



Global Food Security Update

TRACKING FOOD SECURITY TRENDS IN VULNERABLE COUNTRIES

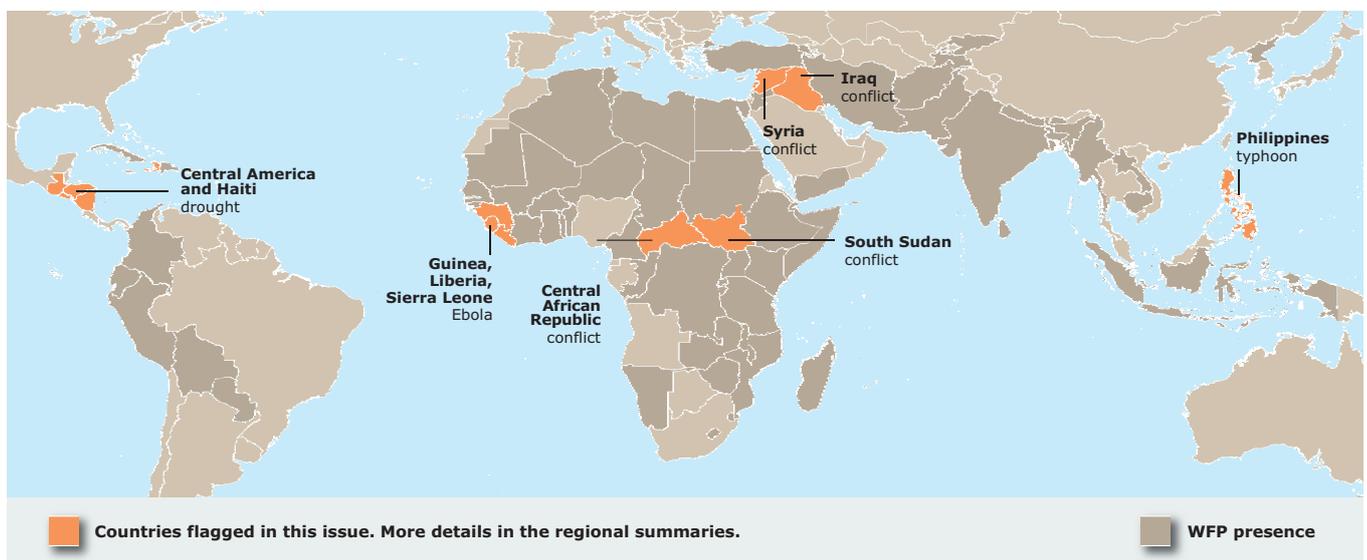
The Global Food Security Update is a quarterly overview of key food security trends in vulnerable countries. Information is provided by WFP VAM field teams and partners.

In focus

- In many areas of **Syria**, food security is deteriorating because of continuing civil unrest and fragmentation, coupled with international sanctions, disrupted food production and hikes in domestic fuel and food prices. According to the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster analyses, 9.8 million people need various levels of food, agriculture and livelihood-related assistance.
- As fighting prevails in **Iraq**, an estimated 2.2 million people across the governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Diyala, Ninewa and Salah al-Din are in need of emergency food assistance.
- Following the main harvest, food insecurity has temporarily eased in **South Sudan**. However, 1.5 million people remain in Crisis or Emergency Phases through December 2014. There is concern for food insecurity in 2015, as 2.5 million people are projected to be in Crisis or Emergency from January to March 2015.
- According to the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), as of December 2014, approximately 500,000 people in **Guinea, Liberia** and **Sierra Leone** are food insecure due to the Ebola epidemic. The number of food insecure people in the three worst hit West African countries could top 1 million by March 2015.
- According to the October 2014 Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in the **Central African Republic**, 1.4 million people are food insecure. The most vulnerable are displaced people, those in host families, returnees who have lost their means of production and households headed by women.
- The 2014-2015 rainfall season ("short rains" or "Deyr") has been mixed across the region, with below average rainfall in the eastern half of **Kenya** and southern half of **Somalia**.
- In the **Philippines**, Typhoon Hagupit (Ruby) made landfall on Dolores, eastern Samar, on 6 December 2014. According to an initial WFP estimate, 400,000 people are expected to experience the most severe food security impacts.
- Assessments show that dry spells in September have increased food insecurity in areas of **El Salvador, Guatemala** and **Honduras**.

