Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)| Kenya: Dadaab and Kakuma Refugee Camps and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement

MARKET OVERVIEW

Q1 2026 (January - March)

INTRODUCTION

To inform humanitarian cash assistance programming, the quarterly Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) assesses the availability and prices of essential commodities commonly sold in local markets and consumed by the average household. In Kenya, the Refugee JMMI is conducted in markets serving refugee populations in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei.

The total number of registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya stood at 841,207 as at March 2026. Nearly half (49%) of the population resides in Dadaab camp, while 27% are in Kakuma camp and 10% are in Kalobeyei settlement.[4] The remaining 14% resided in urban areas, including Nairobi, Eldoret, and Mombasa.[4]

This factsheet highlights the price and availability of key foods and non-food items (NFIs), cost of the Refugee Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB),[1] and market functionality in the assessed camps. Data collection for Q1 2026 was conducted between 25th March and 1st April 2026 across 13 markets (5 in Kakuma, 5 in Dadaab and 3 in Kalobeyei).

For more information on the methodology, please refer to page 12.

Q1 2026 COVERAGE

322	Vendors interviewed
67	Commodities assessed
13	Markets assessed
5	Participating agencies
3	Assessed locations

KEY INDICATORS

Cost of Food MEB[1]	Cost of Non Food MEB[1]	Cost of MEB[1]
11,160 KES	4,428 KES	15,588 KES
86.57 USD[2]	34.35 USD[2]	120.92 USD[2]
▼ 758 KES (6%)[3]	▲ 293 KES (7%)[3]	▼ 465 KES (3%)[3]

ASSESSED LOCATION AND MEDIAN MEB VALUES

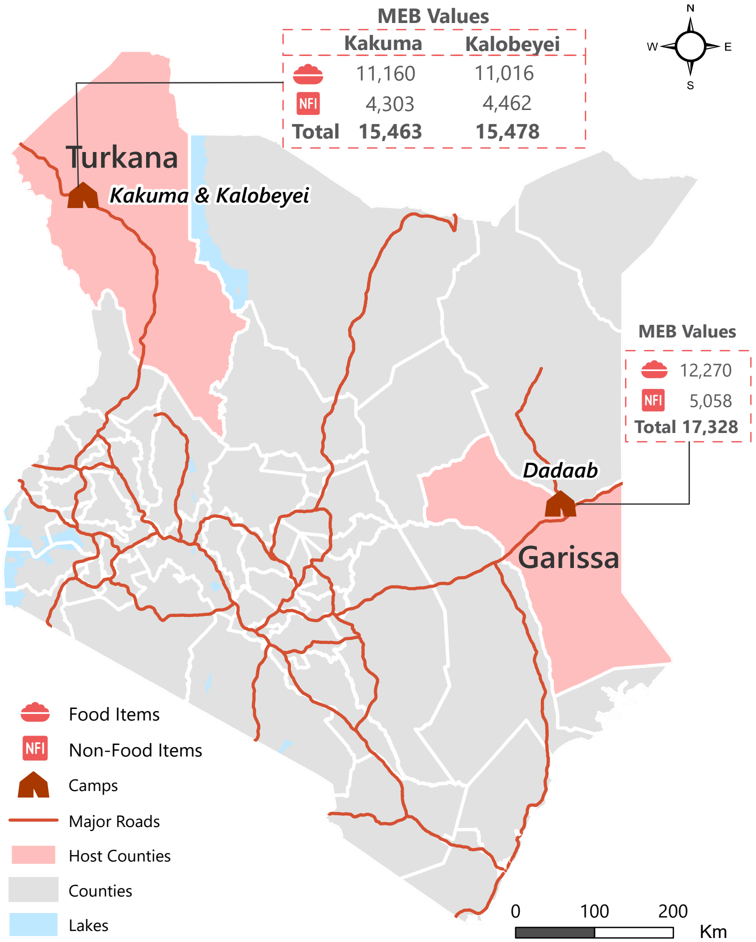

Figure 1: Map of the Q1 2026 assessed location and MEB values

KEY FINDINGS

- Despite favourable seasonal conditions associated with the 2026 March to May long rains, market conditions remained constrained by rising transportation costs, and supply chain disruptions, contributing to mixed commodity price trends.[5]
- The majority of vendors (overall 98%) reported facing operational challenges. These were primarily linked to higher supplier prices, insufficient funds to restock, and reduced customer numbers.
- **Supply constraints were more pronounced in Dadaab (54%),** where a higher proportion of vendors reported limited or complete unavailability of some commodities. However, vendors across all assessed locations generally restocked within one to two days.
- Marketplaces remained generally physically accessible, particularly in Dadaab. Security and physical access challenges were concentrated in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, where curfews, movement restrictions, and security concerns affected market accessibility.
- Market functionality remained largely unchanged from the previous quarter. **Of the 13 markets assessed, nine were classified as having limited functionality, three markets were classified as poor and only Dadaab market was classified as fully functional.**

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REFUGEE MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (MEB)

The refugee MEB is composed of essential commodities and services. The MEB is used as an operational tool to quantify the average minimum cost of the culturally adjusted basket of basic items required to support a five-person household for one month.

Developed by the Kenya Cash Working Group (KCWG) through the MEB work-stream, it differs from the Rural MEB by specifically considering refugee needs. Only the key components of the refugee MEB's key elements, i.e. fixed costs, food and NFIs as defined by the KCWG, were incorporated into computing the refugee MEB.

Food Items	Quantity
Maize grain	21 Kg
Rice	21 Kg
Wheat flour	21 Kg
Oil, Vegetable	5.25 L
Dried beans	7.5 Kg
Cow milk, whole	15 L
Dark green leafy vegetables	15 Kg
Salt, Iodized	0.75 Kg
Sugar	0.75 Kg

Non-Food Items	Quantity
Multipurpose soap	2.75 Kg
Toothpaste	0.140 L
Tissue paper	8 pcs
Sanitary pads	4 packs of 8
Education (pen, pencil, ruler, book, rubber, sharpener)	1 kit
Firewood	1.5 bundles
Matchbox	2 boxes
Lighting cost	800 KES
National Health Coverage	500 KES
Public transport	1,000 KES

COST OF THE MEB IN KES AND CHANGE SINCE Q4 2025

Camp	MEB	Change	Food MEB	Change	NFI MEB	Change
Dadaab	17,328	▲ 5%	12,270	▲ 3%	5,058	▲11%
Kakuma	15,463	▼ 4%	11,160	▼ 7%	4,303	▲ 4%
Kalobeyei	15,478	• 0%	11,016	▼ 3%	4,463	▲ 9%

Overall, Dadaab continued to record the highest MEB among the assessed locations, while Kalobeyei remained the least expensive, similar with the previous quarter. The overall MEB in Dadaab increased by 5%, driven by increases in both the food MEB (+KES 353) and the NFI MEB (+KES 500). Food price increases were observed across several staple commodities, including white maize (+17%), rice (+20%), beans (+9%), and sugar (+9%), while cattle milk and camel milk (both by -17%) declined. The increase in the NFI MEB was primarily driven by higher prices for tissue paper which doubled and school materials, particularly exercise books.

In contrast, **the overall MEB in Kakuma declined, largely attributable to a reduction in the food MEB**, despite a modest 4% increase in the NFI MEB. Price declines were recorded for several food items, including milk (-50%), onions (-17%), salt (-20%), and cowpea leaves (-20%), while increases were observed for beans (+17%), spaghetti (+13%) and rice (+9%).

The overall MEB in Kalobeyei remained broadly stable, with the 3% decrease in the Food MEB largely offset by a 9% increase in the NFI MEB. Food price increases were recorded for rice and beans (both +20%) and vegetable oil (+11%), while the cost of cowpea leaves (-50%) and cattle milk (-50%) declined. Notably, staple commodities such as white maize, rice, and beans continued to be priced lower in the camps and integrated settlement than in the surrounding host communities.

