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# WFP Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa Market and Trade Update 2024 Q3

## Joint RAM and Procurement

November 2024



# Highlights

- In September 2024, the FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) increased by 3 percent, marking the largest monthly rise since March 2022. Although the index is 2.1 percent higher than September 2023, it remains 22.4 percent below its peak in March 2022.
- Wholesale cereal prices across the region followed mixed trends throughout the third quarter of the year. **Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, Rwanda, and Burundi** will continue importing maize from **Uganda and Tanzania** as stocks deplete. Maize prices are expected to stay stable or below average due to carryover stocks from 2023 and a strong 2024 harvest in **Tanzania**.
- Regional sorghum trade declined due to expectations of a below-average harvest, hoarding for future price hikes, and reduced exports from conflict-affected **Sudan**. Flooding has worsened displacement and crop loss in **Sudan**, with sorghum prices up 65 percent and millet prices up 180-210 percent compared to six months ago.
- In the third quarter of 2024, petrol prices across the region averaged USD 1.3/L, a year-on-year rise of 64.6 percent. **South Sudan** saw the highest increase, with petrol prices rising 21 percent between August and September, reflecting local currency depreciation. In **Sudan**, diesel prices increased nearly 7 percent in the same period and more than doubled year-on-year (up 142.5 percent). Fuel scarcity in **Burundi** caused a sharp price increase between June and August, but prices fell 37.3 percent in September, though still 37.8 percent higher than a year ago.
- Local currencies across Eastern Africa continued to weaken against the U.S. dollar in the third quarter of 2024, except in **Kenya and Uganda**. As of September 2024, **South Sudan** and **Sudan** were among the top three countries with the highest currency depreciation in the parallel market, with declines of 78 and 69 percent, respectively. **Burundi** also experienced a significant depreciation of the franc (down 36 percent). After adopting an open floating exchange rate, the **Ethiopian Birr (ETB)** lost 52 percent of its value between September 2023 and 2024, although the gap between official and parallel rates has narrowed.
- The cost of living remained high across Eastern Africa in the third quarter of 2024. As of September 2024, the annual inflation rate across the region was, on average, 19.9 percent. **South Sudan** recorded the highest inflation rate in the region (107.3 percent as of July 2024) for five consecutive months; **Ethiopia** and **Burundi** continued to record double digit annual inflation (17.5 and 23.3 percent, respectively). The depreciation of the local currency coupled with unfavorable agricultural conditions and supply chain disruptions stemming from the ongoing conflicts continue to drive up prices and costs of living in **Sudan**.
- Average food inflation in the region stood at 16.4 percent in September 2024. **South Sudan** recorded the highest food inflation (96.4 percent as of July 2024), followed by **Ethiopia** and **Burundi**, which continued to record double-digit food inflation since July 2021 (at 19.7 and 13.9 percent as of September 2024).
- As of September 2024, the average per capita monthly price of a local food basket reached USD 14.7, across the region – representing a 60.5 percent increase from the same month last year. Compared to a year ago, the cost of a local food basket more than tripled in **Sudan** and **South Sudan**. **Sudan** continued to record the most expensive food basket in the region (USD 25.2), followed by **Somalia** (USD 19.8).

# 1. International Commodity Price Outlook<sup>1</sup>

In September 2024, the FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) rose to 124.4 points, a 3 percent increase from August and the largest month-on-month (m-o-m) jump since March 2022, when it peaked at 160.3 points. Prices for all commodities in the index went up, with increases ranging from 0.4 percent for meat to 10.4 percent for sugar. Compared to September last year, the FFPI is 2.1 percent higher, but it remains 22.4 percent below that March 2022 peak.

The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 113.5 points in September, up 3 percent from August, but down 10.2 percent compared to September 2023. After three months of decline, global wheat prices rose due to concerns over unfavourable weather in key exporting regions, which caused harvest delays and reduced production forecasts. For example, the benchmark United States of America (U.S. Hard Red Winter) price quotations increased by 8 percent between August and September; with quotations at 269.6 USD/ton. However, lower-priced supplies from the Black Sea limited the global wheat price increase observed.

International maize prices followed a similar pattern: they recorded a seasonal decline between July as harvest in Brazil and Argentina progressed and then firmed between August and September due to high demand in key exporting countries and

adverse weather conditions, which underpinned production. As of September, the United States of America (U.S. No.2, Yellow) maize quotations were at 183.95 USD/ton – that is a 10 percent increase following increased transport cost and low river levels in the Madeira and Mississippi Rivers.

Conversely, international rice prices were stable or slightly declined throughout the third quarter of the year due to quiet trading in Thailand and Viet Nam and lower basmati prices in India, attributed to new harvest supplies and the removal of the government-set floor price for basmati exports. As of September 2024, the quotations for benchmark Thai A1 Super were at 477 USD/ton – that is a 3 percent m-o-m increase and a 0.3 percent increase compared with September 2023.

The outlook for 2025 suggests a mixed trend for wheat, rice, and maize prices. Wheat and maize prices are anticipated to remain stable due to increased stocks from the 2023/2024 marketing year and slower demand growth, while rice prices may rise slightly due to tighter supplies in key producing regions. However, global agricultural dynamics, weather patterns, and trade policies will play crucial roles in shaping these trends. Additionally, fluctuations in energy and fertilizer costs could impact crop production, influencing overall price movements.

