KENYA COVID-19 MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE IN MOMBASA INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS
November 2020

BACKGROUND

The total number of positive COVID-19 cases in Kenya stands at 83,316 as of 29 November 2020. 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. The World Food Programme (WFP) is also providing cash transfers to approximately 24,000 targeted households (HHs) in informal settlements in Mombasa County, who have lost their income and livelihoods, as a result of COVID-19.

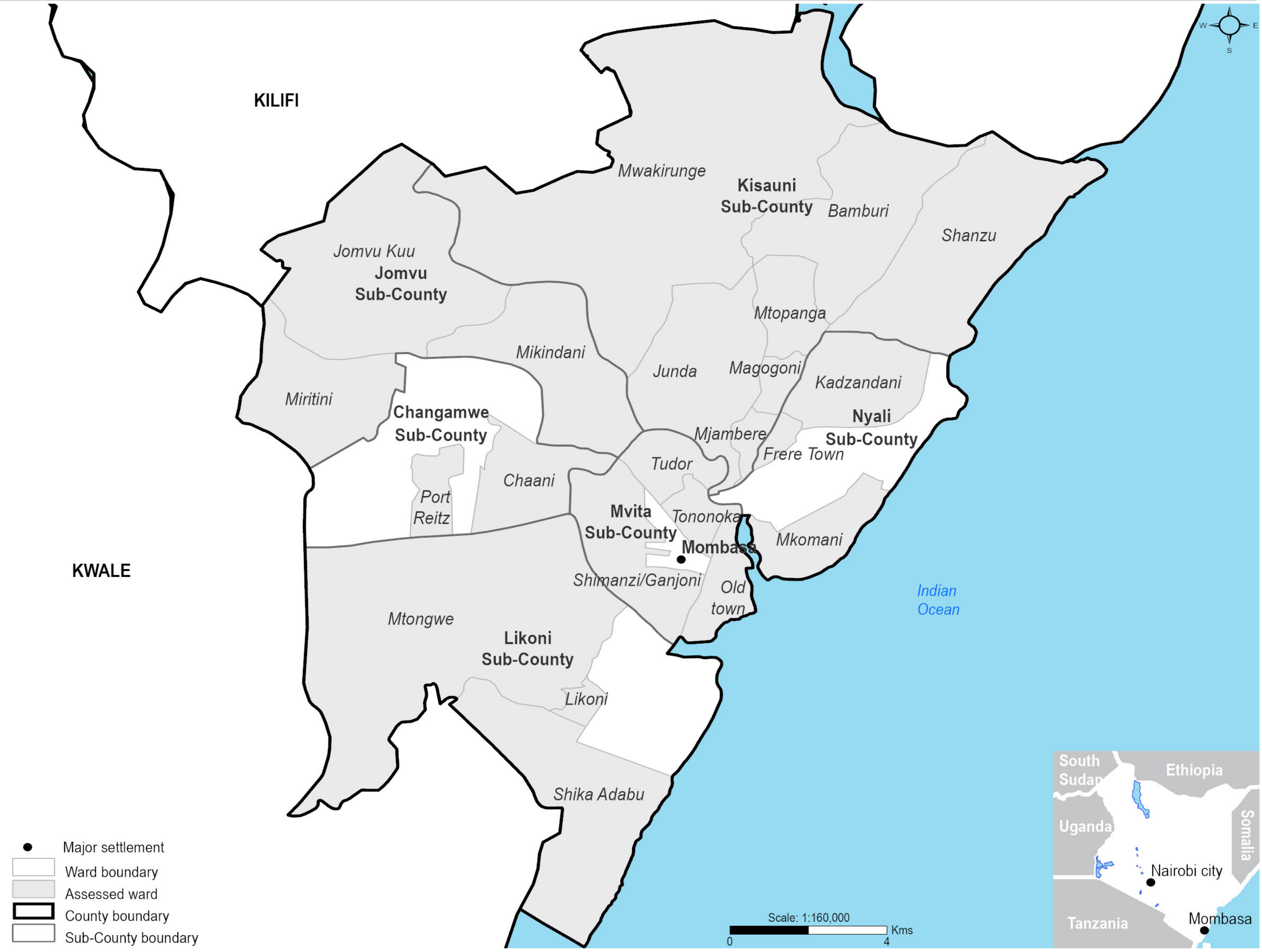
To understand the market systems and inform humanitarian programming in light of COVID-19, IMPACT Initiatives on behalf of the KCC and WFP, conducted a joint market monitoring exercise in the informal settlements in the six sub-counties where the KCC and WFP are implementing cash assistance programs. The second round of joint market monitoring followed round one conducted in October by IMPACT Initiatives and will be followed by the third round of joint market monitoring that will be conducted in 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 second round of monthly market monitoring was conducted through key informant interviews with **437 purposively selected retailers** (who purchase items from wholesalers and manufacturers then sell to the general public) from 18 to 20 November 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 remotely through phone based interviews in order to reduce the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19. All findings are indicative, rather than representative, of key item prices and retailers' experiences at the time of data collection. For more information on the methodology, please refer to the terms of reference.

