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WFP Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa Market and Trade Update 2024 Q4

Joint RAM and Procurement

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Highlights

- In December 2024, global cereal prices showed mixed trends. Wheat and rice prices declined due to strong harvests and weak demand, while maize prices rose slightly amid tight U.S. supplies and high demand for Ukrainian exports. Rice prices dropped sharply due to reduced demand and currency depreciation in key exporting countries. Overall, record-high production and favorable crop forecasts contributed to a downward trend in global cereal prices.
- In late 2024, cereal and pulse prices varied across Eastern Africa. Maize prices rose in **Rwanda**, **South Sudan**, and **Tanzania** due to stock depletion and export demand, while **Ethiopia** saw declines from harvest stock releases. Prices of bean declined in **Uganda** (USD 975/MT) and **Kenya** (USD 1,436/MT), remained lowest in **Rwanda** (USD 719/MT), and slightly increased in **Tanzania** (USD 999/MT). Sorghum prices stayed high (USD 313–370/MT) due to strong demand, inflation, and conflict in **Ethiopia** and **Sudan**. Early 2025 local harvests are expected to ease maize and pulse prices.
- In 2024, global and regional fuel prices showed mixed trends. Brent crude fell to USD 70/bbl in December, down 5 percent month-on-month (m-o-m) and 3.3 percent year-on-year (y-o-y). Pump prices remained stable or declined in most Eastern African countries, except in **Sudan** and **South Sudan**. Petrol prices in **Sudan** surged by 36.7 percent m-o-m and 208.4 percent y-o-y (USD 3.1/L) due to supply disruptions. In **South Sudan's** prices quadrupled y-o-y (USD 2.3/L) amidst high inflation and currency depreciation. Fuel remained costly in **Burundi** due to scarcity and severe depreciation. Meanwhile, **Somalia**, **Uganda**, and **Kenya** recorded y-o-y declines of 20.4, 10.4, and 16.9 percent, respectively, aided by lower global prices, currency gains, and policy interventions.
- Macroeconomic conditions in Eastern Africa remained challenging in the fourth quarter of 2024, with most local currencies depreciating against the U.S. dollar (USD), except in **Kenya** and **Uganda**. As of December, **Sudan** and **South Sudan** experienced the steepest currency depreciations in parallel markets (77.4 percent and 55 percent y-o-y, respectively), driven by prolonged conflict and economic instability. **Ethiopia's** Birr also declined against the USD by 20 percent in the parallel market y-o-y, while **Burundi's** currency depreciated by 36 percent. Conversely, the **Kenyan** shilling strengthened by 19.5 percent, supported by lower inflation policies, and Uganda's shilling appreciated by 3 percent y-o-y due to foreign inflows and tight monetary policy.
- Regional inflation averaged 32.4 percent in December 2024, excluding **South Sudan**, where it likely hit triple digits. **Sudan** had the highest rate at 187.8 percent. Food inflation remained elevated at 9.1 percent on average, with **Burundi** (36.9 percent) and **Ethiopia** (18.7 percent) recording the highest levels.
- Food prices in Eastern Africa remained high in late 2024, with the average monthly food basket cost reaching USD 14.9 in December, up 1.6 percent m-o-m and 58.7 percent y-o-y. **South Sudan** saw the sharpest rise (up 313.1 percent), followed by **Sudan** (135.5 percent), despite lower cereal prices post-harvest. Cereal prices increased notably in **Burundi** (13.2 percent m-o-m) and **Kenya** (8 percent). Vegetable oil prices stayed high y-o-y, especially in **Burundi** (43.2 percent) and **Rwanda** (17.4 percent), while bean prices surged due to economic pressures and high input costs.
- In December 2024, staple cereal prices in most Eastern African markets were stable or lower than the 5-year average. However, in **Sudan**, **South Sudan**, **Burundi**, and **Ethiopia**, conflict and economic challenges pushed prices over 400 percent above the average.

1. International Commodity Price Outlook¹

The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) averaged 127 points in December 2024 – down 0.5 percent from November due to declines in sugar, dairy, vegetable oils, and cereals, despite a rise in meat prices. While 6.7 percent higher than December 2023, it remained 20.7 percent below the March 2022 peak. For the whole of 2024, the index averaged 122 points, 2.1 percent lower than in 2023.

The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 111.3 points in December, remaining stable compared to November but 9.3 percent lower than a year earlier. Wheat export prices were steady, with weak international demand and higher seasonal availability from Argentina and Australia counterbalanced by poor winter crop conditions in Russia. This was reflected in global wheat export prices, which decreased during the last quarter. As of December 2024, the benchmark United States of America (US No. 2, Hard Red Winter) stood at 202 USD/tonne, which represented a m-o-m decline of 1.4 percent and a y-o-y decline of 13.5 percent.

By contrast, maize prices rose slightly due to increased export sales, tighter U.S. supplies,

and strong demand for Ukrainian exports. As of December, the United States of America (U.S. No.2, Yellow) maize quotations were at 251 USD/tonne – that is a 0.6 m-o-m percent increase and a 0.9 percent y-o-y decline.

A slowdown in demand led to a decrease in quotations of Indica and fragrant rice. The arrival of freshly harvested crops exerted additional downward pressure on quotations in Thailand, Pakistan and India. Price declines in Thailand and Viet Nam also influenced by currency depreciations against the United States. As of November 2024, the quotations for benchmark Thai A1 Super were at 405 USD/ton – that is a 7 percent m-o-m decline and a 17 percent decline compared with November 2023

Record-high production of maize, rice, soybeans, and wheat during the 2023-24 season, coupled with favourable crop projections for the current season, has driven prices downward. After an expected 9 percent decline in 2024, food prices are projected to decrease by an additional 4 percent in 2025².

