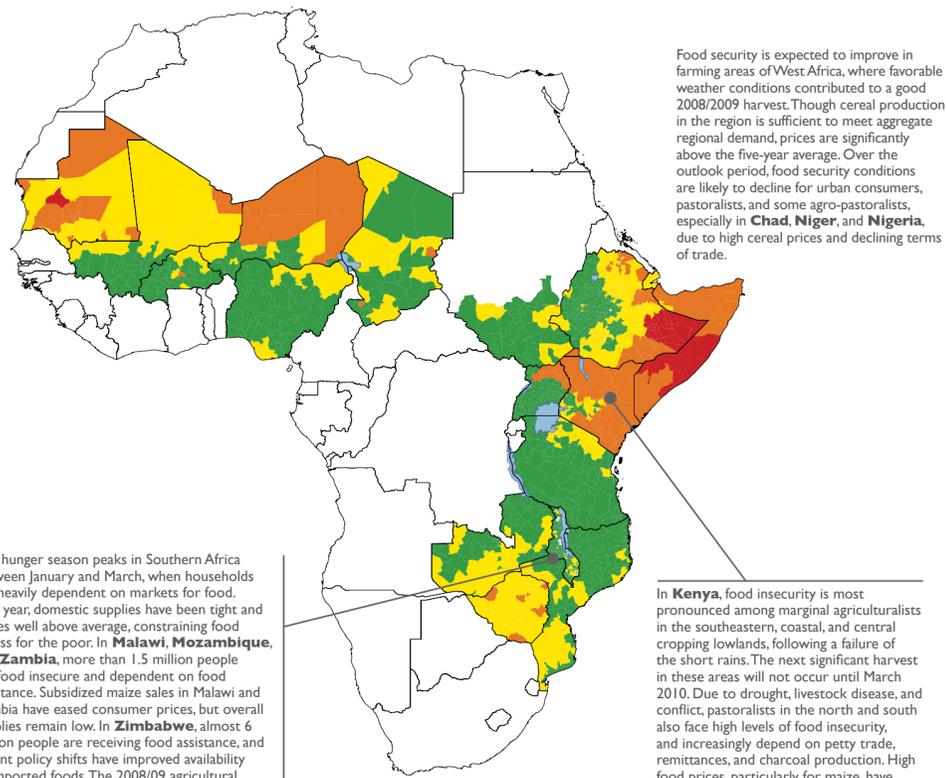


January 2009 - June 2009

January to March 2009

Current estimated food security conditions

This map shows estimated food security conditions for the first quarter of 2009 using the FEWS NET food insecurity severity scale.



The hunger season peaks in Southern Africa between January and March, when households are heavily dependent on markets for food. This year, domestic supplies have been tight and prices well above average, constraining food access for the poor. In **Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia**, more than 1.5 million people are food insecure and dependent on food assistance. Subsidized maize sales in Malawi and Zambia have eased consumer prices, but overall supplies remain low. In **Zimbabwe**, almost 6 million people are receiving food assistance, and recent policy shifts have improved availability of imported foods. The 2008/09 agricultural season has progressed well, except in central and southern Mozambique and eastern Zimbabwe, where rains were delayed and must continue through March for yields to be average, while in Zambia, reduced use of fertilizer, due to its high cost, will limit potential yields.

