

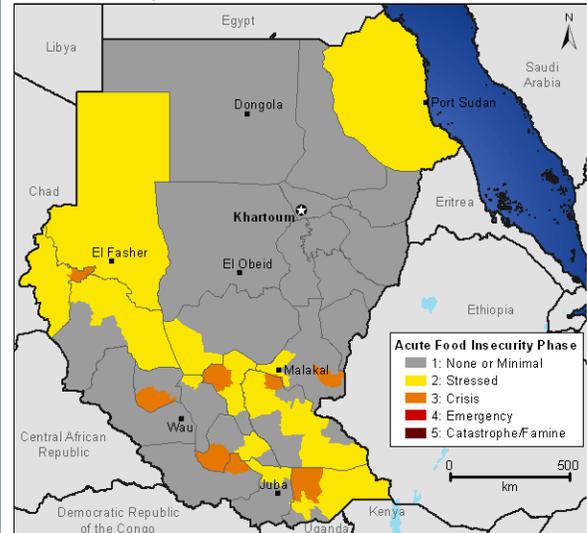
## Sudan Food Security Outlook

April to September 2011

In April and May 2011, FEWS NET is transitioning to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification's (IPC) Household-based Acute Food Insecurity Reference Table, which is scheduled for release with IPC version 2 in July 2011. For more information see: [www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale](http://www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale).

- In northern Sudan, the food security situation is likely to deteriorate during most of the Outlook period due to the onset of the lean season. The gradual diminishing of stocks at household and market levels will bring increased market demand. In Darfur and Abeyi, conflict will likely deepen food insecurity. About four million people, including the two million internally displaced people (IDPs) in Darfur, are estimated to be Stressed or in Crisis (IPC Phases 2 and 3).
- In southern Sudan, an estimated 500,000 people are food insecure in areas affected by militia insecurity (Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile), and successive, below-normal crop performance in both 2009 and 2010 in Eastern Equatoria. Food insecurity is also present in areas with a high concentration of returnees, including Northern Bahr El Gazal, Unity, and Warrap states. The food insecure population is expected to increase up to 1.5 million people during the peak lean season in June/July.
- First season rains in cropping areas of southern Sudan have just begun. This suggests a mixed start to the April-July rains, with delays in many areas. Led by UN-FAO, humanitarian agencies are targeting about 165,000 households across southern Sudan with close to 2,500 MT of seeds this year.

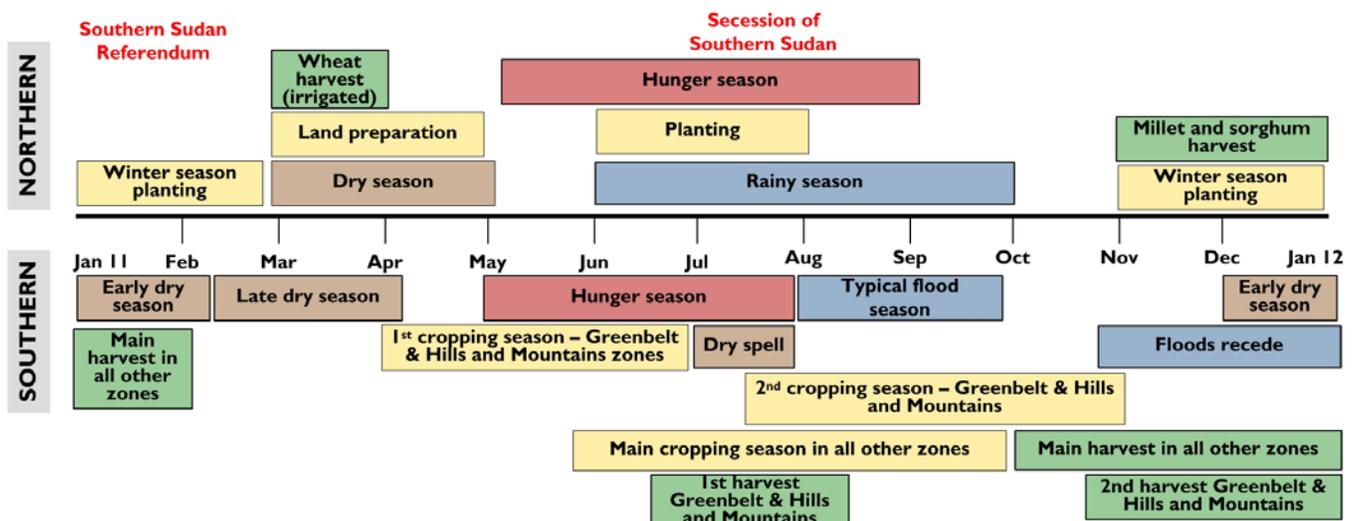
**Figure 1. Current estimated food security outcomes, April 2011**



