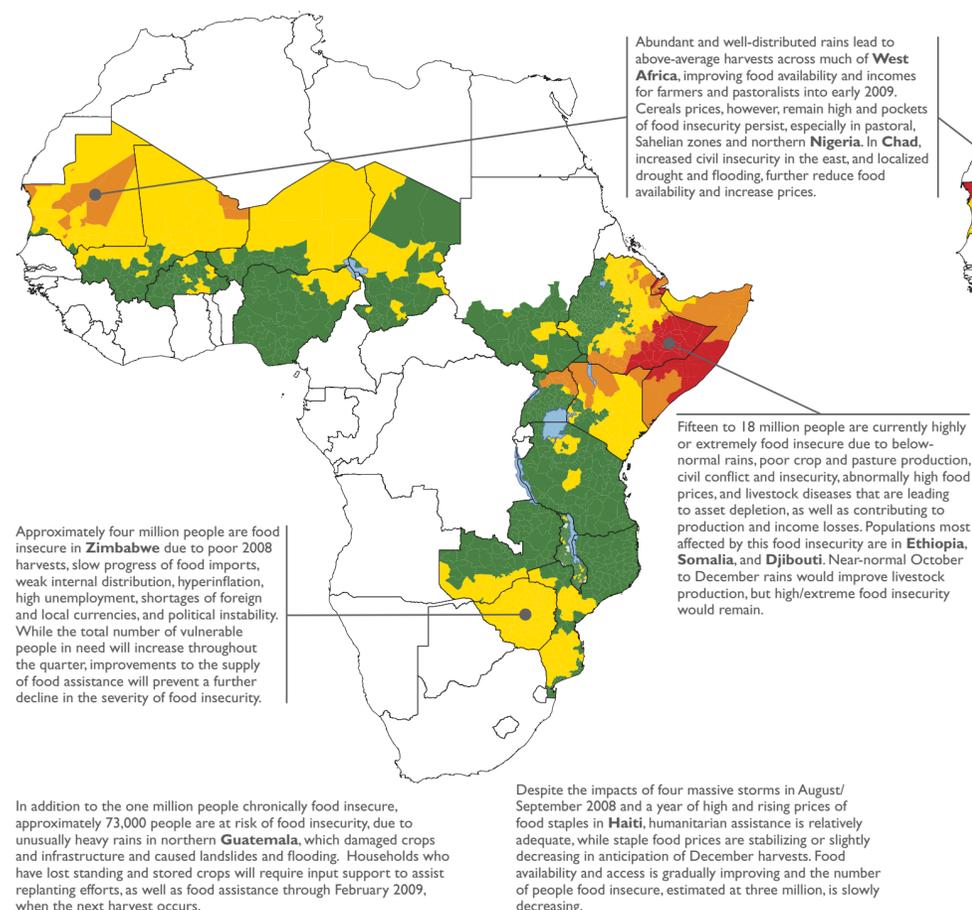


October to December 2008

Current estimated food security conditions

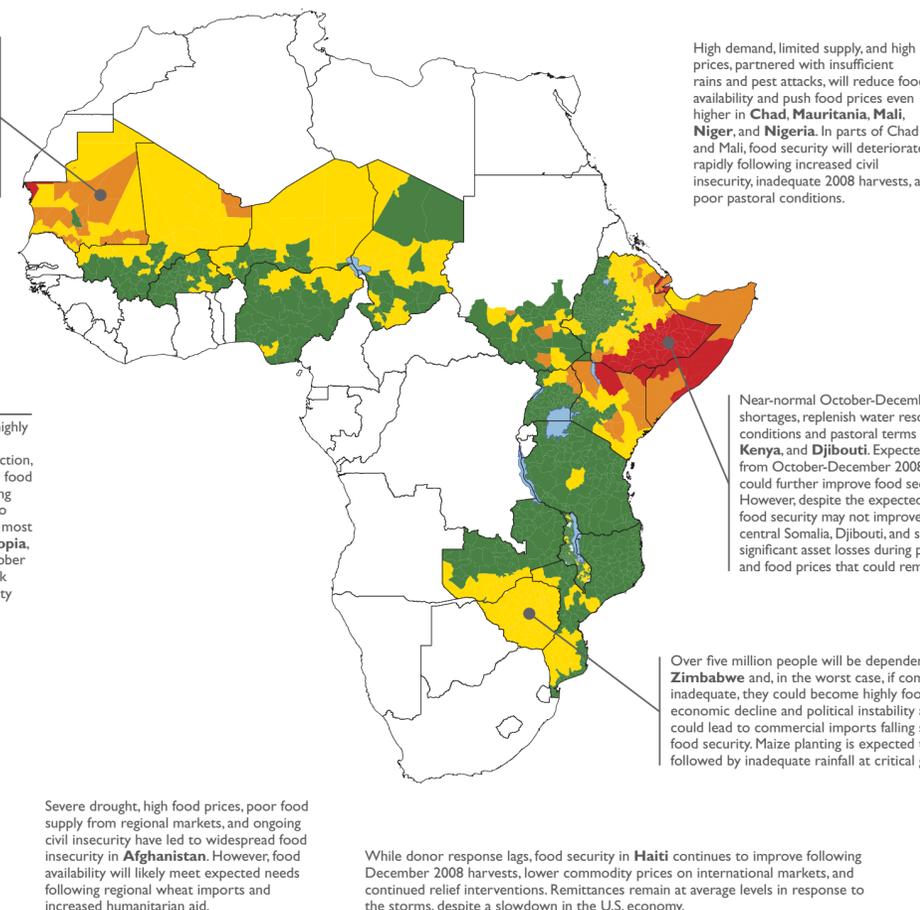
This map shows estimated food security conditions for the fourth quarter of 2008 using the FEWS NET food insecurity severity scale.



January to March 2009

Most-likely scenarios

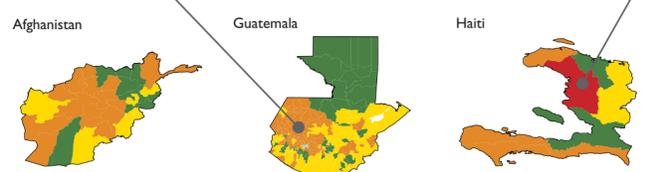
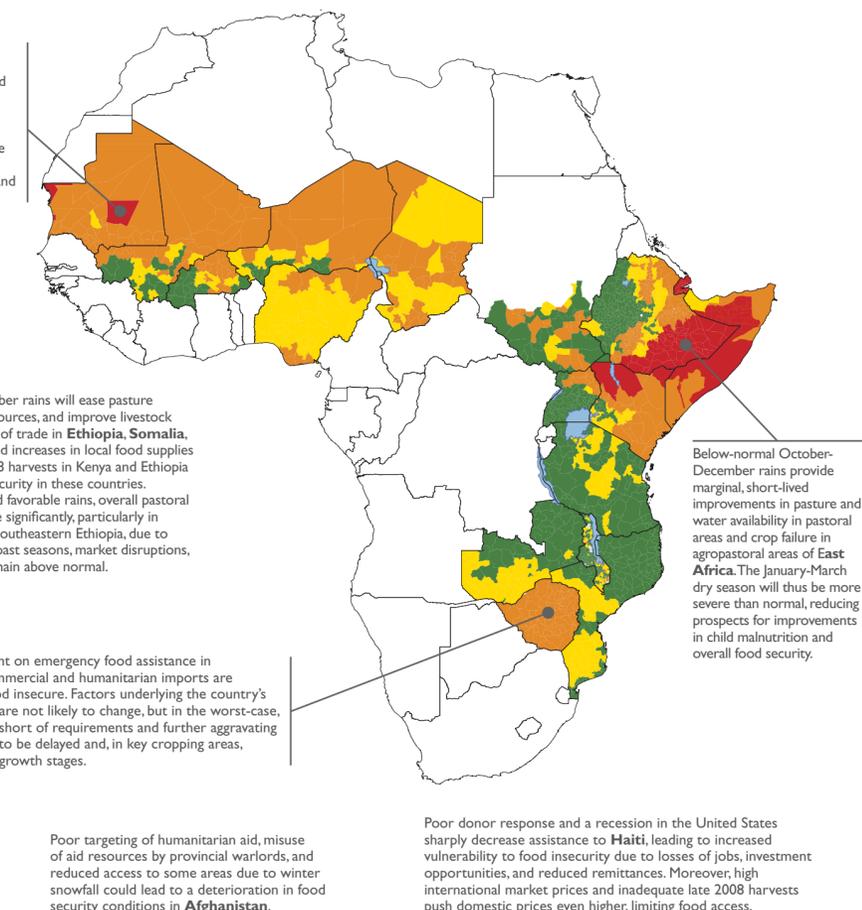
This map shows projected food security conditions for the first quarter of 2009 in the most-likely scenario.



January to March 2009

Worst-case scenarios

This map shows projected worst-case scenarios of food security conditions for the first quarter of 2009. While these conditions may arise in some areas, it is extremely unlikely that the assumptions underlying these scenarios will occur across all FEWS NET countries.



For country and regional outlook reports go to www.fews.net

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) is a USAID-funded activity that provides timely and rigorous early warning and vulnerability information about emerging and evolving food security issues. We collaborate with and work through local, regional and international food security networks and partners to build consensus and develop local capacity to manage the risks of food insecurity. FEWS NET currently operates in 17 countries in Africa, and Haiti, Guatemala, and Afghanistan.

