

# Food Security Monitoring

## Kassala, Sudan, May 2016

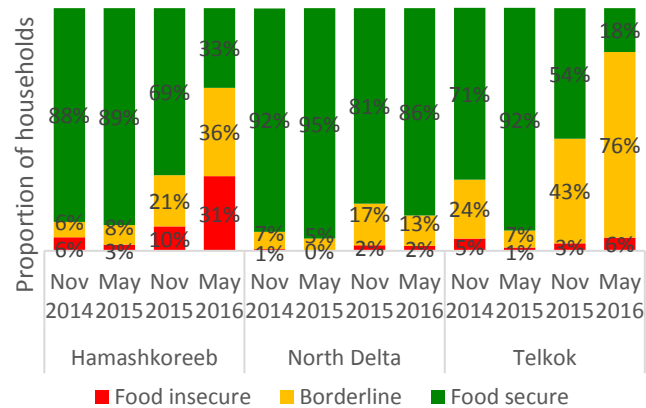


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food security analysis

### Summary

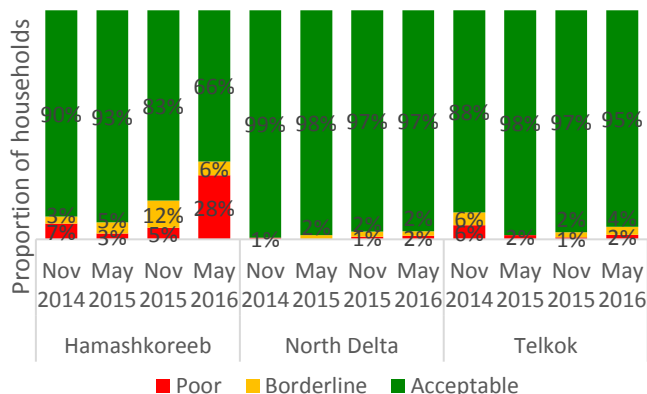
Food security deteriorated among sampled households in Hamashkoreeb and Telkok localities compared to the same period last year. The principal driver of this deterioration in food security has been declining purchasing power, compounded by the poor agricultural season and fewer-than-normal opportunities for employment in agriculture.

### Food Security



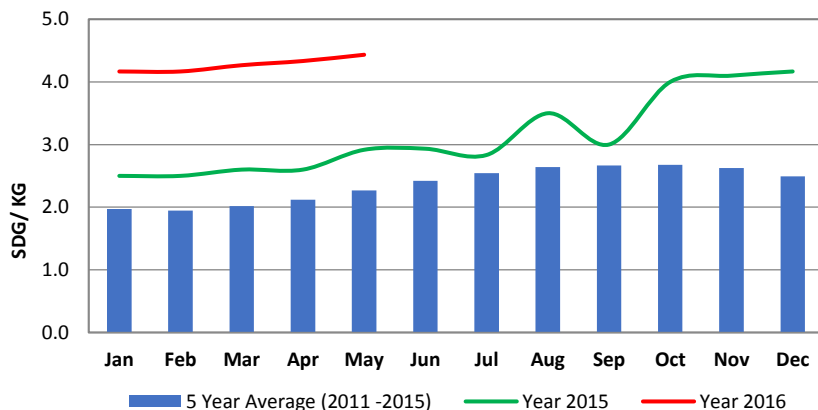
The food security situation significantly deteriorated in Hamashkoreeb and Telkok localities compared to November 2015 and the same time last year. The percentage of food secure households decreased by 36 percent points in both Hamashkoreeb and Telkok localities compared to November 2015. This is mainly attributed to the lean season and weak purchasing power of households. The below-average food supply from the previous season has required continuous close monitoring of food prices and household food security.

### Household Food Consumption



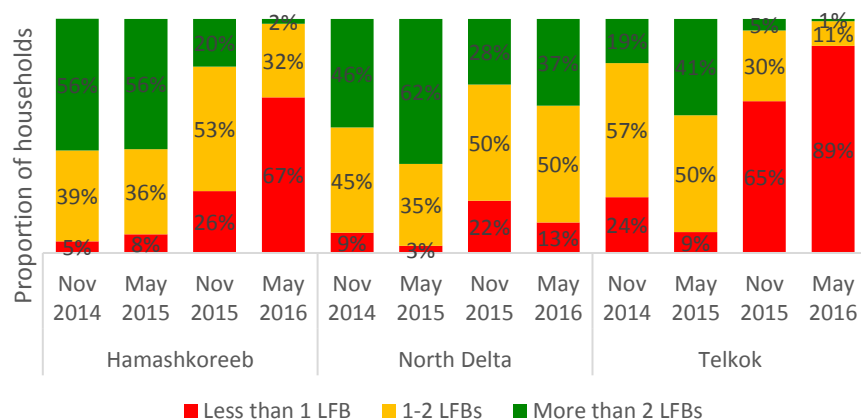
Household food consumption in Hamashkoreeb deteriorated significantly from November 2015 to May 2016, but remained stable in North Delta and Telkok. The negative trend in Hamashkoreeb could be attributed to limited opportunities of agricultural employment. Twenty-eight percent of households in Hamashkoreeb had poor food consumption, which is a very large number in the context of Sudan. Acceptable diets remained steady and were nearly universal among sampled households in North Delta and Telkok.

## Market Prices



Sorghum prices in Kassala followed the increasing trend nationally and were 52 percent higher compared to the same period last year. The price of sorghum was expected to continue to increase in the coming months (during the lean season), given the poor harvest in the previous (2015/2016) season, and increased costs of, mainly imported, production inputs, such as fuel, herbicides and fertilizers, which was in turn due to the continued devaluation of the Sudanese pound.

## Purchasing Power



The proportion of households who could not afford the cost of one local food basket drastically increased in Hamashkoreeb and Telkok localities. The weakened purchasing power among the sampled households was mainly due to higher food prices and stricter restriction of cross-border trade which affected income opportunities in the two localities.

## 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 Kassala, a total of 600 households across 24 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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