

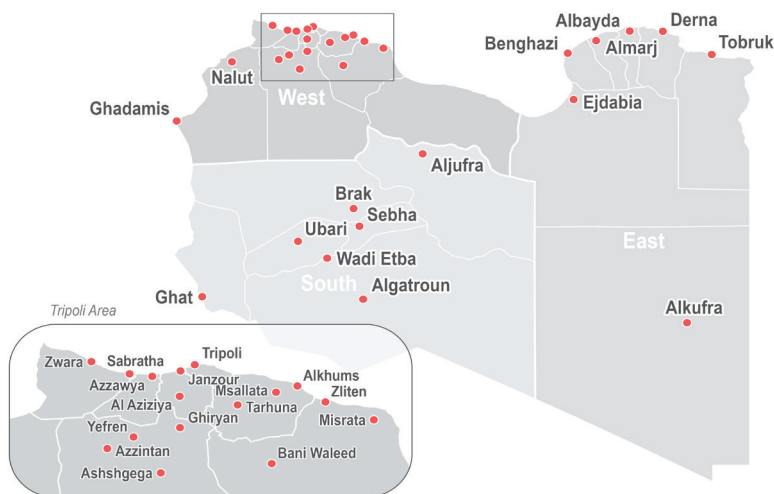
# Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

1 - 11 December 2021

## 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 (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).

## COVERAGE



## 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 December 2021 round, a collection of liquidity items was done. Enumerators have surveyed both vendors and customers from a number of shops to ask questions focused on access to cash and alternative payment modalities.
- 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.
- More details are available in the Methodology section of the Appendix.

## Libya Cash Working Group

**REACH** Informing more effective humanitarian action

## JMMI KEY FINDINGS AND CONTEXT

- The cost of the MEB across Libya decreased overall by -0.7% between November and December 2021 (See page 7). This overall decrease was mainly driven by a decrease in the cost of the hygiene proportion of the MEB (-1.6%) and the fuel portion of the MEB (-23.1%). **The cost of the food proportion of the overall MEB showed** an increase by +0.4%. The cost of the MEB in December 2021 was **28.1%** higher than pre-COVID levels in March 2020.
- The overall increase in the cost of the food proportion of the MEB was associated with a number of price increases: rice (+59.4%), condensed milk (+9.1%), sugar (+7.1%), milk (6.1%) and tomato paste (+4.3%).
- The prices of hygiene items showed a monthly decrease of -1.6%. That was mainly driven by the decrease in price of some items such as laundry detergent (-30%) and laundry powder (-1.3%) (See page 4).
- From November-December 2021, some pharmaceutical items like paracetamol (+69.4%), metoclopramide (+6%), and vitamin B (+4.8%) showed increase in price, when prices decreased for amoxicillin (-2.4%) (See page 4).
- The cost of the cooking fuel portion of the overall MEB showed a decrease in price from November to December 2021 (-23.1%). The price of the cooking fuel component of MEB shifted from **32.50 LYD** in November 2021 to **25.00 LYD** in December 2021. The median price of cooking fuel was estimated to be **62.50 LYD** in the south. This may be due to the lack of supplies provided in Sebha in the context of the conflict. In fact, reports from Sebha say some schools and government departments have closed and the city centre is deserted from traffic. Some roads were closed off by the clashing forces.<sup>2</sup>

## JMMI KEY FIGURES

Data collection from 1 - 11 December 2021

2 participating agencies: (REACH, WFP)  
36 assessed cities  
56 assessed items  
697 assessed shops

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

<b>4.605</b> USD/LYD official 0.7%	<b>5.04</b> USD/LYD parallel market ▲ + 3.1%	<b>5.600</b> EUR/LYD parallel market ▲ + 0.7%
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### KEY MONTHLY CHANGES IN MEB

