**ETHIOPIA Food Security Outlook**
**June 2019 to January 2020**

**Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes likely to persist due to below-average seasonal rainfall**

**KEY MESSAGES**

- In the Bale lowlands, East, and West Hararghe zones of Oromia, major parts of Somali region, and northeastern Afar Region, poor households are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through January 2020. The first round of food assistance for the 2019 HRP was delayed due to targeting exercise and only one round of food assistance has been completed by WFP, JEOP and the Government of Ethiopia. Food dispatches are ongoing for the second rounds, which was launched on the 1st of June. It is likely that a break in the PSNP food assistance pipeline will occur at the end of June 2019. If food aid does not resume after mid July 2019, worst affected households – though not twenty percent of the population - in areas currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) will move to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and levels of acute malnutrition may rise further.

- Following the below-average performance of the Gu/Genna rainy season, southeastern pastoral areas are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes through at least November 2019 due to the poor regeneration of pasture and water resources that have negatively impacted livestock productivity and household income. The forecasted near-average 2019 Deyr rainy season is expected to lead to gradual improvements in livestock body conditions and productivity, though it may not significantly improve household food and income access.

- The overall 2019 Belg harvests are estimated to be below average in most Belg-producing areas of the country, due to delayed, erratically distributed, and below-average cumulative rains across Belg producing areas of Oromia, Tigray, SNNPR and Amhara which will lead to a significant reduction in household food access. Delayed or failed planting of crops, particularly in lowland areas of Bale, and East and West Hararghe; and delayed planting in northeastern Amhara and Southern Tigray will lead to either no production or a one to two-month delay in the harvesting period. Poor households in northeastern Amhara, and East and West Hararghe of Oromia are likely to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) throughout the extended June to September 2019 lean season until harvests begin.

**Current food security outcomes, June 2019**

Source: FEWS NET

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.
NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

The food security situation is deteriorating in southern and southeastern pastoral areas of Somali, Bale lowlands, parts of Guji, and East and West Hararghe zones of Oromia due to delayed, erratically distributed, and below normal cumulative Gu/Genna rainfall. This resulted in poor regeneration of pasture and water resources that have negatively impacted livestock productivity and household incomes. This is coupled with the ongoing recovery from the 2016/17 drought that resulted in high levels of livestock deaths. Areas of greatest concern where poor households are facing difficulties meeting their minimum food needs include East and West Hararghe, southeastern Oromia including the Bale lowlands and parts of Guji and Borena, northern Amhara, Somali region, and southern Tigray.

Seasonal progress: The Gu/Genna season from March to May 2019, which is the main rainy season for southern and southeastern pastoral areas of Ethiopia, had a late onset, erratic distribution, below normal cumulative performance and extended dry spells. A large portion of the seasonal rainfall atypically fell in the second and third dekads of May 2019. Rainfall was significantly below average: 25-50 percent of normal in most parts of East and West Hararghe, the lowlands of Bale in Oromia, and Fik, Gode, and Degahabour zone of Somali; was 50 to 80 percent of normal in most of Somali, Borana, Guji of Oromia; and was greater than 80 percent in the other parts of the country from March 1 to May 27, 2019.

Additionally, poor 2018 Deyr/Hagaya rainfall from October to December 2018 resulted in dryer than usual ground conditions, increasing the concern for pasture and water shortages.

The onset of the Belg rainy season from February to May 2019 was timely in northern parts of South Omo, late by 1-2 weeks in southern South Omo, East and West Hararghe, the lowlands of Bale, and was 4 weeks late in eastern Amhara, southern Tigray, and most parts of Afar. Cumulative rainfall across Belg-benefiting parts of the country was below average and characterized by long dry spells.

Livestock and Pasture Conditions: Due to the poor Deyr/Hagaya October to December 2018 rainy season, followed by the extended dry and hotter than average period through April 2019, rangeland was dry and degraded and water availability for livestock and human consumption was very limited. However, due to enhanced and late season Gu/Genna/Belg rains after the second dekad of May 2019, there were slight improvements in water and pasture availability in eastern and central regions. Despite this, pasture improvement is below average in southern and southeastern pastoral areas due to the severity of the degradation and hotter than average temperature in the dry season that affected grass germination and viability. This has led to poor livestock body conditions, and little to no milk production since livestock births are few following limited conception by both small and large ruminants in the 2018 Deyr/Hagaya season.

Belg agricultural season: Due to the late start, erratic distribution of rainfall, dry spells, and cumulative below-average Belg rainfall, late planting occurred in many Belg-producing areas especially in central and eastern Oromia, and some areas of eastern Amhara and southern Tigray. Not only was there late planting, but total area planted was lower than usual. The FEWS NET mid-Belg field assessment in May 2019 found that in southern Tigary the total area planted is about 50 percent of normal while total

Projected food security outcomes, June to September 2019

Source: FEWS NET

Projected food security outcomes, October 2017 to January 2020

Source: FEWS NET

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area planted in East Hararghe was 28 percent, and 20 percent in West Hararghe. In Belg-harvesting areas of Amhara Region, planting levels were about 100 percent by mid-May 2019.

Since the Belg rains improved in the second dekad of May 2019, and most Belg producing parts of the country also benefit from the Meher season, which starts in June, these areas can still replant short maturing crops if agricultural inputs are available.

National Belg production is expected to be below average with little to no production likely in East and West Hararghe. However, the current rainfall will be helpful for Meher land preparation and planting of long maturing Meher crops like maize and sorghum, and improvement of perennial crops like chat, coffee, enset, and fruit trees.

Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestations: FAW infestations have affected more than 1,159 hectares of maize in Benatsemay, North and South Ari of south Omo zone, 62 hectares in North Shewa zone of Kewet Woreda of Amhara and 44 hectares of land in Limo Woreda of East Wollega of Oromia. Though the area infested is relatively low compared to previous years, and both chemical and traditional control methods are being applied, there is a risk that the pest will continue to spread and increase infestation levels close to previous years.

Market supply and prices: Both staple food and livestock prices are increasing in most local markets, but staple food prices are rising at a greater rate. This is likely the result of: below average crop production in Meher 2018, increased cash availability in the market generated from PSNP, relief, sale of labor and other items, Ethiopian currency inflation, increased fuel and spare part cost, security related issues to transport food from surplus areas to deficit, and increased demand from both non-drought-affected and drought-affected parts of the country.

In southern pastoral and the southeastern lowlands of the country, livestock herd sizes that were already reduced following the 2016/17 drought were impacted by the abnormally dry and hot conditions following the2018 Deyr/Hagaya rains, resulting in poorer than usual livestock body conditions. Since livestock herd sizes in the area are about 50 percent of normal there is limited supply in local markets, which has increased market demand despite poor livestock body conditions and has led to higher livestock prices – though still lower than staple cereal prices.

Health and Nutrition: From January to April 2019 Therapeutic Feeding Program (TFP) admissions increased throughout the country. From January to February 2019 admissions were above the 2011 to 2017 average but below those of January to February 2018. However, the March 2019 report showed an increase compared to March 2018, but lower than in 2016 and 2017.

TFP admissions in Oromia Region increased from January to March 2019, representing more than one third of all of the country’s cases, followed by Somali Region. In Amhara and SNNPR, TFP admissions also increased between January and March 2019 and compared to 2018. March 2019 TFP admissions increased by 215 percent in Gedeo, 82 percent in Sidama and 64 percent in Halaba zones compared to February 2019.

Contributing factors for increasing malnutrition currently are associated with delayed, inadequate and irregular emergency food and TSFP assistance, the measles epidemic, waterborne illnesses, and limited household food access due to the following: increased staple food prices, below-average Meher 2018 production and depletion of stocks, and food and income from livestock deteriorated following severe dryness and poor livestock body conditions.

