Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
The Republic of the Sudan

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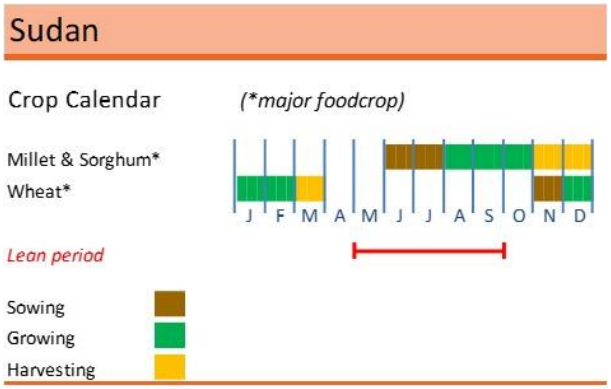
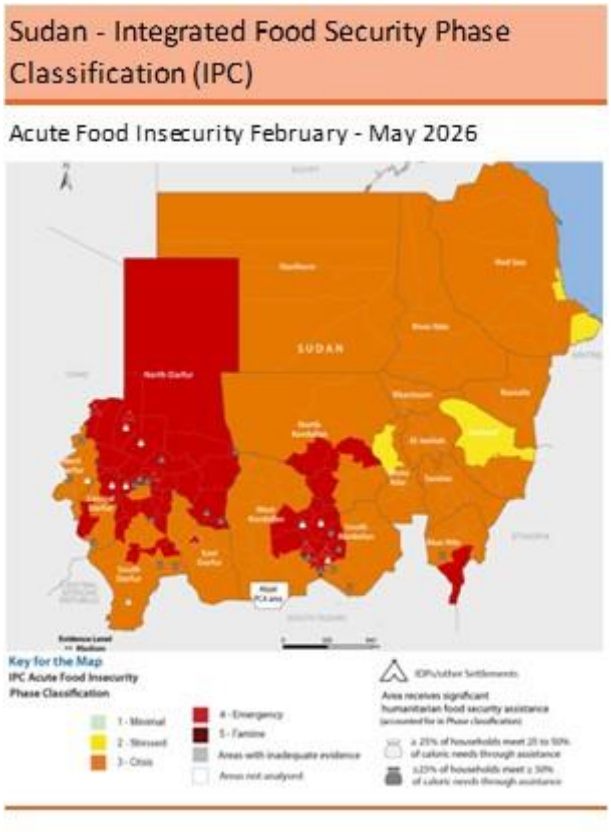
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Dire food security situation, with risk of famine in 14 areas**
- **Concerns for 2026 cereal production due to dry weather conditions, insecurity and persisting input shortages**
- **Below-average cereal production in 2025 due to input shortages**
- **Cereal prices at exceptionally high levels**





Dire food security situation, with risk of famine in 14 areas

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis about 19.5 million people, over 40 percent of the analysed population, were projected to face IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse levels of acute food insecurity between February and May 2026, including about 5 million people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 135 000 people in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe). Although a nationwide projection for the June-September lean season has not been carried out due to data gaps, 14 areas in North Darfur, South Darfur and South Kordofan states were considered at risk of famine during the lean season under a worst-case scenario, involving heightened violence and increased displacements.

The main driver of the dire food security situation is the ongoing conflict. Since its start in April 2023, the conflict has severely disrupted livelihoods, destroyed key economic infrastructures, constrained humanitarian access and triggered large-scale population displacements, with about 8.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) estimated as of end-July 2026.

Concerns for 2026 cereal production due to dry weather conditions, insecurity and persisting input shortages

Planting of the 2026 cereal crops, for harvest from November 2026, has been concluded in mid-August. The June-September rainy season has been characterized by below-average cumulative rainfall amounts over most cropping areas, associated with the ongoing El Niño event, which affected crop germination and establishment. Significant rainfall deficits occurred in southeastern key-cropping areas. In Sennar and Gedaref states, which together account on average for about a quarter of the national output of sorghum, the main cereal staple,

seasonal rainfall amounts were about 20 and 30 percent, respectively, below the long-term average. The resulting moisture deficits severely affected vegetation conditions and FAO's Agricultural Stress Index (ASI), as of September, indicated severe drought conditions in up to 55 and 70 percent, respectively, of cropland, in Sennar and Gedaref states (ASI map).

The ongoing conflict continued to severely affect agricultural activities, mainly through insecurity constraining access to fields, especially in the Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan regions and Blue Nile State, while limited availability and high prices of key inputs, including fuel, as well as reduced access to agricultural credit, further hindered production.

