

FSN WG¹ Food Security and Nutrition Update

Key messages

- About 56.6 million people in 10 of the 13 countries covered by FSNWG were highly food insecure (IPC² Phase 3+) and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in October 2022. Of these, about 26 million were from six³ of the eight IGAD member states.
- Of most concern are the 361,560 people classified in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), 300,560 in Somalia and 61,000 in South Sudan.
- In southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya, and across most of Somalia, unparalleled levels of acute food insecurity persist due to the ongoing severe two-year drought.
- The current October-December (OND) rainfall season, which has so far recorded a poor start, is expected to be below average. Long-lead forecasts for the 2023 March-May rainfall season also indicate an increased probability of below-average rains, risking the occurrence of six consecutive seasons of drought in affected areas.
- In the absence of scaled-up and sustained multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance, Famine (IPC Phase 5) is projected among agro-pastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts, and among internally displaced populations (IDPs) in Baidoa town of Bay region in Somalia. Several other areas of central and southern Somalia also face a Risk of Famine.
- Unprecedented levels of acute malnutrition (AMN) continue to be recorded, particularly in the drought-affected parts of the region. Combined with disease outbreaks, such as cholera and measles, this risks an increase in morbidity and mortality.
- In South Sudan, record-breaking floods for a fourth consecutive year have affected nearly two-thirds of the country, disrupting livelihoods and humanitarian activities, and forcing thousands to flee their homes.
- The number of forcibly displaced populations in the region has been on an increasing trend, driven by conflict and climatic shocks. As of 30 September 2022, the region hosted about 13.6 million IDPs and 4.97 million refugees and asylum seekers.
- Increased advocacy and resource mobilisation is needed in order to respond to the life-threatening levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition in the region, as well as to protect livelihoods.

Food insecure population estimates, as of October 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	5,109,606	3,142,733	1,211,812		4,354,545
Somalia	3,135,400	4,200,310	2,179,900	300,560	6,680,770
South Sudan	3,731,000	4,357,000	2,217,000	61,000	6,635,000
Sudan	17,746,553	6,189,076	1,549,705		7,738,781
Uganda	499,840	276,290	38,385		314,675
IGAD Total	30,237,166	18,345,187	7,209,192	361,560	25,915,939
Burundi	3,660,000	1,353,000	51,000		1,404,000
CAR	1,511,692	1,570,882	638,021		2,208,903
DRC	44,888,830	22,598,000	3,832,000		26,430,000
Tanzania	929,126	496,785	94,935		591,720
Total	81,266,814	44,363,854	11,825,148	361,560	56,550,562

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

¹ 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

² 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)

³ Excluding Eritrea and Ethiopia

Sector updates

Food security

Extreme levels of acute food insecurity persist in the region due to the combined effects of climate-related shocks (drought and floods), conflict and insecurity, and macroeconomic challenges.

In southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya, and across most of Somalia, unparalleled levels of acute food insecurity are being recorded due to a two-year drought that began in late 2020. In this respect, Famine (IPC Phase 5) is projected in parts of Bay region in Somalia by the end of the year, while several other areas of southern and central Somalia face an increased Risk of Famine. With the current October-December (OND) rainfall season, which has performed poorly so far, expected to be below average, and as long-lead forecasts for the 2023 March-May rainfall season indicate a high likelihood of below-average rains, chances are high that the drought will continue into 2023.

Conflict and insecurity continue to increase the severity of food insecurity, particularly in northern Ethiopia, Somalia, and parts of South Sudan, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

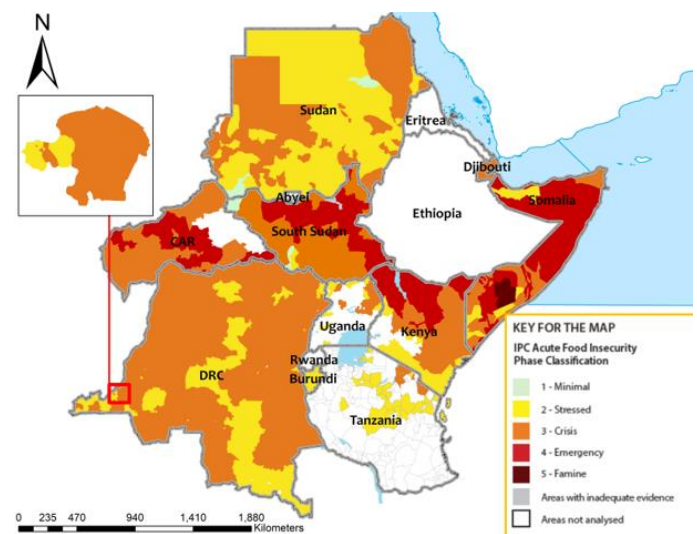
Macro-economic challenges, including inflation, local currency depreciation, drought-related high food prices in the region, compounded by global food and fuel supply and price shocks, are exacerbating the region's food security situation, by limiting economic access to food and other basic needs.

