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The Market Monitor

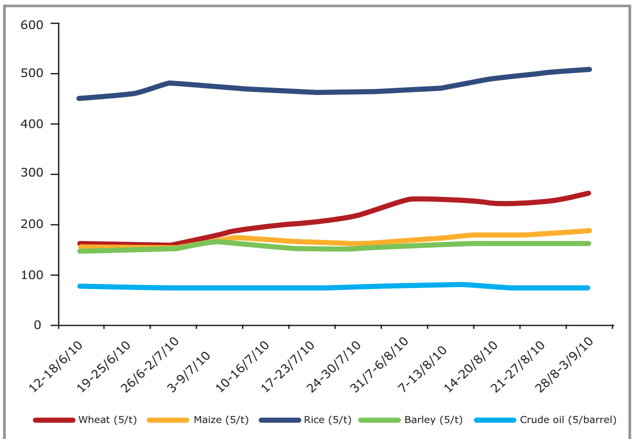
Trends of staple food prices in vulnerable countries

The bulletin covers 61 countries over the period July to September 2010.[1] In addition to looking at changes in staple food prices, the cost of the basic food basket, overall inflation, fuel prices and the terms of trade, this issue also examines the global trends of cereal prices.

Highlights

Global cereal price trends

- **Global cereal prices** have increased significantly in recent months (July–September 2010), but analysts consider the price volatility to be within the normal range. Global wheat prices are currently more than 50 percent higher than June levels. This rapid increase was mainly fuelled by concerns over potential supply shortfalls following the severe drought that afflicted major wheat exporting countries of the Black Sea region – the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Ukraine – in summer, the subsequent export ban imposed by the Russian Federation from August until the end of 2010, and the severe flood in Pakistan. Global prices of alternative grains – rice, maize and barley – have also trended upwards, but at a lower pace than wheat prices: cumulative increases range from 11 to 18 percent over the quarter. In contrast, global oil prices remained relatively stable.



	Wheat (US$/t)	Maize (US$/t)	Rice (US$/t)	Barley (US$/t)	Crude oil (US$/barrel)
Change 18 Jun-3 Sept (Cumulative)	52%	18%	11%	14%	-2%

Source of data: IMF Primary Commodity Prices as of September 14, 2010

Trends in staple food prices

- **Asia:** Compared with the last quarter, low to moderate price increases are recorded for rice and wheat in most countries. These price increases are particularly high for Bangladesh and Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) due to the lean season. Overall, prices remain significantly higher than their long-term seasonal averages.
- **West Africa:** Staple food prices have generally gone down throughout the region as a result of good harvest prospects. However, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic (CAR), Guinea and Mauritania recorded substantial price increases compared with last year. Although prices are trending downwards, they remain significantly higher than their long-term seasonal averages in the region, especially in Benin and Guinea.
- **Southern, Eastern and Central Africa:** Staple food prices have generally remained stable or decreased from last quarter's levels in most countries. However, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mozambique and Somalia experienced substantial price increases compared with last year. Compared with their long-term seasonal averages, prices remain significantly high in the region, especially in Mozambique, Somalia and Zimbabwe.
- **Latin America and Caribbean:** In general, staple food prices remained stable or decreased compared with the last quarter, except in El Salvador, Bolivia and Costa Rica. Compared with the last quarter and

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

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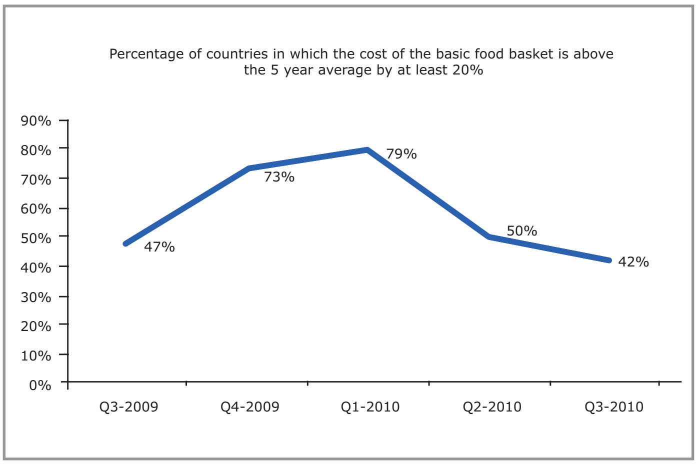
last year, prices of beans have risen significantly in El Salvador. Maize prices also increased significantly in Bolivia and Costa Rica. In Nicaragua, prices remain very high compared with their long-term seasonal averages.

- **Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** In all countries, staple food prices have either remained stable or decreased compared with the last quarter. However, prices are significantly high compared with last year and with their long-term seasonal averages. The severe drought that afflicted the Black Sea region has driven wheat prices upwards, especially in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Yemen.
- **Stand-alone countries (the Sudan):** Prices of the main staple food commodities have reduced since last quarter in many states of the Sudan, except South Darfur and Upper Nile. This is mainly owing to good harvest prospects and improved pasture conditions, leading to a reduced demand for sorghum to feed animals. However, compared with last year, prices have gone up in most states, except South Kordofan and Central Equatoria. In all states, staple food prices remain very high compared with their long-term seasonal averages.

