



EASTERN SUDAN FOOD SECURITY MONITORING

SENNAR STATE, ROUND 2

JULY 2010

Highlights

- Even though the FSMS round 2 in Sennar was carried out at the peak of the lean season, the food security situation was similar to the situation in February.
- The estimated cultivated area this season has declined compared to the 2009–2010 agricultural season. However, the start of the rainy season was good and this agricultural season is expected to be better than last season.
- Wage labor was still the most important income source in rural areas, and salaried work the most important income source in urban areas.
- The minimum healthy food basket has increased slightly to 1.31 SDG/person/day.
- The food consumption situation is very good and similar to round 1 with 100 percent of the households in the urban areas and 96 percent of the households in the rural areas having an acceptable food consumption.
- In the rural areas, 9 percent of the women have a low MUAC, below 225 mm.

METHODOLOGY

- ⇒ Purposively selected sentinel sites covering urban and rural locations. Complemented with market price monitoring and seasonal metrological and agricultural information.
- ⇒ 355 households were surveyed. Replacement sites are used when inaccessibility prevents visits to original site.

Food Security Situation

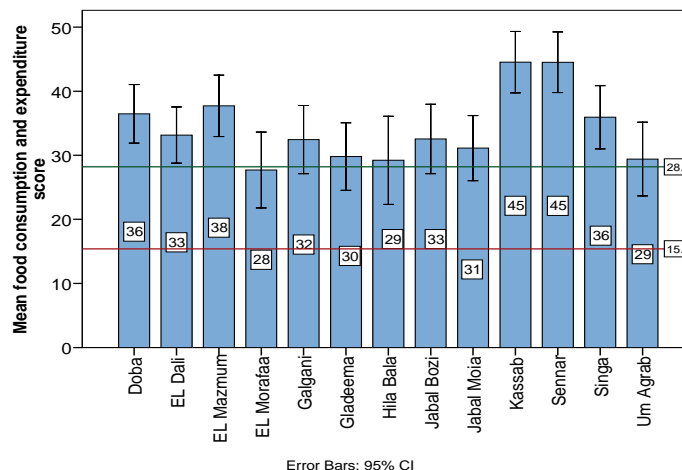
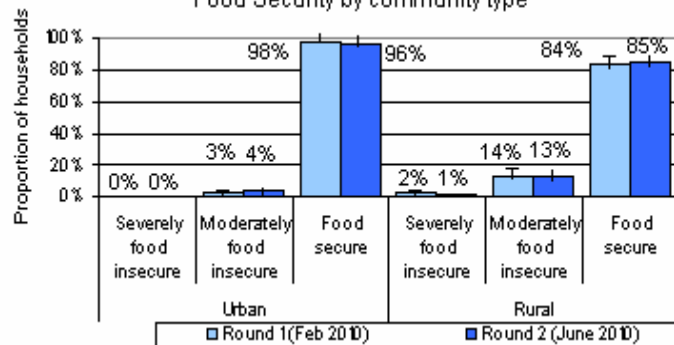
The food security situation in round 2 remains stable compared to round 1 even though round 2 was carried out at the peak of the lean season and coincides with the preparations for the agricultural season. This is because a significant number of households are not dependent on agriculture, but rather dependent on wage labor and petty trade as their main income source.

In the urban areas, 96 percent of the households are food secure and only 4 percent moderately food insecure.

In the rural areas, 85 percent are food secure and 14 percent are moderately food insecure. None of the households in the urban or rural areas are severely food insecure.

When studying the food security situation by location, results show that all the locations are food secure, and only El Murafaa falls below the upper threshold. The highest scores are found in Kassab and Sennar. Compared to round 1, the food security score has declined in Jabal Moia and Murafaa, mainly due to the reliance on agriculture as the main income source in these locations, however they remain food secure. The food security situation has slightly improved in Jalgani, compared to round 1.

Food Security by community type



- ⇒ Dietary Diversity and Consumption Score: Using a 7-day recall period, information was collected on the variety and frequency of different foods and food groups to calculate a weighted household food consumption score. Weights are based on the nutritional density of the foods. Households are classified as having either 'poor', 'borderline' or good consumption based on the analysis of the data.