**TABLE 1. AVERAGE INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICE CHANGE**

Commodity	Average International Cereal Price change			
	Price (USD/tonne)		Price change	
	Sep-24	m-o-m	y-o-y	5-year average
US (Gulf), Maize (US No. 2, Yellow)	184	9.5%	-17.9%	-16.0%
US (Gulf), Wheat (US No. 2, Hard Red Winter)	270	8.1%	-14.5%	-6.5%
Thailand (Bangkok), Rice (Thai A1 Super)	477	3.3%	0.3%	17.2%

SOURCE: FAO FPMA

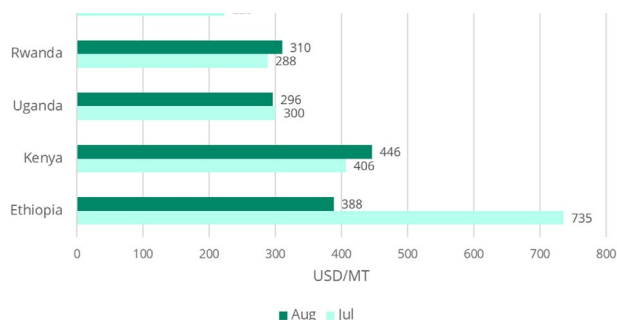
## 2. Regional Crossborder Trade Dynamics

### MAIZE

Wholesale cereal prices across the region followed mixed trends throughout the third quarter of the year.

**Tanzania** has continued to report low maize prices during the third quarter of the year despite growing demand from neighbouring countries. Prices have remained stable, roughly 40 percent lower than last year, due to sufficient domestic supply. In Dar es Salaam, maize has been trading at an average of USD/MT 231-239, while in Iringa, prices have averaged USD/MT 224, and in Arusha, they have ranged from USD/MT 231 to 235.

**FIG 1. NATIONAL AVERAGE MAIZE PRICES ACROSS EAST AFRICA**



SOURCE: [AGRA Food Security Monitor August 2024](#)

### Eastern Africa Cross Border Trade & Price Outlook

Deficit-producing countries such as **Kenya**, **South Sudan**, **Somalia**, **Rwanda**, and **Burundi** are expected to keep importing maize from **Uganda** and **Tanzania** as stocks from the above-average 2023 harvest decrease.

Local maize supply in **Rwanda** has decreased, leading to a rise in imports from **Tanzania** and **Uganda**. These imports are expected to continue until the Season A harvest begins in January.

Maize prices are expected to follow seasonal patterns, remaining stable or below average, supported by carryover stocks from 2023 and an above-average 2024 harvest in **Tanzania**. Informal maize trade continues to dominate between **Kenya**

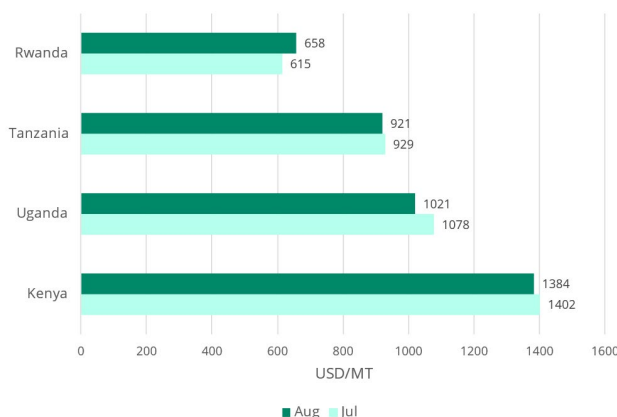
and **Tanzania**.

### PULSES - MIXED BEANS AND SINGLE VARIETY

Beans prices remained high throughout the third quarter of the year due to limited supply and strong demand. Yet, **Rwanda** recorded the lowest regional price for mixed beans at 658 USD/MT in August.

Unlike maize, where much of the cross-border trade is informal, most bean trade between **Kenya**, **Uganda**, **Rwanda**, and **Ethiopia** occurs through formal channels.

**FIG 2. NATIONAL AVERAGE BEANS PRICES ACROSS EAST AFRICA SELECTED MARKETS**



SOURCE: [AGRA Food Security Monitor August 2024](#)

### SORGHUM

Regional sorghum trade declined due to expectations of a below-average harvest, commodity hoarding in anticipation of higher future prices, and reduced production and exports from **Sudan**, which is affected by ongoing conflict.

The record-breaking rainfall this season has caused widespread flooding in many areas of **Sudan**, exacerbating the effects of ongoing conflict by displacing people and destroying crops, property, and infrastructure. In August, cereal prices surged dramatically, with sorghum and millet rising by 65 percent and 180-210 percent, respectively, compared to six months prior, and by 310-365

percent from the same time last year. Ongoing fighting has severely disrupted crop cultivation, leading to significant production deficits expected in the upcoming November harvest, especially in Central and Eastern Sudan's agricultural regions.

Amidst **Sudan's** production challenges, **Tanzania's** role as a key sorghum producer has grown

significantly, strengthening its position in the regional market. With competitive prices ranging from USD/MT 300 to 350, **Tanzania** has achieved strong export performance, largely driven by favourable profit margins. These prices reflect both rising demand and consistent supply, underscoring the country's growing influence in sorghum trade.

### 3. Exchange Rates and Costs of Living

Local currencies across Eastern Africa continued to weaken against the U.S. dollar in the third quarter of 2024, except in **Kenya** and **Uganda**.

