



Southern Sudan Food Security Update



Volume: 009

Month : January-February 2010

Release Date: February 22nd 2010

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

Highlights:

- **Agric production drops by 38% creating a deficit of 225 000 tonnes...**
- **Communities in Southern Sudan still food insecure...**
- **Commodity prices high but stable in all states...**
- **Jonglei State the worst affected in terms of food security...**

Agricultural Production in 2009 drops by 38% and 10% below 5-year average

The 2009 agricultural production has experienced a net cereal production of about 660 000 tonnes. This figure is 38 percent below the 2008 agricultural production of about 1.07 million tonnes. When compared to the previous 5 year average, the 2009 agricultural production is 10 percent below average. The 660 000 tonnes production is mainly from the traditional sector which makes up about 90 percent of the farmers in Southern Sudan. The mechanised sector has also taken a knock, production has reduced by 10 percent from 165 000 in the 2008 agricultural season to 148 000 in the 2009 agricultural season. When compared to the previous 5 year average, production from the mechanised sector has dropped by 20 percent.

There were a number of factors that affected the 2009 agricultural season. A late and sporadic start of the rainy season led to significant amounts of re-planting, the virtual loss of the first crop in areas with bimodal rainfall and poor yields in many parts of Southern Sudan. There were also a lot of civil insecurity incidents in 2009, with unprecedented levels of cattle raiding, escalating ethnic conflicts and occasional incursions by the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) and all these factors affected agricultural production. The production for 2009 estimates that only three states will have a surplus and these include Upper Nile and Western Equatoria States which have been traditionally high producing areas. The third state is Warrap with a surplus of 25 000 tonnes (**Table 1**). Most of the production in Warrap is concentrated in Gogrial West. It is also worth noting that Western Bahr el Ghazal has a

Table 1: Southern Sudan - Estimated cereal surplus/deficit by state in 2010

State	Surplus/deficit (tonnes)
Upper Nile	81 561
Jonglei	-101 094
Unity	-39 507
Warrap	24 979
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	-17 087
Western Bahr el Ghazal	-235
Lakes	-9 683
Western Equatoria	74 523
Central Equatoria	-54 215
Eastern Equatoria	-44 323

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

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

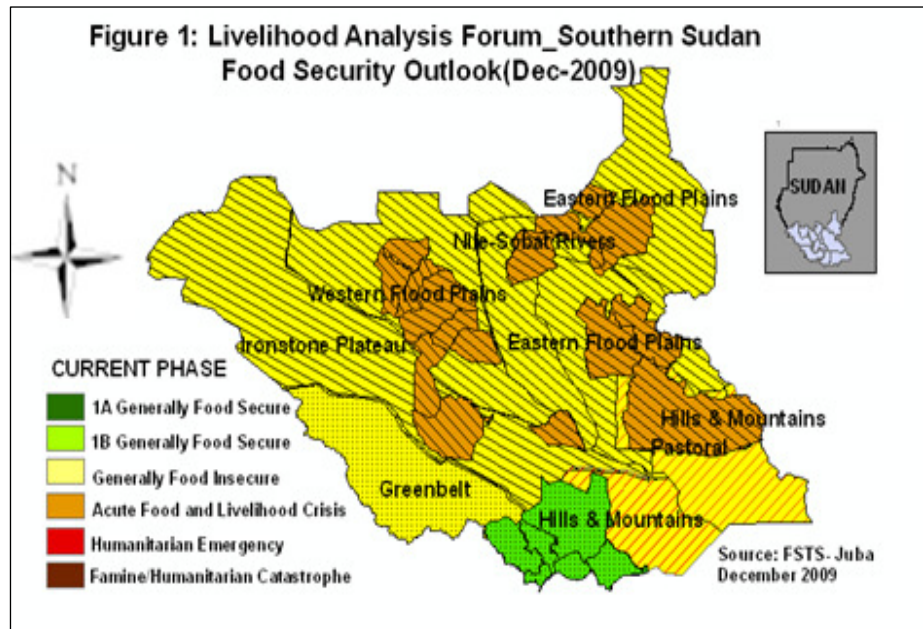
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small deficit of about 235 tonnes. It also has been observed historically that most of the grain produced in the Upper Nile State is shipped to the north because farmers have binding contracts with funding institutions in the north.