According to reports from the Ministry of Health, cholera (formerly referred to as AWD) outbreaks are reported throughout the country, with greatest prevalence in Amhara and Oromia regions. So far, a total of 614 cases have been identified with at least 14 deaths.
Refugees from South Sudan and Somalia: According to UNCHR, the total number of registered refugees and asylum seekers in Ethiopia was 905,831 in May 2019 - 46.6 percent from South Sudan, 28.4 percent from Somalia, 19.2 percent from Eritrea, and 4.9 percent from Sudan. Despite this, the numbers of refugees fleeing South Sudan and Somalia have fallen compared to previous months and years.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): The Government of Ethiopia has begun to facilitate the return of IDP households to their homes across the country. According to NDRMC, as of May 30, 2019, over two million of the around 2.98 million IDPs in the country have been returned to their original locations. Monthly humanitarian assistance, including food and non-food items, are being provided to the displaced and returnees though there are still gaps in the response in some areas. The majority of IDP repatriations have been smooth, however, there is still some insecurity felt by returning Gedio IDPs.

Humanitarian Assistance: The 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) estimated a total of 8.3 million people would require humanitarian assistance between January and June 2019. As part of the HRP, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), WFP, and JEOP provided first round emergency humanitarian assistance. The three operators are planning to distribute a standard food basket of 15 kg of cereals, 1.5 kg of pulses, and 0.45 liters of oil. The second round was launched on the 1st of June, allowing above organizations to start food dispatches to targeted locations. According to the national cash-food integrated plan meeting held on the 6th of June, there is a significant contribution by the Government of Ethiopia to the HRP requirements, including, 1.2 billion ETB for cash transfers. There are also expected in-kind commodities that will cover some of the projected needs in the country. It was also noted that 3.6 million PSNP public works clients, are projected to be food insecure when they are not receiving the core PSNP transfer assistance, from July to December. According to the UN-OCHA Situation Report No.22 released on May 20, 2019 there are concerns of pipeline breaks in WFP and NDRMC emergency supplies and interruptions of lifesaving operations. Delays in relief food assistance would have a cascading impact on the nutrition situation of vulnerable groups, particularly children and pregnant and lactating mothers, increasing the risk for higher morbidity and mortality.

In Somali Region, WFP planned to provide monthly rations to nearly 1.85 million (0.71 million IDP and 1.14 million non-displaced) people, but so far, they have only been able to distribute the first round of emergency food assistance, and dispatches are ongoing for the second round. In Amhara, Dire-Dawa, Oromia, Tigray, and SNNPR, 1.8 million people in JEOP’s, including 746,000 conflict IDPs in West Guji/ Gideo zones. Throughout the country, humanitarian distributions in June 2019 are expected to reach at least 25 percent of area households in areas of distribution who need assistance with rations equal to 25–50 percent of their caloric needs, as is the normal trend of distribution. Often these distributions reach different populations and are somewhat irregular in their temporal distribution. As a result, although the assistance is likely improving outcomes among beneficiaries, it is expected it is not driving an improvement in the area-level IPC Classification of any area.

Assumptions
The most-likely scenario from June 2019 to January 2020 is based on the following national-level assumptions:

Rainfall
- The June to September 2019 Kiremt rains in Ethiopia are most likely to be average with localized areas of above average.
• The July to September Karan/Karma rains in northern Somali Region and southern Afar are most likely to be average.
• The October to December 2019 Deyr/Hagaya short rains season is most likely to be average in southern and southeastern Ethiopia

Pasture, Water, and Livestock
• Following the below-average 2019 Gu/Gena season, pasture and water sources were not able to regenerate normally, so until the Deyr/Hagaya rains begin in late October the availability of pasture and water is expected to be below-average. Following the start of the rains, both pasture and water availability are expected to improve through the end of the scenario period.
• Livestock body conditions and productivity are only expected to stabilize and possibly marginally and temporarily improve with enhanced late season rainfall. They will likely remain below average and deteriorate further during the dry season until the start of the Deyr/Hagaya rains in October 2019. With the anticipated average Deyr/Hagaya rains it is likely that should improve pasture conditions, livestock body conditions and productivity will also improve. Throughout the outlook period, calving, lambing, kidding, and milk production will remain below average.

Crop Production
• Belg production is likely to be below average in most Belg-producing areas, particularly in northeastern Amhara, southern Tigray, central and eastern Oromia, and southern SNNPR. Due to late planting caused by the delayed Belg rains, the maize harvest in Belg-producing parts of SNNPR and East and West Hararghe is expected to begin at least one month later than normal.

• National Meher production is likely to be below average since there has been limited moisture since the second week of March 2019 for long cycle crop planting in addition to the forecast for average, tending to below average, total cumulative Kiremt rainfall.

Markets and Trade
• Since Belg production represents a small portion of total annual production, the Belg harvest from June to August does not significantly affect the cereal supply in central markets like Addis Ababa but it improves supply in local markets. However, this year, the expected below-average production in Amhara and Tigray from June to August, and one month delayed harvesting in SNNPR, will affect the supply of cereals which will remain atypically low through September.
• Prices of staple grains like teff, wheat, maize, and sorghum will likely increase between June and August because of the lean season, the below-average harvest, higher levels of inflation, and fuel costs to transport food. Following the anticipated late Belg harvest in August/September and the Meher harvest starting in October, the supply of cereals will increase, and prices will decrease to follow their normal trend for the rest of the scenario period.
• Livestock prices are expected to continue following seasonal trends and remain higher than last year and the five-year average across most markets because of higher levels of inflation and limited herd sizes following the 2016/17 drought.

Income-Earning Opportunities
• From June to January 2019, agricultural labor opportunities are likely to be normal, following planting, weeding, and harvesting in Kiremt-receiving regions of SNNPR, Amhara, Oromia, Gambela, Benshangul Gumuz, and Tigray. However, due to the expected increase in the number of people in search of labor, particularly from June to September, the wage rate will remain low and likely improve later in the year as major labor activities are required for harvesting of cotton and sesame in large farm areas beginning in October, after the Kiremt season ends.
• In general, other household income from self-employment opportunities, like petty trading and social support of both in-kind and cash, are expected to slightly improve during the October to January 2019 period following a likely average Meher harvest and average Deyr/Hagaya rains.

Conflict
• Conflict between bordering ethnic communities within the same region is likely to increase during the transition period as forceful requests for different benefits by different ethnic groups will continue. This could result in temporary disruptions in livelihood activities including agricultural practices, delivery of humanitarian assistance, movement of people for labor activity, and trade flows.

Safety Nets and Humanitarian Assistance
• PSNP transfers started late and will be carried out through June, but not beyond the currently planned six-month transfers that conclude in June 2019.

• There are concerns that securing the required amount of funding for humanitarian food and nonfood assistance by humanitarian actors will not be possible. Therefore, the amount that the government allocates, specific funding levels in the scenario period, timing of deliveries, and the number of beneficiaries that will be able to be reached will be limited. Without this confirmed information, the continuation of humanitarian assistance is uncertain and as a result, we have not included humanitarian assistance in our outlook projections.

**Most Likely Food Security Outcomes**

In **south and southeastern pastoral areas** of the country, including most parts of Somali, and southern and southeastern Oromia, food access for poor and very poor households remains significantly constrained due to lack of pasture and water for livestock body improvement and production. Livestock productivity is below-average due to poor Deyr/Hagaya performance for small ruminant conception and births in the **Gu/Genna** season. The performance of the 2018 **Gu/Genna** was too poor for livestock conception and this affected milk production in the region. In some areas of Somali region and East and West Hararghe of Oromia livestock have started to die. On the other hand, though livestock body conditions are poor, livestock prices show an increase compared to the same period of 2018 and the five years average. However, there are still low livestock-to-cereals terms of trade since staple food prices are expected to continue to rise through September ahead of the Meher harvest. With the forecast for average Deyr/Hagaya rains, livestock body conditions are likely to start improving by October and November as pasture and water resources begin to be replenished. This is expected to lead to a slight improvement in livestock body conditions and productivity.

