WFP World Food Programme wfp.org

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Fighting Hunger Worldwide

The Market Monitor

Trends and impacts of staple food prices in vulnerable countries

This bulletin examines trends in staple food and fuel prices, the cost of the basic food basket, and consumer price indices for 67 countries in the first quarter of 2015 (January to March).[1] The maps on pages 6–7 disaggregate the impact analysis to sub-national level.

Global Highlights

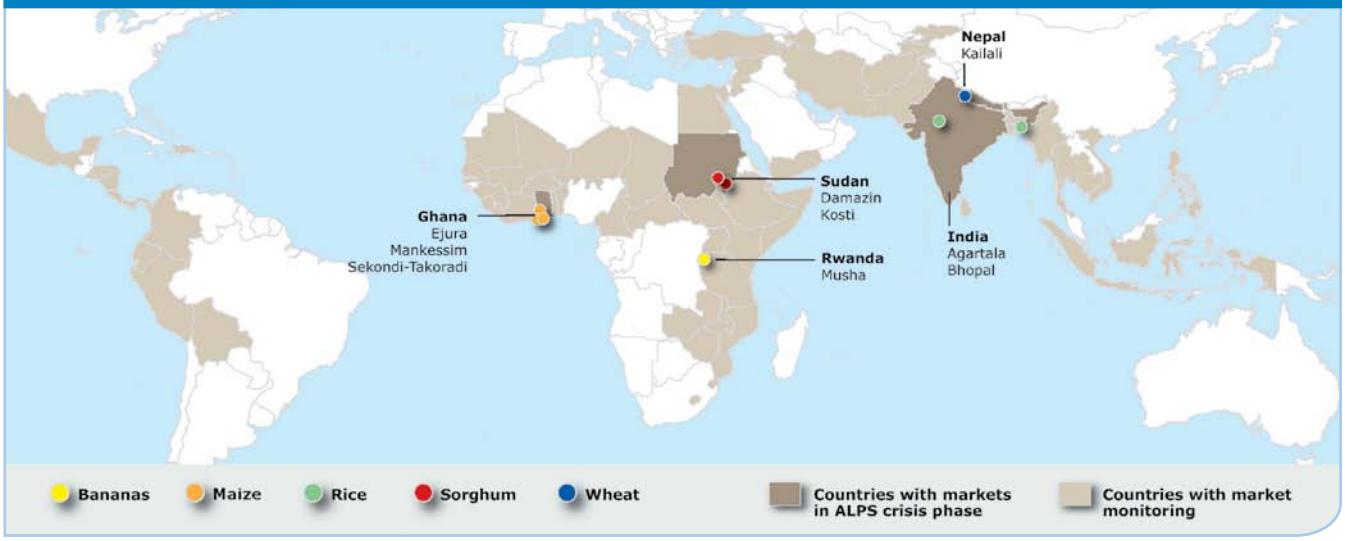
- In Q1-2015, **FAO's global cereal price index fell a further 13 percent** year-on-year. It is now 5 percent lower than in Q4-2014.
- **Real prices[2] of wheat have fallen by 10 percent over the last quarter.** Prices are 20 percent lower than in Q1-2014 and at their lowest levels since mid-2010, thanks to large supplies, favourable production forecasts and strong export competition.

REAL PRICE ADJUSTED FOR CHANGES IN US CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (2005 = 100)

Quarterly Change	Maize	Wheat	Rice	*Note: Comparison to*
q1-2015 vs. q4-2014	-2%	-10%	-3%	*Fourth quarter in 2014*
q1-2015 vs. q1-2014	-17%	-20%	-5%	*Same quarter in 2014*
q1-2015 vs. q1-2008		-48%		*Global wheat price peak in 2008*
q1-2015 vs. q2-2008	-39%		-60%	*Global maize and rice price peak in 2008*

- **Real prices of maize have largely stabilized, falling just 2 percent since Q4-2014.** Even so, prices are 17 percent lower than in Q1-2014. Although production has started to contract slightly, large carry-over stocks will ensure ample global supply.
- **Real prices of rice have fallen by 3 percent since Q4-2014 to pre-crisis levels last seen in early 2008.** Global market supplies remain ample and competitively priced.
- In Q1-2015, **real prices for crude oil reached half what they were the year before.** This is translating into significantly lower diesel and gasoline prices in some countries.
- **The cost of the minimum food basket increased severely (>10%) during Q1-2015 in eight countries: Cameroon, Colombia, Mozambique, Peru, Zambia, Tajikistan, South Sudan and Syria.** High increases (5–10%) were seen in nine countries. In the other 50 monitored countries, the change was *low* or *moderate* (<5%).
- Price spikes, as monitored by ALPS (Alert for Price Spikes), are evident in **India, Ghana, Nepal, Rwanda** and **Sudan** (see the map below).[3] These spikes indicate crisis levels for one of the two most important staples in the country, whether they are maize, rice, wheat, sorghum or bananas.

Food Price Hotspots



1. Data were collected and collated by WFP country offices and are available at: http://foodprices.vam.wfp.org. Further data sources are FAO Food Price Index, FAO/GIEWS Food Price Data and Analysis Tool, and IMF Primary Commodity Prices as on 16 April 2015.
2. Nominal prices are adjusted by the US Consumer Price Index.
3. A market is designated as a hotspot if prices for one of the country's two most important caloric contributors reached ALPS crisis level during Q1, and they did not return to normal levels by the end of the quarter. Note that for some markets/countries, prices are monitored but the price series may not necessarily qualify for ALPS calculation (see ALPS website for details).

Price trends and impacts by region (Change from last quarter)

Latin America and Caribbean

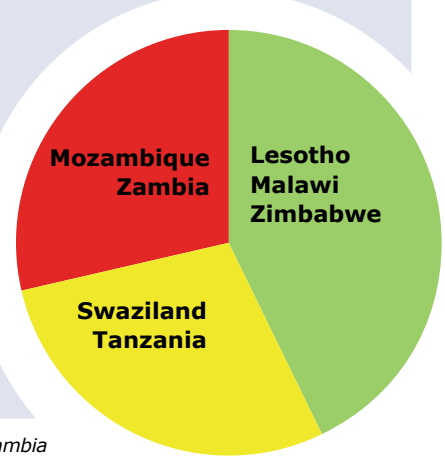
Hotspots: *The impact of staple food price changes on the cost of the basic food basket from January to March 2015 compared to the previous quarter was* severe *in* ***Colombia*** *and* ***Peru****;* high *in* ***Costa Rica****;* moderate *in the* ***Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua*** *and* ***Panama****; and* low *in the other countries.*

