Trade and Market Headlines
North Darfur

Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

December 2013 to February 2014

- Cereal prices have increased sharply in most of the 15 monitored markets in North Darfur, especially in Umm Keddada, Al Lait and El Fasher. By February 2014 the price of a sack of millet in Umm Keddada had risen by over 50% compared with the price in September 2013, and in El Fasher by over 70% over the same time period. The exceptions to this trend are Kutum market and Kassab IDP camp where the impact of food aid distribution appears to have slowed the increase in cereal prices. WFP's food voucher scheme, which commenced in Zamzam IDP camp this quarter, may have been one of the contributory factors pushing prices up: the price of a sack of millet rose by 40% in Zamzam market over a three month period between December 2013 and February 2014 while the price of millet in El Fasher rose by just 14% over the same time period.

- Livestock prices have mostly been stable across North Darfur, although varying from one market to another according to local conditions.

- *Tombac* (chewing tobacco) prices increased in 3 out of 4 of North Darfur's main *tombac* markets (El Fashir, Tawilla and Zamzam). In contrast, in the fourth market, Tabit, there was a small decrease, probably because this was a major area of production in 2013/14 but insecurity has constrained access by traders.

- Prices of groundnuts have increased in almost all North Darfur's main groundnut markets, mainly a result of the poor harvest due to rainfall shortages.

- Prices of dried okra and dried tomato rose sharply during the quarter, reflecting shortage of supply as a consequence of the poor rainy season.

- Both Wadda and Dar Elsalam markets reported the regular availability of *karkidi* (hibiscus) this quarter, which is harvest time. Producers have been supported by UNDP's value chain programme.

- Onion prices decreased sharply in all monitored markets, and the price of fresh tomatoes also fell, following normal seasonal trends in North Darfur.

- The longer trade route that connects El Fashir with Kutum, Kebkabiya and Saraf Omra via Abu Gamra was relatively stable this quarter, but the direct route from El Fasher to Kebkabiya opened for only a few days during the quarter.

- The main demand for daily labouring was for the usual activities such as brick making and construction, as well as irrigated agriculture.
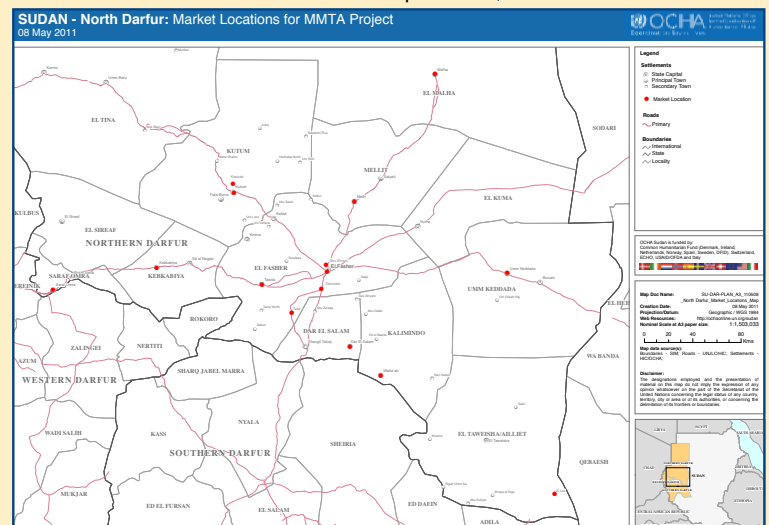
Update in early March

At least 6 markets in North Darfur have been affected by the recent insecurity in early March. Three of these markets are monitored by the MMTA: El Lait, Mellit and Saraf Omra. Recent information shows that all three of these markets closed, and that trade routes to the markets also closed. The MMTA will monitor the effect of closure of the markets as this poses a potential threat to local livelihoods.

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.

Participating CBOs and the markets they monitor

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

SUDAN - North Darfur: Market Locations for MMTA Project
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