



# South Sudan Food Security Update



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## FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

### Highlights:

- Deficit of cereal production in 2011 would trigger early onset of lean season.
- High prices of food commodities continued to heighten in all the states.
- Near normal to above normal rainfall expected in Greater Equatoria

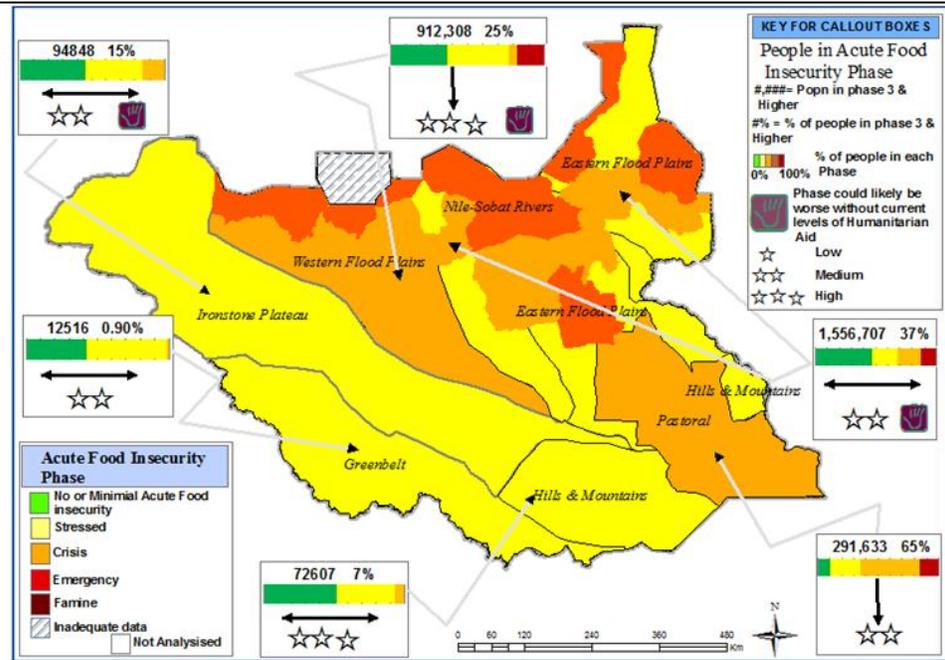
### FOOD SECURITY OUTLOOK

Food security situation in South Sudan is deteriorating following the cereal production deficit occasioned by extended period of dry spells in 2011. As the result, about 4.7 million populations are anticipated to be potentially food insecure and about 1 million populations are likely to be severely food insecure. In South Sudan, the food insecurity is regularly driven by inadequate rainfall and inter-communal conflicts. Increases of inter-communal conflicts or cattle raiding in states like Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity and Warrap State affected not only food availability but also food access to the affected households.

Demand for food had also been increased due to increases of internal displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees that have increased. The insecurity has also affect flow of cereal commodity and market prices and it is projected that it will interrupt farming activities as rains are about to start.

The integrated phase classification (IPC) map which was developed during Livelihood Analysis Forum (LAF) meeting in

**Figure 1: Shows Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) map for South Sudan (projected from December-March 2012).**



Source: National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)-FSTS Juba.

