



EASTERN SUDAN FOOD SECURITY MONITORING

KASSALA STATE, ROUND 2
NOVEMBER 2010

Highlights

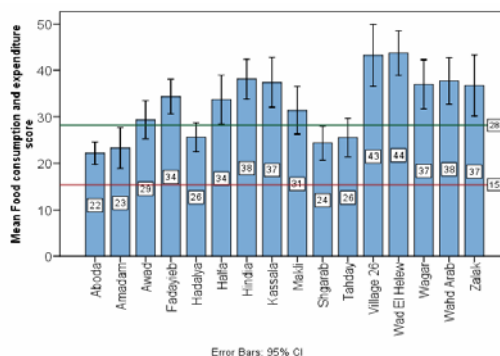
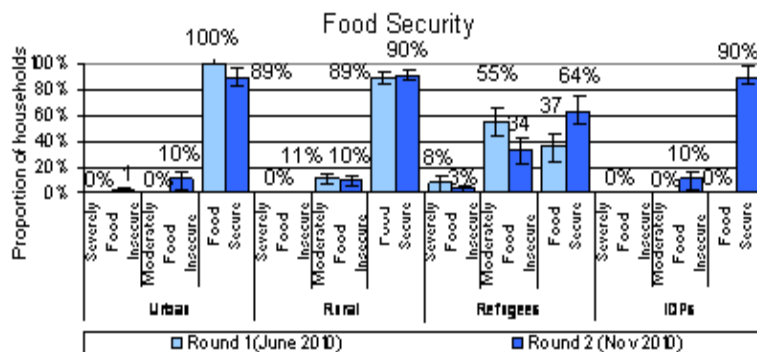
- The second round of the food security monitoring system (FSMS) was conducted in the beginning of the harvest season (2010-2011). This is reflected in the improvement of the food security situation in rural areas.
- This is the first time IDPs have been included in the FSMS in Kassala state.
- The percentage of households that cultivate in urban areas has increased due to the improvement of rainfalls and in the levels of the river Gash.
- Waged labour is the main income source for households both in urban and rural areas.
- The cost of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) has decreased to SDG 1.14/person/day. It was found that 3 percent of the urban and 2 percent of the rural households could not even afford one MHFB.
- The food consumption situation is very good as 99 percent of the urban households and 94 percent of the rural households have an acceptable food consumption score.
- The percentage of households who have to rely on high risk coping strategies has increased to 29 percent in rural areas which can be attributed to the price increase for some commodities in this round.
- 4 percent of the children in urban areas and 2 percent of the children in rural areas, IDP and refugee camps are acutely malnourished with a Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) score of less than 11.5 cm.

Food Security Situation

The food security situation is good in Kassala. In rural areas, the situation is stable with 90 percent of the households in the food secure category. In urban areas the situation has declined slightly as the percentage of food secure households decreased from 100 percent in the first round to 89 percent in this round. Furthermore, 1

percent of the households are now severely food insecure. In refugee camps, the percentage of food secure households increased from 37 percent in the first round to 64 percent in this round. This was also reflected by the decrease in the percentage of those facing severe shortage, from 8 percent in the last round to 3 percent in this round. This can be attributed to the beginning of the harvest period which represented an additional income source as well as to the fact that this round has coincided with the distribution of food assistance. For the first time, IDPs have been included, and 90 percent of the households are food secure, and the remaining 10 percent are in the moderately food insecure category.

When analyzing the food security situation in the different locations, results show that the majority of the locations are situated above the upper threshold. The exceptions are the two refugee camps in Aboda and Shagrab, the IDP camp in Hadalya, and the areas of Amadam and Tahdai. The highest score is recorded in Wad El-Helew and the lowest in Aboda camp. Nevertheless, Aboda and Shagrab experienced an improvement from the first round. When comparing the situation to the first round, it was found that the food security score has decreased in both Amadam and Tahdai.



