

FSN WG Update

Food Security & Nutrition Working Group

Central & Eastern Africa | May 2010

Regional food security situation update

Deteriorating Situation in Southern Sudan

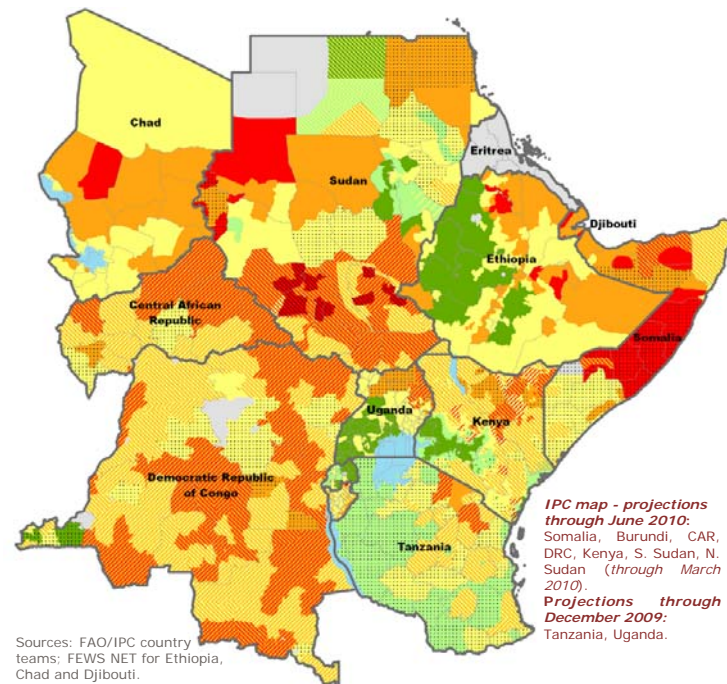
Following on from the April FSNWG Update, the food security situation in some parts of Southern Sudan is deteriorating mainly due to the combined effects of poor rains in the last cropping season and consequent crop failure, civil-tribal conflicts, cattle raiding and high population displacement. Southern Sudan is currently experiencing an earlier than normal hunger season that is expected to peak in June. According to the last IPC analysis held in March 2010 during the quarterly Livelihoods Analysis Forum (LAF) meeting, populations in several areas of Southern Sudan are classified in **Humanitarian Emergency (HE, phase 4)** or in **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC, phase 3)**:

- 40% of the population of Iron Stone Plateau and Western Flood plains zones (Lakes, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap & Northern Bahr el Ghazal States) is in HE, the remainder is in AFLC.
- A majority of the population in Nile – Sobat and Eastern Flood Plains zones is respectively moderately food insecure or in AFLC, with 10% in HE.
- 60% of people in pastoral zone (hills and mountains) in eastern Equatoria and part of Jonglei State have are moderately food insecure. Greater Kapoeta, Lafon and Torit Counties are in AFLC.
- In the Green Belt zone (Western Central Equatoria States) Ezo, Terkeka, Northern Bari and Mundri are in AFLC.

➔ Recommendations for Action:

- Predisposition of relief food in order to avoid transportation problem that could occur due to the expected above-normal rain.
- On-time supply of agricultural inputs that include seeds and tools by the government and international partners.
- Alternative/community-based livelihoods interventions

The seasonal forecast indicates normal to above-normal rains from June to August, which will be critical for an overall improved food security situation in Southern Sudan. Despite this favorable forecast, in Western Flood Plains zone and Lakes State, the situation for the high population displaced is expected to remain critical until September, due to food shortages and lack of land access. The same concern remains for the IDPs in Iron Stone Plateau zone (Mvolo, Mundri). In Jonglei State, upcoming rains will most probably limit road transportation, affecting market grain supply and ultimately their prices, negatively impacting food access for most vulnerable households. Tensions related to the contested results of the Sudan Presidential Elections and coming registration for the referendum for the self-determination of Southern Sudan in July-August 2010 may further affect the situation in Southern Sudan.



Sources: FAO/IPC country teams; FEWS NET for Ethiopia, Chad and Djibouti.

