



# GREATER HORN OF AFRICA (GHA) FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN

## Widespread rains in December improve agro-climatic conditions in the equatorial and southern sector of the GHA ...

### Summary

Major food security concerns persist in the north of the GHA region. Prolonged drought, in conjunction with chronic poverty and economic shocks, has left massive numbers of Ethiopians, Eritreans and Sudanese in need of relief interventions at the start of 2003. With the level of pledges still falling well below assessed needs, fears continue that the current food security crisis could deteriorate further into famine.

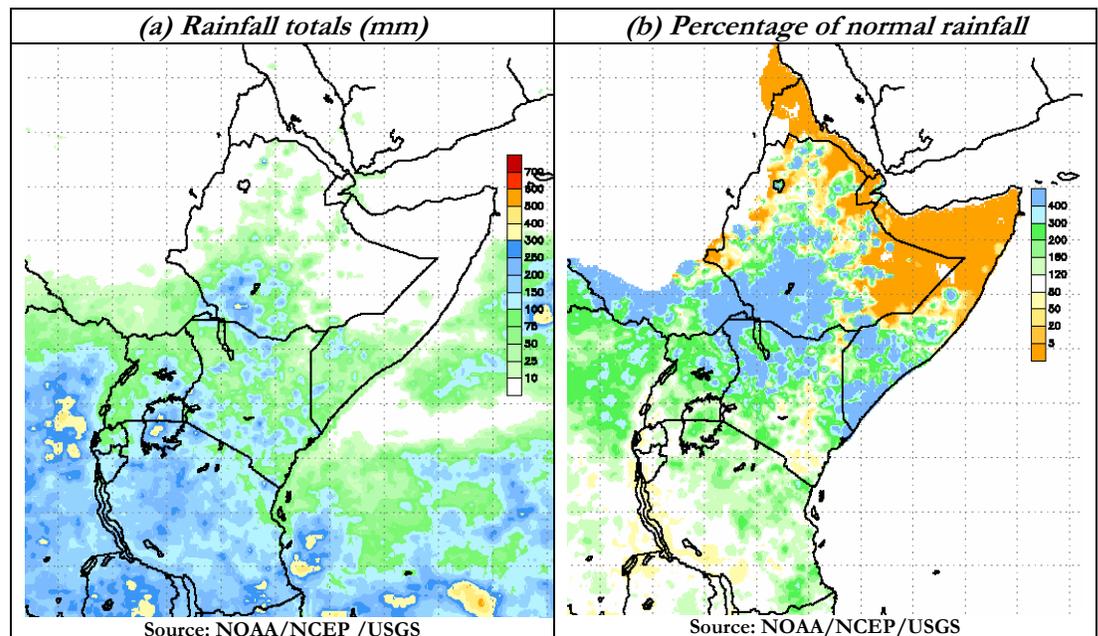
In contrast, generally favourable agro-climatic conditions occurred over the equatorial and southern sector of the GHA following widespread rains in the month of December.

The current moderate El-Nino event is expected to continue through to March this year before it begins to weaken significantly. Therefore, prospects are good for agricultural production in many marginal agricultural areas.

However, persistent rains may also result in isolated cases of flooding as witnessed in some flood prone areas, together with an enhanced risk of pests and malaria outbreaks.

As normally expected at this time of year, the rains are withdrawing from the northern parts of the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) and moving southwards. This withdrawal has been earlier than normally expected and drier than normal conditions were reported for the tail-end of the season over Eritrea, parts of northern and eastern Ethiopia together with central and northern Somalia. In some areas rainfall amounts were less than 5 percent of normal (Figure 1). The prolonged drought conditions in Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan has continued to raise serious food security concerns and the rainfall patterns in December have not relieved the situation. More details on the food security implications are given in the country reports in this bulletin.

Figure 1: Rainfall Performance over the GHA region in December, 2002.



This situation in the rest of the region is in marked contrast to the north of the region. During the month of December there were widespread reports of light to heavy rainfall over much of the GHA. The rains were especially intense over parts of south western Ethiopia, western, central and southern Kenya and in central and southern Tanzania. The monthly rainfall exceeded 200mm in some areas, as shown in Figure 1 (a). This was well above the average rainfall amounts for this period. Figure 1(b), presents the December rainfall in the GHA as percentage of the long-term averages. Large areas of south eastern Sudan also received light rains in December, where normally the dry season is expected to have commenced in December.