#### Median cost of overall MEB

806.52 LYD ▼ -5.67 LYD ▼ -0.7%

### MEDIAN COST OF MEB BY REGION

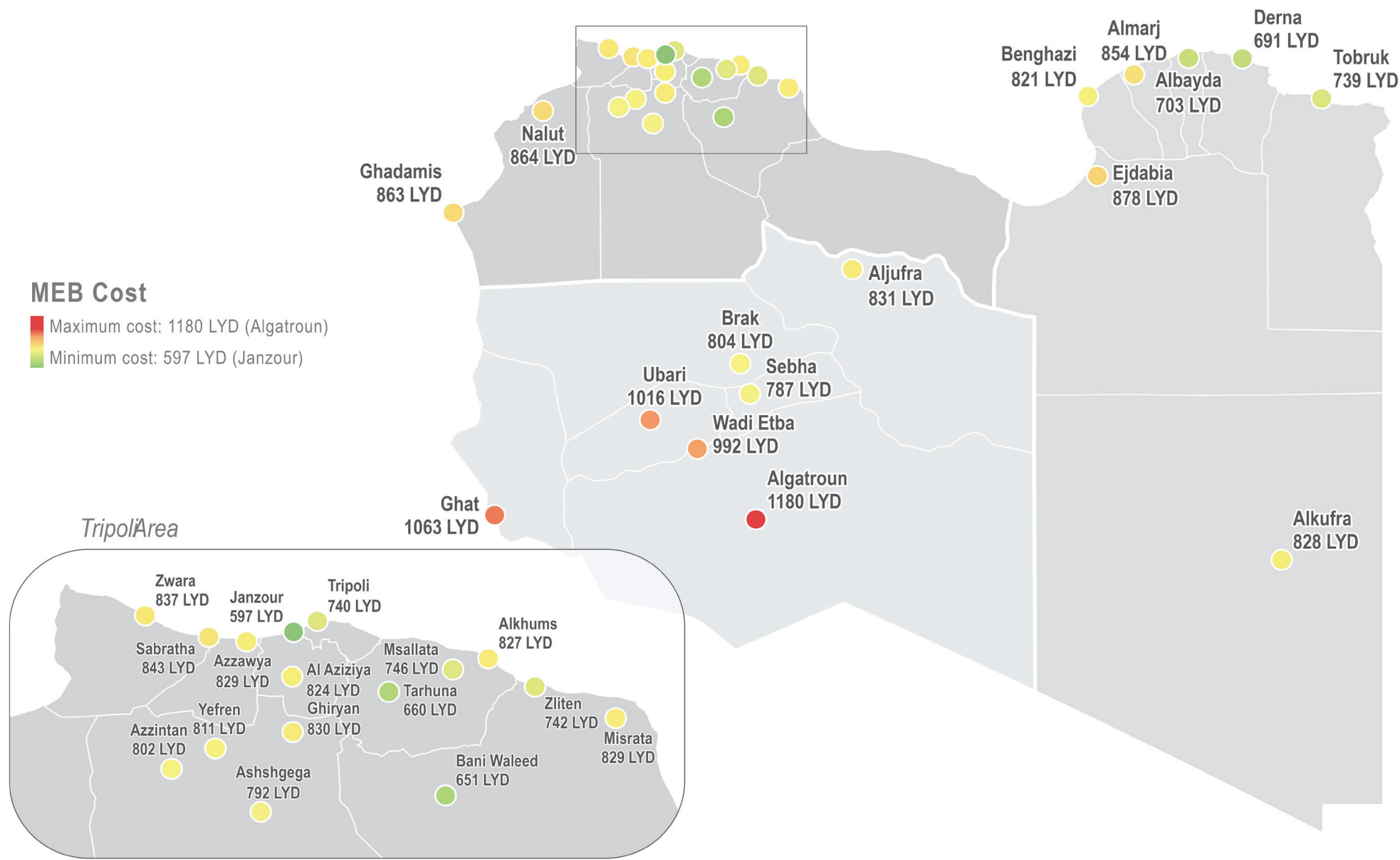
<b>West</b>	811.93 LYD	▼ -0.7%
<b>East</b>	779.46 LYD	▼ -1.3%
<b>South</b>	937.61 LYD	▲ +0.7%

### MARKET SHORTAGES

- None reported

Reported changes are month-on-month

# Cost of MEB Key Elements by Location



## 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

**806.52 LYD**

Change since  
November 2021

▼ - 5.67 LYD  
(-0.7%)

Change since  
March 2020

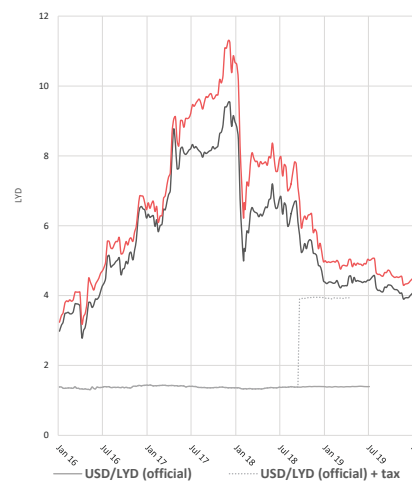
▲ + 177.05 LYD  
(+28.1%)