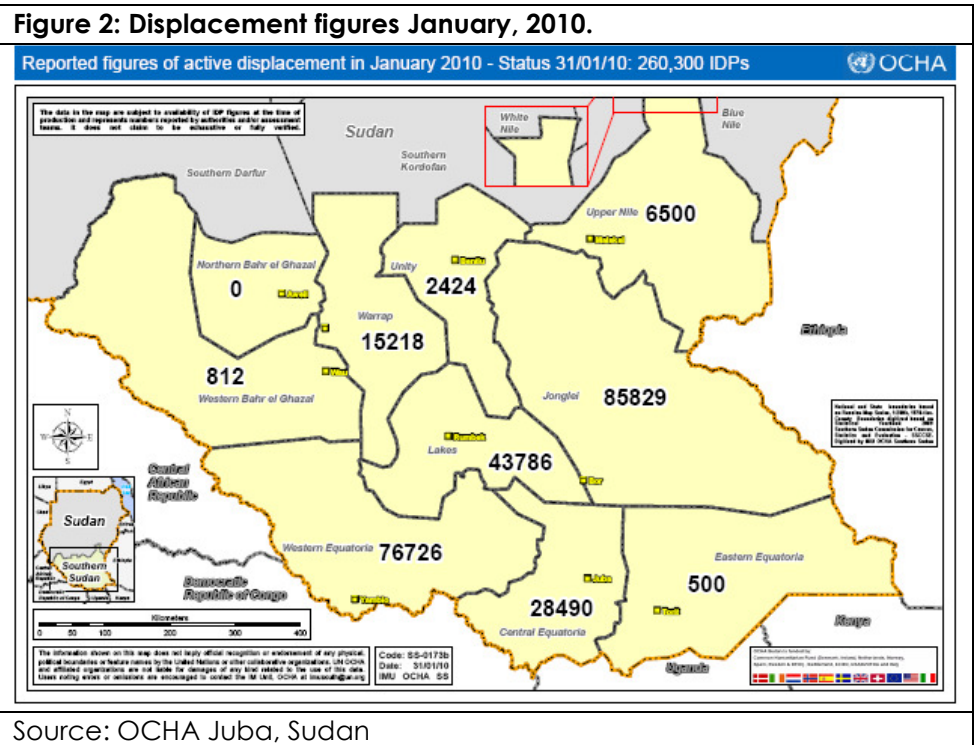
Communities in southern Sudan still food insecure

Many communities in southern Sudan are still facing acute food shortages. This is as a result of the poor crop performance during

2009 which the drop in agricultural production by 38% from last years' figure and continuous displacements due to ethnic conflicts/Lord's Resistant Army attacks. In the first week of December 2009, a Livelihood Analysis Forum meeting for stakeholders conducted in Juba deliberated on the status of food security in southern Sudan. The forum concluded that areas that are in acute food and livelihood crisis situations includes Aweril and Wulu counties in Lakes state, the whole of Warrap state, south- western parts of Upper Nile state, north-eastern part of Unity state and large parts of Jonglei state (**Figure 1**). Other areas have moderate risk of food insecurity with Greater Equatoria fairly better-off because of diversified crop base which help remedy households' vulnerability. The worse-off areas in Greater Equatoria are the eastern half of Eastern Equatoria and areas of Western Equatoria bordering Democratic Republic of Congo. The food insecurity risk of worsening phase is highest in the Eastern half of Greater Equatoria while the western part of Western Equatoria has low risk.



Recent ethnic conflicts in Lakes, Warrap, Western and Central Equatoria and Jonglei states signal a bad beginning of 2010 for communities with regards to displacement and destitution. The Government of Southern Sudan and Humanitarian agencies have continued to reach out with assistance. However, it is an enormous task and requires understanding the chronic nature of the conflicts which have driven thousands into destitution and dependency. The magnitude of conflict incidences and displacements in January 2010 are shown in Figures 2. Jonglei State has the highest proportion of displaced persons (85829), followed by Western Equatorial State (76726).



