



## Executive Summary

- Data collection for Round 17 of the Food Security Monitoring System was carried out in May 2014, which marks the onset of the lean season in South Darfur state. Twenty-two sentinel sites were covered.
- Food consumption was worse for IDP communities compared to Mixed and Resident communities (68, 78, and 100 percent have acceptable food consumption, respectively). Food consumption deteriorated moderately for Mixed communities and remained largely unchanged for IDP and Resident communities.
- Sorghum price average in Nyala market had increased significantly compared to the same period last year and remained extremely high, also compared to the five years average due to poor harvest last year and general inflation at the macro level.
- The cost of the minimum food basket (MFB) in May 2014 was 4.91 SDG (per person, per day), an increase compared to May 2013 when it was 4.15 SDG. The increase was a result of rising prices of many important food items, particularly sorghum, groundnut oil, dry tomatoes, milk and sugar.
- Purchasing power was very weak, partly due to high food prices, with 44-69 percent of households not being able to afford even one MFB. The purchasing power has deteriorated moderately for Mixed communities and Resident communities and remained unchanged for IDP communities.
- The main income sources for IDPs were wage labor, business, transfers, livestock and salaried work. Wage labor, business, crops, firewood/charcoal, salaried work and transfers continued to be among the major sources of income for mixed communities. For resident communities the main income sources were wage labor and small business followed by livestock, transfers and salaried work. Households in Mixed communities had access to more diverse income opportunities compared to households in IDP and Resident communities.
- Only 4 percent of children in IDP communities had low or very low mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) (a proxy measurement of global acute malnutrition). The rates were lower still for Resident and Mixed communities, indicating an generally acceptable malnutrition situation.

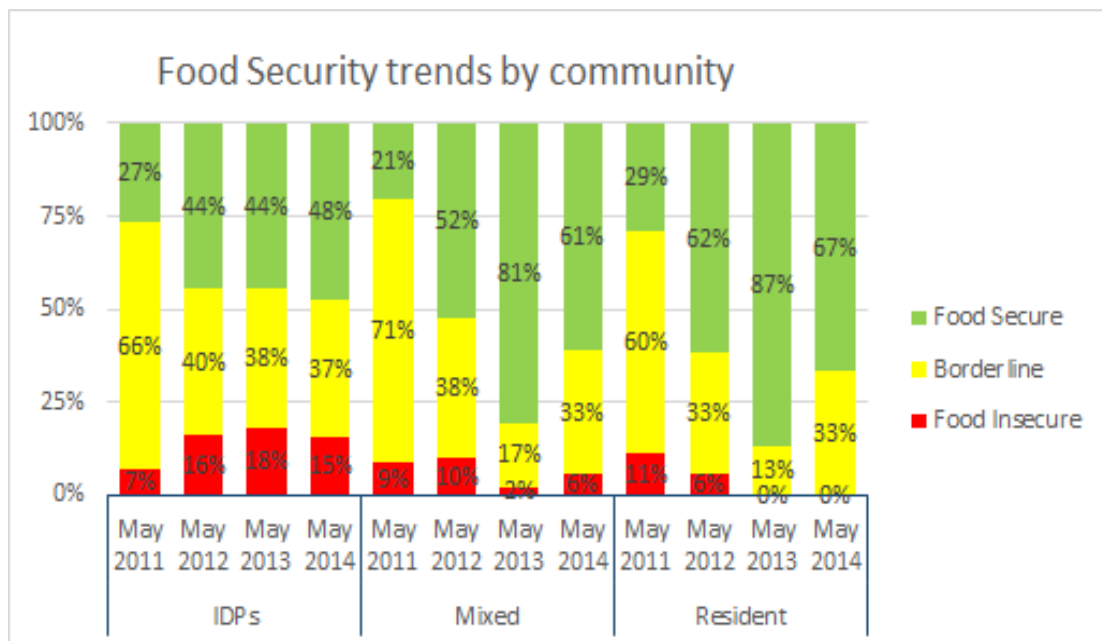
## Sample characteristics

- 22 primary sentinel sites were visited. A total of 480 households were interviewed.
- 23 percent were female headed households. Average household size was 6 persons.
- 38 percent of the surveyed households were IDPs living in camps. 16 percent were IDPs living outside camps. 38 percent were residents. 7 percent were returnees.