For more information on the IPC Scale, please see: [www.fews.net/foodinsecurityscale](http://www.fews.net/foodinsecurityscale).

Source: FEWS NET

## Seasonal calendar and critical events



Source: FEWS NET

### Most likely food security scenario (April – September 2011)

In **northern Sudan**, in spite of the good 2010/11 harvest, the overall food security situation is expected to deteriorate during the lean season (May–September) due to typical seasonal changes. Demand for cereal will increase as food stocks diminish at household and market levels. The 2010/11 harvest in the 15 states of northern Sudan was good, with over 650,000 MT of surplus sorghum harvested. However, a deficit of about 1.4 million MT of wheat is expected, most of which will be procured from the international market at above-average prices. The negative impact of recent economic reform policies in Sudan have caused prices of essential food and non-food items to increase by 30-50 percent. This trend is likely to continue through the scenario period. The inflation rate has also continued to steadily rise: the cumulative inflation rate of March 2011 is 16.8 percent, and food inflation is higher (20 percent in urban settings and 19.8 percent in rural settings).

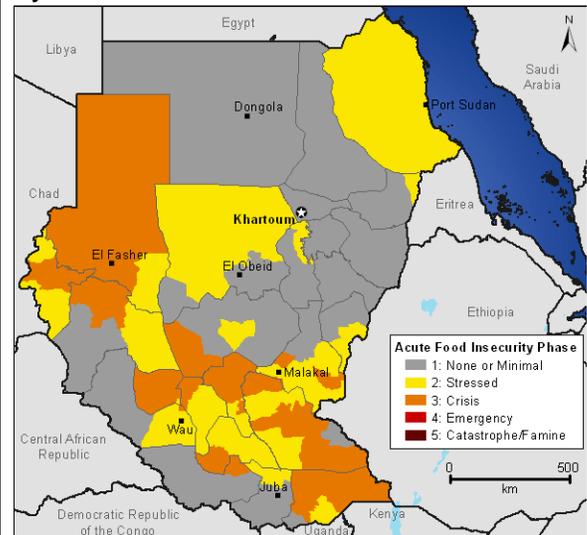
The onset of the main rainy season in June/July 2011 (projected to be average in northern Sudan) and increased militia activity in southern Sudan will likely disturb the return of southerners from the north through the Outlook period. According to the most recent updates from IOM/UN OCHA, about 290,000 southerners have returned to southern Sudan. An additional 38,000 people have returned to Abeyi area and 5,000 people have returned to South Kordofan. Recent UN assessments in Khartoum indicate that about 22,000 southerners in some 16 IDP sites in Khartoum have no shelter as they wait to return to southern Sudan.

Another assessment by UN agencies and NGOs in White Nile state found that about 5,000 northerners have returned from the south to White Nile State in northern Sudan. Similar patterns of return are also reported in Sinar and Blue Nile States. Humanitarian agencies are providing food and other basic services to returnees. If security conditions continue to deteriorate in southern Sudan, as expected, more northerners are likely to return from insecure areas. Cattle herders of northern Sudan are likely to be the worst affected by the deteriorated security conditions.

Other population flows include the return of approximately 30,000 Sudanese from Libya, due to the recent crisis there. Approximately 500,000 Sudanese nationals reside in Libya, and 50,000 Sudanese have registered to return. Reduced remittances from Libya are therefore expected.

