

Food, fuel, and fertilizer prices have **skyrocketed up to tenfold** in the world's most marginalized communities since the start of the war in Ukraine.

INTRODUCTION

ActionAid's new research finds that as the world faces an unprecedented cost of living crisis, local communities in the Global South are dealing with the consequences of severe price rises in food, fuel, and fertilizer, with tragic human impacts.

Even before the invasion of Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a steep increase in global food insecurity – in 2020 alone, the rate of food insecurity was greater than the previous five years combined. The invasion of Ukraine resulted in sharp rises of food, fuel, and fertilizer prices as the war impacted supplies from both Russia and Ukraine, which are among the top exporters of these products.¹ In 2022, when war broke out in Ukraine, ActionAid undertook research in local communities in 13 of the countries most impacted by the crisis in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. This research, released in May 2022 in the report "Doubly Devastating," revealed that local communities were paying double, triple, or even close to four times what they had been paying for food, fuel, and fertilizer before the war began.²

Now, one year after the release of "Doubly Devastating," ActionAid is releasing new and more detailed research into the extent of continued price rises and their subsequent impacts on human lives. This detailed survey of over 1,000 people digs deeper into the issue of rising prices and social consequences in 14 countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The new research shows that the poorest people, especially women and girls, are facing the brunt of skyrocketing food, fuel, and fertilizer prices.



Box 1. Countries Surveyed for the Research

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

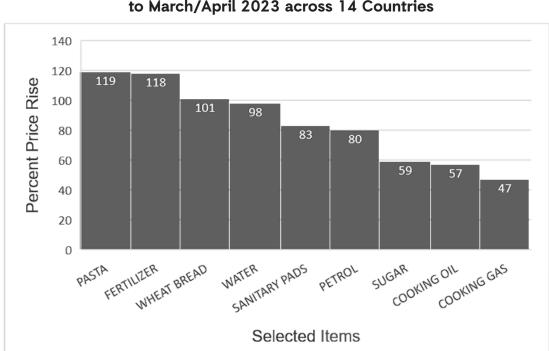
While global prices, as measured by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Price Index, have dropped by 11.7% since February 2022,³ ActionAid's new research finds that prices in local communities in the Global South have increased manyfold.

Compared to February 2022, local communities are facing average price increases of:

- 101% for wheat;
- 119% for pasta;
- 59% for sugar;
- 98% for water;
- 57% for cooking oil;
- 47% for cooking gas;
- 80% for petrol;
- 118% for fertilizer:
- 83% for sanitary pads.

The severity of the economic impact is disproportional, as local prices in certain communities are much higher than the national average. For instance, in Bamyan district of Afghanistan, the prices of wheat bread increased by 100% compared to just a 20% rise in the country. Sugar prices in Jacmel district of Haiti increased by 108% compared to a 60% rise in the country. In rural areas of Phalombe district of Malawi, local people have reported petrol prices rise by 285% against an average of 122% in the country. Some communities have experienced even steeper price rises: the price of bread rose by 235% in Zimbabwe; water prices in the Democratic Republic of the Congo increased by as much as 285%; and fertilizer prices in Myanmar rose up to 306%.

The World Bank Food Security Update (May 2023) highlights that domestic food price inflation is high in almost all low- and middle-income countries⁴ while the latest Global Report on Food Crises and the FAO Acute Food Insecurity Area Classification highlight that many countries, including those surveyed by ActionAid, face acute food insecurity.⁵ 6



Box 2. Average Price Rise of Selected Items from February 2022 to March/April 2023 across 14 Countries

IMPACTS

Access to food

ActionAid's research shows that increased prices have significantly impacted access to food for local communities, with a disproportionate impact on women and girls. Of 1,010 total interviewees, 74% reported shifting to low-quality food, 48% mentioned mothers reducing food intake so their children could eat, and 31% reported reduced food intake for girls (Box 3). The research also finds that the price of water has risen an average of 98% since February 2022, and local people are forced to reduce use of water for drinking and cleaning purposes.

"This famine is truly destructive. We are forcing our children to their beds for sleep."

Claudine Muhirwa Mary, a mother of three in Mudja district of

Democratic Republic of Congo

Box 3. Impact on Access to Food

Impact	Respondents %	Women %	Men %
Shift to low quality food	74	76	72
Mothers reduced food intake so their children can eat	48	56	36
Reduced food intake for girls	31	31	30
Others	12	14	10

Negative Coping Strategies

Local communities are adopting varying strategies to survive against the rising prices. Negative options, however, are pushing people into a downward spiral of poverty and marginalization. Of the total interviewees, 59% mentioned taking on debt while facing the economic pressure of high prices. Fifty percent of people mentioned men's migration to urban areas in search of labor, which has its own negative consequences – ActionAid's 2022 research found that men who migrate often abandon their families, sometimes re-marrying in urban areas, putting additional burdens on women and children left in villages.

