

FSNWG Food Security and Nutrition Update

Key messages

- In June 2025, an estimated 88.5 million people in the region were highly food insecure and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. This included 72.7 million people in 10 of the 13 countries covered by the FSNWG, according to [IPC](#) analyses, in addition to 15.8 million people in Ethiopia, as per the 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Of these, 57.1 million people were in seven of the eight IGAD member states.
- Escalating hostilities in Upper Nile state, alongside localised conflict and insecurity in other parts of the country, continued to deepen food insecurity in South Sudan. Constrained humanitarian access is exacerbating the situation, with Nasir and Ulang counties assessed to be at plausible risk of Famine.
- In Sudan, the food security and nutrition situation is projected to significantly deteriorate during the July-September lean season. Of particular concern are populations in the Famine-affected areas of North Darfur and South Kordofan, as well as those in areas at risk of Famine in Greater Darfur and Kordofan.
- Exceptionally high staple cereal prices persisted across South Sudan and Sudan in May, exceeding the recent five-year average by more than 500%. Relatedly, annual inflation was estimated at 147.8% in Sudan and at triple digits in South Sudan. Prices were relatively stable or declined in Burundi, Djibouti and Uganda.
- As of 26 June 2025, an estimated 23.8 million people across the region were forcibly displaced, including 18 million IDPs and 5.8 million refugees and asylum seekers. Sudan accounted for over half of the region's total IDPs, despite a decline in numbers due to return movements.
- Between July and September, wetter than usual conditions are forecast over most parts of the northern sector, western Kenya and most of Uganda, offering positive prospects for crop production, pastoral conditions and water availability, but also heightening the risk of flooding in flood-prone areas. A few isolated areas in central Ethiopia and northwestern South Sudan are, however, expected to experience drier-than-usual conditions.

Food insecure population estimates, as of June 2025

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	510,466	150,287	43,585		193,872
Kenya (ASALs)	6,587,550	2,531,700	291,650		2,823,350
Somalia	6,991,000	3,767,000	784,000		4,551,000
South Sudan	3,927,876	5,221,768	2,426,372	83,463	7,731,603
Sudan ¹	15,622,067	15,894,224	8,098,590	637,234	24,630,048
Uganda (partial) ²	2,408,296	1,327,419	26,485		1,353,904
IGAD Total	36,047,255	28,892,398	11,670,682	720,697	41,283,777
Burundi ³	5,925,208	1,212,374	0		1,212,374
CAR	2,414,079	1,743,894	480,660		2,224,554
DRC	51,540,959	23,843,372	3,903,656		27,747,028
Tanzania (partial)	959,207	241,622	0		241,622
Total	96,888,708	55,933,660	16,054,998	720,697	72,709,355

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

Other food security estimates

Ethiopia 15,800,000 (Humanitarian Response Plan 2024)

Total highly food insecure population in need of assistance

IGAD caseload: 57.1 million
Regional caseload: 88.5 million

¹ Valid through May 2025

² Limited to refugee-hosting communities and Karamoja, with Karamoja's analysis valid through February 2025

³ Valid through March 2025

Sector updates

Food security

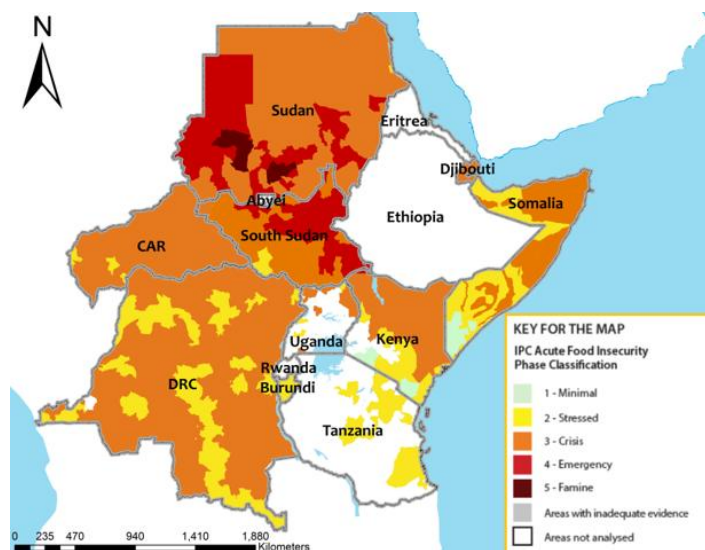
Levels of acute food insecurity across the region remained concerning, with lean seasons either ongoing or approaching across much of the region compounding the effects of ongoing conflict, climatic shocks and macroeconomic challenges in many areas.

