



Quarterly Early Warning Bulletin for Food and Agriculture

February – April 2012

The Quarterly Early Warning Bulletin is a product of the collaboration between the Emergency Prevention System (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 integrates information on food security and threats to the food chain for the three months ahead. It contributes to FAO's Strategic Objective I, Improved preparedness for and effective response to food and agricultural threats and emergencies.

REGIONAL¹ ISSUES

AFRICA	Sahel Crisis: Food security remains a high concern in the region. Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal are affected by agro-pastoral production declines. Access to food for agricultural and pastoral populations is expected to deteriorate by the next lean season due to the decrease of their income and the decline in their purchasing power. This decrease is coupled with a dwindling of households' food reserve affecting thus the quality and quantity of their diet.
	Population movements originated by the crisis in Libya caused massive return of migrants in Chad, Ghana, Mali and Niger and represents an abrupt stop of remittances to their home communities and also reduces food resources available of host families. The situation is more acute in countries potentially at food risk such as Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger.
	The prices of livestock in Chad, Mali and Mauritania have experienced declines due to destocking caused by the shortage of pasture, the scarcity of water points and the interruption of livestock flows to Nigeria.
ASIA & THE PACIFIC	Trade of counterfeited food in Asia, including methanol.
	The risk of highly pathogenic porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome spreading from China to countries in Southeast Asia is increasing.
EUROPE and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	A new virus, affecting cattle and small ruminants, has been confirmed in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Further virus transmission during the current winter is less likely. However reoccurrence in spring and summer 2012 is possible.
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	Increased risk of classical swine fever in Central America, spreading from Guatemala to neighbouring countries through informal movement of pigs and products across borders.

¹ UNDP regional classification





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NATIONAL ISSUES				
Region	Country	Type of threat	Level	Description
AFRICA	Burkina Faso	Severe localized food insecurity		As part of the Sahel Food and Nutrition Crisis, the country is being affected by a decline in agro-pastoral production and rising food prices.
		Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies		Erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing season caused a serious decline in 2011 cereal production. Consequently, cereal prices are expected to increase.
	Burundi	Severe localized food insecurity		Low food stocks and high prices, particularly impacting deficit producing Cankuzo area. However, good output of the main season improved national supplies.
	Central African Republic	Severe localized food insecurity		Civil insecurity restricts access to agricultural land and food.
	Chad	Severe localized food insecurity		As part of the Sahel Food and Nutrition Crisis, the country is being affected by a decline in agro-pastoral production and rising food prices.
		Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies		Irregular rains and extended dry spells led to a sharp decline in cereal and pasture output in 2011 in both the southern Sudan and the northern Sahel zones of the country. Moreover, large numbers of refugees are located in southern and eastern regions of Chad (over 300 000 people from the 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.
	Congo	Severe localized food insecurity		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	Severe localized food insecurity		Conflict-related damage to agriculture in recent years and the lack of support services mainly in the northern regions. The 2011 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.





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	Democratic Republic of the 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 180 000 people, plus about 30 000 refugees from Yemen and Somalia, are in need of humanitarian assistance due to high food prices and the effects on pastoralists of several consecutive poor rainy seasons.
	Eritrea	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Low numbers of desert locust adults are likely to be present along parts of the Red Sea coastal plains between Massawa and the Sudanese border. Unless further rains fall, breeding is not expected to occur.
		<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		Vulnerability to food insecurity due to economic constraints and high international food and fuel prices.
	Ethiopia	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		About 3.2 million people are in need of relief food assistance due to lingering effects of the 2011 drought in southern and southeastern pastoral areas and in some secondary belg season crop producing areas.
	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 520 000 refugees) are food insecure in agro-pastoralist areas in northern and northeastern districts that had two to three consecutive dry weather seasons.
	Lesotho	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Significant decline in national 2010/11 cereal production; 514 000 persons categorized as food insecure.
	Liberia	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		Slow recovery from war related damage. Inadequate social services and infrastructure, as well as poor market access and high food prices. Massive influx of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire: about 172 970 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia as of late August.





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	Madagascar	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	The 2011-2012 Malagasy Migratory and Red Locusts locust season started in mid-September 2011, one month earlier than usual. The first generation of breeding occurred under suitable conditions and the second one is already in progress in the major part of the Malagasy migratory locust outbreak area (south-west of the Island); high numbers and gregariness are reported. In addition, red locust breeding resulted in small patches and bands, which will complicate the whole locust situation and management.
		<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Decline in 2011 national rice harvest and higher rice prices contribute to aggravating overall food security conditions. However, improved production in southern areas alleviates conditions.
	Malawi	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Production shortfalls in southern districts and increasing prices have exacerbated food insecurity conditions. However, good maize supplies have helped to stabilize national food security conditions.
	Mali	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		As part of the Sahel Food and Nutrition Crisis, the country is being affected by a decline in agro-pastoral production and rising food prices.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Low numbers of desert locust adults may be present and could persist in the few areas that remain green in the north. No significant developments are likely.
	Mozambique	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Overall national cereal supplies are satisfactory, and steady prices currently prevail, stabilizing food security conditions, but southern areas affected by poor production remain a concern.
	Niger	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		As part of the Sahel Food and Nutrition Crisis, the country is being affected by a decline in agro-pastoral production and rising food prices.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Low numbers of desert locust adults will persist in the Air Mountains and the western edge of the Ténéré where small-scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall, causing locust numbers to increase.





