

# WFP Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS)

Round 11 (November 2011)

## South Darfur State

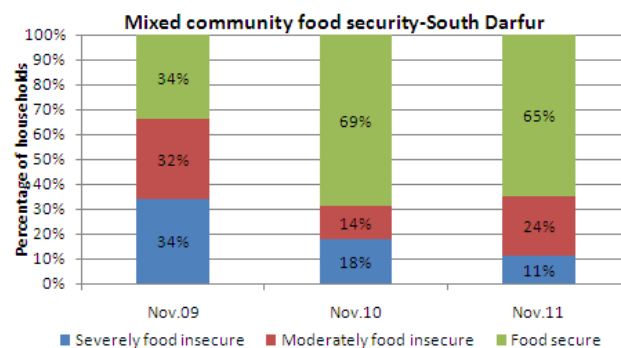
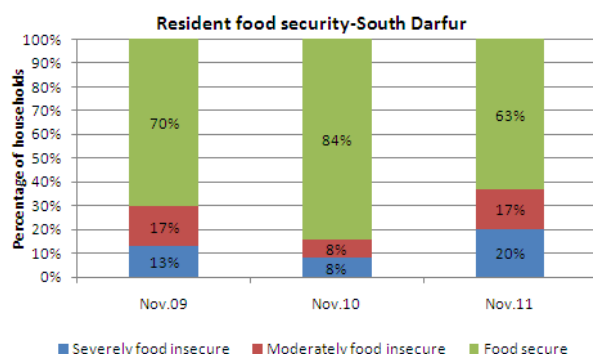
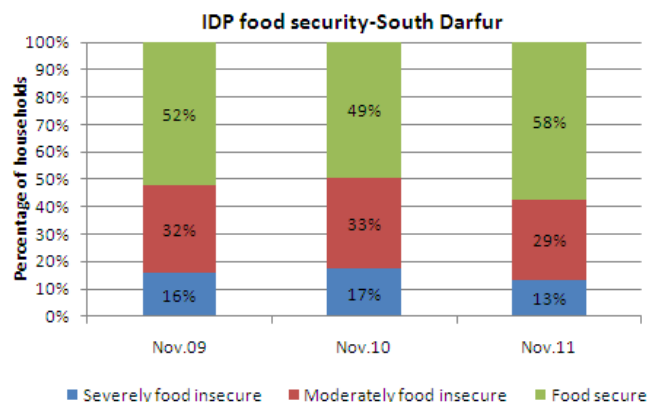


## Executive Summary

- Data collection was carried out in November 2011 coinciding with the pre-harvest season.
- Twenty sentinel sites out of 21 have been reached in November 2011 and more than 500 households were surveyed.
- The food security situation among the IDPs shows a decline compared to May 2011. However, there is a slight improvement in the situation compared to November 2010.
- Gender and education level of household head has a clear impact on the households food security status.
- Food consumption score has shown a declining trend among the IDPs and resident communities compared to May 2011 and November 2010. For mixed communities, the situation is similar to November 2010. Nevertheless, the majority of the surveyed households continue showing an acceptable food consumption score.
- During the last quarter of 2011, sorghum prices in Nyala market were on the rise compared to November 2010 prices. Sorghum prices in November were 20 percent above October 2011 prices and 41 percent above November 2010 prices.
- The terms of trade (ToT) between the price of one medium size goat and a bag (90 kg) of sorghum has increased in November 2011 compared to May 2011. This indicates that livestock owners are still in a better position than cereal producers in relation to goods exchange.
- The cost of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) in November 2011 is reported at 2.07 SDG/per capita/day, a significant increase compared to 1.78 SDG/per capita/day reported in May 2011 and 1.27 SDG/per capita/day reported in November 2010. The considerable increase in the prices of the food basket commodities is mainly due to the soaring prices of essential food items such as sorghum oil, onion and sugar.
- The price increment has negatively affected the purchasing power of the resident and mixed communities, and 46 and 47 percent of the respective communities can not afford the cost of one food basket. Thirty two percent of the IDPs can not afford to purchase one food basket, while only 40 percent of the community can afford 1-2 food baskets per day.
- Among IDPs, the child dietary diversity has slightly improved during this round compared to May 2011. Some 43 percent of the children consume four or more food groups. However, as many as 57 percent of children do not receive adequate nutrients required for normal growth.
- For the IDP children, MUAC measurement indicated that the percentage of severely malnourished children has increased from zero percent in May 2011 to one percent in November 2011, while the percentage of moderately malnourished children remains stable at six percent.
- Among IDPs, 58 percent of the food secure households have cultivated their agricultural land, while of the moderately food insecure and severely food insecure categories only 33 and 15 percent respectively have cultivated their land this season.
- In Otash camp, 50 percent of households reported preference of food vouchers to in-kind commodity rations. This is due to intensive sensitization conducted for the implementation of the food voucher programme in Otash IDP camp.