## I. FOOD SECURITY

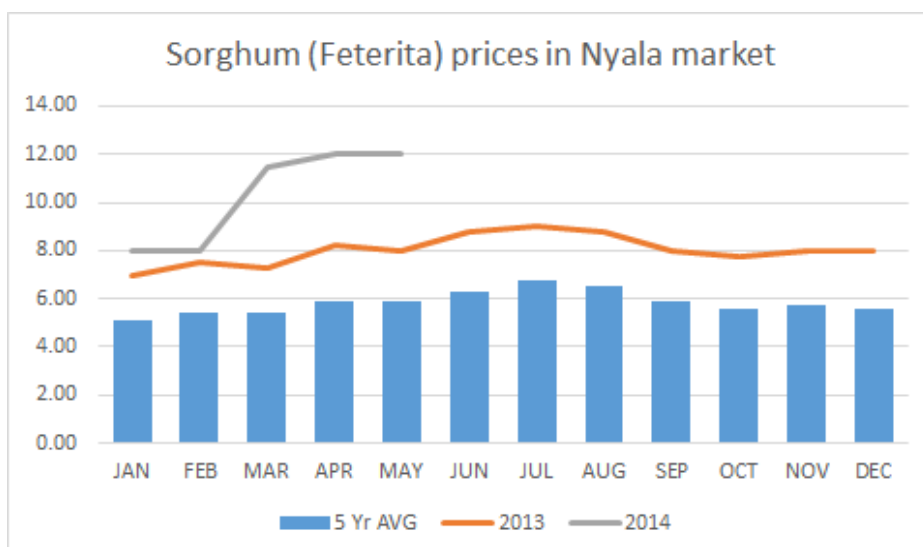
The food security situation for mixed and resident communities deteriorated substantially compared to the same time last year, to reach levels comparable to May 2012. The growth of the proportion of households classified as borderline was attributed to the a poor harvest in the last agricultural season and an increase in the cost of the minimum food basket, resulting in weaker purchasing power and more households reporting difficulties meeting their basic food requirements. A majority of households in Mixed and Resident communities were found to be food secure.

The food security situation for IDPs remained unchanged compared to same time last year, while greatly improved compared to May 2011. Still, the food security situation for surveyed households in IDP communities were found to be worse than surveyed households in Mixed and Resident communities. It is possible that regular food assistance in the camps limited the negative impact of high food prices on food security.



### A. Market Situation

Sorghum prices in Nyala market had increased substantially in May 2014 compared to the same time last year and were far above the five-year average. Cereal prices typically follow a moderate upward trend at this time of the year, as food stocks shrink and the lean season sets in. However, the unprecedented increase in cereal prices this year – the price of some food have doubled in some markets – could be attributed to the poor harvest and general inflation. The massive displacement of conflict-affected population during 2013 and the first quarter of 2014 resulted in very limited areas being cultivated.