**TABLE 2: TRENDS IN EXCHANGE RATES**

Trends in exchange rates					
Country	Currency	Type	Sep-24	m-o-m	y-o-y
Burundi	BIF/USD	Official	2,923	-0.2%	-2.0%
		Parallel	7,200	-1.4%	-36.1%
Djibouti	DJF/USD	Official	178	0.0%	-0.2%
Ethiopia	ETB/USD	Official	115	-11.8%	-52.0%
		Parallel	120	2.5%	-10.0%
Kenya	KES/USD	Official	129	0.1%	13.9%
Rwanda	RWF/USD	Official	1,342	-1.4%	-11.3%
Somalia	SOS/USD	Official	30,626	0.2%	-0.1%
	SLS/USD	Official	9,300	0.0%	-7.0%
South Sudan	SSP/USD	Reference	2,929	-20.6%	-65.6%
		Parallel	4,548	-3.3%	-77.4%
Sudan	SDG/USD	Commercial Banks	1,980	-5.4%	-67.7%
		Parallel	2,600	-1.5%	-69.2%
Uganda	UGX/USD	Official	3,716	0.2%	0.4%

SOURCE: National Central Banks and WFP COS

The **Sudan** conflict has worsened macroeconomic issues in **Sudan** and **South Sudan**, both of which are also dealing with displacement due to conflict and climate shocks. As of September 2024, **South Sudan** and **Sudan** were among the top three countries with the highest currency depreciation in the parallel market, with declines of 78 and 69 percent, respectively. **Burundi** also experienced a significant depreciation of the franc (down 36 percent).

In **Ethiopia**, after adopting an open floating exchange rate, the Birr (ETB) lost 52 percent of its value between September 2023 and 2024, although the gap between official and parallel rates has narrowed. By September, commercial banks bought USD at ETB 115, while in the parallel market, the rate was ETB 120.

By contrast **Kenya's** shilling saw a 14 percent

appreciation as of September after a period of depreciation from 2023 to January 2024. This recovery was driven by the Central Bank of **Kenya's** decision to lower the Central Bank Rate in response to lower inflation<sup>2</sup>.

In **Uganda**, the shilling experienced a slight depreciation of 0.4 percent, largely due to increased dollar inflows following the U.S. Federal Reserve's decision to lower interest rates, attracting more capital inflows to frontier markets<sup>3</sup>.

**TABLE 3: TRENDS IN ANNUAL AND FOOD INFLATION RATES**

Country	Annual Inflation		Food Inflation	
	Sep-24	Sep 24/23	Sep-24	Sep 24/23
Burundi	23.3%		19.7%	
Djibouti	-0.1%		0.4%	
Ethiopia	17.5%		19.6%	
Kenya	3.6%		5.1%	
Rwanda	-0.8%		-8.1%	
Somalia	5.3%		-0.2%	
South Sudan*	107.3%		96.4%	
Sudan				
Uganda	3.0%		-1.5%	
RBN	19.9%		16.4%	

SOURCE: National Bureaux of Statistics

The cost of living remained high across Eastern Africa in the third quarter of 2024. As of September 2024, the annual inflation rate across the region was, on average, 19.9 percent<sup>4</sup>. **South Sudan** recorded the highest inflation rate in the region (107.3 percent as of July 2024) for five consecutive months; **Ethiopia** and **Burundi** continued to record double digit annual inflation (17.5 and 23.3 percent, respectively). The depreciation of the local currency coupled with unfavourable agricultural conditions and supply chain disruptions stemming

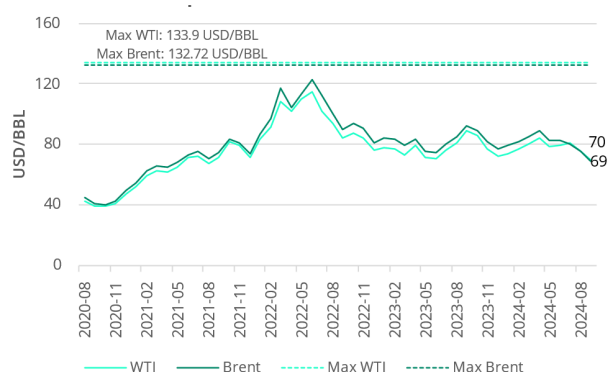
from the ongoing conflicts continue to drive up prices and costs of living in **Sudan**<sup>5</sup>.

Food prices remained high across Eastern Africa during the third quarter of the year, with average food inflation at 16.4 percent in September 2024<sup>6</sup>.

## 4. Fuel Prices

Throughout the third quarter of 2024, global oil prices continued the decline observed since the second quarter. As of September 2024, the average spot price for Brent crude oil stood at USD/bbl 69 (down 7.8 percent compared to August 2024 and down 22.1 percent compared to September 2023); while Western Texas Intermediate (WTI) stood at USD/bbl 70 (down 8 percent compared to August 2024 and down 25.1 percent compared to September 2023)<sup>7</sup>.

**FIGURE 3: TRENDS IN BRENT AND WTI**



SOURCE: OPEC

At the local level, average pump prices remained stable but high in the third quarter of 2024, with petrol prices across the region averaging at USD 1.3/L as of September 2024. Yet, this corresponds to a y-o-y increase of 64.6 percent.

The conflict in **Sudan** has affected cross border trade with **South Sudan**, particularly markets in the northern parts of the country. In line with the depreciation of the LCU, petrol prices recorded a 21 percent increase between August and September

Similar to annual inflation, **South Sudan** recorded the highest food inflation in the region (96.4 percent as of July 2024), followed by **Ethiopia** and **Burundi**, which continued to record double-digit food inflation since July 2021 (at 19.7 and 13.9 percent as of September 2024).

– the highest increase observed in the region. This corresponds to a y-o-y increase of more than 5 times.

