Eastern and Southern Sudan
Food Security Monitoring, May 2017

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vam
food security analysis
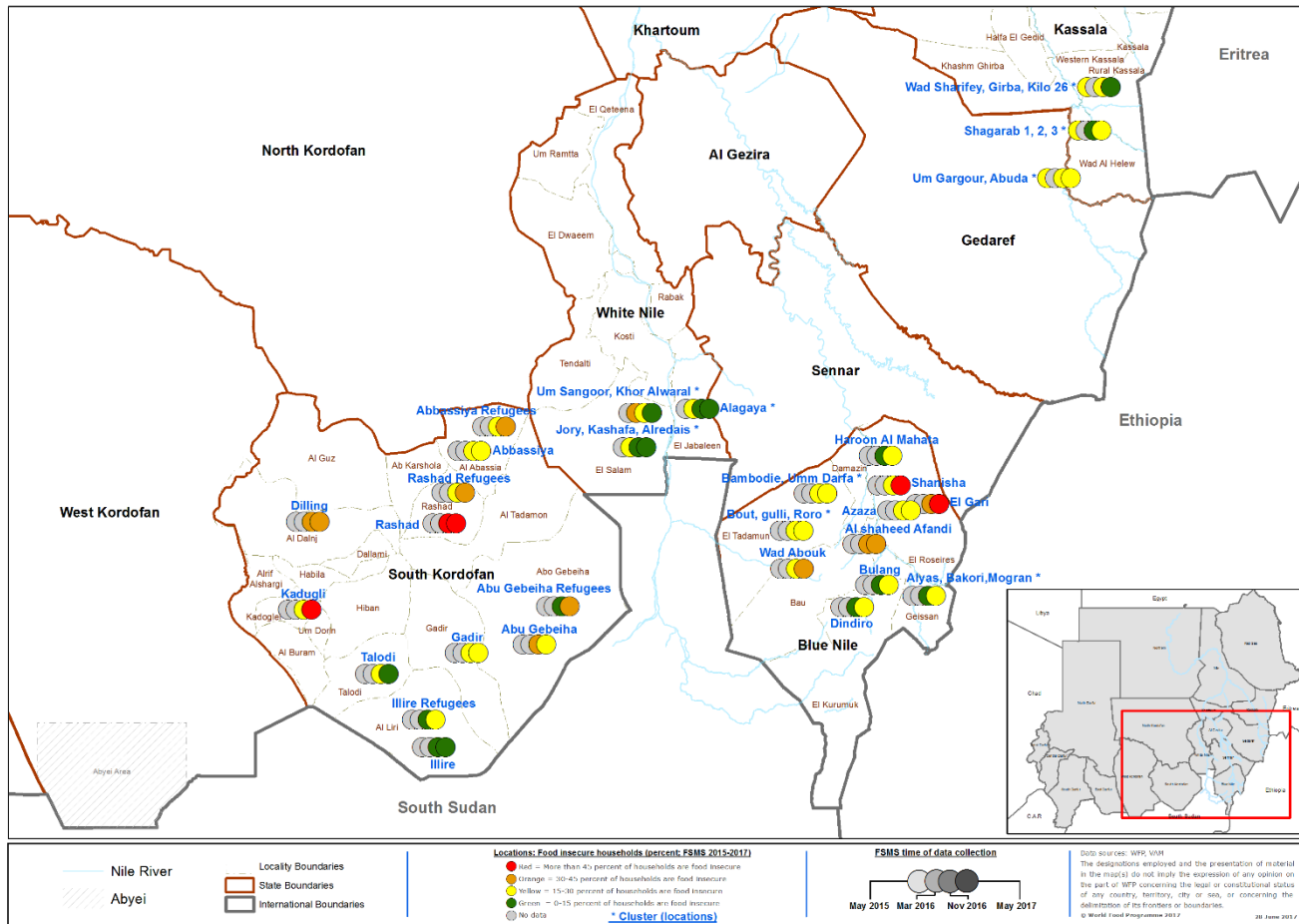
30 %
of surveyed IDPS and refugees were food insecure in Eastern and Southern Sudan

15 %
of South Sudanese Refugees in White Nile, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile were food insecure

500,000
IDPs and refugees in surveyed locations

(6,000 households interviewed)

HIGHLIGHTS

In the aggregate, the prevalence of food security[1] among displaced populations in Eastern and Southern Sudan remained largely unchanged from November 2016 to May 2017. The prevalence of food insecurity was 30 percent among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 15 percent among refugees. However, food security deteriorated in some specific populations, including South Sudanese refugees in South Kordofan and IDPs in Blue Nile state. The proportion of food insecure households were larger than 40 percent in El Gari and Shanisha in Blue Nile state and Kadugli and Rashad in South Kordofan (all IDP locations).