- **Staple commodity prices:** In **Colombia**, seasonally adjusted prices rose for rice (+48%), wheat flour (+17%), maize (+15%) and sugar (+14%) in Q1-2015 as the result of a nationwide transporters' strike, exacerbated by the 2014 drop in national cereal production and currency depreciation, which has raised the cost of imports. The ALPS indicator was in *alert* for wheat flour prices in Bogota in March 2015. In **Peru**, the quarterly seasonally adjusted price of potatoes soared in Q1-2014 (+41%), mainly driven by a strong demand for high quality varieties from the industrial sector. Although nominal prices remained stable for rice in **Costa Rica**, they were up by 8 percent after seasonal adjustment, greatly increasing the cost of the food basket. In **Nicaragua**, seasonally adjusted prices rose moderately in Q1-2015, but prices remained far above the five-year baseline for sugar (+31%), maize (+25%) and rice (+25%). In **Haiti**, seasonally adjusted prices of wheat flour rose by 10 percent in Q1-2015; this partly reflects the higher import requirements following the below-average 2014/2015 cereal production. Seasonally adjusted quarterly prices for red beans continued to fall in Q1 in **El Salvador** (-12%) and **Honduras** (-21%), thanks to the good harvest. Nonetheless, red bean prices remained above the five-year baseline (El Salvador +27%; Honduras +38%) because of low red bean production in 2014.
- **Fuel prices:** Quarterly prices for gasoline and diesel decreased in the region compared to the previous quarter. The sharpest drops in average prices were seen in **Guatemala** (gasoline -24.5%; diesel -26.2%) and **Nicaragua** (gasoline -15.3%; diesel -15.4%). In **Colombia**, gasoline and diesel prices both fell by 4.8 percent.
- **Purchasing power:** The average headline quarterly inflation in the region was low in most countries between Q4-2014 and Q1-2015. Despite a deceleration, year-on-year (y/y) food inflation remains high in **Nicaragua** (+9.8%). In **Bolivia**, it rose to 7.8 percent, in **Dominican Republic** to 7.7 percent and in **Costa Rica** to 7.8 percent.

Southern Africa

Hotspots: *The impact of staple food price changes on the cost of the basic food basket from January to March 2015 compared to the previous quarter was* severe *in* ***Mozambique*** *and* ***Zambia****, moderate in* ***Swaziland*** *and* ***Tanzania****, and* low *in the other countries of the region.**

- **Staple commodity prices:** Prices for main staples increased in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia in Q1-2015; they were stable or decreasing in the other countries. In **Mozambique**, nominal prices rose for cassava flour (+25%) and maize grain (+13%) in Q1-2015 as a result of severe flooding in some areas of the country. Locally, staple food price increases have been worst in the flood-affected region of Zambezia, where prices rose by 59 percent for cassava and 19 percent for wheat flour in Q1. In **Zambia**, seasonally adjusted prices continued to rise for maize grain in Q1 (+6%), and quarterly prices remained far above the baseline for maize grain (+21%) and cassava meal (+49%). However, prices are expected to fall with the start of the 2015 harvest in May. The ALPS indicator also showed several Zambian markets at *alert* level in January for maize grain. In **Tanzania**, changes in seasonally adjusted food prices were significant for rice (+11%) and beans (+10%).
- **Fuel prices:** Retail prices fell in **Tanzania** (gasoline -16%; diesel -14.7%) and **Zambia** (gasoline -14.7%; diesel -19.9%) in Q1-2015 compared to the previous quarter.
- **Purchasing power:** Quarterly changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the food CPI have been moderate in most countries. The exception is **Malawi,** where quarterly inflation rose in Q1-2015 to 13.7 percent, along with food inflation (which reached +18.8%) and the depreciation of the local currency. As a consequence, y/y headline inflation reached 19.7 percent in Malawi. Y/y food inflation was moderate in **Zambia** (+6.9%), **Tanzania** (+5.2%) and **Lesotho** (+4.5%).



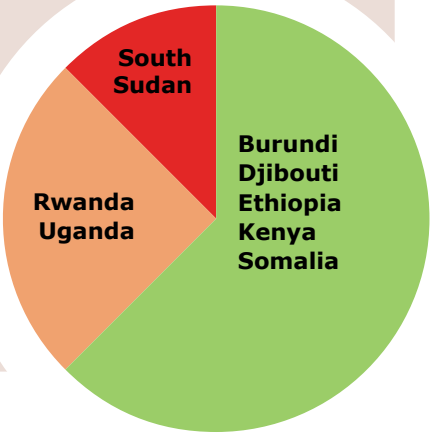
* *WFP is closely monitoring the current agricultural season in Southern Africa, particularly South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The projected reduction in maize harvest can have large food security consequences for vulnerable populations through higher prices in Q2-2015.*

Impact Codes Low (< 0%) Moderate (0-5%) High (5-10%) Severe (> 10%)

Central and Eastern Africa

Hotspots: *The impact of staple food price changes on the cost of the basic food basket from January to March 2015 compared to the previous quarter was* severe *in* ***South Sudan****,* high *in* ***Rwanda*** *and* ***Uganda****, and* low *in the other countries.*

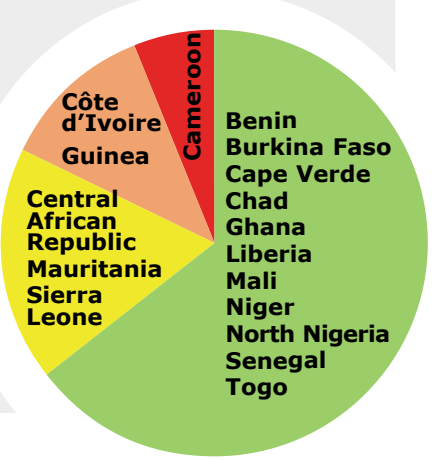
- **Staple commodity prices:** Commodity price trends were stable between Q4-2014 and Q1-2015 in the region, except in South Sudan, Rwanda and Uganda. Seasonally adjusted prices rose sharply for millet (+33%) and sorghum (+11%) in **South Sudan** compared to Q4-2014. In **Rwanda**, unfavourable weather conditions damaged the agricultural output in southern and eastern provinces: seasonally adjusted prices increased for bananas (+27%), potatoes (+13%) and beans (+8%) compared to the previous quarter. The seasonally adjusted price for banana rocketed in the regions of Kigali-ngali (+69%), Kibungo (+58%), Butare (+37%) and Kigali City (+33%). Seasonally adjusted maize prices continued to decline in **Uganda** (-6%) as a result of good local supply but prices increased for cassava flour (+14%), beans (+6%) and millet grain (+5%), mainly in the region of Mbarara.
- **Fuel prices:** There was a sharp fall in quarterly diesel prices in **Kenya** (-17.8%), **Ethiopia** (-10.5%) and **Somalia** (-8.1%) compared to the previous quarter. On a yearly basis, the fall in average quarterly diesel prices was 25.5 percent in Kenya and 11.3 percent in Ethiopia.
- **Purchasing power:** In central and eastern African countries, Q1-2015 quarterly food and headline inflation rates were low or even negative. Despite the deceleration of the inflation rate, headline y/y inflation remained fairly high in **Ethiopia** (+8.2%) and **South Sudan** (+7%), while it was moderate **Kenya** (+5.8%).



