Sudan | Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

MARKET OVERVIEW

January 2024

INTRODUCTION

Given the rapidly changing humanitarian context in Sudan, the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was established under the guidance of the Sudan Cash Working Group (CWG) to inform cash-based interventions and gain a deeper understanding of market dynamics in the country. The JMMI aims to inform market-based programming in Sudan through monthly monitoring of prices of selected food and non-food items (NFI) as well as other critical market indicators.

Marketplaces across Sudan are assessed through two different channels: (i) in some state capitals, prices of food items are monitored by the World Food Programme (WFP)[1], (ii) in other locations, prices and other critical market indicators are recorded every month by JMMI partners through interviews with purposively sampled retailers. Data for the second round of the JMMI was collected from **January 10-23, 2024**.

The factsheet presents an overview of median prices for food and non-food items (NFIs) in the main markets of the localities assessed, a comprehensive breakdown of the cost of the interim Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), and the Market Functionality Score (MFS) for the markets assessed at locality level.

5	Participating partners
21	Assessed localities
345	Key informants
35	Commodities assessed

KEY INDICATORS

Cost of MEB

259,808 SDG

274 USD[2]

Monthly change since December 2023:

▲ 40,242 SDG
▲ + 18.33%

Cost of MEB with top-up items[3]

312,958 SDG

331 USD[2]

Monthly change since December 2023:

▲ 62,429 SDG
▲ + 24.92%

USD / SDG

946.67 SDG

Monthly change since December 2023

▲+125.33 SDG
▲ + 15.26%

Key Findings

- Overall, the highest median costs of the Minimum Expenditure Baskets (MEB) were observed across assessed localities in the Greater Darfur region (South, West, East, and Central Darfur). The **most expensive MEB was recorded in Sharg Aj Jabal locality** in South Darfur State (578,718 SDG) for the MEB with top-up items and in Ag Geneina in West Darfur for the MEB without top-up items (399,717 SDG). The high median cost of the MEB observed in the Greater Darfur region may be attributed to the continued hostilities in Darfur following the escalation of conflict since April 2023 and the large number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) hosted in the area[4].
- **Median MEB prices in Aj Jazirah in January were notably elevated compared to December**, amounting to 449,382 SDG with top-up and 338,382 SDG without. The high cost of the MEB in Aj Jazirah may be related to the **escalation of conflict in the populous city of Wad Medani in mid-December 2023 and the resulting closure and looting of markets in the state** - one of Sudan's most important areas for crop production[5]. At the same time, comparison with December is difficult because the same markets could not be monitored due to the conflict.
- A notable **increase (61%) in the median cost of the food items in the MEB was observed** from December 2023 (80,289 SDG) to January 2024 (128,894 SDG) across the assessed localities. Rising food prices were primarily driven by a stark increase in costs for tomatoes since December 2023, especially in Blue Nile (+650%) and South Kordofan (+392%). The most expensive food components of the MEB were reported in Ag Geneina, West Darfur (239,931 SDG) and the lowest were reported in Ar Rusayris, Blue Nile (70,029 SDG).
- The **median cost of the non-food items (NFI) in the MEB decreased by 12%** from December 2023 (68,515 SDG) to January 2024 (60,152 SDG) across the assessed localities. The decrease can be attributed to the lower prices for water supply in most states. The most expensive NFI component of the MEB (without top-up items) was reported in Assalaya, East Darfur (131,733 SDG) and the lowest in Ar Rusayris, Blue Nile (44,352 SDG).
- Overall, **markets tend to be least functional in the Greater Darfur region and in Aj Jazirah state**, where almost all of the assessed markets scored less than 50 out of the maximum total score of 100. The findings from this assessment show that the high prices of items, low market access, low market resilience and poor infrastructure all negatively impacted the functionality of the markets.

[1] In January, these locations included Kadugli and Ed Damazine. The mean price of food items monitored by WFP has been used to calculate the median cost of the MEB at state and national level. See: WFP Market Monitor for January 2024. [2] Exchange rate used is the average exchange rate of January 2024.
[3] Top-up items in January included water container and gas cylinder. [4] OCHA | Sudan Humanitarian Update (21 December 2023).
[5] FEWS NET | Food Security Outlook Update Sudan (December 2023), OCHA | Sudan Flash Update No. 3 (18 December 2023).

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Market Functionality Score (MFS)

The Market Functionality Score (MFS) is a method used to classify markets based on their level of functionality. The MFS can be used to supporting humanitarian actors to design market based interventions and programming based on the functionality of the markets. The MFS is calculated based on selected indicators across the five dimensions listed below. Each of the dimensions has been assigned different weights in the combined MFS.

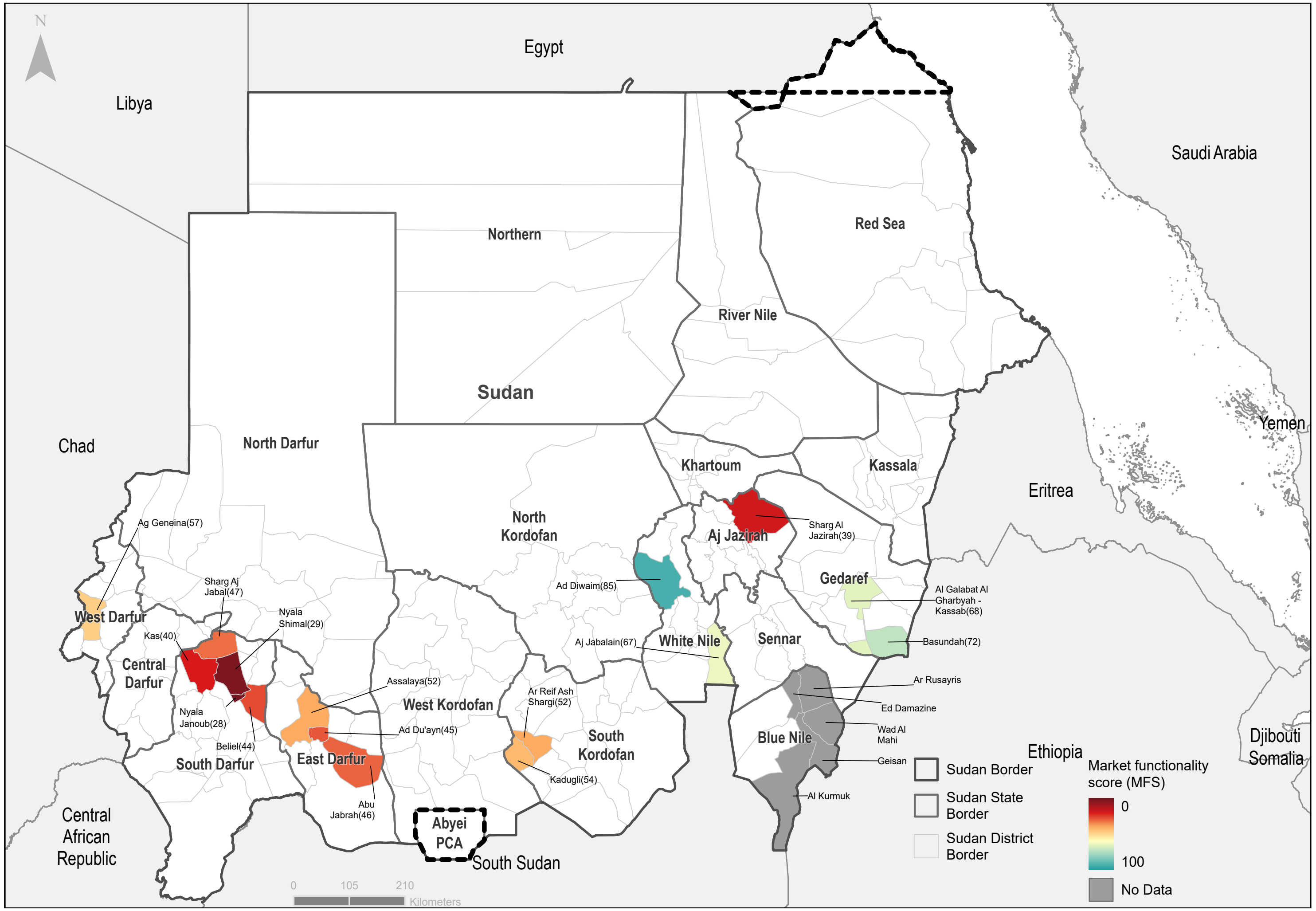
- **Accessibility (25%):** physical and social access to markets
- **Availability (30%):** ability of markets to consistently supply core commodities
- **Affordability (15%):** financial access to markets and price volatility
- **Resilience (20%):** vulnerability of supply chains and ease of restocking
- **Infrastructure (10%):** state of markets' physical and financial infrastructure

January 2024 MFS key findings

Across all markets assessed, the functionality of the markets varied greatly. In assessed markets in the Greater Darfur region, the estimated market functionality score ranged from 28 - 47 (7 localities) to 52 - 57 (2 localities) out of the maximum total score of 100. Markets in the localities of Nyala Janoub Nyala Shimal had a particularly low functionality score: 28 and 29, respectively. In the East of the country, results varied notably across states. Markets in the 4 assessed localities in Gedaref and White Nile were more functional than those in Darfur, scoring between 67 to 85 of the maximum total score. Conversely, market functionality in Sharg Al Jazirah locality, Aj Jazirah state was very low, based on a score of 39.

These findings indicate that **markets in Greater Darfur region and in Aj Jazirah state may have lower functionality, which may impact on effective delivery of goods through cash-based interventions.** Low market functionality in Aj Jazirah has to be seen in the context of the closing and looting of markets in the state, as well as mass displacements, due to resurgence of conflict[6] around the city of Wad Medani in mid-December 2023[7].

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY SCORE PER LOCALITY



In the Greater Darfur region, the functionality of assessed markets is adversely affected by high prices of items, low market access, low market resilience and poor infrastructure. In terms of accessibility, the assessed markets in the Greater Darfur region scored between 3 and 15 out of a maximum score of 25. **Low functionality of markets in Sharg Al Jazirah locality, Aj Jazirah state, was driven by similar factors as in Greater Darfur**. In contrast, markets in White Nile and Gedaref were highly accessible (score of 25), with the exception of the locality of Aj Jabalain (score of 15). Overall, **despite the relatively low MFS recorded across most of the markets assessed, findings also show that the items in the MEB generally remain available.** For a detailed overview of the MFS in Sudan, please refer to the Annex on the Market Functionality score on page 15.

[6] FEWS NET | Food Security Outlook Update Sudan (December 2023), OCHA | Sudan Flash Update No. 3 (18 December 2023).

[7] Moreover, due to the fighting, no data could be collected from markets in the localities of Medani Al Kubra, Janub Al Jazirah, and Al Hasahisa.

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Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

The MEB represents the minimum culturally adjusted set of items required to support a six-person Sudanese household for one month. The cost of the MEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households in different locations. The MEB's contents were defined by the CWG in consultation with relevant sector leads.

