

Humanitarian Snapshot (October 2009)

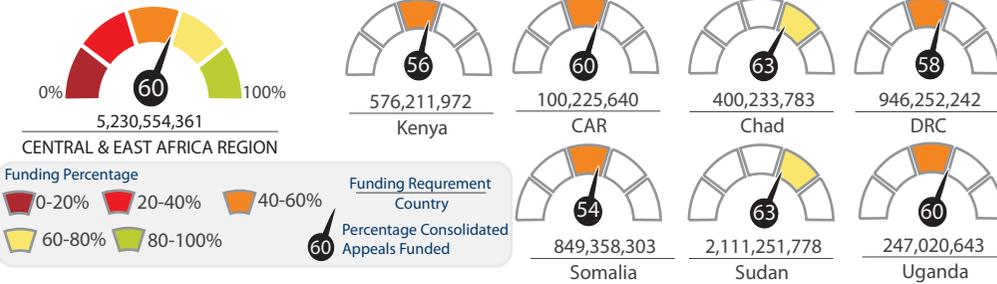
Central and East Africa Region

The Central & East Africa Region faces a convergence of drought, weak basic services, limited access to livelihoods, frequent disease outbreaks, potential pandemics and population displacements internally and across borders. Humanitarian implications are dire with the region's 15-18 million pastoralists seen to be at highest risk but vulnerability and need stretch to populations in urban areas where response is more complex. Livelihoods and assets have been compromised while cross border and localized internal conflicts prevail throughout the region. Humanitarian access is restricted in some areas with persistent insecurity for populations and for aid workers.



Funding Update

Seven countries in the CEA region have consolidated appeals to fund humanitarian action in 2009. On average, 59.7% of total requirements of \$5.231 billion has been committed as at 14 October, 2009. Sectoral disparities in funding are consistent in all the appeals, complicating response.



Refugees

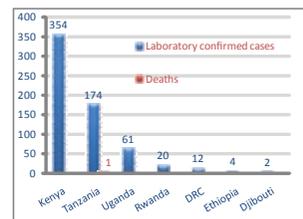
The Central and East Africa Region hosts 1,875,379 refugees (Oct. 2009); the majority of these are in Kenya (376,467), Chad (324,500), Tanzania (274,658) and Sudan (273,601). Successful repatriation and local integration of Burundian refugees in Tanzania has considerably reduced their number in the country; in Sudan, Eritreans comprise the overwhelming majority of the refugees. Overall, the number of refugees in the region went up by 5,061 between March and mid-October 2009; 54,279 refugees entered Kenya since January 2009 alone.

IDPs

The number of internally displaced persons in the CEA region stood at 10,188,709 as of mid-October 2009. DRC, Somalia and CAR registered considerable increases in the number of IDPs between March and October, due to continuing/deteriorating security conditions. IDPs declined in Sudan, Uganda, Chad and Kenya as some IDPs returned amidst improved security conditions. In Kenya, the last IDP camp was closed by 1 October and 35,000 persons remain in transit sites.

Drought & Flood

The Horn of Africa is in the grip of one of the most severe droughts in a decade; water resources have been depleted and water is being trucked in the arid and semi-arid lands as well as to urban centres. Rivers have dried up and conflicts over scarce resources are on the rise. Additional climatic shocks are expected in late 2009 with floods associated with the El Niño weather phenomenon being projected. The intense dry conditions could mitigate flash floods but enhanced rainfall over several weeks could give rise to water-logged soils and mudslides.



H1N1

The H1N1 influenza pandemic continues to spread rapidly. Kenya has 354 laboratory confirmed cases while Tanzania has one H1N1 related fatality. These figures are considered to be under-estimates since most countries in the region lack laboratory testing and surveillance systems. Of concern are the outbreaks in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in Kenya which are being monitored closely. There are further concerns of the H5N1 strain that is currently endemic in Egypt.

Conflict

Insecurity in the region is mainly driven by internal conflict although border areas – Eritrea/Ethiopia, DRC/CAR/Southern Sudan, Chad/Sudan and eastern DRC/Rwanda remain contentious or unstable. In Somalia, extremists battle the Transitional Federal Government for dominance and in Kenya, scarce resources prompt deadly inter-communal clashes. Access to populations in need is often compromised and insecurity for humanitarian workers is a major concern.