Over half of vendors in Dadaab (54%) reported limited or no availability of assessed commodities, compared with 38% in Kakuma and 28% in Kalobeyei, indicating comparatively greater availability challenges in Dadaab. Despite these reported supply constraints, the median restocking time remained one to two days across the assessed locations, suggesting a low risk of prolonged commodity shortages.

MEDIAN PRICE IN KES OF ITEMS PER CAMP

Items[6]	Unit	Dadaab	Change
Food items			
White maize	1 Kg	70	▲ 17%
Maize flour	1 Kg	100	0%
Wheat flour	1 Kg	100	0%
Rice	1 Kg	120	▲ 20%
Spaghetti	500 g	80	▲ 7%
Beans	1 Kg	120	▲ 9%
Cowpeas	1 Kg	120	0%
Cowpea leaves	1 Kg	100	0%
Yellow split peas	1 Kg	100	0%
Sugar	1 Kg	120	▲ 9%
Vegetable oil	1 L	250	0%
Salt	1 Kg	170	▲ 24%
Cattle milk	1 L	150	▼ 17%
Camel milk	1 L	150	▼ 17%
Goat meat	1 Kg	800	0%
Camel meat	1 Kg	600	0%
Onions	1 Kg	100	0%
Tomatoes	1 Kg	70	▲ 33%
Kale	1kg	100	0%
WASH items			
Sleeping mat	1 pc	500	*
Mosquito net	1 pc	400	*
Toothpaste	70 g	100	0%
Tissue paper	1 pc	100	▲ 100%
Bar soap	200 g	50	0%
Jerry can	1pc	150	0%
Bucket	1 pc	195	5%
Pads	1 pc	100	0%
Toothbrush	1 pc	50	0%
Underwear - girls	1 pc	100	*
Underwear - women	1 pc	150	*
Blanket	1 pc	350	*
Cooking energy items			
Firewood	1 bundle	100	0%
Charcoal	2 kg	200	0%
Matchbox	1 pc	5	0%

KEY

▼ Decrease ▲ Increase • Change between 0% and <1% * Not applicable

MEDIAN PRICE IN KES[2] OF ITEMS PER CAMP

Items[6]	Unit	Kakuma	Change[3]	Kalobeyei	Change[3]
Food items					
White maize	1 Kg	60	0%	60	0%
Maize flour	1 Kg	80	0%	80	0%
Wheat flour	1 Kg	90	0%	90	0%
Rice	1 Kg	120	▲ 9%	120	▲ 20%
Spaghetti	500 g	90	▲ 13%	80	0%
Beans	1 Kg	140	▲ 17%	120	▲ 20%
Cowpeas	1 Kg	140	▼ 7%	150	0%
Cowpea leaves	1 Kg	80	▼ 20%	50	▼ 50%
Yellow split peas	1 Kg	150	▲ 25%	145	▼ 3%
Sugar	1 Kg	170	▲ 6%	160	▲ 7%
Vegetable oil	1 L	300	0%	300	▲ 11%
Salt	1 Kg	50	▼ 20%	68	▼ 9%
Cattle milk	1 L	80	▼ 50%	80	▼ 50%
Camel milk	1 L	200	*	150	*
Goat meat	1 Kg	700	0%	700	▲ 17%
Camel meat	1 Kg	600	0%	800	*
Onions	1 Kg	100	▼ 17%	100	▼ 9%
Tomatoes	1 Kg	100	0%	100	0%
Kale	1kg	100	0%	100	▲ 5%
WASH items					
Sleeping mat	1 pc	2,450	*	1,200	*
Mosquito net	1 pc	600	*	700	*
Toothpaste	70 g	100	▲ 100%	100	▲ 100%
Tissue paper	1 pc	30	0%	30	0%
Bar soap	200 g	50	0%	50	0%
Jerry can	1pc	150	▼ 17%	200	▲ 33%
Bucket	1 pc	175	▲ 17%	170	▲ 13%
Pads	1 pc	100	0%	100	0%
Toothbrush	1 pc	30	0%	30	0%
Underwear - girls	1 pc	150	*	50	*
Underwear - women	1 pc	200	*	125	*
Blanket	1 pc	500	*	1,500	*
Cooking energy items					
Firewood	1 bundle	70	▼ 7%	150	▲ 150%
Charcoal	2 kg	80	▲ 33%	200	▲ 233%
Matchbox	1 pc	5	0%	5	0%

Items[6]	Unit	Dadaab	Change[3]	Kakuma	Change[3]	Kalobeyei	Change[3]
Education items							
Shoes (< five years)	1 pair	700	*	800	*	500	*
Shoes (5-12 years)	1 pair	1,000	*	700	*	1,000	*
Uniform - girls	1 pair	1,800	*	700	*	600	*
Uniform - boys	1 pair	1,300	*	825	*	500	*
Pencils	1 pc	10	0%	10	▲ 100%	10	▲ 100%
Pens	1 pc	10	0%	10	0%	10	0%
Exercise books	1 pc	30	▲ 50%	20	▲ 33%	15	0%
Rubbers	1 pc	10	0%	5	0%	5	0%
Socks	1 pc	50	*	100	*	58	*
School bag	1 pc	700	*	850	*	800	*
Ruler	1 pc	30	0%	20	0%	30	▲ 50%
Sharpener	1 pc	10	0%	5	0%	5	0%
Geometric set	1 pc	200	0%	175	▲ 75%	150	▲ 50%
Kichen Items							
Cooking pans	1 pc	1,000	*	700	*	500	*
Knife	1 pc	100	*	100	*	100	*
Spoon	1 pc	20	*	20	*	20	*
Cup	1 pc	100	*	50	*	50	*
Plate	1 pc	120	*	120	*	50	*
Construction items							
Hoop iron	1 pc	220	*	210	*	250	*
Tower bolt (4 inches)	1 pc	100	*	50	*	85	*
Tower bolt (6 inches)	1 pc	100	*	70	*	150	*
Pad bolt	1 pc	150	*	150	*		*
Butt hinge (2 inches)	1 pc	50	*	75	*	40	*
Butt hinge (4 inches)	1 pc	100	*	55	*	100	*
Pine timber	1 pc	60	*	48	*	40	*
Nails (2 inches)	1 pc	250	*	200	*	200	*
Nails (3 inches)	1 pc	250	*	200	*	200	*
Nails (4 inches)	1 pc	250	*	200	*	200	*
Roofing nails	1 pc	250	*	250	*	250	*
Ceiling nails	1 pc	250	*	250	*	250	*
Wood preservative	1 pc	100	*	285	*	50	*
Eucalyptus	1 pc	500	*	220	*	165	*
Corrugated iron sheets	1 pc	1,200	*	1,400	*	730	*
Uncorrugated iron sheets	1 pc	900	*	650	*	610	*
Cement	1 pc	1,000	*	1,150	*	1,150	*

KEY

▼ Decrease ▲ Increase • Change between 0% and <1% * Not applicable

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AVAILABLE STOCK, TIME NEEDED TO RESTOCK, AND CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS IN THE MARKET PER CAMP

