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The Market Monitor

Trends of staple food prices in vulnerable countries

This bulletin covers 63 countries over the period January to March 2011 (Q1-2011).[1] In addition to looking at changes and trends in staple food prices and the cost of the food basket this issue also examines trends in fuel prices, terms of trade and consumer price index (CPI) at country level.

Highlights

Global cereal price trends

- **Overall, the cereal prices** index in Q1-2011 is about 14% higher compared to Q4-2010, and up 51% compared to Q1-2010. Indeed, the FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 252 points in March, down 2.6 percent from February, but still 60 percent higher than in March 2010. Rice prices decreased compared to Q4-2010 due primarily to increased export availability from good harvests in the past year. However, wheat and maize prices increased by 19% and 16% respectively in Q1-2011. Wheat price increases are likely to slow down in the coming months as tensions in northern Africa delay imports and dampen aggregate global demand (Egypt, for instance, is the world's largest wheat importer). The impact of the Japanese crisis is still unclear; Japan could indeed increase its food imports, especially cereals. The crude oil price index has also sharply increased over the period.

Price Index Variation (%)

Commodity	Q1-2011/ Q4-2010	Q1-2011/ Q1-2010
Cereal	14	51
Wheat	19	72
Maize	16	72
Rice	-1	-7
Crude oil	12	24

Source of data: IMF Primary Commodity Prices as of March 23, 2011

Staple food price trends at regional and country levels

The upward trend of global cereal prices is affecting domestic prices in many import dependent countries.

- **Asia:** While Q1-2011 staple food prices have remained stable to moderately increasing in nominal terms, seasonally adjusted quarterly changes are experiencing an upward price trend, for both rice and wheat, compared to Q4-2010 in most countries across the region. In **Afghanistan, Bangladesh** and **Sri Lanka** both wheat and rice seasonally adjusted prices have increased the greatest compared to other countries in the region (+21%; +59%; +24%; +18% and +26%; 30%, respectively); while **Cambodia**'s main staple (i.e. rice) also increased by 17%. In **Pakistan**, rice prices are 24% higher compared to last quarter when taking seasonality into account, while the price of wheat flour, the main staple food, increased by 7%. Low levels of in-country stocks in **India** are also presenting an upward pressure on rice prices there.
- **West Africa:** Cereal prices are moderately increasing across the region, with the exception of imported rice prices which have seen the greatest increases over the last quarter (from 2% in the Gambia to 32% in Chad). **Chad, Ghana, Guinea** and **Mauritania**, should be closely monitored as they have experienced sharp rises in staple food prices in Q1-2011, both in nominal and seasonally adjusted terms. In Guinea (local rice) and Mauritania (wheat), seasonally adjusted prices are respectively 41% and 25% higher than in Q1-2010. **Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mali** and **Sierra Leone** are experiencing moderately increasing seasonally adjusted prices. In **Burkina Faso, Mali** and **Niger** moderately upward trends are mainly due to the fact that households are assembling their stocks, however the 2010 bumper harvest promises good market conditions in the coming months. The escalation of conflict in **Cote d'Ivoire** has disrupted staple food flows to the south, putting further upward pressure on prices.
- **Eastern Africa:** Despite a steady increase in international food prices from the end of 2010, maize and wheat prices remained within seasonal trends in most of the Greater HoA region due to the good cereal harvests in 2010 which somewhat cushioned the regional market from the international market prices. Exceptions include key remote deficit areas (eastern Kenya, southern-central Somalia, Somali region of Ethiopia) where staple cereal prices saw significant increases. The highest rises are in **Somalia**, where poor harvests have led to a 58% and 24% increase in the seasonally adjusted prices of sorghum and maize, respectively, from Q1-2010. Continued price increases have been observed in **Ethiopia** (+51% maize; + 20% wheat; +14% sorghum) compared to Q4-2010, where the government has imposed a fuel price adjustment. **Djibouti** has also experienced significant increases in staple food prices (+31% wheat flour and +12% rice) in the last months. In **Uganda** and **Kenya** seasonally adjusted maize prices

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

have increased (+27%, +21% respectively) compared to Q4-2010. In Uganda the demand for maize exports has increased in response to poor harvests in neighbouring countries including Kenya, Southern Sudan and Rwanda.

- **Southern Africa:** In several countries staple food prices increased during Q1-2011 due to natural hazards. In **Madagascar**, already inflated rice prices have been exacerbated by the effects of tropical storm Binza, with a 12% increase in local rice prices compared to the previous quarter. In **Zimbabwe**, inflationary pressures continue as the price of maize increased 39% compared to the previous quarter.
- **Latin America and Caribbean:** The upward trends of staple food prices continued in Q1-2011, particularly for maize prices. The country with the greatest upward pressure on seasonally adjusted food prices is **El Salvador**, where maize, sorghum, bean and rice prices have increased in the range of 10% (rice) to 60% (sorghum). **Bolivia** and **Colombia** have also seen across the board increases of all staple prices. Maize prices in **Honduras** increased by 15% in Q1-2011 compared to Q4-2010; were up 28% in **Guatemala** and 17% in **Nicaragua**, due primarily to lower yields and increased fuel prices. In **Haiti**, March marks the beginning of the lean season and food prices will likely follow a predictable increasing trend until June, in fact imported rice prices have increased by 15% compared to last quarter already.
- **Middle East and Central Asia:** Price increases in Central Asia are more pronounced than those in the Middle East. However, the ongoing socio-political instability is likely to further inflate prices in the Middle East. Preliminary data from **Libya (Al Kufra)** indicate that cereal (wheat flour and rice) prices in March are 30% to 50% higher than before the conflict. Prices of other essential commodities (e.g. cooking oil, sugar, pasta and tomato) have also increased by 10% to 30% due to reduced availability and depletion of stocks. The Egyptian crisis strongly affected the market in **the occupied Palestinian territories** where the price of rice exceeded its 2008 peak and wheat price showed a 33% increase from Q4-2010. **Tajikistan** has seen a 64% increase in seasonally adjusted wheat prices from the previous quarter, while **Azerbaijan** has also experienced similar price increases, with wheat prices increasing 36% compared to last quarter controlling for seasonal factors. In **Georgia**, maize and wheat flour recorded a sharp increase over the quarter, due to import shortages to cover the deficit, pushing the Government to distribute food vouchers to all households.
- **Sudan:** In **South Sudan**, significant cereal price increases, ranging from 38% (maize) to 225% (sorghum), were reported in Q1-2011 compared to Q1-2010. This is due to localized insecurity problems that have reduced sorghum supply on markets, while influx of returnees has created additional demand for sorghum on many markets. The high cereal price increases, which occurred mainly from Q4-2010 to Q1-2011, are partly due to the referendum. In **North Sudan**, the harvest season in the mechanized rain-fed area is approaching its end. Prices of sorghum have reduced in many surplus states compared to Q4-2010. The decline in sorghum prices has triggered local procurement of sorghum by the government's Strategic Reserve Corporation (SRCO) from many surplus regions.

