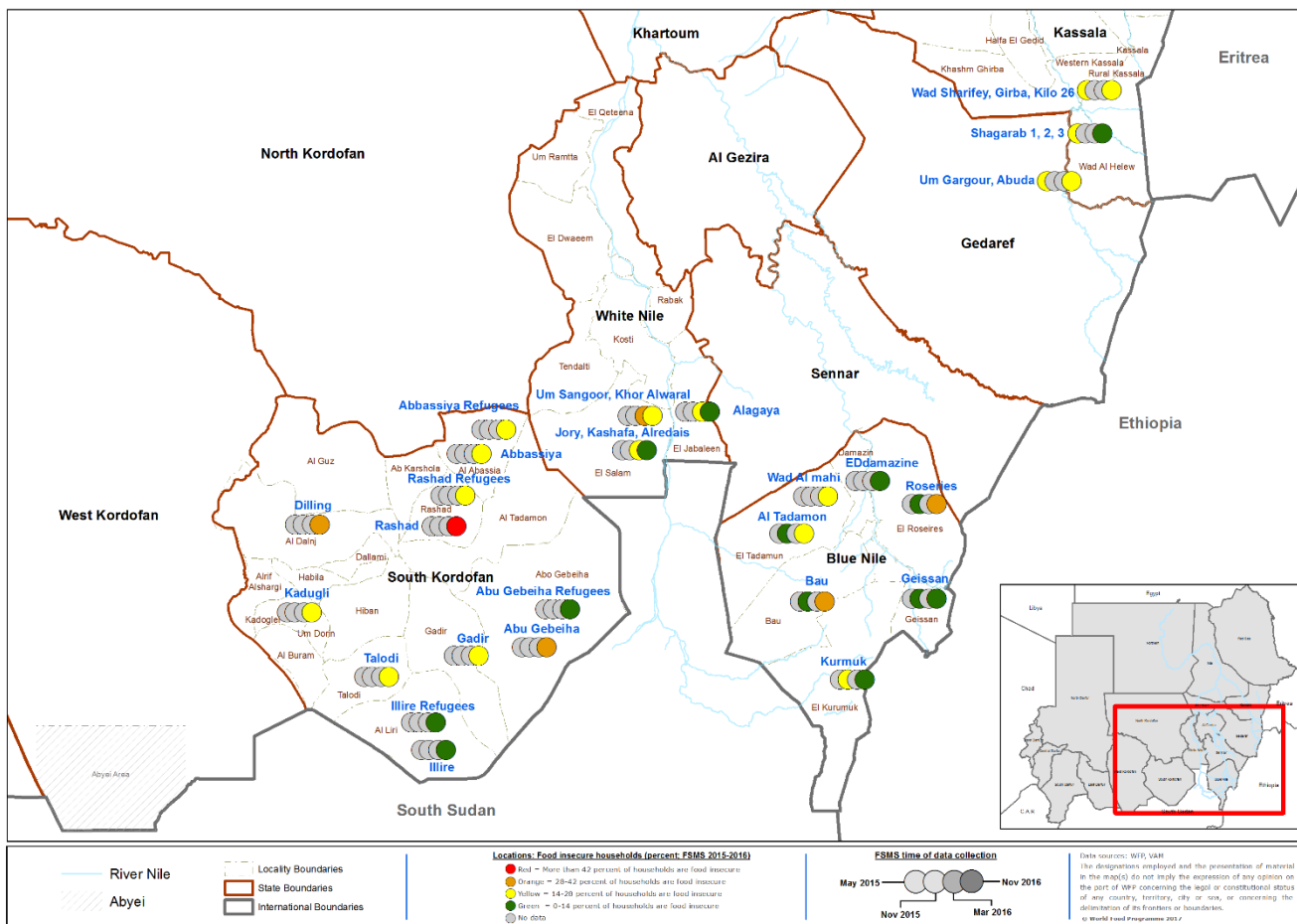


Eastern and Southern Sudan

Food Security Monitoring, November 2016



vam
food security analysis



23 %
of surveyed IDPs and refugees were food insecure in East- and Southern Sudan

14 %
of South Sudanese Refugees in White Nile, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile were food insecure

500,000
IDPs and refugees in surveyed locations
(5,900 households interviewed)

HIGHLIGHTS

Changes in the food security situation¹ from November 2015 to November 2016 among displaced populations in Eastern and Southern Sudan were mixed. Food security improved among surveyed populations in Kassala, White Nile, and parts of Blue Nile. Food security deteriorated in South Kordofan and other parts of Blue Nile.

