

The **Early Warning Bulletin for Food and Agriculture** aims to improve early warning, preparedness and contingency planning for threats to the food chain and food security, for three months ahead. It will be issued quarterly.

The Early Warning Bulletin is a product of the collaboration between the Emergency Prevention Systems (EMPRES) for transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases and food safety threats, the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) and the Food Chain Crisis Management Framework (FCC). Data is provided by GIEWS and EMPRES. The Bulletin contributes to FAO's Strategic Objective I (SO I), Improved preparedness for and effective response to food and agricultural threats and emergencies.

SUMMARY

GLOBAL ISSUES

- A year after the devastating monsoon floods of 2010, Pakistan has been hit once again with heavy rains and severe flooding. So far, over 9.3 million people have been affected. Damage to irrigation is also a major concern as around 80 percent of wheat planted in Sindh is irrigated. In addition to the approximately 116 000 dead livestock, around 5 millions surviving animals have been directly affected.
- In the Horn of Africa Drought, along with high food prices threatens millions as the number of people facing severe food shortages is set to increase. High levels of acute malnutrition are widespread. High food and fuel prices affecting urban households continue to maintain people as moderately food insecure.

FOOD INSECURITY

- A severe localized food insecurity is localized due to civil insecurity, a large numbers of refugees, low food stocks and persistent high prices, flooding and a dry-spell causing crop losses is still observed. The main countries includes are: (*Africa*) Benin, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic Of Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda; (*Asia and the Pacific*) Afghanistan, Pakistan; (*EUROPE and the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]*); Kyrgyzstan; (*Latin America*) Haiti.
- An exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies concerns (*Africa*) Lesotho, Somalia, Zimbabwe; (*Asia and the Pacific*) Iraq.
- Countries with widespread lack of access to food includes: (*Africa*) Djibouti, Eritrea, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone; (*Arab States*): Republic of Yemen; (*Asia and the Pacific*) Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia.

THREATS TO THE FOOD CHAIN

- The lack of adequate border control due to the instability of the north Africa region for animal movement, peste des petits ruminants, foot-and-mouth disease and other transboundary animal diseases (e.g. rabies, brucellosis, ...) are likely to spread.
- African swine fever will continue to spread in the Russian Federation and also the Caucasus Region, posing a threat to other countries, mainly in eastern Europe. Also in Africa does the african swine fever situation continue to remain unstable, particularly in central and south-eastern parts of Sub-Saharan Africa...

- Cholera remains a persistent problem that need control education and surveillance. Need to conduct community meetings to raise awareness for the prevention of cholera in rural areas.
- High likelihood of reduced cereal output in main producing areas due to late onset of the rainy season followed by long dry spells in June and July.
- Risk of food contamination with radio-caesium as a consequence of the Fukushima nuclear plant accident. Under control by the Japanese food safety authorities. Risk for trade disruption. Radionuclides emissions have not fully stopped. Full assessment of the situation not completed. Situation of the nuclear power plants remains serious.

