

Abu Jebeiha market, 2021, Fredrik Svensson



# Minimum Expenditure Basket Sudan



**vam**  
food security analysis

**CWG**

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## Executive Summary

Sudan has lacked a harmonized basket of items that households need to cover through the market to ensure a minimum standard of living. A Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), defined as what a household requires in order to meet its essential needs and its associated cost, for Sudan has therefore been established. The development of the MEB for Sudan was an interagency collaboration, where non-food items in the list were contextualized through consultations with relevant stakeholders within the framework of the Cash Working Group (CWG), and then verified through assessments conducted by WFP.

Data on household expenditure of food and non-food items in the MEB was collected among residents, IDPs and refugees. The MEB value for marginally food secure residents was 4584 SDG per person per month. For marginally food secure IDPs and refugees, the MEB value was 3485 SDG per person per month. Approximately 72 percent of total expenditure is food and 27 percent non-food.

Due to rampant inflation in Sudan, the MEB value based on expenditure data has become obsolete. It is therefore proposed to continue using the working MEB value. This is based on that the marginally food secure people have an expenditure of 68 percent on food and 32 percent on non-food items. Using local food basket prices that WFP collects on monthly basis, the non-food component is deducted to determine working MEB value. This will allow the cost of the MEB to be amended based on inflation rate and price trends on a regular basis, and thereby reflect current economic circumstances.

*Table 1: MEB value based on August 2021 LFB prices*

Local Food Basket (per person per day)	221 SDG	68 percent of MEB
Non-Food Component (per person per day)	104 SDG	32 percent of MEB
MEB value (per person per month)	9763 SDG	= (LFB + NFI)*30

To operationalize the MEB for transfer value purposes, the gap analysis approach is recommended. This is based on identifying the gap between households' own resources (including income, remittances and self-production), other assistance received, and the MEB. This synchronized approach, conducted at the local level, will enable greater harmonization of cash and voucher programming in Sudan. The final MEB list for Sudan, which is a harmonized basket of items that households in Sudan need to cover through the market to ensure long-term survival and a minimum standard of living, is shown below. It was endorsed by the CWG and the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on 21 September 2021. The MEB will be reviewed again in 2022.



Table 2: Final MEB list for Sudan

Sudan Minimum Expenditure Basket		
Food items	Non-food items	
Sorghum	Medical expenses	Gas
Onion	Education (school fees, uniforms)	Electricity used for lighting (electricity, kerosene, other)
Vegetable oil	Clothes	Water for drinking/ hygiene
Milk	House maintenance (construction, repair)	Soap
Cow meat	Transportation	Tooth paste
Goat meat	Communication (mobile phone costs)	Toothbrush
Dry tomatoes	Cooking utensils	Laundry powder
Sugar	Wood	Liquid dish detergent
	Charcoal	Menstrual hygiene products (sanitary pads)

## Introduction

Humanitarian and development partners have recognized the need for greater harmonization of cash programming in Sudan. This involves determining a harmonized basket of items that households need to cover through the market to ensure a minimum standard of living. The establishment of a MEB is an important step towards greater harmonization, interagency coordination and to better inform cash-based programming, particularly multipurpose cash.

Sudan has up to this point used a working MEB value that is based on that the marginally food secure group have an expenditure of **approximately 68 percent on food and 32 percent on non-food items**. Using local food basket prices that WFP collects on a monthly basis, the non-food component is deducted to come up with the working MEB value. While the working MEB value has been useful, Sudan has lacked information on non-food items, including what these items are and how much households spend on them.

In order to address this, a tentative MEB list was constructed after discussions with the MEB sub working group within the cash working group (CWG), as well as OCHA and the sector coordinators. This “hybrid” MEB combined both sector-based needs and household expenditure. After an initial assessment in Q1 of 2020, which sought to verify the tentative MEB list and adjust if necessary, the list was further revised before being integrated into WFP’s FSMS and CFSA assessments, two large-scale food security assessments on the household level.

## MEB

The Minimum Expenditure Basket is defined as **what a household requires in order to meet its essential needs, on a regular or seasonal basis, and its associated cost**.<sup>1</sup> It includes both food- and non-food needs. Essential needs are broadly defined as the goods and services required by

<sup>1</sup> World Food Program, Minimum Expenditure Baskets Guidance Note, December 2020

households to ensure long-term survival and minimum living standards, without resorting to negative coping strategies or compromising their health, dignity or essential livelihood assets.<sup>2</sup> An MEB aims to capture the *minimum* essential needs of an average household and does not necessarily equate to *all* the essential needs of a household, such as individual needs, ad-hoc or one-off costs. What counts as essential will depend on the context and on what people themselves consider most important to ensure survival and wellbeing, but will generally be recurrent needs that households cover entirely or partly through the market.

