

HIGHLIGHTS

Localized heavy rain showers impact Somalia and Kenya

Food security in the region has improved as harvests start to reach the markets

DRC Crisis: more than 772,450 people have been displaced in North Kivu since January 2009

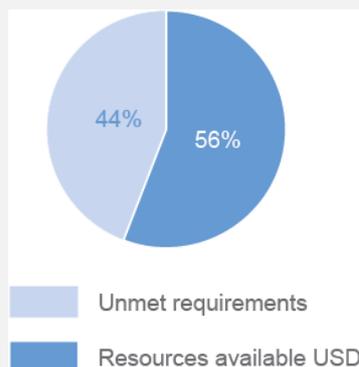
Ethiopia: number of severely malnourished children declines for third straight month in August

Up to 3,000 IDP families in need of humanitarian support in Luuq, Somalia

South Sudan: health situation in Upper Nile refugee camps remains fragile

Marburg hemorrhagic fever outbreak kills five in Uganda

Horn of Africa Funding



Somali business women in Garissa
Photo: Christy Gillmore/The Advocacy Project

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Regional Overview

Localized heavy rain showers impact Somalia and Kenya

According to the Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook for **25-31 October**, little to no rain (<15mm) was observed across much of Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, eastern Kenya and northern/central Somalia. The lack of rains in Ethiopia and Sudan are reflective of the seasonal withdrawal of rains which occurs throughout October and November. Rains, though, were still below-average in South Sudan, Somalia and Kenya. In contrast, isolated thundershowers resulted in localized areas receiving heavy rains (>40mm) during the past week in portions of northern/central Kenya and southern Somalia. Flooding in past weeks resulted in fatalities and damages to infrastructure in central Kenya while river levels along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers are slightly higher than normal, resulting in flooding. Climatologically, rains increase spatially and in quantity across coastal Kenya and southern Somalia during October and November. Over the past 30 days, rains have been above-average in these regions. WFP began prepositioning food in Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Ijara, Tana River, Isiolo, Turkana and Samburu areas, which are most prone to flooding during this season. The target is to preposition two months requirements for October and November distribution cycles before the rains intensify and render roads impassable. December and January are not lean months in pastoral areas and therefore no food distributions are planned for that period. Some 2 million people will be in need of WASH interventions in view of the enhanced rainfall in most parts of Kenya. The Logistics Cluster in South Sudan has deployed helicopter assets to support flood responses in Jonglei State. During the next week, heavy rain (>40mm) is forecast across southern Ethiopia, Somalia and eastern Kenya with lesser amounts of rain (<30mm) expected farther north in Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan.

Regional Food Security Outlook

In the October brief on food security and nutrition conditions in the region, the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) indicates that food security in the region has improved as harvests start to reach the markets. Most parts therefore remain in stressed and crisis food insecurity (IPC Phase 2 and 3).

In Somalia, the nutrition situation across most rural livelihood zones has shown continued improvements since December 2011. A new survey by Oxfam however indicates that the situation in the South particularly in Gedo, Lower Juba and Bakool remains critical with alarming malnutrition figures. In addition, about 7.9 per cent of the population in urban

and rural areas, mainly along the central coastal areas, remain in Emergency food insecurity level (IPC Phase 4), reports FSNWG. The WFP Somalia's Response Analysis Plan for the coming six months has been finalized. Due to improved food security and nutrition situation in most parts of the country, some areas of Puntland, Central and Mogadishu will gradually phase out relief interventions by the end of 2012. Based on early warning information, relief rations could be re-introduced ad hoc while new project proposal templates will allow for flexibility in case relief rations are needed, reports WFP.

In Kenya, out of the 2.16 million found to be food-insecure in the recent Long Rains Assessment, WFP will target 1.98 million while the Government will assist the remaining 181,000 with food and/or cash transfers through March 2013. WFP notes that since the severity of food insecurity has eased, the size of food rations will be adjusted accordingly. About 80,000 people in eastern Mandera, north-eastern Kitui and Kipini in Tana River district are in Crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) according to the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG). The affected households are experiencing significant food consumption gaps with high and above usual acute malnutrition. Very critical malnutrition rates prevail in Wajir South, North Eastern Province with GAM of 21.3 but comparatively better than the situation in May 2011 which stood at GAM of 28.5 per cent. The food security situation in the south-eastern and coastal lowlands is expected to deteriorate until the next harvest in March 2013.