**TABLE 4: PETROL PRICES PER LITRE (LOCAL CURRENCIES AND USD) AND VARIATIONS**

Country	Fuel price		Variations	
	USD/L	LCU/L	m-o-m Aug-24	y-o-y Sep-23
Burundi	1.3	9,203.2	▼ -37.3%	▲ 37.8%
Djibouti	1.2	205.0	■ 0.0%	■ 0.0%
Ethiopia	0.7	82.6	■ 0.0%	▲ 10.4%
Kenya	1.5	189.5	■ 0.0%	▼ -10.7%
Rwanda	1.2	1,629.0	■ 0.0%	■ -0.6%
Somalia (SoS)	1.1	33,720.0	▼ -0.6%	▼ -6.1%
South Sudan	2.4	11,020.4	▲ 21.0%	▲ 409.2%
Sudan	1.3	3,264.4	▲ 6.9%	▲ 142.5%
Uganda	1.4	5,316.0	■ -0.6%	▼ -1.3%
<b>RBN</b>	<b>1.3</b>		<b>■ -1.2%</b>	<b>▲ 64.6%</b>

SOURCE: National Bureaux of Statistics and WFP COs

Price of diesel increased by almost 7 percent in Sudan between August and September 2024; however, pump prices more than doubled between September 2023 and September 2024 (up 142.5 percent), which reflects the exchange rate depreciation and reduced fuel availability.

Fuel scarcity has also been an issue in **Burundi**, with average pump prices showing a sharp increase between June and August 2024, mainly in the black market. Following a substantial restock, prices of fuel declined in September (down 37.3 percent compared to August); but were 37.8 percent higher than a year ago.



## 5. Economic Access to food

As of September 2024, the average per capita monthly price of a local food basket reached USD 14.7. It increased by almost 8 percent compared to August 2024. Compared to September 2024, the average per capita cost of the food basket increased by 60.5 percent<sup>8</sup>.

Compared to a year ago, the cost of a local food basket more than tripled in **Sudan** and **South Sudan** (up 230.5 and 240.6 percent, respectively). In addition, **Sudan** continued to record the most expensive food basket in the region (USD 25.2), followed by **Somalia** (USD 19.8).

During the third quarter of the year, the conflict in **Sudan** intensified and the economic crisis deepened, with implications on affordability of basic commodities. Prices of sorghum more than quadrupled between September 2023 and September 2024, whilst the price of vegetable oil increased by 78.3 percent in the same reference period. Milk prices in September 2024 remained significantly higher than levels recorded a year ago (up 143.2 percent).

**South Sudan** saw the highest y-o-y increase in commodity prices, with sorghum costing almost

three times than a year ago and vegetable oil quadrupling in the same reference period (up 309.8 percent compared to September 2024). Beans prices also more than quadrupled (up 343.3 percent).

**TABLE 5. TRENDS IN THE MONTHLY PER CAPITA COST OF THE FOOD BASKET**

Trends in the monthly per capita cost of the food basket				
Country	Sep-24		Variations	
	LCU	USD	m-o-m	y-o-y
Burundi	43,570	6.1	6.4%	8.1%
Djibouti	1,957	11.0	9.3%	-19.1%
Ethiopia				
Kenya	2,054	15.9	6.1%	
Rwanda	10,987	8.2	9.5%	-23.0%
Somalia	605,102	19.8	-3.1%	-7.4%
South Sudan	68,676	15.1	14.6%	240.6%
Sudan	65,639	25.2	14.0%	230.5%
Uganda	61,080	16.4	5.5%	-6.5%
<b>RBN</b>		<b>14.7</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>60.5%</b>

SOURCE: Source: WFP COS

Elsewhere in the region, prices of cereals saw an upward trend driven by higher agricultural input costs, including fertilizer, labour, and seeds.

**TABLE 6. TRENDS IN SELECTED COMPONENTS OF LOCAL FOOD BASKET**

Country	Cereals		Vegetable oil		Beans		Milk	
	Sep/Aug 2024	Sep 2024/2023	Sep/Aug 2024	Sep 2024/2023	Sep/Aug 2024	Sep 2024/2023	Sep/Aug 2024	Sep 2024/2023
Burundi	7.7%	-0.5%	1.2%	33.3%	8.5%	9.6%		
Djibouti	0.0%	-16.7%	-15.6%	-27.2%		-13.7%		
Ethiopia								
Kenya	-0.8%		5.4%		-0.9%			
Rwanda	10.6%	-30.7%	4.5%	1.7%	11.9%	-20.2%		
Somalia	-4.2%	-0.5%	1.7%	3.4%			0.7%	-34.2%
South Sudan	13.1%	199.9%	11.5%	309.8%	20.3%	343.3%		
Sudan	18.1%	381.8%	-2.8%	78.3%			16.5%	143.2%
Uganda	21.6%	-11.6%	3.1%	-0.3%	2.5%	-9.4%	-0.1%	-3.4%
<b>RBN</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>74.5%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>57.0%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>61.9%</b>		

SOURCE: WFP COS

Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi recorded large m-o-m increase in maize price between August and September 2024 (up 21.6, 10.6 and 7.7 percent, respectively). By contrast, the cost of red sorghum declined in **Somalia** in the same reference period (down 4.2 percent). Nevertheless, cereal prices in these countries are lower than levels observed in September 2023. Vegetable oil prices slightly increased between August and September, except

for **Djibouti** – where average vegetable oil price declined by 15.6 percent; the country also recorded a 27.2 percent y-o-y decline in vegetable oil prices.