METHODOLOGY

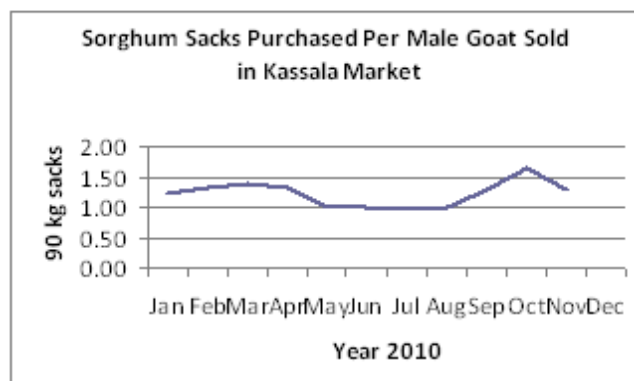
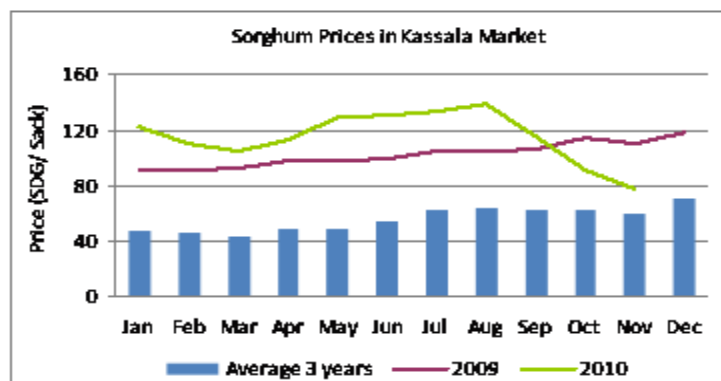
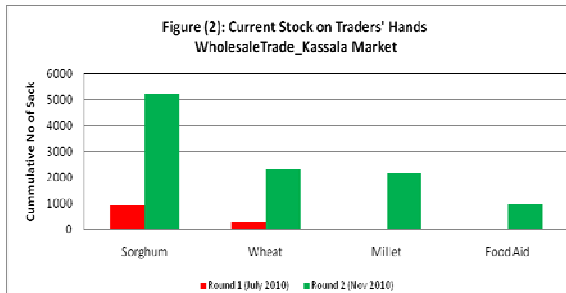
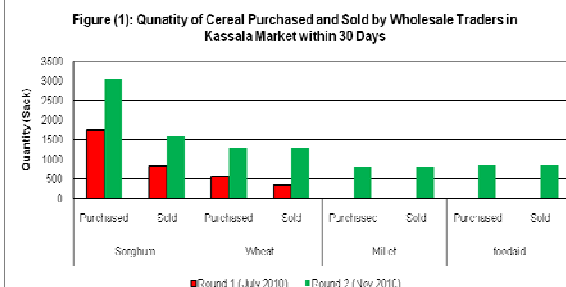
- ⇒ Purposely selected sentinel sites covering urban and rural locations. Complemented with market price monitoring and seasonal metrological and agricultural information.
- ⇒ 491 households were surveyed. Replacement sites are used when inaccessibility prevents visits to original site.
- ⇒ Dietary Diversity 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.

