

SKBN Coordination Unit

Humanitarian Update

June 2021



Pupils attending lessons under a tree at Beeh Primary School - Chali, Blue Nile

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Food security continues to deteriorate in the Two Areas

Blue Nile (Southern Kurmuk County)

Due to a long dry spell, most farms in Blue Nile failed to survive, particularly maize, putting pressure on households who have to obtain replacement seeds (only **10,565** so far have received seeds, out of a total of **38,051**). Because of a dry spell, this year's production is likely to be poor, thereby worsening severe food security that households are already facing due to a poor previous harvest. Out of 360 feddans (151.2 hectares), only 200 were ploughed due to lack of spare parts for tractors, seeds (12 sacks required), fuel and food of laborers, among other essentials.

On the other hand, food security slightly improved in June due to the general food distribution (GFD) of sorghum, oil, beans and salt by one of the implementing partners to **1305** households, but this may not last for two months. With most households having no food stocks, there is need for a third-round cycle of food distribution.

Market Functionality

As a result of GFD, staple food prices in the markets dropped. For instance, in Chali payam, a malwa of sorghum dropped from 500 SSP (USD 1.25) to 300 -- in Balila, it dropped from 1000 SSP per malwa to 800 SSP (USD 2). Markets of Yabus Bala and Moguf, in Yabus payam (close to the Ethiopian border) were partially functional for two weeks due to the general elections in Ethiopia, causing market prices to remain high above the normal rate. Residents and returnees continued to depend on cross-border markets for cereals, offered at significantly higher prices.

South Kordofan

Farming continues on semi mechanized and far farms. It is expected that shortages of seeds, tools, spare parts and fuel, which are crucial for land preparation and planting, will negatively impact the areas under cultivation. Additionally, rains in June were not substantial if this trend continues, the coming harvest will negatively affect communities, particularly those in Dellami, Heiban and Thobo counties. The unseasonably long dry spell has caused concerns of a poor food production for the next harvesting season.

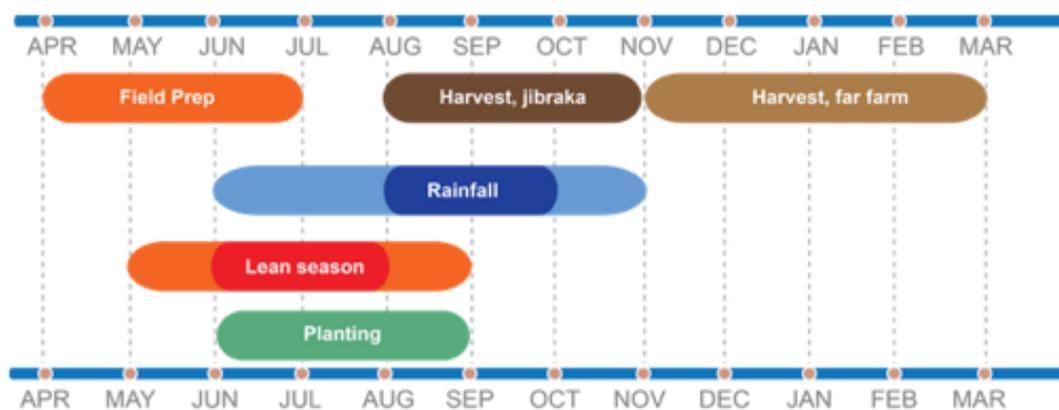
Highlights

High food prices continue to prevail in the SPLM-N controlled areas

Food security remains a major challenge in the Two Areas.

Tribal clashes in South Kordofan resulted in population displacements, paralization of farming activities and closure of schools in Kauda and Kumo in Heiban County

There are reports of food theft across South Kordofan for sale to crossline markets, due to the high demand of food resources among the government-controlled populations. Returnees and IDPs continue to share the few available food resources with host communities who also have little to share. Those without remaining food stocks must depend on the markets, resulting in price increases higher than normal, with a negative impact on household purchasing power. Food security needs this year are higher than normal, exacerbated by poor macroeconomic conditions that are driving extremely high food prices. According to CU County Coordinators, staple food prices increased seasonally above 100 per cent above average.



Seasonal calendar for South Kordofan and the Blue Nile

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Shortage of essential drugs at community-based health centres

Blue Nile (Southern Kurmuk County)

Common diseases including malaria, acute watery diarrhea, skin diseases, and pneumonia are being reported among children. According to a recent Secretariat of Health (SOH) report, neglected tropical diseases including onchocerciasis, leishmaniasis, and leprosy are an issue. The SoH has also warned about the possibility of an outbreak of Hepatitis B; a campaign to address this has been launched along the border with Ethiopia.

All the 28 health facilities in Blue Nile continue to report a lack of essential drugs. lack of qualified medical staff and poor referral systems. There are only 87 registered health workers in the region (13 traditional birth attendants and 74 Community Health Workers).

