



South Sudan Food Security Update



Volume: 020

Month: May-June 2012

Release Date: 2nd July 2012

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights:

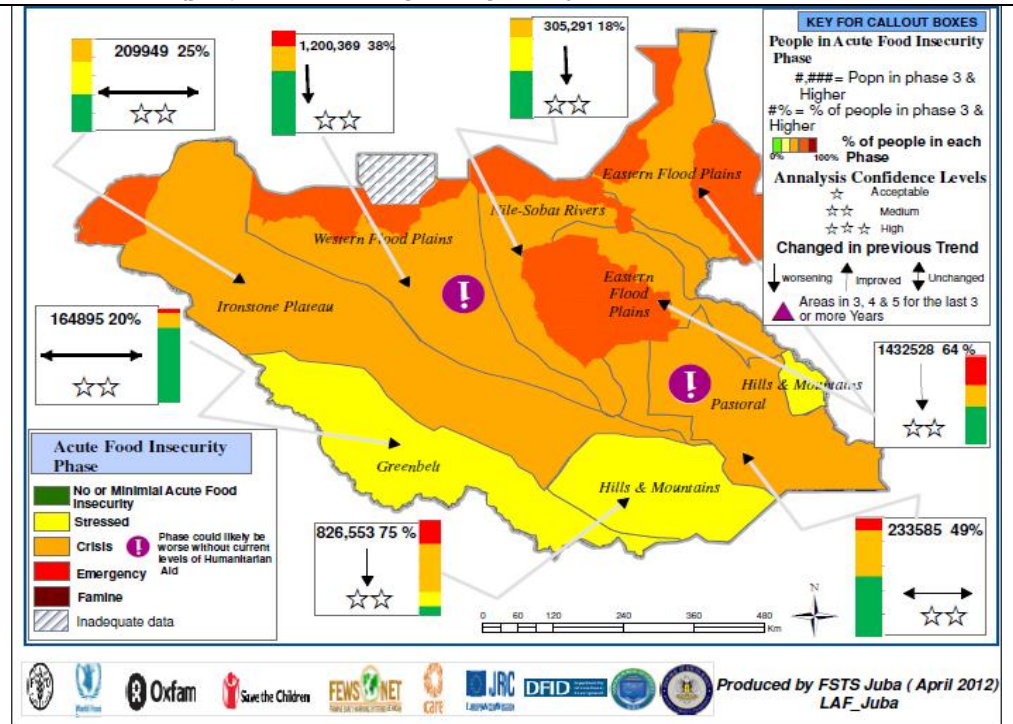
- Conflict at the border between South and north Sudan is likely to affect agricultural activities.
- Humanitarian intervention is urgently needed to settle the high number of returnees, refugees and IDPs in South Sudan.
- Households still faced food shortage as high food prices continued in all the States.
- Land preparation and cultivation activity is ongoing as seasonal rainfall commenced in April.....

FOOD SECURITY OUTLOOK

Food security and livelihood situation is worsening in many parts of South Sudan. Integrated phase classification

(IPC) analysis for April to July 2012 indicates that most of the populations in the Nile Sobat or eastern (Upper Nile and parts of Jonglei) and western Flood plains (Unity, Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal) and parts of pastoral areas of Eastern Equatoria State) are food insecure. However, food security situation in Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei and Northern Bahr el Ghazal States are deteriorating, as such in these States the households are in a category of emergency phase/level which needs humanitarian intervention (Figure 1). Nevertheless, potential of food insecurity map under stress level or phase is around the Ironstone plateau (Western Bahr el Ghazal and southwestern part of Lakes State), Green belt (western and western part of Central Equatoria State) and Hills and Mountains (Central Equatoria).

Figure 1: Shows Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Map for South Sudan (projected from April-July 2012).



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

Green belt (western and western part of Central Equatoria State) and Hills and Mountains (Central Equatoria).

Produced by the Food Security Technical Secretariat of RSS.

