ETHIOPIA: BELG PASTORAL AND AGROPASTORAL PRODUCING AREAS ANALYSIS

ABOUT 8.5 MILLION PEOPLE HIGHLY FOOD INSECURE DUE TO THE IMPACT COVID-19, DESERT LOCUSTS, DISPLACEMENT AND HIGH FOOD PRICES

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS
July 2020 – June 2021
Issued September 2020

BELG JULY - SEPT 2020

8.5M
21% of the population analyzed

People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	1,441,543 People in Emergency
Phase 3	7,064,145 People in Crisis
Phase 2	13,007,691 People Stressed
Phase 1	19,514,841 People in food security

BELG PROJECTED OCT - DEC 2020

6.7M
16% of the population analyzed

People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	814,259 People in Emergency
Phase 3	5,856,056 People in Crisis
Phase 2	12,440,774 People Stressed
Phase 1	21,917,130 People in food security

BELG PROJECTED JAN - JUNE 2021

11.1M
27% of the population analyzed

People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	2,125,663 People in Emergency
Phase 3	8,957,491 People in Crisis
Phase 2	12,773,622 People Stressed
Phase 1	17,951,992 People in food security

The 2020 IPC Belg analysis has analyzed a larger population of 41 million people compared to 2019, when the IPC analyzed only 28 million rural population. The increase in population is due to a change in the unit of analysis from livelihoods zones to administrative zones. Some of the population analyzed in the 2020 was not analyzed in 2019

Overview

Food security analysis for rural population dependent on *Belg* pastoral and agro pastoral areas conducted in seven regions of Ethiopia indicates that, despite ongoing Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA), an estimated 8.5 million people (21% of the 41 million people analysed) are highly food insecure in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse between July and September 2020. Of these, about 7.1 million people were classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and about 1.4 million people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency).

Between October and December 2020, Ethiopia's food security situation is likely to improve slightly due to the seasonal *(Meher)* harvests. However, below average *Belg* season production due to Desert Locust, poor rainfall performance in localized areas, conflict and climate-induced displacement, high food prices fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic will likely affect the food security situation resulting in about 6.7 million people expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse in the presence of planned and funded humanitarian response.

Between January and June 2021, households relying on pastoral livelihoods typically depend on markets for food during this period. With food inflation around 24 percent in July 2020, prices are expected to remain higher than previous years during the lean season affecting market access. While safety nets are expected this period, the analysis could not include HFA because it is yet to be planned. About 11.1 million people are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse.

Key Drivers

Economic decline and inflation

Significant macroeconomic challenges still prevail in the country resulting in high inflation rates exacerbated by COVID 19 prevention measures reducing access.

Population Displacement

1.8 million IDPs and 1.4 million recent returnees (August 2020), of which the majority (1.2 million) due to conflict and 0.6 million due to climate - with drought affecting about 0.4 million and about 0.2 million affected by floods.

Desert Locust

Worst invasion in the last 25 years affecting 76 woredas in both Belg and Meher seasons. Ethiopia is now the epicenter of the East and Central Africa region. New swarms have been detected in provenance from Yemen.
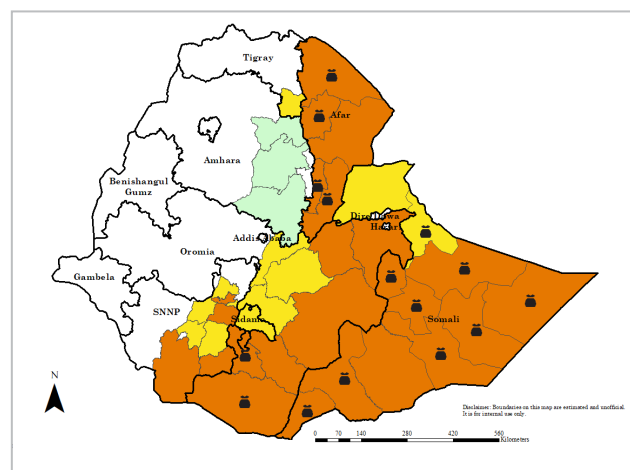
COVID-19 prevention measures. Lockdown and other measures put in place to prevent COVID-19 spread had a negative impact on food availability and access, more precisely on food prices, on income and food expenditure

Belg Analysis July - September 2020
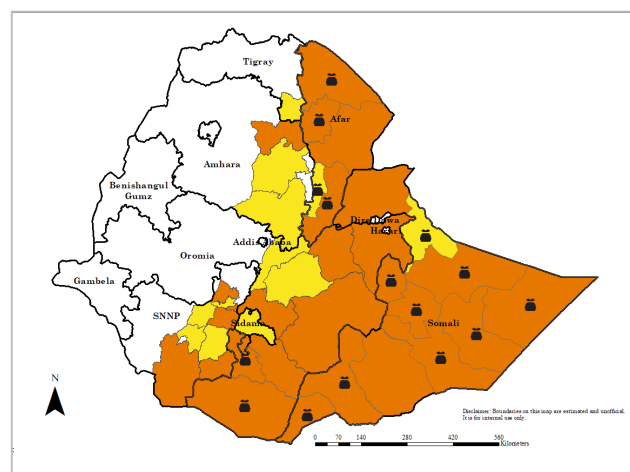
Belg Projected Situation October - December 2020

Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

- Areas with inadequate evidence
- Areas not analysed

Map Symbols

- Urban settlement classification
- IDPs/other settlements classification

Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance
(accounted for in Phase classification)

- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

BELG SITUATION OVERVIEW July – September 2020

The *Belg* IPC analysis period (July – September 2020) indicates 8.5 million people (21% of the analyzed population of 41 million) are estimated to be in need of urgent action to save lives, reduce food consumption gaps, restore and protect livelihoods despite ongoing humanitarian food assistance. This is indicative of the severity and magnitude of the acute food insecurity, where more than 21% of the analyzed population are classified in Crisis (Phase 3) or worse. Although there are no administrative zones currently classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), however, 28 zones out of 39 are classified under IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above.

Food security analysis for rural population dependent on Belg, pastoral and agro pastoral areas conducted in seven regions of Ethiopia indicates that, despite ongoing Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA), an estimated 8.5 million people (21% of the 41 million people analyzed) are highly food insecure in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse between July and September 2020. Of these, about 7.1 million people were classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and about 1.4 million people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). The analysis includes all food insecure households irrespective of whether they benefit from Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), including current IDPs or returnees in host communities. Out of the 8.5 million people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above requiring urgent action to save lives, reduce food gaps, restore livelihoods and reduce malnutrition, 45.1% in Oromia, 16.9% in Somali, 16.9% in SNNPR, 5.6% in Sidama, 19.4 % in Amhara, 4.4% in Afar and 0.7% in Tigray.

The COVID-19 pandemic. As of August 31, more than 52,000 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Ethiopia. The associated control measures implemented in Ethiopia, including a State of Emergency declared April 2020, have significantly constrained many poor households' access to cash income. Many poor households are gradually re-engaging in income-generating activities despite continued movement restrictions; however, the broader economic slowdown has placed substantial limits on their capacity to earn income. FEWSNET analysis shows that movement restrictions have also negatively affected planting, which – alongside desert locusts – has driven moderate declines in belg production and is expected to result in slight reductions in meher production. However, the scale of the outbreak is likely worse than officially reported due to limited testing capacity, as is the case in most of the countries.

Some of the control measures that the government has implemented to slow the spread of the virus, include closing international and domestic borders and schools, limiting domestic transportation services, and banning public gatherings. These control measures remain in place and broadly unchanged since its announcement. While the populace has increasingly disregarded these measures, poor households' capacity to earn income and produce food remains compromised. These measures culminated into declining migratory and local labor activities, two key income sources for poor households across Ethiopia. Moreover, continuing border closures have limited movement of agricultural laborers within Ethiopia and between Ethiopia and her neighboring countries. Furthermore, COVID 19 has resulted in reduced incomes from livestock sales and local employment opportunities as well as reduced market activity in the presence of ongoing economic instability characterized by high inflation and food price hikes. The government has put in place measures to prioritize the food trade activities and implementing price controls, however, some traders have pulled out for fear of contracting the viral pandemic resulting in further price hikes. The Belg Food Security Monitoring Survey (FSMS - July 2020), shows that 31 percent of households assessed reported food prices increases since COVID 19 containment measures were put in place and 12 percent reported income losses. Increased prices were reported in Amhara (52%), Afar (43%), Tigray (24%), Somali (24%) SNNP and Sidama (25%) and Oromia (31%). Income losses were reported in Tigray (30%), Somali (17%) and Oromia (12%). These unintended effects of the containment measures are limiting food access for poor households that rely on daily employment opportunities.

Food availability during the current analysis period is compromised due to poor performance of the belg rainfall. The National Meteorological Agency (NMA) reports show that the Belg rainfall[1] performed poorly in the central parts of northern highlands, eastern highlands, parts of central, south-eastern and southern Ethiopia. The Ministry of Agriculture has not yet released Belg cereal crop figures but the remote sensing information from the LEAP analysis suggests that there was significant yield reductions in most of the analyzed regions including Afar (59%), Somali (56%), Amhara (42%), Tigray (41%) and Oromia (17%). The only exception was SNNPR and Sidama with only 3% yield reduction estimated. This is not surprising because SNNPR had excessive rainfall which resulted in flooding in some zones like South Omo. The NMA Seasonal Climate Performance for the Belg season in 2020 shows that the rains in the south were good and in some cases above average resulting in flooding in some part of SNNPR. However, the eastern parts of Tigray and Amhara the rains underperformed. In some cases rains were delayed by more than three dekads and not sufficient to support agriculture production.

The contribution of Belg rainfall for per capita cereal production ranges from 5-30% over north, north-eastern, and eastern highlands, however, over south and south-western parts of the country, the Belg contributes between 30 to 60 percent. The Belg seasonal rainfall normally peaks during April/May and is the main rainy season for the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of south and south-eastern parts of the country, including Afar, Southern Somali, and the lowlands of Borena, Guji and Bale zones of Oromia Region.

