



# South Darfur, Sudan

## Food Security Monitoring, February 2015



**World Food Programme**

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# Executive Summary

- Half of households in Mixed communities and one third of households in IDP camps were found to be food secure in February 2015. The food security situation for IDPs had improved moderately compared to November 2014 but was still at a lower level compared to May 2014. For the Mixed communities, the food security status had remained largely unchanged since November 2014.
- Ninety percent of households among mixed communities had acceptable food consumption, compared to only 66 percent among camp IDPs. Among the IDPs, the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption had slightly decreased in February 2015 compared to November and May 2014. Food consumption had improved marginally for mixed communities compared to November and May 2014. For both groups the changes were minor.
- After having reached record highs in August 2014, sorghum prices in Nyala market in February 2015 had returned to levels seen in February 2014, following a typical seasonal trend – where prices tend to decline in the harvest period – compounded by the unusually good agricultural season. Still, current prices were 33 percent about the five-year average, negatively impacting household purchasing power.
- The cost of the local food basket (LFB) in South Darfur was 5.29 SDG/person/day in February 2015, slightly higher than the price in November 2014 (5.16 SDG/person/day). The higher cost of the LFB was mainly due to increased prices of some important food items such as oil, milk, and meat. The rising price of food adversely affected households' purchasing power, to the degree that 76 percent of IDPs in camps and 72 percent of households in mixed communities were unable to afford cost of a local food basket.
- The main livelihoods for IDPs in February 2015 included wage labour, small businesses, mining, salaried work and crop production. The proportion of households who relied on crop production decreased among IDPs households compared to November 2014. For mixed communities the most commonly reported livelihood was crop production – accounting for 32 percent households - followed by wage labour and small businesses.

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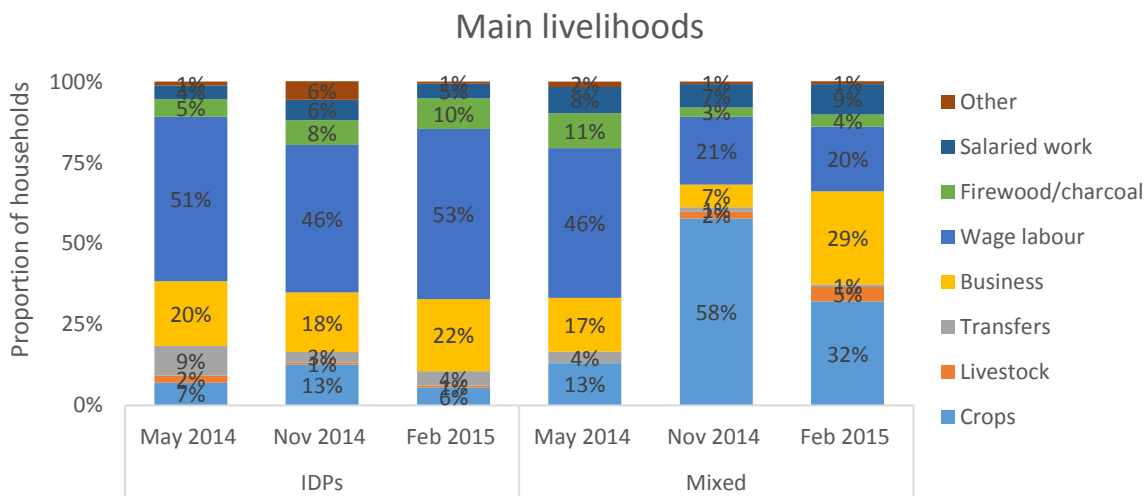
## A Description of the Sample

Data collection for round 19 was carried out in February 2015, which is the post-harvest season. Twenty-four sentinel sites out of 25 have been reached in February 2015 and a total of 1,115 households were interviewed. Kalma camp could not be reached due to security concerns. Thirty percent of households were headed by women and the average household size was 6 persons.

