

FSN WG¹ Food Security and Nutrition Update

Key messages

- High levels of acute food insecurity persisted in various parts of the region, following El Niño-induced heavy rains and flooding during the 2023 October-December (OND) rainfall season, particularly in the Horn of Africa, compounded by ongoing conflicts, widespread displacement, and long-standing macro-economic challenges across almost the entire region.
- Based on IPC² data, an estimated 58.1 million people in 10 of the 13 countries covered by the FSNWG were highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3+) in January 2024. Of these, 30.5 million were from six of the eight IGAD member states.
- In the northern part of Ethiopia, including parts of Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions, a severe food crisis is unfolding, as a result of an El Niño-driven drought that led to a failed Meher³ harvest, poor pasture conditions and severe water shortages. Close to 4 million people in the country are estimated to be impacted by the drought.
- Sudan's food crisis continued to worsen as armed conflict spilled over to new areas, including the south-east states, interrupting agricultural activities, such as main season harvesting and winter wheat growing in the Gezira irrigation scheme, and causing population displacement, both new and secondary.
- Cereal prices in most markets in the region declined in the last quarter of 2023, driven by expectations of above-average harvests and reduced shortfalls in Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Rwanda and Burundi, but were higher compared to the recent five-year average.
- The number of forcibly displaced persons in the region continued to rise, with an estimated 5.1 million refugees and asylum seekers, and 17.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of 14 February 2024. In Sudan, close to 8.2 million people had been forcibly displaced due to the ongoing conflict – 6.3 million internally and about 1.9 million into neighbouring countries – making it the world's largest internal displacement crisis.
- The region faced numerous disease outbreaks, with the recent El Niño-induced flooding worsening the risk of water- and vector-borne diseases. In particular, increased cases of cholera, malaria and dengue were identified in the flood-affected areas of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

Food insecure population estimates, as of January 2024

IPC analyses	Stressed (IPC Phase 2)	Crisis (IPC Phase 3)	Emergency (IPC Phase 4)	Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5)	Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+ or equivalent)
Djibouti	401,722	185,312	100,102		285,414
Kenya	7,517,750	1,258,750	265,600		1,524,350
Somalia	6,102,650	3,206,080	802,030		4,008,110
South Sudan	4,087,000	4,040,000	1,713,000	25,000	5,778,000
Sudan	17,982,640	12,828,395	4,898,486		17,726,881
Uganda	1,975,590	1,080,860	106,595		1,187,455
IGAD Total	38,067,352	22,599,397	7,885,813	25,000	30,510,210
Burundi	5,556,296	1,129,656	104,982		1,234,638
CAR	2,505,127	1,669,168	350,690		2,019,858
DRC	52,343,793	20,465,066	2,945,282		23,410,348
Tanzania (partial)	2,210,965	900,001	0		900,001
Total	100,683,533	46,763,288	11,286,767	25,000	58,075,055

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 on 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 Main crop season in Ethiopia, that encompasses crops harvested between September and February

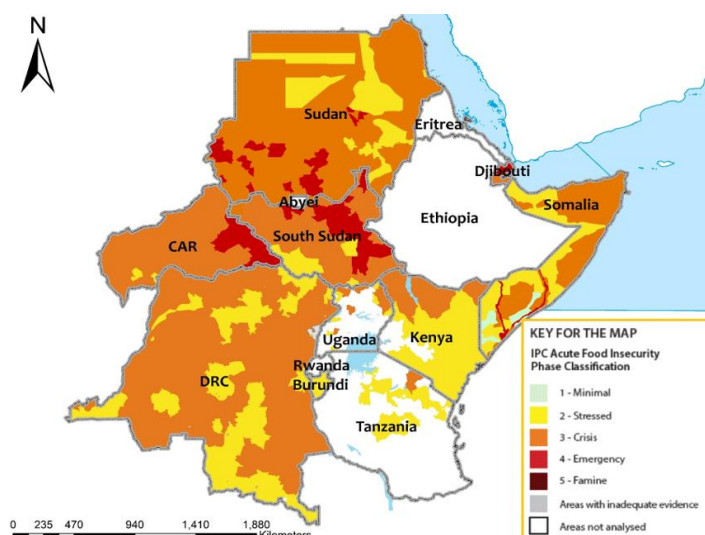
Sector updates

Food security

Food assistance needs across the region remained elevated, with an estimated 58.1 million people classified as acutely or severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3+) by the IPC in January 2024, across 10⁴ of the 13 countries covered by the FSNWG. Of these, 30.5 million were from six of the eight IGAD member states – Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The other 27.6 million people were from Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Tanzania.