The good harvest season, and in some locations relatively stable food prices, contributed to improvements in some areas, while in other areas the influx of new refugees, insecurity, and above-average food and transport prices contributed to food insecurity.

The price of a local food basket in May 2017 was similar to the level of November 2016, indicating a moderate level of food inflation. However, substantial localized inflation occurred, especially in in Blue Nile state.

> The Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) analyses household information from IDP and refugee locations across Sudan. Thousands of household interviews are conducted, twice a year: at the start of the lean season in May and at the harvest season in November. The FSMS uses WFP's Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) approach and findings are statistically representative at the cluster level (groups of locations). See last two pages for details.

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[1] See the methodology section on the last page for a precise definition of the food security indicator employed by the FSMS.

In Blue Nile, food security among IDPs deteriorated from November 2016 to May 2017 in five of eleven clusters[2]: Alyas, Bakori, and Mogran; Bulang; Dindiro; El Gari; and Shanisha. The deterioration was expected, as the comparison was made between the harvest season (November 2016) and the lean season (March 2017), due to the absence of cluster-level data before November 2016. Limited purchasing power of household, resulting from continuous increases in commodity prices and transportation costs, also contributed to the deterioration. Livelihood opportunities in the above-mentioned clusters could have been negatively impacted by the in-flow of new arrivals in the last two years. The level of food insecurity in El Gari and Shanisha was among the highest in Eastern and Southern Sudan in this round of montioring.

Household food consumption (measured by the food consumption score[3]) improved or remained unchanged across the sampled clusters, except for Bulang in Kurmuk locality. The proportion of households with poor food consumption was above 10 percent in only two clusters: El Gari and Shanisha in Rosseris locality.

Sorghum prices in Blue Nile were volatile but presently considerably below the country average. The good harvest was the primary reason for the reduction in sorghum price. Nevertheless, the cost of a local food basket increased by thirty percentage points in almost all the clusters compared to November 2016, due to an increase in the price on non-cereal foods. The high cost of the local food baskets in Al shaheed Afandi and Wad Abouk in Bau locality, Bout, Gulli and Roro in Tadamon locality and Alyas, Bakori, and Mogran in Geissan locality was partly due to insecurity and restrictions on commodity movements.