About 88.5 million people in 11 of the 13 countries covered by the FSNWG were estimated to be highly food insecure and in urgent need of assistance. This included 72.7 million people, according to IPC analyses in 10 countries, in addition to 15.8 million people in Ethiopia, based on the 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Of these, 57.1 million were in seven of the eight IGAD member states – Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. Furthermore, 16 million people were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in the 10 countries with IPC analyses.

The situation was particularly alarming in Sudan and South Sudan, where a total of 720,697 people were classified in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) – 637,234 in Sudan and 83,463 in South Sudan. In addition, certain areas in Sudan were already experiencing Famine (IPC Phase 5), while others in both countries were at plausible risk of Famine.

The region also had a large number of people in Stressed (IPC Phase 2), at about 96.9 million across countries covered by the IPC, including over 36 million people in the IGAD region.

Regional food security situation, as of June 2025



Source: IPC-GSU for East and Central Africa

Drivers

The March-May (MAM) 2025 rainfall season was marked by spatial and temporal variability, resulting in mixed crop and livestock production outcomes across the region.

In the *Belg*⁴-receiving areas of Ethiopia, dry conditions in the central to northern parts have resulted in poor harvest prospects, with the pastoral and agropastoral areas of Afar reportedly experiencing drought. In northern Somalia, where rainfall was just 30-45% of average, drought conditions also prevail in several areas⁵. Meanwhile in southern Somalia, crop prospects are mixed. Though cumulative rainfall was average to above-average, its distribution was erratic. Heavy rains in early May improved crop conditions in some areas but disrupted development in others⁶. The situation in Somalia remains particularly concerning, considering that the October-December (OND) 2024 rains were generally below average.

In central Uganda, a delayed onset and erratic nature of the first-season rains forced replanting in some areas. Though short-cycle crops matured, the long-cycle ones did not complete their growing cycle, pointing to subpar harvests for affected farmers⁷. In Burundi, despite an improvement in precipitation in April and May, the season started with rains about 60% of average, resulting in below-average Season B crop production⁸.

In contrast, most parts of Kenya received favourable rainfall, boosting crop production prospects, and pasture and water availability for livestock.

Pasture and water conditions have also improved in southwestern Ethiopia as well as in Uganda's Karamoja region. In southeastern Ethiopia, especially the Somali region, the arid and semi-arid lands of Kenya and most of Somalia, normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) anomalies show that pasture improvement was short-lived⁹, potentially reflecting continued stress from the below-average OND 2024 rains and above-average temperatures between January and March 2025¹⁰.

Conflict and insecurity – both political and resource-based – continued to disrupt livelihoods and undermine food security across the region, especially in parts of Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

Amhara, Oromia and Tigray regions in Ethiopia remain areas of concern due to political tensions¹¹. In Somalia,

⁴ Short rainfall season typically between February and March

⁵ FEWS NET. Global Food Security Update: June to September 2025. June 2025

⁶ GEOGLAM. Crop Monitor Early Warning No. 106, July 2025

⁷ FAO GIEWS. Uganda Country Brief. May 2025

⁸ FAO GIEWS. Burundi Country Brief. July 2025

⁹ EWX Next Generation Viewer

¹⁰ WFP. Eastern Africa Seasonal Monitor. May 2025

¹¹ FEWS NET. Global Food Security Update: June to September 2025. June 2025

insecurity involving non-state armed actors has continued to drive fatalities, displacement, loss of livelihoods, and market disruptions.

