

## FSN WG<sup>1</sup> Food Security and Nutrition Update

### Key messages

- Drought conditions continued to worsen in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya and across most of Somalia following the reality of a fourth consecutive season of below-average rains (the 2022 March-May (MAM) rainfall season).
- According to the IPC Global Support Unit (IPC-GSU) for East and Central Africa, an estimated 53 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 humanitarian assistance in May 2022. Of these, about 24 million were from six of the eight IGAD member states.
- The number of children requiring treatment for acute malnutrition continued to increase sharply across the region, especially in the drought and conflict-affected areas. Compared to similar periods in the past few years, malnutrition cases were up significantly in most countries.
- Food prices remained elevated across most parts of the region due to the compounding impact of the ongoing drought and macroeconomic challenges, including a steep rise in global food prices, coupled with the unfavourable effects of the Ukraine crisis on the supply and prices of fuel and food commodities such as wheat and cooking oil.
- Wetter than usual conditions are forecast over most parts of the northern Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) region during the 2022 June-September (JJAS) rainfall season, while drier than normal conditions are forecast in localised areas in south-eastern Ethiopia, over coastal Kenya, and in the southern coast of Somalia.
- Early forecasts for the 2022 October-December (OND) rainfall season indicate drier than normal conditions over the equatorial and southern parts of the region. If this materialises, it will extend the already severe drought in the region.

### Food insecure population estimates as of May 2022

Country	Stressed (IPC Phase 2)	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)	Emergency (IPC Phase 4)	Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5)	Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+)
Djibouti	422,586	127,073	4,923		131,996
Kenya	5,242,796	2,728,313	757,796		3,486,109
Somalia	3,896,440	4,220,310	1,740,170	81,100	6,041,580
South Sudan	2,901,000	4,765,000	2,892,000	87,000	7,744,000
Sudan	15,007,696	4,631,480	1,324,529		5,956,009
Uganda	470,610	159,930	27,725		187,655
<b>IGAD Total</b>	<b>27,941,128</b>	<b>16,632,106</b>	<b>6,747,143</b>	<b>168,100</b>	<b>23,547,349</b>
Burundi <sup>3</sup>	3,938,184	1,059,233	0		1,059,233
CAR	1,511,692	1,570,882	638,021		2,208,903
DRC	47,830,924	20,463,608	5,415,900		25,879,508
Tanzania	929,126	496,785	94,935		591,720
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,151,054</b>	<b>40,222,614</b>	<b>12,895,999</b>	<b>168,100</b>	<b>53,286,713</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 (FSN WG) 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> New analysis has been finalised and will be made available soon

## Sector updates

### Food security

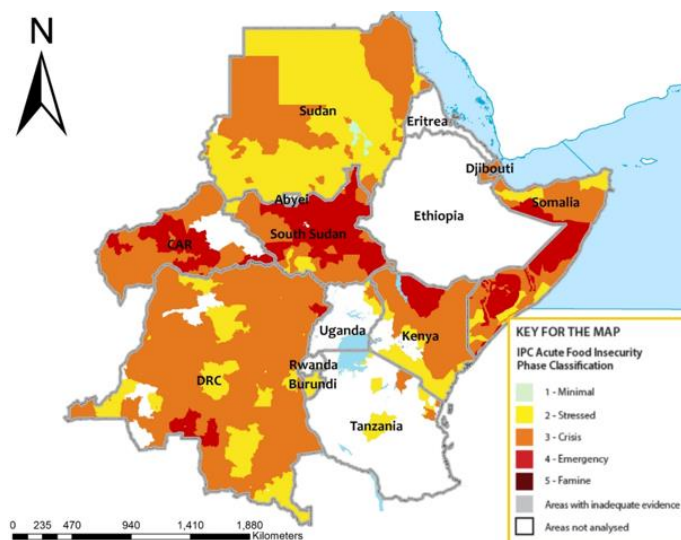
The food security situation in the region remains a major source of concern as millions of people face high levels of acute food insecurity.

