FEBRUARY 28, 2003 – ISSUE NO. 9

GREATER HORN OF AFRICA (GHA) FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN

Encouraging donor responses to food aid appeals in Eritrea and Ethiopia but more is needed…

Summary

Pledges to the food aid appeal of the governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia for 2003 have reached over 897,000 MT or 47 percent of the total appeal of 1.92 million MT from the two countries. However, the amount is still insufficient to meet the emergency requirements for 2003.

The current food aid distributions in Eritrea are being provided at reduced rations of 60 percent of the assessed needs. In Ethiopia, the pipeline is only secure through mid May. In both countries, there are increasing levels of serious to critical child malnutrition compounded by inadequate supplementary feeding programs.

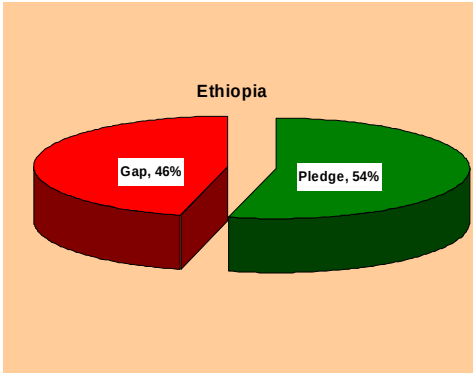
Additional pledges and distributions, including supplementary feeding and emergency seeds, are needed, particularly during the critical period between March and October 2003.

Current conditions for agricultural production are favorable for most of the GHA countries. The DMC-N, March-May 2003 seasonal forecast predicts near normal rainfall in equatorial GHA.

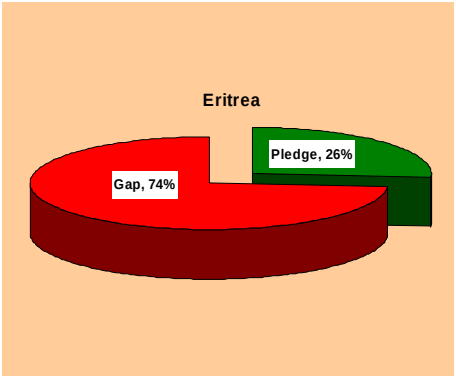
The current moderate El Nino event is expected to significantly weaken in the coming months (up to June).

Pledges to the food aid appeals for Eritrea and Ethiopia are initially encouraging. Out of the total appeal of 1.92 million MT from the two countries, over 897,000 MT or 47 percent have been pledged. In Ethiopia, donors have pledged over 771,000 MT, or 54 percent (Figure 1) of the total emergency food relief needs of 1.44 million MT by end of January. The European Union (EU) and United States Government (USG) have contributed 82 percent of the total donation (EU – 42 percent and USG – 40 percent). For Eritrea, pledges and commitments as of early February were about 126,000 MT, representing nearly 26 percent of the total humanitarian food aid request of 476,000 MT and 43 percent of the appeal for the drought affected population (290,000 MT) (Figure 1). The USG is the largest contributor with 56 percent of all pledges.

Figure 1: Status of Food Aid Pledges for 2003 in Ethiopia and Eritrea



Source: World Food Programme, Addis Ababa



Source: Eritrea Relief and Refugee Commission

Despite the pledges, the amount is still far short of the amount to meet the emergency requirements for 2003. In addition, most of the pledged food aid has not yet arrived in the countries for timely distributions. In Eritrea, the harvests, which normally take households through April, were already depleted by January. This forced the better-off households to depend on market purchases and the poor households to resort to non-sustainable coping strategies as current aid distributions are being provided at reduced rations of 60 percent of the required amount. The current food aid pipeline will burst in April. In Ethiopia, although total pledges could cover food needs through mid-June, the pipeline is only secure through mid May. Ongoing food distributions have been borrowed from the Emergency Food Security Reserve (EFSR), whose stocks have run low and, if not replenished, will run out by early March. In both countries, nutritional assessments indicate increasing levels of serious to critical child malnutrition with inadequate supplementary feeding programs.

Increased pledges and arrivals are needed to stave off famine threats and facilitate recovery in the coming months. This must also include supplementary and therapeutic feeding and other recovery interventions such as seed for planting in the coming seasons. In Eritrea, the peak period of relief food needs is March to October 2003 but could extend to November and beyond if harvest expected in November fails. In Ethiopia, additional pledges are required from June to September 2003 assuming current pledges are translated to actual deliveries. Emergency seed distributions and other production inputs distribution needed by March in both Eritrea and Ethiopia.

This monthly Regional Food Security Bulletin is a collaborative initiative of the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Livestock Early Warning System (LEWS/GLCRSP) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). It is funded by USAID and other collaborators.

