

## INTRODUCTION

In an effort to better inform cash-based interventions and understand market dynamics in South Sudan, the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was created by the South Sudan Cash Working Group (CWG) in August 2019. The initiative is guided by the JMMI Technical Working Group (JMJI-TWG), led by REACH and supported by the CWG members. It is funded by WFP.

Marketplaces across South Sudan are assessed on a monthly basis. In each location, field teams record prices and availability of basic commodities.

This factsheet presents an overview of prices for key foods and NFIs in the assessed areas, as well as the costs associated with key elements of the Multi-Sector Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (MSSMEB).

Cost of MSSMEB

**33,818 SSP**

Cost of food basket

**21,947 SSP**

USD/SSP  
(parallel market)

**295**

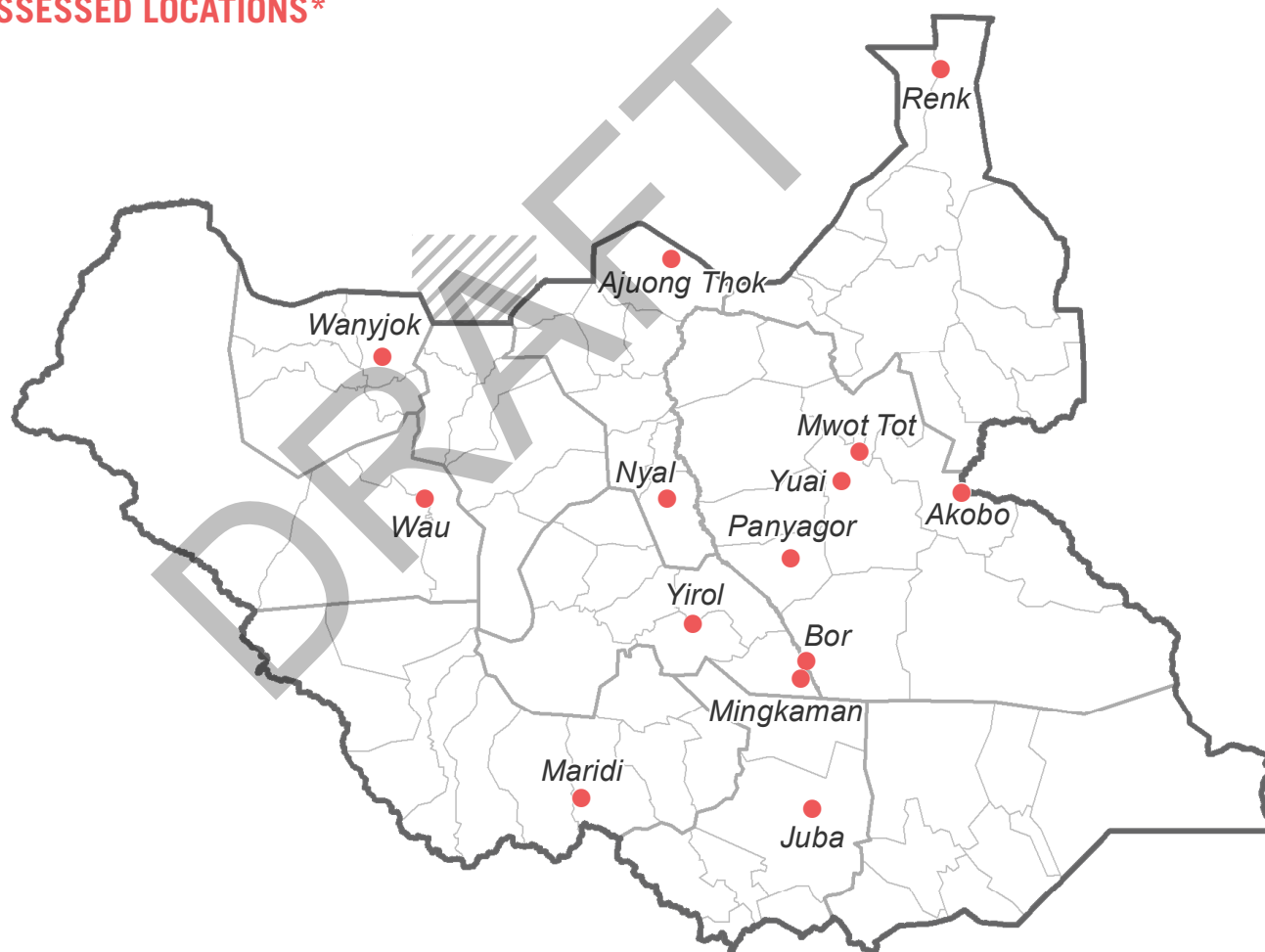
USD/SSP  
(official)<sup>1</sup>

**159**

## PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

ACTED  
Cordaid  
DRC  
IRC  
IOM  
PAH  
REACH  
Save the Children  
Tearfund  
UNICEF  
World Vision

## ASSESSED LOCATIONS\*



10 participating agencies

14 assessed locations

20 assessed marketplaces

485 key informants

21 assessed commodities

\* Coverage depends on the interest and capacity of the contributing partner agencies. Coverage will be expanded in upcoming rounds.

## MSSMEB CONTENTS

### Food Items

Cereals	90 kg	Vegetable oil	6 L
Pulses	9 kg	Salt	1 kg

### Non-Food Items (monthly)

Charcoal	50 kg	School fee	3 USD
Milling cost	30 kg	Exercise book	12 pcs
Bar soap	6 pcs	Pencil*	6 pcs
Bleach*	1.5 L	Pen*	6 pcs
Human drugs	10 USD	Rubber*	3 pcs
Airtime	30 min	Sharpener*	3 pcs
Transport	3 USD		

### Non-Food Items (one-off)\*

Blanket	2 pcs	Sanitary pad	4 pcs
Mosquito net	2 pcs	Underwear	4 pcs
Kitchen set	1 pc	Kanga	2 pcs
Jerrycan	2 pcs		

