

<p>South Sudan Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring A collaborative activity of FSTS, RRC, MARF, MoH, MOEST, FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, WVI, SSRCS, NPA, GAA,VSF, NBS, Nile Hope, World Concern, Plan International, SCC, JAM, LDA, UCDC, CDOT, CDTY & NCDA</p>	<p>Round 14, Nov/Dec 2014</p>
--	--------------------------------------

Highlights

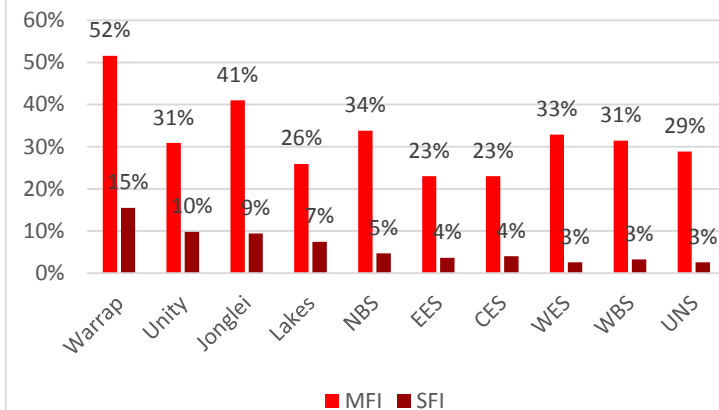
- Food security in the non-conflict-affected states, with the exception of Warrap, continued to show improvement especially after the harvest period, though still worse than the same period in 2013. Normal rainfall, good crop planting performance, and the November harvest contributed positively to the seasonal availability of crops, livestock products and fish.
- The Greater Upper Nile states of Unity and Jonglei had higher levels of severely food insecure households of 10% and 9% respectively. The IDPs and returnees especially in the Greater Upper Nile region did little cultivation which affected overall cereal production. Conflict continued to uproot and displace households, preventing many from planting and forcing them to sell off assets and livestock for food. These populations will continue to depend on asset stripping coping strategies while also relying heavily on kinship support in addition to humanitarian assistance.
- Even though consumption levels had improved from July/August 2014 partly due to increased humanitarian assistance and improved access and intake of green harvest, households in Greater Upper Nile will likely continue to suffer due to their compromised resilience as a result of repeated episodes of shocks.
- Warrap state's Food Consumption and Dietary Diversity scores are worrisome. The state also has the highest proportion of households that are moderately food insecure and severely food insecure at 52% and 15% respectively.
- Results of the November/December 2014 FSNMS indicate that the Food Consumption Scores (FCS) of the population is worse than it was during similar season in 2013, a direct consequence of the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Only 55% of households had acceptable FCS compared to 75% in during same season in 2013. Vulnerability to food insecurity is more prevalent among female headed households (44%) as compared to male headed households (36%). In addition, female headed households (20%) have unreliable and unsustainable incomes as compared to male headed households (12%).
- The nutrition situation remains above the emergency threshold (Global Acute Malnutrition>15%) in the conflict-affected states and the two states with the habitually high GAM burden (Warrap and NBeG). Marked improvements in the nutrition situation were recorded in CES and WBeG. Overall improvement in the nutrition situation is attributed to increased humanitarian assistance and nutrition support services. However, the improvement may not be sustained over the coming months due to insecurity and displacement that have had adverse effects on crop production and other livelihoods especially in Greater Upper Nile.

Food security situation

The food security situation was measured and classified using the Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) methodology. This entails grouping households according to their levels of food security based on household's food consumption indicators and coping capacity (using indicators measuring economic vulnerability and asset depletion). These groups include: severely food insecure (SFI), moderately food insecure (MFI), marginally food secure (MFS) and food secure (FS).

Some 38% of the households are currently estimated as food insecure, of which 32% is moderately food insecure and 6% is severely food insecure, higher than the 30% and 3% moderately and severely food insecure respectively estimated during the same season in 2013.

Figure 1: Food Security status by state



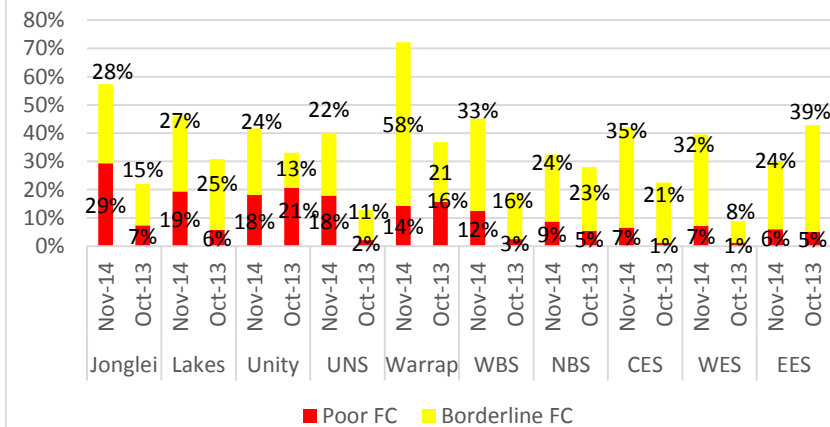
The majority of the food insecure households are located in the Greater Upper Nile States (accounting for nearly half of the food insecure). Warrap state is the only other area severely affected by food insecurity outside Greater Upper Nile with about 15% of its households being severely food insecure and 52% households moderately food insecure. Compared to the October 2013 FSNMS, the severely and moderately food insecure population increased by 3% and 2% respectively. The assessment revealed that the Greater Upper Nile states; Unity and Jonglei had higher levels of severely food insecure households with 10% and 9% respectively.

