



South Sudan Food Security Update



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FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

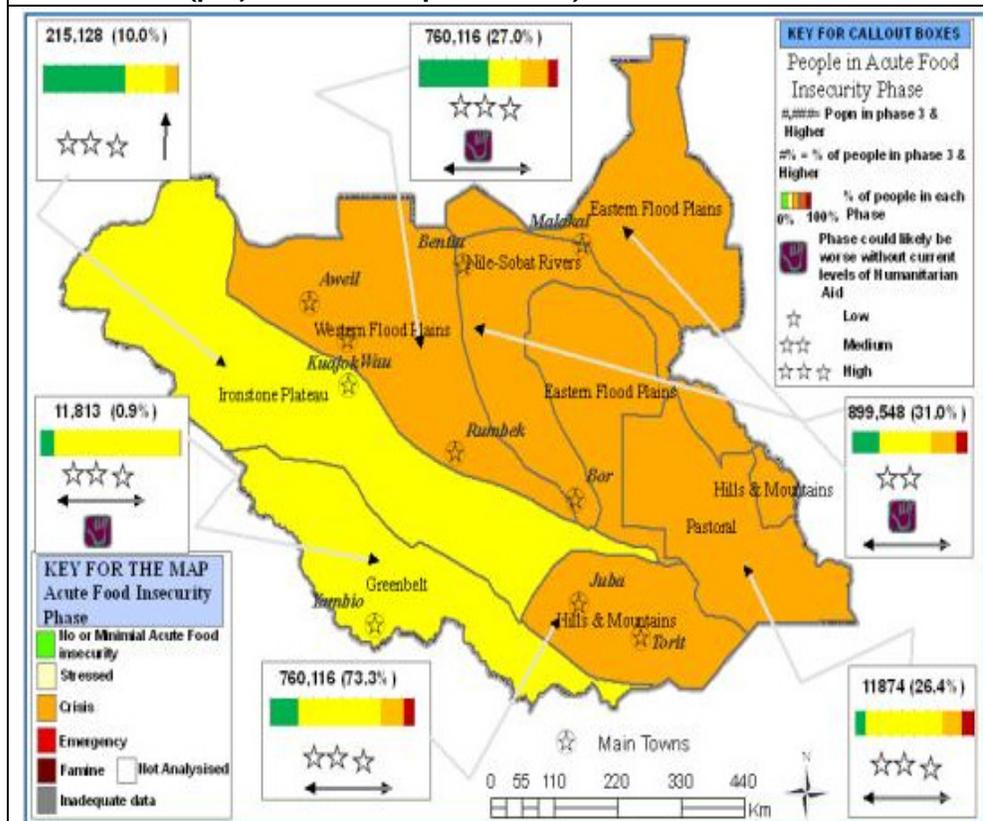
Highlights:

- Below average crop harvest expected for 2011 production as per CFSAM preliminary result.
- High food commodity price still continue to constrain food accessibility by vulnerable peri-urban and urban households.
- The influx of Refugees and returnees from Sudan to South Sudan due to political tension has continued to impact negatively on food security situation of host population in South Sudan.

FOOD SECURITY OUTLOOK

The food security situations in South Sudan have mixed trends as projected during Livelihood Analysis Forum (LAF) that was organised in Yei from 5th-10th Sept 2011. As indicated in figure 1, the Greenbelt and Ironstone Plateau livelihood zones could potentially be in better food security situations as from Sept-Dec compared to other livelihood zones of Western Flood Plains, Nile Sobat Rivers, Eastern Flood Plains, Hills and Mountains and Pastoral zone which are likely to be in crisis phase. The crisis condition in these livelihood zones were caused by a combination of factors. One of the factors that exacerbated the food

Fig 1. Shows Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Map for South Sudan (projected from Sept-Dec 2011).



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

insecurity situation is influx of refugees from the Republic of Sudan to New Republic of South Sudan due to military clashes and aerial bombardment that led to serious displacement of people.