West Africa

Hotspots: *The impact of staple food price changes on the cost of the basic food basket from January to March 2015 was* severe *in* ***Cameroon****; high in* ***Côte d'Ivoire*** *and* ***Guinea****; moderate in the* ***Central African Republic, Mauritania*** *and* ***Sierra Leone****; and* low *in the other countries.*

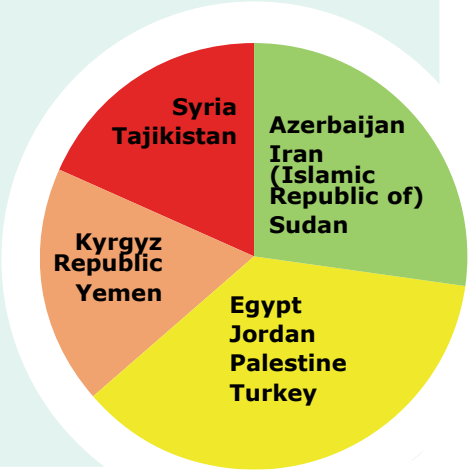
- **Staple commodity prices:** Most staple commodity price trends were stable or decreasing between Q4-2014 and Q1-2015 as markets are well supplied and demand is low in this season in West Africa. However, in northern **Cameroon**, seasonal quarterly prices rose in Q1 for the main staples (sorghum +26%, local rice +13% and maize +10%) as cross-border attacks by Boko Haram increased insecurity and disrupted trade in the region. By contrast, most staple price trends stabilised in **Chad** compared to Q4-2014, with only strong seasonal increases in millet prices in Hadjer Lamis (+17%) and Logone Occidental (+9%). However, food prices remain far above their baseline average in the regions around Lake Chad (Lac, Hadjer lamis and Kanem) as a consequence of trade restrictions with Nigeria and insecurity. In the Ebola-affected countries, seasonally adjusted prices generally fell in Q1, except for local rice in **Guinea** (+12%), and cassava root (+5%) and groundnut (+8%) in **Sierra Leone**. In **Ghana**, the continuous depreciation of the local currency, the Cedi, is pushing local prices up. Consequently, the ALPS indicators were at *crisis* level on various markets for maize, rice and yam in February 2015.
- **Fuel prices:** No fuel prices available
- **Purchasing power:** Quarterly food inflation drove headline inflation in **Benin** (+3.6%), **Côte d'Ivoire** (+2.1%), **Ghana** (+7.1%) and **Nigeria** (+2.5%). Average quarterly y/y inflation rates were high in **Ghana** (+16.5%) because of the continued impact of the currency depreciation on the price of imports. A tense political climate and the depreciation of the Naira also pushed inflation up in **Nigeria**, where y/y headline inflation was recorded at 8.4 percent in Q1-2015.



Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia

Hotspots: *The impact of staple food price changes on the cost of the basic food basket from January to March 2015 was* severe *in* ***Syria*** *and* ***Tajikistan****, and* high *in the* ***Kyrgyz Republic*** *and* ***Yemen****. It was* moderate *in* ***Egypt, Jordan, Palestine*** *and* ***Turkey****, and* low *in the remaining countries of the region.*

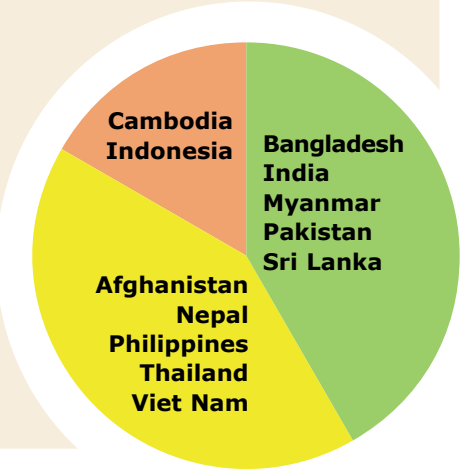
- **Staple commodity prices:** Most staple food prices in the region were stable or falling between Q4-2014 and Q1-2015. Nevertheless, seasonally adjusted wheat flour prices rose in **Tajikistan** (+17%) in Q1-2015 because of a combination of factors: currency depreciation, which has made imports more expensive; a rise in local transportation costs; and the higher demand for winter stocks. In the **Kyrgyz Republic**, seasonally adjusted wheat prices increased by 11 percent because of below-average yields in September/October and the effects of currency depreciation on import prices. The ALPS indicator was at *stress* level for wheat and potatoes in most of the monitored markets in February. A favourable harvest in **Sudan** saw seasonally adjusted prices fall for sorghum (-15%) and millet (-14%). However, prices remain above the five-year average (+64% for sorghum and +86% for millet). In **Yemen**, the seasonally adjusted price for wheat rose across the country compared to the last quarter (+21% in Aden, +16% in Sana'a). In the conflict-affected region of Sa'ada, most commodities saw substantial price increases in Q1-2015 (rice +36%, oil +25% and sugar +7%).
- **Fuel prices:** Gasoline and diesel prices rose sharply in **Yemen** after the government removed part of the fuel subsidies: prices increased by 20 percent for gasoline and 50 percent for diesel compared to the last year.
- **Purchasing power:** Y/y headline inflation remains high in **Egypt** (+10.6%), partly because of a weaker Egyptian pound and the long-lasting effects on prices of the cut in government subsidies in July 2014. In **Armenia**, y/y headline inflation rose to 5.1 percent and food inflation to 7 percent, driven by an 8.9 percent rise in prices compared to the last quarter.



Asia

Hotspots: *The impact of staple food price changes on the cost of the basic food basket from January to March 2015 was* high *in* ***Cambodia*** *and* ***Indonesia****, and* moderate *in* ***Afghanistan, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand*** *and* ***Vietnam****. It was* low *in the remaining countries of the region.*

- **Staple commodity prices:** Seasonally adjusted prices for rice fell in **Sri Lanka** (-8%), **Myanmar** (-5%), **Bangladesh** (-4%), the **Philippines** (-4%) and **Pakistan** (-4%) compared to last quarter. However, in **Indonesia**, they rose by 10 percent in Q1-2015, a 30 percent increase compared to the five-year baseline, in part due to an increase in the government's procurement price. Seasonally adjusted prices rose slightly in **Nepal** for wheat (+6%) and rice (+2%) from last quarter, reflecting lower rice production and the higher cereal import requirements for the 2014/15 marketing year.
- **Fuel prices:** Quarterly diesel prices dropped significantly in **Afghanistan** (-22.5%) and **Nepal** (-11.6%). In **Myanmar**, diesel prices also continued to fall, contributing to a 9.4 percent drop in average quarterly diesel prices from Q1-2014.
- **Purchasing power:** Q/q changes in the CPI were low or slightly negative in most countries of the region. Y/y inflation was moderate in **Indonesia** (+6.5%), **Bangladesh** (+6.2%), **Pakistan** (+3.2%) and **the Philippines** (+2.4%). The food CPI increased by 9.2 percent in **Sri Lanka** compared to Q1-2014.