Further Information:

- FSNWG Update April 2010: www.reliefweb.org
- SIFSA Southern Sudan Food Security Update: www.fao.org/sudanfoodsecurity/sifsa-home/en/
- ELMT website: www.elmt-relpa.org

NEW! FSN Stakeholder Database Website: <http://fsn-stakeholderinfo.com>



Regional Hot-Spots

Northern Sudan

Population in **Phase 4 – Humanitarian Emergency** – in parts of **Western and Northern Darfur**. Continued conflict, limited access to cultivation for IDPs, poor harvest due to erratic below average rainfall, high cereal prices, reduction in food aid rations.

Chad

Populations extremely food insecure in areas of the **Pastoral – Transhumance zone (Bahr El Gazel)**. Erratic rainfall below average (2009), deficit in agricultural production and poor pasture (second consecutive year); areas in the South normally supplying Bahr El Gazel experienced below normal yields; ToT unfavourable; transhumance started earlier this year.

Burundi

Localized area with population classified **Humanitarian Emergency (Phase 4): Kirundo Province (North)**. Consequence of 2010A crop season failure, predominance of cassava mosaic virus, high food prices. However, improvement expected with June harvest. Concern about recruiting and rearming militias by both the ruling parties in the run up to the elections (June-July 2010).

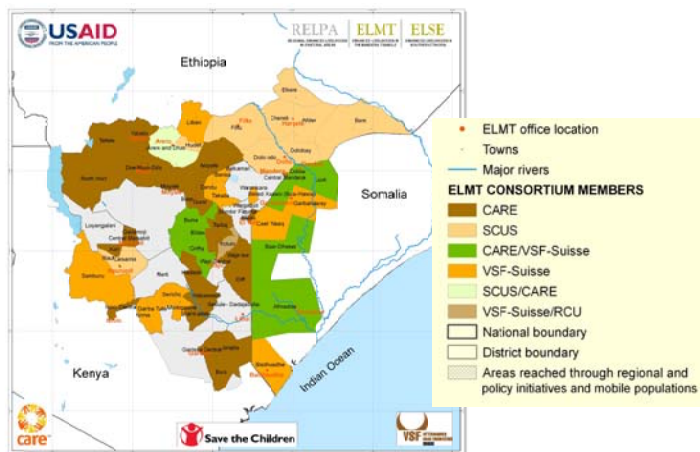
Ethiopia

Populations are **extremely food insecure** in areas of **North Amhara and Harar**. Water and pasture shortage, poor livestock conditions, past season crop failure, belg rains erratic to date, decline in labour income.

Somalia

Overall Humanitarian Crisis with 42% population in need of emergency assistance and/or livelihood support. **Central – Hiran (Phase 4)**: civil insecurity, critical nutrition situation, effects of past 6 consecutive drought seasons, livestock decimated, pastoralists' destitution, pasture below normal/water shortage, below-normal cereal production, high IDPs numbers. **Sool Plateau of Sannag and Togdheer Agro-pastoral (Phase 4)**: civil insecurity, effects of past 4 consecutive drought seasons, poor pasture, water shortage, abnormal migration in most pastoral areas depleting water resources and pastures. Situation could improve depending on the performance of the *Gu* rains.

ELMT/ELSE: challenges of cross-border livelihoods programmes



ELMTP/RELPA Operational area

The Enhanced Livelihoods in the Mendera Triangle (ELMT) and Southern Ethiopia (ELSE) program - a USAID funded consortium of 6 INGOs (CARE Somali, CARE Ethiopia, CARE Kenya, SC US, SC UK and VSF Suisse) and 17 local partners implemented a range of activities (August 2007-April 2010) to support and protect pastoral livelihoods in Northern Kenya, South Central Somalia and Southern Ethiopia. Working with pastoralists. The six key program themes covered 1) Livelihood protection, 2) livestock health and production, 3) natural resource management, and 4) livelihood diversification and marketing; 5) strengthening customary institutions in peace building and conflict mitigation, and 6) promoting pastoralists' voices (advocacy).

Despite the challenges of working in a large consortium across 3 countries, and in an area threatened by insecurity and drought, much was achieved by consortium members. Over 170 000 vulnerable households were assisted and trained in alternative and complementary livelihood strategies as well as a considerable amount of innovation and cross-border learning.

