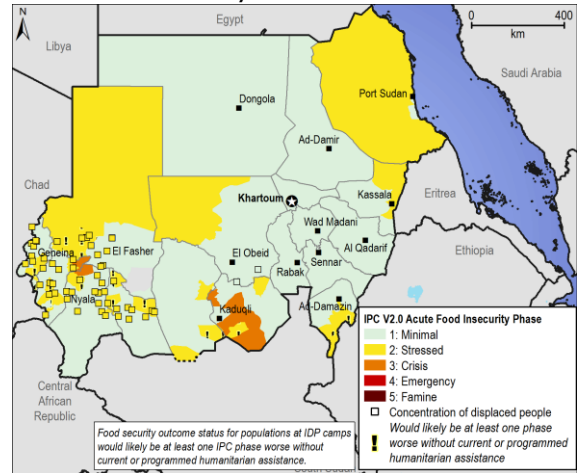


*Harvests to improve food security in most areas, but conflict likely to drive continued high needs*

**KEY MESSAGES**

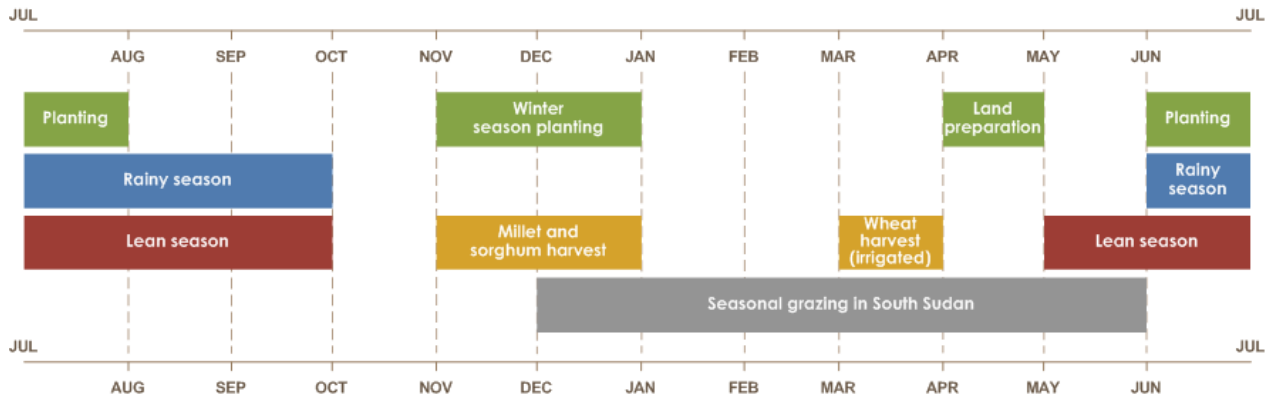
- Harvests in October/November are expected to significantly reduce the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or higher, from peak levels during the June to September 2016 lean season. Own-produced foods, reductions in staple food prices, improved harvest labor opportunities, and increased livestock productivity should improve household food access and result in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes in most areas.
- Conflict, insecurity, and additional displacement will continue to drive Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity between October 2016 and May 2017, particularly in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Jebel Marra areas. The number of refugees from South Sudan is expected to increase, resulting in additional, urgent assistance needs.
- Rainfall was above average in many areas during most of the main (June to September) 2016 rainy season, leading to favorable cropping prospects and the likelihood for above-average 2016/17 crop production and pasture regeneration in Sudan. In areas affected by conflict, limited access to cultivateable land is likely to reduce production at the household level, while dry spells in September are likely to result in below-average production in parts of South Kordofan and North Darfur.
- The promising 2016/17 harvest season is leading to price decreases for locally produced cereals (sorghum and millet) in the markets of main production areas. Sorghum and millet prices decreased by five and 25 percent between August and September and are likely to decline further during the scenario period. Despite this declining price trend, current staple food prices remain above average across many markets.

Current food security outcomes, October 2016



This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click [here](#).

**SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR**



## NATIONAL OVERVIEW

### Current Situation

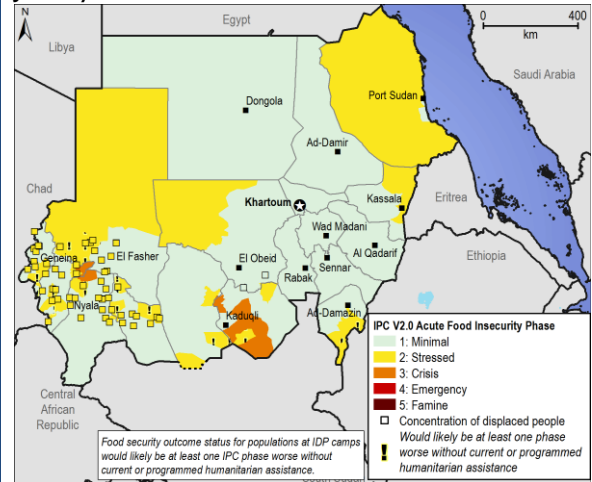
June to September 2016 main season rainfall began on time in June/July, was average to above average in total amount, and was well distributed over time from June to September. Generally good performance of the seasonal rains has led to favorable conditions for crop development over most parts of Sudan. Cumulative rainfall by the end of September is estimated to be 120 to 200 percent above normal over most of the agriculturally productive areas in eastern, central, southern, and western Sudan.

As a result, vegetation conditions are mostly above normal, especially in eastern, central, and western areas (Figure 1), an indication of likely good crop and pasture development this season. By the end of September, crops planted after mid-July were at flowering stage and crops planted before mid-July were at ripening stage. The water requirement satisfaction index (WRSI) for grains by end of September indicated above average-to-average conditions over most parts of Sudan. However, there are exceptions in South Kordofan and North Darfur States, where dry spells over two to three weeks in September affected crop development. Pasture conditions are exceptionally good in the northern pastoral dominant areas of Sudan.