The relatively high numbers of food insecure households in Greater Upper Nile compared to the non-conflict states is primarily driven by the conflict which has eroded livelihoods and caused massive disruption to market operations. Returnees and IDPs, especially those that were initially displaced and have just returned to their original locations, have significantly higher levels of food insecure households (46% and 44% respectively) as compared to residents who have only 38% food insecure population. Vulnerability to food insecurity is a general problem among female-headed households (44%) while the prevalence of food insecurity among male-headed households was 36% a possible indication of gender-based vulnerabilities.

The relatively high numbers of food insecure households in Greater Upper Nile compared to the non-conflict states is primarily driven by the conflict which has eroded livelihoods and caused massive disruption to market operations. Returnees and IDPs, especially those that were initially displaced and have just returned to their original locations, have significantly higher levels of food insecure households (46% and 44% respectively) as compared to residents who have only 38% food insecure population. Vulnerability to food insecurity is a general problem among female-headed households (44%) while the prevalence of food insecurity among male-headed households was 36% a possible indication of gender-based vulnerabilities.

Food consumption

Figure 2: Food Consumption by state



Food Consumption Scores (FCS) are based on a seven-day recall period that captures the diversity and frequency of food intake. The findings show that some 55% of the assessed households have an acceptable food consumption score while 45% (14% and 31% with poor and borderline food consumption respectively) have a sub-optimal food consumption score (i.e. a dietary intake mainly consisting of cereals and vegetables with limited intake of other food groups and hence inadequate to meet the recommended requirements for a healthy life). Overall, this represents a deterioration from levels reported

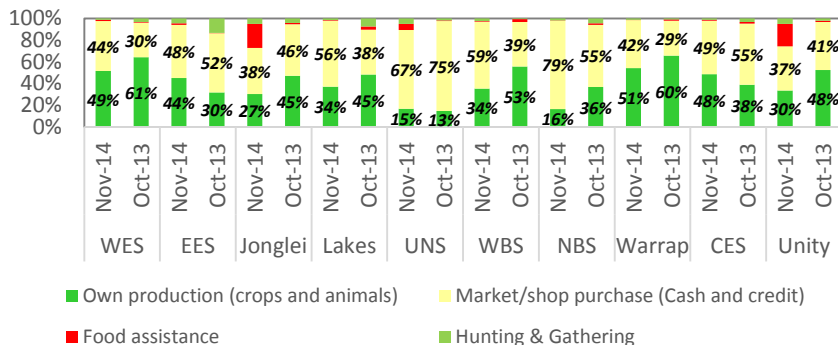
during the same period in 2013 when only 25% indicated inadequate food consumption levels. Warrap has the highest proportions of households with borderline food consumption (58%), a significant increase from the 21% reported in the same period in 2013. In addition, poor household dietary diversity is a problem countrywide but severer in the Greater Upper Nile States: Unity (69%), Upper Nile (60%) and Jonglei (72%) showed low household dietary diversity in addition to Warrap state that recorded the lowest levels of dietary diversity, 91%.

The current intake consists mainly of cereals, vegetables and dairy products. Poor food consumption, a reflection of low dietary diversity, is a major contributor to food insecurity in almost all parts of the country but with heightened acute levels in the Greater Upper Nile states.

The main sources of food reported were markets (54%), own production (35%), hunting and gathering (3%) and food assistance (3%), fairly consistent with previous findings in South Sudan. Considering the huge production deficits in the country, dependence on market sources of food is therefore expected. However, in the Greater Upper Nile states, there

was a decline in the proportion of households that depend on markets compared to the similar period in the previous year, a clear reflection of the massive market disruptions in this area.

Figure 3: Source of Food in both conflict and non-conflict states



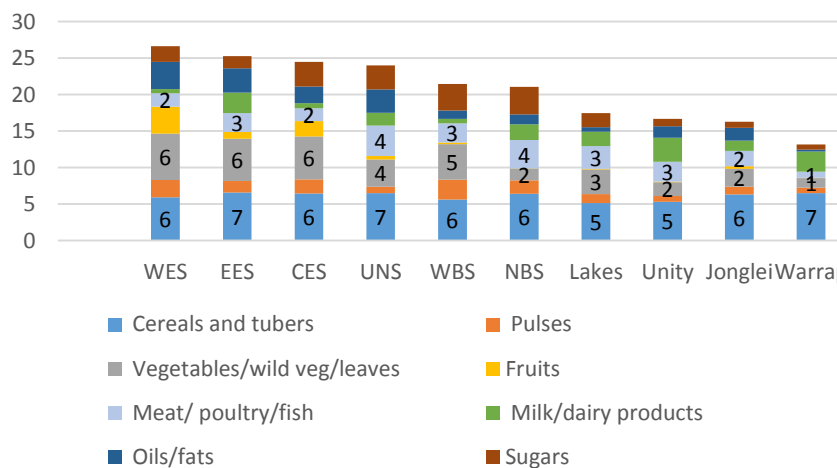
For instance, reliance on market sources for food declined from 46% to 38% in Jonglei, 75% to 67% in Upper Nile and in Unity from 41% to 37%, reflecting the current situation of paralyzed and non-functional markets in most parts of the states as a result of the conflict. Even the dependence on markets reported primarily refers to limited exchanges of cereals with livestock products and other wild foods. At the same time, the Greater Upper Nile States have more households that rely on food assistance (43%) and

hunting and gathering (13%) compared to the non-conflict states where such food sources are insignificant. Warrap (51%), Western Equatoria (49%) and Central Equatoria (48%) mostly dependent on own production (Figure 3). In Warrap, there is dependence on own production, mainly cereals but limited intake of other food groups thus resulting to inadequate consumption levels.

