

### FEWS NET overviews

For an analysis of food security in Kenya, see the back page

**AFGHANISTAN:** Food security conditions nationwide will improve relative to 2008. The wheat harvest forecast, both rain-fed and irrigated, is favorable, with positive rainfall anomalies across the country and an increase in area planted with respect to last year. Good regional harvests, the lifting of wheat export bans in Pakistan, and falling international wheat and rice prices have improved availability of food imports. Since October 2008, wheat prices throughout the country have fallen as much as 50 percent.

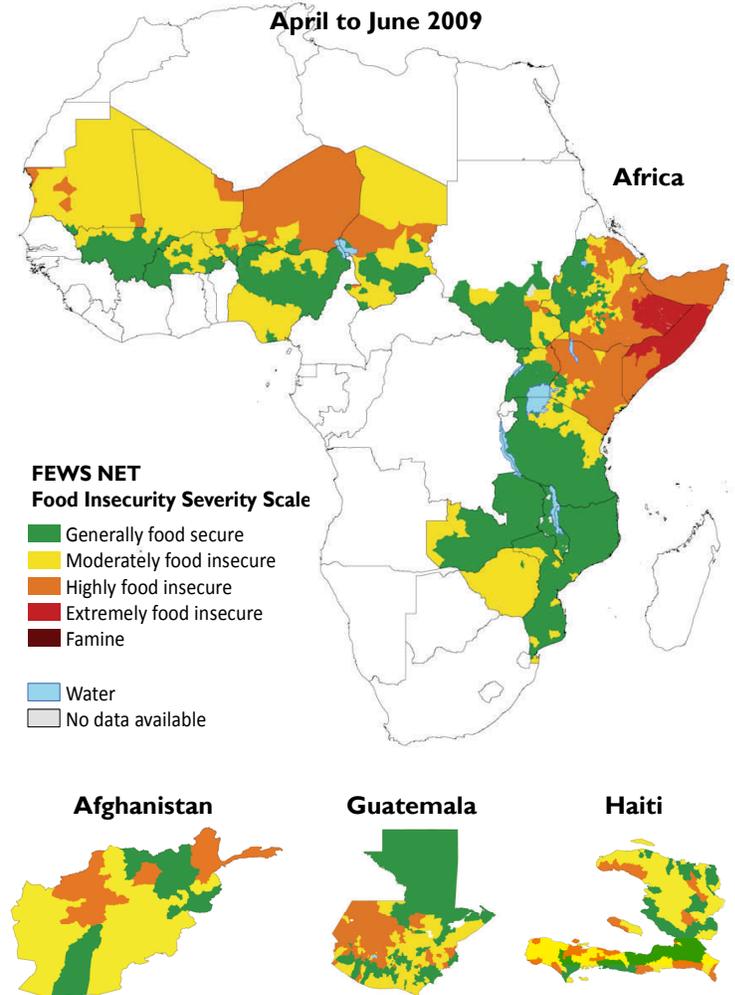
**CHAD:** The combined shocks of high retail cereal prices, local production deficits, and poor grazing conditions are expected to contribute to above-normal food insecurity between July and September in and around N'Djamena and in rural areas of Kanem, Batha, Biltine, Salamat, Moyen Chari, and Mayo Kebbi. The expulsion of several humanitarian agencies from Sudan increases the risk of intense competition for water, pasture, land, and employment due to the influx of new Sudanese refugees into Biltine.

**ETHIOPIA:** The *belg* rains, which typically start in February/March, began late, preventing planting in the *belg*-dependent northeast highlands and delaying planting in areas of SNNPR. Though the *gu/ganne* rains appear to have started well, the forecast for the remainder of the season remains mixed. 12.4 million people are highly and extremely food-insecure in Ethiopia due to several consecutive poor harvests. FEWS NET expects this number to increase between August and the November harvest given the poor *belg* season and assumed below-average *gu/ganne* rains.

**SOMALIA:** The 2009 *jilaal* (dry) season was long this year, and the forecast for the *gu* season, Somalia's major pastoral and cropping period, remains below normal. As a result, food security conditions are may deteriorate over the next six months for pastoralists in the south and central regions. Increased sea piracy has also negatively affected imports, raising concerns that food prices may increase beyond the typical seasonal peak in July/August for market-dependent IDPs and urban residents.

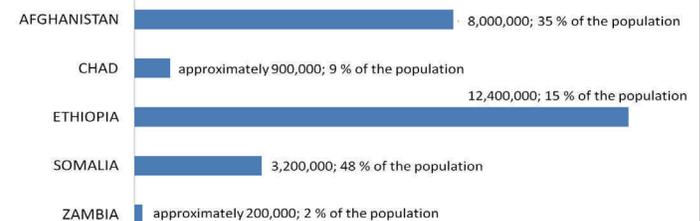
**ZAMBIA:** Severe floods in February damaged crops, homes, and public infrastructure, affecting approximately 200,000 people. These people are likely to need sustained food assistance until the harvest of flood-recession crops in November. The hunger season is expected to start in August—two months early—for households whose yields were reduced by flooding.

### Current estimated food security conditions

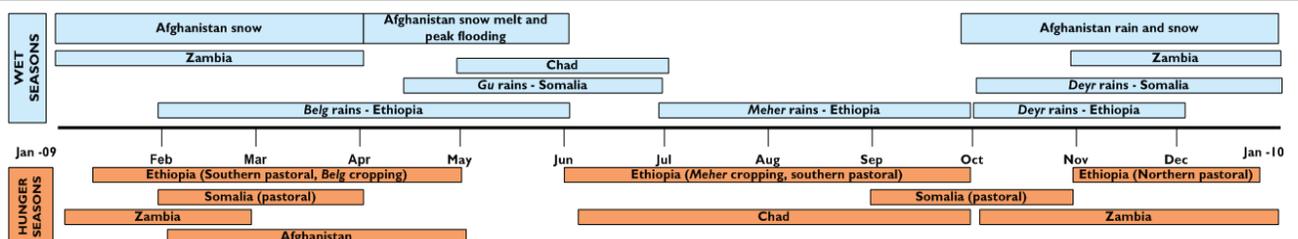


These maps show the highest estimated severity of food insecurity in each area, based on the latest assessment and monitoring data, as well as baseline data and analysis.

### Selected food insecure populations



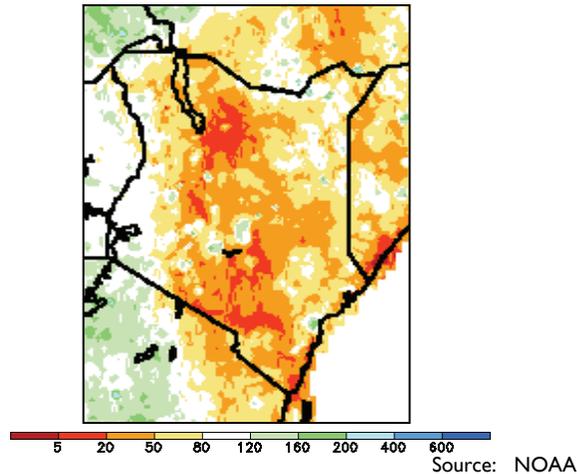
### Critical events timeline



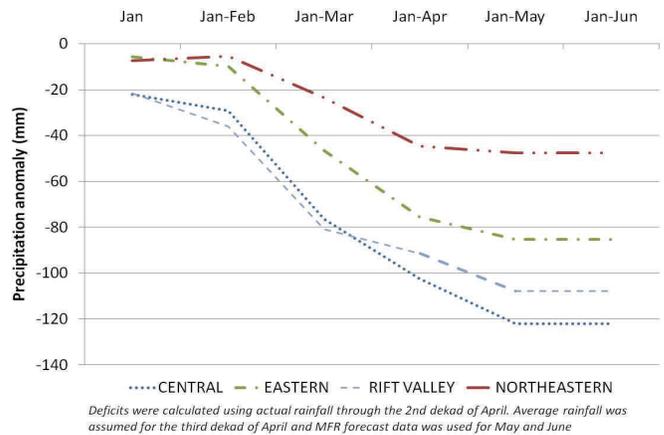
**Significant rainfall deficits likely in parts of central and southeastern Kenya**

The long rains in Kenya in the Central region and the southern part of the Eastern region normally peak during the second or third dekad of April and end between June and August. Current rainfall anomalies (Figures 1 and 4) and the strong correlation between April and May rains suggest significant rainfall deficits. Though the rainfall forecast through June is mixed, even average May rains in the eastern and southern parts of the country will be insufficient for complete recovery of crops and perhaps rangelands from current deficits (Figures 2 and 3). Below-average harvest and pasture conditions will likely result in increased cereal prices and poor livestock body conditions, resulting in reduced terms of trade for pastoralists from now through the onset of the short rains in October/November. Therefore, the size of the food insecure population, currently 2.5 million, is expected to increase between now and the July-September period, particularly in marginal agricultural and pastoral areas of southern Central, Eastern, Coastal, and Northeast regions.

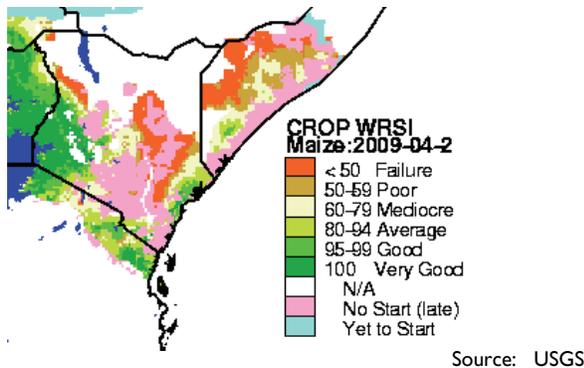
**Figure 1.** Satellite-derived precipitation anomaly (% of normal) March 1 - April 21, 2009.



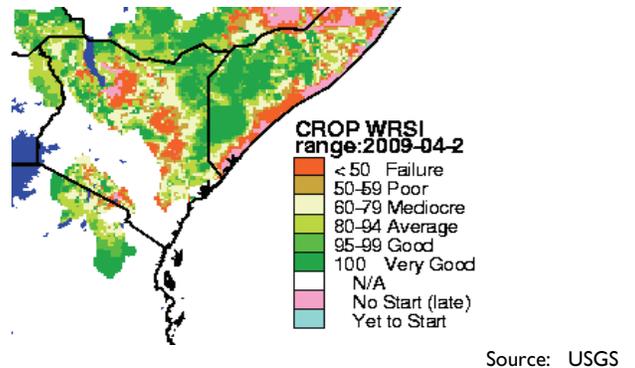
**Figure 2.** RFE2 Rainfall + MFR forecasts of cumulative rainfall for January through June in Eastern, Central, Northeast, and Rift Valley regions.



**Figure 3.** Extended Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI) for maize as of the 2nd dekad of April, 2009.



**Figure 4.** Current Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI) for rangelands as of the 2nd dekad of April, 2009.



**Figure 5.** Kenya seasonal calendar and timeline of critical events

