



Special Report

Extremely high levels of food insecurity observed across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia and further deteriorations likely with between 23 - 26 million people becoming highly food insecure due to drought by February 2023

29 July 2022

KEY MESSAGES

- **The 2022 March to June Gu/long rains season was extremely poor**, with rainfall amounts across much of the region being amongst the lowest in the past 70 years. This has resulted in a fourth consecutive below-average rainy season, an occurrence not seen in at least the last 40 years.
- **Crop and livestock production have been severely impacted**. In cropping areas, harvests are expected to be well below average. In pastoral areas, poor conditions have driven reduced milk production and the death of over 9.2 million livestock. Food prices continued to soar in the second quarter of the year which, along with below-average household incomes, is limiting food access.
- **Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to leave their homes** in search of life-saving assistance. Resource-based conflicts, and risks for gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), have also increased.
- **16.2 million people face daily household water insecurity**, and WASH partners are responding to cholera outbreaks across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. Unfortunately, however, access to, availability and quality of health services have been negatively affected by the drought.
- **Though updates are ongoing, estimates indicate that about 18.6 – 21.1 million people face high levels of acute food insecurity¹** due to the drought in the three countries. This includes 3.2 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Kenya and Somalia, and 213,180 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Somalia. Parts of southern and central Somalia face a **Risk of Famine** through September.
- About 568,000 children were admitted for Severe Acute Malnutrition treatment in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia from January to June, up significantly from recent years. **About 6.5 million children are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition**, of which close to 1.8 million face severe wasting.
- **23 - 26 million people are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity by February 2023** in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, due primarily to the drought, if the October to December rains fail. However, within already food insecure populations, the severity of their food insecurity is expected to increase. Therefore, in the absence of a scale up of humanitarian assistance, **significant increases in the number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) are expected**.
- To enable humanitarian partners to ramp-up their response to the drought, US\$1.8 billion is required over the next months. However, at this time, the drought response remains severely underfunded. To respond to the rapidly escalating humanitarian needs across the region, **funding for the multi-sectoral drought response needs to be scaled up immediately** across the region in order to save lives.

Inputs for this analysis have been provided by:



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION



BACKGROUND

Prior to the 2022 March to May (MAM) rainy season, the East Africa region had already been struggling with severe drought conditions, with most areas of the eastern Horn of Africa, particularly northern and eastern Kenya, southern and southeastern Ethiopia, and Somalia, having already faced three consecutive below-average rainy seasons. Consequently, the Government of Kenya declared a national emergency in September 2021 and the Government of Somalia declared a drought in April 2021 and a national emergency in November 2021.

The current drought emergency is in addition to numerous other hazards also affecting food security and nutritional outcomes in the East Africa region, including flooding, conflict and insecurity, macroeconomic challenges, rising global food prices partially linked to the Ukraine crisis, the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, and desert locusts.

The Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) has been closely monitoring the progression of the drought, as well as the region's overall food security and nutrition situation, and has been providing regular updates through its monthly statements, as well as a series of special alerts published in October 2020, May 2021, October 2021, November 2021, February 2022, and April 2022 calling for immediate action. This report is intended to serve as an update to these previous alerts, covering seasonal progress and providing a projection on the likely food security and nutrition situation through February 2023.

CURRENT SITUATION

Rainfall performance:

The performance of the 2022 March to June *Gu*/long rains season across the Horn of Africa was extremely poor, with observed rainfall levels across much of the region being amongst the lowest in the past 70 years. In particular, areas that saw record or near record low rainfall levels included central and north-central Ethiopia, much of central and northern Somalia, and localized areas of Kenya². Furthermore, the poor rainfall performance has been extremely widespread in nature, with over 80 percent of the eastern Horn of Africa being affected by below-average rains. As a result, the poor March to June season has resulted in a fourth consecutive below-average rainy season across the region, particularly in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, an occurrence not seen in at least the last 40 years or since the beginning of the satellite era when remote sensing rainfall data became available.

Crop conditions:

In Ethiopia, the harvest of the secondary *Belg* season crops in southern Tigray, eastern Amhara, eastern Oromiya and northeastern SNNP regions started in July with about a one-month delay and is expected to be well below average. The onset of the rainy season, normally occurring in February, was delayed by 20-40 days. Subsequently, cumulative seasonal rainfall amounts ranged from 20 to 50 percent below average, with an erratic spatial and temporal distribution. In the SNNP region, about half of the total seasonal rainfall amounts was received just in the second half of April. According to FAO's Agricultural Stress Index (ASI), as of mid-June, between 40 to 85+ percent of cropland had been affected by severe drought. In the Southern Zone of the Tigray Region and in Amhara region, agricultural operations continue to be affected

¹ Estimate includes 7.1 million highly food insecure people in Somalia, 4.1 million in ASAL regions of Kenya, and 7.4 to 9.89 million in drought-affected areas of Ethiopia; Data collection for IPC analyses are ongoing in Kenya and Somalia, and the Ethiopia Food Cluster is currently updating analyses so new figures may become available shortly.

² Though outside the scope of this report as they have been less affected by the drought compared to Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia, parts of northern Uganda and south-central South Sudan also have seen near record low rainfall amounts during the March to July period.

by insecurity and input shortages due to the ongoing conflict. Production prospects for *Belg* cereal crops are therefore unfavorable, raising food security concerns for local households that had a poor harvest in 2021.

Figure 1. Rainfall anomalies as a percentage of normal (1 March to 30 June 2022)