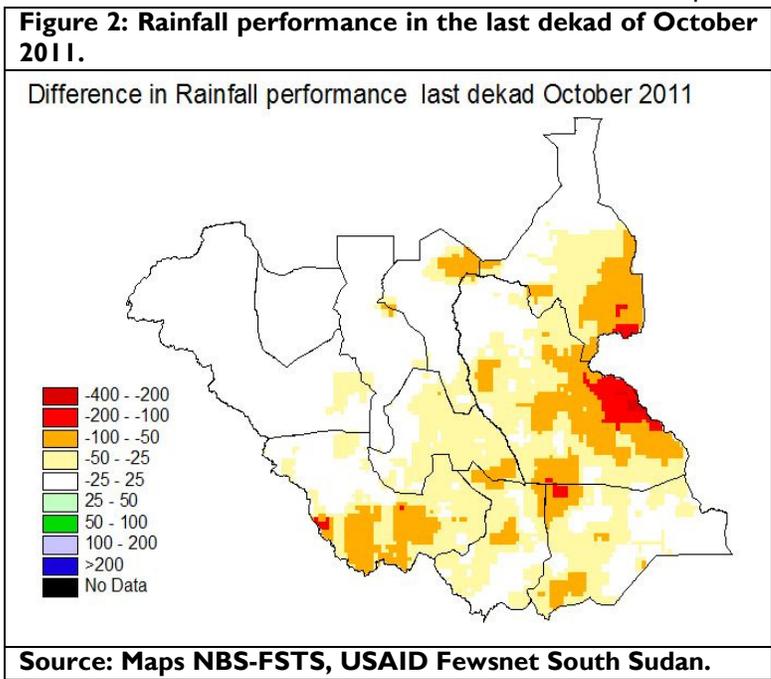
The preliminary findings of the joint FAO/WFP crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) which was conducted from 17th Oct-4th Nov 2011 indicated that food security situation in South Sudan is likely to worsen in 2012 with the expected below average cereals production for 2011 as compared to 2010 average cereals production at national level. The main States expected to be affected with the below average Crops harvest, according to CFSAM preliminary result, are NBEG, WBEG, Lakes, Unity, Warrap, Jonglei and Upper Nile. Meanwhile the Greater Equatoria Region shall have normal harvest as cited by the report.

The food security situation is likely to deteriorate after January 2012 due to the expected early depletion of food stocks. The trade restrictions between Sudan and South Sudan will also continue to constrain cross Border trade flow and heighten pressure on the staple food commodity and fuel prices hike.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE IN SOUTH SUDAN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2011

It is becoming an evident that the 2011 rain-fed agricultural season has come to an end. The low rainfall received across South Sudan during the last dekad of October and November depicted the withdrawal of rainfall. Exception of the western parts of the green belt and some pockets of Upper Nile State, the entire South Sudan did not receive any significant rainfall in the last Months of November and December observations.

The last dekad of October witnessed some rainfalls in northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap and northern parts of Upper Nile. However, in November most areas in South Sudan had started experiencing the end of rainy season. Satellite imagery indicates that Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap States have received more than 25mm while Jonglei, Central and Eastern Equatoria, Lakes and parts of Upper Nile State have received less than 20mm. This deficit in amount of rainfall is expected to affect harvest of sorghum (long maturing variety) in December and early January. Most parts of Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile have completed harvest although yields in some locations were considerably low. Some fields have completely failed especially in Eastern Equatoria, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Unity states where rainfall observed was poor.