The diet of households is largely composed of cereals/staples and tubers (consumed nearly on daily basis throughout the week) followed by vegetables/fruits (about five times a week) while animal protein sources are only consumed three times a week.

On average, pulses are rarely consumed (two times a week). As shown in Figure 4. The highest number of days different types of food groups are consumed is observed in Greater Equatoria. Warrap has the most infrequent intake of all food groups for cereals and milk, with the latter reflecting pastoral nature of most residents.

Figure 4: Average no. of days food groups are consumed



Agriculture

Overall, the participation in cultivation was good in the non-conflict states but with much reduced cultivation and significantly lower than normal area under cultivation in Greater Upper Nile. The current assessment indicates that approximately 75% of the assessed households had cultivated crops in the 2014 season. Access to land was not a major limiting factor in crop cultivation across all states—with exception of Greater Upper Nile where insecurity restricted access to land for cultivation. In non-conflict states, over 88% of the households had cultivated with the exception of Lakes state (73%), and Western Bahr el Ghazal state (77%). On the other hand, on 36% reported to have cultivated in Upper Nile, similarly low in Jonglei where only 45% had actually planted in the past planting season. Unity state had a relatively better (72%) participation in cultivation compared to the other Greater Upper Nile states although it had the lowest areas under cropping.

Of the households that had cultivated during the season, 40% planted sorghum, 16% and 23% had planted maize and groundnuts respectively while 8% had cultivated sesame. Sorghum was the mostly cultivated crop as reported by 86% in

Eastern Equatoria, 90% in Lakes, 87% in Western Bahr el Ghazal, Unity (80%), Warrap (99%) and all those who planted in in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and less cultivated in Western Equatoria (24%). High proportions of households reported cultivation of maize in Upper Nile state (75%) and Unity state (61%). Groundnuts cultivation was most popular in Western Equatoria and Lakes States with 85% each, followed by Central Equatoria State with 67%.

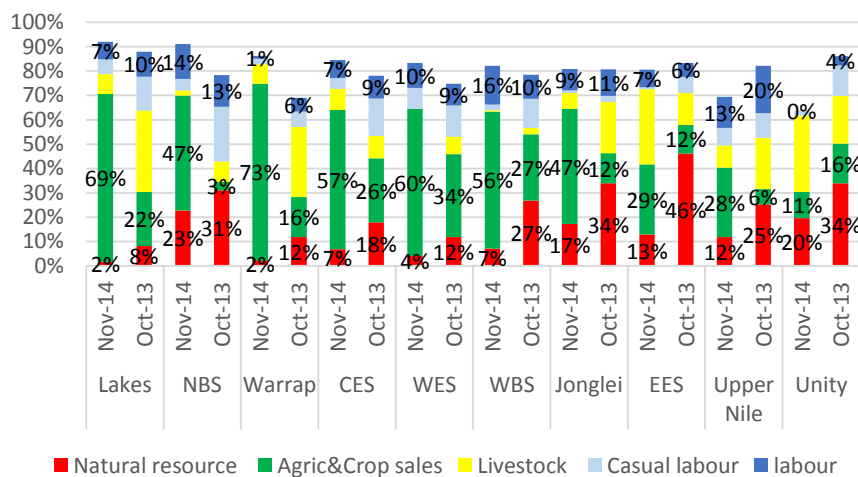
Generally participation in crop production was good in non-conflict states, largely attributable to the normal rainfall patterns in 2014 in all parts of the country except for the isolated occurrences of prolonged dry spells in the Kapoetas, Pochalla, Boma and parts of Awerial, Nyirol and Akobo East. The dry spell led to loss of first season crops in the above mentioned areas. Residents in these locations replanted and their crops depended on the rainfall performance between August and September, which was below normal to normal.

Income Sources

The main income sources for households at this time of the year include agriculture and sale of crops (50%), followed by sale of natural resources (10%), and livestock and livestock sales and labour (9%) each (Figure 5). However, in Unity state the main source of income is livestock and livestock sales (31%) unlike other states where agriculture and crop sales is the main source of income. This is because conflict eroded the stocks available thus households largely depend on sale and exchange of their livestock for survival in addition to humanitarian assistance.

The November 2014 FSNMS was conducted during the harvest period. This explains the increased reliance on agriculture/sale of crops as a livelihood source followed by sale of natural resources and livestock and its products and labour. The result shows a dramatic decline in the sale of natural resources from 24% in October 2013 to the current 10%—with the largest decline reported in Eastern Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Jonglei (33%, 20% and 10% respectively). In general, there is a current drop (4%) in the prevalence of casual labour as a source of income as compared to the same period in 2013 where the use of labour as a source of income for 12%. Western Bahr el Ghazal and Central Equatoria states reported the highest decline (18% and 11% respectively) in reliance on labour as a source of income, an indirect impact on conflict that reduced investment appetite.