Nutritional Status of the most vulnerable still fragile

The nutrition status of the most vulnerable children remained fragile due to the impact of several factors such as food insecurity, illnesses, conflicts, displacements and destitution. Higher levels of malnutrition is expected in the coming months especially among children under five, the elderly and the Internally Displaced Persons living in the conflict affected areas.

In Awerial County of Lakes State, an assessment conducted by interagency after the Mundari attack in the area revealed that more than 50% of the children under five screened using Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) Tape were malnourished (that is 20% severe acute malnutrition and 35% moderate acute malnutrition) (Figures: 3 & 4) (UNOCHA Nov. 2009 Report).

Figure 4. Severely malnourished child in Awerial, Lakes State



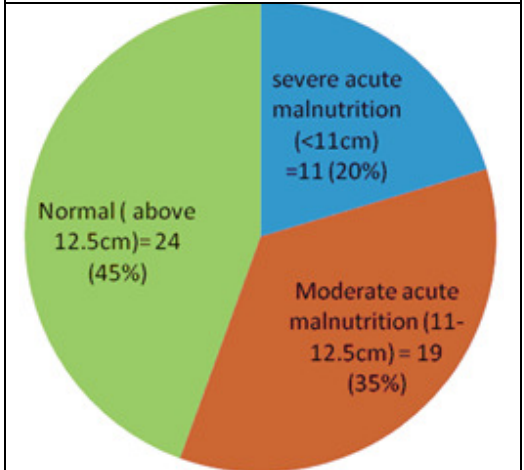
Source: UN OCHA Report, 2009

There is an urgent need for both the Government and Humanitarian agencies to double their efforts to address this situation through mitigation measures and solving the underlying factors of vulnerability.

In addition, Medair (INGO) conducted a nutrition survey in Ikotos County of Eastern Equatoria State in December 2009 after the food insecurity alarm due to first season crop failure, the results showed that Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) of children under five were

15.2% and 3.6% respectively. These figures were expected to deteriorate further given food shortage and a number of illnesses reported in the County.

Figure 3. Nutrition Status of Children age 6-59 months using MUAC Tape in Aerial

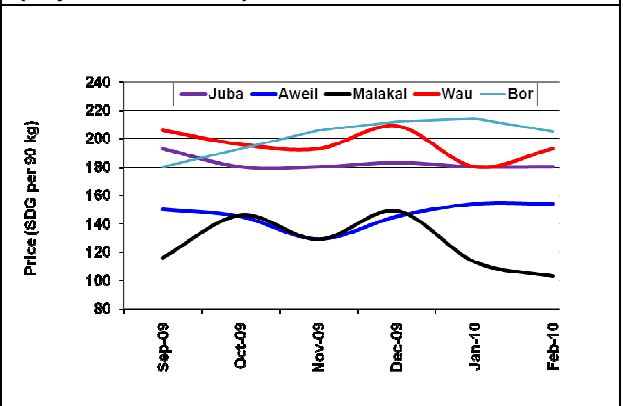


Source: UN OCHA Report, 2009

MARKET TRENDS

Cereals contribute significantly to the food basket of households and therefore, monitoring cereal prices is essential to understanding the food security situation in relation to household's access to food in the market. The recent market price data indicate that cereal prices continue to be high but stable in most major markets over the past few months since September 2009. In a situation where salaries of civil servants and daily wage rates remained unchanged, the high price trend could negatively affect the food security situation of urban and semi-urban residents who depend heavily on the markets for their food needs. Moreover, the poor cereal harvest of 2009, reported in the 2009 Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) could make rural households more dependent on markets for household food needs than in the previous year. As depicted in Figure 5, sorghum prices in Juba, Wau and Bor while significantly higher than at the same time last year, remained more or less stable since September 2009. In almost all markets no significant changes of sorghum's price were observed between January and February 2010.

