Trade and Market Bulletin for Darfur States

Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

SOS SAHEL INTERNATIONAL UK

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Feinstein International Center

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Cereals

In the state capitals **millet** prices peaked during May, with the highest prices recorded in El Fashir and Nyala. However, most producers and traders across the five Darfur states sold their cereal stores during July anticipating a good harvest because of heavy rainfall at the beginning of this season - they saw no reason to store their cereals. This stabilised market supply and caused cereal prices in some markets to decrease. For example, Zalingei saw prices decrease during June and July. See Figure 1.

Generally, **millet** and **sorghum** prices, particularly in **North Darfur**, were either stable or decreased in most monitored markets this quarter (May to July 2016), partly due to good rainfall from mid-July and also food distribution by different actors. State government released supplies from the strategic reserve into Um Kadada market and Save the Children also distributed food in collaboration with Balsam Organisation. In June a food aid distribution by WFP led to a decrease in millet prices in July in some areas such as Malha (a vulnerable area), which saw prices fall by 9% between June and July. Over the same period prices fell by 14% in Zamzam IDP camp, reflecting regular distribution by WFP, and by 19% in Mellit. See Table 1.

Sorghum prices decreased between June and July - by 21% in Zamzam IDP camp, 8% in Kutum and 4% in El Fashir.

In **West Darfur** cereal prices were stable or decreased in most monitored markets reflecting availability. West Darfur had the lowest cereal prices across Darfur this quarter. See Figure 2.

In **South Darfur** an increase in cereal prices was reported in most monitored markets, despite prices stabilizing elsewhere in the region. South Darfur has the largest cereal consumption market in Darfur (Nyala) and the poor harvest season last season continued to affect prices this quarter. Additionally there has been no major food aid intervention in South Darfur by the government or the UN. The highest quarterly average price was in Alban

Table 1: Millet price per sack in selected markets in North Darfur

	Millet price per sack (SDG)						
	El Fashir	**Saraf Omra**	**Um Kadada**	**Dar Alsalam**	**Zamzam**	**Malha**	**Mellit**
May-16	554	365	663	563	565	613	488
June-16	525	328	650	568	563	650	566
July-16	534	335	668	570	482	590	460
Price change from June to July (SDG)	+9	+8	+18	+3	-81	-60	-106
% change from June to July	+2%	+2%	+3%	0%	-14%	-9%	-19%

Background and methodology

The goal of this community-based market monitoring project 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. Through a network of 46 national CBOs/ NGOs, DDRA is monitoring 73 markets across all five Darfur states. Quantitative data, for example the price of Darfur¹s 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. This trade and market bulletin, produced on a monthly basis, covers all five Darfur states.

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Gedeed (a consumption area) at SDG 574 per sack. The lowest quarterly average price was reported in Intakeina (a production area) at SDG 437 per sack. **Sorghum** prices were stable this quarter in most of South Darfur's monitored markets because most animals grazed on natural pastures, which led to a decrease in the demand for sorghum as animal feed.

In **East Darfur millet** prices increased in some monitored markets, such as Ed Daein, Abu Jabra, Alferdus and Abu Matarig. One reason for this increase was the high demand from pastoralists this quarter as they migrated north, typical at this time of year, and stayed near to these markets. Additionally the poor harvest last year as well as high numbers of refugees entering from South Sudan contributed to pushing up prices.

In **Central Darfur** the price of **millet** was stable or decreased in some monitored markets reflecting availability. Zalingei, a consumption area, reported a quarterly average price of SDG 408 per sack of millet but Um Shalaya, a production area, reported a quarterly average price of SDG 343 per sack of millet. **Sorghum** prices were also stable in most monitored markets in Central Darfur.

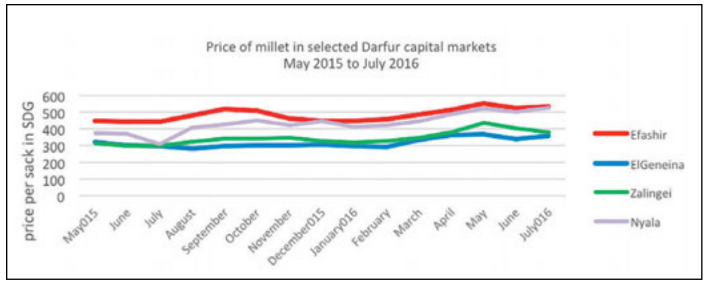

Figure 1: Price of millet in selected Darfur state capitals, May 2015 to July 2016

