

Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

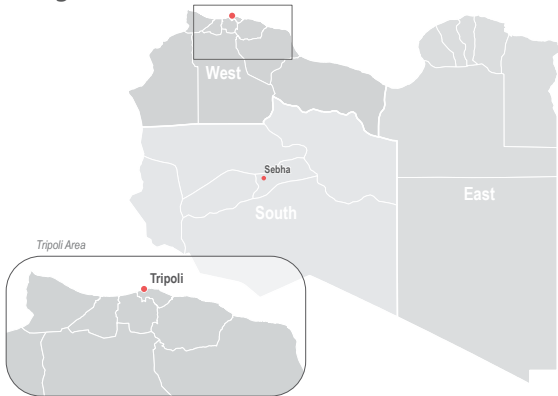
1ST June - 13th June 2023| Libya

SITUATION OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

In an effort to inform cash-based interventions and better understand market dynamics in Libya, the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was created by the Libya Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG) in June 2017. The initiative is led by REACH and supported by the CMWG members. It is funded by the Office of U.S. Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Markets in key urban areas across Libya are assessed on a monthly basis. In each location, field teams record prices and availability of basic food and non-food items (NFI) sold in local shops and markets. This factsheet presents an overview of price ranges and medians for key food items and NFIs in the assessed areas, as well as the costs associated with key elements of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).

Map 1: Coverage in June 2023



METHODOLOGY

Field staff familiar with the local market conditions identified shops representative of the general price level in their respective locations. At least **four** prices per assessed item were collected within each location. In line with the purpose of the JMMI, only the price of the cheapest available brand was recorded for each item. Enumerators were trained on methodology and tools by REACH. Data collection was conducted through the KoBoCollect mobile application. Following data collection, REACH compiled and cleaned all partner data, normalised prices, cross-checked outliers and calculated the median cost of the MEB in each assessed market. More details are available in the Methodology section of the Appendix.

JMMI KEY FINDINGS

- The cost of the MEB across Libya decreased overall (-2.8%) between May and June 2023. The cost of the June 2023 MEB was 42.7% higher than pre-COVID-19 levels in March 2020.
- The cost of the hygiene basket of the MEB in the south decreased by 19%. This monthly decrease of the hygiene component of the MEB in the south from 92.5 to 74.96 LYD was mainly driven by the decrease in price of hand sanitiser (-47.7%), dishwashing liquid (-25.7%), tooth brush (-19.4%) and laundry detergent (-7.2%). The cost of the hygiene basket of the MEB in the west did not change between May and June 2023.
- The food basket of the MEB decreased by 9.4% in the west and 5.2% in the south. The monthly decrease in the price of the food basket of the MEB was mainly driven by the decrease in price of tomatoes (-61%), potatoes (-22.2%), onions (-21.4%), condensed milk (-14.5%), green tea (-13.6%) and bread (-12.6%). Other food items showed increase in price, such as pasta (+27.3) and beans (3.4%) (See page 2).
- Some pharmaceutical items showed a decrease in price, such as ibuprofen (-37.1%), paracetamol (-21.4%). Other items showed increase in price such as vitamin B (+44.8%) and metoclopramide (+59.5%) (See page 2).
- A minor change in the fuel products¹ of the MEB. The value of the fuel component of the MEB changed from 14.50 to 14.00 LYD.

JMMI KEY FIGURES

- June 2023 data collection from 1st June to the 13th June 2023**
 - 1 participating agency (REACH Initiative)
 - 2 assessed cities
 - 56 assessed items
 - 54 assessed shops

