



Southern Sudan Food Security Update



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FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

Highlights

- Rainfall and Vegetation still performing poorly as rainy season comes to an end...
- Agricultural production generally below average for most subsistent farmers...
- Inter-ethnic conflicts and LRA activities continue to burden communities...

Produced by the Food Security Technical Secretariat of GOSS

Collaborating Government of Southern Sudan Institutions

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
2. Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries
3. Ministry of Health.
4. Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation.
5. Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

SEASONAL RAINFALL AND VEGETATION PERFORMANCE

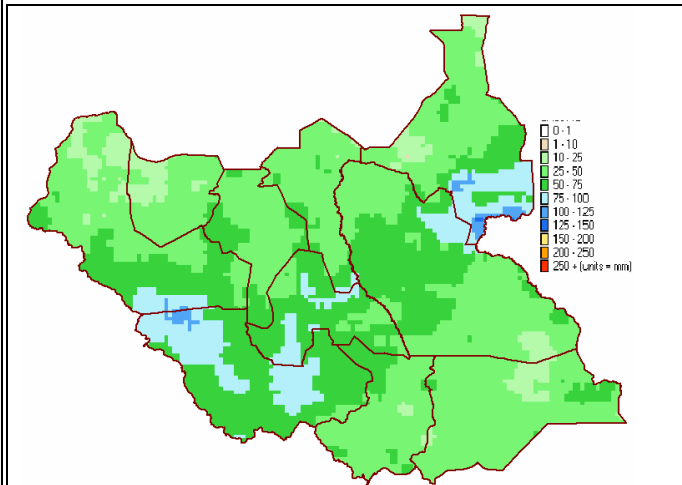


Figure 1: Rainfall Estimate for the period from 1-10 October, 2009

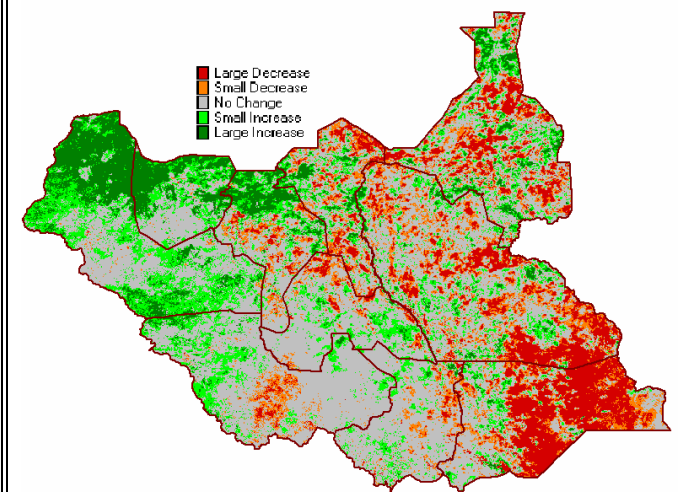


Figure 2: Difference from average NDVI for 1-10 October, 2009

The 2009 agricultural season has performed poorly due to poor rainfall that resulted in poor crop performance as well as pastures. The bulletin reports on the months of October and November, 2009. Figures 1-4 provides dekadal rainfall (Rainfall Estimates-RFE) and NDVI performance. The first dekad of October and November are analysed. During the first dekad of October, 2009, significant rainfall ranging from 100-150mm was received in Western Equatoria and southern parts of Upper Nile (figure 1). However, the entire Southern Sudan received rainfall in the range of 10-75mm. Considering the evapotranspiration rates which are above 7mm per day, this rainfall is not significant. In terms of vegetation development, the eastern half of southern Sudan was not performing well as most of the areas had experienced large decreases in vegetation development. The Eastern Equatoria had actually