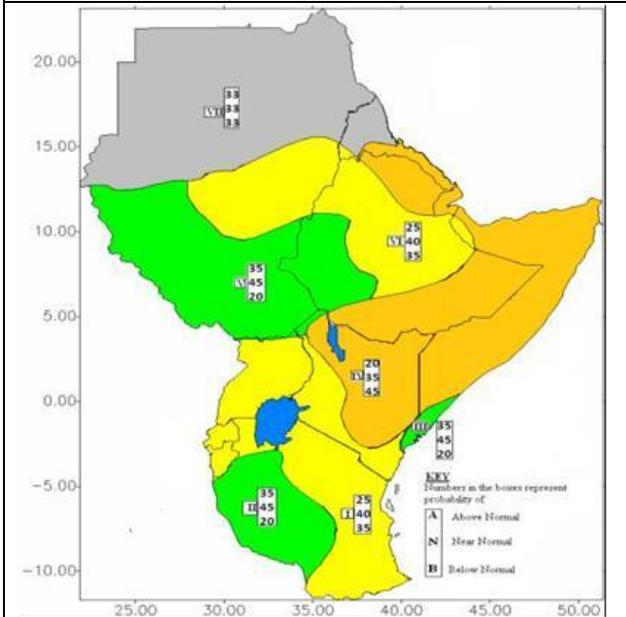
Jonglei State indicates the projected food security situation from January-March 2012. The IPC map indicates that all the states bordering North Sudan are expected to be food insecure and, these include Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal. The blockade of cross-border trade and border dispute between South Sudan and North Sudan army forces are also expected to endanger market functioning, prices may increase the potential of populations under food insecure (Fig.1). The regular cattle raid or inter-communal conflicts in Arid or pastoral

zones and border dispute between SPLA and SAF have destabilised the livelihood sources and may also disrupt agricultural activities in upcoming agricultural season if the situation will not return to normal. The government of South Sudan have started collecting guns from civil populations and those who hold arms illegally. The disarmament exercise is commenced in Jonglei and is expected to go to the rest of the states.

### South Sudan Seasonal Rainfall Forecast March, April and May (MAM) 2012

The March, April and May (MAM) 2012 seasonal forecast that covers parts of rainfall/growing season. In South Sudan, March to May rainfall contributes an important rainfall season over the Greater Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal and southern parts of Jonglei state. Based on March to May season forecast, near normal to above normal rainfall is expected in most parts of Central, Eastern and Western Equatoria state. About 35% of above normal rainfall is likely to be observed in the Greater Equatoria, Bahr el Ghazal and some pockets of Greater Upper Nile State while 45% occurring of near normal and 20% of below normal rainfall is expected in these areas. However, northern parts of Unity, Upper Nile, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Jonglei State are expected to observe 25% above near normal to 40% normal and 35% below normal rainfall. In summary the key agricultural areas are forecasted to have favourable cropping season and a potential near normal agricultural production prospects for the MAM cropping season. However, periodic or seasonal variation is likely to occur especially in areas expected to observe near normal to below normal rainfall.

**Figure 2: Seasonal Rainfall Forecast March, April and May (MAM) 2012.**



**Source: IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) February 2012.**

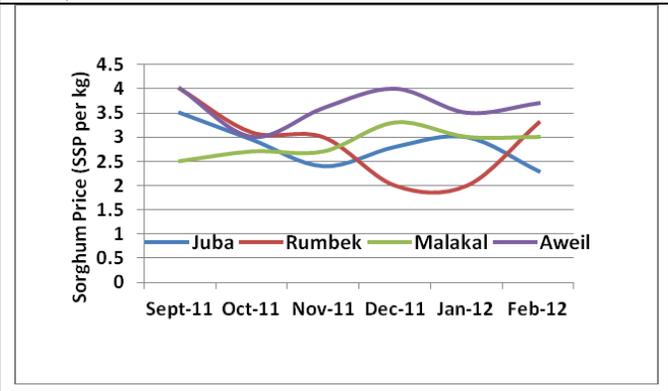
## MARKET PRICE TRENDS

Cereal prices in all the ten states show a mixed trend from January to February 2012. From January to March 2012, some States have witnessed significant increases of cereals prices in the market. Figure 4 indicates that market prices in Lakes state, Rumbek market in particular had increased by 65% while Aweil market price increased by 6% from January to February 2012. However, significant declined of 23% cereals prices were observed in Juba markets, whereas market prices remained relatively stable in Malakal as compared to Rumbek and Aweil. The significant declined of cereals prices in Juba market had been attributed by availability of cereal from good crop harvest in 2011 production in most parts of Central Equatoria and taxes exemption of imported food commodities from Uganda and Kenya. For example, price of maize in Juba relatively low as compare to Wau and Torit. A slight increase of 4% was witnessed in Rumbek market, whereas a significant declined of 8% of maize price was experienced in Juba market from Jan-Feb 2012. The persistency of price increases in Rumbek and Aweil had been attributed to crop failures due to poor rainfall performance and high demand of food from high numbers of returnees and IDPs.