An additional 100.7 million people across the region were Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and in need of livelihood support and resilience strengthening, including close to 38.1 million people from the IGAD region.

Regional food security situation, as of January 2024⁵



Source: IPC-GSU for East and Central Africa

These figures are inextricably linked to the impacts of weather extremes, onset, escalated and protracted conflict and insecurity, widespread displacement, and persistently poor macroeconomic conditions affecting the region.

El Niño-induced heavy rains and floods during the 2023 October-December (OND) rainfall season, and continuing into January 2024 in localised areas, resulted in loss of lives and livelihoods, displacement, livestock deaths, and destruction of farmlands in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya,

Somalia, Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda. The southern and south-eastern parts of Ethiopia, coastal and northern Kenya, and the riverine and low lying agro-pastoral zones of southern Somalia experienced the greatest impact, exacerbating pre-existing food insecurity challenges and making recovery even more difficult for those affected by the 2020-23 drought.

Meanwhile, conflict and insecurity continued to displace populations, disrupt livelihoods, limit access to essential services and infrastructure, drive sexual and gender-based violence, and restrict humanitarian access, severely compromising food security in many parts of the region, including Ethiopia's Amhara and Oromia regions, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and the DRC.

Macroeconomic challenges, including depreciation of local currencies, soaring food prices, low foreign currency reserves, inflation and debt distress, have led to decreased household purchasing power, limiting food access for millions of vulnerable populations.

Areas and populations of concern

Despite the Meher⁶ harvest, albeit below-average, Ethiopia continued to face major food insecurity concerns owing mostly to a drought in the north, escalated conflict in the Amhara and Oromia regions, and the aftermath of 2020-23 drought, followed by floods in the south and south-east.

In the north, including parts of Afar, Amhara and Tigray, a severe food crisis is unfolding, as a result of an El Niño-induced drought that led to a failed Meher harvest (after below-average Kiremt⁷ rains), poor pasture conditions and severe water shortages. In Tigray, households in areas where the harvest failed are grappling with little to no food stocks, in addition to limited access to income, forcing them to resort to negative coping strategies like begging⁸. Unless humanitarian assistance is scaled up, more extreme food security outcomes are likely from February onwards⁹. In Afar, where pastoralism is the main livelihood activity, livestock herd sizes have reduced and body conditions deteriorated, limiting their production and marketability¹⁰. The lingering effects of the devastating 2020-22 northern conflict are exacerbating the situation. Other regions of increasing concern include parts of Oromia, South Ethiopia and South West Ethiopia Peoples' Region. The Ethiopia

⁴ Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, CAR, DRC and Tanzania

⁵ The Somalia map is yet to be updated with the most recent analysis

⁶ Main crop season in Ethiopia, that encompasses crops harvested between September and February

⁷ The main rainfall season in Ethiopia that occurs from mid-June to mid-September

⁸ FEWS NET. [Drought-induced Crop Failure Leads to Emergency in Conflict-affected North. December 2023](#)

⁹ FEWS NET. [Emergency \(IPC Phase 4\) Outcomes Expected in Northern Ethiopia. January 2024](#)

¹⁰ Ibid

Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) estimates that close to 4 million people in the country are currently affected by the drought and require immediate multi-sectoral assistance¹¹.

Meanwhile, armed clashes in parts of Amhara and Oromia continued to cause population displacement, disrupt livelihoods, agricultural activities, markets and trade flows, and restrict humanitarian access.