TABLE 1. AVERAGE INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICE CHANGE

Commodity	Price (USD/tonne)		Price change	
	Dec-24	m-o-m	y-o-y	5-year average
US (Gulf), Maize (US No. 2, Yellow)	202	0.6%	-0.9%	-11.2%
US (Gulf), Wheat (US No. 2, Hard Red Winter)	251	-1.4%	-13.5%	-20.4%
Thailand (Bangkok), Rice (Thai A1 Super)*	405	-7.2%	-17.1%	-1.6%

**As of November 2024 because data for December was not available at the time of the production of this report.*

SOURCE: FAO FPMA

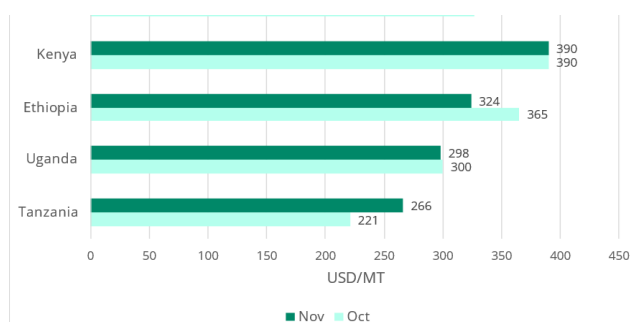


2. Regional Crossborder Trade Dynamics

MAIZE

Rwanda and Kenya posted higher prices driven by stock depletion. Tanzania had the lowest prices overall, with prices rising due to rains and increased export demand to the neighbouring countries. Kenya faced a structural deficit but prices remained stable due to trade imports from Uganda and Tanzania. Due to tight supplies and economic challenges, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Tanzania recorded notable price increases, while Ethiopia's maize prices dropped due to *Meher* harvest stock releases. Uganda's maize prices remained stable, while both Uganda and Tanzania emerged as key suppliers addressing regional deficits, particularly benefiting Kenya and Rwanda.

FIG 1. NATIONAL AVERAGE MAIZE PRICES ACROSS EAST AFRICA



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

Eastern Africa Cross Border Trade & Price Outlook

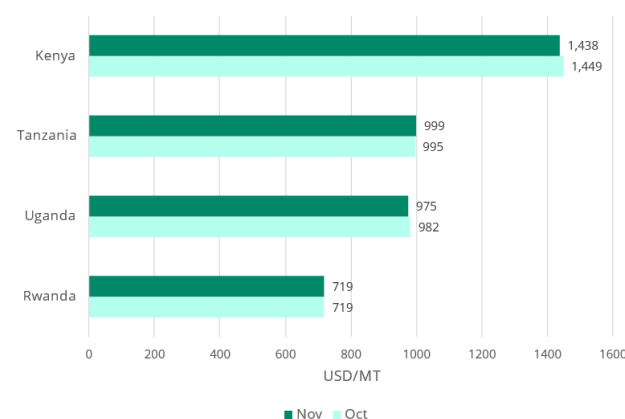
Local harvests in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda started in December onwards, are expected to exert downward pressure on prices, hence prices are likely to stabilize further as harvests continue and new crops enter markets in early 2025. Strategic regional trade planning will be critical to addressing deficits in Kenya and Rwanda while maximizing surplus utilization in Tanzania and Uganda. Already an indication of an ambitious plan by the Kenya Government to end Kenya's reliance on maize imports in 2025 through investment in agriculture. Also, the plan is to allow Genetically modified (GM) Yellow Maize imports for the feed industry if proper processes are put

in place.

PULSES - MIXED BEANS AND SINGLE VARIETY

Overall, regional prices were stable or slightly declined due to good harvests and effective stock management. By November 2024, beans prices dropped to USD 975/MT in Uganda and USD 1,436/MT in Kenya, while Rwanda maintained the region's lowest price at USD 719/MT. In contrast, Tanzania experienced a slight price increase to USD 999/MT, driven by stock depletion and rainy season challenges affecting commodity sourcing. Kenya had the region's most expensive market for beans, followed distantly by Tanzania. In contrast to Tanzania and Rwanda, where single-color beans dominate the market, the prevalence of mixed bean varieties in Rwanda and Uganda contributes to overall price support for beans.

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



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

SORGHUM

The expanded regional market for Ethiopia's sorghum in South Sudan, high domestic demand, and inflation heightened prices within Ethiopia. The ongoing conflict in Sudan continues to disrupt supply, and its impact on the main sorghum-producing areas in the East has further hampered production. Hence, prices will continue rising during the next lean season and remain significantly

above average in most markets. **Tanzania** provided export support for sorghum to **Kenya** and **South Sudan**. The white sorghum prices (based on WFP

purchases during Q4 2024) ranged from 313 to 370 USD/MT4

3. Exchange Rates and Costs of Living³

Local currencies across the Eastern Africa region continued to depreciate against the U.S. dollar through to the last quarter of 2024, except in **Kenya** and **Uganda**.

