



Southern Sudan Food Security Update



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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

Highlights:

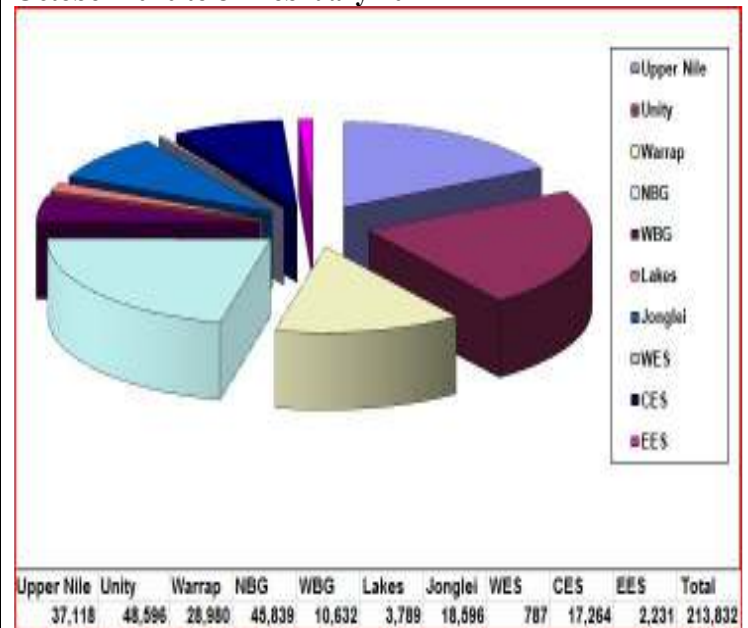
- The high influx of returnees which has been occurring from Northern Sudan to major towns of Southern Sudan since the past few months could exacerbate the food security situation in the coming months by stressing the already strained commodity prices and affecting households' access to food.
- Market prices of major crop and livestock commodities have shown increasing trend over the past several months. The recent market price data indicated that cereal prices continue to rise in most parts of Southern Sudan since Nov/Dec 2010.
- The prices of goats and sheep showed slight but persistent improvements since Oct 2010. The increase in price of livestock implies that livestock keepers have got better purchasing power putting them in advantageous position in terms of accessing food from markets during this period.

THE STATUS AND IMPACT OF RETURNEES

Large number of returnees arrived to Southern Sudan in the last two months. This large influx resulted in high demand for food and pose threats to food security through stressing the already strained commodity prices. Reports from UN OCHA 10/02/2011, indicated that a total of two hundred thirteen thousand, eight hundred thirty two (213,832) returnees arrived since Oct. 2010. Increase of the number of returnees in the coming few months is expected to affect the food security situation in Southern Sudan. Close monitoring of the situation and developing contingency plan by GoSS and humanitarian and development partners is highly required. The Government and other development partners need to work urgently to speed up early reintegration of returnees as they reached their final destination to enable them participate

in agricultural activities which will be starting in the coming few months in most parts of Southern Sudan. In terms of the number of returnees each State received, Unity, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile, and Warrap States are the most affected and

Figure1:- Overview of Returnees to South Sudan Since 30th October 2010 to 8th February 2011



Source: UNOCHA(data)/FSTS(graph)

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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require special attention (see Figure 1). The high number of the returnees can be translated into high demand for food in the local markets and then high commodity prices which could eventually lead to deterioration of the food security situation through constraining accessibility of food by both the returnees and the hosting community.

