Introduction
This report provides an update on food basket commodities availability and prices. It covers the period from the 29th to 3rd June 2020 and is based on interviews with 270 traders across 21 districts (11 rural and 10 urban). Annexes 1 to 3 explain the trends arrows in the highlights.

Remote monitoring: 83%  Face to face: 17%

Due to COVID-19 restrictions most of the data collection is virtual. In the current week remote monitoring improved from 67% reported last week to 83% of the total interview. Due to increasing number of COVID 19 cases, partners are starting to revert back to remote monitoring as a precautionary measure.

Economic Update
The week was marked with commodity price increases averaging around 23%. The main driver for the price increases remains the distortion between the official and the parallel market exchange rates. As the official auction system has an entry barrier of a minimum bid of $50,000.00, most of the players in the financial sector (mostly small enterprises such as bureau de change) are unable to bid on the official market for foreign currency. The parallel market has therefore continued to supply such traders, who service a significant proportion of Zimbabwe’s urban and rural population for household needs, including food items. The continued commodity price increases suggests that traders and service providers are trying to match the parallel market exchange rate which is significantly higher and consequently driving up the cost of goods and services. On the other hand the auction system has however provided a market for larger retailers and while prices in these outlets are also increasing, the larger retailers are forward rating prices using predictive estimates for the highest potential bid in the next auction. Furthermore, regulation stipulates that all traders should display prices in both local currency and foreign currency and this is supposed to mirror the official exchange rate as determined by the auction this has seem some price increases in foreign currency. Follow link for more details. [https://www.rbz.co.zw/documents/press/June/ForeignExchange-Auction-System—17-6-2020.pdf](https://www.rbz.co.zw/documents/press/June/ForeignExchange-Auction-System—17-6-2020.pdf)

The Zimbabwe stock exchange was closed in the current reporting week (29 June to 3 July 2020), therefore cannot report on the auction system. The price at the last auction was an average of ZWL63.74:1USD and a higher limit of ZWL92.00:1USD while reports suggest the parallel market rate was trading 9% higher than the official rate trading at an average of ZWL100:1USD.

Maize Grain - Availability and Prices

♦ Maize grain was available in 3 urban districts only (Norton, Mutare and Rusape), while no traders had the commodity for sale across all monitored rural markets. The price of maize grain in Norton declined by 33% for USD payments from US$0.30/kg to US$0.20/kg, Prices in local currency also decreased by 12% and 7% for bond notes and mobile money payments selling at an average price of ZWL19.40/kg and ZWL23.30/kg for bond and mobile money payments respectively. In Mutare district the average selling price in local currency was ZWL17.80/kg and ZWL20.00/kg for bond notes and mobile money payments which is 14% higher than the prices reported in the third week of June 2020 for the same payment modalities. The price in USD also decreased by an average of 33% during the same period from US$0.30/kg to US$0.20/kg. The average USD price of maize grain in Rusape was US$0.20/kg while the average bond notes price was ZWL22.00/kg. Traders were not accepting electronic payments methods for the commodity.

Maize meal repurposing funds for targeted food assistance programs for vulnerable groups. Millers were also allowed to import their own grain and set prices based on market conditions a development likely to push prices up even further.

Maize Meal - Availability and Prices

♦ Unrefined maize meal availability in urban areas increased by 26% from 35% reported last week to the current 61% of the markets monitored.

♦ The price of unrefined maize meal increased by 25% and 32% for bond note and mobile money payments respectively in the current week (Figure 1). Prices changes remain a factor of foreign currency exchange rates and is still driven by the parallel market rates as explained in the economic overview above.

♦ The commodity price in USD of US$0.50/kg is comparable to the three (3) month average although 25% higher than the price reported last week. (See annex 6)

Maize Meal - Availability and Prices

Maize meal prices increased by 27% while availability decreased by 15% in 45% of the markets monitored. Supply is expected to improve over the coming weeks with government removing the subsidies on maize meal repurposing funds for targeted food assistance programs for vulnerable groups. Millers were also allowed to import their own grain and set prices based on market conditions a development likely to push prices up even further.

Maize Meal - Availability and Prices

Sugar beans

Price: ZWL 172.80/kg
Previous price: ZWL 151.60/kg
Availability: 

Availability: 56%

Maize Grain

Price: ZWL 18.90/kg
Previous Price: ZWL 22.00kg
Availability: 4%

Maize Meal

Price: ZWL 44.80/kg
Previous price: ZWL 34.40/kg
Availability: 45%

Cooking oil

Price: ZWL 166.90/L
Previous Price: ZWL 131.10/L
Availability: 89%

Exchange rate

Interbank: ZWL 57.36:1USD
OMIR: ZWL 118.16: 1 USD

Fuel

Diesel: ZWL 62.77/US$1.09
Blend: ZWL 71.62/US$1.28

Available in 3 urban districts only (Norton, Mutare and Rusape), while no traders had the commodity for sale across all monitored rural markets. The price of maize grain in Norton declined by 33% for USD payments from US$0.30/kg to US$0.20/kg, Prices in local currency also decreased by 12% and 7% for bond notes and mobile money payments selling at an average price of ZWL19.40/kg and ZWL23.30/kg for bond and mobile money payments respectively. In Mutare district the average selling price in local currency was ZWL17.80/kg and ZWL20.00/kg for bond notes and mobile money payments which is 14% higher than the prices reported in the third week of June 2020 for the same payment modalities. The price in USD also decreased by an average of 33% during the same period from US$0.30/kg to US$0.20/kg. The average USD price of maize grain in Rusape was US$0.20/kg while the average bond notes price was ZWL22.00/kg. Traders were not accepting electronic payments methods for the commodity.