Fuel price trends at country level

Fuel prices have been increasing in Q1-2011, likely due to the impact of increasing global prices, with price increases ranging from 1% to 36%. The highest increases in fuel prices were felt in **Ethiopia** and **Haiti**, where fuel subsidies have been scaled back; and, **Malawi** and **Uganda**. In **Mauritania** (Nouakchott), fuel price increased by about 20% compared to Q1-2010. This is likely to affect long-distance transportation cost between sparsely populated areas of the country. Fuel prices remained stable in Jordan, Niger, Sri Lanka, Ecuador and Egypt. Continued global fuel price increases could trigger further inflation in fuel import dependent countries.

Impacts on purchasing power

- **Basic cost of the food basket:** In 44 out of 63 (70%) countries monitored, the overall cost of the basic food basket is more than 10% above the 5-year average, reflecting the overall increasing trends in prices at global and local levels. Furthermore, 16 out of 63 (25%) countries have seen more than a 10% increase in the cost of their food basket from Q4-2010 to Q1-2011. **Ghana, Somalia, Afghanistan, Georgia**, and **El Salvador** are those countries in which the increase was more than 20%.
- **Inflation:** Inflation rates continue to remain generally contained to increasing during the first quarter of 2011. The greatest increases in monthly inflation rates, on the order of 3% to 11%, were seen in **Bolivia, Jordan, the occupied Palestinian territories, Tanzania** and **Uganda** – mainly driven by increases in food prices. In Uganda, the inflation rate has significantly increased to 11.1% in March compared to 6.4% in February 2011. While monthly inflation rates remain fairly low in Pakistan and Egypt, double digits headline inflation is recorded in both of these countries.
- **Terms of trade:** The terms of trade of pastoralist communities has deteriorated in **Kenya** and **Uganda** due to cereal price increases. In Niger, the goat/millet terms of trade are more favourable than the five-year average. At the beginning of the quarter, signs of favourable terms of trade were also recorded in pastoralist areas in Afghanistan and Ethiopia where livestock price increases were more than balancing the increase in cereal prices. The purchasing power of unskilled wage labour has declined in **Cambodia, Georgia, Ghana** and **Pakistan** due to staple food price increases. In **Mauritania**, the purchasing power of urban unskilled labourers is down by 29% compared to a year ago.

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. The **map** provides a visual presentation of countries that require close monitoring.

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	Myanmar Nepal	Indonesia Philippines	Afghanistan Bangladesh Sri Lanka Laos Cambodia India Pakistan			Afghanistan Bangladesh Cambodia India Indonesia Laos Nepal Pakistan Philippines Sri Lanka
ODC – Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe		Egypt Armenia Yemen	Azerbaijan Tajikistan Jordan Georgia Occupied Palestinian territory			Azerbaijan Georgia Occupied Palestinian territory Tajikistan
ODD – West Africa		Niger Senegal Benin Liberia Gambia Burkina Faso North Nigeria	Sierra Leone Cape Verde Mali Guinea Bissau Chad Guinea Ghana Mauritania			Burkina Faso Guinea Bissau Gambia Benin Cape Verde Mauritania Guinea Ghana Niger North Nigeria Chad Mali Senegal
ODJ – Southern, Eastern and Central Africa	Zambia	Lesotho Tanzania	Madagascar Congo DRC Rwanda Malawi Kenya Ethiopia Djibouti Burundi Congo Mozambique Zimbabwe Somalia Uganda		Rwanda	Djibouti Burundi Ethiopia Kenya Madagascar Lesotho Uganda Mozambique Somalia Tanzania Zambia Zimbabwe
ODP – Latin America and Caribbean		Costa Rica Dominican Republic Ecuador Panama	Bolivia Colombia Honduras Nicaragua El Salvador Haiti Guatemala Peru		Dominican Republic	Ecuador Haiti Nicaragua Bolivia Colombia El Salvador Peru
ODS - Stand-Alone Countries	White Nile Blue Nile South Kordofan North Darfur South Darfur West Darfur		Central Equatoria Upper Nile			White Nile Blue Nile South Kordofan North Darfur South Darfur West Darfur Central Equatoria Upper Nile
Number of countries	3	18	41	0	2	46[3]

2. The acronyms ODB, ODC, ODD, ODJ, ODP, ODS used throughout the bulletin refer to the names of the WFP regions.
3. Comparison are not done for Guinee Bissau, Sierra Leone, Armenia, Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Congo, Congo DRC, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Lesotho, Honduras, Liberia, Myanmar, Panama where the data isn't available to calculate 5-years average.

