Executive Summary

- Data collection was carried out in February, the transitional period between post-harvest and lean season periods. A total of 670 households were interviewed in 22 sentinel sites.
- The overall food security situation has deteriorated for IDPs, mixed communities and refugees, compared to 2010 and 2011. This is mainly attributed to lower purchasing power; the increase in the price of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB); and the deteriorating Food Consumption Score (FCS). However, the food security situation of resident communities remained stable.
- The food security situation for IDPs and refugees remained similar to that reported in November 2011, with 28 and 21 percent of food insecure households respectively. However, the food security situation for mixed and resident communities has improved.
- The FCS has deteriorated for IDPs, mixed communities and refugees compared to February 2010 and 2011. Compared to November 2011, the FCS has declined for IDPs but remained similar for mixed communities and refugees and improved for resident communities.
- The price of the MHFB has increased by 44 percent in comparison to the price reported in February 2011. Compared to November 2011, the price of MHFB has slightly increased (approximately 3 percent), mainly due to price increases for cereals, meat and milk.
- The increase in the price of MHFB has considerably affected the purchasing power of all community types. Some 45 percent of IDP households and 33 percent of mixed communities and refugees cannot meet the cost of one MHFB. The situation is better for resident communities where 10 percent of surveyed households cannot meet the cost of the MHFB.
- Wage labor continued to be the most important source of income for all community groups, contributing to 55 percent of refugees’ total income; around 42 percent of IDPs’ income; and approximately one third of resident and mixed communities’ income.
- Findings indicate that 64 percent of the households’ total monthly expenditure was spent on food items.
- The proportion of households who faced shortage of food or cash to purchase food has significantly increased for IDPs (43 percent), mixed communities (32 percent) and refugees (53 percent) compared to February 2010 and 2011.
- The proportion of children who consume more than the essential four food groups has increased among all population groups compared to February 2010 and 2011.
- The mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurements of children (6-59 months), indicate that five percent of IDP and refugee children are moderately malnourished while approximately three percent of the surveyed children are severely malnourished. Results indicate seven percent of the children in resident and mixed communities are moderately malnourished and around two percent are severely malnourished.
February is the post-harvest period, when food availability at household level typically improves and cereal prices are comparatively lower due to availability of food commodities from household’s own production. However, the crop production in the 2011/12 agricultural season was poor.

Findings from the post-harvest assessment conducted in December 2011, indicated a food deficit of approximately 114,000 MT, representing 34 percent of the total annual food requirement in the state.

The overall food security situation varies among the different community groups in West Darfur. The situation has deteriorated for IDPs, mixed communities and refugees compared to 2010 and 2011.

This is mainly attributed to declining food consumption scores, limited income opportunities and rising prices of essential food items.

However, the food security situation remained stable for resident communities compared to February 2010 and 2011. All surveyed resident locations are in rural areas where households have better access to food.

This is mainly due to access to farming land in the rainy and winter seasons resulting in better purchasing power, diversified income sources as well as adequate food consumption. These factors have greatly contributed to the stability of residents’ food security situation, compared to other population groups.
A. Market Situation

In 2012, cereal prices remained high and have not followed the usual price decrease pattern during the harvest season. Sorghum prices in El Geneina market are 40 percent higher compared to prices reported in February and November 2011. The month of February is part of the post harvest period when prices are expected to be stable. The increase in cereal prices can be attributed to the poor 2011/2012 harvest as a result of poor, erratic rainfall, extended dry spells as well as pest infestation in some parts of West Darfur, particularly in the sorghum rain-fed livelihood zone. Sorghum and millet prices have drastically increased compared to last year’s in other main markets of West and Central Darfur.

![Sorghum Prices in Geneina Market](image)

The terms of trade (ToT) between goat and food assistance sorghum indicates the number of bags of sorghum (90-kg) that can be purchased by selling a male adult goat. The TOT in El Geneina market benefited livestock owners who can buy one sack and 18 kg of sorghum in exchange for a medium size goat. The TOT is similar to the five-year average and to that of February 2011.