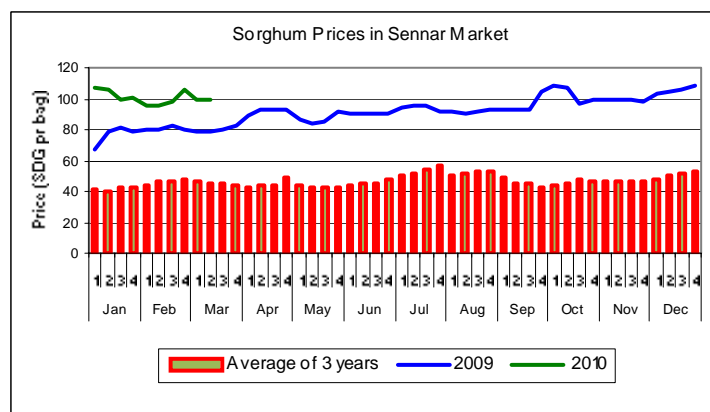
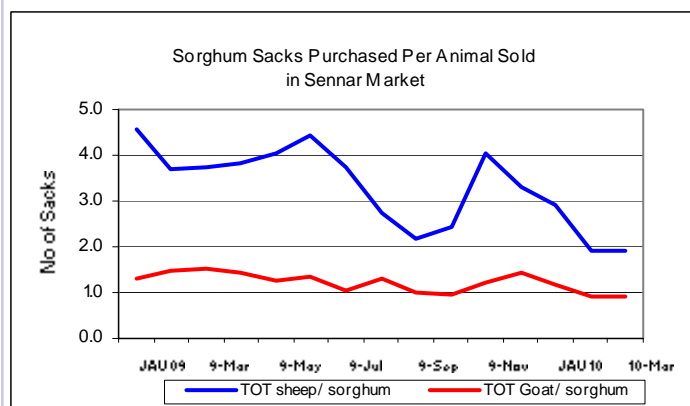
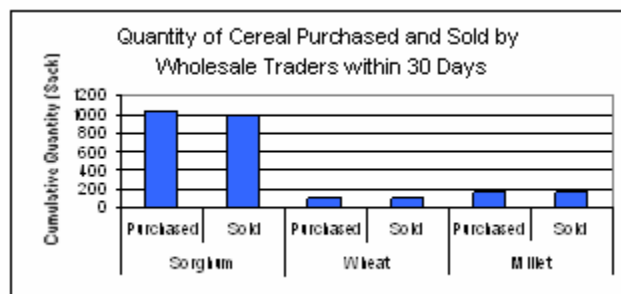
- ⇒ The Food Security Indicator is a composite score that combines values for food consumption, relative expenditure and absolute expenditure. The lower thresholds is 15.4 while upper one is 28.2.
- ⇒ The Coping Strategy Index is classified into four categories: 0=no coping; 1-5=low coping; 6-10 medium coping; and 11>= high coping.

These findings are not representative for the State but only for the targeted locations due to the sampling method.

Market Situation

During June 2010, local sorghum was the main type of cereal traded in the Sennar market followed by millet. Although Sennar state is one of the main sorghum-surplus regions in Sudan, cereal supply and demand on the market were highly affected by the poor harvest of the previous season. Accordingly, low cereal stocks were reported in this market in addition to a high rate of stock turnover for sorghum at the wholesale level. The current market conditions of low cereal stocks and high rate of stock turnover requires a close monitoring of this market, especially if the outcome of the coming harvest will be below average.