Food items

Product	Unit[8]	Quantity in MEB[9]
Sorghum	1 kilogram (kg)	81 kg
Onions	1 kilogram (kg)	9 kg
Veg oil	1 liter (L)	4.5 L
Milk	1 liter (L)	4.5 L
Cow meat	1 kilogram (kg)	0.9 kg
Goat meat	1 kilogram (kg)	0.9 kg
Tomato paste	1 kilogram (kg)	4.5 kg

Household & hygiene NFIs

Product	Unit[8]	Quantity in MEB[9]
LPG* refill	12.5 liters (L)	12.5 L
Water refill	20 liters (L)	20L
Body soap	125 grams (g)	12 bars
Tooth paste	100 mililiters (mL)	1 tube
Toothbrush	1 piece (pc)	1 piece
Laundry soap	200 grams (g)	6 bars
Liquid dish soap	600 mililiters (mL)	1 bottle
Sanitary pads	8 pieces/package	3 packages
Additional Items		
Charcoal	1 kilogram (kg)	60 kg
Firewood	1 kilogram (kg)	60 kg

* Liquefied petroleum gas

Top-up items

Although not considered components of the MEB, as they constitute one-time purchases for households, prices of water containers and gas cylinders are being monitored monthly, with the aim of assessing costs associated with a displacement or a loss of household assets.

Product	Unit[8]	Quantity in top-up
LPG* cylinder	12.5 liters (L)	1
Water container	20 liters (L)	1

* Liquefied petroleum gas

Fixed costs

While not monitored monthly, the calculation of the MEB also encompasses fixed costs, accounting for essential household expenditures. The determination of the fixed costs relied on findings from the Food Security Assessment conducted by WFP.

Medical expenses	16,489 SDG
Education	15,503 SDG
Clothes	6,620 SDG
Transportation	9,547 SDG
Communication	3,603 SDG
Energy for lighting	19,000 SDG

January 2024 MEB key findings

The cost of the median MEB without top-up items across the assessed localities revealed an **18% increase compared to December 2023**, reaching a total cost of **259,808 SDG (274 USD)**. The increased cost of the MEB can be mainly attributed to a significant rise in prices for food items composing the MEB (+61%). The **highest median cost of the MEBs were recorded in West and South Darfur and Aj Jazirah**.

The **closure and looting of markets in Aj Jazirah due to the escalation of conflicts in Wad Madani** likely contributed to the high median costs of MEBs in Shargh Al Jazirah locality[10].

Location	Median MEB cost (SDG)	Change since Dec. 2023	Median MEB with top-up (SDG)	Median MEB with top-up (USD[10])
Aj Jazirah				
Shargh Al Jazirah	338,382	n.a[11]	449,382	475
Blue Nile				
Al Kurmuk	241,435	▲ + 4%	351,135	371
Ar Rusayris	185,143	▼ - 23%	231,643	245
Ed Damazine*	322,083	▲ + 18%	364,583	385
Geisan	208,224	▼ - 12%	317,724	336
Wad Al Mahi	218,513	▲ + 10%	328,013	346
East Darfur				
Abu Jabrah	304,160	▼ - 15%	438,160	463
Ad Du'ayn	290,410	▼ - 11%	403,760	427
Assalaya	326,150	▼ - 1%	434,650	459
Gedaref				
Al Galabat Al Gharbyah - Kassab	228,661	▲ + 15%	339,661	359
Basundah	201,925	▼ - 4%	312,925	331
South Darfur				
Beliel	372,652	▲ + 20%	558,652	590
Kas	315,534	▼ - 25%	481,084	508
Nyala Janoub	265,161	▼ - 12%	376,161	397
Nyala Shimal	287,318	▼ - 10%	400,068	423
Sharg Aj Jabal	383,368	▼ - 7%	578,718	611
South Kordofan				
Ar Reif Ash Shargi	264,543	▲ + 2%	374,943	396
Kadugli*	323,225	▲ + 25%	433,725	458
West Darfur				
Ag Geneina	399,717	n.a[11]	439,217	464
White Nile				
Ad Diwaim	241,782	▲ + 12%	282,282	298
Aj Jabalain	196,541	▲ + 20%	256,941	271
Overall	**259,808**	**▲ + 18%**	**312,958**	**331**

* Food items monitored by WFP. Food items monitored included dry milk instead of fresh milk, and are presented as the mean of monitored prices instead of the median.

[8] Measurements taken using local units, then converted into kilograms/liters for each product considered.
[9] Quantity designed to reflect the minimum needs of a six-person household in Sudan for one month.
[10] Exchange rate used is the average exchange rate of January 2024.
[11] This district was not covered in December 2023, therefore no comparison can be made for January 2024.
[12] However, no comparison with MEB prices in December is possible, as the localities of Medani Al Kubra, Janub Al Jazirah, Al Hasahisa were inaccessible due to the fighting.

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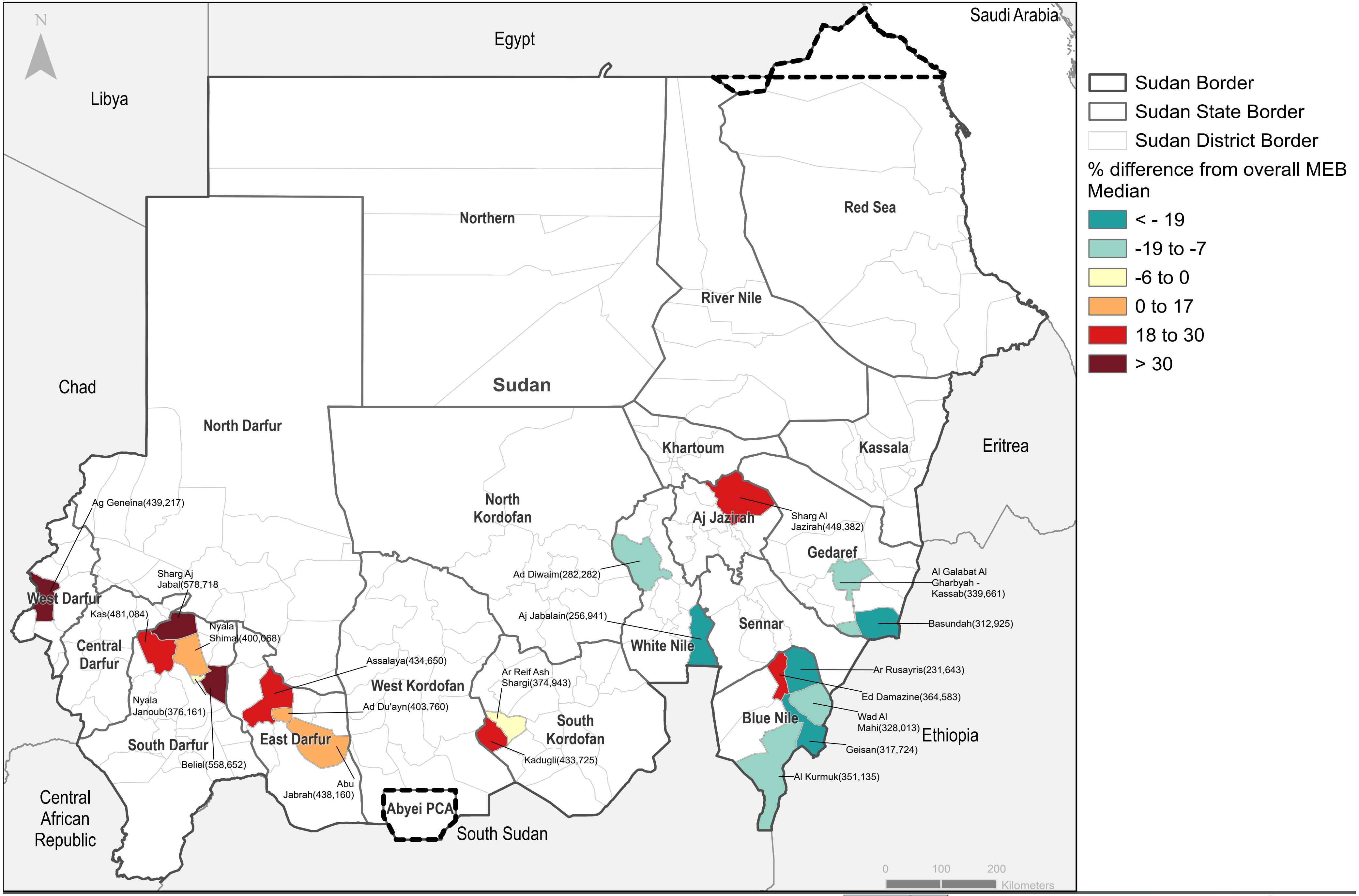
MEDIAN MEB (WITH TOP UP) COSTS PER LOCALITY AND % DIFFERENCE FROM NATIONAL MEDIAN MEB



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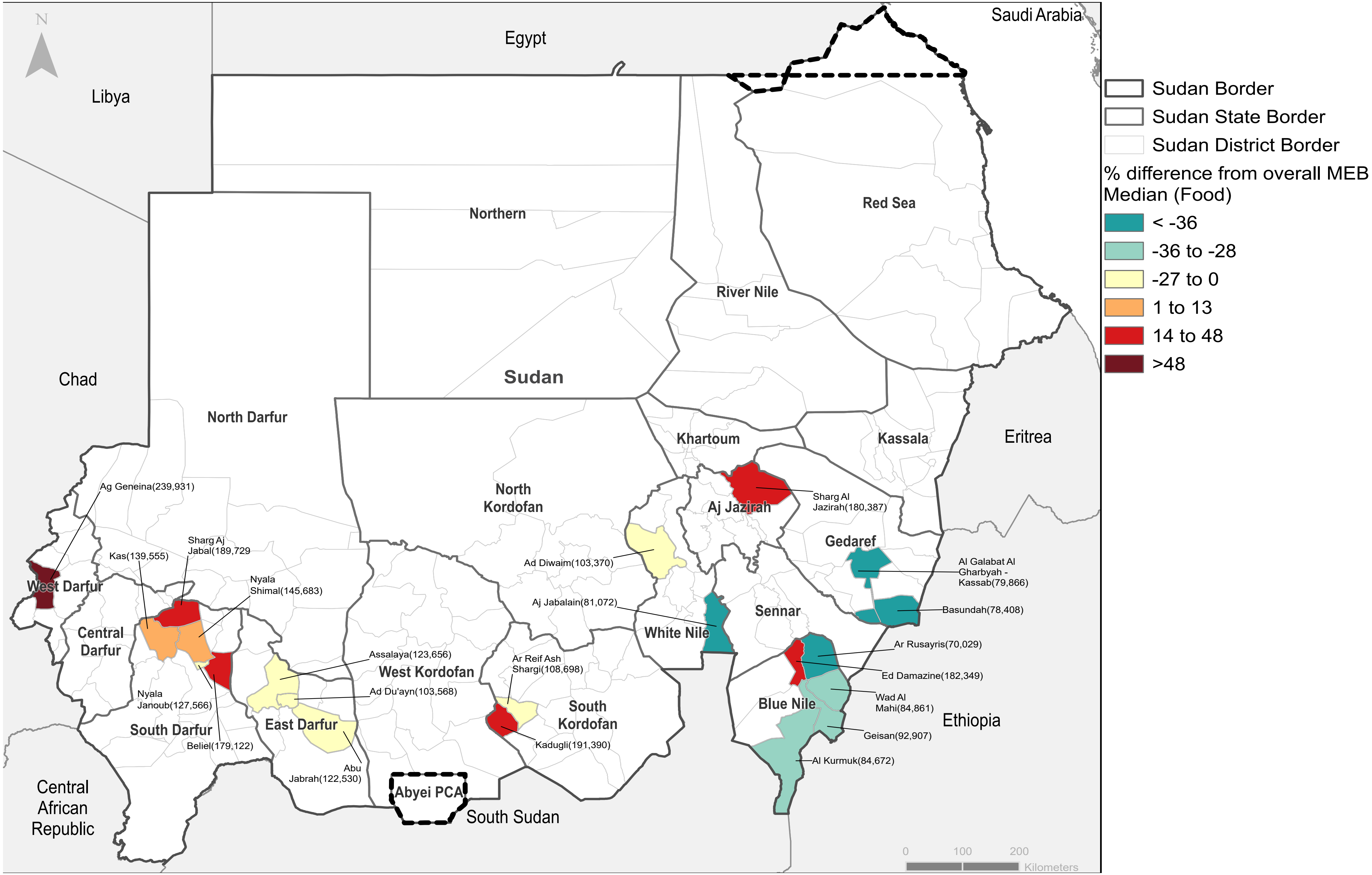
MEDIAN FOOD BASKET COSTS PER LOCALITY AND % DIFFERENCE FROM NATIONAL MEDIAN MEB