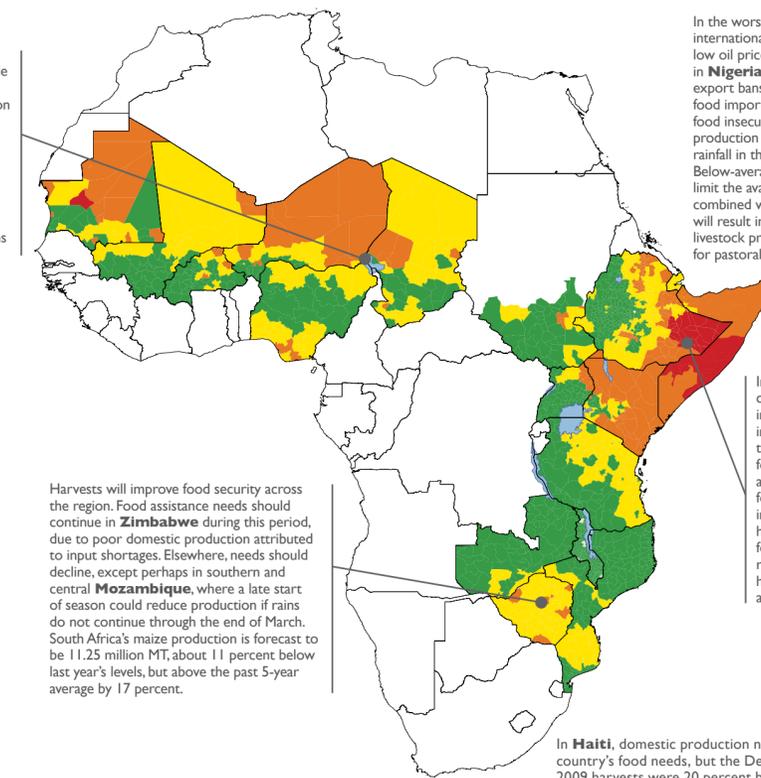
Food security is expected to improve in farming areas of West Africa, where favorable weather conditions contributed to a good 2008/2009 harvest. Though cereal production in the region is sufficient to meet aggregate regional demand, prices are significantly above the five-year average. Over the outlook period, food security conditions are likely to decline for urban consumers, pastoralists, and some agro-pastoralists, especially in **Chad, Niger, and Nigeria**, due to high cereal prices and declining terms of trade.

In **Kenya**, food insecurity is most pronounced among marginal agriculturalists in the southeastern, coastal, and central cropping lowlands, following a failure of the short rains. The next significant harvest in these areas will not occur until March 2010. Due to drought, livestock disease, and conflict, pastoralists in the north and south also face high levels of food insecurity, and increasingly depend on petty trade, remittances, and charcoal production. High food prices, particularly for maize, have also contributed to food insecurity across the country. Households have eroded their normal coping strategies, and emergency assistance is required.

April to June 2009

Most-likely scenarios

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



Harvests will improve food security across the region. Food assistance needs should continue in **Zimbabwe** during this period, due to poor domestic production attributed to input shortages. Elsewhere, needs should decline, except perhaps in southern and central **Mozambique**, where a late start of season could reduce production if rains do not continue through the end of March. South Africa's maize production is forecast to be 11.25 million MT, about 11 percent below last year's levels, but above the past 5-year average by 17 percent.

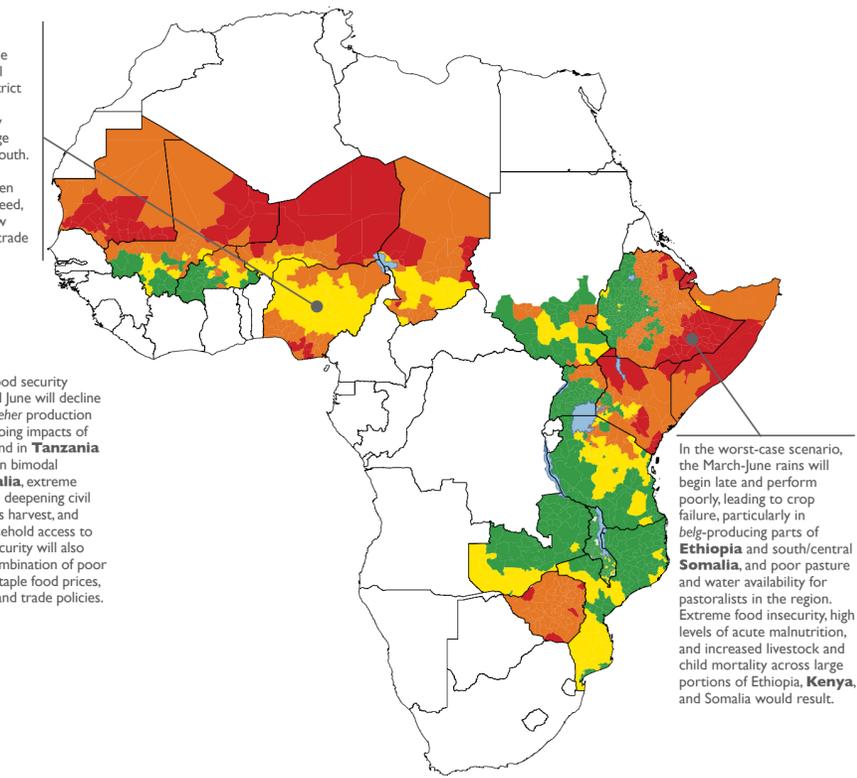
From April to June, the number of food insecure people in **Guatemala** will decline slightly. This period covers the hunger season, when prices normally reach their peak, but prices are not expected to reach the extreme levels of 2008, and favorable climatic conditions should allow for a normal *primera* planting.

In **Haiti**, domestic production normally meets half of the country's food needs, but the December 2008-February 2009 harvests were 20 percent below-average and the forecast for rains feeding the June-August 2009 harvests is not favorable. Two consecutive poor harvests would increase the country's dependence on food imports and humanitarian assistance. Shortages could be managed with government and international assistance if international food prices remain stable. About 2.8 million people are expected to be food insecure from April to June in the most-likely scenario.

April to June 2009

Worst-case scenarios

This map shows projected worst-case scenarios of food security conditions for the second 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.

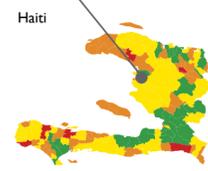
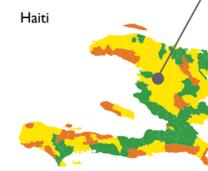
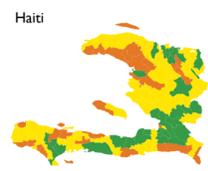


In the worst-case scenario, declining international economic conditions and low oil prices will weaken terms of trade in **Nigeria**. High food prices and cereal export bans in Niger and Chad will restrict food imports and generate widespread food insecurity among those affected by production deficits due to below-average rainfall in the North and floods in the South. Below-average rainfall in the North will limit the availability of fodder, which, when combined with the high cost of animal feed, will result in stress sales of livestock, low livestock prices, and declining terms of trade for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.

In the most-likely scenario, food security conditions between April and June will decline in **Ethiopia**, due to poor *meher* production in the northeast and the ongoing impacts of the failed 2008 *belg* season, and in **Tanzania** following a failed *vuli* season in bimodal areas. In south/central **Somalia**, extreme food insecurity will persist as deepening civil insecurity, a poor short-rains harvest, and hyperinflation constrain household access to food. High levels of food insecurity will also remain in **Kenya**, given a combination of poor harvests, unseasonably high staple food prices, and poor government price and trade policies.

In the worst-case scenario, the March-June rains will begin late and perform poorly, leading to crop failure, particularly in *belg*-producing parts of **Ethiopia** and south/central **Somalia**, and poor pasture and water availability for pastoralists in the region. Extreme food insecurity, high levels of acute malnutrition, and increased livestock and child mortality across large portions of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia would result.

Rising international prices could undermine food access for poorer **Haitian** households, increasing the size of the food insecure population to 3.1 million. The extended forecast for the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season, which begins in June, suggests above-normal activity this year; a hurricane making landfall would compound food security problems. Continued economic decline in North America could reduce the purchasing power of households dependent on remittances.



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 March 2, 2009. For additional information, contact FEWS NET at info@fews.net.

FEWS NET Food Insecurity Severity Scale

	Summary Description
Green	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.
Yellow	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.
Orange	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.
Red	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.
Dark Red	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.

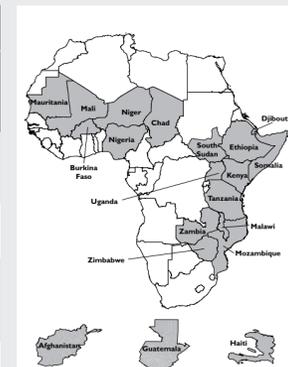
FAO Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Classification (IPC) System Reference Indicators

Crude mortality rate (H 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/yr human, social, financial, natural, physical)
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
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
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
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
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

No data

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>



Countries with FEWS NET presence

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.