



# East Darfur, Sudan

## Food Security Monitoring, February 2015



**World Food Programme**

---

## Executive Summary

- The food security situation for IDPs in East Darfur in February 2015 had improved marginally compared to November 2014, mainly as a result of the good harvest season. The improvement was more pronounced among households in Resident and Mixed communities, where the proportion of households that was food secure increased by 23 and 17 percent, respectively, compared to November 2014. Approximately four in every five households were food secure, reflecting a generally acceptable level of food security.
- Household in both IDP, Resident and Mixed communities had generally an acceptable level of household food consumption, both in this and previous rounds (with the exception of Residents, whose food consumption had deteriorated in November 2014). More than 90 percent of households were found to have acceptable household food consumption.
- Sorghum prices in Eddaein market reached record levels in August 2014, but had declined in February 2015 to levels below that of February 2014. The decrease in sorghum prices was a result of good harvest season and followed a normal seasonal trend during the post-harvest period. However, sorghum prices were still 25 percent above the five-year average. Sorghum prices were expected to increase during the lean period, due to the increase in demand and depletion of household stocks and high transportation costs. The cost of the local food basket (LFB) in East Darfur was 4.06 SDG/person/day in February 2015 which was nearly unchanged from November 2014, when it was 4.07 SDG/person/day.
- In a sign of improvement, the lack of food inflation coupled with relatively ample income opportunities in the post-harvest period caused the proportion of households unable to afford the cost of a local food basket to drop by more than 30 percentage points.

---

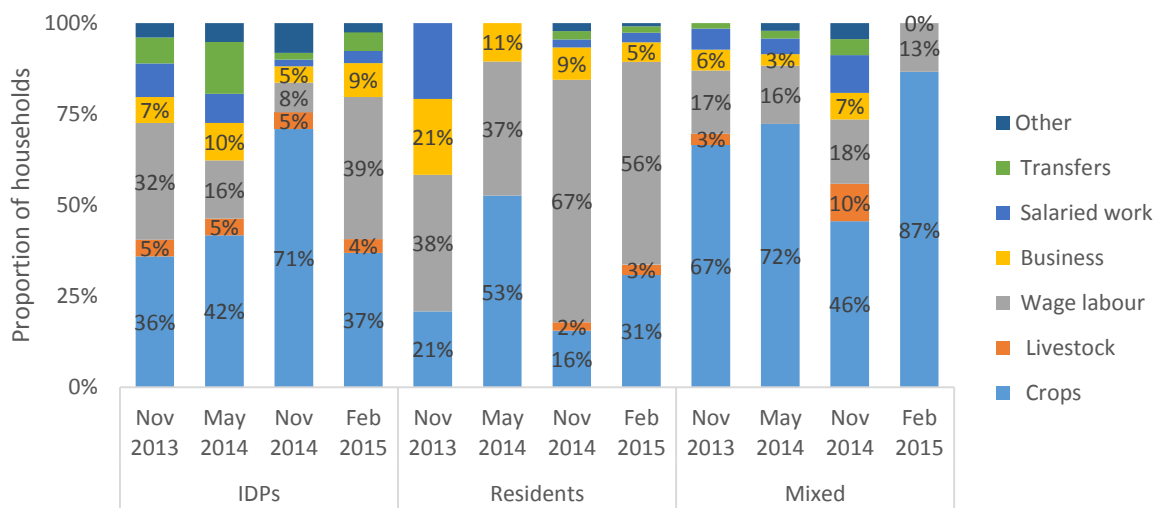
### A Description of the Sample

Data collection for round 19 was carried out in February 2015, which is the post-harvest season. All of the 15 sentinel sites were covered during the data collection (nine primary locations and six secondary locations). A total of 435 households were interviewed. Twenty-nine percent of the interviewed households were women headed households. The average household size was six persons. Thirty-four percent of the surveyed households were IDPs living in camps, four percent were IDPs outside camps, 40 percent were residents and 21 percent were returnees.