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GLOBAL ISSUES	
	Possible resurgence of the H5N1 Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza and evidence that a variant virus strain is spreading in Asia; this may pose an increase in risk to new introductions elsewhere in the Palearctic, during this fall and autumn, in countries already free from H5N1.
	Following the outbreak in Germany, most countries have strengthened food safety and public health surveillance on <i>E. coli</i> . Numerous outbreaks of various strains of pathogenic <i>E. coli</i> have been reported in developed countries and emerging economies with the potential serious health impact and trade disruption.
	African swine fever will continue to spread in the Russian Federation and also the Caucasus Region, posing a threat to other countries, mainly in eastern Europe. Also in Africa does the ASF situation continue to remain unstable, particularly in central and south-eastern parts of Sub-Saharan Africa..
REGIONAL ISSUES	
AFRICA	Horn of Africa: Drought, along with high food and fuel prices threatens millions as the number of people facing severe food shortages is set to increase. High levels of acute malnutrition are widespread. More than 8 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are in need of emergency assistance, especially herders and farmers are in need of urgent support.
	There is an increased risk of major spread of Peste des petits ruminants.
ASIA & the Pacific	Foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks will likely continue to spread in endemic areas and possibly jump into areas recognised free by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) through informal animal movement/products between countries.
	A year after the devastating monsoon floods of 2010, Pakistan has been hit once again with heavy rains and severe flooding. So far, over 9.3 million people have been affected. Damage to irrigation is also a major concern as around 80 percent of wheat planted in Sindh is irrigated. In addition to the approximately 116 000 dead livestock, around 5 million surviving animals have been directly affected.
EUROPE and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	Infestations of and control operations against the Moroccan, Italian and Asian Migratory locusts came to an end in July in most of ten countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, southern Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. A total of 4 million hectares have been treated, which represents an increase of more than 25% as compared to 2010. Egg-bed surveys will be carried out in October November to predict the level of infestations in 2012. No further development is expected during the next three months. Official launching of the 5-year Programme for 10 Caucasian and Central Asian countries will occur during the annual technical workshop scheduled in October 2011 in Georgia, thanks to contribution from USAID (USD 1.6 million) and Turkey (USD 0.6 million) as well as the Regular Programme (USD 0.2 million up to December 2011).
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	Foot-and-mouth disease continues to circulate in endemic areas of Ecuador and Venezuela. An incursion is noted in previously free regions in Southern Cone Region composed of the southernmost areas of South America, south of the Tropic of Capricorn..

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NATIONAL ISSUES			
AFRICA	BENIN	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Reduced crop harvest in 2010, generally low food stocks and persistent high prices exacerbate current food insecurity.
	BURUNDI	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Reduced early harvest, low food stocks and high prices. Good season output improves supplies.
	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Civil insecurity restricts access to agricultural land and food.
	CHAD	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Large numbers of refugees are located in southern and eastern regions of Chad (over 300 000 people from Sudan's Darfur region and the Central African Republic). Also, the return of an estimated 79 000 Chadians from Libya is putting additional pressure on local food supply.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Desert Locust. Small scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase in the northern part of Kanem, Batha and Biltine as well as in parts of Bet in areas of recent rainfall and green vegetation.
	CONGO	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Influx of more than 100 000 refugees since the end of 2009, mostly from Democratic Republic of Congo, has increased pressure on limited food resources.
	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Conflict-related damage to agriculture in recent years and the lack of support services mainly in the northern regions. The recent post-election crisis has forced thousands of people to leave the country and seek refuge mostly in eastern Liberia, where about 172 970 Ivorian refugees were still living as of late August.
	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Civil strife, internally displaced persons, returnees and high food prices.
	DJIBOUTI	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>	About 147 000 people (plus about 19 000 refugees) are in need of humanitarian assistance adversely affected by high food prices; the effects on pastoralists of four consecutive poor rainy seasons; and conflict mainly in neighbouring Somalia.
	EGYPT	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Desert Locust. Low numbers of adults will appear on the Red Sea coast in the south-East and breed if rains fall.
	ERITREA	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>	Vulnerability to food insecurity due to economic constraints, high international food and fuel prices, and the negative impact of dry weather especially for the pastoralists.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Desert Locust. Small-scale breeding will end in the western lowlands and low numbers of adults will appear on the Red Sea coast and breed.
ETHIOPIA	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	About 4.6 million people (plus about 260 000 refugees) are in need of food assistance due to poor rains in southern and south-eastern pastoral areas and in some secondary <i>belg</i> season crop producing areas.	

