

## SKBN Coordination Unit

# Humanitarian Update

October 2019

## FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

### *Heavy rains and flooding likely to affect main agricultural performance this year*

Jibraka harvest (near farms) ongoing in the SPLM-N areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile ended in October and the main harvest is starting in November/December (also refer to the seasonal calendar on the next page).

Atypical rainfall across the region in October caused widespread flooding which impacted communities in Blue Nile and Maban and according to an [IOM Report Nov 2](#) "caused temporary displacement and disruption in service provision to more than 900,000 individuals [in South Sudan]" of which an estimated 200 000 is in the Upper Nile region.

In Southern Kurmuk County, Blue Nile, local reports indicate a poor jibraka harvest especially in Chali and Wadaka payam, affecting an estimated 32000 people.

Heavy rains continued to have a big effect on crops, especially earlier maturing sorghum, sesame and groundnuts in Thobo and Western Kadugli Counties of South Kordofan. A pre-harvest assessment result is under analysis by the Secretariat of Agriculture and is expected to reflect the most affected areas by the heavy rains and floods.

In the Western Jebels, continued heavy rain affected crops and according to local reports, a poor yield is expected in Alsonut County and Sillara, Karko and Al-farshaya payams in Dilling County. Also, as previously reported, the pest locally known as *bingbing* affected sorghum at the milk stage in Limirik and Kamda payam of Lagawa County and in Julud, Timen and Wali payams of Dilling County.

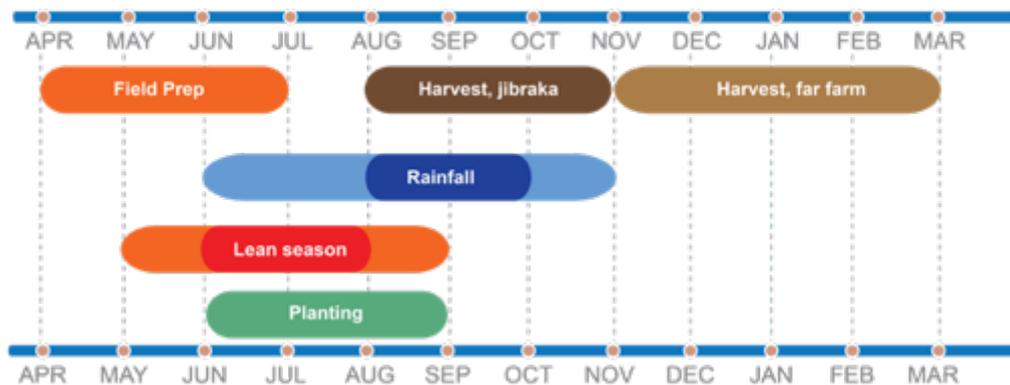


### Highlights:

*Flooding in Blue Nile and heavy rainfall in South Kordofan affects humanitarian aid and crop production*

*Increased people movement:  
Inadequate drug supply to meet needs*

*First UN humanitarian visit to Kauda in over 8 years*



*Seasonal calendar for South Kordofan and Blue Nile*

Food prices are fluctuating as described in the [latest FSMU monthly brief](#) for September “The price of sorghum rose slightly in Central Region in September but remains lower than last year. In the Western Jebel Region, sorghum prices decreased from last month. When compared to last month, the change in the price of beans and sugar varied across counties and by the type of staple, but on average- with the exception of beans in Western Jebel Region -- the prices of these staples were lower than last year”.

## HEALTH

### *Increased movement: inadequate basic drug supply*

Local, verified reports indicate an increased movement of people seeking health services from as far as Talodi, Abu Jubeiha and Liri. This is putting a lot of pressure on drug supply and health structures in South Kordofan. With high malnutrition rates in Sudan, where “over 38 per cent of children under-five years are believed to be stunted (too short for their age). Some 17 per cent are wasted (too thin for their height)”, [UNICEF Sudan in a recent statement](#) estimates that approximately “120 children die every day due to undernutrition and related causes”.

In a SMART survey conducted in SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan in 2017 “children aged 6-59 months are affected by malnutrition as evidenced by the global acute malnutrition prevalence of 23.9 % (19.6 - 28.7 95% C.I.) which is classified as above emergency nutrition situation as per WHO standards. The prevalence of underweight 40.6 % (35.5 – 46.0 95% C.I.) is also classified as emergency while the prevalence of stunting (38.3% [34.5 – 42.3 95% CI]) is classified as serious/ high. The emergency nutrition situation is attributed to multi-faceted factors that included household food insecurity, high morbidity prevalence, poor MIYCN practices and lack of adequate humanitarian support and response in the region”.

With an already distinct funding gap in this sector and no change foreseen for 2020, support for basic health services are diminishing for the communities in the Two Areas.

In the Western Jebels, malaria, skin infection and upper and lower respiratory infections are reported in line with this stage of the rainy season. Five new feeding centers have been established in this region.

With heavy flooding in Blue Nile, the risk of spread of waterborne diseases is high. Cases of malaria, acute watery diarrhea and influenza have been reported with at least three malaria deaths reported in October. Road access has made it impossible to supply drugs to all clinics in this area for the last three months putting entire communities at risk.

## ANIMAL HEALTH

### *Urgent need for vaccination*

Veterinary programming remains a challenge to livestock in Blue Nile. This has resulted into poor animal health and hence, poor quality meat and milk products. Ten livestock deaths have been reported in Chali payam in October. In South Kordofan region, the Secretariat has run out of livestock drugs and the available drugs in crossline markets are costly for the majority of communities. There is urgent need for livestock vaccination at the end of the rainy season to prevent spread of diseases and for training of more Community Animal Health Workers.

## WASH

### *Unsafe water in rainy season*

Access to safe drinking water remains a challenge in both Areas and communities continue to depend on unsafe surface water which puts them at risk to water borne diseases.

Global Hand Washing Day on October 15, 2019 was celebrated in Yabus Kubri, Blue Nile, this year, to mobilize people to improve their handwashing habits and further raise awareness around cholera preparedness.

## EDUCATION

### *Education in Blue Nile still a challenge*

According to the school calendar, schools are open at the beginning of November. Education remains one of the top priorities for the people in the Areas. More than 50 percent of teachers are untrained, while infrastructure does not support the number of students with adequate teaching facilities and materials. Communities struggle to keep schools functioning in Blue Nile. Heavy rains and floods destroyed many schools in different counties across South Kordofan this rainy season.

## SECURITY, ACCESS AND PROTECTION

### *Relative calm in the region*

Relative calm was prevailing in the Two Areas in October. However, incidents of violence in Khor Waral on 15 October<sup>1</sup> and Habila are concerning and is under analysis for verification, and trend analysis.

In the first UN humanitarian mission to SPLM-N controlled areas in South Kordofan, in over eight years, WFP visited Kauda on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. In a [statement by the HC/RC of Sudan](#), this effort was commended and all parties urged “to continue working in a spirit of cooperation to enable unfettered humanitarian access to the affected areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile”.

*The SKBN CU reports security incidents 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)*

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<sup>1</sup> A detailed analysis report on this incident can be requested from the SKBNCU by emailing [coordination@skbncu.org](mailto:coordination@skbncu.org)