

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 1,423,740¹ refugees as of 30 April 2020, with nearly 94% of refugees living in settlements primarily in the West Nile and Southwest regions of Uganda.

Due to the changing situation since the Ugandan government introduced COVID-19 containment measures in mid-March 2020, there is a risk that markets could be significantly affected and beneficiaries receiving cash assistance may not be able to access critical goods. The main objective of this market monitoring assessment is to understand the impact of COVID-19 on commodity prices and functionality of markets in refugee communities across Uganda and provide timely information to actors on a regular basis.

Data was collected remotely through key informant telephone interviews with traders, individuals selling key commodities, in markets across 13 refugee settlement locations from 15-30 April 2020. Key informants were purposively sampled, meaning the findings are indicative only. The figures represented in this factsheet are presented at the national and regional² level, unless stated otherwise.

While limitations in remote data collection (for more details see textbox on page 2) made it impossible to calculate a reliable estimation of the April 2020 MEB price, this market monitoring exercise aims at providing accurate figures of MEB prices in future rounds.

KEY FIGURES

- 194** traders interviewed nationwide
- 55** traders interviewed in Southwest Region
- 139** traders interviewed in West Nile Region

Uganda Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

Food Items (monthly)			
Maize flour	44 kg	Cassava (fresh)	3 kg
Beans	27 kg	Salt	1 kg
Sorghum grain	8 kg	Leafy vegetables	15 kg
Oil	4 L	Fish (smoked)	3 kg
Milk	2 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**	22,667 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

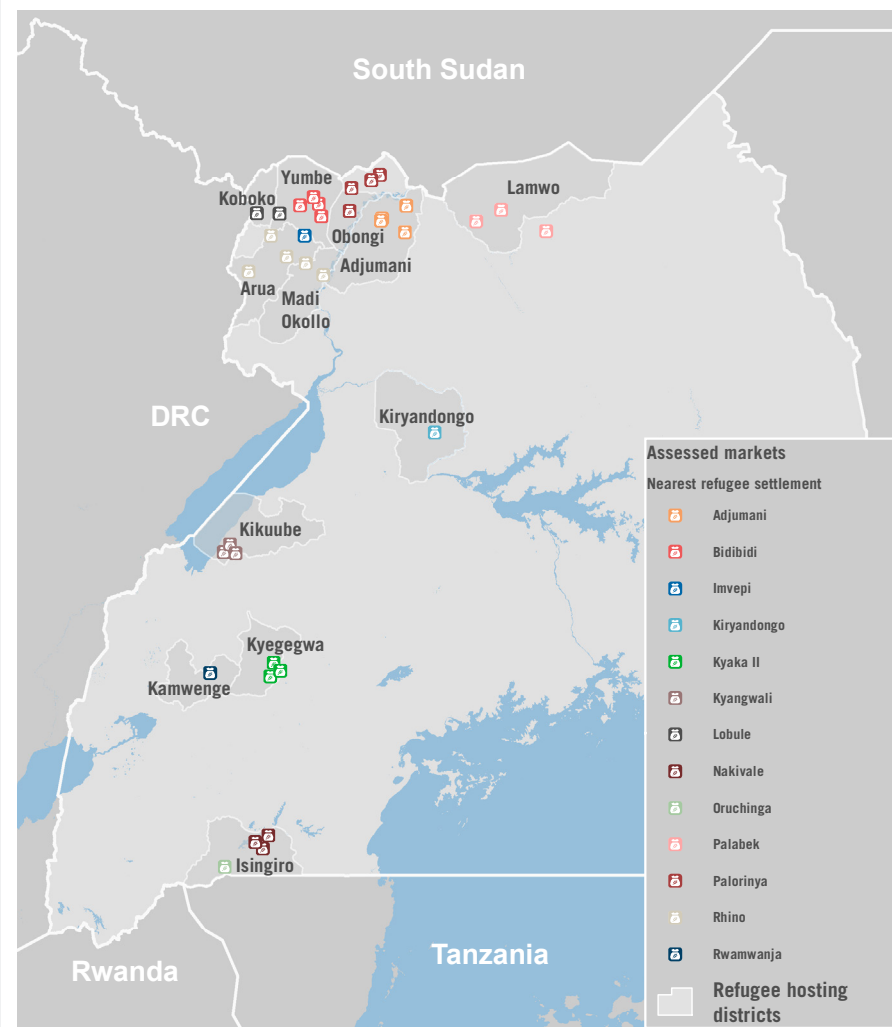
The MEB represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a five-person refugee household in Uganda for one month. Several core items were identified as being required once per year, so the total cost was divided by 12 to calculate the monthly amount. The cost of the MEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households in different locations.

