

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

### Key messages

- Drought conditions continue to worsen in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya, and most of Somalia following four consecutive seasons of below-average rains.
- Agro-pastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts, and displaced populations in Baidoa town of Bay region in Somalia, are projected to face Famine (IPC<sup>2</sup> Phase 5) between October and December 2022 in the absence of significant, urgent and multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance.
- Hawd pastoral of Central and Hiraan, Addun pastoral of Northeast and Central, Coastal Deeh pastoral of Central and Sorghum high potential agro-pastoral of Middle Shabelle, and internally displaced persons (IDP) settlements in Dollow, Galkacyo, Garowe and Mogadishu in Somalia also face an increased Risk of Famine through at least the end of 2022.
- According to the IPC Global Support Unit (IPC-GSU) for East and Central Africa, at least 57 million people in 10 out of the 13 countries covered by the FSNWG were highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3+) and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in August 2022. Of these, about 28 million were from six<sup>3</sup> of the eight IGAD member states.
- The forecast for the 2022 October-December (OND) rainfall season indicates a high probability of below-average rains over the drought-affected parts of the region, increasing the risk of an unprecedented fifth consecutive season of below-average rainfall over these areas.
- High prevalences of acute malnutrition continue to be recorded across the region, especially in the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, and among displaced populations. As of August 2022, an estimated 10.1 million under-five children were acutely malnourished across the eight IGAD member states, 2.6 million of them severely so.
- The number of displaced populations in the region has been on an increasing trend, largely driven by conflict and climatic shocks. As of 31 July 2022, the region hosted an estimated 12.83 million IDPs and 4.97 million refugees and asylum seekers.

### Food insecure population estimates, as of August 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	14,767	179,778	12,390		192,168
Kenya	5,499,000	2,801,000	785,155		3,586,155
Somalia	2,898,000	3,004,000	1,148,000	121,040	4,273,040
South Sudan	2,901,000	4,765,000	2,892,000	87,000	7,744,000
Sudan	17,580,330	8,549,970	3,103,098		11,653,068
Uganda	499,840	276,290	38,385		314,675
<b>IGAD Total</b>	<b>29,392,937</b>	<b>19,576,038</b>	<b>7,979,028</b>	<b>208,040</b>	<b>27,763,106</b>
Burundi	2,762,798	645,667	0		645,667
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>82,427,477</b>	<b>42,752,980</b>	<b>14,127,884</b>	<b>208,040</b>	<b>57,088,904</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> Excluding Eritrea and Ethiopia

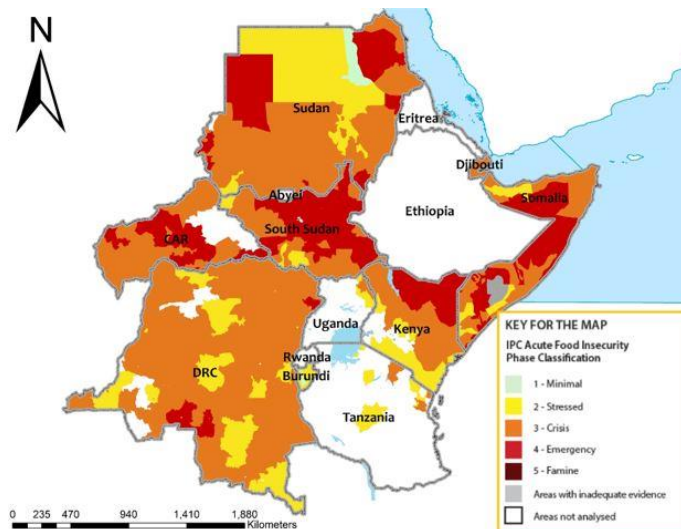
## Sector updates

### Food security

The food security situation in the region continues to rapidly worsen, largely driven by an unparalleled four-season drought in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya, and most of Somalia. Exacerbating the situation is conflict and insecurity, and macroeconomic challenges, including the market impacts of the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

According to the IPC-GSU for East and Central Africa, at least 57 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 August 2022. Of these, about 28 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.

### Regional food security situation, as of August 2022



Source: IPC-GSU for East and Central Africa

Over 82 million additional people were Stressed (IPC Phase 2), about 29 million of them from the IGAD region, and in need of livelihood support.

Of particular concern are Baidoa and Burhakaba districts of Bay region in Somalia where Famine (IPC Phase 5) is expected between October and December 2022. Moreover, six livelihood zones and four internally displaced persons (IDP) settlements in the country face

an increased Risk of Famine through at least the end of 2022.

