

FOOD ASSISTANCE OUTLOOK BRIEF

October 2010

PROJECTED FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR APRIL 2011

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. Overall needs at a national level 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. A star (*) indicates new information this month. Projected lean season months that are highlighted in red indicate either an early start or an extension to the typical lean season. For more detail on these projections, please visit www.fews.net.

ABOVE-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN APRIL 2011

*CHAD: Concerns in the Sahel likely to persist

The main cropping season in the Sahelian zone has been mediocre, in part due to flooding, and grain eating birds are a threat. An increased reliance on asset sales and borrowing, and a decline in area planted, is likely to drive earlier than normal needs among poor agricultural and agropastoral households in the Sahel. Prospects for flood recession agriculture are excellent and wild food availability is good, though it is difficult at this time to gauge how much these factors will mitigate needs. Assistance needs among refugees and IDPs in the east may also be above normal.

Projected pastoral lean season: **Feb/Mar – July**

*GUATEMALA: Heavy rains damage crops, likely to depress labor demand

Due to persistent heavy rains, areas in the west and east have reported major crop damage, particularly for corn and beans. Possible post-harvest losses, driven partly by aflatoxin, are an additional concern. Fungal diseases are affecting coffee crops and this is likely to decrease labor demand. In some areas, these shocks follow drought-related food insecurity in 2009. Lean seasons are expected to begin two to three months early.

Projected lean season (W. Highlands): **Jan/Feb - July**

HAITI: Needs likely to decline by October, but remain above-normal

Food imports have rebounded, a good harvest is expected, agricultural inputs are available, and many jobs have been created through post-earthquake assistance programs. These factors increase food availability and access, reducing the food insecure population. However, a larger than normal IDP population remains, heavy rainfall is expected through November, and the lean season typically begins in April.

Projected rural lean season: **April - June**

NIGER: Early 2011 lean season likely, especially in pastoral areas

Assuming normal main season harvests, external assistance needs are expected to drop significantly by October. However, above-normal needs are expected, in 2011, for two reasons. First, households will likely sell more of their 2010 harvest than normal to repay debt incurred during the current hunger season, and above-normal labor supply may drive lower wages and income during the October-December harvest season. Second, severe flooding, in combination with limited pasture and water earlier in the season, has led to high levels of animal mortality in pastoral areas.

Projected lean season (pastoral areas): **February - July.**

AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN APRIL 2011

*AFGHANISTAN: Average dry season needs anticipated

Localized above-average needs are expected in marginal cropping areas of the south, southeast, southwest and central parts of the country due to flooding and rising food prices. In addition, the net 2010 wheat harvest has been smaller than forecast in May due to above-normal precipitation during harvests, which affected irrigated crops.

Projected lean season (highlands): **May-July**

DJIBOUTI: Average dry season needs anticipated

The March-May and the July-September season performed well in 2010. Improvements in food security began in September with kidding (improved milk availability) and the return of summer migrants to Djibouti, which increases demand for petty trade. Average rural assistance needs will exist in April and significant urban food insecurity is likely to persist.

Projected Central/NW lean season: **June - August**

SOMALIA: High levels of need likely to continue over the next six months

The population in need of assistance has declined roughly 25 percent following the positive impacts of two consecutive seasons of at least average rainfall. However, a nutrition crisis persists in the south, conflict continues, and current forecasts suggest below-average *deyr* rains (Oct-Dec) which could significantly impact pastoral households who remain especially vulnerable following an extended drought between 2007 and 2009.

Projected pastoral lean season: **December - March**

*SUDAN: Normal needs expected post-harvest

Assuming a peaceful referendum, April assistance needs in the north are expected to be roughly two-thirds of the five-year average given expectations of a good harvest and improved pasture conditions. In the south, needs are likely to be near average. However, if significant post-referendum insecurity occurs, the resulting displacement and market disruption would likely drive above-normal external assistance needs.

Projected lean season: **May - August**

BELOW-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS OR NO ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN APRIL 2011

*ETHIOPIA: April needs are likely to be below-average, but the possibility of two consecutive poor season in pastoral areas and a poor 2011 *belg* harvest could drive increased needs later in the year. *KENYA: Overall food assistance needs in April 2011 are likely to be above-normal due to poor October-December rainfall, but increased government response capacity will likely mitigate external assistance needs. *MALAWI (none): Substantial need is expected in the south through the peak lean season in March, though large national-level surpluses exist and could mitigate these deficits.

BURKINA FASO (none), MALI (none), MAURITANIA (none), *MOZAMBIQUE (none), NIGERIA (none), TANZANIA (none), UGANDA, ZAMBIA (none), ZIMBABWE (none)

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 ongoing La Nina has resulted in an increased probability of below-average rainfall in southern Burundi during Season “A” (October-January)
*EL SALVADOR	🚩	El Salvador has received above average rains during the last three months. Beans are most vulnerable given their sensitivity to excess rainfall, though increased imports are planned to offset these losses.
HONDURAS	🚩	Above-normal rains between June and October, as well as Tropical Storm Matthew, have affected the harvest of basic grains for the <i>primera</i> season. Poor farmers in the south have been most affected.
NICARAGUA	🚩	Rains have been above average this year, damaging infrastructure and the <i>primera</i> bean harvest. Forecasts indicate that heavy rains are likely through November, affecting the <i>Postrera</i> season, and exacerbating the current situation.
*SENEGAL	-	Due to above normal rainfall conditions across the country, Senegal is expecting a record cereals harvest for the second consecutive year.
*TAJIKISTAN	-	A good harvest and considerable imports from Kazakhstan should meet national demand, though market-actor behavior may still drive higher than average prices.
*YEMEN	🚩	Cereal prices have risen sharply since July, due to unfavorable exchange rates, the Russian export ban, and increasing international prices.

- 🚩 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

LEAN SEASONS IN FEWS NET MONITORED COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