Desert Locusts (DL) invasion in the first half of 2020 have been mostly isolated to areas of the Rift Valley, some western and southern

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[1] *North Shewa, East and West Hararge, Arsi, Bale, north and south Wello, Borena and SNNPR (Kembata, Hadiya and Welayita, Gurage, Keffa and Bench) start their land preparation and sowing activities during December to February. Belg is the main rainy season for south and south-eastern regions of Ethiopia. Most administrative zones in SNNPR (Konso, Derashe, Burji, Amaro kello, north Omo and Kembata Tambaro), South Tigray, North and Northwest Shoa, South & North Wollo, Bale, West Arsi, Guji, Borena and West Haraghe are considered as Belg growing areas.*

areas, and the eastern half of the country. According to FAO, as of June 2020, 33 of the 39 analyzed administrative zones had reported DL invasions affecting about 4,400 KM², some of them reporting multiple incidences. According to FAO DL Projection, the upsurge is most likely to persist at least until January 2021. Widespread breeding has taken in northern and eastern Ethiopia. Rainfall and vegetation conditions were favorable for scattered locusts to congregate, copulate and lay eggs in those breeding areas. According to FAO and MoA reports, the October to December 2020 period will witness continued arrival of swarms from Yemen as well as third generation swarms from previous invasions within Ethiopia. Therefore, Ethiopia remains an epicenter on high alert during the coming months, anticipatory measures and all efforts should be directed to monitor the situation closely throughout the DL summer breeding areas.
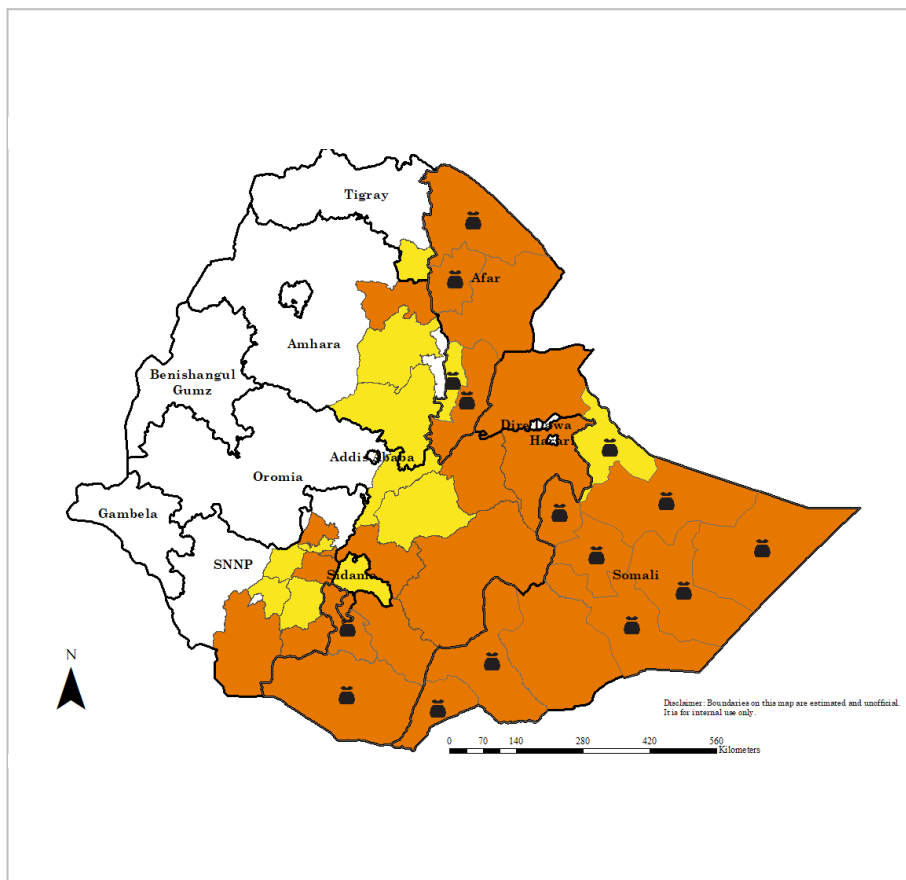
Accessibility to food has been compromised due to the continuous macroeconomic challenges, the deterioration of the local currency, high inflation rates and hikes in the prices of staple foods and essential commodities, hampered the ability of many people, particularly the most vulnerable households, from accessing adequate and high quality food. Ethiopia national food inflation increased by 23.7 percent in July 2020 as compared to July 2019. The Non-Food inflation also rapidly increased by 18.9 percent in July 2020. The rise in inflation in the non-food component is steadily increasing in the recent months. Of importance was the transportation component of the non-food inflation which increased by 69.6 percent in July 2020, perhaps a reflection of increasing transaction costs which will sustain high food prices. All regions have reported high inflation. Tigray reported 36.0% year on year inflation of food prices, SNNP 27.4%, Oromia 27.0 percent, Amhara 25.8 percent Afar by 21.2%, and Somali 8.1%. Moreover, prices of locally produced staple cereals are likely to follow seasonal trends although they will remain above five-year and last year levels.

According to the food security monitoring survey (FSMS), 33 percent of all the assessed households reported experiencing food price increases while 14 percent reported that they had been negatively impacted by income losses, two principle impacts of COVID-19 containment measures. The regions with most households affected by increased food prices are Amhara and Afar with 52 percent and 43 percent, respectively. The income loss was mainly because of reduced or lost remittances and limited casual employment in the farms or within urban areas. Overall, 25 percent of the assessed households in all regions reported that in more than eight days in May and June 2020 they had difficulties accessing food from the market or grocery. About 28 percent of the households reported experiencing very big changes in availability of food in the local markets since the emergence of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Conflict and climatic factors have driven internal displacement in various parts of the country, disrupting livelihood activities and distorting food market systems and prices. As of end of July 2020, there were around 1.82million internally displaced Ethiopians and 1.4 million recent returnees who have lost their assets during the course of their displacement. Majority of the IDPs (about 1.2 million) were displaced due to conflict. The rest of current IDPs (0.6 million) were displaced by climate induced factors with drought affecting about 0.4 million and 0.2 million affected by floods. (IOM, July 2020). Despite ongoing programmes to support livelihood restoration, returnee's household agricultural productivity and incomes remain constrained. With ongoing high food prices, IDP and returnee IDPs remain significantly higher than previous years and continue to face significant food gaps, unless adequate food assistance is provided.

The analysis includes all food insecure households irrespective of whether they benefit from Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), including current IDPs or returnees in host communities. Several factors exacerbate food insecurity in Ethiopia. The effects of COVID 19 control measures has caused loss of employment and fueled rising inflation disrupting livelihood activities and distorting food market systems and prices. Additionally, internal displacement due to conflict and climatic factors remains a key challenge. As of end of July 2020, there were around 1.8 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (IOM/DTM Round 22 draft report, August 2020). About two thirds were displaced by inter-communal violence, while those displaced by climatic factors (drought and floods) were estimated to be slightly below half a million. Poor performance of *Belg/Gu/Sugum* season in parts of Tigray, Amhara and Oromia affected crop production. High inflation on staple food up by 24.9% in July 2020 as compared to July 2019.

BELG SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (July - September 2020)

Key for the Map
IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification
(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

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- Areas with inadequate evidence
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Map Symbols
- Urban settlement classification
- IDPs/other settlements classification

Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance
(accounted for in Phase classification)
- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

Evidence Level
- *   Acceptable
- ** Medium
- *** High
- Scarce evidence due to limited or no humanitarian access

Disclaimer: Boundaries on this map are estimated and unofficial. It is for internal use only.

Belg period population figures by Region (July – September 2020)

Regions	Total population analysed	Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Phase 3 +	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%
Afar	1,540,553	313,369	20	63,281	4	0	0	376,650	24
Amhara	6,084,363	682,491	11	209,264	3	0	0	891,756	15
Oromiya	16,937,642	3,268,080	19	562,322	3	0	0	3,830,402	23
SNNPR	7,404,334	1,112,366	15	315,998	4	0	0	1,428,364	19
Sidama	3,177,915	476,687	15	0	0	0	0	476,687	15
Somali	5,307,061	1,153,515	22	290,678	5	0	0	1,444,193	27
Tigray	576,351	57,635	10	0	0	0	0	57,635	10
Total	**41,028,219**	**7,064,145**	**17**	**1,441,543**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**8,505,687**	**21**

