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The Market Monitor

Trends of staple food prices in vulnerable countries

This bulletin provides information on price changes for the most commonly consumed staples and their potential impacts on the cost of the food basket. Staples contribute 40 – 80 percent of energy intake for the most vulnerable population groups in developing countries. Therefore, even a small increase in staple food prices has a high impact on overall food consumption, especially when the food basket is composed of very few food items.

The bulletin covers 58 countries over the period October to December 2009.[1]

Highlights

- **Overall:** Prices of the main staple food commodities have continuously decreased in most of the countries over the last three months compared to the previous quarter. However, in the majority of the countries, the cost of the food basket is still higher compared to their long-term averages (table 3). In 73 percent of the countries monitored, the overall cost of the food basket is more than 20 percent above the 5-year averages. This is most evident in Ethiopia, Malawi, Northern Sudan, Somalia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

- **Asia:** Except in Bangladesh where the overall cost of the food basket increased by 13 percent compared to the previous quarter, rice and wheat prices either remained stable or declined during the last quarter. These two items provide 81 percent of caloric intake for households in Bangladesh. In general, prices remain significantly high in comparison to the long-term averages.

- **West Africa:** Cassava, sorghum and rice prices rose significantly in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire. Prices continue to be high compared to their long-term averages particularly for sorghum in Benin (191 percent) and rice in Côte d'Ivoire (155 percent). For the rest of the region, staple food prices declined in most of the countries when compared to the previous quarter.

- **Southern, Eastern and Central Africa:** In Burundi, Congo DR and Zimbabwe, prices are still experiencing significant increases. For example, in Burundi, the price of sweet potatoes rose by 111 percent since the last quarter. In all the countries, except in Madagascar, prices remain very high compared to their long term averages. However, staple food prices remained stable or decreased in most of the countries during the last quarter.

- **Latin America and Caribbean:** Haiti and Peru continue to face prices above their long-term averages. Haiti may now face a steep increase in prices following the earthquake. In the majority of the countries, staple food prices returned to their normal levels compared to their 5-year averages.

- **Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** Prices in Yemen increased significantly which may be due to the recent deterioration of the security situation. Compared to their long-term average, prices are significantly high in Iraq, Palestine and Tajikistan, in the range of 24 - 84 percent. However, staple food prices were either stable or decreasing in most of the countries during the last quarter.

- **Stand-Alone Countries:** Staple food prices declined in Southern Sudan while they were increasing in Northern Sudan. However, compared to their long-term averages, prices continue to be very high in both Northern and Southern Sudan.

Table 1 summarizes the overview of price trends; **Table 2** presents the evolution of purchasing power in selected countries; **Table 3** provides more detailed figures by country and commodity.

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1. It is based on price datasets collected and collated by WFP country offices and FAO.

Table 1. **Price trends for main staple food commodities (change from last quarter)**

	Change from last quarter			Change from 5-year average		
	Downward ↓	**Stable** ↔	**Upward** ↑	**Downward** ↓	**Stable** ↔	**Upward** ↑
OMB[a] – Asia	Afghanistan	Bhutan India Indonesia Laos Myanmar Nepal Pakistan Philippines Sri Lanka	Bangladesh			Afghanistan Bangladesh India Indonesia Laos Myanmar Nepal Pakistan Philippines Sri Lanka
OMC – Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe	Georgia Occupied Palestinian territory Tajikistan	Armenia Azerbaijan Iran Iraq	Yemen	Georgia	Azerbaijan	Iraq Occupied Palestinian territory Tajikistan
OMD – West Africa	Guinea Bissau Sierra leone	Burkina Faso Cape Verde Chad Guinea Mauritania Mali Niger North Nigeria Senegal	Benin Côte d'Ivoire		Guinea Guinea Bissau Senegal	Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Chad Côte d'Ivoire Mali Mauritania Niger North Nigeria
OMJ – Southern, Eastern and Central Africa	Malawi Mozambique	Ethiopia Kenya Lesotho Madagascar Rwanda Somalia Uganda Zambia	Burundi Congo DRC Zimbabwe		Madagascar Rwanda	Burundi Ethiopia Kenya Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Somalia Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe
OMP – Latin America and Caribbean	Colombia El Salvador Guatemala Honduras	Bolivia Costa Rica Dominican Republic Ecuador Haiti Nicaragua Panama Peru			Bolivia Colombia Dominican Republic Ecuador El Salvador Nicaragua	Haiti Peru
OMS – Stand-Alone Countries	Southern Sudan		Northern Sudan			Northern Sudan Southern Sudan
Number of countries	13	38	8	1	12	36*

[a] The acronyms OMB, OMC, OMD, OMJ, OMP, OMS used throughout the bulletin refer to the names of the WFP regions.
* Comparison are not done for Armenia, Bhutan, Congo DRC, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran, Panama, Sierra Leone and Yemen where the data isn't available to calculate 5-years average.