KEY MONTHLY CHANGES IN MEB

Median cost of overall MEB

June-23 903.73 LYD -25.88 LYD -2.8%

MEDIAN COST OF MEB BY REGION IN JUNE 2023

West	898.39 LYD	-8.3%
East	No data	N/A
South	909.08 LYD	-6.4%

MARKET SHORTAGES

None reported

Reported changes are month-on-month

PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS

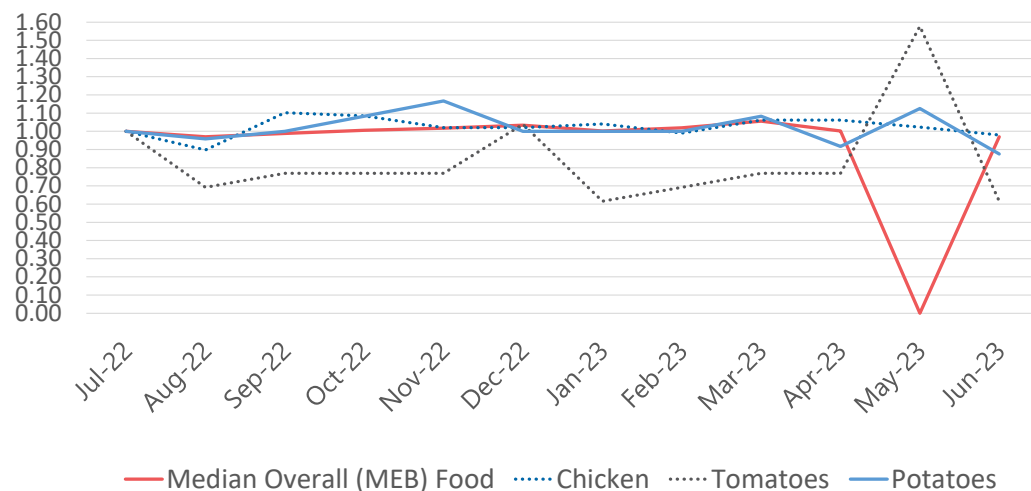
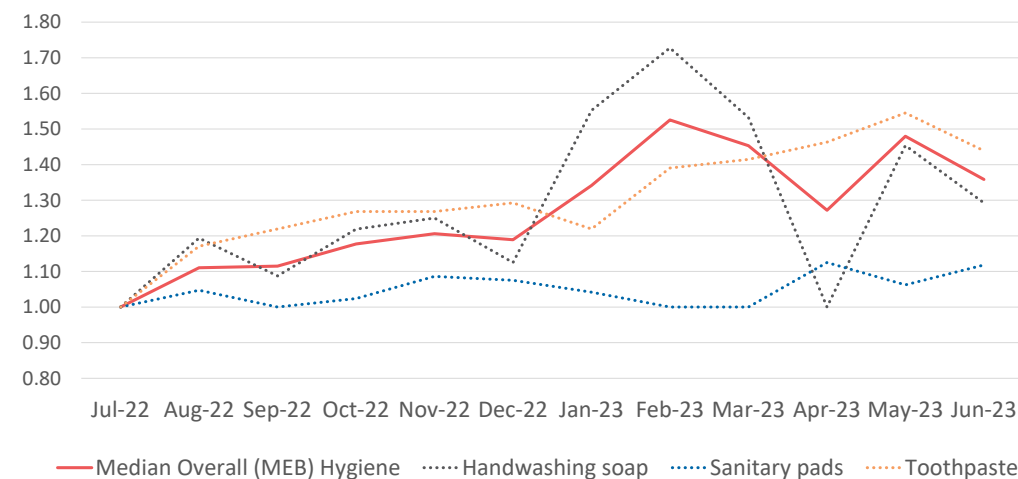
Item	Unit	Median price in June 2023 (LYD)	Change since May 2023	Change since March 2020 ²
Food items				
Beans	400 g	3,1	+3,4%	+90,9%
Black tea	250 g	6,94	-7,5%	+38,8%
Bread	5 pieces	1,46	-12,6%	+29,8%
Chicken	1 kg	12	-4,3%	+27,9%
Chickpeas	400 g	2,63	-12,5%	+75%
Condensed milk	200 ml	2,5	-14,5%	+25%
Couscous	1 kg	6,5	-10,3%	+85,7%
Eggs	30 eggs	16,13	-0,8%	+61,3%
Flour	1 kg	3,5	+1,4%	+75,0%
Green tea	250 g	4,86	-13,6%	+62%
Lamb meat	1 kg	53,75	+0,9%	+51,4%
Milk	1 L	4,06	-7,1%	+16,1%
Onions	1 kg	2,75	-21,4%	-8,3%
Pasta	500 g	3,2	+27,3%	+113,5%
Peppers	1 kg	4,63	-7,5%	+15,6%
Potatoes	1 kg	2,63	-22,2%	-12,5%
Rice	1 kg	4,63	-5,1%	+42,3%
Salt	1 kg	1,19	-9,5%	+18,8%
Sugar	1 kg	4,06	-3%	+71,1%
Tomato paste	400 g	3,94	+3,3%	+96,9%
Tomatoes	1 kg	2	-61%	0%
Canned tuna	200 g	4,82	-4,9%	+60,5%
Vegetable oil	1 L	10,73	-2,3%	+138,5%
Hygiene items				
Baby diapers	30 diapers	22,57	+27,1%	+50,4%
Dishwashing liquid	1 L	6,99	-25,7%	+161,4%
Handwashing soap	1 bar	2,59	-11,1%	+72,3%
Laundry detergent	1 L	7,54	-7,2%	+235%
Laundry powder	1 kg	8,36	-3,9%	+28,5%
Sanitary pads	10 pads	4,47	+5,2%	+27,8%
Shampoo	250 ml	6,99	+11%	+37,7%
Toothbrush	1 brush	3,13	-19,4%	+56,3%
Toothpaste	100 ml	7,38	-6,9%	+84,4%
Hand Sanitizer	1 L	20,25	-47,7%	No Data
Antibacterial Surface Sanitiser	1 L	11,65	+43,4%	No Data
Other items				