Consequently there is a general improvement in the food security outlook for much of the central and southern areas of the GHA. Further details, by Country, can be found inside this bulletin.

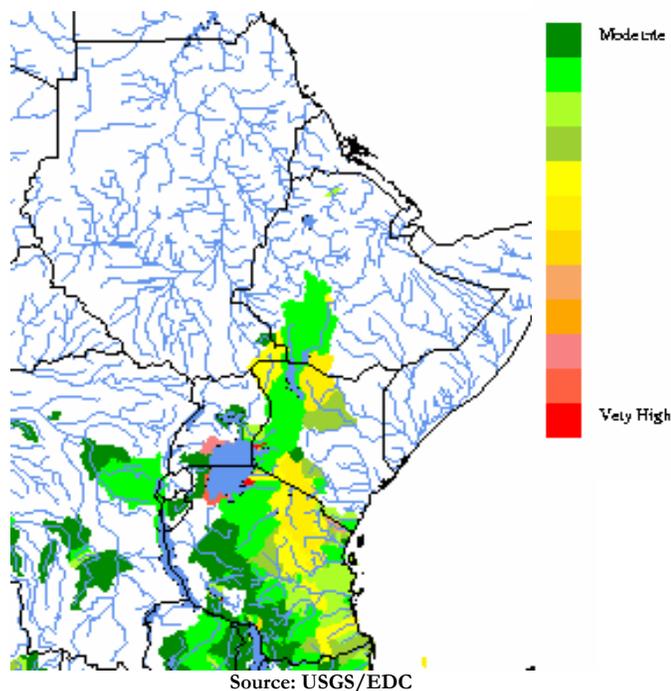


# Regional Overview (GHA) – Factors Affecting Food Availability and Access

## Agro-climatic Conditions

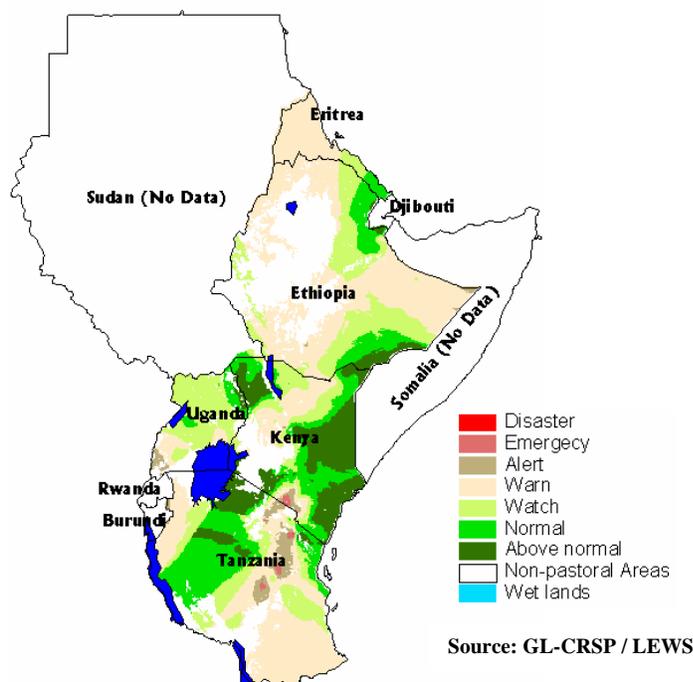
The seasonal rains were generally very beneficial to the “short-rains” growing areas in the central and southern areas of the GHA. However, there were also isolated cases of persistent heavy rains that resulted into flooding and potential crop losses. The areas that were significantly affected by flooding were the Lake Victoria and upper Tana river (eastern Kenya) basins. Figure 2, shows water basins that were at various levels of flooding risk. Meanwhile, the cyclone that made a landfall in northeastern Mozambique, also brought heavy rainfall over southern Tanzania and there is an enhanced risk of flooding if these rains persist in the coming weeks.

