



## KEY MESSAGES ON CURRENT FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION CONDITIONS

- 4 consecutive, good rain seasons (from late 2011) have improved acute food insecurity conditions across the region
- Pasture conditions are generally good and there are expectations of normal crop harvests
- Food prices in key markets are stable
- Population movement is generally stable

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Approximately 16 million people in the region are currently classified to be in IPC Crisis or Emergency Phase. Current conditions are expected to remain stable with improvement in some areas through the coming months.

**Democratic Republic Congo:** There is enormous variability in food prices across the country, although food prices were reported to have stabilized in April. Nutrition results from Katanga indicate a GAM rate of 13.6% and a SAM rate of 3.5% ([ACF](#), [FAO](#))

**Ethiopia:** As cultivated areas have reduced due to the late onset of *belg* rains, below normal grain yields are anticipated in those areas. Staple food prices are expected to increase from April to June, negatively impacting rural households who depend on markets for their food. In southern and southeastern pastoral areas, pasture, browse and water availability is reported as good following above normal *Gu/Genna* rains & fair rainfall during the 2012 *Deyr/Hageya* rains. Conditions for livestock are likely to improve the food security situation in pastoral communities. ([FEWSNET](#) / [WFP](#))

**South Sudan:** A recent border agreement with Sudan has increased trade and the availability of food in the northern border area. As a result, current high food prices are expected to decline in these regions. Conflict in eastern Jonglei is affecting seasonal movement and has led to critical food insecurity conditions. Cattle-raiding in some parts of Warrap is reducing access to markets for affected communities. Most of South Sudan is entering the lean period (May to June). ([LAF FEWSNET](#))

**Sudan:** Conditions are generally stable or improving in most parts of the country. Improving relations with South Sudan is allowing livestock and pastoralists to migrate into South Sudan for seasonal grazing. Sorghum prices continue to be high but stable. Renewed inter-tribal conflict in North and South Darfur is resulting in displacement and triggering concerns for deteriorating food security conditions. ([IRIN FEWSNET](#))

**Somalia:** The onset of the *Gu* rains was timely. Agricultural and pasture conditions are reported to be good. Sorghum and livestock prices are stable. Rains led to flooding in some areas of the south. Humanitarian access continues to improve as former al Shabab controlled areas are coming under AU control. ([FEWSNET](#))

## REGIONAL WATCH:

- **CAR (Conflict, Displacement, Access)** [OCHA AFP](#)  
Deterioration of food security conditions linked to increasing levels of insecurity, particularly against civilian populations and humanitarian work.
- **DRC (Conflict, Displacement)** [OCHA](#)  
Reports of increasing localized violence in the east is discouraging displaced populations from returning home. 30 attacks – believed to be LRA – reported in March in the north.

### WORKING DIFFERENTLY (PRESENTATION BY SAVE THE CHILDREN)

Save the Children has challenged itself to work differently and better align its work to changing rural livelihoods and lessons learned from 2011.

Internally, Save has developed a new way of classifying crises to enable early action, even before the disaster is *declared*. A seed funding mechanism has been established to kick-start those early actions. Continuous monitoring that may trigger these actions will be driven by programme staff. Lastly, a *humanitarian leadership academy* will train staff to provide surge support in the event of a major crisis.

Country programmes are re-focusing to engage in changing rural livelihoods by listening and giving voice to individuals and their changing aspirations. Programme staff is seeing that future resilience in their communities will not look like it has in the past. Programmes will also better engage with inter-related livelihoods and natural resources by planning seasonally and at the *watershed* level.

Lastly, programmes will incorporate long-term risk management, as well as concerns for short-term crises. Flexible programming, risk assessments, contingency and adaptation plans will be developed to operate at both micro and meso (country/district) levels.

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### CORRECTING CHRONIC MALNUTRITION (PRESENTATION BY FSNWG NUTRITION SUB-GROUP)

Important developmental successes are being undermined by very high levels of stunting. Simple, cheap actions could change that situation.

A great rural, economic success has been milk production in Githunguri, a farming community in central Kenya. Githunguri farmers produce, process and market their own milk. They invest their wealth into their business and families. Children are sent to private schools and even pre-schoolers are sent to private *kindergartens*. Much of the success is invested in the next generation.

However, stunting, which retards cognitive growth with long-term economic and health consequences, affects one in every four children in Githunguri. The success of the milk business may therefore only be a hollow victory.

Causes are simple and preventable while solutions are available. As parents are very busy looking after their cattle and business, there is little time to care for small children. Time constraints also mean that children are often fed simple, starchy foods just to fill their stomach. Milk is a source of income and is often not available to children. Better child care arrangements, availability of traditional diets that include vegetables (especially greens) and milk, or vitamin supplements could prevent these high rates of stunting.

Chronic food insecurity is difficult to identify and exists even in economically dynamic settings. In cases like Githunguri, we can see how easily the generational consequences of chronic food insecurity can be avoided, allowing economic success to translate into a food security win as well.

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### SPREADING MAIZE LETHAL NECROSIS DISEASE

Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND) was first reported to FSNWG members in August 2012 and was estimated to have affected 2% of land cultivated for maize in Kenya. Infection rates and damage were reported to be very high. In 2013, the disease has spread to South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. In Kenya, the size of land affected has doubled.

MLND can have enormous consequences for individual farmers, and harvest losses in affected fields can reach up to 90%. Nationally, the impact of MLND in 2013 may be limited. Given the rate of spread, costs to the economy and food security due to MLND may increase significantly in years to come.

Currently Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Research Institute and CIYMMT are leading efforts to prevent disease occurrence by researching tolerant varieties. FAO plans to support regional monitoring and control initiatives. FSNWG has launched a Sub-Working Group on its website to consolidate current resources and information. <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/fsnwg>

On June 13 the FSNWG will examine Markets amidst Changing Rural livelihoods

#### FSNWG 2013

June	13
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August	15
September	19
October	17
November	21
December	12

[Presentations & Documents from May 2013 meeting](#)



#### About FSNWG:

The Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) is a regional multi-sectoral inter-agency platform for sharing information, and building food security, consensual situation analysis, promoting mitigation and resilience responses for vulnerable households, monitoring cross border market information, and bringing a very broad number of stakeholders together for advocacy and response. It is co-chaired by IGAD and FAO and covers 13 countries: Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. For further information visit <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/fsnwg> or email: [fsn-gha-workinggroup@fao.org](mailto:fsn-gha-workinggroup@fao.org)