Monthly Trade and Market Bulletin for Darfur States

Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

SOS SAHEL INTERNATIONAL UK

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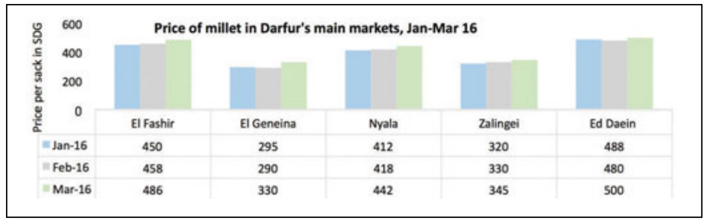
Covering **March 2016** • www.dra-sudan.org • mohamedgido@gmail.com

Cereals:

During March 2016 **cereal prices**, millet in particular, have continued on a steady upwards trend in most monitored markets across Darfur, particularly in the five state capitals (the main consumption markets). This was because of the impact of the poor harvest last season. See Figure 1. Millet prices increased by 6% in El Fashir, 6% in Nyala, 5% in Zalingei and 4% in Ed Daein compared to February 2016. The highest percentage increase was reported in El Geneina (14% higher than February) despite being a production area. This was because the State Government started buying cereals from El Geneina and Forobaranga for strategic reserves, which increased demand while supply has been limited. Overall there has been little cereal flowing into markets in production areas, particularly in Central and West Darfur.

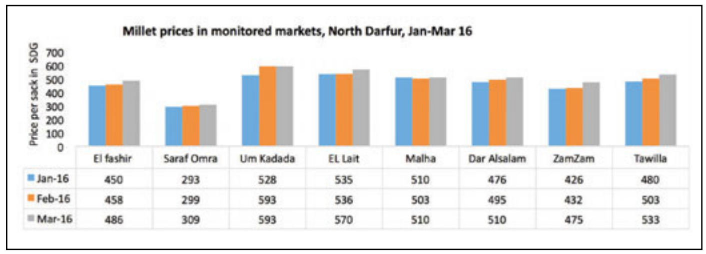
The highest **millet** prices across the five states during March were reported in food-insecure areas in North Darfur such as Um Kadada, Malha, Dar Alsalam and Tawilla. The highest millet price in Darfur was reported in Um Kadada, North Darfur (SDG 593) despite being a millet production area. This reflects the exceptionally poor harvest in Um Kadada. See Figure 2. Millet prices have increased substantially during the last 12 months, comparing March 2015 and March 2016, in El Fashir and Nyala, both important consumption markets, but not so much in Zalingei, in a cereal producing area. See Figure 3.

The price of **food aid sorghum** continued increasing this month due to a lack of supply to markets. This was partly related to a reduction of food aid by WFP in most IDP camps (related to re-profiling of those IDP camps and re-registration of beneficiaries) and other food distribution areas, particularly in Abu Shook, Zamzam and Kutum in North Darfur. This was in addition to the high demand for both local and food aid sorghum for use as animal fodder during the dry season.



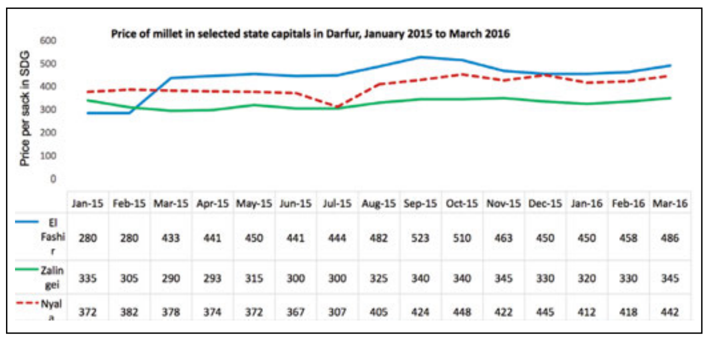
	El Fashir	El Geneina	Nyala	Zalingei	Ed Daein
Jan-16	450	295	412	320	488
Feb-16	458	290	418	330	480
Mar-16	486	330	442	345	500

Figure 1: Price of millet in Darfur's main markets, January to March 2016



	El fashir	Saraf Omra	Um Kadada	EL Lait	Malha	Dar Alsalam	ZamZam	Tawilla
Jan-16	450	293	528	535	510	476	426	480
Feb-16	458	299	593	536	503	495	432	503
Mar-16	486	309	593	570	510	510	475	533

Figure 2: Millet prices in monitored markets in North Darfur, January to March 2016



	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16
El Fashir	280	280	433	441	450	441	444	482	523	510	463	450	450	458	486
Zalingei	335	305	290	293	315	300	300	325	340	340	345	330	320	330	345
Nyala	372	382	378	374	372	367	307	405	424	448	422	445	412	418	442

Figure 3: Millet prices in selected state capitals in Darfur, January 2015 to March 2016

Overall, due to the reasons mentioned above, most monitored markets have had limited supplies of cereals during March 2016, and prices have continued their upwards trend, indicating a deterioration of food security.