---

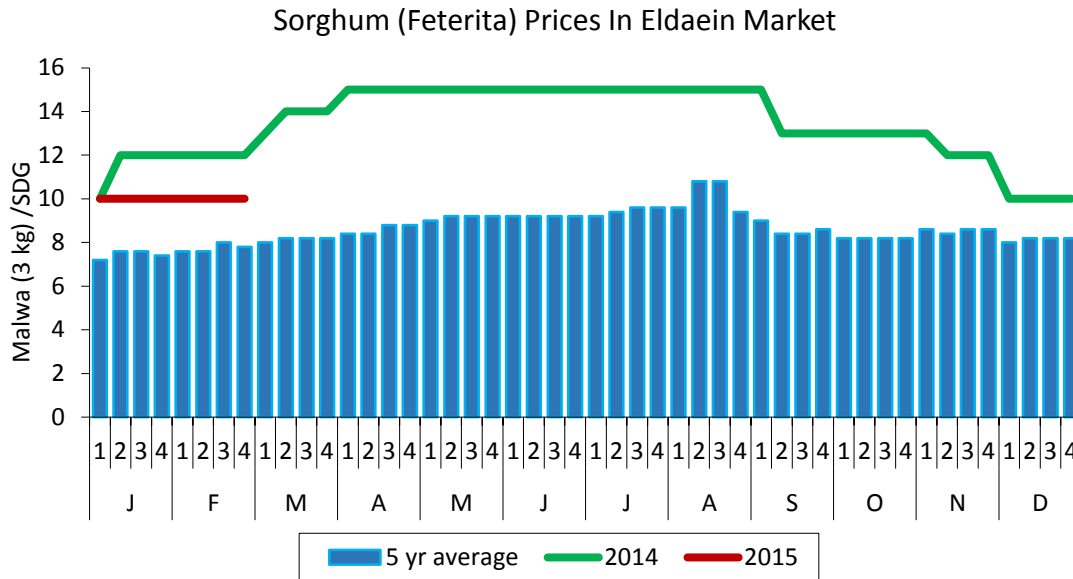
## Livelihoods

The main livelihoods for surveyed IDPs in February 2015 were wage labour, crop production and small business. The proportion of households that relied on crop production decreased among IDP households compared to November 2014. Residents were primarily engaged in wage labour – accounting for more than half of the households – and crop production. The most important livelihood for the vast majority of households in Mixed communities was crop production, accounting for 87 percent of households. Daily wage labour was the main livelihood for the remaining households. IDPs were found to have a more diverse set of income opportunities compared to Mixed communities.



## Markets and Prices

The sorghum prices in February 2015 in Eddaain market had been decreasing since September 2014, when it had reached record highs, mainly as a result of increased supply created by the very good harvest of the 2014/2015 agricultural season. Current prices of sorghum were below those of the same time last year. However, the price of sorghum was 25 percent higher than the five-year average. The increase in demand due to the depletion of household stocks and high transportation costs may lead to a rise in sorghum prices during the lean period until the harvest season in October/November.