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

Countries	Country fact sheet	
	Evolution of Purchasing Power	**Main Reasons**
Afghanistan	The average terms of trade between casual labourer daily salary and wheat slightly improved from January to February 2011, rising by 1 percent due to the slight decrease in wheat prices. It improved by 11 percent compared to pre-crisis levels. The average terms of trade between a live one year old female sheep and 1 kg of wheat improved by 4 percent since January 2011 due to an increase in sheep prices. It deteriorated by 9.5 percent compared to pre-crisis levels.	N/A
Benin	Terms of trade between maize and other agricultural products (soya, palm oil) are slightly deteriorating due to a slight increase in the price of this cereal.	As of February 2011 traders started to reduce market supply of maize fearing scarcity of this cereal, thus leading to a relative price increase. Indeed last year flooding had a negative impact on the maize harvest.
Cambodia	The terms of trade between unskilled wages and lowest quality rice has improved by 12 percent in January 2011 compared to December 2010. Even if in February there was a slight increase in the price of rice, the quartely average remains 13 percent above the average of Q4-2010.	This is attributed to the decrease in the prices of rice in some major markets which started at the end of the lean season in November.
Ethiopia	The terms of trade between shoat and maize improved for pastoralists in the market of Jijiga by 17 percent due to an increase in the price of shoat. In the other two markets monitored (Gode and Dire Dawa) the prices of maize and sorghum increased but with no significant changes in the ToT until February. Nevertheless, cereal price instabiliy and decreases in the price of shoat in the market of Gode could compromise the purchasing power of pastoralists.	The failure of Deyr rains in the pastoralist area of Oromiya could lead to deteriorating livestock body condition and hence reduce prices.
Georgia	The terms of trade between wheat and labour has decreased by 7 percent in March compared to January 2011, meaning a deterioration in household purchasing power.	Wheat flour prices started to increase in February due to import shortages, while the labour wage rates remained stable.
Ghana	Labour-to-maize terms of trade slightly deteriorated in February 2011 compared to the previous quarter going from 8.8 to 8kg in the Northern Region, 11 to 10kg in the Upper East Region and 17 to 9.6kg in the Upper West Region.	There has been an increase in wage labour rates in February 2011 but this did not couple inflation, which increased by 1.5 percent compared to January. The price of maize is also going up as farmers are holding stocks due to an increase in the cost of transport. It is possible that stocks will not be released untill the beginning of the lean season in May pushing prices up.
Kenya	Terms of trade between livestock and Maize were slightly deteriorating in the Pastoral Zone. In Mandera pastoralists saw their purchasing power reduced by 8 percent, in Garissa by 12 percent and in Wajir by 9 percent.	The price of maize has been increasing in March as the market tightens due to increasing demand as household stocks diminish. Current rising fuel prices are also driving up transport costs and the effects of the long rains are making access to remote areas harder than the previous quarter.
Liberia	The terms of trade between wage labour and rice have slightly improved between December 2010 and January 2011.	The price of rice has been moderately increasing (4 percent on average) in Liberia over the period observed but the wage rates have also increased by 15 percent.

Table 2. **Evolution of household purchasing power reported in country bulletins**[4]		
Countries	**Country fact sheet**	
	Evolution of Purchasing Power	**Main Reasons**
Madagascar	Since the end of January households' purchaing power has been compromised by an increase in the price of local rice. By the end of March rice prices had increased by 8 percent compared to previous quarter.	Prices of rice started to increase due to the depletion of off season rice crops. In the south, damages caused by tropical storm Bingiza affected market supply thus leading to an increase in prices. In order to contain inflation the Government has banned rice exports as of early of March.
Niger	Despite an increase in the price of millet, the terms of trade between goat and millet are still favouring pastolarists in January 2011 compared to a five (5) year average. On the other hand, the value of cowpeas (niebe) has increased on the market and 100 Kg of this commidty are exchanged with 120 Kg of millet indicating a favourable situation for niebe's producers.	Millet prices were on the rise in January compared to the previous month in deficit areas due to increased demand by traders and re-stocking of reserves by the Government; nevertheless the price level was still below the five-year average.
Pakistan	There has been a deterioration of 11 percent in the terms of trade between wage rates and wheat flour in March 2011 compared to January 2011.	As of March 2011 wheat flour prices decreased by 3 percent and wage rates by 13 percent compared to January thus leading to a detarioration in the purchasing power.
Senegal	There has been a slight deterioration in the terms of trade between peanut and rice affecting cash crop producers in Kaolack.	The price of peanuts continued to decrease in January and February still reflecting the effects of the marketing campaign and the increased availability of the commodity on the market. Rice prices on the other hand have remained stable.
Somalia	There has been a deterioration in the terms of trade between both sorghum and wage labour; and sorghum and goat due to an increase in the price of sorghum over the observed period. Pastoralists lost, on average, 56 percent of their puchasing power during the first quarter of 2011 compared to the previous quarter.	Below average Deyr yields and the impact of drought on animal body conditions are the main reasons behind the price increases.
Sudan	In North Sudan, terms of trade between adult male goat and sorghum improved in February, increasing between 5 percent and 10 percent, favouring pastoralists in North, South and West Darfur and in the White Nile state. In South Sudan the terms of trade between livestock and sorghum increased on average by 10 percent in February compared to January 2011, favouring bull owners.	A considerable decline in sorghum prices is favouring pastoralists over the period observed.
Uganda	Terms of trade between livestock and cereals have sharply declined from January to March 2011 in Karamoja region and especially in Moroto. Indeed both maize and sorghum prices doubled between January and March while livestock prices, in particular for cows, decreased.	Maize prices are driven upward by a mediocre 2010 second season harvest and an increasing import pressure from neighbouring countries like Kenya, where maize reserves are depleting.
Note: This table includes information from bulletins mainly prepared by WFP country offices.		

