

## BACKGROUND

The total number of positive COVID-19 cases in Kenya stands at [45,647](#) as of 20 October 2020. Mombasa county had reported the second highest ([3,591](#)) number of positive COVID-19 cases after Nairobi County ([22,581](#)). Social distancing measures, including the temporary closing of venues and large public gatherings, were put in place to prevent the spread of the virus. These measures, while necessary from a public health perspective, are likely to negatively impact market systems on which vulnerable populations in Mombasa informal settlements depend.

In an urgent response to the growing humanitarian needs in light of COVID-19, the Kenya Cash Consortium (KCC) led by OXFAM in partnership with Concern Worldwide, ACTED, the Kenya Red Cross, Wangu Kanja Foundation and Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) are implementing an emergency cash assistance programme for the affected

populations in the 39 informal settlements in Changamwe, Jomvu, Kisauni, Likoni, Mvita and Nyali sub-counties.

To understand the market systems and inform humanitarian programming in light of COVID-19, IMPACT Initiatives, in coordination with the KCC, conducted a market monitoring exercise in the informal settlements in the six sub-counties where the KCC is implementing the cash assistance program. The market monitoring will be conducted on a monthly basis until December 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 key informant interviews with **593 purposively selected retailers** (who purchase items from wholesalers and manufacturers then sell to the general public) from 13 to 16 October 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). In addition, retailers were asked about their stock levels, days required for restocking and challenges relating to supply. A total of **32 items** were assessed. Data was collected through face-to-face interviews while observing COVID-19 control protocols. All findings are indicative, rather than representative, of key item prices and retailers' experiences. For more information on the methodology, please refer to the [terms of reference](#).

