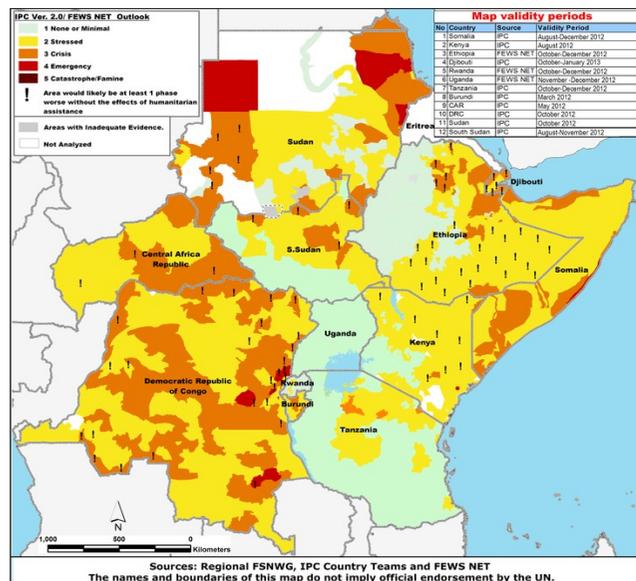


## Regional Food Security Situation and Outlook

### Regional Food Security Map-Nov 2012 (FSN WG Nov 2012)



### Key Messages from the FSNWG meeting held November 15, 2012 (FSN WG, 15/11/12)

- Generally good food security and nutrition conditions across the region. Good rains throughout much of 2012 have resulted in good harvests, livestock conditions and a relatively good regional food security situation not often observed.
- Concern remains about hotspots in eastern Congo, and Sudan where ongoing insecurity continues to lead to displacement and extreme food insecurity. Pockets of Central African Republic were also reported to have alarming food security conditions.
- Vegetation index for the region reflects generally good rainfall through October. There are emerging concerns that continuing rainfall in the western sector of the region (parts of Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan) may lead to flooding, harvest losses and transport interruptions.
- Food prices have declined globally (FAO-GIEWS, 8 Nov 2012). Prices for staples in the region have seen a seasonal post-harvest price decline, but remain well above the five-year average (FEWS NET, East Africa Update Oct 2012), which is both a continued benefit to producers and continued hardship for consumers.

### Regional Overview

**DR Congo:** Significant portions of the country remain in crisis reflecting underlying, developmental issues. Emergency food security conditions in the east of the country are a result of insecurity in those areas. Insecurity in the east has led to extreme levels of food insecurity.

**Djibouti:** A recent IPC exercise identified improving conditions in pastoral areas of the north west. Increasingly, concerns focus on the rapidly growing informal settlements bordering Ville de Djibouti.

**Ethiopia:** Pastoral regions are expected to continue improving whilst some *Mehar* production areas are expected to produce below normal harvests, reflecting varied rainfall conditions.

**Rwanda:** Following seasonal patterns, food security conditions have improved in the last six months (WFP, Oct 2012), but chronic forms of malnutrition continue to affect almost half of the children. Acute malnutrition affects only 1% (WFP, Oct 2012).

**Somalia:** Despite improving conditions, two million people are expected to remain in Emergency, Crisis and Stressed IPC phases through March 2013 (FSNAU - WFP Sep/Oct). This includes the famine affected riverine populations as well as agro-pastoral populations in the south and some coast populations in the north.

**South Sudan:** Floods were extreme this year in the lowland and swamp areas bordering the Nile and will depress crop production but provide good grazing through the dry season of 2013.

**Sudan:** Conditions are generally good in Sudan, with areas of chronic food insecurity reporting crisis conditions. Insecurity in parts of Darfur and South Kordofan is leading to food insecurity for affected populations.

