

Minimum Expenditure Basket in Uganda

Joint Price Monitoring

September 2019

Produced on behalf of the Cash Working Group by WFP, in collaboration with the DRC, LWF, and ACF cash consortium and UNHCR

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) in Uganda was established to inform cash-based assistance for refugees, encompassing all essential needs, as outlined in the MEB Reference Guide. To monitor when and how changing market conditions affect households' ability to meet essential needs, a price monitoring system was established.

This report provides an analysis of food and non-food item price data collected from all the 13 refugee settlements: Kyaka II, Kiryandongo, Rhino Camp, Adjumani, Bidibidi, Imvepi, Koboko/Lobule, Palabek, Palorinya, Oruchinga, Rwamwanja, Kyangwali and Nakivale, from July to September 2019.

Key Highlights

- The cost of MEB increased substantially in the third quarter of 2019 compared to the reference MEB value of March 2019. The July, August and September 2019 cost of the MEB was 22 percent, 27 percent and 23 percent respectively higher than the reference MEB value.
- The cost of the food MEB increased by 37 percent, 45 percent and 39 percent in July, August and September 2019 respectively compared to the reference value of March 2019.
- The cost of the non-food MEB during the third quarter of 2019 remained largely the same compared to the reference value of March 2019.
- The increasing cost of the MEB may have a negative impact on households' capacity to cover essential needs.

The MEB for refugees in Uganda

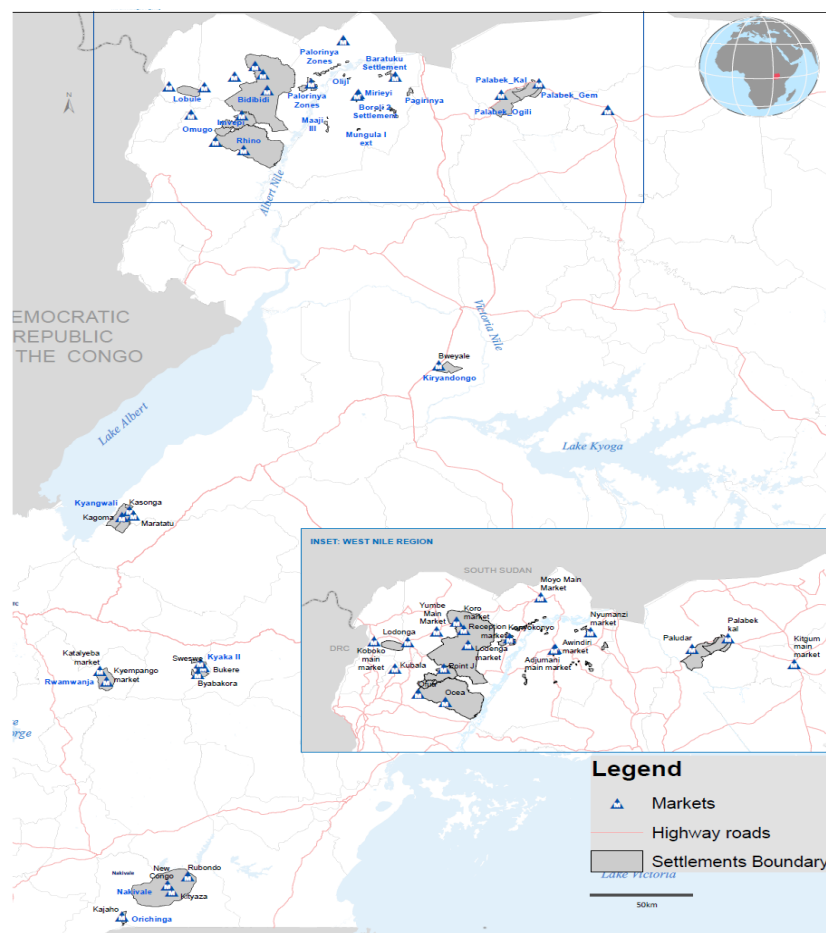
The reference MEB value for refugees in Uganda was based on 11 components: food, water, energy and environment, education, communication, transport, hygiene, clothing, health, household items and livelihood. The reference MEB value and percentage contribution of each of the 11 components are shown in Table 1.