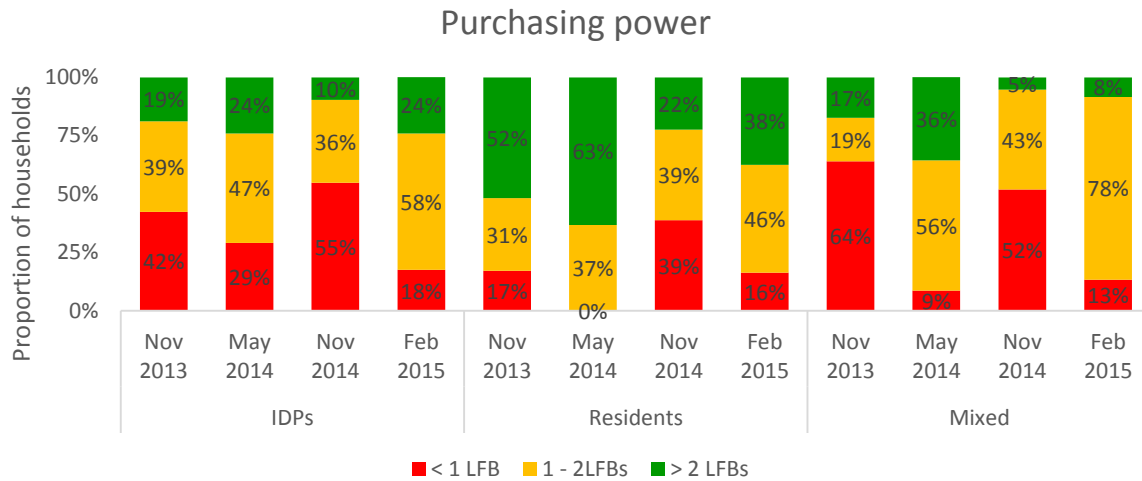
## Purchasing Power

The price of a local food basket was used as a benchmark against which to compare household income, for determining the level of purchasing power in the surveyed population. The cost of the local food basket (LFB) in East Darfur was 4.06 SDG/person/day in February 2015 – nearly unchanged compared to November 2014, when it was 4.07 SDG/person/day.

The lack of increase in the cost of the LFB was mainly due to decreased prices of some food items such as dry vegetable, sugar and onion. The income opportunities associated with the post-harvest period and the reduction in the price of some food items had a dramatic impact on purchasing power. The proportion of households in IDP camps and Mixed communities who were unable to afford the minimum food basket dropped by more than 30 percentage points. The purchasing power of households in Resident communities also improved substantially.

### The local food basket (LFB)

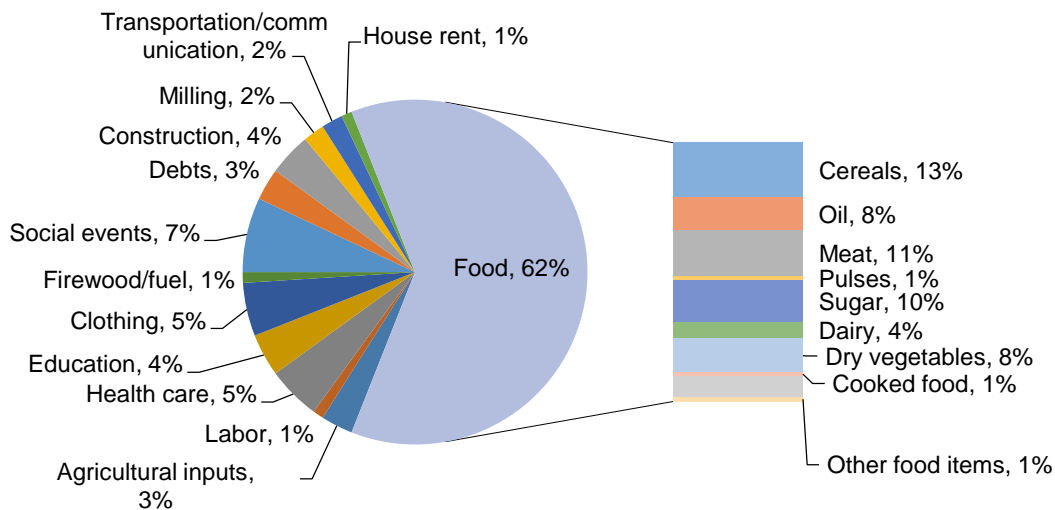
The LFB consisted of the following food items: cereals (sorghum), milk, dry vegetables, cooking oil, goat meat, cow meat, onions and sugar. The amount of each food item was computed so as to minimize the cost of the basket, while meeting the minimum requirements of 2,100 kilocalories per person per day. Households were classified as having poor purchasing power (households that could not afford the cost of one LFB), borderline purchasing power (households that could afford between one and two baskets) and acceptable purchasing power (households that could afford more than two baskets).