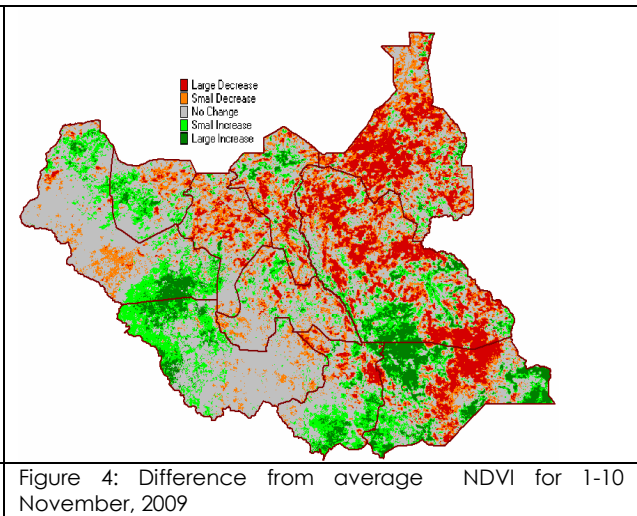
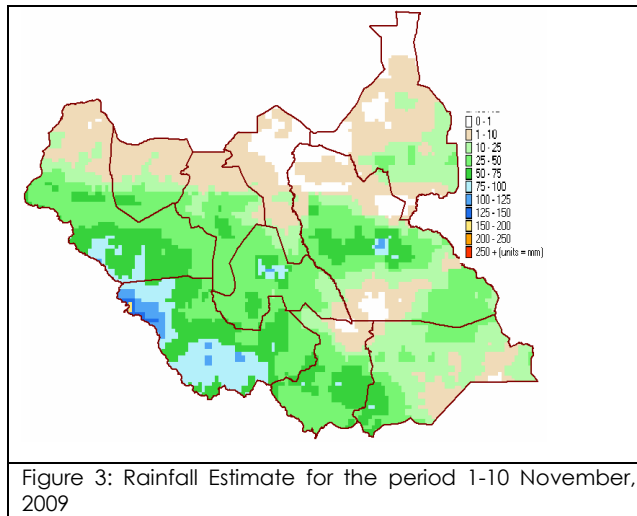
A joint effort of the Government of Southern Sudan with United Nation Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations



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experienced large decreases in most parts of the State (figure 2). The moisture deficits depicted in the vegetation development decrease implies that the crops are equally suffering and may not even be as drought resistant as natural vegetation.



Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is a measure of how green the vegetation is during the rainy season. NDVI is always directly related to the amount of moisture that has been received during a particular dekad. The NDVI is also directly related to the performance of the crops although it is with full knowledge that the NDVI represents all the vegetation growing on the soil surface.

One month after the analysis of RFE and NDVI for October, the analysis of the RFE and NDVI for November first dekad does not indicate any improvement in the performance of the 2009 rainy season. The RFE image (figure 3) indicates low rainfall received during the first dekad of November. The image shows only Western Equatoria as having received significant rainfall in the range of 125- 150mm. Eastern Equatoria, southern parts of Jonglei and all the northern States in Southern Sudan received less than 10mm during the dekad (figure 3). The poor rainfall continues to be translated into poor vegetation development. Figure 4 shows NDVI imagery for the first dekad of November, 2009 with poor vegetation performance in most parts of Southern Sudan. The poor vegetation performance has implications on the pastures upon which the livestock depend. Poor pasture conditions means that the animal will not be in good condition and this has implications on the milk production upon which most communities depend. The poor condition of livestock also has implications on the market price of the livestock.

MARKET TRENDS

Sorghum contributes significantly to the household food economy in most parts of Southern Sudan. Therefore, monitoring prices of sorghum is of great importance to understand the food security situation in terms of accessibility of food from markets. As depicted in Figure 5, after persistently increasing between January and August 2009 for markets in Wau, Bor and Juba, the

sorghum prices started getting lower from August 2009 in most major markets of Southern Sudan. This trend is consistent to normal price trend that normally occurs during and immediately after harvest. Between August and September 2009, the sorghum price decreased by 13 percent in Wau and Malakal, while it decreased by 10 and 6 percent in Juba and Aweil respectively. However, as indicated in Figure 5, unlike the

situation in other markets, the sorghum price continued to increase in Bor. It increased by about 14 percent between August and September 2009.