Figure 2: Basin Excessive Rainfall Map - Dec. 21 – 31, 2002



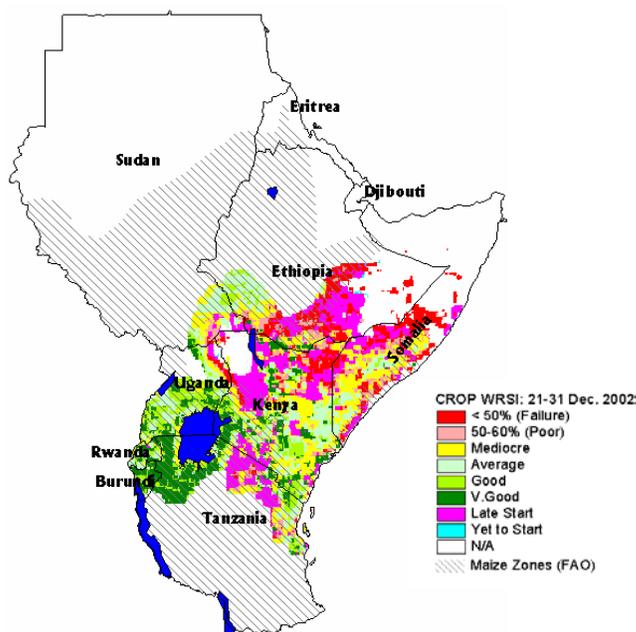
As a result of the December rains, pasture conditions and water availability improved significantly in many of the pastoral areas. The forage monitoring provided by the Livestock Early Warning Systems (LEWS), which is an indicator of available forage, confirms the improvement in eastern and south eastern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya and western Tanzania. However, as shown in Figure 3, there is still concern over locations with poorer than normal forage conditions in pastoral areas of the Somali region of Ethiopia, parts of northern and southern Kenya and northern and central Tanzania. The latter areas are expected to improve with the on-going rains. The LEWS product does not extend into Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda and Burundi. Nonetheless, there are good indications from NDVI imagery that the situation in Rwanda, Burundi and southern Sudan is generally satisfactory.

Figure 3: Forage Deviation – Dec. 21-31, 2002



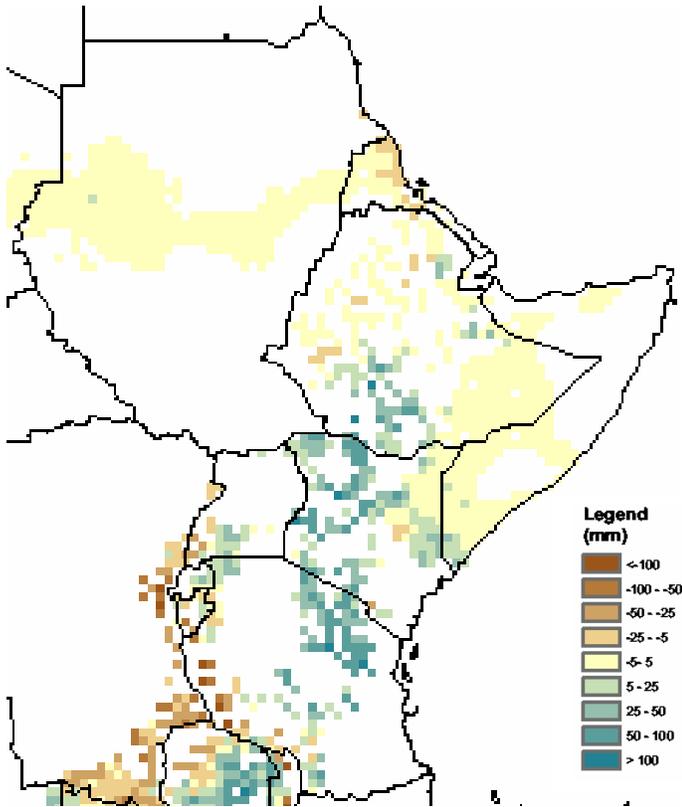
Field reports indicate favorable crop conditions for much of the “short-rains” planting regions. The latest Water Requirement Satisfaction Index product (WRSI) confirmed this situation. Figure 4, shows average to better than average crop conditions in much of the maize growing areas. However, persistent rains may affect the bean crop, which is in the flowering stages in parts of central and southeastern Kenya. In Rwanda, there is a significant improvement in the available moisture for crop growth in December. However, the late onset of the season and delayed planting may still result in crop production losses.

Figure 4: Maize Crop conditions (WRSI) - Dec. 21 – 31, 2002



The pattern of rainfall in December has also led to the increased potential for malaria outbreaks in some areas. Figure 5, shows an increased possibility of malaria incidences over southern, central, northeastern and southern Kenya. Other areas that may be affected are parts of northern Tanzania (around the Mt. Kilimanjaro areas), extreme southern Somalia, southern Ethiopia, eastern Rwanda and southern Uganda.

**Figure 5: Rainfall anomalies in zones with malaria epidemic potential Dec. 21 – 31, 2002**



Source: NOAA/CPC/USGS

The malaria map in Figure 5 is still experimental and is available through the Africa Data Dissemination Service (<http://edcm2ks21.cr.usgs.gov/adds/>) website supported by USAID/FEWS NET. The map provides a simple indicator of changes in malaria risk in marginal transmission areas based solely on rainfall. These malaria maps have been tested against laboratory-confirmed malaria incidence figures in Botswana where they showed a strong correlation. Their use and validation elsewhere is encouraged.

**Crop Pests: Report of Desert Locusts and Other Migratory Pests for November - December 2002**

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



There were isolated reports of mature locust adults, up to 16 locusts/ha, reported in the Tokar Delta of Sudan and at two other locations along the coastal plains between Tokar Delta and Suakin during the end of November. Forecasts anticipate small-scale breeding to occur in areas of good rainfall on the Red Sea coastal plains from Karora to port Sudan including the Tokar Delta and in Wad Oko/Diib in Sudan. However, this slight increase is not threatening and is under surveillance.

An estimated 8.1 million quelea quelea birds have reported in Nyanza Province and Kajiado District of Kenya. DLCO have already taken action of containing this situation through aerial spraying of invested areas.

Of current concern is the sighting of armyworms in Same district (Kilimanjaro Region in Tanzania) with over 3500ha of grassland affected. Armyworms were also reported in the neighboring Taita/Taveta district in Kenya with a density of 24 larvae per square meter. Army worms are especially destructive to young crops and grassland and this will necessitate careful watch and possible mitigation measures.

Consult [dlc@telecom.net.et](mailto:dlc@telecom.net.et) or [delco@insightkenya.com](mailto:delco@insightkenya.com) for further information.

The Food Agriculture Organization also monitors and provides updates on the desert locust locations and forecasts. Figure 6. is a map showing the current location of desert locusts in Africa and the neighboring region.

**Figure 6: Latest Desert Locust Situation (December 2002)**



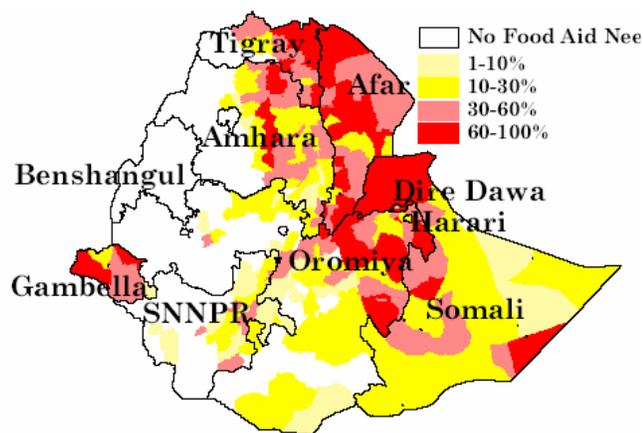
Source: FAO/Desert Locust Information System

# Food Security Conditions by Country

## Ethiopia

The effects of drought, exacerbated by chronic food insecurity, threaten the lives of millions of Ethiopians in 2003. According to the joint Government of Ethiopia-United Nations (GoE/UN) Appeal, launched on 7 December 2002, Ethiopia will need 1.44 million MT of food assistance to feed 11.3 million people facing severe food shortages in 2003 (Figure 7). Of this, nearly 411,000 MT is required during the first quarter alone, which emphasizes the need for immediate and substantial donor response. The appeal identified an additional 3 million people at risk of significant food shortages who will need close monitoring. The joint Appeal also calls for coordinated non-food donor assistance in the areas of health, water, veterinary and emergency seed interventions at an estimated cost of US \$75 million.

Figure 7: Food Aid Needs in 2003 by District – Percentage of Population in Need



Source: Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC)

The report of the FAO/WFP Crop And Food Supply Assessment Mission to Ethiopia was issued on the 30 December 2002. This confirmed the scale of the crop failure -- the national cereal and pulse production is forecast at 9.27 million MT, 25 percent and 21 percent down from 2001 and the average of the previous 5 years respectively. The major reason for the reported production decline is the late, poorly distributed and early cessation of seasonal rains. Reduced use of improved seed and fertilizer also contributed to the decline. The decline is much more significant in the drought-prone eastern half of the country where production shortfalls are as high as 81 percent from last year.

Consequently, the cereal import requirement in 2003 is estimated at 2.29 million MT of which 328,000 MT are anticipated to be imported commercially. Confirmed food aid commitments in the pipeline stand at about 140,000 MT, leaving an uncovered gap of about 1.83 million MT.

Significant livestock deaths, poor performance of cash crops, such as, coffee and chat (a mild stimulant) and limited employment opportunities have further exacerbated the

food crisis in several areas. Coping strategies in many areas are stretched to their limit and there are already signs that they are failing: with high malnutrition rates, increased migration to urban areas in search of employment and begging on streets; and increased consumption of wild “famine” foods that are sometimes toxic if not prepared properly.

The next rains are not expected until March in the mainly pastoral Afar Region and northern parts of Somali Region (Shinile Zone). Massive and earlier than normal movement of livestock to distant water and grazing areas is already being reported in the drought hit Shinile Zone and parts of the Afar region. Here, there is an increased likelihood of conflict over scarce pasture and water resources, disease outbreak and death of livestock.

## Eritrea

The food crisis in Eritrea continues to deepen at the start of 2003. Following three years of drought conditions, Eritrea registered the worst rainfall in 2002 of the past fifteen years. In the face of the very poor performance of the short (*azmera*) and long (*kremiti*) rains, cereal production has fallen to 54,400 MT (as estimated by the WFP/FAO assessment), more than 70 percent below the recent 10 year average (191,900 MT) and the lowest since independence in 1993. Eritrea faces an uncovered cereal deficit of up to 300,000 MT this year. Rural household access to food is likely to deteriorate sharply in the coming months. Cereals are already in short supply in some remote rural areas, compounded by the border closures with Ethiopia and, more recently, with Sudan that hamper informal imports. The current harvest will be exhausted early in 2003 while the value of livestock, weakened by shortage of water and fodder, is expected to fall further with increased distress sales. Supplies of drinking water for human consumption could reach critically low levels early this year.

Table 1: Vulnerable Groups at the end of 2001 and 2002 and Targeted Groups in 2003

Vulnerable Groups	End of 2001	End of 2002	2003 Estimated
Drought-affected	524,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
Eritrean IDPs	73,749	58,180	58,180
Returned Refugees	83,991	103,000	165,000
Returned IDPs	170,000	185,569	185,569
Foreign Refugees in Eritrea	1,922	3,058	3,058
Eritreans expelled from other countries	13,694	16,811	16,811
Soldiers to be demobilized	200,000	195,000	195,000
Urban vulnerable	213,000	213,000	283,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,280,356</b>	<b>2,174,618</b>	<b>2,306,618</b>

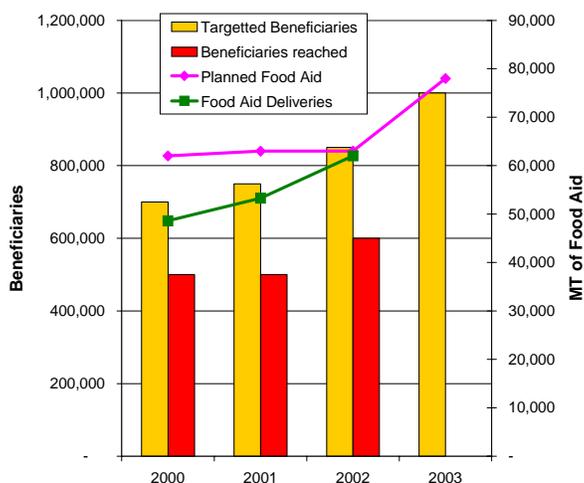
Source: UN Consolidated Appeal for Eritrea for 2003, pp. 4, 8, (adjusted for soldiers to be demobilized in 2003).

