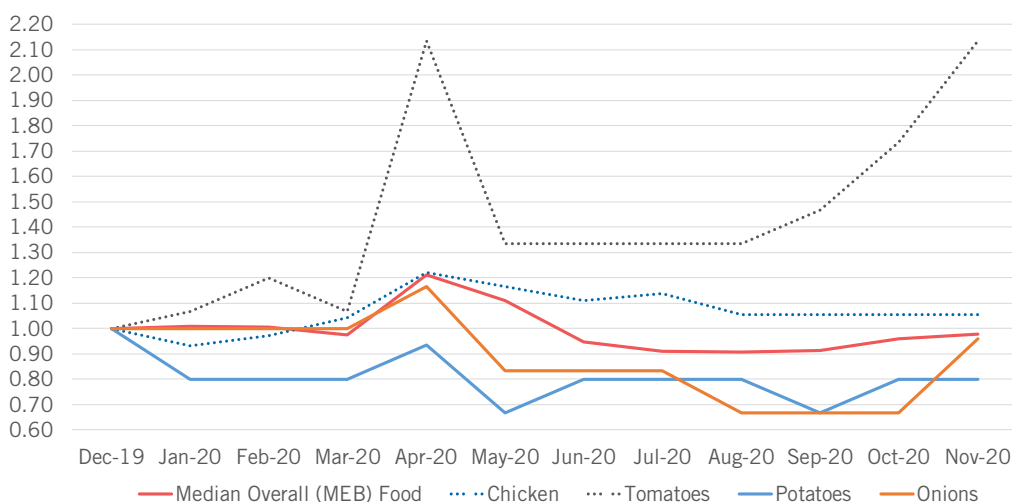


## PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS

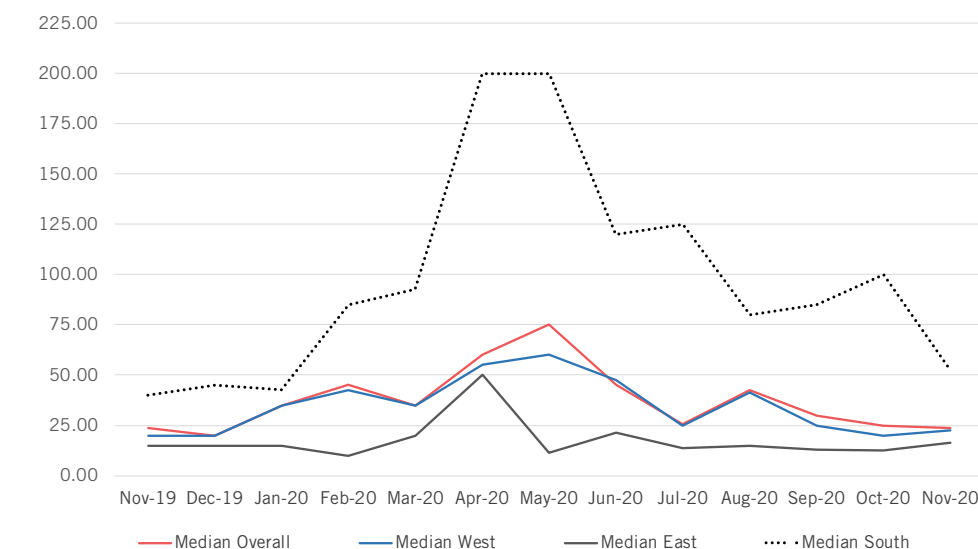
Item	Unit	Median price (LYD)	Change since Oct 2020	Change since March 2019
<b>Food items</b>				
Onions	1 kg	2.94	46.9%	30.6%
Tomatoes	1 kg	4.00	23.1%	60.0%
Couscous	1 kg	7.50	15.4%	140.0%
Eggs	30 eggs	14.88	14.4%	41.7%
Black tea	250 g	6.75	8.0%	5.9%
Rice	1 kg	3.50	7.7%	-12.5%
Sugar	1 kg	2.69	7.5%	26.5%
Tomato paste	400 g	2.50	5.3%	11.1%
Chicken meat	1 kg	10.00	5.3%	11.1%
Pasta	500 g	2.06	3.1%	37.5%
Bread	5 pieces	1.25	0.0%	0.0%
Chickpeas	400 g	2.00	0.0%	-11.1%
Condensed milk	200 mL	2.50	0.0%	12.4%
Flour	1 kg	2.50	0.0%	11.1%
Green tea	250 g	3.75	0.0%	7.1%
Milk	1 L	4.00	0.0%	23.1%
Peppers	1 kg	4.75	0.0%	5.6%
Potatoes	1 kg	3.00	0.0%	20.0%
Tuna	200 g	3.50	0.0%	-18.4%
Lamb meat	1 kg	37.50	-3.8%	21.0%
Beans	400 g	2.00	-5.9%	-15.8%
Vegetable oil	1 L	4.69	-6.2%	-1.3%
Salt	1 kg	1.25	-9.1%	25.0%
<b>Hygiene items</b>				
Laundry detergent	1 L	2.49	55.5%	91.3%
Bleach	1 L	14.75	40.5%	No data
Toothpaste	100 mL	5.00	25.0%	0.0%
Toothbrush	1 brush	2.50	11.1%	0.0%
Baby diapers	30	17.00	4.6%	6.2%
Shampoo	250 mL	5.18	3.6%	-13.7%
Laundry powder	1 kg	6.46	3.4%	-7.6%
Dishwashing liquid	1 L	3.00	0.0%	100.0%
Handwashing soap	1 bar	1.50	-14.3%	-25.0%
Sanitary pads	10 pads	4.00	-20.0%	33.3%
Hand sanitiser	1 L	21.00	-45.5%	No data
<b>Other items</b>				
Water	1 L	0.29	0.0%	0.0%

