

Trade and Market Headlines Central Darfur



Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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June to August 2015

- Cereals:** During this quarter (June to August 2015) **cereal prices** were stable in June and July and then started increasing in August in almost all monitored markets in Central Darfur. This was mainly due to the delay in the start of the rains and then fluctuations in rainfall levels during the season season, and was in spite of the state government releasing cereals from the strategic reserves to government employees at market rates (to be deducted from salaries in installments), and also WFP distributing food items in IDP camps. The exception to this was Bindisi, where demand (and therefore prices) did not rise in August as pastoralists in this area migrated north. The level of rainfall is a key factor influencing cereal prices in Central Darfur as people predict the quality of the coming harvest based on rainfall and increase or decrease supply to the market accordingly. Rain-fed farming is the main source of income in Central Darfur and most people depend on the agricultural sector, particularly in rural areas like Jebel Mara, Treij, Dellage, Um Shalaya and Abata. See Figure 1.

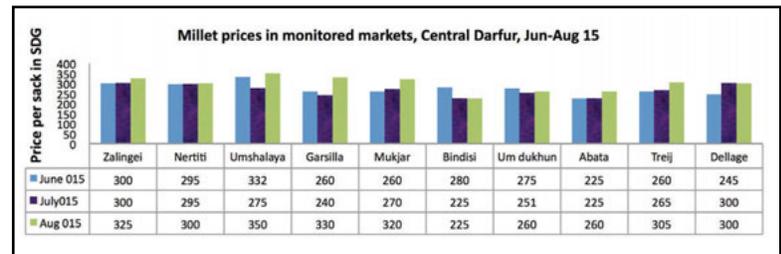


Figure 1: Price of millet in monitored markets, Central Darfur, June to August 2015

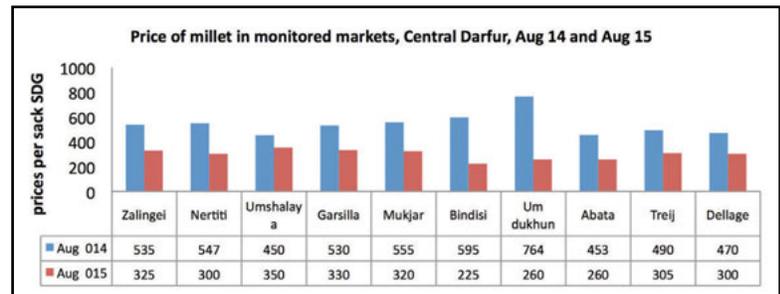


Figure 2: Price of millet in monitored markets, Central Darfur, August 2014 and August 2015

Background and methodology

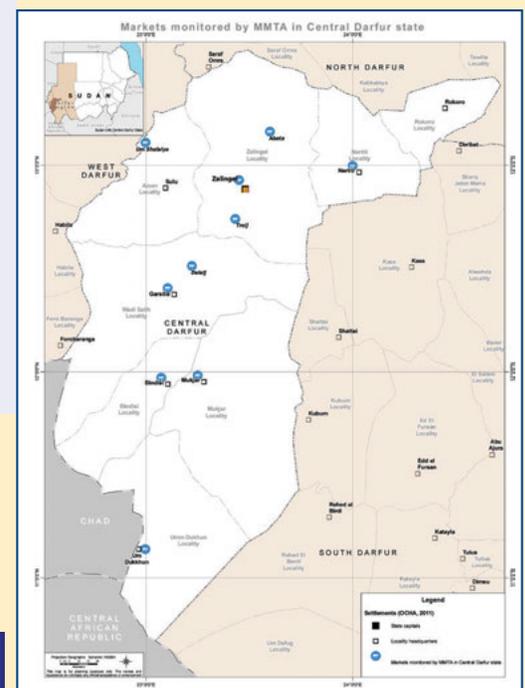
The goal of this community-based market monitoring initiative is to deepen analysis and understanding of the shifting patterns of trade and markets in Darfur, on an ongoing basis for key agricultural and livestock commodities, to identify how livelihoods and the economy can be supported through trade, 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) | Zalingei |
| Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency (DDRA) | Umshalaya |
| Almanar | Nertiti |
| Daro Baida | Garsilla and Delaig |
| Albaraka Agriculture Organisation (AAO) | Bindisi, Umdukhn and Mukjar |
| Arebaw Charity Organisation (ACO) | Abatta and Tereig |



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Despite increasing in August, cereal prices were lower this quarter compared to the same quarter last year (June to August 2014). For example the price of a sack of millet in Zalingei was lower in August 2015 compared to August 2014 by 39%, and local sorghum by 48%. This reflects the increased supply in 2015 following a good harvest season in 2014, as well as distribution of millet by the government, as mentioned above. See Figures 2 and 3.