Female-headed households, children and agro-pastoralists are particularly vulnerable. According to the latest surveys, 15-20 percent of children under 5 years (at least 88,000 children) are currently malnourished and 10,000 are severely malnourished, requiring immediate nutritional support. The Government's appeal and the UN's Consolidated Appeal released on November 19<sup>th</sup> estimated the drought-affected population at 1.4 million people of a total population of 3.34 million. An additional 910,000 people are targeted for assistance, comprising internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, soldiers to be demobilized and vulnerable urban dwellers (see Table 1). The Government of the State of Eritrea (GSE) appealed for 477,000 MT of food aid for 2003, of which 290,000 MT is for the drought-affected population.

## Sudan

The final Annual Needs Assessment (ANA) food security projections for 2003 estimate a requirement of 78,000 MT of food aid in southern Sudan. This is an increase of about 24 percent of food requirements compared to the 63,000 MT projected for 2002. Priority areas for food aid are the highly food insecure regions of Upper Nile and Jonglei (Bieh, Latjor, Liech, Pibor, and Ruweng), Bahr El Gazal (Aweil West and Gogrial) and pockets of East Equatorial (Torit). These areas will require food aid until the next harvest in September.

**Figure 8: Food Aid Needs by Region in southern Sudan 2000 to 2003, MT of Food**



Source: WFP Technical Support Unit

There has been a steady increase in the total population targeted with food aid between 1999 and 2003 (see Figure 8), with a similar but less pronounced increase in quantities of total food aid required. The most significant increases have been Upper Nile and Jonglei Regions primarily due to conflict and insecurity and several poor harvests affecting the whole region.

As of mid December 2002, WFP anticipated sufficient food stocks to respond to immediate post harvest food needs until end of March 2003. The target population is expected to increase in January when the harvest from these areas is completely exhausted.

Poor links between surplus producing and deficit areas are a continuing food security problem. Currently, food surpluses exist in Western Equatoria areas of Yambio, Maridi and Tambura and additional food production is expected when the second season harvest is concluded in January 2003. However, this food is inaccessible to households in food insecure areas of Lakes and Bahr El Gazal.

Based on the ANA findings, FAO has estimated that 117,000 households will require 1,800 MT of seeds in the 2003 planting season. Sorghum, maize and groundnuts are the priority. The largest amount of seed will be required in Upper Nile and Bahr El Ghazal Regions.

## Somalia

The *deyr* rains in southern Somalia have been exceptionally good this season in both occurrence and distribution. While the *deyr* season normally produces only 25-30 percent of the total annual production, it is potentially very significant in alleviating food insecurity in Gedo, Hiran and Bakol regions.

Excellent crop establishment is reported in both the Shabelle and Juba valleys, and this has reduced the requirement for river irrigation. Rainfed dependent sorghum production in the Bay and Bakool Districts is also very encouraging. However, the generally good prospects at this stage are tempered to some degree by concerns over possible pest outbreaks (especially armyworms), uncertainty over the area planted (due to poor maize prices last year and high land preparation costs this year) and fears of possible flood damage later in the season.

There are early reports that livestock from drought affected areas of Ethiopia (specifically Shinille) are congregating on the Somaliland border in search of pasture and water. Ethiopians have also been reported in Hargeisa, Mogadishu and Bosasso seeking employment. As a large scale food response is mounted in Ethiopia there are fears that surplus relief food may appear in Somali markets, reducing prices and undermining producer incentives. This requires careful monitoring.

## Kenya

Food security prospects have improved significantly across the country's during December, although localized exceptions of food insecurity have persisted. Initial fears of yet another poor season, after erratic November rains, have been allayed by generally heavy rainfall in December.

Pastoralists in particular have experienced significant improvements - surface and sub-surface water sources have recharged, while pasture and browse have regenerated markedly during December. Body conditions of livestock have improved and birth rates increased - resulting in increased milk availability, which have reduced rates of child malnutrition. Livestock prices have also increased, signaling the intention to rebuild herds. Notable exceptions where agro-climatic and food security conditions are less favorable include most of Baringo, West Pokot, and parts of Marsabit, Mandera and Turkana Districts.