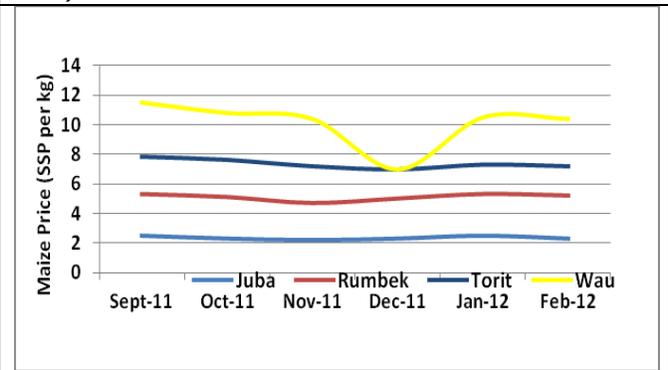
Similarly, market trend for livestock especially goat prices in South Sudan varies significantly. In Upper Nile state, the prices of goats remained relatively stable with no significant change from January to mid-March 2012. Conversely, a volatile 15% increase of goat's price was observed in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Aweil while decreased of 45% and 22% was observed in Juba and Rumbek markets. However, the unstable prices of goats in Aweil market is due to insufficient supply of goats or livestock in the market coupled with rising demand of meat in the State.

Market prices of goats have considerably increased in Central Equatoria and Lakes State and this was exacerbated by inadequate supply of goats. However, in December to February the trading goats with sorghum had been very unstable all over the States in South Sudan (Fig 7). In Juba and Rumbek markets, trading goats with sorghum had significantly declined from Jan-Feb 2012 in favour of the cereal suppliers and this has impacted greatly to livestock owners' purchasing power. In Malakal, the terms of trade for livestock especially goats remained relatively stable over the past few months. However, Aweil markets have modest increase in terms of trade that put the livestock owners at advantage of obtaining

**Figure 4: Sorghum Price in Selected Markets (Sept-Feb 2012)**

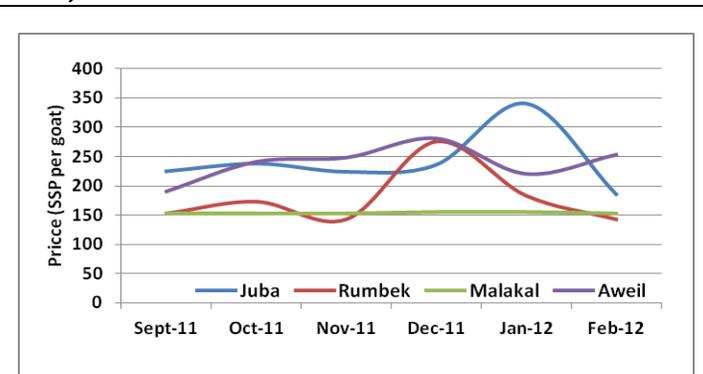


**Figure 5: Maize Price in Selected Markets (Sept-Feb 2012)**



Source: State Ministries of Agriculture/CLiMIS

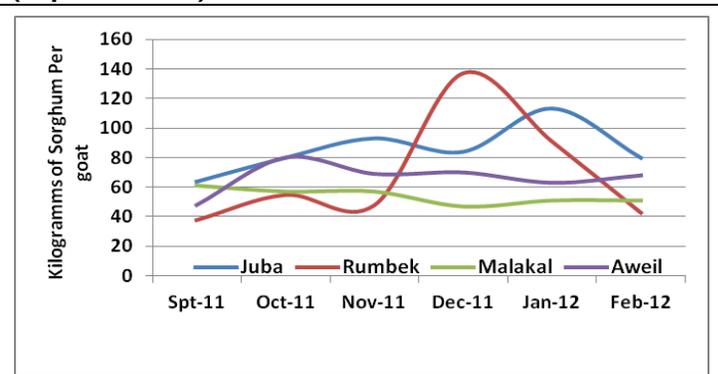
**Figure 7: Goat Price in Selected Markets (Sept-Feb 2012)**



Source: State Ministries of Agriculture/CLiMIS

more quantity of cereal by selling a goat.