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AVAILABILITY OF FOOD ITEMS

At the time of data collection, most vendors reported **widespread availability of all monitored food items** in their market, with the exception of onions, which 42% of vendors reported being limited or unavailable.

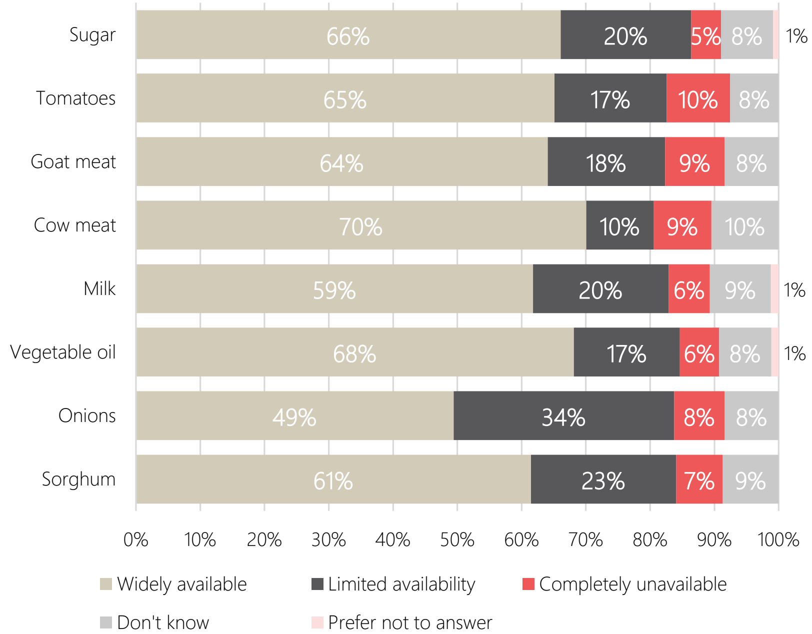
Partial and complete unavailability of food items were more frequently reported in the states of Aj Jazirah, the Greater Darfur region and South Kordofan, areas with a comparatively higher incidence of armed clashes between April and December 2023.[13] In Aj Jazirah, South Darfur, South Kordofan, and White Nile, only up to one-third of vendors reported sorghum as widely available in their markets, compared to over 80% in Blue Nile, Gedaref and East Darfur.

EVOLUTION OF FOOD PRICES

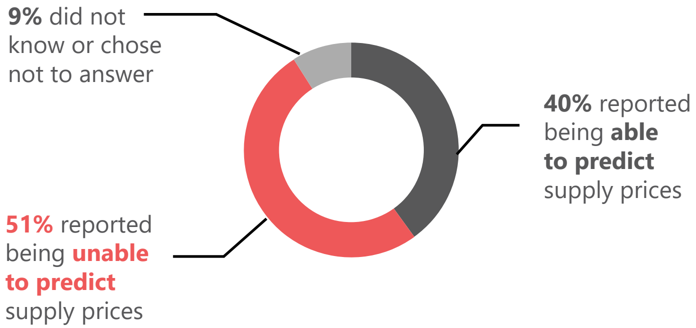
At the national level, **the cost of the food component of the MEB increased significantly - by 61% - between December 2023 and January 2024**. Food price evolution varied across states and localities, with the highest increases being observed in Kadugli locality, South Kordofan (+51%) and Ed Damazine locality, Blue Nile (+45%). The most significant decreases in food prices were recorded in Ar Rusayris locality, Blue Nile (-30%) and Ad Du'ayn, East Darfur (-23%). The overal increase in food prices was primarily driven by a **stark increase in tomato prices since December 2023**, especially in Blue Nile (+650%) and (South Kordofan (+392%).

The most expensive food components of the MEB were reported in West Darfur, Aj Jazirah, and South Darfur, despite decreases recorded in some assessed markets of South Darfur since December. The high costs of food items in these states could be a consequence of several factors, including the sustained clashes occurring in Darfur since April 2023 and the resurgence of violence in Aj Jazirah in December 2023.

Reported availability of food items in assessed markets at time of data collection



Reported ability of food vendors to predict supply prices one month from data collection[17]



Location[14]	Median food basket cost (SDG)	Median food basket cost (USD[15])	Change since Dec. 2023
Aj Jazirah			
Sharg Al Jazirah	180,387	191	n.a[16]
Blue Nile			
Al Kurmuk	84,672	89	▲ + 12%
Ar Rusayris	70,029	74	▼ - 30%
Ed Damazine*	182,349	193	▲ + 45%
Geisan	92,907	98	▲ + 15%
Wad Al Mahi	84,861	90	▲ + 28%
East Darfur			
Abu Jabrah	122,530	129	▼ - 18%
Ad Du'ayn	103,568	109	▼ - 23%
Assalaya	123,656	131	▼ - 10%
Gedaref			
Al Galabat Al Gharbyah - Kassab	79,866	84	▲ + 14%
Basundah	78,408	83	▲ + 21%
South Darfur			
Beliel	179,122	189	▲ + 28%
Kas	139,555	147	▼ - 11%
Nyala Janoub	127,566	135	▼ - 3%
Nyala Shimal	145,683	154	▼ - 9%
Sharg Aj Jabal	189,729	200	▲ + 28%
South Kordofan			
Ar Reif Ash Shargi	108,698	115	▲ + 5%
Kadugli*	191,390	202	▲ + 51%
West Darfur			
Ag Geneina	239,931	253	n.a[16]
White Nile			
Ad Diwaim	103,370	109	▲ + 28%
Aj Jabalain	81,072	86	▲ + 16%
Overall	**128,894**	**136**	**▲ + 61%**

* Food items monitored by WFP. Food items monitored included dry milk instead of fresh milk, and are presented as the mean of monitored prices instead of the median.

[13] Displacement tracking matrix, 2023 estimates | DTM Sudan | January 2024
[14] In January, additional states like Wester Darfur were included, while states like Sennar and Central Darfur could not be covered.
[15] Exchange rate used is the average exchange rate of January 2024.
[16] This district was not covered in December 2023, therefore no comparison can be made for January 2024.
[17] Vendors were asked whether they were able to predict the price of their best selling items.

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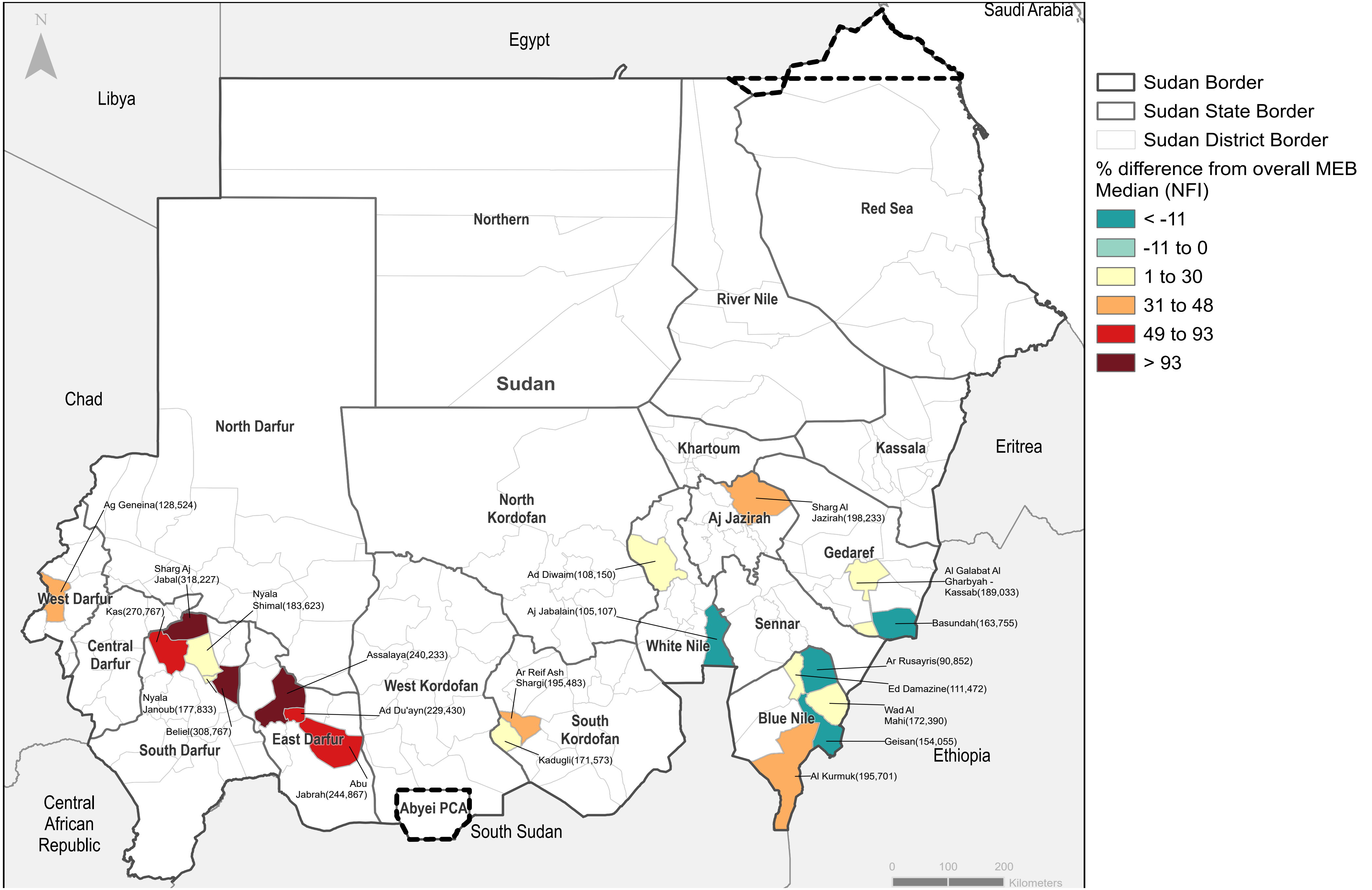
MEDIAN NFI BASKET (WITH TOP UP) COSTS PER LOCALITY AND % DIFFERENCE FROM NATIONAL MEDIAN MEB



