

Trade and Market Headlines West Darfur



Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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- There was an upwards trend in cereal prices during the quarter (June to August 2013) in almost all the monitored markets in West Darfur as a result of the poor rainy season and anticipated poor harvest. Cereal prices rose in El Geneina market not only because of the poor rains but also because the cross border trade route to Chad was blocked by flowing wadis. Once again Forobarnga market registered the highest cereal price during the quarter, also due to the seasonal closing of the cross-border trade route to Chad.
- Livestock prices were stable or fell during the quarter, according to the seasonal movement of livestock from the far south of West Darfur to the northern part of the state. During this migration when there is a high presence of livestock around a particular market for a period of time, livestock prices fall eg in Geneina and Habila markets. Higher prices were registered in Kulbus, an area of greater security frequented by livestock traders from North Darfur.
- Sheep prices in both Forobarnga and Habila markets fell this quarter because of the impact of localized conflict in Wadi Salih in Central Darfur, causing herds to move from that area to the area around Forobarnga market, pushing prices down.
- Groundnut prices began to rise in most monitored markets of West Darfur during the quarter, a normal seasonal trend but exacerbated by the poor rainy season in 2013 and the prospect of trade routes opening up between Sudan and South Sudan.
- Onions price increased, following normal seasonal trends at this time of year. There was low availability of fresh tomatoes, also a normal seasonal trend.
- The main trade route from Nyala to El Geneina through Kas and Zalingei remained open during the quarter. There are still 80 checkpoints on the route, which is in very poor condition, but there were fewer delays as trucks are now being escorted in smaller convoys. Although the number of checkpoints between Kulbus and El Geneina fell compared with the last quarter, transport costs remained the same.
- The main activity for daily labouring was work in the agricultural sector - sowing, weeding and ploughing – rather than brick making and work in the construction sector.

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]

Sarabeel Organization for Services and Development (SOSD) [Kulbus]

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

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