Outbreaks of locusts and migratory birds are reported in southern parts of South Darfur, West Kordofan, North Kordofan, East Darfur, and Al Gadaref States. The Plant Protection Department (PPD) of the Ministry of Agriculture is undertaking effective control measures by air spraying in these states. As of mid-October, desert locust outbreaks have been reported in North Kordofan and North of Khartoum in Baiyuda desert, where control measures are taking place.

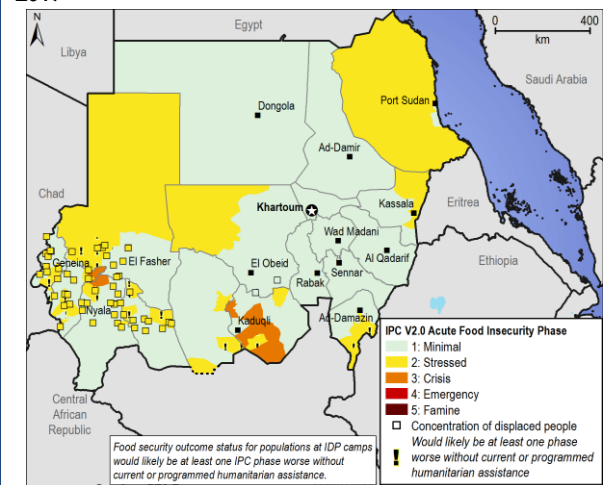
Prices of locally produced staple cereals (sorghum and millet) have begun their seasonal decline between August and September in the main production markets, such as Gadaref (Figure 2), due to increased market supplies as traders and commercial farmers begin selling their old stocks in anticipation of above-average harvests starting in October/November. Consumption of green and/or early maturing crops by agricultural households in some areas has also reduced demand on markets. Retail sorghum and millet prices decreased by between five and 25 percent between August and September in the main markets of Al Gadaref, Madani, Nyala, Geneina, and Zalengi, while sorghum prices remained relatively stable in some other markets due to individual market factors associated with high marketing costs. In Gadaref, September 2016 sorghum prices are slightly higher than in September 2015 and the recent four-year average, although on some markets they are 30 to 60 percent higher than last year and the recent two-year average. Meanwhile, September 2016 levels of millet prices were on average 15 percent higher than in September 2016 year and five

Projected food security outcomes, November 2016 to January 2017



Source: FEWS NET

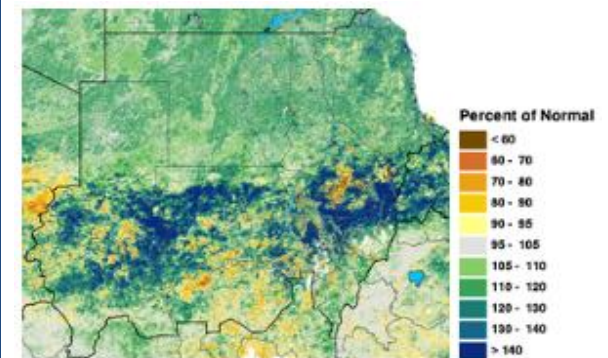
Projected food security outcomes, February 2017 to May 2017



Source: FEWS NET

This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click [here](#).

Figure 1. eMODIS 250m Percent of Normal NDVI, September 26 – October 5, 2016



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

percent higher than the recent two-year average. Prices for locally produced wheat either remained stable or started seasonal increases across all markets in Sudan, a typical seasonal trend as stocks from the harvest of last year begin to be exhausted. September 2016 levels of wheat prices were on average 15 percent higher than in September 2015 and five to 10 percent above the recent two-year average.

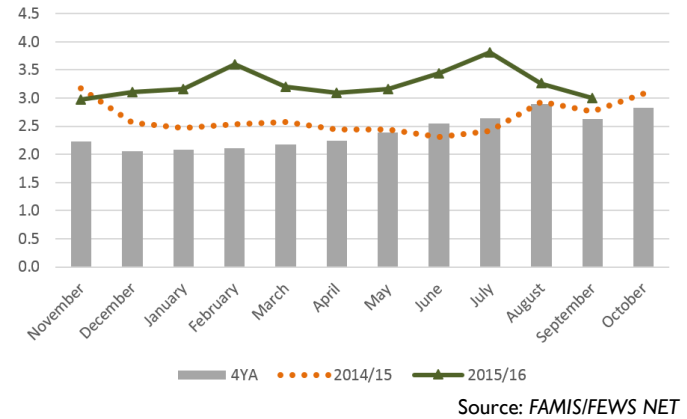
Terms of trade (ToT) between wage labor and sorghum have started to increase seasonally in most markets due to seasonally high demand for agricultural wage labor during the July to September weeding period. In El Fasher market of North Darfur State, ToT between daily wage labor and sorghum increased by 31 percent from 7.65 kg in September to 10.00 kg per one day of wage labor in October (Figure 3). Current ToT between daily wage labor and sorghum is 14 percent higher than at the same time last year and 35 percent higher than the recent two-year average for October.

Prices of goats, the main asset of poor households in most rural areas of Sudan, remained relatively low following the poor 2015/16 rainy season that triggered above-average sale of goats by poor households due to extreme poor pasture conditions and the need to sell more animals than usual in order to buy food from the market. Meanwhile prices of sheep, the asset of middle and better-off households, remained relatively stable and began a seasonal upward trend since last June. This is largely due to seasonally high demand for export to Saudi Arabia, and for local consumption in the few months before the pilgrimage period, this year in September.