In **East and West Hararghe of Oromia** food security is a high concern as food and income from livestock deteriorated following severe dryness and poor livestock body condition and production, increased staple food prices, delayed, inadequate, irregular emergency food assistance and expected pipeline breaks for humanitarian food assistance, and nutrition status declining—indicating inadequate diet and thus, the area will remain in Crisis (IPC phase 3) through at least September 2019.

Due to the high level of needs and expected pipeline break for humanitarian assistance delivery, poor households in the **lowlands of Bale, parts of Guji and Borena zone of Oromia, Afder, Liben, Gode, Fike and parts of Korahe, and parts of Warder in Somali Region** will likely continue to face food consumption gaps and be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through September 2019. Starting from October, Fefer and Shelabo woredas of Korahe, Warder woreda of Warder Zone, parts of Mustahil in Gode Zone, Bare and Dolobay words of Afader and Dolo odo Woredes of Liben zone in Somali, Borena, and parts of Guji zone in Oromia region, are likely to improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) since the rainfall deficits were not as severe during the **Gu/Genna** season (due to late rains in May 2019), and additionally the **Deyr/Hageya** rainy season is expected to bring additional improvements in these areas. However, there is still the possibility that some poor households who lost the majority of their assets during year 2016/2017 drought will still face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes.

In the **Rift Valley of SNNPR, north eastern Afar, the lowlands of Waghimra Zone of Amhara, and Tekeze River catchments of Tigray**, June to September coincides with the typical lean season. Poor households have already exhausted their stocks from the 2018 **Meher** and in June before the expected below-average **Belg** harvest begins, there will be an earlier than normal exhaustion of food stocks. Access to income from agricultural labor is expected to improve starting from July as there will be a demand for weeding labor in **Meher**-dependent areas; however, it is still unlikely to be sufficient to cover all household food needs. As a result, worst-affected areas, such as the Tekeze River catchments of Tigray, the lowlands of Waghimra, northeastern Afar, and parts of SNNPR are expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while other areas are likely to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) between June and September. However, with expected improved access to food and income during the October 2019 to January 2020 period following the new **Meher** harvest, these areas are likely to improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2), except for westernmost **Afar** which will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

In **Belg-dependent areas of South Tigray and South and North Wollo zones of Amhara Region**, with the expected below-average **Belg** harvest, access to food and income is likely to be constrained between June to September, especially as staple food prices are expected to continue rise through October. As a result, **Belg**-producing parts of southern Tigray and northeastern Amhara are expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through September. However, with expected improved food access in September from the late **Belg** harvest, from October onwards following the 2019 **Meher** harvest, these areas will be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). However, the **Meher**-dependent eastern half of the Tigray and Amhara regions are likely to remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through September. From October onwards following the expected average production from the **Meher** season, household food and income access in these areas are projected to improve and these areas will be in Minimal (IPC Phase 1), except in some isolated portions of the south.
In the **western half of the country in western and central Oromia, Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR, Gambela, and Benshangul Gumuz regions**, poor households are projected to be able to maintain adequate access to food and income throughout the scenario period. Forecasted average with localized areas of above average *Kirmet* rainfall over the western regions is likely to lead to near-average 2019 *Meher* production and further improve access to pasture for livestock, which will contribute to normal milk yields and livestock prices. Additionally, beginning in June, income from agricultural labor is expected to increase from *Meher*-related agricultural activities. Throughout the scenario period, these areas are expected to remain in Minimal (IPC Phase 1).

The nutritional status of children under five, and pregnant and lactating mothers in IDP camps, in drought affected parts of the country such as East and West Hararghe of Oromia, Somali region, northeastern Amhara, Gedeo, Sidama, Wolayita and Segen Zones of SNNPR parts of Afar and southeastern Tigray are likely to deteriorate through September 2019 due to high market prices for staple foods, limited income, high inflation, limited availability of specialized nutritious foods and the potential humanitarian assistance pipeline break.

If the expected food aid pipeline break occurs following the round two distribution in Somali and Oromia Regions, there will be a cascading impact on the nutrition situation of children and pregnant and lactating mothers, increasing the risk for higher morbidity and mortality in major parts of East and West Hararghe, the Bale lowlands, parts of Guji and Borena of Oromia, and major parts of Somali region.

### SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR

**Source:** FEWS NET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Impact on food security outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Conflict between ethnic groups</td>
<td>If conflict between different ethnic groups is sparked, more people will be displaced and the number of IDPs will increase, which will increase the need for humanitarian assistance and the number of people who will be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) would significantly grow</td>
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AREAS OF CONCERN:

Lowland Hawd Pastoral (LHP) Livelihood Zone of Somali Region (Figure 4)

Current Situation

**Seasonal progress:** The poor 2019 Gu rainy season, that had a delayed start of more than four dekads, marks the second consecutive poor season. Rainfall deficits in the zone were significant, and some of these areas remained dry throughout April, which is normally the peak of the rainy season. Despite this, the area was considered relatively better off than neighboring zones in Ethiopia and Somalia, which attracted the movement of livestock herds from neighboring woredas and from central regions of Somalia. Cumulative and timely distribution of rainfall improved during the second dekad of May 2019, but cumulative seasonal totals remained below 50 percent of average specifically in Danaot, parts of Boh, Kbridehar and Worder Woredas of the livelihood zone.

**Pasture and Livestock Conditions:** Throughout the livelihood zone and in neighboring woredas there is a critical shortage of pasture, browsing land, and water. This has led to emaciated livestock body conditions and affects livestock production and productivity. Despite the improved seasonal rainfall in the second dekad of May, pasture did not fully regenerate due to the extent of the degradation, but new grass and browse land is starting to appear in some areas. Livestock herds are now congregated in these areas.

Livestock sales were high following the 2016/17 drought in order to meet household food consumption needs and allow for the repayment of debts. This coupled with the large number of livestock deaths has made recovery of herd sizes in the zone slow and difficult and herd sizes remain far below average - a decline of 44 percent of camel herd sizes and 47 percent of shoat herd sizes, which resulted in a 41 percent milk reduction from camels and 33 percent reduction for shoats.

There is no major livestock disease outbreak ongoing but there is concern of one due to the overconcentration in areas with available pastureland.

**Water:** Below-average rainfall in the past two consecutive rainy seasons caused most water sources, like ponds, cisterns (locally called berkas), and hand-dug wells to be either completely dry or have very little water. Through the second dekad of May, surface water shortages were at an alert level in the livelihood zone. After the second dekad of May rainfall improved, but water sources remain below average to date.

**Markets and prices:** Prices of imported commodities such as wheat flour and sugar are generally stable in most main markets. However, prices are somewhat above average due to the unstable black-market exchange rate for the Ethiopian currency to US dollar. Locally produced staple cereal prices are much higher than last year and the five years average in all Somali markets due to declining supplies in highland areas in the neighboring Oromia region. For example, in Warder market in Dollo zone, the wholesale price of white sorghum was 1,000 Birr in April 2019, which is 11 percent higher than last year and 64 percent above the five-year average.

Despite pasture and water deficits that have led to poor livestock body conditions, livestock prices are increasing, compared to 2018 and the five years average. This has allowed livestock-to-cereals terms of trade to remain somewhat stable. In April 2019 a pastoral household could buy 70 kilograms of sorghum for one goat, compared to the five-year average of 72 kilograms.