TABLE 2: TRENDS IN EXCHANGE RATES

Trends in exchange rates					
Country	Currency	Type	Dec-24	m-o-m	y-o-y
Burundi	BIF/USD	Official	2,938	-0.2%	-2.0%
		Parallel	7,250	7.6%	-35.6%
Djibouti	DJF/USD	Official	178	0.1%	0.0%
Ethiopia	ETB/USD	Official	126	-3.1%	-55.6%
		Parallel	140	-2.1%	-20.0%
Kenya	KES/USD	Official	129	0.0%	19.5%
Rwanda	RWF/USD	Official	1,367	-0.6%	-9.1%
Somalia	SOS/USD	Official	30,583	0.2%	0.5%
	SLS/USD	Official	9,400	5.0%	-6.1%
South Sudan	SSP/USD	Reference	3,839	-12.3%	-72.2%
		Parallel	4,886	-5.8%	-77.4%
Sudan	SDG/USD	Commercial Banks	1,994	0.0%	-60.4%
		Parallel	2,445	1.4%	-55.0%
Uganda	UGX/USD	Official	3,663	0.4%	3.0%

SOURCE: National Central Banks and WFP COS

The ongoing conflict in **Sudan**, now nearing two years, has worsened macroeconomic conditions in both **Sudan** and **South Sudan**. By December 2024, these two countries recorded the highest currency depreciation in the region's parallel markets, with y-o-y declines of 55 and 77.4 percent, respectively. Burundi also faced significant currency depreciation, losing approximately 36 percent in the parallel market.

After the Government of **Ethiopia** implemented major macro-economic reform that comprise the shift to floating exchange regime in July 2024, the Ethiopian Birr (ETB) depreciated by 55.6 percent between December 2023 and December 2024, though the gap between official and parallel exchange rates steadily narrowed during the last quarter of the year. By December, commercial banks were purchasing USD at ETB 126, while the parallel market rate stood at ETB 140.

On the other hand, **Kenya's** local currency strengthened against the US dollar by 19.5 percent

on y-o-y basis as of December.

The move by the Central Bank of **Kenya** to reduce the Central Bank Rate in bid to lower inflation was the primary driver of this recovery⁴.

In **Uganda**, the shilling strengthened by 3 percent in December 2024 compared to December 2023 while remaining relatively stable on a m-o-m basis, largely due to increased foreign inflows from various sources and tight monetary policy throughout the year, which helped stabilize the currency⁵.

TABLE 3: TRENDS IN ANNUAL AND FOOD INFLATION RATES

Country	Annual Inflation		Food Inflation	
	Dec-24	Dec 24/23	Dec-24	Dec 24/23
Burundi	36.4%		36.9%	
Djibouti	-0.6%		-0.9%	
Ethiopia	17.0%		18.7%	
Kenya	3.0%		4.8%	
Rwanda	6.4%		5.7%	
Somalia	5.7%		-1.5%	
South Sudan				
Sudan	187.8%			
Uganda	3.3%		0.2%	
RBN	32.4%		9.1%	

The cost of living remained high across the region through to the close of the year 2024. By December, the annual regional inflation rate was 32.4 percent (excluding **South Sudan**). **Sudan** recorded the highest inflation rate of the region at 187.8 percent. While data was not available, **South Sudan** is likely to have a triple digit inflation rate given the surge in prices of goods and services. In December, **Burundi** and **Ethiopia** recorded double digit annual inflation at 36.4 and 17 percent, respectively.

Similarly, food inflation remained high in most countries across the region throughout the last quarter of 2024, with **South Sudan** estimated to

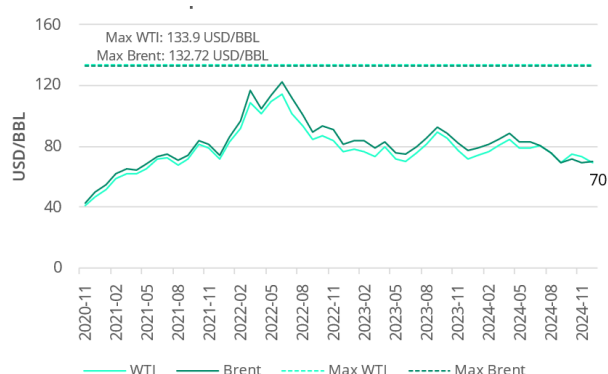
record the highest annual food inflation given the surge in food prices across the country. **Burundi** continued to record double digit food inflation at 36.9 percent by December. The high food inflation in Burundi is primarily linked to macroeconomic

challenges, high cost of production and transportation following countrywide fuel shortages experienced in 2024. Similarly **Ethiopia** continued to record double digit food inflation (18.7 percent).

4. Fuel Prices

After an uptick in October, global oil prices declined towards the end of the year. As of December 2024, the average spot price for Brent crude oil stood at USD/bbl 70 (down 5 percent compared to November 2024 and down 3.3 percent compared to December 2023); while Western Texas Intermediate (WTI) stood at USD/bbl 70 (up 0.3 percent compared to November 2024 and down 9.7 percent compared to December 2023)⁶.

FIGURE 3: TRENDS IN BRENT AND WTI



SOURCE: OPEC

Average pump prices either remained stable or recorded modest declines during the fourth quarter of 2024 in most countries across the region, except for **South Sudan** and **Sudan**. As of December, the average petrol price was at 1.7 USD/L, corresponding to 66 percent y-o-y increase.

Fuel price in **Sudan** recorded a sharp increase in the black market, which were primarily due to disruptions in the supply chain to several states and the high demand driven by harvesting activities. As of December 2024, average price of petrol increased 36.7 percent m-o-m increase and a 208.4 percent y-o-y.

