

Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

1 - 15 January 2022

Libya Cash Working Group

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

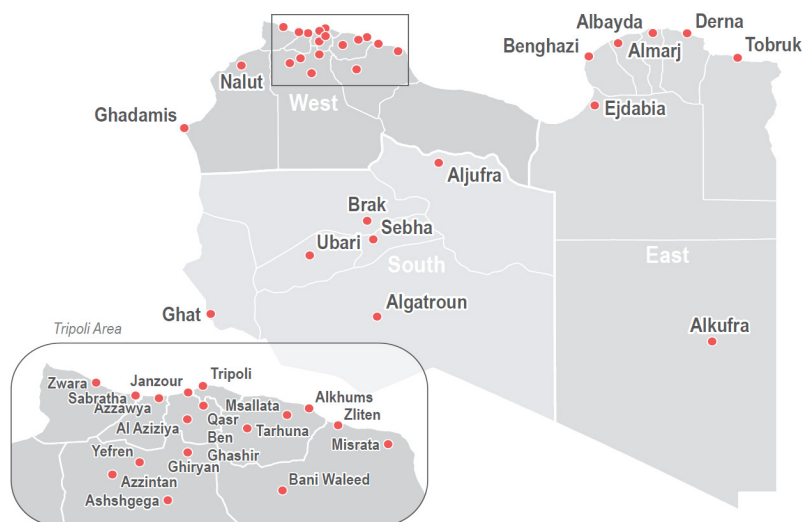
INTRODUCTION

- 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 (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).

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.
- 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.

COVERAGE



JMMI KEY FINDINGS

- The cost of the MEB across Libya decreased overall by **-1.3%** between December 2021 and January 2022 (**see page 6**). This overall decrease was mainly driven by a decrease in the cost of the food proportion of the MEB (**-1.9%**) and the hygiene portion of the MEB (**-4.4%**). The cost of the MEB in January 2022 was **26.5%** higher than pre-COVID levels in March 2020.
- The cost of the MEB showed a decrease in both east (**-3.2%**) and south (**-5.7%**), while it showed an increase in the west by **+1.7%**.
- Between December 2021 and January 2022, the cost of the food proportion of the overall MEB showed a decrease by **-1.9%**. This overall decrease was driven by a decrease in prices of rice (**-17.6%**), chicken (**-13.3%**), and condensed milk (**-4.5%**). Other items showed an increase in prices such as onions (**+25.0%**), peppers (**18.8%**), eggs (**11.8%**), and flour (**6.8%**) (**see page 3**).
- Between December 2021 and January 2022, prices of hygiene items decreased by **-4.4%**. This was mainly driven by a decrease in prices of some items such as dishwashing liquid (**-46.7%**) and sanitary pads (**-18.4%**). Other prices showed an increase in price such as handsanitiser (**+90.9%**), laundry detergent (**+45.7%**), and bleach (**+44.4%**).
- Between December 2021 and January 2022, most pharmaceutical items showed a decrease in price, such as metoclopramide (**-19.8%**), paracetamol (**-13.2%**), ibuprofen (**-13.3%**) and, vitamin B (**-7.7%**) (**see page 3**).
- The cost of the unofficial cooking fuel proportion in the overall MEB showed an increase in price from December 2021 to January 2022 (**+18.8%**). The price of the cooking fuel component of MEB shifted from **20.00 LYD** in December 2021 to **23.75 LYD** in January 2022.

JMMI KEY FIGURES

Data collection from **1 - 15 January 2022**
2 participating agencies: (REACH, WFP)
36 assessed cities
56 assessed items
697 assessed shops

EXCHANGE RATES¹

4.604 USD/LYD official 0.0%	5.035 USD/LYD parallel market ▼ -0.1%	5.580 EUR/LYD parallel market ▼ -0.4%
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KEY MONTHLY CHANGES IN MEB

Median cost of overall MEB

796.37 LYD ▼ -10.15 LYD ▼ -1.3%

Food items ▼ -1.9%	Hygiene items ▼ -4.4%	Fuel ▲ +27.0%
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MEDIAN COST OF MEB BY REGION