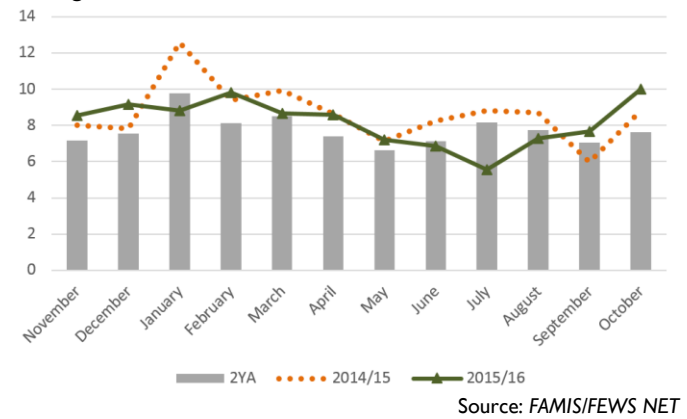
Terms of trade between sheep and staple foods have increased in favor of livestock holders in recent months, as the rise in livestock prices outpaced the increase of staple food prices. However, terms of trade declined seasonally in September as livestock prices fell following the end of the pilgrimage period. In Kassala market, terms of trade between goats and sorghum decreased by 13 percent between August and September (Figure 4), mainly due to the 14 percent decrease of goat prices during the same period. Current terms of trade between goats and sorghum in Kassala are lower than at the same time last year and slightly lower than the recent three-year average.

Despite blockage of roads by heavy rains between July and September, the flow of refugees from South Sudan to Sudan continued in recent months, although at reduced levels. More than 90,000 South Sudanese refugees have entered Sudan since the beginning of 2016, due to conflict and deteriorating food security conditions in South Sudan. This is over 90 percent higher than the same period last year, with more than 250,000 people having arrived in Sudan since December 2013. More than 60 percent of new arrivals 2016 settled in East Darfur State, while the rest settled in South Darfur, West Kordofan, South

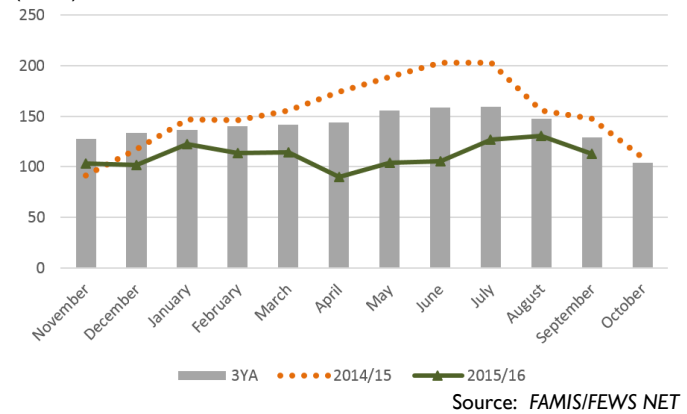
**Figure 2.** Sorghum (feterita), nominal retail prices (SDG/kilogram), Al Gadaref



**Figure 3.** Terms of trade, retail sorghum (kilograms) per day of wage labor, El Fasher



**Figure 4.** Terms of trade, retail sorghum (kilograms) per goat (head), Kassala



Kordofan, White Nile, Khartoum, and North Darfur States.

Since the onset of seasonal rainfall in June/July, conflict between Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudanese armed opposition groups in Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan States decreased as usual, with the blockage of roads and reduced access for movement of troops and equipment during the rainy season. Reduced conflict is also due to the unilateral declaration of ceasefire by Sudan People Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) and Government of Sudan in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, since the start of peace talks under the mediation of African Union High Implementation Panel (AUHIP) last July. The Government of Sudan unilaterally extended its declaration of ceasefire in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile States through the end of 2016.

According to an inter-agency assessment, resource-based intercommunal violence between sedentary farmers and pastoralists displaced about 1,600 people in some parts of Tawila locality to Katur area during September 2016. Meanwhile, recent fighting between SAF and the Sudanese Liberation Army-Abdelwahid (SLA-AW) faction displaced about 4,000 people from 11 villages in Western Jebel Marra to Guldo town in Central Darfur State. In addition, an estimated 5,000 to 12,000 new IDPs reportedly have arrived in Nertiti IDP camp from SLA-AW-controlled areas in Western Jebel Marra during the month of September. Conflict between SAF and SLA-AW in Jebel Marra since the beginning of 2016 has displaced over 160,000 people, with only 52 percent of these verified and assisted by humanitarian agencies.

An estimated 14,434 refugees from Yida refugee camp in Upper Nile State in South Sudan reportedly returned to South Kordofan State during the month of August, raising the total number of recent returnees from South Sudan to South Kordofan to more than 27,500 people. Both SPLM-N and government-controlled areas in western, central, and eastern parts of the Nuba Mountains received returnees from Yida refugee camp in South Sudan. The main factors driving the return of refugees are reported to be insecurity in South Sudan, a lack of food, and an unwillingness to relocate to the new Pamir refugee site. Most returnees and IDPs in SPLM-N-controlled areas who return following the end of the rainy season are unable to cultivate.

According to the Central Bank of Sudan, the monthly inflation rate has increased slightly from 18.15 percent in August to 18.32 percent in September. Meanwhile, the gap between the official exchange rate and the parallel market exchange rate has remained stable, with an official exchange rate in September of SDG 6.41 per one USD, and an exchange rate in the parallel market of SDG 15.5 per one USD.

In August 2016, WFP distributed 23,754 metric tons of assorted food commodities and USD 3.7 million in cash vouchers to 2.9 million food aid recipients (81 percent in-kind food aid assistance and 19 percent in form of cash vouchers). About 80 percent and 90 percent of in-kind and cash voucher beneficiaries, respectively, are in Darfur and the rest are in central and east Sudan. The caseload includes nearly 250,000 South Sudanese refugees scattered in different parts of Sudan. The actual number of people who received in-kind and cash voucher assistance in August represents about 94 percent of the planned number for the same month, and 63 percent of the PRRO targeted figure of 4.6 million food insecure people during the peak of the lean season in 2016. This is mainly due to funding shortfalls and the unplanned influx of South Sudanese refugees and IDPs from Jebel Marra that have strained available resources of WFP.