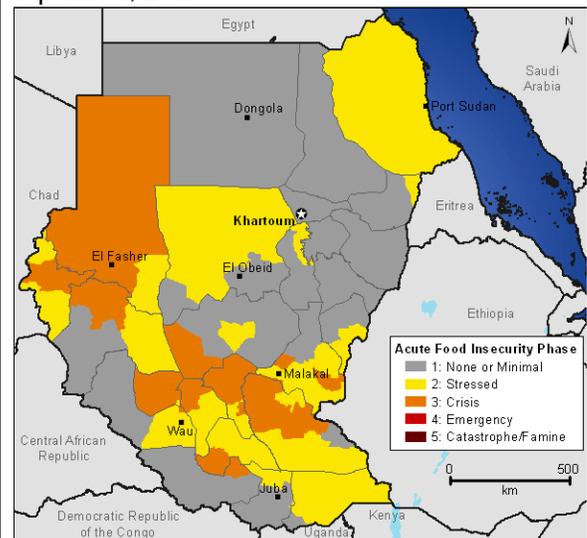
Cereal prices have begun the upward trend expected at this time of the year. In March, sorghum prices in Gedaref and Damazin markets (main production areas) increased by 8 percent compared to February. Current prices were far above the five-year average and above the reference year in most markets, potentially due to the high inflation. The highest cereal prices in March were reported in Al Fashir town of North Darfur state, where sorghum prices are 121 percent above the five-year average and 55 percent above the reference year. The high prices are mainly attributed to the ongoing conflict in Darfur and lower 2010/11 production in North Darfur state due to rainfall deficits and insecurity. Cereal prices will continue to rise during the lean season, which is expected to reduce access by poor households as their dependency on market purchases increases.

**Figure 2.** Most likely food security outcomes, April – June 2011



Source: FEWS NET

**Figure 3.** Most likely food security outcomes, July – September, 2011



Source: FEWS NET

Approximately four million people in Northern Sudan are currently food insecure. In Darfur, the majority of the two million IDPs are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 50 percent of resident/host communities in the drought-affected areas of Darfur are Stressed (IPC Phase 2). In Abeyi, the majority of the 100,000 – 120,000 returnees and host communities affected by the recent violence are Stressed (IPC Phase 2). About one million people in the environmentally degraded areas and/or drought affected areas of North Kordofan, South Kordofan, Red Sea, Blue Nile, White Nile and Kassala states are Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Additional details on these food insecure populations are below.

In parts of **Darfur**, the security situation is tense with sporadic fighting between Darfur rebels and the Sudanese Arm Forces (SAF). During the past three months, 80,000 people have been displaced due to fighting in some parts of South Darfur, North Darfur, and West Darfur (Jabal Mara). The recent fighting has resulted in loss of lives, destruction of assets, crops, and food stocks, displacement, and disturbed aid flows to affected areas. The recent wave of violence is likely to jeopardize the early recovery and rehabilitation programs by humanitarian actors and the return policies of the government in Darfur. Zamzam camp, the main reception for the most recently displaced people from the southern parts of North Darfur State, has received about 60,000 IDPs in recent months. Nutritional status in Darfur is likely to deteriorate during the scenario period (lean season) due to a combination of factors including reduced access to food, reduced food stocks, and increased diarrhea/malaria morbidity.

Food aid (which was reduced to a half ration in mid-2010) and market purchases are the main food sources for IDPs, while casual labor is the main source of income. The start of the rains in June/July is expected to improve access to agricultural labor, though free movement is restricted due to the prevailing insecurity. Prices of essential food and non-food commodities have increased by 30-50 percent due to recent economic policies and inflation, and cereal prices are likely to increase during the lean season. The majority of the two million IDPs in Darfur may face a food consumption deficit through the Outlook period and remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

In **Red Sea State**, food security of poor households (50 percent of the population) in Haya, Dordieb, Sinkat, Tokar and Halayeb is likely to deteriorate during the scenario period. Market purchase is the main source of food for the greater portion of households, and poor households rely heavily on marginal income sources (e.g. firewood collection, collection and sale of wild foods, casual labor and traditional gold mining). The onset of the rains in June/July is expected to generate more labor and share cropping opportunities in the mechanized rain-fed farms in neighboring Gedaref state. However, the sharp increase of food and non-food prices due to the recent economic reform policies and inflation may reduce the capabilities of poor households to access food from the market. Cereal prices are also expected to increase during the lean season. An estimated 200,000–250,000 people in the Red Sea State are expected to be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) during the scenario period, as food stocks diminish at the household and market levels (due to increased demand for export of sorghum to Eritrea and Ethiopia) and food prices are likely to further increase during the lean season.