Based on the most recent IPC data, about 56.6 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 October 2022. Of these, about 26 million were from six of the eight IGAD member states – Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The other 30.6 million were from Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), the DRC and Tanzania.

Of particular concern are the 361,560 people classified in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Somalia (300,560) and South Sudan (61,000), and the 11.8 million people classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) across the region.

Over 81 million additional people were Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and in need of livelihood support, with about 30.2 million of them being from the IGAD region.

Regional food security situation, as of October 2022



Source: IPC-GSU for East and Central Africa

Country updates

In Ethiopia, drought conditions persist in the southern and south-eastern pastoral areas. Pasture and water availability have significantly diminished, resulting in deplorable body conditions and large-scale livestock deaths. Over 4.5 million livestock have reportedly died⁴ and more than 30 million are emaciated⁵ due to the drought. Making the situation worse are low household incomes, due to reduced sales of livestock and livestock products which, coupled with high food prices, are severely restricting households' access to food.

Heightened conflict in the northern part of the country continued to drive displacement, particularly in the Central, Eastern and Southern zones of Tigray⁶, as well as disrupt humanitarian and livelihood activities, including harvesting of Meher⁷ crops (as of October 2022). Though the Meher harvest is expected to improve food availability in the country, FEWS NET estimates that Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity, with some populations in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) will likely persist into 2023 in Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions⁸. If harvesting activities are significantly

⁴ FEWS NET. [Ethiopia - Large-scale Humanitarian Assistance is Needed to Prevent Further Deterioration in Food Security. September 2022](#)

⁵ OCHA. [Ethiopia Situation Report. November 2022](#)

⁶ Ibid

⁷ The main crop season in Ethiopia, whose harvest takes place between September and January

⁸ FEWS NET. [Ethiopia - Large-scale Humanitarian Assistance is Needed to Prevent Further Deterioration in Food Security. September 2022](#)

disrupted, more populations could face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).

While no recent IPC analysis has been conducted in Ethiopia, 20.4 million people in the country are estimated to be highly food insecure and in need of urgent food assistance, according to the latest Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)⁹.

Implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement between the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF) on 2 November 2022 is important in facilitating the restoration of essential services and humanitarian access in northern Ethiopia.

Similar to Ethiopia, in the pastoral areas of Kenya, pasture and water resources continue to decline, leading to deteriorating livestock body conditions and accelerating mortalities, especially in Garissa, Isiolo, Lamu, Mandera, Marsabit and Samburu counties¹⁰. The country's livestock mortalities, due to the drought, are currently estimated at 2.4 million.

Despite the commencement of a livestock off-take programme by the Government of Kenya, livestock prices remain significantly below average as many pastoralists are forced to dispose of their emaciated livestock before they die. In October, sheep and goats (per head) were reportedly being sold for as low as Ksh. 100, and cattle (per head) for as low as Ksh. 500 in Bisil market in Kajiado county. This is in comparison to Ksh. 20,000-50,000 for cattle (per head) before the drought¹¹. Terms of Trade (ToT), therefore, remain unfavourable due to below-average livestock prices and high staple food prices at the same time, limiting pastoral households' access to food.

In the marginal agricultural areas, households are increasingly depending on markets for food following the poor 2022 March-May seasonal harvests. However, their purchasing power remains constrained due to above-average food prices.

High inflation rates are severely limiting food access in Kenya. Compared to the same period in 2021, food inflation was 15.8% higher in October 2022¹².

Overall, an estimated 4.4 million people in the ASALs of Kenya are projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+)

levels of acute food insecurity through December 2022, including 1.2 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In addition, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit and Turkana counties are projected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

In the pastoral zones of Somalia, widespread pasture and water scarcity persist. More than 3 million livestock have died since mid-2021, and millions remain weak and emaciated. Meanwhile, the 2022 March-May season cereal harvest in the agro-pastoral and riverine zones was estimated at 59,000 tons, which is 50% below the 1995-2021 average¹³.

