



Concept Note

IGAD Bi-annual Meeting on Food Security and Nutrition

13 - 14 September 2021

1. Background

The food security situation in the IGAD region remains extremely concerning. Based on the most recent report by the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG), an estimated 29 million people in seven of the eight IGAD Member States – Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda – faced Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC¹ Phase 3+) in July 2021.

The nutrition situation in the region also remains critical with a high burden of chronic and acute malnutrition across most of the countries.

Multiple shocks, notably, conflict, the socio-economic effects of COVID-19, macro-economic shocks, and climate-related hazards continue to aggravate food insecurity and malnutrition in the region.

Conflict in various parts of the region continues to threaten lives and aggravate vulnerabilities as livelihoods and basic services are disrupted, assets and infrastructure are destroyed and populations are displaced. In South Sudan, for instance, unprecedented levels of food insecurity have been recorded partly due to localised conflict. In Ethiopia, catastrophic levels of food insecurity have also been reported in the Tigray region due to the ongoing conflict.

Although the restrictive measures initially put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19 are gradually being lifted in parts of the region, their impacts on livelihoods continue. For example, households are still dealing with income losses from the erosion of their livelihoods, reflecting lingering disruptions from these measures². As a result, many vulnerable populations continue to face related pressure on their food security, especially in urban areas.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, some economies in the region, especially Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan were already facing macro-economic crises characterised by low foreign exchange reserves, inflation and currency depreciation. Consequently, the prices of both food and non-food items have increased, negatively impacting households' purchasing power. In Sudan for instance, the

¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of standardised tools used to classify the severity of food insecurity using a five-phase scale, that is, Minimal (IPC Phase 1), Stressed (IPC Phase 2), Crisis (IPC Phase 3), Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe or Famine (IPC Phase 5).

² [FSNWG. Food Security and Nutrition Update. March 2021](#)

national average retail price of sorghum in April 2021 was Sudanese Pounds (SDG) 98.5 per kg, compared to SDG. 42.1 in the same period last year³.

Generally, the March-May 2021 rainy season was characterised by poor and erratic rainfall from March to mid-April, with increased but uneven rainfall distribution between late April and early May, culminating with overall below average rainfall. The worst affected areas were largely eastern, coastal and northern Kenya, southern and parts of central and north-eastern Somalia, and north-eastern and central Ethiopia, which recorded a second consecutive dry season following a below average October-December 2020 season⁴. Pockets of drought, therefore, continue to be observed in these areas. As current forecasts indicate chances of La Niña-like conditions in late 2021, there is a likelihood of another dry season.

Furthermore, while progress has been made from 2020 to date in the management of desert locusts, the pest still remains a threat to crops and rangelands especially in northern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia.

2. About the proposed meeting

The IGAD Food Security, Nutrition and Resilience Analysis Hub (IFRAH) serves IGAD and Member States as a coordination hub linking the food security, nutrition and resilience situation in the region with response analysis and advocacy for action in a timely manner. As such, and in light of the concerning situation in the region, IFRAH is keen to provide a platform to promote coordination of food security and nutrition analyses for consensus building and harmonised approaches.

The IPC analytical approach, which is viewed as a unifying system of food security and nutrition analyses, plays an important role in strengthening food security and nutrition analyses in the IGAD Region. Besides IPC-led analyses, IGAD Member States and partners also conduct their own food security and nutrition assessments and analyses.

The Agricultural Climate Resilience Enhancement Initiative (ACREI) develops and implements adaptation strategies and measures to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists to climate variability and change in parts of the region. Part of this includes engaging in agriculture and climate dialogues, promoting coordination of food security and nutrition analyses, and building the capacity of relevant actors on attribution of food insecurity to climate change and variability.

Since 2020, IFRAH has been convening regional forums for Member States and partners to discuss their food security and nutrition analyses, share best practices and lessons learnt in conducting these analyses as well as identify practical and strategic response actions needed to address the food security and nutrition situation in the region. It is against this background that IFRAH, through the support of the Government of Sweden, and in collaboration with IPC-GSU for East and Central Africa and ACREI seeks to organise yet another similar event.

³ [WFP. Market Monitor – Sudan. April 2021](#)

⁴ [FEWS NET. East Africa Seasonal Monitor - the March-May seasonal rains were below average over most of the eastern Horn. June 2021](#)

- **Objective of the meeting**

The objective of the meeting is to bring together IGAD Member States and partners to jointly discuss their food security and nutrition analyses, in order to have a common understanding of the current situation in the region, and propose practical interventions for emergency, medium-term and long-term responses.

- **Expected output of the meeting**

- Key food security and nutrition information gaps filled
- Important guidelines to emergency, medium-term and long-term food security and nutrition related interventions provided
- Feedback on the IGAD Food Security, Nutrition and Resilience Information Framework received from Member States
- Proceedings report

- **Expected participants**

- IGAD
- IGAD Member States – Directors and Commissioners in charge of food security, IPC Technical Working Group Chairs, Food Security, DRM and other relevant sector focal points
- IPC Regional Coordination Team for Eastern and Central Africa
- ACREI country focal points
- Other regional partners – FEWS NET, FAO, IFRC, UNHCR, UN HABITAT, UNICEF, UNDP, UNOCHA, WFP
- NGOs
- Policy representatives
- Donors

- **Language**

English

- **Date and venue**

13 - 14 September 2021, Online via Zoom