The Multi-Sectoral Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (MSSMEB) represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a six-person South Sudanese household for one month. The cost of the MSSMEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households in different locations. The MSSMEB's contents were defined by the CWG in consultation with relevant sector leads.

\* Only the MSSMEB's key elements (food and monthly non-food items, excluding bleach pencils, pens, rubbers and sharpeners) were incorporated into the calculations in this factsheet. See appendix for more detail on the calculation of the MSSMEB.

### Cost of median MSSMEB

**33,818 SSP**

## DATA PER LOCATION

County	Location	Food price index** (in SSP)	MSSMEB food basket (in SSP)	MSSMEB key items (in SSP)	Location of main food supply market	Location of main non-food supply market
<b>Central Equatoria</b>						
Juba	Juba	2,166	13,210	26,538	Kampala, Uganda	Kampala Uganda
<b>Jonglei</b>						
Akobo	Akobo	3,876	27,313	41,300	Gambela, Ethiopia	Gambela, Ethiopia
Bor South	Bor	3,252	22,072	35,345	Kampala, Uganda	Juba
Twic East	Panyagor	2,872	19,152	36,604	Juba	Juba
Uror	Mwot Tot	4,620	24,502	37,549	Juba	Juba
Uror	Yuai	4,585	18,900	30,330	Juba	Juba
<b>Lakes</b>						
Awerial	Mingkaman	2,880	22,577	33,794	Juba	Juba
Yirol West	Yirol	4,399	36,863	47,864	Juba County***	Juba
<b>Northern Bahr el Ghazal</b>						
Aweil East	Wanyjok	2,990	21,822	31,460	Khartoum, Sudan	Khartoum, Sudan
<b>Unity</b>						
Panyijiar	Nyal	3,338	22,731	33,088	Juba	Juba
Pariang	Ajuong Thok	3,407	17,919	27,205	Pariang County***	Juba
<b>Upper Nile</b>						
Renk	Renk	3,099	18,874	33,842	Renk County***	Kosti/Rabak, Sudan
<b>Western Bahr el Ghazal</b>						
Wau	Wau	2,667	37,700	49,087	Khartoum, Sudan	Kampala, Uganda
<b>Western Equatoria</b>						
Maridi	Maridi	2,753	11,523	21,072	Juba	Kampala, Uganda
<b>Overall</b>		<b>3,175</b>	<b>21,947</b>	<b>33,818</b>		