In the south and south-east, heavy rains associated with El Niño during the Deyr¹² rainfall season, caused extensive flooding, displacing populations, damaging crops, destroying critical infrastructure, and disrupting markets and trade routes, hence limiting access to food, especially in the riverine areas. This came as many households were still struggling to recover from the 2020-23 drought, hence heightening their food security needs. Some general improvement in the food security situation is, however, expected in the coming months due to improved pasture and water availability, as well as off-season crop harvests.

The central and southern agro-pastoral areas of Somalia also witnessed widespread flooding during the Deyr rainfall season, causing population displacement, disruption of agricultural activities, damage to farmlands, and above-average food prices. More than 2.4 million people were estimated to have been affected by the floods, with about 1.06 million displaced across 36 districts, according to the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA). Over 3,900 livestock were also lost¹³. Considering the compounding impacts of the recent five-season drought, conflict and insecurity, and reduced humanitarian assistance, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity were recorded in several pastoral, agro-pastoral and riverine areas, and in most internally displaced persons (IDP) settlements across the country¹⁴.

Though, generally, the food security situation has improved and is expected to further improve between April and June 2024 – as a result of increased livestock production, access to food and income from both main and off-season harvests, and forecast average to above-average rainfall during the 2024 Gu¹⁵ rainfall season – Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity will likely persist in several flood-affected riverine areas, in the worst drought-affected areas, including central pastoral areas, in north-western

agro-pastoral areas, where the 2023 OND seasonal rains were below-average, and in various IDP settlements¹⁶.

South Sudan is facing one of the worst food crises across the globe. Until March 2024 (harvest–post-harvest period), close to 5.8 million people, representing 46% of analysed population, will face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity. Of these, 25,000 will likely be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) – 11,000 in Pibor of Greater Pibor Administrative Area and 14,000 South Sudanese returnees. Unity, Jonglei, Upper Nile and Northern Bahr El Ghazal states are the most food insecure, with more than half of their population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) levels of acute food insecurity¹⁷.

Conflict, both localised and in neighbouring Sudan, continued to force population displacement, disrupt livelihoods and restrict delivery of humanitarian assistance. As of 25 February 2024, 577,129 South Sudanese returnees, Sudanese refugees and third country national refugees had crossed into South Sudan from Sudan, deepening an already dire humanitarian situation. Persistent poor macro-economic conditions, partly linked to depreciation of the local currency, continued to limit food access through high food prices.

The food crisis in Sudan continued to deepen as hostilities spilled over to new areas leading to widespread population displacement (both new and secondary), increased market and trade disruption, damage to essential infrastructure, and restricted humanitarian access. Of particular concern are the high incidences of human rights abuses, including the deliberate targeting of civilians, sexual and gender-based violence, and forced recruitment.

The expansion of clashes into the south-east states – which were already hosting hundreds of thousands of people displaced from Khartoum – in late 2023 and January 2024, has led to a new wave of displacement, exacerbating what is already the world's largest internal displacement crisis¹⁸. In Gezira state, for instance, over 500,000 people were displaced, with 46% of them being previously displaced from Khartoum¹⁹. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that about 6.3 million people had been internally displaced across the country, due to the conflict, and another close to 1.9 million had crossed

¹¹ [OCHA. Ethiopia Situation Report. January 2024](#)

¹² Short rainfall season normally occurring from October to December

¹³ [Somali Disaster Management Agency \(SoDMA\)](#)

¹⁴ [IPC. Somalia IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Analysis. February 2024](#)

¹⁵ Main rainfall season in Somalia normally occurring from April to June

¹⁶ [IPC. Somalia IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Analysis. February 2024](#)

¹⁷ [IPC. IPC South Sudan Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Analysis. November 2023](#)

¹⁸ [OCHA. Sudan: Summary of the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan and the Regional Refugee Response Plan. February 2024](#)

¹⁹ [FEWS NET. Clashes in Sudan's Breadbasket Threaten National Food Availability. February 2024](#)

the border into neighbouring countries as of 20 February 2024²⁰.

