

# Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

1 - 11 July 2021

Libya Cash Working Group

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

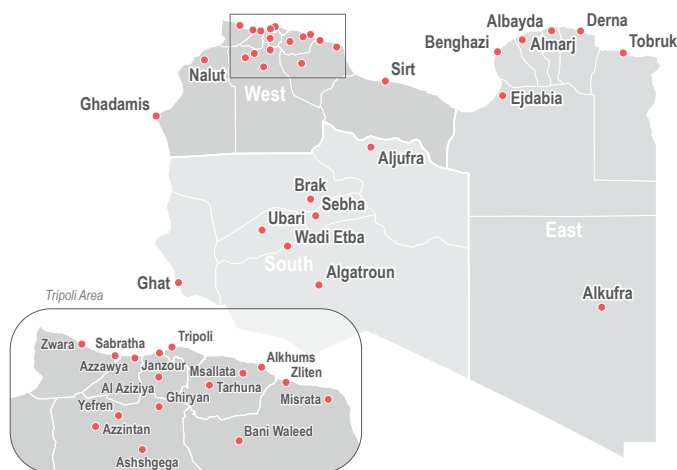
## INTRODUCTION

- 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 CMWG members. It is funded by the Office of U.S. Bureau of 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 (NFI) 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, normalised prices, cross-checked outliers and calculated the median cost of the MEB in each assessed market. Qualitative information was also gathered from both local sources and economic experts through key informant (KI) interviews.
- During the July 2021 round a collection of Shelter and Non Food Items (SNFI) was done. A description of a calculated SNFI MEB, based on the Basic NFI Kit, <sup>2</sup> is presented.
- REACH has extracted prices on a daily basis from the website, "Open Souq" and conducted KI interviews with property market professionals to better understand the rental market in Libya.

## COVERAGE



## JMMI KEY FINDINGS & CONTEXT

- The cost of the MEB increased by 2% across Libya between June and July 2021 (see page 2). The east showed a decrease by -4%, when both the west (+1.4%) and south (+3.9%) showed an increase. The cost of the MEB is still higher (+13%) than pre-COVID-19 levels. The largest increase in the cost of the MEB was observed in western cities like Tajoura (+11.3%), Bani Waleed (+10.9%) and Sabratha (+8.3%) as well as southern ones such as Al Ghat (+9.3%). In addition, an increasing cost of living could be observed during Eid al-Adha as fewer sheep were sold compared to other years.<sup>3</sup>
- Between June and July 2021, the cost of the food proportion of the MEB increased overall by +2.2%, including substantial increases mainly in salt (+22.2%), rice (+16.7%) and chicken (+10%). This may be due to the higher exchange rate during the month of July impacting the basic items' prices.
- All pharmaceutical items showed a decrease in price: Ibuprofen (-14.3%), Amoxicillin (-6.8%), Vitamin B (-3.4%), Metclopamide (-3.3%), and Paracetamol (-2%). This may be due to both of the increase in overall national testing combined with the support provided leading to a less demand on such items.<sup>4</sup>
- Parallel market gasoline showed a monthly increase in price of 14.3% when cooking fuel price has decreased by - 6.3%. In fact, the fuel proportion of the MEB showed a decrease overall with - 5%. The fuel proportion of the MEB east showed a decrease (-3%), when both of the west (+6.3%) and south (+6.7%) showed an increase that may be due to increase of the demand and abundant production.<sup>5</sup>
- Concerning the SNFI MEB, based on the basic SNFI kit<sup>6</sup> for a single household the value ranges between a minimum of 292.5 LYD in Misrata and a maximum of 2617.5 LYD in El Ghat. Considering regions, the south of the country showed the most important value with 2123.88 LYD, followed by the east with 1129 LYD and finally the west with a value of 936.75 LYD.

## JMMI KEY FIGURES

Data collection from 1 - 11 July 2021

2 participating agencies  
(REACH, WFP)  
37 assessed cities  
56 assessed items  
632 assessed shops

## EXCHANGE RATES <sup>1</sup>

<b>4.529</b> USD/LYD official ▲ +1.6%	<b>5.060</b> USD/LYD parallel market ▲ +1.4%	<b>5.870</b> EUR/LYD parallel market ▼ -1%
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## KEY MONTHLY CHANGES IN MEB

### Median cost of overall MEB

711.2 LYD ▲ +13.84 LYD ▲ +2 %

<b>Food items</b> + 2.2%	<b>Hygiene items</b> ▼ -0.2%	<b>Cooking fuel.</b> ▲ +16.7%
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## MEDIAN COST OF MEB BY REGION

<b>West</b>	691.3 LYD	▲ +1.4 %
<b>East</b>	670.8 LYD	▼ -4 %
<b>South</b>	829.7 LYD	▲ +3.9 %

## 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

Water (drinking use only)	458 L
Median rent for 3-rm flat	1 month

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

**711.2 LYD**

Change since  
June 2021

▲ **+13.84 LYD**  
(+2.0%)