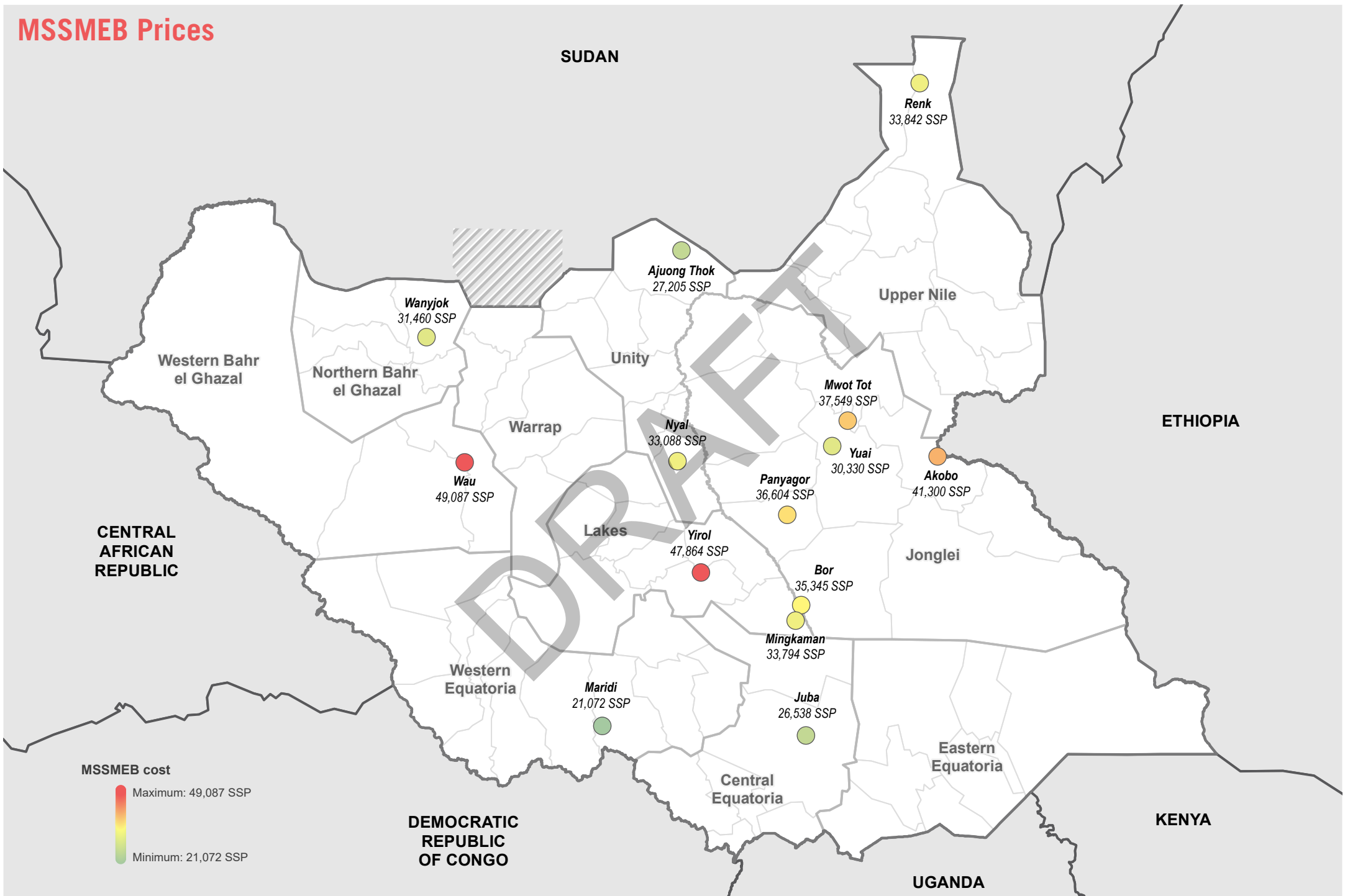
\*\* The food price index was calculated by adding up the median prices of one unit of each assessed food item. Where the median value is not available, the average price across all locations was imputed for the calculation of the index.