In Sudan, production prospects are favourable and harvesting of the 2012 sorghum and millet crop is expected to start from late October. The Food and Agriculture Organization reports that the 2012 cereal production is projected at 5.2 million tons, well above last year's drought-affected crop and about 15 per cent above the 5-year average. Critical agreements on oil, trade and security reached between Sudan and South Sudan at the African Union mediated talks held on 26 September in Addis Ababa and anticipated border demilitarization may lead to trade resumption between the two countries, resulting in improved food security and lower prices, especially in the border areas. Exceptionally heavy rains have however triggered flash floods affecting some 240,000 people in Sinar, Gedaraf, Kassala, North, Central, South and West Darfur, White and Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Khartoum States.

In South Sudan, some 260,000 people have been affected by seasonal flooding in Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile and Warrap States. The above-average rains during the harvest period could lead to crop damage and reduced crop prospects in affected areas. Humanitarian operations will be hampered by the floods due to limited access. Food insecurity is also likely to persist in conflict-affected areas of Blue Nile State, South Kordofan and North Darfur States.

WFP has dropped more than 1,000 tons of cereals over Yida, Unity State, enough to support the entire refugee population for more than one month. Food assistance also continued during the reporting period with more than 63,000 refugees in Yida receiving full 30-day rations during the reporting period. Nutritional support also continued as more than 7,600 children were reached with Blanket Supplementary Feeding to prevent malnutrition and more than 3,400 children were reached with Targeted Supplementary Feeding to prevent already moderately malnourished children from slipping into severe malnutrition.

Great Lakes Region

North Kivu continued to be an epicentre of human suffering, causing continued widespread internal displacement within eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and flight of refugees into neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda. Thousands have been forced to flee fighting not only between the Government army and the March 23 Movement (M23) supported by local armed groups, but by fighting between Mayi-Mayi militias and the FDLR (Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda). Most of the internally displaced have been taken in by host families, while others have sought shelter in camps operated by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and partners. Humanitarian activities in various locations have suffered temporary suspensions due to insecurity, and humanitarian actors have been the targets of scores of attacks since January, with 16 of these having occurred between 1 September and 17 October, according to [OCHA](#). More than 50,000

More than 772,450 people have been displaced in North Kivu since January 2009

people have been newly displaced since August, bringing the total number of IDPs in North Kivu to 772,459 as of 25 September. With 31 per cent of total IDPs, Masisi Territory is the worst affected.

Sexual and gender-based violence remains rampant in North Kivu, with 96 cases recorded during the month of September. Of these, only 67 were able to benefit within 72 hours from Post-Exposure Prophylaxis.

UN Security Council singles out M23 for particular reprimand

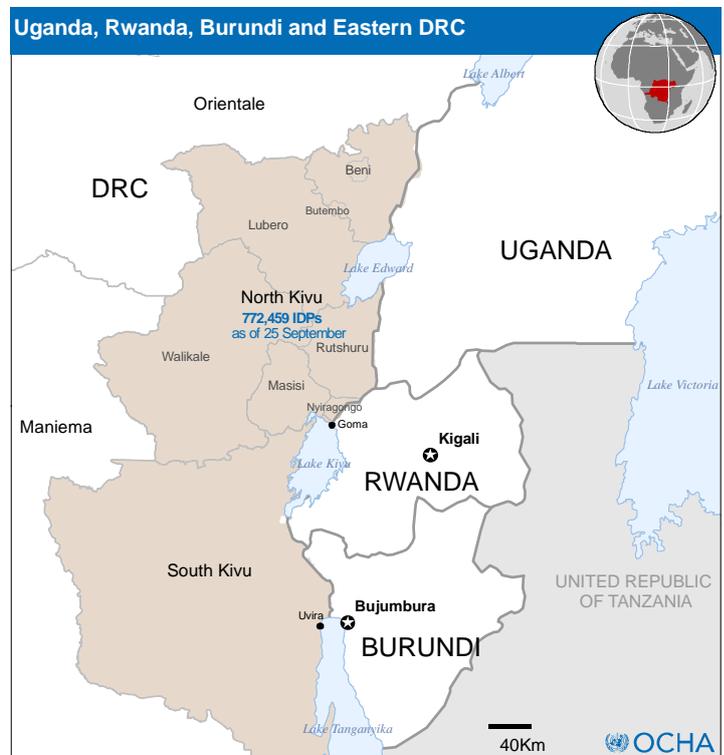
On 19 October, the [UN Security Council](#) singled out M23 for particular reprimand, and condemned “any and all outside support” to the group. As well as expressing deep concern regarding the deteriorating security and humanitarian crisis in the eastern DRC – caused by the M23 as well as other armed groups – the Council also condemned the M23’s attacks on civilians, humanitarian actors and UN peacekeepers, and its abuses of human rights, including summary executions, sexual and gender based violence and large-scale recruitment and use of child soldiers. It called for perpetrators, including individuals responsible for violence against children and acts of sexual violence, to be apprehended, brought to justice and held accountable for violations of applicable international law. The Security Council stressed the urgency of constructive engagement and dialogue between the DRC and its neighbours, especially Rwanda, and the need to address the underlying causes of the conflict in eastern DRC.

