



Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Eritrea

September 2011 - February 2012

Key Messages

- Among the causes of vulnerability to food insecurity are economic constraints and high international food and fuel prices.
- According to international agencies, widespread lack of access to food is reported and there is a general agreement on the extremely alarming hunger situation.
- It is reported that countries receiving Eritrean asylum seekers escaping their country face violence and torture.
- The Government is supporting agricultural production with several irrigation programs in different regions.

Background

The total population is around 5 million, with an annual growth rate of 3%. The estimated proportion of undernourishment reached 65%. Although the rural population amounts at 78%, the agricultural value added to GDP is 14%.

Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2010 (WB)	5.253
Population growth rate - 2010 (WB)	3%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2010 (WB)	540
Population below 1\$ PPP per day	n.a.
Rural population - 2010 (WB)	78%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2009 (WB)	14%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2006/2008(FAO)	65%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	74%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption	n.a.

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	14%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2009 (WHO)	66
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	61%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2009 (WHO)	0.8%

Prices

No price data available.

Food Security Situation Assessment

No current data (official or otherwise) is available on the food security situation and food price levels in the country. However, given the high dependence of the country on imports, current high international fuel and food prices are expected to negatively impact on the overall food security situation of vulnerable people. GIEWS indicates widespread lack of access to food. FAO hunger map reports very high prevalence of undernourishment while IFPRI estimates extremely alarming hunger conditions.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT



Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies Widespread lack of access Severe localized food insecurity [FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2011](#)

Eritrea is not covered by FEWSNET. FEWSNET coverage is limited 14 African countries 1 Caribbean (Haiti) and 1 Central Asia (Afghanistan). Food security status is given for different parts of the country in each case. [FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)



Very high (>= 35%) High (25-34%) Moderately high (15-24%) Moderately low (5-14%) Very low (< 5% under.) [FAO Hunger Map](#)

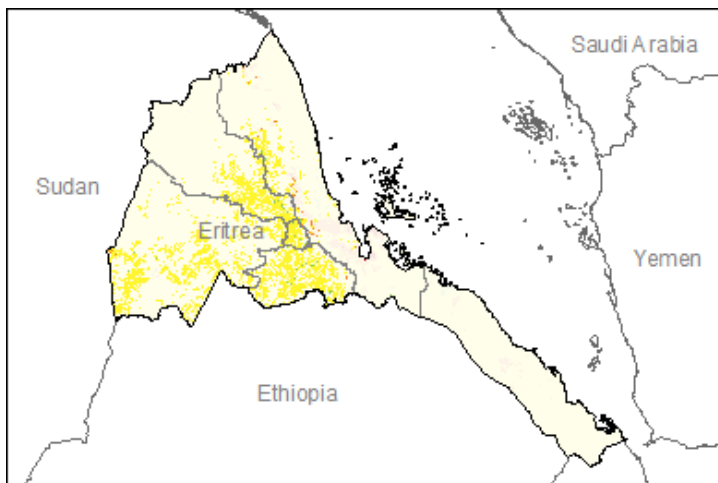
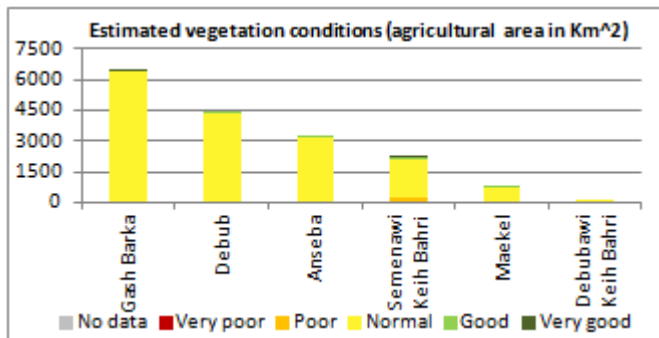
FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.



Extremely alarming Alarming Serious Moderate Low [IFPRI/2011 GHI](#)

Vegetation Condition

According to the reference cropping calendars, at the moment this area is out of cropping season. Normal conditions are observed throughout the country. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the absolute difference between the NDVI for February 2012 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the Africover dataset (FAO).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

Sowing	No crops are sowed during the reference period
Growing	Wheat
Harvesting	Barley - Maize - Millet and Sorghum - Wheat

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

According to Voice of America, hundreds of Eritreans are fleeing every month to escape open-ended military service and allegations of rights violations in their country. However migrants are being preyed upon by human traffickers and subjected to organ harvesting in Egypt or forcibly returned to Eritrea where they are at serious risk of persecution or torture.

Refugees and IDPs	2008	2009	2010
Total in the country	5084	4893	4946
Total outside the country	201094	223570	236035

Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/03/2012.

Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
Earthquake	2011-03-31	Denakil Province	1/3
Earthquake	2011-03-25	Akale Guzay Province	1/3
Earthquake	2009-02-06	Sahil	1/3

Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System - 3 = 1000 or more people killed or 800000 or more people displaced. 2 = 100 or more people killed or 80000 or more displaced.

Food Balance Sheet

There are not official estimates of cereal production; however harvesting of 2011 main "kiremti" season cereal and pulse crops is normally completed in November/December. Precipitations were well above average in August, improving crop yields and pasture conditions in agricultural areas of Anseba, Maekel, Debub and parts of Gash Barka regions.

Government Policies

Several agricultural programs are underway in different subzones of the country. For instance efforts are underway in Haikota sub-zone to boost agricultural production and develop irrigation farming together with efforts to use the Anseba River in the national development program to ensure food security.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	Irrigation projects
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	n.a.

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

No News Found

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
 Website: www.foodsec.org

Powered By the [GIEWS Workstation](#)

The Programme on Linking Information and Decision Making to Improve Food Security is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.