B. Income Sources

Wage labor continues to be the most significant source of income for IDPs, contributing to 42 percent of their total income. Sale of crops is the second important source of income, representing 19 percent, which is a slight increase compared to February 2011. Income generated from sale of crops indicates that IDPs have some access to farming lands. Contributions from businesses and salaries to the total income have remained similar to that reported in February 2011, while contributions from donations have increased. Reliance on firewood and charcoal collection has decreased compared to February 2011.
Wage labor and sale of crops remained the most important income sources for mixed communities, contributing each to approximately 25 percent of the total income of this group. Small business is the third most important income source, contributing to 20 percent of total income. These results are similar to February 2011.

However, compared to February 2011, reliance on firewood and charcoal collection has increased, mainly due to poor harvest particularly in locations of mixed communities namely; Beida, Habila, Azerni and Sala.

Refugees have limited access to diversified income sources compared to other community groups due to limited accessibility to labor, farming and employment. Similar to results obtained in February 2011, wage labor remains the most important source of income contributing to around 60 percent of refugees’ income. Furthermore, contribution from firewood and charcoal collection has increased significantly from three percent in February 2011 to 16 percent in February 2012.

Wage labor and small businesses each contributed to 29 percent of the total income of resident communities. The contribution from small business has significantly increased compared to February 2011. The third most important income source is sale of crops constituting 24 percent of total income.
C. Expenditure

In February 2012, approximately 64 percent of the households’ total monthly expenditure was spent on food items, representing a 72 percent reduction compared to November 2011. Households spent the highest percentages on meat (13 percent), cereal (11 percent), sugar (11 percent), cooking oil (10 percent) and dry vegetables (10 percent). The overall expenditure on food has decreased in February 2012 as a result of lower household expenditure on cereals, dried vegetables and oil. This could be attributed to lower prices on dried vegetables as well as a small contribution from own production of cereal and groundnuts, as households in rural areas plant groundnuts and make their own oil. The first non-food item is health care (seven percent).

The price of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) has increased from 1.85 SDG/capita/day to 1.90 SDG/capita/day representing a three percent increase compared to November 2011. The price of the MHFB has however increased by approximately 44 percent compared to February 2011.

The proportion of households who cannot afford the cost of one MHFB has significantly increased among IDPs, compared to February 2010 and 2011.

The proportion of those who can meet the cost of one to two MHFB remained similar to February 2010 and 2011, while the proportion of households who can afford more than two MHFB has decreased significantly.

In November 2011, 67 percent of IDP households could not afford the MHFB.
A total of 31 percent of mixed community households cannot afford the cost of one MHFB. This represents a significant increase compared to approximately 15 percent of households in February 2010 and 2011. Furthermore, the proportion of households who can afford more than two MHFBs has decreased to 29 percent from around 45 percent in February 2010 and 2011. Results clearly show a significant improvement compared to findings obtained in November 2011, when 63 percent could not afford one MHFB. There has also been an increase in the percentage of households who are to afford more than two healthy baskets.

The proportion of refugee households who cannot afford the price of one MHFB has remained similar to February 2011, but has increased significantly compared to February 2010. Furthermore, the proportion of households who can afford more than two MHFB has decreased significantly to 22 percent compared to over 50 percent reported in February 2010 and 2011. In comparison to November 2011, there has been a reduction in the percentage of households that cannot afford a MHFB from 47 percent to 32 percent. An increase was also reported in the percentage of households that can afford more than two MHFBs.

The situation for resident communities remained relatively similar to that reported in February 2010 and 2011, with approximately 10 percent of the surveyed households cannot meet the cost of one MHFB.

A high proportion of resident households (50 percent) have an income that can allow them to afford more than two MHFB. The situation has improved significantly compared to November 2011, when 42 percent of households could not afford one MHFB.
D. Food Consumption

Food consumption is categorized as poor, borderline and acceptable based on the variety and frequency of different food items consumed by households seven days prior to the data collection period.

The overall food consumption score (FCS) has declined for all community groups compared to February 2010 and 2011. A main reason for this decline can be this year’s poor harvest.

The proportion of IDP households with borderline FCS has significantly increased from approximately 24 percent in February 2010 and 2011, to 61 percent in February 2012. Furthermore, two percent of IDP households has a poor food consumption score.

