

## FSNWG<sup>1</sup> Food Security and Nutrition Update

### Key messages

- Approximately 59 million people in 10 of the 13 countries covered by the FSNWG were highly food insecure (IPC<sup>2</sup> Phase 3+) and in need of urgent assistance in September 2021. Of these, about 29 million were from seven of the eight IGAD member states.
- An additional 83 million people were Stressed (IPC Phase 2); 35 million of them from the IGAD region. These people needed livelihood support to avoid sliding to worse phases of food insecurity.
- The nutrition situation in the region remained of concern as Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admissions increased, driven mainly by Ethiopia and South Sudan.
- The humanitarian situation in northern Ethiopia remained grave as available data and information pointed to critical levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition. Challenging and unpredictable humanitarian access is exacerbating the situation.
- There is an increased probability of below-average rains during the upcoming October-December 2021 rainy season, risking an increase in the severity of food insecurity across the region should a poor season occur. Of particular concern are south-eastern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, and southern Somalia, which have already experienced two consecutive seasons of poor rainfall.
- Despite growing needs, the humanitarian response in the region remains underfunded, pointing to the need for collective advocacy to increase awareness of the crises in the region and resource mobilisation to respond to the various needs.

### Food insecure population estimates, as of September 2021

Country	Stressed (IPC Phase 2)	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)	Emergency (IPC Phase 4)	Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5)	Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+)
Djibouti	389,000	167,000	27,000		194,000
Ethiopia <sup>3</sup>	5,998,068	4,550,479	2,434,519	401,313	7,386,311
Kenya	5,214,351	1,793,206	354,633		2,147,839
Somalia	3,382,700	1,901,750	308,870		2,210,620
South Sudan <sup>4</sup>	3,138,000	4,668,000	2,413,000	108,000	7,189,000
Sudan	16,525,736	7,072,838	2,696,783		9,769,621
Uganda	470,610	159,930	27,725		187,655
<b>IGAD Total</b>	<b>35,118,465</b>	<b>20,313,203</b>	<b>8,262,530</b>	<b>509,313</b>	<b>29,085,046</b>
Burundi	4,200,579	988,419	56,365		1,044,784
CAR	1,591,200	1,657,212	632,524		2,289,736
DRC	42,201,977	20,560,601	5,618,034		26,178,635
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,112,221</b>	<b>43,519,435</b>	<b>14,569,453</b>	<b>509,313</b>	<b>58,598,201</b>

Source: IPC Global Support Unit (GSU) for East and Central Africa

<sup>1</sup> The East and Central Africa Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) is a multi-stakeholder regional forum, chaired by IGAD and FAO, mandated to provide adequate and timely information of food security and nutrition to relevant stakeholders for improved decision making

<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> Includes findings from an IPC update on Tigray and neighbouring zones of Afar and Amhara, which have not been endorsed by the Government of Ethiopia

<sup>4</sup> Based on IPC Global Support Unit's consolidated findings from the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group and two external reviews (Famine Review and Quality Review), following a breakdown in technical consensus in the estimation of populations in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in six counties. According to the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, 3,144,000 people were in Stress (IPC Phase 2), 4,743,000 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), 2,467,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 31,000 in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5)

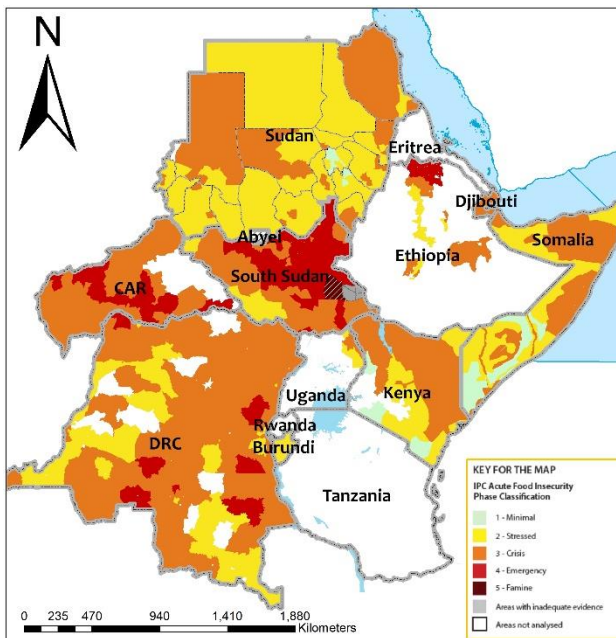
## Sector updates

### Food security

Multiple shocks, including conflict and insecurity, economic difficulties (macro-economic challenges and the long-running impacts of COVID-19), and consecutive seasons of below-average rains, continue to sustain large populations in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity across the region.

