

# Trade and Market Bulletin West Darfur



## Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

Covering the Quarter September to November 2013 • Vol. 2, No. 3 • www.dra-sudan.org • mzakaria065@gmail.com



### Headlines:

- Although this quarter (September to November) is the time of the cereal harvest, cereal prices have continued to show an upward trend in almost all monitored markets in West Darfur. Probable cause is the poor harvest due to lack of rainfall. There has been no food aid distribution this quarter and the Government of Chad banned cross-border trade in cereals which has impacted prices, especially in border markets.
- Livestock prices during this quarter were stable or fell in most monitored markets in West Darfur. The supply of livestock to the market appears to be increasing as some livestock owners are selling their animals in order to buy cereals. Lack of pasture because of the poor rains and cattle herds moved to avoid localized conflict in Central Darfur may also be encouraging livestock sales.
- Cash crop prices demonstrated an upward trend in almost all monitored markets during this quarter, owing to the poor harvest season and poor rainfall. The availability of groundnuts, dry okra and dry tomatoes was relatively good in most monitored markets, although prices increased sharply during the quarter.
- Fruit and vegetables demonstrated seasonal trends. Onion prices increased while the price of fresh tomatoes steadily fell.
- There were no changes in the major trade routes this quarter except the normal seasonal change in the cattle trade route from Foro Baranga to El Geneina after the rainy season. The number of checkpoints on the route from Kulbus via Seleia and Kondobe to El Geneina increased again, although transportation costs remained the same.
- Most daily labouring opportunities related to the agricultural season. Daily wage rates were substantially higher than the same quarter last year.

### Recommendations:

- Although it was the harvest season the prices of cereals increased across the monitored markets in West Darfur. Therefore the close monitoring of household food security is highly recommended.
- The early end to the rainy season meant that livestock moved southward earlier than usual this year for grazing. This may contribute to livestock moving onto farms before the harvest, forcing an untimely abandoning (*talaig*) of farms. This could negatively affect the harvest and stability. Ways of reducing an early *talaig*, and thus possible conflict should be sought by those concerned.

### 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]

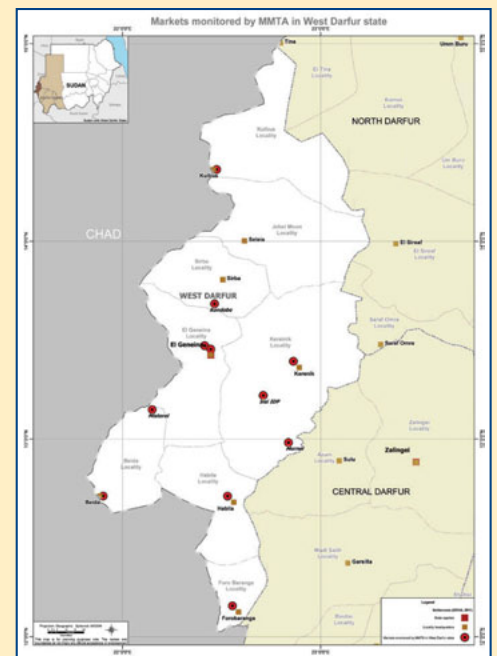
Community Development Association (CDA) [Foro Baranga and Kondobe]

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]

This project is funded by the European Union



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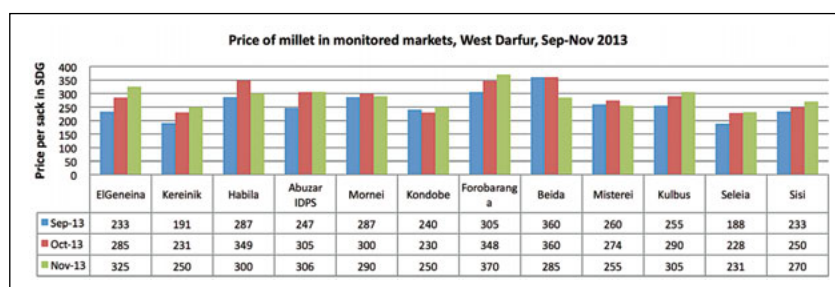


Figure 1: Price of millet in monitored markets, West Darfur, Sep-Nov 2013.

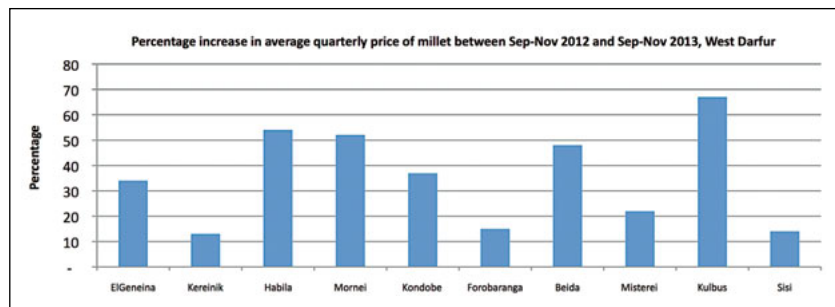


Figure 2: Percentage increase in average quarterly price of millet between Sep-Nov 2012 and Sep-Nov 2013, West Darfur.

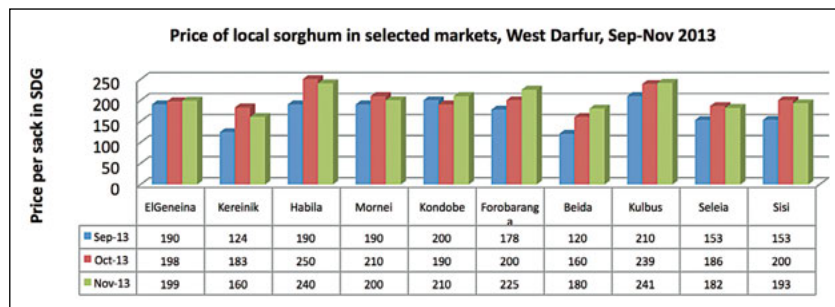


Figure 3: Price of local sorghum in selected markets, West Darfur, Sep-Nov 2013

## Cereals

During this quarter millet prices reported an upward trend in almost all monitored markets as a result of the poor harvest season. The harvest was curtailed by a lack of rainfall due to the unusually short rainy season which decreased production and reduced market supply. The highest millet prices were recorded in Forobaranga in November. The harvest here has not been good and the market has also been affected by the Government of Chad's ban on cross-border trade in cereals. The lowest price was reported in Seleia in September where the harvest has been better. There has also been some flow of cereals into Seleia from Chad, despite the ban on the cross-border trade. See Figure 1.

Millet prices are normally lowest in Kulbus market, an area of high millet production, but this wasn't the case this quarter because the harvest was poor due to low rainfall. Kulbus is also a major supplier to North Darfur, where demand is already high because of the poor harvest there this year, thus pushing up prices in Kulbus; and Kulbus supplies cereals to artisanal gold mining sites in Chad, just over the border.

The percentage increase of the average quarterly price for millet this quarter compared to the same quarter last year ranged from 12% in Kereink to 67% in Kulbus. See Figure 2.

Prices of local sorghum as a millet substitute also followed an upward trend this quarter. See Figure 3. There was no food aid sorghum distributed by WFP this quarter. However some food aid sorghum that had been distributed last quarter appeared in some markets (e.g. Mornei).

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## Livestock

During this quarter livestock prices were stable or fell in most monitored markets in West Darfur for a number of reasons: poor pasture because of the lack of rainfall which may be encouraging the sale of more cattle; some cattle herds have moved into the area to avoid localized conflict in Central Darfur; and increased cattle sales as some sell their cattle in order to buy cereals.

This increased supply and subsequent reduction of prices is particularly evident in the cattle trade in Forobaranga. See Figure 4. Although Forobaranga is famous as one of greatest livestock markets in Sudan, the price of cattle appears to have been affected by poor pastures and the conflict in Central Darfur (Um Dukhun, Mukjar and Bindisi).

Figure 5 shows the price differential between Forobaranga, an important source of livestock, and El Geneina market, a cattle consumption area. The average price of male cattle in El Geneina between September and November 2013 was 70% higher than the average price of male cattle in Forobaranga market.

Sheep prices increased in some markets in October due to increased demand for the Eid al-Adha, especially in urban markets. See Figure 6. During this quarter the highest sheep prices were recorded in El Geneina, a consumption area, whilst the lowest were recorded in Beida.

The trading of export camels resumed in November in Forobaranga market as normal following the rainy season. Most of the export camels are destined for Egypt rather than Libya where trade relations are still difficult.

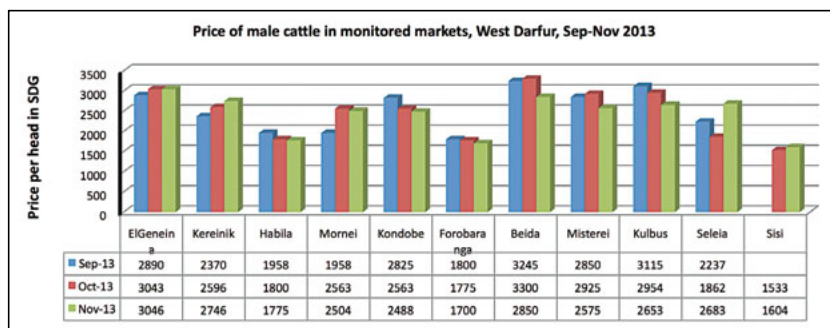


Figure 4: Price of male cattle in monitored markets, West Darfur, Sep-Nov 2013.

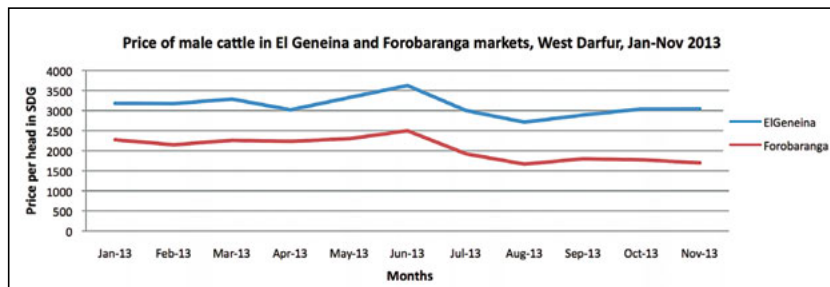


Figure 5: Price of male cattle in El Geneina and Forobaranga markets, West Darfur, Jan-Nov 2013

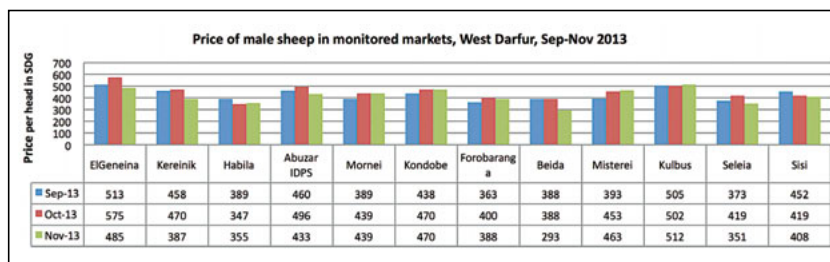


Figure 6: Price of male sheep in monitored markets, West Darfur, Sep-Nov 2013



## Cash Crops

Although it is harvest season the price of cash crops has shown an upward trend during this quarter in almost all the monitored markets across West Darfur. This is a result of low rainfall and the subsequent poor harvest. Groundnut prices have shown a significant upward trend since September in all monitored markets. See Figure 7. Since September Forobaranga and Habila markets reported the highest prices, while Misterie and Geneina reported the lowest. Sesame was only reported at two markets this quarter, Forobaranga and Geneina, compared to the usual four, and at high prices. See Figure 8. Dry okra and dry tomatoes were available in a few markets at increased prices. Tomatoes in some areas, such as the major production area around El Geneina, have been affected by pests.

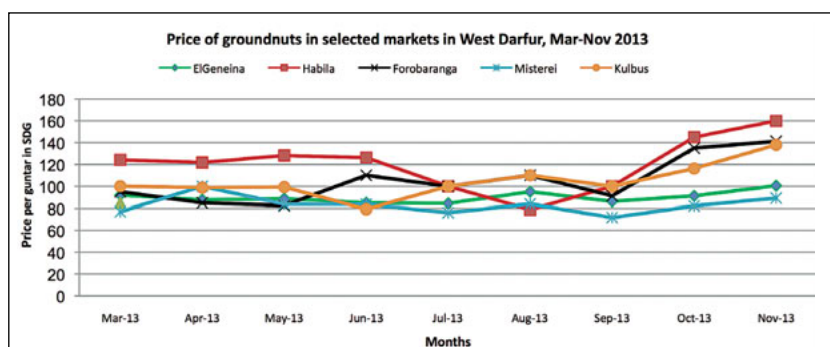


Figure 7: Price of groundnuts in selected markets, West Darfur, Mar-Nov 2013

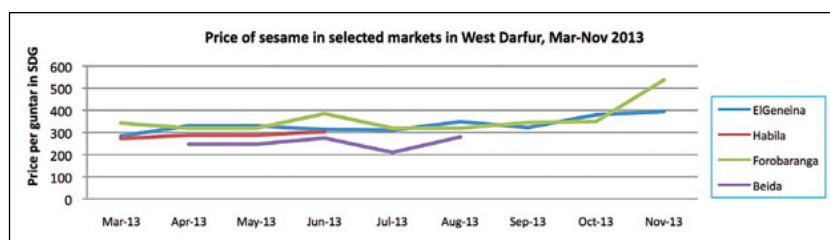


Figure 8: Price of sesame in selected markets, West Darfur, Mar-Nov 2013

## Fruits and Vegetables

Onion prices continued to rise steadily this quarter, which partly reflects this being the off-season. Onions were significantly more expensive this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2012. See Figure 9. The prices of fresh tomatoes reported a downward trend in all markets as they came into season.

