



# WFP GAMBIA

## Monthly Market Monitor: Issue 1

### Highlights

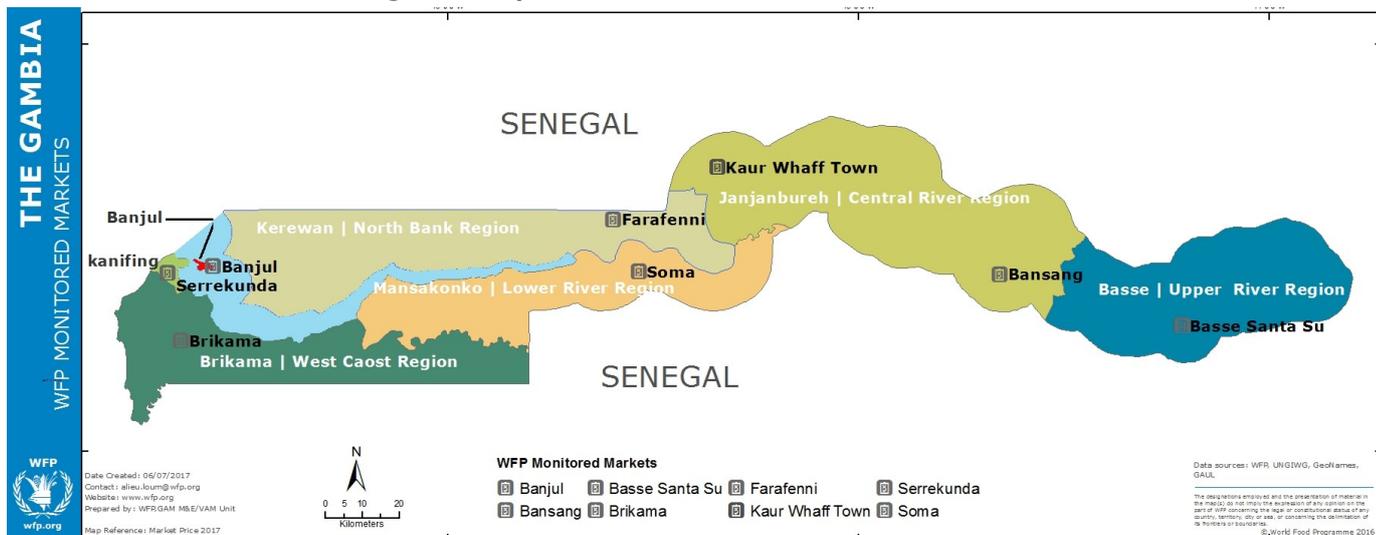
- Significant changes were recorded in the average retail prices for maize grain, sorghum, millets and groundnuts in May compared to April 2017. **However, compared to May 2016, prices for all commodities were higher this year by 15 percent, 7 percent, 17 percent and 12 percent respectively.** Millet experienced the highest price increase for cereals.
- In several areas of the country, food prices have begun to seasonally rise as household stocks decline and market demand increases. Average retail prices for cereals are expected to continuously increase from June 2017 to August as stocks reduce. **Prices are also expected to be higher than the prices in 2016.**

### Foreword

Market price monitoring is essential to understanding market performance, price trends of staple commodities and food availability; elements that are critical in determining transfer modality and transfer values for cash based interventions.

WFP The Gambia, in collaboration with the Gambia Bureau of Statistic (GBoS), undertakes monthly market monitoring in main markets (Banjul, Serrekunda, Brikama, Soma, Bansang, Basse Santa Su, Farafenni and Kaur Whaff Town) within the Local Government Areas (LGAs). Refer to figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: Map of WFP Monitored Markets in The Gambia**



Source: GAM M&E VAM Unit





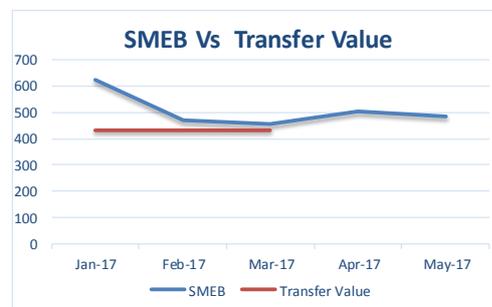
## Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)



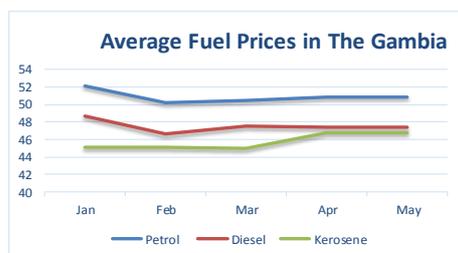
The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) outlines the minimum culturally-adjusted items for survival of a household for one month. The basket is comprised of items that give basic energy requirements of 2,100 kilocalories per person per day. While it does not set a standard value for the MEB, a standardized methodology is recommended to ensure the value of the basket is calculated as accurately as possible for different interventions across The Gambia. The food items used in the food basket are: rice, maize/millet, fish, vegetable oil and salt. The MEB helps WFP and partners to estimate what a household requires in order to meet their basic needs on a regular basis.

### GAMBIA MEB & TRANSFER VALUE

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) based on commodities rice, millet/maize, fish, vegetable oil, and salt has decreased by 4 percent from 505 Dalasi to current 486 Dalasi (April, May respectively). In January, the MEB started on the highest rate so far in 2017 and is likely attributed to the political impasse after the December presidential election. The transfer value was below the MEB for the months of January to March during IR-EMOP 201036.



## Fuel Prices



Average fuel prices have been fairly stable from February to May 2017. The Ministry of Finance and Economics Affairs has been monitoring the international fuel prices over the years and occasionally reduces the domestic pump prices to transfer the gains of the falling global oil prices to consumers and citizens.

## Conclusion

Generally, The recent cereal price increases in the markets are due to the poor harvest last cropping season as a result of late rains. Farmers are affected in two fold: by the loss of adequate household stocks while also losing income from potential cash crops.

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) has decreased by 4% from 505 Dalasi to current 486 Dalasi between April and May 2017, due to the political irregularities.

## Recommendations

WFP and partners must maintain the monitoring of immediate and longer-term food security and resilience outcomes by analyzing expenditure trends relative to the MEB while also establishing a baseline which to monitor market prices and the cost of living against.

In the short term, humanitarian agencies should streamline transfer values for food assistance to the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) value to reflect prevailing price fluctuations.

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