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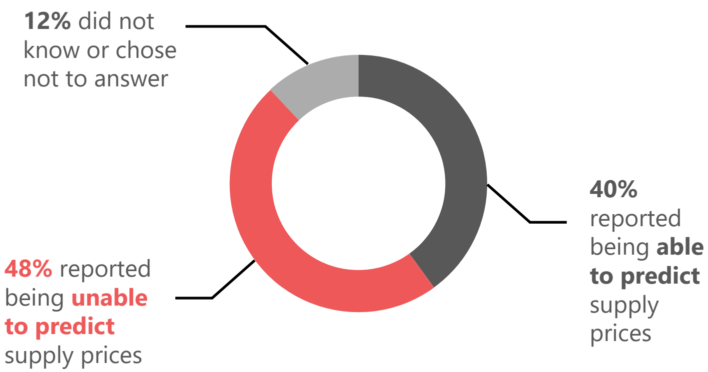
PRICES & AVAILABILITY OF NFIs

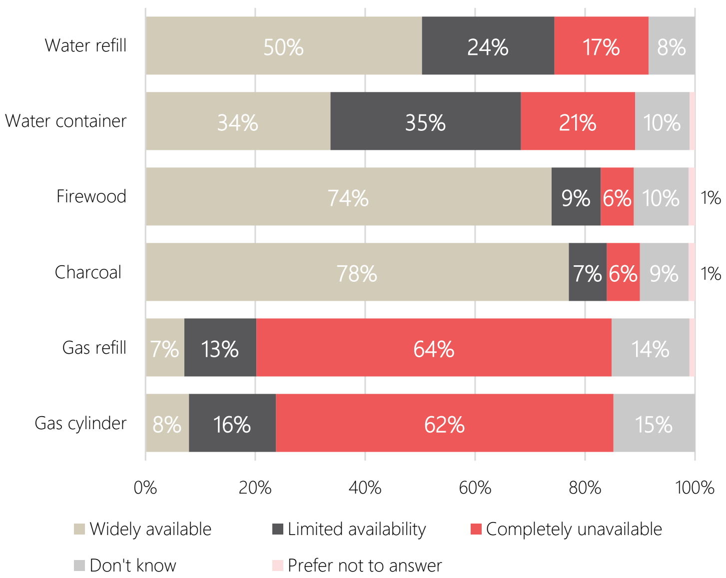
At the time of data collection, more than 50% of the vendors reported **widespread availability of all monitored hygiene items, except for sanitary pads**, which were reported as limited or completely unavailable by 66% of vendors. According to over 70% of the vendors, firewood and charcoal were widely available while water containers (34%) and supplies (50%) presented more challenges to acquire. **Liquified petroleum gas (LPG) containers and refills were reportedly even more scarce**, with over 77% of the vendors reporting these items as limited or completely unavailable.

A decrease of 12% of the cost of the NFI component of the MEB was recorded between December 2023 and January 2024, which can be attributed to the decrease in prices for water supply in most states. Similar to December 2023, the most expensive NFI components were reported in East and South Darfur.

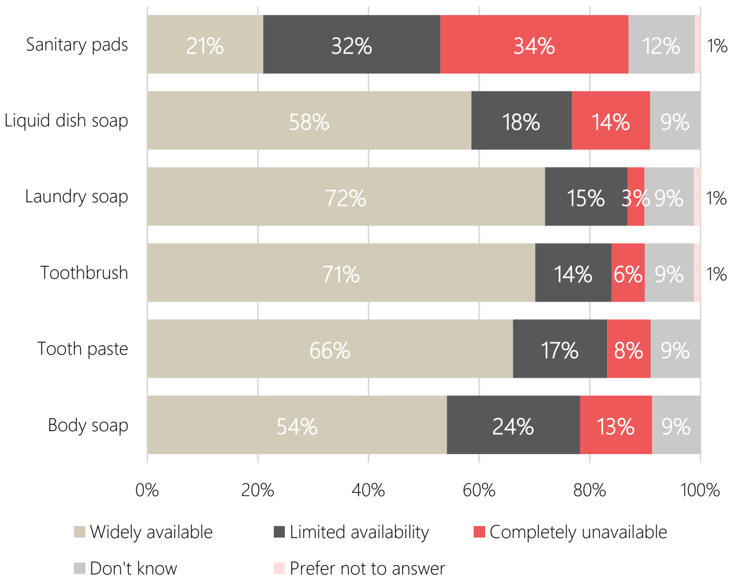
Reported ability of NFI vendors to predict supply prices one month from data collection[18]



Reported availability of household items in assessed markets at time of data collection



Reported availability of hygiene items in assessed markets at time of data collection



Location	Median NFI basket cost (SDG)	Change since Dec. 2023	Median NFI basket with top-up (SDG)	Median NFI basket with top-up (USD[19])
Aj Jazirah				
Sharg Al Jazirah	87,233	n.a[20]	198,233	209
Blue Nile				
Al Kurmuk	86,001	▲ + 1%	195,701	207
Ar Rusayris	44,352	▼ - 35%	908,52	96
Ed Damazine	68,972	▼ - 9%	111,472	118
Geisan	44,555	▼ - 47%	154,055	163
Wad Al Mahi	62,890	▲ + 2%	172,390	182
East Darfur				
Abu Jabrah	110,867	▼ - 20%	244,867	259
Ad Du'ayn	116,080	▼ - 3%	229,430	242
Assalaya	131,733	▲ + 10%	240,233	254
Gedaref				
Al Galabat Al Gharbyah - Kassab	78,033	▲ + 34%	189,033	200
Basundah	52,755	▼ - 30%	163,755	173
South Darfur				
Beliel	122,767	▲ + 25%	308,767	326
Kas	105,217	▼ - 45%	270,767	286
Nyala Janoub	66,833	▼ - 33%	177,833	188
Nyala Shimal	70,873	▼ - 21%	183,623	194
Sharg Aj Jabal	122,877	▼ - 36%	318,227	336
South Kordofan				
Ar Reif Ash Shargi	85,083	▼ - 1%	195,483	206
Kadugli	61,073	▲ + 2%	171,573	181
West Darfur				
Ag Geneina	89,024	▲ + 1%	128,524	136
White Nile				
Ad Diwaim	67,650	▲ + 5%	108,150	114
Aj Jabalain	44,707	▲ + 91%	105,107	111
Overall	**60,152**	**▼ - 12%**	**113,302**	**120**

[18] Vendors were asked whether they were able to predict the price of their best selling items.
[19] Exchange rate used is the average exchange rate of January 2024.
[20] This district was not covered in December 2023, therefore no comparison can be made for January 2024.

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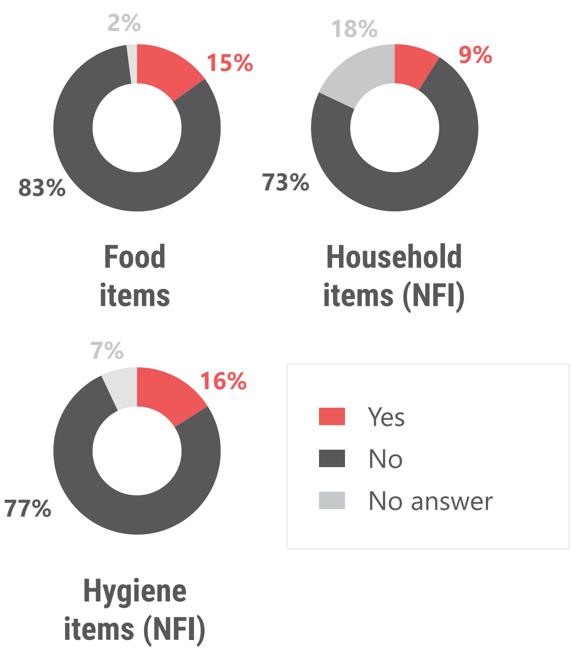
ORIGIN OF SUPPLIERS

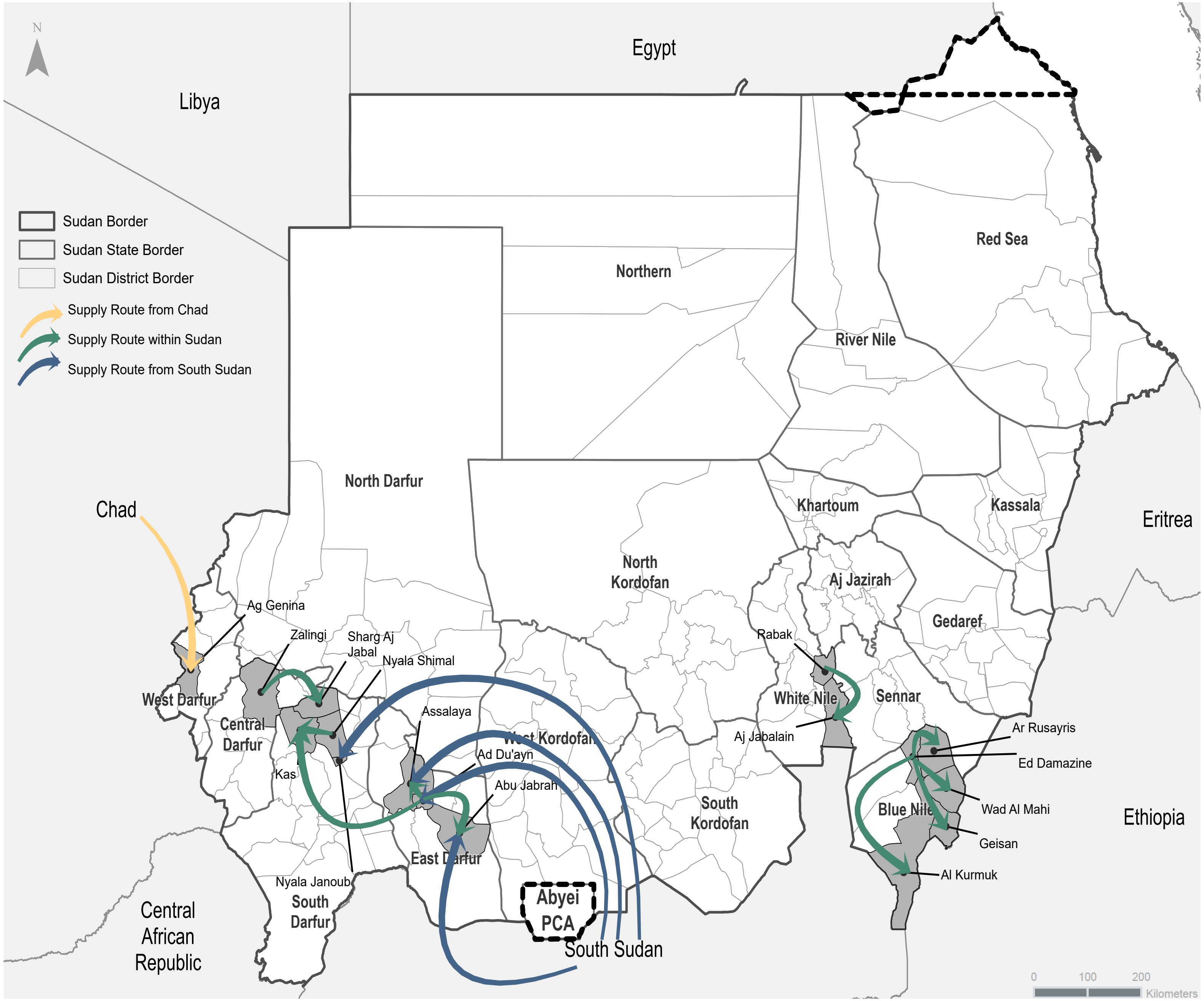
Across different types of items, between 73% and 83% of interviewed vendors indicated reliance on multiple suppliers to restock their shops.