## MEDIAN MEB COST BY LOCATION

Location	Cost of MEB (LYD)	Since November 2021	Since March 2020
Nalut	864.43	+6.2%	+18.1%
Azzintan	802.24	-7.3%	+17.9%
Ghiryen	830.25	+2.2%	+19.0%
Zwara	837.56	+3.7%	+53.1%
Ghadamis	863.62	+4.0%	+26.4%
Sabratha	843.30	+4.0%	+51.3%
Azzawya	829.50	+3.0%	+51.9%
Sirt	No data	No data	No data
AlKhums	827.06	+2.7%	+53.1%
Misrata	829.60	+2.6%	+48.0%
Al Aziziya	824.37	+2.4%	+50.6%
Ashshgega	792.80	+1.5%	+22.7%
Zliten	742.52	-0.7%	+20.7%
Yefren	811.28	+4.0%	+23.8%
Tripoli	740.73	-11.2%	+13.1%
Msallata	746.13	+3.2%	+25.2%
Tarhuna	660.10	-7.0%	+12.2%
Bani Waleed	651.60	-10.5%	+9.1%
Janzour	597.35	-3.1%	+0.7%
<b>Median West</b>	<b>811.39</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>+29.9%</b>
Benghazi	821.58	No data	+34.2%
Ejdabia	878.00	-0.4%	+35.3%
AlMarj	854.43	+1.8%	+33.6%
AlKufra	828.83	+9.4%	+27.0%
Tobruk	739.94	-2.1%	+17.7%
AlBayda	703.96	+4.3%	+9.1%
Derna	691.75	-2.4%	+13.7%
<b>Median East</b>	<b>779.46</b>	<b>+1.4%</b>	<b>+23.7%</b>
Algatroun	1180.52	+2.9%	+4.4%
Ghat	1063.89	-14.8%	-7.0%
Wadi Etba	992.53	-10.3%	+18.2%
Ubari	1016.42	-10.8%	-6.8%
Aljufra	831.13	+1.8%	+7.7%
Brak	804.24	-18.0%	+10.3%
Sebha	787.83	-17.2%	+4.3%
<b>Median South</b>	<b>937.61</b>	<b>+0.7%</b>	<b>+6.7%</b>
<b>Median Overall</b>	<b>806.52</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>+28.1%</b>

## EXCHANGE RATES OVER TIME <sup>3</sup>

January 2016-January 2020

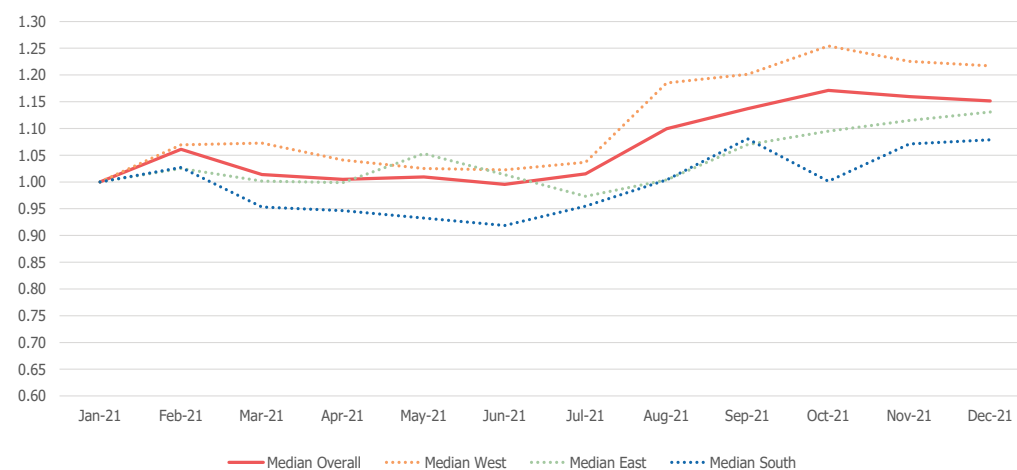


Since February 2020



## MEB PRICE INDEX

Since September 2020 (normalised, January 2021 = 1.00)<sup>4</sup>



# Liquidity and Financial Infrastructure

## Methodology

- In December 2021, JMIMI collected a series of additional data on the ability to access cash and payment modalities from 697 vendors (127 in the east, 346 in the west, and 224 in the south) and 431 customers (114 in the east, 213 in the west, and 104 in the south) across 33 cities in Libya.
- Due to non-probability sampling, findings are indicative only. For more information on the methodology, please refer to the **appendix**.

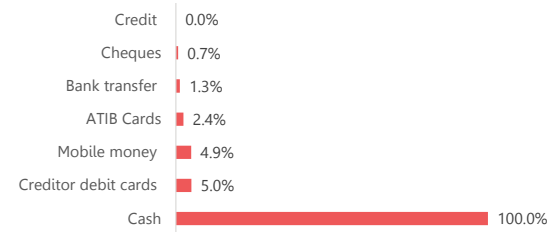
## Vendor KIs

- Almost all interviewed vendors reported cash (98.1%) as the most widely used payment modality by customers in their shops. Only 1.3% reported the mobile money modality, the credit and debit card (0.3%) and cheques (0.3%) modalities.
- Similarly, all interviewed vendors reported that the most common payment modality reported to be accepted by vendors is cash (100%). Besides cash, other modalities were reported such as credit and debit cards (5.0%) and mobile money (4.9%) (**See graph**).
- When asking the interviewed vendors about the barriers to using multiple modality types (in other words more than one/two modalities to be available in their shops), 34.8% reported supporting multiple payment modalities is too expensive, lack of demand (9.4%), not knowing the financial service providers (5.8%), lack of internet (4.3%) and power cuts (1.1%). Most vendor KIs (46.0%) reported "other" (preferring not to use any other modalities than cash, selling on cash only, non availability of liquidity, cash always means less problems). That is explained by the fact that most vendors would like to hold on to cash due the lack of trust in other payment modalities. For example if vendors accept multiple payment modalities and then would like to withdraw it in cash from the bank, it may take longer than expected. Other vendors added to not preferring other payment modalities the fact that other payment modalities are not common in their cities.