There was limited availability of oranges this quarter, they were only available in El Geneina market, as this is the off-season for orange production in Jebel Marra. No mangoes were available as this is the off-season for mango production.

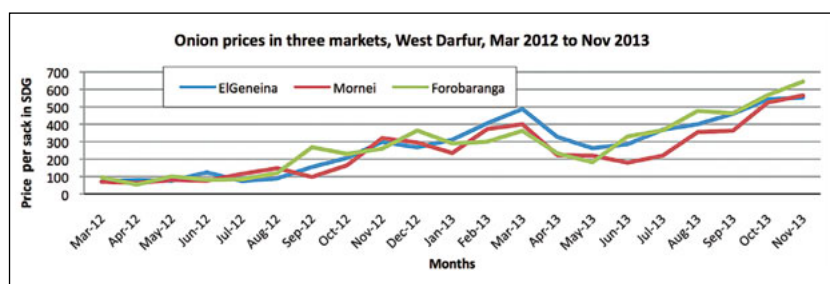


Figure 9: Onion prices in three markets, West Darfur, Mar 2012 to Nov 2013

## Daily Labouring

Because this is the harvest season, agricultural activities have been the main daily labour opportunities this quarter in all monitored markets across West Darfur. Wages ranged from SDG50-60 per day compared to SDG30-40 per day for

agricultural activities last season. The harvest season was very short this year and as such there were limited workers available and a limited time period for agricultural activities, which upped the daily wage.

## Transportation: Access and Costs

The road connecting El Geneina to Nyala reported 100 check points this quarter, up from 80 last quarter. The total cost for one truck to pass through all these check points is now SDG750. The road connecting El Geneina and Forobaranga, which is mainly used for moving livestock to El Geneina market (SDG25 per head for cows and sheep) closed earlier than usual because of lack of water related to the poor rainy season. A longer alternative road had to be used. The road connecting El Geneina and Kulbus reported two more check points this quarter, while the transportation cost remained the same at SDG40 per sack.

Table 1 shows the cost of transportation from Omdurman to El Geneina during this quarter. There was a small fall in truck rental rates in November related to the end of the rainy

season. This table also shows the range of taxes and fees that must be paid, although most of these remained relatively constant this quarter. However Figure 10 shows the steady increase in taxes and fees since March 2013, and the sharper increase in truck rental costs during this period, peaking during the rainy season in August 2013.

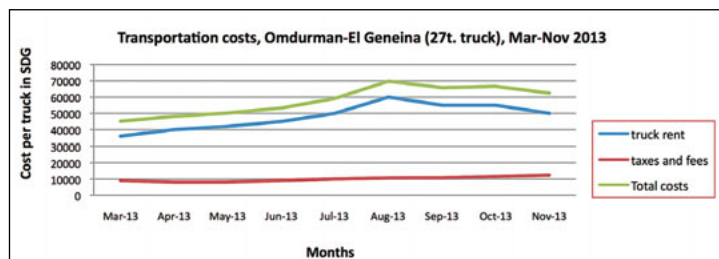


Figure 10: Transportation costs from Omdurman to El Geneina, per 27t. truck, Mar-Nov 2013

Table 1: Breakdown of costs of truck (27t.) from Omdurman to El Geneina including transportation fees and taxes

No.	Cost Items	Cost in SDG		
		Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13
1	Truck rent form Omdurman to El Geneina	55000	55000	50000
2	Manifesto tax	2110	2100	2100
3	Business profit tax	800	800	800
4	Value added tax	900	900	900
5	Sudanese Meteorology and Standards fees	200	200	200
6	State Ministry of Finance fees	1100	1200	1250
7	Taxation paid to consumer	700	750	750
8	Locality fees	10	10	10
9	Departure fees	70	70	70
10	Check point fees Nyala to El Geneina	750	750	750
11	Aldaein Borsa fees	300	350	350
12	Nyala Borsa fees	350	450	450
13	Zaliengie Borsa fees	250	250	300
14	Other expenditures en route from Omdurman to El Geneina	2500	3000	3500
15	Convoy fees paid for Security	750	750	1000
<b>16</b>	<b>Total costs</b>	<b>65790</b>	<b>66580</b>	<b>62430</b>



Feinstein International Center

Advisory support:

Feinstein International Center, Tufts University



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### Ministries with which DRA has a technical agreement in North Darfur:

1. Ministry of Finance and Economy and Civil Service
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
3. Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries



This project is funded by the European Union

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