Change since  
March 2020

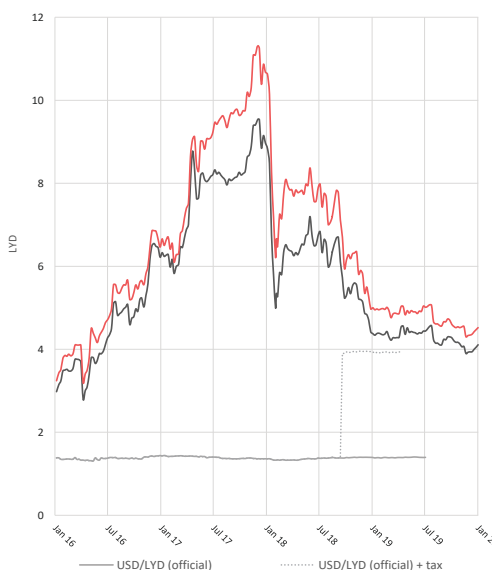
▲ **+164.00 LYD**  
(+13.0%)

## MEDIAN MEB COST BY LOCATION

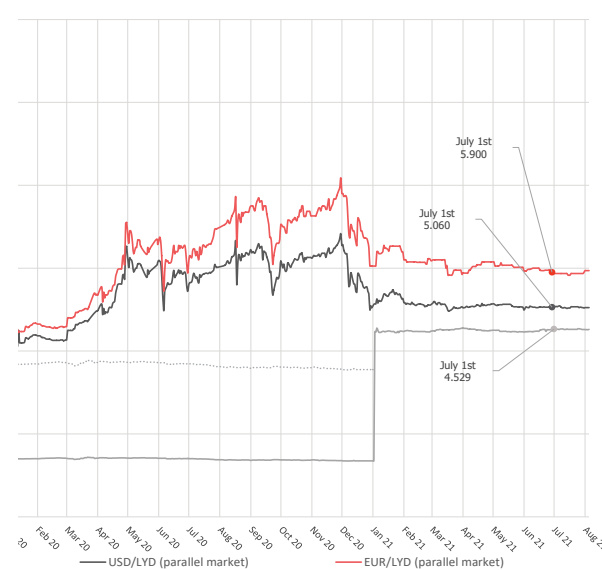
Location	Cost of MEB (LYD)	Since June 2021	Since March 2020
Azzintan	817.9	+ 4.6%	+ 20.2%
Ghiryen	792.6	+ 2.0%	+ 13.6%
Zwara	775.5	+ 7.8%	+ 41.7%
Sabratha	775.3	+ 8.3%	+ 39.1%
Nalut	772.5	-0.4%	+5.5%
Al Aziziya	727.4	-0.3%	+ 32.9%
Zliten	713.1	+ 7.5%	+ 15.9%
Azzawya	709.1	0.0%	+ 29.9%
Ashshgega	699.5	+ 4.0%	+ 8.3%
Yefren	698.6	+ 3.9%	+ 6.6%
Tripoli	689.6	+ 2.9%	+ 5.3%
Bani Waleed	670.9	+ 10.9%	+ 12.3%
Tarhuna	665.5	+ 8.0%	+ 13.1%
Msallata	655	+ 3.6%	+ 9.9%
Ghadamis	641.7	-6.1%	-6.1%
Sirt	619.1	-5.6%	+ 2.3%
Janzour	591.6	+ 5.1%	-0.2%
AlKhums	570.1	-1.7%	+ 5.6%
Misrata	550.4	-13.4%	-1.8%
<b>Median West</b>	<b>691.3</b>	<b>+ 1.4%</b>	<b>+ 10.7%</b>
Benghazi	801.2	-1.7%	+ 30.9%
AlMarj	765.4	+ 3.0%	+ 19.7%
Ejdabia	764.7	+ 2.4%	+ 17.8%
AlKufra	725.4	+ 4.6%	+ 11.1%
Tobruk	637.9	-4.3%	+ 1.4%
AlBayda	631.9	-9.5%	-2.1%
Derna	583.1	-8.4%	-4.2%
<b>Median East</b>	<b>670.8</b>	<b>-4.0%</b>	<b>+ 6.5%</b>
Algatroun	1088.4	+ 6.9%	-3.8%
Ghat	1046.1	+ 9.3%	-8.6%
Ubari	999.7	+ 4.5%	-8.4%
Wadi Etba	870.8	+ 5.0%	+ 3.7%
AlJufra	711.8	+ 4.5%	-7.8%
Sebha	695.8	-7.0%	-7.9%
Brak	681.8	-6.2%	-6.5%
<b>Median South</b>	<b>829.7</b>	<b>+ 3.9%</b>	<b>-5.6%</b>
<b>Median Overall</b>	<b>711.2</b>	<b>+ 2.0%</b>	<b>+ 13.0%</b>