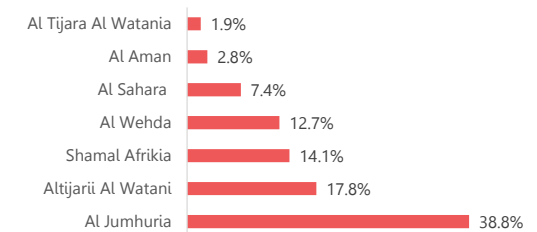
## Customer KIs

- Of the interviewed customers, 93.7% said they most commonly used cash as payment modality. The rest of the customer KIs reported using mobile money (3.0%), bank transfer (1.6%), credit or debit cards (0.9%), cheques (0.2%), ATIB/Tadawul cards (0.2%) and other modalities (0.2%).
- The banks primarily used by the interviewed customers were Al Jumhuria bank (38.8%), Al Tijari Al Watani bank (17.8%), Shamal Afrikia bank (14.0%), Al Wehda bank (12.1%), Al Sahara (7.4%), Al Aman (2.8%), and Al Tijara Al Watania bank (1.9%).
- Interviewed customers reported selling cheques on the parallel market as an alternative method used to obtain cash outside the banking system (19.4%). That is in addition to getting cash from workplaces (8.8%) and borrowing from vendors (0.5%). The rest of the customer KIs did not want to answer the question (51.7%) and reported other ways attaining cash.

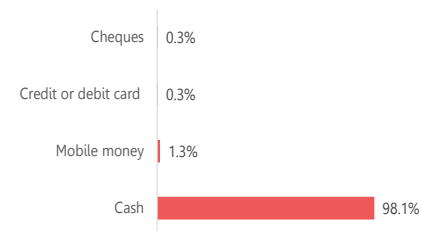
% of most common payment modalities reported to be accepted by vendor KIs



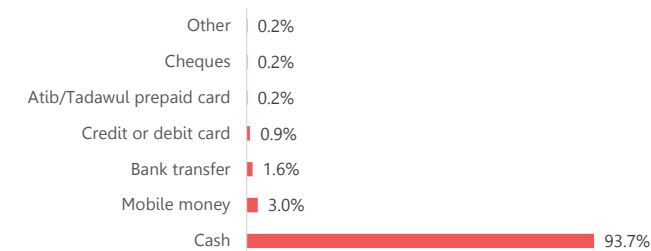
% of customer KIs reporting on their primarily used bank



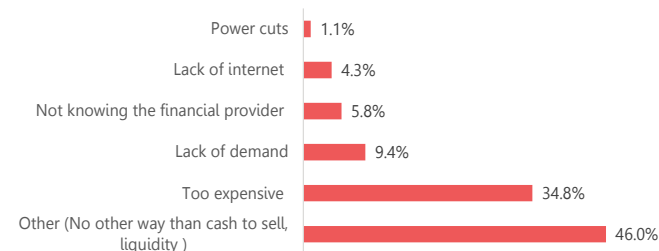
% of vendor KIs that reported the following most widely used payment modality by customers in their shops



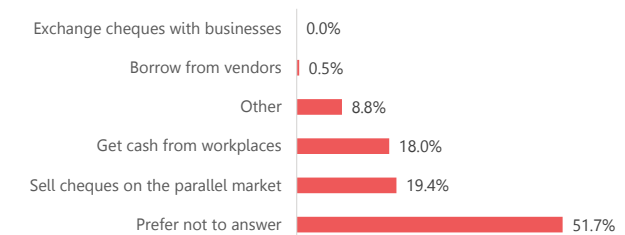
% most common payment modalities reported to be used by customers in transactions with vendors



% most commonly reported barriers to supporting multiple payment modalities by vendor KIs