**Humanitarian assistance:** WFP distributed six of the 2018 allocation in April 2019 and has since started to dispatch the first and second rounds of the 2019 Humanitarian Requirement Planning (HRP). There are 1.85 million (0.72 million IDPS and 1.13 million non-displaced pastoralists) beneficiaries in Somali region who are under the HRP document and assigned for WFP food assistance.
The general food distribution for Dollo zone was completed for round 6 in April 2019 and round 1 of the 2019 allocation is underway. Lack of funding has limited coverage of health and nutrition services to a few areas, exacerbating already existing emergencies such as outbreaks of measles and dysentery. The current resources that WFP has will cover 54 priority one woredas, out of the 88 priority one woredas in Somali region for May and June 2019 but there has been no communication of additional resources after this period.

There are concerns that WFP will have a pipeline break after the fourth round of the 2019 HRP distribution for Somali region. WFP also has resource constraints for blanket supplementary feeding and targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) in Somali region and in other parts of the country.

**PSNP:** Transfers of PSNP safety net assistance to chronically food insecure people, including 75,929 in Dollo Zone, is planned, funded and likely only through the end of June 2019.

**Health and nutrition:** The nutrition program in seven woredas of Dollo zone was managed by GOAL Ethiopia with the funding from OFDA and WFP for the MAM program. However, this program was phased out in March 2019 situation is critical specially if there is pipeline break for the general food distribution on top of lack of food due to the significant declines in household livestock holdings, outbreaks of AWD and measles in the region. The Ramadan fasting season hindered the monitoring of the nutrition situation and active case findings in the livelihood zone. Overall, there has been a delay and inconsistency in humanitarian food distributions and beneficiary allocations in each round across the entire Somali Region, which has meant a dilution of humanitarian assistance, including TSF.

**Assumptions**

In addition to the national-level assumptions, analysis of food security in Lowland Hawd Pastoral (LHP) Livelihood zone, Somali Region is based on the following assumptions:

- **Rainfall:** October to December 2019 *Deyr* rains season is most likely to start timely with an average cumulative amount.

- **Pasture and Livestock Conditions:** From July until the start of the *Deyr/Hageya* rainy season in October, the availability of pastureland and water is expected to be below-average. However, by late October through the end of the scenario period it is expected there will be steady improvements in pastureland and water availability.

- **Livestock body conditions:** Due to the below normal performance of the 2018 *Deyr* and the current below normal 2019 *Gu*, both browsers’ and grazers’ body conditions marginally improved in May, but still are atypically poor. Grazers’ body conditions are expected to begin deteriorating again by mid-July as pastures decline. However, following the onset of 2019 *Deyr* rain in late October, livestock body conditions for both browsers and grazers are expected to gradually improve through the end of the scenario period.

- **Livestock births and milk availability:** Both camel and cattle births are expected to remain below average, due to the smaller number of conceptions during the 2018 *Gu* season. Due to the large number of conceptions in the 2017 *Deyr* 2017 that gave birth during the 2018 *Deyr* most of the milking animals are expected to be in late lactation through September 2019. Most milk production will be from shoa births starting around October and November 2019. Throughout the entire scenario period, there will be very low camel milk production.

- **Livestock conceptions:** Emaciated livestock body conditions and below-average pasture regeneration are expected to limit conceptions. Thus, during the entire scenario period, camels will not give birth but are expected to conceive during the months of June and July 2019 following the late improvement of *Gu* rain and pasture regeneration. Sheep and goats are expected to conceive in early June and give birth in October/November 2019.

- **Livestock prices:** Prices are expected to increase as pastures improve in June and July. Price increases will be more related to increased demand for shoa during the *Hajj*, and lower market supply due to smaller than usual herd sizes, rather than reflecting an improvement in livestock body conditions.

- **Prices of locally-produced staple cereals:** Prices for cereals such as sorghum and maize are expected to remain above average and continue to rise through January 2020. Decreases in staple food prices are not likely until security issues are alleviated and traders are able to start supplying the region.
• **Prices of staple imported foods from Somalia**: Prices are expected to remain stable, with some increases due to the devaluation of the Ethiopian Birr and the start of the monsoon season between mid-July to early September when the volume of imported food is expected to decline.

• **Terms of trade**: Livestock body conditions are expected to be stable which will increase livestock prices. Additionally, staple food prices are expected to remain high throughout the scenario period. This should maintain stable terms of trade.

**Most Likely Food Security Outcomes**

Following two-consecutive below-average seasonal rains, livestock production and productivity, household access to food and income sources in Lowland Hawd Pastoral (LHP) Livelihood Zone have been severely impacted. Livestock that gave birth in the 2018 Deyr are now in late lactation, and pasture and water availability is highly constrained following the late, erratic and below average Gu rains. This in turn resulted in reduced livestock production, particularly milk availability for consumption and income from livestock.

The majority of the poor and middle off households in the livelihood zone as well as other parts of Somali region have been heavily dependent on emergency food aid and TFP. In June, the worst-affected households are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), meaning that at least one in five pastoral households in the area have significant food consumption gaps with high or above average acute malnutrition. If food assistance does not resume by the end of July, and the anticipated general food rationing and TSF pipeline break occur at the end of June, the worst-affected households in the livelihood zone are expected to begin to move into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and levels of acute malnutrition and mortality may rise further.

Limited saleable livestock assets, poor livestock body conditions, reduced access to milk, increased household expenditures on the rising cost of food and water, and overstretched social support networks have led to reduced food access. Further, humanitarian food assistance levels have significantly interrupted and become irregular. Low resources for TSFP program to engage the humanitarian partners in nutrition innervations in ENCU identified 88 “hotspot” woredas in the Somali region. Interruptions in humanitarian assistance and limited food sources will create significant food consumption gaps with high or above average acute malnutrition. Consequently, food security outcomes in LHP of Dollo zone will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through September 2019.

With the improved Gu rainfall since the second dekad of May water sources, pasture, and browsing land have modestly replenished, and forecasts for the upcoming October-December Deyr rainy season are positive. Households in Warder and Shilabo Woredas of LHP livelihood zone will move to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and other Woredas will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from October 2019 through the end of the scenario period in January 2020. The risk of acute watery diarrhea is expected to persist, particularly during the dry season, which is likely to affect the nutritional situation of children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women.

**Events that Might Change the Outlook**

Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

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<tr>
<th>Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>Major river areas of Ethiopia such as the</td>
<td>Above-average <em>Kiremt</em> rainfall</td>
<td>If there is above-average <em>Kiremt</em> rainfall, flooding will likely occur in flood-prone areas, mainly along the major rivers, such as the Shebelle in Somali Region. In addition, water logging in the highland areas could cause both crop and livelihood damage.</td>
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<td>Shebelle in Somali Region</td>
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**Current Situation**

In the lowlands of East and West Hararghe of Oromia, the lean season usually starts in May and extends to the end of August depending on the performance of the *Belg/Kiremt* season. Currently, poor households have already exhausted their stocks and mainly depend on market purchases. Market supply of staple foods has declined, and prices are increasing. Normally at this time of the year, poor and very poor households have access to agricultural labor and can access some income from non-agricultural labor activities. However, the performance of the 2019 *Belg* is poor so far and there are limited agricultural activities and related labor opportunities. In a normal year, cabbage and potatoes would be available in midland and highland areas and contribute to fulfilling households’ food needs, but this year crops failed. Both East and West Hararghe zones continue to host large numbers of IDPs that directly or indirectly put pressure on the limited resources available and compete for available labor opportunities. Some targeted households are getting humanitarian emergency food assistance, though it is irregular and does not meet all the needs. PSNP assistance is also ongoing and supports chronically food insecure households.

Despite these interventions, poor households, including IDPs, face seasonal food consumption gaps which will increase as we get closer to the middle of the lean season, especially with the potential occurrence of drought-related diseases such as measles and acute watery diarrhea. In June, the worst-affected households in East and West Hararghe zones are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and will remain in this phase through the end of the scenario period in January 2020.

**Seasonal progress:** Normally, the *Belg/Afrassa* rainy season starts around mid-February and extends to mid-May. However, this year, *Belg* rainfall began approximately two to three weeks late in most woredas and the rainfall was erratic, below average, and had poor temporal and spatial distributions with long dry spell and hotter than average temperature. Through March, April and the first dekad of May 2019, there was little to no rain across all the woredas. In the parts of Woredas that received some rainfall, it was cumulatively well below average and was interrupted by intermittent three to five week long dry spells.

Since the second dekad of May 2019 the rains have shown progressive improvements in throughout the zone. Overall, the 2019 *Belg/Afrassa* rainfall was significantly below average in amount, erratic in distribution and has very low coverage in both zones particularly in the lowland parts. Usually, the midland and highland parts of the zone receive relatively better amounts of rainfall than the lowlands, but this year the amount and distribution are nearly the same, though the lowlands were very dry and hotter than normal.

**Crop production:** *Belg/Afrassa* rain was not favorable for agricultural activities and *Belg* season cropping activities like land preparation and planting did not take place as planned. Out of 47,860 ha of land planned for *Belg* crop planting in East Hararghe and 61,897 ha of land planned for *Belg* crop planting in East Hararghe, only 20 and 28 percent, respectively, of normally planted land was cropped. Many seeds that were planted either decayed in the soil or did not fully germinated. Though rainfall improved after the second dekad of May, the period for *Belg* crop planting had passed and farmers instead are planting short maturing substitute crops, though, getting the required type and amount of seed is challenging.

**Water and Pasture Availability and Livestock Conditions:** Pasture availability is a serious concern in most woredas of the zones particularly in the lowlands (Meiso, Gimbi Bordede, Anchare, Hawi Gudina, Burka Dimtu, Darolebue in West Hararghe; and Mayu, Qumbi, Gola Oda, Gursum, Midhaga, Babile, Cinaksan and Fedis in East Hararghe). These woredas have serious water shortages for both livestock and human consumption.

Pasture is almost exhausted and will takes weeks to regenerate. As a result of serious shortages of pasture, livestock, particularly cattle in the lowland areas, are becoming emaciated and livestock deaths have been reported. In the midlands and highlands, livestock are in low to moderate physical condition.
Livestock movements: Due to the critical shortages of pasture and water across the two zones, movements of livestock in search of pasture continued in the lowland parts of the zone. Accordingly, mass livestock movements to river valleys and water points is very high in these zones. High concentrations of livestock have been reported in and around the Sakata, Wabe, Ramis and Medaro, Metehara, Araba, Awash, Yerer and Wabe river valleys and the Bombase water point. Livestock reproduction, production, and productivity are declining in both zones.

Livestock Disease outbreak: Livestock deaths due to critical shortage of pasture and water, and drought-related diseases have been reported in many woredas of West Hararghe zone. Deaths of 560 cattle, 74 goats and 51 donkeys have been reported from Gimbi Bordede, Meiso, Hawi Gudina, Dimtu, Doba, Anchare woredas between April and the second week of May 2019. More than 1,251 cattle livestock deaths also were reported in Bable woredas of East Hararghe zone.

Market Conditions: Maize and sorghum are the major staple food crops in the lowland parts of NAP livelihood zone of East and West Hararghe. In May 2019, staple food supplies declined, resulting in increased prices compared to April 2019 and May 2018. The decline in supply is due to increased transportation costs, low Meher 2018 production, irregular humanitarian assistance, and the ongoing lean season when households exhaust their production and depend on local purchases. In Anchare market in West Hararghe, 100kg of sorghum cost 1,460 Ethiopian Birr (ETB) in the second week of May 2019, increased by 4.3 percent from 1,400 ETB in April 2019 and 70 percent from 880 ETB in May 2018. Similarly, sorghum prices in Fedis woredas in May 2019 15 percent higher than April 2019 and 28 percent higher than in May 2018.

On the other hand, livestock supply is increasing but prices are unsteady. The price of an average sized goat was 830 ETB in Meiso in April 2019, an increase of 5 from March 2019 and 28 percent increase from April 2018. In Haromaya, an average sized goat cost 950 ETB in April 2019, a 15 percent decrease compared to March 2018 and a 12 percent increase compared to April 2018. Generally, livestock prices are increasing but terms of trade for livestock to cereals is not favorable for pastoralists because the increase in livestock prices is still less staple food prices.

Nutrition: The nutritional status of children is deteriorating in the zone due to various contributing factors including shortages of food and water at the household level, conflict and increased disease incidence. In April 2019 in Oromia region SAM admission increased by 23.44 percent compared to March 2019 and 24.77 percent compared to April 2018, according to the regional ENCU report. In West Hararghe, the April 2019 SAM admissions increased by 4 percent compared to March 2019 and 28 percent compared to April 2018.

TFP admissions from February to April 2019 show an increase compared to last year and the eight-year average. In East Hararghe, April 2019 TFP admissions increased by 31.5 compared to March 2019 and 16.5 percent compared to April 2018.

Results of the April 2019 MUAC screening undertaken in the IDP sites of East Hararghe zone indicate proxy GAM of 19.2 and proxy SAM of 1.9 percent.

A measles outbreak continues to affect children and some adults in both administrative zones and contributes to child malnutrition. 133 new measles cases were reported in Boke, Habro & Darolebu and Hawi Gudina woredas of West Hararghe zone in April 2019. In East Hararghe, measles cases were reported from Meta, Gurawa, Babile, Gursum, Haramaya, Midaga, Mayu and Gola Oda woredas. Cases of dysentery and scabies have also been reported in both zones.

Conflict-Induced IDPs: There are currently 121,282 conflict induced IDPs living in West Hararghe and 306,570 living in East Hararghe whose livelihoods dependent on emergency food assistance by humanitarian agencies and the government. However, according to the East Hararghe zone report, 36,924 IDPs are not yet officially registered and were not yet receiving humanitarian assistance as of mid-May 2019. By mid-May, about 54,870 IDPs from Chiro, Darolebu and Hawi Gudina woredas in West Hararghe and 59,177 from Babile woredas of East Hararghe zone were returned home by the government.

Humanitarian Assistance: Many woredas in the NAP livelihood zone of East and West Hararghe are chronically food insecure and both PSNP and emergency food aid assistance are provided and contribute to minimizing the further depletion of livelihoods. However, as emergency food assistance is often irregular, it does not change the IPC food security phase. Currently,

Figure 6. TFP Admission trends in Oromia

Source: ENCU
emergency food assistance is partially targeted for 398,359 beneficiaries in West Hararghe and 342,978 beneficiaries in East Hararghe. In mid-May, the 2018 carryover relief food distribution was not completed in many woredas. Delays and irregularity in distribution contribute to increased food insecurity.

The ninth round of emergency food aid distribution was completed for about 111,566 beneficiary IDPs in 27 IDP sites in 13 woredas in West Hararghe, and the tenth round of food aid distributed for 269,640 IDPs at 35 distribution sites in East Hararghe by WFP.

A total of 444,765 and 411,716 people are participating under the PSNP program in East and West Hararghe respectively and have received their ration up to March 2019

Assumptions:

Pasture and water availability: Since the third week of May 2019, there has been rain in most areas; pasture regeneration and water availability are showing improvements, which will be expected to further improve following the anticipated average July to September 2019 Kirmet rains. Livestock that migrated out of the zone in search of pasture and water are expected to return to the zone at the end of June 2019. Livestock body conditions are expected to improve beginning in July 2019 through the end of the year. However, livestock production and productivity are not anticipated to improve throughout the scenario period.