In **South Sudan**, the average fuel price has sustained m-o-m increase for several months linked to the economic fallout characterized with

high currency depreciation and inflation rates. By December, fuel price were almost 4 times higher than price levels in December 2023.

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

Country	Fuel price		Variations		
	USD/L	LCU/L	m-o-m	y-o-y	
	Dec-24	Nov-24	Nov-24	Dec-23	
Burundi	1.8	12,806.3	0.9%	▲	12.8%
Djibouti	1.2	205.0	0.0%	■	0.0%
Ethiopia	0.7	91.1	0.0%	▲	17.4%
Kenya	1.4	177.0	▼	▼	-16.9%
Rwanda	1.2	1,574.0	0.0%	■	-4.0%
Somalia (SoS)	1.1	33,826.7	-0.5%	▼	-20.4%
South Sudan	2.3	11,133.1	▲	▲	288.4%
Sudan	3.1	7,532.8	▲	▲	208.4%
Uganda	1.4	4,984.0	▼	▼	-10.4%
RBN	1.5		▲	▲	52.8%

SOURCE: National Bureaux of Statistics and WFP COs

Fuel price remained high in **Burundi** for the most of year 2024, mainly due to scarcity witnessed across the country and currency depreciation. Pump prices in December 2024 were 12.8 percent higher than a year ago, while slightly easing by about 0.9 percent compared to previous month.

In **Ethiopia**, the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration implemented fuel price adjustments starting in October 2024, setting gasoline prices at ETB 91.1/L for the entire quarter. By December, gasoline prices had risen by 17.4 percent compared to the same period the previous year.

Significant y-o-y decline in pump price was recorded in **Somalia** (20.4 percent), **Uganda** (10.4 percent) and **Kenya** (16.9 percent). Favourable international prices and strengthening of the local currencies against the dollar may have contributed to the decline. Additionally, in **Uganda**, government strategic intervention in petroleum importation could have paid-off.

5. Economic Access to food⁷

As of December 2024, the average monthly per capita cost of a local food basket rose to USD 14.9, marking a 1.6 percent increase compared to November 2024 and a 58.7 percent increase compared to December 2023. Over the past year, the cost of a local food basket has more than quadrupled in **South Sudan** (up 313.1 percent) and more than doubled in **Sudan** (up 135.5 percent). Sudan recorded the highest food basket cost in the region at USD 23.9, followed by **Somalia** at USD 18.5.

In **Sudan**, cereal prices exhibited a downward trend in December 2024 due to increased availability following the main harvest. Sorghum prices, for instance, dropped by 14.1 percent between November and December 2024, though the cost of one kilogram remains over three times higher than the previous year. In contrast, vegetable oil prices rose by 12.7 percent m-o-m and more than doubled y-o-y. Milk prices also showed a substantial y-o-y increase, up 106.4 percent.

In **South Sudan**, the high cost of fuel and the depreciation of the local currency continued to drive commodity prices upward, resulting in the highest y-o-y increases in the region. By

December 2024, the cost of sorghum had more than tripled, vegetable oil prices had quintupled (up 414.1 percent), and bean prices had more than quadrupled (up 343.3 percent) compared to December 2023.

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	Dec-24		Variations	
	LCU	USD	m-o-m	y-o-y
Burundi	54,872	7.6	10.9%	35.6%
Djibouti	1,999	11.3	1.6%	-10.5%
Ethiopia				
Kenya	1,989	15.4	-3.2%	-14.3%
Rwanda	13,491	9.9	-0.1%	25.5%
Somalia	566,905	18.5	-0.4%	-19.2%
South Sudan	77,248	15.8	11.1%	313.1%
Sudan	58,456	23.9	-8.0%	135.5%
Uganda	61,017	16.7	0.7%	4.0%
RBN		14.9	1.6%	58.7%

SOURCE: Source: WFP COs

Elsewhere in the region, cereal prices showed mixed trends. **Burundi** experienced the largest m-o-m increase in maize prices between November and December 2024 (up 13.2 percent),

TABLE 6. TRENDS IN SELECTED COMPONENTS OF LOCAL FOOD BASKET

Country	Cereals		Vegetable oil		Beans		Milk	
	Dec/Nov 2024	Dec 2024/2023	Dec/Nov 2024	Dec 2024/2023	Dec/Nov 2024	Dec 2024/2023	Dec/Nov 2024	Dec 2024/2023
Burundi	13.2%	30.6%	5.4%	43.2%	10.0%	40.5%		
Djibouti	-1.6%	-14.6%	2.7%	-13.9%	1.7%	10.9%		
Ethiopia								
Kenya	8.0%	-13.6%	-2.7%	1.4%	-4.7%	-27.5%		
Rwanda	0.9%	18.7%	1.5%	17.4%	-3.1%	49.3%		
Somalia	0.3%	-22.3%	-0.5%	4.0%			-3.1%	-24.1%
South Sudan	14.4%	287.7%	12.7%	414.4%	1.6%	343.3%		
Sudan	-14.1%	224.0%	0.0%	94.6%			-2.3%	106.4%
Uganda	1.3%	-1.0%	1.1%	6.4%	0.1%	-1.1%	-2.3%	5.2%
RBN	2.8%	63.7%	2.5%	70.9%	0.9%	69.2%		

SOURCE: WFP COs

followed by **Kenya** (up 8 percent) and **Rwanda** (up 0.9 percent). In **Uganda** and **Somalia**, maize and red sorghum prices remained stable, while wheat prices in **Djibouti** declined slightly (down 1.6 percent). Compared to December 2023, cereal prices in December 2024 were generally lower across the region, except in **Burundi** and **Rwanda**, where prices were significantly higher.