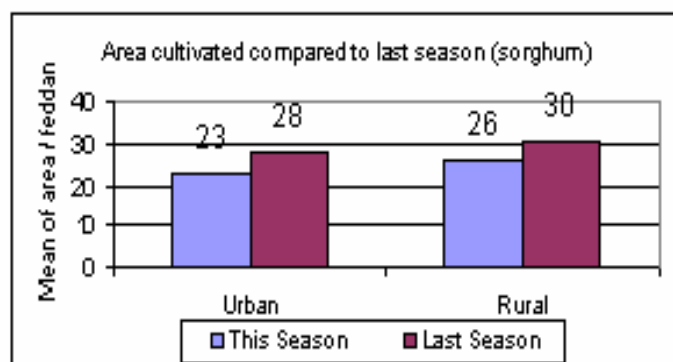
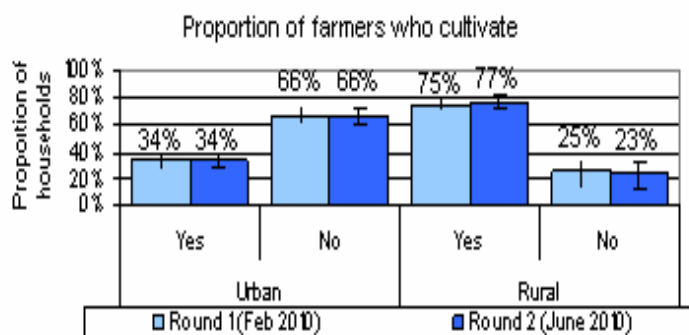
According to interviewed traders, scarcity of cash and low supply of cereal are the main constraints that affect the grain market in Sennar. Cereal prices in Sennar for 2010 are higher than the prices last year and higher than the average from the previous 3 years. This is a result of no agricultural surplus from last year because of the low production of the 2009-2010 agricultural season. Sorghum prices have fluctuated in the first half of 2010, and declined significantly in May. This is mainly due to the interventions made by the Strategic Reserve Corporation as they injected considerable amounts of sorghum into the market. However, prices increased again in June, mainly because the farmers used their sorghum as seeds in the beginning of the agricultural season. This increase in prices has weakened the purchasing power of livestock owners and herders and the terms of trade (one goat for one bag of sorghum) is now favoring the farmers.



Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy in Sennar state. The total arable area in the state is 6 million feddan. This season, the total cultivated area is estimated at 3.616 million feddan in both the rain fed and in the irrigated sub-sectors. This is less than last year when some 4.509 million feddan were planted. The decline is a result of the low production last season due to low rainfall, leaving the farmers unable to pay their debts and in a difficult position before this year's season as well as less access to seeds. To help the farmers, the State Ministry of Agriculture has assisted in the preparations for this agricultural season as well as in the maintenance of the agricultural machineries. Furthermore, farmers' debts of last season have been rescheduled and work has been done to improve the financial policies of the Agricultural Bank of Sudan this season.

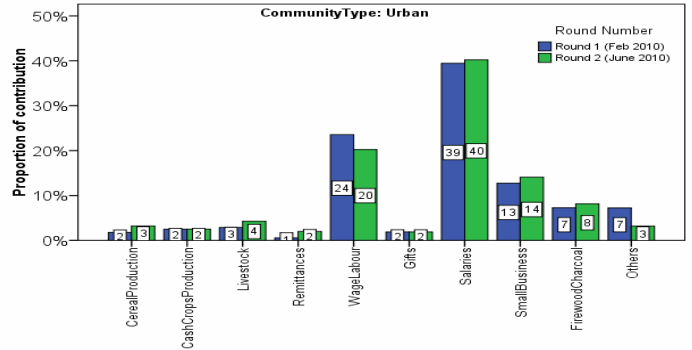
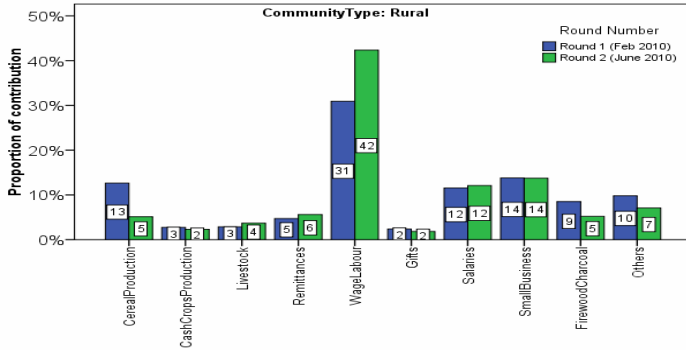
In the rural areas, some 77 percent of the households are cultivating this season. The area cultivated compared to last season is slightly smaller, however average area cultivated per household is as much as a 26 feddan in the rural areas and 23 feddan in the urban areas.



Income Sources

This section indicates the contribution of income from various sources for the households. The most important income sources in urban areas are salaried work (40 percent), followed by wage labor (20 percent) and petty trading (14 percent). This is the same as in February.

In rural areas, the most important income source is still wage labor, with an increased percentage to 42 percent from 31 percent in February. Wage labor is followed by small business (14 percent) and salaried work (12 percent).

