

# FOOD ASSISTANCE OUTLOOK BRIEF

January 11, 2010

## PROJECTED FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR JUNE 2010

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. Those needs 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. For more detail on these projections, please visit [www.fews.net](http://www.fews.net).

### ABOVE-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN JUNE 2010

#### **BURKINA FASO: Early needs following poor season in north and northeast**

Reduced production/poor pasture growth will result in reduced household incomes, particularly among the poor in areas of the north and northeast. The hunger season will begin in March, as opposed to June in a typical year. The major threat to food security in Burkina Faso over the coming 6 months will be increased demand for local cereal stocks from neighboring areas of Mali and Niger where harvests were worse.

**Projected start of hunger season (Sahelian zone): March**

#### **CHAD: Elevated malnutrition/mortality in western Sahelian zone**

Given rainfall deficits and dry spells, two million people are expected to require humanitarian assistance between now and October/November 2010. Areas of the western Sahel (e.g. Kanem, Batha, and Lac) are most affected. Elevated levels of malnutrition have already been reported and the hunger season will begin two to three months early. Conditions are better in the Sudanian zone, but needs will also begin early in this area.

**Projected start of pastoral hunger season: March**

#### **DIJIBOUTI: Poor rains and food aid cuts likely to cause extreme food insecurity**

A likely failure of the Heys/Dada rains (Oct-Dec), declining livestock-to-cereal terms of trade, and planned reductions in food aid distribution are expected to drive increasing food insecurity. The country's main hunger season, which usually begins in June, is expected to begin in April.

**Projected start of Central/NW hunger season: April**

#### **ETHIOPIA: High levels of need expected to follow poor meher harvest**

Significant need is expected to begin in February in SNNPR and in March in eastern *meher* cropping areas, two months earlier than normal. Though adequate in much of the southern pastoral zone, *deyr* rains have been poor in eastern Somali region and southern Oromia.

**Projected start of meher hunger season: March/April**

#### **GUATEMALA: Deteriorating conditions, less response in west**

The *postrera* harvest (Oct/Nov) was below average. Current food insecurity in the dry corridor is expected to persist and conditions in the west are expected to deteriorate, with food stocks depleting, and households turning to purchases in late February, which is earlier than normal.

**Projected start of hunger season (W. Highlands): February**

#### **KENYA: Short rains rebound in December**

The main season harvest has been significantly below normal, though large-scale imports by the GoK are in progress. The short rains were erratic but crop performance in the southeast looks to be significantly better than anticipated following heavy rains in December. Assistance needs will likely decline by March but remain above the recent five year average.

**Projected start of main pastoral hunger season: August**

#### **MALI: Above-average need expected in northern pastoral areas**

Cereal production been average to good and pastoral conditions in Timbuktu are satisfactory. However, in some areas of eastern Gao, agricultural production and pasture regeneration have been poor. The hunger season will start two to three months early in these areas.

**Projected start of hunger season (Gao): March/April**

#### **NIGER: Large-scale humanitarian assistance needs likely**

Due to poorly distributed rains and an early end of season, food insecurity during 2010 will be quite severe, particularly in the agropastoral belt. Atypical food-insecurity-related migration has begun among eastern farming households whose production has been particularly limited. Rains in pastoral areas have also been poor for the second consecutive year. Hunger seasons will begin two to three months earlier than normal.

**Projected start of hunger season (cropping areas): March**

#### **SOMALIA: Needs expected to decline, but will remain above average**

*Deyr* season crops are well established in the south, though rainfall has been poor in the north and a crisis persists in the central regions. The pastoral hunger season in the central, northeast and northwest regions will begin in mid-January rather than late-February. By June, needs will have declined due to good short season crop production, declining prices and *gu* rains, though renewed conflict may offset some of these improvements.

**Projected start of pastoral hunger season: January**

#### **SOUTHERN SUDAN: Poor rainfall, expanding conflict**

Needs are likely to rapidly increase in January, due to poor rainfall, widespread yield reductions and ongoing conflict. The main hunger season is expected to begin in March rather than in May-June.

**Projected start of hunger season: March**

### AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN JUNE 2010

#### **MAURITANIA: Stable food security conditions**

Though needs will begin rising in April, good 2009 crop harvests and existing food aid stocks will be adequate to address deficits.