The MEB is a **monetary threshold** – the cost of goods, utilities, services and resources – and is conceptually equivalent to a poverty line in the sense that it describes a monetary threshold for being able to cover essential needs. It describes the cost of meeting one month’s worth of essential needs. Since the MEB sets a monetary threshold for what is needed to cover essential needs, households whose expenditures fall below the MEB are defined as being unable to meet their essential needs.<sup>3</sup>

The MEB consists of a food and non-food component. There are two approaches to establishing which food and non-food items should be in the MEB: an expenditure-based approach that focuses on effective demand; and a rights-based approach based on assessed needs. The **expenditure-based approach** relies on household-level expenditure data to examine the consumption behaviour of households who are just able to meet their essential needs. The expenditure level and consumption patterns for this group of households reveal the minimum cost of covering essential food and non-food needs and therefore forms the basis of the expenditure-based MEB. In developing country contexts, consumption is generally considered a better metric of wellbeing than income, and in turn, consumption expenditures as captured in household data generally provide the most reliable measure for consumption.<sup>4</sup>

However, expenditures may not adequately capture all essential needs, especially if everyone in the analysed population is poor and unable to cover all of their essential needs to a desired level from a “rights” perspective. The **rights-based approach** is based on assessed needs rooted in the rights defined by international humanitarian law and the Humanitarian Sphere Standards.<sup>5</sup> It entails using sector-based needs information to construct the MEB and pricing them using current market prices.

A combination of these approaches, a **hybrid approach**, allows for some flexibility in how the MEB is designed. It recommends using expenditure data to understand consumption patterns of essential needs while keeping the rights-based lens, especially during the construction of the MEB. This ensures that the final total MEB for both food and non-food is realistic, adequate to cover needs based on international human rights, relevant, and in line with consumption

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<sup>2</sup> See the Cash Learning Partnership’s Glossary of terminology for cash and voucher assistance (CaLP glossary); and Save the Children UK, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> World Food Program, Minimum Expenditure Baskets Guidance Note, December 2020

<sup>4</sup> Haughton and Khandker, 2009.

<sup>5</sup> International humanitarian and human rights law protects the right of crisis-affected persons to food, drinking water, soap, clothing, shelter and lifesaving medical care. Humanitarian Sphere Standards builds on this definition and outlines minimum humanitarian standards in the areas of food security and nutrition, shelter and settlement, health and WASH (water supply, sanitation and hygiene).

behaviour. The hybrid approach is recommended by the WFP MEB methodology guidelines and was thus applied in the construction of the MEB for Sudan.

## Background of MEB Sudan

The MEB list developed in 2019 was an **interagency collaboration**. The food component is based on the local food basket developed by WFP.<sup>6</sup> The items in the local food basket have been identified by focus group interviews with IDP, refugee, resident population communities based on food preference, nutrition intake and cost minimization in consultation with WFP nutrition unit (see figure 1). The non-food component was determined after discussions in the MEB-sub working group, with inputs from the CWG and sector coordinators, which produced a list of items by sector. Items in the list were contextualized and verified, first through consultations with relevant stakeholders and sector coordinators within the framework of the CWG, and then through focus group discussions in WFP's FSMS assessment.

Figure 1: Local Food Basket (LFB) for Sudan

Elements of the minimum healthy food basket		Sorghum	Onion	US Vegetable oil	Milk	Cow meat	Goat meat	Dry tomatoes	Sugar	Total minimum food basket
Commodity properties	Kcal/100g	335	40	885	68	240	360	258	400	
	g protein/100g	11	1.1	0	3	14.3	20.6	14.1	0	
	g fat/100g	3	0.1	100	4	18	32	3	0	
	g/capita/day	450	50	25	25	5	5	25	40	625
Food basket properties	Kcal/capita/day	1507.5	20	221.3	17	12	18	64.5	160	2020
	% kcal	75%	1%	11%	1%	1%	1%	3%	8%	1
	g protein/capita/day	49.5	0.6	0	0.8	0.7	1	3.5	0	56.1
	g fat/capita/day	13.5	0.1	25	1	0.9	1.6	0.8	0	42.8

In the **initial assessment**, conducted in Q1 of 2020 through focus group discussions, the MEB value was found to be 2,089 SDG per person per month. The non-food component made up 30.4 percent of the MEB (634.9 SDG) while the food component made up 69.6 percent (1455 SDG, based on February 2020 price of the local food basket). This was in line with the working MEB and studies that suggest that the marginally food secure households have an expenditure of approximately 32 percent on non-food items and 68 percent on food.

Challenges and limitations included difficulties attaining accurate information on quantity and expenditure and the limited sample size. Revisions of the MEB list based on lessons-learned from the previous round were made. This included combining certain items into one and removing certain items on the list due to low response rates.<sup>7</sup> Following further consultations within the CWG, the **MEB questionnaire was integrated** into the expenditure section of the FSMS and CFSA assessment tools. Items already surveyed in the existing tools were adapted, while new ones were added. Enumerators received training about the MEB prior to the exercise. Data collection

<sup>6</sup> WFP's local food basket consist of sorghum, onion, vegetable oil, milk, cow meat, dry tomatoes and sugar.

