



### INTRODUCTION

The Rapid Market Monitoring Initiative (RMMI) was launched by REACH in collaboration with the Food Security Sector Working Group (FSS) and the Cash Working Group (CWG) to support humanitarian actors providing cash and voucher assistance (CVA), especially in adjusting the response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Northeast Nigeria.

In Northeast Nigeria, food prices are collected on a monthly basis by the World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian organization based on their programmatic needs. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, FSS set up a COVID-19 taskforce in collaboration with REACH and other CVA partners to monitor prices of critical household items on a weekly basis due to the rapid nature of the pandemic, and its negative effects on market systems and the movement of goods and services.

The RMMI will collect price data for fuel and water, critical non-food items (NFIs), including all the components of the Food Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB). In addition, indicators specific to the COVID-19 crisis and its potential impact on markets are now being tracked on a weekly basis from May 2020 onwards.

### Price tracking for Food SMEB items: Weekly (NGN)

Items	13 May 2020	6 May 2020	% change
<b>Cost of Food SMEB*</b>	<b>23,331</b>	<b>21,031</b>	<b>11%</b>
Local rice (22.5 kg)	9,443	8,622	10%
Maize (37.5 kg)	6,917	5,825	19%
White beans (11.25 kg)	2,363	2,363	0%
Palm oil (1.5 L)	800	741	8%
Groundnut oil (3 L)	1,875	1,588	18%
Groundnuts (2.25 kg)	716	716	0%
Sugar (1.5 kg)	808	808	0%
Salt (0.75 kg)	115	120	-4%
Onion (1.2 kg)	294	249	18%

\*Contains the items listed below it

### Exchange rate (NGN/USD)

Exchange Rate <sup>1</sup>	6 May 2020	13 May 2020	% change
Official rate	390	390	0%

### KEY FINDINGS: 12-16 MAY, 2020

- The cost of the food SMEB in Maiduguri and Jere LGAs was **23,331** naira during the week of 12-16 May 2020.
- The cost of the food SMEB rose by **11%** during the week of 12-16 May 2020 when compared to 1-6 May 2020.
- The rise in cost of the food SMEB was predominantly driven by increase in prices of 4 items, namely local rice, maize, palm oil and groundnut oil.
- Among the interviewed vendors, low customer purchasing power was the most commonly cited barrier in accessing the market (**55%**).
- Among the interviewed vendors, **60%** reported there were no government regulations in the market they were operating in.<sup>2</sup>

### COVID-19 MARKET INDICATORS

Of the **78** respondents surveyed, **0%** of vendors stated that they were limiting the number of certain items sold per household in order to prevent shortages.

#### Top 3 reported COVID-19 precautions taken by vendors<sup>3</sup>

Compulsory masks for customers	82%	<div><div></div></div>
Customer handwashing stations	59%	<div><div></div></div>
Antibacterial gel for customers	28%	<div><div></div></div>

#### Top 3 reported government regulations on vendors due to COVID-19<sup>3</sup>

No regulations	67%	<div><div></div></div>
Restricted opening hours	28%	<div><div></div></div>
Restricted number of customers	9%	<div><div></div></div>

#### Reported change in customer shopping frequency due to COVID-19 restrictions

Decreased	51%
Stayed the same	19%
Increased	30%



### METHODOLOGY

Data was remotely collected through interviews with vendor key informants (KIs) purposively sampled across three major markets in Maiduguri and Jere LGAs. The key markets were chosen in consultation with all participating partners from the Food Security Sector (FSS) COVID-19 Taskforce. The cost of the food SMEB for the overall LGA is computed by considering the median of individual market's food SMEB costs. Variation in the cost of the food SMEB is computed against prices collected during the previous week. Findings are indicative for the assessed location and time frame in which the data was collected.

### RMMI WEEKLY FIGURES

Data collection **12<sup>th</sup> May - 16<sup>th</sup> May**  
**3** markets assessed  
**78** vendor KIs surveyed  
**19** key commodities being tracked

#### Top 3 reported shops closed due to COVID-19<sup>3</sup>

None	81%	<div><div></div></div>
General store <sup>4</sup>	17%	<div><div></div></div>
Grocery store <sup>4</sup>	13%	<div><div></div></div>

#### Top 3 reported market access barriers for community members<sup>3</sup>

Low purchasing power	55%	<div><div></div></div>
No barriers	31%	<div><div></div></div>
Long queues in market	28%	<div><div></div></div>

