

# Trade and Market Headlines North Darfur



## Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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### March to May 2015

- Despite the gradual move away from harvest season **cereal prices**, millet in particular, remained stable in most monitored markets throughout North Darfur this quarter (March to May 2015). This was mainly due to the impact of the good harvest this year and the stability of the security situation in the area. The highest quarterly average price was SDG 512 reported in El Lait, a cash crop (groundnut) rather than cereal production area, while the lowest quarterly average price (SDG 271) was reported in Saraf Omra, a production area. Millet prices in Malha area are unusually low in comparison with other Darfur markets, a reflection of the good harvest season and restrictions on grain movements imposed by the locality authorities. See Figures 1 and 2.

- Livestock prices**, sheep and goats in particular, fluctuated across the monitored markets this quarter. This reflected the seasonal movement of livestock: prices remained stable or decreased a little in areas where livestock settled, and increased slightly in areas livestock moved away from. See Figure 3. Cattle prices showed an upward trend in most monitored markets due to less supply than usual during this

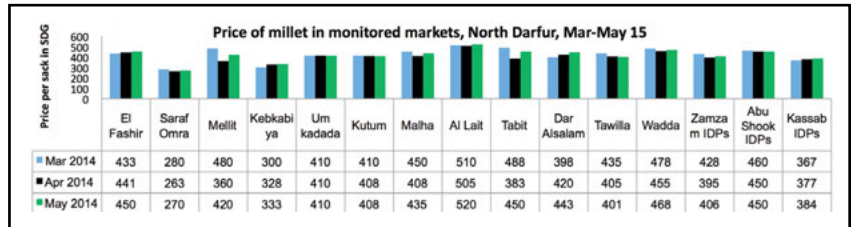


Figure 1: Millet prices in monitored markets in North Darfur, March-May 2015.

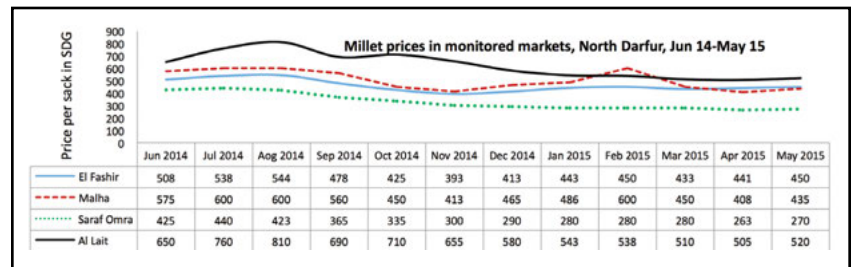


Figure 2: Millet prices in monitored markets in North Darfur, Jun 2014 to May 2015.

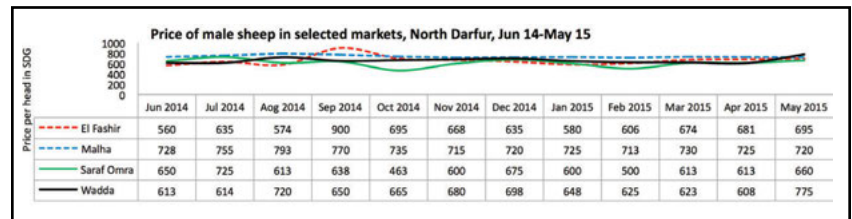


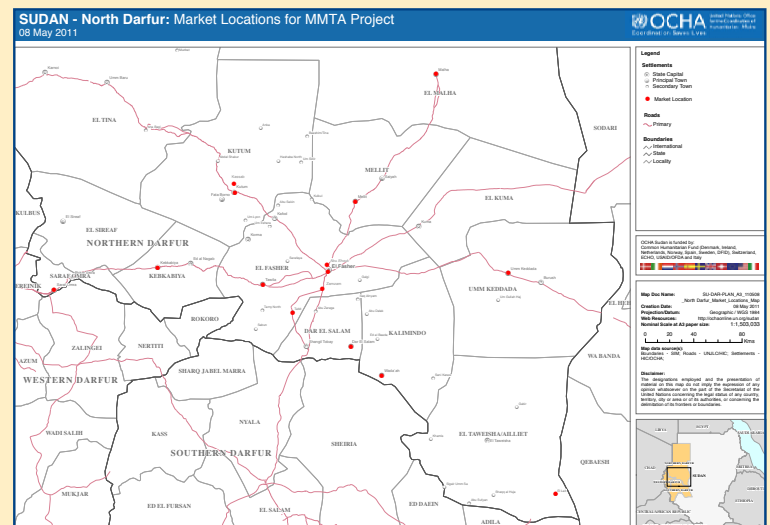
Figure 3: Price of male sheep in selected markets in North Darfur, Jun 2014 to May 2015.

### 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.

### 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                |       |             |
| DDRA   | Abu Shook and ZamZam camps           |       |             |



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period as cattle moved away from market areas because of poor pasture, especially in the north. Cattle prices rose in Tabit as livestock were moved out of the area because of insecurity. See Figure 4.