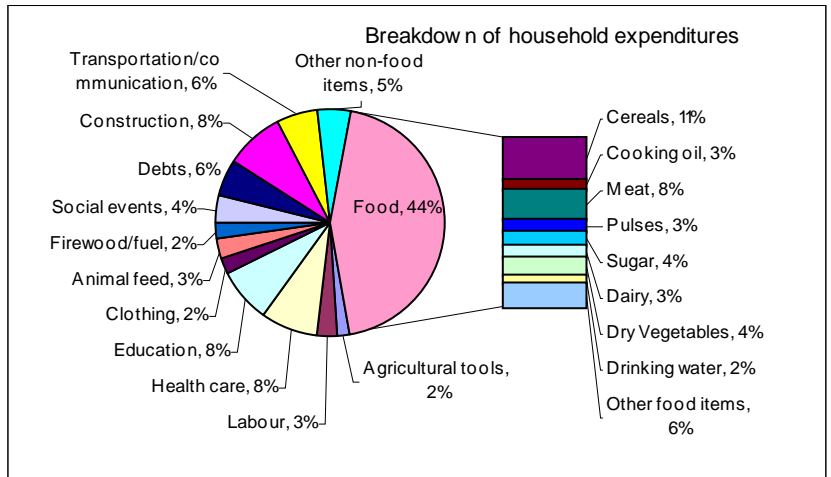


Expenditure (income proxy)

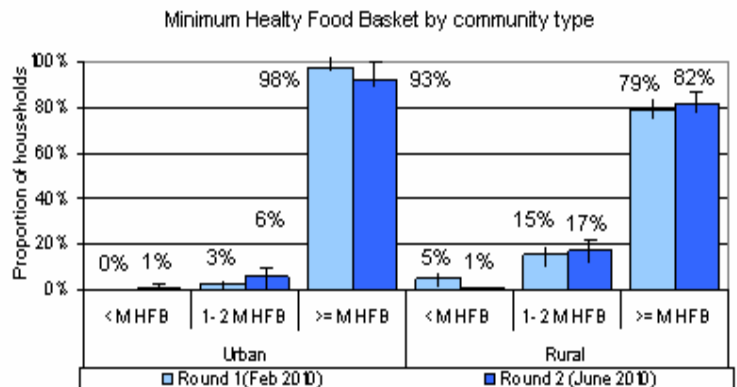
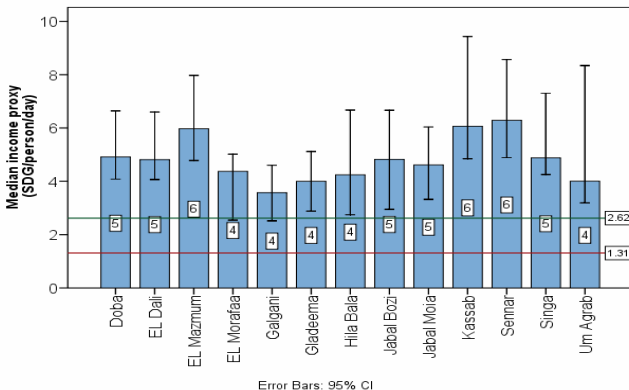
Among the sampled households, an average of 44 percent of the monthly expenditure is allocated to the purchase of food items, which is an increase from 38 percent in round 1. This percentage is relatively low compared to other States in Sudan and regarded as good using World bank definitions. The largest non-food expenditures are education, which has doubled from 4 percent in round 1 to 8 percent in round 2, as this is the beginning of the school year. Health care and construction are equally large.

The cost of the minimum healthy food basket in Sennar state in round 2 is 1.31 SDG/person/day, which is slightly more than in round 1 when the cost of the basket was 1.22 SDG.

When looking the purchasing power in relation to the minimum healthy food basket, the results are similar to round 1 and as many as 93 percent of the households in the urban areas and 82 percent of the households in the rural areas can afford more than 2 minimum healthy food baskets. Only 1 percent of the households in the urban and rural areas cannot afford the minimum healthy food basket.

