



West and Central Africa

Markets situation in 2022 and 2023 outlook (March–2023)

Highlights

- World cereal production in 2022 is estimated at 2,756 million tons in December 2022, down 2% (57 million tons) year-on-year. In addition, world cereal stocks at the end of the 2022/2023 campaigns were revised downwards by 1.1 million in December and stood at 839 million tons, which represents a decline of 2.2% (18.5 million tons) compared to the previous campaign and the lowest level recorded in the past 3 years. World grain trade in 2022-23 is forecast at 472 million tons, a contraction of 1.9% (9.2 million tons) from its record high in 2021-22 and the use of cereals stands at 2,777 million tons, or 0.7% (21 million) less than 2021-2022.
- The FAO food index in December 2022 is down 1.9% compared to November 2022, the ninth consecutive decline in the index. This decrease is explained by the fall in the prices of cereals, vegetable oils and meat. Compared to December 2021, it decreased by 1%. However, for the whole of 2022, the FAO Food Price Index increased by 14.3% compared to 2021.
- According to WFP's market functionality index, the functioning of markets was significantly disrupted in 2022 across the region. During the 2022 lean season, in many countries more than half of the markets assessed were indicating poor functionality; Liberia (68%), Guinea (65%), Mali (64%) and Cameroon (59%). This low functionality can primarily be attributed to price volatility of basic food commodities and low quality of services and infrastructure. The outlook for the first quarter of 2023 points towards a possible decline in cereal prices following the harvest season, but prices are expected to remain above the five-year average.
- In the Sahel and West Africa, according to official figures, forecast cereal production is 76.4 million tons, up 7% and 6% respectively compared to last year and the five-year average. Sahel Countries are recording a general increase of nearly 20% compared to last year, when there were significant production deficits. The commodities that have experienced a strong increase are particularly rainfed (millet and sorghum), maize and rice harvests, however, did not increase significantly.
- In the coastal countries, production remained relatively stable, compared to last year and the five-year average. This annual growth in production could be even more significant in the absence of difficulties in access to fertilizers for certain crops such as maize and rice.



Agricultural production and world stocks

According to the latest FAO forecast, world cereal production in 2022 is estimated at 2,756 million tons in December 2022, a decrease of 2% (57 million tons) year-on-year, despite the better forecast results in Madagascar and the unprecedented revisions to production data for Malaysia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This significant downward revision of the forecast for cereal production is due to the decline in production of maize, rice and, although to a lesser extent, that of wheat. It is important to note that this recent adjustment is mainly due to a weaker outlook for the maize harvest in Ukraine, where the repercussions of the war have made post-harvest operations extremely costly, forcing many farmers to not harvest certain planted areas. The latest official data also confirms a smaller than expected harvest in Serbia, where drought has significantly reduced yields. In addition, world cereal stocks at the end of the 2022/2023 campaigns were revised downwards by 1.1 million in December and stood at 839 million tons, which represents a decline of 2.2% (18.5 million tons) compared to the previous campaign and the lowest level recorded in the past three years. World grain trade in 2022-23 is forecast at 472 million tons, a contraction of 1.9% (9.2 million tons) from its record high in 2021-22 and the use of cereals stands at 2,777 million tons, or 0.7% (21 million) less than 2021-2022. This is due to the downward revision in animal and industrial use.



Source: FAO

World prices for staples commodities

World rice prices increased by an average of 4 percent in December 2022 due to strong demand from Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia and the Philippines. In addition, the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in China spurred transboundary movements and imports (Inter Rice). World rice prices in December 2022 were 18 percent above last year's level and 15 percent above their five-year average. Rising transport costs, currency volatility and fears of a likely drop in supply in the 2023/24

marketing year have pushed prices higher (Inter Rice and AMIS).

World maize production for the latest 2021/22 campaign has decreased by 4 percent compared to last year due, among other things, to the war in Ukraine. Stocks were also estimated to be down, from 305.5 to 301 million tons (AMIS and USDA). However, world maize prices fell by 3 percent in December 2022 due to the recent arrival of crops from the United States and Brazil as well as lower volatility in the United States dollar (USDA and AMIS). However, compared to last year and the five-year average, prices were 19 and 51 percent higher, respectively. These high price levels are primarily due to the war in Ukraine, export restrictions, financial sanctions and constraints related to freight market conditions.

World wheat prices fell by 4 percent in December 2022 due to ongoing harvests in the southern hemisphere, which increased supplies, and competition between exporters which remained strong (FAO and AMIS). World wheat prices were 1 percent lower than in December 2021, but 32 percent higher than the five-year average. The war in Ukraine, the effect of weather conditions on crops and concerns about global economic growth were the main factors behind these high price levels.

As for the assumptions for the next quarter of the 2023/24 business year in January:

- Global rice production for the 2022/23 season is expected to fall further by more than 2 percent from the previous season due to lower production prospects in India, China, Russia and the United States. Global rice consumption is expected to decline by around four million tons, 1 percent less than last season (Rice Outlook, USDA). Rice prices are thus expected to rise above their 2022 levels in the first quarter of 2023 due to slightly lower global supply and currency volatility. Input costs, transportation costs, weather conditions, COVID-19 and rising fuel costs are expected to put further pressure on prices. However, government interventions could help curb increases and allow some price stability.
- Global maize production for the 2022/23 crop year is expected to fall by 4 percent from last season due to lower production in the United States, Brazil and Argentina. In Ukraine, estimates are significantly lower due to reduced planted area and yields, while in Russia production is reduced due to harvest delays (AMIS and USDA). Trade for crop year 2022/23 is also expected to be lower than 2021/22 due to lower global export prospects (AMIS and USDA). Finally, stocks for the 2022/23 campaign should decrease by around 2 percent, mainly in China, the European Union and the United States (AMIS and USDA). Maize prices in the international market are expected to be slightly higher than 2022 levels in the first

quarter of 2023 due to lower supply and higher key input costs.

- World wheat production for the 2022/23 campaign is slightly higher (2 percent) than the last campaign. Production increases in the European Union offset decreases in the United States and Argentina (USDA). However, global wheat stocks for the 2022/23 season are expected to decline by 3 percent, from 291.5 to 276 million tons, due to strong demand and below-average production and exports from Ukraine, which is expected to export only 13 million tons (an annual reduction of 32 percent according to USDA estimates). World wheat prices are expected to remain below 2022 levels in the first quarter of 2023 due to production forecasts, currency volatility and economic growth (World Bank and AMIS). However, the continuation of the war in Ukraine could affect market performance in addition to other risks mentioned above.

FAO Food Price Index drops for the ninth consecutive month in December

The FAO food price index in December 2022 is down 1.9% compared to November 2022, the ninth consecutive decline in the index. This decrease is explained by the fall in the prices of cereals, vegetable oils and meat. Compared to December 2021, this decrease is 1%. However, for the whole of 2022, the FAO Food Price Index increased by 14.3% compared to 2021.

This decline is explained by the drop in international prices for vegetable oils, cereals and sugar. On the other hand, the prices of dairy products and meat firmed up:

- The FAO Cereal Price Index fell 1.9% from November 2022, but remains 4.8% higher than December 2021. It is 17.9% higher than in 2021 and 8.8% compared to the record value of 2011.
- The FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index is down 6.7% from November 2022, its lowest level since

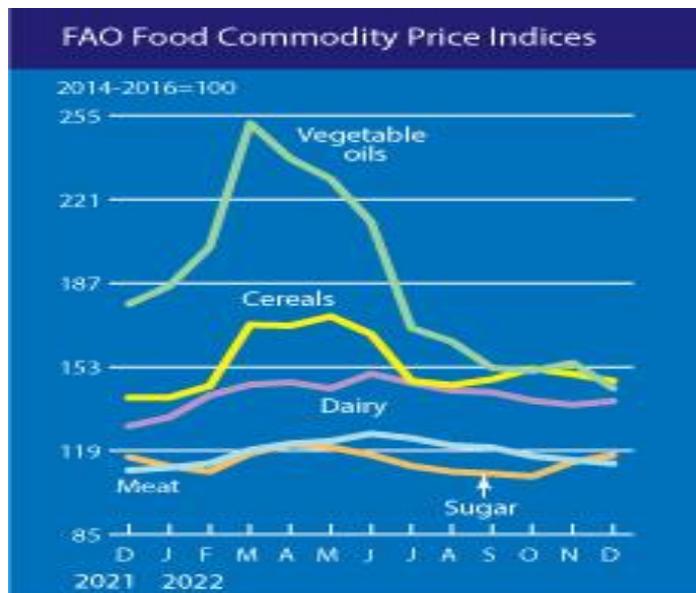
February 2021; however, it is 13.9% higher compared to 2021. The decline in the index recorded in December is attributable to the drop in international prices for palm, soybean, rapeseed and sunflower oils.

