



Southern Sudan Food Security Update



Volume: 015

Month : March –April 2011

Release Date: 6 May 2011

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

Highlights:

- Huge influx of returnees and insecurity due to conflicts resulting in deterioration of food security situation in South Sudan.....
- South Sudan is forecast to receive normal to above normal rainfall from March to May 2011 except for the southern parts....
- Food commodities prices are increasing with the onset of the hunger season.....

Produced by the Food Security Technical Secretariat of GOSS

Collaborating Government of Southern Sudan Institutions

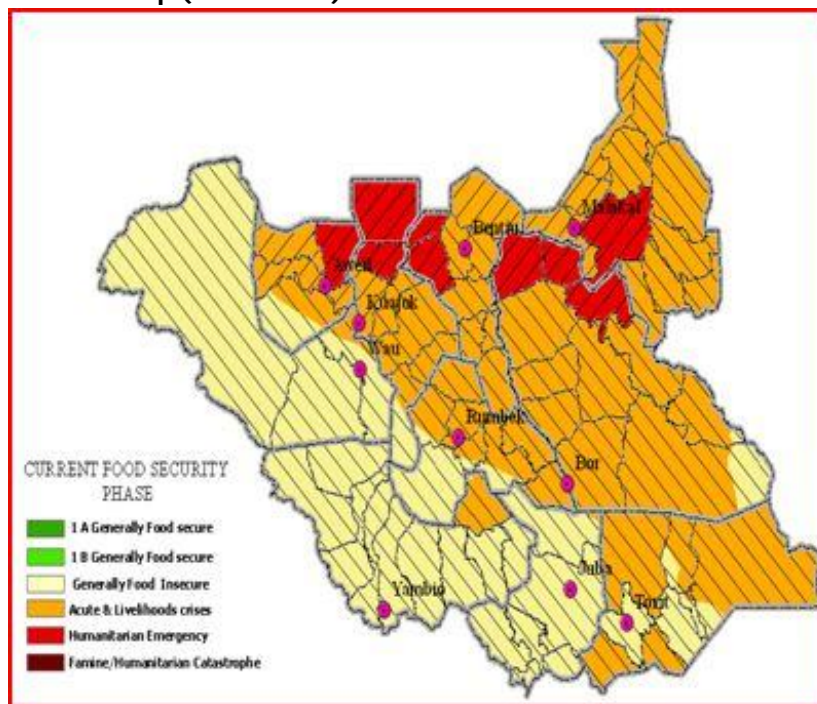
1. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
2. Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries
3. Ministry of Health.
4. Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation.
5. Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

The quarterly Livelihood Analysis Forum (LAF) was held on March 2011. The LAF discussed in depth the current status of livelihoods in various zones of South Sudan. Results of these

discussions were mapped and recorded using the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) tool covering the March-June 2011 period. The IPC food security outlook map (Fig 1) classified populations within the **Green Belt** (Central Equatoria & Western Equatoria States and South-Western parts of Eastern Equatoria State), Ironstone Plateau (Lakes & Western Barh El Ghazal), Hills & Mountains (Central & Eastern Equatoria States) as **Generally**

Food Insecure with moderate risk level. However, the large proportion of the populations within the **Pastoral Zones** (Eastern Equatoria, especially Greater Kapoeta and Bor Counties of Jonglei States), **Eastern Flood Plain and Nile Sobat** (Upper Nile and parts of Jonglei States) and **Western Flood Plains** (Unity, Warrap and Northern Bahr El Ghazal States) are in **Acute Food and Livelihoods Crises** with moderate risks while small proportion are in **Humanitarian Emergency** phase with high

Figure1: Southern Sudan Food Security Phase Classification Outlook Map (March-June) 2011



Source: FSTS/SSCCSE, March, 2011

A joint effort of the Government of Southern Sudan with United Nation Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations



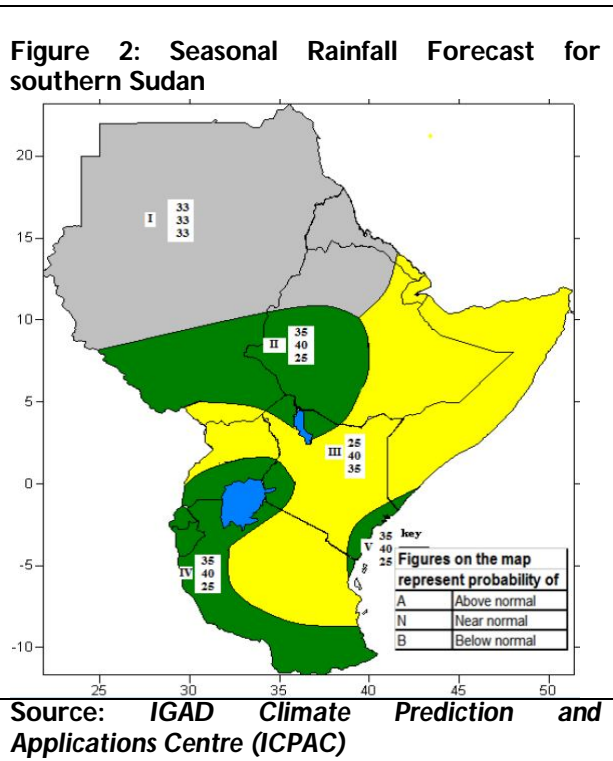
SIFSIA is a programme funded by the European Commission to build capacity in food security in Southern Sudan

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risk level. The key drivers for food insecurity and Acute Livelihood Crises have been both man-made and nature-induced factors which include huge influx of returnees from North Sudan to South Sudan due to the referendum. Most of the returnees are settling near the State capitals in order to have better access to improved services hence increasing the demand for food commodities. The higher demand coupled with low supply due to constrained trade between North and South Sudan is causing prices to rise. Insecurity due to tribal clashes, rebel activities and cattle raiding has played a detrimental role especially among the pastoral communities resulting in displacements. This has caused food insecurity as it involves loss of lives and properties that include food stocks and livestock. The incidences of livestock disease outbreak have also led to low productivity particularly milk production. In addition erratic rains in some parts of South Sudan did not enable pastures to rejuvenate. Common Livestock diseases reported include CCPP, CBPP, FMD, HS, Brucellosis, Trypanosomiasis, Mastitis, PPR, ECF, Rabies, and New Castle. The forum called on the government, humanitarian and development agencies to closely monitor the situations in the various livelihood zones and provide necessary assistance.

Seasonal Rainfall Forecast for South Sudan March- May 2011

The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and partners formulated a consensus on climate outlook for the March-May 2011 rainfall season over the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) region of which South Sudan is inclusive. Most areas in South Sudan are forecast to receive normal to above normal rainfall for the period March to May 2011 except for the southern parts of South Sudan expected to receive normal to below normal rainfall.



The numbers for each zone in the map indicate the probabilities of rainfall in each of the three categories: above, near, and below-normal. For example, in zone II (fig. 2) which covers greater parts of South Sudan, there is 35% probability of rainfall occurring in the above-normal category; 40% probability of rainfall occurring in the near-normal category; and 25% probability of rainfall occurring in the below-normal category. It is emphasized that boundaries between zones should be considered as transition areas.

A Collaborative effort between FEWSNET and other partners interpreted that this forecast is only relevant for the first cropping season in the Equatoria region. The main concern however is that rainfall is likely to be erratic because of the on-going transitional phase of the La Nina event to near-neutral conditions by mid-2011.