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# Livelihoods

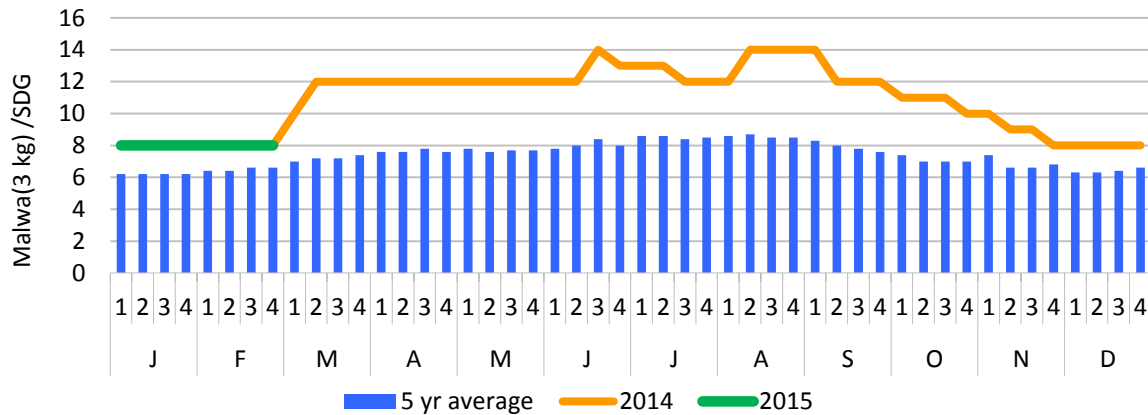
The main livelihoods for IDPs in February 2015 included wage labour and small business, collection of firewood and charcoal making. The livelihood profile is largely similar to November 2014, although the proportion of households who engaged in crop production and transfers had decreased, while an increase was seen for small business and wage labour. For mixed communities the main livelihoods included sale of crops, small business, firewood collection and charcoal making. Compared to November 2014, the proportion of households engaged on crop production had decreased, off-set by an increase in small business. Mixed communities were much more reliant on crop production compared to IDP households.



# Markets and Prices

Sorghum prices in Nyala market were at the same level in February 2015 as in February 2014, after having reached record-breaking highs in mid-2014. The decreasing trend in the price of sorghum in recent month followed a typical seasonal pattern of prices decreasing after the harvest, with the rate of decrease this season being accelerated as a result of the good harvest. However, the price of sorghum was still historically high, with current prices being 33 percent above the five-year average. Sorghum prices were expected to rise in the coming months, at the onset of the lean season, due to the increase in demand, depletion of household stocks and increased transportation costs.

Sorghum (Feterita) Prices In Nyala Market



## Purchasing Power

The price of a local food basket was used as a benchmark against which to compare household purchasing power for determining the level of purchasing power. The cost of the local food basket in South Darfur was 5.29 SDG/person/day in February 2015, moderately higher than the price recorded in November 2014 (5.16 SDG/person/day). The high cost of the LFB was mainly due to an increase in the price of some important food items such as oil, milk, and meat. The rising price of these food items adversely affected households' purchasing power, to the degree that 76 percent of IDPs in camps and 72 percent of households in Mixed communities were unable to afford the cost of local food basket.

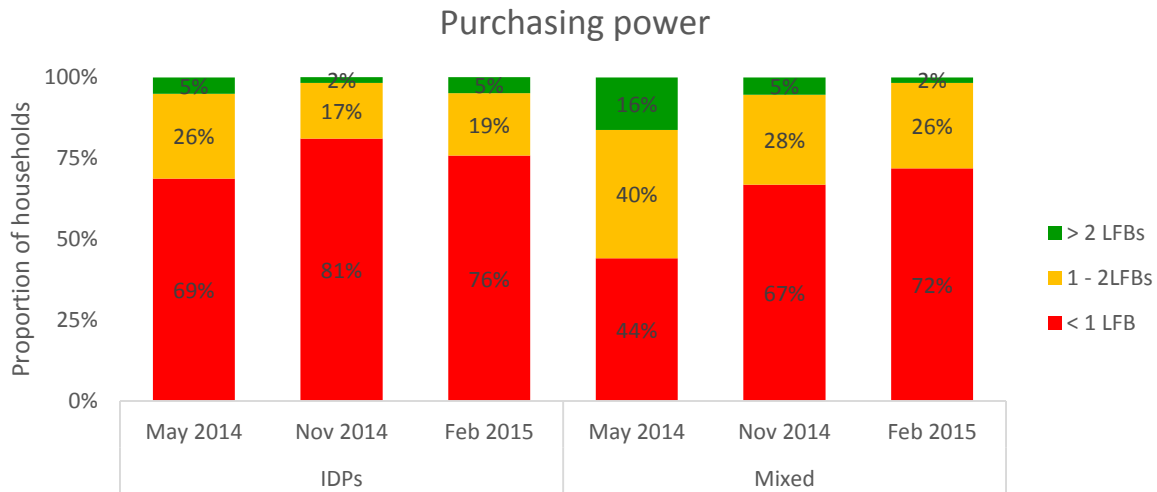
The results constituted a moderate deterioration