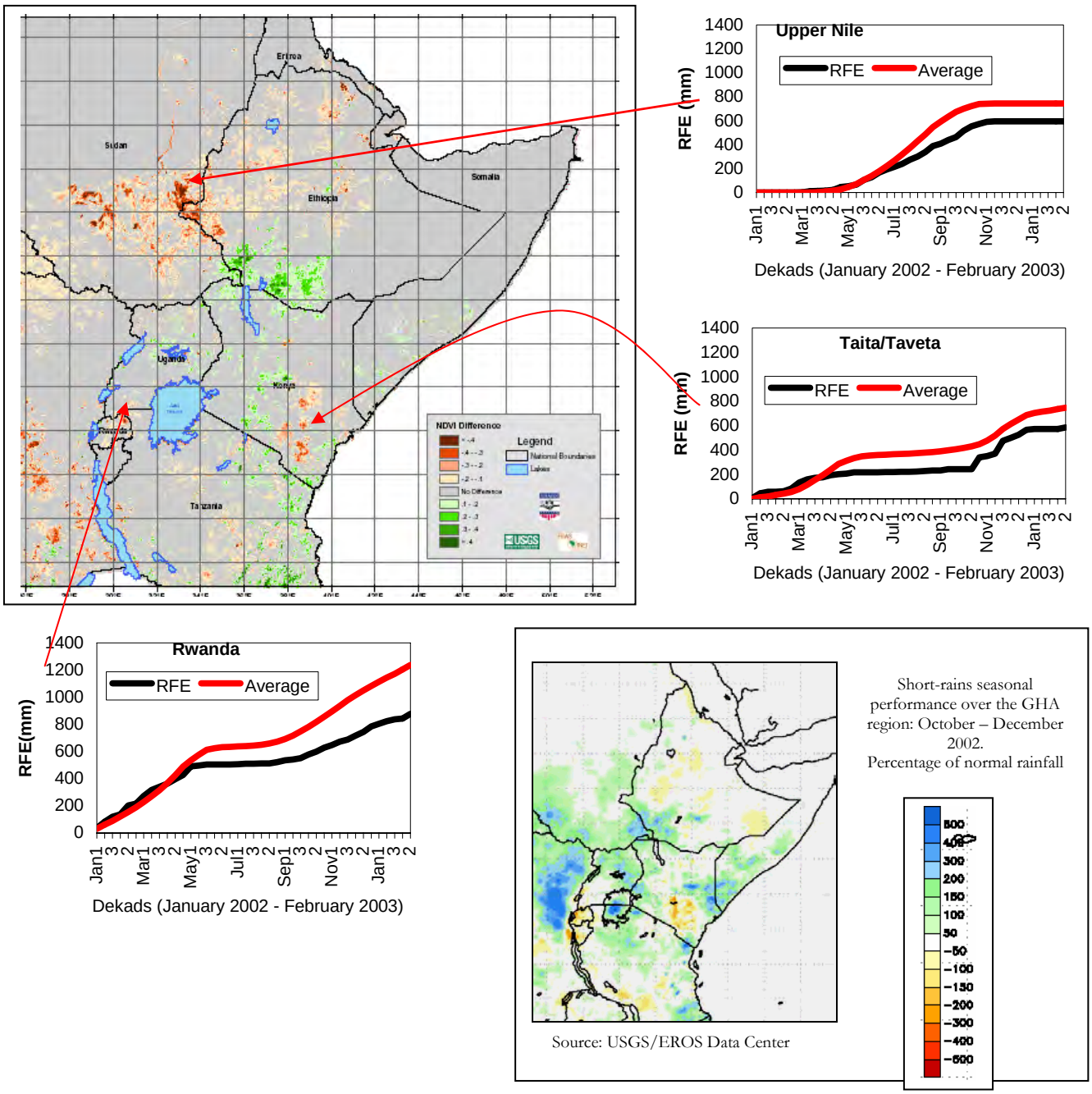
Regional Overview (GHA) – Factors Affecting Food Availability and Access

Agro-climatic Conditions

The short-rains seasons (October–December 2002) rainfall over the equatorial regions of the GHA was near normal and favorable for crop and livestock production. The ongoing seasonal rains over southern and southwestern Tanzania have also been good and characterized as moderate to heavy, occasioned by persistent cyclone activity over the southwestern Indian Ocean. The northern GHA region remains seasonably dry.

The high-resolution Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) vegetation anomaly product (Figure 2) shows the response of vegetation to the cumulative rainfall performance in the region. Vegetation conditions indicate a mixed picture with some localized areas of worse-than-normal conditions. These areas are mainly over central and northern Ethiopia, southern Sudan, northern and eastern Rwanda and parts of southeastern Kenya (shaded red). The cumulative rainfall estimates curves for the period of January 2002 to February 2003, provide explanations of the observed vegetation anomalies, with significant rainfall deficits having been experienced from the middle of last year to the present.