Many households, as reported by 42% of respondents, have been forced to sell their precious assets, including livestock, compromising their savings and future source of income (Box 4). The gender-disaggregated data shows that greater numbers of women (61% of 639 women) mentioned debt problems compared to men (54% of 371). Other negative coping strategies include people cutting trees to make charcoal for selling, and women and girls selling their clothes or engaging in sex work for economic survival.

Box 4. Negative Coping Strategies

Impact	Respondents	Women	Men
	%	%	%
Debt	59	61	54
Men's migration to urban areas	50	50	49
Sale of livestock/other assets	42	39	46
Others	27	29	23



After a long day sitting in the sun trying to sell his calves, Luc headed back home. He told us he was hoping to buy some rice and peas to diversify the menu of his family, but because of the scarcity of money nobody came to buy from him. He wasn't sure how he was going to break the news to his family. Compared to 5 years ago, the market is shockingly empty. Photo: Vicky Onelien/ActionAid.

Production and Income

Crop production and livestock rearing are the most important source of livelihoods in rural areas, and price rises have impacted both. Rising fertilizer prices – an average increase of 118% in 14 countries – has compelled farmers to reduce its use in their farms, resulting in loss of crop production in all surveyed countries.

"I did not have a good yield this year due to the high price of fertilizer."

Monica Silumbu, a 34-year-old mother of five from Rumphi district of Malawi

Agriculture and livestock price hikes have negatively impacted other sources of income for women as well.

"In the past, I was engaged in economic activities of sewing and embroidery, which provided all my family's needs. In recent years, droughts and rising prices have had negative effects on people's economic conditions and they are unable to make new clothes. Hence, my sewing and embroidery work has been affected badly. My husband, who used to support me in the production of handicrafts and embroidery, is also unemployed like myself. So economic changes have destroyed our business and source of income."

Ms. Begom, a 38-year-old mother of four from Bamyan Province of Afghanistan

The survey uncovered that across the 14 countries, people have lost an average of 23% of their income since February 2022. Country- and community-specific details of income losses reveal an even bleaker picture. For instance, in Kenya, the average loss of income reached up to 54%, whereas in Kajiado district of the country people reported income loss up to 100% during the last year.

School Dropout Rates and Child Marriage

The economic crunch at the household level has threatened children's educational prospects. School dropout rates increased both for girls and boys in 10 of the 14 surveyed countries, while the economic pressure created by price hikes has also resulted in increased rates of child marriage in 10 of 14 countries. Girls have reported dropping out of school due to increased rates of teenage pregnancy.

One of the respondents in Sunamgani district of Bangladesh laid it out clearly:

"Education is far less important than earning food for survival. Male students have to work in the stone quarry or in sand extraction for Bangladesh Taka 300/day in the Jadukata River. That's why they skip school."

Survey respondents in Zambia note that pupils abscond from classes due to food shortages, instead engaging in labor activities to earn food.

"I have failed to pay school fees for my two children due to price hikes. What I earn from my small business barely covers one meal a day for my children."

Roster Nkhonjera, a 40-year-old mother of five from Rumphi district of Malawi

Mental and Emotional Health

The socio-economic consequences laid out above have impacted the mental and emotional well-being of people and communities. The survey shows that 53% of interviewees responded that they felt hopeless, 54% mentioned sadness, 43% indicated anger, and 40% reported a state of fear (Box 5).

There are also indirect impacts on mental health. For instance:

"Increase in food prices has caused marital disputes causing an increase in the gender-gased violence and divorce cases due to husbands failing to provide requirements for the family."

Judith Namonje, mother of one child in Mpika district of Zambia

Moreover, financial pressure is separating children from their parents. Mr. Mustafe from Somaliland reported that he sent his seven children to live with his relatives, since he could not afford their food and other needs.

Box 5. Impact on Mental and Emotional Health

Impact	Respondents	Women	Men
	%	%	%
Sadness	54	56	51
Hopeless	53	53	52
Anger	43	44	42
Fear	40	43	37
Others	10	12	8

POSITIVE COMMUNITIY-LED SOLUTIONS

Despite the alarming results of this survey, ActionAid also uncovered many positive community-led solutions that have come about due to the pressure of high prices. A shift to solar power was noted by 28% of interviewees, and the same percent mentioned a shift to composting. Others have started kitchen gardening to produce their own food. Ms. Rose, a mother of five from Kathonzweni district of Kenya, has a vegetable garden which has sustained her family for three months. She provides two meals a day for the family and can afford school fees for her children.

Box 6. Positive Community-led Solutions

Impact	Respondents %	Women %	Men %
Shift to Solar Power	28	28	29
Shift to Composting	28	30	25
Others	15	18	10

The survey also reveals positive solutions by governments and non-governmental organizations. In Zambia, respondents highlight that ActionAid interventions in the community have reduced the cases of child marriage thanks to comprehensive sex education in schools and communities, contraceptive counselling, support to households on income generating activities, promotion of a culture of gender equality, mother support groups, and popularization of Zambian laws focused on safeguarding.