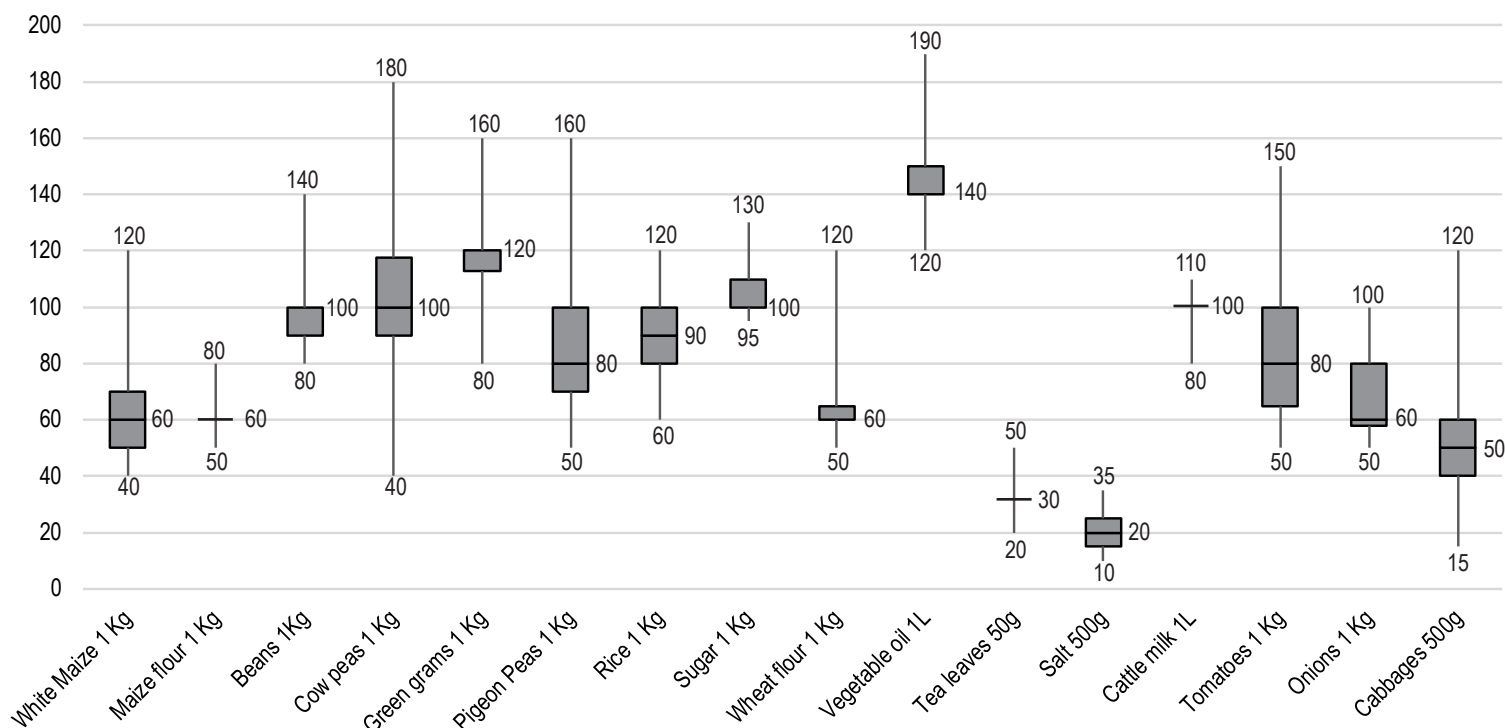
## ASSESSMENT COVERAGE



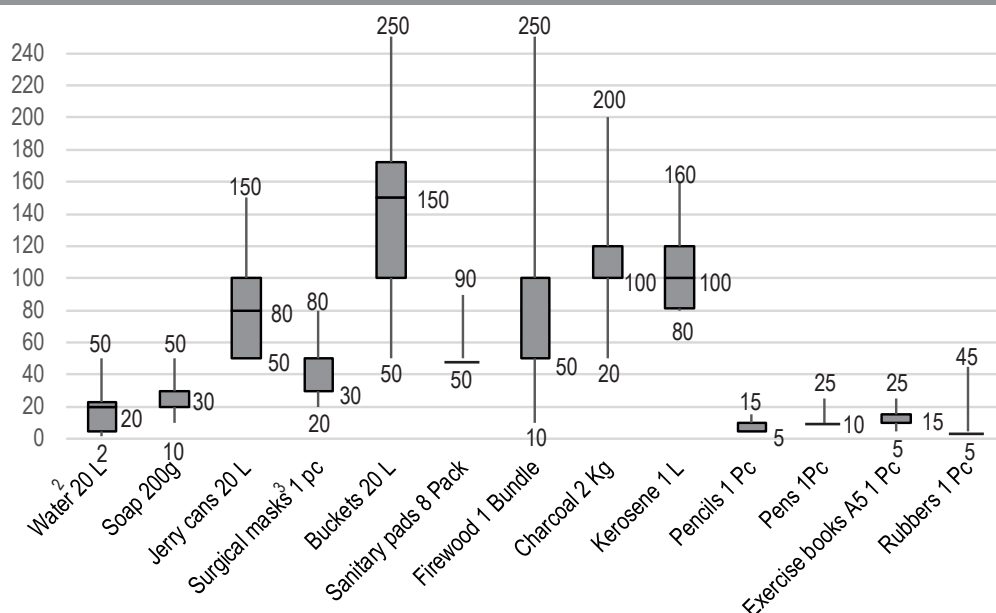
## Key food and non-food items assessed

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

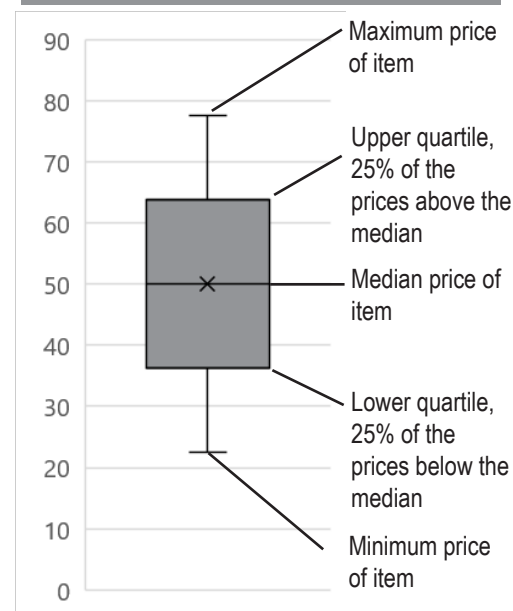
## Distribution of prices for food items at the time of data collection in KES<sup>1</sup>