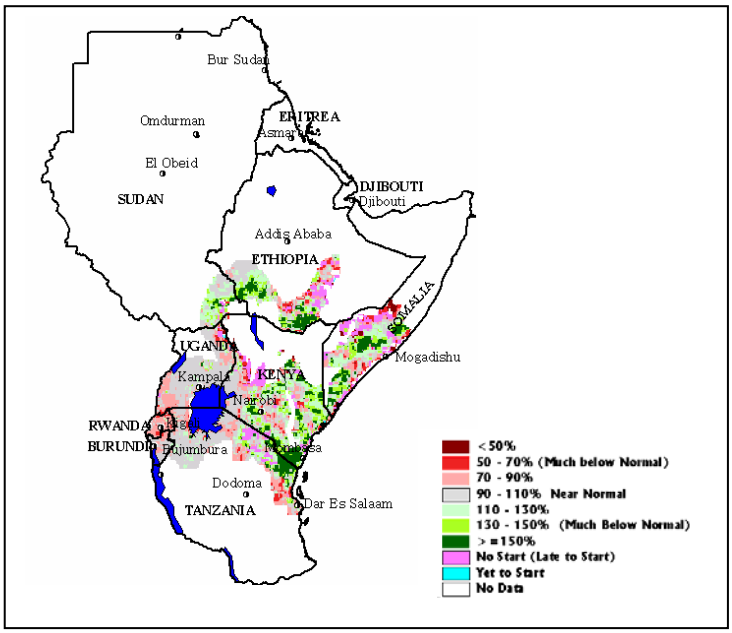
Figure 2: Vegetation Conditions in the GHA Region Using 500m MODIS Data - January 17 – February 2003



Crop Conditions

The Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI) maize crop conditions indicator (Figure 3) depicts better than normal crop conditions, signaling favorable harvest prospects for significant parts of Somalia, southeastern Kenya and southwestern Ethiopia. Rwanda had a mixed rainfall performance with a late onset of the October – December rains. Details on expected national crop production are provided later in this report.

Figure 3: Crop conditions based on WRSI as a percentage of the maize crop performance indicator: February 11-20, 2003
Source: NOAA/CPC/USGS



Crop Pests During January and February 2003

Source: Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA)

Desert Locust

Isolated immature adult locusts were observed in early January in Northern Somalia at two locations on the coastal plains west of Berbera (10.28N/45.02E) at the base of the escarpment. Other member countries were free from locust infestation. The forecast until end of February predicts occurrences of small-scale breeding on the coasts of Sudan and Eritrea. In northwestern Somalia, locusts might mature and breed if conditions remain favorable. No significant developments are expected in other member countries

Quelea Birds

In 2003 January, quelea birds were reported in Nakuru District in Kenya where one roost on eucalyptus trees with an estimated population of one million birds was confirmed. Control measures were in process. Other reports from Kenya indicated that, during December 2002, quelea birds occurred in Nyanza Province in irrigated rice schemes in Nyando and Kisumu Districts. Control operations were not conducted due to continuing floods in these areas.

Armyworms

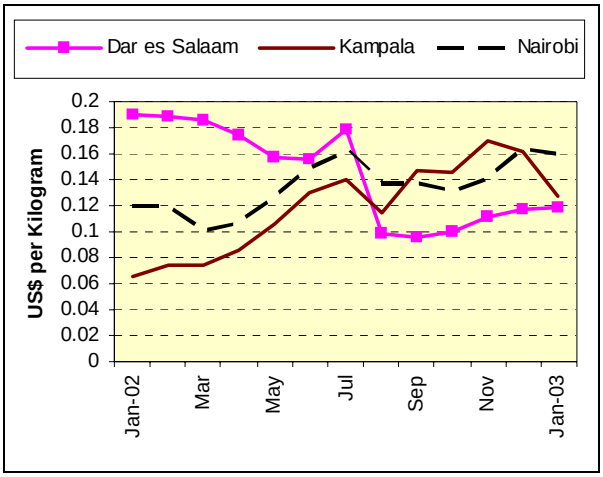
Armyworms outbreaks and infestations continued in eight regions of Tanzania to which around 31,000 hectares in 200 villages were attacked. Moth catches remained high in northern and central Tanzania between late December and early January.

In January 2003, armyworms with a density of 50-300 instars/m² infested grasses on an estimated area of 5,012 acres in Kajiado, Maragwa and Machakos Districts in Kenya. At Maragwa, heavy rains at the time of infestation destroyed the larvae. In December 2002, six districts in Kenya reported cases of armyworms infestations on 198 hectares. The worms, which were between second and fifth instars attacked grasses, maize and millet. Ground control operations were conducted in two districts. For details, refer to dlc@telecom.net.et; delco@insightkenya.com; http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm.

Market Conditions

Maize prices in Kampala dropped by 21 percent between December and January, due mainly to new harvests from eastern Uganda reaching markets (Figure 4). Conversely, Dar es Salaam and Nairobi maize prices stabilized in January to December levels and have been consistently below the 1997-2002 average.

Figure 4: Prices of Maize on Capital Cities in East Africa



Source of Data: Market Information Systems, East Africa Countries

As harvests from the short rains begin in February, additional availability will improve market supplies subsequently causing prices to fall or remain stable in most of the markets in East Africa countries, particularly where production and access from the short rains harvests are significant. However, there are no significant exportable surpluses from Kenya and Uganda to the northern Africa and from Tanzania to the southern Africa countries.