Figure 5: Changes in household's income sources



Reliance on livestock has experienced the largest rise in Unity—which also explains the higher consumption of milk in the state during the year. Greater Equatoria, excluding Eastern Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Lakes, report the highest proportion of households that depend on the sale of crops, reflecting the importance of agriculture in these areas but also the two seasons/harvests in the locations. Incidentally, Warrap (73%) had the highest proportion of households that depended on the sale of crops while Eastern Equatoria (29%) had the lowest proportion of

households that depended on the sale of crops. The Warrap observations require further investigations.

The households were also classified based on reliability and sustainability¹ of their income sources. The proportion of households with poor reliability and sustainability of income is 14%, a decline from 26% in October 2013, attributed to the timing of assessment when reliance on crops from green harvest begins (agriculture is regarded as a reliable and sustainable source of income by the majority).

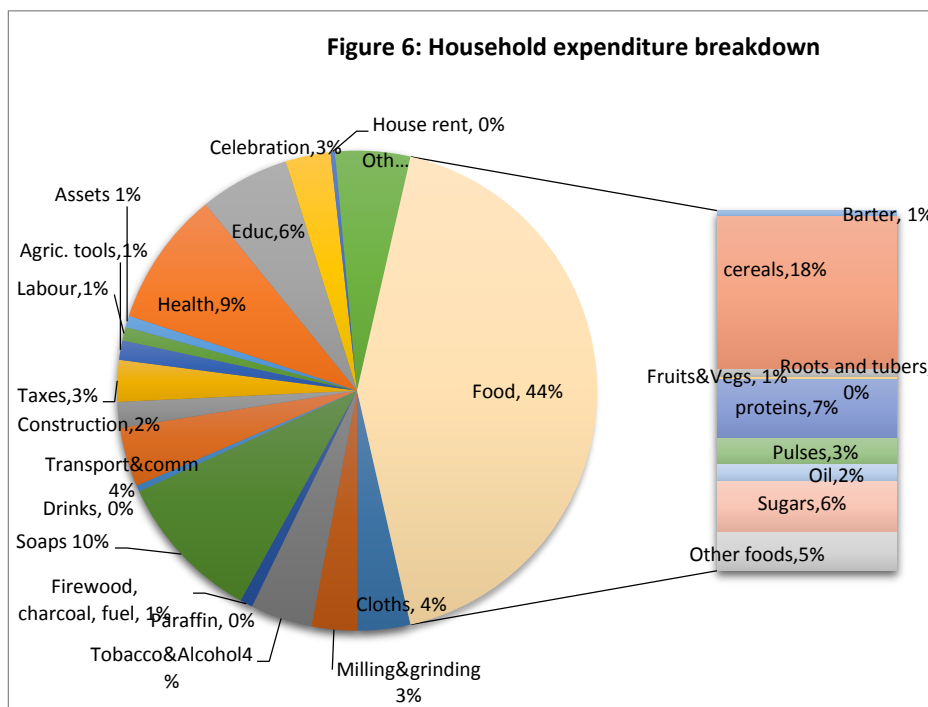
¹ Sale of natural resources such as grass, charcoal and firewood are considered as unreliable/unsustainable and therefore poor while sale of crops, salaried work, livestock and petty trading are considered fairly reliable and sustainable and therefore good. Those income sources that fall in between good and poor have medium reliability.

Unlike last year’s same period (40%), this year does not have households classified under the medium category of the reliability and sustainability of income sources. Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei, three of the states heavily affected by the conflict reported the highest proportions of households with sub-optimal income reliability, at 37%, 29% and 21%, respectively. Northern Bahr el Ghazal was one of the states with 22% of its households reporting unreliable and unsustainable income sources while Lakes (3%), Warrap (5%), and Central Equatoria (7%), Western Equatoria (8%) and Western Bahr el Ghazal (9%) had the least proportions of households with unreliable and unsustainable income sources.

IDPs (39%), refugees (18%) and returnees (16%) depend on income sources that are unreliable and unsustainable compared to local residents (11%). The findings also indicate that households that depend on unreliable and unsustainable income sources are most likely to be food insecure than those with reliable and sustainable income sources.

Expenditure (income proxy) and purchasing power

About 44% of the household’s expenditures are devoted to purchasing food as shown in **Figure 6**. This is significantly lower than in October 2013, primarily because of the assessment timing (after the harvest period) unlike in 2013 when it was the peak of harvest. Similarly, cereals currently account for 18% of household expenditures, lower than the 23% recorded in October 2013.