Food insecurity hotspots

DECEMBER 2014



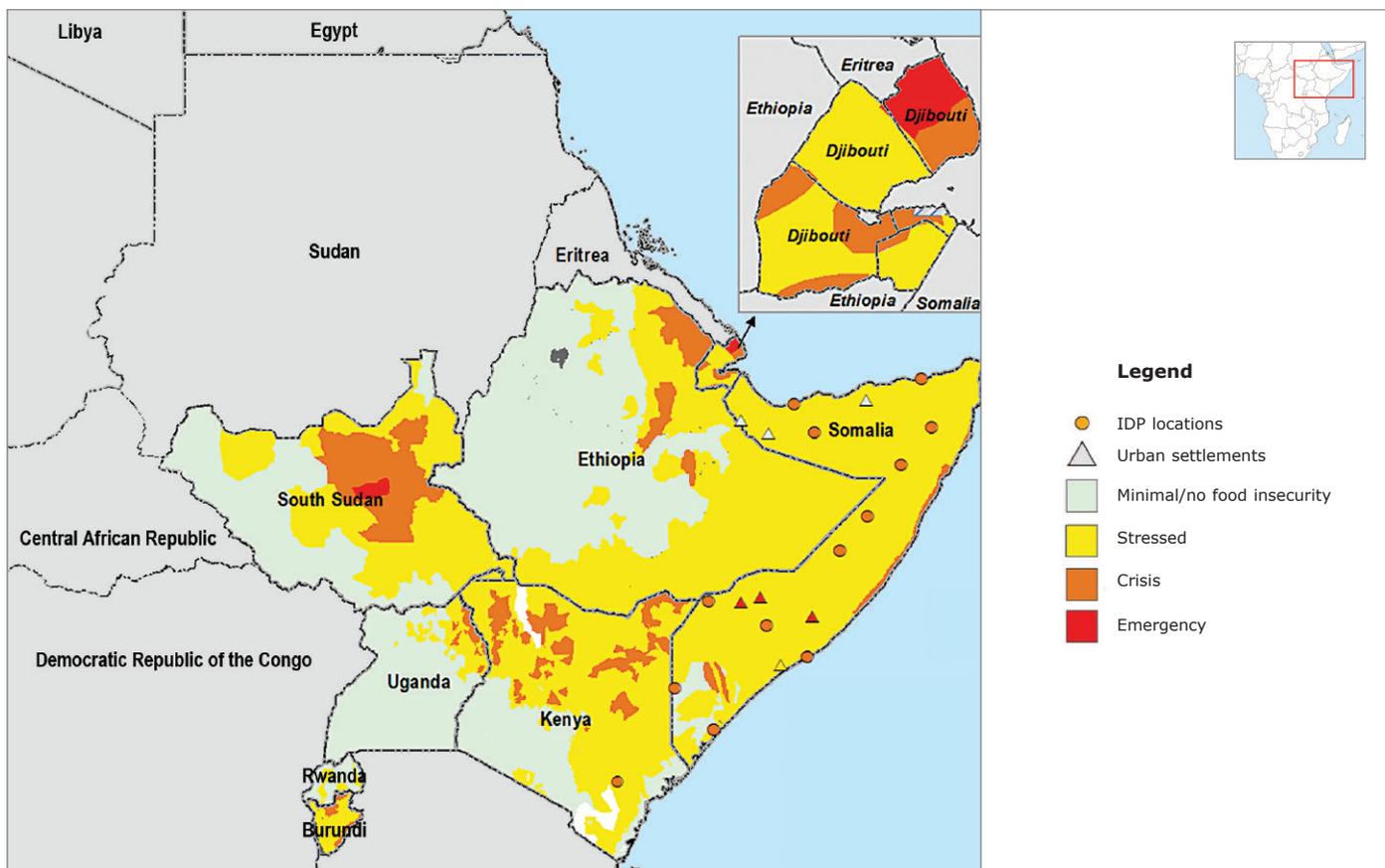
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Regional highlights

