

BACKGROUND

The total number of positive COVID-19 cases in Kenya stands at 10,791¹ as of 14 July 2020. The government of Kenya has enforced strict social distancing measures, temporarily shut down venues for large public gatherings and movements and limited movement within the Nairobi metropolitan area. These measures, while necessary from a public health perspective, are already having strong negative effects on some of the market systems on which vulnerable populations in Nairobi depend.

To understand the market systems and inform humanitarian programming in light of COVID-19, IMPACT Initiatives in coordination with Oxfam, Concern Worldwide, ACTED, the Kenya Red Cross, Wangu Kanja Foundation and Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), conducted a joint market monitoring exercise in Gatina, Gitare-Marigo, Kibera, Korogocho, Kayole, Lunga Lunga, Majengo, Mathare, Mukuru and Soweto informal settlements in Nairobi County. The market monitoring will be conducted on a monthly basis until October 2020.

This factsheet presents an overview of median prices of food and non-food items, stock levels, days required to restock and challenges experienced by the community and retailers in light of COVID-19. These findings are indicative for the assessed locations and time frame in which the data was collected.

METHODOLOGY

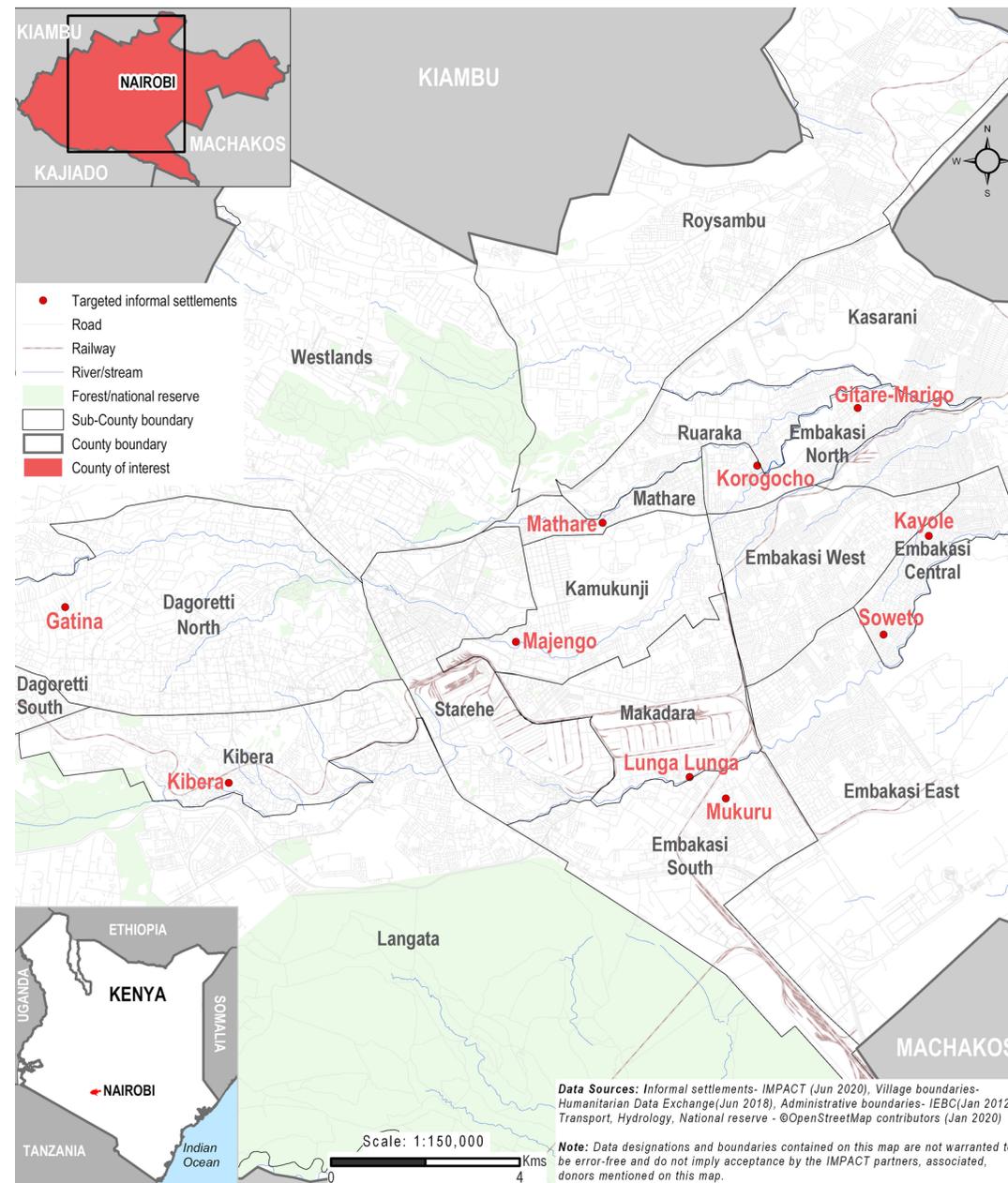
Data collection for the first monthly market monitoring initiative was conducted through phone interviews with 142 purposively selected retailers from 23 to 26 June 2020. The interviews were conducted with retailers selling food and non-food items in the informal settlements. The retailers were asked about the price of fuel, water, critical non-food items (NFIs) and all food components of the minimum expenditure basket (MEB). A total of 29 items were assessed.