Relatively stable prices and anticipation of good harvests contributed to improvements in some areas, while in other areas the in-flux of new refugees, insecurity, anticipated localized food production shortfalls, and above-average food and transport prices contributed to food insecurity.

Economic access to food deteriorated across all surveyed populations, mainly due to limited access to major markets (often due to long distances), restrictions on commodity movements, or insecurity.

The FSMS was not designed to estimate food security specifically for the newly arrived refugees from South Sudan. However, based on secondary data, this population was believed to be highly food insecure.

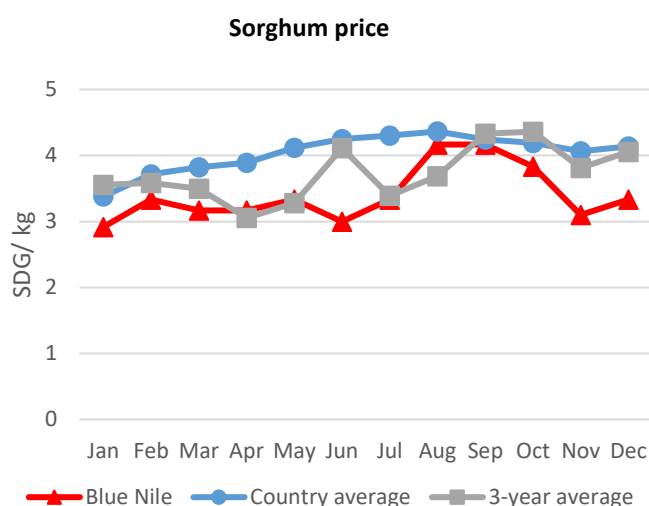
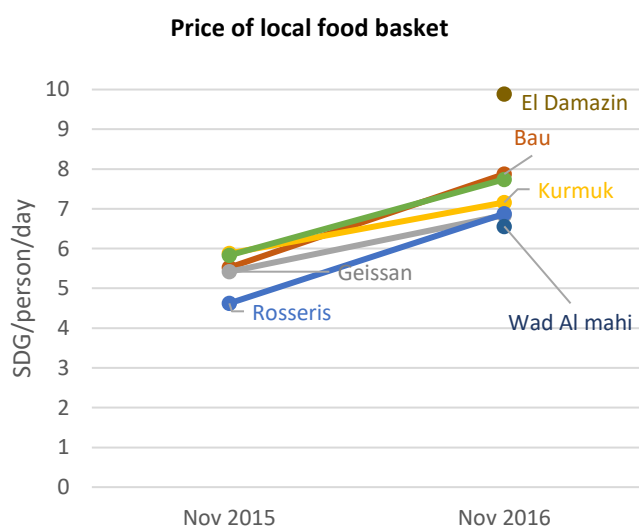
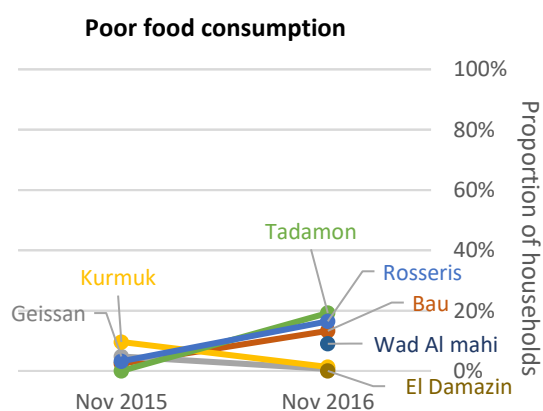
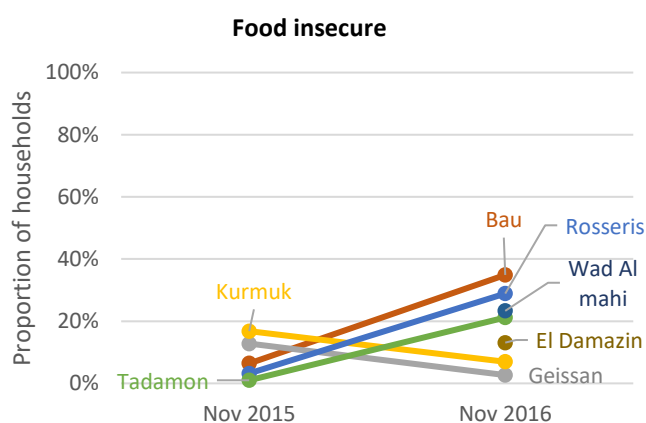
The Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) analyses household information from IDP and refugee locations across Sudan. Thousands of household interviews are conducted, twice a year: at the start of the lean season in May and at the harvest season in November. The FSMS uses WFP's Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) approach and findings are statistically representative at the cluster level (groups of locations). See last two pages for details.