## EXCHANGE RATES OVER TIME<sup>7</sup>

### January 2016-January 2020

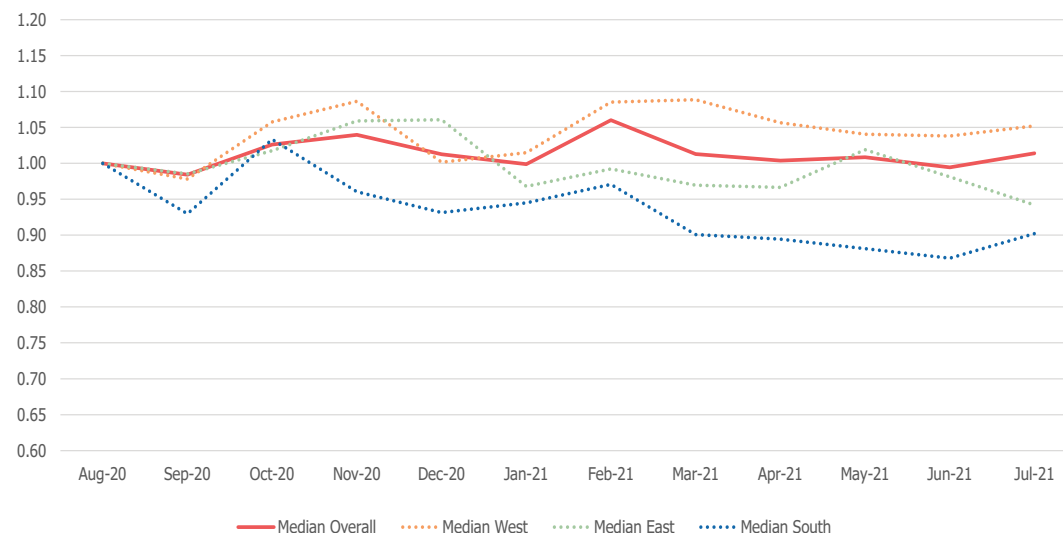


### Since February 2020



## MEB PRICE INDEX

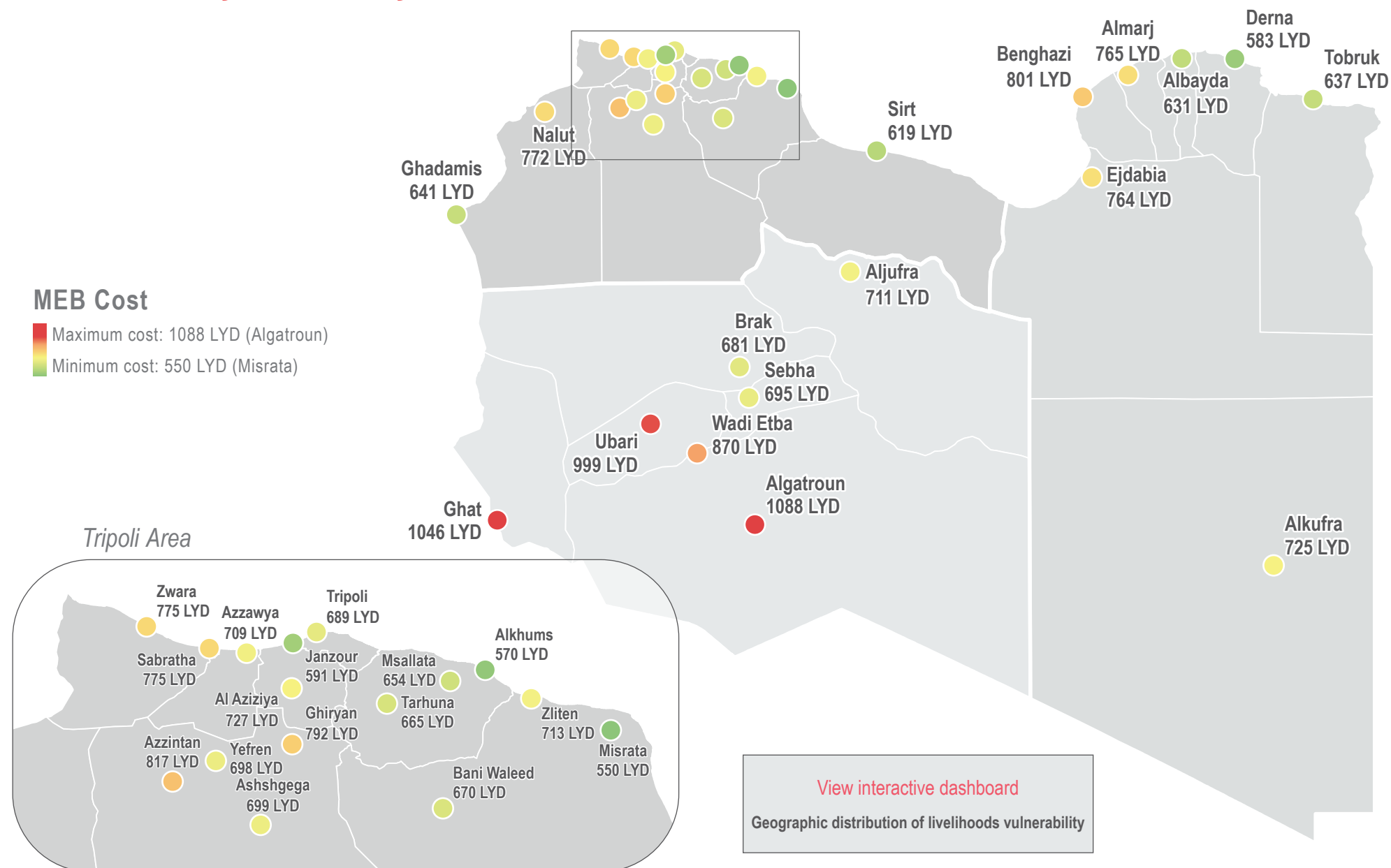
### Since June 2020 (normalised. June 2020 = 1.00)<sup>8</sup>



## Cost of MEB Key Elements by Location

### MEB Cost

Maximum cost: 1088 LYD (Algatroun)  
Minimum cost: 550 LYD (Misrata)



