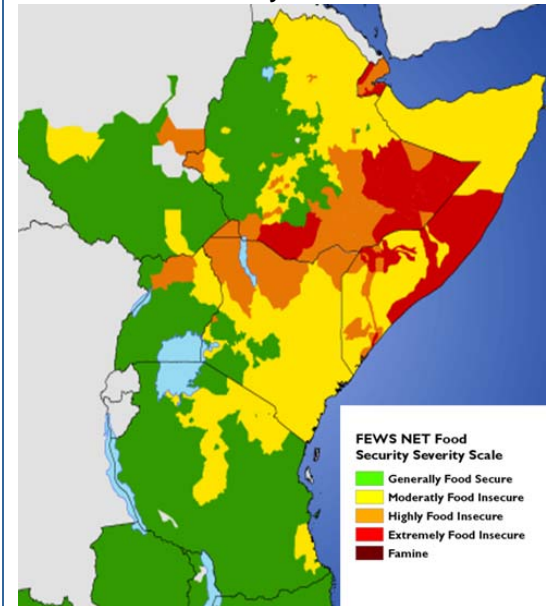


## EAST AFRICA Regional Food Security Update

June 2008

- The effects of civil conflict/insecurity, displacement, poor production and high food prices on food security, including high levels of malnutrition in many parts of the region, have been magnified by the poor March-May rains, causing food security to deteriorate to high or extreme levels in parts of Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya.
- In total, nearly nine million people in the region need immediate humanitarian assistance for the next three to six months, including about 4.6 million people in Ethiopia, 2.6 million people in Somalia, 1.2 million in Kenya, 300,000 people in Uganda's Karamoja Region, and 130,000 people in Djibouti. Because the effects of the poor March-May rains will persist with the onset of the dry season in most pastoral areas of these countries, the size of the affected population may increase further between now and at least October 2008.
- The continued presence of *Pestes des Petit Ruminants* (PPR) disease in northern pastoral districts of Kenya and the Karamoja Region of Uganda, and the high risk that the disease will spread to adjacent districts in Ethiopia, Somalia, and southward into Tanzania if not controlled threatens regional food security.
- High commodity prices, due to high international fuel prices, high costs for inputs, and transportation, and other country-specific local factors continue to affect both rural and urban populations throughout the region. As a result, the number of food insecure people is expected to continue rising, at least until October 2008, especially among market dependent populations in urban areas.
- Production prospects from the region's main bimodal cropping areas are above normal, particularly in Uganda, northern Tanzania, and parts of western Kenya. This is expected to increase food availability and help to reduce the price of staple commodities such as maize, beans, and root crops in the second half of 2008.

**Figure 1.** Current estimated food security conditions, East Africa, June 2008



Source: FEWS NET (graphic); FEWS NET and partners (data)

### Seasonal progress

Below-normal rains (less than 50 percent of normal in some areas) during the March-May 2008 rainy season affected Djibouti; parts of central, northern, and south-central Somalia; Somali and SNNP regions and Borana Zone in southern Ethiopia and the main *belg* cropping areas of Amhara and Tigray regions in northern Ethiopia; parts of the northern Rift Valley and northwest pastoral regions of Kenya; and the northeastern Karamoja Region of Uganda (Figure 2).

Below-normal March-May rains affected many pastoral areas, including most of southeastern Ethiopia south-central and parts of northern Somalia, southwestern Kenya and Djibouti, where pasture and water availability are below-normal. This is causing deterioration in animal body conditions, earlier than normal migrations, and reduced livestock prices and pastoral incomes. In some of the cropping areas that depend on the March-May rains, such as the *belg* areas of Ethiopia and the central highlands and southeastern lowlands of Kenya, agricultural production is expected to be below normal. In addition, the failure of the sweet potato crop in SNNP Region — a significant source of food during the March-May hunger season —

