Main Findings

- Data collection was carried out in May 2011, coinciding with the lean season.
- Teams reached 20 out of 21 sentinel sites in May 2011 with three locations in Jebel Marra reached for the first time since February 2010.
- In May and February 2011, only 10 and 13 locations were reached respectively. Consequently, comparison of mixed and resident communities during this period is not feasible.
- Food consumption score has improved considerably among the IDP category compared to February with the majority of households having an acceptable food consumption score.
- During the second quarter of 2011, sorghum prices in Nyala market were stable compared to last year’s prices reported in the same period. The term of trade between the price of one medium size goat and a 90-kg bag of sorghum decreased in this round compared to February.
- The cost of minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) in May 2011 is 1.78 SDG/per capita, which is an increase compared to 1.59 SDG/per capita reported in February 2011. The increase in the food basket is mainly due to the price increase of essential food items such as cow meat, sugar and oil. This price increase has negatively affected the purchasing power of IDPs, residents and mixed communities. Thus, 65, 59 and 46 percent of the respective households cannot afford the cost of one food basket.
- The proportion of households’ income spent on food items has decreased in May, and 57.5 percent of the households are spending less than 65 percent of their total expenditure on food.
- The child dietary diversity among IDPs has slightly improved from February 2011 with 37 percent of the children consuming four or more food groups. Nevertheless, as many as 63 percent of children do not receive adequate nutrients required for growth.
- MUAC measurement among IDP children indicated that the percentage of severely malnourished children has decreased from four in February to zero percent in May.
- The percentage of moderately malnourished children remains stable at six percent.
- The food security situation among IDPs in May shows an improvement compared to February, mainly due to regular food distribution to IDPs and good harvest. Nonetheless, as many as 65 percent are moderately food insecure.
- Some 18 percent of the households that have not received food assistance are classified as severely food insecure compared to five percent of the households receiving food assistance. Furthermore, 33 percent of the unemployed households are classified as severely food insecure compared to 10 percent of employed households.
- The education level has a significant effect on food security of resident communities. In case of an uneducated household head, 24 percent are food secure, while in households where the head of the household has higher education, 100 percent are food secure.
- In Otash camp, 36 percent of household reported they prefer food vouchers instead of in-kind food rations.
1. FOOD SECURITY

In May 2011, the food security of IDPs has improved compared to February 2011 with fewer households in the severely food insecure category, and more households being food secure. However, a total of 65 percent of the IDP households are moderately food insecure.

IDPs have a lower percentage of households in the severely food insecure category, compared to mixed and resident communities.

The main reasons for the improved situation for IDPs are regular food distributions in camps and good harvest in the 2010/2011 season.

Market situation and cost of minimum healthy food basket prices

Sorghum prices in Nyala market remained stable compared to February 2011, but are slightly higher compared to prices from the same season last year. Sorghum prices are expected to rise during the hunger period, due to the increase in demand and depleting of households’ stocks.

The term of trade (ToT) between one medium size goat and a bag of sorghum in the Nyala market has decreased in May 2011 compared to February 2011. However, the ToT is still lower than the five years average. This indicates that livestock owners status has improved compared to that of cereal producers in regards to goods exchange.

Livestock prices are expected to decrease during the rainy season when markets witness an increased supply from pastoralists in order to meet their needs during the migration season.

The cost of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) in South Darfur has increased by 12 percent in May 2011 compared to February 2011. This could be attributed to the price increase of some food items included in the food basket. From February 2011 to May 2011, the price on cow meat has increased by 2.5 percent, vegetable oil by seven percent and sugar by two percent. The price increases during this period could be explained by the increase in transport and fuel cost and in taxes.
**Income Sources**

The most important income generating activities for IDPs in May 2011 include wage labour (35 percent), small business (24 percent), firewood/charcoal sale (12 percent) and crops sale (12 percent). This is similar to findings from February 2011 and May 2010, with an increase in the importance of crops sales.

The sale of crops is by far the most important income source with 56 percent for mixed communities, which is a significant increase from February 2011 and May 2010.

As the 2010/2011 season witnessed a good harvest, many households saved their crops, and sold it upon when the prices increase. The second most important income is small business (13 percent), followed by sales of firewood/charcoal (11 percent) and wage labor (10 percent).

The resident community has access to more diversified income sources compared to IDPs and mixed communities, and there is an equal distribution across income groups. In May 2011, income from sale of crops (25 percent), small business (25 percent), firewood/charcoal collection (17 percent), wage labor (14 percent), and salaries (eight percent) were among the main income sources for the mixed communities.

The median absolute income per location is reflecting a slight deterioration in the income per capita in all camps compared to resident and mixed communities. As many of the IDPs rely on wage labour, the deterioration in income can be attributed to limited income opportunities and activities in the pre-hunger period.

**Expenditure**

Among the overall sampled households, an average of 61 percent of the households’ monthly expenditure is spent on food items.

The percentage has decreased compared to 67 in February 2011.

This can attributed to good harvest in the 2010/2011 season and distribution of food assistance.
Compared to February 2011, household expenditure on food items have remained relatively similar and the purchasing power among IDPs household in May 2011 has remained stable, with a slight improvement compared to May 2010.

Nevertheless, the IDPs are worst off with 65 percent of the households that cannot afford the cost of one minimum healthy food basket (1.78 SDG/person/day). In resident communities, 59 percent of the households cannot afford one basket, while mixed communities are better off compared to other community types with 46 percent.

![Purchasing Power by community type](image)

The households’ main non-food items expenditure is on health care (six percent), social events (five percent), transportation/communication and milling (four percent each). Milling expenditure decreased compared to February 2011.

### Food Consumption

The percentage of IDP households with an acceptable food consumption score has improved in May 2011 (88 percent) compared to 63 percent in February 2011.

Furthermore, there are now a higher percentage of households in mixed and resident communities with a poor food consumption compared to IDP households.

Food consumption scores by location shows that nearly all locations have an acceptable food consumption score, except for Saboon el Fagur and Gur Lumbung in East Jebel Marra. Al Mazroub resident location has borderline consumption score.
In May 2011, the proportion of IDP households who did not face any food shortage and thus did not use any coping strategies has considerably decreased compared to February 2011, from 74 to 47 percent.

Moreover, the proportion of IDPs using high coping mechanisms have increased significantly compared to February 2011 and May 2010.

The majority of the resident households (79 percent) are not engaging in any coping strategies. In the mixed communities, 31 percent are engaging in medium risk coping strategies.

The most commonly used coping strategies in South Darfur include relying on less preferred or less expensive food, consuming borrowed food or borrowing money to purchase food items, limiting portion size at meal times and reducing number of meals per day.

2. Coping Strategy Index

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3. Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)

Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) is a measure for children in the age between 6-59 months. There has been an improvement in the status of IDP children, and the percentage of severely malnourished children has decreased from four to zero percent. The percentage of moderately malnourished children remains stable at six percent.

In the mixed communities, the proportion of severely malnourished children increased slightly from zero to one percent, while the percentage of moderately malnourished children decreased from seven to four percent compared to November 2010. Resident children have the highest percentages of malnourished children with five percent severely malnourished children and eight percent moderately malnourished children.

4. Child Health and Dietary Diversity

In terms of dietary diversity among children between 6-23 months of age, findings show that there has been an improvement among IDP children of 37 percent who now consume four or more food groups.

Nevertheless, as many as 63 percent still do not receive adequate nutrients required for growth.

The situation for children in mixed communities is similar to IDP children, with resident children having the lowest percentage of children who receive food from four or more food groups (28 percent).
5. Food Assistance

In May 2011, the proportion of households in IDP camps who are receiving food assistance is 92 percent which is relatively stable across rounds.

Among food assistance recipients, 38 percent of IDPs reported to have sold or exchanged parts of their cereals, oil and pulses which is a considerable increase compared to February 2011. The main reasons for selling food assistance are to purchase other food items that are not part of WFP food basket (29.6 percent), for milling (12.5 percent), to buy fuel (9.8 percent) and to cover expenses of health services (7.1 percent). In Otash camp, 36 percent of household reported they would prefer food vouchers instead of in-kind food rations.
6. Who Are the Food Insecure?

In May, 31 percent of the interviewed households are reportedly female headed households. However, when analyzing the food security situation based on gender, there is no significant difference between female and male headed households in terms of food security.

A significant difference in the food security situation is however shown if household members are recipients of food assistance, employed or has a high education level.

Some 18 percent of the households that have not received food assistance are classified as severely food insecure compared to five percent of the households receiving food assistance. The food security situation based on employment reveals that 33 percent of the unemployed households are classified as severely food insecure compared to 10 percent of the employed households.

Among IDPs and mixed communities, educational level has no impact on the food security situation. However, for resident communities the education level has a significant effect. In households where the head of the household is not educated, 24 percent are food insecure, while in households where the head of the household has university education, 100 percent are food secure.

Having disabled members in the household has a clear impact on the food security situation. In South Darfur, 23 percent of the households with disabled members are severely food insecure compared to eight percent of households without disabled members.