Six-month Trade and Market Bulletin
North Darfur

Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

Covering March to August 2016 • www.dra-sudan.org • jamilalla@yahoo.com

SOS SAHEL INTERNATIONAL UK · Tufts University Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy · Feinstein International Center

Headlines:

- Millet and sorghum prices continued on an upwards trend in most monitored markets during March to May 2016, but then stabilized or fell when the rainy season started, with the promise of a better harvest. In Um Kaddada market release of the strategic reserve brought prices down. Malha was supplied with millet from Saiyah instead of Omdurman, as Saiyah had an unusually good harvest last year.
- Completion of the El Ingaz Road encouraged livestock traders from Omdurman to buy sheep from some North Darfur markets, particularly Kebkabiya and Saraf Omra, boosting demand and prices. Cattle prices fluctuated, rising in markets where there was shortage of supply when cattle moved south in search of pasture, and falling in markets such as Um Kaddada where there were some distress sales. The price of camels for export were stable, with all exports to Egypt as the trade to Libya continues to be disrupted by insecurity.
- During March to May 2016 groundnuts prices decreased in most of North Darfur's monitored markets, undercut by cheap cooking oil imported into Sudan. Increasing demand for groundnut cake for fodder pushed prices up in July and August, as well as the demand from a newly refurbished groundnut mill in El Lait.
- Onion and fresh tomato prices continued to rise during this six month period in all monitored markets in North Darfur, demonstrating high seasonal variation between the production and off seasons.
- There was some rise in wage rates for daily labouring, possibly due to inflation.
- There was a major improvement in trade flows in North Darfur. The trade route connecting El Fashir to Kebkabiya through Koura continued to function. Some internal trade routes were affected by heavy rainfall and Wadis flooding during July and August, pushing up transportation costs.

Recommendations:

- The extreme seasonality of onions and tomatoes, in terms of availability and price fluctuations, could be addressed through the improvement of storage facilities (for example cold stores) to prolong the storage life of onions and tomatoes, and through investment in agro-processing, for example drying onions, canning tomatoes and making tomato paste[1].
- With the general improvement in stability, this is an opportune time to support agricultural production, trade and small-scale businesses and agro-processing, for example through micro-credit schemes and easier access to loans[2].

[1] See also DDRA's study on the production and trade in fresh vegetables in North and West Darfur (Fadul et al, 2014) **http://www.sahel.org.uk/documents/**VegetableTradeStudyReport2014.pdf

[2] For more specific recommendations, see the cash crop trade study, 'Taking Root' **http://fic.tufts.edu/publication-item/taking-root/**

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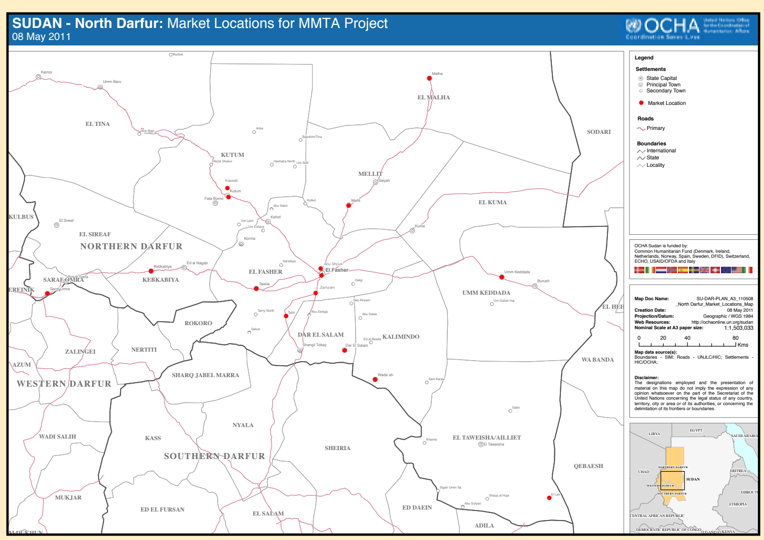
Participating CBOs and the markets they monitor

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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Cereals

From March to May 2016 cereal prices, millet and food-aid sorghum in particular, continued an upward trend for all monitored markets in North Darfur. **Millet** prices peaked in May as a result of the poor harvest last year. The average price for a 100-kg sack of millet in El Fashir market increased by 8% from April to May. Similar trends can be seen in Um Kaddada, Malha, Dar Alsalam and Wadda where prices increased by 26%, 17%, 5%, & 6% respectively from April to May. Despite being badly affected by a poor harvest in 2015, Um Kaddada market recorded a 12% fall in millet prices in April, due to the distribution of strategic reserve sorghum by the state government: 1500 sacks were distributed to government officers at the subsidized rate of SDG 400 per sack, deducted from salaries in monthly instalments. During May 2016 the State Ministry of Finance, Zakat Chamber and the Agricultural Bank of Sudan jointly distributed strategic reserve millet at the subsidized price of SDG 525 per sack in Wadda, Dar Alsalam and El Fashir rural markets; however, this showed little or no effect on millet prices, mainly because of the small quantity received per family, around 8 kora. See Table 1 for full details.