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 per school year.

Map 1: Assessed settlements



Latest reported cost of the **full MEB** (March)³:
502,711 UGX

Latest reported cost of the **food MEB** (March)³:
333,619 UGX

1. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Uganda Comprehensive Refugee Response Portal. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/uga>

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

3. This price corresponds to the most recent full MEB price monitoring data from March 2020, not data from the data collection period presented in this FS. This includes both price data from food and NFI as well as other components as per above. For more detailed information please refer to the "Updated Guidance for Uganda Cash Working Group" (Last updated: 12.05.2020)

COMMODITY PRICES

Table 1: Median commodity prices in Uganda Shillings (UGX)³, by refugee settlement location, and price change since March 2020.








Item (unit)	Regions						Settlements															
	Nationwide	Southwest Region	West Nile Region	Adjumani	Bidibidi	Imvepi	Kiryandongo	Kyaka II	Kyangwali	Lobule	Nakivale	Oruchinga	Palabek	Palorinya	Rhino Camp	Rwamwanja						
Maize grain (1 kg)	1300 +30%	1000 -18%	1500 +35%	1550 +3%	1200 +14%	1500 +50%	1200 0%	1200 +26%	1000 +67%	1500 +33%	1000 +25%	1000 +25%	1200 +20%	1500 +12%	1500 +20%	1000 +8%						
Maize flour (1 kg)	2500 0%	2500 -25%	2500 -21%	2750 +45%	2300 -31%	2500 +67%	2500 +4%	2500 +11%	3000 +25%	2500 -25%	2000 0%	2000 0%	2500 -33%	2400 +55%	2500 0%	2500 +25%						
Millet flour (1 kg)	3500 -1%	3500 -3%	3000 -10%	4000 +21%	3500 -16%	3500 +1%	4000 0%	3000 0%	4000 +11%	3000 -10%	3000 -17%	4000 0%	3000 -14%	3000 -10%	3000 -40%	3500 +56%						
Beans (mixed, 1 kg)	3500 +17%	3000 0%	4000 +33%	4500 +22%	3000 -10%	5000 +25%	4000 0%	2900 -17%	3450 +15%	5000 +33%	2500 -17%	2800 0%	3500 +40%	4000 +100%	4500 +26%	3500 +8%						
Sorghum grain (1 kg)	1500 +50%	1500 +7%	1400 +47%	1500 0%	1000 +10%	1800 +89%	1200 +20%	2000 0%	1800 +38%	1000 -15%	1500 0%	1500 0%	1300 +30%	1500 +57%	1500 +50%	n/a -100%						
Cooking oil (1 litre)	6000 +7%	6000 0%	6000 +20%	6000 0%	5000 0%	5000 -37%	7000 +17%	6000 +7%	7000 +17%	5750 +5%	6000 +7%	5500 -8%	6000 +20%	6000 +20%	6000 -4%	6000 +7%						
Fresh cassava* (small bundle)	1000 n/a	1000 n/a	1000 n/a	1500 n/a	1000 n/a	1000 n/a	1000 n/a	1000 n/a	2000 n/a	1000 n/a	1000 n/a	1000 n/a	1000 n/a	2000 n/a	1000 n/a	1000 n/a						
Cooking salt (500 g)	1500 -6%	1100 -35%	1500 -6%	1750 +133%	1500 +7%	1500 +15%	1000 -29%	1000 -64%	2000 +11%	1200 -25%	1100 -45%	1500 -25%	1500 -70%	1500 -21%	1500 -63%	1000 -64%						
Leafy greens* (small bundle)	500 n/a	1000 n/a	200 n/a	750 n/a	200 n/a	200 n/a	150 n/a	500 n/a	1000 n/a	100 n/a	1000 n/a	1000 n/a	500 n/a	200 n/a	200 n/a	500 n/a						
Milk (1 litre)	2000 +100%	1000 0%	2000 +100%	n/a n/a	1000 0%	n/a n/a	1900 +19%	1000 0%	2000 0%	1000 -50%	1000 0%	1000 0%	1900 +58%	2000 0%	2000 n/a	1000 0%						
Firewood* (small bundle)	2000 n/a	2750 n/a	2000 n/a	4000 n/a	3000 n/a	1000 n/a	3000 n/a	n/a n/a	2750 n/a	2000 n/a	2000 n/a	n/a n/a	1000 n/a	3000 n/a	1500 n/a	n/a n/a						
Charcoal* (basin)	5000 n/a	8000 n/a	5000 n/a	6000 n/a	5500 n/a	4500 n/a	10000 n/a	8000 n/a	7750 n/a	5000 n/a	8250 n/a	10000 n/a	5000 n/a	5000 n/a	5000 n/a	7000 n/a						
Laundry soap (1 kg)	3300 +65%	3750 +7%	3300 +65%	3300 0%	3300 +65%	3300 n/a	4250 +6%	3500 -10%	4000 n/a	3300 +65%	3500 0%	3750 +50%	3300 n/a	3300 +65%	3300 +65%	3500 +17%						