for Mixed communities compared to November and May 2014. Purchasing power for IDPs improved compared to November 2014 but were still below May 2014 levels. There was little difference in purchasing power between IDP communities and mixed communities. The purchasing power of the gender of heads of households reveals that there is no clear variation between female and male headed households.

### 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).

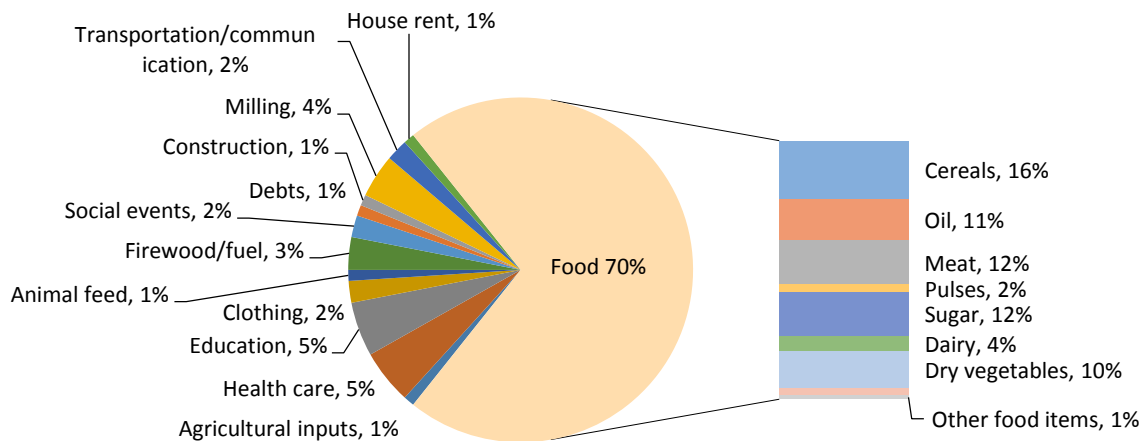




## Household Expenditure

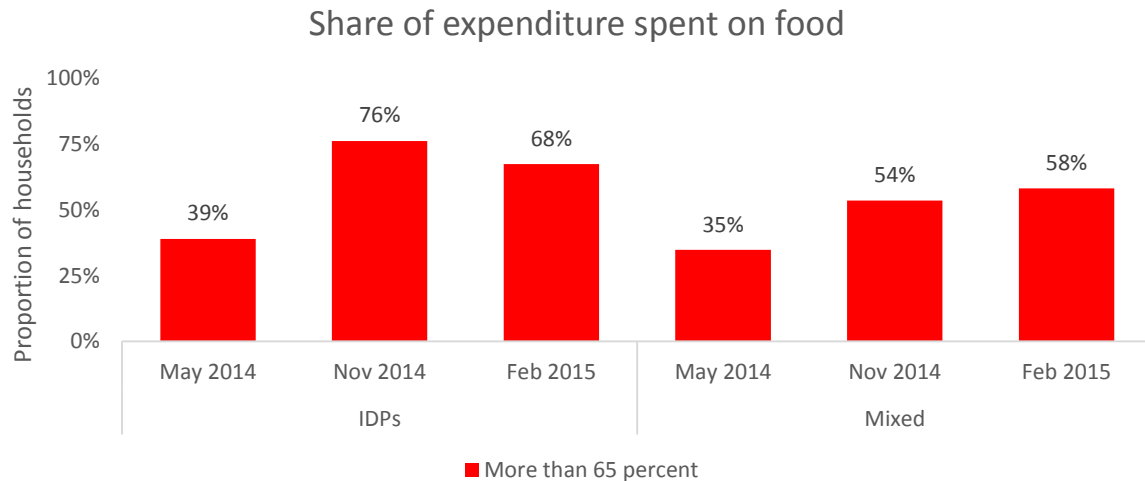
On average, 70 percent of household monthly expenditure was for food items which was an increase compared to the Round 18 in November 2014 and was mainly attributed to an increase in the price of key food items. The main food expenditure items were cereals, meat, sugar, cooking oil and dry vegetables. The main non-food expenditure items were health care, education, milling, firewood/fuel, clothing, social events, transport and communication.