In **North Kordofan State**, about 150,000 – 200,000 people (20-30 percent of poor households) in Um Rawaba, Al Nuhod, Abu Zabad, Bara and Jabarat Al Sheikh localities will be stressed (IPC Phase 2) due to poor crop production. Long dry spells extended for more than 20 days during the most critical crop growth stage in September 2010. An outbreak of grasshoppers and birds also reduced the harvest. In some localities in North Kordofan (e.g. Wad Banda and Al Nuhod) the harvest of 2010/11 will only meet 15 – 25 percent of annual food needs of households. By the onset of the lean season in May, most households are expected to exhaust their food stocks and become entirely dependent on market purchases. The start of the rains will provide more labor opportunities on the farms of better-off households, but workers will also need time to cultivate their own farms. This is a typical coping strategy, but is exacerbated by the poor 2010/11 rainy season in the affected areas.

In **South Kordofan state**, an estimated 50,000 – 100,000 of those with limited income sources in Kadogli and Heiban will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) due to the same reasons mentioned above. In **White Nile State**, food security of about 50,000 – 100,000 people (mainly in Geteina locality) are projected to be Stressed during the lean season (May – September), due to 2010 rainfall shortages that reduced crop production.

The security situation in the disputed territory of **Abeyi** has improved during the month of April. Renewed calm has triggered the return of 70 percent of the Abeyi population who had fled their homes in February/March 2011 due to deteriorated security conditions. The food security status of these recent returnees (estimated to be 70,000 people) is currently Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Most people lost their assets and *tukuls* (huts) and currently depend on food aid and

market purchase. Market supply has significantly declined due to fear by traders. The food security situation of about 70,000 people who recently returned to Abeyi is Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and is likely to deteriorate during the scenario period. The onset of rains is expected to block roads and inhibit humanitarian access to food insecure populations and interrupt market flows from the north. The return of Messriya cattle herders from the south later in the rainy season is likely to increase the security risk in the area and cause displacement.

In **southern Sudan**, additional returns are expected before the separation in July. The patterns and level of return are uncertain due to unresolved post referendum issues such as citizenship. Potentially increased militia insecurity is another factor. Current conflict has negatively affected trade flows and market stability in the south. A recent FEWS NET assessment indicates that trade flows from northern to southern Sudan have declined since the referendum. This reduction could be due to a number of factors, including the good harvest in southern Sudan; increased trade between southern Sudan and Uganda; and increased militia activity along the north/south trade routes.

First season rains (April-July) in cropping areas of southern Sudan have just begun. This indicates a mixed start to the April-July rains, with delays in many areas. A close watch in the remainder of April is of high priority. Led by UN-FAO, humanitarian agencies are targeting about 165,000 households across southern Sudan with close to 2,500 MT of seeds this year.

A significant proportion of households in Western Flood Plains, Eastern Flood Plains, Nile – Sobat and potentially Pastoral Zone are in transition from No Acute food insecurity to Stressed and Crisis levels as the lean season sets in at the end of April and lasts through July/August. Particular areas of concern are the Nile – Sobat areas of Mayom, Abiemnom Rubkona, Guit, Koch, Fangak and Shilluk - Malakal, due to the high number of returnees, militia insecurity, and last year's below-average crop performance; Eastern Flood Plain areas of Ayod, Duk, Uror, Akobo, and Khorfulus, due to militia and cattle raiding insecurity; and Western Flood Plains areas of Aweil East, North, South, and Centre, due to returnees and chronic food access problems that cause acute food insecurity during April/May through July/August. There are also significant food insecure pockets in Pastoral and Hills and Mountains Zones due to reduced access to grain in local markets and two poor consecutive cropping years respectively in the two zones. The two zones are also experiencing their typical lean season. Details of food insecurity phases or levels in different zones are provided below.