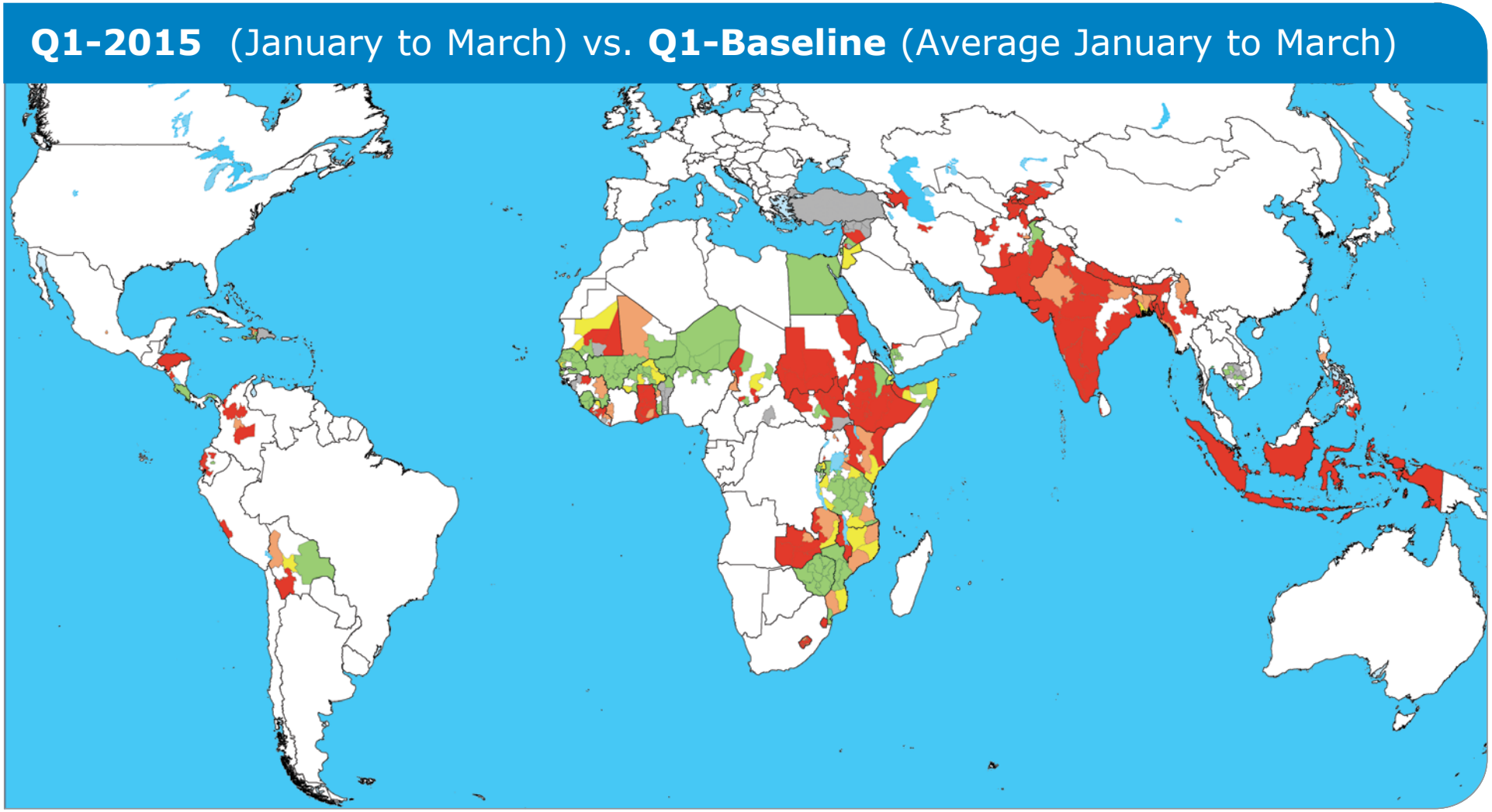


Consumer Price Index and Fuel Prices

Region	Country	Quarterly and Yearly Changes in Q1-2015 (January-March)							
		Quarter-on-Quarter				Year-on-Year			
		General CPI	Food CPI	Gasoline	Diesel	General CPI	Food CPI	Gasoline	Diesel
Latin America and Caribbean	Bolivia	1.82%	2.67%			5.39%	7.82%		
	Colombia	1.84%		-4.79%	-4.80%	4.24%		-3.83%	-4.81%
	Costa Rica	-0.05%	1.51%			3.65%	7.75%		
	Dominican Republic	-0.59%	2.06%			0.86%	7.69%		
	Ecuador	1.28%				3.63%			
	El Salvador	-1.66%				-1.02%			
	Guatemala	-0.08%		-24.45%	-26.23%	2.40%		-34.46%	-35.96%
	Haiti	0.92%	1.14%			6.54%	5.90%		
	Honduras	0.21%	-0.27%			3.74%	3.49%		
	Mexico	0.77%	0.66%			3.07%	3.15%		
	Nicaragua	0.58%	-0.29%	-15.32%	-15.42%	5.37%	9.80%		
	Peru	0.73%				2.95%			
Southern Africa	Lesotho	-0.16%	2.71%			2.09%	4.52%		
	Madagascar	2.30%				6.24%			
	Malawi	13.74%	18.79%			19.69%	19.14%		
	Mozambique	3.24%				3.01%			
	Tanzania	2.66%	4.77%	-16.00%	-14.73%	4.15%	5.21%	-16.77%	-18.04%
	Zambia	1.50%	2.35%	-14.72%	-19.88%	7.02%	6.90%	-11.72%	-14.05%
	Zimbabwe	-0.67%				-1.12%			
Central and Eastern Africa	Burundi	-0.10%	-2.00%			2.24%			
	Djibouti	0.26%	0.51%			2.72%	3.71%		
	Ethiopia	2.23%	1.89%	-14.23%	-10.52%	8.18%	8.95%	-15.04%	-11.31%
	Kenya	1.57%		-14.84%	-17.82%	5.82%		-21.40%	-25.47%
	Rwanda	-0.95%	-2.05%			-0.03%	-1.45%		
	Somalia				-8.09%				
	South Sudan	-1.59%	-1.53%			6.96%	4.60%		
	Uganda	0.97%	0.82%			2.06%	-1.89%		
West Africa	Benin	0.52%	3.60%			2.05%	-1.45%		
	Burkina Faso	-1.10%	0.33%			-0.05%	-2.22%		
	Chad	0.73%	-0.65%			4.34%			
	Côte d'Ivoire	0.83%	2.11%			1.57%			
	Ghana	5.62%	7.13%			16.52%	7.03%		
	Guinea-Bissau	-1.27%				0.79%			
	Mali	-1.96%	-1.72%			0.72%	1.51%		
	Niger	-1.87%	-5.48%			0.32%	-0.71%		
	Nigeria	2.35%	2.53%			8.35%	9.30%		
	Senegal	-2.49%	-3.99%			-1.73%	-0.07%		
Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia	Armenia	4.93%	8.85%			5.14%	6.95%		
	Azerbaijan	0.56%	1.28%			-0.14%	-1.25%		
	Egypt	2.23%	2.02%			10.60%	7.65%		
	Georgia	1.04%	0.15%			1.74%	0.38%		
	Iraq	-0.72%	-3.28%			0.16%	-5.16%		
	Jordan	-1.89%				-0.94%			
	Palestine	-0.03%	-0.23%			0.58%	-1.90%		
	Yemen			0.00%	0.00%			20.00%	50.00%
Asia	Afghanistan	-1.19%	-0.12%		-22.48%	0.13%	1.22%		-28.44%
	Bangladesh	1.72%	1.44%			6.15%	6.18%		
	Cambodia	-0.67%	0.45%			0.81%	4.96%		
	India	0.17%				-13.08%			
	Indonesia	1.62%	2.20%			6.54%	6.83%		
	Myanmar				-2.14%				-9.41%
	Nepal			-11.56%	-11.62%			5.00%	-16.90%
	Pakistan	-1.30%	-3.33%			3.18%	0.94%		
	Philippines	0.21%	0.28%			2.42%	4.83%		
	Sri Lanka	0.33%	2.86%			1.31%	9.24%		

Note: The calculation of quarterly changes uses averages of indices or prices for the respective quarters.