The clashes also continued to interrupt agricultural activities, including main season harvesting, transportation of farm produce, and winter wheat growing in the Gezira irrigation scheme, which accounts for 40-50% of Sudan's total wheat production²¹. Staple food prices are, therefore, expected to remain above-average due to the anticipated below-average harvests, increasing market and trade disruptions, and soaring fuel and transportation costs. This is as the Sudanese Pound (SDG) continued to depreciate, limiting the capacity of the government to import food as well as that of households to purchase.

An estimated 17.7 million people in the country are estimated to face Crisis or worse levels (IPC Phase 3+) of acute food insecurity, with Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes in the hardest hit urban areas²². During the upcoming lean season, FEWS NET projects that several households could deteriorate into Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), particularly in Omdurman of Khartoum and El Geneina of West Darfur²³.

Nutrition

Compared to 2022, higher admission rates were recorded across the region in 2023, in part due to food insecurity, conflict, and a high prevalence of infectious diseases, aggravated by El Niño-induced flooding during the 2023 October-December (OND) rainfall season. Poor feeding practices, limited access to health and nutrition services, and poor water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) practices compounded the situation.

Areas and populations of concern

In northern Ethiopia, high Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence (exceeding the 15% Emergency threshold) continued to be recorded amidst conflict, poor economic conditions, and a pause in food aid, that came to an end in December 2023, even though its scale remained limited, with not more than 10% of targeted beneficiaries in Tigray, for instance, reached in the month. Rapid Nutrition Assessments (RNAs) conducted in October 2023 in two conflict-affected woredas, Megalle and Berahle, in the Afar region, revealed proxy GAM prevalences of 36.3% and 26.2% respectively. Similarly, another RNA conducted at

the same time in Telemet and Janamora woredas of North Gondar zone in Amhara region, revealed a proxy GAM prevalence of 48% and 35% respectively.

The situation is exacerbated by the El Niño-driven severe drought that has found many still grappling with the long-lasting impacts of the 2020-22 conflict. In Tigray, for instance, the Nutrition Cluster has warned that the escalating food security crisis risks heightening pre-existing high levels of acute malnutrition, particularly in areas affected by below-average Kiremt rains²⁴. Even though the Somali region is not currently experiencing drought, malnutrition rates are rising, particularly in the region's Dolo Ado and Bokolmayo districts in Liban zone, which were recently impacted by floods²⁵.

Meanwhile in Kenya, 332,861 and 159,886 children under the age of five years were admitted for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment in 2023. A decline in admissions was noted from July 2023, mainly attributed to a decrease in outreach and mass screening, and likely positive impacts from the 2023 March-May rainfall season.

In Somalia, an estimated 1.7 million children under the age of five years face acute malnutrition through December 2024, including 430,000 who are likely to be severely malnourished. In terms of admission trends, a total of 623,712 (133% of annual target) under-five children were admitted for SAM in 2023, representing a 33% increase compared to 2022. Despite the gradual recession of flood waters from the Deyr rainfall season, the risk of water- and vector-borne diseases, such as cholera, Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and malaria remains high among under-five children.

Meanwhile in South Sudan, more than 1.65 million under-five children are estimated to suffer acute malnutrition, 480,000 of them in its severe form. Warrap (18%), Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal (15%), Jonglei (14%) and Unity (14%) and Upper Nile (11%) states have the highest burden. Of increasing concern are refugees and returnees arriving from Sudan as nutrition screenings at border points reveal a proxy GAM prevalence exceeding the 15% Emergency threshold.