\*\*\* Main suppliers were producers located in the respective counties.

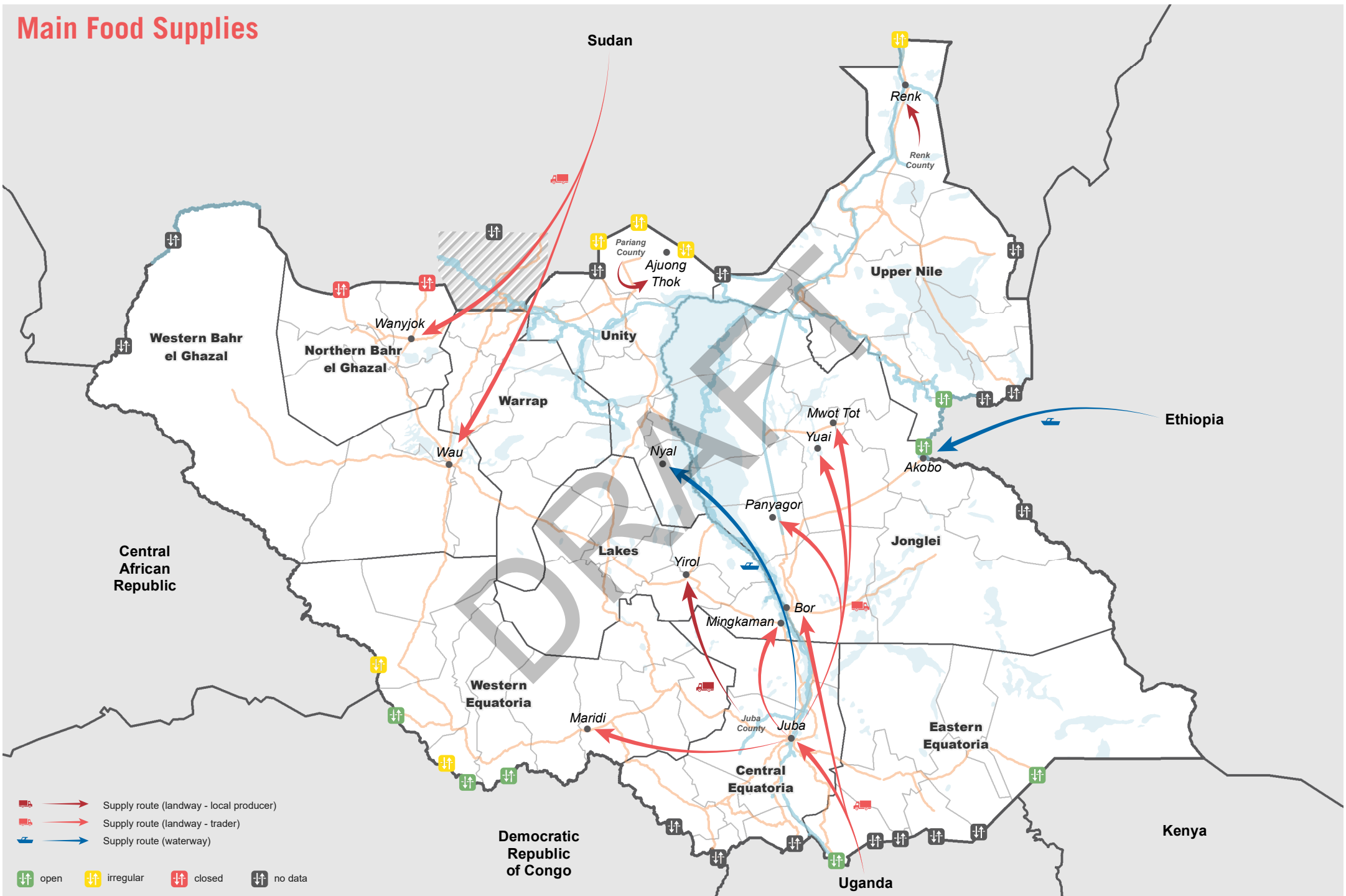
## ITEM PRICES

Item	Unit	Price (in SSP)
<b>Food Items</b>		
Sorghum grain	1 kg	185
Maize grain	1 kg	179
Wheat flour	1 kg	445
Rice	1 kg	366
Groundnuts (shelled)	1 kg	397
Beans	1 kg	440
Sugar	1 kg	289
Salt	1 kg	233
Cooking oil	1 L	625
<b>Non-Food Items</b>		
Soap	1 pc	400
Jerrycan	1 pc	300
Mosquito net	1 pc	1,150
Exercise book	1 pc	400
Blanket	1 pc	800
Cooking pot	1 pc	2,000
Plastic sheet	1 pc	5,000
Pole	1 pc	400
Firewood	1 bundle	90
Charcoal	1 malwa	200
<b>Livestock Items</b>		
Goat	1 goat	110,000
Chicken	1 chicken	11,750
<b>Services</b>		
Milling costs	1 kg	300
<b>Currencies</b>		
US dollar (USD)	1 USD	295
Sudanese pound	1 SDG	4.83