# 1. FOOD SECURITY

In November 2011, the food security situation of the IDPs has declined compared to May 2011 with more households falling into the severely food insecure category, while the situation of the food secure households remain similar to that reported in May 2011. Some 58 percent of the IDPs are reportedly food secure, while 65 percent and 63 percent of the mixed and resident communities respectively are food secure. However, the resident community has the highest percentage of households within the severely food insecure category (20 percent), compared to IDPs (13 percent) and mixed communities (11 percent). This is attributed to the declining food security situation due to soaring food prices and low purchasing power, negatively impacting affordability.

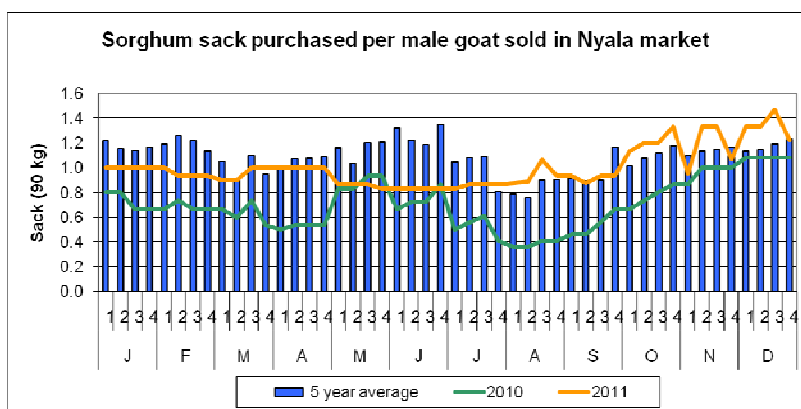


## A. Market situation and cost of minimum healthy food basket prices

Sorghum prices in Nyala market followed a slight upward trend in November 2011 compared to May 2011. Cereal prices have been affected by the inter-state movement of supplies to North Darfur to meet high demands in the state. Sorghum and millet prices are expected to increase during the next few months due to the increase in demand combined by low quantities of households' own production. Groundnut, a main cash crop, has covered larger areas at the expense of sorghum and millet.

The terms of trade (ToT) between one medium size goat and a bag of sorghum in the Nyala market has significantly increased in November 2011 compared to May 2011. The ToT is similar to the five-year average.

This indicates that livestock owners are in a better position than cereal producers in relation to exchange of goods. Livestock prices are expected to increase during the dry season as markets are still undergoing reduced supplies from pastoralists who will be moving in search of resources.