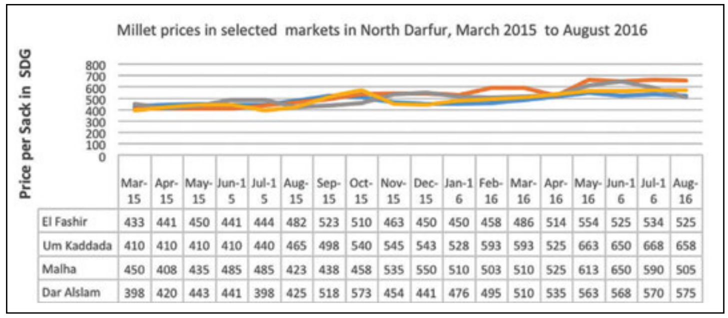

Figure 1 Millet prices in selected markets in North Darfur (March 2015 to August 2016)

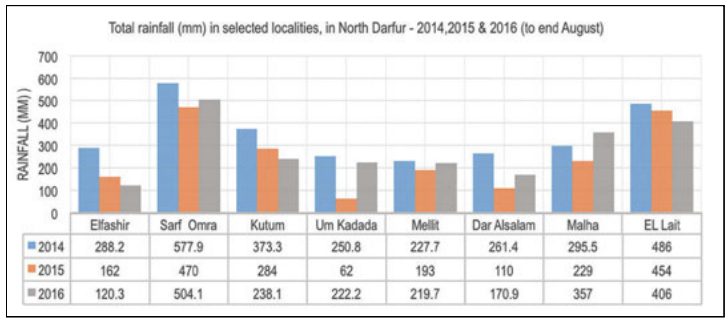

Figure 2 Total rainfall in selected localities in North Darfur - 2014, 2015 & 2016 (to end August)

(Source: Agriculture Planning Unit in North Darfur).

Between June and August 2016 millet prices decreased or were stable in most monitored markets in North Darfur. This was due to the early start of the rains (in mid-July) expectations of a better harvest and continuation of food-aid distribution by WFP in most of rural areas. See Figure 1. The good rainfall of 2016

Table 1 Millet price per sack in selected markets in North Darfur (2016)

	Millet Price per sack in SDG										
	El Fashir	***Saraf Omra***	***Um Kaddada***	***Dar Alsalam***	***Zamzam***	***Malha***	***Mellit***	***Wadda***	***Tawilla***	***Kutum***	***EL Lait***
Mar-16	486	309	593	510	475	510	480	511	533	455	570
Apr-16	514	354	525	535	529	525	480	586	533	466	563
May-16	554	365	663	563	565	613	488	621	540	493	598
% Change from April to May	**+8%**	**+3%**	**+26%**	**+5%**	**+7%**	**+17%**	**+2%**	**+6%**	**+1%**	**+6%**	**+6%**
Jun-1 May to 6	525	328	650	568	563	650	566	620	540	508	610
Jul-16	534	335	668	570	482	590	460	608	525	488	633
Aug-16	525	343	658	575	476	505	450	606	473	550	625
% Change from July to August 2016	**-2%**	**2%**	**-1%**	**+1%**	**-1%**	**-14%**	**-2%**	**0%**	**-10%**	**13%**	**-1%**

Cereals continued on next page

Cereals continued

across most of North Darfur is expected to have a stabilizing effect on prices in the next year. Um Kaddada, Dar Alsalam and Malha, which had poor rainfall 2015, all recorded good rainfall in 2016, although El Fashir had low rainfall up until end of August 2016. See Figure 2 for a comparison of rainfall amounts in 2014, 2015 & 2016.

The millet prices in Kebkabiya market were stable during the period of March to August 2016. This reflects the positive impact of improved security in the northern part of Jebel Marra after fighting and displacement in mid-January 2016. See Figure 3.