The MEB was developed using a combination of a rights based and an expenditure approach. As a result, the cost of some components of the MEB such as food, hygiene, energy (firewood), livelihood and household items are itemized based on a determination of essential needs. The cost of other components, including water, education, transport, communication, clothing, and health, were based on refugee expenditures patterns and expert agreement. Price monitoring of the itemized components helps to inform how changing market conditions affect the cost of the total MEB.

Table 1: MEB by component

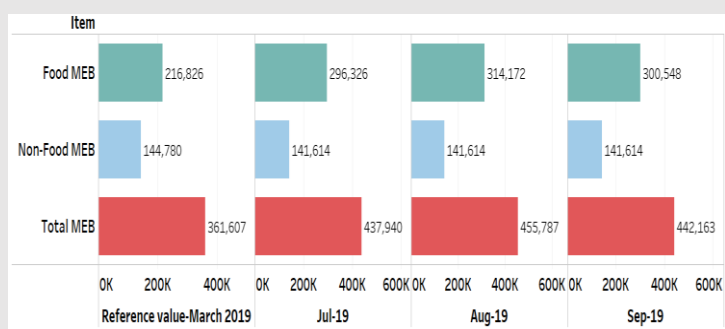
Reference MEB= UGX. 361,607 per household of 5 members per month.			
Sector	%	Sector	%
Food	60%	Communication	1%
Hygiene	4%	Clothing	1%
Water	1%	Health	1%
Education	8%	Others HH items	2%
Energy & Environment	8%	Livelihood	11%
Transport	3%		

Figure 1: Assessed Markets in refugee settlements



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
 Creation: 25 Oct 2019 Sources: UNHCR, UNCL, UBOG, WFP Feedback: IM Team Uganda (ugakalmug@unhcr.org) | UNHCR DO KAMPALA

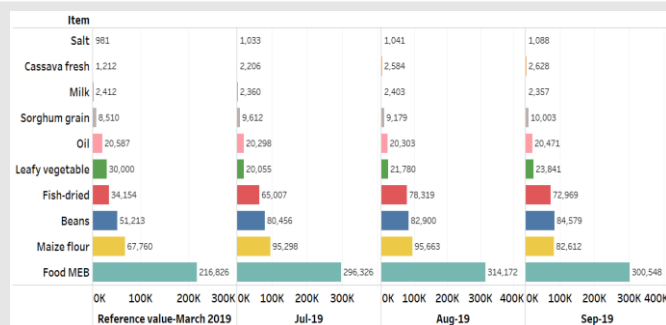
Figure 1: Changes in cost of total MEB



Note: The cost of Non-food MEB is the same from July to September 2019 because prices are monitored quarterly.

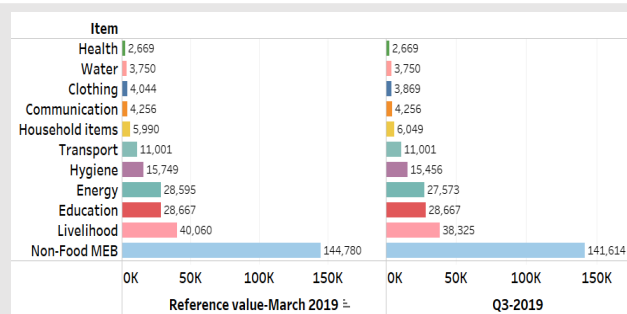
- The cost of the food MEB increased substantially in July, August and September 2019 compared to the reference value of March 2019. Compared to the reference value in March 2019, the cost of food MEB increased by 37 percent, 45 percent and 39 percent in July, August and September 2019 respectively.
- The cost of non-food MEB decreased by 2 percent from the reference value in March 2019 to the third quarter of 2019.
- The cost of the total MEB increased by 22, 27 and 23 percent from the reference value in March 2019 to July, August and September 2019 respectively.

Figure 2: Changes in cost of food items and Food MEB



- There was a general increase in the average cost of MEB food items in July, August and September 2019 compared to the reference prices of March 2019.
- The cost of fish, beans and maize flour increased substantially in July, August and September 2019 compared to the March 2019 cost.
- The cost of leafy vegetables decreased substantially in July, August and September 2019 compared to the March 2019 value.
- Generally, the cost of MEB food items decreased from August to September 2019, leading to a decrease in the cost of food MEB by 4 percent from August to September 2019.