Between 29 August and 7 September, a mass Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening campaign was carried out nationwide in order to maximize case finding and treatment for malnutrition during the peak of the lean season. According to UNICEF, 61,000 under five children (30,400 girls; 30,600 boys) were screened within IDP and refugee camps in Sudan during the month of September, 2,800 (1,400 girls; 1,400 boys) of whom were identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and admitted for treatment through the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) program.

### *Assumptions*

From October 2016 to May 2017, the projected food security outcomes are based on the following national assumptions:

- Due to above-average and favorably distributed main season (June to September) rainfall in most areas, and expectations for normal levels of area planted in crops, FEWS NET assumes 2016/17 national production for staple and cash crops will be above average. However, conflict in parts of South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur will lead to displacement and reduced or no household access to farms for some IDPs, returnees, and host communities.

- Favorable seasonal performance this year will likely result in above-average pasture and water for animals in most parts of Sudan, including the Al Buttanah plain grazing area in east/central part of Sudan and the northern pastoral areas. This is likely to result in better than usual livestock body conditions and productivity, and thus above-average access to food and income from livestock products.
- Above-average harvests are expected to lead to above-average stocks of own-produced food at the household level, leading households to rely on markets less than usual in order to access staple foods, and to do so for a shorter than normal period of time. This reduction in demand, coupled with above-average staple cereal supply on markets, will contribute to decreases in sorghum prices in the main production areas by 10 to 25 percent compared to last year and below the recent five-year average. Millet prices are likely to remain stable or show slight decreases, but are likely to remain higher than last year and the recent five-year average.
- Due to favorable agro-climatic conditions, cash crop production will likely be above-average, leading to price declines of 10 to 25 percent below levels of the same period last year, but 10 to 20 percent above the recent three-year average. The increased yield is also likely to counterbalance the reduction of cash crop prices. Terms of trade between cash crops and staple foods are also likely to increase slightly during the scenario period in favor of cash crops because the decline of staple food prices likely to be greater than of cash crop prices.
- Due to expected above-average 2016/17 harvests, demand for seasonal agricultural (harvest) labor between November and January is likely to be above average due to expected above-average crop production. As a result, labor wage rates and labor demand will be above average, and the duration of main season harvest labor demand will be one to two months longer than normal. Likewise, terms-of-trade between daily wage labor and sorghum is likely to continue to increase in favor of daily wage labor during the scenario period. FEWS NET expects terms of trade between daily wage labor and sorghum to recover to 30-35 kg of sorghum per one day labor wage in surplus producing markets (e.g. Al Gadarif) and to 15-20 kg of sorghum per daily wage labor in chronic deficit markets (e.g. Al Obied market).
- Since livestock prices are likely to remain high or further increase in most markets due to favorable livestock conditions for animals in most parts of Sudan and staple food prices to further decline during the scenario period, FEWS NET assumes TOT between livestock and staple food prices will increase in favor of livestock during the scenario period. TOT between sheep and sorghum likely to remain high (500 – 600 kg of sorghum per head of sheep) and TOT between goats and sorghum will be 150-200 kg of sorghum per head of goat during the scenario period.
- Despite ongoing peace talks between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the coalition of Sudanese armed and non-armed oppositions under the mediation of AUHIP and the finalization of the national dialogue document, sporadic fighting is likely to continue in some parts of South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur states, especially in Jebel Marra, where SLA-Abdelwahid is active and not engaged in the ongoing peace talks. The end of the rainy season in October/November will ease road access for troops and equipment. FEWS NET assumes the projected rise of violence during the scenario period will cause destruction of crop-fields, reduce access to seasonal agricultural labor during the harvest period, disrupt function of markets, destruction of assets, and cause new displacement. FEWS NET assumes about 5,000, 15,000 and 50,000 people to be displaced by conflict in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Darfur respectively during the scenario period.
- FEWS NET assumes the prevailing macro-economic conditions related to high inflation, local currency devaluation, and the foreign trade deficit are likely to persist and will continue to push prices of basic non-cereal food and basic services to continue their upward trend during the scenario period.
- Despite expected above-average 2016/17 harvests, WFP's funding needs for emergency food aid and nutritional support in Sudan will most likely remain high during the scenario period, due to the influx of refugees from South Sudan, new displacement from Jebel Marra, and continued assistance needs among long-term IDPs in Darfur. For the next six months, WFP requires USD 42 million to reach 2.7 million people, including over 250,000 South Sudanese refugees and 175,000 newly displaced people.

### *Most Likely Food Security Outcomes*

The scenario period from October 2016 through May 2017 includes the harvest period and post-harvest period, prior to the peak of the lean season from June to September 2017. Since above-average harvests are likely this season, access to food will improve by the beginning of the harvest in October/November. Most households who have cultivated this year will have above-average access to food from own harvest, access to income through seasonal agricultural labor during November to January harvest period, sale of cash crops, and sale of livestock. Improved income during the scenario period will boost the purchasing power of poor households. Improved access to milk due to improved livestock conditions since last August will be maintained at least during the first three months of the scenario period due to better than normal pasture conditions and the reduced need to migrate livestock for grazing.

The exceptions are the IDPs and refugees with no/limited access to cultivation who will not have access to food from own harvest, sale of cash crops, and limited households for sale on markets. The main viable income source for IDPs and refugees during the scenario period is seasonal agricultural labor on the farms of their host communities during the November to January harvest period. Movement restrictions for IDPs in some parts of Blue Nile and South Kordofan States will likely reduce access to seasonal agricultural labor in these areas.

Prevalence of acute malnutrition is likely to follow seasonal trends during the outlook period (October-May). Nevertheless, levels of acute malnutrition is expected to improve across the country, assisted by the projected above-average harvest for 2016/17's agricultural season, which will increase food access. Food insecurity among resident communities in drought-prone areas will improve Minimal (IPC Phase 1) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) during the scenario period. The number of people facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity will likely decline significantly in the post-harvest period, most of whom are conflict-affected populations and/or IDPs in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur States.