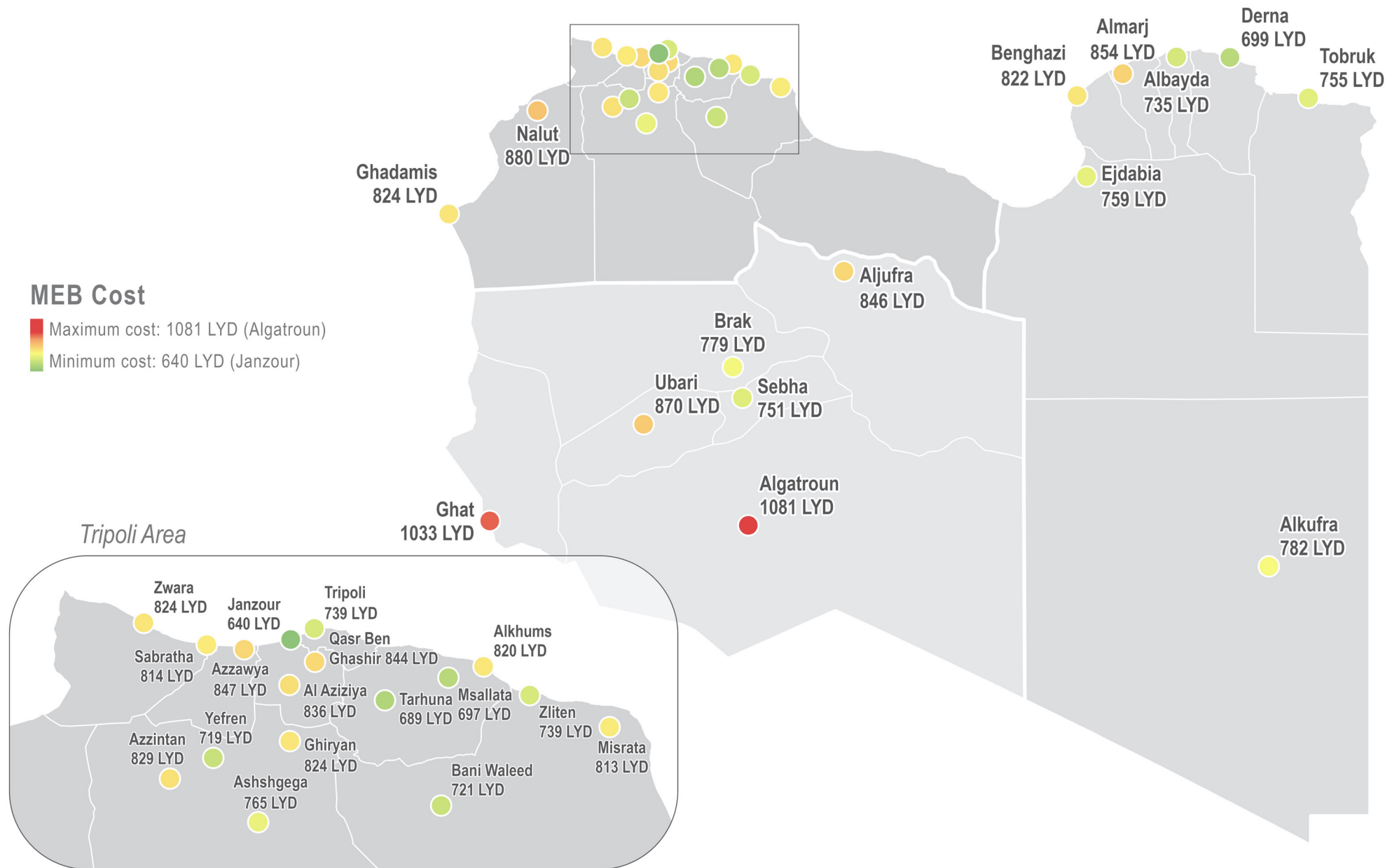
West	825.56 LYD	▲ +1.7%
East	754.55 LYD	▼ -3.2%
South	884.04 LYD	▼ -5.7%