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, before the outbreak of COVID-19, price data was determined via the actual purchase of a given commodity, by its weight and conversion into standard units. Since marketplaces are currently not accessible and data is collected remotely, the **prices reported on this factsheet refer to informal units for the marked commodities**. Historical data on commodity units suggest that there is a notable variation in these across time even within the same location. A "bundle" of cassava in December 2019 in Palorinya is significantly different in weight than a "bundle" of cassava in February 2020, within the same settlement. Due to this variation and the limitation of not being able to collect data in person and weigh commodities, **price changes since March 2020 are only reported for those commodities, which were traded in standard units**.



















3. One United States Dollar (USD) was equivalent to 3,763 UGX as of 7 May 2020, according to Oanda currency converter.

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY⁴

TRADER AND CUSTOMER BEHAVIOR

	% of interviewed traders reporting a decrease in the number of vendors in their marketplace:			% of interviewed traders reporting a decrease of > 50% in the number of vendors in their marketplace: ⁵			% of interviewed traders reporting a decrease in the number of customers in their marketplace:			% of interviewed traders reporting a decrease of > 50% in the number of customers in their marketplace: ⁵		
Nationwide	YES	66		YES	18		YES	35		YES	16	
	NO	34		NO	82		NO	65		NO	84	
Southwest Region	YES	78		YES	41		YES	33		YES	33	
	NO	22		NO	59		NO	67		NO	67	
West Nile Region	YES	62		YES	7		YES	35		YES	7	
	NO	38		NO	93		NO	65		NO	93	

STOCK AND SUPPLY

	% of interviewed traders reporting difficulty in obtaining enough supply to meet demand:			% of interviewed traders reporting a change in volume of cross-border trade:			% of interviewed traders reporting concern that their stocks will run out within one week following data collection:			Top 3 items traders reported difficulty in obtaining: ^{6,7}		
Nationwide	YES	34		YES	24		YES	55		1	Cereals	60%
	NO	66		NO	76		NO	45		2	WASH items	23%
										3	Education items	15%
Southwest Region	YES	55		YES	22		YES	69		1	Cereals	57%
	NO	45		NO	78		NO	31		2	WASH items	36%
										3	Education items	31%
West Nile Region	YES	22		YES	24		YES	49		1	Cereals	61%
	NO	78		NO	76		NO	51		2	WASH items	15%
										3	Energy items	7%

Top 3 reasons why traders reported difficulty in obtaining enough supply to meet demand:⁶

Nationwide	1	Difficulty transporting items to marketplace	80%	Southwest Region	1	Difficulty transporting items to marketplace	76%	West Nile Region	1	Difficulty transporting items to marketplace	82%
	2	Can no longer obtain items due to restrictions	45%		2	Supplier unable to provide enough of key items	55%		2	Can no longer obtain items due to restrictions	39%
	3	Supplier unable to provide enough of key items	34%		3	Can no longer obtain items due to restrictions	55%		3	Not enough money to source items	32%





4. All indicators presented on this page refer to a recall period of one week prior to data collection, if not indicated otherwise.