State	Livelihood zones	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Afar	Zone 1 Awsi rasu	391,597	156,639	40	117,479	30	97,899	25	19,580	5	0	0	3	117,479	30
	Zone 2 Kilbet rasu	431,266	172,506	40	129,380	30	107,817	25	21,563	5	0	0	3	129,380	30
	Zone 3 Gabi rasu	185,304	64,856	35	83,387	45	27,796	15	9,265	5	0	0	3	37,061	20
	Zone 4 Fantana rasu	257,449	115,852	45	90,107	35	38,617	15	12,872	5	0	0	3	51,489	20
	Zone 5 Hari rasu	274,937	137,469	50	96,228	35	41,241	15	0	0	0	0	2	41,241	15
	Total	1,540,553	647,322	42	516,581	34	313,369	20	63,281	4	0	0		376,650	24
Amahara	North shewa	1,899,076	1,329,353	70	379,815	20	189,908	10	0	0	0	0	2	189,908	10
	North wello	1,481,101	666,495	45	518,385	35	222,165	15	74,055	5	0	0	3	296,220	20
	South wello	2,704,186	1,487,302	55	811,256	30	270,419	10	135,209	5	0	0	2	405,628	15
	Total	6,084,363	3,483,151	57	1,709,456	28	682,491	11	209,264	3	0	0		891,756	15
Oromiya	Arsi	3,124,850	1,562,425	50	1,093,698	35	468,728	15	0	0	0	0	2	468,728	15
	Bale	1,604,521	641,808	40	481,356	30	401,130	25	80,226	5	0	0	3	481,356	30
	Borena	483,985	193,594	40	145,196	30	120,996	25	24,199	5	0	0	3	145,195	30
	East hararge	3,359,117	1,511,603	45	1,007,735	30	671,823	20	167,956	5	0	0	3	839,779	25
	East shewa	1,352,623	676,312	50	473,418	35	202,893	15	0	0	0	0	2	202,893	15
	Guji	1,279,361	575,712	45	383,808	30	255,872	20	63,968	5	0	0	3	319,840	25
	West arsi	2,329,375	1,048,219	45	815,281	35	465,875	20	0	0	0	0	3	465,875	20
	West guji	1,115,645	502,040	45	278,911	25	223,129	20	111,565	10	0	0	3	334,694	30
	West hararge	2,288,165	800,858	35	915,266	40	457,633	20	114,408	5	0	0	3	572,041	25
	Total	16,937,642	7,512,571	44	5,594,669	33	3,268,080	19	562,322	3	0	0		38,30,402	23
SNNPR	Dawuro	506,918	304,151	60	126,730	25	50,692	10	25,346	5	0	0	2	76,038	15
	Gamo	1,045,899	575,244	55	313,770	30	104,590	10	52,295	5	0	0	2	156,885	15
	Gedeo	792,761	356,742	45	237,828	30	158,552	20	39,638	5	0	0	3	198,190	25
	Gofa	455,769	273,461	60	136,731	30	45,577	10	0	0	0	0	2	45,577	10
	Hadiya	1,295,826	647,913	50	388,748	30	194,374	15	64,791	5	0	0	3	259,165	20
	Kembata Tembaro	628,609	251,444	40	282,874	45	94,291	15	0	0	0	0	2	94,291	15
	Segen	641,874	256,750	40	224,656	35	128,375	20	32,094	5	0	0	3	160,469	25
	South omo	608,275	273,724	45	182,483	30	121,655	20	30,414	5	0	0	3	152,069	25
	Wolayita	1,428,403	642,781	45	499,941	35	214,260	15	71,420	5	0	0	3	285,680	20
	Total	7,404,334	3,582,210	48	2,393,760	32	1,112,366	15	315,998	4	0	0		1,428,364	19
Sidama	Sidama	3,177,915	2,065,645	65	635,583	20	476,687	15	0	0	0	0	2	476,687	15
	Total	3,177,915	2,065,645	65	635,583	20	476,687	15	0	0	0	0		476,687	15
Somali	Afder	590,566	147,642	25	177,170	30	236,226	40	29,528	5	0	0	3	265,754	45
	Daawa	412,269	144,294	35	185,521	45	61,840	15	20,613	5	0	0	3	82,453	20
	Doolo	384,035	192,018	50	115,211	30	57,605	15	19,202	5	0	0	3	76,807	20
	Erer	272,184	68,046	25	108,874	40	81,655	30	13,609	5	0	0	3	95,264	35
	Fafan	942,983	424,342	45	377,193	40	94,298	10	47,149	5	0	0	2	141,447	15
	Jarar	543,845	217,538	40	190,346	35	108,769	20	27,192	5	0	0	3	135,961	25
	Korahe	428,235	256,941	60	85,647	20	64,235	15	21,412	5	0	0	3	85,647	20
	Liban	455,612	91,122	20	205,025	45	113,903	25	45,561	10	0	0	3	159,464	35
	Nogob	166,231	58,181	35	66,492	40	33,246	20	8,312	5	0	0	3	41,558	25
	Shabelle	530,107	132,527	25	212,043	40	185,537	35	0	0	0	0	3	185,537	35
	Siti	580,994	174,298	30	232,398	40	116,199	20	58,099	10	0	0	3	174,298	30
	Total	5,307,061	1,906,949	36	1,955,919	37	1153515	22	290,678	5	0	0		1,444,193	27
Tigray	Southern	576,351	316,993	55	201,723	35	57,635	10	0	0	0	0	2	57,635	10
	Total	576,351	316,993	55	201,723	35	57,635	10	0	0	0	0		57,635	10
Grand total		41,028,219	19,514,841	48	13,007,691	32	7,064,145	17	1,441,543	4	0	0		8,505,687	21

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.

BELG FIRST PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW (October - December 2020)

COVID 19 containment measures will continue negatively affecting the food security situation during the first projected period. With more than 52,000 confirmed cases by end of August 2020, Ethiopia's Ministry of Health warned that community transmission is expected to continue, at least until December 2020. The state of emergency is likely to continue resulting in banned inter-regional public transport and public gatherings. However, despite increases in confirmed cases, governments are relaxing international travel while local measures are expected to tighten the different measures to curb the spread. Livestock exports to the Middle East was constrained due to the overall COVID 19 situation that has resulted in border and port closures. Despite a temporal opening of livestock exports to the Middle East during the Eid al Adha festival, cancellation of the Hajj to non-residents, and continued livestock export restrictions has affected incomes for pastoral households in the Somali Region.

The Desert Locust upsurge is most likely to persist at least until January 2021 with incidences of swarms likely for the next two years causing damage to crops and pasture/browse. Based on FAO technical reports, third-generation breeding took place in June. Widespread breeding is also expected in northern and eastern Ethiopia. Vegetation and climatic conditions through December will favor desert locust breeding in parts of northern and western Ethiopia. Crop production and pasture losses will most likely be compromised by below normal Deyr rainfall.

According to the Government of Ethiopia, the majority of the IDPs in the country (1.2 million) have returned to their original areas. Despite ongoing programmes to support livelihood restoration, returnees' incomes will remain constrained. Since food prices are expected to remain significantly higher than in previous years and with COVID 19 impacting food prices, remittances and employment opportunities, it is likely that returnees will face significant food gaps, unless adequate food assistance is provided.

Meher seasonal harvests will improve food security outcomes in some of the bi-modal Belg dependent areas. However, in the southern, southeastern and some north-eastern pastoral areas, the long dry season will likely affect the food security situation during this period. Many households rely on markets during this period also rely on markets. With continued COVID 19 situation in the country, the impacts will affect market access thereby limiting many households from market access.

Despite average to above average Kiremt rainfall (NMA and ICPAC), the harvests will be compromised by COVID 19 control restrictions, flood incidences and Desert Locust damage. Food price increases are likely going to slow down but will remain higher than previous years. It is worth noting, in most of the analysed areas in Amhara, SNNP, Oromia and Zone 5 of Afar regions, the Meher season contributes to about 25 – 75% of cereal harvests, while the rest emanates from the Belg season. According to the NMA and ICPAC meteorological reports, flooding incidences are likely in lowland flood prone areas. At the same time, desert locust incidences and new swarms are expected during this period. Below average deyr/hagaya season (Oct-Dec) in southeastern Ethiopia is expected.

In the eastern part of Somali region pastoral areas, the October-December 2020 Deyr rainfall season is likely to be below average and livestock body conditions will likely deteriorate. Livestock will likely be away from homesteads in search of pasture, which will compromise food security at household level. However, given that the majority of poor and very poor households are still recovering from previous droughts, there will not be sufficient animals to sell to purchase food, therefore, food insecurity will remain high. In northeastern Afar region, it is expected that the Jilaal lean period would be longer than normal due to poor performance of Sugum rainfall season earlier in the year. It is likely that livestock body conditions will deteriorate, resulting in reduced productivity and possibly an increase of food insecurity.

The harvests from the Meher season will likely lead to lower high food prices. Despite this, prices projection analysis strongly suggests that food prices will likely remain higher than previous years in all areas. With COVID 19 containment measures in place, prices will be sustained at much higher levels. Cattle keepers that rely on markets for a significant part of their consumption year, will be negatively affected by these high prices given that livestock body conditions are likely to be compromised. **The flow in terms of quantity and frequency of remittances is likely to decrease in line with the global economic downturn because of the negative impacts of the pandemic.** This will most likely lead to a decrease in income among many poor households. This is an especially important income source market depend communities in all the analyzed regions.

During the period from October to December 2020, the IPC analysis identified 6.7 million people (16 % of the analysed population of 41.0 million), in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and above, despite planned humanitarian food assistance. This includes 2 % of the population (about 814,000 people) classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 14 % (about 5,856,000 people) classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).
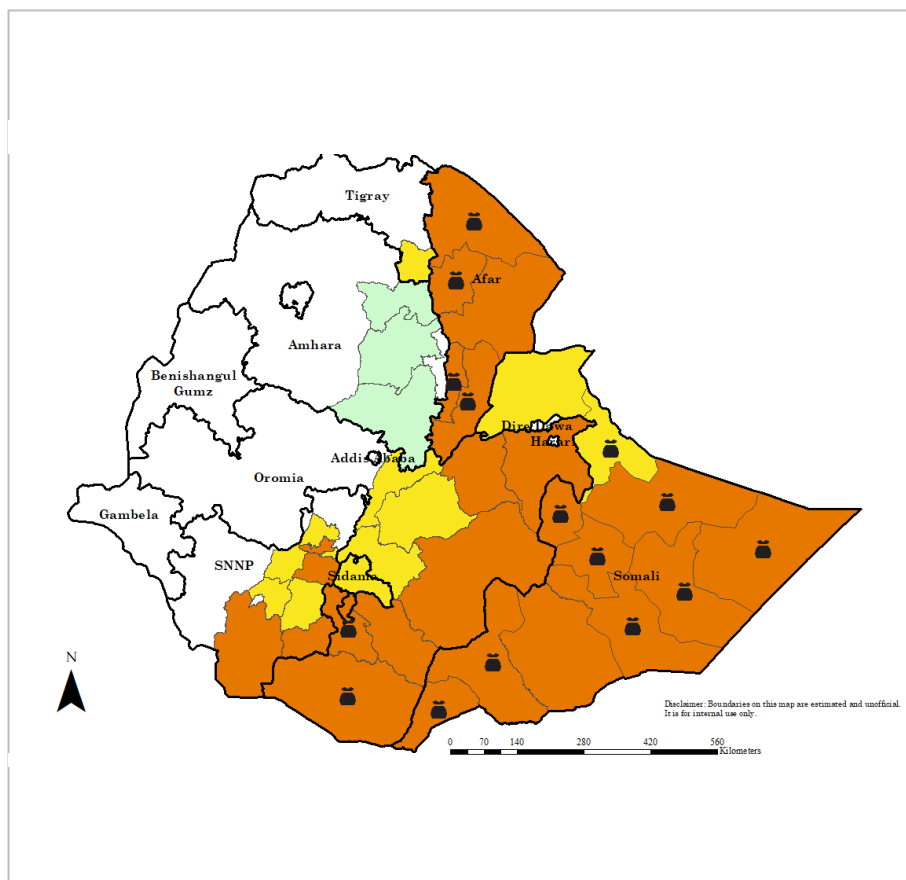
The affected populations are distributed in the south, south-east, central and north eastern areas of seven regions of Ethiopia. Out of 6.7 million people in IPC Phase 3 and above requiring urgent action to save lives, reduce food gaps, restore livelihoods and reduce malnutrition, 5.2% are in Afar, 4.6% in Amhara, 44.2% in Oromia, 17.7 % in Somali, 7.1% is Sidama, 20.7% in SNNPR and 0.4% in Tigray.

