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.
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.

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<td><strong>BURundi</strong></td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>Between September and December, the price of beans at the national level fell by 2%, the price of sweet potatoes rose by 2% and the price of maize rose by 6% compared with the previous quarter.</td>
<td>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 80% of poorer households whose income is largely dependent on agricultural labour.</td>
<td>There was an 80% increase in cases of acute malnutrition at Kinundo hospital in November compared with October, which may be linked to the high incidence of measles in Yumbi health district. Food distribution programmes targeting vulnerable children and lactating mothers were scaled up, especially in areas where there are high concentrations of returnees.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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 2% 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.</td>
<td>Overall food security improved as a result of increased food production in 2010 and an annual decline in food prices.</td>
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<td><strong>DRC</strong></td>
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<td>In Katanga, food consumption improved in the areas surveyed in July except for Bukama, Lubudi, Kalemie and Pweto. Only 9.1% of the households surveyed had poor consumption. The proportion of households with acceptable food consumption has increased by 0.3% among HIV and AIDS beneficiaries and by 6.9% among food for work beneficiaries compared with the situation in 2008. The trend remains downward, however, for supplementary feeding beneficiaries.</td>
<td>In Katanga, food consumption improved in the areas surveyed in July except for Bukama, Lubudi, Kalemie and Pweto. Only 9.1% of the households surveyed had poor consumption. The proportion of households with acceptable food consumption has increased by 0.3% among HIV and AIDS beneficiaries and by 6.9% among food for work beneficiaries compared with the situation in 2008. The trend remains downward, however, for supplementary feeding beneficiaries.</td>
<td>At the national level, the price of cassava products fell by 1%. The price of maize rose by 2% in the last quarter of the year compared with the previous quarter.</td>
<td>The area planted has decreased between 15% and 20% 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.</td>
<td>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 10% or more.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Cereal production in 2010 fell by 5% compared with previous years, but remained well above the five-year average.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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*NB:* The situation was reported as stable during the first half of 2010.

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

See Annex for detailed information on the indicators.
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<td>DJIBOUTI</td>
<td>In towns, poor and middle-western 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 32% in the May 2010 emergency food security assessment to 50% in the December 2010 food security monitoring system survey.</td>
<td>At the national level, the prices of wheat flour and rice fell by 7% between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of wheat flour increased by 20% and the price of rice by 73%.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>A survey by Médecins sans frontières in August 2010 in the Balbala area of Djibouti city showed critical levels of malnutrition: global acute malnutrition was 19.5% and severe acute malnutrition was 3.6%. These figures are attributable to poverty, poor dietary habits and poor hygiene.</td>
<td>Households are reporting severe coping strategies more frequently. The CGI 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 remittances 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.</td>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>East and Southern Africa</td>
<td>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 meher (main season) harvest. But households experienced food access problems in areas where harvests were poor because of floods, hailstorms, waterlogging and crop pests.</td>
<td>At the national level, wholesale prices increased by 4% for maize and 2% for wheat in December 2010 compared with September 2010. The price of wheat was 13% higher and the price of sorghum 17% higher than the long-term average.</td>
<td>In Gode market in Somali region, the terms of trade between sheets and cereals in December 2010 was 20% 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 Jigga and Dire Dawa markets. Where terms of trade declined pastoralists were forced to increase sales of livestock to purchase food.</td>
<td>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 Debub and Gode in Somali region and Ebinat in Amhara.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
<td>The 2010 meher (June-September) and belg (March-April) seasons were productive, and the keremt long rains from June to September were above average. Production prospects for the meher, which provides up to 90% of annual crop production, are positive: coarse grain production is expected to increase by 25% compared with 2010. The good keremt 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 50% less than previous years. Abnormal keremt rains in many parts of the country caused severe floods that affected 900,000 people in Amhara, Tigray, Gambella, Afar and Somali regions.</td>
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**Main staple:** Cassava | Maize | Millet | Rice | Sorghum | Wheat
At the national level, the price of maize rose by 3% between September and December 2010 compared with the previous quarter and by 16% compared with the five-year average. Terms of trade for pastoralists have improved: livestock prices are up to 80% 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 45% 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 5.8% to 32.2%. 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 20% to 30% lower than the five-year average in Laikipia, Tana River, Turkana, north-eastern Mandera and Baringo.

Poor households in slums spend up to 75% 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.

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<td>MADAGASCAR</td>
<td>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 14% to 29% 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.</td>
<td>At the national level, the price of domestic rice rose by 4% between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, domestic rice prices have increased by 14%.</td>
<td>The terms of trade between livestock and cereals started to decrease in September, adversely affecting pastoralists. In Antananarivo further loss of purchasing power in real terms was noted in 2010 compared to 2006. The average monthly remuneration of labour has fallen by 3.8% per year.</td>
<td>Morbidity among children under 5 in urban areas of Antananarivo remains high at 7.5%; the rate among adults is 18%. 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.</td>
<td>To augment incomes, many households are seeking to diversify income sources by engaging in informal employment.</td>
<td>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 4% higher than in 2009. Erratic rains in the south and west regions, however, resulted in poor production levels; there was a 40% loss of rice in Antsirabe. There are fears of a locust outbreak, which would threaten the livelihoods of 460,000 rural households, so monitoring will continue.</td>
<td>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. NB: Up to 52% in the south were food insecure at the end of 2010, with ten reported as acutely food insecure.</td>
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<td>MALAWI</td>
<td>Many households have already reduced the number of daily meals from three to one. Typically, 70% of household consumption comes from home production.</td>
<td>At the national level, maize prices decreased by 22 percent compared to the previous quarter. In Likonde, 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.</td>
<td>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 the same month the previous year. In southern regions, household incomes were affected by lower market price and a downturn in cotton production.</td>
<td>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%.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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 floodplain area. Planting of the main maize crop for the 2010/11 season is complete in most parts of the country.</td>
<td>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 560,000 people will require food assistance, 50% fewer than in June, when food security was declining. NB: In the first half of 2010 the food-security situation was reported as declining.</td>
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<td>MOZAMBIQUE</td>
<td>A Vulnerability Assessment Committee survey in August reported 68% of households with an acceptable diet and 11% with poor diet, most of which were in the central provinces of Tete and Manica.</td>
<td>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%.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>The food-security situation remains stable 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 and around semi-arid regions require food assistance until the next major harvest in March 2011.</td>
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### East and Southern Africa

#### Namibia

- **Main staple:** Cassava, Millet, Wheat
- **Food security trend over the last six months:**
  - 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

- **Main staple:** Maize, Wheat, Sorghum
- **Food security trend over the last six months:**
  - Cereals production in 2009/10 was 40% 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.
  - NB: Heavy rains in December caused flooding along the Orange River border with South Africa.

#### Swaziland

- **Main staple:** Maize, Wheat, Sorghum
- **Food security trend over the last six months:**
  - 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.

### Table: Food Security Monitoring

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<td><strong>Namibia</strong></td>
<td>Farmers consume more from home production than from purchases. Access to food remains a concern in the northeast, which was recently affected by floods.</td>
<td>At the national level, cereal prices rose in November by 4.5% compared with the previous year and were slightly higher in October.</td>
<td>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 50% and the Ministry of Agriculture provided government tractors at a subsidized rate to increase productivity in the northern communal agricultural areas.</td>
<td>The northern region, where 77% of the children surveyed were acutely malnourished, remains a concern. Monitoring will be required in the coming months.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Cereal production in 2009/10 was 40% 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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td><strong>Somalia</strong></td>
<td>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 income or food for these households.</td>
<td>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 80% 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 - 80% - in the same period was observed in central regions.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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, 75% are in the conflict-sticken 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.</td>
<td>Poor households in most regions of Somalia employ severe coping strategies: 70-80% in South, 63% in Central and up to 45% 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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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 20% 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.</td>
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<td><strong>Swaziland</strong></td>
<td>Food consumption is likely to have improved in 20 constitutions as a result of the Government’s distribution of food aid.</td>
<td>At the national level, the retail price of maize meal rose by 29% compared with the previous quarter.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>There was an outbreak of suspected H1N1 swine flu that affected schoolchildren and some adults in Matabeleland province in the north.</td>
<td>More households are coping by relying on government food aid, which has been distributed in 20 constituencies across the country.</td>
<td>Maize production, which was 25% above the previous five-year average, will cover 50% 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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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| 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 39%.  
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 48% 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.  
The food security situation continues to improve across the country as a result of a surplus in crop production. But pockets of food insecurity remain: 54,000 people are vulnerable in the drought-prone areas of Luangwa, Lukulu, Namwala and Sesheke. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| East and Southern Africa | In 62% of surveyed rural wards, most households reported that they had exhausted stocks from their own production in early October, an increase from the 51% reported the previous month.  
At the national level, the price of maize increased by 15% between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Whilst maize prices have increased by 349% 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 certain areas, 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 7% more than the previous year’s output. The liberalization of the grain market has helped to improve the availability of cereal products.  
The food security situation remains stable as a result of humanitarian work by the Government, WFP and non-governmental organizations. Although the price for maize produced in-country was higher this year, household stocks are beginning to decline. Zimbabwe’s economy continues to grow after a decade of decline. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ZIMBABWE     | 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 16%, the price of cassava products by 2% and the price of rice by 7% between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, maize prices have increased by 81% and rice prices by 120%.  
The terms of trade between daily casual labour and wheat deteriorated by 3% 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 13%.  
Main nutrition 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.  
The food security situation has deteriorated as a result of the damage to crops caused by flooding; food production was lower compared with the same period last year. Maize prices have declined, but the purchasing power of most households was also eroded; any gains were thus offset. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 16%, the price of cassava products by 2% and the price of rice by 7% between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, maize prices have increased by 81% and rice prices by 120%.  
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Main staple: Cassava, Maize, Millet, Rice, Sorghum, Wheat
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<tr>
<td>CAMEROON</td>
<td>A significant 24% of households have poor food consumption.</td>
<td>At the national level, the price of maize rose by 26% and the price of rice by 7% between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, maize prices have increased by 56% and rice prices by 39%.</td>
<td>Declining employment opportunities and income-generating activities have led to a decline in household purchasing power.</td>
<td>Only 2.9% 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.</td>
<td>To cope with food insecurity, 52% of households reduced the size of meals. 46% reduced the number of daily meals and 40% consumed less preferred and cheaper foods.</td>
<td>Mauritania and Chad</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAD</td>
<td>There were reports at the end of August of a continued decline in food intake in 25% of households compared with May and July.</td>
<td>At the national level, the price of sorghum fell by 7%, the price of millet by 14% and the price of maize by 20% between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of maize has fallen by 6% and the price of millet by 15%.</td>
<td>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; barley provides for in-kind wages, often in the form of milk. This accounts for 50% of the annual food supply and 20% of the income of poor households.</td>
<td>The nutritional situation was critical during the July-August lean season. There was high prevalence of global acute malnutrition, which reached alarming rates of 24.9% in Bahr-el-Gazal and 24.3% in Wadí-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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>COTE’DOIRE</td>
<td>In the western region of Bafing and the northern region of Savanes, 79% of children aged 6-23 months consumed poorly diversified diets. Half of the households surveyed have reduced the number of daily meals.</td>
<td>At the national level, the price of imported rice rose by 1% and the price of maize by 23% between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of maize has increased by 6% and the price of rice by 32%.</td>
<td>The purchasing power of farmers has decreased because of conflicts with pastoralists. Farmers downsize 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 100% increase over the 2009 rate of 1 kg of cacao to 1.4 kg of rice.</td>
<td>The prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months increased by 1.9% in Bafing and Savanes, from 8.3% in June to 9.6% in September.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Main staple:** Cassava, Maize, Millet, Rice, Sorghum, Wheat
### Niger

**Countries (A)**: Niger  
**Food Consumption (B)**: Households are consuming their own produce. Greater access to water has led to an increase in production from vegetable gardens, with a consequent improvement in household diets.  
**Prices (C)**: At the national level, the price of millet fell by 11% and the price of sorghum by 9% 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 16%.  
**Purchasing Power (D)**: 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 162% in Tanout and 41% in Dabokro compared with the previous year. The harvest period for vegetable crops along the Niger river produced good demand for labour in gardening.  
**Malnutrition (E)**: Acute malnutrition affected 17% of children under 5, a 36% increase over the same period last year and well above the World Health Organization critical threshold. There was a 13% decline in the number of malnourished children admitted to feeding centres in October compared with September.  
**Coping Strategies (F)**: 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.  
**Rainfall & Production (G)**: Crop production in the most recent harvest was estimated at 5.5 million mt, 41% above the 5-year average; cowpea production was 1.9 million mt.  
**Food security trend over the last six months (H)**: 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.

### Guineas

**Countries (A)**: 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 10% in August 2010 to 63% in September. In Northern region, increasing prices caused households to substitute maize for millet and sorghum.  
**Food Consumption (B)**: At the national level, the price of cassava increased by 12% percent, the price of yams increased by 2%, 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 114% and cassava prices by 125%.  
**Prices (C)**: 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.  
**Purchasing Power (D)**: 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 30% of children. By December, lower rates of child malnutrition were observed: 15% in Upper East region, and 19.3% in Upper West region compared with December 2009.  
**Malnutrition (E)**: Food reserves have increased in 80% 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.  
**Coping Strategies (F)**: 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 36% higher than last year. The estimated production of millet is 32% less than last year, rice production is expected to be 30% less than last year and groundnut production 15% less.  
**Rainfall & Production (G)**: 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.  
**Food security trend over the last six months (H)**: NB: During the first half of 2010 the nutrition situation was reported as declining.

### Guinea Conory

**Countries (A)**: The proportion of households consuming fewer than 12 different foods in 24 hours declined from 73.3% to 62% in August. Households food consumption has declined by 21.2% since 2009 as a result of deteriorating incomes.  
**Food Consumption (B)**: At the national level, the price of local rice rose by 55% and the price of palm oil by 16% between September and December compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the five-year average, the price of local rice has risen by 72% and the price of palm oil by 54%.  
**Prices (C)**: 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.  
**Purchasing Power (D)**: The number of households reporting the presence of a sick child went down from 32% to 22%. 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.  
**Malnutrition (E)**: More households are relying on food aid to cope during the lean season 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 food victims took place in December in collaboration with the Service National de l’Action Humanitaire and the Mission Aviation Fellowship.  
**Coping Strategies (F)**: 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 7% higher than in 2009.  
**Rainfall & Production (G)**: 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.
### Cassava

**Global Update - Food Security Monitoring**

- **Food security trend over the last six months (H)**
- **Copin Strategies (F)**: 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.

### West Africa

**Liberia**

- **At the national level, the price of butter rice remains the same but the price of palm oil rose by 19% between September and December compared with the previous quarter.**
- **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 agro-pastoral areas, the price of a sheep is 15% 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.**
- **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.**

### Mauritania

- **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, coxpeas, grains, watermelons and squash.**
- **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 children deteriorated, with 53% having low diet diversity. In south Darfur, most households have acceptable food consumption; the proportion of households with poor consumption has fallen to 2%.**
- **In South Darfur, the proportion of households using high-risk strategies remains low and stable.**
- **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. NB: In the first half of 2010 a stable food security situation was reported.**

### Sudan (Darfur only)

**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.**

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<td><strong>Cassava</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Main staple:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cassava</strong></td>
<td><strong>Maize</strong></td>
<td><strong>Millet</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rice</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sorghum</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wheat</strong></td>
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</table>
In Sudan, 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.

In Afghanistan, the September-October rains were late and relatively few pest and disease outbreaks, cereal production was down by 20% and prices were lower than in 2009. The availability of water and pasture has increased, reducing trekking distances and improving animal health and milk production.

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.

### Main staple: Cassava

- **Cassava**
- **Cereal prices declined in the last quarter of 2010 but livestock prices were rising, making the terms of trade more favourable for pastoralists.**
- **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.**
- **The food-security situation has improved in southern Sudan as a result of good cereal production, better livestock conditions and lower prices.**
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<td>DPRK</td>
<td>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. Malnutrition remains high compared with other countries in the region.</td>
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<td>Weather conditions are 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.</td>
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<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>In six out of seven provinces, 17% 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; 20% of households can afford dairy products on a daily basis and between 4% and 7% 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 40% in one year; the World Bank estimates the increase at 54%. 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 18% lower than in 2009, maize production fell by 14%, barley production fell by 12% and potato production is estimated to have declined by 5%. Among children under 5, 18% are suffering from moderate or severe stunting. The rate among the conflict affected population in Osh and Jalalabad was 26% in October 2010; the average in 2006 was 14.2%. 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, 81% had become indebted to obtain food. 60% had borrowed food from friends or relatives. 41% had reduced adult meals to obtain food, 40% had limited the number of daily meals or omitted them altogether for a day. The food-security situation declined as a result of the increase in global food prices, and there is a consumption gap in many non-farming households.</td>
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<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>Of the sampled households, 2% in Taunggyi, 22% in Chin, 8% in Dry Zone, 9% in North Rakhine State and 8% 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 Kyaukpyu, Myeik, Minbya and Pauktaw, further undermining food consumption in these areas. Rice prices in the last quarter of 2010 increased by 14% compared with the same period in 2009, but rose by 2% relative to the third quarter. About 87% of households in Chin, 66% in Dry Zone, 82% in North Rakhine State and 85% 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, 11% 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, 28% of children were at high risk of becoming malnourished, 13% were moderately malnourished, and 3% were severely malnourished. Debts were incurred to buy food in 37% of sampled households in Taunggyi, 47% in Dry Zone, 47% in NRS, 48% in Chin and 40% 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: 19% in Dry Zone, 30% in North Rakhine State and 20% in areas affected by cyclone Giri.</td>
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**Main staple:** Cassava, Maize, Millet, Rice, Sorghum, Wheat
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 40% of rural households had poor or borderline consumption, increased to 54 in October-December 2010, when 24% 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.

**Food consumption patterns** have improved slightly as a result of humanitarian interventions. Poor food consumption was recorded in 10% of Gaza households in the second half of 2010. In area C of the West Bank 38% of the surveyed households had poor food consumption in the second half of 2010; in the West Bank 11% had poor food consumption in the same period.

**Food security trend** over the last six months (H)

Asia, Middle East & Commonwealth of Independent States

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<td>Preliminary production estimates for the November/December paddy rice harvest, the main summer crop, were 11% higher than the previous year. This is not a high figure, however, considering that last year’s production was 11% lower than the year before. The winter wheat crop harvested in April-June 2010 was estimated to be 16% higher than the previous year, but 1% less than in 2008.</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY</td>
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<td>The food security situation remains stable as a result of good winter wheat production in April-May 2010 and an improved harvest of summer maize and paddy.</td>
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<td>PAKISTAN</td>
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<td>Between 2009 and 2010 there was a 3% decline in food insecurity, but the prevalence of household food insecurity in the Gaza Strip remains very high at 52%, with an additional 15% percent of households vulnerable to food insecurity. An estimated 821,000 people in the Gaza Strip are food-insecure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the national level, the price of rice has risen by 13% in the last six months. Year-on-year food price inflation remained between 12% and 14% during the same period. Compared with the five-year average, the price of rice rose by 109% and the price of wheat flour by 141%.

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 13%. Hidden in the national averages are extreme variations, and in many communities acute malnutrition rates exceed the emergency threshold of 15%. 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 several 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.

Acute malnutrition is recorded in 5.9% of children; moderate acute malnutrition is found in 4.5% of children, and 1.4% of children have severe acute malnutrition.

As short-term coping strategies, 32% of households consume food of lower quality, 42% of households purchase food on credit, 29% of households consume less food, and 11% 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 experiencing below-normal harvest; some households are considering converting their fields to pasture. Concerns also exist in the fruit-growing sector because premature blooming of some stone-fruit trees, particularly almonds, is expected to lead to poor harvest in 2011.

Consumer purchasing power continues to deteriorate; daily agricultural labourers are the most affected. In September 2010, with one day of wage labourers in Lahore could obtain 12 kg of average quality wheat flour, down from 13 kg 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 13% of children under 5. After the floods, the number of children at risk rose significantly, 5% of mothers have stopped breastfeeding and 16% of mothers stated that they had reduced breastfeeding.

Flood-affected households have shifted consumption to less preferred foods. A third of households practise borrowing; 36% of households rely on less preferred foods, 34% purchase food on credit, 33% borrow food and rely on others, 26% limit portion sizes and 19% 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 cropping 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 11% higher in July and August, and consumer purchasing power has been reduced. An estimated 10.1 million people are in need of immediate assistance.
### 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)
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
**TAJIKISTAN**  
Asia, Middle East & Commonwealth of Independent States  
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 20% in July 2009 to 16% in August 2010. Food intake among children showed similar dietary patterns.
| At the national level, the price of wheat rose by 17% 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 12% to 22%. Such seasonal increases in income were offset by the recent increase in fuel and transport costs, but 50% 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: 10% 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 40% 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. |
**HAITI**  
Caribbean and Latin America  
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 11% 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 26%. | 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 25% 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 Hene 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 15% 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. |
**HONDURAS**  
Caribbean and Latin America  
Of the households surveyed, 5.5% 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 7% and the price of sweet rice rose by 11% 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 1.8% 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 4.9% - 0.5% severe and 4.4% 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 18% 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. |
Annex: Selected set of food security monitoring indicators and their application

i. Food consumption (column B) 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.

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, Rama Mwanundu, Francesco Slaviero and Souleika Abdillahi. The team is grateful for valuable inputs received from regional vulnerability analysis and mapping advisers and Country Office vulnerability analysis and mapping staff.

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**Information Sources**

- FAO/GIEWS. Country briefs.
- FEWS-NET. Monthly food security updates, alerts, monthly price bulletins and outlooks.
- FSNAU. Quarterly briefs, market data and nutritional updates.
- WFP and partners. Food security monitoring reports and market price bulletins.

**Abbreviations and Acronyms**

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

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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.