

Food Security Monthly Statement for the Greater Horn of Africa

Contents

- 01: Key Messages
- 02: Overview
- 03: Food security by country
- 04. Recommendations

1. Key Messages

Worsening food security and nutritional outcomes are likely between June and September in many parts of the Horn of Africa as continued below-average 2019 long/Gurains result in a second consecutive poor season across the region. Adding to the food security concerns, household resilience, particularly for agro-pastoralists and pastoralists, is atypically low at this time as many have not fully recovered their livelihoods after the devastating impacts of the 2016/17 droughts.

Analyses conducted by FEWS NET show that rainfall level through the end of April were amongst the driest on record (since 1981) in some areas, particularly over much of Somalia, the Somali region of Ethiopia, and parts of Kenya and Uganda. In some cropping areas, vegetative conditions are worse than in 2011 and 2017, particularly southeastern Kenya and southern Somalia.

In eastern bimodal areas where the rains typically end by late May, precipitation levels during the next several weeks will be critical in determining overall seasonal performance. The 10-day and one-month forecasts produced by ICPAC show that the rains are expected to continue, though they will likely be below average in central and northern Somalia and much of Kenya. **Projected cumulative rainfall totals for the March – May period suggest rainfall will be less than 50% of average** across parts of eastern Kenya, much of southern Somalia, localized areas of northern Somalia, and the Somali region of Ethiopia.

Though crop production is expected to be below average, the situation is slightly less concerning over western parts of the region, such as Karamoja in Uganda, as forecasts indicate rainfall in these areas will continue into the coming months. Long-term seasonal forecasts by NOAA indicated an increased probability of average to above-average rains between May to July. Should this forecast materialize, a recovery during the second half of the season may be possible.

2. Overview

Even though Karamoja may benefit from improved rains projected to occur in the next few months, pastoral livelihoods in northeast Kenya, Somalia, Somali region Ethiopia could be stressed further.

Crop production across agricultural zones of eastern Kenya, Uganda, southern Somalia, and East and West Hararghe of Ethiopia will also likely be below average during the upcoming June/July harvest. This will likely contribute to reduced food access for poor households by lowering household and market food stocks, prolonging the period of household dependency on market purchases, and drive higher cereal prices across the region.

25.29 Million people are estimated to be food insecure (March updated with Somalia & Burundi Figures) an increase from the **23.6 M** a year ago.

Food Security Monthly Statement for the Greater Horn of Africa

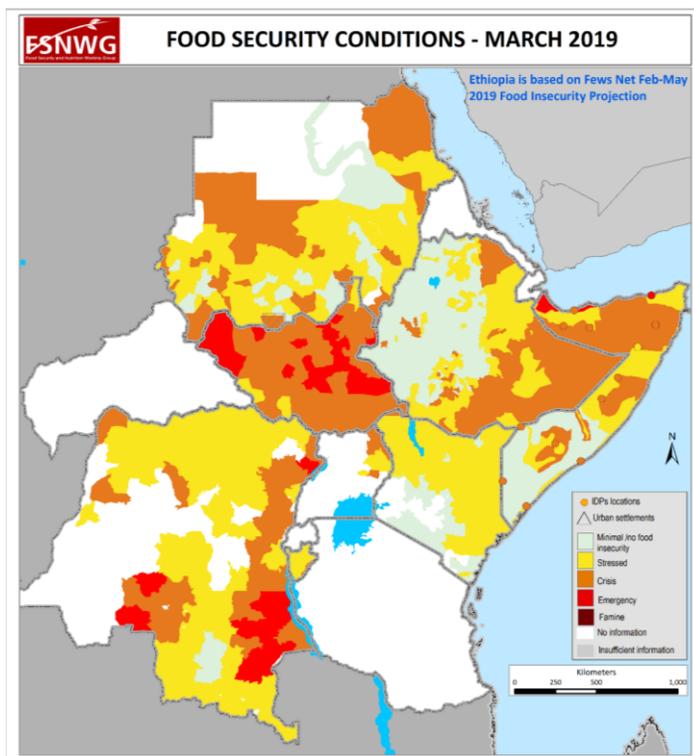
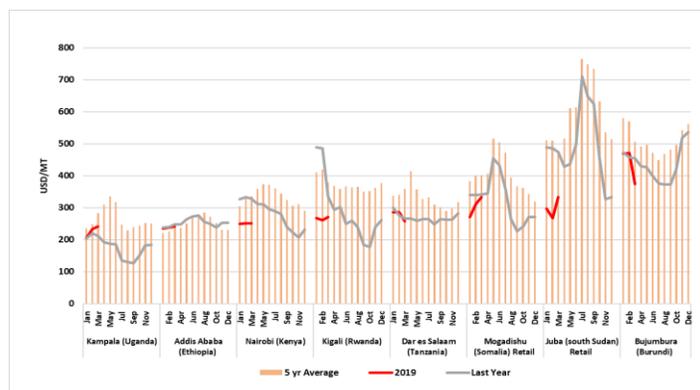


Figure 1:IPC Map

Maize Prices in selected East African Markets

Above average prices are expected in Uganda and Somalia due to below average June harvest.



