



INTRODUCTION

The Rapid Market Monitoring Initiative (RMMI) was launched by REACH in collaboration with the Food Security Sector (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	6 May 2020
Cost of Food SMEB*	21,031
Local rice (22.5 kg)	8,622
Maize (37.5 kg)	5,825
White beans (11.25 kg)	2,363
Palm oil (1.5 L)	741
Groundnut oil (3 L)	1,588
Groundnuts (2.25 kg)	716
Sugar (1.5 kg)	808
Salt (0.75 kg)	120
Onion (1.2 kg)	249

*Contains the items listed below it

Exchange rate (NGN/USD)

Exchange Rate¹	6 May 2020
Official rate	390

KEY FINDINGS: 1-6 MAY, 2020

- The cost of the food SMEB in Maiduguri and Jere LGAs was **21,031** naira during the week of 1-6 May, 2020.
- Among the vendors interviewed, **60%** reported a reduction in customer visits after lockdown² measures have been put in place.
- Among the vendors interviewed, **52%** reported low customer purchasing power as the biggest barrier for customers to access market.
- Most of the vendors, irrespective of the items they sold, cited price inflation as the major barrier to restocking.
- Majority of the vendors (**65%**) have implemented some form of COVID-19 precaution measures in their shops like

COVID-19 MARKET INDICATORS

Of the **111** respondents surveyed, **2%** 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 vendors³

Customer handwashing stations	65%	<div><div></div></div>
Compulsory masks for customers	54%	<div><div></div></div>
Antibacterial gel for customers	32%	<div><div></div></div>

Top 3 reported government regulations on vendors due to COVID-19³

Restricted opening hours	52%	<div><div></div></div>
Restricted number of customers	11%	<div><div></div></div>
Price ceiling	4%	<div><div></div></div>

Reported change in customer shopping frequency due to COVID-19 restrictions³

Decreased	60%
Stayed the same	6%
Increased	33%



METHODOLOGY

Data was remotely collected through interviews with vendor key informants (KIs) purposively sampled across three major markets in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC). The key markets were chosen in consultation with all participating partners from the Food Security Sector (FSS) COVID-19 Taskforce. As this is the first week of price collection, the cost of the food SMEB is reported as a standalone figure. Starting May 13th, weekly variations in the cost of food SMEB along with the absolute values will be reported. Findings are indicative for the assessed location and time frame in which the data was collected.

RMMI WEEKLY FIGURES

Data collection **1st May - 6th May**
3 markets assessed
111 vendor KIs surveyed
19 key commodities being tracked

Top 3 reported shops closed due to COVID-19³

General store ⁴	30%	<div><div></div></div>
Grocery store ⁴	29%	<div><div></div></div>
Household NFI store ⁴	25%	<div><div></div></div>

Top 3 reported population groups experiencing more market access barriers³

Customers with medical conditions	23%	<div><div></div></div>
Elderly customers	23%	<div><div></div></div>
Customers with disability	14%	<div><div></div></div>

Top 3 reported market access barriers for community members³

Low purchasing power	52%	<div><div></div></div>
Restricted opening hours	44%	<div><div></div></div>
Fear of COVID-19	40%	<div><div></div></div>



MARKET INDICATORS AND PRICES

Median commodity prices per market, 1-6 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 ⁶	N/A ⁶	11	500	200	95	142	305	38	175	365	195	210	427	492	318	538	221	207	21,925
Bullamkutu	N/A ⁶	N/A ⁶	9	700	400	90	158	350	38	100	383	136	210	494	529	318	538	150	108	20,187
Monday	N/A ⁶	N/A ⁶	10	450	325	62	120	400	77	150	438	155	252	600	600	364	538	160	377	23,413
Overall (Maiduguri & Jere LGA)	210	125	10	500	325	90	142	350	38	150	383	155	210	494	529	318	538	160	207	21,031

Average reported remaining stock and restocking time (days)

Items	Days Of Stock Remaining	# Days Needed To Restock
Authorised diesel	15	7
Authorised petrol	23	5
Untreated water	1	1
Hand sanitizer	1	1
PPE mask	1	1
Bathing soap	5	1
Laundry soap	4	1
Sanitary pads	7	1
Charcoal	3	3
Firewood	7	3
Local rice	2	3
Maize	4	3
White beans	2	2
Palm oil	2	1
Groundnut oil	3	1
Groundnuts	3	2
Sugar	4	1
Salt	4	1
Onion	2	1

Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for food vendors³

Price inflation	80%	<div></div>
Supplier has limited supply	33%	<div></div>
Supplier has no stock	28%	<div></div>

Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for water vendors³

No barriers	45%	<div></div>
Price inflation	36%	<div></div>
Supplier unwilling to sell	18%	<div></div>

Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for NFI vendors³

Price inflation	78%	<div></div>
Supplier has limited supply	31%	<div></div>
Supplier has no stock	22%	<div></div>

Top 2 reported barriers to restocking for authorised fuel vendors³

Others ⁵	75%	<div></div>
No barriers	25%	<div></div>

Top 3 reported financing barriers for vendors³

Vendors have limited cash	57%	<div></div>
Creditors have limited cash	23%	<div></div>
Movement restrictions for creditors	17%	<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 for further information.

ENDNOTES

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

² [Lockdown in Borno state commenced on 22nd April](#).

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

⁴ 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.

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

⁶ Authorised fuel vendor shops are outside the 3 assessed markets. Hence reported fuel prices are the median prices at an LGA level.