



Global Food Security Update

TRACKING FOOD SECURITY TRENDS IN VULNERABLE COUNTRIES

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

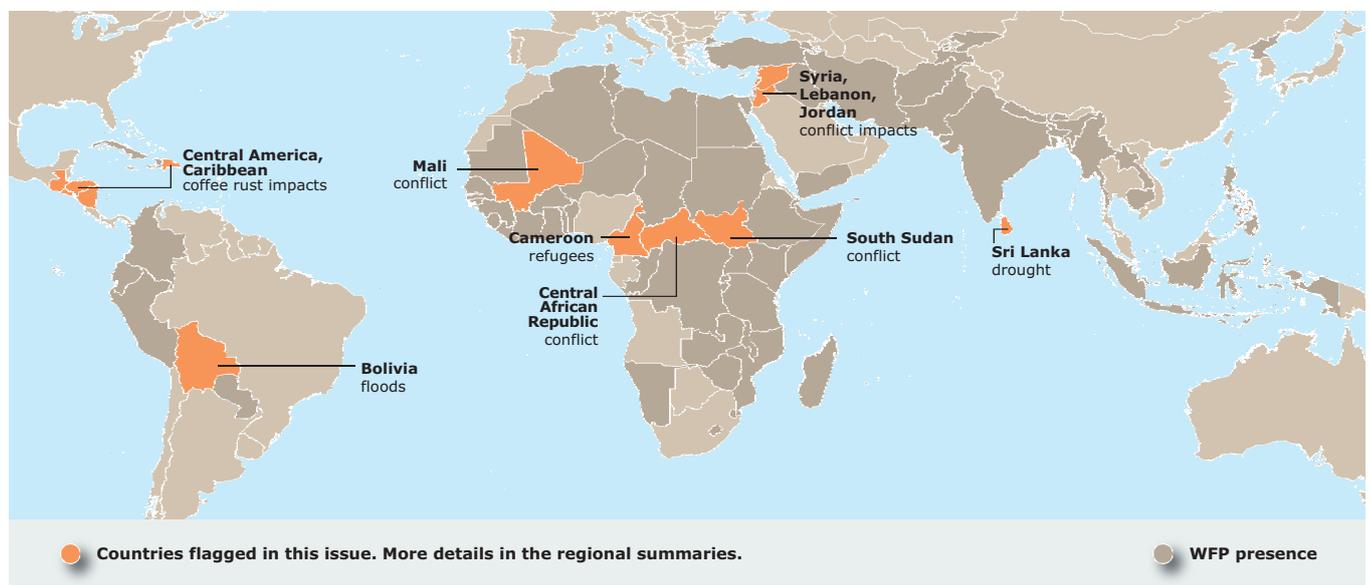
In focus

- Unless humanitarian assistance is urgently provided, food security conditions could deteriorate from Emergency (IPC Phase 4) to Famine (IPC Phase 5) in parts of **South Sudan**. As of May, some 3.5 million people are facing Crisis or Emergency conditions, as a result of continuing conflict, especially in Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei states. Internally displaced people and the host communities they live in are the most affected.
- The food security situation in the **Central African Republic** has deteriorated since November, with much of the country now facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) conditions as a result of conflict and resulting disruptions to trade. Large refugee inflows from the Central African Republic are taking place in **Chad, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo** and the **Republic of Congo**.
- Protracted conflict remains the driving factor of household food insecurity in **Syria**, due to its adverse effects on income and livelihoods. Drought in parts of the country during the first quarter of the year is expected to lead to a decline in staple food production, which will worsen the humanitarian situation. Below-average rains have also affected food production in **Turkey** and **Lebanon**.
- From February to April, rainfall deficits were observed in eastern **Ethiopia, Djibouti** and central and northern **Somalia**. Delays in the growing season are expected in parts of eastern **Uganda** and western **Kenya**.
- Crisis levels of food insecurity are expected in parts of the **Sahel** that experienced production shortfalls in 2013. Coarse grain prices remain above the five-year average in much of the region. People fleeing conflict from northeastern **Nigeria** are arriving in eastern **Niger**.
- Drought has led to an increase in the number of people requiring assistance in **Sri Lanka**.
- Rainfall deficits are forecast in parts of the Sahel from the July to September rainy season, and delays in the start of the growing season are possible. Below average rainfall is also expected in **Pakistan**.

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

Food insecurity hotspots

MAY 2014



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Regional highlights

WEST AFRICA

- According to the Harmonized framework, Crisis food security conditions are expected in the June-August lean season in southern and eastern parts of **Mauritania**, the upper river valley in **Senegal**, northern **Mali**, south-central and eastern parts of **Niger**, northernmost **Burkina Faso** and in parts of **Chad's** sahelian belt. Many of these areas experienced food production shortfalls in 2013. Millet and sorghum prices remain high and some 10% above the 5-year average on most West African markets, which is eroding market dependent household's ability to access food.
- Continuing conflict in parts of the region have provoked population displacement. OCHA reports that Niger's Diffa region host up to 50,000 refugees or returnees from northern **Nigeria**. According to

UNHCR, more than 78,000 new refugees from **Central African Republic** have been registered in **Cameroon**, where screening suggests high GAM rates among refugee children under 5. Moreover, Chad has registered an influx of over 100,000 people from the Central African Republic. Emergency food assistance is required for the majority of these refugees and the host population. Finally, following violence in May, renewed displacement was reported in parts of northern Mali.

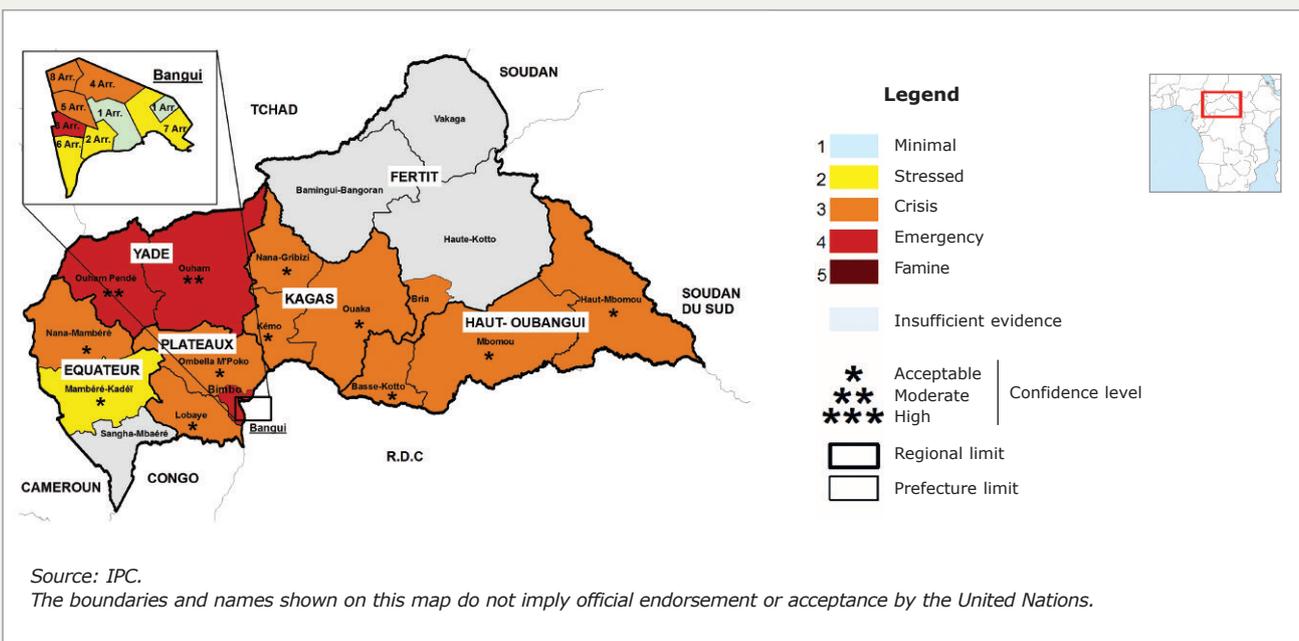
- The climate forecast indicates that rainfall in 2014 will likely be below 2013. Below-average precipitations are expected in most of **Guinea**, **Senegal**, **Gambia**, and parts of Mauritania and Mali. A late start to the growing season is expected in the region.

Central African Republic: Acute food insecurity (April 2014)

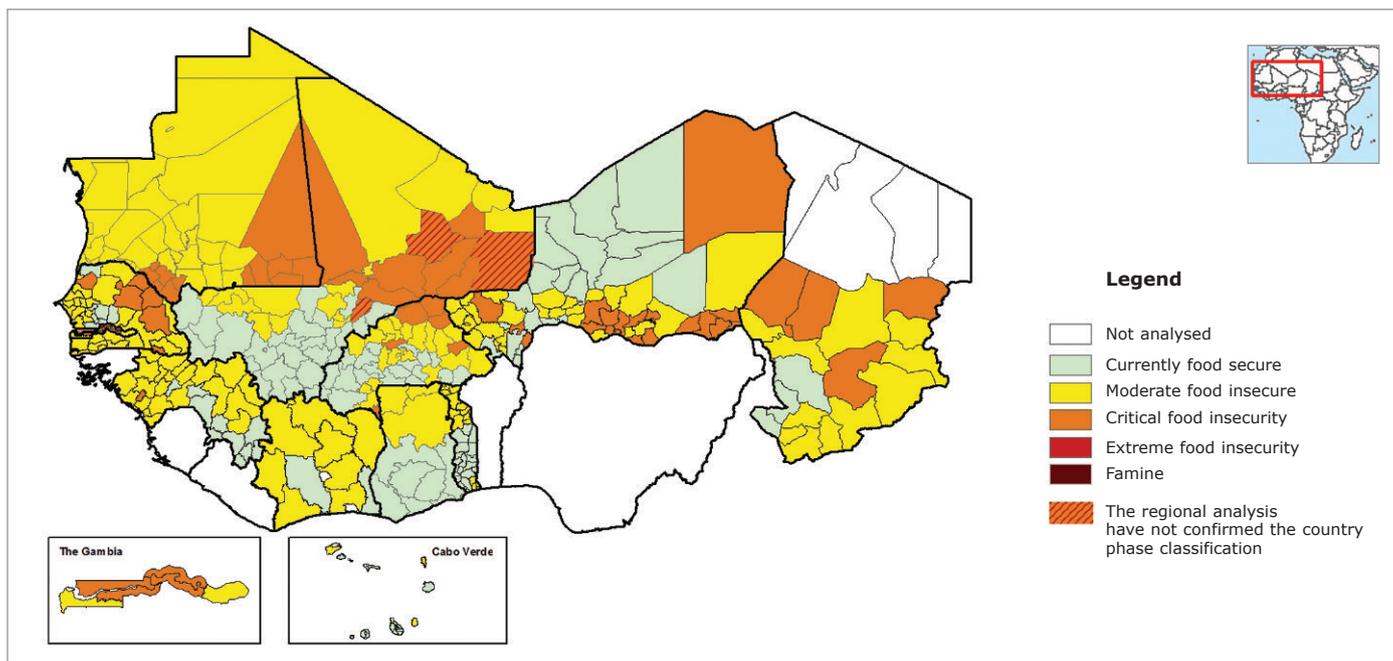
In focus

The April 2014 IPC analysis conducted in the Central African Republic shows a deterioration of the food security situation, compared to November 2013 round which took place in a post-harvest period. The situation has deteriorated as livelihoods have been profoundly affected by the war, and have, in some cases, been entirely compromised due to asset sales, looting, and population displacement. Food availability has decreased, due to low stocks from the poor 2013 harvest and widespread looting and limited market supply.

Access to food is affected by declining household purchasing power and increase in the prices of staple food which varies from 20 to 60% compared to last year. The prefectures most affected by food insecurity include Ouham Péné and Ouham, which are in Emergency (IPC phase 4). All other prefectures are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), with the exception of Mambere-Kadéi, in 'Stress' situation (IPC Phase 2). Varkaga, Haut kotto, Bamigui-Bangoran and Sangha-Mbaere were not classified because of insufficient data.



West Africa: acute food insecurity projection (June-August 2014)



Source: Cadre Harmonisé.

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EAST AFRICA

- In East Africa, some 8.5 million people are facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) food security conditions. The largest numbers are found in **South Sudan** (3.5 m), **Ethiopia** (2.7 m) and **Kenya** (1.3 m). Emergency food security conditions prevail in parts of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States in South Sudan,

where conflict has driven large-scale population displacement and livelihood disruption. Crisis conditions prevail in other parts of South Sudan, parts of Afar, Amhara and Tigray in Ethiopia, northwestern Kenya, along the Somalian coast and in rural areas of **Djibouti**.

South Sudan: Urgent action needed to save lives and prevent famine

In focus

Following the conflict that erupted in South Sudan in December 2013, nearly a million people have been internally displaced as of 15 May, according to UNHCR. More than 345,000 have sought refuge in neighboring countries. Compared to February and October 2013, an increase in food insecurity has been noted in conflict affected areas. As of May, 3.5 million people are facing Crisis (2.4 m) or Emergency (1.1 m) conditions and are in need of urgent action to protect their livelihoods, save lives and prevent famine.

Most households in the Greater Upper Nile have exhausted their food stocks through sharing with IDPs. Looting during the conflict and poor harvest in conflict affected zones is also impacting the population. Malnutrition among children has sharply risen in most states, except in Western Equatorial and Western Bahr el Ghazal. In Greater Upper Nile, screening shows GAM rates ranging from 11% to 24%. Among South Sudanese children in refugee

settlements in Uganda, GAM and SAM prevalence rate of 19.6% and 4.1% respectively, have been recorded. Insecurity is impeding the delivery of relief supplies by road.

Cross-border trade with neighbouring countries, especially Uganda is critical to food security in the capital Juba. Following initial disruption, trade with Uganda has resumed and prices of some commodities have started to improve in Juba, Wau and Aweil compared to January/February. However, markets in conflict affected areas remain non-functional and prices are very high, with significant negative impact on food access.

The prevailing conflict, lack of adequate seeds and tools and seasonal flooding will hinder optimal agricultural activities thereby prolonging the period of food insecurity. The rains are of concern, since 40% of the IDPs are residing in flood prone areas. Rains might also impact the delivery of assistance by road.

- WFP's analysis of the onset of the growing season in the Greater Horn of Africa shows that pronounced rainfall deficits are noticeable, extending from **Uganda** to northeast **Somalia**, across western Kenya and southeast Ethiopia. By contrast, above average rainfall has been detected in much of South Sudan and northwest Ethiopia. In agricultural areas of

eastern Uganda and western Kenya where planting had not yet taken place, delays in the growing season will be inevitable. Pastoral areas in Turkana and Karamoja may be facing reduced pasture and water resources. Significant delays in agricultural activities can be expected also in southeast Ethiopia and central and northern sections of Somalia.

**In
focus**

Somalia: Late start to the *Gu* season, as around 1 million people face Crisis or Emergency food security conditions

An estimated 857,000 people in Somalia (12% of the population) are classified in Crisis and Emergency acute food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and 4) in February – June 2014, based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Most of the population (61%, 4,598,000 people) is facing minimal acute food insecurity (IPC phase 1), while 27% (2,048,000 people) are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security conditions. There are high rates of acute malnutrition across the country with over 200,000 malnourished children under 5 years. GAM rates for children under five range from high (>20%) to very high (>30%) in the southern regions, while they are generally lower in the northern and central parts of the country (from <10% to >15%).

The late start of the April to June *Gu* season has caused considerable delays in planting, which could affect agricultural production. Insecurity has led to losses in lives and property and hampered agricultural activities as well as disruptions in trade and market

activities in South-Central regions. Trade disruptions, mainly due to ongoing AMISOM military offensive and consequence blockade by Al-Shabaab elements, caused increased prices of essential food commodities and the overall cost of the minimum food basket. Limited input availability (e.g. seeds, tractor availability), rising fuel prices and limited availability of fuel may affect cultivation in the current *Gu* season.

UNHCR estimates the total population of IDPs at 920,000 (valid through Dec 2014). The main reason of recent displacement has been the on-going military offensive by the government of Somalia, the African Union Mission in Somalia was launched in early 2014. The operation has triggered population displacement and disruptions to trade and markets. Many of the IDPs are difficult to reach. Security and access remain critical bottlenecks for delivering assistance in the some central and southern parts of the country, since most of the "liberated" towns remain subject to road blockage by armed groups.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

- As the 2014 seasons draws to a close and the main harvest begins, households in the region are consuming cereals from their own production. While cumulative rainfall was generally above average in **Malawi**, dry spells were reported in local areas of the north in March and may lead to impacts on availability. Poorly distributed seasonal rainfall since February 2014 has led to deteriorating ground conditions in parts of **Angola** and in **Namibia**, affecting crop and pastoral production in both countries. In **Madagascar**, some localised areas in the southwest will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) until the start of the harvest in June.
- Thanks to favorable crop conditions, the commercial **South African** maize crop for 2014 is estimated at 13 million tons, some 1.3 million tons above the previous season. This improved production should enhance regional maize market supply. In **Zambia**, a surplus of 1.1 million tons of maize is expected in for the new consumption year. The country's export ban was lifted. Production prospects are also favourable in **Zimbabwe**, where WFP's Food Security Monitoring system showed that cereal availability was higher in April 2014 compared to the previous year. About 85% of communities in Zimbabwe reported cereal as always or frequently available on the markets April 2014 as opposed to 61% a year earlier.
- In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** an estimated 6.7 million people (11% of the rural population) are in Crisis and Emergency food insecurity phases (phases 3 and 4, respectively), based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) undertaken in December 2013. This is 5% more than in previous cycle that was done in June 2013. Since June 2013, the number of provinces in Emergency has increased from two (North Kivu and Katanga) to three (Katanga, Maniema and Orientale provinces). The situation remains worrying especially in territories of Irumu (Orientale), Punia (Maniema) and Manono, Mitwaba and Pweto (Katanga). In these zones, conflict is the main driver of food insecurity. A joint vulnerability assessment carried out in February-March 2014 in North Kivu (Eastern Congo) indicated that 64% of households in resettlement camps and sites are vulnerable to food insecurity. Over three of every four vulnerable households are female-headed. Vulnerability to food insecurity in the camps and resettlement sites is generally driven by extreme poverty which also affects 95% of the population in DRC. Vulnerable households mainly subsist on agriculture and casual labour.

MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA AND CENTRAL ASIA

- **Syria:** Conflict remains the driving factor of household food insecurity in Syria and this has adversely affected income and livelihoods. The projected decline in staple food production due to drought in parts of the country, will worsen the humanitarian situation. Satellite images confirm a decline in rainfall received during the 1st quarter of 2014, compared to the 10-year average. WFP food price monitoring indicates a considerable decline in staple food prices compared to the 4th quarter of 2013. The government support to the public bakeries with wheat flour and yeast have helped stabilize prices of the subsidized bread in some areas. The shortfall in domestic wheat supplies in 2013 has resulted in a significant increase in imports of wheat and flour. Reduction in purchasing power due to limited income and livelihood sources,

resulted in increased demand for subsidized bread which is cheaper and affordable (at SYP15 per bundle) compared to bread in shops (price range of SYP25 to SYP100 depending on location). Market monitoring also suggest increased availability of imported commodities (for example cooking oil) in North- East governorates, mainly from Turkey and Iraq. However, prices of these imported commodities remain vulnerable to rising transport cost and changes in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound against major currencies. During the first quarter of 2014, the Syrian pound was relatively stable against the US Dollar, trading at an average of USD1/SYP145. The effects of drought in parts of the country might reverse some of the food price decreases recorded in recent months.

Impact of the Syria crisis in the region

In
focus

Lebanon: Food consumption of Syrian refugees seems to improve with length of stay in Lebanon, although households are increasingly resorting to coping strategies. Households with borderline and low food consumption scores are concentrated in collective or unfinished shelters and tents – among these accommodation types, however, dietary diversity appears to remain stable. 72% of households are buying food on credit or borrowing money to purchase food. Preliminary results of the recently conducted Nutrition Assessment show that the situation has deteriorated especially for Syrian refugees in Bekaa, as 8.9% of children under 5 in this group suffered from acute malnutrition.

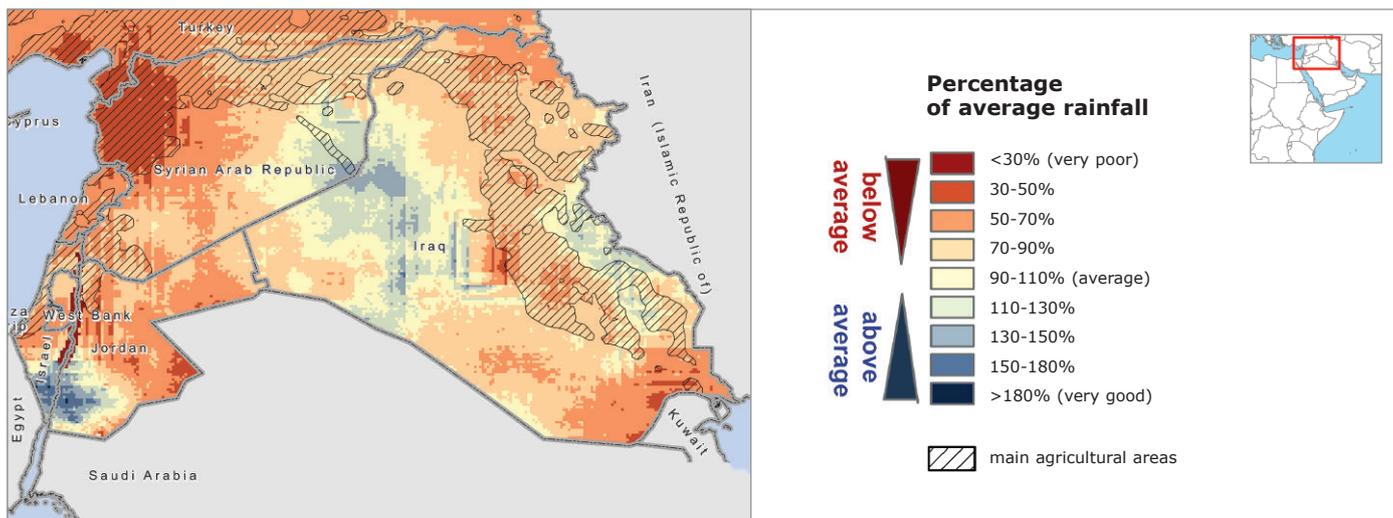
Turkey: Some 90% of households living in camps are considered to have acceptable food consumption and 9% borderline food consumption. Some 15% of surveyed households engaged in coping strategies, the most common being to rely on less preferred foods. Refugees living outside of camps are considered to be more vulnerable; the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey reports that more than 62% of refugees outside camps are thought to be living with another 7 or more people.

- A rapid food security assessment carried out in six major cities of **Iraq's** Anbar province in March shows that access limitations have a dire effect on the ability of humanitarian agencies to meet needs of IDPs. Food from the Public Distribution System is not reaching the IDPs, and their coping strategies are stretched. As the conflict continues, support from families, friends and host communities dwindles and assistance to meet shelter, food, water health and education is needed. Populations with low incomes,

low food consumption and living in abandoned buildings and schools with little or no support are most in need.

- The Middle East registered considerable rainfall deficits throughout the 2013-2014 season. Strongest impacts are observed in Syria (particularly in the northwest) but also in Lebanon and southern Turkey, where it will be one of the worst in the recent record.

Middle East: cumulative rainfall ratio anomaly (1 October 2013-10 May 2014 vs 20 years average)

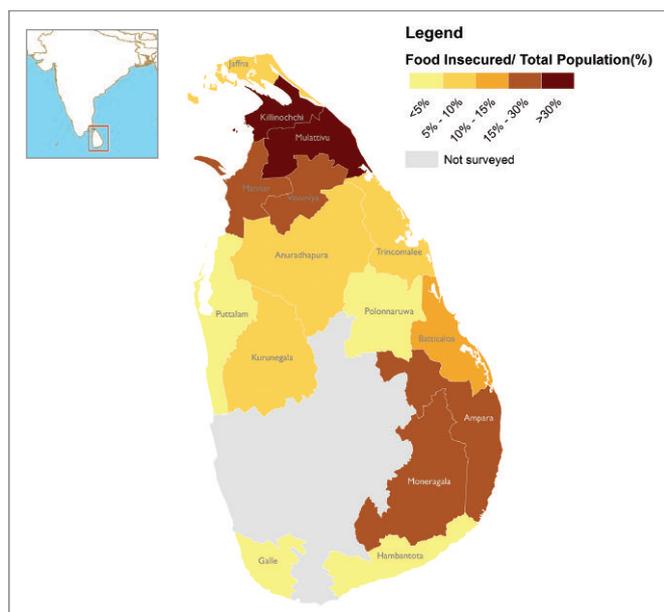


Source: WFP VAM.
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ASIA

- Northern **Afghanistan** has suffered from torrential rains that led to landslides and flash flooding in April and May. The disaster-prone province of Badakhshan has been most affected. The events have caused widespread damage to agriculture, infrastructure, houses and public buildings.
- In **Sri Lanka**, The *Maha* 2014 drought seriously damaged agricultural production - and is threatening to significantly limit the upcoming *yala* harvest. Three consecutive years of natural disasters has undermined household resilience: populations in affected areas have built up unsustainable levels of debts, have insufficient access to water for irrigation, have limited quality seed supply and are exposed to a continued decline in agricultural income. As a consequence, food insecurity has increased dramatically to an estimated 768,000, more than double the level in 2012. Household food consumption deteriorated sharply: 18% of households consume inadequate diets. Immediate coordinated relief and agricultural inputs specifically targeting the vulnerable households, are recommended.

Sri Lanka: Distribution of food security



Source: Sri Lanka Rapid Drought Impact Assessment Report.
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- Food security conditions in **Pakistan**'s chronically food-insecure and drought-prone Tharparkar district have deteriorated further due to untimely and low rainfall. Agriculture and livestock, two major sources of livelihood and food security, were affected. IPC analysis conducted in April 2014 classified the areas as facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) conditions. As per the draft IPC analysis, at least five other districts in Pakistan are facing Phase 4 conditions, including districts affected by insecurity, mainly in the north

east, and the Awaran district of Balochistan, affected by the earthquake of October 2013. Although Pakistan recently had a fairly good wheat harvest of wheat, food prices continue to increase. WFP monitoring shows that the average price of wheat was 21% above a year earlier as of April, driving down unskilled wage laborer's terms of trade. The forecast calls for below average rainfall over the next three months.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

- In **Bolivia**, unusually heavy rains have led to widespread flooding in January and February 2014. The most affected areas include Cochabamba, Beni, Chuquisaca and La Paz, which has and will continue to have effects on agriculture and livestock production. Government estimates that the flooding has affected some 325,000 people. Most of the affected families are subsistence farmers that have completely lost their crops –their main food and income source– houses, land and other infrastructure. Floods have followed a major drought

in another region of the country: El Chaco and the southern cone of Cochabamba.

- On the Pacific Coast of **Colombia**, in the province of Chocó, recent armed confrontations have left more than 2,600 people displaced and 1,900 confined from rural areas in Alto Baudó. The affected indigenous population is structurally food insecure and its condition has worsened due to the displacement and the mobility restrictions. It has temporarily settled in rural areas, without access to basic sanitary services and food.

Coffee Leaf Rust – Household Impacts

In
focus

- Coffee leaf rust first appeared in 2013. In partnership with governments, WFP has been assessing the household-level food security impacts of this phenomenon in Central America and the Caribbean. Assessments show that food insecure households commonly rely on small-scale coffee farming or daily labor in the coffee or other sectors. In **Honduras**, for instance, 68% of severely food insecure households are small coffee-producing households, while 42% of moderately food insecure households depend on day labor. Food insecure households do not receive remittances. These groups generally have low access to assets, low education, and high dependence on precarious income sources.
- In all countries, many severely and moderately food insecure households are led by women, while some are single-parent households where the head of household cannot read or write. In **Guatemala**, the prevalence of severe food insecurity among women-headed households

(14%) is double that of male headed households (7%). In the **Dominican Republic**, three of ten food-insecure households is a single parent household and 37% have a household head who cannot read or write. In **El Salvador**, 60% of food insecure households are single-parent, mostly headed by a single woman.

- In the case of El Salvador, it was found that 38% of households live in isolated communities on coffee plantations, where livelihood alternatives are limited, and where access to markets is costly due to high transportation costs. In Honduras, small producers cultivate fewer than two hectares of land on average. Food insecure households lack access to credit.
- The main causes of food insecurity include pre-existing factors such as low incomes and a high dependence on markets to buy food, dependency on coffee-related activities, and lack of access to credit. It is expected that the crisis caused by coffee leaf rust will last at least two to three years.



Methodology

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

Acute food insecurity is classified according to 5 phases:

Phase 1: None/Minimal

Phase 2: Stressed

Phase 3: Crisis

Phase 4: Emergency

Phase 5: Humanitarian Catastrophe/Famine

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

Acronyms

CILSS	Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse au Sahel
CFSAM	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FSNWG	Food Security and Nutrition Working Group
FEWSNET	Famine - Early Warning Systems Network
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition

IDP	Internally displaced person
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
UNCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

Information sources

CILSS:	Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse au Sahel
FAO:	www.fao.org
FEWS-NET:	www.fews.net
FSNAU:	www.fsnau.org

FSNWG:	www.disasterriskreduction.net/fsnwg
IPC:	www.ipcinfo.org
OCHA:	www.unocha.org
UNHCR:	www.unhcr.org
WFP:	www.wfp.org/food-security

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