

Trade and Market Headlines West Darfur



Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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

September to November 2013

- Although this quarter (September to November) is the run-up to the cereal harvest, cereal prices have continued to show an upwards trend in almost all monitored markets in West Darfur. Probable causes are the poor anticipated harvest due to lack of rainfall. There has also been no distribution of food aid this quarter. As usual, the highest millet prices have been reported in Forobaranga market, possibly exacerbated by the Government of Chad's ban on the cross-border trade in cereals from Chad. Lowest prices were recorded in Seleia market, an area of production.
- Livestock prices during this quarter were stable or fell in all monitored markets in West Darfur. The supply of livestock to the market appears to be increasing as some livestock owners are selling their animals in order to buy cereals. Lack of pasture because of the poor rains may also be encouraging livestock sales. Lowest cattle prices were registered in Forobaranga market during the quarter, reflecting the market impact of cattle herds gathered in this area as livestock were moved from areas of localized conflict (Um Dukhin, Mukjar and Bindisi) in Central Darfur. Highest prices were reported in El Geneina market, a major area of consumption.
- Cash crop prices demonstrated an upward trend in almost all monitored markets during this quarter, owing to the poor harvest season because of poor rainfall. The availability of groundnuts, dry okra and dry tomatoes was relatively good in most monitored markets. But there was no availability of sesame, gum arabic, watermelon seed and broad beans in any of the monitored markets.
- Fruit and vegetables demonstrate seasonal trends. Onion prices increased while the price of fresh tomatoes steadily fell. No oranges or mangoes were reported anywhere during the quarter.
- There were no changes in the major trade routes this quarter except the normal seasonal change in the cattle trade route from Forobaranga to El Geneina after the rainy season. The number of check points on the route from Kulbus via Seleia and Kondobe to El Geneina increased again although transportation costs remained the same.

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 DRA 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. DRA 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 (DRA) [El Geneina and Sisi IDP camp]

This project is funded by the European Union