Items[7] -Dadaab	Wide availability (%KIs)	Limited availability (%KIs)	Remaining stock (days)	Time needed to restock (days)
White maize	42%	58%	14	1
Maize flour	97%	3%	10	1
Wheat flour	100%	0%	7	1
Rice	93%	7%	14	1
Spaghetti	100%	0%	10	1
Beans	93%	8%	9	1
Cowpeas	39%	57%	15	1
Cowpea leaves	43%	57%	1	0
Yellow split peas	38%	62%	14	1
Sugar	100%	0%	8	1
Vegetable oil	100%	0%	13	1
Salt	93%	8%	14	1
Cattle milk	40%	60%	1	1
Camel milk	81%	19%	1	1
Goat meat	50%	50%	1	0
Camel meat	79%	21%	1	0
Onions	94%	6%	5	1
Tomatoes	88%	12%	2	1
Kale	67%	33%	1	1
Pads	68%	32%	15	1
Sleeping mat	61%	39%	21	1
Mosquito net	56%	44%	20	1
Blanket	32%	68%	20	1
Toothbrush	73%	27%	11	1
Toothpaste	73%	27%	10	1
Tissue paper	65%	35%	13	1
Bar soap	93%	7%	11	1
Jerry can	58%	42%	15	1
Bucket	50%	50%	19	1
Underwear - girls	88%	12%	15	1
Underwear - women	82%	18%	14	1
Cooking pans	58%	42%	20	1
Knife	67%	33%	15	1
Spoon	59%	41%	17	1
Cup	50%	50%	15	1
Plate	56%	44%	20	1

Items[7] -Dadaab	Wide availability (%KIs)	Limited availability (%KIs)	Remaining stock (days)	Time needed to restock (days)
Shoes (<five years boys/girls)	74%	26%	15	1
Shoes (5-12 years boys/girls)	74%	26%	20	1
Uniform - girls	84%	16%	21	1
Uniform - boys	84%	16%	20	1
Pencil	89%	11%	20	1
Pen	93%	7%	15	1
Exercise book	68%	32%	20	1
Rubber	74%	26%	15	1
Socks	77%	23%	20	1
School bag	77%	23%	21	1
Ruler	73%	27%	15	1
Geometric set	73%	27%	20	1
Sharpener	70%	30%	20	1
Firewood	47%	53%	14	1
Charcoal	35%	65%	14	1
Matchbox	96%	4%	7	1
Hoop iron	52%	48%	15	2
Tower bolt (4 inches)	52%	48%	15	2
Tower bolt (6 inches)	52%	48%	15	2
Pad bolt	44%	56%	21	2
Butt hinge (2 inches)	63%	38%	15	2
Butt hinge (4 inches)	58%	42%	15	2
Pine timber	61%	39%	12	2
Nails (3 inches)	72%	28%	12	2
Nails (4 inches)	69%	31%	10	2
Nails (2 Inches)	69%	31%	12	2
Roofing nails	54%	46%	13	2
Ceiling nails	58%	42%	15	2
Wood preservative	57%	43%	15	2
Eucalyptus/ Blue gum	57%	43%	14	2
Corrugated iron sheet	67%	33%	15	2
Uncorrugated iron sheet	63%	38%	15	2
Cement	71%	29%	15	2

AVAILABLE STOCK, TIME NEEDED TO RESTOCK, AND CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS IN THE MARKET PER CAMP

Items[7]-Kakuma	Wide availability (%KIs)	Limited availability (%KIs)	Remaining stock (days)	Time needed to restock (days)
White maize	100%	0%	15	2
Maize flour	97%	3%	15	1
Wheat flour	100%	0%	7	2
Rice	95%	5%	18	2
Spaghetti	96%	4%	21	1
Beans	88%	12%	21	1
Cowpeas	73%	27%	5	2
Cowpea leaves	89%	11%	2	1
Yellow split peas	56%	33%	15	1
Sugar	100%	0%	15	1
Vegetable oil	97%	3%	15	1
Salt	100%	0%	15	1
Cattle milk	100%	0%	5	1
Camel milk	44%	56%	2	3
Goat meat	88%	12%	1	1
Camel meat	100%	0%	1	1
Onions	93%	7%	10	1
Tomatoes	89%	11%	5	1
Kale	80%	20%	2	1
Pads	94%	6%	30	1
Sleeping mat	100%	0%	7	1
Mosquito net	90%	10%	23	2
Blanket	89%	11%	20	2
Toothbrush	95%	5%	30	1
Toothpaste	100%	0%	30	1
Tissue paper	100%	0%	21	1
Bar soap	100%	0%	17	1
Jerry can	75%	25%	15	2
Bucket	94%	6%	30	1
Underwear - girls	94%	6%	16	2
Underwear - women	93%	7%	20	2
Cooking pans	77%	23%	30	2
Knife	100%	0%	20	1
Spoon	100%	0%	20	1
Cup	100%	0%	25	2
Plate	100%	0%	30	1

Items[7] -Kakuma	Wide availability (%KIs)	Limited availability (%KIs)	Remaining stock (days)	Time needed to restock (days)
Shoes (<five years boys/girls)	92%	8%	25	2
Shoes (5-12 years boys/girls)	100%	0%	30	2
Uniform - girls	92%	8%	18	2
Uniform - boys	83%	17%	25	2
Pencil	100%	0%	30	1
Pen	100%	0%	20	1
Exercise book	100%	0%	25	1
Rubber	87%	13%	30	1
Socks	92%	8%	30	2
School bag	75%	25%	20	2
Ruler	92%	8%	30	1
Geometric set	92%	8%	30	2
Sharpener	92%	8%	30	2
Firewood	80%	20%	7	1
Charcoal	100%	0%	5	1
Matchbox	100%	0%	30	1
Hoop iron	78%	22%	15	2
Tower bolt (4 inches)	75%	25%	13	2
Tower bolt (6 inches)	50%	50%	12	3
Pad bolt	57%	43%	20	2
Butt hinge (2 inches)	100%	0%	14	2
Butt hinge (4 inches)	75%	25%	14	2
Pine timber	50%	50%	15	2
Nails (3 inches)	92%	8%	15	2
Nails (4 inches)	92%	8%	20	2
Nails (2 Inches)	82%	18%	15	2
Roofing nails	91%	9%	15	2
Ceiling nails	91%	9%	20	2
Wood preservative	60%	40%	15	2
Eucalyptus/ blue gum	86%	14%	12	3
Corrugated iron sheet	71%	29%	15	1
Uncorrugated iron sheet	56%	44%	15	1
Cement	93%	7%	20	2

AVAILABLE STOCK, TIME NEEDED TO RESTOCK, AND CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS IN THE MARKET PER CAMP

Items[7] -Kalobeyei	Wide availability (%KIs)	Limited availability (%KIs)	Remaining stock (days)	Time needed to restock (days)
White maize	78%	22%	30	2
Maize flour	91%	9%	30	2
Wheat flour	100%	0%	30	3
Rice	100%	0%	30	2
Spaghetti	100%	0%	30	2
Beans	100%	0%	30	2
Cowpeas	100%	0%	30	2
Cowpea leaves	100%	0%	2	1
Yellow split peas	80%	20%	30	3
Sugar	100%	0%	30	2
Vegetable oil	91%	9%	30	2
Salt	100%	0%	30	2
Cattle milk	100%	0%	23	2
Camel milk	100%	0%	3	3
Goat meat	100%	0%	1	1
Camel meat	100%	0%	1	5
Onions	100%	0%	30	2
Tomatoes	100%	0%	4	2
Kale	75%	25%	3	2
Pads	100%	0%	30	2
Sleeping mat	88%	0%	30	2
Mosquito net	80%	20%	20	2
Blanket	100%	0%	30	2
Toothbrush	100%	0%	30	2
Toothpaste	100%	0%	30	2
Tissue paper	100%	0%	30	1
Bar soap	100%	0%	30	2
Jerry can	75%	25%	20	5
Bucket	100%	0%	30	3
Underwear - girls	100%	0%	30	2
Underwear - women	75%	25%	22	2
Cooking pans	100%	0%	30	2
Knife	100%	0%	60	2
Spoon	100%	0%	30	2
Cup	75%	25%	60	2
Plate	100%	0%	30	2