## Distribution of prices for non-food items at the time of data collection in KES<sup>1</sup>



## How to read a box plot



The median price of goat meat and cattle meat was reportedly 480 KES<sup>1</sup> and 400 KES<sup>1</sup> respectively at the time of data collection. The reported median price of refilling a 6 Kg gas<sup>4</sup> was 650 KES<sup>1</sup> while in Mvita sub-county it was 750 KES<sup>1</sup>. The reported median price of sanitary pads remained at 50 KES<sup>1</sup> across the six sub-counties.

The median reported prices for key items in informal settlements in Mombasa were relatively similar to the ones recorded during the Nairobi market monitoring assessment, conducted by IMPACT Initiatives in [October 2020](#).

1. [USD=108.09417 KES in October 2020](#)

2. 20-L jerry can from public and private networks

3. Both surgical and cloth facial masks

4. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)

## Reported stock levels (in days) for food and non-food items:

Sector	Items	October days needed to restock	October stock (days)
Food items	Salt	1	15
	Cow peas	1	12
	White maize	1	11
	Tea leaves	1	11
	Pigeon peas	1	10
	Beans	1	10
	Green grams	1	10
	Rice	1	10
	Sugar	1	8
	Wheat flour	1	7
	Vegetable oil	1	7
	Onions	1	6
	Maize flour	1	6
	Tomatoes	1	4
	Cattle milk	1	3
	Cabbages	1	3
	Goat meat	1	2
	Cattle meat	1	2
	Tomatoes	1	2
	Average	1	7
Non-food-items	Pens	2	24
	Exercise books	2	23
	Jerry cans	2	23
	Pencils	2	22
	Firewood	3	19
	Charcoal	4	16
	Sanitary pads	1	14
	Face masks <sup>3</sup>	1	13
	Gas <sup>4</sup>	2	11
	Bar soaps	1	11
	Buckets	2	9
	Kerosene	1	9
	Jerry cans	2	7
	Average	2	15

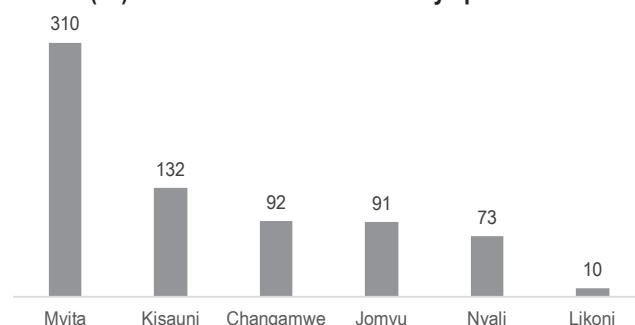
The stock for all the assessed items were reported to last for more days than it takes to restock indicating that there were likely no imminent shortages at the time of data collection.

Thirty eight per cent (38%) of retailers reportedly purchase goods mainly from wholesalers within their sub-counties while 32% purchase from wholesalers in the Mombasa central business district.

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

A total of 708<sup>6</sup> retailers had reportedly closed down their business in the 30 days prior to data collection due to COVID-19-related challenges. In Mvita, the number of retailers reporting having closed their business(es) due to COVID-19 in the 30 days prior to data collection was relatively high compared to other assessed locations, which might be due to the fact that [Mvita sub-county recorded a higher number of COVID-19 cases](#) than other sub-counties.

**Number of interviewed retailers reporting having closed their business(es) due to COVID-19 in the 30 days prior to data collection :**



Sixty one percent (61%) of retailers reported that community members were facing challenges in accessing the markets at the time of data collection. Of these, 81% reported low purchasing power as one of the main challenges for the community in accessing markets. This finding is reflected by similar reports from the [October market monitoring](#) assessment in Nairobi's informal settlements conducted by IMPACT Initiatives, and might indicate that this issue is wide-spread in informal settlements in Kenya.