PRICES OF FUEL AND HEALTH ITEMS

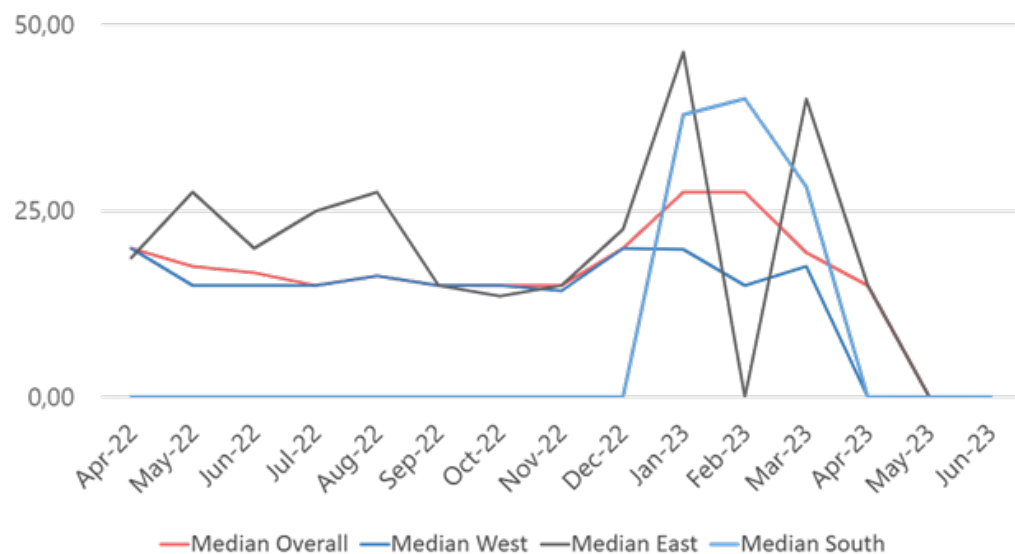
Item	Unit	Median price in June 2023 (LYD)	Change since May 2023	Change since March 2020
Fuel items				
Unofficial LPG	11 kg	7	-3,4%	-65%
Official LPG	11 kg	7	-3,4%	40%
Pharmaceutical items				
Paracetamol	500mg (12 pack)	4,88	-21,4%	-29,8%
Ibuprofen	400mg (20 pack)	6,79	-37,1%	+23,4%
Vitamin B	(40 pack)	36,83	+44,8%	+259,3%
Amoxicillin	500mg (21 Pack)	17,4	+3,1%	+93,3%
Metoclopramide	10mg (40 pack)	33	+59,5%	+230%

NOTABLE MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGES

Hand sanitizer ▼ -47.7%
 Tomatoes ▼ -61%
 Metoclopramide ▲ +59.5%

FLUCTUATION OF FOOD ITEM PRICES OVER TIMESelected items (normalised, July 2022 = 1.00)³**FLUCTUATION OF HYGIENE ITEMS PRICES OVER TIME**Selected items (normalised, July 2022 = 1.00)⁴**PRICES FROM UNOFFICIAL COOKING FUEL VENDORS (11 KG LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) CYLINDER)**