This could be attributed to the little impact the current harvest could have had in Bor as the State was highly affected by conflicts and poor season performance which consequently affected production and supply of food grain to the markets. Supply from other sources was also affected due to closure of the road that links Bor with Juba.

Maize prices remained more or less stable in most markets between May and September, although prices started slightly increasing between September and November in all markets except in Aweil where the price decreased significantly (39 %) (figure 6). In Juba, where maize is consumed as a staple food, the prices have increased by about 29 percent between September and November. This has had serious implications as far as food security situation of urban households whose food need heavily depend on markets is concerned.

After persistently dropping between March and July 2009, the goat prices have been picking up since August 2009 (see Figure 7). In all markets the price of goats increased by more than 10 percent with considerably high increase in Wau (50 %), Bor (48 %), and Aweil (35 %). The sheep prices started picking up from September with more than 10 percent increase in all markets between September and November 2009.

Similar to the price trend of livestock indicated above, Terms of Trade (ToT) for sorghum to livestock has shown improvements in favour of livestock keepers since August 2009 (figure 8). In all major markets, the price increase between August and November 2009 was by more than 16 percent, the highest increase (84%) was in Wau. The increase in ToT was attributed to the increase in the price of goats rather than the increase in the price of sorghum. Between August and November, for

instance, while the price of one goat in Wau

Figure 5. Sorghum price in major markets

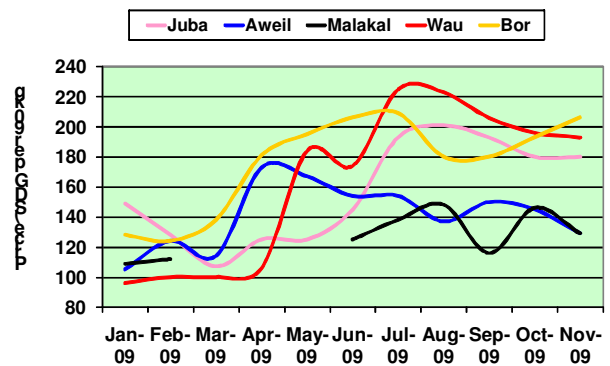


Figure 6. Maize price in selected Market

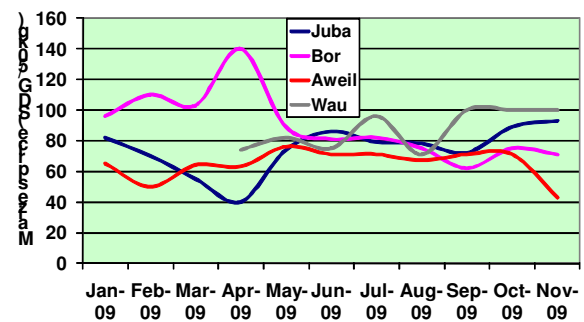
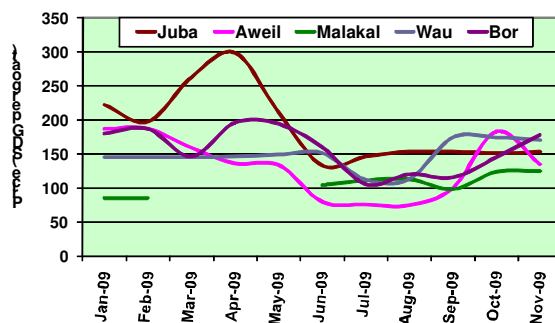