Food and non-food items assessed

Category	Commodities			
Food items	Cow peas 1Kg	Lentils 1Kg	Tea leaves 50g	Cabbages 500g
	White maize 1Kg	Rice 1Kg	Salt 500g	Cattle milk 1L
	Pigeon peas 1Kg	Maize flour 1Kg	Vegetable oil 1L	Goat meat 1Kg
	Green grams 1Kg	Wheat flour 1Kg	Onions 1Kg	Cattle meat 1Kg
	Beans 1Kg	Sugar 1Kg	Tomatoes 1kg	
Non-food items	Sanitary pads 8pack	Buckets 20L	Gas 6Kg	Charcoal 2Kg
	Facial masks 1pc	Jerry cans 20L	Kerosene 1L	
	Water 20 L	Bar soaps 200g	Firewood 1 bundle	

1. [Ministry of health report released on 14 July 2020](#)

LOCATIONS OF DATA COLLECTION



European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid

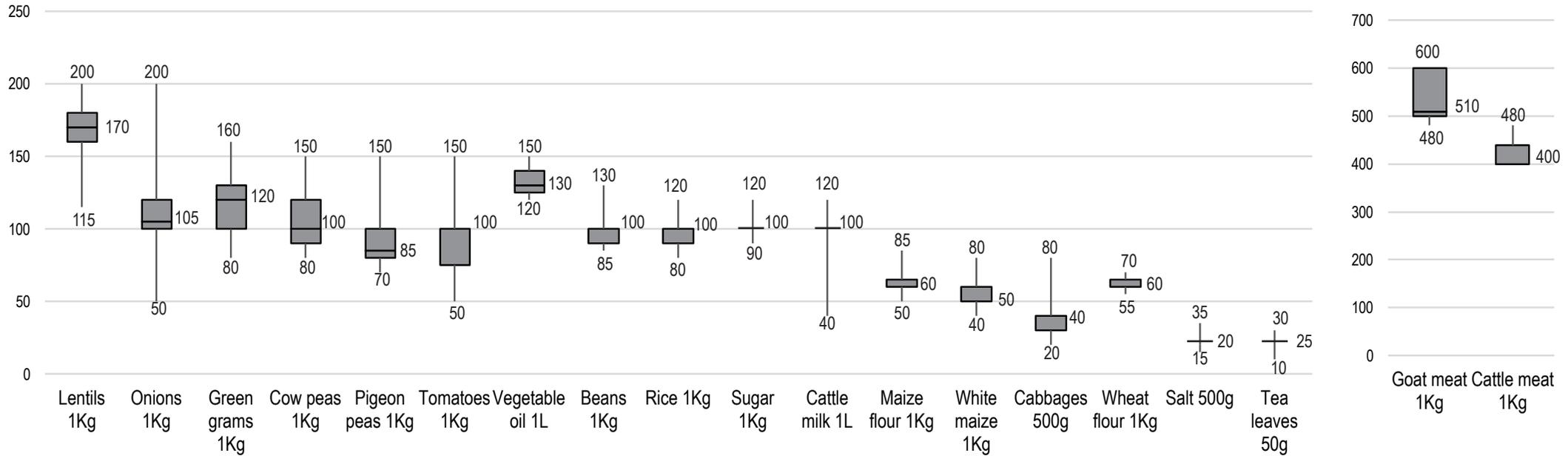


Changing You, Transforming All!

