



World Food Programme



# Global Update

## Food Security Monitoring

June 2012 • Issue no. 7

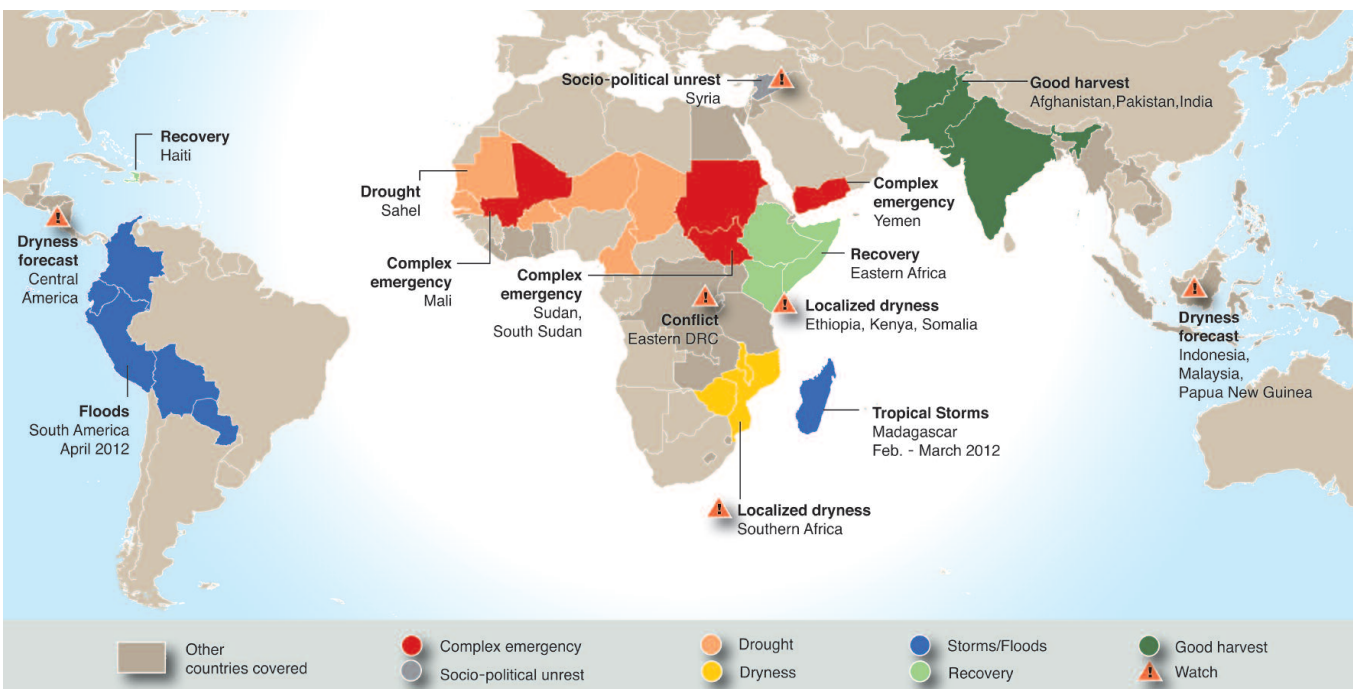
The Global Food Security Update offers decision makers an overview of trends in household food security in countries where WFP is present. This issue reports on changes observed at the regional and country level over the last semester and provides an outlook into the third quarter of 2012. Information is drawn from WFP's regional and country-based Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) units and secondary sources.

### In focus

- **Several areas of the Sahel are critically food insecure due to drought and conflict.** Vulnerable groups are facing an **acute food access crisis due to very high prices.** Humanitarian needs are likely to peak in the upcoming lean season from June to September. As of May 2012, some 355,000 people were **displaced due to conflict in Mali.**
- Provision of humanitarian assistance coupled with adequate short rains have considerably eased the food security conditions in the **Greater Horn of Africa**, yet significant needs still persist. Long rains in 2012 have been erratic, causing dryness in parts of **Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.**
- **Conflict-induced economic and trade disruptions** continue to drive food insecurity in **South Sudan**, where the number of food insecure has risen from 3.7 million to 4.5 million. Food security conditions are worst in the states bordering Sudan.
- **Recent fighting and subsequent displacements** are likely to affect food security conditions in eastern parts of the **Democratic Republic of Congo.**
- **Protracted conflict** is sharply increasing food insecurity in **Yemen**, where the prevalence of severe food insecurity has risen from 12 percent in 2009 to 22 percent in 2011.
- **Flooding** has seriously affected the livelihood of smallholder farmers in **Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru.**
- Crop development in parts of **southern Africa** could be potentially affected due to **dry weather.**
- The weather forecast calls for **normal to above normal rains** in the Sahel and much of Asia from June through September. Central and eastern **Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea** are likely to face below average precipitation. Rainfall deficits are also likely in **Colombia and Central America.** The June-November Atlantic hurricane season is expected to be slightly less active than average.

### Major events affecting food security

January to May 2012



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

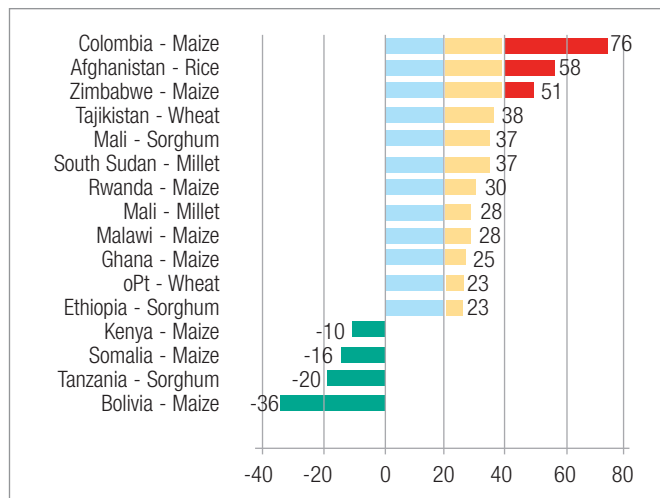
# Most significant staple food price changes

(change in real prices, first quarter 2012 compared to fourth quarter 2011)

In **Malawi** the real price of maize increased by 28 percent between the last quarter of 2011 and first quarter of 2012. Following the devaluation of the national currency by 50-percent in May, households' food access may be jeopardized. In **Zimbabwe** the aggregate cereal deficit has driven up maize prices by 51 percent.

Drought and conflict have pushed up prices of the main staple cereals in **Mali** with sorghum by 37 percent and millet by 28 percent. Cereal prices have seen steady increases in several West African countries since the end of last year, including in **Ghana** where the real price of maize increased by 25 percent.

In **South Sudan** the price for millet has gone up by 37 percent due to poor cereal production in 2011, decreased trade following the closure of the border with Sudan and an increase in border trading costs.



Source: WFP Market Monitor, Issue 15, April 2012.

## Regional highlights

### EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

- **Conflict resulting in economic and trade disruptions** is exerting heavy pressure on the limited resources of **South Sudan**, where the number of food insecure people has increased from 3.3 million in 2011 to an estimated 4.7 million in 2012. The need for humanitarian assistance will peak during the lean season from May to August.
- Provision of humanitarian assistance coupled with adequate short rains have considerably **eased the food security conditions** for pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and farmers in the **Horn of Africa**. Yet household food security remains fragile due to low livestock holdings and high food prices.