EAST AFRICA

- In East Africa, over 2.1 million people in **South Sudan**, 1.3 million in **Burundi** and 1.025 million in **Somalia** remain under IPC Crisis and Emergency while 3.2 million in **Ethiopia** and 1.5 million in **Kenya** are in need of food assistance. Food security remains a concern in isolated areas in northern Kenya, central Somalia, the conflict-affected states of South Sudan, the Karamoja region of **Uganda**, the Obock region of **Djibouti**, and north-eastern and southern Ethiopia.
- Thanks to the harvest, food security has improved in South Sudan. However, 1.5 million people are projected to remain in IPC Phases 3 (Crisis) or 4 (Emergency) through December 2014 (September 2014 IPC analysis). In conflict-affected Jonglei state (Bor South, Duk and Twic East), over 50 percent of the population is in Emergency Phase: 1.4 million people are internally displaced, 102,000 are currently sheltering in UN compounds and 469,000 are displaced outside the country. Food insecurity trends for 2015 are cause for grave concern, with 2.5 million people projected to be in Crisis or Emergency Phase from January to March 2015, including nearly half of the population of the Greater Upper Nile.
- The 2014-2015 rainfall season (“short rains” or “Deyr”) has been mixed across the region, with below average rainfall in the eastern half of Kenya and southern half of Somalia. In Kenya, the dryness affects mostly pastoral, semi-arid lands, while in Somalia it also impacts the major agricultural regions. These conditions build on poor previous seasons (2013 short rains and 2014 long rains), resulting in a situation of long term persistent dryness.
- As a result in Kenya, food security has deteriorated to IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) in parts of the north-western and north-eastern pastoral areas, as well as in marginal agriculture areas. The number in need of assistance has doubled compared to the same time last year. Very poor households are likely to remain in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) through December, especially in the pastoral areas.
- Meanwhile in Somalia, over 1 million people are in IPC Phases 3 (Crisis) or 4 (Emergency), a 20-percent increase since February 2014. The most food-insecure populations are in the central and southern regions, and in IDP settlements.

Food Security Conditions (November 2014)



Source: Regional FSNWG, IPC country teams and FEWS NET.
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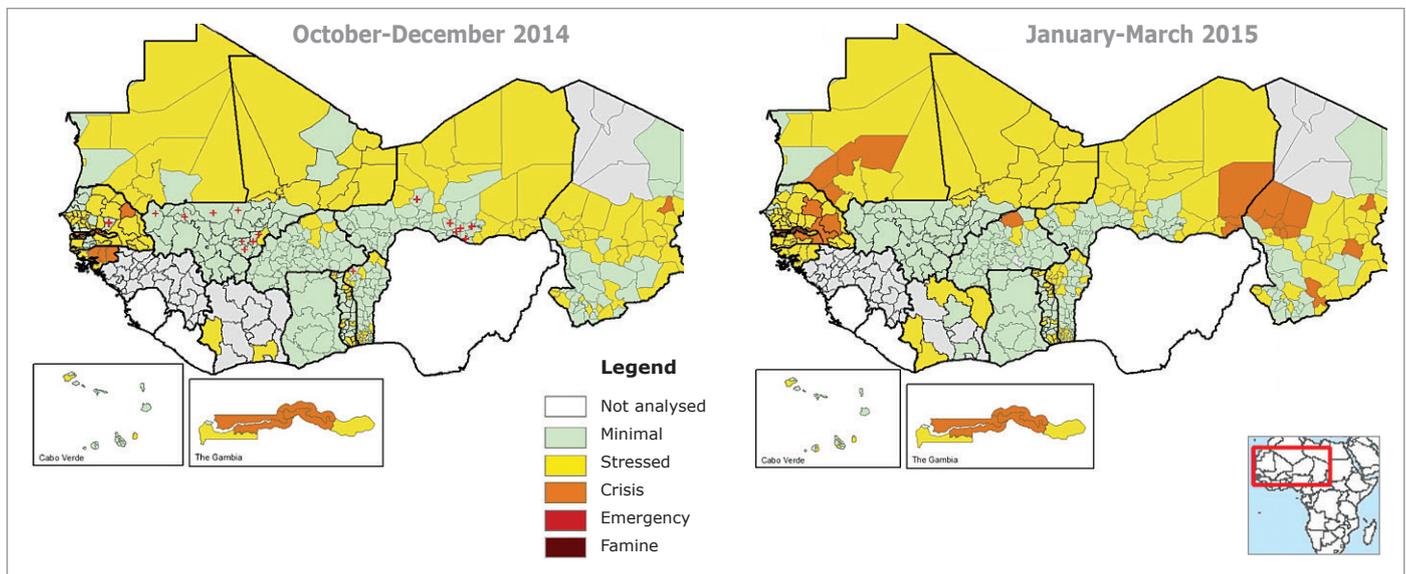
WEST AFRICA

- In West Africa, the 2015 cereal harvest is projected to be above the five-year average. However, a lack of rainfall means that countries in the western Sahel (the **Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania** and **Senegal**) will see production decrease by over 32 percent in comparison to the five-year average.
- According to the October–November 2014 cycle of the Cadre Harmonisé, 14.5 million people are in Phase 2 (Moderate), while close to 3 million are critically food insecure. The Cadre Harmonisé estimates that from January through March 2015, 15.9 million people will be in Phase 2 (Moderate), while 4.1 million people will be facing Critical food insecurity conditions. Critical

conditions are expected in districts in northern **Burkina Faso**, western **Chad**, the Gambia, eastern Guinea Bissau, central Mauritania, eastern **Niger** and eastern Senegal.