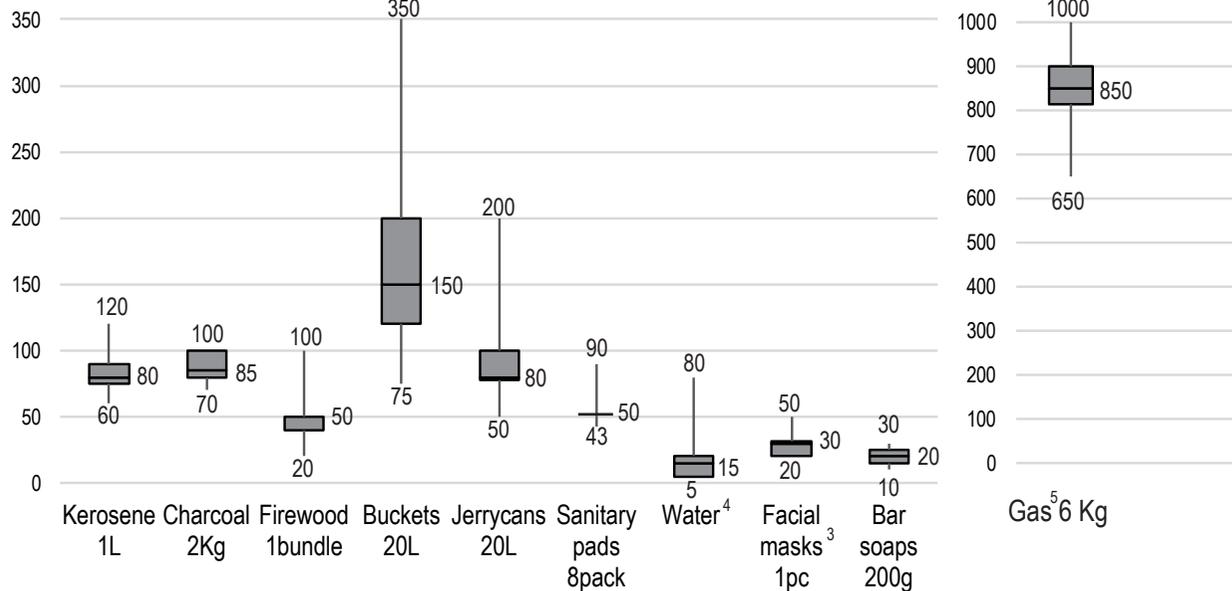


Shaping practices
Influencing policies
Impacting lives

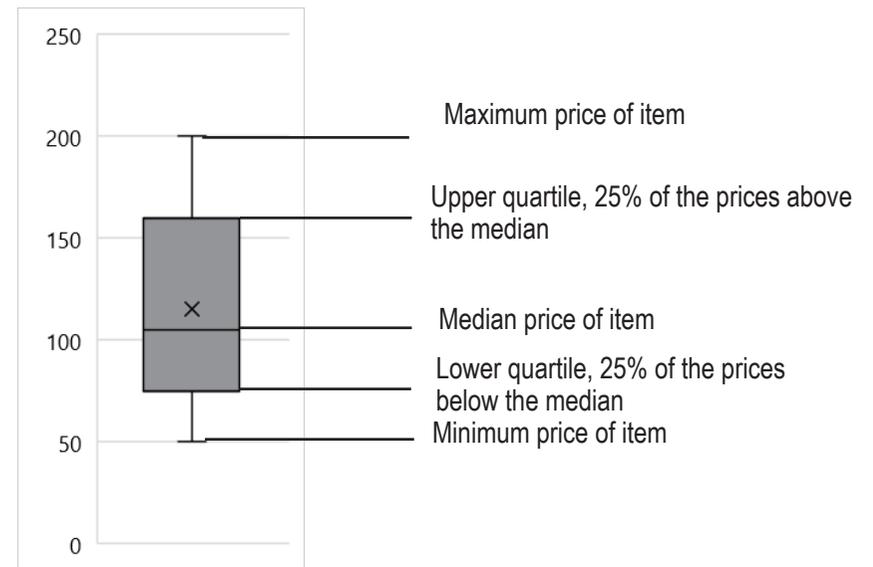
Distribution of prices for food items at the time of data collection in KES²



