

Across the developing world, populations - both urban and rural - rely on markets for food and income. Even smallholders who produce their own food through crop production or livestock rearing may rely on markets to add diversity to their diets or to supplement their stocks during lean periods. They may also count on market outlets to sell crops, trade assets such as livestock, or find casual labor opportunities. The production, trade, and distribution systems that support these markets are powerful forces, influenced by suppliers, traders, and buyers responding to changes in supply and demand, and ultimately determining prices and the availability of and access to food. For FEWS NET, understanding current and projected market, trade, and price trends within the context of local livelihoods and agroclimatology is critical to inform [integrated food security analysis](#).

FEWS NET MARKETS AND TRADE ANALYSIS

A major component of FEWS NET's work, markets and trade analysis includes establishing a baseline understanding of the market context, followed by regular monitoring and reporting on local staple food availability, trade flows, macroeconomic drivers, and prices. Market trends are analyzed in countries where FEWS NET conducts monthly food security analysis, as well as in other regionally or internationally important countries whose markets greatly influence those of their trade partners. The [Structure-Conduct-Performance](#) analytical framework guides the FEWS NET approach to Markets and Trade analysis, reporting, and decision support.

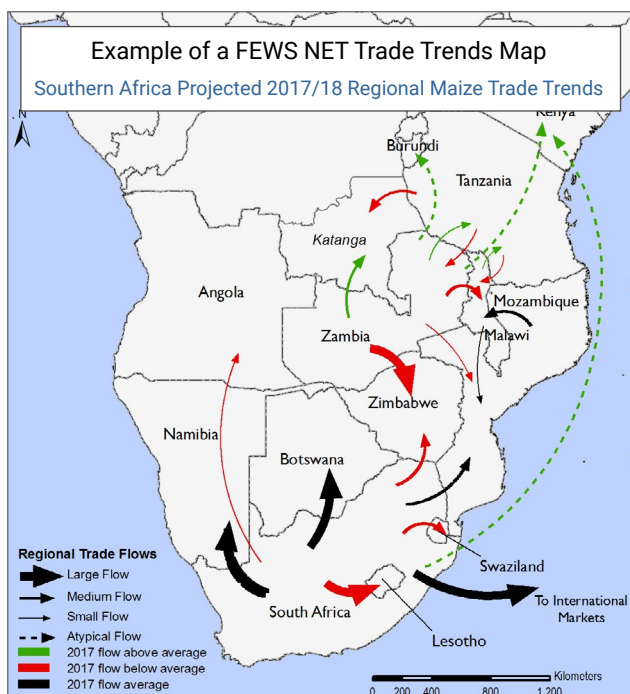
MARKETS AND TRADE NETWORK

FEWS NET collaborates closely with a range of partners, sharing expertise as well as data on production, commodity balances, prices, trade flows, and other economic indicators. Partners include national ministries of agriculture, statistical offices and market information systems, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Program, and others. FEWS NET collects primary price and informal cross-border trade data in a handful of countries in East Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa, and the Caribbean. During times of crisis, FEWS NET also collects primary data on the level of market activity.

FEWS NET IN BRIEF

Created by USAID in response to the 1984 famines in East and West Africa, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) provides early warning and integrated, forward-looking analysis of the many factors that contribute to food insecurity. FEWS NET aims to:

- Inform decision-makers and contribute to their emergency response planning
- Support partners in conducting early warning analysis and forecasting
- Provide technical assistance to partner-led initiatives



KEY PRODUCTS

- **Market Fundamentals Reports:** In-depth review of staple foods, cash crops, and livestock market dynamics during a typical year in presence countries and regions
- **Production and Trade Flow Maps:** Visualization of market networks for staple food products, livestock, and cash crops by country or region
- **Supply and Market Outlook Reports:** Seasonal summary and outlook for staple food availability and price trends in FEWS NET countries and regions
- **Price Watch:** Monthly summary and outlook on national, regional, and global trends of key commodity market drivers and prices
- **Price Bulletins:** Monitoring product that visualizes price trends in key reference markets
- **Cross-border Trade Reports:** Periodic trade analysis on a regional or country level
- **Enhanced Markets Analysis:** Market-based response decision support