

Trade and Market Headlines West Darfur



Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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March to May 2015

- Cereal prices:** Cereal prices were stable across most monitored markets in West Darfur this quarter (March to May 2015), reflecting availability in all markets. As mentioned in last quarter's bulletin it has been a good production season this year for both millet and sorghum. West Darfur's markets along the Chadian border are supplied by the active informal trade in cereals from Chad, despite the Chadian authorities' attempts to control the movement of cereals across the border. See Figure 1. Compared to the same quarter last year, the average price of millet was 15% lower this quarter in El Geneina market (a consumption market) and 27% lower in Seleia market (a production market). See Figure 2. Sorghum prices were also stable, although there was high demand for sorghum for feeding animals and poultry, especially in big towns. Figure 3 shows sorghum prices in both El Geneina (the biggest consumption market) and Forobaranga (a production area) over the last 15 months.

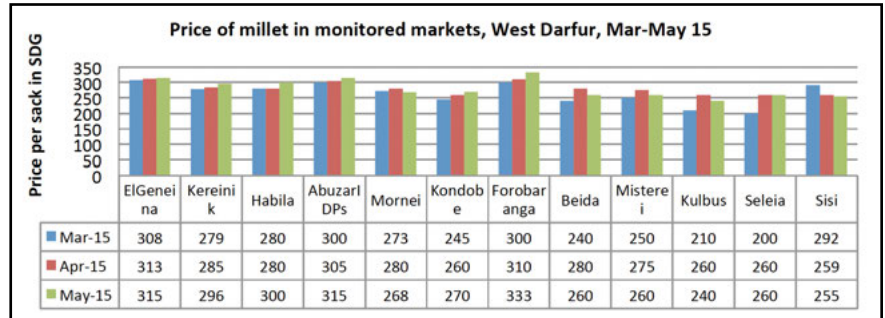


Figure 1: Price of millet in monitored markets, West Darfur, March to May 2015

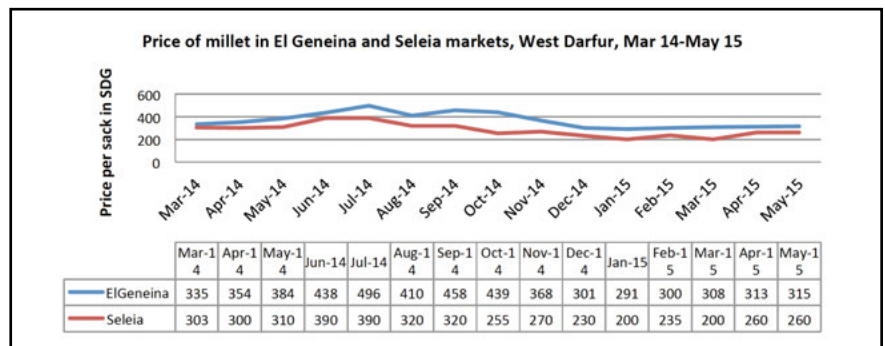


Figure 2: Price of millet in El Geneina and Seleia markets, West Darfur, March 2014 to May 2015

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 plus DDRA 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. DDRA 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]

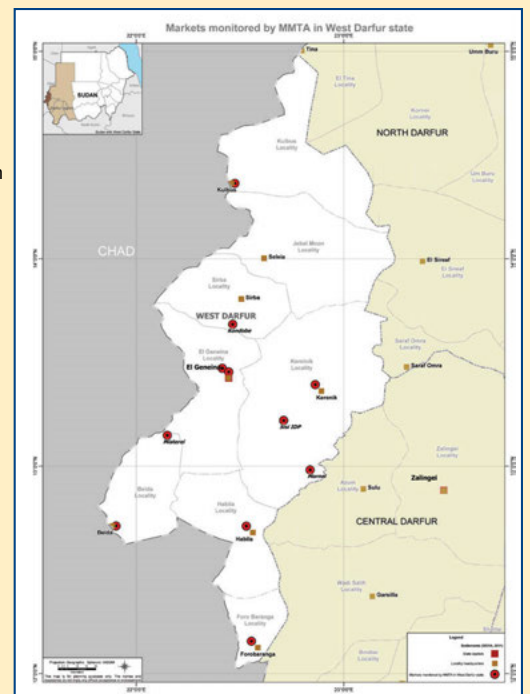
Beida Organization for Relief and Development (BORD) [Beida and Misterei]

Sarabeel Organization for Services and Development (SOSD) [Kulbus]

Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency (DDRA) [El Geneina and Sisi IDP camp]



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- Livestock prices: Sheep prices** were either stable or showed minimal increases or decreases in most monitored markets this quarter. Although sheep were brought close to the markets, traders from Omdurman had not yet started to purchase the sheep. This activity usually starts at the beginning of the rainy season (July-August), so demand was mainly for local consumption instead. See Figure 4. The quarterly average price of sheep in El Geneina market was 6.5% lower this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2014. Possible reasons may include a lack of traders from Omdurman and low purchasing power, but require further investigation. See Figure 5.