Food Security Conditions by Country

Eritrea

In November, the Government of the State of Eritrea (GSE) 2002, appealed for humanitarian assistance of 476,000 MT of food aid for 2003, of which 290,000 MT is for the drought-affected population. According to the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) and other sources, donor pledges and commitments by February have met 43 percent of food aid to the drought-affected population and 26 percent of the overall government request. Despite these contributions, serious concerns remain for the population at risk, as existing stocks and food aid pledges are not sufficient and some will take time to resource and transport to Eritrea. Although the GSE continues to contribute from its own resources and has reported the purchase of 80,000 MT of food) through ERREC) to alleviate the situation and stabilize markets, the country is facing heightened food insecurity. Ongoing food aid distributions are provided at reduced rations of 60 percent of assessed needs**.**

Household stocks following the poor agricultural production in 2002 are reported as the worst in the past 10 years, are believed to have been exhausted in January. This has consequently put more pressure on market dependency for better-off households and increased dependency on food aid for the majority of poor households. Food prices are rising sharply while livestock prices are falling, thus negatively impacting on livestock dependent households.

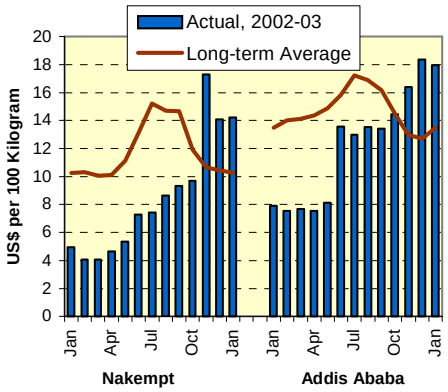
Food insecurity is expected to worsen from March to October 2003. Any recovery will be dependent on a good harvest from the major July-October agricultural season. Following the January rains, pasture and water regeneration in the eastern escarpments and the Red Sea plains was average to above average. However, the delayed start of the winter rains in these areas has led to a failure of the minor winter crops, according to the National Food Information System (NFIS).

Ethiopia

Food aid pledges since the beginning of the year are sufficient to cover only 54 percent of the 2003 emergency relief requirements. Ongoing distributions rely on supplies from the Emergency Food Security Reserve (EFSR), whose current stock levels are low. While pledges are enough to meet food needs through mid-June, the pipeline is only secure through mid May. Dstributions could be jeopardized if donations are not translated quickly into deliveries to replenish the EFSR.

Supplementary feeding programs are critically low at 32 percent of assessed requirements. Malnutrition rates are increasing given the poor food access resulting from consecutive years of production losses and rising levels of destitution in many parts of the country. Pledges to meet supplementary food requirements are urgently required to prevent further deterioration of the nutritional status. Ongoing general ration distributions will also have to be scaled-up in the coming months to reduce consistently high levels of malnutrition. Since October 2002, maize prices been have significantly above the long-term (1994-2001) averages (Figure 5). This has consequently increased food access problems among many households including the "better off". In Addis Ababa, January maize prices were up by 32 percent over the long-term average. Even in producing areas such as Nakempt, the price of maize increased by 39 percent in January compared the 1994-2001 average.

Figure 5: Retail White Maize Prices on Nakempt and Addis Ababa Markets



Source of Data: Ethiopia Grain Trade Enterprise

The forecast by the National Meteorological Services Agency (NMSA) for the March-May 2003 (*belg*) season predicts near normal to above-normal rainfall over northeastern Ethiopia, including most of Afar, parts of eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara and central Oromiya and northern Somali Regions. This could bring relief to these drought-stricken areas. The rest of the country is forecast to have normal to below-normal rainfall during this period. Below normal rainfall in these areas could have a negative impact on long-cycle food crop production, coffee and *chat* cultivation and the availability of pasture and water for livestock.

Kenya

The 2002/03 October-February short-rains season had varied outcomes across the country. Rains have been favorable in the eastern and northern pastoral districts but poor in the northwestern agropastoral districts. Significant rains in January improved production prospects in the short-rains dependent southeastern and central parts of the country that had experienced erratic rains most of the season. The western and central arable areas of the country have favorable crop conditions but prospects are mediocre in localized areas in the marginal agricultural eastern and lowland coastal districts.

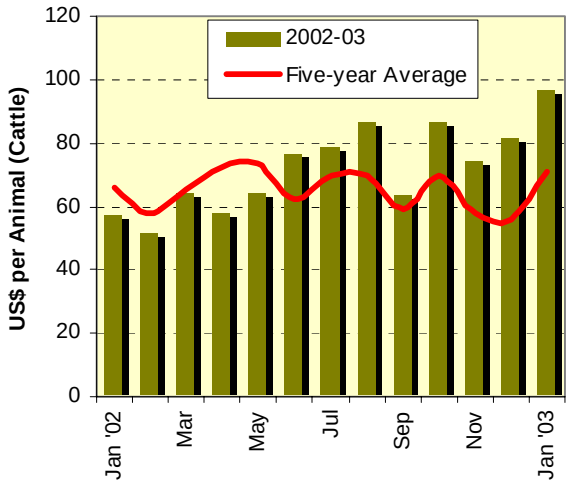
Harvesting of the 2002/03 short-rains season maize is expected to begin at the end of February.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoALD) has maintained its earlier harvest estimate of 450,000 MT of maize and 117,000 MT of beans from this season. This harvest, plus existing reserves, makes the cumulative national maize stocks sufficient to meet the country's food needs through June 2003.