¹ See the methodology section on the last page for a precise definition of the food security indicator employed by the FSMS.

Food security among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in three out of seven localities in Blue Nile State – in Bau, El Rosseris and Tadamon – deteriorated from November 2015 to November 2016. Poor economic access to food, resulting from increased commodity prices, especially during the months running up to the data collection in November 2016, was the main reason behind this deterioration. Livelihood opportunities in the above-mentioned localities could have been negatively impacted by the in-flow of more new arrivals in the last two years compared to other localities.

Household food consumption (measured by the food consumption score²) showed a small deterioration in Bau, El Rosseris and Tadamon. The increased price of food (measured by a local food basket³) contributed.

Sorghum prices in Blue Nile were volatile but relatively low compared to the national monthly average price. The anticipation of the good harvest was the primary reason of reduction in sorghum price at the end of the year. Nevertheless, the cost of a local food basket increased by fifty percent across localities compared to November 2015. The high cost of the local food baskets in Bau and Tadamon was also affected by restrictions on commodity movements from El Damzin market.



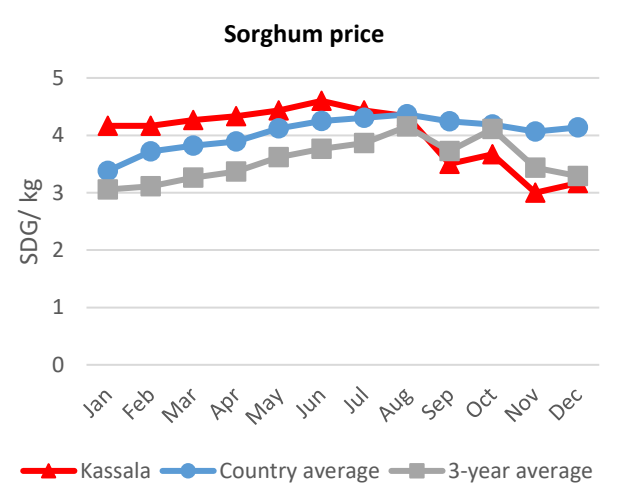
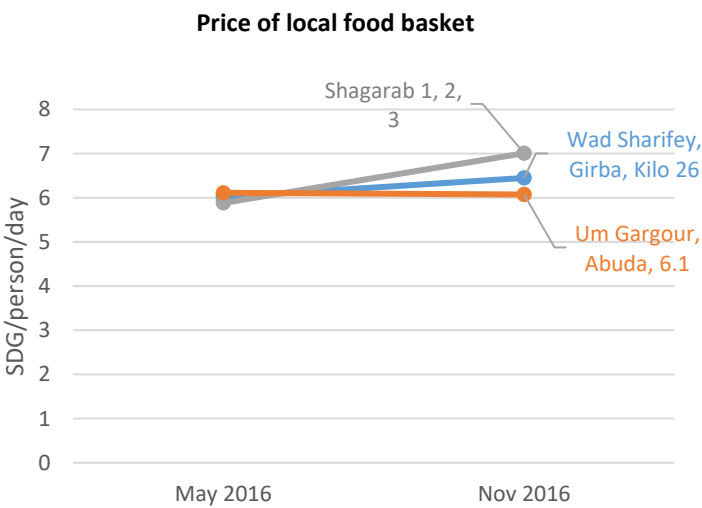
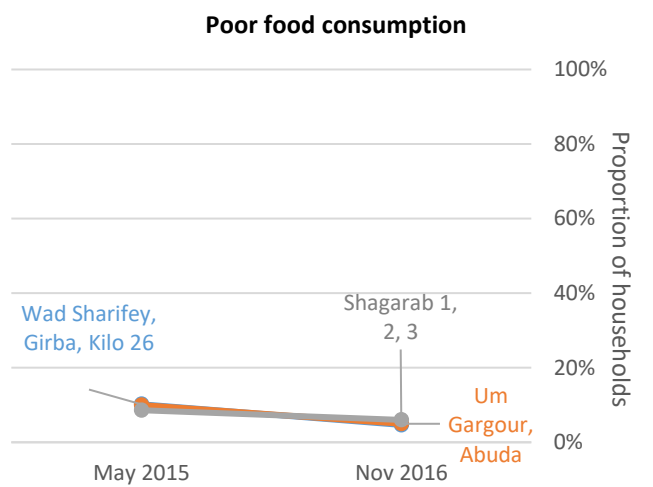
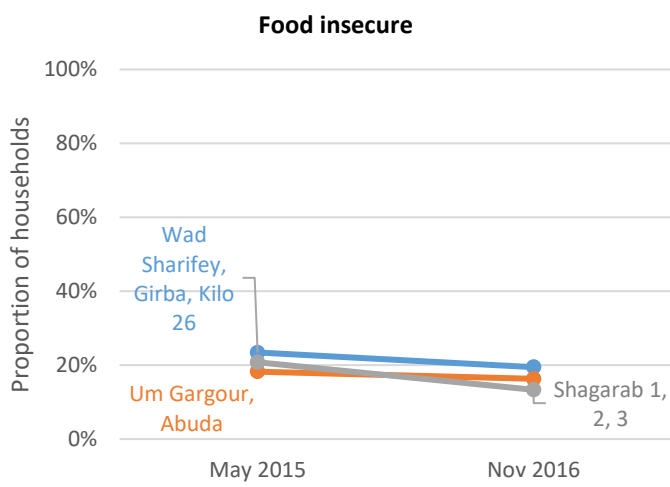
² See methodology section on the last page for details.

³ The price of a local food basket (LFB) consisting of sorghum, onions, vegetable oil, milk, cow meat, goat meat, dry tomatoes, and sugar was used as a benchmark against which to compare household total expenditure (a proxy indicator for household income). See last page for details.

Food security improved slightly in all three clusters in Kassala. Nevertheless, one-fifth of the interviewed households in Kassala state remained food insecure. Although the differences between the three clusters were small, food insecurity was highest in the Wad Sharifey, Girba and Kilo 26 cluster, whereas the decrease in food insecurity was lowest in the Um Garogour and Abuda cluster.

Household food consumption followed a similar trend as the food security indicator. In November 2016, approximately 10 percent of sampled households had poor consumption.

