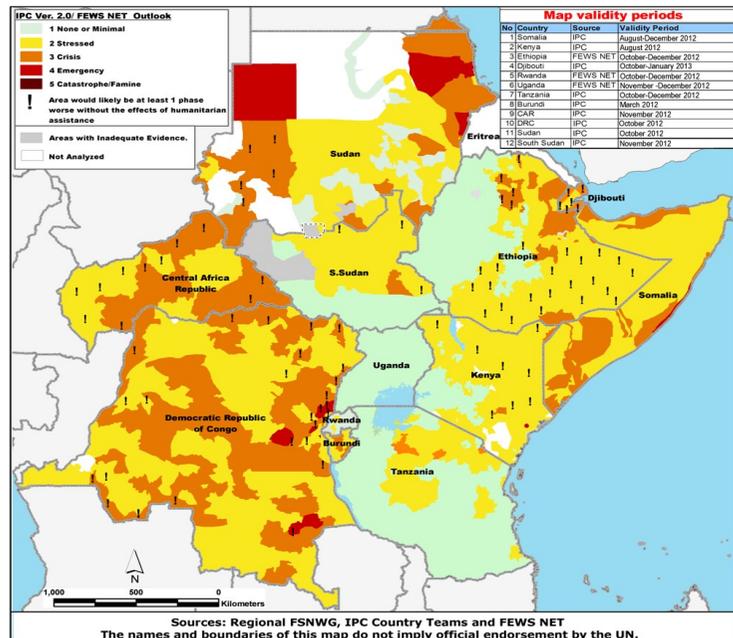


Regional Food Security Situation and Outlook

Regional Food Security Map Dec 2012 (FSN WG Dec 2012)



Key messages from the FSNWG meeting held on December 13, 2012 (FSN WG, 13/12/12)

- The food security situation in the region continues to improve. The current conditions are better in comparison to the same time last year and as good as has been observed in the 5 years.
- October to December agro-climatic conditions have been favourable for agricultural and livestock production (FEWS NET Nov 12). A normal cessation to October to December rains is expected
- Global and regional food prices continue to be stable but higher than long-term averages. (FAO-GIEWS Dec 12).
- Improved security conditions in Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia have made important contributions to better food security conditions (FEWS NET Nov 12).
- Seasonal deterioration of food security conditions in early 2013 is expected with the onset of the long dry season. Climate predictions point towards abnormally hot and dry conditions in early 2013.

Regional Overview

Central African Republic: A recent IPC seasonal analysis classified the entire country in either Phase 3 (stressed) or Phase 2 (crisis). Chronic poverty was identified as the general cause of food and nutrition insecurity with civil insecurity exacerbating conditions in the north and north-east (CAR IPC Technical Working Group, Nov 12).

Eritrea: There has been very little information on food security conditions in Eritrea. ACAPS suggests that a majority of the population is food insecure and that high food and fuel prices are compounding the hardship (ACAPS, 3 Dec 2012). Eritrea was ranked second highest in the world on the Global Hunger Index (IFPRI, 13 Oct 2012).

Ethiopia: The 2012 harvest was normal to above normal, resulting in improved household food security (FAO, Dec 12). Good rains are expected for the Belg 2013 season. Inflation is lower in 2012 but as of September the CPI remained 19% above the same time last year. Economic growth remains strong and is expected to be 7% per annum (KPMG, 3 Dec 2012).

South Sudan: A recent IPC seasonal analysis showed a much improved food security situation in South Sudan. Current conditions are some of the best recorded since the peace agreement of 2005. It is also reported that food prices continue to decline in line with seasonal trends, aided by the ongoing harvest, increased informal flows of food from Sudan, stable fuel prices and an expected near average harvest. The expected benefits of the Sudan-South Sudan agreement on oil transport are delayed due to an impasse on security arrangements (FEWSNET, Nov 12).

Regional Watch

HOTSPOTS:

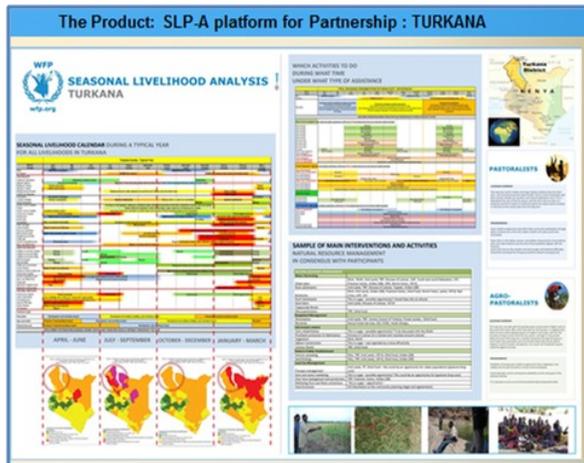
- DR Congo:** A total of 914 000 people are estimated to be displaced in North Kivu. Approximately 500 000 people have been displaced since April as a result of insecurity (OCHA, Dec 12).
- Sudan:** Extreme humanitarian conditions persist in North Darfur and South Kordofan due to ongoing conflict and displacement (WHO, 10 Dec 2012).

