

Trade and Market Headlines Central Darfur



Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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June to August 2014

- Cereal prices continued to rise this quarter (June to August 2014). Although rainfall levels were better this year than in 2013, the supply of cereals to the market was still negatively affected by last year's poor harvest. Between June 2013 and June 2014, millet prices increased by 95% and sorghum prices increased by 103% in Zalingei market in the Azoom area. In Um Dukhun market, in the Wadi Salih area, millet prices increased by 96% between August 2013 and August 2014, and sorghum prices increased by 143%. Limited supplies were exacerbated by heavy rainfall in Um Shalaya, restricting market access. In some areas food aid distribution has stabilized prices, for example in Bindisi where the Darfur Regional Authority distributed food aid in August, as well as continued food aid distribution by WFP. Other food aid interventions include Catholic Relief Services and Near East Organization supporting

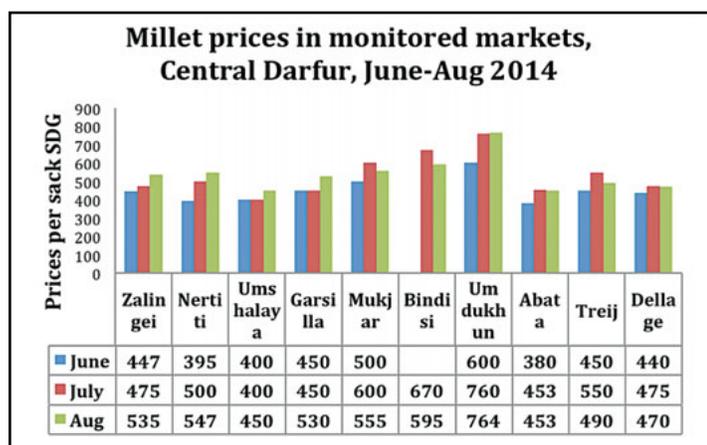


Figure 1: Millet prices in Central Darfur, June to August 2014

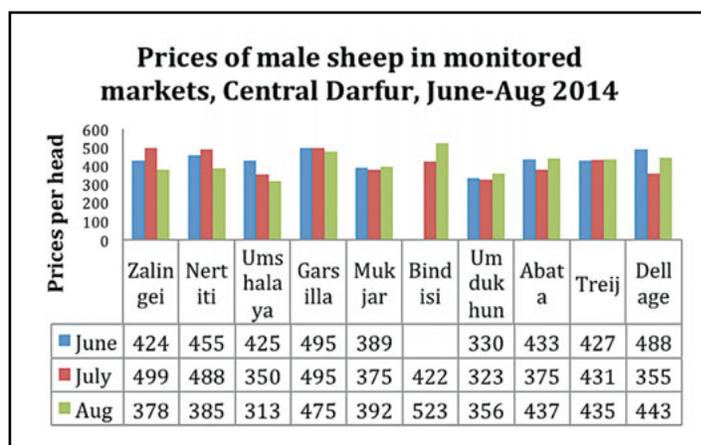


Figure 2: Sheep prices in Central Darfur, June to August 2014

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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/NGOs plus DRA are monitoring 10 markets across Central Darfur 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.

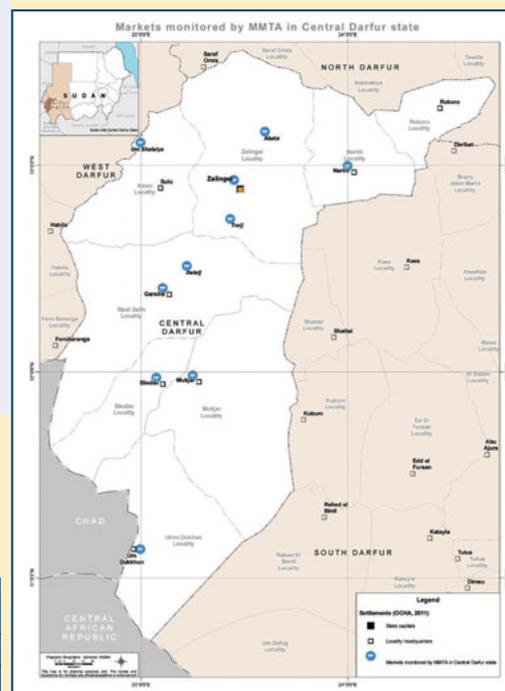
Participating CBOs and the markets they monitor

Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS)
Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency (DRA)
Almanar
Daro Baida
Albaraka Agriculture Organisation (AAO)
Arebow Charity Organisation (ACO)

Zalingei
Umshalaya
Nerteti
Garsi illa and Dellaig
Bendisi, Umdukhn and Mukjar
Abatta and Tereig



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households in Mukjar, and Triangle organization providing cereals to households in Um Dukhun

- Livestock prices were relatively stable this quarter, which is the migration season for animals, from the south of the state to the far northern part, to avoid heavy rainfall and insects in the south. The relative improvement in security contributed to stabilizing prices. Camels were not available in most monitored markets as livestock moved north, nor were horses or improved donkeys available in markets like Um Shalaya, Garsilla and Treij. The price of local donkeys rose this quarter in all monitored markets because of their role in agricultural operations.
- The price of cash crops continued to rise in almost all monitored markets due to seasonality, aggravated by the blocking of some trade routes due to heavy rainfall, particularly trade routes out of Um Dukhun. Groundnut prices rose sharply after rains in July and August blocked trade routes, except in Um Dukhun where groundnuts were distributed by the NGO, Triangle. Prices of both dried tomato and dried okra increased sharply because of seasonality: the price of dried okra increased by 790% in Zalingei between June 2013 and June 2014, but fell during August as other substitute vegetables became available during the rainy season.
- The price of onions gradually rose this quarter in most monitored markets, due to seasonality and increasing transport costs. The price of fresh tomatoes sharply increased in August; few markets had fresh tomatoes in June and July, the end of the winter production season and beginning of the summer

production season. Orange prices were relatively stable but not available in markets like Dellage and Treij because wadi flows blocked the trade route.

- Most trade routes were affected by heavy rainfall and flooding. Some were completely closed, for example the road to Um Dukhun, causing shortages of commodities such as cereals or onions. The trade route between Um Shalaya and Zalingei was affected by flood damage to Mornei Bridge in August.
- The main source of daily labouring was agricultural activities (sowing, weeding and ploughing). The daily wage rate was higher than the wage last quarter for non-farming activities such as brick making and construction.

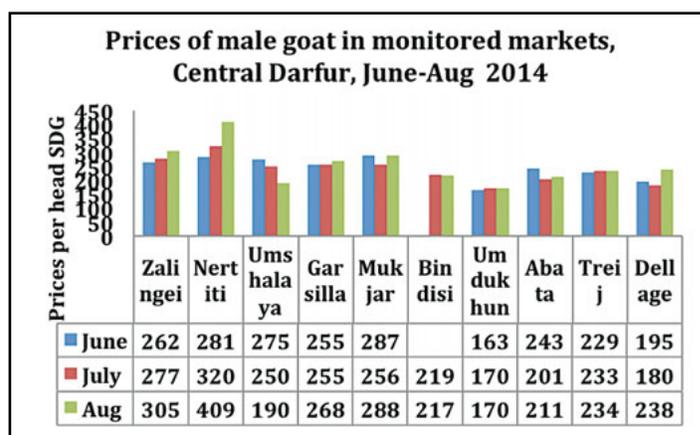


Figure 3: Goat prices in Central Darfur, June to August 2014