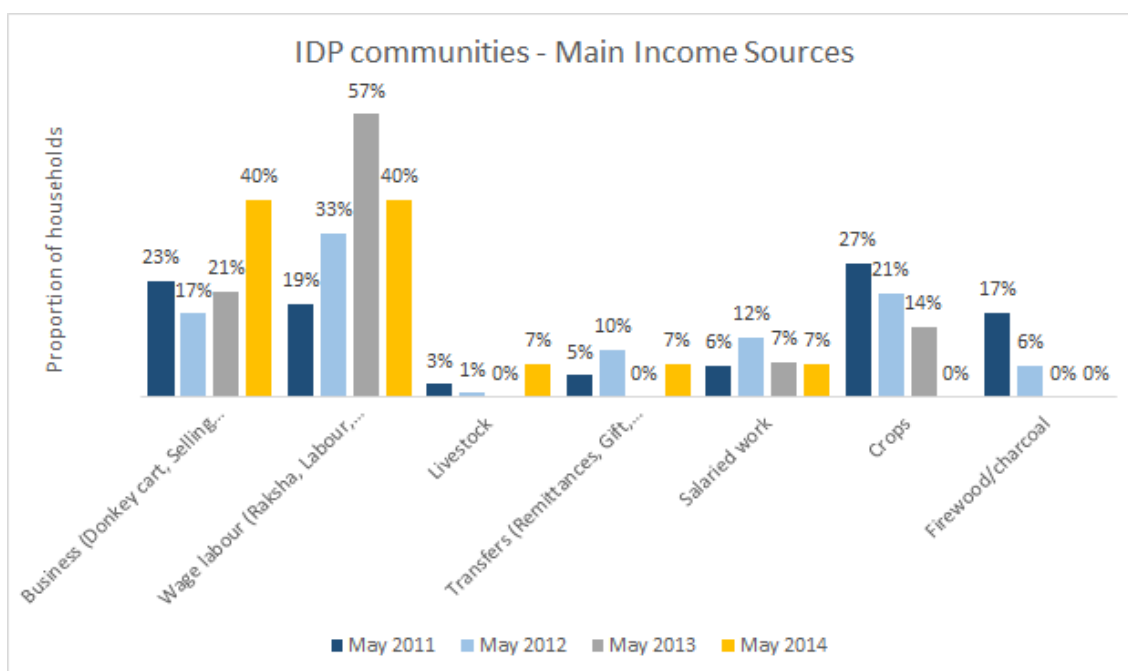


Sorghum prices were expected to continue to increase during the lean period, due to the increase in demand against limited supplies, as well as the likely depletion of households' own production stocks. The intra-state cereal trading between South Darfur and its neighboring states had also been negatively affected by severe tribal conflict in major production areas in North Darfur (including Saraf Omra) and Central Darfur (including Umdokhon). Cereal supplies from these areas used to stabilize cereal prices, however, supplies were reduced to a minimum at the time of data collection. The Agricultural Bank of Sudan (ABS) planned to inject 9,000 MT of cereal from its Strategic Reserve to the local markets in the state, in an effort to decrease prices. This quantity may have been insufficient to have a decisive impact on the price level.

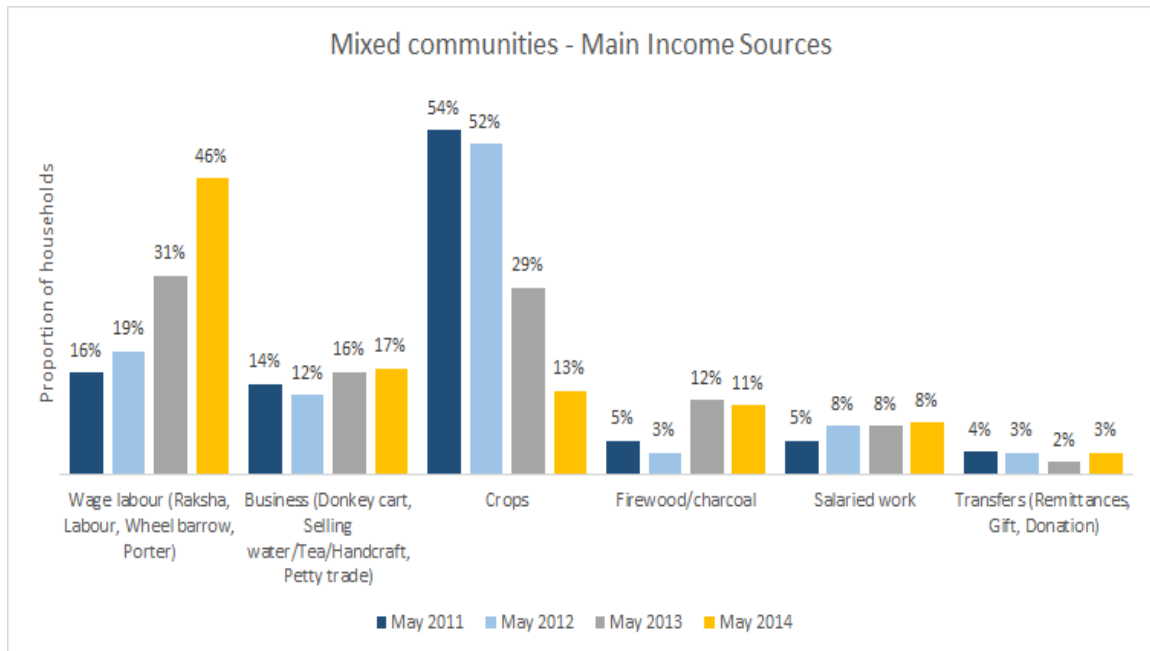
Insecurity in the state had also played a significant role in blocking access routes for the cereals imported from other states of Sudan, such as Gedarif and Khartoum. Increased transportation costs and illegal road taxations have also constrained the supply chain. Local markets in South Darfur state were well connected to other markets in Sudan and national price increases were transmitted to the state level. As such, currency devaluation and the lifting of fuel subsidies had sizable impacts on local markets, including Nyala, Kass and Rehaid Elbardy.

## B. Income Sources

The major income generating activities for IDPs in May 2014 were wage labor and small business (each representing 40 percent of household income), which had been the most important sources also in the previous two years. Other important income sources were salaried work and livestock. The reliance on small business had increased from May 2013 while the reliance on wage labor had dropped from 57 percent to 40 percent. The impact of the poor agricultural season was seen in the proportion of income coming from sale of crops, which decreased from 14 to 0 percent from 2013 to 2014.