Food insecurity

Poor food consumption

Price of local food basket

Sorghum price
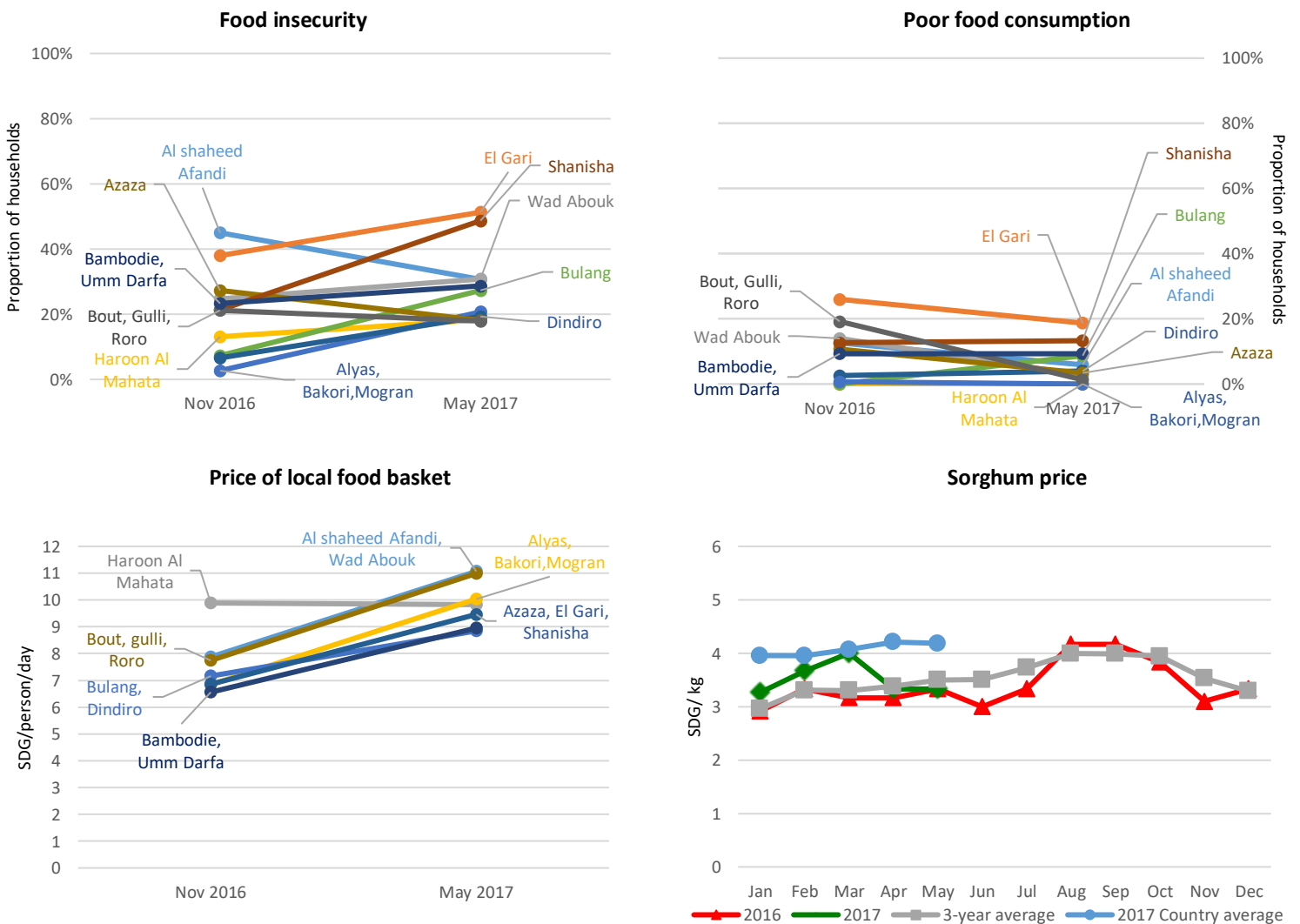
[2] See the methodology section on the last page for more information about how the clusters were defined.
[3] See the methodology section on the last page for more information about the food consumption score.

Food security remained at a relatively stable level in all three clusters in Kassala compared to November 2016. Nevertheless, about one fifth of interviewed households in Kassala state remained food insecure. The differences between the three clusters were small, although food insecurity was somewhat more prevalent in the Um Gargour and Abuda cluster. This is mainly attributed to relatively stable local food basket prices, and the above-average food supply from the previous season.

Household food consumption also followed a similar trend as the food security indicator. In May 2017, only seven percent of sampled households had poor consumption.

Sorghum prices in Kassala market kept below the county average and the three-year average, as a result of the good harvest of 2016/2017 agricultural season. The cost of the local food baskets slightly increased in two out of three clusters compared to November 2016, resulting from an increase in the price of non-cereal commodities and transport cost.
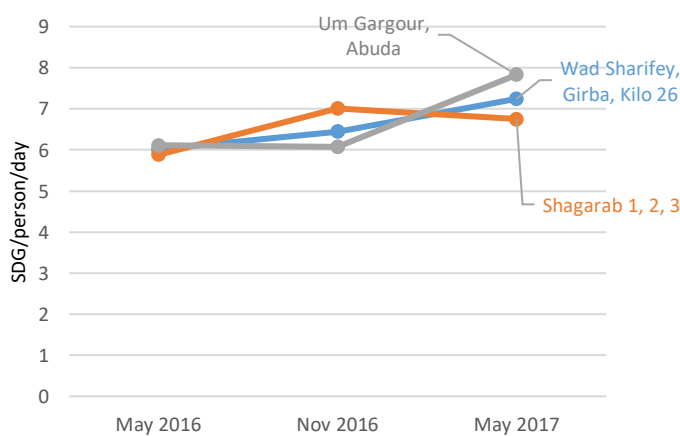
Food insecurity
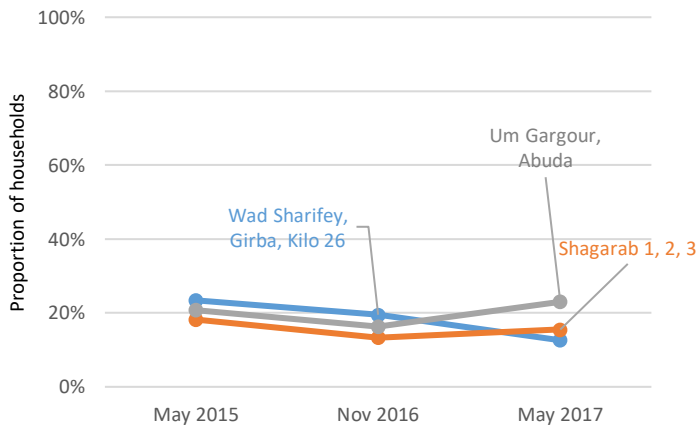
Poor food consumption
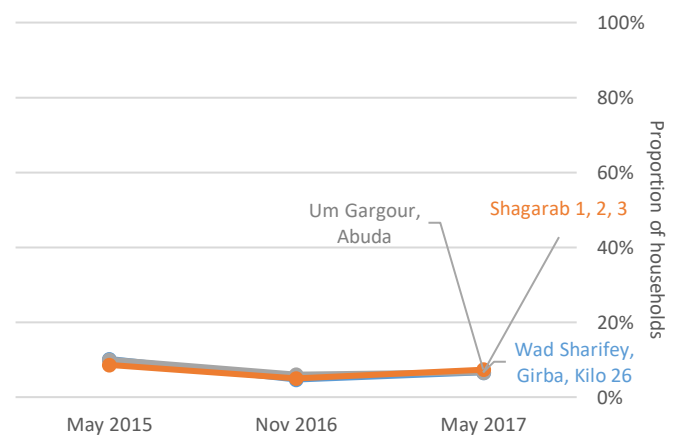
Price of local food basket