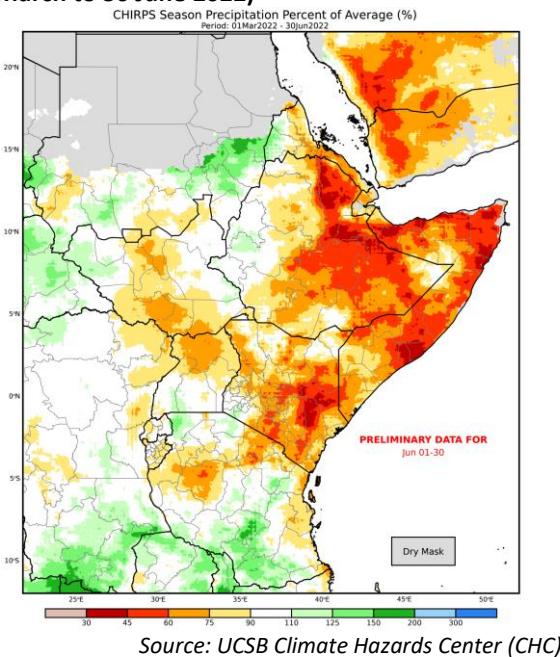
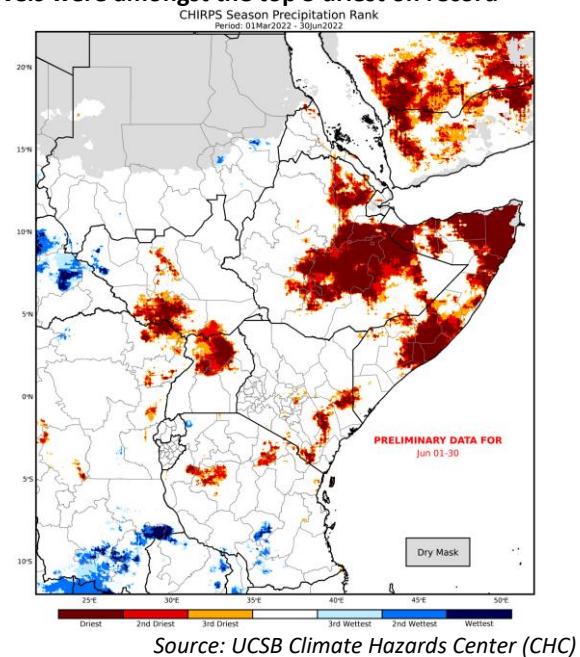
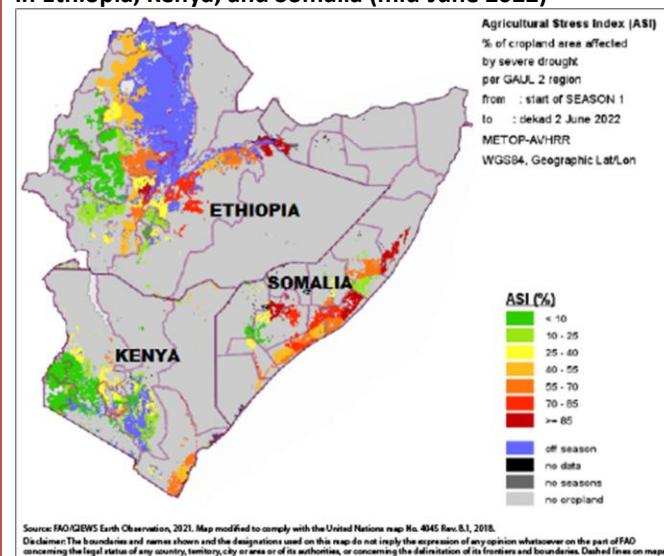


Figure 2. Areas where 1 March to 30 June 2022 rainfall levels were amongst the top 3 driest on record



In Somalia, the 2022 main *Gu* (April-June) season crops, harvested in July and accounting for about 60 percent of the country's total annual cereal output, have been severely affected by poor seasonal rains. In southern key-cropping areas, cumulative precipitation amounts in April were about half the long-term average, hampering planting operations and resulting in germination failures. Farmers also faced difficulties accessing agricultural inputs and labor as high food prices drained household finances and drought resulted in widespread displacements. Although above-average rains in early May reduced moisture deficits and allowed planting and replanting of failed crops, crop prospects did not significantly improve as rains were late and lasted only a couple of weeks. As of mid-June, in the Lower Shabelle Region, which on average accounts for more than 60 percent of the total maize *Gu* output, between 40 and 85

Figure 3. Percentage of cropland affected by severe drought in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia (mid-June 2022)



percent of cropland had been affected by severe drought. In most areas of the "sorghum belt" of Bay Region, which on average accounts for more than half of the total sorghum *Gu* output, drought affected between 25 to 85+ percent of cropland. Vegetation conditions are also extremely poor in the "cowpea belt" in Middle Shabelle, Galgadud and Mudug regions, where cowpeas are inter-cropped with sorghum, and in most areas between 70 to 85+ percent of cropland is drought-affected. The 2022 *Gu* season preliminary cereal production is therefore estimated by FSNAU and FEWS NET to be 40-60 percent below-average, representing the fifth consecutive season with a reduced cereal output.³

In southeastern⁴ and coastal⁵ marginal agriculture areas of Kenya, planting and establishment of main long rains (March-May) season crops were affected by severe rainfall deficits in March and in the first half of April, with cumulative precipitation amounts estimated at 50 to 85 percent below average. Rains improved during the second half of April and had a positive impact on vegetation conditions, but crop recovery was modest as the rains were late and dry conditions established again in mid-May. As of mid-June, in southeastern and coastal areas, up to 70 percent of cropland was affected by severe drought. According to NDMA's June drought bulletin, "season failure has been experienced with less area planted and the lands abandoned or left open for grazing."⁶ Cereal production prospects are therefore unfavorable, likely leading to a fourth consecutive poor harvest.

Pastoral conditions:

Given the consecutive seasons of below-average rains and severe rainfall deficits observed during the current March to May rainy season, pastoral conditions across the Horn of Africa remain poor, as of the beginning of July. For example, major negative anomalies have been observed through normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI), which is a measure of greenness in comparison to average levels using satellite imagery. Additionally, the Predictive Livestock Early Warning System (PLEWs) in Kenya is forecasting that very poor forage conditions will continue throughout all ASAL regions of Kenya through at least September 2022.

Water availability for livestock is also at below-normal levels. Though the FEWS NET/USGS Livestock Water Point Monitoring System indicates that water levels at water points improved during the rainy season compared to the first quarter of 2022, water levels are still at below-normal levels and are expected to deteriorate quicker than usual during the June to September dry season. This earlier-than-normal deterioration of available water resources will likely increase trekking times by humans and livestock to water points, increase concentrations around available water sources, drive up the likelihood of livestock disease spread, and drive continued livestock deaths.

Livestock body condition scores (BCS) are regularly being collected using the Pictorial Evaluation Tool (PET) methodology by AgriTechTalk International through a FAO pastoral early warning tools project. The PET methodology enables animals to be given a body condition score from 1 - 5, with a score of 1 or 2 being considered "poor". For all livestock species combined across the six assessed Kenyan counties (Garissa, Kitui, Kwale, Laikipia, Marsabit and West Pokot), the mean BCS in June 2022 was found to be 2 (poor), unchanged from observations in May. The mean BCS value for combined species in Kitui, Kwale and West

³ Final production figures for Somalia will be available after the 2022 post-*Gu* assessment results are released.

⁴ Kitui, Makueni, Meru North, Embu (Mbeere) and Tharaka-Nithi counties.

⁵ Kilifi, Taita Taveta, Kwale and Lamu counties.

⁶ NDMA (2022). National Drought Early Warning Bulletin, June 2022. <https://www.ndma.go.ke/index.php/resource-center/national-drought-bulletin/send/39-drought-updates/6517-national-monthly-drought-updates-june-2022>

Pokot was 3 (medium); while in Garissa, Laikipia and Marsabit (where more animals were assessed) it was 2 (poor).