- **Livestock: Livestock prices** varied from market to market according to local conditions. This quarter was the start of the rainy season and people in some parts of the state started working on farms rather than trading in livestock, leading to reduced supply and higher prices in these areas. Additionally, seasonal migration to the north of the state reduced livestock supplies to some markets, thus impacting prices.

Zalingei (an area of consumption) and Um Dukhun (not a consumption area but a large market supplying Darfur and Omdurman) reported the highest **sheep** prices reflecting the high demand for sheep for Eid Al-Adha in these areas. Sheep prices in others markets remained stable or fluctuated. See Figure 4.

The price of **goats** was high in almost all monitored markets. This was because consumers typically prefer goat meat at this time of year: other types of livestock are normally in weak health due to poor pastures (prior to the rainy season) or are not available due to seasonal mobility.

Cattle prices fluctuated in all monitored markets during June and July, and increased a little in August in most monitored markets due to the normal seasonal movement of cattle far from consumption areas. See Figure 5.

Camels and horses were not available in most monitored markets as they were moved to the north of the state due to the rainy season. The price of local donkeys rose this quarter in all monitored markets as they were in demand for use in agricultural operations.

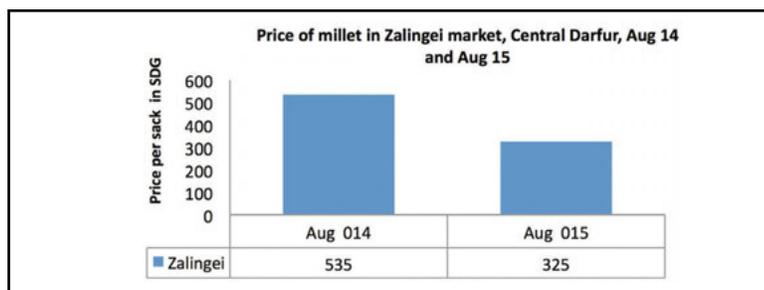


Figure 3: Price of millet in Zalingei market, Central Darfur, August 2014 and August 2015

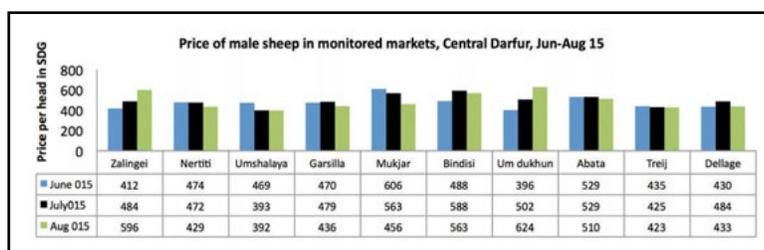


Figure 4: Price of male sheep in monitored markets, Central Darfur, June to August 2015

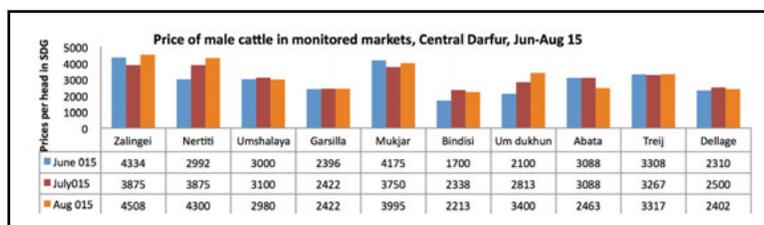


Figure 5: Price of male cattle in monitored markets, Central Darfur, June to August 2015

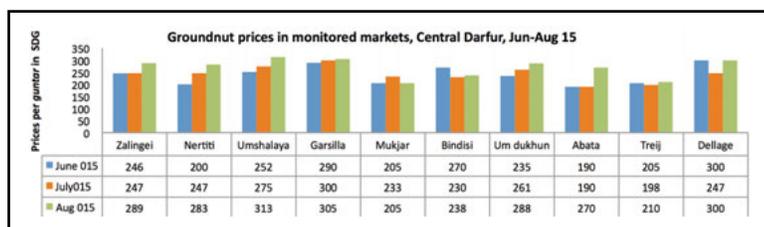


Figure 6: Price of groundnuts in monitored markets, Central Darfur, June to August 2015

- **Cash Crops:** prices were stable or showed a slight upward trend this quarter as the off-season began. **Groundnut** prices rose steadily due to low supplies from the poor harvest last year (2014). See Figure 6. The price of **dried tomatoes** increased sharply reflecting the off-season, while the price of **dried okra** dropped steadily as the new harvest (fresh okra) and other substitute vegetables became available. The price of both dried tomatoes and dried okra are much lower than last year (June to August 2014) when there was lack of supply due to the very poor harvest of 2013. Subsequently producers have increased the area of land they cultivate for these crops (in 2014), thus increasing supply this year. See Figure 7.