In Sierra Leone, survey respondents reported that the government campaign "Hands off our Girls," started in 2018 by Her Excellency Fatima Bio, the First Lady of Sierra Leone, has contributed to reduced incidences of child marriage. In addition to tackling early child marriage, the movement focuses on stopping sexual violence, ending child trafficking and prostitution, promoting sexual and reproductive health education, and preventing mother to child transmission of HIV and AIDs. People in Sierra Leone also noted that free education, alongside the provision of food in schools, meant school dropout rates did not increase during this economically difficult period. According to the Centre for Global Development, free education with an inclusive environment that eradicates stigma, harassment, intolerance, and exclusion of any kind enables the poorest children to continue their education in Sierra Leone. Generally speaking, government provision of public services shows positive results.

Agroecology as an Adaptation Strategy

Many people have minimized the impact of price rises by practicing agroecology. The science of sustainable agroecosystems, agroecology is a set of farming practices and a social movement; it draws on social, biological, and agricultural sciences and integrates these with traditional, indigenous, and farmers' knowledge and cultures. It focuses on the interactions between microorganisms, plants, animals, humans, and the environment. When fertilizer prices spiked, people in 12 countries reported that agroecological practices reduced expenses for crop production. People also reported that agroecology offers resilience against climate change, and they would happily recommend agroecology to others.



"Compared to the last five years, our situation has improved a lot. Before, everything would be submerged in water. We were falling behind because of salt water. We tried to cultivate rice but couldn't. I couldn't even grow peanuts as they would rot. But now, by the training of ActionAid, I've learned many things. I've learned how to collect fresh water. We use the fresh water for our crops. We grew a lot of crops with fresh water. It's helped us a lot."

Mosammat Rina is a mother and agricultural worker from Manjupara in Bangladesh.

Photo: Nihab Rahman/ActionAid

"Agroecology should be recommended to all farmers as it gives better yields even during limited rainfall."

Georginah Siamupa, a mother of four from Binga district of Zimbabwe

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ActionAid's perception survey amplifies the voices of over 1,010 people from 69 communities of 14 countries in East and South Asia; Eastern, Central and Western Africa; and the Caribbean. This diverse and in-depth exercise prioritized women's voices (63% of respondents). Analysis of the survey underscores that the gravity of price rises at local level is significantly more intense than what is implied by international indices. The poorest people are facing the brunt of skyrocketing food, fuel, and fertilizer prices with women and girls the worst hit. These communities are facing the effects of multiple crises that negatively impact their food intake, reduce the rate of child education, increase the rate of child marriage, lead to gender-based violence, and ultimately damage their mental health.

The analysis in Box 7, based on recent findings from multiple sources, highlights that the 14 surveyed countries are facing intersecting impacts of six intertwined crises, most notably climate disasters, the invasion of Ukraine, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries are also facing varied degrees of debt stress and a sharp depreciation of their local currencies. There is a vicious cycle between the debt and climate crises, each reinforcing the other; of the top-third most climate vulnerable countries, 93% are in debt crisis or at significant risk of a debt crisis. On top of these stressors, eight of the countries face internal stability challenges due to national or regional conflicts.

Box 7. Multiple Crises Facing Surveyed Countries

Countries Surveyed	Climate Disasters	Ukraine War	COVID- 19	Debt Stress	Currency Depreciation	Conflict
Myanmar	√	٧	٧	٧	V	٧
Bangladesh	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧	
Nepal	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧	
Afghanistan	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧
Kenya	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧
Somaliland	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧
Ethiopia	٧	٧	٧	√	٧	٧
Zambia	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧	
Zimbabwe	٧	٧	٧	√	٧	
Malawi	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧	
DRC	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧
Nigeria	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧
Sierra	٧	٧	٧	٧	٧	
Leone						
Haiti	٧	٧	٧	٧	V	√

Author analysis based on multiple sources. 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33

1. Price Crises on the agenda of the Committee on World Food Security 51st session

In order to face these intertwined crises, the world needs a holistic approach that addresses climate change, debt stress, currency depreciation, ongoing impacts of the invasion of Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as prevailing conflicts. Such a holistic approach requires the involvement of multiple institutions. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the most appropriate and inclusive intergovernmental space dedicated to food security and nutrition, with the explicit mandate for the progressive realization of the right to food. The CFS should convene all relevant players to discuss the food crisis and provide guidance for a globally coordinated policy response that addresses the local realities highlighted by this research and harmonizes current initiatives pursued by institutional actors. ActionAid continues to work with civil society networks to lobby for such action by the CFS.³⁴

2. Transition to Agroecology

International institutions, donors, and UN agencies must prioritize agroecology as a bulwark against multiple crises. National governments, with support from international donors, should initiate a transition to agroecology that offers unique solutions against the challenges brought out in this brief. A plethora of literature highlights that agroecological methods are cheaper and more productive compared to industrial agriculture, in addition to offering resilience against climatic challenges in agriculture.³⁵ ActionAid's field programs emphasize that agroecology empowers women and provides better income opportunities.