Sorghum price

In White Nile, food security significantly improved among sampled South Sudanese refugees compared to March 2016. The food security improvement was substantial, with the proportion of food insecure households decreasing from 26 percent to 5 percent. In particular, the food security of sampled South Sudanese refugees in Um Sangoor and Khor Alwaral cluster improved with 29 percentage points. Household food consumption also improved over the same period, despite the onset of the lean season, in particular in the Um Sangoor and Khor Alwaral clusters where the proportion of households with poor food consumption dropped from 39 percent in March 2016 to 5 percent in May 2017. The improvement could also have been partly a result of stable sorghum price and improved coverage of food and multi-sectoral assistance to the refugees in the camps. WFP will work with its partners to verify the unexpectedly large food security improvement.

Sorghum prices in Kosti market in White Nile were stable during the first and second quarter of 2017, and below the three-year average and the 2017 country average. Prices of sorghum started to decrease from the last quarter of 2016 as a result of the good harvest.

The cost of a local food basket in the refugee camps unexpectedly decreased. This is partly due to the stabilised demands of food commodities in the camps, resulting from the regular provision of food assistance. However, in general, commodity prices in the refugee camps were higher compared to the Kosti market prices, partly due to restrictions on the movement of commodities.
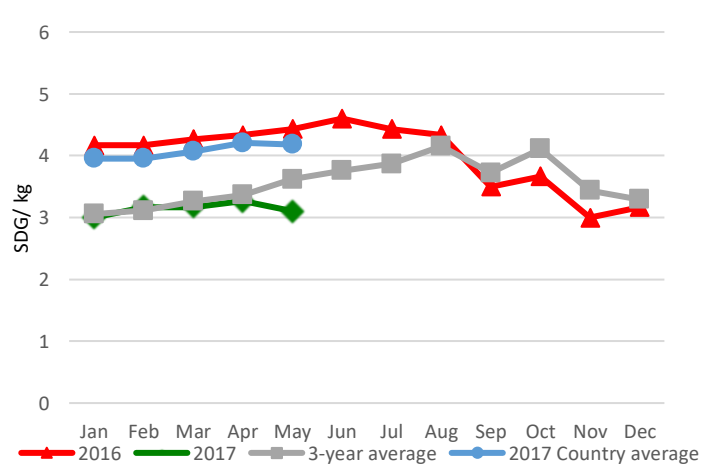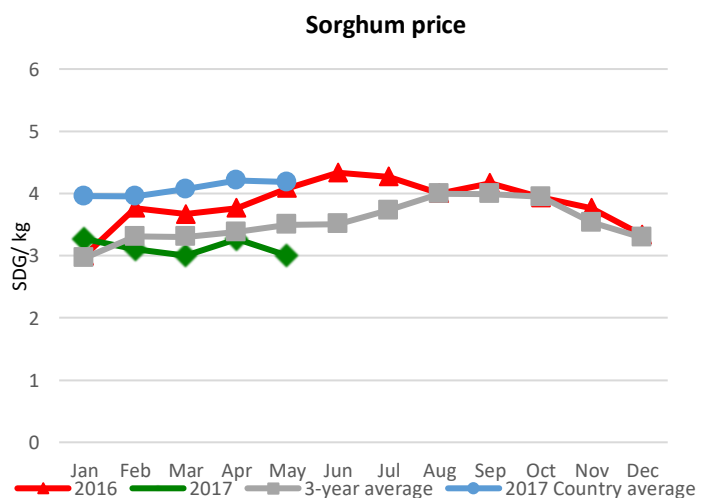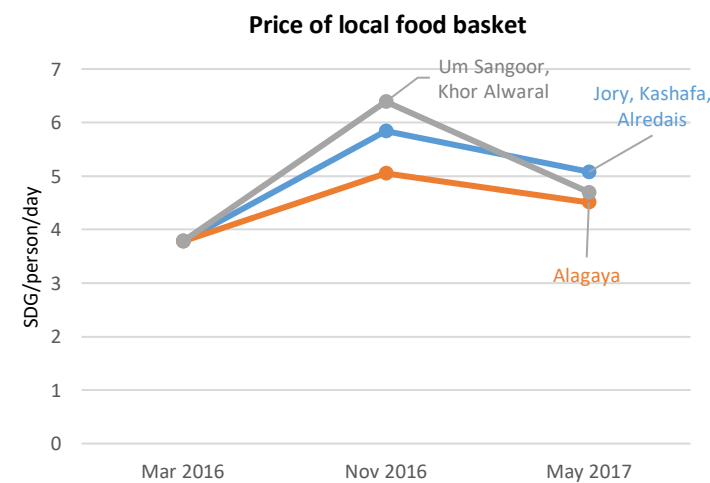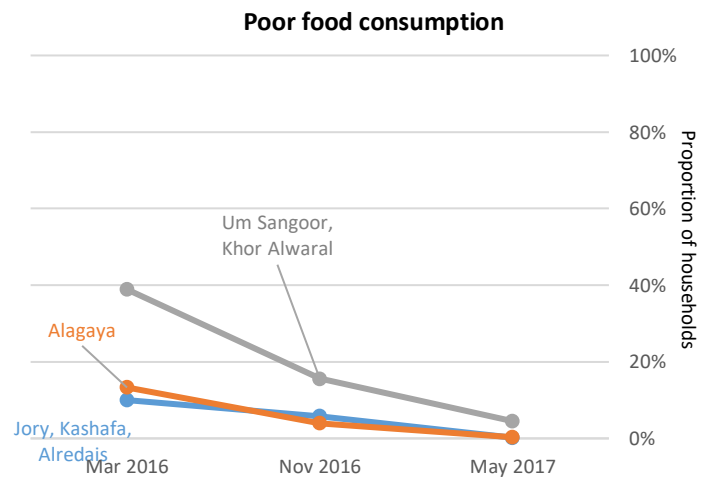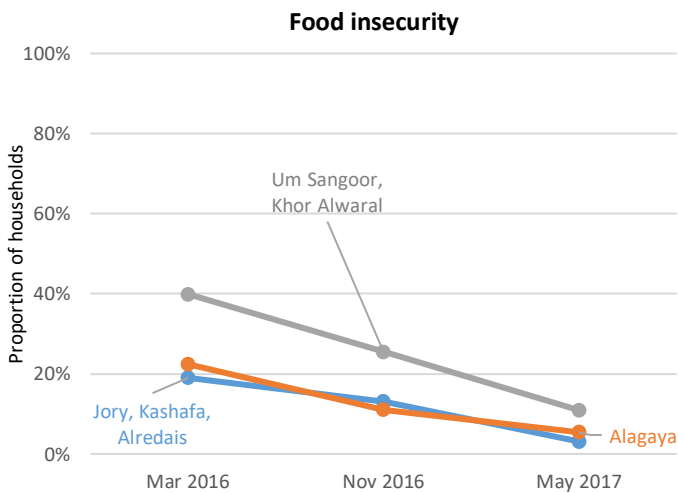