- These levels of food insecurity are the result of climatic shocks, localized poor harvests, price volatility, malnutrition, insecurity (in **Mali, Nigeria** and the **Central African Republic**), the EVD epidemic and the cumulative effects of previous crises. In December 2014, the government of Niger declared a humanitarian crisis in Diffa region, due to the continuing influx of displaced people from Northern Nigeria. Arrivals have exceeded some 87,000 people.

Current (October–December 2014) and projected (January–March 2015) food security outcomes in West Africa



Source: CILSS.

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Central African Republic

In
focus

- Bouts of violence between the Anti-Balaka militia and Seleka rebels in the ongoing political and military crisis continue to profoundly impact the livelihoods and food security of households across the Central African Republic. Although the October 2014 IPC analysis found an improvement in food security across the country compared to April 2014 (lean season), the situation is worse than at the same period last year (harvest).
- According to the FAO/WFP CFSAM, crop production in 2014 is set to be 58 percent lower than the pre-crisis average. Livestock production has also plummeted, with an estimated drop of between 67 and 77 percent because of looting and rustling.

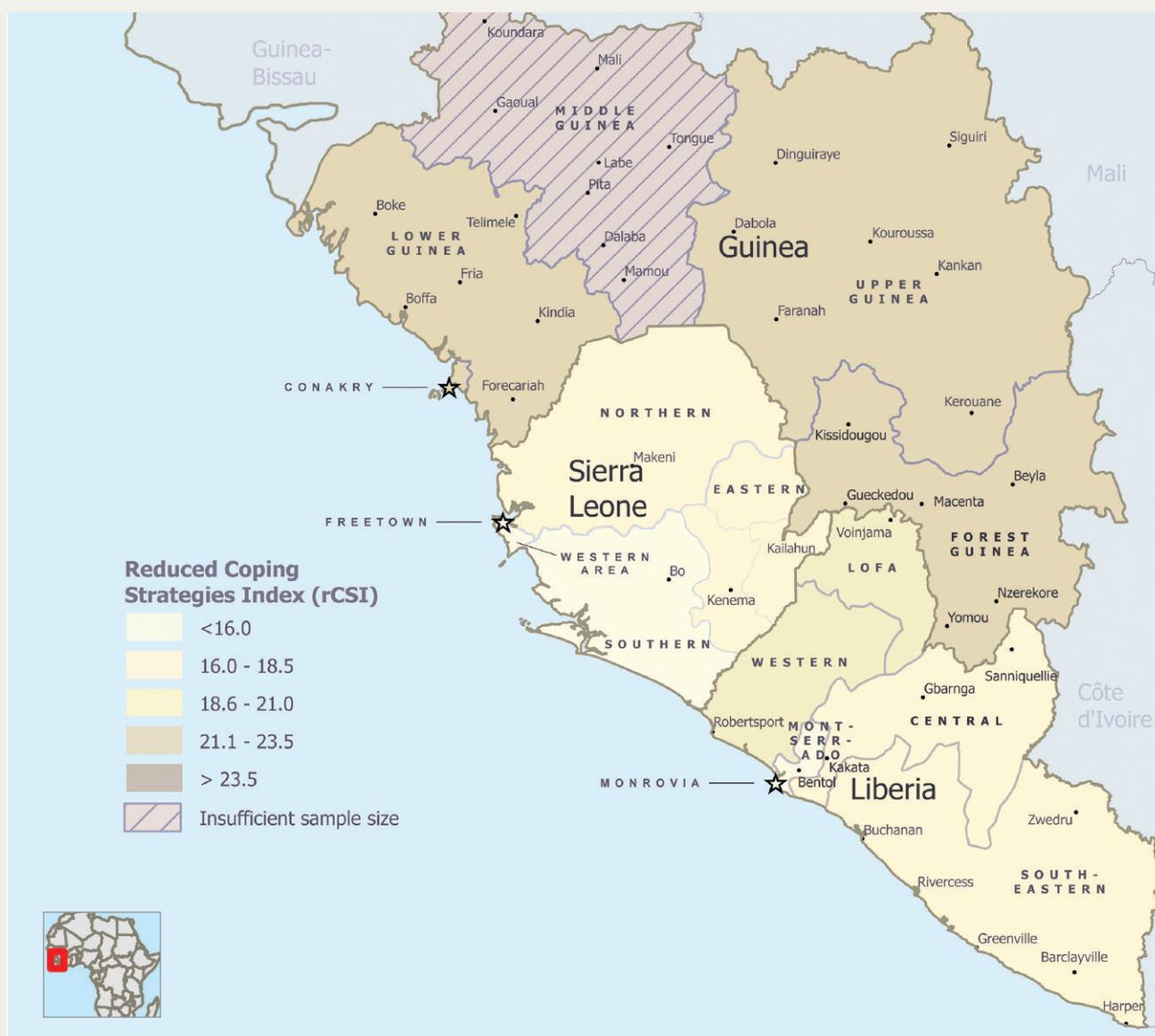
A 40-percent reduction in fish stocks has also been recorded, the result of lost equipment. The decline in food production across sectors is expected to directly impact the duration of food stocks. This will likely result in the early onset of the lean season, which typically starts in May.