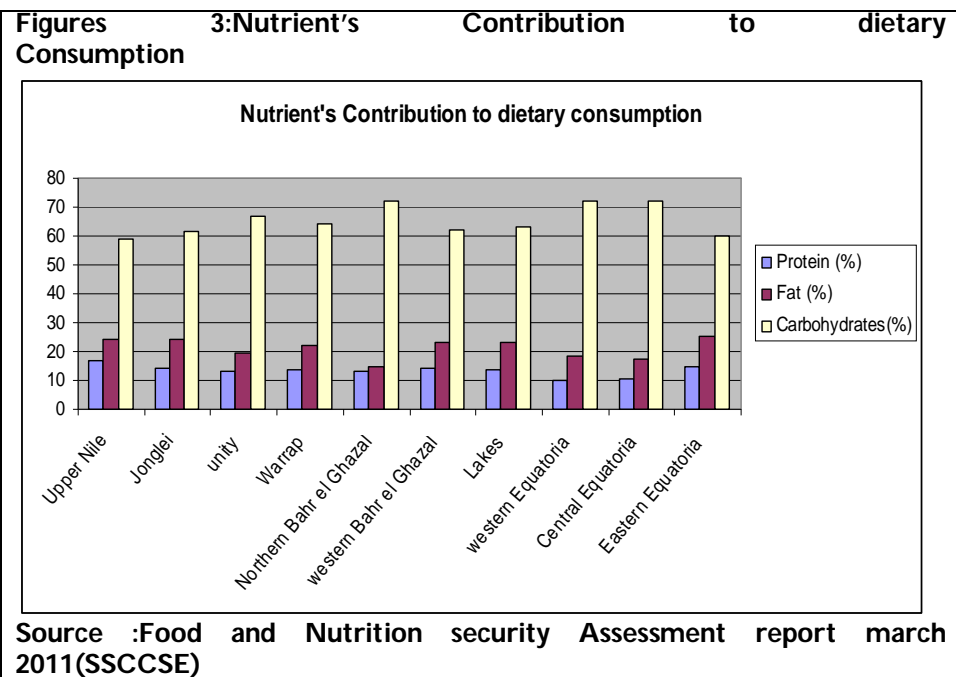
This could affect agricultural production as experienced in June-September 2009. Temperatures are also forecast to be higher than normal during March-May season. This means that the cropping season is likely to be sensitive to dry spell. With increased temperature and evapotranspiration, even short dry spells could cause rapid wilting of crops and pastures. Because of the transitional phase of the La Nina, for these predictions the level of confidence of the forecast is low and it is likely to change. Further reports from the FEWSNET Weather Hazards Impact Assessment for Africa (WHIAA, April 28-May 4th 2011) indicates that rainfall may improve since moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in the GHA and may relieve slightly the dryness that has affected the region since the start of the season. Observations from the report also show that below average rain has been observed during last six weeks over South Sudan with rainfall deficit of 25-50mm in some areas. Close monitoring of both the onset and the distribution of the March to May rains is recommended. Hunger season food distribution is necessary in the needy parts of South Sudan until the situation stabilizes.

NUTRITIONAL STATUS IN SOUTH SUDAN

The Food and Nutrition Security report was released in March 2011 from the National Baseline Household Survey (NBHS) conducted in 2009 by the South Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. The report revealed that the prevalence of undernourishment in South Sudan was very high with average food deprivation severity of 47%. The highest level of food deprivation was observed in the States of Western Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap and Lakes in which more than half of the population suffer from undernourishment. The highest food deprivation was recorded in Western Bahr el Ghazal (74%), Upper Nile State (72%) while the lowest was in Western Equatoria State (23%). This high level of food deprivation as a result of limited access to food as well as low intake of energy giving food. The Dietary Energy Consumption was lowest in Unity State (1430 Kcal/person/day) and highest in Western Equatoria State (2490 Kcal/person/day) compare to the Dietary Energy Consumption average in Southern Sudan of (1890Kcal/ person/day) as revealed by the study. The same report also revealed that the household consumption expenditure was low in Warrap State (1.32SDG) compared to the highest record in Eastern Equatoria State (2.58 SDG) followed by Upper Nile State (2.56 SDG). The low expenditure could be attributed to low purchasing power and high dependence on own production by the households.

Households in the States of Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap and Jonglei spent more than 80% of their total consumption expenditure on food.

