Trade and Market Headlines
North Darfur

Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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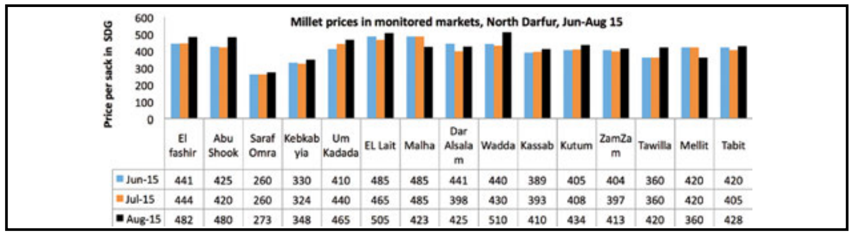
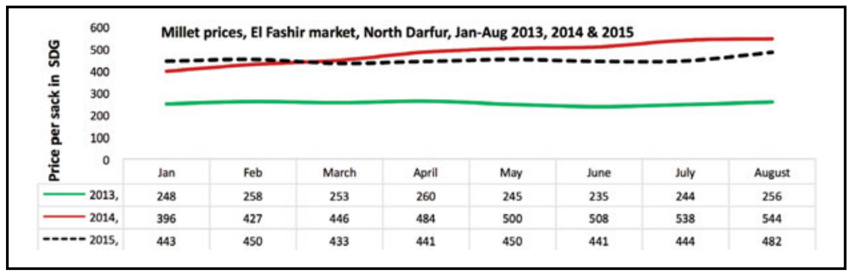
June to August 2015

- During this quarter (June to August 2015) **cereal prices**, millet in particular, were stable in June and July across most monitored markets in North Darfur, a result of the good harvest season last year (2014/2015). However, prices started to increase in August as a result of the late and then poor rainfall. This led people to predict a poor harvest and hold onto their stocks. Decreasing supplies as the end of the season approaches also contributed to pushing prices up. For example, from July to August 2015 the price of millet increased in El Fashir (a consumption area) by 9%, in Wadda by 19% and in Tawilla by 17%. The highest quarterly average price was recorded in El Lait (SDG 485), a cash crop production area, while the lowest price was recorded in Saraf Omra (SDG 264), a cereal production area. Conversely, millet prices decreased a little in Malha and Mellit in August due to greater availability of supplies in these areas: last season's harvest was particularly good in Malha and Mellit, and the local authority has also restricted the movement of cereals out of the locality. See Figures 1 and 2.
- Local sorghum and food-aid sorghum prices started to increase this quarter in most monitored markets where they were available through free food distribution and/or food-for-work activities conducted by the WFP (e.g. in Kassab IDP camp, Kutum and Um Kadada). Food voucher schemes were in operation in Zamzam and Abu



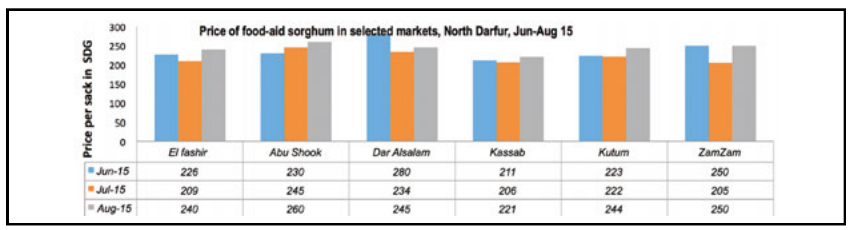
	El fashir	Abu Shook	Saraf Omra	Kebkabyia	Um Kadada	EL Lait	Malha	Dar Alsalam	Wadda	Kassab	Kutum	ZamZam	Tawilla	Mellit	Tabit
Jun-15	441	425	260	330	410	485	485	441	440	389	405	404	360	420	420
Jul-15	444	420	260	324	440	465	485	398	430	393	408	397	360	420	405
Aug-15	482	480	273	348	465	505	423	425	510	410	434	413	420	360	428

Figure 1: Millet prices in monitored markets, North Darfur, June to August 2015



	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August
2013,	248	258	253	260	245	235	244	256
2014,	396	427	446	484	500	508	538	544
2015,	443	450	433	441	450	441	444	482

Figure 2: Millet prices in El Fashir market, North Darfur, January to August 2013, 2014 and 2015



	El fashir	Abu Shook	Dar Alsalam	Kassab	Kutum	ZamZam
Jun-15	226	230	280	211	223	250
Jul-15	209	245	234	206	222	205
Aug-15	240	260	245	221	244	250

Figure 3: Price of food-aid sorghum in selected markets, North Darfur, June to 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. Seven CBOs plus DDRA are monitoring 15 markets across North Darfur, including three 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. DDRA holds quarterly analysis workshops with the CBO enumerators.

