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Food Security & Livelihoods Sector

Year-to-Date Achievements

Food Security and Livelihoods Sector Coordinator Jimmy Owani gives an update on FSL activities in Sudan so far this year.

"From January to mid-May the sector reached 1.8 million beneficiaries or about 50 percent of its annual food assistance target. By June, most agricultural or livelihoods activities had started in the target states and most partners were in the process of procuring and distributing inputs to beneficiaries for the current planting season.

In terms of funding, the sector received US\$ 192.7 million or 47.3 percent of its 2013 funding requirements by the end of May. Of the money received, US\$ 174.2 million went to WFP to provide food assistance with the slim remainder going to agriculture and livelihood support.

Insecurity and limited access in some

parts of South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur continued to be the main constraints to implementation of sector projects. Late provision of funds by donors and overall declining funding has also affected projects. Funding shortfalls have meant reduced rations and cash voucher values for IDPs in Darfur and delays in implementing blanket supplementary (preventative) feeding for Darfur's IDP children.

Since the beginning of 2013, needs have increased in areas where there have been new displacements because of fighting and the sector estimates that the total number of affected people has increased from 6.9 million to 7.2 million."

Livestock Migration Study

At the June FSL meeting in Khartoum, FAO's Senior Emergency & Rehabilitation Coordinator Sabine Schenk briefed the group on the results of a recent FAO study of dry season livestock migration from



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Sudan to South Sudan. Migration usually starts in February and ends by April each year. However, since the secession of South Sudan, insecurity or the threat of insecurity has stopped many pastoralists from taking their herd across the new international border. This has led to large concentrations of animals in border areas of Sudan causing overgrazing and an increased risk of disease spreading.

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Food Security & Livelihoods Sector

Livestock Migration (cont.)

A field survey was conducted by FAO in April and May this year and focused on South Kordofan and East Darfur. Leaders from pastoralist groups and other stakeholders were interviewed and visits were made to water points, grazing areas and cattle camps.

Almost all of those surveyed said they believed seasonal migration would stop if conditions for rearing livestock improved in Sudan. The main areas those interviewed said needed improvement were access to clean water sources, improvement of pasture and rangelands, establishment of fire brakes and implementation of laws to prohibit

the lighting of fires in grazing areas (for example, to clear land for farming). The final report will be shared by FAO on its completion in July.



FAO Food Price Monitoring

Sorghum Price Eases

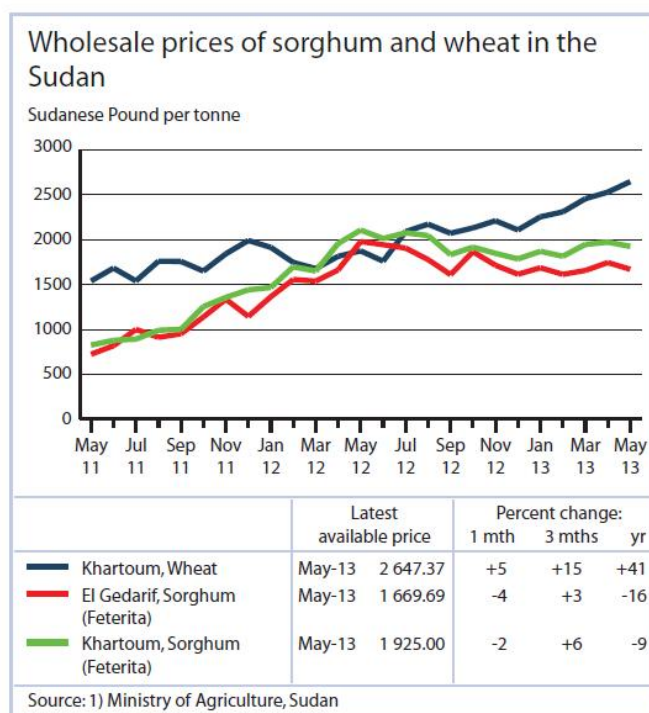
FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) has updated its Global Food Price Monitor including information on Sudan. It reports that prices of sorghum declined slightly in most Sudanese markets in May after the sustained increases of recent months.

Prices were generally lower than the high levels of 12 months earlier, but were more than double their levels of 24 months earlier, mainly due to the high rate of inflation and increased informal exports to South Sudan.