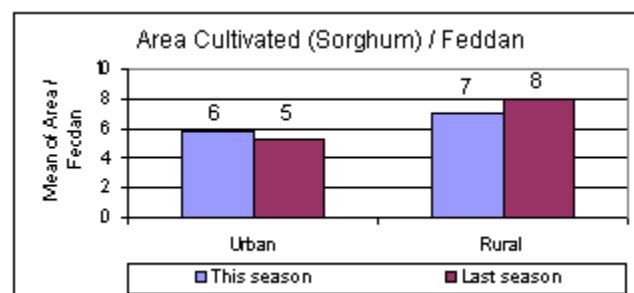
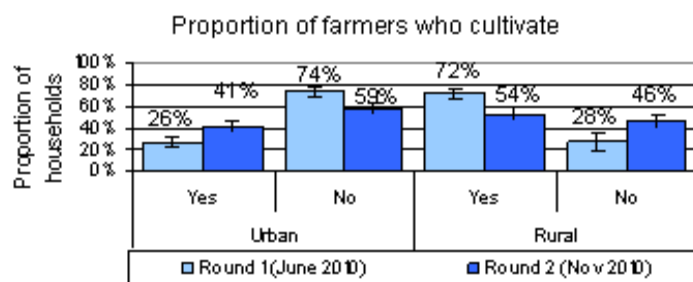
Market Situation

In Kassala market, the share of local sorghum in the wholesale business of grain went down from 74 percent in round one to only 44 percent in round two. However, this significant drop did not affect the rank of local sorghum as the main cereal traded in round 2. The drop in the share of local sorghum could be attributed to two factors. Firstly, delays in the rainfall of the current season, hence imposing an extension of the lean season by approximately one month. Secondly, the availability of a wider range of cereal during round two compared to round one. In fact, considerable quantities of sorghum and millet from food assistance were traded during this round apart from the commodities reported in round 1 (distribution of food assistance took place prior and during the assessment period). Food assistance represented 16 percent of the volume of cereal traded during this round, while millet represented 15 percent. Wholesaler traders maintained a relatively high level of sorghum stock in round two compared to round one. The availability of a wide range of cereal (wheat, millet and sorghum from food assistance) as partial substitutes for local sorghum has enlarged the already growing gap between supply and demand for local sorghum. According to interviewed traders, low demand for sorghum and availability of substitutes were the main constraints on the grain market in round two. In this round, the downward trend in sorghum prices is due to increase in quantities of sorghum supplied on the market. The same trend is expected to continue with the progress of the harvest season. The terms of trade (ToT) between sorghum and livestock favor pastoralists and livestock herders against grain farmers.



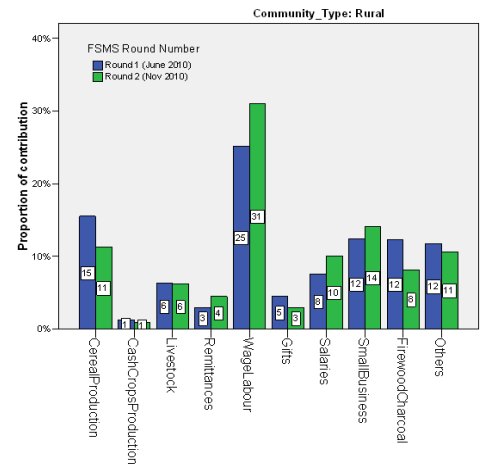
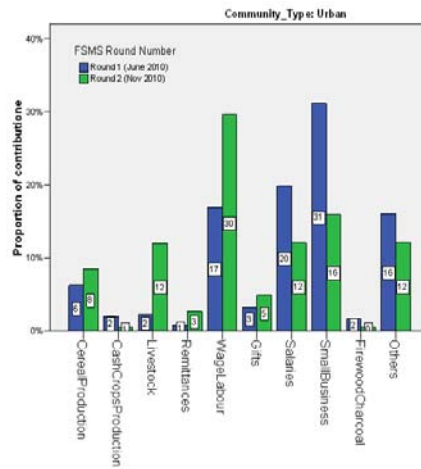
Agriculture

Agriculture is the main economic activity in the state and the agricultural patterns vary and differ from the patterns in other agricultural states. There are four main agricultural patterns: rain fed, flood fed, horticultural and streamline. The percentage of those who cultivated in the urban areas is higher than in the last round, which can be explained by the improvement in the rainfall levels and the high water level in the river Gash. This is also reflected in the increase in the area cultivated by urban households, from 5 to 6 feddans. At the same time, the cultivated area has decreased in the rural areas from round 1 to round 2 due to difficulties in accessing land.