Figure 4. Status of livestock water points, based on CHIRPS, 25 July 2022

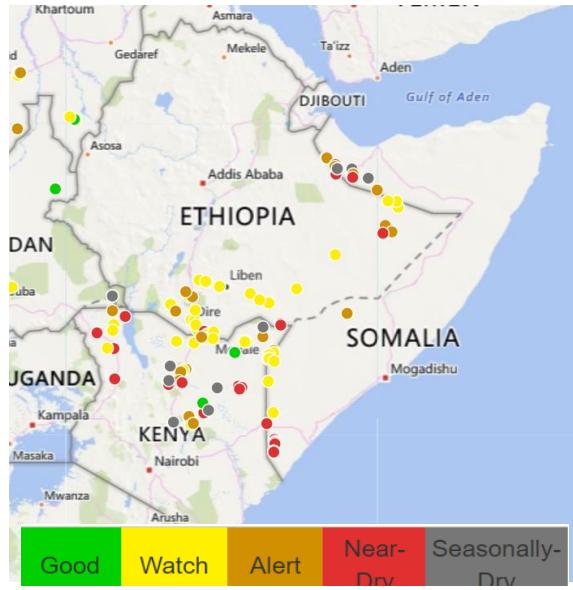
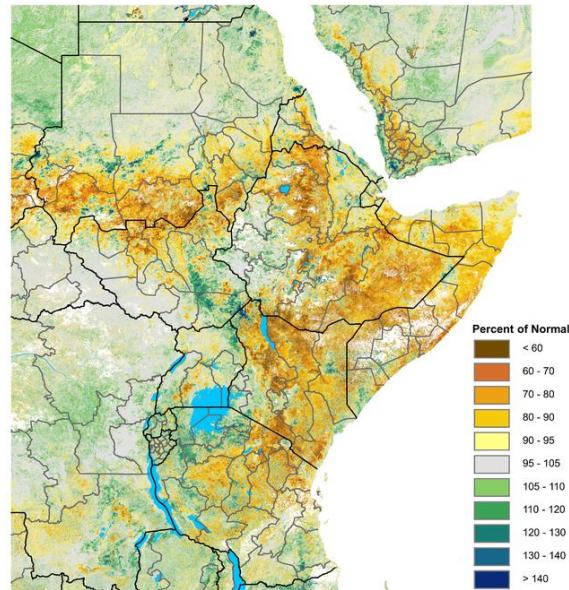


Figure 5. Percent of Mean NDVI, 1-10 July 2022



As a result of poor conditions, widespread livestock deaths have been recorded across the region. Currently, estimates indicate that at least 9.2 million livestock have died across the region, including 3.8 million in southern Ethiopia⁷, 2.4 million in Kenya⁸, and over 3 million in Somalia.⁹

Conflict and climate induced displacements:

As the drought crisis worsens, hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes in search of life-saving aid.

Resource-based conflicts have increased throughout drought-affected areas in the region notably, Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia, resulting in an increase in deaths and injuries. Militia and bandit attacks have worsened with the drought experienced in the region, forcing communities to steal livestock to reinforce their status and sustain their livelihoods. The violent conflict situation in pastoral areas is further complicated by increasing politicization and commercialization of cattle raids. Preliminary reports indicate an emerging organized commercialization of cattle raids.¹⁰

⁷ FEWS NET estimates

⁸ NDMA (2022). National Drought Early Warning Bulletin, June 2022. <https://www.ndma.go.ke/index.php/resource-center/national-drought-bulletin/send/39-drought-updates/6517-national-monthly-drought-updates-june-2022>

⁹ IPC (2022). Somalia faces increased Risk of Famine as acute food insecurity, malnutrition, and mortality worsen.

https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/Somalia%20Updated%20IPC%20and%20Famine%20Risk%20Analysis%20Technical%20Release%20Final%20-%204%20Jun%202022.pdf

¹⁰ CEWARN (2022). CEWARN Quarterly Regional Conflict Early Warning and Response Analysis Report, January to March 2022.

<https://www.cewarn.org/index.php/reports/archived-early-warning-reports/cluster-reports/reports/early-warning-reports/quarterly-early-warning-analysis-reports/191-cewarn-quarterly-conflict-early-warning-report-for-january-march-2022/file>

Focusing only on the three drought-affected countries, Somalia has a long history of protracted crisis and insecurity and hosts more than 2.9 million internally displaced people. Apart from the recent drought, conflicts and insecurity are key factors contributing to population displacements. According to UNHCR, 45,619 new internal displacements were observed in April 2022. Of these, 18,524 were related to conflict or insecurity. The areas where displacements occurred were Mudug (9,094), Bay (5,998) and Bakol (1,549) regions, due to military offensive activities. Furthermore, due to the drought, more than 800,000 people in Somalia have been internally displaced since January 2021 and nearly 16,000 have crossed the border into Ethiopia. An estimated 4,000 Somali refugees have also arrived in Kenya, fleeing a complex mix of conflict and drought. Families fleeing affected regions in Somalia and arriving over the Ethiopia border have reported to UNHCR that they had to travel long distances in search of water and described increased tensions within their communities as available resources are insufficient to meet people's needs.

In February 2022, the total number of IDPs in Ethiopia was estimated at 4.51 million¹¹. Conflict is the major cause of displacement, displacing 3.63 million people (81 percent of the total displacement in the country). Tigray, Amhara, and Afar regions were the most affected areas by conflict, limiting food supplies and disrupting livelihoods, including access to humanitarian aid. Furthermore, due to the conflict, production was significantly curtailed in most agricultural areas of Amhara region and Tigray. As a result, people from these areas are heavily dependent on external humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, 334,000 people have been displaced due to the ongoing drought in southern Ethiopia.

In Kenya, tribal conflicts have been experienced in the Kerio Valley and Marsabit regions, resulting in livestock raids, displacement, and the loss of human lives. Likewise, in the ASAL counties, pastoralists are trekking longer distances to find water and pasture for livestock, leading to increased resource-based and inter-communal tensions and conflict and exposing the most vulnerable populations (women and children) to protection risks.¹²

Gender-based violence (GBV):

The drought is having devastating consequences for women and children, heightening the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Risks of GBV—including sexual violence, exploitation and abuse, intimate partner violence (IPV), child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM)—are increasing during this crisis, while services to respond remain limited. Female headed-households, adolescent girls, older women, and those with disabilities face heightened threats. In drought-affected areas, women and girls are having to walk longer distances to access water and other basic resources, increasing risks of sexual violence.

Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to child marriage, and FGM is on the rise as families adopt negative coping mechanisms for survival. In Ethiopia, child marriage has increased by an average of 119 percent across regions worst hit by the drought – Somali, Oromia and SNNP – between January to April 2021 and the same period in 2022.¹³ FGM, often a precursor to marriage, is also increasing. In Somalia, more younger girls are facing violence compared to previous periods, according to data from International Rescue Committee's (IRC) project sites in Galmudug, Puntland and Benadir regions. In some communities,

¹¹ IOM (2022). Ethiopia — National Displacement Report 11 (December 2021 — February 2022). <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ethiopia-%E2%80%94-national-displacement-report-11-december-2021-%E2%80%94-february-2022>

¹² OCHA (2022). Horn of Africa Drought Humanitarian Update, June 2022. https://reliefweb.int/attachments/e1a7da7c-02de-4aca-8cff-2500176c789f/ROSEA_20220610_HornOfAfricaDrought_HumanitarianUpdate.pdf

¹³ UNICEF (2022). Child marriage on the rise in Horn of Africa as drought crisis intensifies. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/child-marriage-rise-horn-africa-drought-crisis-intensifies>

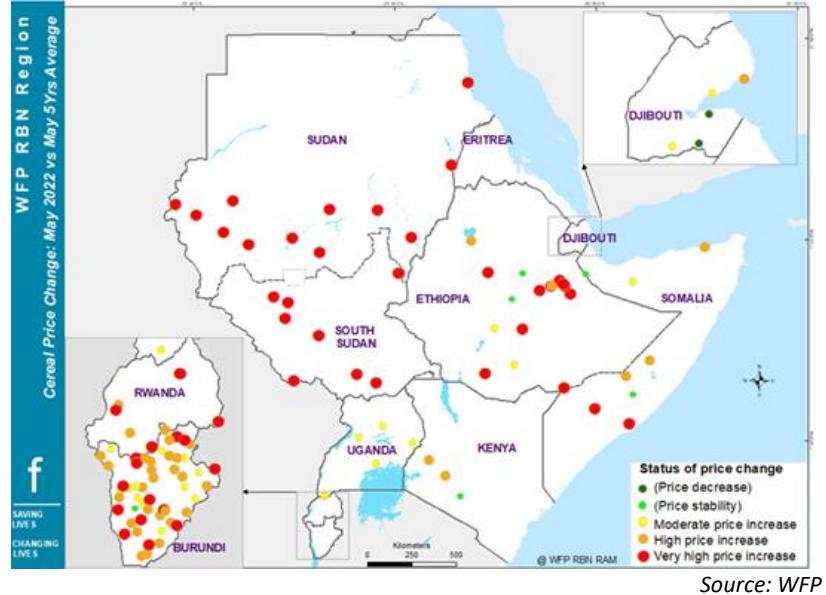
child marriage has reportedly risen, with families marrying-off young girls in order to lessen demands on their own resources and potentially get money that they can use for food and other necessities.

Market conditions:

Food prices continued to soar through the second quarter of the year in most parts of the eastern Horn of Africa, due to the combined effects of the prolonged drought, rising global food and fuel prices, and macroeconomic challenges.

The drought-induced decline in crop production and the related reduced availability of cereals on markets has exerted upward pressure on food prices. The fallout of Ukraine's war adds to an already fragile situation, as increased production costs (fuel and inputs) are also contributing to the price spikes observed.¹⁴

Figure 6. Cereal Price Change: May 2022 vs May 5-Yr Average



Source: WFP

In Somalia, where a Risk of Famine exists, staple food prices in drought-hit areas have more than doubled or tripled compared with the long-term average, surpassing the levels recorded during the 2017 drought and the 2011 famine.¹⁵ In Kenya, a significant drop in production due to the drought has led to record-high prices in major maize-producing areas and in ASAL areas. Food prices have also remained higher than average in most drought-affected areas of southern Ethiopia.

Due to rising food prices and mixed livestock price trends, livestock-to-cereal terms of trade, or how much cereal the sale of one animal can buy, has been deteriorating throughout the region, limiting food access for pastoral households.

For example, in the Somali region of Ethiopia, in May 2022, a goat on Chereti market sold for about 1700 ETB/head, which is 10 percent lower than in May 2021 but 55 percent higher than the last five-year average. However, the rate of increase in livestock prices is much lower than that of staple food prices and therefore livestock-to-cereal terms of trade are declining compared to previous years. As a result, the quantity of cereals that can be purchased from the income earned from the sale of an animal is much lower than last year and the five-year average. The goat-to-maize TOT (based on a 50 kg bag) in Chereti market in May 2022 was about 36 percent lower than last year's levels and 37 percent lower than the five-year average. In comparison to May 2011 and 2017, also drought years, the TOT in Chereti in May 2022 was 63 and 36 percent lower, respectively.

¹⁴ WFP (2022). Implications of the Conflict in Ukraine on Food Access and Availability in the East Africa Region, Update #3. <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000140223/download/>

¹⁵ WFP (2022). WFP Price Monitor. https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/economic_explorer/prices

Similarly, livestock price trends in Somalia have been variable, depending on the region. For example, in northern and central Somalia, few livestock are in salable condition due to poor body conditions, limiting the ability of households to take advantage of favorable livestock prices (favorable due to low livestock supply). Meanwhile, distress livestock sales among households in southern Somalia have driven livestock prices downward by nearly 20 percent, on average, compared to the recent five-year average.¹⁶

Meanwhile, on the Kenya side, livestock terms of trade are currently below the long-term average in all monitored ASAL counties except Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu, and Kajiado.¹⁷

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH):

The hydrological cycle (water cycle) in the region has been changing and will continue to deteriorate due to climate change.¹⁸ Looking ahead, the delayed and below-normal rainfall in Somalia will be highly insufficient to replenish aquifers to normal levels. It is believed that a full recovery of the hydrogeological situation is unlikely to happen if we refer to the Africa chapter of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report: “*most African countries will enter unprecedented high temperature climates and hydrological variability resulting in growing water scarcity in most regions, biodiversity loss, decline of crop yield, preventable diseases will be less preventable, and more destructive events due to flash floods very high wind*”.

As of the end of June 2022, 16.2 million people were living with daily household water insecurity: 8.2 million in Ethiopia, 3.9 million in Somalia, 4.1 million in Kenya; and several hundred thousand in Eritrea.¹⁹ WASH partners are responding to cholera outbreaks in all three countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia), and require additional funding to respond to these outbreaks.

