

# SKBN Coordination Unit

## Humanitarian Update

August 2019

### FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

#### *Uncertain food security outlook*

*At the peak of the lean season in the SPLM-N controlled areas of south Kordofan and Blue Nile the food supply for communities is stressed.*

*Heavy rain reported in Blue Nile in June is estimated by local authorities to have destroyed crops of 95% of people along the Yabus River, affecting about 300 feddans (126 hectares) of arable land. In Moguf, area local authorities estimate that about 35% of land was affected by floods.*

At the peak of the lean season it is worthwhile to note that in South Sudan food security indicators are only marginally better than last year. [FEWSNET's July key message update](#) mentions "Acute food insecurity during the ongoing 2019 lean season is broadly similar to that of the 2018 lean season, though with improvement in some areas as lower [incidence of] conflict is improving food access." All neighbouring areas to the SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile are in either the 'Stressed' (IPC 2) or 'Crisis' (IPC 3) phase. FEWSNET's July update further notes "an estimated 6.96 million people will face 'Crisis' (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes through the July/August peak of the lean season in the presence of planned humanitarian food assistance."

There is an ongoing return of refugees from Unity State in to South Kordofan, an area which has recently received returns of displaced people from Khartoum since the political instability started in December. The flow of people from both the South and the North is adding to the strain on communities' resources. The ongoing data collection is expected to inform current and projected food security outcomes in this atypical season, further exacerbated by the poor macro-economic conditions.

Heavy rains in Blue Nile in June & July restricted trader access to one of the main markets causing prices to sharply increase and leading to shortages of cereals in July. This is problematic for communities wholly

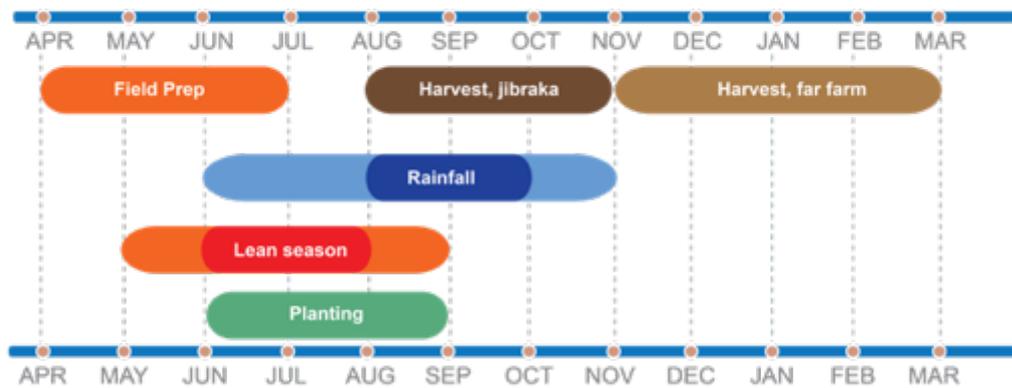


Photo Credit: Tomo Kriznar

### Highlights

**Erratic rain in South Kordofan. Heavy rain, flooding in Blue Nile.**

**Food stocks depleted and communities reliant on jibraka harvest & markets.**



*Seasonal calendar for South Kordofan and Blue Nile*

## HEALTH

### *Gaps in basic drug supplies to clinics*

Diarrhea, Malaria and Coughing are reported to be widespread in the both South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Whole communities in Blue Nile are cut off from accessing health clinics by flooding rivers. Furthermore, the supply of essential drugs has significantly reduced, a problem which is compounded by the fact that malaria cases are expected to rise as usual during this time of year. Many children will be left untreated for malaria and will risk severe complications. During this lean season, children and pregnant women are extremely vulnerable to malnutrition, with nutrition services available at just a small number of health facilities, insufficient to cover the needs.

Access to reproductive health services and safe childbirth facilities remains extremely limited, with only few supported health facilities providing comprehensive care. Women and girls in particular continue to be exposed to unwanted pregnancy, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and the risk of maternal mortality.

On a positive note, in Western Jebels a third round of vaccinations was completed in July, reaching over 18,000 children with the third dose of polio- and pentavalent vaccines. Still many gaps remain in the coverage of vaccinations in the region, especially in Blue Nile, and in the inaccessible counties of Rashad, Abassyia and Koa-Nyaro.

## WASH

### *Flooding in Blue Nile*

WASH NFIs which included soap and water purification tablets were distributed to over 1,000 households after recent flooding occurred in most localities of the areas regularly monitored in Blue Nile. With widespread flooding and heavy rain this season, communities are at higher risk of waterborne diseases from unsafe drinking water.

More hand dug wells are planned for Wadaka payam in 2019.

## EDUCATION

### *Schools re-open in October*

Most schools are now out of session, closing as usual from the end of June until October so children can participate in cultivation. Coaching is underway in South Kordofan for the primary leaving exam later in the year. In Blue Nile, communities struggle to keep schools functioning.

## SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Cessation of Hostilities is reported to have been extended.

On 15 July 2019 it was reported that the 3 children drowned in a flooding river in Heiban county.

On 18 July 2019 in Mendi village Umdurdu Payam of Heiban County 6 cows were looted by unconfirmed perpetrators.

*\* 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.*

*This monthly update on humanitarian issues in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is compiled by the SKBN Coordination Unit. With three main functions of information, coordination and advocacy, the SKBNCU strives to put out regular and accurate information on the humanitarian situation of people affected by the conflict since 2011. Please send your comments to [coordination@skbncu.org](mailto:coordination@skbncu.org)*