MARKET SHORTAGES

- None reported

Reported changes are month-on-month

Cost of MEB Key Elements by Location

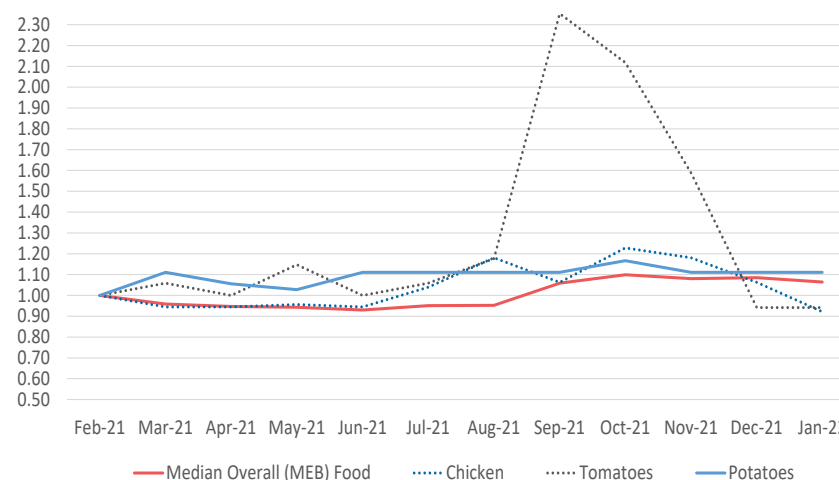


PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS

Item	Unit	Median price	Change since December 2021	Change since March 2020
Food items				
Tomatoes	1 kg	2.00	0.0%	0.0%
Green tea	250 g	3.75	+7.1%	+25.0%
Vegetable oil	1 L	9.00	-1.8%	+100.0%
Black tea	250 g	6.50	-3.7%	+30.0%
Onions	1 kg	2.50	+25.0%	-16.7%
Rice	1 kg	5.25	-17.6%	+61.5%
Eggs	30 eggs	14.25	+11.8%	+42.5%
Pasta	500 g	2.00	+6.4%	+33.3%
Milk	1 L	4.25	-2.9%	+21.4%
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	4.75	+18.8%	+18.8%
Potatoes	1 kg	2.50	0.0%	-16.7%
Sugar	1 kg	3.88	+3.3%	+63.2%
Tomato paste	400 g	3.00	0.0%	+50.0%
Tuna	200 g	4.88	-2.5%	+62.5%
Condensed Milk	200 mL	2.24	-4.5%	+11.8%
Couscous	1 kg	3.69	+1.7%	+5.4%
Lamb meat	1 kg	41.00	-1.2%	+15.5%
Flour	1 kg	2.94	+6.8%	+46.9%
Chicken meat	1 kg	9.75	-13.3%	+4.0%
Salt	1 kg	1.00	0.0%	0.0%
Hygiene items				
Toothbrush	1 brush	2.50	+25%	+25.0%
Laundry detergent	1 L	5.10	+45.7%	+126.7%
Baby diapers	30	19.50	+14.3%	+30.0%
Handwashing soap	1 bar	2.00	0.0%	+33.3%
Laundry powder	1 kg	7.69	+28.2%	+18.3%
Sanitary pads	10 pads	3.88	-18.4%	+10.7%
Shampoo	250 mL	5.13	0.0%	+1.0%
Bleach	1 L	11.56	+44.4%	No data
Hand Sanitiser	1 L	35.00	+90.9%	No data
Dishwashing liquid	1 L	1.60	-46.7%	-40.2%
Other items				
Water	1 L	0.29	0.0%	0.0%

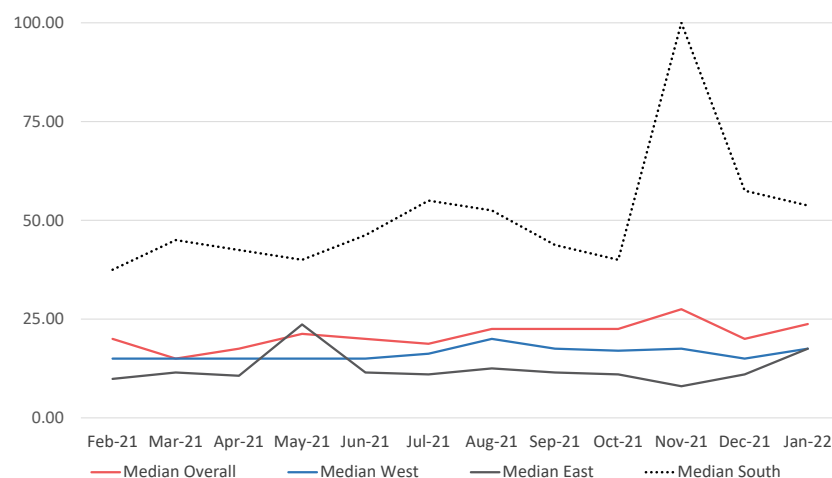
FLUCTUATION OF FOOD PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, February 2021 = 1.00)²



