



GREATER HORN OF AFRICA (GHA) FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN

Regional overview – Ongoing harvests improved food security in the northern GHA countries but conflict and chronic vulnerability persist

Food availability and access is improving in the northern GHA countries as new harvests add to household stocks and reach markets. With harvests commencing in October, production forecasts are looking better than last year and are near the long-term average. Forage conditions have significantly improved. Figure 1 shows food security conditions based on a consensus representation developed by FEWS NET and partners in GHA.

In **Ethiopia**, estimates of 2003/04 crop production are 14-18 percent above 2002/03 season, which was associated with severe food insecurity and massive food aid needs. In **Eritrea**, preliminary estimates indicate the 2003 cereal output to be more than 200 percent above the 2002 cereal production (the worst year since 1993).

Despite improved crop and livestock conditions, the need for relief assistance in Ethiopia and Eritrea will continue into 2004. Repeated shocks have undermined household assets and coping strategies, such as alternative income sources (from labor markets, livestock and cash crops sales). In addition, Ethiopia and Eritrea do not historically produce sufficient food to meet national needs. There is need for designing appropriate development interventions to address the root causes.

Serious pockets of drought-induced food shortages are of concern in Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania. In **Kenya**, several successive years of below normal rainfall in the Coast Province has resulted in crop failures of 50 to 100 percent and mediocre forage production. Food security assessments have identified 261,000 people requiring emergency humanitarian support between October and December. In the north rift, persistent dryness has caused declines in pasture and water, threatening the food security of pastoralists. Livestock raids in September among migrating pastoralists between Turkana District and southern Sudan caused loss of human life, livestock and access to pasture heightening food insecurity.

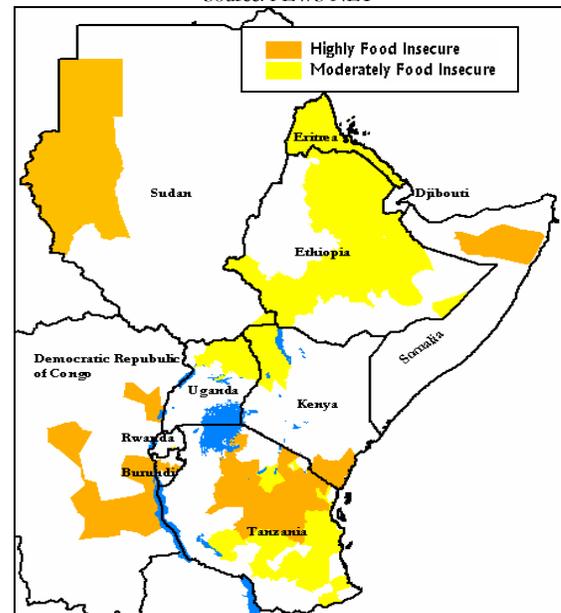
In **Somalia**, the combination of four previous years of successive rainfall failure and below normal March-June (*gu*) season rains have further undermined production, leaving households with fewer options for obtaining food and income. Multi-agency assessments in September/October led by UNDP and OCHA, estimate that 234,000-616,000 people will experience food shortages between November and June 2004. The mainly pastoral Sool Plateau is the most affected, and half of its population is severely food insecure and in need of relief interventions.

In **Tanzania**, on the back of the drought-induced below average 2002/03 crop production, and high prices constricting food access, WFP completed an Emergency Operation (EMOP) appeal in October. The EMOP was issued in response to the government's appeal to donors for US\$17 million to support 2 million people identified as requiring livelihood support between December this year and March 2004. The government pledged to complement the appeal by releasing 32,450 MT of maize from its reserve for sale at subsidized prices to targeted poor drought affected populations between September and November. The government has removed import taxes on maize and rice to encourage private traders to import cereals.

Although peace negotiations are in progress, armed confrontations intensified in September in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and northern Sudan (Greater Dufur), causing internal displacement of people and worsening food insecurity. In **Burundi**, additional food aid is needed for 110,000 new IDPs, together with previous caseloads of over half a million IDPs and 40,000-100,000 returnees from Tanzania and DRC. In **DRC**, humanitarian assistance is needed for nearly 200,000 newly identified IDPs and increasing numbers of returnees. WFP will be presenting a new two-year (2004-05) Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in October to cover food needs and support the livelihood recovery of 2.4 million people affected by armed conflict. In the Greater Dufur, relief interventions are needed for previous caseload plus additional 65,000 people estimated to have scattered in Chad along the border and 300,000 internally displaced since August. UN anticipates the number of displaced people within Dufur and Chad to increase due to continuing attacks – consequently increasing the caseload to about 600,000 people.

