



Famine Early Warning Systems Network

# PROJECTED FOOD SECURITY IMPACTS OF EBOLA IN GUINEA, LIBERIA, AND SIERRA LEONE

October 8, 2014  
Washington, DC

*Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone are FEWS NET remote monitoring countries. The analysis presented in this report is based on field information provided by local partners. FEWS NET also participates in a working group to exchange information and discuss analysis related to the potential food security impacts of the Ebola outbreak. This group, which also includes the USAID-BEST project, the FANTA project, FAO and WFP, has provided valuable information and support for this analysis.*

# Key messages

Future Ebola caseloads are extremely uncertain. Based on available information, FEWS NET is using a planning figure of 200,000 – 250,000 cases by January 20, 2015. If this were to occur:

- Local markets likely to stop functioning; food shortages also likely
- Significant drop in HH incomes and purchasing power
- Agricultural HHs would rely on their own production although outcomes would quickly deteriorate once stocks deplete, likely in the first quarter of 2015
- Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity by Mar. 2015 for HHs with family members who have been ill or have died from Ebola and poor, urban HHs
- Emergency food assistance needs would significantly exceed levels currently planned, funded, and likely

# Agenda

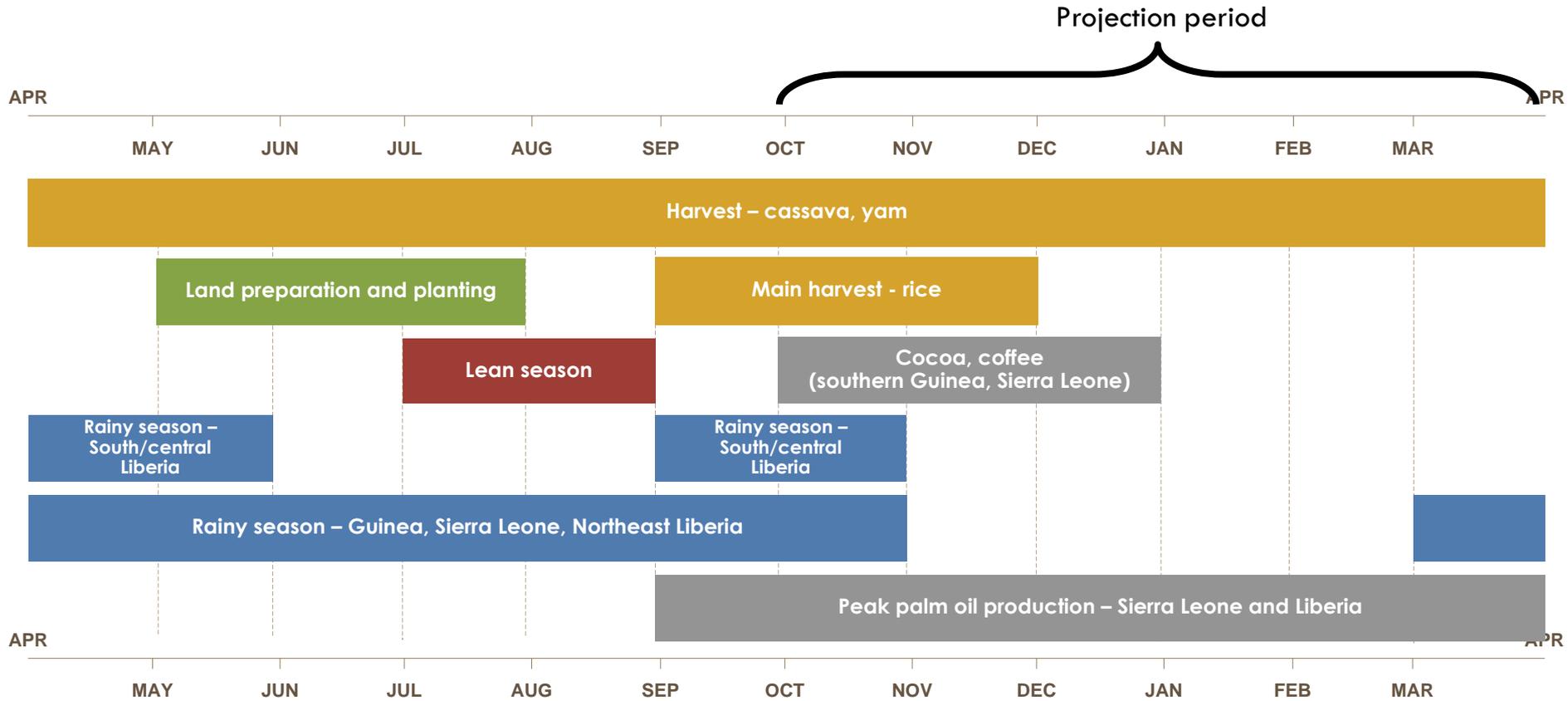
- Key background information
- Current acute food insecurity
- Assumptions and analysis through March 2015
- Events that could change the scenario
- Monitoring efforts