Trends in purchasing power and fuel prices

- The number of countries in which the **cost of the basic food basket** is more than 20 percent higher than the five-year average has decreased from the last quarter to 42 percent of the countries monitored. Most of the countries remaining in this category are located in Asia, and Southern, Eastern and Central Africa. Somalia, the Sudan and Zimbabwe continue to face the highest costs of the basic food basket over the last 12 months.
- **Inflation rates** during July–September 2010 remained generally contained except in Afghanistan – non-food inflation; Egypt – food inflation; Darfur in the Sudan – food inflation; Georgia; Pakistan; and Senegal – food inflation. In Ethiopia, Guinea and Mozambique, local currency devaluation is likely to affect inflation rates further.



- The **terms of trade** of pastoralist communities in Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia excluding Somali region, Kenya and Niger have improved, mainly owing to the harvest season and regenerated pastures in Niger. In contrast, pastoralists in Burkina Faso have experienced a decline in their terms of trade, resulting from reduced cereal production compared with last year. The terms of trade of pastoralist communities have also deteriorated in several areas of the Sudan – Geneina, Nyala and South Darfur. The terms of trade of unskilled wage labourers have deteriorated in Georgia, by 37 percent, owing to the wheat price increase following the severe drought that afflicted the Black Sea countries. Income losses due to unprecedented flood have resulted in severe deterioration of the terms of trade in Pakistan, by 60 percent. Continued increases in maize prices in Upper-West Ghana have further reduced the purchasing power of daily wage labour, by 31 percent. Similar patterns observed in Cambodia – where purchasing power is down by 19 percent – are due to the lean season. In Malawi, the mid-season dry spell has led to substantial income losses from a decline in cotton production of up to 80 percent in some localities.
- **Fuel prices** compared with the last quarter remained relatively stable or decreased in most countries, expect in Indonesia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Somalia's Puntland and Mogadishu regions, where increases in the range of 2 to 5 percent are recorded.

Appendices

The rest of the bulletin provides further details by country: **Table 1** summarizes the overview of price patterns; **Table 2** presents the changes in the terms of trade; **Table 3** shows trends in the consumer price index (CPI) and fuel prices; and **Table 4** provides more detailed figures on prices, by country and commodity. **Annex 1** summarizes the list of markets from which the price data were compiled. **Annex 2** presents the approach used to calculate price changes and changes in the cost of the basic food basket.

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[2] – Asia	Sri Lanka	Afghanistan Nepal Myanmar Cambodia India Indonesia Pakistan Philippines	Bangladesh Laos			Afghanistan Bangladesh Cambodia India Indonesia Laos Nepal Pakistan Philippines Sri Lanka
ODC – Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe	Georgia Occupied Palestinian territory	Azerbaijan Tajikistan Armenia	Yemen			Azerbaijan Occupied Palestinian territory Tajikistan
ODD – West Africa	Côte d'Ivoire	Cameroon Benin Guinea Mali Cape Verde Central African Republic Chad Burkina Faso Guinea Bissau Liberia Mauritania Niger North Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone			Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Côte d'Ivoire Mauritania	Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Guinea Mali Niger North Nigeria Senegal
ODJ – Southern, Eastern and Central Africa	Djibouti Zambia Malawi Madagascar Ethiopia Kenya Burundi Zimbabwe	Congo DRC Lesotho Somalia Tanzania Mozambique Rwanda Uganda			Kenya Madagascar Rwanda Uganda	Djibouti Ethiopia Lesotho Burundi Malawi Mozambique Somalia Tanzania Zambia Zimbabwe
ODP – Latin America and Caribbean	Haiti Nicaragua	Bolivia Colombia Costa Rica Dominican Republic Ecuador El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Panama Peru			Bolivia Dominican Republic El Salvador Peru	Colombia Ecuador Haiti Nicaragua
ODS - Sudan	North Darfur South Kordofan West Darfur	Blue Nile White Nile Central equatoria	South Darfur Upper Nile			Blue Nile South Darfur South Kordofan West Darfur White Nile Upper Nile North Darfur Central equatoria
Number of countries	17	46	5		13	43[3]

2. The acronyms ODB, ODC, ODD, ODJK, ODP, ODS used throughout the bulletin refer to the names of the WFP regions.
3. Comparisons are not done for Armenia, Yemen, Congo DRC, Costa Rica, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Myanmar, Panama where data are not available to calculate 5-years average.

