Highlights

- Inflation in July remained the same as a month ago at 4.6%. The figure was based on the 2000 prices.
- Prices of fuel and staple prices increased on a monthly basis. However, the rate of increase was generally marginal.

WFP Price Monitoring in Mindanao

Last month, WFP resumed its monthly monitoring of market prices in its areas of operation in Central Mindanao.

Market prices were generated from 22 out of 40 targeted markets in the areas covered by WFP (see Map 1). The sample markets were purposively chosen in consultation with stakeholders in Central Mindanao.

Table 1 shows that average prices of regular milled rice in the five provinces are higher than the national average (Php31.34/kg) in the month of July 2011. The price of rice is highest in the province of This monthly update is jointly prepared by United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The accuracy of the information contained in this document cannot be guaranteed as the information may come from official as well as from qualitative/anecdotal sources. The monthly update does not replace reporting of more reliable information (e.g. monthly or quarterly bulletins) from COs/RBs of these organizations.
WFP Food Assistance helps communities re-establish livelihoods and access services

Food for assets activities are playing a key role in helping communities rehabilitate damaged/destroyed/neglected infrastructure especially due to conflict. Some of the WFP-supported activities implemented to date include, opening up of 50kms of farm-to-market roads, development of 200 hectares of bio-intensive gardens, development of 2,500 hectares of corn and rice fields, construction of 13 fish ponds and 36 solar driers for harvesting activities, production of 2.8 million assorted seedlings and planting of roughly 2,000 hectares of forest-land for environmental rehabilitation and development and establishing of 220 farmers field schools which trained about 9,250 cadres. WFP is expanding its partnership with FAO on food for assets.

Overall, anecdotal evidence from monitoring show that supplementary feeding activities targeting pregnant and lactating women have seen the number of women accessing health services increase. Children 6-23 months of age in areas with very high prevalence rates of GAM receive Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food Plumpy Doz through a blanket supplementary feeding programme. In selected municipalities of Maguindanao and in partnership with UNICEF, WFP is also implementing supplementary feeding in Community-Based Management.
Prices of beef in the five provinces are lower than the national average (Php 238.24/kg). The lowest price was registered in Sultan Kudarat (Php156.67/kg) while the highest price was observed in Lanao del Sur (Php 230.00/kg). The costs of pork in Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao and North Cotabato are lower compared to the national average (Php 177.06/kg). The price of pork in Sultan Kudarat at Php 180.00/kg is higher than the national average.

Data reveal that compared to the national average, the prices of food are higher in these selected survey provinces. This implies that people in those provinces are spending more for food than the average Filipino. Also, households in these provinces spend a large proportion of their budget on food, leaving only small portion of the household budget for other important needs such as education, housing and health.

The food prices also impact on the nutrition of the population in these provinces. Fish is an important source of protein since it has relatively low price compared to chicken and beef. Those with low income are less likely to purchase chicken meat and beef which are also good sources of protein. While the price of pork is lower, this has little implication since majority of the population are Muslim.

for Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) which rehabilitates children with moderate malnutrition and prevents them from becoming severely malnourished, hence reducing the risk for mortality and morbidity.

**New Zealand helps IDPs in Maguindanao restore their livelihoods through the UN FAO**

The New Zealand Government has provided a grant of USD 1.3 M for the project, “Restoring Agricultural Livelihoods in Conflict –Affected Areas in Maguindanao Province of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)”. This project will assist internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnee households in restoring their farming activities and have lasting impact on food security, nutritional status and income generation.

During the signing ceremony at the FAO Country Office on 17 June 2011, the New Zealand Ambassador Andrew Matheson said the grant “is another example of the New Zealand’s commitment to responding to the most critical needs of the conflict-affected people, particularly in Maguindanao Province”. Mr. Tsurumi added that “the project which will be implemented for 12 months will help more than 63,000 IDPs or 10,550 farm households.

FAO is implementing the project in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, local government units, community-based organizations, and other UN agencies such as the World Food Programme and United Nations Development Programme.

**References**


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Mr. Daud Lagasi (left), Provincial Agriculture Officer of Maguindanao, shown giving a message to IDPs.

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Food Production

As of this writing, production data of staple goods for the second quarter of the year is not yet available. According to BAS, it will be released by September. So food production data will be included in the next issue.