A family living with water insecurity cannot ensure access to sufficient water to meet

Figure 7. Regions reporting confirmed AWD/cholera cases since January 2022

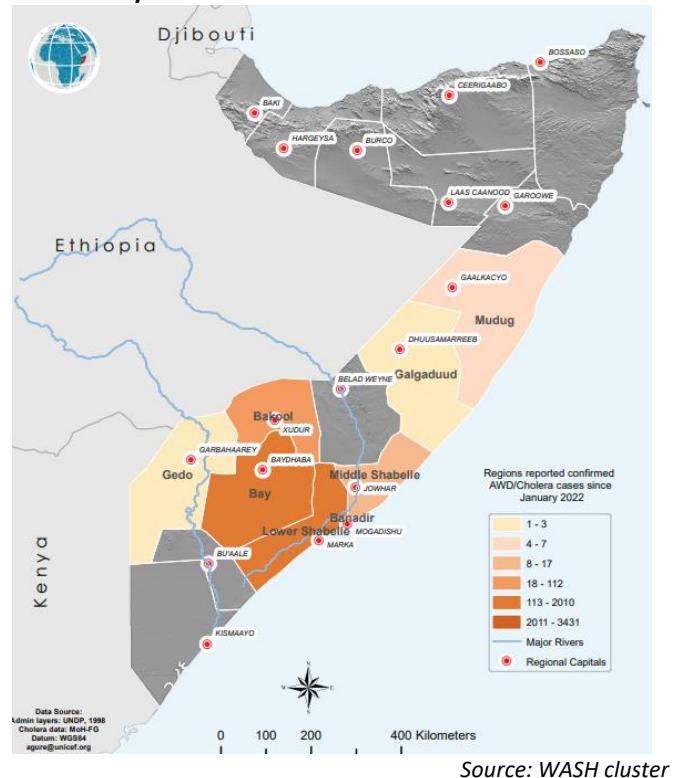
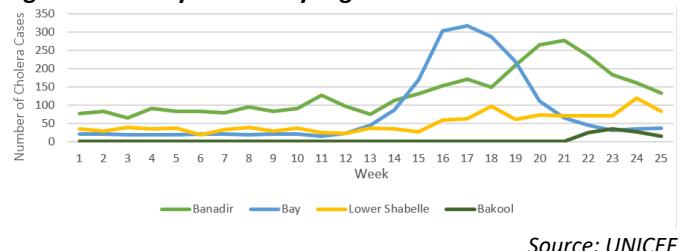


Figure 8. Weekly cholera by region in Somalia in 2022



¹⁶ Based on livestock price data in Beletweyn, Jowhar, Qoryoley, Xudur, Baardheere, and Buaale.

¹⁷ NDMA (2022). National Drought Early Warning Bulletin, June 2022. <https://www.ndma.go.ke/index.php/resource-center/national-drought-bulletin/send/39-drought-updates/6517-national-monthly-drought-updates-june-2022>

¹⁸ IPCC (2021). IPCC WGI Sixth Assessment Report.

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FinalDraft_Chapter09.pdf

¹⁹ WASH clusters' estimates

their physiological needs (for drinking and cooking) and maintain dignity (water for hygiene) in a consistent way. This water shortage means that women and children have to walk longer distances to fetch water (distances have doubled or tripled compared to a normal dry season), exposing them to risks of dehydration, physical violence, and sexual abuse. Moreover, time taken for water chores is at the expense of time normally used to take care of the family and/or participate in livelihood activities.

In Ethiopia, 8.2 million people do not have their humanitarian water needs met and are considered living with water insecurity. The WASH cluster partners are currently working on compiling data on the functionality rate of water sources and water trucking needs and gaps. This work has found that in Somali region, 844 drought-affected kebeles need humanitarian WASH assistance (needs partially covered). In Afar region, the shortage of water trucks and fuel for emergency water supply are the main constraints for reestablishing minimum water allocation levels. In Amhara, an increase in WASH demand at IDP collective sites has been observed due to a higher number of IDP and sites and has only been partially met due to lack of resources.

In Somalia, the number of people affected by water insecurity has risen to 3.9 million people due to the severe water shortage. Nearly 4,000 cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD)/cholera have been reported since January 2022, and WASH partners have included prevention and control in their programming, though implementation is very much constrained.

In Kenya, the water shortage in 15 priority counties has resulted in 4.1 million people (28 percent of the population in these counties) in need of humanitarian water assistance. In total, 478 boreholes are non-functional, mostly due to the direct effect of the hydrological drought (water table below the pump inlet or pump damaged due to over-use/over demand). Of the 478 boreholes, some half of them are in Priority 1 counties (Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit, Turkana, Lakipia, Samburu, Isiolo) and the other half are in Priority 2 counties (Tana River, Baringo, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kitui, West Pokot, Meru).

Food security:

Currently, across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, at about 18.6 – 21.1 million people face high levels of acute food insecurity due solely to the drought.²⁰ This figure includes 3.2 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Kenya and Somalia, and 213,180 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Somalia. Populations in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) are of particular concern as these phases are associated with increased rates of excess mortality.

The most recent IPC update for Somalia shows that parts of southern and central Somalia, particularly Hawd Pastoral of Central and Hiraan, Addun Pastoral of Northeast and Central, Agro Pastoral livelihoods in Bay and Bakool regions, and IDP settlements in Baidoa, Mogadishu, Dhusamareb, and Galkacyo, face a Risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) through at least September. Other areas of concern in Somalia, found to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) include Northern Inland Pastoral of Northwest, Hawd Pastoral of Northwest, Southern Agropastoral, Southern Rain-fed Agropastoral of Middle and Lower Juba, and Togdheer Agropastoral livelihood zones as well as IDP settlements in Burao, Lasaanod, Garowe, Belet Weyne, Doolow and Kismaayo.

In Kenya, the most recent IPC update found that Marsabit, Wajir, and Mandera counties faced Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes between March and June 2022, with significant deteriorations in

²⁰ Estimate includes 7.1 million highly food insecure people in Somalia, 4.1 million in ASAL regions of Kenya, and 7.4 to 9.89 million in drought-affected areas of Ethiopia; Data collection for IPC analyses are ongoing in Kenya and Somalia, and the Ethiopia Food Cluster is currently updating analyses so new figures may become available shortly.

Mandera and Wajir since the previous analysis, moving them from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Additionally, Marsabit, Isiolo, Turkana, Baringo, Samburu and Garissa also saw significant increase in their food insecure populations, though not at a scale to change the area classification of the county.

While official IPC analyses are not available for southern Ethiopia, the areas affected by drought have expanded, based on the latest meteorological information, and significant deteriorations in food security conditions in drought-affected areas are reported. For example, IPC-compatible analyses from various organizations including FEWS NET show widespread Emergency (IPC Phase 4) area classifications across southern Ethiopia, including parts or all of Korahe, Shabelle, Afder, East Bale, Bale, Liban, Daawa, Guji, Borena, and South Omo zones. These analyses also indicate that there are likely households in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).