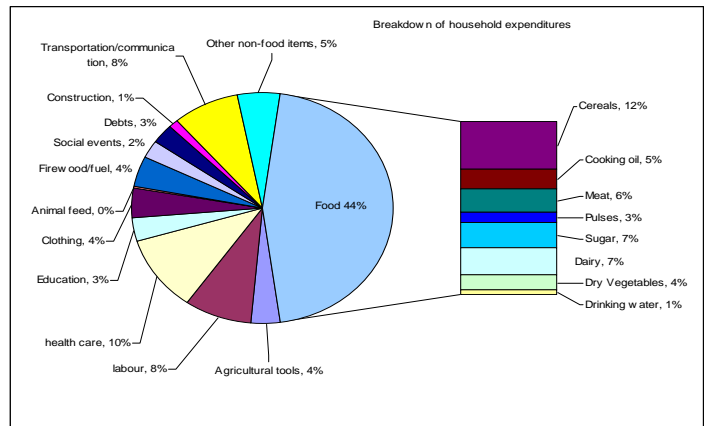
Income Sources

In this round, the main income source in urban areas is wage labor, which saw a significant increase from 17 to 30 percent, mainly due to the beginning of the harvest season. The second most important income source is small businesses (16 percent), followed by salaried work and sale of animal products (both 12 percent). In the rural areas, wage labor remains the main income source for the households (31 percent), followed by small businesses (14 percent) and sale of cereals (11 percent).

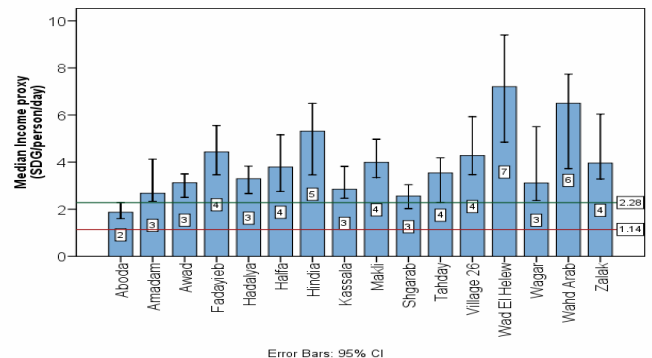
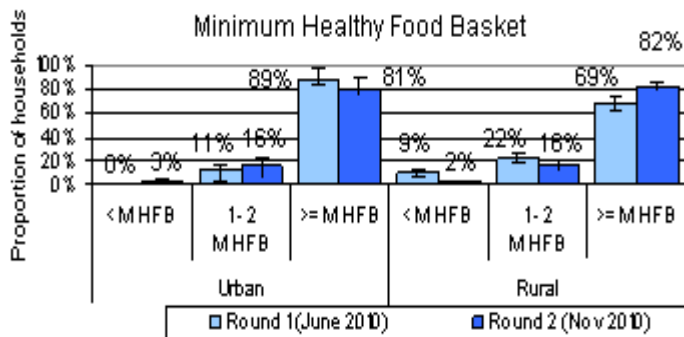


Expenditure (income proxy)

Among the sampled households, an average of 44 percent of monthly expenditures is allocated to the purchase of food items. This is an increase from 39 percent in round 1, and can be attributed to the recent price increase for food commodities, especially sugar and animal products. Expenditure on cereals is the highest food expenditure (12 percent). The main non-food item is health with 10 percent of total monthly expenditure, up from 7 percent in the last round. This increase can be explained by the breakout of diseases in the rainy season. Expenditure on labor has increased by 3 percent, which can be explained by the agricultural season (hiring labor).