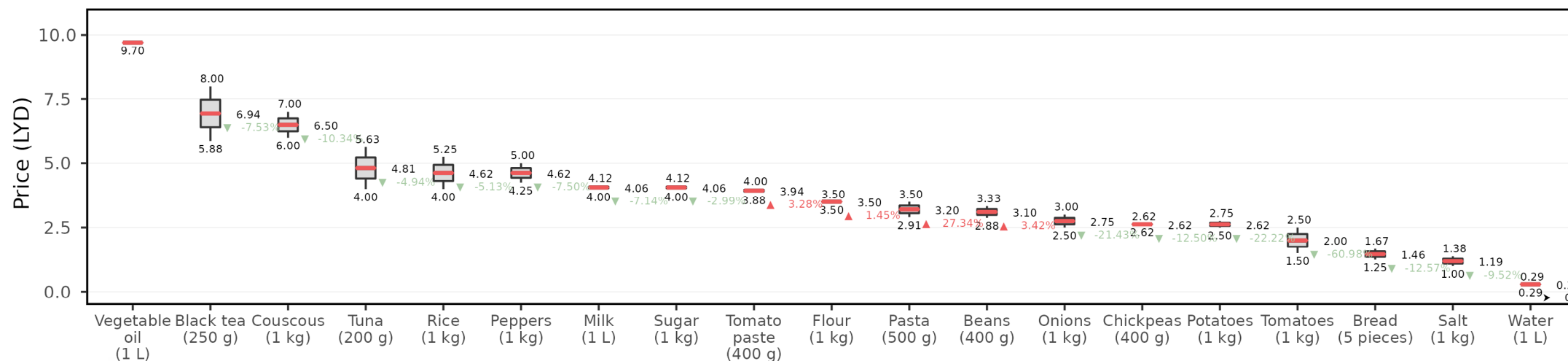
(Since April 2022, Non-normalized)*



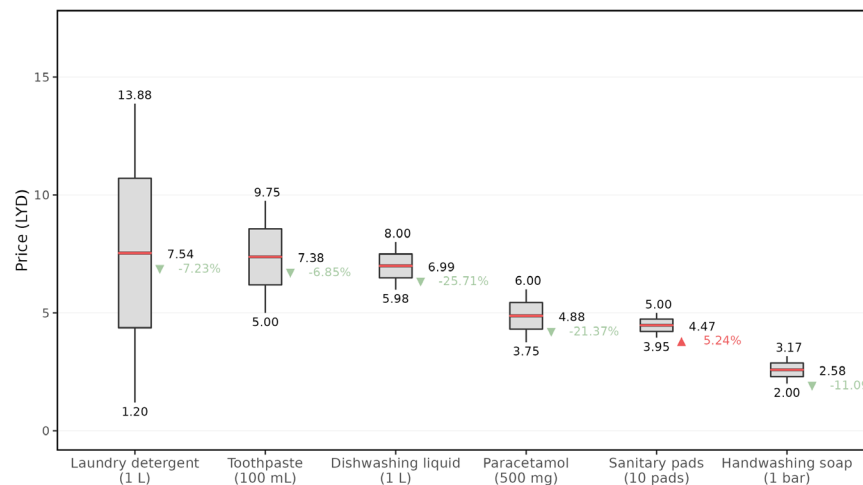
* The drops in the medians in the west and south were due to no collection of unofficial cooking fuel data in April 2023 JMMI round.