According to the IPC-GSU for East and Central Africa, an estimated 53 million people in 10 of the 13 countries covered by FSNWG were highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3+) and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in May 2022. Of these, about 24 million were from six of the eight IGAD member states – Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The other 29 million were from Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Tanzania.

An additional nearly 82 million people were Stressed (IPC Phase 2), about 28 million of them from the IGAD region, and in need of livelihood support.

While no recent IPC analysis has been conducted in Ethiopia, according to the mid-2021 Review of the Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan, an estimated 18 million people in the country were highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3+) in 2021<sup>4</sup>. It is likely that this number has since further increased.

### Regional food security situation as of May 2022



Source: IPC-GSU for East and Central Africa

Multi-season drought, conflict and insecurity, and macro-economic challenges, including market implications of the Ukraine crisis, were among the key drivers of acute food insecurity in the region.

### Areas of highest concern

In northern Ethiopia, particularly in the Tigray region, catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity persist. FEWS NET estimates that at a minimum, Tigray is in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Similar levels of acute food insecurity are also projected in neighbouring affected areas of Afar and Amhara<sup>5</sup>. While in March 2022 the Government of Ethiopia declared an indefinite humanitarian truce to allow delivery of humanitarian assistance into the region, the situation remains fragile. This is as livelihoods remain disrupted, millions of people displaced, and access to markets and essential services limited. Access to populations in hard-to-reach areas also continues to be a challenge for humanitarian agencies.

It is likely that the food security situation will further deteriorate during the June-September 2022 lean season unless at-scale humanitarian assistance is provided.

In the southern and south-eastern part of the country, food security is also rapidly worsening following a multi-season drought, characterised by failed crops, poor pasture and rangeland conditions, and severe water shortages. Resultantly, more than a million livestock have died, hundreds of thousands of people displaced, and livelihoods devastated. Furthermore, an estimated 7.2 million people have been rendered highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3+)<sup>6</sup>.

Looking at the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya, drought conditions have continued to intensify following three consecutive seasons of below average rains and the reality of a poor 2022 March-May (MAM) rainfall season. At the peak of the season, in April, cumulative rainfall amounts in some of the drought-affected counties such as Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera and Wajir were 50-70% of the long-term average<sup>7</sup>. Pasture conditions are, therefore, poor and water sources for both household use and livestock have become increasingly scarce. Consequently, livestock body conditions have continued to deteriorate,

<sup>4</sup> OCHA. Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan - Mid Year Review. October 2021

<sup>5</sup> FEWS NET. East Africa Food Security Outlook - Conflict, weather and economic shocks likely to drive alarming increase in humanitarian needs. March 2022

<sup>6</sup> WFP. Ethiopia Drought Response Situation Report No.2 (January-April 2022). April 2022

<sup>7</sup> IPC. Kenya Projection Update March-June 2022. June 2022

and widespread livestock mortalities have also been recorded.

In addition, staple food prices continue to soar due to low crop production and increased demand at the same time, limiting household purchasing power. For instance, in April 2022, maize prices were projected to be 12-46% above the recent five-year average in reference urban markets<sup>8</sup>. Exacerbating this is a steep rise in global food prices, compounded by unfavourable effects of the Ukraine crisis on the prices of fuel and food commodities such as wheat and cooking oil.

At the time of reporting, acute food insecurity in the ASALs of Kenya had reached a record high, with 3.5 million people estimated to be highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3+). Of these, around 758,000 were estimated to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Similarly, worsening drought conditions across Somalia have caused widespread loss of livestock and devastated the livelihoods of many, more so considering that pastoralism and agro-pastoralism are the predominant sources of livelihood in the country. It is estimated that affected households have so far lost up to 30% of their livestock holdings<sup>9</sup>.

Significant crop failures have also been recorded, putting an upward pressure on staple food prices. In some reference markets, water and staple food prices have more than doubled rivalling prices recorded during the 2010|2011 and 2016|2017 droughts<sup>10</sup>. Putting further upward pressure on food prices is global supply and price shocks, including reduced supplies and high food and fuel prices linked to the Ukraine crisis, thereby making it increasingly difficult for households to purchase food, despite having limited to no food stocks.