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GUINEA	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Access to food is negatively affected by high food prices and general inflation.
KENYA	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	An estimated 3.75 million people (plus about 560 000 refugees) are food insecure, due to late and erratic 2011 long-rains in northern, eastern and north-eastern pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas and in south-eastern and coastal cropping lowlands.
	<i>Unfavorable prospects for current crops</i>	Delayed and insufficient 2011 long rains affecting crops, being harvested in southern and coastal marginal agricultural areas.
LESOTHO	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>	Heavy rains, flooding and prolonged water-logging caused a large decline in 2010/11 cereal production. Just over 500 000 persons categorised as food insecure.
	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Animal cases and human cases will continue sporadically being reported in South Africa due to predicted enhanced probabilities for above-normal rainfall totals expected for parts of Mpumalanga, Western Cape and Eastern Cape between November 2011 and January 2012.
LIBERIA	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>	Slow recovery from war-related damage. Inadequate social services and infrastructure, as well as poor market access. Massive influx of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire: about 172 970 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia as of late August.
MADAGASCAR	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Localized flooding and the passing of Cyclone Bingiza in early 2011 caused damage to infrastructure and crops in eastern and southern parts of the country.
	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Malagasy Migratory Locust. The 2010-2011 locust emergency campaign came to an end in June 2011. More than 252 500 ha have been treated or protected, of which 73% by air thanks to FAO projects. Nevertheless, due to insufficient funds during this 2010-2011 campaign, another emergency one is needed in 2011-2012 (starting from mid-October) not only to protect the crops but also to stop the ongoing upsurge and bring back the locust situation to recession. Following an official request, proposals were submitted to the CERF and the European Representation in Madagascar (pending reply) but no funds are available so far. The locust situation will worsen from the upset of the rainy season, by mid-October. To be noted that a 2-year development project (2011-2013) funded by Agence Française de Développement aims to strengthen national capacities (training and contingency plans).
MALAWI	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Localised flooding and a dry-spell have caused crop losses, affecting the northern district of Karonga and some southern areas. However, prevailing low prices and good national maize supplies have helped to stabilise food security conditions
MALI	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Desert Locust. Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase in the Tilemsi Valley, Adrar des Iforas and Tamesna. Security issues will hamper monitoring activities.

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MOZAMBIQUE	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Flooding and dry conditions in central and southern provinces result in localized production losses but good national cereal harvest boosts supplies.
NIGER	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>	Lingering effects of the 2009/10 food crisis; rising numbers of refugees and returning national migrant workers from Libya are placing increasing demand on food: about 115 000 people arrived in Niger as of mid August. The most affected areas are Tanout and Gouré.
	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Desert Locust. Small scale breeding probably occurred in summer breeding areas; the end of seasonal rains and subsequent drying out of annual vegetation will result in population grouping in the northern breeding areas (Air mountains and Tamesna). Security issues will hamper monitoring activities.
SIERRA LEONE	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>	Slow recovery from war-related damage. Depreciation of currency led to higher inflation rates negatively affecting households' purchasing power and food security conditions
SOMALIA	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>	Famine in several southern areas due to the severe drought affecting agro-pastoralists since last October and the ongoing civil conflict; several livelihood zones of central and northern areas are identified as in crisis; and high international food and fuel prices. About 4 million people in need of food assistance.
	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Desert Locust. Scattered adults are expected to appear on the north-west coast by January and breed on a small scale if rains fall.
SOUTH SUDAN	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	About 1.5 million people are estimated to be food insecure due to a combination of factors, including civil insecurity, trade restrictions along the border areas with Sudan, high food prices and increasing demand by IDPs and returnees.
	<i>Unfavorable prospects for current crops</i>	Erratic rainfall in some producing areas.
SUDAN	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	About 4 million people are in need of food assistance (including about 2 million IDPs in Darfur), due to a combination of factors, including civil insecurity (mainly in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur) and high food prices.
	<i>Unfavorable prospects for current crops</i>	High likelihood of reduced cereal output in main producing areas due to late onset of the rainy season followed by long dry spells in June and July.
	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Desert Locust. Small-scale breeding will end in the interior and low numbers of adults will appear on the Red Sea coast and breed.
TANZANIA	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	African swine fever will continue to spread in the country in unaffected areas with moderate risks for other countries in the region.

