

Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

1 - 11 June 2021

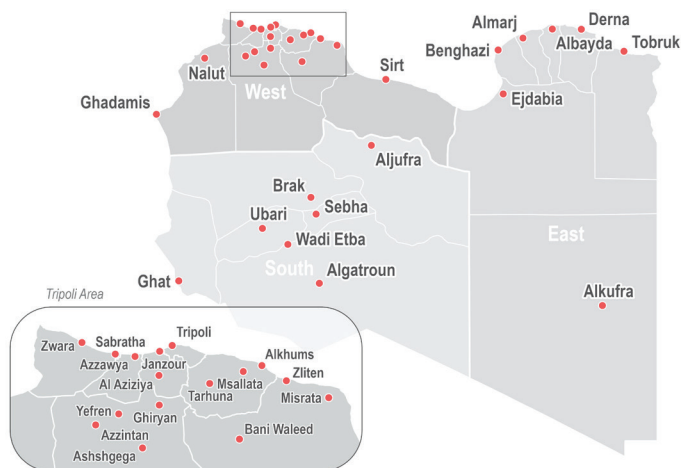
INTRODUCTION

- 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 (NFI) sold in local shops and markets. This factsheet presents an overview of price ranges and medians for key food items and NFIs in the assessed areas, as well as the costs associated with key elements of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).
- REACH has also conducted analysis highlighting economic vulnerability for at-risk population groups that can be accessed through an [interactive dashboard](#).

METHODOLOGY

- Field staff familiar with the local market conditions identified shops representative of the general price level in their respective locations.
- At least **four** prices per assessed item were collected within each location. In line with the purpose of the JMMI, only the price of the cheapest available brand was recorded for each item.
- Enumerators were trained on methodology and tools by REACH. Data collection was conducted through the KoBoCollect mobile application.
- Following data collection, REACH compiled and cleaned all partner data, normalised prices, cross-checked outliers and calculated the median cost of the MEB in each assessed market. Qualitative information was also gathered from both local sources and economic experts through key informant (KI) interviews.
- 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



Libya Cash Working Group

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

JMMI KEY FINDINGS & CONTEXT

- The cost of the MEB decreased by - 1.4% across Libya between May and June 2021 (see page 2). The MEB is 10.8% higher than pre-COVID-19 levels in March 2020.
- In contrast to the month of May 2021, the East of the country has shown a decrease of the MEB by -3.7% with cities such as Al Marj (-14.4%), Al Bayda (-7.2%), Al Kufra (-1.9%) and Derna (-7.4%).
- The food proportion of the MEB decreased overall by -3.2%, including substantial decreases in flour (-13%), tomatoes (-12.8%) and chickpeas (-10%).
- The food proportion of the MEB is +11.9% higher than pre-COVID-19 levels in March 2020.
- Throughout the previous year, the price of tomato paste (+37.5%), sugar (+26.3%), vegetable oil (+61.1%), eggs (+30%) increased considerably.
- Among the pharmaceutical items, Ibuprofen showed an increase in price of + 16.7% whereas the rest of the items showed a decrease: Metoclopramide (-3.2%), Vitamin B (-3.3%), Amoxicillin (-6.8%) and Paracetamol (-30.5%).
- Parallel market cooking fuel price has decreased by - 5.9% after showing a consecutive increase in both April and May 2021. On the other hand the unofficial gasoline's price showed a monthly increase of (+ 11.1%). In fact, the fuel proportion of the MEB showed a decrease overall (-4.8%).
- "On the 28th of June 2021 Misrata Free Zone announced the first convoy of goods-laden trucks arrived from the Libyan-Tunisian land border, Ras Ajdir launching transit trade for the Zone. It said transit trade will achieve a set of direct and indirect gains for the Libyan economy, will raise the volume of intra-trade between Libya and neighbouring countries, in addition to achieving a set of benefits as another source of hard currency. The dream is to become a, or the, transit trade "Gateway to Africa".²

JMMI KEY FIGURES

Data collection from **1 - 11 June 2021**

2 participating agencies
(REACH, WFP)
34 assessed cities
51 assessed items
748 assessed shops

EXCHANGE RATES¹

4.458 USD/LYD official ▼ -1%	4.990 USD/LYD parallel market ▼ -2.9%	5.930 EUR/LYD parallel market ▼ -3.6%
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KEY MONTHLY CHANGES IN MEB

Median cost of overall MEB		
697.3 LYD	▼ -9.8 LYD	▼ -1.4%
Food items	Hygiene items	Cooking fuel.
▼ -1.4%	▼ -0.2%	▲ +16.7%

MEDIAN COST OF MEB BY REGION

West	681.9 LYD	▼ -0.2%
East	698.7 LYD	▼ -3.7%
South	798.2 LYD	▼ -1.5%

MARKET SHORTAGES

- None reported

Reported changes are month-on-month

[Access the JMMI online dashboard](#)

MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (MEB)

Key Elements: Food Items

Bread	32 kg	Tomatoes	10 kg
Rice	10.5 kg	Potatoes	12 kg
Pasta	9.5 kg	Onions	7 kg
Couscous	5.5 kg	Peppers	4.5 kg
Beans	6 kg	Tomato paste	6 kg
Chicken	7.5 kg	Black tea	2 kg
Tuna	4 kg	Vegetable oil	5 L
Eggs	4 kg	Sugar	2 kg
Milk	8.5 L	Salt	1 kg

Key Elements: Non-Food Items

Bathing soap	1.4 kg (9 150-g bars)
Toothpaste	0.5 kg (5 100-g tubes)
Laundry detergent	1.3 L
Dishwashing liquid	1.3 L
Sanitary pads	4 packs of 10
Cooking fuel (LPG)	22 kg (2 11-kg refills)

Optional Elements

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

The **Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)** represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a five-person Libyan household (HH) for one month. The cost of the MEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households in different locations. The MEB's contents were defined by the CMWG in consultation with relevant sector leads.