# MSSMEB Prices

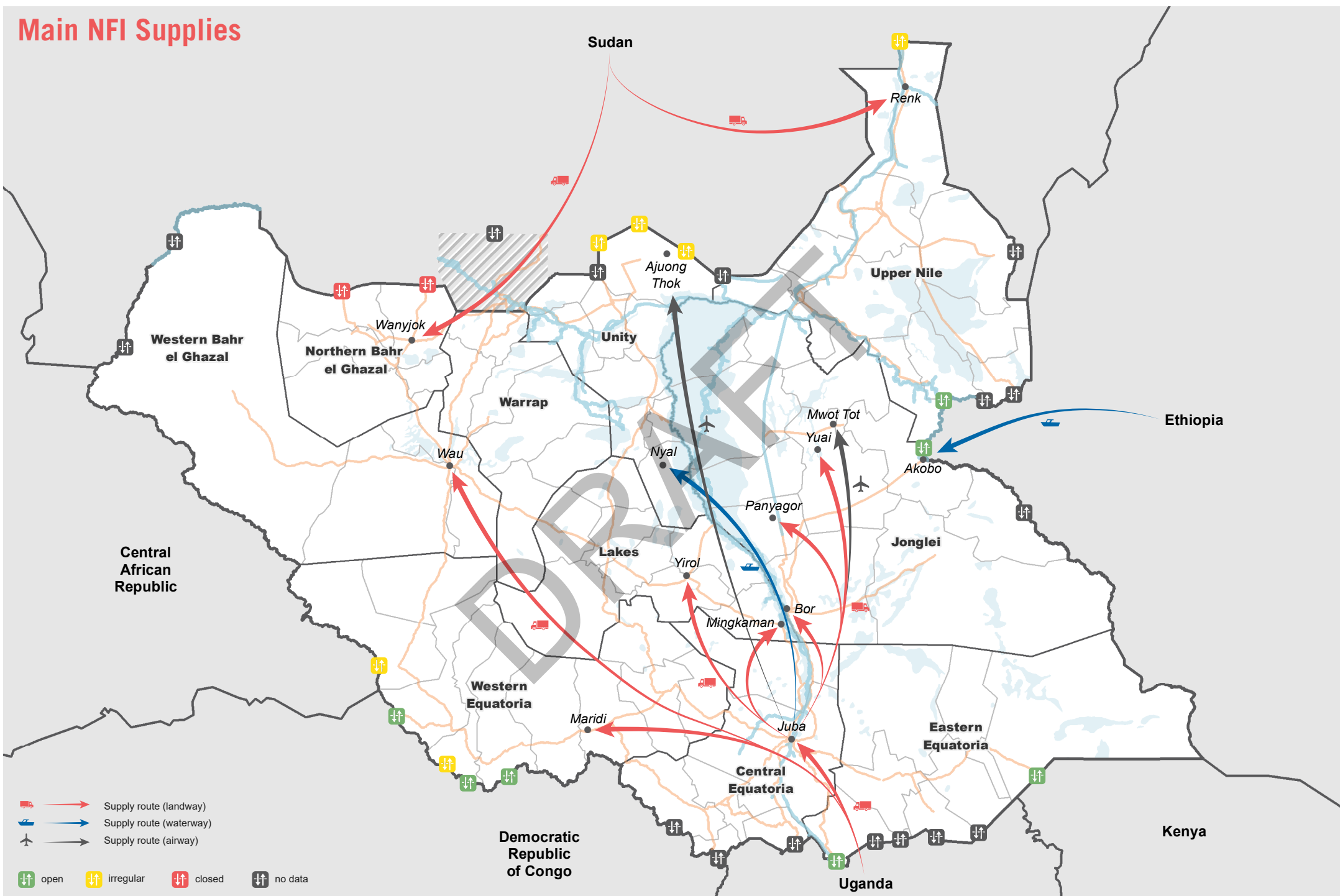


# Main Food Supplies



The map illustrates from where each assessed location is supplied with food items. Only the most frequently named food supply market connection is shown for each location. Additional linkages and supply routes may exist.

# Main NFI Supplies



The map illustrates from where each assessed location is supplied with non-food items. Only the most frequently named non-food supply market connection is shown for each location. Additional linkages and supply routes may exist.

## MEDIAN ITEM PRICES PER LOCATION (in SSP)

County	Location	Sorghum grain (1 kg)	Maize grain (1 kg)	Wheat flour (1 kg)	Rice (1 kg)	Groundnuts (shelled) (1 kg)	Beans (1 kg)	Sugar (1 kg)	Salt (1 kg)	Cooking oil (1 kg)	Soap (200 g)	Jerrycan (20 L)	Mosquito net	Exercise book	Blanket	Cooking pot	Plastic sheet	Pole	Firewood (1 bundle)	Charcoal (1 kg)	Goat	Chicken	Milling costs (1 kg)
<b>Central Equatoria</b>																							
Juba	Juba	110	120	190	325	599	230	302	100	190	47	200	2,450	350	2,200	2,000	1,800	800	250	126	13,250	2,500	6
<b>Jonglei</b>																							
Akobo	Akobo	191	n.a.	563	450	n.a.	443	n.a.	136	1,000	200	n.a.	800	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8,500	500	70	168	8,500	n.a.	n.a.
Bor South	Bor	181	245	300	305	978	354	291	200	400	124	250	1,550	200	3,000	2,500	4,200	1,950	725	168	14,000	1,500	9
Uror	Mwot Tot	164	n.a.	763	611	n.a.	n.a.	582	367	1,000	100	800	1,500	n.a.	n.a.	3,000	4,750	n.a.	200	168	6,750	750	n.a.