This survey also validates that, while farmers lost their crop production in all 14 countries due to reduced application of high-priced fertilizers, those who resorted to agroecological methods (such as composting) saved production costs, minimized the impact of climatic pressures, and are willing to recommend agroecology to others. These successes need to be dramatically scaled up to ensure national-level food security in troubled countries.³⁶ Governments, donors, and UN agencies should shift their priorities from access to fertilizers to agroecological farming.³⁷

3. Local Food Systems

The transition to agroecology requires a systemic transformation of the current food system, currently dominated by big agribusiness and unfair international trade rules. Countries most affected by the crisis saw import bills surge because they are dependent on the global market for agricultural inputs and food staples. This dependency must be broken in order to promote countries' food self-sufficiency, territorial markets, and local food systems based on short and localized value chains.

Agroecology, as explained above, can play a crucial role in the local food systems, while national food reserves can act as buffers and reduce vulnerability to food shortages and price rises. However, struggling national economies would require support from donor countries and the UN to put this idea into practice.

4. Social Protection and Public Services

National governments should be supported by the United Nations, other international institutions, and donor countries to put in place and/or strengthen their social protection and public services in a gender-responsive manner to cushion the impact of price increases on households. Respondents of the ActionAid Survey in the Dinajpur district of Bangladesh reported that safety net facilities helped them buy sugar at a price 20% lower than 2022 prices,

whereas non-beneficiaries of safety net programs paid prices 60% higher than 2022 prices. The survey also shows that public services can buffer the negative impact of high prices. While 10 countries reported increased school dropout rates, Sierra Leone avoided dropouts thanks to free education services and provision of food in schools.

5. Debt Cancellation

As indicated in Box 7, all 14 surveyed countries are facing debt stress. Other ActionAid analysis finds that 93% of all climate-vulnerable countries are facing debt traps, and debt repayments have put exorbitant budgetary pressure on these economies. As a result, governments have little fiscal space to finance solutions such as those proposed in this brief.³⁸ Therefore, sovereign debt holders, including governments, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and private banks in wealthy countries, must cancel all debts for countries that are most impacted. Moreover, international financial institutions must stop pushing for austerity and public sector wage bill cuts that undermine investments in gender-responsive public services and social protection.³⁹

6. Funding to Affected Communities

The above recommendations stipulate that national governments, donors, and UN agencies must arrange additional resources to address the multiple, intersecting crises. This requires alignment of climate, humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts to provide flexible and multi-year funding that is accessible to women and young people's organizations, which are best positioned to work with those in greatest need and address the gendered impact of the food crisis.⁴⁰ The priority should be to save lives now, which includes addressing the challenges and protection risks faced by women in situations of crisis, while strengthening resilience against further shocks and crises. This resilience-building for the global food crisis must address food sovereignty as well as a transition to alternative energy sources and to just, feminist, and green economic policies.

METHODOLOGY

During March/April 2023 ActionAid conducted a perception survey with 1,010 persons, including 639 women (63%) and 371 men (37%), in 69 local communities of 14 countries, to find out the level of price rise of selected items since February 2022 and subsequent impact on people's lives.

The surveyed countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The 2023 prices were compared with February 2022 prices using percentage analysis. A national average was calculated for each item which was later converted into an average for all 14 countries.

The research used qualitative data collection on prices and their impact on human lives, and basic quantitative analysis of the results.

Sample Size

Countries prioritized the same communities that participated in the 2022 survey. Each country conducted surveys in five local communities, with 15 community members interviewed in each of them. In 14 countries, the sample covered 69 communities with a total of 1,010 respondents, of which 63% were women and 37% men.

Category	Number/Percent
Total Countries Surveyed	14
Total Communities Surveyed	69
Total Interviewees	1010
Women	639 (63%)
Men	371 (37%)

Data Collection Tool

A survey questionnaire was designed in consultation with the project management team and ActionAid country teams according to the objectives of the research. Numerous calls were organized with ActionAid staff in focus countries to explain the questionnaire and data collection methods.

Data Collection Methods

In-depth Interviews: ActionAid field teams in project countries conducted in-depth interviews with community members using the survey questionnaire. Interviews included questions related to prices, impact on access to food, negative and positive coping strategies, water and fertilizer use, monthly income, and emotions.

Key Informant Interviews: The field teams administered Key Informant Interviews from local leaders for questions related to school dropouts and child marriages.

