

Trade and Market Headlines Central Darfur



Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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September to November 2015

- Cereals:** During this quarter (September to November 2015) cereal prices showed an upward trend compared with last quarter (July to August 2015) despite this being harvest season. This was a reflection of low production levels due to the poor harvest this year (a consequence of poor rainfall), coupled with high demand for cereals from nomadic groups passing through Central Darfur, as they travel from north to south as is normal at this time of year. Nertiti market recorded the highest **millet prices** due to this seasonal nomadic movement; the lowest prices were in Um Shalaya and Bindisi markets. See Figure 1. Cereal prices are expected to keep increasing in the coming months because of the poor harvest.

Although the price of cereals this quarter was high in comparison with the previous quarter there were some factors that constrained the increasing prices. For example, regulations that ban the movement of cereals outside the state were activated by the local authorities; cereals continued to be released from the strategic reserve and distributed to government employees; and

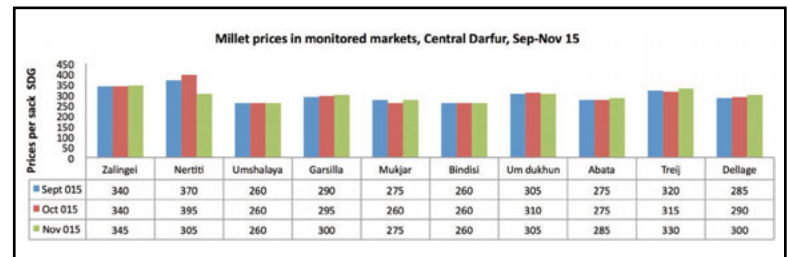


Figure 1: Millet prices in monitored markets, Central Darfur, September to November 2015

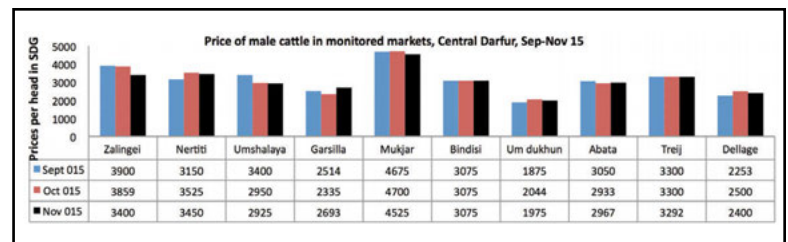


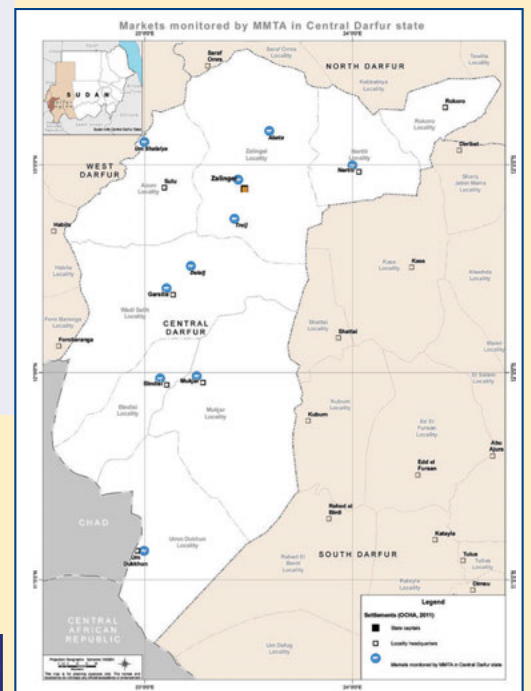
Figure 2: Price of male cattle in monitored markets, Central Darfur, September to November 2015

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 DDRA 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. DDRA holds quarterly analysis workshops with the CBO enumerators.

Participating CBOs and the markets they monitor

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|---|-----------------------------|
| Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS) | Zalingei |
| Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency (DDRA) | Umshalaya |
| Almanar | Nertiti |
| Daro Baida | Garsilla and Dellaig |
| Albaraka Agriculture Organisation (AAO) | Bindisi, Umdukhn and Mukjar |
| Arebaw Charity Organisation (ACO) | Abata and Tereig |



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there was regular distribution of food aid to IDPs by WFP (although rations have been reduced and the numbers receiving food aid have decreased as some beneficiaries are now supported through other income generating activities). These factors buoyed supplies and slowed price increases.

- **Livestock:** Trends in **livestock prices** varied across monitored markets. This quarter saw the migration of livestock from the north, where they went during the rainy season in June, July and August, back to the south. The price of cereals in Central Darfur increased along these migration routes due to demand from the nomadic groups and the price of animals and milk decreased due to increased supply.

Cattle prices were lower than last quarter in most monitored markets, and showed a declining trend, because of the availability of fodder around markets with relatively stable security. The exception to this was Mukjar market where the highest cattle prices were recorded due to tension between tribes in this area during September which caused livestock to be moved from the area throughout the quarter. The lowest cattle prices were reported in Um Dukhun market, a main supply market. See Figure 2.

Sheep and goats were in high demand at the start of this quarter due to Eid Al Adha: prices increased in September before falling again in October as demand tailed off. See Figure 3.

The **price of local donkeys** varied from market to market. For example, the highest prices were recorded in areas where donkeys are the main means of transportation and where they are used in agricultural activities, such as in Nertiti market, which registered a big jump in prices in November, which is harvest-time. See Figure 4. Donkey prices were low or donkeys were completely unavailable in some markets due to a lack of demand. **Horses and camels** were not available in most monitored markets because people avoid using them due to the high risk of theft of horses and camels.

