Executive Summary

- Data was collected in May and June 2012, which is the start of the lean season in Darfur.
- The overall food security situation has improved with a higher percentage of food secure households for all community groups compared to May 2011. Nevertheless, the percentage of food insecure households among IDPs has increased. When comparing results of rounds carried out in May 2012 and February 2012, findings indicate a deterioration in the food security situation for IDPs and mixed communities, however, it shows a slight improvement in the status of resident communities.
- In May 2012, the food consumption for IDPs has deteriorated compared to May 2011. For resident and mixed communities, a higher percentage of households has an acceptable food consumption compared to May 2011. Compared to February 2012, the proportion of households with an acceptable food consumption has decreased across all community groups.
- The price of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) has increased in May 2012 to 2.85 SDG/person/day compared to 2.39 SDG/person/day in February 2012. The highest price increases were on cereals, sugar and cooking oil.
- The substantial increase in the cost of the MHFB has negatively affected the households purchasing power, with all community groups witnessing a considerable drop in their purchasing power. Some 53 percent of camp IDPs, 59 percent of mixed and 74 percent of resident communities were unable to afford the cost of one MHFB.
- IDPs are heavily reliant on waged labor as their most important income source, securing about 34 percent of household income followed by small businesses (33 percent) and sale of crops (15 percent). The main income sources of mixed and resident communities were sales of crops (41 percent) and waged labor (33 percent), respectively. Similar to previous rounds, IDP households have access to less diverse income opportunities compared to households of the mixed and resident communities.
- Overall, in May 2012 some 60 percent of households’ total monthly expenditure was spent on food. The most important food items are cereals (17 percent), sugar (10 percent), meat (9 percent) and oil and dry vegetables (8 percent).
- In May 2012, 66 percent of the IDP children consumed less than four food items. The situation for children in mixed and resident communities have improved, and 56 percent of children in mixed communities and 53 percent of children in resident communities are now receiving four or more food groups.
- According to the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurements in May 2012, approximately 12 percent of the children in the IDP camps were severely or moderately malnourished compared to six percent reported in February 2012.
1. FOOD SECURITY

In May 2012, the proportion of food insecure households among IDPs in camps has increased to 10 percent compared to four percent reported in May 2011 and February 2012.

The percentage of food insecure households among resident communities has decreased while it has remained stable for mixed communities compared to May 2011.

Simultaneously, there has been a reduction in the percentage of vulnerable households across all community groups, resulting in an overall improvement in the food security situation.

For resident communities, data was not collected in May 2010 due to lack of access.

A. Market situation

In May 2012, sorghum prices in Nyala market have continued to increase compared to February 2012. Cereal prices have been affected by low supply and high demand triggered by last years’ below average harvest, as well as the limited access between the main supplying markets. The volatile security situation on the main supply routes from Khartoum to Nyala has also negatively impacted market prices.

The Strategic Reserve Corporation (SRC) has injected quantities of millet and sorghum in an effort to stabilize market prices, however the impact of this action was limited as the demand was much higher compared to the supply. Sorghum and millet prices are expected to further increase during the next few months due to the increasing demand during the month of Ramadan combined with low quantities remaining from households’ own production.

The terms of trade (ToT) between one medium size goat and a bag of sorghum in Nyala market has increased in May 2012 (0.98) compared to May 2011 (0.8). However, the ToT is still below the five-year average (1.1). This indicates that livestock owners are in a better position compared to cereal producers in relation to exchange of goods. However, livestock prices have started to decrease during the month of May. This is considered as a typical seasonal trend during the rainy season, when livestock owners are expected to increase supply to local markets.
**B. Income Sources**

The most significant income generating source for IDPs in May 2012 is wage labour (34 percent) followed by small businesses (33 percent) and firewood/charcoal collection (10 percent). The reliance on the various income sources have remained similar across the rounds.

Mixed communities have access to more diversified income opportunities compared to camp IDPs, with sale of crops still the most important income source for 41 percent of these communities—similar to February 2012 and a drop from May 2011.

The second most important income source is waged labor (17 percent) followed by small businesses (15 percent) and donations (10 percent). Donations represented a larger percentage compared to in 2010 and 2011.

Resident communities also have access to more diverse income sources. The main income source in May 2012 is wage labour (33 percent) followed by small businesses and sales of crops (both 21 percent) and donations (10 percent).

The reliance on wage labour has increased from May 2011, while the reliance on firewood/charcoal collection has dropped from 17 to five percent.

The increase in the reliance on wage labour is due to increased agricultural wage labour opportunities at the beginning of the agricultural season.
C. Expenditure and Purchasing Power

Among the overall sampled households, an average of 60 percent of the households’ monthly expenditure is spent on food items. This is similar to results obtained in February 2012 (59 percent). The most important food items are: cereals (17 percent); sugar (10 percent); meat (nine percent); oil and dry vegetables (both eight percent). The main household expenditure on non-food items in May 2012 is on health care (six percent), followed by agricultural inputs (five percent) and milling and social events (both four percent).

Purchasing Power:

In May 2012, the cost of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) is 2.85 SDG/capita/day, representing a large increase compared to 1.78 SDG/capita/day reported in May 2011 and 1.51 SDG/capita/day in May 2010. This upward trend persists as a typical pattern across all FSMS rounds and is attributed to the frequent price increase of certain food items included in the food basket. Furthermore, the price increase on food items during this period has also been impacted by the increase in the cost of transport and fuel as well as difficulties in accessing main supply routes.