# IPC 2.0 area phase classification

PHASE 1 Minimal	Households are meeting their basic food and nonfood needs without unsustainable coping strategies.	
PHASE 2 Stressed	Household food consumption is minimally adequate. Households are unable to afford some essential nonfood expenditures without unsustainable coping strategies.	
PHASE 3 Crisis	Households face food consumption gaps or are only meeting minimal food needs through unsustainable coping strategies.	<b>URGENT ACTION REQUIRED</b>
PHASE 4 Emergency	Households face extreme food consumption gaps or are experiencing extreme loss of livelihood assets that will likely lead to food consumption gaps.	
PHASE 5 Famine	Households have a near complete lack of food and/or other basic needs. Starvation, death, and destitution are evident.	
!	Phase classification would likely be worse without current or programmed humanitarian assistance.	

# Seasonal calendar for a typical year

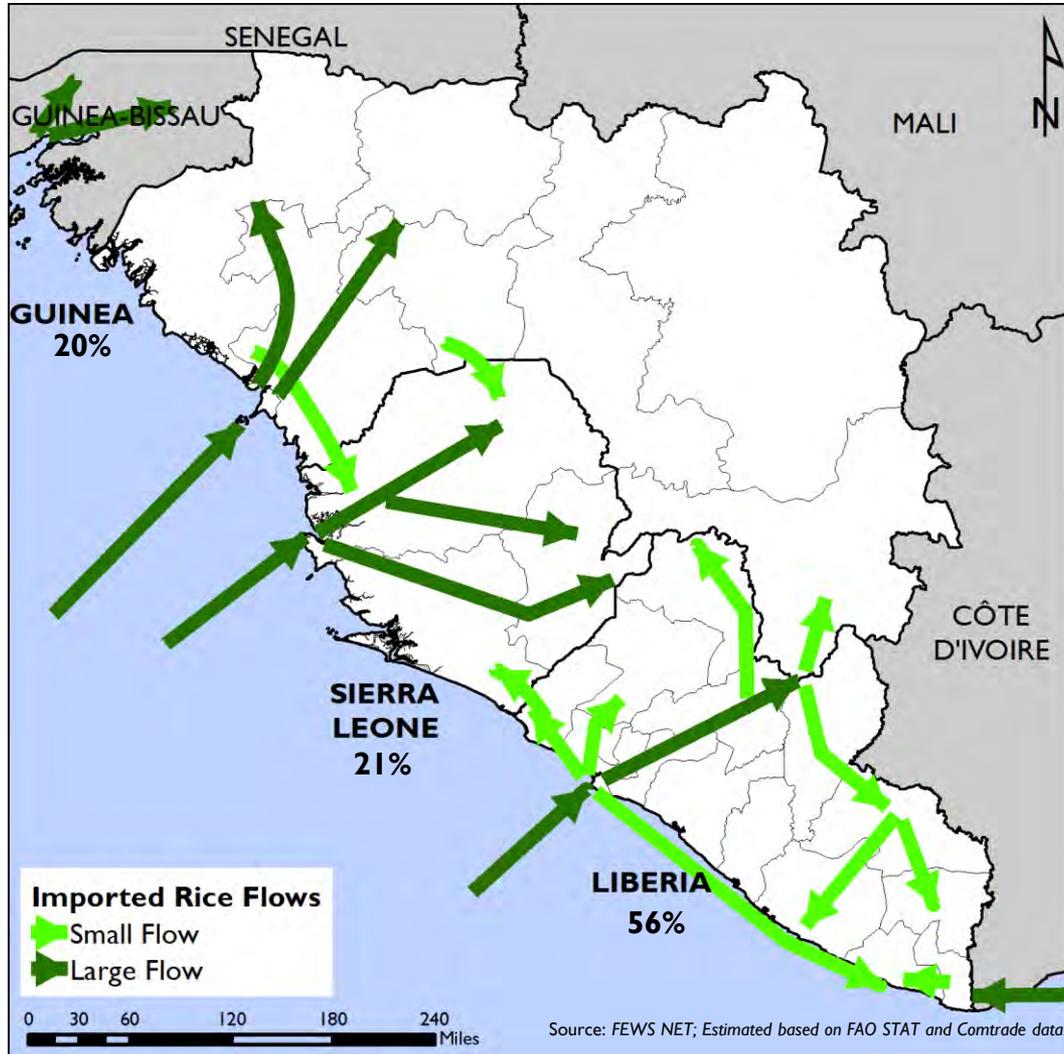
Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone



Source: FEWS NET

# Importance of imported rice to food supplies

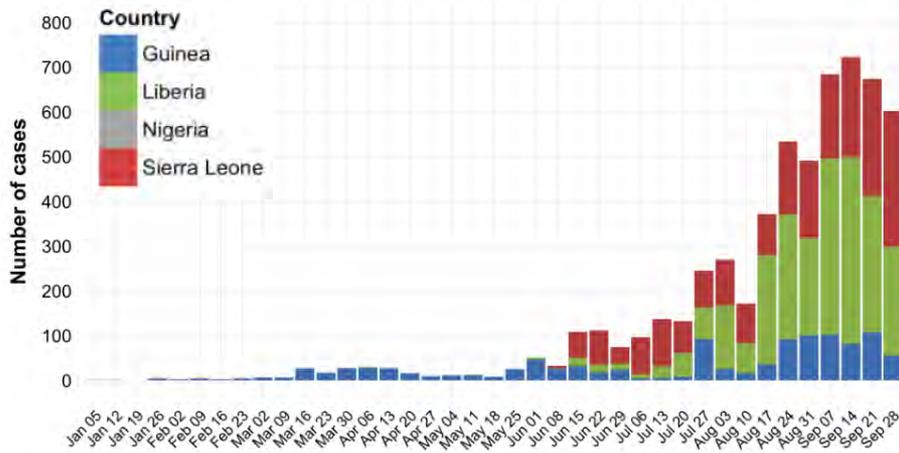
Imported rice trade flows, and % contribution of imports to aggregate rice supply