<sup>7</sup> Laundry and liquid dish detergent were combined into one group, as was energy used for lighting (which combines electricity, kerosene and other). Items that were deleted due to low response rate were school meals, renting cost for shelter, toilet paper, and transportation costs using their own vehicle. Dignity kits were also removed, as they are provided as a form of assistance to women and girls (particularly in regards to SGBV programming) rather than something that is purchased.

for these assessments were conducted from November 2020 to February 2021, with the key MEB findings presented below.

## Results from assessments (Q1 2021)

### Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS)

Under the FSMS assessment, data was collected from approximately 13,000 IDP and refugee households across 135 locations in 13 states.<sup>8</sup> The findings were representative of IDP and refugee households at the cluster of camps level (around 3 camps per cluster). The survey design followed a two-stage stratified cluster sample methodology (purposive sampling followed by random sampling), in which the samples were stratified by states and clusters. A cluster contains camps that are similar to each other in terms of livelihoods, assets, coping strategies, and market situation, so that results are representative of the camps in that cluster. Sampling involved the use of sentinel sites, which are revisited from round to round, with households randomly selected. The questionnaire included information at the household level on demographics, assets, livelihoods, expenditures, coping strategies, and food source and consumption. For the MEB, expenditure data for the marginally food secure group was used.

The below table contains the average amount spent on each food item per household per month for households that were found to be marginally food secure.

*Table 1: Expenditure on food items based on FSMS*

Food item	Amount spent per HH per month (SDG)
Cereal	5279 SDG
Vegetable oil	2093 SDG
Meat	1948 SDG
Pulses	1064 SDG
Sugar	2265 SDG
Milk	676 SDG
Dry vegetables	1825 SDG
<b>Total per HH (SDG)</b>	<b>15151 SDG</b>

The below table contains the average amount spent on each non-food item per household per month for households that were found to be marginally food secure, average quantity purchased of that item (if relevant), and the response frequency of each item.

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<sup>8</sup> Blue Nile, Central Darfur, East Darfur, Gedaref, Kassala, North Darfur, North Kordofan, Red Sea state, South Darfur, South Kordofan, West Darfur, West Kordofan, White Nile.

Table 3: Expenditure on non-food items based on FSMS

Non-food item	Amount spent per HH per month (SDG)	Quantity per HH per month	Response frequency (%)
Medical expenses	671 SDG	NA	60%
Education (school fees, uniforms)	53 SDG	NA	10%
Clothes	647 SDG	NA	35%
House maintenance (construction, repair)	51 SDG	NA	8%
Transportation	195 SDG	NA	36%
Communication (mobile phone costs)	63 SDG	NA	43%
Cooking utensils	44 SDG	2 utensils	23%
Wood	480 SDG	3 bundles	31%
Charcoal	1003 SDG	15 small bags	54%
Gas	2 SDG	0 steel cylinders	0%
Electricity used for lighting (electricity, kerosene, other)	143 SDG	NA	28%
Water for drinking/hygiene	777 SDG	14 jerrycans	51%
Soap	1124 SDG	2 bars of soap	93%
Tooth paste	185 SDG	1 tooth paste tubes (100 ml)	70%
Toothbrush	91 SDG	1 tooth brush	45%
Laundry powder	132 SDG	2 boxes of laundry powder (250 ml)	42%
Liquid dish detergent	67 SDG	0.5 bottles	25%
Birth Certificate	1 SDG	1 birth certificate	4%
Menstrual hygiene products (sanitary pads)	33 SDG	2 sanitary packages	8%
<b>Total per HH (SDG)</b>	<b>5762 SDG</b>		