In Rwanda, new arrivals continued to slow: as of 14 October at the Nkamira Transit Centre stood at 19,989 since the influx began on 27 April. Preparations are underway for the inclusion of the Kigeme Camp, which grew from this latest influx, into the Rwandan school system for the new academic year that begins in January. UNHCR notes this will create two major challenges: to prepare the Congolese children for the Rwandan school system (in English rather than French) and to enable the district to manage the inclusion of an additional 4,500+ children.

New arrivals remain minimal in Rwanda but significant in Uganda

In Uganda, new arrivals continued apace, reaching 50,466 individuals since January. At the Matanda Transit Centre in Kihhihi District, 1,282 individuals have arrived since 1 October, bringing the total number to 3,764 at the centre. The Uganda Red Cross continues to provide rapid tracing through use of mobile phones, while police are deployed for security. Meanwhile, in Nyakabande Transit Centre in Kisoro District, there are now 3,098 individuals with some 100 still camped at Nteko border awaiting transfer to the centre, as the road has been blocked by landslides due to severe rain. It is worth noting that 1,498 individuals have arrived in the last nine days.

Of the arrivals to Nyakabande since January, UNHCR estimates that roughly 10,000 have spontaneously returned to DRC while another 5,000 or so have been absorbed in host communities in Bunagana and Kisoro; local authorities however estimate that a total of 10,000 refugees are living in host communities.



Map Source(s): UNCS; GAUL; OCHA
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 25 Oct 2012.

Burundi has been struggling to cope with an influx of Congolese refugees from South Kivu Province

Meanwhile, Burundi has been struggling to cope with an influx of Congolese refugees from South Kivu Province. According to UNHCR, some 6,000 Congolese have crossed the border since January and sought asylum in Burundi, with 4,334 of them arriving between April and September. A peak was recorded in August (1,033) before dipping in September (895). To date in October, 527 refugees have crossed into Burundi. These figures compare to a monthly average of 250-300 in the early months of the year. The influx has put Burundi's three camps for Congolese refugees – Bwagiriza, Musasa and Gasorwe – under severe strain and a fourth camp might be needed if people keep arriving. The particularly pressed Bwagiriza camp has a capacity for 8,000 people but is hosting more than 9,900. The camps are run by the government with UNHCR support.

The reasons for the exodus are varied, says UNHCR. In the earlier part of the year, hundreds fled across the border to escape clashes in the Uvira and Fizi districts between different armed groups, including the FDLR and the Mai Mai militia. The volatile situation in parts of the province has been exacerbated by conflict since April between the Barundi and the Bafuliru communities, leaving at least five people dead. Tension rose between the two groups following the murder in April this year of the paramount chief of the Barundi. Groups of Bafuliru have also fled violence by different armed groups.

The United Nations and the Congolese Government have been trying to broker a peace agreement between the rival communities, with the latest meeting taking place in Uvira at the end of September.

Ethiopia

Weakening El Niño likely to have little impact on early 2013 rains

Normal to above-normal rains in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia still forecast for October-December

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Centre, temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean have shown sustained weakening of the positive anomaly that provokes an *El Niño* since the beginning of September. As a result, it is increasingly unlikely that the *El Niño* will have a sustained impact on the *sapie* and/or *belg/gu* rains in the first half of 2013. In a strong *El Niño* year, these rains would typically be expected to be above-average. The official forecast for the *belg/gu* season is expected to be released towards the end of 2012 or beginning of 2013.

According to the Early Warning and Response Directorate of the Government's Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS), windy and dry weather will prevail over most northern parts of Ethiopia for the remainder of October, while rainfall will strengthen over southern Ethiopia. Near-normal rainfall is expected in southern and western Oromia, and in southern Beneshangul Gumuz, Gambella, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) and Somali Regions. The rains will support continued regeneration of water and pasture availability in the pastoralist lowlands of southern and south-eastern Ethiopia. Meanwhile, the dry and windy conditions could result in frosts in frost-prone parts of the northern half of the country. With possible unseasonable rains also forecast, this could impact the quality of *meher* crops ready for harvest.



Map Sources: UNCS, ESRI, Europa Technologies, SIM, Natural Earth. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. Map created in Dec 2011.

