



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 fortnightly⁴ 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 prices for fuel, water and 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 fortnightly basis from May 2020 onwards.

Food SMEB Items Price Tracking: Fortnightly (NGN)

Items	13 May 2020	3 Jun 2020	% change
Cost of Food SMEB*	23,331	22,832	-2%
Local rice (22.5 kg)	9,443	9,033	4%
Maize (37.5 kg)	6,917	6,566	5%
White beans (11.25 kg)	2,363	2,600	10%
Palm oil (1.5 L)	800	900	13%
Groundnut oil (3 L)	1,875	2,000	7%
Groundnuts (2.25 kg)	716	665	7%
Sugar (1.5 kg)	808	692	14%
Salt (0.75 kg)	115	98	15%
Onion (1.2 kg)	294	279	5%

*Contains the items listed below it. The cost of the Food SMEB is for a household of size 5

Exchange rate (NGN/USD)

Exchange Rate ¹	13 May 2020	3 Jun 2020	% change
Official rate	390	387	-1%

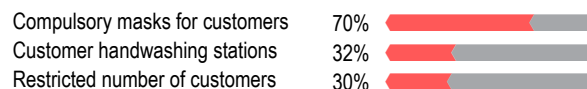
KEY FINDINGS: 2-5 JUNE, 2020

- The cost of the food SMEB in Maiduguri and Jere LGAs was **22,832** naira during the week of 2-5 June 2020.
- The cost of the food SMEB dropped by **2%** during the week of 2-5 June 2020 when compared to 12-16 May 2020.
- The drop in cost of the food SMEB was predominantly driven by drop in prices of 4 items, namely local rice, maize, groundnut and sugar.
- Among the interviewed vendors, **85%** reported there were no government regulations in the markets they were operating in.²
- Among the interviewed vendors, **70%** reported enforcing compulsory use of masks for customers when visiting the store.

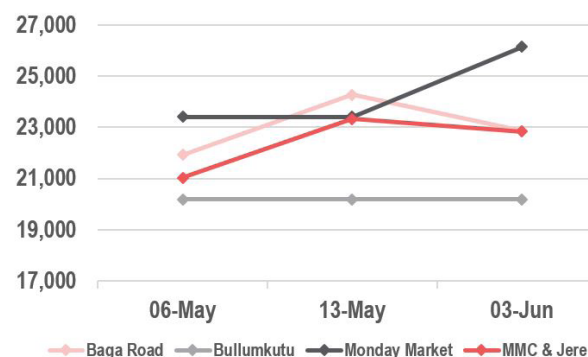
COVID-19 MARKET INDICATORS

Of the **74** respondents surveyed, **0%** 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



Cost of the Food SMEB over time (NGN)



METHODOLOGY

Data was remotely collected through interviews with vendor key informants (KIs) purposively sampled across three major markets in Maiduguri and Jere LGAs. The key markets were chosen in consultation with all participating partners from the Food Security Sector (FSS) COVID-19 Taskforce. The cost of the food SMEB for the overall LGA is computed by considering the median of individual market's food SMEB costs. Variation in the cost of the food SMEB is computed against prices collected during the previous fortnightly⁴ data collection. Findings are indicative for the assessed location and time frame in which the data was collected.

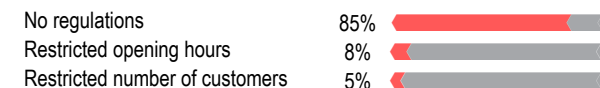
RMMI WEEKLY FIGURES

Data collection **2nd June - 5th June**
3 markets assessed
74 vendor KIs surveyed
19 key commodities being tracked

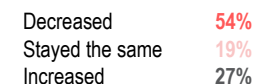
Top 3 reported market access barriers for community members³



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



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





MARKET INDICATORS AND PRICES

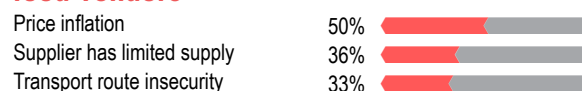
Median commodity prices per market, 2-5 June 2020 (NGN)

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 ⁵	N/A ⁶	14	650	350	79	174	400	44	100	401	175	231	667	625	273	462	130	308	22,846
Bullamkutu	N/A ⁵	N/A ⁶	13	600	100	86	260	300	38	100	365	136	210	583	700	295	346	130	220	20,182
Monday	N/A ⁵	N/A ⁶	14	575	300	62	137	350	87	200	420	233	282	600	667	364	473	155	233	26,154
Overall (Maiduguri & Jere LGA)	125	225	14	600	300	79	174	350	44	100	401	175	231	600	667	295	462	130	233	22,832

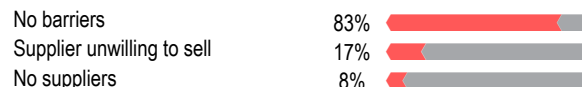
Average reported remaining stock and restocking time (days)

Items	Days Of Stock Remaining	# Days Needed To Restock
Authorised diesel	14	3
Authorised petrol	14	5
Untreated water	1	1
Hand sanitizer	5	1
PPE mask	4	1
Bathing soap	5	1
Laundry soap	7	1
Sanitary pads	7	1
Charcoal	7	5
Firewood	5	5
Local rice	6	2
Maize	4	2
White beans	7	2
Palm oil	7	1
Groundnut oil	6	1
Groundnut	6	1
Sugar	5	1
Salt	9	1
Onion	2	1

Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for food vendors³



Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for water vendors³



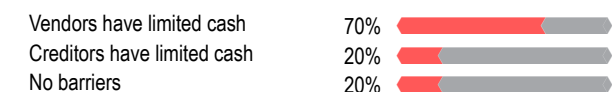
Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for NFI vendors³



Top 3 reported barriers to restocking for authorised fuel vendors³



Top 3 reported financing barriers for vendors³



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

- Average exchange for 6th May 2020 reported in [XE.com](#).
- The lockdown that commenced on 22nd April was [indefinitely suspended](#) since May 13th.
- Values do not add up to 100% as vendor KIs were allowed to select multiple options.
- The price monitoring started as a weekly exercise, but after the drawdown of the lockdown measures from May 13th, REACH along with the FSS taskforce decided to conduct the price monitoring on fortnightly basis.
- Authorised fuel vendor shops are outside the 3 assessed markets. Hence reported fuel prices are the median prices at the LGA level.