

# Trade and Market Headlines

## Central Darfur



## Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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### June to August 2013

- DRA's market monitoring has recently been extended to Central Darfur State. This is a relatively new state created in March 2012, with 8 localities and Zalingei as its capital.
- Cereal prices have risen in almost all monitored markets during the quarter because of the delayed rainy season, also the impact of localized conflict and the blocking of some important trade routes due to flooding. Um Dukhn market, normally regarded as a major area for millet production supplying large parts of Darfur, unusually registered the highest average millet price of all monitored markets in the three states of North, West and Central Darfur. This is due to the blocking of trade routes because of localised conflict as well as flooding.
- Livestock prices have fluctuated in almost all monitored markets reflecting the impact of local conflict on trade dynamics. When conflict flares up the livestock are usually moved away from the area causing prices to rise. In some cases there is distress selling, when livestock become a liability, as in Dellage market in July 2013, and the price fell.
- Groundnut prices were stable or increased during the quarter. Dry okra and dry tomatoes were available in all monitored markets but other important cash crops such as sesame, gum arabic and hibiscus were not available in all markets.
- The price of onions rose following normal seasonal trends in the 'off-season', but there was no availability of fresh tomatoes in many markets (also the 'off-season'). Potatoes, grown in Jebel Marra in June and July, were widely available.
- Most trade routes between the major markets of Central Darfur and beyond were badly affected by heavy rain and flowing wadis during the quarter. As these routes became impassable to vehicles, farmers and traders used animals instead to transport their produce, including donkey and horse carts. The exception was El Ingaz Road linking Nyala, Kass and Zalingei which remained open.
- During the quarter many people dependent on daily laboring generated an income from agricultural operations including sowing, weeding and ploughing instead of brick-making and construction. This is the normal pattern in the rainy season.

## 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 DRA 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. DRA 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 (DRA)	Umshalaya
Almanar	Nerteti
Daro Baida	Garsila and Delaig
Albaraka Agriculture Organisation (AAO)	Bendisi, Umdukhn and Mukjar
Arebow Charity Organisation (ACO)	Abatta and Tereig



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