### Regional Watch

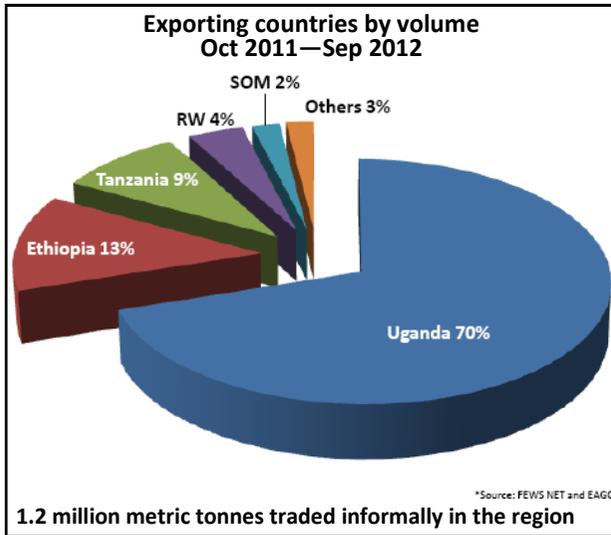
**DR Congo:** Fighting between the Government and M23 Rebels continues to displace people in North and South Kivu, Katanga and Maniema.

**Kenya:** Localized insecurity in Samburu, Garissa and Tana River Counties has led to displacement or impeded movement.

**Sudan:** Government conflict with SPLM-A rebels in South Kordofan and SLA - Minni Minawi faction in Darfur continues to affect large civilian populations. The cessation of rains in South Sudan is allowing modest access to refugees in South Sudan but their condition remains extreme.

**Flooding:** Continuing above normal rainfall increases the flooding risk in the western part of the region.

**Response Analysis MAS Subgroup Presentation : Seasonal Update on the Cross-border Initiative**



The Cross-border Trade Initiative (WFP/FAO/FEWS-NET) highlighted the increasing importance of regional informal trade to producers and consumers.

It emphasised the growing role of the commercial sector and commercial innovation. This in turn challenges the humanitarian community to update its understandings of food security, development and crisis management.

The regional update examined informal trade flows and presented data classified by:

- commodity and per country;
- seasonal informal imports of cereals in the region; and
- price triangulation.

The data was collected at cross-border monitoring points and built upon existing cross-border market profiles. The critical issue for this initiative is to guide us on how we can use this data for further trend analysis and to inform response.

It may answer questions relevant to the changing face of food security and crisis coping such as:

- linkages between informal and formal trade;
- comparisons of the movement of food and non-food commodities in times of crisis versus normal/good years;
- identification of surplus production areas which could feed into deficit areas;
- identification and mapping of informal trade flows including details on destinations; and
- use of variation trade flows to inform early warning.

**Rainfall Predictions, Foods and El Nino**

While good rains continue to fall across the region, there will not be an El Nino event this year. Earlier expectations of a mild to moderate El Nino event have been downgraded. Indian Ocean sea temperature variations (Indian Ocean Dipole) however continue to positively affect rainfall in the current period, if not as dramatically as anticipated in September.

The result of these climatic factors is that normal to above normal rainfall continues to be expected in the western part of the region; while in coastal areas the rainy season could be shorter.

The flood risk remains high to very high in the flood prone areas of South Sudan, Lake Victoria basin, Rwanda, Burundi, western Uganda and Tanzania and parts of eastern DRC. Areas under watch for moderate to heavy rains and potential flooding also include Somali Region of Ethiopia and northern and southern Somalia.

**OXFAM GB Presentation: Experience in Turkana with Markets and Business Development**

Oxfam GB's presentation on their market-based programming initiatives in Kenya (which are part of a resilience building initiative) outlined their 'stimulating markets' project in Turkana. It demonstrated linkages between their programme activities and the existing market system to create businesses.

It presented a good example of programmes engaging with the changing context in the ASALS, as well as innovative ways to build resilience and sustainable change using a "no regrets" approach. Examples of WFP in DRC using vouchers for local vegetables and meat in the camps were also highlighted.

The presentations confirmed the messages sent out in the October FSNWG – that as humanitarian and development stakeholders, we need to understand the value chains and work with these chains from the micro to the macro (national/regional levels) to build businesses, not necessarily income generation. The Emergency Market and something Assessment (EMMA) toolkit can provide this insight will be circulated to all FSNWG members.

**For More Information Visit :**

[Presentations & Meeting Documents from November 2012 meeting](#)

**Upcoming FSNWG Meetings in 2012**

Thursday Dec 13, 2012