The nutrition situation in Sudan remained critical, owing in large part to the ongoing conflict. Looking at admission

²⁰ IOM. DTM Sudan Weekly Displacement Snapshot 21. February 2024

²¹ FEWS NET. Clashes in Sudan's Breadbasket Threaten National Food Availability. February 2024

²² IPC. Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis October 2023-February 2024. December 2023

²³ FEWS NET. Clashes in Sudan's Breadbasket Threaten National Food Availability. February 2024

²⁴ OCHA. Ethiopia - Situation Report. January 2024

²⁵ Ibid

trends, about 313,400²⁶ under-five children were admitted for SAM treatment in 2023, which is comparable to the number of admissions in 2022 (321,613) despite access challenges. Higher admissions were, however, registered in IDP receiving states compared to Khartoum and parts of Darfur and Kordofan states, where access has been a challenge, implying that the situation could be worse in the active conflict states. Limited access to health services, disease outbreaks like measles, cholera and AWD, combined with alarming levels of acute food insecurity are exacerbating the situation.

Markets

In the last quarter of 2023, cereal prices in most markets in the region declined, driven by expectations of above-average harvests and reduced shortfalls in deficit-producing countries such as Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Rwanda and Burundi, but remained higher compared to the recent five-year average. Meanwhile in Ethiopia, they trended significantly above last year's and the recent five-year averages due to El Niño-related below-average harvests in Meher growing areas. Reduced imports owing to inadequate hard currency, localised trade interruptions caused by conflict, persistent local currency depreciation and high fuel prices also contributed to elevated general food prices in the country²⁷.

Internationally, high crude oil supply availability led to a sustained decline in global prices. Even so, prices remained high in the region. In Kenya, for instance, a litre of petrol in December 2023 retailed for 213 Kenya Shillings (KShs), up 19.6% year-on-year but down from the record-high KShs. 218 in October and November 2023. In South Sudan, it retailed for 2,866.5 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP), up 72.5% year-on-year basis.

Looking at the cost of living in December 2023, double-digit annual and food inflation was recorded in Ethiopia (28.7% and 30.6% respectively) and in Burundi (27.1% and 37.2% respectively). Though no official inflation rates have been issued for Sudan since February 2023, its annual inflation is estimated to exceed 300%. This is as significant price increases continued to be observed across the country since the outbreak of the ongoing conflict. For example, the price of a kilogram of wheat was 105.8% higher in December 2023 compared to the same time in 2022, with the highest increases recorded in Blue Nile, Kassala and

South Kordofan states. That of a kilogram of sorghum was 28.7% higher compared to the same time in 2022, with the highest increases observed in South Kordofan and West Kordofan states.

Displacement

The number of forcibly displaced persons in the region has been on an increasing trend, driven largely by conflict and insecurity, and climatic shocks. As of 14 February 2024, the region hosted an estimated [5.1 million refugees and asylum seekers and 17.5 million IDPs](#).

Regarding the situation in Sudan, as of 20 February 2024, close to 8.2 million people had been forcibly displaced due to the conflict – about 6.3 million internally and 1.9 million into neighbouring countries²⁸ – making it the largest internal displacement crisis globally. Alarming rates of acute malnutrition continue to be recorded among new arrival under-five children as nutrition screening exercises at border points and transit sites in Ethiopia and South Sudan reveal proxy GAM prevalence above the 15% Emergency threshold. Overcrowding in transition sites, IDP and refugee camps may result in increased risks of malnutrition and disease outbreaks, including measles.

Insufficient funding constrains the capacity of actors to provide essential services to displaced populations. In particular, food ration cuts among refugee populations (from the recommended 2,100 kilocalories per person per day) have impacted all the countries, leaving millions of affected refugees unable to meet their nutrition needs.

Climate

Looking at the performance of the 2023 OND rainfall season, moderate to extremely wet conditions were observed over western Eritrea, western and southern Ethiopia, much of Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Tanzania. Meanwhile, moderately dry to extremely dry conditions were observed in parts of northern Burundi and in southern Rwanda, according to the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC).