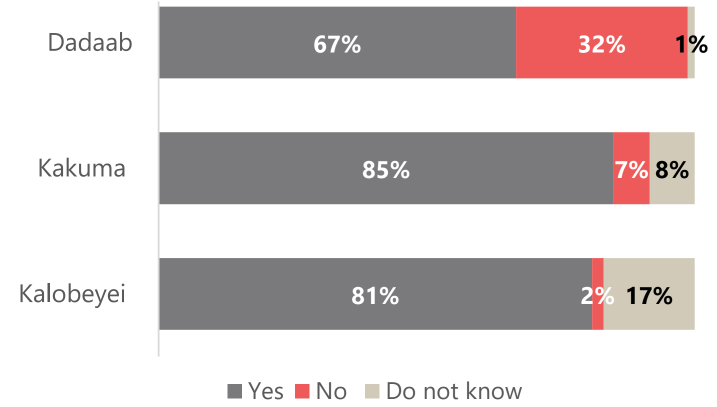
Items[7] - Kalobeyei	Wide availability (%KIs)	Limited availability (%KIs)	Remaining stock (days)	Time needed to restock (days)
Shoes (<five years boys/girls)	100%	0%	30	2
Shoes (5-12 years boys/girls)	80%	20%	30	2
Uniform - girls	60%	40%	30	3
Uniform - boys	60%	40%	30	3
Pencil	75%	25%	30	2
Pen	100%	0%	30	1
Exercise book	100%	0%	30	2
Rubber	100%	0%	30	2
Socks	88%	13%	30	3
School bag	80%	20%	30	2
Ruler	86%	14%	30	2
Geometric set	100%	0%	30	2
Sharpener	100%	0%	30	2
Firewood	80%	20%	7	2
Charcoal	100%	0%	30	1
Matchbox	100%	0%	30	1
Hoop iron	67%	33%	30	3
Tower bolt (4 inches)	50%	50%	73	3
Tower bolt (6 inches)	50%	50%	65	7
Pad bolt	0%	0%	0	0
Butt hinge (2 inches)	60%	40%	60	2
Butt hinge (4 inches)	80%	20%	30	2
Pine timber	0%	100%	60	2
Nails (3 inches)	83%	17%	30	3
Nails (4 inches)	67%	33%	30	2
Nails (2 Inches)	83%	17%	30	2
Roofing nails	67%	33%	30	2
Ceiling nails	40%	60%	30	2
Wood preservative	0%	0%	90	2
Eucalyptus/ blue gum	50%	50%	85	2
Corrugated iron sheet	33%	33%	60	3
Uncorrugated iron sheet	75%	25%	45	2
Cement	67%	33%	30	3

REPORTED PREDICTED CHANGES IN SUPPLIERS' PRICES

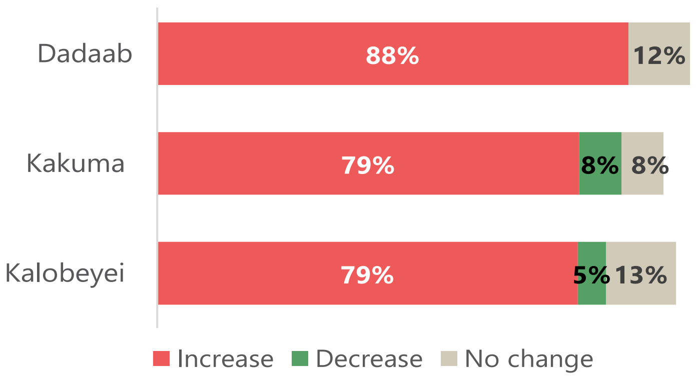
Findings indicate that most vendors were able to anticipate changes in supplier prices, with the majority expecting prices to increase (88% in Dadaab and 79% in both Kakuma and Kalobeyei). However, nearly one-third (32%) of vendors in Dadaab reported being unable to predict future supplier price changes, suggesting more limited visibility over supplier pricing trends.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), annual inflation stood at 4.4% in March 2026 before rising to 5.6% in April 2026, the highest rate recorded since March 2024.[8] The increase was driven primarily by higher petroleum prices linked to the Middle East conflict, despite government measures to cushion consumers, including reductions in fuel taxes. This inflationary pressure is likely to have contributed to vendors' expectations of rising supplier prices.

Proportion of vendors reporting whether they are able to predict changes in suppliers' prices for popular commodities in the month after data collection, per camp:*

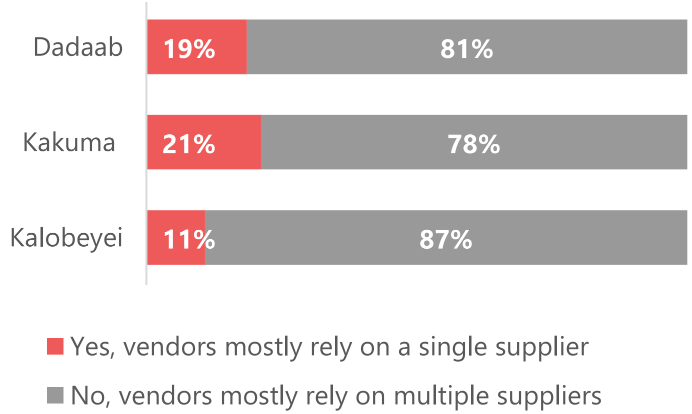


Vendors' predictions of supplier price changes for popular commodities in the month following data collection, by % of vendors able to predict supplier price changes, per camp:[9]



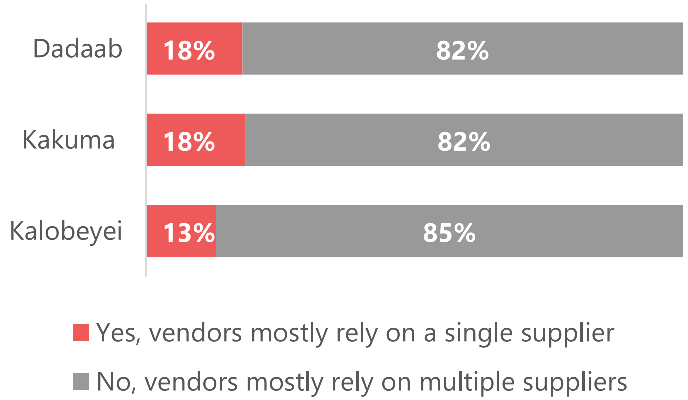
SUPPLIER

% of vendors reporting that they mostly relied on a single supplier for food items at the time of data collection, by camp:[9]



NFI

% of vendors reporting that they mostly relied on a single supplier for non-food items at the time of data collection, by camp:[9]



Vendors continued to largely report relying on multiple suppliers rather than a single source for both food and non-food items, indicating a relatively diversified supply base across all three camps. Reliance on a single supplier remained limited, though it was slightly more common in Kakuma compared to Dadaab and Kalobeyei, suggesting marginally greater vulnerability to supply disruptions in Kakuma.

In Kalobeyei, single-supplier reliance rose compared to the previous quarter, increasing from 8% to 11% for food items and from 0% to 13% for non-food items. The increase in dependency on a single supplier may indicate a notable level of vulnerability to supply disruptions.

* This is a self-reported question to the vendors hence may be subjectivity to their experience, knowledge and awareness

LOCATION OF THE MAIN SUPPLIER

In Dadaab, almost all interviewed vendors reported sourcing their main commodities exclusively from Garissa County (99%), indicating a highly localized supply chain and strong dependence on suppliers in Garissa as the primary market source.

