



Southern Sudan Food Security Update



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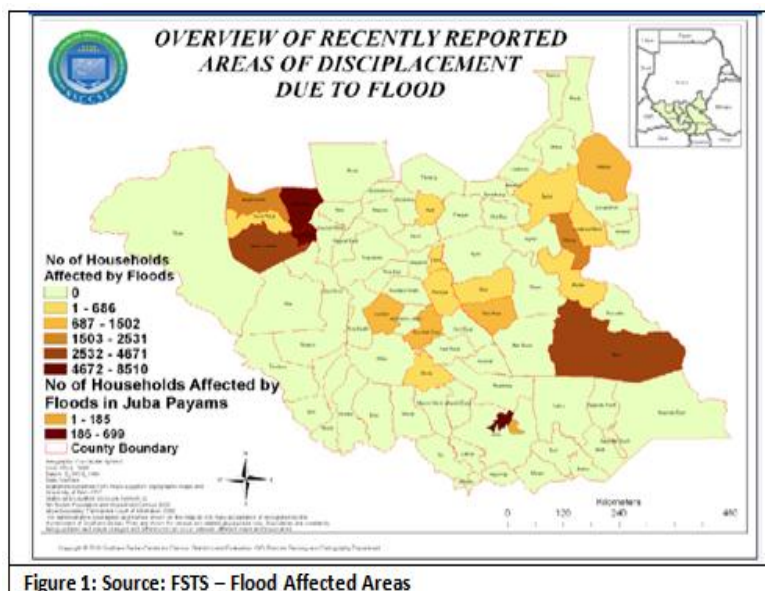
FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

Highlights:

- Flood hazards impacting negatively on lives and livelihoods....
- The preliminary findings of the Rapid Crop Assessment forecasted better production this year compared with last year...
- Major commodity prices still high though harvest season has started...

Southern Sudan is constantly inundated with several natural and manmade shocks and hazards. As communities in southern Sudan are trying to extricate themselves from hunger and improve on their livelihoods, hazards such as drought and floods have hindered the progress towards self-reliance. Excessive rainfalls and poor drainage that has occurred in this agricultural season have resulted in flooding problems in areas such Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei and Unity states among others, causing displacements and loss of livelihood assets (Figure 1). Cultivated fields in the low lying areas are flooded and became water-logged. It is expected that flooding and water-logging of fields will result in reduction of production, though crops are already at flowering and maturity stages. Livestock are performing well because of abundance of pasture and water with limited diseases reported.

However, in a general term, Southern Sudan is expected to produce much better food this season compared to last year. Initial reports of a recently concluded Rapid Crop Assessment (RCA) indicates that, that there is a likelihood that 2010 will be a better season when compared to 2009 and production is expected to be better, i.e. cereal production in 2010 is likely to rise from last season (2009) by 25 – 36 % based on the previous yields and the yields of 2009.



In Greater Equatoria, households have harvested maize and groundnuts in addition to cassava which help bridge the hunger period. Total production figure is expected to be clear after the coming Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) planned for October when most communities in Southern Sudan would have harvested or in the process of harvesting Sorghum; a staple food for most households.

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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

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NUTRITIONAL STATUS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

A number of contributing factors are apparent in Southern Sudan that impact individual's nutritional well-being at household and/or community level. Among these factors are population displacements, loss of livelihoods, diseases and seasonal food shortages. The malnutrition situation in some parts of Southern Sudan remains at critical levels above the emergency threshold of 15%, since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). In June and July a number of nutrition surveys were conducted by different agencies in Southern Sudan. The results of these surveys revealed that the malnutrition rate is still very high (above the 15%). In Northern Bahr El Ghazal State surveys were conducted by ACF and Concern in June in the counties of Aweil East, Aweil West and Aweil North showed that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rates were 23.1% and 3.2%, 25.7% and 5.6% ,and 23.6 and 6% respectively, while in Tonj north the GAM and SAM rates were 20 % and 3.7%. In Unity State, Panyijar county MSF-H conducted an assessment in June and the GAM and SAM rates were found to be 20% and 0.7%, in Rubkona County the malnutrition rates were 17% and 2% respectively. The State ministries of health in Western and Eastern Equatoria conducted nutrition assessments in July in the Nzara, Ezo and Magwi counties and it revealed that the GAM and SAM rates were 16% and 6.2% in Nzara, 22% and 3.2% in Ezo, and 6.4% and 2.1% in Magwi respectively. The high malnutrition rates attributed to the food insecurity experienced in most parts of the southern Sudan due to crop failure because of drought in 2009, insecurity and others.

