

Trade and Market Headlines West Darfur



Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

www.dra-sudan.org • mzakaria065@gmail.com

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- **Cereal prices** continued rising in most monitored markets due to the bad harvest. The average quarterly price of millet in El Geneina market increased by 27% compared with the last quarter, in Forobringa market the average quarterly millet price increased by 16%, and in Seliea by 28%. The percentage rise in the average quarterly price of sorghum in El Geneina market was higher: 37% compared with the last quarter, owing to scarcity and high demand.
- **Livestock prices** were generally stable in most monitored markets in West Darfur. The exception was sheep prices in El Geneina where a 54% increase in price was registered over the quarter. Possible reasons include lack of supply to El Geneina market, normal at this time of year as animals move away from the town in search of better grazing. Supply is reduced as some sheep are brought from Chad and from the area around El Geneina, despite this being a major consumption area in West Darfur. In contrast, cattle prices decreased in El Geneina market, reflecting greater availability as cattle can be trekked from remote areas more easily than sheep. But in Forobringa market cattle prices rose by 11% this quarter compared with the last quarter, reflecting the presence of traders buying for the Omdurman market. Donkey and horse prices rose in most monitored markets during the quarter because of increased demand from local farmers for their farming operations.
- In terms of **cash crops**, groundnut prices increased in all monitored markets, indicative of the poor harvest season in 2014. The price of both cooking oil and groundnut cake also increased sharply. The price of dried okra and dried tomatoes remained high in most monitored markets due to the bad harvest season as well as pest infestation affecting availability of dried tomatoes.
- Construction on the El Ingaz road, specifically the section connecting Zalingei with El Geneina, improved this **trade route**. The journey time between Zalingei and El Geneina was halved, from 5 hours to 2.5 hours; transport costs per bus fell from SDG 2000 to SDG 1800. The trade route from Omdurman to El Geneina through South Darfur was calmer this quarter, but the transport cost per truck still rose by 7%, to SDG 74547 this quarter.
- **Daily labouring opportunities** this quarter the usual activities such as brick-making, construction and domestic service for town inhabitants. The wage rate remained stable.

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 plus DRA are monitoring 11 markets across West Darfur, including two 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

El Massar Organization for Nomad Development and Environment Conservation (MONEC) [El Geneina, Kerenik and Habila]

Pioneers of Peace and Development Organization (PPDO) [Mornei and Kirinding IDP camp]

Community Development Association (CDA) [Foro Baranga and Kondobe]

Beida Organization for Relief and Development (BORD) [Beida and Misterei]

Sarabee! Organization for Services and Development (SOSD) [Kulbus]

Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency (DRA) [El Geneina and Sisi IDP camp]



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