Among assessed food vendors, the majority reported sourcing their goods primarily from Ad Du'ayn and Ed Damazine within Sudan, with additional supplies coming from South Sudan. NFI vendors predominantly sourced their goods from Ad Du'ayn, South Sudan or Egypt. This pattern is consistent across different types of NFIs, including hygene and kitchen items.

% of vendors reporting relying mostly on a single supplier at time of data collection



MAIN SUPPLY ROUTES FOR FOOD ITEMS (FROM SUPPLIER TO VENDOR)



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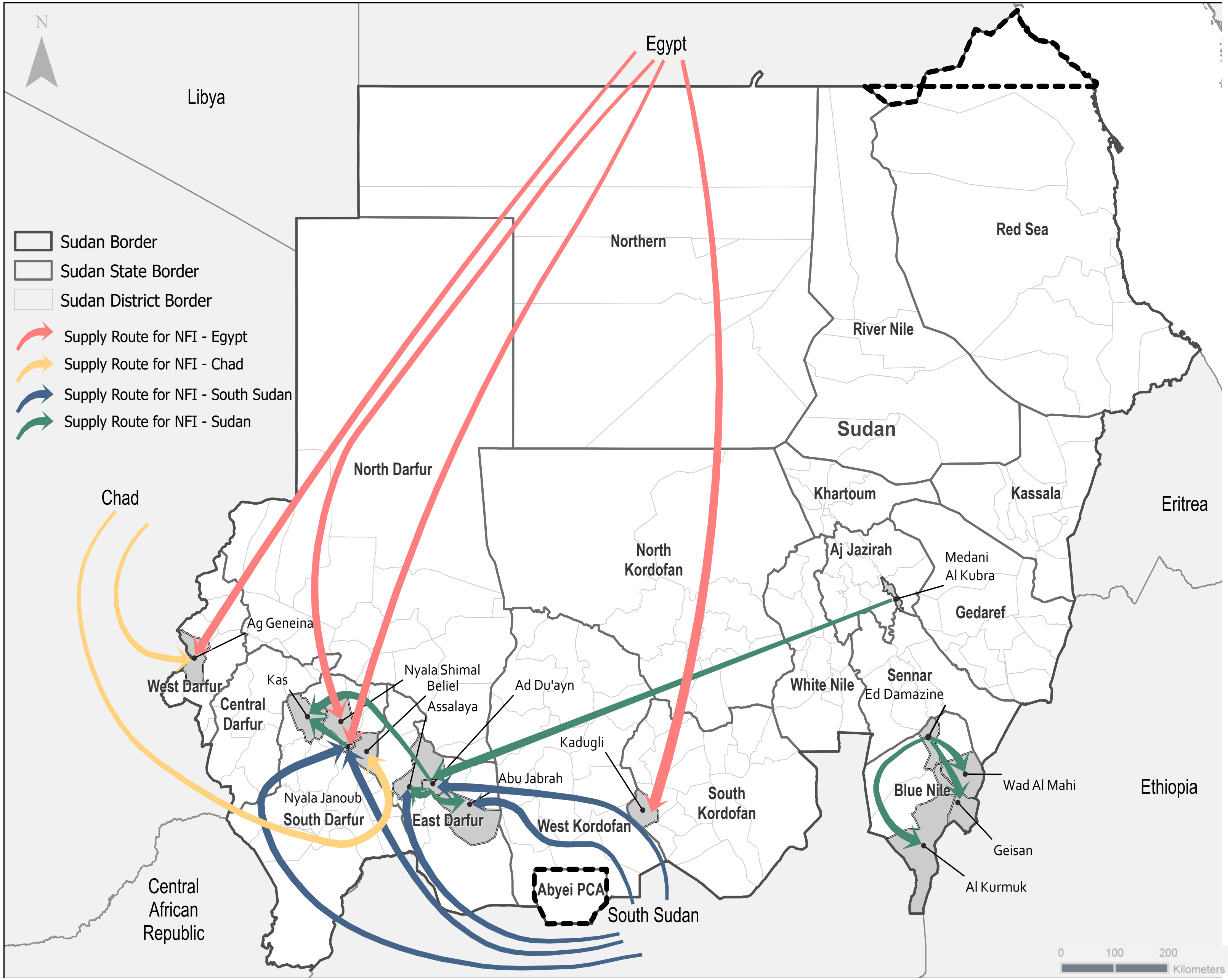
MAIN SUPPLY ROUTES FOR NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIS) (FROM SUPPLIER TO VENDOR)



PAYMENT MODALITIES

In December, **cash** (SDG) **remained the predominant payment modality**. Similar to the findings in December 2023, 53% of interviewed vendors reported only accepting cash from their customers over the month preceeding data collection. The most common alternative payment method to cash were informal forms of credit, accepted by 27% of vendors.

Due to the damage of banking infrastructures and limited functionality of digital financial services, mobile money is frequently viewed as an alternative payment method. However, similar to the previous month, **only 21% of the interviewed vendors accepted mobile money services**. Several factors contribute to this low adoption rate, including limited self-service functionality, unfamiliarity with mobile money, and challenges related to phone ownership[21].

Reported accepted payment modalities during the month prior to data collection, by % of interviewed vendor[22]

Cash (SDG)	99%
Informal credit	27%
Mobile money	21%
Hawala	7%
Money of bank transfer	6%
Cheques	3%
Cash (foreign currency)	2%
Barter (exchange of goods)	1%

[21] Mercy Corps | Piloting Mobile Money Cash Assistance in Sudan | November 2023.
[22] Values do not add up to 100% as vendors were allowed to select multiple options.

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STOCKS AND SUPPLIES

Similar to findings from December, more than a third of vendors reported facing **difficulties in acquiring enough items to meet customers' demands.** The items reported as most difficult to obtain were onions, sugar and tomato paste; each cited by over half of the vendors. Two thirds of vendors also reported **difficulties in keeping their business operational and well-stocked**; reportedly due to a lack of availability of core goods, high prices charged by suppliers, or difficulties accessing money to pay suppliers.

Challenges regarding supplies and maintaining business operations were notably more frequently reported in areas that are proportionately more affected by conflicts, including the states of **South and East Darfur and South Kordofan**[23].

Median duration until exhaustion and time needed for restock monitored items reported by interviewed vendors

	Food	Hygiene/ Household
Stock[24]	7.5 days	12 days
Restock[24]	2 days	5 days

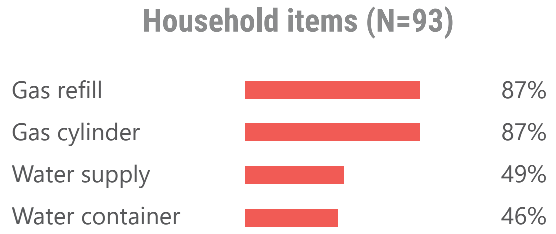
94%

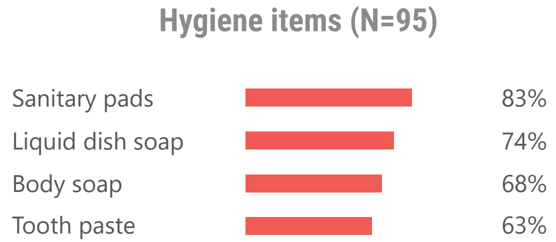
of the interviewed vendors reported having **access to a secure and locked storage** on the marketplace.

38%

of interviewed vendors reported having faced **difficulties obtaining enough items to meet their customers' demand** during the month prior to data collection.

Top 4 items reported as most difficult to obtain, by % of interviewed vendor reporting difficulties obtaining items[24]





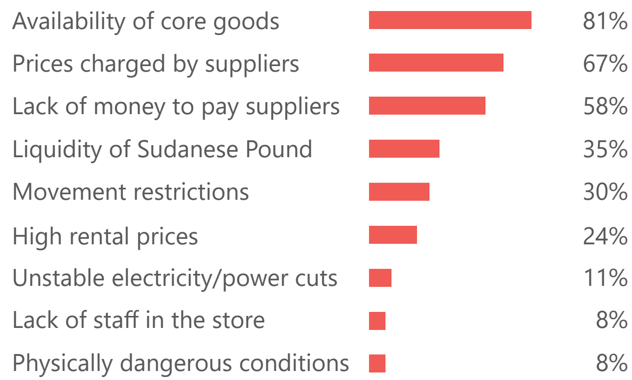
66%

of interviewed vendors reported **difficulties keeping business operational and well-stocked** during the month prior to data collection.

% of interviewed vendors reporting difficulties keeping their business operational and well-stocked, by state

South Darfur	96%	Blue Nile	52%
East Darfur	97%	White Nile	39%
West Darfur	47%	Gedaref	50%
South Kordofan	72%	Aj Jazirah	50%

Main issues cited by vendors reporting difficulties keeping business operational and well-stocked (N=225)[25]



[23] OCHA | Sudan humanitarian update, January 2024.
[24] The median reported expected number of days for items to last in vendors' stock under the same conditions as data collection, as well as the duration necessary to fully restock items if an order was placed on the day of data collection, were collected for each item and then aggregated.
[25] Values do not add up to 100% as vendors were allowed to select multiple options.

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MARKET ACCESS

76% of interviewed vendors reported **financial barriers to market access** for customers, while 45% reported **problems preventing physical and social market access** and over a third reported a **negative impact of security factors on their business.** These difficulties were reported by a higher proportion of interviewed vendors in the states of South and East Darfur and Aj Jazirah. The increasingly difficult market access in Aj Jazirah is reportedly related to the surge in conflict in the area in December[26].

39%

of interviewed vendors reported **security factors having a negative impact on their business, customers or work** during the month prior to data collection.

76%

of interviewed vendors reported that many of their customers faced **financial challenges travelling to shops or paying for basic goods**.