Figure 1: Food Security Conditions in GHA: October 2003

Source: FEWS NET



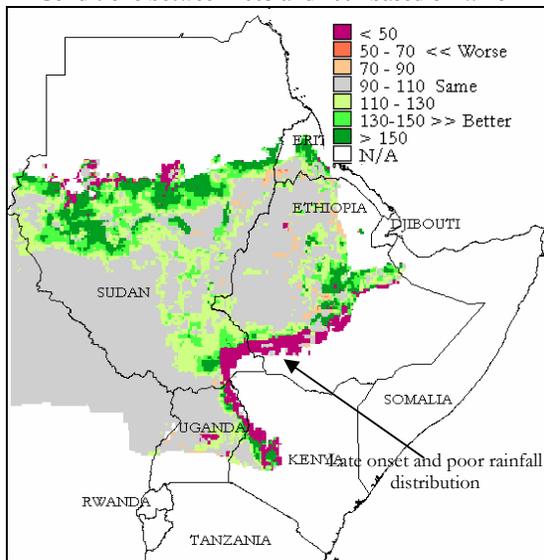
Elsewhere in the GHA, food security is improving, owing to ongoing harvests and improving terms of trade for livestock keepers. In **Uganda**, food security in the Karamojong areas of northern Uganda has been stabilized as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has moved to eastern Uganda thus enabling households to harvest first season crops as well as plant for the second season. However, the LRA movement has increased civil insecurity in eastern Uganda and is preventing access to farming activities. In **Rwanda**, food security for most people is safe through 2003. In **southern Sudan**, preliminary reports from the annual needs assessment (ANA) indicate satisfactory food security conditions except in localized chronically food insecure areas.



Generally satisfactory crop and forage conditions in most of GHA...

Figure 2 compares the satellite derived water requirement satisfaction index (WRSI) for the sorghum crop conditions between June–September 2002 and 2003. Generally, improved conditions are expected this year than last year for much of Eritrea, Ethiopia, southern Sudan and northern half of Uganda. This is consistent with the 2003 harvest estimates. However, localized areas experienced a poor rainfall season, in terms of late onset of the season and temporal distribution during the season. This adversely affected the overall crop and forage conditions, especially over southwestern Ethiopia and southern Sudan.

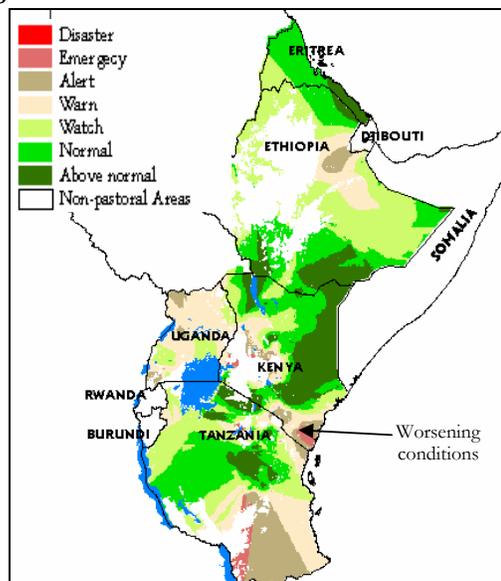
Figure 2: Comparison of June-September Sorghum Crop Conditions between 2003 and 2002 based on WRSI



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Forage conditions on the eastern Kenya and Tanzania border have moved from 'alert' to 'disaster', raising concerns. These areas have experienced three previous consecutive below average rainfall seasons. Parts of the north rift (Samburu and Marsabit Districts in Kenya) are emerging as areas of concern. Other areas requiring close monitoring are the conflict prone Karamoja Region in Uganda and a hot spot around Debre Birhan and Dira Dawa in Ethiopia, near the Djibouti border. LEWS do not cover Burundi, Djibouti, Rwanda, Somalia and Sudan.