[View interactive dashboard](#)

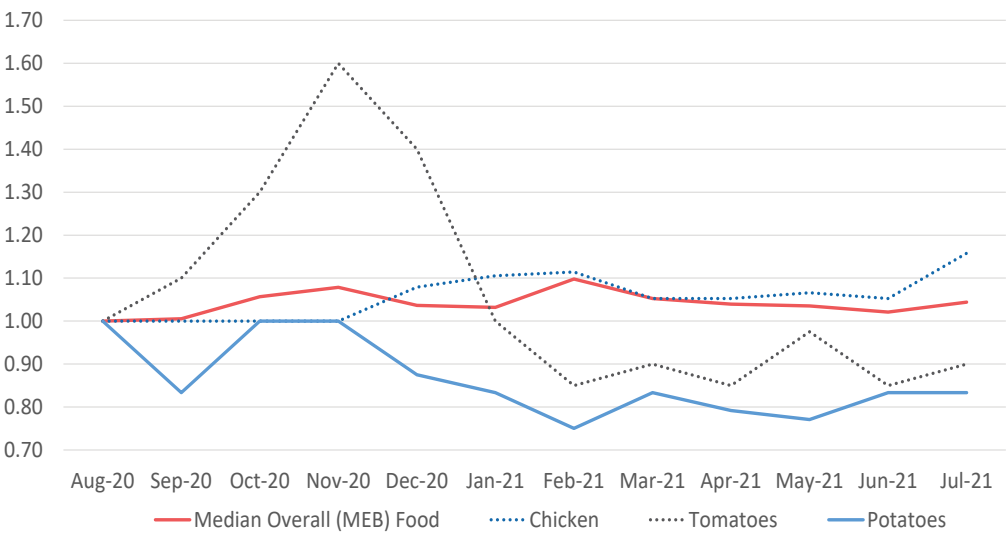
Geographic distribution of livelihoods vulnerability

PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS

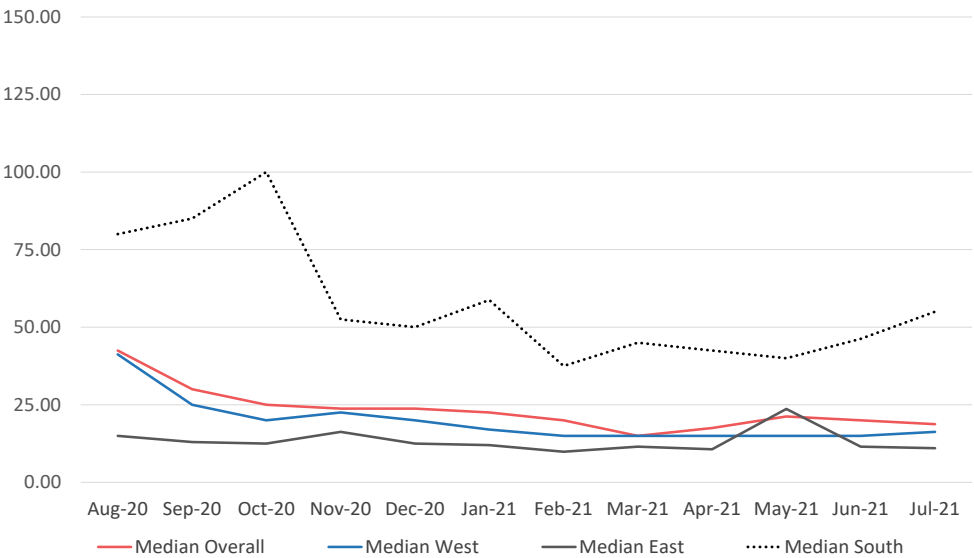
Item	Unit	Median price (LYD)	Change since Jun 2021	Change since March 2020
Food items				
Salt	1 kg	1.38	+ 22.2%	+ 37.5%
Rice	1 kg	3.50	+ 16.7%	+ 7.7%
Black tea	250 g	6.12	+ 11.4%	+ 22.5%
Chicken meat	1 kg	11.00	+ 10.0%	+ 17.3%
Couscous	1 kg	3.75	+ 7.1%	+ 7.1%
Vegetable oil	1 L	7.75	+ 6.9%	+ 72.2%
Tomatoes	1 kg	2.25	+ 5.9%	+ 12.5%
Lamb meat	1 kg	41.75	+ 4.4%	+ 17.6%
Bread	5 pieces	1.25	0.0%	+ 11.1%
Chickpeas	400 g	2.25	0.0%	+ 50.0%
Condensed Milk	200 mL	2.50	0.0%	+ 25.0%
Flour	1 kg	2.50	0.0%	+ 25.0%
Green tea	250 g	3.50	0.0%	+ 16.7%
Onions	1 kg	2.00	0.0%	-33.3%
Peppers	1 kg	4.00	0.0%	0.0%
Potatoes	1 kg	2.50	0.0%	-16.7%
Tomato paste	400 g	2.75	0.0%	+ 37.5%
Tuna	200 g	3.50	0.0%	+ 16.7%
Milk	1 L	3.88	-3.1%	+ 10.7%
Sugar	1 kg	2.88	-4.2%	+ 21.1%
Beans	400 g	2.38	-5.0%	+ 46.2%
Pasta	500 g	1.75	-6.7%	+ 16.7%
Eggs	30 eggs	12.00	-7.7%	+ 20.0%
Hygiene items				
Dishwashing liquid	1 L	3.25	+ 18.2%	+ 21.5%
Bleach	1 L	9.38	+ 17.2%	No data
Laundry powder	1 kg	7.25	+ 11.5%	+ 11.5%
Sanitary pads	10 pads	4.88	+ 8.3%	+ 39.3%
Shampoo	250 mL	5.25	+ 5.0%	+ 3.4%
Baby diapers	30	17.50	+ 2.9%	+ 16.7%
Laundry detergent	1 L	2.50	0.0%	+ 11.1%
Handwashing soap	1 bar	1.75	0.0%	+ 16.7%
Toothpaste	100 mL	4.88	-2.5%	+ 21.9%
Toothbrush	1 brush	2.38	-5.0%	+ 18.8%
Hand Sanitiser	1 L	15.00	-28.9%	No data
Other items				
Water	1 L	0.29	0.0%	0.0%