**Figure 6: Goat to Sorghum TOT in Selected Markets (Sept-Feb 2012)**



Source: State Ministries of Agriculture/Climis

## FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS BY STATE

### CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

Food Security has destabilised by below average cereal harvest in 2011. The Crop Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) reports released in February 2012 indicates that 86,861 MT of cereal deficits in 2012 in particular, Terekeka and Kajo-keji Counties are estimated to have 0% to 40% cereal deficits while the rest of the Counties are expected to have 41% to 69% except Juba that is estimated to over 70% cereal deficits in 2012. Reports from the State show that some households still have cereal stocks that can be consumed for two to three months. For the households that failed to cultivate especially in Mangalla and Gemeiza due to insecurity related issue between Murle and Mudari community, most households have no access to market and, all coping mechanisms are already on high use. Hunting, fishing, collecting wild fruits, sale of charcoal, grass and firewood and casual labour are amongst the coping strategies used.

### EASTERN EQUATORIA STATE

The food security situation in the State is relatively stable following fair crop harvest for 2011 with exception of the Greater Kapoeta (Kapoeta East, South and North). However, the households' food security situation is expected to deteriorate more due to large food deficit observed in 2011. According to inter agencies needs assessment report, about 600 households were reported to have been a victim of fire incident which took place in Lafon/Lopa County and, this incident has destroyed houses and properties. This incident made the affected households more vulnerable as their houses, clothes and food items were destroyed. Fishing activity is taking place along the Nile especially in Nimule and Pageri Payams and, there is improvement of food security status to households who have involved in fishing activity. No serious livestock diseases have been reported since most of the livestock have moved from homestead to Ethiopia and Kenya site for search of pastures and water. In most parts of Eastern Equatoria State, households cope by reducing number of meals, eating less expensive foods, sale of labour, charcoal burning and petty business.

### NORTHERN BAHR EI GHAZAL STATE

Food security situation in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State is deteriorating following the huge numbers of returnees received from North Sudan. Projection during livelihood analysis forum suggests that hunger gap is likely to start early this year and, the duration is also expected to be lengthening than usual. This is due to reduced access to sufficient food supply as a result of blockade of cross-border trade, inadequate cereal production and high food prices in the local markets. Influx of returnees from Sudan and IDPs fleeing from the neighbouring States increased food demand. Households respond to this situation by relying on the wild food (vegetables and fruits), non agricultural labour and sales of natural resources (grass, poles and charcoal) to meet their food needs. In addition, the livestock conditions have improved due to available pasture and water in Toich where cattle have been moved.

## WARRAP STATE

The deficit of agricultural production in 2011 and regular cattle raid had jeopardised food security situation and, this insecurity would widen hunger gap from February-August 2012. Other parts of the State like Tonj east and Tonj north Counties were affected by the insecurity and it is anticipated that farmers in these Counties may not participate fully in farming activities if the insecurity continues. In addition, market prices were relatively high due to low cereal supply and high food demand by the IDPs and returnees. The herders have moved their livestock to water points; however, fear of pastures and water availability to change as the dry season advances is expected. Reduction of meal size, borrowing from relatives and, selling livestock to mention few are some of the coping strategies used by the households in Warrap State.

## UNITY STATE

One of the major food insecurity drivers in Unity state is border dispute between Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and Sudan Army Forces (SAF). Villages which were about 20 kilometres away from Rubkona were under attack from 26-27 March 2012 and, hundreds of thousands households who fled their home have reported to Rubkona town. Therefore, the numbers of IDPs have increased in the areas given the fact that about 87, 634 individuals from South Kordofan were received following the recent clashes between SAF and South Kordofan rebel group. The insecurity in the State has also been a challenge and the commodity flow from neighbouring States becomes limited. High demand of food plus scarcity of goods in the markets have significantly affect markets functioning and had increased the prices of basic food commodity. Humanitarian agencies responded by distributing food to vulnerable households but some households who were vulnerable and settled at the borders were not reached due to insecurity. Besides, State government and partners are prepared to distribute farm inputs to returnees and IDPs once rains commence.

