

# FOOD ASSISTANCE OUTLOOK BRIEF

February 2011

## PROJECTED FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR AUGUST 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](http://www.fews.net).

### ABOVE-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN AUGUST 2011

**\*AFGHANISTAN: Dryness continues, poor irrigated season likely**

Accumulated snowpack has improved since early January, though a below-average harvest remains likely due to reduced area planted and widespread early-season dryness which affected wheat germination. Food price volatility is expected to increase after April. August needs will be above-average, though the most substantial needs will occur later in the year. Lean seasons are likely to begin 2-3 months early.

**Projected lean season (lowlands): Nov/Dec - March**

**CHAD: Concerns in the Sahel persist**

Localized crop damage, 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. Also, due to uncertainty related to government price and trade policy, traders may not be stocking normally, which may constrain cereal trade flows to the north and limit the government's ability to rebuild reserves for subsidized sales.

**Projected agropastoral lean season: Mar/Apr - August**

**DJIBOUTI: Coastal rains performing poorly**

Assistance needs in August will be high as the Heys/Dada rains continue to be poor in coastal areas, below-average Sougoum rains (Mar-May) are currently forecast, and households are more vulnerable than usual due to heavy 2008/09 livestock losses.

**Projected coastal lean season: April - August**

**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 480,000 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 - Oct/Nov**

**\*HAITI: Needs likely to decline with June/July harvest, but remain above-normal**

Assistance needs will peak in April/May with roughly two million people expected to need food assistance. By June, needs will likely decline slightly, but remain above average through at least November given that spring harvests in Artibonite will be up to 30 percent below average due to labor shortages in key producing areas and likely delays in the provision of agricultural assistance resulting from the government transition.

**Projected rural lean season: mid-Feb - June**

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

The 2010 short rains have performed poorly. In northern and northeastern pastoral areas pasture/water availability will be below average, reversing recent recovery from the 2007-09 drought. In marginal southeast and coastal cropping areas crop harvests were less than 20 percent of normal. Assistance needs will be above normal, but decline after May assuming normal March-May rains.

**Projected lean season (SE cropping): March - April**

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

High levels of animal mortality in pastoral areas during 2010 will result in substantially lower than usual milk production in August, driving atypical needs in pastoral areas, despite current expectations of normal seasonal rainfall.

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

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

Deyr season cereal production was a complete failure and the country faces a severe water crisis. The ongoing pastoral lean season (Jan-Mar) is worse than usual and the agropastoral lean season will begin in March, two months early, and be especially severe. Though average Apr-Jun Gu rains are expected, a poor season is possible and would result in an extreme crisis. The onset of such a crisis would be very rapid in pastoral areas.

**Projected agropastoral lean season: March - June**

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

Recent seasons have not performed well and the Mar-May rains are likely to be late. Assistance needs will be above-average but relatively small

**Projected agropastoral lean season: March - June**

### AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN AUGUST 2011

**ETHIOPIA: Needs higher than initially anticipated**

Overall August needs are likely to be average as localized crop damage related to wheat rust, floods, and pests, in combination with drought in pastoral areas and the likelihood of a poor belg season offsets an average to above-average 2010 main season harvest.

**Projected lean season (belg): April - September**

**SUDAN: Average needs expected post-harvest**

Assuming a peaceful referendum, August assistance needs are expected to be below average in the north and near average in the south following a good main season in most cropping and pastoral areas. Population movement from north to south is also expected. If significant post-referendum insecurity occurs, 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 AUGUST 2011

**NIGERIA, BURKINA FASO, MALI (none), MALAWI (none), MAURITANIA, MOZAMBIQUE, UGANDA, ZAMBIA (none), ZIMBABWE:** limited to chronically food-deficit households.

## 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.

<b>*BURUNDI</b>		The threat of poor production from a delayed start of season is spreading to additional livelihood zones. Prices also remain higher than normal.
<b>*EL SALVADOR</b>	-	Heavy rains and dryness during 2009 and 2010 damaged crops and resulted in increased prices for basic staples. Government measures to ensure food availability and stabilize prices have been somewhat successful, though international prices increases are having an impact.
<b>HONDURAS</b>	-	Despite high prices, households currently have resources from wage labor to buy food. The annual lean season in these areas will reach its peak from May to July when household food stocks and demand for unskilled labor are low
<b>*NICARAGUA</b>		The lean season in the dry corridor will likely start in March/April, 1-2 months earlier than usual. 10,000 households in this area are expected to face food deficits through August. La Niña threatens the start of the <i>primera</i> season.
<b>*LIBERIA</b>		More than 30,000 refugees from Cote d’Ivoire facing difficulty accessing basic food items, clean water, and health care and are exerting significant pressure on host family food sources and income. Food security conditions of refugees and poorer host families are likely to worsen assuming that the crisis is not resolved.
<b>SENEGAL</b>	-	A second consecutive year of good harvests is likely to lead to good food availability and prices near or below the five-year average.
<b>SIERRA LEONE</b>	-	The 2011 bumper harvest increased food availability nationwide. Food supplies are high, household food stock levels normal, and prices are average in most markets.
<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>		Wheat flour prices in several markets are higher than 2008 levels and are expected to remain high in the short-term. Snow accumulation in Tajikistan was low until mid-January when deficits narrowed after a heavy snow storm.
<b>*YEMEN</b>		Higher staple food prices, prolonged conflict, and the threat of future civil insecurity threaten household food security in northern and southern governorates.

-  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

