



**Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) to support market strengthening programming in South Sudan**

**Quarterly Report**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

As conflict erupted in the world's newest nation of South Sudan in December 2013, markets, upon which many relied, have been hugely disrupted and distorted. Productive livelihoods, vital community assets and service infrastructure have been destroyed. Within this context, Mercy Corps, and VSF-Suisse, and other key informants and partners (NGOs and Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock), including consultation with local government authorities and ministries, conducted an Emergency Market Mapping Analysis (EMMA) that assessed 3 critical markets: sorghum, cattle off-take, and goat and sheep off-take. This EMMA will form the basis for developing a logical strategy around which appropriate immediate and longer-term responses to improve food security can be designed.

The rationale for this EMMA was to galvanize a better understanding of the most critical market systems enabling humanitarian agencies to consider a broad range of responses as well as conventional in-kind distributions, vouchers and cash-based interventions.

## **APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY**

The methodology used for this study adapted the standard EMMA approach to account for the complex context of South Sudan. Data collection and analysis procedures closely followed the EMMA 10-step process, including a focus on critical market systems and a combined household gap, market, and response analysis. For each critical market system, there is a comparison of the current market system to the chosen reference period of a year ago, when the markets functioned more healthily, enabling the identification of key constraints on the market systems brought on by the most recent crisis. Additionally, to a limited extent, this EMMA looks forward to the next three to twelve months to anticipate the future impact on the market systems of the on-going crisis; recommendations are made to support markets systems critical to the livelihoods and well-being of households in Leer and Abiemnhom Counties.

The EMMA triangulated information from target households, market system actors and secondary sources. In South Sudan, there are limited sources of up-to-date quality secondary data. Many agencies are still using data from the National Baseline Household Budget Survey (NBHS) from 2009, the Fifth Population and Housing Census of Sudan from 2008, Cost to Market Road Survey 2010, and the South Sudan Center for Census Statistics and Evaluation Annual Report (2010). These do not reflect the significant changes that have taken place since independence and since the most recent conflict. This EMMA has drawn heavily from Mercy Corps' own resources as well as reports and briefings from Oxfam, IOM, WFP, FAO, World Bank, FEWSNET, and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Additionally, Mercy Corps widely consulted and coordinated the EMMA assessment with relevant NGOs, UN and government (both local and national) authorities.

Mercy Corps worked with VSF-Suisse in conducting the EMMA assessment. The partnership included designing the assessment tools and conducting the assessment with senior VSF-S staff as team leaders and enumerators. Mercy Corps also engaged the FSL cluster and other stakeholders throughout the process of the EMMA. The FAO livestock advisor and the FSL cluster co-coordinator, as well as the USAID-funded Viable Support to Transition and Stability (VISTA) program were consulted and had their input at different stages of the EMMA. Technical inputs for the assessment design were also gathered from the FAO livestock emergency officer, the FAO epidemiologist, the FEWSNET technical manager, WFP VAM and the national ministry of animal resources and fisheries among others.

The EMMA for sorghum, cattle and goats/sheep off-take in Leer and Abiemnhom Counties was initiated and led by a Mercy Corps consultant together with the Mercy Corps Market and Livestock Program Advisor. Mercy Corps worked in conjunction with one senior international staff from Veterinaries Sans Frontieres Suisse (VSF) who provided technical expertise and logistics to the field team. VSF also identified two local field team leaders and eight data collectors for part of the time, including three government officials from agriculture and livestock and fisheries. Additionally, Mercy Corps provided 3 team leaders for the Abiemnhom assessment.

A three-day preparatory workshop for team members was held in Leer and Abiemnhom Counties, from November 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 and December 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> respectively, with a focus on introducing the EMMA methodology to all EMMA team members and to prepare and pilot data collection tools for the assessment fieldwork. The EMMA team members were divided into pairs that collected data from 88 poor and very poor households and inaccessible villages in four Leer and Abiemnhom areas, using questionnaires assisted by proportional piling and supervised by the team leaders. Other team members concentrated on supporting the collection of household data, interviewing market actors using a combination of observation, key informants, and focus group discussions. International staff and team leaders met with key informants and four focus group discussions.

For Leer, data was collected between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2014. This was followed by an analysis workshop facilitated by the EMMA leader/co-leader with senior Mercy Corps and VSF program staff on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, and a peer review by technical experts drawn from key informants on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November. Similarly, Abiemnhom data was collected between December 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, followed by an analysis workshop and feedback session with the Mercy Corps team in Juba.

## LIMITATIONS

The market networks from for the two study areas extend into other areas, such as Aweil, Wau, Bentiu, Abyei, Renk and Sudan, which the EMMA team could not reach to interview the actors. Some of the actors, such as Darfurian traders and transporters, had fled the conflict, returning to Sudan as well as urban centers in South Sudan. Unfortunately, it was not possible to locate them within the study timeframe. Furthermore, data from secondary sources was triangulated to create a detailed picture of the situation before the crisis. Households and informants were asked to recall incomes, expenditures, trade volumes, prices, and numbers of the past week, a difficult feat for people who do not write or keep records. As a result, the figures given in the report remain estimates.

To address this gap, the team had to probe, crosscheck and triangulate information from different sources to address any biases that may have arisen. In addition, interviews were conducted with traders and small transporters from the Anet market (Agok), the current supply market for sorghum and terminal market for cattle and shoats for Abiemnhom. This helped identify the pre-conflict status of the markets and trade networks that existed in the area before the crisis.

Additionally, while South Sudan is generally considered to be a challenging place to work. The EMMA methodology requires a strong multi-disciplined team of high-functioning individuals capable of independent thought and analysis. Information is normally collected using semi-structured interviews rather than questionnaires to get a “good enough” snapshot of the situation. Emphasis is on the analysis of information, and normally there is a high dependence on secondary sources - particularly for information about households and the needs of the population used for the household/gap analysis. However this was limited in some instances by logistical challenges and poor road conditions that limited travel within the county.

Despite these challenges, the team was able to make adaptations to the EMMA data collection process in order to provide valuable insights into the way the markets have been affected by the conflict, and how this has then impacted local livelihood strategies.

## Quality Indicators:

Quality Indicators:	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EMMA conducted in accordance with the (10-step) process described in the EMMA toolkit;</li> </ul>	100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number of counterparts involved in consultation in the EMMA (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, VSF-S, VISTAS etc.)</li> </ul>	100% (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, VSF-S, VISTAS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of Key Informant Interviews secured – for example sorghum traders (10-20), cattle traders (10-20), goat traders (5-15), operational NGOs in sites, households (25-40), local authorities etc.</li> </ul>	Cattle trader: 17 Goats/sheep: 14 Sorghum: 18 Households: 88 NGOs: MSF, ICRC, VSF-Suisse, VSF, German, ACF

## Output Indicators:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EMMA report which will include the analysis of the three market chains (sorghum, cattle, sheep and goats) across locations.</li> </ul>	Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation to partner agencies and key stakeholders including FSL cluster membership</li> </ul>	Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public version of EMMA findings shared with stakeholders and publically available.</li> </ul>	Done. Available on <a href="https://www.mercycorps.org/research-resources/analyzing-markets-conflict-affected-areas-south-sudan">https://www.mercycorps.org/research-resources/analyzing-markets-conflict-affected-areas-south-sudan</a> Will also be available on: Market on crisis group, Unity Analysis group (NP, IRC, Reach, NRC, DRC, WFP, MC participating in this group)