



**BULLETIN:**  
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# Rwanda | Food Security Update

## HIGHLIGHTS

In December, food and non-alcoholic beverages consumer price index was about 4.7 percent lower compared to previous month, 6.2 percent lower than one year earlier and 28 percent higher than three years ago; which still compromises the poor's economic access to food.

Localized areas, mostly in the eastern region, experienced erratic and below average rainfall; which negatively affected the seasonal performance and left some in need of food assistance.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), over 15,000 residents from around 4,000 households in the districts of Kirehe and Kayonza affected by drought during season 2018A, received food assistance by government.

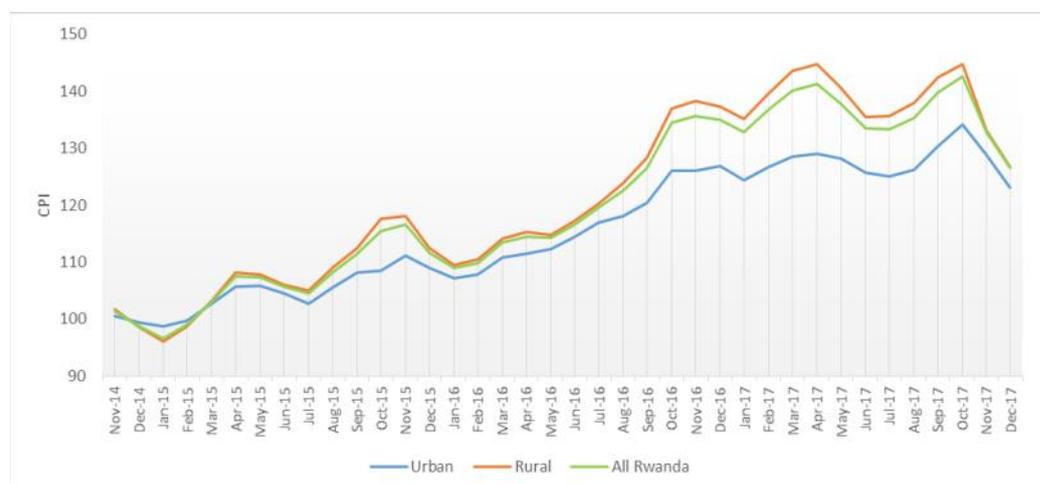
## OVERVIEW

**Food prices in December were slightly lower than previous month and same time last year, but higher than long term average, with implication on limited purchasing power of the poor:** Figure 1 indicates that the food and non-alcoholic consumer price index was about 4.7 percent lower compared to previous month, 6.2 percent lower than one year earlier and 28 percent higher than three years ago, according to National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR). Moreover, key staples had variable trends, whereby, beans, irish potatoes and maize prices ranged from normal to below their respective 5-year-averages, while cooking banana and cassava flour

remained higher (Figure 2). On food supply side, cheaper imports and availability of harvests contributed most to alleviated high price challenge.

**Localized areas, mostly in eastern parts of Rwanda experienced poor rainfall performance:** According to RAB, farmers in 17 sectors, including Karangazi, Nyagatare, Rukomo and Katabagemu of Nyagatare district; Rwinkwavu, Ndego, Kabare, Murundi, Mwili and Rukara of Kayonza district, as well as Mpanga, Kigarama and Nyamugali sectors in Kirehe District, and Rweru, Rilima, Gashora and Shara in Bugesera had less favorable rainfall throughout the season. RAB also indicates that yields from areas which received optimal rainfall will fill the gap.