Average prices are also expected across most markets in Tanzania due to high carry over stocks

and above average harvest between May and August 2019. Bujumbura will benefit from lower prices from Tanzania, the main regional source market. Exports of maize from Uganda to Kenya are expected to decrease due to below average production. Trade with Rwanda is expected to decrease because of prolonged border restrictions. Exports of maize from Uganda to South Sudan are expected to increase but high prices may moderate the pace.

Refugees, asylum seekers and Internally Displaced Persons



Continuous conflicts compounded with food and nutrition insecurity in the region resulted in major displacement (497,000 new arrivals refugees were registered during 2018, with new influxes continued in 2019). Growing needs for humanitarian assistance in the region but shortfalls in funding continues (cuts in food and non-food assistance). Issues of concern include:

- Disease outbreaks during onset of emergencies (e.g. cholera, bloody diarrhea).
- Inadequate capacity of nutrition and health services in different countries in the region (in country of origin of refugees and as well countries of asylum).

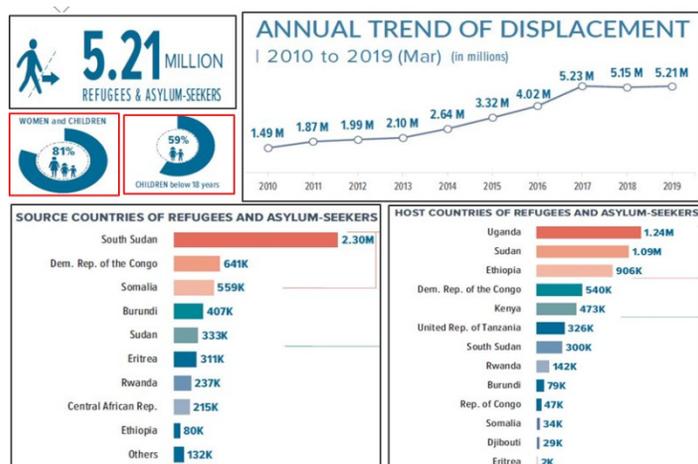
Food Security Monthly Statement for the Greater Horn of Africa

Nutrition

Malnutrition among refugee populations continues to be a major concern.

- Refugees are mostly dependent on food aid as there are limited livelihood opportunities specifically agriculture and food production.
- Food assistance only covers an avg. 12 – 26 days out of 30 days expected.

- Rapid decline in nutritional status has been observed in 2011 and 2017.
- Funding gaps are real for supplies and programme, especially in Somalia for SAM & MAM and Ethiopia for MAM – major gaps from Q3.
- Use of risk informed programmes such as surge key to support health system to respond in a timely manner.
- Next round of nutrition surveys are in line with seasonal assessments from June (Ethiopia) and July / August (Kenya and Somalia) but we should not wait until then to scale up as lives of young children are at risk.



The active Ebola outbreak which continues in Northern Kivu and eastern DRC is concerning.

3. Food security by country

For details on food security by country, click on the following hyperlink:

- [Food Security](#)

4. Recommendations

The Food Security and Nutrition Working Group urges immediate and coordinated planning by governments, donors and all concerned stakeholders to act early in responding to this expected deteriorating food security and nutrition situation through the use of crises modifiers, when applicable, and immediate activation of early action mechanisms.

Presentations by members on April 10th:

- [Climate](#)
- [Markets](#)
- [Food Security](#)
- [Refugees](#)
- [Conflict](#)
- [Nutrition](#)

- An avg. between 4 – 80 percent of refugees are not able to consume vegetables, fruits, meat, eggs, fish/seafood and milk products. Almost all the refugees are using one or more negative coping strategies (e.g. skipping or reducing meals, selling assets, taking loan on interest, being engaged in harmful and risky activities which arises protection risks e.g. SGBV).
- Results of nutrition survey conducted in 2017/18 in this region indicated that 20% of refugee sites had GAM and stunting above emergency thresholds while anaemia was above 40% (indicating public health significance) in 53% of sites.

There are concerns about the risk of deterioration in levels of acute malnutrition in the Greater Horn of Africa in 2019. Specifically Somalia, Northern Kenya and Ethiopia (Somali and southern Oromia regions):