Cereals:

During March 2016 cereal prices, millet in particular, have continued on a steady upwards trend in most monitored markets across Darfur, particularly in the five state capitals (the main consumption markets). This was because of the impact of the poor harvest last season. See Figure 1. Millet prices increased by 6% in El Fashir, 6% in Nyala, 5% in Zalingei and 4% in Ed Daein compared to February 2016. The highest percentage increase was reported in El Geneina (14% higher than February) despite being a production area. This was because the State Government started buying cereals from El Geneina and Forobaranga for strategic reserves, which increased demand while supply has been limited. Overall there has been little cereal flowing into markets in production areas, particularly in Central and West Darfur.

The highest millet prices across the five states during March were reported in food-insecure areas in North Darfur such as Um Kadada, Malha, Dar Alsalam and Tawilla. The highest millet price in Darfur was reported in Um Kadada, North Darfur (SDG 593) despite being a millet production area. This reflects the exceptionally poor harvest in Um Kadada. See Figure 2. Millet prices have increased substantially during the last 12 months, comparing March 2015 and March 2016, in El Fashir and Nyala, both important consumption markets, but not so much in Zalingei, in a cereal producing area. See Figure 3.

The price of food aid sorghum continued increasing this month due to a lack of supply to markets. This was partly related to a reduction of food aid by WFP in most IDP camps (related to re-profiling of those IDP camps and re-registration of beneficiaries) and other food distribution areas, particularly in Abu Shook, Zamzam and Kutum in North Darfur. This was in addition to the high demand for both local and food aid sorghum for use as animal fodder during the dry season.

Overall, due to the reasons mentioned above, most monitored markets have had limited supplies of cereals during March 2016, and prices have continued their upwards trend, indicating a deterioration of food security.
Livestock:

There were no common trends in livestock prices across Darfur in March 2016. Generally, livestock prices varied from market to market according to local circumstances in each area. The price of sheep showed some increase in those areas livestock moved away from in search of pasture and water. This was particularly clear in the state capitals where sheep prices increased in four out of five of these markets compared with February prices: in El Fashir by 11%, El Geneina by 6%, in Nyala by 13% and in Zalingei by 9%. The exception was Ed Daein in East Darfur where livestock gathered due to the availability of pasture, thus increasing supply. The price here decreased by 6% compared with February 2016. See Figure 4.

Cattle prices also differed according to market circumstances. For example in El Geneina, West Darfur, the price of cattle increased in March compared with February, mainly due to the falling value of the Sudanese pound which increased the cost of cattle imported from Chad. Cattle are brought from Chad through Tendelti market, part of the cross border trade between these two countries.

Cash Crops:

Along with the poor harvest last season, the price of groundnuts were stable in production areas and most of the main markets, with some fluctuation in consumption areas. Prices were stable in most areas in Central and West Darfur, decreased in most markets in South and North Darfur, and also decreased in most of the state capitals (El Fashir, El Geneina, Zalingei and Ed Daein). The exception was Nyala, South Darfur, where some fluctuation was reported. The main reason is the import of cheap cooking oil into Sudan, and then from Khartoum to Darfur. See Figure 5.

Daily labouring:

The main sources of daily labouring opportunities across Darfur were in brick-making and construction. This is normal at this time of year as the harvest season has phased out and agricultural work in preparation for the next harvest season has not yet started. There were no significant changes in daily wage rates.

Trade Routes:

The security situation across Darfur was stable during March 2016. Most of the trade routes within states and between states were stable compared to February 2015. For example, the number of checkpoints along the trade route connecting El Fashir to Kutum in North Darfur went from 12 in February to none in March. There was a reduction in checkpoints on the trade route connecting El Fashir in North Darfur to Nyala in South Darfur, from 35 in February to the three permanent checkpoints, in March. Accordingly the intrastate and interstate flow of commodities was good although this was not reflected in prices and transportation costs.