Vegetable oil prices remained stable m-o-m in most countries, except for **Kenya** and **Somalia**, where they decreased by 2.7 percent and 0.5

percent, respectively. However, y-o-y, vegetable oil prices remained substantially higher in **Burundi** (up 43.2 percent) and **Rwanda** (up 17.4 percent).

Seasonality, macroeconomic challenges, and high costs of inputs and transportation contributed to rising bean prices in **Burundi**, which saw a 10 percent increase between November and December 2024. Bean prices elsewhere in the region remained stable but were still significantly higher than the previous year in **Burundi** (up 40.5 percent) and **Rwanda** (up 49.3 percent).

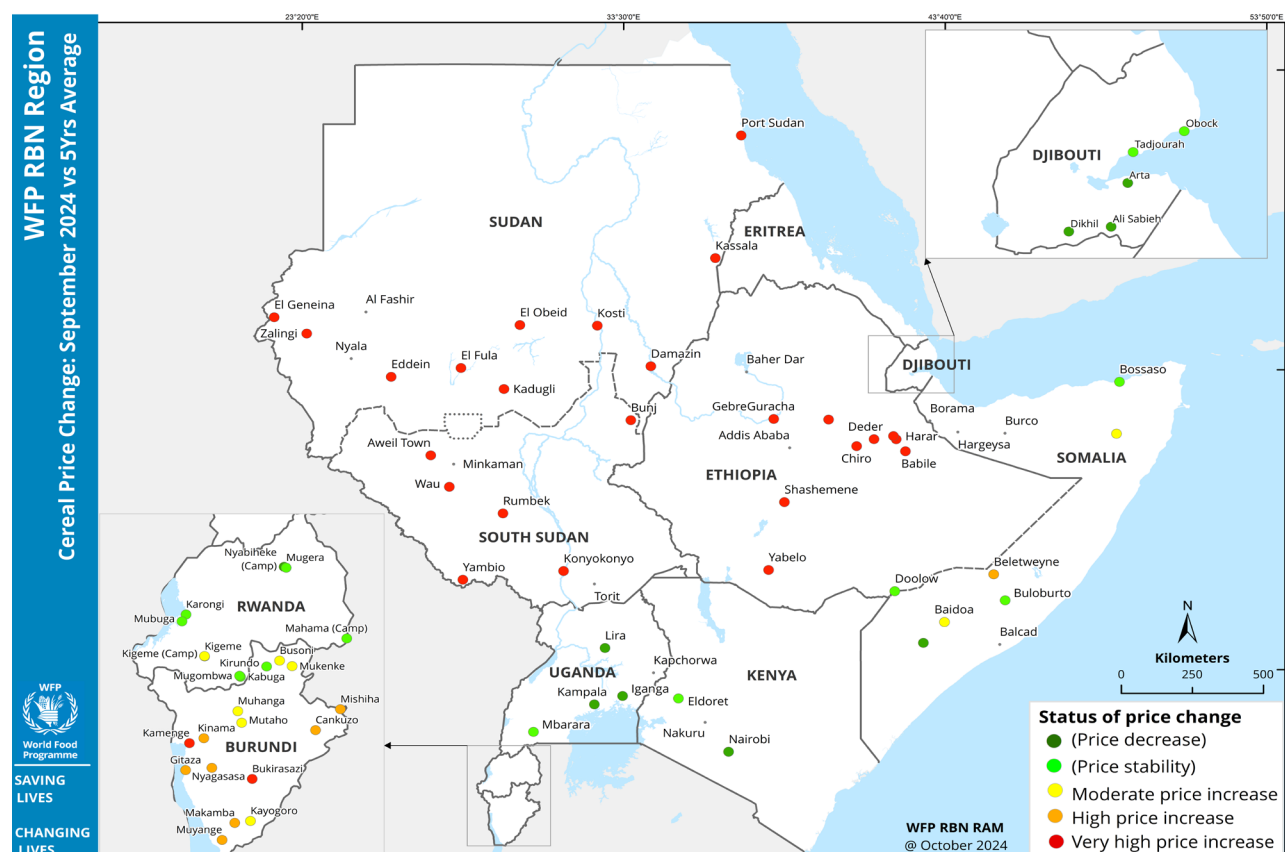
6. Mixed Price Trends across the Eastern Africa Region

Except for **Sudan**, **South Sudan**, **Burundi**, and **Ethiopia**, most markets in the region have seen a decline in the price of staple cereals compared to 5-year average. By December 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: DECEMBER 2024 VS. 5-YRS AVERAGE



SOURCE: WFP COS

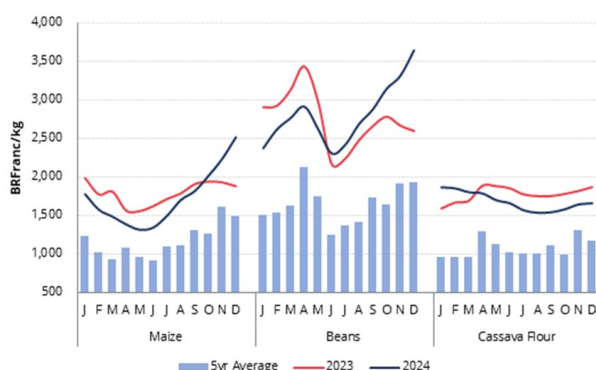
7. Country Updates

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.