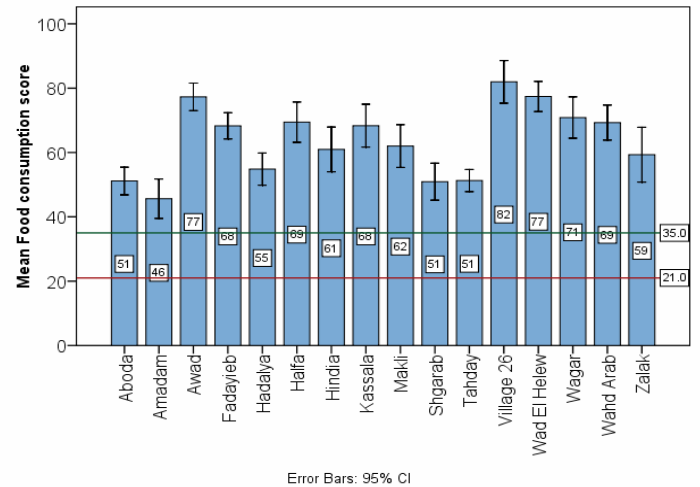
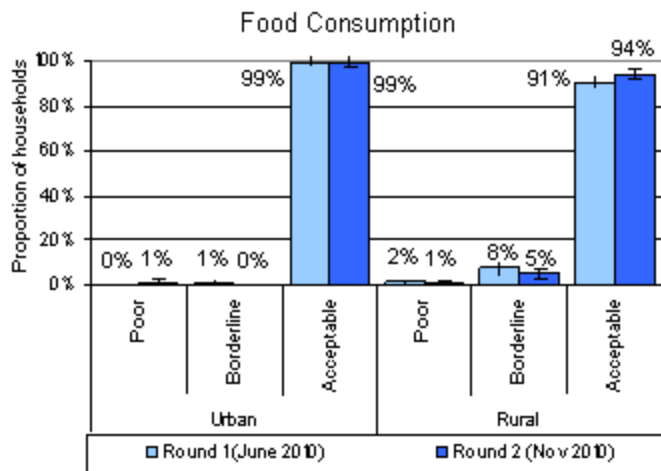
The cost of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) in Kassala State has decreased from SDG 1.52/person/day to SDG 1.14/person/day which is due to the decrease in the price of sorghum and other commodities. Analysis show that most households can afford more than two MHFBs, and the percentages are as high as 81 in urban areas and 82 in rural areas. The rural areas have experienced a significant improvement from the first round. Additionally, the percentage of households who can not even afford one minimum healthy food basket has decreased from 9 percent in the last round, to 2 percent in this round. The trend is different in the urban areas, where the households have witnessed a decrease of 8 percent in the numbers of households who could afford 2 MHFBs, and the percentage of households who could not afford even one basket has increased from zero to 3 percent of the households. When analyzing the results by location, all the locations are situated above the upper threshold, with the exception of Aboda. When comparing to last round, there has been an improvement for the majority of the locations in the households' ability to meet twice the cost of the minimum healthy food basket.