Nutrition:

The nutrition situation in the Horn of Africa continues to deteriorate rapidly. About 568,000 children have been admitted for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia between January and June 2022, up significantly compared to recent years. Looking ahead, approximately 6.5 million children are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition, of which close to 1.8 million will face severe wasting in Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

Ethiopia continues to face severe shocks in 2022, including the conflict in northern areas of the country, drought conditions in southern and south-eastern pastoral regions, and persisting inflation. Ethiopia has admitted 323,791 severely wasted children between January and June 2022, with an average admission of over 50,000 admissions each month. SNNP, Somali and Afar regions have registered the highest rise in Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admissions, up by 36 to 67 percent compared to last year. Over 1.2 million children are currently projected to need treatment for severe acute malnutrition. As per Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) assessments conducted from August 2021 to March 2022, 77 percent of the woredas where proxy global acute malnutrition (GAM) assessments were conducted in Afar, Tigray, Oromia, and Somali regions were found to have very high GAM prevalences of above 15 percent.

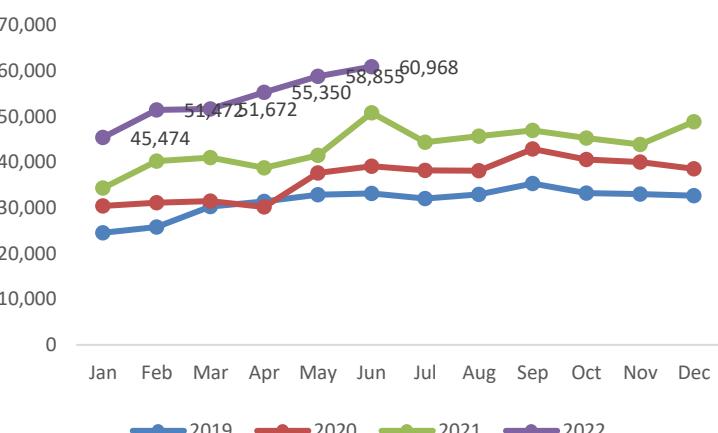
In Somalia, the overall nutrition status has significantly deteriorated, with children estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition reaching 1.48 million in 2022. Of these, 386,410 children are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition. This change was also reflected in the sharp increase in SAM admissions in the first four months of 2022, which was 46 percent higher than the same period last year. The most recent IPC analysis in Somalia also found a particularly dire situation in Bay region, where the Famine (IPC Phase 5) threshold was surpassed for acute malnutrition in Baidoa district, crude death rates hit Emergency thresholds in Bay Agropastoral of Burhakaba and Baidoa districts, and under 5 death rates hit Emergency thresholds in Bay Agropastoral of Baidoa.²¹ The key drivers of the deteriorating nutrition situation include worsening food security following failed rains, conflict resulting in large-scale displacements, economic challenges due to conflict, and impacts of the Ukraine war. Disease incidence, linked to both measles and acute watery diarrhea outbreaks, also contributed to rising levels of acute malnutrition.

²¹ It is important to note that this assessment data was representative at the regional, rather than district level. However, when the data was disaggregated by district, these findings were observed.

In Kenya, early warning systems highlight the deteriorating nutrition situation in Kenya's ASAL and coastal regions. Recent SMART survey data indicated malnutrition rates above 35 percent, already above the famine threshold, in parts of Mandera and Turkana County.

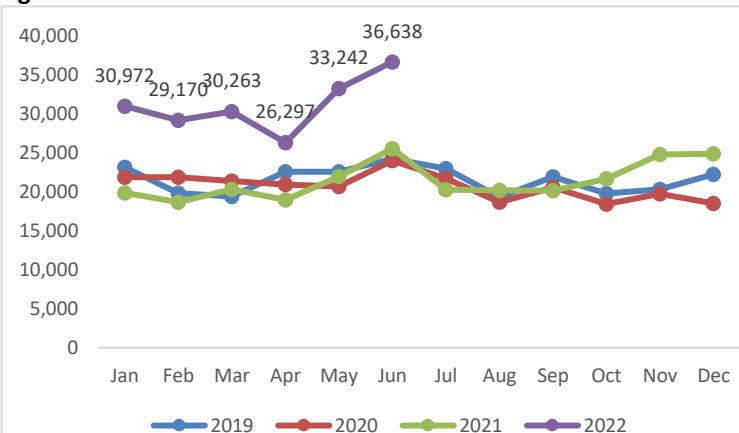
The rapid deterioration of the nutrition situation across the ASALs of Kenya can be attributed to the deteriorating food security situation (notably reduced milk consumption by children) and high disease morbidity (particularly respiratory tract and water-borne diseases). An analysis of key drivers of acute malnutrition in Mandera found acute respiratory infections were of concern, with a prevalence as high as 35 percent and a considerable decrease in milk consumption from nearly 1.2 liters normally between January to March to 0.3 to 0.4 liters between January and March this year. These factors are exacerbated by the low coverage of humanitarian response programmes relative to the widespread needs throughout Mandera. The decline in household consumption, particularly of dairy products due to reduced milk availability, has expected implications for child malnutrition, but it is not the only factor. High morbidity to diseases affecting the respiratory tract and water-borne diseases are also significant drivers. Overall admissions for SAM in the first four months of the year have registered a 64 percent increase compared to the same time last year. The IPC update released on 10 June indicated that over 942,000 children are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition, including 229,000 with SAM in 2022.

Figure 9. SAM admission trend 2019 - 2022 in Ethiopia



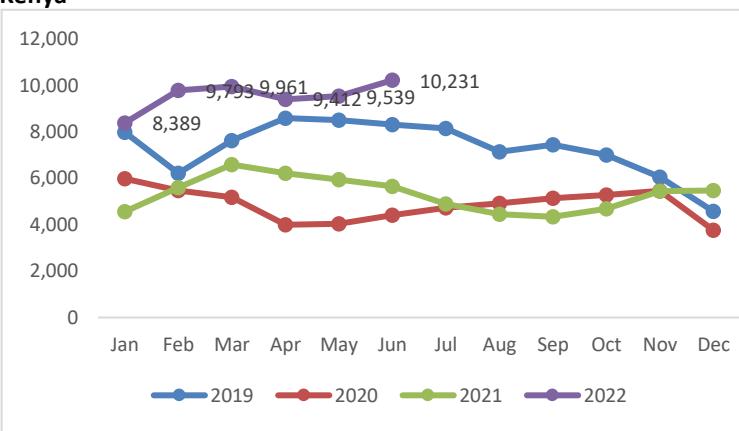
Source: UNICEF

Figure 10. SAM Admission Trend 2019 - 2022 for Somalia



Source: UNICEF

Figure 11. SAM admissions trend 2019 - 2022 in ASAL counties of Kenya



Source: UNICEF

The focus on the nutrition response has been to ensure increased early identification and treatment for wasted children, support integrated prevention action, monitoring of the evolving situation to adjust response, and collaborate on multi-sectoral action, including health and nutrition outreach. Humanitarian partners have been scaling up integrated outreach through Mobile Teams and Find and Treat Campaign to facilitate early detection and treatment of wasting. The cost of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) has increased by about 16 percent due to increased production costs following the Ukraine crisis. The increasing caseload and rising prices have strained the pipeline for wasting treatment commodities.