Uror	Yuai	121	n.a.	1,263	412	n.a.	346	495	441	750	100	575	1,525	300	n.a.	2,500	5,100	2,000	300	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Twic East	Panyagor	144	n.a.	350	290	n.a.	333	258	240	500	83	750	n.a.	150	n.a.	7,500	n.a.	530	250	329	32,500	3,250	43
<b>Lakes</b>																							
Awerial	Mingkaman	180	n.a.	300	300	559	375	300	200	467	83	250	700	250	2,950	2,000	5,000	n.a.	600	84	4,000	n.a.	22
Yirol West	Yirol	503	335	775	631	559	621	516	326	133	67	500	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,800	5,000	250	n.a.	101	8,000	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Northern Bahr el Ghazal</b>																							
Aweil East	Wanyjok	168	n.a.	450	500	258	430	400	136	450	67	300	600	135	2,000	2,500	4,500	175	150	84	6,750	950	8
<b>Unity</b>																							
Pariang	Ajuong Thok	119	n.a.	475	700	113	301	500	300	700	83	500	465	200	1,100	n.a.	7,000	900	150	42	n.a.	n.a.	33
Panyijiar	Nyal	177	162	423	450	n.a.	333	430	204	600	100	325	2,300	200	n.a.	3,000	10,500	1,000	1,000	84	10,000	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Upper Nile</b>																							
Renk	Renk	84	n.a.	450	400	210	1,109	335	100	213	100	325	1,000	575	1,500	2,450	6,000	325	110	84	n.a.	1,650	7
<b>Western Bahr el Ghazal</b>																							
Wau	Wau	350	235	300	400	102	400	280	200	400	74	600	400	250	3,000	3,000	5,000	150	300	84	17,000	1,900	36
<b>Western Equatoria</b>																							
Maridi	Maridi	75	66	704	250	559	443	260	156	240	60	450	2,800	135	2,950	6,750	7,000	725	150	84	13,000	1,800	4
Overall median		166	199	450	406	559	375	335	200	459	83	450	1,250	200	2,575	2,650	5,000	628	250	84	10,000	1,725	9