WASH Update

While much of south-eastern Ethiopia experienced early onset of the *deyr* (October-December) rains and continued to receive rains in the past two weeks, some parts of Somali Region have yet to receive sufficient rain, with critical water shortages reported from 70 *kebeles*. Water trucking continues in the region, with 15 trucks deployed in parts of Afder, Korahe, Liben and Shebelle zones. Additionally, seven trucks are operating in Afar, six in Tigray and five in Oromia as previously reported.

Malnutrition levels stabilized countrywide in August

At national level, new admissions to Therapeutic Feeding Programmes (TFPs) decreased slightly from July to August, according to DRMFS' Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU). Some 23,463 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition were admitted to TFPs in eight regions (84.7 per cent reporting rate), which was a 5.2 per cent overall reduction from the previous month and implies stabilizing TFP admissions. In comparison, new TFP admissions decreased by 17 per cent at national level from June to July. The peak in admissions came in May, while August marks the third consecutive month of decreasing admissions. The start of the *meher* (October-December) harvest is expected to further improve nutritional conditions at national level through the end of the year.

Regionally, monthly admissions declined the most in SNNPR, decreasing by 21.3 per cent from July to August. Factors contributing to the decrease include improving access to food due to the ongoing green harvest and integrated food security and nutrition responses (safety net and relief food distributions, targeted supplementary feeding and TFP programmes). Admissions increased in Oromia, Amhara and Afar, however. Oromia saw new admissions increase slightly by 6.7 per cent during the month, and Amhara by 13.9 per cent. In Afar, admissions rose by 50.4 per cent. The increased admissions are linked with poor food security in some areas, with some *woredas* (districts) in all three regions not yet having recovered from earlier drought conditions.

Food and NFIs for conflict-affected households in Moyale area

Distribution of relief food and non-food items (NFIs) is proceeding for the 15,000 conflict-affected people in need identified in the Moyale area of Ethiopia's Somali Region after agreement on the beneficiary figure by local administrators. Inter-communal conflict that broke out in the Moyale area in late-July left some 41,000 people in need of food assistance according to a DRMFS-led inter-agency team deployed to the Moyale area between 7 and 12 September. In response, DRMFS allocated an extra round of relief food assistance for an estimated 26,000 people in Oromia and 15,000 in Somali Region, on top of the regular sixth round relief food, which targeted 12,500 on the Oromia and 8,000 on the Somali side. Additionally, 9,585 households were identified as requiring NFI kits.

During the conflict, a number of health posts and education facilities were destroyed. UNICEF and the NGO Merlin continue to support provision of health care services in the affected areas. In response to water shortages, Oxfam GB is trucking water on both sides of the border (65,000 people were identified as requiring water trucking during the inter-agency assessment). The Oromia-Moyale education office has completed a damage assessment, but the process has not been finalized on the Somali side due to lack of cooperation.

Sixth camp for refugees from Somalia to open in Dollo Ado area

The Ethiopian Government has authorized the opening of a sixth camp in the Dollo Ado area of Somali Region. Located between Kole town and Kobe camp, some 54 km north of Dollo Ado town, the camp will provide additional space for refugees from Somalia, who continue to arrive in Ethiopia fleeing food insecurity and instability in their home country. Site planning, land demarcation, and setting up of basic services and infrastructure necessary to open the camp requires at least US\$5 million in new funding. UNHCR is

The number of severely malnourished children declined for third straight month in August

Food and non-food needs to be addressed concurrently on both sides of the regional border

seeking support from donors and partners to move ahead with the preparation and opening of the camp.

US\$5 million in new funding required to support sixth Dollo Ado camp

Overall, arrival rates at Dollo Ado refugee camp have declined in 2012, but new arrivals continue: some 25,000 Somali refugees fled to Ethiopia between January and September, making Ethiopia's Dollo Ado camp complex the world's second largest, after the Dadaab refugee complex in Kenya. To meet urgent incoming refugee needs, UNHCR dispatched a convoy of nine trucks from Kenya carrying basic supplies (blankets and mosquito nets), which reached Dollo Ado on 10 October through the Moyale area and are currently being distributed. As Buramino camp, opened in November 2011, is at its full capacity with over 32,000 refugees currently hosted there, new arrivals are now being transferred to Kobe and Hilaweyn camps (opened in June and August 2011 respectively), where facilities have been expanded.

In Ethiopia, the population of the Dollo Ado passed the 170,000-mark last week. Between January - September this 62,000 Somalis became refugees in the region. More than 25,000 of these fled to Ethiopia – making it the largest recipient of Somali refugees in the region so far this year. By comparison Yemen registered 15,000 Somali refugees, Kenya 13,000, Uganda 6,800 and Djibouti 2,300 over the same period.

