

Dashboard Definition Document

Global food prices in 3rd world countries

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# **Introduction**:

There is a global outcry over the displacement of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar and they have been left with no choice but to confine themselves in ghettos in Myanmar or in other Muslim countries like Bangladesh or on the north eastern regions of India and Bangladesh. They are bereft of food and shelter and as a result the United Nations has stepped in to provide food and relief to them and has deputed its various departments for this purpose. One of the major wings of UN called United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is responsible for providing food supplies to these refugees.

However, the FAO will like to procure food items at the lowest price possible from either Myanmar or neighboring countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, India etc. because of the proximity to these countries from Myanmar and as such, it will result in procuring these items quickly and also at a lower cost.

UN-FAO has access to the global food prices database, but it’s very difficult to glean insights from the database, unless a user-friendly dashboard is not there in place. The Tableau dashboard that have created will help them in gaining insights and take quick and right decisions about what food items to procure and from which country/province.

# **Audience**

The personnel who may find the Dashboard useful in decision making are as follows:

* The purchase officer in Food and Organizational Organization of UN.
* The purchase officer in Human Welfare department of Myanmar/Bangladesh/India
* Other relevant officers in humanitarian organizations

## Objective:

As already mentioned, the FAO will like to procure food items at the lowest price possible from either Myanmar or neighboring countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, India etc. because of the proximity to these countries from Myanmar and as such, it will result in procuring these items quickly and also at a lower cost. Hence, the objective of the dashboard is to facilitate the decision making regarding the procurement of food items based on various parameters:

* What to procure (depending on the factors such as food habits of the refugees, their minimum dietary requirements so that they get optimum amount of protein and carbohydrate)
* The budget of FAO
* The places (countries/provinces) from where to procure at the lowest price possible
* The time taken in transporting the items.

**Content on the dashboard:**

1. Average prices of primary food items in Myanmar and neighboring countries such as Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan – A big picture
2. Looking at the above, it can be seen that the average price of most of the food items are more or less the same in all the neighboring countries and hence it would be best to procure items from either India or Bangladesh.
3. However, if we look at the average prices of various food items in the various provinces of India and Bangladesh, it is observed that there is a big variation among the prices of the commodities. The various plots/graphs contain the prices of all the relevant/required food items with a granular details in a pictorial form and hence it would help the concerned officers in taking very quick decisions.
4. The dashboard contains the average prices of rice, wheat, lentils, potatoes, and onions etc. which are the sources of the staple diet of people living in this region.

**Areas of improvement in the dashboard:**

There is a huge scope of improvement and many features may be added (including the creation of stories), but in the short term and with little effort and customization, we can have the following features:

1. The prices are not standardized i.e. there are represented in different currencies and in terms of various different unit-types (sometimes kilos and sometimes tons). In the data-source section of Tableau , we can create new fields for standardization of such values such as all the prices may be represented in USD and all the units may be represented either in kilos or liters or as the case may be. Doing so will make the dashboard much more useful for the audience at the local level, but also at much higher level.