The admissions in feeding centers have been steadily rising since early 2010; the highest of above 5,000 was

recorded in March and above 16,000 recorded caseloads was in May (GoSS MoH) (Plate 1). However, the current situation is expected to be mitigated as households begin to harvest their crops and availability and access to essential commodities are improved. Despite the expected improvement in the nutrition and food security situation in the coming months, both the government and the agencies need to put serious mechanisms in addressing the malnutrition issues in Southern Sudan.

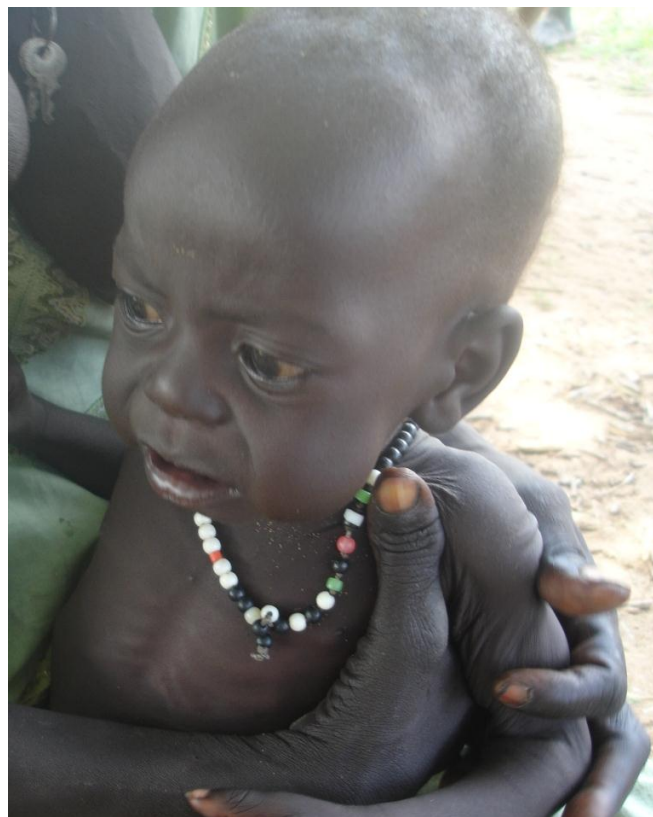


Plate 1: Malnourished child

MARKET PRICE TRENDS

The Government of Southern Sudan and its State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Resource and Fisheries have taken huge stride in establishing a Market Information System. The information collected can be accessed through www.southsudan-climis.org website. The most common food items and livestock prices monitored are, for Sorghum, Maize, Cattle and Goats. The figures below show the price trends for these major commodities.

Sorghum price in the major States' markets remain stable but high in April and March.. The highest price was recorded in Bor and Wau in June, though these two markets witnessed a drop in price during June and July. The bad road condition from Juba to Bor and Wau is considered as the major contributor to price increase. In Aweil,

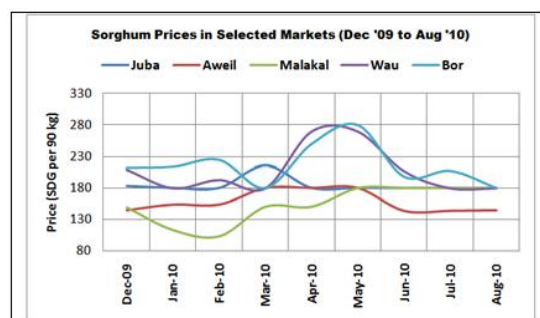


Figure 2: Source: Adopted from MAF; Presentation at LAF

sorghum price was the lowest, this was attributed to improved availability and access for the commodity during the months of June through part of August. However, the unexpected inundation of the State with floods resulted in scarcity of this staple commodity (Figure 2).