Table 2. **Evolution of household purchasing power**

Countries	Country fact sheet	
	Evolution of purchasing power	**Main raisons**
Afghanistan[2]	The terms of trade between wheat and casual labour daily salary improved slightly, by 2% on average, in November compared to October 2009.	Stability in the price of wheat in November compared to October 2009.
Niger[3]	In the most vulnerable areas, terms of trade between livestock and millet improved in November compared to October 2009.	Increase in the demand of livestock for the religious feast of Tabaski.
Sierra Leone[4]	The terms of trade in Freetown between labour wages and imported rice increased slightly from August to September 2009.	Slight decrease in price of imported rice in Freetown in September while the wages kept stable.
Sudan[5]	The terms of trade between livestock and sorghum in the livestock producing area improved in November compared to October 2009.	Increase in the demand of livestock from Gulf States.

Note: This table includes information from bulletins mainly prepared by WFP country offices.

2. Afghanistan Market Price Bulletin December 2009, WFP Country Office.
3. Bulletins from SIMA and Albichir N0. 1, November 2009, WFP, Government and Partners.
4. Sierra Leone Market Analysis Bulletin (Major Food and Cash Crops) Quarter 3, 2009, WFP.
5. Sudan Monthly Market Update, issue 24, December 2009, Government and Partners.

Table 3: **Magnitude of quarterly price changes and contribution to the cost of the food basket, by country and commodity**

Impact Codes

- Low price impact on the cost of the food basket (< 5%)
- Moderate impact on the cost of the food basket (5-10%)
- High price impact on the cost of the food basket (10-20%)
- Very high price impact on the cost of the food basket (> 20%)

Price Trend Codes

- → % Change from previous quarter (Column E) > -10% and < +10%
- ↑ % Change from previous quarter (Column E) > +10%
- ↓ % Change from previous quarter (Column E) < -10%

Regions	Countries	Main staple food	Caloric contribution (%)	Change from last quarter (% Change)	Monthly change from last year (% Change)	Quarterly change from last year (% Change)	Quarterly change from last 5-years (% Change)	Contribution to the cost of the food basket (%)		Price trend of the main staples	Remarks
								Cumulative impact of the quarter	Cumulative impact from 5-years average		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
OMB-Asia	Afghanistan	Wheat	58	-13	-48	-45	41	-10	25	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of wheat and rice
		Rice	22	-10	-11	-14	8				
	Bangladesh	Boro-HYV-Coarse	72	15	-9	-18	23	13	18	↑	High impact with high price increase of rice
		Ata-Packet	9	29	7	-12	14				
		Soyabeans	3	-7	-28	-27	6				
	Bhutan	Rice		2	34	26	N/A				High price increase of maize
		Wheat flour		4	6	13	N/A				
		Maize		10	24	16	N/A				
	India	Rice	31	1	10	8	55	0	24	→	Low impact with slight price increase of rice.
		Wheat	21	-1	13	10	36				
	Indonesia	Rice	51	-1	6	4	47	-1	24	→	Low impact with downward price trend of rice
	Laos	Rice	64	0	4	1	39	0	25	→	Low impact with stable price trend of rice
	Myanmar	Rice	57	4	-2	-2	52	2	29	→	Low impact with slight price increase of rice
	Nepal	Rice	37	4	2	2	72	-1	36	→	Low impact with slight price increase of rice
		Wheat flour	14	-15	-14	-14	70				
	Pakistan	Wheat flour	37	-4	-14	-14	89	-2	39	→	Low impact with downward price trend of all items.
		Rice	7	-1	-17	-14	83				
	Philippines	Rice	46	1	8	7	49	0	23	→	Low impact with slight price increase of rice
	Sri Lanka	Rice	39	-13	-1	-1	64	-7	35	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of wheat and rice
		Wheat flour	15	-15	3	3	66				