## B. Income Sources

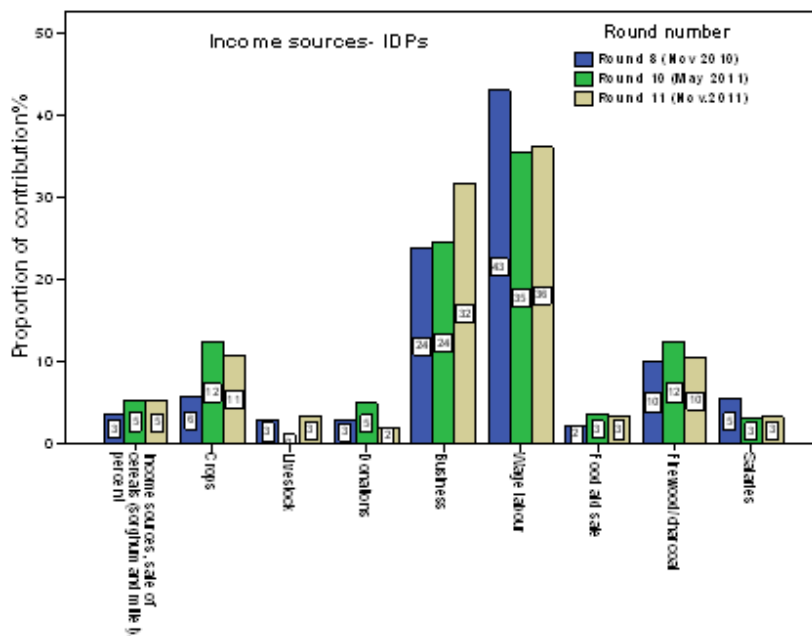
This section reflects the importance of different income sources according to how much each of these sources contribute to the total household income.

The most important income generating activities for the IDPs in November 2011 include: wage labour (36 percent), small businesses (32 percent), and firewood/charcoal and crops sale (11 percent). This follows the same patterns of May 2011, but with an increase in the significance of small businesses.

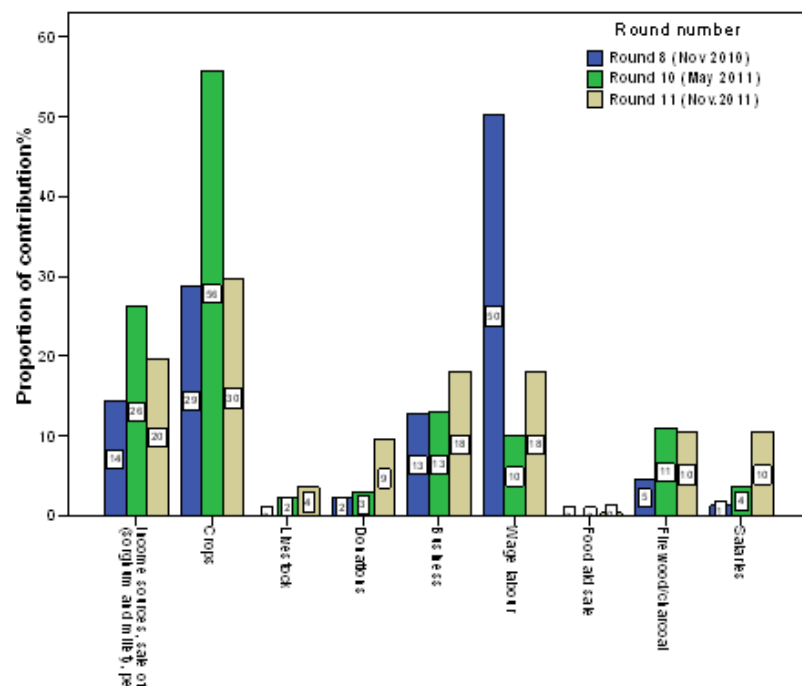
Among mixed community, sale of crops is the most important income source for 30 percent of the community, showing a significant reduction from May 2011. The second important income group is sales of cereals (20 percent), followed by small businesses and wage labor (18 percent) for each as a seasonal pattern of income sources.

The resident community continue to have access to more diversified income sources compared to IDPs and mixed communities.