Figure 7. Goat's price in selected markets



Source of data: WFP, FSTS

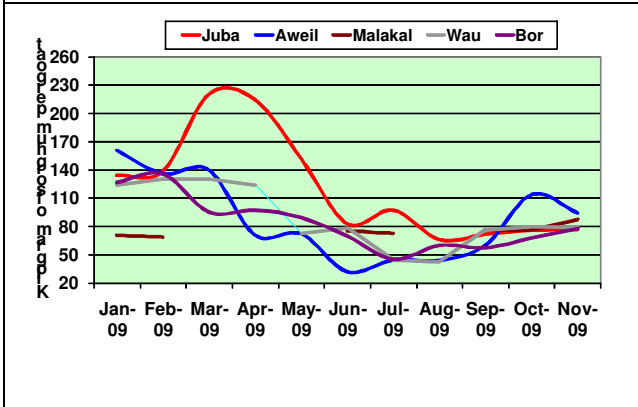
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increased by 50 percent, sorghum prices only increased by 13 percent. The change in the terms of trade was largely in favor of

livestock sellers in all selected markets. Goat sellers in Juba, for instance, were able to buy 77 kg of sorghum by selling 1 goat in November, while in August, 2009 they were able to purchase only 66 kg of sorghum by selling 1 goat, a 17 percent improvement. In

Aweil, the amount of sorghum that could be exchanged for one goat increased from 44 to 94 kg between August and November, 2009.

Figure 8. Sorghum to Goat TOT in selected markets



Source of data: WFP, Graphics FSTS

In general, the high price trend of livestock and the consequent improvement of the Terms of Trade in favor of the livestock keepers is expected to contribute to improved food security and livelihood conditions of pastoral households.

FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS BY STATE

CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

Rural farmers in the state have started to harvest second season crops. It is estimated that farming households in Kajo keji and Lainya shall harvest 2.5 sacks of 90kg per feddan. However, in Gemeiza and Mangala, communities have been displaced due to the recent Mundari-Dinka ethnic clashes. Communities of these Payams have been displaced into Terekeka Payam camping in schools, hospitals and others hosted by the indigenous communities of the county (totally over 5,000 people). Other groups of people who require continuous support are the Refugees and Displaced in Lasu, Tore and Lainya totalling 9,921 (verified by UNHCR/UNOCHA in September 09).

EASTERN EQUATORIA STATE

Food security situation is improved in some parts of the state (e.g. in Torit, Lopa and Magwi counties) and farmers begin to harvest second season crops and long-term Sorghum in addition to root crops consumption. Yield recorded this season is generally poor in the whole state and estimated at 30% below normal as compared to a good season. Budi and eastern parts of Ikotos counties are still facing acute food shortages due to a failed cropping season. There was some significant improvement (though below normal) in rains during September, pasture conditions in greater Kapoeta also got better but there are reports of conflict at the border with Kenya between Toposa and the Turkana over these scarce pastures and water. Milk yield is not expected to contribute significantly to the households' food basket in these areas (Eastern Equatoria Quarter 3 Food Security bulletin). Other shocks (in addition to poor rainfall) reported this year which impacted on communities livelihoods include conflicts due to cattle raiding and also prices of essential commodities are high.

NORTHERN BAHR EL GHAZAL STATE

Food security situation in the state is improved as households began to consume from their harvest. In the low lying areas, green maize is readily available as crops were less affected by the prolonged May/June dry spell. Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) estimated yield (sorghum) of 1 sack of 90 kg per feddan in Aweil east and north, and 2 sacks of 90 kg per feddan in Aweil south. The state also has good road network which enables ease of traders and commodities movement. This allows households especially in the urban areas to access food from markets.

WARRAP STATE

Most farmers in the state especially in greater Gogrial (Gogrial East and West, and Twic Counties) have already harvested their quick maturing cereal crops. In Greater Tonj (Tonj South, East and North), groundnuts and medium to long-term maturing varieties of Sorghum have been affected by the prolonged dry spell. South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) reported that World Food Programme (WFP) is currently supplying food aid to the displaced persons in Tonj North and East through air drops. Cereals are available in the markets especially in the major towns like Kwajok. Supplies are mainly from the

northern Sudan and some (e.g. maize) comes from Uganda. The major shocks that impact on community's livelihoods are rampant civil insecurity (mainly due to raiding), high prices for essential commodities and prolonged dry spell. Major sources of food are own production and gathering of wild foods during period of reporting as confirmed by Annual Needs and Livelihood Assessment (ANLA) 2009. Livestock body condition is good. Pasture and water are available. This is however expected to deteriorate as water dries up and pastures become scarce. Pastoralists are expected to scramble for these scarce resources and fighting as a consequence.

