



## RWANDA | UPDATE ON FOOD SECURITY DRIVERS OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2021— ISSUE N° 59

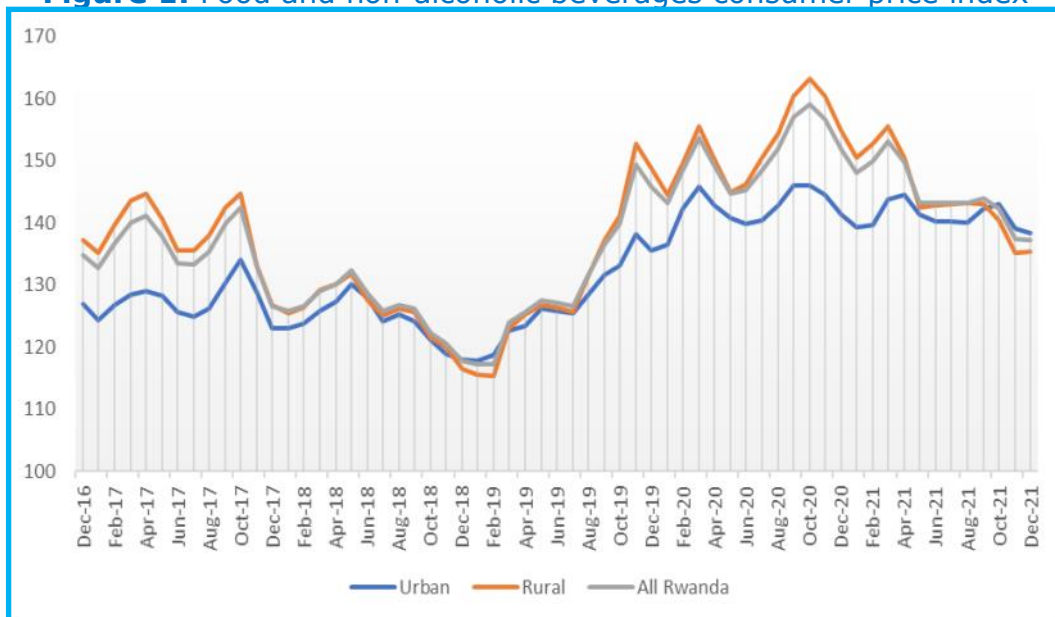
### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Rainfall was normal from October to December 2021, though some areas (Kirehe, Bugesera, parts of Gatsibo, Ruhango, and Nyanza) received less than usual. Crop failure is likely due to poor rainfall distribution and below-average rains; good crop prospects, such as maize and beans, are expected in the western part of the country.
- According to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), the food and non-alcoholic beverages consumer price index (CPI) was around 14 percent higher in December 2021 compared to five years ago, 9 percent lower compared to same time last year, and stable compared to the previous month of November 2021. Prices for most key staples were close to their respective five-year averages, lower than this time last year, but slightly higher than in November 2021.
- According to NISR, Rwanda's deficit in the balance of formal external trade in goods in November 2021 was US\$ 210.19 million, a 5.75 percent increase over the previous month of October.
- The FAO/GEWS reports that most parts of the country experienced below-average rainfall from October to December, affecting planting phases for 2022 season A. According to Fewsnet, the harvest in the Eastern Province will be below average, while prices will be above average, limiting food access in this region.

### OVERVIEW

**The food and non-alcoholic consumer price index in December were 14 percent higher than five years ago:** While prices remained higher than long term for both rural and urban settings, the price index was 9 percent lower compared to last year and stable compared to the previous month (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Food and non-alcoholic beverages consumer price index**