Impact of staple commodity price changes on the cost of the basic food basket



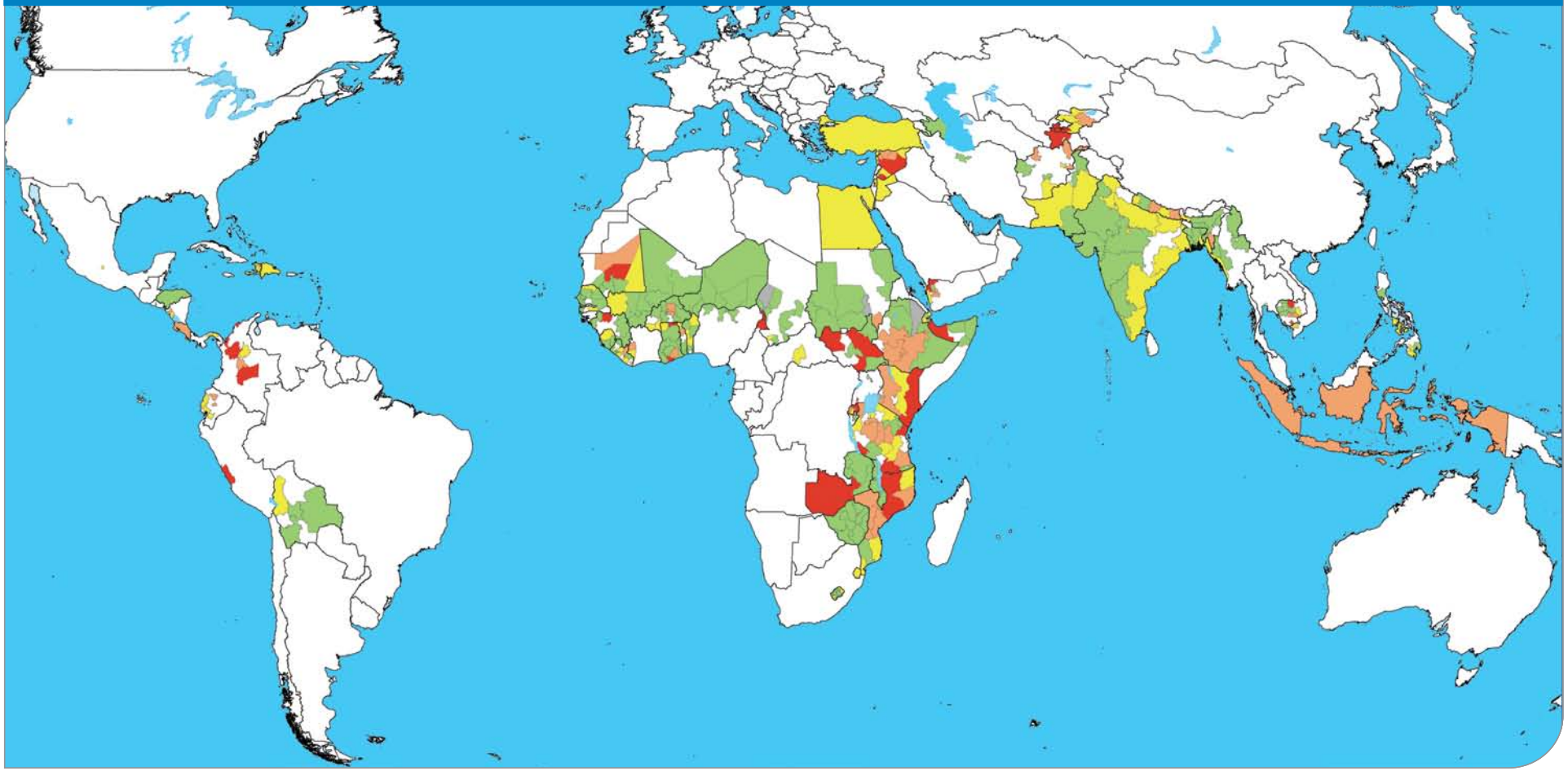
Map produced by: VAM - Food Security Analysis (OSZAF). *Source: WFP; Base Map: UNCS.*

Impact Codes

- Low (< 0%)
- Moderate (0-5%)
- High (5-10%)
- Severe (> 10%)
- Monitored but without baseline
- Water bodies

Note: This map is based on the calculations at subnational level of column M of the table on page 8-12.

Q1-2015 (January to March) vs. **Q4-2014** (October to December)



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Impact Codes

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- Water bodies

Note: This map is based on the calculations at subnational level of column L of the table on page 8-12.

Magnitude of quarterly price changes and their impacts on the cost of the food basket, by country and commodity

Change	Price trend
< 0%	Decreasing
>= 0% and < 5%	Stable
>= 5% and < 10%	Slightly increasing
>= 10%	Increasing