Impacts are also evident in South Sudan – particularly in Upper Nile, where hostilities have escalated since February – as well as in parts of Jonglei, Lakes, and Central and Western Equatoria states, which remain hotspots for localised conflict. Compounded by limited humanitarian access, climatic shocks and macroeconomic challenges, this has left 7.7 million people, or 57% of the total population, in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). Of them, about 83,000 are in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Pibor county in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Luakpiny| Nasir, Ulang and Malakal counties in Upper Nile state, in addition to 39,000 returnees from Sudan. The regional spillover from the conflict in Sudan continues to exacerbate the situation. Since April 2023, close to 1.2 million people have arrived in South Sudan from Sudan¹², most with critical needs for food and nutrition.

In Sudan, shifting conflict dynamics, in light of recent drone strikes in Khartoum and Port Sudan, signal increased remote targeting of infrastructure, threatening the country's main humanitarian supplies and trade corridors. Despite above-average cereal production in late 2024¹³, conflict continued to undermine food availability, especially for households who were forced to abandon their food stocks due to conflict, as well as for IDPs and refugees residing in camps, many of whom were not able to cultivate¹⁴. As of the end of June, there were about 10.06 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) – 7.6 million displaced post April 2023¹⁵ – and 881,575 refugees and asylum seekers¹⁶ in Sudan. Regarding humanitarian access, some progress has been made, particularly in parts of Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan, where large IDP populations are concentrated. However, many Famine-affected areas, including El Fasher, remain hard to reach. This has left IDPs in camps like Abu Shouk and Zamzam cut off from critical assistance. The food security situation is expected to deteriorate further in these areas during the lean season (July-September), as seasonal peaks in food insecurity are compounded by rains that compromise road networks and further restrict humanitarian access¹⁷.

Meanwhile, macroeconomic challenges, including high rates of inflation, currency depreciation, and low foreign currency reserves, continued to limit food access across almost all countries in the region (see the markets and trade update for more information).

Exacerbating the overall situation is the decline in humanitarian assistance due to the changing funding landscape. Current levels of humanitarian food assistance remain largely insufficient to meet the needs of those estimated to be facing high levels of acute food insecurity.

Nutrition

The nutrition situation across the region remained dire, with close to 16.6 million under-five children (U5) acutely malnourished – including about 4.6 million in urgent need of treatment for severe malnutrition – across 10 of the 13 countries covered by the FSNWG. Of these, 11.4 million were in seven of the eight IGAD member states.

Acute malnutrition population table, 2024-25

Country	GAM-U5	SAM-U5	MAM-U5
Djibouti	34,343	7,741	26,602
Kenya	800,202	198,166	602,036
Somalia	1,771,000	479,000	1,292,000
South Sudan	2,293,813	714,439	1,579,374
Sudan	3,660,000	730,000	2,930,000
Ethiopia	2,675,679	894,682	1,780,997
Uganda	166,270	28,319	137,951
IGAD Total	11,401,307	3,052,347	8,348,960
Burundi	484,490	84,985	399,505
CAR	228,431	61,508	166,923
DRC	4,456,792	1,390,409	3,066,383
Total	16,571,020	4,589,249	11,981,771

Source: IPC, Sudan Nutrition Cluster, UNICEF

In Somalia, the acute malnutrition (AMN) burden through December 2025 increased to 1.77 million from the January estimate of 1.7 million, in light of reduced humanitarian funding and other aggravating factors such as drought- and conflict-related displacement¹⁸. In South Sudan the situation continued to deteriorate with 47 of the 62 analysed counties expected to be in a Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) or Extremely Critical situation (IPC AMN Phase 5)¹⁹. In Uganda, where over 114,000 refugees have arrived

¹² IOM and UNHCR. Joint Border Monitoring of Arrivals from Sudan to South Sudan. Accessed on 14 July 2025

¹³ FAO GIEWS. Sudan Country Brief. May 2025

¹⁴ IPC. IPC alert: Famine-affected areas in Sudan. July 2025

¹⁵ IOM DTM. Sudan Mobility Update (19). July 2025

¹⁶ UNHCR. Operational Data Portal – Sudan. Accessed on 14 July 2025

¹⁷ IPC. IPC alert: Famine-affected areas in Sudan. July 2025

¹⁸ IPC. Somalia IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis April-June 2025. March 2025

¹⁹ IPC. South Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis. April-July 2025. June 2025

between January and May 2025, global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates as high as 29.7% have been recorded among new arrivals in overcrowded settlements.