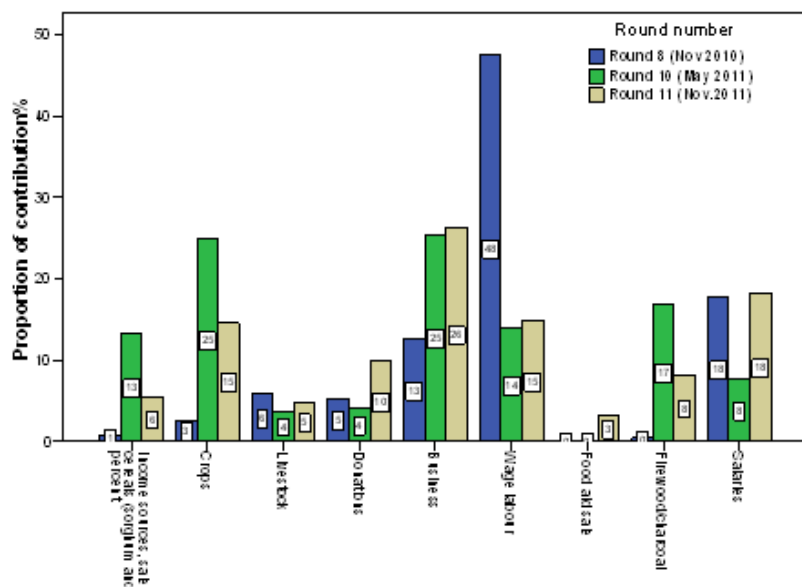
The main income source in November 2011 was small businesses (26 percent), followed by salaries (18 percent), sales of other crops and wage labor (15 percent). That shows the ability of resident community to engage in various sources of income following the seasonal calendar.