Health:

Drought conditions have direct and indirect impacts on the health status of the affected population. Access to, availability and quality of health services are negatively affected by the drought. Drought can lead to the closure or scaling back of facility-based services (notably antenatal care, deliveries, postnatal care, sick children, and immunization) due to a lack of water and poor sanitation.

Migration and displacement often move communities further away from facility-based services, and outreaches may help but they only go so far. This means very sick mothers and children may not access the required quality of care or referral services when they need them the most.

One of the more significant risks of drought is related to outbreaks of infectious disease – outbreaks due to increased vulnerability from poor nutrition, unavailability, difficult access, and poor-quality health services, crowding and persistent low routine immunization coverage.

The affected countries have also experienced disruptions in immunization programmes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and have not yet recovered, and prior to that, there had been a stagnation of routine immunization coverage particularly in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya. This has resulted in a growing number of un- and under-vaccinated children, the majority in Ethiopia and Somalia. In 2020, Ethiopia already had more than a million children and in Somalia, there were over 350,000 un- and under-vaccinated infants; a similar or greater number of infants are expected to be missed in 2021 as well. These numbers increase every year with new birth cohorts, and especially among nomadic populations who have poor access to health services.

Cholera, measles, typhoid, and dysentery are already on the rise in Somalia and Ethiopia. Other climate-sensitive diseases, though associated with lower mortality, could become a public health problem – dengue and chikungunya being examples affecting Kenya and the Somali region of Ethiopia. As was observed in 2017, both Ethiopia's Somali region and Somalia were very badly affected by measles and cholera, with significant mortality. On 4 March 2022, Kenya declared an outbreak of yellow fever in Isiolo County, one of the drought-affected counties, where pastoralists are moving in and out, increasing the risk of further dissemination of the outbreak. Similarly, measles cases in Somalia during the first quarter of 2022 were significantly higher than the number of cases observed during the preceding two years.²²

Humanitarian response:

To enable humanitarian partners to ramp-up their response to the drought in the three countries, about US\$1.8 billion is required over the next months.²³ Unfortunately at this time, the drought response remains severely underfunded. For example, the Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is only 31

²² WHO (2022). Measles – Somalia. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases-outbreak-news/item/2022-DON371>

²³ OCHA (2022). Horn of Africa Drought: Regional Humanitarian Overview & Call to Action. <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/horn-africa-drought-regional-humanitarian-overview-call-action-published-4-july-2022>

percent funded. Similarly, on the Kenya side, the Drought Flash Appeal is currently only 17 percent funded.²⁴ To respond to the rapidly escalating humanitarian needs being observed across the region, funding for the drought needs to be scaled up immediately across the region.

In Ethiopia, over 8.1 million people will be targeted by the drought response under the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan, with approximately \$640 million required from May to December 2022. In Kenya, about 534,000 people received critical assistance in 2022. The revised Flash Appeal calls for \$180.7 million to assist 2 million people from April to October 2022.²⁵ In Somalia, humanitarian partners have reached nearly 3.9 million people since January 2022 with life-saving assistance. The Somalia Drought Response and Famine Prevention Plan requires \$993.3 million from May to December 2022.²⁶

With currently available funds, humanitarian partners have reached nearly 9 million drought-affected people with humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia (4.5 million), Kenya (585,404) and Somalia (3.9 million) so far in 2022.²⁷ Within these figures, at least 7.5 million people have been reached with food assistance (cash and in-kind), of whom 3.4 million are in Ethiopia, 453,774 in Kenya and 3.7 million in Somalia. Similarly, more than 2.4 million people have been provided with life-saving water, sanitation, and hygiene services, including 799,000 in Ethiopia, 446,426 in Kenya and 1.2 million in Somalia. Furthermore, 888,747 people have received access to vital health care, including 251,000 in Ethiopia, 325,440 in Kenya and 312,307 in Somalia, while 879,072 children and pregnant and lactating women have been treated for malnutrition, including at least 391,000 in Ethiopia, 105,564 in Kenya and 382,508 in Somalia.

OUTLOOK THROUGH FEBRUARY 2023:

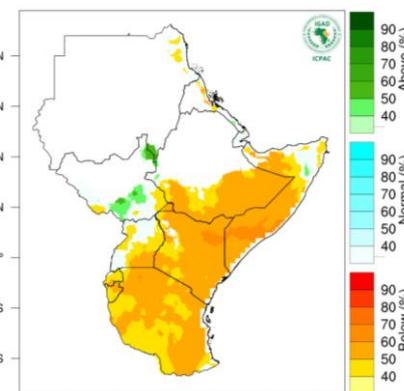
Given a broad consensus across meteorological agencies on the prospects of another below-average rainy season across the equatorial parts of the Horn of Africa between October and December 2022²⁸, FSNWG has conducted an analysis projecting how food security outcomes could evolve moving into the January - February 2023 dry season should another poor rainy season materialize.

Assumptions:

This food security projection is based on the following key assumptions:

- Given an increased probability of a continued La Niña and negative Indian Ocean Dipole (both associated with below-average rains across the Horn of Africa), there is an

Figure 12. Rainfall forecast, October to December 2022



Source: ICPAC

²⁴ OCHA (2022). Financial Tracking Service. <https://fts.unocha.org/>

²⁵ OCHA (2022). Kenya Drought Flash Appeal: October 2021-October 2022 (Revised in May 2022). <https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/kenya-drought-flash-appeal-october-2021-october-2022-revised-may-2022>

²⁶ OCHA (2022). Somalia: Drought Response and Famine Prevention Plan, May – December 2022 (June 2022). Somalia: Drought Response and Famine Prevention Plan, May - December 2022 (June 2022)<https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-drought-response-and-famine-prevention-plan-may-december-2022-june-2022>

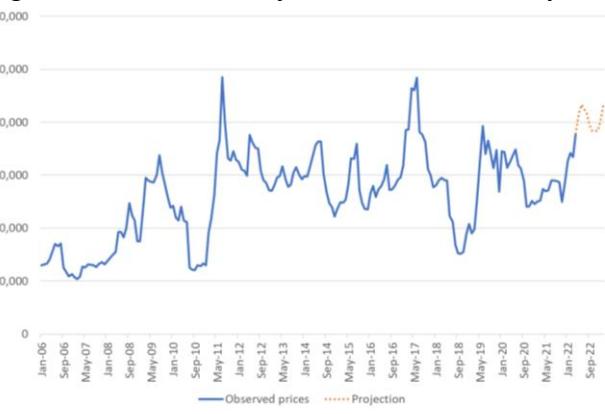
²⁷ The number of people reached with humanitarian assistance and/or protection reflects the maximum number of people reached across all activities across all months of the year to date. It is important to note that people included in this figure may have received one type of assistance but not another and may also have only received assistance once or irregularly during the reporting.