Below-average cereal production in 2025 due to input shortages

The harvest of the 2025 coarse grains crops (sorghum and millet) was completed in January 2026, while the small, irrigated wheat crop was gathered in March 2026.

According to the government-led 2025 Crop and Food Supply Assessment (CFSAM) national cereal production in 2025 (sorghum, millet and wheat) is estimated at about 5.2 million tonnes, about 22 percent below the output obtained in 2024 and 19 percent below the average of the previous five years. The low output mainly reflects the adverse impact of the conflict on agricultural operations, particularly through supply chain disruptions that reduced the availability and increased the prices of key agricultural inputs.

The June-September rainy season was characterized by moderately below-average rainfall amounts, but it had an even temporal and spatial distribution of precipitation, which mitigated the conflict-related constraints.

Import requirements for the 2026 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at about 2.8 million tonnes, mainly wheat. However, the limited financial and logistical capacity of the country raise concerns about its capacity to secure the required import volumes.

Cereal prices at exceptionally high levels

Prices of domestically produced sorghum more than doubled on average in most monitored markets between January and August, when they were more than twice their already elevated year-earlier levels. Similarly, prices of domestically produced millet increased on average by 77 percent over the same period, and in August they were 68 percent higher year-on-year.

The surge of prices to exceptionally high levels reflects seasonal patterns compounded by the reduced 2025 production and the impact of the ongoing conflict through trade disruptions and adverse macroeconomic conditions. Cereal prices were also underpinned by a sharp increase of fuel costs due to supply chain disruptions linked to the Middle East crisis, which increased production and transport costs. The national average diesel fuel price almost doubled between March and August 2026, when it was more than twice its year-earlier value.

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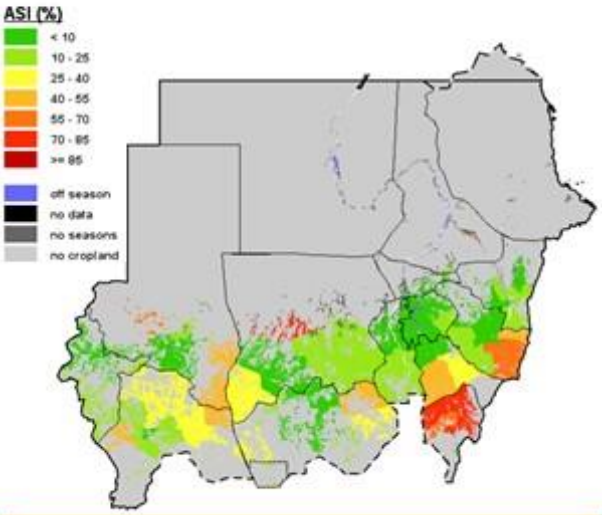
Sudan - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 1, September 2026



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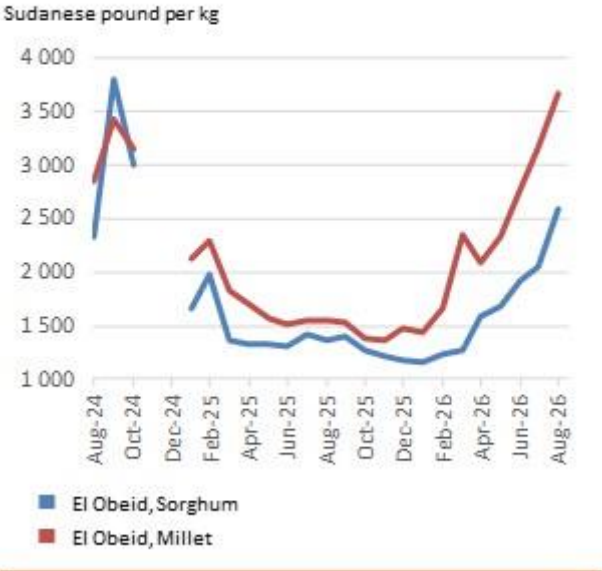
Cereal Production

	2020-2024 average	2024	2025 estimate	change 2025/2024
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	4 478	5 406	4 046	-25.2
Millet	1 240	793	768	-3.2
Wheat	543	490	434	-11.6
Others	69	50	55	10.0
Total	6 330	6 740	5 302	-21.3

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Sudan

Retail prices of sorghum and millet



its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dashed lines on the maps represent approximate borderlines for which there may not yet be full agreement. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. The final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

This brief was prepared using the following data/tools:
FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet (CCBS)
https://www.fao.org/giews/data-tools/en/.
FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool
https://fpma.fao.org/.
FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring
https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/.
Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) https://www.ipcinfo.org/.