- The October 2014 EFSA estimates that 1.4 million people are food insecure. The most vulnerable populations are displaced people, particularly those in host families, returnees who have lost their means of production and households headed by women. The most-affected areas are Bangui, Mambéré Kadéi, Ouham and Ouham Pende.

Ebola

- The EVD outbreak across **Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone** continues to impact the food security of directly affected households and segments of the general population.
- According to the FAO/WFP CFSAM, as of December 2014, approximately 500,000 people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are food insecure due to the Ebola epidemic. The number of food insecure people in the three worst hit West African countries could top 1 million by March 2015.
- The geography of food insecurity appears to be shifting as the epidemic spreads, with decreased wages and terms of trade observed in newly cordoned-off areas.
- Negative coping is increasing where the epidemic has spread, including in a western zone of Liberia that includes Gbaroplu, Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Counties, and Eastern Province in Sierra Leone. People in Freetown and Monrovia are more food secure than in other areas of Sierra Leone and Liberia.
- Local rice prices continue to decline in Sierra Leone and Guinea but remain stable from November to December in Liberia. Generally, wage-to-staple food terms of trade have remained stable in December, as lower local rice prices have offset lower wage rates.

Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone Reduced Coping Strategies (rCSI) - December 2014



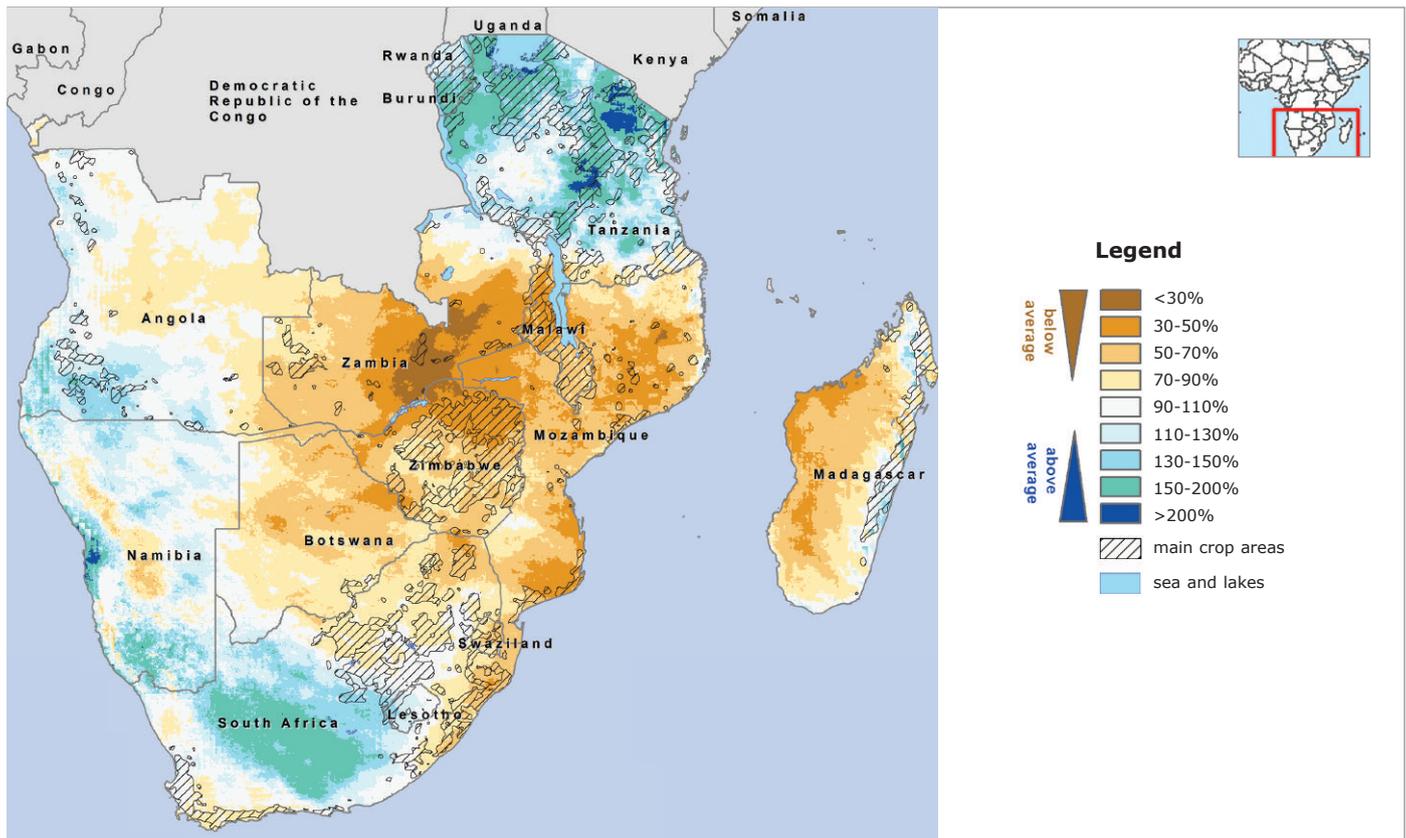
Source: WFP VAM.
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SOUTHERN AFRICA