% most common alternative methods used to obtain cash outside the banking system

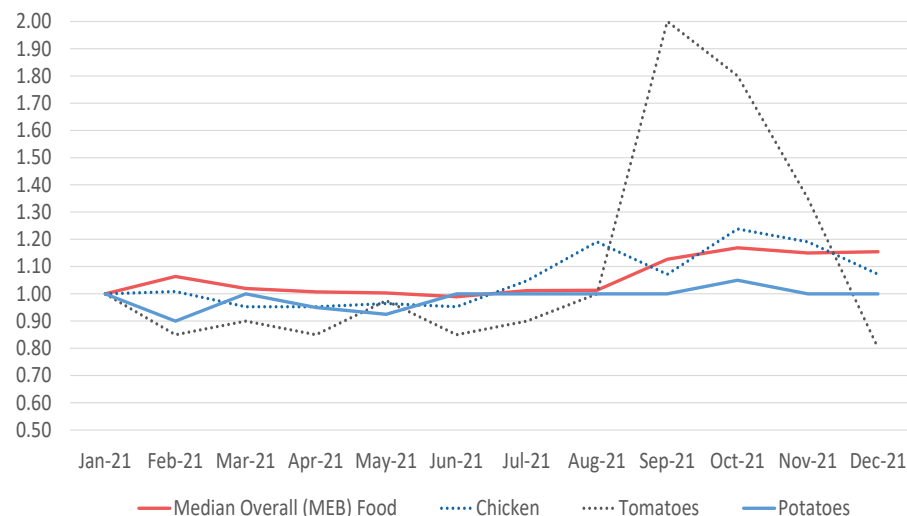


## PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS

Item	Unit	Median price	Change since November 2021	Change since March 2020
<b>Food items</b>				
Tomatoes	1 kg	2.00	-40.7%	0.0%
Green tea	250 g	3.50	0.0%	+16.7%
Vegetable oil	1 L	9.17	+7.8%	+103.7%
Black tea	250 g	6.75	0.0%	+35.0%
Onions	1 kg	2.00	-20.0%	-33.3%
Rice	1 kg	6.38	+59.4%	+96.2%
Eggs	30 eggs	12.75	-8.9%	+27.5%
Pasta	500 g	1.88	+3.6%	+25.3%
Milk	1 L	4.38	+6.1%	+25.0%
Beans	400 g	2.50	0.0%	+53.8%
Bread	5 pieces	1.25	0.0%	+11.1%
Chickpeas	400 g	2.50	0.0%	+66.7%
Peppers	1 kg	4.00	0.0%	0.0%
Potatoes	1 kg	2.50	0.0%	-16.7%
Sugar	1 kg	3.75	+7.1%	+57.9%
Tomato paste	400 g	3.00	+4.3%	+50.0%
Tuna	200 g	5.00	0.0%	+66.7%
Condensed Milk	200 mL	2.34	+9.1%	+17.0%
Couscous	1 kg	3.63	+3.6%	+3.6%
Lamb meat	1 kg	41.50	0.0%	+16.9%
Flour	1 kg	2.75	0.0%	+37.5%
Chicken meat	1 kg	11.25	-10.0%	+20.0%
Salt	1 kg	1.00	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Hygiene items</b>				
Toothbrush	1 brush	2.75	0.0%	+37.5%
Laundry detergent	1 L	3.50	-30.0%	+55.6%
Baby diapers	30	20.00	0.0%	+33.3%
Handwashing soap	1 bar	2.25	0.0%	+50.0%
Laundry powder	1 kg	8.00	-1.3%	+23.1%
Sanitary pads	10 pads	4.00	0.0%	+14.3%
Shampoo	250 mL	5.86	+1.8%	+15.4%
Bleach	1 L	10.87	+8.7%	No data
Hand sanitiser	1 L	20.25	+20.9%	No data
Dishwashing liquid	1 L	2.11	+35.8%	-21.3%
<b>Other items</b>				
Water	1 L	0.29	0.0%	0.0%

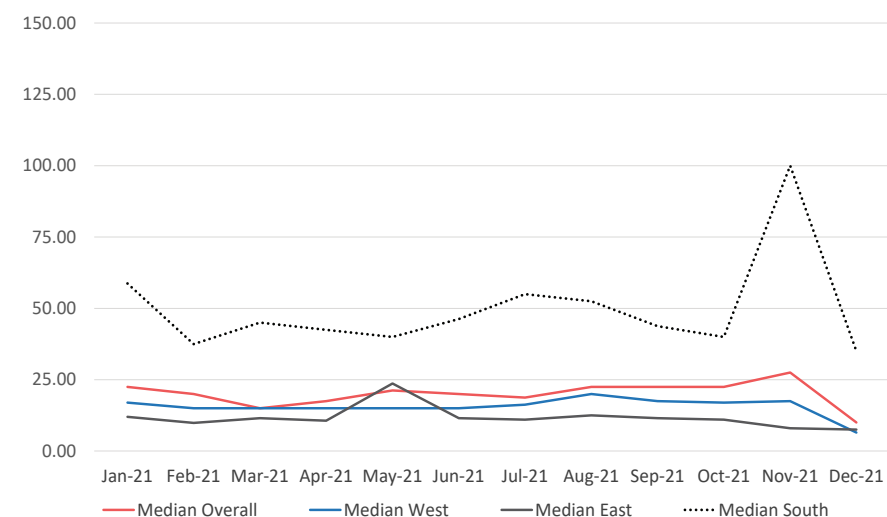
## FLUCTUATION OF FOOD PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, January 2021 = 1.00)<sup>5</sup>