Table 2. **Evolution of household purchasing power reported in country bulletins**[4]

Countries	Country fact sheet	
	Evolution of Terms of Trade	**Main Reasons**
Afghanistan	The terms of trade between casual labour daily salary and wheat improved by 32 percent on average in August 2010 compared to the same time last year. Although it slightly deteriorated in August 2010 compared to July 2010.	Wheat prices are likely to rise in the incoming months, due mainly to the post-flooding situation in Pakistan (prices have doubled in many places) and the reduction of exportable wheat from the Black Sea region.
Ethiopia	The terms of trade between shoat and maize in all the three markets monitored improved significantly due to shoat price increases and decline in food prices. The terms of trade between wage and cereals is stable apart from the Somali region where a deterioration of the term of trade are due to an increase in the price of cereals.	The price of maize is continuing its decreasing trend and at the moment it is mainly due to incoming harvest. Nevertheless it is possible that the currency devaluation that occurred at the end of August will entail an increase in agricultural inputs and consequently an increase in staple food. The Birr devaluation has already impacted on the cattle price and will continue favouring pastoralists.
Kenya	The terms of trade between maize and goat for the marginal agricultural districts has increased by 50% compared to the long-term 5-year average indicating an increase in the value of cattle compared to the value of maize over the long-term. Terms of trade have also increased in the pastoral districts by 33% compared to the long-term average.	N/A
Northern Ghana	The terms of trade between labour and maize remains unchanged on average in August compared to June 2010. In the upper West region however, the terms of trade have declined significantly by about 31%.	This is attributed to the continuing increase in the prices of cereals in some major markets which is not matched by a corresponding increase in the prices of labour.
Georgia	The terms of trade between labour and wheat has decreased by 37% in September compared to July 2010.	The continuing increase in the prices of cereals is related to the drought in Russia and the wheat export reduction from the Black sea region.
Cambodia	The terms of trade between unskilled wages and the lowest quality rice price has deteriorated by 19% in August 2010 compared to June 2010.	This is attributed to the continuing increase in the prices of rice in some major markets which is not matched by a corresponding increase in the prices of labour. Increase in the price of rice is also due to the beginning of the lean season which lasts until November.
Niger[5]	There is a localized improvement of the terms of trade between goat and millet.	Cereals prices are decreasing due to good winter harvest and government efforts (cash transfers). Livestock prices on the other hand are increasing due to regenerated pasture and increased effort to support livestock movements.
Benin[6]	Terms of trade between maize and other agriculture products are improving due to the decreasing price of this cereal. For instance, farmers in the Pobè area can buy 25% more maize by selling 1 litre of palm oil in July compared to June 2010.	Price of Maize is decreasing due to increased availability and ongoing harvest in the south of the Country. The price of rice is increasing (44% compared to 2006) due to scarcity on the market and the heavy dependence on import.

Table 2. **Evolution of household purchasing power reported in country bulletins**[4]

Countries	Country fact sheet	
	Evolution of Terms of Trade	**Main Reasons**
Pakistan[7]	Purchasing power has significantly deteriorated, 60 percent of households experienced a drop in income from their principle source of livelihood.	This is a result of the severe flood that afflicted the country.
Burkina Faso	Pastoralists in the Sahel, Centre-North, East and Centre-East regions of the country have experienced a significant deterioration of in the terms of trade between livestock and cereals.	Despite a decline compared to last year, food prices are still higher than pre-crisis level. Fall in cereal production is among the causes for sustained cereals prices.
Chad	Livestock prices have started to recover, improving slightly the terms-of- trade for pastoralists. Cereals prices are showing sign of stabilization but still remain high.	Last year severe decline in pasture conditions led to serious livestock deaths and damage, notably in west-central areas of Chad. The situation is now improving and cereal prices are also slowly stabilizing due to promising harvest prospects.
Djibouti	Terms of trade have improved for pastoralists especially in the southern provinces of Dikhil, Arta and western parts of Tadjourah and Ali Sabieh.	Good rains from March to May 2010 have improved availability of pasture, browse and water thus increasing livestock prices
Senegal	There is a deterioration of terms of trade rice/peanut over the reporting period in Kaolack indicating that farmers have access to less rice with their production.	N/A
Sudan	The terms of trade (ToT) in the Geneina market (number of goats purchased for one sack of sorghum) this round is similar to the last round. However, the ToT has decreased compared to last year when one goat was sold for 1.5 bag of sorghum compared to one bag now. In the Nyala market ToT has decreased in August 2010 compared to May 2010, and is much lower than the five-year average as well as much lower than in the two other Darfur states.	In West Darfur, the heavy rain this season had a positive impact and the prices have decreased since May due to good crop establishment. As a result, the cereal traders have started to release parts of their stocks. In South Darfur despite the increased cereal prices, livestock prices decreased mainly due to an increase in availability of livestock as the pastoralists moved to the northern part of the State this time of the year.
Malawi	In southern regions, households' income and consequently their purchasing power has been affected by lower market price and downturn in cotton production.	All 13 districts in the southern region have been affected by mid-season dry spell which adversely impacted on cotton production. Production has dropped by 80% in localised areas. On the other side record maize harvest (even if lower than last year) has contained the maize prices.

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

4. Data reported by WFP Country Office and FAO/Giews report September 2010 unless specified differently.
5. Albichir No 9, July 2010, WFP, Government and FEWSNET and Système d'information sur les marchés agricoles, Gouv. Niger Bulletin Hebdo n.113.
6. Bulletin Mensuel No 11, July 2010, ONASA.
7. Pakistan flood impact assessment September 2010.