FOOD PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, June 2020 = 1.00)<sup>9</sup>



PRICES FROM UNOFFICIAL COOKING FUEL VENDORS (11 KG LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) CYLINDER) (since June 2020, non-normalised)

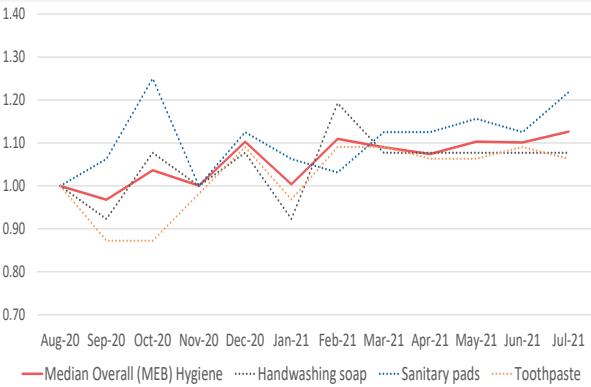


PRICES OF FUEL AND HEALTH ITEMS

Item	Unit	Median price (LYD)	Change since Jun 2021	Change since March 2020
Fuel items				
Unofficial Gasoline	1 Litre	1.00	+ 14.3%	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	18.75	-6.2%	-46.4%
Pharmaceutical items				
Paracetamol	400mg [20 pack]	6.00	-2.0%	-13.5%
Metoclopramide	10mg [40 pack]	14.75	-3.3%	+ 47.5%
Vitamin B	[40 pack]	14.00	-3.4%	+ 36.6%
Amoxicillin	500mg [21 pack]	10.25	-6.8%	+ 13.9%
Ibuprofen	400mg [20 pack]	7.00	-14.3%	+ 27.3%

HYGIENE ITEM PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, June 2020 = 1.00)<sup>10</sup>

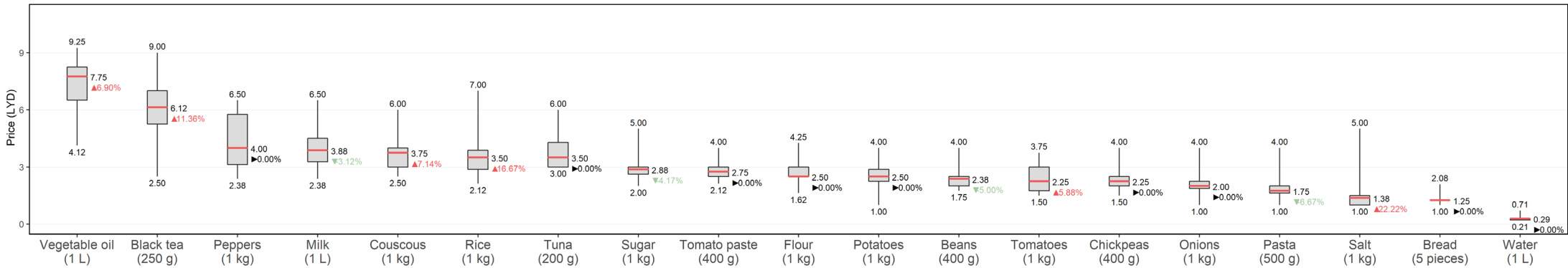


NOTABLE MONTH-ON-MONTH (JUNE-JULY) CHANGES

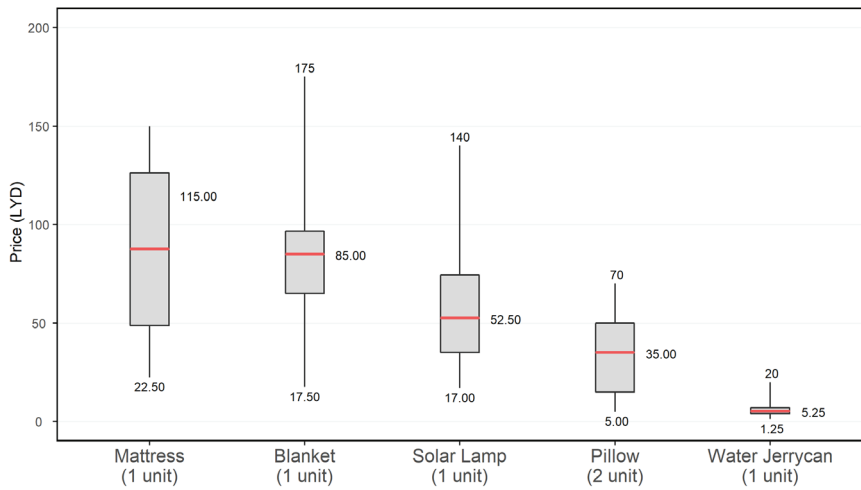
Chicken meat	▲ +10%
Eggs	▼ -7.69%
Unofficial Gasoline	▲ +14.3%
Ibuprofen	▼ -14.3%