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

(Since February 2021, non-normalised)



PRICES OF FUEL AND HEALTH ITEMS

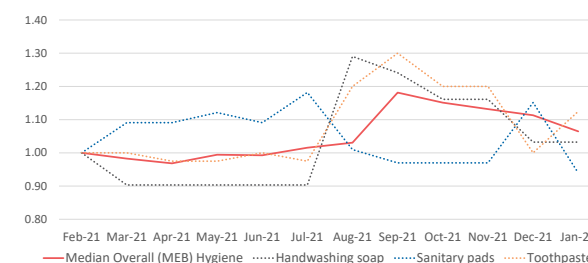
Item	Unit	Median price (LYD)	Change since December 2021	Change since March 2020
Fuel items				
Unofficial LPG	11 kg	23.75	+18.8%	-32.1%
Unofficial Gasoline	1 Litre	1.00	-38.5%	No data
Official LPG	11 kg	8.00	+60.0%	+60.0%
Official Gasoline	1 Litre	0.15	0.0%	No data

Pharmaceutical items

Paracetamol	400mg [20 pack]	6.25	-13.2%	-9.9%
Vitamin B	[40 pack]	15.00	-7.7%	+46.3%
Amoxicillin	500mg [21 pack]	10.25	+2.5%	+13.9%
Metoclopramide	10mg [40 pack]	12.15	-19.8%	+21.5%
Ibuprofen	400mg [20 pack]	5.36	-13.3%	-2.6%

FLUCTUATION OF HYGIENE ITEM PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, February 2021 = 1.00)³

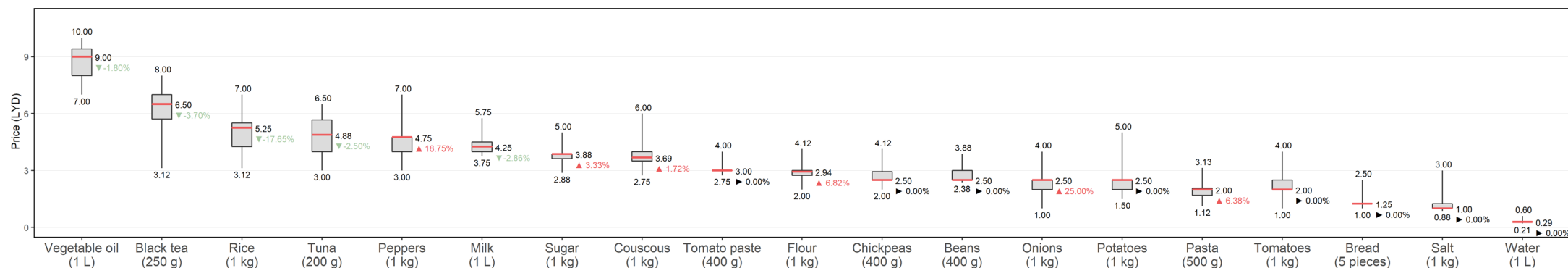


NOTABLE MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGES

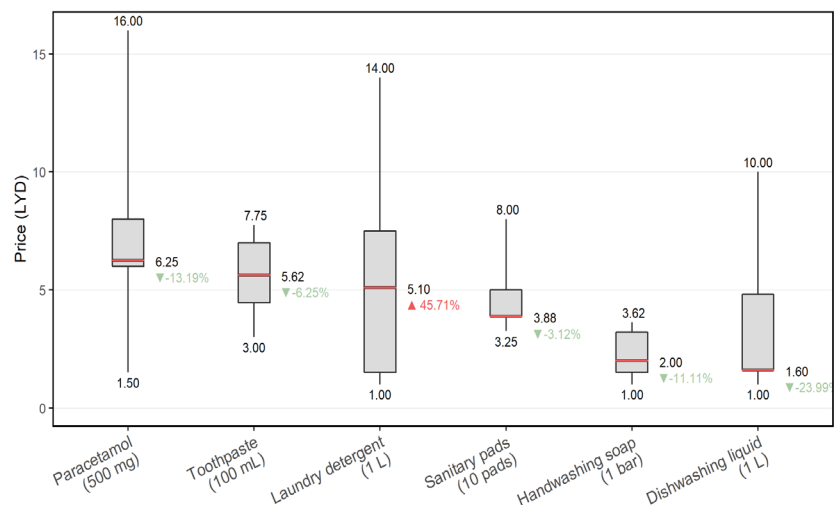
Hand Sanitiser	▲ +90.9%
Public LPG	▲ +60.0%
Flour	▲ +6.8%
Chicken	▼ -13.3%

