

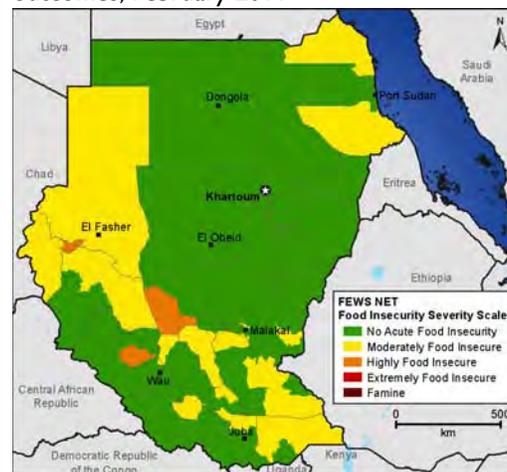
Sudan Food Security Outlook

February to June 2011

Heightened violence in Darfur and large influx of returnees to southern Sudan pose concerns

- The good 2010/11 harvest has improved food security conditions in Sudan. However, increased fighting between Darfur rebels and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), the high number of returnees to southern Sudan following the referendum, and new economic reform policies threaten the recent food security improvements.
- In northern Sudan, food insecurity is concentrated in Darfur, Red Sea, North Kordofan, White Nile, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan states. In Darfur and Red Sea states, moderate food insecurity is expected to continue through June, due to the insecurity and limited livelihood options. In other areas (North Kordofan, South Kordofan, and White Nile states), moderate food insecurity is expected during the lean season (May to October). High food insecurity is expected in Abeyi and Jabal Mara through June due to civil insecurity and limited access to markets.
- In southern Sudan, moderately food insecure households are concentrated in Unity, Jonglei, and Eastern Equatoria states due to last year's below-normal crop harvests, reduced grain availability, increased prices, and the high number of returnees. Moderate food insecurity will be sustained through March/April and then increase to high food insecurity during April/June.
- Despite the peaceful completion of the January referendum, increased prices and reduced flows of essential food and non-food commodities into southern Sudan since late last year have persisted, particularly in Upper Nile and Unity. These states exclusively source commodities from northern Sudan, where prices have increased since January. Prospects for further price increases are high due to anticipated global food price increases, especially for cooking oil, cereal, and sugar.

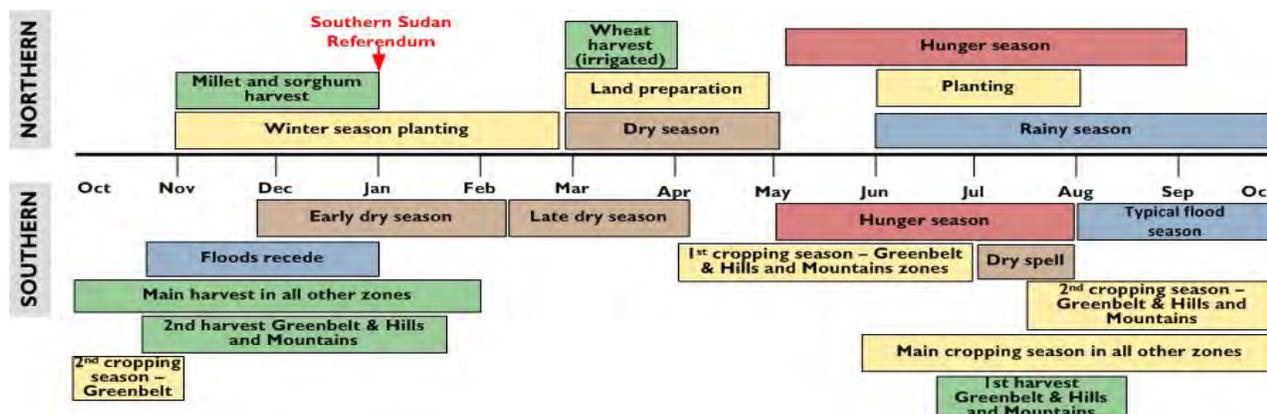
Figure 1. Current estimated food security outcomes, February 2011



For more information on FEWS NET's Food Insecurity Severity Scale, please see: www.fews.net/foodinsecurityscale.