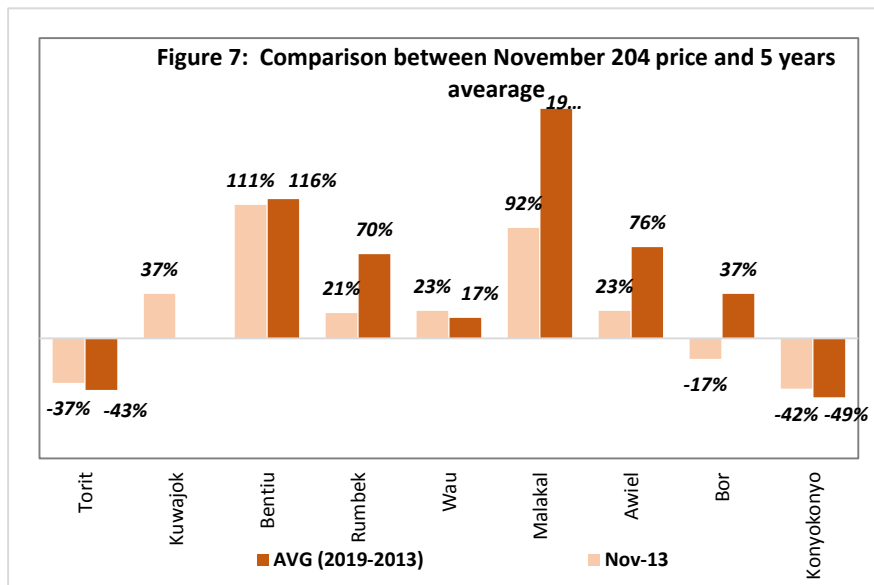
Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile and Unity states have the highest share (62%, 54% and 56% respectively) of expenditure on food. These states have a significant proportion of households reporting high commodity prices as a shock. Warrap, on the other hand, has the lowest expenditures on food (28%) reflected on their higher dependence on own production.

Residents in Lakes have the lowest expenditure on cereals with an expenditure of 1% while households in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria have larger share on cereals. The share on pulses on total household expenditures was 5% in Western Equatoria, the highest compared to other states.

Market

Sorghum is the main staple food of South Sudan. The local production of staples in South Sudan is not sufficient to meet the overall demand and as a result supplies of staple grains come from neighbouring countries, mainly Uganda and Sudan. The market behaviors in conflict affected areas (Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei) remain unpredictable due to the prevailing

insecurity situation currently compounded by scarcity of fuel and limited hard currency, the US Dollar. Since the conflict started at the end of 2013, the flow of food commodities to these locations have been badly disrupted. Traders operating in conflict affected areas have been very reluctant to trade on large volumes mainly due to insecurity fears and has led to continued scarcity of staple foods in most parts of these areas. Furthermore, bad road conditions in the country seasonally worsened during rainy periods contributed to long travel times, resulting in higher transport costs across the country except in parts of Eastern Equatoria and Juba.



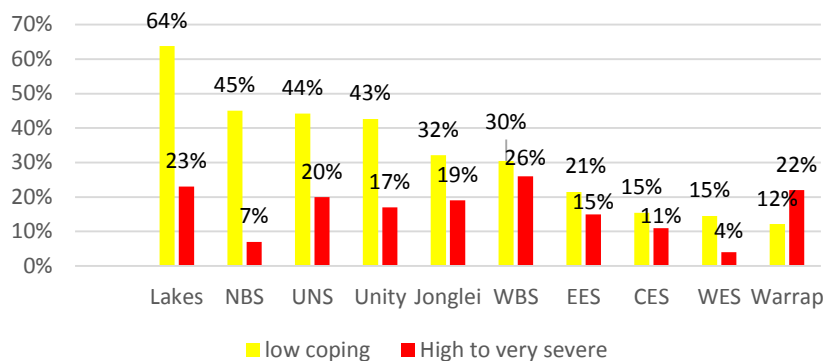
Malakal (Upper Nile) and Bentiu Markets record the highest prices for sorghum as compared to the five-year average (191% and 116% respectively). These markets also report significantly higher prices compared to same month in 2013 (92% and 111% respectively). On the other hand, Konyokonyo and Torit Markets record prices lower than the five-year average (2009-2013). The retail price of sorghum at Bor (Jonglei) Market was higher than its long term average by about 37% but lower compared to same month of 2013. It is notable that Bor Market is slowly recovering from the massive destructions witnessed in early 2014. The price of white sorghum in November 2014 was higher than the same month of 2013 in all markets (see Figure 7) except Torit, Konyokonyo and Bor. Compared to November 2013, the retail price of the most consumed pulse and field beans (*janjaro*) increased across markets except at Juba (Central Equatoria) reported a decrease of 12%. In the Bor (Jonglei) and Bentiu (Unity) markets, the prices of pulses increased respectively by 153% and 138% during the same period.

Generally in non-conflict areas, the on-going harvest is contributing to the relatively low and stable current prices, at least for the season. The availability of commodities in the market have improved during this harvest time. However, the price of imported food commodities are likely to record increasing trends as a result the foreign exchange crunch and depressed crude oil prices in the international markets. In the conflict affected areas, the availability of commodities in the market will remain volatile, primarily driven by political unfolding with regard to peace pursuit.

