

FOOD ASSISTANCE OUTLOOK BRIEF

September 2018

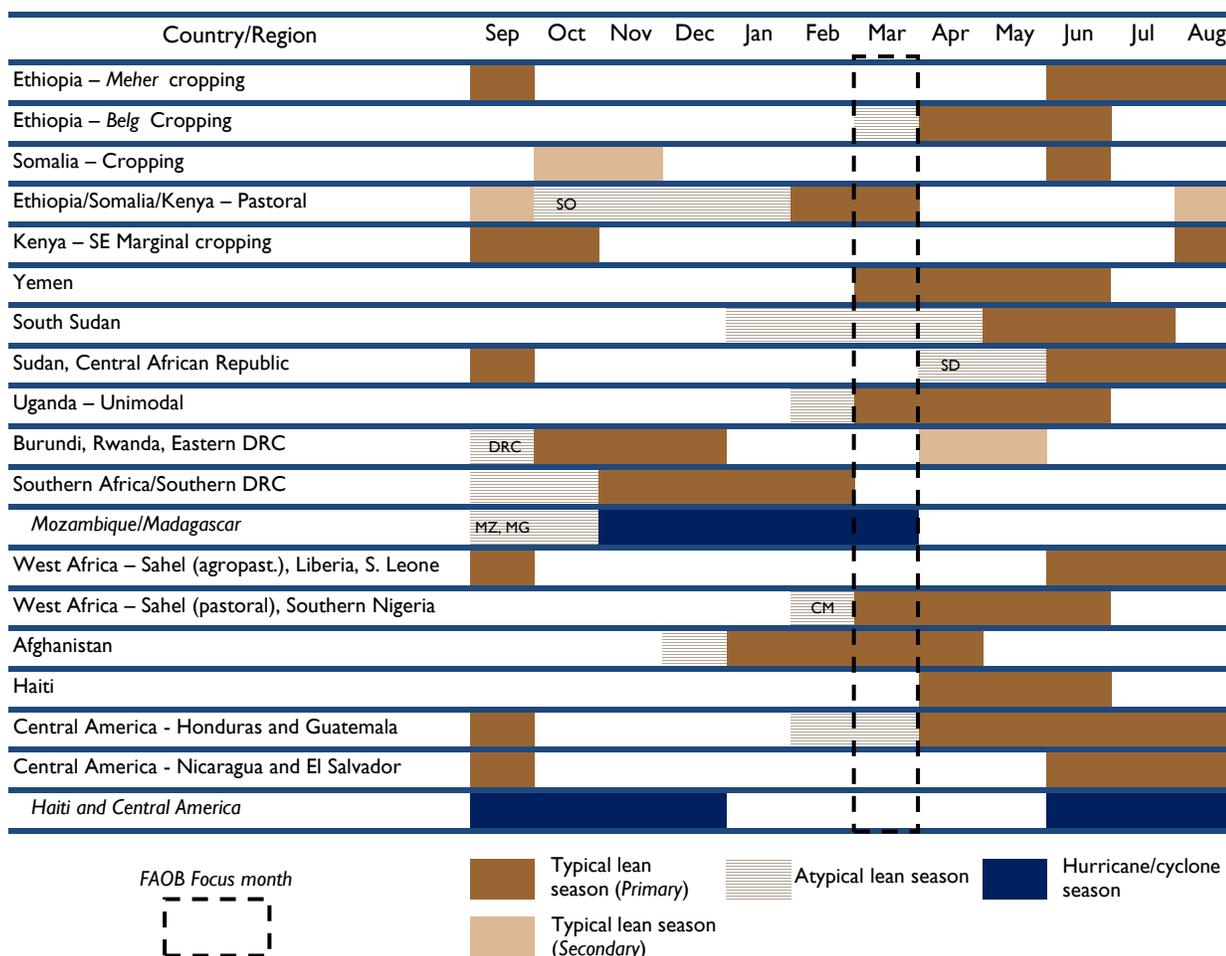
PROJECTED FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR MARCH 2019