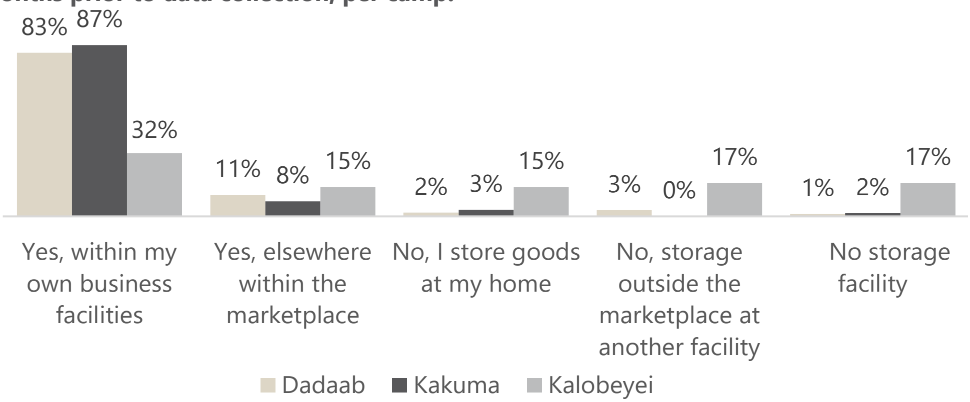
The majority of vendors in Kalobeyei (98%) and Kakuma (95%) relied predominantly on suppliers in Turkana County, underscoring the importance of local county markets in sustaining commodity availability. A smaller proportion of traders reported that they sourced commodities from other counties, including from suppliers in Nairobi. In Kakuma, 4% of traders sourced from Nairobi while in Kalobeyei, 2% sourced from Nairobi and 4% from Trans-Nzoia County.

The short restocking times, often within one or two days, can be attributed to the high proportion of vendors sourcing goods locally. However, the concentration also creates a potential vulnerability. As most vendors depend on a single county for their supplies, disruptions in Garissa or Turkana, such as flooding, road closures, or insecurity, may affect the ability of many vendors to restock at the same time. Similar to reliance on a single supplier, this lack of diversification increases the risk that a single disruption within the supply chain could affect vendors' ability to restock, potentially reducing commodity availability.

ACCESS TO A LOCKED, SECURED STORAGE FACILITY

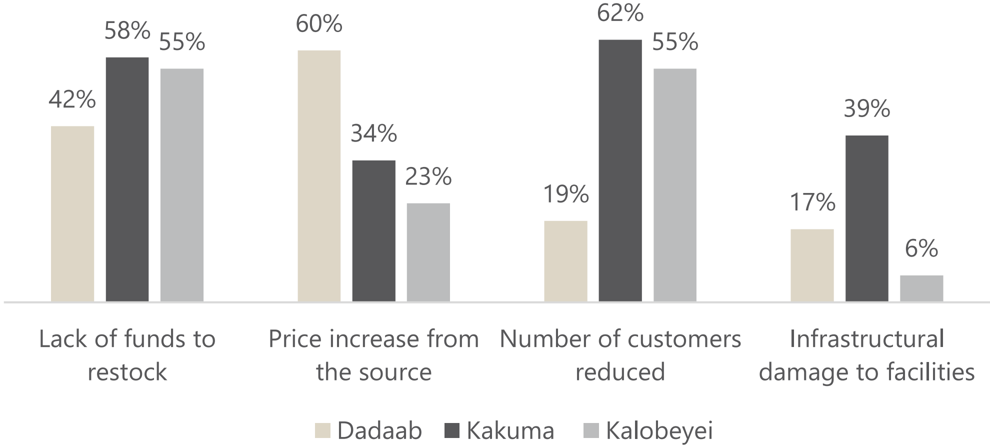
Notably, the lack of any storage facility was a key concern in Kalobeyei, where 17% of interviewed vendors reported having no storage access at all, compared to 2% in Kakuma and 1% in Dadaab. A few female vendors (3%) and male vendors (4%) reported not having access to any storage facility. Overall, the findings suggest stronger storage infrastructure among vendors in Dadaab and Kakuma, while storage constraints remain more pronounced in Kalobeyei, potentially affecting stock management, limiting vendors' ability to maintain adequate inventory, restricting product offerings, and reducing business resilience.

Proportion of vendors reporting on access to a locked, secured storage facility in the 3 months prior to data collection, per camp:[9]



VENDOR CHALLENGES

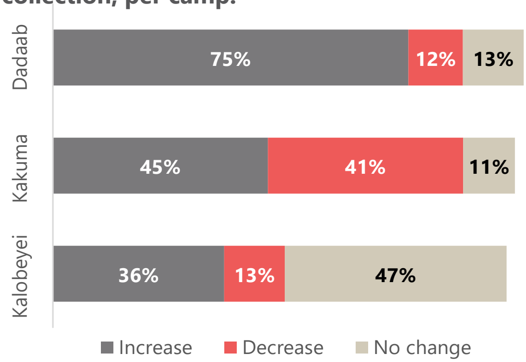
Most reported challenges by vendors in the 3 months prior to data collection, per camp:[10]



All vendors in Kakuma, as well as the majority of vendors in Dadaab (98%) and Kalobeyei (91%), reported facing various challenges in the three months prior to data collection.

CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF VENDORS

Proportion of vendors reporting changes in the number of vendors operating in their marketplace in the 3 months prior to data collection, per camp:[9]



Vendors reported mixed changes, indicating market growth in Dadaab, balanced entry and exit in Kakuma, and relative stability in Kalobeyei.

CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS

% of vendors reporting an increase or decrease in the number of customers purchasing from their shop in the 3 months prior to data collection, among those vendors (77% Dadaab, 87% Kakuma, 70% Kalobeyei) who reported a change:

Dadaab	74% ▲	26% ▼
Kakuma	34% ▲	66% ▼
Kalobeyei	6% ▲	94% ▼

Among vendors reporting a change, 74% in Dadaab experienced an increase in the number of customers. In contrast, most vendors in Kalobeyei (94%) and Kakuma (66%) reported a decline in the number of customers purchasing from their shops during the three months prior to data collection.

DIFFICULTIES IN KEEPING THE BUSINESS OPERATIONAL AND WELL-STOCKED

Among interviewed vendors, **45% of men and 43% of women reported difficulties in keeping their businesses operational and adequately stocked**. Increases in supplier prices remained the most commonly reported challenge across all assessed locations. Difficulties with the availability of core goods and accessing sufficient cash to pay suppliers were also commonly reported, particularly in Kakuma, and may affect vendors' ability to restock efficiently.

Reported difficulty in keeping the business operational and well-stocked by vendors in the 3 months prior to data collection:[10]

Dadaab

- 26% Difficulty with price charged by supplier
- 9% Difficulty with availability of core goods
- 8% Difficulty accessing enough bank notes to pay suppliers
- 7% Flooding in the market place

Kakuma

- 33% Difficulty with price charged by supplier
- 30% Difficulty with availability of core goods
- 26% Difficulty accessing enough bank notes to pay suppliers
- 22% Difficulties fully staffing the store

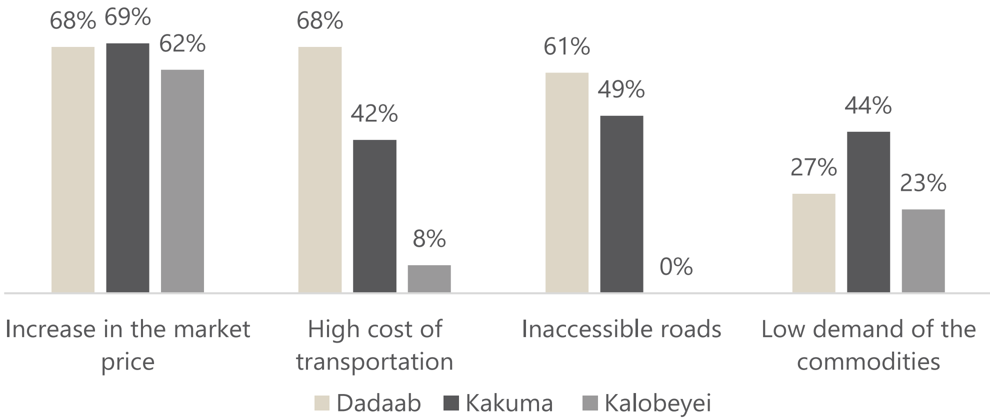
Kalobeyei

- 26% Difficulty with price charged by supplier
- 17% Difficulty accessing enough bank notes to pay suppliers
- 6% Difficulty with availability of core goods
- 6% Movement restrictions

