Global Update
Food Security Monitoring

January - June 2010 • Issue no. 3

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

This update provides information on 34 countries for the period January to June 2010.

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, Cambodia, The Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia and Zambia.

**No Change:** Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan (Darfur), Northern Sudan, Swaziland, Togo and Zimbabwe.

**Deteriorated:** Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana (Northern Region), Haiti, Honduras, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Southern Sudan and Tajikistan.

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

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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 - January - June 2010

The table presents information on the countries where WFP participates in a Food Security Monitoring System • Based on reports dated January to June 2010

**TRENDS OF THE FOOD SECURITY SITUATION OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS:**

**Improved:** Afghanistan, Cambodia, The Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Zambia

**No Change:** Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan (Darfur), Northern Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Zimbabwe

**Deteriorated:** Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana (Northern Region), Haiti, Honduras, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Southern Sudan, Tajikistan

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<td>BURUNDI</td>
<td>The proportion of households consuming at least two meals a day in April 2009 decreased from 71% to 59%, indicating a deteriorating food security situation.</td>
<td>The national level the price of beans fell by 10%, that of sweet potatoes by 16% and that of maize by 31% between April and June compared with the previous quarter.</td>
<td>A food deficit of more than 30% combined with the country’s low capacity for food imports has limited the flow of food to markets and resulted in improved terms of trade for local farmers, as shown in the June 2010 crop and food security assessment mission (CFSAM).</td>
<td>Admissions to nutritional centres have been stable, with a slight declining trend in June 2010 because food was available from the last harvest. Malnutrition rates are high in the following provinces: &gt; 60% in Ruyigi, Muyinga, Kirundo, Cankuzo, Rutana and Cibitoke, and &gt; 50% in Makamba and Bubanza.</td>
<td>Houses are utilizing coping strategies less frequently than at the same time last year, as reflected in a 27% decline in the coping strategies index (CSI).</td>
<td>The food security situation remains unchanged. There have been positive changes in that food prices and admissions to nutritional centres have decreased, even though household food consumption is still low. The next harvest of major crops is likely to improve the food security situation in the coming months.</td>
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<td>DRC</td>
<td>The percentages of beneficiary households with poor food consumption fell by 47% in Eastern DRC and by 50% in North and South Kivu between July 2008 and January 2010.</td>
<td>The proportion of households consuming at least two meals a day in April 2009 decreased from 71% to 59%, indicating a deteriorating food security situation.</td>
<td>The price of cassava products (cassava is the main staple food) fell by 15% and the price of maize increased by 6% between April and June compared with the previous quarter.</td>
<td>The food security situation remains unchanged. There have been positive changes in that food prices and admissions to nutritional centres have decreased, even though household food consumption is still low. The next harvest of major crops is likely to improve the food security situation in the coming months.</td>
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<td>East and Southern Africa</td>
<td>The price of cassava products (cassava is the main staple food) fell by 15% and the price of maize increased by 6% between April and June compared with the previous quarter.</td>
<td>The price of cassava and maize were still 26% higher than last year.</td>
<td>The amount of food that can be purchased with a unit of currency has deteriorated as a result of high food prices coupled with the depreciation of the Congolese franc.</td>
<td>A food deficit of more than 30% combined with the country’s low capacity for food imports has limited the flow of food to markets and resulted in improved terms of trade for local farmers, as shown in the June 2010 crop and food security assessment mission (CFSAM).</td>
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See Annex for detailed information on the indicators.
**Improved availability and consumption of sweet potatoes and other root crops has significantly improved food security in the Southern Nations Nationalities and People’s Region (SNNPR).**

Cereal prices have declined from their record levels but are still above the pre-crisis levels of 2007. Between April and June the prices of maize and sorghum were 6% less than the previous quarter.

Compared with the five-year average, maize and sorghum prices have increased by more than 100%.

Compared with the year average, however, these prices have declined by more than 10%.

**Livestock conditions have improved and milk yields have increased, resulting in increased purchasing power among pastoralists, supported by improvement in the terms of trade for livestock.**

**The risk of child malnutrition in south-eastern areas has declined by 10% to 50% except in Kilifi and Kivie districts, where it has increased to between 18% and 35% above average.**

**Livestock have benefited from good nearby pasture, indicating significant improvements in environmental conditions and water access.**

Rainfall was abundant and well distributed in the three months up to June; forecasts indicated good rains to the end of July. Planting of 2010 long-rains maize was complete; the planted areas were estimated to be above the average of 1.8 million ha. Prospects for the 2010 maize crop are favourable; harvesting is expected to start at the end of September.

Sorghum and beans were growing in June; the harvest is expected to start in August–September.

The food security situation has improved. The fall in the price of staple foods is improving the situation of low-income households that depend mainly on markets for food access. Food consumption has improved, especially among pastoral groups and farmers in marginal agricultural lowlands. The number of people estimated to be moderately to significantly food insecure has declined by 58% from last year.

**Main staple:**
- Maize
- Millet
- Rice
- Sorghum
- Wheat
### East and Southern Africa

#### LESOTHO

- **Food Consumption**: Findings from March show that the northern lowland and foothill areas had the lowest proportion of households with poor consumption – 1% – whereas the figure for the southern lowlands was 11%, followed by mountain areas and peri-urban areas at 4% each.

- **Prices**: Millet prices declined by 20% between April and June. Other cereal prices have been stable in the last six months in line with those in the South African market, which supplies the bulk of imported maize and wheat. A decrease of 7% in rural shop prices and 4% in urban shop prices from last May 2009 was recorded.

- **Purchasing Power**: Despite the lower price of maize, the purchasing power of a large number of households has deteriorated as a result of insufficient labor opportunities. In January, the unemployment rate was at its highest since 2005, exacerbated by the closure of a large textile and clothing firm.

- **Main Nutrition**: A recent household study indicated that households were not eating a balanced diet – 75% of calories consumed by the average household come from humanitaran organizations and government subsidies amounting to between 30% and 50% of income to cope with food insecurity.

- **Coping Strategies**: A significant 22,551 households rely on inputs from humanitarian organizations and government subsidies – so a high risk of malnutrition remains.

- **Rainfall & Production**: The last rainy season was favourable for maize and sorghum cultivation. Maize production in 2010 increased by 16% compared with 2009.

- **Food security trend over the last six months**: Planting of wheat started in May and June. The food security situation has improved mainly as a result of stable food prices and increased crop production in rural areas. But there are still 450,000 people in need of food assistance, many of whom are jobless and assisted by government subsidies.

#### MADAGASCAR

- **Food Consumption**: Household food consumption has improved in some targeted communities in the south, where the percentage of households with poor food consumption has decreased from 48% to 28% by March 2010 compared with November 2009. Only 49% of the households had “acceptable” consumption, however. The sampled households had access to a more diversified diet including cereals and peas through food assistance.

- **Prices**: In southern districts, the price of local white rice fell by 14% between March 2009 and March 2010; the price of maize decreased by 11%. A similar trend was observed for cassava prices; livestock prices were rising slightly. Elsewhere, prices remained stable.

- **Coping Strategies**: In April 2010, there was no significant deterioration in the nutritional status of infants aged 6–59 months compared with November 2009.

- **Main Nutrition**: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects an inflation rate of 9.6%; last year inflation was 9.5%. In the flooded Southeast zone, prices fell in late April and stabilized before the floods.

- **Purchasing Power**: Consequently, prices fell in late April and stabilized before the floods. Producers are vulnerable to volatile prices, particularly farmers whose purchasing power has fallen drastically in recent months.

- **Rainfall & Production**: Over the past few months unemployed and underemployed workers have been converting to informal trading in towns to cope with the critical economic conditions. Farmers are rapidly selling their products to pay debts owing to micro-finance. Nevertheless, crop failure means that the situation remains fragile. Monitoring is needed in view of the high levels of acute malnutrition – 15% – and chronic malnutrition – 53%.

- **Main staple**: Plant pests and insufficient rainfall affected the availability of supplies from last year’s surplus. A significant 22,551 people are estimated to be 275,000 people.

#### MALAWI

- **Food Consumption**: Maize consumption was declining in southern areas because of the depletion of household stocks from the poor 2009 season. In northern and southern areas, maize consumption was reported to be increasing.

- **Prices**: In February 2010, expectations of a poor maize crop 20% below the 2009 record led to a moderate price increase, particularly in the south. This probably reflected the continued availability of supplies from last year’s surplus.

- **Purchasing Power**: In the south, terms of trade for labourers were falling; they were expected to decline further as a result of the increasing number of poor households seeking work and reduced demand for casual agricultural labour following poor cereal and cotton harvests.

- **Main Nutrition**: Malnutrition remains fairly low; wasting is 2.6% in the north and 3.8% in the south. This indicates that households in the southern region were more affected by long dry spells and poor maize production.

- **Coping Strategies**: Households in the south, which normally derive their own produce, currently rely on food assistance and income from weaving, fishing and livestock sales. This situation is expected to continue from May 2010 to March 2011 as a result of very poor harvests or no harvests at all.

- **Rainfall & Production**: More households in the southern part of the country are being forced to migrate to towns to seek employment. Heavy rains resumed at the end of January but were too late for many standing crops in southern and central regions, where the maize crop had wilted and yields had fallen. A 20% fall in cereal production compared with last year is anticipated, but this is still 6% above the average for the previous five years.

- **Main staple**: The sorghum harvest was expected to start in June, the wheat harvest in July. The food security situation has deteriorated. In the south food prices have risen and household incomes from cotton sales and employment have declined. Households that traditionally rely on their own production now rely on food aid and have adopted adverse coping strategies such as livestock sales. The food-insecure population is estimated to be 275,000 people.
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<td><strong>MOZAMBIQUE</strong></td>
<td>Households in the north have improved their food consumption as a result of a surplus of maize and better access to markets. Prices are 50% below the levels in the south.</td>
<td>The retail price of maize declined by 2% a month from March 2009 and also declined by 4% in the last quarter. This reflected a production surplus and market availability. In the south, maize prices were double those in the north because of fast prices; this had negative effects on households that depend mainly on purchases.</td>
<td>Prices for domestic animals remain stable; prices for cereals are particularly high in the south. Terms of trade between domestic animals and cereals are unfavourable for farmers, and households continue to sell more animals as a result of crop failure.</td>
<td>As a consequence of contamination of water for human and animal consumption, 213 cases of cholera have been reported. This may impact the nutritional status of children.</td>
<td>Some consumption of wild plants and roots as a coping strategy was observed in Inhambane in Central Province.</td>
<td>Poor rainfall in central and southern areas affected production; in the north, however, rains were generally normal and there were good maize harvests. In the seven affected provinces, 32% of the area planted with maize, sorghum, millet and rice was lost – 13% of the cereals planted in Mozambique for the 2009/10 cropping season.</td>
<td>The food security situation remains unchanged as a result of last year’s record cereal production, which replenished the stocks and offset the impacts of rising food prices. If the expected fall in 2010 crop production occurs, the number of food-insecure people requiring assistance might increase during the year.</td>
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<td><strong>NAMIBIA</strong></td>
<td>In an effort to improve food access, the Government removed VAT from basic foods such as fresh and frozen meat, milk, cooking oil, lard, bread, flour, sugar and fresh milk.</td>
<td>The national consumer price index (CPI) for bread and cereal prices decreased marginally to 191.5 between April and May (December 2001 = 100), but was 3.3% higher than a year previously. Improved availability and lower prices of inputs benefited farmers, with a government input scheme providing a 50% subsidy for the purchase of feed for farmers for 3 ha of land per farmer.</td>
<td>Pastures and livestock conditions in most regions were better than last year, resulting in improved terms of trade for pastoralists.</td>
<td>In spite of an overall increase in grain production this year, access to food in the northern region – where malnutrition among children is 77% – was still limited.</td>
<td>Households in the northern region, which suffered floods recently, are coping by relying on food aid and other intervention assistance.</td>
<td>Despite late and erratic rainfall during the 2009/10 agricultural season, cereal production was estimated at 135,000 mt – a 22% increase over last season’s output but slightly below the average production of the previous five seasons. MMF production increased significantly relative to the low level harvested last year, but white maize production was estimated to have declined. Wheat was planted in May and June.</td>
<td>The food security situation remains unchanged. Populations affected by floods in the northern regions of Caprivi, Khomas and Oshana are assisted with government food aid and other support. The rest of the country is benefiting from an improved national grain harvest and better pasture and livestock conditions.</td>
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<td><strong>SOMALIA</strong></td>
<td>Among pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, consumption of milk and ghee (clarified butter) has improved as a result of improved dairy productivity.</td>
<td>Since April 2010, maize and sorghum prices have decreased or remained stable in Central, North-West and North-East regions; prices in most southern districts showed the same trend, increasing in the Juba region only. The prices of imported foods remained stable; in Northeast region, prices of import prices increased slightly compared with May 2010. Compared with last year’s prices, the quarterly price of wheat flour decreased by 1%; that of imported red rice fell by 5%. Maize prices have increased by 7%; sorghum prices have increased by 58%.</td>
<td>As a result of improved agricultural labour opportunities in Lower Shabelle, household purchasing power has improved. The terms of trade between maize and daily labour increased by 20% to 30% following a significant increase in wage rates for labour.</td>
<td>Livestock prices are at a five-year high, leading to improved terms of trade for pastoralists exchanging livestock for cereals.</td>
<td>In North region, pastoralists were coping by depleting livestock assets; a full restocking will take several consecutive good seasons.</td>
<td>Prospects for crop production were good in most parts of southern Somalia as a result of good rainfall. Sorghum and maize production was expected to be normal in most areas; however, harvests were expected to be lower in July and August. The exception was Juba region, where floods in May damaged maize crops significantly. If favourable environmental conditions continue, herds are expected to continue their recovery because water catchments will be recharged and pastures and rangelands improved.</td>
<td>The food security situation has improved slightly since June; enhanced pastures and rangelands and alleviated severe water shortages in much of the country; local food prices have decreased and labour wage rates have increased. Areas of concern remain Central region, Hiran, parts of Gedo and Bakool, and some towns. The extent to which the positive food security trends will improve conditions for the affected population is not clear. Because of the ongoing conflicts in the country, the situation of IDPs remains extremely difficult and needs to be constantly monitored.</td>
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<td>SWAZILAND</td>
<td>Food consumption has improved for most livelihoods, but has remained unfavourable for people who rely on gifts, begging, food assistance and livestock or poultry.</td>
<td>Maize prices remain 12% higher than a year ago. Compared with the five-year average, the price of maize has increase by 8% and that of wheat by 24%. Fuel prices are rising, resulting in increased expenditure on food and non-food products.</td>
<td>Purchasing power was favourable for salary and wage earners, but as a result of the global economic downturn it was most unfavourable for people receiving remittances from South Africa. A good cotton harvest and its proceeds will improve farmers’ access to food.</td>
<td>Stunting – which was already at 40% – was slightly higher in children living in rural areas.</td>
<td>Subsistence farmers and households were coping by benefitting from government input-support programmes.</td>
<td>Despite a reduction in planted areas and late rains, maize production was 11% higher than last year. Conditions for maize were favourable as a result of good rains in the second half of the season. The sorghum harvest was expected in June; wheat was still growing.</td>
<td>A large section of the population remains food-insecure, but the food security situation in general has not changed significantly as a result of the good maize harvests in 2010.</td>
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| ZAMBIA                 | The price of maize increased by 5% between April and June compared with the previous quarter; it decreased by 9% with respect to last year. Increased transport costs - fuel costs were the most recent contributing factor - were a major factors affecting rising maize prices in local markets. Prices were expected to start their seasonal fall, however, as a result of the main harvest. In contrast to maize, the price of wheat has declined in recent months despite the ban on wheat imports, reflecting another good domestic harvest. | Small-scale farmers are likely to sell at low prices out of desperation for cash because they will have little bargaining powers during a large harvest. With a good supply of maize in the markets, many low-income consumers were purchasing maize and taking it to be milled as opposed to purchasing industrially processed meal. | There are high levels of malnutrition in rural areas triggered by recurrent floods. There are also high levels of child malnutrition and widespread poverty in towns resulting from high average food prices caused by the global food crisis. | In the valley areas of Southern province, people were finding alternatives to crop production to cope with the effects of prolonged dry spells in the middle of the 2010 growing season. | Zambia recorded another surplus maize harvest. In rural areas there was increased reliance on home production. Despite the large harvest, there were significant quantities of informally imported maize from Mozambique in May as a result of the maize price differentials at the border; this information was acquired by informal cross-border monitoring. | The millet and sorghum harvests were expected in June. | Following good harvests – there was a surplus maize harvest – the food security situation has improved in Zambia. In rural areas there is increased reliance on home production. Most households have access to the ample supplies of maize. The population requiring humanitarian assistance decreased from 445,000 in 2008/09 to 111,000 in 2009/10. |

| ZIMBABWE               | In April 2010, 36% of households relied on home-produced cereals. 31% on purchased, 19% on casual labour at 19% and 9% on food aid. The average rural household’s access to cereal was expected to improve in many parts of the country, at least until July. Only 8.4% of children under 2 are consuming a diet that is minimally acceptable. | The price of maize decreased by 39% in the three months to June. There was a sharp price rise in February, probably a result of concern about the outlook for the 2010 maize crop, but prices levelled off in March. The Government implemented a number of grain market reforms in 2000 to stabilize the market. | The improved performance of the tobacco crop in terms of production by smallholder farmers and producer prices was expected to improve rural incomes in Mashonaland and parts of Manicaland from March to May. After May, a significant proportion of rural households were unable to earn incomes in casual off-farm labour as the harvest period came to an end, resulting in reduced purchasing power. | Chronic malnutrition is a significant public threat; it affects 33.8% of children. About 1.5 million people received vitamin A supplements during the ten-day Zimbabwe Measles Immunization and Childhood Health Campaign in May and June, which reduced the risk of deficiency-related malnutrition. | Poor households facing difficulties in market access have started early harvesting of their staple cereal crop. The most reported coping mechanisms include sales of vegetables and fruit and cross-border trading. | Inundations in February and March in most provinces favoured the development of late-planted crops. Maize production for 2010 was forecast at 1.33 million mt compared with 1.24 million mt harvested last year; this was 27% above the average for the previous five years. In contrast, a reduction is anticipated for sorghum and millet because of smaller plantings and reduced yields; groundnut production is expected to increase. | Food security in the country is currently stable, with good seasonal harvests for most rural households. The cost of living for most poor urban households is likely to remain high, however. |

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<td>The food security situation is unchanged. Despite declining food stocks from last year’s harvest, prices of maize continue to fall by 30% compared with last year.</td>
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<td>BURKINA FASO</td>
<td>A shortage of milk resulted in a decrease in milk consumption this year. Households in the livestock/millet agro-pastoral areas have cut back the frequency of meals from three to two, and in some cases to one, as a result of poor harvests and limited income-generating opportunities.</td>
<td>The quarterly price of sorghum is 4% lower than 12 months ago; the price of millet is 2% higher. Compared with the five-year average, the price of sorghum has increased by 23% and that of millet by 27%.</td>
<td>Livestock prices have declined significantly, leading to a deterioration of the terms of trade for pastoralists.</td>
<td>The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (weight-for-height) is 10.7% nationwide, indicating serious but not critical levels.</td>
<td>Young people are migrating to gold-washing sites to seek income-generating opportunities. Livestock owners in agro-pastoral areas are coping by reducing the frequency of meals.</td>
<td>Following favourable growing conditions, last year’s cereal production was 19% above average. Land preparation was ongoing in the south for planting the 2010 main maize crop. In June millet and sorghum were being sown.</td>
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<td>CHAD</td>
<td>Reductions in the quantity and quality of food intake were reported. Adults reportedly ate three times a day, but children were limited to two meals at most, with a 40% to 50% reduction in the amount of cereal in the daily requirement.</td>
<td>The quarterly price of sorghum is 21% lower than 12 months ago; that of millet is 3% higher. Compared with the five-year average, the price of sorghum has increased by 7% and that of millet by 31%. Above-average prices are limiting food access for households in poor urban and peri-urban areas, who mainly rely on market supplies.</td>
<td>The sharp decline of on-farm activities and limited revenues generated by sales of livestock are affecting poor households and worsening the terms of trade for pastoralists. Active members of most households, particularly poor agro-pastoralists in the Sahel belt, have migrated to towns in search of jobs. The labour surplus in towns has resulted in a 30% reduction in wages.</td>
<td>In western pastoral areas, the nutritional situation is fragile and approaching or above the emergency threshold. The findings of the nutritional survey in Abéché in January and February showed GAM rates of 16.8%.</td>
<td>Because conditions in pasture lands are deteriorating, other households are coping by gathering hay and selling it to pastoralists for additional income, harvesting wild foods, selling productive and non productive assets, selling reproductive animals and sending children to beg.</td>
<td>Food security indicators show that all parts of the country are generally food-secure except for the northern and eastern agro-pastoral areas. A combination of poor rangeland conditions, persistently high food prices and declining terms of trade for pastoralists could lead to sharp increases in malnutrition.</td>
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The prices of staple foods have declined significantly after last year’s good harvest. But the depreciation of the Dalasi will continue to affect food access as a result of The Gambia’s import dependency – up to 60% of its annual cereal consumption requirements, mostly rice and wheat – despite the downward trend in international rice prices.

Cereal production for the 2009/10 agricultural year was 20% higher than for 2008/09 and 30% above the average for the previous five years. In particular, rice production almost doubled as a result of the increase in area planted; yield per hectare did not increase.

The food security situation has improved as a result of an increase in production, a decline in food prices and higher disposable incomes.

The proportion of underweight children under 2 – 21.5% in Northern region and 29.7% in Upper East region – was found to be critical. As a result of WFP’s support for malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women and 807 people living with HIV, lower malnutrition rates were recorded in the regions of Biombo, Quinara, Cacheu, Gabu, Bafata, Tombali and Oio.

The erratic start to the growing season could lead to reduced production. The amaranth start to the growing season could lead to reduced production. Early heavy rains were recorded in Central and Southern regions in February, heralding a good start to the 2010/11 cropping season. During March, the entire east-to-west stretch of the region remained largely dry, while Upper West and Upper East regions received moderate levels of moisture to support planting of maize and rice and further land preparation.

Cereal production in 2009/10 increased by 4%. Planting of the 2010 crops of rice, millet and sorghum was scheduled to start in June with the onset of the rains.

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The price of imported rice remains considerably lower than in 2009 and has declined in the domestic market since January. The average price of cassava, Liberia's second staple, increased by 4% between April and June; the price of palm oil increased by 13% in the same period compared with the previous quarter.

Cereal production in the 2009/10 agricultural year was 5% higher than in 2008/09. Rainfall in early March 2010 was above average in most counties, but declined in the last ten days of the month. Planting of the rice crop for the 2010/11 season started in April. Cassava was to be planted in June.

The food security situation has improved as a result of the increase in cereal production and improved access to food. The highest concentration of food-insecure households is in rural regions in the south-east.

last six months

The price of local rice in April, May and June was 5% lower than the same quarter last year; palm oil prices were 19% higher. Compared with last January, February and March, the price of local rice has increased by 22% and that of palm oil by 26%.

The terms of trade in the agricultural sector improved in all domestic markets, especially for casual labourers.

Households are increasingly relying on casual labour to access food, which is the typical strategy during this period of the year.

Cereal production in the 2009/10 agricultural year was 5% higher than in 2008/09. Rainfall in early March 2010 was above average in most counties, but declined in the last ten days of the month. Planting of the rice crop for the 2010/11 season started in April.

Cassava was to be planted in June.

The food security situation has improved as a result of the increase in cereal production and improved access to food. The highest concentration of food-insecure households is in rural regions in the south-east.

Last year, crops benefited from favourable weather in most areas and cereal production increased by 6% compared with 2008. Land preparation was under way for planting the 2010 rice and coarse grain crops in June.

The food security situation has remained unchanged despite increases in prices. Food access continues to be affected by high prices driven by a depreciation of the Guinean Franc. Malnutrition is still high in a few regions.

The food security situation has deteriorated in north-eastern regions; the situation in the rest of the country is better. There are good prospects for crop production, but crops are not expected to materialize until the end of the lean season in September. Although food prices are in a downward trend, they remain higher than the long-term average and are therefore still a major concern.

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### Food Security Overview

**Coping Strategies**

- **Countries**
  - Mauritania
  - Niger
  - Senegal

**Food Consumption**

- **West Africa**
  - Poor pastoralist households are reducing their daily grain intake to below minimum daily requirements, a sign of high levels of food insecurity.

**Prices**

- **West Africa**
  - The April–June quarterly price of millet was 8% higher than 12 months previously; that of sorghum was 9% higher; both were much higher than in 2007 – millet prices in March 2010 in Niamey were still 42% higher than in March 2007. The price of imported rice fell by 8%, and that of maize by 6% in the last year.

**Purchasing Power**

- **West Africa**
  - Limited income-earning opportunities combined with persistently high food prices are affecting households’ purchasing power and food access. The terms of trade between livestock and millet have depreciated considerably, leading to a significant deterioration for pastoralists.

**Malnutrition**

- **West Africa**
  - Child nutrition has been severely undermined by the effects of food shortages, inappropriate farming practices and high incidence of seasonal illnesses. In a national survey in June, GAM rates among children aged 6–59 months increased to 16.7% from 12.3% in the same areas.

**Coping Strategies**

- **West Africa**
  - Poor households facing food insecurity have migrated to the nearest cities and neighbouring countries to the south and north.

**Rainfall & Production**

- **West Africa**
  - Cereal production for the 2009/10 agricultural year was 31% lower than for 2008/2009. Fodder production in pastoral areas in 2009 was estimated to be 67% below domestic requirements; production of cowpeas, the main source of income for farmers, is estimated to have fallen by 37%.

**Food security trend over the last six months**

- **West Africa**
  - The food security situation has deteriorated as a result of reduced cereal and cash crop production, poor rangeland conditions, persistently high food prices and declining terms of trade for pastoralists. In early March, the Government appealed for emergency aid to avert a food crisis; in May the national survey showed that 22.2% of the population were severely food insecure and 25.5% highly food insecure.

### Food Security Monitoring

**Main staple:**

- **Maize**
  - About 11.5% of rural households have poor or borderline food consumption.

- **Millet**
  - The terms of trade for small animals and wheat are still favourable to pastoralist households, which command good prices for sheep in the face of relatively stable grain prices.

- **Sorghum**
  - The GAM rate among children under 5 was below previous year and 3% lower than the 5-year average. This was the result of irregular rains that affected yields of rainfed crops.

- **Rice**
  - The food security situation has remained stable, but high cereal prices relative to the long-term average continue to restrict food access for rural and urban households in food-deficit areas.

- **Wheat**
  - The April–June quarterly price of millet was 8% higher than 12 months previously; that of sorghum was 9% higher; both were much higher than in 2007 – millet prices in March 2010 in Niamey were still 42% higher than in March 2007. The price of imported rice fell by 8%, and that of maize by 6% in the last year.

- **Wheat**
  - In May and June, WFP promoted a safety-net programme through school meals to improve the nutrition status of vulnerable groups: the improvement among people targeted in May was 100% and 117% among those targeted in June.

- **Sorghum**
  - There was major growth in the horticultural export sector in 2009. The increase in production contributed to reducing vegetable prices and increasing smallholders’ incomes.

- **Millet**
  - In February 2010 the reduced CSI was in the 9–14 range with the exception of Tagant region, where CSI was 20 and households used adverse coping strategies more frequently. Five coping strategies were selected for the reducedCSI.

- **Main staple:**
  - The April–June quarterly price of millet was 8% higher than 12 months previously; that of sorghum was 9% higher; both were much higher than in 2007 – millet prices in March 2010 in Niamey were still 42% higher than in March 2007. The price of imported rice fell by 8%, and that of maize by 6% in the last year.
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<th>Food security trend over the last six months</th>
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<td><strong>West Africa</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOGO</strong></td>
<td>The number of households with poor food consumption in the Kouré region of northern Togo is 19.9%; in the Savanes region, the figure is 14.4%. Prices are reported to be significantly lower than last year. The price of maize – the main staple – has declined significantly compared to previous years, thereby improving food access for urban and rural consumers.</td>
<td>At the national level, acute malnutrition among children under 5 was 12.3% and chronic malnutrition was 23%. These are high levels, despite good harvests. The most common severe coping strategies adopted by 33% of households were to reduce the quantity and frequency of meals.</td>
<td>The food security situation has improved as a result of better harvests and lower prices, but large segments of the population are still facing chronic food insecurity and malnutrition.</td>
<td>Cereal production for the 2009/10 agricultural year was 13% higher than 2008/09. In June, maize was growing and sorghum had been planted.</td>
<td><strong>Main staple</strong>: Maize, Millet, Sorghum, Wheat</td>
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<td><strong>SUDAN (DARFUR ONLY)</strong></td>
<td>Food consumption is worse in South Darfur, where the proportion of households with poor food consumption has increased considerably among IDPs and in mixed communities. In West Darfur, none of the population groups have households in the “poor consumption” category. North Darfur and West Darfur have few households with poor food consumption; the figure among IDPs is 1%.</td>
<td>Following the poor harvest last season, the quarterly price of sorghum was considerably lower than 12 months previously, particularly in South Darfur where it increased by 25% compared with three months earlier. The terms of trade between goats and sorghum in Nyala market in South Darfur increased in May compared with February 2010, reaching last year’s level but remaining below the five-year average. In West Darfur and North Darfur, terms of trade decreased slightly compared with February 2010 and the five-year average. In South Darfur and West Darfur, the proportion of women with low mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) fell in mixed communities compared with February 2010 and last year; the average, however, is still above the low MUAC cut-off of &lt;214 mm. In North Darfur, the proportion of women with low MUAC increased among IDPs compared with February 2010 and last year. Among IDPs in South Darfur there was an increase in the number of households using low-risk coping strategies compared with last year. The numbers using medium-risk and high-risk strategies are similar to last year. In West Darfur there was a shift from low-risk to medium-risk strategies compared with the last round. This is a post-harvest period with no significant cultivation. Final estimates of cereal production for 2009/10 indicate a decline in production, particularly in North Darfur. Land preparation took place in May; most resident communities felt that they have better land access, and most mixed communities had the same land access.</td>
<td>In South Darfur increased in May compared with February 2010 and last year; the average, however, is still above the low MUAC cut-off of &lt;214 mm. In North Darfur, the proportion of women with low MUAC increased among IDPs compared with February 2010 and last year. Among IDPs in South Darfur there was an increase in the number of households using low-risk coping strategies compared with last year. The numbers using medium-risk and high-risk strategies are similar to last year. In West Darfur there was a shift from low-risk to medium-risk strategies compared with the last round. This is a post-harvest period with no significant cultivation. Final estimates of cereal production for 2009/10 indicate a decline in production, particularly in North Darfur. Land preparation took place in May; most resident communities felt that they have better land access, and most mixed communities had the same land access.</td>
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<td><strong>Sudan</strong></td>
<td>The early start of the lean season led to a deterioration in food consumption. Many households have run out of food.</td>
<td>Market prices of staple cereals peaked in January and February; real prices fell between April and June. Current prices are 30% to 35% above the real average price for 2005–2008, however. The consumer price index (CPI) increased by 1.77% in May 2010 compared with April 2010 and the food CPI increased by 2.41%. Terms of trade between livestock and cereals were in favour of pastoralists in May compared with April 2010 in Blue Nile (4% increase) and Upper Nile (13% increase); they were stable in White Nile and in favour of grain producers in South Kordofan (7% decrease). Increased malnutrition rates were observed over the lean season, which started earlier than usual. The June–September rainy season is expected to constrain market access, thereby reducing grain supplies and increasing water-borne diseases and probably rates of malnutrition. The food– insecure population relies on income from daily wage labour and partly on coping strategies such as sales of livestock, firewood and grass to buy food in markets. In northern states, harvesting of the 2009/10 irrigated wheat crop was completed in May; output was estimated to be below 2008/09 and the last five-year average. Crops planted for the main season, however, have benefited from heavy rains: a good harvest is expected for sorghum and millet. The food security situation has been stable, in line with seasonal patterns. The most food–insecure populations are in Red Sea state and parts of Kassala, North and South Kordofan, and Blue Nile states. Food security is likely to deteriorate during the lean season, which is expected to peak in August and September.</td>
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<td><strong>Northern Sudan</strong></td>
<td>Consumption of harvested crops of sorghum, maize and groundnuts is rapidly declining as household stocks dwindle. During the first quarter of 2010, price trends for sorghum were mixed: there was a declining trend in Juba, but increasing stability in other markets. Prices are, however, considerably higher than before the food-price crisis. Terms of trade between goats and sorghum were stable in Juba, but showed different trends in other parts of the south. Malnutrition in most states remains chronic; in some areas the situation is critical. Lack of access to water and poor hygiene and sanitation practices are increasing the prevalence of diseases.</td>
<td>There has been an increase in gathering wild foods, hunting and fishing in many areas as a result of low household food stocks. Last year’s poor rains and resultant low water levels reduced harvests and access to important off-farm foods such as fish and wild plants. Seasonal rains started on time in southern states; the planting of 2010/11 of coarse grains, mainly sorghum, was recently completed.</td>
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<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Food consumption has improved in general as a result of low prices for staple foods and increased terms of trade. The exceptions to this were Nanargarah and Kunar in the east, the south-west, and Badakhshan in the north-east, where harvests failed.</td>
<td>Wheat prices declined from May 2008 to May 2010. In January–June 2010, the average price of wheat was 26% lower than the average price in 2009; that of rice was 7% lower. Compared with the five-year average, the average price of wheat fell by 18% and that of rice by 4%. The price of wheat decreased by 9.5% in June 2010 compared with January; that of rice decreased by 13%.</td>
<td>Purchasing power among labourers has improved since May 2008, largely because wheat prices have fallen and casual labour wages have increased. Terms of trade between casual labour and wheat improved by 0.5% in June compared with May and by 21.3% compared with January 2010.</td>
<td>Households that experienced harvest failures in eastern, north-eastern and south-western areas have had to reduce the quality and quantity of meals, increase labour migration and reduce expenditure.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Food security has improved as a result of lower prices and improved purchasing power. The two consecutive bumper harvests of wheat have also helped to improve food security throughout the country.</td>
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<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Among food-insecure households in the Mid-Western and Far-Western development regions, 50% consume cereals daily, pulses or lentils on one or two days a week, green vegetables on two or three days a week and oil on two to five days a week.</td>
<td>The prices of all types of rice—the main staple—have decreased as the supply of rice increased during the main harvest in December–February. The price of second-quality rice fell by 20% compared with January 2010; the price of low-quality rice fell by 7.1%.</td>
<td>Household purchasing power grew as the supply of rice increased and prices fell during the main harvest. The terms of trade are more favourable for labourers: terms of trade for unskilled wage-earners and low-quality rice increased by 4.3% compared with January 2010.</td>
<td>Rice production in 2009/10 – the main harvest was in December, January and February – was 26% higher than the previous year, resulting in a 2.2 million mt surplus of milled rice. Rice planting and transplanting began in May and June, but low rainfall and low water levels in the Mekong and Tonle Sap this year could intensify the annual droughts and affect production.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>The food security situation has improved with the approaching post-harvest season. Relatively stable wages have ensured an increase in household purchasing power. Food security is likely to deteriorate in the August–November lean season, however, because increases in the price of rice could negatively impact household purchasing power and the food and drought season will be starting.</td>
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<td>Nepal</td>
<td>The overall food consumption score of 45 is lower than the previous round, when it was 50, last year’s 53. The diet of most households remains poor and not diversified with meat, fruit and beans, which are rarely eaten more than once a week. The overall food consumption score is still acceptable at &gt;35.</td>
<td>The quarterly price of rice in April, May and June was 10% higher than 12 months ago; that of wheat flour was 18% higher. Compared with the five-year average, the price of wheat increased by 141% and that of rice by 77%. In April, May and June 2010 market prices for staple winter-crop foods such as wheat and barley declined following the winter harvest.</td>
<td>There were more wage and non-wage workers under government and non-government schemes during April, May and June. The proportion of households participating in wage labour in the mountain region, for example, increased by 13%.</td>
<td>A higher proportion of children with MUAC less than 125mm, indicating severe acute and moderate acute malnutrition, was observed.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>The 2009/10 winter harvest was stable except in mid-western and far-western hill and mountain districts assessed as highly food-insecure. During April, May and June 2010, some areas showed a slight improvement after the winter harvest and as labour opportunities became available.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>The overall food consumption score of 45 is lower than the previous round, when it was 50, last year’s 53. The diet of most households remains poor and not diversified with meat, fruit and beans, which are rarely eaten more than once a week. The overall food consumption score is still acceptable at &gt;35.</td>
<td>The quarterly price of wheat is 14% lower than 12 months ago. Compared with the five-year average, the price of wheat has increased by 98%. Loss of employment, bankruptcy of businesses and livelihoods affect household purchasing power and access to food.</td>
<td>In view of the lack of potable water in the coming months, illness among children was identified as a major concern.</td>
<td>CSI is at its highest since May 2009. The negative coping strategies adopted by households include relying on less expensive but less nutritious foods, purchasing food on credit and limiting the number of meals per day. N.B. Between 49% to 97% of households have contracted new debts for food purchases.</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Wheat cultivation by households was relatively low because of an 18% shortage of irrigation water, a 10% lack of seeds or seedlings and a 20% lack of land. The food security situation worsened as a result of declining disposable incomes, the adverse effects of high-risk coping strategies and declining household food consumption, which have combined to reduce households’ resilience to shocks.</td>
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**Main staple:**
- **Maize**
- **Millet**
- **Sorghum**
- **Rice**
- **Wheat**
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<td>BOLIVIA</td>
<td>An initial evaluation by the Government and the United Nations in the drought-affected region of El Chaco showed that 19,595 families were reducing their food consumption. The average number of meals per day has fallen from three to two, and to one in some cases.</td>
<td>During the first six months of 2010, food prices remained generally stable. The price of rice was 6% lower than the average price of 2009; the price of wheat flour was up to 10% less than the average price of 2009.</td>
<td>The Government continues to expand cash transfer programmes, particularly to families with children attending school and to pregnant woman and mothers of children under 2. This is expected to have a positive impact on the purchasing power of households in rural and peri-urban areas.</td>
<td>The evaluation in El Chaco identified constraints on access to safe water and an increase in the prevalence of diarrhoea among children under 5.</td>
<td>In El Chaco region, increased migration and reduced food intake are the main household coping strategies.</td>
<td>The important rice crop was expected to be 10% less in 2009/10 than in 2008/09, but still higher than the five-average. Maize production was expected to be slightly lower than in 2008/09.</td>
<td>Although agricultural production for the 2009/10 season was slightly lower than in 2008/09, food prices have remained stable. The food security situation has remained unchanged, with the exception of the drought-affected area of El Chaco, where there was a deterioration.</td>
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</table>

**Main staple:** Maize, Millet, Rice, Sorghum, Wheat
Annex: Selected set of food security monitoring indicators and their application

i. **Food consumption (column B)**[^1] denotes the quality and quantity of food consumed in the household. The Food Consumption Score (FCS), also used in this context, is a composite score that is a good proxy of food consumption because it takes into account dietary diversity, food frequency and relative nutritional importance of different food groups.

Using standard cut off points, poor food consumption denotes a daily diet comprising mainly of 2 types of foods (primarily cereal/tuber and vegetables), while borderline consumption denotes a daily diet comprising mainly 2 types of foods and an additional food item for 2-3 times a week, but not sufficient to meet dietary adequacy.

ii. **Prices (column C)** are retail prices of the first 6 months of 2010, which are compared with those of 2009, and where significant comparisons are made to the five year average.

iii. **Purchasing power (column D)** is the ratio of two prices: a commodity being sold and a food staple being purchased.

iv. **Malnutrition (column E)** is an indication of insufficient, excessive or imbalanced consumption of essential food. Methods used to collect this information include a variety of anthropometric measures such as weight, height, age and mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC).

v. **Coping strategies (column F)** denote the 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.

vi. **Production (column G)** reflects aggregate levels of production that have an impact on national or sub-national food availability.

vii. **Beneficiaries** are households receiving food assistance.

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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.

### Acknowledgements

Preparation of the Global Update is supported by the Food Security Monitoring team: Wanja Kaaria, Francesco Slaviero and Rama Mwanundu. The team is grateful for valuable inputs received from regional vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) advisers and country office VAM staff.

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

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<td>AIDS</td>
<td>acquired immune deficiency syndrome</td>
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<td>CFSAM</td>
<td>crop and food security assessment mission</td>
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<td>CILSS</td>
<td>Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel</td>
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<td>CPI</td>
<td>consumer price index</td>
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<td>CSI</td>
<td>coping strategy index</td>
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<td>DRC</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
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<td>EFSA</td>
<td>emergency food security assessment</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<td>FCS</td>
<td>food consumption score</td>
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<td>FEWS-NET</td>
<td>Famine Early-Warning Systems Network</td>
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<td>FSNAU</td>
<td>Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit</td>
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<td>GAM</td>
<td>global acute malnutrition</td>
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<td>GIEWS</td>
<td>Global Information and Early-Warning System</td>
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<td>GOSS</td>
<td>Government of Southern Sudan</td>
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<td>HIV</td>
<td>human immunodeficiency virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>internally displaced person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPC</td>
<td>integrated phase classification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRIN</td>
<td>Integrated Regional Information Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUAC</td>
<td>Mid-upper arm circumference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIS</td>
<td>National Statistical Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPCA</td>
<td>Food Crisis Prevention Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIFSIA</td>
<td>Sudan Institutional Capacity Programme: Food Security Information for Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNNPR</td>
<td>Southern Nations Nationalities and People’s Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOT</td>
<td>terms of trade</td>
</tr>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
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Information Sources

- CILSS. Notes d’Information sur la Sécurité Alimentaire.
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