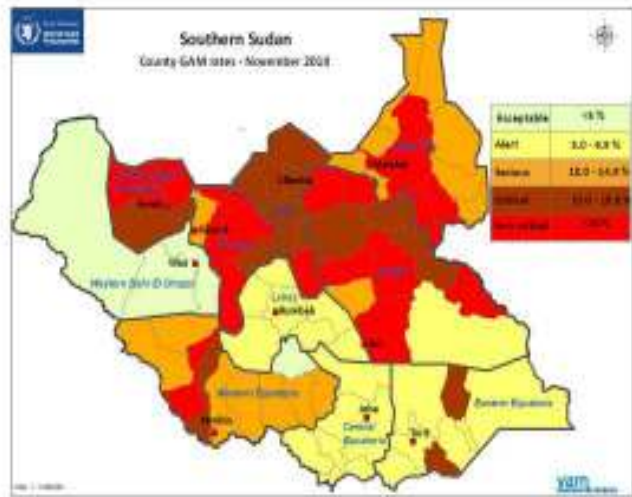
The insecurity problem that has been occurring in WE State due to LRA recurrent attacks could continue to constraint availability and access of food commodities to peri-urban and urban population. Potential escalation of cattle rustling related localized conflicts in Jonglei, Upper Nile, Lakes, Warrap and EES will have significant impact on food security and livelihoods of the population since these will limit harmonious co-existence and impede free movement, trading exchange, and borrowing among themselves during periods of hunger gap. As it is indicated in the OCHA recent report, conflict between members of the Sudan Armed Forces Joint Integrated Unit (SAF JIU) in parts of Upper Nile, including Malakal, between 3 and 5 February prompted the relocation of some humanitarian staff and a temporary suspension of assistance. In Unity, recent clashes between Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) forces and armed groups as well as an increase in tribal tensions slowed the provision of humanitarian assistance to returnees in Mayom, Abiemnhom and Koch counties.

NUTRITIONAL STATUS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

High rates of global acute malnutrition (GAM), which regularly exceed the emergency threshold of

15 percent, contribute to excess morbidity and mortality among vulnerable population groups and constitute a significant public health challenge in Southern Sudan. As the region is experiencing massive influx of returnees and IDPs from the Northern Sudan, the Nutritional situation is believed to be very critical especially among the vulnerable population of children, women and elderly both for the host and returning communities. As revealed by the WFP ANLA report of Jan 2011 (see Figure 2) the Global acute Malnutrition rate was very high in the states which also witnessed huge numbers of returnees as Unity (48,596), Warrap (28,980), Northern Bahr el Ghazal (45,839), Jonglei (18,596) and Upper Nile (37,118). This situation is likely to worsen given the fact that the food security situation is deteriorating and the hunger period is approaching, poor hygiene and sanitation practices among the communities and seasonal peak of malnutrition which occurs March is commencing. Blanket supplementary feeding programs may need to be expanded in these hotspot areas to avoid humanitarian crisis. In addition to the provision of adequate health services, hygiene promotion is very important to reduce incidents of diseases and malnutrition especially among children less than five years of age for both the returnees and the host communities in the most affected states of Southern Sudan.

Figure 2. GAM Rates in South Sudan, updated November



Source: WFP ANLA report Jan2011

MARKET TRENDS

Market prices of major crop and livestock commodities have shown increasing trend over the past

several months. The recent market price data specifically indicated that cereal prices continue to rise in most parts of Southern Sudan since Nov/Dec 2010.

As it is illustrated in figure 3, white sorghum price in most markets have been either stable or increased moderately since October 2010. The increase was more significant in Aweil, Bor, and Juba markets, with the price increase of about 45, 33, 25 percent between Dec 2010 and February 2011 respectively. Considering the fact that sorghum is the most widely consumed staple crop by the large portion of Southern Sudanese, the reported price increase could negatively affect the food security situation of poor household who depends on market for their food need.

After increase of more than 20 percent between December 2010 and January 2011, wheat flour retail price has shown a decline of more than 10 percent in February 2011 in most of the selected market (see Figure 4). The price in Malakal has been the highest compared with other markets. Although wheat flour prices in most markets stabilised during February, they are still very high compared to prices of previous years. The impact of the high wheat flour price on the food security situation of households could be very severe as it negatively impacts the price of breads which most household in urban and semi urban centres highly depend on for their daily meal.

