

# Monthly Trade and Market Bulletin for Darfur States

## Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency



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Covering April 2016 • www.dra-sudan.org • mohamedgido@gmail.com



### Cereals:

During April 2016 cereal prices, millet in particular, have continued on a steep upwards trend in most monitored markets across the Darfur States, particularly in the five state capitals (the main consumption markets). This was mainly a consequence of the poor harvest last season. See Figures 1 and 2. Millet prices increased by 6% in El Fashir, 10% in El Geneina, 10% in Nyala and 12% in Zalingei compared to March 2016. The highest percentage increase was reported in Ed Daein – 13% higher than March; this is mainly a cash crop rather than cereal producing area, and there has been increased demand for cereals from refugees arriving from South Sudan. State government has released supplies from the strategic reserve into the market in Ed Daein.

The highest millet price across the five states during April 2016 was reported in Wadda, North Darfur. This is normally considered a food secure part of North Darfur, but had a very poor harvest in 2015. Last month (March), the highest millet price was recorded in Um Kadada market in North Darfur, one of the most food insecure areas in 2016. The price of millet fell by 11% in Um Kadada in April compared with March. This was due to the State government releasing supplies from the strategic reserve into Um Kadada market through the Ministry of Finance, Zakat and the Agricultural Bank, thus demonstrating the positive impact the strategic reserve can have on lowering cereal prices. See Figure 3. However, the price of millet increased during the month in almost all other monitored markets across the Darfur States. High cereal prices in production areas such as Central Darfur, due to last year's poor rainy season and poor harvest, have a knock-on effect on the rest of Darfur. The flow of cereals from West Darfur cross-border to Chad, encouraged by the devaluation of the Sudanese pound, is further pushing up prices in West Darfur.

The price of food aid sorghum continued to increase in April 2016 across the Darfur States, particularly in IDP camps. This is at least partially linked to WFP cutting the ration. Food aid sorghum prices

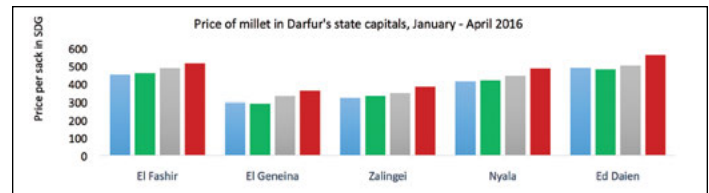


Figure 1: Price of millet in Darfur's state capitals, January - April 2016

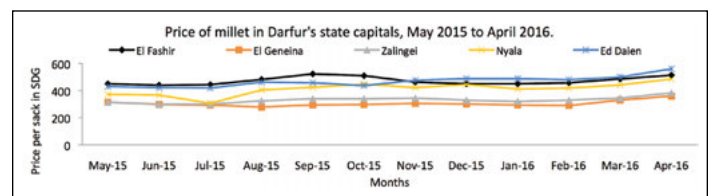


Figure 2: Millet price trends in Darfur's state capitals, May 2015 to April 2016.

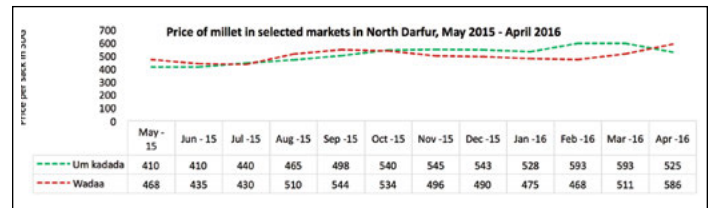


Figure 3: Millet price trends in selected markets in North Darfur, May 2015 to April 2016.

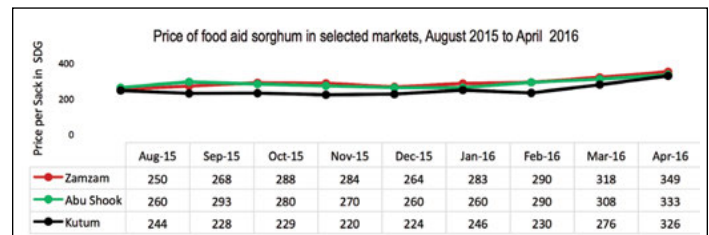


Figure 4: Food aid sorghum price trends in selected markets in North Darfur, May 2015 to April 2016.

increased in Kutum by 18%, in Zamzam by 10%, in Abu Shook by 8%, between March and April. See Figure 4.