Source: FEWS NET

Seasonal calendar and critical events



Source: FEWS NET

Most likely food security scenario (February – June 2011)

In **northern Sudan**, the overall food security situation has improved in most areas following the good harvest of the 2010/11 agricultural season. The joint Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to the 15 northern states in November/December 2010 revealed overall cereal surplus production of 650,000 MT. This is double last year's harvest and 35 percent higher than the five-year average. Abundant pasture from the good 2010 rains improved livestock conditions, leading to a nine percent increase in the livestock population in 2010 compared to 2009. The harvest of oil crops (e.g. groundnut and sesame) is also projected to have increased twice as much as last year and 10 percent more than the five-year average.

Due to the good harvest, cereal prices began to decline in all northern Sudanese markets since the harvest began in November/December 2010. However, by the end of the harvest in January, the declining trend in prices began to slow, as is typical after the harvest. January sorghum prices were 3-15 percent lower than in December 2010 in some markets. However, sorghum prices in Darfur began to increase in January 2011 and are currently 18-63 percent higher than the five-year average and 21-107 percent higher than the reference year (2009/10). This is mainly due to insecurity in the region and the reduction in the food aid ration since mid-2010. Cereal prices in northern Sudan are likely to trend upwards over the coming months and to peak during the lean season (May – September 2011) due to formal and informal exports of cereal to southern Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and other countries.

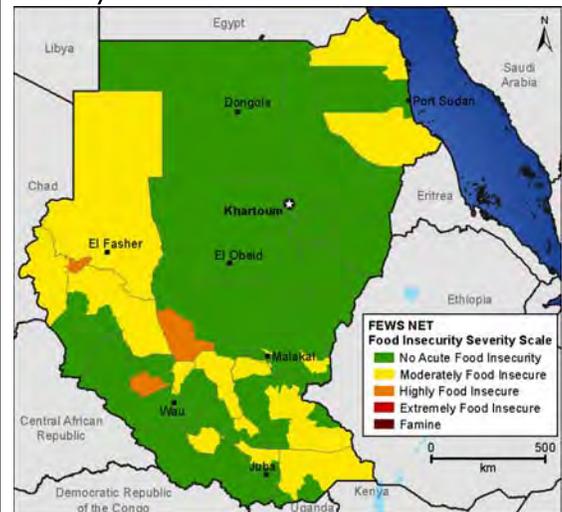
The referendum on independence for southern Sudan took place peacefully in January 2011, with the overwhelming majority of southerners (99 percent) voting for secession. The outcome of the referendum has generated a wave of returnees from northern to southern Sudan. There is also some population movement from the south to the north, including nearly 20,000 nomads who left deteriorating security conditions in Upper Nile in southern Sudan to Blue Nile state in northern Sudan. The flow of returnees is expected to continue in both directions until the end of the transitional period in July 2011, although most of the population movement will be from northern to southern Sudan.

The federal government introduced new economic reform policies in January 2011 to deal with the expected 2011 budget deficit due to the risk of losing income from oil export after secession of southern Sudan. These policies include the withdrawal of subsidies and creation of additional taxes, which have led to 30-50 percent increases in the prices of essential food and non-food commodities. At the household level, these higher prices have offset the gains from the good harvest.

In spite of the overall surplus production and improvements in food security conditions, about four million people will continue to face moderate to high levels of food insecurity in northern Sudan through June due to ongoing conflict in Darfur and Abeyi and the low level of production in the environmentally degraded areas of the Red Sea, North Kordofan, White Nile, North Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan states.

