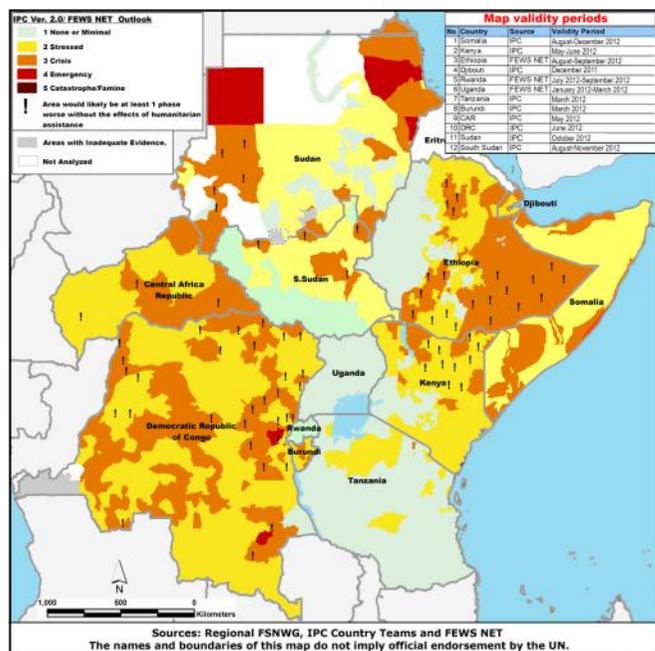


## Regional Food Security Situation and Outlook

### Regional Food Security Situation Map-September 2012 ([FSNWG, 20/09/12](#))



### Key Messages from the FSNWG meeting held September 20, 2012 ([FSNWG, 20/09/12](#))

- The normal to above normal rainfall predictions for the October-to-December seasonal rains in several parts of the region is expected to have a positive impact on crop and livestock productivity, except in flood prone areas.
- The expected rains coupled with good food security interventions can lead to improved nutrition levels and food security for populations in the region.
- Local communities, governments, and the international community need to act and capitalize on the good season to improve on and intensify agropastoral and agricultural production systems.
- With the expected increase in productivity, regional food prices are likely to drop thus providing vulnerable consumers with additional income for livelihood improvement.
- Food security conditions in Somalia and Kenya have also improved and are expected to improve further with a concerted action of intensifying production where possible and continuing humanitarian support to the most vulnerable.
- The overall food security situation in South Sudan has largely improved, according to the results of the latest IPC analysis. However, 849 284 people are still facing high levels acute food insecurity due to the effects of border insecurity, high market inflation rates, intertribal conflict, floods and a high concentration of refugees in border towns.

### Regional food prices stabilized in August as harvests started to reach the markets

- Regional cereal prices stabilized in August 2012, but remained at high levels despite the good market supply from harvests and high regional demand. However, food prices in the region remained above the five-year average. ([FEWS NET, 10/09/12](#))
- In Tanzania, maize prices remained relatively unchanged in August from July 2012. Food prices across the country have stabilized at high levels despite the availability in the markets of newly harvested crops. The high maize prices are also due to the high demand from Kenya.
- Maize prices in Uganda declined by 30 percent between July and August 2012 in Kampala and Lira, as local supplies increased following the start of the 2012 first season harvest and traders releasing their old stocks. ([FAO-GIEWS, 14/09/12](#))

### Food security situation improves in Somalia ([FSNAU, 31/08/12](#))

- According to a recent Post-Gu Assessment, 2.085 million people faced acute food insecurity in July 2012. These people are classified in Crisis and Emergency levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4). The number of food insecure people has decreased by 17 percent since April 2012, and this is attributed mainly to the continued humanitarian support.
- The 2012 *Gu* season harvest is significantly below average as a result of the long dry spell during the April-June *Gu* rains, pest infestations and other factors. The total national maize and sorghum *Gu* production is significantly below both the 5-year and post-war averages, with the most affected being the agropastoral areas of southern Somalia (Bay, Bakol, Hiran, Gedo, and Lower and Middle Juba regions).
- However, the total annual national cereal production (combining the Deyr 2011/2012 harvest and *Gu* harvest) is estimated to be marginally above the 15-year and 5-year averages. Markets and some households still have stocks from the 2011/2012 Deyr available, ensuring adequate supplies.
- The nutrition situation across most rural livelihood zones of Somalia showed continued improvement since December 2011, due to increased milk availability and access to humanitarian support in the nutrition, food and health sectors. Cases of acutely malnourished children reduced by 27 percent (decreased from 323,000 in January 2012 to 236,000 in July 2012). 70 percent of the acutely malnourished children live in Southern Somalia.

## Regional Livestock & Pastoralism Working Group – Response analysis based on situation analysis and forecast of above-normal rains during the Oct-Dec rainy season.

