

FOOD ASSISTANCE OUTLOOK BRIEF

February 16, 2010

PROJECTED FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR JULY 2010

This section summarizes FEWS NET's most forward-looking analysis of projected external emergency food assistance needs, six months from now, in countries where FEWS NET has a staff presence. Those needs are compared to typical needs at this time of year during the last five years and categorized as Above-average, Average, and Below-average/No need. For more detail on these projections, please visit www.fews.net.

ABOVE-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN JULY 2010

BURKINA FASO: Early needs following poor season in north and northeast

Reduced production, poor pasture growth, and high millet prices will result in reduced household purchasing power, particularly among the poor in areas of the north and northeast. The hunger season will begin in March, as opposed to June in a typical year in these areas.

Projected start of hunger season (Sahelian zone): March

CHAD: Elevated malnutrition/mortality in western Sahelian zone

Given rainfall deficits and dry spells, two million people are expected to require humanitarian assistance between now and November 2010. Areas of the western Sahel (e.g. Kanem, Batha, and Lac) are most affected. Elevated levels of malnutrition and atypical migration have already been reported and the hunger season will begin two to three months early.

Projected start of pastoral hunger season: March

DJIBOUTI: Poor rains and food aid cuts likely to cause extreme food insecurity

Poor consecutive rain seasons, followed by poor spatial distribution of the current Heys/Dada rains (Oct-Feb), declining livestock-to-cereal terms of trade, reduced remittances and planned reductions in food aid distribution are expected to drive increasing food insecurity. The country's main hunger season, which usually begins in June, is expected to begin in April.

Projected start of Central/NW hunger season: April

ETHIOPIA: High levels of need expected to follow poor meher harvest

Significant need is expected to begin in February in SNNPR and in March in eastern *meher* cropping areas, two months earlier than normal. *Deyr* rains have been poor in eastern Somali region and southern Oromia. *Belg* rains have begun early in some areas.

Projected start of meher hunger season: March/April

GUATEMALA: Deteriorating conditions, less response in west

The *postrera* harvest (Oct/Nov) has been below average. Current food insecurity in the dry corridor is expected to persist and conditions in the west are expected to deteriorate, with food stocks depleting, and households turning to purchases, as early as February.

Projected start of hunger season (W. Highlands): February

HAITI: Massive earthquake has far-reaching food security implications

The January 12 earthquake resulted in heavy mortality and a massive disruption of livelihoods in Port au Prince and nearby cities. In addition to large acute needs, medium and longer term food security will be affected by potential increases in food prices and reduced labor opportunities.

Projected start of hunger season: Not relevant

KENYA: Good short-rains harvest expected

Short-rains harvests have been normal in many areas. Assistance needs will likely decline by June but remain above the recent five year average.

Projected start of main pastoral hunger season: August

MALI: Above-average need expected in northern pastoral areas

Cereal production has been average-to-good and pastoral conditions in Timbuktu are satisfactory. However, in some areas of eastern Gao, agricultural production and pasture regeneration have been poor. The hunger season will start two to three months early in these areas.

Projected start of hunger season (Gao): March/April

MOZAMBIQUE: Extended dry spell likely to impact main harvest

An extended dry spell in central/southern Mozambique during December/January has seriously affected the crops of 785,000 households. If rainfall does not improve, assistance needs could begin as early as July, with the hunger season beginning in August/September, 1-2 months early.

Projected start of hunger season: August/September

NIGER: Large-scale humanitarian assistance needs expected

Due to poorly distributed rains and an early end of season, food insecurity during 2010 will be quite severe, particularly in the agropastoral belt. Atypical food-insecurity-related migration has begun among eastern farming households whose production has been particularly limited. Rains in pastoral areas have also been poor for the second consecutive year. Hunger seasons will begin two to three months earlier than normal.

Projected start of hunger season (cropping areas): March

SOMALIA: Needs will not decline as much as anticipated

Though the recent post-*deyr* assessment suggested a drop in assistance needs, a deepening drought in the central and northern regions, the suspension of the food assistance, and unseasonable increases in staple food prices, mean that this decline will be less substantial than expected.

Projected start of agricultural hunger season: April/May

SOUTHERN SUDAN: Poor rainfall, expanding conflict

Needs are likely to rapidly increase in January-February, due to poor rainfall, widespread yield reductions and ongoing conflict. The main hunger season is expected to begin in March-April rather than in May-June.

Projected start of hunger season: March

BELOW-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS OR NO ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN JULY 2010

AFGHANISTAN, MALAWI (none), MAURITANIA, NIGERIA (none), TANZANIA (none), UGANDA, ZAMBIA (none), ZIMBABWE

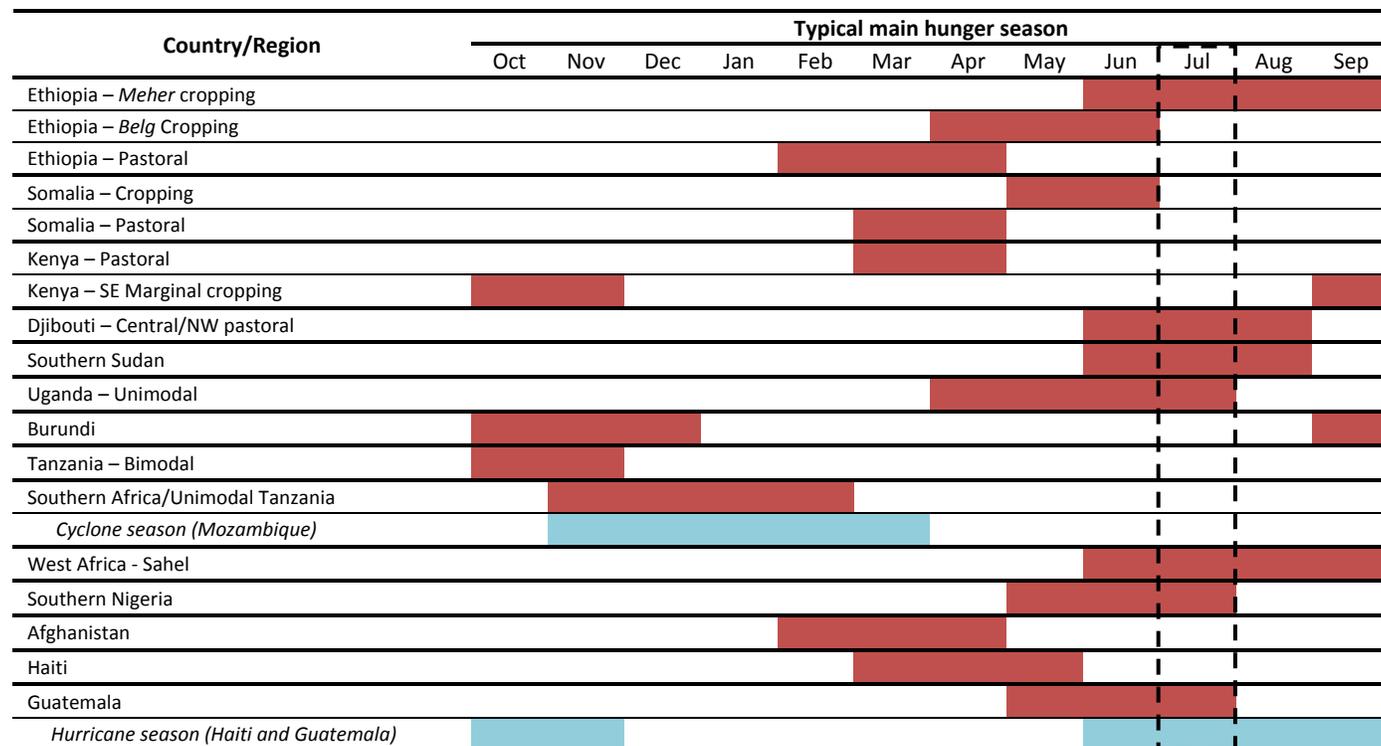
FEWS NET REMOTE MONITORING

Beyond “presence” countries where it maintains offices and staff, FEWS NET also monitors key indicators related to food security in selected “non-presence” countries. The table below summarizes the current monitoring status of each non-presence country. Red flags indicate that anomalies likely to result in food insecurity have been observed. Yellow flags indicate that anomalies of potential concern have been identified and will be evaluated. Remote monitoring began in January 2010 and additional countries will be added over the coming months.

BURUNDI  The current hunger season in Burundi is expected to continue until February 2010 (compared to mid-December in a normal year), due to a delay in the establishment of first season planting in most of the country.

-  Anomalies likely to result in food insecurity have been observed.
-  Anomalies of potential concern have been identified and will be evaluated.
- No anomalies of concern have been observed

TYPICAL HUNGER SEASONS IN FEWS NET MONITORED COUNTRIES AND REGIONS



■ Outlook Period