#### Top 3 reported population groups experiencing more market access barriers<sup>3</sup>

Elderly customers	79%	<div><div></div></div>
Children	14%	<div><div></div></div>
Customers with medical conditions	13%	<div><div></div></div>



## MARKET INDICATORS AND PRICES

### Median commodity prices per market, 12-16 May 2020 (NGN)

Market	Petrol (1 L)	Diesel (1 L)	Untreated water (20 L)	Hand sanitizer (100 ml)	PPE mask (1 unit)	Bathing soap (60 g)	Laundry soap (200 g)	Sanitary pads (pack of 8)	Charcoal (1 kg)	Firewood (1 small bundle)	Local rice (1 kg)	Maize (1 kg)	White beans (1 kg)	Palm oil (1 L)	Groundnut oil (1 L)	Groundnuts (1 kg)	Sugar (1 kg)	Salt (1 kg)	Onion (1 kg)	Food SMEB Cost
Baga Road	N/A <sup>6</sup>	N/A <sup>6</sup>	9	1,000	350	78	182	400	38	100	438	195	210	667	625	295	538	154	245	24,270
Bullamkutu	N/A <sup>6</sup>	N/A <sup>6</sup>	9	550	325	138	240	183	38	100	365	140	210	494	533	318	500	140	153	20,186
Monday	N/A <sup>6</sup>	N/A <sup>6</sup>	14	550	350	51	160	410	154	200	420	184	252	533	660	364	538	160	276	23,414
Overall (Maiduguri & Jere LGA)	125	220	9	550	350	78	182	400	38	100	420	184	210	533	625	318	538	154	245	23,331

### Average reported remaining stock and restocking time (days)

Items	Days Of Stock Remaining	# Days Needed To Restock
Authorised diesel	20	3
Authorised petrol	14	3
Untreated water	1	1
Hand sanitizer	2	1
PPE mask	3	1
Bathing soap	3	1
Laundry soap	5	1
Sanitary pads	3	1
Charcoal	3	3
Firewood	5	1
Local rice	5	1
Maize	4	2
White beans	4	1
Palm oil	3	1
Groundnut oil	2	1
Groundnuts	2	1
Sugar	3	1
Salt	7	1
Onion	1	1

### Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for food vendors<sup>3</sup>

Price inflation	80%	<div></div>
Supplier has limited supply	29%	<div></div>
Supplier has no stock	22%	<div></div>

### Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for water vendors<sup>3</sup>

No barriers	57%	<div></div>
Price inflation	29%	<div></div>
Supplier unwilling to sell	14%	<div></div>

### Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for NFI vendors<sup>3</sup>

Price inflation	80%	<div></div>
Supplier has limited supply	36%	<div></div>
Supplier has no stock	24%	<div></div>

### Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for authorised fuel vendors<sup>3</sup>

No barriers <sup>5</sup>	67%	<div></div>
Price inflation	33%	<div></div>
Transport route insecurity	33%	<div></div>

### Top 3 reported financing barriers for vendors<sup>3</sup>

Vendors have limited cash	35%	<div></div>
Creditors have limited cash	28%	<div></div>
Creditors are closed	22%	<div></div>

## ABOUT REACH'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

As an initiative deployed in many vulnerable and crisis-affected countries, REACH is deeply concerned by the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the millions of affected people we seek to serve. REACH is currently working with Cash Working Groups and partners to scale up its programming in response to this pandemic, with the goal of identifying practical ways to inform humanitarian responses in the countries where we operate. COVID-19-relevant market monitoring and market assessments are a key area where REACH aims to leverage its existing expertise to help humanitarian actors understand the impact of changing restrictions on markets and trade. Updates regarding REACH's response to COVID-19 can be found in [a devoted thread](#) on the REACH website. Contact [geneva@impact-initiatives.org](mailto:geneva@impact-initiatives.org) for further information.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Average exchange for 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 reported in [XE.com](#).

<sup>2</sup> The lockdown that commenced on 22<sup>nd</sup> April was [indefinitely suspended](#) since May 13<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Values do not add up to 100% as vendor KIs were allowed to select multiple options.

<sup>4</sup> General stores sell both food and non-food items, except fuel. Grocery stores mainly sell food items like grains, oils etc. Household NFI stores sell items like soap, sanitary pads, etc.

<sup>5</sup> 3 out of the 4 authorised fuel vendors cited a slowdown in cross-border movement of supply trucks as the main barrier to restocking.

<sup>6</sup> Authorised fuel vendor shops are outside the 3 assessed markets.