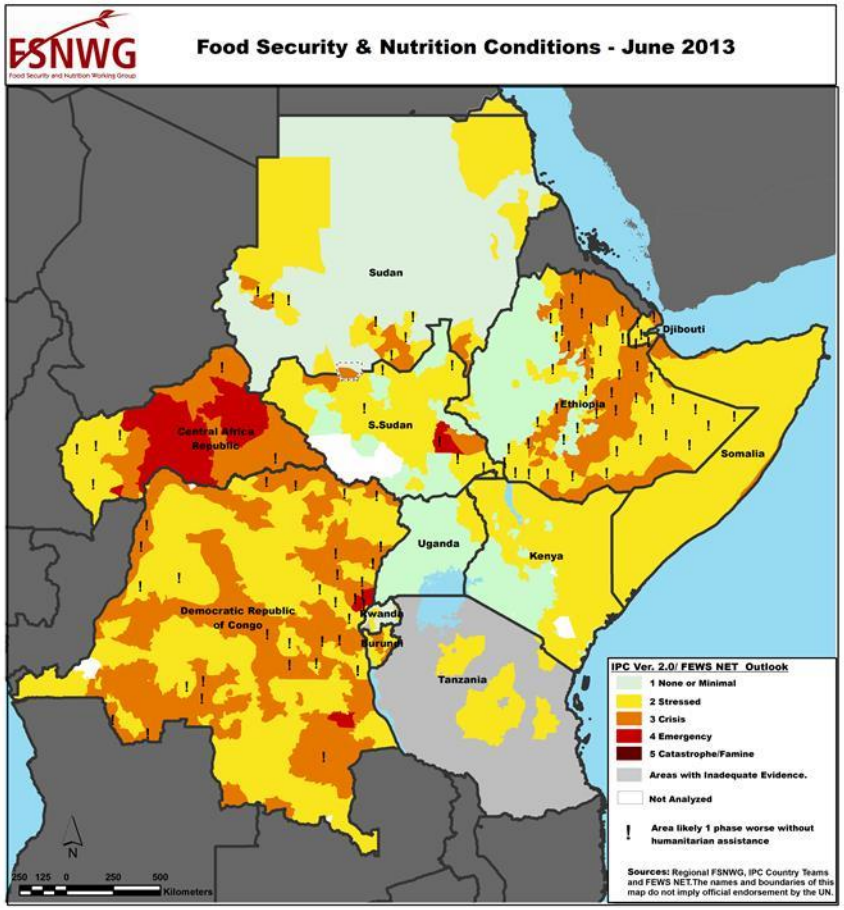
FSNWG
Food Security and Nutrition Working Group

UPDATE
June 2013



HOTSPOT:

CAR (*Conflict, Displacement, Access*) FAO/WFP

Food security assessments documented impacts of the *March Crisis*. Coping options are meager and include sale or consumption of productive assets. Food security conditions likely to continue deteriorating through 2013, even if security conditions improve.

REGIONAL WATCH:

DRC (*Conflict, Displacement*) GTT

Insecurity continues to drive food and nutrition insecurity in North Kivu and Katanga.

KEY MESSAGES ON CURRENT FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION CONDITIONS

- Current conditions continue to improve when compared to long-term trends
- Much of the region is expecting near normal harvests coming months
- Food prices, whilst higher than long-term trends, continue to be stable
- Recent analyses in DRC, Djibouti and Burundi illustrate the impact of chronic and extreme poverty on food security status in these countries
- CAR food security and nutrition situation requires focused attention
- Concerns over short rains in Karamoja, Uganda and its consequences over the next harvest

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Approximately 17.5 million people in the region are currently classified to be in IPC Crisis or Emergency Phase. Almost half of this population is found in CAR and DRC. UNHCR reports approximately 1.8 million registered refugees and asylum seekers in the region.

Burundi: Nearly 35% of households in the central plateau have farms of less than 0.2 ha with agricultural production per capita the lowest in the country. 54% of those families have food consumption scores of poor to marginal. In the central plateau and east chronic malnutrition is 54.7% and GAM at 6.5 to 9.2%. (IPC/TWG)

Democratic Republic Congo: Total population in IPC Phase 3 & 4 is almost at the same level as during the last IPC analysis at the end of 2012. Poor diversity of diets, high prevalence of malnutrition, and extreme poverty with few livelihood options are common. Adding to these conditions, a lack of infrastructure reduces the performance of markets, limits economic opportunities and opportunities for livelihoods diversification. Nutrition assessments in 2013 indicate GAM rates of 9 to 15% in Katanga, South Kivu and Maniema. (IPC/TWG)

Djibouti: 75% of the country's population lives in Djibouti City. The peri-urban area of Balbala is home to a large proportion of that population. Living and hygiene conditions in Balbala are very poor. Households there are often rural migrants with few economic opportunities. A trial urban IPC analysis suggests that most of the areas in Balbala may be IPC Phase 3. (IPC/TWG)

Ethiopia: *Belg* harvest (June/July) is expected to be below average due to the late onset of the *belg* rains. These conditions are raising concerns for poor households who must purchase food despite limited income opportunities. Current *kiremt* rains are hoped to lead to a good *meher* harvest later in 2013. (FEWSNET FAO)

Uganda: Early cessation of rains in Karamoja has raised concerns of a potential crisis. A special survey and more communication is necessary, while rapid attention is required to avoid food crises observed in previous year. (FEWSNET GoU).