Distribution of Prices in Libya

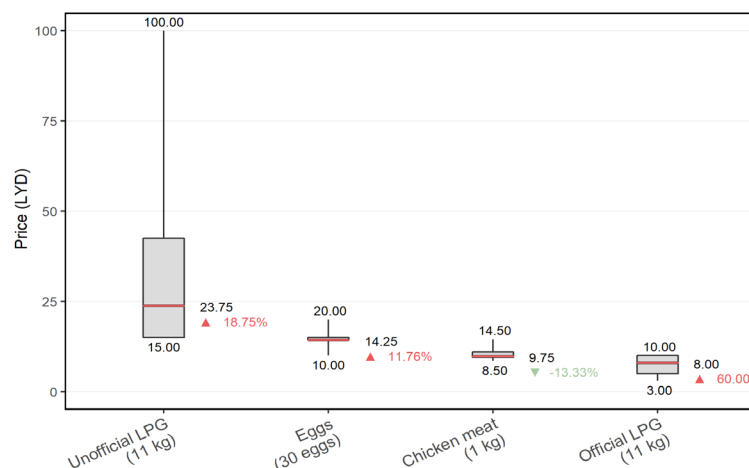
FOOD ITEMS



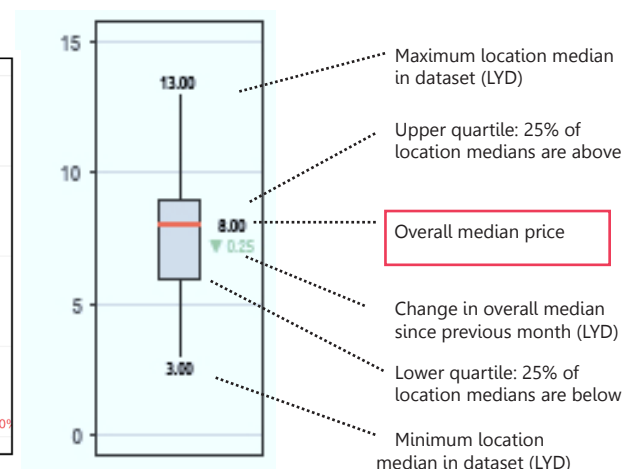
HYGIENE ITEMS



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).⁴ 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 January 2022, **2426** 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.

