





Issue 18 | April-June 2015

# Global Food Security Update

## TRACKING FOOD SECURITY TRENDS IN VULNERABLE COUNTRIES

The Global Food Security Update provides a quarterly overview of key food security trends in vulnerable countries. Information is provided by WFP VAM field teams and partners.

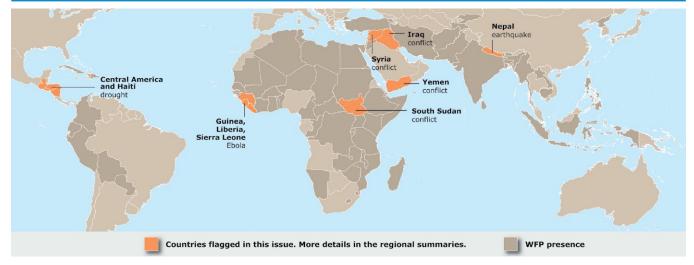
## In focus

- Conflict in Yemen is causing increasing food insecurity.
   As of June, at least 6 million people are facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity. Millions more could easily fall into the emergency conditions unless a political solution is found quickly.
- The protracted conflict in Syria has caused 50 percent of the population to flee their homes, leaving 7.6 million people internally displaced and more than 3.8 million taking refuge in neighbouring countries. In Syria, 9.8 million people are estimated to be in need of various levels of food, agricultural and livelihood assistance.
- Since January 2014, 2.9 million people in Iraq have fled their homes. Some 8.2 million, nearly a quarter of the population, currently require some form of immediate humanitarian support. Around 4.4 million people require urgent food assistance a staggering 57 percent increase on the 2014 estimate. WFP monitoring suggests that food security has deteriorated in areas that are directly affected by conflict, where nearly one in ten households is consuming a borderline or inadequate diet.
- In **West Africa**, the *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis estimates that up to 7.3 million people will face *Crisis* and *Emergency* levels of food insecurity through August 2015. In the coming months, food security could deteriorate because of population movements

- in the north of **Mali** and in the Lake Chad basin, the continuing Ebola epidemic, and poor pasture and crop production in the Sahelian strip.
- South Sudan's latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis identified increasing needs, with 4.6 million people projected to face severe food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and 4) during the lean period of May–July 2015.
- The **Nepal** earthquake has significantly impacted food security, with an estimated 1.4 million people in need of food assistance (excluding the urban Kathmandu Valley area). The majority of these live in the most heavily affected areas along the seismic belt and in the mountains, with the rest living in the less severely damaged but densely populated southern areas.
- The food security situation in **Ukraine** has deteriorated since October 2014. Thirty percent of the population in conflict-affected areas are consuming an inadequate diet.
- In Southern Africa, regional crop production is expected to decrease as a result of uncharacteristic and erratic 2014/15 rainfall.
- Across central Ethiopia, early season dryness worsened in April, creating large rainfall deficits that damaged crop production and pasture development. Belowaverage Belg season crop production is expected.

## Food insecurity hotspots

**JUNE 2015** 

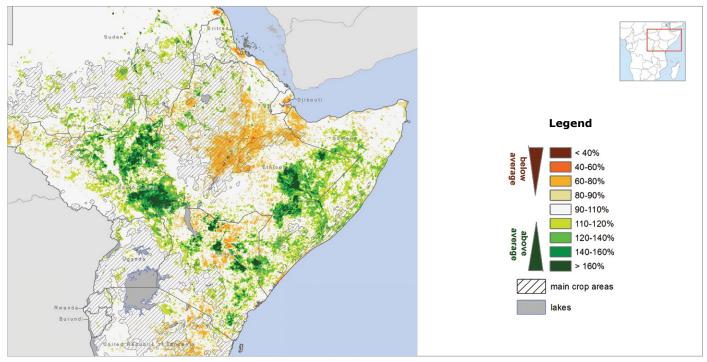


# Regional highlights

## **EAST AFRICA**

- Crisis and emergency food insecurity remains a concern mostly in conflict-affected states of South Sudan; parts of north-eastern Kenya; north-eastern Ethiopia; some districts in Karamoja, Uganda; and in internally displaced persons (IDP) sites and flood prone areas in Somalia. An estimated 2.9 million people in Ethiopia, 1.6 million in Kenya and 731,000 in Somalia are in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4).
- South Sudan faces the worst levels of food insecurity in the young country's history. The latest IPC analysis has identified increasing needs, with 4.6 million people (67 percent of the population) projected to face severe food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and 4) during the lean period of May–July 2015. This represents large increase from the 2.5 million reported in January–March of 2015. The nutrition situation remains above the emergency threshold in most of the Greater Upper Nile, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states. The deepening food insecurity is a result of protracted conflict and insecurity, which affected the planting season last year. This has led to abnormal migration of
- livestock, limited market functionality, high food prices caused by rising inflation and depreciation of the local currency, diminishing purchasing power, depletion of household stocks and high cost of living. However, crop harvests expected from mid-July are anticipated to marginally improve the food insecurity situation.
- Increased violence in **Burundi** has led to population displacement. Preliminary findings of recent inter-agency needs assessments indicate that although the internal displacements are not large, there are significant needs that are expected to grow due to disruption of seasonal livelihood activities, trade/market malfunctioning in urban areas, and loss of livelihood assets. WFP estimates that 138,000 people will require urgent assistance from mid-June to mid-September.
- In **Djibouti** the stressed food insecurity situation could deteriorate especially in southeastern Pastoral Border Zone and in rural Obock due to inadequate pasture regeneration following an early cessation of Heys/Dadaa rains and poor performance of March-June Dirac/Sugum rains.

## Eastern Africa - Max NDVI (percent of average) 26 February-24 May 2015



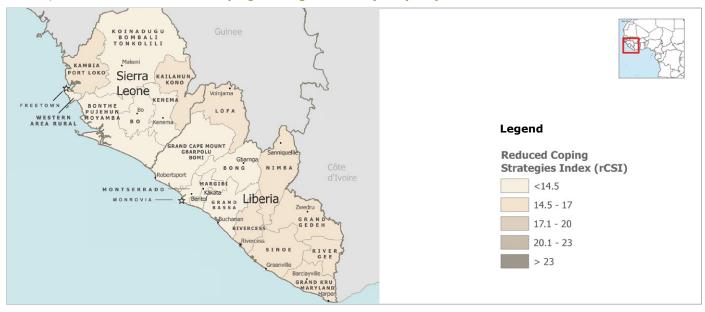
Source: WFP VAM.

- After a generally poor start caused by early rainfall deficits in March, the growing season prospects improved thanks to regular and above-average rainfall in April. Conditions improved significantly, particularly in marginal pastoral areas of northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia, and in Somalia, which has suffered two or three consecutively poor seasons in the past few years.
- However, across central **Ethiopia**, the Afar and the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region, there were no such improvements and the early season dryness worsened in April, causing large rainfall deficits that damaged crop production and pasture development. Below-average Belg season crop production is expected. Elsewhere conditions are favourable, with Kenya expecting better crop production.

#### **WEST AFRICA**

- The latest Cadre Harmonisé analysis estimates that up to 7,364,000 people will be in a situation of Crisis or Emergency food insecurity between June and August 2015. The food and nutrition situation could deteriorate in the coming months because of population movements in the north of Mali and in the Lake Chad basin, the continuing Ebola epidemic, poor pasture production in the Sahelian strip and cereal production deficits in some countries.
- Conflict in northern Nigeria has caused massive population displacement and economic disruption. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that 1.5 million have been displaced in Nigeria, especially in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states. In Niger, 105,000 people have been displaced, including refugees and people fleeing the worsening security environment in border areas. The socio-economic fallout of the crisis is exacerbating vulnerabilities in Niger, as trade with neighbouring Nigeria has slowed. The degradation of living conditions in camps in Niger during the rainy season is pushing people to move back to Nigeria or to Chad. Chad is now hosting 27,000 refugees and returnees from Nigeria. A UNHCR and IOM
- assessment in northern **Cameroon** estimates that 82,000 people have been displaced in the area, in addition to 36,000 refugees and 12,000 refugees.
- Seven weeks after being declared Ebola-free, **Liberia** experienced a resurgence of the disease on 28 June when several cases were detected in Margibi County close to the capital Monrovia. New cases are also still being reported in Guinea and Sierra Leone. According to data from WFP's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) surveys conducted in May, food security continues to improve in both Sierra Leone and Liberia. While poorer households and households led by women have higher negative coping levels, data shows that the food security indicators of these households improved during the second quarter. Food prices and wage rates remained stable in Liberia, resulting in stable terms of trade. In Sierra Leone, food prices and wage rates trends are mixed; lower wage rates and terms of trade have been observed in Ebola-affected districts such as Kambia, Port Loko and Western Area Urban. Since confirmed Ebola cases have been increasing in Sierra Leone recently, this trend will be closely monitored.

#### Liberia, Sierra Leone - Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) May 2015



Source: WFP VAM.

- An abnormally long pastoral lean season has been reported in areas of Mali and Mauritania that experienced poor rains in 2014. In Mali, the situation is exacerbated by insecurity and continued population displacement. Increased livestock mortality and a fall in milk production is reported. According to FEWS NET, food deficits are reported for the poorest households in Mauritania, who have sold half of their livestock to purchase food. Such atypical livestock sales have significantly reduced livestock numbers.
- PRESAO forecasts below-average rainfall from June to September in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, western Cote d'Ivoire, southernmost Mali, eastern Nigeria and the Lake Chad region. Most of Senegal, western Gambia, southern Mauritania, the centre and north of Mali and Burkina Faso should receive above-average rains. In Senegal and southern Mauritania, rainfall is expected to be better in 2015 than it was in 2014.

#### **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

- Regional crop production is expected to fall because of the uncharacteristic and erratic 2014/15 rainfall season. While in some countries, crop production was mainly affected by prolonged dry spells (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, the maize belt of South Africa, southern Angola and southern Zimbabwe), others suffered both flooding and prolonged dry spells (Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique). Significant drops in crop production are expected in southern parts of Zimbabwe, Malawi, Madagascar, Lesotho and South Africa.
- The table below shows the 2015 production estimates for maize, the staple food in the region, compared with the 2014 and five-year average. Except for **Swaziland** and **Tanzania**, all the countries that have submitted data have registered a fall in maize production compared with the five-year average. The largest drops in maize production were recorded in Zimbabwe (37 percent), Namibia (39 percent), South Africa (22 percent) and Malawi (22 percent).

#### Performance forecast of the 2014-2015 maize production ('000 mt)

Country	% Year Average 2010-2014	Crop forecast 2015	2015 vs 2014	2015 vs 5 year average
Botswana	22	15	-57%	-33%
Lesotho	83	78	-9%	-6.3%
Malawi	3,711	2,876	-28%	-22.5%
Namibia	73.4	44.5	-34%	-39%
South Africa	12,723	9,840	-31%	-22%
Swaziland	83.6	93	-7%	12%
Tanzania	5,318	9,828	46%	84%
Zambia	2,910	2,618	-22%	-10%
Zimbabwe	1,200	752	-48%	-37%
SADC	26,115.22	26,145	-13%	-0.1%

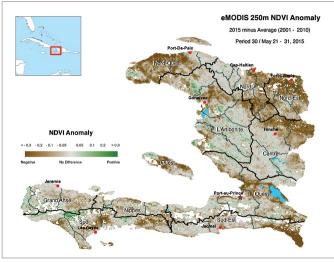
Source: SADC NEWU & National Crop Forecast.

- Falling maize production in South Africa (the largest maize supplier for the region) poses a serious cause for concern as it might trigger higher food prices in the short term in deficit markets in surrounding countries.
   Zambia is the second biggest exportable maize producer in the region and for this season, it may have produced just enough to cover domestic requirements and marginally cover the demand from neighbouring countries.
- The decrease in crop and livestock production will likely increase the number of food-insecure people in 2015/16. National crop and food security vulnerability assessments, conducted between April and June 2015, will provide more details on the state of food insecurity and the number of vulnerable people requiring assistance.

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

- In **Haiti**, departments in the North-East, the South-East (eastern area), the North-West and Central departments (eastern area) have been severely affected by a lack of rainfall during the first months of the March-August spring season, which accounts for 60 percent of annual crop production.
- According to the National Coordination for Food Security, poorly distributed rainfall affected crops planted in March and April. In some areas, crop losses are estimated at 60 to 80 percent. The main livelihoods of livestock, fishing, trade and casual labour have been affected. Migration to the Dominican Republic, a typical coping strategy of the most vulnerable households, is difficult because of conflict at the south-east border.
- Fresh products are less available in markets and the price of local produce has risen by over 60 percent in some areas. There is increasing concern over domestic water availability, especially in the southeast. Food security is not expected to improve until the end of 2015 when the next harvest takes place.

## Haiti rainfall May 2015



Source: NOAA.

- In Guatemala a rapid assessment in February 2015 confirmed that 248,000 households continue to be severely or moderately food insecure because of the 2014 drought. Many households are using stress and crisis coping strategies that vary from eating less preferred foods to selling animals and other assets. The lean season is currently underway, with its characteristically low demand for labour. Households dependent on agricultural day labour or subsistence farming will have difficulty in earning enough to maintain a diet that is adequate in quantity and diversity. INSIVUMEH forecasts that a drought similar to that of 2014 will occur in the next three months in the area known as the Dry Corridor. This indicates that the next harvest of subsistence farmers is at risk; a poor harvest could hamper the recovery of food-insecure households affected by last year's shock.
- In the **Honduras** Dry Corridor, 2014 rainfall caused losses of over 70 percent during the first cropping cycle, according to an EFSA. Key informant interviews in May 2015 suggest that yields from the second cropping cycle were also below normal. The situation is most critical in the highlands of La Paz, Lempira and Intibucá.
- Households dependent on day labour or subsistence farming have exhausted their food stocks early because of the 2014 crop losses and fewer opportunities to generate income. Staple food prices have increased, especially for maize and beans. In the first quarter of 2015, bean prices rose by 45 percent and maize prices increased by 42 percent compared to the same period in 2014.

- The Consumer Price Index increased by 4 percent between April 2014 and April 2015, with the majority of increases in the southern Dry Corridor region.
- Preliminary analysis shows that food insecurity persists in the Dry Corridor and could worsen in 2015. The accumulated effects of high structural vulnerability, crop losses in 2014 and food price increases – coupled with the high probability of another El Niño and related crop losses – could worsen the food insecurity of the most vulnerable households in the Dry Corridor.
- In **El Salvador**, over 17,000 subsistence farmer and agricultural labourer families were identified as moderately or severely food insecure by the 2014 drought EFSA. Field reports indicate that many of these households exhausted their reserves at the end of April, and they will continue to face food deficits until the next harvest in August–September. Maize and bean prices remain high in all departments.
- Meanwhile, families dependent on wages from coffee production are facing difficulties in accessing food. Coffee leaf rust and drastically lower coffee production has led to a decline in employment opportunities and wages in coffee-producing zones. Field reports indicate that many of the households who depend on coffee production have not recovered from the fall in income, and some have reported using emergency coping strategies. Around 13,000 households were identified as food insecure in during the 2013 coffee rust EFSA; this group could still need assistance in 2015.

## MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

- In conflict-affected areas of **Ukraine**, violence continues to threaten the lives of civilians. As of 22 June 2015, the number of IDPs had reached 1.3 million - double the number in January. UNHCR report that 857,000 Ukrainians have sought asylum abroad. According to the latest assessment by the NGO Forum in Ukraine, the situation has clearly deteriorated since October/November 2014. Thirty percent of the population in the conflict-affected areas are consuming an inadequate diet. All the assessed households reported using some form of livelihood coping. The main drivers of the food insecurity are a lack of freedom of movement because of civil insecurity; changes in market conditions; fewer income opportunities; and poor access to cash and banking services. Food prices in the affected oblasts are reportedly 30-40 percent higher than the national average, putting additional pressure on household resources. Food assistance is urgently needed for 670,000 people, including IDPs and population in conflict-affected areas.
- Since May 2014, political crisis and violence in **Libya** has led to massive displacement, the destruction of public infrastructure and the disruption of basic services. The humanitarian community estimates that 2 million people a third of the Libyan population may have been affected, and that close to 400,000 people are displaced. The food security of IDPs is of concern, especially for those who have been displaced for longer periods. If the crisis continues, many vulnerable people will become food insecure in the coming months.
- The price of wheat flour in **Kyrgyzstan** remained at near-record levels, pressured by a sharp depreciation of the Kyrgyz Som since September 2014, increased export prices in Kazakhstan and lower domestic production in 2014. The ALPS indicator shows 'stress' level for wheat prices in three out of five major markets. Income levels are not keeping pace with increasing prices.

In focus

## Yemen

- According to the Indicative IPC Analysis in Yemen, 6.07 million people in ten out of 22 governorates are now classified as facing food insecurity at Emergency level (IPC Phase 4). Governorates at the Emergency level of food insecurity are: Saa'da, Aden, Abyan, Shabwa, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Taiz, Lahj, Al Dhale'e, and Al Baida. Some 6.8 million face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions.
- Currently, conflict continues to disrupt markets and livelihoods, such as agriculture, fisheries, and commercial activities. This has resulted in a serious reduction in peoples' incomes and access to basic staple foods. Moreover, a particularly severe shortage of fuel contributes to limit the availability of staple foods and other commodities in the markets; traders face great difficulty in supplying
- commodities and 29% of the total cropped area is irrigated through wells and water transported by water trucks. The agricultural sector is thus expected to sustain significant losses that may aggravate food insecurity in the country.
- Due to conflict and fuel shortages, food prices continue to remain high compared to precrisis averages. Prices are also expected to remain high during the month of Ramadan, as a result of increasing demand of food. The poorest households, internally displaced, unskilled labourers, and marginalized groups, are most affected. The situation of the most affected groups could easily worsen unless there is a substantial improvement in food availability and access.

## **Syria**

#### In focus

- Since March 2011, violence in Syria has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and injured countless civilians. Over 50 percent of the population have fled their homes, leaving 7.6 million people internally displaced and more than 3.8 million taking refuge in neighbouring countries. Approximately 9.8 million people are estimated to be in need of various levels of food, agricultural and livelihood assistance in Syria itself. Of these, 6.8 million people are in critical need of food assistance a 7 percent increase on the 2014 estimate.
- Dramatic price increases were recorded between March 2011 and March 2015. The price of wheat flour increased by 197 percent, the price of rice by 403 percent, and the price of bread by 180 percent. The current prices of rice and bread are the highest recorded so far.
- In besieged areas, foods such as wheat flour and rice are generally not available. Where they are available, food prices remain well above the average prices in the rest of the country. For example, at Duoma market in Ghota district, wheat flour is currently sold for 900SYP/kg 669 percent more expensive than the 2011 average retail price. Similarly, rice is sold for 1500SYP/kg 560 percent more than in 2011.
- WFP's monitoring data shows that households have been forced to resort to using destructive coping strategies, which include reducing the number of meals they have each day, eating lower quality and less nutritious foods, buying food on credit and borrowing money to purchase food, as well as reducing essential non-food expenditures. The Coping Strategies Index increased from 11 to 14 between the third quarter of 2014 and the first quarter of 2015.

## Iraq

#### In focus

- Since the start of the conflict in January 2014, 2.9 million people have fled their homes in three mass waves of displacement, and multiple smaller ones. Today, 8.2 million Iraqis, nearly a quarter of the population, require some form of immediate humanitarian support; 4.4 million people are food insecure and require urgent food assistance a staggering 57 percent more than the 2014 estimate.
- Since February 2015, mVAM has been monitoring household food security across all 18 governorates and collecting market information in central and northern governorates of Iraq. mVAM data indicates that ongoing conflict and displacement are eroding the food security of Iraqis, particularly in areas that are directly affected by conflict and displacement, including the governorates of Anbar, Dilyala, Duhok, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah Al-Din – where nearly one in ten households is consuming a borderline or inadequate diet.
- IDPs are most vulnerable to food insecurity

   their diets have deteriorated considerably,
   and they are much more likely to lack food or money to buy food and consequently resort to using negative coping strategies than non-displaced households. On average, one in four surveyed IDP households reported using food-based coping strategies.
- The upsurge in conflict has also affected people's purchasing power: the prices of staple foods are volatile and increasing, labour opportunities are limited, and wage rates are low in conflictaffected areas. The highest prices fluctuations have been recorded for wheat flour, sugar and lentils. Furthermore, disruptions to road access and supply line routes have hampered deliveries of the government-run public distribution system (PDS), which has contributed to price increases in many conflict-affected locations.

## **ASIA**

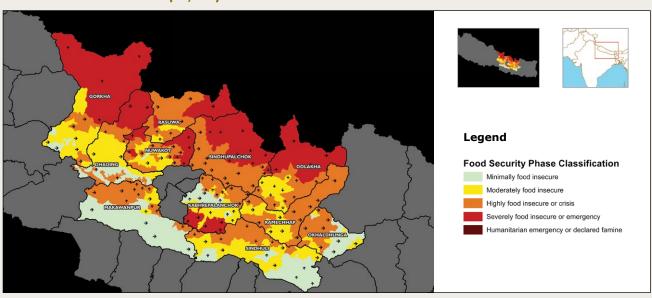
In focus

## Nepal Earthquake has significantly impacted food security

- A magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal on 25 April 2015. It was followed by several powerful aftershocks, including a major one on May 12 (magnitude 7.3), which led to further destruction and loss of life. The earthquakes affected hill and mountain areas in Nepal's Central and Western Regions, killing over 8,000 people.
- A WFP and government-led Food Security Cluster assessment report was published one month after the initial earthquake, based on data from a household food security assessment, a market assessment, and District Food Security Network consultations. The report shows that the earthquake has significantly impacted food security, with an estimated 1.4 million people in need of food assistance (excluding the urban Kathmandu Valley area). The majority of these people live in the most heavily affected areas along the seismic belt and in the mountains, with the rest living in the less severely damaged but highly dense southern areas.
- Food security has deteriorated in all affected areas. It is particularly worrying in remote mountain areas, where close to 70 percent of households have poor or borderline food consumption, and close to half have low diet diversity. Households across all affected areas are resorting to negative food-based coping strategies, particularly reducing portion sizes and meal frequency.
- A major concern for both immediate and longer term food security are widespread losses of household food stocks. In the most foodinsecure areas, 80 percent of households have

- lost their entire food stocks, and overall 55 percent of households have lost more than half of their cereal stocks. Using baseline data on average household food stocks available at this time of the year, this translates into an estimated total of 52,000 mt of lost household grain stocks.
- Crop production and livestock rearing are the primary livelihoods for almost two thirds of households in the affected areas. While damage to standing crops and livestock appears to have been less severe than originally expected, widespread seed losses are a major concern. In terms of lost income, households dependent on daily labour and trade have been amongst the most affected.
- Food assistance has played a critical role in ensuring that food insecurity does not escalate further: assistance is the main source of cereals and pulses for close to 40 percent of surveyed households, and over 70 percent of households indicate that food assistance is currently one of their major needs. While reaching remote, highly affected areas with no road access has been very challenging, humanitarian agencies are now using helicopters and porters to access these "unreachable" areas.
- Food markets are now largely functional in less affected southern areas and are fast recovering in the seismic belt. In remote mountain areas, however, markets remain mostly closed or difficult to access for both suppliers and households, because of destroyed roads or the risk of landslides this will likely worsen during the upcoming monsoon season.

#### Phase Classification for Nepal, May 2015



Source: NeKSAP.







## Methodology

IPC standardized protocols respond to the need for a common approach for classifying various food insecurity situations, within and among countries, and across time.

Acute food insecurity is classified according to 5 phases:

Phase 1: None/Minimal Phase 2: Stressed Phase 3: Crisis Phase 4: Emergency

Phase 5: Humanitarian Catastrophe/Famine

For more information on IPC please visit www.ipcinfo.org

## Acronyms

**ALPS** Alert for Price Spikes **IPC** Integrated Food Security Phase Classification **CILSS** Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel **mVAM** mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping **CFSAM** Crop and Food Security Assessment NDVT Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Mission NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric CPI Consumer Price Index Administration **CSI** Coping Strategy Index **PDS** public distribution system **EFSA Emergency Food Security Assessment PRESAO** Programme de Renforcement et de Recherche sur la Sécurité Alimentaire en Food and Agriculture Organization of FAO Afrique de l'Ouest the United Nations SADC Southern African Development Community **FSNWG** Food Security and Nutrition Working Group **UNCHR** United Nations High Commissioner **FEWS NET** Famine Early Warning Systems Network for Refugees **IDP** internally displaced person VAM Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping IOM International Organization for Migration WFP World Food Programme

## Information sources

**CILSS** www.cilss.bf **NEKSAP** www.neksap.org.np **CNSA** www.cnsa509.org NOAA www.noaa.gov **FAO** www.fao.org **OCHA** www.unocha.org **FEWS NET** www.fews.net SADC www.sadc.int/ **FSNAU UNHCR** www.fsnau.org www.unhcr.org **FSNWG** www.disasterriskreduction.net/fsnwg UNICEF www.unicef.org IOM www.iom.int **UNRWA** www.unrwa.org

**IPC** www.ipcinfo.org **WFP** www.wfp.org/food-security

**INSIVUMEH** www.insivumeh.gob.gt http://foodprices.vam.wfp.org/ALPS-at-**MOPIC** 

www.mpic-yemen.org/mpic a-glance.aspx

http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\_monitoring/

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