Kenya

Renewed clashes in Baringo County displace thousands

Intercommunal clashes between the Tugen and Pokot communities on October 21-22 have displaced at least 3,000 people. In the most affected areas of Mukutani and Mochongoi, markets, health facilities and twelve schools were closed, leaving 4,000 pupils out of school. The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and UNICEF are currently responding in the affected areas. Immediate humanitarian needs are food, non food items and medical services. There is also a reported scaled up security presence and long-term peace building initiatives. KRCS had previously warned of an escalation in intensity and frequency of hostilities between the Tugen and Pokot since January, where clashes had left more than 7,500 people displaced from their homes, living either with other members of their community or in informal settlements.

Security alerts heightened for Coast, North Eastern and Nairobi areas

Isolated incidents of insecurity continued to be reported across the country, with high alerts raised in Nairobi, North Eastern and Coast Provinces. Despite recorded fatalities, the humanitarian consequences are still minimal, but tensions remain a cause for concern. Tensions are high in Kisumu, western Kenya, following the murder of a parliamentary aspirant on 29 October. Three people have been confirmed dead from the riots. In Turkana County, over 100 suspected Merille militia attacked a hospital in Todanyang area. No casualties were recorded during the incident. There has been an increase in livestock rustling incidents in the North Rift Valley area, especially between the Turkana and neighbouring Nyang'atom and Pokot communities. The security situation in the area remains tense with revenge attacks from either side expected. In Wajir, a follow-up operation led to a discovery of two Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and components for making similar devices. In Dadaab and its environs, insecurity persists. On 23 October, three refugees who had gone to fetch firewood were found dead. In Mombasa and South Coast province, relative calm has been restored after security personnel intervened.

Cholera cases still being reported though situation under control

As at 24 October, the North Eastern Province cholera line list had 195 cases and 11 deaths. The majority of the cases are reportedly from Dadaab refugee camp, which has recorded 101 cases. Fafi district has 45 cases, 6 deaths and Wajir South 49 cases, 5 deaths. An assessment has been done within the affected areas and the Ministry of Health and partners have put measures in place to contain the outbreak.

5,742 out of 6,978 families have been resettled on 16,000 acres in Rift Valley and Central provinces

Resettlement of IDPs delayed over opposition from host community

Plans to resettle IDPs were opposed in Nakuru on 23 October by members of the host community. The resettlement of over 6,000 internally displaced families following the 2007-2008 post-election violence is ongoing. According to the Ministry of State for Special Programmes, so far 5,742 out of 6,978 families have been resettled on 16,000 acres in Rift Valley and Central provinces. They are attempting to resettle the remaining 1,236 families before the end of the year.

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre has warned that a further 200,000 to 400,000 displaced pastoralists from northern Kenya are being neglected and are in need of assistance. Recurrent droughts have forced communities to move away from traditional grazing lands in search of shrinking grazing and water resources. Competition over limited natural resources has led to violent clashes, which have repeatedly displaced entire communities. The resulting loss of livelihoods has deepened the economic crisis and inhibited social development, leading to prolonged vulnerability. According to the [report](#), awareness of the issue and responses to it from the Government and development partners are “woefully inadequate”.

Somalia

Heavy rains continue to hit areas of Somalia

Tropical Storm Murjan has hit some areas in Puntland and was expected to move further inland, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The storm brought strong winds and heavy rains within the areas of Bari region (Bossasso, Ishkushban and Bandar Beyla), among others.

A mild *El Niño* is forecast during the October-December period. Overall, an *El Niño* is expected to have a positive impact on Somalia as this phenomenon is associated with average to above-average October to December *Deyr* rains. However, these rains are not always well distributed and therefore, cropping conditions could vary greatly over the rainfed, agropastoral areas. Riverine areas are likely to experience flooding as a result of heavy rainfall and increased river levels. During the moderate 2006-07 *El Niño*, *Deyr* rains caused flooding, which disrupted production and markets, especially in the Juba Valley.

Food security conditions improved considerably but crisis not ended

Somalia has experienced continued improvements in food security and nutrition according to findings from the FSNAU, FEWS NET and partners' post-*Gu* 2012 seasonal assessment [results](#). During a famine year of 2011, over 4 million people, or more than half of the population of Somalia, were facing an acute food security crisis. Despite the decrease of the population in need, the total remains among the world's largest. In the post-*Gu* 2012, an estimated 2.12 million people, or 28 per cent of the country's population, remain in acute food security crisis (IPC Phases 3 and 4) for the August to December period. This indicates a 16 per cent reduction from the beginning of the year. Lifesaving humanitarian assistance remains necessary between now and December to help food-insecure populations meet immediate food needs, protect livelihoods, and build resilience. WFP Somalia's Response Analysis Plan for the coming six months has been finalized. Due to an improved food security and nutrition situation in most parts of the country, some areas of Puntland, Central and Mogadishu will gradually phase out relief interventions by the end of this year. Based on early warning information, relief rations could be re-introduced ad hoc while new project proposal templates will allow for flexibility in case relief rations are needed.