#### **Eastern Flood Plains Zone - counties of Akobo, Uror, Khorfulus and Ayod and Longuchok**

Current food insecurity in the above areas are a combination of localized crop production shortfalls due to flooding during the 2010 June – September season and increased militia insecurity and persistent cattle raiding. In Longuchok County, food insecurity is largely due to the high number of returnees. So far, insecurity has displaced over 7,000 people from Khor Fulus, Fangak and Canal areas to as far as Ayod County. Displaced households lost their seeds and last year's food stocks. They are currently experiencing significant food consumption gaps which are partially being mitigated by their hosts or kin as they await external humanitarian assistance.

Insecurity persists in Akobo County with attacks and looting of cattle by Murle pastoralists towards the end of March 2011. Loss of livestock and their products will exacerbate food insecurity for affected households and poor households during the May-August lean season as this is when contribution of milk is most significant. In addition, households in Akobo County are yet to recover from heavy livestock losses incurred following the 2009 insecurity and a below normal sorghum harvest last year. Last year's crop harvests were reduced by flooding in Longuchok County, and there has been a high influx of returnees into the county. The estimated 16,000 returnees are equivalent to 25 percent of the 63,000 residents. This has caused significant food gaps. Though last year's floods increased fish access during this year's dry season, this has not compensated for reduced harvest and cannot support the increased demand by the returnees who arrive with few or no assets or sources. Thus, many have to rely on food aid and support from relatives. A significant proportion of households in Akobo and Longuchok are currently facing significant food gaps that will persist until the main harvest in September.

Both households displaced by insecurity and their hosts in Khorfulus, Canal, and Ayod are affected by militia insecurity and face reduced consumption, which could become more widespread if conflict persists. Currently the referendum-related militia insecurity affecting Khorfulus and Canal is spreading south- and east-wards and could potentially affect the entire state of Jonglei.

In this zone, potential shocks or threats include continued returns to Longuchok County or other areas; increased cattle raiding insecurity and spread of militia insecurity in most locations. The spread of militia activity is likely in the counties of Ayod, Uror, Nyirol and Akobo, given increasing attacks on people on routes between Bor and Uror counties. This could lead to more displacements, and disruption of cultivation and traditional exchange mechanisms, leading to reduced coping capacity of households during the lean season. Overall, households affected and displaced by militia insecurity will likely reduce food consumption to below-normal levels. They also risk losing the main June – September cultivation season, making them more vulnerable to food insecurity in the coming year. Overall, most of the locations are currently at the Stress level (IPC Phase 2) but will deteriorate to Crisis level (IPC Phase 3) from May/June through September.

Due to the expected reduced consumption, nutrition conditions could be compromised during April –September. This is especially so due to high incidences of Kalazar – Visceral Leishmaniasis disease in this zone. The ongoing insecurity is severely constraining efforts to treat those affected by the disease, which is lethal if not treated. The disease is endemic among all age groups, but children are more vulnerable. The disease affects the body's use of consumed food and easily causes malnutrition.

#### **Nile – Sobat Zone Counties of Abiemnom, Mayom, Rubkona, Guit, Koch, Fashoda, Malakal, Fangak, and Twic East**

Above and earlier than normal flooding during the 2010 June – September cropping season reduced crop harvests in many parts of Abiemnom, Mayom, Payinjar and Leer counties. Referendum-related militia insecurity, particularly in the areas of Malakal, Mayom, Rubkona, Fashoda and Fangak during February/March, has displaced over 6,000 people. Other areas affected by the insecurity include Toch, Haat and Mareng. Inter-ethnic conflict further south in Twic East County has displaced over 9,000 people. Cattle raiding across the Sobat River in Yomding area of Ulang County in early March has displaced over 2,000 people. The insecurity has also disrupted dry season food access, especially fishing, water plants gathering and access to markets. In addition, over 50,000 people have returned from northern Sudan to Unity State since the end of October. Most returnees are concentrated in Abiemnom, Mayom, Rubkona areas, where militia were already present. Other areas of high returnee concentration include Bentiu and Leer counties. In addition, the anticipation of insecurity associated with the referendum has caused increased food prices, as most traders were from northern Sudan and stopped replenishing supplies to avoid risk of losing their goods.

