Trade and Market Headlines
Central Darfur

Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

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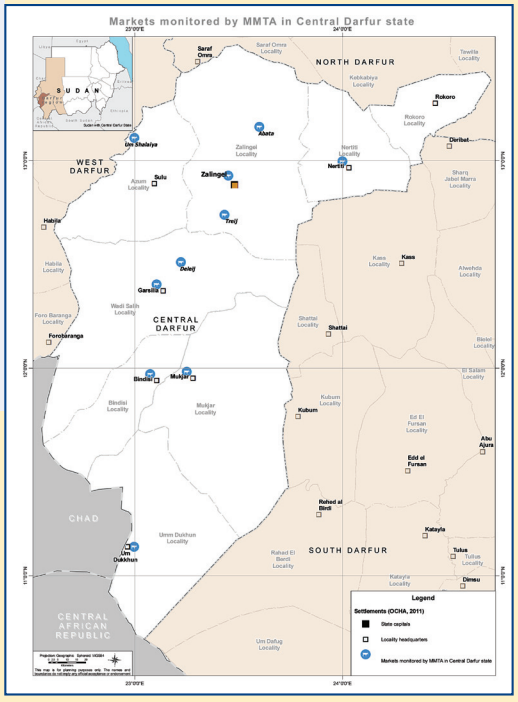
March to May 2014

- During this quarter **cereal prices** increased in almost all monitored markets across the state, reflecting the poor harvest in 2013/14 and high local demand. The Wadi Salih Zone (Umdukhn, Bendisi, Mukjar and Garsila) reported the highest millet prices while the lowest prices were reported in the Azoom area (Abata, Zalingei and Treij). Average quarterly millet prices in Umdukhn market increased by 27% this quarter compared with the last quarter reflecting the resumption of the cereal trade with Nyala and Ed Daien, while millet prices increased by only 12% in Zalingei market.
- **Livestock price** trends varied from one market to another across the state. Prices decreased in Zalingei and UmShalaya markets, influenced by the quality of the animals which have lost weight due to lack of fodder at this time of the year, a normal seasonal trend. Prices fluctuated in the Azoom Area (Abata and Treij) according to livestock availability around the respective market as these are not traditionally livestock production areas. Prices increased in the Wadi Salih Area (Garsila, Mukjar, Bendisi and Umdukhn) in May 2014 as security improved and livestock were traded from these markets to Omdurman. For example, the quarterly average price of cattle increased by 16% in Garsila market compared with the last quarter, by 17% in Mukjar, by 19% in Umdukhn, and by 30% in Bendisi market.
- **Cash crop prices** continued to soar this quarter, exceeding the record highs reported in the last quarter. This reflects the impact of the poor harvest, aggravated by the off-season. Groundnut prices increased sharply in most monitored markets, by 40% in Zalingei compared with the last quarter, and by 37% in Garsila market. Likewise, dried okra and dried tomato prices increased substantially during the quarter: in Zalingei the average quarterly price of dried okra increased by 32% compared with the last quarter.
- In terms of fresh **fruit and vegetables**, onion prices were low and stable in March and April, but increased dramatically in May 2014, reflecting annual seasonal trends. The price of fresh tomatoes also started to rise during the quarter. All monitored markets in Central Darfur reported availability of mangoes this quarter, which coincides with the mango harvest. Central Darfur is famous for its mango production and supplies the other Darfur states. Although mango prices were low, SDG 5 to 7 per dozen, this constitutes a significant source of income for a short period during the harvest season for those who have access to mango trees.
- Most **trade routes** linking Central Darfur's main markets were stable this quarter. The trade route connecting Zalingei with Umdukhn market resumed normal functioning after cessation of localized hostilities. The newly paved road connecting Zalingei with El Geneina is currently being used by upgraded buses, cutting the journey time for passengers.
- During this quarter, the most important source of **daily labouring** was construction and brick-making. Agricultural work ceased as this is the dry season.

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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