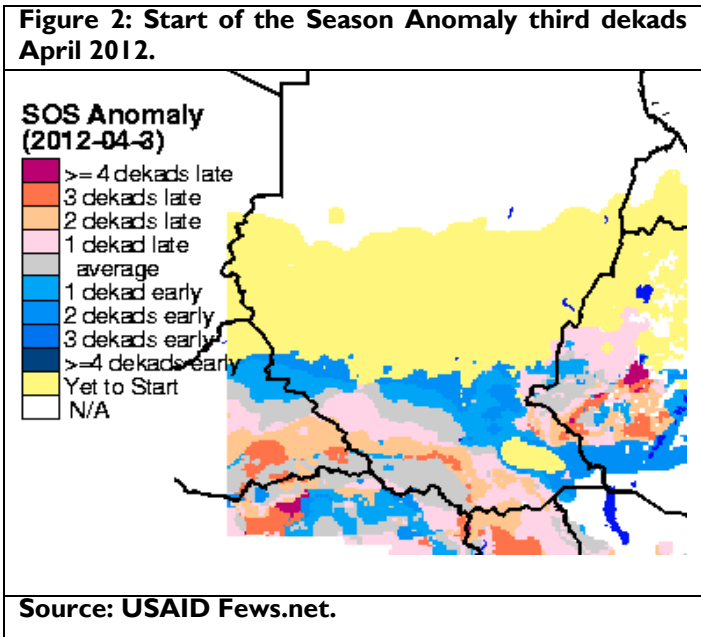
Collaborating Government of South Sudan Institutions

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
2. Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries
3. Ministry of Health.
4. South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics.
5. South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

The livelihood analysis forum (LAF) convened in April 2012 has used IPC map as an apparatus to gauge projected food security situation in the Country. The forum has also mapped and discussed the main reasons or food insecurity drivers in the States and these include the border conflict between north Sudan and South Sudan, inter-communal violent and influx of returnees, IDPs and enormous number of refugees received from Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan in the last three months. Most of the returnees and IDPs settled in the States capitals had amplified market prices of food commodity in the market. The high demand for food coupled with low supply due to constrained trade between North and South Sudan, depreciation of South Sudanese pounds (SSP) and fuel shortage are causing constant rise in commodity prices.

South Sudan Start of the Season Anomaly April 2012

The onset of seasonal rainfall in South Sudan has been in mixed trend. Generally rainfall has started in Greater Equatoria and most parts of Western Bar El Ghazal, Lakes and Warrap. However, States like Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile had received some showers in the last dekad of April and first dekad of May yet the dry period is still enduring with high temperature being reported in the States bordering north Sudan. Nevertheless, the analysis of rainfall onset anomaly indicates that the early onset of rainfall range between 1 to 2 dekads while late onset had delayed by 2 to 3 dekads in some areas. However, the onset of rainfall in South Sudan has generally been average, and delay of rainfall varies significantly across the Country. For instance, most areas in eastern and northern parts of South Sudan observed early onset even though the number of the dekads differ from one location to another except Pibor and parts of Kapoeta Counties where seasonal rainfall is yet to start. Rainfall is expected to commence soon and improve the on-going land preparation.



MARKET TRENDS

In most cases, market prices monitoring is a good indicator for assessing food availability and households' ability to access food. As a result, sorghum, maize and livestock market prices are the main food commodities being monitored in the markets of South Sudan. These food items are however used widely by households across the Country. The cereal market prices in most parts of South Sudan like sorghum and maize started to rise during the last four months (February, March, April and May) of 2012 in Wau and Bor markets. In Rumbek the price of sorghum started to rise from the month of February 2012 and continued to May (Figure 4). For instance, average price of sorghum in Wau increased by 63% and Torit 53% between March and May 2012 (Figure 4). The price increase observed in Wau, Torit and Bor markets between March and May was attributed by the scarcity of sorghum in the markets.