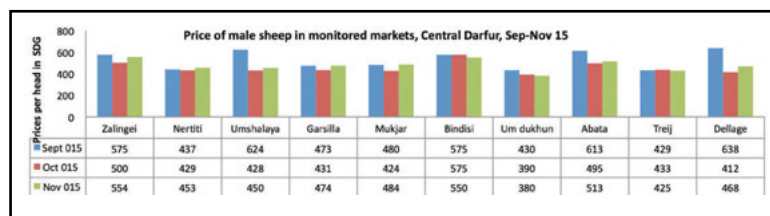


Figure 3: Price of male sheep in monitored markets, Central Darfur, September to November 2015

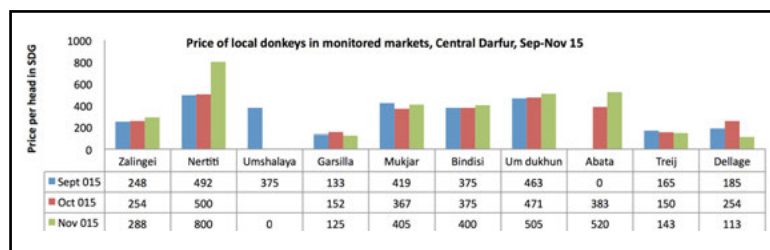


Figure 4: Price of local donkeys in monitored markets, Central Darfur, September to November 2015

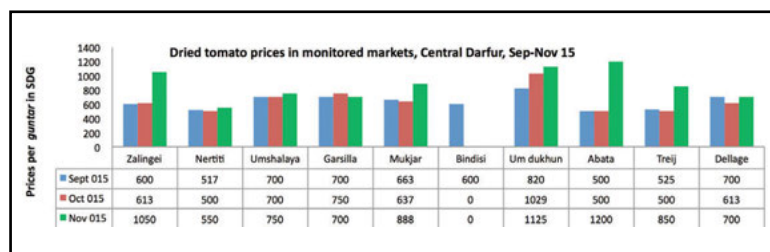


Figure 5: Dried tomato prices in monitored markets, Central Darfur, September to November 2015

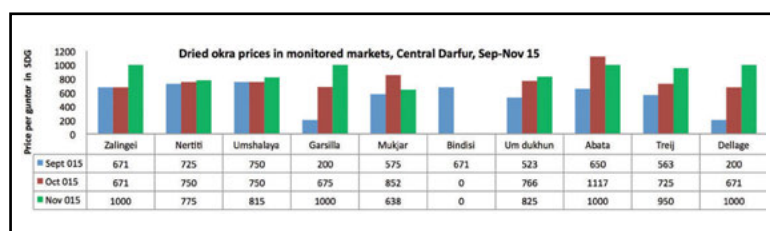


Figure 6: Prices of dried okra in monitored markets, Central Darfur, September to November 2015

- **Cash crops:** Cash crop prices (**dried okra and dried tomatoes**) were affected by the poor harvest, despite this quarter being harvest time. The price of most cash crops increased sharply in areas of consumption, for example the price of dried okra in markets such as Zalingei, Garsilla and Abata, and the price of dried tomatoes in markets such as Zalingei, Um Dukhun and Treij as people anticipated a scarcity of cash crops in the coming months. See Figures 5 and 6.

Groundnut prices decreased in most monitored markets as this is harvest time, but groundnuts were unusually not available in Bindisi, Garsilla and Dellage markets because of limited supplies following the poor harvest. See Figure 7.

- **Fruit and vegetables:** Fruit and vegetable prices in almost all monitored markets were also affected by seasonality. The price of both **onions and fresh tomatoes** increased sharply in most markets reflecting the off-season. See Figure 8.
- **Trade Routes:** Most trade routes in Central Darfur operated well this quarter despite an increase in checkpoints, for example on the Nyala-Zalingei road through Korally, and on the Zalingei-El Geneina paved road, with some security restrictions in place. There was an increase in the use of small vehicles (land cruisers) to carry goods and services instead of heavy trucks.
- **Daily Labour:** The agricultural sector was the main source of income and daily labouring opportunities this quarter, providing daily work opportunities with higher wages than any other work (e.g. building or brick-making). However, there appears to have been a decline in work opportunities since the end of the last quarter as the land under rainfed cultivation has decreased due to lack of rainfall. At the same time there has been an increase in living costs due to the rising prices of food and natural resources such as firewood, charcoal and grass, also a consequence of poor rainfall. Combined, all of these factors have a negative impact on food security, especially for those dependent on daily labouring for an income.

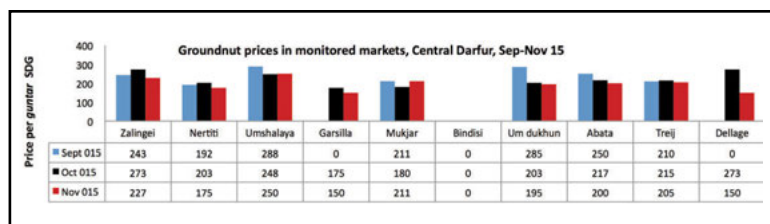


Figure 7: Groundnut prices in monitored markets, Central Darfur, September to November 2015

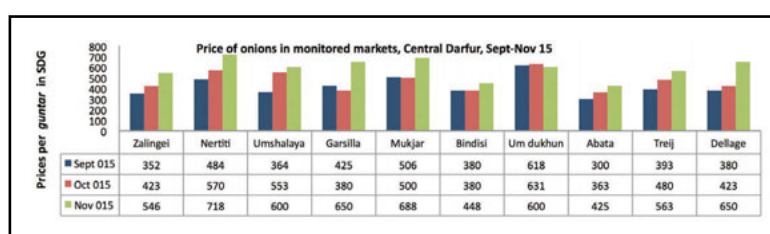


Figure 8: Price of onions in monitored markets, Central Darfur, September to November 2015