Maize price was stable during most part of 2010, but started to rise considerably since the end of the 2010. As indicated in Figure 5, the price in Juba where maize is major staple food for a significant portion of household has been increasing since January 2011 (by 50 percent). The situation in Aweil was more or less the same as Juba whereas stable maize price condition was observed in Wau.

Figure 3: Sorghum price in selected markets (Jan 10– Feb 11)

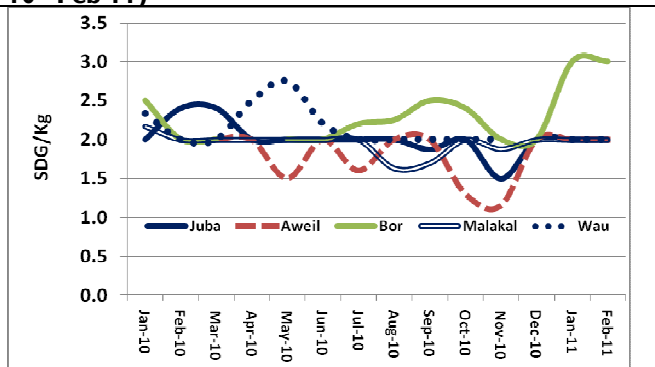


Figure 4: Wheat flour price in selected markets (Jan 10– Feb 11)

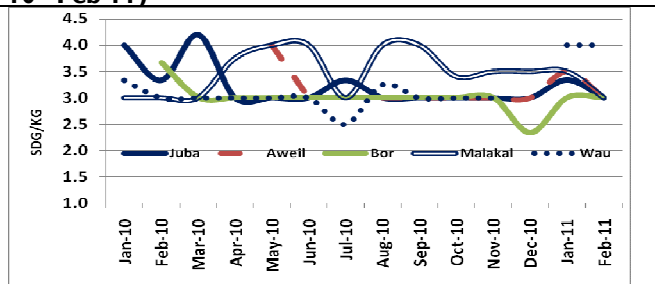
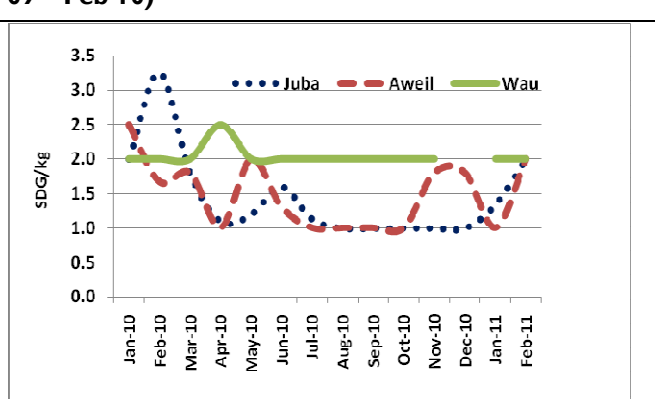


Figure 5: Maize grain price in selected markets (Sep 09 – Feb 10)



Source of data: State Ministries of Agriculture and Animal Resources

In a situation where salaries of civil servants and daily wage rates remained unchanged, this high price trend of cereals could terribly affect the ability of the majority of urban and rural poor household to

access food from the market. The high influx of returnees which has been occurring from the north to major towns of Southern Sudan since the past few months could exacerbate the already highly strained commodity prices in the coming few months. Close monitoring of the markets with higher prices is crucial for timely planning and response action.

Sell of livestock (small ruminants) is the main means of cash for pastoral households to cover their food and non-food need. It is, therefore, essential to monitor prices of these livestock on regular basis in order to have clear understanding of the food security situation of pastoral households. Figure 6 reveals that after remained stable between May and Sep 2010, the prices of goats and sheep showed slight but persistent improvements since Oct 2010. The increase in price of livestock implies that livestock keepers have got better purchasing power putting them in advantageous position in terms of accessing food from markets during this period. The rate of the prices increment of the goat was slightly higher than the rate at which sorghum prices increased during the same period. This implies that sorghum-livestock terms of trade (the amount of sorghum that can be obtained in exchange for one goat) appreciated in favour of livestock keepers since Oct 2010.

