Main Findings

- Overall, findings indicated a good food consumption situation with 80 percent of the interviewed IDP and refugee households as well as 90 percent of resident and mixed community households having an acceptable food consumption score.

- The food security situation has remained relatively stable for all community groups and has significantly improved for resident communities compared to February and November 2010. This is attributed to an acceptable food consumption score combined with an improved income situation.

- A total of 670 households were interviewed in 22 sentinel sites reached. Data collection for this round was carried out during the post-harvest period in late February and early March 2011.

- Prices of cereals were high compared to November 2010 and to the five-year average. Sorghum prices were 10 percent and 100 percent higher compared to November 2010 and the five year average respectively.

- The price of the minimum healthy food basket has increased by 17 percent compared to November 2010 and it is now reported at 1.32 SDG per person/day.

- Interviewed households spend an average of 61 percent of their income on purchasing food items.

- The vast majority of households have neither reported encountering food shortages or lack of cash to purchase food commodities.

- Mid Upper Arm Circumference measurement applied on 779 children in the age range of 6-59 months indicated that 10 percent of IDP children, 7 percent of children in resident and mixed communities and 13 percent of refugee children are moderately malnourished.
1. FOOD SECURITY

The overall food security situation remain relatively stable for all population groups compared to November 2010. IDPs still have the highest proportion of moderately and severely food insecure households compared to the other population groups, with 54 percent. This is considered a slight increase compared to November 2010, however results remain similar to February 2010. In February 2011, mixed and resident communities have a larger proportion of households in the food secure category compared to February 2010 and November 2010. Residents have the highest proportion (80 percent) of food secure households compared to other population groups and this is mainly due to the acceptable food consumption as well as an improved income situation. However, in the refugee category, there has been an increase in the proportion of households in the food insecure category (10%).

The food consumption and expenditure composite indicator is used to determine the food security situation by location. Results indicate that 91 percent of surveyed locations have a food security score above the maximum threshold of 28.2 and are considered food secure. There is no location with a food security score below the minimum threshold of 15.4 which would indicate severe food insecurity.

Compared to November 2010 and February 2010, a significant improvement in the food security situation was reported in Mukjar refugee camp, Delej and Kulbus.

The food security indicator consists of the following: market situation and cost of minimum healthy food basket; income sources; expenditure; and food consumption.

**Market situation and cost of minimum healthy food basket**

Despite the good harvest of the 2010/2011 agriculture season, cereal prices remain high in the Geneina market. Sorghum prices are 10 percent higher than in February 2010, and more than double the prices from the five-year average. In terms of cereal availability, sorghum from food assistance distributions is reported to be readily available in the Geneina market. The price of oil has also increased in main markets in West Darfur.

As a result of these price increases, the price of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) has also increased by 17 percent compared to November 2010 and February 2010, and is reported at 1.32 SDG per person /day.

The terms of trade (ToT), which is the number of sorghum bags (90 kg) purchased for one goat, is similar to February 2010. In February 2011, livestock traders/owners could purchase one 90 kg sack of sorghum for one medium sized male goat. However, the ToT becomes lower than the five-year average when approximately 1.5 sorghum sacks of sorghum could be traded for one male goat.
**Income Sources**

In February 2011, the main income sources for IDPs are wage labor (38 percent), small business (18 percent) and sale of firewood (15 percent). The importance of firewood sales has significantly decreased compared to February 2010.

A total of 53 percent of the interviewed households reported sale of crops from own production as their main source of income, mainly due to the good harvest of the 2010/11 agriculture season.

Refugees have access to less diversified income sources compared to the other population groups. However, similar to IDPs, the largest contribution to their total income in February 2011 come from wage labor (61 percent), small business (17 percent) and sale of crops (10 percent). Contribution from wage labor has decreased from 42 to 38 percent in November 2010.

Residents and mixed communities have access to more diverse income sources including wage labor, crops sales and small business.

Compared to February 2010, income share from wage labour has declined from 48 to 28 percent, and crop sales contribution has increased from 21 percent to 24 percent.

This change come as a result of easier access to agriculture land for resident and mixed communities compared to IDPs and refugees.

**Expenditure**

In February 2011, an average of 61 percent of the households’ total expenditure is spent on food items, a finding similar to that reported in November 2010 (60 percent). The largest household expenditure on food was on meat (12 percent), sugar (11 percent), vegetables (10 percent), cereal (9 percent) and oil (8 percent). The largest non-food expenditure was on healthcare (6 percent) and milling and firewood/fuel (both 4 percent). The income proxy (purchasing power) is measured against the cost of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) based on the current market prices. The cost of the food basket has increased by 17 percent from 1.15 SDG to 1.32 SDG per person /day compared to November 2010. This is due to the increase in the prices of sorghum and vegetable oil. Approximately 28 percent of IDPs and refugees do not have the purchasing power to afford the cost of one minimum healthy food basket. The proportion of households in the mixed communities who can afford between one and two food baskets has significantly decreased compared to November 2010, but remains similar to February 2010. By location, the income per person per day has significantly improved in Mukjar refugee camp, Garsila, Um Dokhon, Delej and Abata compared to November 2010. Better access to land combined with the good harvest has contributed to increased levels of income in these locations.
Food Consumption

Household dietary diversity was defined using a seven-day recall period. Food consumption is categorized as poor, borderline and acceptable based on the variety and frequency of different food items consumed by households in a seven-day period prior to the FSMS data collection.

All population groups have a high proportion of households falling in the acceptable food consumption category. It should be taken into consideration that 50 percent of these sentinel sites are receiving seasonal support, and it is not surprising to find that the food consumption score has remained similar to November 2010 and February 2010.

Analysis of the food consumption situation by location shows a significant improvement in Mukjar refugee camp. The improved income situation combined with WFP monthly food assistance had positively impacted the food consumption situation of these refugees.

2. Agriculture

Post-harvest results indicate that the total cultivated area has increased by 32 percent compared to last season. The estimated cereal production from the 2010/2011 agricultural season is 95 percent higher than that of the 2009/2010 season. The improved security situation combined with above average-rains have contributed to the good harvest this year.

3. Coping Strategy Index

The majority of households has not encountered food shortage or lack of cash to purchase food within the seven-day recall period. Results are similar to those reported in November and February 2010.

Of the total IDPs interviewed, 12 percent have not encountered food shortage, while 3 percent of resident communities and refugee households and 2 percent of mixed communities had to engage in low risk coping strategies.

Only 1 percent of the IDP households had to engage in medium risk coping strategies, while none of the households had to use high risk coping strategies.
4. Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)

Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement was applied on 779 children in the age range of 6-59 months. Results show that 10 percent of IDP children, 7 percent of children in resident and mixed communities and 13 percent of refugee children are moderately malnourished. Furthermore, between one and two percent of the children in all community groups are severely malnourished and in need of therapeutic care. Overall, the situation has improved compared to November 2010.

5. Child Health and Dietary Diversity

Dietary diversity of children in the age between 6 and 23 months was defined using a recall period of 24 hours. Data was collected from 249 children in this age group.

Analysis shows that the majority of the children are given food from less than four food groups indicating that a large proportion of these children do not consume adequate nutrients required for healthy growth.

The situation for all community groups have deteriorated compared to November 2010, but has improved compared to February 2010. The largest proportion of children who receive more than four food groups was found among refugees (44 percent).