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								Cumulative impact of the quarter	Cumulative impact from 5-years average		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
OMD-West Africa	Benin	Maize	21	-8	-3	-13	41	2	39	↑	Low impact with high price increase of cassava products
		Cassava products	16	11	16	20	53				
		Rice	11	10	3	14	97				
		Sorghum	6	11	60	67	191				
	Burkina Faso	Sorghum	27	-7	8	5	25	-5	19	→	Low impact with downward price trend of all items
		Millet	22	-6	-3	-3	25				
		Maize	15	-7	0	-5	30				
		Rice	6	-9	-11	-10	41				
	Cape Verde	Rice	20	4	-2	-2	41	0	11	→	Low impact with slight price increase of rice
		Wheat flour	15	-7	0	0	19				
		Maize	13	1	-1	-1	N/A				
	Chad	Sorghum	18	-4	7	4	48	0	20	→	Low impact with slight price increase of millet
		Millet	15	4	7	0	55				
		Maize	5	-5	-1	2	34				
		Import rice	4	16	9	3	37				
	Côte d'Ivoire	Rice	17	48	63	104	155	11	25	↑	High impact with very high price increase of rice and cassava
		Cassava	12	29	28	41	-12				
		Maize	7	-3	16	1	-5				
	Guinea	Local rice	36	-2	-20	-28	5	-1	2	→	Low impact with downward price trends of all items
		Palm oil	6	-1	2	-11	8				
	Guinea Bissau	Import rice	38	-30	-22	-30	12	-13	3	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of imported rice and millet
		Maize	8	0	0	0	0				
		Millet	6	-36	-17	-24	-38				
		Wheat	5	1	-6	-10	18				
	Mauritania	Wheat	30	2	-5	-5	27	2	10	→	Low impact with slight price increase of wheat
		Import rice	11	12	20	9	19				
	Mali	Millet	20	-4	12	6	19	-2	12	→	Low impact with downward price trend of millet, rice and maize
		Import rice	20	-4	-24	-5	16				
		Sorghum	14	1	18	14	23				
		Maize	10	-4	-3	-2	17				
	Niger	Millet	41	4	10	11	36	3	24	→	Low impact with slight price increase of millet
		Sorghum	12	11	6	7	40				
		Import rice	9	3	-5	-3	40				
		Maize	2	0	-7	-9	38				
	North Nigeria	Sorghum	13	3	-11	-11	33	0	12	→	Low impact with slight price increase of sorghum
		Millet	11	-1	-12	-11	24				
		Rice	9	6	-15	-14	35				
		Maize	7	-10	-22	-19	23				
	Senegal	Import rice	31	-4	-42	-38	20	-4	8	→	Low impact with downward price trend of all items
		Maize	9	-16	-13	-12	11				
		Millet	8	-19	-4	-11	5				
	Sierra Leone	Local rice	40	-22	N/A	N/A	N/A	-8	N/A	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of local rice
		Palm oil	8	12	N/A	N/A	N/A				

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
OMJ-Easthern, Southern and Central Africa	Burundi	Sweet potatoes	18	111	164	14	216	35	72	↑	Very high impact with very high price increase of all items
		Beans	16	29	15	2	33				
		Cassava flour	16	48	78	38	123				
		Maize	13	22	28	17	61				
	Congo DRC	Cassava products	55	64	109	123	N/A	39	N/A	↑	Very high impact with very high price increase of all items
		Maize	13	26	29	45	N/A				
	Ethiopia	Maize	21	-7	-32	-32	97	-3	45	→	Low impact with downward price trend of all items
		Wheat	18	-9	-32	-32	69				
		Sorghum	10	-1	-29	-29	117				
	Kenya	Maize	36	0	9	4	85	0	31	→	Low impact with stable price trend of maize
	Lesotho	Maize	57	-2	0	2	30	-1	17	→	Low impact with downward price trend of maize
	Madagascar	Domestic rice	49	-9	-8	-8	3	-5	1	→	Low impact with downward price trend of rice
	Malawi	Maize	52	-16	-34	-30	89	-8	46	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of maize
	Mozambique	Maize	22	-14	-38	-34	53	-2	19	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of maize
		Import rice	8	7	-8	-5	97				
	Rwanda	Beans	10	-5	-6	-8	25	1	6	→	Low impact with downward price trend of beans
		Maize	15	22	-4	-3	73				
	Somalia	Sorghum	29	-9	22	22	296	-4	143	→	Low impact with downward price trend of maize, wheat and rice
		Maize	18	2	4	-1	256				
		Wheat flour	10	-6	-59	-61	36				
		Import red rice	9	-8	-54	-57	86				
	Uganda	Beans	11	3	10	2	108	1	18	→	Low impact with slight price increase of maize
		Maize	7	17	10	21	87				
	Zambia	Maize	56	-5	-3	3	71	-3	40	→	Low impact with downward price trend of maize
	Zimbabwe	Maize	43	24	-69	-63	408	10	175	↑	Moderate impact with very high price increase maize