Treatment coverage varied, with Ethiopia achieving 61.9% outpatient therapeutic program (OTP) coverage, Somalia reaching 63% of its annual severe acute malnutrition (SAM) target (216,840 admissions), and Burundi maintaining 92% cure rates – above Sphere standards. Meanwhile only 10-11% of outreach sites in Kenya's hard-to-reach areas were operational, and in South Sudan, major access constraints remain due to conflict in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap states. Seasonal flooding could further limit access.

Regarding critical supplies' pipeline status, multiple countries face imminent stockouts. In Kenya, ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) supplies are expected to last until October 2025. Somalia's pipeline is secured through November, with gaps expected in 2026. Ethiopia also has supplies through November, though reduced dosages are being applied. Notably, in Burundi, RUTF stockouts are expected from July, and in Uganda moderate acute malnutrition programming has been suspended due to funding shortfalls.

Limited access to food, poor infant and young child feeding practices, inadequate health and nutrition services, poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices, and recurrent disease outbreaks (exacerbated by weather extremes and conflict) remain among the main contributing factors to acute malnutrition in the region. Reduced humanitarian funding is limiting the scale of interventions.

Markets and trade

Fuel prices recorded significant year-on-year increases in May across Sudan (170.9%), South Sudan (133.3%), Ethiopia (53.6%) and Burundi (32.6%), potentially contributing to increased retail prices for commodities through higher production and transportation costs. In Somalia, fuel prices remained stable compared to 2024 but rose by about 20% month-on-month. Local currency depreciation was a key driver across the five countries, compounded by scarcity in South Sudan and Sudan.

Significant year-on-year local currency depreciation was observed across Ethiopia (57.1% in official markets), South Sudan (65.3%) and Sudan (38.4% in commercial banks) in

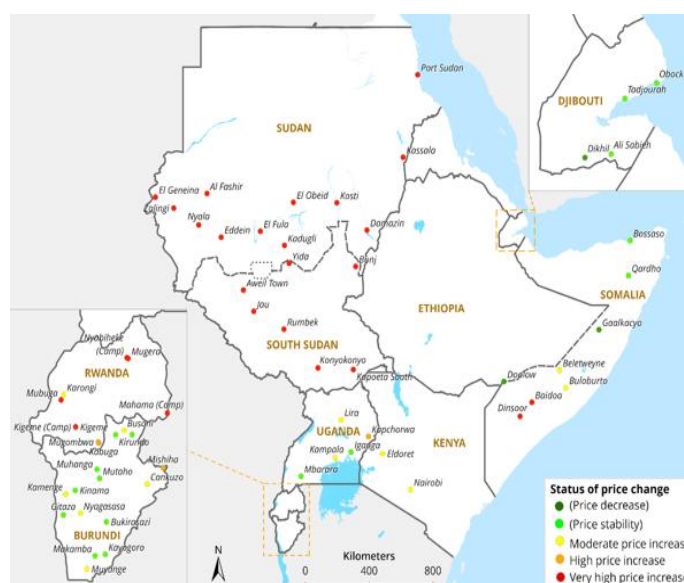
May. In all the three countries, low foreign reserves, aggravated by the loss of oil revenue in South Sudan and ongoing conflict in Sudan, were key contributing factors.