% of interviewed vendors reporting problems preventing physical travel, work or shopping in the markeplace, by state

South Darfur	81%	Blue Nile	n.a
East Darfur	89%	White Nile	14%
West Darfur	47%	Gedaref	15%
South Kordofan	27%	Aj Jazirah	50%

Main issues cited by vendors reporting on market problems to access their marketplace (N=195)[27]

Curfew or movement restrictions	68%
Lack of transportation	48%
Damaged roads	40%
Active fighting in the area	39%
Feeling unsafe	35%
Damanged building	33%
Market opened at limited times	25%

% of interviewed vendors reporting negative impact of security context on their business/customers/work, by state

South Darfur	94%	Blue Nile	n.a
East Darfur	84%	White Nile	0%
West Darfur	29%	Gedaref	0%
South Kordofan	21%	Aj Jazirah	50%

Main issues cited by vendors reporting negative impact of security context on their business (N=82)[27]

Fear of insecurities	72%
Curfew or movement restrictions	70%
Fear of criminality	50%
Fear of discriminations	40%
Fear of detention	37%
Fear of hazards	22%
Fear of physical harrassment	18%
Fear of sexual abuse	18%

% of interviewed vendors reporting customers facing financial challenges accessing goods, by state

South Darfur	97%	Blue Nile	74%
East Darfur	100%	White Nile	32%
West Darfur	53%	Gedaref	90%
South Kordofan	76%	Aj Jazirah	25%

Main issues cited by vendors regarding customers facing financial challenges accessing goods (N=253)[27]

Cannot afford items	87%
Low liquidity of Sudanese pound	42%
Payment modality not accepted	42%
Cannot afford fuel	17%
Cannot afford transport	17%
Debt	7%

[26] FEWS NET | Food Security Outlook Update Sudan (December 2023), OCHA | Sudan Flash Update No. 3 (18 December 2023).

[27] Values do not add up to 100% as vendors were allowed to select multiple options.

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KITCHEN SET

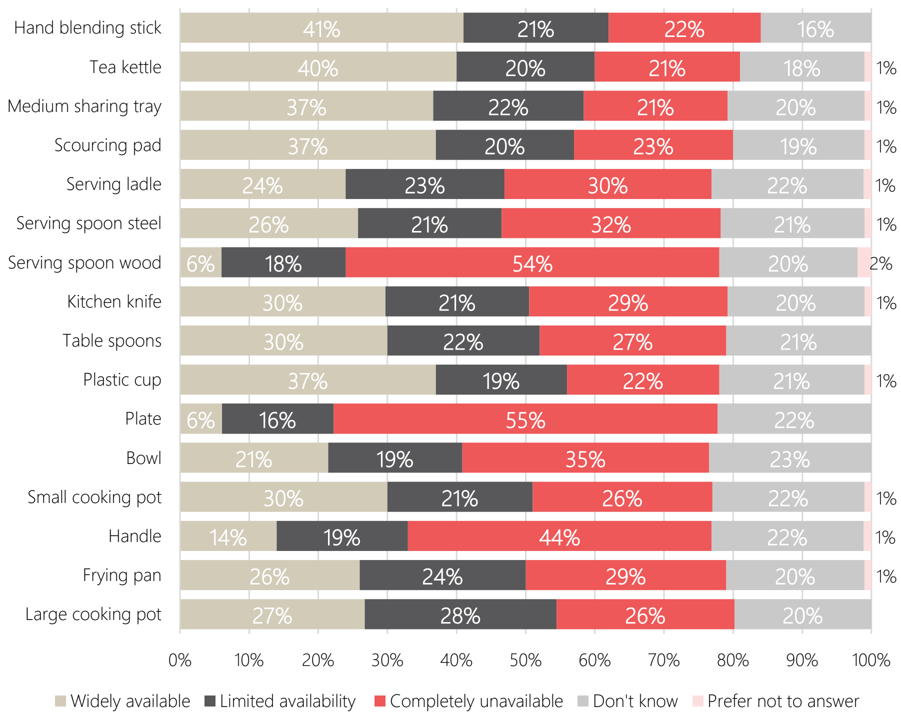
The content of the kitchen set was agreed upon in collaboration with the MEB TWG and Shelter/NFI Cluster, and was added to the items monitored in the JMMI in January 2024.

Product	Unit[4]
Large aluminum cooking pot	7 liters
Large aluminum frying pan	2.5 liters
Detachable handle for frying pan	for 2.5 liters
Small aluminum cooking pot with lid	5 liters
Stainless steel bowl	1 liter
Ceramic plate	1 kilogram (kg)
Stainless steel table-spoon	1 piece
Kitchen knife with stainless steel blade	1 piece
Wooden serving spoon	1 piece
Stainless steel serving spoon	1 piece
Stainless steel serving ladle	1 piece
Stainless steel scouring pad	1 piece
Medium circular tray for sharing	1 piece
Tea kettle	1 piece
Hand blending stick in one	1 piece

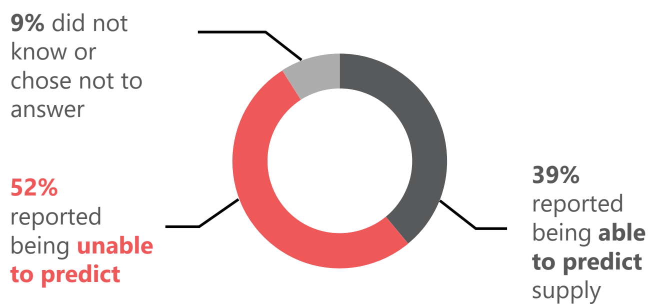
PRICE AND AVAILABILITY

In the assessed markets, the highest price for the kitchen set was recorded in Beliel (South Darfur) and the lowest in Ed Damazin (Blue Nile). Similarly to the food items and NFI, the highest prices for the kitchen set were recorded in the Great Darfur states. The least available items are the serving spoon in wood, plates and handles. These were reported as not widely used. Most items stay at a limited availability and/or completely unavailable, underscoring the limited availability of the kitchen set in the assessed localities.

Reported availability of kitchen set items in assessed markets at time of data collection



Reported ability of kitchen items vendors to predict supply prices one month from data collection[30]



Location[28]	Kitchen Set* (SDG)	Kitchen Set (USD[29])
Blue Nile		
Al Kurmuk	80,125	85
Ar Rusayris	53,550	57
Ed Damazine*	36,300	38
Wad Al Mahi	45,725	48
East Darfur		
Abu Jabrah	74,250	78
Ad Du'ayn	58,825	62
Assalaya	61,550	65
South Darfur		
Beliel	129,600	137
Kas	84,700	89
Nyala Janoub	61,475	65
Nyala Shimal	80,700	85
Sharg Aj Jabal	120,700	127
South Kordofan		
Ar Reif Ash Shargi	47,425	50
Kadugli*	53,100	56
West Darfur		
Ag Geneina	60,517	64
White Nile		
Ad Diwaim	41,308	44
Aj Jabalain	44,550	47
Overall	**55,390**	**59**

* Of the assessed localities, the kitchen set items were not available in Basundah (Gedaref), Al Galabat Al Gharbyah (Gedaref), Sharg Al Jazirah (Aj Jazirah) and Geisan (Blue Nile).

[28] In January, markets in Western Darfur were added to the assessment, while the states of Sennar and Central Darfur could not be covered.
[29] Exchange rate used is the average exchange rate of January 2024.
[30] Vendors were asked whether they were able to predict the price of their best selling items.

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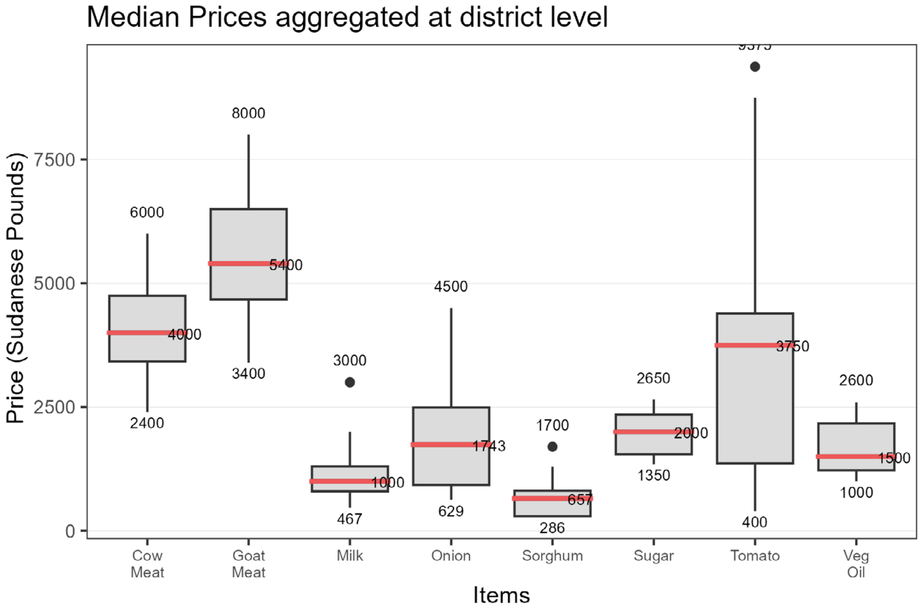
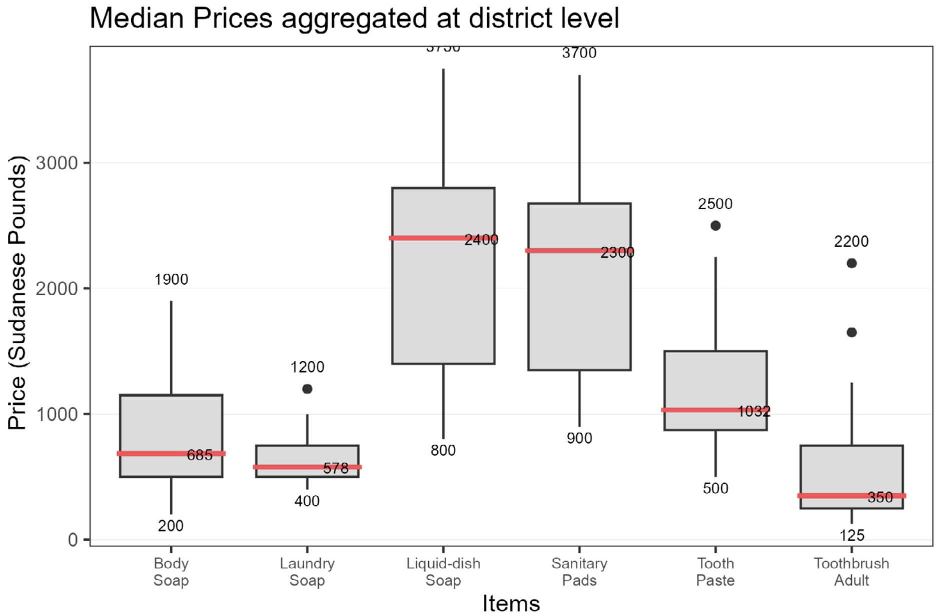
DISTRIBUTION OF PRICES