Only the MEB's key elements (food and non-food items) were incorporated into the calculations in this factsheet.

COST OF MEDIAN OVERALL MEB

697.3 LYD

Change since
May 2021

▼ **-9.87 LYD**
(-1.4%)

Change since
March 2020

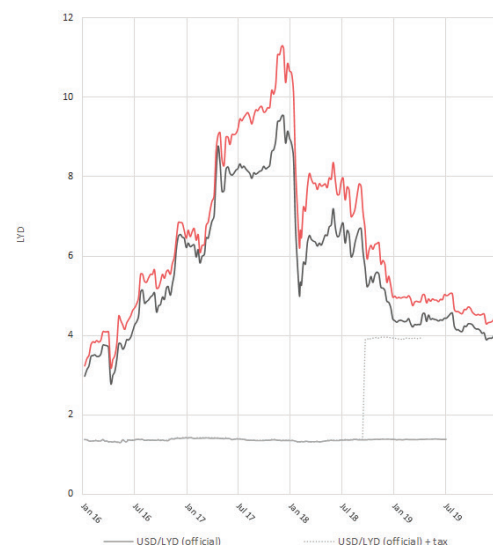
▲ **+67.86 LYD**
(+10.8%)

MEDIAN MEB COST BY LOCATION

Location	Cost of MEB (LYD)	Since May 2021	Since March 2020
Azzintan	781.8	2.8%	14.9%
Ghiryen	776.9	2.5%	11.4%
Nalut	775.3	-1.2%	5.9%
Al Aziziya	729.8	1.3%	33.3%
Zwara	719.1	1.5%	31.4%
Sabratha	716.2	-2.1%	28.5%
Azzawya	709	-2.3%	29.8%
Ghadamis	683.6	-10.4%	0.1%
Ashshgega	672.7	-5.6%	4.1%
Yefren	672.5	-2.0%	2.6%
Tripoli	670.4	-3.2%	2.4%
Zliten	663.4	-4.5%	7.8%
Sirt	656.1	14.3%	8.4%
Misrata	635.5	-0.9%	13.3%
Msallata	632.1	-0.5%	6.1%
Tarhuna	616.4	-1.0%	4.7%
Bani Waleed	605.1	-4.7%	1.3%
AlKhums	579.8	-11.4%	7.4%
Janzour	563	-7.6%	-5.1%
Median West	681.9	-0.2%	9.2%
Benghazi	814.9	0.0%	33.1%
Ejdabia	746.9	6.6%	15.1%
AlMarj	742.9	-14.4%	16.1%
AlBayda	698	-7.2%	8.2%
AlKufra	693.4	-1.9%	6.2%
Tobruk	666.5	3.2%	6.0%
Derna	636.3	-7.4%	4.5%
Median East	698.7	-3.7%	10.9%
Algatroun	1018.2	-4.4%	-10.0%
Ghat	957.3	No Data	-16.4%
Ubari	957	-5.7%	-12.3%
Wadi Etba	829.3	-4.1%	-1.3%
Sebha	748.6	-2.7%	-0.9%
Brak	726.6	-5.0%	-0.3%
AlJufra	681.2	-5.3%	-11.7%
Median South	798.2	-1.5%	-9.2%
Median Overall	697.3	-1.4%	10.8%

