KENYA COVID-19 MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE IN NAIROBI INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

FEBRUARY 2021

BACKGROUND

The total number of positive COVID-19 cases in Kenya stood at 107,329 as of 28 February 2021. Social distancing measures, including the temporary closing of venues or large public gatherings were put in place in March 2020 to prevent the spread of the virus[1]. These measures, while necessary from a public health perspective, are likely to negatively impact market systems on which vulnerable populations in Nairobi depend.

To understand the impact on 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. This is the sixth round of market monitoring that was conducted from 9 to 12 February 2021 and it followed previous rounds of market monitoring that are shown in the table below.

This factsheet presents an overview of median prices of key food and non-food items (NFIs), stock levels, restocking times, and challenges faced by retailers in light of COVID-19, as well as the main supply points where retailers get their commodities. Findings are indicative for assessed locations and the time frame in which the data was collected since the interviews were conducted with purposively selected retailers.

METHODOLOGY

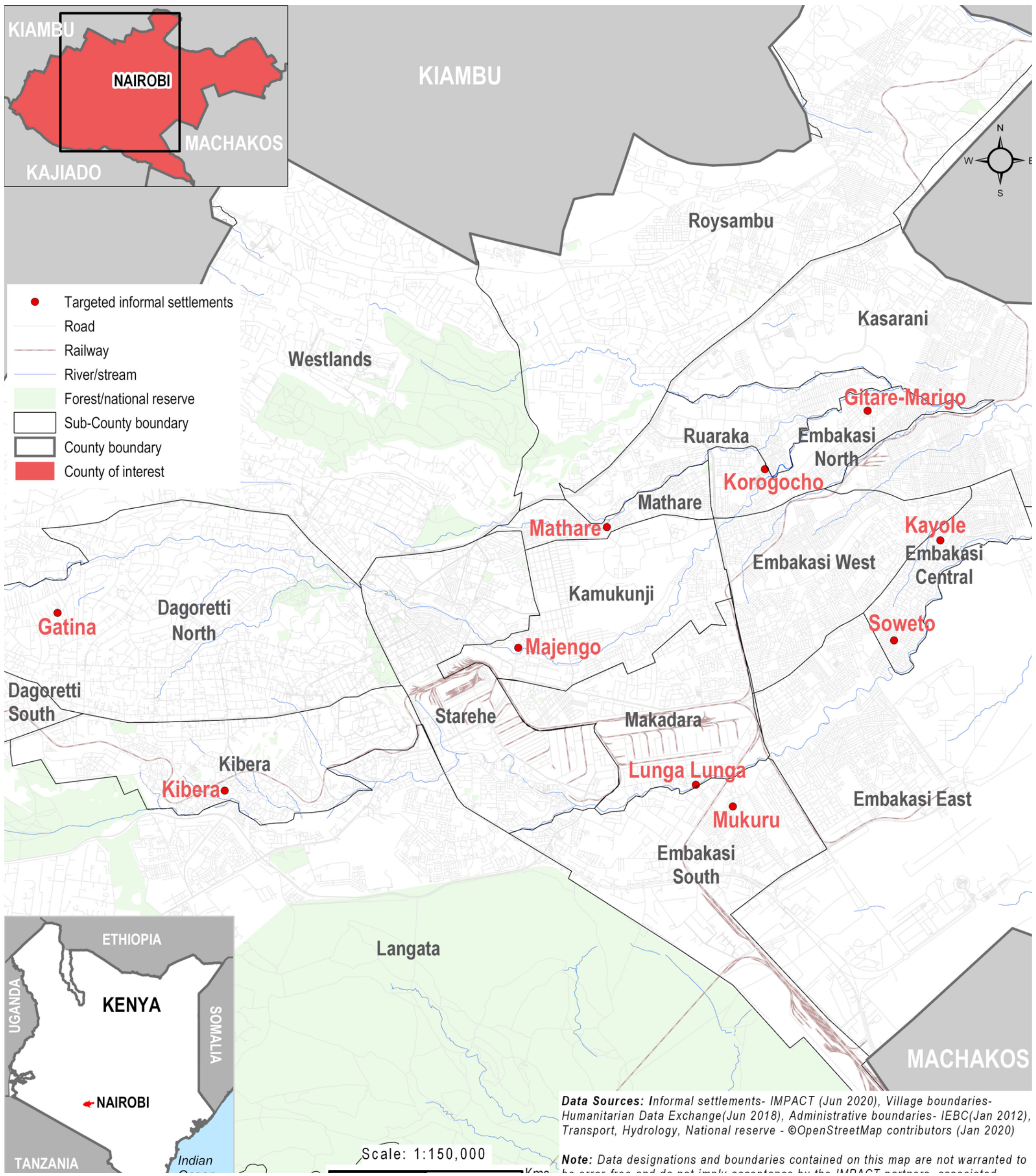
Interviews were conducted by phone with purposively selected retailers selling basic food and non-food items (NFIs) in the 10 informal settlements of Nairobi county. Retailers were asked to list the prices of fuel, food, and NFI components of the minimum expenditure basket (MEB)[2], and to report on challenges faced by retailers and the community in the light of COVID-19. The MEB represents a culturally-adjusted group of key food items and non-food items to last an average Kenyan household of three persons for 30 days. For stock levels, the retailers were asked to give an estimate of the number of days they expected their current stock to last. This could change depending on the demand of items. A total of 244 retailer key informants (KIs) were interviewed and 34 items were assessed. More information about the methodology can be found in the terms of reference.