## PRICES FROM UNOFFICIAL COOKING FUEL VENDORS (11 KG LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) CYLINDER)

(Since January 2021, non-normalised)



## PRICES OF FUEL AND HEALTH ITEMS

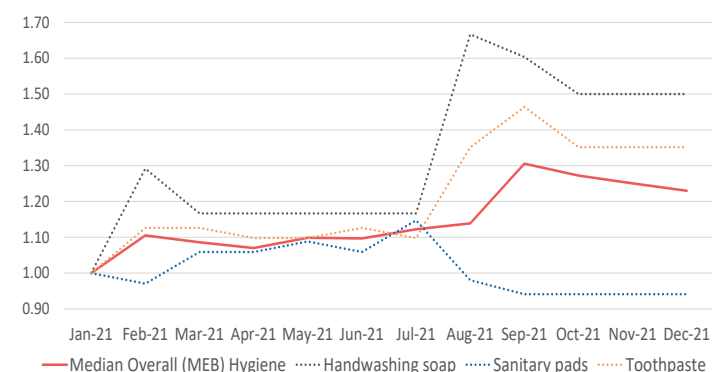
Item	Unit	Median price (LYD)	Change since November 2021	Change since March 2020
<b>Fuel items</b>				
Unofficial LPG	11 kg	20.00	-27.3%	-42.9%
Unofficial Gasoline	1 Litre	1.63	-23.5%	No data
Official LPG	11 kg	5.00	0.0%	0.0%
Official Gasoline	1 Litre	0.15	0.0%	No data

### Pharmaceutical items

Paracetamol	400mg [20 pack]	7.20	+69.4%	+3.7%
Vitamin B	[40 pack]	16.25	+4.8%	+58.5%
Amoxicillin	500mg [21 pack]	10.00	-2.4%	+11.1%
Metoclopramide	10mg [40 pack]	15.15	+6.0%	+51.5%
Ibuprofen	400mg [20 pack]	6.18	+3.0%	+12.3%

## FLUCTUATION OF HYGIENE ITEM PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, January 2021 = 1.00)<sup>6</sup>



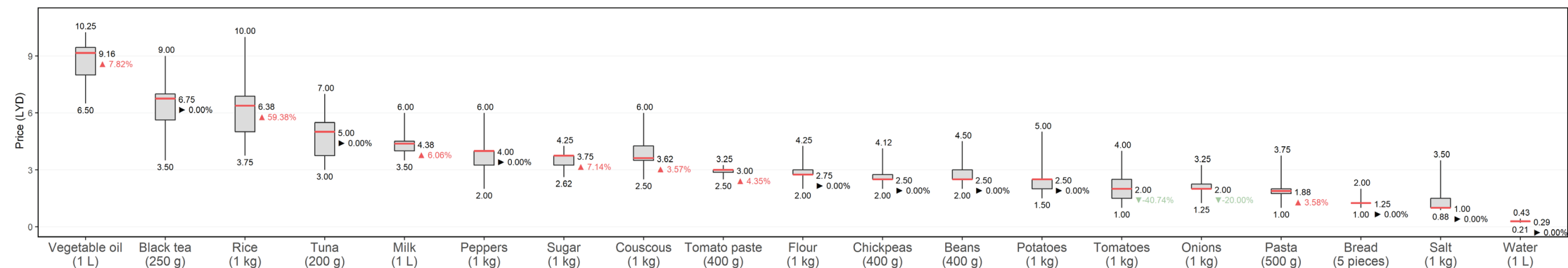
## NOTABLE MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGES

Laundry detergent	▼ -30.0%
Paracetamol	▲ +69.4%
Rice	▲ +59.4%
Tomatoes	▼ -40.7%

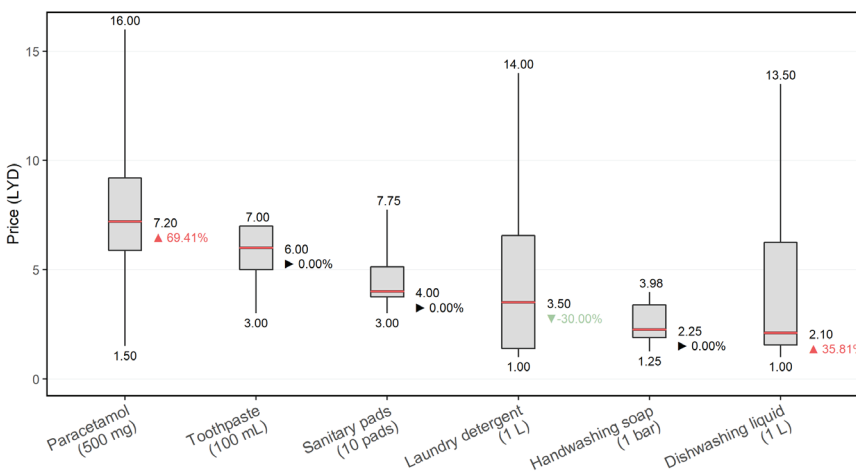


# Distribution of Prices in Libya

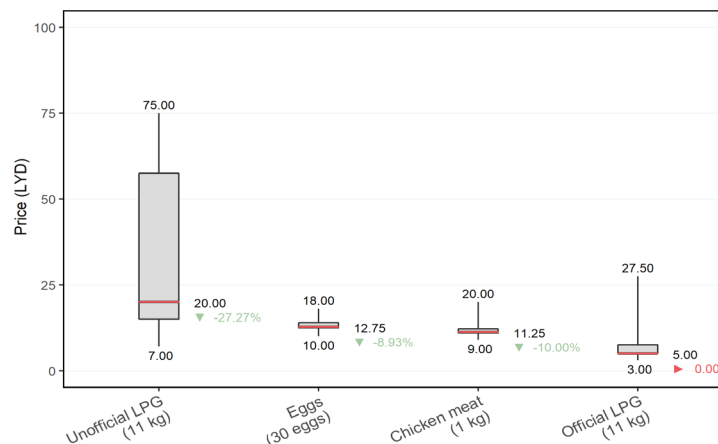
## FOOD ITEMS



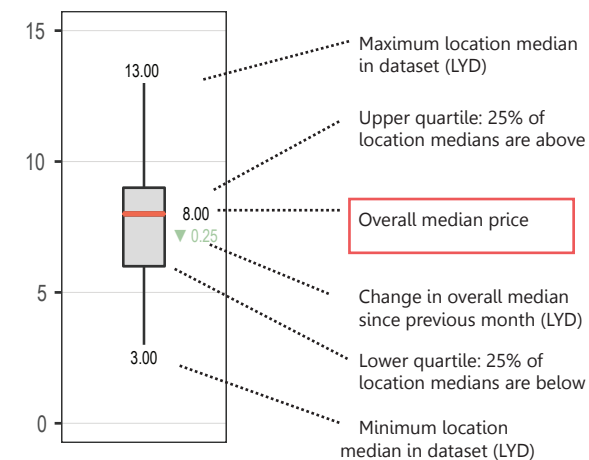
## HYGIENE ITEMS



## ITEMS WITH HIGHEST PRICES



## How to read a boxplot



The 'location median' is calculated by first finding the median price of a given item in each assessed location, then taking the median of the resulting set of median prices.

# 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)<sup>7</sup>. Furthermore, conflict related political tensions in West Libya led large numbers of IDPs to move to eastern cities, especially Benghazi.
- REACH is therefore including 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 December 2021, **2560** 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 normalised to this accommodation type and the median is calculated.

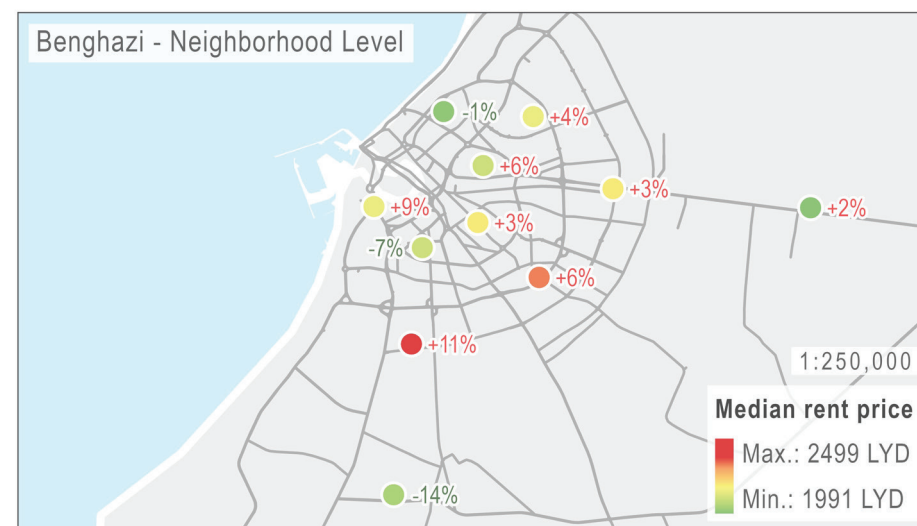
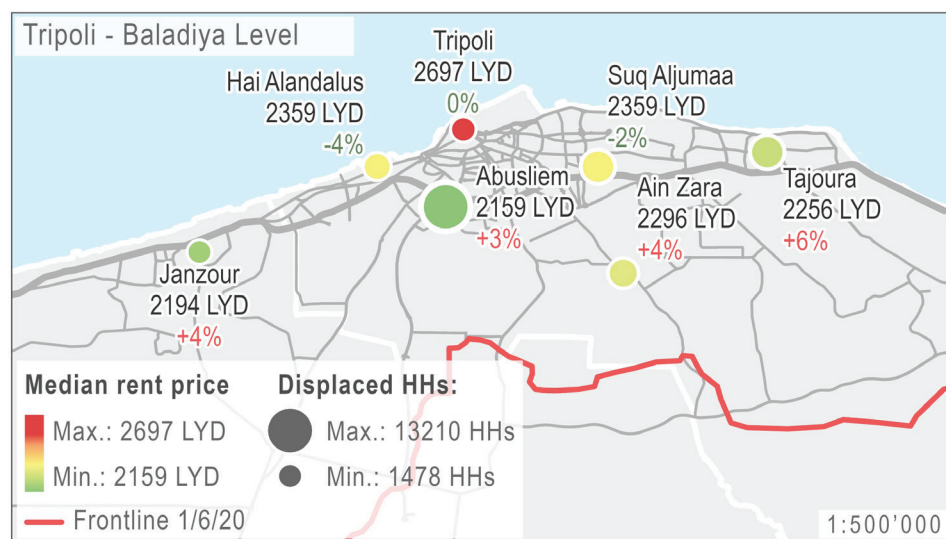
## Key Findings