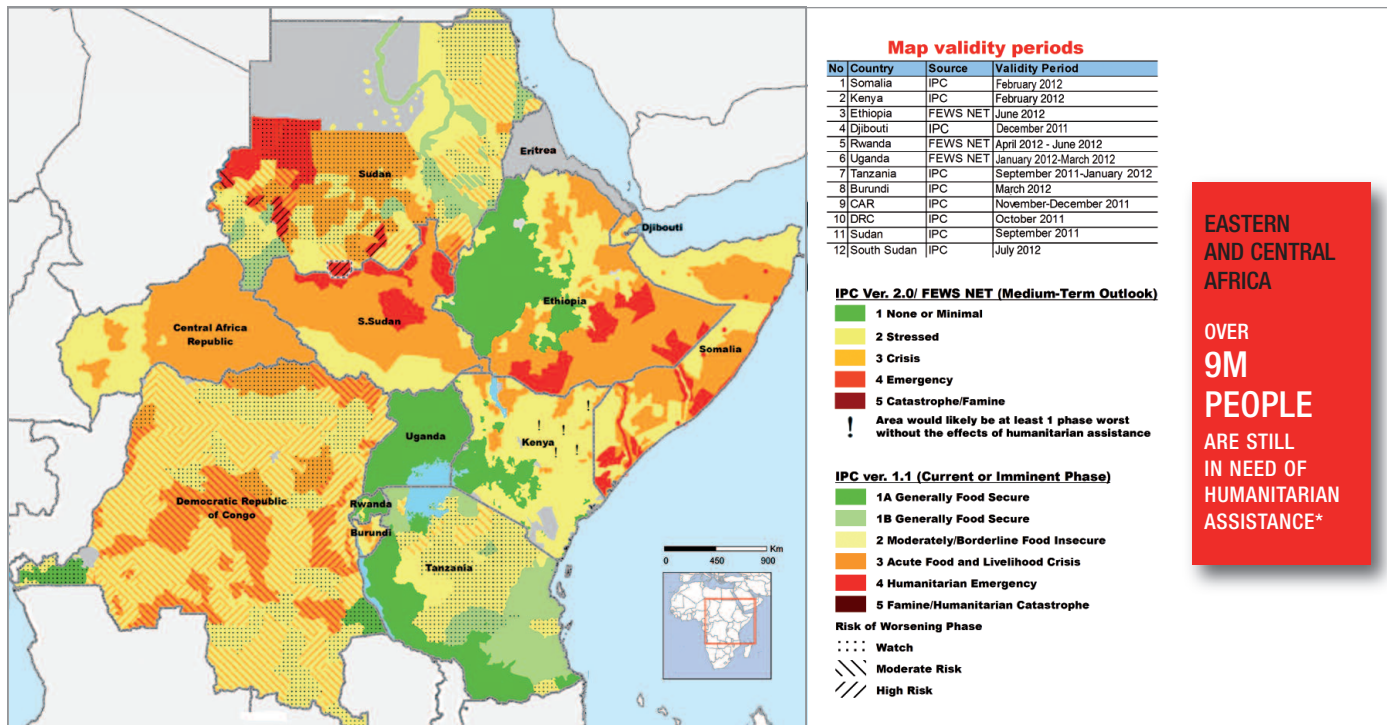
WFP / Skullerud / Kenya



- **Long rains have been above-average in much of Somalia.** However, some areas have received below-average precipitations and currently face dry conditions, including north and east **Kenya**, south

**Somalia**, and parts of **Ethiopia**. Erratic long rains have extended the lean season in **Ethiopia** and are also likely to negatively impact upcoming harvests in **Burundi** and **Djibouti**.

**Acute food insecurity overview in Eastern and Central Africa (May 2012)**



Source: Regional FSNWG, IPC country teams and FEWS NET. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

\*Source: FSNWG UPDATE April 2012.

**WESTERN AFRICA**

- According to the April round of *Cadre Harmonisé*, the combined effect of drought, conflict and poor food access has resulted in "extreme" food insecurity in the bordering areas between **Mali** and **Mauritania** and in northern Mali and in "critical" food insecurity in several other areas of **Burkina Faso**, **Chad**, **Mali**, **Mauritania** and **Niger**. Coarse grain prices

are 50-100 percent above average in **Burkina Faso** and **Mali**. Price increases have been more moderate in **Chad**, **Niger** and **Senegal**. Malnutrition rates are approaching or have exceeded the 15 percent threshold in parts of **Chad**, **Niger** and **Senegal**.

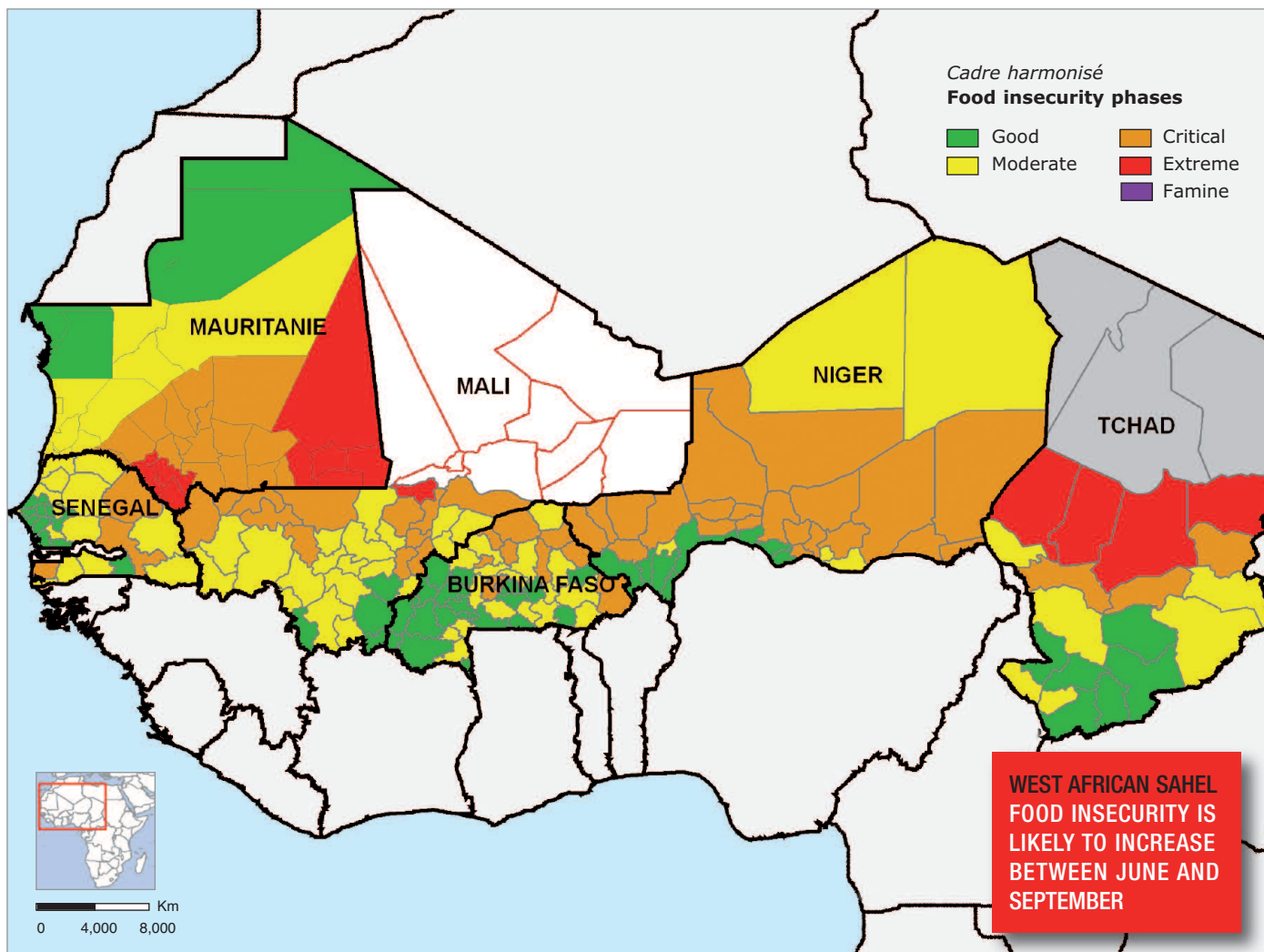


WFP / Skullerud / Niger

## Global Update - Food Security Monitoring

- The **Malian conflict** is exacerbating food insecurity in an already fragile environment. According to OCHA, at least 335,000 people have been displaced as of May, of whom more than 161,000 outside the country, mostly in **Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger. Refugees are arriving in food-insecure areas.** In **Mali**, conflict has disrupted access to markets, livelihood opportunities and provision of basic social services.
- In the **Sahel**, the 2012 lean season will peak in June for pastoralists and from July to September for agro-pastoralists. Food security conditions are expected to improve with the arrival of the main harvest in October.
- The start of the rainy season has been timely and forecasts indicate moderately **above average conditions** for the current season.

### West Africa food insecurity levels (projection June 2012)



Source: CILSS, April 2012.