During the six-month period of March to August 2016, Saraf Omra has been the main source of millet for most of the five Darfur states. This is due to lower prices of millet in Saraf Omra, a major production area, compared to other markets as well as limited restrictions on cereal movements out of Saraf Omra. See Figure 3. In Kutum millet prices increased by 13% between July to August 2016. This was due to closure of the trade route linking Kutum to Saraf Omra as a result of heavy rains. See Table 1.

Omdurman is usually an important source of cereals to Malha market, but during the last six months Saiyah has become the main source of cereals to Malha. This is the result of high production last year 2015/2016 in the Saiyah area combined with lower transportation costs due to the proximity of Saiyah to Malha. For example, the transportation cost of a sack of millet was SDG 85 from Omdurman, while the transportation cost was SDG 50 per sack from Saiyah.

Millet prices in all monitored market in North Darfur were higher during March to May 2016 compared to the same period in 2014 and 2015. See Figures 4 and 5.

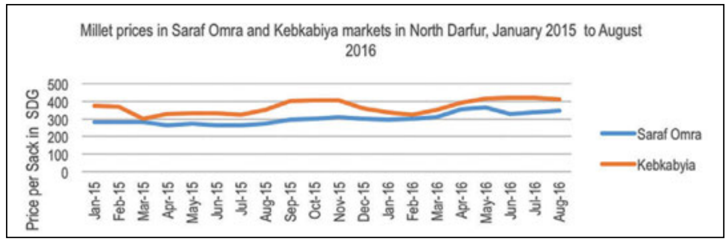

Figure 3 Millet prices in Saraf Omra and Kebkabiya markets in North Darfur, January 2015 to August 2016

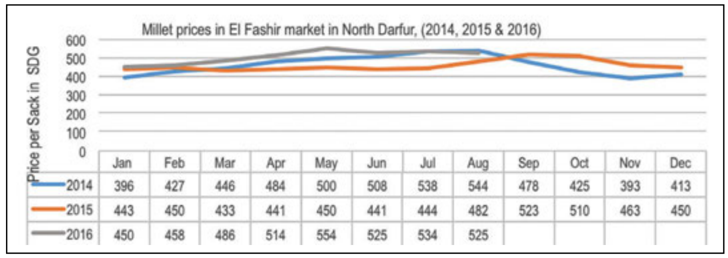

Figure 4 Millet prices in El Fashir market in North Darfur, (2014, 2015 & 2016)

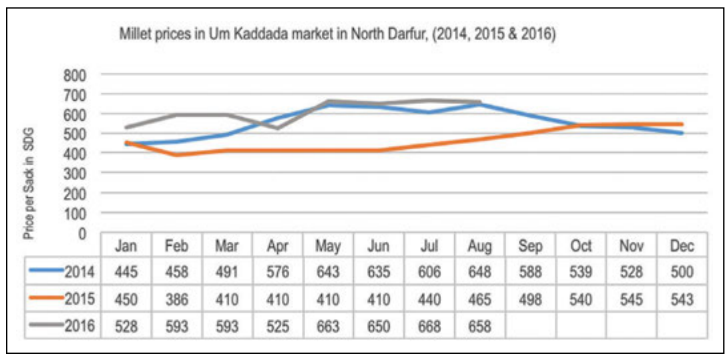

Figure 5 Millet prices in Um Kaddada market in North Darfur, (2014, 2015 & 2016)

Table 2 Food-aid sorghum price per sack in selected markets in North Darfur (2016)

	Food-aid sorghum price per sack in SDG				
	El Fashir	***Abu Shook***	***Kutum***	***Zamzam***	***Tawilla***
Mar-16	347	308	276	318	300
Apr-16	349	333	326	349	360
May-16	331	360	350	339	360
% Change from April to May 2016	**-5%**	**8%**	**7%**	**-3%**	**0%**
Jun-16	318	335	390	332	360
Jul-16	305	310	360	263	300
Aug-16	295	260	295	260	218
% Change from July to August 2016	**-3%**	**-16%**	**-18%**	**-1%**	**-27%**

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Cereals continued

Prices of **food-aid sorghum** increased during March to May across most North Darfur monitored markets. This was due to the poor harvest last year, increased use of food-aid sorghum as animal fodder to substitute for poor pasture, high demand from poultry farmers around the main towns as well as suspension of food-aid distribution in some camps (including Zamzam, Abu Shook and Kassab camps) related to disputes over camp profiling results. During April and May food-aid sorghum prices increased by 8% and 7% in Abu Shook IDP camps and Kutum, respectively, similar to the percentage price increase in millet. See Table 2 and Figure 6. Between June and August food-aid sorghum prices started to decrease or stabilize in most of North Darfur's monitored markets. Prices decreased by 16%, 18% and 27% in Abu Shook, Kutum and Tawilla, respectively. This decrease can be attributed to the distribution of food, by WFP, in some rural areas in North Darfur and the expectation of a good harvest across most of North Darfur.