**Figure 1:** Evolution of food and non-alcoholic beverages consumer price index

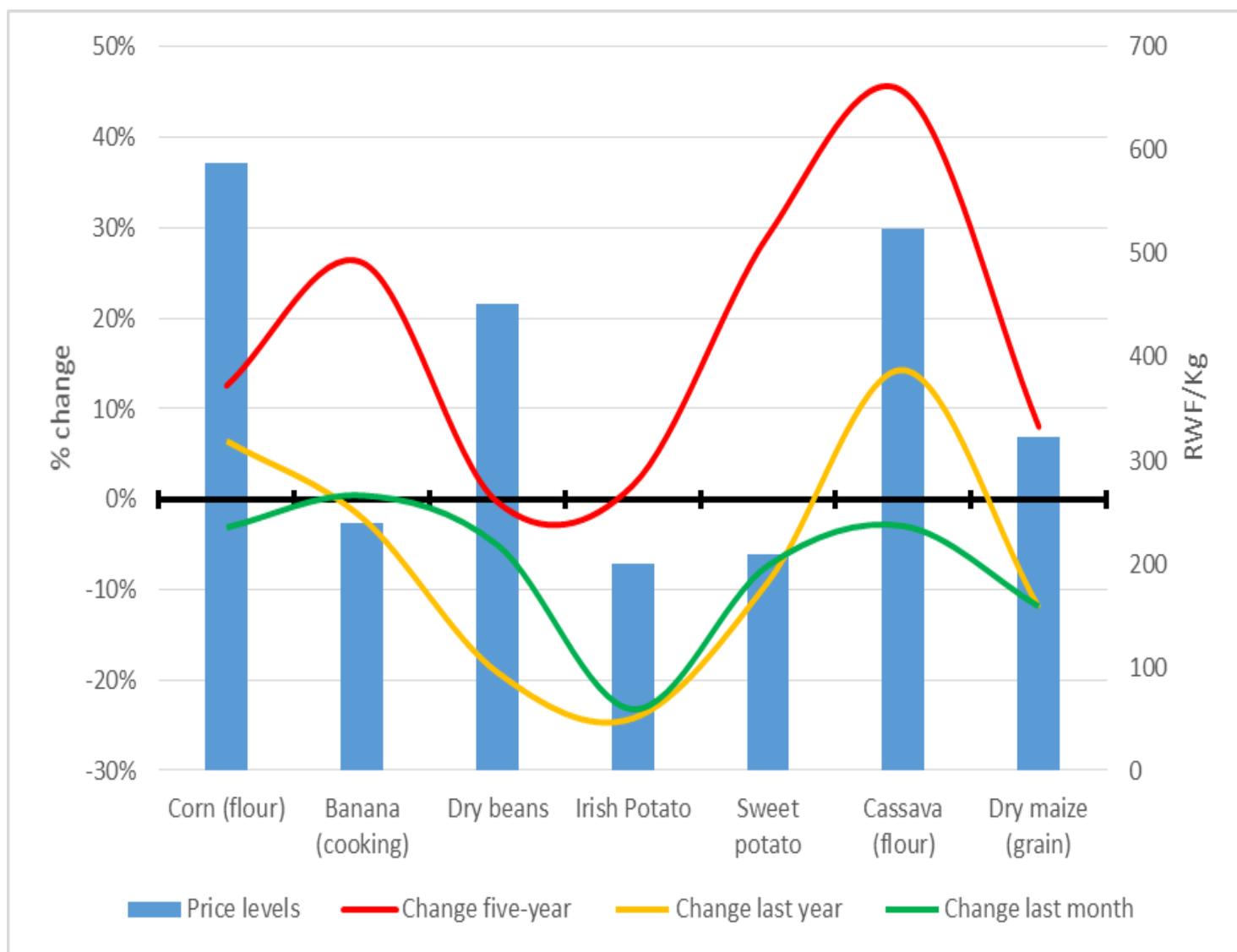


Source: Based on NISR CPI data (Base: 2014; Reference: February 2014=100)

Generally, there has been a series of events with potential impact on overall seasonal performance. For instance, rainfall in the first 20 days of December has been up to 60 percent below average, and it was erratic during the preceding time (Figure 3). Fall army worms were identified across districts, but high level community sensitization was achieved. Nonetheless, cost and labor implications will be important to consider, at the end of the season when official figures will be available, to better understand overall performance.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), the government of Rwanda assisted over 15,000 residents from around 4,000 households in the districts of Kirehe and Kayanza affected by drought during season 2018A, since the month of December.

