

HIGHLIGHTS

- FAO held its 30th Regional Conference for Africa between 19-23 February in Khartoum.
- Ending hunger can be achieved by scaling up efforts and fostering partnership towards resource mobilization - FAO.
- Prices of main staples rose sharply in Sudan for the third consecutive month in January, despite the recently completed main season harvest - FAO FPMA Bulletin.
- MC Scotland brings safe water and sanitation to 40,000 people in East Jebel Marra using solar panels with SHF support.

FIGURES 2017

# people in need in Sudan (2017 HNO)	4.8 million
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# people in need in Darfur (2017 HNO)	3 million
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GAM caseload (2017 HNO)	2.2 million
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South Sudanese refugees – total	767,425
Pre-2013	352,462
Post-2013	414,963

(UNHCR 31 Jan 2018)

Other refugees and asylum seekers, UNHCR (31 Dec 2017)	152,095
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FUNDING

US\$ 1.01 billion
\$ requested in 2018

6.1 million
US\$ received in 2018

0.6% funded
(FTS, as of 25 Feb 2018)



FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva speaking at the Africa Regional Conference in Khartoum (FAO, 2018)

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FAO Regional Conference for Africa in Khartoum discusses sustainable development

Ministers of agriculture met this month in Khartoum to chart a new path for agricultural development, food and nutrition security in Africa. The ministers met during the 30th Regional Conference for Africa titled ‘Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Food Systems in Africa: Improving the means of Production and the Creation of Decent and Attractive Employment for Youth.’

The conference, held on 19-23 February, discussed climate change and resilience building to address the vulnerability of Africa’s agriculture and rural livelihoods. In an Op-Ed ahead of the Africa Regional Conference, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva said: “It is encouraging that some parts of the continent have made some significant progress, but significant challenges remain for all”.

In Sudan, for example, the prevalence of undernourishment in the total population of the country from 2014 to 2016 was 25.6 per cent, according to the 2017 [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report](#). This represents a 40 per cent reduction in levels of under-nourishment, as compared with 1990 levels, to 27.5 per cent (2000-2002) and even further to 25 per cent in 2005-2007, as analysed in the [State of Food Insecurity in the World Report 2015](#).

2017 Africa Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition

The increase of hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2016 is directly linked to conflict and the impacts of climate change, such as prolonged drought, which has affected rural areas of many countries, said the FAO Director-General. Low levels of productivity, weak value-chains and high levels of vulnerability to crises have also contributed to the deterioration of food and agriculture systems and rural livelihoods, especially in relation to the poorest people.

Bukar Tijani, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, said during the conference that the goal of ending hunger can be achieved by scaling up joint efforts and fostering resource mobilization partnerships, including through the promotion of South-South Cooperation. He encouraged all stakeholders across the region and beyond to work together to create more synergies and consolidate existing collaborations.

Causes for optimism

One reason for optimism is that the political will to redouble anti-hunger efforts is running higher than ever, said the FAO Director-General during the conference. This effort was manifested in the high prominence the issue received during the recent African Union Summit attended by the continent’s top leaders as well as United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

Ending hunger can be achieved by scaling up joint efforts and fostering partnership towards resource mobilization, including through the promotion of South-South Cooperation, according to FAO

Two other factors provide additional cause for optimism, according to the FAO Director-General: the Green Climate Fund has become operational and is now channelling funding to developing countries to help respond to climate change, including its impacts on food insecurity. Additionally, strong signals of global economic recovery point to more favourable conditions for development. "Zero Hunger is attainable. It depends on us," the FAO Director-General said.

Food prices continue to increase in Sudan - FAO

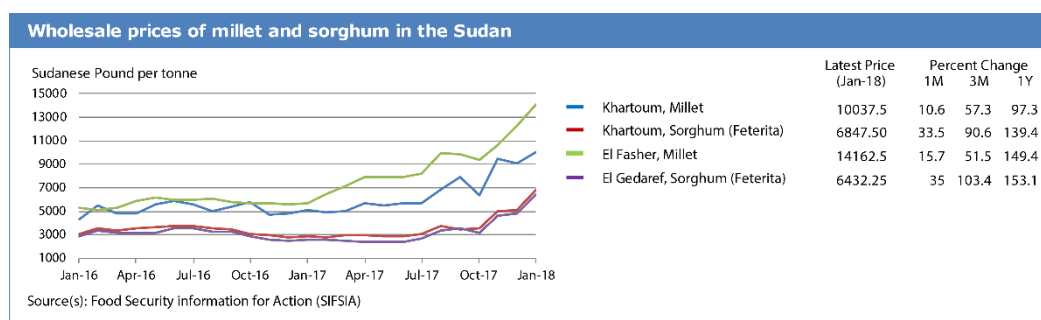
Prices of the main staples in Sudan, sorghum, millet and wheat rose sharply for the third consecutive month in January, despite the recently completed main season harvest, FAO said in its latest [Food Price Monitoring and Analysis \(FPMA\) Bulletin](#). Prices reached record highs, more than twice their year-earlier values, FAO reports. Notably, prices of sorghum doubled in October 2017 in Khartoum, and in El Gedaref market—a key surplus-producing area. Prices of millet increased by more than 50 per cent in El Fasher market, North Darfur State, FPMA reported. In Khartoum, prices of wheat grain increased in January 2018 by 80 per cent compared to October 2017 and reached 1,000 Sudanese Pounds (SDG) per 90 kg (an estimated \$56 per 90kg). This represents more than double year-on-year increase, compared to January 2017.