Background and methodology

The goal of this community-based market monitoring project 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. Through a network of 46 national CBOs/ NGOs, DDRA is monitoring 73 markets across all five Darfur states. 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. This trade and market bulletin, produced on a monthly basis, covers all five Darfur states.

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Livestock:

There were no common trends in livestock prices across Darfur in March 2016. Generally, **livestock** prices varied from market to market according to local circumstances in each area. The price of **sheep** showed some increase in those areas livestock moved away from in search of pasture and water. This was particularly clear in the state capitals where sheep prices increased in four out of five of these markets compared with February prices: in El Fashir by 11%, El Geneina by 6%, in Nyala by 13% and in Zalingei by 9%. The exception was Ed Daein in East Darfur where livestock gathered due to the availability of pasture, thus increasing supply. The price here decreased by 6% compared with February 2016. See Figure 4.

Cattle prices also differed according to market circumstances. For example in El Geneina, West Darfur, the price of cattle increased in March compared with February, mainly due to the falling value of the Sudanese pound which increased the cost of cattle imported from Chad. Cattle are brought from Chad through Tendelti market, part of the cross border trade between these two countries.

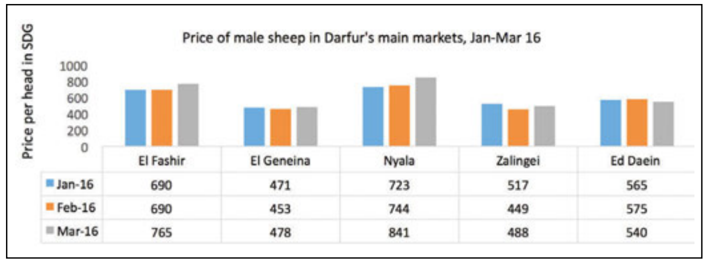

Figure 4: Price of male sheep in Darfur's main markets, January to February 2016

Cash Crops:

Along with the poor harvest last season, the price of **groundnuts** were stable in production areas and most of the main markets, with some fluctuation in consumption areas. Prices were stable in most areas in Central and West Darfur, decreased in most markets in South and North Darfur, and also decreased in most of the state capitals (El Fashir, El Geneina, Zalingei and Ed Daein). The exception was Nyala, South Darfur, where some fluctuation was reported. The main reason is the import of cheap cooking oil into Sudan, and then from Khartoum to Darfur. See Figure 5.

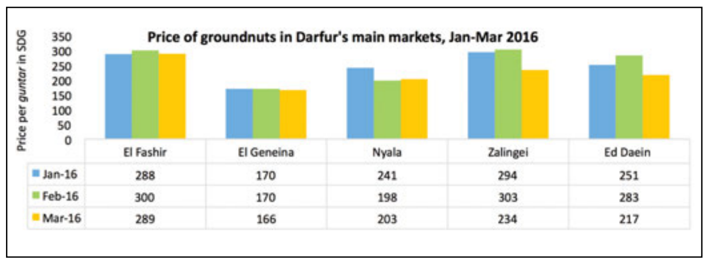

Figure 5: Price of groundnuts in Darfur's main markets, January to February 2016

Daily labouring:

The main sources of daily labouring opportunities across Darfur were in brick-making and construction. This is normal at this time of year as the harvest season has phased out and agricultural work in preparation for the next harvest season has not yet started. There were no significant changes in daily wage rates.

Trade Routes

The security situation across Darfur was stable during March 2016. Most of the trade routes within states and between states were stable compared to February 2015. For example, the number of checkpoints along the trade route connecting El Fashir to Kutum in North Darfur went from 12 in February to none in March. There was a reduction in checkpoints on the trade route connecting El Fashir in North Darfur to Nyala in South Darfur, from 35 in February to the three permanent checkpoints, in March. Accordingly the intrastate and interstate flow of commodities was good although this was not reflected in prices and transportation costs.

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DDRA has a technical agreement with a number of ministries in each Darfur state: North, West, Central, South and East

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