# Distribution of Prices in Libya

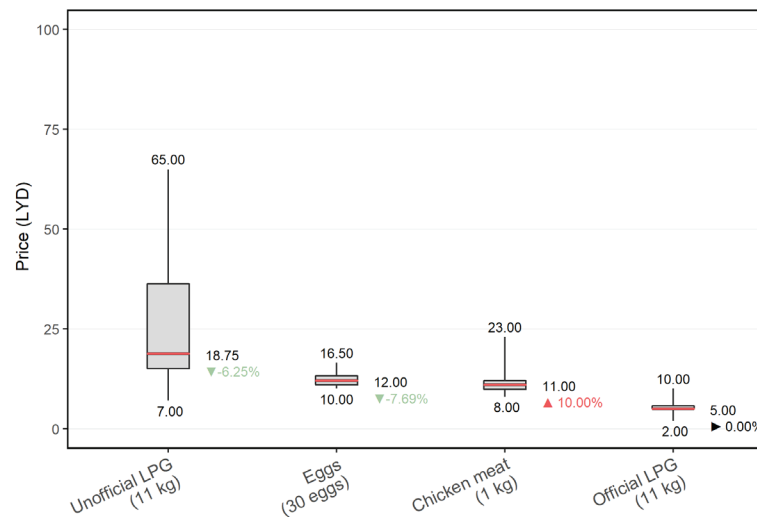
## FOOD ITEMS



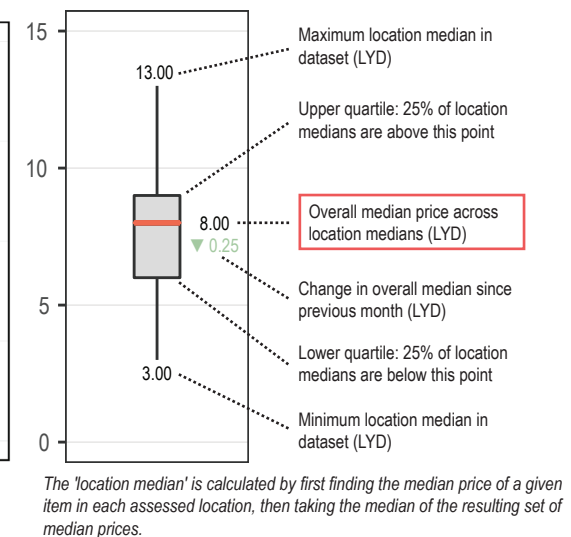
## SNFI ITEMS



## ITEMS WITH HIGHEST PRICES



## How to read a boxplot





# Rent Monitoring

## 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). Furthermore, conflict related political tensions in West Libya led large numbers of IDPs to move to eastern cities, especially Benghazi.
- 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 began analyzing rental prices, which were extracted on a daily basis from the website 'Open Souq'. **In July 2021, 2071 rental prices were collected in Tripoli and Benghazi.** The price change findings are indicative.
- In order to standardise property prices, key features were isolated through consultation with KIs to identify the average apartment specification for typical HHs in Tripoli and Benghazi. The average apartment for typical HHs 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.