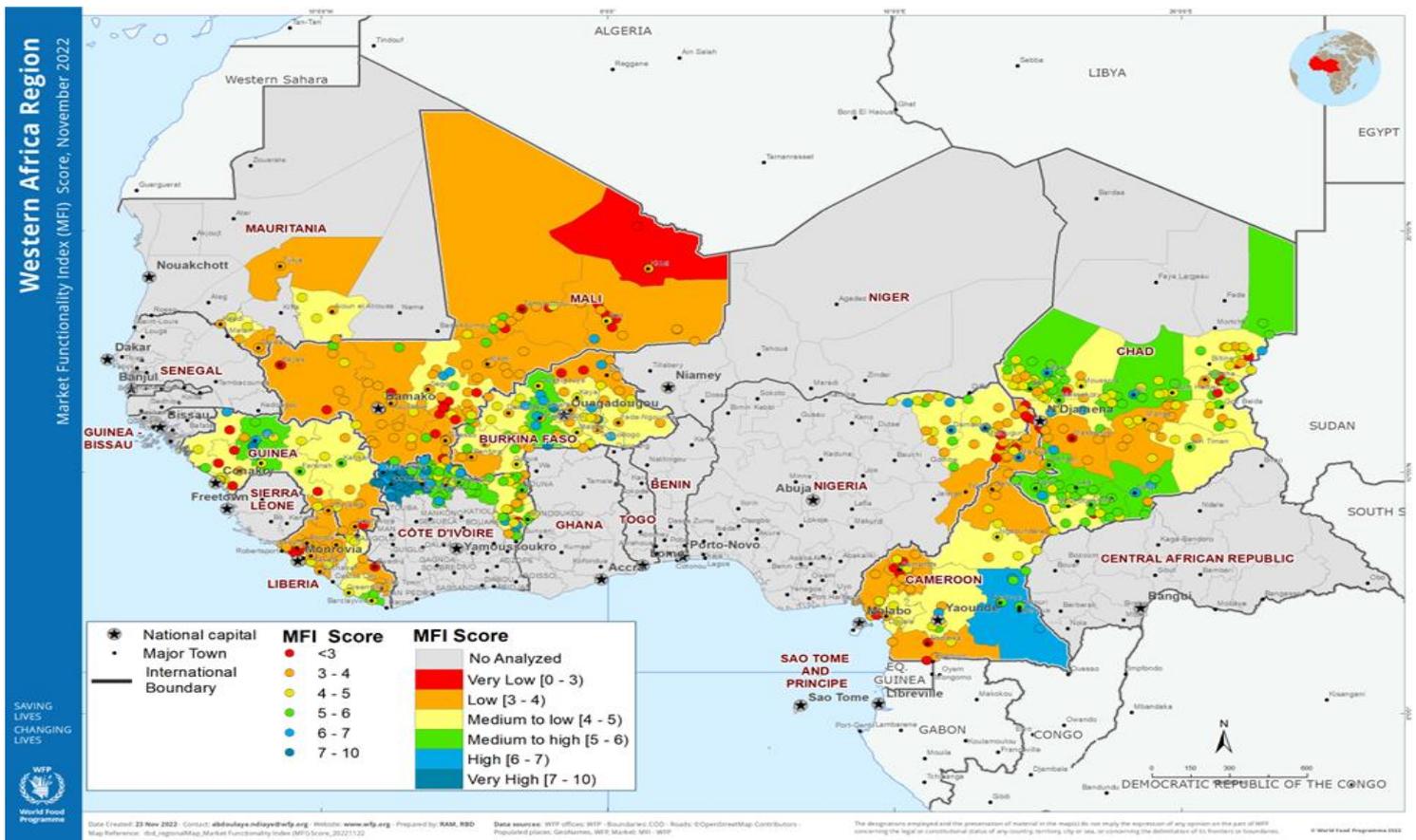
- The FAO Meat Price Index fell by 1.2% from November 2022 but remains 2.5% higher than December 2021.
- A 1.1% increase in the FAO Dairy Price Index was noted in December 2022 compared to November 2022, an increase of 7.9% compared to December 2021.
- The FAO Sugar Price Index rose by 2.4% from November 2022, the index's second consecutive monthly rise, reaching its highest level in six months. An increase of 4.7% compared to 2021, reaching its highest annual average since 2012.

Markets functionality

In the region, market operations were severely disrupted in 2022. West African markets are divided into three basins: Eastern Basin (Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria), Central Basin (Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Mali) and West Basin (Liberia, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal). The map on the next page shows the distribution of markets assessed by the final Market Functionality Index (MFI) scores – 0 indicating the lowest level of functionality and 10 indicating the highest level of functionality in each country.

We consider as poorly functional respectively 43%, 59%, 28%, 10%, 36%, 65%, 68%, 64%, 50%, 42% of the marketplaces assessed in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania and Nigeria, while those in the middle range of functionality are 38%, 34%, 67%, 46%, 52%, 35%, 28%, 36%, 37% and 45% percent respectively. There is Côte d'Ivoire which has the highest proportion of markets functioning properly





according to MFI standards in 43% of cases, while for the other countries the percentage of markets functioning mainly range from 4-18%.

In general, across the region, the MFI dimension with the lowest score is price, followed by service and infrastructure. This situation is mainly due to the poor performance of the previous crop year (2021-2022). Which has led us to record price change rates in the region. The situation has worsened with the disruption of supply chains due to insecurity and cereal export bans imposed by certain countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali, Cameroon and Benin.

Market functionality could improve with a slight reduction in the price level of cereals and pulses. With good cereal production forecast for the 2022-2023 agricultural campaign, availability would be relatively acceptable. Although prices are likely to ease compared to last year, they are expected to remain above their five year average levels.

Impact of the Ukrainian crisis on regional market supply

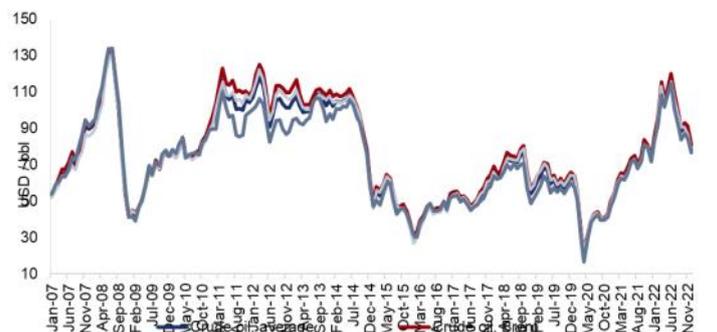
The Russian-Ukrainian crisis disrupted market supplies in 2022. This situation has highlighted the strong dependence of countries in the West and Central African region on cereal products from these 2 countries, in particular wheat, as well as hydrocarbons and chemical fertilizers.

Global demand of fertilizer is expected to decline due to higher fertilizer prices and the search for other strategies, such as organic fertilizers (World Bank).

In the first quarter of 2023, global fertilizer prices may stabilize below average price in first quarter of 2022 due to weaker demand and significant import cost due to the appreciation of the US dollar.