Distribution of Prices in Libya in June 2023

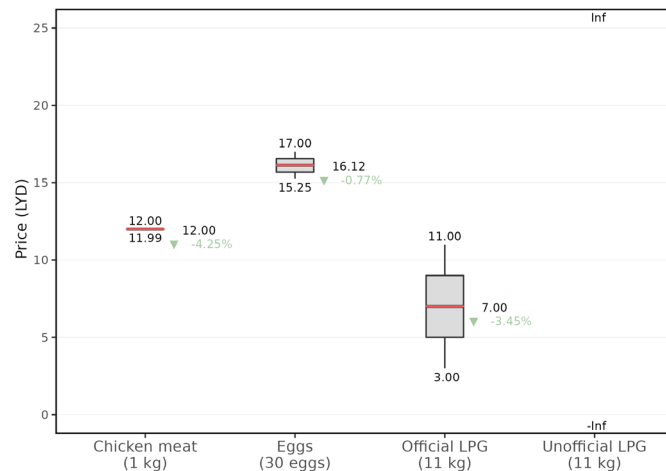
FOOD ITEMS



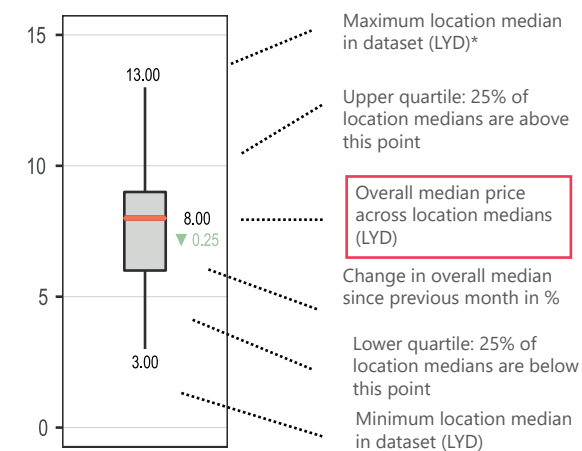
HYGIENE AND HEALTH ITEMS



ITEMS WITH HIGHEST PRICES IN JUNE 2023



HOW TO READ A BOXPLOT



*The 'location median' is calculated by first finding the median price of a given item in each assessed location, then taking the median of the resulting set of median prices.

Map 2: Cost of MEB in June 2023



MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET

The **Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)** represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a five-person Libyan household (HH) for one month, for which quantities are specified below. The cost of the MEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households in different locations. The MEB's contents were defined by the CMWG in consultation with relevant sector leads.

Only the MEB's key elements (food and non-food items) were incorporated into the calculations in this factsheet.

Key Elements: Food Items

Bread	32 kg	Tomatoes	10 kg
Rice	10.5 kg	Potatoes	12 kg
Pasta	9.5 kg	Onions	7 kg
Couscous	5.5 kg	Peppers	4.5 kg
Beans	6 kg	Tomato paste	6 kg
Chicken	7.5 kg	Black tea	2 kg
Tuna	4 kg	Vegetable oil	5 l
Eggs	4 kg	Sugar	2 kg
Milk	8.5 l	Salt	1 kg

Key Elements: Non-Food Items

Bathing soap	1.4 kg (9 150-g bars)
Toothpaste	0.5 kg (5 100-g tubes)
Laundry detergent	1.3 l
Dishwashing liquid	1.3 l
Sanitary pads	4 packs of 10
Cooking fuel (LPG)	22 kg (2 11-kg refills)

Optional Elements

Water (drinking use only)	458 l
Median rent for 3-rm flat	1 month

MEDIAN MEB COST BY LOCATION

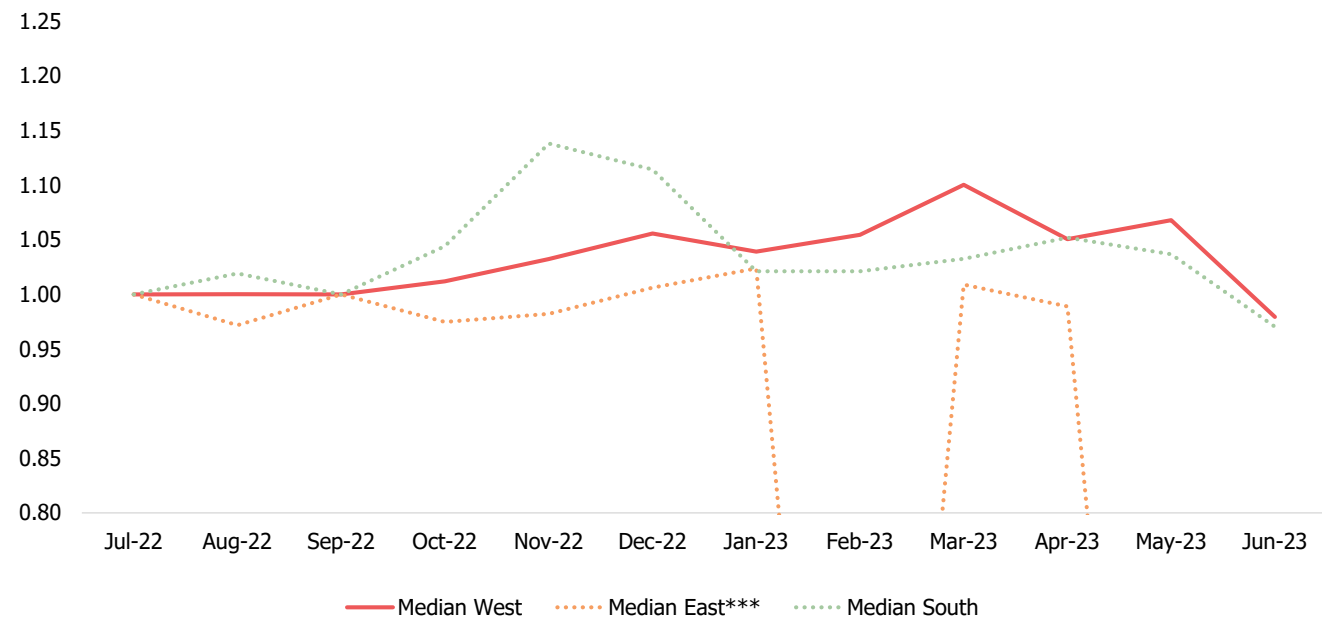
Location	Cost of MEB June 2023 (LYD)	Change between May-June 2023	Change since March 2020 (compared to March 2023)
Median West	898,39	-8,3%	43,8%
Median East	NA	NA	NA
Median South	909,08	-6,4%	3,4%
Median Overall	903,73	-2,8%	43,6%

