December 2015 to February 2016

- **Cereal:** Cereal prices were stable in most monitored markets in Central Darfur this quarter. See Figure 1. Nertiti registered the highest millet prices, reflecting the impact of local disputes in the area during the quarter. Millet prices were 20% higher in Nertiti in February 2016 compared with February 2015, and 8% higher in Zalingei for the same period, largely because of the conflict. As was the case last quarter, certain factors prevented prices rising even higher, including regulations banning the movement of cereals outside the state and the release of stocks from strategic reserves. See Figure 2.

Local sorghum prices and food-aid sorghum prices were stable this quarter in almost all monitored markets due to continued and regular distribution of food aid by WFP. For Um Dukhun and Mukjar markets there was an increase in sorghum prices because of high demand for sorghum for animal fodder. See Figure 3.

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**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. Five CBOs/NGOs plus DDRA are monitoring 10 markets across Central 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.

**Participating CBOs and the markets they monitor**

- Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS)
- Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency (DDRA)
- Almanar
- Daro Baida
- Albaraka Agriculture Organisation (AAO)
- Arebow Charity Organisation (ACO)

- Zalingei
- Umshalaya
- Nertiti
- Garsila and Delaig
- Bendisi, Umdukhn and Mukjar
- Abatta and Tereig

This project is funded by the EU
Livestock: Livestock prices fluctuated across all monitored markets this quarter. Cattle and sheep prices were stable, particularly in the Wadi Salih zone (Garsilla, Delage and Mukjar) where livestock gathered on their migration south, normal at this time of year. The highest sheep prices were registered in Bindisi and Um Shalaya markets because of high demand and the presence of some sheep traders from South Darfur at Bindisi market. See Figures 4 and 5. Local donkey prices increased a little in both Nertiti and Bindisi because of demand in these markets for using donkeys for ‘on the hoof’ transportation of livestock as well as for local transportation purposes.

Cash crops: Cash crop prices were influenced by both seasonality and the local disputes in the Jebel Mara this quarter. Groundnut prices were stable due to high stock levels in those monitored markets that had a good harvest and were therefore able to store larger quantities. See Figure 6. Dried tomato prices increased sharply (from SDG 800 to SDG 1,350) for the reasons mentioned above. The conflict also affected dried tomato prices elsewhere in the state, with prices increasing in most monitored markets. Dried okra prices rose, fell or were stable depending on local conditions. See Figure 7.

Fruit and vegetables: Onion and fresh tomato prices, which are widely produced in different locations, sharply decreased this quarter due to seasonality. See Figure 8. Orange prices also increased in most monitored markets due to some local disputes in production area.

Access to routes: Most trade routes in Central Darfur remained open this quarter and were stable, including the paved road between Zalingei and El Geneina. However, the route connecting Zalingei to Nyala saw 5 checkpoints added around Korally this quarter.
- **Daily labouring**: Most daily labouring opportunities this quarter were in brick-making and construction rather than agricultural operations, and the daily rate for these was SDG 60-70 per person per day.