**Projected start of hunger season: March/April**

#### **MOZAMBIQUE: Harvest to begin in March**

Needs expected to decline seasonably as the main harvest begins in March, though rainfall to date has been below-average.

**Projected start of hunger season: Oct/Nov**

### BELOW-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS OR NO ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN JUNE 2010

AFGHANISTAN, HAITI, MALAWI (none), NIGERIA (none), TANZANIA (none), UGANDA, ZAMBIA (none), ZIMBABWE

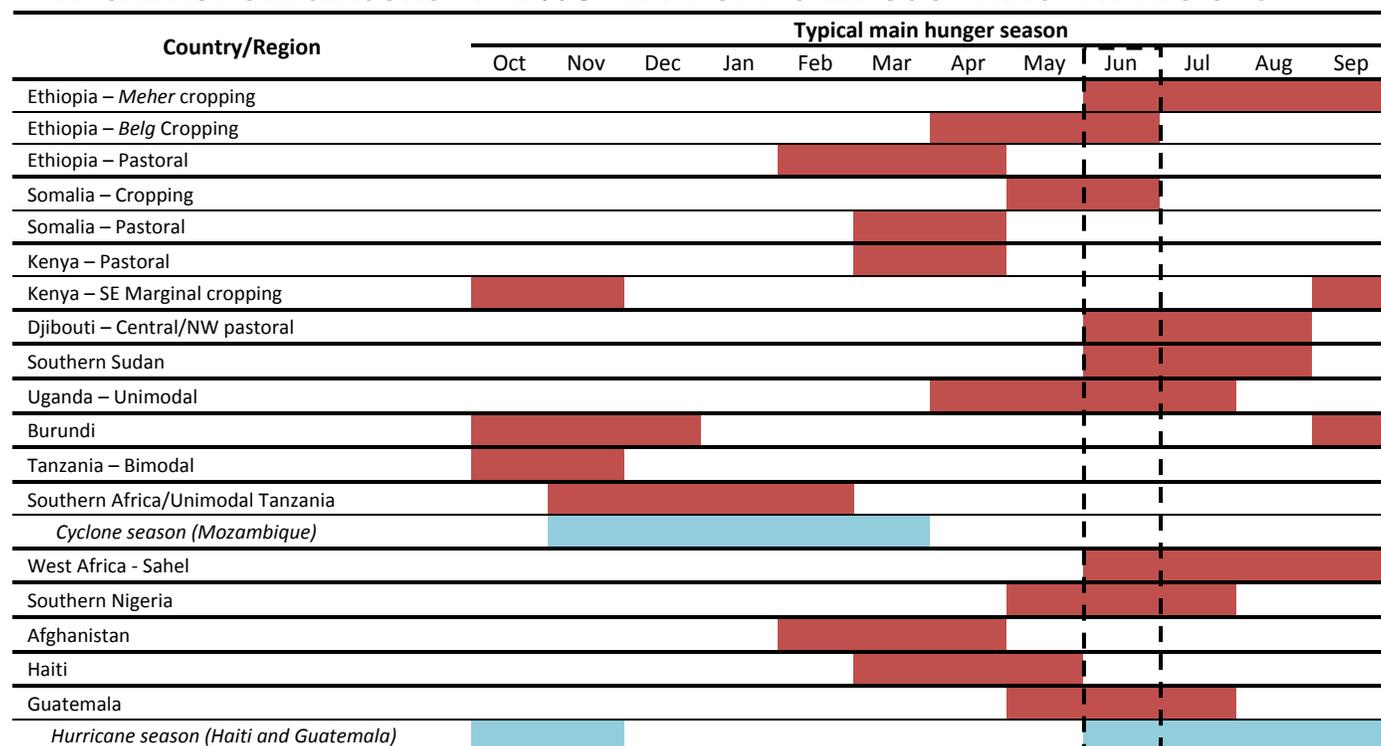
## FEWS NET REMOTE MONITORING

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 will begin in January 2010 with additional countries added over the coming months.

**BURUNDI** - Longer-than-usual dry season and limited availability of inputs has hindered preparation for first season crops, especially in the central and eastern regions.

-  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

## TYPICAL HUNGER SEASONS IN FEWS NET MONITORED COUNTRIES AND REGIONS



Outlook Period