Agroecology Questions: Agroecology related questions were asked only to those local farmers who had practiced agroecology in their farms.

Literature Review

The project lead also conducted extensive literature review of relevant external and internal documents according to the objectives of the research.

Data Analysis

Percent analysis and average analysis were conducted using Microsoft Excel to compare 2023 prices with last year's data, collected in February 2022, as well as to analyze the socioeconomic impacts on the local communities.

HEADLINE FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY

ActionAid program staff carried out a survey to find the impact of the war on Ukraine on everyday costs in 14 countries. Average percentage is included for each product in each country. The percentages reflect price increases since the beginning of the war on Ukraine.

Everyday Item	Average price increase across 14 countries surveyed:
Wheat bread	101%
Pasta	119%
Sugar	59%
Water	98%
Cooking oil	57%
Cooking gas	47%
Petrol	80%
Fertilizers	118%
Sanitary pads	83%
Income change	(-)23%

MALAWI	ZIMBABWE	SOMALILAND	ETHIOPIA
148%	235%	62%	136%
In rural areas of Phalombe district, wheat bread have risen up to 233%	In Binga district, wheat bread prices have risen up to 614%	In Wajale district, wheat prices have risen up to 90%	In Elfeta area, wheat prices have risen up to 220%
	492%	31%	116%
NA	In Binga district, pasta prices have risen up to 750%	In Gabiley district, pasta prices have risen up to 100%	In Semen Bench area, pasta prices have risen up to 186%
	181%	42%	23%
NA	In Binga district, sugar prices have risen over 800%	In Wajale district, sugar prices have risen up to 112 %	In Borna area, prices of sugar have risen up to 67%
		41%	
NA	NA	In Hargeisa district, water prices have risen up to 180%	NA
11%	178%	96%	43%
In Mchinji district, in rural cooking oil prices have risen up to 67%	In Binga district, cooking oil prices have risen up to 178%	In Wajale district, cooking oil prices have risen up to 224 %	In Elfeta area, cooking oil prices have risen up to 108%
NA	NA	NA	NA
122%	351%	21%	148%
In rural areas of Phalombe district, petrol prices have risen up to 285%	In Binga district, petrol prices risen over 900%	In Gabiley district, petrol prices risen up to 102%	In Semen Bench, area petrol prices have risen up to 192%
48%	275%	61%	230%
In Mchinji district, in rural areas fertilizer prices have risen up to 68%	In Makoni district, fertilizer prices have risen over 700%	In Wajale district, fertilizer prices have risen up to 92%	In Semen Bench, fertilizer prices have risen up to 389%
	223%	66%	63%
NA	In Binga district, sanitary products prices have risen over 600%	In Hargeisa district, sanitary products prices have risen up to 150%	In Amaya area, sanitary pads prices have risen up to 212%
-26%	5%	-14%	-14%
In Dedza district, in rural areas local people have reported drop in income up to 57%	In Nkayidistrict., local people have reported drop in income up to 100%	In Wajale district, local people have reported drop in income up to 100%	In Guna area, local people have reported drop in income up to 133%

HEADLINE FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY CONT'D

Everyday Item	Average price increase across 14 countries surveyed:
Wheat bread	101%
Pasta	119%
Sugar	59%
Water	98%
Cooking oil	57%
Cooking gas	47%
Petrol	80%
Fertilizers	118%
Sanitary pads	83%
Income change	(-)23%

SIERRA LEONE	NIGERIA	KENYA	ZAMBIA
169%	55%	26%	23%
In Moyamba district, wheat prices have risen up to 300%	In rural Lagos, wheat prices have risen up to 400%	In Kishushe district, wheat prices have risen up to 78%	In Mpika district, wheat prices have risen up to 122%
64%	60%	85%	
In Moyamba district, pasta prices have risen up to 89%	In Lagos area, pasta prices have risen up to 120%	In Kathonzweni district, pasta prices risen up to 123%	NA
16%		37%	
In Moyamba area, prices of sugar have risen up to 26%	NA	In Fafi area prices of sugar have risen up to 37%	NA
41%			
In Kambia district, prices of water have risen up to 100 %	NA	NA	NA
73%	56%	73%	16%
In Bombali Sebora, cooking oil prices have risen up to 129%	In Moyamba district, cooking oil prices have risen up to 89%	In Kajiado district, prices of cooking oil have risen up to 111%	In Mbala district, cooking oil prices have risen up to 122%
18%	57%	82%	
In Kambia district, cooking gas prices have risen up to 40%	In Kwara area, prices of cooking gas have risen up to 216%	In Kathonzweni, prices of cooking gas have risen up to 82%	NA
20%	107%	31%	9%
In Bombali Sebora, petrol prices risen up to 25%	In Kwara area, prices of petrol have risen up to 176%	In Fafi, prices of petrol have risen up to 48%	In Lukulu, petrol prices have risen up to 39%
37%	134%		
In Moyamba district, fertilizer prices have risen up to 50%	In Lagos area, prices of fertilizer have risen up to 195%	NA	NA
12%			
In Kambia area sanitary pads prices have risen up to 67%	NA	NA	NA
6%	-27%	-54%	-47%
In Moyamba area, local people have reported drop in income up to 83%	In Lagos area, local people have reported drop in income up to 122%	In Kajiado district, local people have reported drop in income up to 100%	In Nakonde district, local people have reported drop in income up to 100%



