

REQUIRED CITATION

FAO. 2019. Early Warning Early Action report on food security and agriculture (July-September 2019). Rome.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

ISBN 978-92-5-131660-3 © FAO, 2019



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode/legalcode).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons license. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: "This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original [Language] edition shall be the authoritative edition.

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules and any arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Third-party materials. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org. Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request. Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org.

Overview

The Early Warning Early Action initiative has been developed with the understanding that disaster losses and emergency response costs can be drastically reduced by using early warning analysis to act before a crisis escalates into an emergency. Early actions strengthen the resilience of at-risk populations, mitigate the impact of disasters and help communities, governments and national and international humanitarian agencies to respond more effectively and efficiently.

José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General The Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) report on food security and agriculture is produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It provides a quarterly forward-looking analysis of major disaster risks to food security and agriculture, specifically highlighting:

- potential new emergencies resulting from imminent disaster threats
- new developments in countries already affected by protracted crises which are likely to cause a further deterioration of food insecurity

This report is part of FAO's efforts to systematically link early warnings to anticipatory actions. By providing specific early action recommendations for each country, the report aims to prompt FAO and partners to proactively mitigate and/or prevent disasters before they start to adversely impact food security.

High risk

Countries are categorized as "high risk" when there is a high likelihood of a new emergency or a significant deterioration of the current situation with potentially severe effects on agriculture and food security.

On watch

Countries categorized as "on watch" instead have a comparatively more moderate likelihood and/or potential impact, requiring close monitoring. This report represents a summary and a prioritization of analysis provided by FAO's corporate and joint multi-agency information and early warning systems:

- Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS)
- Food Chain Crisis and Emergency Prevention System (FCC-EMPRES)
- Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and Cadre Harmonisé

In addition to these, a number of other external sources are consulted. The list of sources is available on page vii.

Countries with ongoing emergency response efforts are not included in the report, unless there are signs of potential significant deterioration. An overview of countries worldwide with humanitarian response plans or emergency plans is provided on page vi.

More details on the risk ranking methodology and the early action recommendations are provided on page ii.

The *Global Report on Food Crises 2019* is now available.

Around 113 million people in 53 countries faced acute food insecurity in 2018. Urgent humanitarian assistance is required to save lives and protect livelihoods. For more information go to: www.fsinplatform.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/

Methodology

Risk value



FAO and partners should start implementing early actions on a no-regrets basis



FAO should strengthen corporate monitoring, preparedness and plan for the implementation of certain low cost early actions

The countries and regions flagged in this report are selected through a consultative process led by early warning focal points from the EWEA, GIEWS, FCC-EMPRES and IPC teams. The main steps of the process are:

- 1. Shortlist countries flagged by FAO's corporate early warning systems, IPC and Cadre Harmonisé
- 2. Triangulate risk information with other datasets and external early warning systems
- 3. Verify and rank the final list of risks based on the following three criteria:
 - Likelihood of occurrence is classified into five levels (very unlikely, unlikely, moderately likely, likely and very likely). The term likelihood applies to the probability that, within the time period considered, either a new disaster risk or the significant deterioration of the situation will occur.
 - **Potential impact** is classified into five levels (negligible, minor, moderate, severe and critical). The impact is analysed both in terms of magnitude (the number of potentially affected people and/or geographical extent of the impact on agriculture, livelihoods and food security) and severity (the gravity of the impact on agriculture, livelihoods and food security, especially in relation to pre-existing vulnerability and food insecurity).
 - Country capacity to cope with and respond to potential disasters or deteriorated situations is also classified into five levels (very low, low, medium, high and very high). The Index for Risk Management (INFORM) is further applied to measure the coping capacity of a country.

Famine declared and famine likely

According to the new IPC guidelines, while "famine" is declared when at least 20 percent of the population (or 10 000 people) are facing catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5) in a given area, a new classification in IPC Phase 5 – "famine likely" – has been introduced to warn of potential famine situations in contexts where circumstances on the ground prevent the collection of sufficient evidence for declaring a famine, but where a famine scenario is likely to occur. This will be highlighted in the global risk map and narrative of the EWEA report on food security and agriculture as "risk of famine".

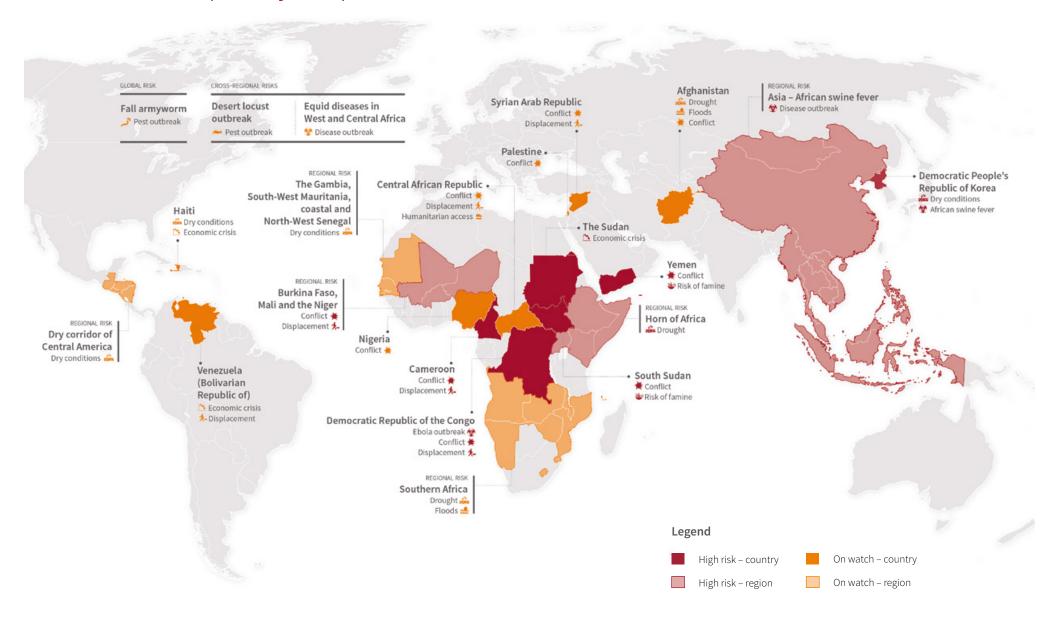
Recommendations for early actions

Early action recommendations are indicated for each risk that is featured in this report. They outline a range of the most appropriate interventions over the coming months which could prevent, mitigate or prepare for the potential impact of a specific disaster on the agriculture sector and livelihoods. The interventions are also sector specific and non-binding in nature. Early actions can vary from activities aiming to protect livelihood assets to planning and preparatory activities. The recommendations are developed by FAO through a consultative process involving technical experts and FAO country, subregional and regional offices.

Global risk map

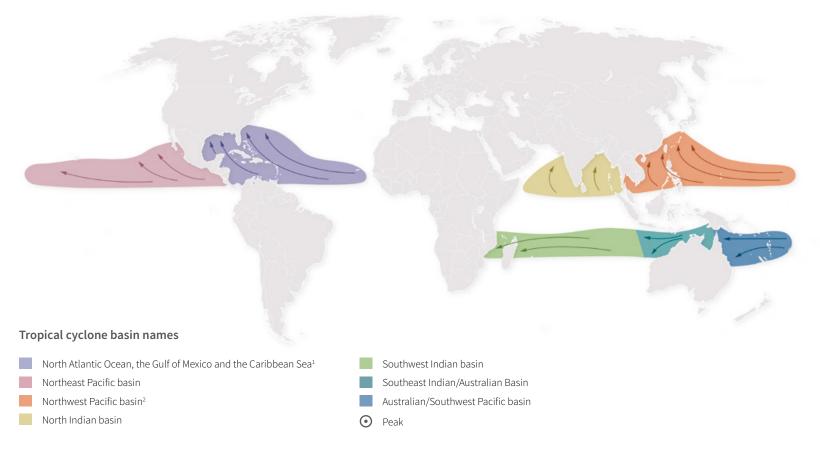
The map on page iii provides a visualization of major disaster risks to food security and agriculture in the indicated reporting period. When a new emergency or deterioration of the current situation is very likely and might have severe impacts, it is indicated as "high risk". In case of moderate to high likelihood and moderate and significant impact, the risk is listed as "on watch". Ongoing humanitarian crises, such as protracted emergencies, are not highlighted in this report unless a deterioration is likely.

Global risk map: July-September 2019



Cyclone seasonality

This map provides an overview of the timeline of cyclone formations and their historical tracks. There are seven tropical cyclone basins, with specific peak timings during the calendar year. When available, the seasonal forecast (below- or above-average cyclone activity) is also provided.

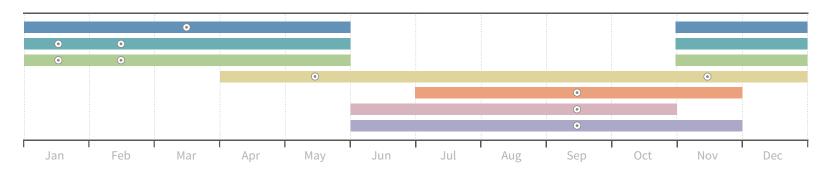


¹Tropical Storm Risk (TSR) predicts

North Atlantic hurricane activity in 2019 will be slightly below the long-term norm. However, the uncertainties in this outlook are sizeable.

²TSR predicts the 2019 Northwest Pacific typhoon season will see activity above the 1965-2018 norm. However, the uncertainties associated with this outlook are large and the forecast skill at this extended range is historically low.

Seasonality calendar



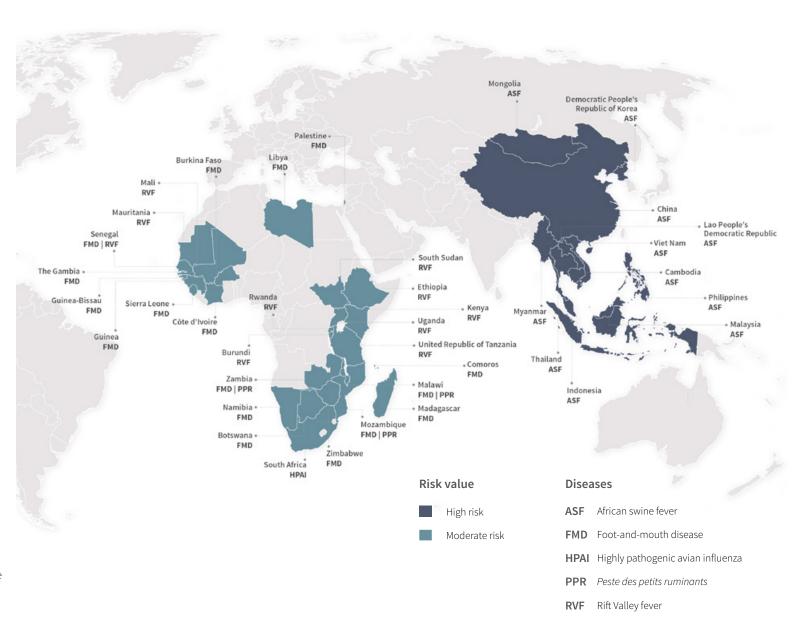
Animal health threats potentially affecting food security

This map highlights selected countries facing animal health threats during the reporting period.

Countries are only highlighted if the threat is considered to have the potential to impact food security.*

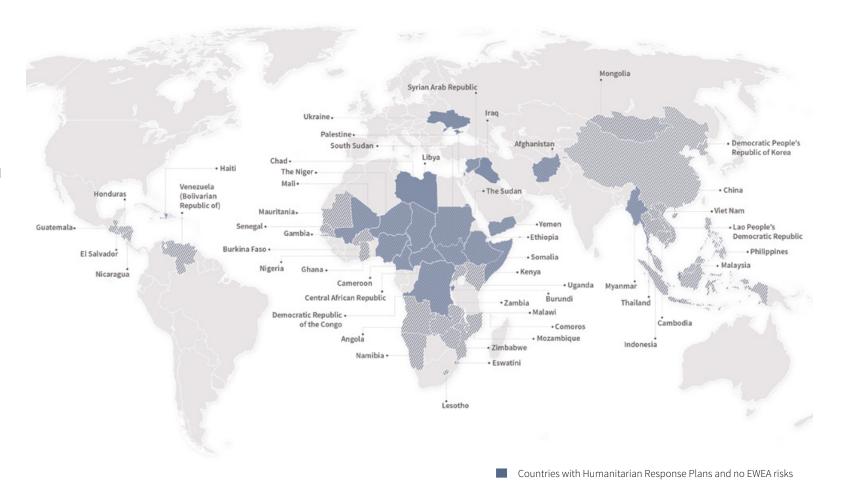
For a complete list of countries and threats, and more detailed information see: www.fao.org/food-chain-crisis/ early-warning-bulletin/en/

*The information used to compile this map was extracted from the Food Chain Crisis Management Framework (FCC) Early Warning Bulletin for the period July-September 2019. The information was compiled as of 19 June 2019. Please consult the bulletin for a more extensive analysis of threats to animal health globally.



EWEA risks within the wider humanitarian context

The EWEA report exclusively highlights new emergencies in food and agriculture and ongoing crises in which a potential significant deterioration is likely. The report does not cover ongoing crises with no indication of an upcoming deterioration. This map shows countries flagged by the report compared to countries with Humanitarian Response Plans in 2019, in which we do not foresee a marked deterioration.



