



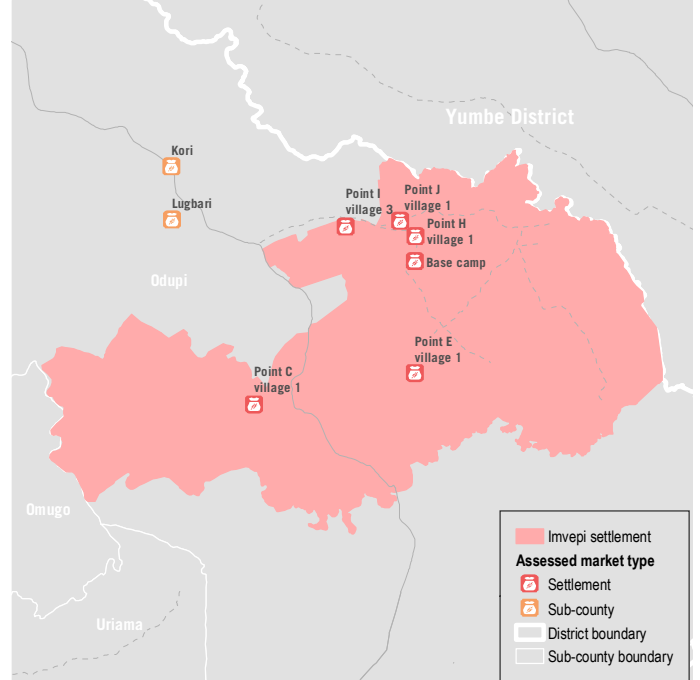
## Market Factsheet: Imvepi Settlement UGANDA

### CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

Uganda is one of the world's top refugee-hosting states, having taken in more than 1.3 million refugees who exhibit diverse vulnerability profiles and capacities to cope.<sup>1</sup> Due to these variations, there is a need for a humanitarian delivery system that allows actors to more closely align the modality and amount of assistance provided with individual refugee households' economic and protection-related needs.

The objective of this market analysis, conducted under the framework of the Vulnerability and Essential Needs Assessment (VENA), was to assess market functionality and capacity in the vicinity of Uganda's refugee settlements and to understand the potential for market-based assistance to meet essential needs. Data collection took place between 9 August and 7 October 2019 in 13 refugee settlements.<sup>2</sup> Two parallel methodologies were employed: 2,820 structured individual interviews were conducted with market traders in or near each assessed settlement, supplemented by 35 semi-structured interviews with key informants who had knowledge of local markets. The assessment was led jointly by REACH, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with support from five additional partners (see page 5). Findings refer solely to the situation during the data collection period and should be considered indicative only.

### AREA COVERED BY FACTSHEET



### MARKET AND TRADER CHARACTERISTICS

Key informants (KIs) reported refugees in Imvepi access markets both within and outside of the settlement, which are also accessed by the local host communities, as well as traders from outside the sub-county. The assessed markets hosted up to 100 traders and were comprised of both temporary and semi-permanent structures. Point J Market reportedly operated every day, while the larger one, Okpotani Market operated on 3 days in the week. Even though Okpotani Market only operated at full capacity 3 days a week, some permanent structures were present, resulting in small-scale trade during the other days of the week.

**4** Total number of markets assessed near this settlement (via **185** trader interviews and **2** key informant interviews)

Gender of interviewed traders:



48.6% Female  
51.4% Male

Population group of interviewed traders:



63.8% Host community  
36.2% Refugee

**2.7%** of traders interviewed reported employing at least one other person.

#### Top 3 nationalities of interviewed traders:

Uganda	63.2%
South Sudan	35.7%
Sudan	1.1%

#### Classification of traders interviewed:<sup>3</sup>

Retailers	75.1%
Producers	75.1%
Wholesalers	25.4%

#### Top 3 most common types of market customers reported by interviewed traders:<sup>3</sup>

Refugees living in the settlement	94.1%
Host community near settlement	91.4%
Refugees living in another settlement	23.2%

 **SUPPLY, DEMAND, AND PRICES**




KIs reported facing changes in supply and demand for several commodities due to seasonality. This concerned food items in particular such as maize flour, beans, and vegetables, where the demand reportedly increased during the dry season, as less consumers were able to produce for themselves. School materials also reportedly experienced a decrease in supply and demand during the school term breaks, when children were not in school and did not need the supplies. Other items reportedly experienced no changes in supply and demand as they were reported to remain a necessity throughout the year, such as salt, vegetable oil, sanitary pads, charcoal, and firewood, amongst others.