The majority of households in the country are, therefore, relying on markets for food. This is despite exceptionally high prices due to limited local supplies, and global food and fuel supply and price shocks.

Furthermore, more than 1.1 million people (as of September 2022) have been displaced due to the drought¹⁴, considerably reducing their coping capacity. Conflict and insecurity, particularly in the central and southern parts of the country, is worsening the situation by disrupting livelihoods, driving further population displacements and challenging humanitarian access.

Nearly 6.7 million people in Somalia are projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity through December 2022. This includes about 2.2 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 300,560 others in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). The majority, that is 62%, of those projected to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) are in Bay region.

In the absence of scaled-up and sustained multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance, Famine (IPC Phase 5) is projected among agro-pastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts, and among internally displaced populations (IDPs) in Baidoa town of Bay region. 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.

⁹ [OCHA. Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan. July 2022](#)

¹⁰ [NDMA. National Drought Monthly Update. October 2022](#)

¹¹ [The Star. Herders Helpless as Livestock Drop Dead in Drought-hit Kajiado. October 2022](#)

¹² [KNBS. Consumer Price Indices and Inflation Rates for October 2022. October 2022](#)

¹³ [IPC et al. Somalia 2022 Post Gu Assessment and IPC Analysis Results. September 2022](#)

¹⁴ [JOM et al. Somalia Drought Displacement Monitoring Dashboard. September 2022](#)

In South Sudan, a fourth consecutive year of extensive flooding (affecting almost two-thirds of the country¹⁵) has led to population displacements, disruptions to livelihoods, livestock deaths, and the destruction of homes and large swathes of farmland. The flooding has also complicated humanitarian access, forcing some agencies to airlift food to some affected areas such as the Doro refugee camp in Upper Nile state. Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap and Western Equatoria states have been particularly impacted.

Sub-national and localised conflict also continues to threaten lives and livelihoods. Intensified inter-clan violence was witnessed in Lakes and Warrap states in September 2022. In Warrap state, increased cattle raids were recorded in Tonj East and Tonj North counties¹⁶. In the Upper Nile-Jonglei (Greater Fangak) border area, conflict and insecurity has led to the displacement of tens of thousands of people and disrupted humanitarian and trade activities¹⁷.

In addition, high food prices, occasioned by rising fuel prices and the depreciation of the South Sudanese Pound (SSP), are reducing households' access to food. As of August 2022, the SSP had depreciated by 55-60% compared to the same period in 2021¹⁸, making food imports expensive.

About 6.6 million people – 54% of the country's population – are classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity. This includes 2.2 million people facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4), and 61,000 people facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Fangak, Canal| Pigi and Akobo counties in Jonglei state, and in Pibor county in the Greater Pibor Administrative area. Notably, Jonglei, Unity, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile, Warrap and Lakes states have more than half of their populations classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity.

In DRC, armed and inter-communal conflict continues to displace populations, especially in the eastern part of the country. Ituri, North and South Kivu, Maniema, and Tanganyika province are particularly hard hit. In this regard, over 5.5 million people in DRC are internally displaced, of which more than 1 million have been displaced since the start of the year. High food prices also

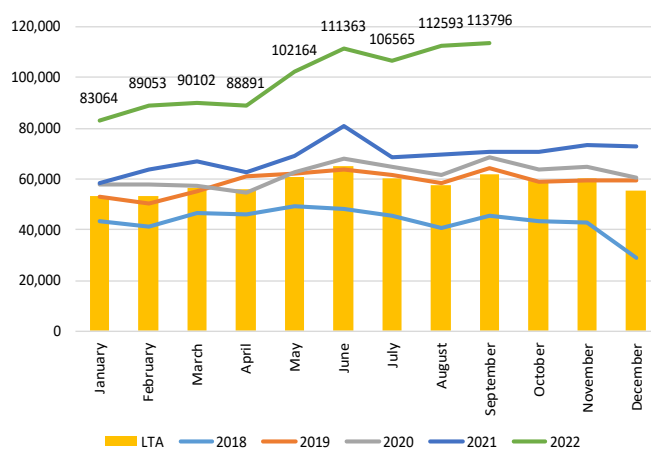
persist in the country mainly due to high fuel prices linked to the war in Ukraine, despite fuel subsidies. All this is against a background of chronic vulnerabilities due to a protracted conflict, the weak economic performance of the country, and high poverty levels.