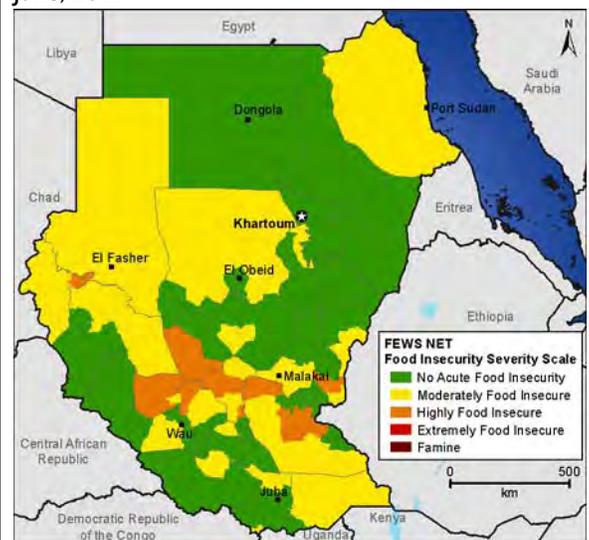
In **Darfur**, the security situation is tense with sporadic fighting between Darfur rebels and the SAF. During the past two months, 45,000–50,000 people have been displaced due to fighting in Khor Abechi and Minwashi/Kidinger (South Darfur),

Figure 2. Most likely food security outcomes, February-March 2011



Source: FEWS NET

Figure 3. Most likely food security outcomes, April-June, 2011



Source: FEWS NET

Tabit, Shengel Tobaya, Wadimura, and Dar Alsalam (North Darfur), and Golo/Geldo in Jabal Mara (West Darfur). The recent fighting has resulted in loss of lives, destruction of assets, crops, and food stocks, displacement, and withdrawal of humanitarian workers. 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, has received about 4,500 IDPs in recent months.

Approximately three million people in Darfur are expected to remain moderately and highly food insecure through June, including two million IDPs. Although IDPs have limited access to casual labor, this work does not provide enough income to meet basic food needs. Poor households in resident communities are expected to face typical levels of moderate food insecurity by the beginning of the lean season in May 2011. An estimated 100,000–150,000 people affected by insecurity in Jabal Mara are expected to face high levels of food insecurity due to limited access to markets and higher prices due to the new economic policies. The nutrition situation in North Darfur is of concern, based on data from selective feeding programs, sentinel sites, and localized nutrition surveys that indicate that only 3 out of 12 localized nutrition surveys showed a GAM rate of less than 20 percent. These results are similar to those at the same time last year. The 2010 therapeutic feeding center (TFC) admissions in North, South and West Darfur states are the highest in the last six years. The high level of admissions could be due to the scale of food insecurity in 2010 and the reduction of the food aid ration during the peak lean season.

In **Red Sea State**, about 200,000–250,000 people in Haya, Dordieb, Sinkat, Tokar and Halayeb localities are expected to face moderate food insecurity through June due to limited livelihood options, as rainfall levels are insufficient for cultivation or livestock herding, and limited off-farm income sources (e.g. firewood, grass collection, urban labor and traditional gold mining). 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 face moderate food insecurity due to long dry spells that extended for more than 20 days during the most critical crop growth stage in September 2010, as well as an outbreak of grasshoppers and birds that affected crop production in these areas. In **South Kordofan state**, an estimated 50,000–100,000 poor people with limited income sources in Kadogli will face moderate food insecurity. In **White Nile State**, about 50,000–100,000 people (mainly Geteina locality) are projected to face moderate food insecurity during the lean season (May–July 2011), due to 2010 rainfall shortages that affected crop production.

In the disputed territory of **Abeyi**, the tense security situation is expected to affect access to grazing by the Messeriya and Rezeigat cattle herders during the summer (March–June 2011), to reduce trade flows from the north to Abeyi area, and to reduce the ability of returnees to work. In February 2011, numerous clashes and cattle raiding were reported in the area, which is likely to refuel the already existing political dispute over the area. An estimated 50,000 people in the area are likely to remain highly food insecure through June due to the insecurity, the high number of returnees (38,000 returnees to date), and the sharp increase in food prices.

In **southern Sudan**, moderate food insecurity is concentrated in Unity State, Uror, Akobo, Fangak, Khorfulus, and Eastern Equatoria State, due to factors including last year's crop harvest shortfalls caused by flooding, insecurity and a high number of returnees from northern Sudan. Food insecurity in Eastern Equatoria is also due to below-normal harvests because of below-normal rains in some areas. Households have also been affected by the price increases due to the new economic policies in northern Sudan. Consumers in Upper Nile and Unity, which exclusively source goods from northern Sudan, have been most affected.