However, the situations could become unfavourable to livestock keepers in the coming months. The dry season will be starting soon and is expected to trigger the downward movement of livestock prices. It is also expected that the already very high cereal prices could further increase in the coming few months as household grain stock depletes and the hunger season approaches. The decline in prices of livestock could be more disastrous when combined with the rise of already high grain prices. The positive terms of trade which has been gained in favour of livestock keepers in the past few months could be reversed and may put the livestock keepers in disadvantageous position in terms of their purchasing power and economic access to food. Close monitoring of livestock prices and their migration pattern could help in addressing some of the problems related to probable deterioration of livestock prices and the dwindling terms of trade against livestock keepers. Appropriate livestock intervention such as destocking and price stabilisation might be necessary should the price of livestock sharply drop amidst rising grain price.

Figure 6: Goat price in selected markets (Jan 2010– Feb 2011)

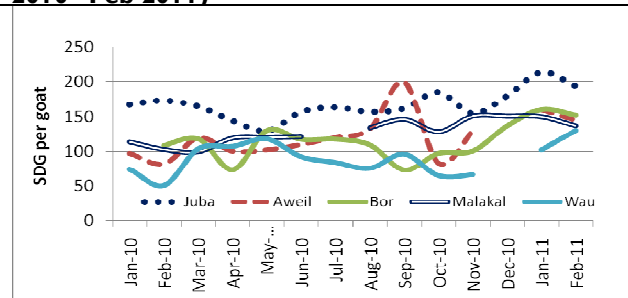


Figure 7: Sheep price in selected markets (Jan 2010– Feb 2011)

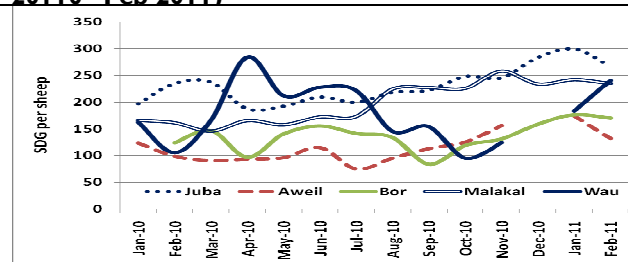
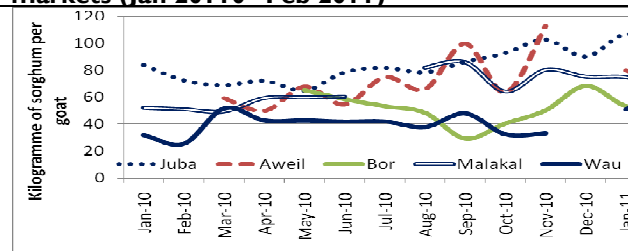


Figure 8: Sorghum to goat TOT in selected markets (Jan 2010– Feb 2011)



Source of data: State Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources

FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS BY STATE

CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

Generally food security situation in the State is moderately stable reflecting last years' good crops harvest, despite of high food prices in the major markets of Juba. Reports of ANLA 2010/11 indicated that out of projected population of 1,224,425 in the State, 962,000 (79%) are food secure, 211,000 (17%) are moderately food insecure and 51,000 (4.2%) are severely food insecure. Over the last two months, a total of 16,107 returnees were received from Northern Sudan. 49 households in Kator Payam Juba County were displaced due to fire destruction on the household properties that weakened food security and the livelihood situation of the people (UNOCHA).

