

Trade and Market Headlines Central Darfur



Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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- During this quarter (September to November 2013), cereal prices were high but stable in almost all monitored markets in Central Darfur as a result of the poor harvest season due to the very short rains. As in the last quarter, unusually Um Dukhn market (usually a major area of production) registered the highest millet prices, a consequence of the localized conflict which broke out in June 2013 and is still ongoing. Um Shalala market, where production was relatively better, registered the lowest millet prices.
- There have been varied trends in livestock prices in different monitored markets in Central Darfur, depending on whether herds gathered in the area or moved away. In October 2013 sheep prices rose in almost all monitored markets as many sheep were transported by air to Omdurman and Khartoum to meet the market demands of *Eid Aladha*. Teraij market reported increased cattle prices during the quarter; in a more stable area, far from the areas of severe conflict, it is frequented by traders.
- For the cash crops that were available, most registered an increase in price reflecting the very poor harvest season this year. The price of dried tomatoes and dried okra rose sharply. Groundnut prices registered a small increase in some markets and were stable in others. As in West Darfur, a number of cash crops were not available in any of the monitored markets this quarter, for example sesame, watermelons, hibiscus and gum arabic. Often this is because farmers have decided not to cultivate these crops, which are longer-maturing, in order to reduce the likelihood of conflict between farmers and pastoralists if their fields are grazed.
- The price of fresh fruit and vegetables followed seasonal trends. Onion prices steady increased in all targeted markets whereas the price of fresh tomatoes decreased sharply. Orange prices slightly increased.
- There were no major changes in trade routes during the quarter, although some trade routes that had been closed by the flow of wadis in the last quarter have now reopened after the rainy season.
- Most daily labouring during the quarter was agricultural work: transplanting onions and potatoes, cutting sugar cane, and harvesting millet and sorghum.

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)	Zalingei
Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency (DRA)	Umshalaya
Almanar	Nerteti
Daro Baida	Garsila and Delaig
Albaraka Agriculture Organisation (AAO)	Bendisi, Umdukhn and Mukjar
Arebow Charity Organisation (ACO)	Abatta and Tereig



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