The above factors have caused earlier than normal food insecurity, especially in Abiemnom, Mayom, Rubkona, Bentiu, Leer and Koch counties. Though flow of food into markets has started returning to normal, insecurity is currently constraining population movements. Continued insecurity could also constrain land preparation for the June-September cropping season. The same population is faced with increased food prices arising from withdrawal of subsidies since December/January as a cost cutting measure on fuel, sugar and wheat flour by the Government of northern Sudan in anticipation of secession. The impact is significant in these areas because they rely on commodities supplied from northern Sudan.

Currently, a significant proportion of these households are transitioning from Stress (IPC Phase 2) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels. The Crisis level will be more evident from May through August, when significant food gaps will be more widespread due to the combined negative impact of ongoing insecurity, lean season food shortages (typical food shortages experienced when food production systems are at their lowest level of performance), under-supplied markets and potentially continued population returns. A likely threat to food insecurity during the outlook period includes continued or increased militia insecurity, which could spread to more areas of Unity and Upper Nile states, causing more displacements and sustained high food prices. This is evidenced by the presence of heavy weapons, some of which were collected by security forces in Malakal area during a search in mid-April. If food prices go even higher when northern and southern Sudan separate, food purchases will be even more difficult for the poor, especially when the separation of northern and southern Sudan approaches. This is because movement of northern Sudan traders to the north is likely to follow similar patterns as those following the January referendum.

#### **Western Flood Plains Zone counties of Aweil East, Aweil West, Aweil Centre, Aweil North, Twic, Gogrial East/ West, Yirol West and Ironstone Plateau Zone areas of Mvolo and Wulu counties**

There has been no acute food insecurity during January – April in most locations except for Aweil Centre and Gogrial West, where there are many returnees; Wulu County, where 2009/2010 insecurity constrained the recovery of previously displaced households; Yirol West and Mvolo counties, where over 25,000 and 9,000 people, respectively, have been displaced by inter-tribal insecurity. An additional 9,000 are reported displaced in Mvolo but unverified. However, in the

Western Flood Plains Zone, food insecurity is likely to rapidly deteriorate to Stress level (IPC Phase 2) in May and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between June-August for most poor households as the lean season progresses. Displaced households currently experience significant consumption gaps due to sudden loss of food stocks caused by inter ethnic and cattle raiding insecurity. Localized and tribal insecurity has also been a threat in Rumbek and Cuibet since mid-April. Conflict could potentially spread, including into the southern parts of Warrap State. This could constrain cultivation during June – September/November. To improve security, forces are being deployed to the border between Western Equatoria (Mvolo) and Lakes (Yirol West). Meanwhile, boycotts have constrained the peace reconciliations between the two communities.

**Table 1. Less likely events over the next six months that could change the above scenarios**

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
South Kordofan State	Election in south Kordofan generates violence	The violence could lead to new displacement.
Abeyi Area	Further deterioration in the political dialogue between SLA/M and the National congress party to resolve the status of Abeyi	The security situation would remain tense in the area, with potential for clashes between militias and local communities that could lead to displacement, looting of animals and destruction of other assets.
Cattle herders in South Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, White Nile and Sinar State	Denied access for grazing in South Sudan	This would endanger the cattle of nomadic tribes who seasonally migrate to graze their animals in southern Sudan.
Darfur (North, South and West Darfur States)	Peace deal between Darfur Rebel groups and Government of Sudan	This would improve the security situation allowing the return of IDPs to their home villages.
Eastern Flood Plains: Uror, Akobo, Fangak, Khorfulus and Canal	Improved security	End of cattle raiding and militia insecurity could quickly stabilize Jonglei State and make it more accessible in terms of market access and supplies. End of insecurity would also result in improved kinship support of poor households by better off households.
Nile –Sobat Zone: Malakal, Leer, Mayom, Rubkona, Abiemnom, Bentiu, Fashoda, Shulluk	Improved security and resumption of normal commodity flows	End of militia insecurity could mitigate deterioration of food insecurity conditions and facilitate return of displaced households to their original homes in time for the June-September cultivation. However, this is highly unlikely due to continued tensions between militia and southern Sudan forces. Resumption of normal commodity flow levels would increase supply and potentially lower prices, but this is unlikely as traders are still cautious due to the forthcoming July separation.