



Food Security Monitoring

Central Darfur, Sudan, May 2016

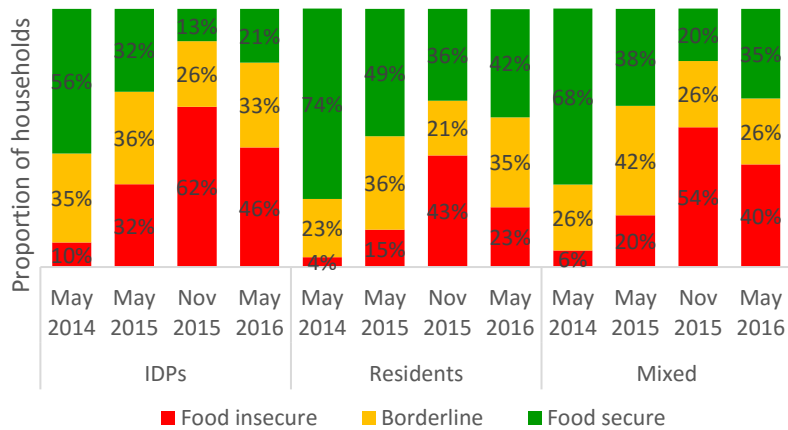


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Summary

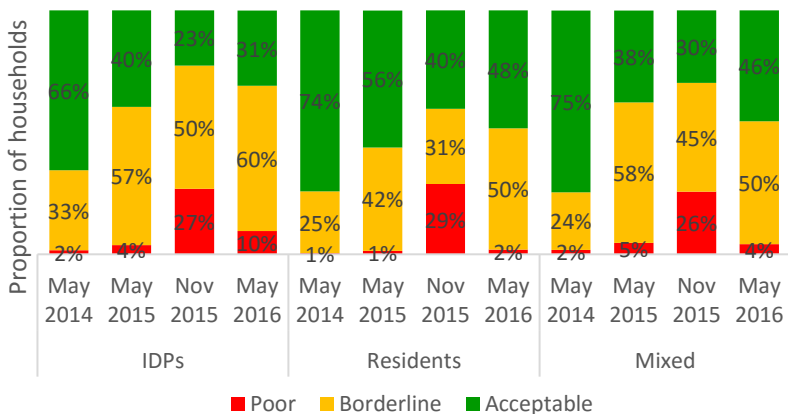
Food security in Central Darfur had deteriorated compared to the results for the same month in previous years. The proportion of sampled households that were food insecure increased from approximately 21 to 41 percent from May 2015 to May 2016. Food insecurity levels were elevated among protracted IDPs compared to resident households.

Food Security



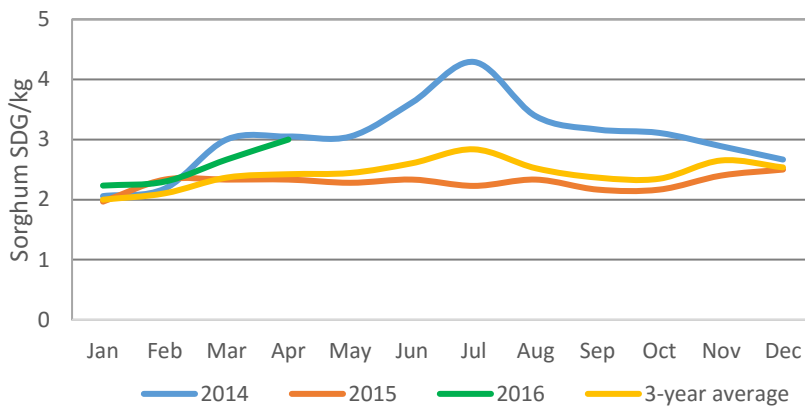
While the food security situation improved compared to the most recent round of food security monitoring (November 2015), the situation was still worse compared to the same month in previous years. The deterioration was observed among IDPs, residents and mixed communities and likely a result of the below-average 2015/16 agricultural season. May marks the start of the lean season, a period when the previous season's work is completed, but before the start of preparations for the new season, which limits the availability of agricultural job opportunities.

Household Food Consumption



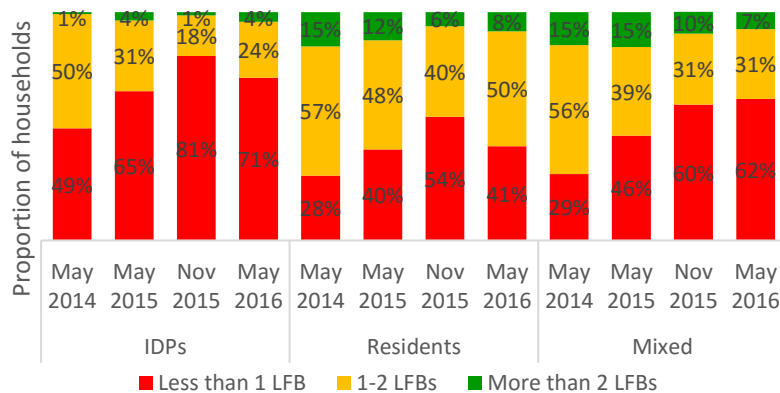
Food consumption deteriorated temporarily in November 2015, but had in May 2016 returned to the similar levels as May 2015. However, within sampled IDP communities a minor increase in the proportion of households with poor food consumption was observed compared to May 2015. Only 31 percent of IDP households were able to sustain acceptable food consumption, compared to 66 percent as recently as May 2014. A similar deterioration was observed among residents.

Market Prices



The price of sorghum in Zalengei market has been increasing since October 2015 and in April 2016 it had reached a level significantly above the price of last year and the 3-year average. Sorghum prices were expected to continue to increase into the lean season due to the poor performance of the last agricultural season.

Purchasing Power



Purchasing power remained at or slightly below May 2015 levels, in a continuation of a multi-year trend of weakening purchasing power. Seventy-one percent of IDP households were unable to generate enough income to cover their food needs (see side bar), demonstrating the limited income generating capacities of sampled households. Although resident households fared better, a large proportion (41 percent) were unable to afford the local food basket.

Methodology

WFP conducts continuous food security monitoring across Sudan. The household data collection for this round was conducted in May 2016 which constitutes the start of the lean season. Across Darfur, a total of 5,830 households across 101 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. 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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