The number of people returning from northern Sudan slightly declined in January due to insecurity in South Kordofan, where the main route passes. Close to 250,000 people returned to southern Sudan from the end of October to mid-February. Over 5,500 returnees are still stranded in transit stations, mostly at Kosti in northern Sudan. About 3,400 are children, making this group very vulnerable to food insecurity and the lack of access to basic social services. Following the peaceful completion of the referendum, many more people are expected to return by the end of June. As more returnees continue to arrive, they are increasingly straining access to resources among the host communities and in some cases causing tensions, such as in Twic and Melut counties. A January/February assessment by Mercy Corps in Aweil East County (Northern Bahr El Gazal State), Twic County (Warrap State), Mayom County and Bentiu (Unity State) and Renk, Melut and Akoka Counties (Upper Nile State) indicate numerous challenges faced by returnees, including lack of transportation to final destinations; adhoc and unclear land policies; localized conflicts; complete dependence on short-term food and non-food assistance; insufficient basic services; and weak livelihood systems and opportunities for quick re-integration and

establishment of livelihoods. Coping strategies used by returnees include a range of petty trade activities such as selling tea, brewing, brick making, grass and firewood sales, especially in Northern Bahr El Gazal state. Many of these opportunities do not exist in other parts of Upper Nile (Renk) and Jonglei.

In the **Eastern Flood Plains Zone (Akobo, Uror, Khorfulus, Fangak, Ayod and Longuchok counties)**, above-normal flooding during the 2010 June–September cropping season negatively affected crop performance, especially in Khorfulus, Akobo, and Longuchok counties. This reduced carryover stocks to the January–April 2011 season. Food shortfalls are currently increasing due to escalating insecurity, particularly in Khorfulus and Fangak (due to militia insecurity) and in Uror and Akobo (due to cattle raiding activities with neighboring Pibor County). The insecurity in Khorfulus and Fangak has reportedly left an unconfirmed 200 people dead, many seriously injured, 1,000 missing and close to 20,000 people displaced. Generally, the most affected in these locations are poor households and those that have recently returned from northern Sudan, most of whom have few options for coping with the shortages. Coping strategies include the time-consuming options of gathering wild foods (desert dates) and moving to long-distant fishing areas, supplemented by kinship support. Food shortfalls are expected to increase, especially in Akobo, Uror, Fangak, and Khorfulus during April–June 2011, when the lean season begins.

Persistent insecurity has also continued to affect market activities in this zone. The latest insecurity occurred around February 10 in Khorfulus and Fangak counties, reportedly resulting in the deaths of over 100 people. Also, tribal and cattle raiding insecurity persists between Uror/Akobo and Pibor counties. The latest attacks were conducted by Pibor County on Akobo and Uror in January and February, respectively, and a total of 1000 cattle were allegedly looted. Many raiding incidences occurred during January and February, raising concern over a re-occurrence of the 2009 Akobo crisis that was partially caused by escalated and frequent raiding activities. The loss of livestock significantly affects better-off households due to loss of access to milk, meat, blood and their key source of cash income, which is typically used to purchase grain. However, responses to cattle losses due to raiding in this zone are very complex and often involve retaliation to cover losses. Recovery of livestock through raids often goes unreported, making it difficult to assess loss and impact on households.

During February and March, poor households in Uror, Akobo, Khorfulus and Fangak will be moderately food insecure. From April to July, these households will become highly food insecure. Overall, cattle raiding, militia insecurity, and Visceral Leishmaniasis (a severe form of the disease in which parasites affect vital organs) remain likely shocks in this zone. Insecurity could displace people, cause loss of livestock, or disrupt land preparation and planting for the June–September cropping season. The continued spread of Visceral Leishmaniasis could increase malnutrition and death, especially among children, as those affected by the disease are not able to sufficiently utilize consumed food. The disease can be lethal and is endemic to Jonglei and Upper Nile States. Some 6,363 cases and 303 deaths had been reported by early October and this increased to 9,885 cases with 384 deaths in November. Children infected with the disease are extremely vulnerable to severe malnutrition. The disease also reduces productivity among infected adults, depriving households of much needed labor that is critical during January to July, when food gathering and cultivation activities are at peak.