Food-aid sorghum prices in 2016 in Kutum market in North Darfur were higher than in 2014 and 2015, due to the poor harvest season last year (2015) and the impact of delayed food-aid distribution in Kutum since July 2015. See Table 2 and Figure 7.

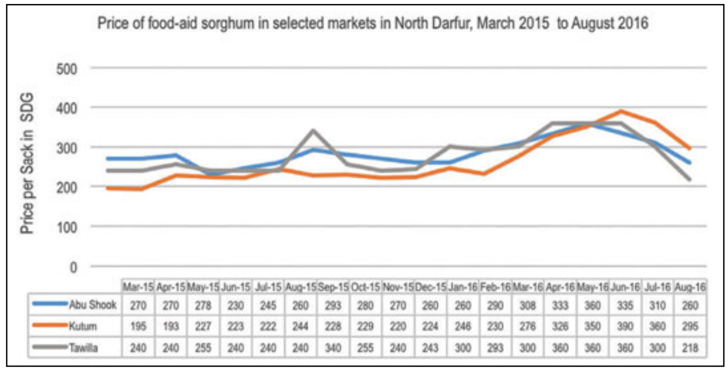

Figure 6 Price of Food-aid sorghum in selected markets in North Darfur, March 2015 to August 2016

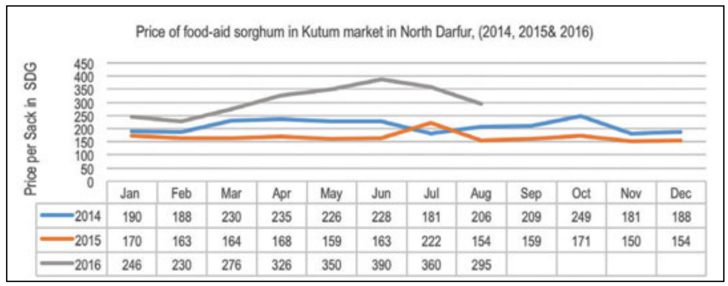

Figure 7 Price of Food-aid sorghum in Kutum market in North Darfur, (2014, 2015 & 2016)

Livestock

Sheep: The completion of the El Ingaz Road and relative improvement in security in North Darfur has encouraged traders to resume livestock trading: there has been an increase in the number of livestock traders and agents in Darfur. During July and August three agents of large-scale traders from Omdurman bought approximately 10,000 head of male sheep from Kebkabiya and Saraf Omra markets. This level of trade has not been seen since 2003.

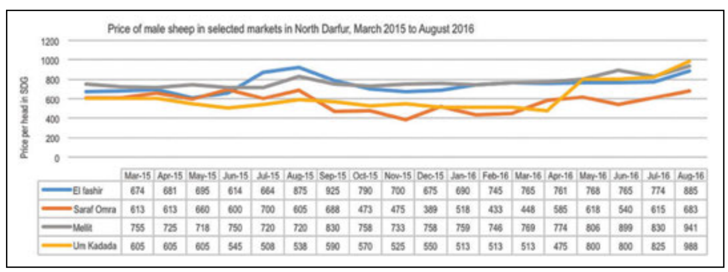

Figure 8 Price of male sheep in selected markets in North Darfur, March 2015 to August 2016

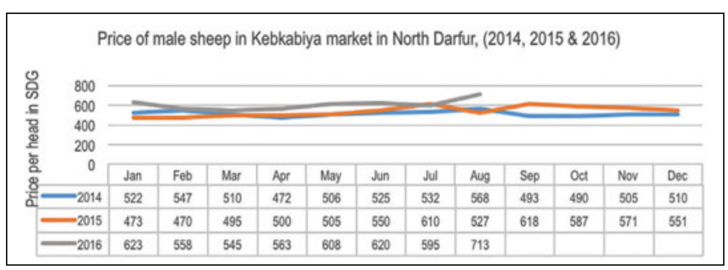

Figure 9 Price of male sheep in Kebkabiya market, North Darfur, (2014, 2015 & 2016)

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Livestock continued

Livestock prices increased during May, attributed to limited supply at the main markets as herders moved further away in search of pasture following last years' drought. The price rise was exacerbated by a rise in demand for Eid Aladha. July and August saw the highest overall rise in prices across North Darfur reflecting increased demand for male sheep with the large purchases by Omdurman traders, mentioned above: Um Kaddada (20%), Kebkabiya (20%), El Fashir (14%), Saraf Omra (11%), Malha (5%), Dar Alsalam (5%) & Wadda (5%). The sudden and large increase in price in Um Kaddada from April to May was due to livestock traders buying sheep early, for export to Saudi Arabia for Eid Aladha. See Table 3 and Figures 8, 9 and 10.