MARKETS, CASH TRANSFER AND KENYA'S ARID LANDS (*PRESENTATION BY WFP KENYA*)

There are instances when cash transfers may not be the right response to a crisis in ASAL communities. Mobile money is a game changer in the ASALs, but development agencies are yet to define clear roles on how to engage with these financial services. How can market development be supported in the ASALs where rural economies are weak and their markets are weakly integrated into national ones? These were issues that emerged after WFP Kenya's research on markets and cash transfers was presented.

Beyond livestock, there are few commodities or services that communities in Kenya's arid lands sell locally or regionally. In turn, Kenyan markets do not extend into ASALs. Dispersed populations and poor to non-existent transport infrastructure compound this weak market integration. ASAL markets and financial services are clustered in county headquarters and on major transport routes, limiting access for remote communities.

Prices and availability of food commodities in ASAL regions are higher and fewer than in central Kenya. For ASAL communities off main transport routes, prices are higher and the availability of food commodities lower. Prices in remote areas may be double those in Nairobi – and may double again during crisis.

These market and financial service conditions limit the ability of cash-based responses to assist rural communities during crisis. There may not be food to buy. Prices could rise to exploit increased cash circulating in isolated communities – diminishing the value of the intervention. Similarly, the value of mobile money transfers – where there is coverage – may be reduced by the absence of services to cash the transfer or cash itself to redeem the transfer.

Despite the constraints, market activity and financial services are growing in ASALs – even in remote communities. The challenge is learning how to promote that growth and utilise during crisis.

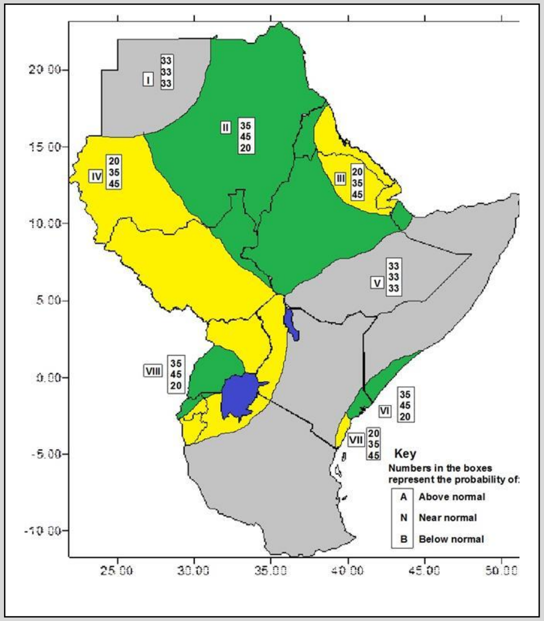
(Contact: diego.fernandez@wfp.org)

REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK (*PRESENTATION BY ICPAC*)

Rainfall through August 2013 is expected to vary from just above or just below normal across the region. For much of South Sudan, northern Uganda, Burundi western Darfur in Sudan, below normal to normal rainfall is anticipated. Ethiopia, Sudan, Rwanda, and Upper Nile, South Sudan are expecting normal to above normal rainfall.

These coming months also mark the start of the main agricultural season in most of South Sudan and Darfur as well as the *meher* agricultural season in Ethiopia.

The Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum met in Addis Ababa in late May and prepared this outlook. (Contact: zatheru@icpac.net)



THE COST OF INACTION?

Recent IPC analyses in DRC, Djibouti and Burundi documented the cost of not addressing chronic malnutrition and poverty. We often frame these statements in terms of leaving populations exposed to the next crisis. Recent IPC analysis suggests that not addressing these situations may in fact be creating the next crisis.

With few options, Burundians in central plateau farm 0.2 Ha and have one in two children stunted. Significant proportions of population in Djibouti have left their rural homes to live in incredibly harsh informal communities on the periphery of Djibouti City. As neither a developmental nor a humanitarian priority, these situations have deteriorated into an acute food insecurity crisis (IPC Phase 3) with no sustainable response. Learning how to engage with changing livelihoods and managing periods of crisis are a priority for FSNWG members in 2013. These analyses reinforce the importance of that commitment.

On July 18 the FSNWG will examine *Programme options for peri-urban Households in Pastoral Areas*

Presentations & Documents from June 2013 meeting

FSNWG 2013	
July	18
August	15
September	19
October	17
November	21
December	12

About FSNWG:
The Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) is a regional multi-sectoral inter-agency platform for sharing information, 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*