*OCTOBER 31, 2002 – ISSUE NO. 6*

# GREATER HORN OF AFRICA (GHA) FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN

## The 2002 June-September Rainfall Season Ended Poorly in much of the Northern GHA…


### Summary

**The poor June-September rains in the northern sector of the GHA have increased food insecurity in Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan. Appleals for relief food have already been made by Ethiopia and Eritrea.**

**While ongoing harvests have consolidated food availability and access in many areas, civil insecurity continues to threaten food security in localized areas of several countries in the region.**

**WFP emergency operations are expected to increase in 2003 to cater for rising food insecure populations in the region.**

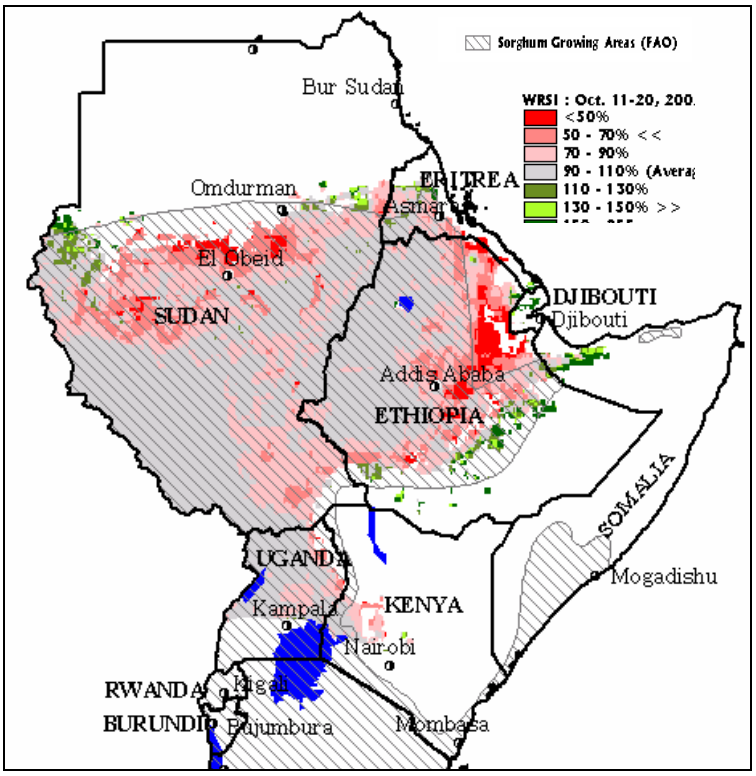
**No occurrences of desert locusts were reported in the region during September. Minor outbreaks of grasshoppers and armyworms in localized areas were controlled on the ground.**

**The key indicators for the El Niño development, depict above-normal warming of Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the equatorial Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean. However, the potential impact of the 2002 remains weak.**

**The DMC-N has updated the climate outlook forecast for October-December with increased probability of wetter than normal conditions over the East African coastal strip and parts of the southeastern lowlnds of Kenya.**


The southward shift of the rainbelt marks the end of the main June-September rainfall season over the northern sector of the Greater Horn of Africa. Below average and poorly distributed rains resulted in below average crop and fodder production. Affected areas include the agricultural areas of Eritrea, the eastern Ethiopian Highlands and central and southeastern Sudan,. The sorghum crop performance indicator map in Figure 1, derived from the Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI) product, estimates substantial sorghum production losses -- areas with less than 50 percent of the normal yield are shaded in dark red. These conditions have been confirmed by field reports. Early estimates anticipate substantial declines in the 2002 cereal crop production in Eritrea and Ethiopia. The crop forecasts for Sudan have not yet been completed.

**Figure 1: Sorghum crop performance anomalies for the June-September 2002 Season**




Source: USGS EROS Data Center / FEWS NET

Consequently, mitigation measures are being developed to alleviate the impending food shortages and food insecurity. Appleals for relief food have already been made by Ethiopia and Eritrea.

In contrast, the southwards movement of the seasonal rains marks the onset of October-December short rains season in the equatorial sector. The DMC-N updated climate outlook forecast for this period, still anticipates enhanced probabilities of near normal rainfall. However, there are increased probabilities of above-normal rainfall over the East African coastal strip and parts of the southeastern lowlnds of Kenya.

