



# South Sudan Food Security Update



Volume: 016

Month : May -June 2011

Release Date: 26 July 2011

Produced by the Food Security Technical Secretariat of GOSS

Collaborating Government of South 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. South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

## FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

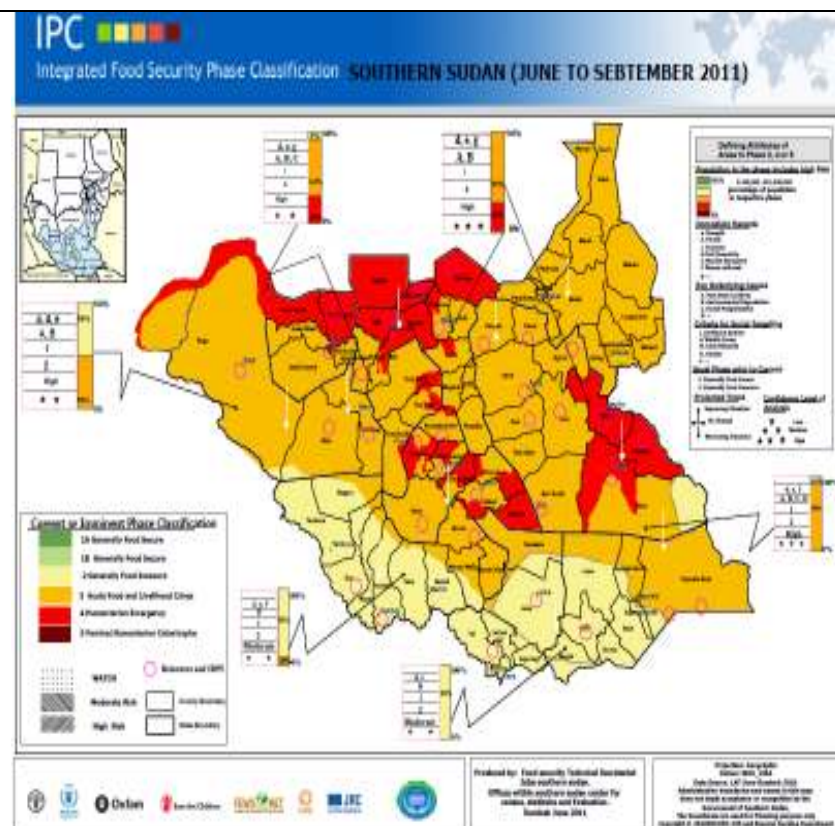
### Highlights:

- The recent North-South trade routes blockade still continue affecting markets functioning mainly in the States bordering North Sudan
- The impact of Abyei crisis continues to impact the food security situation of both the displaced and hosting communities.
- Food commodities prices continued to rise in South Sudan markets due to a combination of factors

### Food Security Outlook

The food security situations in South Sudan continued to worsen. This come shortly with the trade routes blockade by North Sudan on South since May, 2011 resulting in exorbitant prices of staples food commodities and fuel in the entire markets. The prices are above the 2010 average reducing access to food for majority of poor and vulnerable households who dominantly depend on the markets for a large portion of their food needs. The observed price trend is expected to persist for the whole of July-August when the first season harvest is due and supplies to the markets increase. The northern trade routes are significant in that it accounts for 70% of

Figure 1: Republic of South Sudan food security outlook map (June-September 2011).



Sources: FSTS/SSCCSE, June, 2011

cereals supply to South Sudan. This implies that the gap now has to be filled by cereal grains coming from other neighbouring countries (Food Security & Livelihood Coordination June 2011).