- According to FEWS NET and SADC, the first two rounds of the 2014-2015 growing season across Southern Africa have been characterized by widespread poor-to-late-onset rainfall, notably in areas across eastern **Zambia**, northern **Zimbabwe**, central **Mozambique**, and central **Malawi**, with low vegetation performance often resulting in negative implications for pastures.

Although less pronounced, rain deficits have also affected areas of **Botswana**, eastern **South Africa**, and **Madagascar**. Given that the growing season extends until March and April, early deficits in rainfall across these areas should not have substantial impacts on crop production if significant rains occur by late December.

Southern Africa - Total rainfall (percent of average) by 10 December 2014



Source: WFP VAM, Seasonal monitor.

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ASIA

- In the **Philippines**, Typhoon Hagupit (local name Ruby) made landfall on Dolores, eastern Samar on Saturday 6 December 2014. With maximum sustained winds of 195 kph, the typhoon severely affected the coastal areas of Northern and Western Samar, as well as Leyte, Masbate, Romblon and Mindoro Oriental. It also had minor effects in densely populated areas of Quezon and Metro Manila.
- According to an initial WFP estimate, 400,000 people are expected to experience the most severe food security impacts. This group includes households along the east coast of Samar directly on the path of Typhoon Hagupit, as well as areas with high poverty incidence (above 50 percent). Some of these areas were also heavily affected by Typhoon Haiyan (2013). More moderate food security impacts are expected for 200,000 people near the typhoon path

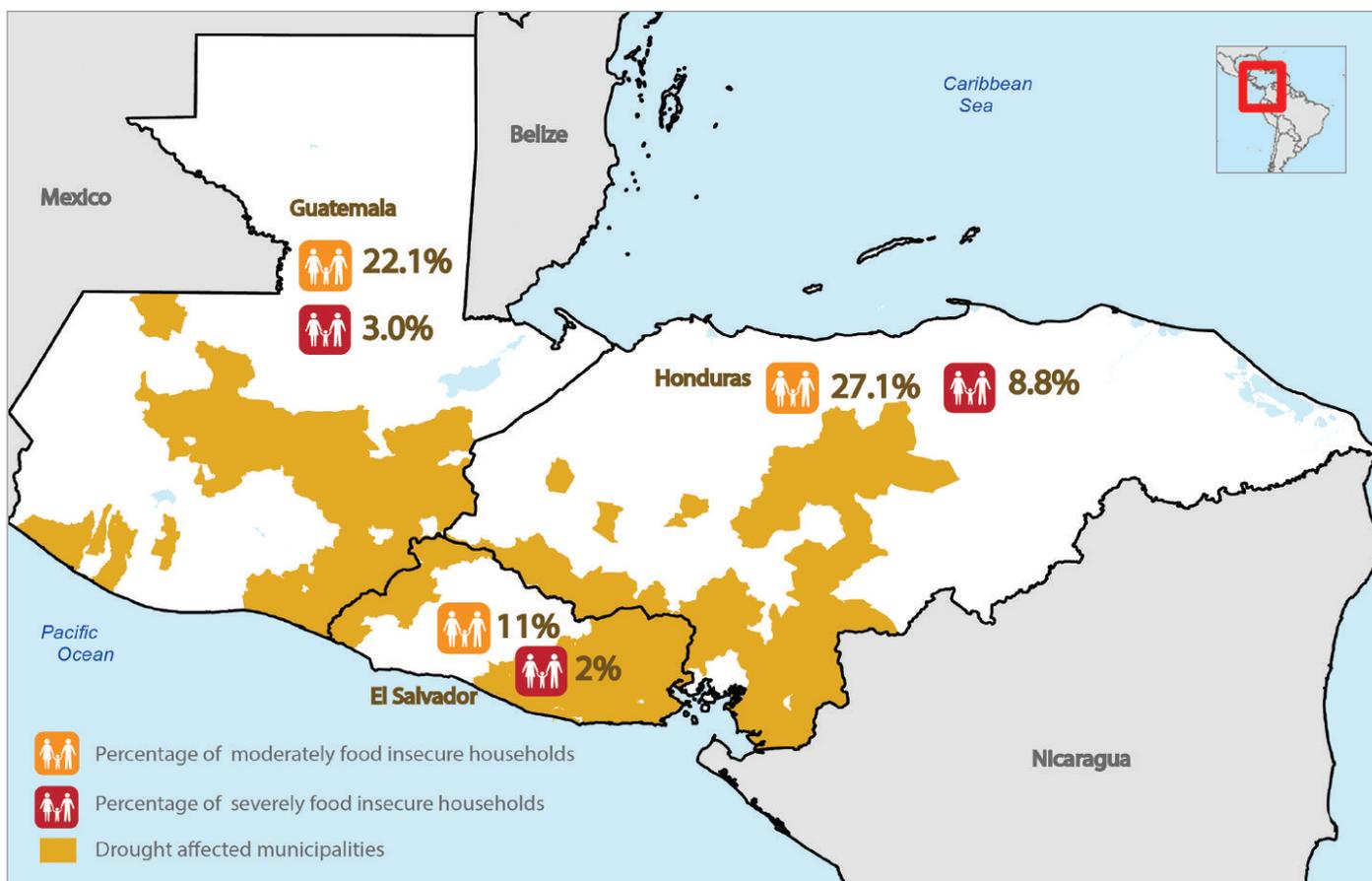
in parts of Samar where poverty rates are above 35 percent. Needs assessments are currently underway.

- According to the September–October **Afghanistan** IPC, 7 million people – 23.4 percent of the population – are severely food insecure (in IPC Phase 3 or higher). Causes include natural disasters, extreme weather, conflict, insecurity and animal diseases. Food security is expected to deteriorate through March 2015. During the winter, heavy snow and road blockages will occur in some provinces. Food prices will also increase in line with seasonality. As a result, Bamyan and Daykundi, Nooristan and Badghis Provinces are expected to shift from Phase 3 (Crisis) to Phase 4 (Emergency). Badghis is facing a crop failure this year and food insecurity will worsen in winter. Ghazni Province is also expected to deteriorate from Phase 2 (Stressed) to Phase 3 (Crisis).

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

- The drought that occurred in September 2014 across areas of **Guatemala, Honduras** and **El Salvador** has left many households food insecure. In El Salvador, over 500,000 people were affected, particularly in the eastern region. Over 1.4 million people in Guatemala and 1.9 million in Honduras also felt the impact of the drought during the first planting season.
- A recent food security assessment in Guatemala found that 874,000 people – one in four households – in surveyed areas of the *Oriente* (eastern) and *Occidente* (western) Regions are moderately or severely food insecure. In half of the affected departments, most households only plant during the first cropping season, so their chances of recovery are uncertain until August 2015 when the next harvest takes place.
- In Honduras, preliminary data shows that 27 percent of households in affected areas are moderately food insecure and 9 percent are severely food insecure, amounting to 136,300 households, or 681,500 people. During the assessment, 27 percent of households reported eating smaller portions at mealtimes, and 21 percent reported eating less-preferred and cheaper food. However, if the second harvest is normal, households could recover by December 2014 or January 2015.
- Data from the October 2014 El Salvador assessment shows that 13 percent of households in drought-affected areas are moderately or severely food insecure, equivalent to 85,400 people. Roughly 48 percent of surveyed households are consuming cheaper and less preferred foods, while 23 percent have reduced their portion sizes. The outlook for recovery is largely dependent on favourable rainfall conditions and the outcome of the second planting season. A poor second harvest could worsen food security for affected households, especially in the eastern region where households largely depend on the harvest from the second cropping cycle for their livelihoods.
- In **Haiti**, late rains and a dry spell in May and June affected the departments of Centre, Nippes, Ouest, Aribonite and Nord-Est, as well as coastal areas. The dry spell damaged maize, yam and groundnut production. As a result, food stocks will be below average for the poorest households, and a reduction in casual labour opportunities will limit incomes. CNSA/FEWS NET report that in the worst-hit areas food security is expected to reach Phase 3 (Crisis) as early as February 2015.

Drought-affected municipalities and food insecurity levels (rapid emergency food security assessments)



Source: WFP.