n.a.: no price data available



## Methodology

The JMMI aims to cover main market and rural satellite markets alike. Coverage depends on the interest of the partner organizations and their field teams' capacities to regularly collect the market data. Locations are added once partners willing to cover them are identified, and their field teams are trained. As the initiative is currently being built up, coverage will likely be expanded in future data collection rounds.

In each assessed location, at least four prices per food, non-food and livestock item need to be collected from different traders to ensure the quality and consistency of the collected data (2 for currencies and milling costs, 5 for casual labor). In line with the purpose of the JMMI, only the price of the cheapest available types are recorded for each item.

Partner field teams, identify traders to assess based on the following criteria:

- Traders are retailers selling directly to consumers.
- Traders with weight scales are prioritized when recording prices of dry food items.
- Traders need to be representative of the local price level.
- To the extent possible, the same traders are revisited in every data collection round.

The data is collected by field staff familiar with the local market conditions. They were trained on methodology and tools by REACH. Data collection was conducted through the ODK Collect mobile application. The data collection tool is published alongside the dataset every month and disseminated to the humanitarian community.

Following data collection, REACH compiled

and cleaned all partner data, normalising prices, cross-checking outliers and calculating the median cost of an MSSMEB in each assessed location.

The median item prices reported in this factsheet are 'location medians', designed to minimise the effects of outliers and differing amounts of data among assessed locations. First, the median prices of all assessed items are calculated within each assessed location; then, REACH calculates the median of this list of medians. All MSSMEB and price index calculations, are created using this method.

### MSSMEB calculation

- The cost of the MSSMEB is calculated by multiplying the median price of each item by the quantity listed in the table on page 2.
- Sorghum grain prices are used for the calculation of the cereal component, and maize grain prices for areas where maize is more commonly consumed. In areas where both cereals are consumed equally, the price of the cheaper item is used.
- Bean prices are used for the pulse component.
- Recorded prices for cooking oil (e.g. palm oil, groundnut oil) are used rather than specifically for vegetable oil.
- For airtime, a monthly cost of 1 USD is assumed.
- All USD amounts are converted to SSP using the local black market exchange rates.
- If a component of the MSSMEB is unavailable in a location, the overall median price is imputed.

## Challenges and limitations

- Price data is only indicative for the time frame within which it was collected. Prices may vary between data collection rounds.
- The JMMI data collection tool requests the cheapest available type of each item to be recorded, as availability varies across regions. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slightly varying products.
- Standardizing unit sizes of dry food items is inherently difficult in South Sudan, as many traders sell commodities by volume rather than weight. This may create a measurement error.
- With current coverage, data is mostly collected from main markets, which may not be representative of market functionality in rural areas.

## Participating agencies

- **ACTED** – *Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development*
- **Cordaid**
- **DRC** – *Danish Refugee Council*
- **IOM** – *International Organization for Migration*
- **PAH** – *Polish Humanitarian Action*
- **REACH Initiative**
- **Save the Children**
- **Tearfund**
- **UNICEF** – *United Nations Children's Fund*
- **World Vision**

## What is the CWG?

The South Sudan Cash Working Group (CWG) was established in 2015. It is a community of humanitarian actors supporting and coordinating cash interventions in South Sudan. The CWG is currently co-led by the World Food Programme (WFP) and Danish Church Aid (DCA).

## JMMI OUTPUTS

Factsheets	Datasets
<b>2019</b>	
August	August
September	September
October	October
November	November
December	December

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Source: Central Bank of South Sudan (2019, Aug 1). Retrieved from [www.bankofsouthsudan.org](http://www.bankofsouthsudan.org)