COST OF MEDIAN OVERALL MEB IN JUNE 2023

903,73 LYD	
Change since May 2023 -25.88 LYD (-2.8%)	Change since March 2020 +274.27 LYD (+43.6%)

MEB PRICE INDEX

Since July 2022 (normalised, July 2022 = 1.00)**



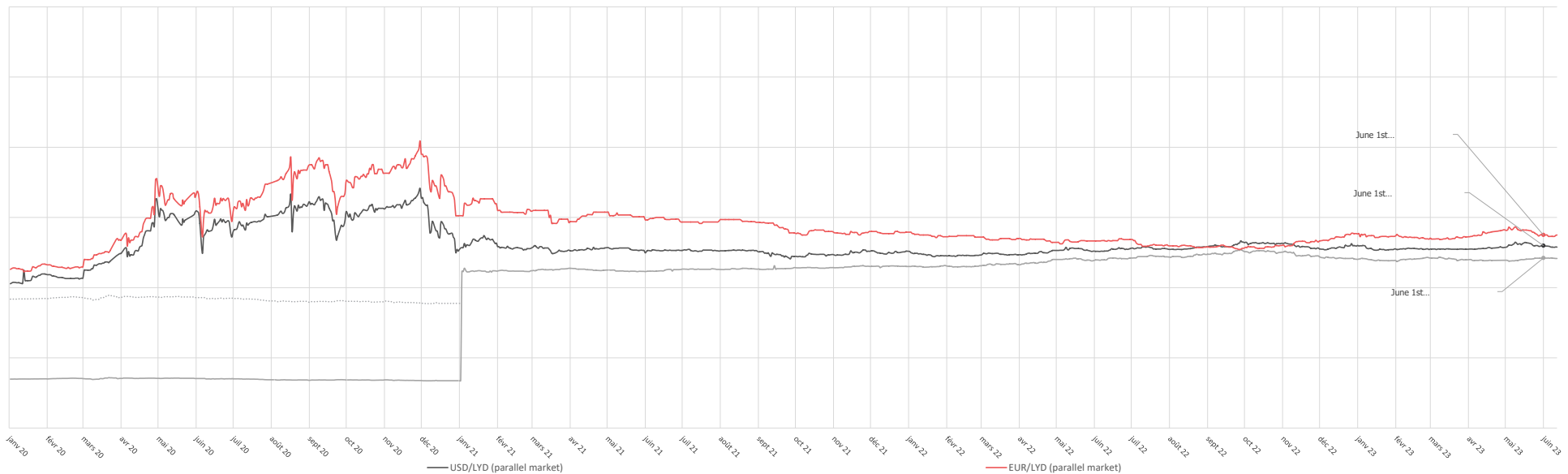
** Exceptionally and during April 2023 JMMI round, data was collected in Benghazi, Sebha and Tripoli, representing east, west and south.