Food Security

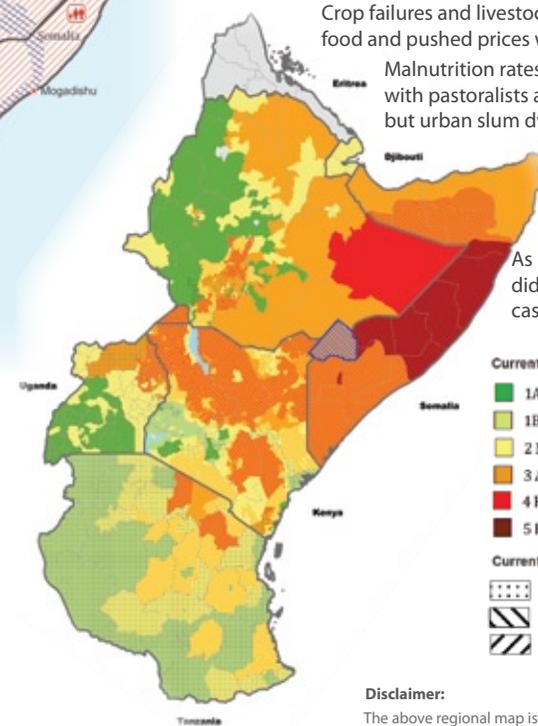
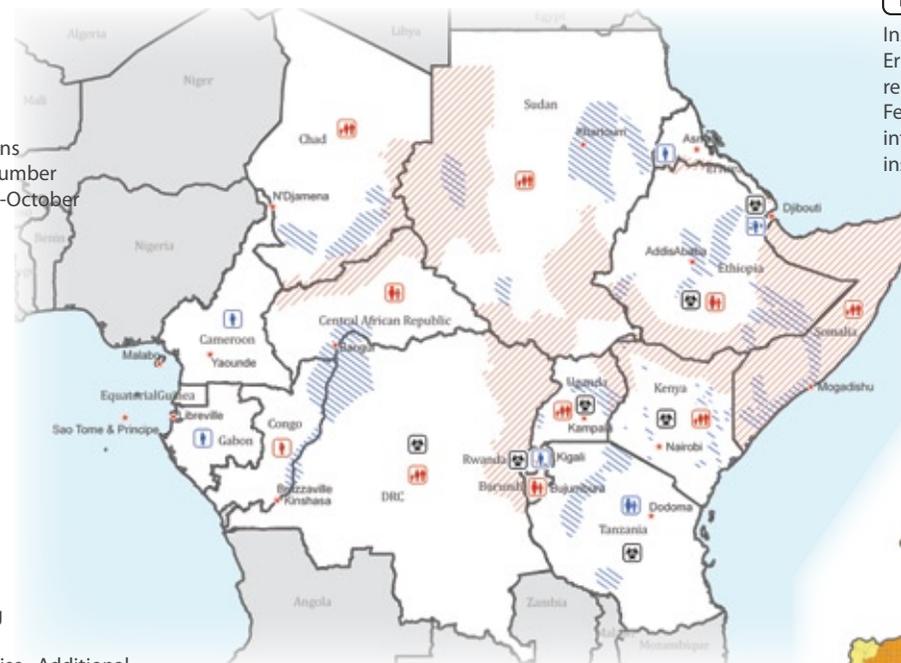
There are an estimated 23 million people in Africa's Horn in need of humanitarian assistance; 20 million of these need direct food aid.

Crop failures and livestock deaths have reduced available food and pushed prices well above the 5-year average.

Malnutrition rates have escalated across the region with pastoralists and marginal farmers most affected but urban slum dwellers and displaced populations

are at particular risk since they purchase –and don't produce– what food and water that does not come as relief aid.

As prices rose across the region, so did food insecurity and the current caseloads are the highest in the world.



Disclaimer:
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on all maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Disclaimer:
The above regional map is a compilation of national maps produced during IPC analytical workshops. Djibouti and Ethiopia are provided by FEWSNET.