Food Consumption

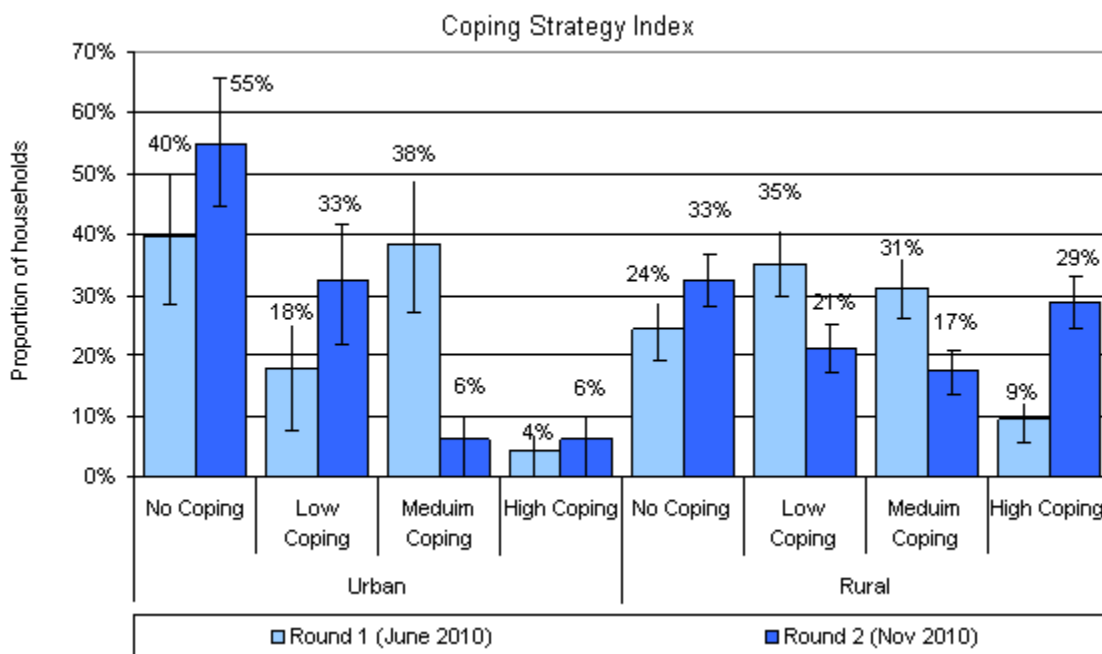
Analysis of data from this round indicates a stability in the food consumption situation in the state. As many as 99 percent of the households in urban areas have an acceptable food consumption score. Furthermore, the food consumption score in rural areas has improved from last round, and 94 percent are now in the acceptable category. Only 1 percent of the households in urban and rural areas has recorded a poor food consumption score.

When looking at the food consumption score by location, all the locations are situated above the upper threshold.



Coping Strategy Index

The households were asked if they faced any shortage in food or shortage in money to buy food in the last 7 days prior to the assessment. Analysis show that the percentage of households who did not engage in any coping strategies has increased in urban and rural areas to 55 percent and 33 percent respectively, which might be due to the availability of labor opportunities during the harvest season. On the other hand, the percentage of households who has to engage in high risk coping strategies in rural areas has increased significantly from 9 to 29 percent, which can be attributed to the increased prices of different commodities.



DEMOGRAPHICS UPDATE

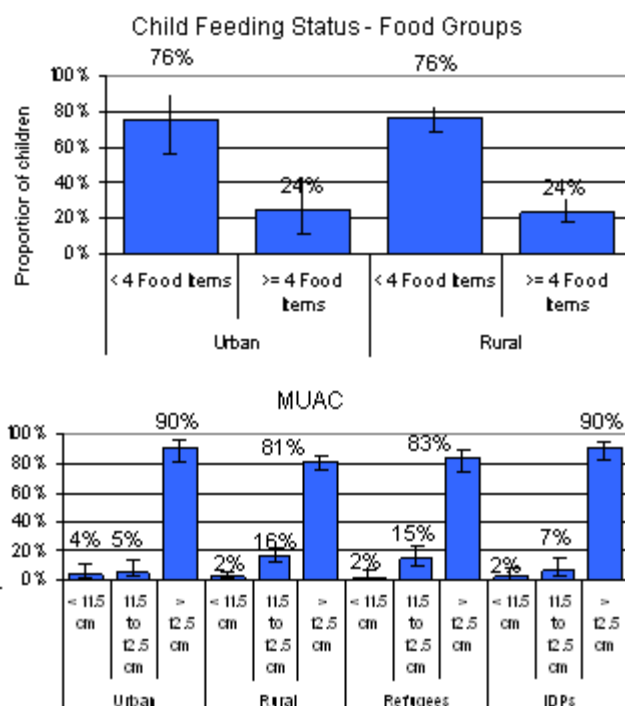
- ⇒ 491 households were interviewed
- ⇒ 7% were female-headed households.
- ⇒ Average household size is 7 persons.
- ⇒ The residential status of households included in the sample are:
 - 18% urban
 - 56% rural
 - 17% refugees
 - 9% IDPs

Child Feeding and Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)

To identify food diversification among children, households were asked if infants and young children of age 6 to 23 months have eaten specific types of food on the previous day, essential for the child's health. It was found that the percentage of children who are eating food from less than 4 food groups is as high as 76 in both urban and rural areas. This indicates that the majority of the children are not consuming enough nutrients required for growth.

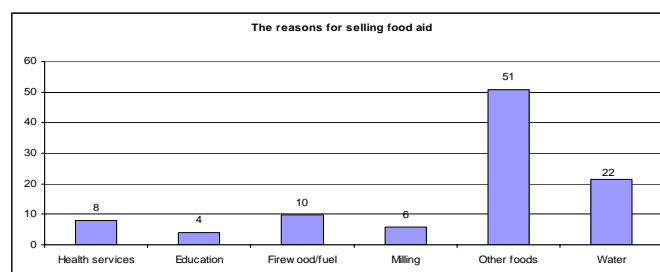
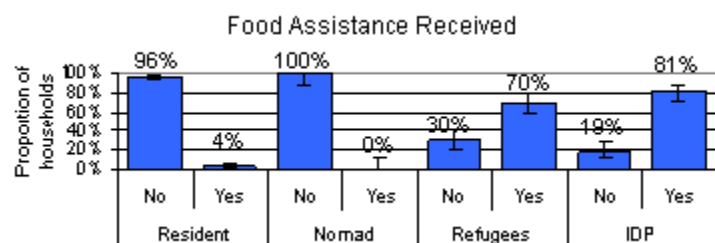
A two week recall morbidity history was taken for children between 6 and 23 months of age. In urban areas, 21 percent of the children had experienced diarrhea in the last two weeks prior to the assessment, and 35 percent had experienced fever. In rural areas, only 9 percent had had diarrhea.

In this round, Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) was measured on 73 children in urban areas and 438 children in the rural areas, including refugee and IDP camps. It was found that 5 percent of children in urban areas, 16 percent in rural areas, 15 percent in refugee camps and 7 percent in IDPs camps have a MUAC score equivalent to moderate malnutrition. In urban areas, 4 percent of the children are severely malnourished, and 2 percent of the children in rural areas, refugee camps and IDP camps are also severely malnourished.



Food Assistance

Out of the total sample, 27 percent had received food assistance in the last three months. As many as 81 percent of the IDP households and 70 percent of the refugees reported to have received food assistance. The main reason for selling is to be able to buy other food (51 percent).



Population movement

Kassala State borders Eritrea, and receives immigrants from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia. An overwhelming majority of those who cross the border into Sudan merely transit on their way to Europe and Australia. There are 12 refugee camps in Kassala State with an estimated population of some 56,000 of whom around 51 percent receive assistance from WFP and hosting communities. Currently, there is no population movement in Kassala State. Population movement in the state is a seasonal phenomenon mainly as a result of floods and other seasonal factors.

For further information, please contact Abdelsalam Hassan (salimosly@hotmail.com):

STRATEGIC RESERVE CORPORATION

or Hazem Almahdy (hazem.almahdy@wfp.org)

UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME—SUDAN

Annex 1 – Profile of Sentinel sites

State	Location Name	Community type
Kassala	Aboda	Refugees
	Amadam	Rural
	Awad	Rural
	Halfa	Urban
	Hindia	Rural
	Kassala	Urban
	Makli	Rural
	Shagarab	Refugees
	Tahday	Rural
	Village 26	Rural
	Wad El Helew	Rural
	Wagar	Rural
	Wahd Arab	Rural
	Zalak	Rural
	Hadalya	IDPs camp
Fadayieb	IDPs camp	

Annex 2 – Locations and result of round 2

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