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

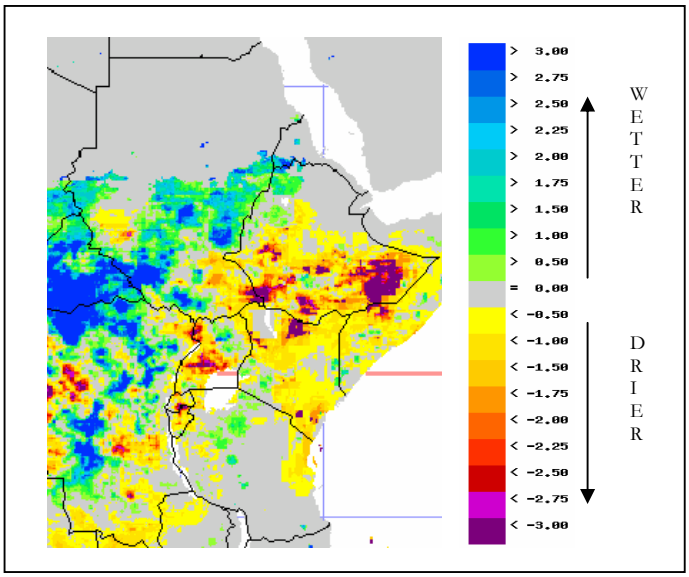
# Regional Overview (GHA) – Factors Affecting Food Availability and Access

## Agro-climatic Conditions

The October 11-20 dekad was marked by significant rainfall deficits over southern Ethiopia as well as southeastern Sudan and parts of northern Kenya. Wetter than normal conditions are depicted in southwestern and central Sudan as well as northwestern Ethiopia and southwestern Eritrea (Figure 2).

Figure 2, is a Standardized Precipitation Index SPI) image, which compares the 10-day accumulation with a theoretical distribution derived from the Collaborative Historical African Rainfall Model (CHARM) database. According to the legend, Standardized Precipitation Index values greater than zero indicates that the modeled rains from the rainfall estimates (RFE) are wetter than normal for those 10 days (when compared to the CHARM for the identical 10 days), while negative SPI values indicate drier than normal conditions for the 10 days. A larger absolute value (that is, a greater positive value, or a less negative value) indicates a more extreme event over the 10 day period.

**Figure 2: Standardized Precipitation Index for October 11-20, 2002**




Source: USGS/UCSB

The general vegetation conditions in the region is significantly below-normal over parts of central and southwestern Ethiopia, southeastern Sudan, northeastern and Central Uganda and western Kenya. These conditions have been caused by the poorer than normal rainfall performance during the June–September period. Currently, much of the region appears to have near-normal vegetation conditions with some pockets of greener than normal vegetation conditions in central Somalia stretching into the Kenyan coastal zone following moderate to heavy rainfall early this month (Figure 3).

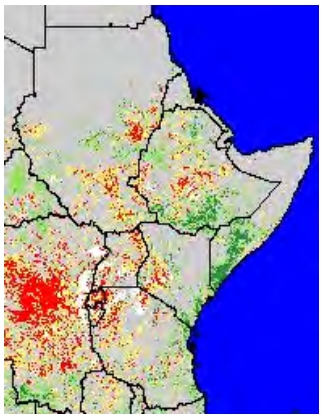


**Figure 3: Vegetation anomalies for 11-20 October 2002**

**Well Below Normal**
**Slightly Below Normal**
**Near Normal**
**Slightly Above Normal**
**Well Above Normal**
**Clouds**

Source: USGS/EROS Data Center

## Crop Pests: Desert Locusts and Other Migratory Pests

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

No occurrences of desert locusts were reported in the region during September. The forecast to the end of October 2002 indicates low levels of the insects' development in suitable habitats in parts of the winter breeding areas of Sudan, Eritrea and northern and northwestern Somalia.

Reports from Tanzania indicated that 90 percent of an estimated 5.5 million birds feeding on maturing wheat were destroyed in August 2002 by a DLCO-EA aircraft in roosts in northern Tanzania (Rundugai and Ngaramtoni areas Moshi District, Kilimanjaro Region).

Infestations of armyworms larvae were reported in late August and early September in western Eritrea (Zoba GashBarka), a continuation of the outbreak reported in early August in northwestern (Zoba Anseba) and central (Zoba Debub) areas in the country.

From mid September, grasshopper infestations were reported in western parts of Eritrea especially around Goluj area where good rains were received. In all cases, ground control operations were carried out with assistance from DLCO-EA.For details refer to: dlc@telecom.net.et or delco@insightkenya.com

# Food Security Conditions by Country – in GHA

## Eritrea

The report of the joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to Eritrea was released on October 3, 2002. It reported periods of below-normal rainfall since October 2001. The March-May *(azmera)* secondary season rains in major agricultural areas failed, seriously hindering land preparation for the main *(kremti)* season and replenishment of fodder and water for livestock. The onset of the July-September *kremti* season was late over most of the country, delaying planting by several weeks.

In addition, WFP-VAM in Eritrea reported that although there were good rains in August and September, they remained below normal in much of central Eritrea -- including southern Anseba, Maekel, and eastern Debub Zobas. The delayed rains have reduced harvest prospects of barley, sorghum, teff and wheat but have improved pasture and water for livestock. Northern Anseba Zoba, which received above-normal rainfall, is hosting a large concentration of livestock, much of it from the Northern Red Sea Zoba.

The Mission report forecasts a cereal harvest of 74,000 MT, which is 60 percent below the average of the last 10 years. This is enough to supply only 15 percent of the national consumption requirement – compared to an average of 40-50 percent. The estimated cereal import requirement for the marketing year 2003 (January-December) is 413,000 MT. After subtracting the anticipated commercial imports of 80,000 MT and 50,000 MT of food aid expected by the end of 2002, there is a deficit of 283,000 MT. Most of this food gap is expected to be covered from a combination of informal grain imports, WFP and the Government of the State of Eritrea food aid programs and bilateral donations. About 140,000 MT of food aid will be required in 2003 to feed over 1 million people who according to the assessment could be extremely vulnerable to food insecurity. In addition, emergency support to crop and livestock production will be needed to jumpstart the 2003 production.

## Ethiopia

Additional pledges of nearly 165,000 MT of emergency food aid between September and October 2002 have improved the pipeline through October but an additional 108,000 MT of food is still needed to cover November and December. Food aid needs are expected to increase substantially in the first half of 2003 thus requiring more pledges before the end of the year. The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) contingency planning figures indicate that 10 to 14 million drought-affected people will need emergency food assistance during the first half of 2003.

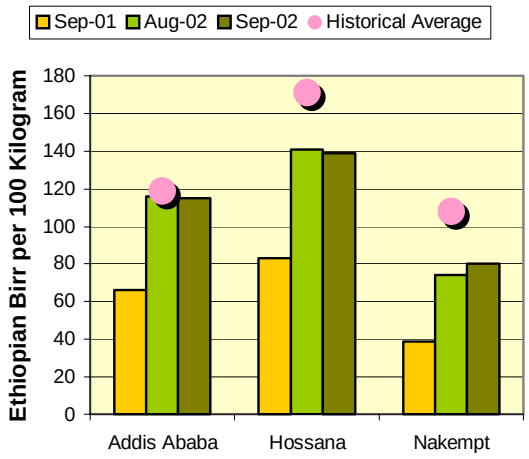
The Livestock Early Warning System (LEWS) has reported poor to very poor forage conditions in Afar Region and central and eastern parts of Somali Region. However, this was partially mitigated by the near-normal to above-normal rains in September.

In addition, the (*deyr*) season rains that normally fall between late September and November should rejuvenate pasture and water supply in the Somali Region.

Nutrition survey results for West Hararghe Zone in eastern Ethiopia indicated a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of about 8 percent in the highlands and wet midlands and 15 percent in the lowlands and dry midlands. According to the Ethiopian Emergency Nutrition Guidelines, these figures are considered "poor" and "critical," respectively.

As harvests from the main (*meher)* season approaches, cereal prices have began to decline or stabilize in most markets in the country (Figure 4) but are likely to rise earlier than normal in 2003 due to the expected below average *meher* harvest.

**Figure 4: Retail Maize Prices on Selected Markets**




**Source of Data: Ethiopia Grain Trade Enterprise**

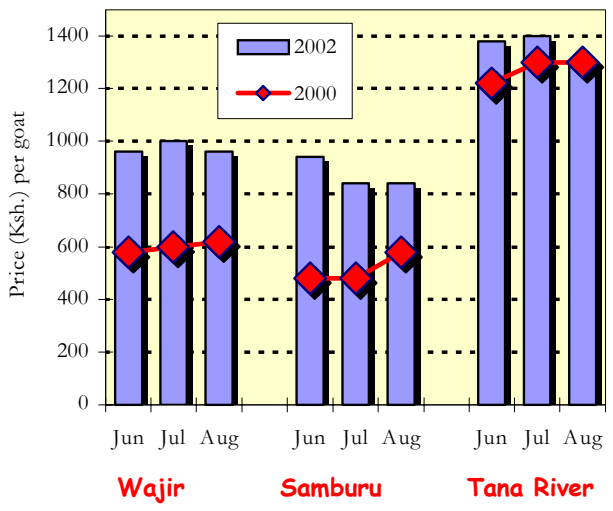
## Kenya

Harvesting of the 2002 long rains maize crop has begun in the principal producing districts of Rift Valley and Western Provinces. These harvests are estimated to contribute 40 percent of the long-rains season maize output and nearly 35 percent of the total national annual maize production. The arrival of new harvests to markets could partly account for the downward price trend in the early harvesting areas and proximate markets but in general, September maize prices increased in the reference markets of Mombasa, Eldoret and Kisumu and remained stable in Nairobi. Maize prices are expected to fall from November 2002 when the country's "grain-basket" districts begin harvesting although the below-normal long-rains season harvests in 2002 may push prices upward earlier than usual.

As the dry season ends, key grazing indicators (water, pasture and browse) have progressively declined almost everywhere but they are favorable than the past two years and have subsequently improved the food security of pastoralists.

Figure 5 shows higher prices of goats between June and August 2002 compared to 2000, which is an indication of better terms of trade and improved food security of pastoralists.

Figure 5: Comparative Goat Prices in Three Pastoral Markets




**Source: Arid Lands Resources Management Project / FEWS NET, Kenya**

The anticipated October – December 2002 short rains, which have already started in central, western and southwestern areas of the country, should consolidate improved food security conditions of pastoralists across the country as well as arable farmers in southern Rift Valley, Nyanza and Western Provinces.

The EMOP, which began in March 2000 and costing over US$300 million was concluded in September 2002. Since March 2000, over 670,000 MT of relief food was distributed to the drought-affected populations in Kenya. At its peak, the program benefited 4.4 million people in 22 districts throughout the country. The final distributions were completed in mid September 2002 in six districts where nearly 500,000 beneficiaries received about 7,000 MT of food aid. During the transition period, the Fund for Disaster Prevention of WFP will provide over 8,000 MT of food commodities, mainly for food for work and food for asset activities. The project is scheduled to begin in November 2002 and continue to the end of 2003 in the priority districts of Isiolo, Turkana, Mandera and Garissa.

## Rwanda

Generally, food security should remain satisfactory until the next harvest in January. However, parts of western and southern Rwanda could face food shortages in November and December. A WFP and FEWS NET joint assessment of current vulnerability to food insecurity in early October established that nearly 300,000 people were moderately food insecure (depending on off-farm employment and petty trade of food items) and that their conditions could worsen between November and December while waiting for the next harvest. The mission recommended WFP and other humanitarian organizations setup or strengthen food-for-work activities to avert this situation.

However, the prospects of the coming cropping season are uncertain, with a delayed onset in some areas. By mid October, a month after the normal start of the season, very little farming activities occurred in central and eastern Rwanda where normally most planting takes place between mid September and mid October. The delayed onset of the season will likely shorten the cropping season. It is already believed that it is too late for maize planting and yields of beans and other crops could significantly be reduced unless normal rainfall occurs between October and January. The food security in the country, starting early 2003, will depend on the rainfall performance during this period. Food security agencies in the country in collaboration with the Disaster Management Coordination Unit are monitoring the situation

## Somalia

The normal main *(Gu)* season rains over most of southern Somalia, promoted good crop establishment and harvests in both irrigated and rain-fed farms. FEWS NET and FSAU assessments in September, estimated the overall cereal production to be 208,930 MT (composed of 62 percent maize and 38 percent sorghum), which is 80 percent and 38 percent higher than the 2001 *Gu* season and the Post-war (1995-2001) average, respectively.

However, crop production in parts of the Shabelle riverine areas was constrained by low river levels for gravity irrigation due to insufficient *Hagai* showers, birds, pests and diseases on sorghum and maize and civil insecurity. In addition, the main cropping areas in the southwestern (Bakol, Hiran and parts of Gedo Regions) and the traditional grazing areas of northeastern (parts of Nugal Valley, Addun, and plateaus of Hawd, Sool and Iyax) received extremely poor rains, which could have detrimental effects on pastoral livelihoods. Consequently, food availability in southwestern Somalia has been very low forcing most households in these areas to depend on market purchases and causing food price to rise.

The Foods Security Assessment Unit (FSAU) field monitors have reported significant cereal outflows from Somalia (especially from Bay and the Shabelle Valley) to eastern Ethiopia (Shabelle riverine of Gode and Kalago) in October; areas which traditionally export food to Somalia. The reverse trade has been due to poor cereal production in Ethiopia. Although prices of cereals in those areas are higher than normal, imports from Somalia have improved market supplies. High cereal demands in Ethiopia may quickly absorb more cereal stocks than usual from Somalia and could increase both producer and consumer prices.

## Sudan

Preliminary results from the ongoing WFP led annual needs assessment indicate significant reduction in yields in most parts of south Sudan attributed to erratic rains during the cropping season between July and August, which affected sorghum at the flowering stage. Poor harvests prospects are forecast in Upper Nile Region (Bieh, Pibor, Budi, Pochalla and Shilluk areas) as well as Aweil West in Bahr El Ghazal. Some of the areas in Upper Nile

such as Shilluk, Pochalla, Budi and Pibor have been relatively food secure in the past. Although WFP was expecting to scale down food interventions from November when the harvest ends, poor food production implies that food interventions may continue in the most affected areas even after that period.

Western Equatoria should remain food secure due to the recent good harvest in August. Tambura, Yambio and Maridi areas produced surplus grain and should remain food secure until the second harvest due in December this year. The surplus grain should benefit pockets facing food deficit in neighboring areas of Mundri and Yei. The movement of livestock to dry season grazing areas has started two months earlier than normal because of poor vegetative conditions in some areas. This was particularly noted in parts of the Upper Nile Region.

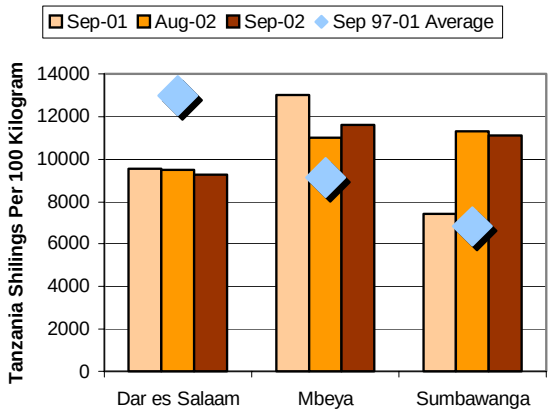
WFP has appealed for 93,278 MT of food for an estimated 1,390,000 million people for the year 2003. This represents a 48 percent increase on the 2002 appeal of 63,104 MT for a larger beneficiary population of 1,558,545. The reason for the decrease in beneficiary figures for year 2003 is based on observations and information collected by WFP intervention teams that indicated less population than recorded in some areas. However, increased denial to access food aid in distribution centers due to insecurity is compelling beneficiaries to travel longer distances to collect food. This has consequently led to WFP to increase rations to compensate for the traveling time and costs incurred by beneficiaries.

## Tanzania

Food security in most parts of Tanzania remained satisfactory, with the exception of parts of northern Tanzania (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga Regions) where food shortages and insecurity are likely to begin in December this year due poor rains in the 2001/02 production year.
The current satisfactory supplies have influenced the September wholesale prices for maize in the reference markets to remain between 2 and 12 percent of August levels. These prices are a 23-29 percent decline over the five-year average (1997-2001) in the major Dar es Salaam market and Lake Victoria (Shinyanga market). However, ongoing maize exports from Tanzania to Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia, have caused maize prices in the southern Mbeya and Sumbawanga to rise by 27 percent and 62 percent, respectively compared to the five-year average (Figure 6).

A 2000/01 Household Budget Survey published in July 2002 revealed that real incomes and household consumption increased by 17 percent compared to 1991/92. Consequently, the proportion of household expenditure spent on food between 1991/92 and 2000/01 declined on average from 69 to 61 percent, respectively.

Figure 6: Maize Prices from Selected Market in Tanzania

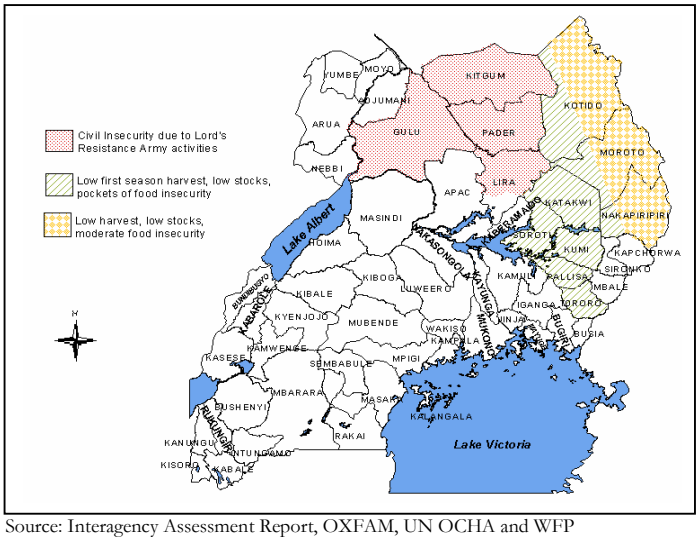



**Source of Data: Ministry of Cooperative and Marketing**

## Uganda

Food availability and access in most of Uganda are adequate until the next harvest in March 2003 – except in eastern and norhteastern areas where produciton was low following poor rainfall. Assessments by WFP in Karamoja Region, northeastern Uganda and a multi-agency mission in eastern Uganda (Katakwi, Kumi, Pallisa, Soroti and Tororo Districts, respectively (see Figure 7) estimated a 30-40 percent yield decline in crop production from normal. Food stocks of most households in these areas are estimated to last to between October and December this year. Although food prices in markets are still low and the purchasing power of pastoralists has improved after the ban on livestock sales in the region was lifted, close monitoring of food security conditions in the coming months is required.

**Figure 7: Food Security Conditions – Eastern, Northern and Northeastern Uganda**



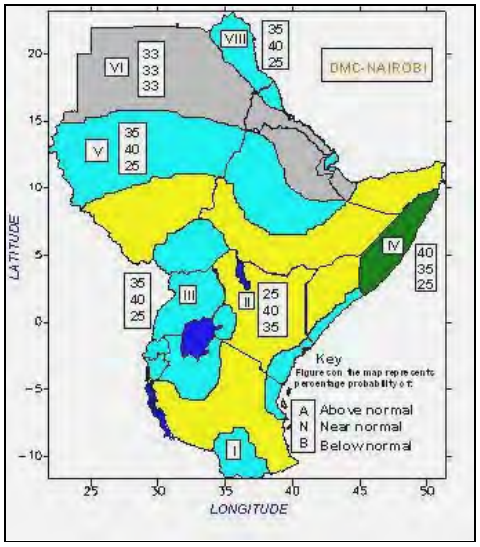

Source: Interagency Assessment Report, OXFAM, UN OCHA and WFP

The second season crop cultivation is still on going in many areas of Uganda due to delayed rainfall, with only about 75 percent of the crop sown but civil insecurity in northern Uganda has limited access to fields, reducing planting by as much as 75 percent. The onset of rains in southwestern "cattle corridor", has enhanced access to water and pastures for livestock.

# Climate Outlook for October to December 2002 and El Niño Update

The updated climate weather outlook by the Drought Monitoring Centre, Nairobi (DMC-N) (Figure 8) indicates wetter than normal rainfall conditions for the eastern Africa coastal strip of Kenya and Somalia, the agricultural areas of western Kenya, Uganda and southern and central Sudan. Other areas expected to receive above-normal rains are the central Ethiopian highlands and central and northern Somalia. In terms of its potential impact, already there are indications from field reports of rising lower Shabelle and Juba River basins due to high soil moisture content.

**Figure 8: Climate outlook for October – December, 2002**

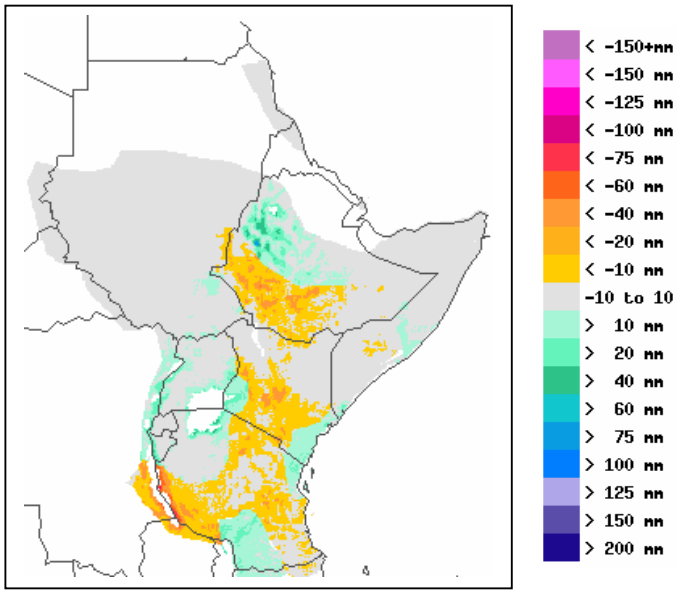



Source: Drought Monitoring Centre, Nairobi

The Forecast Interpretation Tool (FIT) developed by USGS and the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) indicates that the East African coastal strip is likely to receive 10–40 mm above normal rainfall during the period of October–December 2002 (Figure 9). Other areas that are likely to receive above normal rainfall are parts of central Ethiopia, the lake Victoria basin and southern Tanzania (regions shaded in blue). Near normal rainfall performance is expected to occur over the predominantly pastoral areas of northern Kenya, southern Somalia, northern Uganda and southern Sudan. The remaining areas are expected to have slightly below normal rainfall performance. However, in generally there is a potential for negative and adverse impacts of heavy rainfall such as flooding and an increase in waterborne diseases like malaria. On the other hand, the wetter than normal conditions guarantee replenishment of water resources and improved forage and crop conditions especially for marginal rainfall areas.

Figure 9: **Rainfall Anomalies Based on the Updated October - December 2002 DMC-N Forecast**

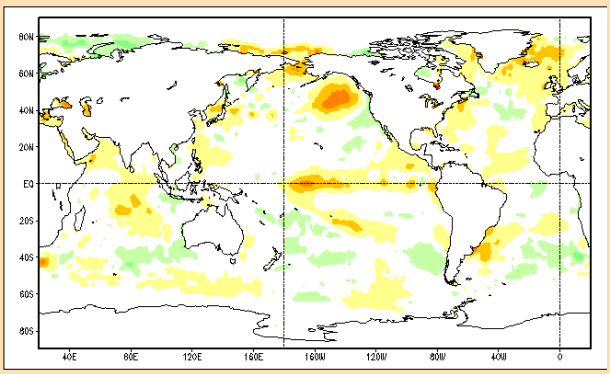
Source: USGS / EROS Data Center




## El Niño Update

The key indicators for the **El Niño** development depict warming of Sea Surface Temperature (SST) of between 0.5 – 2.5°C above normal over the equatorial Pacific Ocean (Figure 10), coupled with 1-1.5°C above normal over the Indian Ocean. As weather patterns in Africa are significantly impacted by the warming of the Indian Ocean, the situation will be closely monitor and provide regular updates.