# **DRIVERS OF CURRENT ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY**

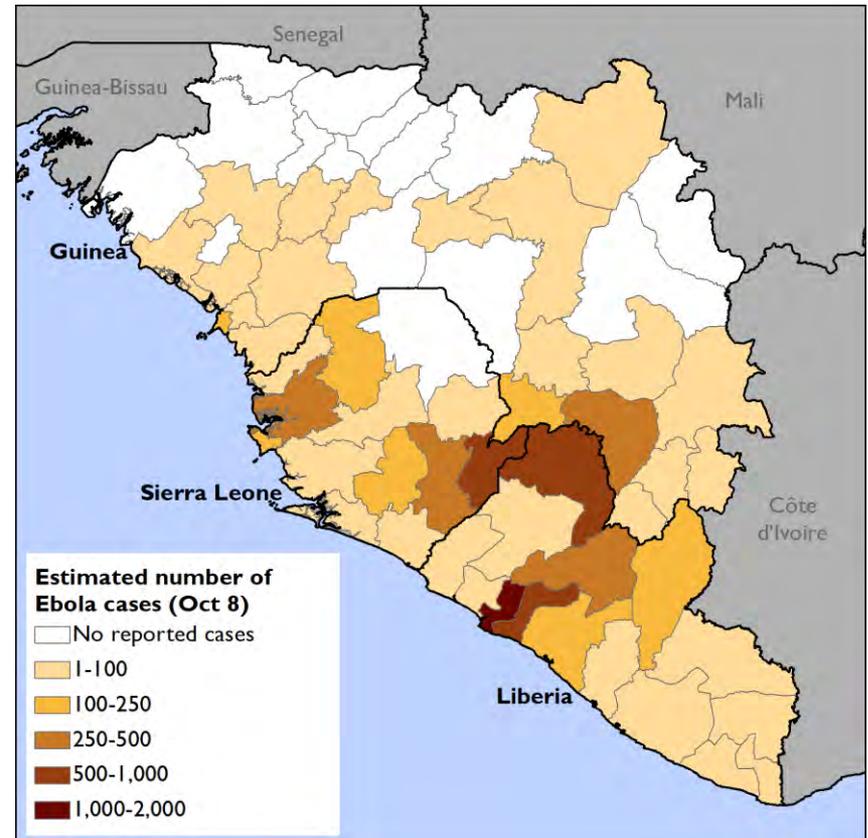
# Increasing number of Ebola cases

New Ebola cases by week since January 2014



Source: WHO

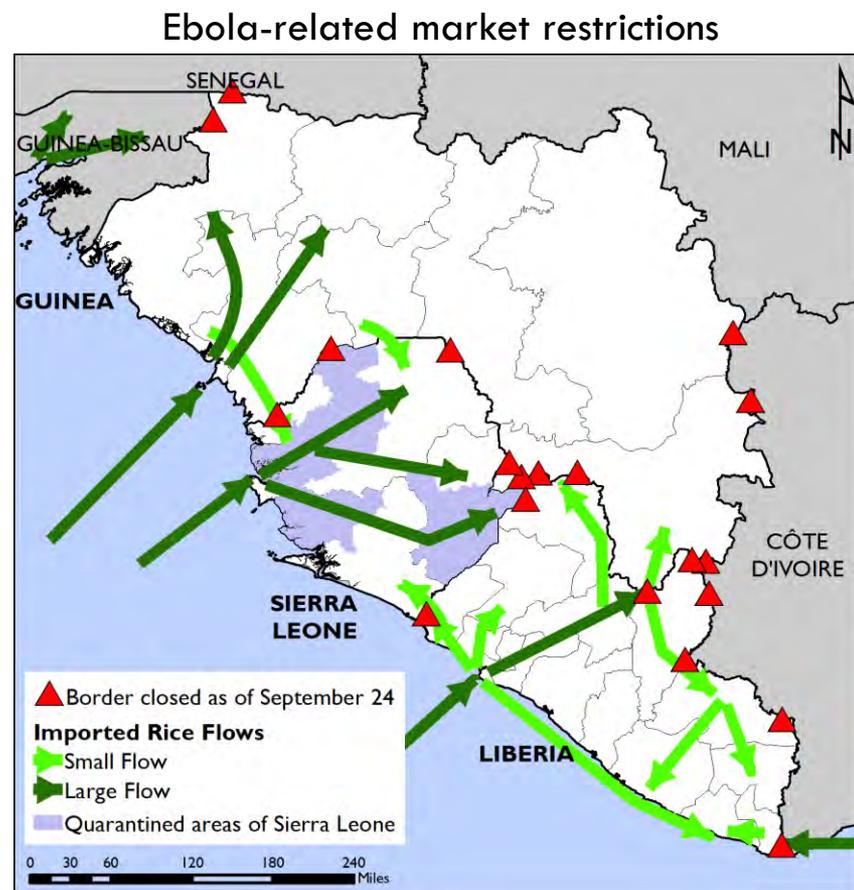
Ebola outbreak distribution



Source: Ministry of Health and Sanitation in Sierra Leone, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Liberia, French Embassy in Conakry, Logistics Cluster