ASSESSMENT COVERAGE



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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 2Kg	Pens 1 Pc	Exercise books
	Facial masks 1pc	Jerry cans 20L	Kerosene 1L	Gas 6Kg	Bar soaps 200g	Pencils 1 Pc	Rubber 1Pc

Change in median prices for food items in KES[1] (October to November 2020)

Assessed items	October 2020	November 2020	Change (from Oct 2020)
Vegetable oil 1L	140	150	10 ▲
Green grams 1Kg	120	120	0
Sugar 1Kg	100	110	10 ▲
Rice 1Kg	90	100	10 ▲
Cattle milk 1L	100	100	0
Beans 1Kg	100	100	0
Cow peas 1Kg	100	100	0
Tomatoes 1Kg	80	90	10 ▲
Pigeon peas 1Kg	80	80	0
Onions 1Kg	60	60	0
Maize flour 1Kg	60	60	0
Wheat flour 1Kg	60	60	0
White maize 1Kg	60	60	0
Cabbages 500g	50	40	-10 ▼
Tea leaves 50g	30	30	0
Salt 500g	20	20	0

The median price of goat meat and cattle meat was reportedly 500 KES[1] and 420 KES[1] respectively at the time of data collection. This was a 20 KES[1] increase in the median price of both the goat and cattle meat from the first round. This might be attributable to the high transportation costs to and from the slaughterhouse, which, according to the WFP's November 2020 markets watch publication, led to lower demand.

The median reported price of vegetable oil, sugar, rice and tomatoes had increased with 10 KES[1] from the first round. On the other hand, the median reported price of cabbages had decreased with 10 KES[1] from the first round and the median reported price of the other food items had not changed between October and November 2020.

The median reported prices for key food 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.

This apparent similarity in key food prices could in turn be reflective of common experiences of vulnerability in such informal settlements.

Change in median prices for non-food items in KES[1] (October to November 2020)

Assessed items	October 2020	November 2020	Change (from Oct 2020)
Plastic buckets 20L	150	120	-30 ▼
Charcoal 2Kgs	100	100	0
Kerosene 1L	100	100	0
Jerrycans 20L	80	80	0
Firewood 1 bundle	50	70	20 ▲
Sanitary pads 8 pack	50	50	0
Bar soaps 200g	30	30	0
Facial masks 1pc	30	30	0
Water	20	20	0
Exercise books 32pgs A5	15	15	0
Pens 1pc	10	10	0
Pencils 1pc	10	5	-5 ▼
Rubbers 1pc	5	5	0

The reported median price of refilling a 6 Kg gas cylinder[4] was 700 KES[1] up from 650 KES[1] in October 2020. The reported median price of one bundle of firewood increased with 20 KES[1] from the first round.

The median reported prices for key non-food 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. 1 USD=109.94634 KES in November 2020
2. 20-L jerry can from public and private networks
3. Both surgical and cloth facial masks
4. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)