## **AREAS OF CONCERN**

### **New IDPs from Jebel Marra area of Darfur**

#### *Current Situation*

Jebel Marra is a mountainous area located in parts of North, Central, and South Darfur States. Increased fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA/AW) since mid-January 2016 has caused significant displacement from the area. According to UNOCHA, between 82,030 and 127,670 civilians were reportedly displaced from the Jebel Marra area between mid-January 2016 and July 2016 because of hostilities between SAF and SLA/AW. Of those currently displaced, 121,891 are in Central Darfur and of that number 116,725 are unverified; 59,912 are in North Darfur of that 7,000 are not verified; 24,608 are in South Darfur of whom 835 are not verified and 179 verified people in East Darfur. Total number of unverified people represent 60 percent of the total reported number.

According to IOM, in North Darfur State about 59,512 IDPs are hosted in four locations: Sortony, Tawilla, Kebkabiya town and Shadad camp in Shangil Tobaya. A majority of these IDPs are originally from the northern part of Jebel Marra area particularly the villages of Ghamra Kaghrow, Roafta, Barghow, Tawa, Boakei, Arow, Loghow, Sala and Fala. The humanitarian response continues for Sortony and Kebkabiya. In South Darfur, about 23,723 people were displaced from Jebel Marra, of whom 12,180 people have been registered in Kass IDP camp and 6,756 IDPs were registered in Otash IDP camp by IOM. About 121,891 of the Jebel Marra IDPs reported in Central Darfur state. Of these, 5,166 IDPs have been registered in two camps in Zalingei and the remaining people are reported by HAC and other sources as being displaced in various locations. The main areas hosting IDPs from Jebel Marra are Fanga Suk, Nertiti, Thur, Guldo, Rokoro and Golo. According to various sources, there are unconfirmed reports of an estimated 50,000 - 85,000 people displaced in parts of Jebel Marra. However, confirmation of reported displacements in the area remains impossible due to lack of humanitarian access. A majority of the IDPs lost their assets during displacement, including harvested crops such as cereals and okra; animals including goats, sheep, cows, and camels, while fewer households managed to escape with goats, donkeys, and some food.

Prior to displacement, the main sources of food and income for many poor households in Jebel Marra included the sale of vegetables, fruit, and livestock; petty trade for better-off households; seasonal agricultural labor and daily non-skilled labor

in main urban areas (El Fasher, Nyala, and Khartoum), as well as remittances from central Sudan. After displacement, most households depend on the collection and sale of forest products, petty trade, and remittances. Animal grazing, farming, and agricultural wage labor is highly restricted in most areas due to insecurity and conflict over resources.

Due to good amounts and wide distribution of precipitation and limited crop pests, harvest prospects for summer crops, and pasture and drinking water for livestock are all expected to be far better than last year across the Darfur States. Despite above-average main season rainfall in many areas of Darfur state, including areas hosting IDPs from Jebel Marra, new IDPs' ability to cultivate crops has been limited by insecurity and the resulting lack of access to land. IDP households in Central Darfur have relatively better access to cultivation through rented land, sharecropping, or land given by relatives/host communities compared to those in North and South Darfur States.

September 2016 prices of sorghum in El Fasher and Nyala are reportedly 25 and 50 percent higher, respectively, than in August 2015 and the recent-five year average. IDPs in camps have limited access to main markets, while local markets in the camps have very limited supplies with high prices. In Sortony market, for example, the market is very poor and consists of scattered small shops. The main staple cereals (millet and sorghum) are accessed mostly in the main markets further away in Kebkabiya.

### *Assumptions*

In addition to the national-level assumptions specified above, the following assumptions have been made for new IDPs from Jebel Marra:

- Harvests from October through January will improve income from agricultural labor during the harvest period from October to February for new IDPs in South and East Darfur.
- Harvests will improve staple food supply on local markets, but supply will remain limited for IDPs in Jebel Marra where insecurity continues to restrict trade. Market access for IDPs in South Darfur and some in Central Darfur will be better due to their closer proximity to main markets.
- Insecurity and ground fighting is likely to increase during the dry season months (December through May) in different parts of Darfur and additional displacement is likely. New IDPs from rebel-held areas in Jebel Marra are likely to move to existing camps in North, South, and East Darfur States, although some IDPs will be unable to flee due to conflict-related restrictions on movement.
- Inability to access jobs and difficult access to markets is likely to be exacerbated by expected escalation of insecurity around areas of displacement and in the Jebel Marra area. Sporadic attacks on civilians by armed militias, clashes over grazing on farms before the completion of harvests, and tribal clashes are likely to continue during the scenario period. As a result, further losses of assets is expected during the scenario period.
- Cereal prices will continue to decrease during harvest (October to February) in the main markets. However, the high cost of food and non-food items in areas hosting new IDPs from Jebel Marra is expected to persist during the scenario period due to insecurity and restricted movement of commodities to conflict areas in general. Cereal prices will start a gradual increase with the beginning of the lean season of the scenario period (April/May 2017).

### *Most Likely Food Security Outcomes*

Most new IDPs from Jebel Marra are likely to continue to face significant food deficits in their areas of displacement during the harvest and post-harvest period (October 2016 to February 2017). This is mainly due to low/no own production or food stocks, reduced purchasing power of IDPs, limited access to in-kind payment from agricultural labor, and reduced access to wild foods due to insecurity. People will likely increase consumption of wild food, support from relatives from their host community (Zakat) and some limited food assistance. As a result, new IDPs are likely to continue to face significant food consumption deficits and will be in **Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from October 2016 to January 2017**.

Given that a majority of new IDPs from Jebel Marra have missed the 2016/17 cultivation season and are not expected to have own production, which is the typical main source of food, IDPs mainly in South and Central Darfur are expected to have limited quantities of food from in-kind payment for agricultural labor. New IDPs households have very limited purchasing power that allows market purchase of food even in the case of low prices. Access to wild food in areas of displacement is highly reduced by insecurity. As a result, new IDP households from Jebel Marra will likely not be able to meet at their basic food needs and will **continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between February and May 2017**.