HEADLINE FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY CONT'D

Everyday Item	Average price increase across 14 countries surveyed:
Wheat bread	101%
Pasta	119%
Sugar	59%
Water	98%
Cooking oil	57%
Cooking gas	47%
Petrol	80%
Fertilizers	118%
Sanitary pads	83%
Income change	(-)23%

DRC	HAITI	MYANMAR	BANGLADESH
223%	102%	96%	70%
In Buvira district, wheat prices have risen up to 500%	In Jacemel district, wheat prices have risen up to 20%	In Meiktila district, wheat prices have risen up to	In Patuakhali district, wheat prices have risen up to 86%
86%	172%		
In Resayu district, pasta prices have risen up to 212%	In Petit Goave district, pasta prices have risen up to 275%	NA	NA
46%	60%	141%	60%
In Resayu, sugar prices have risen up to 150%	In Jacmel district, prices of sugar have risen up to 108%	In Pyapon district, sugar prices have risen up to 390%	In Kurigram district, sugar prices have risen up to 86%
285%			
In Buvira, water prices have risen up to 683%	NA	NA	NA
57%	91%	31%	15%
In Munigi district, cooking oil prices risen up to 155%	In Hinche district, cooking oil prices have risen up to 120%	In Myaing district, cooking oil prices have risen up to 168%	In Patuakhali, cooking oil prices have risen up to 33%
101%			20%
In Buvira district, prices of cooking gas have risen up to 188%	NA	NA	In Patuakhali, cooking gas prices have risen up to 38%
21%		110%	47%
In Resayu district, petrol prices have risen up to 72%	NA	In Pathin district, petrol prices have risen up to 200%	In Dinajpur, Diesel/ Kerosene oil prices have risen up to 71%
30%		306%	105%
In Munigi district, prices of fertilizer have risen up to 152%	NA	In Pathin district, fertilizer prices have risen up to 639%	In Dinajpur, fertilizer prices have risen up to 116%
145%	159%	79%	23%
In Munigi district, sanitary pads prices have risen up to 242%	In Petit Goave district, prices of sanitary pads have risen up to 525%	In Pyapon district, prices of sanitary pads have risen up to 173%	In Dinajpur district, prices of sanitary pads have risen up to 67%
-47%	-45%		-1.6%
In Munigi, local people have reported drop in income up to 100%	In Petit Goave district, local people have reported drop in income up to 90%	NA	In Naryanganj district, local people have reported drop in income up to 63%

HEADLINE FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY CONT'D

Everyday Item	Average price increase across 14 countries surveyed:
Wheat bread	101%
Pasta	119%
Sugar	59%
Water	98%
Cooking oil	57%
Cooking gas	47%
Petrol	80%
Fertilizers	118%
Sanitary pads	83%
Income change	(-)23%

AFGHANISTAN	NEPAL
20%	44%
In Bamyan district, wheat prices have risen up to 100%	In Lalitpur district, wheat prices have risen up to 60
43%	42%
In Tani district, pasta prices have risen up to 380%	In Lalitpur, pasta prices have risen up to 50%
23%	23%
In Bamyan district, sugar prices have risen up to 60%	In Kathmandu district, prices of sugar have risen up to 29%
	25%
NA	In Bardiya district, of Nepal prices of water have risen up to 25%
16%	38%
In Bamyan district, cooking oil prices have risen up to 50%	In Bardiya, cooking oil prices have risen up to 50%
30%	22%
In Bamyan district, cooking gas prices have risen up to 66%	In Kathmandu district, cooking gas prices have risen up to 35%
7%	46%
In Tani district, petrol prices have risen up to 29%	In Siraha, petrol prices have risen up to 75%
30%	37%
In Bamyan district, fertilizer prices have risen up to 133%	In Bardiya, fertilizer prices have risen up to 43%
44%	16%
In Tani district, prices of sanitary pads have risen up to 240%	In Siraha district, prices of sanitary pads have risen up to 25%
-22%	-7%
In Bamyan district, local people have reported drop in income up to 58%	In Bardiya district, local people have reported drop in income up to 79%



