

SUDAN Food Security Outlook Update

June 2010

Peak of lean season approaches in northern and southern Sudan

- In Northern Sudan, the lean season started earlier (January/February) than usual (May/June). The most food insecure populations are in Darfur, Red Sea State, and parts of Kassala, North and South Kordofan, and Blue and White Nile states. Food security is likely to deteriorate further as food stocks are depleted and cereal prices continue to rise, and the lean season is expected to peak in August.
- Escalated conflict in Darfur during May has resulted in 600 deaths in May 2010, the highest monthly death toll within the last two years; caused new displacements; and hampered access to affected populations by the humanitarian community.
- In Southern Sudan, the most food insecure populations are located in Jonglei, Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Eastern Equatoria states. The lean season is expected to end in July-August in Eastern, Central, and Western Equatoria, and in September in all other states. This is when households in the respective states are likely to start consuming early maturing crops.
- Mixed crop performance is reported in Southern Sudan for the April - July cropping season areas of Eastern, Central, and Western Equatoria, while planting has just begun in the June - September / November cropping areas.

Updated food security outlook through September

In Northern Sudan, food insecurity is deteriorating rapidly following the poor harvest of 2009/10, escalating conflict in Darfur, and soaring cereal prices. The lean season is expected to peak in August, as food stocks are depleted and dependence on the market for food purchases increases. The main areas of concern include Darfur region, Red Sea state, and parts of Blue Nile, Kassala, South Kordofan, North Kordofan, and White Nile states.

There are increasing concerns over security in Darfur and the impacts on food security. The main areas in conflict are a) Justice and Equity Movement (JEM) and Government of Sudan (GoS) fighting areas in Jebel Moon in West Darfur State, East Jebel Mara, Khazan Jadid, Sheria and the eastern parts of South Darfur State and the Southern parts of North Darfur state; b) Rezeigat and Messeriya tribal conflict areas in the south and southwest of South Darfur state and east and southeast of West Darfur State; and c) internal rebel conflict areas, mainly in Jebel Mara area in South and West Darfur States. According

This report provides an update to the April 2010 FEWS NET Food Security Outlook report which estimated food security conditions in Sudan through September 2010. The next Outlook report will be released in July and will cover the July to December 2010 period.

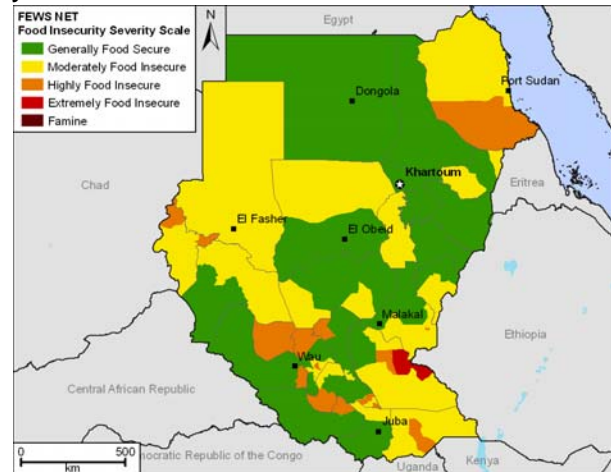
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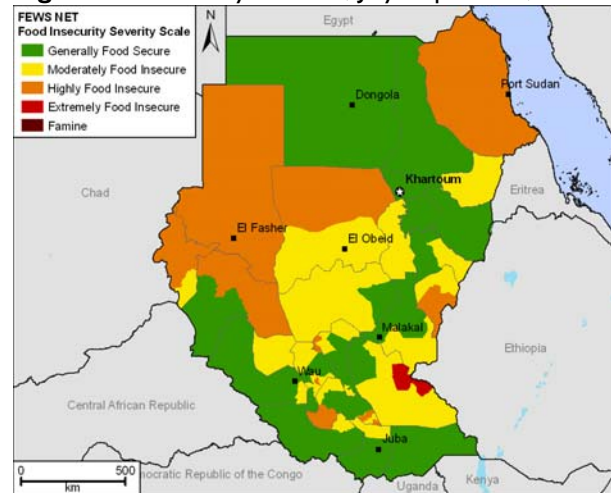
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Figure 1. Current estimated food security outcomes, June 2010