**Income sources - Mixed Community**



**Income sources - Residents**



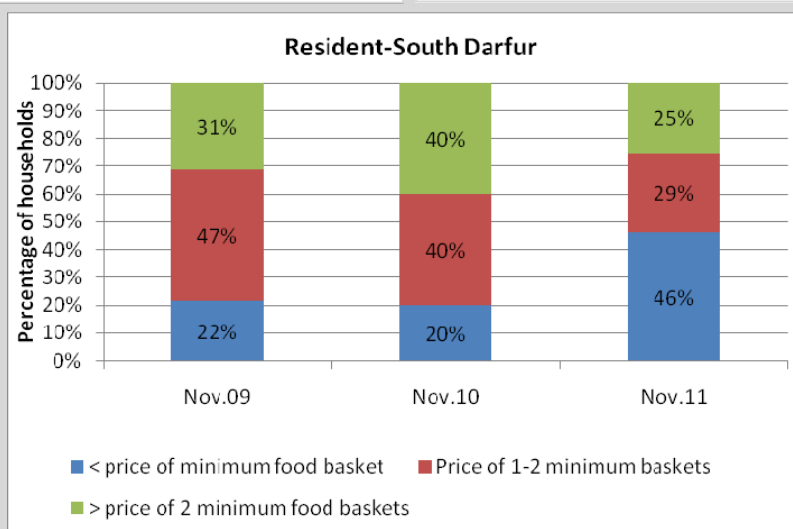
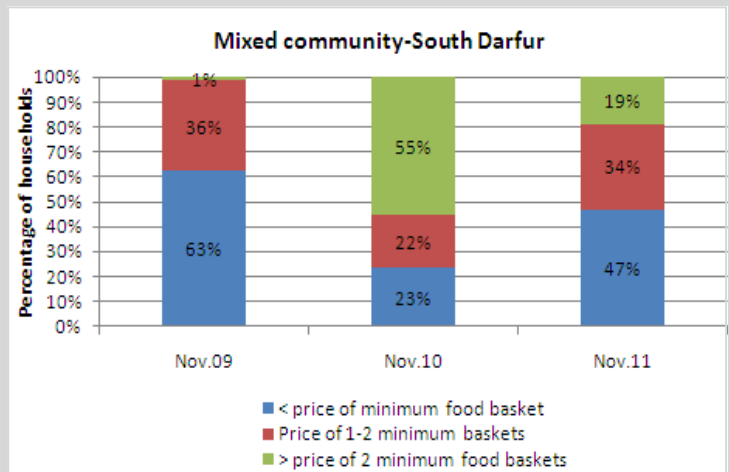
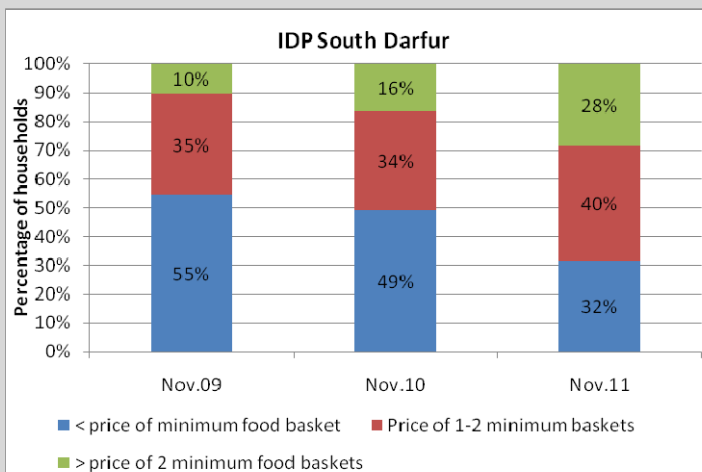
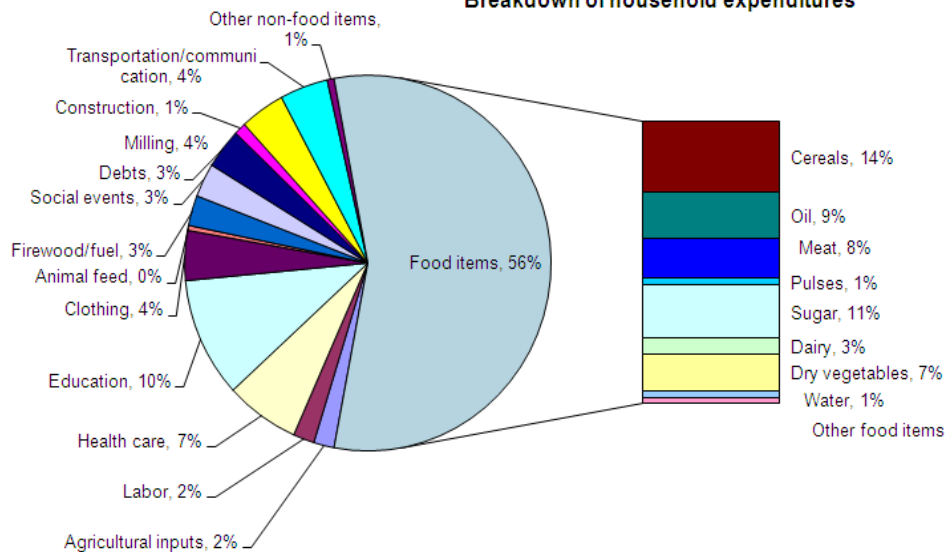
## C. Expenditure

Among the overall sampled households, an average of 56 percent of the households' monthly expenditure is spent on food items; a decrease from 65 percent reported in May 2011. This is mainly attributed to increased reliance on food assistance or own stock as

their food source. Unlike the last round, the households' main non-food items expenditure in November is on education (ten percent), followed by health care (seven percent), while transportation, clothing and milling have reportedly the same rate of spending (four percent).

The cost of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) in November 2011 is reported at 2.07 SDG/per capita/day, a significant increase compared to 1.78 SDG/per capita/day reported in May 2011 and 1.27 SDG/per capita/day reported in November 2010. This could be attributed to the price increase of some food items included in the food basket. The increase in food prices during this period could be attributed to the increase in the cost of transport and fuel as well as taxes.