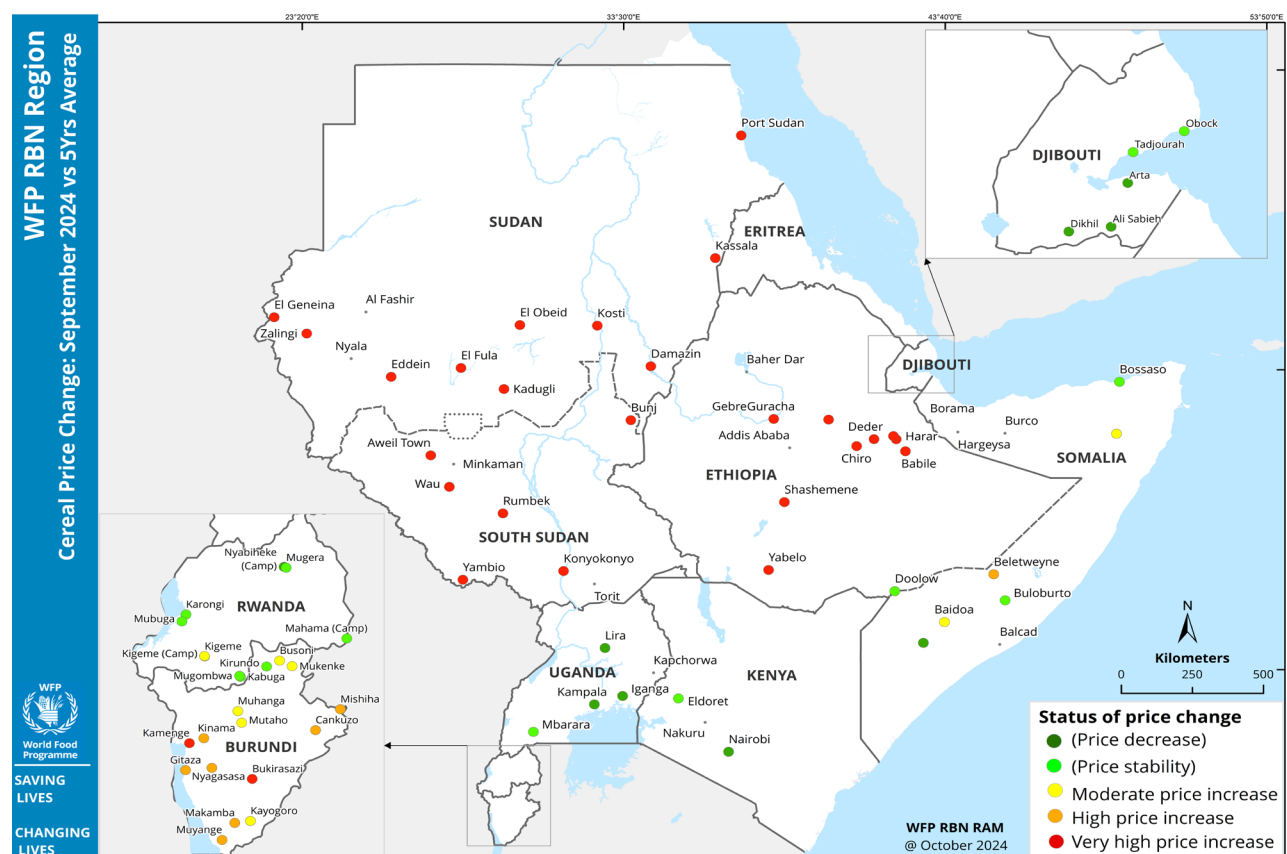
Similar to cereals, pulses prices in Burundi, **Rwanda** and **Uganda** recorded an upward trend in the third quarter of the year (up 8.5, 20.3 and 2.5 percent, respectively); however, prices are lower than September 2024 following good harvests and increased produce compared to last year.

## 6. Mixed Price Trends across the Eastern Africa Region

Except for **Sudan**, **South Sudan**, and **Ethiopia**, most markets in the region have seen a decline in the price of staple cereals compared to 5-year average. By September 2024, key cereal prices in most markets in **Djibouti**, **Rwanda**, **Kenya**, **Somalia**, and **Uganda** either decreased or remained stable compared to the 5-year average.

In **Sudan** and **South Sudan**, conflict-related supply chain challenges and macroeconomic fallout are key drivers to high food prices, with most food commodities at over 400 percent higher than the 5-year average in most monitored markets.

MAP 1: CEREAL PRICE CHANGE: SEPTEMBER 2024 VS. 5-YEAR AVERAGE





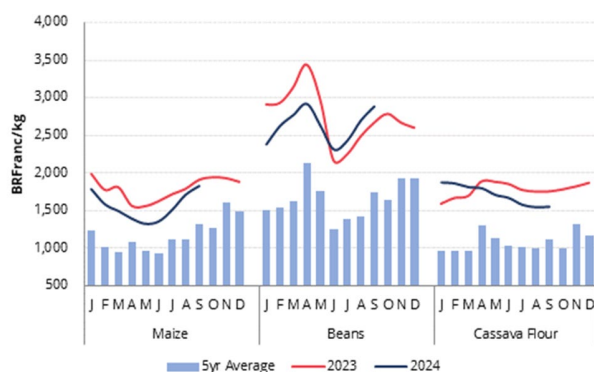
## 7. Country Updates

The following section Country Updates provides a more detailed description of cereal price trends across each of the countries falling under the WFP Eastern Africa Region. For each country, the 2024 monthly price trends of main staple foods consumed are compared against the five-year average and year earlier levels.