### Breakdown of household expenditures



The share of household expenditure for food was used as a proxy indicator of economic stress: a larger share of food expenditure may indicate a greater vulnerability to price and income shocks. In Sudan, the World Bank threshold for estimating vulnerability to shocks in terms of food access is set at 65 percent of

expenditures for food. The proportion of household in mixed communities households with high monthly expenditure on food increased in February 2015 compared to November and May 2014, indicating increased pressure on household budgets. Still, households in Mixed communities spent less of their total expenditure on food than IDP households, two third of whom spent more than 65 percent of total expenditure on food. For IDPs, the proportion of households had increased compared to November 2014 and increased compared to May 2014.



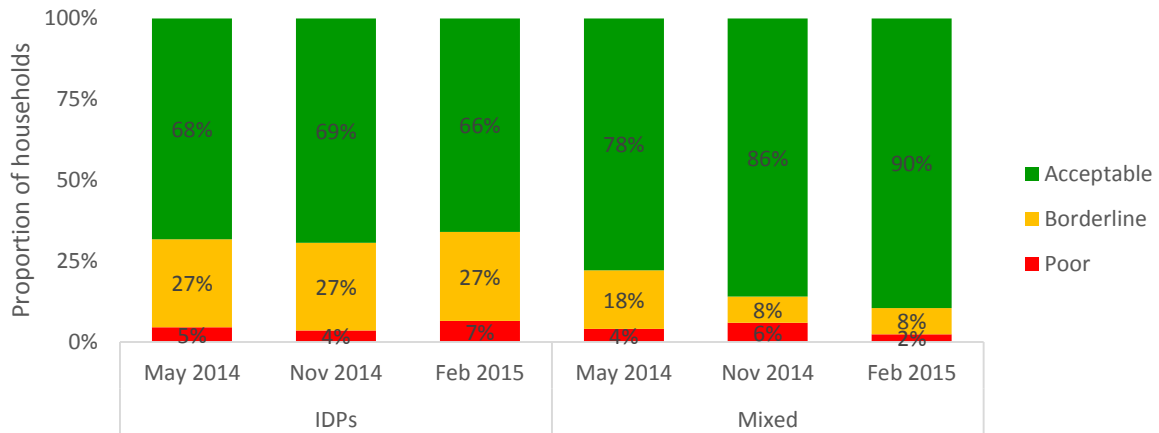
## Household Food Consumption

Among the IDPs, the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption had decreased very slightly in February 2015 compared to November and May 2014. Two thirds of these households had acceptable food consumption. For Mixed communities food consumption improved slightly in February 2015 compared to November and May 2014. With 90 percent of households classified as having acceptable food consumption, mixed communities had far better food consumption compared to IDPs. The analysis indicates that female headed households are more likely to have poor consumption compared to households headed by male.