Source: FEWS NET

Figure 2. Most likely scenario, July–September, 2010



Source: FEWS NET

For more information on FEWS Net's Food Insecurity Severity Scale, please see: www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale

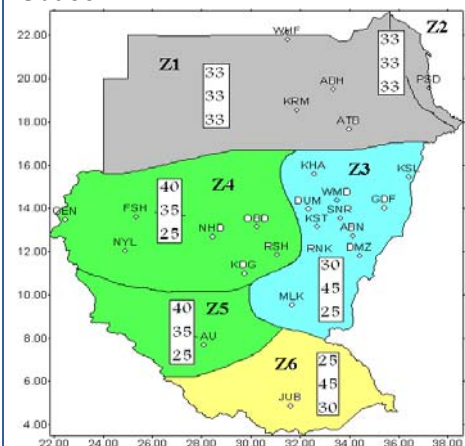
to UNAMID, clashes between GoS and Darfur rebels, tribal clashes between Rezeigat and Misseriya rival Arab tribes, and clashes between Darfur rebel groups resulted in 600 deaths in May 2010, the highest monthly death toll within the last two years. These conflicts have hampered access by humanitarian agencies to vulnerable populations (e.g. Jebel Mara and Jebel Moon areas) and have generated new internally displaced persons (IDPs). Since the new wave of conflict erupted in February, there are roughly 14,400 new IDPs in Darfur. Insecurity has also reduced the flow of commercial trucks supplying essential commodities (e.g. fuel, sugar, etc.) from central Sudan to Darfur, resulting in a shortage of supplies and sharp price increases. For example, Nyala market (the capital of south Darfur state) experienced a fuel shortage and sharp fuel price increases of 170 percent from April to May. The more than 2 million IDPs in Darfur are relying on food aid, supplemented by income from daily wage labor, firewood/grass collection, and petty trade. Insecurity in Darfur continues to restrict access to normal coping strategies (e.g. seasonal labor migration within Darfur and wild foods collection) at this time of the year. The deteriorating security conditions will continue to reduce access to farms for cultivation, cause loss of assets (e.g. livestock), disturb seasonal livestock migration, and prevent access to vulnerable communities over the coming months.

As projected in the April outlook, cereal (sorghum, millet and wheat) prices continued to rise in May, because of the poor 2009/2010 rain-fed and irrigated harvest. The recent evaluation of 2009/2010 irrigated wheat production in the northern states, which ended in May, estimated total wheat production at 403,000 MT. This is about 38 percent below the good harvest of 2008/09 and 27 percent below the five-year average due to a significant decline in area planted. Livestock prices slightly declined in May (see the Price Annex), although current livestock prices are substantially higher than the five-year average due to continuous demand for export to the Gulf states, Jordan and Egypt. Consequently, cereal prices have been steadily increasing through the season (see the Price Annex), and terms of trade with livestock have remained satisfactory. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, food and non-food inflation rates in both urban and rural areas continued to rise, which is an additional burden for vulnerable households.

The Sudan Meteorological Authority (SMA) projects normal to above-normal rainfall for the June–September 2010 main rainy season in Sudan. However, a below-normal to normal pattern of rainfall is projected for the month of June in Zone 3 (Figure 3), which includes the main mechanized-sorghum farming areas of Sudan. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) also projects a growing delay in cropping activities in Darfur as a result of persistent rainfall deficits in June. However, July is the most critical month in terms of cultivation in most parts of northern Sudan, particularly zones 3 and 4 (Figure 3). Thus, in spite of growing dryness in June, there are expectations that rains will be normal to above normal in July, allowing farmers to have a satisfactory cultivation season. Nevertheless, a huge seed gap of 60 percent, 50 percent, 50 percent, 40 percent and 20 percent in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, Eastern, North Darfur, and West Darfur states, respectively, is likely to reduce area planted this year. SMA has also warned of a high risk of floods along the Gash River in Kassala during July and August due to anticipated high rains in the Ethiopian highlands.

