

PROJECTED FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR MAY 2013

This section summarizes FEWS NET's most forward-looking analysis of projected external emergency food assistance needs, six months from now, in FEWS NET coverage countries. 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, or 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. Analytical confidence is lower in remote monitoring countries, denoted by "RM". Visit www.fews.net for more detail.

ABOVE-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN MAY 2013

***HAITI: Crop losses and hurricane damage increase food insecurity**

Spring crop losses, hurricane damage to banana plantations, poor prospects for the current season are driving early market dependence, among poor households in the southeast, north, upper Artibonite and northeast, in some areas amidst increasing food prices.

Projected lean season: **Feb/Mar - June**

***LIBERIA (RM) Refugees will require continued food assistance**

Ivoirian refugees in southeastern Liberia (15,000-20,000 people) will continue to rely, at least partially, on food assistance over the coming year. Local populations will face minimal acute food insecurity.

Projected lean season (Southeast): **April - July**

***MALI: Good harvests countrywide, expect for rice production in the Niger Delta**

Following unusually heavy rains and flooding, riverine rice production losses in the Niger Delta will compromise harvest potential and seasonal wage earning. Poor households in this region, as well as IDPs and food insecure households in the north, will continue to require assistance.

Projected lean season (Niger Delta): **Apr/May - Sept**

RWANDA: Refugees will require food assistance

The increasing number of newly displaced refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will require assistance.

Projected lean season: **September - November**

***SOUTH SUDAN: Continued displacement, impacts of flooding, and high food prices**

An average 2012/13 harvest is expected at the national level, though needs will be above average due to high food prices, impacts of flooding, and the continued displacement of IDPs and refugees in border areas. Some improvements in trade may follow recent agreements with Sudan.

Projected lean season (border areas): **April - August**

***SUDAN: Limited benefits from the harvest for conflict-affected populations**

Despite expectations for an above-average harvest at the national level – double last year's poor harvest – conflict-affected populations in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and parts of North Darfur and Jebel Marra will experience only modest improvements in access to food and income.

Projected lean season: **April/May - August**

***YEMEN (RM): Limited benefits from the harvest for conflict-affected populations**

Needs for assistance in May will be above average in the coastal lowlands despite milk availability and pre-harvest agricultural labor demand due to below-average cereal harvests in 2012; needs may be above average for IDPs and returnees.

Projected lean season: **Dec - Mar/Apr**

AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN MAY 2013

***BURKINA FASO: Strong harvest restoring food security**

A good harvest is underway across the country for cereals and profitable cash crops such as cow pea. Seasonal income, continued government assistance, and own consumption of new harvests are increasing household food security.

Projected agropastoral lean season: **July - September**

***DJIBOUTI: Needs expected in southeast border sub-zone and peri-urban areas**

Food security is likely to improve in most areas following recent *Karan/Karma* rains and prospects for an average to above-average *Heys/Dada* season. However, needs will remain due to past poor seasons in some pastoral areas, and high prices and unemployment in urban areas.

Projected lean season: **June - August**

***ETHIOPIA: Early lean seasons likely due to poor 2012 Belg**

May needs are likely to be above well above average in some eastern marginal *Meher*-producing zones, northern Somali Region, and root crop-dependent areas of SNNPR where the lean season may start as early as December.

Projected lean season in parts of SNNPR: **Dec - June**

***GUATEMALA: An average postrera season expected**

Food security will improve in most areas with 2012/13 *postrera* harvests of beans, coffee, and sugar cane, but will deteriorate after March in the highlands, due to expected below-average harvests in that region.

Projected lean season: **March - Sep/Oct**

HONDURAS (RM): Anticipated national Postrera production near average

A second, consecutive poor season (2012 *Postrera*) will likely result in some assistance needs in the South as of May/June 2013.

Projected lean season: **May - August**

***MALAWI: Maize prices rise more than expected in the southern and central regions**

Food access in the south continues to be limited by high maize prices and transportation costs, scarce wage labor, and further depreciation of the currency. However, food security is expected to improve with main season harvests in April.

Projected southern lean season: **ongoing - March**

***MAURITANIA: Better than expected seasonal progress**

Favorable rainfall has regenerated pasture and will encourage better-than-average flood recession cropping. Low seasonal labor demand and the end of assistance programs in December will likely result in a return to food security Stress in refugee areas and localized northern areas of the agropastoral zone.

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

***NIGER: Flooding impacts rice and cereal crops**

Projected lean season: April - September

Strong production of cereal and cash crops at a national level is restoring household food access. Localised flood-damage to rice crops in the Niger Delta and cereal production deficits in some areas of Tillaberi and Dosso has reduced incomes and food access among poor households.

SOMALIA: Flooding in riverine areas likely to delay Deyr season harvest

Projected riverine lean season: October – March

Following the significantly below-average *Gu* harvest in August, the January harvest in riverine areas of the South will likely be delayed until March due to flooding. However, overall, the *Deyr* rains and harvest in January in agropastoral areas are likely to be average to above average.

BELOW-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS OR NO ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN MAY 2013

AFGHANISTAN, BURUNDI (RM), CHAD, EL SALVADOR (RM) (none), KENYA, MOZAMBIQUE (none), NICARAGUA (RM) (none), NIGERIA (none), SENEGAL (RM) (none), SIERRA LEONE (RM) (none), TAJIKISTAN (RM), TANZANIA (RM) (none), UGANDA, ZAMBIA (none), ZIMBABWE (none)

LEAN SEASONS IN FEWS NET MONITORED COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