### BURUNDI

Key food prices generally remained high and followed seasonal trends during the third quarter, despite near-average Season B harvests that improved supply. While maize and cassava flour prices were lower than the previous year, bean prices remained elevated compared to the same period last year. Nationally, the average price of maize and cassava flour was 4-12 percent lower than the corresponding levels from the previous year, though still significantly above the long-term average. In contrast, dry bean prices were at least 8 percent higher than a year ago, with national retail prices ranging between 2,400 and 2,900 BRF per kilogram. The persistently high food prices across the country are driven by a combination of factors, including a challenging macroeconomic environment, rising farm input costs, and high transportation expenses, among others.

**FIG 4. BURUNDI - NATIONAL AVERAGE OF KEY STAPLES**

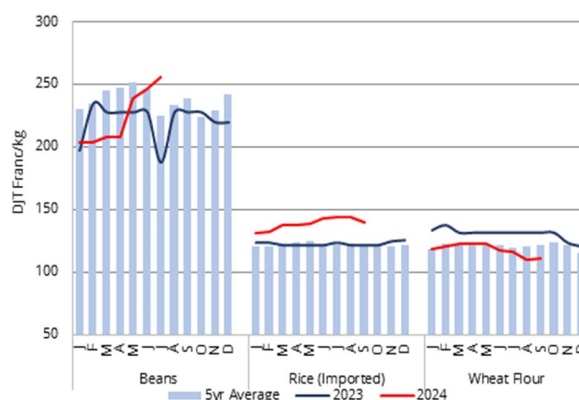


SOURCE: WFP CO

### DJIBOUTI

Key food prices remained stable in the country during the third quarter, supported by stable macroeconomic conditions and favorable international prices for some commodities. The national average price of wheat flour was 12-16 percent lower than the previous year and 3-9 percent below long-term average levels. In contrast, rice prices were at least 15 percent higher than both last year's and the 5-year average, reflecting global price trends that remained elevated for much of 2024. The price of dry beans (primarily imported from Ethiopia) saw a sharp increase during the same period, reaching a record high in August before slightly easing in September. As of September, the average price of dry beans was 197 DJT Franc per kilogram, 14 and 18 percent below the previous year's and the 5-year average levels, respectively.

**FIG 5. DJIBOUTI - NATIONAL AVERAGE PRICE OF KEY STAPLES**



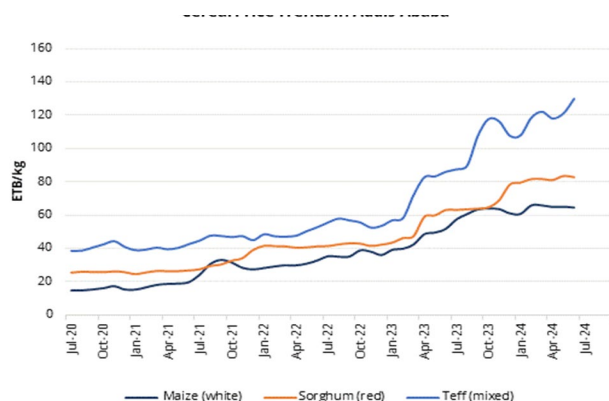
SOURCE: WFP CO

### ETHIOPIA

Prices of key staple foods saw a slight increase in most markets at the start of the third quarter, driven by various factors, including macroeconomic challenges and localized conflicts in some parts of the country. By August, prices for wheat, teff, and maize were 11-50 percent higher than the previous year and nearly double the 5-year average in many markets nationwide. In Addis Ababa, the average

price of teff reached 135 Birr per kilogram, a 37 percent increase compared to last year. Similar trends were observed for maize and sorghum, which were priced 11 percent and 32 percent higher, respectively, than the previous year during the same period. The onset of the *Meher* harvest (October-December) in Western *Meher* and Belg-producing regions is expected to improve household food availability and market supply, which may help ease prices in the short term.

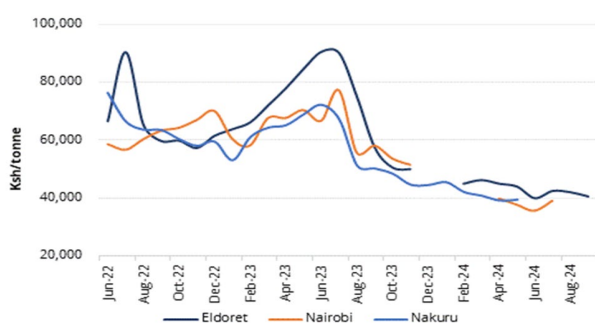
**FIG 6. ETHIOPIA - CEREAL PRICE TRENDS IN ADDIS ABABA**



SOURCE: WFP CO

## KENYA

**FIG 7. KENYA - WHOLESALE MAIZE PRICES IN SELECTED MARKETS**



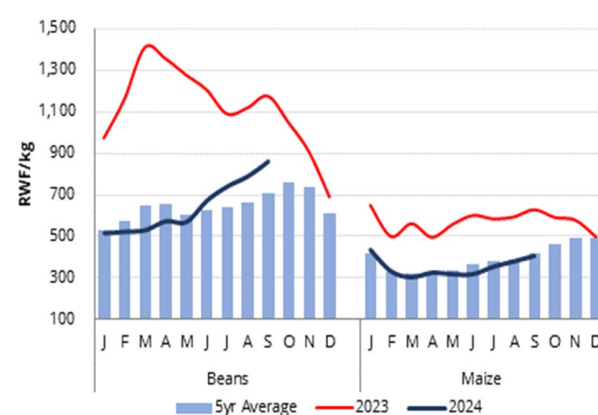
SOURCE: WFP CO

The price of staple maize showed a declining trend in most parts of the country during the third quarter, supported by ample supply from carryover stocks, the seasonal long rains harvest in the eastern and northern regions, and increased cross-border trade with Tanzania and Uganda. In Eldoret, a key market in the Rift Valley region, the average wholesale price dropped significantly,

trading 29 percent lower than the previous year and 3 percent below the 5-year average as of September. The start of harvests in major unimodal maize-producing areas is expected to further increase market supply and help reduce prices in the coming months. In most arid and semi-arid (ASAL) counties, maize prices were slightly above the long-term average but lower than last year's levels.

