

# The cost of living crisis

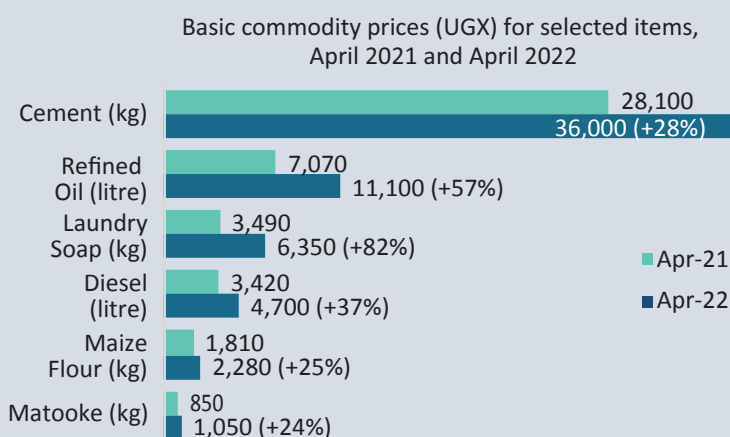
## Livelihood concerns in Uganda

This factsheet presents information on the currently livelihoods crisis in Uganda. The data comes from a range of sources including the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, the World Food Programme, and Twaweza’s *Sauti za Wananchi* survey, a nationally-representative, high-frequency mobile phone panel survey of public opinion and citizens’ experiences.

### Insight 1. The cost of living has risen sharply for Ugandan households in the past 12 months

Across a range of commodities, prices for Ugandan consumers have risen sharply over the past 12 months. According to data from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), gathered as part of routine inflation monitoring, cement prices have risen 28% over this period, cooking oil has risen 57%, diesel has risen 37%, maize flour has risen 25% and matooke has risen 24%. The biggest increase, however, is in the price of laundry soap, which has risen 82%.

While food producing households will see some benefit from the increased food prices, the other increases will effectively wipe out any such gains.



Source: UBOS CPI Press Release April 2022

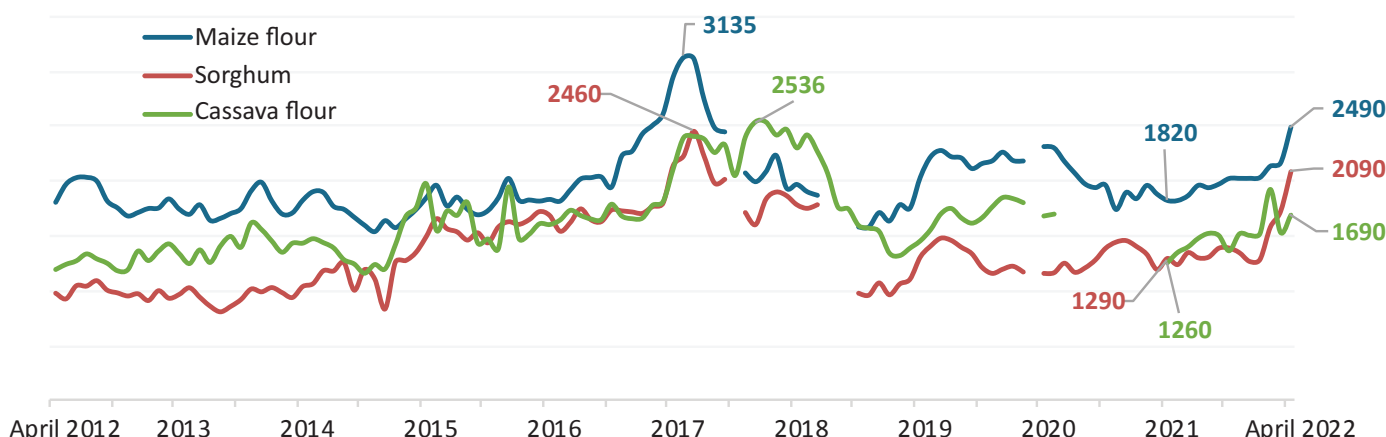
### Insight 2. Market prices for staple foods have risen sharply in recent months, approaching the level of 2017, when East Africa experienced widespread food stress

Market prices for staple foods have risen sharply, according to data collected monthly from markets across the country by the World Food Programme (WFP). This includes the price of maize flour (which has risen to almost UGX 2,500) sorghum (over UGX 2,000), and cassava flour (UGX 1,690). These prices are all 30-50% higher than twelve months earlier.

Across all these food types the prices in April 2022 were higher than at any time in the past decade, except for 2017 when East Africa, including Uganda, experienced drought-related food stress.

The 2022 experience is different from 2017, however, for two reasons. First, in 2022 prices for other commodities have also risen sharply (see above). And second, in 2017, food stress was experienced by both producers and consumers of food, whereas in 2022 food producers may benefit slightly from increased food prices.

Average food prices (UGX per kg) at Ugandan markets, 2012-2022



Source: World Food Programme market price database, May 2022

This brief was written and produced by Twaweza East Africa.