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								Cumulative impact of the quarter	Cumulative impact from 5-years average		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
OMP-Latin America and Caribbean	Bolivia	Wheat flour	18	0	-5	-18	11	0	5	→	Low impact with stable price trend of wheat flour
		Rice	11	-10	-25	-29	30				
		Maize	11	13	18	-2	N/A				
	Colombia	Rice	13	-5	-29	-30	22	-5	3	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of all items
		Maize	12	-28	-34	-33	1				
		Wheat flour	8	-11	-22	-17	4				
	Costa Rica	Rice	17	6	0	4	N/A	2	N/A	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of rice
		Maize	5	20	40	47	N/A				
	Dominican Republic	Rice	17	1	-4	-1	31	0	5	→	Low impact with slight price increase of rice
	Ecuador	Rice	19	-2	-6	-5	27	0	5	→	Low impact with downward price trend of rice and wheat flour
		Wheat flour	12	-8	-8	-8	55				
	El Salvador	Maize	32	-5	-13	-13	3	-4	1	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of all items
		Sorghum	5	-15	-4	-4	-4				
		Bean	5	-26	-36	-36	-28				
		Rice	4	-17	-15	-15	45				
	Guatemala	Maize	40	-24	-20	-23	N/A	-9	N/A	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of maize
	Haiti	Import rice	23	-2	-32	-34	41	-2	17	→	Low impact with downward price trend of all items
		Wheat flour	13	-9	-20	-21	17				
		Domestic maize	12	1	-26	-26	40				
	Honduras	Maize	29	-25	-1	-2	N/A	-7	N/A	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of maize and rice
		Rice	6	-2	-21	-21	N/A				
	Nicaragua	Maize	23	-1	1	0	0	-1	0	→	Low impact with downward price trend of maize and rice
		Rice	21	-2	-17	-17	0				
	Panama	Rice	25	0	0	-1	N/A	0	N/A	→	Low impact with stable price trend of rice
		Maize	6	-7	-7	-6	N/A				
	Peru	Rice	20	-5	-13	-12	6	-1	11	→	Low impact with downward price trend of all items
		Maize	11	0	1	1	54				
		Wheat flour	11	-1	0	0	21				
		Potatoes	9	-1	-22	-20	21				

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
OMC - Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe	Armenia	Maize	48	2	9	3	N/A	1	N/A	→	Low impact with slight price increase of wheat flour
	Azerbaijan	Wheat flour	50	5	-10	-10	5	3	3	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of wheat flour
	Georgia	Wheat flour	46	-14	-4	-17	-26	-5	-12	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of wheat flour
		Maize	8	15	0	-1	N/A				
	Iran	Imported rice	10	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of rice
		Oil	4	0	N/A	N/A	N/A				
	Iraq	Wheat flour	36	-5	-10	-12	56	-3	24	→	Low impact with downward price trend of all items
		Imported rice	15	-9	-9	-9	27				
	Occupied Palestinian territory	Wheat flour	36	-11	-4	-9	24	-4	18	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of wheat flour and rice
		Rice	9	-5	7	13	84				
		Olive oil	15	9	8	23	38				
	Tajikistan	Wheat	58	-14	-16	-20	48	-8	28	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of wheat
	Yemen	Wheat	51	27	N/A	N/A	N/A	14	N/A	↑	High impact with very high price increase of wheat

OMS	Northern Sudan	Sorghum	30	23	43	41	137	8	61	↑	Moderate impact with very high price increase of sorghum
		Wheat	15	0	5	-6	82				
		Millet	7	8	26	19	109				
	Southern Sudan	Sorghum	30	-13	64	55	73	-6	31	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of all items
		Millet	7	-25	49	74	134				