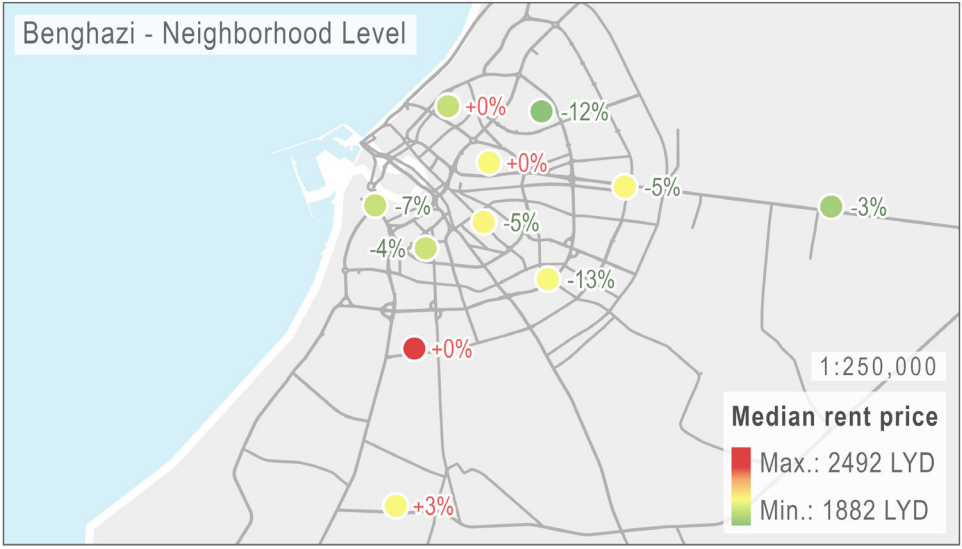
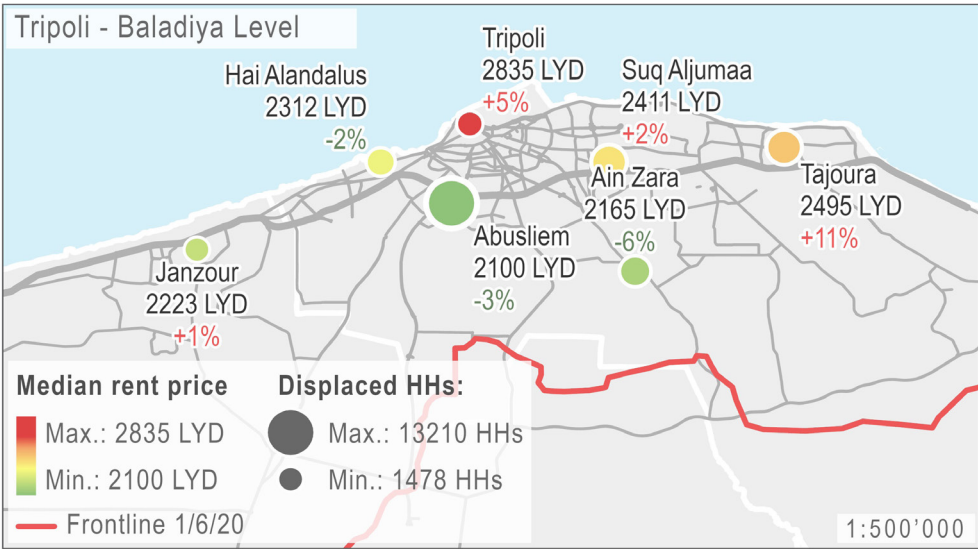
Key Findings

- Rental prices have increased since December 2021 in Tripoli **(+0.7%)**. They have decreased significantly compared to May 2020 **(-13.7%)** in this area. In Benghazi, rental prices have also slightly increased **(+0.7%)** between December 2021 and January 2022. Compared to May 2020, the prices have increased in Benghazi **(+6.8%)**.
- IDP numbers* in Benghazi decreased slightly between December 2021 and January 2022 **(-0.1%)** when the number of IDPs in Tripoli have decreased by **-1.4%**. During the same period, returnee numbers** increased **(+1.4%)** in Tripoli and remained the same in Benghazi **(0.0%)**.

Standardised rental prices January 2022

Location	Standard price (LYD)	Since December 2021	Since May 2020	Change in IDPs* Dec-Jan	Change in Returnees** Dec-Jan
Municipality					
Abusliem	2100	-2.7%	-21.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Ain Zara	2165	-5.7%	-25.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Hai Alandalus	2312	-2.0%	-13.7%	+4.2%	+2.3%
Janzour	2223	+1.3%	-3.5%	-75.2%	No data
Suq Aljumaa	2411	+2.2%	-10.1%	-11.9%	0.0%
Tajoura	2495	+10.6%	+5.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Tripoli Center	2835	+5.1%	-5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Tripoli Overall	2312	+0.7%	-13.7%	-1.4%	+1.4%
Benghazi Overall	2040	+0.7%	+6.8%	-0.1%	0.0%

* Change in the number of IDPs and returnees are derived from the latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) (Round 40) from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
** Numbers based on IOM-DTM numbers as well, comparing December 2021 to January 2022.



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

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

796.37 LYD

Change since
December 2021

▼ - 10.15 LYD
(-1.3%)

Change since
March 2020

▲ + 166.90 LYD
(+26.5%)