SHORTAGE OF COMMODITIES

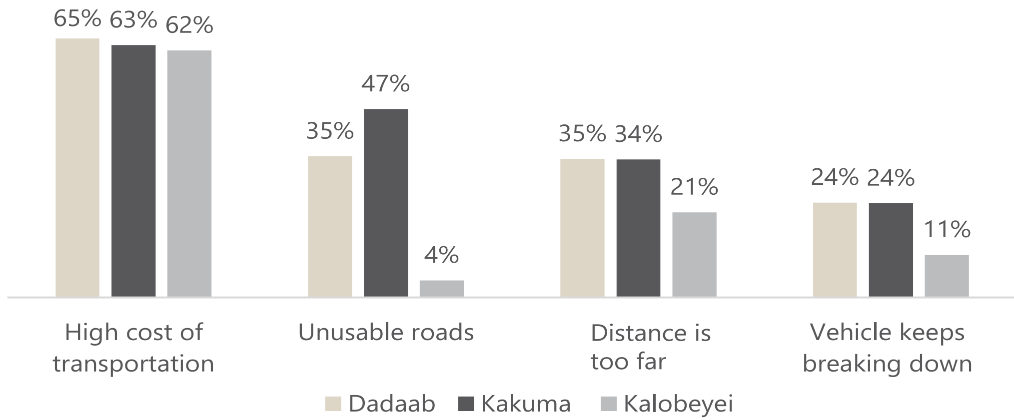
Compared to the previous quarter, the proportion of vendors reporting commodity shortages declined across all assessed locations but remained highest in Dadaab (54%). Vendors most commonly attributed shortages to rising market prices, followed by high transportation costs and inaccessible roads, highlighting the continued influence of supply chain constraints on commodity availability.[5]

Most reported causes of commodity shortages, as reported by vendors who experienced a shortage of some commodities at the time of data collection (54% in Dadaab, 38% in Kakuma, 28% in Kalobeyei), per camp:[10]



CHALLENGES FACED WHEN TRANSPORTING COMMODITIES

Transportation challenges most commonly reported by vendors in the 3 months prior to data collection, per camp:[10]



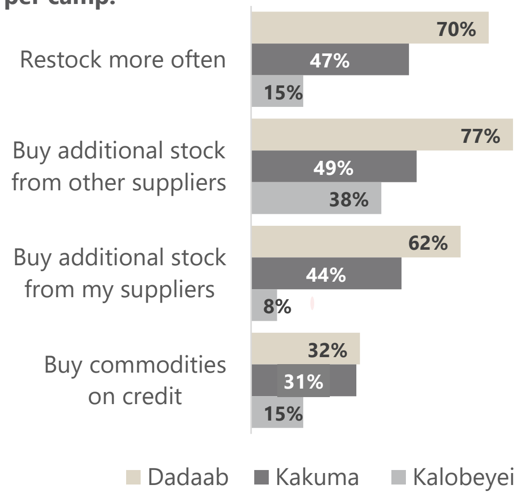
Transport challenges were more pronounced in Dadaab (94%), followed by Kakuma (86%) and Kalobeyei (77%). Vendors in Kakuma and Kalobeyei relied predominantly on motorcycles (58% and 57%, respectively) while in Dadaab vendors relied primarily on lorries (37%).

COPING MECHANISMS EMPLOYED TO DEAL WITH SHORTAGE OF COMMODITIES

Vendors experiencing commodity shortages adopted several coping strategies to manage stock depletion and supply disruptions. Vendors in Dadaab demonstrated the highest operational flexibility, relying heavily on alternative supplier networks (77%), increase restocking frequencies (70%), and increase volume with existing suppliers (62%).[10]

However, a notable proportion of vendors in Kakuma (11%) and Kalobeyei (8%) reported having no coping strategy in place, compared to none of the vendors in Dadaab. Combined with existing restocking challenges, this may increase vendors' vulnerability to revenue loss and business disruptions during periods of shortage.

Strategies employed by interviewed vendors to address commodity unavailability at the time of data collection, among vendors who reported experiencing a shortage (54% in Dadaab, 38% in Kakuma, 28% in Kalobeyei), per camp:[10]



BARRIERS TO MARKET ACCESS

Physical barriers

Most vendors reported no physical barriers to accessing marketplaces, particularly in Dadaab (88%). Among vendors reporting barriers, inadequate market facilities remained the most common challenge in Dadaab (6%), while curfews or movement restrictions continued to be the primary barrier in Kakuma (34%) and Kalobeyei (28%).[10]

There was a slight gender disparity in reported physical access barriers, with a higher proportion of male vendors (29%) reporting barriers than female vendors (22%).

Physical barriers to accessing the marketplace most commonly reported by vendors in the 3 months prior to data collection, per camp:[10]

Dadaab

88%	No physical barriers
6%	Inadequate facilities
3%	Limited transportation options
3%	Damaged or unsafe buildings

Kakuma

60%	No physical barriers
34%	Curfew or movement restrictions
29%	Inadequate facilities
25%	Ongoing or active fighting in the area

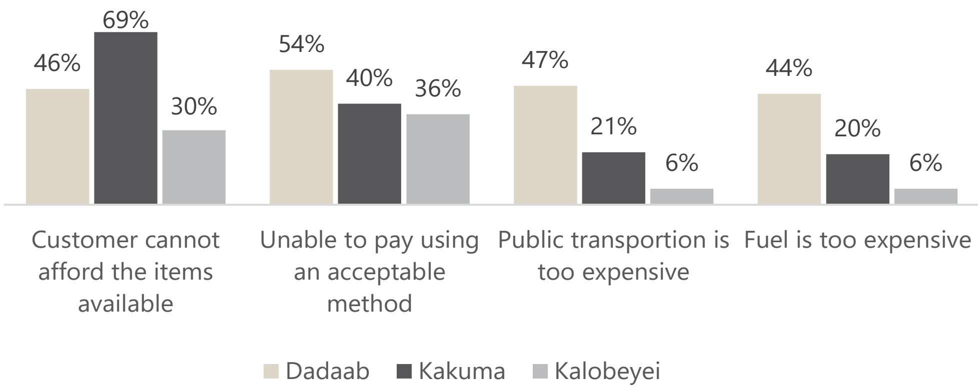
Kalobeyei

60%	No physical barriers
28%	Curfew or movement restrictions
9%	Limited operating hours of the market
4%	Inadequate facilities

Financial barriers

Financial barriers continued to affect customers' access to marketplaces. The majority of interviewed vendors reported that their customers encountered financial difficulties, particularly in Kakuma (81%), followed by Dadaab (71%) and Kalobeyei (66%). Customers' inability to afford available items was the most frequently reported barrier in Kakuma, while inability to pay using accepted payment methods was commonly reported across the remaining locations. In Dadaab, high transport and fuel costs were also reported as notable constraints to accessing markets.