## RWANDA

**FIG 8. RWANDA - AVERAGE PRICE OF KEY STAPLES**



SOURCE: WFP CO

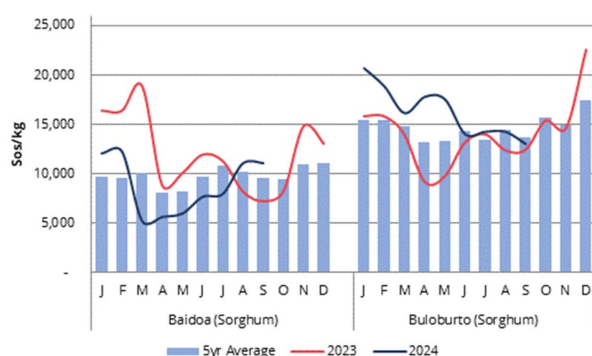
Maize and bean prices increased seasonally but remained significantly lower than the previous year in most WFP-monitored markets during the third quarter, despite an increase in market and household supply from Season B harvests. The national average price of maize ranged between 355-407 RWF per kilogram, at least 35 percent lower than the same period last year. Similarly, dry beans followed a similar trend, with prices averaging 27-32 percent lower than last year, although still at least 15 percent higher than the long-term average. Prices of other food commodities, such as rice, Irish potatoes, and beef, showed minimal fluctuations during the reporting period in most WFP-monitored markets.

## SOMALIA

Staple cereal prices showed mixed trends in markets across the country during the third quarter, with prices declining in some areas

while remaining stable or increasing in others. The national average price of sorghum declined month-on-month in September, retailing at 27,600 SOS per kilogram—on par with last year's levels but 59 percent higher than the 5-year average, with significant variation across markets. In Baidoa, a key market in the sorghum belt, prices continued to rise throughout the third quarter, reaching 53 percent higher than the previous year by September. Irregular *Gu* rainfall patterns and severe flooding in agro-pastoral and riverine areas negatively affected cereal production, which is estimated to be 34 percent lower than the 2023 *Gu* harvests.

**FIG 9. SOMALIA – PRICE OF KEY STAPLES IN SELECTED MARKETS**



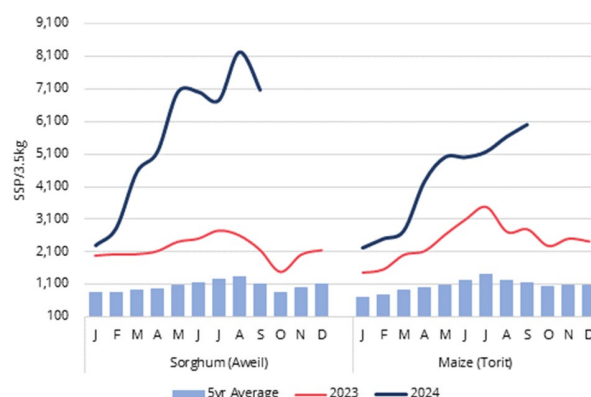
SOURCE: WFP CO

## SOUTH SUDAN

Over the past several months, food prices have been on an upward trend, primarily driven by a worsening macroeconomic situation, localized conflicts, and insecurity, among other factors. These high prices persisted through the third quarter of 2024. The national average price of white sorghum continued to rise throughout the reporting period, setting new record highs each month. By September, the retail price of white sorghum reached 9,700 SSP per 3.5 kg, approximately 200 percent higher than the previous year and over 500 percent above the 5-year average. Significant price variations were observed across markets, ranging from 5,516 SSP per 3.5 kg in Kapoeta South to 12,733 SSP per 3.5 kg in Yida. Meanwhile, the national average price of maize slightly eased in September, though

it remained over 170 percent higher than 2023 levels, with prices continuing to rise in some markets like Torit and remaining fairly stable at high levels in most others

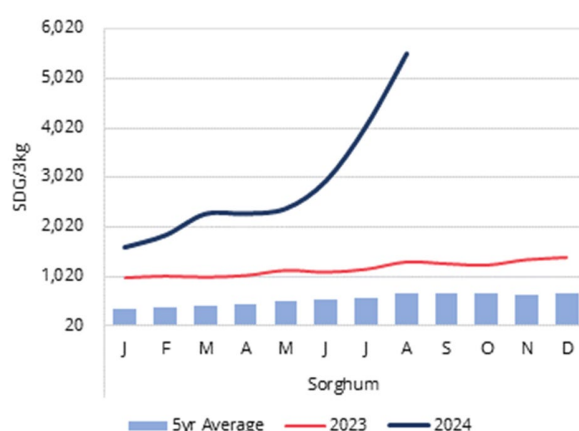
**FIG 10. SOUTH SUDAN – PRICE OF KEY STAPLES IN SELECTED MARKETS**



SOURCE: WFP CO

## SUDAN

**FIG 11. SUDAN – NATIONAL AVERAGE PRICE OF SORGHUM**



SOURCE: WFP CO

Food prices continued to rise through the third quarter across most parts of the country, largely driven by supply chain disruptions due to ongoing conflict and macroeconomic challenges. In September, the national average price of sorghum reached a record high of 5,507 SDG per 3 kg, over 300 percent higher than the previous year, with significant regional variations. The highest prices were recorded in South Kordofan and Central Darfur (over 7,700 SDG per 3 kg), while the lowest was in Gedarif (1,968 SDG per 3 kg), according to the Sudan Market Bulletin. Prices