The share of protein contribution to nutrient within dietary consumption in South Sudan was lowest in Western Equatoria State (9.8%) which is below the WHO/FAO recommendation of (10%) while highest in Upper Nile State (16.6%). The carbohydrates share in the diet was highest in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (72.1%) and lowest in Upper Nile State (59%), while the fat contribution was highest in Eastern Equatoria (25%) and lowest in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (14.7%). These variations could be attributed to the



availability and accessibility to food sources and nutrients levels as well as food preference or habit in each State (figure 3). The depth of hunger refers to the amount of daily dietary energy consumption per person to reach the minimum dietary energy requirements. In South Sudan the average depth was recorded as 399Kcal according to the survey result. The highest depth was recorded in Western Bahr el Ghazal (522Kcal) followed by Upper Nile (517Kcal) where as the Lowest was found in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (311Kcal).

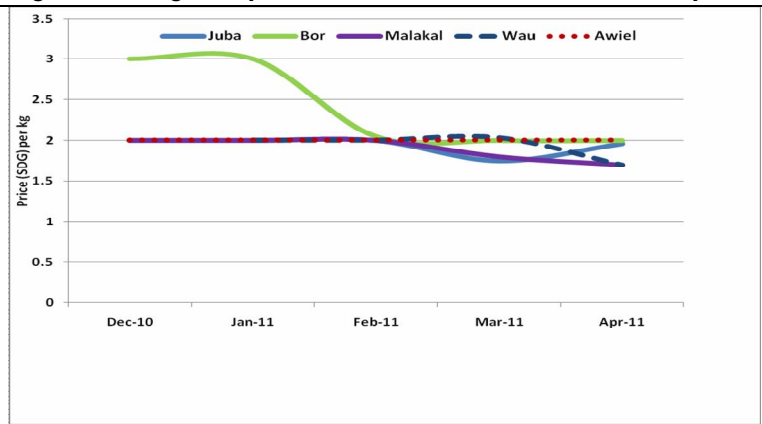
According to available recent information, Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening was carried out in Baliet County of Upper Nile State. The results show that 9% of the children (6-59 months) were at risk of malnutrition while 5% were moderately malnourished. This could be attributed to a limited access to food and burden of illnesses affecting the children at this time of the year. Moderate malnutrition was found mostly among children under the age of five during the screening. This could be the result of poor feeding practices and care for the children (Interagency report, April 2011). In Unity State, 2400 children of less than five years were treated for malnutrition from January 2010 to 31 January 2011. The nutrition situation is extremely worrying in the state, as

household were experiencing acute food crisis due to inadequate food access both from own production and market in addition to disease burden. While for Warrap State, 936 children suffering from malnutrition were treated in Gogrial West County during the months of March to April (MSF Report, 2011). In Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, the attendance rates at health and nutrition facilities are increasing. The health and nutrition partners have therefore expanded their vaccination, feeding, and treatment programmes. Their reports indicate significant levels of malnutrition among returnee children. Humanitarian agencies plan to increase interventions in identified areas. Efforts are also underway to identify, train and employ returnees with appropriate experience in health and nutrition work to offset the limited availability of specialized health and nutrition actors.

MARKET TRENDS

In general cereal market prices in most parts of South Sudan have remained stable, albeit at higher level, in the last three months. However, in some markets cereal prices have started to rise during the last weeks of April. For instance, average monthly price of sorghum in Juba, the largest consumer market in South Sudan, has increase by 12% between March and April 2011 (Figure 4). Similarly, average price of white maize in Juba market has increased

Figure 4: Sorghum price in Selected markets (Dec10-Apr11)

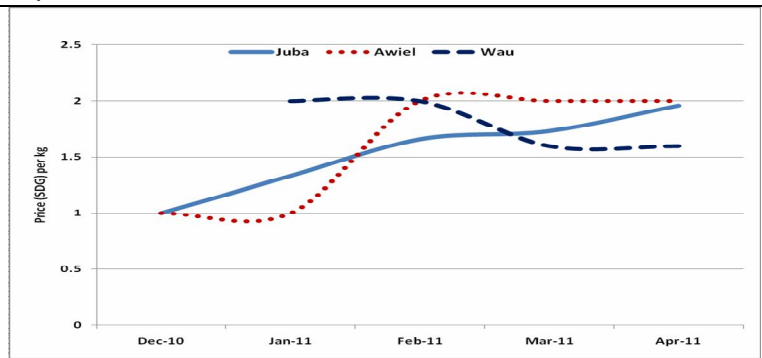


Source: Climis website

April due to good sorghum harvest in 2010 and improved market conditions after the referendum.