Looking at staple cereal prices in May, exceptionally high prices persisted in South Sudan and Sudan. In South Sudan, national average prices for key cereals were 500% and 200% over the recent five-year average and year earlier levels, respectively. In Sudan, the national average prices for a kilogram of wheat and sorghum increased by 101% and 116% respectively, compared to 2024. There were, however, significant regional disparities, with the conflict-affected North Darfur and South Kordofan recording the highest prices.

Staple cereal prices also increased in most monitored markets in Rwanda relative to the recent five-year average, but were stable or declined in Burundi, Djibouti and Uganda. In some markets in Uganda, however, maize prices were higher than year-earlier levels due to concerns over the performance of first-season harvests and strong export demand²⁰.

Relatedly, double digit year-on-year annual and food inflation was recorded in May across Burundi (43.9% and 43.7%, respectively) and Ethiopia (14.4% and 12.1%, respectively). In Sudan, annual inflation was estimated at 147.8%, while in South Sudan it was estimated at triple digits, given high prices of goods and services, even though official data is not available.

Staple cereal price change, May 2025 compared to the recent five-year average



Source: WFP

²⁰ FAO. Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (No.15). June 2025

Displacement

As of 26 June, an estimated 23.8 million people were forcibly displaced across the region, including 18 million IDPs and 5.8 million refugees and asylum seekers. Conflict and insecurity, and climatic shocks remain the primary drivers of displacement in the region.

IDPs and refugees in the region, as of June 2025

Country	IDPs	Refugees
Djibouti	6,086	33,754
Eritrea		117
Ethiopia	1,919,993	1,080,563
Kenya	484,260	854,876
Somalia	3,262,080	40,085
South Sudan	1,992,513	585,472
Sudan	10,136,005	881,575
Uganda	3,900	1,927,593
Burundi	92,227	104,528
Rwanda	22,000	129,802
Tanzania	75,000	231,517
Total	17,994,064	5,869,882

Source: IOM, UNHCR

Sudan accounted for over half of the region's total IDPs, at 10.1 million – 2.4 million displaced before the start of the ongoing conflict and 7.7 million after. This is a 13% decrease from the record-high 11.58 million in January 2025, largely driven by return movements, especially to Al Jazirah, Sennar and Khartoum states. In addition, more than 4.1 million people were estimated to have fled Sudan, due to the ongoing conflict, the majority to Egypt (37%), South Sudan (28%) and Chad (27%).

Since March 2025, around 129,000 people have arrived in Sudan (49,000), Ethiopia (35,000), the DRC (23,000), and Uganda (22,000), from South Sudan, following the escalation of hostilities since February. Another 173,000 have reportedly been internally displaced within the country since February²¹. Meanwhile, about 67,870 Sudan nationals who had sought refuge in South Sudan have returned to Sudan, citing insecurity, and limited food assistance and essential services in camps across South Sudan as their main reasons for return.

Funding shortfalls continue to force food rations cuts for refugees across the region. In South Sudan, Uganda and Rwanda, prioritisation based on vulnerability is being

applied, with rations for new arrivals in Uganda reduced to 60%.

Climate

A review of the March-May (MAM) rainfall season reveals a varied performance across the region. Wet conditions were observed in western and southwestern parts of Ethiopia, most parts of Kenya, southern Somalia (even though distribution was erratic), eastern South Sudan, eastern Uganda, southern Burundi, and north-western and southern Tanzania. Meanwhile, dry conditions were observed northeastern and eastern Ethiopia, northern parts of Somalia, and in parts of southwestern Uganda. Usual rainfall conditions were observed in the rest of the region.

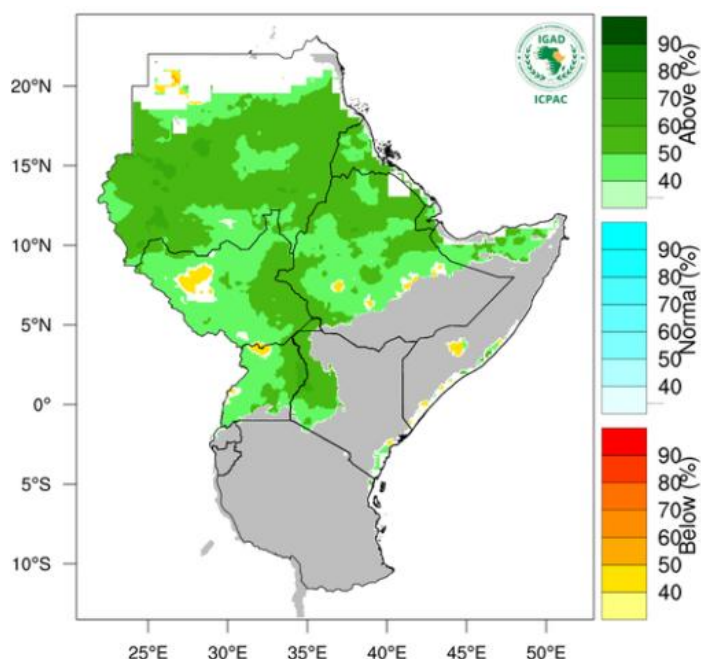
For the ongoing June-September (JJAS) 2025 rainfall season, wetter-than-usual conditions were observed in the northern coast of Kenya and a few areas in southwestern Uganda in June. Drier-than-usual conditions were observed in central, eastern and northern Ethiopia, northwestern parts of Kenya, northern Somalia, eastern and southern parts of South Sudan and most of Sudan, signalling a delayed start to the season.

A review of climate drivers indicates that ENSO-neutral conditions are expected to persist through the August-October period. Thereafter, the likelihood of La Niña conditions will increase, though probabilities remain comparable to those for ENSO-neutral conditions. Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are near average over most of the Pacific Ocean. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), though not known to influence the JJAS season, is also neutral and is expected to remain so till the end of the year.

Between July and September, wetter than usual conditions are forecast over most parts of the northern sector, western Kenya and most of Uganda. This is expected to support improved crop production, pastoral conditions and water resources, providing a much-needed reprieve in certain areas, such as northern Ethiopia. However, it also heightens the risk of flooding in flood-prone areas. A few isolated areas in central Ethiopia and north western South Sudan are expected to experience drier-than-usual conditions.

²¹ [UNHCR. South Sudan Displacement Overview. July 2025](#)

Rainfall probabilistic forecast for July-September 2025



Source: ICPAC

Recommendations

The FSNWG recommends:

- Provision of immediate, coordinated and multi-sectoral life-saving assistance in areas facing Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+), with a rapid scale-up of assistance and sustained humanitarian access in locations classified as in Famine or Risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5), as well as in areas in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).
- Close monitoring of the food security and nutrition situation in areas where the situation is dire and at risk of further deterioration, especially in parts of Sudan facing Famine and Risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5), and of South Sudan with populations in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) or at plausible risk of Famine, like Nasir and Ulang in Upper Nile state, where conflict has escalated since late February. Areas facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) also require close monitoring.
- Advocate for governments to support programmes that safeguard livelihoods and promote recovery and a return to self-reliance for households facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or worse outcomes, with a focus on context-specific livelihood packages.
- Rapid scale-up of nutrition interventions to treat malnutrition cases and prevent a deterioration in

the overall nutrition situation, including expanding integrated community management (ICCM+) and early referral of malnutrition cases. Additionally, mass screening exercises should be prioritised for early detection, and nutrition services expanded to areas with low coverage.

- Increased multi-sectoral assistance – including food, water, sanitation, protection, shelter, health and nutrition interventions – in IDP and refugee camps and settlements across the region. In addition, cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration to ensure efficient use available resources.
- Supporting and strengthening initiatives that seek to address and mitigate conflict and insecurity in the region, given that conflict and related displacement remain key drivers of food insecurity, especially in parts of Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and the DRC.
- Close monitoring of the progress of the ongoing JJAS rainfall season and strengthening of anticipatory action where feasible, including prepositioning of essential supplies and provision of early warning to communities in areas at risk of flooding. In addition is enhancing disease surveillance systems, especially for water- and vector-borne diseases.

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