As a result, many households' coping capacity has been eroded and now face significant food consumption gaps. At the time of reporting, an estimated 6 million people in the country were facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+). Of these, about 1.8 million were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), and 81,000 in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in parts of Bakool, Bay, Galgaduud, Hiraan, Mudug and Nugaal regions.

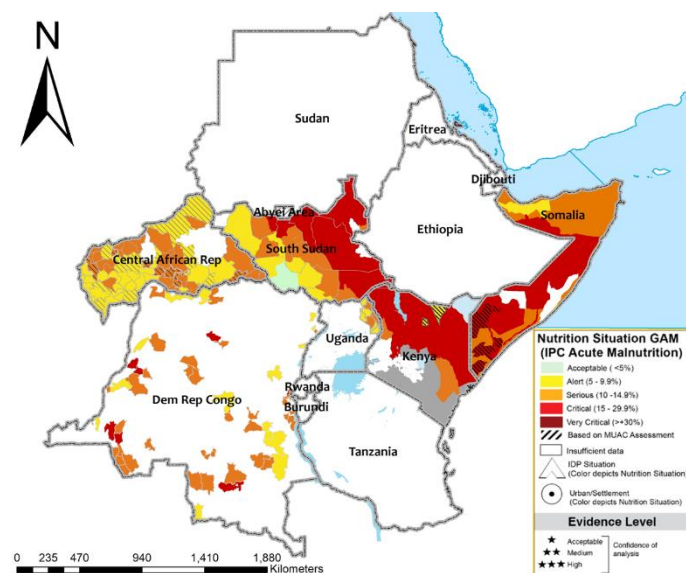
Furthermore, a Risk of Famine is projected in localised areas in a worst case scenario where food prices continue to rise sharply, livestock and crop production are further depressed, and humanitarian assistance is not scaled up.

Meanwhile South Sudan is experiencing one of the worst food security emergencies globally with about 7.7 million people (about 63% of the total population) facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+). This includes 87,000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Fangak, Canal Pigi and Ayod counties in Jonglei state, Pibor in Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Cueibet and Rumbek North counties in Lakes state, and Leer and Mayendit counties Unity state.

Prolonged flooding (spanning over three years) and elevated conflict and insecurity have caused loss of livelihoods, population displacement and erosion of households' coping capacity, leaving affected populations highly vulnerable to acute food insecurity. Aggravating the situation now is the ongoing lean season (May-August 2022).

## Nutrition

### Regional acute malnutrition situation as of May 2022



Source: IPC-GSU for East and Central Africa

<sup>8</sup> FEWS NET. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) Acute Food Insecurity in Northern and North-eastern Kenya. May 2022

<sup>9</sup> FEWS NET. East Africa Food Security Outlook - Conflict, weather and economic shocks likely to drive alarming increase in humanitarian needs. March 2022

<sup>10</sup> FEWS NET. Somalia Key Message Update - Soaring food prices and delayed increase in humanitarian needs amid a Risk of Famine. March 2022

The nutrition situation in the region continues to deteriorate with severe acute malnutrition admissions in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, increasing by 27-68% during the first quarter of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021.

Of particular concern are conflict and drought-affected areas in the region, as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia and Somalia.

### Country updates

In Ethiopia, an estimated 147,015 children under the age of five years were admitted with SAM between January and March 2022, representing a 27.1% increase compared to the same period in 2021.

