



EAST AFRICA, FOOD SECURITY & DROUGHT

17 June 2014
Prepared for: Start



Somalia

	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Important	Major
Expected impact			X		
Need for international assistance	Not required	Low	Moderate	Important	Urgent

Ethiopia

	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Important	Major
Expected impact			X		
Need for international assistance	Not required	Low	Moderate	Important	Urgent

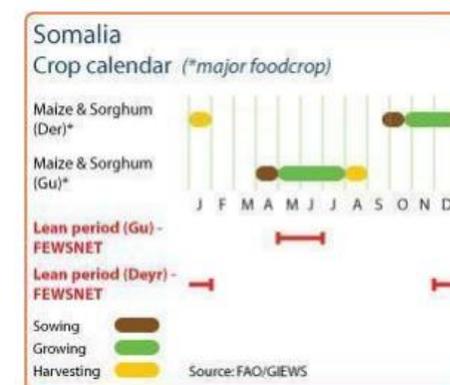
East of Africa Overview

- **Food security:** As of May 2014, nearly 17 million people are in Stressed, Crisis, and Emergency (IPC Phases 2, 3, and 4) acute food insecurity conditions in East Africa. Populations in the higher phases can be found in South Sudan, Sudan, eastern Ethiopia, Djibouti, southern Somalia, and northern Kenya (FEWSNET, 06/2014).
- **Need for assistance:** The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance for food security in the subregion is estimated at about 11 million (including 3.7 million in South Sudan, 3.3 million in Sudan, 2.4 million in Ethiopia, 850,000 in Kenya, 600,000 in Somalia, 100,000 in Karamoja region of Uganda, and 70,000 in Djibouti) (GIEWS, 03/2014).
- **Climate:** March to May rains have been erratic and well below-average in East Africa, particularly in parts of Kenya, Tanzania, eastern Ethiopia, and central and northern Somalia, for both pastoral and cropping regions (FEWSNET, 06/2014). Current forecasts suggest an increased likelihood of below-average June to September rainfall in many areas. If these forecasts are realised, main season harvests in Sudan and South Sudan, and to a lesser extent, in Ethiopia and Kenya could be negatively affected. (FEWSNET, 05/2014)
- **Markets/Prices:** Conflict and insecurity continued to constrain trade flows in northern and eastern South Sudan, southern Somalia, and the Darfur and South Kordofan states in Sudan (FEWSNET, 05/2014).

- **Lessons learned:** In 2011, the Horn of Africa faced one of the driest years since 1950/51, causing a food crisis that escalated into famine in parts of the region. By the end of July 2011, some 12.4 million people were in need of urgent assistance to save their lives and to recover their livelihoods; this number nearly doubled in the subsequent months as the situation deteriorated rapidly (FAO, 2011).

Key figures and findings

Affected groups	Ethiopia	Somalia
Total population	91.73 million	10.2 million
Population in need	2.4 million	2.9 million
IDPs	328,000	1.1 million
SAM/ MAM	N/A	77,000/ 227,000
Food Insecurity Phase 3/ Phase 4	N/A	857,000, of which 600,000 acutely food insecure



Ethiopia and Somalia crop calendar, GIEWS, 02/06/2014

- **In Ethiopia**, household food security in SNNP region is expected to improve from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from April to June to Minimal (IPC Phase 1) from July to September. Similarly, *belg*-dominant areas of northeastern Amhara will likely improve from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from April to June, to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from July to September, if the *belg* rains resume. However, very low livestock holdings due to recurrent droughts since 2010 in northeastern Afar, along with rising food costs will likely keep that area in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through September.
- **In Somalia**, 2.9 million people were in need of food security assistance as of 12 May (OCHA, 05/2014). Food security conditions are expected to improve slightly in August/September when the 2014 *gu* harvest will be available for consumption. However, the harvest is forecast to be at below average levels, so its positive effects on food availability and access are likely to be moderate (FAO/GIEWS, 02/06/2014).

ETHIOPIA

Overview

- Ethiopia is considered comparatively stable, but two decades of deadly conflict in the south eastern region of Ogaden have had a severe impact on the Ethiopian Somali population.
- Ethiopia is bearing the brunt of the South Sudanese refugee crisis, with 145,000 new South Sudanese refugees at 2 June.

Climate

- In general, the performance of the February to May *belg* rains had been near normal in terms of amount and temporal distribution from February until early April (FEWSNET, 05/2014). *Belg* crop growth and development has been mostly normal. (FEWSNET, 05/2014). However, since mid-April, almost no rain fell in *belg*-growing areas (FEWSNET, 05/2014).
- With early forecasts for the June to September *Kiremt* rainfall being mostly normal in terms of likely total rainfall, western, eastern, and southern agricultural areas are expected to have average agricultural production this season, if the *belg* rains resume in a timely fashion (FEWSNET, 05/2014).
- Areas of concern include the northeastern highlands and Afar in Ethiopia, and the “Greater Illemi Triangle” which includes Turkana, Karamoja, southwestern Ethiopia. Many of these areas have already experienced drier than usual conditions over recent months. (FEWSNET, 06/2014).

Food Security

- In May, 2.4 million people were estimated in need of humanitarian assistance (FAO, 03/2014). Food insecurity is reportedly due to consecutive below-average 2013 *belg* and *sugum* rains (February–May and March–May), low crop production, deterioration of livestock, and asset depletion. According to the Government of Ethiopia in January, 2.7 million people were food insecure, and in need of humanitarian assistance between January and December 2014. (FEWSNET, 02/2014).
- As of May, most of the eastern half of Ethiopia was expected to remain at Stressed levels in the short term, in SNNP region. Crisis levels were recorded in northern areas (in Afar, Tigray and Amhara regions), and also in the easternmost part of Oromia (FEWSNET, 05/2014). FEWSNET, 05/2014
- Food security should start to improve in the *belg*-producing areas in June and in October in areas further west (FEWSNET, 05/2014).
- Desert locusts have caused limited damage to crops and rangelands in northern Somali and eastern and central Oromia, but the infestation is not likely to significantly damage *belg* crops or forage availability. (FEWSNET, 06/2014)
- Household food security in SNNP region is expected to improve from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from April to June to Minimal (IPC Phase 1) from July to September. Similarly, *belg*-dominant areas of northeastern Amhara will likely improve from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from April to June, to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from July to September, if the *belg* rains resume. The March to May *sugum/diraac* rains started

late in the northern pastoral areas whereas *gu/genna* rains in southern pastoral areas started on time and have been near normal in terms of amount. Pasture, browse, and water availability is expected to improve, helping increase household food and income access from livestock, and thus their food security, especially from July to September. However, very low livestock holdings due to recurrent droughts since 2010 in northeastern Afar, along with rising food costs will likely keep that area in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through at least September.

Markets and Prices

- In May 2014, year-on-year food inflation was 6.3%. The prices of maize, wheat, teff, and sorghum in May were over 50% higher than the long-term average in monitored markets (WFP, 05/2014).

Nutrition

- Early warning data collected in April by the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector revealed a deteriorating food security and nutrition situation in a number of woredas. Conforming to the trend during the March–July peak hunger season, the number of nutrition hotspot priority one woredas increased by 10.6%, from 68 in February to 76 in April. This is 33% fewer than the same time last year. (OCHA, 06/2014).
- Due to the improved consumption following the October to January Meher harvest, nutrition improved in most parts of **Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, and SNNP regions** (FEWSNET, 02/2014).
- SAM rates among South Sudanese refugees at the Burubiey entry point was 7%. GAM was over 25%. On 28 April, GAM among South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia remained above the emergency threshold of 15% (OCHA, UNHCR, 05/2014)
- A survey in the Afdera district of Afar region found GAM and SAM rates of 20% and 3.9%, respectively (OCHA, 19/05/2014).

Displacement

- As of May, 569,000 refugees are in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 05/2014).
- As of 6 June, 145,000 South Sudanese refugees, mostly from Jonglei and Upper Nile states, have registered in Ethiopia since December (OCHA, 02/06/2014).
- 300,000 refugees are expected to arrive over 2014, an upward revision from 200,000 in early May (WFP, 11/06/2014).
- There are 328,000 IDPs in Ethiopia (OCHA, 03/2014)

Water Supplies

- Reports from Somali region revealed that 112,271 people require emergency water trucking support (OCHA, 05/2014)
- Good seasonal rains over the past two weeks improved water availability in drought-prone areas of Amhara and Oromia regions. As a result, the national water trucking requirements decreased to 25 trucks from 40 trucks two weeks ago in Afar (9), Tigray (8), Oromia (5) and Amhara (3).

Information Gaps

- There are no overall national figures on malnutrition.
- No figures on food insecurity per region.

SOMALIA

Overview

- In March, the SNAF and African Union Mission (AMISOM) military offensive against Al Shabaab-held areas of Somalia was launched. Al Shabaab is reportedly fleeing, but has repeatedly pledged to increase retaliatory attacks. The security situation has deteriorated. An estimated three million people live in areas affected by the SNAF-AMISOM military offensive.
- South-central Somalia remains particularly affected by non-state armed groups, and semi-autonomous northeastern and northwestern territories Puntland and Somaliland are subject to inter-communal violence, especially during the June–November rainy season, when improved resource access and competition for cattle lead to increased raiding activity (ACAPS, 17/06/2014).

Climate

- A three-week delay to the start of the main 2014 *gu* season (April–June) rains raises serious concern for the already dire food security situation. In April, precipitation have been erratic and well below average in southern and central regions, affecting crops in the crucial establishment phase. Rains resumed in the first two weeks of May in most parts of the country (FAO/GIEWS, 02/06/2014).
- Although beneficial rains were received in May, the final outcome of the current *gu* season may have already been compromised by – among other things – delayed and below average rains and the surge in conflict and displacements (FAO/GIEWS, 02/06/2014).
- Food security conditions are expected to improve slightly in August/September when the 2014 *gu* harvest will be available for consumption. However, the harvest is forecast to be at below average levels, so its positive effects on food availability and access are likely to be moderate (FAO/GIEWS, 02/06/2014).
- Following erratic rains and a 4-6 week delay in rains as well as floods in some riverine areas, the output of the secondary 2013/14 *deyr* cereal crops harvested in January are well below average levels in central/southern areas, mostly in Juba Valley, parts of Lower and Middle Shabelle, and Hiraaan regions (FAO/GIEWS, 02/06/2014).
- Maize production especially has fallen about 10–30% (FAO/GIEWS, 02/06/2014).
- The 2013/14 *deyr* harvest is estimated at about 88,000 metric tons of cereals, about 20% below the last five-year average (FAO/GIEWS, 02/06/2014).

Food Security

- Food security experts again sounded the alarm in May that Somalia's fragile humanitarian situation is at risk of reversing into renewed emergency. A mix of delayed rains, rising food prices and continued conflict could cause the food security situation to deteriorate in the coming months (OCHA 03/06/2014).

- 2.9 million people were in need of food security assistance as of 12 May (OCHA, 05/2014). The number of people at Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity is 857,000 (OCHA, 05/2014). This estimate dates from February (FEWSNET, 02/2014). Two million people are in Stressed conditions (OCHA, 05/2014).
- The food insecure population in the provinces is as follows: Banadir (568,000), Lower Shabelle (255,000), Woqooyi Galbeed (220,000), Middle Shabelle (212,000), Bay (203,000), Bari (170,000), Mudug (160,000), Lower Juba (144,000), Galgaduud (133,000), Togdheer (132,000), Hiraaan (120,000), Bakool (115,000), Gedo (105,000), Middle Juba (94,000), Awwaal (85,000), Nugaal (73,000), Sanaag (65,000), Sool (46,000) (OCHA, 13/06/2014).
- An estimated 74% of people experiencing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity are IDPs. Most are located in the northern regions of Sanaag, Sool, Bari, and Nugaal, the central regions of Mudug, Galgaduud and Hiraaan, and the southern regions of Middle Shabelle, and Middle and Lower Juba (OCHA, 24/04/2014).

Markets and Prices

- Following the below average 2013/14 *deyr* cereal output and the fact that stocks were not fully replenished, prices increased in April at faster than normal rates (FAO/GIEWS, 02/06/2014)
- Disruptions in markets and trade activities caused by the recently-intensified conflict in southern/central regions exerted further upward pressure on prices (FAO/GIEWS, 02/06/2014).
- Maize prices increased in April in Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle by 42 and 15% respectively. Sorghum prices rose in Baido (8%) and Beletweine (25%) markets. Maize and sorghum prices were up to 60 and 80% higher than in the same period last year, also due to the scaling back of humanitarian assistance operations (FAO/GIEWS, 02/06/2014).
- Recent escalation of conflict in parts resulted in large population displacements and heavily constrained the movement of goods and services. Prices of cereals are rising in most markets due to a combination of declining stocks from last poor “*deyr*” harvest, uncertainties about harvest prospects for the current “*gu*” season and trade disruptions due to insecurity in some areas. Food security conditions worsen as the lean season progresses and the escalation of conflict in some areas disrupts markets. Adequate response and a close monitoring of the food security situation is warranted (FAO/GIEWS, 06/2014)

Nutrition

- 203,000 children under five, or one in seven children, are estimated to be acutely malnourished. 304,000 children under five need treatment for malnutrition, of which 227,000 MAM and 77,000 SAM, which are at risk of death. A lack of funding is affecting delivery of nutrition services (OCHA 03/06/2014).

Displacement

- In total, 1.1 million IDPs in Somalia, most of whom are in the south-central region (893,000), in Puntland (129,000) and in Somaliland (84,000). 369,000 IDPs live in makeshift camps in Mogadishu (OCHA 03/06/2014)

- As of 10 June, according to a government official, an estimated 10,000 people have been displaced by inter-clan fighting in Lower Shabelle (ACAPS, 17/06/2014)
- As of 31 March, 2,470 refugees reside in Somalia (OCHA, 11/06/2014)
- As of 16 May, 72,000 people had been displaced by the SNAF-AMISOM offensive, especially in Hiraan (27,000, including 21,000 unverified IDPs), Bay (17,000), Lower Shabelle (9,000) and Bakool (7,000). Other directly or indirectly affected areas are Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Banadir and Lower Juba (OCHA, 03/06/2014; 03/2014).

Water Supplies

- IDPs and people affected by drought and water shortages are at high risk of acute watery diarrhea/cholera and are in need of WASH support. Programmes in IDP settlements have been shut down in some cases due to a lack of funds (OCHA 03/06/2014).

Access

- Insecurity continues to affect humanitarian work, with reports in late December and early January of aid workers being targeted by armed groups, including Al Shabaab, for arrest and detention in the areas of Bakool, Bay, Gedo, and Lower and Middle Juba. In the south, humanitarian access has reportedly been hampered by bureaucratic impediments to the recruitment of staff and implementation of assistance operations (ACAPS, 17/06/2014).
- Access constraints and limited presence of partners continue to pose major challenges to implementation of food security activities. Al Shabaab blockage of major supply routes is affecting market availability of goods and delivery of assistance in some districts of Bakool, Hiraan and Galgaduud (OCHA, 03/06/2014).
- Somalia suffers from a chronic fragility of state institutions as a result of two decades of civil war (ACAPS, 17/06/2014).

Lessons Learned

- Protracted conflict, consecutive years of drought, natural hazards, and disruption of basic infrastructure have led to large-scale displacement in Somalia and across the region, leaving almost half of the population, around 3.2 million people, vulnerable to external shocks and lacking access to basic goods and services (ACAPS, 17/06/2014).
- In the last 25 years, several severe food crises were registered due to a combination of conflict and/or floods or drought. In 1992, 2004 and 2011 drought conditions exacerbated the conflict-related displacements and loss of livelihoods. In these years, a poor 'gu' season was preceded by a poor 'deyr' production, that combined to decimate crop and livestock production (FAO/GIEWS, 02/06/2014).
- The preceding 2013/14 *deyr* season cereal output, harvested last January, is estimated at about 85,000 metric tons of cereals, which is about 20% below the last five-year average, but still about four times more than the output gathered in 2010/11 'deyr' that preceded the 2011 famine (FAO/GIEWS, 02/06/2014)