According to the IPC Global Support Unit (IPC-GSU) for East and Central Africa, about 59 million people in 10 of the 13 countries covered by FSNWG were highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3+) and in need of urgent food assistance in September 2021. Of these, an estimated 29 million were from seven of the eight IGAD member states – Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. The remaining nearly 30 million were from Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

### Regional food security situation, September 2021



Source: IPC GSU for East and Central Africa

An additional 83 million people were Stressed (IPC Phase 2); 35 million of them from the IGAD region.

In the absence of livelihood support, they risk sliding into worse off levels of acute food insecurity in the event of a shock or stressor.

### Country updates

In Kenya, an estimated 2.1 million people in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity, representing a 34% increase compared to the same period in 2020. Of these, 355,000 were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Of particular concern are Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir counties which had the highest proportions of populations in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity.

Erratic rainfall and high staple food prices were the main drivers of food insecurity in the country.

The March-May 2021 rains were largely below average and poorly distributed culminating in below-average crop production. In this regard, the most recent IPC analysis for Kenya reported that maize production in the marginal agricultural zones declined by about 40-70%<sup>5</sup>, leading to an earlier than normal depletion of households' food stocks and increased market dependence. Notably, the March-May 2021 rainfall season formed the second consecutive season of drought in most of the ASAL counties, following a below-average October-December 2020 rainfall season as well.

Due to the two below-average rainy seasons, poor pasture and browse conditions were observed, leading to a deterioration in livestock body conditions and in turn, a decline in livestock production and prices.

In addition, in the pastoral areas, staple food prices were mostly above average. Coupled with declining livestock prices, this has driven unfavourable livestock-to-cereal terms of trade, negatively impacting households' purchasing power.

Between November 2021 to January 2022, the severity of food insecurity in Kenya is expected to

<sup>5</sup> [IPC. Kenya-ASAL-IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Analysis July 2021-January 2022. September 2021](#)

worsen largely due to the forecast below-average October-December 2021 rains. During this period, an estimated 2.4 million people are expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity.

In Somalia, an estimated 2.2 million people faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity, including 308,870 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

This is following the combined effects of poor and erratic rainfall, floods, and conflict.

The late onset and erratic distribution of the Gu<sup>6</sup> rains - estimated to have been 50-80% of the long-term average<sup>7</sup> - culminated in below-average crop production. For instance, in southern Somalia, which was one of the most affected areas, cereal production was estimated at 48,900 tons (60% below the 1995-2020 average)<sup>8</sup>.

Conversely, in the riverine livelihood zones along the Shabelle and Juba rivers, seasonal floods inundated farmlands and destroyed crops, leading to significant crop losses.

Exacerbating the situation are armed conflict and political tensions which have continued to cause population displacement and disrupt livelihoods.

Of particular concern were the estimated 2.9 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the country who are highly dependent on humanitarian food assistance due to limited livelihood options and assets.

Between October-December 2021, the food security situation in the country is projected to further deteriorate. This is attributed to multiple risk factors including the forecast below-average Deyr<sup>9</sup> rains and continued conflict. During this period, an estimated 3.5 million are expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity, in the absence of sustained humanitarian assistance.

## Nutrition

The nutrition situation in the region remained concerning as Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admissions increased, driven mainly by Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Poor feeding practices, inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, and high morbidity, compounded by food insecurity and conflict/insecurity, were among the leading causes of malnutrition.

## Country updates

In Ethiopia, excluding Amhara and Tigray, the latest available data showed that 35,568 children had been admitted for SAM treatment in July 2021, representing a 12.2% increase compared to the same period last year.

Particularly concerning is northern Ethiopia, where the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. Between January 2021 and the time of reporting, a total of 21,365 children had been admitted for SAM treatment in Tigray. UNICEF estimates that more than 100,000 children in the region could suffer life-threatening SAM through July 2022<sup>10</sup>.

Similarly, in Amhara, a total of 19,975 children had been admitted for SAM treatment. Despite some improvement, humanitarian access remained challenging and unpredictable. As such, the nutrition situation is feared to be worse off in inaccessible areas such as Wag Herma and North Wollo.

Extremely high rates of acute malnutrition were also reported in some IDP sites in Afar, following a rapid nutrition assessment conducted earlier in September 2021.

In Kenya, malnutrition levels remained unacceptably high, particularly in the ASALs. This is as an estimated 652,960 children under the age of five faced acute malnutrition (AMN), including 142,809 who needed treatment for SAM.

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<sup>6</sup> Main rains season in Somalia between mid-March and June

<sup>7</sup> [FSNAU and FEWS NET. 2021 Post Gu Technical Release. September 2021](#)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Short rains season in Somalia between mid-September and December

<sup>10</sup> [UNICEF. Press Release - Tenfold Increase in the Number of Children Requiring Treatment for Acute Malnutrition in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia. July 2021](#)

Of particular concern were Tiaty in Baringo, Garissa, Mandera, North Horr and Laisamins in Marsabit, Samburu, Turkana and Wajir counties, where the nutrition situation was Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4). Poor infant and young child feeding practices, food insecurity (including reduced milk availability), stock out of essential supplies for management of acute malnutrition and high morbidity were the major drivers.