With the approaching hunger season and depletion of household food

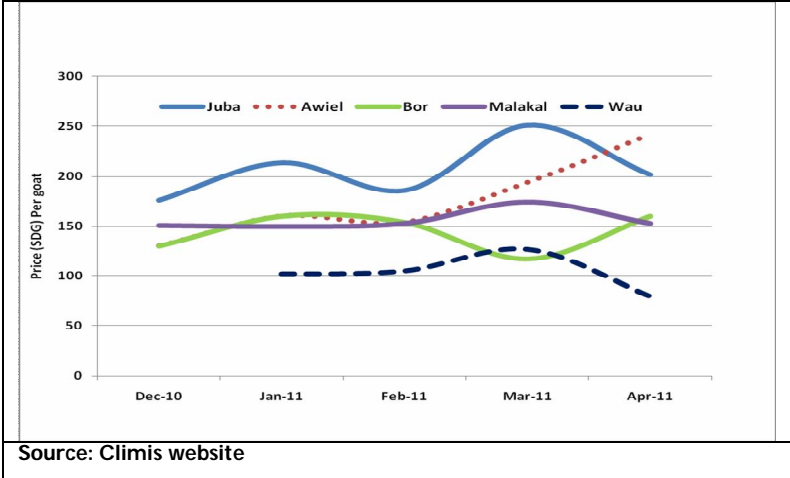
Figure 5: Maize grain price in Selected markets (Dec 10-Apr 11)



Source: Climis website.

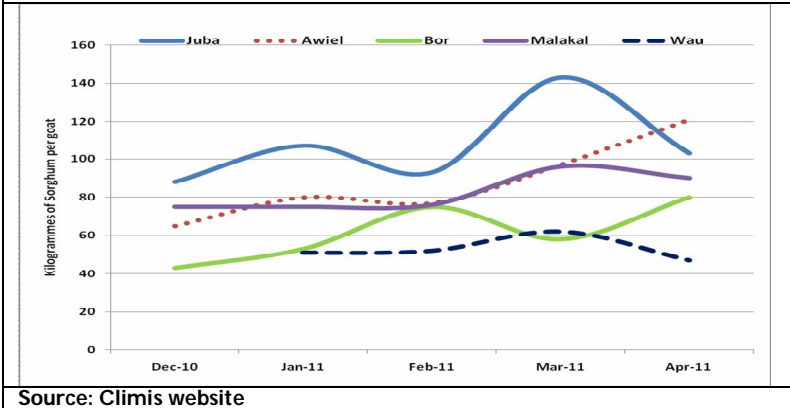
by 13% in April compared to the previous month. The major reasons for upward movement of cereal prices in April are: 1) dwindling of household food stock as the hunger season approaches, 2) increase in fuel prices which drives the prices of imported cereals upward, 3) higher food prices in the neighboring Uganda, the major source of imported cereal to Southern Sudan and 4) increased demand for food as a result of massive influx of returnees from Northern Sudan due to referendum. It should, however, be noted that prices of sorghum in Malakal and Wau have shown slight decrease in April due to good sorghum harvest in 2010 and improved market conditions after the referendum. With the approaching hunger season and depletion of household food stock as well as rising food prices in the neighboring countries, cereal prices are likely to increase in the coming months compromising the food security of poor and vulnerable households in the rural and urban areas. Government and humanitarian agencies should closely monitor cereal prices in the major markets in the coming weeks and months in order to avoid food security crises. As the rainy season approaches in May/June, it will also be important for humanitarian agencies to pre-position food aid in areas with poor road condition.

Figure 6: Goat price in selected markets (Dec10-Apr11)



Livestock prices have shown a mixed trend in the last three months. For instance, goat prices in Wau, Juba and Malakal have declined by 37%, 20% and 12% respectively in April compared to March 2011 (Figure 6). Conversely April goat prices in Bor and Awiel have increased by 36% and 24% respectively compared to March. The general trend, however, is for livestock prices to decline in the coming months as households start to sell animals to finance their cereal requirement. The increased supply of animal in the market will depress livestock prices while the limited supply of cereals would drive grains prices upward. Consequently, the terms of trade (quantity of grain obtained in exchange for an animal) will become unfavourable to the animal keepers.