5. This indicator refers to the subset of traders or customers who reported a decrease in the number of vendors or customers in the marketplace.
















6. Respondents could select multiple response options.

7. WASH items include typical sanitation items such as laundry soap, sanitary pads, jerrycans or basins; education items include exercise books, pencils and pens; energy items include firewood and charcoal; shelter items include roofing nails, nylon rope, bricks, grass thatch, eucalyptus poles; household items include utensils, clothing, beddings, underwear, torches; agricultural inputs include fertilizers, pesticides, hoes and pangas.

SAFETY AND REGULATIONS⁸

	% of interviewed traders reporting changes in perceptions of security relating to operating in their marketplace:	Top reported reasons by traders for changes in perceptions of security: ⁹
Nationwide	<p>LESS SECURE 11 </p> <p>MORE SECURE 21 </p> <p>NO DIFFERENCE 68 </p>	<p>1 Increased presence of security personnel 38%</p> <p>2 Increased awareness about health risks and appropriate behaviour 18%</p>
Southwest Region	<p>LESS SECURE 15 </p> <p>MORE SECURE 40 </p> <p>NO DIFFERENCE 45 </p>	<p>1 Increased presence of security personnel 50%</p> <p>2 Increased awareness about health risks and appropriate behaviour 32%</p>
West Nile Region	<p>LESS SECURE 10 </p> <p>MORE SECURE 13 </p> <p>NO DIFFERENCE 77 </p>	<p>1 Increased presence of security personnel 24%</p> <p>2 Introduction of new rules and regulations 24%</p>

PAYMENT AND LIQUIDITY

	% of interviewed traders accepting mobile money payments when data was collected:	% of interviewed traders reporting mobile money or bank agents closing:
Nationwide	<p>YES 30 </p> <p>NO 70 </p>	<p>YES 21 </p> <p>NO 63 </p> <p>DON'T KNOW 16 </p>
Southwest Region	<p>YES 58 </p> <p>NO 42 </p>	<p>YES 34 </p> <p>NO 50 </p> <p>DON'T KNOW 16 </p>
West Nile Region	<p>YES 19 </p> <p>NO 81 </p>	<p>YES 11 </p> <p>NO 72 </p> <p>DON'T KNOW 17 </p>

KEY CHALLENGES

	% of interviewed traders reporting restrictions to transport some goods to the market: ¹⁰	Top 3 items traders reported restrictions to transport to the market: ⁹	Top 3 challenges reported by traders: ¹¹
Nationwide	<p>YES 37 </p> <p>NO 63 </p>	<p>1 Education items 45%</p> <p>2 Shelter items 37%</p> <p>3 Household Items 21%</p>	<p>1 Lack of customers 26%</p> <p>2 Public and private transport restrictions limiting traders and customers from accessing markets 25%</p> <p>3 Limited supply of some commodities 9%</p>
Southwest Region	<p>YES 53 </p> <p>NO 47 </p>	<p>1 Education items 72%</p> <p>2 Household Items 41%</p> <p>3 Shelter items 34%</p>	
West Nile Region	<p>YES 30 </p> <p>NO 70 </p>	<p>1 Shelter items 38%</p> <p>2 Education items 26%</p> <p>3 Energy items 17%</p>	

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8. All indicators presented on this page refer to a recall period of one week prior to data collection, if not indicated otherwise.

9. Respondents could select multiple response options.

10. Restrictions transporting goods could be related to country-wide movement restrictions, curfew hours, and cross-border trade, among others.

11. Respondents replied to an open question. Answers were subsequently codified. These challenges are presented at the national level, as there were minimal regional variations.