Figure 3: Changes in cost of Non-Food MEB



- There were slight changes in the cost on Non-food MEB in the third quarter of 2019 compared to the March 2019 reference value.
- The cost of livelihood, energy and clothing all decreased by about 4 percent in the third quarter of 2019 compared to the reference value. The cost hygiene component decreased by 2 percent in the same period.
- From March 2019 to the third quarter of 2019, the cost of the Non-food MEB decreased by 2 percent.

Annex 1: Methodology

- Data was collected by trained enumerators using ODK, from refugee settlement level markets that are mostly accessed by refugees. At least three responses per item per settlement are collected to ensure representativeness of item prices at settlement level. Average market prices of food commodities are used for analysis whereas median prices are used for non-food items.
- The costs of clothing, household items, hygiene, energy and livelihood components were updated using the Consumer Price index (CPI) of monitored non-food items. The cost of health, water, communication, transport and education components remained the same because they are service based and changes in CPI for non-food items may not necessarily affect changes in the cost of these components.

Annex 2: Frequency of Monitoring

Weekly	Quarterly	Biannual	
Maize Grain	Laundry soap	Dry Cells	Serving spoon
Maize Flour	Sanitary pads	Plastic Jerrycan-20 litres	Plastic mug
Millet Flour	Disposable Torch	Plastic Jerrycan-5 litres	Mingle
Beans	Pen	Plastic basin	Panga
Sorghum grain	Pencil	Blanket	Hoe
Refined Oil	Exercise book 48 pages	Sauce pan	Nails
Cassava-Fresh	Counter book 2 quire	Plastic Plate	Nylon rope
Cooking salt	Firewood	Eucalyptus poles	Mud brick
Leafy vegetables	Charcoal	Grass thatch	
Tilapia Smoked			
Milk-fresh			