### South Sudanese Refugees in Khor Omer camp/East Darfur state

#### *Current Situation*

South Sudanese refugees began arriving in Khor Omer camp in Ed Daein town in mid-February 2016, with arrivals peaking during March/April at 1,000 to 1,500 new arrivals per day. Most South Sudanese refugees arriving in East Darfur are Dinka from Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, and Warrap States. About 6,000 refugees who arrived in June/July are from the Fertit and Lawlaiya tribes of Raja town and surrounding areas. The common areas of origin mentioned among refugees from Northern Bahr el Ghazal are the following: Gock Machar, Aweil, Niamleil, Aryat, Marial Bai and Wanjock. By the end of September 2016, about 54,000 South Sudanese refugees had arrived in East Darfur State, of whom about 30,000 were received in Khor omer camp in Ed Daein town.

The main reasons refugees cited as drivers of displacement are the lack of food due to failure of the 2015/16 agricultural season as a result of below-average rainfall and disruption of the agricultural season by conflict between South Sudan Army and SPLM-IO in Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal and some parts of Warrap states. Refugees also report that conflict disrupted trade flows within South Sudan and between Sudan and South Sudan, while also disrupting livelihood activities and resulting in widespread looting of cattle and assets. Below-average harvest and conflict, combined with high inflation and local currency devaluation, eroded the purchasing power of people in South Sudan, and refugees reported very high spikes in sorghum prices between December 2015 and March/April 2016.

Refugees report walking for 10 to 15 days from South Sudan to Ed Daein town in East Darfur, relying on wild foods, small amounts of food they managed to take with them, and in-kind food assistance provided by the Rezeigat community in East Darfur. Upon arrival, refugees were reportedly exhausted, dehydrated, and malnourished. Most of the refugees are women, children, elders, and a few youth. Begging, in-kind host community support, and food aid were the immediate means of survival for the new refugees in Khor Omer.

Historically, economic migrants and internally displaced people from Northern Bahr el Ghazal are the main labor force for agricultural production (particularly groundnut production via share cropping arrangement) in East Darfur State and the surrounding areas. This arrangement typically provides opportunities for people from South Sudan to access staple foods and borrow cash from the landlord against their share (half of the groundnut production). In return, they provide all the labor needed from planting up to harvest. The recent influx of South Sudanese refugees to East Darfur State is perceived as beneficial to the local economy, as they provided the seasonal agricultural labor required for cultivation of staple and cash crops generated by the above-average rainfall from July to September this year. Most farmers interviewed reported average areas of crops planted this year and they anticipate above-average yields this year.

Seasonal agricultural labor is the main source of income for most South Sudanese refugees in East Darfur State, including those in Khor Omer camp in Ed Daein town. This is consistent with observations that out of the 30,627 refugees registered in the camp, only 3,000-4,000 were physically present in the camp and the rest dispersed in the rural areas for seasonal agricultural labor. A typical refugee household can weed 1-2 mukhamus (approximately 0.73 ha) per week at a rate of SDG 250-300 per mukhamus between August and mid-September. This can generate a total income of about SDG 3,000-3,600, in addition to a 90 kg sack of sorghum as in-kind payment. Meanwhile, a typical refugee household of 3-6 people can cultivate 8-10 mukhamus of groundnut through share cropping arrangement. On average, they will receive 200-250 kg of sorghum and 15-20 lb. of sugar in kind and they can borrow up to the value of 50 percent of the groundnut production. This is roughly about SDG 4,000 to 5,000 during the period June/July to October/November. Those left behind, mostly women and young girls, were engaged in domestic non-agricultural wage labor in Ed Daein town or Khor Omer camp, who typically earn an average daily income of about SDG 15-20 per day. Sale of food aid is a minor income source for refugees.



In September 2016, WFP distributed food aid at full rations of 2100 kcal (575 gm per person per day) to over 48,000 refugees in four main camps in East Darfur state. Humanitarian food assistance is the main food source for refugees, subsidized by in-kind payment and market purchase. Staple food prices in Ed Daein town is normally among the highest in Darfur markets due to the chronic cereal deficit in East Darfur exacerbated by the below-average 2015/16 harvest. Sorghum prices in Ed Daein market during the month of September were almost double the same period last year and 64 percent higher than the recent two-year average.

The state authorities in East Darfur State set the end of September as the final date to relocate refugees from Khor camp to Karyo refugee camp in Bahr Al Arab locality. The main reasons for relocation of refugees from Khor Omer to Karyo are the overcrowding of Khor Omer camps and Khor Omer is planned to be an extension of Ed Daein town and no longer can accommodate the refugees. This is perceived against the will of refugees who prefer to stay in Khor Omer camp, where they can access seasonal non-agricultural labor by the end of the agricultural season in November/December.

### *Assumptions*

In addition to the national-level assumptions described above, the following assumptions have been used to develop the most-likely scenario for October 2016 through May 2017:

- WFP is giving high priority to in-kind food assistance to South Sudanese refugees in East Darfur and the food pipeline of WFP is well resourced, at least during the first three months of the scenario period. FEWS NET assumes distribution of food aid to refugees in Khor camp in East Darfur will continue during the scenario period.
- The above-average rainfall of June to September this year is likely to result in average to above-average main season harvests that will generate high levels of agricultural labor opportunities between October and December. It is also likely that the same levels of in-kind payment and cash income generated during the July to September weeding period will be generated by refugees during the harvest period.
- Having the projected average to above-average harvest of this year in East Darfur State and the main supply sources in western and eastern Sudan, FEWS NET assumes staple food prices during the scenario period will decline by 30 percent of current levels, but are likely to remain 60-70 percent above of the recent two-year average.
- Conflict and lack of law and order in South Sudan likely to continue and will push more South Sudanese refugees from Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, and Warrap States to flee into Sudan during the scenario period. The end of rainy season in October/November will improve road access by refugees. Thus, FEWS NET assumes the influx of refugees to East Darfur will continue.
- Ongoing conflict between the South Sudan army and the armed opposition, and the insecurity in South Sudan will continue to hinder return of refugees. Thus, FEWS NET assumes the return of refugees from East Darfur to South Sudan unlikely during the scenario period.
- Relocation of refugees from Khor Omer refugee camp to Karyo refugee camp, about 40 km away from the main urban center of Ed Daein town during the scenario period, is likely to disrupt income generation activities of refugees during January to May dry season, when refugees mainly rely on domestic non-agricultural labor in the urban center of Ed Daein town.

### *Most Likely Food Security Outcomes*

As of September, food aid, market purchase, in-kind food payments, and gifts from host community are the main food sources for refugees in Khor Omer camp in East Darfur State. The combination of the three sources provide the minimum food requirement for survival. No food security assessment has been conducted among refugees since their arrival in February/March 2016. However, the food security situation of refugees has improved over time compared to the time of their first arrival. The typical June to September lean season for residents in Darfur is considered the best time in terms of access to food and income sources for refugees due to seasonal access to in-kind food payment, and high demand for seasonal

agricultural labor and less demand to buy staple food from the market. Thus, most of refugees in Khor Omer camps are currently facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2!) levels of food insecurity.

Prevailing levels of food insecurity of refugees in Khor Omer is likely to persist through the first half of the scenario period, as access to seasonal agricultural labor and access to food aid will be maintained through the end of harvest in December. Food security outcomes likely to deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) levels during the second half of the scenario period due to reduced income from seasonal agricultural labor and payment in kind. By the end of the harvest in December, non-agricultural labor in the main urban area of Ed Daein town will be the main source of income. Wages of non-agricultural labor are 50 - 60 percent lower than those of agricultural wage labor and are not subsidized by in-kind payment. Therefore, income sources during the second half of the scenario period are likely to dwindle by more than half of the current levels and will be further exacerbated by relocation of refugees from Khor Omer camp to Karyo refugee camp, where labor opportunities are limited.

## **IDPs in SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan State**

### *Current Situation*

Since the outbreak of conflict in South Kordofan in June 2011, some areas such as Haiban, Buram, and Um Dorain localities and some parts of El Reifalshamali, Al Dalanj, Kadugli, Taludi, and Lagawa localities have been controlled by the SPLM-N with no or very limited access from the GoS side. As of September 2016, FEWS NET estimated that between 600,000 – 630,000 people in South Kordofan state have been directly affected and/or displaced since the start of the conflict in South Kordofan in 2011. Of these, between 330,000 and 350,000 people are in SPLM-N controlled areas, between 250,000 – 280,000 people directly affected or displaced into areas under the control of Government of Sudan (GoS) mainly in the main towns of Kadugli, Al Dalanj, Al Abasya, Rashad and Abugebeiha localities. The ongoing conflict since June 2011, the limited access to cultivation and other main livelihood options, and the restricted access by humanitarian actors are the main drivers for food insecurity in SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan state.

During the dry season from December 2015 to May 2016, approximately 50,000 people were displaced in SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, mostly during May. Since the onset of the rainy season in June when transportation and movement of troops becomes more difficult, conflict decreased as is usual and remains limited in October 2016.

Rainfall started on time in June with frequent above-average rainfall in most areas of South Kordofan since the beginning of the season. Relatively good seasonal performance has led to favorable harvest prospects, particularly in the semi-mechanized rain-fed sector in GoS-controlled areas. However, dry spells lasting between two and three weeks occurred during September in many eastern parts of South Kordofan. Agricultural activities in SPLM-N controlled areas already reduced due to ongoing conflict and limited access and insecurity situation associated with access to cultivable land by IDPs and host community.

Access to main livelihood options such as agricultural wage labor, petty trade, and collection and sale of forest products remains highly constrained by insecurity and restricted population movements in SPLM-N controlled areas. Prevailing insecurity situation in the area and the reduced access to cultivation resulted in low labor opportunities, while restricted population movements between SPLM-N controlled areas and GoS areas has limited opportunities of IDPs and poor households from SPLM-N areas to access wage labor and petty trade in GoS areas. However, some IDPs have managed to cultivate nearby farms within parts of SPLM-N-controlled South Kordofan that are relatively more secure. Nevertheless, cultivation in SPLM-N-controlled areas in general, and areas of Western Jebel (Dallami, Heiban, and Um Durain) of Nuba Mountains in particular, is still affected by insecurity incidents that have negatively affected agricultural activities, in combination with the shortage of agricultural inputs and long dry spells during September 2016.

The only regularly collected price data near this area is for Kadugli market, in a GoS-controlled area. Sorghum prices in Kadugli market reported significant monthly increases of 32 percent between August and September as a result of increased demand for local consumption and reduced market supplies with depleted grain stock of the 2014/15 above average season. Despite the good start of the rainy season, the long dry spell during September in some areas has exacerbated price increases. Current prices remained at high levels compared to last year and the five-year average as it found to be 80 percent above respective 2015 and 130 percent above the recent five-year average (Figure 5).

In the SPLM-N controlled areas, availability of cereal in the local markets is very limited due to restricted movement between GoS and SPLM-N areas due to insecurity and road blockage by rain. Cereal prices in SPLM-N areas are extremely high compared to GoS areas. August 2016 sorghum prices available from Heiban, Um Dorain and Dalami of SPLM-N areas were 163, 150, 90 percent higher, respectively, compared to that of the same period in Kadugli. Current levels of prices in SPLM-N areas are estimated to be more than double compared to the same period last year due to high demand with no/very limited supplies in addition to high prices in South Sudan.

