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Regional forecast, 2022 *continued*

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The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to remain high in Ethiopia at 14–15 million people in July–September 2022 due to the effects of conflict, macroeconomic challenges and drought. FEWS NET based this projection on the assumption that there would be below-average rainfall in southeastern Ethiopia. The country is projected to remain one of the world's most severe food crises in 2022.

In Kenya, during the first half of 2022, acute food insecurity levels are forecast to rise, driven by the impacts of three consecutive below-average rainy seasons and high food prices. Although the IPC forecast assumed that the country would receive average or above-average rainfall, the rainfall situation has changed, following a delayed start to the March–May long rains season (FEWS NET, March 2022).

In the Sudan, acute food insecurity was expected to seasonally decline during the post-harvest period between October 2021 and February 2022. However, this estimate was conducted in March 2021 under the assumption of a good performance of the 2021 cropping season. The current severity and prevalence of acute food insecurity are likely to be higher due to the below-average cereal production obtained in 2021, additionally, the economic repercussions of the October 2021 coup and continued macroeconomic instability will continue to adversely affect food security outcomes (see country brief).

Drought in the Horn of Africa

Beyond June, food security outcomes in 2022 across drought-affected areas of the Horn of Africa, particularly in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, will depend on the performance of the March–May Gu/long rains season. As of April 2022, the start of the season has been poor, and forecasts indicate that continued below-average rains are likely. Should an unprecedented fourth consecutive below-average rainy season materialize with an absence of scaled-up humanitarian response, food security outcomes would likely deteriorate further later in the year.

Potential implications of the war in Ukraine for East Africa

Given the importance of Ukraine and the Russian Federation in providing global wheat supplies, ongoing war in Ukraine and the economic impact on the Russian Federation may lead to worsening regional food security outcomes compared to current IPC projections through mid-2022.

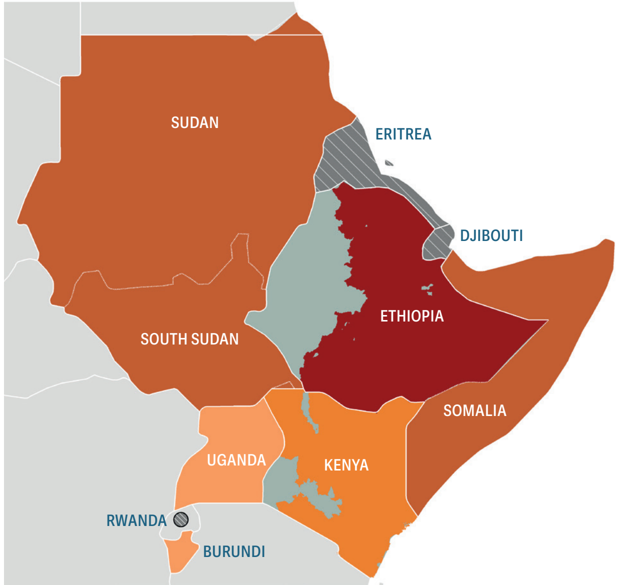
The East Africa region is highly dependent on wheat and wheat products, which comprise one-third of the average national cereal consumption. Some 84 percent of its wheat and wheat products are imported. In February 2022, global wheat prices rose to levels comparable to those experienced during the 2008 global financial crisis, as the war and related supply chain disruptions exacerbated already high global prices.

The East Africa region obtains 90 percent of its wheat imports from the Russian Federation (72 percent) and Ukraine (18 percent), therefore countries in the region remain heavily exposed to fluctuations in supply levels from these countries. For example, the Sudan obtains 93 percent of national wheat imports on average from the Russian Federation and Ukraine. It could face difficulties finding alternative wheat sources and/or significant domestic wheat price increases.

Given the Russian Federation is a major energy exporter and the largest fertiliser exporter in the world, economic impacts are also expected to cause significant disruptions to global energy and fertiliser markets. These factors could adversely affect agricultural production or elevate production costs, contributing to further domestic food price increases (WFP, March 2022).

MAP 2.4

Acute food insecurity estimates in East Africa, in 2022



Numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) or equivalent (ranges)

- <0.5 million
- 0.5–0.99 million
- 1–2.99 million
- 3–4.99 million
- 5–9.99 million
- 10–14.99 million
- ≥15 million
- Country not selected for analysis
- Insufficient evidence/ population not analysed
- No forecast
- Migrants/refugee populations (colour coding as above)

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: FSIN, GRFC 2022.