The availability of pasture, browse and water for livestock in January this year is generally the most favorable in four years, but some key pastoral districts of Baringo, West Pokot, lower areas of Koibatek, southern Turkana and pockets of Kajiado, Mandera and Samburu continued to experience low availability of pasture and water due to poor rains. The Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) will be conducting a rapid food needs assessment in February to determine the impact of poor rains on the food security of pastoralists in these districts.

Livestock prices have remained strong in January compared to the five year (1997-2001) average (Figure 6). Although this enhances the recovery process of pastoralists, their asset-base is much reduced and it will take several successive good seasons to build up. Therefore, a good 2003 long-rains season is critical in consolidating the recovery process.

Figure 6: Average Cattle Prices in Wajir District (Northeastern Province)



Source: Arid Lands Resources Management Project (ALRMP), Kenya

The Disaster Preparedness Fund is making considerable progress on food for work and food for assets activities in Isiolo district. Work in 11 projects on irrigation, agriculture and water projects are expected to begin in February.

Rwanda

The Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI), WFP, FAO and FEWS NET joint assessment team released a preliminary food security report in February 2003. The report concluded that despite unfavorable rainfall conditions at the start of the season in September/October 2002, crop production is generally satisfactory following improved rainfall, mostly average to above during the season. The mission estimated the 2003 production at 16 percent higher than the average of the last three years Season A's (September-December).

At the national level, consumption needs for the first semester (January-June) of 2003 should be met by the domestic production. Production in five out of the eleven provinces in southern and western Rwanda could remain well below needs and some districts may experience moderate to high food insecurity. The remaining six provinces are expected to be food secure except in localized areas where households could experience moderate food insecurity. However, if the food aid supply is maintained at current levels (about 22,000 MT per semester), humanitarian agencies should be able to adequately respond to anticipated requests for assistance up to June 2003.

The food security outlook in the second half of the year will depend on the performance of Season B (February-July 2003). Already, there are concerns that sorghum planting has been delayed by nearly one month in central and eastern areas of the country (confirmed by WRSI products), due to delayed harvest from the recently ending short rains season, which has held up land preparation. This could affect harvest prospects in July.

Somalia

The good performance of the October-December *(Deyr)* season improved prospects of a good harvest in most parts of the country. This has reversed the poor food security conditions following the below average crop production during the April-June *(Gu)* 2002 season. The area cultivated and planted was above normal, and yields are expected to be better than previous seasons. Livestock conditions have also improved. The Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU) Nutrition Surveillance Project has reported decreasing levels of acute malnutrition.

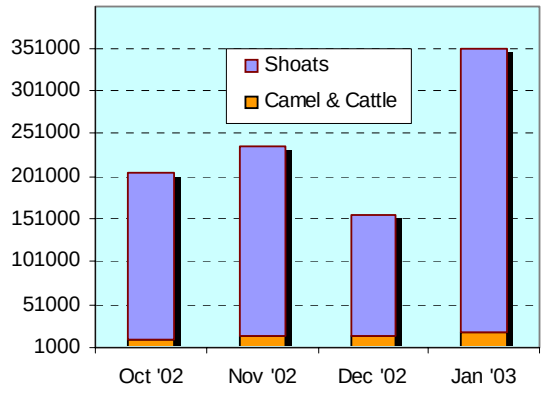
However, for the nomadic pastoralists, who compose over 60 percent of the Somali population, the January-March *(Jilaal)* dry season is considered the most difficult. During this period, herds migrate longer distances from homesteads, consequently reducing the supply of milk to the remaining members of the households. Heightened food stress is likely to be felt by the poorest households in Adun Food Economy zone in central Somalia. In these areas, the consequences of the poor 2002 *Gu* rains reduced the food production and income of about 20-30 percent of the population. Close monitoring of the food security conditions and welfare of these groups is required.

The unusual and heavy migration of pastoralists and their herds from eastern Ethiopia (particularly from Shinnile Zone) to northwester Somalia (Awdal), since October 2002, has exerted pressure on grazing land in these areas. The excessive numbers of migrating livestock in Awdal are reported to have exceeded the carrying capacity of the land; could cause overgrazing and possibly outbreaks of trans-boundary disease.

Livestock exports particularly of the small ruminants (sheep and goats) through the ports of Bosasso and Berbera to Arab countries increased sharply in January 2003 compared with previous months (illustrated in Figure 7).

The increase is the result of the high demand for sheep from Somalia during the Haj period in January/February.