Cattle prices fluctuated in monitored markets in North Darfur, dependent on the quality (size of cattle) being sold. See Figure 11. The poor rainy season in 2015 affected availability of pasture, resulting in increased livestock movements from north to south. This may be the cause of rising cattle prices in some markets in North Darfur. For example, in Saraf Omra cattle prices were higher between January and June 2016 than in the previous two years. See Figure 12. But the price started to decrease between July and August 2016 due to early and heavy rains which meant that many pastoralists and livestock owners gathered in the area, supply of cattle to the market increased, and prices fell. A different trend is noted in Um Kaddada market. See Figure 13. This was one of the worst-affected areas in terms of poor pasture last year 2015/16. The cattle price is lower in 2016 than in the previous two years due to distress selling of cattle and therefore increased supply.

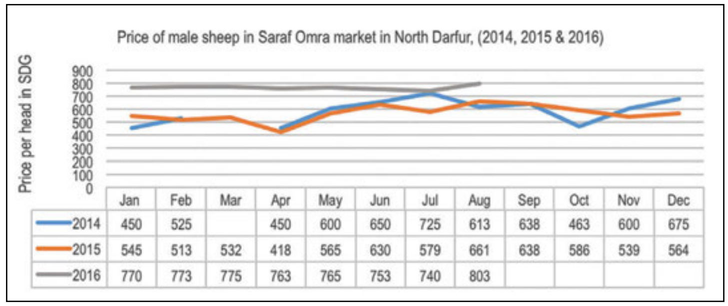


Figure 10 Price of male sheep in Saraf Omra market, North Darfur, (2014, 2015 & 2016)

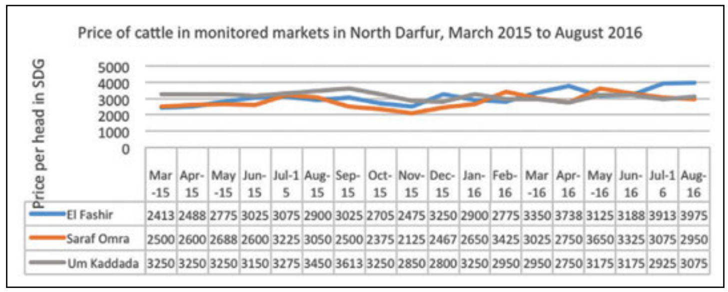


Figure 11 Price of cattle in selected markets, North Darfur, March 2015 to August 2016

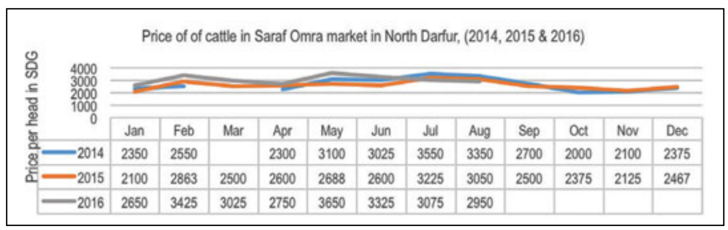


Figure 12 Price of cattle in Saraf Omra market, North Darfur, (2014, 2015 & 2016)

Table 3 Price of male sheep per head in selected markets in North Darfur (2016)

	Male sheep price per head in SDG						
	El Fashir	**Saraf Omra**	**Um Kaddada**	**Dar Alsalam**	**Kebkabiya**	**Malha**	**Wadda**
Mar-16	765	448	513	508	622.75	775	725
Apr-16	761	585	475	564	557.5	762.5	627.5
May-16	768	618	800	574	545	765	700
% Change from April to May 2016	**1%**	**6%**	**68%**	**2%**	**-2%**	**0%**	**12%**
Jun-16	765	540	800	613	620	752.5	740
Jul-16	774	615	825	644	595	740	787.5
Aug-16	885	683	988	674	712.5	802.5	837.5
% Change from July to August 2016	**14%**	**11%**	**20%**	**5%**	**20%**	**8%**	**6%**

Livestock continued on next page

Livestock continued

High fees, both formal and informal, are a constraint to the livestock trade.