** Exceptionally and during February 2023 JMMI round, data was not collected.

*** The drop in the median in the east was due to no data collection in the east in February 2023.

EXCHANGE RATES OVER TIME

Since January 2020



EXCHANGE RATES

4.845
USD/LYD

official
+1.3%

5.195
USD/LYD

parallel market
+0.9%

5.500
EUR/LYD

parallel market
-2.5%

The percentages represent the deviation of the exchange rate from last month's rates

PREVIOUS JMMI OUTPUTS

Factsheets

Datasets

2023

May
April
March
February
January

May
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January

2022

December
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What is the CMWG?

The Libya Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG), established in September 2016, is a community of humanitarian actors that support and coordinate cash-based interventions in Libya. The CMWG, based jointly in Tripoli and Tunis, is currently led by UNHCR.

Methodology (cont. from page 1)

The methodology for the JMMI is based on purposive sampling. In each assessed market, at least four prices per item need to be collected from different shops to ensure the quality and consistency of collected data. Partner field teams, in coordination with the CMWG, identify shops to assess based on the following criteria:

1. Shops need to be large enough to sell all or most assessed items.
2. Prices in these shops need to be good indicators of the general price levels in the assessed area.
3. Shops should be located in different areas within the assessed city or *baladiya* (municipality).

In locations where it is not possible to identify four large markets that fulfil criterion (1), smaller shops, such as grocery shops, vegetable vendors, butchers and bakeries, are added to the shop list, as long as they fit criteria (2) and (3), in order to guarantee at least four prices per item of interest. Each month, price data is collected from the same shops whenever possible to ensure comparability across months.

The CMWG primarily targets urban areas throughout Libya, aiming to ensure coverage of markets that serve as commercial hubs for surrounding regions.

Data is collected via the KoBo mobile data collection application. The CMWG maintains a joint KoBo account for the JMMI. The data collection tool is published alongside the dataset every month and disseminated to the humanitarian community.

In addition, in order to obtain a median price for an item in Tripoli, an aggregation of the median prices of that specific item in Abuselim, Ain Zara, Tajoura and Suq Aljumaa is done when Hai Alandalus, Tripoli center and Qasr ben Ghashir are excluded temporarily.

Analyses

The median prices reported in this factsheet are 'medians per location', designed to minimise the effects of outliers and differing amounts of data among assessed locations. First, the median prices of all assessed items are calculated within each assessed location (city or *muhalla*); then, REACH calculates the median of this list of medians. All boxplots, as well as the MEB and price index calculations are created using this method.

The cost of the MEB is calculated by multiplying the median price of each item in the MEB's 'Key Elements' section by the quantity listed in the table on page 6.

In cases where no median price is available for an item in a city

then the price from the nearest city is imputed (using google maps). For example, for a city X, if the median cost of salt is missing, imputation happens: in other words, X takes a value of the median price of salt of the closest city geographically.

Finally, significant price changes and unavailability of certain items are further investigated by following up with the respective organization focal point (who in turn consult their field teams). Whenever possible, information about the local context are gathered in order to provide some qualitative analysis.

Challenges and limitations

Price data is only indicative for the time frame within which it was collected. Prices may vary during the weeks between adjacent data collection rounds.

The data is only indicative of the general price levels in each assessed location. Representativeness on the *mantika* (district) level cannot be claimed. Even on the city level, price data must be interpreted with caution, particularly in larger cities where there is substantial variation in neighbourhoods' socioeconomic levels.

The JMMI data collection tool requires enumerators to record the cheapest available price for each item, but does not require a specific brand, as brand availability may vary. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slight variants of the same product.

The JMMI does not intend to measure general inflation levels on Libyan markets. As per JMMI methodology, only the cheapest available price per item is collected, meaning that changes in middle-market and upmarket goods are not captured.

During June 2023 JMMI round, exceptionally, data was not collected in the East region.

Endnotes

PAGE 1

1 The fuel component is composed by public fuel price and private fuel price.

PAGE 2

2 Comparing item prices with the prices from March 2020, when lockdown in Libya started following the COVID-19 pandemic, can provide insights into the effects of the pandemic on the economy and consumer purchasing power.

PAGE 3

3 The food prices were normalised by setting July 2022 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in July 2022

4 The hygiene prices were normalised by setting July 2022 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in July 2022.

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).