Coping strategies index and shocks experienced by households

Overall, 49% of the assessed households employed some form of consumption related coping strategies in the month preceding the assessment, higher than was reported during the period in 2013 but similar to levels recorded in October 2012, when there was a major shock that resulted from oil dispute (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Coping Strategies Index and shocks experienced by households

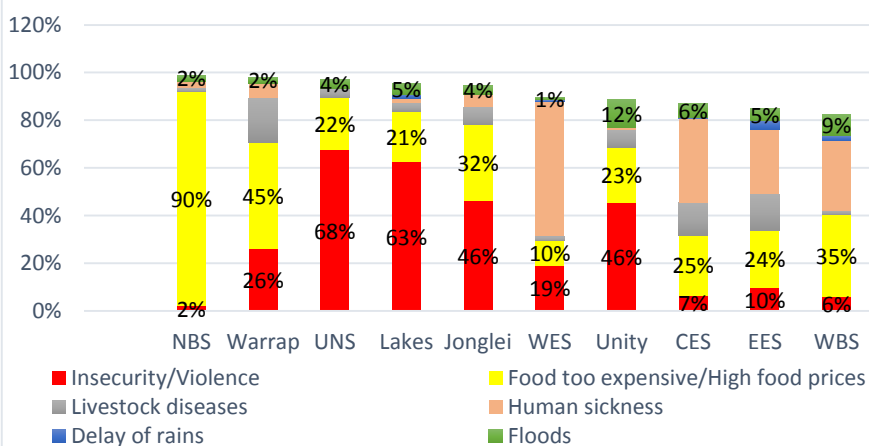


Level of coping varied across the states. Of the assessed households, 17% in Unity state, 19% in Jonglei state and 20% in Upper Nile state applied high to severe diet-related coping strategies (Figure 8). However, it is significant that mainly low consumption coping mechanisms were used compared to high to very severe coping diet mechanisms in all the states with exception of Warrap that primarily used high to very severe diet coping mechanisms (22%) with only 12% employing low coping mechanisms (Figure 8). On the other hand, Western

and Central Equatoria, applied the least diet-related coping strategies (Figure 8).

Jonglei, Lakes and Unity states reported the highest proportions of households depending on unusual high sale of livestock (38%, 37% and 31%, respectively) in order to acquire food. While Western Equatoria was the least likely to have used the same coping strategy (2%).

Figure 9: Prevalence of main shocks affecting households



All assessed households experienced a shock or more in the three months preceding the survey. On aggregate, human sickness (25%), high food prices (19%) and insecurity (12%) were the most frequently reported shocks (Figure 9). There is a decline in the number of households affected by the two primary shocks during the same period in 2013 (i.e from 68% to 25% for human sickness and 42% to 19% for high food prices). However, insecurity as a shock had increased in Greater Upper Nile states reporting prevalence of at least 45%. Lakes also had a high prevalence of insecurity (63%), mainly related to cattle

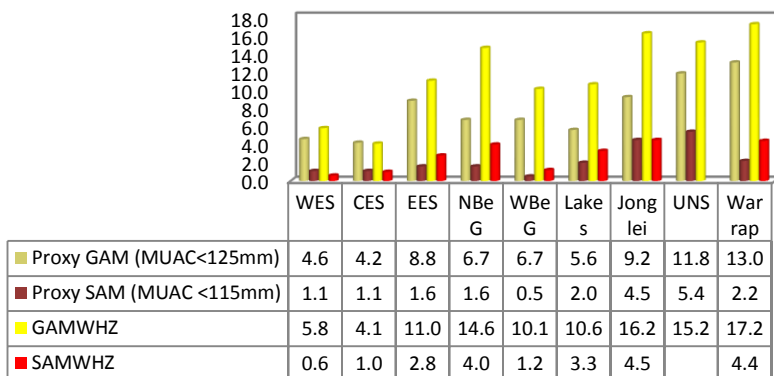
rustling. Notably, Northern Bahr el Ghazal reported the highest proportions of households with high levels of food prices (90%), primarily attributed to the reduction in informal trade with Sudan since the eruption of conflict as well as the seasonal deterioration of road conditions. During the November 2014 FSNMS, delayed rains were the least reported shock. On the contrary, floods were reported as a shock mostly in Unity (12%), Western Bahr el Ghazal (9%) and in Lakes and Eastern Equatoria states with 5% each.

Nutrition status of Children 6 to 59 months and Women 15 to 49 years

A total of 4,400 children were included in the anthropometric analysis with equal representation of male and female children. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) was 12.5% (WHZ<-2 and/or oedema)², signifying an overall reduction from 15.9% recorded in July/August 2014. Meanwhile, Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) stood at 3.2% (WHZ<-3 and/or oedema). The prevalence of acute malnutrition based on the Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) also indicates declining levels of malnutrition: Proxy GAM (MUAC<125mm) and SAM (MUAC <115mm) were 7.6% and 2.0%, respectively (Figure 10).

² The current national GAM rate excludes Unity state due to limited clusters accessed as well as cluster sampling concerns.

Figure 10: Prevalence of acute malnutrition (%)



Notably, significant improvement in GAM levels have been recorded in Eastern Equatoria, from “serious” to “acceptable” level, and WBeG that has moved from critical to serious level from July/August to October/November FSNMS (Figures 11 & 12).

The assessment was conducted in November/December which coincided with the harvest period. Some areas have benefitted from good seasonal harvest, particularly areas in the Greater Equatoria,

Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal, improving food security and consumption. Additionally, these areas have had a relatively stable security situation, with functional markets and favorable market prices. The rest of the states have suffered shocks including above normal flooding in Lakes and Warrap states, the inter-clan conflict and cattle raiding in Lakes, and the civil conflict in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states. In these states, more effective humanitarian assistance and scaling up support to nutrition services have prevented further deterioration of the nutrition situation. However, insecurity and displacement have had adverse effects on crop production; hence the situation is expected to worsen in the short term as household food stocks will likely get depleted sooner than normal.

