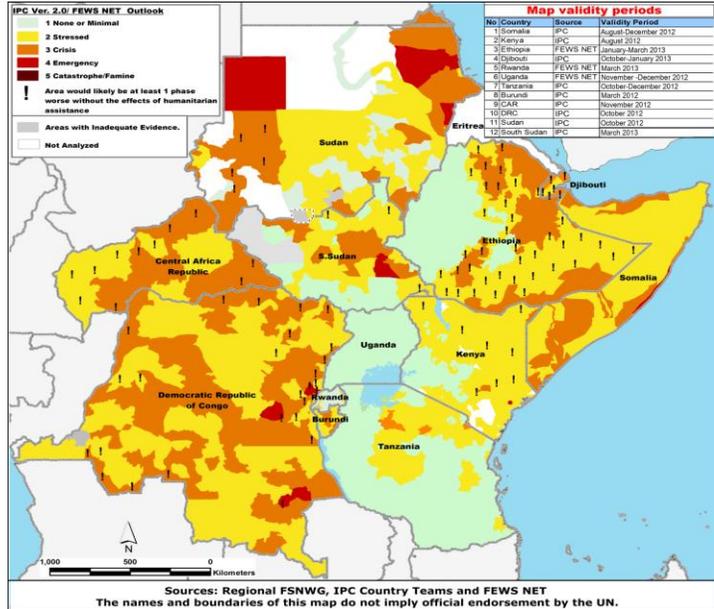


REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY MAP (FSN Map Jan 13)



KEY MESSAGES FROM THE FSNWG MEETING JANUARY 24, 2013 (FSNWG JAN 13)

While seasonal and generally good food security conditions reflect improvement in communities in the horn of Africa, we must bear in mind that *good* is a relative term. Beneath these relatively good conditions exists extreme levels of chronic food insecurity. As learned from Somalia in 2011, these conditions are potentially deadly.

There is increasing awareness of large-scale socio-economic changes in communities where this chronic food insecurity exists. Studies reveal up to 70% of pastoral communities currently live or plan to live outside of traditional pastoral livestock keeping systems. This trend in no way implies that the livestock sector is not well. Evidence suggests that successful livestock keepers are becoming wealthier and also driving a rapidly growing commercial livestock trade.

As we move into the dry season we expect to see a seasonal deterioration in food security and nutrition conditions. These conditions may exceed some emergency thresholds but are a function of chronic food insecurity. More effective responses in these situations may be ones which engage with the changing developmental landscape rather than through traditional humanitarian actions.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Relatively good food security conditions are largely the result of good rainfall throughout 2012 and consequently good harvest and livestock conditions, high but stable food prices and improving security in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan.

Burundi: Heavy rainfall late in 2012 has led to depressed harvests and sustained high food prices. Impact will be felt most in early 2013 when agricultural labor opportunities and food supplies are at their lowest while food prices are expected to remain high. ([Burundi TWG Jan 13](#))

CAR: Impact of the insecurity has centered on communities classified in IPC Crisis phase during the harvest period. Loss of food stocks due to conflict is expected to lead to greater hardship in early 2013. If the insecurity continues, it may also disrupt land preparation and planting ([CAR TWG Jan 13](#)).

DR Congo: Early harvests have started with positive impacts on food availability and a reduction in food prices for most of the country ([FS Cluster Jan 13](#)). Still, 77 regions have been classified in phase 3 (crisis) and 8 regions in phase 4 (emergency) ([FS Cluster Jan 13](#)).

Ethiopia: Relatively good food security conditions nationally and expected decreases in the number identified to receive food assistance ([GIEWS Jan 13](#)) are in part a function of a near-average Meher harvest, declining cereal prices ([OCHA/WFP Jan 13](#)).

Somalia: The food security situation improved due to the positive effects of favorable Deyr rains in most areas and international support. Cereal prices are considerably lower compared to last year's ([FSNAU Jan 13](#)). Most livelihoods in Somalia are likely to be classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2) ([ACAPS Jan 13](#)).