A review of the state of climate drivers indicates that El Niño conditions are likely to continue at least until April 2024, while the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) has returned to a neutral phase in February 2024. Though these two drivers

²⁶ Data may be incomplete and subject to retrospective adjustments

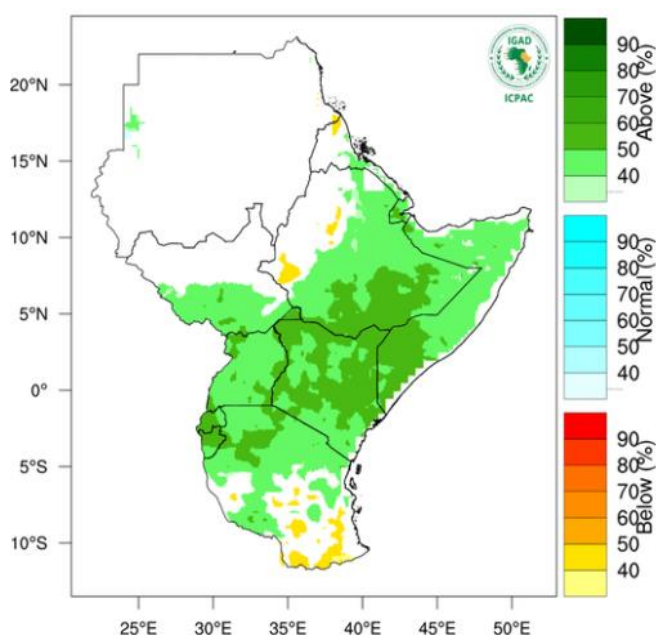
²⁷ [Market Analysis Subgroup \(MAS\). East Africa Cross Border Trade Bulletin for October-December 2023. January 2024](#)

²⁸ [IOM. DTM Sudan Weekly Displacement Snapshot 21. February 2024](#)

are not known to have an impact on the March-May rainfall season, the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) normally has a significant impact during the season and should, therefore, be monitored.

Between February and April 2024, wetter than usual conditions are forecast over Djibouti, much of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, southern South Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and northern Tanzania. Meanwhile, drier than usual conditions are forecast over localised parts of western Ethiopia and southern parts of Tanzania. Warmer than usual temperatures are forecast over most parts of the region, risking increased rates of evapotranspiration.

Rainfall probabilistic forecast for February-April 2024



Source: ICPAC

Health

Multiple disease outbreaks, among them cholera, malaria, dengue, measles, circulating vaccine derived polio virus (cVDPV2), anthrax, Rift Valley fever (RVF) and yellow fever, continued to pose significant public health challenges in the region. The recent El Niño-induced heavy rains and flooding have exacerbated the number of cholera cases, particularly in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. The number of dengue, malaria and RVF cases being reported in the flood-affected areas in the region have also increased.

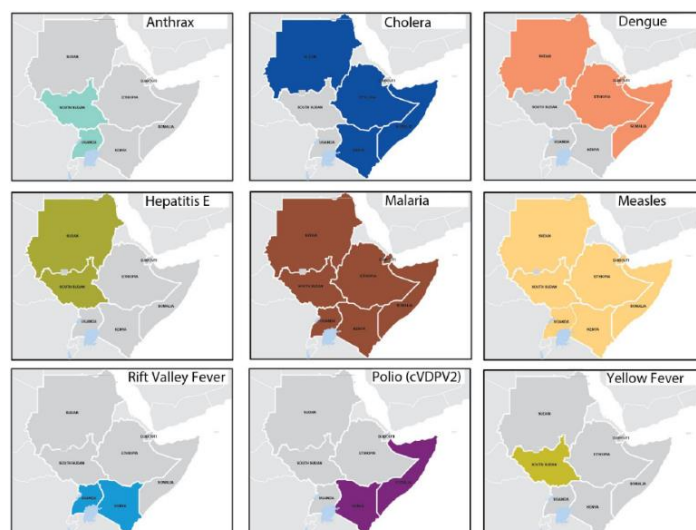
Between 27 August 2022 and 25 January 2024, 31,951 cholera cases were reported in Ethiopia with a case fatality ratio (CFR) of 1.5%. Of these cases, over 1830 were reported in January 2024. At the time of reporting, the outbreak was active in 45 woredas across Dire Dawa,