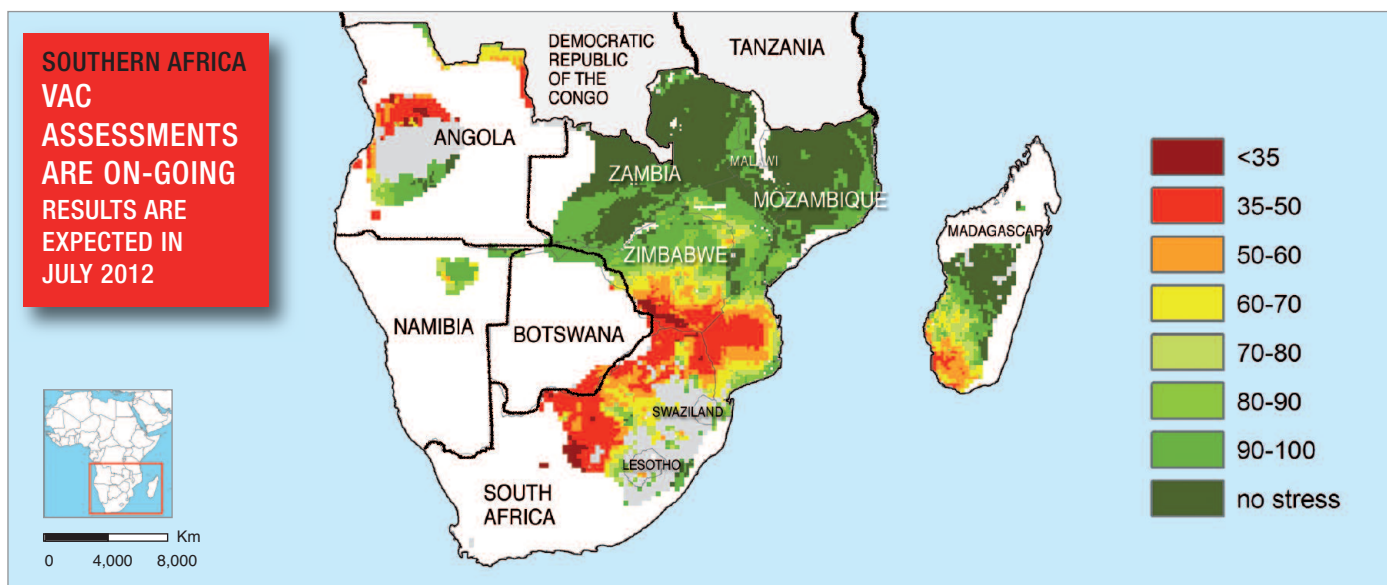
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## SOUTHERN AFRICA

- As the main rainy season ends, food production at the regional level is expected to be average. However, **rainfall deficits** in an area straddling eastern **Botswana**, western **Mozambique** and southern **Zimbabwe**, is a concern. **Lesotho** and **Swaziland** have also experienced rainfall shortages. Reports from crop and food security assessments, expected in July, will shed light on the extent of impacts.
- In **Malawi**, the significant devaluation of the currency in May could impact food security conditions.
- **Tropical cyclones** in February and March **disrupted food production and livelihoods** in southeast **Madagascar**, rendering 30 percent of households food insecure.
- **Food prices in Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe** remain high compared to last year. However, in **Zambia** maize prices are exceptionally low, due to a good harvest in 2011.



### Water satisfaction index\* - maize (3rd dekad March 2012)



Source: Joint Research Centre - © European Commission 2012.

\* Water satisfaction index is an indicator of crop performance based on the availability of water to the crop during a growing season.

## ASIA

- **Recovery from the 2011 floods in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Pakistan and the Philippines** has been slow. Poorer households are still coping with lost or damaged livelihoods while also facing high prices for food, fuel and agricultural inputs.
- The **2012 agricultural season started favourably in most countries**, with **India and Pakistan** expecting record harvests. Prospects for a good harvest are uncertain for **Bangladesh and Myanmar** due to uneven distribution of rains since the start of the season. Cereal crop production in **Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka** looks promising.
- **Nominal prices of rice and wheat are generally stable or have slightly decreased** during the first quarter of 2012. However, substantial real price increases were observed in **Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**, since last quarter 2011.
- During the south-west summer monsoon season from June to October, much of Asia is forecast to experience **average or slightly above average rains**. There is a 40-50 percent probability of precipitation exceeding the median in **Bangladesh, Cambodia**, most of **India, Myanmar** and central **Philippines**. Central and eastern **Indonesia, Malaysia** and **Papua New Guinea** are likely to receive below average precipitation.

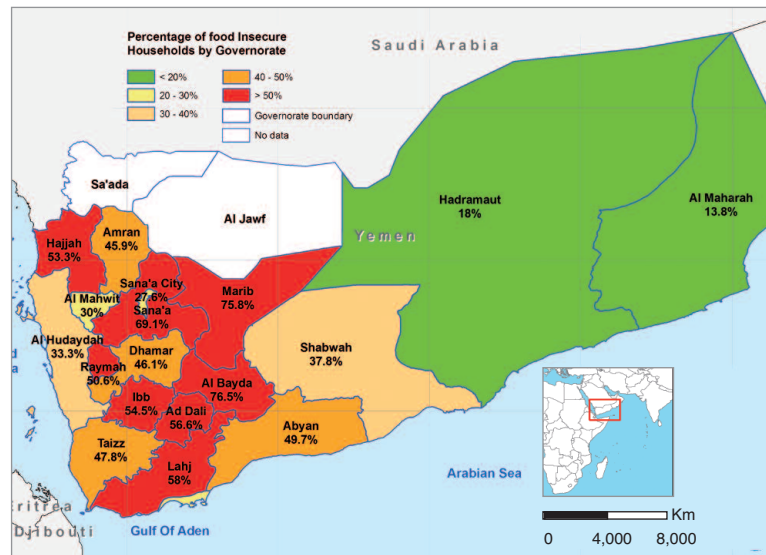


WFP / Morales-Cezar / Philippines

## MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA AND CENTRAL ASIA

- As of May 2012, the **civil unrest in Syria** has forced approximately 60,000 persons to seek refuge in neighboring countries. Furthermore, sanctions and trade disruptions are resulting in higher essential food and non-food commodity prices.
- The **prolonged civil unrest in Yemen is undermining household food security**. According to the latest WFP survey, the number of severely food insecure increased from 11.8 percent in 2009 to 22.2 percent in 2011.
- **Real prices of staple crops have generally increased in the region since the end of 2011**. Major increases were observed in **Azerbaijan** and **Tajikistan**. **Yemen**, however, experienced a 22 percent decrease in wheat prices, yet the unpredictable political and security situation remains a major concern for price stability.
- Regional prospects for **winter crops** to be harvested from June onwards are favorable.

### Yemen food insecure households by governorate. Total food insecure households is 44.5%



Source: WFP Comprehensive Food Security Survey 2011-12.

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

#### YEMEN

THE NUMBER OF SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE INCREASED FROM **11.8%** IN 2009 TO **22.2%** IN 2011

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN



WFP / Arteaga / Ecuador

- **Flooding in Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru** in April has affected the food security situation of vulnerable households.
- In **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua** households that were affected by the **Tropical Depression 12-E (TD 12-E)** in October 2011 are recovering slowly, and will face an early lean season in June and July.
- In **Haiti** some 421,000 people who were displaced due to the January 2010 **earthquake** still live in camps.
- Household food security conditions in **Central America** are expected to improve with the August to October *primera* harvest. However, seasonal forecasts point to **drier than average conditions for the Caribbean**, especially in **Colombia, El Salvador and Nicaragua**, which could potentially affect the *primera* harvest.

# Country Summaries

Complex emergency



Socio-political unrest



Drought



Dryness



Storms / Floods



Recovery



Good harvest



Watch



## EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

**FOCUS:** Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

**SOUTH SUDAN:** The number of food insecure people has risen from 3.3 million in 2011 to an estimated 4.7 million people in 2012. Some 1.1 million are severely food insecure while 3.1 million are moderately food insecure. Areas most affected include Western Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states. Disruption of trade with Sudan, food price inflation and limited income-earning opportunities are jeopardizing households' food access. In the northern states and in Jonglei, households spend more than 60 percent of their income on food, indicating high vulnerability to price increases. Military tension along the border with Sudan has led to the displacement of 143,000 people since January and has disrupted trade, agricultural and livelihood activities. Sudan's declaration of a state of emergency along the border has blocked formal and informal trade flows towards South Sudan and forced the country to source more expensive imports from Ethiopia and Uganda. Increased influx of refugees and returnees from Sudan is also expected to exert more pressure on meagre local resources. The current situation is expected to deteriorate further in the bordering states given the on-going conflict with Sudan, food and fuel shortages and high inflation. Weather forecasts indicate favourable conditions for South Sudan, especially for the Greenbelt and Hills and Mountains livelihood zones. Assistance needs will peak during the lean season between May to August. Food security conditions are likely to improve in greater Equatoria in July and August, when consumption of green crops starts.

