



GREATER HORN OF AFRICA (GHA) FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN – September 2006

Summary

CONTENTS

Summaries	1
ICPAC Seasonal Climate Forecast.....	1
Food Security Outlook	3

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Centre's (ICPAC) 18th seasonal climate forecast

for the September to December (SOND) rains is mixed but generally optimistic for most of the region, at least in terms of rainfall amounts. Food security assessments and reports indicate generally average to good crop production conditions this year in most crop growing areas, but poorer conditions in the pastoral, agropastoral and marginal agricultural areas. The situation is likely to improve in all areas receiving the rains if the rains are normal. However, if there is below normal rainfall, pastoral, agropastoral and marginal agricultural areas, particularly in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia, will face another season of poor production and will be pushed back into another major humanitarian crisis. Other factors including the results of peace negotiations in Somalia and Uganda, floods in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, civil insecurity and crop and livestock diseases will also drive the food security situation in the region over the next six months. The climate forecast and a set of scenarios for each country covered by FEWS NET based on this forecast are presented below.

ICPAC Seasonal forecast for September-December 2006

The eighteenth Climate Outlook Forum (COF18) for the Greater Horn of Africa was held in Nairobi, Kenya, by IGAD Climate Applications Prediction Centre (ICPAC) in collaboration with the partners to formulate a consensus forecast for the September to December 2006 rainfall season in the Greater Horn of Africa (Figure 2). The resulting forecast indicates that there is an increased likelihood of near normal September to December (SOND) 2006 rains for much of the region. This is due to warmer than normal Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over central Indian Ocean coupled with the likely occurrence of neutral to weak El Niño episode over the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Warming of the Indian Ocean is often a good precursor for a favorable rainfall season. A weak El Niño may not result into extremely wet weather conditions but could provide some beneficial rains, if coupled with warming of SSTs in the Indian Ocean. Figure 2 indicates two broad bands of increased likelihood of above normal (45%) to normal (35%) rainfall performance shaded in green, and normal (40%) to below normal (35%) rainfall performance shown in yellow.

Figure 1: Regional rainfall regimes and livelihoods distribution in the GHA Equatorial sector

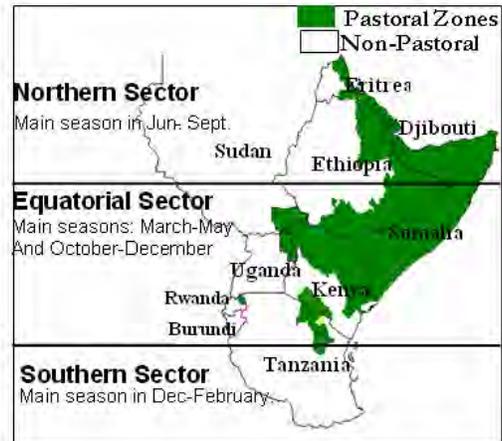
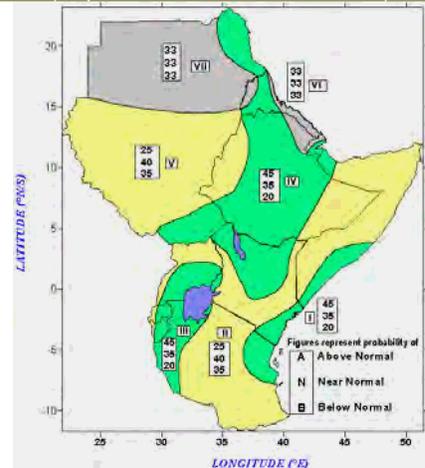


Figure 1 illustrates the broad rainfall regimes in the GHA and the general distribution of agricultural and pastoral livelihoods. The SOND rains are usually received in equatorial sector, and cover Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and southeastern Ethiopia, northern and northeastern Tanzania and most of Rwanda and Burundi. Thus, the climate outlook presented below has more relevance for these areas. During this period, most of Sudan, north-central Ethiopia, Djibouti and south-central Tanzania are generally dry.

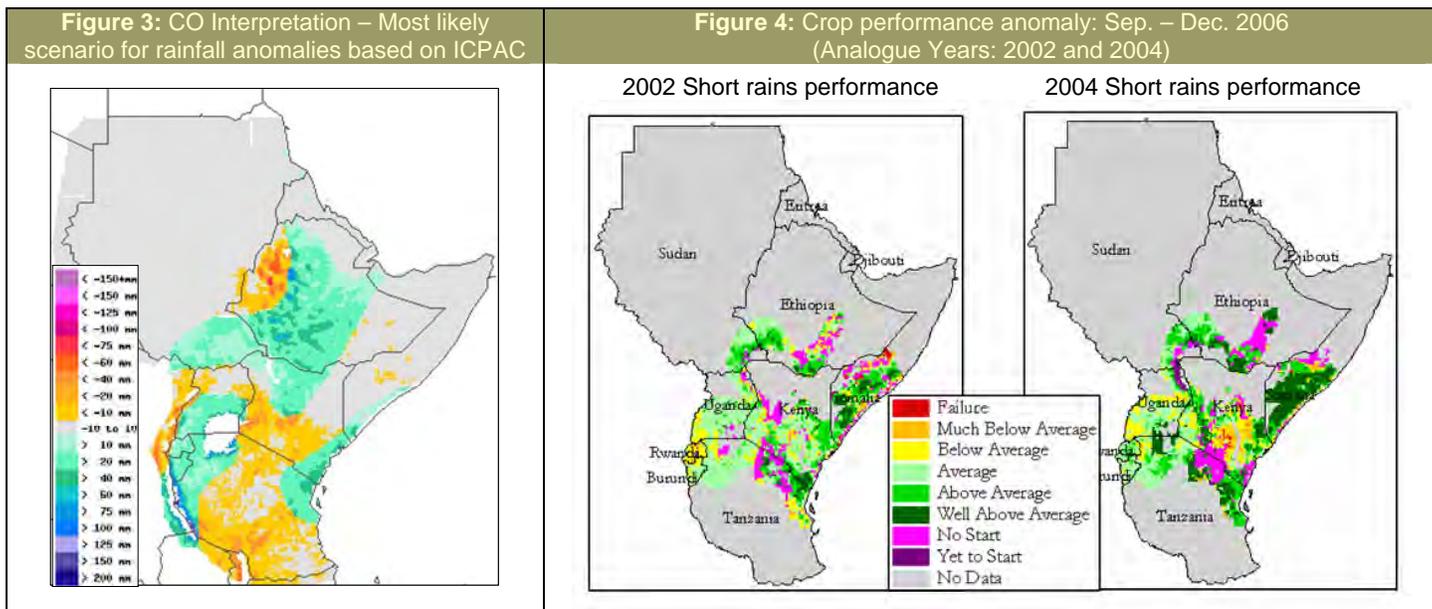
Figure 2: GHA Climate Outlook (September to December, 2006)



Source: ICPAC



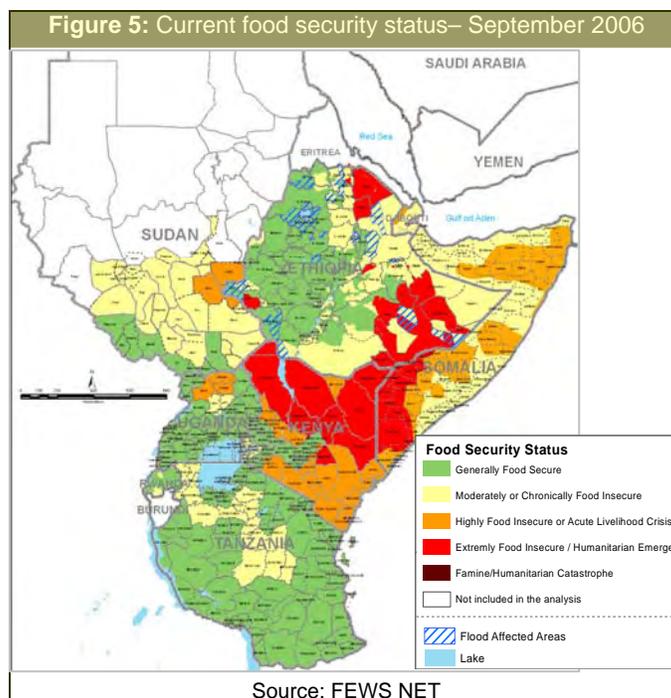
The yellow shaded region geographically covers some of the most food insecure areas of the region – the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Somalia, parts of northern and southern Kenya, northern and central Tanzania and northern Uganda. Even in these areas, it is important to note that there is still only a 20 percent chance of below normal rainfall.



When this forecast is translated into potential rainfall amounts in the most likely scenario (see Figure 3), the possibility of some rainfall deficits (less than 40 mm) arises over parts of southwestern Kenya and neighboring areas in northern and central Tanzania. These forecast rainfall deficits are unlikely to adversely affect pasture and crop conditions and water resources, if the forecast holds.

While attaining normal seasonal rainfall totals is important, the timely onset of the seasonal rainfall and their distribution during the crop growing season is equally important. In recent years, the September to October rains have been erratic, with normal rainfall totals being attained in a few days or a couple of weeks at the start of season followed by long dry spells. This adversely affects crop performance and pasture development.

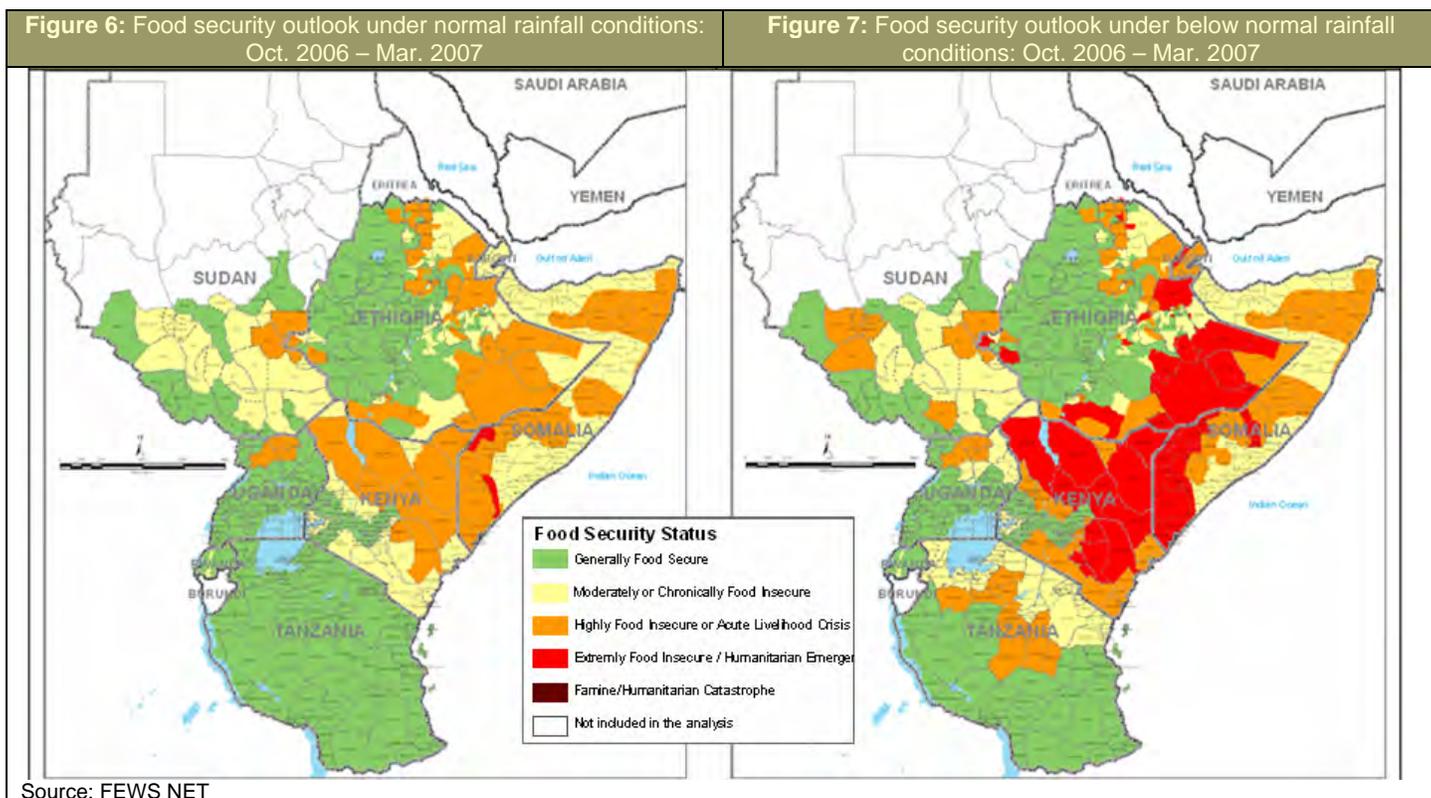
Rains in 2002 and 2004 during the September to December period were similar to the forecast rains for 2006 and provide indications of how the 2006 season may develop, though no two years are exactly the same. The 2002 short-rains started on time and were generally adequate for crop production in the major agricultural productive areas where these rains are important including southern Somalia, eastern and southern Kenya and northern Tanzania (Figure 4). As a result, near normal crop performance occurred in most of these areas, although a few localized areas mainly along the Kenya/Tanzania border did not fare as well. On the other hand in 2004 (Figure 4), more extensive crop failures occurred, especially along the Kenya/Tanzania border. These two analogue years are used as inputs into the scenarios developed below which provide an idea of how the food security situation in the region could evolve over the coming 6 months.



Food security outlook to March 2007

While food security conditions are generally improving in the region following the major crisis that affected pastoral and agropastoral areas earlier in 2006, the performance of the September to December season will tip the balance either allowing recovery to take hold or pushing the region back into crisis. Current food security conditions vary across the region, but despite limited improvement high levels of acute food insecurity persist in pastoral, agropastoral and marginal agricultural areas of Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, and to a lesser extent in Djibouti and southern Sudan (See Figure 5). In order to support contingency and response planning for the next six months (October 2006 to March 2007) FEWS NET has developed a food security outlook comprised of two scenarios for the region. These scenarios are based on available assessment and baseline livelihoods data as well as the climate outlook presented above. The first scenario considered - the most likely assumes that the September to December rains will perform normally as they did in 2002. While the second scenario assumes poor September to December rains. Figures 6 and 7 summarize these two scenarios showing expected food security conditions under each scenario in March 2007 – the most difficult period of the year in most of these areas and the period before the next major rainy season begins. These scenarios are further elaborated for each country below.

It is important to note that rainfall is only one determinant of food security. Markets, human behavior (like conflicts, social support), policies, health and sanitation, etc, all play a role. The important non-climatic factors that are likely to influence the outlook have been factored into the scenario analysis.



Kenya: Food security outlook October 2006 to March 2007

The food security situation in the most drought-affected pastoral and most marginal farming areas of Kenya have only marginally improved following the main long rains season (March to June). Most pastoral households continue to face an emergency situation. Child malnutrition rates remains at critical levels in most pastoral districts. Livestock prices have improved while cereal prices have declined due to increased supply following the main harvest. Long rains maize production estimates are for a harvest of 2.52 million metric tons (MT), 15 percent higher than average. As a result of these limited improvements, the population requiring humanitarian assistance until December 2006 has been revised down

to about 2.96 million people. The October to December or short rains are the most important for crop production in the southern marginal agricultural areas.

In addition to the climate outlook, livestock and food commodity prices which are currently favorable for both pastoralists and farmers will play a critical role in food security in the coming months. Livestock prices are expected to dip in the event of a failed, a seriously delayed or poor short rains season. This would further undermine pastoral food security contributing to a reemergence of crisis conditions. In addition, underlying human health and sanitation problems and conflict in northern pastoral districts will also complicate the outlook.

Scenario I: Food security outlook under normal rainfall conditions between October 2006 and March 2007

Areas that faced affected by the 2006 crisis and those that are chronically vulnerable to food insecurity, mainly due to drought, conflict and other causes, will continue to be food insecure, but a slow recovery process will take hold if the short rains will be normal or above normal. The following points highlight the most important changes that would emerge from this scenario:

- Marginal agricultural areas would receive a nearly average crop for the first time 3 to 4 consecutive seasons.
- The population requiring humanitarian assistance would likely reduce by over 15 percent between January and March 2007, from the current assessed figure of about 3 million.
- Malnutrition rates would improve in pastoral areas.
- Flooding and flood damage could result in the northern pastoral and coastal areas.

Under this scenario planners are recommended to continue to focus efforts on supporting the recovery drought affected households and developing viable and resilient livelihoods. In addition improved preparedness and work towards addressing chronic problems including improving health and hygiene, particularly among the pastoral households, need to be undertaken.

Scenario II: Food security outlook under below normal rainfall conditions between October 2006 and March 2007

If the October to December rains are poor in Kenya, all pastoral districts in the north and east as well as some marginal agricultural districts are likely to slide back into another prolonged humanitarian emergency which will curtail current efforts at recovery from the past drought. As a result:

- The population requiring humanitarian assistance will rise again to levels seen during the recent (2005/2006) drought or higher, when over 3.5 million people needed assistance.
- Malnutrition levels, which are currently high but showing a declining trend, will return to critical levels in most pastoral districts.
- Resource-based conflicts in the pastoral northern districts will likely increase.

Under this scenario planners are recommended to prepare for a major crisis by strengthening preparedness measures and plan early actions to mitigate the crisis and preserve livelihoods. Non-food interventions will again prove critically important and represent a challenge to implement at the scale needed. Planners should also focus efforts to reduce malnutrition levels and reduce the potential of rates to deteriorate.

Somalia: Food security outlook October 2006 to March 2007

The 2006 *gu* crop was 29 percent below post war average with the drought-affected districts receiving very poor harvests. In most areas pastures, water and livestock body condition and prices have improved following the main March to May (or *gu* season) rains, resulting in an overall improvement in food access. However, 1.8 million people remain highly food insecure and require humanitarian assistance. Cereal stocks are low and prices are between 125 and 200 percent above normal in many southern regions. Some central and southern regions are already facing water shortages in key grazing areas which have caused early migration. Global acute malnutrition rates are still at critical levels in some southern regions. Continued of civil insecurity, trade restrictions with neighboring states and the risk of wider conflict will also play a key role in the overall food security situation.

Scenario I: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under normal rainfall conditions

Good rains between September and December will allow the slow process of recovery to take root in Somalia. The most important changes in the situation are likely to be:

- An average to above average *deyr* crop will be harvested for the first time in four consecutive seasons. The *deyr* crops in the two analogue years identified above (2002/3 and 2004/5) were both very good.
- Livestock reproduction will start to improve with more calving expected. This will mark the start of the slow recovery for pastoral households who will start to reconstitute herds and have access to milk and other livestock products.
- The population facing extreme and high levels of acute food insecurity would reduce significantly from the current figure of 1.8 million people, although persistent high rates of malnutrition rates would likely remain.
- Increased civil insecurity would be likely to continue to disrupt livelihoods and if the peace talks collapse a more widespread conflict is predicted which will curtail any gains made from a good season.

Under this scenario planners are recommended to continue to focus efforts on continued humanitarian support to affected groups including both food and non-food interventions. These interventions will need to be complemented by efforts to promote and strengthen the recovery that will begin to take root in this scenario. In addition, actions to help address the environmental degradation that has been accelerated during the recent crisis will be needed.

Scenario II: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under below normal rainfall conditions

If the October to December rains are poor in Somalia it would represent the fourth consecutive season of below normal cereal production and second consecutive year of below normal annual cereal production. As a result a major crisis would quickly reemerge. This crisis would likely be characterized by:

- Further increases to already high cereal prices due to low cumulative cereal stocks and the high possibility

of cereal supply gap in 2006/07 Annual Cereal Balance Sheet.

- Severe water and pasture shortages in some areas, especially in Juba, Bakool, Hiraan, and Central regions.
- Abnormal livestock migrations, with households having to split up. These migrations and clustering of animals and people need sources of pasture and water would increase the risk of human and animal disease as well as accelerate environmental degradation.
- Livestock mortality and morbidity especially in Hiraan and Central regions which would result in low livestock prices and poor terms of trade, as well as further decrease in animal reproduction and herd sizes.
- Food access and livelihoods severely stressed and a deterioration in nutrition situation for most vulnerable.
- Increased localized conflict over limited resources.
- Significant deterioration in current humanitarian emergency areas and deepening of crisis for areas currently facing an acute food and livelihood crisis.
- An increase in the number of people needing humanitarian assistance from current estimate of 1.8 million people. If peace talks fail, widespread conflict will likely ensue doubling the number of people needing assistance as a result of displacements, disruption in trade, and restriction of movement.

Under this scenario planners are recommended to prepare for a major crisis by improving preparedness measures and being ready to implement measures to mitigate the crisis early. Significant levels of food and non-food emergency assistance will be needed as the population requiring humanitarian assistance will rise again to levels seen during the recent (2005/ 2006) drought or higher, when over 3.5 million people needed assistance.

Ethiopia: Food security outlook October 2006 to March 2007

Despite an improved overall food security situation, about 3 million people are expected to require emergency food assistance between August and December 2006, out of which about 300,000 are people affected by floods and about 1.6 million are from Somali Region. Pastoral areas continue to face a food security crisis and malnutrition rates remain critical in many districts. Food assistance has largely been covered but non-food assistance is seriously short of requirements. Good *belg* and *meher* rains have meant that crop production estimates for this year are expected to be above average, although serious floods in the highlands of Amhara may cause these estimates to be revised downwards. Even with a good harvest, poor market integration between surplus and deficit areas of the country will limit the impact of the production on chronically food insecure areas.

Scenario I: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under normal rainfall conditions

Good rains between September and December will allow the slow process of recovery to begin in southern pastoral areas after a year of extreme food insecurity. However, Zones 2 and 4 of Afar Region will continue to face serious food insecurity as they do not normally benefit from the October to December rains. Overall this rainfall scenario means:

- Southern agro-pastoral areas are likely to receive their first crop harvest in several seasons, although the October to December season accounts for only a small fraction of annual production.
- Floods likely to continue causing damage in September in the western and southern parts of the country and occur in the south and south eastern pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the country between October and December. The flood risk in these areas is greatest along the Shabelle, Weyb, Ganale and Dawa river valleys.
- Food aid beneficiary numbers are likely to be revised down in January from current 3 million people following improvements in water and pasture availability.
- Malnutrition levels in pastoral areas should begin to decline in pastoral areas from about December or January as milk and cereal availability start to improve.
- Clan/tribal clashes as well as insecurity in neighbouring Somalia may complicate food security in Somali Region.

Under this scenario planners are encouraged to develop contingency plans for possible flooding in pastoral areas. Efforts to maintain on-going resource transfers (food and non-food) to the most vulnerable need to be maintained and increased conflict prevention and mitigation measures will be needed.

Scenario II: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under below normal rainfall conditions

In contrast, if the October to December rains are poor in Ethiopia a major crisis would quickly reemerge, with the epicenter of the crisis in Somali Region and Borena zone. This scenario would likely result in:

- Severe water and pasture shortages in southern and southeastern pastoral areas of the country, leading to livestock death, distress migration and increased resource-based conflicts.
- Resurgence of extremely high malnutrition rates.
- Another crop failure in agropastoral areas likely to worsen the food insecurity.
- Increasing insecurity in Somalia likely to disrupt trade and cause population movements in the eastern parts of the country.
- Highland crop producing areas unlikely to be affected as most of this period is a dry season.

Under this scenario planners should prepare to respond to a major crisis in already drought-affected areas. This will need to include increased and improved emergency humanitarian interventions in food and non-food sectors. An increase in nutrition programs will be a priority as will conflict prevention and mitigation efforts.

Djibouti: Food security outlook October 2006 to March 2007

Pastoral areas, particularly in the north and northwest, are facing high levels of food insecurity following a number of failed rains. At the same time the increasing cost of living is making the urban poor increasingly food insecure. Malnutrition levels are believed to be high and some 47,500 pastoralists are being supported with emergency food aid.

Scenario I: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under normal rainfall conditions

Normal rainfall conditions between September and December will result in a general improvement of the situation in Djibouti, including:

- Pasture and water availability will improve.
- Livestock production will improve.
- Improvements among the northwest pastoralists and Obock lowlands where previous rains were poor will be slower than in the other pastoral areas.
- The population in need of emergency would likely reduce from the current 47,500 people.
- Chronic food insecurity and malnutrition are likely to persist, but improved animal product availability may help reduce malnutrition levels.
- Urban livelihoods are less likely to be benefit from rains as their food security is mainly determined by other factors like poverty levels, cost of the consumption basket, and malnutrition levels.

Under this scenario planners should focus efforts on improving emergency preparedness, including for flash floods in urban areas as well as future food security crises and look at ways of addressing chronic vulnerability to food insecurity. In addition, assistance

is still likely to be needed for the most food insecure households.

Scenario II: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under below normal rainfall conditions

If the September to December rains are below normal a more serious situation will reemerge in rural areas of Djibouti. While, urban areas are less likely to be affected by a continuation of drought, rural areas are likely to experience:

- Significant shortages of pasture and water leading to a deterioration in livestock conditions.
- The situation in the northwest and the Obock lowlands will return to emergency conditions.
- The population requiring emergency food assistance likely to remain at current levels or may increase.
- Malnutrition levels will likely worsen.

Planners are advised to prepare contingency plans to prepare for this potential crisis. These plans should address both emergency and non-emergency needs, with special attention on pastoral populations in the northwest and the Obock lowlands.

South Sudan: Food security outlook October 2006 to March 2007

South Sudan has generally received good rains in most crop and livestock production areas this year. However, civil insecurity and floods in the eastern areas have increased food insecurity there. Chronically high malnutrition rates continue to represent a major challenge. While the Government is trying to establish itself after decades of civil war, influxes of returning IDPs, particularly in northern Bahr el Ghazal, are straining the capacity of local communities and resources. Continued efforts to address the structural problems that underlie both the conflict and the poor humanitarian conditions are needed. Efforts to address persistent rates of very high acute malnutrition rooted in a complex mix of water and health care problems are particularly important. Finally, contingency and response plans for floods and increasing returns are needed.

Scenario I: Food security outlook under normal rainfall conditions between October 2006 and March 2007

Normal rainfall conditions between September to October rains will improve prospects for the June to November crop. This crop traditionally marks the end of the hunger season in south Sudan. However, above normal or normal rains are likely to worsen the typical flooding season usually seen in September.

Scenario II: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under below normal rainfall conditions

If the rains perform poorly, moisture deficits in the southwestern pastoral areas will cause pastoralists to move possibly straining the fragile peace with among neighboring pastoral communities. Poor rains during this time would be unlikely to affect crop prospects significantly as most crops have been harvested and other crops are nearly mature.

Rwanda: Food security outlook October 2006 to March 2007

Rwanda has experienced generally good seasons over the last year and food availability is sufficient to meet needs until the end of the year. However, pockets of food insecurity exist in the southern, northern and eastern provinces. Environmental degradation and population pressure also continue to undermine the country's food security. Foot and mouth disease has been reported in three districts in the eastern and western provinces which have been quarantined. If foot and mouth disease spreads it may threaten the food security of a larger population. Potential civil insecurity on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as a result of the election process in DRC also represents a threat to Rwanda's food security.

Scenario I: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under normal rainfall conditions

Normal or above normal rains during September to December 2006 would result in a good Season A crop, which would further improve food availability beyond the adequate levels already achieved this year. Season B sorghum would also be expected to establish well in December. As a result most of the country, except some limited areas, is expected to be food secure until March or April 2007. However, normal to above normal rains in the southern, eastern and central parts of the country will increase the risk of flooding considerably.

Scenario II: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under below normal rainfall conditions

While poor rains in Rwanda during this period are unlikely they would result in poor Season A crop performance. This would affect food security in the western districts more than others. This is because of the high population pressure and the land degradation, which are already limiting production.

Tanzania: Food security outlook October 2006 to March 2007

Assessments indicate Tanzania will produce 10 percent more than the five year average this year, with all but three regions expecting a good crop. However, production estimates in Dodoma, Shinyanga and Singida are lower than average. Despite good overall production, pastoral areas in the northeast have faced pasture and water shortages during the year and dam and river levels have been generally below normal. In addition, banana bacterial wilt, potato blight and cassava mosaic disease are spreading and threatening food security in Kagera Region.

Scenario I: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under normal rainfall conditions

With good *vuli* rains between September and December the country will be generally food secure until March 2007. However, the northwest and northeastern coastal areas will have a high risk of flooding. Finally, conditions will start to improve in Dodoma, Singida and Shinyanga with the good establishment of the *vuli* crop.

Scenario II: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under below normal rainfall conditions

If rains are poor during this season, crop failure for farmers and water and pasture shortages for pastoral groups, especially areas in the northeastern parts of the country (neighboring Kenya) are likely. However, the September to December rains are not important for

central, southern and most of western Tanzania. Contingency planning for possible crop failure and

pasture and water shortage in the northeastern districts is advisable.

Uganda: Food security outlook October 2006 to March 2007

Uganda expects nearly average agricultural production this year, which will mean most of the country will be food secure. However, about 1.4 million IDPs in the northern districts continue to need humanitarian support. The food security of IDPs will be greatly affected over the coming year by the peace process which is resulting in improved civil security which has allowed access to land and crop production for many IDPs. On the other hand, the Karamoja districts are expecting a below average harvest due to rainfall deficits between June and September. Foot and mouth disease and banana bacterial wilt are still prevalent although largely being controlled.

Scenario I: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under normal rainfall conditions

Good rains will mean likely good second season crop production in the bimodal areas, and improved pasture and water availability for pastoral areas in Karamoja. IDPs are likely to benefit from the rains given their improved access to land as the peace process takes hold. Provision of agricultural inputs such as seeds and tools will help these IDPs reestablish their livelihoods. However, the flood risk will be higher in the south and center of the country.

Scenario II: Food security outlook between October 2006 and March 2007 under below normal rainfall conditions

Poor rains will mean poor pastures and water for livestock in Karamoja and the poor establishment of crops in the bimodal areas. IDPs are likely to require more support if crops do not do well. Contingency plans in case of crop failure, particularly for the northern areas, should be developed.

MORE ON THE GHA FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN...

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: Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Southern Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Djibouti.

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