

Minimum Expenditure Basket in Uganda

Joint Price Monitoring

October 2019

Produced on behalf of the Cash Working Group by WFP, in collaboration with DRC, LWF, 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 ([here](#)). To monitor when and how changing market conditions affect households' capacity to cover essential needs, a price monitoring system was established.

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

Key Highlights

- A household of 5 members required UGX.308,170 to cover their food needs and UGX.149,687 to cover non-food needs in October 2019 representing a 27 percent increase from the reference value of March 2019;
- Compared to the March 2019 reference value, the cost of the food MEB increased by 42 percent in October 2019.
- In October 2019, the cost of non-food MEB increased by 3 percent from the March 2019 reference value. Among the non-food components, the energy and environment component experienced the greatest increase (29 percent) in October 2019 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 for each of the 11 components for a household of 5 members is shown in Table 1.

The MEB was developed using a combination of a rights-based and 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 expenditure patterns and expert agreement. Price monitoring of the itemized components helped inform how changing market conditions affect the cost of the total MEB.

Table 1: MEB value by component

Reference MEB value= UGX. 361,607 per month for a household of 5 members			
MEB component	Reference value (UGX)	MEB component	Reference value (UGX)
Food	216,826	Transport	11,001
Health	2,669	Hygiene	15,749
Water	3,750	Education	28,667
Clothing	4,044	Energy and Environment	28,595
HH items and personal expenditures		Livelihood	40,060
	5,990	Communication	4,256

Figure 1: Assessed Markets in refugee settlements

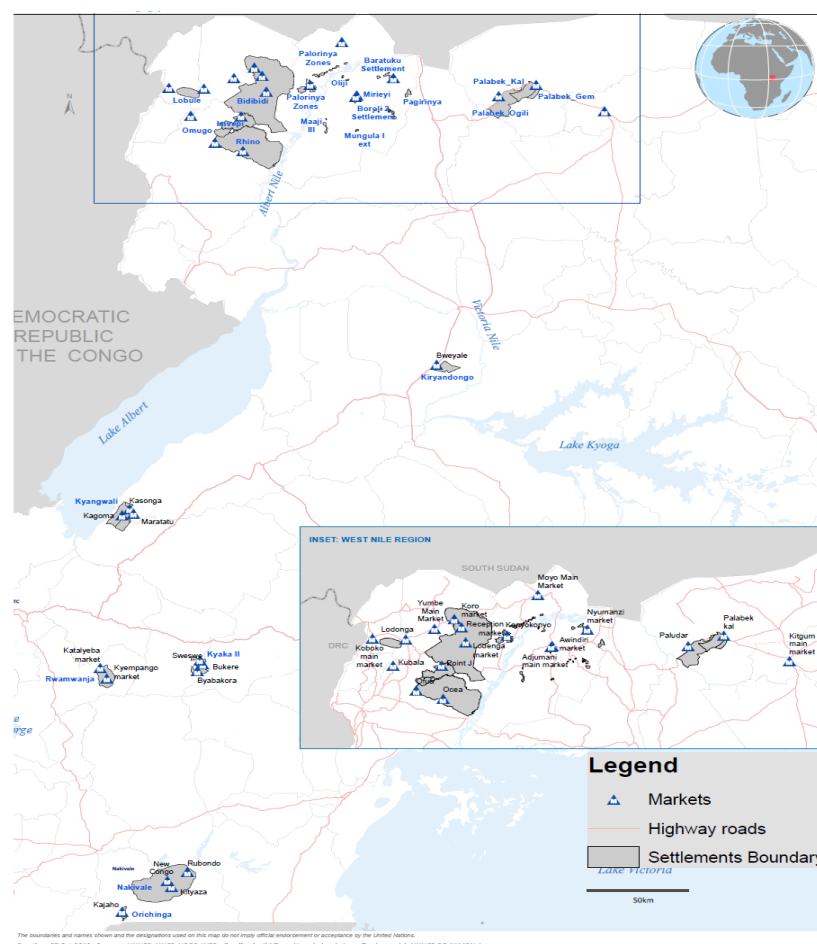
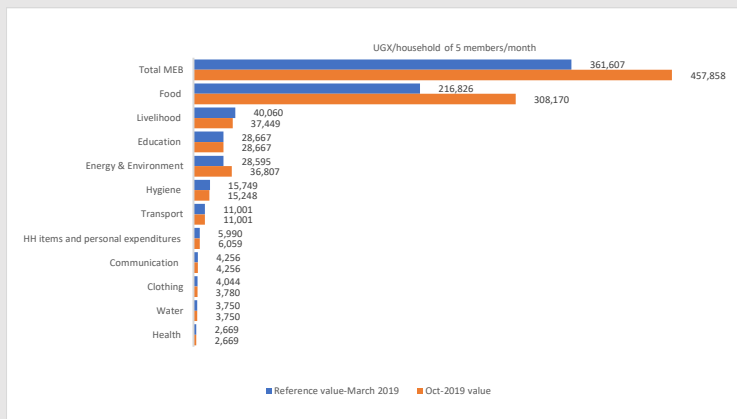


