

FOOD ASSISTANCE OUTLOOK BRIEF

April 12, 2010

PROJECTED FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER 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.

ABOVE-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN SEPTEMBER 2010

CHAD: Abnormal rural-urban migration due to agropastoral food insecurity

FEWS NET estimates that roughly 800,000 people will be unable to meet basic food needs through September 2010. This population is largely agropastoral and is concentrated in the western agropastoral, eastern rainfed cropping, and transhumant pastoral livelihoods zones.

Projected pastoral hunger season: Ongoing - July

***DJIBOUTI: Poor rains likely to cause extreme food insecurity**

Poor spatial distribution of the *Heys/Dada* rains (Oct-Feb), expected poor performance of the current *Diraac/Sougoum* season (March-May), high unemployment, and declining livestock-to-cereal terms of trade are expected to drive increasing food insecurity. The country's main hunger season is expected to begin two months early.

Projected Central/NW hunger season: April - August

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

Significant need began in March in eastern *meher* cropping areas, two months earlier than normal. Needs during August, typically the peak of the *meher* hunger season, will be much higher than normal. 2010 *Belg* rains have performed well in most areas.

Projected meher hunger season: March/April - September

GUATEMALA: Improvements expected in September

Conditions in the west will likely continue to deteriorate until September, when food security will begin to improve with the start of the *primera* harvest. May-July rains may be affected by El Niño.

Projected hunger season (W. Highlands): Ongoing-Sept.

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

Needs are expected to decline over the coming six months, but remain above normal given the impacts of the January 12 earthquake. The hunger season is expected to start early in the Northwest Department, in March. Long-range forecasts predict above-normal Atlantic hurricane activity.

Projected rural hunger season: March/April-May

***MOZAMBIQUE: Extended dry spell and floods affect main harvest**

Fourteen percent of maize in the southern and central regions was lost following dry spells. According to SETSAN, 456,000 people will need assistance, some as early as July. The government plans to heavily support second season production in hopes of mitigating some of the main season shortfall.

Projected hunger season (south/central): Sept-March

NIGER: Large-scale humanitarian assistance needs expected

Food insecurity during 2010 will be quite severe, particularly in the agropastoral belt. Regional trade will likely help to mitigate production deficits. However, reduced incomes will still constrain food access, resulting in household-level food deficits and increased levels of acute malnutrition.

Projected hunger season (cropping areas): April-Sept.

SOMALIA: High levels of need expected to continue over the coming 6 months

Though January assessments suggested a drop in assistance needs, a deepening drought in the central and northern regions, the suspension of food assistance, ongoing conflict, and unseasonable increases in staple food prices, mean that this decline will be less substantial than expected.

Projected agricultural hunger season: April/May

***SUDAN: Below-average crop production, continued needs in Darfur**

Poor crop production and ongoing conflict are expected to drive increasing food insecurity over the coming six months. Conditions in Jonglei County, where extremely high levels of acute malnutrition have been reported, are of particular concern.

Projected hunger season: March/April-August

AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN SEPTEMBER 2010

***AFGHANISTAN: Precipitation remains a concern**

Precipitation totals remain near average, except in the east, where they have been poor. Meanwhile, above-average March temperatures have resulted in early snowmelt. However, the prognosis for the coming main season harvest remains unclear.

Projected hunger season: Ongoing-April

BURKINA FASO: Poor season in north and northeast

The government has acquired the resources necessary to respond to anticipated food deficits created by reduced production, poor pasture growth, and high millet prices for the 2010 hunger season. However, additional support for nutrition and livelihoods will be necessary to support recovery.

Projected hunger season (Sahelian zone): March-Sept.

MALI: Livelihoods support needed in northern pastoral areas

In eastern Gao, crop production and pasture growth have been poor. The hunger season will start two to three months early in these areas.

Projected agropastoral hunger season (Gao): April-Sept.