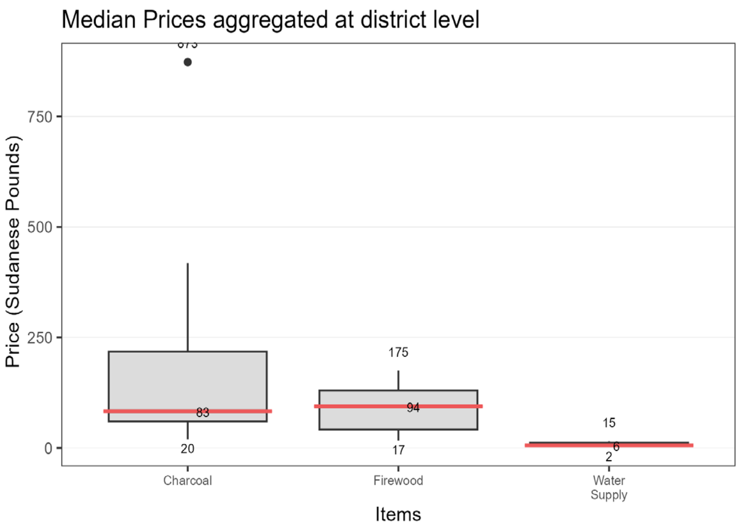
Food items



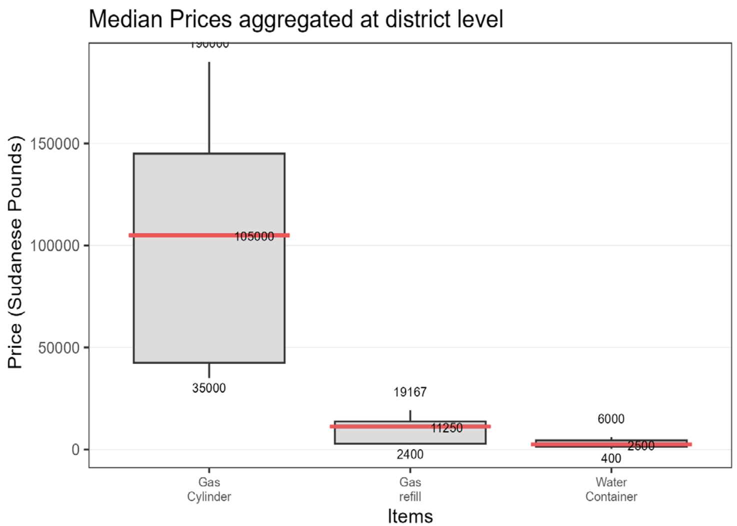
Hygiene Items (NFIs)



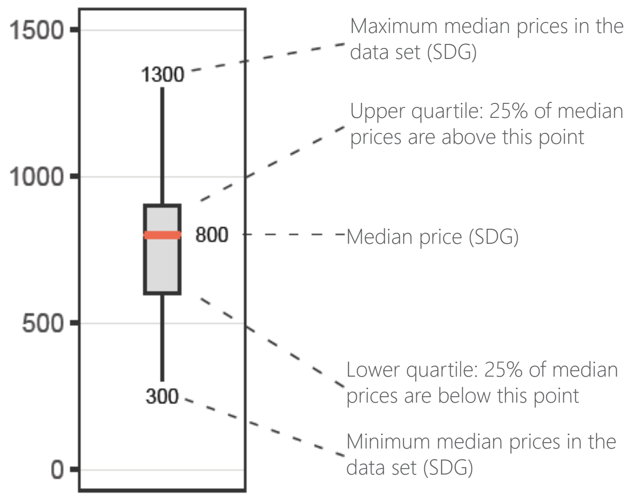
Household Items 1 (NFIs)



Household Items 2 (NFIs)



How to read a boxplot



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MARKET FUNCTIONALITY SCORE PER LOCALITY

Localities	Accessibility					Availability		Affordability				Resilience			Infrastructure				Total MFS
	Main dimension	Physical access	Physical road Access	Social access	Safety and security	Main dimension	Availability	Main dimension	Affordability	Finance	Price volatility	Main dimension	Supply diversity	resilience supply	Main dimension	Facilities	Storage	Payment	
Maximum score	**25**	**8**	**4**	**2**	**3**	**30**	**60**	**15**	**12**	**9**	**6**	**20**	**12**	**9**	**10**	**4**	**3**	**3**	**100**
South Darfur																			
Kas	**3**	0	0	2	0	**23**	46	**2**	4	0	0	**9**	9	0	**3**	0	0	3	**40**
Sharg Aj Jabal	**3**	0	0	2	0	**27**	53	**1**	2	0	0	**9**	9	0	**8**	4	3	1	**47**
Beliel	**15**	4	4	2	0	**9**	18	**5**	2	3	4	**8**	8	0	**8**	4	3	1	**44**
Nyala Shimal	**6**	0	2	2	0	**12**	24	**3**	5	0	0	**9**	9	0	**0**	0	0	0	**29**
Nyala Janoub	**3**	0	0	2	0	**13**	26	**3**	6	0	0	**9**	9	0	**0**	0	0	0	**28**
West Darfur																			
Ag Geneina	**10**	2	3	2	0	**26**	51	**5**	5	3	0	**11**	9	3	**5**	2	2	1	**57**
East Darfur																			
Abu Jabrah	**4**	0	1	2	0	**24**	48	**5**	5	0	4	**9**	9	0	**4**	2	2	0	**46**
Ad Du'ayn	**3**	0	0	2	0	**24**	48	**6**	5	0	6	**9**	9	0	**4**	4	0	0	**45**
Assalaya	**9**	2	2	2	0	**23**	46	**6**	4	0	6	**8**	8	0	**7**	2	3	2	**52**
South Kordofan																			
Ar Reif Ash Shargi	**7**	2	3	0	0	**17**	33	**8**	7	6	2	**11**	9	3	**8**	4	2	2	**52**
Kadugli	**13**	4	4	0	1	**25**	49	**4**	7	0	0	**6**	6	0	**7**	4	2	1	**54**
Blue Nile*																			
Ed Damazine	**n.a**	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	**29**	58	**8**	7	6	2	**6**	6	0	**n.a**	n.a	3	2	**n.a**
Al Kurmuk	**n.a**	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	**26**	51	**6**	8	3	0	**10**	8	3	**n.a**	n.a	2	2	**n.a**
Ar Rusayris	**n.a**	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	**29**	58	**7**	9	3	0	**8**	8	0	**n.a**	n.a	3	1	**n.a**
Geisan	**n.a**	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	**26**	51	**8**	8	6	0	**11**	9	3	**n.a**	n.a	2	1	**n.a**
Wad Al Mahi	**n.a**	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	**25**	50	**7**	9	3	0	**6**	6	0	**n.a**	n.a	2	1	**n.a**
White Nile																			
Ad Diwaim	**25**	8	4	2	3	**29**	58	**13**	8	9	6	**10**	8	3	**8**	4	3	1	**85**
Aj Jabalain	**15**	2	3	2	3	**28**	56	**7**	9	0	4	**8**	8	0	**9**	4	2	3	**67**
Gedaref																			
Basundah	**25**	8	4	2	3	**25**	50	**8**	9	0	6	**9**	9	0	**5**	4	0	1	**72**
Al Galabat Al Gharbyah	**25**	8	4	2	3	**22**	44	**7**	8	0	4	**7**	7	0	**8**	4	1	3	**68**
Al Jazirah																			
Sharg Al Jazirah	**9**	0	4	2	0	**16**	32	**5**	5	3	2	**7**	7	0	**2**	1	0	1	**39**

* Data collection in Blue Nile on the physical and partial infrastructure dimensions was not possible.

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MEDIAN ITEM PRICES PER LOCALITY (in SDG)

Localities	Sorghum grain	Onions	Vegetable Oil	Milk (fresh)	Cow Meat (fresh)	Goat Meat (fresh)	Tomato Paste	Sugar	Gas Container	Gas Refill	Charcoal	Firewood	Water Container	Water supply	Body Soap	Tooth paste	Tooth brush	Laundry Soap	Liquid Dish Soap	Sanitary Pads
	1kg	1kg	1L	1L	1kg	1kg	1kg	1kg	12.5L	4L	1kg	1kg	20L	20L	125g	100ml	1piece	200g	600ml	8pieces
South Darfur																				
Kas	1000	1981	1000	2000	3300	4600	875	2247	160000	11667	87	125	5550	10	1700	2500	2200	800	3200	3350
Sharg Aj Jabal	1043	2714	1250	3000	3550	5400	8000	2450	190000	19167	278	146	5350	14	650	2250	1650	1200	3150	3700
Beliel	857	2857	1500	1600	4000	5750	9375	2650	180000	16667	418	125	6000	15	900	1500	1100	900	3750	2650
Nyala Shimal	686	1743	1600	1300	2550	3500	8750	2300	n.a	10833	218	100	4750	6	1250	1200	1250	500	2450	2300
Nyala Janoub	657	1771	1600	1200	2400	3400	5500	2200	n.a	n.a	218	96	n.a	5	1150	1200	n.a	500	2400	2500
West Darfur																				
Ag Geneina	1700	4500	2000	3000	3000	4500	4018	2000	35000	10000	218	167	4500	12	312	1000	300	500	3000	2500
East Darfur																				
Abu Jabrah	743	2809	1200	467	3850	5000	800	2500	130000	13000	218	92	4000	12	1500	1587	900	1000	2800	2700
Ad Du'ayn	671	2022	1100	533	3550	4750	400	2000	109500	15000	80	175	3850	12	1900	1250	650	750	2700	2900
Assalaya	771	2697	1500	467	3700	4500	600	2500	105000	13333	255	167	3500	15	1900	1500	700	1000	2800	3000
South Kordofan																				
Ar Reif Ash Shargi	571	2286	2000	800	2800	4900	1125	2400	n.a	n.a	60	56	2400	n.a	1000	1600	400	500	1500	950
Kadugli*	867	1600	2925	11600	2800	5000	3800	2400	n.a	n.a	60	25	2500	6	500	1000	500	500	2500	1500
Blue Nile																				
Ed Damazine*	667	3000	3160	9800	5080	7800	3300	2300	40000	2400	100	42	2500	n.a	667	500	250	578	1250	900
Al Kurmuk	286	1429	1450	800	4250	5000	3750	1850	n.a	n.a	40	42	1700	n.a	650	952	250	611	2100	n.a
Ar Rusayris	286	857	1500	1000	4000	7000	1600	1500	45000	2450	60	42	1500	5	500	952	250	550	1400	1600
Geisan	343	1071	2400	1100	5000	6000	3750	1800	n.a	n.a	40	125	1500	2	600	1032	250	590	3120	2000
Wad Al Mahi	286	1000	2400	800	4000	7000	3750	1600	n.a	n.a	20	17	1500	5	833	873	300	598	2400	2400
White Nile																				
Ad Diwaim	571	629	2350	1200	6000	7000	3125	1350	40000	2500	83	158	500	n.a	450	600	200	500	1350	1400
Aj Jabalain	286	714	2350	1000	4500	6000	3750	1400	60000	3000	60	17	400	5	685	794	125	528	1200	1000
Gedaref																				
Basundah	314	857	1000	600	5000	6000	4018	1400	n.a	n.a	40	42	n.a	6	200	550	200	400	800	944
Al Galabat Al	286	857	1000	800	5000	7000	4286	1500	n.a	n.a	40	33	n.a	n.a	200	700	300	400	1000	n.a
Al Jazirah																				
Sharg Al Jazirah	1300	1143	2600	1300	6000	8000	4500	2000	n.a	n.a	873	n.a	n.a	n.a	1000	1500	400	700	1500	1300
Overall median	731	1543	2175	1200	3975	5725	3884	2000	50000	10000	145	88	3150	6	700	1150	350	552	2050	1550

*Food items monitored by WFP. Food items monitored included dry milk instead of fresh milk, presented as the mean of prices monitored.

