

# FOOD ASSISTANCE OUTLOOK BRIEF

April 2020

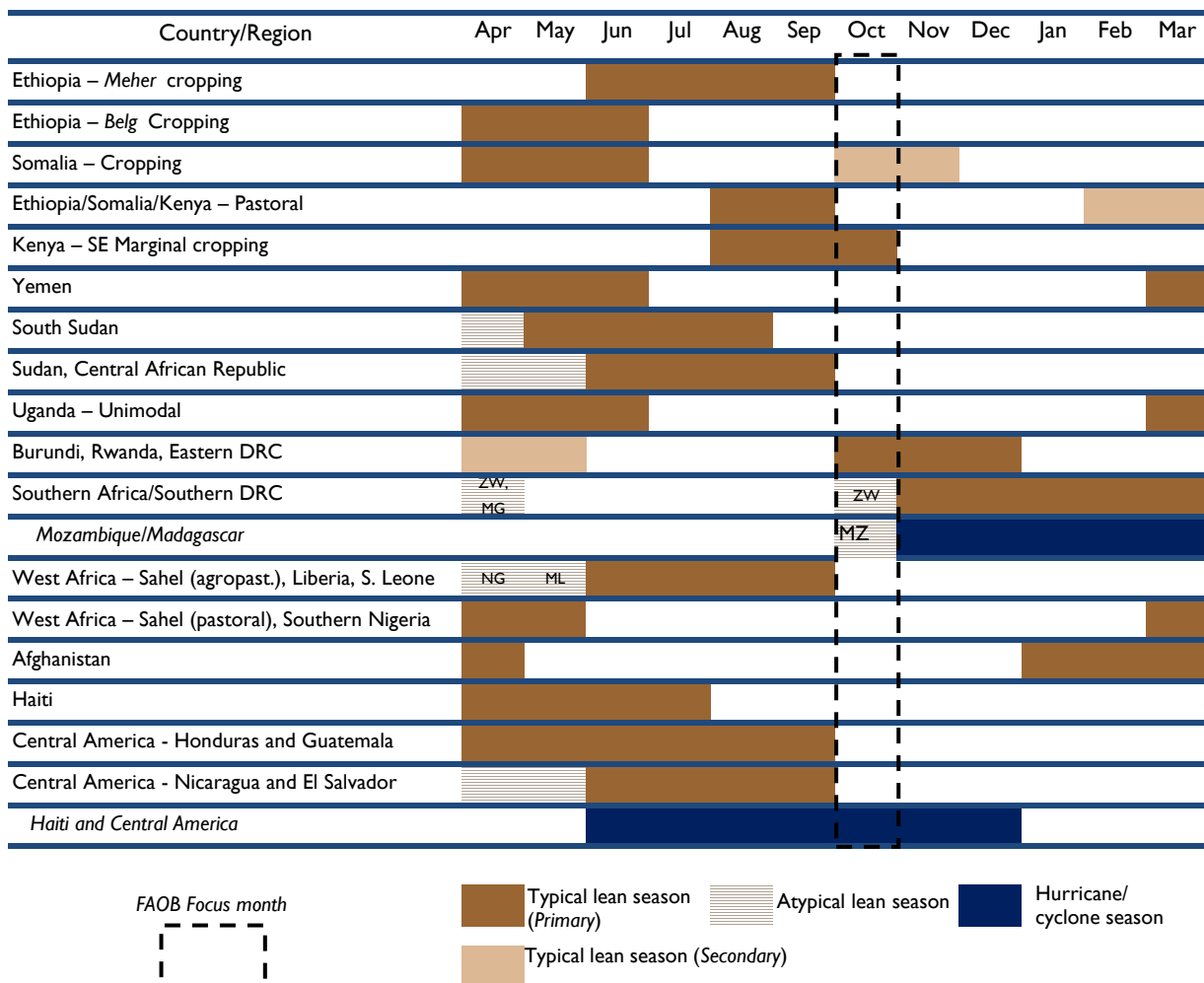
## PROJECTED FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR October 2020