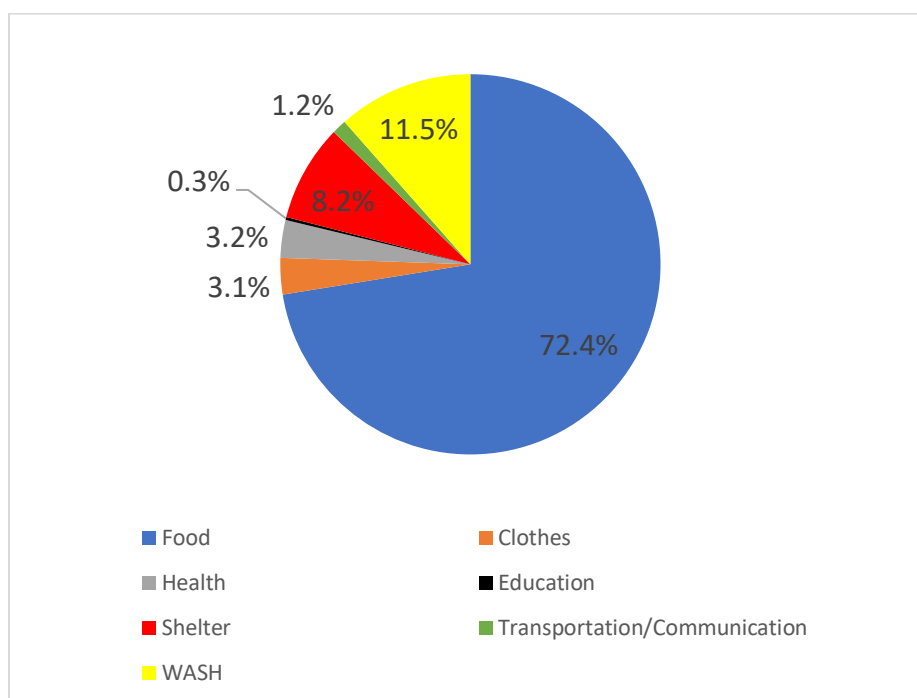


The average total expenditure spent by households who were marginally food secure on food items amounted to 15,151 SDG, while the average total expenditure on non-food items amounted to 5762 SDG, totalling 20,913 SDG. Divided by 6, which is the average number of people per household, the **MEB value amounted to 3485 SDG per person per month**, of which the food component part made up 72 percent (2525 SDG) and the non-food component part made up 28 percent (960 SDG).

Table 4: The Minimum Expenditure Basket based on FSMS

MEB component	Total expenditure per HH per month (SDG)	Total expenditure per person month (SDG)	Percentage of total expenditure
Food items	15151 SDG	2525 SDG	72.4%
Non-food items	5762 SDG	960 SDG	27.6%
<b>Total (SDG)</b>	<b>20913 SDG</b>	<b>3485 SDG</b>	<b>100%</b>
Value in USD (1 USD = 309 SDG) <sup>9</sup>	67.7 USD	11.3 USD	

Figure 2: Expenditure by sector according to FSMS



<sup>9</sup> Average exchange rate December 2020-February 2021 when assessment was conducted= 309 SDG/ USD. (Dec 2020= 263 SDG/ USD; Jan 2021= 288 SDG/ USD; Feb= 376 SDG/ USD).

The price of the local food basket (LFB) was also collected during the assessment.<sup>10</sup> The national average price of the LFB was 131.5 SDG. As a person who is marginally food secure spends 2525 SDG on food and the price of the LFB per person per month is 3945 SDG, a person's food expenditure amounts to 64 percent of the price of the LFB. This is reflected in other findings from the FSMS, namely that 94.9 percent of marginally food secure IDPs and refugees spend more than 65 percent of their income on food, and the fact that 72.2 percent of marginally food secure IDPs and refugees cannot afford one LFB. These results are higher compared to the previous assessment.

*Table 5: Price of local food basket based on FSMS*

	(SDG)
National average cost of LFB (according to FSMS)	131.5 SDG
LFB per person per month	3945 SDG
LFB per HH per month	23670 SDG
Food expenditure per person per month	2525 SDG
<b>Percentage of food expenditure compared to price of LFB</b>	<b>64%</b>

### Comprehensive Food Security Assessment (CFSA)

Under the CFSA assessment, data was collected from 36,000 resident households in 181 localities distributed across all 18 states. The survey design followed a two-stage stratified sample methodology, in which samples were stratified by states and localities. All localities were sampled. Within each locality, 13 locations were randomly selected as the primary sampling units and 16 households were randomly sampled within each location. The findings were aimed to be representative of households at the locality level. Similar to the FSMS, the questionnaire included information at the household level on demographics, assets, livelihoods, expenditures, coping strategies and food source and consumption. For the MEB, expenditure data for the marginally food secure group was used.

The below table contains average amount spent on each food item per household per month for households that were found to be marginally food secure.

*Table 6: Expenditure on food items based on CFSA*

Food item	Amount spent per HH per month (SDG)
Cereal	5872 SDG
Vegetable oil	2797 SDG
Meat	2966 SDG
Pulses	1184 SDG

<sup>10</sup> This is in addition to the collection of prices in the monthly market monitor.

Sugar	2979 SDG
Milk	2255 SDG
Dry vegetables	1911 SDG
<b>Total per HH (SDG)</b>	<b>19965 SDG</b>

The below table contains average amount spent on each non-food item per household per month for households that were found to be marginally food secure, average quantity of that item (if relevant), and the response frequency of each item.

*Table 7: Expenditure on non-food items based on CFSA*

Non-food item	Amount spent per HH per month (SDG)	Quantity per HH per month	Response frequency (%)
Medical expenses	1054 SDG	NA	67%
Education (school fees, uniforms)	132 SDG	NA	13%
Clothes	596 SDG	NA	39%
House maintenance (construction, repair)	140 SDG	NA	8%
Transportation	560 SDG	NA	51%
Communication (mobile phone costs)	114 SDG	NA	60%
Cooking utensils	75 SDG	4 utensils	30%
Wood	307 SDG	2 bundles	19%
Charcoal	1159 SDG	21 small bags	55%
Gas	191 SDG	1 steel cylinder	16%
Electricity used for lighting (electricity, kerosene, other)	230 SDG	NA	50%
Water for drinking/hygiene	883 SDG	20 jerrycans	60%
Soap	1277 SDG	2.5 bars of soap	98%
Tooth paste	240 SDG	1 tooth paste tubes (100 ml)	81%
Toothbrush	122 SDG	2 tooth brushes	54%
Laundry powder	269 SDG	3 boxes of laundry	53%

		powder (250 ml)	
Liquid dish detergent	132 SDG	1 bottle	41%
Birth Certificate	2 SDG	1 birth certificate	5%
Menstrual hygiene products (sanitary pads)	57 SDG	3 sanitary packages	19%
<b>Total per HH (SDG)</b>	<b>7541 (SDG)</b>		

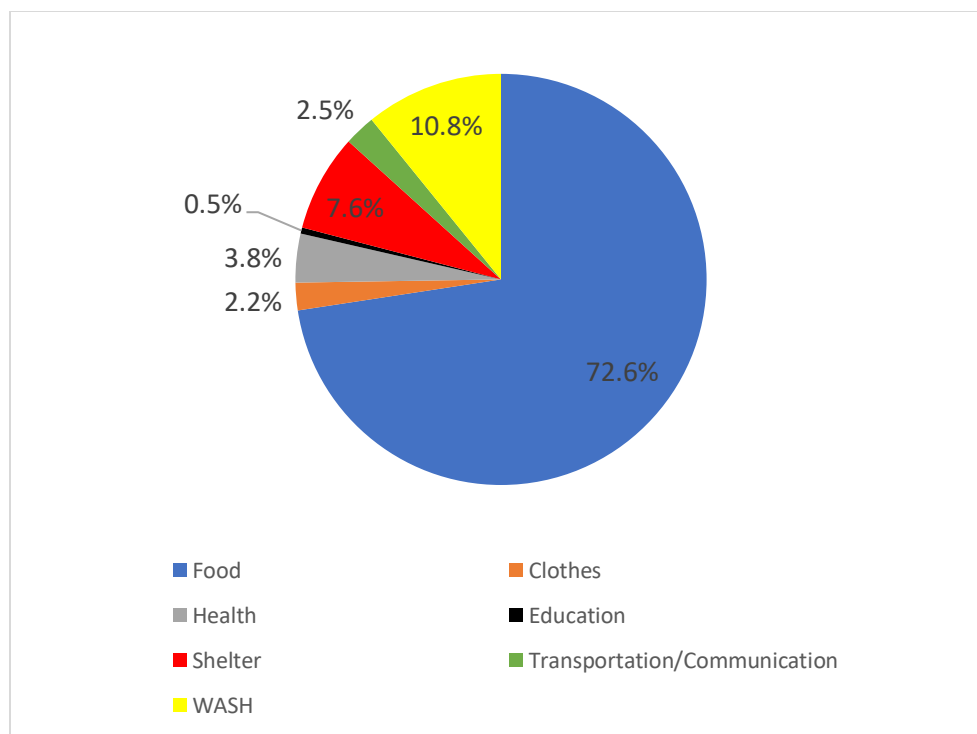
The average total expenditure spent by households who are marginally food secure on food items amounted to 19,965 SDG, while the average total expenditure on non-food items amounted to 7541 SDG, totalling 27,506 SDG. Divided by 6, which is the average number of people per household, the **MEB value amounted to 4584 SDG per person per month**, of which the food component part made up 72.6 percent and the non-food component part made up 27.4 percent.

*Table 8: The Minimum Expenditure Basket based on CFSA*

MEB component	Total expenditure per HH per month (SDG)	Total expenditure per person month (SDG)	Percentage of total expenditure (%)
Food items	19965 SDG	3327 SDG	72.6%
Non-food items	7541 SDG	1257 SDG	27.4%
<b>Total (SDG)</b>	<b>27506 SDG</b>	<b>4584 SDG</b>	<b>100%</b>
Value in USD (1 USD = 309 SDG) <sup>11</sup>	89.0 USD	14.8 USD	

<sup>11</sup> Average exchange rate December 2020-February 2021 when assessment was conducted= 309 SDG/ USD. (Dec 2020= 263 SDG/ USD; Jan 2021= 288 SDG/ USD; Feb= 376 SDG/ USD).

Figure 3: Expenditure by sector



The price of the LFB was also collected during the CFSA assessment.<sup>12</sup> The national average price of the LFB was 138.7 SDG. The reason this figure is higher compared to the FSMS figure is that this data was collected in five additional states. As a person spends 3327 SDG on food and the price of the LFB per person per month is 4161 SDG, a person's food expenditure amounts to 80 percent of the LFB. This is reflected in other findings from the CFSA, such as that 91 percent of residents spend more than 65 percent of their income on food and 53 percent cannot afford one LFB.

Table 9: Price of local food basket based on CFSA

	(SDG)
National average cost of LFB (according to CFSA)	138.7 SDG
LFB per person per month	4161 SDG
LFB per HH per month	24966 SDG
Food expenditure per person per month	3327 SDG
<b>Percentage of food expenditure compared to price of LFB</b>	<b>80%</b>

## Key insights and way forward

The data shows that marginally food secure households in Sudan (refugees, IDPs and residents) spend around 72.5 percent on food and 27.5 percent on non-food items. This is generally **in line**

<sup>12</sup> This is in addition to the collection of prices in the monthly market monitor.



**with World Bank studies that suggest that the marginally food secure households have an expenditure of approximately 68 percent on food and 32 percent on non-food items.** The slightly higher food expenditure share is likely due to the discrepancy between the high food prices at the time of the assessment and wages which had not adapted to the economic circumstances. Marginally food secure residents have a higher expenditure, and thus greater MEB value (4584 SDG per person per month), compared to marginally food secure IDPs and refugees (3485 SDG per person per month). This is because residents generally have better livelihood opportunities compared to IDPs and refugees.

**Consumption** of MEB items is generally similar, apart from that residents consume gas to a greater extent compared to IDPs and refugees who generally do not use gas. Resident's expenditure on transportation is 65 percent higher than IDPs/ refugees; house maintenance is 63 percent higher; and education is 60 percent higher. IDPs and refugees' expenditure on wood is 56 percent higher than residents. Due to low response rates among all communities, birth certificates have been removed from the final MEB list.

There is thus evidence that the working MEB value, which is calculated based on local food basket prices, is in line with reality in the field and does not differ substantially from household expenditure data. As the sample size was extensive in both assessments and covered large parts of the country, the results provide a realistic picture of the costs of essential needs for marginally food secure IDPs/ refugees and residents which is rooted in actual consumption behaviour.

However, the gap between food expenditure and the price of the LFB is substantial. The food expenditure of refugees and IDPs amounted to 64 percent of the price of the local food basket, while the figure was 80 percent for residents. As suggested by other indicators (purchasing power and food expenditure share), **expenditure data is limited** in that it does not necessarily mean that households are able to fulfil their essential needs even though they are considered marginally food secure. Due to rampant inflation (recorded at 387 percent in August 2021) and frequent changes in prices (the local food basket is 80 percent higher in August 2021 compared to January 2021), the MEB value based on expenditure data (collected between November 2020 and February 2021) has become largely obsolete. While price data could be used instead of expenditure data, which would require a systematic collection of prices of non-food items at markets across the country (similar to WFP's monthly market monitor of food items), there is currently limited capacity among partners to carry this out.

It is therefore proposed to **continue using the working MEB value** for operational purposes, including harmonization of the transfer value. This is based on that the marginally food secure people have an expenditure of 68 percent on food and 32 percent on non-food items. Using local food basket prices that WFP collects on a monthly basis, the non-food component is deducted to determine the working MEB value. This will allow the cost of the MEB to be amended based on inflation rate and price trends on a regular/ quarterly basis, and thereby reflect current economic circumstances. The current MEB value based on August 2021 LFB prices is 9763 SDG per person per month.

Table 10: Working MEB value based on LFB prices (August 2021)<sup>13</sup>

Local Food Basket (per person per day)	221 SDG	68 percent of MEB
Non-Food Component (per person per day)	104 SDG	32 percent of MEB
MEB value (per person per month)	9763 SDG	= (LFB + NFI)*30

Below is the final MEB list for Sudan, which is a harmonized basket of items that households in Sudan need to cover through the market to ensure long-term survival and a minimum standard of living.

Sudan Minimum Expenditure Basket		
Food items	Non-food items	
Sorghum	Medical expenses	Gas
Onion	Education (school fees, uniforms)	Electricity used for lighting (electricity, kerosene, other)
Vegetable oil	Clothes	Water for drinking/ hygiene
Milk	House maintenance (construction, repair)	Soap
Cow meat	Transportation	Tooth paste
Goat meat	Communication (mobile phone costs)	Toothbrush
Dry tomatoes	Cooking utensils	Laundry powder
Sugar	Wood	Liquid dish detergent
	Charcoal	Menstrual hygiene products (sanitary pads)