As forecasts for the 2022 October-December (OND) rainfall season indicate high chances of drier than average conditions, the drought-affected parts in the region are bracing for a record fifth consecutive season of below-average rains, which is expected to worsen an already precarious food security situation.

### Country updates

While no recent IPC analysis has been conducted in Ethiopia, an estimated 20.4 million people in the country were highly food insecure and in need of urgent food assistance, according to the latest Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)<sup>4</sup>. This follows the combined effects of conflict, severe drought and macroeconomic challenges, including inflation and the continued depreciation of the Ethiopian Birr<sup>5</sup>.

In the northern part of the country, the resumption of conflict on 24 August 2022, after an almost five-month truce, risks further population displacement, disruption of livelihoods and destruction of key infrastructure. It also risks disrupting efforts to get humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

Meanwhile, in the southern and south-eastern-parts of the country, the ongoing severe drought has rendered some households destitute, forcing them to move to IDP settlements and urban areas, as well as to countries such as Kenya in search of humanitarian assistance and wage labour opportunities.

In the ASALs of Kenya, 3.5 million people were estimated to be highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3+), including 785,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

The 2022 March-May (MAM) crop production was significantly constrained by poor rains. For instance, in the marginal agricultural areas, maize production was 7-49% below average while in parts of Embu, Kitui, Makueni, Taita Taveta and Tharaka Nithi counties, near-to-total crop failures were reported<sup>6</sup>. Further constraining crop production during the season were limited agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizer. This is as fertilizer prices increased significantly – three-fold since 2021<sup>7</sup> – exacerbated by the market impacts of the Russia-

<sup>4</sup> OCHA. Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan. July 2022

<sup>5</sup> National currency of Ethiopia

<sup>6</sup> Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG). 2022 Long Rains Season Assessment Report. August 2022

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

Ukraine crisis, thereby adversely affecting farmers' access.

As a result, staple cereal prices have been on an increasing trend, hence constraining households' purchasing power. For instance, maize prices are estimated to be 22-63% above the recent five-year average<sup>8</sup>. Putting further upward pressure on staple cereal prices is limited import supplies from Tanzania, due to below-average production, and from Uganda, which has been exporting most of its cereals to South Sudan.

Livestock body conditions and production have continued to deteriorate due to declining pasture and water availability. In some of the worst-affected areas, atypical livestock deaths have been noted. This was the case in Marsabit county where 8% cattle deaths and 4% camel deaths were recorded between March and June 2022. Similarly, 10% cattle deaths were recorded in Mandera and Samburu counties during the same period<sup>9</sup>.

Between October and December 2022, the food security situation in Kenya is expected to worsen, largely due to the poor 2022 MAM crop production, anticipated poor 2022 OND rainfall season, high food prices, limited household income, and localised incidents of conflict and insecurity. In this respect, the number of highly food insecure people (IPC Phase 3+) in the country is expected to rise to a 4.4 million. In addition, four counties – Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit and Turkana – are expected to deteriorate from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

In Somalia, an estimated 4.3 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+), including 121,000 who faced Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). This is a reflection of the impact of increased humanitarian food assistance in the Somalia, considering that earlier projections had indicated that over 7 million people in the country would likely face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) during this period.

The 2022 Gu<sup>10</sup> rainfall season was the driest Gu in Somalia since 1981, with total rainfall received during the season estimated to be just slightly above 50% of the season's long-term average<sup>11</sup>. Consequently, widespread crop

failures were witnessed across the country leading to significantly below average crop production. Nationally, crop production was estimated to be 50% of average<sup>12</sup>.

This has put increased upward pressure on staple cereal prices, negatively impacting households' food access. In Bay region especially, staple cereal prices in July 2022 were estimated to be 234% above average<sup>13</sup>. Additionally, in Baidoa district, cereal prices are estimated to be significantly higher than those recorded during the 2016|17 drought and 2010|11 Famine.

Moreover, due to poor pasture availability and water stress, combined with livestock diseases, over three million livestock have died in Somalia since January 2021<sup>14</sup>. This has increasingly devastated livelihoods across the country, more so considering that pastoralism and agro-pastoralism are reportedly the predominant sources of livelihood in Somalia.

Over one million people have also been forced to flee their homes<sup>15</sup> in search of reprieve as drought conditions in the country continue to deepen.