**ETHIOPIA:** Food security conditions remained stable during the first three months of 2012 due to the good 2011 Meher harvest, improvement in livestock conditions following the generally good Kiremt/Deyr/Hagaya rains last year and the provision of humanitarian assistance. Food prices remained elevated in the first quarter of 2012 due to farmers' withholding stocks, poor Belg season performance, and increased agricultural input prices. Pastoralists' terms of trade are unfavorable. Poor December/January rains and the associated failure of root crops in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region (SNNPR) have affected both, food access and availability, particularly for poor and very poor households. In pastoral and agro pastoral areas in the southern regions, the main March-May rains have also been delayed and erratic, continuing water and pasture shortages. Belg rains from February to May 2012 were four to eight weeks late and rainfall performance has been erratic. This has resulted in an extension of the normal hunger season by up to two months in the affected areas. The lean season in Belg-dependent areas will continue through June/July as no Belg harvest is expected before August. A delayed Belg season is likely to affect planting during the Meher.

**KENYA:** Results from the Short Rains Assessment in February 2012 show that the food security status of pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and marginal agricultural farmers has improved considerably after an above average 2011 short rains. As a result, the number of food insecure people has reduced from 3.7 million at the peak of the emergency in July 2011, to 2.2 million people in February 2012. Affected households are nevertheless facing food consumption gaps due to a combination of low livestock holdings and high food prices. Malnutrition rates remain high, near emergency levels, in some areas due to below normal food access, poor hygiene and inappropriate child care practices. There is a credible risk that the observed food security improvements may start to erode rapidly, particularly in areas which have received poor rains. The long rains have started in many parts of the country, yet their performance between March and May 2012 has been below average and poorly distributed both in time and space for most parts of the northern and north-eastern pastoral areas, as well as the south-eastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas. The poor performance of the long rains in these areas is worrisome, as recovery was just beginning after successive poor seasons. The food security situation for pastoralists in areas where the rains have been exceptionally poor will decline starting in July.

**SOMALIA:** The food insecure population has decreased from 4 million last year to approximately 2.5 million people in 2012. The majority of affected population are in "Crisis" (IPC Phase 3). Improvements are due to a relative good Deyr season, considerable off-season cereal harvest, cash crop activities and humanitarian support leading to improved food access in most areas. Moreover, cereal prices have continued to decline since January 2012 leading to favourable terms of trade for pastoralists and the urban population. Pasture and water are largely available across the country. The evolution of the food security situation is difficult to foresee. With mitigating factors such as acceptable pasture availability in some parts, increased water availability, high humanitarian assistance coverage in non-AI Shebaab areas and overall low prices for staple foods, the current food security situation is likely to improve in certain areas. However, it will greatly depend on the level of rain, the continuation of humanitarian support and the security conditions.

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:** According to the IPC analysis in October 2011, some 4.5 million people were facing an acute food and livelihood crisis (Phase 3). Results of recent food security assessments indicate that 16 percent of surveyed populations in South Kivu, 15 percent in Kasai Occidental, 14 percent in Kasai Oriental, 12 percent in Oriental province and 8 percent in North Kivu are affected by severe food insecurity.



The nutrition situation continues to be alarming with GAM rates above the emergency threshold in some areas in Kasai, Bandundu and Maniema. Food prices are rising in most markets, especially in the eastern part of the country due to insecurity. Persistent armed conflict has resulted in recurrent movements of populations and loss of livelihoods. Following new clashes in April and May 2012, more than 9,000 Congolese refugees have crossed into Rwanda and more than 30,000 into Uganda, while tens of thousands of people are internally displaced in eastern DRC.

**BURUNDI:** The March 2012 IPC analysis estimates 750,000 people to be food insecure. Over the last six months, climatic hazards, plant diseases and high food prices have affected household food security, limiting food access of causal labour dependent vulnerable households. These households are coping by relying on less nutritious but cheaper foods and reducing quantities consumed. Excessive rain, hail, floods, and rain deficits in some areas have affected the harvest of the first agricultural season in January 2012, 11 percent lower production than last year and 47 percent below the five year average. Banana and cassava production have decreased substantially due to disease. Similar constraints are foreseen to undermine outputs of the second harvest season between February and July, further exacerbating the food security situation of already vulnerable households.

**DJIBOUTI:** For the seventh consecutive year, Djibouti has registered a rainfall deficit. Vulnerable households, weakened by several years of crisis, are in a worse situation compared to last year. Depletion of assets, migration, negative coping strategies and higher livestock mortality rates are reported. Severe water shortages exist in the northwest and southeast pastoral livelihood zones. Food prices have been increasing since December and are above average. Over the first quarter of 2012, food prices in Ethiopia - from where Djibouti imports a large share of its consumption requirements – are rising particularly for wheat and sorghum and are likely to remain high. These price increases are likely to be transmitted to Djiboutian markets. In both, urban and rural areas, the cost of a food basket remains beyond what poor households can afford.

**RWANDA:** Over one third of the rural households had unacceptable food consumption in September 2011. This was higher than in March 2011 but similar to September 2010, highlighting seasonal increases in food insecurity during the lean season. Areas most affected include the South and the Western provinces, especially along the Congo Nile Crest. As of May 2012, 9,000 new refugee arrivals from DRC were registered in Western province. Production from the first season in 2012 registered significant increases for cereals, pulses and tuber when compared to the same season in 2011. However, prospects for the next season remain uncertain given forecast for erratic weather conditions.

**TANZANIA:** Preliminary results from the March-April food security and nutrition assessment indicate that poor households in central, north eastern and north western Tanzania will experience acute shortage of food between April and June. Despite near-normal 2011/2012 harvests, food deficit areas exist where rainfall performance was poor, particularly in the pastoral northern regions and the central and Lake Victoria agro-pastoral regions. Cereal prices across the country remain well above the five-year average. Rice prices throughout the country have been increasing since August 2011 due to decreasing domestic stocks. High food prices continue limiting food access for poor market-dependent households. Prices of major staples are expected to drop significantly between July and September, as more supplies from surplus areas are brought to market. Other factors exacerbating persisting food insecurity levels include a high annual inflation rate, as well as high transportation costs due to increasing fuel prices.

**UGANDA:** Uganda is generally food secure, apart from Karamoja and some pockets in the northern parts of the country. Food insecurity and malnutrition tend to increase during the main lean season from April to June. A nutrition survey conducted by ACF in April 2012 in Karamoja indicated high levels of malnutrition. The resumption of targeted food assistance to extremely vulnerable households is also expected to limit the use of damaging coping strategies. White maize prices remain high throughout the country, as a result of high domestic and regional demand, as well as speculative behavior among traders who are hoarding stocks in anticipation of higher prices. In bimodal areas, late start of the first season rains is expected to lead to reduced harvest in July. As a result, high food prices may persist with potentially adverse effect on the food security of the rural and urban poor. Ugandan authorities also reported the arrival of 30,000 Congolese refugees, which may affect food security conditions in concerned areas.

## WESTERN AFRICA

**FOCUS:** Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, The Gambia

**MALI:** According to Government estimates, some 3.7 million people, mostly agro-pastoralists, pastoralists and fisher folk are food insecure following drought and conflict. Food prices in Mali have risen sharply, as of May 2012, with the price of millet in Bamako being 104 percent above the 5-year average. Households have altered consumption habits and migrated early with few hopes of finding work. Some vulnerable households, mostly in the West of the country, can rely on remittances. Some 334,000 Malians are estimated to have been displaced as a result of the conflict in the northern regions of Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu. A shortage of essential commodities in the markets of Timbuktu and Gao is reported, while the Kidal region still receives essential food supplies from Algeria. Market supply and access to grazing and water points have been disrupted because of the hostilities. Households in the southern regions have to cope with the additional strain of hosting IDPs, as they add more pressure on their already meagre resources.



Humanitarian access for the north is expected to remain difficult, market supply is likely to remain irregular, and the health status of the most vulnerable will further deteriorate. According to the April 2012 regional *cadre harmonisé*, emergency conditions may affect some pockets of the North, if security and food access conditions do not improve.

**BURKINA FASO:** According to a March and April 2012 assessment, some 2.8 million people in 185 districts are at risk of becoming food insecure as a result of the 2011 drought. The drought has pushed up prices for main staples, with millet costing 85 percent more than the five year average as of April 2012. Low purchasing power, low food production, and high food prices are the main causal factors of food insecurity. Additionally, Burkina Faso had received some 57,000 Malian refugees as of May 2012, an additional burden on the deprived, drought-affected Sahel region in the north of the country. According to the April 2012 regional *cadre harmonisé* round, districts located in Burkina's Sahel region are facing 'crisis' conditions which will last into June.