Settlement level commodity prices

Annex 1: Food commodity prices July-September 2019

Maize grain				Cooking oil				Maize flour				Cassava-fresh				Millet flour				Cooking salt			
Settlement	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Settlement	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Settlement	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Settlement	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Settlement	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Settlement	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19
Kyaka II	1,000	1,000	950	Kyaka II	6,250	6,250	6,250	Kyaka II	2,000	2,500	1,717	Kyaka II	583	1,000	1,000	Kyaka II	3,000	3,000	3,000	Kyaka II	1,467	1,400	1,533
Rwamwanja	933	700	850	Rwamwanja	6,306	5,000	5,800	Rwamwanja	2,067	2,000	2,000	Rwamwanja	1,100	1,500	2,000	Rwamwanja	3,000	3,000	3,200	Rwamwanja	1,600	1,600	1,733
Kyangwali	1,300	600	679	Kyangwali	6,060	6,000	6,000	Kyangwali	2,000	2,400	2,200	Kyangwali	450	600	595	Kyangwali	3,200	3,600	3,592	Kyangwali	1,334	1,400	1,433
Kiryandongo	1,500	1,000	800	Kiryandongo	5,000	5,000	5,667	Kiryandongo	2,000	1,800	1,700	Kiryandongo	750	500	1,000	Kiryandongo	4,000	5,000	4,000	Kiryandongo	1,200	1,200	1,200
Rhino Camp	1,500	1,000	791	Rhino Camp	5,494	6,250	5,875	Rhino Camp	2,086	2,500	2,167	Rhino Camp	775	1,000	980	Rhino Camp	3,500	3,500	3,350	Rhino Camp	1,311	1,371	1,560
Adjumani	1,500	1,250	1,000	Adjumani	5,000	5,000	6,000	Adjumani	2,000	2,000	1,500	Adjumani	481	400	396	Adjumani	3,750	4,000	4,000	Adjumani	1,400	1,400	1,400
Lobule	1,367	1,037	1,000	Lobule	5,000	5,000	5,000	Lobule	2,913	2,500	2,000	Lobule	866	666	657	Lobule	4,000	4,000	4,000	Lobule	1,400	1,400	1,400
Bidibidi	1,271	550	735	Bidibidi	4,486	5,000	4,250	Bidibidi	2,667	2,500	1,500	Bidibidi	1,000	1,000	754	Bidibidi	3,750	3,500	3,000	Bidibidi	1,229	1,400	1,400
Imvepi	1,500	740	769	Imvepi	5,083	5,083	4,864	Imvepi	2,500	2,500	2,444	Imvepi	500	666	701	Imvepi	4,500	4,500	3,145	Imvepi	1,400	1,400	1,475
Palabek	1,700	1,341	1,383	Palabek	5,833	6,000	6,000	Palabek	2,972	2,657	2,400	Palabek	388	813	389	Palabek	2,500	3,000	3,000	Palabek	1,433	1,400	1,600
Palorinya	1,200	1,044	1,000	Palorinya	5,000	4,966	4,400	Palorinya	1,542	1,666	1,438	Palorinya	1,466	1,951	1,818	Palorinya	3,000	3,000	2,000	Palorinya	1,333	1,400	1,400
Oruchinga	1,200	950	983	Oruchinga	5,000	5,000	6,061	Oruchinga	1,800	1,800	1,783	Oruchinga	500	500	500	Oruchinga	4,000	4,000	4,000	Oruchinga	1,400	1,400	1,400
Nakivale	1,100	1,000	920	Nakivale	5,714	5,833	4,800	Nakivale	1,933	1,766	1,840	Nakivale	700	602	600	Nakivale	3,667	3,000	3,400	Nakivale	1,400	1,266	1,320
Average	1,313	939	912	Average	5,402	5,414	5,459	Average	2,191	2,199	1,899	Average	735	861	876	Average	3,528	3,623	3,361	Average	1,377	1,387	1,450
Beans				Fish-dried				Sorghum grain				Milk-fresh				Leafy vegetables							
Settlement	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Settlement	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Settlement	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Settlement	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Settlement	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19				
Kyaka II	3,000	3,200	3,000	Kyaka II	21,428	23,333	22,000	Kyaka II	1,500	1,500	1,725	Kyaka II	1,533	1,400	1,375	Kyaka II	801	566	575				
Rwamwanja	2,667	3,100	3,200	Rwamwanja	38,730	18,750	23,300	Rwamwanja	1,667	1,500	1,800	Rwamwanja	1,133	1,000	1,200	Rwamwanja	2,083	1,660	2,100				
Kyangwali	2,133	2,679	2,917	Kyangwali	7,000	10,400	9,875	Kyangwali	1,150	800	908	Kyangwali	1,300	1,150	1,133	Kyangwali	714	625	500				
Kiryandongo	3,000	3,500	3,400	Kiryandongo	20,000	30,000	37,500	Kiryandongo	1,300	1,300	1,266	Kiryandongo	1,200	1,200	1,466	Kiryandongo	1,600	2,000	3,075				
Rhino Camp	3,120	3,000	2,800	Rhino Camp	24,881	35,000	32,941	Rhino Camp	970	920	1,125	Rhino Camp	2,556	2,666	2,071	Rhino Camp	2,066	2,812	2,177				
Adjumani	4,000	3,461	4,000	Adjumani	7,589	35,714	23,058	Adjumani	1,667	1,400	1,500	Adjumani	2,667	3,000	3,000	Adjumani	1,556	2,380	2,711				
Lobule	3,000	2,975	3,200	Lobule	39,722	49,045	39,500	Lobule	1,083	1,666	2,000	Lobule	1,667	1,833	1,833	Lobule	714	1,876	1,600				
Bidibidi	3,000	2,900	3,000	Bidibidi	30,500	22,500	21,600	Bidibidi	1,257	1,250	1,100	Bidibidi	1,000	1,000	1,666	Bidibidi	1,100	1,237	1,318				
Imvepi	2,500	2,500	2,500	Imvepi	10,000	12,000	12,000	Imvepi	1,071	757	826	Imvepi	2,000	2,000	2,000	Imvepi	671	408	347				
Palabek	3,875	3,800	3,500	Palabek	15,542	23,943	20,270	Palabek	1,118	1,052	1,589	Palabek	2,000	2,000	1,200	Palabek	1,950	1,212	1,754				
Palorinya	3,000	3,200	3,500	Palorinya	25,305	30,523	28,157	Palorinya	1,278	1,500	1,166	Palorinya	1,000	1,000	1,000	Palorinya	1,625	500	805				
Oruchinga	2,833	3,000	2,967	Oruchinga	21,000	22,500	26,000	Oruchinga	1,200	1,300	1,283	Oruchinga	1,200	1,300	1,400	Oruchinga	1,500	2,000	2,200				
Nakivale	2,767	2,600	2,740	Nakivale	20,000	25,675	20,000	Nakivale	1,400	966	1,050	Nakivale	1,200	1,275	1,080	Nakivale	1,000	1,600	1,500				
Average	2,992	3,070	3,133	Average	21,669	26,106	24,323	Average	1,282	1,224	1,334	Average	1,574	1,602	1,571	Average	1,337	1,452	1,589				

