

## Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

**Sudan**

February 2010

### Key Messages

- **Sorghum prices start to decline after registering record levels, while wheat prices have increased.**
- **Security remains a real concern: conflict continues to displace people and seriously affects food security especially in Southern Sudan.**
- **An estimated 5.9 million people require food assistance and different agencies agree there is a serious hunger problem.**
- **Although the government, in collaboration with UN agencies, is committed to enhance food security, communities still experience food shortages due to persistent conflict.**

### Background

The total population in Sudan was 41.34 million in 2008, with an annual growth rate of 2%. About 21% of the population was estimated to be undernourished.

Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population - 2008 (WB)	41347723
Population growth rate - 2008 (WB)	2%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2008 (WB)	1930
Population below 1\$ PPP per day	n.a.
Rural population - 2007 (WB)	57%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2008 (WB)	25%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005 (FAO)	21%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2005 (FAO)	49%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2005 (FAO)	5%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2006 (WHO)	35%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2006 (WHO)	60
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2006 (WHO)	70%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2005 (WHO)	1%

### Prices

**Cereals:** In the main markets, wholesale prices of sorghum have stabilized around high levels during the last quarter of 2009. However, since December, sorghum prices started to decline with the arrival of the new production. In Khartoum, prices declined from 1.39 SDG/Kg in Nov to 1.26 SDG/Kg in Dec/Jan. In January, prices were at 1.14 SDG/Kg compared to 1.22 SDG/Kg in October in Al Damazin markets. In December, sorghum domestic prices were at 544.94 USD/Ton compared to international prices (177.43 USD/Ton) of US Sorghum No2 Yellow, USA Gulf. (207% higher).

**Livestock:** Livestock prices have declined, while grain prices remain very high even during the harvest season, deteriorating pastoralists' purchasing power.

### Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

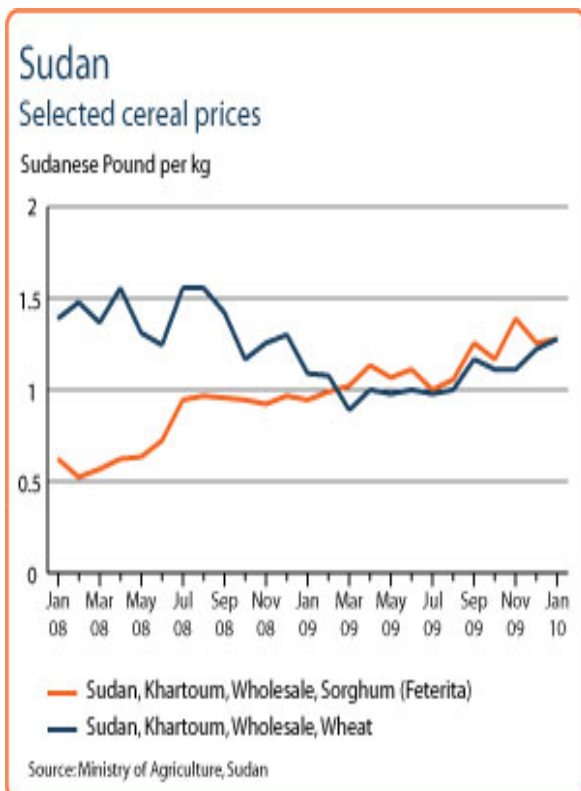
Food security is dramatically affected by an increase in civil insecurity, with unprecedented levels of cattle raiding, escalating inter-tribal conflicts and occasional incursions by the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army rebel group in Southern Sudan. It is reported that the surge in ethnic violence in 2009 forced 350,000 people to flee their homes. The continued conflict in Darfur has also raised serious concern for millions of vulnerable people faced already with dire situations.

Refugees and IDPs	2006	2007	2008
Total in the country	1622222	1695573	1499683
Total outside the country	2124513	2007976	1749536

Source: [UNHCR](#) Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 22/10/2009.

Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
Flood	2009-08-16	Khartoum	2/3
No Earthquakes	-	-	-