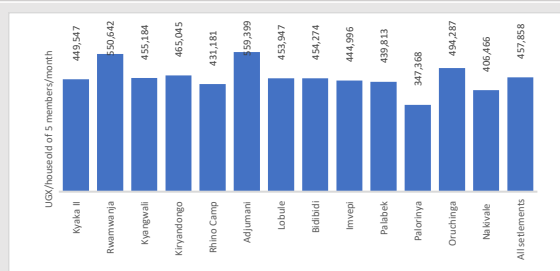
Figure 1: Changes in cost of total MEB and its components



- The cost of the total MEB increased by 27 percent from the reference value in March 2019 to October 2019.
- There was a substantial increase (42 percent) in the cost of the food MEB in October 2019 compared to the reference value of March 2019.
- The cost of energy and environment component increased by 29 percent in October 2019 compared to the reference value.
- Livelihood reduced by 7 percent in October 2019 compared to the reference value.
- The increase in the cost of the total MEB was mainly driven by increase in the cost of food MEB.

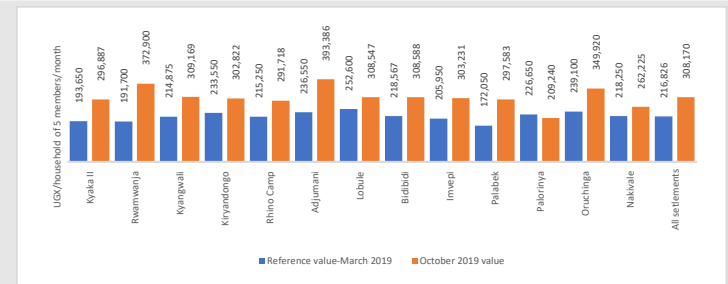
Note: The cost of water, transport, communication and health components are the same, due to non-availability of regular expenditure data to update them.

Figure 2: Cost of total MEB by settlement-October 2019



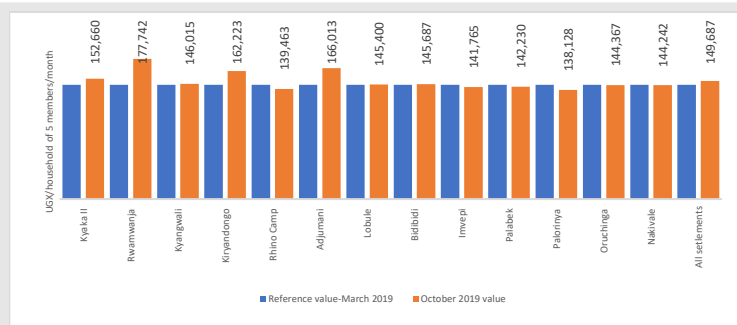
- The cost of total MEB varied by settlement, with Adjumani being the most expensive and Palorinya the least expensive (Figure 2).
- By October 2019, the cost of both food and non-food essential needs was UGX.91,572 per person compared to the reference value of UGX.72,321 per person in March.