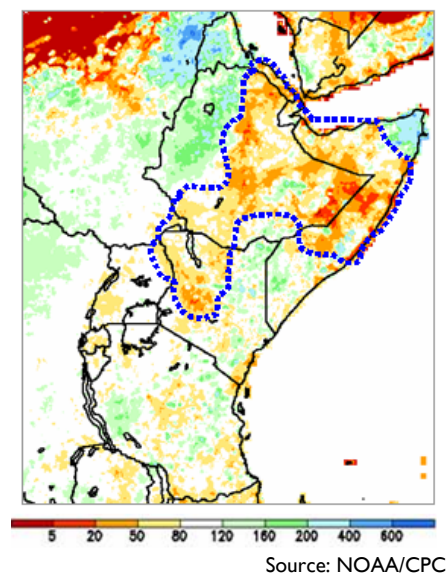
has aggravated the effects of below-normal March-May rains in the region. As a result, nearly 1.3 million people currently face high levels of food insecurity. The poor rains are also likely to lead to a below-normal *gu* season in central and southern Somalia. Elsewhere, in the high potential cropping areas of Uganda, northern Tanzania, and western Kenya, near normal to normal harvests are anticipated beginning in July.

Currently, normal to above-normal June to September seasonal rains are falling in the coastal areas of Kenya. The *hagaa* showers normally received at this time of year in the southern coastal strip of Somalia are also above normal in quantity and geographic coverage, supplementing the poor *gu* crop production and improving pasture and livestock production in most of southern Somalia. In most parts of southern Sudan, Uganda, and central parts of Ethiopia (Figure 4), the rains are so far near normal. Good rains in these areas are raising prospects for normal crop and livestock production for the June-September period, particularly in the northern sector of the region (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, and parts of Uganda, and western and coastal Kenya), where these rains are usually received.

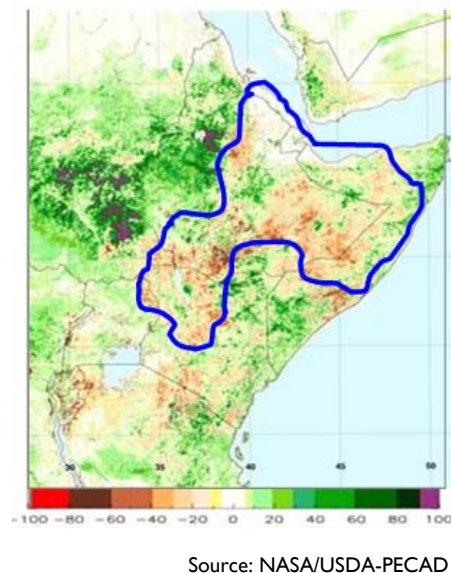
**June-August seasonal forecast and food security implications**

According to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)'s Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC)'s consensus rainfall forecast for the June-August seasonal rains (Figure 5) normal rainfall is forecast over southern Sudan, most of Ethiopia, the coastal strip of Kenya, southern and northwestern Somalia, parts of Eritrea, and Djibouti (Figure 5, areas shaded green). Normal to below-normal rainfall is expected over Uganda and a large area southern Sudan (Figure 5, areas shaded yellow). Areas shaded grey The June-September rains are critical, as they are the main rains in Ethiopia, Sudan, and Eritrea. The normal to above-normal rains forecast in most of Ethiopia and parts of Eritrea and Sudan are expected to result in good crop production, particularly in the *meher* production areas of Ethiopia, which accounts for up to 80 percent of Ethiopia's annual production. Above-average rains in the southern coastal areas of Somalia and coastal Kenya would also result in improved vegetation and seasonal crops, though they are unlikely to compensate fully for expected poor crop production caused by the delayed and poor start of the main March-May rainy season in Somalia, as the growing season has ended. ICPAC's near-normal to below-normal forecasts for the June-August rains in Uganda and Kenya's western

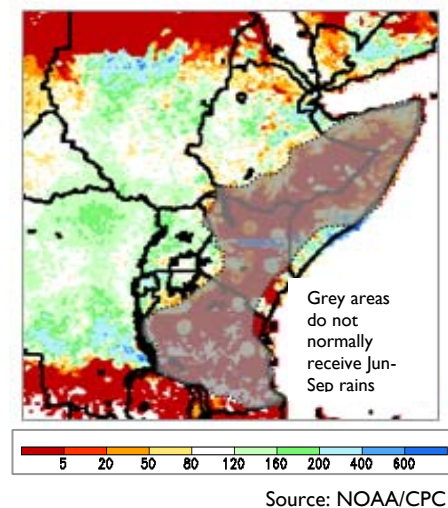
**Figure 2.** Percent of normal rainfall, March 1 – May 31, 2008