Distribution of prices for non-food items at the time of data collection in KES²



How to read a box plot



2.1 USD=105.95847 KES in June 2020

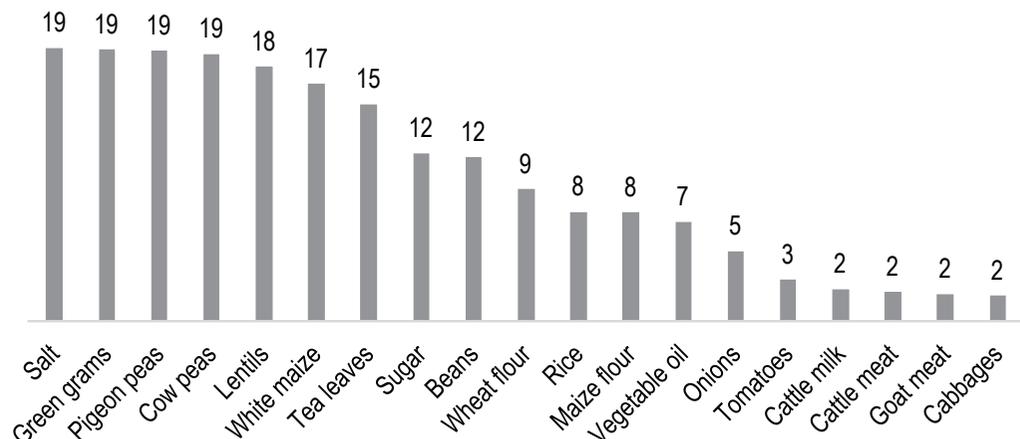
3. Both surgical and cloth facial masks

4. 20-L jerry can from public and private networks

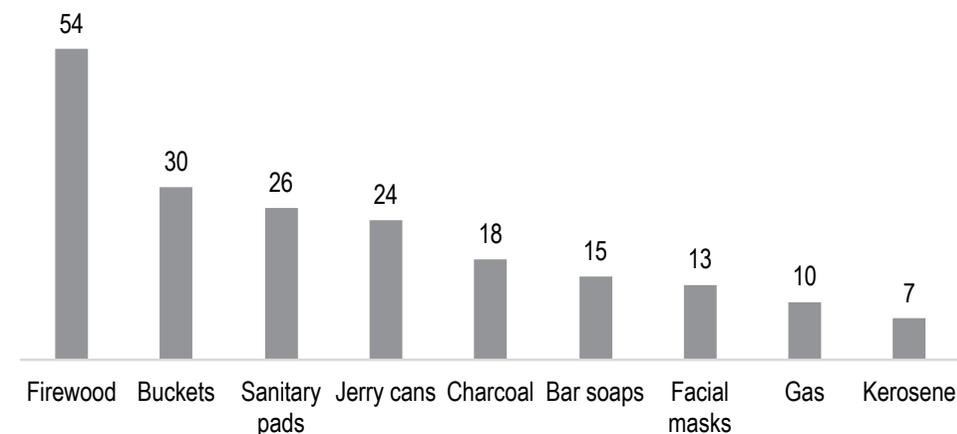
5. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)

Stock levels for food and non-food items at the time of data collection in KES²

Average days of stock reported for food items at the time of data collection:



Average days of stock reported for non-food items at the time of data collection:



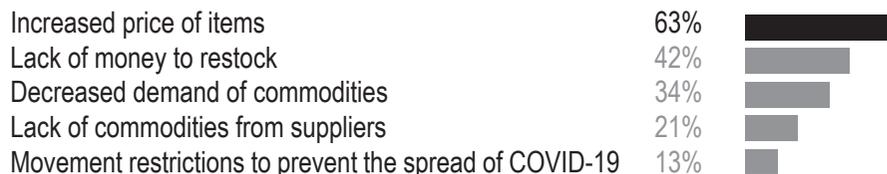
Vegetables and meat stocks were reported to last for three days or less because they are perishable. However, the stocks for other food items and non-food items were reported to last for seven days or more because they are not perishable.

It reportedly takes three days or less to restock both food and non-food items with an exception of firewood and charcoal which take six days and thirteen days respectively. The stock for all the assessed items were reported to last for more days than it takes to restock. This shows that there was no imminent shortage at the time of data collection.

Reported market challenges for retailers and community members in light of COVID-19

A high proportion of retailers (88%) reported facing demand and supply challenges at the time of data collection.

Top reported demand and supply challenges by retailers at the time of data collection:⁶



Three-quarters (75%) of retailers reported that community members were facing challenges in accessing the markets at the time of data collection.