## FOOD PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, November 2019 = 1.00)<sup>10</sup>



## PRICES FROM UNOFFICIAL COOKING FUEL VENDORS (11 KG LPG CYLINDER) (since November 2019, non-normalised)



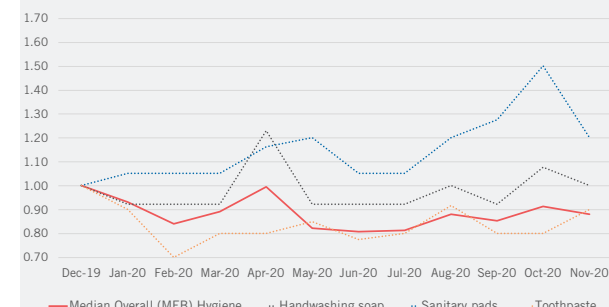
## PRICES OF FUEL AND HEALTH ITEMS

Item	Unit	Median price (LYD)	Change since Aug 2020	Change since March 2019
<b>Fuel items</b>				
Unofficial Gasoline	1 Litre	2.12	21.4%	No data
Official LPG	11 kg	5.00	0.0%	0.0%
Official Gasoline	1 Litre	0.15	0.0%	No data
Unofficial LPG	11 kg	22.50	-10.0%	50.0%
<b>Pharmaceutical items</b>				
Ibuprofen*	400mg [20 pack]	6.94	5.4%	26.1%
Vitamin B*	[40 pack]	10.34	3.4%	0.8%
Amoxicillin*	500mg [21 pack]	10.00	0.0%	11.1%
Paracetamol*	400mg [20 pack]	6.00	0.0%	-13.5%
Metoclopramide*	10mg [40 pack]	10.00	-13.0%	0.0%

\* Due to a lack of data, the comparison month is March 2020, instead of March 2019

## HYGIENE ITEM PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, November 2019 = 1.00)<sup>11</sup>

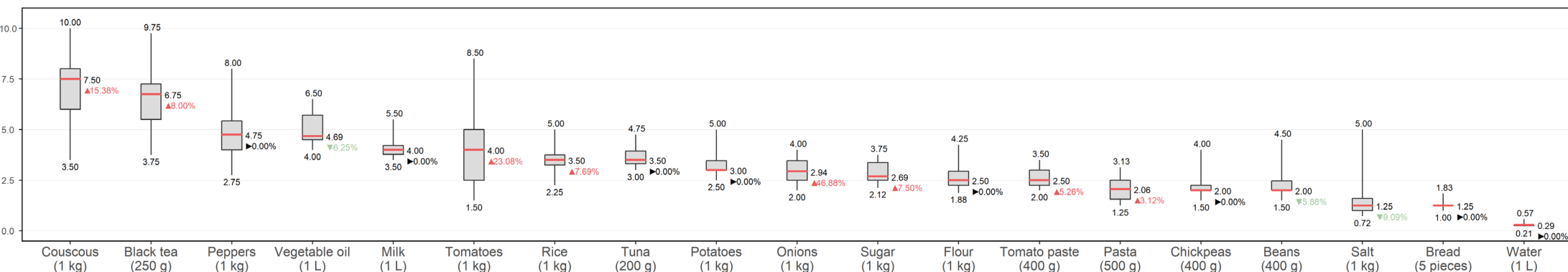


## NOTABLE MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGES

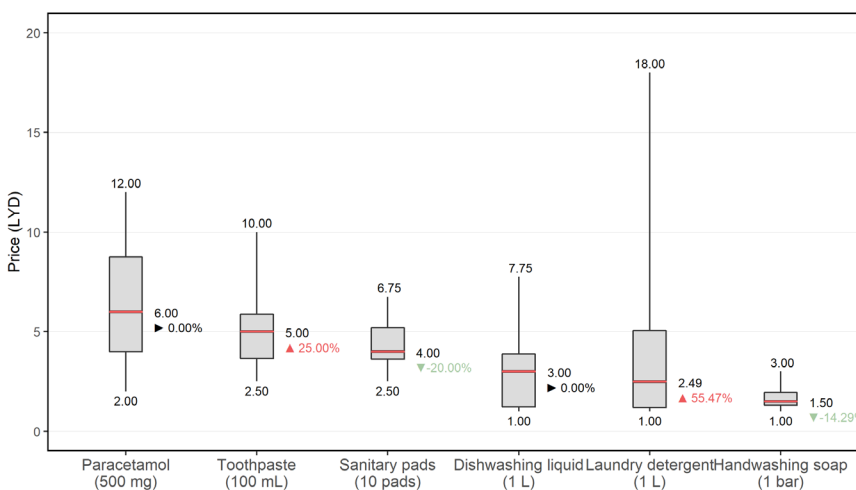
Laundry Detergent	▲ +55.5%
Onions	▲ +46.9%
Hand Sanitiser	▼ -45.5%
Bleach	▲ +40.5%
Toothpaste	▲ +25.0%