Figure 7: Livestock Exports from Somalia, October 02-January 03



Source of Data: FSAU Monthly Food Security Report, February 2003

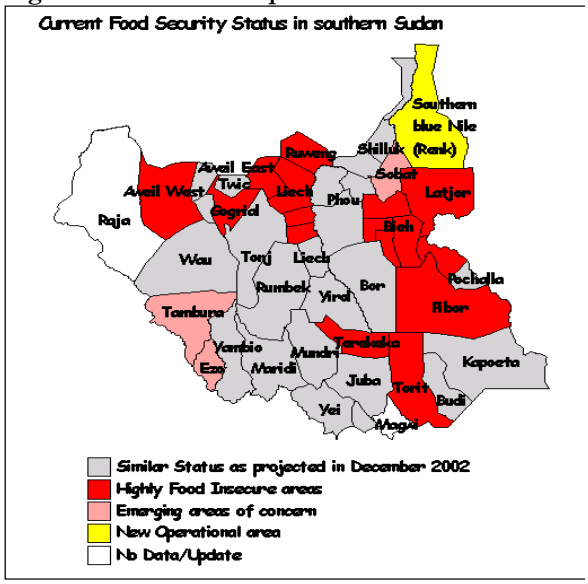
Sudan

Northern and eastern parts of southern Sudan remain highly food insecure due to fighting and insecurity, returnees from Ethiopia, and poor harvests attributed to low rainfall and pest infestation last year. Fighting in northern parts of Liech State has displaced a further 50,000 people in January. This is in addition to a population of about 50,000 displaced from Raga, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic that have fled to the southwestern areas of Ezo, and Tambura since 2001 (see Figure 8 for locations).

Populations in Terekeka are highly food insecure due to poor harvest and water supply problems. Pastoralist households in Pibor have started moving towards southern parts of Bor, in larger numbers than usual in search of pasture and water. In addition, water shortage is critical in Sobat, and Southern Blue Nile State (Renk).

The Southern Blue Nile State is a new area of operation for Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) with 30,000 IDPs settled in camps since end of last year. An assessment conducted in the area in February recommended relocating the displaced population to safer areas due to insecurity in the camps and providing them with water, agricultural inputs and supplementary and therapeutic feeding. In December 2002, the UN WFP Southern Sudan sector projected a total food requirement of 2,259 MT for the displaced population in Southern Blue Nile State until September this year.

Figure 8: Reference Map for South Sudan



Source: WFP, Norwegian Peoples Aid, Action Against Hunger, UN February 2003 Southern Blue Nile Assessment

The current pipeline for January this year indicated that cereal stocks available with WFP will last until May (including Southern Blue Nile) while other commodities such as pulses, oil and blended foods will last until April.

Tanzania

The good and ongoing harvests from the 2002/03 short rains *(vuli)* season in the bimodal rainfall districts and the beginning of harvests of early maturing crops from the long rains *(masika)* season in the unimodal rainfall areas have consolidated the satisfactory food security conditions across much of the country. The satisfactory conditions are echoed by stable food prices on key markets between October 2002 and January 2003. On most markets, the January wholesale maize prices were below the five year average (1997/98-2001/02) and January last year. Prospects of food security in the coming four months remain good as the performance of the 2002/03 crop and livestock production season is favorable.

In January, the government of the United Republic of Tanzania approved distributions of subsidized maize sales and emergency seed aid (sorghum, maize, peas and beans) to over 177,000 people in eight districts who were identified in December 2002 by the Food Security Information Team (FSIT) as affected by drought during the 2001/02 production seasons. Subsidized maize will be drawn from the national strategic grain reserve (SGR), while the FAO has been requested to supply the emergency seeds. Distributions of subsidized maize sales were recommended for January 2003 and emergency seeds for planting in the masika season from Mach 2003. Delays in the distributions may increase food insecurity among this population and jeopardize the expected recovery in the coming season.

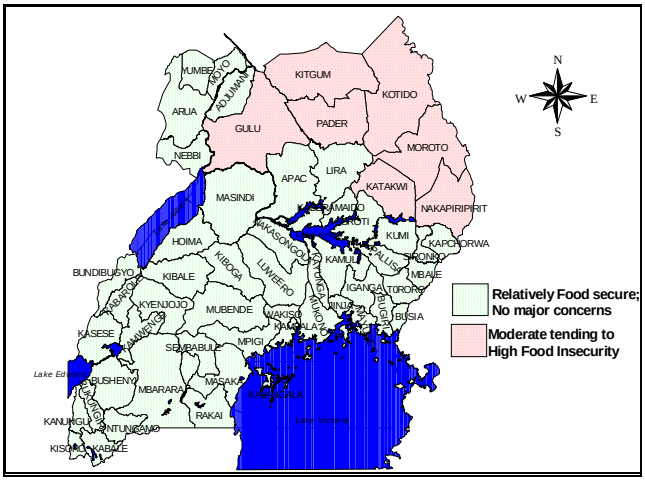
Uganda

Civil insecurity remains high in northern Uganda with increased numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs). Together with below harvests from the previous season, high food insecurity and high acute rates of global malnutrition are reported. In addition, the movement of Karimojong pastoralists to northeastern areas (Katakwi District) has displaced people, heightening the risk of food insecurity. Limited access to agricultural fields by the IDPs in these areas could result in low crop cultivation and production leading to an increase in food aid requirements (See Figure 9 for locations of food insecure areas).