The increase in prices was driven by the [removal of the wheat subsidies](#) under the new budget of 2018, which increased demand for millet and sorghum as substitutes for wheat and by a strong depreciation of the local currency in the parallel market, [according to the FPMA Food Policies](#).

Localized but substantial crop production shortfalls are affecting the current harvest, contributing to further cereal price increases. According to the preliminary findings of the 2017 FAO Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM), the 2017 aggregate cereal production is estimated at 5.2 million metric tons (MT), about 40 per cent lower than the record 2016 output. This is mainly due to production shortfalls in Kassala, Gedaref and North Darfur states, where harvests were 66-90 per cent lower than in 2016, following poor and erratic rainfall, according to [FAO GIEWS Country Brief for Sudan](#).

Graph: Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in the Sudan

Source: FAO/FPMA Monthly report on Food Price Trends, February 2018



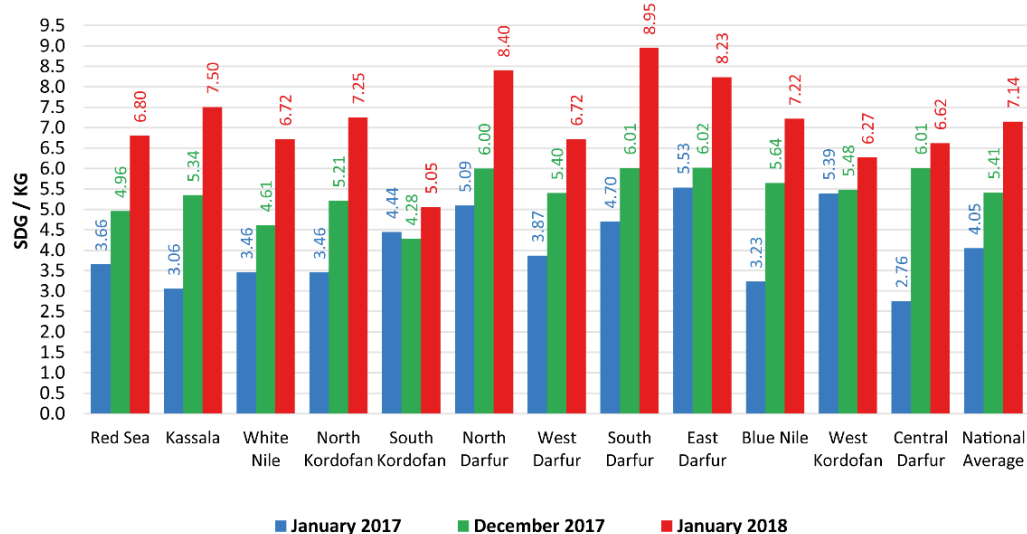
Prices of the main staples rose sharply in Sudan for the third consecutive month in January, despite the recently completed main season harvest, according to FAO's latest FPMA Bulletin

Sharp increase in sorghum prices in January, WFP January Market Update

The World Food Programme (WFP) reported in its latest [Market Update](#) that the national average price of sorghum in January 2018 sharply increased by 32 per cent compared to December 2017. When compared to January 2017, the current national retail price of sorghum has increased by 76 per cent. This was attributed to a reduction in the total harvestable area in the current (2017/18) season, in addition to new government policies that lifted wheat subsidies and the devaluation of the Sudanese currency. Discouraging sorghum prices during the preparation of the season, in addition to delayed rainfall and dry spells in many areas, contributed to a significant decrease in sorghum production. The national average price of sorghum was 133 per cent higher than the five-year average of January, according to WFP.