The projected increase in the severity of food insecurity in the country risks a further deterioration in the nutrition situation in the coming months.

In Somalia, approximately 1.2 million children under the age of five years will likely face acute malnutrition between August 2021 and July 2022, including 213 400 who are likely to be severely malnourished, according to the most recent IPC acute malnutrition analysis.

High morbidity, low immunization, low Vitamin A supplementation and food insecurity (including reduced access to milk) were among the leading causes of malnutrition in the country.

Hot spot areas included riverine Gedo, Juba and Shabelle, IDP hosting Baidoa, urban Beletweyne, parts of Bossaso, urban Dolow, parts of Gaalkayo and Mogadishu, rural Hiraan, agro-pastoral zones of Bay, Hawd pastoral, and pastoral zones of Bakool and Juba, which had or were expected to have a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence indicative of Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4)<sup>11</sup>.

### Climate

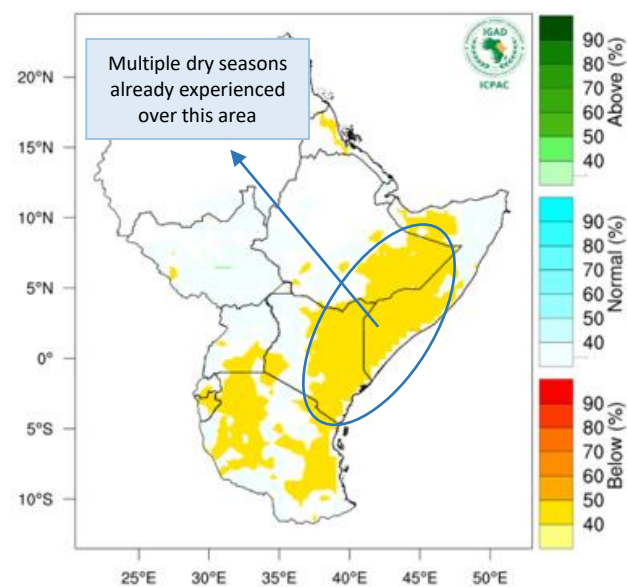
The October-December rainfall season is an important one for southern Ethiopia, Kenya, southern and central Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, and northern Tanzania.

According to the October-December 2021 rainfall forecast by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), drier than usual conditions are expected over eastern Kenya, north-western and southern areas of Somalia, parts of southern Uganda, Burundi and much of Tanzania.

Average conditions, meanwhile, are expected over southern and western Ethiopia, western Kenya, north-eastern Somalia, South Sudan, much of Uganda, and a few areas in Tanzania.

Should this forecast materialise, the impact on food security across the region would be significant. Of greatest concern are south-eastern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, and southern Somalia, which have already experienced consecutive seasons of poor rainfall.

### Rainfall probabilistic forecast for October-December 2021



Source: ICPAC

### Humanitarian snapshot

Despite a steady increase in humanitarian funding across the region since the beginning of the year, the humanitarian response in the region remains underfunded.

Countries also received funding outside the HRP – Ethiopia (USD. 583 million under the Northern Response Plan), Somalia (USD. 354.4 million), South Sudan (USD. 163.8 million) and Sudan (USD. 150.6 million).

<sup>11</sup> [FSNAU and FEWS NET. 2021 Post Gu Technical Release. September 2021](#)

### Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) funding by country (million USD), as of 30 September 2021

Country	Required	Funded	Funded (%)
Ethiopia <sup>12</sup>	1,500	536	35.7%
Somalia	1,090	536.6	49.1%
South Sudan	1,680	1,020	60.6%
Sudan	1,940	571	29.4%

Source: OCHA

In view of drought conditions that have caused a rapid increase in humanitarian needs in the ASALs of Kenya and have led to the declaration of a national disaster by the government, the country launched a Drought Flash Appeal on 30 September 2021. With a funding requirement of USD.139.5 million, the appeal will target 1.27 million people out of the 2.4 million expected to need humanitarian assistance between October and December 2021.

More information can be found [here](#).

### Recommendations

The FSNWG recommends:

- Coordinated and multi-sectoral life-saving assistance, especially in areas with populations categorised in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity, including Ethiopia and South Sudan, where there are populations classified in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).
- Scale-up of livelihood programmes for recovery in emergency contexts, improved self-reliance, resilience building and social protection for households facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or worse outcomes.
- Sustained nutrition interventions to treat and prevent acute malnutrition. Nutrition services should also be expanded to areas with low coverage.

- Significant scale-up of contributions to existing and future HRPs, and the Kenya Drought Flash Appeal. Contingency planning is also needed in view of the likely deterioration in the food security situation in the region.
- Close monitoring of forecast updates and seasonal progress of the October-December 2021 rainfall season.

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<sup>12</sup> HRP is yet to be approved by the government