4. Data reported by WFP Country Office and FAO/Giews reports unless specified differently.

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

Countries	Country fact sheet	
	Evolution of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)	**Evolution of Fuel Prices**
Afghanistan	The CPI continued its increasing trend, which began in March 2010. The food component has been driving up inflation during this quarter.	The high fuel prices pushed the non food component of the CPI in January.
Bolivia	The general CPI and the food CPI increased respectively by 1.7 percent and 2.9 percent in February 2011. They are respectively 10 percent and 17 percent above last year's levels.	N/A
Burkina Faso	There has been a slight increase in the general CPI in January 2011 compared to December 2010 (0.7 percent) and an increase of 1.2 percent compared to the same month last year. The increase in CPI is mainly due to a rise in the food index particularly in the prices of cereals and oils. Food CPI increased by 2.2 percent in January 2011.	N/A
Cambodia	The general CPI in Phnom Penh increased by 0.2 percent from December 2010 to January 2011. Over the last twelve months, prices have increased by 3.3 percent.	Fuel prices in January 2011 compared to December 2010 increased by 2.1 percent and remained 14.2 percent above last year's level.
Djibouti	The general CPI decreased by 0.5 percent in January 2011. This is mainly due to a decrease in the food CPI which decreased by 1.1 percent in January. Compared to January 2010, the general and the food CPI increased by 2.5 and 1.5 percent, respectively.	N/A
Ecuador	The general CPI increased slightly by 1.24 percent in February 2011 compared to December 2010. This is mainly due to an increase in the food prices in particular bread, oats, milk and sugar. Compared to February 2010, the general CPI increased by 3.4 percent.	Fuel prices remained stable from January to February 2011 and decreased slightly compared to December 2010 (-0.17 percent).
Egypt	The general CPI and the food CPI increased slightly by 0.1 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively, in February compared to January 2011. Compared to the same month last year general CPI and food CPI increased by 10.7 and 18.2 percent respectively.	Fuel prices are regulated by the Government.
Ethiopia	In February 2011, the general inflation and the food inflation calculated on a 12 month moving average stood at 9.8 percent and 3.7 percent respectively. In comparison to December 2010, the general CPI increased by 2.9 percent and the food CPI by 3.5 percent.	Prices have increased by 17.8 percent for fuel, 19.6 percent for kerosene and 23.6 percent for diesel in March 2011 compared to December 2010.

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

Countries	Country fact sheet	
	Evolution of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)	**Evolution of Fuel Prices**
Gambia	The general and the food CPI registered a 0.6 and a 0.9 percent increase, respectively, in February 2011. On an annual basis, the general and the food CPI increased, by 5.4 and 7.4 percent, respectively.	N/A
Guatemala	In February 2011, the general CPI and the food CPI increased slightly by 0.7 and 0.9 percent, respectively. On a yearly basis, the inflation rate reached 5.2 percent and the food inflation rate reached 6.7 percent.	N/A
Haiti	In February, the general CPI increased slightly by 1.2 percent compared to January and by 6.4 percent compared to the same month last year. The food CPI increased by 2.3 percent in February. On a yearly basis, the food CPI increased by 9.1 percent.	The government stopped subsidising fuel prices in March 2011. Gasoline and diesel prices increased by 14 percent and 36 percent, respectively.
Honduras	The general CPI in February 2011 increased slightly compared to December 2010 (1.1 percent) . The food CPI decreased slightly over the period by 0.33 percent.	Fuel prices increased from December 2010 to February 2011 (+ 5.2 percent of increase for the fuel premium, + 6.1 percent for the fuel regular and + 8.4 percent of increase for diesel prices).
Indonesia	In February 2011, the inflation rate was 0.1 percent. On a yearly basis, the general CPI increased by 6.8 percent.	Kerosene price increased slightly (+ 0.4 percent) from January to February 2011.
Jordan	In January 2011, the general CPI and the food CPI increased by 3.1 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively, before decreasing by 0.5 and 1.2 percent in February.	Fuel prices remained stable over the period.
Kenya	The general CPI and the food CPI increased by 1.3 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively, in February 2011. The food CPI increase was attributed to cost increases recorded for a number of food products such as maize flour and maize grain. On a yearly basis, the general inflation rate was 6.5 percent and the food inflation rate was 9.8 percent.	Fuel retail prices increased by 3.9 percent from January 2011 to March 2011. Fuel prices in Nairobi are 22 percent above last year's level.
Lesotho	In January 2011, the general CPI and the food CPI increased slightly by 0.5 percent and 0.8 percent. On a yearly basis, the general inflation rate and the food inflation rate were 3.2 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively.	Fuel prices in March 2011 compared to January 2011 increased by 13.3 percent for petrol and 16.6 percent for diesel. Fuel prices are regulated at the retail level, while paraffin is regulated at the wholesale level.

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

Countries	Country fact sheet	
	Evolution of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)	**Evolution of Fuel Prices**
Niger	The general CPI decresed by 1.7 percent from January to February 2011 due to the decrease of the food CPI (-3.9 percent). The decrease in food prices is due to the drop in local prices. On a yearly basis, the general CPI and the food CPI increased by 2.7 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively.	Fuel prices remained stable over the period from January to March 2011 but they are 5.5 percent above their level of the last quarter of 2010.
Malawi	Headline inflation for January 2011 stands at 6.6 percent.	From January to March 2011, fuel and diesel prices increased by 13.2 percent and 12.4 percent, respectively
Mauritania	In January 2011, the general CPI increased by 0.4 percent. On a yearly basis, the general inflation inflation rate was at 6.3 percent.	Fuel prices increased by 1.1 percent from January to March 2011.
oPt	The general CPI and food CPI in March 2011 compared to January 2011 slightly increased by 0.1 and 0.6 percent, respectively. Compared to March 2010, the overall CPI increased in December by 3.3 percent and the food CPI by 4 percent.	The gasoline retail price increased by 8.2 percent from December 2010 to March 2011.
Pakistan	The general CPI and the food CPI decreased by 0.7 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively, in February 2011. However, the general inflation and the food inflation calculated on a 12 month moving average stood at 13.9 percent and 17.4 percent, respectively.	Fuel prices increased by 6.7 percent from January 2011 to March 2011.
Peru	From January 2011 to March 2011, the general CPI and the food CPI increased slightly by 0.7 percent and 1.5 percent, respectvely.	In January 2011, fuel prices increased by 5.1 percent and then remained stable in February.
Philippines	In February 2011, the general CPI and the food CPI increased by 1.9 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively, compared to December 2010. Compared to the same month last year, the general CPI and the food CPI increased by 4.2 percent and 4.1, respectively .	N/A
Senegal	The general CPI increased slightly by 0.4 percent in February 2011 and the food CPI decreased by 1 percent. Compared to the same month last year, the general CPI and the food CPI increased by 3.7 percent and 8.8 percent, respectively.	From December 2010 to March 2011, gasoline prices decreased by 0.9 percent and diesel prices increased by 4.3 percent.

