

INTRODUCTION

Cash-based interventions have been used by humanitarian organisations in Somalia since 2003¹. Initially, significant variations in transfer values were implemented by different organisations, occasionally leading to different transfer values in the same locations. It was against this backdrop, and as a response to the increasing number of agencies using cash-based interventions to respond to the 2016-2017 drought, that the Somalia Cash Working Group (CWG) started convening in February 2017. The aim of the CWG is to streamline the design, development, and implementation of cash-based interventions in Somalia.

Pursuant to these aims, the CWG provides quarterly transfer value recommendations, based on Somalia's standard minimum expenditure basket (MEB), to humanitarian organisations implementing cash-based interventions in Somalia.

This dashboard presents the CWG's transfer value recommendations for populations classified in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) phases 3 ('acute') and 4 ('emergency'), in addition to an overview of market performance for the period of July-September 2021. The primary data sources used are datasets and briefs from the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), which provides price data, and the World Food Programme (WFP), which provides supply chain and port data. When available, data from other CWG partners is also used.

ASSESSMENT COVERAGE

55

assessed districts

71

assessed markets (46 main, 25 rural)

44

assessed items

EXCHANGE RATES³

44,000

25,372

8,500

USD/SoSh

USD/SoSh

USD/SiSh

0%

0%

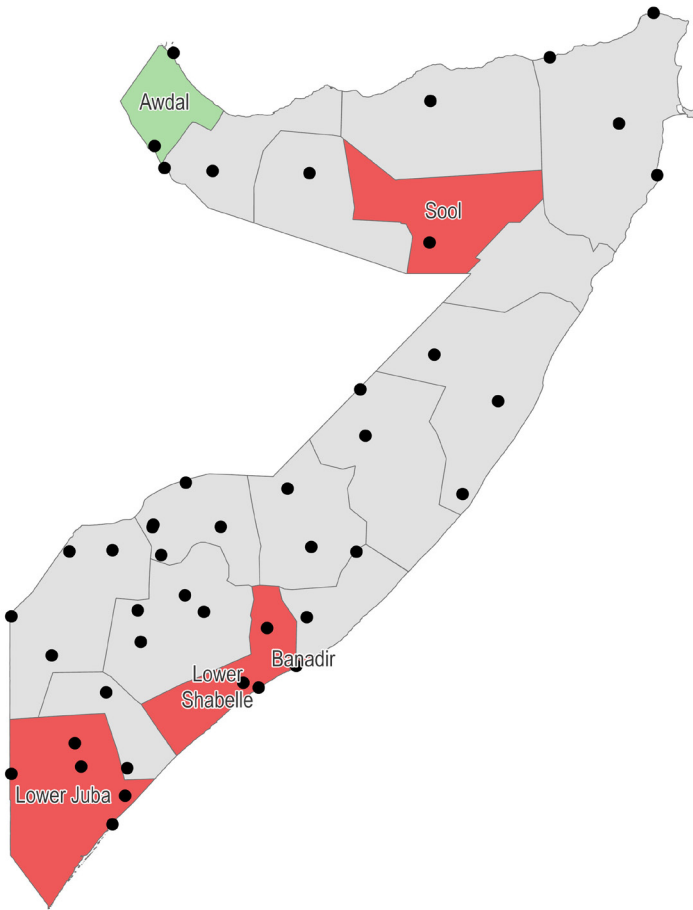
0%

Bossaso

Mogadishu

Hargeisa

Regions with positive and negative changes in the recommended transfer values for either multi-purpose and/or food assistance



KEY

▲

increase in recommended transfer value since last quarter

▼

decrease in recommended transfer value since last quarter

●

monitored markets

SUPPLY CHAINS²

Beginning in the last week of July, and continuing throughout the month of September, the prices of imported commodities such as rice, sugar, wheat flour, vegetable oil and pasta increased in Mogadishu due to high sea tides limiting the number of ships and causing delays. In addition, traders reportedly lost customers due to scarcity of certain commodities.

In Mogadishu, the prices of charcoal and cooking gas increased by 9% and 27% per bag and 13 kg cylinder, respectively, in the first week of September. The prices of charcoal and cooking gas remained relatively high but stable and cooking gas remained out of stock in some outlets in Mogadishu.

In Dhusamareb, reportedly due to the monsoon winds which caused reduced supply of commodities from Bossaso, the demand for food supplies increased in the district. For example, the price of 10 kg of pasta price increased from \$8.00 to \$8.50 and the price for 3 litres of vegetable oil increased from \$4.00 to \$5.00. Demand for fuel also increased in August, likely due to an increase in the number of vehicles in Dhusamareb.