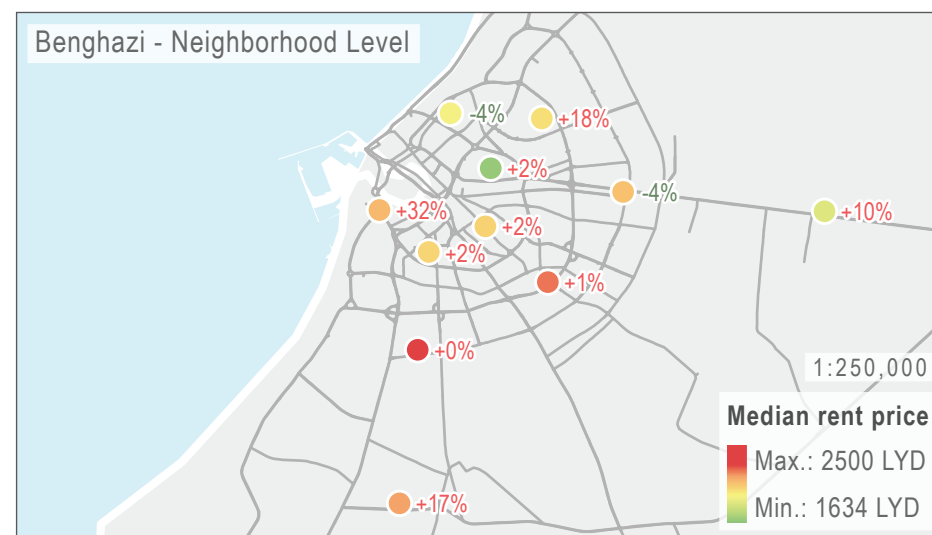
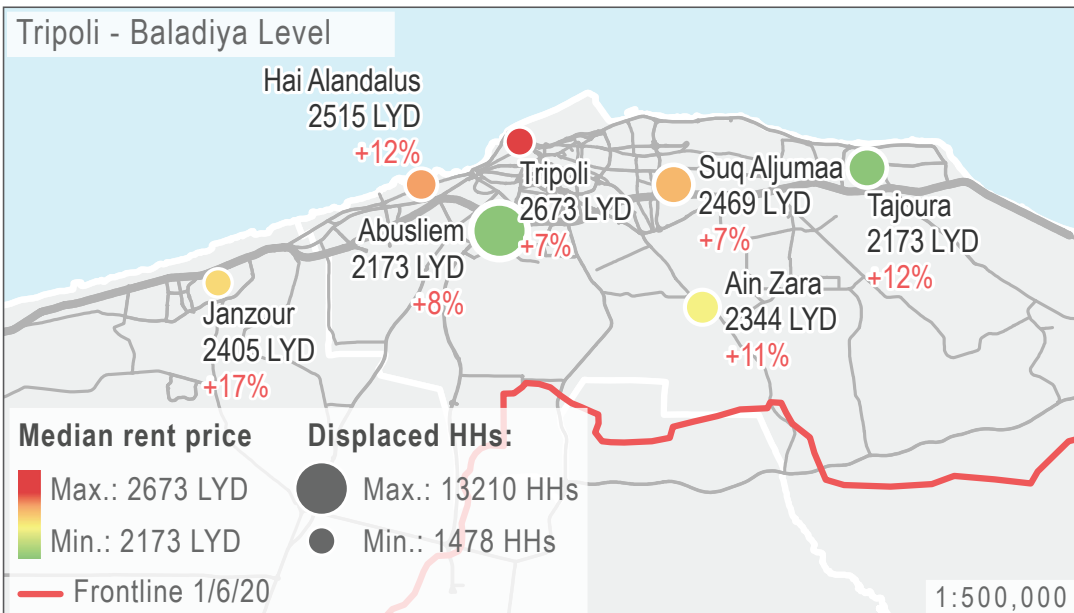
## Key Findings

- From May 2020- July 2021, rental prices seemed to have decreased in Tripoli overall (-17.6%). From June 2021 - July 2021, rental costs have decreased by 8.1%. In Tripoli, between February and April 2021 the rental costs among IDP HHs seems to have decreased (-29.4%) while slightly increasing among returnee HHs (+0.5%).
- Findings indicate that Benghazi has seen a 4.7% overall increase in rental prices from May 2020 to July 2021. In Benghazi, IDP and returnee change in numbers have been negligible since October 2020 (0.0%).

## Standardised rental prices July 2021

Location	Standard price (LYD)	Since June 2021	Since May 2020	Change in IDPs* Feb-Apr	Change in Returnees** Feb-Apr
<b>Municipality</b>					
Abusliem	2005	-7.7%	-25.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Ain Zara	2018	-13.9%	-30.9%	0.0%	+1.3%
Hai Alandalus	2209	-12.2%	-17.6%	-88.4%	0.0%
Janzour	2311	-3.9%	+0.4%	-95.6%	+8.6%
Suq Aljumaa	2315	-6.2%	-13.6%	-7.5%	+1.6%
Tajoura	2018	-7.1%	-14.3%	-1.4%	-50%
Tripoli Center	2518	-5.8%	-15.7%	-3%	0.0%
<b>Tripoli Overall</b>	<b>2209</b>	<b>-8.1%</b>	<b>-17.6%</b>	<b>-29.4%</b>	<b>+0.5%</b>
<b>Benghazi Overall</b>	<b>2074</b>	<b>+7.4%</b>	<b>+4.7%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