Camel: The price of camels for export in North Darfur were generally stable, although subject to foreign currency fluctuations. Export to Libya continues to be disrupted by insecurity. Camels were only exported to Egypt. Saraf Omra and Mellit are North Darfur's main camel markets. Earlier in the conflict years, some areas in Darfur were safer than others, e.g. Saraf Omra, which meant that this became the main camel market for North Darfur. Since then some of the trade shifted to Mellit and Saiyah markets, both in camel producing areas although Saraf Omra still functions as an important camel market. See Figure 14.

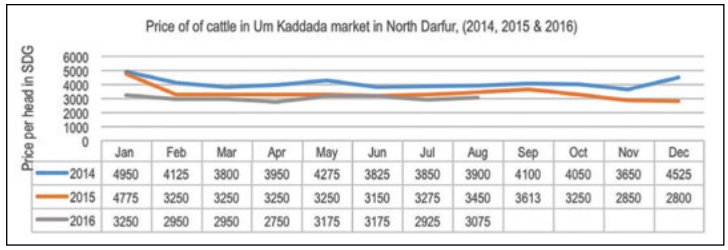


Figure 13 Price of cattle in Um Kaddada market, North Darfur, (2014, 2015 & 2016)

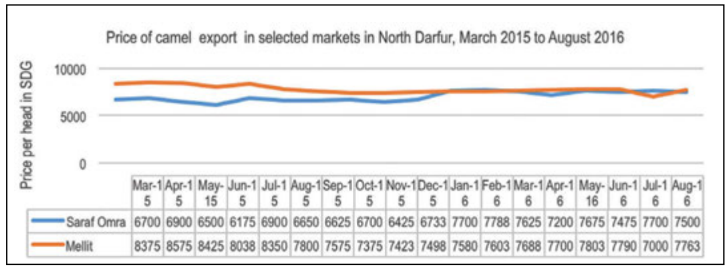


Figure 14 Price of camels for export in selected markets, North Darfur, March 2015 to August 2016

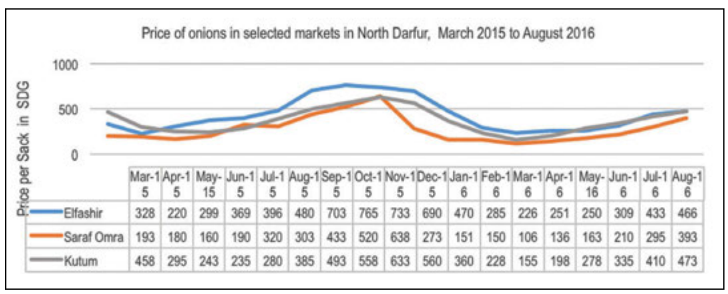


Figure 15 Price of onions in selected markets in North Darfur, March 2015 to August 2016

Fruit and vegetables:

Onions and **fresh tomato** prices continued to rise during March to August 2016 in all monitored markets in North Darfur due to the off-season. See Figures 15 and 16 which show the usual large seasonal variation in availability and price. (See DDRA's earlier study on the production and trade in fresh vegetables in North and West Darfur for further analysis)[3].

The **orange** trade from Jebel Marra continued to supply Darfur markets. Completion of the El Ingaz Road appears to have facilitated an increase in the orange trade to Omdurman and to other parts of Sudan, although prices were affected by disputes in East Jebel Marra at the start of 2016 in some markets including Tawilla and Kebkabiya.

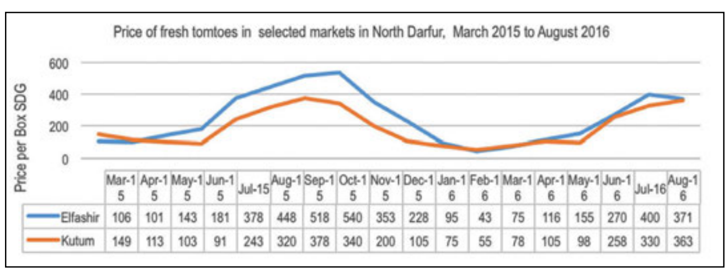
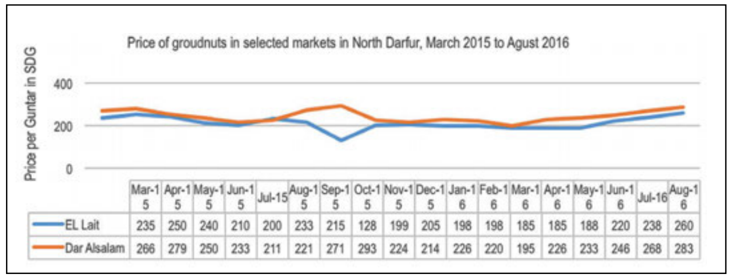