Breakdown of household expenditures

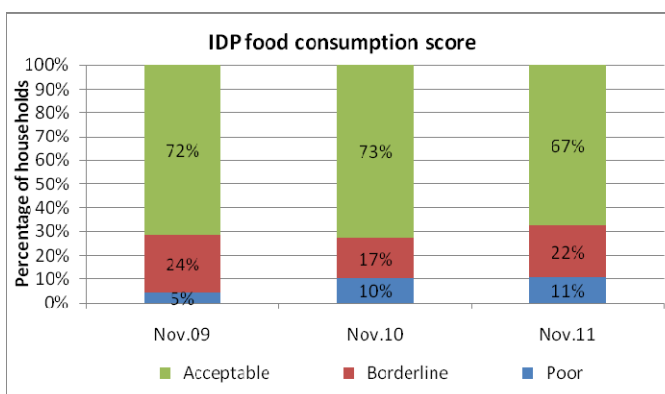


The purchasing power of the IDP household in November 2011 has improved compared to May 2011, with about 28 percent of IDPs able to afford over two minimum healthy food basket compared to 5 percent reported in the last round. IDPs represent the best category in terms of food basket affordability with only 32 percent of households can not afford the cost of one minimum healthy food basket (2.07 SDG/person/day), compared to resident communities (46 percent) and mixed communities (47 percent).

## D. Food Consumption

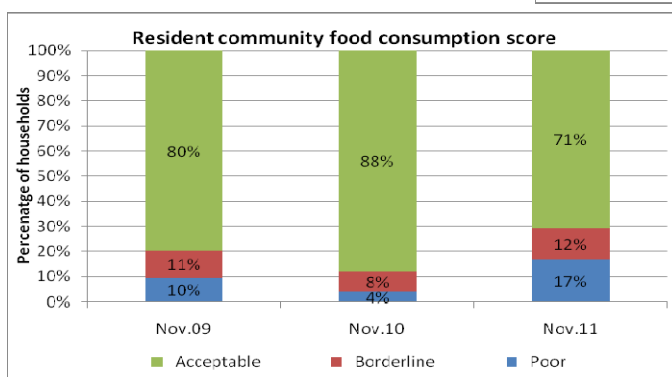
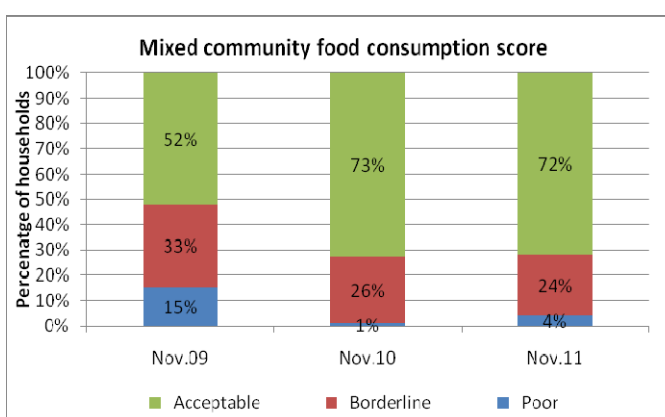
Among the IDPs, the proportion of households with an acceptable food consumption score has decreased to 67 percent in November 2011 compared to 88 percent in May 2011.

Furthermore, the proportion of households in the poor food consumption category has significantly increased from 1 percent in May 2011 to 11 percent in November 2011.



The main reasons for that could be due to people's inability to acquire adequate food commodities or due to their consumption of low quality food.

In November 2011, the highest percentage of households under poor food consumption category is reportedly among resident community, with 17 percent.

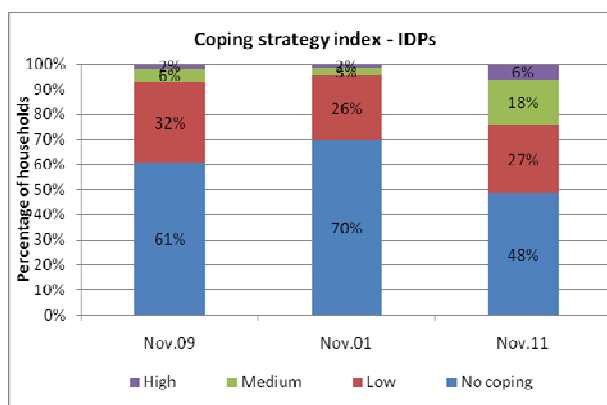


Food consumption scores at location level show that nearly all the surveyed locations have an acceptable food consumption score, with the exception of Muhageria, Abusufyan and Ditto Dagama with borderline food consumption scores. None of the 20 surveyed locations fell in the poor food consumption category.