Previous MMI outputs (2020)

Factsheet	Dataset
October	October
September	September
August	August
July	July
June	June

1. Preparedness and response (MOH, Kenya, 2020) retreived from here.

LOCATIONS OF DATA COLLECTION



Funded by European Union

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	Spinach 1kg
Non-food Items	Sanitary pads 8pack	Buckets 20L	Gas 6Kg	Charcoal 2Kg
	Facial masks 1pc	Jerry cans 20L	Kerosene 1L	Rubber 1 pc

Change in median prices (KES) for food and non-food items(NFIs) between October 2020 and February 2021.

	Assessed items	Oct Price	Feb Price	% Change
Food items	White maize 1Kg	50	50	0%
	Maize flour 1Kg	55	50	-9▼%
	Sugar 1Kg	110	110	10▲%
	Beans 1Kg	100	88	-12▼%
	Salt 500gm	20	20	0%
	Onions 1Kg	70	80	14▲%
	Cabbages 500g	30	30	0%
	Vegetable oil 1L	140	180	29▲%
	Cowpeas 1Kg	90	90	0%
	Wheat flour 1Kg	60	70	17▲%
	Tea Leaves 50gm	25	25	0%
	Tomatoes 1 Kg	60	70	17▲%
	Rice 1Kg	100	100	0%
	Pigeon peas 1Kg	80	80	0%
	Lentils 1Kg	170	160	-6▼%
	Green grams 1Kg	120	120	0%
	Spinach 1Kg	N/A	60	N/A
	Cattle milk 1L	100	100	0%
	Cattle meat 1Kg	440	440	0%
	Goat meat 1Kg	520	550	6▲%

	Assessed items	Oct Price	Feb Price	% Change
NFIs	Pen 1pc	N/A	10	N/A
	Pencil 1pc	N/A	5	N/A
	Rubber 1pc	N/A	5	N/A
	Sanitary pads 8 pack	50	50	0%
	Jerrycan 20L	80	80	0%
	Face masks 1pc	10	10	0%
	Gas 6Kg	850	80	-6▼%
	Bucket 20L	200	180	-10▼%
	Kerosene 1L	90	100	11▲%
	Bar soap 200gm	20	20	0%
	20L jerrycan with clean water	5	5	0%
	32 pages A5 excercise book	N/A	10	N/A
	Firewood 1bundle	100	100	0%
	Charcoal 2Kg	0	80	-11▼%

Reported stock levels and days needed to restock food and non-food items in February 2021

Sector	Items	February days needed to restock	February stock (days)
Food items	Cattle milk	1	2
	Tomatoes	1	2
	Maize flour	1	7
	Tea leaves	1	14
	White maize	1	9
	Beans	1	11
	Wheat flour	1	7
	Pigeon peas	1	14
	Cow peas	1	14
	Salt	1	14
	Cattle meat	1	2
	Goat meat	1	2
	Green grams	1	10
	Vegetable oil	1	5
	Sugar	1	8
	Rice	1	8
	Onions	1	4
	Average	1	8
Non-food items	Jerry cans	1	9
	Bar soaps	1	11
	Buckets	1	16
	Sanitary pads	1	18
	Charcoal	5	8
	LPG	1	10
	Firewood	5	13
	Kerosene	1	5
	Face masks	1	9
	Average	1	11