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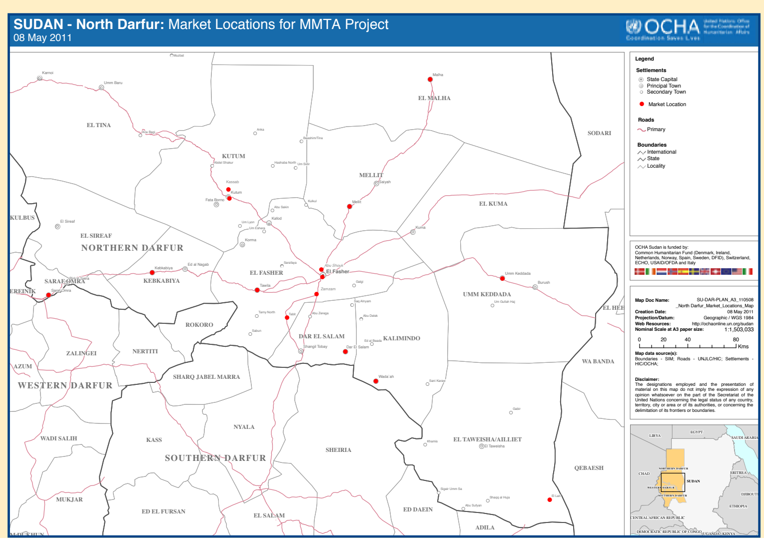
Participating CBOs and the markets they monitor

EVNRHD	El Fashir, Tabit, Tawilla, and Wadda
KEADS	Kutum and Kassab
KSCS	Kebkabiya and Saraf Omra
URDP	Um Kadada and El Lait
DDRA	Abu Shook and ZamZam camps
SAG	Mellit
DWDA	Dar Alsalam
Buzza	Malha



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Shook IDP camps but there was no decrease in price, except in July in Zamzam when the price of food aid sorghum fell as it was provided through food-for-work activities by WFP. See Figure 3.

- Trends in **livestock prices**, sheep in particular, varied according to local conditions this quarter. Prices started increasing in some monitored markets in North Darfur (El Fashir, Kutum and Malha) as a result of the late and poor rainfall this year. Accordingly livestock moved away from these markets in search of better pasture elsewhere. Additionally, sheep and male goats were in greater demand this quarter in preparation for Eid Al Adha. However, prices decreased or were stable in markets around which the livestock gathered. See Figure 4.
- The price of **cash crops** (dried tombac, dried okra and groundnuts) started increasing in August this quarter as supplies started decreasing due to the poor rainfall and therefore poor anticipated harvest. See Figures 5, 6 and 7.
- The price of **onions** and **fresh tomatoes** rose sharply, and the price of fresh tomatoes hit its highest level in 8 months. This is normal at this time of year as the off-season starts. See Figures 8 and 9.
- Despite the poor rainfall, agricultural labouring (planting) was reported as the main **daily labouring** opportunity this quarter.
- There was some improvement in the security situation this quarter which impacted the stability of the trade routes. There was a decrease in the number of checkpoints and traders returned to routes previously considered too risky. For example, the trade route connecting El Fashir to Kutum reported no checkpoints this quarter compared to 34 last quarter, and trucks started to use this route (in convoys) instead of using the alternative Omdurman-Hamrat Al-Shakh-Malha route. On the road connecting El Fashir to Nyala there were 12 checkpoints this quarter compared to 33 last quarter. Traders switched from the Omdurman-Hamrat-Alshaihk-Mado-Sayah-Mellit route, which was being used to avoid Koma because of tribal conflict, to the more direct Al-Ingaz route to Koma and then on to Mellit, now that the security situation has improved. Despite these improvements there was no change in transportation costs. Although it is the rainy season, no restrictions as a result of *wadi* flooding were reported this quarter, an indication of the poor rainfall this season.