²⁸ FAO et al. (2022). The Threat of Starvation Looms in East Africa After Four Failed Rainy Seasons. <https://fews.net/sites/default/files/Multi-Agency%20Drought%20Alert%2030%20May%202022%20FINAL%20%281%29.pdf>

increased probability of a below-average October to December rainy season (short rains) across the Eastern Horn of Africa, particularly Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia. This is in line with forecasts from major regional and global meteorological agencies.

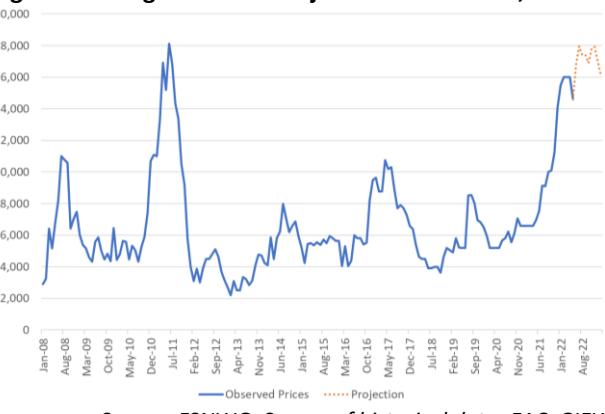
- 2022 long/*Gu/Belg* crop harvests (to be gathered in June/July 2022) and 2023 short/*Deyr* crop harvests (to be gathered in January/February 2023) in drought-affected areas will be below average, resulting in rising market demand despite reduced supply.
- Due to below-average production levels and harvests, incomes from agricultural labor (a key livelihood activity for very poor and poor households in many rural areas) will be below typical levels, limiting food access for these populations.
- Above-average temperatures and poor pastoral conditions at the end of the rainy season will drive a quicker than usual deterioration in pastoral conditions and depletion of livestock water points during the June to September dry season. This will drive continued atypical livestock movements, increased resource-based conflicts, continued widespread livestock deaths, little to no milk production, and poor livestock-to-cereal terms of trade. Furthermore, while rainfall during the October - December season may help to temporarily alleviate the severity of vegetation deficits, the severity of vegetation desiccation during the long June-September dry season, coupled with forecast below-average rainfall amounts between October and December, will likely cause pasture, browse, and water to remain at below-normal levels during the October to December rainy season, limiting the degree of livestock recovery and conceptions. Pastoral conditions will continue to be extremely poor during the 2023 January to February dry season.
- Food prices will continue to be well above average, linked to reduced regional production, high international fuel and food prices, and macroeconomic challenges/currency depreciation. For example, FSNWG price projections for sorghum in Baidoa, Somalia showed that prices will range from 115-150 percent above the five-year average between July 2022 and February 2023. Similarly, pasta

Figure 13. Maize Price Projections for Eldoret, Kenya



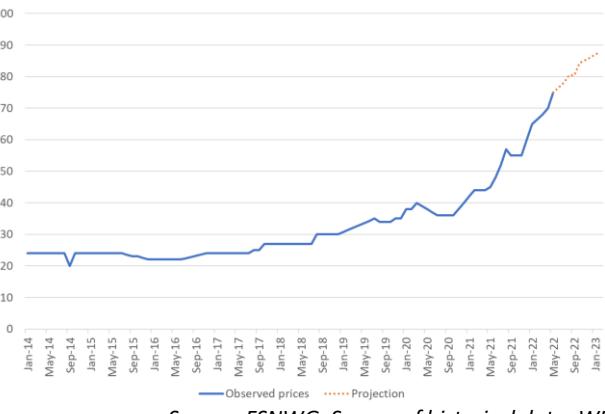
Source: FSNWG; Source of historical data: FAO-GIEWS

Figure 14. Sorghum Price Projections for Baidoa, Somalia



Source: FSNWG; Source of historical data: FAO-GIEWS

Figure 15. Pasta Price Projection for Gode, Somali Region, Ethiopia



Source: FSNWG; Source of historical data: WFP

prices in Gode, Ethiopia will range from 110 to 125 percent higher than the five-year average during the same time period. Even in key production areas of the region, prices are expected to be elevated. For example, FSNWG price projections show that maize prices in Eldoret, Kenya will also be between 20 to 50 percent higher than the five-year average through February 2023.

Projected food security and nutrition outlook:

Based on the current situation, the outlined assumptions above, and food security trends observed during the 2011 and 2017 drought emergencies in the region, FSNWG currently estimates that between 23 - 26 million people could face high levels of acute food insecurity by February 2023 due primarily to the drought in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia if the October to December rains are below average.

However, within already food insecure populations (i.e., populations already in IPC Phase 3+), the severity of their food insecurity is expected to increase as the duration of the drought becomes further prolonged. Therefore, in the absence of a significant scale up of humanitarian assistance, substantial increases in the number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) are expected. Geographic areas with populations in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) could also be expanded beyond the areas where these population are currently located, both in Somalia and neighboring countries. This is of particular concern given that Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) are associated with increased rates of excess mortality.

RESPONSE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Food security and nutrition:

- There is an urgent need to scale up interventions that provide food assistance to affected households suffering from high levels of acute food insecurity.
- If the selected modality is cash, continuous monitoring of food availability and food prices on markets is required to ensure that cash programmes are not having any negative impacts on market functioning in programmes areas.
- Interventions should also protect livelihoods, including smallholder farming and pastoralism, to support the recovery of food production through the provision of productive inputs, livestock supplements and livestock disease surveillance.

Nutrition:

- The nutrition sector has seen funding deficits for both MAM and SAM, and as a result, coverage for MAM and other prevention actions remains low. Comprehensive response, including Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes (BSFP) and General Food Distributions (GFD), is required to prevent large-scale deaths in worst-affected areas.

WASH:

- Utilization of humanitarian funding for long-lasting water projects is urgently needed.
- Horn of Africa hydrogeological mapping of deep aquifers should be conducted.
- There should be a focus on the rehabilitation of existing water structures, where possible, while ensuring that activities include capacity building on operations and maintenance for sustainability.
- WASH interventions should also consider the specific needs and protection concerns of vulnerable women and girls, particularly menstrual hygiene needs.

Health:

- Continued strengthening of preparedness and response activities are needed to prevent, mitigate, and ensure timely response to public health emergencies.
- Ensuring the provision of lifesaving essential health services to affected communities, including perinatal, child health, and immunization services, is critical.
- Monitoring the dynamic needs and gaps, including the disruption of essential health services provision, and providing coordinated and context-sensitive support at national and subnational levels, is a priority action.