➔ Lessons learnt & recommendations:

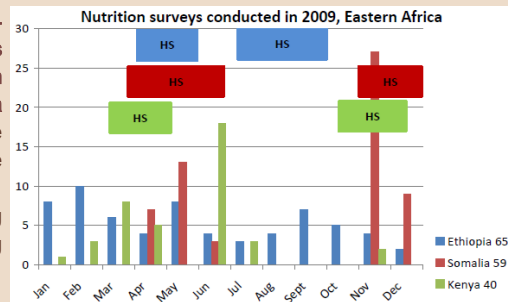
- Regional programmes should focus on strategic, cross-border and regional issues (e.g. mobility, livestock trade, pro-pastoralist policies).
- Collaborative programming should be developed in partnership with CBOs and Government and have common vision, agreed priorities and deliverables.
- Strategic linkages with Regional Organisations: IGAD, COMESA, AU, RECs...
- A need for long-term flexible funding with integrated emergency response with ongoing development work.
- Need for an effective HoA Pastoralist Network/regional platform in a context of globalisation and economic integration.

Policies exist to protect and support pastoral livelihoods, but one of the key challenges in the pastoral policy arena lies in the **implementation of policy**. The ELMT partners engaged in policy debates in their respective countries. However further dialogue with technical officials, policy and decision makers and a number of regional bodies (IGAD, AU, AU-IBAR, COMESA, CEWARN) is necessary to promote the viability of pastoralism in regional dry lands.

Working on regional programs such as ELMT provides the opportunity to engage with these regional actors to address priority areas for pastoral development, both bilaterally and through the new Horn of Africa Pastoral Network, which facilitates central coordination, information sharing and strategic policy development. ELMT and similar regional programmes can guide future donor support and contribute to **cross-border harmonisation of policy and practice**.

Monitoring acute malnutrition in East Africa

A total of 164 anthropometric surveys were conducted in 2009 between Ethiopia (throughout the year), Kenya (in the first half of the year) and Somalia (during the two main raining seasons).



These surveys revealed a slight improvement in the prevalence of acute malnutrition in 2009 compared with previous years, associated with improved rains and harvests.

However, pockets of high prevalence of acute malnutrition remain. Some areas which have consistently shown high rates of acute malnutrition in the last years (arid & semi-arid lands in Kenya, Somali region of Ethiopia, central regions of Somalia) only show a limited improvement. No real change was reported in terms of the underlying causes of the situation (access to health, water and sanitation, inadequate care practices and poor food security), and the negative impact of several years of successive failure of agricultural seasons is unlikely to disappear only after one good harvest.

In the last couple of years, there have been significant improvements in the way acute malnutrition is monitored:

- SMART methodology and plausibility checks are used in the overwhelming majority of surveys conducted in the region. Results are presented in a more standardized way, allowing for comparisons.
- Surveys validation committees exist through FSNAU in Somalia, ENCU in Ethiopia and the nutrition cluster in Uganda and Kenya.
- Survey timings are already planned for Kenya and Somalia in 2010 and should be considered in other countries later this year.
- Surveillance systems are being developed in the most vulnerable areas of all countries, either through small sample surveys, sentinel sites or health system data collection, etc.
- While these efforts are being pursued in 2010, it will also be necessary to improve the data collection for non nutritional indicators such as health, wash and care practices, in order to improve the situation analysis and better anticipate variations of acute malnutrition.

Treating acute malnutrition:

Treatment of acute malnutrition has seen major improvements, with more than 200 000 severely malnourished children treated in 2009. Considering that reporting rates have been low (around 50%), the actual figure is likely to be higher.

The next phase of treatment will consist in completing the scaling-up process in all 3 countries focusing on quality, and ensuring the integration of Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programs in health systems and of preventative activities such as Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF).

Coming Events...

Date	Event	Location
03-04/06	FAO Regional Cassava Workshop	Kigali
14-17/06	Global/Regional IPC Meeting	FAO REOA Nairobi
14-19/06	ACF training on FSL Assessments	Nairobi
16-18/06	ToT: HIV and GBV in Humanitarian Response	Nairobi
25-30/07	LEGS Training of Trainers (Horn/East Africa)	Nairobi