# Distribution of Prices in Libya

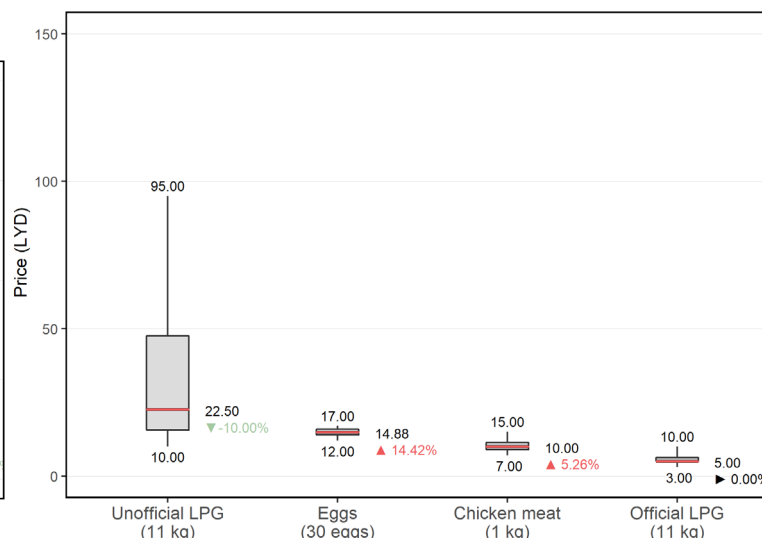
## FOOD ITEMS



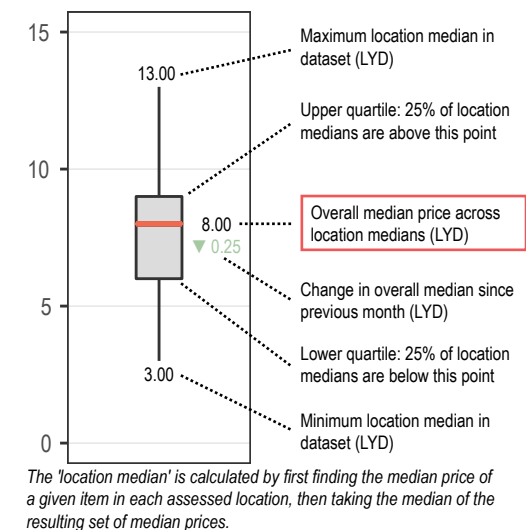
## HYGIENE ITEMS



## ITEMS WITH HIGHEST PRICES



## How to read a boxplot

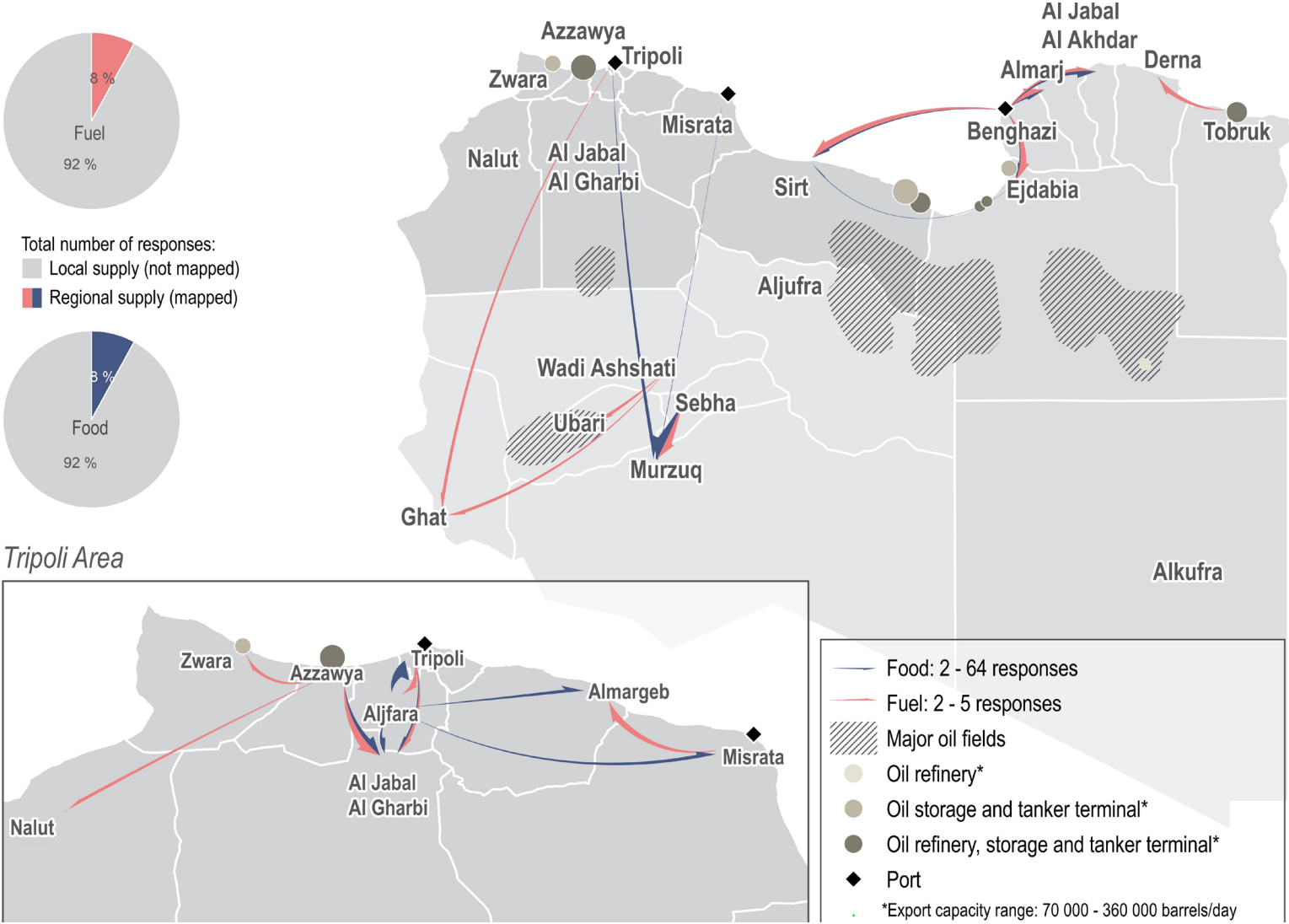




# Main Food and Fuel Supply Routes

This map indicates the source and flow of transported fuel and food products according to the shop owner and vendor KIs. The arrow sizes are determined by the quantity of responses and provide an indicative scale of the reported supply routes.

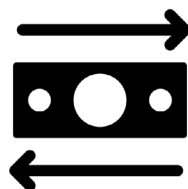
The indicated supply routes only visualize the flow of goods between mantikas (on a regional level), the map does not show the trajectory of goods that are sourced more locally.



# Liquidity and Financial Infrastructure - Access to cash



**83% of interviewed customers reported being unable to withdraw cash from bank.**



**56% of interviewed customers reported exchanging cheques for cash on the parallel market**

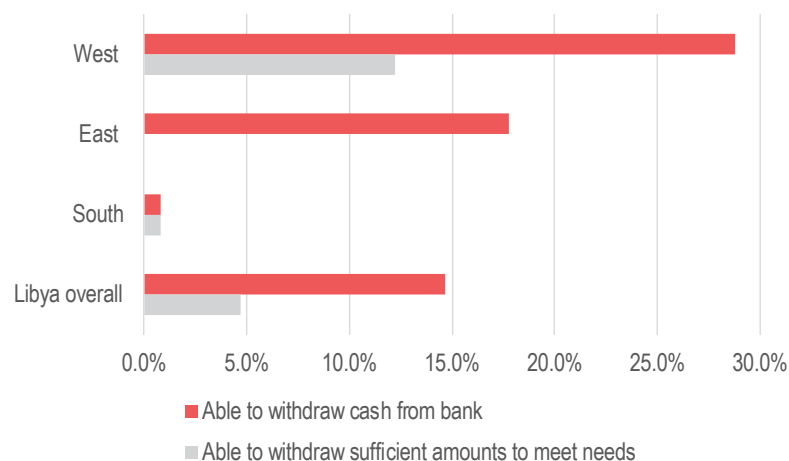


**Interviewed customers lost on average 27% of the cheque value during parallel market exchange**

## Key findings

- The liquidity crisis continues to impact households. A number of recent reports have indicated that the liquidity crisis in Libya is a growing concern for the population, as households are not able to withdraw sufficient amounts to meet needs.<sup>12</sup> **Only 4.7% of interviewed customers in Libya overall were able to purchase the items necessary to meet their basic needs using cash withdrawn from banks in the 30 days prior to data collection**

