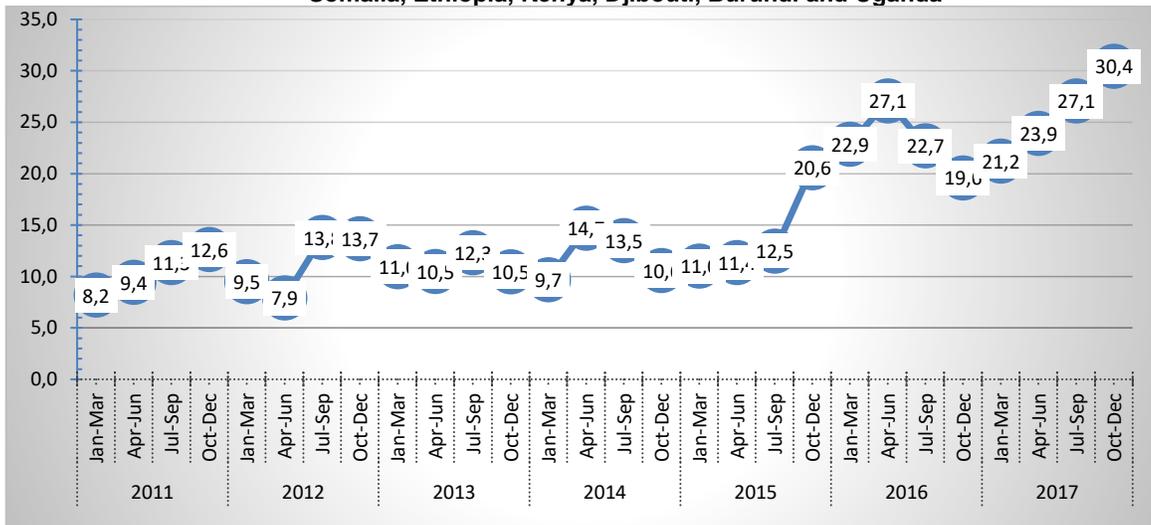


Update on Food / Nutrition Security Situation in the Great Horn of Africa (GHA), October/ November 2017 and Prospects to December 2017

Key Messages:

An estimated 30.3 million people are facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above), and are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The main drivers include: repeated episodes of drought across the region; conflicts and insecurity; high staple food prices, high influx of refugees movement across the region and high number of IDPs. The main areas of concern are: South Sudan; Burundi; south-eastern Ethiopia; pastoral areas of Kenya, and parts of Somalia. Food security is expected to improve in equatorial region of GHA due to the normal to above normal rainfall excepted in the eastern, central and far northern parts. In Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda in the coming months, food security is expected to improve as households harvest seasonal crops. Poor food security conditions are expected to persist in Burundi and Rwanda until the end of the lean season.

Food security trend in GHA countries: South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Burundi and Uganda



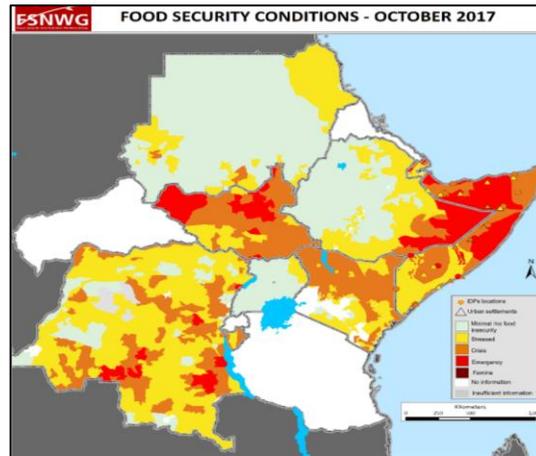
Analysis of acute Food Insecurity shows an upward trend since 2011, with Ethiopia, South Sudan and Somalia having the highest deterioration in food insecurity.

Areas of Highest Concern:

Ethiopia: Currently there are over 8 million people in need of emergency food assistance in Ethiopia. According to the Mid-year Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), 8.5 million people will need food assistance in the second half of 2017.

Somalia: Food security needs are nearly double the five-year average in Somalia, with an estimated 2,444,000 people currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 866,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Widespread food insecurity is driven by three consecutive poor seasons that led to well below-average production and large-scale livestock losses (IPC).

South Sudan: Severe food insecurity is affecting the population as a whole, with internally displaced persons (IDPs) being the most vulnerable. As for October to December 2017.



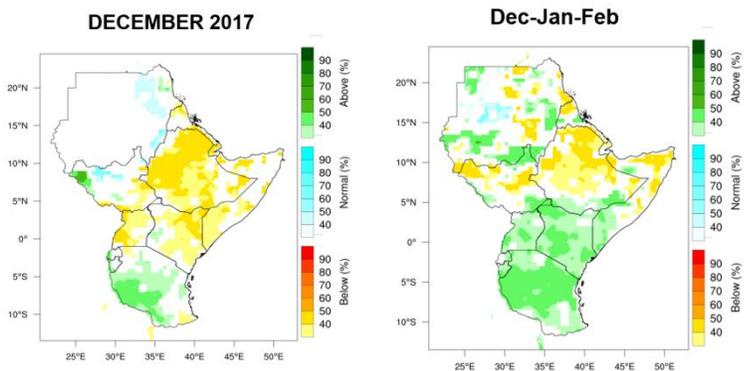
Nutrition Situation

The nutrition situation continues to be of concern in the region based on admission trends in several countries, despite ongoing response efforts. Urgent multi-sectoral humanitarian action is needed to respond to alarming levels of malnutrition in Somalia and Kenya to prevent further deterioration. In Kenya, 420,674 children require treatment of acute malnutrition. In Ethiopia, 376,000 children with SAM are expected in 2017. In Somalia, 1.2 million children are projected to be malnourished over the next one-year period, including 231,829 being severely malnourished. In Sudan 2 million people are acutely malnourished including 550,000 who are severely malnourished. In South Sudan more than one million children under age 5 are estimated to be acutely malnourished.

Main Drivers of the Current Food and Nutrition Insecurity;

Deteriorating terms of trade (ToT) for cereals and livestock in some parts of the region. Macroeconomic problems such as high inflation, trade restrictions. Staple food prices continue to follow seasonal trends but at elevated levels. From September, staple food prices, in some markets, started increasing. Volumes of tradable food commodities remain below average levels – low carry-over stocks from previous below-average crop harvests, restricted flows due to export bans in some countries like Tanzania. Conflict/ insecurity in parts of South Sudan, Burundi and parts of Somalia resulting in displacement of populations. Persistent insecurity and armed conflict have disrupted livelihood activities, affected market functionality and limited physical access to markets. In particular, the widespread conflict has brought nearly 2 million people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. Crop pest infestation and the recent outbreak of fall army worm (FAW) in western parts of the region affecting crop production. In addition, an anticipated earlier-than-normal start of the lean season in many areas will further hamper people’s food security, impairing the survival of the most vulnerable.

Climate Update and impact on food security trend



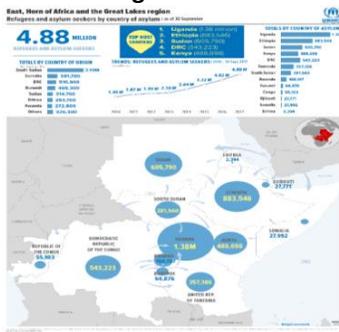
Normal to Above normal rainfall is expected over the southern parts of Ghana during the month of December to February. Near Normal rainfall conditions are expected over most parts of equatorial Ghana. In terms of climate systems, the ocean and atmosphere system remain consistent with ENSO-neutral, although edging closer to La Niña conditions. Model forecasts for January and March 2018 shows that IOD is likely to be in Neutral phase.

Impacts: Late onset, poor distribution, early cessation, and way below 75% of long-term average amounts, and high temperatures characterized the OND 2017 season;

- Consequently, farmers planted late (following late onset); early cessation led to widespread crop failure, while in some communities, farmers did not plant at all;
- Widespread food crop production deficits which brought about huge food consumption gaps. The prolonged drought associated with high temperatures severely affected pasture and browse resources which are now depleted

Trend: The multi-model averages predict La Niña to develop and persist through the remainder of the year and into early 2018. La Niña conditions are favoured (~55-65%) during the Northern Hemisphere fall (SON) and winter (DJF) 2017-18.

IDPs & Refugees Status in Ghana



Refugees influxes continue due to on-going conflict/insecurity compounded though the impacts of the on-going drought in the region. The total number of refugees and asylum seekers increased to over 4.8 million as of 30/10/17 (21% increase in 2017). South Sudanese refugees exceeded 2.1 million in the region, and influx continues. There are currently over 8 Million IDPs in the region due to on-going conflicts/insecurity and the negative impacts of drought. Due to funding shortfalls refugees are facing food ration cuts (30% in South Sudan, 30% in Kenya, 22% in Ethiopia, 50%-75% for old caseload in Uganda, and 20%-50% in Tanzania refugee camps). In the absence of humanitarian assistance, refugees and asylum seekers are expected to be in Crisis (UNHCR).