This brief summarizes FEWS NET's most forward-looking analysis of projected emergency food assistance needs in FEWS NET coverage countries. The projected size of each country's acutely food insecure population (IPC Phase 3 and higher) is compared to last year and the recent five-year average and categorized as Higher (▲), Similar (▶), or Lower (▼). Countries where external emergency food assistance needs are anticipated are identified. Projected lean season months highlighted in red indicate either an early start or an extension to the typical lean season. Additional information is provided for countries with large food insecure populations, an expectation of high severity, or where other key issues warrant additional discussion. Analytical confidence is lower in remote monitoring countries, denoted by "RM." Visit www.fews.net for detailed country reports.

Country (In order of estimated food insecure population, MAR.)	External needs in MAR. ?	MAR. versus last year	MAR. versus 5-year avg.	Highest likely severity (area) in MARCH	Key upcoming lean season	
10+ million	YEMEN	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 4: Emergency & risk of Famine	March - June 2019
	The Red Sea ports of Al Hudaydah and Salif remain open, following the coalition offensive to regain control of Al Hudaydah City. Given Yemen's high reliance on maritime imports for supply of essential commodities, including food and fuel, conflict that could significantly disrupt port operations or destroy port facilities at Al Hudaydah and Salif risks driving Yemen into Famine (IPC Phase 5) in a worst-case scenario.					
5.0 – 9.9 million	SOUTH SUDAN	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 4: Emergency & risk of Famine	January - July 2019
	Humanitarian assistance plans for 2019 are not yet available. In the absence of assistance from January to March, food security is expected to deteriorate sharply. Although some households will have access to harvests, fish, and wild foods, these sources are not available to everyone and conflict periodically disrupts households' access. Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) outcomes are likely in some areas, and in the event that absence of assistance extends beyond March, Famine (IPC Phase 5) would be likely.					
2.5 – 4.9 million	AFGHANISTAN	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 4: Emergency	December 2018 - April 2019
	Below-average precipitation in most areas and drought in northern parts of the country has negatively impacted wheat production, livestock body conditions, and labor opportunities. Large areas of the country are anticipated to experience Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes in March at the peak of the lean season. In the worst-off drought-affected areas, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are anticipated.					
	SUDAN	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	April - September 2019
	Despite above-average rainfall during the growing season, macroeconomic challenges including high inflation, shortage of foreign currency, local currency devaluation, and high food prices will continue to decrease poor households' purchasing power. Sporadic fuel and wheat shortages are likely to continue and will affect the upcoming harvest beginning in November.					
	NIGERIA	Yes	▶	▲	PHASE 4: Emergency & risk of Famine	NE: March - September 2019
Main season agricultural production will again be very limited in the northeast due to the ongoing Boko Haram conflict. Many of the nearly two million displaced people are heavily dependent on assistance for food access. It is likely that outcomes in inaccessible areas are similar or worse than adjoining areas with a humanitarian presence. There also remains a risk that a shift in conflict could cut-off some populations from assistance deliveries.						
DRC	Yes	▼	▶	PHASE 3: Crisis	East: Aug 2018 - January 2019	
Conflict-related population movements continue to affect agricultural production, resulting in below-average harvests. Season A harvests will conclude in February, but due to expected low production, there will be food assistance needs in the greater Kasai Region and Ituri, Tanganyika, South Kivu, and North Kivu provinces.						
ETHIOPIA	Yes	▼	▼	PHASE 3: Crisis	March - June 2019	
An early start to the lean season is expected in March in parts of eastern Amhara and southern Tigray following the below-average Belg and localized below-average Meher seasons. Food assistance needs are likely in conflict-affected areas of Oromia, SNNPR, and Somali Region, where displacement and the previous drought have impacted typical sources to food and income.						