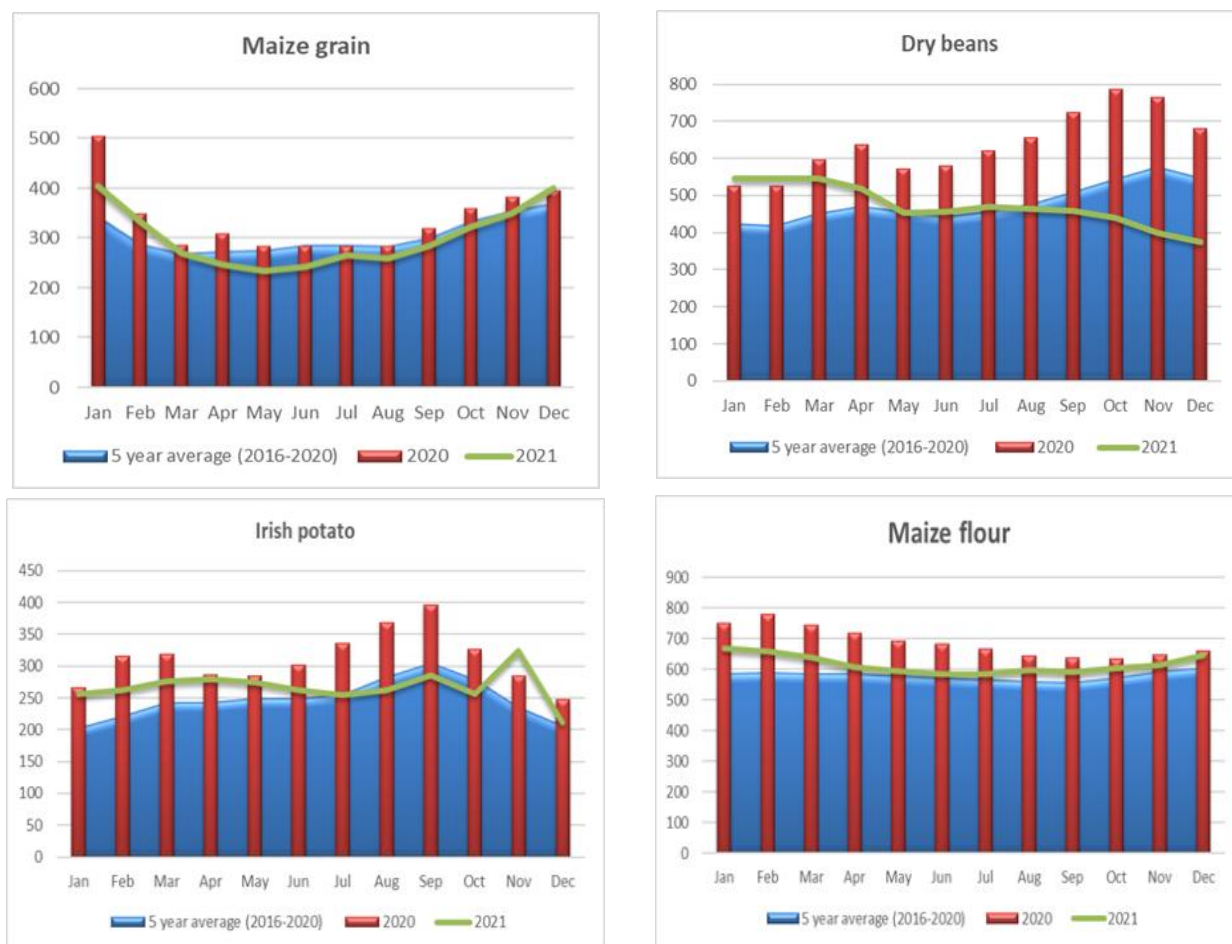


**Source:** Based on NISR CPI data (Reference: February 2014)

When compared to five years ago, the December price index was 48 percent higher for meat and 28 percent higher for milk, cheese, and eggs. Prices for animal resources such as milk and meat have risen in recent months due to supply shortages, [possible reasons](#) being lack of fodder/animal feeds and water particularly in dry season and rain shortage that characterized the majors part of the country between November and December 2021 (see Figure 5). The increase of price of animal resource food would contribute to increase the gap in their consumption in Rwandan households. According to the [Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis](#) (CFSVA) surveys over time, despite being high in nutrients for various body functions, animal proteins are the least consumed by households, particularly the poor. In addition, the [Fill the Nutrient Gap](#) (FNG) showed that animal-based foods raise the cost of a nutritious diet in Rwanda, making it unaffordable for the majority of households.