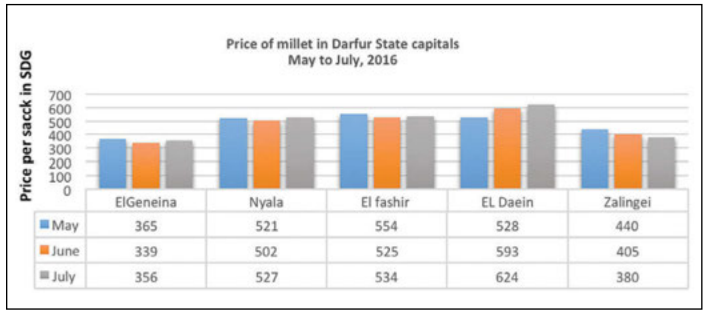

Figure 2: Price of millet in selected Darfur state capitals, May to July 2016

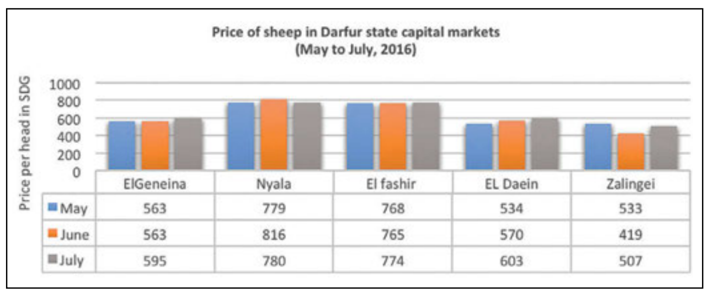

Figure 3: Price of sheep in Darfur state capitals, May to July 2016

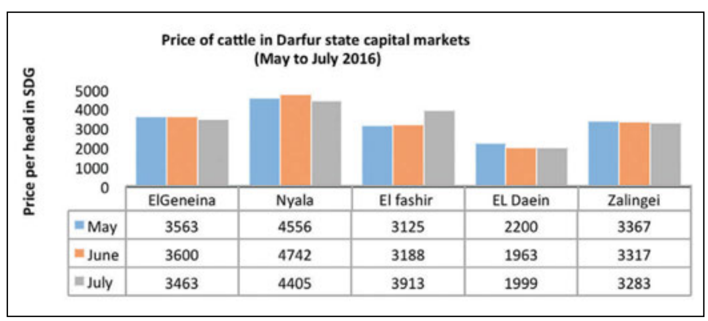

Figure 4: Price of cattle in Darfur state capitals, May to July 2016

Livestock:

Livestock prices in **North Darfur**, particularly **sheep** and **cattle**, were stable this quarter. This can be attributed to the rains starting early across most of North Darfur and therefore live-stock gathering around big towns, where the security situation is typically better than further afield. However, some places such as Dar Alsalam and Zamzam in the south of North Darfur reported an increase in prices in both cattle and sheep because livestock owners moved north of these towns in search of grazing and to avoid insects, normal at this time of year.

In **South Darfur** livestock prices (both **cattle** and **sheep**) increased as animals moved away from markets such as Kass, Alban Gedeed, Intakeina and Markondi, as is normal at this time of year. Prices decreased where animals gathered, such as in Nyala and Umdafog.

Livestock prices in **West Darfur** were stable in most monitored markets, except **cattle** prices in El Geneina which decreased in June and July. This was because the supply of cattle from Chad stopped due to flooded *wadis* and supplies came from Foroba-ranga instead. Cattle from Forobaranga are cheaper than those from Chad because they are of a lower quality.

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Cash Crops:

Groundnut prices increased in most monitored markets in Darfur this quarter, reflecting the high demand for groundnut seeds in preparation for the new agricultural season as well as demand from the oil mills that process groundnuts into oil in areas such as Nyala and El Fashir. See Figures 5 and 6. As reported in the last bulletin, cheaper cooking oil is still being imported into Sudan and is reaching markets in Darfur such as Nyala.

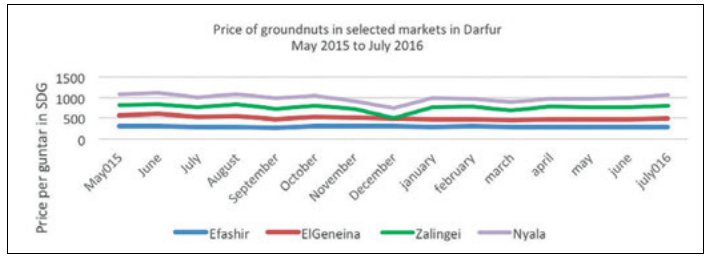

Figure 5: Price of groundnuts in selected Darfur state capitals, May 2015 to July 2016

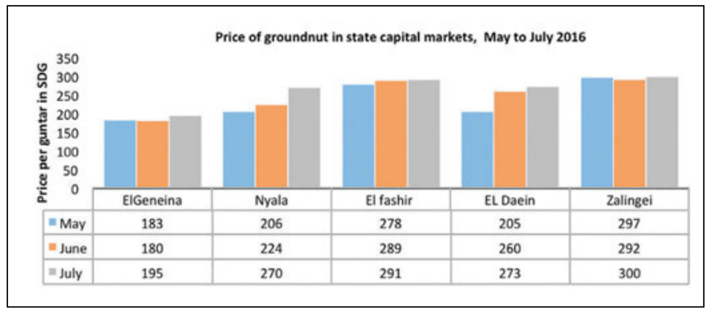

Figure 6: Price of groundnuts in Darfur state capitals, May to July 2016

Daily labour:

The main daily labouring opportunities this quarter were in agricultural operations as well as construction and building. See Table 2 for daily wage rates in each state capital.

Table 2: Average wage rate for daily labouring (May to July 2016)

Average wage rate for daily labouring (SDG per day for May to July 2016)		
State	**Agriculture work\ ploughing**	**Construction\ building**
El Fashir - North Darfur	100	47
Nyala - South Darfur	125	37
Zalingei - Central Darfur	90	25
EL Daein - East Darfur	150	30
El Geneina - West Darfur	100	40

Trade routes and access

Heavy rains affected some trade routes across Darfur this quarter, particularly in North Darfur. The direct Saraf Omra-Zalingei route changed slightly and the route now passes through Umtaguk, Kereinik and Mornei before arriving in Zalingei. The direct trade route connecting Kebkabiya to El Fashir through Koura continued to function this quarter.

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DDRA has a technical agreement with a number of ministries in each Darfur state: North, West, Central, South and East

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