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	UGANDA	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	High food prices affecting urban households. About 600 000 people are estimated to be moderately food insecure, mainly in Karamoja and Acholi regions.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	African swine fever will continue to spread in the country in unaffected areas with risks for other countries in the region.
	ZIMBABWE	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>	Economic constraints and reduced production in southern areas have impacted food insecurity despite the overall improvement in availability of maize.
ARAB STATES	ALGERIA	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Potential spread of Peste des petits ruminants within the country and borders with Tunis.
			Desert Locust. Low locust numbers are expected to be present in southern Sahara. If rains occur from October to December, locust numbers may increase and small scale breeding is likely.
	IRAQ	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>	Severe civil insecurity.
	LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease are likely to occur with risk of incursion to neighbouring countries.
			Desert Locust. Few adults may be present and could persist near Ghat. No significant developments are likely.
	MAURITANIA	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Desert Locust. Small scale breeding in the south will result in increased locust numbers. With the drying out of annual vegetation, groups are expected to form in central and northern parts of the country in November and December. If rains fall in these areas, a significant increase of locust populations is likely.
	MOROCCO	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Desert Locust. Low locust numbers may appear in areas of recent and heavy rains in the southeast of western Sahara. If rains occur from October to December, small scale breeding is likely.
	TUNISIA	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Due to the instability and lack of adequate border control for animal movement, Peste des petits ruminants and other Transboundary animal diseases (e.g. rabies, brucellosis, foot-and-mouth disease,...) are likely to spread.
YEMEN, REPUBLIC OF	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Desert Locust. Low numbers of adults will appear on the Red Sea coast and breed.	
	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>	Severe food insecurity persists as a result of recent socio-political unrest, high food prices, internally displaced persons (about 300 000 people still in camps) and refugees (about 170 000 people).	

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EUROPE & the CIS	KYRGYZSTAN	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Lingering effects of socio-political conflict since June 2010 in Jalalabad, Osh and Batken Oblasts; and high prices of staple food after their sharp rise since July 2010.
ASIA & the Pacific	AFGHANISTAN	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Drought, conflict, insecurity and high food prices. Moderately food insecure areas are in the centre and north-east of the country. Poor 2011 wheat harvest exacerbated food insecurity.
	BANGLADESH	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Resurgence of Anthrax early in the season and risk of deterioration of the situation from year to year. The food safety component of Anthrax is not addressed in Bangladesh.
	DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA	<i>Unfavorable prospects for current crops</i>	Unfavourable weather - localized floods.
		<i>Widespread lack of access</i>	Economic constraints and lack of agricultural inputs leading to inadequate food production of the main season aggravated food insecurity. Earlier severe winter conditions reduced wheat harvest and damaged stored seed potatoes; recent floods may reduce the main harvest.
	INDIA	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Desert Locust. Locust numbers will decline in Rajasthan by December.
	JAPAN	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Risk of food contamination with radio-caesium as a consequence of the Fukushima nuclear plant accident. Under control by the Japanese food safety authorities. Risk for trade disruption. Radionuclides emissions have not fully stopped. Full assessment of the situation not completed. Situation of the nuclear power plants remains serious.
	MONGOLIA	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>	Lingering effects of <i>Dzud</i> in 2009/10 winter resulted in the death of nearly 6 million heads of livestock and affected livelihoods of some 500 000 people.
	PAKISTAN	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Severe monsoon flooding in Sindh province affecting over 8 million people, destroying some 840 000 hectares of standing crops and causing death of large numbers of livestock.
<i>Threats to the food chain</i>		Desert Locust. Locust numbers will decline along the India border by December while there is a low risk that scattered adults could appear in Baluchistan.	
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	BOLIVIA	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Risks of rabies in dogs and humans increased after cases detected in the country in 2011.
	HAITI	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>	Households affected by recent hurricanes; lingering effects of devastating earthquake of January 2010.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Cholera remains a persistent problem that need control education and surveillance. Need to conduct community meetings to raise awareness for the prevention of cholera in rural areas.