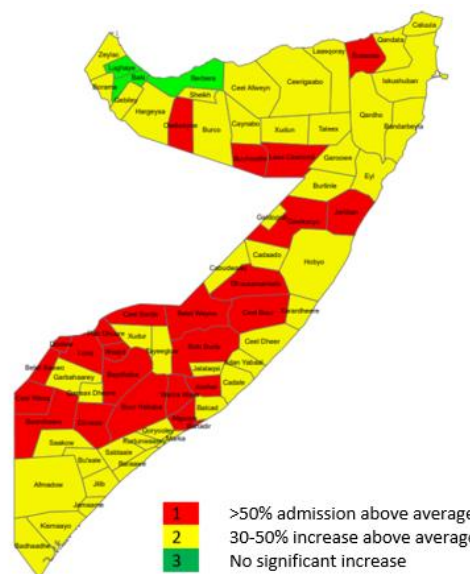
Particularly concerning are the conflict and drought-affected regions. This is as mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening conducted in Afar, Tigray, Oromia and Somali regions between August 2021 and March 2022 reveal proxy global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence of more than 15% (the international Emergency threshold) in more than three-quarters of the targeted woredas. In Afar for instance, while conflict has reportedly subsided, an increase in SAM admissions and medical complications such as diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections has been recorded in IDP camps.

In Kenya, the nutrition situation in the ASALs continues to rapidly deteriorate, largely due to high levels of acute food insecurity. Of highest concern is Mandera county where a recent SMART survey revealed GAM prevalence of 34.7%, indicative of an Extremely Critical Situation (IPC AMN Phase 5)<sup>11</sup>. Mandera South had considerably higher GAM prevalence, at 41.9%.

In Somalia, significant increases in SAM admissions have been recorded in Bakool, Bay and Galmudug regions. High levels of acute malnutrition were also noted among IDP arrivals especially in Baidoa, Dollow and Mogadishu.

Generally, compared to the last few years, acute malnutrition has been on an increasing trend across most of the country.

### Nutrition hotspots in Somalia



Source: UNICEF

Meanwhile in South Sudan, 59 out of 79 counties are projected to be in Serious Situation (IPC AMN Phase 3). Out of these, 39 counties are in Critical Situation (IPC AMN Phase 4). Looking at the month-on-month admission trends, January, February, March and April 2022 had the highest SAM admissions compared to similar months in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Cumulatively, between January and April 2022, a total of 92,319 (50,217 females and 42,102 males) children under the age of five were admitted for SAM treatment, representing a 34% increase compared to the same period in 2020 and a 28% increase compared to the same period in 2021. The highest admissions were reported in Jonglei state (24.5%), Unity state (15.8%) and Northern Bahr el Ghazal state (11.9%).

Considering the proneness of various parts of the country to flooding, there are concerns of increased cases of cholera particularly in Bentiu in Unity state, especially with the start of the main rainfall season (June-September 2022).

### Climate

According to the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), the 2022 MAM rainfall

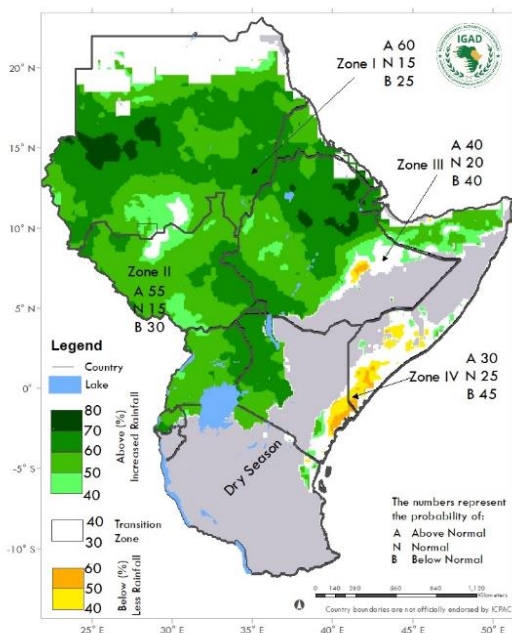
<sup>11</sup> [IPC. Kenya Projection Update March-June 2022. June 2022](#)



season was largely drier than normal over most parts of the region, except in parts of western Ethiopia, eastern and north-western South Sudan, north-western and southern Tanzania, and Rwanda where average to above average rainfall was recorded.

Looking at the 2022 June-September (JJAS) rainfall forecast by ICPAC, wetter than usual conditions are expected over most parts of the northern Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) region. On the other hand, drier than normal conditions are forecast in localised areas in south-eastern Ethiopia, over coastal Kenya, and in the southern coast of Somalia.