The continued high prices of essential food commodities as a result of change in trade pattern and increase in returnees' number will have adverse impact on food security and the livelihoods of peri-urban and urban households in terms of accessing food from the market especially those with limited income resources. Meanwhile majority of (65%) rural population depend on own food produce and others shifted to sales of livestock and fishing at reduced scale. Various coping mechanism which include reduction of number of meals, consumption of less expensive food, sales of firewood, charcoal, grass and gains from manual labour are employed to during the time of shortage of food, according to ANLA 2010/11 respectively.

EASTERN EQUATORIA STATE

The food security situation in the State has deteriorated as most of the Counties affected by last year's shock which include localised floods, invasion of farms by grasshoppers and aphids and therefore have not yet recovered from the impact of hazards. The impact specially is more prevalent in Lafon/Lopa County, Magwi and some parts of Greater Kapoeta. According to the recent interagency rapid assessment report of Plan International, the food security situation in Ikotos, Magwi and the Greater Kapoeta will prompt humanitarian relief aids for those affected population. According to ANLA report 2010/11, 51 and 34 percent of the projected total population of Eastern Equatoria State, are moderately and severely food insecure respectively. Households who failed to recover from last year shocks will particularly be most vulnerable to food insecurity during hunger gap period. Prices of sorghum are increasing from 20% to 30% from January to February respectively in most County markets. According to Plan International rapid assessment report, traders from Kenya decided to leave the country due to fear of referendum related insecurity problems which affected food commodity flow from Kenya which eventually led to high commodity price in the market., The food security and livelihood situation of households, who heavily depend on markets for their food, will be negatively impacted unless the situation is reversed and things come to normal promptly.

NORTHERN Bahr El Ghazal STATE

Following the influx of large numbers of returnees from Northern Sudan in the recent months to the State (over 45, 000 returnees); the food security situation has become very fragile and put a lot of strain on local communities. The influx of the returnees has led to competition on the local resources including food commodities which triggered rising of food prices in the local markets.

Livestock condition is found to be good currently due to the availability of pasture and water, but the condition is expected to deteriorate in the coming months due to the competition on the scarcely available local resource as the peak for the dry season is approaching.

WARRAP STATE

The food security situation in this state is unstable during this reporting period despite the fact that last year cropping season was seen to be better compared with the situation in 2009. The reportedly good agricultural season and the resultant better harvest in 2010 failed to be translated into better food security due to influx of huge numbers of the returnees from the Northern Sudan prior to the referendum in January 2010. This led to increase in the exiting local population and consequently to higher demand for food commodities in the local markets that resulted in raising food prices.

LAKES STATE

Some counties such as Awerial in Lake State were affected by floods in 2010. According to the results of the ANLA 2010/2011, the food security situation in 2011 will remain precarious in this state unlike other States which showed some improvements in 2011 compared to the previous year. This indicates incomplete recovery from 2009 drought. Flood problems in some counties in 2010, and insecurity induced mobility problem are some of the factors that would exacerbate the food insecurity situation in Lakes State in 2011. Rumbek North County, Panyam village about 5000 heads of cattle were stolen and 109 households displaced to Rumkor (Aloor payam). Reportedly, most of IDPs were revealed to be food insecure and applying various coping mechanisms that include kinship support and reducing the number/portion of the meal consumed daily. WFP provided 30 days food ration of 10.18 metric tons (RSCO, Jan, 2011). It is recommended that the IDPs should be provided with seeds and tools before the beginning of the rainy season so that they can engage in agricultural activities.