## % of interviewed customers reporting being able to withdraw cash in the 30 days prior to data collection



## Methodology

- Since October 2020, JMMI has been collecting a series of additional data on the ability to access cash and payment modalities. In November 2020, REACH interviewed 640 customers and 571 vendors across 25 cities in Libya.
- This data collection extension will be conducted every three months.
- Due to non-probability sampling, findings are indicative only. For more information on the methodology, please refer to the [appendix](#).

Location	West	East	South	Libya
% of interviewed customers reporting ability to withdraw cash in 30 days prior to data collection				
Unable to withdraw cash from bank	70.2%	81.4%	99.2%	85.0%
Able to withdraw cash from bank, but not sufficient amount to meet basic needs	16.8%	18.6%	0%	9.9%
Able to withdraw cash from bank, in sufficient amounts to meet needs	12.0%	0%	0.8%	4.7%
% of interviewed customers reporting using alternative methods of obtaining cash				
Selling cheques on parallel market	16.4%	87.3%	77.5%	56.2%
Exchanging cheques with businesses	6.8%	2.5%	1.7%	3.8%
Borrowing cash from vendors	2.7%	0.9%	2.1%	2.1%
Being paid in cash	23.6%	11.0%	16.7%	18.2%
Other	1.8%	3.4%	0.8%	1.7%
Preferred not to answer	50.9%	0.0%	5.0%	21.5%
Average reported mark-up fee				
Selling cheques on parallel market	18.0%	25.0%	40.0%	27.0%
Exchanging cheques with businesses	12.5%	4.0%	37.0%	15.0%