MEDIAN MEB COST BY LOCATION

Location	Cost of MEB (LYD)	Since December 2021	Since March 2020
Nalut	880.03	+1.8%	+20.2%
Azzintan	829.32	+3.4%	+21.9%
Ghiryen	824.11	-0.7%	+18.1%
Zwara	824.11	-1.6%	+50.6%
Ghadamis	824.11	-4.6%	+20.6%
Sabratha	814.64	-3.4%	+46.1%
Azzawya	847.11	+2.1%	+55.1%
Sirt	821.89	No data	+35.8%
AlKhums	820.51	-0.8%	+51.9%
Misrata	813.98	-1.9%	+45.2%
Al Aziziya	836.61	+1.5%	+52.9%
Ashshgega	765.52	-3.4%	+18.5%
Zliten	739.77	-0.4%	+20.2%
Yefren	719.05	-11.4%	+9.7%
Tripoli	739.17	-0.2%	+12.9%
Msallata	697.20	-6.6%	+17.0%
Tarhuna	689.25	+4.4%	+17.1%
Bani Waleed	721.75	+10.8%	+20.9%
Janzour	640.10	+7.2%	+7.9%
Median West	825.56	+1.7%	+32.2%
Benghazi	822.01	+0.1%	+34.3%
Ejdabia	759.92	-13.4%	+17.1%
AlMarj	854.38	0.0%	+33.6%
AlKufra	782.63	-5.6%	+19.9%
Tobruk	755.14	+2.1%	+20.1%
AlBayda	735.32	+4.5%	+14.0%
Derna	699.03	+1.1%	+14.8%
Median East	754.55	-3.2%	+19.7%
Algatroun	1081.20	-8.4%	-4.4%
Ghat	1033.54	-2.9%	-9.7%
Wadi Etba	No data	No data	No data
Ubari	870.67	-14.3%	-20.2%
Aljufra	846.33	+1.8%	+9.7%
Brak	779.33	-3.1%	+6.9%
Sebha	751.85	-4.6%	-0.5%
Median South	884.04	-5.7%	+0.6%
Median Overall	796.37	-1.3%	+26.5%

EXCHANGE RATES OVER TIME⁵

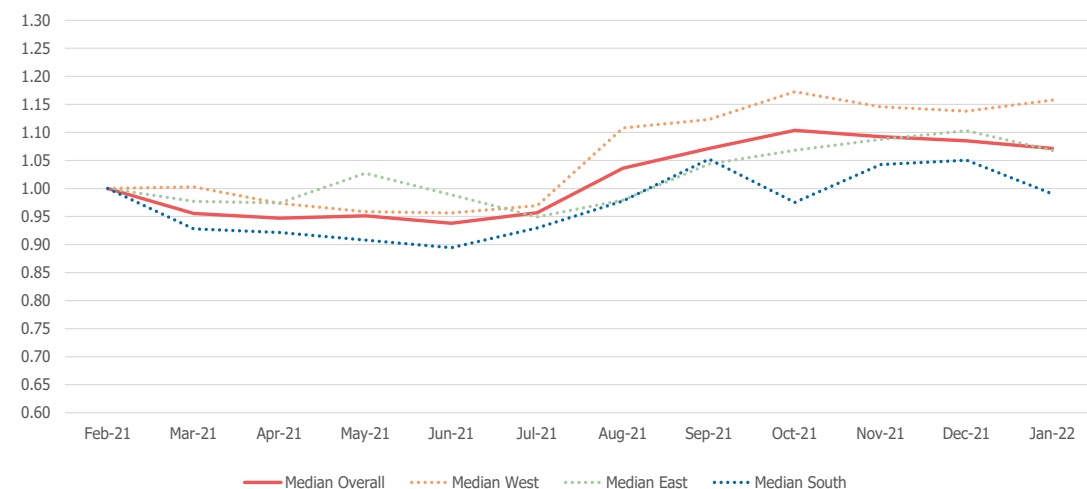
January 2016-January 2020

Since March 2020



MEB PRICE INDEX

Since February 2021 (normalised, February 2021 = 1.00)⁶



PREVIOUS JMMI OUTPUTS

Factsheets Datasets

2021

December	December
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.

Endnotes

¹ Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (27 January 2021). Parallel market rates: The rates from 1 January 2021 and 1 January 2020 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes (<http://www.ewanlibya.ly/>).

² The food prices were normalised by setting February 2021 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in February 2021.

³ The hygiene prices were normalised by setting January 2021 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in February 2021.

⁴ Libya IDP and Returnee Report November - December 2020, DTM IOM, October 2020

⁵ 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.

⁶ The MEB price index was normalised by setting February 2021 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in February 2021.

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.

ACTED is an international NGO. Independent, private and non-profit, ACTED respects a strict political and religious impartiality, and operates following principles of non-discrimination, and transparency. Since 2011, ACTED has been providing humanitarian aid and has supported civil society and local governance throughout Libya, from its offices in Tripoli, Sebha and Benghazi.