UPPER NILE STATE

Last year the season was promising with majority of the areas having above average harvest. Some areas experienced floods that disrupted livelihood activities and assets. An assessment conducted by FAO and WFP warned that the recent gains in food security in the states bordering northern Sudan including Upper Nile is could be reversed by increasing food prices and any escalation of localized conflict. Malakal was reported to be among the towns that are currently facing highest food prices in South Sudan. The rise was due to several factors that include dramatic increases of prices in the North, levies charged at check points along the North-South supply routes and the departure of a number of Northern traders most of whom are expected to return to the South once their position in a future independent South Sudan has been clarified. The increasing number of returnee has also contributed to food insecurity as the demand for food increases while supply is diminishing hence the high prices rise. Close monitoring of the price trends is highly required. The slow pace of land allocation in Upper Nile (to a lesser extent in Malakal)) continues to create bottlenecks that exacerbate humanitarian needs and is likely to affect their settling and preparation for the crop growing season.

Livestock productivity has been affected by Livestock diseases such as trypanosomiasis followed by internal parasites (ANLA 2010/2011). This is likely to constraint food security since livestock play big role especially in the pastoralists' households as they entirely rely on livestock. There is need for provision of drugs and rigorous vaccination against major diseases according to seasonal calendar of the diseases in the state and the country at large. Estimated food assistance requirements in 2011 in the best case scenario is 8,694 total MT, for 104,200 average monthly beneficiaries and under contingency scenario 17,096 total MT for 164,000 average monthly beneficiaries (ANLA, 2010/2011)

WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE

Generally food security situation in the State is moderately stable following last year's good crops harvest and reliable rainfall as the State is located in the greenbelt livelihood zone with surplus agriculture production most of the year. According to ANLA 20010/2011, 79% of the population are food secure, 18% are moderately food insecure and 2.7% are severely food insecure out of projected total population of 675,274. The State received a total of 787 returnees from Northern Sudan that might increase the demand for food in local markets. The insurgency of LRA and Arrow Boys has posed threats to the free movement of people in Maridi County in village of Jumara where the suspected LRA killed 2, wounded 2 and abducted 2. In the recent UNOCHA report, it is indicated that all UN road movements were temporary suspended due to the tension between Arrow Boys and the LRA. These will in the near future impact access and availability of food especially to the urban and peri-urban population unless the problem is solved.

The humanitarian partners will have to still continue to monitor the humanitarian access jointly with the GoSS and State authorities to ensure full and unimpeded access to relief agencies. With the early onset of rains this year in State, there is a promising future in agriculture production. ICRC started registering farming households to provide them with seeds and tools in Maridi, Ezo, Namutina and Yubu areas of Tombura in order to have early cultivation for good harvest.

WESTERN Bahr El Ghazal STATE

Despite the better 2010 harvest estimate reported by the CFSAM in 2010 compared with the previous year, the general food security situation in the state has been unstable in the beginning of the 2011 due to many factors such as the huge influx of the returnees, high food prices, and low supply of food commodities in the markets. The communities will continue to suffer food shortage for longer period this year, as hunger period is approaching. There is serious need for intervention in terms of food aid both from the Government and the humanitarian agencies to shorten the wide hunger gaps and avoid serious food and livelihood crisis of the population especially the most vulnerable groups such as the children, women and elderly in the coming months.

JONGLEI STATE

Despite incidences of insecurity related to tribal clashes and cattle raiding in 2010 at least 69% of the households were estimated to have cultivated their land. This implies availability of at least some food by the farming households from recent harvest. Recently there were reports of attack of Murle in Kataluel in Bor County (and it has resulted in killings, displacement and loss of properties especially cattle. Reports have also indicated insecurity caused by fight between General Athor and the SPLA. The insecurity problem coupled with high influx of returnees that resulted in high demand for food and the resultant higher prices is likely to affect the livelihood and food security situation of the people in the State. Fishing becomes a major activity during the dry season and has improved the food security situation. Fishing grounds include Bour Akok, Pangak, Dhiam-Dhiam and many more. However results of the ANLA reveal that the priorities of the people identified in Jonglei state include: fishing equipment, tools, security and peace, food aid among others.

Livestock condition ranges from average to above average. However highest rate of internal parasites followed by trypanosomiasis is a challenge to livestock productivity. There is need for improved veterinary services for frequent check of animal health.