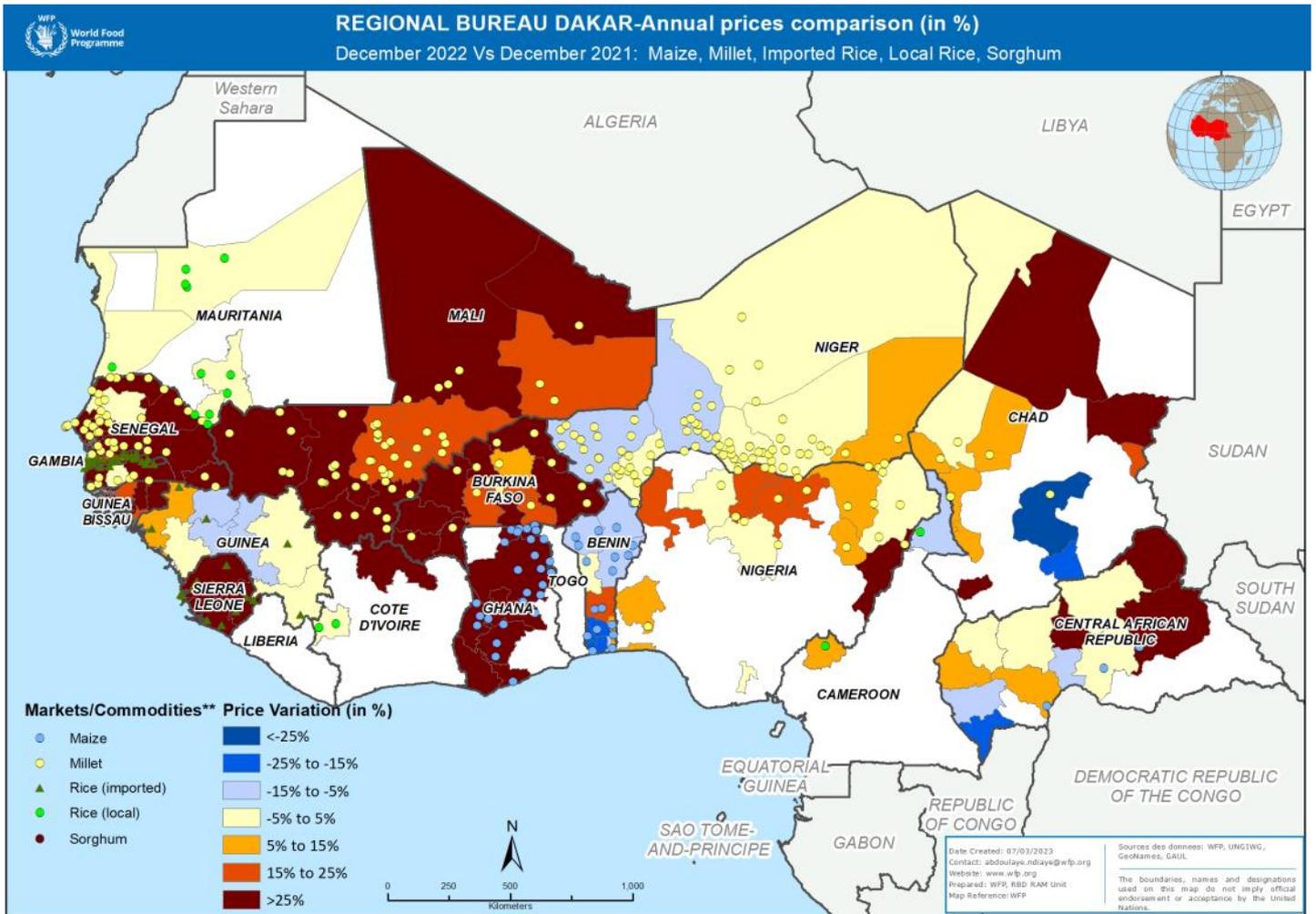
Crude oil prices rose in June due to higher demand from refiners and several supply disruptions. Strong demand for crude from refiners amid limited crude supply and geopolitical developments in Eastern Europe pushed spot prices higher. In December, Global crude oil prices fell (-11%) on global economic growth concerns, exacerbated by mixed signals from China's zero COVID-19 policy, which continued to put downward pressure on crude oil prices ([OPEP](#)).

Fig.1: Crude oil: reference price January 2007-December 2022



Source : FEWS Net, Data source: World Bank

Map 2: Annual price of cereals in December 2022 compare to 2021



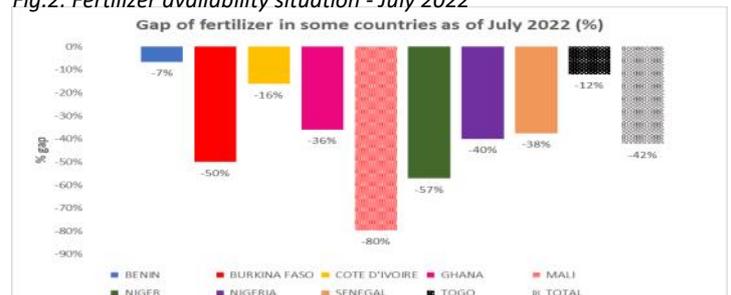
In December 2022, world oil prices were 7% higher than last year and 30% than five-year due to the war in Ukraine and Russia and monetary policies that affected the appreciation of the US dollar. They increased the average cost of capital (WB et EIA). The increase in the cost of oil has led to an increase in the cost of transport in the region and consequently the price of food products, of which transport accounts for roughly 15-20% of the total cost of food in the region (ECOWAS, FAO, WFP). In 2023, global oil demand is expected to grow 2% from 2022, supported by a recovery in transportation fuels and firm demand for industrial fuels, including petrochemical feedstocks.

In the Sahel and West Africa, only 58% of fertilizer needs were covered as of July 31, 2022 and fertilizer needs were not fully covered, as declared available stocks were well below estimated needs in all countries. The deficit varied between -7% (Benin) and -80% (Mali). The countries that announced a greater deficit were Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger (ECOWAS, FAO, WFP). However, the favorable rainfall conditions, the extension of agricultural area in certain areas and the use of organic fertilizers helped to counter the low availability of fertilizers resulting in a forecast cereal production in the Sahel of +20% compared to the previous campaign and +7% compared to those of the last 5 years. The commodities that have experienced a strong increase

are particularly rainfed (millet and sorghum), whereas production has not significantly increased for maize and rice.

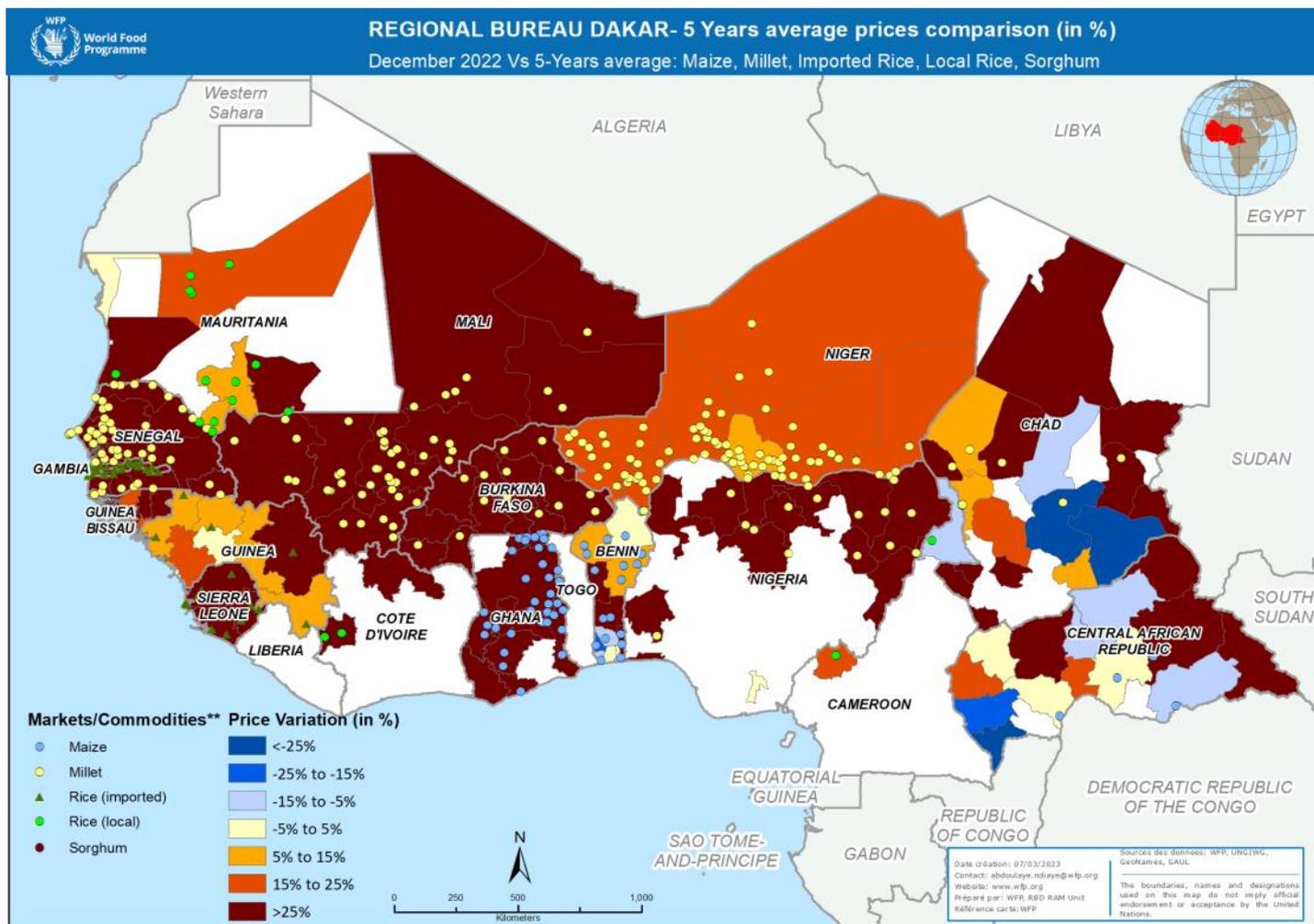
Global fertilizer prices remain significantly above December 2021 levels (average 40%) and five-year average levels (average 107%) due to supply issues, including a production crisis in Europe, disruption caused by the war in Ukraine and trade restrictions in China. Global demand for chemical fertilizer is expected to decline due to rising fertilizer prices and the search for other solutions, such as organic fertilizers (World Bank). For example, humanitarian agencies, including WFP, face increased operational costs and the risk of reduced funding as resources are focused on direct response to the crisis in Ukraine.

Fig.2: Fertilizer availability situation - July 2022



Source: ECOWAS, FAO, WFP assessment on the impact of the crisis in Ukraine-April 2022

Map 3: Cereal price variation in December 2022 compared to 5-year average



West Africa: agricultural production varies by country

Cereal production estimates (maize, rice, millet, sorghum, fonio and wheat) shared during the workshop of the regional mechanism for the prevention and management of food crises (PREGEC) in the Sahel and West Africa in November 2022 indicates production of 76.4 million tons, up 7% and 6% respectively from last year and the five-year average. The countries of the Sahel are recording a general increase of nearly 20% compared to last year, which was particularly marked by significant production deficits in the Sahelian band. In the coastal countries, production remained relatively stable, compared to last year and the five-year average. This annual growth in production could have been even more significant had there not been difficulties in fertilizer access for certain crops such as maize and rice. Production of roots and tubers is estimated at 208.5 million tons, up 2% compared to the previous campaign and 9% compared to the average of the last five years. Concerning cash crops, apart from cotton, which is down compared to last year, other commodities (peanuts, sesame, soybeans, voandzou, etc.) recorded increases compared to last year and the average of the last five years.

Table 1: Estimated cereal production 2022/23

Pays	Productions	Vs 2021/2022	Var Moy5A
TOTAL	76 389 133	7%	6%
UEMOA	31 774 078	16%	6%
CEDEAO	72 976 335	7%	6%
CILSS	39 408 471	14%	6%
Bassin est	41 218 193	7%	4%
Bassin centre	24 653 031	8%	6%
Bassin ouest	10 517 908	3%	12%

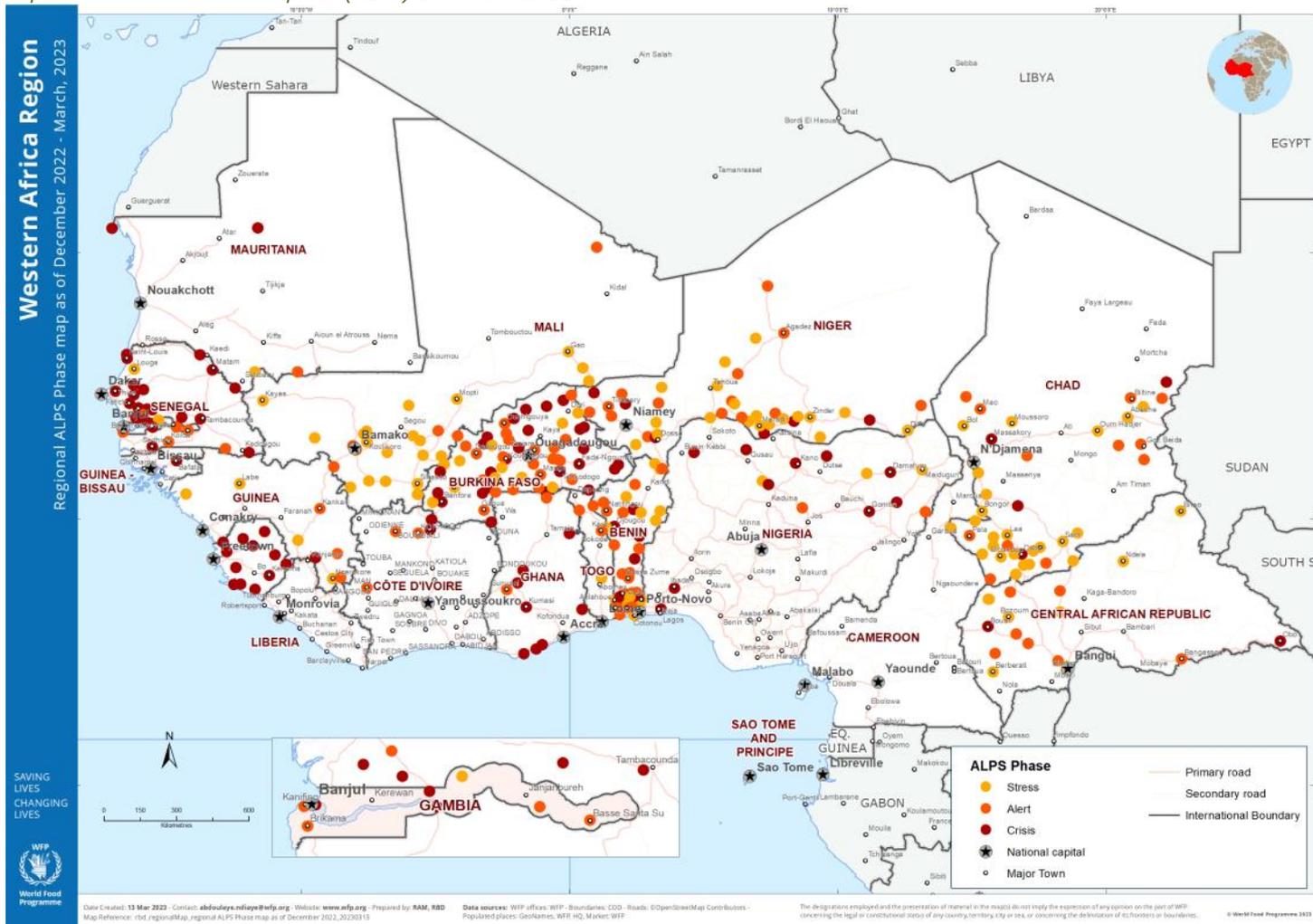
Source: CILSS

Market situation in Western and Central region

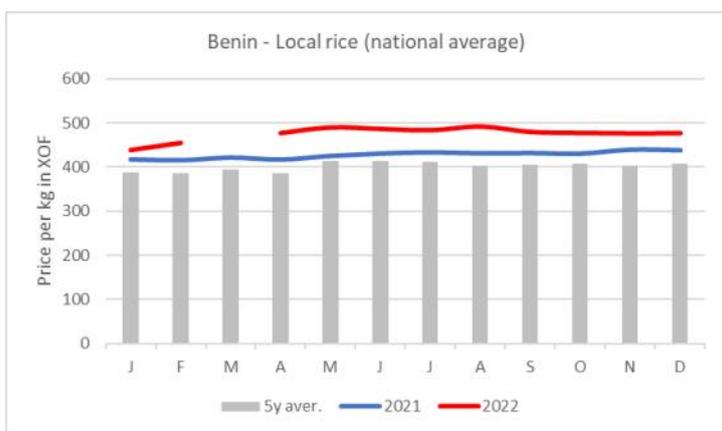
Benin

In Benin, the last quarter of 2022 was characterized by a general drop in the prices of all local food products. This decline in food prices is attributable to the harvest period (October – December) of most local food products. However, the massive export of local products to other neighboring countries continues to have a negative impact on food prices at the national level.

Map 4: WFP Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS) December 2022



Between December 2021-2022, local cereals such as local rice, millet and sorghum recorded respective annual average price increases of +11% +8% and +4%; while the price of maize decreased by 2% during the same period. Compared to the five-year average, there were price increases of +27%, +20%, +18% and 10% respectively for millet, maize, local rice and sorghum.



Source: WFP

Compared to last year, roots/tubers, derived products and legumes, the largest price increase was observed for yam +22%, followed by groundnut +12%, cowpea +11% and tapioca +4%; while gari recorded a price drop of -9%. Compared to the average of the last five years, prices have increased by +26%, +23%, +20%, +17% and +12%

respectively for cowpea, tapioca, groundnut, yam and gari. This increase in the price of local products is less significant than that of the previous period (December 2020-2021).

As for imported products such as imported rice, wheat flour and vegetable oil, their prices rose by +8%, +29% and +22% respectively between December (2021-2022). Compared to the average of the last five years, the most significant increases were observed for oil (+53%), wheat flour (+32%) and, to a lesser extent, imported rice (+6%). Compared to local products, imported products registered the most significant price increases compared to the December 2020-December 2021 period. This situation could be explained by the related effects of the COVID-19 crisis and the Russian-Ukrainian crisis which have had consequences on international global supply chains, resulting in an overall price increases.