Although the price of some cash crops increased a little this quarter, prices were lower compared to the same quarter last year (June to August 2014). For example, the highest price of dried tomatoes in Zalingei was 69% lower in August 2015 compared to August 2014, and dried okra was 78% lower. See Figure 8.

- **Fruit and Vegetables:** The price of **onions** rose gradually this quarter in most monitored markets as this is the off-season. The price of **fresh tomatoes** increased sharply and they were unavailable in some markets such as Garsilla, Dellage and Treij. See Figure 9.

Orange prices were relatively stable and were available in most monitored markets except Treij, where people cultivate oranges inside their houses for household consumption and therefore do not need to buy oranges at the market. See Figure 10.

- **Trade routes:** In terms of trade routes, despite this quarter being the rainy season most of the main trading routes were functioning well, with only a few restrictions because of *wadi* flows. This is an indication of the low levels of rain that fell this quarter.
- **Daily labouring:** Agricultural activities were the main source of daily labour opportunities and the daily wage remained stable.

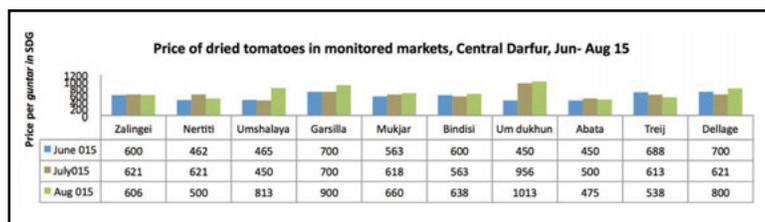


Figure 7: Price of dried tomatoes in monitored markets, Central Darfur, June to August 2015

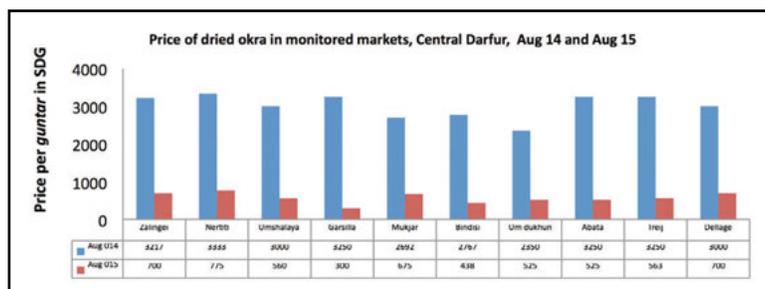


Figure 8: Price of dried okra in monitored markets, Central Darfur, August 2014 and August 2015

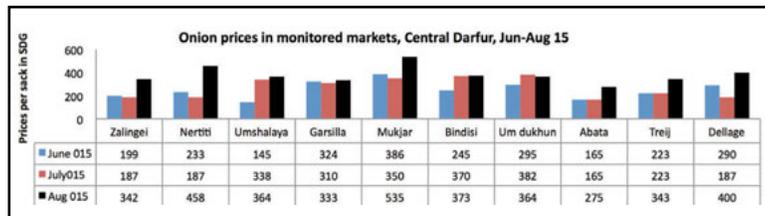


Figure 9: Price of onions in monitored markets, Central Darfur, June to August 2015.

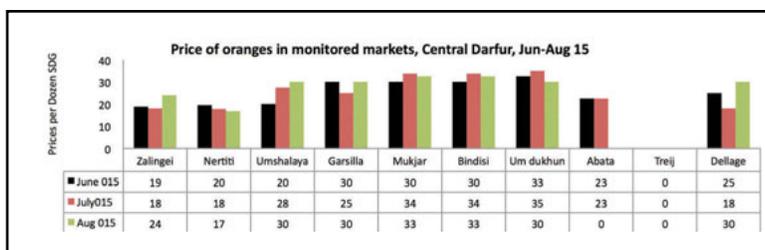


Figure 10: Prices of oranges in monitored markets, Central Darfur, June to August 2015