Food security outlooks are a core component of FEWS NET's work in translating early warning into actionable information. The outlooks include a set of comparable maps of current and projected food security conditions. The maps show the highest level of food insecurity per geographic area; the maps do not indicate the number of food insecure people in a given area.

Current estimated food security conditions are mapped by assigning a level of severity of food insecurity to each area of a country, using the latest monitoring data and the expert judgment of FEWS NET field staff and their partners. Projected most likely and worst-case food security conditions are mapped by analyzing potential hazards and their potential impact; comparing spatial extents of hazards with data on vulnerability and current estimated food security conditions; and then assigning a level of estimated severity of food insecurity. The FEWS NET Food Insecurity Severity Scale provides a tool to guide expert analysis and judgment so that a core set of reference indicators are interpreted in a consistent manner. These reference indicators have been developed as part of the FAO-led Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) process, in which FEWS NET is a participating member.

This information is current as of November 18, 2008. For additional information, contact FEWS NET at info@fews.net.

FEWS NET Food Insecurity Severity Scale

	Summary Description
■ Generally food secure	Virtually all households in an area are perceived to have adequate access to sufficient food to maintain an active and healthy life. This means that there is adequate food available; that households have adequate resources and/or entitlement to obtain sufficient food; and that they are healthy enough to receive the nutritional value of the food.
■ Moderately food insecure	Some or all households in an area are unable to meet their basic food requirements, resulting in under-nutrition and/or erosion of assets.
■ Highly food insecure	Some or all households in an area face severe shortfalls in meeting their basic food requirements. High rates of acute malnutrition and excess mortality result, combined with significant levels of destitution.
■ Extremely food insecure	Some or all households in an area face a significant shortfall in their basic food requirements, resulting in dangerous and irreversible response strategies, such as distress sales of productive assets and reduced food consumption, and high levels of acute malnutrition.
■ Famine	Populations in an area face mass starvation, and death is widespread due to an extreme lack of access to food and other basic needs.

FAO Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Classification (IPC) System Reference Indicators

	Crude mortality rates (# deaths per 10,000 people per day)	Acute malnutrition (weight/height <-2 z-scores)	Stunting (height/age <-2 z-scores)	Disease	Food access/availability	Dietary diversity	Water access/availability	Destitution/displacement	Civil security	Coping	Hazard	Structural	Livelihood assets (\$ capita/human, social, financial, natural, physical)
■ Generally food secure	CMR <0.5	<3%	<20%	NDC	Usually adequate, stable (2,100 kcal pppd)	Consistent quality and quantity of food	Usually adequate, stable (>15 ltrs pppd)	NDC	Prevailing and structural peace	NDC	Moderate to low probability of, and/or vulnerability	NDC	Generally sustained utilization
■ Moderately food insecure	CMR <0.5 USMR <=1	>3% but <10%; usual range, stable	20-40%	NDC	Borderline adequate, unstable (2,100 kcal pppd)	Chronic deficit in dietary diversity	Borderline adequate, unstable (>15 ltrs pppd)	NDC	Unstable, disruptive tension	Insurance strategies	Recurrent, with high vulnerability	Pronounced underlying hindrances	Stressed unsustainable utilization
■ Highly food insecure	CMR 0.5-1, increasing; USMR 1-2	10-15%; >usual, increasing	NDC	Epidemic outbreak; increasing	Lack of entitlement (2,100 kcal pppd), meeting minimum needs through asset stripping	Acute dietary deficit	7.5-15 ltrs pppd; meeting minimum needs through asset stripping	Emerging/diffuse	Limited spread, low-intensity conflict	Crisis strategies; CSI >reference, increasing	NDC	NDC	Accelerated and critical depletion or loss of access
■ Extremely food insecure	CMR 1-2, increasing, or >2x reference rate	>15%; >usual, increasing	NDC	Pandemic outbreak	Severe entitlement gap, unable to meet minimum needs	Regularly 2 to 3 or fewer main food groups consumed	<7.5 ltrs pppd (human usage only)	Concentrated/increasing	Widespread, high-intensity conflict	Distress strategies; CSI significantly >reference	NDC	NDC	Near complete and irreversible depletion or loss of access
■ Famine	USMR >4 CMR >2	>30%	NDC	Pandemic outbreak	Extreme entitlement gap; much below 2,100 kcal pppd	NDC	<4 ltrs pppd	Large scale, concentrated	Widespread, high-intensity conflict	NDC	NDC	NDC	Effectively complete loss; collapse

Note: NDC = not a defining characteristic; pppd = per person per day; ltrs = liters; CSI = Coping Strategies Index developed by CARE and WFP. For more information on the FEWS NET Food Insecurity Scale and the IPC, visit <http://www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale>



The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.