Nonetheless, September data from the NISR shows that prices of most key staples such as maize grain, beans, irish potato and maize flour were close to their respective five-year averages, lower than same time last year, although slightly higher compared to the previous month of August (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: December 2021 prices and anomalies**



**Source:** Based on NISR price data

Rwanda's deficit in the balance of formal external trade in goods in December 2021 was US\$ 218.28 million, a 3.85 percent increase over the previous month of November (Table 1).

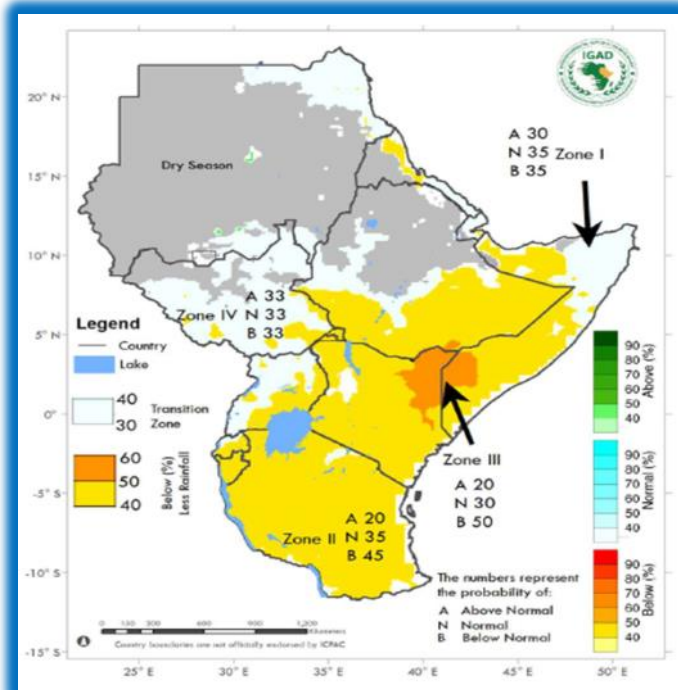
**Table 1: December 2021 formal external trade balance in goods (US\$ mil-**

FLOW	Value: USD Million			Share in percentage			Percentage change	
	2020	2021		2020	2021		Dec2021 / Nov2021	Dec2021 / Dec2020
	Dec (R)	Nov	Dec	Dec	Nov	Dec		
<b>A. Total Exports (f.o.b)</b>	<b>84.02</b>	<b>130.59</b>	<b>173.79</b>	<b>23.67</b>	<b>27.70</b>	<b>30.71</b>	<b>33.08%</b>	<b>106.86%</b>
Domestic exports	54.02	89.38	128.92	15.22	18.96	22.78	44.25%	138.65%
Re-exports	29.99	41.22	44.87	76.33	8.74	7.93	8.86%	49.60%
<b>B. Total Imports (c.i.f)</b>	<b>270.93</b>	<b>340.79</b>	<b>392.07</b>	<b>8.45</b>	<b>72.30</b>	<b>69.29</b>	<b>15.05%</b>	<b>44.71%</b>
<b>Total External Trade (A+B)</b>	<b>354.95</b>	<b>471.38</b>	<b>565.86</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20.04%</b>	<b>59.42%</b>
<b>Trade Balance (A-B)</b>	<b>-186.92</b>	<b>-210.19</b>	<b>-218.28</b>				<b>3.85%</b>	<b>16.78%</b>

**Source:** NISR formal external trade data, December 2021

**September-December 2021 rainfall was expected to be normal in most parts of the country:** Rwanda is among the countries with a chance of receiving less than normal rainfall, according to the 59th Great Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 59). (Figure 4). A more detailed forecast from RMA shows that, while most parts of the country were predicted to receive normal rainfall, some locations, including Kirehe, Bugesera, and parts of Gatsibo, Ruhango, and Nyanza, were expected to receive slightly less rainfall. However, most of the country experienced below-average rainfall from October to December (Figure 5), which had influenced planting phases for the 2022 season A.