In **Southern Sudan**, the lean season is reaching its peak. The areas of most concern include Jonglei, Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Eastern Equatoria states where people are relying on wild foods, petty trade, livestock sales to buy grain, labor, and food aid. However, July/August and September harvests are expected to mitigate food insecurity. Grain price increased slightly in key markets during March - May due to several factors, including insecurity, road closures, and the April elections (as some traders left southern Sudan in anticipation of violence) as well as an early onset of the lean season demand. Increases in Bor were caused by insecurity that caused road closures, while increases in Wau were due to increased demand by populations affected by insecurity in the neighboring areas of Ezo and Kuajina as well as reduced supplies due to fighting along the Raga – South Darfur

Figure 3. June–September Rainfall Outlook



Zone 1: River Nile and Northern states (outlook: normal rainfall)

Zone 2: Red Sea State (outlook: normal rainfall)

Zone 3: Kassala, Khartoum, Gadaref, Jazeera, White Nile, Senar, Blue Nile, and Upper Nile states (outlook: normal to above-normal rainfall)

Zone 4: North Kordofan, South Kordofan, and West/North/South Darfur states (outlook: above-normal to normal rainfall)

Zone 5: Al Wohda, Warap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Western Bahr el Ghazal states (outlook: above normal to normal rainfall)

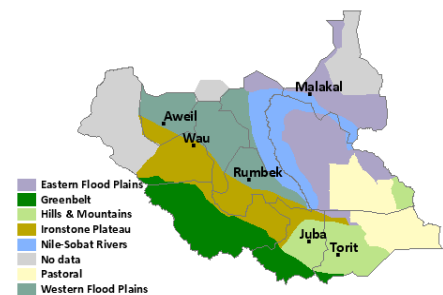
Zone 6: East Equatoria, West Equatoria, Bahr el Ghabal, and Jonglei states (outlook: normal to below normal rainfall)

Source: SMA

border. Increases in Malakal persist and are reportedly due to the absence of many traders who went to northern Sudan in anticipation of violence during elections and have not returned. Following the Southern Sudan Council of Ministers' declaration of a tax exemption on essential major food commodities, the price of sorghum in Lakes State is reported to have started declining. Typically, grain prices increase during May-August. A similar pattern is anticipated this year, but chances are that increments might not be as high as last year due to the recent tax exemption. Continued monitoring is required to establish whether the tax exemption is resulting in reduced prices.

Rainfall started between March and May in the April-July cropping areas of Hills and Mountains, Greenbelt and the Pastoral zones (Figures 4). Crops are generally between vegetative and flowering stages depending on when planting occurred, and performance is reportedly mixed. Rains generally became erratic in April, delaying return of livestock from long distant grazing areas in the Pastoral Zone and necessitating replanting in the Hills and Mountains area. In the June-September/November cropping areas, the onset of rains occurred during April – May in most areas with the exception of Eastern Flood Plains Zone's Upper Nile State, Nile Sobat's Unity State, and Ironstone's Western Bahr El Gazal State. In preparation for the agricultural season, FAO targeted 150,000 households with close to 2,200 MT of assorted seeds and 400,000 tools. About 80 percent of the planned seeds were distributed by the end of May. The latest rainfall forecast by the Sudan Meteorological Authority projects near-normal to below-normal rainfall for the southern half of southern Sudan and near-normal to above-normal rainfall in the northern half of southern Sudan during June-September (Figure 3).

