



Food Security Monitoring

Red Sea, Sudan, May 2016

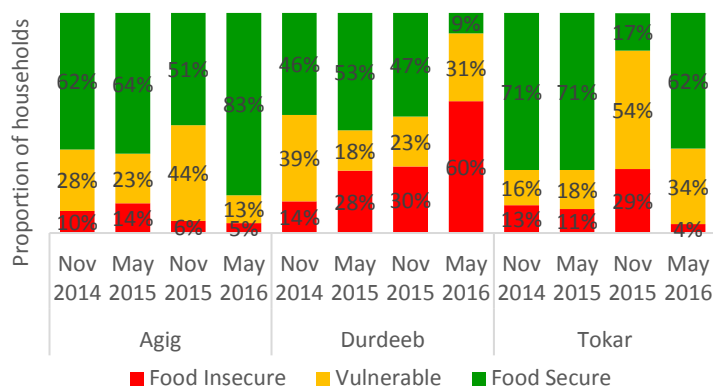


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Summary

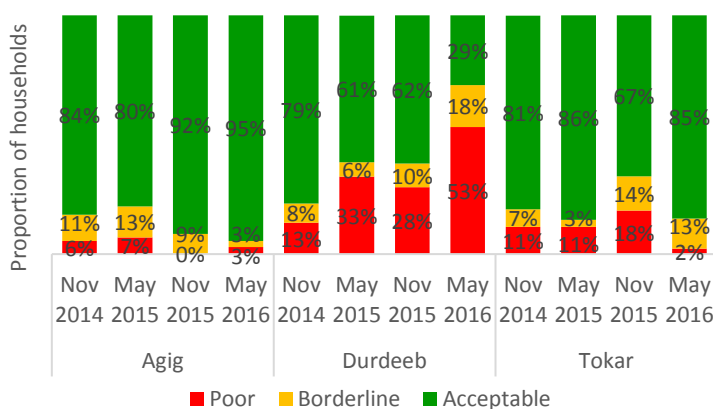
Food security among sampled households in Agig and Tokar localities improved compared to the same time last year, as a result of improved food consumption and purchasing power. Meanwhile, Durdeeb's largely pastoralist households continued to face the brunt of higher food prices and the El Nino phenomena, with food security deteriorating to a two-year low.

Food Security



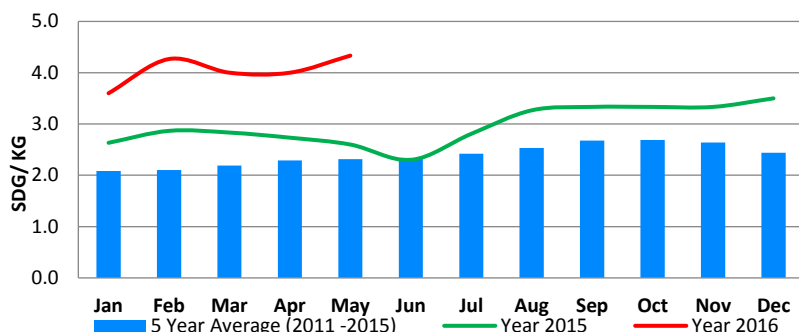
Food security improvements in Agig and Tokar were partly result of a strong presence of development organizations in these localities, with interventions aimed at improving household food security through food assistance and income-generating activities. However, the large improvement in Agig was unexpected and required further investigation. The serious food security deterioration in Durdeeb was also unexpected and could only be partly explained by the pastoral nature of livelihoods being disproportionately affected by the poor rains and increasing food prices.

Household Food Consumption



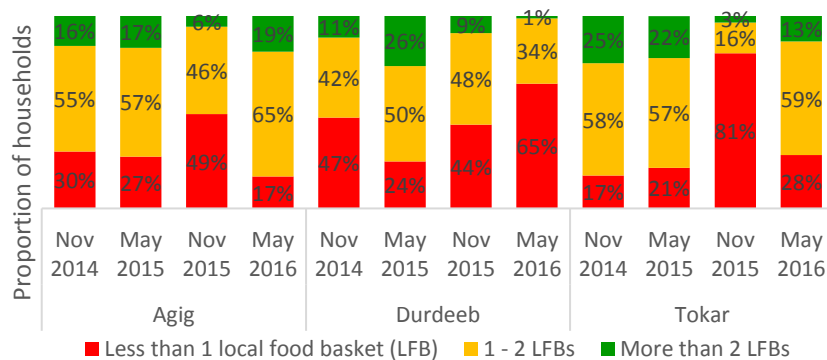
Food consumption in Agig was found to be largely acceptable, as in previous rounds of food security monitoring. Durdeeb had deteriorated substantially, to a point where a majority of households had poor food consumption, as people struggle to purchase sufficient food in the face of increasing prices. Food consumption in Tokar had recovered from a drop in November 2015, the proportion of households with poor food consumption now at its lowest level since November 2014.

Market Prices



Sorghum prices continued to increase and was 66 percent above May 2015 levels. Prices increased steadily from July-onward in 2015, stagnating between September and November but dropping only by January the next year. Increasing sorghum prices is partly attributable to low agricultural production driven by reduced rainfall due to the El Nino phenomena. Upon falling in March 2015, prices recovered only by July the same year, while in 2016 prices have already recovered in May and was expected to continue to increase.

Purchasing Power



Purchasing power in Agig had improved substantially compared to the previous round of monitoring and was stronger than the seasonal average. Sampled households in Durdeeb had seen their purchasing power steadily weakened since May 2015, with 65 percent not being able to afford the cost of the local food basket. Households in Tokar are significantly better off now compared to November 2015, but the majority still have insufficient purchasing power. The weak purchasing power in all three localities could be partly attributable to high dependency on low-income livelihoods including firewood collection and charcoal production, along with high food prices and the poor agricultural season.

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 Red Sea, a total of 624 households across 25 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 thresholds, households were classified as having either poor, borderline or acceptable food consumption.

Contact

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