Figure 3: Forage Status Deviation from Long-Term Mean October 20, 2003



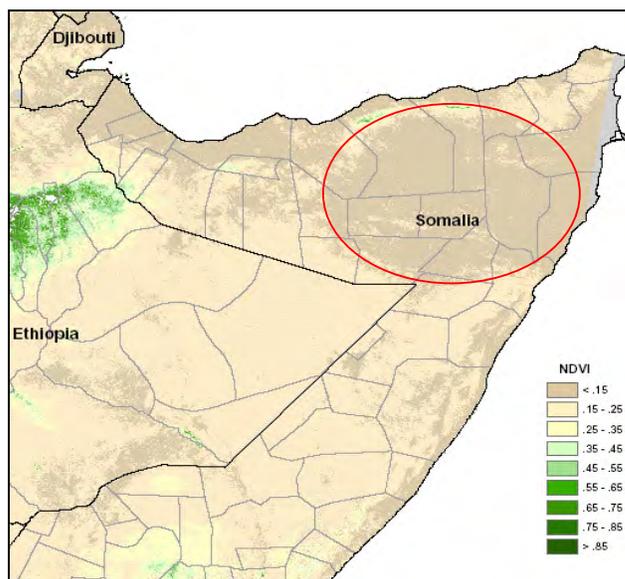
Source: LEWS / GL_CRSP

Somalia: Urgent humanitarian assistance needed in the Sool Plateau to avoid food security crisis...

The Sool Plateau has for the past several years experienced below normal rainfall leading to poor pasture development, which has gradually eroded food availability and access of most pastoralists. Figure 4 shows significantly low NDVI levels over the Sool Plateau (circled in red). The multi-agency assessments in September/October led by UNDP and OCHA, estimates that 234,000-616,000 people in Somalia will experience food shortages between November this year and June 2004. Half of this population is highly food insecure and located in the pastoral Sool Plateau.

In the Sool Plateau, the Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU) estimates the persistent drought to have led to 40-80 percent mortality amongst livestock and reduced incomes from sales of livestock and livestock products by half. Poor households are increasingly resorting to extreme coping strategies such as killing newly born or very young calves to protect their mothers from dying. Recent multi-agency nutrition surveys in the Sool Plateau found global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates of 12.5 to 20 percent (considered as serious to critical). According to the multi-agency crop and food supply assessment mission in September, pastoralists' food insecurity is worsening. Households' incomes are falling, malnutrition rising and the livelihood base has been significantly weakened. The mission recommended relief intervention to over 15,000 families (105,000 people) in the Sool Plateau between November and June 2004.

Figure 4: MODIS (250m) Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), 14 -29 Sept. 2003



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Burundi: Armed conflict intensified in September, causing more displacement...

Although peace negotiations are in progress, armed confrontation intensified in September, displacing an additional 110,000 people at the time of land preparation and planting of the September-January (2004 A) season. Thus, additional food aid is needed for these new IDPs together with the previous caseloads of IDPs (estimated at more than half a million people) and 40,000-100,000 returnees from Tanzania and DRC.

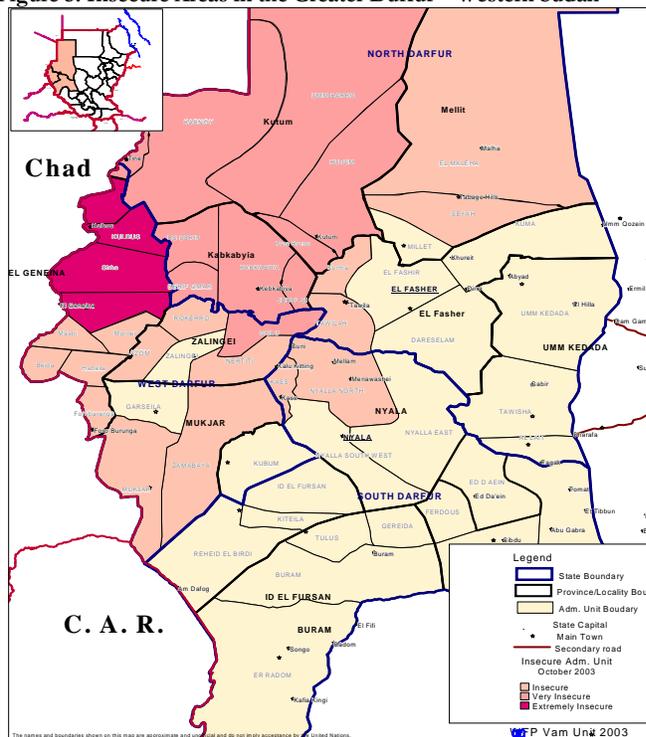
A significant population of Burundians could be vulnerable to food insecurity in 2003/04 following mediocre 2003 harvests and declining cassava production due to an outbreak of cassava mosaic disease, which has devastated the crop. Close monitoring of food security conditions is required particularly through the October 2003-January 2004 hunger period. FAO and WFP are implementing the seeds protection rations program for season 2004 A.