This brief summarizes FEWS NET's most forward-looking analysis of projected emergency food assistance needs in FEWS NET coverage countries. The projected size of each country's acutely food insecure population (IPC Phase 3 and higher) is compared to last year and the recent five-year average and categorized as Higher (▲), Similar (▶), or Lower (▼). Countries where external emergency food assistance needs are anticipated are identified. Projected lean season months highlighted in red indicate either an early start or an extension to the typical lean season. Additional information is provided for countries with large food insecure populations, an expectation of high severity, or where other key issues warrant additional discussion. Analytical confidence is lower in remote monitoring countries, denoted by "RM." Visit [www.fews.net](http://www.fews.net) for detailed country reports.

	Country (In order of estimated food insecure population, SEPT)	External needs in OCT. ?	OCT. versus last year	OCT. versus 5-year avg.	Highest likely severity (area) in OCTOBER	Key upcoming lean season
15+ million	YEMEN	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 4: Emergency & risk of Famine	March - June 2020
	<p>The risk of an outbreak of COVID-19 is high. In the coming months, control measures are likely to further reduce access to income due to disrupted business activity and decreased remittances. Beneficiaries of assistance in Houthi-controlled areas will experience significantly reduced access to food due to 50 percent reductions in benefits beginning in April. Widespread Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes are expected, with Emergency (IPC Phase 4) likely in worst-affected areas. Should food supply be cut off for a prolonged period, Famine (IPC Phase 5) would be possible.</p>					
5.0 - 9.99 million	DRC	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	NE/SE: April-May 2020
	<p>Conflict in eastern DRC led to another below-average harvest in March 2020, and staple food price increases in the east and south will limit poor rural households' ability to purchase food. Movement restrictions of people in urban centers are limiting access to the informal labor sector, which will lead poor urban households to experience acute food insecurity in the coming months. Nord Kivu, Sud Kivu, Ituri, Tanganyika, and Kasai region are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).</p>					
	SOUTH SUDAN	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 4: Emergency & risk of Famine	February - August 2020
	<p>Due to the impacts of falling oil prices and COVID-19 on revenue, imports, casual labor income, and humanitarian movement, urban and rural household food access is expected to be worse than previously anticipated during the lean season. Gains in 2020/21 production may be suppressed if households are unable to access seeds for planting from markets or humanitarians. There is also a rising risk of desert locust damage to crops in Eastern Equatoria. A risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) persists.</p>					
	SUDAN	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 4: Emergency	April - September 2020
	<p>The ongoing macroeconomic crisis, coupled with COVID-19-related restrictions on the movement of people and goods in Sudan, are likely to drive very high staple food prices and reductions in labor income. Though harvests starting in October will begin to improve outcomes, humanitarian assistance needs are expected to remain much higher than normal.</p>					
ETHIOPIA	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	Belg cropping: Apr. - Jun. 2020	
<p>Conflict and the desert locust upsurge are expected to lead to localized crop losses and continued Crisis (IPC Phase 3) for some Meher and Belg dependent poor households. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is also likely in pastoral and agropastoral areas where livestock assets are low, conflict restricts movement, and locust infestations atypically deplete pasture. COVID-19 related movement restrictions are also restricting labor opportunities, driving higher assistance needs.</p>						
ZIMBABWE	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	September 2020 - March 2021	
<p>Food security is expected to marginally improve beginning in late-April/early May with the harvest. Despite this, needs are anticipated to remain atypically high across Zimbabwe due to drought-related crop losses, very poor macroeconomic conditions, and COVID-19 related movement restrictions that are limiting labor opportunities.</p>						
AFGHANISTAN	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	January - April 2020	
<p>Near-average 2020 production prospects are likely to seasonally improve rural food security through late 2020. However, conflict, below-average remittances, and COVID-19 related restrictions that reduce access to income - particularly for daily wage laborers - will continue to limit household income. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are anticipated in worst-affected areas.</p>						