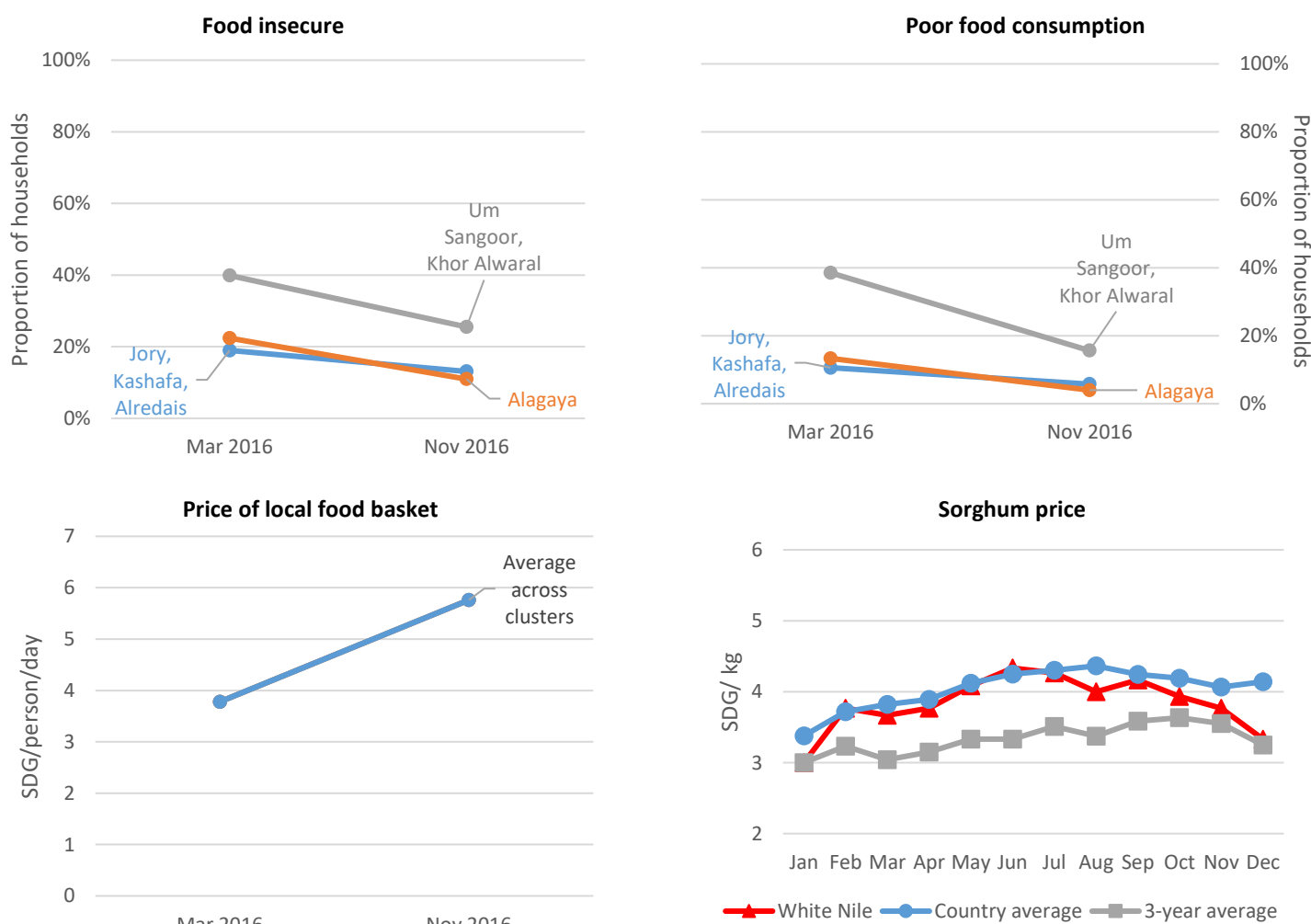
Sorghum prices in Kassala market were close to the national average for most of the year, but declined below the national average at the end of 2016 in anticipation of the good harvest. Nevertheless, the cost of the local food basket was relatively high in all localities compared to November 2015. The increasing trend of the local food basket costs in Shagarab cluster, and to a lesser extent in Wad Sharifey, Girba, and Kilo 26 was the result of an increase in the price of non-cereal commodities.