Table 3. **Evolution of CPI and Fuel prices**		
Countries	**Country fact sheet**	
	Evolution of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)	**Evolution of Fuel Prices**
Sierra Leone	N/A	From January 2011 to March 2011, fuel prices increased by 8 percent.
Sri Lanka	The Colombo CPI increased by 1.2 percent in February 2011 and the food CPI increased by 1.1 percent. On a yearly basis, the general CPI increased by 7.8 percent.	Fuel prices remained stable over the first quarter of 2011.
Sudan	In all states, the cost of the food basket is higher compared with their long term averages. In the six northern states included in the monitoring, the overall cost of the food basket ranges from 12 to 104 percent above the 5 year average, while it ranges from 63 to 197 percent above the 5 year averages for the two southern states. On the other side, prices of the main staple food commodities have reduced in many states of North Sudan during the reporting period January–March compared with the previous quarter.	N/A
Uganda	The monthly inflation rose by 1.3 percent for the month of February 2011 compared to 1.2 percent recorded in January. In February, the food price inflation recorded was 2 percent. The annual inflation rate rose by 11 percent percent for the year ending March 2011 and 6.4 percent for the year ending in February and the annual food inflation rate increased to 8.6 percent for the year ending February 2011. The inflation rates have not been matched by an increase in the incomes implying that in March 2011, the purchasing power of many households has been further put under pressure.	In Kampala, diesel and gasoline prices increased by 16.6 and 11 percent, respectively, from January 2011 to March 2011.
Tajikistan	The inflation rate for February 2011 reached 1.3 percent.	Diesel and petrol prices increased by 3.9 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively, over the first quarter of 2011 compared to the last quarter of 2010.
Tanzania	In February the general and the food CPI increased by 2.2 and 3 percent respectively. On a yearly basis, the general CPI and the food CPI increased by 7.5 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively.	Fuel prices increased by 6.3 percent from December 2010 to February 2011. Petroleum products prices continued to increase in March. The price increases have been caused by changes in the world market prices and the depreciation of the Tanzanian Shilling compared to the US dollar.

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

Magnitude of quarterly price changes and impact on the cost of the food basket

WFP
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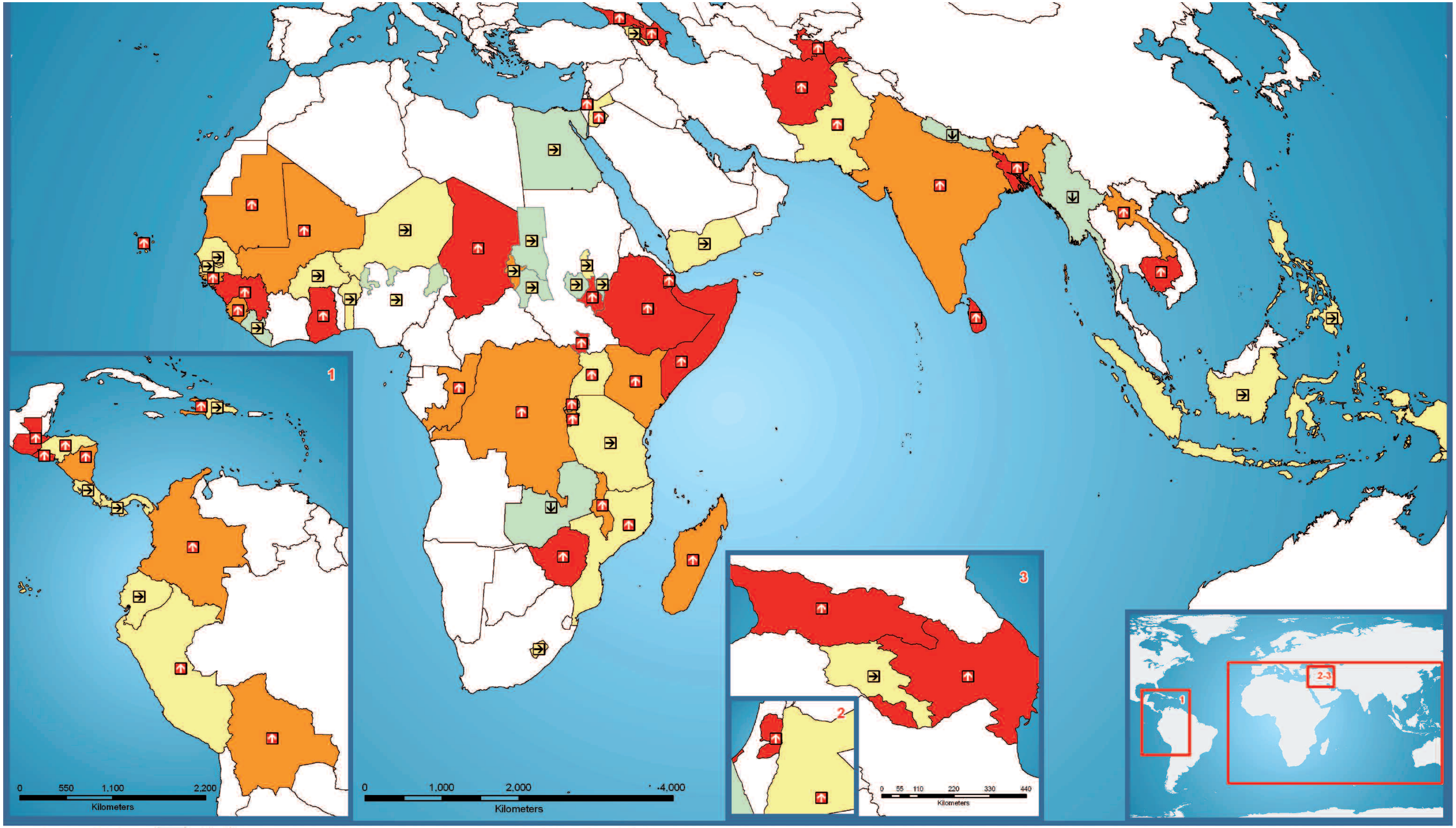

Impact Codes

- No data
- Low price impact on the cost of the food basket (<0%)
- Moderate price impact on the cost of the food basket (0-5%)
- High price impact on the cost of the food basket (5-10%)
- Very high price impact on the cost of the food basket (>10%)

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%

Note: Map based on Table 4

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Map produced by: VAM - Food Security Analysis (ODXF)
Data sources: WFP,Gaul.