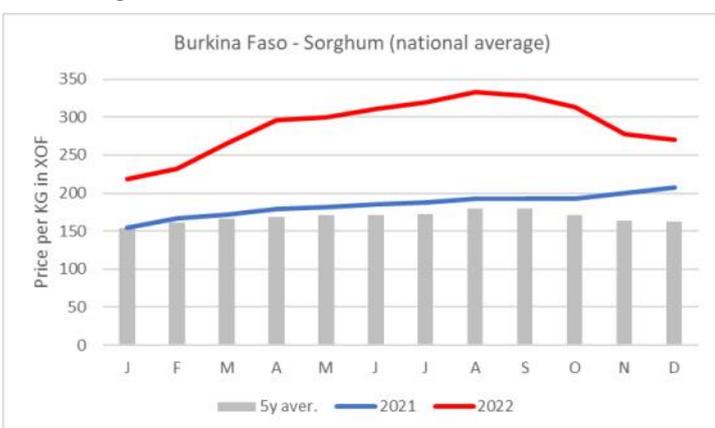
With the exception of Donga province where all the markets are in crisis, the situation in the rest of the country is relatively stable, with nearly all local food product prices having decreased. In Djougou market, the price of oil rose from 1200 to 1700 XOF/L between December 2021-2022, an increase of +42%. In the Mono region, the prices of imported wheat and rice were up by +46% and +25% respectively.

Burkina Faso

Since the beginning of the year, the market situation has been particularly worrying in Burkina Faso; with monthly food price increases of more than +100%, especially in security crisis areas. The growing insecurity in the country continues to negatively impact people's livelihoods and market supplies, negatively affecting food security.

Between December 2021-2022, the prices of the main staple foods experienced, on average, significant increases of +57% for sorghum, +37% for maize, +25% for millet and, to a lesser extent, local rice (+10%) and imported rice (+13%).

Compared to the average of the last five years, the prices of the various basic cereals have risen by +71%, +65%, +51%, +17% and +15% respectively for sorghum, maize, millet, local rice and imported rice. Pulses (peanuts +25% and cowpeas +28%) also recorded price increases, but to a lesser degree than for cereals.

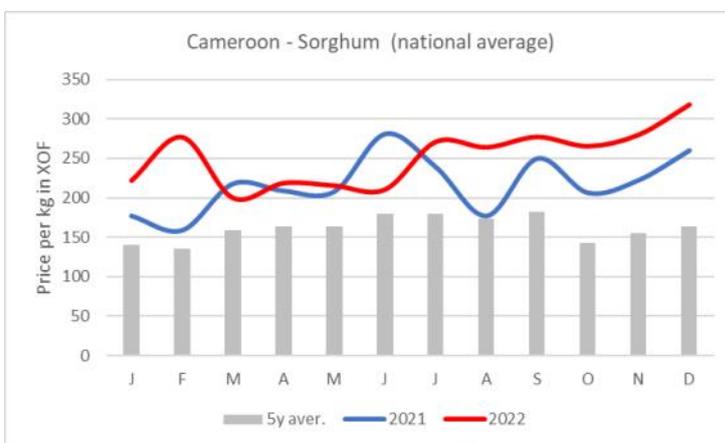


Source: WFP

In the East, Sahel and South-West regions, the majority of markets are in crisis, with average annual price variations of +150%. At the Djibo market, under blockade and where supplies are solely dependent on irregular and reduced-capacity WFP humanitarian flights, staple food prices increased by +158% for millet, +156% for sorghum, +145% for maize and +82% for cowpeas.

Cameroon

In Cameroon, the skyrocketing cost of sea freight and raw materials in the international market, continue to exert strong inflationary pressure on food products, especially those that are imported. Between December 2021-2022, basic foodstuffs (cereals, roots/tubers and derived products) recorded average annual increases between +7 and +57%. Roots/tubers and derived products experienced the most significant increase, with +57% for cassava, +10% for yam, +9% for gari and macabo respectively. Compared to the average of the last five years, the prices of these products have increased by +40% for cassava, +17% for macabo, +10% for yam and +9% for gari.



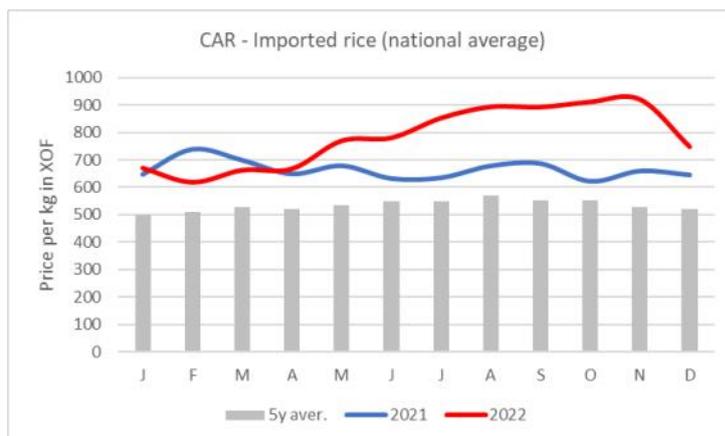
Source: WFP

In terms of cereals, wheat flour recorded the largest average annual increase of +44%, followed by maize (+23%), sorghum (+19%), local rice (+11%) and imported rice (+8%). In five-year variation, prices increased on average by +59%, +57%, +35%, +24% and +20% respectively for wheat flour, sorghum, maize, imported rice and local rice. Compared to the previous year (December 2020-2021) at the same period.

At the end of the year, with the exception of the markets of the Centre, Littoral and North-West regions which are in crisis, prices were relatively stable in most of the other markets which were well supplied with the incoming harvest.

CAR

The country continues to struggle from a protracted security crisis which continues to affect both the national economy, but also the means of subsistence of the populations (cultivable land, livestock, etc.) and market supplies. This means that the country relies primarily on imported foods.



Source: WFP

As an annual average, the prices of the main basic cereals such as imported rice, maize and sorghum rose by +19%, +21% and +7% respectively between December (2021-2022). Compared to the five-year average, this price increase stands at (+46%) for imported rice and (+8%) for maize; while sorghum prices fell by -19%. Other foods such

as groundnuts, cassava and cowpeas, which are strongly present in the food consumption habits of the populations, also recorded price increases of +3%, +1% and +34% respectively. Compared to the average of the last five years, prices have increased by +37% for groundnuts, +11% cowpeas and +6% cassava. This increase in the price of basic foodstuffs is less significant than that of last year (December 2020-2021) during the same period.

Almost all of the country's markets are in crisis, with average annual variations in the price of imported rice ranging between +30 and +70%. In the Vakaga region, especially in the Birao market, the price of rice rose from 1000 to 2500 XOF/kg between January and November 2022, i.e. an increase of +150% before dropping by 40% between November and December 2022 (the price went from 2500 to 1500 XOF/kg). Compared to the first three quarters of the year, the price of rice in Birao is up by +75%. In addition, in December 2022, in almost all markets, the prices of imported rice were down compared to November.

Chad

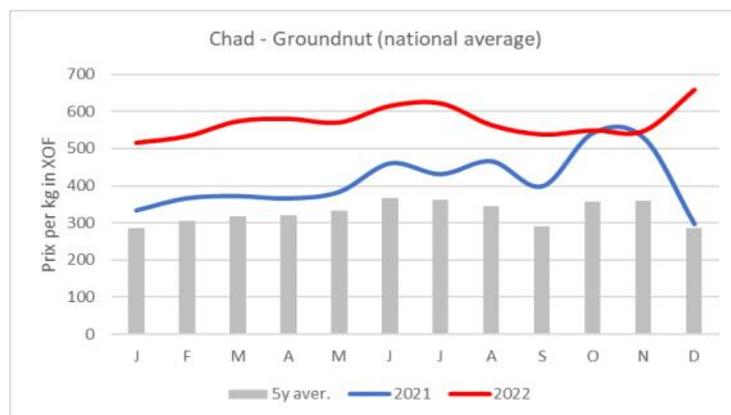
In Chad, the crisis in the Lac province, growing insecurity and recurrent inter-community clashes continue to threaten the livelihoods of populations, most of whom depend mainly on agriculture and livestock for their survival. This food inflationary trend, recurrent floods and security crisis continue to exacerbate food insecurity and poverty in the country.

The prices of basic foodstuffs recorded average annual increases of +58% for local rice, +26% for maize, +24% for millet, +19% and 21% respectively for red sorghum and Berber sorghum, between December 2021-2022. For imported cereals, wheat flour experienced the highest average annual increase of +42% and imported rice (+12%). Pulses, heavily consumed in the country, also recorded increases of +44% and +33% respectively for groundnuts and cowpeas during the same period.

Compared to the average of the last five years, the prices of various foodstuffs have increased on average by: +76% for groundnuts, +68% for cowpeas, +46% for millet, +45% for maize, +37% and +42% respectively for Berber sorghum and red sorghum, +36% for wheat flour and +11% and +18% for rice local and imported rice.

