

SKBN Coordination Unit

Humanitarian Update

June 2019

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Food stocks low

Despite a good harvest and improved food security indicators, the poor macro-economic conditions and insecurity suggests an expected turbulent and atypical lean season this year.

The FSMU reports in its [latest quarterly report](#) that “ It is still too early to know if there will be enough and consistent rainfall for a good harvest like last year. Political unrest in Sudan may bring about unpredictable conditions that could put populations in the monitored areas at risk. If market routes are disrupted or farmers are unable to reach their far farms, for instance, significant food insecurity could result.” The FSMU report further noted that “The overall level of food stocks exceeded measured stocks in 2017 and 2018, most likely because of improved access to far-farms during the harvest as reported in the October survey” and “severe and moderate food insecurity hit record lows this April, in part as a result of a bountiful main harvest in 2018. Household dietary diversity improved in April 2019 relative to April 2018, and household dependence on coping strategies decreased due to a solid jibraka harvest and a better main harvest in 2018.”¹ CU field reports indicate a high economic vulnerability in the Western Jebels area where livestock is sold in large numbers because HHs need cash to buy food. Overall in the SPLM-N controlled areas there is an urgent need for seeds and working tools to make optimum use of this field preparation and planting season. In terms of measured food stocks, the last FSMU report indicates that “Food stocks in April 2019 are generally lower than they were in April 2018, with only 33 percent of households having stocks and only a handful of households with enough food stocks to last until the early *jibraka* harvest in August.” Increasing numbers of people returning from government-controlled areas and food insecurity indicators counties to specifically watch this lean season would for instance be Thobo, Delami and Western Kadugli counties.



Highlights

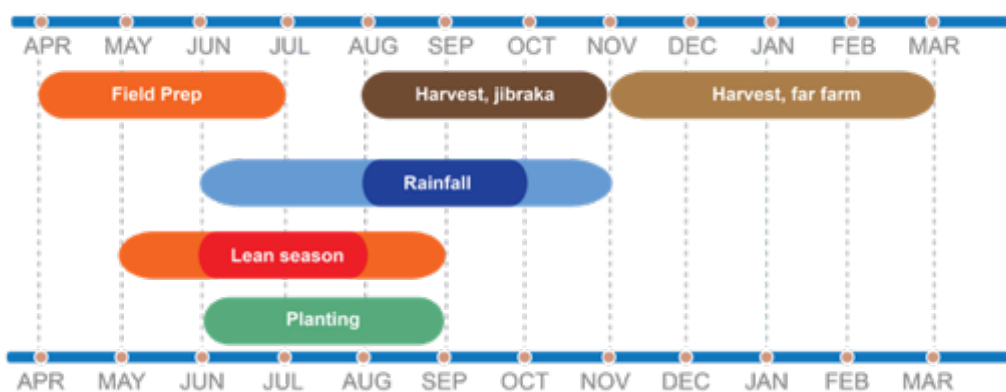
Continued increase of movement into the Two Areas

Food prices continue to increase; food stocks low in Blue Nile

An increase in cattle raid incidents reported

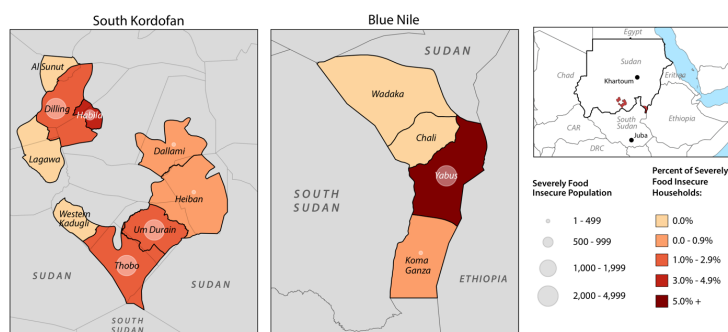
¹ FSMU Quarterly Report Feb-April 2019

In terms of market prices as reported in the last FSMU report, “The counties that use SDG (namely Dallami and Western Kadugli) are registering higher prices than those that use SSP. This could be attributed to the SDG gaining strength against the US Dollar. Political upheaval in Sudan since December 2018 has disrupted local trade particularly in cross-line markets”. According to the latest [FEWS NET Key Message Update](#) on Sudan, “Food security needs this year are higher than normal, exacerbated by poor macroeconomic conditions that are driving extremely high food prices. Poor households in most areas of Greater Darfur, North Kordofan, South Kordofan, southern Blue Nile, northern Kassala, and Red Sea states are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes through September, while IDPs in SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan and SPLA-AW controlled areas of Jebel Marra are expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) during the August-September peak of the lean season”.