Table 3. **Evolution of CPI and Fuel prices**

Countries	**Country fact sheet**	
	Evolution of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)	**Evolution of Fuel Prices**
Afghanistan	Compared to August 2009, the general CPI increased by 7.9 points, the food index by 6 points and the non food index by 10.8 points.	Fuel prices (diesel) peaked in July with a 3.86 percent increase and then decreased again by 6.47 percent in August.
Armenia	In July compared to June, the general CPI and the food CPI decreased by 0.8 and 1.5 percent respectively.	From June 2010 to September, petrol and diesel prices have decreased by 4.8 and 4.7 percent respectively.
Bolivia	The general CPI and food CPI in August 2010 compared to June 2010 increase by 1.68 percent and 4 percent, respectively.	Fuel prices are subsidized by the government and remain the same since 2007.
Cambodia	The general CPI and food CPI in August 2010 compared to June 2010 increased slightly by 1.4 percent and 2.53 percent, respectively. On a yearly basis the overall inflation rate was 1.7 percent while the food inflation rate was 2.05 percent.	Fuel prices in August 2010 compared to July 2010 decreased slightly by 0.91 percent but remained 10.5 percent above last year's level.
CAR	N/A	Petrol prices in August 2010 compared to June 2010 remained stable while diesel prices decreased by 25 percent over the same period.
Djibouti	The general CPI increased by 0.2 percent in July and by 1.4 percent compared to May. Inflation recorded in July has been determined primarily by a rise in transport prices (+0,8%). Compared to May, the food CPI increased by 3.4% but it remained stable in July.	Fuel prices (kerosene) in August 2010 compared to June 2010 slightly decreased by 1 percent.
Domenican Republic	The general CPI increased by 0.34 and 0.22 percent in July and August respectively. In comparison to August 2009, the overall CPI rose by 5.01 percent.	Diesel prices remained stable in August 2010 while regular gasoline prices decreased slightly by 0.4 percent.
Ecuador	Compared to January 2010, the general CPI increased by 1.16%. The general CPI increased slightly by 0.12% from May to August 2010.	Fuel prices remained stable from June 2010 to August.

Table 3. **Evolution of CPI and Fuel prices**

Countries	**Country fact sheet**	
	Evolution of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)	**Evolution of Fuel Prices**
Egypt	From June to August, the general and the food CPI increased by 5.7 and 10 percent respectively. The increase in food prices (especially rice and wheat flour) is related to the increase in the international prices but also to the seasonal impact of Ramadan and to the back to school preparations. Compared to August 2009, the CPI and the food CPI increased by 11.5 and 21.6 percent respectively.	Fuel prices are administered by the governement.
Ethiopia	Compared to July 2010, the August general inflation and the food inflation were higher by 0.8 and 1.1 percent respectively. However , in comparison to the same month last year, the general and food CPI were lower by 19.7 and 28.8 percent.	Compared to June 2010, the August fuel price remained stable. The August fuel prices are approximately at the level of January 2010. The Birr devaluation is likely to impact fuel prices in forthcoming months.
Georgia	After three consecutive months of decrease, inflation increased by 2.3% in August.	Fuel prices (diesel) in September 2010 compared to July 2010 slightly increased by 0.56 percent.
Guinea	The Guinean franc (GNF) has lost a third of its value since August due to current political uncertainties. There are concerns over a regain of inflation, especially food inflation as Guinea depends on rice imports. The currency devaluation is therefore likely to severely affect households' purchasing power and the country's import capacity.	N/A
Haiti	In August, the general CPI remained stable while the food CPI decreased by 0.2 percent.	Fuel prices are regulated and have remained stable.
Ivory Coast	In August 2010, the general and the food CPI decreased by 0.2 and 1 percent respectively. Compared to August 2009, the global and the food inflation rates were 1.1 and 4.4 percent higher.	In July and August 2010, fuel prices (gasoil) remained stable.
Indonesia	The monthly inflation rate was 1.57 percent in July 2010 and 0.76 in August 2010.	Kerosine price increased slightly by 0.23 percent in July 2010. Kerosine price rose by 16.34 percent year-on-year in August 2010.

Table 3. **Evolution of CPI and Fuel prices**

Countries	**Country fact sheet**	
	Evolution of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)	**Evolution of Fuel Prices**
Kenya	The general CPI in August 2010 compared to June 2010 increased slightly 0.66 percent.	Fuel prices in August 2010 compared to June 2010 decreased by 2,1 percent for gasoline and by 3,5 percent for diesel but remain above last year's level by 8 percent.
Lao PDR	N/A	From June 2010 to September, petrol and diesel prices have decreased by 2.42 and 1.23 percent respectively.
Lesotho	N/A	Fuel prices in September 2010 compared to June 2010 decreased by 5 percent for petrol and 4 percent for diesel. Petrol is now 5% lower than last year and diesel is at the same level. Petrol and diesel prices are regulated at the retail level while paraffin is regulated at the wholesale level.
Madagascar	N/A	Fuel prices increased by 2 percent in July and remained stable in August.
Mauritania	In July 2010, the general and the food CPI increased by 0.4 and 0.5 percent. On a yearly basis, the general inflation and the food inflation rates were 6.6 and 8 percent.	Gasoil and petrol prices increased respectively by 3.1 and 2.5 percent in July and then remained stable in August and September.
Niger	According to the INS (National Statistical Office in Niger), average annual inflation rate was at 0,6% in August. Compared to May 2010 inflation rate was at 2%..	Fuel prices remained stable from February to August 2010. In September, fuel prices increased by 3 percent.
oPt	The general CPI and food CPI in August 2010 compared to June 2010 increased by 0.8 and 1 percent respectively. Compared to August 2009, the overall CPI increased in August by 2.6 percent and the food CPI by 1.4 percent.	The gasoline retail price increased by 2,7 percent in July and decrased by 0.44 percent in August.
Pakistan	The Consumer Price Index of August, 2010 has increased by 2.51% over July, 2010, and 13.23% over corresponding month of last year.	From July to September, petrol price decrease by one percent while diesel price increased by 4.16 percent.