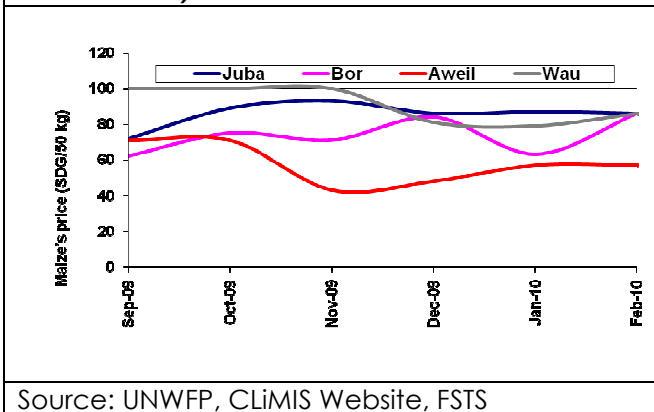
Figure 5: sorghum price in selected markets (Sep 09– Feb 2010)



Source: UNWFP, CLiMIS Website, FSTS

The prices in Aweil and Malakal, though a bit stable, were much lower than the prices in other markets. The sorghum price in Malakal is the lowest and has shown a downward trend in the first week of February 2010 which is mainly attributed to the arrival of the newly harvested long-term sorghum variety. Moreover, Malakal's access to Northern Sudan and its proximity to the big mechanized farms such as Renk contributed significantly to the reported low price of sorghum. This suggests (all other factors being equal) that consumers in Malakal could be able to maintain better food access than consumers in other markets.

Figure 6: Maize price in selected markets (Sep 09– Feb 2010)

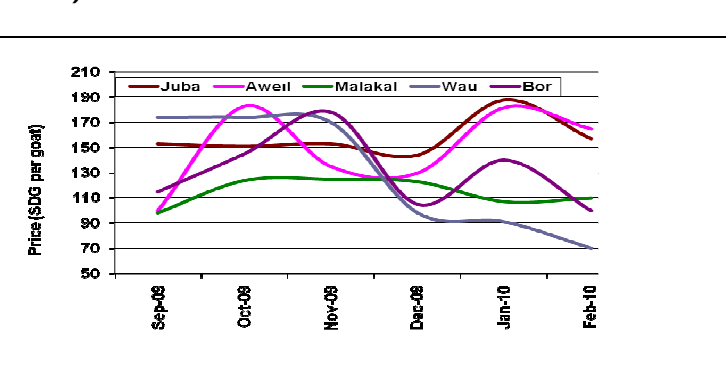


Source: UNWFP, CLiMIS Website, FSTS

2009 through February 2010. However, maize prices in February in Juba were by 23% higher than same time last year. Generally speaking, considering that the majority of households have been buying more of their cereals at higher prices and for a longer period since mid 2009, they are likely to have exhausted their available cash, rendering them highly food insecure. These households could resort to extreme coping measures such as skipping meals and selling off productive household assets. Food aid could halt the further erosion of household assets and protect overly stressed livelihoods.

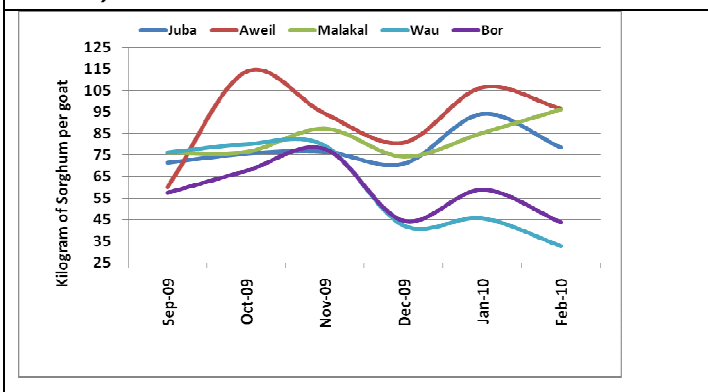
The price of a goat (Figure 7) after significantly increasing between December 2009 and January 2010 has shown a slightly declining trend in February 2010. The sale of livestock (small ruminants) is the main means of cash for pastoral households to cover their food and non-food needs. Thus the decline in price of these livestock

