



## Key Messages

- Cereal prices well above historical averages due to production shortfalls (30- 40% in South Sudan) and disruptions in trade activities
- Food security affected by multiple shocks, including high intensity conflicts, widespread drought and localized floods.
- Different agencies assess the food security situation in Sudan as alarming, severe or worrisome.
- An estimated 5.9 IDPs, returnees, agro-pastoralists and chronically food insecure currently in need of food assistance

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## In Brief

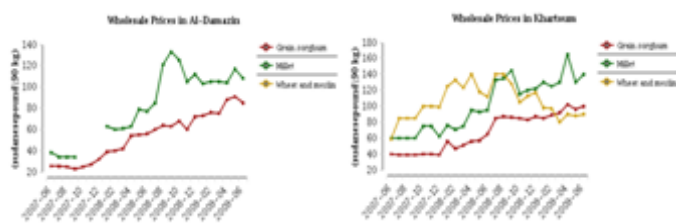
The continued conflict and expulsion of some humanitarian agencies in Darfur have raised serious concern for millions of vulnerable people faced already with dire situations. Potential movements of large number of people into Southern Sudan due to disruptions in humanitarian assistance present a heightened food security threat. Already in Southern Sudan, up to 1.3 million people are expected to be food insecure in 2009. This includes returnees, the chronically food insecure, and households negatively affected by conflicts, dry spells, and flooding in 2008. In addition, Lords Resistance Army (LRA) attacks have been escalating since December 2008 thereby increasing food insecurity of large numbers of people in Western Equatoria. Overall, an estimated 5.9 million people in Sudan are currently in need of food assistance.

(last update: 29 May 2009)

Economic Indicators (WB)	2007
Total Population (millions)	38.56
Population growth rate	2.2%
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	1,880
Population below 1\$ (PPP) per day	...
Rural population	57%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	28%
Food Consumption (FAO)	2003/05
Undernourished population	21%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption	49%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption	5%
Health Indicators (WHO)	2006
Population with sustainable access to improved sanitation	35%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes	60
Pop. with sustainable access to improved drinking water sources	70%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >=15 years (2005)	1.45%

## 1. Price

**Cereals:** Prices have since stabilized following the sharp increase in mid-2008. However, prices still remain at above average levels. For instance, sorghum prices in Khartoum averaged SDG 102 per 90kg in April 2009, 82 percent above last year's prices. By contrast, wheat prices in Khartoum have decreased by 36 percent since April 2008, to SDG 90 per 90kg. This decline exhibits a clear correlation to international price movements, on account of Sudan's reliance on imported wheat and also reflects the improved domestic wheat harvest. The government resumed the sale of subsidized sorghum - at about SDG 65 per 90kg (February 2009), approximately 30 percent below the market price.



Source: FAO-GIEWS Workstation

Source: FAO-GIEWS Workstation

**Livestock:** Prices in pastoral areas have decreased sharply as households are selling off cattle to buy food, a key coping mechanism in times of stress. The unfavourable terms of trade for agro-pastoralists is driving thousands of poor families out of the food market.

## 2. Conflicts, refugees and...

The conflict in Darfur and South Sudan is a major cause of food insecurity in Sudan. It has disrupted food production and resulted in widespread displacement and refugee crises. With continuous and high intensity of conflicts and over a million IDPs, Sudan is one of the largest recipients of UN peace-keeping and humanitarian assistance. The country is also prone to flood.

Conflicts in Sudan	Start	Status	Intensity
Darfur	2003	No change	5/5
SPLM/A/South Sudan	1955	Worsening	4/5

Source: Heidelberg Institute For International Conflict Research (2009)

Disasters	Date	Total Affected	Location
Floods	08/2009	80.000	Khartoum
Earthquakes	none	none	none

Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System

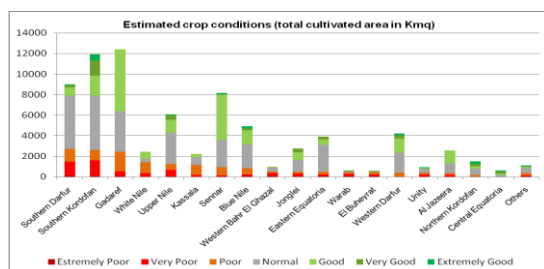
Refugees	2006	2007	2008
IDP's Protected/ Assisted by UNHCR, incl. People in IDP-like Situations	1,325,235	1,250,000	1,201,040
Returned IDP's	11,955	84,834	21,081
Repatriated from World	53,758	130,693	90,087
Sudanese residing in other countries	686,311	523,032	397,012
Non-Sudanese residing in Sudan	201,655	222,722	181,605

Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted: 21/08/2009.