Figure 16 Price of fresh tomatoes in selected markets in North Darfur, March 2015 to August 2016

[3] http://www.sahel.org.uk/documents/VegetableTradeStudyReport2014.pdf

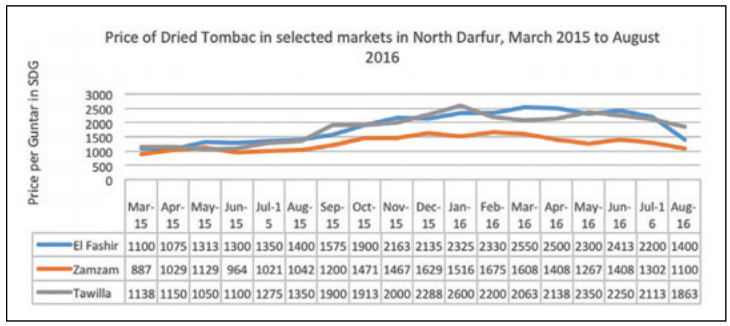


	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16
EL Lait	235	250	240	210	200	233	215	128	199	205	198	198	185	185	188	220	238	260
Dar Alsalam	266	279	250	233	211	221	271	293	224	214	226	220	195	226	233	246	268	283

Figure 17 Price of groundnuts in selected markets, in North Darfur, March 2015 to August 2016

Cash crops

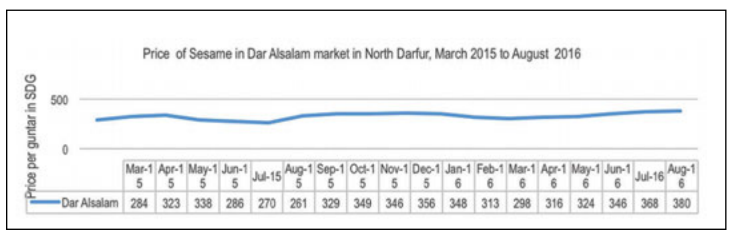
Groundnuts: From March through to May groundnut prices decreased in most monitored markets in North Darfur, partly a result of the import of cheap cooking oil into Sudan. However, in El Lait, prices started to rise in May 2016. See Figure 17. This is attributed to increased production of groundnut oil during June/July/August with the refurbishment and expansion of one of the large-scale groundnut processing mills in El Lait. This is an indication of improved security as well as the positive impact of the El Ingaz Road with high demand for groundnut cake from Omdurman as livestock fodder. In addition, demand for groundnut seed increased at the start of the agricultural season. See Figure 17. The transportation cost of one sack of 120 pounds of groundnut cake during March/August 2016 from El Lait to Omdurman was SDG 180-200. High fees paid on traded groundnuts has had a dampening effect on trade, despite improved security.



	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	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16
El Fashir	1100	1075	1313	1300	1350	1400	1575	1900	2163	2135	2325	2330	2550	2500	2300	2413	2200	1400
Zamzam	887	1029	1129	964	1021	1042	1200	1471	1467	1629	1516	1675	1608	1408	1267	1408	1302	1100
Tawilla	1138	1150	1050	1100	1275	1350	1900	1913	2000	2288	2600	2200	2063	2138	2350	2250	2113	1863

Figure 18 Price of dried tombac in selected markets in North Darfur, March 2015 to August 2016

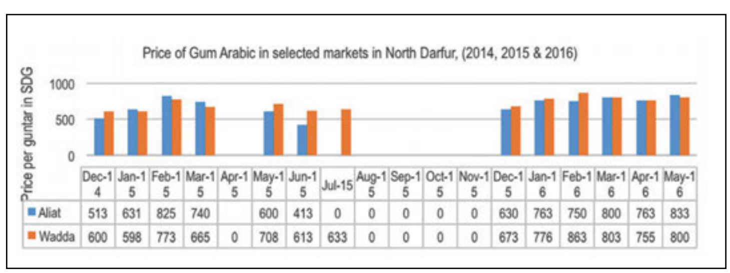
Dried tombac: This is an important source of income in North Darfur. It is covered by the Tombac Traders Union, a powerful body that has successfully lobbied against high taxes and fees. The price trend of dried tombac during March to July 2016 was higher than the same period in 2015 reflecting the poor harvest. Prices are starting to decrease in August due to the good rainy season and prospects of a good harvest. See Figure 18.