Figure 7: Goat price in selected markets (Sep 09– Feb 2010)



Source: UNWFP, CLiMIS Website, FSTS

Figure 8. Sorghum – Goat terms of Trade (Sep 09 – Feb 10)



Source: WFP/CLiMIS website, FSTS

December 2009 and January 2010. In February, livestock sellers received somewhat less sorghum per goat (79 kg) than they did in January 2010 (94 kg).

means the purchasing powers of livestock keepers has deteriorated putting them in a precarious position in terms of accessing food from markets. The decline in prices of goat could be more disastrous when combined with the high price of sorghum which remained stable over the past couple of months. This could definitely affect the cereal-livestock Terms of Trade (ToT) unfavourably to livestock keepers. As illustrated in Figure 8, sorghum-livestock terms of trade (the amount of sorghum that can be obtained in exchange for one animal) declined in February 2010 after it had briefly picked up between

FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS BY STATE

CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

The state has a cereal deficit of 54,215 tonnes (CFSAM 2009), though some areas such as Yei, Kajo keji, Morobo and Lainya Counties had a relatively good production in the second season of 2009. The most vulnerable households are the IDPs in Gemeiza Payam who were affected by the conflict between Mundari and Dinka ethnic groups late last year. Though the major towns like Juba have food commodities available in the markets, prices are increasingly high (figure 4) and therefore, access may be limited. Thus the hunger gap shall be longer (March to Aug) before the first season crop for 2010 are harvested. Farmers who might have lost their crops last year and have no seeds need to be assisted with fast maturing varieties.

EASTERN EQUATORIA STATE

The eastern half of the state is the most affected area regarding food shortages. Failed cropping season of 2009 coupled with poor pasture rejuvenation contributed to the adverse situation. Communities are employing acute coping strategies like wide scale sale of livestock, sale of wood fuel to generate cash for purchasing food items from the markets to meet household food needs. A nutrition survey conducted by Medair in Ikotos County late 2009 revealed that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate was 15.2% and the Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rate was 3.6%. These high percentages are associated with rampant illnesses and acute food shortages. The most vulnerable are children under five, the elderly and pregnant/lactating women. Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission's report revealed that the state has a cereal deficit of 44,323 tonnes. This means communities in the state shall witness a prolonged hunger gap this cropping season before the next harvest.

NORTHERN BAHR EL GHAZAL STATE

Households living on highlands in the state are expected to face food shortages as they got low production last season due to erratic rainfall and prolonged dry spell. However, communities who farm on lowland areas got sufficient production which could last them until the next harvest (FEWS Net: South Sudan Food Security Update Jan 2010). On a brighter note, through the Sudan Productive Capacity and Recovery Programme (SPCRP), Aweil Irrigation Rehabilitation Project is expected to cultivate over 500 feddans with rice. Last season, the pilot project produced encouraging amounts of rice and therefore it is expected to achieve high production this season. Produce from this scheme is expected to contribute to the food basket of households in the state and to a greater extent Southern Sudan food security improvement.

WARRAP STATE

Food security situation in the state has never sufficiently improved during 2009 though most of the communities are agro-pastoralist. Consequently, 2010 outlook is not too bad with regard to household food security. The major factor is livelihood disruption due to continuous inter-ethnic conflicts over livelihood assets and natural resources. These conflicts continue to render communities destitute and rely on outside humanitarian support. With regard to agricultural production for 2009, the most affected counties are Twic, Gogrial East and Greater Tonj areas. Despite a relatively good production during 2009 season, disruption of livelihoods due to conflicts and displacements renders this state in a much more vulnerable situation which requires external humanitarian assistance to mitigate.

