

SKBN Coordination Unit

Humanitarian Update

November 2020



A garden of white sorghum affected by a dry spell- Chali, Blue Nile (November 2020)

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Household food stocks improved due to Jibraka harvest

Blue Nile

Long-duration sorghum performance from far farms was reportedly poor compared to last year. Most farmers abandoned their farms in the midst of the dry spell, and some did not plant their farms due to a delayed seed distribution. Additionally, pests and diseases also affected the crops. Chali payam in Blue Nile was the most affected by the dry spell, affecting specifically white sorghum at far farms. The poor harvest this year points to a likely severe food shortage early next year. Despite the harvest being low, there was a food security improvement in most households as result of Jibraka and far-farm harvest. For instance, 70 per cent of households depended on their own production as source of food, while the rest depended on markets.

Markets were fully functional in Blue Nile region, although a low supply of food stuffs were recorded with fewer Ethiopian traders able to access this region due to the instability in the Tigray region in Ethiopia. In contrast, the price of goats and sheep in Wadaka markets (Balila and Mayak) was low as a result of Fallata nomads migration southwards to Wadaka.

Highlights

Household food stocks improved despite a poor harvest

Authorities registered over 1000 returnees from Government-controlled areas

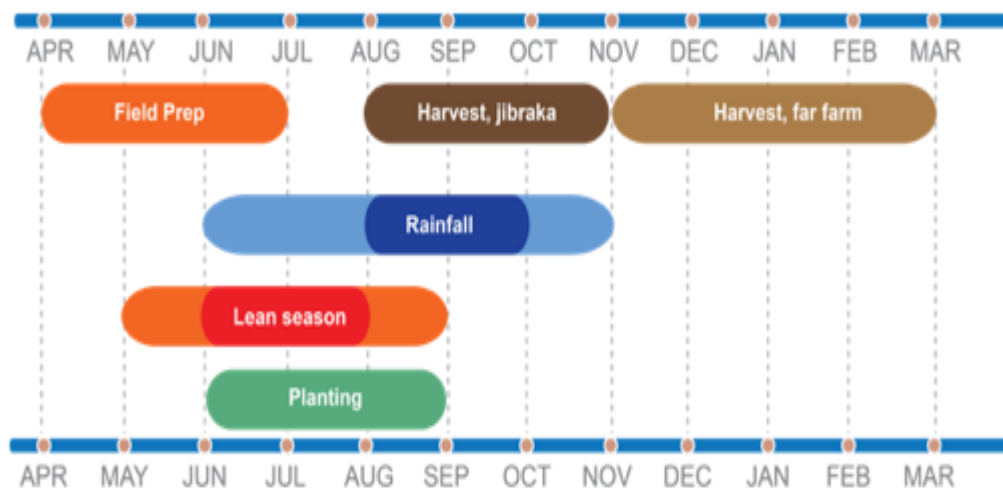
Partners supplied Covid-19 supplies in the Two Areas including the isolated areas of Kau, Nyaro and Warni

South Kordofan

The general food security situation across South Kordofan improved. According to the [FSMU Oct 2020 Quarterly.pdf](#), “there was a general decrease in the percentage of households suffering from severe food insecurity”. This was a result of harvests from near and far-farms. However, it was below normal, due to a previous poor harvest exacerbated by high commodity prices specifically for sorghum in the monitored markets (Thobo and Um Durain). Two consecutive poor food productions are most likely to impact the food security of most households in the region.

Sorghum price increased compared to the same time last year due to high demand in cross-line markets and the available little harvest was sold to government-controlled areas, which are facing high levels of food insecurity. Also, the price increase of livestock was recorded resulting in the scarcity of meat products in the monitored markets specifically in Dellami.

On the other hand, **14,424** households in the isolated areas of Western Jebels, Kau, Nyaro, and Warni as well as **8,629** in areas of Rashad, New Tagele and some parts of Delami County were targeted for the cash transfer program. The selection criteria included; returnees after the cultivation season, IDPs, widows, elderly, vulnerable female-headed households, child-headed households, and households affected by the poor agricultural season.



Seasonal calendar for South Kordofan and Blue Nile

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Awareness continues in the Two Areas

Although there are no official Covid-19 cases in the monitored areas under the SPLM-N control, Covid-19 awareness activities continue across the Two Areas. 52 people were trained on Covid-19 preventive measures by the Secretariat of Health (SoH) in Hieban, Delami, Um Durain, Thobo, and Western Kadugli while **97** military officers from Kuya Military Base in Heiban County were also trained.

Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (SRRA), Secretariat of Health (SOH), and other partners in the Two Areas were able to provide Covid-19 supplies (soap, washing stations, tents, fuel, Information, Education and Communication materials) to schools, clinics, points of entries and markets among others. SoH is concerned about the second wave of the pandemic across Sudan that is likely to spread to the Two Areas.

NEEDS:

Identified needs and gaps in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Two Areas are:

- Scaling up of risk communication and messaging to reach a wider coverage
- Furniture and equipment in planned isolation centers throughout the region
- Soap, hand washing facilities, and increased water supply in public settings
- Strengthening of screening and quarantine facilities at points of entry, especially in the Blue Nile
- Medical devices such as diagnostic tests, ventilators, and personal protective equipment including surgical masks, face shields, gowns, and gloves
- Improving food availability and temporary shelters for new arrivals quarantined at points of entry
- Increasing vehicle and fuel supply to conduct awareness and transportation of humanitarian supplies
- Improvement and scaling up of isolation centers especially in Western Jebel and the Blue Nile

GAPS:

- Low levels of medicines and medical supplies stocks in the SPLM-N controlled areas;
- Funding in the Health and WASH sector across the region.

