

Trade and Market Headlines West Darfur



Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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December 2013 to February 2014

- During this quarter of December 2013 to February 2014, **cereal prices** have risen. For example, in Kerenik market the average quarterly price of millet was 9% higher than the last quarter, and the average quarterly price of sorghum had risen by 15%, despite this being the time of the cereal harvest. Although cereal prices rose in most monitored markets in West Darfur during the quarter, they are not as high as in North and Central Darfur due to the positive impact of some flow of cereals cross-border from Chad, especially from the border areas.
- Generally **livestock prices** have been stable. The price of cattle and sheep slightly increased in February as traders bought both types of livestock for sale in Omdurman. Overall, livestock prices in the state during the quarter varied from one market to another, depending on the local availability of livestock compared with demand.
- Regarding **cash crops**, the price of many important cash crops increased substantially during the quarter as a direct impact of the poor harvest season. Groundnut prices registered a steady upwards trend, unlike the last two years of 2012 and 2013, because of lack of supply against high local demand, for example for groundnut cake. The price of dry okra and dry tomatoes in all monitored markets noticeably increased as the supply of dry okra was affected by the poor harvest, and the supply of dry tomatoes was affected also by pest infestation. However, the prices of both dry okra and dry tomatoes in West Darfur were lower than in North and Central Darfur.
- **Onion prices** decreased sharply in all monitored markets during the quarter in response to the seasonal harvest. Fresh tomatoes were available in all monitored markets as the seasonal harvest became available.
- In terms of **trade routes**, insecurity in both North and South Darfur affected the main trade routes leading into the state, blocking the trade route connecting Nyala, Zalingei and El Geneina for almost two weeks. As a consequence fuel (gasoline and benzene) almost ran out in El Geneina (which supplies the rest of the state) and transportation costs increased. A higher burden of taxes and fees have been imposed on trucks using the Omdurman/ El Geneina trade route since January 2014, under the new annual budget for West Darfur state for 2014.
- This quarter coincides with the winter agricultural season. In terms of **daily labouring opportunities**, in the agricultural sector this includes activities such as chopping of sugar cane, harvesting onions and planting areas under irrigation. In the major markets, brick making and construction operations were the main sources of income generation.

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 plus DRA are monitoring 11 markets across West Darfur, including two 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.

Participating CBOs and the markets they monitor

El Massar Organization for Nomad Development and Environment Conservation (MONEC) [El Geneina, Kerenik and Habila]

Pioneers of Peace and Development Organization (PPDO) [Mornei and Kirinding IDP camp]

Community Development Association (CDA) [Foro Baranga and Kondobe]

Beida Organization for Relief and Development (BORD) [Beida and Misterei]

Sarabee! Organization for Services and Development (SOSD) [Kulbus]

Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency (DRA) [El Geneina and Sisi IDP camp]



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