Cattle prices were also stable during this quarter in most of West Darfur's monitored markets. In Forobaranga cattle prices increased a little in May because traders from Omdurman started to buy through their agents there. In El Geneina market the only supply during April and May was from Chad rather than Forobaranga, because of the dry land and lack of water sources between Forobaranga and El Geneina. The quality of cattle from Chad is usually superior to the quality of cattle from Forobaranga which have trekked further on the hoof. Thus the price of the former is higher. See Figure 6.

Export camel prices were stable this quarter and export to Egypt was ongoing. Some traders started to export to Libya through Chad in response to high prices in Libya despite insecurity and high risk.

- Cash crops: During this quarter groundnut prices** were stable but high in most of West Darfur's markets. There was a slight increase in some markets in May as farmers started to buy groundnut seeds for the coming season. Prices are expected to increase over the coming months for this reason. See Figure 7.

Prices of **dried tomatoes** and **dried okra** prices were stable or decreased in most of West Darfur's markets, reflecting seasonality.

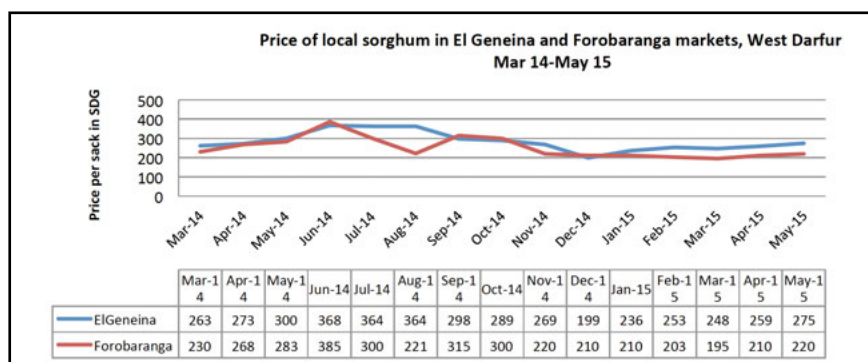


Figure 3: Price of local sorghum in El Geneina and Forobaranga markets in West Darfur, March 2014 to May 2015.

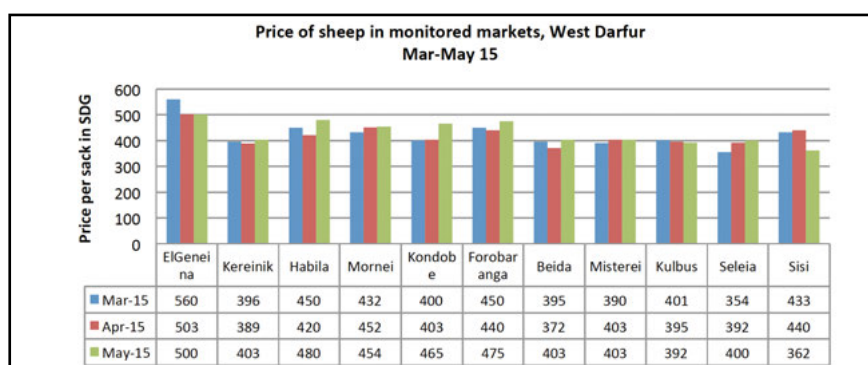


Figure 4: Price of sheep in monitored markets in West Darfur, March to May 2015

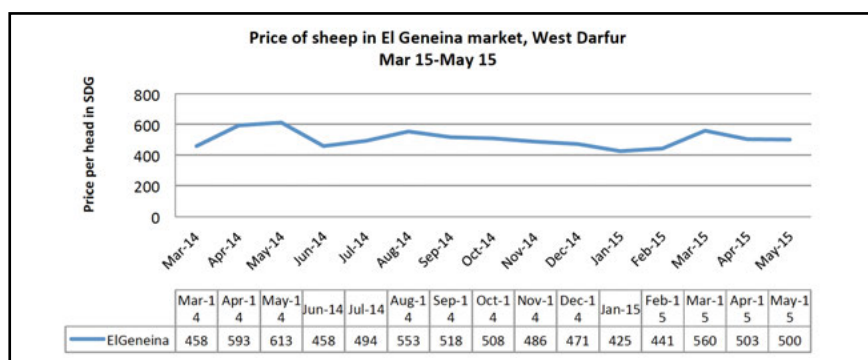


Figure 5: Price of sheep in El Geneina market, West Darfur, March 2014 to May 2015.