### 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.

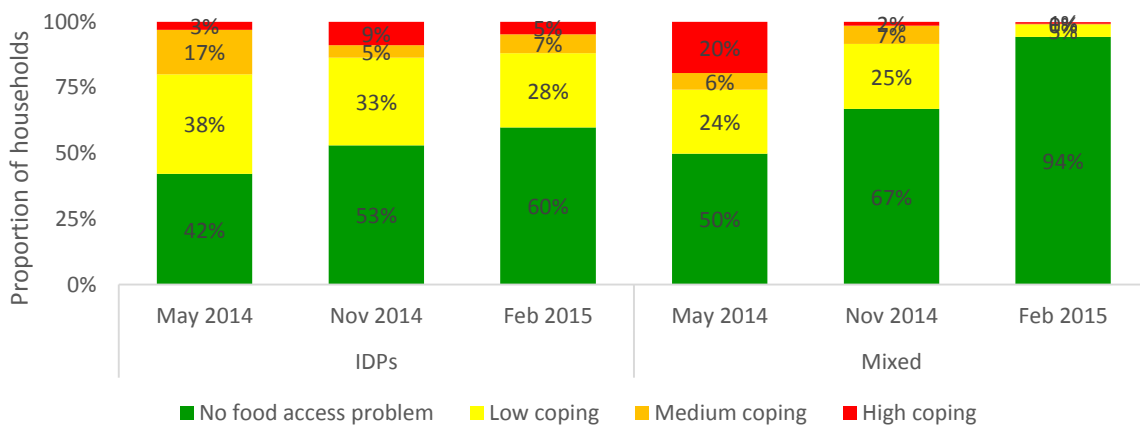
### Food consumption



## Perceived Food Access

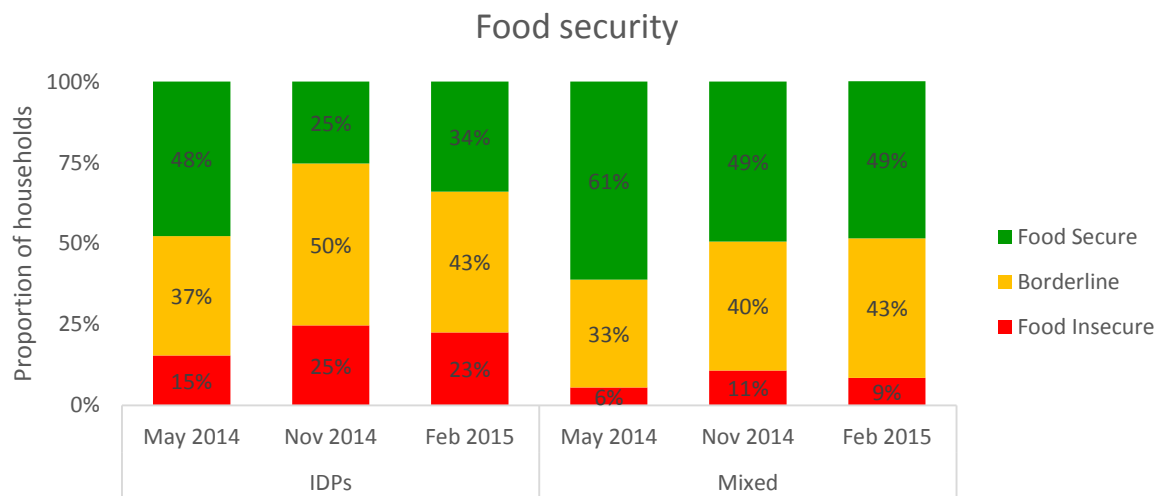
Households were asked if there were times in the one week prior to data collection when they did not have enough food (or money to buy food). If they experienced such situations, they asked what strategies they employed to cope with the food access problems. In a sign of improvement, the proportion of Mixed community households in February 2015 who reported facing food access problems (and thus had engaged in coping strategies) had decreased substantially compared to November and May 2014, from 33 percent and 50 percent, respectively, to 6 percent. Moreover, the percentage of IDPs who reported facing food access problems had decreased moderately compared to November and May 2014.

### Coping strategies



# Food Security

In February 2015, the food security situation for IDPs had improved slightly compared to November 2014, but was still worse than in May 2014. For Mixed communities, food security remained largely unchanged compared to November 2014. As with IDPs, the current food security situation among Mixed communities was still worse than in May 2014. As in previous rounds, households in mixed communities tended to be more food secure than households in IDP locations. The deterioration of food security situation compared to May 2014 in both groups could be attributed to the high cost of the local food basket due to high prices of some important non-cereal food items which adversely affected purchasing power of households.