Katalima Bend Plot 6, Off Katalima Road, Next to Water for People, P.O Box 40163, Kampala

t: +256 312 112815 | e: info@twaweza.org | www.twaweza.org/sauti

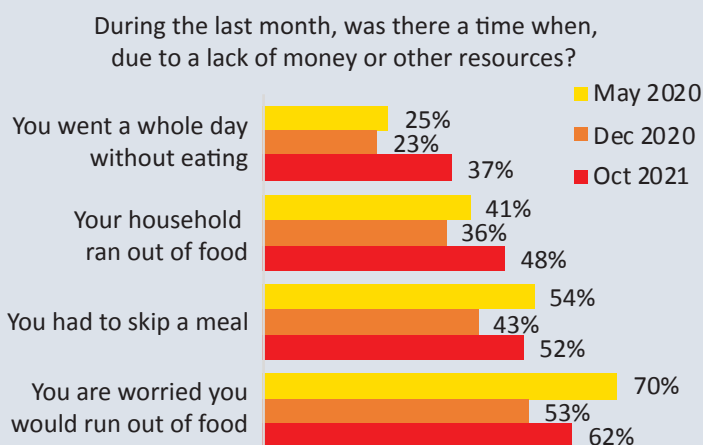
Sauti za Wananchi



### Fact 3. Half of households ran out of food in the month of September-October 2021

Many Ugandan households were already experiencing food stress in the second half of 2021. Half of all households (48%) ran out of food at some point in the previous month and more than one out of three (37%) went for a whole day without eating. A majority of households say they are worried that they would run out of food (62%).

These forms of food stress are long-standing - the norm for many households in Uganda.

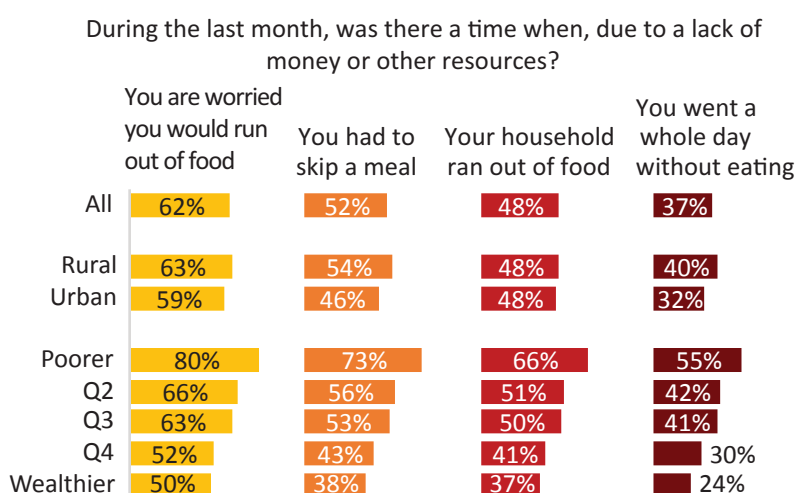


Source: Sauti za Wananchi, second panel baseline (Oct 2021), first panel r15 (May 2020) and r19 (Dec 2020)

### Fact 4. Half of poorer households went without eating for a whole day in September-October 2021

Experience of food stress varies greatly according to household economic status, with poorer households twice as likely as wealthier households to have had to go for a whole day without eating in the previous month (55% of poorer households, 24% of wealthier households). Similar patterns can be seen across other aspects of food stress.

There is a relatively small difference between urban and rural areas, with rural households slightly more likely to report signs of food stress than urban households.



Source: Sauti za Wananchi, second panel baseline survey, (Oct2021)

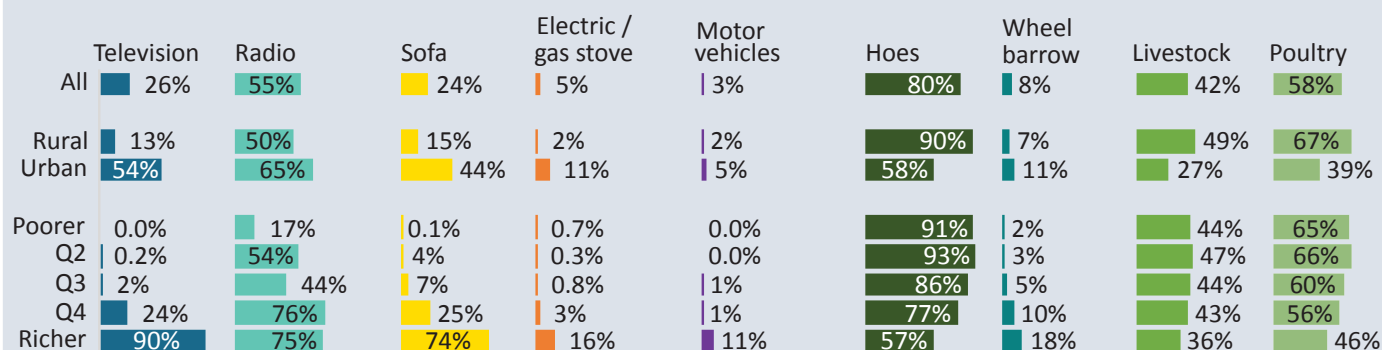
### Fact 5. Asset ownership is highly unequal across Uganda

Asset ownership varies widely between urban and rural households and between poorer and wealthier households in Uganda. For example, nine out of ten wealthier households (90%) own a television, compared to below 1% in poorer households, and urban households are four times as likely as rural households to own a TV.

Similarly, radio ownership is only 17% in poorer households, compared to 75% in wealthier households, and furniture ownership is higher in urban and wealthier households. Motor vehicles are much more common in wealthier households.

For some agricultural assets, including hoes, livestock and poultry, ownership is higher among poorer households. However, ownership of wheelbarrows is higher among wealthier households than poorer households.

Percentage of households that own the following:



Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 18 (Oct-Dec 2020)