Figure 11: Trend of GAM and SAM: 2010-2014

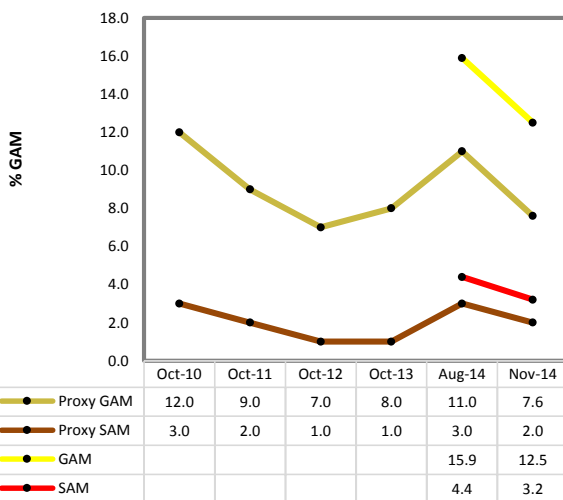
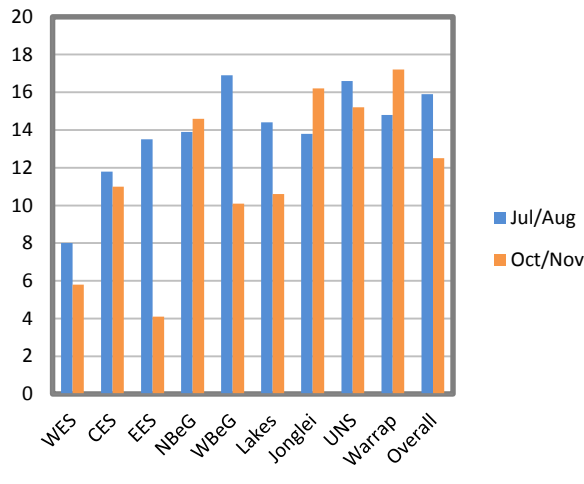


Figure 12: Prevalence of Acute Malnutrition (%); Jul/Aug and Oct/Nov FSNMS



Despite improvement in some areas, the nutrition situation in South Sudan remains of concern. The GAM rate is critical (above 15%) in the conflict states at 16.2% in Jonglei and 15.2% in Upper Nile. Consistent with the historical trend, the two traditionally high burdened states in the non-conflict affected areas have GAM above the emergency threshold including Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal at 17.2% and 14.6% respectively. Similarly, SAM is above the emergency threshold across South Sudan with the highest SAM prevalence seen in Jonglei (4.5%), Warrap (4.4%) and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (4%).

The WHO classification of acute malnutrition (Table 1) highlights the conflict affected states as having the worst nutrition situation which underpins the role of recent events related to insecurity, disruption of livelihoods and poor access in driving high levels of malnutrition in the conflict affected states.

Women Anthropometry

Out of the 4,132 women (aged 15 to 49 years old) assessed, 9.8% were pregnant, 46.8% were lactating while 43.4% were neither pregnant nor breastfeeding. GAM based on MUAC (<230mm) was prevalent in 10.4% of the women, depicting a declining trend when compared to the previous GAM of 15.8%. Similar to the previous FSNMS, acute malnutrition among women was highest in Unity (18.7%), Warrap (17.6%), Eastern Equatoria (17.5%) and Jonglei (16.5%) states. In these states, an improvement in maternal nutrition has been registered.

Notably, the worst maternal nutrition prevails in states with the worst child acute malnutrition, including Jonglei and Warrap states, suggesting a link between child and maternal nutrition in these areas and a need to address child and maternal nutrition concurrently.

Acute malnutrition was significantly higher among the pregnant, 17.4% (n=363) and lactating; 17.8% (n=1,916) women compared to GAM of 0.7% among the non-pregnant/non lactating women (n=3,993). Pregnancy and lactation are associated with substantial increase in nutritional requirements; failure to meet these requirements will result in a malnourished mother who in turn may produce a malnourished child. High maternal malnutrition, therefore, may indicate high child malnutrition levels whose impact may persist through adulthood, hence the need to address malnutrition among the pregnant and lactating women, focusing on areas with the highest maternal malnutrition prevalence.

Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)

Minimum dietary diversity (MDD), the proportion of children who received at least four food groups during the previous day was only 30.7%, indicating the poor quality of complementary feeds provided to majority of children aged 6 to 23 months. The highest MDD was registered in NBeG and Upper Nile states with just over 40% of children receiving the MDD. Jonglei and Warrap states had the lowest MDD at 11.5% and 14.4% respectively.

Minimum Meal Frequency (MMF). Findings on MMF are also poor with only about three out of ten children receiving the MMF overall. The highest MMF was observed in Western Equatoria state at 60% while Jonglei has the lowest MMF at 13.1%.

Minimum acceptable diet (MAD). The composite indicator of quality and quantity of complementary feeds provided to children aged 6 to 23 months shows an appalling situation of child feeding with only one in ten children receiving the MAD. Jonglei and Warrap states had the lowest rates of MAD at 0.8%.

Consumption of iron rich or iron fortified foods was highest for Upper Nile state with 74% followed by NBeG with 73% while other states are all below 50%. Warrap State had the lowest figure (16%) for this indicator.