Figure 4. Southern Sudan Livelihood Zones



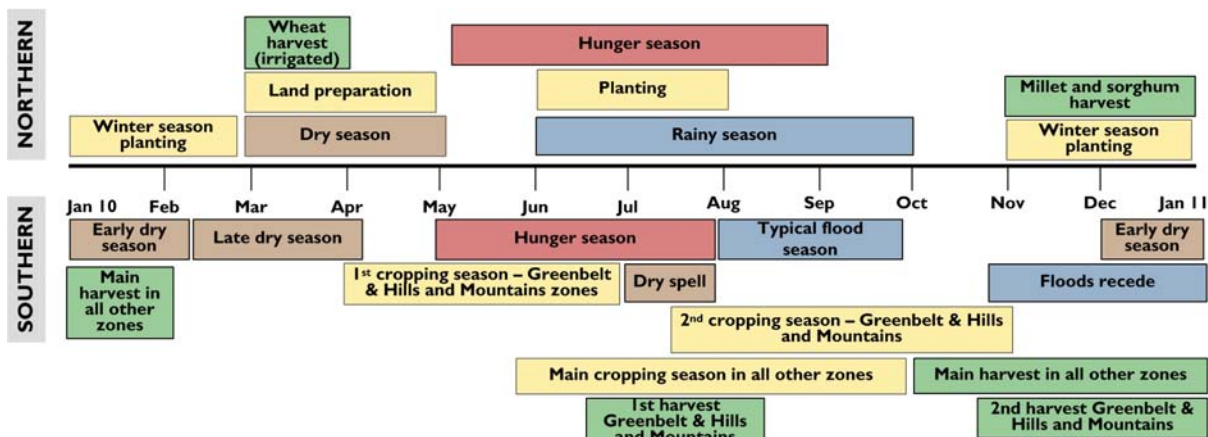
Source: FEWS NET

In the **Eastern Flood Plains Zone**, high levels of food insecurity persist, particularly in **Akobo as well as Wuror and Nyirol counties in Jonglei State**. Several humanitarian response programs are ongoing, particularly in Akobo, to address extremely high rates of malnutrition. The programs include an Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) in Akobo Town and a blanket supplementary feeding program (BSFP) started in late May for children under five by Save the Children and WFP. An IDP and protection assessment conducted in Akobo during the last week of May indicates that IDPs that were residing in Akobo Town have begun returning to their homes in Dengjok and Nyandit. The entire Dengjok displaced population has returned, and up to 9,000 people from Nyandit who had been displaced to Akobo Town also returned to their homes by the end of May. They had been displaced for one year as their home areas were affected by insecurity during most of 2009. WFP is finalizing plans to ensure that food aid continues to reach IDPs in their areas of return. As of May, WFP targeted close to 107,000 people with food in Akobo County, which has a total population of 136,200. Though it is likely that some households will be able to cultivate for the June - September season, area they can plant with crops is expected to be much smaller because significant household labor is being used to support resettlement. Chances of improvement can be anticipated around September if rains are favourable, but a full recovery is unlikely until next year's harvest.

Food insecurity also persists in the **Western Flood Plains Zone** (Northern Bahr El Gazal, northern parts of Warrap States and parts of Lakes and Warrap states, where IDPs are located). Food insecure households are relying on food aid, purchases, labor, shea butter (lulu) production and sale, and petty trade. Meanwhile, the June-September rains are now becoming established. In Warrap and Northern Bahr El Gazal, rains started in mid-May, and farmers planted short-term sorghum, maize, and ground nuts. Similar patterns are reported in Lakes, where an average of 5 feddan (acres) has reportedly been planted by most farmers with sorghum, millet, and groundnuts. Area planted with groundnuts is reported to have significantly increased. The timely onset of rains combined with the favorable forecast increases optimism of a favorable cropping year in this zone. Currently, inter-ethnic fighting that has been prevalent since the end of 2009 has slightly reduced.

Earlier concerns over the negative impact of increased Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) attacks in the **Greenbelt Zone** are now confirmed following increased attacks and displacements in Ezo, Tambura, Yambio, Nzara, Maridi, Ibba and Mundri counties since April - May. An inter-agency assessment conducted in Western Equatoria (Greenbelt) towards the end of May 2010 indicates that prices have increased in areas affected by LRA attacks because transporters and suppliers are reluctant to go there. Additional areas of concern include IDP areas in Terekeka County and Mayom County where militia activities are reportedly on the rise. Cattle raiding has also affected Mayom County since the start of this year.

Seasonal calendar and critical events



Source: FEWS NET