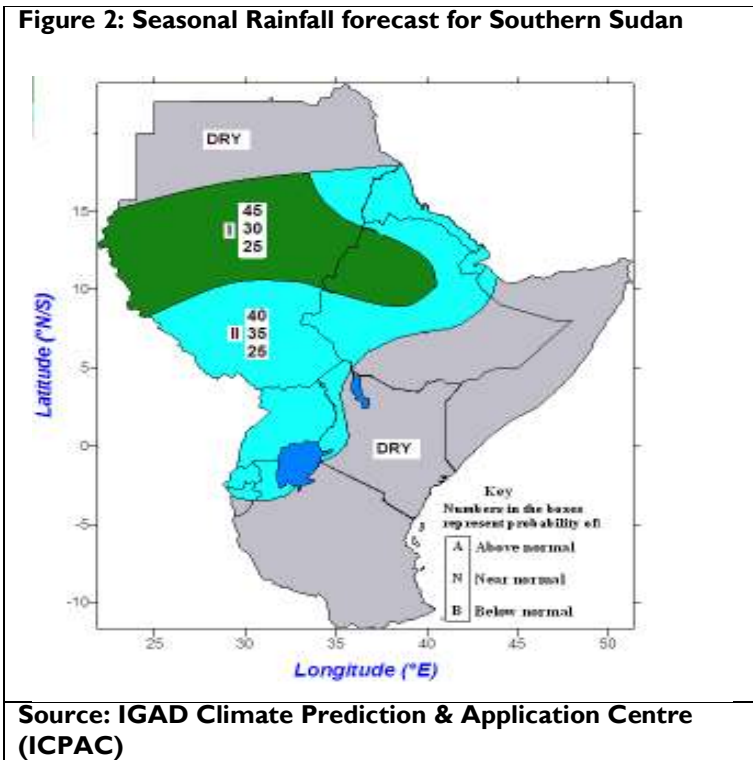
The Abyei crisis displaced an estimated 202,830 people to the neighbouring States of Warrap, Unity, NBEG, Upper Nile, and Jonglei (UNOCHA 2011). The displacement occurred during the lean period where food availability and access was constrained among many households. Besides, rains are expected to constrain road and supply food commodities. This makes the food security outlook in the next two to three months precarious. As reflected in fig 1 above, during Livelihoods Analysis Forum (LAF) deliberations in Rumbek from 13<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2011, most parts of Unity, NBEG, Warrap, Lakes and Jonglei States are in humanitarian emergency phase with high risks of sliding to humanitarian catastrophe if political tensions at the North-South border increase.

The cropping season is progressing normally except for reports of below normal rainfall in WES and CES. This has caused dry spells and localised wilting of crop in Yambio County, delayed planting in Mundri, Nagero and Tambura Counties in WES, and Terekeka County in CES among others. This may not seriously affect crop production as these areas cultivate sorghum which is adapted to limited amount of water. Given the favourable forecast, the rainfall condition is expected to improve. The main concern is that with late planting the harvesting will be delayed thus prolonging the hunger season. In the bi-modal rain receiving areas the harvest time for the first season crops is approaching, though performances of major crops in June was unsatisfactory. In June Maize was at knee height stage while groundnuts at flowering stage. This implies that there could be some delay on harvesting time of these crops.

**Seasonal Rainfall Forecast for South Sudan July- September 2011**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 28) was convened on 17 June 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and partners. Its purpose was to formulate a consensus on climate outlook for the July to September 2011 rainfall season over the GHA region. The regional consensus climate outlook for July, August and September (JAS) indicates that South Sudan has increased likelihood of above to near normal rainfall. This implies that the agriculture cropping season is likely to be favourable and crop yields/production may be normal. According to the forum, this year 2011 JAS rainfall performance is similar to that of 1996 (Analogue year).

In 1996, areas of Pochalla and Akobo in Jonglei State experienced localised flooding. This region is vulnerable to flooding because several tributary rivers and streams flow; including Akobo, Obot, and Pibor rivers and Gini stream (Sudan - floods situation report no. 2, 20 August 1996). The concern is that similar incidences may occur hence threatening livelihood activities in those particular areas.



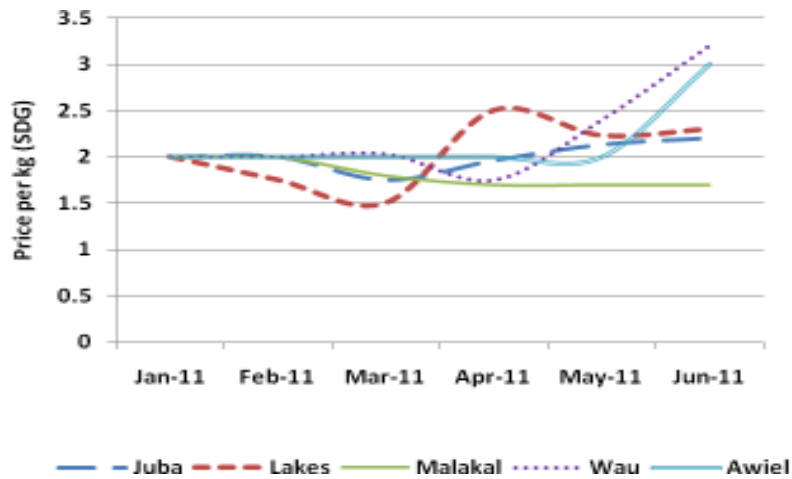
## MARKET TRENDS

The general trends of cereal prices in the main markets of South Sudan have been very unstable since Jan-June. In the last two months some of the markets registered dramatic raise in cereals prices as compared to last year average. As it is indicated in Figure 3 sorghum prices in Wau and Awiel increased sharply by 33% and 50% respectively between May and June 2011. During the same period sorghum prices in Juba and Lakes markets increased only slightly. The slight increase in Juba and Lakes may mainly attributed to better supply routes to these markets from the neighbouring Uganda and Kenya.