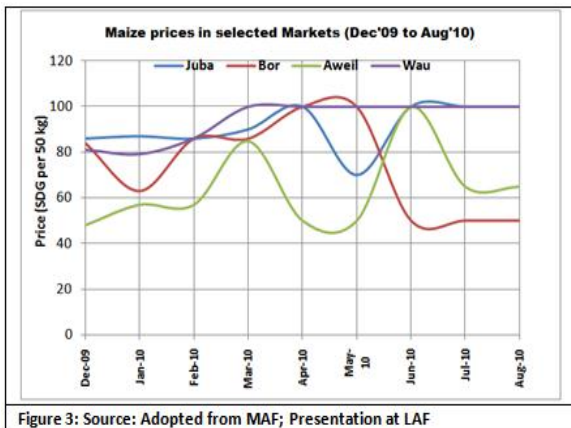


Figure 3: Source: Adopted from MAF; Presentation at LAF

Maize prices have been fluctuating in all markets from early this year, but remained stable in Wau between May and August. The stability is attributed to masking effect caused by relief food distributed by WFP and improvement in food commodity availability sourced from Northern Sudan and partly from East Africa. Price per kilogram of maize in Juba shot up in June but remained stable during July and August, attributed mainly to early maturing maize harvest in the green belt. The latter also contributed to price decrease in Bor market. (Figure 3). Prices are expected to decrease further as the harvest season is at hand in during late August to September. Freshly produced food commodities shall be available and access shall be improved for most households.

Goat price continue to decline steadily in most markets during the month of August by between 4 – 54 percent. Current and long-term price comparison revealed decline over time by 5, 11, 23, 29 percent in Juba, Aweil, Bor and Wau markets respectively and improved by about 15 percent in Malakal Market (Southern Sudan Livestock and Fisheries Bulletin; Vol. 1, Series 6). The highest price for a male medium sized goat was recorded in Juba (157 SDG) and the lowest price in Bor (54.00 SDG) during August 2010. Livestock owners in Bor lost most of their goats during the heavy flooding in August. (Figure 4).

Terms of Trade (ToT), here measures how much sorghum a livestock owner gets when s/he sells one goat. The trend during the period January to August 2010 has been better for cereal sellers. Although there is relatively good improvement in food availability due to start of the harvest season in most areas of Southern Sudan, pastoralists in Torit experienced the worse terms of trade especially in the month of May and June but started slightly improving during July through August. In comparison to long-term average, terms of trade in the markets of Juba, Wau and Malakal deteriorated in Wau and Malakal; January through August 2010 (Southern Sudan Livestock and Fisheries Bulletin; Vol. 1, Series 6). (Figure 5). Undoubtedly, this deterioration in terms of trade affected the livelihood of pastoralists' communities in Southern Sudan. It is expected that as the season progress is good, ToT shall improve as availability and accessibility of essential commodities will be getting better during the harvest season.

In a recently concluded livestock coordination meeting held in Torit, the Vice President, Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) in his opening speech said that pastoralism should be commercialized so that it contribute positively to the overall economic growth of Southern Sudan. He further stated that a nation that does not feed itself does not make its own decision. That technocrats from the

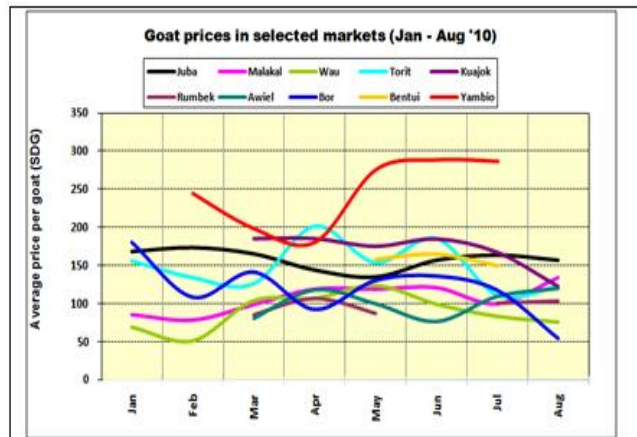


Figure 4: Source: Adopted from MARF; Presentation at LAF



Figure 5: Source Adopted from MARF; Presentation at LAF

States should design practicable policy which are easily implemented to move the South quickly towards achieving Food Security. It is obvious fact that Southern Sudan has huge livestock potential but often under utilized. Livestock are kept solely for prestige and cultural/social extravaganza. Therefore, with this kind of livelihood strategy, Pastoralists shall continually be faced with problems of food availability and accessibility as they perpetually realize low income from their livestock to purchase essential commodities.

FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS BY STATE

CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

The first agricultural season was established between March – May 2010. Major crops grown in this season include sorghum, long and short term maize varieties, millet, ground nuts, beans, cassava, potatoes, and vegetables crops. The food security situation has improved as most farmers have successfully harvested the first season crops. However, several households in Rajaf payam and Gondokoro islands, Jebel Ladu east Boma, Northern Bari payam all in Juba counties have been affected by floods that occurred due to heavy rains between May and early June. The flood destroyed crops and displaced the people living in the islands by the Mundari (EP&R, UNOCHA, Sept, 2010). Reports from the rapid crop assessment also indicate that crops except Sesame and ground nuts were stressed in Lobonok payam as a result of late onset and erratic rainfall. Replanting was done towards the end of the first season. Poor road network has affected transportation of surplus harvest from KajoKeji and other inaccessible agricultural areas during rainy season to towns like Juba which resulted in increase of food prices in the towns.

EASTERN EQUATORIA STATE

Following the harvesting of first season crops, all food commodities are available in the markets, though accessibility depends on households' income level and consumer preferences. Commonly consumed food commodities include sorghum and maize that is consumed at least 3 days in a week on average, others are vegetables, fruits, dairy products, meat both red and white meat from fishing grounds like Lafon, Loudo, Lokiri and Nimule. (LAF, Sept, 2010). Food aid intervention has continued by WFP in greater Kapoeta and Ikwoto as these counties were badly hit by drought last year.

Crops and Livestock condition are reported to be in a good condition and good harvest is expected by the end of the year, though some flooding in few spots like in Pachidi, Lafon County, Olikwi and Abila, Nimule payam could affect production, Crops in Magwi county are likely to perform poorly due to the effect of excessive water. The rapid crop assessment reports indicated increased incidences of East Coast Fever (ECF) in areas of Budi, Ikwotos, and Torit and Magwi counties. PPR is reported above normal in Kapoeta and Budi Counties. Incidences of cattle raiding are common in Greater Kapoeta, Torit County, Ikwoto County and Lafon County creating high level of insecurity and conflicts hence impacting on food security (LAF, Sept, 2010).

NORTHERN BAHR EI GHAZAL STATE

Most parts of the State especially Aweil South and Aweil Centre have been affected by flooding due to excessive rainfalls and poor drainage of residential areas in July/August. The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management reported that over 1000 households in Aweil South and Aweil Centre have been left homeless and destitute due to the flooding. Humanitarian interventions are underway with the Government taking the lead.

Prior to the flooding, commodities prices in the State were relatively stable due to the State's Government implementation of tax exemption on essential food commodities and the improved flow of goods from Northern Sudan. Farmers have also increased their cultivated areas compared to last year (FEWS Net, Aug, 2010). This is expected to result in good harvest especially in areas not much affected by the flooding.

WARRAP STATE

The crop failure that happened last year due to inadequate rainfall resulted in food insecurity for most part of this year. The state also experienced internal and external tribal disputes over pasture and cattle raiding especially in the pastoralists community that resulted in internal displacement (1750 IDPs in Kwajok (LAF, Sept 2010)). This affected agricultural activities and which in turn affected the food security situation negatively. Food aid intervention by UN and harvesting of early maturity crops like ground nuts and sesame have slightly started to improve the food security situation. The rapid crop assessment report indicated that performances of crops is good and the food security situation is expected to be further improved in October. The situation might a little bit be different in some locations which are affected by flood especially part of Gogrial West and East.