	Country (In order of estimated food insecure population, MAR.)	External needs in MAR. ?	MAR. versus last year	MAR. versus 5-year avg.	Highest likely severity (area) in MARCH	Key upcoming lean season
1.0 – 2.49 million	ZIMBABWE	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	September 2018 - March 2019
		Poor households in deficit-producing areas in the south, west, and extreme north face depleted food stocks and below-average labor opportunities. The forecasted El Niño is likely to result in below-average rainfall, exacerbating the lean season.				
	MALAWI	Yes	▲	▶	PHASE 3: Crisis	September 2018 - March 2019
		Many poor households, particularly in southern and central Malawi, will be unable to meet their minimum food needs during the lean period due to exhausted household stocks and constrained purchasing power.				
0.5 – 0.99 million	UGANDA	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	Karamoja: February - June 2019
		Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes will prevail in Karamoja after significantly below-average 2018 production leads to an early start to the lean season. Refugee populations are likely to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in the absence of assistance.				
	SOMALIA	Yes	▼	▼	PHASE 4: Emergency	Guban: Oct. 2018 - March 2019
		Guban Pastoral livelihood zone is expected to remain in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in March, though average to above-average Xeys rains (Dec - Jan) may improve livestock productivity. Above-average Deyr rainfall and a mild Jilaal is likely to support Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes elsewhere, but riverine areas could deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) if flooding occurs.				
0.1 – 0.49 million	GUATEMALA	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	February - September 2019
		Poor households in western and eastern areas who experienced crop failure and households in eastern regions that could not fully cultivate in the <i>Postrera</i> and <i>Primera</i> cycles will deplete their stocks early and deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3).				
	Cameroon (RM)	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	February - September 2019
		An early start to the lean season in the Northwest and Southwest is likely, as insecurity has driven households to abandon their farms, resulting in below-average production. Insecurity also continues to restrict food access in the Far-North region.				
	MOZAMBIQUE	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	September 2018 - March 2019
		In March, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are likely to persist among semi-arid central and southern poor households with the extended lean season. The forecasted El Niño will likely delay the green harvest until April.				
<0.1 million	MADAGASCAR	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	South: Aug. 2018 - March 2019
		Consecutive years of below-average rainfall in the south have reduced agricultural production and household incomes.				
	NIGER	Yes	▶	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	Pastoral: April - June 2019
		Access to livelihoods in the Diffa Region remains impacted by conflict and displacement.				
No projected Phase 3+	Central African Rep (RM)	Yes	▶	▶	PHASE 3: Crisis	South/North: April - Sept. 2019
		Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to continue during the March agricultural cultivation period for both IDP and poor host community populations, particularly in areas inaccessible to humanitarian assistance, due to prevailing insecurity.				
	KENYA	Yes	▼	▼	PHASE 2: Stressed	Pastoral: February - March 2019
	Burundi (RM)	Yes	▶	▶	PHASE 2: Stressed	October - December 2018
	Lesotho (RM)	Yes	▲	▶	PHASE 3: Crisis	October 2018 - March 2019
		Poor households will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) due to poor 2018 harvests, high food prices, and below-average incomes.				
	CHAD	Yes	▶	▶	PHASE 2: Stressed (!)	April - September 2019
		Boko Haram activities are expected to continue to disrupt livelihoods in the Lac region.				
	Honduras (RM)	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	February - September 2019
		The extended 2018 dry spell is likely to reduce agricultural production, resulting in an early start to the lean season.				
	Rwanda (RM)	Yes	▶	▶	PHASE 1: Minimal	October - December 2018
	HAITI	No	▼	▼	PHASE 2: Stressed	May - June 2019
	MAURITANIA	Yes	▶	▶	PHASE 3: Crisis	Pastoral: April - May 2019
	MALI	Yes	▼	▶	PHASE 1: Minimal	April - October 2018
	Nicaragua (RM)	No	▶	▶	PHASE 1: Minimal	March - September 2019
	El Salvador (RM)	No	▶	▶	PHASE 1: Minimal	March - September 2019
	Burkina Faso (RM)	No	▶	▶	PHASE 1: Minimal	June - September 2019

