June to August 2014

• Cereal prices, millet in particular, continued to rise in many of the 15 monitored markets across the state this quarter (June to August 2014). For example, the rise in millet prices during the quarter, between June and August 2014, was 7% in El Fashir, and 25% in El Lait. But in some markets cereal prices appeared to stabilise, for example in Saraf Omra where traders are now permitted to transport cereals out of the locality. The reasons for rising prices continue to be limited supplies at this time of year, exacerbated by the very poor harvest in 2013/14. The food voucher scheme increased demand for cereals in the market, although food aid has been available in-kind, through food-for-work and food-for-recovery. Nevertheless, millet prices in El Fashir market are 113% higher in August 2014 compared with a year earlier, in August 2013.

• Livestock price trends varied between the monitored markets, according to livestock mobility between areas, in search of pasture and water, as is normal this quarter with the onset of the rainy season (rushash). Insecurity and the outbreak of conflict in Tawila from the end of June to middle of July triggered the movement of livestock far away from Tawila market. Prices fell in markets where the animals gathered, and increased in the markets they had left.

• Groundnut prices soared this quarter: in Al Lait market the price rose by 125% between May and August 2014, in Daralsalam market by 46% and in Wadda’a market by 50%, all production areas.

In El Fashir, an area of consumption, the price increased by 62% over 1

1 In August 2013, millet prices were SDG 256 per sack. In August 2014, the price was SDG 544 per sack

Continued on reverse

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. Seven CBOs plus DRA are monitoring 15 markets across North Darfur, including three markets in IDP camps, 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. DRA holds quarterly analysis workshops with the CBO enumerators.
the same time period. The price trend for dried okra varieties between markets, increasing in some and falling in others as the rainy season meant other vegetables were available. The price of dried tomatoes continued rising, reflecting the impact of seasonality. The price of *tombac* varied between markets, according to the rainfall and therefore release of stocks into the market.

- Onion prices continued increasing in all monitored markets, reflecting the impact of the off-season as well as the closing of some trade routes because of rainfall, mainly in August. The price of fresh tomatoes sharply increased as this is the off-season. Two-thirds of the monitored markets reported no availability of fresh tomatoes.

- The number of checkpoints along the El Fashir - Kutum trade route continued to increase this quarter; from 34 to 42. Accordingly, transport costs rose, from SDG 50 to SDG 100 for a sack of onions. Some trade routes closed this quarter due to heavy rainfall and flow of wadis such as the Kebkabiya – Saraf Omra route. Others continued to be closed by insecurity, for example Saraf Omra – Seraif Beni Hussein. Heavy rainfall and insecurity affected trade routes in the western part of the state only. The El Fashir-Nyala trade route remained stable and functioning during the quarter.

- In this quarter traditional daily laboring opportunities such as brick-making and construction disappeared. Instead, there was demand for agricultural labor, an important income-earning opportunity.