Between October and December 2022, the number of people estimated to face high levels of acute food insecurity in Somalia is expected to rise to 6.7 million, including 300,560 people expected to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), partly due to an anticipated reduction in humanitarian food assistance between November and December 2022.

Notably, during the same period, Famine (IPC Phase 5) is projected among agro-pastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts, and among displaced populations in Baidoa town of Bay region, in the absence of a significant scale up of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance.

Moreover, Hawd pastoral of Central and Hiraan, Addun pastoral of Northeast and Central, Coastal Deeh pastoral of Central and Sorghum high potential agro-pastoral of Middle Shabelle, and IDP settlements in Dollow, Galkacyo, Garowe and Mogadishu face an increased Risk of Famine through at least the end of 2022.

Meanwhile, in Sudan, above-average 2022 June-September (JJAS) seasonal rains have triggered widespread flash floods across the country, prompting

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Main rainfall season in Somalia starting from March and running to June

<sup>11</sup> [estation.jrc.ec.europa.eu](http://estation.jrc.ec.europa.eu)

<sup>12</sup> [IPC. Somalia Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot - June-December 2022. September 2022](#)

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> [IPC. Somalia Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot - June-December 2022. September 2022](#)

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

the Government to declare a state of Emergency in six heavily impacted states – Al Jazirah, Kassala, River Nile, South Darfur, West Kordofan and White Nile – on 21 August 2022<sup>16</sup>.

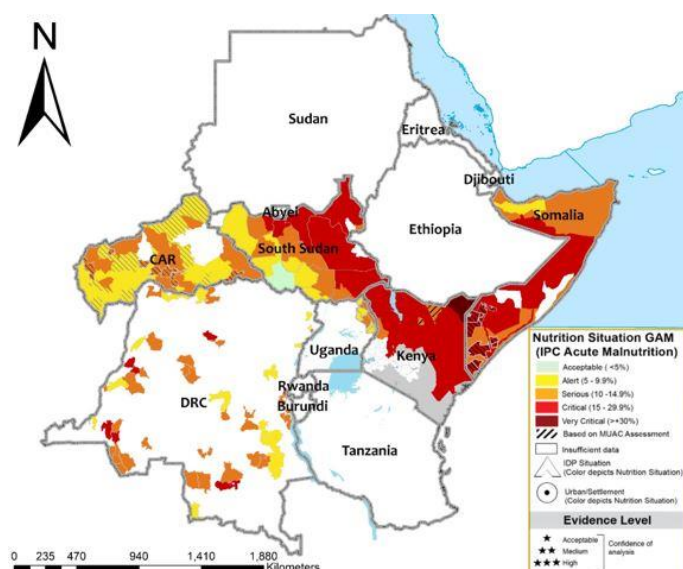
As of 19 September 2022, the floods had affected 16 (out of 18) states and about 299,500 people, killed more than 100 people, and totally or partially destroyed over 62,000 homes<sup>17</sup>.

Before the floods, around 11.7 million people in Sudan were estimated to be highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3+) largely due to macroeconomic challenges, incidents of conflict and insecurity, and below-average harvests. The ongoing floods are likely to aggravate food insecurity in the country. This is as over 12,000 feddans (about 5,100 hectares) of agricultural land are destroyed and more than 4,000 livestock are killed due to the floods<sup>18</sup>. Critical infrastructure, including roads and markets have also reportedly been destroyed, disrupting food supply chains.

## Nutrition

High prevalences of acute malnutrition (AMN) continued to be noted across the region, particularly in the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

### Regional acute malnutrition situation, as of August 2022



Source: IPC-GSU for East and Central Africa

Exacerbating the situation in parts of Ethiopia and Somalia are conflict and insecurity incidents, and resultant humanitarian access challenges, as well as disease outbreaks.

Overall, as of August 2022, an estimated 10.1 million under-five children were acutely malnourished, 2.6 million of them severely so, across the IGAD region.

## Country updates

In Ethiopia, an estimated 1.2 million children were in need of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment according to UNICEF. The highest burden was in the conflict-affected regions of Afar, Amhara and Tigray, as well as the drought-affected regions of Oromia and Somali.

Recent analysis conducted in Afar showed that 91% of the woredas in the region had high prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM). In Amhara, new internally displaced persons continued to arrive, particularly in North Wollo and North Shoa, a significant proportion of them in need of immediate treatment for acute malnutrition. At the time of reporting, the total number of IDPs in Amhara had exceeded 900,000. Recent Find and Treat campaigns carried out in three priority woredas – Chila, Ofla and Zana – in Tigray also revealed high GAM prevalence, above the 15% Emergency threshold.

It is worth noting that the nutrition situation in these regions is worsening amidst a generally concerning security situation, risking significant disruptions to humanitarian operations.

Meanwhile, in the eastern and southern parts of the country, drought conditions continue to deepen, depriving households of food and water. Children remain disproportionately affected. Measles cases are also on the rise in these areas, which combined with malnutrition, increase the risk of morbidity and mortality.

Aggravating the situation in the Somali region is a fluid security situation, especially in the southern zones of Afdher, Korahe, Liban and Shable, due to sporadic clashes between the Government and armed actors from Somalia. This has led to movement restrictions for various humanitarian actors, including United Nations (UN)

<sup>16</sup> ACAPS. Sudan - Floods Briefing Note. September 2022

<sup>17</sup> OCHA. Sudan Weekly Floods Round-up No.07. 19 September 2022

<sup>18</sup> OCHA. Sudan Weekly Floods Round-up No.07. 19 September 2022

agencies, thereby impacting the delivery of nutrition services.

In the ASALs of Kenya, 884,464 under-five children were estimated to be acutely malnourished, 222,720 of them severely so. This represents a significant increase compared to the February 2022 estimate of 754,906. Additionally, over 115,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) were also estimated to be acutely malnourished<sup>19</sup>. Of particular concern are parts of Marsabit, Turkana south and Turkana north, which were estimated to be in an Extremely Critical situation (IPC AMN Phase 5 – GAM WHZ ≥ 30%)<sup>20</sup>.

Looking at month-on-month admission trends, consistently higher SAM admissions were recorded between January and June 2022, compared to the same period in 2021, 2020 and 2019. In July 2022, however, lower admissions (7,190) were noted compared to the previous five months, possibly due to a scale up in interventions in earlier months, as well as election related activities, such as campaigns, coinciding with screening and outreach activities.

High levels of food insecurity, characterised by low milk availability and increasing food prices, coupled with poor infant and young feeding practices and a high disease burden, are some of the major drivers of the situation.

In Somalia, acute malnutrition is at Critical levels (IPC AMN Phase 4) in many areas, especially in the central and southern parts. The number of children being admitted to treatment centres is also rapidly rising, with some districts recording two-to-four-fold increases in admissions this year compared to the last three years<sup>21</sup>.

Overall, 1.8 million under-five children (54.5% of the total population of under-five children in the country) are estimated to suffer acute malnutrition through mid-2023. Of these, 513,500 are estimated to suffer severe acute malnutrition<sup>22</sup>.

Notably, among the agro-pastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts, and among IDPs in Baidoa town of Bay region, levels of crude death rate (CDR) and under-five death rate (U5DR) have surpassed the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) thresholds of 1 in 10,000 people per day and 2 in 10,000 under-five children per day respectively<sup>23</sup>.

<sup>19</sup> Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG). 2022 Long Rains Season Assessment Report. August 2022

<sup>20</sup> Ibid

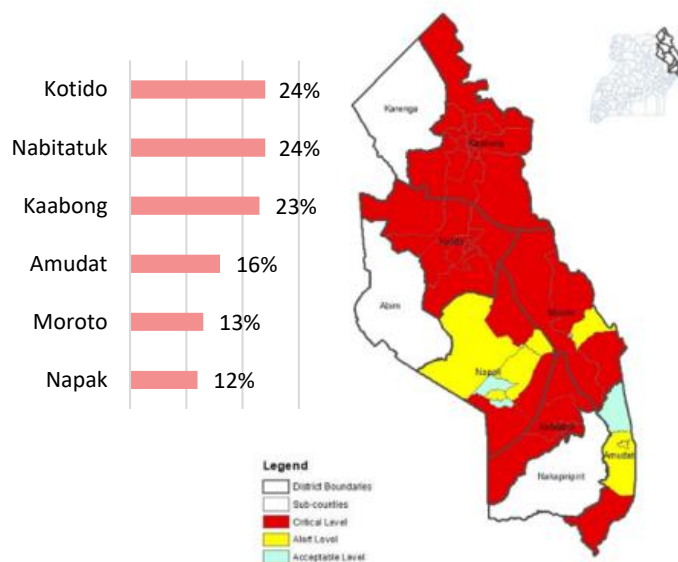
The ongoing drought in Somalia remains the key underlying cause of acute malnutrition in the country. Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreaks, due to limited access to clean water, and increased measles cases are worsening the situation while risking an increase morbidity and mortality.

While relevant actors have scaled up interventions in urban and IDP settlements, resulting in high service coverage in these areas, sub-optimal coverage remains in rural areas.

Similarly, in the Karamoja sub-region and refugee hosting districts of Uganda, SAM admissions are significantly higher this year compared to 2021. Between January and July 2022, 20,743 under-five children had been enrolled for SAM treatment in outpatient care (OTC) and inpatient care (ITC) in Karamoja (13,943) and in refugee hosting districts (6,800) according to UNICEF.

In Karamoja, out of 151,439 under-five children screened for acute malnutrition between May and August 2022 across six of the nine districts –Nabilatuk, Kotido, Kaabong, Amudat, Moroto and Napak – an estimated 17,203 (11%) were admitted for SAM treatment according to UNICEF.

### Levels of acute malnutrition in the Karamoja sub-region



Source: UNICEF

<sup>21</sup> IPC. Somalia Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot - June-December 2022. September 2022

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

<sup>23</sup> IPC et al. Multi-partner Technical Release on Famine Projection in Bay Region of Somalia. September 2022

Generally, the data from the districts revealed Critical levels of acute malnutrition (IPC AMN Phase 4) across the region.

## Displacement

The number of displaced populations in the region has been on an increasing trend, mostly owing to conflict and insecurity, and climatic shocks (prolonged drought on one hand and serious flooding on the other) in various parts the region.

As of 31 July 2022, the region hosted an estimated 12.83 million IDPs and 4.97 million refugees and asylum seekers. The majority (2.29 million) of the refugees and asylum seekers were from South Sudan.

Preliminary results from UNHCR Standardized Expanded Nutrition Surveys (SENS) conducted in July 2022 in refugee camps in Ethiopia reveal a particularly concerning nutrition situation among refugee populations.

In Dollo Ado, the surveys found a GAM prevalence exceeding the 15% Emergency threshold among under-five children in four out of the five refugee camps – Buramino (19.8%), Melkadida (17.2%), Hilaweyn (16.4%) and Kobe (16.3%). The prevalence of stunting among under-five children was also found to be very high ( $\geq 30\%$ ) in Buramino and Melkadida (37.9%) and high in Hilaweyn (29.5%) and Kobe (24%). Exacerbating the situation are medical complications such as anaemia. In four out of the five camps, the prevalence of anaemia among under-five children was found to be high ( $\geq 40\%$ ) – Buramino (60%), Kobe (58.1%), Hilaweyn (48.6%) and Melkadida (44.1%). Overall, significant increases in SAM and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) admissions were noted between January and June 2022 in the refugee camps in Dollo Ado, compared to the same period in the preceding three years.

Additionally, new arrival refugees and asylum seekers continue to arrive in Dollo Ado from Somalia, with high GAM prevalence (above 15%) and SAM prevalence as high as 9%. Between January and June 2022, 60% more new arrivals were recorded in comparison to the same period in 2021.

It is worth noting that refugees in Ethiopia continue to face a 50% food ration cut from the recommended 2100 kilocalories per person per day (kcal|p|d). Based on food security data collected in May 2022, on average, the

general food assistance they received lasted 15-22 days out of 31 days. The majority, therefore, had resorted to negative coping strategies to try and meet their food needs.

In Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya, significant increases in SAM and MAM admissions were noted between January and July 2022 compared to the same period in the last three years.

In Kakuma, GAM and SAM prevalences of 21% and 6% respectively, were recorded among 1,779 under-five children who had newly arrived from Burundi, DRC and South Sudan. In Dadaab, 43% more SAM admissions in outpatient therapeutic feeding programs (OTP) and 74% more SAM admissions (with medical complications) in stabilization centres (SC) were noted between January and July 2022, compared to the same period in 2021.

Similar to Ethiopia, refugees in Kenya continue to face a 46% food ration cut from the recommended 2100 kcal|p|d.

Overall, ongoing food ration cuts, along with the impacts of the current drought and lack of food assistance for undocumented refugees and asylum seekers, are some of the significant drivers of acute malnutrition among refugee populations in the region.

## Climate

The OND rainfall season constitutes an important rainfall season, particularly in the equatorial parts of the region, where it contributes between 20-70% of total annual rainfall.

According to the 2022 OND rainfall forecast by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), drier than usual conditions are forecast across most parts of the region.