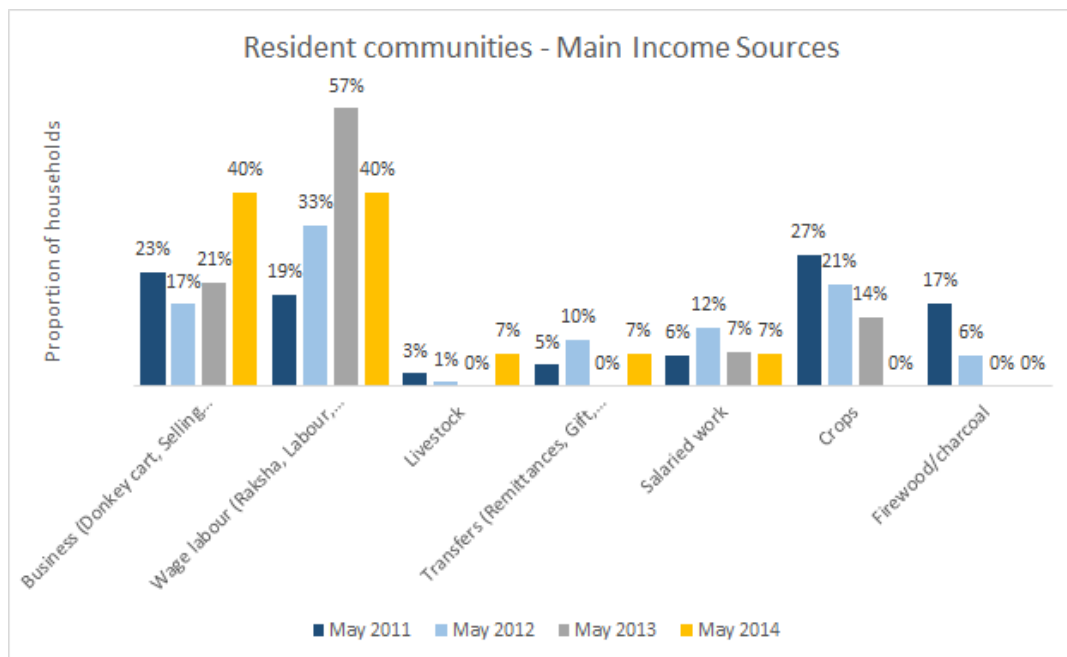


The most important income source for mixed communities in May 2014 was wage labor followed by small business, crops, firewood/charcoal, salaried work and transfers. Income sources for mixed communities were more diversified than the other community group. Compared to the same time last year, the proportion of income from sale of crops was reduced to less than half, while wage labor increased its relative importance.



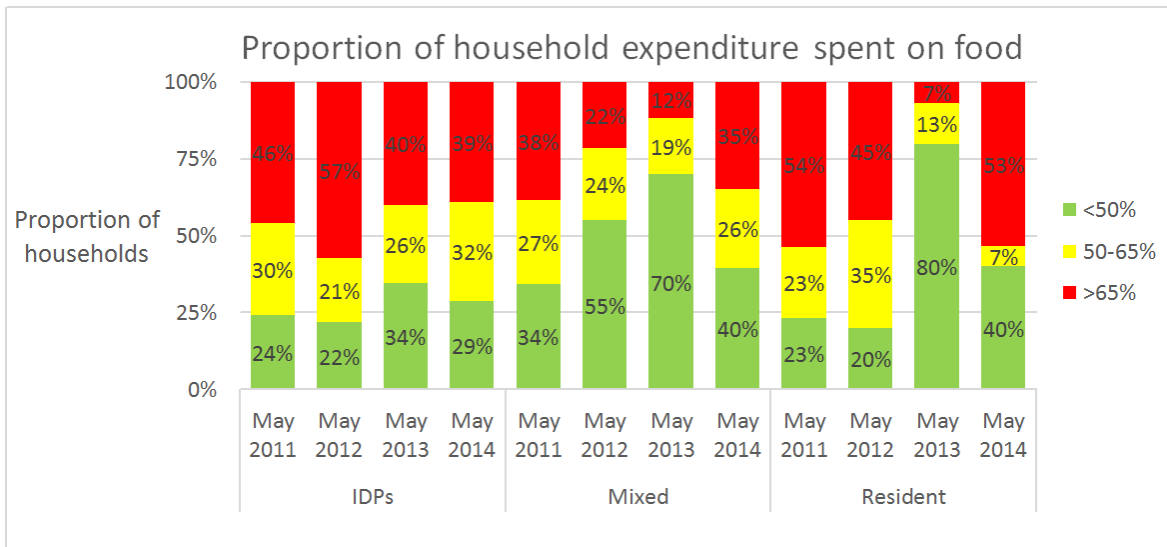
Among resident communities, wage labor and small business were the most important sources of income in May 2014. Other important income sources were livestock, transfers and salaried work. The relative importance of the sale of crops have decreased compared to last year. The results showed that the resident communities have less diversified income sources compared to the other community types.