## LAKES STATE

Food commodity became scarce in most markets in Lakes State and, this situation is attributed by low agricultural production in 2011 and limited supply of goods or food commodity from neighbouring States. The markets in the State rely on cereal supply from Western Equatoria and Juba and Uganda. The markets price has substantially increased from January to March and, this has limited food access to IDPs and low income households as well as the vulnerable urban dwellers. In addition, new cattle disease has been reported in Rumbek North County and no intervention in term of veterinary services took place so far. Most households who keep livestock as the primary source of food were impacted negatively as body conditions of livestock are deteriorating. Coping strategies in Lakes State varies significantly; however, most households collect wild foods, water lilies, burn charcoal and sale of labour.

## UPPER NILE STATE

Food demand had tremendously increased in the state following Blue Nile incident where about 29,000 populations were displaced. However, crop failure due to prolonged dry spell during crop growing period has also contributed to low cereal supply in the markets. As the result, hunger gap is expected to start early and, this is likely to affect agricultural activities. Livestock conditions have also been improved and no diseases outbreak has been reported. Fishing activity is booming in most parts of the State especially residents a long Nile-Sobat corridor. The coping mechanisms used by many households include charcoal burning, brewing alcohol and petty business.

## WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE

The food security situation remained relatively stable in Western Equatoria as compared to the rest of the ten States. This has been contributed by the 2011 agricultural surplus in Ezo; however, food insecurity in Nzara and Yambio County remained a challenge due to IDPs who were displaced by LRA activities since 2010/ 2011. Cereal prices in the markets still low thus influencing food access to majority of peri-urban and urban populations who largely depend on market. Fishing activities have reduced as most of the streams and rivers dried up. Wild yams, local brew, labour, charcoal burning, and petty business are coping strategies used by households especially IDPs and returnees.

## WESTERN BAHR EI GHAZAL STATE

The insecurity at the border is intensifying and, many households were displaced. The State has also received

numbers of returnees and IDPs since early January 2012. Many households around Raja County abandon their homesteads for fear of SAF attack. Many households fear in Raja County expecting that attack which took place in Unity State is likely to happen at the border around Timsah. Generally, price of food commodity is considerably high in the State and, this situation has been escalated by the blockade of cross border trade. In addition, pastoralists from Darfur have moved towards north Sudan since 2011 and this has therefore reduced the supply of livestock in the market. As the result, prices of livestock have increased significantly in most markets of Western Bahr el Ghazal State. This food insecurity is anticipated to affect most of households with low income and could not afford food from the market. As hunger period advances, majority of the households tend to harvest honey, hunting and charcoal burning.

## JONGLEI STATE

Food insecurity is driven by insecurity as the result of frequent cattle raid and 2011 poor crop harvest. The inter-communal conflict between Lou Nuer, Murle and

Dinka has displaced hundreds of thousands. Report indicates that the displaced households relied on humanitarian food assistance. Frequent cattle raid in Pibor and Akobo were thousands herds of cattle were seized has caused thousands of households to flee their homes and left them more vulnerable. State government and partners (UN agencies and NGOs) have distributed fishing equipment and agricultural inputs (seeds and tools) to about 5000 individuals in Pibor, Likwangole, Gumruk and Verth. Malnutrition has also been reported in Ayod, Pibor, Akobo East, Waat, and Duk Payuel. The severely malnourished patients have been admitted to the outpatient therapeutic programme for treatment. Report also indicates that more than 1200 children were on 'smart food' feeding to provide them with nutrition supplement. Food commodity prices were high due to insecurity that had blocked most of the trade routes. Government of South Sudan started disarmament exercise in Jonglei. The process started in Bor and is expected to disarm all counties in Jonglei State and this will be complete by June 2012. If the disarmament process is complete peacefully in June and people return to their homesteads, it is anticipated that farmers will resume their farm activity and, hence agricultural production. The coping capacity of the populations has been affected most households were engaged in activities like hunting, fishing, and relief assistance among others.