# Ebola-related fears disrupt domestic markets

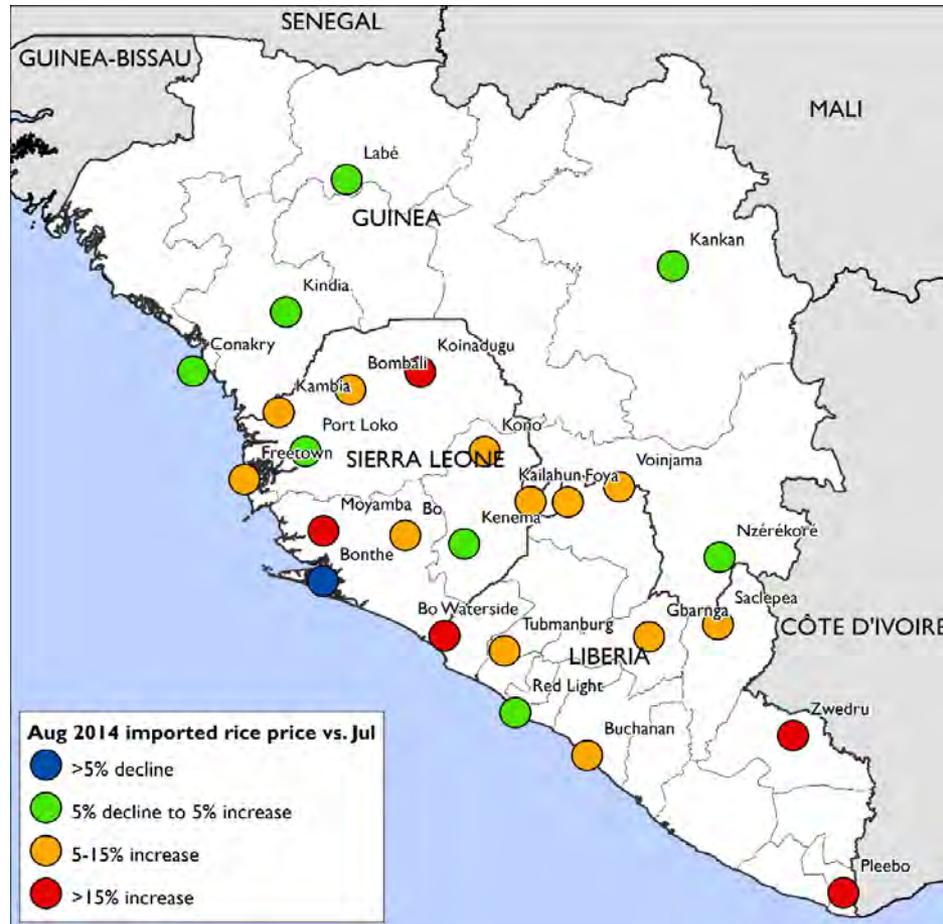
- Although major ports are open and functioning, flows of imported rice to inland markets are limited, particularly in Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- Rural weekly markets banned in Sierra Leone; urban daily markets still open. Markets still open in Liberia and Guinea.
- In response to quarantines and recent 3-day shut-down, urban households with financial means are stockpiling food in Sierra Leone.
- All borders officially closed except Guinea/Mali border



Source: FEWS NET, WFP

# Rising food prices in some areas

July to August 2014 imported rice price changes in selected markets



Source: SIPAG (Guinea), WFP (Liberia), PEMSD (Sierra Leone)

## Current food security outcomes

Population Group	IPC Classification	Description
HHs with family members who are ill or have died from Ebola (Directly impacted)	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small-moderate consumption gaps, unable to afford key non-food expenditures</li> </ul>
Market-dependent HHs in areas worst-affected by Ebola (Indirectly impacted)	Stressed (IPC Phase 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimally meeting food needs, unable to afford key non-food expenditures</li> </ul>
Other populations	Minimal (IPC Phase 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting essential food and nonfood needs without atypical coping</li> </ul>

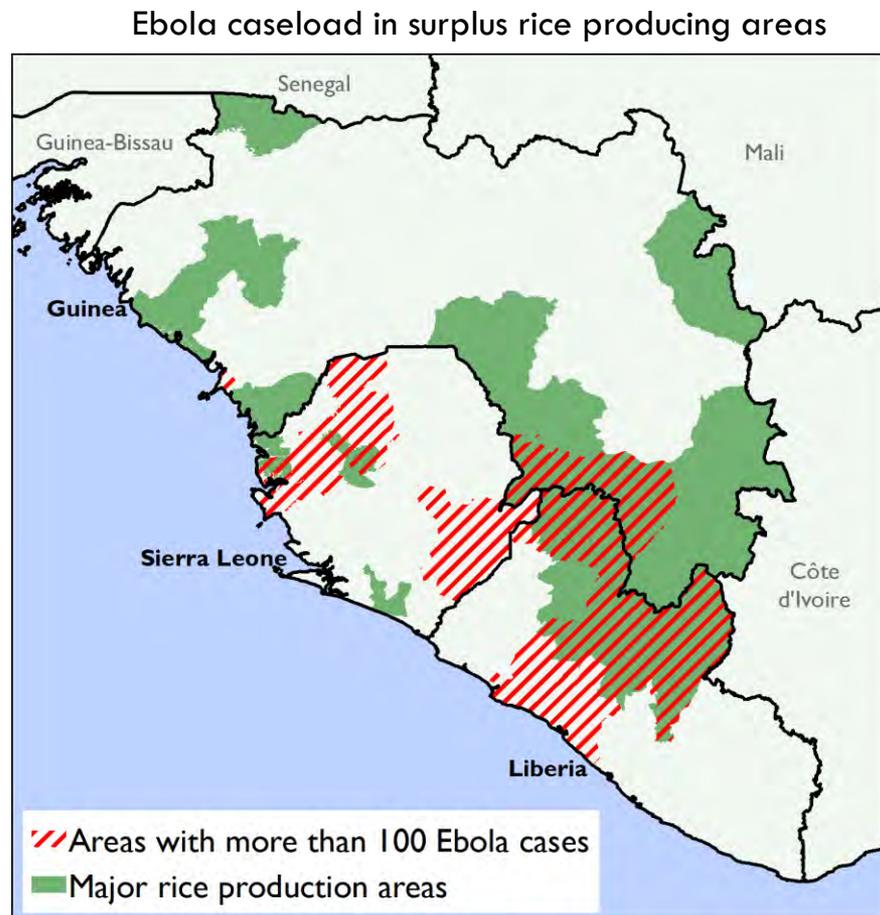
# **ASSUMPTIONS AND ANALYSIS THROUGH MARCH 2015**

## **Assumption: Exponential increase in Ebola caseload**

- Future Ebola caseloads are extremely uncertain although recent estimates are significantly larger than previous projections:
  - In August, WHO projected 20,000 cases by February 2015
  - In September, WHO projected 20,000 caseload by early November 2014
  - CDC September projections ranged from roughly a hundred thousand to over a million cases for Liberia by January 20, 2015 under five different intervention scenarios
  - Based on available information, FEWS NET is using a planning figure of 200,000 – 250,000 cases for the three countries by January 20, 2015

## Assumption: Average to below-average harvests

- HHs harvesting rice with family labor, rather than with community teams, in Sierra Leone and Liberia
- HHs with members who are ill or have died from Ebola will have below-average harvests
- Cassava harvests will be average and will continue year-round
- Disrupted off-season production and 2015 land preparation activities



Source: FEWS NET

# Assumption: Significantly below-average incomes

Typical source for poor HHs	Compared to average	Urban/rural HHs	Explanation
Crop sales (staples/cash)	▼	Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low demand and difficulties marketing crops (ex. rice, cassava, groundnuts, cocoa, coffee, kola, tobacco, vegetables)</li> </ul>
Labor (ag. and non-ag.)	▼	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced usage of community labor</li> <li>General economic slowdown reduces ag. and non-ag labor opportunities</li> </ul>
Forestry products	▼	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low demand and difficulties marketing products (ex. palm oil, rubber, charcoal, wood products)</li> </ul>
Petty trade	▼	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General economic slowdown</li> <li>Difficulties accessing inputs</li> </ul>
Bush meat	▼	Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in consumption, particularly in urban centers, due to public announcements to avoid this meat source</li> </ul>

Incomes compared to average are described as Above (▲), Similar (▶) or Below (▼).

# Assumption: Local markets stop functioning

- Ebola-related fears and official restrictions on movement contribute to:
  - Market closures, particularly in rural areas
  - Commercial rice import levels to decline as importers face reduced incentives to operate
  - Disconnect of rural and urban markets, leading to significant supply disruptions and food shortages on local markets
  - Volatile prices for available food
  - Civil instability in urban centers

## **Assumption: Emergency food assistance needs would significantly exceed levels currently planned, funded, and likely**

- WFP regional EMOP
  - Plans to provide 1.36 million people with food assistance by late February 2015
  - Program 27% funded, as of September 23, 2014
- If CDC's caseload projections occur, the size of the population in IPC Phase 3 or higher is likely to be higher than 1.36 million.

# Projected food security outcomes

	Population Group	Current situation	Oct-Dec 2014	Jan-Mar 2015	
Directly affected	HHs with family members who are ill or have died from Ebola	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)	Emergency (IPC Phase 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of productive family members, resulting in below-average harvests and incomes</li> <li>Difficult physical access to food due to quarantines and social stigma</li> </ul>
Indirectly affected	Poor, market-dependent HHs in areas worst-affected by Ebola	Stressed (IPC Phase 2)	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)	Emergency (IPC Phase 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HH are particularly vulnerable to expected market-related shocks.</li> <li>Significantly below-average HH incomes and food shortages will limit food availability and access</li> </ul>
	Poor, agricultural HHs in areas worst-affected by Ebola	Minimal (IPC Phase 1)	Stress (IPC Phase 2)	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HH will rely on own crop production to meet short-term needs, although a significant drop in HH incomes limit non-food expenditures.</li> <li>Once food stocks deplete (earlier in SL and LB), major market shocks and significantly below-average purchasing power will make food access difficult</li> </ul>
	Poor market-dependent HHs in other Ebola affected areas	Minimal (IPC Phase 1)	Stress (IPC Phase 2)	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HH are vulnerable to expected market-related shocks.</li> <li>Below-average HH incomes and food shortages will limit food availability and access</li> </ul>
	Poor, agricultural HHs in other Ebola affected areas	Minimal (IPC Phase 1)	Minimal (IPC Phase 1)	Stressed (IPC Phase 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In areas less affected by Ebola (particularly Guinea), food stocks will last through March 2014, although a significant drop in HH incomes will cause HH to have difficulties meeting non-food expenditures.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Projected food security outcomes are in the absence of additional planned, funded, and likely humanitarian assistance

# Events that could change the scenario

- Significant change in Ebola caseload compared to FEWS NET's planning figures
- Significant increase in emergency food assistance levels
- Improved capacity of local governments to respond
- Change in human behavior

# Monitoring efforts

Information gaps	Monitoring plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location of official and self-imposed restrictions on population movements and related impacts on markets and livelihoods</li> <li>• Changes in port functioning, food availability, and rural markets</li> <li>• 2014/15 crop production levels/labor availability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ebola working group (FEWS NET, BEST, FANTA, WFP, FAO, and expand to others)</li> <li>• Short-term food security monitors in country (BEST, FEWS NET, FANTA)</li> <li>• Rapid assessments led by FAO</li> <li>• Mobile data collection focused on households in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone (WFP)</li> <li>• Mobile data collection focused on traders in Sierra Leone and Liberia (FEWS NET, IGC)</li> </ul>

# Key messages

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## **For more information**

**Brenda Lazarus**

Food Security Analyst, West Africa

blazarus@fews.net

202-696-1352

**FEWS NET Ebola working group**

fewsnet.Ebola@fews.net

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