

Trade and Market Headlines Central 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

- Cereal prices** were lower this quarter (December 2014 to February 2015) compared to last quarter (September to November 2014) in almost all monitored markets. Over the course of the quarter cereal prices either remained stable or fell a little. This reflects the impact of the good harvest season this year, a consequence of good rainfall in 2014, both in terms of amount and distribution of rainfall. Also, the distribution of food aid by WFP to a wide range of people pushed prices down. Nertiti market in the Jebel Marra area registered the highest cereal prices, in December 2014, due to insecurity caused by conflict between the rebels and the Government army. The Wadi Salih Zone reported availability of local sorghum because of high production there rather than in the Azoom zone. See Figures 1 and 2.
- Livestock prices** were stable in most monitored markets this quarter. Possible reasons for this were the relatively stable security situation in Central Darfur this quarter and therefore stabilization of markets, apart from the Jebel Marra area: there was a spike in cattle prices in Nertiti in December 2014. See Figure 3. The price of local donkeys noticeably increased in both Nertiti and Abata markets

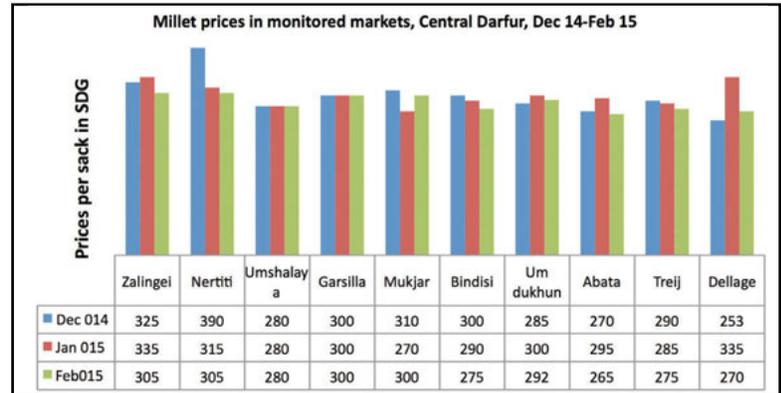


Figure 1: Millet prices in monitored markets, Central Darfur, December 2014 to February 2015

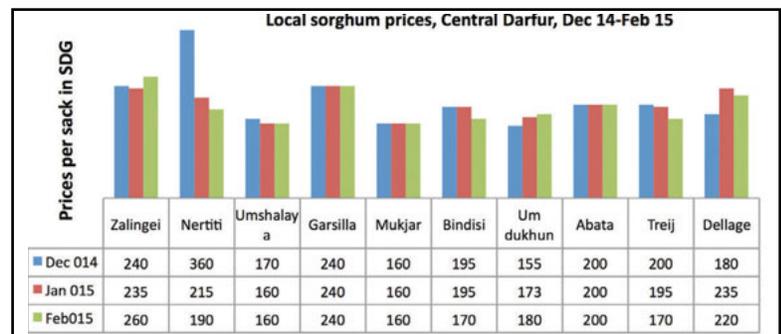


Figure 2: Prices of local sorghum, Central Darfur, December 2014 to February 2015

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 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.

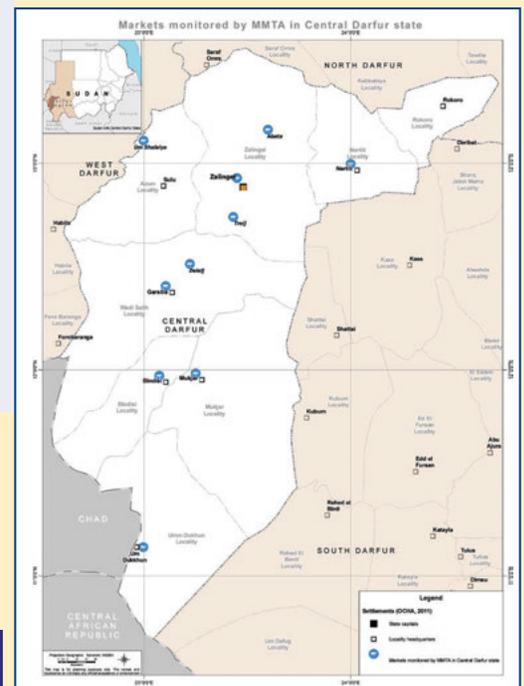
Participating CBOs and the markets they monitor

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

Zalingei
 Umshalaya
 Nertiti
 Garsila and Delaig
 Bendisi, Umdukhn and Mukjar
 Abatta and Tereig



This project is funded by the EU



due to the negative impact of the insecurity in Jebel Marra: local donkeys became almost the only means of transportation in the Jebel Marra area.