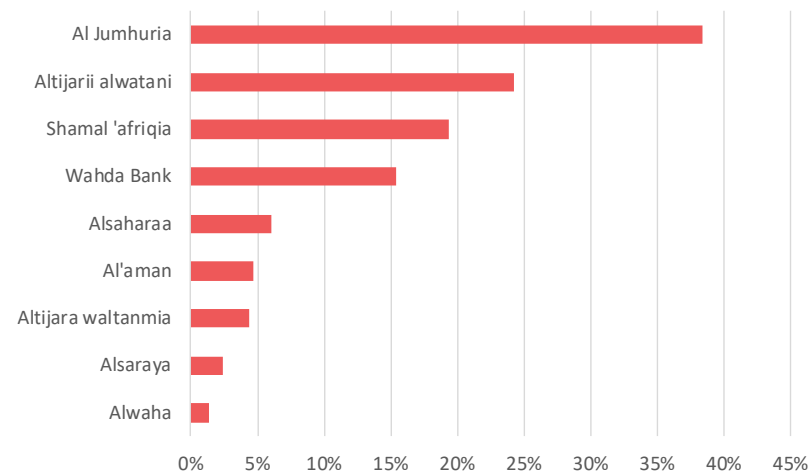
# Liquidity and Financial Infrastructure - Banks

Bank	Number of interviewed customers reported principal bank	Interviewed customers able to withdraw cash in 30 days prior to data collection	Average reported cheque mark-up fee
<b>Name of Bank</b>			
<b>East</b>			
Al Jumhuria	47	15%	25%
Al Saharaa	5	20%	26%
Altijara	15	0%	25%
Altijarii Alwatani	37	22%	25%
Wahda Bank	28	21%	25%
Aman bank	2	0%	23%
Shamal 'afriqia	13	0%	30%
<b>South</b>			
Al Jumhuria	84	0%	32%
Al Saharaa	11	0%	40%
Altijarii Alwatani	81	0%	40%
Aman bank	7	29%	41%
Shamal 'afriqia	58	0%	33%
Wahda Bank	3	0%	30%
<b>West</b>			
Al Jumhuria	91	37%	18%
Al Saharaa	19	11%	20%
Al Saraya	14	7%	10%
Al Waha	8	13%	-
Aman Bank	18	0%	20%
Altijarii Alwatani	22	27%	18%
Altijara	10	10%	15%
Masraf Altanmia	5	0%	-
Shamal 'Afriqia	41	12%	17%
Wahda Bank	58	28%	20%

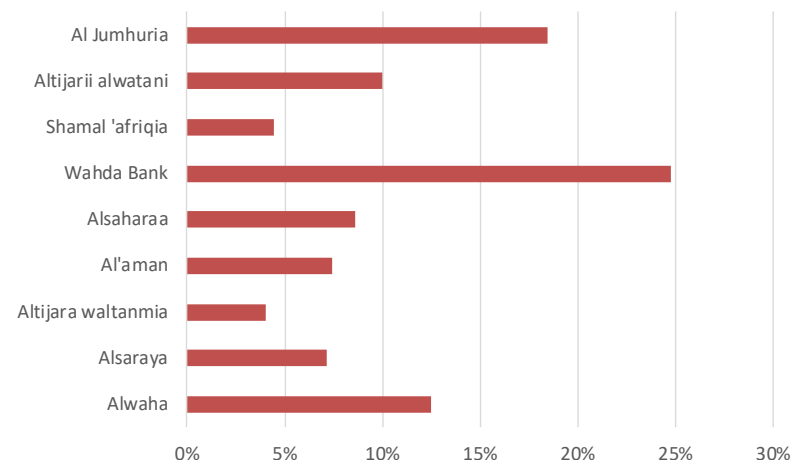
## Key findings

- The data shows the differences in mark-up fee and ability to withdraw, depending on the region and bank.
- The information highlights that HHs may lose from 10%-41% of the value of their cheque sold on the parallel market, depending on the difference in the household's location and choice of bank.
- The liquidity crisis seems to be **more severe in the south and in the east**, compared to the west.
- Southern and eastern bank customers were found to be less able to withdraw cash and lose a larger value of their cheque.
- These challenges can further complicate the ability of households in these areas to meet their needs.

## % of interviewed customers reporting use of specified banks



## % of interviewed customers reporting being able to withdraw cash, per specified bank





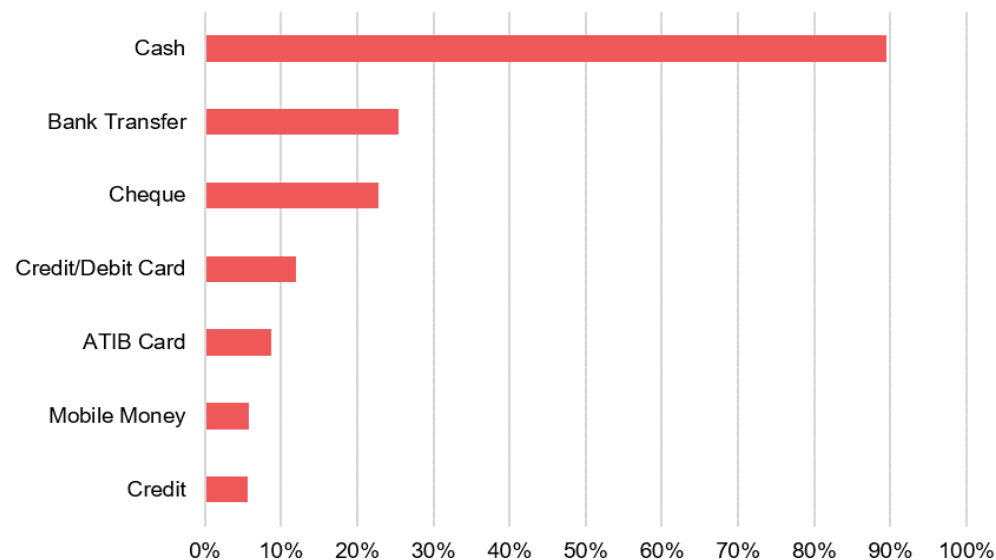
# Liquidity and Financial Infrastructure - Payment Modalities

