Trade and Market Headlines
North Darfur

Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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September to November 2013

- Although it is harvest time, during the quarter of September to November 2013 cereal prices were unusually increasing in all monitored markets in North Darfur. This is probably due to the poor harvest season and the appearance of pests (locusts and birds) in some areas. The highest millet prices were reported in areas where pest infestation was worst: Um Kadada and Alliat markets. Saraf Omra market registered the lowest price. The food voucher scheme in North Darfur may have contributed to pushing prices up.
- Livestock prices during the quarter were stable or fell in the monitored markets.
- The price of dry *tombac* increased in almost all the traditional markets in North Darfur due to the poor harvest this season after a lack of rainfall. The prospect of reopening trade between Sudan and South Sudan also encouraged prices to rise.
- Although the level of groundnut production this season is clearly much lower than the last season, prices remained stable in most of the monitored markets in North Darfur.
- The prices of dried okra and dried tomato rose sharply compared with the last quarter, and are higher than the same quarter last year. This is at least partially due to the poor rainy season this year.
- Onions prices continued to increase seasonally in all monitored markets. The price of fresh tomatoes started to decline in most markets as usual at this time of year which is harvest time.
- During the quarter the trade route from El Fashir through Kutum and Kebkabiya to Saraf Omra slightly changed. The part from Kutum to Kebkabiya was closed because of insecurity, so a detour was in place from Kutum to Abu Gamra and then to Kebkabiya and Saraf Omra. The Omdurman to Nyala route via Ed Daein reopened as there was a reduction in localized conflict.
- Despite the fragile harvest season, agricultural activities were the main source of daily laboring, as well as traditional chores such as brick making and construction.

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 DRA 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. DRA holds quarterly analysis workshops with the CBO enumerators.

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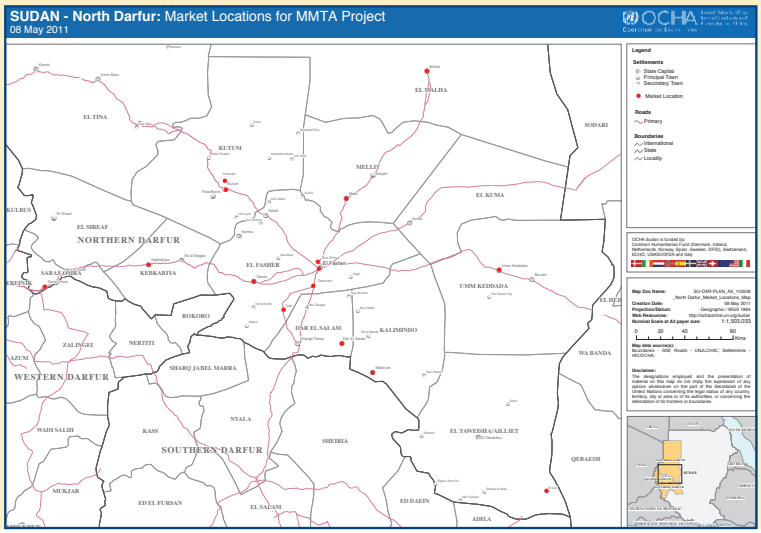
Participating CBOs and the markets they monitor

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