## Household Expenditure

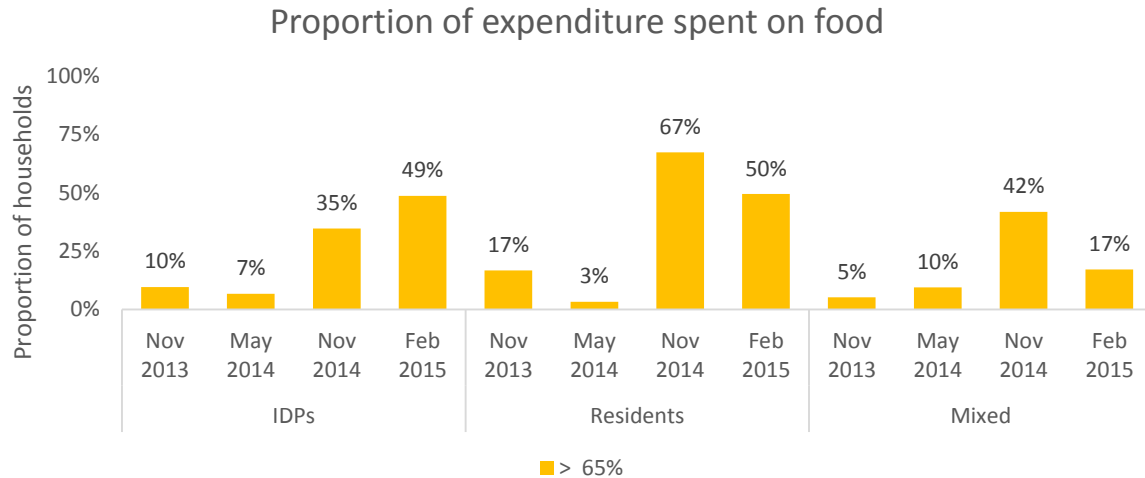
Among all sampled households, an average of 62 percent of monthly expenditure was spent on food items. Households mainly spent their expenditures on cereals, meat, sugar, cooking oil and dry vegetables. Main non-food expenditures included social events, clothing, health care, education, construction, agricultural inputs, debts, transportation, communication and milling.

Breakdown of household expenditures



The proportion of IDP households who spent more than 65 percent of their expenditure on food (a threshold above which households are more likely to experience economic stress) in February 2015 increased compared to previous rounds, especially compared to May 2014 and November 2013. For households in

Residents and Mixed communities the proportion decreased (a sign of improvement), but was still considerably above May 2014 and November 2014 levels.

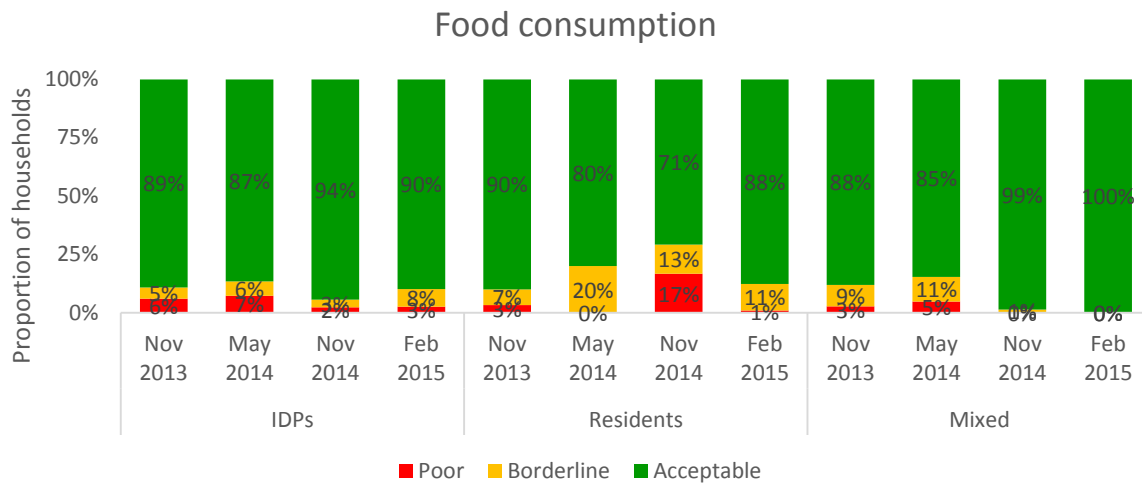


## Household Food Consumption

Surveyed households, both in IDP, Resident and Mixed communities generally had acceptable food consumption throughout the most recent four rounds of data collection, except for Resident communities, which experienced a unusual deterioration in November 2014. In February 2015 the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption score was 91 percent among IDPs, 88 for Residents, and 92 percent among households in Mixed communities. The good food consumption pattern seen in most households was mainly a result of high consumption of dairy, which is relatively nutrient-dense. Dairy was consumed daily by most households. Other foods consumed 6 or 7 days per week were sorghum, dried vegetables, oil and sugar.

### The Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Food consumption data was collected and analyzed using standard WFP methodology: the variety and frequency of different foods consumed over a 7-day recall period was recorded to calculate a weighted food consumption score (FCS). Weights were based on the nutritional density of the foods. Using standard threshold, households were classified as having either poor, borderline or acceptable food consumption.

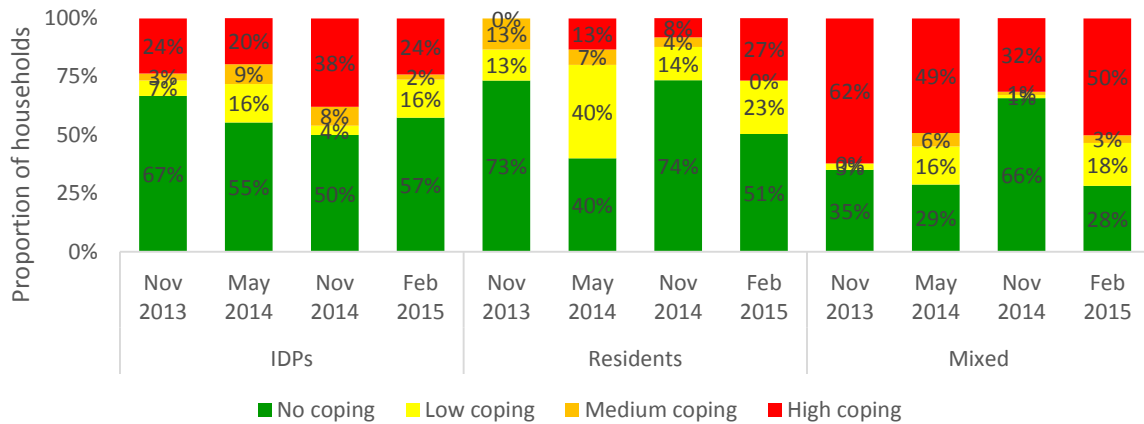


## Perceived Food Access

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 asked what strategies they employed to cope with the food access problems. The proportion of households in Resident and Mixed communities who did face food access problems (and hence had to engage in coping strategies) increased substantially from November 2014 to February 2015. Twenty-seven and 50 percent of households, respectively, employed severe coping strategies. Food access and coping behaviour was less difficult among IDP households: 57 percent of households reported experiencing no food access problems. The situation had improved since November 2014.

The most common coping strategies included reducing the number of meals eaten in a day, restrict consumption for adults in order for small children to eat, and limit portion sizes.