Between August 2002 and January 2003 millet and sorghum prices were 10 percent higher than the previous two years and the average for the same period in eastern, northern and northeastern Uganda, signifying lower market access for households dependent on market purchases. Livestock prices in Karamoja Region have declined by more than 50 percent from average, worsening the terms of trade for those selling animals and buying food.

The forecast by the Uganda Department of Meteorology for February to April 2003, projects the start of the season in mid-February to early March for most of the country and full establishment of the rains in March. The season in northeastern and northern Uganda is forecast to begin in April.

Figure 9: Locations of District with Most Food Insecure Populations



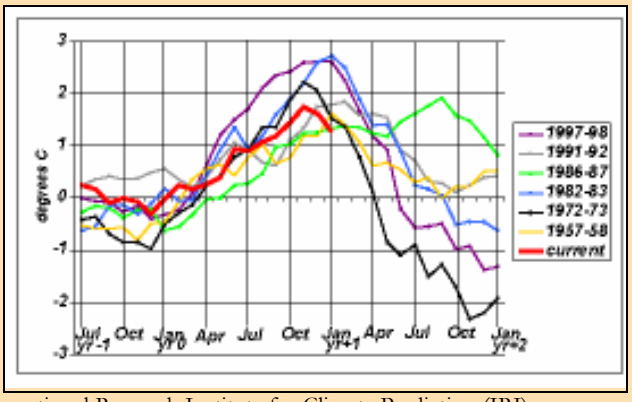
Source: World Food Programme; Ministry of Health; Action Against Hunger (US); Norwegian Refugee Council and FEWS NET, Uganda, February 2003

Weather/Climate Watch

El Niño Update

According to the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI) and NOAA/CPC, the current El Niño will very likely show significant weakening or dissipation during the March to June period (Figure 10). The outlook beyond June 2003 is more uncertain. Based on the behavior of past El Niño events and current model forecasts, it is most likely that conditions will be near neutral during the second half of 2003, although the development of La Niña conditions is slightly greater than in an average year. During the coming 1-3 months, the climate effects in most regions are most likely to be weaker for the current El Niño than those experienced during the similar season in 1998 when the strong El Niño was reaching its end, but they could still be substantial in some regions. For more details refer: http://iri.ldeo.columbia.edu.

Figure 10: Current El Niño Events Versus Past Episodes



International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI)

Climate Outlook for March to May 2003

The consensus seasonal forecast from DMC-N indicates an increased likelihood of near-normal rainfall over much of Greater Horn of Africa (GHA). Probabilities of near normal to above normal rainfall are likely in zones III, VII and IX. Near normal to below normal rainfall is forecast for zones II, IV and V. Probabilities for below normal rainfall are likely over zones VI and VIII. These areas are southwestern Sudan and parts of southern Tanzania. The rainfall outlook for each zone within this sub-region is indicated in Figure 11.

March to May constitutes an important rainfall season over the equatorial parts of the GHA. Therefore, the regions with probabilities of below normal rainfall require close monitoring. USGS/FEWS NET will provide additional information on the implications of the forecast to food security in the region. Regular forecast updates will be provided by the national weather services and the DMC-N.

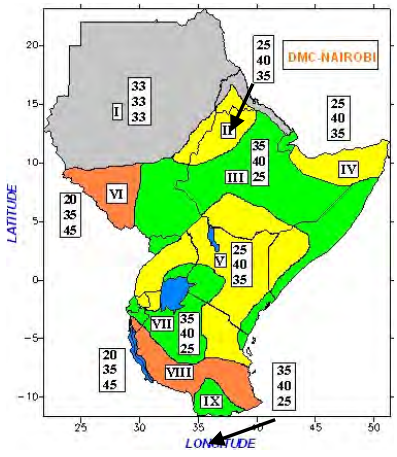


Figure 11: March-May 2003 Seasonal Forecast

Source: Drought Monitoring Centre – Nairobi (DMC-N)

Recent Meetings and Forthcoming Events

International Workshop on Crop Monitoring and Early Warning for Food Security, January 28-30, 2003 – Nairobi, KENYA. The objectives of this workshop were to discuss and initiate a scientific network on crop monitoring and yield forecasting in support of early warning for food security in GHA. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Joint Research Commission (JRC) of the European Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Over 30 participants drawn from national, regional and international scientific and food early warning systems attended the workshop. The workshop provided an important forum for presentations on some "state-of-the art" methodologies on crop monitoring and yield forecasting activities at the regional level. The participants recognized the need to setup an informal scientific and technical network that would facilitate sharing of available resources on crop and rangeland monitoring. Consequently, agreement was reached to establish a regional network and website (http://wg.jrc.it/africa) where details of the proceedings can be found.