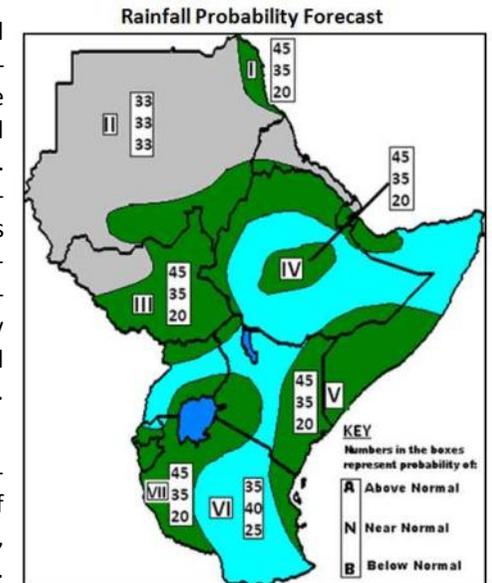
- While the overall food security situation and outlook is positive, members of the different sub-groups under the El Niño Task Force are meeting to develop contingency and response plans in anticipation of the El Niño enhanced rain season. The Livestock and Pastoralism Sub-group met on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> to prioritise response options for pastoralists.
- The opportunities of good rains from expected El Niño episode include stimulating markets and value chains, preservation of milk/meat, local procurement as part of the general food distribution, harvesting water, managing pastures and producing fodder for the dry season. Governments should also take advantage of opportunities to improve infrastructure to minimise access issues the communities may face, especially in flood prone areas.
- Veterinary services should also be strengthened through appropriate institutions, policy & legislation (AU-IBAR/FAO) and building on lessons learnt from the ILRI pilot on livestock insurance. IGAD also has the opportunity to push for more synchronised cross-border livestock vaccinations.
- Governments and humanitarian actors should also be preparing to mitigate the spread of human and livestock diseases usually triggered by enhanced rain seasons. Recommended measures include pre-positioning of drugs, mosquito net distribution, mobile clinics, monitor migration routes and surveillance of the diseases and EW/awareness raising.
- A livelihood outcome analysis by OXFAM on the possible impact of El Niño on poorer pastoralists reliant on collection and sale of bush products for income found that continued food aid and safety nets would insulate them from a greater deficit if the enhanced rain season cuts their access to bush products.

## El Niño Taskforce Updates

- The El Niño Taskforce is a proactive multi-sectoral team set up to assist the FSNWG in coordinating the analysis and dissemination of the developing El Niño event for appropriate early preparedness and action. The Taskforce has so far disseminated information by publishing the El Niño Alert and is developing an El Niño Webpage within the *disasterriskreduction.net* website. El Niño hot-spots are being analyzed and mapped with the charts to be uploaded on the new webpage. The FSNWG Sub-groups (Livestock and Pastoralism, Agriculture, Nutrition), are developing sub-sectoral contingency and response plans based on the impacts of El Niño.
- The Taskforce continues to monitor the evolution of the El Niño event with a view to constantly informing all FSNWG members. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is expected to declare the El Niño event by the end of this month.

## Rainfall Performance and Forecast

- The seasonal June to September rainfall performance has generally been above-average over most of the region, with the exception of Southern Somalia, coastal parts of Eritrea and western South Sudan. The anticipated arrival of a new El Niño episode, above-normal to normal rainfall has been forecasted in several parts of the region during the September-December rainfall season which points towards a generally good crop production and positive pastoral conditions for the second half of this year. (EU-JRC, 11/09/12)
- The good rainfall has resulted in above average vegetation conditions in most parts of the region, particularly in Sudan (Darfur, South Kordofan) and Kenya (Rift Valley). The effects of the below average March-June rainfall season remains clearly visible in south-eastern Kenya and southern Somalia. (EU-JRC, 11/09/12)
- Satellite derived crop models are showing good maize crop development conditions particularly in South Sudan, Uganda, Western and Central Ethiopia. Minor problem areas were seen in north-eastern Ethiopia, while the conditions in Eritrea are mixed. (EU-JRC, 11/09/12)
- The 32<sup>nd</sup> consensus Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 32) seasonal forecast held in Zanzibar, Tanzania indicated the increased likelihood for the occurrence of a mild to moderate El Niño event during the October to December seasonal rains in the Greater Horn of Africa. The predicted El Niño event coupled with the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are likely to cause above normal October-to-December seasonal rains in southern Somalia, eastern and northern Kenya, south-eastern Ethiopia, eastern and central South Sudan, eastern Sudan, western and northern Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, Lake Victoria basin and its environs, and western and coastal Tanzania (areas coloured dark green on the graph above). (ICPAC, 31/08/12)



Source: ICPAC and Partners (GHACOF 32)

For More Information Visit : [Presentations & Meeting Documents from September 2012 meeting](#)

**Upcoming FSNWG Meetings in 2012**

Thur Oct 18 | Thur Nov 15 | Thur Dec 20



**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](mailto:fsn-gha-workinggroup@fao.org)

# 2006/7 El-Nino Impacts on Floods Risk

(Areas to watch for potential flood risks)