LAKES STATE

The displacements and destitution in the state continued into the first week of January 2010 as a result of clashes in Akot, Rumbek East County (figure 2). This therefore compounded the already dire food situation which was affecting communities in Awerial and Wulu Counties. Humanitarian

agencies have continued to assist with aid (food and non-food items) to alleviate the immediate adverse effects of the aftermath of these conflicts. The last Crop and Food Supply assessment Mission (CFSAM) conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture (MAF) in conjunction with FAO, WFP and other government institutions estimated that production in the state was expected to last till end of January. This means that the food security situation shall deteriorate further and plunge communities into acute food and livelihood crises. There is therefore an urgent appeal to the government to help bring calm among communities so that farming households are encouraged to engage in meaningful agricultural production this coming season.

JONGLEI STATE

This is the hardest hit state with regard to food shortages and communities affected. Continuous inter-ethnic clashes in 2009 and during the month of January 2010 displaced many communities (figure 2) and rendered them dependant on external assistance for their livelihoods. Fresh displacements were reported after recent clashes between the Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups in Atar, Canal County and so far 85829 people displaced by January 2010. The implication on food security status is incomprehensible; livelihood assets are lost, destitution sets in, no meaningful engagement in food production and other food sources may be inaccessible. Overall, the result will be catastrophic because this is the second year in a row that production has not been sufficient. Large proportion of the state will slip into Humanitarian Emergency phase characterised by severe lack of food access, high and increasing malnutrition and irreversible livelihood asset stripping; thus requiring urgent protection of vulnerable groups.

UPPER NILE STATE

There is a general food insecurity situation within the state. However, the most productive schemes in Renk, Manyo and Melut Counties had a good 2009 cultivation season. Produce from these schemes is normally shipped to the north and may stabilize household food security situation in the forthcoming months, especially, in the major towns such as Malakal. Areas bordering Jonglei and Unity states have witnessed intermittent civil conflict over resources and boundary. Communities in these areas are in higher risk of food insecurity. This is also true of the eastern half of the state where food shortages are also exacerbated by continuous conflicts, displacements and a reduced access to commercial good.

WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE

The security situation in the state remained generally calm, although there were reports of LRA/Ambororo attacks on civilians outside of Ezo County in the third week of January 2010. There were also reports of new influx of Refugees from Congo escaping LRA atrocities (source: UNMIS/RRR Weekly Report 18th – 24th January 2010). Household food security situation is generally secured as indigenous communities as well as Internally Displaced Persons were able to reap significant harvest from second season crop in 2009. The households' food baskets are also supplemented by humanitarian food aid. However, with extensive kinship support coupled with anticipated LRA/Ambororo disruption of livelihoods, the food security situation is expected to deteriorate.

WESTERN BAHR EL GHAZAL STATE

Although the state ministry of Agriculture is committed to its strategy and plan of enhancing food security in the state, communities still experience food shortages. The Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) showed that the state cereal production was low in 2009 with a deficit of 234 Metric tonnes in 2010. The limited food availability and accessibility is contributing to commodity price hikes in the state. The price of sorghum (50kg) in Wau main market has increased from 75 SDG during December 2009 to 90 SDG during January 2010 (20% increase). The price of livestock has generally decreased compared to same time last year. Prices of goats and sheep recorded were 50 SDG and 150 SDG respectively. The increase in

cereal prices could be attributed to the influx of IDPs from Warrap state and Darfur, while the decrease in livestock prices is due to scarcity of pastures and water in addition to food shortages which force owners to sell their assets to purchase grains.

UNITY STATE

Agricultural production in the state was not spared by the erratic rainfalls and prolonged dry spells which affected 2009 cropping season in Southern Sudan. The mid-year rapid CFSAM estimated that the state shall produce only 25% of its annual cereal needs. Indeed, the production for 2009 from the traditional farming sector is put at 18,000 tonnes; 57% drop compared to 2008 production which was about 42,000 tonnes. The productive counties are Guit and Rubkona while Counties further north and south suffered from prolonged dry spells. The mechanized sector's cereal production for 2009 is estimated at 4,500 tonnes; mainly produced in Guit, Rubkona, Mayom and Ruweng Counties. If only the traditional sector is considered, CFSAM estimated a cereal deficit of 39,507 tonnes for 2010.