	Country (In order of estimated food insecure population, SEPT)	External needs in OCT. ?	OCT. versus last year	OCT. versus 5-year avg.	Highest likely severity (area) in OCTOBER	Key upcoming lean season
2.5 - 4.99 million	NIGERIA	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 4: Emergency & risk of Famine	April - September 2020
	Due to COVID-19 related movement restrictions and declining oil prices, rural and urban household access to income and markets is lower than previously anticipated. In conflict affected areas of the Northeast, Northwest, and North-Central, the harvest starting in October is expected to be below average. In conflict affected areas in the Northeast, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes and a risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) are expected to persist.					
1.0 - 2.49 million	KENYA	Yes	▼	▲	PHASE 2: Stressed (!)	Pastoral: August - October 2020
	The Crisis (IPC Phase 3) population is atypically high, especially in urban areas, due to reductions in income as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. By the Oct.-Dec. short rains season, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is likely at the household level but pastoral and marginal agricultural areas will likely be Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) is likely in refugee settlements.					
	SOMALIA	Yes	▶	▶	PHASE 3: Crisis	Cropping: April - June 2020
	A significant decline in remittances from the diaspora due to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during the Ramadan and Hajj period, and the impacts of desert locust are anticipated to drive an increase in the urban, rural, and IDP population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) through mid-2020. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is expected to persist in October.					
	NIGER	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	March - September 2020
	The harvest beginning in October will provide marginal improvement to food security. However, COVID-19 related restrictions will limit labor opportunities for poor urban households. Pastoral and agropastoral households facing movement restrictions will face reduced incomes, leading to an increase in households in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).					
	MOZAMBIQUE	Yes	▼	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	October 2020 - March 2021
	Insecurity in Cabo Delgado and a third year of consecutive drought are driving Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes. COVID-19 related movement restrictions are impacting daily wage earners in urban and semi-urban areas due to loss of income.					
UGANDA	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	Karamoja: March - August 2020	
In the near term, food security is expected to worsen due to COVID-19 control measures, particularly in urban areas. In April, refugees will face 30 percent ration cuts. Locusts continue to threaten crops in Karamoja and neighboring bimodal areas. In October, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in refugee settlements and some Karamoja households.						
Burkina Faso (RM)	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	Sahel: February - Sept. 2020	
Conflict is causing displacement and disrupting households' access to typical food and income sources. COVID-19 related movement restrictions in urban centers are reducing access to income for the urban poor, driving higher needs.						
GUATEMALA	Yes	▶	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	February - August 2020	
Poor households in the Dry Corridor should see their food security start to improve with the Primera harvest; however, many will still have high debts following high market purchase on loans following last years below-average harvest. Additionally, poor households across the country will be affected by income loss due to COVID-19 control measures.						
0.5 - 0.99 million	CAMEROON	Yes	▶	▶	PHASE 3: Crisis	Southern: March - June 2020
	Honduras (RM)	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 2: Stressed	February - September 2020
	HAITI	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	March - June 2020
	MADAGASCAR	Yes	▶	▶	PHASE 2: Stressed	November 2020 - March 2021
	Central African Rep (RM)	Yes	▶	▶	PHASE 3: Crisis	East: April - August 2020
There is rising concern that local tensions and reduced MINUSCA and humanitarian operations related to COVID-19 could lead to a resurgence in conflict, with negative impacts on food assistance delivery and household access to fields.						
0.1 - 0.49 million	MALAWI	Yes	▼	▼	PHASE 3: Crisis	December 2020 - March 2021
	Mauritania (RM)	Yes	▶	▲	PHASE 3: Crisis	February - July 2020
	CHAD	Yes	▶	▲	PHASE 2: Stressed (!)	April-September 2020
	Lesotho (RM)	Yes	▶	▶	PHASE 3: Crisis	December 2020 - March 2021
	MALI	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 2: Stressed	May - September 2020
	BURUNDI	Yes	▶	▶	PHASE 1: Minimal	April - May 2020
	El Salvador (RM)	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 2: Stressed	February - September 2020
	Nicaragua (RM)	Yes	▲	▲	PHASE 2: Stressed	February - September 2020
Rwanda (RM)	Yes	▶	▶	PHASE 1: Minimal	April - May 2020	