**Most commonly reported challenges for community in accessing markets, by % of retailers reporting that community members face challenges accessing markets:<sup>5</sup>**

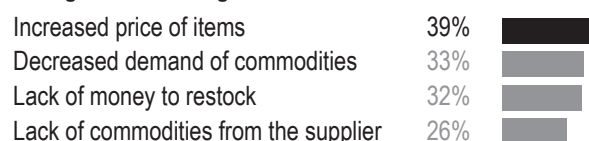


Eighty three percent (83%) of retailers reported the number of customers buying from their businesses had changed in the thirty days prior to data collection. A majority (90%) of these retailers reported that the number of customers had decreased while 10% reported that the number of customers had increased. Of the retailers that reported an increase in the number of customers, 43% attributed the increase to people adapting to the COVID-19 situation.

About half (54%) of retailers reported encountering challenges while restocking some of the items that they sell. Out of these retailers, 18% specifically reported encountering challenges in restocking firewood, commonly mentioning the unavailability of firewood (72%), high cost of transport (44%), and high prices for firewood (42%).

In addition, the majority of interviewed retailers (63%) reported facing demand and supply challenges at the time of data collection; they most commonly contributed these challenges to an increase in the price of items.

**Top reported demand and supply challenges by retailers reporting facing such challenges at the time of data collection:<sup>5</sup>**



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

6. The retailers were asked if they knew any retailers that closed down their business. There is a possibility of duplication in the number of retailers who closed down their business because several interviewed retailers from the same settlement could have been referring to the same retailers that reportedly closed down their businesses.

## Cost of MEB at the time of data collection (13 to 16 October 2020)

The MEB is used as an operational tool to identify and quantify the average minimum cost of the contextual 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.

The Mombasa urban MEB is based on a typical Kenyan household in Mombasa county, consisting of three household members. In addition to the urban MEB, to assess the MEB in informal settlements, the Mombasa informal settlements MEB reflects the contextualized basic monthly needs of an average household of four members residing in Mombasa's informal settlements

Mombasa urban MEB				Mombasa informal settlements MEB		
Sector	Items	Quantity	Median price KES <sup>1</sup>	Items	Quantity	Median price KES <sup>1</sup>
Food items	Maize meal	19.35 Kg	1,161	Maize meal	13.2 Kg	792
	Rice	13.5 Kg	1,215	Rice	13.2 Kg	1,188
	Dry beans	9 Kg	900	Dry beans	13.2 Kg	1,320
	Vegetables oil	3.15 L	441	Vegetables oil	7.8 L	1,008
	Cow milk, whole, not fortified	13.5 Kg	1,350	Cow milk, whole, not fortified	12 Kg	1,200
	Cabbage, raw	18 Kg	1,800	Cabbage, raw	12 Kg	1,200
	Salt, Iodized	0.45 Kg	18	Salt, Iodized	1.2 Kg	48
	Sugar	0.45 Kg	45	Sugar	1.2 Kg	120
Energy	Electricity	21.6 kWh	336	Maize grain	13.2 Kg	792
	Kerosene	13.5 L	1,350	Sorghum	13.2 Kg	792
WASH items	Soap (multipurpose)	1350 g	203	Electricity	15.57 kWh	467
	Water (cooking, drinking, other use)	675 L	1688	Kerosene	2 L	1,200
	Sanitary pads (15 pcs)	6 pack	234	Communication (airtime)	1	200
Communication	Communication (airtime)	0.75	150	Public transportation	12 trips	200
Transport	Public transportation	12 trips	200	Rent expense	1 monthly	2,700
Health	National Medical Insurance (NHIF)	1 monthly	500	Cost of Mombasa informal settlements food MEB		8,460
	Cloth masks	6 pcs	180	Total cost of Mombasa informal settlements MEB		13,227
	Thermometer	1pc	500			
Education	School stationery	1 kit	175			
Shelter	Rent expense	1 monthly	4,000			
	Cost of Mombasa urban food MEB		6,930			
	Total cost of Mombasa urban MEB		16,445			

## 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](mailto:geneva@impact-initiatives.org) for further information.