### 2022 JJAS rainfall outlook

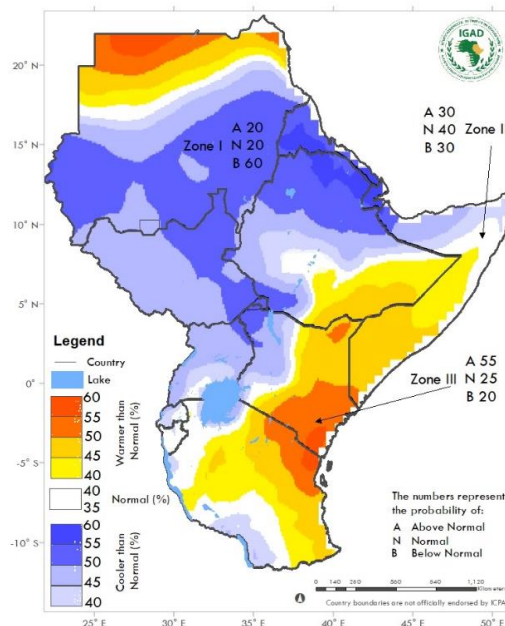


Source: ICPAC

It is, however, worth noting that most of the drought-affected areas in the region do not benefit from the JJAS season, and as such will likely continue to record increased levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition.

In respect to temperature, cooler than average temperatures are expected over much of Djibouti, Eritrea, western and northern Ethiopia, western Kenya, northern Somalia, South Sudan, much of Sudan, and Uganda. Meanwhile, warmer than average temperatures are forecast over eastern parts of the region and northern areas of Sudan.

### 2022 JJAS temperature outlook



Source: ICPAC

Looking at early forecast for the 2022 October-December (OND) rainfall season, drier than normal conditions are projected over the equatorial and southern parts of the region. Even though this forecast should be interpreted with caution given the long lead time, if it materialises, it will put the drought-affected areas in the region into a drought of an unprecedented length.

### Humanitarian response

While the delivery of life-saving and life-sustaining assistance has scaled up significantly in recent months, the level of needs far outweighs the current response as available resources fail to match funding requirements.

#### HRP<sup>12</sup> funding by country (million USD) as May 2022

Country	Required	Funded	Funded (%)
Somalia	1,460	245.9	16.9%
South Sudan	1,700	403.1	23.7%
Sudan	1,940	289.8	15%

Source: OCHA

<sup>12</sup> Humanitarian Response Plan

Countries also received funding outside the HRP – Ethiopia (USD. 248.1 million), Somalia (USD. 140.5 million), South Sudan (USD. 57.4 million) and Sudan (USD. 18.5 million).

Kenya's Flash Appeal has been revised, increasing funding requirements by USD. 180 million (in addition to the initial USD. 139.5 million) and extending the time-frame of the Appeal to September 2022. As of 27 April 2022 USD. 26.4 million had been received through the revised appeal.

## Recommendations

The FSNWG recommends:

- Immediate, coordinated and multi-sectoral life-saving assistance, especially in areas with a high number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).
- Significant scale-up of contributions to country HRPs, as well as to other existing and future funding appeals.
- Rapid scale-up of nutrition interventions to treat malnutrition cases and prevent a deterioration in the overall nutrition situation. Additionally, mass screening exercises should be prioritised and nutrition services expanded to areas with low coverage.
- Scale-up of livelihood programmes to safeguard livelihoods, and support recovery and return to self-reliance for households facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or worse outcomes.
- Close monitoring of areas where the food security situation is already dire and at risk of further deterioration. This includes areas expected to be at risk of Famine in Somalia and areas with GAM rates exceeding 30%.
- Refraining from export restrictions and| or bans to cushion against supply chain disruptions from the Ukraine-Russia crisis.
- Close monitoring of the upcoming 2022 October-December (OND) rainfall season given that early forecasts point to below-average rains.

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