## Key findings

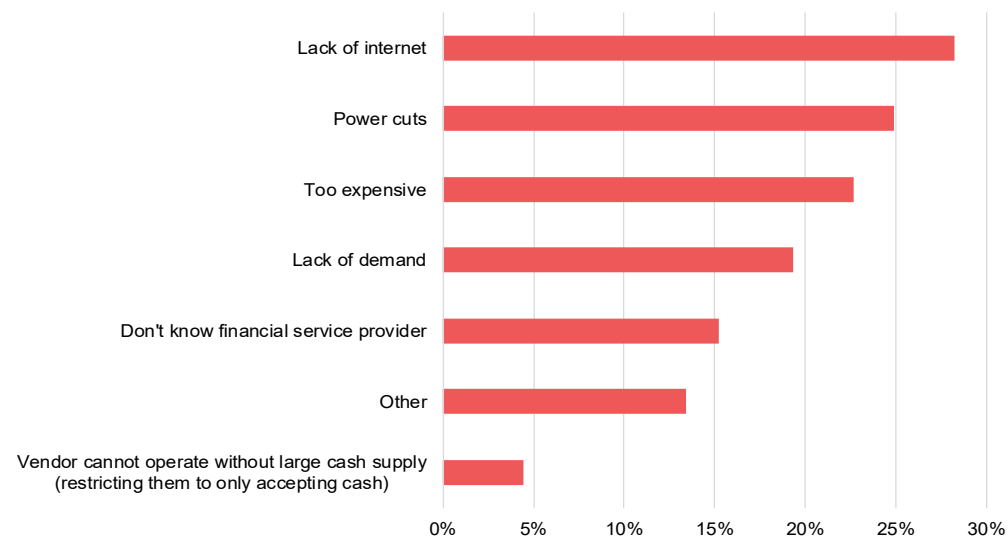
- The findings show clear regional differences in vendor payment modality prevalence. **In East Libya, the most prevalent modalities besides cash are cheques (18.0%) and mobile money (13.5%), southern vendors most commonly accept cheques (23.2%) and west Libyan vendors report most commonly accepting ATIB cards (12.6%).**
- 271 (36%) interviewed vendors reported **not always being able to accept modalities other than cash**. The most commonly reported reasons were lack of internet (28%), power cuts (25%), and high costs (23%). These barriers in combination with limited access to cash for consumers poses serious problems for access to marketplaces.

Location	West Libya	East Libya	South Libya	Libya Overall	Average Mark-up Fee
% of interviewed customers reporting using the following payment modalities					
Cash	93.9%	66.1%	96.3%	89.4%	-
Credit/debit card	20.4%	11.9%	9.6%	11.9%	7.5%
ATIB Card	45.3%	0.9%	0.8%	8.7%	1.0%
Cheque	8.8%	33.9%	28.3%	22.8%	20.1%
Mobile Money	12.2%	9.3%	4.6%	5.7%	12.5%
Credit	0.0%	0.9%	8.3%	5.5%	0.0%
Bank Transfer	0.6%	20.3%	47.5%	25.4%	20.4%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.17%	-
% of interviewed vendors reporting accepting the following payment modalities					
Cash	99.2%	100.0%	100.0%	99.7%	-
Credit/debit card	12.2%	14.7%	4.9%	10.4%	1.1%
ATIB Card	12.6%	0.0%	0.0%	5.1%	2.6%
Cheque	5.7%	18.0%	23.2%	14.7%	4.1%
Mobile Money	0.8%	13.5%	1.0%	4.1%	3.6%
Credit	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.5%	0.0%
Bank Transfer	0.8%	19.2%	29.1%	15.0%	2.2%
Other	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.5%	-

% of interviewed customers reporting using the following payment modalities



% of interviewed vendors reporting the following barriers to accepting alternative payment modalities



## Introduction

- Ever since the onset of the conflict in and around Tripoli and Murzuq in April 2019, Tripoli has been a key displacement destination for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), with the municipalities of Suq Aljuma, Hai Andalus, and Tajoura hosting an estimated 71% of the approximate 108,003 IDPs in the region.<sup>13</sup>
- When entering Tripoli, IDPs typically seek to enter the rental market – with 60% of IDPs reporting to live in rented accommodation as of April 2020.<sup>14</sup>
- On the 5th June, a shift in political control in Tarhuna and Bani Walid led large numbers of IDPs to move to eastern cities, especially Benghazi.<sup>15</sup>
- REACH is therefore exploring rent monitoring as part of the JMIMI, in order to provide humanitarian actors with a more accurate overview of key expenditures facing IDPs in Tripoli and Benghazi.

## Methodology

- From May 2020 onwards, in addition to the price monitoring of key items (MEB) REACH commenced analyzing rental prices, which were extracted on a daily basis from the website 'Open Souq'. In **November 2020, 2,233 rental prices were collected in Tripoli and Benghazi**. The price change findings are indicative.
- For more information please refer to the [appendix](#).