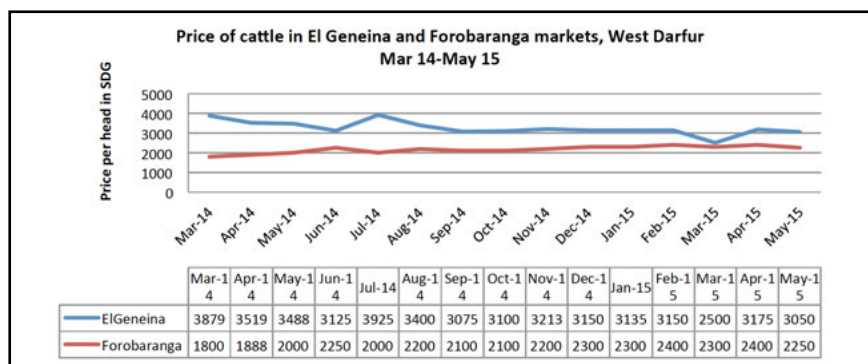


Figure 6: Price of cattle in El Geneina and Forobaranga markets, March 2014 to May 2015.



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- Fruit and Vegetables: Onion prices** were stable during this quarter because of seasonality, except in Seleia in March. The very high price may be due to Seleia's dependence on Saraf Omra in North Darfur where there was some conflict. Prices were also high in Habila in May because Habila is not a production area and there was a little supply in May. See Figure 8.
- Trade routes and access:** In term of trade routes and access, there were no significant changes in the main trade routes that connect West Darfur with other states, or in those trade routes that connect West Darfur internally.
- Daily labouring:** Most daily labouring this quarter was for brick-making, building houses and other local services.

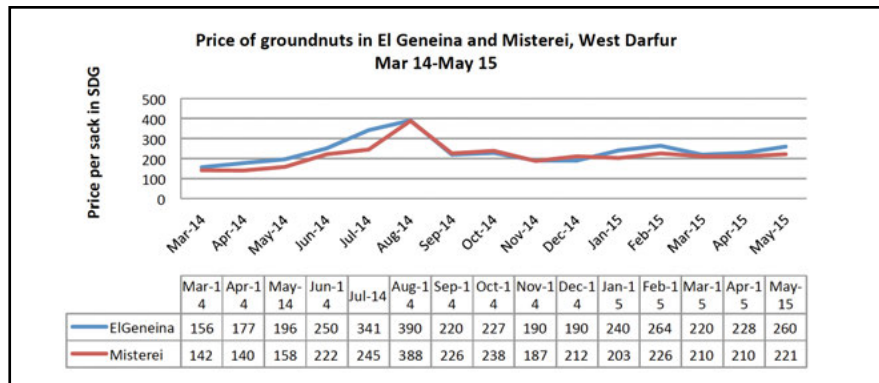


Figure 7: Price of groundnuts in El Geneina and Misterei, West Darfur, March 2014 to May 2015.

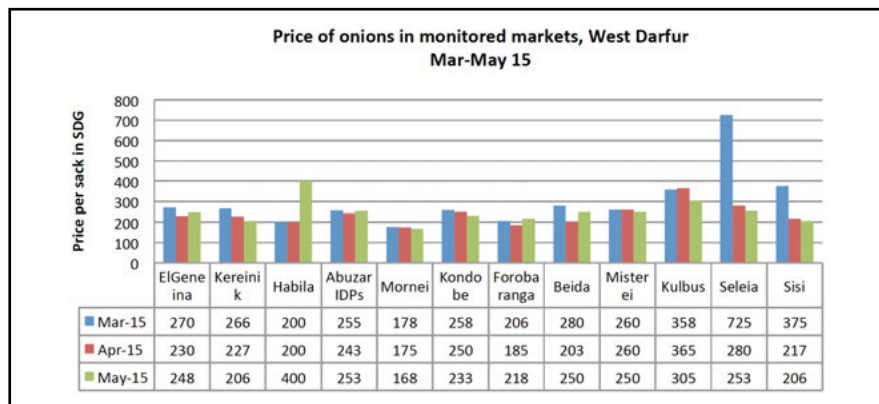


Figure 8: Price of onions in monitored markets in West Darfur, March to May 2015.