In most markets, prices were relatively stable or slightly lower than the last quarter of the year. This is explained by the availability of local products from recent harvests in the

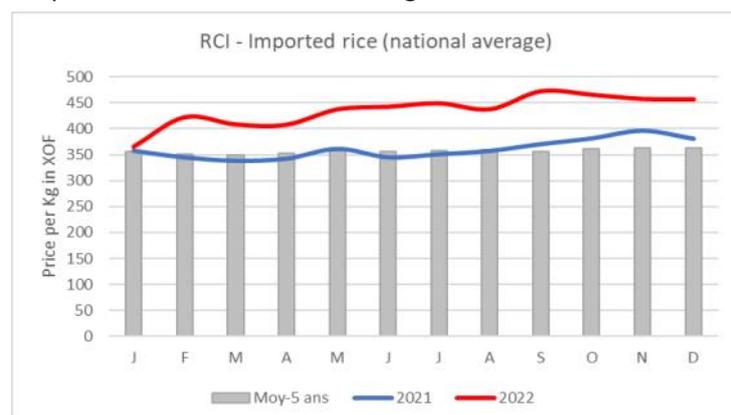
market. However, the situation is different in the Sila and Lac markets, which are almost all in crisis. In the Bol (Lac) market, in particular, prices are relatively high compared to other markets, with average annual variations around: +22% for imported rice, +34% for corn and +43% for millet. For wheat flour, prices rose from 400 to 700 XOF/kg between January and December 2022 in this same market, an increase of 75%.



Source: WFP

Côte d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire, like all other West African countries, has been hit hard by rising prices in 2022. Although the country has put in place temporary measures such as food price ceilings, the suspension of customs duties on wheat imports and subsidies on petroleum products, prices remain high. Domestic prices were supported by lower availability of imports due to high international prices and disruptions to shipments from the Black Sea region.



Source: WFP

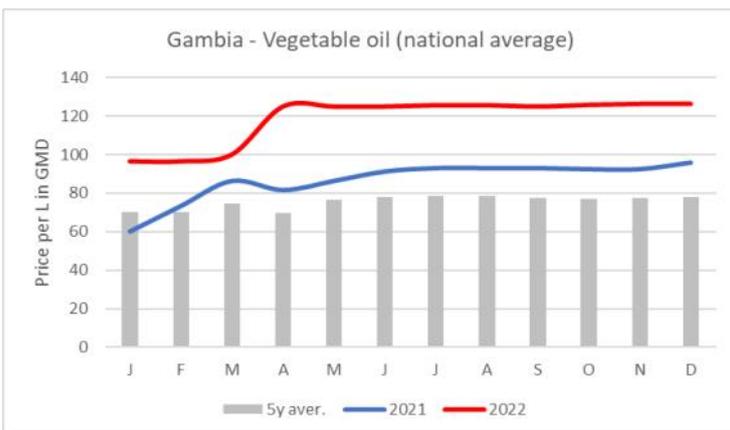
Among the main foods consumed by households, palm oil recorded, on annual average, the largest price increase, i.e. +25.5% compared to last year, followed by imported rice and cassava (+21%) and to a lesser extent, corn (+13.5%) and local rice (+11%). Compared to the average of the last five years, prices have risen by +57% for cassava, +30% for maize, +21% for imported rice, +19.5% for palm oil and 11% for local rice. The price of palm oil increased by +50% from

September to December due to low supply in domestic markets, possibly because traders took advantage of higher export prices. In an attempt to prevent further price increases, in December the Hévéa-Palmier Oil Council suspended palm oil exports to the sub-region¹.

Gambia

The Gambia is affected by disruptions to international supply chains. As the country tries to revive its economy after the massive impact of COVID-19. The Russian-Ukrainian conflict which contributed to lower grain and vegetable oil supplies; in addition to the increase in the price of hydrocarbons which increased the cost of fees. Gambia has seen high inflation rates, with food inflation reaching a record high of 17.37% in December 2022 against an headline inflation rate of 13.74% and similar value was recorded in August 2004. This situation is more pronounced than the COVID-19 period. The depreciation of the Dalasi (GMD) against the US Dollar continues to increase import bills and negatively impacts the trade balance and government revenues.

The most imported products such as vegetable oil and imported rice recorded an average increase of +38% and +16% respectively compared to last year and +57% and +29% compared to the last five years. The price of maize was relatively lower compared to rice with a variation of +13% compared to the 5-year average. However, the price of peanuts remained relatively high in 2022 compared to last year and that of the five-year average with a respective increase of +35% and +48%.



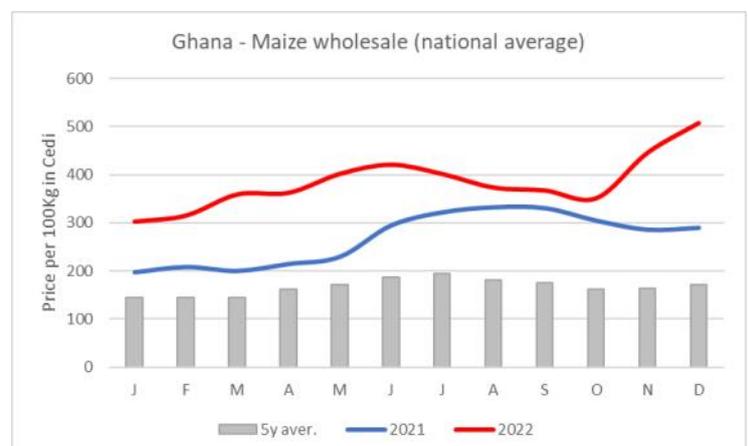
Source: WFP

Ghana

Ghana is experiencing an unprecedented inflationary situation with record inflation rates. In 2022, the food

inflation rate increased from 13.70% in January 2022 to 59.70% in December 2022. This same trend is observed for overall inflation which increased from 13.90% to 54.10% over the same period. It was the highest record since April 2001, with inflation above the 10% upper limit of the central bank's target range since September 2021. The slight depreciation of the cedi from mid-December having contributed to a new increase in the cost of imported goods (61.9% against 55.1% in November) this depreciation is more pronounced compared to last year and the average of the last 5 years. The main upward pressure came from transport prices (71.4% against 63.1%), including fuel; utilities (82.3% vs 79.1%) and food products (59.7% vs 47.9%). Ghana reached an agreement with the IMF in December 2022 for a three-year loan of \$3 billion USD, as the country faces a severe economic crisis. The program aims to stabilize the economy and ensure debt sustainability².

The wholesale price of cereals such as maize and rice experienced significant increases over the course of 2022. On a five-year average, there is an increase of +130% and +52% respectively. However, compared to last year, the increases were +47% and +32%. The yam wholesale price has increased by +46% compared to 2021 and +80% compared to the last five years average. However, the price of cassava has not seen a significant price increase. In the last quarter of 2022, its price was 33% lower than the five year average for the same period. All these disturbances are linked to the aforementioned factors combined with the influx of collectors from neighboring countries (Burkina Faso and Togo), and the character deplorable roads, because agricultural products are transported from the interior of the country.



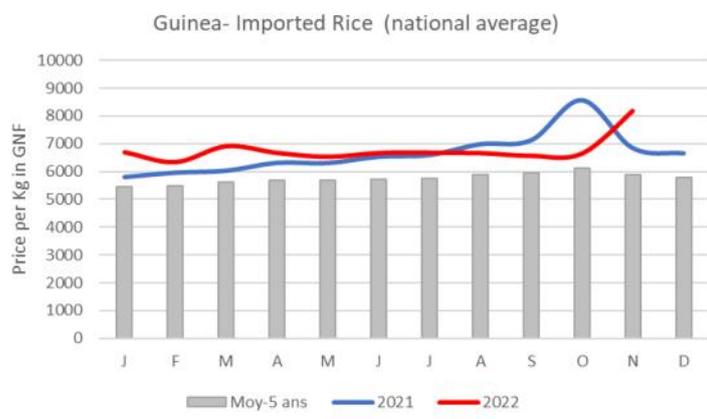
Source: WFP

¹ <https://www.rfi.fr/podcasts/chronique-des-mati%C3%A8res-premi%C3%A8res/20221228-c%C3%B4te-d-ivoire-les-autorit%C3%A9s-suspendent-l-exportation-d-huile-de-palme>

Guinea

In general, food prices in Guinea remained above average in 2022, but to varying degrees depending on the product. The high price levels can in part be attributed to social unrest and supply chain disruptions that have been recorded throughout the year. Maize, a common substitute for rice, saw its price rise the most; the national average price was +60% higher than its 5-year average and +43% higher than its level of the previous year. National average prices of other foodstuffs were also above their 5-year average levels: vegetable oil (+43%), cassava flour (+25%), imported rice (+18%) and local rice (+7%). While national average prices for vegetable oil and cassava flour were respectively +16% and +9% higher than their previous year levels, rice prices were more stable, with the average national price imported rice being only +3% higher than the previous year; the national average price of local rice even experienced a drop of 2%.

According to ALPS, in November, markets monitored in Nzérékoré were showing crisis-level prices for local rice, cowpea beans, fonio and palm oil, while some markets in Kankan, Faranah and Labé were on alert for the same products.