Figure 3: Cost of Food MEB by settlement



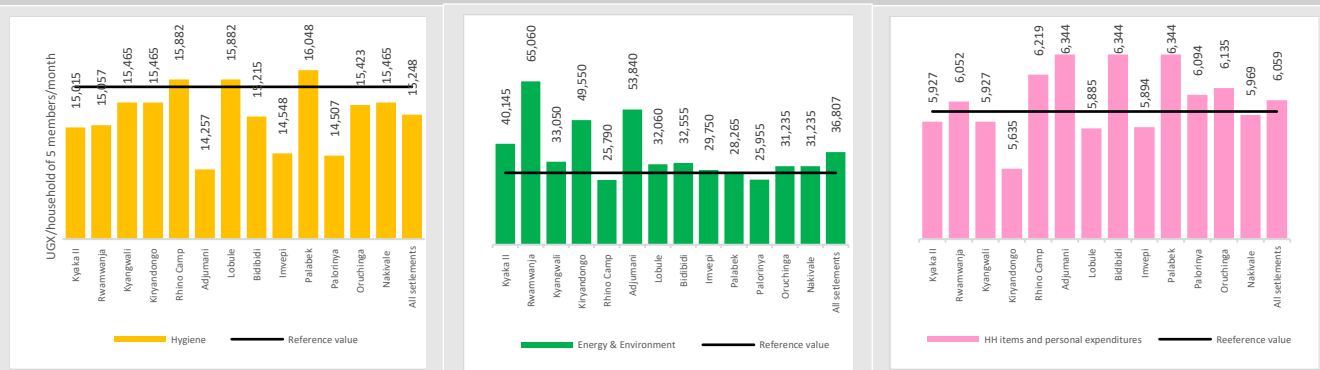
- The average cost of the food basket in October 2019 was UGX.61,634 per person compared to the March 2019 reference value of UGX.43,365 per person per month.
- In the most expensive settlements of Adjumani and Rwamwanja, the cost of the food basket in October 2019 was 66 percent and 95 percent respectively higher than the March 2019 reference value.

Figure 4: Cost of Non-Food MEB by settlement-October 2019



- In October 2019, the cost of essential non-food basket for a household of 5 members was UGX. 149,687, representing a 3 percent increase from the reference value of March 2019 (Figure 4).

Figure 5: Cost of selected NFI components by settlement-October 2019



- Averaging across all settlements, the cost of hygiene component of the MEB in October 2019 was lower than the reference value by 3 percent. However, the October 2019 cost was higher than the reference cost in Rhino camp, Lobule and Palabek settlements (Figure 5).
- In October 2019, the cost of the energy component was above the reference value by 29 percent and most expensive in Rwamwanja, Adjumani and Kiryandongo settlements
- In 7 out of 13 settlements, the cost of household items in October 2019 was higher than the reference value. However, averaging across all settlements, the cost was of household items was only 1 percent higher than the reference value (Figure 5).

Annex 1: Methodology

- Data was collected by trained enumerators using ODK, from refugee settlement level markets that are mostly accessed by refugees. For items that are sold loose in the market, enumerators purchase the items and weigh them to determine the actual price per kg of the item. The purchase and weighing of the sold loose items are done every last week of the month depending on the frequency of monitoring (Annex 2). 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 and livelihood component was updated using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of monitored non-food items.

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-about 5 litres	Nails
Cassava-Fresh	Firewood	Plastic Plate	Nylon rope
Cooking salt	Charcoal	Eucalyptus poles	Mud brick
Leafy vegetables		Grass thatch	
Tilapia Smoked			
Milk-fresh			

Settlement level item prices

Annex 3: Food commodity prices-October 2019

Settlement/Item	Maize grain	Maize flour	Millet flour	Beans	Sorghum grain	Vegetable Oil	Cassava-fresh	Salt	Leafy-Vegetables	Fish-dried	Milk
Kyaka II	1,150	3,000	3,000	2,600	1,500	6,458	714	1,600	2,000	8,125	2,000
Rwamwanja	1,000	2,400	4,000	4,000	2,000	7,812	2,000	1,600	1,667	27,500	1,000
Kyangwali	867	2,855	4,233	2,592	1,539	6,250	383	1,333	1,738	16,710	1,133
Kiryandongo	1,200	2,500	5,714	3,333	1,111	6,000	500	1,200	1,250	16,666	1,400
Rhino Camp	944	2,500	3,500	3,000	1,074	5,417	417	1,400	602	19,833	1,850
Adjumani	1,367	1,800	3,333	3,667	1,833	5,000	650	1,467	4,667	35,595	2,500
Lobule	1,037	2,600	5,889	1,778	2,000	5,000	590	1,400	542	33,333	1,833
Bidibidi	839	3,000	3,333	3,000	909	4,333	411	1,400	794	19,444	1,000
Imvepi	996	2,755	3,553	3,307	885	4,667	622	1,333	861	17,067	2,000
Palabek	751	2,115	3,000	3,500	1,000	5,000	299	1,467	1,402	20,000	1,200
Palorinya	828	1,369	2,000	2,000	1,111	5,000	367	1,400	813	17,500	1,167
Oruchinga	1,300	2,400	4,000	3,000	1,300	7,000	455	1,400	6,667	8,000	1,400
Nakivale	1,300	2,000	3,000	3,000	2,000	5,333	667	1,400	625	15,000	1,200
Average	1,045	2,407	3,735	2,983	1,405	5,636	621	1,415	1,817	19,598	1,514

