

## Abstract

Since the major famine of 1984/85 the Red Sea State lacked a proper early warning and well defined functioning monitoring system for food security. In response to the current food crisis, the Red Sea State government and International non – Governmental Organizations (NGOs), sought to create a system of early warning based on assessment of certain indicators of vulnerability.

The food security situation in the Red Sea State remains precarious. The region experienced eight major famines during the 20th century. This chiefly stemmed from its geo-political context. The main priority for effective response to food crises remained the strengthening of national institutions for food security monitoring.

This study assessed the impact of the early warning system on food security at the Red Sea state with emphasis on the welfare of the vulnerable groups in Red Sea State. With more focus on:

- ☐ Understanding the modalities of the early warning system in the Red Sea State;
- ☐ Highlighting the coping strategies by local community to food shortage;
- ☐ Verifying indicators which were strongly related to the impact of food security in the RSS;
- ☐ Draw recommendations that can be utilized for sustainability of early warning system for food security in Red Sea State;

Primary data collection involved both quantitative and qualitative data generated from different localities of RSS which represented its agro ecological zones. Samples of households were taken from villages and localities at State levels.

Three questionnaires were designed to collect information on basic household demographic information, questions about early warning system.

The questionnaire and interviews were carried out in Port Sudan town, Rural Port Sudan, Tokar north and south and Halaib Localities.

Secondary data based on review of books, articles, evaluations and assessment, reports and internet. ` 5

The main result of this study show that the early warning system:

Based on community interview the food security impact was limited they felt that measures taken by government , donating institutions and other partners did not alleviate the food crisis situation.

Also based on the key informants response, the food security impacts were complex. The lack of continuous funding and the low commitment of the political and economic environment together with poor governance were noted as key factors relating to negative impact of early warning system on food security.

The EWS team respective on food security impact was also low because as the whole system use to depend on central government reserve and mobilization of food aid during the crisis.

The most important recommendations of this study were:

Government interest – it is paramount that the government agrees and supports that an EWS for Food security is necessary in the RSS and that the information provided by the EWS will be reliable enough to help in government planning and action.

Concerted efforts by the government should be persuaded to activate the role of local communities in food production, food accessibility, storage, market behaviour and the decision making process during food security crisis.

Linkage of key informants with the role of EWS team for the purpose of enhancement of dialogue and the decision making process with community creates an enabling environment for quick response during food crises.