The Logistics Cluster is currently facilitating the transport of 140 tons (over 520 m³) of shelter items, food and medicines from Mombasa to Mogadishu on behalf of seven humanitarian organizations. The Cluster is also conducting a consultation with its members to assess its future role in Somalia beyond December 2012. The first community consultations for the implementation of the resilience strategy were conducted

Some 2.12 million people – or 28 per cent of the country's population – remain in acute food security crisis

in Dolow from 1 to 4 October with WFP, FAO and UNICEF. Four communities (Hamare, Surgudud, Dhagtar and Dolow) were visited and residents participated in the discussion, along with local authorities.

Below average August/September *Gu* Harvest

Also according to the FSNAU, FEWS NET and partners' post-*Gu* 2012 seasonal assessment, the August/September *Gu* harvest is significantly below average due to a late start of rains, poor rainfall totals, and pest outbreaks, among other factors. However, food stocks from last season's exceptional *Deyr* harvest helped to mitigate this shortfall and overall production for the 2012 calendar year is slightly above the annual average for the years of 1995-2011. Currently 236,000 children are acutely malnourished, of whom 70 per cent are in southern Somalia.

Up to 3,000 IDP families in need of humanitarian support in Luuq

According to media [reports](#), thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Luuq, in Somalia's southern Gedo Region, say their overcrowded settlements are desperately short of basic needs, from shelter to clean water. UNHCR estimates that the current IDP population in Luuq is 16,380, occupying 10 settlements. UNHCR is operating through local partner organizations on the ground, and on 10 October distributed 2,000 emergency assistance packages and 2,000 hypothermia kits to 4,000 needy households.

For the September Somalia Humanitarian Access Update, click [here](#)

Health situation overview

According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Somalia Emergency Weekly Health [Update](#) for 13-19 October, the number of suspected cholera cases reported across Somalia remained stable, except for Bay region. In this region, a total of 7 health facilities reported 12 cases, unlike the preceding week when no case was reported. Case management supplies are being prepositioned in Baidoa for easy disbursement.

Following rumours of suspected cases of shigellosis in Qooqani, located about 65 km from Afmadow town, WHO and partners investigated and documented 12 suspected cases. Samples were collected from ten cases and referred for culture. All tested negative for any enteric pathogen. Information on the current situation is still pending.

As part of the pre-season bio-surveillance for cholera, 22 samples were collected from 2 cholera treatment centres in Mogadishu. The samples have been referred for culture and the results are still pending.

The number of reported suspected cholera cases remained stable in Beletweyne, with a cumulative daily reporting range of 17-22 cases from 4 maternal and child health centres in the district. Between 6-18 October, a total of 225 cases, including 186 (83 per cent) children under age 5, were reported by these facilities. Beletweyne remains an area of concern after the recent floods and WHO, UNICEF and health partners are closely monitoring trends.

Malaria remains the leading cause of morbidity, although the trends have remained stable over the past few weeks. As the current rains are early in some areas and if water levels in breeding sites are sustained, this could trigger an early increased transmission in southern and central Somalia compared to last year.

The number reported suspected cholera cases have remained stable. However, with changes in the rain patterns the next cholera season will be early.

Low vaccination coverage has continued to enable propagated cases of vaccine-preventable diseases, especially measles and whooping cough.

South Sudan

Humanitarian organizations scale up to respond to Jonglei displaced

The situation in Pibor County, in Jonglei State, remains unpredictable with skirmishes reported between the South Sudan Army, SPLA, and non-state armed actors. Attempts to

Overall production for 2012 is slightly above the annual average for the years 1995-2011

Early rains could trigger an early increased transmission of malaria in southern and central Somalia compared to last year

respond to people affected by the insecurity continue, but humanitarian organizations have struggled to reach people affected by the hostilities, which intensified in late August. Residents from at least three locations are believed to be displaced – some for nearly two months. Seasonal flooding in the area has also compounded the situation, hampering access for humanitarian actors.