Similarly, average price of maize in Torit market has increased by 83% in the last three months as compared to the previous months (Figure 5). In general the major reasons for high prices of cereal food stuffs between March and May 2012 are: 1) declining of household food stock as the hunger season commences, 2) increase of fuel prices which drives the prices of imported food items, 3) inflation or devaluation of South Sudan pounds (SSP) – occasioned by high exchange rate, 4) increased demand for food as a result of massive influx of returnees from North Sudan, IDPs and refugees from Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan due to the ongoing conflict at the borderline. It is also important to note that the increases of maize prices in Torit and Rumbek was due to 2011 poor harvest, high prices, devaluation of SSP verse dollars and taxes

Figure 4: Sorghum Price in Selected Markets (Nov-May 2012)

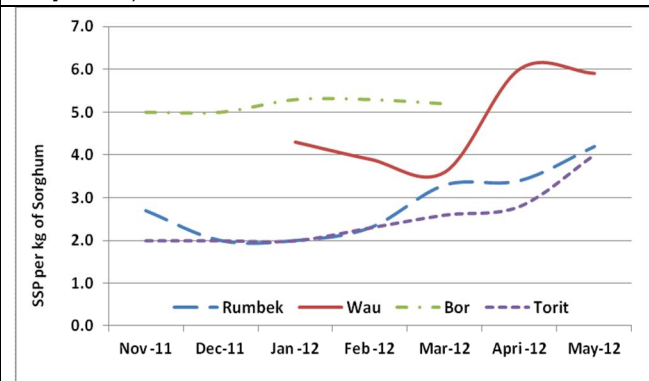
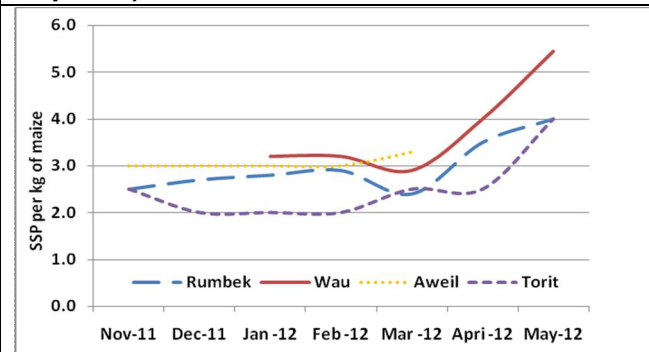
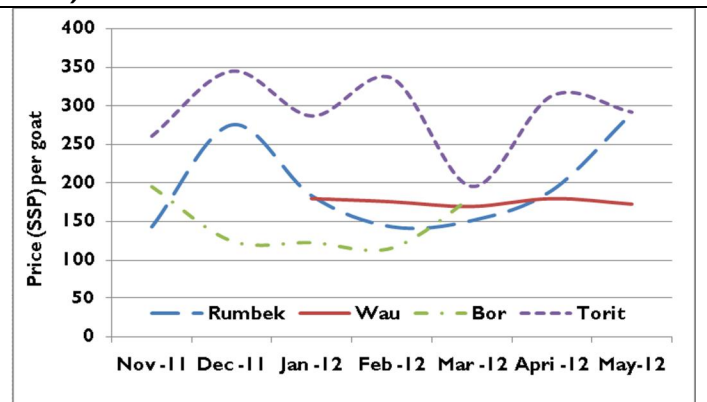


Figure 5: Maize Price in Selected Markets (Nov-May 2012)



Source: State Ministries of Agriculture/CLiMIS

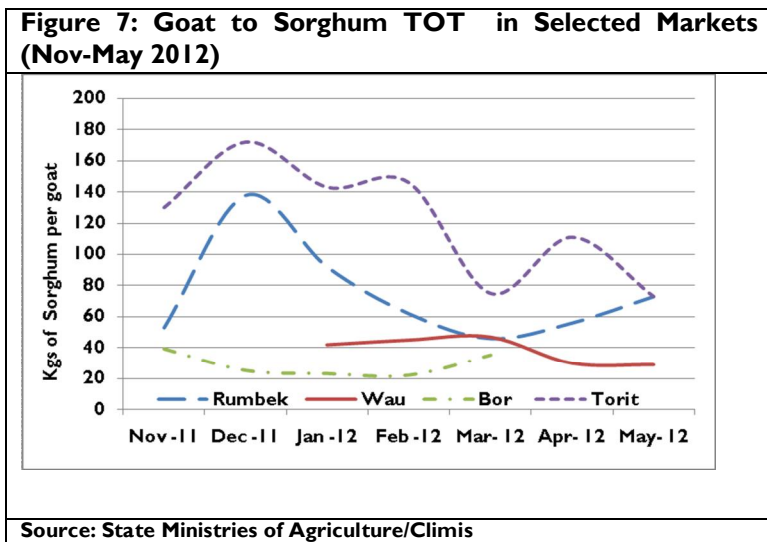
Figure 6: Goat Price in Selected Markets (Nov-May 2012)