Annex: **Names and number of markets covered by country**

Regions	Countries	Number of markets	Names of markets included
OMD-West Africa	Benin	1	Dantokpa
	Burkina Faso	38	Banfora, Bittou, Bogandé, Botou, Dandé, Diapaga, Diébougou, Djibasso, Djibo, Dori, Fada N'Gourma, Fara, Faramana, Gaoua, Gorom-Gorom, Gounghin, Guelwongo, Hamélé, Kaya, Kongoussi, Koudougou, Léo, Manga, Namounou, N'Dorola, Niangoloko, Niéneta, Ouahigouya, Paglayiri, Pouytenga, Sankaryaré, Solenzo, Tenkodogo, Tougan, Tougouri, Zabré
	Cape Verde	3	S.Antanao, S.Vincente, Santiago
	Chad	5	Abeche, Bol, Moundou, N'djamena, Sarh
	Côte d'Ivoire	12	Korhogo, Bouaké, Man, Abengourou, Adjamé, Daloa, Ferké, Katiola, Danané, Guiglo, Odiénné, Duékoué
	Guinea	4	Conakry, Kindia, Labe, N'zerekore
	Guinea Bissau	1	Bandim
	Mauritania	1	Nouakchott
	Mali	9	Bamako, Gao, Kayes Centre, Kidal, Koulikoro Ba, Mopti Digue, Segou Centre, Sikasso Centre, Tombouctou
	Niger	48	Agadez Commune, Arlit, In'gall, Tchirozine, Diffa Commune, Goudoumaria, N'guigmi, Dogondoutchi, Dosso Commune, Fadama, Gaya, Loga, Mokko, Dioundiou, Aguié, Tchadoua, Dakoro, Sabon-Machi, El-Kolta, Dan-Issa, Maradi-Commune, Tessaoua, Mayahi, Abalack, Badaguichiri, Bouza, Konni, Tahoua Commune, Tounfafi, Tchintabaraden, Ballayara, Filingué, Gothèye, Tera, Kirtachi, Ouallam, Tillabéri commune, Torodi, Bakin-Birgi, Torodi, Dungass, Gouré, Koundoumawa, Matameye, Magaria, Zinder commune, Niamey
	North Nigeria	4	Jibia, Illela, Mai Adua, Damassak
	Senegal	1	Tilène
	Sierra Leone	9	Barmoi, Bo, Dove Court, Kailahun, Kenema, Lumley, Makeni, Port Loko, Wellington
OMJ-Easthern, Southern and Central Africa	Burundi	16	Bujumbura, Bubanza, Gitega, Kirundo, Muyinga, Ngozi, Ruyigi, bururi, Cankuzo, Cibitoke, Karuzi, Kayanza, Matamba, Muramvya, Rutana, Mwaro
	Congo DRC	9	Bukavu, Bunia, Kalemi, Kindu, Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Mbandaka, Uvira
	Ethiopia	56	Babile, Gordamole, Merti, Wekro, Abi Adi, Sekota, Ebinat, D.Dawa, Karati, Turmi, Dangur, Addis Ababa, Gonder, Mekele, Desse, Ambo, Jimma, Nazareth, Shashemene, Baher Dar, Bale Robe, Hossana, Delo, Beddenno, Abomsa, Bedessa, Deder, Wolenchiti, Yabelo, Wekro, Alamata, Korem, May Tsebri, Gode, Jijiga, Wonago, Awassa zuriya, Gamo Gofa, Deberesina, Shoa Robit, Kobo, Bati, Dire Dawa, Harar ketema, Hirna, Sodo, Derashe, Aroresa, Amaro, Gololcha, Kersa, Ajeber, Mota, Ambo, Gonder, Assela