Wage labor and small business remained the most important income sources for all community groups

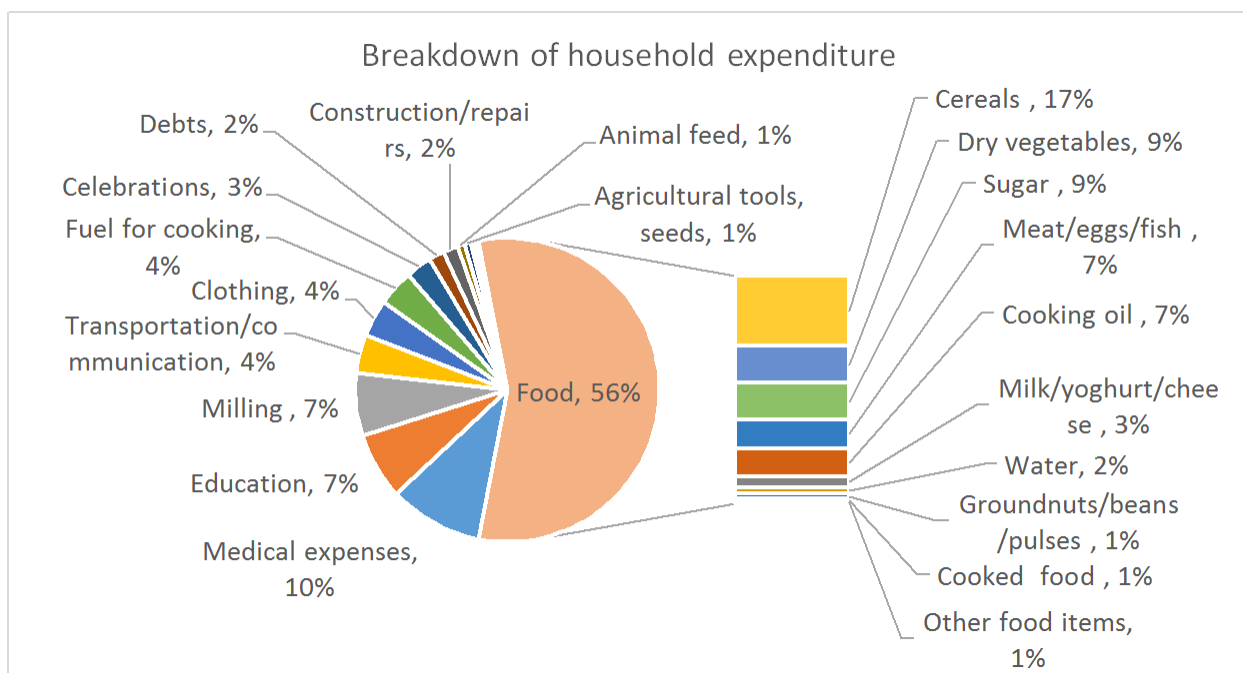


## C. Expenditure and Purchasing Power

Food accounted for 56 percent of the average household's monthly expenditure, which constituted an increase compared to the previous year, indicating increased economic stress (as a higher proportion of total expenditure that is spent on food may result in difficulties for the household to satisfy essential non-food needs and to withstand price increases). The proportion of households in mixed and resident communities for whom food accounted for more than 65 percent of total expenditure (an indication of elevated economic stress) had increased compared to May 2013 and 2012. The while proportion of IDP households who spent more than 65 percent of their income on food has decreased compared to same time in the last three years. This might be explained by the increased reliance of the IDPs on regular food assistance (food vouchers in the case of Otash) rather than market purchase.