Figure 7: Sorghum to goat TOT in Selected markets (Dec 10-April 11)



(Figure: 7) shows declining terms of trade against animal keepers in Juba, Malakal and Wau markets in April 2011. This means the amount of sorghum animal keepers can purchase in these markets by selling one mature male goat has reduced in April compared to March 2011. The terms of trade is likely to decline further against the animal sellers as cereal

Prices rise in the coming several months. Therefore, social protection measures

will be necessary to mitigate erosion of livelihoods particularly among the vulnerable population.

FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS BY STATE

CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

According to CFSAM report (2010) the State is considered generally food insecure as a result of demand from returnees and expectation of heighten prices in the markets. This had negative impact on food security situation and livelihoods of low income urban dwellers (LAF, 2011). Feeder roads infrastructure connecting production areas like Morobo and Kajo Keji Counties including some Payams in Yei County is very poor. This has been a major constrain impeding food availability in urban and peri-urban areas. The situation will worsen during the peak of the rainy season where farmers with surplus produce will not have access to markets. This would result in high post harvest losses (SMAF, 2011). In response to the start of the rains in most parts of the States, farmers in Lainya, Yei, Morobo and Kajo Keji Counties engaged in land preparation and planting of first season crops like groundnuts and maize, though in small scale. The progress into normal rainy season is expected in early May to July. The normal start and good seasonal performance is expected to improve on the food security situations of the farming households with positive implication for the entire population of the State. Available recent information indicates that livestock productivity range from average to above average as the vegetation rejuvenated well with the onset of the rains. In Terekeka County, the agro-pastoral communities are able to access

food in exchange with their livestock in favourable terms of trade. Fishing activity at this period is high as an alternative to support livelihoods compared to other normal seasons (SMARF, 2011).

EASTERN EQUATORIA STATE

Eastern Equatoria State is generally food insecure with high risk where the Counties of Magwi, Ikwotos, Lafon/Lopa and parts of Greater Kapoeta are in **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis** with moderate risk of sliding into **Humanitarian Crisis** if the situation does not change to normal in the current agriculture season (LAF, 2011). The situation will exacerbate as cereal from 2010 production deplete with high demand due to the returnees that resulted in high prices of food commodities in the markets. Therefore the food security situation remains precarious for the poor households. The insecurity in Kapoeta has impeded road access and livestock movement to the urban and peri-urban markets. Many households depend on markets to acquire livestock products for their livelihoods. The SMARF reported cases of livestock diseases outbreak such as CCPP, CBPP, FMD, and HS with significant impact in Kapoeta areas. This has worsened the food security and the livelihoods of the pastoralists especially in Kapoeta Counties who dominantly depend on sales of their livestock to acquire cereals.

The satellite imaginary (NDVI) indicates that rainfall received mid March to April 2011 were sparsely distributed in parts of the State compared to last year, though most farmers started preparing land for first season planting. The situation is expected to normalize as the season progresses. A total of 36.7MT of assorted seeds and 3,060 pieces of tools were provided by FAO through its implementing partner Caritas and CDOT to Magwi and Lafon/Lopa Counties to boost their crop production in the first season.

NORTHERN BAHR EI GHAZAL STATE

The food security situation is worsening during this hunger period compounded by the huge number of returning population to the State from the North Sudan. This has led to competition on the limited resources especially food commodities in the markets. This has increased food prices making it unaffordable for the poor households. Livestock conditions are still poor due to inadequate water and pasture this being the late dry season. But the condition is expected to improve with the onset of the rainy season. The nutritional situation in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State among children under the age of five years is above the WHO emergency threshold (15%) of Global Acute Malnutrition rate. The situation is made worse with the huge number of returnees in the State coupled with vulnerable host communities. This therefore requires both the government and the INGOs concerned to scale up their nutrition and health interventions to mitigate the situation. FAO distributed assorted seeds (211 MT) and tools (24,150 Pieces) to the farming communities to prepare for the season in the Counties of Aweil East, Aweil North and Aweil South through its implementing partners. This will help boost the agricultural production especially among the returning household contributing to the food security.