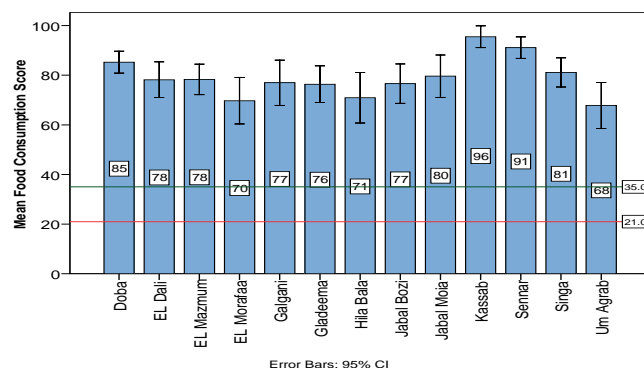
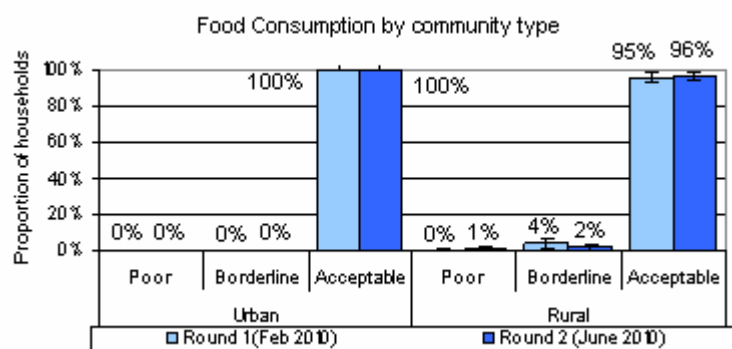


When analysing the situation by location, the findings show that all households have an income above the upper threshold which corresponds to two full food baskets. The situation has improved from round 1 in Kassab, Hila Bala and Galgani.



Food Consumption and Sources

The food consumption situation in urban and rural Sennar is very good, and there are no significant differences from round 1. All households (100 percent) in the urban areas and 96 percent of the households in the rural areas have an acceptable food consumption. Only 2 percent of the households in the rural areas have a borderline consumption and 1 percent have a poor food consumption. When analysing the food consumption situation by location, it is clear that the food consumption situation is very good, with all the locations far above the upper threshold. Kassab has the highest score while Um Agrab has the lowest score.

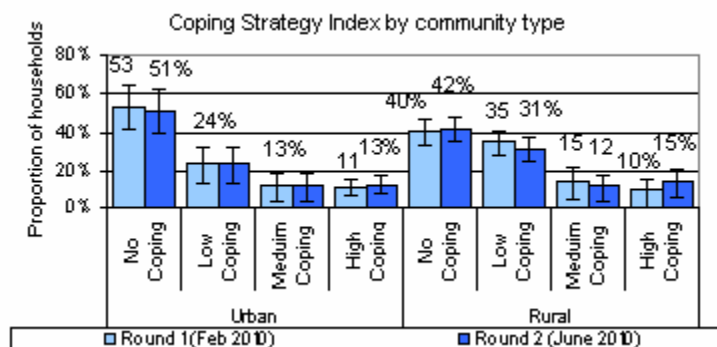


Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)

Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) was measured on 463 women in Sennar state in the age between 18 and 45. There is a slight improvement compared with previous round in February when 10 percent had a low MUAC compared with only 5 percent in this round. The results are the same for urban and rural women.

Coping Strategy Index

The coping strategy index show similar results in round 2 compared to round 1. There is an increase in households in rural areas engaging in high coping strategies, now 15 percent. Furthermore, there is a slight increase in the percentage of households not engaging in any coping strategies to 42 percent. In urban areas, 13 percent of the household had to adopt high coping strategies, which is a slight increase from last round when the numbers were 11 percent. The percentage of households who did not have to engage in any coping strategies slightly decreased to 51 percent in this round from 53 percent in the last round. The increase in households in both rural and urban areas who have to rely on high coping strategies in June is attributed to the increase in the price levels of cereals and other commodities.



DEMOGRAPHICS UPDATE

- ⇒ 355 households were interviewed
- ⇒ 8% were female-headed households.
- ⇒ Average household size is 8 persons.
- ⇒ The residential status of households included in the sample are:
 - 23% urban
 - 77% rural

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Annex 1 – Profile of Sentinel sites

State Name	Location Name	Community Type
Sennar	Doba	Rural
	EL Dali	Rural
	EL Mazmum	Rural
	EL Morafaa	Rural
	Galgani	Rural
	Gladeema	Rural
	Hila Bala	Rural
	Jabal Bozi	Rural
	Jabal Moia	Rural
	Kassab	Rural
	Sennar	Urban
	Singa	Urban
	Um Agrab	Rural

Annex 2 – Locations and result of round 2

East Sudan Food Security Monitoring system 2010 (FSMS)
Results for the February-July of 2010