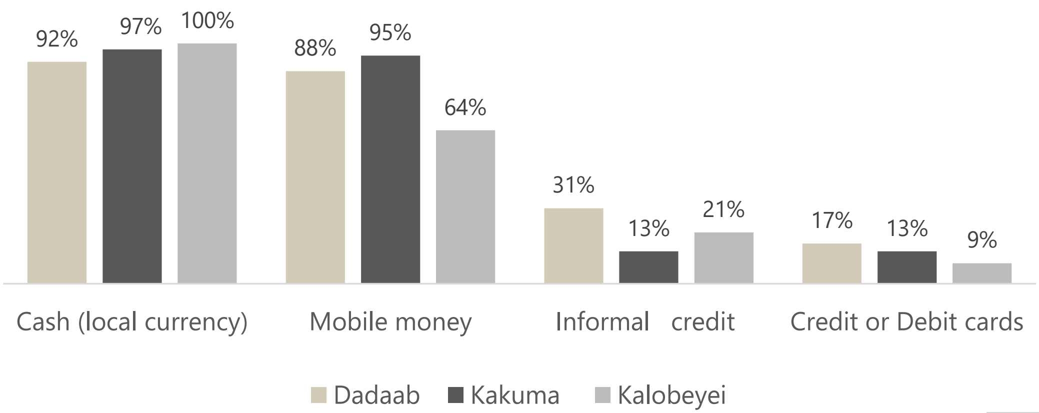
Most commonly reported financial barriers to accessing the marketplace faced by customers, as perceived by vendors, in the 3 months prior to data collection, per camp:[10]



PAYMENT MODALITIES

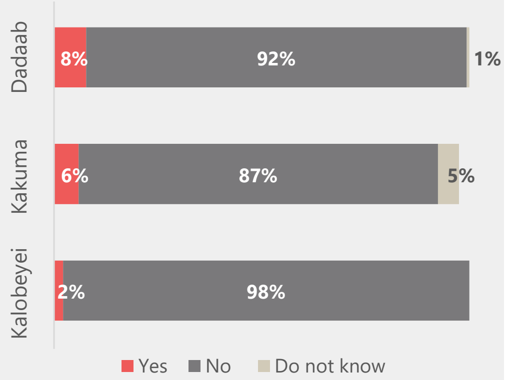
Cash payments in local currency and mobile money remained the most commonly accepted payment modalities. Informal credit was also used by a notable proportion of vendors, particularly in Dadaab (31%) and Kalobeyei (21%).[10]

Most commonly reported accepted payment modalities, per camp:[10]



Social barriers

Proportion of vendors reporting that groups of people sometimes avoided going to the marketplace due to discrimination, exclusion, or feeling unwelcome, in the 3 months prior to data collection, per camp:[9]



Most vendors reported that no groups were excluded from or avoided marketplaces due to discrimination or feeling unwelcome. However, a small proportion of vendors reported that such barriers existed, particularly in Dadaab (8%) and Kakuma (6%).

SECURITY ISSUES

Security challenges were more pronounced, in Kakuma (63%) and Kalobeyei (57%), with more than half of vendors reporting security-related issues, compared with just 3% in Dadaab. Overall, a third of female and male vendors (33% each) reported experiencing security-related barriers. In Kakuma, the most commonly reported challenges were fear of violence (42%), curfews (39%), and fear of robbery (33%).[10] In Kalobeyei, curfews (36%) and fear of robbery (23%) were the predominant security concerns, while security-related issues were rarely reported in Dadaab.[10]

