Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

During the main harvest season, income from own production, livestock products and agricultural labour, as well as in-kind support will improve food access compared to the lean period of June–September 2021.

Improvements in household food access during the main harvest season will be limited and short-lived, and food security outcomes are expected to be worse than typical, driven by tight cereal supplies, above-average food prices, reduced household purchasing power, conflict and displacement.

**Economic shocks, including COVID-19**

The suspension of economic support from the international community in response to the military coup in October 2021 has led to the loss of over USD 2 billion in economic support and suspension of the implementation of economic reforms. Such reforms were needed to reduce economic instability, notably high inflation, strengthen coverage of social protection measures, support household purchasing power and alleviate economic pressure on food prices (IMF, 2022). Although the Sudanese pound has remained relatively stable, limited market supplies and high food prices will constrain household access to food, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas and market-dependent pastoral areas (FAO-GIEWS, March 2021).

Tight supplies following below-average cereal production in 2021, the continued depreciation of the local currency, and soaring prices of agricultural inputs have all inflated food prices. The area planted with winter season wheat was reportedly 28 percent lower year on year and 10 percent below the five-year average, largely due to shortages of improved seeds and fertilisers, and rising electricity rates, affecting pump irrigation (FAO-GIEWS, March 2022).

**Conflict/insecurity**

The 2021/22 main season harvest in parts of Darfur and Kordofan states was disrupted by intercommunal clashes between October and December 2021. Violence was expected to further increase in early 2022 as more nomadic groups travel to southern grazing areas (IPC, May 2021). Already between October 2021 and 1 February 2022, over 99,000 people were displaced due to inter-communal conflict in Central, North and West Darfur (IOM, February 2022). Mass nationwide protests in 2022 continued to interrupt people’s access to banks and markets and reduce income-earning opportunities for poor urban households (FEWS NET, February 2022).