The Pilot Conflict Vulnerability Study Stakeholders' Feedback Workshop – February 4-6, 2003 – Mbale UGANDA. Workshop participants were grassroots-based network practitioners from the Turkana and Karamoja Districts, which constitutes the "Karamojong Cluster". Other participants came from REDSO-Nairobi, USAID-Uganda, CEWARN- Addis Ababa, FEWS NET-GHA, Kenya and Uganda and NGOs not directly involved in the actual implementation of the study and from the press. The objectives of the workshop were (1) to review the progress of the project, distill its practical benefits and identify gaps and priorities for further development; (2) to identify information flow networks and channels established and explore prospects of broadening communication among the pastoralist communities; and (3) to formulate recommendations for linking early warning food security data and information to conflict mitigation processes. Further details on workshop recommendations and the way forward are available from FEWS NET Kenya and Uganda - Nancy Mutunga (nmutunga@fews.net), Andrew Mutengu (amutengu@fews.net).

The Rainfall Estimation Validation & Applications Workshop, February 10-22, 2003 – Drought Monitoring Centre-Nairobi (DMC-N), KENYA. Over 30 participants and resources persons from national meteorological, agricultural and hydrological services and international institutions of NOAA/CPC, USGS/FEWS NET, and ICRAF attended the workshop. Workshop objectives were to determine the accuracy and usefulness of NOAA/CPC and TAMSAT rainfall estimation products, and to introduce participants to the operational use of RFE in agro-meteorological and hydrological applications. For more information on the workshop contact DMC-N Coordinator (see contacts on this bulletin, page 8) or visit http://www.dmcn.org

Workshop on the Applications of Space Technology in Disaster Risk Management, February 17-21, 2003 – International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Nairobi, KENYA. The goal of the workshop was to introduce policy makers, planners and disaster mangers to the application of space technologies in disaster risks and environmental management. For further details contact Dr. W.K. Ottichilo (ottichillo@rcmrd.org) or Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development – RCMRD (rcmrd@rcmrd.org).

WFP Contingency Planning Workshop, February 17-21, 2003 – Kampala, UGANDA: The goal of the workshop was to build capacity to develop contingency plans by providing training in the WFP planning process and tools. This workshop included nearly 60 participants largely drawn from WFP staff from the East and Central Africa region and including FEWS NET representatives. During the workshop detailed contingency plans were developed for diverse scenarios including refugee movements, drought and resettlement following peace accords. Further details are available from Richard Choularton (rchoularton@fews.net).

Trade and Food Security Working Group, February 24, 2003 – Nairobi, KENYA: This technical working group meeting was organized by the EU and FEWS NET. It brought together representatives of key donor agencies and technical staff from projects involved in linking trade to regional food security. Presentations were made on the ongoing and planned regional trade activities to exchange information, promote synergies and avoid duplication. The meeting discussed the possibility of a broad multi donor approach to a trade for food security initiative in the Greater Horn of Africa. Members of the group are working together on developing a joint position paper. Further details from John Rook (John.ROOK@cec.eu.int) or Nick Maunder (nmaunder@fews.net).

11th Climate Outlook Forum for the Greater Horn of Africa (GHACOF-11), 3- 5 March 2003 – at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel – Entebbe, UGANDA. The forum will have two components. The first two days of the forum will be devoted to a capacity building workshop for the users, which will review how the users applied the consensus climate outlook for the September to December 2002 made at GHACOF10, among other activities. This will be followed by a one-day forum that will be used to develop a consensus climate outlook for the March to May 2003 season. The theme for the forum and the users' workshop will be "Applications of climate information in Livestock, Wildlife and Tourism". The forum is expected to bring together scientists from within and outside the region involved in seasonal climate prediction, the user community and decision-makers. It will specifically discuss the potential impacts of the climate outlook on wildlife and tourism, food security, water resources, health and other socio-economic sectors as well as develop strategies to mitigate the potential impacts. Further details are available from the Drought Monitoring Centre – Nairobi **(dmcnrb@lion.meteo.go.ke).**

Contacts

Vedasto Rutachokozibwa / Nick Maunder
Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET)
E-mail: ruta@fews.net / nmaunder@fews.net

Gideon Galu / Hussein Gadain
United States Geological Survey (USGS/FEWS NET)
E-mail: ggalu@fews.net / hgadain@fews.net

Prof. Jerry Stuth
Livestock Early Warning Systems (LEWS/GLCRSP)
E-mail: jwstuth@cnrit.tamu.edu

For Feedback Contact:
E-mail: ghabulletin@fews.net

Dr Wilbur Ottichilo
Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)
E-mail: rcmrd@rcmrd.org

Mehari Tesfayohannes
Desert Locust Control Organization , Nairobi
Email: delco@insightkenya.com

Prof. Laban Ogallo
Drought Monitoring Centre – Nairobi (DMC-N)
E-mail: dmcnrb@lion.meteo.go.ke