- Rental prices have increased since November 2021 in Tripoli **(+4.4%)**. They have decreased significantly compared to May 2020 **(-14.3%)** in this area. In Benghazi, rental prices remain the same between November and December 2021. Compared to May 2020, the prices have increased in Benghazi **(+6.8%)**.
- IDP numbers\* in Benghazi increased slightly between October and November 2021 **(0.8%)** while the number of IDPs in Tripoli have significantly decreased by **-37.4%**. And for returnee numbers\*\*, during the same period, they slightly decreased **(-0.5%)** in Tripoli and they have increased in Benghazi **(+1.3%)**.

## Normalised rental prices, December 2021

Location	Standard price (LYD)	Since November 2021	Since May 2020	Change in IDPs* Oct-Nov	Change in returnees** Oct-Nov
<b>Municipality</b>					
Abusliem	2159	+2.6%	-19.5%	+2.0%	0.0%
Ain Zara	2296	+4.4%	-21.4%	0.0%	+0.7%
Hai Alandalus	2359	-3.6%	-12.0%	-53.4%	0.0%
Janzour	2194	+4.3%	-4.7%	0.0%	No data
Suq Aljumaa	2359	-1.7%	-12.0%	-81.8%	0.0%
Tajoura	2256	+6.0%	-4.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Tripoli Center	2697	-0.1%	-9.7%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Tripoli Overall</b>	<b>2296</b>	<b>+4.4%</b>	<b>-14.3%</b>	<b>-37.4%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>
<b>Benghazi Overall</b>	<b>2116</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>+6.8%</b>	<b>+0.8%</b>	<b>+1.3%</b>

\* Change in the number of IDPs and returnees are derived from the latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) (Round 39) from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).  
 \*\* Numbers based on IOM-DTM numbers as well, comparing October 2021 to November 2021.



## PREVIOUS JMMI OUTPUTS

### Factsheets      Datasets

#### 2021

November	November
October	October
September	September
August	August
July	July
June	June
May	May
April	April
March	March
February	February
January	January

#### 2020

December	December
November	November
October	October
September	September
August	August
July	July
June	June
May	May
April	April
March	March
February	February
January	January

#### 2019

December	December
November	November
October	October
September	September
July	July
June	June
May	May
April	April
March	March
February	February
January	January

### 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.

### 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.

In addition, in order to obtain a median price for an item in Tripoli, an aggregation of the median prices of that specific item in Abuselim, Ain Zara, Tajoura and Suq Aljumaa is done when Hai Alandalus, Tripoli center and Qasr ben Ghashir are excluded temporarily.

### 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 6.

In cases where no median price is available for an item in a city then the price from the nearest city is imputed (using google maps). For example, for a city X, if the median cost of salt is missing, imputation happens: In other words, X takes a value of the median price of salt of the closest city geographically.

### 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.

### 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.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Libya Herald: Sebha clashes follow yesterday's police vehicle seizure (14 December 2021) (<https://www.libyaherald.com/2021/12/14/sebha-clashes-follow-yesterdays-police-vehicle-seizure/>)

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> The MEB price index was normalised by setting December 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in January 2021.

<sup>5</sup> The food prices were normalised by setting December 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in January 2021.

<sup>6</sup> The hygiene prices were normalised by setting December 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in January 2021.

<sup>7</sup> Libya IDP and Returnee Report November - December 2020, DTM IOM, October 2020

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