### Background and methodology

The goal of this community-based market monitoring project 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. Through a network of 46 national CBOs/ NGOs, DDRA is monitoring 73 markets across all five Darfur states. 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. This trade and market bulletin, produced on a monthly basis, covers all five Darfur states.

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## Livestock:

The price of sheep and cattle increased during the month of April in most monitored markets, particularly in the five state capitals. As this is the dry season pastoralists moved away from market areas in search of pasture, thus impacting supply. This is a normal pattern at this time of year, particularly affecting the main markets such as the Darfur state capitals. See Figure 5. The number of cattle supplied from Chad to El Geneina market in West Darfur fell due to the devaluation of the Sudanese pound, further pushing prices up in El Geneina.

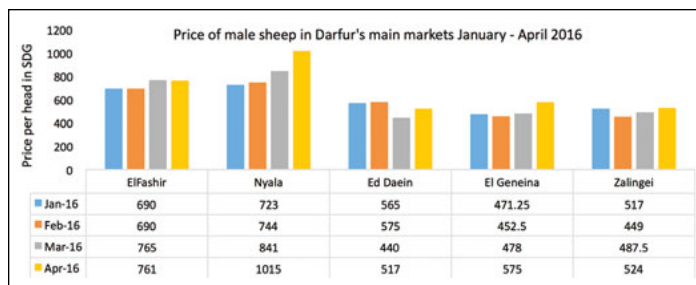


Figure 5: The price of male sheep in Darfur's main markets, January to April 2016.

## Cash Crops:

Despite the poor harvest last season the price of groundnuts remained stable or decreased in the main markets across the five Darfur States. See Figure 6. The main reason was the import of cheaper cooking oil from Central Sudan (Omdurman) into Darfur. Cooking oil is being imported into Ed Daein, Nyala, Zalingei, and El Geneina, and some is being traded cross-border into Chad. The overall impact is to stabilize or push down the price of locally-produced groundnut oil across the five Darfur States. The fall in groundnut prices is considered an indicator of food insecurity in areas where people are dependent on cash crops for their livelihood, such as Ed Daein in East Darfur where

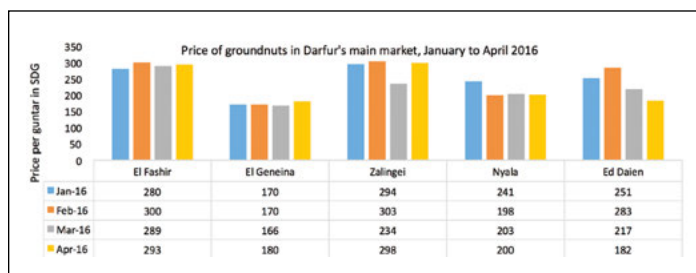


Figure 6: The price of groundnuts in Darfur's state capitals, January to April 2016

the price of groundnuts has fallen sharply since February 2016, while the price of millet is continuously increasing.

## Daily labouring:

As is normal in this period of the year, the main source of daily labouring across the five Darfur States was brick-making and construction in the state capitals and in certain localities. In some areas there were also daily labouring opportunities in the agricultural sector, for example in preparing land where the rains have started earlier, in East and South Darfur. (The influx of refugees from South Sudan into East Darfur has boosted the supply of daily labourers, especially for agricultural activities). Some other areas reported a lack of daily labouring opportunities, for example in food insecure areas in North Darfur (Malha and Dar Alsalam). However, no significant changes were reported in the daily wage rate during the month.

## Trade access and transportation:

The movement of trade and general access within and between Darfur's states was mostly reported to be stable during the month of April 2016. There was a major improvement in trade flows in North Darfur as the trade route connecting El Fashir to Kebkabiya through Koura (which has been closed for a long period) was recently opened to the safe movement of trade.



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**DDRA has a technical agreement with a number of ministries in each Darfur state: North, West, Central, South and East**



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