**CHAD:** According to a February 2012 assessment, 1.2 million people were in need of food assistance in the country's Sahelian belt. The drought, which triggered a 22 percent decline in aggregate grain production for 2011/2012, also caused a shortage of fodder, affecting pastoralists' livelihoods. Grain prices in March 2012 were already well above those seen during the 2010 food crisis and will further increase during the lean season, between May and September. The increase in the prices of cereals has caused a deterioration of cattle and grain terms of trade in the Sahelian belt. According to the April round of the regional *cadre harmonisé*, the Sahelian belt of Chad was facing a 'critical' food security situation in March 2012, which was forecast to worsen to 'extreme' in June 2012.

**MAURITANIA:** Some 700,000 people were identified as food insecure in December 2011, following a drought that affected pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods in the country. Since then, additional households are likely to have become food insecure due to price increases and the depletion of assets. The implementation of government subsidized sales and humanitarian assistance should stabilize household food security status in the near term. Since February, the remote south eastern Mauritanian region of Hodhech Chargui has received Malian refugees. According to UNHCR, as of 4th April 2012, approximately 63,000 Malian refugees are in the M'berre camp. The refugee influx represents an additional burden for host populations, already affected by the drought. Nutritional data showed an increase in malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women and in children in the villages closest to the camp. Households in host villages are facing a drop in their income from selling wood and straw. The arrival of the refugees' cattle has added additional pressure on water and grazing. At Fassala market, a transit village for refugees, millet and wheat price increased respectively by 100 and 12 percent compared to April 2011. According to the April round of the *cadre harmonisé*, this area could be facing 'extreme' conditions as of June, if insufficient assistance is provided.

**NIGER:** Some 5.4 million people are food insecure, of whom 1.3 million severely, according to the latest survey carried out in November 2011. Findings anticipate an increase of up to 6.2 million food insecure people during the lean season from June to September this year. The national early warning system confirmed that the food security and nutritional situation had deteriorated in half of identified vulnerable zones during May 2012, despite the provision of assistance provided by government and partners since November 2011. The deterioration in food consumption is expected to exacerbate the already serious-to-critical acute malnutrition rates, which tend to peak during the lean season. Causal factors for the deterioration this year include grain and fodder production deficits due to inadequate rains, high food prices and regional conflicts. High food prices have led to a decline in agro-pastoralist terms of trade. Niger currently hosts some 39,000 refugees and returnees displaced from Mali, posing an additional burden on the host population. Furthermore, strife in Nigeria has dampened cross-border trade and has reduced economic opportunities for Nigerian migrants. The conflict in Mali has also disrupted traditional pastoralist transhumance routes and access to grazing and water. According to the regional *cadre harmonisé* exercise held in April 2012, the situation may further deteriorate and several agro-pastoralist regions of Niger are expected to face a 'crisis' by June 2012.

**SENEGAL:** Some 806,000 people, including 67,000 urban dwellers, are food insecure. The below-average 2011/2012 harvest, coupled with a decrease of remittances from abroad and food price rises, are the main drivers of food insecurity in the country. Moreover, the increase in the price of imported rice, the main staple food, which costs 12 percent more than last year, is an aggravating factor for net buyer households. Food insecure households have already started using negative coping mechanisms to the detriment of their food consumption, such as limiting the number and the quantities of their meals, consuming less expensive but less preferred food. The lean season from July to September will challenge already vulnerable households and their nutritional status. According to the April 2012 *cadre harmonisé* round, regions of the central and eastern portions of Senegal were facing 'moderate' food insecurity, expected to worsen to 'critical' in Matam, Tambadounda and Ziguinchor regions by June.

**THE GAMBIA:** WFP estimates that approximately 206,000 people or 12 percent of the total population in 19 of 39 rural districts are severely affected by drought and are in need of emergency food assistance and livelihood support. Causal factors include a reduction of food availability from own production, as well as loss of income attributable to poor cash crop production. Although market conditions have generally stabilized since December 2011, nominal food prices remain high: in February the price of imported rice, the main staple food, was 12 percent higher than the previous year and 24 percent higher than the five-year average while coarse grain prices were on average 16 percent higher than the five-year average. High food and fuel prices pose a risk to household food security of rural drought-affected populations and the urban poor. Household food security in the next semester will hinge on the prospect of the next harvest, expected in October.

**CÔTE D'IVOIRE:** The February 2012 assessment found 260,000 persons in the Western and up to 100,000 persons in the Northern regions to be in need of food assistance until the next harvest in October 2012. To cope with the situation, many households are expected to resort to negative coping strategies, including sales of productive assets and taking debts at high interest rates. In the Western region, food insecurity is linked to the 2011 post electoral crisis which has prompted many people to seek refuge in neighboring Liberia. Food production decreased significantly in 2011/2012 due to limited access to seeds, agricultural labor and land. In the North, low rainfall in 2011 affected the cereal harvest, while IDP arrivals placed an additional burden on host households. Demand from Sahelian countries is also limiting food availability in the north of Cote d'Ivoire. In both regions the food security and nutrition situation is likely to deteriorate during the lean season from May to September, with smallholder food producers and casual laborers most at risk.


**GHANA:** In northern Ghana, households are facing the combined effects of a seasonal decline in grain availability and a below average harvest during the 2011 growing season. These factors are expected to continue to take their toll on poor households' food access and food consumption in 2012. The high demand for grains in November and December 2011 has eased, as restocking by large-scale traders and industrial users were completed, contributing to stability in grain prices in many markets. Nonetheless, in the Northern and Upper West Regions, maize prices were well above 2011 levels in Tamale, Wa and Bolgatanga. The return of migrant workers from southern agricultural areas to their villages could temporary boost incomes and food access, as most of them bring along money to purchase seeds and grains to supplement existing households stocks.


**GUINEA BISSAU:** Political tension in Guinea-Bissau has seriously affected economic activity in the country. The cashew nut marketing season has been disrupted as exporters have ceased buying, interrupting an essential income-earning opportunity for rural households. A June assessment will determine the extent to which these phenomena have affected the population's food security. Grain production in 2011/2012 had been below average due to late rains. As the June to September lean season approaches, households in Mansaba have already reduced the frequency and quality of their food consumption.


**LIBERIA:** An estimated 110,000 poor households living in the Southeast, Central and Northwest regions are food insecure. Furthermore, Liberia continues to host some 65,000 Ivorian refugees who entirely depend on humanitarian assistance. Stocks of local rice are diminishing, and prices for imported staples, especially imported rice, are above average. A 50 kg bag of imported rice in March 2012 cost, on average, 38 percent higher than a year ago. As a result, poor households' access to basic commodities is declining. With the onset of long rains from May to October 2012, and the depletion of stocks of local produce, the demand for imported rice is likely to increase in the coming months. Coupled with an expected disruption in transportation during the long rains, there is a likely upward pressure on domestic food prices, further jeopardizing households' food access.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

**FOCUS:** Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

 **MALAWI:** Economic disruption, reduced crop production and substantial food price increases are the main drivers of food insecurity in Malawi. In May 2012, the national currency devalued by 49 percent against the US dollar. This has led to significant economic disruptions that could also increase household food insecurity. Furthermore, recent estimates point to a 7 percent decrease in national cereal production in 2011/12 compared to the previous year. While farmers have benefitted from own production and income from cash crop sales since April, erratic rains and dry spells have hampered crop production in the southern districts. Maize prices continue to increase, with a 41 percent rise between the last quarter of 2011 and the first of 2012, mainly driven by higher fuel costs. Still, the April to July harvest is expected to ease food prices.

 **MOZAMBIQUE:** The number of food insecure people in Mozambique is expected to increase due to the current drought. Most at risk are the arid and semi-arid districts of central and southern provinces of Sofala, Inhambane and Gaza, which already face high chronic food insecurity. In some of these areas, households have been coping by consuming wild foods and taking children out of school. Prices of basic staple foods continue to rise.

 **ZAMBIA:** The food security situation during the third quarter of 2012 is expected to be good due to the recently completed harvest. Despite a 6 percent decline in aggregate production, a maize surplus is expected, which will keep maize price low. These lower prices could depress the incomes of small- and medium-scale farmers who had invested substantially in maize. Currently households have access to their own production and hence their dependence on markets is limited. Nonetheless, extended dry spells and flash flooding in southern, eastern, central and some parts of north-western and northern provinces took place during January and early March 2012. The extent to which the phenomenon has affected the population was assessed through the annual impact assessment whose results will be released in June 2012.