**Figure 4: October-December 2021 rainfall outlook**



**Source:** ICPAC

The Horn of Africa in particular is experiencing one of its most severe droughts in recent history following three back-to-back poor rainy seasons, with some countries already issuing emergency declarations.

Conflict, political instability and weather-induced shocks continue to lead to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes across the region, drought in the eastern Horn of Africa and severe flooding in South Sudan are also driving Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes, marked by a large reduction in household food and income sources, purchasing power, and coping capacity.

A **third consecutive** season of below-average rainfall in late 2021 has led to significant crop and livestock losses and above-average food and water prices in southern and southeastern Ethiopia, most of Somalia, and eastern and northern Kenya. Weak **La Niña** conditions prevail, with predictions to return to neutral conditions in March 2022.

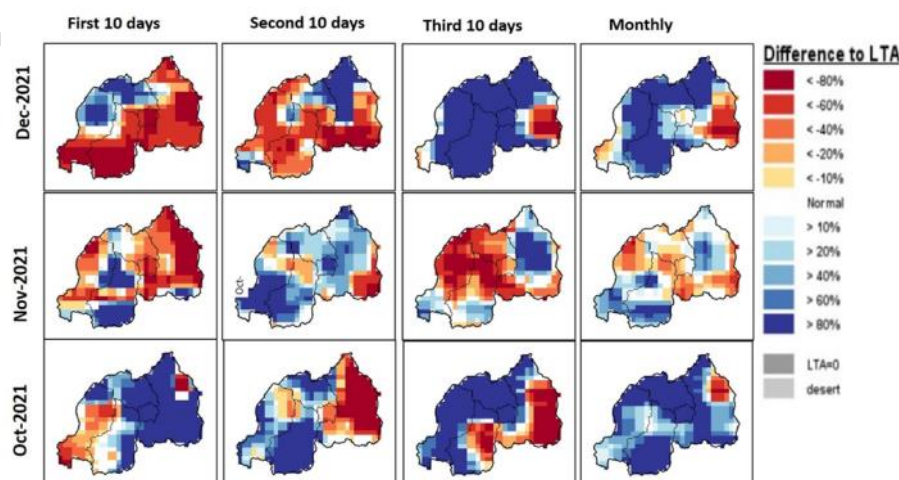
According to FEWS NET, food access in rural areas has stabilized as a result of the slow start of Season A harvests across the country, which has been supplemented by the availability of inter-season crops such as cassava and bananas.

Food prices have begun to fall, slightly improving access through purchases and driving minimal food insecurity outcomes corresponding to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification 1 (IPC phase 1). However, the harvest in Eastern Province is expected to be lower than average, while prices are higher than average, limiting food access in the area.

In Rwanda, Rainfall was normal from October to December 2021, though some areas (Kirehe, Bugesera, parts of Gatsibo, Ruhango, and Nyanza) received less than usual. Crop failure is likely due to poor rainfall distribution and below-average rains; good crop prospects, such as maize and beans, are expected in the western part of the country. Central and eastern Rwanda experienced **water stress in the** months of November and December. Based on the latest Meteo-Rwanda forecast, the country received rainfall ranging between 50 and 200 mm in January 2022. During the month of February 2022, corresponding to the beginning of cropping in most part of the country, rainfall ranging between 0 and 250 mm is expected across the country. South-western part of the country is expected to receive increased amount of rainfall while reduced rainfall is expected in many parts of

**Figure 5: Rainfall anomalies**

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



**Source:** FAO