Overall, nearly 26.5 million people in the country face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+), including 3.83 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Nutrition

Unsurpassed levels of acute malnutrition (AMN) continue to be recorded in various parts of the region. Looking at month-on-month admission trends for the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, consistently higher severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admissions have been recorded since the start of the year. Between January and September 2022, a total of 897,591 SAM admissions were recorded in these areas, representing a 47% increase compared to the same period in 2021. In September alone, about 113,796 SAM admissions were recorded, representing a 37% increase from the admissions recorded in January 2022.

SAM admission trends – Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia



Source: UNICEF

High levels of acute malnutrition also continue to be reported in the conflict-affected areas, even as conflict and insecurity incidents limit access and a scale-up of nutrition interventions.

¹⁵ [UNHCR. Devastation in South Sudan Following Fourth Year of Historic Floods. October 2022](#)

¹⁶ [FEWS NET. South Sudan - Conflict and Flooding Continue to Drive Crisis \(IPC Phase 3\) or Worse Outcomes. September 2022](#)

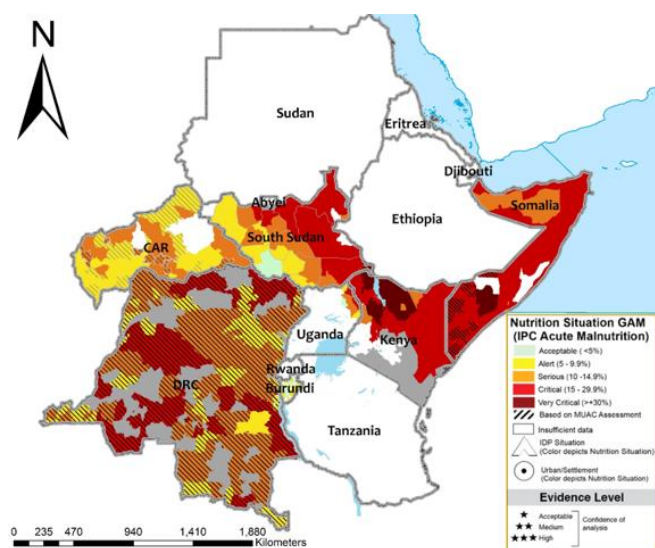
¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

Of most concern are the increased child deaths that are being recorded in several areas. In parts of central and southern Somalia, for instance, under-five death rates (U5DR) have surpassed the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) threshold of 2 in 10,000 children per day¹⁹.

Disease outbreaks, including cholera and measles, are exacerbating the nutrition situation in various parts of the region, risking increased morbidity and mortality in these areas.

Regional acute malnutrition situation, as of October 2022



Source: IPC-GSU for East and Central Africa

Country updates

In Ethiopia, 509,931 SAM admissions (75% of target) were recorded between January and September 2022, of which 63,571 were recorded in September alone. In addition, 115,758 under-five children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were enrolled in Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programs (TSFP) during the month, representing a 121% increase compared to August 2021.

In the northern part of the country – Afar, Amhara and Tigray – significantly higher SAM admissions continue to be recorded this year compared to 2021. IDPs, whose numbers have been on the rise, remain disproportionately impacted. This is as nutrition screenings in various IDP sites reveal global acute

malnutrition (GAM) prevalences exceeding the 15% Emergency threshold.

Meanwhile, drought conditions in the southern and south-eastern parts of the country continue to deepen, depriving households of food and water. Complicating the situation are disease outbreaks. A cholera outbreak has been reported in Oromia and Somali regions, with over 330 cases recorded, as of 31 October 2022²⁰. Measles cases have also been reported in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), and Somali regions.

In most ASAL counties in Kenya, acute malnutrition is at Critical (IPC AMN 4) to Extremely Critical (IPC AMN 5) levels. In Laisamis in Marsabit county, and in Turkana South and Turkana North specifically, it is at Extremely Critical (IPC AMN 5) levels.

Looking at month-on-month admission trends, higher admissions ((9,261 SAM and 24,178 MAM admissions) were recorded in September 2022 compared to the previous months. Compared to September 2021, this represents an almost three-fold increase in admissions.

Overall, about 884,464 children under the age of five in the ASALs of Kenya are acutely malnourished, 222,720 of them severely so. Approximately 115,725 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) are also acutely malnourished.

High levels of acute food insecurity, manifested in poor dietary diversity and reduced milk consumption – a key source of nutrition for children in the ASALs – are among the main drivers of the deteriorating nutrition situation. In September, for instance, milk production was estimated to be below the long-term average in 18 of the 23 ASALs counties in Kenya²¹.

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 significantly higher this year compared to the previous three years.

Overall, 1.8 million children under the age of five – 54.5% of the total population of under-five children in the country – are expected to suffer acute malnutrition through mid-2023, 513,500 of them in its severe form²².

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ OCHA. Ethiopia Situation Report. November 2022

²¹ NDMA. National Drought Monthly Update. October 2022

²² IPC et al. Somalia 2022 Post Gu Assessment and IPC Analysis Results. September 2022

Notably, among agro-pastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts, and IDPs in Baidoa town of Bay region, and among agro-pastoral and riverine populations of Middle and Lower Shabelle regions, 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, respectively²³.

Widening food consumption gaps, due to the ongoing drought, are among the primary drivers of the increased levels of acute malnutrition in the country. Cholera outbreaks, largely due to limited access to clean water, and increased measles cases are worsening the situation while posing major public health concerns.

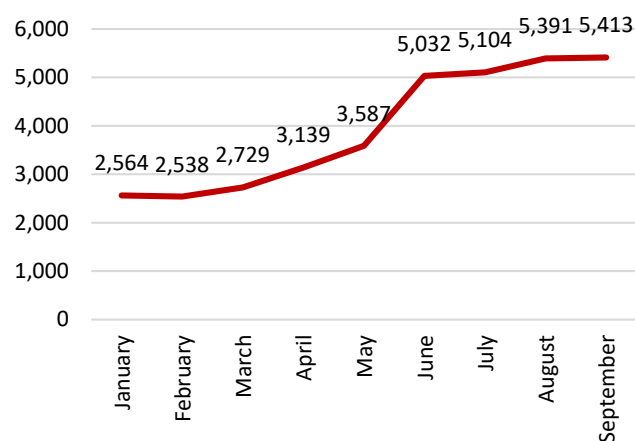
In South Sudan, 1.4 million children under the age of five are estimated to suffer acute malnutrition through mid-2023. This includes about 345,893 children who require life-saving treatment for SAM. Approximately 737,812 PLW are also estimated to suffer acute malnutrition²⁴. Notably, Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity and Warrap states account for about 61% of the country's acute malnutrition burden.

Looking at month-on-month admission trends, 213,569 SAM admissions (88.4% of the annual target) were recorded between January and September 2022, representing a 23% increase compared to the same period in 2021. Within this, the highest admissions were recorded in Jonglei (23.1%), Unity (15.9%) and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (13.4%).

High levels of acute food insecurity, poor access to health and nutrition services due to conflict in various parts, and poor child feeding practices, exacerbated by flooding and associated water-borne diseases, are some of the main drivers of acute malnutrition in the country.

Much like in the other countries, SAM admissions in Uganda's Karamoja sub-region and refugee hosting districts are considerably higher this year compared to 2021. Between January and September 2022, about 35,497 children under the age of five were admitted for SAM treatment across the two population groups, according to UNICEF, representing a more than 50% increase compared to the same period in 2021.

SAM admission trends in the Karamoja sub-region and refugee hosting districts, as of September 2022



Source: UNICEF

Furthermore, Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) was declared in Uganda on 19 September 2022. As of 26 October 2022, seven districts had been affected – Mubende, Kassanda, Kagadi, Bunyangabu, Kyegegwa, Kampala and Wakiso – and 90 cases, including 28 deaths, had been reported, indicating a 60% case fatality rate (CFR).

Displacement

The number of forcibly 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 flooding on the other) in various parts of the region.

As of 30 September 2022, the region hosted nearly 13.6 million IDPs and 4.97 million refugees and asylum seekers²⁵.

Evidence from the UNHCR Standardised Expanded Nutrition Surveys (SENS) shows that the already concerning nutrition situation among refugee populations has further deteriorated in 2022. This is as MAM and SAM admission trends in refugee sites, especially in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, indicated significant increases compared to 2021, 2020 and 2019.

Critical levels of GAM (above the 15% Emergency threshold) also continued to be reported among new

²³ Ibid

²⁴ [IPC. South Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot. November 2022](#)

²⁵ [UNHCR. Regional Dashboard RB EHAGL. Refugees and Asylum-seekers Situation. 30 September 2022](#)

arrival refugees from Somalia, South Sudan, Burundi and DRC.

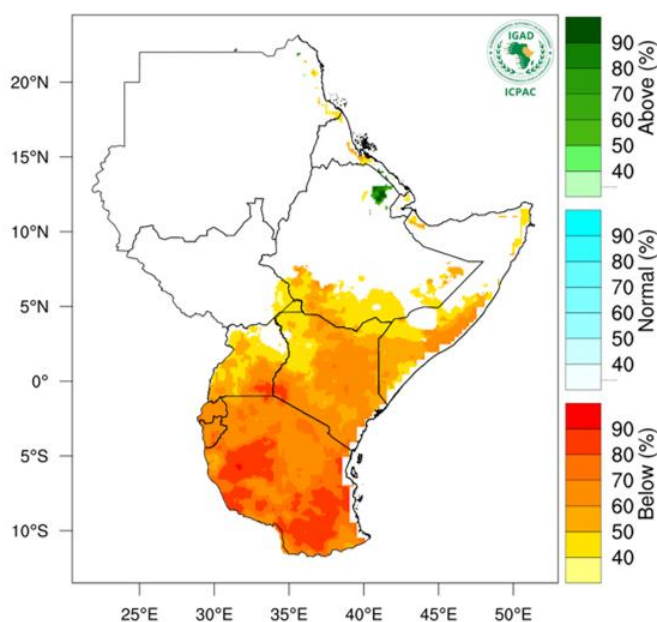
Climate

During the 2022 June-September (JJAS) rainfall season, which is an important rainfall season in the northern parts of the region, wetter than usual conditions were recorded over Djibouti, western Kenya, central Sudan and Rwanda. On the other hand, drier than usual conditions were recorded over southern Ethiopia, north-western and coastal Kenya, north-eastern Somalia and coastal Tanzania.

Looking at the eastern parts of the region, four-consecutive seasons of below-average rains have been recorded since late 2020, and a fifth one is likely given the expected poor performance of the ongoing OND rainfall season. Relatedly, an analysis of cumulative rainfall from January to October 2022 shows extensive deficits over central to southern Ethiopia, much of Kenya, Somalia and northern Uganda, with cumulative rainfall amounts ranging between 25%-75% of the long-term averages.

The OND rainfall season has started on a poor note, with depressed rains recorded over the eastern parts of the region in October. Between November 2022 and January 2023, drier than usual conditions are generally expected over the equatorial and southern parts of the region.

Rainfall probabilistic forecast for November 2022-January 2023



Source: ICPAC

A review of the state of climate drivers reveals that La Niña remains active in the tropical Pacific Ocean and will likely persist until February 2023. In addition, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is negative and will likely return to a neutral state from December 2022 onwards. This configuration of climate drivers is typically associated with depressed rains in equatorial eastern Africa.

Long-lead forecasts for the 2023 March-May rainfall season indicate an increased probability of below-average rains. Analyses of forecast sea surface temperatures in relevant parts of the Pacific Ocean correspond to those of past dry March-May seasons. While the forecasts need to be closely monitored, if they materialise, this will put the drought-affected areas in a record six consecutive-season drought.

Recommendations

The FSNWG recommends:

- Immediate global action to avert Famine (IPC Phase 5) in the region. This includes a significant scale-up of contributions to country Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs), and other existing and future funding appeals.
- Immediate, coordinated and multi-sectoral life-saving assistance in areas with populations in Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+).
- 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.
- Close monitoring of the food security and nutrition situation in areas where the situation is dire and | or at risk of further deterioration. This includes, but is not limited to, areas expected to be in Famine and | or at Risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5).
- Scale-up of livelihood programmes to safeguard livelihoods, and support recovery and a return to self-reliance for households facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or worse outcomes. This could include providing livestock feeds, implementing livestock off-take programs, rehabilitation of rangelands,

and expanding irrigated agricultural areas among others.

- Supporting and strengthening initiatives that seek to address and mitigate conflict and insecurity in the region.
- Close monitoring of the remainder of the OND rainfall season and forecasts for the 2023 March-May season. This is as forecasts point to increased chances of below-average rains during both seasons.

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