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

Sector	Items	November days needed to restock	October Stock	November stock	% change in stock from October to November 2020
Food items	Cattle milk	1	3	5	**67%**
	Goat meat	1	2	3	**50%**
	Tea leaves	1	11	15	**36%**
	Salt	1	15	18	**20%**
	Onions	1	6	7	**17%**
	Sugar	1	8	9	**13%**
	White maize	1	11	12	**9%**
	Cabbages	1	3	3	0%
	Cattle meat	1	2	2	0%
	Green grams	1	10	10	0%
	Pigeon peas	1	10	10	0%
	Vegetable oil	1	7	7	0%
	Wheat flour	1	7	7	0%
	Cow peas	1	12	11	-8%
	Beans	1	10	9	-10%
	Maize flour	1	6	5	-17%
	Rice	1	10	8	-20%
	Tomatoes	1	4	3	-25%
	Average	1	7	8	**14%**
Non-food-items	Rubbers	1	23	31	**35%**
	Sanitary pads	1	14	17	**21%**
	Pencils	1	22	26	**18%**
	Bar soaps	1	11	13	**18%**
	Exercise books	1	23	26	**13%**
	Pens	1	22	23	**9%**
	Jerry cans	2	7	7	0%
	Kerosene	1	9	9	0%
	Face masks[3]	1	13	13	0%
	Gas[4]	1	11	10	-9%
	Firewood	4	19	17	-11%
	Buckets	2	9	8	-11%
	Charcoal	3	16	12	-25%
	Average	2	15	16	**7%**

For all assessed items, the reported stock levels exceeded the number of days it reportedly took to restock, indicating that there were no imminent shortages of any of the assessed key items at the time of data collection.

On average, the number of days retailers reported expecting their current stock to last increased from 7 days in October to 8 days in November for food items and from 15 days in October to 16 days in November for non-food items. The average reported number of days needed to restock food items had remained the same for all the assessed food items (1 day on average) between October and November. The average reported number of days needed to restock most of the non-food items went down from 2 days on average to 1 day on average except for charcoal (3 days on average, down from 4 days), firewood (4 days on average, up from 3 days) and buckets and jerry cans remained at 2 days on average.

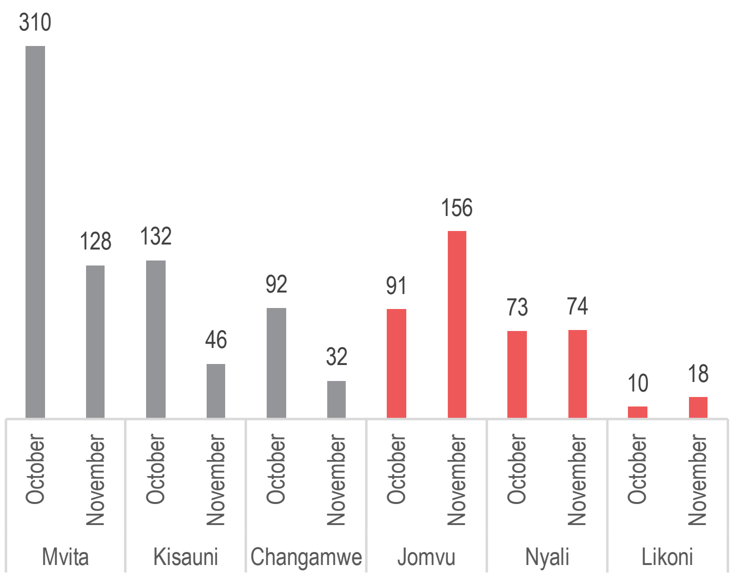
Overall, most interviewed retailer key informants (42%) reported usually purchasing goods from wholesalers in the Mombasa central business district, while some reportedly purchase from wholesalers within their own sub-counties (30%), or mainly import goods from abroad (23%).

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

Retailers were asked if they knew of any businesses that had closed down close to their stand as a result of COVID-19 related challenges. In October, an estimated 708[6] businesses had reportedly closed down, followed by an additional 456[6] in November. In Mvita, the number of retailers that had reportedly closed their business(es) due to COVID-19 in October and November 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 as of 29 November 2020.

The estimated number of businesses reportedly closed down in November had decreased in Mvita, Kisauni and Changamwe but had increased in Jomvu, Nyali and Likoni.

Total number of businesses reportedly closed in October and November due to COVID-19 restrictions, per sub-county:



The proportion of retailers reporting that community members were facing challenges in accessing markets increased from 61% in October to 67% in November. Of the retailers reporting community members faced challenges, 91% attributed this to a low purchasing power (among other reasons). Notably, among those retailers reporting challenges, the proportion indicating a "lack of items" to be a challenge decreased considerably, from 26% in October to 3% in November.