**Figure 10: Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies: October 13 – 19, 2002 (Relative to 1971-2000)**



Source: NOAA/NCEP

# Humanitarian Activities for non-refugees – Stocks as of September 30, 2002

World Food Progamme – East & Central Africa Bureau, Kampala

| Country | Population affected and course | Estimated food aid needs | Pledges to date | Deliveries and pipeline | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Burundi | Under the regional protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), WFP assists 551,358 internally displaced persons<br><br>Requirements have increased over the last month due to arrival of new refugees from DRC and the continuous displacement of people fleeing the confrontation between rebels and army in-country | 104,021 MT needed from August 2001 – January 2003<br><br>Assistance to the beneficiaries will continue under a new phase scheduled to start in February 2003 | 53 percent resourced | Average monthly requirement of 6,366 MT<br><br>7,642 MT available in the region and 22,329 MT are expected | Seeds protection distributions started in September are scheduled to end this month. The operation will require additional contributions of 10,467 MT of cereals and 2,215 MT of pulses to meet requirements until April 2003 |
| Djibouti | Emergency operation assists 95,000 drought victims. Since January 1999, parts of Djibouti have received less than 50 percent of normal rainfall | Total requirements of 12,711 MT from August 2001 – December 2002 | 90 percent resourced | Average monthly requirement of 1,624MT<br><br>Only 247MT are in stock, and 3,135 MT are expected | The operation will experience a supply gap of cereals this month. Additional resources for 835 MT of pulses and 96 MT of Corn-Soya-Blend (CSB) are required immediately |
| Eritrea | For nearly three consecutive years, the arid and semi-arid northern Red Sea and Anseba Regions have experienced serious drought conditions. This year the early rains failed and the onset of the main rains was delayed. Beneficiaries are projected to increase to 227,174 by December 2002. Food aid needs are expected to increase in 2003 | Estimated needs for the period between May and December 2002 are 90,869 MT<br><br>Estimates for 2003 are 283,000 MT (according to a recent FAO/WFP joint assessment report) | 72 percent resourced for previous needs. No new pledges for 2003 | Average monthly requirement projected to increase to 8,862 MT by December and more after<br><br>Stock of 12,966 MT in-country and 245 MT expected | Resources are sufficient to meet requirements until the end of the year. Additional resources will be required from January 2003 onwards |
| Ethiopia | Following widespread failure of the minor season rains and a very late start to the main season rains, an exceptionally poor harvest is anticipated at the end of 2002. Drought conditions for pastoralists have also been severe and there have been massive livestock losses. WFP plans to assist 3,070,000 people this month and the caseload is projected to increase to 4,470,000 by January 2003 | Requirements have increased to 389,578 MT from April 2002 - March 2003 | 69 percent resourced | Average monthly requirement of 13,354 MT increasing to 52,430 MT by January 2003<br><br>Stock of 154 MT in country and 235,674 MT are expected | The operation has a shortfall of 178,324 MT of cereals, 7,448 MT of oil and 14,070 MT of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) in view of the revised requirements. It is projected that supply gaps in the food pipeline will start in November |
| Rwanda | Under PRRO, WFP assists 176,500 people. There are indications that the Dec02/Jan03 harvest may be adversely affected due to lack of rainfall and this may affect up to 300,000 people | 44,408 MT needed from August 2001 – January 2003.<br>Assistance to the beneficiaries will continue under a new phase scheduled to start in February 2003 | 82 percent resourced | Average monthly requirement of 2,378 MT<br><br>10,566 MT available in the region and 4,334 MT are expected. | Resources are sufficient to maintain the pipeline until the end of the year but the operation will experience a supply gap of pulses in October |
| Somalia | Food aid for relief and recovery for 700,000 direct and 620,000 indirect beneficiaries | Requirements are 63,204 MT from July 1999 – December 2002. Assistance to the beneficiaries will continue under a new project scheduled to start in January 2003 | 80 percent resourced | Average monthly requirement of 1,800 MT.<br><br>Stock of 3,959 MT in country and 10,075 MT are expected. | Resources are sufficient to maintain the pipeline until the end of the year. |
| Sudan | Emergency operation to assist 2.9 million war and drought affected persons. Sudan has experienced recurrent drought over the last 10 years and continued armed conflicts. Poor harvests this year could increase the number of beneficiaries in 2003. | 160,806 MT required for the period April 2002 to March 2003. | 68 percent resourced | Average monthly requirement of 8,774 MT over the next six months.<br><br>Stock of 45,176 Mt in country and 57,491 MT are expected. | The operation will experience pipeline breaks of oil, sugar and salt from December and of pulses and corn soya blend (CSB) in February. |
| Uganda | PRRO caters for 572,000 internally displaced persons; 319,000 children receiving school feeding and 223,724 drought-affected persons in addition to refugees, social support and food for assets operations. The continued LRA rebel attacks in northern Uganda and the El-Nino effect are compounding the food insecurity situation in Uganda. The displaced persons have been restricted from accessing their fields during the August/September harvesting and second season planting season. | Requirements are 35,605 MT for internally displaced; 19,171 MT for schoolchildren, and 600 MT for drought-affected. PRRO will run from April 2002 to March 2005. | Only 17 percent resourced. | Average monthly requirement of 12,164 MT.<br><br>Stocks of 6,811 MT in-country and 39,054 MT are expected. | Pipeline breaks are projected for cereals from November through January; for oil from November onwards and for pulses from January onwards. Additional contributions totaling 38,474 MT are required to sustain the pipeline up to April 2003. |

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