**ZIMBABWE:** One million people are projected to be food insecure during the 2011/12 marketing year. This number is expected to rise between April and September 2012 due to poor harvest in cereal deficit districts of the south, where more than 20 percent of the population is already food insecure. Households are resorting to negative coping strategies, including reduced food intake, illegal mining or panning of gold and distressed sales of livestock. Maize production in 2011/2012 is estimated to be 33 percent lower than last year due to late rains and dry spells in the Masvingo, Matebeleland North and South provinces, as well as parts of Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central provinces. Erratic rains have affected about 40 percent of the area planted for maize. The national cereal deficit is estimated at 347,000 tons. Grain prices are expected to be higher in deficit areas than last year at the same time. Maize prices have increased on average by 13 percent between the last quarter of 2011 and the first quarter of 2012.



**MADAGASCAR:** Some 300,000 people in the south and east were affected by Cyclone Giovanna, Tropical Storm Irina and storms in February and March. According to an assessment in affected districts, some 30 percent of households have poor food consumption. Overall, a total of about 547,000 people are expected to be severely food insecure in the coming months. The cyclones and floods destroyed 35 to 80 percent of crops, including rice and cassava, in south-eastern areas. Breadfruit, a tree crop usually eaten during the lean season, was also damaged. In affected areas, vulnerable households have significantly limited income sources and often rely on their savings or by taking on debt. Damaged road infrastructure has rendered several municipalities inaccessible. An abnormally long lean season is expected to last until July 2012.

**LESOTHO:** Some 514,000 people have faced food deficits during March to May 2012. The September 2011 to April 2012 agricultural season was below average, especially for cereals, following the late onset of rains during the planting season. Although some areas received above normal rainfalls in February, cumulative rainfall remained below normal. Early frost and hail storms also destroyed crops in some parts of the country, especially wheat in the highlands. Furthermore, substantial amounts of arable land were not cultivated. Between December 2011 and March 2012, prices for maize meal, the main staple food increased by 10 percent, while petrol prices rose by 13 percent. The results of the most recent household food security assessment will be available shortly.

**SWAZILAND:** Crop production for the 2011/2012 agricultural season is projected to be lower than last year due to poor rainfall, insufficient agricultural inputs and a significant reduction in planted area. Government resources are increasingly insufficient to cover essential social programs like HIV/AIDS programs, free primary education, support for orphaned and vulnerable children, and farmers' subsidy programs. Cuts in social programs would affect poor and vulnerable households the most.

## ASIA

**FOCUS:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, DPRK, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Timor-Leste

**AFGHANISTAN:** The drought in 2011 made 2.6 million people in the northern provinces severely food insecure from October 2011 till the harvest in May 2012. Currently the resilience of average households is greatly undermined following the drought coupled with the impact of a harsh and extended winter as well as high fuel prices. Households relying on opium production, as well as those depending on petty trade and sales of prepared foods are the most vulnerable. They are coping by substantially altering their food consumption patterns as well as employing other coping strategies ranging from disposing of assets to out-migration in search of food or work. A 10 percent increase in price of wheat in March 2012, since the same time last year, is greatly reducing the purchasing power of the most vulnerable. High wheat prices are expected to persist due to importing constraints from neighboring Pakistan and Kazakhstan this year. Harvest prospects are generally better than 2011 as winter and spring wheat cultivation has increased due to an early wet season with above normal precipitation levels. However, likely compromising factors include floods, frost, plant pest and diseases and a deterioration of security.

**INDIA:** Favourable monsoon rains and an increase in area under paddy planting have led to an estimated 3 percent increase in production of food grains during 2011/12. Harvest outputs are sufficient to meet domestic requirements and to increase exports. Consequently, prices of both, rice and wheat have remained relatively stable over the last six months. However, high prices for other food products, primary commodities and high consumer price inflation may have a ripple effect on the food security status of the 42 percent of the population that lives on less than USD 1.25 per day.

**PAKISTAN:** Monsoon rains in August and September 2011 caused severe flooding in most of Sindh and parts of Balochistan provinces for the second year in a row. An interagency needs assessment in October 2011 showed that 5.2 million people were affected, half of whom were severely food insecure. Food assistance is planned for 3.2 million people during 2012. Urban residents are highly stressed and vulnerable with fewer coping

mechanisms at hand than their rural counterparts. The government has increased its support price for wheat in May 2012 with the new harvest. The 15 percent rise in petrol price in April has pushed up prices for all food commodities, stressing food access for poor households. Flooding has again been forecasted during the 2012 July to September monsoon, putting residents in Punjab and Sindh at risk.



**INDONESIA:** Approximately 25 million people are vulnerable to food insecurity, particularly households engaged in food and cash crop subsistence farming and agricultural wage labor. The majority of them live in the east of the country where 40 percent of the population live below the national poverty line in comparison to 13 percent at national level. Despite stable paddy production, the price of rice is one of the highest in the South East Asia region, with a continuous upward trend. In March 2012 rice prices were 18 percent higher compared to the same time last year while the real wage of agricultural labor had decreased by one percent. Simultaneously, the real wage of vulnerable agriculture labor groups continuously decreased in February 2012, indicating an erosion of households' purchasing power. These developments are of particular concern for poor households in vulnerable areas who spend around 60 percent of their monthly expenditure on food and more than 20 percent of their income on rice in the November to February pre-harvest period. Cuts in fuel subsidies of up to 33 percent in April 2012 have been unsuccessful resulting in widespread hoarding of fuel and further food price increases. The government is expected to further cut subsidies in the latter half of this year.

**BANGLADESH:** In December 2011 half of the agricultural land in the coastal belt of Satkhira was still inundated, following heavy rainfall and flooding in July and August. Over 64,000 households needed external assistance, with wage laborers and marginal farmers being the worst affected. Households are still coping with the loss or damage of household and agricultural assets, limited employment and farming opportunities and lower wage rates for farm labor. Strategies include taking loans at high interest rates, purchasing on credit, borrowing against future casual labor earnings, as well as reducing food consumption. Full recovery of farm-based livelihoods is estimated to take a year, until November/December 2012. In flood affected areas, nutrition conditions of children under five and pregnant and lactating women are deteriorating. WFP's March 2012 assessment, conducted in the Chittangong Hills, reports severe food insecurity resulting from a failure in crop production. The assessment called for immediate food and cash assistance to help the most vulnerable through the lean season between May and October 2012. Substantial real price increases of main staples were recorded during first quarter 2012, further eroding poor peoples' access to sufficient quality foods. In Bangladesh, one-third of the population is poor, and 17.6 percent extremely poor and therefore sensitive to such food price increases. Agricultural input costs have also risen sharply.

**CAMBODIA:** In September/October 2011, 354,000 households in 18 out of 24 provinces were affected by one of the worst floods since 2000, leaving 60,000 flood-affected households food insecure. Poorest households faced displacement, loss of housing, assets and livelihoods and increased indebtedness. In February 2012, the purchasing power of households depending on unskilled labour wages improved in rural areas for the third consecutive month, but remained unchanged in urban centers. In January 2012, the malnutrition in children below five years had not deteriorated from pre-crisis levels but remained high. Food and non-food assistance and the provision of credit have buffered the impact of the disaster on household food consumption and nutritional status in the short term. Rice price increases are expected during the upcoming lean season, putting households depending on unskilled labor at risk of reducing their food consumption.

**DPRK:** Some 16 million chronically food insecure people, representing two-thirds of the population, rely on the public distribution system (PDS) for food rations. The northern and eastern provinces of Ryanggang, Chagang, North Hamgyong, South Hamgyong and Kangwon have the greatest number of food deficit counties and the most vulnerable to food insecurity. The CFSAM estimated an uncovered food deficit of 414,000 tons for the 2011/12 marketing year, and recommended provision of 120,000 tons, in cereal equivalent, of various commodities for distribution to 3 million vulnerable people. In 2012, despite a better harvest than the previous year, the average PDS ration was less than 400 grams/person/day, representing only 54 percent of the minimum daily requirement. As a result of the 2011/2012 food production deficit, the PDS ration will be adjusted in the peak of the lean season (June-August). On the political front, there have been setbacks in the dialogue between the international community and DPRK, leading to the suspension of 240,000 tons of in-kind nutritional assistance by the US government. Coping mechanisms include production of food in kitchen gardens (for limited households), food assistance received from relatives living in rural areas, collection of wild foods, and by accessing informal markets. A nutrition assessment conducted by the Institute of Child Nutrition and WFP in November 2011 in randomly selected counties showed a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 14.1 percent (using the mid-upper arm circumference measurement), higher than the national prevalence of 5.2 percent recorded in 2009. Given the current situation, there is a likelihood of a deterioration of nutritional status among the most food insecure population, especially during the July to August rainy season when frequent floods affect the population and crops. Early crops, planted in the spring will provide some relief during the summer.