The proportion of refugee households with a borderline FCS has increased significantly to approximately 50 percent from about 15 percent in February 2010 and 2011. Similar to IDPs, five percent of households have a poor FCS.

In February 2012, 43 percent of mixed communities households are in the borderline category. This represents a significant increase compared to February 2010 and 2011.

Furthermore, two percent of their households are now in the poor food consumption category.

In February 2012, resident communities have the highest percentage (85) of households within the acceptable food consumption category, with the situation remaining as relatively stable compared to February 2010 and 2011.
The proportion of households that reported facing food shortage in the last seven days has considerably increased among IDPs, refugees and mixed communities compared to February 2010 and 2011.

The proportion of IDPs who faced food shortages and adopted coping strategies increased from 13 percent in February 2011 to 45 percent in February 2012. The majority (26 percent) of households that adopted coping strategies, relied on less preferred or less expensive food or they borrowed food or cash to purchase food commodities.

The percentage of mixed community households who reported facing food shortages has increased from two to 32 percent compared to February 2011. Among those households who adopted coping strategies, 18 percent relied on less preferred or less expensive food and 10 percent borrowed food or cash to purchase food commodities.

Refugees have the highest proportion of households facing food shortages. A total of 52 percent of the interviewed households reported facing food shortages in the last seven days prior to the assessment. This represents a significant increase compared to February 2010 and 2011 (three percent).

The most significant coping strategies for the households were to borrow food or cash to purchase food items (31 percent) and to rely on less preferred food items (25 percent).

The situation has been relatively stable among resident communities, with 16 percent of households facing food shortages. This situation remains similar to that reported in February 2010, but higher compared to February 2011 (three percent). Similar to other community groups, the most commonly used coping strategies were to borrow food or cash to purchase food (nine percent), while eight percent relied on less preferred or less expensive food items.
3. **Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)**

The Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) was applied on 689 children (between 6 and 59 months) in 22 visited locations in West Darfur state.

Findings indicated that the situation of children in resident and mixed communities remain similar to that reported in February 2011. Around six percent of children in resident communities are moderately malnourished, while two percent are severely malnourished, while seven percent of children in mixed communities are moderately malnourished and one percent are severely malnourished.

The situation has improved for IDP children with a five percent reduction in moderately malnourished children compared to February 2011. Meanwhile, there has been a three percent increase in severely malnourished children among refugee community, and an eight percent decrease in the percentage of moderately malnourished children.

4. **Child Health and Dietary Diversity**

A large percentage of children do not receive food from four or more food groups. Results indicate that about 70 percent of IDP children and children in mixed communities receive food from less than three food groups. This shows a slight improvement compared to February 2010. However, the situation for children in refugee and resident community households is reportedly better, where approximately 50 percent of the children receive food from four or more food groups.

5. **Food Assistance**

Food assistance is provided basis to IDPs, refugees and mixed communities. Resident communities receive annual seasonal support which is usually from May/June to October every year.

The proportion of households who reported selling food assistance has decreased among IDPs from about 15 percent in February 2010 and 2011, to seven percent. Refugee households who sell food assistance remained similar to those reported February 2011 at 6 percent. The reasons for selling food assistance include: purchasing other food items (three percent); repaying loans (two percent); and covering expenses for medical/health services and milling cost (one percent).
6. **Who are the food insecure?**

**Food security by gender of head of household**

Approximately 31 percent of IDP male headed households are food insecure compared to 22 percent of female headed households. However, 43 percent of female headed households are vulnerable to food insecurity compared to 36 percent of male headed households.

In mixed communities, 24 percent of female headed households are food insecure compared to 11 percent of male headed households. Furthermore, approximately one-third of all households are vulnerable to food insecurity.

In refugee communities, 40 percent of female headed households are food insecure compared to 14 percent of male headed households.

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**DEMOGRAPHICS**

- All the 22 primary sites visited;
- 30 percent of the households assessed are female headed;
  - Average household size is 6 persons;
- 42 percent of the households are residents; 31 percent IDPs living in camps; 14 percent IDPs outside camps; 12 percent refugees and 1 percent returnees.