The results on IYCF demonstrate the influence of poor infant and young child feeding on the nutrition status of children as the states with the worst IYCF indicators also have the poorest nutrition situation (namely Jonglei and Warrap states). The need to comprehensively address malnutrition by incorporating services that promote and support appropriate IYCF cannot be overemphasized.

States	Nutrition Outcomes		WHO Classification
	GAM	SAM	GAM
WES (n=527)	5.8 (4.1 - 8.1)	0.6 (0.2 - 1.8)	Poor
CES (n=514)	4.1 (2.7 - 6.2)	1.0 (0.4 - 2.3)	Acceptable
EES (n=546)	11.0 (8.2 - 14.7)	2.8 (1.7 - 4.5)	Serious
NBeG (n=557)	14.6 (10.7 - 19.7)	4.0 (2.7 - 5.8)	Serious
WBeG (n=576)	10.1 (7.3 - 14.0)	1.2 (0.5 - 3.0)	Serious
Lakes (n=669)	10.6 (8.7 - 12.8)	3.3 (2.1 - 5.2)	Serious
Jonglei (n=388)	16.2 (12.2 - 21.3)	4.5 (3.0 - 6.6)	Critical
Warrap (n=433)	17.2 (12.8 - 22.7)	4.4 (2.0 - 9.6)	Critical
UNS (n=454)	15.2**		Critical
Combined (N=4411)	12.5 (11.2 - 13.9)*	3.2 (2.6 - 3.8)	Serious

*Combined estimate does not include Unity state; **Calculated estimates used hence missing CI and SAM estimate

Assistance received

Approximately 29% of the assessed households reported receiving at least one form of assistance or another in the three months preceding the assessment. Of the households that received some form of assistance, about 77% received food assistance, 25% agricultural tools and/or seeds, 9% veterinary services, 10% veterinary and fisheries services, and 28% non-food items.

Out of the population that had received food assistance, IDPs (91%), all refugees, returnees (85%) and residents (73%) received food assistance. However, the types of food assistance varied according to the residential status: Most IDPs (97%), all refugees, 90% of the residents, all returnees received general food distribution. In addition to the general food

distribution, refugees (25%), returnees (21%), residents (9%) and IDPs (6%) had benefitted from supplementary feeding programme. The highest percentage of households who received food assistance was in Greater Upper Nile with Jonglei (96%), Upper Nile (91%) and Unity (89%) while the least prevalence of food assistance among aid recipients was in Western Equatoria (31%).

Of those that received humanitarian assistance, Central Equatoria state had the highest prevalence of agricultural tools and seeds recipients (68%), followed by Lakes 33% and Western Equatoria with 31%. On the other hand, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal were the least recipients of agricultural tools and seeds assistance.

Food security outlook

The food security situation in South Sudan will continue to be worrisome throughout 2014 and the early quarter of 2015 primarily in Greater Upper Nile. While there is a temporary improvement of food security situation as a result of the latest harvest, households stocks are unlikely to last through February 2015 in Greater Upper Nile. In addition, there are populations that are more vulnerable to food insecurity even with the temporary improvement of the situation. These populations include the IDPs and returnees and the displaced populations who did not plant. These populations will continue to depend on asset stripping coping strategies and rely heavily on kinship support in addition to humanitarian assistance. The continuing political conflicts are still weighing heavily against market functionality and will continue to household's food access. The rapidly widening gap between official and unofficial foreign exchange rates currently witnessed in the markets will further erode the purchasing power of households especially that majority that depend on imported foods. The urban poor, the displaced and the large populations in Greater Upper Nile who lost their livelihoods are likely to be hit harder by the foreign exchange crunch.

Methodology

The FSNMS is a collaborative effort involving over 22 organizations (government, UN, NGOs and community-based organizations) that aims to provide results which are representative of national and state levels. Data were collected from 25 clusters (sites) randomly selected from each of the ten states based on probability proportional to sizes (PPS), factoring in population movements in the case of Greater Upper Nile. A further 25 randomly selected households were surveyed in each site. One community/key informant questionnaire (where applicable) were administered at each sentinel site to provide supplementary information.

The data collection process experienced accessibility and security challenges; two sites in Jonglei and eight sites in Unity were not reached. This has a potential of underestimating food security indicators in these states as the sites not surveyed were the worst affected by the prevailing shocks (conflicts).

Data collection from a total of 3,919 households was undertaken in November 2014, followed by analysis and reporting in December 2014. Of the assessed households, 26% were female headed. The average household size is seven persons. About 10% of the respondents were IDPs.

FSNMS provides and allows monitoring of trends and changes in key food security and nutrition indicators over time.

In understanding the food security situation, the below basic indicators were used:

Food consumption was derived using a seven-day recall period. Food items were weighted based on their nutritional value to establish a food consumption score that classifies the households having either acceptable, borderline or poor food consumption.

The Coping Strategies Index was derived from the severity and the frequency of the consumption coping strategies applied by households in the last seven days prior to the assessment. More severe coping strategies are often those with irreversible effects on the households' livelihoods.

Livelihood coping mechanisms was also analysed.

Household food security categories were established according to a composite index derived from household food access (relative food expenditure), food consumption and livelihood coping strategies.

State abbreviations

Western Equatoria (WES), Eastern Equatoria (EES), Central Equatoria (CES), Upper Nile (UNS), Western Bahr el Ghazal (WBEG), Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBEG)

For additional information, please contact Juba.VAM@WFP.org

The FSMS partners:

