



FEWS NET Alert Status

Highest Priority—Urgent Action Required

Emergency

Chad: Chadian IDPs in the east who have not been moved to camps face a deteriorating food security situation and are likely to need sustained assistance through 2007. Water shortages remain a critical problem in refugee camps on the Sudan border.

Ethiopia: Some of the worst flooding on record has occurred throughout the country, resulting in hundreds of deaths, displacement, and widespread loss of property, crops and livestock. Over 100,000 people are affected. In addition, water borne diseases including diarrhea have increased and present a significant risk. More rains are forecast for the coming week.

Kenya: An upsurge in disease is compounding poor nutrition among pastoralists, reducing effectiveness of interventions. Meanwhile, an increase in the incidence of conflict in the pastoral Turkana, Marsabit and Samburu districts is disrupting normal seasonal migrations. In marginal agricultural and coastal areas, temporary improvements in food security have been observed.

Somalia: The *Gu* Assessment confirmed that a severe food crisis will persist throughout the country for the rest of the year, affecting at least 1.8 million people. In the anticipation of the poor harvest, prices of staple foods are abnormally high in most of the reference markets. Escalating conflict could trigger a significant and rapid deterioration in the food security situation. (See over.)

Urgent Action Required

Warning

Djibouti: A three week delay to the start of the main rains has put additional stress on pastoral populations. Although the rains have started, high levels of food insecurity will remain until livestock conditions improve after at least one good season.

Niger: A significant portion of the population faces high to extreme levels of food insecurity, according to a recent nationwide joint survey. About 3.87 million people or 32 percent of the total population of Niger are food insecure. Half of these people face extreme food insecurity. Malnutrition and market conditions are deteriorating in localized areas of Dosso, Tahoua and Tillaberi.

Sudan (southern): Conflict arising from the disarmament process earlier this year and cattle raiding in Jonglei has exacerbated food insecurity. Fighting disrupted wild food collection, fishing and traditional livestock/grain exchange mechanisms during the dry season (January to April), and forced households and cattle to return from dry season grazing areas earlier than normal.

Zimbabwe: Although food availability has generally improved in the country, challenges to the procurement and distribution of grain continue to affect food security throughout the country. Widespread maize meal shortages occurred in the south this month as a result of contractual disputes with suppliers. Meanwhile in the north and center, farmers are facing enormous difficulties accessing bagging materials and transport to deliver their grain to the GMB, the sole buyer of grain in Zimbabwe.

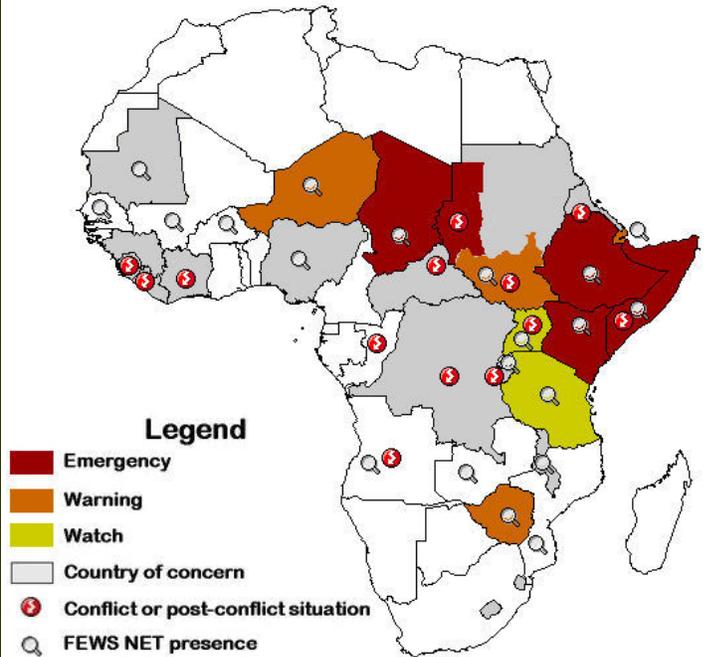
Preparedness and Monitoring Required

Watch

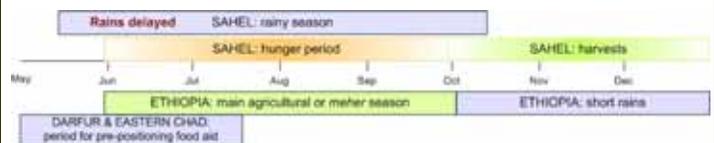
Tanzania: About 50 districts will face food shortages following a poor November to May season. In much of the country, maize prices are still rising. Pastures are rapidly depleting, which could lead to unusual migration and livestock losses.