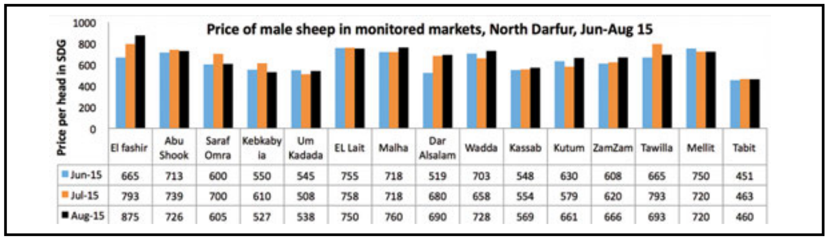

Figure 4: Price of male sheep in monitored markets, North Darfur, June to August 2015

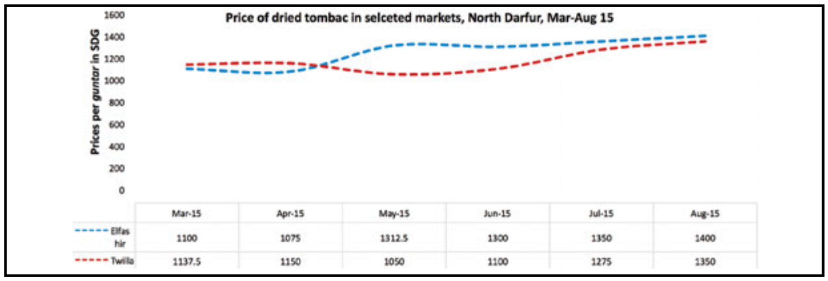

Figure 5: Price of dried tombac in selected markets, North Darfur, March to August 2015

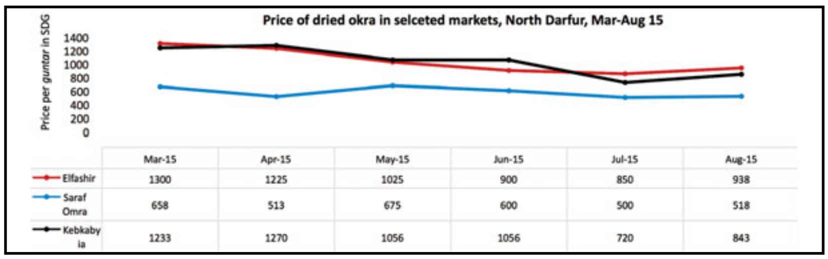

Figure 6: Price of dried okra in selected markets, North Darfur, March to August 2015

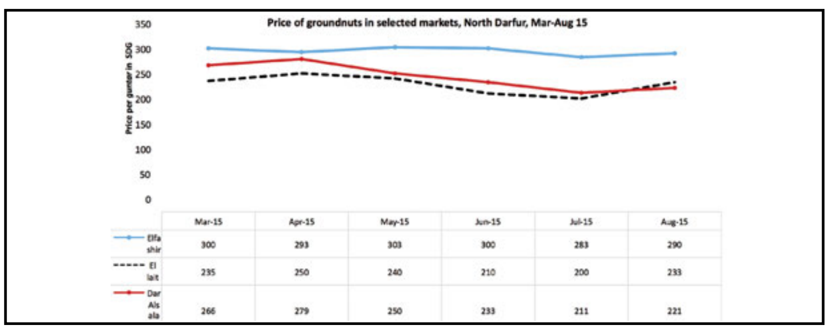

Figure 7: Price of groundnuts selected markets, North Darfur, March to August 2015

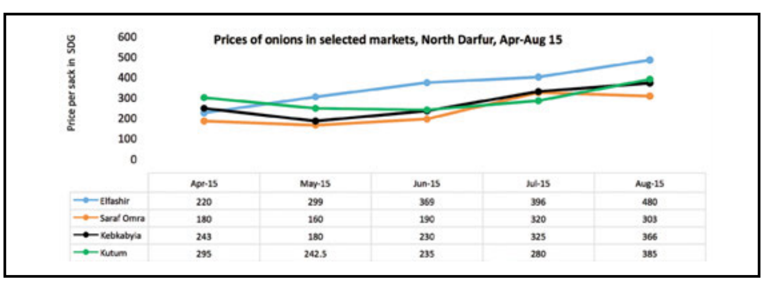

Figure 8: Price of onions in selected markets, North Darfur, April to August 2015

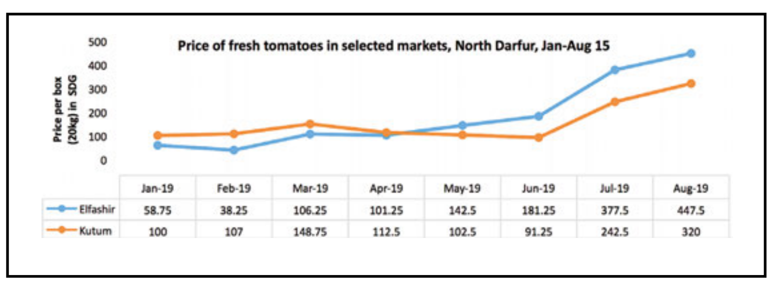

Figure 9: Price of fresh tomatoes in selected markets, North Darfur, January to August 2015

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