USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FEWS NET
FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS NETWORK

TANZANIA Food Security Outlook Update — June 2011

Ongoing harvests providing relief while some households suffer from high food prices

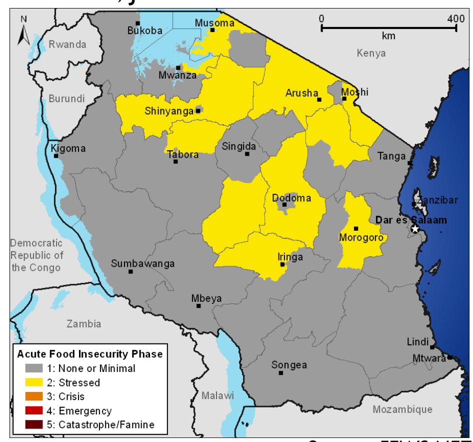
Key Messages

- While food security conditions at the national level have remained satisfactory with all markets across the country adequately supplied with staple food commodities, food prices have remained above the five year averages and market-dependent households continue to suffer from high food prices.

- The late start of the green harvest in some areas has provided relief to crop producers in both unimodal and bimodal areas. However, in central areas relief will be brief because of the anticipated below-normal crop production and early start of the lean season later in the year.

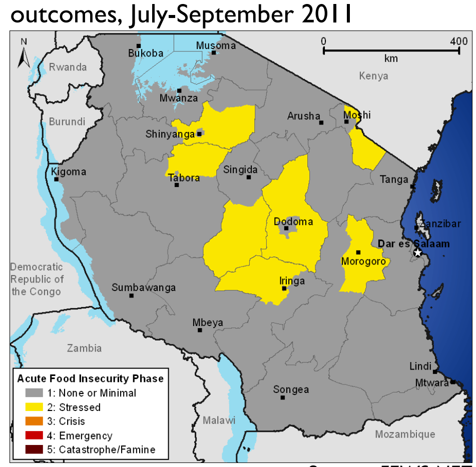
- *Masika* rains are currently performing well, facilitating pasture growth, water availability, and *masika* crop growth in bimodal areas.

Figure 1. Most likely food security outcomes, June 2011



Source: *FEWS NET*

Figure 1. Most likely food security outcomes, July-September 2011



Source: *FEWS NET*

For more information on the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Reference Table, please see: www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale

Updated food security outlook through September 2011

Food security conditions at the national level have remained satisfactory with all markets across the country adequately supplied with staple food commodities. The later start of *msimu* green harvesting of maize in the highlands of unimodal areas and the harvesting of non-cereal *masika* crops in bimodal areas, such as beans and potatoes, has started to improve the availability of food in many households, increasing dietary diversity at the household level.

The green harvests have yet to provide relief to market-dependent households given that food prices are still high because new supplies have not started entering the market. The relief is expected to start in early July when the new cereal (maize, rice, sorghum, and millet) harvests are expected to become available in markets. In the central areas of the Dodoma, Shinyanga, Singida, and the northern part of Iringa regions, food availability from *msimu* harvests will be brief. The harvests in these areas and are expected to end in August due to the poor rains experienced during the first half of *msimu* season (November through February) and the extended February dry spell which suppressed the growth of many planted cereal crops.

Although the March through May rainfall forecast had predicted a below-normal *masika* rainfall performance, rains are ongoing in the northern and northeastern bimodal areas. These rains have facilitated pasture growth and water availability for livestock leading to increased milk production and consumption in pastoral households. The rains have also facilitated the growth of *masika* crops in bimodal areas that are expected to increase food availability starting mid-June.

This report provides an update to the April 2011 FEWS NET Food Security Outlook report which estimated food security conditions in Tanzania through September 2011. The next Outlook report will be released in July and will cover the July through December 2011 period.

FEWS NET Tanzania
Dar es Salaam
Tel: +255 22 262 7476
tanzania@fews.net

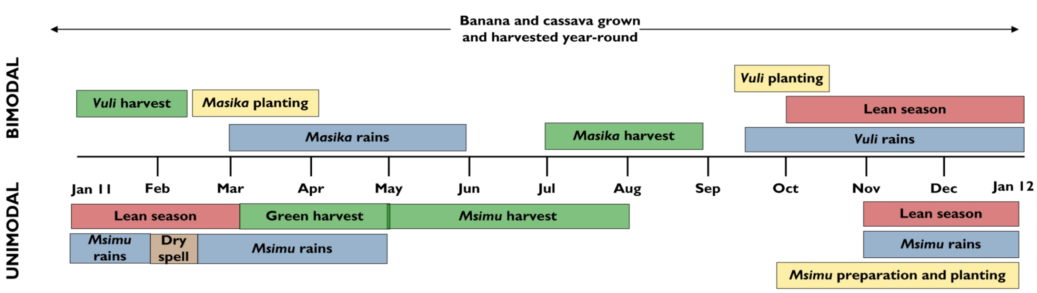
FEWS NET Washington
1717 H Street NW
Washington DC 20006
info@fews.net

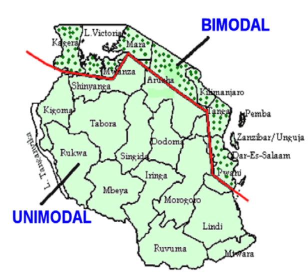
The number of households sourcing their food from markets is decreasing following increased food supplies at the household level. However, food prices have continued increasing and have remained above the five-year average and above last year's prices in all markets. This increase is most likely due to high fuel prices, the below-normal 2010/11 *vuli harvests* in bimodal areas, and active cross border trade to the neighboring countries of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and Kenya. The government has imposed an export ban in an effort to reduce outflows and is offloading food from the government Food Reserve Agency in order to regulate food market prices. However, so far these efforts have not yielded the anticipated results.

In the central areas of the country, crop production is anticipated to be below-normal and will coincide with the ongoing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity conditions in the Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, and Shinyanga regions which were caused by the below-normal 2009/10 production. The below-normal harvests will lead to an early depletion of household food stocks and cause an early start to the lean season in August (instead of October when it normally starts). Better-off households will be able to meet food needs until the next season due to large farm sizes and through animal sales. Middle-income households will have to sell more animals to supplement the below-normal harvests. Very poor and poor households will most likely experience food deficits starting in August and will likely require food assistance in the form of food aid due to low purchasing power that is the result of several consecutive poor seasons. The poor seasons that led to high market dependency in the central area of the country have exhausted small livestock holdings (i.e. chickens) and have increased household dependence on charcoal and firewood sales.

Although pasture and water resources have improved and have facilitated milk availability for pastoral households in northern and north eastern areas of the country, the very poor and poor pastoral households who lost their herds during the 2007 to 2009 extended dry period will likely continue to experience Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity conditions. These conditions will likely continue given that the income that households will get during this outlook period will most likely not be adequate to purchase enough food from markets following the ongoing increase in food prices. These households will continue to depend on remittances and food aid. However, better-off and middle-income pastoral households will be able to access adequate food needs for their households through the outlook period.

Seasonal calendar and critical events timeline





Source: *FEWS NET*