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)	Seasonally adjusted quarterly change (% 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	M
ODB-Asia	Afghanistan	Wheat	58	6	21	24	25	80	25	58	↑	High impact with upward price trend of wheat from last quarter.
		Rice	22	0	59	-9	-11	54				
	Bangladesh	Boro-HYV-Coarse	72	10	18	35	33	108	15	88	↑	High impact with upward price trend of rice and wheat.
		Ata-Packet	9	6	24	44	43	109				
	Cambodia	Rice	66	-9	17	-7	-7	76	11	50	↑	High impact with price increase of rice from the last quarter.
	India	Rice	31	0	7	3	3	75	5	35	↑	Moderate impact with upward price trends of rice and wheat.
		Wheat	21	8	13	5	5	58				
	Indonesia	Rice	51	5	9	18	21	107	4,6	54	→	Low impact with relatively stable price trends of rice.
	Lao PDR	Rice	64	-3	12	14	14	107	8	69	↑	Moderate impact with upward price trends of rice.
	Myanmar	Rice	57	-10	N/A	2	3	N/A	-5	N/A	↓	Low impact with downward rice price trend from last quarter.
	Nepal	Rice	37	-7	-22	6	4	63	-9	42	↓	Low impact with downward price trend from last quarter.
		Wheat flour	14	-1	-3	11	9	134				
	Pakistan	Wheat flour	37	0	7	-1	1	114	4	52	↑	Low impact with upward price trend of rice.
		Rice	7	7	24	14	15	145				
	Philippines	Rice	46	2	7	0	1	60	3	28	→	Low impact with stable price trend of rice.
	Sri Lanka	Rice	39	10	30	-14	-19	62	16	45	↑	High impact with upward price trend of all items from the last quarter.
		Wheat flour	15	-2	26	34	30	140				

Regions	Countries	Main staple food	Caloric contribution (%)	Change from last quarter (% Change)	Seasonally adjusted quarterly change (% 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	M
ODD-West Africa	Benin	Maize	21	0	-1	0	0	77	0,2	31	→	Low impact with stable price trend of all items from the last quarter.
		Cassava products	16	0	3	0	0	28				
		Rice	11	0	-1	9	9	98				
	Burkina Faso	Sorghum	27	5	8	-10	-10	26	4,7	19	→	Low impact with upward price trend of all items from the last quarter.
		Millet	22	1	7	-5	-7	32				
		Maize	15	6	6	-8	-9	30				
	Cape Verde	Rice	20	0	4	1	3	53	4	15	↑	Low impact with upward price trend of wheat flour.
		Wheat flour	15	2	18	1	0	32				
		Maize	13	-2	N/A	19	22	N/A				
	Chad	Sorghum	18	37	37	-4	6	46	11	15	↑	High impact with upward price trend of all products.
		Millet	15	16	12	1	-2	29				
		Maize	5	26	29	-8	-9	21				
		Import rice	4	32	32	14	10	22				
	Gambia	Millet	21	-1	3	4	4	37	1	12	→	Low impact with slight price increase of millet and rice from the last quarter.
		Rice	14	1	2	5	5	30				
	Ghana	Cassava	23	7	32	11	16	98	39	79	↑	Very High impact with upward price trend of all items from the last quarter.
		Maize	13	23	75	8	7	150				
		Yams	11	24	74	11	10	186				
		Plantains	9	4	90	-14	-11	97				
		Local rice	8	6	69	9	9	95				
	Guinea	Local rice	36	21	41	50	50	144	16	57	↑	High impact with high price increase of local rice and palm oil.
		Palm oil	6	19	22	70	54	87				
	Guinea Bissau	Imported rice	38	17	N/A	50	30	N/A	7	N/A	↑	Moderate impact with high price increase of imported rice from the last quarter.
		Maize	8	0	N/A	0	0	N/A				
		Millet	6	0	N/A	0	0	N/A				
		Wheat	5	-2	N/A	33	24	N/A				
	Liberia	Butter rice	25	0	N/A	0	4	N/A	-1	N/A	→	Very Low impact with stable price trend of all items.
		Cassava	22	-1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
		Palm oil	15	-3	N/A	0	10	N/A				
	Mali	Millet	20	7	12	-2	-4	18	8	18	↑	Moderate impact with high price increase of all items.
		Import rice	20	6	10	-7	3	38				
		Sorghum	14	17	16	3	2	28				
		Maize	10	18	17	4	0	29				
	Mauritania	Wheat	30	0	25	30	30	67	6	22	↑	Moderate impact with upward price trend of wheat.
		Import rice	11	-10	-10	19	9	21				
	Niger	Millet	41	-10	-1	-13	-14	16	0,1	13	→	Low impact with price increase of imported rice.
		Sorghum	12	-1	-6	-16	-17	14				
		Import rice	9	8	11	6	6	49				
		Maize	2	11	9	6	-1	35				
	North Nigeria	Sorghum	13	5	-1	-2	-2	32	0	13	→	Low impact with stable price trend for all the basic food items.
		Millet	11	7	1	-3	-3	30				
		Rice	9	0	0	-3	-3	32				
		Maize	7	3	-1	-1	-1	35				
	Senegal	Import rice	31	1	6	10	9	35	3	12	→	Low impact with stable price trend of maize and rice.
		Maize	9	8	8	3	0	13				
		Millet	8	9	11	-1	-3	1				
	Sierra Leone	Local rice	40	28	N/A	27	17	N/A	10	N/A	↑	Moderate impact with high price increase of imported rice.
		Palm oil	8	-13	N/A	-5	-12	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	M
ODJ-Easthern, Southern and Central Africa	Burundi	Sweet potatoes	18	-8	-16	0	-25	42	8	44	↑	Moderate impact with high price increase of cassava flour.
		Beans	16	-7	6	-11	-9	38				
		Cassava flour	16	57	57	24	21	136				
		Maize	13	11	10	-1	0	64				
	Congo	Cassava	32	17	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	N/A	↑	Moderate impact with high price increase of cassava.
	Congo DRC	Cassava products	55	10	N/A	-10	-12	N/A	8	N/A	↑	Moderate impact with upward price trend of cassava and maize from the last quarter.
		Maize	13	18	N/A	22	22	N/A				
	Djibouti	Wheat flour	36	12	31	10	12	56	13	34	↑	High impact with high price increase wheat flour from last quarter.
		Rice	15	2	12	-2	-2	93				
	Ethiopia	Maize	21	14	36	-5	-9	111	18	54	↑	High impact with upward price trends of all items from the last quarter.
		Wheat	18	5	38	9	5	93				
		Sorghum	10	4	40	-2	-7	145				
	Kenya	Maize	36	22	21	-8	-12	46	8	17	↑	Moderate impact with high maize price increase from last quarter.
	Lesotho	Maize	57	3	N/A	-3	-3	N/A	2	N/A	→	Low impact with stable price trend of all items.
		Wheat flour	13	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
	Madagascar	Domestic rice	49	14	12	23	14	27	6	13	↑	Moderate impact with high rice price increase.
	Malawi	Maize	52	28	16	0	-15	61	9	32	↑	Moderate impact with high maize price increase from last quarter.
	Mozambique	Maize	22	7	2	4	13	86	1	32	↑	Low impact with upward price trend of imported rice from the last quarter.
		Rice	8	1	13	17	18	165				
	Rwanda	Beans	10	-13	24	3	-6	65	4	8	↑	Low impact with high price increase of maize from last quarter.
		Maize	5	24	27	53	15	32				
	Somalia	Sorghum	29	26	54	55	58	426	30	228	↑	High impact with upward price trend of all items from last quarter.
		Maize	18	30	55	33	24	374				
		Wheat flour	10	-5	19	10	7	167				
		Import red rice	9	-1	25	2	-1	225				
	Tanzania	Maize	33	20	-1	1	-14	53	1	22	→	Low impact with high rice price increase from last quarter.
		Rice	8	18	13	-1	-6	59				
	Uganda	Maize flour	10	24	27	-9	-20	52	4	19	↑	Low impact with high price increase of maize and cassava flour from last quarter.
		Cassava flour	12	4	12	-13	-16	74				
		Beans	6	N/A	N/A	0	-6	78				
	Zambia	Maize	56	11	-7	-20	-19	29	-4	16	↓	Low impact with downward price trend of maize.
	Zimbabwe	Maize	43	26	39	-6	-4	526	17	226	↑	High impact with high maize price increase from last quarter.

