Trade and Market Headlines
North Darfur

Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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March to May 2014

- During this quarter (March to May 2014) **cereal prices** increased in almost all the monitored markets in the state, reflecting lack of supply due to the poor harvest as well as the impact of recent insecurity. Markets particularly affected by insecurity include Saraf Omra, which is usually a major source of cereals for many urban centres in Darfur, but from where trade routes have been barely functioning since March. Insecurity closed Al Lait market in March, where cereal prices rose by over 40% between February and May. The newly introduced food voucher scheme in Zamzam market appears to have triggered a significant flow of cereals from Central Sudan to meet demand.

- **Livestock prices** fell in some markets in April when insecurity broke out in parts of the state, triggering looting of livestock. This increased the supply of animals to certain markets such as Kutum and Kebkabiya, either looted animals brought to market, or because of distress sales.

- **Cash crop prices** generally increased. Groundnut prices continued an upwards trend in traditional markets, such as Al Lait, Daralsalam and Wadaa for two main reasons: the poor harvest and seasonality. Tombac prices also rose in traditional markets such as El Fashir, Tabit and Tawilla due to reduced stocks because of the poor harvest season. The price of dried okra continued to rise sharply, also reflecting the poor harvest season, and dried tomato prices rose also.

- **Fresh vegetable prices** rose. Onion prices started increasing in May 2014 in most monitored markets reflecting the impact of the off-season as well as the closing of the Kutum/El Fashir trade route in the same month. The price of fresh tomatoes sharply increased reflecting the impact of the off-season.

- There was a dramatic increase in the number of checkpoints (and therefore fees) on the **trade route** linking El Fashir with Kutum during the quarter, from 14 to 34 checkpoints. An old trade route linking Saraf Omra with Nyala via Zalingei was reactivated this quarter in response to the closing of the Sara Omra – Kutum – El Fashir route due to insecurity. The El Fashir – Nyala trade route remained stable and functioning during the quarter.

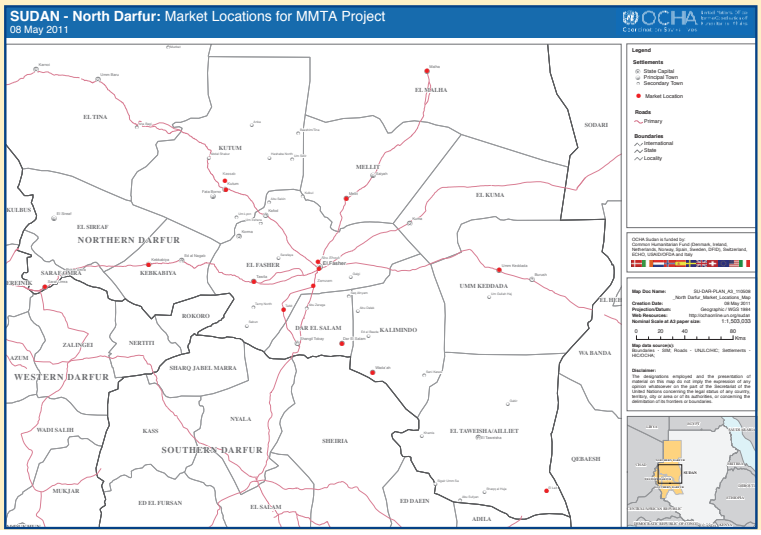
- In this quarter, traditional activities like brick making and construction were the main sources of **daily labouring**. Daily labour rates decreased in Saraf Omra town due to localized conflict that caused displacement into Saraf Omra, thus swelling the numbers looking for daily work.

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
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



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This project is funded by the European Union