Throughout September, water scarcity was observed in the Southwest and Central parts of the country, where most water reservoirs had dried up. Consequently, the price of water increased in Xudur, Qansaxdheere, Rabdhure, Dhusamareb and Abudwaq due to water scarcity. Some locations in the South received moderate to heavy rains, especially in the coastal area of Kismayo. Moderate rains were also reported in Hargeisa, Gebiley, and Borama districts, leading to deteriorating conditions of the supply roads from Borama to Zeila, which caused delays and increased transport costs. In Puntland, water trucking was ongoing throughout the third quarter of 2021, and prices remained high but mostly unchanged during this time period.

In Kismayo port, increased cargo ship arrivals in the third week of September resulted in an increase in the supply of imported commodities, which led to improved availability and an initial observed decrease of prices of essential food commodities. There was a high demand for food commodities from Kismayo in neighbouring districts, such as Afmadow, Badhadhe, and even as far as some Kenyan border markets, reportedly due to the overall good state of the main supply corridors during this time period.

RECOMMENDED TRANSFER VALUES (USD)

Region	Multi-purpose	Food
Awdal	95	80 ▼
Bakool	95	90
Banaadir	80 ▲	65 ▲
Bari	85	85
Bay	65	50
Galgaduud	110	100
Gedo	85	75
Hiraan	75	70
Lower Juba	90	85 ▲
Lower Shabelle	60	50 ▲
Middle Juba	75	60
Middle Shabelle	80	65
Mudug	85	85
Nugaal	125	80
Sanaag	85	60
Sool	115	95 ▲
Togdheer	90	75
W. Galbeed	110	95

NOTES

1. C.M. Daniels and G. Anderson, [Evaluation of the 2017 Somalia Humanitarian Cash-Based Response](#), 1 August 2018.
2. Import/export data and supply chain analysis provided by WFP on a weekly basis, July through September 2021.
3. Reported exchange rates are averages for this quarter and are derived from monthly FSNAU exchange rate data. The percentage change in exchange rates is based on the average for this quarter compared to the average for the previous quarter.
4. MEB calculations performed by FSNAU
5. Difference is calculated with the month before previous. Eg. September 2021 prices are compared with July 2021 prices
6. Price data is collected by FSNAU. Price changes represent the percentage change in the average price of a commodity this quarter compared to the previous quarter. Following consensus by CWG members, trend analysis has focused on Baidoa, Bossaso, Hargeisa, Jowhar, Kismayo, and Mogadishu districts given their regional significance when it comes to markets and trade.
7. Import/export data and supply chain analysis provided by WFP on a weekly basis, July through September 2021.

FULL MEB FOR THE QUARTER (USD)⁴

Region	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21
Awdal	118	107	108
Bakool	126	127	125
Banaadir	101	96	100
Bari	111	113	113
Bay	89	86	87
Galgaduud	128	133	136
Gedo	108	108	108
Hiraan	99	100	99
Lower Juba	108	113	115
Lower Shabelle	84	80	78
Middle Juba	96	97	99
Middle Shabelle	107	105	101
Mudug	109	110	111
Nugaal	146	144	142
Sanaag	112	118	118
Sool	143	143	148
Togdheer	123	120	120
W. Galbeed	134	145	135

TRANSFER VALUES CHANGES (USD)

Region	Type of transfer	Current value	Previous value
Awdal	Food	80 ▼	85
Banadir	Multi	80 ▲	70
Banadir	Food	65 ▲	60
Lower Juba	Food	85 ▲	70
Lower Shabelle	Food	50 ▲	45
Sool	Food	95 ▲	85

METHODOLOGY

The MEB represents the minimum culturally adjusted set of basic food items (comprising 2,100 kilocalories per person per day of basic energy) and non-food items (NFIs) required to support an average-sized household of 6-7 members in Somalia for one month.

The CWG uses FSNAU's MEB values as the basis for determining transfer value recommendations. These recommendations focus on the needs of populations in IPC Phase 3 and Phase 4.

As per the decision of the CWG, transfer values should be based on urban MEB rates only. This is because:

- Rural MEB rates are not available in all regions;
- In some regions, large differences between the rural and urban rates have been difficult for partners to explain;
- The thresholds of 'rural' and 'urban' are not always clear to partners, which would open the possibility that different transfer values may be applied in the same location.