Regions	Countries	Number of markets	Names of markets included
OMJ-Easthern, Southern and Central Africa	Kenya	4	Kitui, Lodwar (Turkara), Madera, Marsabit
	Lesotho	All	All provinces central markets
	Madagascar	1	Ariary
	Malawi	72	Balaka, Bangula, Bembeke, Bowe, Bvumbwe, Chamama, Chatoloma, Chikwawa, Chilumba, Chimbiya, Chintheche, Chiradzulu, Chitipa, Dowa, Dwangwa, Embangweni, Hewe, Jali, Jenda, Karonga, Kasiya, Kasungu, Lilongwe, Limbe, Liwonde, Lizulu, Luchenza, Lunzu, Madisi, Malomo, Mangochi, Mayaka, Mchinji, Migowi, Misuku, Mitundu, Mkanda, Monkeybay, Mpamba, Mponela, Mtakataka, Muloza, Mwansambo, Mwanza, Mzimba, Mzulu, Nambuma, Namwera, Nanjiri, Nchalo, Neno, Ngabu, Nkhamenya, Nkhatabay, Nkhoma, Nkhotakota, Nsanje, Nsundwe, Ntaja, Ntcheu, Ntchisi, Nthalire, Ntonda, Phalombe, Rumphi, Salima, Santhe, Sharpevaley, Thete, Thondwe, Tsangano Turn Off, Zomba
	Mozambique	7	Maputo, Chokwe, Beira, Gorongoza, Manica, Nampula, Lichinga
	Rwanda	All	All provinces central markets
	Somalia	27	Baidoa, Bardera, Belet Weyne, Xudur, Luuq, Afgoye, Jowhar, Marka, Qoryoley, Mogadishu, Afmadow, Buale, Doble, Jamame, Kismayo, Hagar, Bossaso, Erigavo, Garowe, Lasanod, Borama, Burao, Hargeisa, Abudwaq, Dhusamareb, Galkayo
	Uganda	6	Kampala, Jinja, Masaka, Mbarara, Gulu, Arua
	Zambia	39	Chingola, Chipata, Choma, Isoka, Kabwe Rural, Kabwe Urban, Kalomo, Kalulushi, Kaoma, Kasama, Kasempa, Katete, Kawambwa, Kitwe, Livingstone, Luangwa, Luangwa,Luanshya, Lundazi, Lusaka Rural, Lusaka Urban, Luwingu, Mansa, Mazabuka, Mbala, Mkushi, Mongu, Monze, Mpika, Mufulira, Mumbwa, Mwense, Mwinilunga, Nchelenge, Ndola Rural, Petauke, Samfya, Senanga, Serenje, Solwezi
	Zimbabwe	1	Harare
OMB-Asia	Afghanistan	11	Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Herat, Mazar, Faizabad, Gerzet, Bamian, Maimanan, Nili, Ghor
	Bangladesh	5	Dhaka, Khulna, Shariatpur, Siriajganj, Sylhet
	Bhutan	2	Gelephu, Samtse
	India	18	Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizwal, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna, Shillong, Shimla, Trivandrum
	Indonesia	66	All provinces central markets
	Laos	8	Vientiane, Luangprabang, Oudomxay, Sayabuly, Savannakhet, Khammuane, Saravan, Champasack
	Myanmar	All	All provinces central markets

Regions	Countries	Number of markets	Names of markets included
OMB-Asia	Nepal	14	Auchham, Bajura, Banke, Dhankuta, Dolpa, Humla, Jumla, Kailali, Kaski, Kathmandu, Morang, Parsa, Rolpa, Rupandehi
	Pakistan	5	Lahore, Multan, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta
	Philippines	All	All provinces central markets
	Sri Lanka	8	Ampara, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mulaitivu, Trincomalee, Vavuniya
OMC - Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe	Armenia	2	Yerevan, Vanadzor
	Azerbaijan	All	All provinces central markets
	Iraq	1	Baghdad
	Iran	1	Tehran
	Georgia	22	Batumi, Chkhorotsku, Gali, Gori, Keda, Khobi, Khulo, Kobuleti, Kutaisi, Martvili, Mestia, Mtskheta, Ozurgeti, Poti, Rustavi, Sagarejo, Shuakhevi, Sokhumi, Tbilisi, Telavi, Tsalenjikha, Zugdidi
	Occupied Palestinian territory	11	Jenin, Tulkarm, Qalqiliya, Nablus, Ramallah & Al-Bireh, Jericho, Bethlehem, Hebron, North Gaza, Miedel Gaza, South Gaza
	Tajiskistan	5	Dushanbe, Gharm, Khorog, Kujand, Kurgan-Tyube
	Yemen	6	Aden, Hodieda, Sa'ada, Sana'a, Soqatra, Taiz
OMP-Latin America and Caribbean	Bolivia	3	La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz
	Colombia	3	Barranquilla, Bogota, Cali
	Costa Rica	All	All provinces central markets
	Dominican Republic	1	Santo Domingo
	Ecuador	8	Quito, Guayaquil, Manta, Esmeraldas, Machala, Ambato, Loja, Cuenca
	El Salvador	All	All provinces central markets
	Guatemala	All	All provinces central markets
	Haiti	9	Port-au-Prince, Cap-Haitien, Cayes, Jeremie, Gonaives, Jacmel, Hinche, Port de Paix, Ouanaminthe
	Honduras	All	All provinces central markets
	Nicaragua	1	Managua
	Panama	All	All provinces central markets
	Peru	1	Lima
OMS	Northern Sudan	14	Diem_Arab, Gedaref, Kassala, Kosti, ElObeid, Kadugli, AlFashir, Elgenina, Nyala, Eddein, Damazine
	Southern Sudan	19	Aweil Town, Bor, Custom, Gokmachar, Hajar, Jau, Kapoeta, Konyokonyo, Mabior, Malakal, Malakia, Malualkon, Mayan Rual (Gogrial East), Gogrial West, Nyamlel, Pulmok, Rubkona, Rumbek, Wau