**Sources, prices, and restocking data for selected items<sup>4</sup> sold in or near this settlement, as reported by interviewed traders:**

Commodity	Most common source of item	Item price in markets in or near this settlement (October 2019) <sup>5</sup>	Median # of days that remaining stock is estimated to last	Estimated median amount of time item remains in stock before sale
Maize flour	Retailer in the subcounty	2,755 UGX <sup>6</sup> /Kg	14 days	One to four weeks
Beans (dried, nambale)	No consensus	3,307 UGX /Kg	37 days	No consensus
Sorghum grain	Own production	885 UGX /Kg	20 days	Less than one week
Cassava (whole, fresh)	Own production	622 UGX /g	1 days	Less than one week
Leafy vegetables	Farmers within the subcounty	861 UGX /g	1 days	Less than one week
Laundry soap	No consensus	3,500 UGX /Kg	14 days	One to four weeks
Sanitary pad (disposable)	Retailer outside the subcounty	3,000 UGX /packet	29 days	More than one month
Exercise books	Retailer outside the subcounty	400 UGX /piece	14 days	One to four weeks
Jerry can (plastic, 20 L)	Retailer outside the subcounty	7,000 UGX /piece	6.5 days	One to four weeks
Blanket (cotton)	Retailer outside the subcounty	No data	10 days	One to four weeks
Mud bricks (unfired)	No data	No data	No data	No data
Grass thatch	No data	No data	No data	No data
Charcoal	Retailer in the subcounty	399 UGX /Kg	3 days	Less than one week
Firewood	Retailer in the subcounty	150 UGX /Kg	3 days	Less than one week

**Seasonal fluctuations in supply for selected items<sup>4</sup> sold in or near settlements in Northwest, Uganda, as reported by key informants (KIs):<sup>7</sup>**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maize flour	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Beans (dried, nambale)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Sorghum grain	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Cassava (whole, fresh)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Leafy vegetables	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Vegetable oil	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Cooking salt	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Tilapia (smoked)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Milk (fresh)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Laundry soap	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Sanitary pad (disposable)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Dry cells	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Torch	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Exercise books	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Jerry can (plastic, 20 L)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Plastic basin	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Blanket (cotton)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Mingle (wooden stirrer)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Panga (knife)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Hoe	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Steel roofing nails	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Nylon rope	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Eucalyptus poles	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Mud bricks (fired)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Mud bricks (unfired)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Grass thatch	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Charcoal	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Firewood	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High

Legend: Supply  High season (increased)  Low season (decreased)  Baseline levels / No high or low season





## BARRIERS TO MARKET ACCESS<sup>8</sup>

KIs reported varying concerns related to safety and security in markets. In one area, the KI reported the security of the markets to be good, particularly due to fencing. However, another KI noted that the lack of fencing and fear of theft led some traders to sleep at the market in order to protect their commodities.

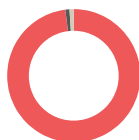
**17.4%** of households (HHs) reported facing barriers when trying to access marketplaces.

Of this 17.4%, top 3 most commonly reported barriers:<sup>3</sup>

Long distance to the market		<b>87.7%</b>
Disability		<b>6.8%</b>
Physical attacks by host community		<b>5.5%</b>

% of households that reported mainly accessing marketplaces using the following modes of transport:

<b>98.1%</b>	Walking
<b>1.7%</b>	Boda boda (motorcycle taxi)
<b>0.2%</b>	Bicycle






Median travel time reported by households to get to and from the nearest marketplace selling food:

**30 min**

**10.8%** of interviewed traders reported having faced a security incident related to operating their business.

Of this 10.8%, top 3 most commonly reported types of incidents:<sup>3</sup>

Theft		<b>45%</b>
Verbal harassment by host comm.		<b>30%</b>
Verbal harassment by refugees		<b>20%</b>

Top 3 most common triggers for security incidents reported by interviewed traders:<sup>3</sup>

Social discrimination		<b>40%</b>
Money/business disputes		<b>35%</b>
Tension between the host community		<b>10%</b>

## MARKET OPERATIONS & PRICES

In assessed markets, KIs highlighted that traders set their own prices. Like the demand and supply, prices for some of the items sold were also affected by seasonality. Upon the start of school terms, prices for school materials were found to increase due to the increased demand. The same was applicable for commodities such as mud bricks, hoes, and maize flour where the prices reportedly increased once harvests were exhausted. Other commodities were reported to have stable prices throughout the year.

**24.9%** of interviewed traders reported having a license to operate in their market.

**88.6%** of interviewed traders reported paying market dues.

% of interviewed traders reporting using the following types of storage:

<b>48.1%</b>	Own storage
<b>7.5%</b>	Rented storage
<b>5.9%</b>	Other
<b>38.4%</b>	No storage



**5.9%** of interviewed traders reported having taken out at least one loan in the past to support their business.

Estimated median amount of outstanding debt reported by interviewed traders:<sup>9</sup>

**37,500 UGX**

% of interviewed traders reporting that they currently use each of the following sources of capital:<sup>3</sup>

Own savings		<b>96.8%</b>
Credit or loans		<b>4.9%</b>
Other		<b>3.2%</b>
Support from NGOs		<b>2.2%</b>

Estimated median monthly expenditures reported by interviewed traders in the following categories:

Market dues (past month)	<b>12,000 UGX</b>
Rental of storage space	<b>6,000 UGX</b>
Round-trip transport to restock retailed items	<b>10,000 UGX</b>
Transaction cost to obtain new stock (loading, unloading, storage, tax, etc.)	<b>10,000 UGX</b>



## ABILITY TO SCALE UP

Most common predictions of interviewed traders regarding their ability to meet increased demand stimulated by cash programmes:<sup>10</sup>

### Category of commodities

### In case of doubled demand...

	Would you be able to stock enough of your current items to meet the demand?	If yes, how long would it take you to obtain additional stock to meet the demand?	Would you be able to obtain this amount using only your current supplier?	If unable to stock enough, what would make it most difficult for you to increase your supply?
Fresh food	Yes (97.1%)	One week (88.2%)	Yes (55.9%)	No consensus
Non-fresh food	Yes (63.8%)	One week (67.6%)	Yes (59.5%)	Low profit margin
Sanitary items	No (42.9%)	Two weeks (50%)	Yes (91.7%)	Too much humanitarian aid
Household items	Yes (57.7%)	Two weeks (86.7%)	Yes (83.3%)	Lack of quality supply
Shelter and livelihoods items	Yes (75%)	Month (44.4%)	Yes (83.3%)	Lack of capital
Lighting items	Yes (73.3%)	One week (59.1%)	Yes (59.1%)	Lack of capital
Educational items	No (45.2%)	Two weeks (50%)	Yes (85.7%)	Too much humanitarian aid
Cooking fuel	Yes (75.9%)	Two weeks (50%)	No consensus (50%)	Consensus

## Endnotes

1 Figures based on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) refugee population figures, updated as of September 2019, retrieved from <https://ugandarefugees.org/en/country/uga> on 8 November 2019.

2 For the purposes of sampling and analysis, the 18 settlements in Adjumani district were grouped into a single refugee hosting location.

3 Respondents were able to select more than one option when answering this question.

4 In total, 34 market commodities were assessed, but due to space limitations, a selection are displayed in this factsheet. The list of selected commodities was based on a subjective determination of which items were most central to Ugandan households, and was then modified to ensure representation of all assessed categories of items. Data on other assessed commodities is available upon request.

5 Price data was derived from WFP, Minimum Expenditure Basket in Uganda: Joint Price Monitoring, October 2019, retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/minimum-expenditure-basket-uganda-joint-price-monitoring-october-2019> on 12 December 2019.

6 The Ugandan shilling to United States dollar exchange rate was 3,668.05 on 24 December 2019. <https://www.xe.com/>

7 Seasonality calendars were constructed on a regional level to capture variations in agriculture and livelihoods across Uganda while encompassing enough interviews to allow for meaningful aggregation. The regions used were: Northwest (Adjumani, Bidibidi, Imvepi, Lobule, Palabek, Palorinya, Rhino, Kiryandongo) and Southwest (Kyaka II, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Rwamwanja, Kyangwali).

8 All indicators referencing the household were derived from the VENA household-level assessment, which was conducted concurrently with this market assessment and in the same settlements. A total of 5,737 household interviews were conducted between 12 August and 7 October 2019. Methodological details of this component of the VENA are available [here](#).

9 Among traders who reported non-zero expenditures and/or debt in each of the following categories.

10 All indicators in the box that follows are subjective, with results based on self-reporting by market traders. A full capacity assessment to objectively determine these traders' ability to scale up was not conducted.

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