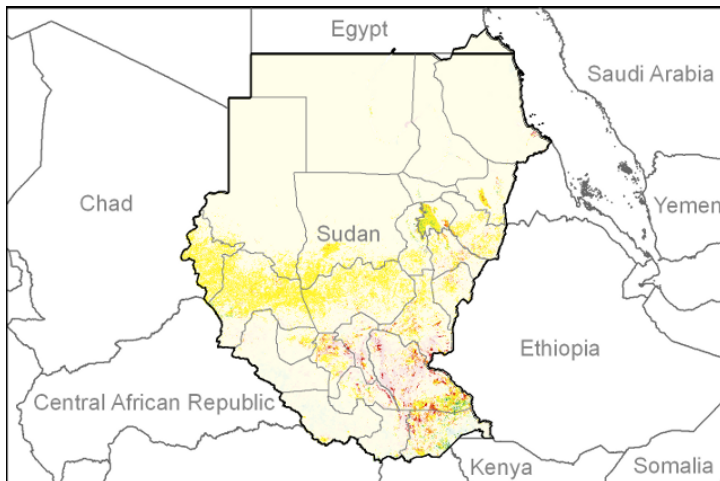
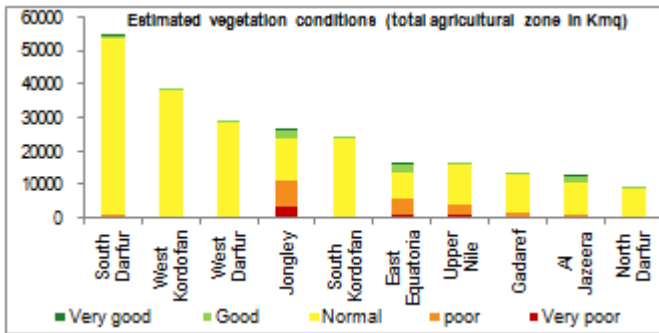
Source: [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#) - 3 = 1000 or more people killed or 80000 or more people displaced. 2 = 100 or more people killed or 80000 or more displaced.



Source: [GIEWS Country Briefs](#)

**Vegetation Condition**

At the start of the dry season, normal vegetation conditions are observed for the major part of the country. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for January 2010 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER land cover database (2005).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

**Food Security Situation**

In Southern Sudan, up to 1.3 million people are estimated to be food insecure. Overall, an estimated 5.9 million people are currently in need of food assistance. According to GIEWS there is severe localized food insecurity in the short term; WFP and IFPRI describe hunger as moderately high and serious in the long term.

**CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESMENT**



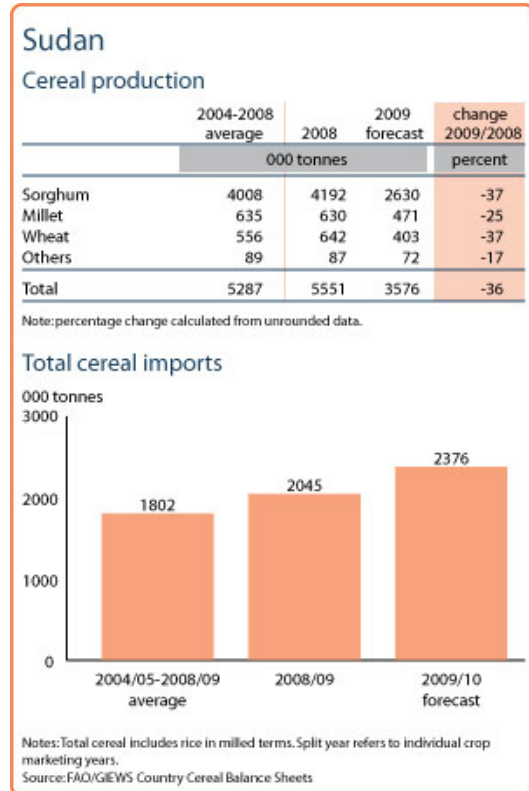
Food insecurity is showing signs of improvement as the consumption of green crops has been reported, signaling the arrival of the long delayed harvest of early maturing crops. The main harvest is likely from the end of [more](#)

**SCALE OF HUNGER**



**Food Balance Sheet**

An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission, which visited Southern Sudan at harvesting time in mid-Dec, assessed 2009 cereal production at 660,000 tonnes, approximately 38% below last year's good output. Southern Sudan is particularly experiencing food shortages due to widespread drought. Overall, aggregate 2009 cereal production was estimated at 3.6 million tonnes with import requirements at 2.4 million tonnes in the 2009/10 marketing year.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

**Government Policies**

There is an urgent appeal to the government to scale down conflicts in order to encourage agricultural production for the coming season. In the meantime WFP is providing food assistance to more than 3 million.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	n.a.
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	n.a.

Different sources

**Current events to watch** (Click to see the full report)

- [SUDAN: Fighting In Darfur Raises Concerns for IDPs](#)
- [In-Brief: Bid to wipe out polio virus in Sudan](#)
- [SUDAN: Elections in a volatile climate](#)
- [SUDAN: Final push to eradicate Guinea worm](#)
- [SUDAN: UXO threat to development, elections](#)

For more information, contact: [Information-for-action@fao.org](mailto:Information-for-action@fao.org)  
Website: [www.foodsec.org](http://www.foodsec.org)

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