## Key Findings

- Since May 2020, **rental prices seem to have considerably decreased in Tripoli** overall (-25.0%). Within approximately the same time period (April - August 2020), there has been a 12.2% decrease in IDP numbers\* in Tripoli overall. Consequently, the decrease in demand in rental properties may be linked to rental price decreases. Rental price change in Benghazi was not found to follow a similar fluctuation pattern compared to Tripoli, with rental prices falling by (3.8%) and decreasing since May by 2%, despite a 24% increase in IDP numbers between April - August 2020\*.
- Despite decreasing rent prices, **accommodation costs nevertheless remain high for vulnerable populations**; the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that 54% of migrants adopt livelihood coping strategies. 34% of migrants reported having another job and 34% reported reducing expenditure on essential non-food items in order to pay rent across Libya.<sup>16</sup>

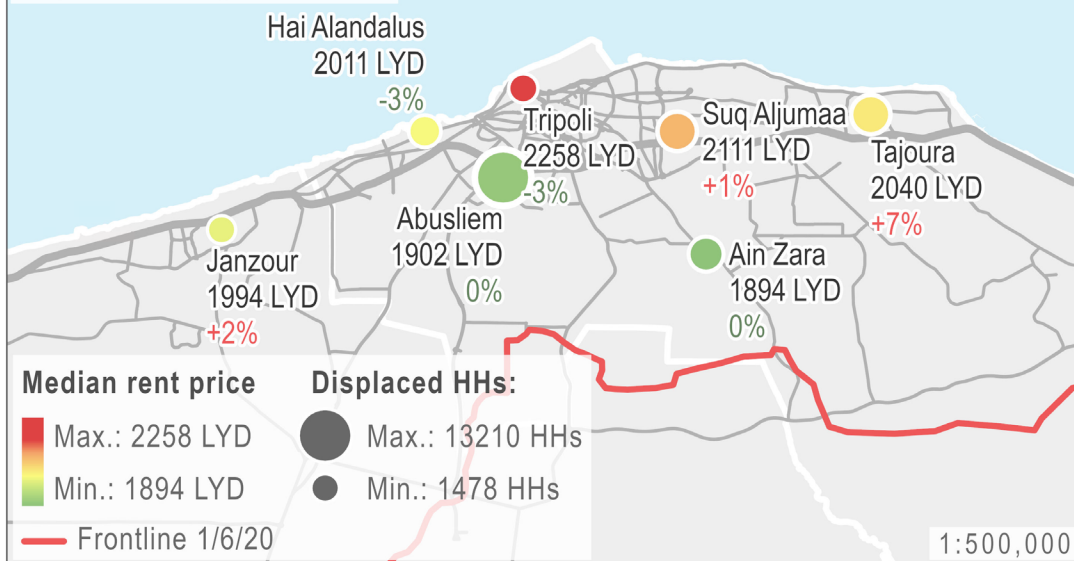
## Standardised rental prices October 2020

Location	Standard price (LYD)	Since Oct 2020	Since May 2020	Change in IDP** numbers	Change in Returnee** numbers
<b>Municipality</b>					
Abusliem	1,902	0.2%	-29.1%	-43.4%	34.8%
Ain Zara	1,894	-0.3%	-35.1%	-27.5%	28.4%
Hai Alandalus	2,011	-3.1%	-25.0%	-12.0%	0.0%
Janzour	1,994	1.9%	-13.4%	-40.7%	0.0%
Suq Aljumaa	2,111	1.4%	-21.2%	-4.0%	4.9%
Tajoura	2,040	7.0%	-13.4%	8.4%	No data
Tripoli Center	2,258	-2.8%	-24.4%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Tripoli Overall</b>	<b>2,011</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>-25.0%</b>	<b>-10.9%</b>	<b>28.9%</b>
<b>Benghazi Overall</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>-3.8%</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

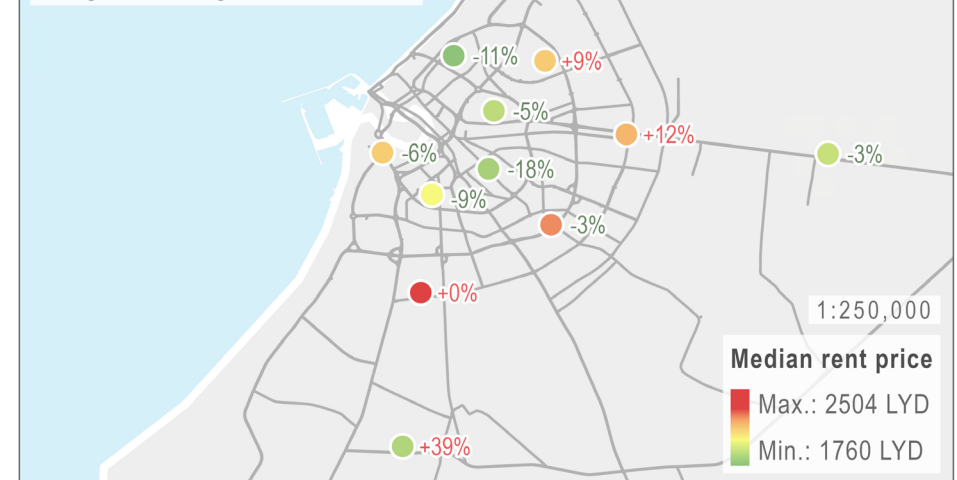
\* Change in the number of IDPs and returnees, is derived from the latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) (Rounds 31 and 32) from the IOM.

\*\* Numbers based on IOM-DTM numbers as well, comparing June and August 2020. Note August is the latest known data.

