

Food Security Monitoring

Central Darfur, Sudan, November 2015

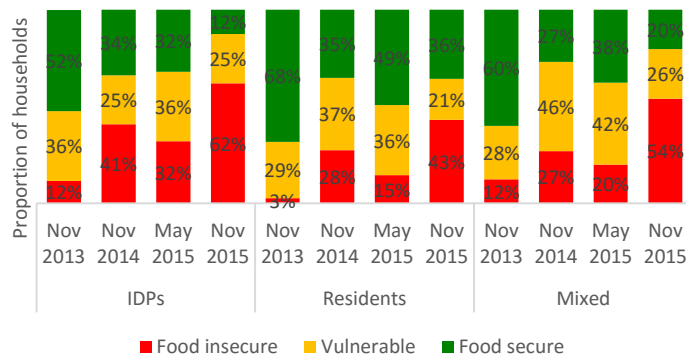


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food security analysis

Summary

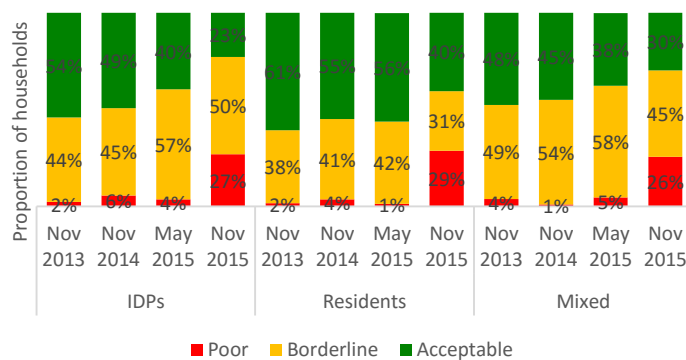
The data collected in Central Darfur for the November 2015 round of food security monitoring indicated a serious deterioration in food security. Because of the sharp deterioration and the low levels of food security when compared to other Darfur states, further investigation was required to verify the results. Food security was negatively impacted by high food prices, few labour opportunities in the agricultural sector and a below-average harvest.

Food Security



The proportion of households classified as food insecure nearly doubled compared to May 2015 (the most recent round of monitoring) and November 2014 (the comparable time last year). Because of the dramatic change over a relative short period, to historically low levels of food security, the results requires further verification and validation. At the time of writing WFP field missions were underway to investigate ground conditions.

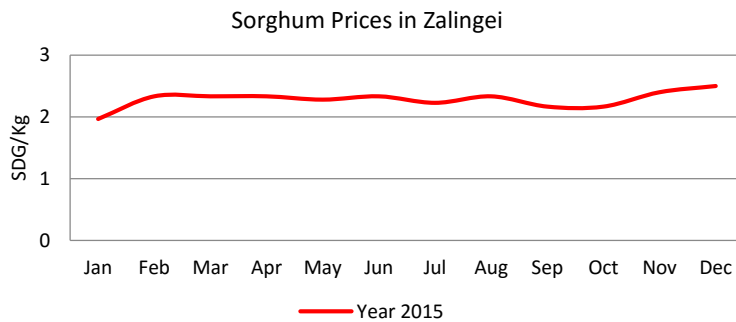
Household Food Consumption



Food consumption deteriorated substantially for households in IDP, resident and mixed communities. The proportion of households with poor food consumption has traditionally been among the smallest of the Darfur states. The estimates of 25-30 percent in the current round would be among the worst in Darfur. As with the food security indicator above, further investigation was underway to verify and interpret results.

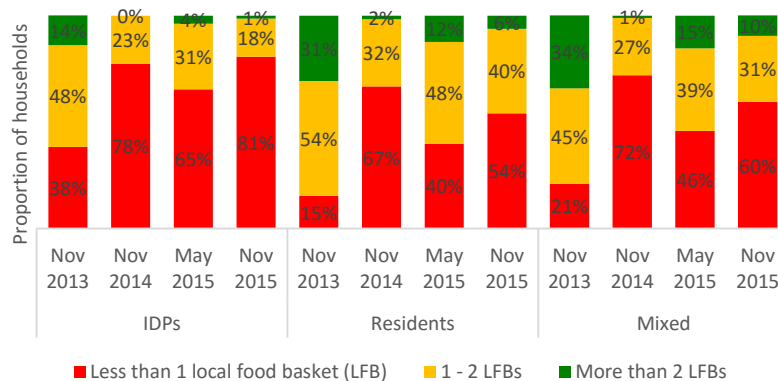
Market Prices

Sorghum prices in Zalingei had been increasing since October to reach year-round highs during a time of the year when sorghum prices are typically in decline. Sorghum prices were expected to continue to increase into the lean season due to the poor agricultural season.



Purchasing Power

Purchasing power had deteriorated for households in IDP, resident and mixed communities compared to May 2015 but remained at a level similar to that in November 2014. A majority of sampled households were found to have weak purchasing power. The situation were particularly stressed among IDPs, where over 80 percent of households were unable to afford a local food basket. Changes were driven in part by the increases seen in the price of cereals and not helped by the poor agricultural season.



Methodology

WFP conducts continuous food security monitoring across Sudan. The household data collection for this round was conducted in November-December 2015 which constitutes the start of the harvest season. Across Darfur, a total of 6,094 households across 125 sentinel sites were interviewed for this monitoring round.

Food Security

Food security was determined, as per WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment standards, by cross-tabulating economic food access indicators with food consumption (see below).

Purchasing Power

The price of a local food basket (LFB) was used as a benchmark against which to compare household total expenditure (a proxy for income), to determine the level of purchasing power. Purchasing power was determined by calculating how many baskets households could afford.

Household Food Consumption

Food consumption data was collected and analyzed using standard WFP methodology: the variety and frequency of foods consumed over a 7-day period was recorded to calculate a 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.

Contact

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