Near normal 2002/03 short-rains maize output is now expected following the favorable rains during December. This compensated for a delayed onset and an extended dry spell in key areas earlier in the season. The MoALD anticipates that 450,000 MT of maize, will be harvested during the 2002/03 short-rains season, closely to the normal short-rains maize output. Although the short-rains season contributes only 15 percent of the normal annual national maize output of 2.63 million MT, it is the major season for over 3 million Kenyans residing in the drought-prone marginal agricultural districts of Eastern and, parts of, Coast Provinces. National maize availability is to be expected to adequate at least through June 2003.

Maize prices have also remained fairly stable in key reference markets during the month, but are expected to decline as long-rains harvesting is concluded in key districts, and as the 2002/03 short-rains harvesting begins in February. However, bean production has been severely affected by a combination of excessive rainfall and sustained dryness during the critical crop growing stages. Only 117,000 MT of beans are forecast to be harvested, compared to the normally expected 180,000 MT. However, significant bean production deficits are expected to be compensated for by cross border imports.

The current favorable agro-climatic conditions are continuing to support the slow recovery process, particularly among the severely drought-affected pastoral households.

The Fund for Disaster Preparedness, a joint WFP/Office of the President project, which aims to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters through the creation of community assets in the ASALs has been launched in Isiolo, Turkana and Mandera districts. District Project Review Committees (DPRC) have been formed in each district. The next phase will include Wajir, Marsabit and Garissa Districts.

## Tanzania

The overall national food security situation has remained satisfactory through December. Farmers in most of the one-season (unimodal) areas had considerable stocks of grain as well as root crops in their fields while those in the bimodal areas begun harvesting the short rains (*mbi*) crops. Food prices between October and December 2002 were stable in most urban markets, and generally lower than five-year (1997-2001) averages. However, maize prices were higher than average in the southern highlands mainly due to heavy demand from southern Africa countries, with which the southern highlands is an active trading partner.

The report of the Food Security Information Team (FSIT) on the needs assessment in 15 of the 22 districts identified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to be experiencing food shortages during the 2002-03 marketing year, was submitted to the government of Tanzania in December. The report estimated that 177,000 people in nine districts - seven in northern Tanzania (Korogwe, Lushoto, Monduli, Muheza, Mwanga, Same and Simanjiro) and two in the southern coast (Liwale and Masasi);

will experience food shortages between January and April 2003. The report recommended subsidized maize sales to the affected population and free seed distributions (sorghum, peas, maize and beans) to 33,700 households in the seven districts of Northern Tanzania and Magu District (in the Lake Victoria Basin), for planting during the next long rains (*masika*) season in March 2003.

## Rwanda

For most of Rwanda, the 2002/03 season rainfall has so far been moderate but sufficient for a good crop development, and near normal production is anticipated in mid January. However, parts of the central and southern areas of the country experienced a delay of more than one month in the start of the season, followed by below-normal rainfall in December. These conditions have caused reductions in the acreage of bean and sweet potato cultivation. The planted crops are at very young stages compared to normal. Consequently, the short dry season (normally expected around mid-January) may arrive at a time when beans are still at flowering and pod filling stages, which could significantly reduce yields. An extension of the period of the rains is required to compensate for the late start to the season.

A rapid joint assessment mission by the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, WFP and FEWS NET was conducted in the first week of December in the central and southern provinces of Gitarama, Butare and Kigali Rural to assess the impact of rainfall on food security in these areas. Key informants also provided updated information about the situation in the western provinces of Kibuye and Gisenyi. Based on the findings of the mission and the additional information from key informants, FEWS NET Rwanda estimates that between 57,000 and 86,000 people could require food assistance between December and the end of the season in February. However, these figures are lower than estimates made in previous years.

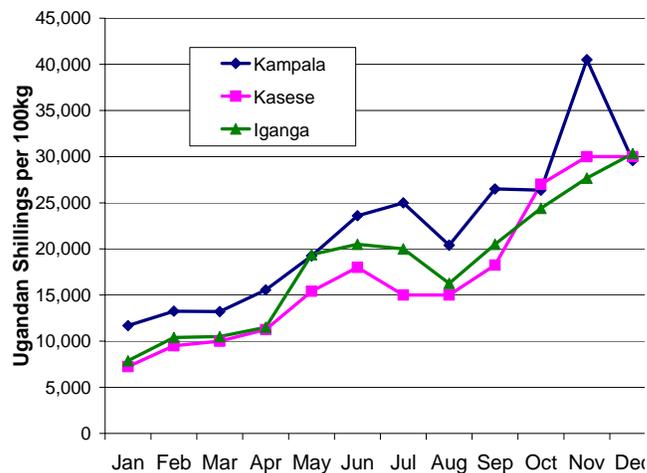
WFP indicated that they have sufficient resources for this vulnerable population, provided that their number does not significantly increase due to, for example, unfavorable rainfall conditions during the remainder of the season. So far, no signs of severe food security crisis have been noted because households are successfully using various coping strategies.

