FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Uncertain food security outlook

At the peak of the lean season in the SPLM-N areas of south Kordofan and Blue Nile an atypical lean season is currently taking shape. The “near farm” (jibraka) harvests are only expected to start in August. With depleted household food stocks, communities are now dependent on markets and food assistance. Macro-economic conditions, the uncertain political situation and heavy rainfall are also taking their toll in these areas.

There has been heavy rain reported in Blue Nile with flooding in the areas of Chali, Wadaka and Yabus payams. Some localities are reporting destroyed crops as a result.

Rainfall is predicted to continue to be heavy for the rest of this rainy season, which usually lasts until about October. As per FEWSNET’s latest food security outlook, “According to forecasts by NOAA and USGS, the June to September 2019 rainy season is forecast to be above average. The Sudan Meteorological Authority (SMA) and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) also forecast above-average rainfall. This is likely to result in atypically high levels of flooding in flood-prone areas of Sudan, including Northern, River Nile, AL Jazeira, Sennar, and Blue Nile states. This is anticipated to destroy some crops, cause displacement, and increase the prevalence of water-borne diseases during the rainy season”

Food prices continue to increase in South Kordofan this lean season, most notably in Delami county where the cost of the staple sorghum has increased by 43% compared to the same month last year, sim sim (sesame) by 233%, and groundnuts by 50%. In Blue Nile, in the regularly monitored areas, market prices seem to be more stable compared to the same period last year. Markets in Balila and Mayak, however, no longer have ground nuts or beans, commodities which were still available in the same period last year. Sim sim has doubled in price in both areas compared to 2018.
HEALTH

Gaps in basic drug supplies to clinics

With localized flooding in Blue Nile, the risk of the spread of waterborne diseases is high. Cases of acute diarrhea have been reported in both areas. Without a proper functioning surveillance system illness can advance quickly before action is taken to curb the spread of preventable diseases. Furthermore, only 5 out of 28 health clinics in areas regularly monitored by the CU have an adequate supply of basic drugs at this time. Malaria cases are increasing in line with expectations for this time of the rainy season in both Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Livestock vaccinated in Blue Nile

Lack of veterinary programming remains a challenge to livestock keeping in Blue Nile region. With the general deterioration of animal health, poor quality meat and milk products are prevalent. A desperately needed animal vaccination exercise took place in Yabus in June, in which approximately 5,000 heads of livestock were reached.
WASH

Unsafe surface water in rainy season

With whole communities continuing to be dependent only on unsafe surface water for drinking, cases of diarrhea continue to be reported, especially in South Kordofan. Access to safe drinking water remains limited in both Areas. Humans and animals continue to share water sources, putting people at risk of contracting waterborne diseases.

EDUCATION

Without support, schools in Blue Nile close

Most schools are now out of session, closing as usual from the end of June until October so children can participate in cultivation. Communities struggle to keep schools open and functioning in Blue Nile. At least two schools, one in Komo Ganza and one in Yabus, are known to have recently closed due to a lack of financial and community support. Without a financial incentive to remain in schools, teachers often leave during this time to make use of the planting season in order to provide for their families.

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Theft of livestock continues to destabilize

In the month of June cattle raid incidents continued.

Umdurdu payam, in Heiban county, continues to be a location with regularly reported incidents. In two separate recent incidents cattle keepers were attacked, one of which resulting in the deaths of two people.

Two people were killed in June in separate gunshot incidents, one in the Yida settlement and one in Ajuong Thok Refugee Camp.

* The SKBN CU reports according to the information received from a variety of sources. This information does not include a comprehensive verification of perpetrators or damages.