Access to SPLM-N controlled areas by humanitarian actors continued to be restricted from the GoS side and delivery of humanitarian assistance from the GoS side to SPLM-N controlled areas is not allowed. However, humanitarian interventions are ongoing for IDPs in GoS-controlled- areas, which may also be contributing to the large difference in prices seen in GoS-controlled areas compared to SPLM-N-controlled areas.

Due to limited access to the normal major income sources as result of the prevailing insecurity situation and restricted population movements, a majority of IDPs and poor households in the area are currently obtaining their income through limited wages from limited agricultural labor within nearby areas, limited collection and sale of wild food and other forest products and through remittances and support by relatives. Therefore, a majority of IDPs and poor households in SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan state are currently obtaining low levels of income below their essential household requirements.

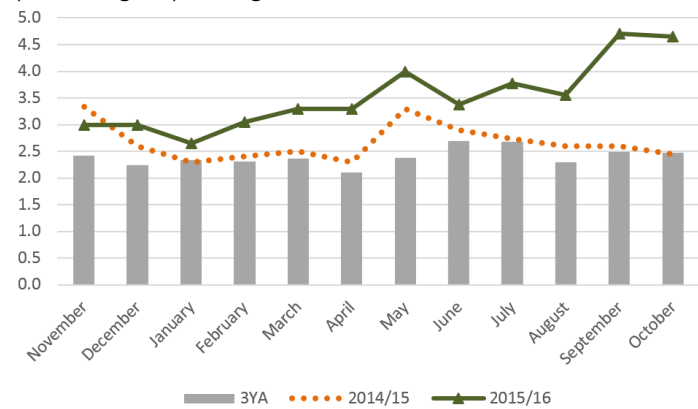
Given the current limited household's food stock, the relatively high prices of cereal and non-cereal food items, the low level of income and in the absence of humanitarian support, the majority of IDPs and poor households currently living in the contained SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan state are depending on support from relatives, collection and use of wild food from nearby accessible areas and consumption of early maturing crops from ongoing agricultural season. As a result, the majority of IDPs and poor households in the area are currently unable to meet their household food needs through the current food and income sources. Therefore, IDPs and poor households in the area are currently facing significant food consumption deficits.

#### Assumptions

In addition to the national-level assumptions specified above, the following assumptions have been made for SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan:

- The above-average June to September 2016/2017 rainy season is likely to result in above-average harvests in South Kordofan during November 2016 to February 2017, which is likely to slightly improve income from agricultural labour during the harvest period, mainly for poor households from host communities and IDPs in SPLM-N areas.
- Despite the limited access to cultivateable land, slight improvements in staple food access from households' own production in the relatively secure areas is expected.
- Despite slight improvements in market supply during the harvest period, supplies to rural markets in SPLM-N controlled areas will continue to be limited due to restrictions on trade flows from GoS side.
- Cereal prices are likely to decrease slightly during the pre-harvest (October) through the post-harvest period in March, but will remain at relatively high compare to GoS area. Prices are likely to start gradual seasonal increases with the beginning of the lean season (April/May 2017).

**Figure 5.** Sorghum (feterita), nominal retail prices (SDG/kilogram), Kadugli



Source: FEWS NET/FAMIS

- Conflict and direct fighting between SPLM-N and SAF will increase during the dry season of the scenario period (December to June). This is likely to result in new displacement within and outside SPLM-N areas.
- The ongoing conflict and insecurity situation in South Sudan is likely to force more an estimated number of 5,000 to 10,000 South Kordofan refugees currently settling in refugee camps in South Sudan to return to SPLM-N or/and GoS controlled areas of South Kordofan.
- Influx of South Sudanese refugees into bordering areas including some of the SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan is expected to increase with the increased conflict and hostilities in South Sudan. FEWS NET expects that 20,000 to 25,000 refugees are expected to return during scenario period.

#### *Most Likely Food Security Outcomes:*

Between October and January, IDPs and poor households in SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan will be dependent on limited food from in-kind payment, limited own harvests, collection and use of wild foods, and support from relatives. IDPs and poor households of low level of income and their limited purchasing power will limit household's ability to expanded market purchase beyond normal levels of a typical year. Most IDPs and poor households in the area will not be able to meet their minimum needs through the above-mentioned food sources. Consequently, IDPs and poor households in the area are likely to be in **Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from October 2016 to January 2017 in the absence of humanitarian assistance.**

Between February and May 2017, IDPs and poor households in SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan are expected to have reduced access to income and food sources, as own production and in-kind payments are likely to be depleted, income from wage labor will not be available, the expected increases in conflict during the dry season will further reduce access to forest products, and prices of cereals are likely to increase seasonally with the beginning of the lean season. Food consumption gaps are expected to widen further, but most IDPs and households will remain in **Crisis level (IPC Phase 3) between February and May 2017.**

## EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

**Table I:** Possible events over the next six months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
South Sudanese refugees in Sudan	Security substantially improves in South Sudan	In the short term, it will reduce the influx of refugees from South Sudan to Sudan. In the medium term it will pave way for return of refugees.
SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile States and conflict affected areas in Darfur	Peace agreement between government of Sudan and SPLM-N reached and food aid delivered in SPLM-N-controlled areas	Distribution of adequate food aid in SPLM-N-controlled areas will lead to improved food security outcomes of IDPs, returnees and poor residents in these areas from current Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Stressed (IPC Phase 2!) and gradually to Minimal (IPC Phase 1!) during the scenario period.
IDPs and conflict-affected people in Jebel Marra	Humanitarian agencies have access to Jebel Marra to conduct assessments and deliver humanitarian food and non-food assistance	Distribution of adequate food assistance to IDPs, returnees and conflict-affected people in Jebel Marra will lead to improved food security outcomes of these groups from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Stressed (IPC Phase 2!).
Pest-infested areas of Al Gadarif, North Kordofan, East Darfur, West Kordofan and South Darfur	Pest control measures were not effective	Reported birds and locusts in these areas likely to cause severe damage to crops and generate localized below average harvest in these areas.

### ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming six months. Learn more [here](#).