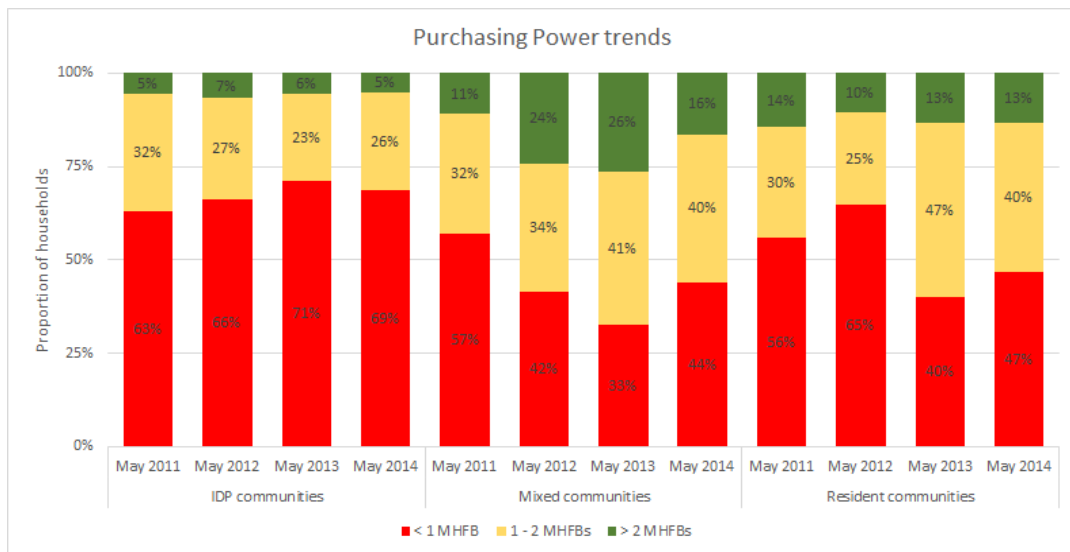


The main food items purchased were cereals (accounting for 17 percent of total household expenditure); dry vegetable and sugar (both nine percent); meat and cooking oil (both seven percent); and milk (three percent). Main non-food items expenditure in May 2014 were for health care (10 percent), followed by education and milling (both seven percent), while transportation, clothing and fuel for cooking have reportedly the same rate of spending (four percent each).



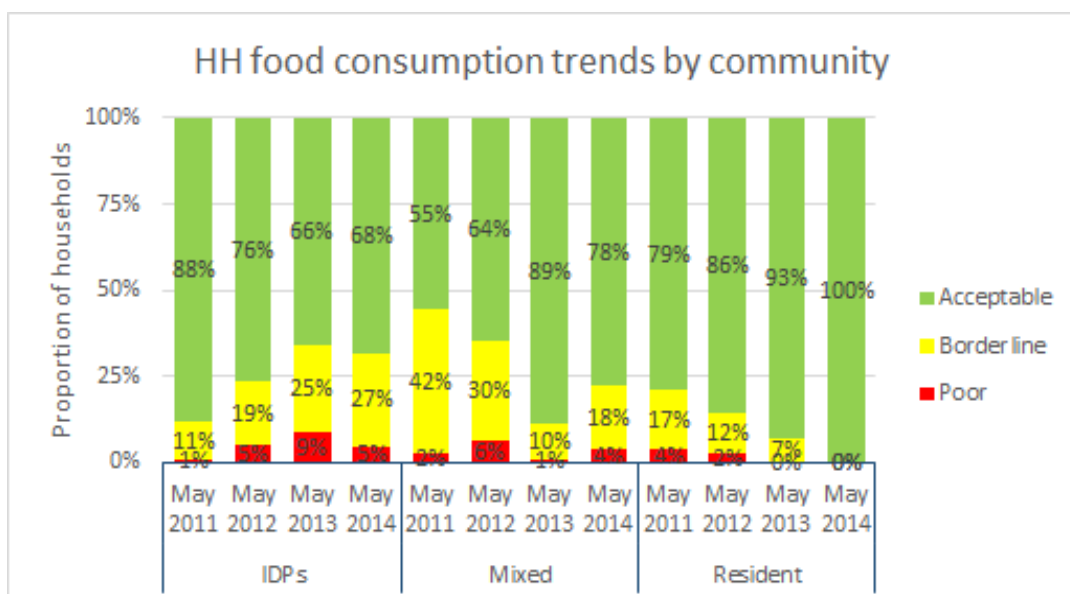
## Purchasing power

Purchasing power was very weak, partly due to high food prices. The proportion of IDPs, resident and mixed communities households who cannot afford the cost of one MFB were 69, 47 and 44 percent, respectively. For IDPs, weak purchasing power was also partly due to limited income opportunities. Households in Mixed communities had slightly better purchasing power, followed by residents. However, the ability of households across community groups to satisfy food needs through market purchase was very limited. The cost of the minimum food basket (MFB) was estimated at (4.91 SDG per person, per day) in May 2014, which was considerably higher than the one recorded in May 2013 (4.42 SDG). The high cost of the MFB was mainly due to high prices of major food basket items such as cereals, dry vegetables, oil, milk and sugar. The rising price of the MFB had adversely affected purchasing power of households across community types in South Darfur.