The findings from this survey indicate that the median prices of half of the assessed food items remained unchanged between October 2020 and February 2021. In addition, the number of food items for which a decrease in median prices was observed was half of those for which increases were observed. Vegetable oil reportedly had the highest price increase (29%) among the food items. On the other hand, only kerosene was found to have had a price increase (11%) among the non-food items. The median prices of a pencil, a rubber, a pen and an excercise book were not recorded during the October survey, as a result, there were no median price comparisons for these items.

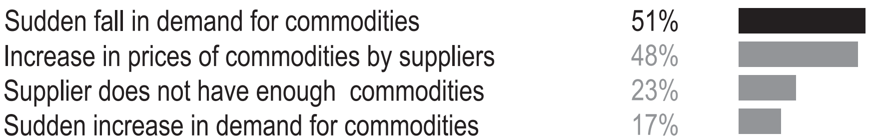
Reported market challenges for retailers and community members in light of COVID-19

A high proportion of retailers (74%) reportedly encountered challenges while restocking either food or non-food items. Among those retailers, 66% cited high prices of commodities as the greatest challenge experienced while restocking, followed by 41% who cited unavailability of items in the market.

Most commonly reported challenges with restocking food and non-food items, according to 74% of retailers reporting such challenges.

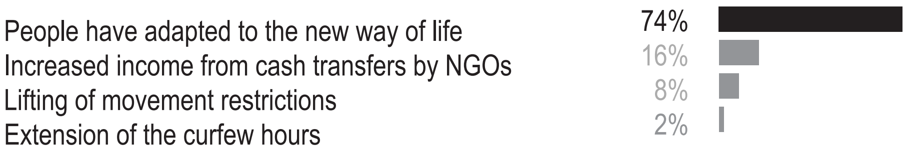
Findings from this survey indicate that a considerably high proportion (84%) of retailers in all the assessed informal settlements experienced demand and supply challenges. The three most commonly encountered challenges included: A sudden fall in demand for commodities, increase in prices of commodities by suppliers, and suppliers not having enough commodities to sell to retailers.

Challenges with supply and demand, according to 84% of retailers who reported such challenges.



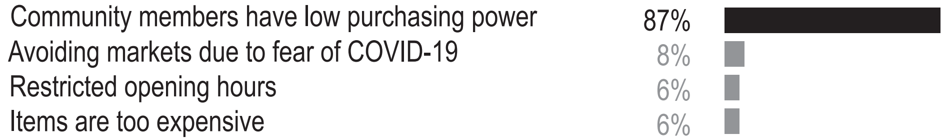
When asked about change in the number of customers purchasing from their shops in the 30 days prior to data collection, 79% of all assessed retailers reported having experienced a change in the number of customers. Among those who reported a change in the numbers of customers, 25% reported an increase. Of these, 74% attributed this increase to the perception that people have adapted to a new way of life in the wake of COVID-19.

Reasons that reportedly led to an increase in the number of customers purchasing from retailers in the 30 days prior to data collection, among the 25% of retailers who reported an increase in customers.

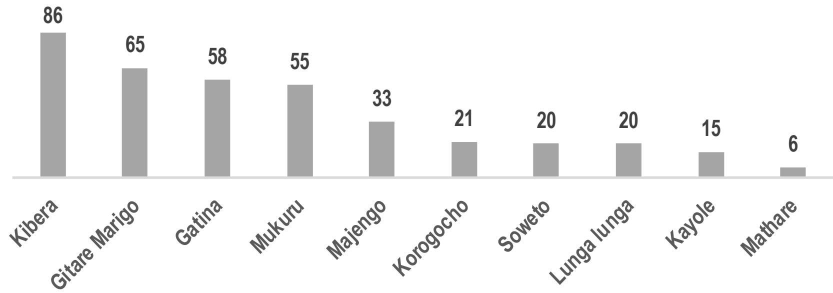


The majority of assessed retailers (59%) reported perceiving that community members do not experience any constraints in accessing markets as a result of the COVID-19 situation. Among the 41% who reported that members are facing challenges, most (87%) cited low purchasing power as the main challenge resulting from COVID-19 facing local communities.