Most commonly reported challenges for community in accessing markets, by % of retailers reporting that community members face challenges accessing markets:[5]

	October	November
Low purchasing power	81%	91%
Items are too expensive	24%	26%
Lack of items	26%	3%

Overall, 82% of retailers reported their number of customers had changed in the 30 days prior to data collection. Of those, 81% reported having perceived a decrease in customers (90% reported this in October) while 16% reported having perceived an increase (up from 10% in October).

Of the retailers that reported an increase in the number of customers, 95% attributed the increase to people adapting to the COVID-19 situation. Of the retailers that reported a decrease in the number of customers, 88% attributed the decrease to a low purchasing power among community members.

Most commonly reported reasons for the increase in number of customers buying from retailers in the 30 days prior to data collection:[5, 7]

People adapting to the COVID-19 situation	95%
Public education on protection against COVID-19	35%
Community members received cash transfers	18%

Most commonly reported reasons for the decrease in number of customers buying from retailers in the 30 days prior to data collection:[5, 7]

Low purchasing power	88%
Items are too expensive	4%
Lack of items	3%

The proportion of retailers that reported encountering challenges while restocking some of the items that they sell increased from 54% in October to 71% in November. Out of these retailers, 15% specifically reported encountering challenges in restocking firewood, commonly mentioning the high prices for firewood (45%), the lack of money to restock firewood (45%), and the unavailability of firewood (40%).

In addition, 75% of retailers reported facing demand and supply challenges at the time of data collection (up from 63% in October), most commonly attributing such challenges to an increase in key item prices.

Most commonly reported reported demand and supply challenges by retailers reporting facing such challenges at the time of data collection:[5]

	October	November
Increased price	39%	42%
Lack of money to restock	32%	33%
Decreased demand	33%	33%
Lack of commodities from the supplier	26%	30%

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.
7. This was a sub-set of the 82% of retailers that reported their number of customers had changed in the 30 days prior to data collection.

Cost of MEB at the time of data collection (18 to 20 November 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 and WFP 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.
The cost of informal settlements minimum food basket (MFB) and total MEB had slightly decreased between October and November 2020.

Mombasa urban MEB

Sector	Items	Quantity	Median price KES[1]
Food items	Maize meal	19.35 Kg	1,161
	Rice	13.5 Kg	1,350
	Dry beans	9 Kg	900
	Vegetables oil	3.15 L	473
	Cow milk, whole, not fortified	13.5 Kg	1,350
	Cabbage, raw	18 Kg	1,440
	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	203
	Water (cooking, drinking,other use)	675 L	675
	Sanitary pads (15 pcs)	6 pack	234
Communication	Communication (airtime)	0.75	150
Transport	Public transportation	12 trips	200
Health	National Medical Insurance (NHIF)	1 monthly	500
	Cloth masks	6 pcs	180
	Thermometer	1pc	500
Education	School stationery	1 kit	175
Shelter	Rent expense	1 monthly	4,000
	Cost of Mombasa urban MFB		6,741
	Total cost of Mombasa urban MEB		15,244

Mombasa informal settlements MEB

Items	Quantity	Median price KES[1]
Maize meal	13.2 Kg	792
Rice	13.2 Kg	1,320
Dry beans	13.2 Kg	1,320
Vegetables oil	7.8 L	1,080
Cow milk, whole, not fortified	12 Kg	1,200
Cabbage, raw	12 Kg	960
Salt, Iodized	1.2 Kg	48
Sugar	1.2 Kg	132
Maize grain	13.2 Kg	792
Sorghum	13.2 Kg	792
Electricity	15.57 kWh	467
Kerosene	2 L	1,200
Communication (airtime)	1	200
Public transportation	12 trips	200
Rent expense	1 monthly	2,700
Cost of Mombasa informal settlements MFB		8,436
Total cost of Mombasa informal settlements MEB		13,203

Total cost of MEB in October and November 2020

	October 2020		November 2020	
	Cost of MFB in KES[1]	Total cost of MEB in KES[1]	Cost of MFB in KES[1]	Total cost of MEB in KES[1]
Mombasa urban MEB	6,930	16,445	6,741 ▼	15,244 ▼
Mombasa informal settlements MEB	8,460	13,227	8,436 ▼	13,203 ▼

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