EDUCATION

Schools reopen after months of closure

Blue Nile

A total of **99** (males **69** and females **30**) participants (teachers, school logisticians, PTAs, and cooks) attended a training on food for schools in Chali, Wadaka, and Yabus. The training was about; food storage/management, food preparation, and record keeping/reporting.

The education sector in the Blue Nile is in need of learning materials, qualified teachers, and teacher incentives among others. Communities continue to struggle to keep the schools functioning.

South Kordofan

All 272 primary schools with a total population of **79,102** (**41,568** boys and **37,534** girls) have reopened after months of closure due to COVID-19 restrictions. WFP in coordination with the Secretariat of Education (SoE) continued to support school feeding in 90 schools. On the other hand, partners continued to promote COVID-19 awareness in schools and distributed soap, hand washing stations, Information Education and Communication materials.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Lack of essential medicines in the Two Areas

Blue Nile

The health sector remains an area of concern in Blue Nile. In the last three months, out of **28** PHCUs in the area, **23** registered a shortage of drugs. Diseases reported in November included: malaria, skin diseases, lower respiratory tract infection, pneumonia among children, diarrhea, malnutrition, peptic ulcer disease (PUD)/stomach ulcer, allergic reactions, and UTIs.

South Kordofan

Based on the report from the Secretariat of Health (SoH), the region has run out of essential drugs for malaria treatment, antibiotics, RUTF, penicillin among others.

Malaria, Upper Respiratory Infection, Pneumonia, Acute Watery Diarrhea, Intestinal Parasites and Urinary Tract Infections were reported in most health facilities in the region in November.

SOH is appealing to the public for more funding in this sector to cover the huge existing gaps.

Western Jebels

According to SoH, **2,612** cases of malaria were registered in the health facilities in November. There is an urgent need for support in terms of drugs to meet the increasing demand.

Malnutrition screening in the four counties (Habilla, Dilling, Lagawa, and Al Sunut), reported that out of **233** Mid-Upper Arm Circumference, 115mm-124mm were **149 (moderate)** and <115mm were **84** (severe). This indicates a poor nutritional status in Western Jebels

WASH

Unsafe drinking water for thousands in the Two Areas

Blue Nile

Water shortage remained a concern in Balila and Abdira in Wadaka payam. There is a total of 260 boreholes (only 105 are functional) and 10 new hand-dug wells in the Blue Nile. The available boreholes are distances away and people walk close to 45 minutes to reach them.

Menstrual Health Management training to schoolgirls in Puda'om, Samari, and Anyille villages is ongoing. A successful assessment of school latrines was conducted by one of the partners in Beni-Mayu, Alelei, Yabus kubri, Tsunda, and construction will commence in December.

South Kordofan

The Secretariat of Engineering (Water and Mineral Resources Unit) reported that out of **80** water yards in the region, only **12** are functioning. The remaining 68 need repairs, putting pressure on the few existing boreholes/hand pumps for both human and livestock consumption. Sharing water sources with animals exposes people to water-borne diseases.

The Secretariat is appealing for more support in terms of drilling, spare parts, and training especially for isolated areas of Rashad, New Tagele, Kau, Nyaro and Warni.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Limited access to veterinary medicine

Blue Nile

Poor animal health remained a challenge in the Blue Nile region. This sector is underfunded and there has been no vaccination program since the beginning of the year. The fungal disease, wounds, worms, cowpox, and diarrhoea were among the diseases recorded. Moreover, the Secretary of Animal Health (SoAH) has no capacity to respond, which has resulted into a high mortality of livestock. Communities depend on livestock as a source of income and food especially between harvests. Urgent funding in this sector is needed.

South Kordofan

According to the report from the Secretariat of Animal Health (SoAH), **12,431** animal deaths were reported between September and November, and **44,377** were reported sick in South Kordofan, Western Jebels, Kua, Nyaro, Warni and Rashad and Tagele in November alone. The common diseases affecting animals included: Foot and Mouth Disease, East Coast Fever, Trypa-nosomosis, Anthrax, Black Quarter, Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, Peste des petits ruminants, non-communicable diseases, Sheep Pox and parasitological infections. Also, here, no animal vaccinations have been administered since the beginning of the year.

The priority needs of SoAH include; provision of livestock drugs and vaccines; support in refresher training of Community Animal Health Workers; financial support for community awareness campaigns on the importance of vaccination; provision of logistics (motorcycles) and provision of refrigerators for cold chain. A total of **273** (**247** males and **26** females) Community Animal Health Workers in the region need to be supported with drugs to carry out the veterinary treatment.

PROTECTION, ACCESS AND SECURITY

Increased movements into the Two Areas

South Kordofan

Around **1019** (Males **503** and Females **516**) returnees were reported from different towns in the Government-controlled areas to Delami, Um Durain, and Thobo counties. The reported reason for this movement is poor

living conditions in the Government-controlled areas. These returnees are in dire need of food, emergency shelters, plastic sheets, blankets, mats, cooking utensils, health, and sanitation services.

The SKBN CU reports security incidents 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 advocacy@skbncu.org*