Sudan: Displacements from armed conflict in the Greater Dufur Region increase...

In September, the Government of Sudan (GOS) and Sudan Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/M) signed a 45-day ceasefire. However, persistent localized armed violence in the North and South Dufur states continues to displace people, denying them adequate access to food. Security conditions are becoming more tense and volatile, forcing villagers to abandon their homes and farms and take refuge into main towns of the three states of the Greater Dufur (North, South and West Dufur – see Figure 5). Other displaced people are believed to have fled to neighboring areas in Chad. Food insecurity and malnutrition are worsening among these IDPs.

Although accurate figures of displaced persons are difficult to obtain due to access restrictions, particularly in the prohibited areas, UNHCR estimates over 65,000 people from Dufur to have scattered into Chad along the border and an additional 300,000 in Dufur have been displaced since August. UN anticipates the number of displaced people within Dufur and Chad to increase due to continuing attacks – consequently increasing the caseload to about 600,000 people. Considering that the current WFP EMOP is only 50 percent supplied, additional resources are urgently needed to meet the requirements of increasing numbers of people.

Figure 5: Insecure Areas in the Greater Dufur – Western Sudan



Source: World Food Programme – VAM Unit, Kampala

Tanzania – WFP completes Emergency Operation (EMOP) for government of Tanzania (GoT) appeal of \$17 million for humanitarian assistance to drought victims...

In October 2003, WFP completed an EMOP on behalf of GoT, appealing to donors for US\$ 17 million for livelihood support of 2 million severely drought-affected people for the period between December and March. The relief assistance in the form of “Food for Farming” includes 45,000 MT of food and 3,200 MT of emergency seed, and will be used, in part, to address the effects of drought compounded by HIV/AIDS pandemic. According to WFP, the HIV/AIDS prevalence among adults in Tanzania stands at 12 percent, with more than 800,000 children orphaned by the pandemic.

In August 2003, GoT pledged to complement the appeal by releasing 32,450 MT of maize from its reserves to sell at subsidized rates to targeted poor drought victims between September and November. Already October retail maize prices in rural markets in food deficit areas around Lake Victoria are 100-150 percent higher than in October last year.

In September, the government released 7,215 MT of maize and is preparing to release additional 10,000 MT. The additional release is needed to preserve the livelihood base of the affected people.

The government also removed import taxes on maize and rice to encourage private traders to import cereals to offset part of the estimated 350,000 MT food deficit during the 2003/04 market year. However, traders’ response has remained slow, and less than 10 percent of these commodities have been imported into the country.

Unless these measures are implemented, food insecurity in areas with serious food shortages could worsen. Harvests from the short rains (*mbili*) season are not expected until February/March 2004 and this assumes normal performance of the short rains season. Food crop prices are rising sharply while livestock prices tumbling, against the normal trend.

Food shortages around Lake Victoria regions are further compounded by declining production from the cassava crop due to the attack by the Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD), Uganda Variant. Cassava is a second staple to maize in Tanzania, particularly for households in Lake Victoria regions.

Ethiopia: This year's harvests better than last year but pockets of food insecurity persist

Food security continues to improve in most of Ethiopia resulting from adequate relief distributions, favorable harvest prospects from the 2003/04 June-September (*meher*) season and improved availability of pasture and water. Retail cereal prices have stabilized between August and September in most markets but they are still above the 1995-2002 averages. Preliminary estimates of the *meher* season indicate a cereal harvest of 8.4-8.7 million metric tons (MMT). These figures are one to five percent below the five-year (1997/98-2001/02) average, but a significant 14-18 percent increase from 2002/03, which culminated in a severe food security crisis and massive food aid needs. However, the need for humanitarian interventions will likely continue in the drier southwestern areas of the country where production for the past 2-3 years has been poor.

Although the production will not meet national food requirements for 2004, food aid needs, particularly in the eastern areas of the country, could decrease by as much as 25 percent compared to 2003. The crop and food supply assessments in October/November will indicate more precise relief requirements for 2004.

Kenya: Poor food security for farmers in Coast Province and pastoralists in the north rift

Several successive years of poor rainfall in the Coast Province has resulted in 50-100 percent of crop failure and mediocre forage production. Similarly, incomes from other sources such as tourism have declined in the last few years due security threats on the coastal areas. These conditions have undermined people's access to food and income. Food security assessments have identified 261,000 people requiring emergency relief between October and December. In the north rift, persistent dryness has caused declines in pasture and water, consequently reducing food availability to pastoralists. The delayed onset of the anticipated 2003/04 short-rains season beginning October could exacerbate food insecurity in these areas. Livestock raids in September among migrating pastoralists between the north rift (Turkana District) and southern Sudan caused loss of human life and livestock.