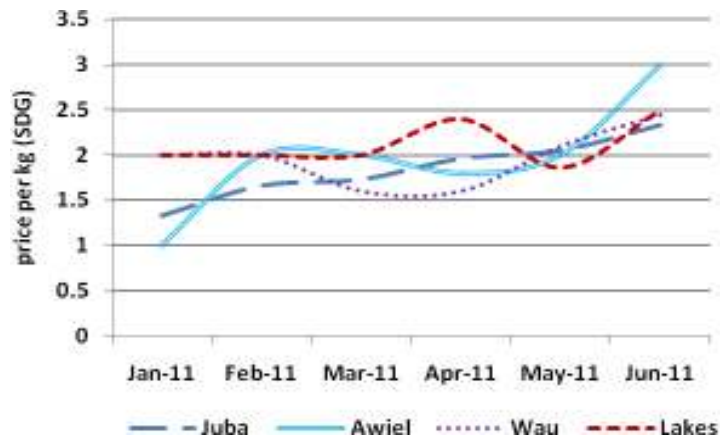
Similar trend was observed on maize that prices in most markets increased during mentioned period at various degrees. In Rumbek and Awiel the price increase was more alarming than other markets, 34 and 50 percent respectively. In Juba and Wau price of maize was increased by 14 and 17 percent respectively between May and June 2011.

The major driving factors for the rising of cereals prices in Wau and Awiel include displacement of large number of people due to Abyei crisis and the subsequent rise of prices in local markets. Other factors that exacerbated the price hike include the north-south trade routes blockade by the North Sudan Government, high fuel prices, large number of returnees from North Sudan, high food commodities prices in the neighbouring countries, and the internal conflict due to militia clashes with the SPLA forces. These factors disrupted the marketing activities and undermined accessibility of food commodities in local markets.

**Figure 3: Sorghum price in Selected markets (Jan-June 2011)**



**Figure 4: Maize price in Selected markets (Jan-June 2011)**

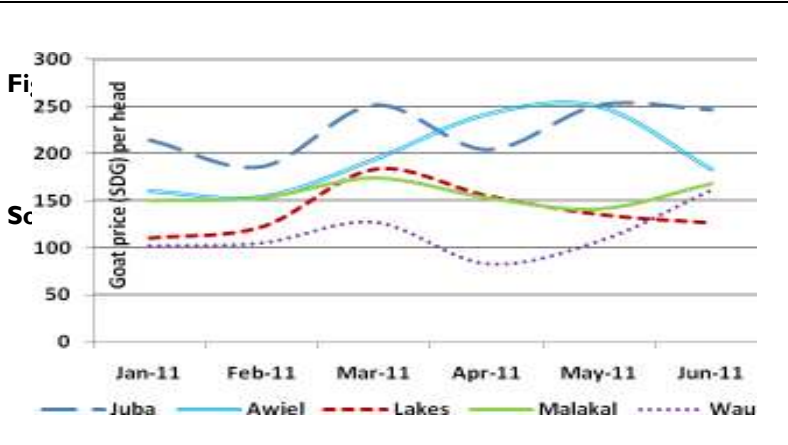


**Source: State Ministries of Agriculture/CLiMIS**

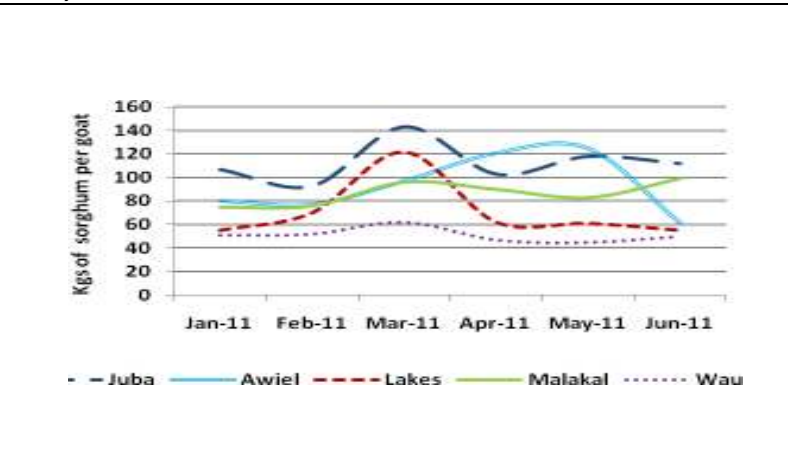
**Figure 6: Goat to sorghum TOT in Selected markets (Jan-June 2011)**