Approach

The analysis is based on quarterly price indices[6] of the main caloric contributors to household food consumption. It uses:

i) The price change from last quarter calculated as a percentage change from the precedent quarter. Real prices are calculated by dividing each quarterly price by its 5-year average. The change between the two quarters is reported in column E (Table 2).

ii) The monthly (year-on-year) price change calculated as a percentage change from 12 months earlier. Column F (Table 2) reflects the percentage change of the most recent monthly price data available (e.g. November 2008) compared with the same month of the previous year (i.e. November 2007).

iii) The quarterly price change from the last quarter calculated as the quarterly percentage changes from the corresponding seasonal price of last year, (Column G). This average percentage change indicates whether the price has changed from the recent quarter compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

iv) The quarterly price change from the last 5-years calculated as the quarterly percentage change (say from September to November 2008) from the corresponding seasonal average prices of the last 5 years (Column H). This estimate indicates whether there is a structural shift of the current price from its long-term seasonal pattern.[7]

The percentage changes of these quarterly price indices indicate the extent to which recent price changes can be considered normal or abnormal as compared to the quarter before. Column D displays the caloric contribution of each food item to households' total energy intake.

Assuming that the caloric contribution is a proxy of the relative importance of the food item in the food basket[8], the likely impact of the last quarter average price change on the cost of the food basket is captured in column I (i.e. the percentage price change in column E weighted by the caloric contribution of the food item in column D). The long-term likely impact is presented in column J (i.e. the percentage price change in column H weighted by the caloric contribution of the food item in column D). The likely impact of price changes is considered low when the estimated cumulative percentage impact on the cost of the food basket is below 5 percent (Column J). Between 5 percent and 10 percent it is considered moderate. Above 10 percent the likely impact on the cost of the food basket is considered high and very high above 20 percent. Households with diverse calorie sources are likely to be less affected by price rises than households with a single calorie source, unless significant price increases are witnessed for each major caloric contributor of the food basket.

While this approach can be used for early warning, results should be interpreted with caution as they do not capture the impact of the long-term trend in food prices. Furthermore, the approach measures only direct impacts while an indirect impact is not accounted for. For instance, substitution and income effects due to price changes are disregarded. Similarly, it does not provide insights into the causes of the price increases. Finally, this approach does not account for the severity of the likely impact which may differ between households due to different incomes and food baskets by wealth or livelihoods groups and coping capacity.

6. Prices are calculated as indices, using reference years, i.e. last year to capture 12-month percentage changes and last 5 years to capture percentage changes from the long term patterns.

7. Prices normally vary throughout a year due to seasonal patterns of the production cycle. Accounting for seasonality helps differentiating between normal seasonal price variations with additional changes which can be considered abnormal, depending on the magnitude of those changes.

8. Caloric contributions are based on FAO 2001-2003 estimates. Comparing FAO estimates of calorie contribution of each food item with a study by Reardon (1993) for selected countries in Africa, it appears in rural areas that the majority of households get most of their calorie intake from a few food items. The national patterns will likely reflect the rural patterns, assuming most of households leave in rural and semi-urban areas in the developing countries.

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