Table 3. **Evolution of CPI and Fuel prices**

Countries	Country fact sheet	
	Evolution of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)	**Evolution of Fuel Prices**
Philippines	The general CPI and the food CPI have increased on average by 0.58 and 0.74 percent over the third quarter of 2010 compared to the second quater (from April to June).	Between June and September 2010, diesel and gasoline prices have decreased by 1.5 and 2.92 percent respectively.
Sierra Leone	N/A	Petrol prices increased by 5.3 percent in July and by 3.3 percent in August. Petrol prices rose by 12.6 percent in August 2010 compared to the same month last year.
Senegal	The general CPI increased by 1.2 percent in August. This increase is mainly due to food inflation (+3.2 percent in August). Compared to the same peiod last year, the overall CPI and the food CPI increased by 2.2 and 6.9 percent respectively.	N/A
Somalia	N/A	From June to August , petrol prices increased by 10 percent in Puntland, 9.6 percent in the Central region and 2.45 percent in the South. By contrast, it decreased by 9 and 3.5 percent in Somaliland and in Mogadishu at the same period. Diesel prices decreased slighlty in every zone (between 1.3 and 2.5 percent) except Puntland and Mogasdishu where it increased by 2.19 and 5.6 percent respectively.
Sri Lanka	The general CPI remained stable in July and then increased slightly by 0.5 percent in August. The overall CPI increased by 5 percent in August compared to the same month last year.	Fuel prices remained stable over the third quarter of 2010.
Sudan	The cost of the minimum healthy food basket has increased considerably in all three Darfur states: to 1.86 SDG/person/day in August compared to 1.59 SDG in May in South Darfur and from SDG 1.07 to 1.32 (24%) in west Darfur, from 1.63 SDG to 1.79 SDG in North Darfur.	N/A
Tajikistan	The general CPI and the food CPI increased in July 2010 by 0.9 and 1.3 percent, respectively.	Compared to June, petrol and diesel prices decreased by 0.78 and 1.18 percent respectively in August. They are 14.6 percent and 41 percent above last year's levels for petrol and diesel, respectively.

Note: This table includes information from previous bulletins mainly prepared by Country Offices and also information from National Institute of Statistics and Central Banks.

Table 4. **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	9	-4	-12	42	3	26	→	Low impact with moderate wheat price increases from last quarter.
		Rice	22	-11	-11	-10	8				
	Bangladesh	Boro-HYV-Coarse	72	13	62	58	69	10	54	↑	High impact with moderate price increase of the basic food items from last quarter.
		Ata-Packet	9	6	82	66	47				
	Cambodia	Rice	66	-9	9	8	49	-6	32	→	Low impact with moderate upward trends of rice price from last year.
	India	Rice	31	-1	4	7	64	0	29	→	Low impact with stable price trends of rice and wheat from last quarter.
		Wheat	21	-1	4	5	44				
	Indonesia	Rice	51	9	26	23	84	4	43	→	Low impact with moderate rice price increases from last quarter.
	Lao PDR	Rice	64	20	54	48	111	13	71	↑	High impact with high rice price increases from last quarter and last year.
	Myanmar	Rice	57	0	12	11	N/A	0	N/A	→	Low impact with upward rice price trends from last year.
	Nepal	Rice	37	6	12	13	87	2	52	→	Low impact with moderate rice price increases.
		Wheat flour	14	-1	18	19	138				
	Pakistan	Wheat flour	37	-4	4	-1	95	-2	41	→	Low impact with slight price increases of basic food items from last year.
		Rice	7	-3	3	0	85				
	Philippines	Rice	46	2	7	6	56	1	26	→	Low impact with slight upward rice price trends.
	Sri Lanka	Rice	39	-16	-24	-22	48	-5	33	↓	Low impact with moderate wheat price increases from last quarter.
		Wheat flour	15	10	3	2	99				