WARRAP STATE

Food availability and accessibility continue to decline in this reporting period in Warrap State due to large population of returnees and limited supply of food commodities in the market. This negatively affects the food security situation of the communities particularly the vulnerable groups such as women, children, elderly, returnees and the IDPs. The food prices in the markets remain high and unaffordable to the poor households. As a result they apply coping mechanisms that include sales of assets especially the returnees to meet their food needs. The rainy season is expected to commence soon and some farmers have started land clearance in some parts of the State. Livestock conditions are still very poor and their products (such as milk) are very low with very little contribution to the household nutritional well being.

LAKES STATE

As indicated in figure 1, the Food Security Indicator for Lakes State are classified into two phase. The eastern and north parts are classified in **Acute and Livelihood Crisis** and the western part is classified as **Generally Food Insecure** with moderate risk level. Areas classified under **Acute and Livelihood Crisis** includes Yirol West and East, Rumbek East, Centre and North and Cueibet Counties. There have been reports of intra-and inter-State conflict in Rumbek North and Yirol West Counties and the armed clashes between cattle owners of Rumbek North and Unity State that led to loss of lives and hundreds of cattle in January. In addition, ethnic fight between pastoralists from Yirol West County in Lakes State and farmers of Mvolo County in Western Equatoria State

resulted in loss of livestock, properties and large scale internal displacements. Further 2,369 returnees from North Sudan are in Lakes state. Most of the returnees chose to stay in the State capital. This has increased the demand and prices of food commodities. The number of displaced people in Rumbek North and Yirol West Counties has not yet been established. These disruptions constrain food access and availability and further difficulties are expected with onset of the hunger season. Wullu County is classified as **Generally Food Insecure**. This could be attributed to good harvest in 2010 though there were also reports of tribal fighting between the Jur farmers of Mvolo County and the Dinka Atuot of Wullu County. Livestock condition has been affected by diseases that include CBPP, HS, BQ, Brucellosis, CCPP, Trypanosomiasis, Mastitis, PPR and ECF incidences in Awerial, Cueibet and Rumbek centre Counties. This has affected livestock productivity and marketing resulting in reduced milk productivity. Pasture also has been depleted as large numbers of cattle were confined to small grazing areas (LAF, 2011)

UNITY STATE

The State was projected to be in **Acute Food and Livelihoods Crisis**, with a high risk and some locations already sliding to **Humanitarian Emergency**. The

humanitarian agencies should continue to monitor the trend and implication for humanitarian interventions to the vulnerable group (LAF, 2011). The insurgency arising from SPLA clashes with the militia group in Mayom County where 3,200 individuals were displaced, coupled with large returnee population, will worsen the food security situation particularly for vulnerable households. The multiple taxes imposed on food commodities at the Northern border raised prices of food items in the markets. This has negative impact on the food security and livelihoods of those with little income. The situation is expected to aggravate with continued armed clashes as this would cause displacement and disruption of normal farming activities. Normal rainfall in Unity State is expected to start in late May as usual. Currently there are no signs of land preparation taking place since it is still dry. Recent reports indicate that no livestock diseases outbreak had been experienced. Livestock productivities range from average to above average as they are grazed in lowland areas containing pastures. Therefore, the livestock owners have better access to food than those dependent on crop production. Fishing activity at this period has been scaled down with fear of insecurity that is looming in the areas but it's expected to improve as the rain season begins that is expected to calm environment (SMARF, 2011).

UPPER NILE STATE

Food security situation has seriously deteriorated with most parts of the state in **Acute and Livelihood Crisis** phase with moderate risk level. A small portion of the

State is in **Humanitarian Emergency Phase** with high risk levels especially in Baliet County. The major factors causing food insecurity is the large numbers of returnees and the conflicts particularly the recent fighting between the SPLA and other armed groups. UNOCHA humanitarian bulletin indicate that humanitarian response is ongoing to affected populations in Obel villages and Owachi following the fighting. WVI and SSRRC started food distribution to 3,065 affected people in Obel. In Dolieb Hill, food distribution to 397 people took place. This therefore calls for closer monitoring of the evolving situation by government and partners in order to save lives and livelihoods of the affected populations.

WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE

The State's food security outlook in the next 2-3 months is categorised as **Generally Food Insecure** since an estimated 24,000MT of cereals surplus from 2010 production will be

depleted due to the increased demand for cereals by returnees (LAF, 2011). The tribal clashes in Mvolo County between Jur and Dinka Atuot of Lakes State displaced 8,961 people to Bahr Grindi, Kokori and Mvolo town from 6th March to date. The IDPs are waiting for food and non-food items from CAFOD after their verification (OCHA). Report from Mundri West County indicated that poor feeder roads infrastructure continued to constrain access and availability of food to both urban and peri-urban households who are dominantly dependant on markets. The situation is expected to worsen during the rainy season when most of the surplus food areas become inaccessible by trucks leading to shortage of food supply in the markets. The early onset of rains this year is expected to increase crop production resulting in food security and improved livelihoods of the people if the situation does not change. FAO through its partner Intersos and RAAH delivered a total of 20.8MT of assorted seeds and 2,880 pieces of tools to be distributed to farmers in Ezo, Tombura, Yambio and Maridi Counties to boost first season crop production. The body condition of livestock was reported to be generally good with some cases of outbreaks of ECF, BQ, CBPP, CCPP, and Newcastle diseases. The diseases had effect on the productivity of livestock which

requires attention from veterinary services. Fishing activities at this period is scaled down as the streams have limited water but it is expected to improve in normal rainy season (SMARF, 2011).

WESTERN BAHR EI GHAZAL STATE

The general food security situation is worrisome as most communities have already exhausted their own produce even before the hunger period commence. The situation now is worse given the high food prices in the main market in the State capital. Poor household are unable to access food from the market due to low purchasing power hence they tend to apply negative coping mechanisms of skipping meals and resorting to less preferred food items to meet their food intake. This in turn may negatively affect their nutritional status at the individual and household levels. The food commodities in the market are available but very expensive. A bag of sorghum of 90kgs capacity ranges from 140 SDG to 150 SDG in Wau main market during this reporting month. The prices for medium sized bull and cow are 1100 SDG and 850 SDG respectively.

JONGLEI STATE

Issues of intensified insecurity due activities of militia groups and cattle raiding have caused food insecurity in most parts of the state. The high influx of returnees from Northern Sudan for referendum to the State has further increased demand for food leading to high cereal prices in the coming months. This will necessitate selling of more households assets, hence depleting resource base of the communities. There have been reports of human diseases out break (Kala-azar), malnutrition and livestock diseases in Fangak County. The reported livestock diseases include CCPP, CBPP, and ECF, FMD and HS. The reported civil insecurity due to attack by rebels is likely to continue to affect access to food and productive areas as the agricultural season is soon starting. There were also reports of freshly laid landmines in northern parts of the State. The suspected mines therefore have the potential to harm the civilian population and risk jeopardizing upcoming agricultural production. The Mine Action Office is prioritizing mine action, focusing on areas of priority humanitarian concern. (OCHA, March, 2011). The state was classified under **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis** (figure 1) with moderate risk of sliding into **Humanitarian Emergency** if the current situation does not improve. The areas in **Humanitarian Emergency Phase** include Nyirol, Fangak, Khorflus and Pigi Counties. UNOCHA report further indicates that humanitarian actors continue to asses these areas. Seeds, tools and fishing nets were the urgent needs identified. In Khorfulus IDPs were registered and food aid was distributed. In addition, the UN Mine Action Office was able to go to Khorwai in northern Jonglei to map the locations that need demining. FAO through its partners plan to distribute tools and seeds in the counties. So far, 36.5MT of seeds and 4,500 pieces of hand tools were transported to Akobo County and 23.36 MT of seeds and 2,880 hand tools to Pochalla County.