Countries with Humanitarian Response Plans and with EWEA risks

W EWEA risks that do not have Humanitarian Response Plans

Source: Global Humanitarian Overview 2019, OCHA

Sources of information

This report consolidates information provided by GIEWS, FCC-EMPRES and IPC, and external sources of information. The analytical basis for the prioritization of countries and the major sources of information and data presented in the report are three main groups of datasets:

- countries requiring external assistance and the food security situation of low-income food-deficit countries*
- forecasting threats to the food chain affecting food security in countries and regions**
- IPC and Cadre Harmonisé acute food security analysis

Additional information and data presented in the report are consolidated from the following external sources (including but not limited to):

- reports and bulletins by agencies of the United Nations (UN), in particular OCHA, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme's (WFP) Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- updates from external sources including Index for Risk Management (INFORM), Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), International Research Institute for Climate and Society – Columbia University (IRI), Reliefweb, local and international media

^{*}Crop Prospects and Food Situation Bulletin, and Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAM), GIEWS

^{**}Food Chain Crisis early warning bulletin, FCC-EMPRES, Animal Production and Health Early Warning Systems Team

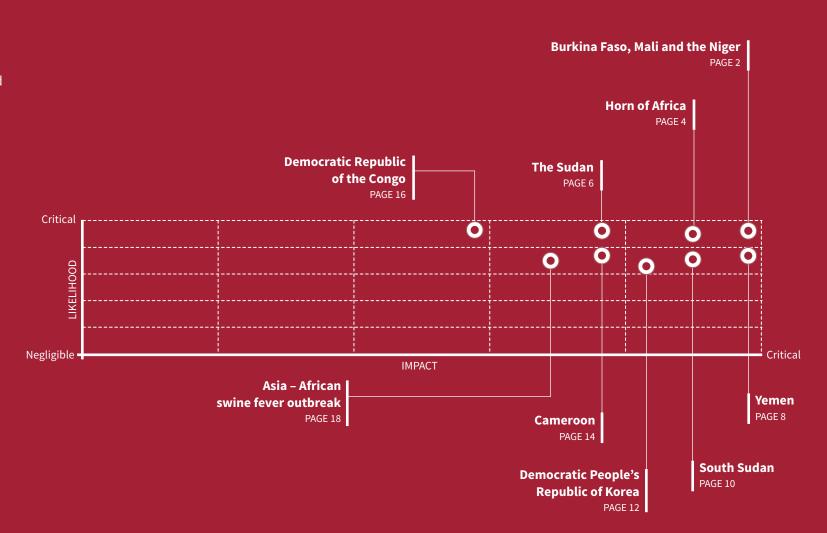


High risk

The matrix provides an overview of the ranking of risks featured in this report. The risks are prioritized based on the severity, likelihood and magnitude of their impact, while also balanced against the countries' individual coping capacity.

In order of intensity, for the period July–September 2019, the **high risk** section includes:

- Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger
- Horn of Africa
- The Sudan
- Yemen
- South Sudan
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Cameroon
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- African swine fever outbreak in Asia





Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger

Sharp increase in insecurity and conflict leading to displacement and food insecurity affecting agropastoral communities



687 460 people severely food insecure (CH Phases 3-5) in Burkina Faso; **548 644** people severely food insecure (CH Phases 3-5) in Mali;

1.17 million people severely food insecure (CH Phases 3-5) in the Niger



347 000 IDPs in the three countries as a result of escalation of conflict



- The unprecedented levels of insecurity and conflict in various regions of Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger have led to the escalation of humanitarian needs and food insecurity. The complex humanitarian crisis is likely to have long lasting effects in the three countries and to spread further in the region.
- Conflict and inter-communal violence have particularly increased in cross-border areas between Mali (Mopti and Gao), Burkina Faso (Sahel, North and East) and the Niger (Tillaberi and Tahoua). These areas, mostly in the Liptako Gourma region, have since 2018 experienced increasing levels of violence, casualties and displacement. The growing crisis has led to a five-fold increase in the number of IDPs over the course of one year, up to 347 000 (OCHA, 11 June 2019). Over 100 000 refugees are already present in these areas.
- The spreading conflict is severely affecting livelihoods and markets. This has hampered access to income opportunities and food, exacerbating already high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. In certain areas, insecurity has affected the preparation of the 2019 agropastoral season, and hindered pastoralists' movements and the support that governments and partners provide at the start of the season to vulnerable households.
- In Burkina Faso, Cadre Harmonisé (CH) projections for June-August 2019 indicate that around 687 460 people are severely food insecure (CH Phases 3-5).

- In Mali, the overall number of severely food-insecure people (CH Phases 3-5) for June-August 2019 is 548 644, which is well below the average of the last few years. However, in most districts of the Liptako Gourma, numbers of food-insecure people are steadily increasing due to insecurity.
- In the Niger, 1.17 million people across the country are estimated to be severely food insecure (CH Phases 3–5) for June-August 2019. Violence levels have remained high also in eastern Niger and western, namely in the Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabéry regions, leading to new displacements, increasing humanitarian needs and food insecurity. Moreover, an epidemic of equine strangles is causing the death of thousands of horses and donkeys which are the main means for the most vulnerable households to conduct field preparation activities and for transporting goods.



Potential impact

- The crisis is likely to protract and increase in intensity in the medium to long term, affecting agropastoral production thereby leading to increased food insecurity. There is a potential risk of regional escalation of the crisis, given the confirmed trend of the progressive increase in insecurity in the southern regions of Burkina Faso bordering Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast and Ghana.
- Violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups has been fueling local grievances and disrupting social cohesion.



The unprecedented levels of insecurity and conflict in various regions of Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger have led to the escalation of displacement. humanitarian needs and food insecurity.

- This might hinder the adequate management of natural resources among farmers and pastoralists.
- Accessing displaced populations will be difficult due to the violence. As of May, reports indicate that many displaced agropastoralists moved with their animals and were in dire need of feed and water to keep them alive.
- In areas affected by insecurity, state-led monitoring and control of animal and plant pests and diseases is often not possible. This may lead to increased occurrence of pests and diseases during the maturing stages of crops, such as in the Tillabery region, which is often affected by grain eating birds. This dynamic could also occur for fall armyworm.
- Seasonal climatic forecasts indicate an increased chance for above-average rainfall between July and September across most of the three countries. While this can have positive effects on agriculture and pastures, it also increases the risk of flooding. The forecasts however point to a possible dry spell at the start of the agricultural season (June-July).

Recommended early actions

In July-September, the following early actions are recommended in order to provide immediate livelihood support to displaced, host and refugee populations, as well as to contribute to reducing the risk of conflict over resources:

Crops

- Given the increased chance of dry spells at the start of the season:
 - Channel information and recommendations to farmers. through extensions services and communication systems, on the increased risk of dry spells.
 - Distribute short-maturing seed varieties to affected households through available or pre-positioned stocks.

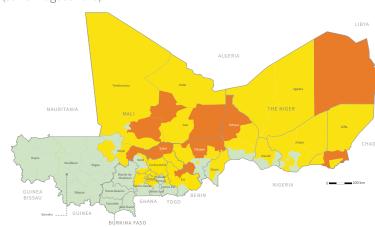
Support home gardening through the distribution of vegetable seeds and agricultural inputs.

Livestock

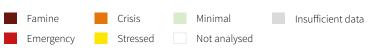
- For displaced pastoralists and agropastoralists, as well as host communities, promote actions which aim to safeguard core-breeding stock and reduce the risk of conflict over access to resources:
 - Promote commercial destocking for weak animals.
 - Provide water and feed to core-breeding stock.
 - Strengthen provision of veterinary care.
 - Create/rehabilitate livestock water points.
 - Promote pasture regeneration through cash for work.

Acute food insecurity situation

(June-August 2019)



CH classification



Source: Cadre Harmonisé, March 2019



Horn of Africa

Second consecutive poor rainy season expected to worsen food security and nutrition across the Horn of Africa and the Karamoja region of Uganda



Almost 12 million people are severely food insecure



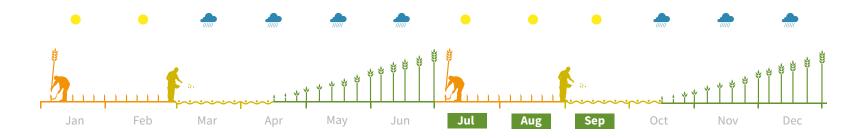
Crop harvests expected to be around 50 percent below average in Kenya and Somalia, and 30-50 percent below average in Uganda

Risk overview

- The food security and nutrition situation across the Horn of Africa has been deteriorating since early 2019 and is expected to worsen between July and September due to the poor 2019 long (Gu, April-June) rainy season, which followed erratic and below-average short (Deyr, October–December) rains in 2018.
- The June/July harvests are expected to be around 50 percent below average in Kenya and Somalia, and between 30 to 50 percent below average in Uganda. Significant crop production shortfalls are also expected to affect the secondary season *Belg* harvest in Ethiopia.
- Drought conditions in pastoral areas across the Horn of Africa have caused widespread pasture and water shortages, leading to declining livestock body conditions, limited milk production, atypical migration patterns and competition over natural resources.
- Between March and May, prices of maize surged by up to 50 percent in Uganda and up to 80 percent in Kenya. Similarly, maize prices increased by 20 percent between March and April in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- In Kenya, 1.6 million people are currently food insecure. In Ethiopia, Somalia and the Karamoja region of Uganda, there are 8.13 million, 1.7 million and over 400 000 food-insecure people, respectively.



- According to the latest Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF), below-normal rainfall is expected between June and September over most of Ethiopia, coastal areas of Kenya and Somalia and parts of Uganda. Above-normal rainfall is forecast for northwest and southwest Ethiopia, western Kenya and the eastern region of Uganda.
- Given that the current number of food-insecure people in Kenya has more than doubled since early 2019, the number of those in need of humanitarian assistance is expected to increase through September in most of the country (all arid and semi-arid counties).
- In Somalia, the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity or worse is expected to rise to approximately 2.2 million through September 2019 from the current 1.7 million people. The areas with the highest levels of food insecurity are the central Galgaduud and Mudug regions, the northern regions of Bari, Nugal, Sanaag, Sool, and Woqooyi Galbeed and Awdal where Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are expected to prevail.
- In Ethiopia, due to a very poor *Gu/Gana* rainy season food security is expected to deteriorate in the Afar, Oromia and Somali regions, as well as in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR).



Food security and nutrition outcomes in the Horn of Africa have been deteriorating since early 2019 and are expected to worsen between July and September due to the poor 2019 long/Gu rainy season, which followed erratic and below-average 2018 short/Deyr rains.

• Food security outcomes are likely to deteriorate in the Karamoja region of Uganda due to the delayed onset of 2019 rains, which caused late planting, unavailability of seasonal vegetables and limited agricultural labour opportunities. Livestock production and productivity are expected to further deteriorate due to livestock vectors and diseases (foot-and-mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, peste des petits ruminants, foot rot, etc.).

Recommended early actions

The peak of the lean season for pastoralist communities is between August and October: as the current fragile situation greatly increases the likelihood of the most vulnerable households becoming destitute, the actions below are urgently required to prevent the situation from deteriorating.

Livestock

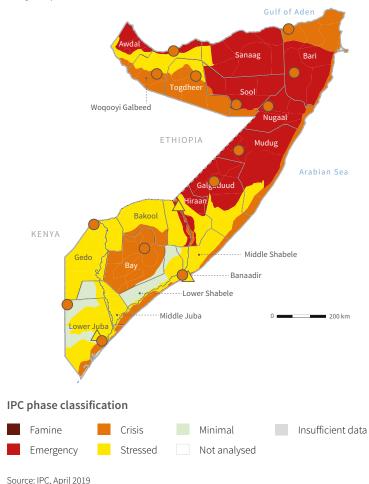
- Promote cash programming, aimed at providing access to food while:
 - rehabilitating key rural infrastructure (cash for work) in targeted areas of Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda
 - protecting productive assets through the distribution of livelihood packages (animal feed, drugs, veterinary equipment), including cash in targeted areas of Karamoja (Uganda), northeastern and coastal areas of Kenya, Somaliland and Puntland (Somalia), and in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the Afar, Oromia, Somali and SNNPR regions of Ethiopia
- Subsidize livestock feed provision/supplementary feed through commercial contracts across all targeted areas.
- Provide protective livestock treatment across all targeted areas.
- Identify, establish and activate emergency slaughtering points in southeast Ethiopia and in cross-border areas of the Borana/Mandera cluster (Ethiopia-Somalia-Kenya).

Crops

• Distribute emergency cash and agricultural livelihood packages for the rainy (Karan) season in the Awdal and Wogooyi Galbeed regions of Somaliland, and for the Deyr season in Somalia's southern breadbasket.

