

SKBN Coordination Unit Humanitarian Update

October 2020



Hand washing station at Sada Primary School, Western Jebel (October 2020)

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Household food stocks improved due to Jibraka harvest

Blue Nile

Short-duration sorghum, beans, tomatoes, okras, chillies, pumpkins, cucumber were harvested in October. Food security improved in Yabus payam because of the fall in prices of sorghum in the monitored markets of Yabus Balla due to reopening of borders with Ethiopia. However, food shortage was witnessed in Ishkab due to a poor harvest of short-duration sorghum as a result of insects. Similarly, insects affected crops in Chali and Wadaka payams. However, farmers expect a better harvest particularly long duration white sorghum from far farms after the heavy rainfall in October.

A total of 10,565 households (Belatuma 1162, Yabus Kubri 1293, Oss 1293, Komo Ganza 1293, Soda 900, Chali 1162, Balila 1462 and Jebel Halla 2000) received seeds from partners including; onions, tomatoes, peas, water melon, okra and cucumber, among others.

In Chali, estimated 40 per cent of households have short-term sorghum left which will last until December. Partners conducted a third round of food distribution in Jebel Magar and Goz Razen in Wadaka payam. A total of 3762 (2309 male and 1453 female) households received food items which included sorghum, vegetable oil, salt and beans.

Markets were fully functional during the reporting period. This was due to reopening of borders with Ethiopia. More cross-line traders supplied food items in large quantities which led to a decline in the price of sorghum in Moguf market, Yabus payam. However, prices of other commodities, remained high due to impassable roads in rainy season. Similarly, prices of livestock in Mayak and Balila markets increased due to scarcity compared to the same time last year.

Highlights

Household food stocks improved due to the Jibraka harvest

Schools resume after over 3 months of closure

WFP distributes food to over 90 schools in the Two Areas

Impassable roads due to heavy rains disrupt Covid-19 response

South Kordofan

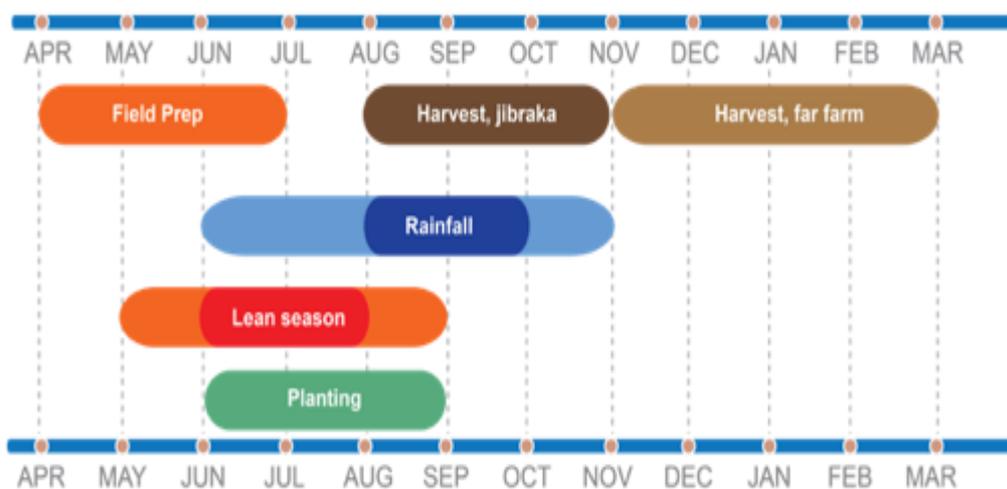
The general food security situation in South Kordofan has reportedly been normal throughout the region as a result of the new harvest from the near farms. According to field reports, groundnuts yielded a better production than other crops such as sorghum.

The price of sorghum reduced by 7 per cent and 13 per cent in Delami and Heiban respectively, while livestock prices sharply increased in different parts due to a high demand.

Western Jebel

Household food stocks improved after the near farm harvests. Farmers harvested sim sim, groundnuts and okra.

The prices of basic commodities like salt, sugar, and soap increased, making it unaffordable for most families in the communities.



Seasonal calendar for South Kordofan and Blue Nile

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Awareness continues in the Two Areas

Awareness campaigns were conducted by the Secretariat of Health (SoH) in Heiban county in 51 villages in Heiban, Dabi, Alazarak and Kumbor. Covid-19 response supplies were delivered: Information, Education and Communication materials, soap, fuel, washing stations, tents, mattresses and PPEs and SoH plan to distribute more soap to Government institutions, health facilities and check points. Also, a total of **66,910 (29420 male and 37490 female)** individuals were targeted in the first round of COVID-19 response for the distribution of hand washing soap.

An awareness campaign on Covid-19 at entry points in Lagawa, Dilling, Alsonut and Habilla counties was conducted by one of the partners. Washing soap was distributed and hand washing stations in institutions and public places like schools, clinics and markets were established. Also, 100 households (particularly female headed families, elderly and people with ailments) received handwashing soap.

NEEDS:

Identified needs and gaps in response to 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 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 Blue Nile.

GAPS:

- Low levels of stock of medicines and medical supplies in the SPLM-N controlled areas;
- Funding in health and WASH sector at points of entry;

EDUCATION

Schools reopen after months of closure

Blue Nile

Schools resumed on November 01. WFP donated 1500 sacks of sorghum to the Secretariat of Education to contribute to school feeding. Out of 47 primary schools, 12 were selected as beneficiaries of the school feeding program.