## Uganda

The major food security concerns continue to be in northern Uganda. According to a November 2002 World Food Program assessment report of Kotido, Moroto and Nakapiripirit Districts, 2002 harvests from the north eastern region's single season were below normal. On average, WFP predicts that crop stocks may not last more than two to three months from the harvest in November. Coping strategies being reported include the sale of livestock to purchase grain, the consumption of wild foods and a reduction in the frequency of meals. Milk production has also increased following the unseasonal November rains that regenerated pastures and water. Nonetheless, with the next crop harvest not expected until between July and September 2003, this region requires close monitoring and possibly even food assistance, if it is determined that alternative sources of food are insufficient to meet household food needs.

In the central and southern areas of Uganda a two months delay to the start to second season rains delayed crop sowing until October 2002. Further, a marked reduction in the rains during critical development stages in November negatively affected maize, millet and sorghum crops. Estimates indicate losses in maize production of about forty or fifty percent. This will reduce both household food security and farmers' income and trade export opportunities since maize is more of a cash crop than a food crop. Lower than normal millet and sorghum production, major staple crops in eastern, northern and southwestern Uganda, will reduce households' food stocks and increase the risk to food insecurity by the second quarter of 2003, especially in southwestern areas where the second season is the major season. (The second is a minor season in eastern Uganda). However, alternative crops, including matooke, Irish and sweet potatoes, and cassava will help households buffer the effects of reduced cereal availability.

Figure 9: Nominal Wholesale Maize Prices in selected markets in Uganda: 2002



Source: Market Information, Kampala

Figure 9 shows wholesale crop price trends since January 2002. Wholesale maize prices started at a record low, averaging under US\$ 9,000 per 100-kilogram bag. The record low prices were the result of above normal maize harvests in both seasons of 2001. Currently, maize prices range between US\$ 25,000 (US\$13.89) in major maize production areas and 40,000/= (US\$22.22) per 100 kilogram bag in Kampala, the country's main trade center. Price rises are attributed in part to the poor maize production this year and in part to increased demand for maize to meet relief requirements within the country and region.

## El Niño Update

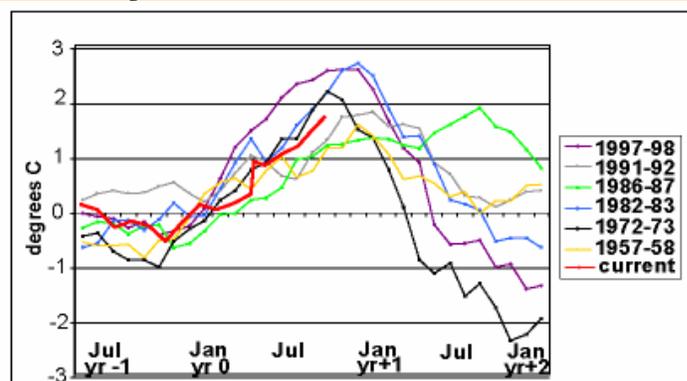
Climate prediction models indicate that current moderate El-Niño event is at its mature stage and is expected to persist January - March 2003 before it significantly weakens.

Historically, El-Niño or La Nina events tend to develop during April - June and reach their maximum intensity during the December - February. This seems to be the trend for the current El Niño, as indicated in Figure 10, which compares the current and the previous El - Niño events.

. <http://iri.ldeo.columbia.edu>

A qualitative review the Drought Monitoring Centre of Nairobi (DMC-N) forecast for period November - December 2002, indicates that forecast situation normal of above normal rainfall amounts has been realized in most parts of EA coastal strip, the areas surrounding the Lake Victoria basin and southern Tanzania. DMC-N is presently closely monitoring this situation and will issue an update later this month.

Figure 10: Current vs. Previous El-Niño events



Source: IRI for Climate Prediction (updated 17.Dec. 2002)

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