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 (%): Cumulative impact of the quarter	Contribution to the cost of the food basket (%): Cumulative impact from 5-year average	Price trend of the main staples	Remarks
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
ODD-West Africa	Benin	Maize	21	-1	-4	-13	47	-3	32	→	Low impact with downward price trends for all the basic food items.
		Cassava products	16	-14	-2	-9	19				
		Rice	11	-3	9	11	92				
		Sorghum	6	-11	6	6	158				
	Burkina Faso	Sorghum	27	-7	-17	-17	12	-3	11	→	Low impact with slight price decreases for all basic food items.
		Millet	22	-1	-8	-7	24				
		Maize	15	-4	-15	-15	18				
	Cameroon	Maize	14	-5	-12	-13	24	-1	6	→	Low impact with price decrease of all products.
		Rice	9	-2	0	-1	30				
	Cape Verde	Rice	20	0	9	9	45	1	14	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of maize.
		Wheat flour	15	0	0	0	35				
		Maize	13	10	14	14	N/A				
	Central African Republic	Cassava	18	7	29	17	-19	7	4	↑	Moderate impact with high maize price increase.
		Maize	12	55	14	32	9				
		Groundnut Oil	10	-1	-11	-9	24				
		Yams	10	-4	62	32	37				
	Chad	Sorghum	18	-1	-31	-29	12	-1	9	→	Low impact with slight price decreases.
		Millet	15	-2	-19	15	32				
		Maize	5	-9	-23	-23	17				
		Import rice	4	3	9	9	27				
	Côte d'Ivoire	Yams	20	-37	N/A	N/A	-38	-10	-5	↓	Low impact with moderate price increase of maize.
		Import rice	17	2	2	1	29				
		Cassava	12	-33	22	34	-2				
		Maize	7	11	-35	-25	-23				
	Guinea	Local rice	36	-5	16	17	66	-3	26	→	Low impact with moderate upward price trends from last year.
		Palm oil	6	-15	19	18	31				
	Guinea Bissau	Import rice	38	0	-13	-13	N/A	1	N/A	→	Low impact with moderate wheat price increase from last quarter.
		Maize	8	0	0	0	N/A				
		Millet	6	0	-17	-19	N/A				
		Wheat	5	10	12	-6	N/A				
	Liberia	Butter rice	25	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of butter rice from last quarter.
	Mali	Millet	20	-1	-14	-7	16	0	11	→	Low impact with high price increase of wheat.
		Import rice	20	-1	1	1	23				
		Sorghum	14	-1	-9	-7	14				
		Maize	10	-1	-8	-6	15				
	Mauritania	Wheat	30	16	20	13	14	5	7	→	Low impact with stable price trends.
		Import rice	11	2	-9	-6	21				
	Niger	Millet	41	-1	2	5	32	-1	20	→	Low impact with slight price decrease of all the basic food items.
		Sorghum	12	-2	3	5	30				
		Import rice	9	-3	-6	-7	33				
		Maize	2	-2	-8	-7	25				
	North Nigeria	Sorghum	13	-3	5	3	31	-2	12	→	Low impact with slight price decreases for all the basic food items.
		Millet	11	-2	2	4	26				
		Rice	9	-9	4	5	32				
		Maize	7	-2	-1	-4	32				
	Senegal	Import rice	31	3	6	1	28	1	11	→	Low impact with slight rice price increases.
		Maize	9	0	-7	-6	24				
		Millet	8	-5	-30	-23	3				
	Sierra Leone	Imported Rice	40	-2	-14	-12	N/A	1	N/A	→	Low impact with high palm oil price increases from last quarter.
		Palm Oil	8	23	22	21	N/A				

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
ODJ-Easthern, Southern and Central Africa	Burundi	Sweet potatoes	18	-29	-3	11	45	-21	20	↓	Low impact with high price increases of beans from last year.
		Beans	16	-34	25	17	20				
		Cassava flour	16	-38	23	6	41				
		Maize	13	-32	2	-5	13				
	Congo DRC	Cassava products	55	-5	27	43	N/A	-4	N/A	→	Low impact with slight downward price trends from last quarter.
		Maize	13	-5	9	22	N/A				
	Djibouti	Wheat flour	36	-14	-6	-6	31	-5	24	↓	Low impact with moderate price decreases from last quarter.
		Rice	15	-3	-16	-40	86				
	Ethiopia	Maize	21	-17	-32	-30	71	-5	33	↓	Low impact with moderate price decreases for maize and sorghum.
		Wheat	18	0	-18	-15	61				
		Sorghum	10	-19	-27	-21	60				
	Kenya	Maize	36	-13	-37	-37	12	-5	4	↓	Low impact with moderate maize price decreases from last quarter.
	Lesotho	Maize	57	-5	-3	-3	29	-3	17	→	Low impact with slight maize price decreases form last quarter.
	Madagascar	Domestic rice	49	-19	-4	-3	9	-9	5	↓	Low impact with moderate rice price decreases from last quarter.
	Malawi	Maize	52	-11	-20	-18	85	-6	44	↓	Low impact with moderate maize price decreases from last quarter.
	Mozambique	Maize	22	-5	13	9	96	-1	31	→	Low impact with moderate price increases from last year.
		Import rice	8	0	25	17	127				
	Rwanda	Beans	10	5	-23	4	51	0	4	→	Low impact with slight price increases of beans from last quarter.
		Maize	5	-11	-46	-47	-17				
	Somalia	Sorghum	29	-9	30	43	208	-4	123	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of sorghum and maize from last year.
		Maize	18	-10	2	11	175				
		Wheat flour	10	2	-6	-4	139				
		Import red rice	9	1	-6	-4	189				
	Tanzania	Maize	33	9	-23	-22	53	3	21	→	Low impact with slight price increases of maize and rice from last quarter.
		Rice	8	4	-18	-14	41				
	Uganda	Maize flour	10	-6	-20	-20	45	-1	21	→	Low impact with slight price decreases of maize and cassava flours from last quarter.
		Cassava flour	12	-2	-16	-16	85				
		Beans	6	2	5	5	110				
	Zambia	Maize	56	-10	-17	-16	52	-6	29	↓	Low impact with moderate maize price decreases from last quarter.
	Zimbabwe	Maize	43	-35	-1	-5	290	-15	125	↓	Low impact with high maize price decreases from last quarter.