Main Assumptions for the first projection period

- COVID 19 containment measures will continue negatively affecting the food security situation during the first projected period

- The Desert Locust upsurge is most likely to persist at least until January 2021

- Displaced population will continue returning to their residence place

- Overall, rainfall is expected to be average to above average during Kiremt rainfall (NMA and ICPAC)

- Flooding incidences are likely in lowland flood prone areas. Below average deyr/hagaya season (Oct-Dec) in southeastern Ethiopia is expected (NMA and ICPAC)

- The harvests from the Meher season will likely decrease food prices which will however remain above the five years average

- Quantity and frequency of remittances are likely to continue decrease

BELG FIRST PROJECTED SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE
(October - December 2020)

Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas with inadequate evidence
- Areas not analysed

Map Symbols

- Urban settlement classification
- IDPs/other settlements classification

Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance
(accounted for in Phase classification)

- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

Evidence Level

- ∗ Acceptable
- ∗∗ Medium
- ∗∗∗ High
- Scarce evidence due to limited or no humanitarian access

State	Livelihood zones	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Afar	Zone 1 Awsi rasu	391,597	156,639	40	137059	35	78319	20	19580	5	0	0	3	97,899	25
	Zone 2 Kilbet rasu	431,266	150,943	35	172,506	40	86253	20	21,563	5	0	0	3	107,816	25
	Zone 3 Gabi rasu	185,304	74,122	40	74,122	40	27,796	15	9,265	5	0	0	3	37,061	20
	Zone 4 Fantana rasu	257,449	115,852	45	90,107	35	51,490	20	0	0-	0	0	3	51,490	20
	Zone 5 Hari rasu	274,937	109,975	40	109,975	40	41,241	15	13,747	5	0	0	3	54,988	20
	Total	1,540,553	607,530	39	583,769	38	285,099	19	64,155	4	0	0		349,254	23
Amahara	North shewa	1,899,076	1,614,215	85	189,908	10	94,954	5	0	0	0	0	1	94,954	5
	North wello	1,481,101	1,258,936	85	148,110	10	74,055	5	0	0	0	0	1	74,055	5
	South wello	2,704,186	2,298,558	85	270,419	10	135,209	5	0	0	0	0	1	135,209	5
	Total	6,084,363	5,171,709	85	608,436	10	304,218	5	0	0	0	0		304,218	5
Oromiya	Arsi	3,124,850	1,718,668	55	1,093,698	35	312,485	10	0	0	0	0	2	312,485	10
	Bale	1,604,521	561,582	35	561,582	35	401,130	25	80,226	5	0	0	3	481,356	30
	Borena	483,985	193,594	40	169,395	35	96,797	20	24,199	5	0	0	3	120,996	25
	East hararge	3,359,117	1,847,514	55	839,779	25	671,823	20	0	0	0	0	3	671,823	20
	East shewa	1,352,623	743,943	55	473,418	35	135,262	10	0	0	0	0	2	135,262	10
	Guji	1,279,361	703,649	55	319,840	25	255,872	20	0	0	0	0	3	255,872	20
	West arsi	2,329,375	1,164,688	50	931,750	40	232,938	10	0	0	0	0	2	232,938	10
	West guji	1,115,645	502,040	45	334,694	30	223,129	20	55,782	5	0	0	3	278,911	25
	West hararge	2,288,165	800,858	35	1,029,674	45	457,633	20	0	0	0	0	3	457,633	20
	Total	16,937,642	8,236,535	49	5,753,830	34	2,787,070	16	160,208	1	0	0		2,947,277	17
SNNPR	Dawuro	506,918	329,497	65	101,384	20	50,692	10	25,346	5	0	0	2	76,038	15
	Gamo	1,045,899	627,539	60	313,770	30	104,590	10	0	0	0	0	2	104,590	10
	Gedeo	792,761	317,104	40	317,104	40	118,914	15	39,638	5	0	0	3	158,552	20
	Gofa	455,769	296,250	65	113,942	25	45,577	10	0	0	0	0	2	45,577	10
	Hadiya	1,295,826	647,913	50	518,330	40	129,583	10	0	0	0	0	2	129,583	10
	Kembata Tembaro	628,609	251,444	40	251,444	40	94,291	15	31,430	5	0	0	3	125,721	20
	Segen	641,874	224,656	35	256,750	40	128,375	20	32,094	5	0	0	3	160,469	25
	South omo	608,275	243,310	40	212,896	35	121,655	20	30,414	5	0	0	3	152,069	25
	Wolayita	1,428,403	642,781	45	357,101	25	285,681	20	142,840	10	0	0	3	428,521	30
	Total	7,404,334	3,580,494	48	2,442,721	33	1,079,357	15	301,762	4	0	0		1,381,119	19
Sidama	Sidama	3,177,915	1,906,749	60	794,479	25	476,687	15	0	0	0	0	2	476,687	15
	Total	3,177,915	1,906,749	60	794,479	25	476,687	15	0	0	0	0		476,687	15
Somali	Afder	590,566	177,170	30	206,698	35	177,170	30	29,528	5	0	0	3	206,698	35
	Daawa	412,269	164,908	40	164,908	40	61,840	15	20,613	5	0	0	3	82,453	20
	Doolo	384,035	211,219	55	96,009	25	57,605	15	19,202	5	0	0	3	76,807	20
	Erer	272,184	68,046	25	136,092	50	54,437	20	13,609	5	0	0	3	68,046	25
	Fafan	942,983	424,342	45	377,193	40	94,298	10	47,149	5	0	0	2	141,447	15
	Jarar	543,845	217,538	40	190,346	35	108,769	20	27,192	5	0	0	3	135,961	25
	Korahe	428,235	235,529	55	107,059	25	64,235	15	21,412	5	0	0	3	85,647	20
	Liban	455,612	91,122	20	205,025	45	113,903	25	45,561	10	0	0	3	159,464	35
	Nogob	166,231	58,181	35	74,804	45	24,935	15	8,312	5	0	0	3	33,247	20
	Shabelle	530,107	159,032	30	265,054	50	79,516	15	26,505	5	0	0	3	106,021	20
	Siti	580,994	232,398	40	261,447	45	58,099	10	29,050	5	0	0	2	87,149	15
	Total	5,307,061	2,039,485	38	2,084,634	39	894,808	17	288,134	5	0	0		1,182,942	22
Tigray	Southern	576,351	374,628	65	172,905	30	28,818	5	0	0	0	0	2	28,818	5
	Total	576,351	374,628	65	172,905	30	28,818	5	0	0	0	0		28,818	5
Grand total		41,028,219	21,917,130	53	12,440,774	30	5,856,056	14	814,259	2	0	0		6,670,315	16

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.

BELG SECOND PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW (January - June 2021)

In the second projection period, the COVID-19 cases are expected to decline and as a consequence the lockdowns and movement restrictions will be relaxed. However, the economic strains related to employment, remittances and price hikes from previous months will continue affecting food access for market dependent households. Economic conditions are expected to deteriorate further with the expected contraction of the macro-economy. The government's ability to acquire hard currencies for debt repayment and importation of goods will be constrained. As a result, the ETB is expected to depreciate further resulting in high inflation through June 2021. This will decrease households' purchasing power.

The second projection period (January to June 2021) corresponds to the main lean season for most of the areas analysed. These include the northern pastoral areas namely in Afar, the southern pastoral areas, namely in southeastern Oromia and the Somali Region and largely also for the Belg-receiving areas. During the second projection period, the harvests from the Meher season will likely be dwindling and therefore insufficient to sustain adequate food consumption throughout the lean season for the Belg areas. Moreover, the pastoral households typically rely on markets for food during this period. Food prices are projected to remain higher than previous years and will most likely affect food access. The analysis of the second projection period (January - June 2021) is based on the below assumptions.

The March to May rainfall is forecasted to be normal to below normal. This situation may affect especially Belg crop producers and growers of long cycle crops in Meher producing areas. Nevertheless, for pastoral areas, the March-May 2021 rains will be similar to the March-May 2017, and likely below average. Of concern are southern and southeastern pastoral areas that are projected to experience a second consecutive poor rainfall in 2021.