## 2. Coping Strategy Index

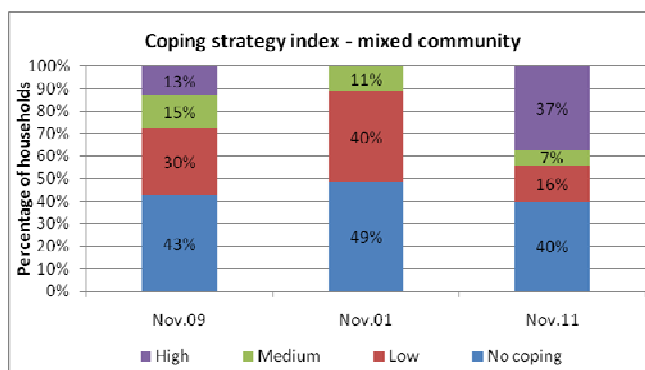
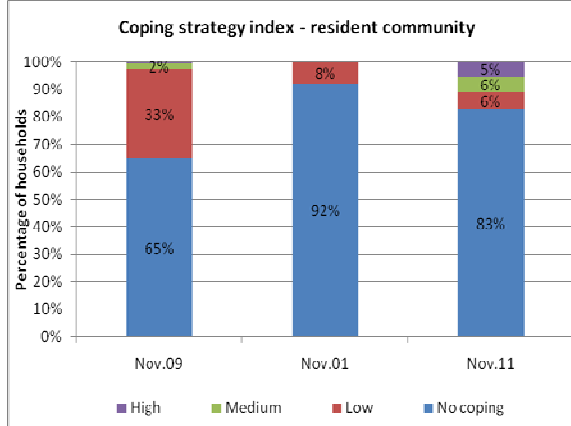
In November 2011, the proportion of IDP households who have not faced any food shortage and have therefore not used any coping strategies has slightly increased from 47 to 48 percent compared to May 2011.

Meanwhile, the percentage of IDPs adopting high coping mechanisms has significantly decreased from 23 percent in May 2011 to six percent in November 2011.



The majority of the resident households (83 percent) are not engaging in any coping strategies, while among the mixed communities 37 percent are engaging in high risk coping strategies representing the highest records in this round.

The most commonly used coping strategies in South Darfur include reliance on less preferred or less expensive food; consumption of borrowed food; borrowing of cash to purchase food items; limiting portion sizes at meal times; and reducing number of meals consumed during the day.

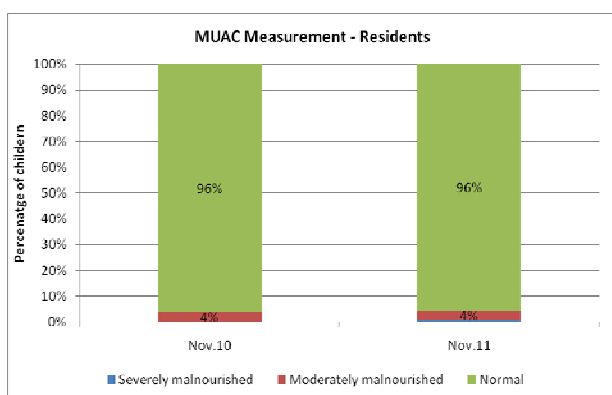
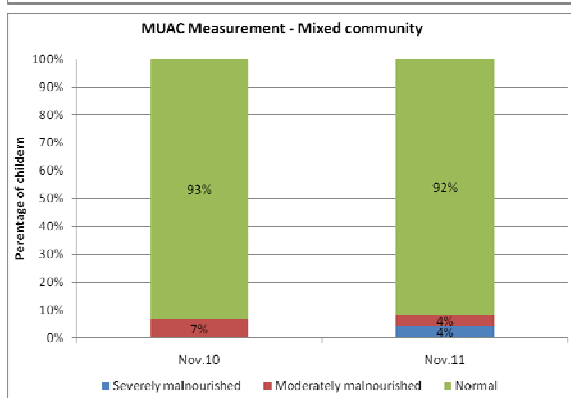
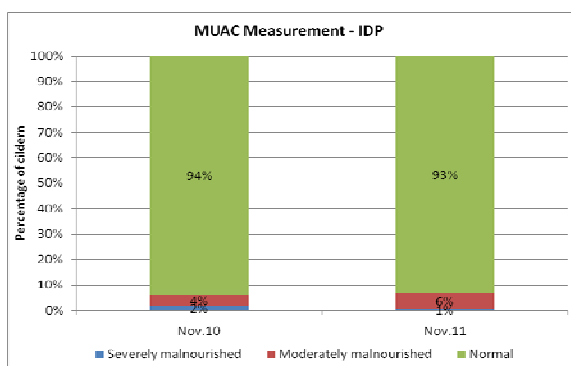


