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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 basic 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 60 countries over the period January to March 2010.[1]

Highlights

- **Overall:** Prices of the main staple food commodities have increased in most of the countries compared to the previous quarter. This increase is mainly driven by rice, wheat and maize prices. Staple food price increases together with the recent increase in fuel prices could result in an upward pressure on international prices which could then affect negatively food importing countries. In 79 percent of the countries monitored, the cost of the basic food basket is more than 20 percent above the 2003-2007 averages. The increase of the cost the basic food basket is particularly high (above 50 percent) in Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe.
- **Asia:** Due to rice and wheat price increases, the cost of the basic food basket has increased in all the countries compared to the last quarter. Rice price rose during the last quarter by 59 percent in Afghanistan, 30 percent in Sri Lanka, 27 percent in Bangladesh and 21 percent in Laos. Bangladesh continues to experience the highest increase (22 percent) of the cost of the basic food basket compared to the previous quarter.
- **West Africa:** Prices remained stable compared to the last quarter, except in Cape Verde, Ghana and Mali. However, abnormally high seasonal price increases are observed particularly in Benin for sorghum (232 percent) and rice (93 percent) and in Mauritania for rice (99 percent).
- **Southern, Eastern and Central Africa:** Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia and Zimbabwe are still experiencing significant price increases. Compared to the last quarter, maize prices increased by more than 50 percent in Mozambique (57 percent) and in Zimbabwe (59 percent). Prices remain very high for the region, compared to their long-term averages, except in Rwanda and Uganda. The increase in the cost of the basic food basket is above 20 percent in Lesotho (22 percent) and Zimbabwe (25 percent).
- **Latin America and Caribbean:** Haiti continues to face substantially high prices compared to the neighbouring Dominican Republic. Prices increased from last quarter by 28 percent for imported rice, 36 percent for wheat flour and 11 percent for domestic maize. Staple food prices increased significantly in Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, compared to the last quarter.
- **Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** Prices of wheat and rice increased significantly in Azerbaijan, Iraq, Occupied Palestinian territory and Tajikistan compared to the last quarter. Prices remained two times higher than their long-term seasonal average for rice in Iraq (115 percent) and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (91 percent) and for wheat in Tajikistan (105 percent).
- **Sudan:** Staple food prices remain stable or decreased in most of the regions of Sudan, except in Southern Sudan. However, prices continue to be very high across all the country, compared to their long-term seasonal averages.

Country specific details on the recent trend of the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households indicate a deterioration in Niger and Ghana and parts of Ethiopia and Liberia (table 2).

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

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1. Data were collected and collated by WFP country offices.

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** ↑
ODB[a] – Asia		Bhutan Nepal Philippines	Afghanistan Bangladesh India Laos Pakistan Sri Lanka			Afghanistan Bangladesh India Laos Nepal Pakistan Philippines Sri Lanka
ODC – Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe		Georgia Yemen	Azerbaijan Iraq Occupied Palestinian territory Tajikistan		Egypt	Azerbaijan Iraq Occupied Palestinian territory Tajikistan
ODD – West Africa		Benin Burkina Faso Chad Côte d'Ivoire Guinea Mauritania Niger North Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone	Cape Verde Ghana Mali		Guinea Senegal	Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Chad Côte d'Ivoire Ghana Mali Mauritania Niger North Nigeria
ODJ – Southern, Eastern and Central Africa	Tanzania Uganda	Congo DRC Kenya Malawi Zambia	Burundi Djibouti Ethiopia Lesotho Mozambique Rwanda Somalia Zimbabwe		Rwanda Uganda	Burundi Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Somalia Tanzania Zambia Zimbabwe
ODP – Latin America and Caribbean	Honduras Peru	Costa Rica Dominican Republic Ecuador Panama	Bolivia Colombia El Salvador Guatemala Haiti Nicaragua		Bolivia Colombia Dominican Republic Ecuador Nicaragua Peru	El Salvador Haiti
ODS - Sudan	Blue Nile North Darfur South Kordofan	West Darfur White Nile	South Darfur			Blue Nile North Darfur South Kordofan South Darfur West Darfur White Nile
Number of countries	7	25	28		11	41*

[a] The acronyms ODB, ODC, ODD, ODJ, ODP, ODS used throughout the bulletin refer to the names of the WFP regions.
* Comparison are not done for Bhutan, Congo DRC, Costa Rica, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Sierra Leone and Yemen where the data isn't available to calculate the 5-year average.

Table 2. **Evolution of household purchasing power**		
Countries	**Country fact sheet**	
	Evolution of purchasing power	**Main reasons**
Afghanistan[1]	The terms of trade between casual labour and wheat slightly increased (1.8 percent) on average in February compared to January 2010.	The price of wheat in February 2010 was 3.8 percent lower than in January 2010.
Benin[2]	The terms of trade between cotton and maize improved in February 2010 compared to January 2010. Cotton producers could buy 1.9 kg of maize by selling 1 kg of cotton while they could afford only 1.6 kg of maize in January 2010.	N/A
Ethiopia[3]	The terms of trade between livestock and cereals increased in Jijiga in February 2010 compared to January 2010 whilst it deteriorated on Gode market.	The deterioration of the terms of trade at Gode market was due to the decrease of goat average prices and increase of corresponding prices of cereals.
Ghana[4]	Household purchasing power has been reduced due to lower prices for crops, declining remittances and inflation.	Cocoa prices decreased by 14 percent in March 2010 compared to October 2009. Unskilled labour wage decreased by 21 percent in March 2010 compared to March 2009
Liberia[5]	Except in Pleebo, Zwedru and Gbarnga, the terms of trade between casual labour and rice increased in all the markets monitored.	The decline in the terms of trade in Pleebo and Zwedru was due to an upsurge in the prices of imported "butter" rice.
Niger[6]	Terms of trade between livestock and cereals on the pastoralist market of Abalak slightly deteriorated in February 2010 compared to January 2010.	Increase in the supply of livestock on market due to deterioration of food security situation.
Sudan[7]	The terms of trade between livestock and cereals improved in favour of pastoralists in February 2010 compared to January 2010.	Livestock prices have risen more than cereal prices.

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

1. Afghanistan Market Price Bulletin, March 2010, WFP Country Office.
2. Bulletin mensuel No 006, SIM-Benin.
3. Ethiopia Monthly Market Watch, February 2010, WFP Country Office.
4. The global financial crisis and vulnerable households: Case study in Ghana, WFP, March 2010.
5. Liberia Market Price Monitor, February 2010, WFP, Government and Partners.
6. Albichir No 04, February 2010, WFP, Government and FEWSNET.
7. Sudan Monthly Market Update, March 2010, 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 price 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-year average		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
ODB-Asia	Afghanistan	Wheat	58	3	-34	-38	45	15	42	↑	High impact with very high price increase of rice
		Rice	22	59	-6	-7	72				
	Bangladesh	Boro-HYV-Coarse	72	27	25	16	56	22	45	↑	Very high impact with very high price increase of rice and wheat
		Ata-Packet	9	28	47	42	46				
	Bhutan	Rice		8	23	32	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Moderate price increase of rice
		Wheat flour		-1	-3	9	N/A				
		Maize		-1	-6	8	N/A				
	Cambodia	Rice	66	29	16	14	93	19	61	↑	High impact with very high price increase of rice
	India	Rice	31	10	9	10	70	5	32	↑	Moderate impact with high price increase of rice and wheat
		Wheat	21	11	11	13	50				
	Laos	Rice	64	21	9	8	68	13	43	↑	High impact with very high price increase of rice
	Nepal	Rice	37	-9	10	11	57	1	37	→	Low impact with very high price increase of wheat flour
		Wheat flour	14	27	-5	12	116				
	Pakistan	Wheat flour	37	12	20	8	112	4	46	↑	Low impact with high price increase of wheat flour
		Rice	7	-9	-21	-24	67				
	Philippines	Rice	46	7	0	2	60	3	27	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of rice
	Sri Lanka	Rice	39	30	7	6	114	13	57	↑	High impact with very high price increase of rice
		Wheat flour	15	10	-12	-12	82				

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								Cumulative impact of the quarter	Cumulative impact from 5-year average		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
ODD-West Africa	Benin	Maize	21	9	-29	-23	56	0	40	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of maize and sorghum
		Cassava products	16	-16	-20	-9	27				
		Rice	11	2	11	6	93				
		Sorghum	6	7	-14	-12	232				
	Burkina Faso	Sorghum	27	7	5	7	40	4	28	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of all items
		Millet	22	8	7	8	41				
		Maize	15	5	-2	-1	40				
		Rice	6	5	-12	-13	45				
	Cape Verde	Rice	20	4	-1	0	48	2	14	↑	Low impact with high price increase of wheat flour
		Wheat flour	15	13	-3	-3	32				
		Maize	13	-6	2	2	N/A				
	Central African Republic	Cassava	18	0	-11	-9	-24	1	-1	→	Low impact with very high price increase of yams
		Maize	12	-4	-8	-4	-45				
		Groundnut Oil	10	-8	-7	-8	33				
		Yams	10	20	16	27	56				
	Chad	Sorghum	18	-7	-11	-15	39	-2	17	→	Low impact with stable price trend of millet and sorghum
		Millet	15	-8	-2	-2	45				
		Maize	5	4	-9	-8	43				
		Import rice	4	0	-8	-5	23				
	Côte d’Ivoire	Yams	20	-4	-32	-5	31	-1	13	→	Low impact with very high price increase of cassava
		Import rice	17	-36	-14	-17	19				
		Cassava	12	60	-38	5	40				
		Maize	7	-12	-21	-11	-17				
	Ghana	Cassava	23	N/A	N/A	N/A	211	4	96	↑	Low impact with very high price increase of maize
		Maize	13	32	9	12	183				
		Yams	11	N/A	14	12	197				
		Local rice	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	25				
	Guinea	Local rice	36	7	-15	-22	12	2	4	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of local rice
		Palm oil	6	14	6	6	23				
	Guinea Bissau	Import rice	38	5	-32	-11	N/A	1	N/A	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of imported rice
		Maize	8	0	0	0	N/A				
		Millet	6	0	-11	-5	N/A				
		Wheat	5	-10	-14	-3	N/A				
	Mali	Millet	20	3	5	8	23	5	18	↑	Moderate impact with high price increase of imported rice
		Import rice	20	16	14	-2	35				
		Sorghum	14	1	1	2	25				
		Maize	10	10	-6	1	28				
	Mauritania	Wheat	30	6	-7	-6	33	8	21	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of wheat
		Import rice	11	51	85	85	99				
	Niger	Millet	41	-2	4	3	35	-1	23	→	Low impact with slight price increase of imported rice
		Sorghum	12	-3	3	3	37				
		Import rice	9	2	-6	-7	41				
		Maize	2	0	-10	-8	37				
	North Nigeria	Sorghum	13	-4	-30	-18	30	0	13	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of maize
		Millet	11	-1	-31	-15	28				
		Rice	9	4	-11	-4	38				
		Maize	7	8	-40	-40	38				
	Senegal	Import rice	31	8	-41	-39	21	3	8	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of imported rice
		Maize	9	3	-19	-13	10				
		Millet	8	2	-12	-19	4				
	Sierra Leone	Import rice	40	1	-2	-2	N/A	3	N/A	→	Low impact with very high price increase of palm oil
		Cassava products	9	2	-27	-29	N/A				
		Palm oil	8	27	121	99	N/A				

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								Cumulative impact of the quarter	Cumulative impact from 5-year average		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
ODJ-Eastern, Southern and Central Africa	Burundi	Sweet potatoes	18	-19	0	-41	88	3	49	↑	Low impact with high price increase of beans and cassava flour
		Beans	16	19	30	23	52				
		Cassava flour	16	16	28	7	94				
		Maize	13	8	45	45	73				
	Congo DRC	Cassava products	55	6	55	47	N/A	7	N/A	→	Moderate impact with moderate price increase of cassava products
		Maize	13	28	-9	8	N/A				
	Djibouti	Wheat flour	36	12	-9	-13	39	5	29	↑	Moderate impact with high price increase of wheat flour
		Rice	15	5	-19	-20	98				
	Ethiopia	Maize	21	27	-10	-12	137	9	56	↑	Moderate impact with very high price increase of maize and sorghum
		Wheat	18	7	-5	-9	84				
		Sorghum	10	24	-14	-9	126				
	Kenya	Maize	36	-8	-18	-6	71	-3	25	→	Low impact with stable price trend of maize
	Lesotho	Maize	57	39	-2	0	80	22	46	↑	Very high impact with very high price increase of maize
	Malawi	Maize	52	1	-29	-34	91	1	47	→	Low impact with stable price trend of maize
	Mozambique	Maize	22	33	-31	-29	65	10	22	↑	High impact with very high price increase of maize and imported rice
		Import rice	8	27	38	25	94				
	Rwanda	Beans	10	30	27	22	62	1	7	↑	Low impact with very high price increase of beans
		Maize	5	-33	-34	-19	16				
	Somalia	Sorghum	29	33	-13	-15	233	17	144	↑	High impact with very high price increase of sorghum, maize and imported rice
		Maize	18	24	2	1	240				
		Wheat flour	10	14	-20	-20	141				
		Import red rice	9	22	-25	-30	211				
	Tanzania	Maize	33	-14	0	14	80	-4	32	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of maize
		Rice	8	4	-7	-4	70				
	Uganda	Maize	11	-53	-48	-36	-2	-8	2	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of maize and beans
		Beans	7	-31	-1	-4	30				
	Zambia	Maize	56	-6	-8	-6	60	-3	34	→	Low impact with stable price trend of maize
	Zimbabwe	Maize	43	59	-60	-54	599	25	258	↑	Very high impact with very high price increase of maize

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								Cumulative impact of the quarter	Cumulative impact from 5-year average		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
ODP-Latin America and Caribbean	Bolivia	Wheat flour	18	17	-1	-3	29	7	10	↑	Moderate impact with high price increase of all items
		Rice	11	10	-31	-28	43				
		Maize	11	28	26	26	N/A				
	Colombia	Rice	13	26	-14	-19	54	6	9	↑	Moderate impact with very high price increase of rice
		Maize	12	12	-20	-23	10				
		Wheat flour	8	9	-29	-29	10				
	Costa Rica	Rice	17	7	14	7	N/A	1	N/A	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of rice
		Maize	5	-4	-77	-6	N/A				
	Dominican Republic	Rice	17	6	2	2	37	1	6	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of rice
	Ecuador	Rice	19	3	-5	-6	29	1	6	→	Low impact with slight price increase of rice
		Wheat flour	12	12	-2	-2	67				
	El Salvador	Maize	32	23	-14	-14	27	11	12	↑	High impact with very high price increase of maize, sorghum and beans
		Sorghum	5	28	-17	-17	29				
		Bean	5	38	-28	-29	-4				
		Rice	4	9	-30	-27	44				
	Guatemala	Maize	40	15	-10	-11	N/A	6	N/A	↑	Moderate impact with high price increase of maize
	Haiti	Import rice	23	28	13	9	79	13	32	↑	High impact with very high price increase of imported rice and wheat flour
		Wheat flour	13	36	16	14	58				
		Domestic maize	12	11	6	0	52				
	Honduras	Maize	29	-11	-26	-19	N/A	-3	N/A	↓	Low impact with downward price trends of maize
		Rice	6	-1	-17	-18	N/A				
	Nicaragua	Maize	23	14	7	-3	88	6	43	↑	Moderate impact with high price increase of maize and rice
		Rice	21	13	-12	-11	109				
	Panama	Rice	25	0	0	0	N/A	0	N/A	→	Low impact with stable price trend of rice
		Maize	6	-4	-11	-7	N/A				
	Peru	Rice	20	-16	-29	-29	-14	-3	7	↓	Low impact with downward price trends of rice
		Maize	11	1	-3	-3	56				
		Wheat flour	11	3	-1	-1	24				
		Potatoes	9	-4	-23	-26	14				

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
ODC-Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe	Armenia	Wheat flour	48	-3	-6	4	N/A	-2	N/A	→	Low impact with stable price trend of wheat flour
	Azerbaijan	Wheat flour	50	34	6	10	34	17	17	↑	High impact with very high price increase of wheat flour
	Egypt	Rice	12	N/A	9	9	52	N/A	6		Rice price are very high compared to their normal level
	Georgia	Wheat flour	46	-1	-5	-2	N/A	-1	N/A	→	Low impact with stable price trend of wheat flour
		Maize flour	8	-5	1	-2	N/A				
	Iraq	Wheat flour	36	-8	0	-8	34	8	30	↑	Moderate impact with very high price increase of rice
		Import rice	15	75	0	23	115				
	Occupied Palestinian territory	Wheat flour	36	21	-5	-8	49	9	29	↑	Moderate impact with very high price increase of wheat flour and palm oil
		Rice	9	4	1	4	91				
		Olive oil	5	17	28	37	66				
	Tajikistan	Wheat	58	39	0	-16	105	23	61	↑	Very high impact with very high price increase of wheat
	Yemen	Wheat	51	-9	N/A	N/A	N/A	-5	N/A	→	Low impact with stable price trend of wheat
ODS-Sudan	Blue Nile	Sorghum	63	-14	42	44	119	-9	75	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of sorghum
	North Darfur	Sorghum	75	-23	23	40	105	-17	79	↓	Low impact with downward price trends of sorghum
	South Darfur	Sorghum	75	19	88	95	169	14	127	↑	High impact with high price increase of sorghum
	South Kordofan	Sorghum	60	-11	4	18	73	-8	52	↓	Low impact with downward price trends of sorghum and millet
		Millet	9	-19	23	40	86				
	West Darfur	Sorghum	75	4	13	14	87	3	65	→	Low impact with slight price increase of sorghum
	White Nile	Sorghum	60	-5	20	17	77	-4	53	→	Low impact with stable price trend of sorghum
		Millet	9	-12	25	30	77				

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

Regions	Countries	Number of markets	Names of markets included
ODD-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
	Central African Republic	All	All provinces central markets
	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
	Mali	9	Bamako, Gao, Kayes Centre, Kidal, Koulikoro Ba, Mopti Digue, Segou Centre, Sikasso Centre, Tombouctou
	Mauritania	1	Nouakchott
	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
ODJ-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
	Djibouti	5	Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Tadjourah, Obock

Regions	Countries	Number of markets	Names of markets included
ODJ-Easthern, Southern and Central Africa	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
	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
	Tanzania	20	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Iringa, Songea, Mbeya, Morogoro, Moshi, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Singida, S'wanga, Tanga, Tabora, Mtwara, Lindi, Musoma, Bukoba, Kigoma, Babati
	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
ODB-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

Regions	Countries	Number of markets	Names of markets included
ODB-Asia	Indonesia	66	All provinces central markets
	Pakistan	5	Vientiane, Luangprabang, Oudomxay, Sayabuly, Savannakhet, Khammuane, Saravan, Champasack
	Myanmar	All	All provinces central markets
	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
ODC-Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe	Armenia	2	Yerevan, Vanadzor
	Azerbaijan	All	All provinces central markets
	Egypt	All	All provinces central markets.
	Iraq	1	Baghdad
	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
ODP-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
ODS-Sudan	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[8] 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 (2003-2007) average. The 5-year average is called long-term seasonal 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.[9]

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, 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.[10]

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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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 that the majority of households get most of their calorie intake from a few food items in rural areas. The national patterns will likely reflect the rural patterns, assuming most of households leave in rural and semi-urban areas in the developing countries.

For more information, contact:

Joyce Luma. Chief, Food Security Analysis Service
joyce.luma@wfp.org

Issa Sanogo. Programme Adviser, Market Specialist
issa.sanogo@wfp.org

World Food Programme
Via Cesare Giulio Viola,68/70 00148 Rome, Italy
www.wfp.org/food-security

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