By contrast, estimates of maize harvests from the 2003 long-rains were revised upwards by 10 percent, from 2.0 MMT to 2.2 MMT, due to favorable July-September rains in the Rift Valley and Western Kenya, key production areas. Ongoing harvests plus imports from South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda between July and September have dampened maize prices in most markets.

WFP and the government of Kenya (GoK) launched a project to reduce the food insecurity of households affected by HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, WFP, GoK and UNHCR introduced a Food for Asset project to communities hosting refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab to compliment WFP's PRRO.

Market and trade update – food flows and prices are mixed in GHA countries...

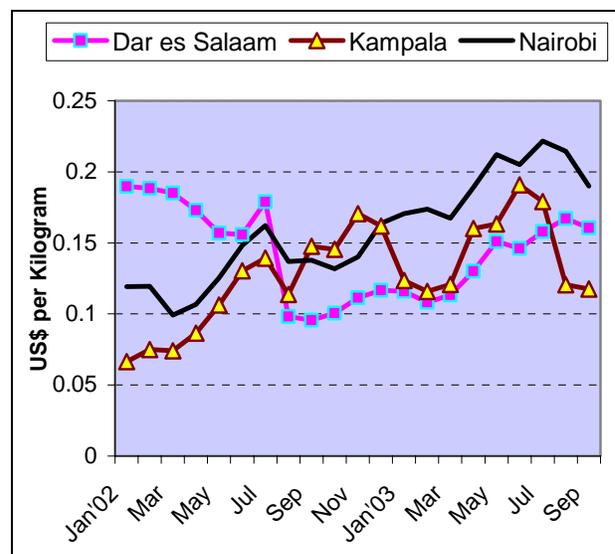
Increasing food deficits in central, northern and Lake Victoria regions of Tanzania and the consequent rise in maize prices are attracting cross border flows of maize from Kenya. Flows from Kenya to Tanzania are anticipated to increase as harvests from the neighboring Rift Valley and Western Kenya, key production areas, begin in October. The southern highlands regions in Tanzania are expected to remain the main sources of maize to the big market in Dar es Salaam and other deficit regions in central and eastern Tanzania. On the other hand, small quantities of maize are flowing from Malawi into southwestern Tanzania (Ileje and Kyela districts) attracted by higher prices offered in Tanzania. Exports of beans from Rwanda and Uganda to Kenya are anticipated to continue through 2003.

Maize prices in the three major markets in East Africa (Dar es Salaam, Nairobi and Kampala) show a mixed trend (Figure 6). Between August and September, the supply of new harvests to markets brought maize prices down by 4 percent in Dar es Salaam, by 3 percent in Kampala and by 11 percent in Nairobi. However, compared to September 2002, this year's prices are September 2003 maize prices were higher by 68 percent higher in Dar es Salaam, 39 percent higher in Nairobi. By contrast, maize prices in Kampala were 20 percent lower.

Declining prices in Kampala and Nairobi between August and September are partly attributed to increased supplies to markets following harvests in Kenya and Uganda. In Dar es Salaam, the lower

prices could be due to increased supplies following reduced outflows of maize from Tanzania to Kenya. In Kenya and Tanzania, reduced harvests this year have influenced the fact that prices are higher this September compared to last year. Successive years of good production in Uganda have kept prices of maize low. For more trade information, refer to www.ratin.net.

Figure 5: Wholesale Maize Prices in the Capital Cities of East Africa



Source of Data: Market Information Systems, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Plans to incorporate AFRICOVER data in GHA Food Security Bulletin in progress...

Appropriate methods of aggregating cropping zones for each country of the Greater Horn of Africa are being discussed with the AFRICOVER technical experts. It is anticipated that the AFRICOVER data will provide useful baseline data upon which food production analyses can be carried out. The idea to use AFRICOVER data as baseline data is due to changes in land cover information resulting from continuous human activities on the land.

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This bulletin draws from the FEWS NET regular monthly reports, with additional contributions from network partners whose names and logos appear at the bottom of the first page. Please consult <http://www.fews.net> for in depth analysis of the countries where FEWS NET has a national representative: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Southern Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda