

FOOD ASSISTANCE OUTLOOK BRIEF

December 2010

PROJECTED FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR JUNE 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 JUNE 2011

*AFGHANISTAN: *Early season dryness continues*

Early season conditions remain dry and both short- and medium-range forecasts indicate an increased probability of below-average rainfall. FEWS NET is cautiously projecting poor snow accumulation this winter, and subsequently, a below-average summer harvest. If this occurs, needs in June will be above-average, but the most substantial needs will occur later in the year.

Projected lean season (highlands): May-July

CHAD: *Concerns in the Sahel likely to persist*

Localized crop damage in the Sahelian zone, an increased reliance on asset sales and borrowing, and a decline in area planted, are likely to drive earlier than normal needs among poor agropastoral households in the Sahel. However, a record main season harvests, excellent prospects for flood recession agriculture, and good wild food availability will prevent any widespread crisis.

Projected pastoral lean season: Feb/Mar – July

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

Due to crop damage related to tropical storms and heavy 2010 rainfall, the government estimates that approximately 300,000 people will need external food assistance. Needs will begin in February among poor and very poor households in the western highlands and will continue through at least Oct/Nov, when the next harvest begins. Elsewhere, food assistance needs are likely to begin in March and continue through Aug/Sept.

Projected lean season (W. Highlands): February - July

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

The lean season, and assistance needs, will peak in April/May. Roughly two million people are expected to need food assistance. By June, needs will likely decline slightly, but remain above average due to the combined impacts of the January 2010 earthquake, Hurricane Tomas, the cholera epidemic, and political unrest.

Projected rural lean season: March - June

*KENYA: *Short rains very poor in cropping and pastoral areas*

The 2010 short rains have performed poorly, though rains have improved in recent weeks. In southeast and coastal cropping areas, bean crops appear to have survived the poor start of season, but maize crops, which were planted late, are unlikely to reach maturity. In northern and northeastern pastoral areas pasture/water availability will be below average, reversing recent recovery from the 2007-09 drought.

Projected lean season (SE cropping): March - November

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

Severe flooding, in combination with limited pasture and water earlier in the season, has led to high levels of animal mortality in pastoral areas. June is typically the peak of the pastoral lean season and assistance needs will be above normal in 2011. The agropastoral lean season will also be longer than usual, though coping capacity in these areas is relatively better.

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

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

Conflict continues across central and southern Somalia and the *deyr* rains (Oct-Dec) have been very poor in most cropping and pastoral areas. January harvests are likely to be below average, and therefore the peak agropastoral lean season in June will be worse than usual. If the La Nina persists and *gu* rains are poor, significant needs are likely in pastoral areas.

Projected agropastoral lean season: March - June

AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN JUNE 2011

*DJIBOUTI: *Coastal rains performing poorly*

Overall, assistance needs in June will be average, though households are more vulnerable than usual due to heavy 2008/09 livestock losses, and significant urban food insecurity is likely to persist. Also, if the *Heys/Dada* rains (Oct-Feb) continue to perform poorly, the lean season in coastal areas will likely begin two months early.

Projected coastal lean season: April - August

SUDAN: *Average 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 JUNE 2011

ETHIOPIA: Overall June needs are likely to be below-average, but above-average needs are possible in southern pastoral areas and *belg*-dependant cropping areas, especially if the upcoming *sapie* rains are poor. **NIGERIA:** Needs expected in the extreme north, though an appeal for external assistance is unlikely. **BURKINA FASO, MALI (none), MALAWI (none), MAURITANIA (none), MOZAMBIQUE (none), TANZANIA (none), UGANDA, ZAMBIA (none), ZIMBABWE (none)**

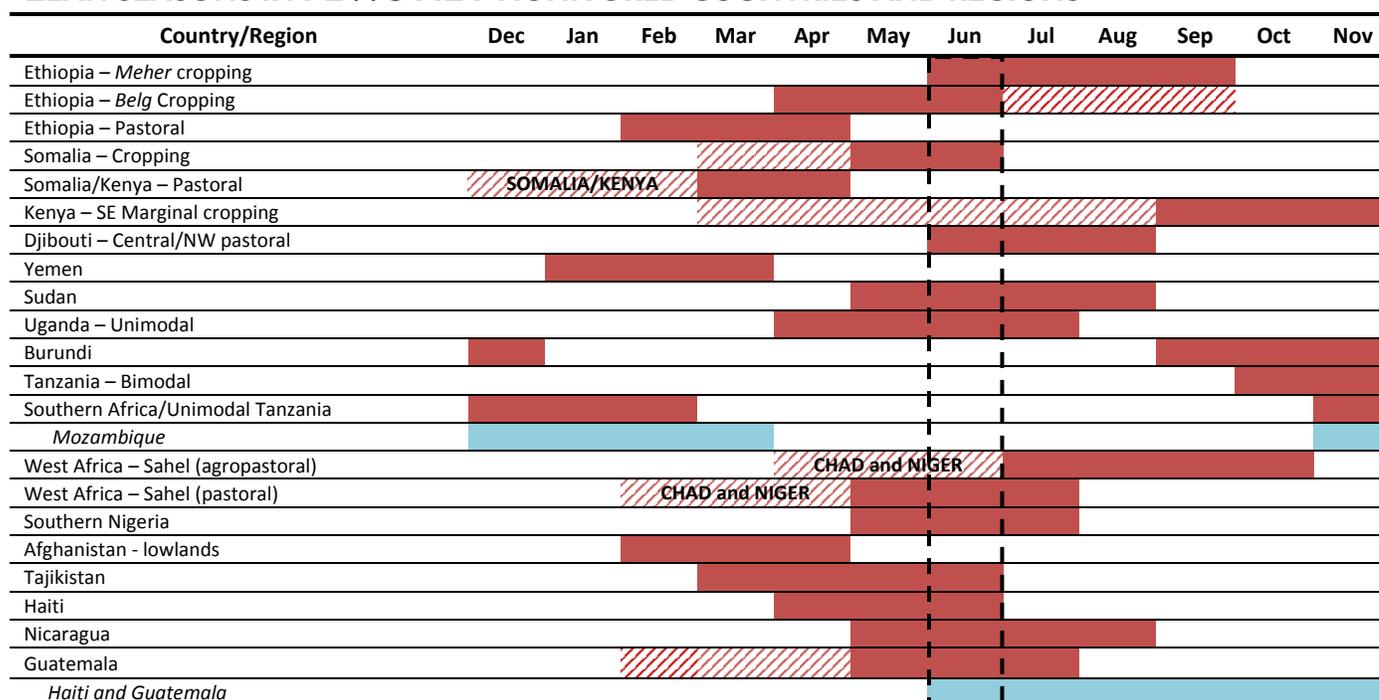
FEWS NET REMOTE MONITORING

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		A delayed start of season is threatening crop production in the <i>Depression de l’Est</i> , the <i>Plateaux secs de l’Est</i> and the <i>Depression du nord</i> livelihood zones.
*EL SALVADOR	-	Government intervention, in combination with increased imports is mitigating the high bean prices which resulted from a poor <i>primera</i> season harvest
*HONDURAS		2010 has been the second consecutive year of poor production in areas of the south (Livelihood zones 5, 6, 7, 8, 11). Lean season in these areas, which typically start in May, will likely begin 1-2 months early.
*NICARAGUA		Though bean prices are starting to drop, the lean season in parts of livelihood zones 3, 12, and 13 will likely start in March/April, one to two months earlier than usual, due to <i>primera</i> season crop losses.
SENEGAL	-	A second consecutive year of good harvests, beginning in earnest in October 2010, is likely to lead to good food availability and prices near or below the five-year average.
TAJIKISTAN	-	Market wheat prices in Kurgan-Tyube and Dushanbe have begun to decline but are still higher than last year. In Gharm (east), and in the North, prices are stable, but still at their highest level since 2008.
*YEMEN		Continued insecurity and recent anecdotal reports raise concern about food insecurity among IDPs in the northern governorates. Market wheat prices have returned to near normal

-  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



 FAOB Focus month  Typical lean season  Atypical lean season  Hurricane/Cyclone season