Regions	Countries	Main staple food	Caloric contribution (%)	Change from last quarter (% Change)	Seasonally adjusted quarterly change (% 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	M
ODP-Latin America and Caribbean	Bolivia	Wheat flour	18	1	18	12	12	45	9	33	↑	Moderate impact with upward price trend of all items.
		Rice	11	11	23	2	3	65				
		Maize	11	27	29	57	75	165				
	Colombia	Rice	13	5	19	5	10	69	6	16	↑	Moderate impact with upward price trend of all items from the last quarter.
		Maize	12	10	14	24	27	39				
		Wheat flour	8	7	29	19	17	28				
	Costa Rica	Rice	17	9	N/A	30	32	N/A	2	N/A	→	Low impact with slight increase in price of rice and maize
		Maize	5	6	N/A	31	34	N/A				
	Dominican Republic	Rice	17	-1	2	-4	-5	30	0	5	→	Low impact with stable price trend of rice.
	Ecuador	Rice	19	2	5	6	21	37	3	15	→	Low impact with stable price trend of rice.
		Wheat flour	12	1	14	0	1	68				
	El Salvador	Maize	32	32	45	75	64	73	20	37	↑	High impact with high price increases of all items from last quarter.
		Sorghum	5	5	60	21	21	59				
		Beans	5	7	40	170	171	177				
		Rice	4	-2	10	-7	-7	37				
	Guatemala	Maize	40	28	N/A	40	31	N/A	11	N/A	↑	High impact with upward price trend of maize.
	Haiti	Import rice	23	9	15	-11	-6	68	7	24	↑	Moderate impact upward price trend of all items from the last quarter.
		Wheat flour	13	9	21	-14	-13	37				
		Domestic maize	12	12	9	-16	-15	28				
	Honduras	Maize	29	15	N/A	27	17	N/A	5	N/A	↑	Moderate impact with upward price trend of maize and rice.
		Rice	6	9	N/A	1	1	N/A				
	Nicaragua	Maize	23	9	17	-4	-5	82	7	42	↑	Moderate impact with high price increase of maize and rice from the last quarter.
		Rice	21	1	15	2	1	112				
	Panama	Rice	25	0	N/A	0	2	N/A	0	N/A	→	Low impact with stable price trend of maize from last quarter.
		Maize	6	-1	N/A	0	9	N/A				
	Peru	Rice	20	7	-12	12	12	-4	2	10	↑	Low impact with upward price trend of rice and wheat.
		Wheat	11	1	5	2	1	25				
		Potatoes	9	-12	-15	10	11	27				
		Maize	11	0	2	-3	-3	52				