LAKES STATE

The internally displaced persons in the state are witnessing acute food shortages. The displaced are mainly in Rumbek East, Awerial and Wulu Counties. Wulu and Awerial are the most affected because communities did not cultivate as they were displaced from their villages by inter-ethnic conflicts early in the year. Cereals are mainly available in Rumbek town market but places like Rumbek East and Wulu have no grains in the markets. Prolonged dry spell (May – June) affected crops (mainly medium and long term sorghum) which are still at flowering and milky stages. It is estimated that average yield per feddan shall be 1.6 sacks in the state. Households harvest is expected to last till end of January 2010 and food shortages starting earlier than normal around February on-wards.

JONGLEI STATE

Continuous inter-ethnic conflict in the state resulted into large scale displacements, destitution and deaths. Akobo County stands out as bearing the biggest brand of displacements. In Bor County, over 1,500 persons (mainly women, children and the elderly) took refuge in the town as a result of the recent fighting between the Mundari and Dinka ethnic groups. In response to the appeal made by government in mid-August, FAO distributed 16 MT of assorted seeds and tools, in addition to fishing gears and nets targeting 2,300 internally displaced of Akobo County. Agricultural production in the state is estimated at 25% compared to normal year (CFSAM preliminary report 2009).

UPPER NILE STATE

Increased intermittent insecurity in the state rendered majority of subsistent farmers unable to cultivate during this season, therefore, subjecting large proportion of the population to food insecurity. Maban area have witnessed two consecutive years of flooding which destroyed community's livelihoods rendering over 45,000 people at risk.

In terms of production, the western and northern parts of the state are expected to get good production (e.g. 8 sacks of 90 kg for traditional sector) but the eastern counties of the state (Ulang, Nassir, Maiwut and Longechok) shall get very minimal harvest. This is because; communities in this part of the state are affected by the civil insecurity.

WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE

Within the state, the most food insecure groups of people are the Internally Displaced and the Refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central Africa Republic

(CAR). Overall, a total of 75,217 persons have been recorded by September 2009 (UNHCR/UNOCHA). These huge displacements have been caused by continuous Lord's Resistant Army (LRA) attacks on innocent civilians whose livelihoods have been destroyed especially in Counties and Payams bordering DRC and CAR. However, the general food security situation in the state has improved considerably as communities who were able to cultivate are being rewarded with some crop harvest. Estimated average yield for cereal in central counties of the state is 12 bags of 50 kg and in the west and east 6 bags of 50 kg.

WESTERN BAHR EL GHAZAL STATE

Overall the state is calm in terms of civil security, except for some Payam in Raja County where Lord's Resistant Army (LRA) disrupted community's peace. There are also large displaced communities in the state who originated from Darfur. Farmers in the state witnessed poor crop performance especially those planted in early July. About 40% of farmers planted their crops late due to unreliability of rainfall. Generally rainfall last year is better (1038 mm) compared to this year (804 mm). Expected yield for sorghum in Raja is 1.5 sack of 90 kg per feddan and 1 sack of 90 kg in Wau County. Food commodities mainly come from northern Sudan and Uganda; prices are high due to several factors including high taxation, and poor road conditions.

UNITY STATE

The state is expected to produce only 25% of its annual needs of food though generally there has been a remarkable increase in area cultivated this season owing to improvement in availability and ease of access of agricultural inputs. The worse off counties in terms of crop production this season in the state includes Leer, Mayendit, Panyinjair, Koch, Mayom and Rweng.