In **Longuchok County**, last year's crop harvest shortfalls due to flooding have resulted in grain shortages. Poor households temporarily bridged the gap by increasing fishing during December and January, but this option has ceased because flood waters have receded. In addition, about 7,000 people, equivalent to 10 percent of the host population, have returned since November 2010, and are being hosted by their relatives and supported with food aid. Due to a significant dependant returnee population, and already existing shortfalls combined with expected lean season shortfalls, Longuchok is likely to become highly food insecure during the Outlook period.

With the upcoming separation of Sudan, there are concerns over the likely disruption of production in mechanized farms of Renk, which provide a critical source of grain for the **Upper Nile State**. Mechanized production of grain in this area is currently dominated by farmers from northern Sudan who may not be able to cultivate due to uncertainty over their fate during separation. Also, expected continued insecurity in Malakal could discourage northern Sudan traders and food suppliers from returning. There is also potential for increased returnees from northern Sudan to the Upper Nile. Grain unavailability and increased prices, increased returnees, and potential insecurity in Malakal, Fashoda Panyikang, Manyo and Renk, combined with typical lean season shortfalls, could increase food insecurity during April to June. Currently, the highest food prices are recorded in Malakal with a 35 and 58 percent price increase for sorghum and wheat flour, respectively, between December and January. Though most households are not facing acute food insecurity except

households in Longuchok and Malakal counties, there is a need to monitor Upper Nile State closely for potential deterioration in food security conditions.

Households in the **Nile – Sobat Zone's Unity State** (Abiemnom, Mayom, Rubkona, Bentiu, Leer and Koch counties) are moderately food insecure due to reduced carryover of last year's crop harvest stocks, increased population and consumption due to increased returnees, reduced food supplies and increased prices. Generally, the most affected in these locations will be returnees, poor households with very few or no livestock to sell to purchase grain, and households hosting returnees. Though they will increase fish and wild food gathering to cover for crop shortfalls, these households will depend on food assistance to meet basic food needs. Households are expected to be highly food insecure when all of the above issues are compounded by lean season food shortages in April through August. In addition, an estimated 50,000 people arrived in Unity State between October and early February, equivalent to 10 percent of the host population. The majority (32,000) are concentrated in Abiemnom, Mayom, Rubkona, Bentiu/Guit and Leer counties. Also, due to anticipation of insecurity associated with the referendum, food prices increased because most traders were from northern Sudan and stopped replenishing supplies to avoid risk of losing their goods in case insecurity increased. These factors combined have now caused earlier than normal food insecurity in the northern part of Unity State, especially in Abiemnom, Mayom, Rubkona, Bentiu, Leer and Koch counties.

Likely concerns that could worsen current food insecurity in **Unity State** include the continued arrival of returnees from northern Sudan, insecurity by militia groups along the north-south border, especially in Mayom County, reduced availability of grain, and increased food prices as northern traders fear disruption over upcoming separation. More returnees will increase competition for shared resources and kinship support between returnees and poor households, thus increasing the level of need, while increased prices will make grain increasingly unaffordable. Shortages resulting from any or a combination of the above factors will force households to rely on off-farm sources of fish, wild food collection, and cash-generating activities such as grass, firewood and brewing activities. Unfortunately, reliability of grain supplies between now and June remains unpredictable because northern traders are yet to return, and Unity State exclusively sources food from northern Sudan. Meanwhile, returnee households might have to partially rely on their hosts for support. Though they would participate in food access activities with their hosts, the hosts are unlikely to sufficiently meet these needs. Since all the above options are unlikely to cover food shortfalls, especially in March through June, most households will likely reduce consumption. Young children of poor and returnee households will be at risk of undernourishment or malnutrition, while agricultural productivity of adults is likely to be compromised during the cultivation season.