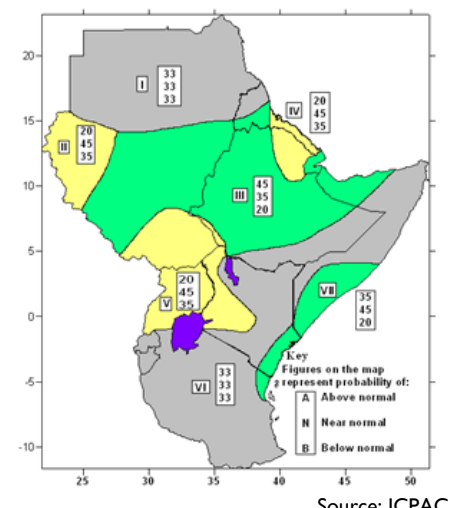
**Figure 3.** Percent of normal vegetation conditions, March 1 – May 31, 2008



**Figure 4.** Percent of normal rainfall performance, May 24 – Jun 22, 2008



**Figure 5.** Consensus rainfall forecast for East Africa, June to August 2008



breadbasket areas, parts of southern Sudan, and the Afar Region of Ethiopia is of concern, as the possibility of below-normal rains could mean below-average crop production in these areas. In Kenya, production of the main crop, which is planted in April/May and which contributes about 80 percent of annual staple food production is heavily dependent on the good performance of the June-September rains. Poor performance of these rains could cause significant harvest reductions. Already, livelihoods in northwestern Kenya and the Karamoja Region of Uganda are strained by the presence of PPR disease, civil insecurity, and the carryover effects of the poor March-May rainy season. Preparedness and mitigation measures to counter reduced food availability and access and curb further deterioration in child malnutrition are needed.

### Key food security issues in the region

The main food security issue in the region is in the precariousness of pastoral conditions due to below-normal March-May rains following three seasons of successive poor rains. This increase in pastoral food insecurity occurs against the backdrop of other diverse food security challenges, including: rising staple food prices, civil conflict/insecurity, displacement, poor production, and general inflation. The main areas affected are Djibouti, southern and central Somalia, Somali Region and Borana Zone of Ethiopia, northwestern Kenya, and the Karamoja Region of Uganda (see red/orange shaded areas, Figure 1). In the pastoral districts of Kenya and the Karamoja Region of Uganda, the effects of below-normal rainfall is compounded by PPR—a virus that causes high mortality rates in goats and sheep — further disrupting livestock trade and pastoral incomes. PPR was initially detected in 2006 in northwestern Kenya, and has since spread through much of the country's northern

**Table 1.** Percent change for latest available prices in East Africa compared with January 2008, the same period in 2007, and the 2002-2007 five-year average

Country	Market	Price type	Commodity	Latest Price	Percent Change		
					Jan 2008	2007	5-Yr Average
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	Retail	Maize	May	71	152	204
			W. Sorghum	May	61	71	184
			R. Sorghum	May	72	190	161
	Dire Dawa		Maize	May	95	163	208
			W. Sorghum	May	50	94	199
			R. Sorghum	May	60	129	157
Djibouti	Djibouti City	Retail	Imported Rice	May	25	88	83
			Red Sorghum	May	19	19	19
			Wheat Flour	May	15	50	78
Somalia	Mogadishu	Retail	Imported Red Rice	May	146	360	490
			Red Sorghum	May	198	365	283
	Baidoa	Retail	Imported Red Rice	May	151	217	291
			Red Sorghum	May	110	455	452
	Hargeisa	Retail	Imported Red Rice	May	59	122	115
			Red Sorghum	May	18	1	55
Kenya	Nairobi	Wholesale	Maize	June	65	80	47
			Beans	June	37	65	88
	Eldoret		Maize	June	49	49	35
			Beans	June	65	71	140
Southern Sudan	Juba	Retail	Sorghum	May	13	29	-13
	Malakal		Sorghum	April	-18	8	-13
	Wau			May	43	42	0
Uganda	Kampala	Retail	Maize	April	38	51	54
			Maize	April	1	-6	-7
			Matoke	April	-8	21	227
Tanzania	Dar-es-salaam	Wholesale	Maize	May	0	136	94
			Beans	May	-8	30	84
			Rice	May	11	42	81
	Kigoma	Wholesale	Maize	May	-15	19	84
			Beans	May	-33	29	126
			Rice	May	81	88	163
	Arusha	Wholesale	Maize	May	8	140	66
			Beans	May	-7	46	108
			Rice	May	33	45	71