	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	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16
Dar Alsalam	284	323	338	286	270	261	329	349	346	356	348	313	298	316	324	346	368	380

Figure 19 Price of Sesame in Dar Alsalam market in North Darfur, March 2015 to August 2016

Sesame: Sesame production areas include Dar Alsalam and Wadda in North Darfur. The 2015/16 production season was good in some areas. The price has remained stable throughout the year, with low demand due to imports of cheap cooking oil. See Figure 19.



	Dec-14	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	Apr-16	May-16
Aliat	513	631	825	740		600	413	0	0	0	0	0	630	763	750	800	763	833
Wadda	600	598	773	665	0	708	613	633	0	0	0	0	673	776	863	803	755	800

Figure 20 Price of gum arabic in selected markets in North Darfur, March 2015 to August 2016

Gum Arabic: El Lait and Wadda are the main areas producing gum arabic in North Darfur. Due to its seasonality it is only available during December to May. Gum arabic prices in 2015/2016 are higher than the previous year. This appears to be due to higher demand for gum arabic exports during 2016. The international trade is managed by the Gum Arabic Board at federal level. See Figure 20.

Trade routes and transportation costs

During this period there have been major improvements in trade flows in North Darfur. The trade route connecting El Fashir to Kebkabiya (through Koura) was re-opened in April and safe movement of trade began. An increase in the number of checkpoints on this route in July and August, when trucks were moving more slowly because of the impact of the rainy season, has resulted in an increase in fees paid by trucks, from SDG 2500 to SDG 4500. There has been some increases in transportation costs. See Table 4. The main commodities transported included onions and millet.

Heavy rains affected trade routes across North Darfur. The direct route between Saraf Omra and Zalingei was changed, now passing through Umtagok, Kereink and Mornei to Zalangei. The trade route linking Kutum with Saraf Omra through Berka Sayra was closed during June/August 2016. The trade routes connecting Dar Salam with Shengiltobaya was closed for 10 days during July to August 2016. As a result, transportation costs increased from March to August on some trade routes. See Table 4.

Table 4 Transportation costs (SDG)

Trade route	Commodity	March 2016	April 2016	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	August 2016
Omdurman to El Lait	Millet per Sack	80	80	80	90	90	90
Obied to El Lait	Millet per Sack	60	60	60	75	75	75
El Lait to Omdurman	Groundnut cake (Sack 120 pounds)	70	70	70	80	80	80
Saraf Omra to El Fashir	Millet per sack	75	75	80	80	100	100
Saraf Omra to Nyala	Millet per sack	75	75	75	-	-	-
Saraf Omra to El Fashir	Transportation cost per person	400	400	400	400	400	400
Kebkabiya to El Fashir	Millet per sack	60	60	50	50	50	50
Kebkabiya to El Fashir	Onion per sack	60	60	50	50	50	50
Kebkabiya to El Fashir	Transportation cost per person50	300	300	250	250	250	250
Kutum to El Fashir	Onion per sack	40	40	40	40	50	50
Kutum to El Fashir	Transportation cost per person	125	125	125	125	140	140
Omdaram to Malha	Millet per sack	80	80	80	85	85	85
Saiyah to Malha	Millet per sack	45	45	45	50	50	50

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Daily Labour

The main daily labouring opportunities were in construction and agricultural activities. The general rise in daily wage rates in 2016 is probably due to inflation. See Table 5.

Table 5 Average wage rate for daily labour (2014, 2015 & 2016)

Market	Activities	Labour rate in SDG 2014	2015	2016
El Lait	Groundnut cultivation (per Mokhamas)	250	200	300
	Construction\ work\ building	25-30	25-30	35-40
Zamzam	Millet cultivation (per Mokhamas)	30-40	25-30	30-40
	Construction\ work\ building	30-35	35-40	50-70
Kutum	Millet cultivation (per Mokhamas)	25-30	25-30	30-35
Saraf Omra	Millet cultivation (per Mokhamas)	20-25	20-25	30-35
El Fashir	Construction\ work\ building	25-30	30-30	40-47

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 six-monthly analysis workshops with the CBO enumerators.

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Tufts University | Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Feinstein International Center

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