Summary

Food security held steady for IDPs and has slowly improved among residents in North Darfur over the past year, although almost a third of sampled households continued to be food insecure. Despite very weak purchasing power and increasing food prices resulting from below-average production in the previous agricultural season (2015/16), more than half of surveyed households had acceptable levels of food consumption. However, continuing price increases were expected to put a strain on households’ ability to provide for themselves. The sample for mixed communities has not been collected for this round due to operational constraints.

Food security among IDP households remained largely unchanged, holding steady at approximately 30 percent in the same period over the last two years. A steady improvement was seen among resident households, whose proportion of food insecure dropped by 15 percentage points since May 2015, coming down to a level similar to that of IDPs, but still not quite commensurate to their level of two years ago (May 2014).

The food consumption of sampled IDP and resident households improved over previous rounds. It is noteworthy however that while the level of acceptable food consumption increased for residents, the decline in poor food consumption for IDPs translated more into a higher number of households with ‘borderline’ food consumption.
Sorghum prices in El Fasher in May 2016 increased following a typical seasonal pattern for this time of the year. The sorghum price has been increasing for several months to a high level, over 40 percent above prices for the same time last year. Given the below-average production in the main 2015/16 season, this increase was expected to continue until the pre-harvest period.

Household purchasing power held steady at very low levels for both IDPs and residents, continuing a long-term trend of deterioration. Over 80 percent of all households were unable to afford the local food basket, while only negligible numbers of households were able to afford more than 2 LFBs. Limited agricultural labour opportunities coupled with high food prices contributed to this negative trend in purchasing power.