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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	M
ODC-Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe	Armenia	Wheat flour	48	4	N/A	17	25	N/A	2	N/A	→	Low impact with slight wheat flour price increase from last quarter.
	Azerbaijan	Wheat flour	50	5	36	28	28	128	18	64	↑	High impact with upward price trend of wheat flour.
	Egypt	Wheat flour	33	-2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-1	N/A	→	Low impact with stable price trend of all items from last quarter.
		Rice	12	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
	Georgia	Wheat flour	46	7	71	50	44	68	33	31	↑	High impact with upward price trend of all items.
		Maize flour	8	20	N/A	47	20	N/A				
	Jordan	Bread	36	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	↑	Low impact with upward price trend of rice.
		Rice	8	16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
	Occupied Palestinian territory	Wheat flour	36	7	33	-2	0	47	13	24	↑	High impact with upward price trends of all items from last quarter.
		Rice	9	0	4	-19	-22	46				
		Olive oil	5	-1	10	-14	-13	48				
	Tajikistan	Wheat	58	14	64	50	41	190	37	110	↑	High impact with upward price trend of wheat.
	Yemen	Wheat	51	7	N/A	53	28	N/A	4	N/A	→	Low impact with moderate price increase of wheat from last quarter.
ODS-Sudan	Blue Nile	Sorghum	63	N/A	-15	-25	-25	27	-9	17	→	Low impact with downward price trend of sorghum
	North Darfur	Sorghum food aid	75	N/A	-9	19	43	138	-7	104	→	Low impact with stable sorghum price.
	South Darfur	Sorghum	75	N/A	-9	0	-2	91	-7	69	→	Low impact with stable sorghum price.
	South Kordofan	Sorghum	60	N/A	-12	-7	-26	11	-7	12	→	Low impact with slight decrease in sorghum price.
		Millet	9	N/A	5	0	1	64				
	West Darfur	Sorghum	75	N/A	8	23	15	111	6	84	→	Moderate impact with stable sorghum price
	White Nile	Sorghum	60	N/A	-1	-14	-21	22	1	19	→	Low impact with stable sorghum price.
		Millet	9	N/A	16	-9	1	61				
	Central Equatoria	Maize	73	N/A	38	55	38	86	28	63	↑	Very high impact with high increase in maize price.
	Upper Nile	Sorghum	71	N/A	110	95	125	278	68	197	↑	Low impact with increase in sorghum price.

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
	Cape Verde	3	S.Antanao, S.Vincente, Santiago
	Chad	5	Abeche, Bol, Moundou, N'djamena, Sarh
	Ghana	13	Accra, Cape Coast, Sekondi Takoradi, Tema, Kumasi, Ejura, Obuasi, Sunyani, Tema, Ho, Tamale, Bolga, Wa
	Gambia	28	Banjul, Bakau, Serrekunda, Latrikunda, Lamin, Brikama, Gunjur, Sibanor, Kanlagi, Kwinella, Soma, Wellingara, Jareng, Brikamba, Bansang, Sare Bojo, Basse Santosu, Fatoto, Essau, Fass Njaga Choi, Ndugu Kebbeh, Kerewan, Kerr Pateh Koreh, Farafenni, Kaur Wharf Town, Kuntaur, Wassu, Sare Ngai
	Guinea	4	Kankan, Labe, N'Zerekore, Conakry
	Guinea Bissau	1	Bandim
	Liberia	10	Bo-Waterside, Buchanan, Foya, Gbanga, Pleebo, Red Light, Saclepea, Tubmanburg, Voinjaman, Zwedru
	Mali	9	Kayes, Koulikoro Ba, Sikasso, Segou, Mopti Digue, Tombouctou, Gao, Kidal, Bamako
	Mauritania	1	Nouakchott
	Niger		National average
	North Nigeria	5	Jibia, Illela, Mai Adua, Damassak, Mai Gatari
	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, Kailahun, Makeni, Kabala, Koidu, Pujehun, Bo, Kenema
ODJ-Easthern, Southern and Central Africa	Burundi	2	Bujumbura, Ngozi
	Congo	1	Brazzaville
	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, Jijiga, Wonago, Meskan, Sodo, S.Robit, Kobo, Bati
	Kenya	3	Nairobi, Kisumu, Eldoret
	Lesotho	All	All provinces central markets

Regions	Countries	Number of markets	Names of markets included
ODJ-Easthern, Southern and Central Africa	Madagascar	1	National average
	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, Kapchorwa, Moroto, Mbarara, Gulu, Lira
	Zambia		National average
	Zimbabwe	1	Harare
ODB-Asia	Afghanistan	8	Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Herat, Mazar, Faizabad, Maimanan, Nili
	Bangladesh	6	Dhaka Sadar, Rajshahi Sadar, Brisal Saddar, Kulna Saddar, Chittagong Saddar, Sylhet Saddar
	Cambodia		National average
	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

Regions	Countries	Number of markets	Names of markets included
ODC-Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe	Armenia	2	Yerevan, Vanadzor
	Azerbaijan		National average
	Egypt	All	National average
	Jordan		National average
	Georgia	1	Tbilisi
	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		National average
	Dominican Republic	1	Santo Domingo
	Ecuador	8	Quito, Guayaquil, Manta, Esmeraldas, Machala, Ambato, Loja, Cuenca
	El Salvador	13	Ahuachapan, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Chalatenango, Cojutepeque, San Vincente, Zacatecoluca, Sensuntepeque, Usulatan, San Miguel, San Fransisco Gotera, La Union, San salavador
	Guatemala		National average
	Haiti	9	Port-au-Prince, Cap- Haitien, Cayes, Jeremie, Gonaives, Jacmel, Hinche, Port de Paix, Ouanaminthe
	Honduras		National average
	Nicaragua	1	Managua
	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 indices[5] of the main caloric contributors to household food consumption. It uses:

i) The nominal price change from last quarter calculated as a percentage change from the precedent quarter. Nominal prices change is calculated by dividing the average quarterly price by the average of the previous quarter. The change between the two quarters is reported in column E (Table 2).

ii) The seasonally adjusted 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 F (Table 2).

iii) The monthly (year-on-year) price change calculated as a percentage change from 12 months earlier. Column G (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).

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

v) 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 I). This estimate indicates whether there is a structural shift of the current price from its long-term seasonal pattern.[6]

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[7], the likely impact of the last quarter average price change on the cost of the food basket is captured in column J (i.e. the percentage price change in column F weighted by the caloric contribution of the food item in column D). The long-term likely impact is presented in column K (i.e. the percentage price change in column I 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 0 percent (Column J). Between 0 percent and 5 percent it is considered moderate. Above 5 percent the likely impact on the cost of the food basket is considered high and very high above 10 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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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