Highlights

- This round of the food security monitoring system was conducted in November which is the beginning of the harvest period. This is reflected in the improvement in the food security situation compared to the last two rounds, with 100 percent of urban households and 92 percent of rural households being food secure.
- The average sorghum cultivated area per household increased in rural and urban areas this season compared to the previous one as a result of improved rainfalls.
- Despite a decrease in sorghum share of cereal trade in Sennar market (from 79 percent in round 1 to 46 percent in round 2), the downward trend in sorghum prices confirm the earlier expectations for a good harvest. The decrease in sorghum prices has improved the terms of trade (ToT) between one goat and a bag of sorghum in favor of livestock herders.
- Waged labor remains the main income source for households in rural areas and salaried work in the urban areas.
- The decrease in sorghum prices has positively affected the cost of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) which is now SDG 1.04/person.
- As many as 96 percent of the households in urban areas and 95 percent in rural areas have an acceptable food consumption score.
- In rural areas, the percentage of those forced to engage in different coping strategies due to shortage of food or lack of money to buy food has decreased slightly to 55 percent.
- In rural areas, 3 percent of children are severely malnourished.

Food Security Situation

The food security situation in Sennar was good in November 2010 compared to previous rounds. The improvement was mainly because this round coincided with the beginning of the crop harvesting of the 2010/2011 summer season. In urban areas, it was found that 100 percent of households are food secure, while 92 percent of households in rural areas are food secure. None of the households in these areas face severe food shortages.

When assessing the situation by location, the results show that all locations are food secure and situated above the upper threshold. The exception is Maraffa, which fall below the upper threshold of the food security score. The highest scores are recorded in Sennar and Doba. Compared to the second round the food security score decreased slightly in Kassab, possibly due to the flood impact on the area. However, the area remains food secure. There has been a remarkable improvement in the food security situation in both El Dali and Jabal Mozi compared to the last two rounds when the situation was affected by the poor production of the 2009/2010 season.
Market Situation

The share of local sorghum in the wholesale business of cereal went down from 79 percent in round one to only 46 percent in round two, while the share of millet went up from 13 percent to 54 percent. Additional supply of millet (new harvest) was observed on the market. However an outflow of sorghum is expected during the coming months. Sorghum is the main cereal grown in Sennar and harvest have just started and will continue during the coming months. Wholesale traders maintained relatively low levels of sorghum and millet in both round one and two. Such low levels of stock reflects the poor harvest of the previous season (low carry-over stock). According to interviewed traders, fees and taxes was the main constraint on the grain market in round 2.

In this round, the downward trend in sorghum prices is due to the increase in quantities of sorghum supplied in the market. The same trend is expected to continue as the harvest season progresses. The decrease of sorghum prices in combination with an increase in livestock prices caused the terms of trade between goat and sorghum to favor pastoralists and livestock herders (up to 2 bags of sorghum per one goat).

Agriculture

The average rainfall this season in Sennar state was 492.4 mm compared to 319.8 mm in the 2009/2010 season, equivalent to a 54 percent increase. Accordingly, the cultivated area in both rain fed and irrigated sectors increased and was 4,465 feddans compared to 4,602 in the previous season. Sorghum represented 77 percent of this area. Some production inputs and various agricultural activities were financed by the Agricultural Bank and other banks, while in the rain fed sector seeds were self financed by farmers themselves (source: report from the Ministry of Agriculture). In rural areas it was found that 71 percent of the households have cultivated this season, which is slightly lower than the percentage who planned to cultivate in June 2010. In urban areas, 24 percent planned to cultivate compared to 34 percent for each of the two previous rounds. Reasons for this decrease might be the difficulties in land access encountered by households in some areas and lack of agricultural finance. When analyzing the cultivated area, it was found that the per household cultivated area has increased from 20 feddans to 34 feddans in rural areas and from 6 to 8 feddans in urban areas. This is due to the improved rainfall levels and the increase of sorghum prices at the beginning of the season.
Salaried labor remains the main income source in urban areas (49 percent), followed by wage labor (16 percent) and small businesses (15 percent), which is similar to the situation in February 2010 and June 2010. In rural areas, wage labor remains the main income source with 38 percent which is slightly lower than in the second round (41 percent) and higher than the first round (31 percent). This is followed by the sale of cereals which increased to 16 percent. This increase was expected as this is the beginning of the harvest season.

Income Sources

Expenditure (income proxy)

Among the sampled households, an average of 41 percent of monthly expenditures is allocated to the purchase of food items. This is relatively similar to that of the two previous rounds (44 percent in June and 38 percent in February). From the total of this expenditure, the highest percentage is spent on meat (10 percent) for which prices increased in this round, possibly due to the increase of quantities exported to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Meat is followed by cereals, for which the share decreased from round two (from 11 to 9 percent) due to the decrease in sorghum prices and the arrival of the new harvest. The most important non-food item is health expenditures (12 percent), followed by labor hire (10 percent) which saw a significant increase from the previous round (3 percent). This can be attributed to the fact that this was the period of summer crops harvest when harvesting costs are significantly higher than previous seasons.

The cost of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) in Sennar has decreased in this round from SDG 1.22 and SDG 1.31 in the first and second rounds respectively to SDG 1.04 per/person/day. This is mainly due to the decrease in sorghum and vegetable prices. When analyzing households’ ability to meet the cost of the food basket, it was found that the results were similar to the situation in the previous rounds for urban areas as 98 percent of households can afford more than 2 baskets. In rural areas the situation has improved significantly as the percentage of households who can afford more than 2 baskets has increased from 82 percent in June and 79 percent in February to 92 percent in November 2010. It was found that only 1 percent in urban and rural areas could not afford even one food basket.

When analyzing the situation in the different locations, the results show that all the locations are situated above the upper threshold, meaning that they can afford more than two minimum healthy food baskets. The situation has improved in all locations compared to the previous rounds.
Food Consumption

When analyzing the data regarding the food consumption score, it was found that as many as 96 percent of the households in urban areas and 95 percent of the rural households are in the acceptable food consumption category. Only 1 percent of the households in both urban and rural areas are in the poor food consumption category.

When analyzing the food consumption situation by location, it was found that all locations are situated above the upper threshold, with Doba recording the highest score and Al-Marrafaa the lowest.

Coping Strategy Index

Households were asked if they had experienced any shortage of food or shortage in money to buy food during the 7 days prior to the assessment. In the rural areas, there has been an increase in the number of households who did not have to engage in any coping strategies, from 40 percent in the first round and 42 percent in the second round to 45 percent in this round. This can be due to the improved situation in these areas in the beginning of the harvest season. However, there has also been a slight increase in the percentage of household who had to engage in medium and high risk coping on the rural areas.

In urban areas there has been an increase in the number of households who were forced to use different coping strategies due to exposure to tough conditions, up to 55 percent compared to 47 percent and 49 percent in the two first rounds. This is mainly due to the price increase of some food commodities. As for the households who used high risk coping strategies, this round gave results similar to the previous rounds. Additionally, there has been an increase in the percentage of households engaging in medium risk coping strategies.
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 the previous day, essential for the child's health. It was found that 45 percent of household children in urban areas are consuming food from less than 4 food groups. In rural areas this percentage has increased and is now 52 percent. This indicates that the children are not consuming enough nutrients required for growth. The better score in the urban households can be explained by the availability of different types of food, as well as by the feeding culture of the household.

A two week recall morbidity history was taken for children between 6 and 23 months of age. The main diseases are fever (32 percent), respiratory infection (24 percent) and diarrhea (13 percent). Fever represents the highest percentage in both the rural and urban areas with 34 percent and 20 percent respectively. This is expected as fever usually breaks out after the rainy season.

In this round, Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) has been measured on 206 children in the rural areas and 38 children in urban areas, of the age between 6 to 59 months. In the urban areas, 5 percent of the children are moderately malnourished. In the rural areas, 3 percent are moderately malnourished, and 3 percent severely malnourished (score less than 11.5 cm).

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UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME—SUDAN
## Annex 1 – Profile of Sentinel sites

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<th>State Name</th>
<th>Location Name</th>
<th>Community Type</th>
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