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# Global Update Food Security Monitoring

July - December 2010 • Issue no. 4

The Global Update provides food security information in terms of trends in food access and utilization. The main food access indicators reported are food consumption, coping strategies and terms of trade: these indicators reflect food security status and so enable early identification of potential increases in food insecurity.

This update provides information on 35 countries for the period July–December 2010.

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



**Improved:**

Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Sudan (Darfur), Southern Sudan, Zambia.



**No Change:**

Afghanistan, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana (Northern Region), Guinea Conakry, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Zimbabwe.

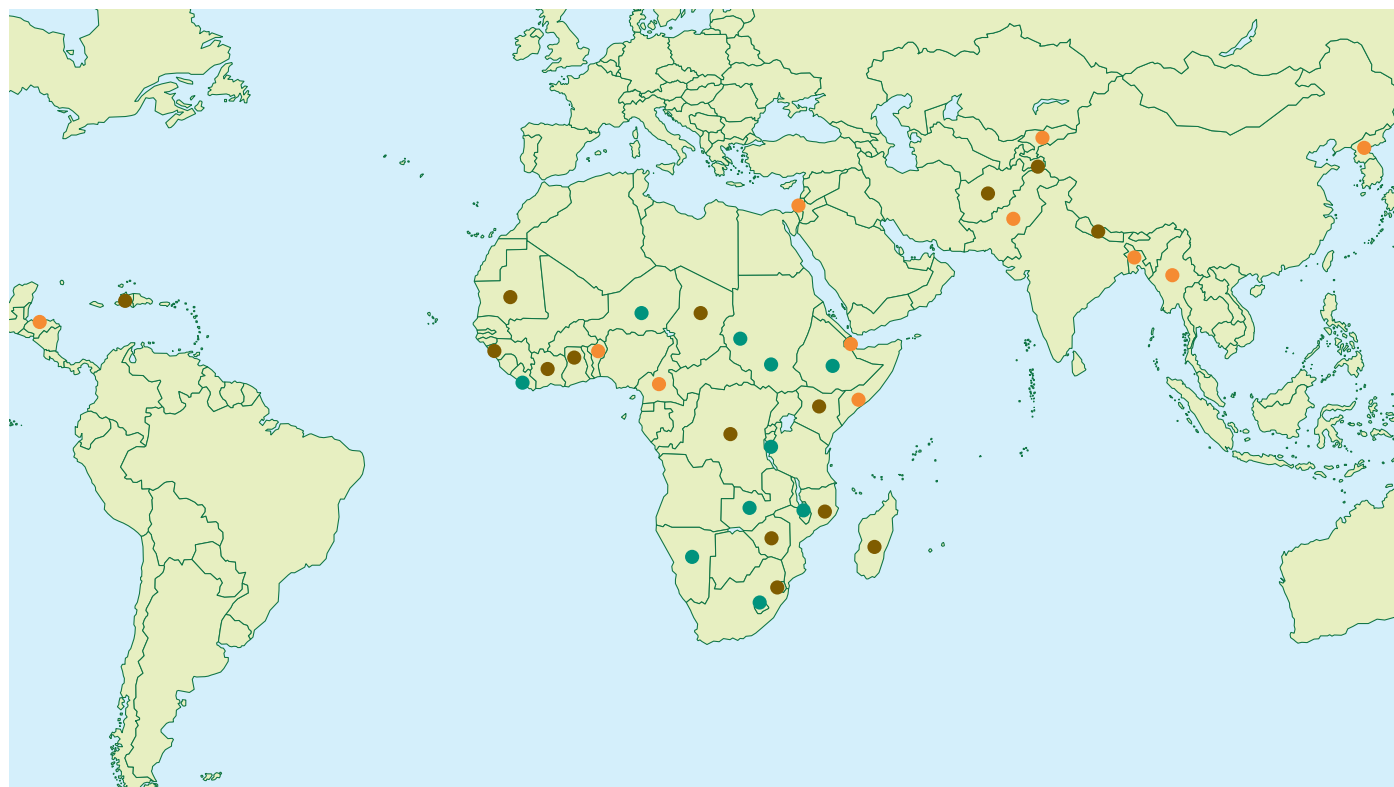


**Deteriorated:**

Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Djibouti, Honduras, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Pakistan, Somalia.

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


## 35 countries covered by the Global Update





## Table: Food security trends in selected countries - July - December 2010

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

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

 **Improved:** Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Sudan (Darfur), Southern Sudan, Zambia.



 **No Change:** Afghanistan, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana (Northern Region), Guinea Conakry, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Zimbabwe.

 **Deteriorated:** Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Djibouti, Honduras, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Pakistan, Somalia.

Countries (A)	Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)	
East and Southern Africa	<b>BURUNDI</b>	In the north, where chronic food insecurity persists, households reduced their food consumption to one or two meals per day. This was attributed to poor cassava production coupled with the need to repay in-kind debts.	Between September and December, the price of beans at the national level fell by <b>2%</b> , the price of sweet potatoes rose by <b>2%</b> and the price of maize rose by <b>6%</b> compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of maize has risen by <b>26%</b> and the price of sweet potatoes has risen by <b>70%</b> .	The purchasing power of agricultural labourers declined because the upward trend in food prices was not matched by an increase in wages. Renewed violence limited access to areas with more lucrative labour opportunities, affecting the <b>80%</b> of poorer households whose income is largely dependent on agricultural labour.	There was an <b>80%</b> increase in cases of acute malnutrition at Kirundo hospital in November compared with October, which may be linked to the high incidence of measles in Vumbi health district. Food distribution programmes targeting vulnerable children and lactating mothers were scaled up, especially in areas where there are high concentrations of returnees.	In the October-December lean season, poor people migrated from the northern and eastern depressions in search of daily labour opportunities. Other common coping strategies included limiting the number and quality of meals for adults and children.  <i>NB: About 500,000 returnees continue to have limited access to arable land: this has resulted in disputes and difficulties that affect resettlement, re-integration and production.</i>	As a result of an extended dry period in the last quarter of 2010, the start of the 2011A season was delayed and there was a consequent reduction in the planted area, particularly in the northeast. Harvesting of the main 2010B season crops was completed in July. Overall cereal production for 2010 was estimated to be <b>2%</b> higher than in 2009. Increases were recorded for cereals, tubers and bananas, which offset the decline in the production of beans. Coffee production significantly increased to an estimated 30,000 mt compared with 6,500 mt in 2009.	Overall food security improved as a result of increased food production in 2010 and an annual decline in food prices.  <i>NB: The situation was reported as stable during the first half of 2010. Monitoring of food prices and the food security of returnees and IDPs is recommended, particularly in the northeast.</i>
	<b>DRC</b>	In Katanga, food consumption improved in the areas surveyed in July except for Bukama, Lubudi, Kalemie and Pweto. Only <b>9.1%</b> of the households surveyed had poor consumption. The proportion of households with acceptable food consumption has increased by <b>0.3%</b> among HIV and AIDS beneficiaries and by <b>6.9%</b> among food for work beneficiaries compared with the situation in 2008. The trend remains downward, however, for supplementary feeding beneficiaries.	At the national level, the price of cassava products fell by <b>1%</b> . The price of maize rose by <b>2%</b> in the last quarter of the year compared with the previous quarter.	The area planted has decreased between <b>15%</b> and <b>20%</b> since 2008, with negative impacts on household production, incomes and purchasing power. Not all households may be affected, however, particularly those with sources of income other than agriculture.	Preliminary results of a multiple indicator cluster survey released in September 2010 indicated that acute malnutrition remains a serious concern in the provinces of Bandundu, Equateur, Oriental, Kasai-Occidental and Bas Congo, where global acute malnutrition rates are <b>10%</b> or more.	In Katanga region, households are utilizing less severe coping strategies less frequently. This is reflected in the steady decline of the coping strategy index since November 2009. The trend is increasing, however, in Bukama, Kambove, Kasenga, Kalemie, Pweto and Kolwezi.	Cereal production in 2010 fell by <b>5%</b> compared with previous years, but remained well above the five-year average.	Despite improvements in some territories, the overall food security and nutrition situation remains fragile for most of the population. In some areas, isolation and poor access to food as a result of conflict is a major factor affecting agriculture, which is the main livelihood strategy in rural areas: 32 territories in most of the provinces have moved from IPC phase 2 to phase 3, which reflects a deterioration of the food security.

See Annex for detailed information on the indicators.

**Main staple:**  Cassava  Maize  Millet  Rice  Sorghum  Wheat

Countries (A)	Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)	
East and Southern Africa	DJIBOUTI	In towns, poor and middle-wealth groups have reduced the number of meals consumed per day from three to two. In rural areas, the percentage of households with a poor food consumption score increased from the <b>32%</b> in the May 2010 emergency food security assessment to <b>50%</b> in the December 2010 food security monitoring system survey.	At the national level, the prices of wheat flour and rice fell by <b>7%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of wheat flour increased by <b>20%</b> and the price of rice by <b>73%</b> .	Terms of trade are favourable for pastoralists in the southern provinces of Dikhil and Arta and in western parts of Tadjourah and Ali Sabieh as a result of improving livestock conditions. The purchasing power of wage earners has decreased because opportunities for casual labour are few and remittances have declined.	A survey by <i>Médecins sans frontières</i> in August 2010 in the Balbala area of Djibouti city showed critical levels of malnutrition: global acute malnutrition was <b>19.5%</b> and severe acute malnutrition was <b>3.6%</b> . These figures are attributable to poverty, poor dietary habits and poor hygiene.	Households are reporting severe coping strategies more frequently. The CSI in 2010 almost doubled in three regions, with an overall score of 24. Poorer households are coping by increasing sales of firewood and charcoal; wealthier households depend on remittance to buffer effects of rising prices, but the remittances are declining. To mitigate the effects of drought, the Government has abolished taxes on food and some agricultural inputs.	The <i>la Niñawas</i> the probable cause of drier-than-normal conditions during the October-December rainy season. In the north-western and south-eastern pastoral areas, grazing resources are being depleted rapidly: they may not last until the beginning of the next rainy season in March 2011. In coastal pastoral areas, poor heys/dada (October-March) rains reduced the availability of pasture and water, with a consequent fall in milk production.	The food security situation has progressively deteriorated as a result of drought, high staple food prices, declining remittances and reduced purchasing power among wage earners. Since 2005, pastoralists have been affected by successive years of drought that have caused a substantial decline in livestock holdings. In November 2010, The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs issued an appeal on behalf of 120,000 vulnerable pastoralists in need of humanitarian assistance. The situation in towns is also critical: about 60,000 people are food-insecure. 
	ETHIOPIA	Food consumption has improved as a result of good livestock conditions and increased availability of milk, particularly in Afar and two northern zones in the Somali region. Households in food-producing areas have increased access to food following the good <i>meher</i> (main season) harvest. But households experienced food access problems in areas where harvests were poor because of floods, hailstorms, waterlogging and crop pests.	At the national level, wholesale prices increased by <b>4%</b> for maize and <b>2%</b> for wheat in December 2010 compared with September 2010. The price of wheat was <b>13%</b> higher and the price of sorghum <b>17%</b> higher than the long-term average.	In Gode market in Somali region, the terms of trade between <i>shoats</i> and cereals in December 2010 was <b>20%</b> below the 2009 level. This deterioration in purchasing power among pastoralists was a result of a rise in maize prices and a slight decline in the prices for young animals. Improvements in terms of trade were observed in Jijiga and Dire Dawa markets. Where terms of trade declined pastoralists were forced to increase sales of livestock to purchase food.	Overall, the nutrition situation remained stable: this was reflected in significant declines in admission rates to outpatient therapeutic centres and therapeutic feeding programmes. There were, however, increased levels of malnutrition in the isolated administrative divisions of Degabur and Gode in Somali region and Ebinat in Amhara.	Poor and very poor households in most livelihoods usually experience significant deficits and rely on food assistance for their basic needs. Food assistance deters households from employing distress coping mechanisms, but strategies such as migration to find temporary employment, increased sales of ruminants, charcoal production and firewood collection were employed by some households.	The 2010 <i>meher</i> (June-September) and <i>belg</i> (March-April) seasons were productive, and the <i>keremt</i> long rains from June to September were above average. Production prospects for the <i>meher</i> , which provides up to <b>95%</b> of annual crop production, are positive; coarse grain production is expected to increase by <b>25%</b> compared with 2010. The good <i>keremt</i> rains in 2010 also helped to improve conditions for livestock and the availability of milk. In view of the abundant domestic cereal supplies, import requirements for 2011 are about <b>50%</b> less than previous years. Abnormal <i>keremt</i> rains in many parts of the country caused severe floods that affected 900,000 people in Amhara, Tigray, Gambella, Afar and Somali regions.	The food security situation improved during the second half of 2010 in most parts of Ethiopia, with lower market prices, improved livestock conditions and favourable crop production. The situation was further stabilized by continuing humanitarian assistance programmes supporting the most vulnerable households, which are concentrated in the Somali, Tigray and Oromia regions. The number of people in need of emergency food assistance continued to decline: the figure was estimated at 2.3 million in the last part of the year, a decline of <b>50%</b> .  <i>NB: The food security situation was reported as stable in the first half of the year.</i> 

Main staple:



Cassava



Maize



Millet




Rice



Sorghum



Wheat

Countries (A)	Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)	
East and Southern Africa	KENYA	Most pastoralist households in northeastern and northwestern regions reported improved dietary diversity, with households consuming at least four food groups. This was attributed to increased levels of disposable income. But poor households in slums have been reducing the size and frequency of meals.  <i>NB: The good harvests in 2010 and the current decline in maize prices have improved food access, especially for low-income market-dependent households in urban and pastoral areas.</i>	At the national level, the price of maize rose by 3% between September and December 2010 compared with the previous quarter and by <b>16%</b> compared with the five-year average.	Terms of trade for pastoralists have improved: livestock prices are up to <b>80%</b> higher than normal across the country, a reflection of the continued availability of pasture, fodder and water and a general absence of serious livestock diseases. The current high livestock prices are, however, moderated but not offset by cereal prices that are up to <b>45%</b> above average in some north-eastern and north-western areas.	Improvements in nutritional status have been reported country-wide but a close watch is maintained in arid and semi-arid areas, where global acute malnutrition rates range from <b>5.8%</b> to <b>32.2%</b> . Eight districts recorded very high malnutrition rates during the last quarter of 2010, up from six in the previous quarter. The nutritional status of children under 5 has improved, with mid-upper arm circumference recorded at <b>20%</b> to <b>30%</b> lower than the five-year average in Laikipia, Tana River, Turkana, north-eastern Mandera and Baringo.	Poor households in slums spend up to <b>75%</b> of their income on staple foods; many families cope by reducing the size and frequency of meals. Thousands of families migrated in search of water, pasture and forage from northern regions. Abnormal and distress migration was reportedly lower than usual and also started later in many areas.	2010 long-rains cereal production is expected to be favourable due to abundant and well distributed precipitations, especially in Central, Western and Nyanza provinces as well as in key producing areas of the Rift Valley highlands. Maize production is estimated at 2.75 million tonnes, well above the 5-year average and about <b>30%</b> more than the previous long-rains season that was severely affected by drought. In Eastern and Northern pastoral areas, however, perennial drought conditions combined with the poor 2010 rains, are affecting pastoralists and threatening more than 22 million livestock.	Overall good maize production and decline in prices resulted in improved food availability, access and nutritional status. However, the situation in north and eastern parts of the country remains fairly critical as thousands of pastoralist households are at risk of being food insecure. The overall food security situation remained stable when compared to the last reporting period. The situation may however deteriorate as drought worsens in the pastoralist areas.  <i>NB. First half of last year reported an improving situation.</i>  
		LESOTHO	Information on food consumption was not available for this reporting period.	At the national level, the price of maize fell by <b>1%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, maize prices increased by <b>28%</b> .	There were reduced income-earning opportunities as a result of the economic downturn, but factors such as the decline in the food inflation rate from <b>3.8%</b> in September to <b>3.7%</b> in October are likely to have a positive impact on the purchasing power of poor households.  <i>NB: In September fuel prices decreased by 5% compared with the same period in 2009. The consumer price index maintained a downward trend from 3.3% in September to 3.1% per annum in October.</i>	Lesotho continues to have the third highest HIV prevalence rate in the world, after Swaziland and Botswana.	There has been a significant decrease in the number of people and households requiring food assistance, reflecting more favourable food-security conditions.	Moderate rainfall in October was followed by increased levels in November and December, which led to some waterlogging. Favourable rainfall and access to inputs contributed to an increase in maize and sorghum production: cereal production for the 2009/10 season is estimated at <b>59%</b> above the previous year, with increases in maize, sorghum and wheat.

Main staple:



Cassava



Maize



Millet






Rice



Sorghum



Wheat

Countries (A)		Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)
East and Southern Africa	MADAGASCAR	Food consumption has improved in rice-producing areas compared with last year. But the situation has worsened in areas prone to natural disasters, with a <b>14% to 29%</b> increase in the proportion of households with poor food consumption compared with last year. Households headed by women are more likely to have poor food consumption than those headed by men.	At the national level, the price of domestic rice rose by <b>4%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, domestic rice prices have increased by <b>14%</b> .	The terms of trade between livestock and cereals started to decrease in September, adversely affecting pastoralists. In Antananarivo a further loss of purchasing power in real terms was noted in 2010 compared with 2006. The average monthly remuneration of labour has fallen by <b>3.8%</b> per year.	Morbidity among children under 5 in urban areas of Antananarivo remains high at <b>7.5%</b> ; the rate among adults is <b>18%</b> . Most households in Antananarivo and Tulear use water from improved sources, and the use of latrines is universal in both cities, resulting in fewer water-borne diseases.	To augment incomes, many households are seeking to diversify income sources by engaging in informal employment.	High rainfall in the drought-prone areas during the fourth quarter was beneficial for crop production. Food crops were generally good in 2010: production of rice was <b>4%</b> higher than in 2009. Erratic rains in the south and west regions, however, resulted in poor production levels; there was a <b>40%</b> loss of rice in Anosy. There are fears of a locust outbreak, which would threaten the livelihoods of 460,000 rural households, so monitoring will continue.	The food-security situation improved after the deterioration reported during the first half of 2010 and remained stable during the second half of the year. Food is reported as available across the country, with pockets of persistent insecurity in areas affected by droughts and cyclones.  <i>NB: Up to 52 communes in the south were food-insecure at the end of 2010, with ten reported as acutely food-insecure.</i> 
	MALAWI	Many households have already reduced the number of daily meals from three to one. Typically, 70% of household consumption comes from home production.	At the national level, maize prices decreased by 22 percent compared to the previous quarter. In Lilongwe, the price of maize rose by 25% compared with the same month in 2009. Maize prices are still 33% above their long-term average. In southern markets, prices remained low.	A bumper harvest of maize, the staple food, helped to hold down food prices, which account for more than 50% of inflation. Food price inflation was 3.2% in November compared with 6.3% in the same month the previous year. In southern regions, household incomes were affected by lower market price and a downturn in cotton production.  <i>NB: Consumer price inflation slowed to 6.4% year-on-year in November, the lowest in 20 years.</i>	Malnutrition (wasting) remains low in general, ranging from 2.6% in the north to 3.6% in the south and 3.9% in the central region. On the other hand, the prevalence of underweight ranged from 10.7% to 12.2%.	Households in the south are coping by reducing the number of daily meals from three to one, selling small livestock such as goats and consuming water lilies. Poorer households are relying much more on food aid from WFP, the Government and non-governmental organizations.	The maize crop for 2010 was above average, though lower than the record output of 2009, as a result of good rains between October and December in southern and central regions. The October harvest of sweet potatoes improved the availability of food, especially in the lower shire livelihood zone. Planting of the main maize crop for the 2010/11 season is complete in most parts of the country.	Malawi's food-security situation is improving as a result of the bumper maize harvest, declining maize prices and decreasing levels of malnutrition. An assessment carried in November 2010 estimated that 508,088 people will require food assistance, 50% fewer than in June, when food security was declining.  <i>NB: In the first half of 2010 the food-security situation was reported as declining.</i> 
	MOZAMBIQUE	A Vulnerability Assessment Committee survey in August reported 66% of households with an acceptable diet and 11% with poor diet, most of which were in the central provinces of Tete and Manica.	At the national level, the price of maize fell by 7% and the price of imported rice rose by 3% between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of maize rose by 83% and the price of imported rice by 134%.	Favourable agro-climatic conditions increased the availability of paid agricultural labour, with a consequent increase in purchasing power. However, the purchasing power of most market-dependent households will probably be reduced as a result of high food prices.  <i>NB: Water shortages in Chigubo in the northern part of the Gaza province is forcing people to share water with animals and to obtain it from marginally portable sources. Outbreaks of cholera and diarrhoea are feared.</i>	High levels of acute malnutrition - 8.9% - were reported in Nampula province, but prevalence in the other provinces is less than 5%, which is considered acceptable.  <i>NB: Water shortages in Chigubo in the northern part of the Gaza province is forcing people to share water with animals and to obtain it from marginally portable sources. Outbreaks of cholera and diarrhoea are feared.</i>	More households in the semi-arid areas are at risk of food insecurity. To cope with deficits these households are selling firewood, charcoal and traditional alcohol products. These are typical low risk-coping strategies. Monitoring is required to flag the adoption of distress-related coping strategies.	The 2009/10 rains were delayed in much of the country and rainfall distribution was irregular. National maize production declined by 3% from the previous year's record but was above the five-year average. Rice production fell by 30% compared with the previous year. Production of beans, groundnuts and cassava was satisfactory. Normal and above-normal rainfall fell in most parts of the country between October and December, the start of the 2010/11 agriculture season. These favourable conditions resulted in more land preparation and an increased harvest.	The food-security situation remains steady as a result of stable crop production and declining maize prices. Pockets of food insecurity remain, however: 350,000 people from poor households living in arid and semi-arid regions require food assistance until the next major harvest in March 2011.  

Main staple:



Cassava



Maize



Millet



Rice



Sorghum



Wheat

Countries (A)	Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)	
East and Southern Africa	NAMIBIA	Farmers consume more from home production than from purchases. Access to food remains a concern in the northeast, which was recently affected by floods.	At the national level, cereal prices rose in November by <b>4.5%</b> compared with the previous year and were slightly higher than in October.	Purchasing power among farmers improved because profit margins increased as a result of input price subsidies. The Government continued to subsidize seeds and fertilizer by <b>50%</b> and the Ministry of Agriculture provided government tractors at a subsidized rate to increase productivity in the northern communal agricultural areas.	The northern region, where <b>77%</b> of the children surveyed were acutely malnourished, remains a concern. Monitoring will be required in the coming months.	All households, with the exception of those in Caprivi and Kavango regions, reported food stocks that would last until the next harvest. Floods and consequent poor harvests affected some households, particularly in the lowlands; these communities remain largely dependent on government food assistance.	Cereal production in 2009/10 was <b>40%</b> higher than the previous season. Millet production increased significantly relative to the poor harvest the previous year; maize production was unchanged because the increase in irrigated areas offset poor crop production in the dry land areas of Caprivi and Kavango in the northeast, where planting was hampered by floods for the third consecutive year.  <i>NB: Heavy rains in December caused flooding along the Orange River border with South Africa.</i>	The food-security situation has improved as a result of a good harvest and lower food prices; the situation was reported as stable during the first half of 2010. The Government is providing farmers with vouchers to buy subsidized inputs. In the north, the Government will also provide food assistance.
	SOMALIA	According to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit quarterly brief of November 2010, households in Northeast region consumed on average 6.5 food groups. Consumption of cereals, sugar, oil and milk was high; most households in the northeast pastoral zone had a good diet. Food access among poor households in the south is a major concern as a result of increased cereal prices and reduced labour activity. Support is urgently needed to provide incomes or food for these households.	Low cereal production in the 2010 deyr (January and February) season and consequent hoarding by farmers and traders resulted in a sharp increase in the prices of sorghum and maize in southern and central Somalia. Compared with December 2009, sorghum prices increased by <b>80%</b> in the sorghum producing regions; maize prices are 57 percent higher in maize producing regions. The terms of trade between labour and cereals in December 2010 fell in all crop-producing areas compared with December 2009. The largest decline - <b>80%</b> - in the same period was observed in central regions.	There has been deterioration in the terms of trade between both sorghum and wage labour and sorghum and goat (favouring pastoralists) due to an increase in the price of sorghum over the observed period. Low agricultural activity deprived poor households of on-farm labour opportunities and led to a decrease in wages and purchasing power.	Malnutrition rates have increased during the past six months in southern regions, especially Juba, Gedo and Middle Shabelle. Of the estimated 241,000 malnourished children in the country, <b>75%</b> are in the conflict-stricken southern regions. WFP is operational in the central region of Somalia, where the food-security situation has remained relatively stable since last season; the nutrition situation showed major improvements.	Poor households in most regions of Somalia employ severe coping strategies: <b>70-80%</b> in South, <b>63%</b> in Central and up to <b>45%</b> in North. Poor pastoral populations are severely affected because they have limited opportunities for migration, few assets and eroded coping capacity after consecutive seasons of drought.	Following the poor performance of the deyr rains in November and December, the availability of pasture and water has been significantly reduced in southern and central regions, with consequent abnormal migrations of livestock in search of grazing. The physical condition of livestock is generally poor, and animals are likely to deteriorate further during the coming dry season.	The country is facing a severe and increasingly acute drought following the complete failure of the 2010/11 deyr rains: 2.4 million Somalis are in need of humanitarian assistance or livelihood support. This <b>20%</b> increase over the situation six months ago is partly attributable to food insecurity caused by poor rains, insecurity and displacement. The impact of the failed deyr season is felt throughout the country: water supplies have declined, cereal prices are increasing and livestock deaths are being reported in many areas.
	SWAZILAND	Food consumption is likely to have improved in 20 constituencies as a result of the Government's distribution of food aid.	At the national level, the retail price of maize meal rose by <b>29%</b> compared with the previous quarter.	Remittances from South Africa have decreased and unemployment has increased following the closure of several textile and clothing factories. This has led to a decline in the purchasing power of the households concerned.	There was an outbreak of suspected h1n1 swine flu that affected schoolchildren and some adults in Matabeleland province in the north.	More households are coping by relying on government food aid, which has been distributed in 20 constituencies across the country.	Maize production, which was <b>25%</b> above the previous five-year average, will cover <b>50%</b> of national requirement. Rainfall in late November and early December improved after a mid-season dry spell. Production of sugar cane, an important cash crop, is forecast to increase in the current season.	The food security situation remained stable as a result of good food production, despite increasing food prices, reduced remittances and declining labour opportunities. The number of people in need of food assistance has fallen: 161,000 people require food assistance until the next harvest in April 2011.

Main staple:



Cassava



Maize



Millet









Rice



Sorghum



Wheat

Countries (A)	Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)	
East and Southern Africa	ZAMBIA	In the western and southern provinces, poorer households are consuming smaller portions and fewer preferred foods.	At the national level, the price of maize fell by 6% between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, maize prices have increased by <b>39%</b> .	Large numbers of livestock and high storage costs are posing a challenge to farmers. Damage caused by animal pests and heavy rains may have significantly reduced their earnings and consequently their purchasing power.	Outbreaks of water-borne diseases and cholera are increasing as a result of flooding and poor drainage.	In the lean season that began in November, households are employing moderately severe coping strategies such as increasing paid labour, barter, increasing consumption of less preferred foods, fishing and livestock sales. Poor households will rely on labour opportunities, which are expected to remain good during the land preparation and planting periods.	Maize production was <b>48%</b> more than the previous year's harvest: the national surplus is estimated at 1 million mt for the 2010/11 marketing year. Planting for the 2010/11 season is complete in most areas, with sufficient rainfall in November and early December. 	
	ZIMBABWE	In <b>62%</b> of surveyed rural wards, most households reported that they had exhausted stocks from their own production in early October, an increase from the <b>51%</b> reported the previous month.	At the national level, the price of maize increased by <b>15%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Whilst maize prices have increased by <b>349%</b> compared with the five-year average.	Terms of trade are favourable for livestock traders because the prices of cattle have risen faster than the prices of grains. They are particularly favourable in Chiredzi, where livestock is exchanged for approximately 1,000 kg of maize grain; as more households run out of stock, the terms of trade became even more favourable for livestock traders.	Water-borne diseases such as cholera and livestock-related diseases have decreased dramatically, even with the onset of the rains.	Reports indicate that households' access to food is becoming more difficult. Coping strategies include consumption of wild foods, firewood sales and reducing the number and size of meals. Some households are coping by relying on government food aid, which has been distributed to 221,000 individuals. WFP's safety-net programmes are reaching more people than in the first half of the year.	Good rains supported planting during November and early December, particularly in the southern provinces of Matabeleland and Masvingo. National maize production is <b>7%</b> more than the previous year's output. The liberalization of the grain market has helped to improve the availability of cereal products. 	 <i>NB: Policy reforms such as the use of multiple convertible currencies and the removal of price controls have helped to stabilize the economy.</i>
West Africa	BENIN	Food consumption is low as a result of poor harvests and reduced food supplies in markets. Households are increasingly resorting to the consumption of crops such as beans and corn instead of maize, the main staple.	At the national level, the price of maize rose by <b>16%</b> , the price of cassava products by <b>2%</b> and the price of rice by <b>7%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, maize prices have increased by <b>81%</b> and rice prices by <b>105%</b> .	The terms of trade between daily casual labour and wheat deteriorated by <b>3%</b> in November 2010 compared with October: wages for casual labour could be exchanged in November for 18 kg of wheat compared with 18.6 kg in October. Compared with November 2009, terms of trade improved by an average <b>13%</b> .	Malnutrition levels were reportedly highest in the north as a result of severe poverty. Actual figures were not available.	Following the floods, which caused considerable damage, many households resorted to relying on non-governmental organizations and humanitarian agencies to provide food assistance.	Harvest prospects were mixed following below-normal rains during planting and subsequent erratic rainfall in most parts of the country. Food production in 2010 was lower than last year's record crop. 	 <i>NB: The decline follows a stable trend reported during the first half of 2010.</i>

Main staple:



Cassava



Maize



Millet






Rice



Sorghum



Wheat

Countries (A)	Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)	
West Africa	CAMEROON	A significant <b>24%</b> of households have poor food consumption.	At the national level, the price of maize rose by <b>26%</b> and the price of rice by <b>7%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, maize prices have increased by <b>56%</b> and rice prices by <b>39%</b> .	Declining employment opportunities and income-generating activities have led to a decline in household purchasing power.	Only <b>2.9%</b> of native households in Adamawa, excluding refugees from the Central African Republic, have access to potable water. This contributes to the high incidence of water-borne diseases.	To cope with food insecurity, <b>52%</b> of households reduced the size of meals, <b>46%</b> reduced the number of daily meals and <b>40%</b> consumed less preferred and cheaper foods.	Maize production has increased following an increase in the area cultivated. Refugees from the Central African Republic do not have easy access to land for agriculture and housing or lack the financial means to hire labour, which reduces potential crop production.	 The food security situation has deteriorated as a result of declining maize production, increased inflation, lack of employment opportunities, poor access to water and lack of access to land for subsistence cultivation.
	CHAD	There were reports at the end of August of a continued decline in food intake in <b>25%</b> of households compared with May and July.	At the national level, the price of sorghum fell by <b>7%</b> , the price of millet by <b>14%</b> and the price of maize by <b>20%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of maize has fallen by <b>6%</b> and the price of millet by <b>15%</b> .	Livestock prices peaked between November and December, which improved the terms of trade for pastoralists exchanging livestock for grain. An increase in the number of transhumance pastoralists is creating opportunities for local employment; barter provides for in-kind wages, often in the form of milk. This accounts for <b>50%</b> of the annual food supply and <b>20%</b> of the income of poor households.	The nutritional situation was critical during the July-August lean season. There was high prevalence of global acute malnutrition, which reached alarming rates of <b>24.9%</b> in Bahr-el-Gazal and <b>24.9%</b> in Wadi-Fira according to a survey in July/August 2010 by the United Nations Children's Fund, Action contre la faim and the Ministry of Health. Sustained food and nutritional assistance in November and December is reducing the malnutrition rates.	Households employed coping strategies such as migration at the expense of cultivating fields, selling of productive assets and reliance on food aid and government-subsidized marketing programmes. In November and December, newly harvested products were available everywhere. Poor households are able to access basic foods without stress.	Rainfall has been adequate since the start of the growing season and crops have grown satisfactorily across the country. Wild grasses and hence livestock products are more widely available. The forecast for cereal production in 2010/11 is estimated at 2.6 million mt, a record for the decade. Pastoral conditions are also favourable.	 The food security situation remains stable after the deterioration reported during the first half of 2010. Food availability and access have improved as result of above-average cereal production and downward price trends. Pockets of critical malnutrition are reported, however, in the western agro-pastoral zone.
	COTE D'IVOIRE	In the western region of Bafing and the northern region of Savanes, <b>79%</b> of children aged 6-23 months consumed poorly diversified diets. Half of the households surveyed have reduced the number of daily meals.	At the national level, the price of imported rice rose by <b>1%</b> and the price of maize by <b>23%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of maize has increased by <b>6%</b> and the price of rice by <b>32%</b> .	The purchasing power of farmers has decreased because of conflicts with pastoralists. Farmers downsized their operations to save their crops from partial or complete destruction by transhumant herds. The value of cacao has been increasing in the last two years: in 2010, 1 kg of cacao was exchanged for 3.3 kg of rice, a <b>100%</b> increase over the 2009 rate of 1 kg of cacao to 1.4 kg of rice.	The prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months increased by <b>1.9%</b> in Banfing and Savanes, from <b>8.3%</b> in June to <b>9.6%</b> in September.	The coping strategy index fell in Savanes by 0.4 from June to September; in Bafing there was a 7.6 decrease over the same period. Access to food has improved as fewer households adopted high-risk coping strategies.	Inadequate rainfall and consequent poor yields and have reduced agricultural production, especially in Bafing. Recent assessments have estimated that the rice and maize harvests will be above average and better than last year.	 The food security situation has remained stable as a result of moderate increases in food prices and the value of cash crops, and improved nutritional status. Current crop production is estimated to be above average.

Main staple:



Cassava



Maize



Millet



Rice



Sorghum



Wheat



Countries (A)	Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)	
West Africa	NIGER	Households are consuming their own produce. Greater availability of water has led to an increase in production from vegetable gardens, with a consequent improvement in household diets.	At the national level, the price of millet fell by <b>11%</b> and the price of sorghum by <b>9%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of millet has risen by 17% and the price of sorghum by <b>18%</b> .	In pastoral areas, fodder production has fostered good animal health and improved terms of trade for pastoralists. The terms of trade for male goats exchanged for millet increased by <b>162%</b> in Tanout and <b>41%</b> in Dakoro compared with the previous year. The harvest period for vegetable crops along the Niger river produced good demand for labour in gardening.	Acute malnutrition affected <b>17%</b> of children under 5, a <b>36%</b> increase over the same period last year and well above the World Health Organization critical threshold. There was a <b>13%</b> decline in the number of malnourished children admitted to feeding centres in October compared with September.	Members of poor households are taking jobs as herders or selling straw and firewood; poor households are increasingly dependent on community assistance such as gifts of milk. Flood-affected families are reliant on food aid.	Crop production in the most recent harvest was estimated at 5.5 million mt, <b>41%</b> above the 5-year average; cowpea production was 1.9 million mt.	The food situation has improved as a result of excellent agro-pastoral production; downward trends in food prices have improved nutrition and household access to food. This improvement follows the deteriorating situation reported during the first half of 2010.
	GHANA	In Upper-West region, most agricultural households significantly improved their access to food from their own production or through increased on-farm labour. The proportion of sentinel sites reporting consumption of three meals per day increased from <b>10%</b> in August 2010 to <b>63%</b> in September. In Northern region, increasing prices caused households to substitute maize for millet and sorghum.	At the national level, the price of cassava increased by <b>12%</b> percent, the price of yams increased by <b>2%</b> and the price of maize remained stable between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, maize prices increased by <b>114%</b> and cassava prices by <b>125%</b> .	The labour-for-maize terms of trade increased from 5.8 kg to 8.8 kg in North region, 11 kg to 14 kg in Upper East region and 4 kg to 17 kg in Upper West region in October and November as a result of a fall in retail prices combined with an increase in the cost of labour over the reference period.	Malnutrition increased in Northern region in 2010 following floods and a consequent reduction in household access to food; in November, acute malnutrition was critical among <b>30%</b> of children. By December, lower rates of child malnutrition were observed: <b>15%</b> in Upper East region, and <b>19.3%</b> in Upper West region compared with December 2009.	Food reserves have increased in <b>80%</b> of households after the recent harvest, and households can meet their daily food needs. The risk of food insecurity remains high in flood-affected communities because many households have lost crops and livelihood assets. In the north, the deficit in groundnut production could reduce household incomes and as a result some farming areas could see an increase in the number of young people migrating to southern areas for on-farm employment.	There was a slight increase in cereal production despite erratic rainfall between March and August. Rainfall in southern regions was erratic and below the 30-year average, particularly in Volta and Eastern regions. Maize production in Upper East and Upper West regions was <b>36%</b> higher than last year. The estimated production of millet is <b>32%</b> less than last year, rice production is expected to be <b>30%</b> less than last year and groundnut production <b>15%</b> less.	The food security situation is stable following the recent good harvests of cereals, tubers and legumes. Northern Region is the area most affected by malnutrition.  <i>NB: During the first half of 2010 the nutrition situation was reported as declining.</i>
	GUINEA CONAKRY	The proportion of households consuming fewer than 12 different foods in 24 hours declined from <b>73.3%</b> to <b>62%</b> in August. Household food consumption has declined by <b>21.2%</b> since 2009 as a result of deteriorating incomes.	At the national level, the price of local rice rose by <b>55%</b> and the price of palm oil by <b>16%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of local rice has risen by <b>72%</b> and the price of palm oil by <b>54%</b> .	Average per capita income has continued to fall, from US\$439.8 in 2008 to US\$436.8 in 2009 and to US\$410.9 in 2010, with a consequent decline in disposable income.	The number of households reporting the presence of a sick child went down from <b>32%</b> to <b>22%</b> . Acute malnutrition rates are rising as a result of deteriorating macro-economic situation. According to a survey by the Monitoring of Children, Women and Families and Food Nutrition organization in the first nine months of this year, malnutrition has deteriorated month on month.	More households are relying on food aid to cope during the Ivorian crisis and 3,500 refugees are being assisted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other United Nations agencies. The distribution of food for flood victims took place in December in collaboration with the Service National de l'Action Humanitaire and the Mission Aviation Fellowship.	The 2010/11 crop year was marked by early rainfall over much of the territory and good distribution during August in various parts of the country. Gross output of paddy rice is <b>7%</b> higher than in 2009.	The food security situation has remained stable. Crop yields have been favourable, but macro-economic factors such as per capita income have decreased as staple food prices have risen, with consequent poor food consumption levels.

Main staple:



Cassava



Maize



Millet



Rice



Sorghum



Wheat

Countries (A)	Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)	
West Africa	<b>LIBERIA</b>	Food consumption among beneficiaries - 250,000 primary schoolchildren and 12,000 vulnerable people - increased as WFP provided daily cooked meals and take-home rations for girls in rural primary schools and supported vulnerable pregnant and lactating women and their infants.	At the national level, the price of butter rice remains the same but the price of palm oil rose by <b>19%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter.	Many households depend on overseas remittances, but flows have declined as a result of the USA recession and job cuts. Compared with the previous year, terms of trade remained stable or improved between 2009 and 2010 in all markets. The terms of trade between wage labour and butter rice deteriorated slightly in September/October 2010.	High food and fuel prices exacerbated food insecurity and increased the prevalence of malnutrition; both were already critical in many places.	Households continue to complement incomes with remittances, even though flows have declined, and depend on food assistance to meet their food requirements.	Following above-average rains throughout the growing season, paddy rice production was favourable. Good production in central areas attributed to the timely distribution of improved seed varieties and to favourable weather.	The food-security situation improved again during this reporting period as a result of a balance of good production, food availability and effective humanitarian assistance targeting the vulnerable poor.
	<b>MAURITANIA</b>	Between October and December many poor households were unable to meet their basic food needs, reducing daily intake and omitting meals. In rain-fed farming areas there were improvements in food access for poor households as a result of the availability of milk, cowpeas, grains, watermelons and squash.	At the national level, the price of wheat remains the same but the price of imported rice rose by <b>9%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, wheat prices have increased by <b>28%</b> and imported rice prices by <b>43%</b> .	Terms of trade favour households selling animals, despite higher prices for some imported basic foods. Prices for small animals are still high. In north-western agropastoral areas, the price of a sheep is <b>15%</b> above the September/October 2010 average and still rising.	Acute malnutrition was higher than usual during most of the fourth quarter of 2010, but it stabilized in December when poor households began to increase consumption of wild foods and river fish and obtain extra food from the first harvests of flood-recession crops.	Poor households coped by selling livestock, which is a high-risk strategy. The money generated from livestock sales was used to buy seeds and pay debts.	Good rains from July to September in most southern and central areas resulted in satisfactory crops in the main producing zones. The last crop assessment estimated record gross cereal production up to <b>42%</b> higher than in 2008/09 and <b>33%</b> higher than in the previous five years. Short-cycle crops are still being harvested; long-cycle crops are promising.	The food security situation remains stable as a result of adequate rainfall and good pastoral and agricultural performance, offsetting the effects of food price increases.
Sudan	<b>SUDAN (DARFUR ONLY)</b>	In north Darfur, a negligible proportion of households - resident, internally displaced and mixed - reported poor food consumption; none of the resident population fall into the poor consumption category. In western Darfur, the situation of resident children deteriorated, with <b>53%</b> having low diet diversity. In south Darfur, most households have acceptable food consumption; the proportion of households with poor consumption has fallen to <b>2%</b> .	In South Darfur, the price of sorghum decreased by <b>25%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, sorghum prices have increased by <b>110%</b> . In West Darfur sorghum prices decreased by <b>8%</b> compared with the previous quarter but remained <b>50%</b> above the five-year average. In North Darfur sorghum prices fell by <b>5%</b> compared with the previous quarter but were <b>132%</b> higher than the five-year average.	In North Darfur, terms of trade increased in favour of pastoralists and livestock herders: the amount of food aid sorghum purchased by selling a male goat in November was more than the previous year as a result of a temporary increase in livestock prices for the Eid El Adha festival. In South Darfur, the terms of trade between a goat and a bag of sorghum in Nyala market increased in November 2010 compared with August, and is in favour of livestock owners.	In North Darfur, <b>15%</b> of resident children have low mid-upper arm circumference and are regarded as malnourished. In South Darfur, <b>2%</b> of children have a mid-upper arm circumference of 115 mm, equivalent to severe malnutrition. In West Darfur, mid-upper arm circumference among women is relatively stable, but in August <b>59%</b> of children had contracted diarrhoea.	In North Darfur, the proportion of households using high-risk strategies has decreased significantly compared with November 2009. In South Darfur, the proportion of households using high-risk strategies remains low and stable.	Exceptionally good rainfall this year and a relatively calm security situation in North Darfur have contributed to increased crop production. Unusually good rains in West Darfur led to a high proportion of households engaging in cultivation, and high cereal prices have resulted in an increase in the area cultivated for sorghum and millet compared with last year.	The overall food-security situation in Darfur has improved. In North Darfur and West Darfur, there has been an improvement in food security as a result of good rainfall and a relatively calm security situation. In South Darfur the situation has remained stable, with no significant food-security changes.  <i>NB: In the first half of 2010 a stable food-security situation was reported.</i>

Main staple:



Cassava



Maize



Millet



Rice



Sorghum



Wheat

Countries (A)	Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)	
Sudan	SOUTHERN SUDAN	The proportion of households with poor food consumption fell from <b>26%</b> to <b>19%</b> , an indication that after the recent harvest households improved their food consumption compared with the previous year, which was seriously affected by drought.	In Central Equatoria, maize prices fell by <b>3%</b> compared with the previous quarter but decreased by <b>14%</b> compared with the same period in 2009. In Central Equatoria, maize prices increased by <b>3%</b> compared with the previous quarter and remained <b>35%</b> above the long-term average. In Upper Nile, sorghum prices rose by <b>6%</b> compared with the previous quarter; compared to the five-year average, sorghum prices have increased by <b>80%</b> .	Cereal prices declined in the third quarter of 2010 but livestock prices were rising, making the terms of trade more favourable for pastoralists. In Central Equatoria there was a <b>3%</b> increase in favour of bull owners against sorghum; in Upper Nile, grain traders have gained <b>10%</b> against the value of livestock in the last quarter.	The prevalence of malnutrition was expected to be less than the usual acute malnutrition peak from April to June, which coincides with the dry season. It is estimated that fewer than <b>10%</b> of moderately malnourished children are currently covered by supplementary feeding programmes.	Among households, <b>57%</b> rely on less expensive and less preferred foods compared with <b>30%</b> in late 2009. The size of portions and the frequency of daily meals were reduced in <b>65%</b> of households compared with <b>26%</b> in 2009.	With generally favourable rains and relatively few pest and disease outbreaks, cereal production was about <b>30%</b> higher than in 2009. The availability of water and pasture has increased, reducing trekking distances and improving animal health and milk production.	The food-security situation has improved in southern Sudan as a result of good cereal production, better livestock conditions and lower prices. The positive trend is reflected in improved food consumption, increased reliance on home production and a reduced share of income spent on food.
		Dietary diversity is chronically poor, especially in the agro-pastoralist and labour livelihood zones, as a result of depletion of household wheat stocks. The country is not self-sufficient in food, and access to food is very limited. The growing number of urban poor face the same access problem.	The average price of wheat in December 2010 was <b>17%</b> higher than in June 2010 and <b>27.4%</b> above prices prevalent before the 2007/08 food price crisis. WFP uses the January-October 2007 average for comparison. Wheat flour prices increased by <b>31%</b> between June and December 2010, and were <b>47%</b> higher than the pre-crisis level. Rice prices remained unchanged between June and December 2010 at AFN31 per kg. Rice consumption is generally very low because wheat accounts for <b>90%</b> of cereal consumption.	The terms of trade between daily casual labour wages and wheat deteriorated by <b>24%</b> between June and December 2010 as a result of increase in wheat prices. Incomes among pastoralists improved because of increased demand during the Eid festival in November. The terms of trade for livestock/wheat consequently improved by <b>7.5%</b> between June and December 2010, but they deteriorated by <b>67.6%</b> compared with the same period last year and by <b>142%</b> relative to the same period two years ago.	Afghanistan continues to experience high malnutrition. According to the Ministry of Public Health, in 2010 the global acute malnutrition rate was <b>8.7%</b> , with severe acute malnutrition at <b>1.5%</b> and chronic malnutrition at <b>61%</b> . The proportion of underweight for children aged 0-59 months is <b>34%</b> .	About <b>50%</b> of poor households reported some kind of shock; the highest percentages were in the south-eastern and eastern regions. The main coping mechanisms are reduction of expenditure on food, borrowing, reducing the quality of food, spending family savings and selling livestock. Other coping strategies include asking for support from relatives or neighbours, migration for work and reducing food intake. About <b>20%</b> of people stated that they had few means of coping and so utilized high-risk strategies.	The June-September rain-fed and irrigated wheat harvest was <b>11%</b> below the record high in 2009; the food deficit was estimated at 700,000 mt. Sowing and planting for the 2010/11 crop started in October. The winter dry spell that usually lasts from October to mid March lasted until mid-January in 2011. The extent of damage to early-irrigated wheat is yet to be evaluated. Late planted crops could produce good yields, and if spring rainfall is normal rain-fed wheat could do well, but it accounts for only <b>25%</b> of total production. Monitoring is ongoing because the effects of the dry spell could exacerbate food damage if snow melts early and quickly.	In general food availability did not deteriorate during the first half of 2010 as a result of the two above-average production years, but during the second part of the year there were sustained increases in the costs of energy and food, increasing insecurity, limited job opportunities and restrictions to normal livelihoods, especially in areas of insurgent activities. Combined with the start of the spring lean season, these factors will have an impact on food insecurity. Internal conflict may also increase the caseload of people in need of humanitarian assistance.
		About 40% of the population consume less than the minimum 2,122 kcal/person/day, and a quarter of households consume nutritionally inadequate diets of starchy staples. Rice contributes to <b>63%</b> of the caloric intake of urban consumers and <b>70%</b> of the consumption of the rural population. The diet of food-insecure households is highly deficient in protein and micronutrients.	The domestic price of coarse rice increased by <b>14%</b> and the price of atta (wheat flour) rose by 27 percent between July and December 2010. The price of rice during the last quarter of 2010 almost reached the peak of 2008. Compared with the five-year average, the price of Boro-HYV-Coarse increased by <b>75%</b> and the price of Ata-Packet by <b>69%</b> .	Despite the increase in agricultural wage rates, the purchasing power of agricultural labourers declined by <b>22%</b> with respect to the previous year. Because wages have increased, current rice purchasing power is significantly higher than in the shock period of 2008. The benefits of increased wages are seasonal: during lean seasons, when there are fewer earning opportunities, poor people find it difficult to cope with high food prices. Low-salaried fixed-income groups in rural and urban areas are also affected by the current rise in food prices.	The country-wide prevalence of chronic under nutrition in children under 5 indicates an alarming situation: 6 million children are underweight, and 50% of children are stunted; <b>13.5%</b> of children are estimated to be undernourished, which is close to the emergency threshold of 15 percent. Iron-deficiency anaemia among children, women and girls is a major nutrition challenge; the prevalence of anaemia in infants aged 6 to 11 months is <b>92%</b> . In slums, there is a 17% prevalence of wasting and <b>56%</b> of stunting; anaemia is common in vulnerable groups.	The coping strategies most commonly adopted by households to meet basic food needs are borrowing of money, reduction of expenditures on healthcare and removal of children from school. The coping strategy index for households headed by women are high compared with households headed by men and with the national average. Rural households had higher coping strategy index scores than urban households.	Monsoon rainfall was <b>20%</b> less than normal, which affected the planting of Aman crops and growing of Aus crops. The winter weather was favourable during November and December 2010, however, which had a positive impact on the planting of Boro rice and wheat. Rice production in the current year has been satisfactory. Food-grain production in 2009/10 increased by 3.1 percent, rice production increased by <b>3.0%</b> and wheat production by <b>5.9%</b> .	The food security situation has deteriorated slightly as a result of the increase in food prices. During lean seasons, when there are fewer earning opportunities, poor agricultural labourers cannot afford high food prices, especially for rice. High food prices will also affect low-salaried fixed-income groups in towns, who have no possibility of wage adjustments. Despite government efforts to offset high food prices through public food distributions, many poor and food-insecure people remain outside the coverage of such targeted safety nets.

Main staple:



Cassava



Maize



Millet






Rice



Sorghum



Wheat

Countries (A)		Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)
Asia, Middle East & Commonwealth of Independent States	DPRK	Many low-income non-farming households faced a consumption gap because the cereals from the public distribution system did not provide a full ration.	The country has been affected by the global rise in food prices, in particular cereals.	Purchasing power has decreased since the increase in the prices of basic foods.	Stunting and under-nutrition remain high compared with other countries in the region.	Because opportunities to earn extra income are limited, households resort to kitchen gardens, small livestock production and gathering of wild foods.	The effects of heavy rains and a harsh winter are being evaluated.	The food-consumption situation has deteriorated as a result of the increase in global food prices, and there is a consumption gap in many non-farming households. 
	KYRGYZSTAN	In six out of seven provinces, <b>17%</b> of WFP beneficiary households have poor food consumption. The daily diet of WFP beneficiaries, excluding the conflict-affected population, consists of bread with sweet tea, oil products and some potatoes; <b>20%</b> of households can afford dairy products on a daily basis and between <b>4%</b> and <b>7%</b> eat meat depending on the season. A quarter of hosted internally displaced people consumed an inadequate diet because host families' resources were insufficient.	Global food price increases have affected Kyrgyzstan more than other central Asian nations. According to WFP food price monitoring, the cost of a staple food basket of 19 items has risen by <b>40%</b> in one year; the World Bank estimates the increase at <b>54%</b> . The sharpest increase in prices occurred in July/August 2010, reflecting increased food and fuel prices and the disruption of the agricultural cycle and markets after the violent events of June 2010 and border closures.	In conflict-affected areas, many food-secure households were hosting internally displaced people with their own resources. This resulted in smaller stocks for the winter and reduced purchasing power. The purchasing power of poor and vulnerable households was severely affected by rising food prices and declining wages. Wheat production was <b>18%</b> lower than in 2009, maize production fell by <b>14%</b> , barley production fell by <b>12%</b> and potato production is estimated to have declined by <b>5%</b> .	Among children under 5, <b>18%</b> are suffering from moderate or severe stunting. The rate among the conflict affected population in Osh and Jalalabad was <b>26%</b> in October 2010; the average in 2006 was <b>14.2%</b> according to the United Nations Children's Fund. However, the population had access to relatively safe potable water from sources such as private and public taps, tanks, bottled products, rain and protected wells, as they had before the conflict.	A significant number of conflict-affected people in the south had to rely on humanitarian assistance for their staple foods following the crisis; the number of vulnerable people receiving assistance also increased. Before food distributions for vulnerable people, <b>81%</b> had become indebted to obtain food, <b>60%</b> had borrowed food from friends or relatives, <b>41%</b> had reduced adult meals to benefit children and <b>18%</b> had limited the number of daily meals or omitted them altogether for a day.	Weather conditions were favourable for the 2010 crops, though planting was interrupted by social unrest. Production in 2010 was below the 2009 record but above the five-year average.	The food-security situation declined as a result of social unrest in 2010, which caused production levels to decline, and an increase in the prices of basic foods. 
	MYANMAR	Of the sampled households, <b>2%</b> in Taunggyi, <b>22%</b> in Chin, <b>8%</b> in Dry Zone, <b>9%</b> in North Rakhine State and <b>8%</b> in areas affected by cyclone Giri have poor food consumption. Cyclone Giri hit western Myanmar on 22 October and caused damage to crops, livestock, homes, livelihoods and production capacities in Kyaukpuyu, Myebon, Minbya and Pauktaw, further undermining food consumption in these areas.	Rice prices in the last quarter of 2010 increased by <b>14%</b> compared with the same period in 2009, but rose by <b>2%</b> relative to the third quarter.	About <b>87%</b> of households in Chin, <b>86%</b> in Dry Zone, <b>82%</b> in North Rakhine State and <b>85%</b> in areas affected by cyclone Giri reported that they were in debt and needed to repay their loans. This probably resulted in a loss of purchasing power because of the amounts of money that had to be directed to repaying debts.	In Dry Zone, <b>11%</b> of households stated that they were boiling their drinking water, which is a potential sign of undetected malnutrition and sickness, especially among children. Based on mid-upper arm circumference measurements in Northern Rakhine state, <b>28%</b> of children were at high risk of becoming malnourished, <b>13%</b> were moderately malnourished, and <b>3%</b> were severely malnourished.	Debts were incurred to buy food in <b>37%</b> of sampled households in Taunggyi, <b>47%</b> in Dry Zone, <b>47%</b> in NRS, <b>48%</b> in Chin and <b>40%</b> in areas affected by cyclone Giri.	Rains that should have started in May actually fell in July, resulting in reduced food availability in October and November, especially in Dry Zone.	The food security situation has deteriorated slightly as a result of late and erratic rains, upward trends in rice prices, reduced household purchasing power and rodent infestation. Assessments conducted since August indicate severe levels of food insecurity: <b>19%</b> in Dry Zone, <b>30%</b> in North Rakhine State and <b>20%</b> in areas affected by cyclone Giri. 

Main staple:



Cassava



Maize



Millet



Rice



Sorghum



Wheat

Countries (A)	Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)	
Asia, Middle East & Commonwealth of Independent States	NEPAL	According to the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System, household food consumption in rural areas has gradually improved in the past six months. The mean average score of 45 in January-March 2010, when <b>40%</b> of rural households had poor or borderline consumption, increased to 54 in October-December 2010, when <b>24%</b> of rural households had poor or borderline consumption. However, in some areas food consumption is not enough to provide the required calories and micronutrients for a healthy active life; this is particularly the case in the far and mid-western hill and mountain areas, where diets are dominated by staple cereals.	At the national level, the price of rice has risen by <b>13%</b> in the last six months. Year-on-year food price inflation remained between <b>12%</b> and <b>14%</b> during the same period. Compared with the five-year average, the price of rice rose by <b>109%</b> and the price of wheat flour by <b>141%</b> .	Purchasing power is generally weak. Official labour wages and salary rates have steadily increased in recent years, but this has not translated into significantly higher wages for poor people. In the most food-insecure areas in the hills and mountains, where people mainly rely on markets for basic food, purchasing power has decreased during the reporting period as a result of increasing food prices.	Half of children under 5 are chronically undernourished; the acute malnutrition rate is <b>13%</b> . Hidden in the national averages are extreme variations, and in many communities acute malnutrition rates exceed the emergency threshold of <b>15%</b> . Malnutrition is not measured on a six-monthly basis, but acute malnutrition among children probably increased during the middle of the period as a result of the lean season and the spike in water-borne diseases, which become more prevalent during the monsoon.	During the lean season between June/July and August/September, vulnerable households were reportedly coping by adopting severe strategies such as reducing the number of meals and selling agricultural assets; the most common coping strategies were borrowing, buying food on credit and eating less preferred and less expensive foods. But the proportion of households adopting severe coping strategies decreased in the last quarter of 2010, reflecting the gradual improvement of food security and normal summer crop production.	Preliminary production estimates for the November/December paddy rice harvest, the main summer crop, are <b>11%</b> higher than the previous year. This is not a high figure, however, considering that last year's production was <b>11%</b> lower than the year before. The winter wheat crop harvested in April-June 2010 was estimated to be <b>16%</b> higher than the previous year, but <b>1%</b> less than in 2008.	The food security situation has remained stable as a result of good winter wheat production in April/May 2010 and an improved harvest of summer maize and paddy.
	OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	Food consumption patterns have improved slightly as a result of humanitarian interventions. Poor food consumption was recorded in <b>10%</b> of Gaza households in the second half of 2010. In area C of the West Bank <b>38%</b> of the surveyed households had poor food consumption in the second half of 2010; in the West Bank <b>11%</b> had poor food consumption in the same period.	In the West Bank, the price of wheat flour decreased by <b>5%</b> in the second half of 2010 compared with the first half; the price of rice decreased by <b>20%</b> in the same period. In the Gaza Strip, the price of wheat flour increased by <b>21%</b> in the second half of 2010 compared with the first half; the price of rice decreased by <b>7%</b> in the same period.	The purchasing power of the US dollar in the West Bank decreased by <b>0.5%</b> in the second half of 2010; it increased by <b>0.9%</b> in the Gaza Strip. As a result, the consumer price index in the West Bank increased by <b>2.4%</b> in the second half of 2010 compared with the first half; in the Gaza Strip the increase was <b>1%</b> .	Acute malnutrition is recorded in <b>5.9%</b> of children, moderate acute malnutrition is found in <b>4.5%</b> of children, and <b>1.4%</b> of children have severe acute malnutrition.	As short-term coping strategies, <b>32%</b> of households consume food of lower quality, <b>42%</b> of households purchase food on credit, <b>29%</b> of households consume less food, and <b>11%</b> of households restrict consumption among adults so that children can eat.	There is a rainfall shortage during the current September 2010-March 2011 rainy season, and the distribution of rainfall over time has been unusual in that no rain was recorded during October and November 2010. This has led to incomplete sowing of the main traditional rain-fed crops such as wheat and barley. Farmers who have planted are expecting below-normal harvest; some households are considering converting their fields to pasture. Concerns also exist in the fruit-growing sector because premature blossoming of some stone-fruit trees, particularly almonds, is expected to lead to poor harvests in 2011.	Between 2009 and 2010 there was a <b>3%</b> decline in food insecurity, but the prevalence of household food insecurity in the Gaza Strip remains very high at <b>52%</b> , with an additional <b>13%</b> percent of households vulnerable to food insecurity. An estimated 821,000 people in the Gaza Strip are food-insecure.
	PAKISTAN	Food consumption has deteriorated, particularly in the flooded areas, where <b>27%</b> of households have poor food consumption. The proportion of households with poor food consumption has increased from <b>10%</b> to <b>45%</b> in Punjab and from <b>13%</b> to <b>76%</b> in Sindh.	At the national level, the price of wheat flour rose by <b>4%</b> and the price of rice by <b>7%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of wheat has increased by <b>99%</b> and the price of rice by <b>98%</b> .	Consumer purchasing power continues to deteriorate; daily agricultural labourers are the most affected. In September 2010, with one day of wages labourers in Lahore could obtain 12 kg of average quality wheat flour, down from 18kg in September 2006. The terms of trade between the wage rate and wheat flour and between the wage rate and rice deteriorated significantly in September/October 2010.	Global acute malnutrition affected <b>13%</b> of children under 5. After the floods, the number of children at risk rose significantly, <b>5%</b> of mothers have stopped breast feeding and <b>16%</b> of mothers stated that they had reduced breastfeeding.	Flood-affected households have shifted consumption to less preferred foods. A third of households practise borrowing, <b>36%</b> of households rely on less preferred foods, <b>34%</b> purchase food on credit, <b>33%</b> borrow food and rely on others, <b>26%</b> limit portion sizes and <b>19%</b> have reduced the number of meals.	There were significant losses from the 2009/10 rice and other crops as a result of the floods in major crop-producing areas in July and August. FAO estimated that farmers lost between 500,000 mt and 600,000 mt of wheat seed.	The food-security situation deteriorated as a result of the recent flood. Prices have risen sharply, food crops were lost and consumer purchasing power has been reduced. An estimated 10.1 million people are in need of immediate assistance.

Main staple:



Cassava



Maize



Millet





Rice



Sorghum



Wheat

Countries (A)	Food Consumption (B)	Prices (C)	Purchasing Power (D)	Malnutrition (E)	Coping Strategies (F)	Rainfall & Production (G)	Food security trend over the last six months (H)		
Asia, Middle East & Commonwealth of Independent States	<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	The diet of most households remains poorly diversified: meat, fruit and beans are rarely eaten more than once a week. The percentage of households consuming five or more food groups declined from <b>20%</b> in July 2009 to <b>16%</b> in August 2010. Food intake among children showed similar dietary patterns.	At the national level, the price of wheat rose by <b>17%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter. The price of fuel continues to increase, with consequent effects on food price rises.	Between February and August 2010, the number of households receiving remittances increased from <b>12% to 22%</b> . Such seasonal increases in income were offset by the recent increase in fuel and transport costs, but <b>50%</b> of interviewees reported that their economic situation was worse than last year.	Malnutrition is slightly higher than in July 2009, which is largely a seasonal phenomenon: <b>10%</b> of children are wasted and 33% are stunted. The main causes are lack of diverse diet, poor care practices, disease, poor quality of drinking water and inadequate hygiene.	Approximately 50% of households were reliant on less preferred and less costly foods in response to chronic and seasonal food requirements. Alternative employment was sought by <b>40%</b> of households.	Cereal production declined by 5% in 2010 from the previous year's record as a result of earthquake and flood damage in several areas, but remained well above the five-year average. Low rainfall in the last quarter provoked fears of drought, but there was above-average rain the following February.	The food security situation was stable despite lower production and high food prices as households benefited from the good harvest in 2009, better livestock health and breeding, higher remittances and seasonal jobs. NB. In the first half of 2010 the situation was reported as deteriorating. Chronic food insecurity is still high. 	
Caribbean and Latin America	<b>HAITI</b>	Information on food consumption was not available for this reporting period.	At the national level between September and December, the price of imported rice rose by 9%, the price of wheat flour fell by 4% and the price of domestic maize fell by <b>11%</b> compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of imported rice has increased by 46% and the price of maize by <b>20%</b> .	The hiring of labour during harvesting and planting periods and job creation under labour-intensive public works programmes helped improve purchasing power for the poor during August. However, the recent <b>25%</b> increase in the price of rice in Port au Prince between September and December 2010 resulted in a 20% decrease in the purchasing power of casual labourers.	Haiti is currently facing a cholera outbreak: official sources estimate the death toll in the hundreds and the number of new cases in the thousands. Close monitoring of the situation is recommended because the death toll is expected to increase.	In the Anse-Rouge, Terre-Neuve and Baie de Henne municipalities residents are resorting to a variety of coping strategies of which the most common is charcoal production.	Production of summer rice, the main crop, increased by <b>15%</b> compared with the previous year.	The food-security situation remained stable as a result of marginal increases in production and food aid. According to the National Office for the Coordination of Food Security, the situation deteriorated between October and November 2010 as a result of the cholera outbreak and hurricane Thomas. NB: The food-security situation in the first half of 2010 was reported as deteriorating. 	
	<b>HONDURAS</b>	Of the households surveyed, <b>5.5%</b> reported poor food consumption and 8.8% reported limited consumption. These figures are similar to those reported in July 2010.	At the national level, the price of maize fell by <b>7%</b> and the price of sweet rice rose by <b>11%</b> between September and December compared with the previous quarter.	The purchasing power of farmers was reduced as a result of storm damage to crops. The purchasing power of wage earners was also relatively low because of reduced employment as a result of the damage to crops. Remittances were 4.5% higher in October 2010 compared with October 2009. At the household level, remittances fund nutritional, health and educational needs.	Acute malnutrition among children under 5 is <b>1.8%</b> nationally, but levels above 5% are reported in food-insecure areas in the dry corridor. The incidence of acute malnutrition in children under 5 in the drought zone is <b>4.9%</b> - 0.5% severe and <b>4.4%</b> moderate. Even though these values are not high, they represent a risk because they were recorded at a time of high food availability at the beginning of the February-May 2011 dry season.	Information relating to coping strategies was not available for this reporting period.	Both of the 2010 crop cycles were affected by erratic rainfall. The first harvest, primarily maize, ended in September with considerable losses, mainly in the lowlands. An estimated 25,000 mt of beans and 35,000 mt of maize were not harvested in the first crop cycle; the loss of beans was <b>18%</b> of expected production. In the second season the rainfall deficit negatively affected the production of crops, particularly beans. 	The food security situation has been declining steadily as a result of dwindling employment opportunities and the effects of tropical storms, which severely damaged crops. Humanitarian interventions reached only a fraction of the targeted population. 	

Main staple:



Cassava



Maize



Millet



Rice



Sorghum



Wheat

## Annex: Selected set of food security monitoring indicators and their application

- i. **Food consumption (column B)**<sup>1</sup> denotes the quality and quantity of food consumed in households. The Food Consumption Score, 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 consisting mainly of two types of food – cereal/tuber and vegetables. Borderline consumption denotes a daily diet consisting mainly of two types of foods and an additional food item two or three times a week but not sufficient to meet dietary needs.
- ii. **Prices (column C)** are retail prices in the last half of 2010, which are compared with the first six months of 2010 and prices in 2009; where significant, comparisons are made with the five-year average.
- iii. **Purchasing power (column D)** is the ratio of two prices: a food item being sold and a food item being purchased.
- iv. **Malnutrition (column E)** is an indication of insufficient, excessive or unbalanced consumption of essential food. The methods used to collect this information include anthropometric measures such as weight, height, age and mid-upper arm circumference.
- v. **Coping strategies (column F)** are the actions adopted by households to offset or overcome a food access problem without correcting or eliminating the underlying condition. The Coping Strategies Index, 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.

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Direct e-mail contacts for regional advisers are as follows:

<b>SOUTHERN AFRICA</b>	Eric KENEFICK	eric.kenefick@wfp.org
<b>EAST AFRICA</b>	Mark GORDON	mark.gordon@wfp.org
<b>SUDAN</b>	Hazem ALMAHDY	hazem.almahdy@wfp.org
<b>WEST AFRICA</b>	Naouar LABIDI	naouar.labidi@wfp.org
<b>ASIA and the PACIFIC</b>	Michael SHEINKMAN	michael.sheinkman@wfp.org
<b>LATIN AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN</b>	Margaretha BARKHOF	margaretha.barkhof@wfp.org
<b>MIDDLES EAST, CENTRAL ASIA and EASTERN EUROPE</b>	Asif NIAZI	asif.niazi@wfp.org



## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	GIEWS	Global Information and Early-Warning System
CFSAM	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission	HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel	IDP	Internally Displaced Person
CPI	Consumer Price Index	IMF	International Monetary Fund
CSI	Coping Strategy Index	IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	IRIN	Integrated Regional Information Networks
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
EFSA	Emergency Food Security Assessment	MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	NIS	National Statistical Institute
FCS	Food Consumption Score	OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
FEWS-NET	Famine Early-Warning Systems Network	RPCA	Food Crisis Prevention Network
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit	SIFSIA	Sudan Institutional Capacity Programme: Food Security Information for Action
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition	SNNPR	Southern Nations Nationalities and People's Region

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### For more information, contact:

Joyce Luma. Chief, Food Security Analysis Service: [joyce.luma@wfp.org](mailto:joyce.luma@wfp.org)  
Wanja Kaaria. Programme Adviser, Food Security Monitoring: [wanja.kaaria@wfp.org](mailto:wanja.kaaria@wfp.org)

World Food Programme, Via Cesare Giulio Viola, 68/70 - 00148 Rome, Italy  
[www.wfp.org/food-security](http://www.wfp.org/food-security)



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