



Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket

Iraq, June 2018

Background

The CWG's Market Mapping Task Force (MMTF), in close coordination with Food Security, Shelter/NFI and WASH Cluster Coordinators, agreed on a new composition of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket on June 14th, 2016. Following that action, the Joint Price Monitoring Initiative (JPMI) was tasked with monitoring on monthly basis the prices of the components of the SMEB to inform the CWG on any significant variations in the prices of key commodities, in order to set an equitable cash transfer value for Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance across Iraq.

With support from 14 partners across 8 governorates of Iraq, the JPMI's first round of data collection was launched in November 2016, and since then, data collection for price monitoring is being rolled out monthly, with a factsheet produced and disseminated widely. JPMI data was triangulated with WFP's monthly Market Monitor and CWG PDM data available, covering all 18 governorates, and providing governorate level prices for key commodities.

In 2016, the CWG had defined a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), which included more food items, commodities and services, gathered prices and succeeded in calculating governorate level baskets. Subsequently, the CWG reached an agreement regarding the SMEB being equivalent to 70% of the MEB, which eventually translated into the cash transfer value adopted in Iraq in 2016 at USD 400. For the multi-month transfer values, the non-recurring items in the NFI Basket, valued at USD 40 were removed, for a transfer value of USD 360.

The new SMEB composition did not include recurring items, and thus the same value was provided for either one-off or multi-month transfers. The 6% that was added to the total amount for health costs was removed after thorough consultations with the Health Cluster Coordinators. After calculating the SMEB values per governorate, a weighted average based on the number of people in need of multi-purpose cash assistance per governorate was calculated and is equivalent to USD 411.6. Dropping the USD 11.6 from the average SMEB will enable CWG partners to reach extra 3,682 households with cash assistance.

Changes made in 2018

Based on changes in the displacement dynamics and anecdotal reports on changes in rental prices (which are not being collected on a regular basis across all of Iraq), a revision of the SMEB was initiated by the CWG MMTF late 2017 looking specifically at rental prices for people affected by conflict. In May 2018, another MMTF was called to finalize the revision using vulnerability assessment data on monthly expenditures of households made available by 8 CWG partners. During the revision, new items were identified as pivotal to enable vulnerable households to cover their most basic needs and were therefore introduced in the current version of the SMEB.

Reviewed Items in SMEB – based on monthly expenditures of an average household of 6 individuals.¹

Food

Prices for the food component of the survival minimum expenditure basket is based on the Survival Minimum food basket endorsed by the Food Security Cluster in Iraq². The total amount is calculated using VAM data from May 2018 and in IQD.

Food basket	Unit	Unit price (IQD)	Monthly need (IQD)
Lentils	11 kg	1,689	18,241
Rice	41 kg	1,826	73,953
Sugar	6 kg	1,119	6,647
Vegetable oil	6 l.	1,568	9,314
Wheat flour	41 kg	1,067	43,214
Total			151,368

WASH

The WASH component consists of consumable hygiene items and the monthly minimum water consumption of an average Iraqi household. Water consumption expenditures is one of the new items introduced to the SMEB in 2018. This item was introduced based on the findings on more than 5800 households living outside of camps assessed from January to April 2018, and claiming water as one of the top 5 highest expenditures on a monthly basis. The items are based on Iraq WASH cluster standards.

WASH items	Unit (pcs)	Unit price (IQD)	Monthly need (IQD)
Detergent	1	4,147	4,147
Toothbrush	6	500	3,000
Toothpaste	2	1,000	2,000
Shampoo	2	1,500	3,000
Disinfection	1	1,000	1,000
Sanitary Napkins (pack)	4	100	400
Garbage bags	1	1,000	1,000
Soap	8	250	2,000
Total			16,547

Based on WASH cluster standards and average HH sizes, May 2018

Item	Unit/person (in liters)	Unit price (IQD)	Monthly need/HH (IQD)
Water trucking	47	3	25,803
Drinking water	3	1	549
Total	50		26,352

¹ All amounts are calculated using the official exchange rate end of June, 2018

Transport/Communication/Electricity

Transport and communication were already included in the previous SMEB, whereas electricity has been introduced as a new item. The amount for electricity is based on average monthly expenditures and is supposed to cover expenditures for water pumps, lighting, communication purposes and water coolers. Transport is intended to cover basic needs related to access to education, health facilities, markets and livelihood opportunities. Prices for transport, communication and electricity are currently not being collected on a regular monthly basis, as none of the items are included in the joint price monitoring initiative, thus, amounts are calculated solely on assessment data from January to April, 2018.

Average monthly expenditures in IQD for an average Iraqi household (CWG vulnerability assessment data from 2018)

Governorates	Transport (IQD)	Communication (IQD)	Electricity (IQD)
Anbar	38,000	21,000	32,000
Babylon	93,000	22,000	21,000
Baghdad	69,000	25,000	46,000
Basrah	66,000	36,000	28,000
Dahuk	40,000	15,000	29,000
Diyala	82,000	27,000	31,000
Erbil	39,000	15,000	36,000
Kerbala	18,000	13,000	23,000
Kirkuk	41,000	18,000	16,000
Missan	56,000	27,500	34,000
Muthanna	42,000	34,000	83,000
Najaf	75,000	28,000	20,000
Ninewa	48,000	14,000	36,000
Qadissiya	52,000	17,000	20,000
Salah_al_din	39,000	2,400	47,000
Sulaymaniyah	47,000	15,000	23,000
Thi_qar	59,000	20,000	22,000
Wassit	11,000	13,000	
Total average	50,833	20,161	32,176

Rent

The monthly rent expenditures are collected in both urban areas and rural areas across Iraq from households living in rented accommodation. As many families are reportedly sharing accommodation the average amounts are based on a single family's monthly expenditures for accommodation disregarding how many families are currently living in the household.