Acute food insecurity situation - Somalia

(July-September 2019)





The Sudan

Growing food security concerns over political and economic instability



severely food insecure (IPC Phases 3 and 4)

Risk overview

- Macro-economic challenges coupled with recent political changes in the Sudan are impacting the country's humanitarian situation, while ongoing economic difficulties continue to result in sustained high inflation, soaring food prices and shortages of cash, fuel and food.
- This situation has led to a sharp deterioration of food security and nutrition in the Sudan. The IPC analysis from January 2019 indicates that 5.67 million people were projected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity between January and March 2019, which is 260 000 more people than the same time last year. Areas with the highest levels of food insecurity include the Blue Nile, the White Nile, southern Kordofan, Kassala, Gedaref, the Red Sea and Darfur states. Major concerns also exist for food-insecure people in urban and peri-urban areas of Khartoum state.
- Soaring food prices and declining household purchasing power are resulting in severe food access constraints for large segments of the population. According to FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), in May 2019 retail prices of sorghum were at near record levels in most markets, and between 55 and 85 percent above the already high levels of last year.
- Furthermore, a recent WFP Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis report found that 58 percent of surveyed households could not afford to buy food due to limited

- purchasing power, resulting from sustained inflation and high food prices. In addition, 54 percent of households were resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including spending savings, reducing health and education expenses and selling animals, thus resulting in depleted livelihood assets.
- Adding to the current political and economic challenges, the humanitarian needs of refugees from neighbouring countries and IDPs remain substantial, despite a decrease in numbers since 2018. According to the IPC, IDPs are considered the most affected by food insecurity while also exerting pressure on host communities' livelihoods.
- The latest GHACOF forecasts average to above-average rains between June and August over the Sudan, apart from some areas in the extreme west and extreme east of the country.



Potential impact

- Macro-economic challenges are likely to continue and staple food prices expected to remain at exceptionally high levels. Meanwhile livestock and labour costs, although increasing, are unlikely to keep pace with food price increases, making access to food increasingly constrained in the coming months.
- In 2018, coarse grains (sorghum and millet) normally planted in June and harvested by December - were delayed until February 2019 as a result of fuel shortages, low availability and



The fragile political context following months of protests and civil unrest increases the prospect of food insecurity. Moreover, persistent and severe existing macro-economic conditions continue to result in sustained high inflation, soaring food prices, and shortages of cash, fuel and food.

very high prices of agricultural inputs. Similarly, land preparation, planted areas and yields of 2019/20 crops are likely to be affected by the same challenges.



Recommended early actions

Expected further increases in food and fuel prices in the coming months and the reduction in planted areas call for early action between July and September to support the most vulnerable farmers throughout the crop-growing season, in order to maximize crop yields.

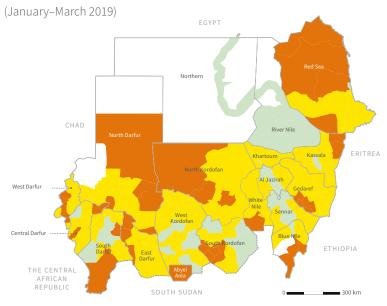
Water management

• Protect farmland near seasonal water streams from potential floods and provide know-how, tools and cash to support vulnerable farmers to drain excess water from their fields.

Crops

- Strengthen pest surveillance and ensure timely dissemination of messages, equipment and chemicals for their control.
- Support vulnerable farmers to control weeds and provide cash to hire labour for manual weeding.
- Provide training on appropriate crop harvest and post-harvest practices. This may also include provision of appropriate crop storage facilities, either at household or community level.
- Distribute feed and provide vaccinations and treatments to core breeding stock.

Acute food insecurity situation



IPC phase classification



Source: IPC. November 2018



Yemen

Conflict to continue affecting food security



In the absence of
Humanitarian Food Assistance,
20.1 million people
(67 percent of the total population) would be severely food insecure



278 600 suspected cholera cases from January to April 2019, with **606** associated deaths



37 percent increase in the cost of the minimum/ survival Food Basket



- As a result of the long-standing conflict in Yemen, more than 24 million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance as of February 2019, with 21.4 million people targeted for assistance. According to the latest IPC report issued in December 2018, while accounting for the current Humanitarian Food Assistance levels, 15.9 million people (53 percent of the total population) are facing severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above). Of greatest concern are the 65 000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).
- In April 2019, warring factions have agreed to a plan for phase one of the military redeployments from the key port city of Al Hudaydah. However, fighting continues along multiple front lines. Access issues are also prominent. In June 2019, WFP has begun partial suspension of aid operations in some areas of Yemen.
- Price volatility and depreciation of the Yemeni rial are affecting market functioning. As of April 2019, the national average cost of the minimum/survival food basket had increased by 37 percent compared with April 2018.
- Since the beginning of 2019, cholera is surging once again.

 Nearly 278 600 suspected cholera cases, including 556 related deaths, were recorded from January to April 2019, an increase of nearly 290 percent from the same period in 2018.

Desert locust swarms were detected in Sana'a during May 2019.
 FAO is supporting the Ministry of Agriculture's Locust Control
 Centre to increase vigilance and measures to control infestations and protect crops.



- The ceasefire is fragile, and conflict is likely to continue on multiple fronts. IPC estimates indicate that in the absence of Humanitarian Food Assistance, about 20.1 million people (67 percent of the total population) would be facing severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above). This would include 240 000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).
- The main cropping season in most cereal producing areas in Yemen is between mid-April to November. Cereal production in the Tihama area, the Red Sea coastal plain, has a summer season starting in May and ending in August, and a main planting season starting late August and a harvest in November/December. FAO is closely monitoring the ongoing cropping season, which will continue to be affected by conflict and the economic crisis.



Fighting continues along multiple front lines in Yemen, and access issues are prominent. Price volatility and the economic crisis also contribute to severe food insecurity. The cropping seasons taking place during the summer will be affected by conflict and the economic crisis. Early action is crucial to increase the resilience of vulnerable households through interventions in crop and livestock subsectors, as well as in the water sector.



Recommended early actions

Early action is crucial to increase the resilience of vulnerable households during the ongoing cropping season through crop and livestock assistance, as well as interventions in the water sector, to address some of the root causes of the cholera outbreak.

Crops and livestock

- Scale up the provision of solar supply systems (pumps and supply lines) for farming activities, to overcome the high cost and scarcity of fuel.
- Provide agricultural inputs to vulnerable severely food insecure farmers, to increase crop production and prevent a further deterioration of livestock production.

Social protection

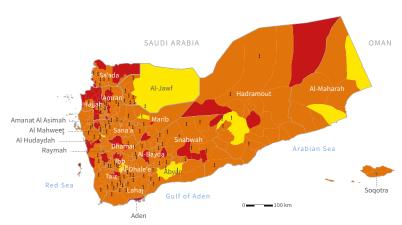
• Initiate the provision of unconditional cash transfers combined with input distribution (cash+) in the most vulnerable districts, to provide economic support to vulnerable households.

Water

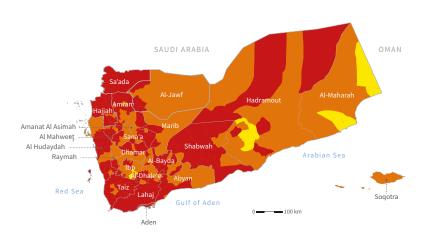
• Purify water used for agricultural production in the Bani Al Harith district in Sana'a Governorate. Poor standards of water quality used for vegetable production in areas adjacent to Sana'a city are one of the causes of the ongoing cholera outbreak. FAO, UNICEF and WHO have developed a joint programme to address the issue.

Acute food insecurity situation in the presence of Humanitarian

Food Assistance (December 2018–January 2019)



Acute food insecurity situation in the absence of Humanitarian Food Assistance (December 2018–January 2019)



IPC phase classification



Source: IPC, December 2018



South Sudan

Protracted crisis and delayed rainfall during the lean season likely to worsen food security and nutrition outcomes



61 percent of the population severely food insecure



860 000 children estimated to be acutely malnourished, including 259 000 children with severe acute malnutrition



- At the peak of the lean season, extreme food insecurity persists across South Sudan. In addition to the typical trends linked to this season, food security is impacted by the widespread and protracted crisis, large-scale displacements, cattle raiding, inter-communal conflict, high food prices, market disruptions, the macro-economic crisis, asset depletion and a delayed start of the rainy season.
- Some 6.96 million people (61 percent of the population) are projected to be in Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) from May to July 2019, including 1.82 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 21 000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).
- Between January and December 2019, approximately 860 000 children under the age of five are estimated to be acutely malnourished, including 259 000 children with severe acute malnutrition.
- Out of 78 counties, the number classified as having Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute malnutrition is expected to increase from 42 (January–April) to 57 (May-August).
- More than 1.8 million IDPs face the greatest risk of food insecurity and malnutrition, while over 2.3 million more people are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries.
- As the rainy season progresses, livestock are more susceptible to increased risk of occurrence of Rift Valley fever (RVF).

- Fall armyworm is still present in the country, although the heavy rains should reduce its impact on crops.
- Conflict in Unity, the Equatorias and Western Bahr el Ghazal is likely to lead to insecurity that will restrict the free movement of people and disrupt livelihoods.



Potential impact

- The GHACOF expects below-average rainfall between June and September, mostly in the key southern growing areas of Greater Equatoria. Should these rainfall deficits materialize, 2019 aggregated crop production is likely to be impacted, as poor rains affect both the grain-filling stage of first season maize and sorghum crops and the planting and germination of second season crops in the traditionally surplus-producing areas of former Central and Western Equatoria States. Crop production is likely to be further impacted by fall armyworm. Suitable environmental conditions of RVF vector amplification are also predicted in wide areas of the southeastern region of South Sudan, due to increased rainfall in May–June 2019 and forecast above-average rainfall from July-September 2019.
- Conflict is likely to result in population displacements as well as loss of assets. Potential restrictions on population movements will further prevent households from accessing food and limit the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Needs currently far outstrip resources and logistical capacity to respond. As such,



Extreme food insecurity persists across South Sudan at the peak of the lean season. Many drivers are behind the situation, including conflict, large-scale displacements, cattle raiding, inter-communal conflict, high food prices, market disruptions, asset depletion and a delayed start of the rainy season.

extreme hunger remains a possibility in conflict-affected areas, particularly where access is restricted and livelihoods and markets are disrupted.



Recommended early actions

The lean season, a delayed start of the rains and the protracted crisis all increase the risk of food security deteriorating. The actions below will therefore be necessary in the coming months to support the cropping season and help prevent the worst food security outcomes.

Crops

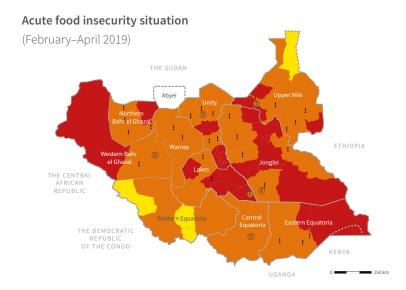
- Distribute agricultural inputs to farmers, particularly in the Equatorias.
- Closely monitor crop diseases and pests (e.g. fall armyworm) and train farmers on mitigation measures (e.g. pheromone traps).

Fisheries

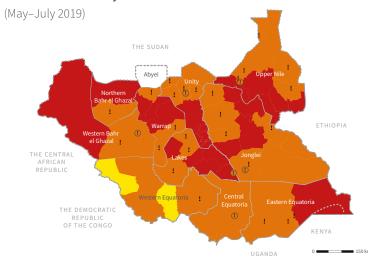
• Distribute fishing kits to severely food-insecure households in riverine and lake areas to support diet diversification and food production during the lean season.

Livestock

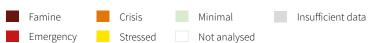
- In response to the increase in disease outbreaks, vaccinate against RVF and treat vulnerable pastoralists' livestock through networks of community animal health workers; strengthen vaccine solar cold chain networks.
- Train community animal health workers on improved access to animal health services.
- Conduct awareness campaigns and sensitization on RVF.



Acute food insecurity situation



IPC phase classification



Source: IPC, June 2019



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Dry conditions threaten food production and could further exacerbate existing food insecurity



An estimated **10.1 million** severely food insecure people urgently require food assistance



54.4 mm of rain fell throughout the country from January to May 2019, the lowest since 1982



2018-2019 food crop production is estimated at 4.9 million tonnes. the lowest since 2008-2009

Risk overview

- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is currently experiencing a challenging food security situation. Below-average rainfall over the past winter and spring period is posing a serious threat to not only the early harvest in June, but also the subsequent main harvest in September, which is key to alleviating the lean season (May-September). These climate events follow two consecutive years of dry conditions and erratic weather patterns, which have resulted in below-average yields.
- As a result of these compounding issues, according to the FAO/WFP Rapid Food Security Assessment Mission Report released in May 2019, an estimated 10.1 million people (40 percent of the total population) are food insecure and urgently require food assistance.
- The state media reported worrying dry conditions during the first half of 2019. It is estimated that only 54.4 mm of rain fell throughout the country from January to May 2019, which is less than half of the average 127 mm. This is the lowest quantity of rainfall recorded since 1982.
- Production prospects for the 2018/19 early season crops are unfavourable due to widespread low rainfall and lack of snow cover, which left crops exposed to freezing temperatures during winter. Although production during this timeframe is relatively small, accounting for only 8–10 percent of the total annual cereal

- output, it is vital for food security during the lean season. Overall, the aggregate 2018–2019 food crop production is estimated at 4.9 million tonnes, which is the lowest since 2008–2009.
- From January 2019, food rations of the public distribution system (PDS) have been reduced to 300 g per person per day, which compares with 380 g during the same period in 2018. PDS is administered by the government's Ministry of Food Production and Administration, which determines ration sizes of staple commodities.
- The situation is further exacerbated by the impact of ongoing international sanctions. Since September 2017, the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved Resolutions 2375, 2371 and 2397, which impose a range of financial and trade restrictions and have also made the entry of aid into the country difficult – particularly inputs to support agricultural activities.
- In May 2019, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea confirmed the presence of the African swine fever virus, which was first detected in Jagang province on the border with China. The livestock sector is highly vulnerable to outbreaks of contagious diseases, which can spread quickly and widely, decimating livestock populations and further endangering food security.



Below-average rainfall over the past winter and spring in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is posing a serious threat to the early harvest in June and the main harvest in September. Any subsequent threat to food security can have a serious impact on an already vulnerable population, which relies heavily on domestic production. Early action is therefore needed to mitigate the impact of drought on farmers, and to support alternative livelihood development.



- If dry conditions continue and compromise the early harvest in June, the food security situation is likely to further deteriorate. Furthermore, PDS rations were reduced and may decline further during July-September, given that they are typically lower during this period compared with other months of the year. Any threat to food security can have a serious impact on an already vulnerable population that relies heavily on domestic food production.
- It is critical to continue monitoring the progress of the main agriculture season, which is due for harvest in September. If dry conditions continue and compromise the outcome of this yield, it is likely that the food security situation will deteriorate even further and sharply increase humanitarian needs. Early warning information, such as rainfall, temperature and vegetation indices need to be closely monitored to understand how the situation is likely to unfold.



Agricultural production is critical in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and represents the main source of livelihood for a large part of the population. Early action is needed to not only mitigate the impact of drought on farmers (particularly ahead of the main season crop development), but also to support alternative livelihood development. This is critical over the next three months to ensure the diversification of diets and mitigation of the impacts of the expected shortfall in agricultural production. Particular areas of concern include, but are not limited to, Hamgyong, Hwanghae and Pyongan.

Water management

• Provide mobile water pumps to rural farmers, to support the ongoing main harvest due in September.

Livestock

- Support livelihood diversification in rural communities through the distribution of pigs and goats, alongside animal health treatments, to increase access to milk and meat products.
- Improve the capacity for detecting and controlling outbreaks of African swine fever, particularly along the China-Democratic People's Republic of Korea border, to control the spread of the disease

Fisheries

Support the establishment of shellfish and seaweed culture and harvesting in coastal areas, particularly in Kangwon province, to promote healthy and diversified diets.



Cameroon

Crisis in North-West and South-West regions and insecurity in Far North region lead to further displacement and impact agricultural production



1.1 million people severely food insecure



Over **530 000** IDPs

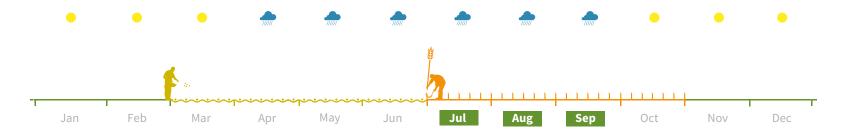
Risk overview

- Conflict persists in the North-West and South-West regions as well as in the Far North region. In the former, this is leading to increasing displacement, and is affecting agricultural and economic activities in one of the key food production areas of the country.
- As of end of April 2019, population movements due to the three main emergencies affecting the country had resulted in nearly 1.3 million people in need, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The conflict in the North-West and South-West regions has displaced over 530 000 people, with 35 000 refugees fleeing across the border with Nigeria. There are an estimated 262 000 IDPs in the Far North, alongside around 102 000 Nigerian refugees. Moreover, there are nearly 260 000 refugees from the Central African Republic in the country as well as 110 000 returnees.
- In the North-West and South-West regions, the conflict is severely affecting agricultural activities and food security in areas where 70 percent of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods. As the Famine Early Warning Systems

- Network (FEWSNET) highlights, dry season production of cereals, tubers and pulses was already affected. The preparation of the main agricultural season has been hindered by insecurity, which limited access to fields, inputs and assistance from government and local institutions. Moreover, increasing fall armyworm infestation of maize cultivations have been registered in these areas, potentially affecting production.
- In the Far North region, several attacks have been carried out by non-state armed groups both within Cameroon and across the border with Nigeria, causing new population movements and affecting agricultural livelihoods. However, the main markets remain functional and accessible



• In North-West and South-West, given that conflict has affected agricultural production during the dry season as well as the preparation of the main agricultural campaign, reduced yields are expected in 2019, affecting farmers' incomes and leading to further food insecurity in the long term. Between July and September, insecurity could also affect farmers' access to fields, undermining weeding and pest control activities, further affecting their production. This could also be compounded by an increased chance of below-average rainfall that has been forecasted by the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development for Coastal and South-West Cameroon.



Conflict persists in both the North-West and South-West regions as well as in the Far North region, leading to increased displacement as well as affecting agricultural and economic activities in one of the key food production areas of the country.

- Ongoing conflict and displacement are likely to further impact people's access to markets and food, thereby increasing the number of people affected by food insecurity in the following months. Insecurity will also impact farmers' livelihoods as well as their access to fields.
- Insecurity is also likely to affect agricultural activities in the Far North for the main agropastoral season, as well as lead to new displacements.



Recommended early actions

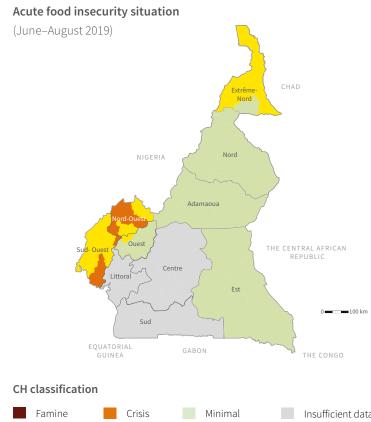
The following recommended early actions for July–September are crucial to support vulnerable farmers during the harvesting period (July–October), safeguard their livelihoods and those of the displaced, and sustain production for people in displaced sites or insecure areas with limited mobility or access to fields due to insecurity.

South-West (particularly for IDPs):

- Provide small-scale grinding mills for processing maize for food consumption during harvesting (July–September).
- Provide improved seeds and agricultural tools to carry out home-gardening production.
- Provide households with chicks to foster broiler production.
- Provide households with laying hens to foster egg production.

Far North (department of Logone-et-Chari):

- Scale-up the support to vulnerable IDPs and very poor households among host communities through the provision of fish feed, fish fingerlings and small tools to fish farming households in order to increase production.
- Support refugees and host populations through the provision of veterinary care, livestock feed and water for livestock.





Source: Cadre Harmonisé, March 2019



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Fhola outbreak continues to spread at a high rate



As of 29 June 2019. 2 325 confirmed and probable EVD cases and 1563 deaths

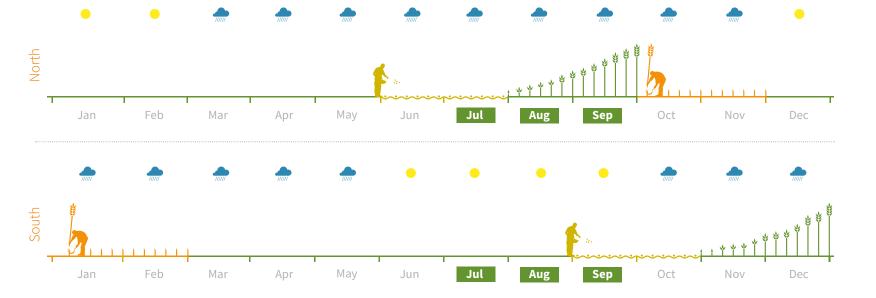


severely food insecure



- The Democratic Republic of the Congo is currently facing the most severe and complex Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak of its history. Since the declaration of Ebola outbreak on 1 August 2018, a total of 22 areas in North Kivu and Ituri provinces have been affected.
- As of 29 June 2019, 2 325 confirmed and probable cases and 1563 deaths have been reported, with unprecedented acceleration of the rate of transmission since March 2019. The period between detecting, reporting and admission of cases at EVD treatment centres remains too long, with one-third of infected people not being assisted on time.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the risk of EVD spreading to other provinces in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to neighbouring countries remains very high. On 11 June 2019, one confirmed case of EVD was detected in Uganda.

- Response efforts to contain the spread of the disease are ongoing and have been upscaled in recent months, however widespread insecurity and violence between non-armed groups and government forces as well as inter-communal clashes continue to pose a challenge for humanitarian activities in the affected areas. In addition, mistrust among communities towards humanitarian and health actors prevents people from seeking treatment and poses additional challenges for containing the spread.
- Since 4 May 2019, inter-communal clashes between armed groups along ethnic lines have triggered large-scale displacement across and around South Kivu province. The clashes triggered the displacement of over 125 000 people into neighbouring villages and surrounding forests. In Ituri the inter-communal conflict in the territory of Mahagi and Djugu between the Hema and Lendu led to massive population movements towards Bunia. Humanitarian access to these areas is severely constrained by the volatile situation and the poor road conditions.



The Democratic Republic of the Congo is facing the most severe EVD outbreak of its history. The period between detecting, reporting and admission of cases at Ebola treatment centres remains too long, with one-third of the cases of infected people not being assisted on time. In June, one confirmed EVD case was detected in Uganda.

• According to the latest IPC analysis, valid until June 2019, about 13.1 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phases 3 and above). Eastern provinces including Ituri (2.9 million people) North Kivu (1.6 million people) and South Kivu (746 000 people) are considered to be among the most affected in the country.



Potential impact

- The EVD outbreak is likely to continue to spread during the upcoming months if response activities remain curtailed as a result of insecurity and community mistrust.
- Recent insecurity in the region is likely to continue to trigger large-scale population movement, hindering access to crop and livestock production activities, severely affecting the food security and nutrition of affected populations.



Recommended early actions

Early actions between July and September 2019 in EVD- and conflict-affected areas in the eastern provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu are critical to safeguard the livelihoods of communities and improve their food security ahead of the upcoming agricultural season (September-December).

Crops

• Distribute maize and vegetable seeds targeting the most vulnerable IDPs, returnees and host communities.

Cash

• Implement cash-based transfer activities to facilitate access to agricultural inputs and food items. Targeted beneficiaries would be the most vulnerable populations in EVD-affected villages.

Livestock

Distribute small ruminants or pigs to sustain the livelihoods of conflict-affected and food-insecure people in South Kivu and Ituri provinces.

Fisheries

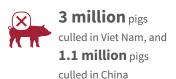
- Provide fishing kits and training to the most vulnerable fishers in the areas along Lake Kivu.
- Distribute fish conservation units to reduce post-harvest losses.

Communication

• Facilitate and sustain communication of key food safety messages, including on hygiene and food preparation measures, in line with WHO food safety guidelines.



African swine fever outbreak threatens to spread further in Asia



Risk overview

- African swine fever (ASF) is a viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs with up to 100 percent fatality. In early August 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of the People's Republic of China, confirmed its first ever outbreak of ASF in the country, which occurred in Liaoning Province. The virus identified from isolates of the ASF outbreak in China has the same virus genotype (strain) that is currently affecting eastern Europe and some countries of the European Union.
- As of the end of June 2019, ASF was reported in 32 of China's 34 provinces/administrative divisions, and more than 1.1 million pigs had been culled in an effort to halt the contamination. The disease has now likely become endemic in several provinces and autonomous regions.
- In January 2019, the disease was reported in Mongolia, where it has caused at least 11 outbreaks in seven different provinces. In February 2019, ASF reached Viet Nam and, as of the end of June, a total of 61 provinces/cities have reported outbreaks, and approximately 3 000 000 pigs were culled in an effort to stop the further spread of the disease. In April 2019, the disease was detected in seven villages in Cambodia's Ratanakiri Province and in one village in Thong Khmum Province. In May 2019, the disease spread to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, where it has caused one outbreak in Chagang Province. The Lao People's Democratic Republic reported its first outbreak on 20 June 2019 in Salavan Province.
- The ASF virus is characterized as being very resistant to cold and hot weather, as well as many disinfectants, with the potential to survive in dried or cured pork products. The transportation of pork products is difficult to control at all border points, and biosecurity practices on swine farms are hard to enforce. There is currently no commercially available vaccine, although several research and government institutions have made recent claims

- that progress is being made in the development and efficacy of such a vaccine.
- To support the recovery and development of pig production in China, MARA plans to provide temporary assistance for large-scale pig farms. They will provide interest subsidies for breeding farms and large-scale farms, speed-up subsidies for farms conducting mandatory culling and improved insurance policies. In Cambodia and Viet Nam, controls have been placed on the movement of pigs and pig products from affected localities. In Viet Nam, a compensation plan has been implemented and ASF positive farms have been depopulated according to the Vietnamese Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development's Action Plan for Emergency Response to ASF.
- ASF does not present a direct public health threat (the virus cannot infect humans), but diseased animals – whatever the cause is – must not enter the food chain. Public awareness of the risk of the disease to animal health needs to be increased.



- There is a high risk that the ASF disease will spread further in Southeast Asia. Over recent months, the ASF virus has also been detected in confiscated pork samples brought into Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea and Thailand.
- In April 2019 prior to the rapid escalation of ASF infections FAO forecasted that pig meat production in Asia in 2019 would be 60.7 million tonnes, nine percent below the level reached in 2018. The contraction mainly reflected a sharp decrease in China. The country's output is anticipated to decline by at least ten percent in 2019 compared to the previous year. Sizable production decreases are also anticipated in Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Viet Nam.

The ASF virus is characterized as being very resistant, with the potential to survive in dried or cured pork products. The transportation of pork products is difficult to control at all border points, and biosecurity practices on swine farms are hard to enforce. There is a high risk that the ASF disease will spread further in Southeast Asia.

- Pork is the most consumed meat in several countries of the subregion. Part of the protein supply gap caused by reduced pork consumption is likely to be covered by other types of meat – poultry in particular. That said, the decline in pig meat production and the depletion of the current frozen stocks are expected to result in price hikes.
- The food security situation of millions of people dependent on pig farming is likely to be significantly affected by the spread of ASF. The outbreak is particularly affecting small farmers, who usually lack the resources to protect their herds. According to reports, animal losses caused by ASF have already caused reductions in farmers' incomes in the affected countries.
- China is the largest importer of soybeans in the world, accounting for about two-thirds of all international purchases, and around half of these imports end up as feed for the country's domestic pig herds. Lower pig inventories are likely to translate into lower global demand for feed grains in general, and lower soybean imports in particular, which in turn affect farmers and the economies of other countries across the globe.



Recommended early actions

Planning

- Ensure that sustainable outbreak control strategies are in place.
 Strategies need to be developed in consultation with the private sector (pig production and related industries, such as transport and feed operators) who should be actively involved in disease management.
- Carry out preparedness activities (e.g. contingency planning, securing financial support, inter-agency cooperation) based on the principles of early warning, detection and notification, early reaction and coordination, and compliance.

Surveillance

- Strengthen surveillance and monitor the transportation of live pigs and pork products along roadways, across internal and international borders, and in abattoirs.
- Apply strict biosecurity measures, frequently clean and disinfect farms and transport vehicles, and foster improved hygiene of husbandry practices and production systems.
- Ensure that farm registries, animal identification and censuses are carried out and updated to enable the location of animals in the event of outbreaks and animal health interventions.

Advocacy, awareness and communication

- Strengthen awareness and risk communication efforts among pig farmers large and small and the public at large.
- Conduct and strengthen awareness raising and training activities targeting all stakeholders, including veterinarians and auxiliary personnel, farmers, abattoir workers, intermediaries and other actors in the value chain.
- Advocate for the prohibition of untreated swill feeding.

Food waste disposal

 Strengthen safe disposal of food waste (e.g. in food services, airports and seaports), which may contain uncooked pork products.

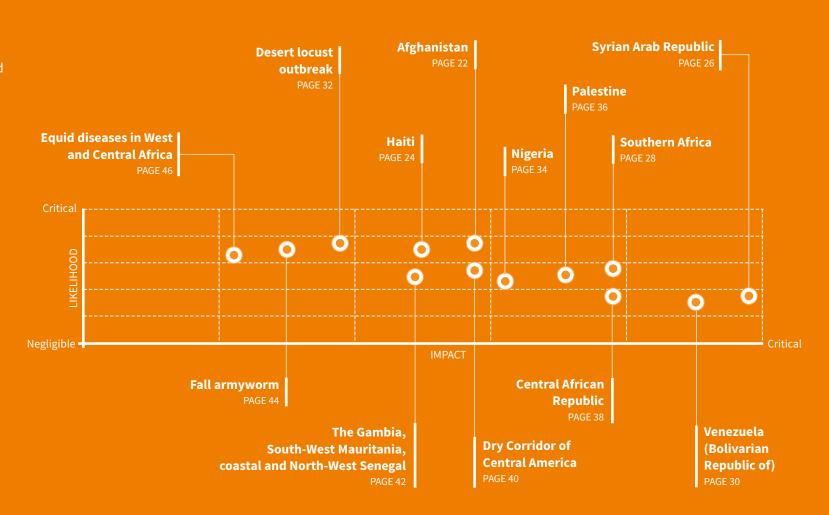


On watch

The matrix provides an overview of the ranking of risks featured in this report. The risks are prioritized based on the severity, likelihood and magnitude of their impact, while also balanced against the countries' individual coping capacity.

In order of intensity, for the period July–September 2019, the **on watch** section includes:

- Afghanistan
- Haiti
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Southern Africa
- Venezuela
 (Bolivarian Republic of)
- Desert locust outbreak
- Nigeria
- Palestine
- Central African Republic
- Dry Corridor of Central America
- The Gambia, South-West Mauritania, coastal and North-West Senegal
- Fall armyworm
- Equid diseases in West and Central Africa





Afghanistan

Households affected by drought, flood and instability continue facing severe food insecurity



13.5 million people severely food insecure



116 000 people internally displaced by conflict between January and May 2019



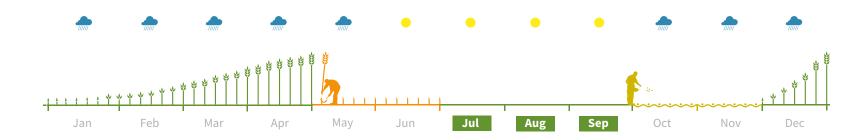
- In 2018, the worst drought in a decade resulted in widespread food insecurity across Afghanistan. The situation was further compounded by El Niño conditions, which induced some of the worst flooding across all regions of the country in more than seven years. These cumulative weather extremes, alongside increased insecurity, have stripped key productive assets of vulnerable farmers. An estimated 13.5 million people faced crisis or worse levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) between November 2018 and February 2019, of whom 3.6 million were facing Emergency levels (IPC Phase 4).
- According to the Emergency Food Security Assessment conducted in October 2018, due to drought conditions, an estimated 92 percent of farmers reported having limited or no access to seeds for the October 2018–April 2019 cropping season. This is likely to impact vulnerable farmers who had a few or no seed stocks from past seasons. Furthermore, an estimated 80 percent of soil is degraded, and in some areas where flooding occurred and compounded the situation, the land has become increasingly fragile and damaged.
- Cutworm and armyworm have been detected in the northern and eastern regions of Afghanistan, adversely affecting both agriculture and pasture lands during their key stages of development – albeit on a small scale.

The impact of drought and floods occur against the backdrop of increased insecurity. Peace talks continue, however they are at the risk of stalling and pressure to reach a deal is mounting ahead of the September 2019 elections. According to OCHA, between January and May 2019, some 116 000 people have been internally displaced due to conflict at the critical time of harvest. If they are unable to return in the coming months, they will not be able to cultivate winter crops.



Potential impact

Crop production this year is expected at 5.1 tonnes above the five-year nationwide average due to increased precipitation that has improved conditions for livestock and crops. The harvest is ongoing or has concluded in some areas, and the general food security situation of the country is likely to improve during the summer months. That said, households in regions affected by drought, flood and insecurity, who are unable to cultivate – including households with limited or no access to water and agricultural inputs – are likely to continue facing severe food insecurity.



In 2018, the worst drought in a decade resulted in widespread food insecurity across Afghanistan. The situation was further compounded by severe flooding. Crop production this year is expected above the five-year average country-wide and the general food security situation of the country is likely to improve over the summer months. That said, vulnerable households in regions affected by drought, flood and insecurity are likely to continue facing severe food insecurity.



Recommended early actions

Despite humanitarian assistance, a gap remains in regards to critical agricultural inputs. With the summer season at its last stages, early actions should be implemented to support the upcoming winter planting season, which takes places typically from September-October. Early action is also needed to encourage livelihood diversification and to protect the assets of the most vulnerable communities.

All provinces affected by drought, flooding and insecurity are likely to require support. Early action is required urgently over the next three months to safeguard livelihoods and food security in the following high-risk locations: Badghis, Balkh, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Farah, Faryab and Zabul.

Crops

 Provide winter crop seeds for the production of nutritious pulses and vegetables in order for rural farmers to cope with low wheat harvest prospects.

Livestock

- Support vulnerable smallholder farmers, especially female-headed households, through poultry distribution as an alternative livelihood measure. If managed sustainably, such activities can contribute to farmers' food security and income, as well as contribute to nutrition and dietary diversity, through the production of meat and eggs.
- Support livestock herders with the distribution of concentrated animal feed.
- Scale up deworming and vaccination campaigns in order for animals to regain health during the grazing season and before the harsh winter months.

Water management

 Rehabilitate degraded farmlands and irrigation schemes through cash-for-work activities in order to prepare cultivable land before the winter wheat planting season.



Haiti

Economic and political crisis compounding risks to food security



Risk overview

- An ongoing socio-economic and political crisis in Haiti, with the continued depreciation of the national currency against the US dollar (over 40 percent in 2019), elevated inflation (more than 17 percent over the past 12 months) combined with a shortage of fuel have caused public discontent.
- Large-scale protests have taken place since July 2018, involving high levels of violence in certain cases, including attacks to public buildings and private companies, burning of gas stations and banks, and people injured and killed.
- El Niño-like conditions have contributed to below-average rains in 2018 and during the first quarter of 2019 affecting the production of the main crops – cereals and beans – with direct impact on food security. Irregular though near normal precipitation was observed in April and May.
- The latest IPC analysis (December 2018) estimates that more than 571 000 people (8 percent of the population) faced Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and over 2 million people (29 percent of the population) faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity between March and June 2019, for a total of over 2.6 million people severely food insecure. Overall, 60 percent of crisis-affected people rely on agriculture for their livelihoods.
- Less than half of the people facing Emergency are currently supported by humanitarian partners. When including households facing Crisis, it is estimated that humanitarian

- food assistance covers only 10 percent of the 2.6 million people severely food insecure.
- Dry conditions are also affecting the Dominican Republic. The National Meteorological Office issued a drought alert for seven out of eight of the country's agricultural regions (April 2019).
- Haiti is located on the path of seasonal hurricanes and is subject to extreme weather conditions, and preparations for the 2019 hurricane season (June-November) are underway. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts that a near-normal Atlantic hurricane season is most likely this year.



- Persistent inflation, dry conditions and the depreciation of the national currency will contribute to reducing households' already low purchasing power during the coming months. Mass protests and further flare-ups of violence remain key risks.
- According to global forecasts, rainfall might be below average over the coming months in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This could affect the sorghum harvest and the second rice and beans harvest in Haiti, as well as the second maize, rice and sorghum harvests in the Dominican Republic.



An ongoing socio-economic crisis in Haiti has been fueling large-scale protests since July 2018. El Niño-like conditions have also contributed to below-average rains in 2018 and the first quarter of 2019. Continued dry conditions could affect the sorghum harvest, and the second rice and beans harvests during the forecast period.



Recommended early actions

Timely action between July and September can mitigate the impact of the crisis on food security and safeguard assets and livelihoods of the most vulnerable households in drought-affected areas, in preparation for the winter cropping season.

Crops

 Distribute tools and basic agricultural inputs such as seeds and planting material of early maturing and drought-resistant crop varieties and tools between July and August to vulnerable households with access to land, in order to quickly revive production, particularly in drought-affected areas in Grand'Anse, South, West, Centre, South-East and North-East departments of Haiti

Livestock

 Drill wells, plant forage and distribute feed, nutrient supplements, water collection tanks and small livestock to vulnerable livestock breeders in drought-affected areas, particularly in Grand'Anse, South, West, Centre, South-East and North-East by July, and before pasture conditions deteriorate further due to drought.

Social protection

 Organize cash-for-work interventions combined with technical support for the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices (including erosion control, agroforestry, cleaning of irrigation canals) and watershed management by August, and before the 2019 winter cropping season, which mainly involves irrigated crops. Targeted beneficiaries are communities and people without agricultural land, and vulnerable families with small plots that can be irrigated during the dry season, located in drought-affected areas, particularly in Grand'Anse, South, West, Centre, South-East and North-East.

Acute food insecurity situation

(March–June 2019)



IPC phase classification



Source: IPC, December 2018



Syrian Arab Republic

Conflict in the northwest fueling further displacement



More than 5.5 million people food insecure, with potentially an additional 500 000 to 800 000 food insecure in Idlib Governorate



Over 5.6 million registered Syrian refugees in the region

Risk overview

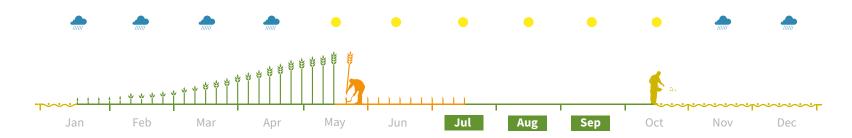
- As of January 2019, the number of IDPs in the Syrian Arab Republic was around 6.2 million. In May 2019, more than 5.6 million Syrian refugees were registered in the region, a number that has not changed significantly since the beginning of 2018, although a large number of Syrians are thought to be living abroad without seeking refugee registration, according to UNHCR. UNHCR also recorded more than 35 000 Syrian refugees having spontaneously returned between January and May 2019, and an increase in self-organized returns is expected throughout 2019.
- In the Syrian Arab Republic, as of August 2018 (latest available figures), about 5.5 million Syrians are estimated to be food insecure and require some form of food assistance. In addition, as many as 500 000 to 800 000 people are estimated to be food insecure in the Idlib Governorate. Updated information on food security levels will be available in late summer 2019, based on the recently concluded FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission
- The security situation in northwestern Syrian Arab Republic deteriorated significantly in late April 2019. The UN expressed grave concern in May 2019 over the escalating violence, related mass displacement and worsening humanitarian situation. The latest outbreak of violence in Idlib and north Hama Governorates left dozens of casualties, burned several thousands of acres of crops and farmland and forced at least 300 000 people to flee their

- homes. As a result of the violence, farmers had difficulty accessing their fields or tending to their crops at harvest time.
- The presence of wildfires, a seasonal issue, in May and June are of considerable concern, particularly affecting 1-2 percent of arable land across Aleppo, Hama, Al-Hasakeh and Idlib Governorates. In some cases, fires have taken place after harvest. The possible causes include accidents during a long and hot dry spell, by-products of military action and politically motivated arson. In some cases, local authorities are not well equipped to deal with wildfires, and localised damage can be considerable.



Potential impact

- In the de-escalation area of Idlib Governorate alone, there are an estimated 3 million people, including 1.3 million IDPs. The continued conflict in Idlib will likely impact food security and lead to further displacements over the coming months. Risks of a full-blown offensive remain, which would result in even more severe humanitarian implications. Access issues are likely to remain significant, hindering efforts to alleviate the impact of the conflict.
- Military operations in Idlib Governorate will likely impact the agricultural season. The harvest season typically takes place between May and July, and operations could disrupt the food production cycle and potentially impact food security.



The security situation in northwestern Syrian Arab Republic deteriorated significantly, with the latest outbreak of violence forcing at least 300 000 people to flee their homes as of the beginning of June. Military operations could result in further displacement, and are likely to impact the harvest season, which takes place between May and July in Idlib Governorate.

Based on initial indications, the 2019 harvest will considerably exceed that of 2018 due to favourable weather conditions for most of the growing season (despite seed shortages in 2018 during planting season). This will likely ease the food insecurity situation, compensating for recent poor harvests, and farmers' financial difficulties from 2016–2018. However, there has been some incidences of wheat rust disease, and late dry conditions may have affected grain formation in some locations.



Recommended early actions

Early actions should be implemented in accessible areas between July and September to mitigate the impact of conflict on vulnerable households.

Livestock

- Support the production of fodder crops on farmland to increase feed availability in the region of AlGhab in the Governorate of Hama, the district of As-Sfiera in the Governorate of Aleppo, and the region of Al Badia, as well as Abu-Addhour and Senjar in the Governorate of Idlib (to be confirmed based on the security situation). Action should take place ahead of the sowing season that begins in September.
- Improve production of fodder crop seeds by re-establishing nurseries in central governorates.

Crops

• Support household vegetable production through the distribution of packages of seeds of various common varieties, and support the re-establishment of community-run vegetable nurseries.

Distribute vegetable seeds and early-maturing wheat seeds to ensure wider availability and facilitate farmers' access to certified seeds complying with the Syrian national standards and regulations. Targeted areas are the region of AlGhab in the Governorate of Hama, the districts of As-Sfiera and Der Haffer in the Governorate of Aleppo, and the areas of Abu-Addhour and Senjar in the Governorate of Idlib. Targeted beneficiaries are vulnerable farmers with access to land, who are affected by the ongoing crisis.

Water

Re-establish community-run water user associations for sustainable irrigation management as a pre-requisite to the return of displaced populations, and a vital livelihood support for the wider rural community. In many areas, pumps have been stolen or damaged, and irrigation services – from wells or surface water resources - have been disrupted.

Fisheries

Support the re-establishment of family fish farming through the distribution of fingerlings between August and September in the As-Squielbyah sub district of the AlGhab region in the Governorate of Hama. Targeted beneficiaries are vulnerable farmers with access to water resources.



Southern Africa

Food security and nutrition to deteriorate as a result of climate hazards



Close to **780 000** hectares of crops have been completely destroyed in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe

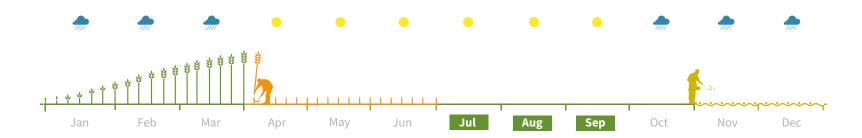
Risk overview

- A delayed and erratic onset of seasonal rains, mid-season dry spells and the early end of rains in several parts of southern Africa as a result of El Niño effects – all compounded by the devastating Tropical Cyclone Idai in mid-March – resulted in a poor crop production outlook in many areas, further undermining food security in the region. Moreover, Cyclone Kenneth hit northern Mozambique and the Comoros just one month after Idai, causing yet more and damage across the two countries.
- In mid-March 2019, Tropical Cyclone Idai brought strong winds and heavy rains to Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, resulting in hundreds of fatalities, severe flooding, and extensive damage to crops and livelihoods. Close to 780 000 hectares of cropland across the three countries are estimated to have been destroyed by the cyclone, the majority in Mozambique. Vulnerability Assessment Committees in several countries are currently undertaking crop and food security assessments to ascertain the impact on food security.
- Between October 2018 and March 2019 a strong drought, driven by El Niño, affected central and western parts of the region, including many areas of southern Angola, northern and southern Botswana, northern Namibia, northwestern South Africa, southern and western Zambia and northwestern Zimbabwe. which according to climate experts received their lowest seasonal rainfall totals since 1981.

- The drought resulted in crop failure, reduced pasture and low water availability. These conditions are affecting livestock, with Namibia registering over 64 000 drought-related cattle deaths between October 2018 and April 2019. The impact of drought conditions on production in Madagascar, Malawi, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania appears to be lower.
- In Zimbabwe the volatile macro-economic situation continues to deteriorate, with increasing prices for fuel and food staples and foreign exchange shortages further weakening household access to food and other necessities

Potential impact

- Food security outcomes are expected to further deteriorate towards the end of 2019, driven by the extensive impact of poor main seasonal rainfall, Cyclone Idai, and consequent poor crop and livestock production.
- Although staple food prices typically decrease with the harvest, they are expected to remain above average in areas where a poor harvest is forecast and where macro-economic challenges persist.
- Humanitarian assistance is ongoing in areas severely affected by Cyclone Idai, with many vulnerable households expected to require continued assistance until the end of the year.



on watch

A delayed and erratic onset of seasonal rains, mid-season dry spells, and early cessation of rains in several parts of the Southern Africa region compounded by the devastating Tropical Cyclone Idai have resulted in a poor crop production expectations in many areas, further undermining the food security in the region.

- The lean season will likely start earlier than normal across southern Africa. Household food stocks will not last until the next harvest, and household production capacity for the coming season will be undermined. Pressure on markets will result in higher prices as early as September 2019.
- The poor harvest will limit the households' ability to resume production in the coming planting season



Recommended early actions

The recommended early actions below should be implemented between July and September in the most affected areas in the region. The aim is to help households to avoid depleting productive assets, prevent the food security and nutrition situation from taking a dramatic downturn, address the lack of water, and restore food production.

Water management

 Map community watering points and rehabilitate or establish them for agriculture and livestock in affected provinces/regions in southern Angola, northern Namibia, southern Zambia and central and western Zimbabwe.

Crops

 Provide seeds and tools to support the restoration of food production at household and community level. This should target affected vulnerable farmers in Eswatini, Lesotho, Gaza province in Mozambique, northern Namibia, southern Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Livestock

- Provide supplementary feed to critical breeding livestock in Namibia, central/western/southern Zambia, and Zimbabwe, supporting the most vulnerable livestock keepers.
- Undertake animal disease surveillance and control measures as well as awareness-raising campaigns in countries affected by the upsurge of foot-and-mouth disease, including Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Worsening humanitarian situation amidst a protracted economic crisis



Over 4 million people have emigrated from Venezuela



Oil production decreased from **3.36 million** barrels per day in 1998 to **727 000** barrels per day in 2018



1.9 million people require nutritional assistance, including 1.3 million children under five

Risk overview

- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) is experiencing a severe and protracted economic crisis. The country is affected by hyperinflation since November 2016. According the Central Bank of Venezuela (May 2019), in 2018 inflation reached 130 060 percent – the highest in the country's history. Also, oil production – traditionally a mainstay of the economy – has decreased from 3.36 million barrels per day in 1998 to approximately 727 000 barrels in 2018.
- According to the Central Bank of Venezuela, among the items most affected by inflation are food and non-alcoholic beverages (143 786.9 percent), house rental (486 684.5 percent), housing services (315 580.4 percent), health services (167 925.8 percent) and transportation (134 238.3 percent). The purchasing power of Venezuelans has shrunk due to inflation, resulting in diminished access to food and basic services.
- The situation is aggravated by the difficulty that the country is facing regarding seed shortages, notably maize which is a staple food. Current national production of maize is not sufficient to reach the requirement of 1.2 million ha. Economic sanctions are currently hampering the import of 23 million kg of maize. The Government also reported that 9 million boxes of the main food distribution programme (Local Committees for Supply and

- Production) will not arrive in the country. International sanctions are among the causes of the ongoing shortages.
- Since the beginning of May, there has been a shortage of fuel in the country, due to issues with the ship operators that transport the fuel by sea, which can also affect the logistics of food distribution.
- According to UNHCR estimates, 7 million people were in need of assistance in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) in February-March 2019, including 3.2 million children. According to UNICEF, in February and March, access of women and children to basic services further deteriorated. OCHA estimates that 1.9 million people require nutritional assistance. including 1.3 million children under five. In April, the International Committee of the Red Cross received approval from the Government to begin distributing humanitarian assistance.
- As a result of the economic and political situation in Venezuela, over 4 million people have left the country to date, up from some 695 000 at the end of 2015, according to UNHCR and IOM. These migrants and refugees are often living among vulnerable host communities, with already overstretched resources, exacerbating difficulties in access and availability of food.



Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) is experiencing a severe and protracted economic crisis amidst hyperinflation and declining oil production. The humanitarian and food security situation is likely to remain serious over the coming months, and emigration to continue. Dry conditions are also projected to affect Venezuela during the forecast period, which could affect the main maize season and the secondary rice season.



- In the coming months, the humanitarian and food security situation is likely to remain of concern, as result of the ongoing economic crisis compounded by increased international sanctions, and emigration is likely to continue.
- Dry conditions are projected to affect Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) in coastal areas during the forecasted period. This could affect the main maize season, with sowing typically beginning in May and growing taking place in August, and of the secondary rice season, with sowing typically beginning in April and growing in August.



Recommended early actions

Early actions are crucial to support food production and improve the food security situation in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) amidst the ongoing economic crisis, and in concomitance with the main maize and secondary rice cropping seasons.

- Increase agricultural production and food security and nutrition with a resilience approach among vulnerable rural communities in the states of Portuguesa, Trujillo and Mérida from July, through the construction of family production units and technical assistance.
- Recover the productive capacity and livelihoods of small-scale producers affected by floods in the communities of Guadualito, El Amparo and Chorrosquero in Apure state, through training, technical assistance and agricultural support to farming families.
- Purchase inputs such as seeds (60 percent short-cycle vegetables and legumes, and 40 percent cereals), pest controllers, fertilizers, etc. between August and December, prioritizing vulnerable farming families in the states of Portuguesa, Trujillo and Mérida.
- Distribute short-cycle seed and staple crop varieties from August.
- Support Venezuelan migrants and host communities in bordering areas by improving water access, boosting local food production and increasing income opportunities to improve food security and nutrition.



Desert locust outbreak

Desert locust spring breeding declines, but swarms appear in the Horn of Africa



- Two generations of unprecedented spring breeding occurred this year in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Saudi Arabia, giving rise to substantial infestations between March and June. Spring-bred infestations in Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Saudi Arabia declined during June due to drying conditions, increasing temperatures and intensive control operations that treated more than 300 000 ha. However, locusts increased along the Indo-Pakistan border as early summer breeding continued and several swarms arrived in Rajasthan to lay eggs. Control operations were undertaken in both countries.
- Numerous mature swarms were seen in Yemen where some remained to lay eggs while others crossed the sea to southern Eritrea, eastern Ethiopia and northern Somalia. Groups of mature adults also appeared in the Western Desert of Egypt at the end of June, where hopper bands and adult groups were treated. Only small-scale breeding occurred in Algeria and there were unconfirmed reports of adults in the northeast of the Niger.



- This year's summer breeding is anticipated to be heavier than normal, resulting in hopper bands and perhaps small swarms developing in several key areas.
- There remains a moderate risk that small spring-bred swarms may have escaped detection and control in the Arabian Peninsula and could arrive in the summer breeding areas of the Sudan to lay eggs during July. Some swarms could move to the interior of the Sudan, while others could breed on the northern Somalia coast, in eastern Ethiopia, and on the Red Sea coast in Yemen and adjacent areas in Saudi Arabia because all of these areas received good rainfall in June. Breeding will continue in Yemen, where survey and control operations remain limited. Breeding will also start in western Eritrea.
- Spring-bred adult groups and perhaps small swarms will move to the Indo-Pakistan border for summer breeding, giving rise to hopper groups and bands. Two generations may be possible in the area, where breeding conditions remain favourable from May rains.
- In contrast, only small-scale breeding is expected to occur in Chad, Mali and the Niger followed by Mauritania, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.

This year's summer breeding is anticipated to be heavier than normal, resulting in hopper bands and perhaps small swarms developing in several key areas. Some swarms could move to the interior of the Sudan, and others could breed on the northern Somalia coast, in eastern Ethiopia, and on the Red Sea coast in Yemen and adjacent areas in Saudi Arabia. Spring-bred adult groups and perhaps small swarms will move to the Indo-Pakistan border, where two generations may be possible.



Recommended early actions

- Affected countries, in particular Ethiopia, India, Pakistan and the Sudan, should take immediate action to prepare for the potential arrival of small swarms in July and subsequent breeding during the summer. National master trainers should conduct refresher training courses for existing locust staff on desert locust survey, control and reporting.
- Equipment such as vehicles, sprayers, pumps and eLocust3
 units should be checked, updated and repaired as necessary.
 Pesticide stocks should be reviewed and some pre-positioned in key areas.
- Additional staff and vehicles that may need to be temporarily seconded from other offices and agencies should be identified and agreed upon, and basic training should be provided by master trainers.
- Every locust team should be equipped with eLocust3 units and ground surveys should commence immediately in all potential areas at risk in order to detect the arrival of any swarms and the start of locust breeding.
- National locust information officers should increase their reporting frequency to the Desert Locust Information Service at FAO headquarters to two times per week.



Nigeria

High levels of insecurity in the northeastern and northwestern states leading to new displacements and impacting agriculture and food security



5.3 million people severely food insecure, of whom about **2.9 million** are

in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states

Risk overview

- Recent attacks by armed groups in northeastern and northwestern states of Nigeria have led to further displacement, affecting people's livelihoods and compounding the already dire humanitarian situation. Humanitarian actors are facing renewed difficulties in accessing those in need, which can have detrimental effects for those in need of food and livelihood assistance during the lean season.
- In the northwestern states of Zamfara and Sokoto, recent attacks in mid-May by armed groups and bandits have led to the displacement of nearly 20 000 Nigerian refugees across the border in the Maradi region of the Niger. At the same time, recent violent attacks in the northeastern states of Borno and Adamawa have led to new displacements, and have affected market functioning and livelihood activities. Overall, nearly 2 million people continue to be displaced by insecurity and conflict in Nigeria, of whom 1.8 million are located in the three northeastern states of Yobe, Borno and Adamawa.
- Overall, the increased violence affected the preparation of the 2019 main agropastoral season, i.e. access to agricultural inputs and land preparation and sowing.
- At national level, Cadre Harmonisé projections for the lean period (June–August 2019) indicate that 5.3 million people are severely food insecure. The update in June 2019 of CH projections focused only on the three states of Adamawa,

Borno and Yobe. The updated results indicate that 2.9 million people are severely food insecure in these three states affected by the ongoing insurgency perpetuated by the non-state armed groups, a number similar to the one estimated in the same period in 2018.



Potential impact

- Towards September, harvesting activities will start in northern states thereby increasing food availability. Overall, the food security outlook is more stable compared with the average of the last few years. However, the situation needs to be monitored closely, particularly in conflict-affected areas where insecurity is affecting ongoing agricultural activities. This will have an impact on local production, income generation and market functioning. Insecurity and inter-communal clashes might also reduce access to natural resources such as pasture and water for pastoralists.
- If insecurity increases during the reporting period, this is likely
 to severely constrain humanitarian access for providing food
 assistance during the peak of the lean season (July–August). This
 would have detrimental effects on the conditions of hundreds of
 thousands of people estimated to be around 421 000 who are
 facing Emergency (CH phase 4) levels of food insecurity.



Recent attacks by armed groups in northwestern and northeastern states of Nigeria have led to further displacement, affecting livelihoods and compounding the already severe humanitarian situation. Humanitarian actors are facing renewed difficulties in accessing those in need, which will have detrimental effects particularly during the lean season.

• The current climate conditions and outlook for the rainy season also need to be closely monitored. The initial months of the rainy season in Nigeria have been marked by considerable precipitation anomalies, which could have an impact on agricultural activities.

Recommended early actions

The following early actions are recommended for July-September to safeguard the livelihoods of communities and displaced population affected by insecurity:

- Support home-based livelihood activities among the most vulnerable households (micro-/backyard gardening, and cash+) and natural resource management including Safe Access to Fuel and Energy.
- Provide women with vegetable seed kits in order to meet immediate household food needs and income, as well as cash crops (groundnut and sesame).

Livestock

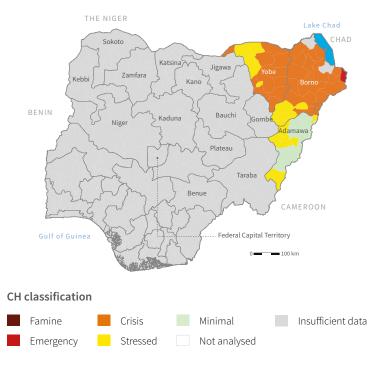
- Support vulnerable pastoralists and agropastoralists through restocking of small ruminants (goats and sheep) and poultry to increase livelihood assets.
- Support State Veterinary Departments in the organization of mass livestock vaccination and treatment campaigns in high-risk areas combined with supplementary livestock feed interventions around nomadic areas.

Cash

Scale-up social protection support to returnees, IDPs and most vulnerable people, particularly women and children, through conditional cash-based transfer interventions.

Acute food insecurity situation

(June-August 2019)



Source: Cadre Harmonisé. June 2019



Palestine

Financial crisis and potential escalation of conflict likely to affect food security



1.5 million people relying on some form of humanitarian assistance



52 percent unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip in 2018

Risk overview

- Palestine continues to face a protracted crisis, with 1.5 million people, including 69 percent of residents in the Gaza Strip relying on some form of humanitarian assistance. Levels of food insecurity have worsened between 2014 and 2018 with almost one-third of Palestinian households considered to be food insecure.
- The Palestinian economy is stuck in a low-income, low-growth cycle that cannot generate enough employment for the rapidly growing labour force. In Gaza, the average unemployment rate increased from 43.6 percent to 52 percent in 2018, with youth unemployment accounting for 70 percent of it – the highest annual level ever in Palestine. Palestine has no control over its own borders and does not collect most its own taxes. Over the years, deteriorating conditions have resulted in rising poverty, food insecurity, inequality and, consequently, declining living standards.
- In Gaza, the latest escalation in May 2019 resulted in three days of the most intense fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants from Hamas, and Islamic Jihad in Gaza since the 2014 war. While a full-blown conflict has been averted by the diplomatic efforts exerted by the UN and the Egyptian Government, no long-term solution has been reached and the potential for confrontations to evolve into a full-scale conflict increases after each round of escalation.

- The Palestinian Government is currently experiencing a major financial deficit precipitated by the Israeli Government's decision to withhold part of the tax revenues collected on behalf of the Palestinian Authority and the subsequent refusal by the Palestinian Government to receive partial payments. As a result, in late February 2019, the Palestinian Government started reducing payments to public workers and other public expenditure, generating increased instability and higher risks of conflict, and a deterioration in the operating environment for humanitarian and development actors.
- Palestinians are facing economic hardships as both major public employers are affected by a mounting financial crisis. Indeed, in addition to the financial crises faced by the Palestinian Authority, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the second largest employer in Palestine, continues to be affected by severe financial difficulties due to the cancellation of funding from the United States of America. Palestinians are facing increasing economic uncertainty as both major public employers were affected by a financial crisis.

Palestine continues to face a protracted crisis. The Palestinian Government is currently experiencing a major financial deficit, and UNRWA is also facing a severe funding crisis. The economic situation is likely to deteriorate further as a result. Moreover, the potential for the confrontations at the Gaza Strip to evolve into a full-scale conflict increases after each round of escalation.



- As a result of the financial deficit faced by the Palestinian government and the general contraction in foreign assistance, the economic situation in Palestine is likely to deteriorate, further exacerbating economic and social fragility, and fuelling renewed conflict and violence.
- The prolonged financial crisis will substantially impact the capacity of the Palestinian Government and of humanitarian and development partners to perform effectively. In May, UNRWA declared that it is currently experiencing an unprecedented budget deficit of USD 200 million, which has partly been filled by the annual Pledging Conference held on 25 June in New York, where UN member states pledged over USD 110 million.
- The security situation remains tense and continued political uncertainty, conflict spikes and movement restrictions will further affect the humanitarian situation. This also affects the agriculture sector, reducing production capacities and increasing input costs, thus reducing competitiveness and profitability of agriculture and further deteriorating household incomes.



Early action in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is critical to protect and promote the resilience of farmers and livestock herders amid a worsening financial and security situation.

• Accelerate the installation of renewable solar power systems to meet critical energy needs for irrigation water pumping in the Gaza strip, in order to improve agricultural livelihoods affected by energy shortages.

Livestock

- Distribute time-critical inputs and assets (e.g. animal sheds and energy blocks) to livestock herders in the West Bank, particularly Bedouin communities residing in Area C.
- Provide fodder and water tanks to ensure the survival of animals for a minimum of two months.

Fisheries

• Accelerate the provision of fish gauges and installation of solar energy systems for refrigeration and storing of fish products for sale in local markets.



Central African Republic

Violence and insecurity continue to severely affect food security conditions across the country



Risk overview

- Despite the signing of the peace agreement (Khartoum, February 2019), the Central African Republic continues to experience a complex and precarious humanitarian situation. Violence and insecurity are affecting the food security of 40 percent of the population and hindering people's movement as well as humanitarian access. Basic services are dysfunctional or non-existent in many areas of the country and the disruption of already limited services further hinders people's access to livelihood opportunities. Insecurity continues to affect mainly the Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou and Basse-Kotto prefectures where armed groups continue incursions on major supply routes and cities.
- According to the IPC analysis released in June 2019, 1.8 million people are severely food insecure (IPC Phases 3 and above), including more than 465 000 expected to be in Emergency during the lean season. Between May and August 2019, five areas with a high concentration of displaced people – Bria, Kaga-Bondoro, Obo, Rafai and Zémio – and the prefectures of Mbomou, Haute-Kotto and Haut-Mbomou, are experiencing Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4), while 13 prefectures and three areas with a high concentration of displaced people – Alindao, Bambari and Batangafo – face Crisis (IPC Phase 3).
- Displaced civilians continue to be the most affected by the violence and are increasingly exposed to protection risks.

- In June 2019, the Commission des Mouvements de Populations indicated that over 612 000 people are internally displaced, of whom 66 percent live with host families. One in four people remains displaced within or outside of the country.
- In areas with a high concentration of displaced people. movements are severely constrained and access to fields is limited or impossible, making it difficult to engage in agricultural activities. Vulnerable households face lootings and violence. The situation is threatening their harvest and thus their incomes. Continued insecurity along the trade routes also appears precarious, which limits the supply of markets and causes prices to rise as well as a shortage of certain foodstuffs.



Potential impact

- Food security conditions are likely to improve in the country during the harvest period between September and October 2019. However, nearly 1.35 million people will still be severely food insecure, of whom 274 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) during the same period.
- Insecurity is likely to continue affecting major trade routes in the Central African Republic, leading to shortages of certain foods in the markets, affecting their prices and further depriving the population who is expected to continue to rely on markets up to the harvest in September.



Despite the signing of the peace agreement, the Central African Republic continues to experience a complex and precarious humanitarian situation, resulting in high levels of food insecurity and constraining humanitarian access. Providing essential agricultural inputs to vulnerable families is crucial to boost food production, enhance purchasing power and restore livelihoods.

• The most vulnerable conflict-affected populations will continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse levels of food insecurity across the country through September 2019 due to displacement and inconsistent access and availability of humanitarian assistance in some areas.

Recommended early actions

The situation in the Central African Republic remains volatile, with regular attacks on civilians and humanitarian actors. The severe food insecurity levels, especially in the southeastern areas, call for the timely implementation of early actions over the next months to avoid further deterioration.

Livelihood diversification

• Improve access to micro-credits, savings and loans as well as the reintegration of youths into farming and off-farm activities.

Crops

• Distribute vegetables seeds targeting the most vulnerable and food insecure (IPC Phase 3 and 4) among the displaced, returnees and host communities.

Fisheries

• Provide fishing kits to food-insecure and affected population in riverine areas.

Livestock

• Distribute small ruminants to support the diversification of livelihoods among conflict-affected populations, and organize vaccination campaigns.

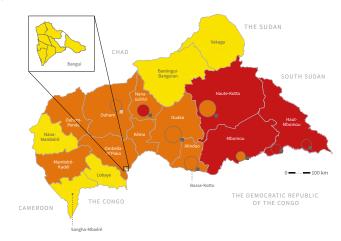
Acute food insecurity situation

(May-August 2019)



Acute food insecurity situation

(September-October 2019)



IPC phase classification



Source: IPC, June 2019



Dry Corridor of Central America

Dry conditions could affect the *primera* season and exacerbate food insecurity



Risk overview

- The food security situation in the Dry Corridor a region on the Pacific coast of Central America frequently affected by drought – is increasingly fragile. According to reports by Central American governments, a delayed start to the rainy season affected the subsistence farmers' 2018 primera harvest by up to 70 percent in some areas of the Dry Corridor. The *primera* harvest is the main season for maize production and the most important in the majority of countries in the region, which typically lasts from April to August. In contrast, too much rainfall damaged up to 50 percent of the *postrera* harvest, with planting typically beginning in September.
- Around 2.2 million people have suffered crop losses, and emergency food security assessments carried out in the Dry Corridor by WFP and FAO and the governments during the last quarter of 2018 confirmed that 1.4 million people out of the 2.2 million urgently need food assistance.
- According to the latest nation-wide IPC analysis for Guatemala (March 2019), around 2.5 million people were projected to be classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 568 000 in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) between March and June. During the same period, around 206 000 people in the western region of Honduras were projected to be in IPC Phase 3 according to IPC analysis released in February. A very significant amount of households facing severe food insecurity in both analyses fell within the area of the Dry Corridor.
- El Niño conditions have affected the 2019 apante season in certain areas of Honduras and Nicaragua, and resulted in an early start of the lean season – typically beginning in May – in some areas. The early start has worsened the food security situation of

vulnerable households. Below-average rainfall since May has also contributed to abnormal dry conditions in the region.



Potential impact

- Global forecasts project a 40-to-60-percent probability of below-average rainfall in June-September 2019, which could affect the outcome of the 2019 primera season.
- FAO and WFP are requesting USD 72 million from the international community to provide food and livelihood assistance to more than 700 000 people in the Dry Corridor in 2019. These funds will help to create and restore productive assets, diversify sources of income, establish social protection safety nets and strengthen farmers' resilience.



Recommended early actions

Early actions are crucial to protect food security and production during the ongoing *primera* season considering the significant vulnerabilities in the Dry Corridor, and to support households in time for the forthcoming *postrera* season. At the beginning of the 2019 primera season, FAO started an early action project to mitigate the impact of drought in Guatemala and Nicaragua, as well as a CERF-funded Food Security emergency support to 3 000 drought-affected vulnerable households in nine municipalities in Honduras.

The food security situation in the Dry Corridor of Central America is increasingly fragile. In 2018, 2.2 million people have suffered crop losses due to erratic weather conditions, and 1.4 million urgently need food assistance. Global forecasts project a 40-to-60-percent probability of below-average rainfall in June-September 2019, which could affect the outcome of the 2019 primera season, further exacerbating vulnerabilities.

• Distribute and promote the use of local drought-resistant seeds and the establishment of drought-resistant seed banks; promote the planting of black beans during the postrera season in the Guatemalan Dry Corridor, which can represent an alternative to source of income by selling production surplus.

Water systems

• Construct and rehabilitate systems for the collection of water of the first rainy season and distribute drip irrigation systems.

Livestock

- Support the livestock system, mainly through prophylaxis of Creole patio birds (chickens), an important asset in family farming that can be an alternative source of income and a key source of animal protein for households.
- Construct shelter areas to protect animals from high temperatures during the summer months.

Food production

• Promote alternative sources of income, focusing on women's associations who already have an organized structure or have the potential to do so.

Social protection

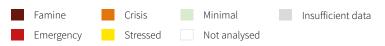
• Implement mutual contingency funds as a way to provide risk-informed and community-led safety nets with the objective to safeguard household food security and nutrition in the face of climate variability.

Acute food insecurity situation in Guatemala

(March–June 2019)



IPC phase classification



Source: IPC, March 2019



The Gambia, South-West Mauritania, and coastal and North-West Senegal

Negative outlook for the 2019 rainy season could affect agriculture and pasture regeneration for another consecutive year



341 250 people severely ood insecure in Senegal



Risk overview

- The forum of seasonal agro-climatic forecast for the rainy season across the Sahel and Soudanian zones (PRESASS) has issued a negative outlook for the rainy season along the Atlantic coast of West Africa. The risk is particularly high for the Gambia, coastal and northwestern Senegal, and South-West Mauritania, as these areas have already experienced either one or two consecutive bad rainy seasons, affecting agricultural production and the availability of pasture and water.
- PRESASS estimates that in these areas the rainy season will be shorter. Moreover, there is an increased chance of longer dry spells and most of these areas are likely to receive below-average or normal rainfall. Other forecast products issued by international, regional and national meteorological agencies confirm these probabilities, indicating in certain cases even higher chances of below-average rainfall during the rainy season.
- While food insecurity projections for Senegal during the lean season are well below the five-year average, with 341 250 people severely food insecure (CH Phases 3 and above), the figure for the Gambia – 89 075 people – is higher than the previous year. In Mauritania, estimates are well above the five-year average, with 606 647 people in CH Phases 3 and above.
- Poor rainfall was recorded last year for a second year in a row in various pastoral areas of southern Mauritania and across the border in northern Senegal. In particular, the wilayas of Assaba, Brakna Trarza and Tagant experienced limited rainfall, and therefore poor pasture generation and availability of water.

- This led to a very early transhumance of pastoralists. As of May 2019, vulnerable pastoralists are becoming indebted since they had to purchase livestock feed in the absence of pasture.
- As the Government of the Gambia reported in March 2019, the 2018/19 cropping season was marked by the late onset of rains and long dry spells, which resulted in a late planting of crops and poor crop germination. Consequently, crop production declined by 24 percent compared with the 2017 cropping season and by 50 percent compared with the five-year average. Rice, the main staple, dropped by 10 percent compared with 2017 and by 49 percent compared with the five-year average.



Potential impact

- Another consecutive bad rainy season could put further strain on the agriculture sector and the livelihoods of vulnerable agropastoralists. The late start of season and higher chances of longer dry spells could affect crop germination and growth, thereby affecting production and the income and food security of vulnerable farmers in the medium to long term.
- Limited pasture regeneration and availability of water could lead to the very early transhumance of pastoralists once again and concentration in areas where resources are available. This could lead to over-exploitation of resources and potential conflict. Furthermore, for the vulnerable pastoralists with limited mobility, another bad season could severely impact their livestock assets.



PRESASS has issued a negative outlook for the rainy season along the Atlantic coast of West Africa, which could particularly affect the Gambia, coastal and North-West Senegal and South-West Mauritania. Another consecutive bad rainy season could put further strain on the agriculture sector and the livelihoods of vulnerable agropastoralists.



Recommended early actions

Early action is crucial to mitigate the impact of another consecutive bad rainy season on the agriculture sector and the livelihoods of vulnerable agropastoralists.

The following recommended early actions are to support vulnerable pastoralists and agropastoralists in view of potential below-average rains and pasture generation:

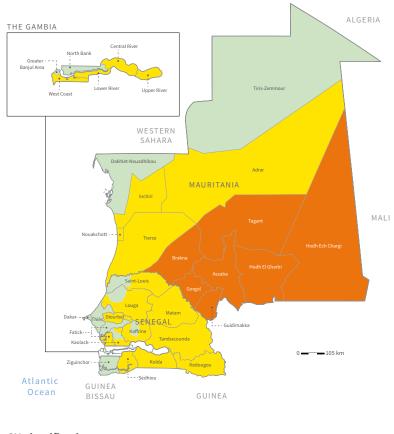
- Boost local production of fodder along river streams and low-lying areas through the distribution of seeds.
- Provide livestock feed in areas with limited pasture and water to preserve the core breeding stock.
- Support the provision of animal health services, particularly vaccination and deworming.

The following recommended early actions are to sustain agricultural production in the context of a poor rainy season, particularly in the Gambia:

- Distribute early maturing seeds of different crop varieties (cowpea, fonio, groundnut, maize and rice) and fertilizer to the most vulnerable households as well as to farmer field schools in order to diversify production outputs, reduce risks of crop failure and increase access to food.
- Promote, through the existing farmer and agropastoral field schools, climate-smart agricultural practices such as mulching for water conservation for crop production as well as water harvesting for livestock.
- Boost irrigated rice production in newly restored fields along the upper-stream of the Gambia river by supporting agricultural activities

Acute food insecurity situation

(June-August 2019)



CH classification



Source: Cadre Harmonisé. March 2019



Fall armyworm

Further spread across Asia



Fall armyworm can feed on more than **80** species of plants, including maize, rice, sorghum, millet, sugarcane, vegetable crops and cotton

Risk overview

- Fall armyworm, or Spodoptera frugiperda, is an insect that is native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas. In its larval stage, it can cause significant damage to crops, if not well managed. It prefers maize, but can feed on more than 80 additional species of plants, including rice, sorghum, millet, sugarcane, vegetable crops and cotton.
- In Africa, fall armyworm was first detected in Nigeria in January 2016 and has quickly spread across virtually all of sub-Saharan Africa, with tens of millions of hectares affected across the continent.
- The presence of fall armyworm has been confirmed in Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand from December 2018 to January 2019, after it was first detected in India in July 2018.



Potential impact

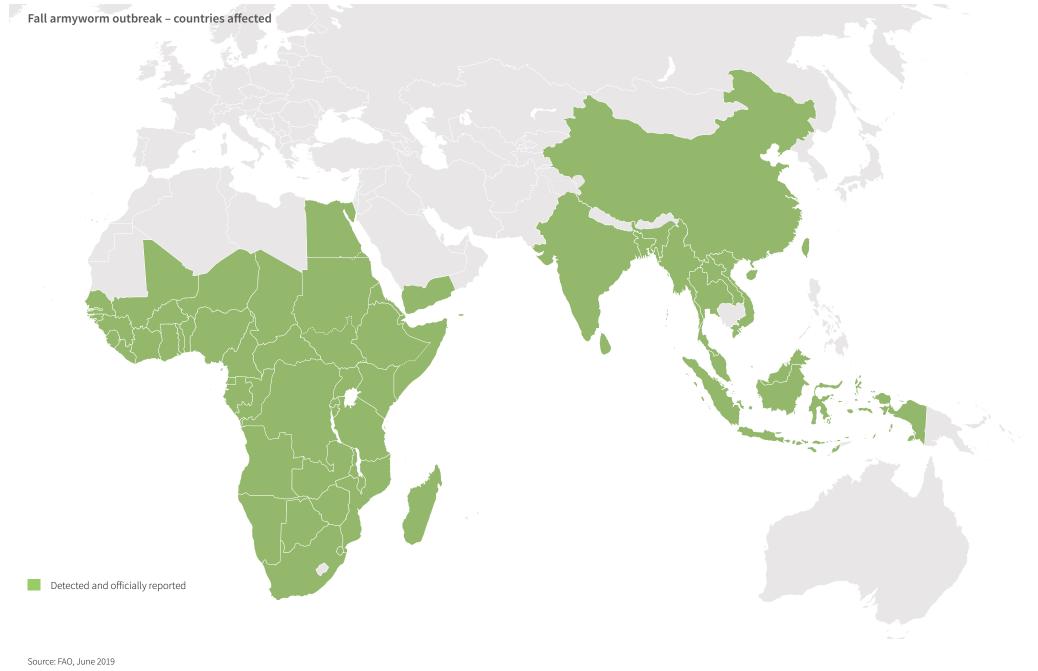
- In areas of Asia with favourable climatic conditions and the availability of important host plants such as maize, fall armyworm will reproduce and become established. There is an increasing risk of further spread to eastern and northeastern China and additional countries including: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan and Republic of Korea, as well as potentially to Australia, Papua New Guinea and Philippines.
- Left unmanaged or in the absence of natural biological control, fall armyworm can cause significant yield loss in maize and other crops.



Recommended early actions

Fall armyworm has the potential to spread further to other areas and countries. Farmers will need significant support to sustainably manage fall armyworm in their cropping systems through integrated pest management.

- Scale-up efforts to collect evidence on the spread and impact of fall armyworm in African and Asian countries, with a particular focus on countries known to be at high risk of food insecurity.
- Increase the use of FAMEWS a mobile application to identify and report the level of infestation and map its spread. The app also contains a training component that works offline and advises farmers on sustainable pest management.
- Support natural biological control efforts, such as the use of predators, parasitoids and entomopathogens – such as viruses or bacteria – in order to kill fall armyworm rather than pesticides. Pesticides provide ineffective control of fall armyworm and in many instances pose significant risks to human health and the environment.
- Support the establishment of farmer field schools for the training of smallholder farmers on integrated pest management.
- Support South-South Cooperation facilitating meetings and workshops for sharing of knowledge and lessons learned.





Equid diseases in West and Central Africa

Equid disease threatens to spread further in West and Central Africa

over one million equids



Risk overview

- Since November 2018, significant mortalities in equids (horses and donkeys) have been reported in western and central African countries due to an increase in outbreaks of different diseases with high mortality rates (equine influenza, African horse sickness, strangles, anthrax, glanders and equine rhinopneumonitis). Countries affected include Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.
- In some countries the events represent the first reported occurrence of a disease (such as for equine influenza in Niger, Nigeria and Senegal and African horse sickness in Cameroon and Chad).
- At present, there are equine influenza outbreaks in Mali, Nigeria and Senegal. At the end of May 2019, a total of 755 outbreaks were reported in 12 of the 14 regions in Senegal, with 56 858 cases and 5 712 deaths among an at-risk population of over one million equids. The disease is also suspected to be present in Cameroon and the Gambia.
- African horse sickness outbreaks have been reported in Cameroon, Chad and Ghana. Strangles has been reported in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal. Outbreaks of anthrax have been reported in Burkina Faso, while glanders and pneumonia were reported in Mali.



- Equine disease surveillance is often not seen as a priority, nevertheless more attention must be given due to the sudden increase in outbreaks with high mortalities and the important role horses and donkeys play in people's daily lives. This is particularly the case with donkeys who are often used for transport and farming. The well-being of these animals can have a significant impact on people's livelihoods, jobs and income. They are also a means for providing access to water, goods and markets.
- The rise in deaths of these animals, particularly donkeys, is likely to have serious implications for the resilience of pastoral populations.

Since November 2018, significant mortalities in equids have been reported in western and central African countries due to an upsurge in outbreaks of different diseases with high mortalities. Attention must be given to equine disease, as increased deaths, particularly among donkeys, are likely to have serious implications on the resilience of pastoral populations.



Recommended early actions

Early actions should be implemented to mitigate the effects of equine disease on pastoral populations in western and central African countries.

- Develop a short-term action plan to assist affected countries in collecting and analyzing samples for diagnosis.
- Promote biosecurity measures in affected countries to curb the spread of diseases.
- Give further support to governmental authorities who request emergency assistance, by providing reagents, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, poly-vitamins and disinfectants.
- Assist countries in developing a recovery plan for affected households.

Early Warning Early Action
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

For more information ewea@fao.org www.fao.org/emergencies/fao-in-action/ewea

the FAO Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities and the following partners:









