

OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Uganda is one of the top refugee-hosting countries in the world, with a protracted refugee situation and ongoing influxes of refugees from neighboring countries. The country hosts 1,573,291¹ refugees as of 31 December 2021, with 94% of refugees living in settlements primarily in the West Nile and Southwest regions of Uganda.

In view of this situation, the World Food Programme (WFP) has established a regular market price monitoring system across refugee settlements to inform cash-based response approaches. These monitoring efforts predate the COVID-19 crisis. However, due to the changing situation and ongoing COVID-19 containment measures, there is a risk that markets could be significantly affected and beneficiaries receiving cash assistance may not be able to access critical goods. In response, with the technical support of the Market Analysis Task Force and REACH in particular, this market price monitoring system has been expanded to capture crucial information to understand the impact of COVID-19 on commodity prices and functionality of markets in refugee communities across Uganda.

WFP collected the data through key informant (KI) interviews with traders, individuals selling key commodities, in markets across 13 refugee settlement locations from 1-30 November 2021. Part of the data was collected remotely, using the mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) phone-based survey system. Data for sold loose items was collected in person with items purchased and weighted where possible.

Finally, KIs were purposively sampled, meaning the findings are indicative only. The figures represented in this factsheet are presented at the national and regional² levels, unless stated otherwise. In total, **172** traders were interviewed nationwide in this round. Of these, **131** were from the **Southwest Region (SWR)** and **41** were from the **West Nile Region (WNR)**.

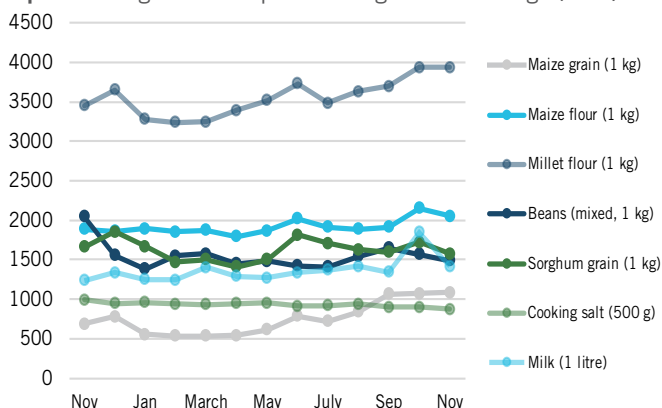
KEY FINDINGS

Average cost of the **full MEB** in November 2021: **427,475 UGX**
 ▼ -3% compared to the full MEB March 2021.³

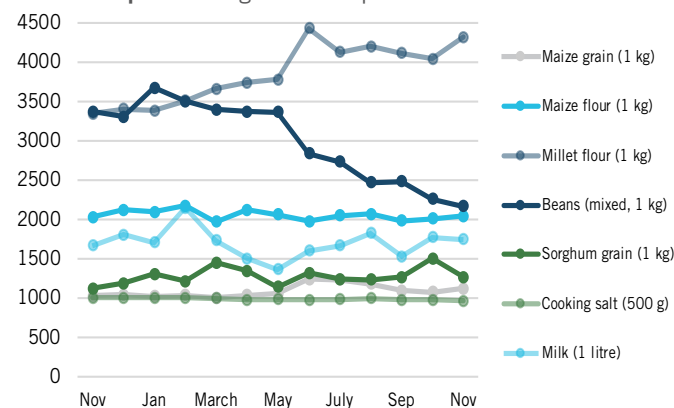
Average cost of the **food MEB** in November 2021: **259,109 UGX**
 ▼ -7% compared to the food MEB March 2021.

- Across regions, prices for key food items in the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) have remained mostly stable. In the WNR, the price of beans has decreased by 36% since May, from 3,363 UGX to 2,161 UGX. In the SWR, the price of millet flour has stabilised since gradually increasing by 13% from July to October.
- Nationally, only 26% of the interviewed vendors reported accepting mobile money payments. The percentage was significantly higher in the SWR (69%) compared to the WNR (10%).
- At a national level, 14% of the interviewed vendors reported difficulties in meeting demand. The proportion was much higher in the WNR (49%) compared to the SWR (3%).
- Likewise, concerns that stocks would run out were more often reported among vendors in the WNR (29%) versus those in the SWR (2%).
- The market price of the WFP GFA food basket increased by 7% in group 1 settlements, remained stable in group 2 settlements, and increased by 5% in group 3 settlements. The WFP transfer value could cover 113%, 110% and 122% of the 70%, 60% and 40% rations in group 1, group 2, and group 3 respectively.
- The cost of the food MEB was UGX 268,829, UGX 290,625, and UGX 230,479 in groups 1, 2, and 3 settlements respectively. The geo-prioritized WFP transfer value could cover only 41%, 33%, and 28% of the food MEB costs in group 1 settlements, group 2 settlements and group 3 settlements respectively.

Graph 1: Changes in food prices in Ugandan Shillings (UGX) in the SWR



Graph 2: Changes in food prices in UGX in the WNR



FURTHER RESOURCES:

- To see the past products as part of this series, [click here](#).
- To see further detail on MEB calculation methodology, [click here](#).
- A full data set with commodity prices can be provided upon request.

KEY CHALLENGES

Top 3 challenges reported by traders⁴:

1	Price fluctuation of commodities	66%
2	Increased price of transportation	41%
3	Lack of customers	40%

1. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, [Uganda Comprehensive Refugee Response Portal](#).

2. For analysis purposes, the 13 refugee settlement locations have been aggregated to two regions: West Nile (Palorinya, Palabek, Bidi Bidi, Imvepi, Rhino Camp, Lobule, Adjumani, Kiryandongo settlements) and Southwest (Kyangwali, Rwamwanja, Kyaka, Oruchinga, Nakivale settlements).

3. The March MEB cost constitutes the calculated national reference MEB cost for Uganda in 2021. This calculation is based on average and median commodity prices in the six months prior, October 2020 - March 2021.

4. These challenges are presented at the national level. Vendors could select multiple options. Therefore, percentages might not add up to 100%.

Uganda Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

Food Items (monthly)

Maize flour	43.5 kg	Cassava (fresh)	3 kg
Beans	27 kg	Salt	0.75 kg
Sorghum grain	7.5 kg	Leafy vegetables	15 kg
Oil	3.75 L	Fish (smoked)	3 kg
Milk	1.5 L		

Non-Food Items (monthly)

Laundry soap	2.25 kg	Clothing*	3,806 UGX
Firewood	165 kg		

Other Components (monthly)

Water*	3,750 UGX	Livelihoods*	37,705 UGX
Education**	28,667 UGX	Transport*	11,001 UGX
Health*	2,669 UGX	Communication*	4,256 UGX
Lighting*	5,000 UGX		

Other Items (once per year)

Reusable sanitary pads	8 pc	Saucepan	3 pc
Jerry can (20 L)	2 pc	Plate	5 pc
Jerry can (5 L)	1 pc	Serving spoon	2 pc
Bucket with lid	1 pc	Cup	5 pc
Blanket	5 pc	Mingle (stirrer)	2 pc

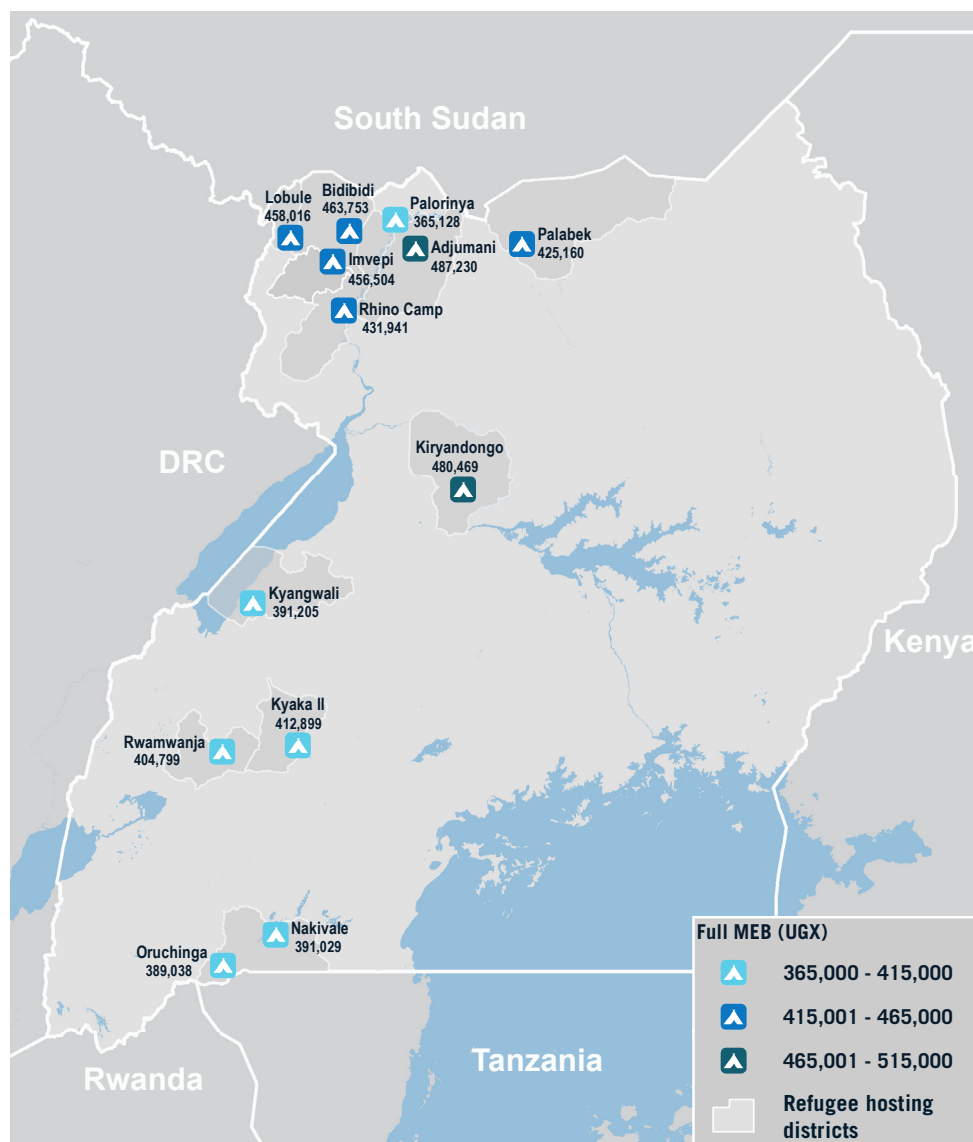
The MEB represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a five-person refugee household in Uganda for one month. It is used as an operational tool to identify and quantify the average minimum cost of the regular or seasonal basic needs of a median household that can be covered through the local market.

Several core items were identified as being required once per year, so the total cost was divided by 12 to calculate the monthly amount. The MEB's contents were defined by the Cash Working Group in consultation with relevant sector leads. Some components were calculated based on item cost and others through a combination of analysis of household expenditures and sector-expert opinion.

*The starred items or components were calculated based on average sectoral or component cost per month based on expenditure data.

**Education costs were calculated based on average cost of school fees per year.

Map 1: Average cost of full MEB by settlement



Settlements with the least expensive average full MEB costs:

1. Palorinya
2. Oruchinga
3. Nakivale

Settlements with the most expensive average full MEB costs:

1. Adjumani
2. Kiryandongo
3. Bidibidi

Full MEB cost percentage change since March 2021 (left) and October 2021 (right):

Settlement	March 2021 (%)	October 2021 (%)
Adjumani	+4%	+8%
Bidibidi	+3%	+3%
Imvepi	+8%	+8%
Kiryandongo	+4%	+8%
Lobule	-1%	+7%
Kyaka II	-2%	-8%
Kyangwali	-15%	-27%
Nakivale	-5%	-7%
Oruchinga	-3%	-7%
Palabek	-11%	+1%
Palorinya	-6%	-19%
Rhino Camp	-9%	+10%
Rwamwanja	-9%	-11%

Market Monitor – Refugee Hosting Areas



Refugee Settlement Price and Market Functionality Snapshot, 1-30 November 2021

COMMODITY PRICES

Table 1: Average⁶ commodity prices in UGX⁶, by refugee settlement location, and percentage price change since March 2021 (upper)⁷ and last round 1- 31 October 2021 (lower) respectively.⁸

Item (unit)	Regions											Settlements																																						
	Nationwide	Southwest Region		West Nile Region		Adjumani		Bidibidi		Imvepi		Kiryandongo		Kyaka II		Kyangwali		Lobule		Nakivale		Oruchinga		Palabek		Palorinya		Rhino Camp		Rwanwanja																				
Maize flour (1 kg)	2050	+4%	-2%	2054	+12%	-5%	2038	-1%	+2%	+7%	2200	+13%	+14%	2500	+49%	-4%	2000	+15%	0%	2325	+16%	0%	1934	-13%	-26%	2075	-8%	+6%	1793	+21%	+1%	-18%	1873	+26%	0%	2150	-7%	+8%	1842	+4%	-8%	2000	-28%	0%	2425	+24%	+8%			
Fish* (smoked, 1kg)	15676	-9%	-22%	13873	-45%	-25%	16509	-14%	+1%	+68%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21091	-8%	+3%	n/a	n/a	n/a	15185	-50%	-18%	n/a	n/a	10000	-33%	-48%	12500	+14%	-29%	15625	0%	-47%	4940	-57%	-4%	17556	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
Beans (mixed, 1 kg)	1688	-38%	-11%	1492	-15%	-5%	2161	-36%	-4%	+8%	2700	-23%	+30%	3125	-6%	-9%	1375	-61%	-9%	2533	-20%	+7%	1284	-22%	-18%	1819	-8%	+6%	2550	-22%	+15%	1614	-9%	-4%	1446	-16%	-8%	2200	-40%	-8%	2017	-29%	-7%	1583	-55%	+4%	1165	-30%	-19%	
Sorghum grain (1 kg)	1415	0%	-10%	1575	-9%	-6%	1265	-16%	+1%	-19%	1000	-17%	+1%	1000	0%	-12%	1500	-25%	-9%	2000	+70%	+3%	1840	-7%	+3%	1475	-18%	+15%	1667	-33%	+23%	1433	+1%	+9%	1500	+25%	+5%	1167	-17%	+14%	1250	+7%	+1%	1417	-6%	-6%				
Cooking oil (1 litre)	8550	+40%	+9%	8879	+35%	+9%	7702	+33%	+2%	-4%	7667	+16%	+7%	6500	+26%	+3%	7250	+56%	+3%	8500	+45%	+10%	8412	+28%	+3%	9703	+44%	+4%	8250	+41%	+4%	8056	+24%	+17%	9056	+35%	+6%	8000	+26%	+10%	8000	+33%	+2%	7267	+21%	+7%	8731	+36%	+7%	
Fresh cassava* (1 kg)	636	-7%	+10%	654	-21%	+2%	628	-6%	+2%	+11%	374	-28%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	786	+49%	+3%	n/a	-33%	+4%	n/a	+10%	n/a	500	-55%	-45%	500	-61%	-5%	539	+70%	0%	674	-27%	0%	833	+89%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				
Cooking salt (500 g)	898	-9%	-4%	875	-10%	-3%	960	-4%	-1%	0%	1000	0%	0%	1000	0%	-1%	1000	-1%	0%	1000	+2%	-8%	794	-8%	-4%	982	-4%	-2%	800	-20%	-5%	841	-16%	-11%	854	-15%	0%	1000	0%	0%	933	-7%	0%	1000	0%	+1%	818	-18%	-5%	
Leafy greens* (1 kg)	1455	-23%	-6%	823	-43%	-54%	1698	-23%	+12%	+10%	1625	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2250	+100%	n/a	n/a	-35%	-38%	n/a	n/a	833	-58%	-33%	556	-31%	-56%	1399	+6%	-40%	1277	-41%	+58%	2450	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
Milk (1 litre)	1524	-5%	-15%	1414	+6%	-24%	1743	-2%	-1%	0%	2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1200	+12%	0%	2000	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	-14%	-4%	1100	-45%	-25%	2000	+20%	-12%	2000	+25%	-12%	n/a	n/a	1280	+22%	n/a				
Food MEB	259,109	-7%	-4%	230479	-18%	-18%	277002	+6%	+6%	+13%	317397	+13%	+5%	294730	+3%	+3%	283654	+6%	+3%	305555	+12%	+3%	244864	-16%	-16%	254685	-28%	-19%	288993	-2%	-14%	207350	-10%	-14%	208733	-14%	+3%	248923	+3%	-15%	217675	-15%	+5%	259092	+5%	-16%	236764	-16%	-16%	
Firewood* (1 kg)	289	-6%	-23%	301	-25%	n/a	285	+13%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	354	+2%	n/a	n/a	111	-77%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	396	-1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	375	+122%	0%	192	+12%	-6%	333	+78%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				
Laundry soap (1 kg)	3342	+8%	+2%	3538	-5%	+4%	2950	-2%	+3%	+15%	3667	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3875	+5%	+1%	3550	-11%	+1%	n/a	n/a	4167	+44%	-28%	2500	-18%	-1%	2350	-7%	-1%	2500	+7%	n/a	n/a	4000	+15%	0%				
Underwear (1 piece)	2472	n/a	+17%	2650	n/a	-12%	2250	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3000	n/a	1000	n/a	-68%	n/a	2500	n/a	n/a	2750	n/a	0%	2000	n/a	0%	1833	n/a	-8%	n/a	n/a	3000	n/a	n/a					
Big jerry can (20L, 1 piece)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a			
Millet flour (1 kg)	4073	+18%	+2%	3936	+16%	0%	4312	+24%	+7%	n/a	n/a	4250	+4%	+2%	4500	+39%	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	5000	+33%	+4%	4136	+28%	-1%	3967	+24%	+6%	4125	+30%	-3%	3500	+4%	-8%	3800	+8%	0%	2000	-43%	+9%	5091	+44%	-11%	3000	-1%	+9%	4000	+2%	+9%
Disposable torch (1 packet)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		
Charcoal* (1 kg)	618	-34%	+4%	1007	-30%	-40%	424	-32%	-23%	-38%	371	-38%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	111	-92%	n/a	n/a	1125	-29%	0%	1667	-17%	-18%	536	-1%	0%	403	-1%	+36%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Maize grain (1 kg)	1097	+30%	+2%	1087	+75%	+1%	1115	+14%	+4%	+13%	1200	+25%	+4%	1300	+25%	+16%	1125	+4%	+12%	1200	+79%	+7%	1158	+64%	-2%	1043	+104%	+4%	1025	+10%	+40%	1082	+64%	0%	1233	+86%	+20%	960	0%	-18%	1042	+21%	+2%	1250	0%	+7%	1030	+5%	+5%	

Some of the above listed commodities (*) are not traded in standard units (litres or kg), but in informal units (“bundles” or “basins”). These informal units are not strictly defined by weight, can vary from vendor to vendor or by time, and are therefore not directly comparable. To address this issue, price data needs to be determined via the actual purchase of a given commodity, by its weight and conversion into standard units. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the price data of these commodities could not be collected for the month of June as enumerators were unable to make access the markets and make purchases. Prices reflect the weights and prices imputed based on April and May average.

6. One United States Dollar (USD) was equivalent to 3,690 UGX as of 9th of January 2021, according to [Uganda currency converter](#).

7. Price data for items listed under “other MEB items” and underwear are only collected once every 6 months and can therefore only be compared against prices from March 2021 (upper).

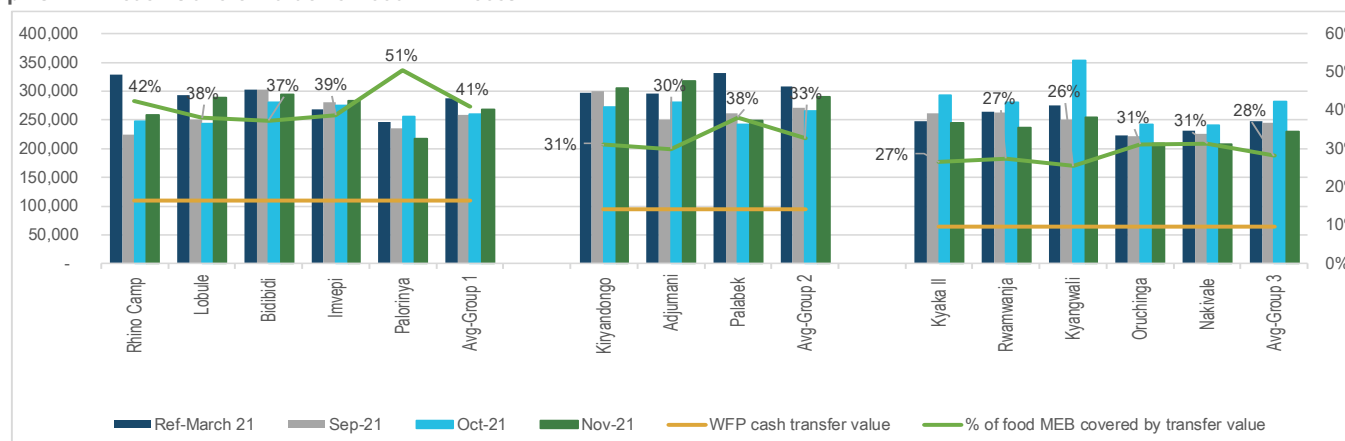
8. Regional and national price aggregations are only reported, if enough price data exists across various settlements. Price changes are only reported where price data for a given item exists for both this reporting round and the reference periods, i.e. March 2021 and the last reporting round.

