



FEWS NET Alert Status

Highest Priority—Urgent Action Required

Emergency

Chad: Food availability and access have deteriorated in Kanem and Logone West, at a time when energy requirements are high due to the start of season. In southern Chad, the need to register refugees has delayed food aid distributions, and CSB rations were reduced due to supply shortages. Skirmishes along the Sudanese border have heightened the food insecurity of host populations.

Ethiopia: Due to generally poor *gu* rains, irregular humanitarian assistance, poor market access, and escalating cereal prices, humanitarian needs are expected to increase from July to December 2006. Additional funding for food and non-food needs is urgently required, particularly for health care and potable water. A precarious food security situation remains in the southern Somali Region, where pasture and water availability may not be adequate to last until the rains begin again in October.

Kenya: Malnutrition rates in drought-affected pastoral areas are unacceptably high, ranging from 18 percent GAM in Moyale to as high as 30 percent GAM in Marsabit. Due to the severe impact of the 2005/06 drought, many pastoralists will remain dependent on food aid for the remainder of the year.

Somalia: The *gu* rains have helped to mitigate pre-famine conditions in southern Somalia. However, over 2 million people are facing an acute livelihood crisis and humanitarian emergency.

Urgent Action Required

Warning

Djibouti: Consumer prices are rising abnormally in urban areas, jeopardizing not only urban food security but remittances to rural areas as well. Water and pasture shortages in pastoral areas are expected to continue until the onset of the July-September rains.

Niger: The weak start of the rainy season could have worrisome implications for pastoralists and farmers. If rains are established by the end of July, pastures will regenerate, and there will still be time for planting. If rains do not improve over the next three weeks, the food security situation could rapidly deteriorate.

Sudan (southern): Food security for the remainder of the hunger season (May-August) will be better than in recent years, due to favorable March-May rains and improved food access. Improving conditions are also evident in northern Bahr el Ghazal, except among those communities hosting substantial numbers of returnee households. However, sustained humanitarian assistance will be required until September, when the harvest begins.

Zimbabwe: Despite increased maize production over 2004/05, an early start to the hunger season appears likely, with inflation rates exceeding 1,000 percent, rising cereal prices and worsening food access constraints due to the country's economic crisis.

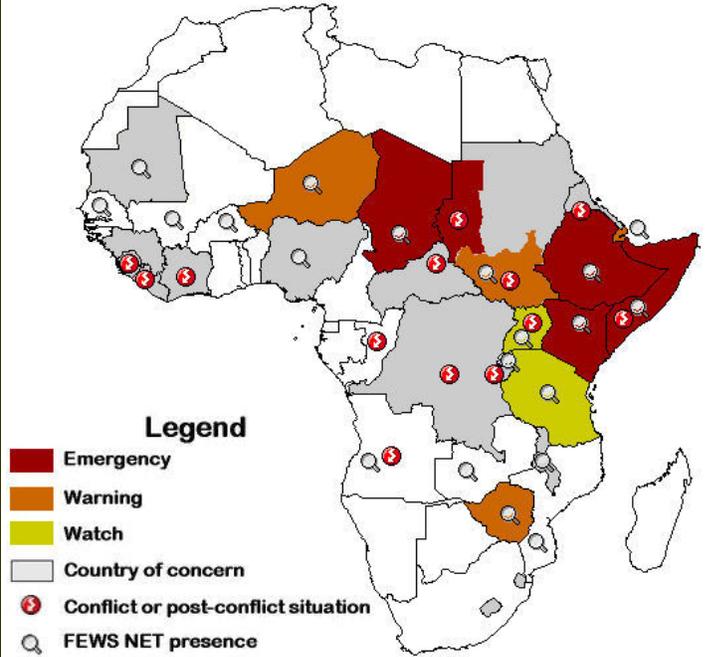
Preparedness and Monitoring Required

Watch

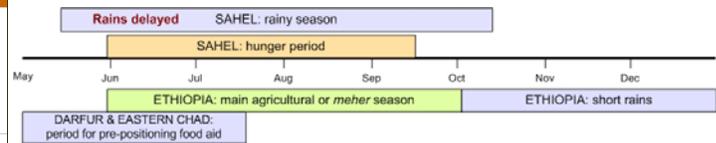
Tanzania: Poor rains in unimodal areas of the country have led to localized production deficits. In these areas, poor households will require assistance to meet their basic food needs over the next year. Forage conditions are likely to deteriorate over the next two months in central and northern Tanzania, resulting in a deterioration of food security among pastoral and agropastoral populations.

Uganda: While food access for IDPs in northern Uganda is secure as a result of continued food aid, humanitarian conditions remain critical due to poor access to healthcare, water and sanitation.