WATCH:

- Kenya:** Localized insecurity in Samburu, Garissa and Tana River Counties has led to displacement or disrupted normal livelihoods. Concerns over escalating political tensions prior to 2013 elections are increasing (Guardian, 29 Nov 2012).

Response Analysis: Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) for effective response

WFP Somalia, WFP Kenya and the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) presented their recent innovative work on using seasonal calendars to guide their programming strategies under the Cash/Food for Assets (C/FFA) Programmes.



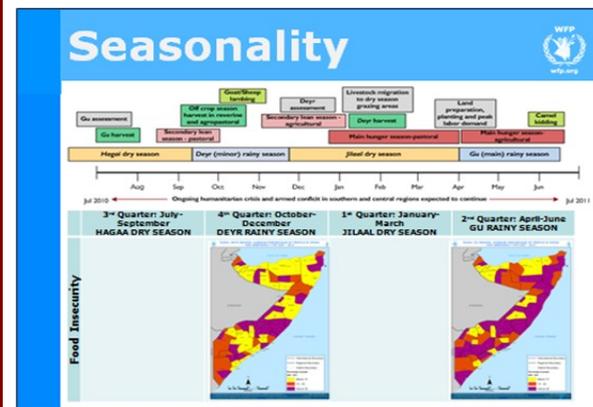
One of the immediate outcomes of [the SLP in Kenya](#) is the application and adoption of the concept into the design of county sub-projects. The idea is that using the seasonal calendars could reduce the assistance period to 8 - 9 months (8 months in pastoral and 9 months in semi-arid areas). Seasonal livelihood analysis can help decision makers better understand the livelihoods of their communities, anticipate shocks and plan for timely immediate response from one season to the next.

The season calendars provide a visual timeline of programme interventions to facilitate coordination of activities by communities and authorities. The process facilitates participatory consultations with communities and partners (those who know the local context) in problem identification, analysis, joint planning action, monitoring and evaluation of activities.

This creates opportunities to build joint programming by identifying complementary activities which are harmonized in addressing underlying challenges in the communities and overcome milestones in building resilience. C/FFA can be tailored to the most appropriate periods for interventions within typical and bad years taking into account livelihood activities, gender and aspects of conditionality (i.e. labour-based or unconditional).

[In Somalia](#), WFP examined trends in food insecure and malnourished populations over the last five years, in particular areas which had recurring incidents of food insecurity, malnutrition and shocks (as depicted through the IPC Phase Classification).

The analysis then broke down the incidents of food insecurity, malnutrition and shocks per season to identify seasonal appropriate activities and explore where and when relief, early recovery, DRR and resilience building efforts may be required.



This highlights opportunities for seasonal DRR activities (i.e. check dams in the dry season, tree planting at onset of rains) or scaling up nutrition interventions prior to seasonal spikes in acute malnutrition (treatment outreach services, preventative measures). It also reinforces opportunities to design more strategic interventions by identifying links between periods of increased household responsibilities, gender roles and utilization of basic services, for example in Somalia, where school starts in September at the end of Hagaa and many girls are responsible for collecting water for the household.

2013 FSNWG NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Based on feedback from members, in 2013 FSNWG resolves to:

- provide a monthly regional overview of the current and projected food security and nutrition situations;
- share information on innovation, good practice that increasingly looks to engage regional bodies, government and private sector;
- report on regional food security issues including trade, prices, insecurity, population movement and climate;
- direct FSNWG sub-groups to identify *Engage with Change* and *No Regrets* interventions to help integrate sustainable development and humanitarian programming; and
- support FSNWG members to identify strategic responses that have more impact, are more timely and more appropriate to areas of chronic crisis through applying principles of response analysis.

For More Information Visit :

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

Upcoming FSNWG Meetings in 2013

24 Jan | Feb 21 |
Mar 21 | Apr 18 |
May 16 | Jun 20 |
Jul 18 | Aug 15



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