EXCHANGE RATES OVER TIME³

January 2016-January 2020

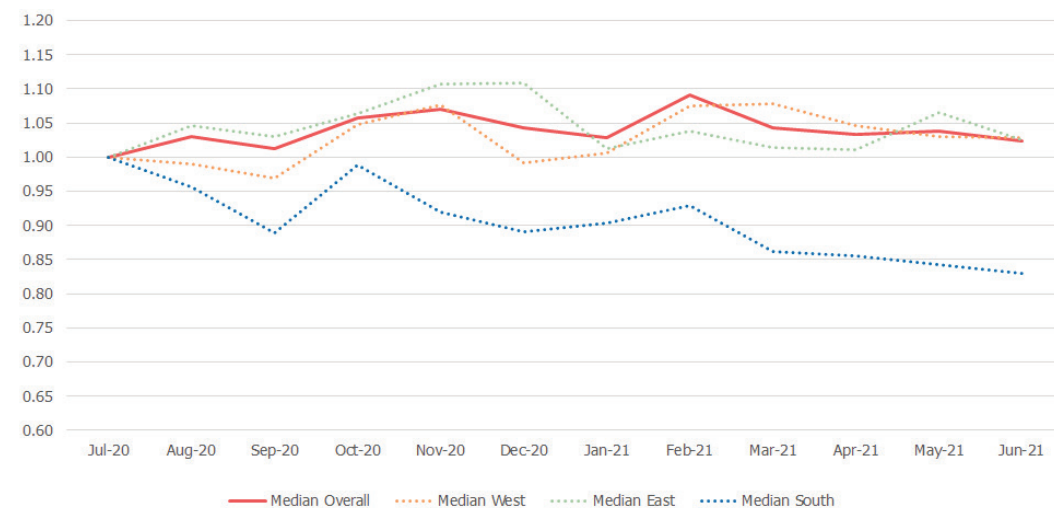


Since February 2020

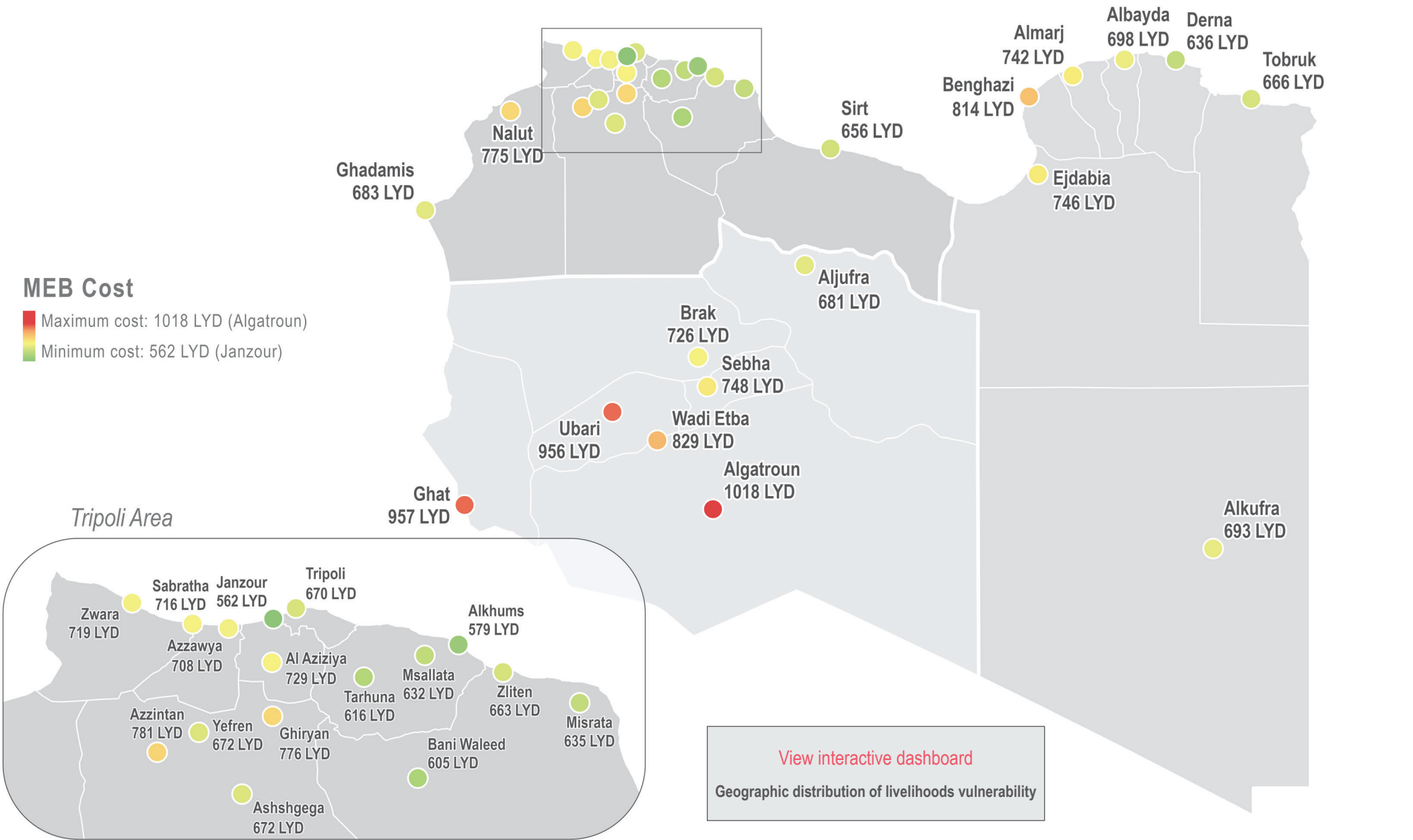


MEB PRICE INDEX

Since June 2020 (normalised, June 2020 = 1.00)⁴



Cost of MEB Key Elements by Location

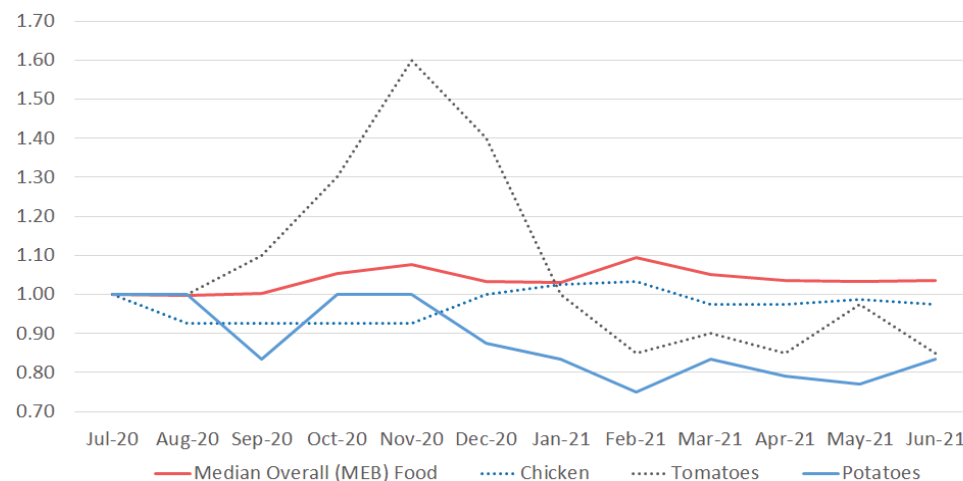


PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS

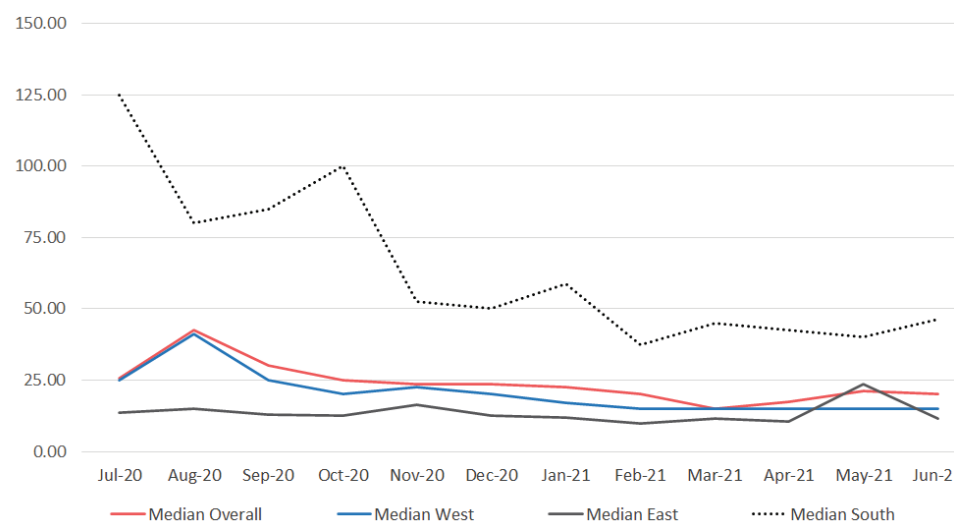
Item	Unit	Median price (LYD)	Change since May 2021	Change since March 2020
Food items				
Peppers	1 kg	4.00	14.3%	0.0%
Salt	1 kg	1.13	12.5%	12.5%
Potatoes	1 kg	2.50	8.1%	-16.7%
Vegetable oil	1 L	7.25	3.6%	61.1%
Pasta	500 g	1.88	3.4%	25.0%
Beans	400 g	2.50	0.0%	53.8%
Bread	5 pieces	1.25	0.0%	11.1%
Condensed Milk	200 mL	2.50	0.0%	25.0%
Couscous	1 kg	3.50	0.0%	0.0%
Green tea	250 g	3.50	0.0%	16.7%
Milk	1 L	4.00	0.0%	14.3%