LEAN SEASONS IN FEWS NET MONITORED COUNTRIES AND REGIONS



IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PHASE DESCRIPTIONS (AREA)

PHASE 1 Minimal	Households are able to meet basic food needs and afford essential non-food expenditures without engaging in atypical, unsustainable coping strategies.
PHASE 2 Stressed	For at least 1 in 5 households, food consumption is reduced but minimally adequate without having to engage in unsustainable coping strategies. However, these households are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures.
PHASE 3 Crisis	At least 1 in 5 households face significant food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition, or is marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with unsustainable coping strategies such as liquidating livelihood assets.
PHASE 4 Emergency	At least 1 in 5 households face extreme food consumption gaps resulting in very high acute malnutrition or excess mortality, or faces extreme loss of livelihood assets that will likely lead to food consumption gaps.
PHASE 5 Famine	At least 1 in 5 households have a near complete lack of food and/or other basic needs. Starvation, death, and destitution are evident.
!	Phase classification would likely be worse without current or programmed humanitarian assistance.

ESTIMATED ACUTELY FOOD INSECURE POPULATIONS

March 2019

Country	Pop. in IPC Phase 2		Pop. in IPC Phase 3 or higher		Total Acutely food insecure population	
	#	% of pop.	#	% of pop.	#	% of pop.
Yemen	5.0 - 9.99 million	20-40%	>10.0 million	>60%	>10.0 million	>60%
South Sudan	2.5 - 4.99 million	20-40%	5.0 - 9.99 million	40-60%	5.0 - 9.99 million	>60%
Afghanistan	5.0 - 9.99 million	20-40%	2.5 - 4.99 million	5-20%	>10.0 million	40-60%
Sudan	1.0 - 2.49 million	<5%	2.5 - 4.99 million	5-20%	5.0 - 9.99 million	5-20%
Nigeria	5.0 - 9.99 million	<5%	2.5 - 4.99 million	<5%	>10.0 million	5-20%
DRC	5.0 - 9.99 million	5-20%	2.5 - 4.99 million	<5%	5.0 - 9.99 million	5-20%
Ethiopia	2.5 - 4.99 million	<5%	2.5 - 4.99 million	<5%	5.0 - 9.99 million	5-20%
Zimbabwe	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	2.5 - 4.99 million	20-40%
Malawi	2.5 - 4.99 million	5-20%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	5.0 - 9.99 million	20-40%
Uganda	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	1.0 - 2.49 million	<5%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%
Somalia	2.5 - 4.99 million	20-40%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	2.5 - 4.99 million	20-40%
Guatemala	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%	2.5 - 4.99 million	5-20%
Cameroon RM	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	0.5 - 0.99 million	<5%	2.5 - 4.99 million	5-20%
Mozambique	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	0.5 - 0.99 million	<5%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%
Madagascar	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	0.5 - 0.99 million	<5%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%
Niger	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	0.5 - 0.99 million	<5%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%
CAR RM	1.0 - 2.49 million	20-40%	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%	1.0 - 2.49 million	20-40%
Kenya	0.5 - 0.99 million	<5%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	1.0 - 2.49 million	<5%
Burundi RM	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%
Lesotho RM	0.1 - 0.49 million	5-20%	0.1 - 0.49 million	5-20%	0.1 - 0.49 million	20-40%
Chad	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%
Honduras RM	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%
Rwanda RM	<0.1 million	<5%	<0.1 million	<5%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%
Haiti	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%	<0.1 million	<5%	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%
Mauritania	0.1 - 0.49 million	5-20%	<0.1 million	<5%	0.1 - 0.49 million	5-20%
Mali	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	<0.1 million	<5%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%
Nicaragua RM	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	None	0	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%
El Salvador RM	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	None	0	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%
Burkina Faso RM	<0.1 million	<5%	None	0	<0.1 million	<5%