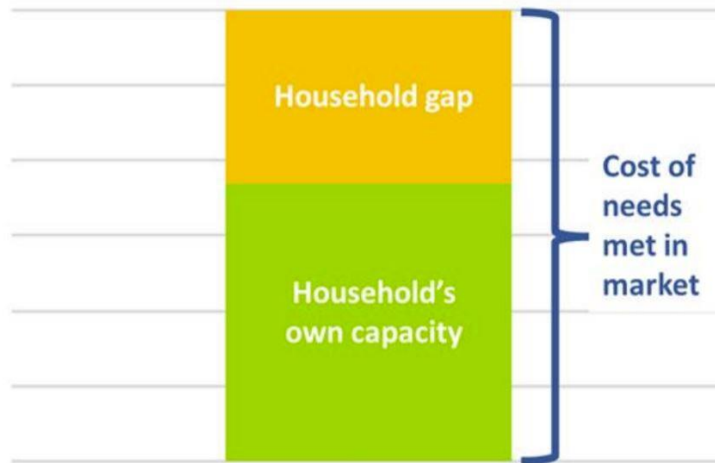
## Operationalisation of MEB and transfer value calculation

An MEB has a range of applications, including supporting decisions on transfer value amounts. However, **a MEB is not equivalent to a transfer value**.<sup>14</sup> A transfer value is the monetary value transferred from e.g. organizations to beneficiaries in order to empower the latter to meet their needs through local markets. The value of the MEB is not the same as the value that should be transferred to households. Most households rely on their own resources to meet at least some of their needs. The transfer value will therefore be less than the value of the MEB, covering the gap between households' own resources, other assistance received and the MEB. The MEB is thus a critical component when determining transfer values. The distinction between the MEB and the transfer value is also crucial because the MEB remains the same regardless of assistance and funding constraints, while other factors could impact the transfer value.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> WFP Market Monitor – Sudan, August 2021

<sup>14</sup> World Food Program, Minimum Expenditure Baskets Guidance Note, December 2020

<sup>15</sup> World Food Program, Minimum Expenditure Baskets Guidance Note, December 2020



*After the determining the cost of needs that households meet in the market, the gap is the difference between the cost of needs and what households can cover themselves using their own resources.*

The MEB sub-working group have agreed on a harmonised approach to calculate the transfer value based on the **gap analysis approach**. This depends on the areas of intervention and should consider the following:

- **Monetary resources:** the total monetary value at the households' disposal collectable/receivable on monthly basis, such as income, remittances, and government support.
- **In-kind resources:** the total goods and services at the households' disposal, such as self-production and humanitarian assistance.

The formula for calculating the transfer value:

$$[\text{MEB} - \text{Humanitarian Assistance} - \text{Income/Remittances} - \text{Self-production} = \text{Transfer Value}]$$

The MEB is a threshold determined by the CWG at the national level will be updated on a regular basis based on current price trends. The other factors in the formula vary by location. Geographic variations of the transfer value are:

- **Humanitarian assistance:** calculated based on available information at locality level which can be acquired through OCHA, camp management, government offices, and informal coordination bodies. For in-kind assistance, the calculation method proposed for self-production should be used.
- **Income and remittances:** calculated based on available secondary data (such as daily labour wage) or using the average monthly total expenditures by households in the targeted locations.
- **Self-production:** calculated using livelihood mapping or other available secondary data, which can be converted into a monetary value or food items produced by households can

be taken out of the MEB composition (local food basket) in coordination with other CVA actors.

This harmonized approach to transfer value calculation in geographic locations will help avoid tensions between community members or communities and provide evidence-based justifications for partners when submitting proposals to ensure organisational alignment.

## Annex 1: Extract of MEB

SECTION 4 – EXPENDITURES				قسم 4-المصروفات	
<p>In the past <b>30 days</b> how much money have you spent to acquire each of the following <b>FOOD</b> for your family consumption?            What is the total value of food that you acquired for your household consumption in the past 30 days?</p> <p>كم من النقود صرفت على الأطعمة التالية لاستهلاك الأسرة خلال الـ 30 يوم الماضي؟</p>					
write 0 if no expenditure		بالجنيه كم صرف الشهر الماضي عن طريق الشراء In SDG spent last 30 days (round up decimal number) <b>Own purchase</b>	بالجنيه كم صرف الشهر الماضي من غير طريق الشراء In SDG spent last 30 days (round up decimal number) <b>Non-purchased (estimate the value)</b> قم بتقدير القيمة	إذا لم تصرف : اكتب 0 اكتب الأرقام لأقرب رقم صحيح	
1	Cereals (sorghum, millet, maize, wheat)	_____	_____	1	الحبوب الغذائية ( ذرة / دخن / ذرة شامية / قمح )
2	Cooking oil	_____	_____	2	زيت طعام
3	Meat/eggs/fish	_____	_____	3	لحم / بيض / سمك
4	Groundnuts/beans/pulses	_____	_____	4	فول سوداني / لوبيا / بقوليات
5	Sugar	_____	_____	5	سكر
6	Milk/yoghurt/cheese	_____	_____	6	لبن / زبادي / جبنة
7	Dry okra, dry tomatoes, dry onions	_____	_____	7	ويكة / صلصة ناشفة / بصل ناشف
8	Cooked/processed food eaten at home or outside by the family <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b>	_____	_____	8	الأغذية الجاهزة المستهلكة داخل أو خارج المنزل
9	Drinking water <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b>	_____	_____	9	مياه الشرب
10	Other food items (fresh vegetables, fruits, coffee, tea, pasta etc.) <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b>	_____	_____	10	المواد الغذائية الأخرى (خضروات فواكه قهوه شاي الخ...)
<p>In the past <b>three months</b>, how much money have you spent to acquire each of the following items or services? Write 0 if no expenditure</p> <p>في خلال الثلاثة شهور الماضية كم من النقود صرفتها للحصول على السلع والخدمات التالية. سجل صفر إذا لم يكن هنالك بنود صرف</p>					
بالجنيه pounds					
11	Agricultural tools, seeds <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b>	_____	_____	11	معدات زراعية و تقاوي
12	Hiring labour <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b>	_____	_____	12	إستئجار عمالة
13	Medical expenses, health care	_____	_____	13	مصاريف رعاية صحية
14	Education (school fees/uniforms)	_____	_____	14	مصاريف التعليم (رسوم مدرسية و الزي)
15	Clothing, shoes	_____	_____	15	ملابس و أحذية
16	Veterinary expenses <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b>	_____	_____	16	تكاليف رعاية بيطرية
17	Animal feed/fodder <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b>	_____	_____	17	علف للحيوان

