



World Food Programme

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Global Food Security Update

TRACKING FOOD SECURITY TRENDS IN VULNERABLE COUNTRIES

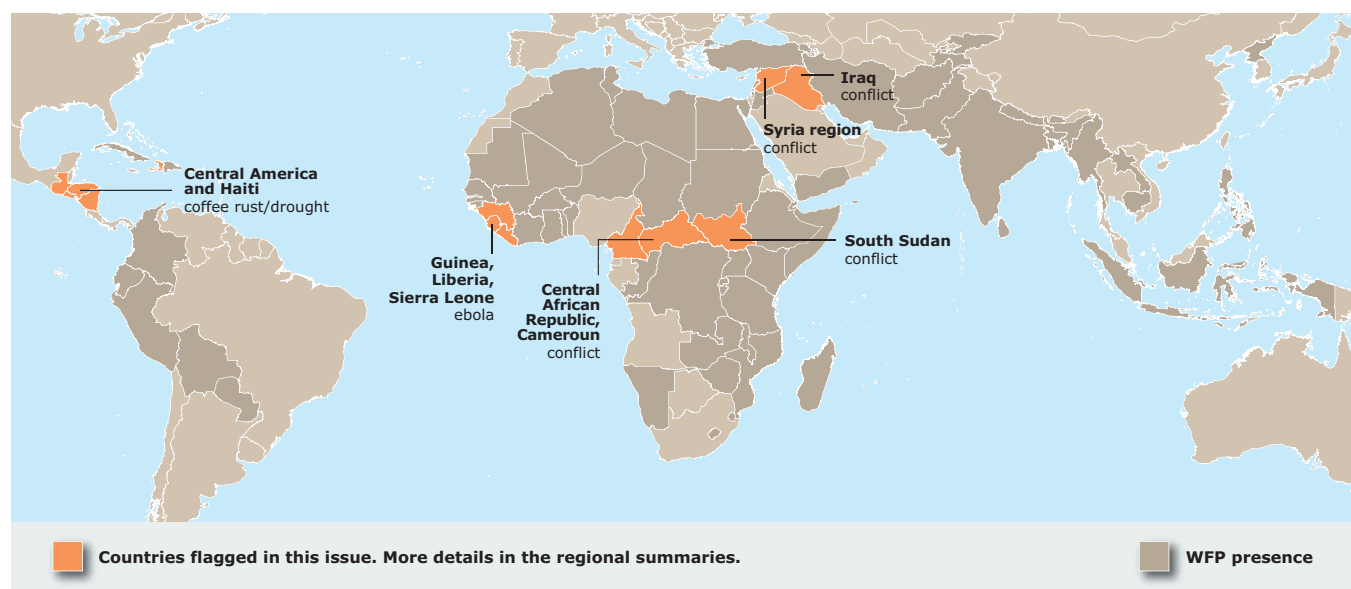
The Global Food Security Update provides a quarterly overview of key food security trends in vulnerable countries. Information is provided by WFP VAM field teams and partners.

In focus

- In conflict-affected **South Sudan**, the food security situation is much worse than at harvest time in a typical year. Around 1.5 million people are expected to remain in Phase 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency) through December 2014.
- In **Syria**, Changes in the government's subsidy policy combined with a further depreciation of the Syrian currency is expected to negatively impact the food security status of poor families. WFP monitoring shows that the price of imported basic food items is increasing where escalating fighting has disrupted supply chains and markets.
- The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate in **Iraq** as fighting continues. Throughout the country, over 1.8 million people have been displaced.
- The conflict in the **Central African Republic** continues to affect food production and markets. Displaced persons remain in urgent need of food assistance.
- War in **Gaza** has led to massive population displacement, severe disruptions to trade and the destruction of infrastructure.
- The Ebola outbreak in **Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone** is undermining household food access in affected areas. An even larger number of people are affected by restrictions on movement and market disruptions.
- Drought in **Central America** has caused large crop losses for the *primera* harvest. This will compound the negative food security effects of the coffee leaf rust in the region.
- In Asia, poor rainfall has occurred in parts of **Pakistan, Sri Lanka** and the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**. Massive flooding occurred in **South Asia** in August, affecting some 1.8m people in Pakistan and 2m in Bangladesh.

Food insecurity hotspots

OCTOBER 2014



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

Regional highlights

EAST AFRICA

- Food and nutrition insecurity is of major concern in the following areas: northern **Kenya**, the Karamoja region of **Uganda**, and the conflict-affected areas of **South Sudan**, eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, east and west Hararge of **Ethiopia** and **Somalia** (IDP settlements, central and southern regions, cities under insurgent siege in central and southern zones). Global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels are exceeding the World Health Organisation (WHO) emergency threshold of 15 percent, especially in parts of South Sudan, Somalia and northern Kenya.
- Food and nutrition security is likely to deteriorate in northern **Kenya**; **Sudan**; northern parts of **South Sudan**; north, eastern and south-eastern parts of **Ethiopia**; and most parts of Karamoja in **Uganda** because of the poor performances of the previous season, forecasts of below normal rainfall, persistent

high food prices and conflict. Most of the affected areas have experienced successive periods of poor rainfall and are already facing crisis or emergency food security conditions with high levels of malnutrition.

- The recent **Somalia** IPC update estimates that 1,025,000 people will be in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) between August and December 2014 – 20 percent more than in February 2014. Poor rains damaged the 2014 Gu cereal harvest, estimated to be 37 percent below the long-term average and 28 percent below the five-year average. A combination of delayed Gu rains, restricted humanitarian access, rising food prices, IDPs and increasing conflict is likely to worsen food security, especially in the southern and central region. On the nutrition side, 218,000 children under 5 are acutely malnourished and their lives are at risk.

South Sudan

In focus

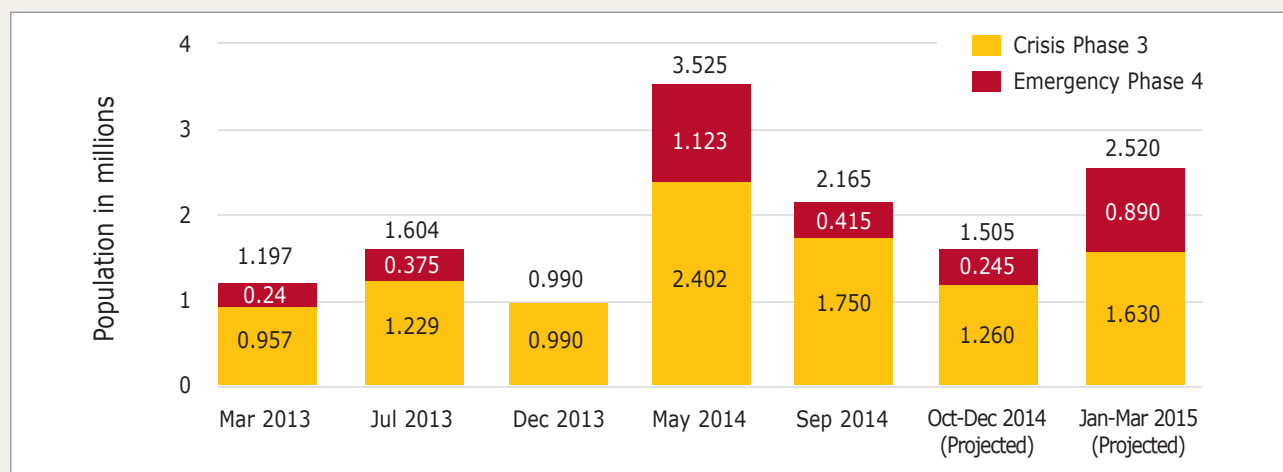
According to the South Sudan IPC, food security across the country began improving in August and September and is expected to continue on a positive trend through December 2014. Normal rainfall, good crop planting and performance, and the start of the green harvest in late August have improved the seasonal availability of crops, livestock products, fish and wild foods.

While there have been significant improvements since the May IPC, the situation is much worse compared to a typical year at harvest time: 1.5 million people are projected to remain in Phase 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency) through December 2014. The outlook for 2015 is of great concern: 2.5 million people are expected to be in

Crisis or Emergency from January to March 2015, including nearly half the population of the Greater Upper Nile. Major challenges include the early depletion of household food stocks, dysfunctional markets, the loss of livelihoods and displacement – all resulting from protracted conflict.

The overall nutrition situation remains dire for September to December. GAM prevalence is likely to stay above the WHO emergency threshold (over 15 percent), especially in conflict-affected states. The high levels of acute malnutrition are attributed to inadequate food consumption as well as morbidity, dietary and feeding habits, and restricted health and nutrition service delivery.

Population in Phase 3 and Phase 4 in South Sudan



Source: IPC.

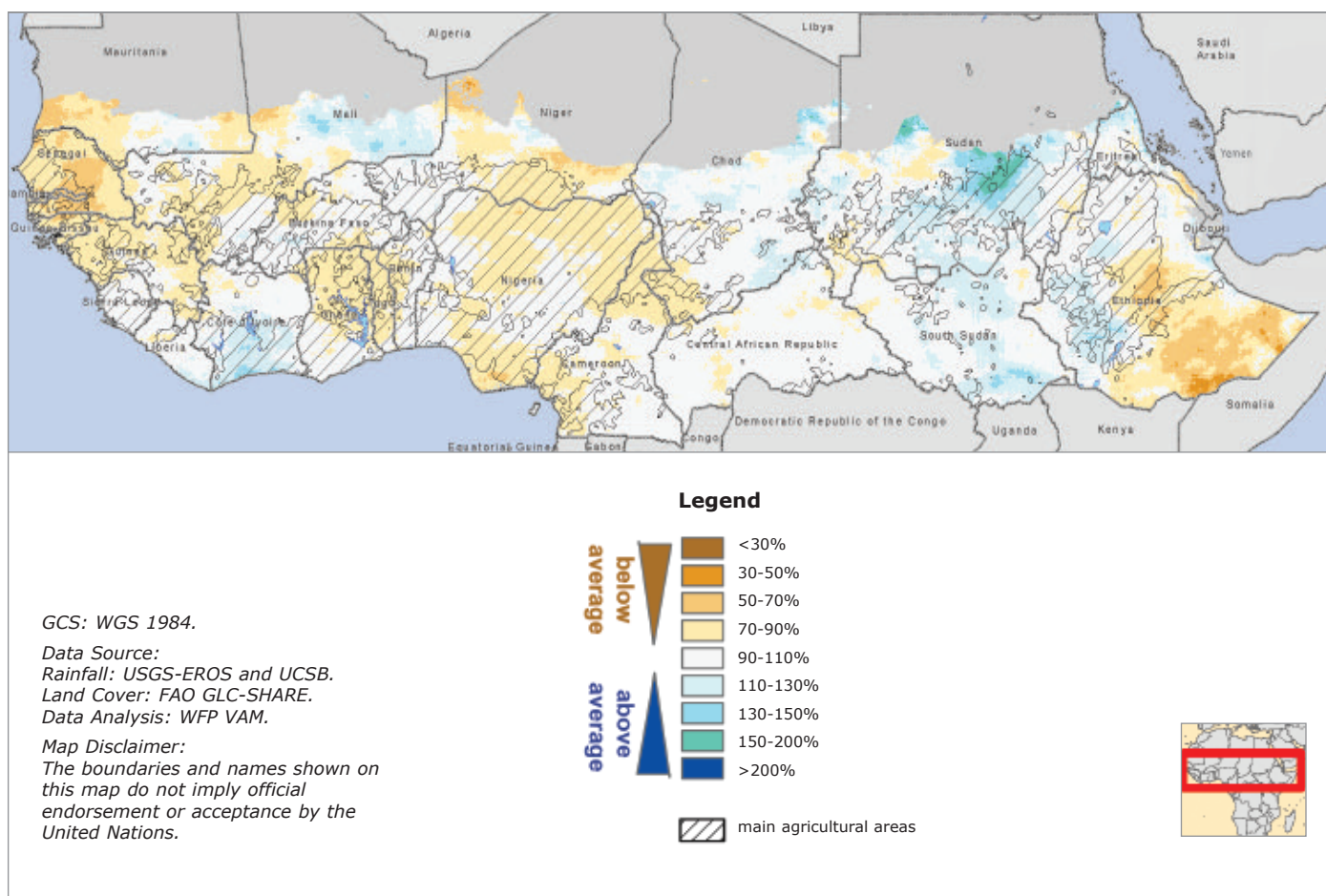
WEST AFRICA

- Seasonal rainfall deficits are still the predominant feature across the region, which has seen widespread delays in the start of the agricultural season and poor crop development over large areas. In **Niger**, early season dryness in pastoral areas of the Sahel has led to abnormal livestock death. Even though total rainfall normalized in most of the Sahel in August, leading to some improvements, **Senegal**, **Mauritania**, parts of western **Mali** as well as northern **Nigeria** are still areas of major concern. The continued conflict in north-eastern Nigeria and its consequences for the sub-regional crop production and trade will also be of concern in the coming months.
- The Ebola outbreak in **Guinea**, **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone** is undermining the food security of directly affected households, while an even larger number of people are affected by restrictions on movement and market disruptions. The sub-regional food trade in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Liberia has been also disrupted by market and border closures. While

the price of imported rice has not been greatly affected, the price of cassava doubled in Monrovia between July and August 2014. The depreciation of the national currencies could lead to price inflation, which would erode food access for poor urban households. A WFP assessment estimated that the volume of trade have dropped by up to 50 percent on the southern Senegalese border markets of Diaobé and Kédougou, following the closure of the border with Guinea.

- Continued instability in the **Central African Republic (CAR)** has meant IDPs and populations living in enclaves continue to face acute food shortages. According to UNHCR, in September 2014 there were 20,000 refugees from CAR, mainly in **Cameroon**, **Chad** and **DRC**. The main 2014 crop is expected to be below average as insecurity and poor market access reduce farmers' ability and incentives to plant. Food market trends are mixed because of limited transportation services, low demand and insecurity.

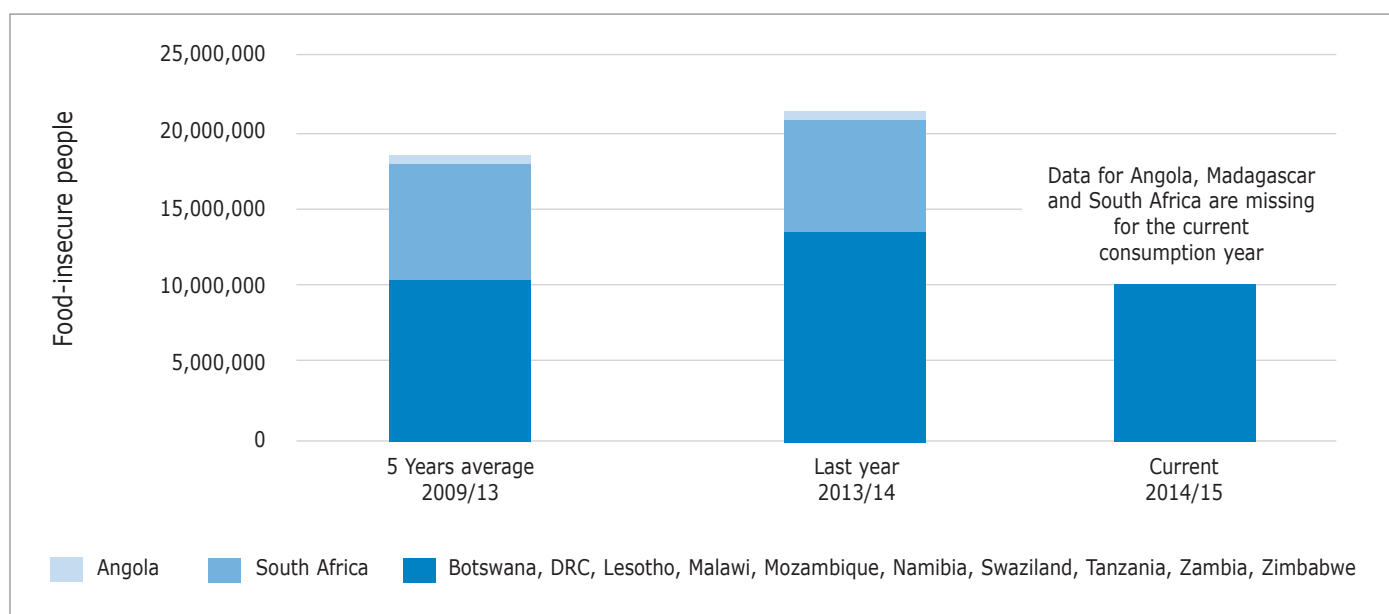
West Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Total Rainfall (percent of average) as of 30 September 2014



SOUTHERN AFRICA

- Nine countries (**Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe**) have finalised their annual vulnerability assessments for 2014/15. Cereal production rose in all countries except Lesotho and DRC. For the 11 countries that had crop data available (Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), the regional cereal harvest was 15 percent higher than last year and 20 percent above the five-year average.
- The 2014 national vulnerability assessments findings, released in July, point to an improvement in food security across the region compared to last year and the five-year average.
- As reflected in the graph, the total number of food-insecure people in the region (excluding South Africa and Angola) is lower than last year and below the five-year average. DRC has the largest food-insecure population (7.3 million). The remaining 2.7 million food-insecure people live in nine countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Price trends for white maize – the main staple food in the region – were mixed in August 2014. In Zambia and Swaziland, prices rose as post-harvest supplies began to dwindle. Prices remained stable in Mozambique and Malawi, and they fell slightly in Zimbabwe. In Madagascar, the price of their staple – brown rice – also fell. In Tanzania, maize prices continued to drop as the second harvest of the cultivation season increased food availability on local markets.

Food insecurity across Southern Africa

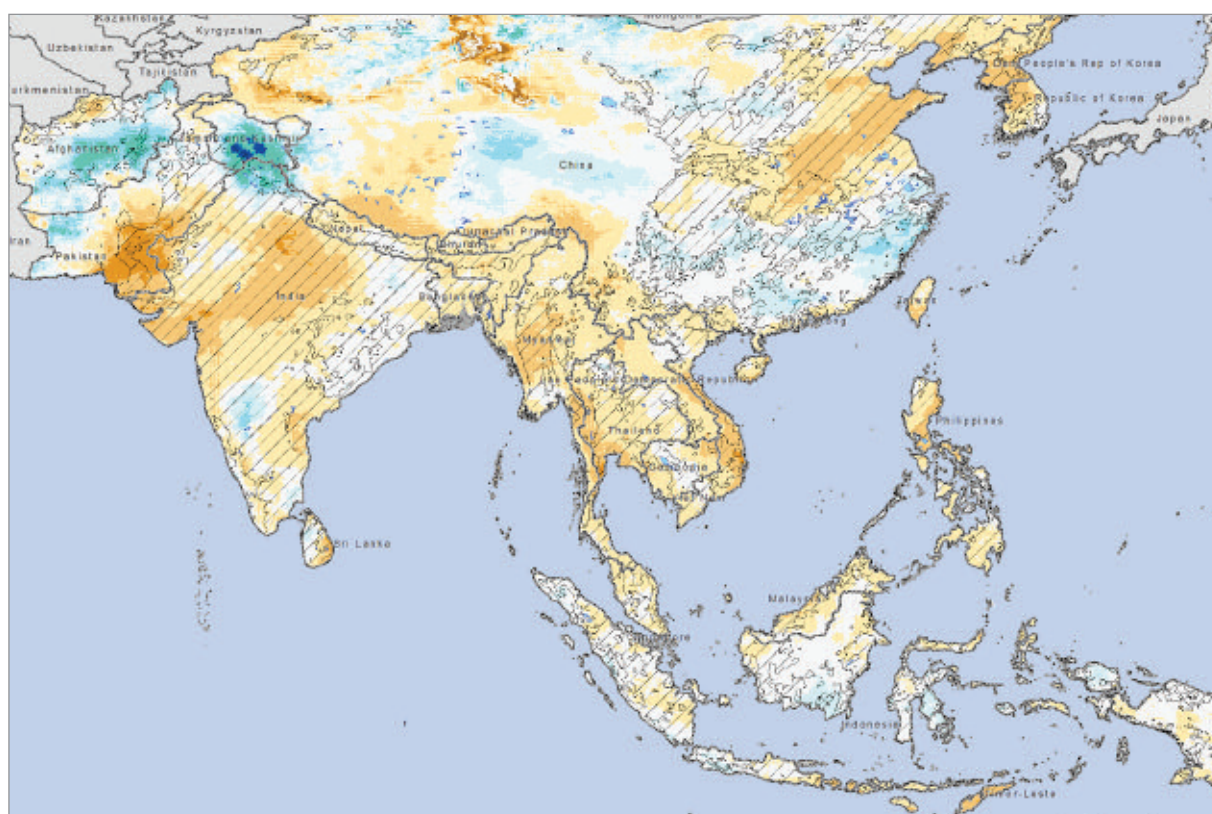


Source: VAC.

ASIA

- Widespread rainfall deficits associated with *El Niño* like conditions led to delayed starts to the growing season across vast areas of East Asia. Conditions were worst around mid-July, followed by a general improvement, which still left moderate rainfall deficits as the predominant pattern.
- The worst affected area is the eastern part of Sindh province of **Pakistan** with pronounced dryness since early 2014.
- In **Sri Lanka**, the government estimates that 1.8m people have been affected by drought in 16 districts of the country. Adverse weather has caused the price of rice, fresh fish and vegetables to rise. Last two consecutive agricultural seasons (*maha* 2013/2014 and *yala* 2014) were also affected by droughts.
- In **DPRK**, key producing regions -North Pyongan, South Pyongan, North Hwanghae and South Hwanghae- have experienced prolonged periods of below-average rainfall. According to government figures, this has particularly affected the early wheat crop, which was about 30,000 mt lower. Although the spring harvest only contributes a fraction to national supply, it is an important crop for food security, signaling the end of the lean period. Given the country's reliance on rainfed agriculture, the prolonged dry spell may have exacerbated the lean season and resulted in poor production forecast for the main cereal harvest in October/November. The reduction in official daily ration sizes for cereals from 410 to 250 gram per person per day indicates an imminent shortage in food availability in the country. This may significantly increase the risk of acute malnutrition, especially among vulnerable women and children.

South-East Asia. Total Rainfall (percent of average) as of 10 September 2014



GCS: WGS 1984.

Data Source:

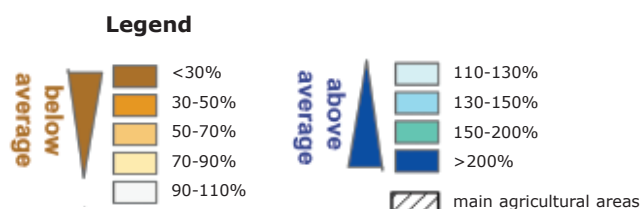
Rainfall: USGS-EROS and UCSB.

Land Cover: FAO GLC-SHARE.

Data Analysis: WFP VAM.

Map Disclaimer:

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



South Asia floods in August

In focus

In early September, extreme rainfall events, the heaviest in at least 30 years, led to flooding in parts of **Pakistan**. Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab. As of 24 September, a total of 1.8 million people were affected. It also caused wide spread crops damage, mostly in Punjab, the bread basket of the country. A multi-sectoral initial rapid assessment (MIRA) is currently underway to assess the impact in the five most affected districts in Punjab.

Continuous rainfall in northwest and north-eastern **Bangladesh** triggered floods in nine of sixty-four districts, causing widespread damage to houses, infrastructure and agriculture. Almost 2 million people were affected in the districts of the north-west region.

This amounts to one third of the total population in the affected area. Immediate impact on food security includes loss of household food stocks and damaged rice. The most impacted livelihood groups appear to be small and marginal farmers, and day laborers.

In **Nepal** heavy monsoon rainfall from 13-15 August triggered floods and landslides in forty-two of seventy-five districts, causing widespread damage to houses, infrastructure and agriculture. Based on an initial rapid assessment, in the four most affected districts in the mid-western region, roughly 26,000 families, or 132,000 people, were displaced or severely affected. Immediate impact on food security includes loss of household food stocks and damaged rice and maize crops.

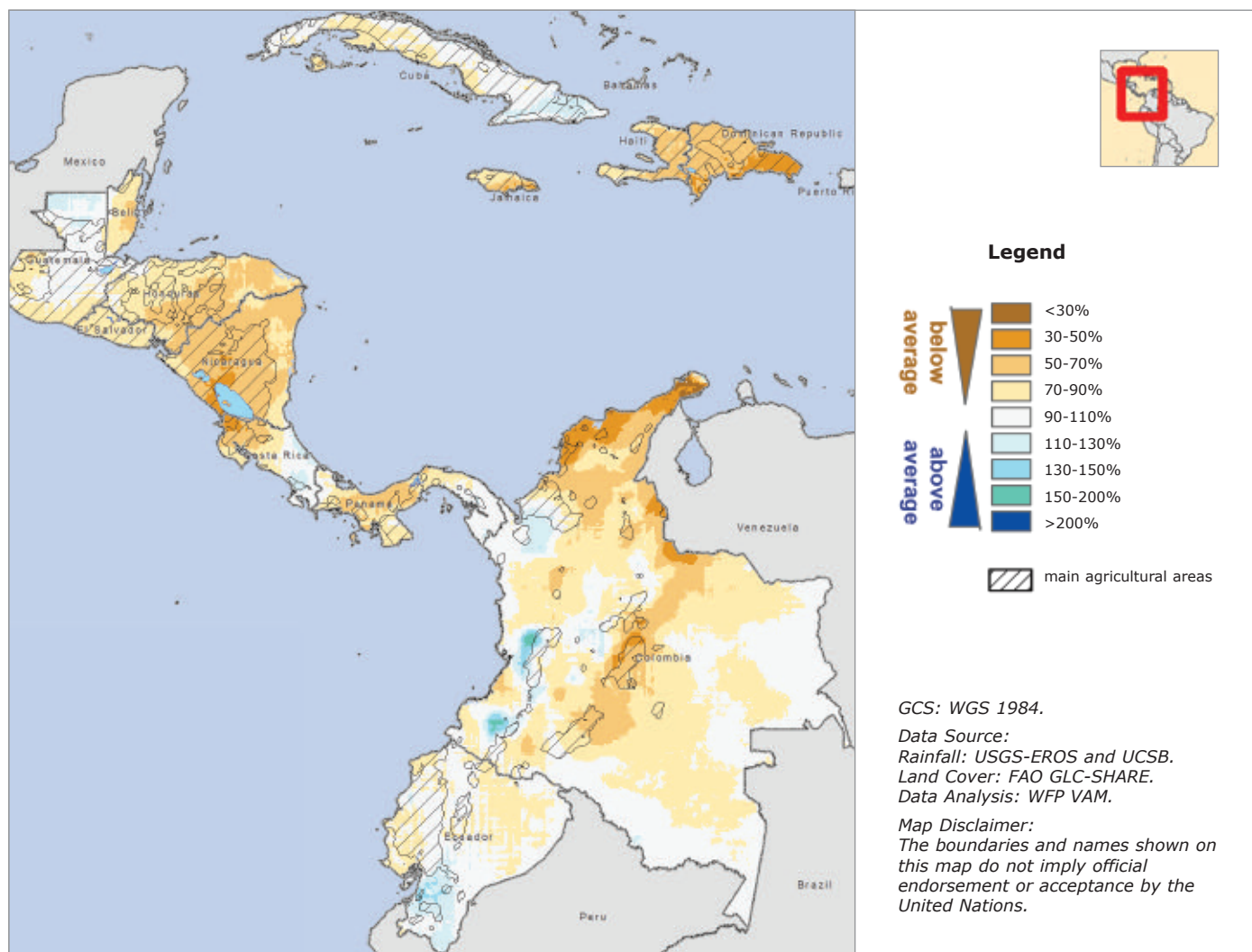
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

- Central America and the northern areas of South America have suffered a significant lack of rain rainfall, particularly from April to July 2014; serious impacts on crop production have been reported in various countries. **Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Haiti and the Dominican Republic** are particularly affected. Lower than average rainfall is forecasted for August to November.
- The extended duration of the dry spell (*canícula*) and the delay of rain during the first cropping season of 2014 have negatively impacted the food security of the most vulnerable households in affected areas of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The situation could worsen at the beginning of 2015 if, as projected, the harvest of the second cropping season is below average. The impact of the prolonged dry spell on subsistence farmers and agricultural day laborers comes on top of the impact of the coffee rust plague that has affected vulnerable households in these same countries since 2012.
- WFP's preliminary analyses show that about two million people in Central America have been affected by the prolonged dry spell. This figure is in addition to the

approximately 655,000 people that are estimated to be food insecure as a consequence of the coffee rust plague in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, according to assessments that were implemented jointly by the WFP and partner organizations.

- In **Haiti**, drought in the North West and other parts of the country is expected to lead to higher levels of household food insecurity, perhaps affecting up to 2 million people. In order to cope with increased food insecurity, many affected households are depleting their assets, and cutting wood for charcoal. Prospects for the spring harvest and possible changes to the fuel subsidy may also impact the food security outlook.
- In **Ecuador**, the cantons of Penipe, Guano (Chimborazo) and Tisaleo y Mocha (Tungurahua) have experienced volcanic ash fallout which has affected wheat, barley, maize and potato crops, as well as fruit crops and pastures. These areas have a combined population of above 70,000, most residents are smallholder farmers. The loss in crop production caused by the ash fallout will lead to lower income. Volcanic activity is expected to continue over the coming months.

Central and Northern Latin America. Total Rainfall (percent of average) as of 20 August 2014



MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

Syria crisis

In
focus

Syria

• Changes in the government's subsidy policy combined with a further depreciation of the Syrian currency is expected to negatively impact the food security status of poor families. On 9 July, the government announced an increase in the price of subsidized bread from SYP 15 per bundle to SYP25. The high cost of imported essential commodity inputs, such as wheat flour and yeast led to this change. Food prices are expected to further increase with recent supply gaps in diesel and increases in transport costs. This coincided with the onset of the targeted airstrikes on key oil fields and refineries in the northeast. As a result, the government announced an increase in the price of diesel from SYP 65 to SYP 85 to curb a growing unofficial trade of diesel at SYP 200. While these fiscal policies are expected to stabilize prices, the sharp devaluation of the Syrian Pound (SYP 200 to US\$ 1, the lowest level on record) will reduce the government's ability to increase imports to meet local demand. In spite of the price of bread being fixed, WFP market price monitoring registered price increases as high as 49% percent in markets in Homs, Tartous, Latakia, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Al Hasakeh where middlemen are reportedly adding an extra commission for bread sold outside of public bakeries. Similarly, market monitoring of other imported basic food items also noted price spikes in Idleb, Deir Ezzor and Aleppo, where escalating fighting has disrupted supply chains and markets. In Al Mayadeen, Deir Ezzor, the price of 1kg of lentils and 1 litre of cooking oil rose by 50% percent and 52% percent respectively since the previous quarter.

Countries affected by the Syria crisis

• As in the first quarter 2014, post-distribution monitoring (PDM) found that 95 percent of WFP-assisted Syrians in camps and communities in

Jordan reported having an acceptable food consumption score (FCS) in the second quarter. Vulnerability targeting will commence in October after the validation of targeting criteria. Continued food security assistance for Syrian refugees is key because 74 percent of households are completely reliant on food assistance as their main source of income.

- During PDM in Lebanon, 78 percent of WFP-assisted Syrian refugees reported an acceptable FCS. The lowest levels of acceptable food consumption were in the Bekaa Valley (67 percent) and in North Lebanon (75 percent) during the second quarter 2014. Syrian refugees who reported WFP vouchers as their main source of income had a lower level of acceptable FCS (75 percent) compared to refugees whose main income was waged/casual labour (87 percent).
- In Iraq, acceptable FCS levels among WFP-assisted Syrian refugees fell from 96 to 91 percent between the first and second quarter 2014. The second quarter PDM in northern Iraq found that one in four households assisted with in-kind food did not have an acceptable FCS, whereas nearly all the households receiving vouchers did.
- About 97 percent of WFP-assisted Syrians in camps in Turkey reported acceptable FCS during the second quarter 2014 (PDM). The large presence of refugees in urban centres has become an increasing source of tensions among local residents in south-eastern Turkey. Vulnerable refugees – those begging or homeless – are currently being relocated to the camps.
- Between the first and second quarter 2014, acceptable FCS levels among WFP-assisted Syrian refugees in **Egypt** remained stable at above 90 percent. WFP is currently refining its targeting approach to shift to vulnerability targeting.

- The humanitarian situation in **Iraq** continues to deteriorate as fighting continues. Throughout the country, over 1.8 million people have been displaced – 600,000 following the Sinjar crisis in August – and are living in precarious conditions; many are without access to food, water or other essentials. Almost 860,000 of those who have fled violence are sheltering in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq. This is creating huge challenges for local services in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and particularly Duhok governorate.
- In **Palestine**, the conflict escalated in July for 50 days, causing large-scale displacement and the destruction of infrastructure. The conflict has severely impacted trade with Gaza, including essential commodities like food and fuel supplies. As a result, the unemployment rate surged from 27.9 to 45.1 percent between the second quarter 2013 and the second quarter 2014. The price of vegetables increased by 139 percent between June and August 2014, although staple food prices have remained stable because of the ongoing

distribution of humanitarian supplies. Before the conflict, the food insecurity level was 57 percent, and qualitative analysis indicates it was rising because of the generally deteriorating humanitarian situation.

- In **Yemen**, according to the most recent Comprehensive Food Security Survey findings, 19 percent of the population (5 million) are food insecure and 22 percent (5.6 million) are moderately food insecure. As shown in the map below, Sa'ada, Hajja, Shabwa, Al Bayda, Lahej and Ad Daleh are the most food-insecure governorates, while Al Mahra and Hadramout are the least affected provinces. Political instability, insecurity, low economic growth and volatile food prices are the drivers of food insecurity in Yemen. High levels of household debt and an increased reliance on negative coping strategies could potentially increase vulnerability. Other risk factors include the recent removal of the fuel subsidy and its expected impacts on food prices, coupled with conflict and insecurity.



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

CAR	Central African Republic	IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	UNCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	VAC	Vulnerability Assessment Committees
FCS	Food Consumption Score	VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
FSNWG	Food Security and Nutrition Working Group	WFP	World Food Programme
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition	WHO	World Health Organisation
IDP	Internally displaced person		

Information sources

CILSS	Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse au Sahel	IPC	www.ipcinfo.org
FAO	www.fao.org	OCHA	www.unocha.org
FEWS-NET	www.fews.net	SADC	Southern African Development Community
FSNAU	www.fsnau.org	UNHCR	www.unhcr.org
FSNWG	www.disasterriskreduction.net/fsnwg	WFP	www.wfp.org/food-security
ICO	www.ico.org		

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