MEDIAN KITCHEN SET ITEM PRICES PER LOCALITY (in SDG)

Localities	Large cooking pot	Frying pan	Handle	Small cooking pot	Bowl	Plate	Plastic cup	Table spoon	Kitchen knife	Serving spoon wood	Serving spoon steel	Serving ladle	Scourcing pad	Medium tray	Tea kettle	Hand blending
	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece	1 piece
South Darfur																
Kas	15000	15000	7000	15000	5000	3000	1000	1000	2250	1500	2200	2000	750	7000	6000	1000
Sharg Aj Jabal	29000	15000	10750	15000	8500	4000	2000	950	3900	1600	1950	2150	750	17500	5350	2300
Beliel	33500	16000	9500	12500	5000	4500	1500	750	5000	3000	5000	3500	600	20000	5750	3500
Nyala Shimal	8000	20000	13750	6350	5000	1900	1200	500	2300	3750	3500	1700	450	6000	6000	300
Nyala Janoub	8000	6200	10125	6250	5000	2000	1300	500	2300	1250	4000	1550	400	6000	6300	300
West Darfur																
Ag Geneina	13000	5000	6000	15500	1000	2250	550	417	1700	1300	800	2000	500	7000	3000	500
East Darfur																
Abu Jabrah	22500	2750	2000	18000	1850	2000	950	1500	2400	1600	1800	2500	900	9000	3150	1350
Ad Du'ayn	11750	2500	2300	7600	3550	1850	1300	1004	2800	3500	2000	3150	521	9500	4600	900
Assalaya	20000	2500	2500	15000	2500	1350	800	1300	2000	1000	1500	1700	300	5000	3500	600
South Kordofan																
Ar Reif Ash Shargi	6000	2000	3500	4500	1875	2000	6000	200	1000	1300	1450	1200	1800	7000	7000	600
Kadugli	10000	2000	3500	12500	1875	2000	1000	225	1250	1300	1450	2000	500	7000	6000	500
Blue Nile																
Ed Damazine*	7000	8000	5000	1500	1750	2000	750	150	550	200	150	500	200	6500	1850	200
Al Kurmuk	47500	5750	5000	3500	2000	2000	750	100	525	200	200	1000	400	6000	5000	200
Ar Rusayris	24500	3500	5000	3000	1500	2000	500	100	500	200	150	500	200	7000	4500	400
Wad Al Mahi	15000	5750	5000	2000	2250	2000	1750	100	525	200	175	500	175	6500	3500	300
White Nile																
Ad Diwaim	7500	4500	5000	3500	1400	1350	550	125	1450	500	1400	1450	183	8000	4000	400
Aj Jabalain	7500	5000	5000	5000	1200	1500	500	250	2000	1500	1500	1500	400	7000	4000	700
Overall median	14000	4875	5000	10500	1875	2000	850	314	1712	1300	1450	1800	510	7000	4000	550

Note: The kitchen set items were not available in Basundah (Gedaref), Al Galabat Al Gharbyah (Gedaref), Sharg Al Jazirah (Aj Jazirah) and Geisan (Blue Nile).

Funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid

MEDIAN stock level (days)

Localities	Sorghum grain	Onions	Vegetable Oil	Milk (fresh)	Cow Meat (fresh)	Goat Meat (fresh)	Tomato Paste	Sugar	Gas Container	Gas Refill	Charcoal	Firewood	Water Container	Water supply	Body Soap	Tooth paste	Tooth brush	Laundry Soap	Liquid Dish Soap	Sanitary Pads
	1kg	1kg	1L	1L	1kg	1kg	1kg	1kg	12.5L	12.L	1kg	1kg	20L	20L	125g	100ml	1piece	200g	600ml	8pieces
South Darfur																				
Kas	15	8	13	1	1	1	7	10	20	15	14	10	14	2	10	10	15	13	9	10
Sharg Aj Jabal	14	10	10	1	1	1	10	16	20	10	12	9	16	6	10	14	18	8	10	12
Beliel	7	7	15	1	2	1	10	6	20	20	14	4	2	2	7	8	6	8	8	5
Nyala Shimal	6	7	5	3	4	4	5	6	n.a	8	6	4	5	3	9	7	6	7	6	7
Nyala Janoub	5	4	4	2	4	5	7	8	n.a	n.a	7	4	n.a	2	4	6	n.a	6	6	8
West Darfur																				
Ag Geneina	15	6	22	2	1	1	6	3	30	28	12	3	4	2	7	14	20	5	8	7
East Darfur																				
Abu Jabrah	10	14	10	1	1	1	8	14	23	30	18	5	18	1	12	15	18	9	13	8
Ad Du'ayn	18	13	13	1	1	1	14	15	28	17	20	11	22	1	20	19	20	11	15	16
Assalaya	13	10	15	1	1	1	7	15	30	30	20	8	19	2	10	16	19	5	19	7
South Kordofan																				
Ar Reif Ash Shargi	75	7	30	2	1	1	30	26	n.a	n.a	90	30	20	n.a	30	30	30	30	22	45
Kadugli*	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	30	22	15	8	20	30	30	30	30	26
Blue Nile																				
Ed Damazine*	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	6	6	10	6	10	1	10	10	9	4	6	7
Al Kurmuk	18	7	6	1	7	1	8	5	n.a	n.a	3	2	2	1	26	17	15	7	25	n.a
Ar Rusayris	1	4	4	1	2	1	7	4	7	7	3	2	5	1	12	7	15	7	15	21
Geisan	1	5	4	1	1	1	8	5	n.a	n.a	8	7	10	1	18	10	15	7	6	30
Wad Al Mahi	7	6	4	1	3	2	8	4	n.a	n.a	5	7	6	1	11	20	8	7	25	90
White Nile																				
Ad Diwaim	20	2	30	1	6	12	25	20	5	10	12	45	10	8	30	60	60	22	30	35
Aj Jabalain	30	30	22	1	1	1	20	8	30	1	30	10	1	30	45	45	45	45	45	60
Gedaref																				
Basundah	30	20	20	2	2	2	21	30	n.a	n.a	25	25	n.a	2	30	20	30	18	22	22
Al Galabat Al	30	15	22	2	2	4	24	21	n.a	n.a	30	30	n.a	n.a	45	22	30	26	22	n.a
Al Jazirah																				
Sharg Al Jazirah	20	12	15	1	7	10	15	15	n.a	n.a	7	n.a	n.a	n.a	10	14	20	20	15	30

*Food items monitored by WFP does not include the days of stock for each items.

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Methodology

The JMMI aims to inform market-based programming in Sudan through monthly monitoring of prices of selected food and NFI items as well as other critical market indicators.

The coverage of the JMMI may vary between months as it depends on the interest of the partner organisations and their field teams' capacities to regularly collect market data. Locations are added once partners willing to cover them are identified, and their field teams are trained. As the initiative is currently being built up, coverage will likely be expanded in future data collection rounds.

This findings presented in this factsheet are based on the JMMI conducted from 10 to 23 January 2024. The factsheet presents an overview of median prices for food and non-food items (NFIs) in the main markets of the localities assessed, a comprehensive breakdown of the cost of the interim Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), and the Market Functionality Score (MFS) for the markets assessed at locality level.

In each assessed location, the aim is to collect at minimum four prices per item from different retailers to ensure quality and consistency of the collected data. In line with the purpose of the JMMI, only the prices of the cheapest available types are recorded for each item.

With the exception of some state capitals, where prices of food items is monitored by the World Food Programme (WFP)[31], JMMI partners record prices and other critical market indicators through interviews with retailers.

Retailers are selected to interview based on the following criteria:

- Vendors are retailers selling directly to consumers.
- Vendors with weight scales are prioritised when recording prices of dry food items.
- Vendors are representative of the local price level (no wholesaler, vendors or upmarket or luxury goods).
- To the extent possible, the same vendors are revisited in every data collection round.

The data is collected by enumerators familiar with the local market conditions, and have all received comprehensive training prior to the data collection.

The median item prices reported in this factsheet are 'locality medians', designed to minimise the effects of outliers and differing amounts of data among assessed locations. The median prices of all assessed items are calculated within each assessed locality. Because items monitored by WFP was only available as means, these figures have been used to calculated the overall medians at state and national level.

All MEB and price index calculations are created using this method.

- The cost of the Interim MEB is calculated by multiplying the median price of each item in the respective locality by the quantity listed in the table on page 3 adding to it the lump sums listed in the same page.
- In 4 localities (Ed Damazin, Rabak and Kadugli) the prices of the food items were collected by World Food Programme (WFP). Because the prices monitored by WFP were only available as means, these figures were used to calculate the overall median costs of the MEB at state and national level.
- Food prices were not recorded in two localities in December 2023: in Ag Geneina (West Darfur) and Medani Al Kubra (Al Jazirah). The food MEB is noted as not available and the interim MEB as incomplete for those two localities.
- In localities where items are not available, the national median is used to calculate the MEB per district, state and at national level. This allows to compare the interim MEB from locality to locality.
- Data collection on the accessibility and infrastructure dimensions of the Market Functionality Score (MFS) was not possible in Blue Nile. Those dimensions for all localities in Blue Nile are noted as not available, and the MFS score as unavailable.

Challenges and Limitations

- Price data is only indicative for the time frame within which it was collected. Prices may vary between data collection rounds.
- The JMMI data collection tool requests the cheapest available type of each item to be recorded, as availability varies across regions. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slightly varying products.
- Standardising local unit sizes of dry food and household items is inherently difficult in Sudan, as many traders sell commodities by volume rather than weight, additionally the same units of measurements varies slightly from one locality to another. Due to the challenges of converting some of the unit of measurements the prices based on volume should if possible be triangulated with other data sources.
- As the JMMI continues to expand and is extended to additional locations, the reported changes in the overall median prices may be driven in part by shifts in coverage rather than actual price changes.
- Similarly, the decreased coverage of localities in January 2024 (21) compared to December 2023 (35) may impact the overall results and prevents comparison of results for those localities that were not covered in January.

About the CWG

Created in 2015, the national Sudan Cash Working Group (CWG) serves as the principal coordination forum for all humanitarian cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in Sudan. Composed of over 50 member organizations (UN agencies, local and international NGOs, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society, donors, and financial service providers), the CWG provides technical support to and across sectors, advises on issues related to CVA, and provides evidence and knowledge in response option analysis processes.

Participating agencies

- NRC - Norwegian Refugee Council
- ADRA - Adventist Development Council Agency
- AFRCO - African Relief Committee Organisation
- SI - Solidarité International
- MC - Mercy Corps

About REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).

[31] Food items monitored included dry milk instead of fresh milk, presented as the mean of prices.

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