18	Firewood/fuel for cooking <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b> (see below)	_____	18	حطب الوقود / وقود الطبخ
19	Celebrations, social events, funerals, weddings <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b>	_____	19	الإحتفالات, المناسبات الإجتماعية, العزاء, و حفلات الزواج
20	Fines/Taxes <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b>	_____	20	غرامات أو الضرائب
21	Debt payments <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b>	_____	21	سداد ديون
22	Construction, house repair	_____	22	إنشاء أو صيانة المنزل
23	Milling <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b>	_____	23	الطحن
24	Transportation	_____	24	لمواصلات
25	Communication (mobile phone costs)	_____	25	الاتصالات
26	House rent <b>NOT INCLUDED IN MEB</b>	_____	26	إيجار منزل

In the **past year**, how much money have you spent to acquire each of the following items or services? Write 0 if no expenditure on the item or service in the past year.

How much (quantity) of each item or service have you purchased in the last year?

ASK LINE BY LINE FOR EACH ITEM BOTH QUESTIONS

-في خلال العام الماضي كم من النقود صرفتها على كل من العناصر و الخدمات التالية ؟ أكتب (0) إن لم يكن هناك نفقات.  
-كم (الكمية) من كل عنصر أو خدمة إشتريتها في العام الماضي ؟  
إسأل سطر بسطر لكل من السؤاليين

	Item بند	SDG spent in the past year المبلغ المنفق في العام الماضي	Quantity (number of) الكمية	
27	Cooking utensils (ex. jerrycans, buckets) أواني الطهي (مثل أواني الماء و الدلاء)	_____	_____ utensil item(s) عدد الأواني	
28	Birth certificate ميلاد شهادة	_____	_____ birth certificate(s) شهادة ميلاد	

In the **past month**, how much money have you spent to acquire each of the following items or services? Write 0 if no expenditure on the item or service in the past year.

How much (quantity) of each item or service have you purchased in the last month?

ASK LINE BY LINE FOR EACH ITEM BOTH QUESTIONS

-في الشهر الماضي ما مقدار النقود التي أنفقتها للحصول علي العناصر أو الخدمات التالية ؟ أكتب (0) إذا لم يكن هنالك نفقات  
-كم (الكمية) التي إشتريتها من كل عنصر أو خدمة ؟

	Item بند	SDG spent in the past month المبلغ المنفق في الشهر الماضي (بالجنيه السوداني)	Quantity (number of) الكمية	
29	Wood خشب	_____	_____ bundle(s) حزمة	
30	Charcoal فحم	_____	_____ bag(s) كيس	
31	Gas غاز	_____	_____ steel cylinder(s) أسطوانة غاز	
32	Electricity used for lighting (electricity, kerosene, other) الكهرباء المستخدمة للإضاءة (كهرباء, كيروسين , أخرى)	_____		
33	Water for drinking/ hygiene مياه الشرب\النظافة	_____	_____ jerrycan(s) جركان	
34	Soap صابون	_____	_____ bar(s) of soap (75g) لوح صابون	
35	Tooth paste معجون أسنان	_____	_____ toothpaste tube(s) (100ml) معجون أسنان	
36	Toothbrush فرشاة أسنان	_____	_____ toothbrush فرشاة أسنان	
37	Laundry powder مسحوق غسيل	_____	_____ box of laundry powder (250 ml) صندوق	
38	Liquid dish detergent منظف سائل للأواني	_____	_____ bottle(s) زجاجة	
39	Menstrual hygiene products (sanitary pads) فوط صحية	_____	_____ sanitary pack(s) عبوة	