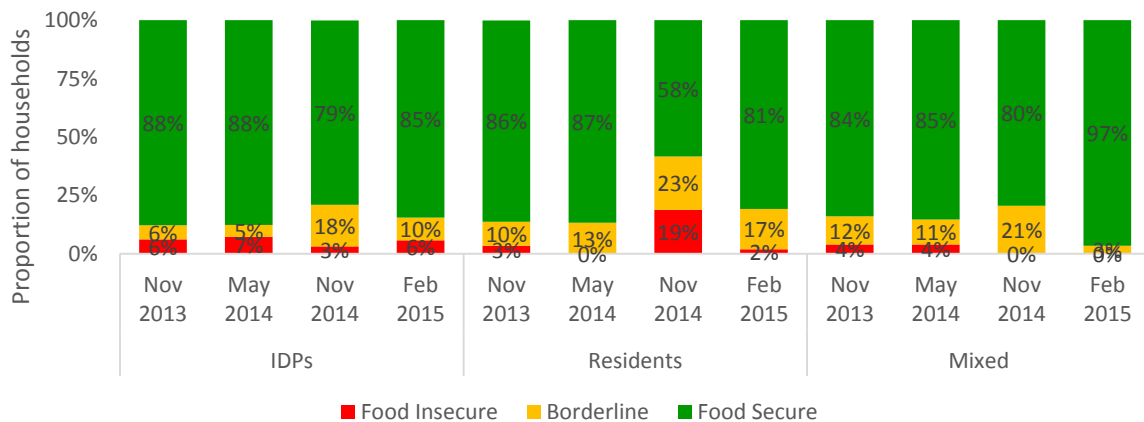
### Coping strategies



## Food Security

The food security situation for IDPs in February 2015 had improved marginally compared to November 2014. The proportion of IDPs that were food secure was 6 percentage points larger, compared to 4 months earlier, possibly as a result of the good harvest season. Households in Resident communities saw their food security situation improve substantially compared to the previous round. In Mixed communities, the proportion of households that were food secure also increased, by 17 percentage points compared to November 2014. The food security situation was generally acceptable for all three community types. The proportion of food secure households were comparable among IDP and Resident households, while households in Mixed communities tended to be more food secure.

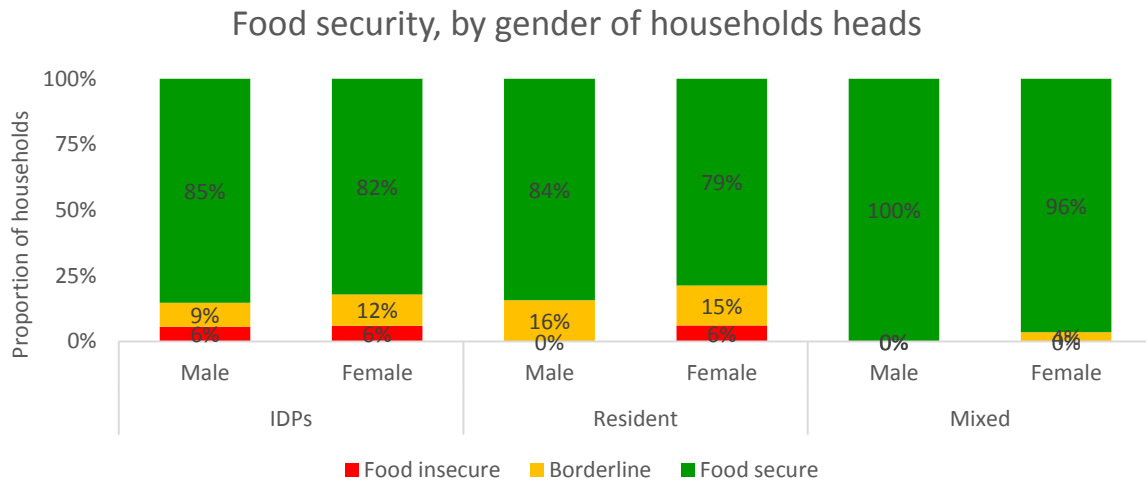
### Food security





# Gender Analysis

Although female headed households tended to be slightly less food secure compared to male headed households, the difference was small and within the margin of error.