Lakes States there was a slight decline of goat price whereas in Awiel there has been a marked decline of 27% in June 2011 compared with the previous month. This decline could probably be due to the high cereal prices that forced livestock keepers to sell more livestock in exchange for cereals. The situation in Malakal and Wau was contrary to that of the other States. Prices in these markets were increased sharply by 19% and 50% during the same time respectively. This is attributed to reduced need to sell livestock in exchange for cereals as there is relatively adequate availability of cereals in the markets as well as easy access to cereals supply from neighboring countries. The livestock prices expected to decline in the coming 1-2 months as cereal prices expected to further increase which also forces livestock keepers to sell more livestock to meet their cereal demand; that probably could prompt declining of livestock prices. Figure 6 shows stable or declining terms of trade against livestock owners in Juba, Lakes and Awiel markets between May and June 2011. This implies that the amount of sorghum that livestock owner used to buy by selling one goat either stable or decrease in June compared with May 2011.

**Figure 5: Goat price in selected markets (Jan-June 2011)**



**Figure 6: Goat to sorghum TOT in Selected markets (Jan-June 2011)**



Source: State Ministries of Agriculture/CLiMIS

## FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS BY STATE

### CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

The State is generally food insecure with some part of Terekeka County are in acute food and livelihood crisis. Terekeka County did not received good harvest last year due to poor rainfall and pests damage the rainfall performance for this cropping season is poor. The situation will worsen if the rainfall performance will not be improving in the coming months. The prices of essential food commodities in the markets are skyrocketing due to reduced volume of food commodities in the markets. The increase in prices is almost double compared to last year's average. This has impact on the livelihoods and food

accessibility for majority of the poor and low income households. The erratic rainfall is expected to delay first season harvest and impact food availability in the coming months. Report from SMAF indicates that there have been outbreaks of livestock diseases such as ECF, HS, BQ, CCPP, Fashiolasis, CRD, PPR, and coccidiosis with significant impact on livestock productivity. There is need for veterinary surveillance in all Counties to curb the outbreak especially in Terekeka County. Fishing activities is ongoing as an alternative for livelihoods though with limited engagement.

#### **EASTERN EQUATORIA STATE**

Generally the State is food insecure with Counties of Kapoeta East, Kapoeta North and some parts of Lafon/Lopa County in acute food and livelihoods crisis.

This is attributed to last year's pests' invasion and poor rainfall performance this cultivation season. This is expected to interrupt first season crop harvest impacting on food availability both for the rural and urban population (LAF, June 2011). Prices of food commodities continue to rise due to rising demand for cereals consumption from the returnees. Besides, heavy taxes levied on the imported food commodities at the boarder points have negative impact on the consumers who are the last receiver of the commodities with additional charges added by traders to compensate for the heavy taxes incurred by them. This negatively affects food access of the poor and vulnerable households who do not have enough income to sustain their livelihoods. Food availability from livestock products has been poor since large numbers of livestock have moved out far for pasture and water in Ethiopia and Kenya. This constrains access to the milk, meat and other livestock products as only few old animals are left near homesteads. An occurrence of livestock diseases such as CCPP, HS, BQ, Trypanomiasis, PPR, CBPP and worms has been reported with significant impact on livestock productivity.

#### **NORTHERN BAHR EI GHAZAL STATE**

The civil security situation is reported to be normal with exception of ongoing tension at North and South border

as well as in neighboring States especially Warrap and Unity. The tension needs to be monitored by the relevant authorities as it can destabilize communities at the borders hence threatening Farming. Reports of up to 60,760 thousand IDPs have arrived from Abyei and settled in Madhol, Malualbai and Akoong in Aweil East County (Source: NBG-SSRRC). This will increase food consumption. And will result in the food prices to get higher. Based on LAF information food is scarce and characterized by high Prices in the State capital market. For example cereals prices have been rising from April to June and yet own production from previous season have been exhausted in most of the counties. Deterioration in dietary diversity has been observed as the main food items produced and consumed include ( sorghum, maize, rice, g-nut, milk, meat, dry and fresh fish, sesame, green vegetable and honey and lulu oil compared to last year during lean period.