South Kordofan

Schools resumed after several months of closure due to Covid-19 outbreak. WFP provided food to 90 schools as part of the school feeding programme in the region. In addition, Parents Teachers Associations for the above schools were trained on food management techniques. Also, a Regional School Meals Program Steering Committee was formed to ensure proper and timely implementation of the school feeding program.

Covid-19 awareness activities by Secretariat of Health in collaboration with Secretariat of Education continued in schools. A Secretariat of Health (SOH) focal point will be assigned to each school to ensure Covid-19 health measures and practices are adhered to in all schools.

Western Jebels

Candidate 4 and primary 8 classes are in session in preparation for South Sudan National Examination. 45 senior 4 candidates will be sitting for South Sudan National Exams this year. However, the education sector in the region faces challenges in terms of trained teachers, learning and teaching materials, school feeding and teacher incentives.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Lack of essential medicines

Blue Nile

The health sector in Blue Nile continues to register shortage of drugs due to funding gaps. Malaria, asthma, diabetes, skin infection, pneumonia, allergy, ulcers and urinary tract infection have been reported. The healthcare system in the region remains fragile with significant shortages of essential drugs.

Reproductive maternal and child health remains a neglected area of humanitarian delivery.

South Kordofan

Based on a quarterly report shared by Secretariat of Health, **29008** malaria cases, **19,903** Upper Respiratory, **13,864** Pneumonia, **11,939** acute watery diarrhea, **5,670** Intestinal Parasite and **5574** Urinary tract Infection) were recorded in the region.

Um Durain, Thobo and Heiban counties are well covered in terms of health services compared to Delami and Western Kadugli which listed the highest number of gaps, including the isolated areas of Kau, Nyaro and Warni, Rashad, New Tagele and Western Jebel.

Nutrition and reproductive health activities are ongoing in the central part of the region. EPI mobile vaccination campaign is underway in the counties of Thobo, Heiban, Kau, Nyaro and Warni.

Western Jebels

Upper respiratory tract infection, skin diseases and bloody diarrhea were reported by health facilities in October.

WASH

Unsafe drinking water for thousands in the Two Areas

Blue Nile

The WASH sector is still underserved as many gaps exist. The available boreholes have broken down particularly in Balila, Gondolo and Yabus Bala. Local communities resorted to drinking from untreated water sources that are shared with livestock putting people at risk of contracting waterborne diseases.

A total of 25 hand pumps were repaired, 56 local water technicians were trained, and 3100 households received water purifiers, jerrycans, filters and soap.

South Kordofan

The Secretariat of Water, Mineral Resources and Engineering estimated that around 33 new boreholes are urgently needed in the 10 payams (Angolo, Dollea, Dorni, Kuku, Tabanya, Tabilli, Toba Tallabi Torogie and Tulubi). These areas have a high influx of returnees, and many more are expected during the dry season. Moreover, the available water sources are drying up as the dry season approaches, which will result in people and livestock sharing shallow hand dug wells which poses risks of water borne diseases.

A pilot project on environmental health by Secretariat of Health is being conducted in Heiban county. These included-waste management in markets; construction of pit latrines, water and food hygiene methods.

Western Jebels

Out of 103 hand pumps in Lagawa County, only 35 are functional. In Dilling County, out of 243 hand pumps, only 48 are working, 89 need repair and 126 have broken down. There are 21 water yards but only 2 are working whereas 19 need repair. In Habilla, out of 39 hand pumps only 19 are functioning. Out of 8 mini water yards, only 3 are working. In Alsonut County, there are total 61 hand pumps and only 2 are in good condition, while 31 are working but need maintenance, and 28 are broken.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Limited access to veterinary medicine

Blue Nile

There has been no livestock vaccination campaign so far this year due to funding gaps. Common diseases affecting livestock include wounds, worms, tse tse flies and fungal diseases commonly known locally as abrial. More partners are urgently needed to support livestock programming.

South Kordofan

There are continuous reports of livestock mortality across the region. In October, the County Secretariat of Animal Health registered (**250** heads of cattle, **311** goats and **85** sheep) death in Tangal and Seraf Eljamous Payams of Um Durain County. Livestock sector contributes to food security basket for most households across the region. Urgent intervention in terms of veterinary drugs, vaccination and veterinary training is needed.



Sick cattle in Karakaraya village, Umdulu Payam, Um Durain County (October 2020)

PROTECTION, ACCESS AND SECURITY

Increased movements into the Two Areas

Blue Nile

A worrying increase in sexual violence, especially in Yabus Bala and Moguf has been reported. 12 cases of alleged rape were reported to local authorities in October.

A total of 100 returnees from Ethiopia were recorded. Their main reason was to visit their separated families after the lock down. Others came in search of jobs and livelihoods.

South Kordofan

Nearly 600 people were reported to have returned to different payams in Thobo County and more are expected to arrive in the coming months due to the peace process. Partners have been asked to prepare for respond in terms of NFIs, food, education, medical and WASH.

Relations between Kulfan (Nuba tribe) and Dar Niela (Arab nomads) improved after a local agreement aiming at improving livestock North-South migrations. Cattle migration through Khor Waral has been a point of conflict between the two groups as a result of grazing tensions that have elevated into clashes.

SRRA plans in collaboration with partners, to conduct a Theory of Change strategic workshop for the benefit of women's associations, youth, civil society organizations and Government secretariats.

Western Jebel

Partners with 13 youth and women groups conducted a peace building workshop in Dilling and Lagawa. They addressed issues on violence against women, child rights violation, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and social corruption. During these sessions, attended by about **1,950** people especially youth and women, messages on the political transitional in the country were disseminated.

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