Humanitarian organizations continue to work with the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission to register internally displaced people arriving in Pibor town from Gumuruk, Kondako and Likuangle. By 19 October, about 3,500 people had been registered, although residents from Gumuruk (about 1,000 people) have been informed by local authorities that the situation in Gumuruk appears to be calming down, which may allow for returns to take place. Those who have been displaced to Pibor town are mainly sheltering with host communities and regular humanitarian services and assistance by NGOs continue in Pibor town. To further strengthen response planning in the area, the UN Humanitarian Air Services has increased its flights to Pibor to twice per week. OCHA and representatives from four clusters (Non-Food Items and Emergency Shelter, Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Food Security and Livelihoods) have also scaled up in Pibor to support the response.

Response to flooding continues across the country

Seasonal flooding has impacted at least 260,000 people this year according to inter-agency assessments, and response to those affected by the heavy rains requiring humanitarian assistance is ongoing. Further assessments have been carried out over the reporting period to determine the effects of flooding and any humanitarian needs. Most pressing needs for the affected households are household items, food, health services, nutrition assistance, and water, sanitation and hygiene support. Response has been underway to meet some of these needs over the week, most notably in Unity and Upper Nile. However, some areas in Unity remain inaccessible to humanitarian actors and efforts are ongoing to ensure access. In Pibor, which has been affected both by flooding and insecurity, response by clusters has been activated and assistance is being organized.

Areas most affected by the seasonal rains this year are Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Upper Nile States

South Sudan/Sudan

Health situation in Upper Nile refugee camps remains fragile

Aid agencies continue to provide emergency assistance to about 110,000 Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile's four main refugee sites. The response to the Hepatitis E outbreak, which was declared in September, is ongoing. This outbreak, and the continued risk of cholera and other waterborne diseases such as bloody diarrhoea, indicate that the health and hygiene situation remains precarious. Surveillance for all outbreak diseases continues with regular sample collection for further analysis in Nairobi. According to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, efforts to control the Hepatitis E outbreak will need to be sustained for several more weeks to ensure risks associated with the rainy season and flooding are minimized. The rainy season, which normally ends around November, aggravates the situation as shallow untreated water sources multiply and water becomes contaminated through heavy rains. Domestic animals around the camps and poor hygiene and sanitation practices are also risks that impact on vulnerable people. Five organizations are providing life-saving health services in refugee camps in Maban County in Upper Nile.

Refugee partners plan for a possible surge in new arrivals

With the dry season about to start in a few weeks, organizations responding to emergency needs of refugees are expecting that the influx of people seeking safety in South Sudan could pick up shortly. UNHCR is preparing for a possible influx of up to 60,000 refugees from Southern Kordofan during the dry season. Planning is underway to identify new refugee sites at a safe distance from the border and to ensure that partners are ready to respond to increased needs in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene, health, nutrition, shelter, food and protection.

UNHCR estimates that some 60,000 refugees may enter South Sudan from South Kordofan with the advent of the dry season

According to UNHCR, newly arrived refugees have reported that many people have sought shelter from aerial bombings in the mountains and caves in Southern Kordofan. In the event of ground fighting, which is more likely during the dry season, those hiding in the mountains might flee in greater numbers. Another factor impacting on if people choose to stay in Sudan or make the journey across the border is if people who have been able to secure some cultivation in Southern Kordofan are holding out until harvest time, which will take place in late October.

For more on the humanitarian situation in South Sudan, go to <http://www.unocha.org/south-sudan/>; for more on the humanitarian situation in Sudan, go to <http://www.unocha.org/sudan/>

Uganda

Marburg outbreak on heels of Ebola

The Ministry of Health (MoH) in Uganda has declared an outbreak of Marburg haemorrhagic fever (MHF) in Kitumba sub-county, Kabale district in south-western Uganda. As at 21 October, nine probable and confirmed cases, including five deaths had been reported, one of which was isolated at Mulago referral hospital in Kampala. Of the seven suspected cases, three were confirmed positive by the Uganda Virus Research Institute. The new Marburg outbreak was confirmed just two weeks after the country was declared free of the Ebola haemorrhagic fever that killed 17 people in Kibaale district. The MoH is working closely with several partners to support the response operations. The national and district taskforces have been reactivated. District leaders in Kabale and the education ministry officials suspended all public functions in an effort to check the spread of the virus. The World Health Organization (WHO) and MoH have deployed a team to the district to support the outbreak investigation and response, including case contact tracing and monitoring of 132 people suspected to have had contact with the affected people. MHF is a severe, highly infectious and rapidly fatal disease, caused by a virus in the same family as the Ebola virus. Health investigators have yet to determine the origin of the latest Marburg infection but Uganda's director general of health services, Dr. Ruth Aceng, said on Friday that outbreaks of haemorrhagic fevers in Uganda tend to occur between June and September, a period when villagers who go into the wild to collect fruit are likely to come into contact with wild animals such as fruit bats, a natural vector for the Marburg virus. There is no vaccine or medication that protects against Marburg haemorrhagic fever. The predominant treatment is general supportive therapy, advises WHO.