- **Cash crop prices** were mainly influenced by seasonal factors this quarter. For example, groundnut prices fluctuated in almost all monitored markets, partly because of poor groundnut production in traditional areas such as Um Dukhun and Bindisi, which impacted supply despite good rainfall. Although the heavy rainfall impacted groundnut production negatively, it positively affected production of dried okra and dried tomatoes this quarter, with prices gradually falling in most monitored markets. See Figure 4.
- **Fruit prices** were stable this quarter due to seasonality. Garsilla, Treij and Dellage reported unavailability of oranges because of high transportation costs. Onion prices fell gradually over the quarter because of the influence of the harvest season, as is usual at this time of year. The same trend was reported for fresh tomatoes in almost all monitored markets. See Figure 5.
- Most of the **trade routes** within Central Darfur continued functioning well this quarter. The trade route connecting Zalingei with Um Dukhun, an important route for trading cattle, reopened this quarter after access had been restricted the previous quarter due to high rainfall and wadis flooding. A new trade route was used: Nyala-Kas-Koreily-Zalingei instead of Nyala-Kas-Nertiti- Zalingei. This was to avoid the Jebel Marra area where insecurity broke out. Although the new route is a shorter distance than the old route and has less check points, the poor condition of the road meant that it was used mainly by smaller vehicles (Land Cruisers) rather than large trucks.
- During this quarter construction and brick-making were the main sources of **daily labouring** rather than agricultural activities, generally paying a higher daily wage than agricultural activities.

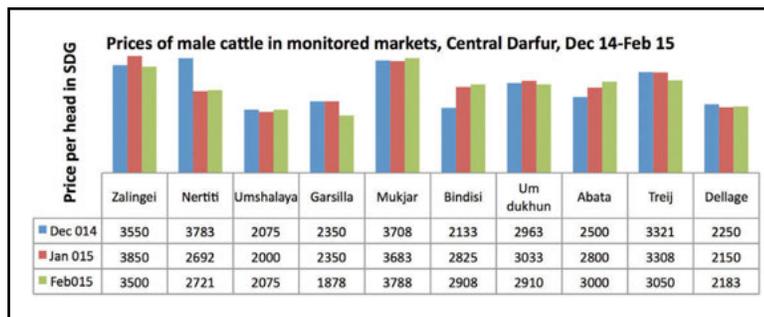


Figure 3: Prices of male cattle in monitored markets, Central Darfur, December 2014 to February 2015

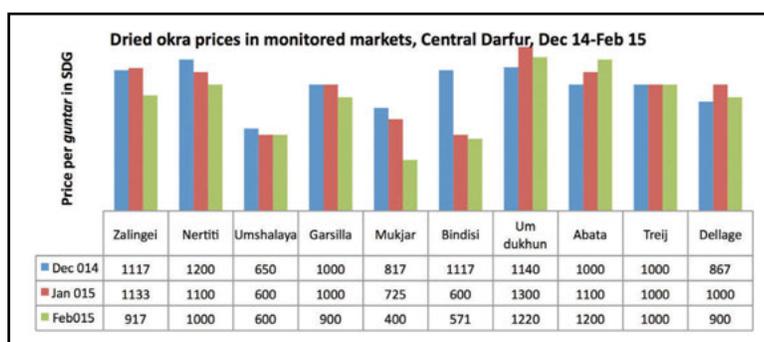


Figure 4: Price of dried okra in monitored markets, Central Darfur, December 2014 to February 2015

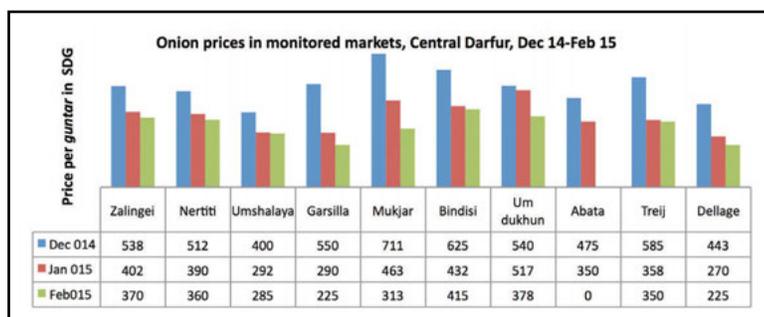


Figure 5: Onion prices in monitored markets, Central Darfur, December 2014 to February 2015