

Trade and Market Headlines South Darfur



Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

www.dra-sudan.org • mzakaria065@gmail.com



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



December 2014 to February 2015

- **Introduction** In September 2014 the MMTA project was established in South Darfur. Twenty two markets were selected to be monitored regularly across the state, by 16 CBOs/NGOs. These markets cover 14 out of the 21 localities in South Darfur. South Darfur state is economically important to the Darfur region and is a significant centre for trade, reflecting the availability of natural, agricultural and livestock resources across the state. Nyala, the state capital, is the largest town in Darfur and a major economic and trading hub.
- **Cereal prices** showed varied trends across the monitored markets this quarter (December 2014 to February 2015), a reflection of the differing local conditions in each market. In a number of markets the price dipped in January, the harvest season. See Figure 1. The highest millet prices were registered in Al BanGadeed market, which is not a cereal-producing area, while the lowest were reported in Um Dafoog market, a major production area.

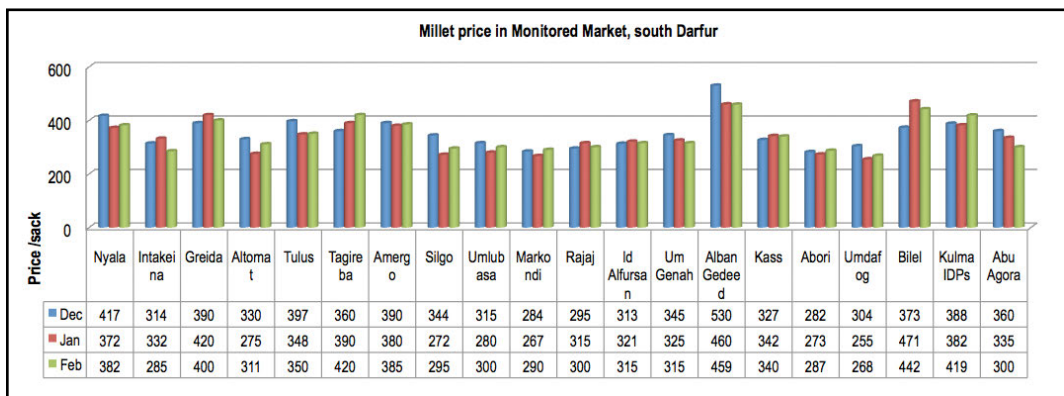


Figure 1: Millet prices in monitored markets, South Darfur, December 2014 to February 2015

Continued on reverse

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. Sixteen CBOs/NGOs are monitoring 22 markets across South 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.

Map of monitored markets to be provided next quarter.

List of CBOs and markets monitored in South Darfur

Al Methag Organization	Nyala	People's Organization for Development & Rehabilitation	Kas
Rehead –Alfrsan for Rural Development	Intakaina	Darfur Peace Initiative for Development	Aborey
Ghafran for Peace and Development	Geraida	Rufaida Health Foundation	Um Dafoog
Afag Al Mustagbl	Bulbul Tembisco	Jebel Marra Charity for Rural Development	Belail, Kalma IDP camp
Al Ruhma for Development	Al Tomat, Tolous	Ghaya for Development	Abu-Ajora
National Organization for Care & Development	Tajreba, Um Morgo	Shera Alamal	Al-Safia
Al Shorog Organization	Silgo, Um Labasa, Markondi		
United Peace Organization	Ragag		
Save Motherhood and Children's Organization	Um Ganah, Id-Alfrsan		
Al Shamail for Humanitarian Support	Al Ban Gadeed		

This project is funded by the EU





- **Livestock price** trends varied from one market to another this quarter, depending on the proximity of animals to the market. For example, sheep prices decreased in markets around which animals gathered in search of water and good pasture, and increased in markets from which the animals left. See Figure 2. Almost all monitored markets reported no availability of camels, neither for export nor local consumption, except for Nyala market where some camels are traded for export.
- **Cash crops:** groundnut prices increased steadily during the quarter in all monitored markets, even though the groundnut harvest season this year (2015) was relatively better than the previous year, due to good rains. Possible reasons for the rising prices include: the growing demand for groundnut cooking oil as traders are now officially permitted to mix imported cooking oil with local groundnut oil, increasing demand for the latter; and increased demand for groundnut cake for animal fodder, which is exported to the Gulf, including Jordan. See Figure 3. A few markets reported availability of sesame, and prices in these markets fluctuated. Many markets reported availability of dried okra and dried tomatoes with prices for both decreasing over the quarter. Neither gum arabic nor hibiscus were reported in any of the monitored markets.