Main Assumptions for the second projection period

- COVID-19 cases to decline and lockdowns and movement restrictions to be relaxed however macroeconomic conditions are expected to deteriorate further

- In Tigray region, the political tension is likely to continue impacting on overall socioeconomic situation resulting in displacement

- The March to May rainfall is forecasted to be normal to below normal for Belg crop producers

- Decrease in stock during the lean season, with higher reliance on market for food purchase

- Deteriorating livestock body conditions during Deyr and long dry period (Jilaal)

- Prices of food and non-food prices are expected to remain significantly higher than normal

- Quantity and frequency of remittances are likely to continue decrease

- High livestock migrations due to early cessation of the Gu 2020

Meher crop harvested until December will improve overall situations towards March - April 2021 for all households. However, food stocks will likely start to deplete for very poor households starting May to June. Likewise, it is expected that there will be a limited livestock production as the livestock will have poor body condition following below normal Deyr and long dry period (Jilaal).

Prices of food and non-food prices are expected to remain significantly higher than normal. With COVID-19 containment measures in place, prices will be sustained at much higher levels. Cattle keepers that rely on markets for a significant part of their consumption year, will be negatively affected by these high prices given that livestock body conditions are likely to be compromised. The flow in terms of quantity and frequency of remittances is likely to decrease in line with the global economic downturn because of the negative impacts of the pandemic. This will most likely lead to a decrease in income among many poor households. This is an especially important income source market depend communities in all the analyzed regions.

High livestock migrations due to early cessation of the Gu 2020, below average performance of the anticipated Deyr 2020, and anticipated below average Gu 2021.

In Afar region, Cereal to livestock terms of trade will likely deteriorate substantially during the first half of the second projection, during the Jilaal. Household food stocks will have been depleted, while livestock prices are anticipated to decline seasonally, due to scarcity of pasture, browse, and water, during the dry season. On the other hand, it is anticipated that intermittent conflict is likely to persist throughout the projection period, reducing access to normal production activities, markets and humanitarian assistance.

In Tigray region, unless the political situation is resolved peacefully, political tension is likely to continue impacting on overall socioeconomic situation resulting in displacement, disruption of market functionality and agricultural activities. In addition, normal income from crop and livestock sources are expected in the southern zone due to average rainfall of the main season and expected harvest and livestock conditions. Besides, it the Belg rains will start normally in Feb/March 2021 there would be an overall improvement of food security. However, political tensions could slightly reduce the labour opportunity.
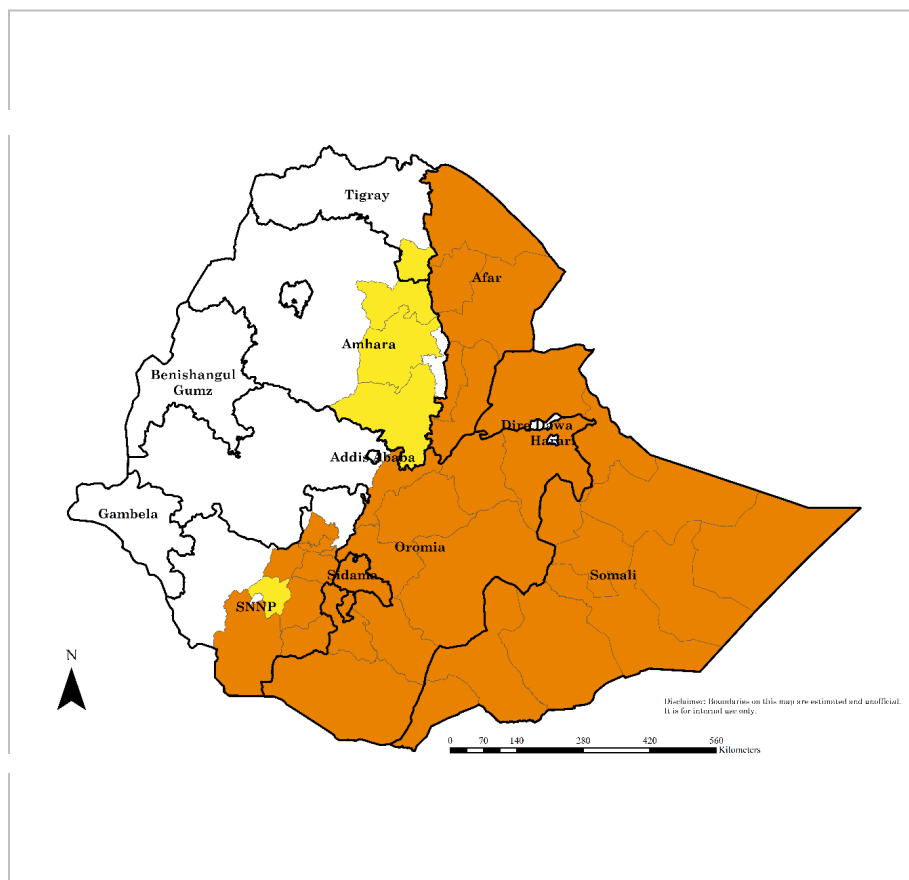
During the period from January-June 2021, the IPC analysis identified 11.1 million people (27 % of the analysed population of 41.8 million), in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and above, despite humanitarian food assistance. This includes 5 % of the population (about 2,125,663 people) classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency).

The affected populations are distributed in the south, south-east, central and north eastern areas of seven regions of Ethiopia. Out of 11.1 million people in IPC Phase 3 and above requiring urgent action to save lives, reduce food gaps, restore livelihoods and reduce malnutrition, 4.6 % are in Afar, 5.8 % in Amhara, 47.6 % in Oromia, 16.8 % in Somali, 7.3 % is Sidama, 17.7 % in SNNPR and 0.5% in Tigray.

BELG **SECOND PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW (January - June 2021)**

Key for the Map
IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas with inadequate evidence
- Areas not analysed

Map Symbols

⊙ Urban settlement classification

△ IDPs/other settlements classification

Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance
(accounted for in Phase classification)

> 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance

> 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

Evidence Level

- ∗ Acceptable
- ∗∗ Medium
- ∗∗∗ High
- Scarce evidence due to limited or no humanitarian access

State	Livelihood zones	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
			#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Afar	Zone 1 Awsi rasu	397,931	139,276	35	139,276	35	99,483	25	19,897	5	0	0	3	119,380	30
	Zone 2 Kilbet rasu	438,242	109,561	25	175,297	40	131,473	30	21,912	5	0	0	3	153,385	35
	Zone 3 Gabi rasu	188,301	65,905	35	65,905	35	47,075	25	9,415	5	0	0	3	56,490	30
	Zone 4 Fantana rasu	261,614	78,484	30	91,565	35	78,484	30	13,081	5	0	0	3	91,565	35
	Zone 5 Hari rasu	279,384	83,815	30	111,754	40	69,846	25	13,969	5	0	0	3	83,815	30
	Total	1,565,472	477,041	30	583,797	37	426,361	27	78,274	5	0	0		504,634	32
Amahara	North shewa	1,917,496	1,246,372	65	479,374	25	191,750	10	0	0	0	0	2	191,750	10
	North wello	1,495,467	1,046,827	70	299,093	20	149,547	10	0	0	0	0	2	149,547	10
	South wello	2,730,415	2,047,811	75	409,562	15	273,042	10	0	0	0	0	2	273,042	10
	Total	6,143,378	4,341,011	71	1,188,030	19	614,338	10	0	0	0	0		614,338	10
Oromiya	Arsi	3,192,209	1,436,494	45	1,117,273	35	638,442	20	0	0	0	0	3	638,442	20
	Bale	1,639,108	409,777	25	491,732	30	573,688	35	163,911	10	0	0	3	737,599	45
	Borena	494,418	98,884	20	123,605	25	197,767	40	74,163	15	0	0	3	271,930	55
	East hararge	3,431,525	1,372,610	40	1,029,458	30	857,881	25	171,576	5	0	0	3	1,029,457	30
	East shewa	1,381,780	621,801	45	483,623	35	207,267	15	69,089	5	0	0	3	276,356	20
	Guji	1,306,938	522,775	40	326,735	25	392,081	30	65,347	5	0	0	3	457,428	35
	West arsi	2,379,586	1,070,814	45	832,855	35	475,917	20	0	0	0	0	3	475,917	20
	West guji	1,139,694	227,939	20	341,908	30	398,893	35	170,954	15	0	0	3	569,847	50
	West hararge	2,337,488	701,246	30	818,121	35	584,372	25	233,749	10	0	0	3	818,121	35
	Total	17,302,746	6,462,340	37	5,565,309	32	4,326,309	25	948,789	5	0	0		5,275,097	30
SNNPR	Dawuro	516,030	283,817	55	129,008	25	77,405	15	25,802	5	0	0	3	103,207	20
	Gamo	1,064,700	479,115	45	372,645	35	159,705	15	53,235	5	0	0	3	212,940	20
	Gedeo	807,011	322,804	40	242,103	30	161,402	20	80,701	10	0	0	3	242,103	30
	Gofa	463,962	231,981	50	162,387	35	69,594	15	0	0	0	0	2	69,594	15
	Hadiya	1,319,119	527,648	40	461,692	35	263,824	20	65,956	5	0	0	3	329,780	25
	Kembata Tembaro	639,908	255,963	40	223,968	35	127,982	20	31,995	5	0	0	3	159,977	25
	Segen	653,412	228,694	35	228,694	35	163,353	25	32,671	5	0	0	3	196,024	30
	South omo	619,208	185,762	30	247,683	40	154,802	25	30,960	5	0	0	3	185,762	30
	Wolayita	1,454,079	727,040	50	363,520	25	290,816	20	72,704	5	0	0	3	363,520	25
	Total	7,537,429	3,242,824	43	2,431,699	32	1,468,882	19	394,024	5	0	0		1,862,906	25
Sidama	Sidama	3,235,039	1,617,520	50	808,760	25	647,008	20	161,752	5	0	0	3	808,760	25
	Total	3,235,039	1,617,520	50	808,760	25	647,008	20	161,752	5	0	0		808,760	25
Somali	Afder	605,849	121,170	20	242,340	40	212,047	35	30,292	5	0	0	3	242,339	40
	Daawa	422,938	126,881	30	126,881	30	105,735	25	63,441	15	0	0	3	169,176	40
	Doolo	393,974	157,590	40	98,494	25	98,494	25	39,397	10	0	0	3	137,891	35
	Erer	279,228	55,846	20	97,730	35	83,768	30	41,884	15	0	0	3	125,652	45
	Fafan	967,385	338,585	35	338,585	35	193,477	20	96,739	10	0	0	3	290,216	30
	Jarar	557,919	167,376	30	195,272	35	139,480	25	55,792	10	0	0	3	195,272	35
	Korahe	439,317	131,795	30	153,761	35	109,829	25	43,932	10	0	0	3	153,761	35
	Liban	467,403	93,481	20	163,591	35	140,221	30	70,110	15	0	0	3	210,331	45
	Nogob	170,533	42,633	25	59,687	35	51,160	30	17,053	10	0	0	3	68,213	40
	Shabelle	543,825	135,956	25	190,339	35	163,148	30	54,383	10	0	0	3	217,531	40
	Siti	596,029	178,809	30	268,213	45	119,206	20	29,801	5	0	0	3	149,007	25
	Total	5,444,400	1,550,121	28	1,934,891	36	1,416,564	26	542,825	10	0	0		1,959,388	36
Tigray	Southern	580,303	261,136	45	261,136	45	58,030	10	-	-	0	0	2	58,030	10
	Total	580,303	261,136	45	261,136	45	58,030	10	-	-	0	0		58,030	10
Grand total		41,808,767	17,951,992	43	12,773,622	31	8,957,491	21	2,125,663	5	0	0		11,083,154	27