ANALYSIS OF WFP GENERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE (GFA) BASKET

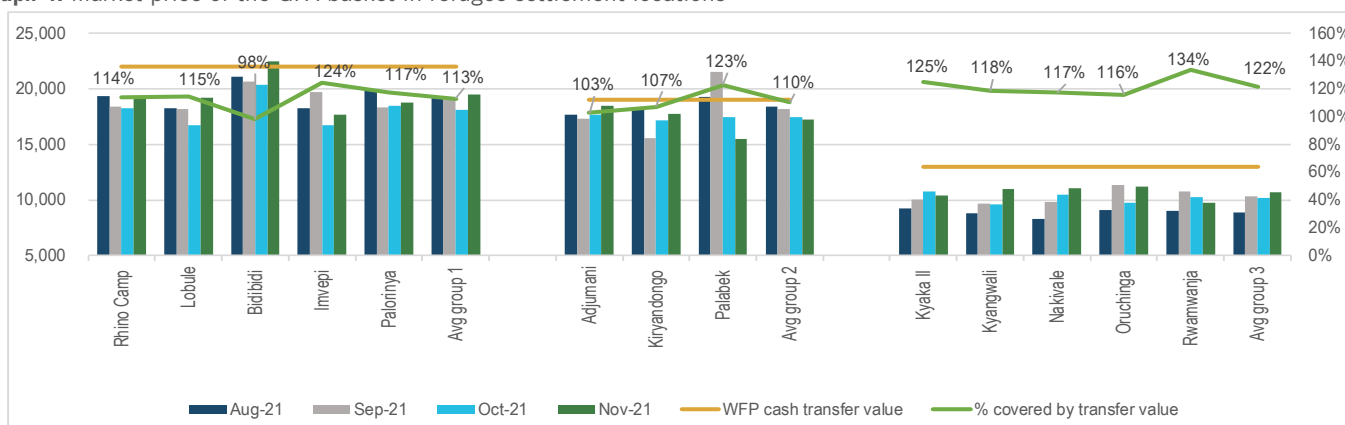
The analysis compares the cost of the food MEB with the current WFP cash transfer value. The analysis further compares the GFA cash transfer value with the cost of the WFP GFA basket (the cost of commodities that make up the in-kind food basket that WFP provides to refugees). From November 2021, WFP and OPM implemented geographical prioritization of GFA where settlements are categorized into Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3 receiving 70%, 60% and 40% respectively of the WFP GFA survival ration on the basis of differences in household vulnerability. The cash and in-kind ration equivalents for Groups 1 (Bidibidi, Imvepi, Lobule, Palorinya, Rhino camp), Group 2 (Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Palabek) and Group 3 (Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Rwamwanja) are respectively UGX 22,000 (cereals: 8.82 kgs, pulses: 2.1 kgs and vegetable oil: 0.63 litres), UGX 19,000 (cereals: 7.56 kgs, pulses: 1.8 kgs and vegetable oil: 0.54 litres) and UGX 13,000 (cereals: 5.04 kgs, pulses: 1.2 kgs and vegetable oil: 0.36 litres) per person per month.

- The cost of the GFA food basket in Bidibidi, Imvepi, Lobule, Palorinya, Rhino camp (Group 1) increased by 7% from UGX 18,126 in October to UGX 19,471 in November 2021. The WFP transfer value for group 1 (UGX 22,000 per person per month) could cover 113% of the cost of the equivalent in-kind food basket (Graph 4).
- In Adjumani, Kiryandongo and Palabek (Group 2), the average cost of the GFA food basket remained stable from October to November 2021. The WFP transfer value for group 2 (UGX 19,000 per person per month) was enough to cover the cost of the equivalent in-kind food basket in all group 2 settlements. Overall, the transfer value could cover 110% percent of the in-kind food basket in the group.
- The cost of the GFA basket in Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Rwamwanja (group 3) increased by 5% from October to November 2021. The group 3 transfer value (UGX 13,000/person/month) was enough to cover the cost of the food basket in all settlements. Overall, it could cover 122% of the cost of the equivalent group 3 in-kind food basket.

