

# FOOD ASSISTANCE OUTLOOK BRIEF

August 2011

## PROJECTED FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY 2012

This section summarizes FEWS NET's most forward-looking analysis of projected external emergency food assistance needs, six months from now, in countries where FEWS NET has a staff presence. Overall needs at a national level are compared to typical needs at this time of year during the last five years and categorized as Above-average, Average, or Below-average/No need. A star (\*) indicates new information this month. Projected lean season months that are highlighted in red indicate either an early start or an extension to the typical lean season. For more detail on these projections, please visit [www.fews.net](http://www.fews.net).

### ABOVE-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN FEBRUARY 2012

#### **AFGHANISTAN: Below-average harvest confirmed by field assessment**

Field assessments have confirmed below-average rainfall and crop conditions and harvests are expected to be slightly above 2008 levels (a poor year). Pasture conditions are poor, and livestock prices and labor wages are falling in northern Afghanistan. Despite larger than usual national grain reserves, above-average needs are anticipated in February and will be concentrated in the rainfed farming areas of the north.

**Projected lean season (lowlands): Sept/Oct - March**

#### **\*ETHIOPIA: Above-average needs likely to persist**

The current emergency in southern pastoral areas, a delayed and below-average Belg harvest, a poor start to the Kiremt rains, and the likelihood of flood and pest damage mean that, though needs are expected to decline over the coming 6 months, they will remain above average for February.

**Projected lean season (marginal meher): Feb - June**

#### **KENYA: Three consecutive poor seasons in northeastern Kenya**

The 2011 long rains have failed in most parts of southeastern marginal agricultural and the northern and northeastern pastoral livelihood zones. The resulting asset losses will drive above-average needs in January, even if October-December rains are normal.

**Projected lean season (northern pastoral): Ongoing - Oct**

#### **\*SOUTH SUDAN: Insecurity, population movement, and high food prices**

Assistance needs in February are likely to be above average given ongoing displacement, trade restrictions, and a poor start of season in southeast pastoral areas. If insecurity deteriorates further, emergency levels of food insecurity could emerge.

**Projected lean season: ongoing - August/September**

#### **\*SOMALIA: Famine expected to persist through at least December**

Famine has been declared in five areas of southern Somalia, and large areas of the country are classified as IPC-Phase 4 Emergency. August main season harvests in the south are estimated at one third of the 1995-2010 average, the current dry season is likely to be especially harsh, and medium range forecasts have raised some concerns regarding the likely performance of October-December rains. These factors, in combination with extreme levels of malnutrition and mortality, suggest that food assistance needs in February 2012 will remain far above typical levels.

#### **\*SUDAN: Very poor start of season in key cropping areas**

Seasonal rains have started very poorly in key sorghum-producing areas of the country. Even in the best case, yields will be lower than usual as farmers must now shift to shorter cycle varieties. If rainfall does not improve, large-scale crop failure is possible.

**Projected lean season: ongoing - August/September**

### AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN FEBRUARY 2012

#### **\*CHAD: Improvements in food security expected**

The impact the Libyan conflict and government price controls has been smaller than expected and recovery from 2010 and 2011 shocks continues. However, the poor start of season will keep area planted low. Assistance needs are likely to decline to average levels between now and February.

**Projected agro-pastoral lean season: ongoing - Sept**

#### **\*DJIBOUTI: Pastoral areas in crisis, but improvement expected**

Food security in Djibouti is expected to improve given forecasts for average to above-average Karan (Jul-Sept) and Heys/Dada (Oct-Dec) rainfall.

**Projected Central/NW lean season: ongoing - August**

#### **HAITI: Needs likely to decline with June/July harvest, but remain above average**

June/July harvests were very poor due to dryness, extending the typical lean season. Prices for local and imported foodstuffs remain high. Caribbean hurricane activity and landfall probability for Haiti are expected to be above average in 2011.

**Projected rural lean season: ongoing - August**

#### **\*MAURITANIA: Rains start poorly, but coping capacity is high**

The start of the main rainy season has been poor, and given that the season is so short, rainfed crop yields may be below-average, even if the remainder of the season is normal. Food assistance needs are likely to be average, but substantially above the last three years.

**Projected agropastoral lean season: ongoing - August**

#### **MOZAMBIQUE: Localized flooding and dryness contribute to average needs**

Recent assessments of the central and southern areas indicate localized low crop yields for the 2010/11 cropping season due to flooding and/or dryness. October marks the onset of the lean season during which very poor and poor households normally require assistance to meet food needs.

**Projected lean season: Oct - January/February**

#### **\*NIGER: Localized flooding and dryness contribute to average needs**

Current seasonal progress is average, with some localized wilting, and forecasts for the remainder of the season are average to above-average. Therefore, typical needs are anticipated, though close monitoring of rainfall and locust breeding is required.

**Projected agropastoral lean season: ongoing - August**

### BELOW-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS OR NO ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN FEBRUARY 2012

BURKINA FASO (none), GUATEMALA (none), MALAWI, MALI (none), NIGERIA, RWANDA (none), UGANDA, ZAMBIA (none), ZIMBABWE

## FEWS NET REMOTE MONITORING

Beyond “presence” countries where it maintains offices and staff, FEWS NET also monitors key indicators related to food security in selected “non-presence” countries. The table below summarizes the current monitoring status of each non-presence country.

<b>*BURUNDI</b>	-	Food security has improved in Kirundo and Cankuzo due to a good 2011B harvests, but above-average food prices remain a concern.
<b>EL SALVADOR</b>	-	Household food security is currently stable as the typical lean season progresses across the country.
<b>HONDURAS</b>	-	Most poor families are facing typical lean season reductions in household food stocks, though seasonal on- and off-farm wage labor is available.
<b>*NICARAGUA</b>	🚩	Prices of tortillas have risen by 100 percent since June 2010, putting households in the dry corridor at risk of food insecurity. These households currently rely completely on markets given crop losses over the last two years.
<b>*LIBERIA</b>	🚩	Despite the resolution of the crisis in Côte d’Ivoire in mid-April, the food security status of refugees and host families in Liberia is deteriorating as a difficult lean season peaks.
<b>SENEGAL</b>	-	Despite seasonal cereal price increases as the lean season progresses, food security is satisfactory across the country.
<b>*SIERRA LEONE</b>	🚩	Household food security is generally worsening throughout Sierra Leone following the onset of the lean season, poor performance of the growing season, and excessive trader speculation.
<b>*TAJIKISTAN</b>	🚩	Wheat prices have remained stable since April, but remain at their highest since the food crisis of 2008. Cereal harvests are underway and expected to be below normal.
<b>TANZANIA</b>	🚩	Below-average harvests in parts of the north, northeast, and central areas of the country and higher than average food prices are likely to result in food security stress.
<b>YEMEN</b>	🚩	More households are displaced as civil unrest continues. Food and fuel prices remain high.

- 🚩 Important anomalies in proximate causes of food insecurity have been observed and outcomes corresponding to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or higher on the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Scale are likely to occur now or in the future.
- 🚩 Important anomalies in proximate causes of food insecurity have been observed and outcomes corresponding to IPC Phase 2 Stressed on the the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Scale are likely to occur now or in the future.
- No anomalies of concern have been observed.

## LEAN SEASONS IN FEWS NET MONITORED COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