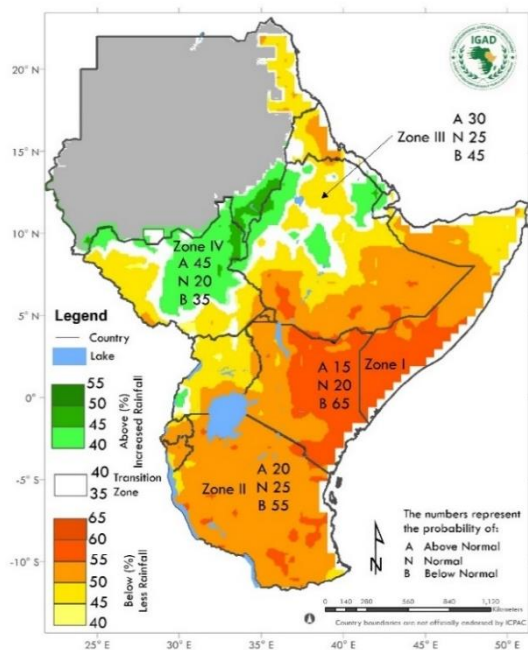
In particular, the forecast indicates a high probability of below-average rains over the drought-affected parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, risking an unprecedented fifth consecutive season of below-average rainfall over these areas, the likes of which has not been seen in recent history.

Below-average rainfall is also forecast over parts of Eritrea, and most parts of Uganda and Tanzania, increasing the risk of a significant decline in seasonal crop production in the region.

Consistent with the rainfall forecast, a delayed rainfall onset is expected across much of the eastern parts of the region, including southern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, central and southern Somalia, much of Burundi and Tanzania.

Meanwhile, wetter than usual conditions are forecast over parts of Djibouti, eastern Afar region of Ethiopia and central to north-eastern South Sudan.

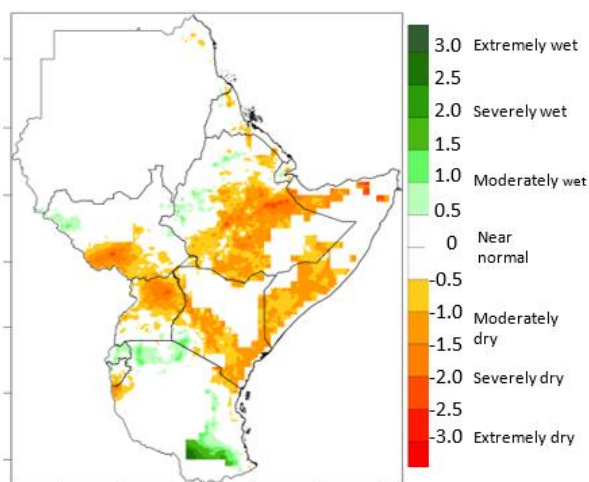
### 2022 OND rainfall outlook



Source: ICPAC

Looking at the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI), observed and expected precipitation through the year indicates long-term rainfall deficits in the equatorial and

### 12 month SPI (January-December 2022)



Source: ICPAC

southern parts of the region, consistent with moderate to severe multi-season drought conditions. This is especially the case over parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, southern South Sudan and Uganda.

### Humanitarian response

While the delivery of humanitarian assistance has been scaled up in recent months, it has not been able to keep up with the rising levels of need in the region due to funding shortfalls. There is, therefore, a need for sustained advocacy and resource mobilisation to ensure immediate and multi-sectoral response, especially to the life-threatening needs in the region.

### HRP funding by country (million USD) as of 30 August 2022

Country	Required	Funded	Funded (%)
Ethiopia	3,090	994.1	32.2%
Kenya*	250	149.3	59.6%
Somalia	1,460	975.2	66.9%
South Sudan	1,700	581.1	34.2%
Sudan	1,940	607.8	31.4%

\*As of 22 September 2022

Source: OCHA

Countries also received funding outside the HRPs – Ethiopia (USD. 645.8 million), Somalia (USD. 203.8 million), South Sudan (USD. 178.9 million) and Sudan (USD. 123.4 million).

### Recommendations

The FSNWG recommends:

- Immediate, coordinated and multi-sectoral life-saving assistance, especially in areas with a high number of people in Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+)
- 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 projected to be in Famine.
- Close monitoring of the upcoming OND rainfall season as forecasts point to high chances of below-average rains.
- Particular emphasis should also be placed on anticipatory action to prevent and mitigate, to the extent possible, the anticipated negative effects of the OND rainfall season on food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

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