- The price of **cash crops**, groundnuts and dried tombac in particular, showed a decreasing or stable trend in the main production areas (El Lait for groundnuts, and Tawila for dried tombac) and a stable or increasing trend in the main consumption markets (e.g. El Fashir). This was due to the good harvest this year, and for dried tombac is a normal seasonal trend at this time of year. See Figures 5 and 6. The price of dried okra and dried tomatoes started decreasing this quarter, reflecting the good harvest and the advent of the rainy season.
- As usual at this time of year the **price of onions** started increasing during May in consumption markets (e.g. El Fashir) but continued decreasing in most production areas (e.g. Kutum, Kebkabiya and Saraf Omra). This was due to supplies coming from Omdurman along the fully paved El Ingaz trade route following its completion and replacing local production. See Figure 7. The price of **fresh tomatoes** continued increasing throughout the state reflecting the off-season, which is very common at this time of year. See Figure 8.
- Agricultural activities (land preparation), brick-making and construction activities were the main **daily labour** opportunities this quarter, normal at this time of year.
- There was some stability on **trade routes** across North Darfur this quarter, despite the insecurity affecting some routes such as Omdurman to Mellit through Korma. This route was closed due to insecurity and a new trade route opened (Omdurman-Hamrat-Alshaihk-Mado-Sayah-Mellit). Also the trade route connecting Omdurman to Tina through Mellit changed to go through Malha. The fully paved El Ingaz trade route has had an impact on the price of some commodities, in particular cement, which used to cost SDG 120 per sack in El Fashir before completion of the road, and now costs SDG 95 per sack. Whereas the price of construction materials usually starts to increase in this quarter, this year the price has stabilized because of the road. There is also greater availability in El Fashir market of commodities coming from Omdurman.

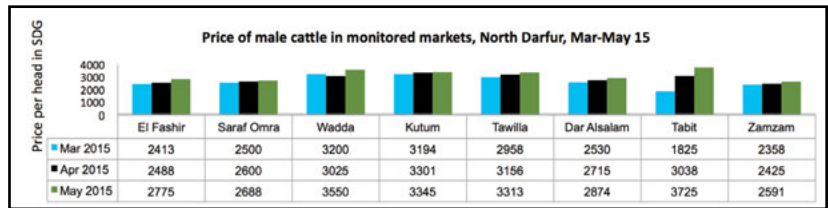


Figure 4: Price of male cattle in monitored markets in North Darfur, Mar-May 2015.

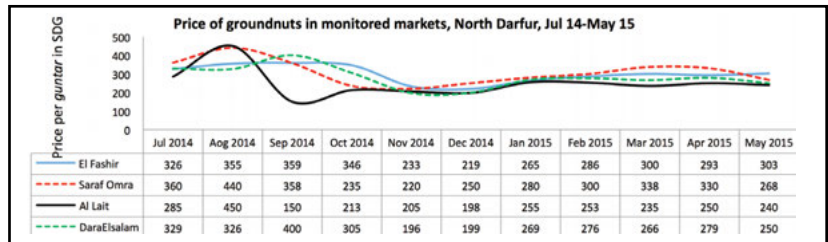


Figure 5: Price of groundnuts in monitored markets, North Darfur, July 2014 to May 2015

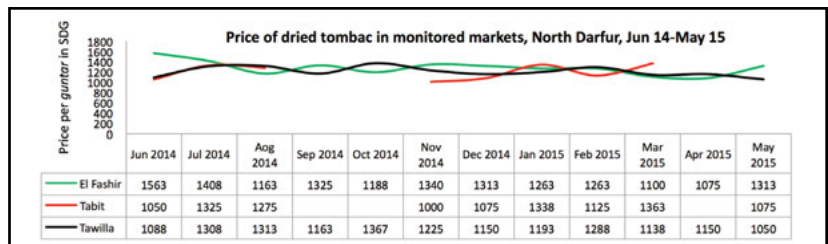


Figure 6: Price of dried tombac in monitored markets in North Darfur, January 2014 to May 2015.

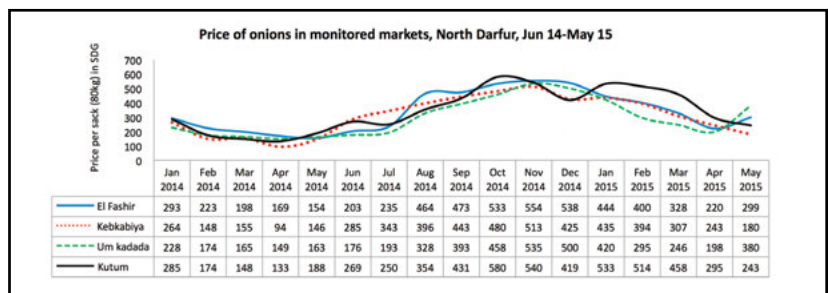


Figure 7: Price of groundnuts in monitored markets in North Darfur, January 2014 to May 2015.

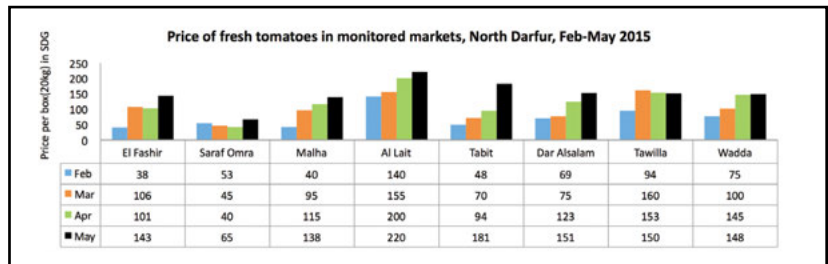


Figure 8: Price of fresh tomatoes in monitored markets in North Darfur, February to May 2015.