By contrast, prices of wheat, mainly consumed in urban centres and mostly imported, continued to increase in Khartoum reaching new record highs, supported by the depreciation of the Sudanese pound and by reduced imports due to foreign currency shortages.

See the latest GIEWS information here:

www.fao.org/giews.





Desert Locust Threat Eases

Protecting Sudan's Crops and Pastures

A joint FAO-Ministry of Agriculture field mission to Wadi Halfa near the Egypt-Sudan border in late June found that measures put in place by the federal Ministry's Plant Protection Directorate since March have successfully reduced the Desert Locust threat in Northern State. However, small groups of adults have been seen moving south to Sudan's vast summer breeding area between Darfur and western Eritrea, prompting further surveillance over the coming months and possible control measures by September.

FAO and the federal Ministry are continuing their close work to reduce locust infestations and protect crops and pastures in Sudan. FAO Senior Locust Forecaster Keith Cressman took part in the Northern State field mission during which he introduced the new eLocust3 to PPD field staff that will soon become operational. The handheld system developed by FAO consists of a robust tablet that connects wirelessly to a vehicle-mounted antenna to transmit GPS location information together with field staff observations to PPD

ABOVE: Senior Desert Locust Forecaster Keith Cressman (middle) with PPD team members Hussien Osman Abaker (left) and Montasir Alhadi Abdelsalam (right) using the new eLocust3 near Wadi Halfa in June.

headquarters in Khartoum in real time. The technology helps the PPD assess the locust situation, predict the scale and timing of breeding and migration and plan survey and control measures.

In May, FAO and the federal Ministry signed a new US\$500 000 project that sees FAO deliver equipment such as vehicle-mounted sprayers for targeted pesticide application, GPS units, radios, camping equipment and first aid kits for PPD teams who are in the field monitoring locusts and undertaking control measures. More than 50 PPD technicians will also receive training in surveying, reporting and carrying out control operations.

CONTACT US

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FAO in the Field

Livestock Loans

FAO has distributed goats and sheep in four localities in eastern Sudan as part of a livestock loan scheme to help re-establish livelihoods for 375 vulnerable households. The project, funded by the Common Humanitarian Fund, sees targeted vulnerable households in Rural Kassala, Hamiskorab, Talkouk and Rural Port Sudan given four healthy animals and 250kgs of concentrated animal feed (which is enough to last for about 3 months). When the livestock produce offspring the household will hand those animals back to an established village committee who will then pass the animals on to another vulnerable household to continue the breeding cycle. The localities were chosen because they experienced poor rainfall for the last two years which caused an animal feed gap resulting in the loss of some animals and significant body condition loss in others. By the end of the project the targeted households will have re-established a small family herd that provides milk – a rich source of nutrition, particularly for children.

FAO is working on the project in partnership with German Agro Action, Sudanese Organization for Research and Development, the Islamic Relief Agency, Sudanese Red Crescent and Delta for Community Development.

PHOTOS: some of the animals distributed in Kassala.



The State of Food and Agriculture 2013

Major FAO Annual Study Released

FAO's new report *The State of Food and Agriculture 2013: Food Systems for Better Nutrition*, released in June, states that healthy diets and good nutrition begin with improved food systems, from agricultural inputs to processing, storage, transport, retailing and consumption. The report found that the cost of malnutrition to the global economy in lost productivity and health care could account for as much as 5 percent of the global gross domestic product, or US\$3.5 trillion. In social terms, child and maternal malnutrition continue to reduce the quality of life and life expectancy of millions of people, and twenty six percent of all children under five are stunted.

The report makes a list of recommendations for action including improving the nutritional quality of foods through fortification and reformulation and making food systems more responsive to the needs of mothers and young children. Malnutrition during the critical 'first 1000 days' from conception can cause lasting damage to women's

health and life-long physical and cognitive impairment in children. Policies, interventions and investment in labour-saving farming technologies and rural infrastructure, as well as social protection and services can also make important contributions to the health and nutrition of women, infants and young children.

FAO projects that have proved successful in raising nutrition levels include enhanced production, marketing and consumption of local vegetables and pulses, promotion of home gardens, encouragement of mixed vegetable and animal farming systems together with income-generating activities, breeding staple crops such as sweet potatoes to raise their micronutrient content and public-private partnerships to enrich products like yoghurt or cooking oil with nutrients.

The full report is available here:

www.fao.org/publications/sofa