Onions	1 kg	2.00	0.0%	-33.3%
Rice	1 kg	3.00	0.0%	-7.7%
Sugar	1 kg	3.00	0.0%	26.3%
Tomato paste	400 g	2.75	0.0%	37.5%
Lamb meat	1 kg	40.00	-1.2%	12.7%
Chicken meat	1 kg	10.00	-1.2%	6.7%
Tuna	200 g	3.50	-4.8%	16.7%
Eggs	30 eggs	13.00	-7.1%	30.0%
Black tea	250 g	5.50	-8.3%	10.0%
Chickpeas	400 g	2.25	-10.0%	50.0%
Tomatoes	1 kg	2.12	-12.8%	6.2%
Flour	1 kg	2.50	-13.0%	25.0%
Hygiene items				
Hand Sanitiser	1 L	21.08	24.0%	No data
Toothpaste	100 mL	5.00	2.6%	25.0%
Laundry detergent	1 L	2.50	2.6%	11.1%
Baby diapers	30	17.00	0.4%	13.3%
Toothbrush	1 brush	2.50	0.0%	25.0%
Handwashing soap	1 bar	1.75	0.0%	16.7%
Sanitary pads	10 pads	4.50	-2.7%	28.6%
Laundry powder	1 kg	6.50	-7.1%	0.0%
Dishwashing liquid	1 L	2.75	-8.3%	2.8%
Bleach	1 L	8.00	-11.1%	No data
Shampoo	250 mL	5.00	-19.0%	-1.5%
Other items				
Water	1 L	0.29	11.5%	0.0%

FOOD PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, June 2020 = 1.00)⁵



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

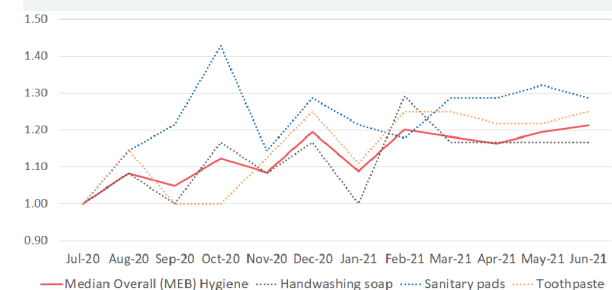


PRICES OF FUEL AND HEALTH ITEMS

Item	Unit	Median price (LYD)	Change since May 2021	Change since March 2020
Fuel items				
Unofficial Gasoline	1 Litre	0.88	11.1%	No data
Official LPG	11 kg	5.00	0.0%	0.0%
Official Gasoline	1 Litre	0.15	0.0%	No data
Unofficial LPG	11 kg	20.00	-5.9%	-42.9%
Pharmaceutical items				
Ibuprofen	400mg [20 pack]	8.17	16.7%	48.5%
Metoclopramide	10mg [40 pack]	15.25	-3.2%	52.5%
Vitamin B	[40 pack]	14.50	-3.3%	41.5%
Amoxicillin	500mg [21 pack]	11.00	-6.8%	22.2%
Paracetamol	400mg [20 pack]	6.12	-30.5%	-11.7%

HYGIENE ITEM PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, June 2020 = 1.00)⁶

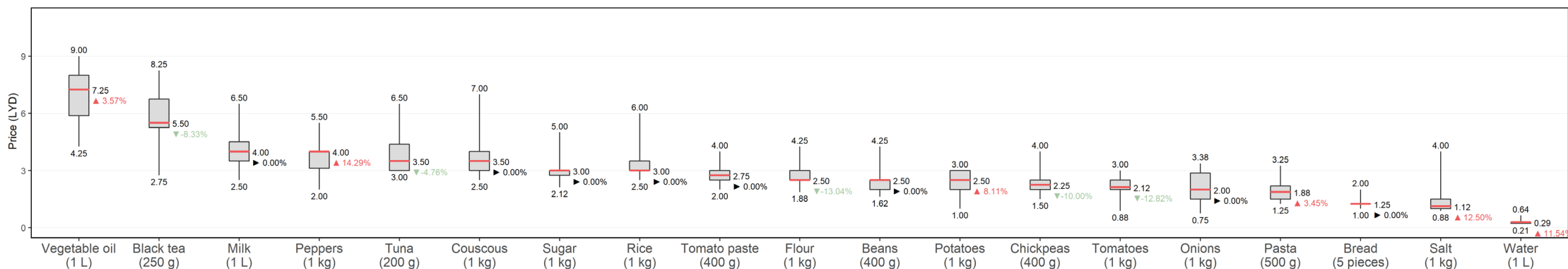


NOTABLE MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGES

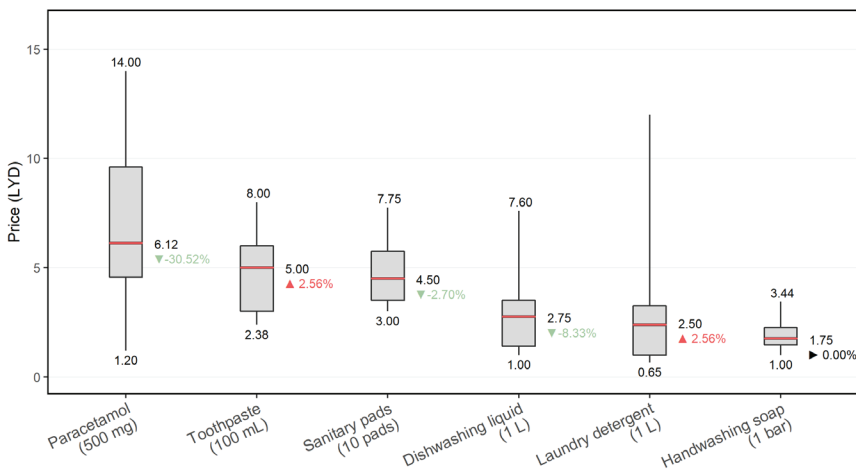
Ibuprofen	▲ +16.7%
Peppers	▲ +14.3%
Paracetamol	▼ -30.5%
Shampoo	▼ -19.0%

Distribution of Prices in Libya

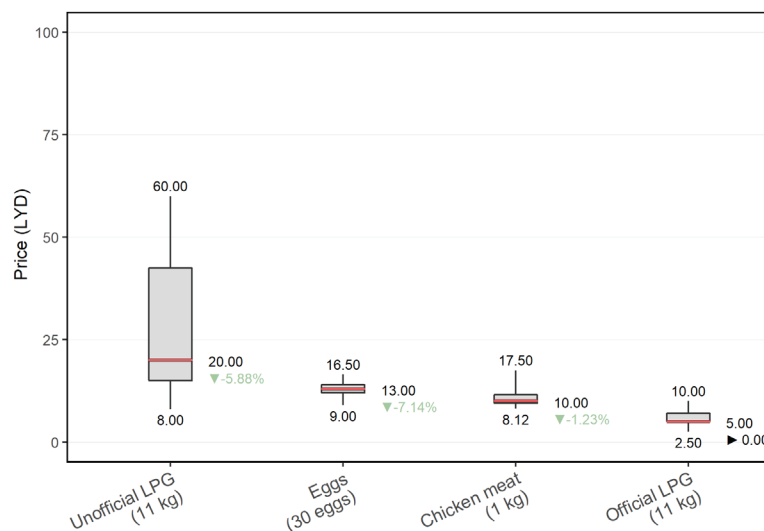
FOOD ITEMS



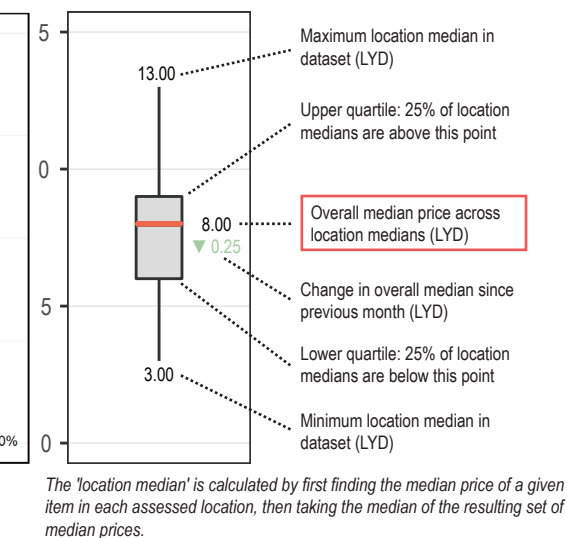
HYGIENE ITEMS



ITEMS WITH HIGHEST PRICES



How to read a boxplot



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)⁷. Furthermore, conflict related political tensions in West Libya led large numbers of IDPs to move to eastern cities, especially Benghazi.
- REACH is therefore exploring rent monitoring as part of the JMIMI, in order to provide humanitarian actors with a more accurate overview of key expenditures facing IDPs in Tripoli and Benghazi.

Methodology

- From May 2020 onwards, in addition to the price monitoring of key items (MEB), REACH began analyzing rental prices, which were extracted on a daily basis from the website 'Open Souq'. **In June 2021, 2352 rental prices were collected in Tripoli and Benghazi.** The price change findings are indicative.
- In order to standardise property prices, key features were isolated through consultation with KIs to identify the average apartment specification for typical HHs in Tripoli and Benghazi. The average apartment for typical HHs was found to be a furnished, 3-bedroom apartment with 1 bathroom. All rental prices presented in this report have been standardised to this accommodation type.

Key Findings

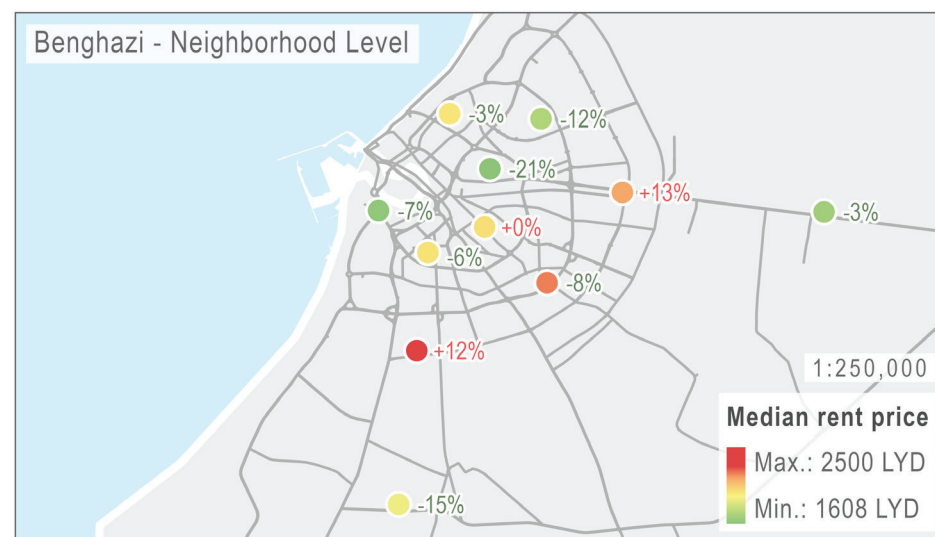
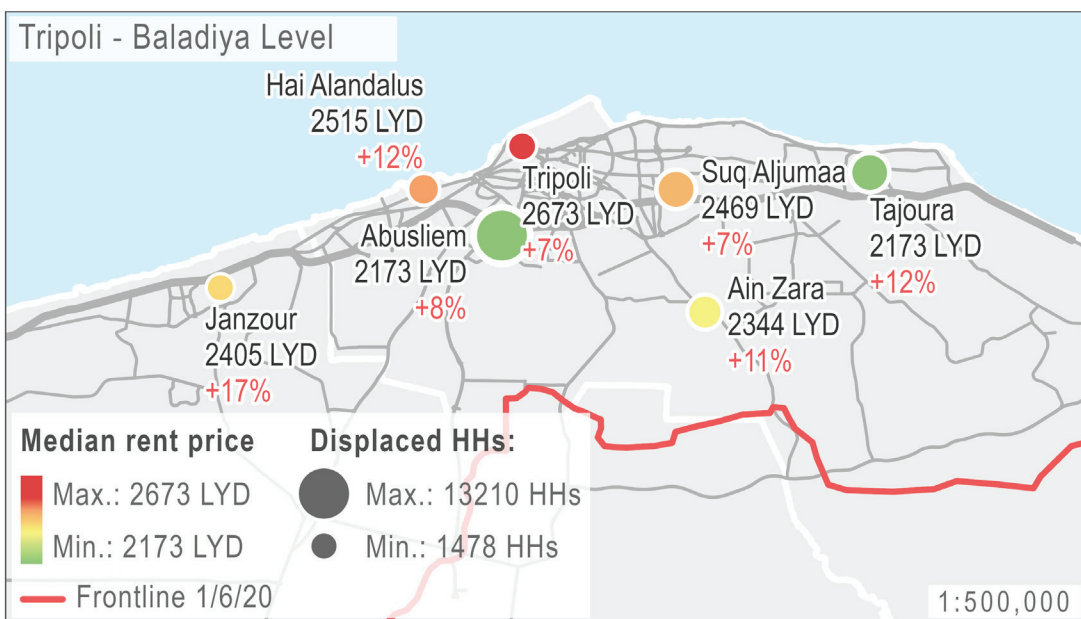
- From June 2020 - June 2021, rental prices seemed to have decreased in Tripoli overall (-10.3%), whereas, from May 2021 - June 2021, rental costs have increased by 13.9%. From February 2021- April 2021 and in Tripoli overall, the IDP decreased (-29.4%) when the returnees slightly increased (+0.5%).
- Findings indicate that Benghazi has seen a 4.5% overall decrease in rental prices from May 2020 to June 2021. In Benghazi, IDP and returnee numbers have been negligible since October 2020.

Standardised rental prices June 2021

Location	Standard price (LYD)	Since May 2021	Since May 2020	Change in IDPs* Feb-Apr	Change in Returnees** Feb-Apr
Municipality					
Abusliem	2173	+8.3%	-19.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ain Zara	2344	+11.0%	-19.7%	0.0%	+1.3%
Hai Alandalus	2515	+11.6%	-6.2%	-88.4%	0.0%
Janzour	2405	+16.9%	+4.4%	-95.6%	+8.6%
Suq Aljumaa	2469	+7.0%	-7.9%	-7.5%	+1.6%
Tajoura	2173	+11.6%	-7.7%	-1.4%	-50%
Tripoli Center	2673	+7.0%	-10.5%	-3%	0.0%
Tripoli Overall	2405	+13.9%	-10.3%	-29.4%	+0.5%
Benghazi Overall	1931	-4.5%	-2.5%	0.0%	0.0%

* Change in the number of IDPs and returnees are derived from the latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) (Round 36) from the International Organization of Migration (IOM).

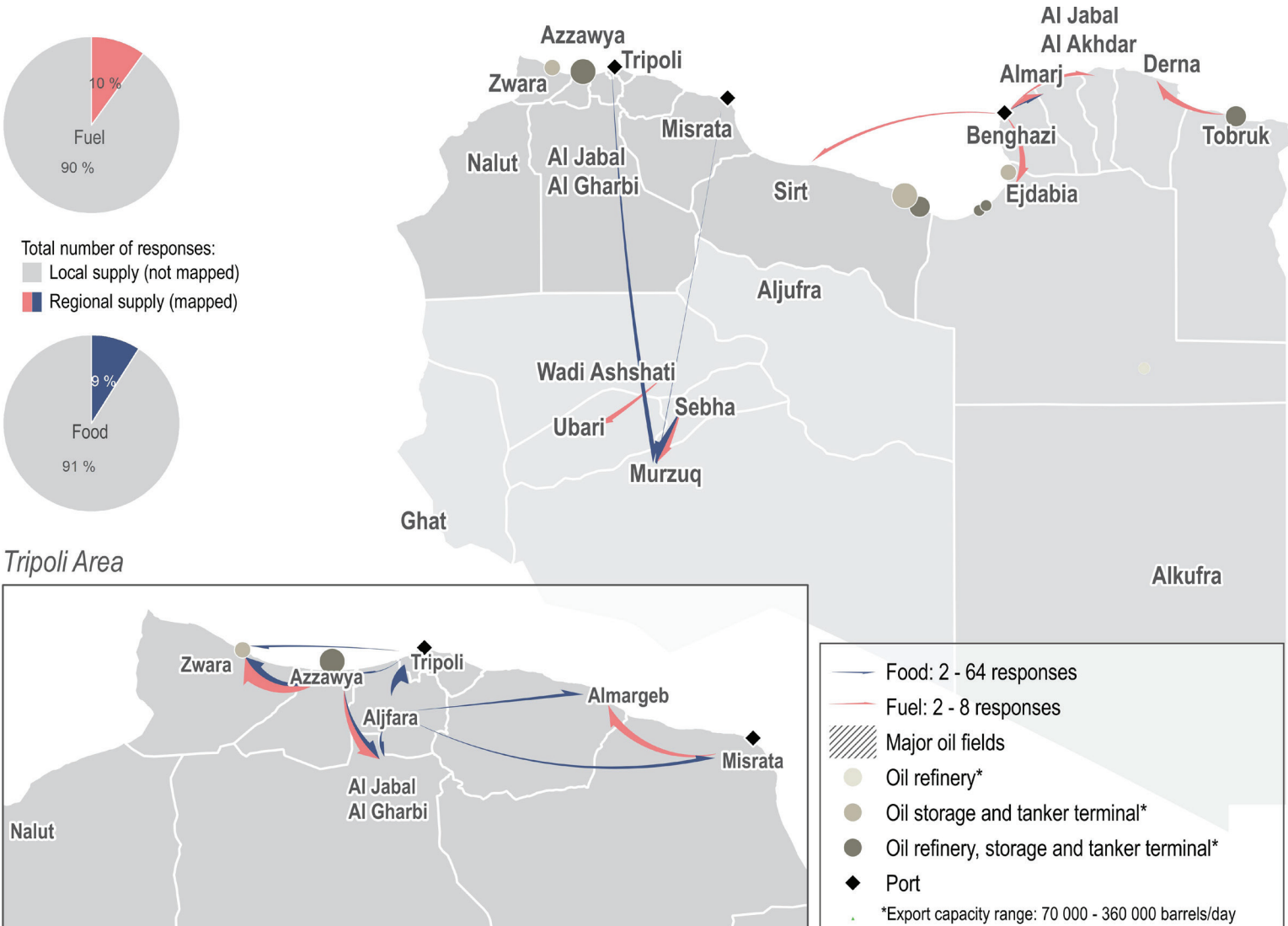
** Numbers based on IOM-DTM numbers as well, comparing February 2021 to April 2021.