### 3. Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)

The Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) is applied on children in the age between 6-59 months. There has been a slight deterioration in the situation of IDP children in November 2011 as the percentage of severely malnourished children has increased from zero to one percent.

Meanwhile, the percentage of moderately malnourished children remains the same (six percent) as reported in the November 2010.

The proportion of severely malnourished children within mixed communities has increased from zero to four percent, the highest proportion of children among the three community categories.



In the mean time, the percentage of moderately malnourished children in the resident community has significantly decreased from eight to four percent compared to May 2011, which is similar to November 2010.

## 4. Child Health and Dietary Diversity

Analysis of the dietary diversity of children between 6-23 months of age indicates that there has been an improvement in the situation of IDP children as 43 percent reportedly consume four or more food groups. However, as many as 57 percent still do not receive adequate nutrients required for normal growth.

The situation for children in the resident community is the worst among all three categories having the highest percentage of children who receive less than four food groups (69 percent), followed by the mixed community group (66 percent) and IDPs (57 percent). That could partially be linked to regular distribution of food assistance to IDPs.

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## 5. Food Assistance

In November 2011, the proportion of camp IDP households receiving food assistance is almost 92 percent. The percentage remained almost the same across the rounds. Among recipients of the food assistance, only 12 percent of IDPs were reported to have sold or exchanged parts of their cereals, oil and pulses. This is considerable decrease from 38 percent who reported selling their food assistance in May 2011.

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## 6. Who Are the Food Insecure?

In November 2011, 22.3 percent of the interviewed households are female headed households. Analyzing the food security situation based on gender depicts a significant difference between female and male headed households; 34 percent of female headed households are severely food insecure compared to 9 percent of male headed households.

When analyzing food security by education level of the household head, findings show that education has an effect in IDP and resident households. In IDP households, 66 percent of the severely food insecure households are headed by an uneducated person compared to 45 percent of moderately food insecure households and 38 percent of food secure households. In resident communities, 70 percent of the severely food insecure households are headed by an uneducated person, compared to 34 percent of moderately food insecure households and 33 percent of the food secure households. In mixed communities, education does not have any impact on the food security status.

Analyzing of the food security situation based on the farming status shows that 85 percent of the severely food insecure households have not cultivated this season compared to 42 percent among the food secure households. Thus, household's own food production has a strong bearing on its food security situation.

Generally, the main reason for food insecurity during the last quarter of the year are both the soaring market prices and the expected low cereal production. The former is expected to decrease households' purchasing power, while the latter will have a negative impact on cereal supplies into local markets.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

- A total of 503 households were interviewed;
- 22.3 percent are female headed households;
  - Average household size is 7 persons;
    - 52 percent IDPs in camps;
    - 10 percent IDPs outside camps;
      - 36 percent residents;
      - 2 percent returnees.