



# FOOD ECONOMY CASE STUDY: SUDAN

## HOW FOOD ECONOMY ANALYSIS HELPS QUANTIFY COPING STRATEGIES

### The Context:

The Tinjur and Fur people of southern Kutum traditionally farm millet and keep small to medium sized flocks of sheep and goats. Two successive years of crop failure led to severe food shortages during 1997 and, as food prices soared, grain traders began importing basic foodstuffs into the area from central Sudan for the first time since the famine of 1985.

For poor families the main coping strategies were migration in search of employment and the increased consumption of wild foods. Typically, the mother or elder daughter migrated (often with the children) to southern Darfur, to harvest millet and to work on dry season wadi farms, returning with or sending home 2½-3 sacks of grain. Most poor households also had either the father or an elder son working in Khartoum or Eastern Sudan throughout the year, and increased remittances from this source helped maintain purchasing power in the face of rising prices. The collection of wild foods, including mukheit, provided a further 10-20% of food needs for poor households in 1997.

**Food Economy Analysis provides quantitative information on coping strategies - a pre-requisite for assessing food aid needs.**

**The farmers of Kutum were known to have reduced their dependence on crop and livestock production...**

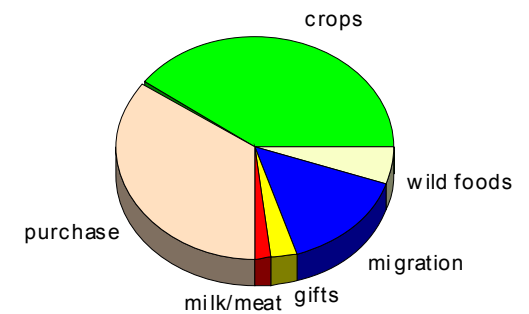
by diversifying their sources of food and income, but could they avoid hunger during 1997?

**A Food Economy Assessment showed...**

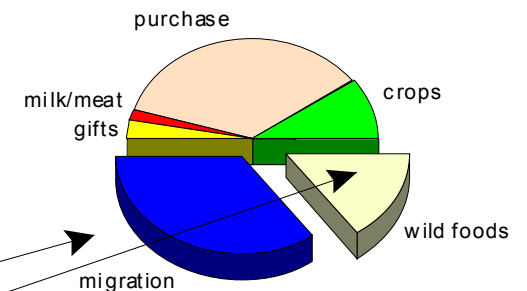
how families were coping with severe crop failure, generating information on migration and wild foods - topics rarely covered in official statistics..

Poor households migrated in search of employment and increased the collection of wild foods.

*Sources of food in a typical year*



*... and in 1997*



The pie represents 100% of annual food needs for a typical family  
Source: Save the Children Fund-UK