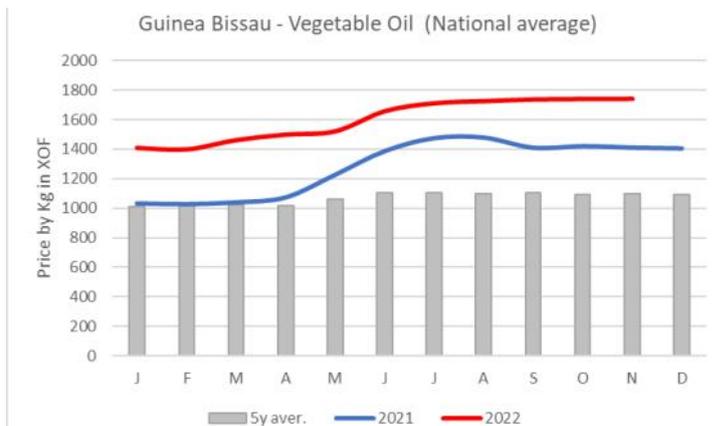
Source: WFP

Guinea Bissau

The inflation rate in Guinea-Bissau increased from 7.10% in October 2022 to 9.40% in November³. This rate is the highest for the year 2022. It had not reached this same level since April 2008. The cost of living continues with the high price levels of basic foodstuffs and essential products. The international crisis disrupted markets in the country. The price of hydrocarbons has increased, leading to an increase

in the cost of transport, energy and foodstuffs. Diesel is at 963 XOF, an increase of +39% compared to the same period last year and that of gasoline was at 1.127 XOF in November 2022, an increase of +47%.

There is an increase in the price of foodstuffs, especially for those imported. From January to November 2022, the prices of vegetable oil, sugar and imported rice increased respectively by +30%, +20% and +10% compared to last year and compared to the five-year average by +50%, +20% and +10%.



Source: WFP

Liberia

Liberia's annual average inflation rate had followed a downward trend in 2021, mainly due to the Central Bank's restrictive monetary policy and the slight appreciation of the Liberian dollar against the US dollar; in 2021, the average annual inflation rate fell to single digits of 7.9% for the first time in 5 years. However, with rising global fuel prices, Liberia's inflation rate increased and reached 9.5% in March 2022. Since then, it has hovered between 6 and 7%. The monthly CPI has been on an upward trend since May, reaching an all-time high of 646.24 points in August 2022.

Overall, Liberia's food inflation has been low in 2022, ranging from -7% to +3%; however, increases in the prices of certain foodstuffs have been observed. In May, retail prices for imported rice increased by +8% year-on-year, and in some southeastern markets (e.g. in River Gee County) prices increased by +35%.⁴ The average price of palm oil had also increased by +4% compared to May 2021 price levels, and the average price of cowpea had increased by 35%, largely due to higher transport costs⁵.

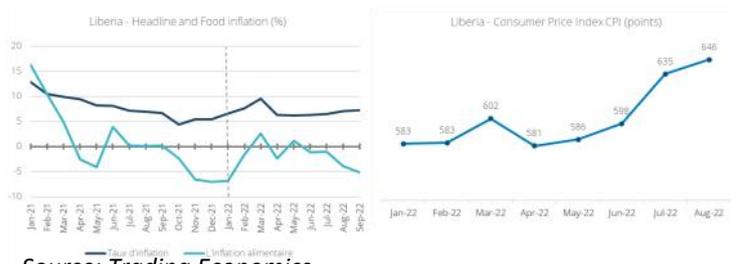
Although above-average rice and cassava production is forecast for 2022, given the country's heavy reliance on imports to meet its grain needs, domestic grain prices are

³ BECEAO

⁴ <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000140481/download/>

⁵ Ibid

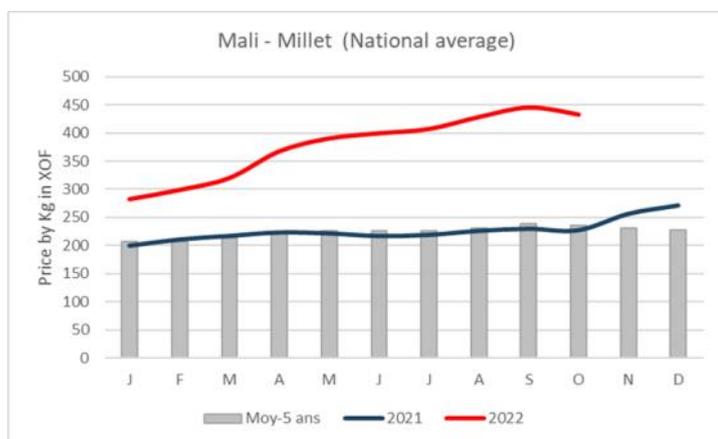
expected to continue to reflect international price trends. in 2023⁶. Overall, however, Liberia's inflation is expected to remain relatively low and stable at an average of 7.2% per year in 2022-2024, which should help households retain their purchasing power⁷.



Source: Trading Economics

Mali

In 2022, national average prices for millet, maize and sorghum have soared; millet and sorghum prices were around +70% higher than their levels of the previous year and the 5-year average, while for maize they were around +50% higher. The sharp increase in prices of locally produced cereals can be attributed to conflict-related market disruptions and below-average supplies. According to ALPS, in October 2022, almost all markets under monitoring by WFP were at a critical level for the prices of these 3 cereals. Some markets in these 5 regions (Mopti, Gao, Ségou, Koulikoro and Sikasso) have seen the prices of these 3 cereals more than double compared to their average levels over 5 years.



Source: WFP

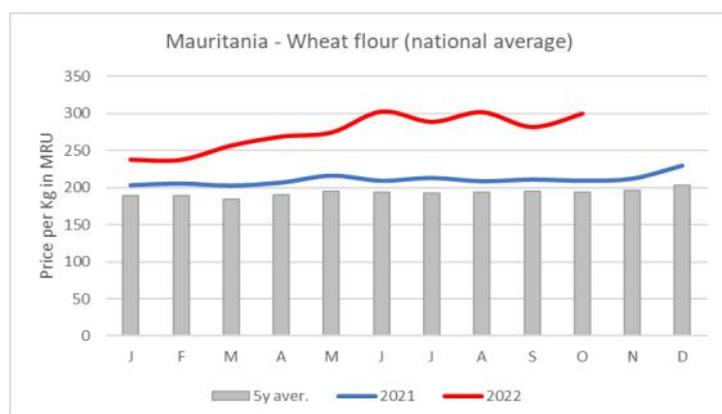
While the national average prices for imported and local rice in 2022 were also higher than their levels of the previous year and the 5-year average, their increase was less pronounced at +10-15%. In October, 60% of the

markets monitored were at a critical level for the price of rice, with some markets in 5 regions (Mopti, Koulikoro, Gao, Kayes and Bamako) recording prices above their average levels of 40% over 5 years.

Due to the escalation of conflicts and the limited availability of fertilizers at the start of the agricultural season, cereal production (i.e. maize, millet and rice) is expected to be average to below average in 2022⁹. This, combined with the low carryover stocks from the 2021/2022 marketing year, indicates the possibility that cereal availability and accessibility problems will persist in 2023¹⁰.

Mauritania

In 2022, at the national level, staple food prices remained elevated above 5-year average levels. Prices for vegetable oils, wheat and wheat flour were significantly higher than in 2021; the national average vegetable oil price was +33% higher than 2021 and +71% higher than the 5-year average, and the national average wheat and wheat flour prices were +32% higher than those of 2021 and +44% higher than those of the 5-year average. Mauritania is heavily dependent on imports of wheat and vegetable oil, with around half of its wheat imports coming from the Black Sea region; price increases in 2022 reflect country's vulnerability to Ukraine conflict-related supply shock¹¹. Between November 2021 and August 2022, Mauritania imported only about a third of its annual wheat needs, mainly due to supply chain disruptions in the Black Sea region; this has led to a significant reduction in the availability of wheat and wheat flour in domestic markets, causing prices to spike¹².



Source: WFP

6 <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=LBR&lang=en>

7 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/09/27/liberia-economic-update-prospects-for-inclusive-and-sustainable-growth>

8 <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=MLI&lang=en>

9 Ibid

10 <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000142585/download/>

11 <https://reliefweb.int/report/mauritania/giews-country-brief-mauritania-28-september-2022>

12 Ibid

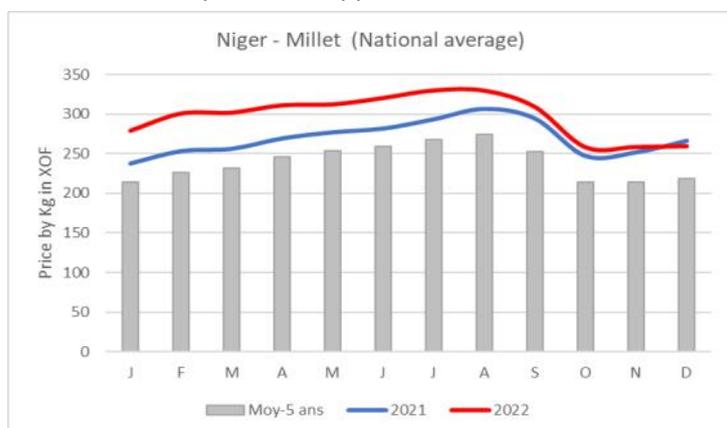
The national average price of local and imported rice was also above the 5-year average levels in 2022, by +23% and +8% respectively. However, compared to 2021, the national average price of imported rice was -3% lower, while that of local rice was +5% higher.