### Tripoli - Baladiya Level



### Benghazi - Neighborhood Level



## PREVIOUS JMMI OUTPUTS

### Factsheets

### Datasets

#### 2020

October  
September  
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January

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#### 2019

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## What is the CMWG?

The Libya Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG), established in September 2016, is a community of humanitarian actors that support and coordinate cash-based interventions in Libya. The CWG, based jointly in Tripoli and Tunis, is currently led by UNHCR and co-led by Mercy Corps.

## Methodology (cont. from page 1)

Enumerators were trained on methodology and tools by REACH. Data collection was conducted through the KoBoCollect mobile application.

Following data collection, REACH compiled and cleaned all partner data, normalising prices, cross-checking outliers and calculating the median cost of the MEB in each assessed market.

The methodology for the JMMI is based on purposive sampling. In each assessed market, at least four prices per item need to be collected from different shops to ensure the quality and consistency of collected data. Partner field teams, in coordination with the CWG, identify shops to assess based on the following criteria:

1. Shops need to be large enough to sell all or most assessed items.
2. Prices in these shops need to be good indicators of the general price levels in the assessed area.
3. Shops should be located in different areas within the assessed city or baladiya.

In locations where it is not possible to identify four large markets that fulfil criterion (1), smaller shops, such as grocery shops, vegetable vendors, butchers and bakeries, are added to the shop list, as long as they fit criteria (2) and (3), in order to guarantee at least four prices per item of interest. Each month, price data is collected from the same shops whenever possible to ensure comparability across months.

The CWG primarily targets urban areas throughout Libya, aiming to ensure coverage of markets that serve as commercial hubs for surrounding regions.

Data is collected via the KoBo mobile data collection application. The CWG maintains a joint KoBo account for the JMMI. The data collection tool is published alongside the dataset every month and disseminated to the humanitarian community.

## Analyses

The median prices reported in this factsheet are 'location medians', designed to minimise the effects of outliers and differing amounts of data among assessed locations. First, the

median prices of all assessed items are calculated within each assessed location (city or mahalla); then, REACH calculates the median of this list of medians. All boxplots, as well as MEB and price index calculations, are created using this method.

The cost of the MEB is calculated by multiplying the median price of each item in the MEB's 'Key Elements' section by the quantity listed in the table on page 2. In cases where no median price is available for an item in a particular location, the median price for that item across the region (west, east, or south) is substituted.

## Challenges and limitations

Price data is only indicative for the time frame within which it was collected. Prices may vary during the weeks between adjacent data collection rounds.

The data is only indicative of the general price levels in each assessed location. Representativeness on the mantika (district) level cannot be claimed. Even on the city level, price data must be interpreted with caution, particularly in larger cities with substantial variation in neighbourhoods' socioeconomic levels.

The JMMI data collection tool requires enumerators to record the cheapest available price for each item, but does not require a specific brand, as brand availability may vary. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slight variants of the same product.

The JMMI does not intend to measure general inflation levels on Libyan markets. As per the JMMI methodology, only the cheapest available price per item is collected, meaning that changes in middle-market and upmarket goods are not captured.

## Rental Prices

In order to standardise property prices, key features were isolated through consultation with KIs to identify the average apartment specification for typical households in Tripoli and Benghazi. The average apartment for typical households was found to be a furnished, 3-bedroom apartment with 1 bathroom. All rental prices presented in this report have been standardised to this accommodation type.

Benghazi consists of only one municipality, therefore neighbourhoods across the city were grouped together into 11 area units.

Limitations: the data collected are new offers presented by Open Souq, therefore they may not represent the rental expenses of all IDP households, as tenants may receive cheaper offer through informal channels.

## Liquidity Crisis

The respondents were vendors and customers from market places already monitored by the JMMI. Respondents were selected purposively, with an average number of 8 customers and 4 vendors per region.

The findings are indicative and not statistically representative. The sample from south Libya is disproportionately large, therefore national level data may be skewed towards southern Libyan respondent findings.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Reported by local key informants involved in agricultural

<sup>2</sup> Inside Libya, Libya Desk, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), December 2020

<sup>3</sup> A Long Way From Home – Migrants' Housing Conditions In Libya, IOM, November 2020

<sup>4</sup> Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (1 October 2020). Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 October 2020). The rates from 1 October 2020 and 1 October 2020 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.

<sup>5</sup> The cooking fuel price is calculated by taking the average of the official LPG median and the unofficial LPG median.

<sup>6</sup> Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (1 October 2020). Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 October 2020). The rates from 1 October 2020 and 1 October 2020 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.

<sup>7</sup> The 'Optional Elements' section of the MEB includes basic expenditures that are incurred by some, but not all, Libyan households, as well as expenditures that extend beyond basic survival and dignity needs. They are not included in the JMMI's MEB calculations.

<sup>8</sup> The 20% float includes expenses on healthcare, medicine, education, utilities, transportation, and communications.

<sup>9</sup> The MEB price index was normalised by setting November 2019 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in November 2019.

<sup>10</sup> The food prices were normalised by setting November 2019 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in November 2019.

<sup>11</sup> The hygiene prices were normalised by setting November 2019 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in November 2019.

<sup>12</sup> Cash shortage adds to weary Eastern Libyans' woes, Reuters, 7th October 2020

<sup>13</sup> Libya IDP and Returnee March - April 2020, DTM IOM, June 2020

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> A Long Way From Home – Migrants' Housing Conditions In Libya, IOM, November 2020

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH 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. REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org) You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) and follow us on Twitter @REACH\_info.