BURUNDI

Staple food prices remained unusually high across most of the country, rising seasonally during the major lean season (October-December). Over the reference period, maize and bean prices showed a steady upward trend with consistent m-on-m increases, while cassava flour prices remained relatively stable. By December, the national average price of maize reached 2,524 BRF/Kg, which was 34 percent higher than the previous year and 89 percent above the five-year average. Similarly, dry bean prices were 13-41 percent higher than the previous year. In contrast, the national average price of cassava flour remained stable, ranging from 1,586 to 1,665 BRF/Kg, at least 9 percent lower than the same period last year. The consistently high food prices throughout the year were mainly driven by challenging macroeconomic conditions, high agricultural input costs, and transportation expenses, particularly due to the fuel crisis, all contributing to upward price pressure. .

FIG 4. BURUNDI - NATIONAL AVERAGE OF KEY STAPLES

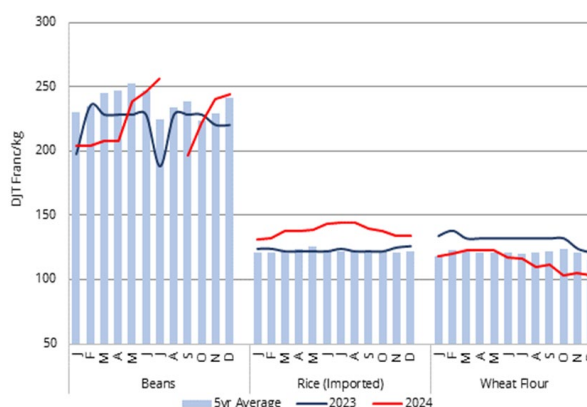


SOURCE: WFP CO

DJIBOUTI

Prices for most food items remained stable through the last quarter of the year, supported by stable macroeconomic conditions, favourable international prices for select commodities, and government price controls. For example, the national average price of wheat flour remained 15 percent lower than the previous year and 10 percent below the five-year average, retailing between 103-105 DJF/Kg. A similar price pattern was observed for vegetable oil, driven by favourable international commodity prices throughout the year. In contrast, the price of dry beans (mainly imported from Ethiopia) rose seasonally in the last quarter, retailing between 222-244 DJF/Kg, with prices 11 percent higher than the previous year. Imported rice and pasta saw minimal price fluctuations, with rice retailing at least 6 percent higher than the previous year.

FIG 5. DJIBOUTI - NATIONAL AVERAGE PRICE OF KEY STAPLES



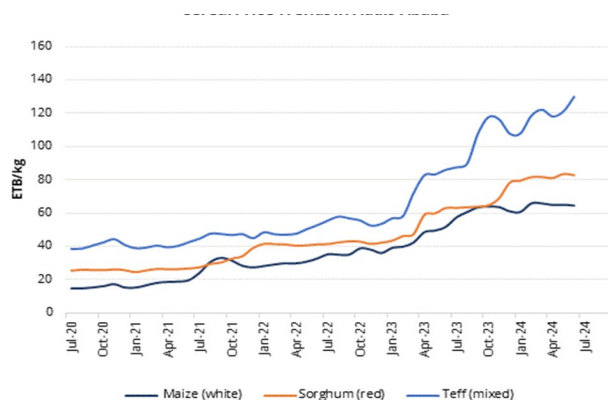
SOURCE: WFP CO

ETHIOPIA

Food prices have remained high for several months across most of the country, driven mainly by challenging macroeconomic conditions, localized conflicts, and high production costs. However, at the beginning of the last quarter, prices for key cereals (maize, sorghum, and teff) eased as household stocks and market supply improved with the ongoing Meher harvests, which

began in October in Belg-receiving and Western agricultural areas. Estimates indicate near-average Meher harvests, boosting availability. The national average price of maize declined for two consecutive months, and by November, it was priced at 4,550 ETB/100 Kg, which was 2 percent higher than the previous year and about 75 percent above the five-year average. Sorghum and teff prices also remained high but showed a downward trend over the reporting period, retailing 10-25 percent higher than the previous year, with price variations across markets..

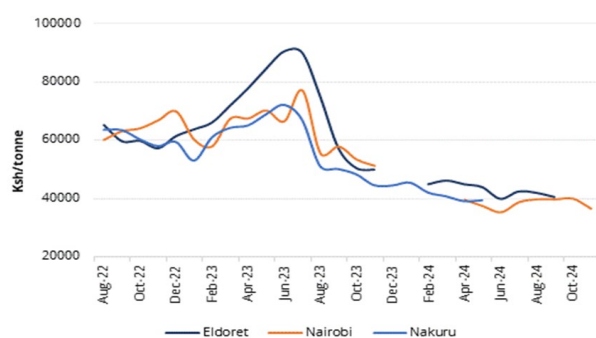
FIG 6. ETHIOPIA - CEREAL PRICE TRENDS IN ADDIS ABABA



SOURCE: WFP CO

KENYA

FIG 7. KENYA - WHOLESALE MAIZE PRICES IN SELECTED MARKETS



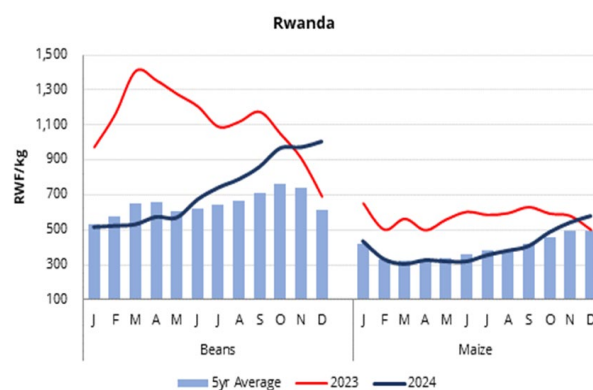
SOURCE: WFP CO

As of November 2024, wholesale prices for dry maize in Nairobi were about 29 percent lower than the same period the previous year. Although price data from key reference markets in major maize-producing areas, such as the Western Rift Valley, was unavailable for the reporting period (October-