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC:** The impact of a series of tropical storms and flooding that affected central and southern regions in 2011 continues to be felt in 2012. A total of 430,000 affected people still have to cope with substantial damage to agricultural land, rural infrastructure and housing. Khammuane Province, in central Laos, saw greatest damage and critical food shortages at the time. According to a January 2012 assessment, 39,000 people along the Xe Bang Fai River were still found to be food insecure and in need of food assistance at least until the next harvest in November 2012. Households are coping by engaging in casual labor and by reducing the number of meals they consume each day. The situation is likely to deteriorate as the May to September lean season approaches. Dry season rice production in affected areas has dropped by 15 percent due to flooding, further limiting food availability prior to the lean season. From May to September, markets will become less accessible and food prices will rise, limiting household food access. Since February 2012 the price of fresh food, fuel, electricity, and water have significantly increased in the North and Central part of the country.



**MYANMAR:** In Kachin state a flare up of violence has prevented households from engaging in their regular farming activities. There are over 50,000 internally displaced persons, living in IDP camps many of which are inaccessible, thereby increasing peoples' vulnerability. Southern parts of Chin state, on the other hand, had to cope with erratic monsoon rainfall between May and October/November 2011, the impact of which is still evident. An emergency assessment in January and February 2012 found total staple cereal production to have declined by over 50 percent in four surveyed townships, resulting in poor food consumption and moderate hunger. In order to cope, households have started borrowing food or money at high interest rates and have altered their dietary patterns. The Government of Myanmar has stepped up its poppy eradication efforts in Shan State in 2011 and 2012, with negative consequences on households' food security status, particularly in Hopong township. Food prices are of particular concern in NRS, as more than 75 percent of wage labor income was required to purchase a basic food basket in the first quarter of 2012. Food security is expected to deteriorate during the traditional lean period from June to August/September, as prices rise until the next monsoon harvest and stocks are already at critical levels in some areas of the country.

**PHILIPPINES:** Typhoons have devastated parts of the Philippines in the last quarter of 2011, affecting some 5.6 million people. In northern Mindanao, five months after the disaster, 13,600 people are still living in evacuation centers while another 197,500 persons are staying with host families or in temporary shelters, mainly due to inadequate long-term housing and livelihood solutions. According to a WFP assessment in the typhoon-affected areas in March 2012, 38 percent of households were food insecure and 45 percent of households were found to be 'currently displaced'. The most common coping strategies include relying on less preferred foods, borrowing food or money from friends, relatives and traders. Furthermore, based on national poverty and food poverty survey, households experiencing moderate hunger have increased from 17.7 percent in the last quarter of 2011 to 18 percent in the first quarter of 2012. Severe hunger increased from 4.7 percent to 5.8 percent. Increasing fuel prices since 2011 have contributed significantly to inflation, the impact of which is particularly felt by an estimated 19 million poor Filipinos.

**TIMOR-LESTE:** The paddy rice production from January to June 2012 is expected to be 2.7 percent above 2011 levels. According to weather forecasts, above-average rains are expected to affect the country in June and July. A decline in cereal production is one factor of concern to national food security. Maize and rice harvests have dropped dramatically in 2011, forcing households to increase the consumption of roots and tubers and to increasingly rely on imported grains. However, favorable weather towards the end of 2011 rise hopes of a good main harvest in 2012.

## MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA AND CENTRAL ASIA

**FOCUS:** Egypt, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, Tajikistan, Yemen

**YEMEN:** According to WFP's 2012 Comprehensive Food Security Survey, nearly half of the population (44.5 percent) was found to be food insecure. The number of severely food insecure people increased by 87 percent since 2009, reaching 22 percent of the population. Rising food and fuel prices and conflict explain the increase. Households cope by reducing meal sizes, buying cheaper and less preferred foods, reducing the consumption of meat and fish, borrowing and buying food on credit and skipping meals. Conflict and civil unrest since 2011 continues to jeopardize the well-being of a large section of the population. The situation has contributed to an increasing number of IDPs, 470,000 registered, as of March 2012. Households are confronted with reduced market access, reduction in basic social services, high fuel and food prices, lack of work opportunities and the effects of a steady economic decline. Large-scale protests against the government have subsided; however, continued disruption of social services, particularly in the health, water and sanitation and education sectors, can be expected.

**SYRIA:** Civil unrest is disrupting trade and food production leading to a deteriorating food security situation in the country. UNHCR estimates that over 60,000 refugees have arrived in neighbouring countries since 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012. An undetermined number of people are also internally displaced. Food prices have risen, as supply of imported commodities dwindles. In Aleppo, the price of rice increased by 28 percent, wheat flour by 50 percent, white beans by 90 percent and oil by 46 percent between May 2011 and April 2012. The agriculture production from irrigated areas, which accounts for 20-25 percent of the total agriculture area, is expected to reach 75 percent of estimated targets for wheat and barley. However, prospects are less favorable for rain-fed areas that account for the bulk of national grain production. The main harvest for wheat and barley will continue until July. Security permitting, a food security assessment, scheduled in June, will provide additional information on agriculture and livelihoods.

**EGYPT:** A survey undertaken in February 2012 showed that 74 percent of households do not have enough income to meet even their basic needs. Almost half depend on government assistance and pensions, family assistance as well as charity and community assistance. They cope by borrowing money, reducing food consumption, taking on additional jobs and by buying on credit. Seasonal increases in prices of key food commodities started to pick-up in March 2012 and monthly inflation reached 2.1 percent, further challenging vulnerable households' purchasing power. The uncertain political situation combined with a poor business climate could lead to further loss of incomes, especially those of the most vulnerable households.

**JORDAN:** The most recent food security assessment report shows that only about 2.5 percent of the population have poor and borderline food consumption. Food insecurity appears to be particularly common in poorer sub-districts, where often more than 10 percent of households lack appropriate access to sufficient and nutritious food. Despite offsetting government interventions, food inflation has exceeded 40 percent since the beginning of the year. The country's fragile economy and latest budgetary strains could also lead to cuts in social support programmes. Furthermore, according to UNCHR, as of 22nd May 2012 some 20,000 Syrian refugees had arrived in Jordan.

**KYRGYZSTAN:** According to the March 2012 emergency food security assessment, more than one million people or 18 percent of households are food insecure. In addition, 20 percent of food secure households used negative coping strategies to access food, implying that a total of 749,000 people are 'at-risk' of becoming food-insecure in the event of additional shocks. Comparing August 2011 to March 2012, household food access has improved due to a good harvest in 2011, lower wheat prices, increased remittances, relatively stable security in the south compared to last year, as well as wage increases for teachers and health workers, increased pensions and social benefits. However, the price of an average food basket remains high whereby negatively influencing households' food consumption patterns. Higher food and fuel prices also contribute to larger household food expenditure shares. Furthermore, spring planting works started late this season and will be constrained by high costs of agricultural inputs. These factors will continue to affect food insecure families, particularly in the months leading to the August-November harvest.

**OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY:** In 2011, 1.3 million Palestinians or 27 percent of households were food insecure and hence unable to meet their basic food and household needs. An additional 14 percent were at-risk of becoming food insecure. Food insecurity is more prominent in the Gaza strip (44 percent) than in the West Bank (17 percent) and among the refugee populations living in camps as well as households and herders living in Area C - the least productive area of the West Bank. Assistance levels remain very high with 80 percent of households in Gaza Strip receiving at least one form of assistance and 25 percent of households in the West Bank. In the Gaza Strip, the most commonly used coping strategies include purchasing lower quality food, seeking assistance from friends and relatives and reducing the number of daily meals. In the West Bank, the most common strategies include purchasing food on credit, eating stored food and buying or consuming fewer types of food. Food insecure households spend nearly half of their monthly income on food, making them vulnerable to food price increases. Fuel price increases are also likely to continue and lead to higher transportation costs for food and non-food commodities.