Uganda: Conditions for IDPs in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts remain poor, and sustained assistance is needed. Meanwhile, IDPs' access to arable land increases as civil security improves.

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); 48,300 (CAR refugees); 115,000 (host)	< 226,000 (refugees)
Djibouti	230,000	47,500
Ethiopia	> 10 million	10.9 million (PSNP + emergency)
Kenya	3.6 million	3.6 million
Mauritania	580,000	350,000
Niger	3.87 million	TBD
Somalia	2.1 million	621,163
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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Somalia: Potential for wider conflict presents a major risk to food security

Over the last three months, conflict and insecurity have increased in Somalia, resulting in displacement, loss of life and the disruption of trade. Although relative calm is reported in many areas, including Mogadishu, unresolved political issues and the absence of an effective central government mean that the situation could rapidly deteriorate. If renewed fighting breaks out, the already severe humanitarian crisis could spill over into adjacent areas of Kenya and Ethiopia.

Fifteen years of chronic insecurity has stripped the population of their resilience and made them dependent on external assistance to manage shocks. This heightened state of insecurity comes at a time when the population of southern Somalia is still facing a very serious humanitarian crisis precipitated by a major drought between October 2005 and March 2006. The drought caused widespread livestock deaths, serious food shortages, high malnutrition rates and increased mortality. Even after the March to June rains this year, the food security situation has not improved for the groups most affected by the recent drought, as these rains were insufficient to regenerate pastures, recharge water points and produce a normal crop.

Malnutrition levels remain alarmingly high. According to a recent assessment by the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Somalia Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU), FEWS NET and partners, more regions are experiencing high levels of food insecurity, even though the number of people urgently needing humanitarian support has declined slightly. This is particularly true in the areas of the center and north of the country that were less harshly affected by the last drought, but where the most recent season's performance was mixed.

If the current conflict were to expand, higher levels of displacement including into neighboring countries is likely. In addition, an increase in the severity of food insecurity could occur, especially in the south. Currently, about 1.8 million people (including 400,000 IDPs) are extremely food insecure and need humanitarian assistance. An intensification of the conflict would restrict access to grazing and water resources, disrupt market supplies and limit livestock migration options, further undermining the food security and livelihoods of already stressed communities. Malnutrition rates would likely rise beyond their already critically high levels. FAO/FSAU, FEWS NET and partners estimate that the number of people in Somalia who will face a *humanitarian emergency* and an *acute food and livelihood crisis* (using the FSAU Integrated Phase Classification system) would double to about 3.6 million people if the security situation deteriorated into an all out conflict. At the same time, severely limited access for humanitarian organizations would restrict relief operations.

Expanded conflict in Somalia would have serious regional repercussions. UNHCR Kenya has reported that since January 2006, about 20,000 refugees from Somalia have come to camps in Kenya's Dadaab area. About 4,000 refugees have arrived in the last two months, and UNHCR continues to register an average of 100 new arrivals every day, coming mainly through Kenyan border towns. New refugees are leaving chiefly because of fighting in Mogadishu and its environs and the fear of intensified conflict. Some refugees have also fled to Yemen. A new wave of refugees fleeing to Kenya, Ethiopia and possibly Djibouti would overstretch the current capacity of refugee camps in these countries. Over the last few years as refugee numbers have declined in all three countries, some camps have been closed, and the capacity of UNHCR and other humanitarian actors has declined accordingly.

While all efforts to prevent an escalation of the conflict should be pursued, humanitarian organizations are advised to update contingency plans and review their capacity to respond to the additional needs presented by this scenario.

Figure 1: Recent displacement in Somalia