December), this coincided with the main harvests in unimodal high-potential areas. According to FEWSNET, seasonal harvests in these regions were expected to be near or above average, likely contributing to price stability or a slight decrease during the reporting period. In WFP-monitored refugee markets, price trends varied, with most markets showing stable prices, while a few saw slight increases. Retail prices for white maize in these markets ranged from 45 to 80 KSH/Kg during the reference period.

RWANDA

FIG 8. RWANDA - AVERAGE PRICE OF KEY STAPLES



SOURCE: WFP CO

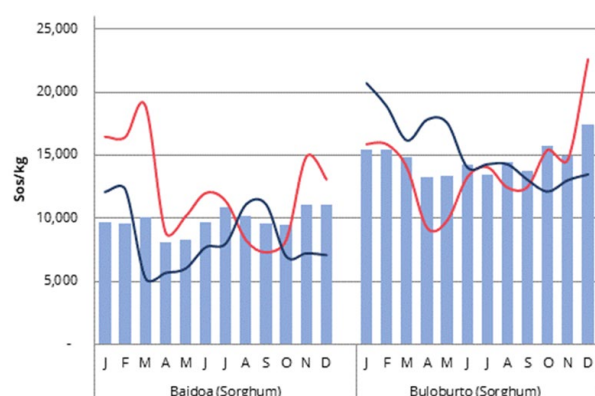
Staple maize and beans prices followed seasonal trends, increasing during the last quarter of the year, which coincided with the main lean season (October-December). By December, the national average price of maize was 580 RWF/Kg, marking an 18.7 percent rise compared to both the previous year and the five-year average, with significant price variations across markets, ranging from 500 RWF/Kg in Karongi to 700 RWF/Kg in Kiziba Camp. A similar pattern was observed for dry beans, with national prices ranging between 970-1000 RWF/Kg during the reporting period. By December, the average dry beans price was 46 percent higher than the previous year and 64 percent higher than the long-term average. Prices for other food commodities, such as beef and rice, also increased in most WFP-monitored markets.

SOMALIA

Price trends during the last quarter of the year

were mixed, with some markets experiencing significant declines while others saw stable or rising prices. The national average price of sorghum continued its m-o-m decline, reaching 24,492 SOS/Kg in December, which was 21 percent lower than the previous year and moderately higher than the five-year average (21 percent). However, there were notable price variations across markets, ranging from 7,100 SOS/Kg in Baidoa (a key sorghum-producing market) to 52,400 SOS/Kg in Taleex (Sool region). Similarly, the national average price of maize showed a declining trend, but prices varied across markets. For instance, maize prices remained stable at 16,200 SOS/Kg in Beletweyne, while Bossaso saw a m-o-m increase, though prices were 18-36 percent lower than the previous year.

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



SOURCE: WFP CO

SOUTH SUDAN

Food prices have remained unusually high, steadily increasing for several consecutive months across the country. This trend is primarily driven by challenging economic conditions, including the spillover effects of the ongoing war in Sudan, localized tensions, and other factors. Prices continued to rise throughout the last quarter, reaching new record levels in most monitored markets. The national average price of sorghum rose consistently, retailing between 9,457-11,217 SSP/3.5 Kg, representing a 209 to 566 percent increase compared to the previous year and the long-term average, with market

variations. Similarly, maize prices followed an upward trajectory, reaching new record levels each month, and by December 2024, prices were over 280 percent higher than the previous year. These abnormally high food prices are worsening food insecurity for millions across the country.

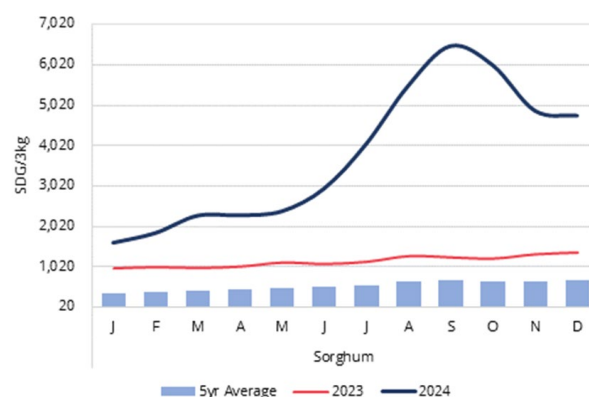
FIG 10. SOUTH SUDAN – PRICE OF KEY STAPLES IN SELECTED MARKETS



SOURCE: WFP CO

SUDAN

FIG 11. SUDAN – NATIONAL AVERAGE PRICE OF SORGHUM



SOURCE: WFP CO

The ongoing conflict in Sudan, now nearly two years in duration, has disrupted the food supply chain and worsened macroeconomic conditions. While prices for key staples such as sorghum, wheat flour, and groundnuts saw a notable m-o-m decrease of at least 8 percent, food prices generally remain unusually high in most parts of the country. As of December, the national average price of sorghum was 4,761 SDG/3 Kg, marking a 2 percent m-o-m decline, but still more than