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Sugar beans - Availability and Prices

Sugar beans was being sold at an average price of ZWL172.80/kg a price 14% higher than the one reported last week. Commodity availability generally decreased being available in 56% of the markets compared to 73% last week.

Urban Domains

- Availability of sugar beans in urban areas declined by 13% in the current week from being available in 76% last week to 62% of the monitored markets.

- Week on the price for sugar beans in bond notes increased by 16% and mobile money prices increased by 19% (figure 3). (See annex 10)

Cooking Oil - Availability and Prices

Week on week availability remained relatively stable with the commodity being available in 86% while prices increased by 27%. Prices in USD however have remained relatively stable selling at an average price of US$1.80/L.

Urban Domains

- A marginal increase in cooking oil availability was recorded in the current week with 89% of the markets reporting availability compared to 86% of the market. See annex 12)

- Cooking oil prices increased by 11% for bond note payments and 5% for mobile money payments, prices in USD have remained relatively stable over the last two weeks (figure 5).

Rural Districts

- A price increase of 13% and 7% for bond and mobile money payments was registered in the week under review. However, there was a decline in availability from 71% last week to 51% in the current week. (See annex 9)

- There was a huge spike in cooking oil prices over the reporting period. Prices went up by 42% and 38% for bond note and mobile money payments. However, prices in USD have remained stable at an average price of US$1.80/L (figure 6). (See annex 11)

- A marginal increase in cooking oil availability was recorded in the current week with 89% of the markets reporting availability compared to 86% of the market. See annex 12)

Rural Districts

- Cooking oil was available in 88% of the monitored markets in the current week compared to 91% reported last week.

- There was a huge spike in cooking oil prices over the reporting period. Prices went up by 42% and 38% for bond note and mobile money payments. However, prices in USD have remained stable at an average price of US$1.80/L (figure 6). (See annex 11)

- Availability of sugar beans in urban areas declined by 13% in the current week from being available in 76% last week to 62% of the monitored markets.

- Week on the price for sugar beans in bond notes increased by 16% and mobile money prices increased by 19% (figure 3). (See annex 10)

Background

The harmonised weekly market monitoring is being conducted by WFP in partnership with members of the Cash Assistance Working Group (CWG), including World Vision International, CARE, Oxfam, Aquaculture Zimbabwe, Caritas Zimbabwe, Christian Aid, GOAL Zimbabwe, HOCIC, Mercy Corps, IRC, ORAP, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, Action Aid, LEAD, LGDA, CAFOD, AfriCare, CTDD, ADRA, MDTC, Plan International and WeEffect.

Approach

Checking Availability at market level: If any of the interviewed traders in a market reports having sold a commodity within the last week, the commodity is considered available in this market. Availability at country-level (district-level) is calculated as the share of markets with commodity availability across the country (across districts). Missing data indicate that none of the interviewed traders generally trades the commodity.
### ANNEXES

**Annex 1: Key to food commodity Price trends**

- 📈 ( < 0% Decreasing )  🔝 ( >= 0% and < 5% Stable )  🚀 ( >= 5% and < 10% Slight Increase)  🚀 ( >= 10% Increasing)

**Annex 2: Key to food commodity availability trends**

- 👌 (Decreasing)  🔴 (Increasing)

**Annex 3: Key to Fuel price and Exchange rates**

- 👌 (Decreasing)  🔝 (Stable)  🔴 (Increasing)
## Annex 5 - Table 2: Maize grain Availability and Prices in Rural districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Availability current week</th>
<th>Availability previous week</th>
<th>Bond Notes current week</th>
<th>Bond Notes previous week</th>
<th>Bond Notes change (%) from previous week</th>
<th>Mobile Money</th>
<th>Mobile Money Premium (%)</th>
<th>US Dollar</th>
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No Prices recorded due to unavailability of commodity
## Annex 6 - Table 2: Maize grain Availability and Prices in Urban districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Availability current week</th>
<th>Availability previous week</th>
<th>Bond Notes current week</th>
<th>Bond Notes previous week</th>
<th>Bond Notes change (%) from previous week</th>
<th>Mobile Money Premium (%)</th>
<th>US Dollar</th>
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<td><strong>District average</strong></td>
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## Annex 7 - Table 4: Maize Meal Availability and Prices in Rural

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<th>Bond Notes current week</th>
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<th>Bond Notes change (%) from previous week</th>
<th>Mobile Money</th>
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## Annex 9 - Table 6: Sugar beans Availability and Prices in Rural Districts

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<th>Mobile Money Premium (%)</th>
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### Annex 10 - Table 6: Sugar beans Availability and Prices in Urban Districts

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<th>Mobile Money Premium (%)</th>
<th>US Dollar</th>
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<td>Bond Notes previous week</td>
<td>Bond Notes change (%) from previous week</td>
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### Annex 11 - Table 8: Cooking oil Availability and Prices in Rural Districts

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### Table 8: Cooking oil Availability and Prices in Urban Districts

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