Source: State Ministries of Agriculture/CLiMIS

at the border. In addition, depletion of households' food stocks has significantly augmented the demand for food and increases the prices of available food commodities. As a result, selling households assets like livestock has started as the hunger season commenced. However, market prices of livestock especially goat remains stable in Wau market as compared to Rumbek where average goat price has increased by 95% between March and May while average price of goat in Torit increased by 49% as from April 2012 while slight change of goats' price of about 2% has been reported in Western Bahr el Ghazal, Wau markets. This high price of goats in Rumbek and Torit markets was attributed by

inadequate supply of livestock in the markets since most of the cattle keepers have moved their herds to pasture and water points far from homestead areas.



In terms of trade (ToT), trading goats with sorghum in Rumbek had drastically increased from March-May 2012 in favour of the livestock suppliers and this has improved food security situation of most pastoral households. In Wau, however, the terms of trade for livestock especially goats had declined in the last two months in favour of the cereal owners. While in Torit market, goat trading with cereal has tremendously increased and this has impacted positively to food security situation of the livestock owners.

FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS BY STATE

CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

Food security situation in the State has deteriorated over the last two months following sudden increases of food commodity in Juba that triggered by high demand

dollars exchange rate and fuel shortage. Frequent strike of foreign traders at South Sudan-Uganda border of being mistreated by South Sudan custom officers has also limited the availability of certain food items in the markets. Except Juba County where most of the households used to market fluctuation, sudden increases of market price became a shock to many households. Areas like Gemeiza, Mangala, Terekeka and Lokiliri were reported to be more food insecure compared to other areas in the state. This situation becomes worse after more than 6,500 returnees were flown from Khartoum and temporarily settled in Juba waiting to be taken to their respective counties or payams. Seasonal rainfall has commenced and farmers started planting the first season crops however rainfall distribution and intensity has been poorer as season progress. Pasture conditions have improved and crops have been reported to be at various development stages. Some coping mechanisms exploited during this reporting period were selling charcoal, reduction in number of meals and petty business.

EASTERN EQUATORIA STATE

Based on IPC map analysis (Figure 1), food security situation is moderate and expected to decline as hunger gap is about to commence. Although farmers have started

cultivating crops and vegetables which are expected to mature early in July, households' food intake has diminished due to high market price occasioned by insufficient supply of food commodity especially cereal grain in the market. Devaluation of South Sudan Pounds (SSP) and fuel shortage have also affect the prices of both food and non-food items. Rainfall had started and the seasonal rainfall onset was reported to have been late for about two weeks in most parts of Eastern Equatoria (Figure 2). Following the commencement of rainfall, farmers have cultivated various crops and these include groundnuts, maize and millet. No livestock diseases outbreak reported during this period but National and State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries in collaboration with FAO of the United Nations (UN) started initiative to immunize all the livestock in July 2012. This initiative is likely to improve productivity of livestock and food security situation of pastoral households. Coping mechanism employed by food insecure households include charcoal burning, local brewing, petty business and reducing number of meals.

NORTHERN BAHR EI GHAZAL STATE

In Northern Bahr el Ghazal state, food security situation is deteriorating and all coping strategies are in use. The food insecurity in the state is triggered by deficit of cereal production in 2011, blockade of cross-border trade and massive number of returnees, IDPs and refugee received in the last three months. Prices of basic food commodity remain high as supply of food could not meet the demand for food in the state. The most affected groups by this situation are the poor households especially the vulnerable groups (women, children and elderly), IDPs and the returning population from Sudan. Most people in the communities tend to depend or rely on the wild foods (leaves and fruits), petty trade, charcoal burning and sell of Livestock to obtain food for their families. Livestock condition is reported to be poor due to inadequate pasture and water availability. Rains have started and pastures and vegetations conditions are expected to improve.