Data source: FEWS NET and partners; Analysis: FEWS NET

pastoral zone. There is a high risk that the disease will spread further – to adjacent districts in Ethiopia, Somalia, and southward into Tanzania – if the spread of the disease is not controlled. Such a spread would likely disrupt livestock trade, reduce livestock prices, and severely erode pastoralists' terms of trade in the face of increasing staple food prices in the region.

Prices of food commodities continue to rise within the region. The prices of staples have increased significantly, four-fold in Somalia for imported red rice, for example, increasing the risk of food insecurity, particularly among the urban poor (Table 1).

Food security in Somalia continues to deteriorate especially in south-central Somalia and parts of the north, largely because of increased insecurity and displacement, hyper-inflation, trade and market disruptions, and below-normal March-May rains. However, the heavy rains reported in mid-June should ease pasture and water scarcity in the pastoral areas in the south, and could revitalize crop production, especially in the Juba Valley, Gedo, Bay, and Shabelle regions. Overall, it is estimated that about 2.6 million people currently need emergency assistance in Somalia.

In Djibouti, recent border conflicts between Eritrea and Djibouti has caused displacement and could accentuate already high food and non-food prices and malnutrition rates, due to successive droughts in pastoral areas. It is estimated that about 155,000 people (including 25,000 malnourished children) are currently in need of emergency assistance in Djibouti. The conflict also has important regional implications, as it could impede the flow of goods to Ethiopia, which depends on the port of Djibouti City.

Ethiopia also continues to face high levels of food insecurity due to the combined effects of below-normal *belg* crop production, the failure of sweet potato crop in SNNP Region, security-related market disruptions in parts of Somali Region, and increasing food prices across the country. About 4.6 million people are estimated need emergency assistance until November. In addition, resource (food/cash) transfers for the Productive Safety Net Program will need to be extended beyond June to cushion the estimated eight million chronically food insecure people from the current crisis and increasing food prices. The current (June-September) (*kiremt*) rains, which are so far normal to above-normal could promote improved long-cycle *meher* crop production, raising prospects for a good crop in the October-December harvest period. The *meher* crops account for about 80 percent of annual crop production in Ethiopia, and a good crop would ease food availability and access, especially in the highland production areas.

In Kenya, below-average agricultural production is expected in July/August, mainly due to an estimated 25 percent reduction of the cultivated area caused by the post-election crisis and high input prices. The Government of Kenya has approved the importation 270,000 MT of maize in anticipation of a maize shortfall expected at the end of July. Food prices are increasing, putting nearly seven million urban poor people at risk of food insecurity. Continued spread of PPR and limited implementation of control measures, high malnutrition rates in pastoral areas (particularly in parts of Turkana and Mandera, where assessed levels are within the critical range, and parts of Wajir and Marsabit districts, which are within the serious range ) further threaten food security in pastoral areas. About 1.16 million people are estimated to require emergency assistance in Kenya, including 225,000 displaced people in the pastoral and agropastoral areas of the country.

In Uganda, the food security situation is relatively stable, with the exception of the Karamoja Region, which faces a third successive below-normal season and the presence of PPR, affecting sheep and goats. This is likely to increase the number of people in need of emergency assistance from 300,000 to 700,000 in the coming months, though these numbers could change in September/October when the next harvests are expected.

In southern Sudan, renewed conflict along the north/south border is likely to degrade food security, particularly in northern Bahr El Ghazal. The displacement of 50,000 people from Abyei to Warrap State is also likely to increase food insecurity. Such displacement is particularly concerning as the traditional hunger season (June-August) is in progress. Overall, the June-September rains have started well, raising prospects for a good main-season crop in the region.

In Tanzania, the price of staple commodities is declining steadily in response to ongoing unimodal harvests, as well the prevailing export ban, which may provide some respite from high prices for poor urban populations. However, current maize, bean, and rice prices remain significantly above last year's prices and those of the five-year average, particularly in urban markets like Dar es Salaam and Arusha.