NUTRITIONAL STATUS IN SOUTH SUDAN

In South Sudan malnutrition continues to threaten the lives of the children less than five years as reported by the nutrition partners in October, There were 5,459 children admitted between 6 and 59 months for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Since the beginning of the year, the Nutrition cluster members have provided support in the treatment of 54,562 children between 6-59 months for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), while 57,281 children between 6-59 months were also treated for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), in addition to 83,593 children who received BSF and 25,881 pregnant and lactating women also received BSF in 2011. This chronic situation of malnutrition is expected

Figure 3: Malnourish Child (Marasmus)



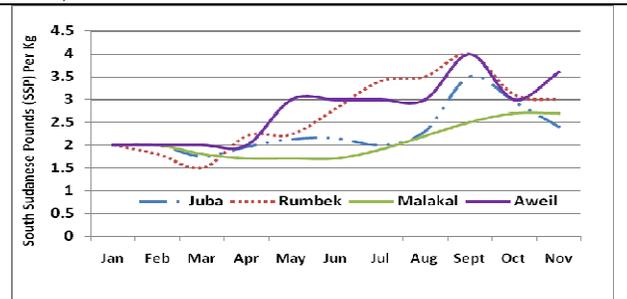
Source: Eastern Equatoria Report, pre-harvest Survey 2011

to deteriorate more in the nearest future given the fact that the existing food insecurity is expected also to continue, more influx of returnees, IDPs from the conflict affected areas. Both Government and NGOs should put more efforts to address the situation to avoid grave consequences.

MARKET PRICE TRENDS

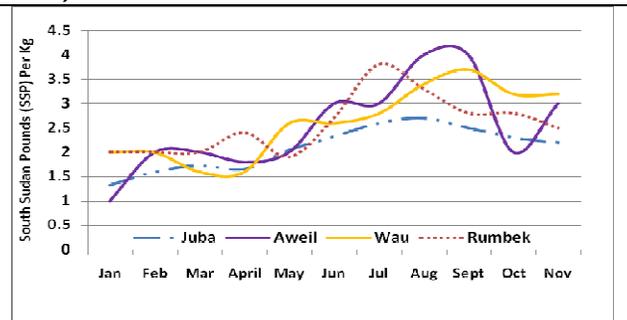
Market trends for cereal prices in major States markets of South Sudan have been very unstable since Jan-Nov 2011. Over the previous months, some States markets have registered persistent increases of cereal prices in the market. As it has been indicated in fig 4, in Aweil market a dramatic cereal price increase of 20% was experienced between Oct-Nov 2011. In the same period a significant decline of 55% cereal price was witnessed in Juba markets, whereas in Rumbek and malakal markets cereal prices remained relatively stable compared to the last two months. The notable decline of cereal prices in Juba market had been compounded by better cereal supply from the neighbouring east African Countries, harvest from the first and partly second season crop and better access route to Juba markets especially from the Greater Equatoria States that had good crop harvest.

Figure 4: Sorghum Price in Selected Markets (Jan-Nov 2011)



Similarly, market trend for maize in most States markets have increased as observed in Aweil market, where an increase of 50% was experienced during the previous months. While for the markets of Juba and Rumbek slight decline of 4% and 10% in maize prices were experienced between Oct-Nov 2011 respectively. Prices of maize in Wau market remained stable over the past few months.

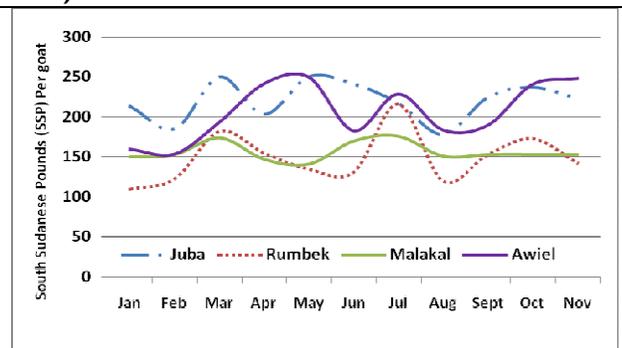
Figure 5: Maize Price in Selected Markets (Jan-Nov 2011)