Impact
Low
Moderate
High
Severe

Region	Country	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 baseline (% change)	Price trend	Quarterly cost share in food basket (%)	Cumulative impact of changes on cost of food basket		# of years in baseline (the last 5 years) [* see footnote]
											from previous quarter (%)	from baseline (%)	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
Latin America and Caribbean	Bolivia	Wheat (Flour, Imported, Argentina)	19	-8	+3	-31	-33	-8	→	37	-4	+2	5
		Rice (Estaquilla)	14	-6	-9	-13	-9	+17	↓	51			5
		Maize (Hard Yellow, Cubano)	13	+3	-5	-24	-30	-19	↓	12			5
	Colombia	Maize (White)	13	+19	+15	+33	+20	+34	↑	7	+12	+16	5
		Sugar	13	+13	+14	+19	+15	+13	↑	7			2
		Rice (White)	12	+42	+48	+50	+44	+40	↑	9			2
		Oil	8	-6	-8	+3	-8	+18	↓	6			2
		Wheat Flour	8	+14	+17	+38	+14	+15	↑	4			5
		Milk	7	+14	N/A	+30	+17	N/A	↑	56			*
		Bananas	5	-15	N/A	-27	-18	-19	↓	5			2
		Plantains	5	-2	-9	+20	+19	+20	↓	6			2
	Costa Rica	Rice (Milled 80-20)	17	0	+8	+3	-3	-14	↗	100	+8	-14	5
	Dominican Republic	Rice	17	+2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	→	100	+2	N/A	*
	Ecuador	Rice (Long Grain)	19	+4	+4	+11	+4	+14	→	66	+4	+9	5
		Wheat (Flour)	13	+1	+3	-1	-1	+1	→	34			4
	El Salvador	Maize (White)	25	-6	-5	+5	+21	+6	↓	34	-4	+12	5
		Wheat (Flour)	9	0	+5	0	0	+9	↗	27			5
		Beans (Red)	6	-22	-12	+57	+75	+27	↓	31			5
		Sorghum (Maicillo)	6	-13	+9	+5	+5	-7	↗	8			5
	Haiti	Rice (Tchako)	23	0	-2	0	0	-3	↓	55	+1	+1	5
		Wheat Flour	12	+10	+11	+6	+8	+7	↑	21			5
		Maize (Local)	9	+12	+2	+9	+10	+5	→	12			5
		Oil (Vegetable, Imported)	7	+2	+2	+3	+3	+3	→	12			2
	Honduras	Maize (White)	26	+19	+9	+44	+42	+17	↗	46	-7	+20	5
		Beans (Red)	5	-26	-21	+21	+43	+38	↓	33			5
		Rice (Milled 80-20)	5	-4	-5	-4	-3	+4	↓	21			5
	Mexico	Maize (Tortillas)	8	0	0	0	0	+9	→	100	0	+9	5
	Nicaragua	Maize (White)	23	-1	-3	+22	+21	+25	↓	25	+3	+26	5
		Rice (Second Quality)	17	+1	+3	+13	+9	+25	→	47			5
		Sugar (White)	15	+5	+10	+7	+7	+31	↑	29			5
	Panama	Rice (First Quality)	24	-1	+2	-33	-33	-24	→	80	+3	-19	5
		Maize	7	0	+10	0	0	+11	↑	20			5
	Peru	Rice (Milled, Corriente)	21	+1	+2	+4	+4	+9	→	26	+12	+16	5
		Wheat (Flour)	14	0	+1	+2	+2	+6	→	26			5
		Potatoes (White)	8	+28	+41	+36	+31	+33	↑	32			5
		Maize (White)	7	0	+3	0	0	+14	→	16			5

(*) Calculations based on nominal prices. For details, see 'Approach' on page 13.

Region	Country	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 baseline (% change)	Price trend	Quarterly cost share in food basket (%)	Cumulative impact of changes on cost of food basket		# of years in baseline (the last 5 years) [* see footnote]
											from previous quarter (%)	from baseline (%)	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
Southern Africa	Lesotho	Maize Meal	56	-2	-1	0	-1	+12	↓	75	-1	+12	5
		Wheat Flour	14	0	0	+4	+3	+13	→	25			5
	Malawi	Maize	53	+23	-4	-25	-27	+17	↓	68	-3	+28	4
		Cassava Root	6	+13	0	+28	+33	+60	→	32			2
	Mozambique	Cassava Flour	32	+25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	↑	46	+13	+1	*
		Maize Grain (White)	20	+13	+10	-5	-15	-1	↑	14			5
		Wheat Flour	9	+4	+3	+1	-1	+3	→	17			3
		Rice (Imported)	8	0	+4	0	+1	+3	→	15			5
		Oil (Vegetable, Local)	5	+3	+4	-8	-4	-5	→	8			5
	Swaziland	Maize Meal	25	0	+11	+1	+1	+34	↑	35	+1	+27	5
		Wheat Flour	16	-4	-3	+10	+9	+29	↓	33			5
		Sugar (Brown)	11	-1	-3	+7	+7	+18	↓	18			3
		Rice	8	-5	-3	+3	+3	+20	↓	14			5
	Tanzania	Maize	26	-2	-6	-25	-30	-25	↓	30	+3	-4	5
		Rice	10	+15	+11	+26	+21	+7	↑	46			5
		Beans	5	+5	+10	+6	+9	+16	↑	24			4
	Zambia	Maize Grain (White)	51	+14	+6	-6	-8	+21	↗	53	+15	+33	5
		Cassava Meal	13	+13	+20	+35	+28	+49	↑	47			3
	Zimbabwe	Maize Meal	41	-11	-5	-20	-14	-30	↓	79	-9	-30	5
		Oil (Cooking)	8	-1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	↓	21			*
Central and Eastern Africa	Burundi	Potatoes (Sweet)	17	-15	+5	-9	-11	-2	↗	43	-12	-10	5
		Beans	16	-16	-14	-30	-27	-14	↓	27			5
		Cassava Flour	13	-26	-23	-28	-26	-15	↓	16			5
		Maize Grains	13	-31	-33	-39	-33	-18	↓	15			5
	Djibouti	Wheat Flour	34	-1	-1	+6	+6	+7	↓	44	-2	-2	5
		Rice (Imported)	17	-1	-1	-2	0	-5	↓	23			5
		Oil (Cooking)	15	-10	-9	-9	-10	-13	↓	18			2
		Sugar	11	+1	+4	-1	-1	-8	→	15			2
	Ethiopia	Maize (Local)	21	-7	+3	-3	-1	+27	→	30	-8	+32	5
		Sorghum	12	-7	+2	-13	-10	+31	→	23			5
		Wheat Grain	12	-8	0	+14	+13	+39	→	28			5
		Lentils	5	-9	N/A	-23	+7	N/A	↓	19			*
	Kenya	Maize (White)	35	+1	+9	+20	+6	+16	↗	27	-3	+16	5
		Bread	9	-3	-4	+5	0	+16	↓	19			5
		Oil (Cooking)	8	-5	-3	-7	-7	0	↓	9			5
		Milk	7	-4	-9	+6	0	+19	↓	46			5
	Rwanda	Bananas	17	+4	+27	-5	-8	-20	↑	29	+9	-3	5
		Potatoes (Irish)	12	-4	+13	-2	-9	+2	↑	21			5
		Beans	11	-16	+8	-17	-16	+6	↗	9			5
		Cassava	11	-6	-5	-17	-16	0	↓	12			5
		Potatoes (Sweet)	11	-3	-1	-13	-11	+14	↓	16			5
		Sorghum	8	-1	-1	+52	+45	+29	↓	8			5
		Maize Flour	5	-3	+1	-11	-9	+6	→	5			5
	Somalia	Sorghum (White)	29	-9	-10	-11	-5	0	↓	79	-6	-2	2
		Rice (Imported)	9	-6	-5	-13	-9	-8	↓	21			2
	South Sudan	Sorghum (White)	26	-2	+11	+24	+10	+35	↑	71	+17	+42	5
		Millet (White)	7	+17	+33	+32	+17	+64	↑	29			4
	Uganda	Cassava Flour	13	+14	+14	+17	+2	+17	↑	39	+5	+7	5
		Maize Flour	9	-5	-6	-8	-11	+4	↓	27			5
		Beans	5	+15	+6	-3	-6	0	↗	20			3
		Millet Grain	5	+4	+5	+5	-4	+1	↗	14			3

(*) Calculations based on nominal prices. For details, see 'Approach' on page 13.