**TAJIKISTAN:** According to a March 2012 WFP survey, 61 percent of households report having experienced a harsh winter and weather-related crop losses, up from 27 percent a year earlier. As a result, there has been an 8 percent increase in the number of households at risk of food insecurity between July 2011 and February 2012. Relying on less preferred and cheaper foods, purchasing food on credit and borrowing food are the most common coping mechanisms. In addition, labor migration, reflecting increased opportunities for migrants in Russia, has increased. Wheat prices remain 7 percent higher than the first quarter in 2011 and are among the highest in Central Asia, posing difficulties for a large part of the population that spends 56 percent of their income on food. Additionally, fuel prices are up 40 percent during the first quarter of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011 due to strong winter demand and the higher cost of imported fuel. In remote areas, access to food is therefore likely to deteriorate from June through July, due to high prices for food and fuel and the depletion of stocks in the lean season. The situation is expected to start improving in July as the wheat harvest arrives and remittances reach their peak.

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

**FOCUS:** Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru

**BOLIVIA:** Some 16,800 households in 140 municipalities of the departments of Pando, La Paz, Oruro, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca and Potosí were affected by landslides, floods and frost during the first semester of 2012. Severely affected households lost their crops and livestock, putting them at risk of increased food insecurity. Households dependent on subsistence agriculture will have to wait until the next harvest in April-May 2013 to recover. According to the National Weather and Hydrology Service, the probability of any other adverse weather conditions occurring is estimated to be close to zero.

**COLOMBIA:** Food availability is favorable due to better crop production in 2011 - three percent above the average of the last five years. However, maize prices increased by 69 percent in the first quarter of 2012 compared to previous quarter and 68 percent compared to the last year. Flooding triggered by continuous rains in the first quarter of 2012 has affected household food security status, especially in rural areas. As of April, according to the national system for risk management, these excessive rains have affected 60,900 people. The main departments affected have been Amazonas, Valle del Cauca, Nariño, Cauca, Putumayo, Cundinamarca and Bogota.



**ECUADOR:** Precipitation levels were above normal in February and March causing flooding and landslides in several provinces. Most affected provinces included Loja, Los Rios, El Oro, Guayas, Manabí, Esmeraldas and Azuay. Some 110,000 people are affected and extensive infrastructure was damaged. Since vast amounts of cultivated land were destroyed, prices of agricultural products from coastal areas have increased, undermining the purchasing power of households. Furthermore, the Northern provinces continue to be affected by the spill-over effects of the armed conflict in Colombia, which has caused an inflow of Colombians seeking refuge in Ecuadorian territory.

**PARAGUAY:** In April 2012, heavy rains and flooding in Boquerón, Presidente Hayes, and Alto Paraguay departments in the Chaco Region of Paraguay have affected crops, animals and livelihoods of some 96,000 people. Indigenous communities, primarily relying on subsistence agriculture, have been cut off from the rest of the country, as roads and bridges were damaged. Food insecurity is expected to worsen in the affected areas until February/March 2013, when subsistence farmers are expected to harvest their next crop.

**PERU:** During the first semester of 2012, intense rains have caused landslides and floods. A total of 800,000 people have been affected who have to cope with lost or severely damaged livelihoods. The most affected region is Loreto in the Amazon area where approximately 250,000 people have been estimated to be at risk of becoming food insecure and where about 35 percent of the children under the age of five are at risk of malnutrition. Effects are expected to last until the end of the next agricultural season in May 2013.

**HAITI:** Some 421,000 people, displaced as a result of the January 2010 earthquake, still live in camps as of May 2012. The early start of the rainy season has affected some 20,000 people living in camps and has caused landslides. In addition, households in the northern regions have been confronted with cyclic droughts and flash floods over the past six months, further undermining their already damaged livelihoods. The CNSA estimates that up to 212,000 people remain food insecure in these areas. Despite slight decreases in staple food prices from the last quarter of 2011 to the first quarter of 2012, prices for wheat flour and rice are 12 percent higher than same time last year, weakening poor households' purchasing power. As a result, households are migrating and logging wood for charcoal production, as well as resorting to other negative coping mechanisms. The outcome of the main harvest in June and July 2012 will partly hinge on the intensity of the hurricane season, which lasts from June to November. The rainy season also brings the risk of cholera epidemics.

**EL SALVADOR:** Thirty percent of the population living along the pacific coast – the area hardest hit by the 2011 floods associated with TD 12-E - was food insecure before the shock. At least one third of the affected population lost an average of 60 percent of their harvest due to TD 12-E. Households have not yet recuperated since then and additional floods have occurred. As a result, these families are currently experiencing food deficit that will persist until the harvest expected in August and September. Households' food access will remain constrained between May and September 2012 when staple food prices increase and food stocks deplete. Weather forecasts report favorable conditions for agriculture, although 2012 grain production is not expected to exceed 2011 levels.

**GUATEMALA:** The impact of the TD 12-E that hit the country in October 2011, destroying agricultural land and severely damaging the livelihoods of up to 308,500 people, is still evident. Vulnerable subsistence farmers have been coping with the lean season since March - a time when food stocks tend to be exhausted, price of main staples increase and employment opportunities are generally scarce. Most common coping strategies of the vulnerable include the reduction in both, the quantity and quality of food intake, the sale of productive assets and search for seasonal employment. As a consequence of the poor 2011 harvest, households have resorted to purchasing foods earlier in the year which will make them more susceptible to seasonal increases in maize and beans prices between May and September.

**HONDURAS:** Approximately 145,000 people affected by the tropical depression 12-E in 2011 are recovering slowly. According to the Emergency Food Security Assessment released in February 2012, 25 percent of affected households had some stocks of beans while only nine percent had sufficient quantities to meet their household consumption needs until the August primera harvest. Many families will be forced to purchase food earlier than usual and thereby exposed to seasonal price volatilities particularly between May and August. Observed increases in fuel and fertilizer costs in early 2012 may also pass through to retail food prices. In the 'dry corridor', household purchasing power is limited given scarce availability of casual labor opportunities for additional income. Coping strategies include reduction in the quantity and quality of foods consumed and sale of agricultural assets.

**NICARAGUA:** Heavy rains between September and November 2011 affected about 16,000 subsistence farming households in the northern and pacific area as well as 9,000 people of indigenous communities living in the North Autonomous Atlantic Region. Heavy rainfall and floods damaged their crops, infrastructure and livelihoods, increasing their vulnerability to food insecurity. Households are coping by reducing the quantity and quality of food consumed. Affected households' access to food is expected to greatly diminish starting from the first semester of 2012 until the onset of the next harvest in August. Weather forecasts for the northern municipalities - the largest producers of maize - forecast dry spells with likely impacts on the planting season in May through to June 2012. Consequences would be mostly felt by poor, vulnerable households whose livelihoods have already been weakened as a result of crop losses following the TD 12-E in 2011.



## Acronyms

<b>CFSAM</b>	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission
<b>CILSS</b>	Comité permanent Inter-États de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel / Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
<b>CNSA</b>	Coordination Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire
<b>DPRK</b>	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FEWS-NET</b>	Famine Early-Warning Systems Network
<b>FSNAU</b>	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit
<b>FSNWG</b>	Food Security and Nutrition Working Group
<b>GAM</b>	Global Acute Malnutrition
<b>GIEWS</b>	Global Information and Early-Warning System

<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced person
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
<b>M</b>	Million
<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>oPt</b>	occupied Palestinian territory
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SNNPR</b>	Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region
<b>TD</b>	Tropical Depression
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>VAC</b>	Vulnerability Assessment Committee
<b>VAM</b>	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

## Information sources

CILSS: [www.cilss.bf](http://www.cilss.bf)  
FAO/GIEWS: [www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief](http://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief)  
FEWS-NET: [www.fews.net](http://www.fews.net)  
Food Crisis Prevention Network: [www.food-security.net](http://www.food-security.net)  
East and Central Africa FSNWG: [www.disasterriskreduction.net/](http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/)  
ICRC: [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)

IPC: [www.ipcinfo.org](http://www.ipcinfo.org)  
NOAA: [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)  
OCHA: [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org)  
ReliefWeb: [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org)  
UNDP: [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)  
UNHCR: [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)  
UNICEF: [www.unicef.org/statistics](http://www.unicef.org/statistics)  
VAC: [www.sadc.int/fanr/aims/rvaa/country\\_pages.php](http://www.sadc.int/fanr/aims/rvaa/country_pages.php)  
WFP: [www.wfp.org/food-security](http://www.wfp.org/food-security)

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*The Spanish Government supports the strengthening of Food Security Monitoring Systems (FSMS) and the preparation of the Global Update.*