LAKES STATE

The food security situation in the state is expected to improve following a good start of the season. A good harvest is expected as the performance of the crops is better than last year. However, areas of Awerial, some parts of Rumbek Centre, East and North counties are affected by the recent flooding (Source:WFP). Government has implemented tax exemption measures on food items that helped in stabilising price of major food commodities. Households that have harvested groundnuts are now selling some of this to buy Sorghum.

Intermittent clashes between youth and cattle rustlers continue and often resulting in displacement and destitution. Recently, Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) reported a total displaced households of 1700 in the state.

UPPER NILE STATE

Although there was a delay of rain at the beginning of the season, its impact was not severe as crops and livestock are in good conditions. , If all conditions remain constant (i.e. good rains and reduced conflict), the food security situation in the coming months will be better than that of last year. According to reports from rapid crop assessment, Market prices are reported to be high for both grains and livestock in Malakal and Renk town, implying that only households with high income level will have a better access to diverse food commodities in the market. Another challenge to food security is the issue of tribal conflicts resulting from cattle raiding and land disputes that affect livelihood by depriving households from basic livelihood assets.. This is common in Panyikang, Fashoda and Baliet (LAF, Sept, 2010). Floods have been reported in Maban (EP&R, UNOCHA) and likely to affect crop performances. Other floods affected counties include Longochuk town, Baliet, Ulang..

WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE

The agricultural activities in the central part of Western Equatoria, which is also the most productive part of the State, is affected by insecurity problem that occurred by Lord's Resistant Army's (LRA) and Nomadic tribesmen (Amororo). The first cropping season has ended and the second one has started. Households that area displaced due to LRA attack have been dependent on relief hand-outs and kinship support. Food security situation in medium and long term can only be improved when the underlying causes of civil insecurity is addressed. This could enable the State to be self-sufficient in food production and satisfy the demand of other food deficit States in Southern Sudan. in its full productive potential.

WESTERN BAHR EI GHAZAL STATE

Food security in these areas is expected to significantly improve by the end of September to mid October, when the main short cycle sorghum harvest will be at its peak. Currently most people access food from the markets, own production and also food aid intervention by WFP in the rural areas. Prices of food commodities was reported to be stable especially sorghum. Market prices of vegetables are getting low due to better supply that normally occur during the rainy season.. The LRA activities are likely to affect the food security situation in some areas such as parts of Raga County (Yabulu Payam and Temssa and Kafiagengi). Reports from Irrigation Department WBGS projected possible floods by the end of September. The flood can affect some areas around the river e.g. (hai dinka, hai bafra, khor meder) which will affect crops performance and possibly result to hunger in these areas.

UNITY STATE

The general security situation in the State has been reported to be calm and peaceful in the month of August but very unpredictable. Food security situation has started to improve following harvesting of the early maturity crops like maize and ground nuts. Crops are performing well due to better rainfall this year and better harvest is expected at the end of the season compared with the previous year. Plants grown include early, medium and late maturing sorghum varieties and maize in good quantities (Source: MAF, RCA August 2010). However, some insecurity cases that resulted in deaths of civilians was reported in some counties of Mayom and Koch in August (LAF, August 2010). This is likely to affect the food security situation of these areas especially by disrupting the functioning of the markets through restriction of movement and transportation of goods.

JONGLEI STATE

There has been relative tranquillity throughout the State compared to last year when conflict and displacement were the highest in Southern Sudan. The state witnessed above average rainfall in July/August which coupled with overflow of the Nile and its tributaries resulted in flooding of seven counties (Bor, Twic East, Pibor, Ayod, Uror, Akobo, Nyiror). Crop fields in addition to residential areas were flooded. A rapid crop assessment preliminary finding indicates that between 40-50% of fields that were water-logged would result in reduced yield. Other parts of the state e.g. Pachalla and Twic East Counties witnessed pest (army worms) attack early in the season and farmers were forced to replant their field affected by army worm. Food security situation is expected to be improved with improvement of road conditions especially the road from Juba to Bor. World Food Programme completed its targeted distribution of essential food to vulnerable groups in the State by end of July.

Livestock condition is good though there were reports of outbreak of East Coast fever in Bor County. Currently, a medium sized bull sells at 1,200 to 1500 Sudanese Pounds (SDG) compared to about 900 SDG three months ago. Increase in price is due to a 10% tax levied by state Authorities.