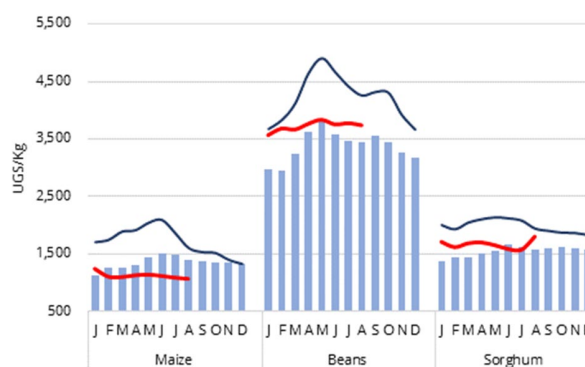
for other key imported food commodities, such as wheat, also increased during this period, driven by high import costs due to the depreciation of the Sudanese currency and logistical challenges. The national average price of wheat flour reached 3,011 SDG per kilogram, 135 percent higher than the previous year, with the highest prices reported in Blue Nile State.

## UGANDA

In the third quarter, staple cereal prices increased unexpectedly, despite first season harvests (June-August) in bimodal areas improving household supply. However, prices remained below 2023 levels in major markets across the country. The national average price of maize eased slightly by 2 percent in August, retailing at 1,076 UGS per kg—33 percent and 23 percent lower than last year and the 5-year average, respectively. In contrast, the average price of sorghum rose by 14 percent

mid-quarter, reaching 1,806 UGS per kg, which is 7 percent lower than the previous year but 15 percent above the long-term average. Dry bean prices remained fairly stable during the period, retailing 12-14 percent below 2023 levels.

**FIG 12. UGANDA – NATIONAL AVERAGE PRICE OF KEY STAPLES**



SOURCE: WFP CO

# 8. Market and Trade Outlook Oct-Dec 2024

## DJIBOUTI

The country relies heavily on imports, which account for over 90 percent of its total annual food needs. During the third quarter, prices of most food commodities remained stable, with wheat and rice prices following international trends. While stable macroeconomic conditions and government price controls have helped maintain price stability, the country remains vulnerable to fluctuations in global trade dynamics.

## ETHIOPIA

The *Meher* seasonal harvests for 2024 are projected to be above average. This is expected to boost household stocks and market supply, potentially easing the prices of key staples in the coming months. However, the current macroeconomic challenges and localized tensions continue to pose a threat to food price stability, despite the favorable harvest outlook.

## KENYA

Staple maize prices remain significantly lower than both last year and the 5-year average in most parts of the country due to ample supply. Ongoing harvests in key maize-producing regions and above-average cross-border trade with neighboring Uganda and Tanzania are expected to keep prices stable in the short to medium term.

## RWANDA AND BURUNDI

While staple food prices in Rwanda are lower than the levels recorded last year, they are expected to remain high in the coming months during the major lean season (October-December). Furthermore, the tight macroeconomic environment is likely to continue exerting downward pressure on food prices. In Burundi, ongoing macroeconomic challenges, along with high production and transportation costs, are anticipated to keep prices elevated in the months ahead.

## SOMALIA

Erratic rainfall patterns and flooding have significantly hindered cereal production recently. As a result, prices for key cereals are expected to remain high in most markets due to reduced availability following below-average *Gu* harvests. Additionally, forecasts suggest a likelihood of below-average rainfall during the October–December deyr season, which could exacerbate the situation in the medium term.

## SOUTH SUDAN

Food prices remained elevated throughout the third quarter due to a combination of factors. These high prices are expected to persist in the coming months, primarily influenced by deteriorating macroeconomic conditions that continue to hinder trade. Hyperinflation, coupled with eroded livelihoods, will further negatively affect food security outcomes.

## SUDAN

Ongoing conflict and the resulting macroeconomic fallout are severely impacting production and food prices across the country. The situation is unlikely to improve in the coming months, and prices are expected to remain high in most regions. The combination of eroded livelihoods and elevated food prices will continue to undermine food security for millions of households.

## UGANDA

The main first season harvests are projected to be below average, leading to reduced availability that may slightly influence prices until the start of the second season harvests, which begin in November in bimodal areas. In the bimodal regions of Karamoja, ongoing main season harvests are expected to improve household and market supply, helping to ease prices in the Karamoja region over the next few months.

# Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> This section is based on FAO [Food Price Index](#), FAO FPMA Bulletins ([July](#), [September](#) and [October](#) 2024) and World Bank's [Commodity Markets Outlook](#) issued in April 2024

<sup>2</sup> Government of Kenya. [Monetary Policy Committee Meeting](#), 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Bank of Uganda. [Monetary Policy Report](#), October 2024..

<sup>4</sup> Inflation data for South Sudan date back to July 2024 (latest available). No data available for Sudan since February 2023. The regional average might change once September 2024 data is released.

<sup>5</sup> WFP Sudan. [WFP Market Monitor](#), October 2024.

<sup>6</sup> See endnote 4.

<sup>7</sup> OPEC. [Monthly Market Report](#), October 2024.

<sup>8</sup> At the time of the production of this report, September food price data for Ethiopia was not available. Regional averages and variations might change once the data is released.



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