COVID-19 related challenges facing community members when accessing markets, according to 41% of retailers reporting such challenges



Distribution of retailers in urban informal settlments who reportedly closed down their businesses in the 30 days prior to the data collection.

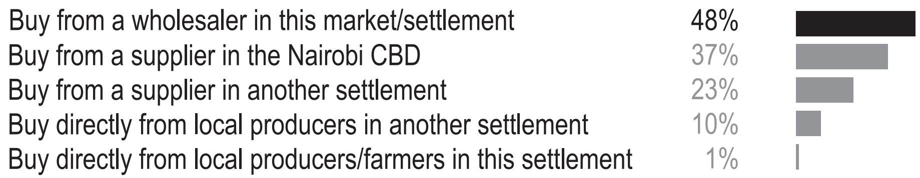


*We cannot fully compare the number of retailers who closed down businesses in these informal settlements as we do not know exactly how big each market is.

Reported supply points from where retailers buy their commodities

Retailers most commonly reported getting their retail commodities from wholesalers within their settlement, while 37% get them from suppliers within the Nairobi Central District (CBD). Only 10% reported buying commodities directly from local producers outside their settlement.

Reported supply sources from where retailers buy their commodities



Cost of MEB at the time of data collection (9 to 12 February 2021)

The MEB is used as an operational tool to identify and quantify the average minimum cost of the contextually-adjusted basic needs of an average Kenyan household, including items available at the local market. MEB values were calculated on the basis of price data gathered by IMPACT Initiatives for food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) items and kerosene. The price of other key items was calculated from the urban MEB provided by the Kenya cash working group (CWG).
The Nairobi urban MEB is based on a typical Kenyan household in Nairobi, consisting of three household members. In addition to the urban MEB is the Nairobi informal settlements MEB that reflects an average household size of four members.

Nairobi urban MEB

Sector	Items	Quantity	Median price KES
Food items	Maize meal	19.35 Kg	968
	Rice	13.5 Kg	1,350
	Dry beans	9 Kg	788
	Vegetables oil	3.15 L	567
	Cow milk, whole, not fortified	13.5 L	1,350
	Cabbage, raw	18 Kg	1,080
	Salt, Iodized	0.45 Kg	18
	Sugar	0.45 Kg	50
Energy	Electricity	21.6 kWh	336
	Kerosene	13.5 L	1,350
WASH items	Soap (multipurpose)	1350 g	135
	Water (cooking, drinking and other use)	675 L	169
	Sanitary pads (15 pcs)	6 pack	200
Communication	Communication (airtime)	0.75	150
Transport	Public transportation	12 trips	200
Health	National Medical Insurance (NHIF)	1 monthly	500
	Cloth masks	6 pcs	60
	Thermometer	1pc	500
Education	School stationery	1 kit	175
Shelter	Rent expense	1 monthly	4,000
	Cost of Nairobi urban food MEB		6,170
	Total cost of Nairobi urban MEB		13,945

Nairobi informal settlements MEB

Sector	Items	Quantity	Median price KES
Food items	Maize meal	13.2 Kg	660
	Rice	13.2 Kg	1,320
	Dry beans	13.2 Kg	1,155
	Vegetables oil	7.8 L	1,296
	Cow milk, whole, not fortified	12 Kg	1,200
	Cabbage, raw	12 Kg	720
	Salt, Iodized	1.2 Kg	48
	Sugar	1.2 Kg	132
	Maize grain	13.2 Kg	660
	Sorghum	13.2 Kg	660
Energy	Electricity	15.57 kWh	467
	Kerosene	2 L	1,200
Communication	Communication (airtime)	1	200
Transport	Public transportation	12 trips	200
Shelter	Rent expense	1 monthly	2,700
	Cost of Nairobi informal settlements food MEB		7,851
	Total cost of Nairobi informal settlements MEB		12,618

	Nairobi urban MEB	Nairobi informal settlements MEB
Cost of food MEB in KES	6,170	7,851
Total cost of MEB in KES	13,945	12,618

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.