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		<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		After the severe food crisis that struck the country in 2009/2010, erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing season led to a sharp decline in 2011 cereal and pasture output. In addition, 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.
	Senegal	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		As part of the Sahel Food and Nutrition Crisis, the country is being affected by a decline in agro-pastoral production and rising food prices. The global acute malnutrition rates ranged between 5% and 10% in the regions of Kedougou, Kolda, Louga, Saint Louis and Thies.
	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>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Small-scale breeding of desert locust could occur on the north west coast if rain falls in February. No significant developments are likely.
		<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		About 2.3 million people are in need of emergency assistance due to the past severe drought, the ongoing civil conflict and limitations in delivering humanitarian assistance.
	South Sudan	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		About 1 million people is estimated to be food insecure due to low 2011 cereal production, civil insecurity, trade restrictions; high food prices and increasing demand by institutional development programme and returnees.
	Sudan	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		About 4.2 million people are in need of food assistance (including about 2 million institutional development programme in Darfur), due to a very low 2011 cereal production, civil insecurity (mainly in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur) and high food prices.
	Zimbabwe	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Reduced production in southern areas have impacted food security despite the overall improvement in availability of maize.





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ARAB STATES	Afghanistan	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Drought, conflict, insecurity and high food prices. Moderately food insecure areas are in the centre and northeast of the country. Poor 2011 wheat harvest exacerbated food insecurity.
	Algeria	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low-moderate	Scattered adults of desert locust are likely to persist in areas that remain green near Illizi and Djanet. If further rains fall, small-scale breeding will occur, causing desert locust numbers to increase and perhaps a few small groups to form.
	Egypt	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Isolated adults of desert locust may appear on the Red Sea coastal plains between Shalaty and Halaib. If rains occur, small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly but remain below threatening levels.
			Moderate	<i>Escherichia coli</i> O-104: European Union embargo on edible seeds. Possible endemic presence in Egypt and eastern Africa. Impact on trade.
			Low	Avian influenza (H5N1) control activities have been substantially reduced in 2011 due partly the civil unrest and frequent change of authorities however reported A/H5N1 infections in poultry and human likely to be increased.
	Libya	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease type O are likely to spread with risk of incursion to neighbouring countries.
			High	Adult desert locust in the southwest will mature and form small groups/ swarms near Ghat that could move north to Ghadames and Al Hamada Al Hamra. Desert locust numbers will increase as hatching and band formation occur from late February onwards. Control operations treated 1,030 ha during the first week of February and are still in progress.
	Iran		Low	Low numbers of desert locust may appear on the south east coastal plains between Jask and Chabahar, and breed on a small scale in areas that receive rainfall.
Iraq	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Severe civil insecurity.	





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	Mauritania	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		As part of the Sahel Food and Nutrition Crisis, the country is being affected by a decline in agro-pastoral production and rising food prices.
		<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		The poor distribution of rainfall in 2011 growing season (July to October) resulted in a serious decline in cereal production. Pasture conditions were also severely affected in the pastoral and agro-pastoral zones of the country. Moreover the country is being affected by high international food prices due to its high import dependency.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Isolated desert locust adults may be present in parts of northern Trarza, Inchiri and southwest Adrar where breeding is unlikely unless further rains fall.
	Morocco	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Isolated desert locust adults may be present in the extreme south of the western Sahara. Low numbers of adults could appear south of the Atlas Mountains in the Draa and adjacent valleys during March. No significant developments are likely.
	Oman	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Low numbers of desert locust adults may be present along parts of the eastern coast between Jazeer and Sur and along the eastern edge of the Wahiba Sands. Small-scale breeding could occur in areas of previous rainfall or if more rains fall in February.
	Saudi Arabia	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Isolated desert locust adults are likely to persist near Qunfidah. Unless further rains fall, breeding is not expected to occur along the Red Sea coastal plains.
	Syria	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Prolonged social unrest is causing disruptions in food distribution channels in several markets.
	Yemen	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Low numbers of adult desert locust are likely to be present along parts of the Red Sea coastal plains. Unless further rains fall, breeding is not expected to occur.
<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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ASIA & THE PACIFIC	Democratic People's Republic of Korea			In spite of the improved food production this year, economic constraints and lack of agricultural inputs continue to lead to inadequate food supplies. Earlier severe winter conditions reduced wheat harvest and damaged stored seed potatoes; recent floods reduced the main harvest.
	India	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Foot-and-mouth disease and <i>peste des petits ruminants</i> will continue to spread and impede livelihoods and food security.
	Japan	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>		Elevated caesium in some beef and seafood – Most other food under control.
	Pakistan	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Low numbers of desert locusts will persist near Uthal and may appear in other coastal areas between Jiwani and Ormara, and breed on a small scale if rainfall occurs.
EUROPE & the CIS	Armenia	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	The desert locust season will start from March 2012 onwards.
	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.
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	Haiti	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Cholera is evolving towards an endemic situation. Lower incidence between rainy seasons can be expected.
		<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Lingering effects of devastating earthquake of January 2010; resurgence of cholera epidemic.