In the **Western Flood Plains** counties of Aweil East, Aweil West, Aweil Centre, Aweil North, Twic, Gogrial East, Gogrial West, Rumbek North, Wulu and Mvolo, there is no acute food insecurity except in Aweil centre, Gogrial West and Wulu counties. This is due to a reasonable harvest last year in most locations, accompanied by good performance and access to fish and wild foods. However, stocks from the harvest are expected to run out by the end of March, causing food insecurity to rapidly increase during April – June, which coincides with the lean season. However, this year's lean season is likely to be more severe due to pressure on available resources as more returnees are expected from northern Sudan to Aweil East, Aweil West, Aweil Centre, Aweil North, Twic, Gogrial East, Gogrial West. Already, close to 40,000 people (equivalent to five percent of the total Northern Bahr El Gazal State population) returned by early February, and many more are expected before the full onset of rains in June. Currently, the highest returnee concentration is in Aweil Centre, with over 21,000 returnees (and a resident population of 42,000). The returnees are arriving with few or no assets after being away for up to 20 years. Thus, many are highly food insecure as they are relying heavily on food aid and support from relatives. The most likely impacts of returnees on the local population are increased competition for petty trade and natural resources such as grass, firewood/charcoal, and water that are used for generating income. This is because poor households that form a majority of the population have been increasingly relying on petty trade to generate income in the past five years, while most returnees were used to earning cash through unskilled labor or petty trading in northern Sudan cities. Thus, competition is likely to cause a reduction in income for poor households that have been heavily relying on petty trade for some income.

In **Lakes State** further to the south of this zone, persistent cattle raiding could impact food security in the coming months and could disrupt land preparation for cultivation in June. Loss of livestock for better-off households would cause them to rely on their better-off relatives that are not affected for immediate support restocking and also cause them to increase cultivation. Chances are high that some households could opt to raid to recover their cattle. The latest cattle raiding

insecurity occurred in January 2011 in Rumbek North, reportedly by raiders from Unity State. About 5,000 cattle were reportedly looted, some deaths occurred, and close to 600 people were displaced.

Further south in Wulu, a 2009 tribal and livelihood conflict between Jur agriculturalists and Dinka agro pastoralists forced the agriculturalists to relocate, resettle, and open new land during 2010. This population was very much constrained by lack of seeds and short on labor due to divided attention over resettlement and clearance of forested land. This significantly compromised last year's cultivation and reduced crop yields, on which the agricultural community depends. A similar livelihood conflict occurred between Jur agriculturalists in Mvolo County and Dinka cattle keepers from Yirol in 2009 and recently in February 2011. The recent conflict left 15 people dead and displaced 400 people as disputes and fighting over land ownership and grazing rights escalated. Most of the population in Mvolo County is expected to be moderately food insecure during March through July.

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

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Eastern Flood Plains Uror, Akobo, Fangak, Khorfulus	Improved security	End of cattle raiding 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.
Eastern Flood Plains Counties of Uror, Akobo and Longuchok	Increased trade with Ethiopia due to upcoming separation	Increased trade along the southern Sudan border with Ethiopia due to upcoming separation could greatly improve food insecurity as grain from Ethiopia would become more accessible. However, this would only occur if there is improved security.
Eastern Flood Plains and Nile –Sobat Zones Malakal, Leer, Mayom, Rubkona, Abiemnom, Bentiu, Renk, Manyo, Fashoda	Resumption of normal commodity flows from the north and improved prices	Resumption of normal commodity flows from northern Sudan and improved prices could greatly improve food security. But this is unlikely because northern traders are yet to return. Prices are unlikely to improve due to price increases for fuel and other commodities in the north which supplies the south. This is exacerbated by hesitance of traders to return as well as loss of opportunity to stock grain during the dry season when grain is cheapest and roads are passable.
Darfur North, South and West Darfur States	Peace deal between Darfur Rebel groups and Government of Sudan	An improved security situation would allow the return of IDPs to home villages.