High international food and fuel prices, as well as limited supply flows to southern markets due to Mali's continued restrictions on coarse grain exports have kept prices from falling in Mauritania¹³. Despite close to average cereal production in 2022, prices in 2023 are expected to remain high given the country's dependence on imports.

Niger

In Niger, markets experienced disruptions in 2022. The first 9 months, an atypical variation in the price of basic foodstuffs was observed. For example, millet, sorghum and maize prices in the first half of 2022 were higher than those usually observed during the lean season. This situation was mainly due to the disruption of supply chains with the embargo on its neighboring country Mali and Burkina Faso and Mali's grain export bans and the poor performance of the 2021-2022 agricultural campaign. However, sourcing across Nigeria has helped to mitigate extreme price swings of local staple grains.

In the last quarter of 2022, with the incoming harvest, a relative drop in prices was observed. In December 2022, the price of millet, maize and sorghum showed an annual variation of -3%, +3% and -3%. Compared to the average price of the last 5 years, there was a respective increase of +18, +22 and +17%. Overall, the price of local cereals has increased by +10% compared to 2021 and by 20% compared to the five-year average. In the first quarter of 2023, cereal prices are likely to be on a downward trend with satisfactory market supplies.



Source: WFP

¹³ <https://fews.net/west-africa/mauritania/key-message-update/december-2022>

¹⁴ <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=NGA>

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000144730/download/>

Nigeria

Price levels in Nigeria have risen steadily throughout 2022, with headline inflation remaining consistently above 20% and food inflation above 23% since August. The HICP increased every month throughout the year; in December, at 499 points, it was 20 percentage points higher than in January. Nigeria's high price levels reflect market disruptions, mainly due to insecurity in the north, high international food and fuel prices, rising production costs and the sharp depreciation of its currency¹⁴. In addition, the decision of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to introduce new Naira notes in replacement of the old ones before mid-February 2023 (decision after suspended by the Supreme Court) has created liquidity tensions across the country.

Nigeria's cereal production (maize, rice and sorghum) is expected to be slightly below average in 2022 due in particular to poor access to inputs, insecurity and heavy flooding at the end of the season. In the northwestern and north-central states, growing insecurity has hampered agricultural activities; in the northeast, although the security situation has improved and crops have increased, production could be limited as remote sensing data show below average vegetation conditions. Furthermore, with high international prices and fewer income-generating opportunities, farmers' access to fuel and fertilizers has been reduced and yields are likely to be compromised. In Borno and Yobe states in October, consumer purchasing power remained compromised as cereal prices rose sharply year-on-year, particularly local rice (33%) and I groundnuts (32%) in Maiduguri, and in Damaturu by 71% and 100% respectively¹⁶.

Food availability and access issues are expected to persist in 2023, particularly in the North West, North Central and South East states of Nigeria.

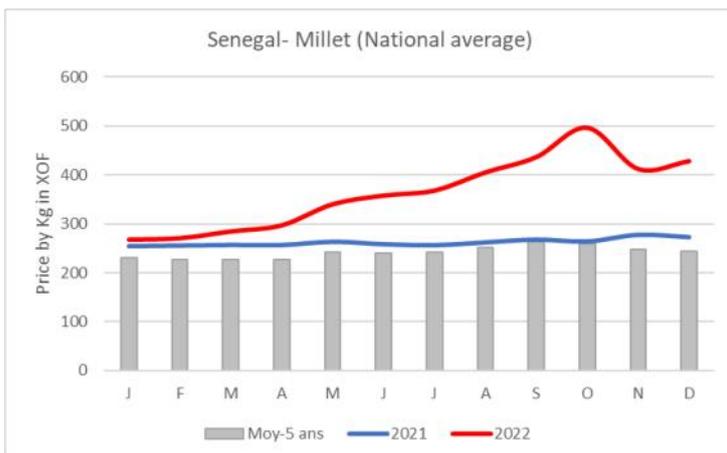


Source: Trading Economics

Senegal

The Senegalese economy was disrupted in 2022 and this disruption had effects on the price level of essential products. Headline and food inflation rates recorded a dizzying increase in one-year intervals from 5.4% in December 2021 to 18.8% in December 2022 with a peak of 21.4% in November 2022. The headline inflation rate in Senegal fell to 12.8% in December 2022, from a record since at least 2006 of 14.1% the previous month. This is the first slowdown in consumer prices since March, with costs rising at a slower pace for food and non-alcoholic beverages (18.8% vs. 21.4% in November) and transport (2.2% against 2.6%).

Cross-border trade flows have been greatly disrupted, in particular because of the ECOWAS sanction against Mali, being the main importer from Senegal and the country through which products from Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire transit through Mali. Official bans on cereal exports (millet, sorghum, maize) by Burkina Faso and Mali have led to a low level of supply in Senegalese markets with high price levels.



Source: WFP

The average monthly retail prices per kilogram of dry local cereals for the month of December 2022 are displayed as follows: 428 XOF (millet), 407 XOF (sorghum), 339 XOF (maize). Compared to their levels in December 2021, significant increases are noted for millet (+57%), sorghum (+49%) and (+34%) for corn. These prices are well above the five-year averages with the following increase rates: millet (+75%), sorghum (+61%), maize (+56%).

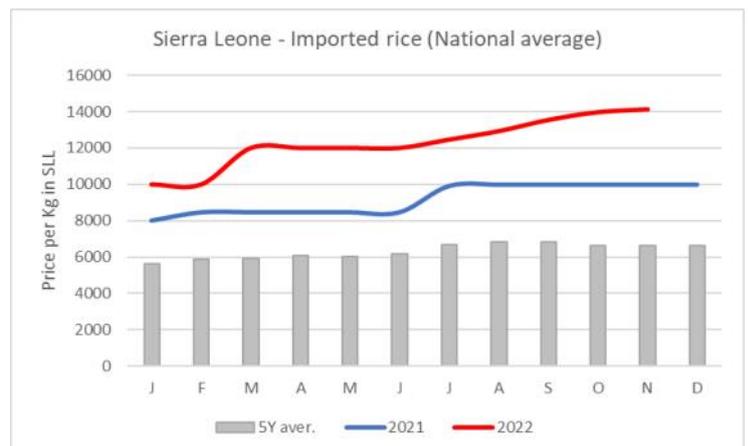
A low supply of cowpea and an increase in its price are noted in the markets. The average retail prices of cash crops are displayed as follows: 1013 XOF/kg (cowpeas), it shows an increase of +44% compared to December 2021.

Sierra Leone

The inflation rate in Sierra Leone averaged 27.57% from

1986 to 2022, peaking at 255.56% in April 1987 and reaching its lowest record of -21.76% in January 2000. In December 2022, the rate was 37.09% below the average of the last 36 years by nearly 10%. The Sierra Leonean economy is affected by the depreciation of the currency (-17.2%) against the US Dollar, the disruption of supply chains with the Russian-Ukrainian crisis and the increase in the cost of energy and transport with the global fuel price variation. Sierra Leone, being a country that imports many of these products from abroad, currently suffers from a significant deficit in its trade balance.

The cost of food in Sierra Leone increased by 46.70% in December 2022 compared to the same month of the previous year (Statistics Sierra Leone). In November 2022, all the markets monitored by the WFP were in crisis (ALPS), the products concerned were meat, oil and rice. In annual variation compared to November 2021, they recorded respective increases of +27%, 90% and +41%. Compare to the five-year average price, we observed an increase of +98%, +136% and +113%.



Source: WFP

Togo

In December 2022, the INHPC increased by 1.0% compared to its level in November 2022. This development is the combination of increases in the sub-indices, the most significant of which in terms of contribution are: "Food products and non-alcoholic beverages" (+2.6%); "Restaurants and Hotels" (+1.0%) and "Transport" (+0.5%). The rise in the overall index is however slowed down by the fall in the sub-indices "Housing, water, gas, electricity and other fuels" (-1.5%). The cost of food in Togo increased by 6.70% in December 2022 compared to the same month of the previous year.

Sources:

- [Workbook: SEN Price Monitor \(wfp.org\)](#)
- https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/economic_explorer/prices
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