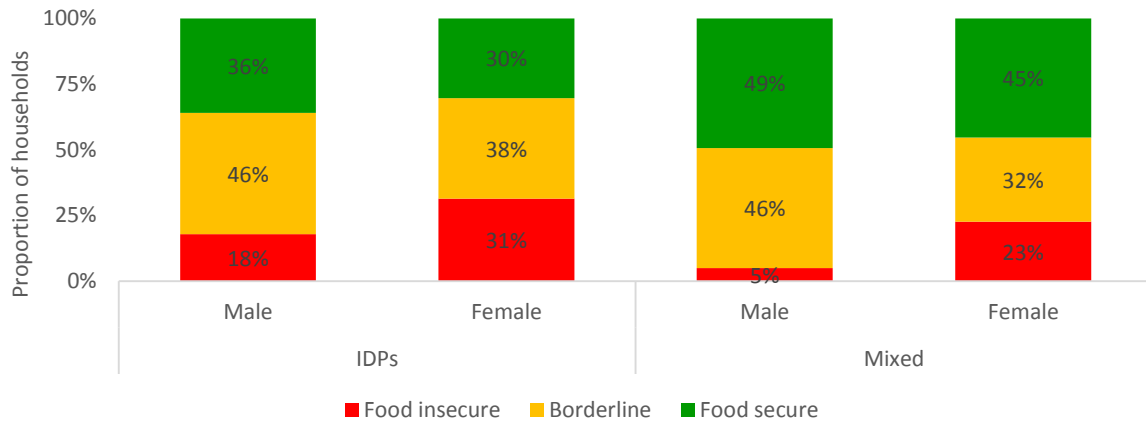


# Gender Analysis

Analysing food security based on the gender of the household head showed a major difference between female and male headed households: Among IDP communities, 31 of female headed households were food insecure, compared to only 18 percent among male headed households. The trend was similar in Mixed communities, where 23 percent of female headed households and only 5 percent of male headed households were food insecure.



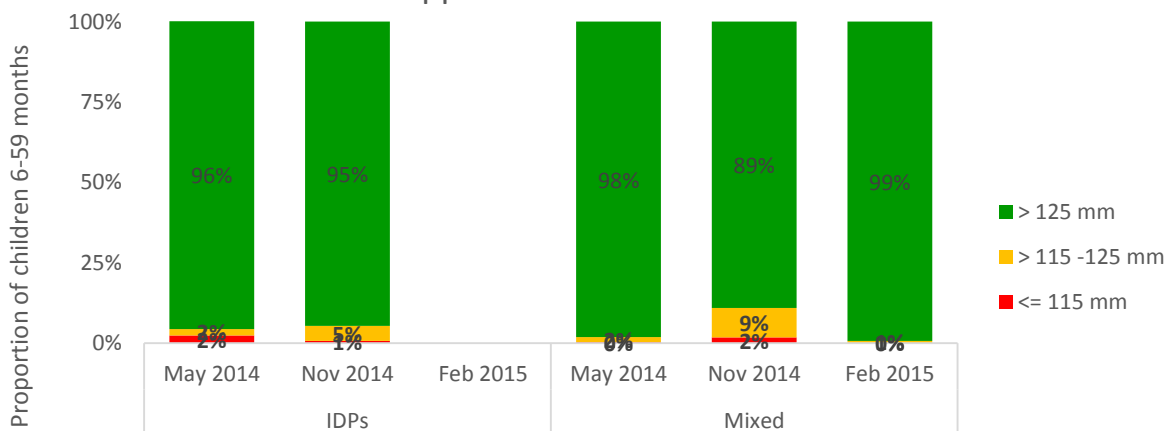
Food security, by gender of households heads



## Child Nutrition

The mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) was measured on 153 children aged 6-59 months and classified as very low (below 115 mm, a proxy for severe acute malnutrition), moderately low (between 115 and 125mm, a proxy indicator for moderate acute malnutrition), and normal. There was an improvement in the MUAC measurements of children in Mixed communities in February 2015 as the percentage of children with very low MUAC decreased from 2 percent to zero percent. Meanwhile, the percentage of children with moderately low MUAC decreased from 9 percent in November 2014 to one percent in the February 2015. The number of screened children in IDP communities in February 2015 was not sufficiently large to generate estimates.