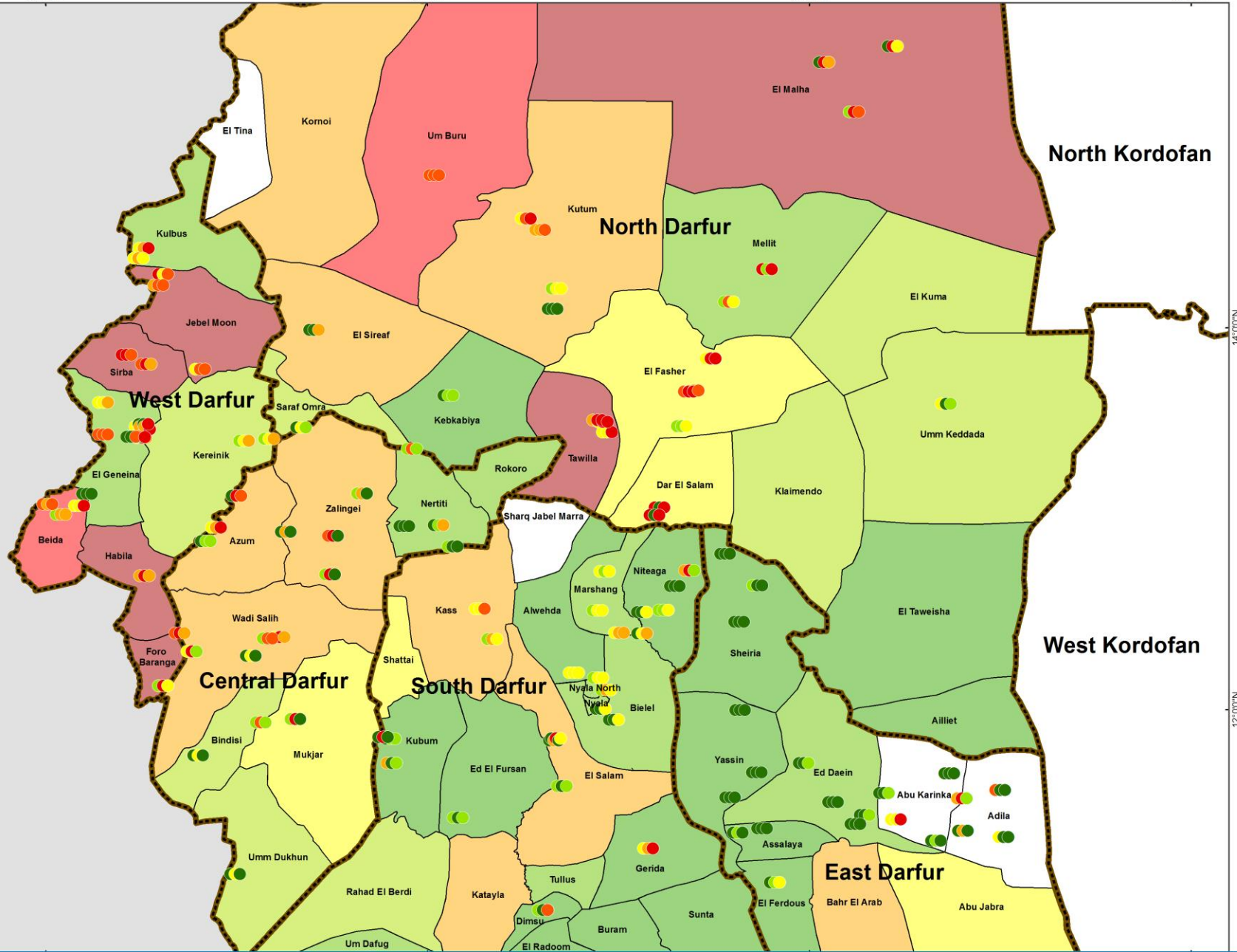
IDP households in camps were more food insecure compared to Mixed communities. However, the educational level of the household head did have effects on the household food security status. Households who depended on non-agricultural wage labour, transfers and agricultural labour as their main income sources were more food insecure than those who relied on crop sales, small business and salaried work. The presence of household members with special needs also had an effect on food security status.

# Darfur

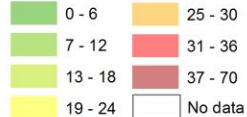
## Food Security Monitoring



22°00'E 24°00'E 26°00'E 28°00'E



Food insecure households (percent)



Food Security Monitoring



Data Sources: IMWG, WFP CO Sudan

The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



Date Created: 07 July 2015

Contact:

Website: [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)

Reference Number:  
ISO3\_Food Security Monitoring\_A2L

WFP



wfp.org

14°00'N

12°00'N