Endnotes

- 1. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. (2022). *Information Note: The Importance of Ukraine and the Russian Federation for Global Agricultural Markets and the Risks Associated With the War in Ukraine*. https://www.fao.org/3/cb9013en/cb9013en.pdf
- 2. ActionAid. (2022). *Doubly Devastating, Local Communities Disproportionately Affected by Food, Fuel, and Fertilizer Price Rises*. https://actionaid.org/sites/default/files/publications/Doubly%20Devastating%20-%20 <a href="https://actionaid.org/sites/default/files/publications/Doubly%20Devastating%20-%20 <a href="https://
- 3. FAO. (2023, June 2). World Food Situation. https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/. See also FAO. (2022, March 4). FAO Food Price Index rises to record high in February. https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/fao-food-price-index-rises-to-record-high-in-february/en
- 4. World Bank. (2023, June 5). Food Security Update: World Bank Response to Rising Food Insecurity. https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-update
- 5. Famine Early Warning System Network. (2023). *Monitoring & forecasting acute food insecurity*. https://fews.net/
- 6. Food Security Information Network. (2023). *Global Report on Food Crises 2023*. https://www.fsinplatform.org/global-report-food-crises-2023
- 7. UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage. (2020). *Sierra Leone Country Profile*. https://www.unicef.org/media/111401/file/Child-marriage-country-profile-Sierra-Leone-2021.pdf
- 8. Right For Education. (2020, June 6). *Hands Off Our Girls*. https://rightforeducation.org/2020/06/12/hands-off-our-girls/
- 9. Rossiter, J. & Abreh, M.K. (2022, August 26). Sierra Leone Has Made a Big Bet on Free Education for Poor Children—So Long as They Can Pass the Exams. Center for Global Development. https://www.cgdev.org/blog/sierra-leone-has-made-big-bet-free-education-poor-children-so-long-they-can-pass-exams
- 10. Wijeratna, A. (2018). *Agroecology: Scaling-Up, Scaling Out.* ActionAid. https://actionaid.org/sites/default/files/agroecology_def_web.pdf
- 11. ActionAid. (2023). *The Vicious Cycle. Connections Between the Debt Crisis and Climate Crisis*. https://actionaid.org/publications/2023/vicious-cycle
- 12. International Monetary Fund. (2023). *List of LIC DSAs for PRGT-Eligible Countries*. https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/dsa/dsalist.pdf
- 13. Obadare, E. (2022). *Massive Borrowing Puts Nigeria's Future at Risk*. Council on Foreign Relations. https://www.cfr.org/blog/massive-borrowing-puts-nigerias-future-riskf
- 14. Munemo, J. (2022, November 23). The US dollar is getting stronger: African countries are feeling the pain and have few policy options. The Conversation. https://theconversation.com/the-us-dollar-is-getting-stronger-african-countries-are-feeling-the-pain-and-have-few-policy-options-195023
- 15. Bolhuis, M. & Kovacs, P. (2022, October 20). *Africa's Inflation Among Region's Most Urgent Challenges*. International Monetary Fund. <a href="https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2022/10/20/africas-inflation-among-regions-most-urgent-challenges#:~:text=One%20of%20the%20most%20urgent,almost%209%20percent%20in%20August 16. Win, K. (2022, September 22). Searching for Keys as the Kyat Goes Out of Kilter. *Fulcrum*. https://fulcrum.sg/searching-for-keys-as-the-kyat-goes-out-of-kilter
- 17. Alo, J.N. (2022, December 21). High currency depreciation eats into private credit: Cenbank study. *The Business Standard*. https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/high-currency-depreciation-eats-private-credit-cenbank-study-555814
- 18. Sherpa, S. (2022, September 21). Weakening rupee likely to aggravate economic woes. *The Himalayan*. https://thehimalayantimes.com/business/weakening-rupee-likely-to-aggravate-economic-woes
- 19. Yam, M. (2022, September 27). Afghanistan's money is crumbling to pieces, just like its economy. *The Los Angeles Times*. https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2022-09-27/afghanistan-money-bills-falling-apart-economic-crisis
- 20. Mohamed, A.H. (2023, February 20). Revitalizing Somalia's Economy: A Closer Look At Currency Reform OpEd. *Eurasia Review.* https://www.eurasiareview.com/20022023-revitalizing-somalias-economy-a-closer-look-at-currency-reform-oped/
- 21. Tadesse, F. (2022, September 21). Black Market Currency Trade Thrives In Ethiopia as Economy Tanks. *Bloomberg.* https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-09-21/black-market-currency-trade-thrives-inethiopia-as-economy-tanks#xj4y7vzkg
- 22. Clynch, H. (2023, January 13). Ethiopia ponders benefits and costs of birr devaluation. *African Business*. https://african.business/2023/01/finance-services/ethiopia-ponders-benefits-and-costs-of-birr-devaluation
- 23. Mitimingi, T.C. (2022, December 29). Selloff in Kwacha, Quickening Inflation May Prompt Zambia Rate Hike. *Bloomberg*. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-12-29/selloff-in-kwacha-quickening-inflation-may-prompt-zambia-rate-hike#xj4y7vzkg
- 24. Wadhwa, T. (2022, September 8). "The Haitian people need a socialist state," says journalist Jean Waltès Bien-Aimé. Peoples Dispatch. https://peoplesdispatch.org/2022/09/08/the-haitian-people-need-a-socialist-state-says-journalist-jean-waltes-bien-aime/
- 25. Labrador, R.C. & Roylimate, D. (2022, September 9). *Haiti's Troubled Path to Development*. Council on Foreign Relations. https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/haitis-troubled-path-development