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY SCORE (MFS),[11] BY CAMP

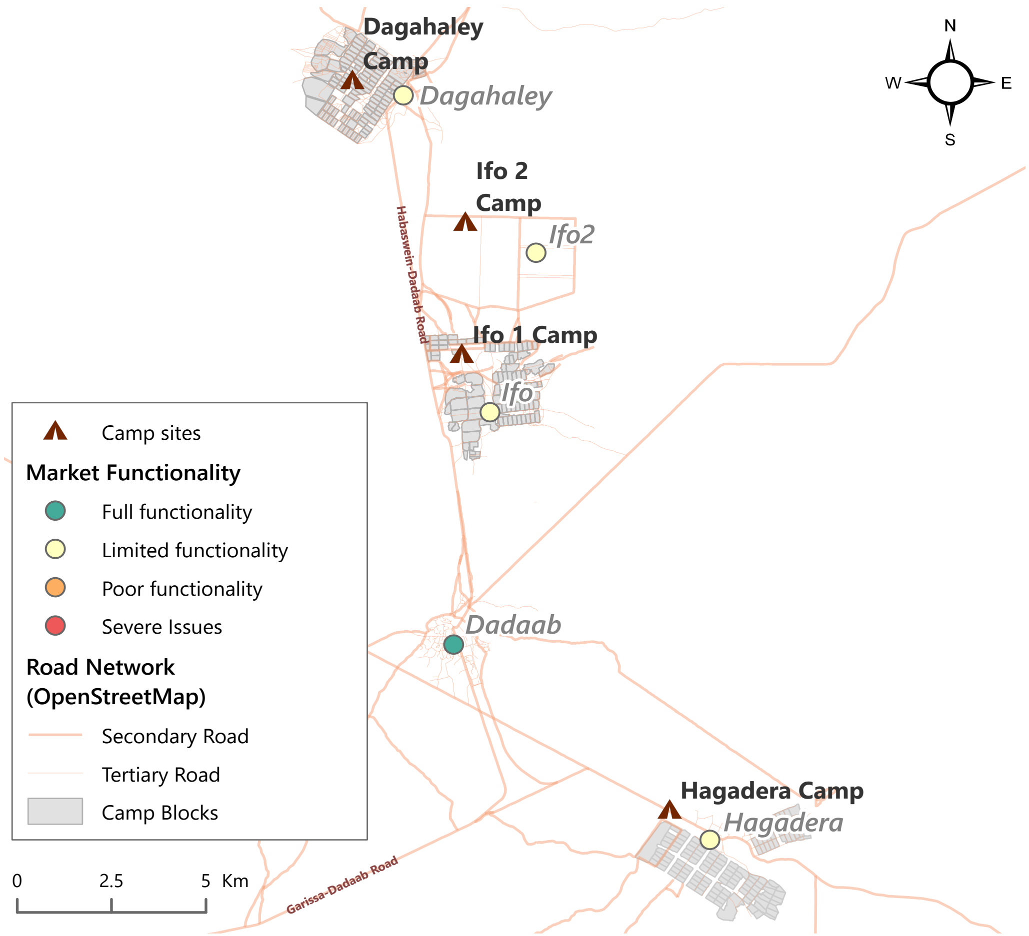


Figure 2: Map of market functionality of assessed markets in Dadaab

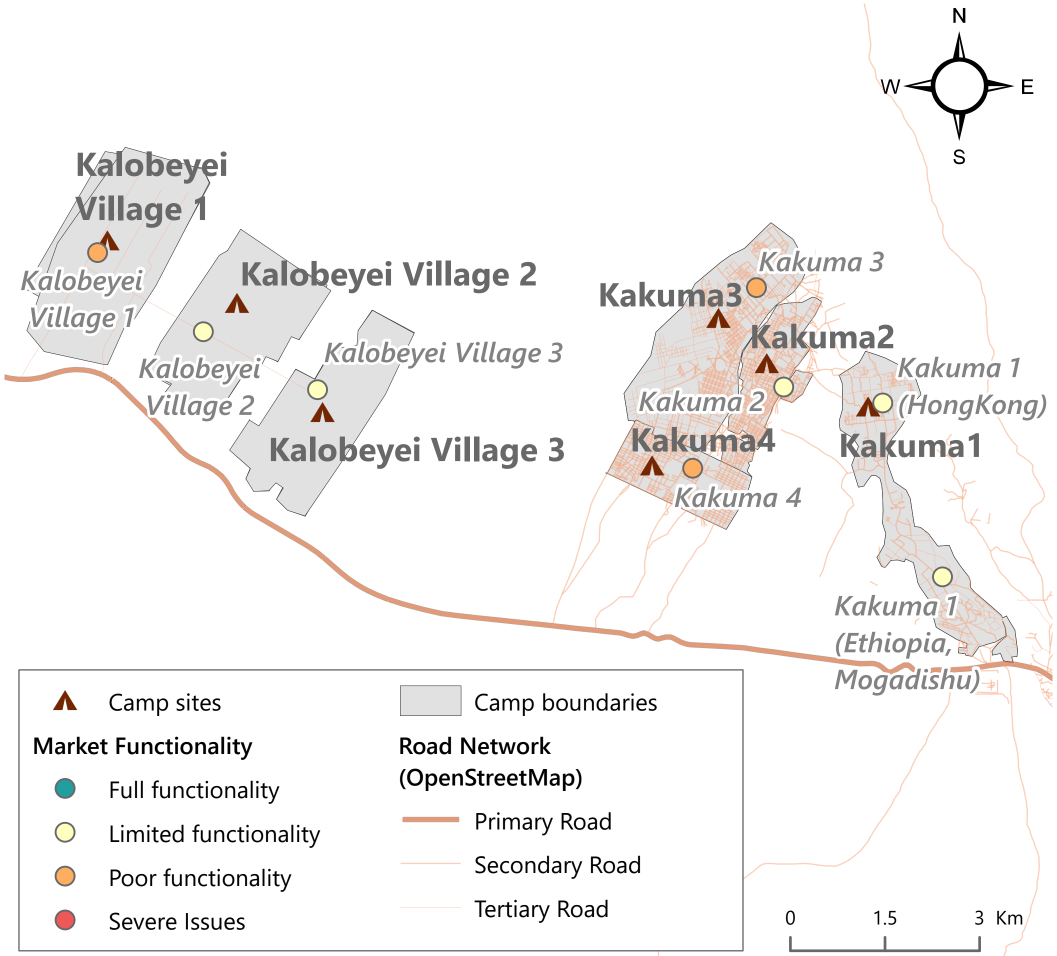


Figure 3: Map of market functionality of assessed markets in Kakuma and Kalobeyei

The Market Functionality Score (MFS)[11] evaluates markets across five key dimensions: accessibility, availability, affordability, resilience, and infrastructure. Analysis of the 13 assessed markets found that market functionality remained largely unchanged compared with the previous quarter, with the exception of Kakuma 2. The four markets in Dadaab (Dagahaley, IFO, IFO2, and Hagadera) continued to be classified as having limited functionality, while Dadaab market remained the only market classified as fully functional. Markets in Kalobeyei and Kakuma retained their previous classifications, with the exception of Kakuma 2, which improved from poor to limited functionality. It is important to note, however, that a classification of "poor functionality" does not indicate that markets were fully dysfunctional; these markets continued to provide essential goods and serve their local communities.

Affordability emerged as the weakest-performing dimension, with all assessed markets scoring below 50% of the maximum weighted score (15%). This reflects relatively high prices, unpredictability in commodity prices, and significant financial barriers for customers, including difficulties affording available goods. Accessibility was also a challenge, particularly in Kakuma and Kalobeyei markets, where the reported physical access barriers and security-related issues further constrained market performance.

Methodology

The JMMI is conducted jointly with KCWG partners. The geographic coverage is determined by the access and capacity of participating partners. The participating agencies collectively developed and reviewed the data collection tools and trained their enumerators on the JMMI methodology and tools. Primary data was collected through interviews with vendors (who sell directly to customers) in the targeted marketplaces. Enumerators were asked to record three prices per item in each targeted marketplace. Data was collected through the Kobo collect mobile application and was uploaded to a secure server for cleaning and analysis.

For each item, the median prices per marketplace were calculated, after which the median of all those locations was calculated to derive the aggregated median prices presented in this factsheet. This methodology is derived to minimise the effects of outliers and differing amounts of data among assessed locations. Outliers are reported only where relevant. Non-numeric indicators of categorical values are calculated as proportions.

Using purposive sampling, 322 vendors were interviewed as key informants (156 Dadaab, 119 Kakuma and 47 from Kalobeyei). At least three prices per item in each of the camps were collected for a total of 67 basic food and NFIs. The interviews were conducted both face-to-face and remotely with vendors selling food and non-food items. Data was collected between 25th March and 1st April 2026 across 13 markets (5 in Kakuma, 5 in Dadaab and 3 in Kalobeyei).

In addition to the core commodities regularly monitored, data on shelter-related items will be collected on an annual basis during the first quarter. These items include key household goods such as kitchenware and essential construction materials. This aligns with feedback from stakeholders and partners.

WFP performed daily data quality checks with the partners during and after data collection. This process includes checking for duplicate interviews and numerical outliers (particularly item prices). Data was analysed at the camp level using R statistical software. All findings are indicative and only apply to the period within which data was collected. Moreover, item specifications may vary slightly between locations according to the different brands available, and comparability between the locations assessed is limited.

Challenges and Limitations

- Price data is only indicative of the time frame within which it was collected.
- For some questions, vendors were asked to recall events over a 3-month period. This is a long period of time, which might impact the accuracy of answers.
- The JMMI data collection tool requests the cheapest available type of each item to be recorded, as availability varies across the camps, price comparisons across the camps may be based on slight variants of the same product.
- Some vendors lacked weighing scales, and as a result, estimations were used for how much of certain commodities, such as onions and tomatoes, formed a kilogram. These estimations may differ from one vendor to another.
- The methodology specifies that three prices should be collected per commodity in each market. However, due to the limited availability of vendors selling certain commodities, it was not possible to collect three prices for some items, such as camel milk, camel meat, and cowpeas, in some markets.

Endnotes

6

[1] World Food Programme, The Minimum Expenditure Basked (MEB) Analysis, July 2020.

[2] 1 USD-128.91 KES in March, 2026.

[3] Change since the last round of JMMI data collection in December 2025 (Q4 2025).

[4] UNHCR, Kenya Refugee and Asylum seekers population, March 2026.

[5] Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET), Key Message Update, March 2026.

[6] No quarterly price comparsion for core commodities monitored on an annual basis including kitchenware, shelter construction items, a few WASH items (i.e., sleeping mats, inner wear, blankets, mosquito nets, toothbrush) and education items (i.e.,socks, uniform, school bag, and school shoes).

[7] The total percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding up or respondents choosing "I do not know" or indicating "complete unavailability of commodity."

[8] KNBS, Consumer Price Indices and Inflation Rates, April 2026.

[9] The total percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding up or respondents choosing "Prefer not to answer"or "Do not know".

[10] For multiple-answer questions, respondents could select multiple options; as a result, findings may exceed 100%.

[11] Market functionality score consists of a collection of indicators, drawn from a single vendor-focused assessment for ease of analysis, that capture data on the five different dimensions of market functionality; accessibility, availability, affordability, resilience, and infrastructure. The markets are categorized as having "full functionality", "limited functionality", "poor functionality", or severe issues.

About the Kenya Cash Working Group

The KCWG is a multi-agency, inter-cluster technical working group set up to ensure that cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in Kenya is coordinated, harmonised, and context-specific, and is undertaken in a manner that does not inflict harm or exacerbate vulnerabilities of the affected population. The working group was established to provide an enabling environment for collective learning, operational and technical collaboration. Additionally, develop a common reference point for both national and international actors for the harmonization of multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) across the country. The KCWG is currently co-chaired by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), and the MEB workstream is co-chaired by the World Food Programme (WFP) and REACH Initiative.

Participating agencies

HARAMBEE

National Drought Management Authority
NDMA
Committed to ending drought emergencies

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Kenya Red Cross

IOM
UN MIGRATION

WFP
World Food Programme

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action