Hareri, Amhara, Afar, Somali, Oromia and the South Ethiopia Regional state. Several factors, among them conflict and insecurity, and Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) shortage, are challenging response interventions. In Kenya, a total of 12,498 cases and 206 related deaths were reported between 05 October 2022 and 31 January 2024 across 28 counties. Between November 2023 and the time of reporting, a third wave of the outbreak had been reported in the flood-affected counties of Lamu (307 cases) and Tana River (29 cases). Meanwhile in Somalia, 18,810 cases and 46 deaths were reported as of 21 January 2024, with Banadir, Gedo and Lower Juba regions reporting the most cases. Increased cases were recorded between mid-December 2023 and the first week of 2024, attributed to the recent flooding in the country. Between April 2023 and 24 January 2024, 10,177 cholera cases were reported in Sudan with a CFR of 2.8%. The majority of the cases were reported in Red Sea (3,264), Gedaref (2,049), Gezira (1,861) and White Nile (1,445) states, and Khartoum (578).

A new RVF outbreak was reported in Marsabit county in Kenya, with a total of 13 cases (1 confirmed) identified by the end of January 2024. There is an increased risk of further spread to neighbouring counties affected by the recent flooding. The outbreak in Uganda is ongoing with a total of 182 cases reported between January 2023 and 16 January 2024.

Regarding yellow fever outbreak in South Sudan, a total of 35 cases (1 confirmed and 34 suspected) and five suspected deaths, indicative of a CFR of 14.2%, were reported as of 26 January 2024. The cases were reported across five counties – Ezo, Ibba, Nzara, Tambura and Yambio – in Western Equatoria state.

Ongoing disease outbreaks in the region



Source: WHO

Humanitarian response

Funding for humanitarian response continues to fall short of the rising levels of need in the region. There is, therefore, a need for sustained advocacy and increased resource-mobilisation efforts to ensure immediate multi-sectoral response, especially to the life-threatening needs in the region.

Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) funding by country (million USD), as of 09 February 2024

2024 HRPs

Country	Required	Funded	Funded (%)
Somalia	1,585.3	1.4	0.1%
South Sudan	1,788.8	62.3	3.5%
Sudan	2,695.7	94.5	3.5%

Though the countries listed below do not currently have 2024 HRPs, they did have funding gaps based on their 2023 HRPs.

2023 HRPs

Country	Required	Funded	Funded (%)
Ethiopia	3994.8	1354.7	34%
Kenya ²⁹	451.8	362.6	80%
Burundi	237.2	61.6	26%

Source: OCHA

Countries also received funding outside the HRPs – Ethiopia (USD. 212.7 million), Kenya (USD. 50.9 million) Somalia (USD. 114.3 million), South Sudan (USD. 57.8 million), Sudan (USD. 2.8 million) and Burundi (USD. 35 million).

Recommendations

The FSNWG recommends:

- Immediate, coordinated and multi-sectoral life-saving assistance in areas with populations in Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+).
- Close monitoring of the food security and nutrition situation in areas where the situation is dire and at risk of further deterioration. This includes, but is not limited to, areas with populations in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), such as parts of Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan. Additionally, continuous monitoring of

the drivers of food insecurity to provide timely early warning information for early action.

- Scale-up of programmes to safeguard livelihoods, and support recovery and a return to self-reliance for households facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or worse outcomes.
- 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.
- Increased multi-sectoral assistance, including food, water, sanitation, protection, shelter, health and nutrition interventions, in conflict-affected areas in Sudan, in addition to areas that have received displaced populations, including neighbouring countries. Mechanisms to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, as well as to care for and protect unaccompanied displaced children should also be put in place and scaled up.
- Strengthening of disease surveillance, especially at cross-border and point of entry areas, monitoring and early warning, coupled with treatment and prevention interventions.
- Scaling up of WASH-related interventions in cholera-affected areas considering the impacts of the recent flooding, particularly in the Horn of Africa.
- Ensuring conflict-sensitive programming in areas where food insecurity is driven by conflict and insecurity, and supporting and strengthening initiatives that seek to address and mitigate conflict and insecurity in the region.

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²⁹ Drought Response Plan