Further, the food transfer value recommendations should

correspond to 100% of the food MEB, while the multi-purpose transfer value recommendations should correspond to 80% of the full MEB, both rounded to the nearest 5 USD to ease implementation at the field level.

The CWG also determined that transfer value recommendations should remain fixed for three months at a time, and should only be subject to change if the value of either the full or the food MEB in any particular region changes by more than 10%.

This dashboard considers the transfer value recommendations from July 2021 and compares them to the full and food MEB values of September 2021. In accordance with the methodology above, only when a 10% change in either value is observed will the transfer value change.

On this account, in regions where more than a 10% change in either the food or full MEB was recorded, an updated recommendation is provided in the 'Recommended Transfer Values' table. Note that the previous recommendations are provided only for comparative purposes and should not be applied in implementation.

CHANGES TO THE COST OF THE FULL MEB OVER TIME⁵

Region	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21
Awdal	0%	+1%	-1%	+2%	+13%	+5%	-2%	-9%	-8%
Bakool	+7%	+2%	-2%	+13%	+11%	+12%	+15%	+5%	0%
Banaadir	+1%	0%	+6%	+6%	-3%	-2%	+9%	+1%	+1%
Bari	+1%	-12%	+5%	+7%	-3%	-3%	+4%	+5%	-2%
Bay	+4%	+4%	-1%	+2%	+5%	+8%	+12%	+3%	+3%
Galgaduud	-3%	-5%	+1%	+5%	+3%	0%	-3%	+3%	-6%
Gedo	-2%	0%	+2%	+3%	+3%	+3%	+4%	+3%	0%
Hiraan	-1%	-1%	+6%	+11%	+4%	+3%	+3%	+1%	0%
Lower Juba	0%	+1%	+5%	+6%	0%	0%	+1%	+5%	-6%
Lower Shabelle	+3%	+7%	+8%	+1%	+1%	+5%	+13%	+8%	+8%
Middle Juba	+20%	+23%	+18%	+16%	+8%	+6%	+8%	+6%	-3%
Middle Shabelle	0%	+4%	+6%	+2%	0%	+3%	+9%	+5%	+6%
Mudug	-5%	+4%	+14%	+18%	+12%	+1%	0%	+1%	-2%
Nugaal	+24%	-10%	-8%	+8%	-1%	-3%	-1%	-2%	+3%
Sanaag	+7%	-14%	-4%	+15%	0%	-3%	-2%	+5%	-5%
Sool	-2%	+14%	+9%	+2%	-8%	-4%	+7%	+2%	-3%
Togdheer	+1%	0%	+1%	+2%	+1%	+3%	+5%	0%	+2%
Woqooyi Galbeed	+3%	0%	+1%	+5%	+4%	+3%	+2%	+7%	0%

MAIN CHANGES

In the third quarter of 2021, prices (particularly of food items) were relatively higher in Banadir, Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, and Sool than observed in the previous quarter, leading to an adjustment of the recommended transfer value in those regions. In Awdal, a relative decrease in prices compared to the previous quarter led to an adjustment of the food transfer value.

KEY

- Large increase (> 20%)
- Medium increase (11% to 20%)
- Small increase (1% to 10%)
- No change
- Small decrease (-1% to -10%)
- Medium decrease (-11% to -20%)
- Large decrease (< -20%)

MEB CONTENTS

Below are the basic food and non-food items taken into account as part of the MEB in urban Somalia:

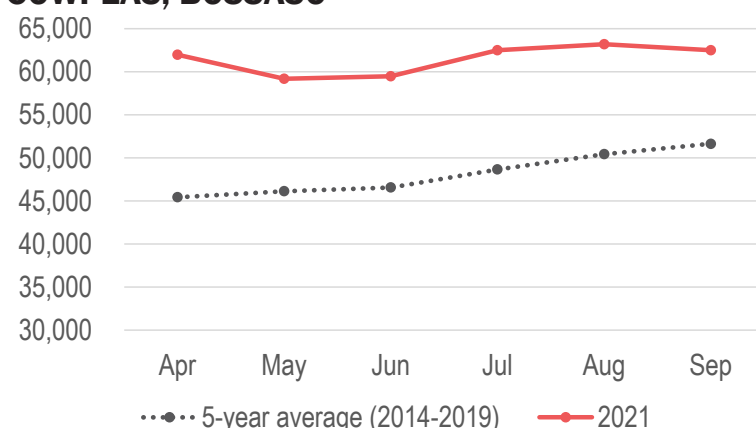
Food items	Quantity
Cereal	90 kg
Sugar	3 kg
Vegetable oil	6 L
Cowpeas	6 kg
Non-food items	Quantity
Kerosene	1.5 L
Soap (laundry)	4 pcs
Firewood (bundle)	30 pcs
Water (200-L drums)	9 drums
Human drugs	SoSh. 20,000
School fees	SoSh. 90,000
Grinding cost	30 kg of grain
Clothes	SoSh. 30,000
Social tax	SoSh. 12,500
Other core NFIs	SoSh. 30,000