Food insecurity

Poor food consumption

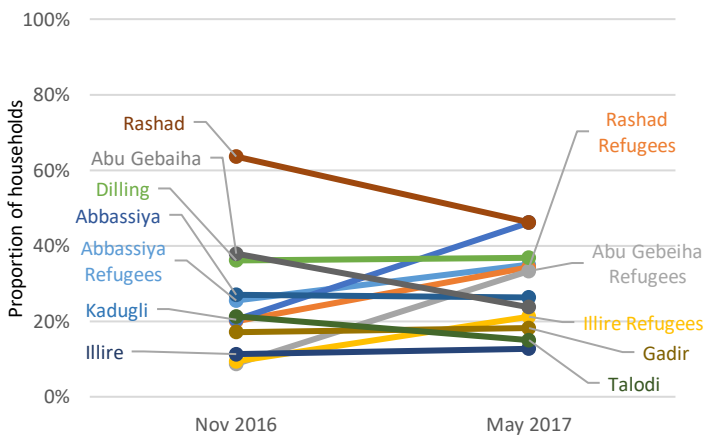Price of local food basket

Sorghum price

In South Kordofan, the food security situation deteriorated among five out of the twelve clusters compared to November 2016. Out of the 12 clusters, two IDP cluster (Kadugli and Rashad) exhibited worrying levels of food insecurity. In addition to the impact of displacement, poor economic access to food was an important factor behind the increase in food insecurity. This weak purchasing power was driven by the insecurity which limited the access to land and employment for IDPs working in the agricultural sector. Food security among refugees in Abbassiya, Rashad, Abu Gebeiha, and Illire deteriorated. The worsening situation was expected, as the comparison was made between the harvest season (November 2016) and the lean season (May 2017).

Sorghum prices in the Kadugli market in South Kordofan followed a similar trend as the country average price but were above the three-year average. This trend was largely due to an increased cost of, mainly imported, production inputs, such as fuel, herbicides and fertilisers. Insecurity also limited access to land for some farmers and contributed to a relatively low agricultural productivity in South Kordofan.

The cost of a local food basket decreased in most surveyed communities in May 2017, compared to November 2016. The November 2016 prices were collected at the early stage of the harvest season when the supply was not adequately distributed, while the prices in May 2017 declined with improvements in road access. In general, commodity prices were much higher compared to the main market in Kadugli due to the distance to the markets, and insecurity affecting the transport of commodities. Prices were higher than in other states.

Food insecurity

Poor food consumption
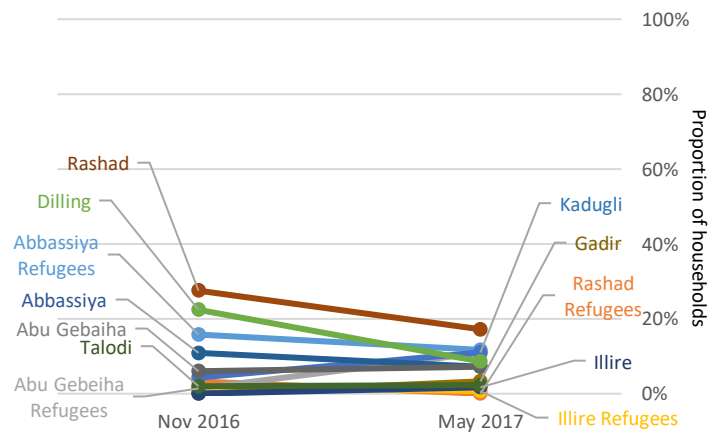
Price of local food basket