The Kiremt rainfall is expected to improve livestock conception for shoats beginning in early August 2019. Shoats conceived during this period are then expected to be born at the very end of the scenario period in January 2020.

Crop Production: About 20 percent of East and West Hararghe zones are Belg rain dependent and most of the long cycle Meher crops are also planted during this season. Belg 2019 rainfall performance was very below average.

Farmers are planting short maturing crops using the late season rain, which is expected to partly compensate for main crop losses, and farmers are expected to harvest at the end of August 2019. However, this harvest will only be for household consumption.

Though the 2019 Kiremt season rains are expected to be average, the 2019 Meher production is expected to be below average as the long cycle Meher crops were affected by the below-average Belg rains.

Market prices: Prices of major staple foods are expected to continue increasing during the June to September 2019 lean season as cereal supply in markets declines further, and inadequate Belg harvest are not expected to improve the situation during this period. With increased food availability following the Meher harvest, prices are expected to slightly decline from November 2019 to January 2020.

Livestock prices are also likely to continue increasing following improved body conditions and continued demand from local, nearby towns/cities and other areas.

Agricultural Labor: Near-normal chat crop production is expected, and Kiremt agricultural practices are likely to trigger near-normal agricultural labor employment opportunities and wages throughout the scenario period in eastern Oromia.

Health: Additional cases of dysentery, and acute watery diarrhea are expected from July to September 2019 following the Kismet rains and water sources may be contaminated due to flooding.

The measles outbreak currently reported in many woredas is expected to spread particularly during the peak of the lean season from June to September 2019.

Conflict: Currently there is no ongoing conflict, but some tensions are felt with bordering woredas that are seen as competing for resources. Additionally, the government has started returning IDPs to their original locations without intensive needs assessments for food security and basic social services, which may aggravate tensions.

Humanitarian assistance and PSNP support: PSNP resource transfer and distribution are planned, funded and likely to continue until June 2019. However, humanitarian assistance is likely to be interrupted due to pipeline breaks after the second round of distribution according to the 2019 HRP.
**Most likely food security outcomes (June 2019 to January 2020)**

A very below-average Belg harvest is expected the end of August 2019. The majority of households in the NAP and AMC livelihood zones will be heavily dependent on market purchases during the peak of the lean season. However, increased staple food prices will significantly limit poor and very poor households from accessing food from June to September 2019. Cash income from the sale of shoats and chat will be very limited from June to September 2019. The malnutrition situation is expected to further deteriorate and TFP admissions are expected to increase from June to September 2019. PSNP and irregular relief food aid and some cash income from casual labor will partly enable poor households to marginally meet their food needs but they will continue facing food deficits and will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from June to September 2019.

The 2019 Meher harvest is expected from October to December 2019. Consequently, cereal market supply will show some improvement and prices are expected seasonally decline or remain stable. However, poor households are not expected to have below-average production due to low landholdings, and not using improved seeds and agricultural inputs due to low purchasing power. The malnutrition prevalence is expected to seasonally decline from October 2019 until the end of the scenario period. Therefore, poor households and IDPs will still have limited purchasing power, and areas bordering Somali region will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through the end of the scenario period in January 2020.

**Events that Might Change the Outlook**

Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

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<td>Western Oromia</td>
<td>Severe FAW infestations during the Meher season</td>
<td>If there are significant crop losses in Oromia region during the Meher harvest in October to December from FAW, the 2020 lean season will likely start earlier than usual, and the price of staple foods will increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and West Hararghe Regions</td>
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<td>If humanitarian assistance is delivered immediately and fully addresses the required food needs, the areas in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through at least January 2020, food security outcomes will significantly improve.</td>
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**BALE PASTORAL LIVELIHOOD ZONE (BPA), OROMIA REGION (Figure 7)**

**Current Situation:**

The prolonged Genna dry period negatively affected the pastoralist community and their livelihoods in BPA livelihood zone. Depletion of pasture and water shortages coupled with security induced movement restrictions of pastoralists to their usual grazing and water points created large concentrations of livestock within the livelihood zone that resulted in an overgrazing and serious shortages of livestock feed. As a result, milk and milk products as source of food and income drastically declined. The majority of households now market dependent for their staple foods using income from extra sales of livestock. However, most of the poor and very poor households, who have limited livestock holdings, have low income sources and this limited their access to staple foods for household consumption. Otherwise poor and very poor households, though it is irregular, rely on emergency food and cash assistance, PSNP transfers, and sales of firewood and charcoal. This has resulted in high levels of malnutrition for children, and lactating and pregnant mothers in the livelihood zone. As a result, the area is in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).
Rainfall: From March to April 2019, conditions were dry, hot, and windy. Normally the Genna rains start around mid-March and end in the first week of June in most pastoral areas of Bale. However, this year Genna rainfall started after a four-week delay in mid-April 2019 and were cumulatively below-average and had poor temporal distribution.

The area also experienced unusually high land surface temperatures that resulted in above average evaportranspiration, which dried water sources and suppressed the regeneration of pasture. Starting from the second dekad of May 2019, most of the BPA livelihood zones received improved rainfall.

Crop production: Genna seasonal rainfall is crucial for land preparation and planting of the long cycle crops like sorghum and maize in the agropastoral lowland woredas of BPA livelihood zone, particularly in Sewena, Rayitu, Lege Hida, Dawa Kachine, Harena-buluk, and lowland parts of Berbere and Gololcha Woredas. Normally, Genna/Belg accounts for 60 percent of annual agricultural production for the lowlands BPA livelihood zone pastoral areas. As Genna rains were very late and the amount and distribution was below-average, land preparation and planting of the long cycle crops were delayed. A total of 288,968 ha of land were planted in the Genna/Belg season as of 30 May 2019 with the total area planted reaching 68 percent in the zone. More than 60 percent of crop planting was done after mid-May 2019.

Water and Pasture Availability: Water and pasture availability were average to above average during the dry period between December 2018 and February 2019 due to an improved rainfall from the previous two seasons but exhausted by the end of February 2019. Since the current Genna season started very late and the amount of rains obtained was inadequate, pasture and water availability were very limited. Starting from mid May 2019, some of the woredas were receiving rainfall but it will take a few weeks for pasture to regenerate and water sources to replenish. Thus, livestock body conditions are emaciated, and their productivity and production declined significantly. In Bale zone, the worst affected Woredas include lowland parts of Gololcha, Goro, Berbere, and Ginir woredas and all parts of Medawolabu, Rayitu, Dewakechen, Sewina, Legehida, Dolomena, Dawaserer, Guradamole, and Haranabuluk pastoral woredas. Due to the critical problem of water for human consumption, all of the nine woredas in BPA livelihood zone were under water rationing until mid-May 2019.

Livestock Conditions and Productivity: As a result of shortages of pasture and water since the beginning of March 2019, livestock atypically migrated within their own woredas to the river valleys due to security related issues. This has negatively affected livestock body conditions and reproduction, and production and productivity are declining. Livestock conceived during the previous seasons are now either aborted or being born but dying soon after due to the female livestock’s inability to provide milk.