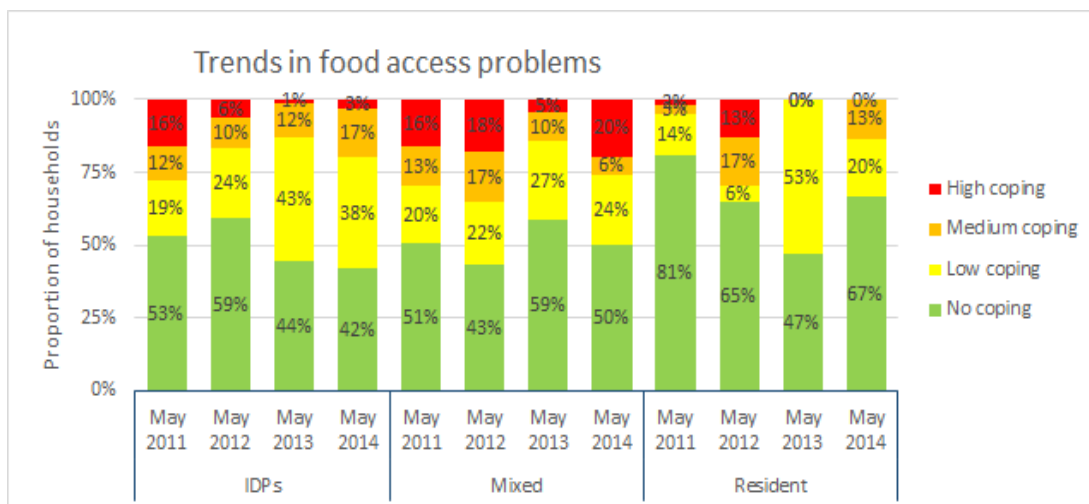
## D. Food Consumption

Large proportions of households in Mixed and Resident communities were found to have acceptable food consumption (78 and 100 percent, respectively). Food intake among households in IDP communities were slightly worse and 68 percent of households in this group had acceptable consumption. Results were largely unchanged compared to the same time last year, except for households in Mixed communities, where food consumption had worsened slightly. Food consumption of IDPs was believed to have been positively impacted by the improved ability of households to choose among foods, afforded by food assistance in the form of vouchers.



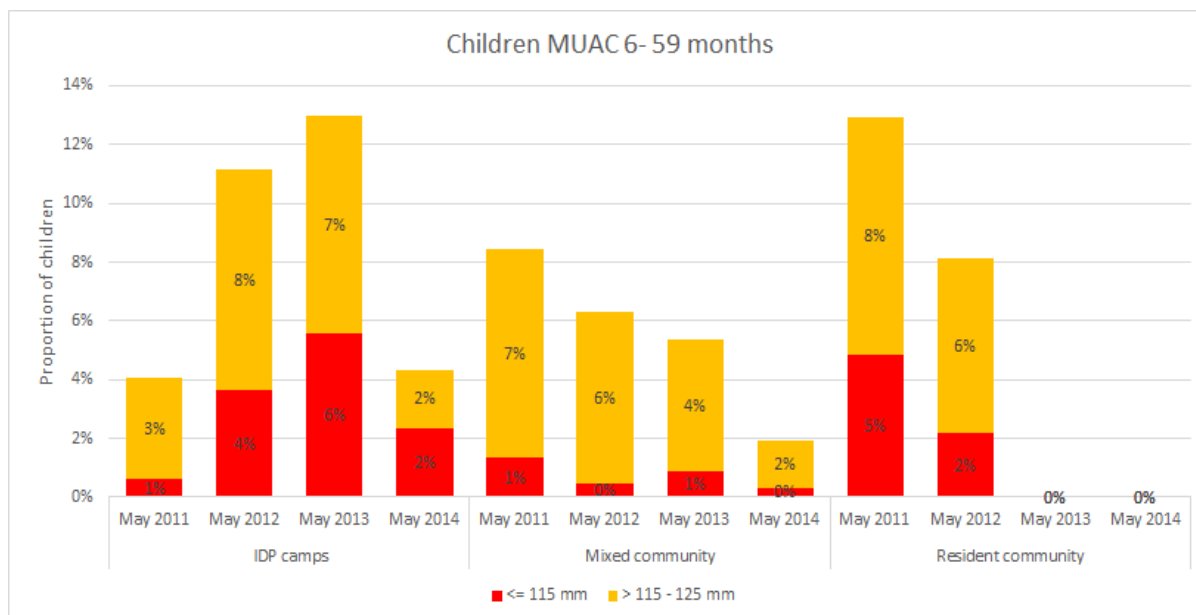
## 2. Perceived food access problems

Households were asked if there were times in the one week prior to data collection when they did not have enough food (or money to buy food). If they experienced such situations, they were asked what strategies they employed to cope with the shortage. In May 2014, the proportion of households in IDP and Mixed communities that report food shortages was larger compared to Residents. Households in Mixed communities used the most severe coping mechanism - possibly due to a combination of comparatively low purchasing power, and insecurity, which limited their physical access - although the deterioration from the same time last year, for both IDP and Mixed communities, was not alarming. Residents improved considerably over the same period. Generally, the most common coping strategies practiced in South Darfur included reliance on less preferred or less expensive food items; consumption of borrowed food; borrowing of cash to purchase food items; and reliance on help from friends or relatives.