#### **WARRAP STATE**

Following the influx of about 52,800 IDPs from Abyei to the State demand for food has increased. This situation was exacerbated as many of them have just returned from

North Sudan. The majority have virtually lost all their assets and are in the peak of beginning a new life. Up to 25,679 verified IDPs have benefited from food and non-food assistance from WFP and other partners. The food security situations continued to worsen as a result of the blockade of the North-South trade routes by Sudan government. In the last two months commodities prices of staple foods in increased from 25% to 35% compared to the 2010 average. Agriculture production was equally interrupted by the internal conflict over cattle rustling between the neighbouring States of Lakes and Unity causing 260 deaths. Livestock productivity is strained due to the fear of cattle raids. The herders are grazing their livestock far from homesteads limiting access to milk and meat which are high proteins food for body nutrient requirements. The food security situation would be stressed unless immediate allocation of land and seeds and tools to the IDPs who opt to participate in cultivation is undertaken. The current coping strategies for vulnerable households are charcoal selling, livestock sale, petty business and reduction in number of meals and size of the family members.

#### **UNITY STATE**

Tension caused by insecurity due to militia activities in Mayom and Abiemnon County has been a threat to food security. Additional threat is aerial bombardment in

Pariang County (Jaw Payam), Mayom County (Mankein, Ruthnyib and Buoth Payams), and Koch County (Baow) (SSRRC-Unity State). The recently concluded LAF meetings revealed that 4,133 returnees from North and more

than 14,000 inhabitants have been displaced in Mayom (Mankien, Ruoth Nyibol, and Buoth) and Koch (Bouw), Pariang (Jauw, Eida and Panyang) Counties. IDPs and returnees are highly vulnerable given their constrained participation in agriculture and other livelihood activities. This will greatly affected their productivity and subsequent access to food. Dietary diversity consists of: Maize, sorghum, milk, fish, meat and some small scale of vegetables in urban areas.

According to the Food Security Monitoring system report of February 2011 the main route for goods for Unity State was blockaded, which resulted in exorbitantly high prices (about 100%) rise in prices for most essential goods and food items. This has led to a rising cost of living with negative repercussions among low income households. Reports from the State MARF indicate that the livestock owners are concerned about an outbreak of FMD (foot and mouth disease).

#### WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE

Currently the food security situation is moderately stable despite the displacement that occurred in Mvolo in the last two months. WFP and other UN agencies responded to the needs of the vulnerable communities by accessing them to food during the tough periods (FSLC). Most local markets receive cereals and other food commodities from the neighbouring Uganda and Congo. The prices were high though it was still possible for the low income households to access food. This has also positive impact on the livelihoods of the urban households as large proportion of the population is dependent on markets for their food needs. The food security situation in the coming months is projected to be better compared to last year. This is because the first season crops are performing well in the fields as rainfalls were received these cropping seasons. Besides reduced rate of LRA insurgency activities created relative peace. An increased agriculture production therefore is expected with some surplus to support other food deficit States if no anomaly occurs (SMAF, June 2011). Report from SMAF indicates that livestock productivity is also performing due to better vegetation in this season. The dietary intake from livestock products is expected to improve the nutritional status of households owning some herds of cattle as well as market demand of the community.

#### WESTERN BAHR EI GHAZAL STATE

Food security situation in the State is unstable following the blockade of the North-South trade routes as local markets primarily depend on commodities supplies from North Sudan. This has resulted in poor market performance and increased prices of food and other essential commodities. Food access and availability for the poor and vulnerable households has been negatively affected (SMAF). The current rains are likely to deteriorate the road networks and then moment of food and non-food commodities. This situation will have negative implication on the food security situation through affecting access and availability of food to the poor and low income households. Delayed rainfall this season is also going to contribute to poor and late harvest of crops. The government and humanitarian agencies should therefore intervene in bridging the cereal deficit gap targeting the vulnerable communities.

#### JONGLEI STATE

The rainfall performance is mixed in which some areas are performing poorly while others are good. The agricultural season has commenced most crops are at early vegetative stage stages.

There is high tension caused by insecurity due to cattle raids, tribal fights and militia activities especially in the northern parts of the State jeopardizing food security situation. Commodities are available in the market but at high price due to increased demand coupled with high influx of returnees. In addition purchasing power of the household is limited due to low income. The livestock diseases reported include Contagious Bovine Pulmonary Pneumonia (CBPP), Hemorrhagic Septicaemia (H/S) and Black Quarter. About 10,000 to 50,000 herds of cattle were vaccinated in Bor and Pibor Counties respectively (LAF Rumbek June 2011).