Global Update: Food Security Monitoring

October 2009 - February 2010 • Issue No. 2

The Global Update provides food security information on trends on food access and utilization. Key food access indicators reported are food consumption, coping strategies and terms of trade. These indicators are proximate to nutritional status thus allow the early identification of potential increases in malnutrition.

This update provides information on 33 countries for the period: fourth quarter 2009 through February 2010. It reports on changes of a select set of indicators and makes conclusions about the food security situation. (See Annex for details on the indicators).

Three categories are used to classify the food security trend: Improved, No Change and Deteriorated. A summary of the food security situation is presented below:

**Improved:**
Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Georgia (IDPs), Ghana (Northern Region), Indonesia, Madagascar, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Somalia

**No Change:**
Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Darfur, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, OPT (Gaza Strip), Swaziland, Tajikistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**Deteriorated:**
Burundi, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, DRC (Katanga Province), Guatemala, Guinea-Conakry, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Niger, Southern Sudan

See Table for more detailed analysis by country and food security indicator.

33 countries covered by the Global Update

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The Spanish Government provides financial support for the strengthening of WFP’s Food Security Monitoring Systems. The support also covers the preparation of the Global Update.
Table: Food security trends in selected countries  • October 2009 - February 2010

The table presents information on the countries where WFP participates in a Food Security Monitoring System  • Based on reports dated October 2009 to February 2010  • Changes are respective to the previous quarter

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<td>BURUNDI</td>
<td>The proportion of households with poor food consumption has increased from 16% in the third quarter to 22% in the fourth quarter (data collected at sentinel sites in 6 livelihoods’ zones).</td>
<td>The prices of sweet potatoes and beans have respectively increased by 111% and 29% since the previous quarter and increased by 14% and 2% since 2008. Prices of sweet potatoes and cassava flour were respectively 216% and 123% higher than the five-year average.</td>
<td>In the southern and eastern plateau areas, households reported using severe coping strategies more frequently. More than 75% of households consumed reduced portions, reduced their frequency of meals and / or consumed cheaper and less preferred food.</td>
<td>Poor rains in most of November caused about 75% of crop losses in the northern part of the country.</td>
<td>The food security situation has deteriorated. An increased number of households have poor food consumption patterns. The price of basic commodities has increased.</td>
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<td>DRC (KATANGA PROVINCE)</td>
<td>Food consumption improved in October 2009 compared to October 2008. The proportion of households reporting poor food consumption declined by 1.6% (data collected at sentinel sites).</td>
<td>The prices of cassava products and maize have respectively increased by 64% and 26% since the previous quarter and increased by 123% and 45% since 2008.</td>
<td>The proportion of households who resorted to severe coping strategies declined (66.5% in October 2009 down from 71% in June).</td>
<td>In November and December, the province received either normal or above normal rainfalls as compared to long-term average. Households’ reliance on their own production decreased by 3%.</td>
<td>Overall deteriorated food security status. Despite marginal improvement in food consumption and a decline in use of severe coping strategies, rising food prices and continued armed conflict continues to compromise sustained improvements in food security.</td>
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<td>ETHIOPIA</td>
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<td>The prices of maize and wheat have respectively decreased by 7% and 9% since the previous quarter and decreased by 32% since 2008. Prices of maize and wheat were respectively 97% and 69% higher that the five-year average.</td>
<td>Most households increased livestock sales, reduced their number and size of meals and shifted expenditure from non-food items to staple food.</td>
<td>Terms of Trade (TOT) were favorable for pastoralists due to gradual increases in livestock prices and relatively low grain and food prices compared to the 2007 and 2008 averages.</td>
<td>Erratic rainfall caused an overall reduction in the harvest of the main agricultural season (Meher), estimated at 10-11% compared to 2008/2009. Most pastoral areas and the eastern and central lowlands were affected. However, food supplies and household food stocks improved due to the availability of the new harvest.</td>
<td>In the short term, the food security situation improved due to an increase in households’ food stocks and lower food prices.</td>
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</table>

See Annex for detailed information on the indicators.
The price of maize has not changed since the previous quarter but has increased by 4% since 2008. Maize prices have increased by more than 50% in urban areas, 100% in southern pastoral areas, more than 70% in northwest pastoral areas, and more than 40% in southeastern and coastal marginal agriculture districts compared to the five-year average. The price of maize was 85% higher than the five-year average.

## East and Southern Africa

### KENYA

The western half of the country (Foothills and Southern Lowlands) showed the highest proportion of households with poor food consumption (18% and 20%).

The price of maize has decreased by 2% since the previous quarter and increased by 2% since 2008. The price of maize was 30% higher than the five-year average.

Critically high levels of stunting were reported (exact rates not provided). The causes of continued chronic undernutrition are being investigated by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF.

Wheat production in 2009 was 57% higher than in the previous year.

The food security situation has deteriorated due to lower than average crop production.

### LESOTHO

In October 41% of households had acceptable levels of food consumption. Slightly more than 50% of households had poor food consumption levels.

The price of rice has decreased by almost 9% since the previous quarter and decreased by 8% since 2008. The price of domestic rice was 3% higher than the five-year average.

Prices of fertilizers, pesticides and other agricultural inputs increased by about 5 to 10% between 2008 and 2009.

Madagascar consistently has the highest levels of acute malnutrition (13%) and chronic malnutrition (53%) in Southern Africa.

No adverse coping mechanisms were reported. No migration recorded in November and December.

Only 17% of communities planted rice on time due to late and erratic rainfall.

The overall food security situation has improved. An increasing number of households have acceptable food consumption patterns. No adverse coping mechanisms were reported. No adverse coping mechanisms were reported. NFR: Food prices have also declined.

### MADAGASCAR

Madagascar has the highest levels of acute malnutrition (15%) and chronic malnutrition (53%) in Southern Africa.

No adverse coping strategies were reported. No migration recorded in November and December.

The food security has deteriorated due to poor national maize output and price increases.

The food security situation has deteriorated due to lower than average crop production.
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<td>The price of maize has decreased by 16% since the previous quarter and decreased by 30% since 2008. The price of maize was 89% higher than the five-year average.</td>
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<td>Malawi had high levels of stunting (48%) and underweight (19%). Global acute malnutrition (GAM) was less than 5%. Micronutrient deficiency in the country was high. About 80% of children under 5 and 48% of pregnant women were anaemic.</td>
<td>Reduced &quot;Ganyu&quot; (farm labour) opportunities due to low income realised from cotton sales. &quot;Ganyu&quot; is a key source of income and food for the majority of poor households</td>
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<td><strong>MOZAMBIQUE</strong></td>
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<td>The proportion of households with poor food consumption varies in the south: in Maputo province (7%) and in the Tete and Inhambane provinces (20%). (data collected at sentinel sites)</td>
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<td>The prices of maize and import rice have respectively decreased by 14% and increased by 7% since the previous quarter and decreased by 34% and 5% since 2008. The prices of maize and import rice were respectively 53% and 97% higher than the five-year average.</td>
<td>Malnutrition rates were lower than average ranging from 1.4% (Gaza) to 8.9% (Nampula).</td>
<td>There is a decline in the use of severe coping strategies from the third to the fourth quarter. The CSI (Coping Strategy Index) declined from 50s to 40s. The most frequent coping strategies used are: reduced portion and number of meals.</td>
<td>Poor and irregular rains in the 2nd dekad of November were reported in the south and central regions of the country. Cereal production in 2009 was 12% higher than in the previous year. Maize and rice productions were respectively 13% and 37% higher than last year.</td>
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<td>The Consumer Price Index (CPI) Food Inflation in October fell to 7.1 this quarter from 8.1 last quarter.</td>
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<td>29% of children were stunted, 17% were underweight and 7.5% acutely malnourished. About 77% of the acutely malnourished children were found in the north-eastern part of country.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prices of cereal have decreased by 10 to 30% between December 2008 and December 2009 but are still above the five-year average.</td>
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<td>Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) median has reduced from 19% to 16% in most of the country.</td>
<td>Accross the south, local sorghum and maize prices are high for this time of the year despite the good Deyr harvest. However, both labour wages and livestock prices are also high, meaning that one day of labour or the sale of a goat will fetch as much sorghum or maize in February 2010 as it did in February 2009.</td>
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<td>Both the Gu and the Deyr 2009/10 were above average. The latest harvest (Deyr 2009/2010) is the highest of the last seven Deyr seasons. It is 121% above the Post War Average and 149% above the five-year average.</td>
<td>Compared to June 2009, December 2009 shows a slight improvement in food security and nutrition situation due to two good harvests (Gu and Deyr).</td>
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### SWAZILAND

- 11% of households in the northwest region (Hhohho) and more than 9% in the southern region (Shiselweni) had poor food consumption levels (data collected at sentinel sites).
- Overall only 1.1% of the children were wasted (low weight for height).
- Stunting or chronic malnutrition was at around 40%.
- According to the latest CHS (community and household surveillance) survey, over 50% of the women sampled were obese. This is potentially due to the poor quality of their diet which consists mostly of cereals/carbohydrates with little diversity.
- The number of households that use severe coping strategies has increased from 34% in March to 40% in October for food aid beneficiaries and decreased from approximately 34% in March to 30% in October for non beneficiaries.
- The country has a shortage of 90,000 mt of cereals but plans to offset the gap by importing 40,000 mt (of maize, wheat and rice).
- Food security situation has remained stable as a result of good crop production.

### ZAMBIA

- Food consumption improved in October 2009 compared to October 2008. Data collected at sentinel sites show an increase of the mean food consumption score from 47 to 52.
- The price of maize has decreased by 5% since the previous quarter and increased by 3% since 2008.
- 45.5% of children under 5 were stunted, 3.6% were wasted and 15.2% were underweight.
- Malnutrition levels in flood affected areas were within normal ranges.
- The proportion of households that use severe coping strategies has decreased by more than 12% since last quarter.
- Cereal production in 2009 was 28% higher than in the previous year. Maize and millet productions were respectively 31% and 25% higher than last year.
- The rainy season started earlier than normal in parts of the south but with a slight delay in a few parts of the northwest.
- The food security situation remained stable due to improved food consumption and lower food prices.

### ZIMBABWE

- Food consumption improved in the fourth quarter compared to the third quarter. The proportion of households with poor food consumption has fallen by more than 5% (data collected at sentinel sites).
- The price of maize has decreased by 24% since the previous quarter and decreased by 63% since 2008.
- 35% of children under 5 were stunted (37% in rural areas and 30% in urban areas) and 2% were wasted.
- 12% of children were underweight in rural areas and 9% in urban areas.
- The proportion of households that use severe coping strategies has decreased by more than 12% since last quarter.
- Cereal production in 2009 was 72% higher than in 2008. Maize and sorghum productions were respectively 76% and 108% higher than in the previous year.
- There is an estimated shortfall of about 370,000 mt of cereals to the end of the consumption year down from the 500,000 mt in May 2009.
- The area planted with crops has risen compared to last year with maize (93%) and grains (290%).
- Food security has remained stable showing signs of recovery from the shortfall in May.
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<td>BURKINA FASO</td>
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<td>The prices of sorghum and millet have respectively decreased by 7% and 6% since the previous quarter and increased by 5% and decreased by 3% since 2008. The prices of sorghum and millet respectively 25% higher than the five-year average.</td>
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<td>To cope households most commonly used the following high risk strategies: reducing the quality of food and the portion and/or reducing frequency of meals consumed.</td>
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<td>Crop production in 2009 was above the five-year average but somewhat lower than in 2008. Pastoral areas were affected by forage deficits in some parts of the country.</td>
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<td>CHAD</td>
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<td>The price of sorghum has decreased by 4% since the previous quarter and increased by 4% since 2008. The price of millet has increased by 4% since the previous quarter but has remained stable since 2008. The prices of sorghum and millet were respectively 48% and 55% higher than the five-year average.</td>
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<td>The food security situation is considered to remain unchanged.</td>
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<td>CÔTE D’IVOIRE</td>
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<td>The prices of rice and cassava have respectively increased by 48% and 29% since the previous quarter and increased by 104% and 41% since 2008. The prices of rice and cassava were respectively 155% higher and 12% lower than the five-year average.</td>
<td>Malnutrition of children under 5 was the highest in Savanes, Moyen Cavally, Namentenga and Bas Sassandra.</td>
<td>The number of households that depend on subsistence agriculture to cope has risen (exact numbers not available). 20% of households had to borrow to buy food.</td>
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<td>National cereal production was about 1.4 mt in 2009 which is similar to the 2008 average. The food security situation has deteriorated mainly due to a combination of high prices and displacement from conflict zones.</td>
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### West Africa

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<td>The prices of local rice and palm oil have respectively decreased by 2% and 1% since the previous quarter and decreased by 28% and 11% since 2008. The prices of rice and palm oil were respectively 5% and 9% higher than the five-year average.</td>
<td>The proportion of households with poor food consumption has decreased from 14% in 2008 to 11% in 2009 (data collected at sentinel sites).</td>
<td>Prices of imported rice in January 2010 are showing a declining trend compared to December 2009 especially in the areas far off from Monrovia (over 13%).</td>
<td>The number of households that migrated to cope rose significantly this quarter (exact numbers not available).</td>
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<td>More than normal rainfall was recorded in the upper east and upper west regions in October. By December rains stopped giving way to dry and hazy conditions characteristic of the hamattan period in northern Ghana. Increase in maize production reported by the government to be marginal when compared with 2008. Productivity reported at 8 to 9 bags per acre in 2009, compared to 7 to 8 bags per acre in 2008. Harvesting of late maturing crops, sorghum, millet and yams occurred during the last quarter of 2009.</td>
<td>The food security situation has improved due to good crop yields and a decrease in the prices of the major food commodities in the country.</td>
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<td>The price of maize has decreased by 21% since the previous quarter and decreased by 16% since the previous year.</td>
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<td>With the exception of the Upper West Region, the quality of cereal consumption and frequency of meals have increased.</td>
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### Additional Information

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- **Prices of local rice and palm oil have respectively decreased by 2% and 1% since the previous quarter and decreased by 28% and 11% since 2008. The prices of rice and palm oil were respectively 5% and 9% higher than the five-year average.**
- **About 20.8% of children under 5 in the upper east region were malnourished and 14.4% in the upper west region. Malnutrition rates for children under 5 have fallen since last quarter.**
- **The number of households that migrated to cope rose significantly this quarter (exact numbers not available).**
- **More than normal rainfall was recorded in the upper east and upper west regions in October. By December rains stopped giving way to dry and hazy conditions characteristic of the hamattan period in northern Ghana. Increase in maize production reported by the government to be marginal when compared with 2008. Productivity reported at 8 to 9 bags per acre in 2009, compared to 7 to 8 bags per acre in 2008. Harvesting of late maturing crops, sorghum, millet and yams occurred during the last quarter of 2009.**
- **National rice production was more than 996 600 tons in 2009.**
- **More than normal rainfall was recorded in the upper east and upper west regions in October. By December rains stopped giving way to dry and hazy conditions characteristic of the hamattan period in northern Ghana. Increase in maize production reported by the government to be marginal when compared with 2008. Productivity reported at 8 to 9 bags per acre in 2009, compared to 7 to 8 bags per acre in 2008. Harvesting of late maturing crops, sorghum, millet and yams occurred during the last quarter of 2009.**
- **The food security situation has improved due to good crop yields and a decrease in the prices of the major food commodities in the country.**
- **Although some indicators point at improvements, the overall food security situation remains unchanged due to slow economic recovery and security concerns.**
## West Africa

### Mali

The prices of millet and sorghum were respectively 4% and 3% lower since last quarter. Since 2008, the price of millet increased by 6% and the price of import rice decreased by 5%.

The prices of millet and sorghum were respectively 19% and 16% higher than the five-year average.

### Mauritania

The prices of wheat and import rice were respectively 2% and 12% higher since last quarter. The price of wheat decreased by 5% and the price of import rice increased by 9% since 2008.

The prices of wheat and import rice were respectively 27% and 19% higher than the five-year average.

### Niger

The prices of millet and sorghum were respectively 4% and 11% higher compared to last quarter and increased by 11% and 7% since 2008.

The prices of millet and sorghum were respectively 36% and 40% higher than the five-year average.

### Food Security Trend of Last Quarter Compared to Previous One

The overall food security trend is stable. The situation in pastoral areas has improved but dwindled in agro-pastoral areas.
### West Africa

#### Sierra Leone

- **Food Consumption**: About 29% of households had poor food consumption.
- **Prices**: The prices of local rice and palm oil were respectively 22% lower and 12% higher compared to last quarter.
- **Malnutrition**: 3.8% of children under 5 in Moyamba district of southern Sierra Leone suffered from severe acute malnutrition. 36% of children under 5 were stunted, 21% underweight and 10% wasted.
- **Coping Strategies**: The Terms of Trade (TOT) between coffee and local rice decreased by more than 50% due to the decrease in the price of coffee by 56% in the biggest coffee-growing district (Kailahun).
- **Purchasing Power**: TOT for wage earners in urban areas were more favorable due to lower prices of rice. TOT for cash crop farmers was less favorable due to a drop in the wholesale price of coffee.
- **Rainfall & Production**: Below normal rainfall during the beginning of the cropping season is expected to affect rice production making it slightly below last years.
- **Food security situation**: Appears to be improving due to rainfall surpluses and good crop growth.

### Sudan

#### South Darfur

- **Food Consumption**: In South Darfur, food consumption has slightly improved and remained acceptable among mixed and resident communities.
- **Prices**: In IDP camps in South Darfur, the price of sorghum was very high at 120SDG/sack. In West Darfur, the price of local sorghum has remained stable at 80 SDG/sack.
- **Malnutrition**: In IDP camps in South Darfur, 17% of women were malnourished compared to 10% last quarter. In mixed communities in South Darfur, 10% of women were malnourished compared to 4% in the previous quarter. In North Darfur, 89% of the women measured for MUAC recorded above the ministry of health threshold (225mm).
- **Coping Strategies**: In South Darfur, some 57% of mixed community households used low risk coping strategies. In North Darfur, there was a significant increase in the proportion of households who used severe coping strategies, the proportion increased from 6% last quarter to 15% this quarter. In West Darfur, 6% of households who experienced food shortage coped by using low risk coping strategies.
- **Purchasing Power**: Income among IDPs and mixed communities in South Darfur decreased at the same time as prices went up resulting in deterioration of purchasing power.
- **Rainfall & Production**: The cereal production of 2009 is estimated to be 30-35% below the five-year average.
- **Food security trend of last quarter compared to previous one**: Below normal rainfall during the beginning of the cropping season is expected to affect rice production making it slightly below last years.

#### Southern Sudan

- **Food Consumption**: The extreme south-east of the country (Equatoria and Jonglei states) had the highest levels of poor food consumption approximately 40% and 33% respectively (data collected at randomly selected sites).
- **Prices**: The prices of import sorghum and millet have respectively decreased by 13% and 25% since the previous quarter and increased by 55% and 74% since 2008. The prices of sorghum and millet were respectively 73% and 134% higher than the five-year average.
- **Malnutrition**: About 6% of households used low risk coping strategies. Most common coping mechanisms reported were: sale of livestock (even by ethnic groups that traditionally do not sell livestock), reliance on national resources, migration to urban centers and casual labour.
- **Coping Strategies**: Terms of Trade for pastoralists were unfavorable due to sharply declined livestock prices and rising grain prices.
- **Purchasing Power**: Preliminary estimates of cereal production for 2009 show a decline of about 10% in comparison with the five-year average.
- **Rainfall & Production**: The overall food security situation has deteriorated due to the impact of drought.
The prices of wheat and rice were respectively 41% and 8% higher than the five-year average.

The Terms of Trade (TOT) between casual labor daily salary and wheat have improved by 2% since last quarter, 129% since the same time last year, 38.7% since two years ago, and 21.4% before the price crisis.

On average, the TOT between sheep and wheat improved by 6.6% over the past month and was 110% higher compared to one year ago.

Cereal production in 2009 increased by 70%.

The price of wheat flour was decreased 26% below the five-year average.

The price of wheat flour has decreased by 14% since the last quarter and by 17% since 2008. The price of maize has increased by almost 15% since the previous quarter and by 1% since 2008.

The price of wheat flour was decreased 26% below the five-year average.

The proportion of households that relied on severe coping strategies reduced significantly both in urban and rural areas. The coping strategy index was 14.1 in October and 8.9 in November.

Cereal production increased by 7% in 2009. Rice and maize productions were respectively 6% and 8% higher than last year.

The overall food security situation seems to have improved as seen from the stable food prices and the fact that less people rely on severe coping strategies.

The overall food security has improved due to lower prices and improved wages and purchasing power.
### NEPAL
- **Countries (A)**: NEPAL
- **Food Consumption (B)**: 15% of households have poor food consumption levels.
- **Prices (C)**: The prices of rice and wheat are respectively 4% higher and 15% lower since last quarter. They respectively increased by 2% and decreased by 14% since 2008. The prices of rice and wheat flour were respectively 72% and 70% higher than the five-year average. Since the peak of the international food crisis, the prices of potato, coarse rice and wheat flour have risen by 116%, 24% and 17% respectively.
- **Malnutrition (D)**: The prices of wheat flour and rice have respectively decreased by 11% and almost 5% since the previous quarter and decreased by 9% and increased by 13% since 2008. The prices of wheat flour and rice were respectively 24% and 84% higher than the five-year average. Prices of most commodities remained above their long-term average.
- **Coping Strategies (E)**: 60% of households shifted to less expensive and nutritious foods, 40% sold their assets and around 8% removed a child from school.
- **Purchasing Power (F)**: **Malnutrition**: More than 40% of households experienced summer crop losses of more than 30% due to late plantation caused by late and erratic monsoon rains. Only 25% planted their primary crop on time and nearly 65% reported poor seed germination.
- **Rainfall & Production (G)**: The food security situation has slightly improved due to the summer crop harvest, the initiation of new WFP Food/Cash for work programming and the reopening of roads after the monsoon.
- **Food security trend of last quarter compared to previous one (H)**: The current food security situation has slightly improved due to the summer crop harvest, the initiation of new WFP Food/Cash for work programming and the reopening of roads after the monsoon.

### OPT (GAZA STRIP)
- **Coping Strategies (E)**: 33% of households recorded no use of high risk coping strategies indicative of low stress; as a coping strategy, 34% of the rest reduced the size or frequency of meals, 19% bought on credit or incurred debt, 15% sold assets and 9% sent a family member abroad in search of employment.
- **Coping Strategies (E)**: The overall food security has not regressed due to intervention efforts from the humanitarian community.

### TAJIKISTAN
- **Countries (A)**: TAJIKISTAN
- **Food Consumption (B)**: The number of households with poor food consumption has increased from 9% to 37% in Murghab district.
- **Purchasing Power (F)**: Good harvest of wheat and vegetables due to climatic conditions. 40% of the respondents and 50% of key informants stated that this season the wheat harvest was better than average. 90% of the interviewees reported having stocks this year (against 80% last year).
- **Food security trend of last quarter compared to previous one (H)**: The food security situation remained stable due to decreases in price and assistance provided to those affected by heavy rains. Some pockets of the country (Murghab) showed a significant deterioration in food consumption amongst households.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries (A)</th>
<th>Food Consumption (B)</th>
<th>Prices (C)</th>
<th>Malnutrition (D)</th>
<th>Coping Strategies (E)</th>
<th>Purchasing Power (F)</th>
<th>Rainfall &amp; Production (G)</th>
<th>Food security trend of last quarter compared to previous one (H)</th>
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<td>NEPAL</td>
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<td>OPT (GAZA STRIP)</td>
<td>Food consumption patterns improved due to the humanitarian intervention and targeting. 14% of IDP households had poor food consumption. (data collected at IDP sites)</td>
<td>The prices of wheat flour and rice have respectively decreased by 11% and almost 5% since the previous quarter and decreased by 9% and increased by 13% since 2008. The prices of wheat flour and rice were respectively 24% and 84% higher than the five-year average. Prices of most commodities remained above their long-term average.</td>
<td>33% of households recorded no use of high risk coping strategies indicative of low stress; as a coping strategy, 34% of the rest reduced the size or frequency of meals, 19% bought on credit or incurred debt, 15% sold assets and 9% sent a family member abroad in search of employment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAJIKISTAN</td>
<td>The number of households with poor food consumption has increased from 9% to 37% in Murghab district.</td>
<td>The prices of wheat have decreased by almost 14% since last quarter and decreased by 20% since 2008. The price of wheat was 48% higher than the five-year average. 42% of the 665 households surveyed in rural Tajikistan reported high food prices as the main shock they experienced.</td>
<td>30% of households in the Ayni, Kuhik and Mastcho districts were forced to either skip entire days without eating, seek alternative employment or not enrol children in school (especially girls). 83% of village shop keepers interviewed reported giving credit to customers.</td>
<td>Good harvest of wheat and vegetables due to climatic conditions. 40% of the respondents and 50% of key informants stated that this season the wheat harvest was better than average. 90% of the interviewees reported having stocks this year (against 80% last year).</td>
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The prices of rice have decreased by 10% since the previous quarter. Additionally, the prices of rice and wheat flour have decreased by 29% and 18% respectively since 2008. The prices of wheat flour and rice were respectively 11% and 30% higher than the five-year average.

The stunting rate stagnated at around 32% nationally. Stunting prevalence was above 47% in the most food insecure municipalities (2009 CFSVA).

Due to recent financial crises, households adapted their livelihoods. A small proportion of households replaced agricultural and livestock activities as their main source of income.

The drought period at the end of 2009 resulted in an approximate 20% fall in sowing in wheat and rice. The El Niño phenomenon caused poor agricultural harvests and the loss of production.

The price of maize has decreased by 24% since the previous quarter and decreased by 23% since 2008.

13% of households had poor food consumption. 11% of children and 9% of women were malnourished. In some cases GAM rates were as high as 27%.

The overall food security situation has remained stable despite prolonged droughts in wide areas of the country as a result of El Niño effects.
Annex: Select set of food security monitoring indicators and their application

i. **Food consumption** denotes the quality and quantity of food consumed in the household. The *Food Consumption Score (FCS)* also used within this context, is a composite score that is a good proxy of food consumption as it takes into account dietary diversity, food frequency and relative nutritional importance of different food groups. The change between the third and fourth quarter is reported in **Column B**.

ii. **Prices** are retail prices for the last quarter of 2009, which are compared to those of the last quarter of 2009 and to average prices of 2003-07; **(Column C)**.

iii. **Malnutrition** is an indication of insufficient, excessive or imbalanced consumption of essential food required. Methods used to collect this information include a variety of anthropometric measures (weight, height, age, and MUAC); **(Column D)**.

iv. **Coping strategies** denote the behavioural actions adopted by households to offset or overcome a food access problem without correcting or eliminating the underlying condition. The *Coping Strategies Index (CSI)*, also used in this update is a composite index measuring the severity and frequency of strategies that households use in managing shortfalls in food consumption; **(Column E)**.

v. **Purchasing power** is the ratio of two prices, i.e. a commodity being sold and a food staple being purchased; **(Column F)**.

vi. **Production** reflects aggregate levels that impact on national or sub-national food availability; **(Column G)**.

1. Caution should be applied when drawing conclusions of a more generalized nature as data has in some cases been collected from limited sentinel sites.

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