AVERAGE COMMODITY PRICES AND CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER⁶

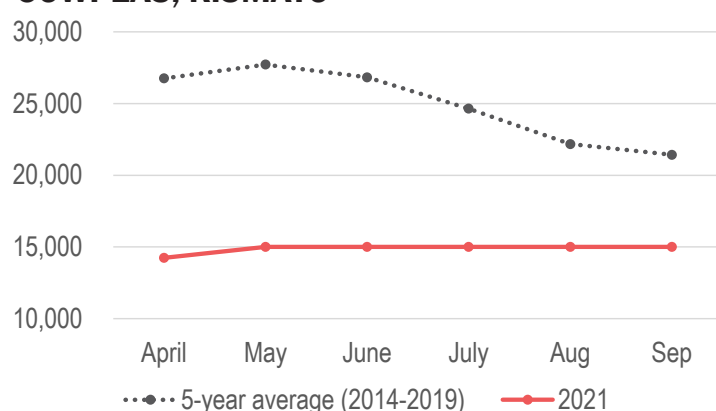
	Baidoa		Bossaso		Hargeisa		Jowhar		Kismayo		Mogadishu	
	Jul-Sep (SoSh)	Change (%)	Jul-Sep (SoSh)	Change (%)	Jul-Sep (SISh)	Change (%)	Jul-Sep (SoSh)	Change (%)	Jul-Sep (SoSh)	Change (%)	Jul-Sep (SoSh)	Change (%)
Local crops												
Cowpeas (1 kg)	27,050	-5%	60,233	+4%	15,167	-1%	21,233	+21%	14,750	+2%	29,633	+8%
White maize (1 kg)	8,687	+24%	-	-	6,000	0%	8,250	+26%	14,500	+13%	11,890	+3%
White sorghum (1 kg)	8,103	+26%	-	-	5,192	0%	-	-	-	-	10,201	+8%
Red sorghum (1 kg)	7,028	+34%	37,917	0%	3,608	+3%	11,358	-21%	9,000	0%	10,609	-3%
Imported food commodities												
Vegetable oil (1 L)	41,333	+22%	65,967	+10%	12,625	+14%	39,683	+13%	33,000	+10%	29,878	+23%
Wheat flour (1 kg)	16,767	-1%	23,467	+9%	6,158	-3%	16,267	+11%	14,250	+6%	12,216	+12%
Red rice (1 kg)	17,033	-6%	24,100	+13%	7,183	-3%	16,267	+4%	14,250	+6%	12,858	+2%
Sugar (1 kg)	17,150	+1%	25,700	+11%	5,075	+12%	17,750	+1%	19,500	+3%	14,160	+2%

NOTABLE SIX-MONTH TRENDS IN AVERAGE COMMODITY PRICES

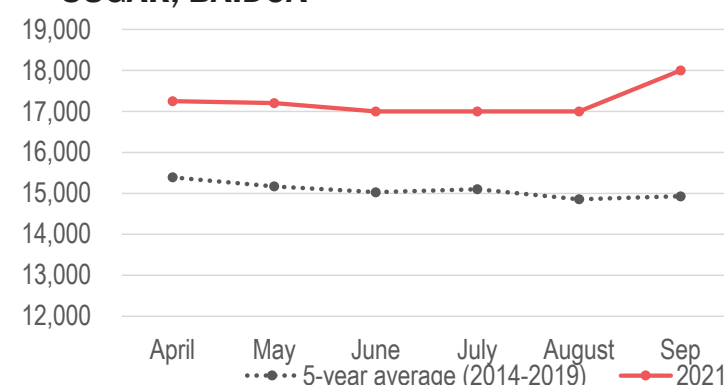
COWPEAS, BOSSASO



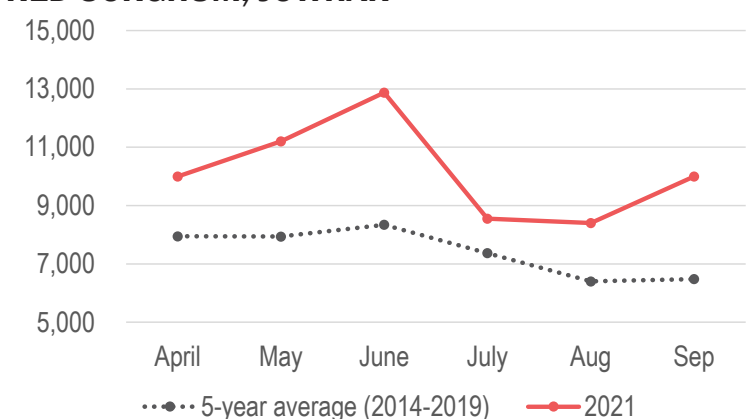
COWPEAS, KISMAYO



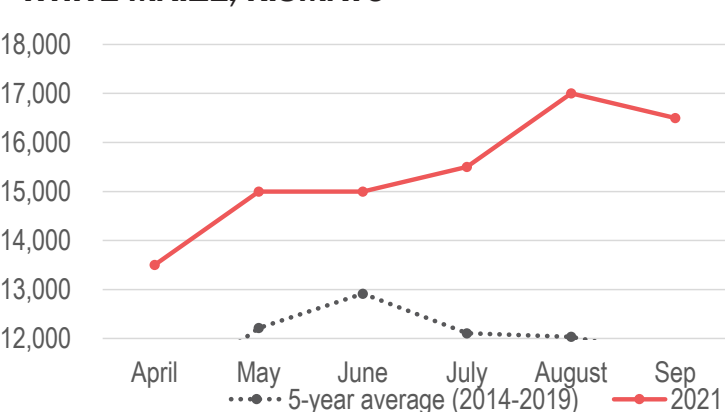
SUGAR, BAIDOA



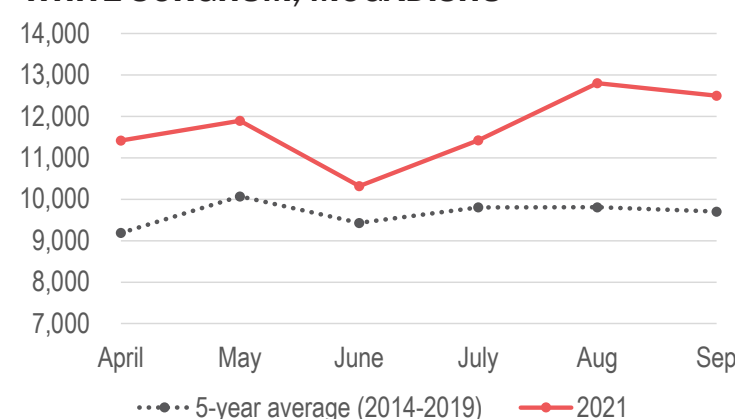
RED SORGHUM, JOWHAR



WHITE MAIZE, KISMAYO



WHITE SORGHUM, MOGADISHU



MAIN CEREALS

In this quarter, cereal prices increased in 29 out of 42 assessed districts, and the average country-wide cereal prices increased by 6%. In 13 districts, the July–September 2021 average price of the main cereal consumed (red sorghum, white maize, or red rice depending on location) was at least 10% more expensive than the April–June 2021 average. The largest price increases were found in Baraawe (40%), Jilib (28%), Jowhar (26%), Wanlaweyne (23%) and Qansaxdheere (22%). A price decline of 10% was reported in Ceelbarde.

KEY LOCAL CROPS AND IMPORTED FOOD

In Baidoa, prices increased for red sorghum (+36%), white sorghum (+26%), and white maize (+24%). The price of cowpeas increased by 21% in Jowhar, but remained within ±10% in all other districts.

Looking at imported food commodities, the price of vegetable oil increased in all major districts. The largest increase in vegetable oil prices took place in Mogadishu (23%) and Baidoa (22%). In Baidoa, Hargeisa, Kismayo, reported price changes of wheat flour and red rice fell within ±10%. The price of sugar increased by 12% in Hargeisa and 11% in Bossaso, but remained stable in all other districts (all reported and prices fell within ±5%).

Breakdowns of the six-month trends of key commodity prices are displayed on the left.

PORT DATA⁷

A sharp decrease was observed in the total food imports in Bossaso port between June and July of 2021. Food imports increased again in August 2021, and continued to increase in September. Compared to 2020 and the 5-year average (2016–2020), total food imports during the third quarter of 2021 were slightly lower than in previous years.

BOSSASO TOTAL FOOD IMPORTS