REGIONAL WATCH:

Hotspots

- **CAR:** Concern about loss of incomes and access to food for 17 percent of the population affected by insecurity. The Rapid Response Mechanism has been deployed ([OCHA Jan 13](#)). Food prices have risen by 27 percent in urban centers ([CAR TWG Jan 13](#)).
- **DR Congo:** Impacts of insecurity and disease persist, limiting the access of means of production or access to food of approximately 1 million people in the east. ([OCHA Jan 13](#)).
- **SUDAN:** Most of the food insecure populations are in conflict-affected areas of Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei. Good harvests may reduce the number of food insecure by almost 25% ([FEWSNET Jan 13](#)).

Watch

- **KENYA:** Concern that escalation of violence may diminish movement or trade with impacts on food security.

Change in the Arid Lands: Save the Children, Oxfam and IFRC Research presentation

Changes were reported in communities where Save the Children, Oxfam and IFRC recently conducted a joint research on children, youth, adults and the elderly from rural villages, settlements and towns of Turkana in Kenya, Shinile in Ethiopia and Toghdeer in Somaliland, about their hopes for the future. Their responses are not what you would expect to hear from traditionally pastoral or agro-pastoral communities. Some of them in were;

- Almost universally, youth and children aspired for non-traditional, commercial or professional futures. The younger the child the more likely he/she hoped to be a professional. Children and youth account for around 60% of the population in these communities.
- Across the board, education was the strategy described to reach these future goals. As In addition, parents hoped for their children to be educated and to get jobs in the towns, regardless of where they lived.
- The more settled and urban the people, particularly those over 30, the more they look towards commerce for their future and better income opportunities. Urban populations account for 20 to 35% of the population in these areas.
- An expanding rangeland: Interviewees want to seize new opportunities such as education, commerce, while concurrently maintaining traditional ones, such as a keeping a rural home, animals or tending farms. Interviewees said they expected to depend on the extended family to assist them or to assist others to exploit these new opportunities, that is to help children attend school or to help look after animals. New opportunities were also expected to benefit the wider family and community.

Discussions emphasized how aspirations from this research are articulated in terms of activities or employment rather than in the *benefit* of that activity or employment. The notion of families seizing new opportunities in traditionally pastoral communities also led to the suggestion that the term “*drop-outs*” and its connotations of failure be dropped. Change and opportunity will be shifting power dynamics and creating new sets of *winner*s and *loser*s.

It was recognized that local governments need to benefit from this type of research and to be supported to engage these types of non-traditional changes. There are many different developmental paths emerging from these formerly traditional communities, challenging us to consider equitable growth for many different sectors, not only livestock.

Looking forward, how does this research and changing understanding fit within or guide resilience discussions or planning? Specifically, how can issues of changing livelihoods and their implications be addressed?



“I have 3 children and a small shop in Dire Dawa. I assist my mother in the village, while she sends us milk and butter. My future plan is to expand the business and educate my children”

Above Normal Rains and Climate Outlook for Early 2013

In September, the **FSNWG El Nino Task Force** was anticipating an El Nino event to be announced and expected normal to above normal rainfall in the October to December period.

Heavy rainfall was experienced in December 2012 and January 2013 but not as a result of anticipated El Nino conditions. El Nino conditions did not in fact develop but above normal sea temperatures off the East African coast led to the increased levels of precipitation.

The climate outlook for the first quarter of 2013 anticipates above-normal temperatures making conditions drier than normal. There are also concerns for below-normal March to May rains in parts of northeastern Kenya, southern Ethiopia and Somalia.

FSNWG MEETING DATES

Feb 21 | Mar 21 | Apr 18 | May 16 | Jun 20 |
Jul 18 | Aug 15

On FEB 21 we will discuss *No Regrets* drought responses

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[Presentations & Meeting Documents from January 2013 meeting](#)



About FSNWG:

The Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) is a Regional multi-sectoral inter-agency Platform for sharing information and building food security consensual situation analysis, promoting mitigation and resilience responses for vulnerable households, monitoring cross border market information, and bringing a very broad number of stakeholders together for advocacy and response. It is co-chaired by IGAD and FAO and covers 13 countries: Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. For further information visit <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/fsnwg> or email: fsn-gha-workinggroup@fao.org