Markets and Trade: The main staple foods of households in Bale Pastoral Livelihood Zones (BPA) include maize, sorghum, wheat, teff, beans and sugar. Market prices of all staple foods are increasing compared to previous months and years. The price of maize in April 2019 in Sewena market was 1,300 Birr/100kg, 63 percent higher than March 2019 and 71 percent higher than the five-year average. Most price increases are due to low supply from below average production in the previous seasons because of conflict, fall armyworm infestations, increasing transport costs, inflation of the Ethiopian currency, and an increased number of market dependent households. Despite the drought, livestock prices are improving in the livelihood zone, though the price increase of staple food is much higher than that of livestock. The price of an average sized goat in Sewina market in April 2019 was 725 Birr per head which is 4 percent higher than March 2019 and 16 percent higher than the-five-year average. Since the price increase of staple foods is much higher than that of livestock prices, the terms of trade between livestock and staple food grains is unfavorable for pastoralists. As a result, the purchasing power of poor and very poor pastoral households is negatively affected.

Health: Between January and March 2019 a measles outbreak was a serious concern in all the 18 woredas of Bale zone and a large number of children and adults were affected. Mass treatment and a measles vaccination campaign was undertaken at the beginning of March 2019 and cases are now declining. However, some of the lowland woredas are still reporting new cases which may increase in the upcoming dry season along with the deteriorating nutrition situation.

Figure 8. April 2019 MUAC screening results for Bale zone of Oromia

Source: FEWS NET
Nutrition: A total of 9,819 severely malnourished children were treated in TFP sites from July 2018 to April 2019 in the zone. Out of this total number of admissions, about 59 percent of them were reported from BPA livelihood zone. In April 2019 SAM admissions increased by 13 percent compared to April 2018 with a similar 83 percent reporting rate. The results of the March 2019 MUAC screening in BPA livelihood zone for children under five ranges from proxy GAM of 11 percent in Dawa Kechine to proxy GAM of 31 percent in Sewena. The results for the Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs) MUAC screening show proxy MAM ranging from 35 percent in Meda Welabu to proxy MAM of 60 percent in Harena Buluke woreda. The results from the April 2019 MUAC screening children under five ranges from proxy GAM of 11 percent in Rayitu to proxy GAM of 31 percent in Guradamole woreda. Both the MUAC screening result and the TFP admission trend clearly indicate and alarming deterioration of the malnutrition situation among children and PLWs in the BPA livelihood zone.

Conflict Induced IDPs: A total of 134, 208 IDPs are found in the zone in 24 IDP sites, and within hosting communities. More than 44,112 IDPs were displaced from the six BPA woredas. In mid-May 2019 a total of 16,861 (38 percent) IDPs from Dawa Kachine, Rayitu and Mwelabu woredas were returned to their original places but were in need of short- and long-term support for their livelihoods.

Humanitarian support: The first and second rounds of the 2019 HRP emergency food aid distribution is underway for 222,139 beneficiaries in 14 target woredas which includes all nine BPA livelihood zone and 5 mid and highland woredas. The current approved emergency beneficiary number is far less than the originally figure proposed by the Zone during the recent pre-Meher multi-agency assessment. This contributed to delays in targeting and distributing emergency food. For instance, Sewena woreda identified 18,400 people for emergency food assistance during the November 2018 multi-agency Meher assessment but the allocated resource for the Woreda during the first-round of food assistance is only for 10,500 people (which is 57 percent of the assessment finding). Through mid-May 2019 four rounds of PSNP in kind and cash support had been distributed for about 252,239 PSNP beneficiaries. Cash payment are 180 ETB/person/month with a maximum of 5 people per household per month benefiting from PSNP support.

Delays, irregularity, incomplete relief packages, and transportation problems for delivering food aid to emergency and PSNP beneficiaries make delivery difficult. In some cases, if the amount of emergency food delivered to a woreda is not proportional to the number of needy people identified, some woreda offices delay the distribution until they receive the proportionate amount and type of assistance.

Assumptions

Rainfall: The below-average 2019 Genna season rainfall will be followed by the Bona dry season which will depleted pasture and water in a short period of time. This will affect livestock body conditions, production and productivity through October 2019. However, the situation is expected to improve from November 2019 until the end of the scenario period following the expected average Hagaya rains from October to December 2019.

Pasture and water availability and livestock conditions: Pasture and water availability is expected to show slight improvement following an improved mid-May 2019 Genna rainy season, however it is expected to deplete shortly after as the Bona season progress from July until the end of September.

Livestock body conditions will not show significant improvement, and production and productivity will continue to deteriorate through October 2019 but are expected to improve during the 2019 Hagaya season. Herd size is expected to decline due to below average conception rates and with expected abortions during the upcoming Bona dry season.

Crop Production: Normally, Genna/Belg accounts for 60 percent of annual agricultural production for agropastoral and pastoral areas of the BPA livelihood zone. However, the 2019 Genna crop harvest from short maturing crops of Genna production and Meher long cycle crops production is expected to be below-average due to delayed planting.

Market prices: Prices of major staple foods are expected to continue increasing during the June to September 2019 lean season as cereal supplies in markets continue to decline and a poor Belg harvest is expected during this period. However, slight seasonal decline or stability is likely from October to the end of the scenario due to the 2019 Meher harvest.

Livestock prices are also likely to decline during the July to September Bona dry season but are expected to improve from October to January 2020 following the anticipated average Hagaya rainy season.
Health: The ongoing measles outbreak is expected to continue to spread in most woredas of the zone particularly during the upcoming *Bona* season from June to September 2019. Water for human consumption is expected to become critical in most lowland woredas of the zone through the start of the 2019 *Hagaya* season which may also cause an outbreak of acute watery diarrhea.

Conflict: Currently there is no conflict ongoing in the livelihood zone, but some tensions exist around woredas neighboring Somali region due to competition for grazing land and water points, which may worsen.

Humanitarian assistance and PSNP support: PSNP resource transfers are likely to take place as planned until the end of June 2019 for chronically food insecure people in the livelihood zone. However, chronically food insecure people who do not receive direct support in the livelihood zone, will have food gaps from July through the end of the scenario period. Emergency food assistance for acutely food insecure people is planned, but funding and distribution plans are not yet decided.

Most likely food security outcomes

Significantly below-average *Genna/Belg* season harvests are expected around the end of August 2019. Poor and very poor households will continue to engage in livestock sales, and increased charcoal and firewood sales. During the *Bona* dry season from June to September, livestock body conditions will be deteriorated further, and milk production and productivity is not expected. There will likely not be PSNP resources from July 2019 to the end of the scenario period in January 2020 which will increase the food access gap for poor and very poor households. The malnutrition situation is expected to further deteriorate and TFP admissions are anticipated to increase from June to September. Poor households in the BPA livelihood zone will continue to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from June to September 2019.

During the October 2019 to January 2020 period, livestock body conditions are expected to marginally improve with the anticipated average *Hagaya* rainfall. This will improve livestock market prices. However, most poor and very poor households will not benefit much from this as their livestock holdings are very small and decreasing as livestock sales increase from June to September. From October to January 2020 livestock production and productivity are not expected to improve to expected levels as livestock body conditions were negatively affected during the *Bona* dry season. Humanitarian assistance is not expected to continue regularly for poor and very poor households. However, poor households are expected to continue being involved in wage labor opportunities that will become available in their areas following the expected average *Hagaya* season and will continue to sell charcoal and firewood, but this will not support poor and very poor household’s food needs. The May 2019 FEWS NET food security outcome analysis results in the BPA livelihood zone clearly indicate at least a 12 percent of annual survival deficit. The incidence of malnutrition is expected to seasonally decline from October 2019 to January 2020 following an improvement in livestock production and market value. Poor households will continue facing food consumption gaps and will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from October through the end of the scenario period in January 2020.