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
ODP-Latin America and Caribbean	Bolivia	Wheat flour	18	-9	7	3	14	1	7	→	Low impact with high maize price increases.
		Rice	11	-1	5	-1	43				
		Maize	11	25	87	78	N/A				
	Colombia	Rice	13	-4	8	4	40	1	10	→	Low impact with moderate maize price increases from last quarter.
		Maize	12	17	-10	-1	37				
		Wheat flour	8	-6	-25	-25	0				
	Costa Rica	Rice	17	1	16	21	N/A	1	N/A	→	Low impact with moderate maize price increases from last year.
		Maize	5	8	30	32	N/A				
	Dominican Republic	Rice	17	-5	3	3	30	-1	5	→	Low impact with slight rice price decreases from last quarter.
	Ecuador	Rice	19	0	0	-1	30	0	13	→	Low impact with stable basic food price trends.
		Wheat flour	12	-2	-1	-2	63				
	El Salvador	Maize	32	8	11	-1	3	4	4	→	Low impact with high price increases of beans.
		Sorghum	5	-21	-17	-17	-7				
		Beans	5	47	115	58	46				
		Rice	4	-8	-6	-9	34				
	Guatemala	Maize	40	8	-2	-4	N/A	3	N/A	→	Low impact with moderate maize price increases from last quarter.
	Haiti	Import rice	23	-14	-12	-7	37	-6	16	↓	Low impact with moderate cereal price decreases from last quarter and last year.
		Wheat flour	13	-14	-16	-7	25				
		Domestic maize	12	-4	-2	-3	35				
	Honduras	Maize	29	7	-16	-26	N/A	2	N/A	→	Low impact with slight maize price increases from last quarter.
		Rice	6	-5	-13	-13	N/A				
	Nicaragua	Maize	23	-16	-23	-23	36	-4	29	↓	Low impact with low to moderate cereal price decreases.
		Rice	21	-3	-3	-3	97				
	Panama	Rice	25	-1	0	-1	N/A	0	N/A	→	Low impact with slight maize price increases from last quarter.
		Maize	6	6	-4	-5	N/A				
	Peru	Rice	20	1	-23	-23	-14	0	3	→	Low impact with stable price trends from last quarter.
		Maize	11	-2	-4	-4	49				

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 (%): Cumulative impact of the quarter	Contribution to the cost of the food basket (%): Cumulative impact from 5-year average	Price trend of the main staples	Remarks
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	8	6	N/A	-1	N/A	→	Low impact with slight wheat flour price increase from last year.
	Azerbaijan	Wheat flour	50	-8	11	11	62	-4	31	→	Low impact with moderate wheat flour price increases from last year.
	Georgia	Wheat flour Maize flour	46 8	-14 -12	32 10	9 1	-8 N/A	-8	N/A	↓	Low impact with moderate wheat and maize flour price increases from last year.
	Occupied Palestinian territory	Wheat flour Rice Olive oil	36 9 5	-13 -13 -7	-15 -24 21	-16 -23 24	21 48 56	-6	15	↓	Low impact with downward price trends from last quarter.
	Tajikistan	Wheat	58	3	12	8	97	2	36	→	Low impact with slight upward price trends of wheat.
	Yemen	Wheat	51	17	30	35	N/A	9	N/A	↑	Moderate impact with high wheat price increases.
ODS-Sudan	Blue Nile	Sorghum	63	5	35	32	125	3	79	→	Moderate impact with high sorghum price increase from last year.
	North Darfur	Sorghum food aid	75	-12	74	90	144	-9	108	↓	Low impact with high food aid sorghum price increase from last year.
	South Darfur	Sorghum	75	17	93	77	180	13	135	↑	High impact with high sorghum price increases.
	South Kordofan	Sorghum Millet	60 9	-13 -14	-24 -15	-9 11	28 38	-9	20	↓	Low impact with downward sorghum prices.
	West Darfur	Sorghum	75	-10	44	35	112	-8	84	↓	Low impact with moderate decrease in sorghum price from last quarter but high increase from last year.
	White Nile	Sorghum Millet	60 9	-10 3	10 40	23 28	64 72	-5	45	→	Low impact with moderate sorghum price decrease from last quarter.
	Central Equatoria	Maize	73	-15	-17	10	32	-11	23	↓	Low impact with moderate maize price decrease from last quarter.
	Upper Nile	Sorghum	71	11	50	29	70	8	50	↑	Moderate impact with upward sorghum prices.

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		National average
	Cameroon		National average
	Cape Verde	3	S.Antanao, S.Vincente, Santiago
	Central African Republic		National average
	Chad	5	Abeche, Bol, Moundou, N'djamena, Sarh
	Côte d'Ivoire	4	Bouaké, Katiola, Odiénné, Man
	Guinea	6	Boke, Madina, Kankan, Labe, N'Zerekore, Conakry
	Guinea Bissau	1	Bandim
	Liberia	10	Bo-Waterside, Buchanan, Foya, Gbanga, Pleebo, Red Light, Saclepea, Tubmanburg, Voinjaman, Zwedru
	Mali		National average
	Mauritania	1	Nouakchott
	Niger		National average
	North Nigeria	4	Jibia, Illela, Mai Adua, Damassak
	Senegal	12	Dakar, Diourbel, Fatick, Kolda, Kaffrine, Koalak, Louga, Matam, Saint Louis, Tambacounda, Thiès, Ziguinchor
	Sierra Leone	13	Wellington, Dove Court, Krootown, Lumley, Barmoi, Port Loko, Kailauhun, Makeni, Kabala, Koidu, Pujiehun, Bo, Kenema

Regions	Countries	Number of markets	Names of markets included
ODJ-Easthern, Southern and Central Africa	Burundi	14	Bujumbura, Bubanza, Bururi, Cankuzo, Cibitoke, Gitega, Karuzi, Kayanza, Kirundo, Makamba, Muramvya, Mwaro, Ngozi, Ruyigi
	Congo DRC	11	Kinshasa, Goma, Bukavu, Kabalo, Moba, Bunia, Kindu, Kalemie, Mbandaka, Lubumbashi, Uvira
	Djibouti	5	Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Tadjourah, Obock
	Ethiopia	25	AA, Ambo, Gonder, Jimma, Mekele, Nazareth, Shashemene, Baher Dar, Bale Robe, Desse, Hossana, Babile, Delo, Yabelo, Alamata, Korem, Abi Adi, Somali Gode, Jijinga, Wonago, Meskan, Sodo, S. Robit, Kobo, Bati
	Kenya	3	Nairobi, Kisumu, Eldoret
	Lesotho	All	All provinces central markets
	Madagascar	1	Antanarivo
	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	10	Maputo, Manica, Nampula, Angonia, Chokwe, Gorongosa, Maxixe, Milange, Montepuez, Ribaue
	Rwanda	1	Kigali
	Somalia	19	Baidoa, Bardera, Belet Weyne, Xudur, Luuq, Afgoye, Jowhar, Marka, Qoryoley, Mogadishu, Afmadow, Buale, Doble, Jamame, Kismayo, Hagar, 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	9	Kiboga, Kampala, Iganga, Jinja, Kapchora, Moroto, Mbarara, Gulu, Lira
	Zambia	36	Chingola, Chipata, Isoka, Kabwe Rural, Kabwe Urban, Kalomo, Kalulushi, Kaoma, Kasama, 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

Regions	Countries	Number of markets	Names of markets included
ODB-Asia	Afghanistan	10	Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Herat, Mazar, Faizabad, Bamian, Maimanan, Nili, Ghor
	Bangladesh	30	Dhaka Sadar, Tangail Sadar, Faridpur Sadar, Jamalpur Sadar, Gopalgonj Sadar, Manikgonj Sadar, Narsingdhi Sadar, Netrokona Sadar, Khulna Sadar, Jessore Sadar, Kushtia Sadar, Bagerhat Sadar, Sylhet Sadar, Maulavibazar Sadar, Barisal Sadar, Bogra Sadar, Pabna Sadar, Natore Sadar, Rangpur Sadar, Rajshahi Sadar, Gaibandha Sadar, Jaipurhat Sadar, Nawabgonj Sadar, Nilphamari Sadar, Panchagarh Sadar, Thakurgaon Sadar, Comilla Sadar, Chittagong Sadar
	Cambodia	9	Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Cham, Takeo, Siem Reap, Prey Veng, Phnom Penh, Kampot, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey
	India	18	Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizwal, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna, Shillong, Shimla, Trivandrum
	Indonesia		National average
	Laos		National average
	Myanmar		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		National average
	Sri Lanka		National average
ODC-Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe	Armenia	2	Yerevan, Vanadzor
	Azerbaijan		National average
	Georgia	4	Gali, Sokhumi, Tbilisi, 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

Regions	Countries	Number of markets	Names of markets included
ODP-Latin America and Caribbean	Bolivia	3	La Paz, Cochabamba & Santa Cruz
	Colombia	3	Barranquilla, Bogota, Cali
	Costa Rica		National average
	Dominican Republic	1	Santo Domingo
	Ecuador	8	Quito, Guayaquil, Manta, Esmeraldas, Machala, Ambato, Loja, Cuenca
	El Salvador	11	Ahuachapan, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Chalatenango, Cojutepeque, San Vicente, Zacatecoluca, Sensuntepeque, Usulatan, San Miguel, San Fransisco Gotera, La Union, San Salvador
	Guatemala		National average
	Haiti	9	Port-au-Prince, Cap- Haitien, Cayes, Jeremie, Gonaives, Jacmel, Hinche, Port de Paix, Ouanaminthe
	Honduras		National average
	Nicaragua		National average
	Panama		National average
	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

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 analysis is based on quarterly price indice[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,[10] 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.

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 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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