In November 2016, food security improved for all clusters of South Sudanese refugees in White Nile compared to March 2016. Household food consumption also improved over the same period, in particular in the Um Sangoor and Khor Alwaral clusters where the proportion of households with poor food consumption dropped from 39 percent in March 2016 to 16 percent in November 2016. It is important to note that the timing of data collection in the past was different for the White Nile FSMS than in the other states (especially the absence of data from November 2015), which limits the comparability of this and the previous round of data collection. An improvement was expected, as the comparison was made between the lean season (March 2016) and the harvest season (November 2016). The improvement could also have been partly a result of improved coverage of food and nutrition assistance.

Sorghum prices in the Kosti market in White Nile followed a relatively normal trend for most of 2016. Prices of sorghum decreased in the last quarter of last year as a result of the anticipation of better harvest, and it was below the country average for most of the second half of the year.

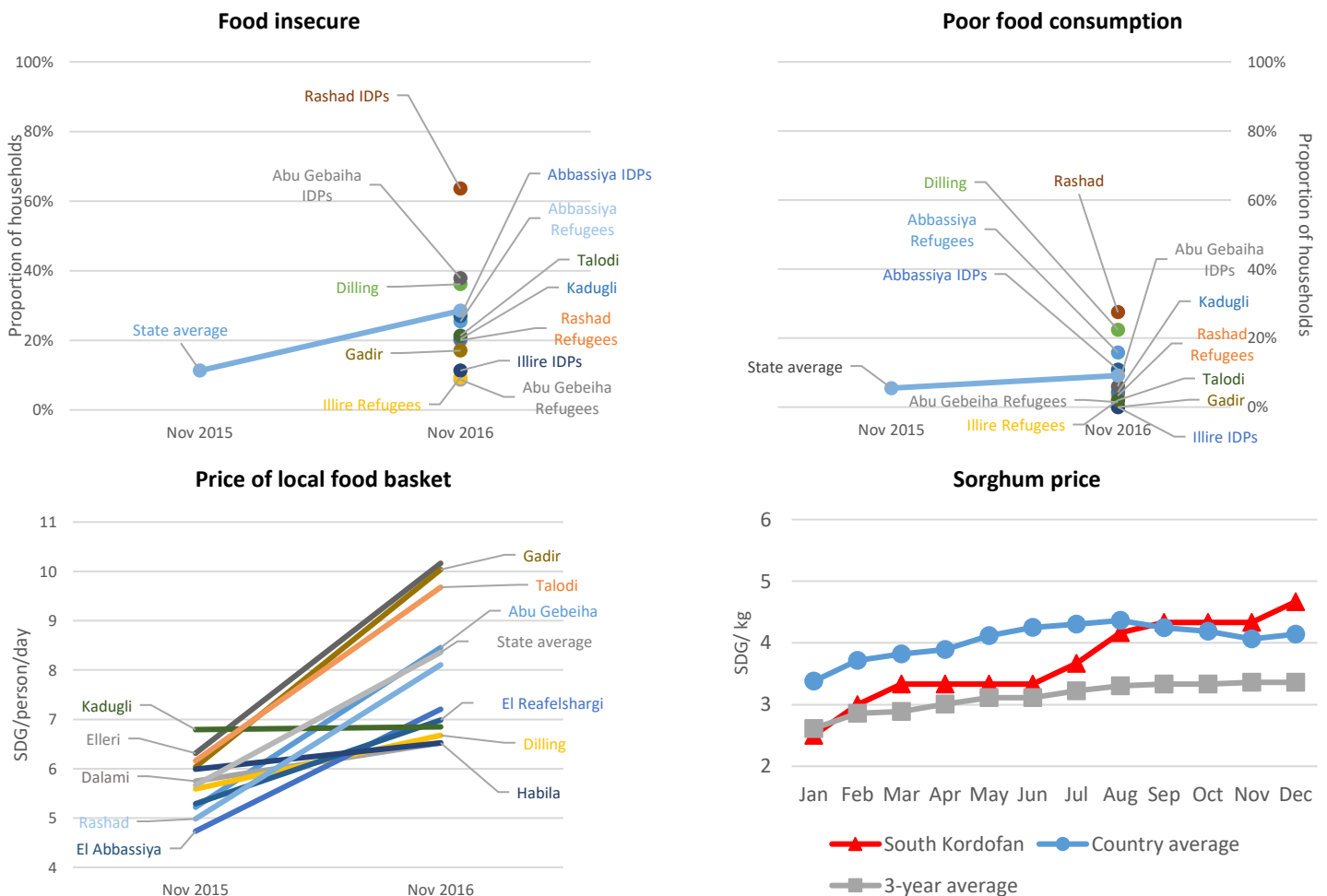
The cost of a local food basket in the refugee camps increased, although this increase varied based on the distance to major markets. For example, in more accessible camps such as Alagaya, commodities prices were lower than the other camps. However, in general, commodity prices in the refugee camps were higher compared to the Kosti market prices, partly due to restrictions in the movement of commodities.



In South Kordofan, the food security situation deteriorated among sampled households compared to November 2015. Out of the 12 clusters, three IDP clusters (Rashad, Abu Gebaiha, and Dilling) had a larger-than-average proportion of food insecure people. IDPs in Rashad exhibited worrying levels of food insecurity. In addition to the impact of displacement, poor economic access to food was an important factor behind the increase in food insecurity. This weak purchasing power was driven by the increase in the costs of local food baskets in almost all locations, and insecurity, which limited the access to land and employment for IDPs working in the agricultural sector.

In 2016, sorghum prices in the Kadugli market of South Kordofan were relatively stable up to the start of the lean season after which prices increased above the country average in 2016. This trend can be attributed to sporadic rainfalls that resulted in inadequate rainfall in some areas, and an excess amount of rainfalls in other areas, for cultivation. Insecurity also limited access to land for farmers and also contributed to a relatively low agricultural productivity in South Kordofan.

The cost of a local food basket increased in almost all surveyed communities, in November 2016, compared to November 2015. Elleri and Gadir experienced the largest increases. The cost of local food baskets in these two communities increased by nearly two-thirds compared to November 2015. In general, commodity prices were much higher compared to the main market in Kadugli due to the distance to the markets, and insecurity affecting the transport of commodities. Prices were higher than in other states.



State	Cluster	Month	Food security			Food consumption		
			Food Insecure	Borderline	Food secure	Poor	Borderline	Acceptable
White Nile	Jory, Kashafa, Alredais	Mar 2016	19%	32%	49%	11%	29%	61%
		Nov 2016	13%	35%	52%	6%	26%	68%
	Alagaya	Mar 2016	22%	37%	40%	13%	30%	56%
		Nov 2016	11%	48%	42%	4%	33%	63%
	Um Sangoor, Khor Alwaral	Mar 2016	40%	34%	26%	39%	31%	30%
		Nov 2016	26%	38%	36%	16%	25%	59%
Kassala	Wad Sharifey, Girba, Kilo 26	May 2016	23%	39%	37%	10%	22%	67%
		Nov 2016	19%	33%	48%	5%	23%	73%
	Um Gargour, Abuda	May 2016	18%	40%	42%	10%	25%	65%
		Nov 2016	16%	38%	46%	5%	24%	71%
	Shagarab 1, 2, 3	May 2016	21%	39%	40%	9%	32%	60%
		Nov 2016	13%	42%	45%	6%	20%	74%
Blue Nile	Al Tadamon	Nov 2015	1%	13%	86%	0%	6%	94%
		Nov 2016	21%	34%	45%	19%	4%	77%
	Bau	Nov 2015	6%	22%	72%	2%	8%	90%
		Nov 2016	35%	43%	23%	13%	35%	52%
	Geissan	Nov 2015	13%	21%	66%	5%	22%	74%
		Nov 2016	3%	41%	56%	1%	3%	96%
	Kurmuk	Nov 2015	17%	21%	62%	10%	20%	70%
		Nov 2016	7%	39%	54%	1%	10%	89%
	Roseries	Nov 2015	3%	19%	78%	3%	12%	85%
		Nov 2016	29%	40%	31%	16%	36%	47%
	El Damazin	Nov 2016	13%	34%	52%	0%	20%	80%
	Wad Al mahi	Nov 2016	23%	41%	36%	9%	37%	54%
South Kordofan	Abbassiya Refugees	Nov 2016	25%	53%	22%	16%	58%	26%
	Rashad Refugees	Nov 2016	20%	50%	30%	3%	50%	47%
	Abu Gebeiha Refugees	Nov 2016	9%	33%	58%	1%	13%	86%
	Illire Refugees	Nov 2016	9%	44%	47%	2%	15%	83%
	Kadugli IDPs	Nov 2016	20%	36%	43%	4%	34%	62%
	Dilling IDPs	Nov 2016	36%	30%	34%	22%	23%	55%
	Abbassiya IDPs	Nov 2016	27%	48%	25%	11%	54%	35%
	Rashad IDPs	Nov 2016	64%	27%	9%	27%	53%	20%
	Abu Gebaiha IDPs	Nov 2016	38%	44%	19%	6%	48%	46%
	Gadir IDPs	Nov 2016	17%	54%	29%	0%	19%	81%
	Illire IDPs	Nov 2016	11%	45%	44%	0%	16%	84%
	Talodi IDPs	Nov 2016	21%	51%	28%	2%	25%	73%