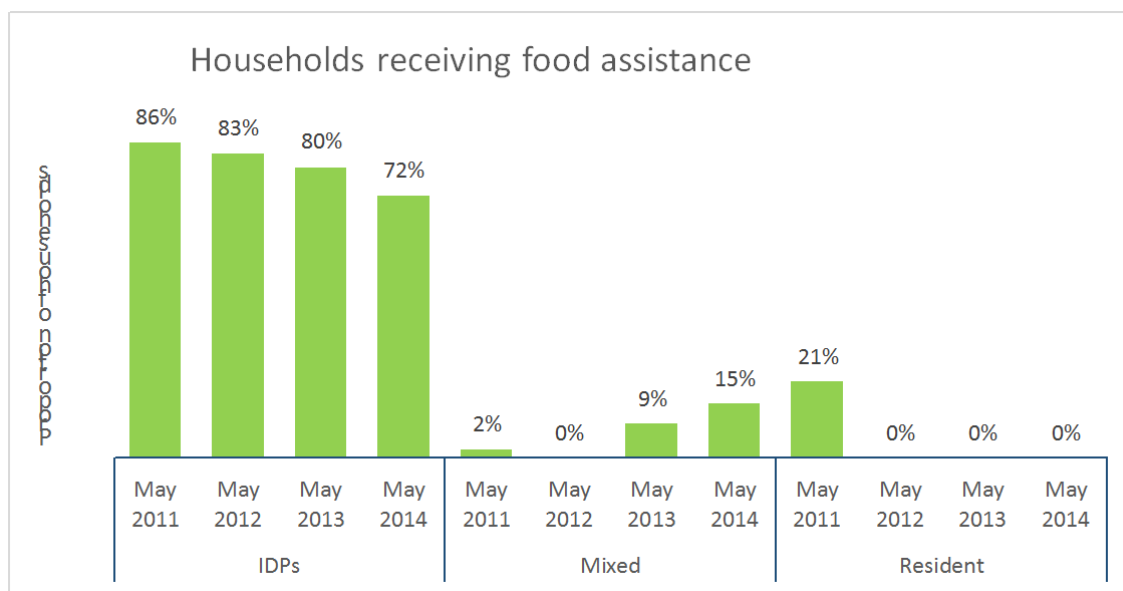
## 3. Child nutrition

The mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) of all children aged 6-59 months in surveyed households was measured and classified as very low (below 115mm, a proxy for severe acute malnutrition), moderately low (between 115 and 125mm, a proxy indicator for moderate acute malnutrition), and normal. Children in IDP households had the highest rates of very low and moderately low MUAC (4 percent combined), possibly due to poorer food consumption (as seen above) and other issues not related to food intake, such as water and sanitation and general poor hygiene conditions combined with poor nutritional education among IDPs. However, the MUAC measurements were still considered acceptable and much better compared to the same time last year (13 percent). MUAC readings were better still for Mixed and Resident communities.



## 4. Food Assistance

The percentage of households in IDP camps that received food assistance was 72 percent. The gradual reduction of the proportion of IDP households who receive food assistance, from 86 percent in 2011 to 72 percent in 2014 could in part be a result of the beneficiary verification processes, aimed at targeting limited resources more efficiently. The food assistance coverage in Mixed and Resident communities was low during the time of data collection as WFP's programs of season support during the lean season did not start until May. Many of the households in Mixed communities that received food assistance was newly displaced persons, who received emergency relief rations while they settle outside camps among host communities.



In response to unfavorable market conditions (as discussed above), WFP revised its plans to expand food assistance through voucher into urban IDP camps during the second half of the year. WFP will continue to monitor market conditions in anticipation of more favorable conditions.

## 5. Who were the Food Insecure?

- Gender of the household head: Female headed households tended to be less food secure compared to male headed households: 16 percent of female headed households were severely food insecure compared to 8 percent of male headed households.
- Residential status: Households in IDP communities tended to be more food insecure compared to mixed and resident communities.
- Educational level of the household head: Educational level of the household head was positively correlated with food security.
- Analysis of the food security situation by working status of the household head shows that employment households where adults were working tended to be more food secure.
- Income sources: Households with non-agricultural labor, as main income sources tended to have lower purchasing power than those who relied on other sources of income, and hence they were more food insecure than those who relied on crop sales, small business and salaried work.
- Households having members with special needs tended to be slightly less food secure compared to households without special needs members.