Annex 2: Non-food item prices July-September period 2019

Settlement	Laundry soap (Kg)	Sanitary pads (packet)	Pen (piece)	Pencil (piece)	Exercise book-48 pages (piece)	Dry Cells (pair)	Disposable Torch (piece)	Jerry can plastic-size- 20 litres (piece)	Jerry can plastic-size - 5 litres (piece)	Plastic basin (piece)	Blanket-Cotton (2Kg)	Sauce pan-about 5 liters capacity (piece)
Kyaka II	4000	3500	500	200		600	2,000	1,000	6,000	2,500	5,000	8,000
Rwamwanja	3800	3500	500	200		800	2,000	1,000	6,000	2,500	5,000	10,000
Kyangwali	4000	3500	500	200		500	2,000	1,000	7,000	2,500	5,000	13,000
Kiryandongo	4000	3500	500	100		500	1,500	1,500	6,000	2,000	4,500	8,000
Rhino Camp	4000	3500	500	200		500	2,000	1,000	8,000	3,000	4,500	8,000
Adjumani	4000	3500	500	200		500	2,000	1,000	6,000	2,000	5,000	12,000
Lobule	3500	3000	500	200		500	1,500	1,000	8,000	2,500	5,000	10,000
Bidibidi	4000	3000	500	200		500	1,500	1,000	8,000	2,000	5,000	10,000
Imvepi	3500	3000	500	200		500	2,000	1,000	8,000	2,000	5,000	12,000
Palabek	4000	3500	500	200		500	2,000	1,000	8,000	3,000	5,000	12,000
Palorinya	4000	3500	500	200		500	1,500	1,500	7,500	4,000	4,800	7,000
Oruchinga	4000	3000	500	200		500	2,000	1,000	6,000	2,000	4,500	10,000
Nakivale	4000	3000	500	200		500	2,000	1,000	6,000	2,000	4,000	11,000

Settlement	Plastic Plate (piece)	Serving spoon (piece)	Plastic mug (piece)	Mingle (piece)	Panga (piece)	Hoe (piece)	Nails (4 Inches) (Kg)	Nylon rope- 1 metre	Eucalyptus pole-Medium sized	Unburnt Mud brick	Grass thatch-Bundle
Kyaka II	1,000	2,500	700	1,500	7,000	10,000	6,000	1,000	5,000	250	NA
Rwamwanja	800	2,500	500	1,500	7,000	10,000	6,000	1,000	8,000	200	6,000
Kyangwali	800	2,500	500	500	7,000	10,000	5,500	500	4,000	90	7,000
Kiryandongo	700	1,000	600	1,000	6,000	8,000	5,000	500	6,000	60	3,000
Rhino Camp	1,500	1,500	1,000	500	5,000	10,000	6,000	1,000	NA	75	2,000
Adjumani	1,000	3,000	1,000	1,000	7,000	11,000	6,000	500	10,000	200	10,000
Lobule	1,000	2,000	600	1,000	7,000	9,000	6,500	500	8,000	150	NA
Bidibidi	1,000	2,000	700	1,000	7,000	8,500	7,000	500	8,000	100	6,000
Imvepi	1,000	1,500	800	500	8,000	10,000	7,000	1,500	NA	NA	NA
Palabek	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500	8,000	10,000	6,500	1,500	NA	200	4,000
Palorinya	1,200	1,500	700	1,000	10,000	9,000	6,000	1,000	5,000	NA	NA
Oruchinga	1,000	2,000	600	1,500	7,000	10,000	6,000	1,000	5,000	150	NA
Nakivale	1,000	2,000	500	1,000	6,000	10,000	5,000	1,000	5,000	100	NA

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