

FOOD ASSISTANCE OUTLOOK BRIEF

November 2011

PROJECTED FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR MAY 2012

This section summarizes FEWS NET's most forward-looking analysis of projected external emergency food assistance needs, six months from now, in countries where FEWS NET has a staff presence. Overall needs at a national level are compared to typical needs at this time of year during the last five years and categorized as Above-average, Average, or Below-average/No need. A star (*) indicates new information this month. Projected lean season months that are highlighted in red indicate either an early start or an extension to the typical lean season. For more detail on these projections, please visit www.fews.net.

ABOVE-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN MAY 2012

DIJIBOUTI: Pastoral areas in crisis, but some improvement expected

Food assistance needs are expected to remain above average in pastoral and urban areas given several, consecutive poor seasons, a ban on charcoal production and firewood sales, and continued above-average staple food prices.

Projected Central/NW lean season: Jan - Mar

ETHIOPIA: Above-average needs likely to persist

The current Emergency in southern pastoral areas, delayed and below-average Belg 2011 and anticipated Belg 2012 harvests, localized deficits in eastern Meher areas, and the possibility of poor March-May 2012 rains will result in above-average emergency assistance needs in May.

Projected lean season (marginal meher): Apr/May - Sep

***GUATEMALA: Needs driven by damages caused by heavy rains**

Crop and infrastructure damage due to Tropical Depression 12-E and subsequent rains will drive above-average needs in May 2012. Needs will likely be concentrated in the Highlands, where crop damage will lead to an early start to the lean season.

Projected lean season (East): Mar/Apr - Aug

KENYA: Improvements expected to follow Oct-Dec season

October-December rains are forecast to be average, though the asset losses which have resulted from the recent drought will drive above-average needs in May. A poor start to the April-June rains, a possibility given the developing La Niña, would further exacerbate expected food insecurity.

Projected lean season (northern pastoral): Ongoing - Dec

***MAURITANIA: Season ends poorly, cereal deficits likely**

Poor pasture and agricultural production, combined with high prices for imported cereals, are likely to limit food access for poor households.

Projected agropastoral lean season: Feb - Aug

SOMALIA: Famine expected to persist through at least January

Famine continues in parts of the South. Despite temporary improvement due to assistance and Deyr harvests in Jan/Feb, Emergency levels of acute food insecurity will persist through the peak of the lean season in May in cropping areas of southern Somalia, especially if April-June rains are poor.

Projected lean season (S. cropping): Feb - May

SOUTH SUDAN: Insecurity, population movement, and high food prices

Food assistance needs will be above average given localized crop deficits, above-average demand due to the high returnee, IDP, and refugee populations, and the impact of ongoing trade restrictions from Sudan, particularly in border states.

Projected lean season (border areas): Mar/Apr - Aug

SUDAN: Very poor harvest and government imposed limits on assistance

Below-average production, continued conflict and the reduced value of local currency are expected to drive above-average needs during 2012. The most food-insecure areas over the coming consumption year are likely to be Blue Nile, South Kordofan, Darfur, Abeyi, and Red Sea states.

Projected lean season: Mar - Aug

AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN MAY 2012

AFGHANISTAN: Below-average harvest confirmed by field assessment

Food assistance needs will decrease in May with the April/May 2012 harvest. High levels of emergency assistance and stable wheat flour prices during the lean season will moderate the impact of the poor 2011 harvest.

Projected lean season: Ongoing - Apr

***BURKINA FASO: Average assistance needs despite localized crop deficits**

National production prospects were downgraded to "average" due to poor end-of-season rainfall and pests. National emergency food assistance needs will likely be near average, but localized, chronically food-insecure agropastoralists in the North and East may face above-average needs.

Projected pastoral lean season: Mar - Jun

CHAD: Localized food assistance needs anticipated

National cereal production is average (excluding 2010/11 record harvests). Excellent tuber and cash-crop production compensate for localized cereal deficits in the South due to poor rains. Needs will be concentrated in the southern transhumant zone and the eastern rainfed cereals zone.

Projected pastoral lean season: Mar - Jun

HAITI: High staple food prices to reduce access

Average assistance needs are expected in the Northwest, due to poor local production, and parts of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, among other localized areas throughout the country. High food prices will continue to affect food access for market-dependent households.

Projected lean season: May - Jul

***NIGER: Localized crop deficits, overall production average**

In addition to above-average carryover stocks from 2010/11, national cereal, tuber, and legume balance sheets indicate national food self-sufficiency for 2011/12. Emergency assistance needs will be above average in Tillaberi region due to local production deficits.

Projected N. Tillaberi lean season: Mar - Aug

NIGERIA: Widespread insecurity in the north

Insecurity, particularly in the north, has driven large-scale displacement and the cancellation of seasonal food security assessments.








Projected lean season (northern agropast.): Jun - Sep



BELOW-AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS OR NO ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN MAY 2012

MALAWI (none), RWANDA (none), UGANDA, ZAMBIA (none), MOZAMBIQUE (none), ZIMBABWE

FEWS NET REMOTE MONITORING

Beyond “presence” countries where it maintains offices and staff, FEWS NET also monitors key indicators related to food security in selected “non-presence” countries. The table below summarizes the current monitoring status of each non-presence country.

BURUNDI		Despite an average harvest in Burundi, prices remain high in Kirundo and Cankuzo compared to the five-year average because of limited imports from Tanzania.
EL SALVADOR		Following flash floods in El Salvador, households are Stressed.
HONDURAS		Food security in Honduras is stable, except in southern areas affected by heavy rains in October.
LIBERIA	-	The rice harvest is underway and is expected to be near average. By the lean season in May, there will be concerns about household food insecurity in eastern Liberia among Ivorian refugees and host communities.
*MALI		The government estimates 2011/12 emergency assistance needs at 1.7 million people in the northern agropastoral zone and the flood- and some irrigation-dependant rice schemes, due to poor rainfall and relatively low river levels.
NICARAGUA	-	The primera season in Nicaragua has been very good, the postrera season is ongoing, and food security is stable.
SENEGAL	-	Cereal production is expected to be at least average nationally, though millet prices remain high due to poor production in the east.
SIERRA LEONE	-	Food security is stable as this year’s rice production is expected to be good.
TAJKISTAN		Prices remain higher than normal in major markets, but remittances have remained at record high levels.
TANZANIA		While maize prices have remained high, food supplies in the market are abundant.
YEMEN		Fighting resumed in parts of Yemen last month. Instability continues as aid agencies have a difficult time delivering assistance.

-  Important anomalies in proximate causes of food insecurity have been observed and outcomes corresponding to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or higher on the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Scale are likely to occur now or in the future.
-  Important anomalies in proximate causes of food insecurity have been observed and outcomes corresponding to IPC Phase 2 Stressed on the the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Scale are likely to occur now or in the future.
- No anomalies of concern have been observed.

LEAN SEASONS IN FEWS NET MONITORED COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