South Kordofan and Western Jebel

According to SoH report, there is a high morbidity and mortality. Communicable diseases, including respiratory infections, malaria and diarrhea make up over half of all consultations, and represent more than 75 percent of the consultations in children under 5 year olds. Reproductive health: over 90 per cent are home deliveries and coverage of family planning is extremely low (only five clinics provide family planning services), leaving many women and girls at risk of pregnancy related morbidity and mortality. Surgery and blood transfusion services for emergency obstetric cases are only available in Kauda area (Gidel and Lwere). Referring patients remains a major challenge in these areas with poor infrastructure and lack of transport. Vaccination coverage is 35 per cent in the 34 catchment areas of facilities with vaccines and cold chain storage capacity, while many other areas have not been reached at all for vaccination.

Four cases of COVID-19 and one fatality were reported by the end of June in South Kordofan. With the arrival of a PCR testing machine provided by WHO, along with antigen-rapid diagnostic test kits, testing is now available and this will assist in case management and help to get a better understanding of the spread of the pandemic in the area.

EDUCATION***Tribal clashes in South Kordofan affected school activities*****Blue Nile**

Schools are out of session, to allow students to provide labor on family farms. Resources for education in Blue Nile remain scarce, likely worse than in South Kordofan. The area has only 47 primary schools and no secondary or tertiary schools. Schools in Blue Nile are mainly community-supported, with the meager support provided by partners mostly coming in the form of school feeding. The total number of primary school children is 15,949 (male 7710 and female 8239) in Southern Kurmuk and the two isolated areas of Amoro and Zozak; and this number is expected to raise due to the recent influx of returnees. The WFP school meal program continues for the 12 schools, currently targeting 6228 students (male 3690 and female 2538) students.

South Kordofan

Tribal clashes in Kumbuor and Kauda payams (Heiban County) resulted in displacements as well as loss of property and lives. Education and farming activities were consequently suspended in Kumo and Kauda payams.

WASH***Unsafe drinking water for thousands in the Two Areas*****Blue Nile (Southern Kurmuk County)**

According to the Secretariat of Water, most boreholes and handpumps remain broken. There are 140 boreholes in Blue Nile, but half of them are not functional. The areas of Blue Nile most affected with WASH challenges are the isolated areas of Zozok and Amora. Spare parts are urgently required, as repeatedly reported by CU.

South Kordofan and Western Jebel

Across South Kordofan and Western Jebel, there are 2070 hand pumps --only 977 functioning and the others need repairs. There are 95 water yards, of which only 16 functioning. 50 haffars (man-made canals), although many more are needed. Only four NGOs in this sector and lack funds to cover the whole region.

WATER RESOURCE STATISTICS UPDATE IN NUBA MOUNTAINS REGION 2021

S/N	County	Population	Hand pump	H P Working	Water yard	W Y working	Small dams	Haffir
1	HEIBAN	282613	568	264	25	10	09	12
2	DALLIMI	069000	076	71	04	01	00	00
3	UMDOREN	283551	189	147	12	01	02	01
4	THUBO	345502	197	133	15	00	02	07
5	TALODI	012409	017	06	01	00	00	00
6	KADUGLI	052128	128	50	03	00	01	03
7	ABUJIBAHA	074540	013	06	02	00	00	01
8	NEW TAGLI	095283	113	36	00	00	19	09
9	RASHAD	077854	046	06	00	00	05	01
10	ELDALLING	279520	360	118	18	02	06	08
11	LAGAWA	151391	105	56	07	00	02	00
12	HABILA	166358	155	61	04	01	03	04
13	ELSUNUT	056642	103	23	04	01	02	04
14	REEF ELSHARGI	08625	00	00	00	00	00	00
#	TOTAL	1955416	2070	977	95	16	51	50

ANIMAL HEALTH

Lack of essential drugs in the Two Areas affects livestock keeping

Blue Nile (Southern Kurmuk County)

Health status of livestock remains poor due to funding gaps. The animal health sector has been one of the most neglected and undersupported. With only two actors operating on the ground, gaps remain huge. There have been no vaccination campaigns for over a year and lack of veterinary drugs. As a result, livestock herders who can afford drugs buy them at crossline markets. This has impacted on the pastoralist communities who depend on livestock for food and livelihood. During the Food and Agricultural Organization South Sudan visit to the area, emergency drugs to the Secretary of Animal Health were provided as well as training 41 volunteers (15 for locust control and 26 Community Animal Health Workers), but more support is urgently needed.

South Kordofan

The area continues to report lack of veterinary drugs as well as vaccinations. A few communities who can afford to do so buy drugs from crossline markets; however, many livestock deaths continue to be reported, although the actual number of livestock deaths remains unknown.

Western Jebel

With the start of the rainy season, livestock pasture has improved, although more disease may occur as a result. There have been no major changes in this sector since May.

PROTECTION, ACCESS, AND SECURITY

Tribal clashes in South Kordofan leave many displaced

South Kordofan

According to payam monitors, Dallami registered 100 returnees also over 300 people coming from Khartoum were registered in Um durain county in the month of June. The most urgent needs for returnees are food, emergency shelters and NFIs among others.

Tribal clashes between Tira and Otoro tribes in Heiban on 21 June 2021 led to displacement of populations and paralysis of activities, including schools and farming activities. While the needs of these groups are still unknown, it is anticipated that they will be in dire need of food, WASH, and medical care, among other things. Investigations by local authorities are ongoing.

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