**Events that Might Change the Outlook**

Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

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North Wello Highland Belg Livelihood Zone (North Wello zone, Amhara Region) (Figure 9)

**Current Situation**

Poor households in the North Wello highland Belg livelihood zone are currently experiencing the peak of their lean season. Increases in staple food prices in the livelihood zone are leading to lower purchasing power for poor and very poor households. Although livestock prices are higher, terms of trade for livestock to staple cereals is low. Agricultural income is not adequately available this season. Humanitarian assistance is very irregular and unable to address the needs of all affected in the community. Thus, poor households currently face food consumption deficits and are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

**Rainfall:** Some parts of the NHB livelihood zone experienced a normal start to the 2019 Belg season in early January, while other not until the second week of February – a 4 weeks delay. Belg season rains continued with average to high intensity and widespread coverage from February through April 2019. The peak rains from late March through mid-April 2019 caused some pasture ground to retain excess water. According to ARC2 rainfall estimates, much of the zone received cumulative rains of 20 to 50 percent above normal. Gradual declines in rainfall amounts and distribution have been observed since mid-April 2019 and the rains ultimately ceased at the end of April 2019, and then resumed in the second dekad of May 2019.

**Crop production:** Planting during the 2019 Belg occurred with the start of the rains in mid-February four weeks delayed compared to normal. Some small aras still planted in March and April. Barley is the most important Belg crop planted in NHB, which accounts for over 90 to 95 percent of the total planted area. According to the zone DRM office, the entire planned area of land (32,000ha) was planted with Belg crops. Currently, the stage of growth varies depending on the planting time and soil type, with some crops in at the flowering to fruiting stages. However, the vast majority of late-planted crops are at the verge of passing from the vegetative to flowering stage. Despite satisfactory performance of planting and progress of growth, households raised concerns that planted crops suffered the combined challenges of water logging and shortage of moisture since rains ceased during a critical growth stage.

**Livestock Condition:** Following average and above-average rains, livestock body conditions are generally good as pasture and water availability are normal. Although pasture is limited, many households are dedicating their crop field to growing wild oats, which is locally known as ‘sinar’ or ‘gench.’ This wild oat is known in its tolerance for water logging in the Kiremt season from June to September and serve as animal feed. As households mainly rely on sales of their livestock for staple food purchases, herd sizes are gradually getting smaller. The results of the recent FEWS NET field assessment and outcome analysis exercise revealed that livestock holdings are 75 percent of the reference year (RY) in some parts of the livelihood zone.

**Market Conditions:** Sorghum is the most important staple in the north Wello highlands. Households in the highlands primarily consume cheaper red sorghum while those in the mid and lowlands rely on the better-quality white sorghum. Meager sorghum harvests during the 2018 Meher resulted in low market supply and increased demand which led to higher prices. In addition to the factors mentioned above, devaluation of Ethiopian currency, and PSNP and emergency cash relief contributed to the price increase. According to data from the Gubalafto woreda DRM, the price of white sorghum in April 2019 in Woldia market was 2157 Birr per 100kg which is double the price in April 2018 and the five-year average. Livestock prices also increased substantially due to inflation and improved livestock body conditions. In April 2019 an average sized goat sold at 1497 Birr which 26 percent higher than the reference year and 34 percent higher than the five-year average. However, terms of trade for a goat per kilogram of sorghum was 0.69 in April 2019, which is lower than 1.1 in April 2018 and the five-year average of 1.04.

**Health and Nutrition:** Measles and scabies outbreaks are ongoing and there are reports of acute watery diarrhea in neighboring Waghimra zone. There are no recent SMART surveys and OTP and SC data are not complete and up to date. In March 2019, the number of children under the age of five with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) was 1,215, representing a proxy MAM of 11 percent.

**Relief and PSNP:** PSNP and emergency food assistance are the two largest ongoing humanitarian programs. There were 125,332, (87,579 Belg and 39,753 Meher) emergency beneficiaries identified due to climatic shocks during the 2018 Belg and Meher seasonal assessments who are getting humanitarian support as part of the 2019 HRP. In addition, there are 113,925 registered PSNP beneficiaries. The Belg season beneficiaries, after they got their second-round distribution in January 2019, did not receive...
additional assistance. The needy population identified during the 2018 Meher for 2019 had not yet received their first-round assistance by mid-May 2019. PSNP cash payments are complete for January and February 2019 and preparation is completed for March-April 2019 payments. The targeted supplementary feeding program, which is managed by WFP has has faced challenges and only 3 months of distribution out of 6 for pregnant and lactating women and children under five have been undertaken.

Assumptions

Rainfall: In NHB livelihood zone, there is an increased likelihood of below normal rainfall during the Kiremt season from June to September 2019. A weak El Nino is the major driver of this assumption according to the forecast issued by the National Meteorological Agency (NMA) and Great Horn of Africa climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF).

Crop Production: NHB livelihood Zone gets a significant portion of its annual agricultural production in the Belg season and the 2019 Belg is likely to be near normal or slightly below average. Given the forecast that the upcoming Kiremt 2019 rains are likely to perform normally, the 2019 Meher from November to December 2019 will most likely be below average.

Livestock Conditions: The availability of feed and water is likely to be good during the scenario period. However, improved livestock body conditions and consumption deficits of households are expected to increase the sales of small ruminants and this in turn will affect herd sizes.

Market conditions: From June to September 2019 prices of major staple foods are expected to increase further as market supply will decrease during the lean season. Demand for staple foods is expected to increase from June through September 2019. No significant decline is likely from October 2019 to January 2020 as the 2019 Meher production is expected to be below average. Likewise, livestock prices will continue to rise following the improvement of pasture and water availability and an increased demand for meat. This will not improve the terms of trade for livestock to staple foods as prices of both are increasing.

Humanitarian Assistance: NDRMC woredas have plans to deliver in kind emergency assistance, but the first round is delayed and the pipeline for the second round and those after are contingent on the arrival of the international purchases. JEOP resources are available for at least 3 rounds of distribution as part of year 2019 HRP.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes (June 2019 to January 2020)

The 2019 Belg harvest is expected to arrive in July 2019. Poor households continue to heavily rely on market purchases with increased staple prices significantly suppressing food access. There are cash income generating opportunities as casual and cultivation and weeding labor is available. Therefore, with the available cash income and meager harvest poor households will have a short spell of food availability but not adequate to cover their non-food needs and will be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from June to September 2019.

With below normal Kiremt rainfall, Meher production is expected to be slightly below-average which will not allow for normal seasonal staple food price declines. Households will cover their food needs at the expense of essential livelihoods expenditures and will continue to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from October 2019 to January 2020.

Events that Might Change the Outlook

Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Impact on food security outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Amhara Region</td>
<td>Fully pledged and funded humanitarian assistance through January 2020</td>
<td>If humanitarian assistance is delivered immediately and fully addresses the required food needs, the areas in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through at least January 2020, food security outcomes will significantly improve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major river areas of Ethiopia</td>
<td>Above-average Kiremt rainfall</td>
<td>If there is above-average Kiremt rainfall, flooding will likely occur in flood-prone areas, mainly along the major rivers, such as rivers and along Lake Tana in Amhara Region. In addition, water logging in the highland areas could cause both crop and livelihood damage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MOST LIKELY FOOD SECURITY OUTCOMES AND AREAS RECEIVING SIGNIFICANT LEVELS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Each of these maps adheres to IPC v3.0 humanitarian assistance mapping protocols and flags where significant levels of humanitarian assistance are being/are expected to be provided. ☑ indicates that at least 25 percent of households receive on average 25–50 percent of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance (HFA). ☑ indicates that at least 25 percent of households receive on average over 50 percent of caloric needs through HFA. This mapping protocol differs from the (!) protocol used in the maps at the top of the report. The use of (!) indicates areas that would likely be at least one phase worse in the absence of current or programmed humanitarian assistance.

Projected food security outcomes, July to September 2019

Projected food security outcomes, October 2019 to January 2020

ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT
To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming eight months. Learn more here.