### LEAN SEASONS IN FEWS NET MONITORED COUNTRIES AND REGIONS



### IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PHASE DESCRIPTIONS (AREA)

<b>PHASE 1 Minimal</b>	Households are able to meet basic food needs and afford essential non-food expenditures without engaging in atypical, unsustainable coping strategies.
<b>PHASE 2 Stressed</b>	For at least 1 in 5 households, food consumption is reduced but minimally adequate without having to engage in unsustainable coping strategies. However, these households are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures.
<b>PHASE 3 Crisis</b>	At least 1 in 5 households face significant food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition, or is marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with unsustainable coping strategies such as liquidating livelihood assets.
<b>PHASE 4 Emergency</b>	At least 1 in 5 households face extreme food consumption gaps resulting in very high acute malnutrition or excess mortality, or faces extreme loss of livelihood assets that will likely lead to food consumption gaps.
<b>PHASE 5 Famine</b>	At least 1 in 5 households have a near complete lack of food and/or other basic needs. Starvation, death, and destitution are evident.
<b>!</b>	Phase classification would likely be worse without current or programmed humanitarian assistance.

## ESTIMATED ACUTELY FOOD INSECURE POPULATIONS

October 2020

Country	Pop. in IPC Phase 2		Pop. in IPC Phase 3 or higher		Total Acutely food insecure population	
	#	% of pop.	#	% of pop.	#	% of pop.
Yemen	5.0 - 9.99 million	20-40%	>10.0 million	40-60%	>10.0 million	>60%
DRC	5.0 - 9.99 million	5-20%	5.0 - 9.99 million	5-20%	>10.0 million	20-40%
South Sudan	2.5 - 4.99 million	20-40%	5.0 - 9.99 million	40-60%	>10.0 million	>60%
Sudan	5.0 - 9.99 million	5-20%	5.0 - 9.99 million	5-20%	>10.0 million	20-40%
Ethiopia	2.5 - 4.99 million	<5%	5.0 - 9.99 million	5-20%	>10.0 million	5-20%
Zimbabwe	2.5 - 4.99 million	20-40%	5.0 - 9.99 million	40-60%	5.0 - 9.99 million	>60%
Afghanistan	5.0 - 9.99 million	20-40%	5.0 - 9.99 million	5-20%	>10.0 million	20-40%
Nigeria	>10.0 million	5-20%	2.5 - 4.99 million	<5%	>10.0 million	5-20%
Kenya	2.5 - 4.99 million	5-20%	1.0 - 2.49 million	<5%	5.0 - 9.99 million	5-20%
Somalia	2.5 - 4.99 million	20-40%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	5.0 - 9.99 million	40-60%
Niger	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	2.5 - 4.99 million	20-40%
Mozambique	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	2.5 - 4.99 million	5-20%
Burkina Faso RM	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	2.5 - 4.99 million	5-20%
Uganda	0.5 - 0.99 million	<5%	1.0 - 2.49 million	<5%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%
Guatemala	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%
Cameroon	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	0.5 - 0.99 million	<5%	2.5 - 4.99 million	5-20%
Honduras RM	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%	1.0 - 2.49 million	20-40%
Haiti	2.5 - 4.99 million	20-40%	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%	2.5 - 4.99 million	20-40%
Madagascar	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	0.5 - 0.99 million	<5%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%
CAR RM	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%	1.0 - 2.49 million	20-40%
Malawi	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%
Mauritania RM	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%	0.1 - 0.49 million	5-20%	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%
Chad	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	1.0 - 2.49 million	5-20%
Lesotho RM	0.1 - 0.49 million	5-20%	0.1 - 0.49 million	5-20%	0.5 - 0.99 million	20-40%
Mali	0.5 - 0.99 million	<5%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%
Burundi	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%
El Salvador RM	0.1 - 0.49 million	5-20%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	0.5 - 0.99 million	5-20%
Nicaragua RM	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	0.1 - 0.49 million	5-20%
Rwanda RM	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%	<0.1 million	<5%	0.1 - 0.49 million	<5%