Region	Country	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 baseline (% change)	Price trend	Quarterly cost share in food basket (%)	Cumulative impact of changes on cost of food basket		# of years in baseline (the last 5 years) [* see footnote]
											from previous quarter (%)	from baseline (%)	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
West Africa	Benin	Maize (White)	19	+3	-1	-34	-31	-38	↓	18	-5	-23	5
		Gari	16	-14	-11	-44	-42	-30	↓	26			5
		Rice (Imported)	13	-4	-2	-9	-9	-7	↓	47			5
		Sorghum	5	-11	-9	-17	-22	-32	↓	9			5
	Burkina Faso	Sorghum	26	-4	-4	0	-1	-2	↓	42	-2	-3	5
		Millet	22	-4	-1	-3	-3	-2	↓	36			5
		Maize	16	+4	+4	-5	-2	-7	→	22			5
	Cameroon	Maize	15	+4	+10	+10	+8	+10	↑	38	+12	+7	4
		Rice (Local)	10	+6	+13	+11	+11	+5	↑	48			4
		Sorghum (Red)	8	+16	+26	+5	+3	+4	↑	14			4
	Cape Verde	Rice (Long Grain, Imported)	19	-3	-1	-6	-5	-7	↓	66	-2	-5	5
		Wheat (Flour, Imported)	13	-2	-2	-3	-3	0	↓	34			5
	Central African Republic	Cassava	18	-2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	↓	24	0	N/A	*
		Maize Grains	13	+10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	↑	8			*
		Oil (Groundnut)	11	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	→	69			*
	Chad	Sorghum	18	0	-4	-17	-13	+5	↓	43	-6	+5	5
		Millet	15	-4	-2	-20	-17	+4	↓	42			5
		Maize	5	-6	-9	+5	-11	+10	↓	15			5
	Côte d'Ivoire	Rice (Imported Denikassia)	20	+1	+7	+3	+3	+4	↗	46	+8	+5	5
		Cassava	12	+2	-2	0	0	+3	↓	20			4
		Oil (Palm)	9	+7	-16	-18	+2	+1	↓	22			4
		Corn	7	+3	+4	+10	+12	+28	→	12			4
	Ghana	Cassava	21	+6	+14	+7	+6	+37	↑	29	-2	+46	5
		Maize	12	+6	+4	+51	+50	+77	→	15			5
		Yam	11	-6	-7	+10	-1	+30	↓	36			5
		Rice (Local)	8	-15	-8	+35	+42	+81	↓	20			5
	Guinea	Rice (Local)	37	-8	+12	-13	-11	-4	↑	88	+7	-2	5
		Oil (Palm)	6	-2	-2	+1	+11	+14	↓	12			5
	Liberia	Rice (Imported)	32	-3	-1	+23	+25	+20	↓	61	-1	+15	3
		Cassava	21	-3	-1	-2	+2	+12	↓	21			4
		Oil (Palm)	15	-11	-15	-25	-11	+4	↓	18			5
	Mali	Rice (Local)	21	-2	0	+3	+2	-2	→	49	-1	-3	5
		Millet	20	-6	-3	-9	-8	-5	↓	24			5
		Sorghum	13	-3	-2	-2	-2	-2	↓	17			5
		Maize	9	+1	0	+1	-1	-7	→	10			5
	Mauritania	Wheat	30	0	+3	+11	+4	+18	→	35	+1	+7	5
		Sugar	12	-6	-7	-10	-11	-21	↓	17			5
		Oil (Vegetable)	11	-1	0	+5	+1	+3	→	14			5
		Rice (Imported)	11	-1	-2	+6	+8	+14	↓	19			5
		Sorghum (Taghalit)	7	-5	+17	+25	+38	+28	↑	14			5
	Niger	Millet	39	-7	-13	-21	-21	-13	↓	57	-9	-9	5
		Sorghum	11	-11	-9	-18	-17	-7	↓	17			5
		Rice (Imported)	7	-2	-1	-2	-2	-1	↓	26			4
	North Nigeria	Sorghum	13	-20	-27	-38	-38	-33	↓	22	-13	-22	5
		Millet	11	-14	-21	-35	-36	-29	↓	20			5
		Maize	8	-8	-11	-27	-28	-24	↓	16			5
		Rice (Imported)	8	-6	-7	-7	-5	-8	↓	42			5
	Senegal	Rice (Imported)	30	0	0	+2	0	-7	→	69	-2	-5	5
		Maize (Imported)	10	-7	-5	-3	-6	-4	↓	18			5
		Millet	8	-10	-9	-9	-7	+3	↓	14			5
	Sierra Leone	Rice (Imported)	40	-14	-18	-3	-1	-5	↓	68	+3	-8	3
		Cassava Root	9	-34	+5	+5	-11	-4	↗	8			3
		Oil (Palm)	9	-14	-35	-13	-7	-30	↓	10			3
		Groundnut (Shelled)	6	+6	+8	+20	+8	-1	↗	13			3
	Togo	Maize (White)	24	+14	+6	-5	-9	-20	↗	19	-1	-10	5
		Manioc (Cassava)	15	-3	-4	-20	-20	-11	↓	44			5
		Rice (Imported)	10	-2	-3	-2	-3	-3	↓	27			5
		Sorghum	8	+3	+7	+5	-1	-2	↗	10			5

(*) Calculations based on nominal prices. For details, see 'Approach' on page 13.

Region	Country	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 baseline (% change)	Price trend	Quarterly cost share in food basket (%)	Cumulative impact of changes on cost of food basket		# of years in baseline (the last 5 years) [* see footnote]
											from previous quarter (%)	from baseline (%)	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
Middle East, North African and Central Asia	Azerbaijan	Wheat (Flour)	57	-2	+2	0	0	+10	→	65	-1	+11	5
		Potatoes	6	+7	-5	-21	-19	+14	↓	35			5
	Egypt	Wheat Flour	35	-3	-1	-11	-10	-7	↓	63	0	-6	4
		Rice	12	-4	+1	-4	-6	-8	→	21			4
		Sugar	7	-2	-2	+15	+3	0	↓	16			4
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Rice (Local)	9	+2	-2	+5	+5	+22	↓	72	-2	+21	2
		Sugar	9	+1	+1	+6	+6	+20	→	28			2
	Jordan	Bread	38	0	+1	0	0	+2	→	23	+1	+2	4
		Sugar	15	-1	0	-3	-3	-7	→	27			2
		Oil (Vegetable)	12	+1	+2	-2	0	+4	→	24			4
		Rice (Medium Grain)	8	-2	+2	-2	+1	+13	→	26			4
	Kyrgyz Republic	Wheat	40	+3	+11	+19	+19	+33	↑	57	+5	+40	5
		Potatoes	8	+10	-5	+19	+17	+51	↓	43			5
	Palestine	Wheat Flour	40	-2	-2	-6	-4	-3	↓	44	0	-3	5
		Sugar	10	-1	+4	+5	+4	-14	→	14			3
		Rice (Small Grain, Imported)	7	+1	-3	+7	+16	+1	↓	16			5
		Oil (Olive)	5	+2	+1	+4	+4	+2	→	26			5
	Sudan	Sorghum	60	-14	-15	-7	+3	+64	↓	84	-15	+67	5
		Millet	9	-16	-14	+9	+14	+86	↓	16			5
	Syria	Wheat Flour	39	+8	N/A	+16	+5	N/A	↗	59	+12	+73	*
		Sugar	13	+22	+43	+65	+36	+82	↑	24			3
		Oil	11	+15	+76	+24	+9	+63	↑	17			3
	Tajikistan	Wheat (Flour, First Grade)	54	+7	+17	+27	+23	+31	↑	100	+17	+31	5
	Turkey	Wheat Flour	41	+1	N/A	+7	+10	N/A	→	49	+1	N/A	*
		Sugar	8	0	N/A	-1	+1	N/A	→	13			*
		Milk	5	+2	N/A	+11	+12	N/A	→	38			*
	Yemen	Wheat Flour	38	-1	+11	+3	+2	0	↑	49	+7	-2	5
		Sugar	12	-1	+2	+8	+1	0	→	24			2
		Oil (Vegetable)	9	-2	+6	-3	-13	-21	↗	12			2
		Rice (Imported)	6	+13	+13	+19	+4	+4	↑	14			2

(*) Calculations based on nominal prices. For details, see 'Approach' on page 13.