Sorghum price

Data Table

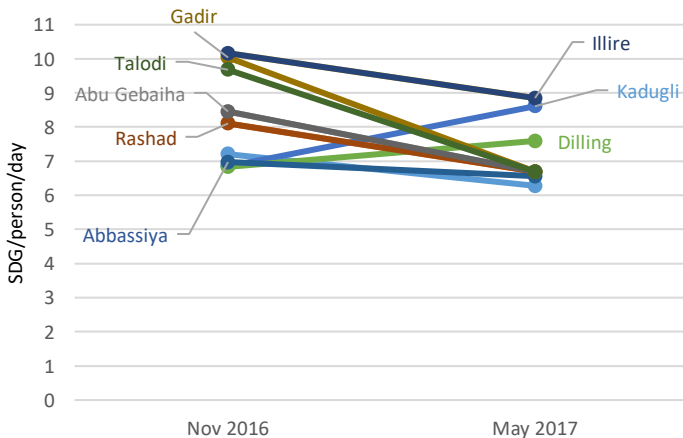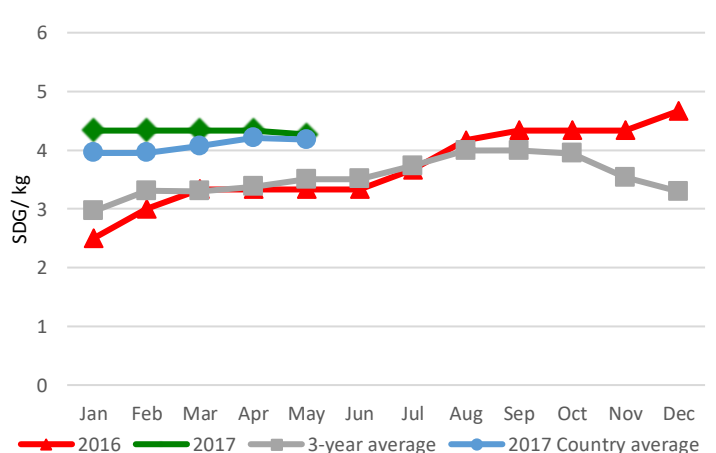| State	locality	Cluster (Locations)	Month	Food security			Food consumption		
				Food Insecure	Borderline	Food secure	Poor	Borderline	Acceptable
Blue Nile	Bau	Al Shaheed Afandi	Nov 2016	45%	42%	13%	13%	52%	35%
			May 2017	31%	56%	13%	6%	28%	67%
		Wad Abouk	Nov 2016	25%	43%	32%	14%	17%	69%
			May 2017	31%	45%	24%	3%	30%	67%
	Damazine	Haroon Al Mahata	Nov 2016	13%	34%	53%	0%	20%	80%
			May 2017	18%	58%	23%	0%	27%	73%
	Geissan	Alyas, Bakori,Mogran	Nov 2016	3%	41%	56%	1%	3%	96%
			May 2017	21%	56%	23%	0%	27%	73%
	Kurmuk	Bulang	Nov 2016	7%	42%	50%	0%	10%	90%
			May 2017	27%	55%	18%	9%	21%	70%
		Dindiro	Nov 2016	7%	36%	57%	3%	9%	88%
			May 2017	19%	56%	25%	4%	17%	79%
	Rosseris	Azaza	Nov 2016	27%	39%	34%	11%	45%	44%
			May 2017	18%	53%	29%	3%	18%	79%
		El Gari	Nov 2016	38%	41%	21%	26%	37%	37%
			May 2017	51%	35%	13%	19%	41%	41%
		Shanisha	Nov 2016	21%	40%	39%	13%	27%	61%
			May 2017	49%	39%	13%	13%	51%	36%
	Tadamon	Bout, Gulli, Roro	Nov 2016	21%	34%	45%	19%	4%	77%
			May 2017	18%	48%	34%	1%	19%	80%
	Wad Almahy	Bambodie, Umm Darfa	Nov 2016	23%	41%	36%	9%	37%	54%
			May 2017	29%	57%	14%	9%	27%	63%
Kassala		Wad Sharifey, Girba, Kilo 26	May 2015	23%	39%	37%	10%	22%	67%
			Nov 2016	20%	33%	48%	5%	23%	73%
			May 2017	13%	30%	57%	7%	15%	78%
		Shagarab 1, 2, 3	May 2015	18%	40%	42%	10%	25%	65%
			Nov 2016	13%	42%	45%	6%	20%	74%
			May 2017	16%	32%	52%	7%	26%	67%
		Um Gargour, Abuda	May 2015	21%	39%	40%	9%	32%	60%
			Nov 2016	16%	38%	46%	5%	24%	71%
			May 2017	23%	51%	26%	7%	23%	70%
White Nile		Jory, Kashafa, Alredais	Mar 2016	19%	32%	50%	10%	29%	61%
			Nov 2016	13%	35%	52%	6%	26%	68%
			May 2017	3%	46%	51%	0%	6%	93%
		Alagaya	Mar 2016	22%	38%	40%	13%	30%	56%
			Nov 2016	11%	48%	42%	4%	33%	63%
			May 2017	5%	53%	42%	0%	13%	87%
		Um Sangoor, Khor Alwaral	Mar 2016	40%	34%	26%	39%	31%	30%
			Nov 2016	26%	38%	36%	16%	25%	59%
			May 2017	11%	44%	45%	5%	11%	84%
South Kordofan		Abbassiya Refugees	Nov 2016	26%	53%	22%	16%	58%	26%
			May 2017	35%	48%	17%	12%	40%	48%
		Rashad Refugees	Nov 2016	20%	50%	30%	3%	50%	47%
			May 2017	34%	46%	20%	0%	46%	54%
		Abu Gebeiha Refugees	Nov 2016	9%	33%	58%	1%	13%	86%
			May 2017	33%	42%	25%	11%	35%	54%
		Illire Refugees	Nov 2016	9%	44%	47%	2%	15%	83%
			May 2017	21%	43%	36%	1%	23%	76%
		Kadugli	Nov 2016	20%	37%	43%	4%	34%	62%
			May 2017	46%	39%	15%	11%	41%	49%
		Dilling	Nov 2016	36%	30%	34%	22%	23%	55%
			May 2017	37%	39%	24%	9%	35%	57%
		Abbassiya	Nov 2016	27%	48%	25%	11%	54%	35%
			May 2017	26%	37%	37%	7%	40%	53%
		Rashad	Nov 2016	64%	27%	9%	28%	53%	20%
			May 2017	46%	36%	18%	17%	46%	37%
		Abu Gebaiha	Nov 2016	38%	44%	19%	6%	48%	46%
			May 2017	24%	36%	41%	7%	31%	62%
		Gadir	Nov 2016	17%	54%	29%	0%	19%	81%
			May 2017	18%	37%	45%	3%	28%	69%
		Illire	Nov 2016	11%	45%	44%	0%	16%	84%
			May 2017	13%	47%	41%	2%	24%	75%
		Talodi	Nov 2016	21%	51%	28%	2%	25%	73%
			May 2017	15%	37%	48%	2%	27%	71%

WFP conducts continuous food security monitoring of populations across Sudan affected by emergencies, focusing on internally displaced persons and refugees. The food security monitoring system (FSMS) covers the states of North Darfur, West Darfur, Central Darfur, South Darfur, East Darfur, West Kordofan, South Kordofan, White Nile, Blue Nile and Kassala. For each round of monitoring, results are released in two reports, one for Darfur and one for Eastern and Southern Sudan. (West Kordofan was not included in the November 2016 and May 2017 FSMS round for Eastern and Southern Sudan due to operational constraints.)

Sample

Data collection takes place two time per year, in May and November. The household data collection for this round of monitoring was conducted in May 2017, which constitutes the start of lean season. Field teams collected data from a set number of sentinel sites. The sentinel sites did not change across monitoring rounds, although minor variation may occur between rounds as a result of access or operational constraints. For this round of monitoring, 33 locations were sampled in Eastern and Southern Sudan. A total of 6,050 selected households were interviewed. Within the fixed sentinel sites, sampled households were selected randomly. The sample was drawn randomly among new and protracted IDPs and refugees; as a result, it was not possible to report separate vulnerability levels specifically for the new refugees from South Sudan. Results were aggregated to groups of camps and locations, called clusters, and statistics were reported at that level. The data from the 33 locations were aggregated to 29 clusters (as listed in the Data Table). The sample size was more than 150 for each cluster, with the exception of Haroon Al Mahata in Blue Nile and refugee camps in Abbassiya and Rashad, and Illire in South Kordofan.

The FSMS was not designed to estimate food security specifically for the newly arrived refugees from South Sudan. Households were sampled randomly, and therefore the sample included both old and new arrivals (in proportion to their population size). However, based on secondary data, new arrivals was believed to be highly food insecure.

Indicators

Food security was determined, as per WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment standards, by cross-tabulating two economic food access indicators with a household food consumption indicator (see below). For the first economic food access indicator, the price of a local food basket was used as a benchmark against which to compare household total expenditure (a proxy for income), to determine the ability of households to meet their food needs through food purchases. The local food basket consisted of sorghum, onions, vegetable oil, milk, cow meat, goat meat, dry tomatoes, and sugar in amounts sufficient to attain a nutritionally acceptable diet, while minimizing the cost. For the second economic access indicator, the proportion of total household expenditure spent on food was calculated, as a complementary indicator of economic strength and a proxy indicator for household food production (under the assumption that households with large food production would spend a smaller proportion of their expenditures on food purchases). Household food consumption data was collected and analyzed using standard WFP methodology: the variety and frequency of foods consumed over a 7-day period was recorded to calculate a household food consumption score. Weights were based on the nutritional density of the foods. Using standard thresholds, households were classified as having either poor, borderline or acceptable food consumption. See the WFP methodology paper for more details.

For more information contact Anders Petersson, Head of Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping, at anders.petersson@wfp.org.