Graph 3: WFP cash transfer value vs. food MEB cost



Graph 4: Market price of the GFA basket in refugee settlement locations



The analysis further compares the WFP cash transfer value with the cost of the food MEB (detailed in graph 3) across settlements.

- The average cost of the food MEB in settlements in group 1 increased by 3% from October to November 2021, after a 1% increase from September to October 2021 (Graph 3). The WFP transfer value for the group 1 (110,000 per 5-member household per month) could cover only 41% of the cost of the food MEB for the group.
- The average cost of the food MEB in settlements in group 2 increased by 10% from UGX 265,297 in October to UGX 290,625 in November 2021. The WFP transfer value for group 2 (UGX 95,000 per 5-member household per month) could only cover 33% of the cost of the food MEB for the group.
- The cost of food MEB in settlements in group 3 decreased by 18% from October to November 2021, after a 15% increase from September to October 2021. The WFP transfer value for group 3 (UGX 65,000 per 5-member household per month) could only cover 28% of the cost of the food MEB for the group.

9. The GFA food basket represents 60% of the normal WFP GFA ration due to further ration cuts that started in February 2021. Similarly, the transfer value for cash beneficiaries reduced from 22,000 per person per month to UGX 19,000 per person per month in February 2021.

Market Monitor – Refugee Hosting Areas



Refugee Settlement Price and Market Functionality Snapshot, 1-30 November 2021

UGANDA

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

Unless specified otherwise, the following results refer to a recall period of one week prior to data collection.

TRADER AND CUSTOMER BEHAVIOR

	% of interviewed traders reporting a change in the number of vendors:	Average numbers of customers per day reported by interviewed vendors:
Nationwide	INCREASE 11%	SEPTEMBER 28
	DECREASE 13%	OCTOBER 26
	NO CHANGE 76%	NOVEMBER 30
SWR	INCREASE 12%	SEPTEMBER 29
	DECREASE 13%	OCTOBER 27
	NO CHANGE 75%	NOVEMBER 33
WNR	INCREASE 7%	SEPTEMBER 29
	DECREASE 12%	OCTOBER 25
	NO CHANGE 80%	NOVEMBER 20

SAFETY

% of interviewed traders reporting changes in perceptions of security relating to operating in their marketplace:

LESS SECURE 1%
MORE SECURE 16%
NO DIFFERENCE 83%
LESS SECURE 2%
MORE SECURE 20%
NO DIFFERENCE 79%
LESS SECURE 0%
MORE SECURE 2%
NO DIFFERENCE 98%

Top reported reasons by traders for feeling more or less secure¹⁰:

1	Fear of theft	1%
2	Market is less crowded	9%
1	Fear of theft	2%
2	Market is less crowded	11%
2	Appropriate behaviour of security personnel	2%

STOCK AND SUPPLY

% of interviewed traders reporting difficulty in obtaining enough supply to meet demand:

Nationwide	YES 14%
	NO 86%
SWR	YES 3%
	NO 97%
WNR	YES 49%
	NO 51%

% of interviewed traders reporting concern that their stocks will run out within one week following data collection:

Nationwide	YES 8%
	NO 92%
SWR	YES 2%
	NO 98%
WNR	YES 29%
	NO 71%

PAYMENT AND LIQUIDITY

% of interviewed traders accepting mobile money payments when data was collected:

Nationwide	YES 26%
	NO 74%
SWR	YES 31%
	NO 69%
WNR	YES 10%
	NO 90%

Nationwide	Top 3 reasons why traders reported difficulty in obtaining enough supply to meet demand:¹¹	1	Scarcity of specific items (sorghum, oil)	8%
		2	Producers not producing enough	3%
		3	Supplier unable to provide enough	2%

PREPARED BY: World Food Programme

ON BEHALF OF: Market Analysis Task Force

Informing more effective humanitarian action

The UN Refugee Agency

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

10. This indicator refers to all the interviewed traders. Respondents could select multiple response options.
11. This indicator refers to all the interviewed traders. Respondents could select multiple response options.