Average monthly expenditure (assessment data from 2018)

Governorates	Monthly rent averages (IQD)
Anbar	113,000
Babylon	146,000
Baghdad	337,000
Basrah	232,000

Dahuk	153,000
Diyala	140,000
Erbil	166,000
Kerbala	167,000
Kirkuk	150,000
Missan	294,000
Muthanna	233,000
Ninewa	113,000
Qadissiya	139,000
Salah_al_din	180,000
Sulaymaniyah	121,000
Thi_qar	169,000
Wassit	98,000
Overall average	173,588

Fuel (Butane and Kerosene)

In the previous SMEB Kerosene and Butane were included as items. The MMTF consulted with the Iraq Emergency Shelter and Non-food Items (ES/NFI) Cluster to ensure cross-sectoral alignment on items. Based on the Position Paper in regards to the provision of kerosene for cooking and heating for People in Need in Iraq³ issued by the ES/NFI cluster in April 2018, the MMTF agreed to recommend the removal of kerosene and butane from the SMEB. The MMTF proposes to adopt the position endorsed at ICCG level whereby humanitarian partners recognize that the responsibility of supply of kerosene remains with the GoI, allowing the humanitarian community to support other, non-kerosene based, complementary interventions for highly vulnerable families in and out of camps.

Proposed revision to the SMEB

Taking into account the analysis on the single items, the review of available assessment data and the data deriving from the Joint Price Monitoring, the MMTF recommends a revision of the current SMEB. Based on monthly expenditures of an average household of 6 individuals the following SMEB are recommended and endorsed by the CWG:

Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket calculation May 2018				
Item	IQD	USD	% coverage	% of full basket
Food	151,368	128	100	32%
Hygiene items	16,547	14	100	3%
Transport/communication	70,994	60	100	15%
Rent	173,588	146	100	37%
Electricity	32,176	27	100	7%
Water	26,352	22	100	6%
Total	470,827	397		100%

Recommended transfer value is **480,000 IQD/month** based on updated calculations and current programming

³ See Annex 1

Kerosene for Cooking and Heating in Iraq Shelter & NFI Cluster Position Paper v5

This paper presents the position of the Shelter & NFI Cluster in regards to the provision of kerosene for cooking and heating for People in Need⁴ in Iraq.

REQUIREMENTS FOR KEROSENE

The winter period is recognised as lasting, on average, four months from November through to February. During winter a family of 6 requires an average of 100 litres per month⁵ for cooking and heating, compared to 40 litres per month for the remaining eight months of the year.

Spring, Summer & Autumn								Winter				Total
MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	
320 litres								400 litres				720 litres

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Since 2003 the Government of Iraq (GoI) has provided kerosene through coupons linked to the Public Distribution System. Each coupon allowed the recipient to collect 200L of kerosene, in some cases once a transportation fee had been paid. Since 2014 the GoI has committed to providing kerosene to people in need, based upon notes to UNHCR from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq - Higher Committee for Relief and Sheltering IDPs in Geneva on the 15th December 2016 (Ref/781/16) and from the General Secretariat for the Council of Ministers on the 12th November 2017 (1491/MKH). The distribution system, especially during winter, has become strained resulting in variable volumes per family at Governorate level, differences in where distributions can be accessed from and limitations on the number of trucks allocated to distributions. In support of the GoI response, the UN and NGO partners identified and filled gaps until the 2017/18 winter when responsibility for distribution was handed back to the GoI through the Kerosene Position Paper v4 issued by the Cluster, after consultation within the humanitarian community.

⁴ People in Need as defined in the 2018 HRP

⁵ Based upon a heater with fuel consumption of 0.25L/hr, 8 hours per day and 30 days per month.

SHELTER & NFI CLUSTER POSITION

The Cluster supports the position of the Gol in highlighting the importance of kerosene supply throughout the year, especially during winter. The responsibility of supply remains with the Gol, allowing the humanitarian community to support other, non-kerosene based, complementary interventions for highly vulnerable families in and out of camp. To achieve this the following strategy, led by the Cluster, and agreed by the humanitarian community, is proposed:

1. Working with all branches and levels of the Gol to support equitable distribution through the analysis of data, forecasting of need, creation of distribution plans and the identification of barriers and gaps. The objective remains for the Gol to share with humanitarian partners a distribution plan meeting the needs of all groups before the start of winter in November.
2. Together with donors, the UN and NGOs, the Cluster will advocate that the Gol meets its commitments of an equitable distribution of kerosene to all families in need. Additionally, the Cluster supports the Protection Cluster and local authorities to ensure families who miss documentation such as PDS card are able to access distributions.
3. In exceptional circumstances where the Gol is unable to provide kerosene for reasons beyond supply or availability of resources, humanitarian partners can support only highly vulnerable families with life-saving needs.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Through the [Climatisation Guidance Iraq v7](#) the Cluster provides information on assistance in advance of winter. As related to kerosene the following additional notes are made:

1. In advance of winter the Cluster will prepare a national winter needs analysis and advocate with donors for funding. The Cluster will prioritise the provision of minimum standard shelter and NFI, including heaters and fuel storage, whilst relying on the Gol to complement such assistance with kerosene and further NFI.
2. The UN and Gol will meet the needs of camp populations, allowing NGOs, UN and Gol to support highly vulnerable out of camp populations, whether IDP, host community, returnee or non-displaced.
3. In support of the CCCM Cluster and Civil Defence, the Cluster will promote fire prevention activities including the installation and maintenance of physical measures and training.
4. In the case of a family being displaced and remaining in displacement during winter, the provision of storage capacity at household level through the distribution of an empty 200L barrel or equivalent number of jerry cans, can be important to ensure the ability of the family to receive kerosene.