- 26. Cheng, K.C. (2022, May 19). Conflict over resources in Kenya hits deadly highs with firearms in play. *Mongabay*. https://news.mongabay.com/2022/05/conflict-over-resources-in-kenya-hits-deadly-highs-with-firearms-in-play/27. U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). (2023). *Democratic Republic of the Congo: Climate risks to resilience & food security in bureau for humanitarian assistance geographies*. https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/democratic-republic-congo-climate-risks-resilience-food-security-bureau-humanitarian-assistance-geographies
- 28. Gänsler, K. (2023, February 22). Nigeria's election: Candidates ignore climate change. *DW.* https://www.dw.com/en/nigerias-election-candidates-ignore-climate-change/a-64777138
- 29. Lusaka, K.S. (2022, November 11). Zambia: Female farmers adapt to climate change. *DW*. https://www.dw.com/en/zambia-female-farmers-adapt-to-climate-change/a-63703813
- 30. Ahonsi, A.A. (2022, November 3). Why COP27 matters to Sierra Leone. United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Action 2030 Blog. https://unsdg.un.org/latest/blog/why-cop27-matters-sierra-leone
 31. Fillion, S. (2022, November 17). Nepal President On Climate Change: 'The Offenses That We Have Not Committed Are Punishing Us'. Forbes. <a href="https://www.forbes.com/sites/stephaniefillion/2022/11/17/nepals-president-on-climate-change-the-offenses-that-we-have-not-committed-are-punishing-us/?sh=162d6d593e4c
 32. Synovitz, R. (2021, November 16). 'No Water And Nothing To Eat': Afghans Suffer Extreme Shocks From
- Global Climate Change. RadioFree Europe/Radio Liberty. https://www.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-hunger-climate-change/31564617.html
- 33. Africa Center for Strategic Studies. (2022, October 14). Conflict Remains the Dominant Driver of Africa's Spiraling Food Crisis. https://africacenter.org/spotlight/conflict-remains-the-dominant-driver-of-africas-spiraling-food-crisis/
- 34. Global Food Governance Working Group of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSIPM). (2022). *A Committee on World Food Security (CFS) coordinated policy response to the global food crisis*. https://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/CFS-Coordinated-Policy-Response_Policy-Brief_EN.pdf
- 35. Anderson, C.R. & Bruil, J. (2021). *Shifting Funding to Agroecology for People, Climate and the Nature.* ActionAid. https://www.actionaidusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Shifting-Funding-to-Agroecology.pdf
- 36. Wijeratna, A. (2018). *Agroecology: Scaling-Up, Scaling Out.* ActionAid. https://actionaid.org/sites/default/files/agroecology_def_web.pdf
- 37. Guerra, A. (2023, March 28). Donors and UN agencies must divert from fertilizers and fund the shift to agroecology. AcitonAid. https://www.actionaidusa.org/insight/donors-and-un-agencies-must-divert-from-fertilizers-and-contribute-to-the-shift-to-agroecology/
- 38. Anderson, T. (2023, April 27). Want to fix the climate? End debt traps. *Al Jazeera*. https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/4/27/want-to-fix-the-climate-end-debt-traps
- 39. Archer, D. & Saalbrink, R. (2021). *The Public Versus Austerity: Why public sector wage bill constraints must end.* ActionAid. https://actionaid.org/publications/2021/public-versus-austerity-why-public-sector-wage-bill-constraints-must-end
- 40. Ignatiou, N. & Ramsay, A. (2022). *Leading the Way: The Nexus through a Feminist Lens.* ActionAid. https://www.actionaid.org.uk/publications/leading-way-nexus-through-feminist-lens

ActionAid is an international network building a just, equitable, and sustainable world in solidarity with communities on the frontlines of poverty and injustice.

ActionAid USA

1220 L Street NW, Suite 725 Washington, DC 20005 +1 (202) 835-1240 www.ActionAidUSA.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Author: Aftab Khan Alam **Coordinator:** Alberta Guerra

Layout and design: Jenna Farineau

Contributors: Teresa Anderson, Susannah Birkwood, Alberta Guerra, Roos Saalbrink, Esther Sharara, Meredith Slater, Brandon Wu, Francisco Yermo

Cover photo: Nihab Rahman/ActionAid