Source: State Ministries of Agriculture/CLiMIS

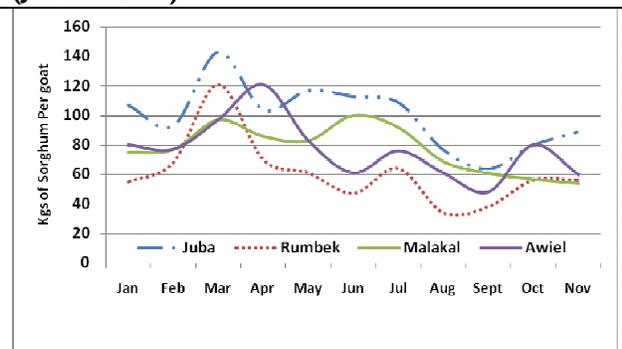
The increasing cereal prices are attributed to the prolonged hunger season due to the late start of cropping season this year, erratic rainfall, consecutive dry spells experienced in June-July 2011, delayed harvest from first season crop, poor roads condition, high fuel prices as a result of Sudan and South Sudan trade blockade since June 2011, influx of refugees from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, and militia activities in the Border areas of Sudan and South Sudan among others have constrained food accessibility and availability to both the returnees, IDPs and the host communities in general.

Figure 6: Goat Prices in Selected Markets (Jan-Nov 2011)



In the same period market trend for goat prices in the major markets of South Sudan remained unstable over the past months. As it has been shown in fig 6, there has been significant increase of 30% in goat prices in Aweil market between Oct-Nov 2011. However, high goat prices in Aweil market is as a result of few livestock supply in the market coupled with rising demand for meat from the returnees, IDPs and some refugees' population that cross from Sudan to South Sudan. On contrary, goat prices in Rumbek and Juba declined modestly in the last two months. While for Malakal goat prices remained stable with no significant change.

Figure 7: Goat to Sorghum TOT in Selected Markets (Jan-Nov 2011)



Source: State Ministries of Agriculture/Climis

The significant decline observed in Juba and Rumbek markets attributed to high supply of goats in the markets, scarcity and high cereal prices in the markets where livestock keepers have no option but only subjected to sell more goats to acquire cereal from the markets to meet their food requirements. In the previous months as it has been indicated in fig 7, goat to sorghum term of trade had mixed trend all over the States. In Juba goat to sorghum term of trade has shown significant increase in favour of the livestock owners, while the term of trade in Malakal and Aweil markets declined dramatically that affected the livestock keepers' capacity in terms of acquiring the quantity of sorghum that they could receive by selling a goat at a time. As for Rumbek market, goat to

sorghum term of trade remained relatively stable in the last few months.

FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS BY STATE

CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

The food security situation in the State is relatively stable following first season and part of second season crop harvest, especially in the Counties of Lainya, Yei, Morobo, Kajokeji, and some parts of Juba that have observed significant improvement in the last two months. The general food security situation is expected to be better with the normal crops harvest anticipated from second season, mainly the long cycle sorghum and the root tubers that will be harvested in late Dec-Jan 2012. Cereal prices in food basket Counties started declining very significantly from Nov-Dec 2011 with the increase of cereal supply in the local markets. However, situation in Terekeka County and Lokiliri Payam is different among other areas as their food security situation was greatly impacted by the late and erratic rainfall that affected crop harvest. Fishing activities are taking place in Terekeka and Juba Counties but not much scores attained since the flocks are mostly using the traditional tools and methods of fishing. Nevertheless it has significant contribution to food security situation of poor and vulnerable households

who are involved in fishing. Livestock body condition is good with the plenty of pasture and no diseases outbreak reported.

EASTERN EQUATORIA STATE

The food security situation in the State has improved markedly as of Nov-Dec 2011 with the high cereal supply in the local markets from food surplus areas.

