Background and methodology
The goal of this community-based market monitoring initiative is to deepen analysis and understanding of the shifting patterns of trade and markets in Darfur, on an ongoing basis for key agricultural and livestock commodities, to identify how livelihoods and the economy can be supported through trade, and to identify peace-building opportunities through trade. Eleven CBOs/NGOs are monitoring 14 markets across East Darfur on a weekly basis. Quantitative data, for example the price of Darfur’s main cereals, livestock, cash crops and fruits and vegetables are collected weekly as well as qualitative data, for example on sources of supply. Some data are collected on a monthly basis, for example transport costs, transport routes and the impact of the conflict on flows of commodities. DDRA holds quarterly analysis workshops with the CBO enumerators.
Ed Daein and Aneem markets, and is also exported to South Sudan. See Figure 2. There was no availability of food aid sorghum reported across the monitored markets in East Darfur State, reflecting that there are no food distribution activities in the state.

- The **price of livestock** fluctuated during the quarter, and varied from one market to another according to local conditions. The price of sheep was high in most markets during September, for example Ed Daein, Kelakel, Omsenina, Abumatareg, Yaseen and Selya, due to the high demand during Eid Aladha. Sheep prices also started increasing during November in Abugabra market, when the rainy season ended and traders transported sheep to Omdurman. Sheep prices were stable in other markets such as Asalaya and Abusaeed due to the steady availability of supply in the area. See Figure 3. The price of cattle also fluctuated according to the availability of supply around markets reflecting the normal movement of livestock looking for good pasture. See Figure 4. The price of local donkeys started decreasing in November in most monitored markets as the agricultural season phased out.

- Although this quarter (September to November) is the harvest period, the **price of cash crops** (groundnuts, dried tomato and dried okra in particular) unusually increased as a consequence of poor rainfall, early phasing out of the rainy season and therefore a poor harvest. The price of groundnuts decreased slightly in the main markets during the first two months of the quarter (September and October) because of increased availability during the harvest season, but increased again when the harvest ended, reflecting poor production this year. See Figure 5. Prices of dried tomato and dried okra increased in almost monitored markets, which is abnormal at this time of year and reflects the poor harvest in production areas. See Figures 6 & 7.
As usual in this period of the year, the price of **fruit and vegetables** (onions and fresh tomatoes in particular) are affected by seasonality. The price of **onions** started increasing across East Darfur state during the quarter as this is the off-season. See Figure 8. The price of **fresh tomatoes** also increased across the State reflecting the off-season. In 4 out of 14 markets there was no availability of fresh tomatoes.

Despite the poor rains and poor harvest (for groundnuts in particular), the main daily **labouring** opportunity this quarter was agricultural activities (harvesting).

During the quarter there was improvement and stability in the security situation throughout East Darfur State. Accordingly most **trade routes** from East Darfur to other States, including the railway, or connecting markets and areas within the State, were stable, and there were no natural obstructions to trade routes although this quarter marked the end of the rainy season. The exception is the trade route connecting Ed Daen to Omdurman through Al Lait which is still closed due to the tribal conflict in the area.