WFP conducts continuous food security monitoring of populations across Sudan affected by emergencies, focusing on internally displaced persons and refugees. The food security monitoring system (FSMS) covers the states of North Darfur, West Darfur, Central Darfur, South Darfur, East Darfur, West Kordofan, South Kordofan, White Nile, Blue Nile and Kassala. For each round of monitoring, results are released in two reports, one for Darfur and one for Eastern and Southern Sudan. (West Kordofan was not included in the November 2016 FSMS round for Eastern and Southern Sudan due to operational constraints.)

Sample

Data collection takes place two times per year, in May and November. The household data collection for this round of monitoring was conducted in November 2016, which constitutes the start of the harvest period. Field teams collected data from a set number of sentinel sites. The sentinel sites did not change across monitoring rounds, although minor variation may occur between rounds as a result of access or operational constraints. For this round of monitoring, 54 locations were sampled in Eastern and Southern Sudan. A total of 5,900 selected households were interviewed. Within the fixed sentinel sites, sampled households were selected randomly. The sample was drawn randomly among new and protracted IDPs and refugees; as a result, it was not possible to report separate vulnerability levels specifically for the new refugees from South Sudan. Results were aggregated to groups of camps and locations, called clusters, and statistics were reported at that level. The data from the 54 locations were aggregated to 17 clusters (as listed in the Data Table). The sample size was 300 for each cluster, with the exception of El Damazin, Tadamon, and Wadi el Mahi in Blue Nile, Um Sangor in White Nile, and refugee camps of Abbassiya, Rashad, and Abu Gebeiha in South Kordofan.

Indicators

Food security was determined, as per WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment standards, by cross-tabulating two economic food access indicators with a household food consumption indicator (see below). For the first economic food access indicator, the price of a local food basket was used as a benchmark against which to compare household total expenditure (a proxy for income), to determine the ability of households to meet their food needs through food purchases. The local food basket consisted of sorghum, onions, vegetable oil, milk, cow meat, goat meat, dry tomatoes, and sugar in amounts sufficient to attain a nutritionally acceptable diet, while minimizing the cost. For the second economic access indicator, the proportion of total household expenditure spent on food was calculated, as a complementary indicator of economic strength and a proxy indicator for household food production (under the assumption that households with large food production would spend a smaller proportion of their expenditures on food purchases). Household 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 household 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. See the [WFP methodology paper](#) for more details. WFP in Sudan is transitioning to WFP's standard Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI).

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