

FOOD ASSISTANCE OUTLOOK BRIEF

December 2011

PROJECTED FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR JUNE 2012

This section summarizes FEWS NET's most forward-looking analysis of projected external emergency food assistance needs, six months from now, in countries where FEWS NET has a staff presence. Overall needs at a national level are compared to typical needs at this time of year during the last five years and categorized as Above-average, Average, or Below-average/No need. A star (*) indicates new information this month. Projected lean season months that are highlighted in red indicate either an early start or an extension to the typical lean season. For more detail on these projections, please visit www.fews.net.

ABOVE AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN JUNE 2012

DIJIBOUTI: Pastoral areas in crisis, but some improvement expected

Food assistance needs are expected to remain above average in pastoral and urban areas given several consecutive poor seasons, a ban on charcoal production and firewood sales, and continued above-average staple food prices.

Projected Central/NW lean season: January - March

***ETHIOPIA: Above-average needs likely to persist**

The current Emergency in southern pastoral areas, delayed and below-average Belg 2011, localized deficits in eastern Meher areas, and high food prices are likely to result in above-average emergency assistance needs in June.

Projected lean season (marginal Meher): Apr/May - Sep

***GUATEMALA: Needs driven by damages caused by heavy rains**

Damage to subsistence crops in localized areas of the Highlands caused by Tropical Depression 12-E and subsequent heavy rains will drive above-average needs in June 2012. The lean season will start one to two months early in the Highlands as food stocks are depleted early.

Projected lean season (Highlands): Mar/Apr - Sep/Oct

***KENYA: Improvements expected to follow Oct-Dec season**

Average to above-average October-December rains have resulted in significant food security improvements, though the asset losses which have resulted from the recent drought will drive above-average needs in June. If April-June rains are average, as forecast, they would likely aid recovery.

Projected lean season (northern pastoral): Feb/Mar

MAURITANIA: Season ends poorly, cereal deficits likely

Poor pasture and agricultural production, combined with high prices for imported cereals, are likely to limit food access for poor households.

Projected agropastoral lean season: February - August

***SOMALIA: Famine expected to persist through the onset of green harvests**

Famine continues in parts of the South. Despite temporary improvement due to assistance and Deyr harvests in Jan/Feb, Emergency levels of acute food insecurity will persist through the peak of the lean season in May in cropping areas of southern Somalia.

Projected lean season (S. cropping): - May-June

SOUTH SUDAN: Insecurity, population movements, and high food prices

Food assistance needs will be above average given localized crop deficits, above-average demand due to the high returnee/IDP/refugee population, and the impact of ongoing trade restrictions from Sudan, particularly in border states.

Projected lean season (border areas): Mar/Apr - August

SUDAN: Very poor harvest and government-imposed limits on assistance

Below-average production, continued conflict, and the reduced value of the local currency are expected to drive above-average needs during 2012. During the coming consumption year, Emergency level food security outcomes (IPC Phase 4) are likely in Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

Projected lean season: March - August

AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN JUNE 2012

AFGHANISTAN: Below-average harvest confirmed by field assessment

High levels of emergency assistance and stable wheat flour prices during the lean season will moderate the impact of the poor 2011 harvest. Food assistance needs will decrease in May with the April/May 2012 harvest.

Projected lean season: Ongoing - April

***BURKINA FASO: Average assistance needs despite localized crop deficits**

National production prospects have been downgraded to "average" due to poor end-of-season rainfall and pests. Overall emergency food assistance needs will likely be near average, but localized, chronically food-insecure agropastoralist populations in the North/East may face above-average needs.

Projected pastoral lean season: March - June

***CHAD: Localized food assistance needs anticipated in the Sahel**

National cereal production was revised downward in November to slightly below average (excluding 2010/11 record harvests). Excellent tuber and cash-crop production will compensate for localized cereal deficits in the south. Some above-average needs may be concentrated in the southern transhumant zone, in the eastern rainfed cereals zone, and in Guera.

Projected pastoral lean season: March - June

HAITI: High staple food prices to reduce access

Average assistance needs are expected in the Northwest, due to poor local production, and parts of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, among other localized areas throughout the country. High food prices will continue to affect food access for market-dependent households.

Projected lean season: May - July

NIGER: Localized crop deficits, overall production and assistance needs average

In addition to above-average carryover stocks from 2010/11, national cereal, tuber, and legume balance sheets indicate national food self-sufficiency for 2011/12. Emergency assistance needs will be above average in Tillaberi region due to local production deficits.








Projected N. Tillaberi lean season: March - August



BELOW AVERAGE ASSISTANCE NEEDS OR NO ASSISTANCE NEEDS PROJECTED IN JUNE 2012

MALAWI (none), NIGERIA, RWANDA (none), UGANDA, ZAMBIA (none), MOZAMBIQUE (none), ZIMBABWE

FEWS NET REMOTE MONITORING

Beyond “presence” countries where it maintains offices and staff, FEWS NET also monitors key indicators related to food security in selected “non-presence” countries. The table below summarizes the current monitoring status of each non-presence country.

BURUNDI		Despite an average national harvest in Burundi, prices remain high in Kirundo and Cankuzo compared to the five-year average because of limited imports from Tanzania.
EL SALVADOR		Food security among household affected by Tropical Depression 12E is Stressed (IPC Phase 2).
HONDURAS		Food security in Honduras is stable, except in southern areas affected by heavy rains in October.
LIBERIA	-	The rice harvest is expected to be near average. By the lean season in May, household food insecurity in eastern Liberia among Ivorian refugees and host communities is likely.
MALI		The government estimates 2011/12 emergency assistance needs at 1.7 million people in the northern agropastoral zone and the flood- and some irrigation-dependant rice schemes, due to poor rainfall and relatively low river levels.
NICARAGUA		The <i>Primera</i> season in Nicaragua has been very good, the <i>Postrera</i> season is ongoing, and food security is stable. Coastal areas affected by heavy October rains are receiving adequate assistance.
SENEGAL	-	Food security conditions are stable throughout the country with the recent buffer rice harvest.
SIERRA LEONE	-	Food security is stable as this year’s rice production is expected to be good.
TAJIKISTAN		Poor local wheat harvests are expected to be mitigated by the good Kazakhstan harvest, lower wheat prices, and high levels of remittances.
TANZANIA	-	Food supplies in local markets are adequate, but prices remain higher than normal. Upcoming harvests are expected to put downward pressure on food prices.
YEMEN		Despite some progress with the ongoing political crisis, households still remain at risk of acute food insecurity due to violence and displacement.

-  Important anomalies in proximate causes of food insecurity have been observed and outcomes corresponding to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or higher on the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Scale are likely to occur now or in the future.
-  Important anomalies in proximate causes of food insecurity have been observed and outcomes corresponding to IPC Phase 2 Stressed on the the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Scale are likely to occur now or in the future.
- No anomalies of concern have been observed.

LEAN SEASONS IN FEWS NET MONITORED COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