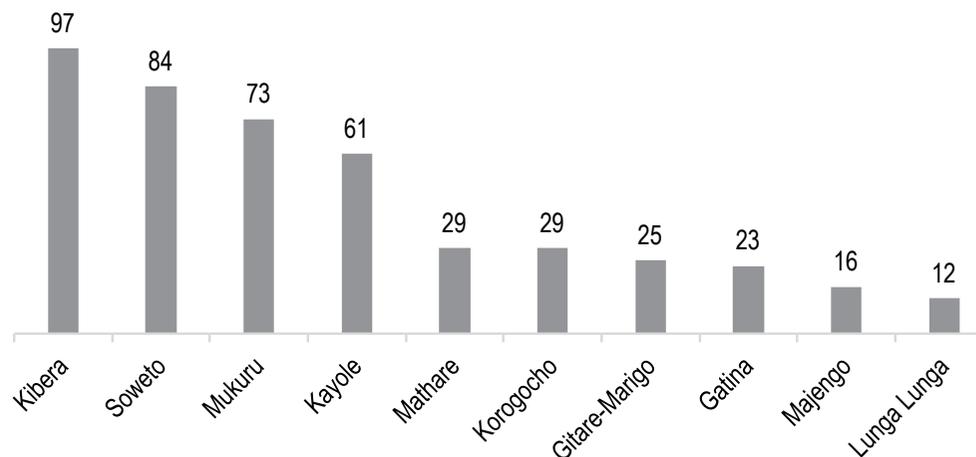
Top reported challenges for the community in accessing markets by retailers:⁶



Ninety-eight per cent (98%) of retailers reported the number of customers buying from their businesses had changed in the three months prior to data collection. Nearly all (99%) reported that the number of customers had decreased.

A total of 449 retailers had reportedly closed down their business since March 2020 due to COVID-19-related challenges.

Reported number of businesses closed since March 2020 due to COVID-19 at the time of data collection:



6. Multiple answers could be selected and thus findings might exceed 100%

Cost of MEB at the time of data collection (23 to 26 June 2020)

The MEB values were calculated from the data collected by IMPACT initiatives for food items, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) items and Kerosene. The price of the other items was calculated from the urban MEB provided by the Kenya cash working group. The Urban MEB is the latest version from Kenya cash working group (CWG) and is based on a household size of three while the informal settlements MEB is the interim version of MEB that is based on a household size of four. The cash transfers made in this project was based on informal settlements MEB.

Sector	Items	Quantity	Cost in KES ²
Food items	Maize meal	19.35 Kg	1,113
	Rice	13.5 Kg	1,316
	Dry beans	9 Kg	900
	Vegetables oil	3.15 L	1410
	Cow milk, whole, not fortified	13.5 Kg	1350
	Cabbage, raw	18 Kg	1260
	Salt, iodized	0.45 Kg	18
	Sugar	0.45 Kg	35
Energy	Electricity	21.6 kWh	336
	Kerosene	13.5L	1080
WASH items	Soap (multipurpose)	1350 g	135
	Water (cooking, drinking and other use)	675 L	675
	Sanitary pads (15 pcs)	6 pack	188
Communication	Communication (airtime)	0.75	150
Transport	Public transportation	12 trips	600
Health	National Medical Insurance (NHIF)	1 monthly	500
	Cloth masks	6 pcs	180
Education	School stationery	1 kit	175
Shelter	Rent expense	1 monthly	4000
Cost of food MEB ⁷			6,411
Total cost of MEB ⁷			14,431

	Nairobi urban MEB ⁷	Nairobi informal settlements MEB ⁸
Cost of food MEB ⁵ in KES ²	6,411	8,549
Total cost of MEB ⁵ in KES ²	14,431	18,184

7. Contains the items listed above it. The cost of MEB calculated is for 3 household members.

8. Contains the items listed above it. The cost of MEB calculated is for 4 household members.

About IMPACT Initiatives' COVID-19 response

As an initiative deployed in many vulnerable and crisis-affected countries, IMPACT initiatives is deeply concerned by the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the millions of affected people we seek to serve. IMPACT initiatives 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 IMPACT initiatives aims to leverage its existing expertise to help humanitarian actors understand the impact of changing restrictions on markets and trade. Updates regarding IMPACT Initiatives' response to COVID-19 can be found in [a devoted thread](#) on the REACH website. Contact geneva@impact-initiatives.org for further information.