Seasonal calendar for South Kordofan and Blue Nile

In Blue Nile there has been very heavy rain reported in some localities, in other localities much less. The rainfall patterns seem erratic, as in 2018. Here too, movement of people has been reported but is more difficult to verify. As per the last FSMU [quarterly report](#) “In April 2019, severe food insecurity in Southern Kurmuk county was significantly lower than last year, but already on the rise as compared to the last quarter. Food stock levels were also lower than this time last year.” The food security in the area is very fragile and considerable differences exist between different localities within Blue Nile. Nevertheless, food stocks are generally very low, and this region requires ongoing monitoring and humanitarian assistance.



Severely food insecure households and populations in need – April 2019 Source: FSMU Quarterly Report

HEALTH

Vaccination campaign in Western Jebels for the first time since 2011

The number of malnutrition cases reported in the Western Jebel region of South has gone down in this last month, according to local reports. This is expected to be only temporary and as the lean season progresses an increase could be expected again.

No disease outbreaks have been reported in areas regularly monitored in the Two Areas. In Blue Nile however, whole communities have been cut off from access to health services now that the rains have begun. In some localities boats have been introduced to assist with getting people to health clinics. Local capacity is strengthened with ongoing community health worker training. Drug supply and access to a hospital care for complicated and emergency cases is greatly hampered by road conditions in rainy season.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Limited vaccination campaign

An animal vaccination campaign has been successfully completed in the central region of South Kordofan. Nonetheless, just as reported in the March Update, animals are affected by the Tasamom and Buzagala diseases, now in Western Kadugli and Delami County, with reports of cattle dying of the diseases. In Blue Nile, an affliction locally described as *Jethery* or *small fox-like disease* has been affecting sheep (see picture below). The absence of consistent veterinary services in the Two Areas is an ongoing risk for spreading diseases without control, also into neighboring government-controlled areas.



"Jethery or small fox-like disease"

WASH

Rainy season has started and with that, the increased risk of waterborne diseases

Access to safe drinking water remains a challenge in both Areas. Humans and animals continue to share water sources, and poor health and sanitation is reported throughout the Two Areas. Communities don't dig family latrines, there are no proper hand washing facilities near latrines and communities continue drinking unsafe surface water.

EDUCATION

Three-month break starts end of June

Most schools will be out of session from the end of June so children can participate in cultivation. Schools in the Two Areas and in the Unity State refugee camps of South Sudan are enrolled beyond capacity. In the Yida settlement schools were damaged in a recent storm. Textbooks of the South Sudan curriculum, the curriculum which seems to be in wide use now, have been received in Blue Nile.

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Theft of livestock continues to destabilize

In the month of May, a number of cattle raid incidents have been recorded. As reported in the previous update, it continues to be prevalent in Heiban, Thobo and Dellami counties.

In Heiban County, just over 100 goats and 34 heads of cattle were stolen in five different incidents. Three people were reportedly killed in two of these incidents in Umdurdu payam.

In Thobo (Boram) County 19 head of cattle and 35 goats looted in two separate incidents.

In Dellami county two people were injured in one incident in which 8 goats and 60 heads of cattle were stolen.

The number of cattle raiding cases was reported to be high in Dilling. At least four incidents of cattle raids have been reported in Sillara payam. As these incidents were concentrated around the front line where there has been a reported decrease in SAF military presence, the cause is thought to be related to the absence of the rule of Law.

In Blue Nile, on May 5th, 5,000 goats were looted from Fellata pastoralists in Abeshernogo between Dem Manzur and Khor Al Bouty. The perpetrators were suspected to have been SAF soldiers. Dem Manzur is a SAF garrison and a front line between SPLA-N and SAF. 2 Fellata were killed in this incident.

** The SKBN CU reports according to the information received from a variety of sources. This information does not include a comprehensive verification of perpetrators or damages.*

This monthly update on humanitarian issues in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is compiled by the SKBN Coordination Unit. With three main functions of information, coordination and advocacy, the SKBNCU strives to put out regular and accurate information on the humanitarian situation of people affected by the conflict since 2011. Please send your comments to coordination@skbncu.org