Food and nutrition security situation (by country)

<p>Ethiopia: Over 8 million people in Ethiopia in need of food assistance in the second half of 2017. 3.3 million People in Somali Region received emergency relief assistance from WFP. 500,000 children, pregnant and nursing mothers nationwide, received specialized nutritious food to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) from WFP. 600,000 refugees received WFP assistance. The early-September IRI/CPC ENSO forecast suggests an increased likelihood of La Niña between October 2017 and February 2018. Inter communal conflicts along the Oromia-Somali border have displaced over 500,000 people in both regions. Trend: lower than expected rainfall in this Deyr (winter) season could lead to further deterioration of food security. People with transitory needs (receiving assistance through the Government’s Protective Safety Net Programme.</p>	<p>South Sudan: As for October to December 2017, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance (IPC phase 3 and above) are expected to drop to 4.8 million (45% of the total population). However, this figure includes a doubled number of people classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) compared to the same time last year, and 25,000 people still experiencing catastrophic conditions and extreme food gaps. Trends: Domestic production is still far below consumption requirement which will lead to a high national food gap in 2018.</p>
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<p>SOMALIA: Food security needs are nearly double the five-year average in Somalia, with an estimated 2,444,000 people currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 866,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Widespread food insecurity is driven by three consecutive poor seasons that led to well below-average production and large-scale livestock losses, which have reduced household access to food and income. Sustained humanitarian assistance has prevented more extreme outcomes in many areas. Trend: It is expected to have further deterioration in food security likely through May 2018. Nutrition status: Results from 31 nutrition surveys show critical to extremely Critical levels of GAM (≥15%) was observed in two-thirds population groups surveyed. Estimated burden of 1.2 Million acutely malnourished children of which 231,829 are severely malnourished children.</p>	<p>Burundi: Food insecurity expected to deteriorate during the October-December 2017 lean season as HHs depletes food stocks coupled with limited access to markets - 27% (2.6Million) will be in IPC Phases 3 & 4). Trend: slight improvement in food security situation to IPC Phase 2 in most areas due to relatively good 2017B season harvest.</p>
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<p>Kenya: Food security in Kenya has deteriorated since last analysis with an estimated 2.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance (2.1 million in IPC Phase 3 and 500,000 in IPC Phase 4). 13 counties are experiencing IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), while 0.8 million people in 10 counties are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes, with the likelihood of deteriorating into Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Trend: Without immediate and up-scaled humanitarian assistance, populations in Phases 3 and 4 in these 23 counties may deteriorate as the dry spell progresses. The key drivers of the severe situation in the most affected counties are consecutive poor rainfall seasons, high food prices, poor pastures, high livestock migration, low agricultural production levels, infestation of African and Fall Army Worm, human-wildlife conflicts as well as resource based conflicts and insecurity. Emergency relief operations as well as resilience building initiatives are needed to preserve household food consumption as well as income generation.</p>	<p>SUDAN: 3.8Million people (9.4%) in IPC 3 and above during October-December 2017. Dry spells is affecting production areas in (Darfur, Gedaref, Kassala and North Kordofan). Agricultural pests (Crowd Worm) in some parts of the country. Main drivers are: Entrance of Animals in some production areas especially in West Darfour. Shortage of water in some areas. Fodder gap estimated at 6 million tons. Influx of refugees from neighboring countries (1.2 M). Trend: Food security will improve due to expected high production.</p>
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RWANDA:

Dry conditions impacted on livestock body conditions, pasture and milk availability through reduced fodder and water – impact on livelihoods. Due to that, food insecurity is expected to worsen during October-December main lean season starts given that food prices have been above 5-year and 2016 averages that limiting access.

Trend: Food security expected to improve in December/January after season A harvests that will enhance food availability.

Recommendations:

- FSNWG advocate to target three areas of interventions;
- Short term: To save lives and livelihoods of the affected populations.
- Medium term interventions; To restore livelihood systems for the targeted population to protect them from falling into the same humanitarian situation every time. This can be achieved by restoring and improving their livelihood capitals and to improve their access to food.
- long term interventions FSNWG also can develop integrated plans with the partners.
- Developing contingency plans especially for the highly vulnerable areas.
- Build the resilience to food insecurity and hazards by making use of resilience resources.
- Sustainability of FSN structures to run the activities very smoothly and to contribute to improving food security and nutrition in the region.
- Advocate for updated information in food security and nutrition by conducting assessments (for nutrition information, the admissions to nutrition centres can be strengthened by assessments).
- Sound interventions to improve nutrition situation especially for (GAM > 15)
- FSNWG is highly advocating closing the fund for effective interventions.