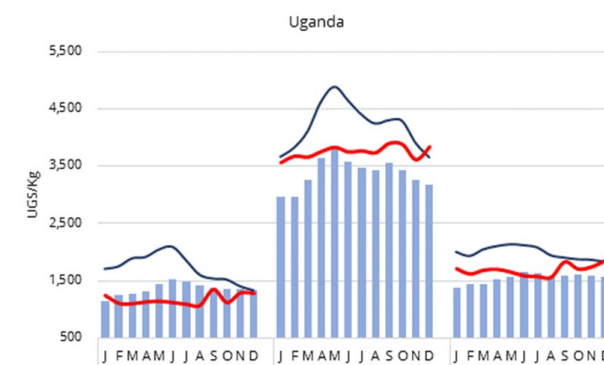
200 percent higher than the previous year. The price reduction in the last quarter is attributed to increased supply from new seasonal harvests entering the markets. The highest prices were observed in conflict-affected areas like Kordofan, Gezira, East, and Central Darfur, while the lowest prices were found in key producing regions such as Gadaref and Kassala⁸. Similarly, wheat flour prices also eased during the reporting period, supported by currency stability and the corresponding drop in sorghum prices⁹.

UGANDA

Despite the seasonal harvests in the Karamoja region (main harvest) and bimodal areas (second season harvests) improving supply, the prices of key staples such as maize, beans, and sorghum rose in the last quarter of the year. The national average price of maize ranged from 1,126 to 1,286 UGS/Kg, which was 3 to 26 percent lower than the

previous year, but still showed an upward trend. Sorghum followed a similar pattern, averaging 1,856 UGS/Kg by the end of the year, marking a 6 percent increase from the previous year. Additionally, in most WFP-monitored markets, dry bean prices saw an unusual increase, averaging at least 5 percent higher than both the long-term average and the previous year..

FIG 12. UGANDA – NATIONAL AVERAGE PRICE OF KEY STAPLES



SOURCE: WFP CO

8. Market and Trade Outlook Jan-Mar 2025

DJIBOUTI

Djibouti relies significantly on imports, with over 90 percent of its annual food consumption needs being met through imports. From October to December 2024, the prices of key food items such as rice, wheat, and vegetable oil remained stable, in line with global price trends. While the country remains vulnerable to global trade fluctuations, local food prices are expected to remain steady in the coming months, supported by stable macroeconomic conditions.

ETHIOPIA

Staple prices remain elevated nationwide; however, the ongoing *Meher* harvest in Western agricultural regions and Belg-receiving areas has boosted market supply, resulting in a moderate price decline. This reprieve is expected to be temporary, as persistent economic challenges, localized conflicts, and high fuel costs are likely to drive further inflationary pressures on prices.

KENYA

The second-season harvests in bi-modal areas are projected to be below average due to inadequate rainfall during the OND season. However, average to above-average yields in unimodal areas, which are key maize-producing regions, combined with cross-border trade, have contributed to keeping prices low. In the near term, price fluctuations in most markets are expected to remain limited.

RWANDA AND BURUNDI

During the peak of the main lean season, key staple prices exhibited an upward trend but generally remained lower than those recorded in the previous year across most markets. The ongoing main harvests, which began in December, are expected to replenish household stocks and increase market supply, likely leading to a gradual decline in prices in Rwanda in the coming months. Conversely, despite favourable harvests, prices in Burundi may stay elevated due to a difficult macroeconomic environment.

SOMALIA

Deyr harvests are expected to be below average due to uneven rainfall distribution during the October-December *Deyr* rainy season, which adversely impacted crop growth. Successive below-average harvests, including the recent *Gu* season, are likely to constrain market supply and push prices higher in the short to medium term.

SOUTH SUDAN

The ongoing economic downturn, characterized by hyperinflation and elevated exchange rates, continues to negatively impact the business and trade environment. As a result, food prices have risen across the country and remained high through the final quarter of 2024. Given the prevailing conditions, prices are expected to stay elevated in the coming months.

SUDAN

In the past quarter, key staple prices experienced a slight decline as recent harvests increased market supply. However, they remain considerably higher than pre-conflict levels and are expected to stay elevated across much of the country due to supply chain disruptions, constrained agricultural production, and ongoing macroeconomic challenges. With livelihoods weakened amid persistently high food prices, food security outcomes are likely to remain negatively impacted.

UGANDA

The second-season harvests (November-January) in bimodal areas are estimated to be below average, while the Karamoja region experienced near-average yields. In the short term, staple prices are expected to rise slightly as stocks decline and demand grows both domestically and in neighbouring countries.

Endnotes

¹ 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

² World Bank. [The Commodity Markets Outlook in eight charts](#). November 2025..

³ The regional average annual inflation does not include South Sudan as the National Bureaux of Statistics have not released inflation rates for December 2024. For the same reason the average food inflation does not include Sudan and South Sudan. Average regional figures might change once data is released.

⁴ Government of Kenya. [Monetary Policy Committee Meeting](#). 6th August 2024.

⁵ Global Business Outlook. [GBS](#), December 2024.

⁶ OPEC. [Monthly Market Report](#), December 2024..

⁷ At the time of the production of this report, December food price data for Ethiopia was not available. Regional averages and variations might change once the data is released.

⁸⁹ WFP [Sudan Market Monitor](#), December 2024.



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This is a joint publication by Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) and Procurement of the World Food Programme (WFP) Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa in Nairobi (RBN).

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