The Counties of Magwi, Budi, Ikotos, Lafon/Lopa, Torit, parts of Kapoeta East, have relatively performed better in terms of food production that have impacted positively on food security situation of the households in the State. However, Kapoeta North, Kapoeta South and the part of Koapoeta East were negatively affected by dry spells and the erratic rainfall. Over the last two months, the State market has witnessed dramatic decline in cereal prices and this is expected to have positive influence of food accessibility by the poor, vulnerable and the urban households who largely depend on market for their food needs (Climis). Fishing activities are taking place along the Nile in Nimule and Pageri Payam, although with little significance to food security improvement. Livestock productivity is good with the plentiful of pasture and water that led to availability of meat and milk, hence improved proteins dietary intake of the pastoral households. No serious livestock diseases reported during this period. Coping mechanisms of food insecure households include charcoal burning, sale of labour, brewing, and petty business.

NORTHERN BAHR EI GHAZAL STATE

Northern Bahr el Ghazal State is one of the States reported to be in food stressed area in the new nation of South Sudan and is likely to experience the hunger

period as early as in the beginning of next year 2012. This is due to the expected below average production of this year crop harvest as a result of erratic rainfalls, coupled with the high food prices in the markets as a result of low supply due to the existing trade restriction with Sudan constraining the flow of grains. This situation may impact negatively on the lives and livelihoods of the communities especially the poor households in the State. In response to the food shortage in the state, most poor households will likely resort to dependence on wild and less preferred foods (wild fruits and leaves, water lilies) and sell of assets such as livestock among others to cope with the distress. Despite the food shortage in the state, livestock body condition remains stable and good due to the abundant pasture and water as a result of good rainfalls towards the end of the season. Markets prices for most of the food commodities are very high compare to last year the same time of about 20% increase and affordability is questionable to poor households. The UN Agencies and NGOs operating in the state continued with their support to returnees and IDPs, In Aweil town, food was distributed to over 1,600 returnees during the end of November to support the returnees on transit and those who will remain in Aweil.

WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE

Generally food security situation in the State is stable, following good crop harvest from first and partly second season's crop production. As coupled with the

improvement in rainfall in the second cropping season, a better harvest is expected that could impact on the availability of food in the State and surplus to other deficit areas in South Sudan. Cereal prices have drastically dropped in the State local markets over the past few months that had contributed to accessibility of food by many peri-urban and the urban households who mainly rely on market to meet their food demand. Livestock productivity and body condition is good with availability of pasture and water. No significant livestock diseases reported. Coping mechanisms employed by food insecure households includes charcoal burning, brewing, sale of aggregates and labour.

WARRAP STATE

Generally the food security situation in Warrap State during this period has slightly improved with the harvest of some crops by most of the farming communities,

though reports reflected that the harvest yield this year is below average and may not last long to cover the hunger period from March –August. The hunger gap is expected to begin as early as January according to the reports of the food security and livelihood partners, hence putting the communities to apply distressful coping mechanisms at the beginning to the middle of next year cropping season. The prices for most of the food commodities in the state main market remains high while the livestock prices has decreased as observed by the herders. As a result of abundance of pasture and water, the livestock body condition was good and healthy. MSF reported that there is an increase in the malnutrition rate among children in the State and remains a concern as

the population is increasing with the continuous influx of returnees and IDPs from Abyei area, this situation is expected to worsen with the already existing instability in the food security situation.

UNITY STATE

Tension around the border areas are reported to remain high due to aerial bombardment at the Yida Refugees' site from 7-10 November. The site according to UN Refugee agency (UNHCR) hosts 23,000 people displaced from ongoing fighting in the South Kordofan (UNOCHA South Sudan 11-17 November 2011). Similar report also indicates recurrence of militia activities in Mayom County with attack on 29 October despite restricted access due to the threat of landmines. Coupled with the returnees, all these factors will affect the access and availability of food to the population hence jeopardising the food security situation. Food commodity prices continue to skyrocketing due to reduction of supply to markets caused by the ongoing tension and trade blockade between Sudan and South Sudan. The harvest this year was reported to be below normal compared to last year though food is available now at the time of harvest. It may not be sustainable until next year. It is reported that 70% of the population have returned to Mayom and that 30% of the displaced children were malnourished. An inter-agency assessment on 13th November reported the urgent need for food and water following the attack on refugee site. Humanitarian partners continue to mobilise relief for Refugees, UN demining team successfully detonated unexploded ordnance that remained at the location following the attack. Nutrition partners are working with County healthy facility to open outpatient therapeutic programmes to treat malnutrition.