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS ANALYSIS

Increase of the population analyzed: The 2020 the IPC Belg analysis conducted in August 2020 has analyzed a larger population (41 million people compared to the 27.8 million analyzed in 2019). The increase in population is due to a change in the unit of analysis from livelihoods zones to administrative zones, which brought an increase in population coverage as all admin zone was analyzed even when some part of it are outside typical Belg dependent areas. For instance, the analyzed population is much

ETHIOPIA						
	2019 ANALYSIS			**2020 ANALYSIS**		
	Current	Projected	Projected II	Current	Projected	Projected II
	Yes HFA	Yes HFA	No HFA	Yes HFA to 7 M	Yes HFA to 9M	No HFA
Periods	July-Sept 2019	Oct-Jan 2019-2020	Feb-Jun 2020	Aug-Sept 2020	Oct-Jan	Feb-Jun
Population analyzed	28.7 M	28.7 M	29.2	41.0 M	41.0 M	41.8 M
Magnitude 3+	8.0 M	6.7 M	8.5 M	8.5 M	6.7 M	11.0 M
Severity 3+	28%	24%	28%	21%	16%	27%
Magnitude 3	6.1 M	5.4 M	6.5 M	7.1 M	5.9 M	9.0 M
Severity 3	21%	19%	22%	17%	14%	21%
Magnitude 4	1.9 M	1.3 M	2 M	1.4 M	0.8 M	2.1 M
Severity 4	6%	5%	6%	4%	2%	5%

higher in SNNPR (186%) Amhara (171%) and Oromia (145%) mainly because the administrative zones included some populations that were not analyzed last year, while in Afar and Somali regions the population had very little difference with 2019. Reversely, but compensated with the increase in the above areas, in Tigray, the analyzed population reduced by 69% as some areas analyzed in 2019 were considered less Belg dependent but were included in the analysis as priority hot spots.

Decrease of the highly food insecure population prevalence in rural areas, with 21 percent of the population estimated in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4), compared to 28 percent in the last analysis. The 2020 food security report shows consistent reductions in the periods July/August to September (from 28% in 2019 to 21% in 2020) and in the period October-January (from 24% to 16%). However in the second projected period, which is analyzed without taking into account the mitigating effects of humanitarian food assistance, the prevalence of highly food insecure population is only reducing from 28% to 27%.

The overall analysis result of the 7 regions shows half a million population increase in IPC Phase 3 and above compared to the 2019. The analyzed population figure in 2019 was 28 million while it is 41 million in 2020. The prevalence of affected population in IPC Phase 3 and above reduced from 28% in 2019 to 21% in 2020. This accounted to 30% increase in analyzed population in 2020 compared to 2019. Afar and Somali pastoral and agro-pastoral dominated regions show similar prevalence in 2020 and 2019 while the other 5 regions shows significant difference in the prevalence of IPC Phase3 and above population for the justification indicated in their respective areas.

Belg 2020

Regions	Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 3 +	
	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%
Afar	313,369	20	63,281	4	376,650	24
Amhara	682,491	11	209,264	3	891,756	15
Oromiya	3,268,080	19	562,322	3	3,830,402	23
SNNPR + Sidama	1,589,053	15	315,998	3	1,905,051	18
Somali	1,153,515	22	290,678	5	1,444,193	27
Tigray	57,635	10	0	0	57,635	10
Total	**7,064,145**	**17**	**1,441,543**	**4**	**8,505,687**	**21**

Belg 2019

Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 3 +	
#people	%	#people	%	#people	%
313,630	21	59,573	4	373,203	24
594,362	17	229,144	7	823,506	15
2,434,221	21	1,087,282	9	3,521,503	23
865,158	15	205,382	4	1,070,540	20
1,533,962	30	243,047	5	1,777,009	27
369,042	25	32,103	2	401,145	10
6,110,375	**21**	**1,856,531**	**6**	**7,966,906**	**21**

Region	Regional level comparison between 2020 and 2029
Afar	Affected population in IPC Phase 3 and above has remain almost the same in Afar region during 2019 and 2020 – 24% and 25% respectively. The actual number people and prevalence in Phase 3 and above is the same including the base population.
Amhara	Affected population in IPC Phase 3 and above has reduced from 24% in 2019 to 15% in 2020 in Amhara region due to two major factors: the Unit of Analysis area was livelihood zone and included hot spots weredas in 2019. Although the population figure in IPC Phase 3 and above has increased by 68,250 people the prevalence shows a decrease due to the base population based on admin zone. In 2020 the IPC analysis is limited to three admin zones and did not include hot spot weredas.
Oromia	Affected population in IPC Phase 3 and above has reduced from 31% in 2019 to 23% in 2020 in Oromia region due to the following major factors: the analysis area was 20 livelihood zones and wereda coverage while the 2020 analysis is limited to 9 admin zones. Although affected population figure shows an increase of 327,351 people, however, the prevalence is still less than the 2019 by 8%. This is mainly due to the change on the analyzed population figure which has increased by 5.4 million compared to the 2019 mainly because administrative zones includes areas left out last year when the Unit of Analysis was livelihood zone.
SNNPR + Sidama	SNNPR and Sidama Region affected population in IPC Phase 3 and is considerably higher compared to the 2019 analysis. However, the regional level prevalence still shows similar percentage due around 5 million increase in the base population analyzed in 2020 Belg Analysis. As a result the 851,293 affected population increased offset the prevalence remain similar to the 2019 analysis period.
Somali	The number of affected population in IPC Phase 3 and above in Somali region shows around 332,819 people decrease compared to 2019. The prevalence of food insecure population also decreased from 34% in 2019 to 27% in 2020. Due to full coverage of the region in both the 2019 and 2020 analysis there is no major base population figure.
Tigrai	Affected population in IPC Phase 3 and above decreased by around 343,510 people in Tigrai region compared to 2019. The prevalence of food insecure population also shows significant decrease from 27% in 2019 to 10% in 2020. The 2019 analysis covered 4 livelihood zones and 4 hotspot weredas while the 2020 analysis is limited to one admin zone with no hot spot weredas. Analyzed population in 2020 is 576,376 compared to 1.5 million base population in 2019. As a result the prevalence has shown 17% decrease compared to the previous year.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

The food security situation during the October to December 2020 period indicate that about 6.7 million people (16% of analysed population) requires urgent action to save lives, reduce food gaps, save and protect livelihood and reduce and prevent acute malnutrition. In the second Belg projection period, January – June 2021 the food security situation is expected to worsen with about 11.1 million (27% of the total population analysed) people likely to experience Crisis (Phase 3) or worse conditions. The IPC analysis includes all food insecure households irrespective of whether they benefit from Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), including current IDPs or IDP returnees. Food insecurity is influenced by food and nonfood related factors, as a result the IPC TWG recommends the following urgent actions:

- Provide urgent actions to save lives and livelihoods of populations estimated in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) as well as to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps of the populations estimated in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Special focus should also be directed towards the households unable to purchase food due to lack of employment and other income sources because of COVID 19 pandemic.

- Provide emergency agricultural and livestock support to farmers, with special focus on administrative zones affected by natural disasters including floods, drought and desert locust. Scale up diversified livelihoods programmes for improved self-reliance, resilience building and social protection to all vulnerable communities classified under Phases 2 (Stressed), Phase 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency);

- Implement agriculture and market polices including localized of improved seed cultivation;

- Rehabilitate the infrastructure (roads, markets) to ensure easy access for traders and suitable infrastructure and Implement water harvesting programs in water- deficit Administrative Zones;

- Scale up and improve access to basic services (health and WASH) throughout the year. In areas affected by shortage of water and public health challenges, improve access to water, hygiene and sanitation for affected population as well as improve access to water to support community-based initiatives that contribute to stabilize and maintain the livelihoods.

- Strengthen and support initiatives addressing cross-cutting issues of food security and nutrition status of vulnerable groups, Promote good nutritional practices at household levels through nutrition sensitive activities such as home gardening and educational awareness on food and water safety.

- Restore and Enhance the livelihoods of IDP returnees as well as vulnerable farming and pastoralist communities, by subsidizing basic commodities and agricultural inputs;

- Continue the public works programs under safety nets programme and rehabilitation of rural community assets, through food and cash based transfer aiming at improving access to food and restoring employment opportunities disadvantaged by the COVID 19 pandemic.

