

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE FSNWG MEETING March 21, 2013

- Fighting in CAR has led to acute food insecurity for almost half of the country. CAR remains a *forgotten crisis*.
- Poor *belg* rains raise concerns for areas in Ethiopia where there have been three poor or failed cropping seasons
- Despite the generally good prevailing conditions approximately 16M people remain in crisis or emergency (IPC Phase 3 & 4) in the region
- The outlook for April to May is mixed. March to May rainfall may be similar to that of 2002 (analogue year). Rains are expected to be normal in the central and western sectors of the region and possibly normal to below normal for the eastern part of the region.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Good rains in 2012 allowed for normal to above normal harvests, good pasture and livestock conditions. Food prices have generally decreased from their 2011/12 levels (but remained above their 5 year averages). Inflation, for much of the region, decreased through 2012.

Central African Republic IPC analysis reported significant damage to food, seed stocks as well as livestock in areas affected by insecurity. Losses of seed stocks and impeded access to fields has also led to an uncertain outlook for the current cropping season. Trade from *Seleka* controlled areas to other parts of the country has also been interrupted. Conditions of food insecurity are expected to continue and possibly worsen until harvests in late 2013.

Burundi: Season A harvests were generally good, but with concerns of a poorer performance in the region on the Tanzanian border [FAO Mar 13](#). Food prices are above 5 year averages [FEWSNET Mar 13](#) and expected to seasonally increase. These events must be interpreted against a backdrop of extreme chronic food insecurity, including Under 5 stunting rates of 53% [World Bank](#).

Ethiopia: *Meher* harvest up 5% from last year [OCHA Feb 13](#). Nationally food prices remain high but below 2012 levels. Regions with depressed local production are also seeing increasing food prices. Concern should focus on poor households who depend on the *belg* production where rains are expected to be below normal. [FEWSNET Feb 13](#)

Kenya: Elections were peacefully concluded. KFSSG short-rain assessment reported *substantial improvements to the food security situation* due to three consecutive good seasons. No population was classified in IPC Phase 3 or 4. [KFSSG Mar 13](#) Food prices are stable [RATIN Feb 13](#) and livestock prices are decreasing due to increased supply [FEWSNET Feb 13](#).

Tanzania: 2012/13 *vuli* harvest expected to be good. Food prices are above 2012 and the 5 year average [FEWSNET Mar 13](#) leading to hardship for the poor. *Masika* rains currently performing well [FEWSNET Mar 13](#)

REGIONAL WATCH:

Watch

- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** M23 rebel commander, Jean Bosco Ntaganda, surrendered [ACAPS Mar 13](#). This insurgency has resulted in displacement, disruption to trade and rural production leading to areas of acute food insecurity in the east.
- **Central African Republic:** The ceasefire collapsed and *Seleka* rebels entered Bangui. Hostilities have caused large scale displacement, disruption to markets and agricultural production. The continuation of hostilities will disrupt the coming agricultural season prolonging and deepening food insecurity [DRAFT GTI Mar 2013](#)

PRESENTATION: Connecting the Poor to Markets: Cluster Hubs

New opportunities to exploit market development contrast the history of centrally planned development. Adopting approaches that unlock the potential of the poor holds the opportunity for better effectiveness and value for money.

ILRI and its partners have worked to connect the enthusiasm, knowledge and action of the poor with new knowledge and technology. In the dairy sector through clustering producers, service providers and markets, dairy hubs were created. Clustered around small holder desire for a reasonable income from milk production and sale, the East Africa Dairy Development Programme has formed local companies built around cooling facilities. In each of 83 sites, between 1,000 and 5,000 producers have come together in an arrangement where they supply milk to a central cooling plant that in turn supplies meaningful volumes of quality assured milk to supply chains around Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. Using a check off system, producers access critical production, extension and marketing services. Deals made between the hub and service providers assure higher quality services to individual producers at lower prices. This is made possible by guaranteed higher volumes for service providers who offer financial services, artificial insemination, extension advice, feed supply, transportation, milk testing, equipment supply, milk cooling and marketing.

Transaction costs are reduced, productivity increased, prices stabilized, collective learning fostered and household income increased. As of May 2012, a quarter of hubs were approaching independence and self-managed growth, and half were progressing towards this state.

The idea of clustering is not limited to hubs or to the dairy sector. Other examples exist where producer management of pastoralist markets, and horticulture grower schemes have effectively formed similar groupings of self-managed change and growth.

ILRI seeks to use cluster approaches to develop value chains in Uganda, Ethiopia and Tanzania, and actively seeks organisations with similar desires to explore ways in which to mutually leverage action and potential.

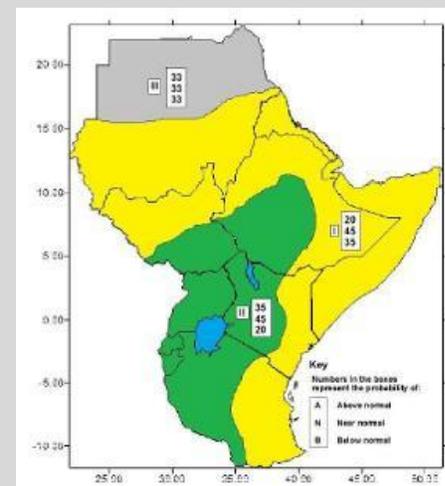
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RAINFALL OUTLOOK March to May 2013

The 33rd Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHA COF) has produced the March to May rainfall [forecast](#). Normal to below normal rainfall is expected for the eastern parts of the region extending through northern Ethiopia, Eritrea, across Sudan and the north of South Sudan. Normal rainfall is expected for the rest of the region.

Cropping areas of coastal Kenya and Tanzania, (who experienced poor rains in late 2012), rain-fed cropping areas in south Somalia, Eritrea, northern and eastern Ethiopia could be negatively affected. Pasture in the arid lands of north-eastern Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea and eastern Ethiopia may also be affected. Sudan and South Sudan are less likely to be affected as main rains in those areas occur later in the year.

Below normal rainfall in the east of the region could lead to hardship in the dry months following the rains. The performance of rainfall later 2013 will be a key early indicator of potential deterioration of conditions during the following dry season.



DISCUSSION: ENGAGE with CHANGE

Discussions on working differently have emphasised complementarity of non-government action with key factors of change. These factors are found in the work of government, business/private sector and in the changing aspirations of individuals themselves. Engaging with *the change* involves different approaches, including: seeing opportunity amidst poverty; seeing a system as opposed to delivering an intervention. Opportunities to engage with private sector, market systems and or local procurement could be mapped in marginal areas. IGAD suggested CPPs and the RPP are reviewed to include and prioritise private sector opportunities.

On April 18 the FSNWG will examine Changing Livelihoods Changing Risk: *The Case for Coverage*

[Presentations & Documents from March 2013 meeting](#)

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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