UPPER NILE STATE

Huge influx of Refugees estimated between 10,000 and 15,000, returnees, militia activities and IDPs is the major driving factors of food insecurity, this has been due to ongoing fighting in Blue Nile State, recent bombing of the border areas and the succession of South Sudan from Sudan which has prompted displacements of the population. Recent reports of UNOCHA indicate that most of the Refugees were arriving in Maban County. The Food security monitoring system results also indicated deteriorated food security situation. Coupled with incidences of insecurity for the last three months, the interagency assessment revealed that food availability in the ware house (189 MT) was prioritized for the Refugees, though returnees and IDPs were equally in a vulnerable situation, only that they had been integrated into the community and were sharing from the food stocks that the hosts have. There is also need to replenish food stock in Maban County as currently the ongoing humanitarian response is food distribution for the registered Refugees.

WESTERN BAHR EI GHAZAL STATE

Following the harvest of most crops planted during the season, the food security situations have been improved with most households having their own production to support their food needs during this reporting period. Food commodities in the local markets were affordable to the local population due to the recent harvest; however the situation may likely be changed in the coming months as the state faced some challenges of increase in the population of returnees and IDPs, low production for the season and trade constraint with Sudan for flow of goods to the State. This might have a negative impact on the market supply and the stock more especially affecting the poor households' ability to access food. Humanitarian agencies continuous to distribute food items to IDPs and the returnees in Wau town, while malnutrition among children under five years has been reported to be at increase in the IDPs camps, posing serious threat to the nutrition and health situation of the children with the expected deterioration in the food security situation in the whole state.

LAKES STATE

Erratic and below average rainfall performance compared to last year has led to below average harvest. The harvest of short term sorghum has improved the food security situation though may not last for long. Based on food security outlook of fewsnets South Sudan, poor households in Gogrial and Twic Counties will be more affected hence the need for increased reliance on better-off kin and increased movement to fishing areas for more fish, water lily plants and other wild foods. The outlook further clarified that the asset poor households, returnees, and the IDP population from Abyei were projected to continue to experience significant food consumption gaps especially in Twic County, where the displaced from Abyei over 42,000 equivalent to 20 percent of the total Twic population. Most displaced populations rely on food aid and others share with the host community of which is not sustainable.

JONGLEI STATE

Factors that affects food security situation include militia activities causing population displacements, flash floods especially in Fangak County, inter communal violence, increasing disease cases of TB, malaria and

Kalaza-ar coupled with the 20,149 returnees that came from Khartoum as of 15 November since October 2011. This has deteriorated the food security situation especially the agricultural activities. Based on an inter agency assessment report conducted in November, a hunger food gap is expected to start from December 2011 especially for the patients and vulnerable/displaced households. Some of the coping mechanisms identified include depending on wild fruits, sharing food with host communities, fishing near swamps and rivers which need to be sustained especially when the swamps dry and majority lack fishing tools. Construction of dykes to protect houses from flood water, UN WFP reported to have provided partial rations of food to some 21,600 displaced in Uror County and Lutheran World Federation distributed fishing equipment and seeds to 1,000 households of IDPs from Pigi who were also affected by floods. The government is reported to organize civilian disarmament exercise planned for December 2011. The report recommended the need to support the vulnerable individuals with fishing equipments and seeds to resume livelihood activities as soon as possible especially those who live near the river/swamps.