WARRAP STATE

Following the cross-border trade ban between Sudan and South Sudan, the state is experiencing severe shortage of essential food items. The situation is further worsening by the continuous influx of returnees and refugees as a result of the ongoing conflict at the border. High market prices of basic food commodities in Kwajok markets has extremely affect the livelihood and food security situation as households have already exhausted household assets. Intervention of national government and partners to rescue the vulnerable groups is expected. Nutrition status for children and lactating mothers has been reported to be degenerating.

UNITY STATE

Counties like Abiemnom and Pariang seriously hit by frequent clashes as the result of border dispute between South Sudan (SPLA) and Sudan army forces (SAF). Mayiandit and part of Mayom County have also been affected by inter-communal conflict which is related to cattle raiding. In these areas, the ongoing insecurity which led to massive displacement of farmers from their homestead is likely to affect farm activities and 2012 agricultural production. Humanitarian agencies have responded but the intervention has been overwhelmed by huge numbers of refugees and returnees from Southern Kordofan and Khartoum. Nutrition status for children and other vulnerable groups (lactating mothers and elderly people) deteriorated and expected to worsen since lack of clean water and medical facilities are limited. MSF is expected while other agencies were reported to have been treating malnourish children. In most parts of the state, rainfall has started and land preparation and cultivation of some cereals and vegetable crops are ongoing. The amount of rains received has supported the development of vegetation and pasture conditions have significantly improved. This has positively impacted to milk and livestock production and livelihood and food security situation of the pastoralists.

LAKES STATE

Rainfall has started but intensity and distribution was reported poor and unreliable in most parts of the state. However, farmers have completed land preparation and started cultivating drought escaping crops (early maturing varieties). Price of food stuffs remains high in Rumbek market. Since, stocks have diminished, most of the households rely on market and is likely to affect food security situation of vulnerable groups given high market prices of available food commodities. Fishing activities at Tonj has intensified as an alternative livelihood while selling livestock, wild food and charcoal burning have also started.

UPPER NILE STATE

The state have been receiving a huge numbers of refugees and returnees over the last three months. Recent clashes at the border and the ongoing fighting in Blue Nile state has also escalated the situation. Prices of food commodities has increased despite governor decree issued in May 2012 to standardize the prices of food commodity. According to this official order, a bag of sorghum(100kg) should be sold out for 300 South Sudan Pounds (SSP). Report also indicates that the governor decree has however affected the market function in the state. The traders in Upper Nile state started closing their warehouses and goods become more scare across the state following the order.

As a result, price of available food item in the market is increasing. Seasonal rainfall began but erratic and planting in some areas has started where rainfall seems to be improving.

WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE

As compared to the rest of the states of South Sudan, food security in Western Equatoria is a bit better and the food insecure population is moderate (Figure 1). Rainfall has begun and farmers have planted the first season crops. The crops cultivated include maize, groundnuts, cowpeas, millets and vegetables. Report indicates that crops are at various vegetative phases. Livestock conditions have improved following the moisture received which has rejuvenated the growth and development of pastures. The food insecure households started exploiting some coping mechanisms to adopt with the situation. The coping strategies used include brewing, charcoal burning, and petty business (tea making).

WESTERN BAHR EI GHAZAL STATE

Western Bahr el Ghazal witnessed enormous number of IDPs and returnees from Khartoum and neighbouring states. As a result, the food insecurity situation is likely to continue. Market prices remain high since most of the basic commodities are being smuggled from Khartoum. Food stuffs from Uganda via Juba are extremely expensive given the high transport cost, high fuel price and duty tax collected from the traders by national and states authorities. Seasonal rainfall has commenced and farmers in most parts of Raja and Jur River County have started planting maize, millet, cassava, groundnuts and sweet potatoes. Households started exploiting coping strategies option such as selling grass, teak poles, timbers, charcoal and livestock to generate income.

JONGLEI STATE

Tension related to inter communal violence has jeopardised the food security situation in the affected areas. Food security situation has declined because the properties and assets of the internal displaced persons (IDPs) were destroyed. Report indicates that the humanitarian situation of the IDPs in Fangak County is worrying since people tend to depend on market and goods in the market are scare and price for the available food items is expensive. Pastoralists started returning home from grazing and water areas to resume agricultural activities as rainy season began. Seasonal rains have commenced and land preparation and planted is ongoing.