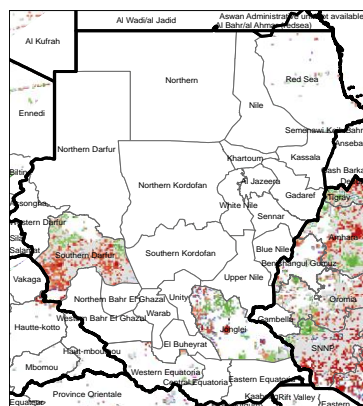
## 2.1 ...natural disasters

### Agro-meteorological conditions – threat to food security

Crop conditions can be expected to be poor, very poor or extremely poor in a number of cereal growing districts. Among the major crop producing regions the worst affected districts are parts of Southern Sudan, Southern Kordofan and Gabaref. Furthermore small crop producing regions, such as White Nile, Warab and El Buheyra have the highest endangered percentage of production. A large part of Sudan is affected by desertification.



Source: FAO – [GIEWS Workstation](#)



#### Legend

- Extremely poor
- Very Poor
- Poor
- Normal
- Good
- Very good
- Excellent

## 3.1 Issues related to the Food Security situation

### Domestic availability and import requirements of cereals

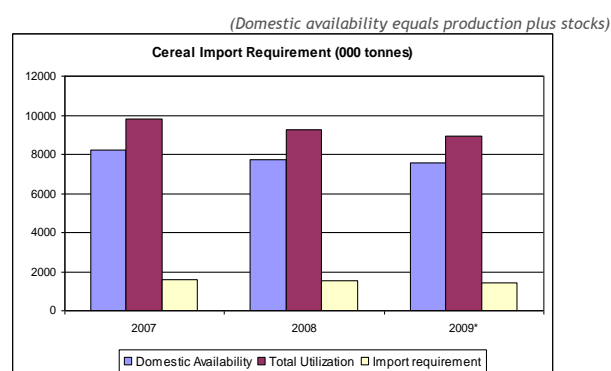
Domestic availability of cereals (production and stock) has declined in recent years. The share of commercial imports and food aid has remained high as the gap between domestic availability and total utilization widened in 2007-2009, and this has contributed to rising prices. The import requirement of cereals is estimated at 1 million tons for 2009 but this is likely to increase further with the worsening drought and intensifying conflicts in South Sudan.

#### 2009 estimated cereal situation

Domestic Availability 7547

Total Utilization - 8951

Import requirement = 1404



Source: FAO - Global Information and Early Warning System (FAOSTAT for Milk)

## 3. The Food security situation in Sudan

There is consensus among different agencies in terms of evaluating the food security situation of Sudan. FAO/GIEWS, WFP IFPRI, and FEWSNET use different methods but the results are broadly similar: Sudan is facing real emergencies.

SUDAN			FAO/GIEWS (July 2009)
Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	

FAO/GIEWS identifies 30 countries facing emergency food crisis and are in need of external assistance. These countries are classified into three based on domestic production and supply conditions.

SUDAN					WFP/ 2009 Hunger Map
Very high hunger (>= 35% undemour.)	Moderately high hunger (20-34% undemour.)	Moderately low hunger (10-19% undemour.)	Very low hunger (5-9% undemour.)	Extremely low hunger (<5% undemour.)	

WFP Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

SUDAN					IFPRI/ 2008 Global Hunger Index
Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	

IFPRI GHI is based on a simple average of: % of population undernourished, % of underweight in children under five, and % of children dying before the age of five.

SUDAN				FEWSNET
Extremely food insecurity	Highly food insecurity	Moderately food insecurity	General food secure	

FEWSNET coverage is limited 14 African countries 1 Caribbean (Haiti) and 1 Central Asia (Afghanistan). Food security status is given for different parts of the country in each case.

## 4. Government Policies

Government policies in 2008 focused on short-term emergency measures, including distribution of subsidized cereals and banning grain exports. Sudan has yet to introduce formal safety net programs.

Domestic market based measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Released stock (public and imported) at</li> <li>Subsidized price</li> <li>Suspended / reduced VAT and other taxes</li> <li>Introduced admin. price control or</li> <li>Restricted private trade</li> </ul>
Trade policy measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced tariffs and custom fees on imports</li> <li>Restricted or banned export</li> </ul>
Safety net (increased or introduced)	None

Market and trade based policy measures adopted (as of 1 December 2008)

### Current events to watch

(Click to see the full report or see the annex for short description)

- [Thousands flee renewed LRA rebel raids](#)
- ["Hunger gap" threat growing in the south](#)
- [Tensions high, food short in Akobo](#)
- [Abyei still fragile as Darfur conflict spills into Kordofan](#)
- [Call for disarmament after massacre](#)

### For further information:

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