Region	Country	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 baseline (% change)	Price trend	Quarterly cost share in food basket (%)	Cumulative impact of changes on cost of food basket		# of years in baseline (the last 5 years) [* see footnote]
											from previous quarter (%)	from baseline (%)	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
Asia	Afghanistan	Wheat	58	-1	+2	-4	0	+22	→	64	+1	+17	5
		Rice (Low Quality)	22	-4	0	-11	-10	+8	→	36			5
	Bangladesh	Rice (Coarse)	70	-3	-4	-2	-3	+6	↓	91	-3	+7	5
		Atta (Packet)	6	0	+3	-2	-2	+8	→	9			5
	Cambodia	Rice (Mixed)	65	-4	+8	-1	0	-5	↗	100	+8	-5	5
	India	Rice	31	-3	-1	-4	-3	+22	↓	53	-1	+18	5
		Wheat	22	+1	+1	+2	+2	+21	→	33			5
		Sugar	7	-5	-6	-3	-1	-4	↓	14			4
	Indonesia	Rice	50	+8	+10	+13	+12	+30	↑	80	+8	+24	5
		Oil (Cooking)	7	0	-1	+3	+5	+10	↓	5			5
		Sugar	6	+1	+2	-1	-3	+1	→	8			5
		Wheat	6	+1	0	+1	+1	+6	→	6			5
	Myanmar	Rice (Low Quality)	55	-7	-5	-6	-5	+19	↓	100	-5	+19	5
	Nepal	Rice	32	-5	+2	+3	+3	+19	→	65	+2	+20	5
		Wheat	15	0	+6	+6	+2	+23	↗	35			5
	Pakistan	Wheat (Flour)	37	-3	-4	-13	-13	+11	↓	84	-4	+11	5
		Rice (Irri)	6	-5	-2	-5	-3	+11	↓	16			5
	Philippines	Rice (Regular Milled)	48	-3	-4	+1	+2	+16	↓	53	0	+13	5
		Meat (Pork With Bones)	7	+6	+5	+7	+5	+10	↗	47			5
	Sri Lanka	Rice (White)	41	-4	-8	+9	+13	+25	↓	71	-6	+19	5
		Wheat (Flour)	14	-7	-1	-11	-7	+7	↓	29			5
	Thailand	Rice (25% Broken)	41	-2	+1	+2	-2	-19	→	100	+1	-19	5
	Viet Nam	Rice (20% Broken)	59	-9	0	-7	-9	-9	→	100	0	-9	5

(*) Calculations based on nominal prices. For details, see 'Approach' on page 13.



Approach

This bulletin examines price changes for staple food items and their impact on the cost of the basic food basket. For the most vulnerable population groups in developing countries, food often represents over 50% of total household expenditures, and staples contribute 40-80% of energy intake. Any change in staple food prices therefore has a big impact on overall food consumption, especially when the food basket is composed of very few items.

Monitoring the percentage changes of quarterly prices reveals whether recent changes are normal or abnormal when compared to a reference period (e.g. the previous quarter, the previous year or the baseline period).

Column D shows **what each food item contributes to total household energy intake**. The analysis is based on quarterly price[1] changes of the main food items (those that contribute at least 5% of caloric intake[2]):

i) **"Change from last quarter"** (column E) shows how far quarterly nominal prices have changed from the previous quarter (percentage change).

ii) **"Seasonally adjusted quarterly change"** (column F) shows how far quarterly prices have changed from the previous quarter, once prices have been adjusted for seasonality (percentage change). This indicator is calculated by dividing each monthly nominal price by its corresponding baseline average price.[3]

iii) **"Monthly change from last year"** shows how the monthly nominal price has changed from the same month in the previous year (percentage change). The indicator reflects the data for the latest available month of the last quarter.

iv) **"Quarterly change from last year"** (column H) is the percentage change of the quarterly nominal prices.

v) **"Quarterly price change from baseline"** (column I) shows how far quarterly prices have changed from baseline average prices[4] (percentage change).

How the impact on the cost of the food basket is assessed

The **'cumulative impact of the quarter'** (column L) shows the partial (known) change in the total cost of the food basket since the previous quarter. The **'cumulative impact from the baseline'** (column M) shows the change from the baseline. This approach seeks to derive the quantities of food consumed from the caloric contribution of each item in order to estimate the cost of the food basket and from there, the impact of price changes.

The impact calculation assumes that each food basket provides 2,100 kcal a day, and that the proportional caloric contribution is a proxy of the relative importance of the item in the food basket. It comprises the following calculations:

a) the total food basket energy is multiplied by the proportion of each item to give the absolute energy (in kcal) each item contributes to the total energy intake; b) each item's absolute energy is divided by its caloric density[5] to give the weight of that item in the food basket; and c) each item's weight is multiplied by its unit nominal/seasonally adjusted price to calculate the relative cost of each food basket item.

Costs are only calculated for energy contributors for which prices are available. To avoid bias, the other energy contributors that fill the gap to 2,100kcal are ignored. Thus, the total cost of the known part of the food basket is the sum of the itemized commodity costs (step c).

The **'quarterly cost share of food basket'** (column K) indicates the proportion each item represents in the total cost of the known food basket. The cumulative impact values are then calculated by comparing the seasonally adjusted cost[6] of the food basket with the cost in the previous quarter (column L) and against the baseline period (column M), as percentage changes. The likely impact is considered low when the percentage change is below 0, moderate when it is between 0 and 5%, high between 5 and 10%, and severe above 10%.

For further details on this approach, please visit http://www.wfp.org/content/price-analysis-methods

1. Prices are calculated as indices, using reference years. 'Last year' captures 12-month percentage changes, and 'last 5 years' captures percentage changes from long-term patterns.
2. Caloric contributions are based on FAO 2005-2007 estimates.
3. The baseline is an average of prices for the last five years of the same month. Note that this indicator requires a minimum two years' worth of data (see column N).
4. See note 3 above.
5. Caloric densities are based on NutVal 4.0 estimates.
6. For countries where seasonally adjusted prices cannot be derived, the nominal food basket cost is considered to measure the impact.

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