Annex 4: Non-food item prices-October 2019

Settlement/Item	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)	Sauce pan-about 5 liters capacity (piece)	Plastic Plate (piece)	Serving spoon (piece)
Kyaka II	3,800	3,500	500	200	800	2,000	1,000	6,000	2,000	5,000	7,750	500	2,000
Rwamwanja	3,800	3,500	500	200	800	2,000	1,000	6,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	800	2,500
Kyangwali	4,000	3,500	500	200	300	2,000	1,000	6,000	2,000	5,000	15,000	500	3,000
Kiryandongo	4,000	3,500	500	150	500	1,500	1,500	6,000	2,000	4,500	8,000	700	1,000
Rhino Camp	4,000	3,500	500	100	500	2,000	1,000	8,000	3,000	4,500	8,000	1,500	1,500
Adjumani	3,500	3,500	500	200	500	1,500	1,000	6,000	1,000	5,000	15,000	1,000	3,000
Lobule	4,000	3,000	500	200	500	1,500	1,000	8,000	3,000	4,000	8,000	1,000	1,500
Bidibidi	4,000	3,000	500	100	400	1,500	1,000	5,000	1,000	5,000	8,000	1,000	3,000
Imvepi	3,500	3,000	600	200	400	2,000	1,000	7,000	2,500	7,000	9,000	1,000	1,500
Palabek	4,000	3,000	500	200	300	1,500	1,000	8,000	5,000	5,000	8,000	1,000	2,000
Palorinya	3,500	3,000	500	200	500	1,500	1,000	6,000	4,000	5,000	6,000	1,500	1,000
Oruchinga	4,000	3,000	500	200	500	2,000	1,000	6,000	1,500	4,000	10,000	700	2,000
Nakivale	4,000	3,000	500	200	500	2,000	1,000	6,000	2,000	4,000	11,000	1,000	2,000
Average	3,854	3,231	508	181	500	1,769	1,038	6,462	2,423	4,846	9,519	938	2,000

Settlement/Item	Plastic mug (piece)	Mingle (piece)	Panga (piece)	Firewood (Kg)	Charcoal (Kg)	Hoe (piece)	Nails (4 Inches) (Kg)	Nylon rope-1 metre	Eucalyptus pole-Medium sized	Unburnt Mud brick	Grass thatch-Bundle
Kyaka II	500	2,000	7,500	213	1,131	9,250	5,500	1,300	4,000	200	NA
Rwamwanja	500	1,500	7,000	364	1,250	10,000	6,000	1,000	8,000	200	6,000
Kyangwali	500	1,000	6,000	170	1,250	10,000	6,000	1,000	5,000	60	7,000
Kiryandongo	600	1,000	6,000	270	714	8,000	5,000	500	5,000	300	3,000
Rhino Camp	1,000	500	5,000	126	560	10,000	6,000	1,000	NA	75	2,000
Adjumani	1,000	1,000	7,000	296	775	10,000	6,000	500	8,000	NA	NA
Lobule	500	1,000	7,000	164	571	9,000	6,000	500	8,000	NA	NA
Bidibidi	1,000	1,000	6,000	167	251	8,000	6,000	500	10,000	NA	NA
Imvepi	600	800	6,000	150	399	10,000	6,000	1,500	NA	NA	NA
Palabek	1,000	2,000	8,000	141	625	10,000	8,000	2,000	NA	200	NA
Palorinya	700	1,000	6,000	127	646	8,000	6,000	500	NA	NA	NA
Oruchinga	1,000	1,500	6,000	159	1,667	10,000	6,000	1,000	10,000	120	NA
Nakivale	500	1,000	6,000	159	1,667	10,000	5,000	1,000	5,000	100	NA
Average	723	1,177	6,423	193	885	9,404	5,962	946	7,000	157	4,500

For further information, contact: joseph.kyanjo@wfp.org; cwg.uganda.kampala@gmail.com