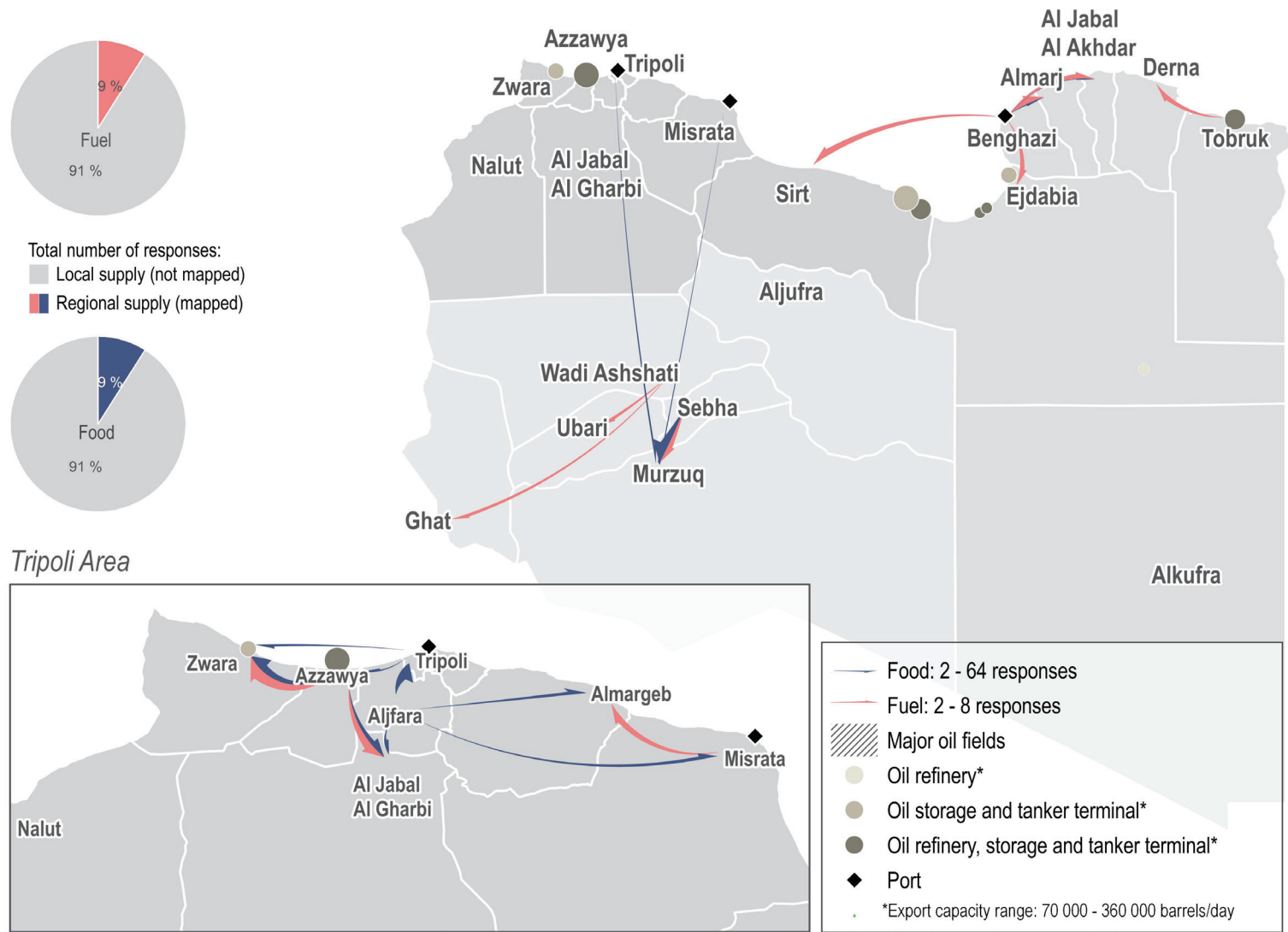
\* Change in the number of IDPs and returnees are derived from the latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) (Round 36) from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).  
 \*\* Numbers based on IOM-DTM numbers as well, comparing February 2021 to April 2021.



# 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.



# Appendix

## PREVIOUS JMMI OUTPUTS

### Factsheets

### Datasets

#### 2021

June  
May  
April  
March  
February  
January

June  
May  
April  
March  
February  
January

#### 2020

December  
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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 CMWG, based jointly in Tripoli and Tunis, is currently led by UNHCR and co-led by Mercy Corps.

## Methodology (cont. from page 1)

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 CMWG, 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 CMWG 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 CMWG 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 muhalla); then, REACH calculates the median of this list of medians. All boxplots, as well as the 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 is substituted by the median for that item across the region (west, east, or south).

## 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 where there is 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 JMMI methodology, only the cheapest available price per item is collected, meaning that changes in middle-market and upmarket goods are not captured.

## Rent Price Monitoring

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 IDPs, as tenants may receive cheaper offer through informal channels.

## Endnotes

1 Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (27 January 2021). Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (27 January 2021). The rates from 1 January 2021 and 1 January 2020 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.

2 Non-Food Items - Technical Guidelines : Shelter Cluster , Libya SNFI Technical Working Group [https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/nfi\\_technical\\_guidelines\\_-\\_v2.pdf](https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/nfi_technical_guidelines_-_v2.pdf)

3 Global Times (18 July 2021). Libyans suffer from COVID-19 pandemic, high cost of living as Eid al-Adha approaches. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1228899.shtml>

4 WHO : Health Sector Bulletin (July 2021) [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/health\\_sector\\_bulletin\\_july\\_2021.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/health_sector_bulletin_july_2021.pdf)

5 The National Oil Corporation :The National Oil Corporation achieves record revenues in June, exceeding \$2.13 billion (July 2021 ) [https://noc.ly/index.php/en/new-4/7059-the-national-oil-corporation-achieves-record-revenues-in-june,-exceeding-\\$2-13-billion](https://noc.ly/index.php/en/new-4/7059-the-national-oil-corporation-achieves-record-revenues-in-june,-exceeding-$2-13-billion)

6 Shelter Cluster : NFI Technical Guidelines V2 (4 June 2021 ) [https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/nfi\\_technical\\_guidelines\\_-\\_v2.pdf](https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/nfi_technical_guidelines_-_v2.pdf)

7 Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (1 January 2021). Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 January 2021). The rates from 1 January 2021 and 1 January 2021 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.

8 The MEB price index was normalised by setting June 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in June 2020.

9 The food prices were normalised by setting June 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in June 2020.

10 The hygiene prices were normalised by setting June 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in June 2020.

REACH is a program of ACTED. It strengthens evidence based decision-making by humanitarian actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis in contexts of crisis.

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