- Support ongoing initiatives on social cohesion and peace building efforts in order to reduce the impact of conflicts on food security, nutrition and livelihoods situation of affected populations. The conflict-induced displacement has continued damaging the lives and livelihoods of the affected population. The humanitarian community, donors and partners should continue advocating for and implementing an integrated approach of providing humanitarian assistance, in parallel to resilience of livelihoods and continuous monitoring of the IDP situation.

COVID 19, Desert Locust, economic instability resulting in food price hikes and displacements due to conflict and climate related factors were the main drivers of food insecurity in for Belg dependent areas, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists analyzed communities. Hence, the response analysis and planning should consider additional investments response to the COVID 19 shock, as well as resilience and adaptation to climate change to provide food insecure households with a buffer against future shocks and stop the cycle of recurring food crises.

Situation Monitoring and Update

Food security and nutrition outcomes and humanitarian assistance should be monitored, as the situation could further deteriorate if response mechanisms are insufficient. The IPC TWG calls upon all decision makers to:

• To continue providing the necessary technical, financial, logistics, and administrative support to regularly conduct Integrated Food Security and Nutrition household surveys that will be used for future IPC analysis. This will ensure all livelihood zones and hotspot weredas have most recent data and information.

• To ensure compatibility and synergies are maintained. Stakeholders and partners are advised to continue streamlining their data/information collection and analysis process according to global standardized assessment methodologies. This is crucial that IPC partners should collect and analyse data on vulnerable populations to ensure a targeted and integrated response for multiple partners work together to practical humanitarian, development and peace nexus.

• In order to continue with joint and consensual food security analysis, the government is called upon to lead in the ongoing initiatives for remote data collection

• Promote analysis of the food security and nutrition situation at a lower administrative level, planning woreda level data collection and information sharing in order to overcome the data gaps, reduce masking and strengthen food security analysis at all levels.

Risk factors to monitor

• **COVID-19 situation:** has a significant impact on the food security situation of the urban and rural areas in addition to the health hazards. The economic impact of COVID-19 has to be monitored to avoid the health crisis is transformed into a food crisis. The IPC TWG and partners are expected to monitor the food security situation both in rural and urban areas. COVID-19 and containment measures have a significant impact on major urban centres of the country, compared to the rural areas;

• **Weather monitoring:** In the first projection period, the Kiremt and Karma/Karan rainfall seasonal in Belg and in northern pastoral areas, respectively, are forecasted to be above average and will likely lead to flash floods that could contribute to worsening the food insecurity situation. In a sharp contrast, the southern and southeastern pastoral areas that receive Deyr/Hageya and Gu/Genna rainfall are projected to experience below normal rainfall. Closely monitoring the rainfall performance in those areas is crucial in order to initiate early livelihoods interventions timely.

• **Desert Locust situation:** the situation is alarming and rapidly progressing, with isolated adults in Nile Valley that could spread further if the rainfall performance is as good as predicted;

• **High food prices:** as inflation is expected to remain high throughout the projection period, prices of staple food and non-food items will likely remain high and could be exacerbated by COVID-19 crossborder restrictions, including the cost of production and agriculture inputs;

• **Internally displaced people:** There is need to continue monitoring the evolution of IDP situation. Of importance is to ensure durable livelihoods solutions for IDP returnees to transplant themselves onto sustainable livelihoods.

THE ROLE OF HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE (HFA) AND THE PRODUCTIVE SAFETY NET PROGRAMME (PSNP)

According to the IPC protocols, the mitigating effects of all assistance provided in different forms is included in the analytical process, with a positive impact on food consumption and/or livelihood. In this sense, the assistance that represented a mitigation of food insecurity in the areas analysed came from different government and partners efforts, and in particular from the humanitarian assistance provided through the Humanitarian Response Plan and the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). The mitigating effects of the assistance provided are included in the current analysis, while the projected analysis takes into consideration the planned, likely funded and deliverable assistance. Although considered in the analytical process, regular PSNP transfers are not considered to the effects of indicating in the IPC map areas receiving significant Humanitarian Food Assistance. The mapping protocols of IPC, however, support an easy visualization of the areas that have received/ will likely receive significant Humanitarian Food Assistance, intended as the assistance that aims at immediately reducing food gaps – only.

Humanitarian Food Assistance

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and partners are providing food assistance to 7.2 million food insecure people in the country (including the 6.7 million in the IPC analyzed). Evidence from two seasonal assessments – Meher and the Belg - is used to estimate the food needs in the country, which is also included in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in rural areas analyzed through the IPC. On the advice of the NDRMC, this Belg IPC analysis figures were already shared with humanitarian partners to inform the midyear review of the 2020 HRP. The HRP food security response numbers are likely to be higher than the current ones given the impacts of COVID 19 which are more pronounced in urban areas not included in this analysis Three agencies are providing Humanitarian Food Assistance in the country – about 52 percent of beneficiaries are assisted by the government through the NDRMC, about 27% by WFP and about 22% by JEOP. In August 2020, it would be required to cover eight rounds of the HRP for 11.8 million beneficiaries (HRP numbers include the rural areas classified by IPC numbers, urban areas in need and IDP population is treated separately).

In 2020, seven HFA distribution rounds have been planned with the last one bridging between December 2020 and January 2021. As of August 2020, four Rounds had already been delivered, even with constraints faced due to COVID 19. The Food Cluster foresees that the remaining rounds will be delivered as planned

The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)

The Government of Ethiopia, together with other development partners launched the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) in 2005 to help chronically food insecure households across the country. The PSNP aims at improving the consumption needs and asset base of the households, effect of community development and determinants of food insecurity level beneficiaries. The PSNP is a predictable transfer that addresses both chronic and transitory needs of the most vulnerable households in selected woredas. In addition to the PNSP, UNICEF, in partnership with other development partners, supports the Government to establish a National Integrated Cash Food Response, which considers the PSNP as a key platform to provide emergency-related support to vulnerable households in need of relief cash/food in times of shocks. In this regard, Ethiopia has made great progress, currently in its fourth phase (2017-2020) in terms of building shock responsive social protection systems to 8 million households, which play an increasingly key role in the country's emergency response. 83% of the PSNP beneficiaries were regular public work beneficiaries and the support is delivered during January to July. The PSNP public works component is put on hold during July -December, which is a crucial period for some PSNP beneficiaries that require emergency food assistance. The PSNP Phase 4 was completed by May 2020. The next phase of the PSNP programme was supposed to start in June 2020 but due to other unforeseen circumstances, it has not yet taken off. This important programme requires close coordination and planning between the PSNP and HFA implementing partners.

PROCESS, METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Process and Methodology

The IPC Technical Working Group (TWG) is composed of multiple agencies representing different governmental and nongovernmental sectors, including UN agencies, resource partners and international non-governmental agencies.

The TWG convened remotely from July 27 to August 3 to conduct the Acute Food Insecurity analysis. The analysis team was composed of different institutions with a total number around sixty (60) representing government, NGOs and UN Agencies. The key partners that were involved are NDRMC (Including regional Level), Ministry of Agriculture, AAH, CSA, CARE, WVE, FAO, FEWS NET, , OCHA, Regional Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resource, Regional Bureau of Health, Regional Bureau of Water and Energy, Regional Livestock Bureau, SCI, UNICEF and WFP, VSF-Suisse. The analysts came from different technical backgrounds composed of 12 agriculture experts, 6 nutritionists, 25 food security and livelihoods experts, 3 statisticians, 4 water and sanitation experts, 3 gender, 5 from Health and 3 Market experts from the seven regions and federal level government ministries. The analysis was conducted under six regional groups (Sidama was analysed by the team that also analyzed SNNPR) facilitated by international IPC Level 3 experts deployed by IPC-GSU. FEWS NET, FAO and WFP also provided international experts to support the process.

The analysis was documented using the computer-based software IPC Support System (ISS) that facilitated the documentation and convergence of the evidence. Each group had a combination of experts from different sectors and agencies. The seven regional analysis groups conducted the analyses and presented to the plenary discussion using the IPC analysis worksheets and framework. Finally, the phase classification map was produced through an intensive plenary discussion and technical consensus among the members of the National Technical Working Group (NTWG).

Sources

This IPC process brought together available food security information in a systematic manner to produce the best possible estimate of the food security situation under the circumstances. The IPC classification was dependent on the FSMS primary data and HEA outcomes, but also took into consideration a number of secondary data from assessments and reports developed by different organizations. TWG used the latest situation monitoring reports from the partners and regions and woredas, and the local knowledge of the analysts to carry out systematic IPC analysis and classified the livelihoods zones using IPC Version 3.0 protocols.

Below the description of the main data sources and methodologies used:

- **The telephone based Household Food Security Survey (FSMS):** The FSMS technical working group drawn from different IPC TWG partners prepared the household food security and survey (FSMS) methodology. The key partners in the FSMS were NDRMC, FAO, WFP, FEWS NET. It employed a study design targeting predominantly "Belg" season dependent administrative zones and pastoral areas that are found in the following seven regions of Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Sidama, SNNP and Tigray. Electronic data collection method was used to record the responses the enumerators received over the phone to obtain desired data from sampled households. The data collection activity was carried out in July 2020. WFP was taking the lead in coordinating the overall FSMS task, a team from FAO and WFP was responsible for data cleaning and analysis

- **The HEA outcome analysis summary report from the LEAP-LIAS (USAID/Save the Children):** The HEA results comes in the form of numbers of people in an administrative zone and woreda in a particular phase and is calculated using the IPC cutoffs for the IPC indicators. The IPC team re-calculated the HEA results as a proportion of the population in the form of percentages for comparability with the other indicators.

The FSMS and HEA provided the IPC with direct evidence for food consumption (Food Consumption Score, Household Hunger Score, food-related reduced Coping Strategies Index and Livelihood Coping Strategies) while HEA provided data on Survival Deficit and Livelihoods Protection Deficits. The HEA and FSMS assessments tools are designed according to the global standards using HEA's/WFP's/FAO's corporate level technical protocols taking special considerations of data requirements for the IPC analysis.

- **Monthly market price data and information** from WFP, FEWS NET, CSA and EGTE and information form the regional government ministry offices. In addition, the analysis team used the Therapeutic Feeding Programme (TFP) and nutrition information from nutritional admissions.

- **National Meteorological Agency (NMA)** seasonal bulletin used to analyse the performance of Belg 2020 and Kiremt outlook for Meher 2020 projection period (Oct-Dec 2020); National Meteorological Agency (NMA) experts have been involved in each region and this analysis benefited from their expert knowledge on the first projection (Oct-Dec 2020).

- **Regional ICPAC/GHACOF weather forecasts** and NMA bulletin were used as key indicator for the agriculture production, water and pasture availability predication. In addition the following information and expertise have been exploited:

- **RFE-2 estimate trend analysis of current rainfall situation compared to 10 years** (2008-2018) against yield reduction estimate based on Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI), which uses a water balance model. This information was used to converge the evidence for crop production estimate;

BACKGROUND ON THE PERIOD OF ANALYSIS – SEASONALITY IN ETHIOPIA

Understanding the seasonality of the climate and production for crop and livestock producing areas in Ethiopia is crucial. The seasonal calendar shows that there are areas that have one rainfall season (unimodal) and some areas have two distinct rainfall patterns (bimodal).

Unimodal areas - The unimodal areas in Ethiopia are also called Western Agricultural Areas, namely Gambela, Benshagul Gumuz, Western parts of Tigray, of Amhara, of SNNPR and of Oromia. They are characterized by one main rainy season, Kiremt, from June to mid-September. These areas experience a lean season between July and October. Harvest occurs from October to January. These areas are generally highly productive and rarely experience food gaps. These areas have not been analysed in the IPC analysis.

Bimodal and transitional bimodal areas - The areas that experience a bimodal rainfall pattern are located in the Northern Pastoral areas namely in Afar and Eastern Dire Dawa, and in the Southern Pastoral areas, namely in South Oromia and the Somali Region. During this period, the terms of trade are against the livestock owners and this affects negatively their access to food. In the 2020 Belg IPC analysis, the lean season is included in the second projection period of the analysis. Part of the bimodal areas experience a more continuous rainfall pattern from April to October, but with two peaks Belg and Kiremt, are found in a transitional band between the two systems. For these areas the Belg rainfall is important as it kick starts the land preparation and planting of some long cycle crops which are harvested together with the Meher crops of the western agricultural areas. In bimodal areas, there are two crop harvests, the Meher harvest (October to January) that contributes to most of the food stocks at households level, while the Belg harvest (June to August) is minor. Bi-modal areas experience chronic food gaps and are more dependent on markets from food. Incomes from livestock sales are important for the agro pastoralists and pastoralists households in bimodal areas to access food as is the impacts of rainfall on both crops and pasture lands. In bimodal and transitional areas the lean season occurs between April and June.

Alignment of data collection to seasonality - The IPC TWG agreed to conduct two analyses one to focus on Belg, pastoral and agro pastoral bimodal areas and the second one will focus on transitional bimodal areas which depend on both Meher and Belg rainfall patterns. Household food security assessments will precede each IPC analysis. IPC analysis also uses seasonal assessments which contextualize the situation in the analyzed regions. Data collection and food security and nutrition situation analysis as well as Household Economic Analysis (HEA) is designed in line with the seasonality of the climate and seasonal calendar for the different farming systems and functionality of markets and prices. The IPC lessons learnt workshop recommended household data collection activities to be conducted twice a year during the lean seasons. For bimodal areas, data collection is planned between May and June with IPC analysis planned for July while in Meher unimodal areas data collection is planned for Mid Sept-mid Oct with IPC analysis in Oct-November.

Ethiopia Seasonal Calendar: Typical Year

Source: FEWSNET
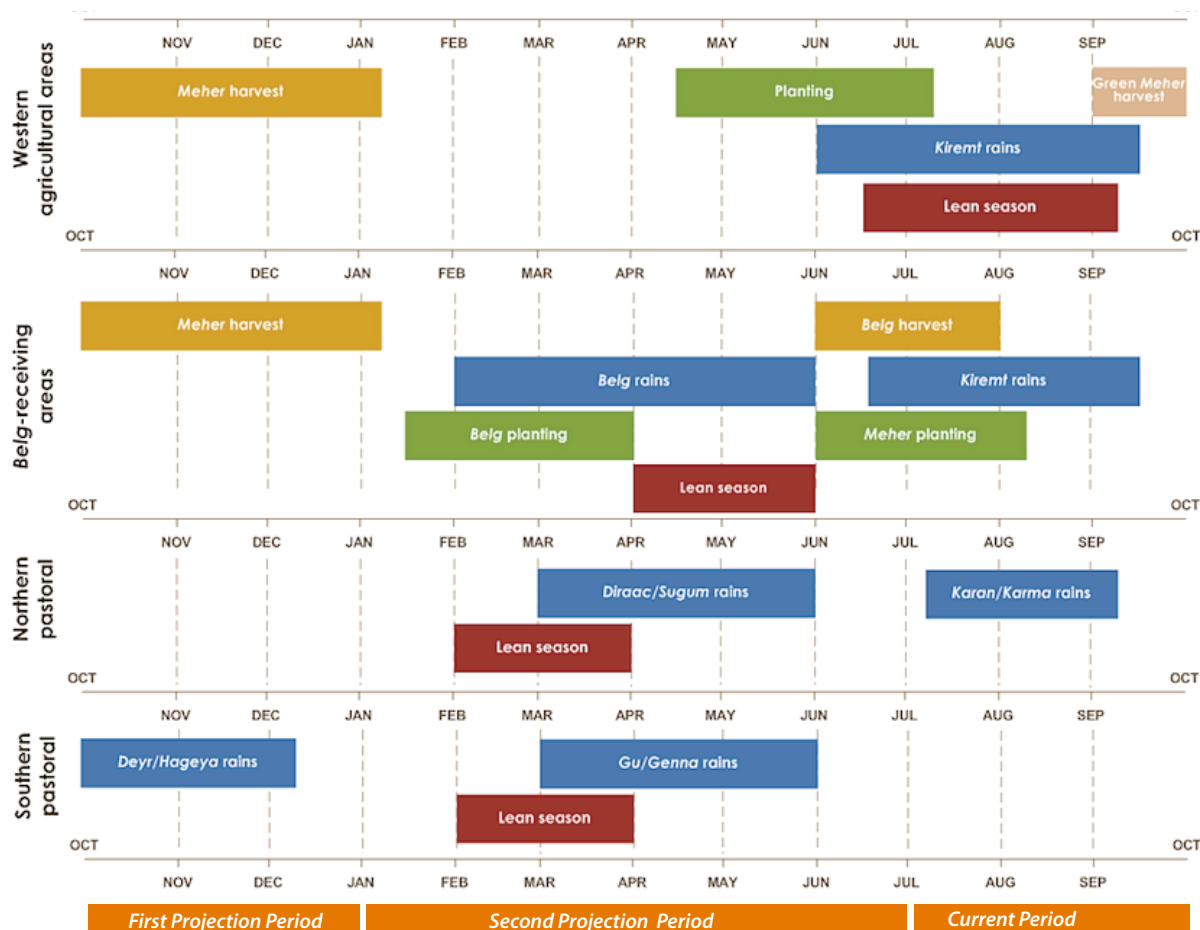
- **NDRMC Early Warning Reports and Seasonal Assessment Reports** containing weather, crop pest and disease, livestock disease and market from NDRMC have been used as an input for current analyses.

- **IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)** Round 22 used to track the displaced population mobility for the analysis of the outcome on food security of the sampled livelihood zones;

- **Long-range rainfall analysis (FEWS NET Climate Scientist)** provided the outlook for January to June 2020.

Evidence Level: Overall the FSMNS survey, with the exception of 10 areas, had a sample size superior than 150 HH and was scored as R2 (Reliable), bringing, together with the other evidence available, the analysis evidence level at High (***). The ten areas with Medium (**) evidence level are : Zone 2-3-4-5 in Afar, Arsi and Misrak Shewa in Oromyia, Gedeo in SNNP, Dawa, Dollo, Nogob in Somali region.

Limitations of the Analysis

The IPC approach allows comparability over time and space. However, the Belg IPC analysis is not entirely comparable with the Belg IPC analysis of 2019 in terms of population and geographical coverage. This situation has emanated from the changes on Unit of Analysis made by the IPC TWG from Livelihoods Zones in 2019 with about 28 million people to Administrative Zone in 2020 with a larger population of 41 million people.

The FSMNS survey did not conduct incorporate nutrition analysis which requires physical measurements of the targets and rendered impossible due to the COVID 19 context. In addition, the FSMS could not reach some areas like Raya Azebo in Tigray because of telephone connectivity planned to cover all the selected study sites.

Due to electricity outages, internet and telephone connectivity challenges. Some participants were unable to fully participate

Acute Food Insecurity Phase name and description

Phase 1 None/Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Catastrophe/ Famine
Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.	Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.	Households either: • have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; **or** • are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.	Households either: • have large food consumption gaps that are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; **or** • are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation.	Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. For famine classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.)

What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food security policy and programming.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

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The Ethiopia IPC Food Security Analysis: The analysis by over 20 partner organizations, including regional authorities and three federal government ministries was conducted in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP), Somali and Tigray regions. The partners involved in this analysis included AAH, CSA, ENCU, FAO, FEWSNET, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resource, NDRMC (Including regional Level), OCHA, Regional Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resource, Regional Bureau of Health, Regional Bureau of Water and Energy, Regional Livestock Bureau, SCI, UNICEF and WFP. The analysis was then vetted by the Ethiopia IPC Technical Working Group in conjunction with a technical support team from IPC GSU and RSU. Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition was conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC , FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.