Main Food and Fuel Supply Routes

This map indicates the source and flow of transported fuel and food products according to the shop owner and vendor KIs. The arrow sizes are determined by the quantity of responses and provide an indicative scale of the reported supply routes.

The indicated supply routes only visualize the flow of goods between mantikas (on a regional level); the map does not show the trajectory of goods that are sourced more locally.



Appendix

PREVIOUS JMMI OUTPUTS

Factsheets

Datasets

2021

May

April

March

February

January

May

April

March

February

January

2020

December

November

October

September

August

July

June

May

April

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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 and co-led by Mercy Corps.

Methodology (cont. from page 1)

The methodology for the JMMI is based on purposive sampling. In each assessed market, at least four prices per item need to be collected from different shops to ensure the quality and consistency of collected data. Partner field teams, in coordination with the CMWG, identify shops to assess based on the following criteria:

1. Shops need to be large enough to sell all or most assessed items.
2. Prices in these shops need to be good indicators of the general price levels in the assessed area.
3. Shops should be located in different areas within the assessed city or baladiya.

In locations where it is not possible to identify four large markets that fulfil criterion (1), smaller shops, such as grocery shops, vegetable vendors, butchers and bakeries, are added to the shop list, as long as they fit criteria (2) and (3), in order to guarantee at least four prices per item of interest. Each month, price data is collected from the same shops whenever possible to ensure comparability across months.

The CMWG primarily targets urban areas throughout Libya, aiming to ensure coverage of markets that serve as commercial hubs for surrounding regions.

Data is collected via the KoBo mobile data collection application. The CMWG maintains a joint KoBo account for the JMMI. The data collection tool is published alongside the dataset every month and disseminated to the humanitarian community.

Analyses

The median prices reported in this factsheet are 'location medians', designed to minimise the effects of outliers and differing amounts of data among assessed locations. First, the median prices of all assessed items are calculated within each assessed location (city or muhalla); then, REACH calculates the median of this list of medians. All boxplots, as well as the MEB and price index calculations are created using this method.

The cost of the MEB is calculated by multiplying the median price of each item in the MEB's 'Key Elements' section by the quantity listed in the table on page 2. In cases where no

median price is available for an item in a particular location, the median price for that item across the region (west, east, or south) is substituted.

Challenges and limitations

Price data is only indicative for the time frame within which it was collected. Prices may vary during the weeks between adjacent data collection rounds.

The data is only indicative of the general price levels in each assessed location. Representativeness on the mantika (district) level cannot be claimed. Even on the city level, price data must be interpreted with caution, particularly in larger cities where there is substantial variation in neighbourhoods' socioeconomic levels.

The JMMI data collection tool requires enumerators to record the cheapest available price for each item, but does not require a specific brand, as brand availability may vary. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slight variants of the same product.

The JMMI does not intend to measure general inflation levels on Libyan markets. As per JMMI methodology, only the cheapest available price per item is collected, meaning that changes in middle-market and upmarket goods are not captured.

Rent Price Monitoring

Benghazi consists of only one municipality, therefore neighbourhoods across the city were grouped together into 11 area units.

Limitations: the data collected are new offers presented by Open Souq, therefore they may not represent the rental expenses of all IDPs, as tenants may receive cheaper offer through informal channels.

Endnotes

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

² Libya Herald : First Transit Trade trucks travel from Tunisian border to Misrata Free Zone, June 2021

³ 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 2020 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.

⁴ The MEB price index was normalised by setting June 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in June 2020.

⁵ The food prices were normalised by setting June 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in June 2020.

⁶ The hygiene prices were normalised by setting June 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in June 2020.

⁷ Libya IDP and Returnee Report November - December 2020, DTM IOM, October 2020

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

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.