Food Security Alerts in Africa



Significant Events Timeline



Food Aid Needs and Beneficiaries

Country	Population at Risk	Food Aid Beneficiaries
Chad	207,554 (Darfur refugees); 45,080 (CAR refugees); 115,000 (host)	< 226,000 (refugees)
Djibouti	230,000	90,000
Ethiopia	> 10 million	10.9 million (PSNP + emergency)
Kenya	3.6 million	3.6 million
Mauritania	580,000	350,000
Niger	1.8 million	TBD
Somalia	2.1 million	1.23 million
South Sudan	1.9 million	1.9 million
Tanzania	3.7 million	564,726
Uganda	2.1 million (incl. IDPs)	1.6 million
Zimbabwe	Not available	Not available

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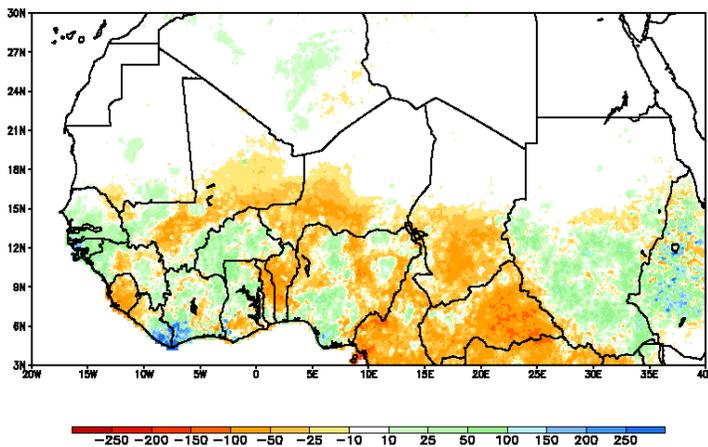
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Sahel: Seasonal rains off to a weak start

Across much of the Sahel, seasonal rainfall to date (June 1 – July 10) has been below average. Although the rains began on time in May in the southern reaches of the Sahel, rains have not been significant enough to regenerate pasture or allow successful planting in eastern Mali, Niger, parts of northern Nigeria and Chad. Where possible, planting began with the first rains, but because of the extended dry spell that followed, many of the emerging crops dried up, and replanting will be necessary. Elsewhere, planting has been delayed by up to 30 days. In rainy season grazing areas to the north, the limited amount of rainfall has not allowed sufficient pasture growth, and many herds remain in agro-pastoral areas where farmers are waiting to or have already begun to plant. Tensions between farmers and pastoralists have begun to rise, sometimes with fatal consequences. Rains have generally been adequate thus far in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mauritania.

If the rains are fully established by the end of July and continue through September, without any additional prolonged dry periods, sufficient pasture will become available for grazing in the north, and an average to above-average cereal harvest is still possible (as occurred in 1994 and 1998, record years when planting did not begin until late July).

Precipitation anomaly (mm) based on NOAA/COC RFE
Climatology method, June 1-July 10, 2006



Avian Influenza in Nigeria

Since the initial detection of avian influenza in early February 2006, suspicious cases have been reported in 29 (of a total 37) states, with confirmed cases in 15 states. There have been over 700,000 confirmed bird deaths due to avian influenza and culling operations, although that number could be higher than 800,000 as not all states with confirmed cases have reported. FEWS NET, which has recently been established in Nigeria, will collaborate with CILSS and WFP to undertake an avian influenza impact assessment in northern Nigeria in early August. This assessment will evaluate the impact of avian influenza on livelihoods, food prices and the availability of quality protein—eggs and poultry—in diets.

Southern Africa: Preliminary results of the VAC assessments

Although final 2005/06 national harvest estimates have not yet been issued in many countries, available forecasts indicate that total cereal production increased this season in most SADC countries compared to 2004/05. Better growing conditions relative to 2004/05 accounted in large part for the increased cereal production, supplemented by improved access to farming inputs in many parts of the region (e.g., Malawi). The notable exception is South Africa, where a policy-driven reduction in area planted to maize (an estimated drop of 46 percent from the previous year) has reduced national maize production. This will have implications throughout Southern Africa, given the importance of South Africa as a regional cereal exporter.

Estimates available at the end of June indicate that the regional cereal harvest of 21.16 million MT is 16 percent below the 2004/05 total of 25.22 million MT (and 8 and 9 percent below the 5-year and 10-year averages, respectively), with the reduction driven largely by South Africa. The overall SADC cereal shortfall is expected to result in an import requirement estimated at 5.13 million MT (4.58 million MT excluding South Africa). This requirement will be met partially through formal and informal imports, food aid, and substitution of other non-cereal food crops (e.g., cassava, sweet potato and banana).

Preliminary VAC assessment findings throughout the region indicate that although vulnerable groups may require some assistance from the start of the 2006/07 hunger season onwards, major emergency food aid distributions are only likely to be required in Angola and Tanzania (due to below average rainfall) and in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe faces a deepening economic crisis, and while this year's cereal was better than last year, it is still well below the 1990s average and does not meet domestic requirements.

It is anticipated that the findings from the national VAC assessments will be published in July and August. These findings will include updated national food balance sheets, indicating where production shortfalls exist. This information will guide the planning for food security monitoring during the 2006/07 marketing year. This monitoring will intensify with the onset of the hunger season in early 2007. Efforts are underway to develop national food security scenarios that draw upon the livelihoods and vulnerability work conducted throughout the region. These scenarios will serve as reference points for monitoring during the 2006/07 marketing year.

Sources: National Early Warning Units and Partners, Central Statistics Offices, and SADC FANR