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MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

In focus

Syria

- In many areas of **Syria**, food security is deteriorating because of continuing civil unrest and fragmentation, coupled with international sanctions, disrupted food production and hikes in fuel and food prices. According to the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster analyses, 9.8 million people need various levels of food, agriculture and livelihood-related assistance.¹ Of these, 6.8 million people live in high-priority districts and require critical food assistance,² which is 7 percent more than last year's estimate of 6.3 million people.
- Although Syrian communities have strong coping mechanisms rooted in social and kinship ties, many households are now adopting negative coping mechanisms in response to the crisis. These include destructive strategies such as withdrawing children from school to work, reducing the number of meals, and eating lower quality and less nutritious food. This translates to deteriorating food consumption: between the second and third quarter of 2014, the proportion of WFP beneficiaries with borderline food consumption rose from 39 to 52 percent.
- Reduced food production has led to an increased reliance on imports and much higher food prices. WFP price monitoring shows that wheat flour and rice prices were 300 percent higher in September 2014 compared to September 2011. Since mid-2014, the average retail prices of both commodities have increased steadily, with a sudden rise observed in the last quarter of this year.
- Food security prospects for next three months: recent hikes in domestic fuel prices are expected to lead to even higher food prices as transport costs increase. In the absence of an aggressive import strategy to meet demand, food prices will continue to skyrocket well into the winter, when vulnerable families will have depleted their own resources and will rely on markets. The major causes of current food insecurity will likely persist in the coming months.

Sources:

¹ *Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (2014), Rapid Nutrition Assessment covering IDPs in shelters (2014) and WFP/FAO Joint Rapid Food Needs Assessment (2013).*

² *Food Security and Livelihoods Sector, Whole of Syria, Food Security Prioritization Matrix (2014).*

- In **Lebanon**, according to the 2014 vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees, 75 percent of households show some degree of food insecurity, while 13 percent are moderately or severely food insecure. These results show a 7-percent decline in food-secure households compared to 2013, mainly caused by households engaging in negative coping strategies. Marked regional differences are found, with higher levels of food insecurity in North Lebanon (Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley, where 22 percent and 16 percent of households, respectively, were moderately or severely food insecure. By contrast, refugee households have better food security in Beirut–Mount Lebanon, where just 6 percent are moderately or severely food insecure.
- In **Jordan**, the International Office of Migration (IOM) reported 15,000 new arrivals during the third quarter of 2014. Newly arriving refugees in the last quarter had slightly worse food consumption compared to the previous quarter. Monitoring shows that refugees who received WFP assistance had better food consumption than newly arrived refugees who had yet to receive assistance. The average number of meals consumed was significantly higher for those on WFP assistance (around two a day). Those on WFP assistance also had higher dietary diversity scores than new arrivals. There was no significant difference between dietary diversity scores of households headed by women and those headed by men.
- In **Iraq**, fighting continues between the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) militants and Iraqi Security Forces, leaving 5.2 million people in need of humanitarian aid. An estimated 2.2 million people across the governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Diyala, Ninewa and Salah al-Din are suffering from food insecurity that requires urgent assistance.
- Escalating violence in **Libya** since May 2014 has caused massive displacement, destroyed infrastructure and disrupted basic social services. Meanwhile, the living conditions of an unknown number of people in host communities and insecure areas have also been affected by the violence and insecurity. Insecurity is affecting the food supply chain, with some estimates indicating a substantial decline in food imports into eastern Libya since May. Food prices in Tripoli remain volatile, reducing the purchasing power of the poorest households.
- In **Sudan**, harvests in October improved food availability and access for poor households. Increased supplies of cereals to markets have put downward pressure on prices, although sorghum and millet prices remain well above average. In Darfur and South Kordofan, acute food insecurity persists because of insecurity and displacement.



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	IDP	internally displaced person
CILSS	Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel	IOM	International Office of Migration
CFSAM	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission	IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
CNSA	National Coordination for Food Security	SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
EFSA	Emergency food security assessment	UNCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
EVD	Ebola virus disease	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
FSNWG	Food Security and Nutrition Working Group	VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network	WFP	World Food Programme
		WHO	World Health Organization

Information sources

CILSS	www.cilss.bf	OCHA	www.unocha.org
FAO	www.fao.org	UNHCR	www.unhcr.org
FEWS NET	www.fews.net	UNICEF	www.unicef.org
FSNAU	www.fsnau.org	UNRWA	www.unrwa.org
FSNWG	www.disasterriskreduction.net/fsnwg	WFP	www.wfp.org/food-security
IPC	www.ipcinfo.org		http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/
			http://vam.wfp.org/sites/seasonal_monitor/

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