Graph: Sorghum prices, by state

Source: WFP Monthly Market Update, January 2018



Mercy Corps Scotland bringing safe water and sanitation in Eastern Jebel Marra

MC-Scotland bringing safe water and sanitation to 40,000 people in East Jebel Marra using solar panels with SHF support

A new project by the international NGO Mercy Corps Scotland (MC-Scotland), with the support of state ministries and local authorities in South Darfur State, will meet the safe water and sanitation needs of about 40,000 people (IDPs, returnees and members of the host community) in East Jebel Marra locality. This eight-month project targets 13 villages in Deribat, Leiba, Kidineer and Jawa administrative units in East Jebel Marra and is funded from the 2017 Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) Reserve for Emergencies.

The project became feasible due to improved access to East Jebel Marra, following the introduction of new Directives by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in late 2016, and improved security on the ground as a result of unilateral cessations of hostilities by the Government and some armed movements in Darfur. This project builds on the efforts of the one-year programme funded by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). It supports water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), as well as food and livelihood (FSL) needs of IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host community members in South Darfur, including those in eight newly accessible villages in East Jebel Marra.

MC-Scotland is working to ensure that beneficiaries in targeted locations and localities have access to more than 10 litres per person per day (l/p/d) of safe drinking water. The rehabilitated water systems will be operated by a hybrid solar power system, which generates energy from the sun. MC-Scotland reported that existing water systems in the area are diesel powered. Diesel is not just costly; its limited availability affects the continuity of the water supply. Aside from the environmental benefits, the solar powered systems are an innovative and cost-effective way to ensure that communities have consistent access to clean water.

MC-Scotland will train and establish five community-based WASH committees to manage the water systems. The water systems will operate on an affordable water user fee model. This cost-recovery model, where the community contributes to a kitty, generates funds to cover



Community in Deribat, East Jebel Marra, preparing the ground for the installation of the solar panel water system (MC-Scotland, 2018)

regular operational and maintenance costs, maintaining water quality, and covering in-kind incentives for community-trained hygiene promoters. The construction of 959 household latrines using the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach will provide the community with adequate sanitation facilities. As an added incentive to the project's sustainability, MC-Scotland is training 300 female hygiene promoters to conduct 576 community hygiene promotion and sensitization campaigns, over the course of the project.

Working with communities to inform response in South Darfur return village

1,500 Sudanese refugees from CAR and 500 IDPs from Al Salam and Otash IDP camps returned to Dafag village in South Darfur

Following the return of nearly 1,500 Sudanese refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) to South Darfur's Dafag village in El Radom locality late last year, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Recovery, Return, and Reintegration (RRR) sector, led by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the government's Voluntary Return and Reintegration Commission (VRRC), organized an inter-agency assessment mission to the area. The objective of the mission was to consider livelihoods and community coping strategies as well as gaps in basic services, and mobilize multi-sector support for the sustainable reintegration of the returnees. The mission confirmed the need for enhancements to health, water, education, sanitation and hygiene services for both the returnee and host communities.

In December 2017, returnees were provided with initial reintegration assistance by UNHCR, including non-food items, seeds and tools, and cash grants for shelter construction and livelihood start-up. UNHCR and the Commissioner of Refugees (COR) have also worked with the locality commissioner to establish land and security committees, and have further ensured land allocation to returnees.

In addition to the refugee returnees from CAR, there are also 500 IDP returnees from Al Salam and Otash IDP camps in Nyala. According to the VRRC, a further 3,000 IDPs from the two camps also want to return to Dafag. Improved security is the main reason refugees and IDPs have decided to return to the area in South Darfur.

The area has fertile land favourable for agriculture and livestock rearing. Approximately 90 per cent of the host community in Dafag own agricultural land with an average of between 10 to 25 feddans (approximately 4.2 to 10.5 hectares) per family. While initial seed and tool distribution has already been provided to refugee returnees, more diversified livelihood and coping strategies will be necessary in the long term to ensure sustainable reintegration.

Limited access to water, health, sanitation, and education facilities are key concerns in Dafag for both returnees and host communities, particularly with the increasing population. Initial assistance from the UN Children's Agency (UNICEF) and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) with chlorination tablets and water management training, has helped improve water quality. However, increasing water supply is required.

A mobile health clinic has also been established by the State Ministry of Health (SMoH), but reportedly lacks sufficient staffing and capacity. The mission recommended constructing a health clinic in the area. While sanitation facilities are largely lacking in Dafag, UNHCR constructed 20 communal latrines at a reception centre. UNHCR also provided cash assistance to the returnees to help them construct household latrines, as part of their shelters. Approximately 750 returnee children need access to schools and qualified teachers.



A woman and children happy to be back home in Dafag, South Darfur, after 10 years of exile in CAR

The inter-agency mission recommends constructing a health clinic in Dafag village