- **Fruit and vegetables:** onion prices decreased steadily in most monitored markets this quarter, particularly in January, which was harvest season. Additionally, onions came into South Darfur from production areas in Central Sudan (e.g. Shandi and Managil) via North Darfur, along the now completed Al Ingaz Alghrabi Road. Although this trade is not a new phenomenon during the off-season, the quantities have increased with construction of the paved road, and the onions are cheaper than locally-produced onions from areas such as Zalingei and Saraf Omra. See Figure 4.
- All the main **trade routes** within the state and out of the state remained calm and functioned well this quarter. These include the Nyala-IdAlfrsan-UmDafog route used for bamboo; the Nyala-Ed Daein-Khartoum railway; the Nyala-Buram-Alradom route used for crops; and the Nyala-Kass-Zalingei route used for fruit and vegetables. Paving of the Khartoum-El Fashir road, and partial paving of the El Fashir-Nyala road had a positive impact in reducing the price of some commodities, such as onions, cement and construction materials, in most monitored markets.
- The main sources of **daily labouring** income generation this quarter were agricultural activities, brick-making, looking after animals (e.g. shepherding) and domestic work. The daily wage rate was SDG 20-30 for agricultural activities, SDG 15-20 for brick-making, SDG 10-25 for shepherding, and SDG 10-15 for domestic work across most monitored markets.

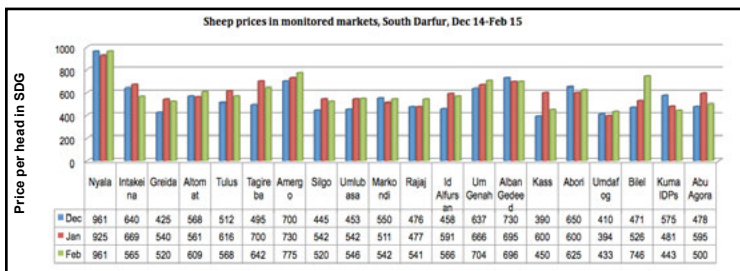


Figure 2: Sheep prices in monitored markets, South Darfur, December 2014 to February 2015

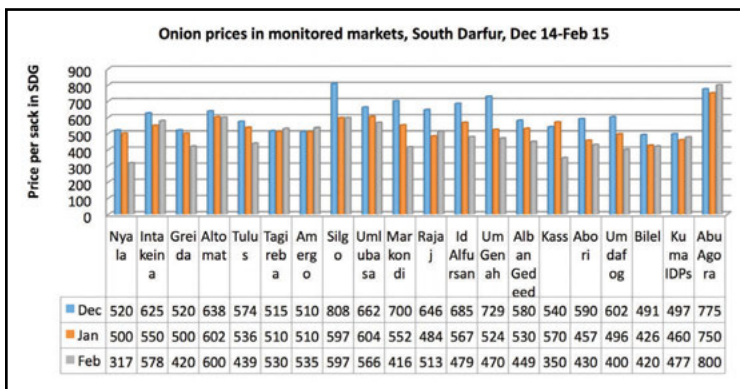


Figure 4: Onion prices in monitored markets, South Darfur, December 2014 to February 2015

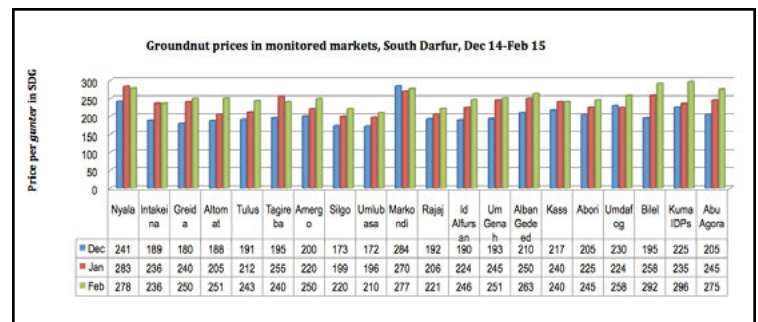


Figure 3: Groundnut prices in monitored markets, South Darfur, December 2014 to February 2015