BELOW-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS OR NO ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN SEPTEMBER 2010

*KENYA, MALAWI (none), MAURITANIA, NIGERIA (none), TANZANIA (none), UGANDA, ZAMBIA (none), ZIMBABWE

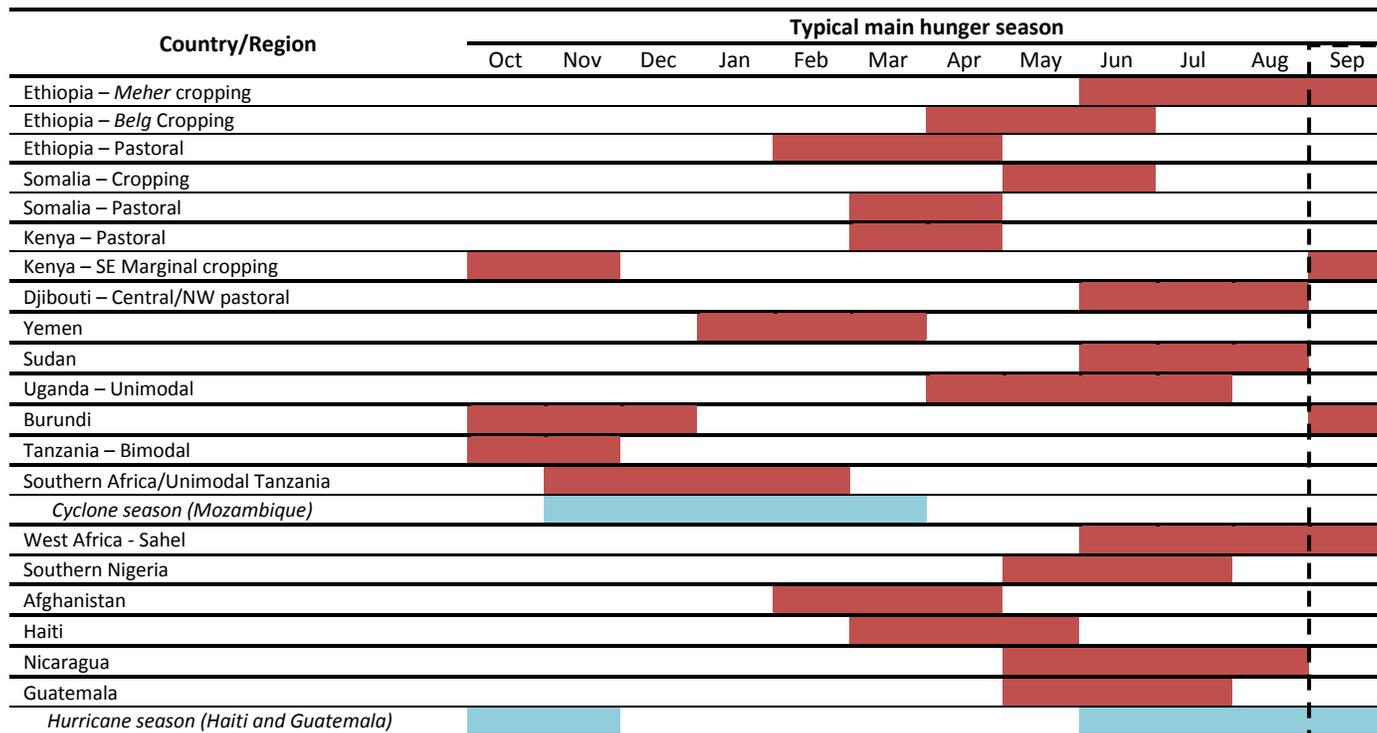
FEWS NET REMOTE MONITORING

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 began in January 2010 and additional countries will be added over the coming months.

BURUNDI		With the return of the rains in February and ongoing humanitarian response improvements in food insecurity in the “Kirundo zone” of the northern lowlands appears likely, though political tensions remain high across the country as elections approach.
NICARAGUA		According to the FAO and ACH, 486,000 families in 26 municipalities in the dry corridor were affected by crop losses of 50-80 percent during the <i>postrera</i> season. El Niño could affect the start of the <i>primera</i> season.
SENEGAL	-	Record 2009/10 harvests contribute to good food availability nationwide and stable or declining food prices.
YEMEN	-	Seasonal precipitation is normal across the country except in Al Mahwit and Hajja provinces which have experienced early season rain deficits. Food prices increased marginally between February and March 2010.

-  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