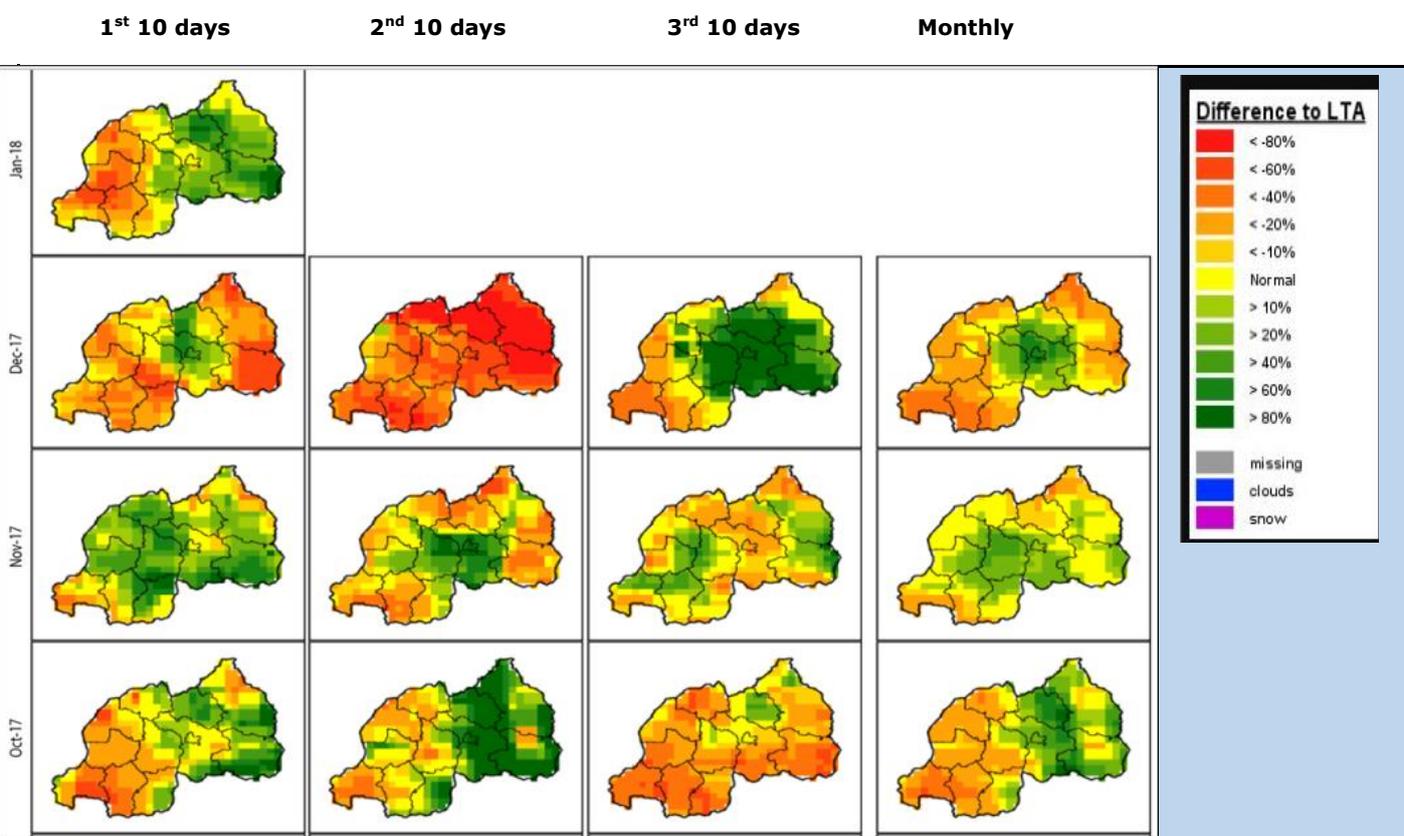
**Figure 2:** December 2017 prices (RWF/kg) and anomalies



Source: Calculations based on NISR price data

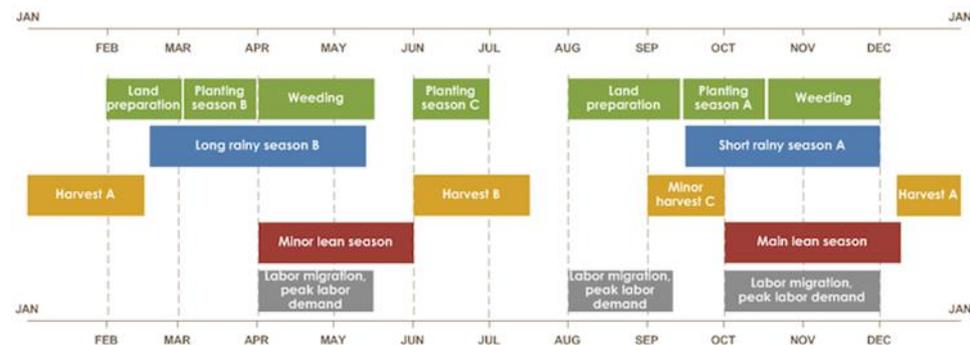
**Figure 3: Rainfall anomalies**

Anomalies depict the deviation of current rainfall from the average. In other words, current rainfall compared to the Long Term Average (LTA) back, might result in positive (above average) or negative (below average) percentages.



Source: [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

**Figure 4: Seasonal calendar**



Source: [www.fews.net](http://www.fews.net)