Mid-upper arm circumference

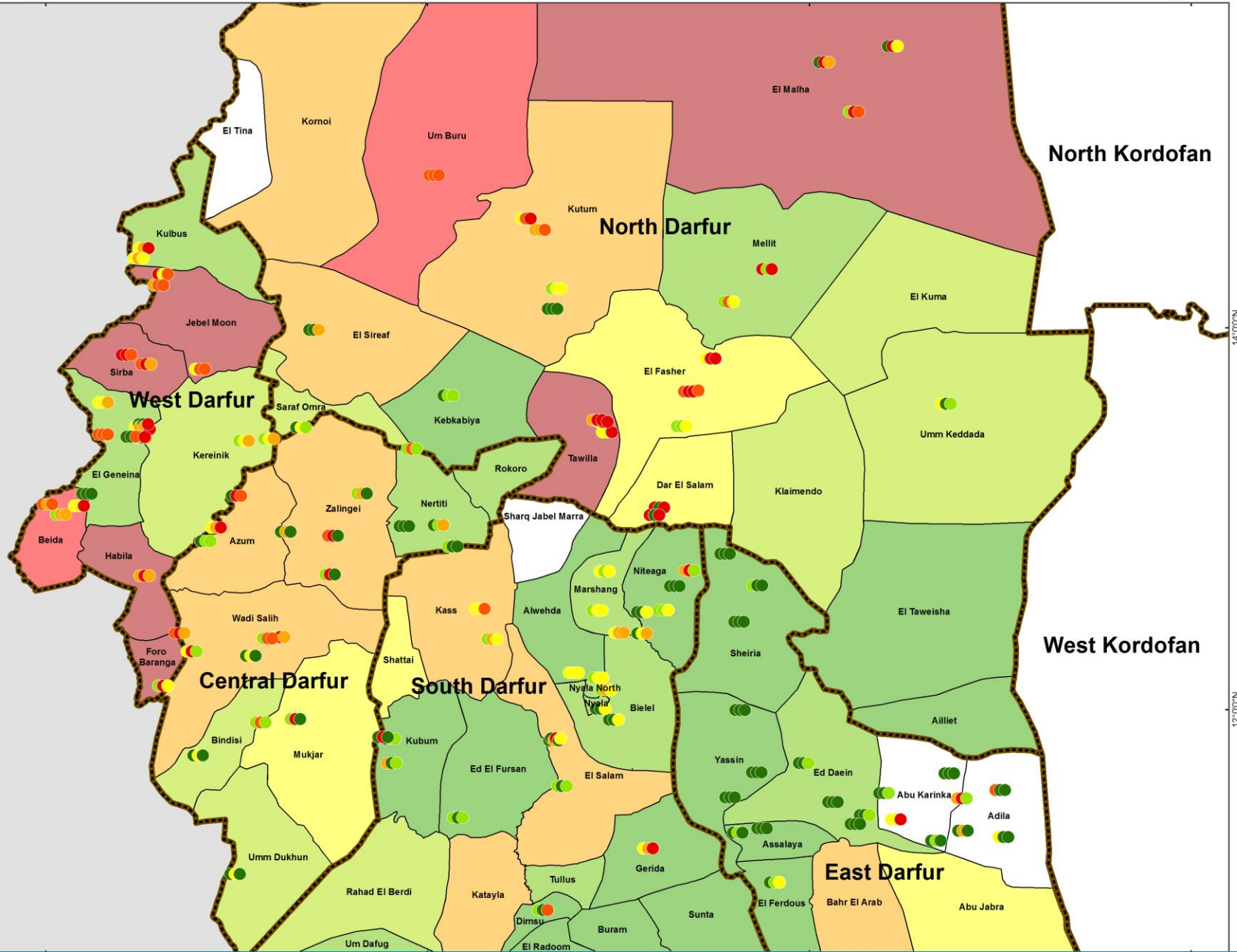


# Darfur

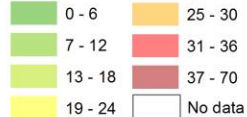
## Food Security Monitoring



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.



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Contact:

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

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