The proportion of households who are unable to afford the cost of one MHFB within camp IDPs has decreased compared to May 2011 and 2010, however, it has shown an increase compared to February 2012. In May 2012, 53 percent of IDP households cannot afford the cost of one MHFP, while 10 percent can afford prices of more than two baskets.

Compared to February 2012, the purchasing power of the mixed and resident communities has deteriorated. This is due to the soaring food prices; especially on cereals, sugar and oil. In comparison to the same period last year, the situation of mixed communities has remained relatively stable with similar percentage of households able to afford more than two baskets, however, a higher percentage of households remain unable to afford one MHFB. For resident communities, the situation has deteriorated compared to May 2011. Lack of access has not enabled data collection in May 2010 for resident communities.
D. Food Consumption

The proportion of IDP households with an acceptable food consumption has decreased to 82 percent in May 2012 from 93 percent in May 2011, and 88 percent in February 2012. The highest increase has been reported in the borderline food consumption category, but also a higher percentage of IDP households are now having a poor food consumption.

In May 2012, the food consumption situation has improved within mixed communities compared to May 2011 and 2010. However, mixed communities have the lowest percentage of households with an acceptable food consumption compared to the two other community groups (77 percent). Some 89 percent of the resident communities households have an acceptable food consumption.

2. Agriculture

In May, the population in South Darfur—with access to land—started to prepare it for cultivation, especially in the rural areas and around towns. The rainy season started early this year in the southern and south western parts of the state. During May 2012, the average rainfall in the state was 47.3 mm, which is considered favorable for crop planting. Consequently, farmers have now started land preparation for cultivation of cereals and groundnut. The state ministry of agriculture has planned to distribute improved seeds to farmers in various localities to increase production and has also deployed extension officers to provide services and technical packages to farmers. According to the state ministry of agriculture, the cultivated area will increase this season, however, no specific figure has been confirmed yet.

3. Households’ responses to food shortages (coping)

In May 2012, the proportion of IDP households who have encountered food shortage and adopted a coping mechanisms has decreased to 42 percent compared to May 2011 (54 percent) and February 2012 (52 percent). Meanwhile, the proportion of households adopting a coping mechanism among mixed and resident communities has increased compared to May 2011. In May 2012, 63 percent of mixed communities and 36 percent of resident households reported to have faced food shortages during the previous seven days.
The status of resident communities remains the best compared to the other community groups. The most commonly used coping strategies in South Darfur are: borrowed food (27 percent); reliance on less preferred or less expensive food (23 percent); reduced number of meals per day (23 percent); and limiting portion sizes at meal times (19 percent).

For resident communities, lack of access has not allowed data collection in May 2010.

4. Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)

Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) was applied on 722 children. Findings showed an overall satisfactory situation among surveyed community groups in South Darfur state in May 2012.

However, there has been a deterioration in the situation of IDP children in May 2012 compared to May 2011 and February 2012, as the percentage of severely malnourished children has increased from zero to three percent during this round. Furthermore, nine percent of the IDP children are found to be moderately malnourished.

The percentage of moderately malnourished children in mixed communities has increased from four percent as reported in May 2011 to nine percent in May 2012. There are no severely malnourished children reported in May 2012.

The proportion of severely malnourished children in resident communities has decreased from five percent in May 2011 to one percent in May 2012. Four percent of the children are reportedly moderately malnourished.
5. Child Health and Dietary Diversity

Analysis of the dietary diversity for children between 6-23 months of age indicates that the situation has remained relatively stable for IDP children compared to May 2011. In May 2012, 66 percent of the IDP children consuming food from less than four food groups, resulting in receiving inadequate nutrients required for normal growth.

There has been, however, an improvement in the overall situation of children in mixed and resident communities in May 2012 compared to May 2011. In mixed communities, 56 percent of children consumed four or more food groups compared to 34 percent reported in May 2011. Some 53 percent of children in resident communities received food from four food groups or more compared to 28 percent in May 2011. The general improvement within the resident and mixed communities could partially be attributed to the households improved food consumption and better child feeding practices.

6. Food Assistance

This section reports information on receipt and utilization of food assistance within a recall period of three months. All IDPs in camps receive food assistance through regular food distributions on a monthly basis at a standard ration of 310 gram/per person/per day.

In May 2012, the proportion of camp IDP households receiving food assistance is 86 percent compared to 92 percent in May 2011 and 95 percent in February 2012. Only 16 percent of IDP households report to have been selling food assistance. Almost 100 percent of mixed and resident household communities have not received any type of food assistance due to halting of seasonal support for resident and mixed communities in areas with improved food security.

7. Who Are the Food Insecure?

Gender of household head has an effect on the overall food security situation; 60 percent of male headed households are food secure compared to 44 percent of female headed households.

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**DEMOGRAPHICS**

- 20 primary sites visited
- 28 percent of the households assessed are female headed;
  - Average household size is 7 people;
- 54 percent of the households are IDPs living in camps;
  - 29 percent are residents;
- 9 percent are IDPs outside camps;
  - 8 percent are returnees.