WFP to source food from Acholi region

In a move aimed at helping the Acholi people move from aid dependency to becoming productive again, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has signed a contract to buy 154 tons of maize grown by small-scale farmers in Gulu district. The inhabitants of the district that was worst affected by the Lord's Resistance Army rebellion were previously totally dependant on food aid and humanitarian assistance. A statement by the WFP Country Director, Sory Ouane, indicated that the grain will be supplied through WFP's 6,000 ton capacity licensed warehouse near Gulu town and will be used in WFP's operations in Karamoja. WFP has shut down its relief food warehouses in Acholi and is investing in modern grain warehouses for processing and storage of the grain for sale. WFP will also train farmer groups in agri-business and in post-harvest management to help maximize on productivity and incomes.

IN BRIEF

'SAVE FOOD' initiative launched in Kenya

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has launched a pilot study in Kenya in an initiative that aims to minimize losses of food throughout all stages of the food supply chain. The study will evaluate the magnitude of food losses, the main causes, and the cost-effectiveness of food loss prevention measures specific to four food supply chains

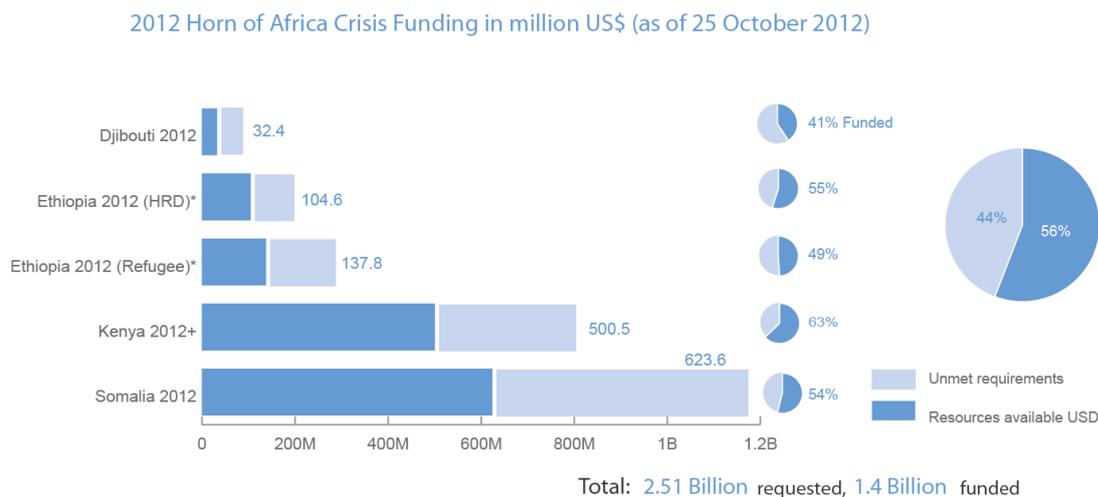
As at 21 October, nine probable and confirmed cases, including five deaths, had been reported

The initiative is a part of a wider approach to address the underlying causes of hunger and poverty in Gulu district

(bananas, dairy, fish, and maize). For more on the “SAVE FOOD: Global Initiative on Food Losses and Waste Reduction” see www.fao.org/save-food

Horn of Africa Funding Update

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an e-mail to fts@un.org



NB: Ethiopia - In addition to the resources presented above, which show funding against the net requirements appealed for in the revised Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) released on 13 August 2012 and covering the period July to December, some \$133.7 million was contributed against the HRD released for the first half of 2012 (January-June), or 74% of the \$181 million in net requirements, as well as more than \$200 million in funding carried over from 2011 to 2012.

* Available resources includes carry-over from the first half of 2012, as presented in the revised 2012 HRD.

** The non-food requirements to support refugee response in Ethiopia are calculated on the basis of UNHCR's global appeal for 2012 and any supplemental appeals; the global appeal is based on the Comprehensive Needs Assessment.

For further information, please contact OCHA Eastern Africa:

Gabriella Waaijman, Deputy Head of Office, waaijman@un.org, Tel. (+254) 732600012

Matthew Conway, Public Information Officer, conwaym@un.org, Tel. (+254) 732500010

Truphosa Anjichi-Kodumbe, Humanitarian Reporting Officer, anjichi@un.org, Tel. (+254) 732500018

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