Update July 2016

FSNWG[1] Update on the Food and Nutrition Security Conditions in the Great Horn of Africa (GHA), July 2016

Food insecurity has deteriorated significantly in July 2015 compared to the same period last year

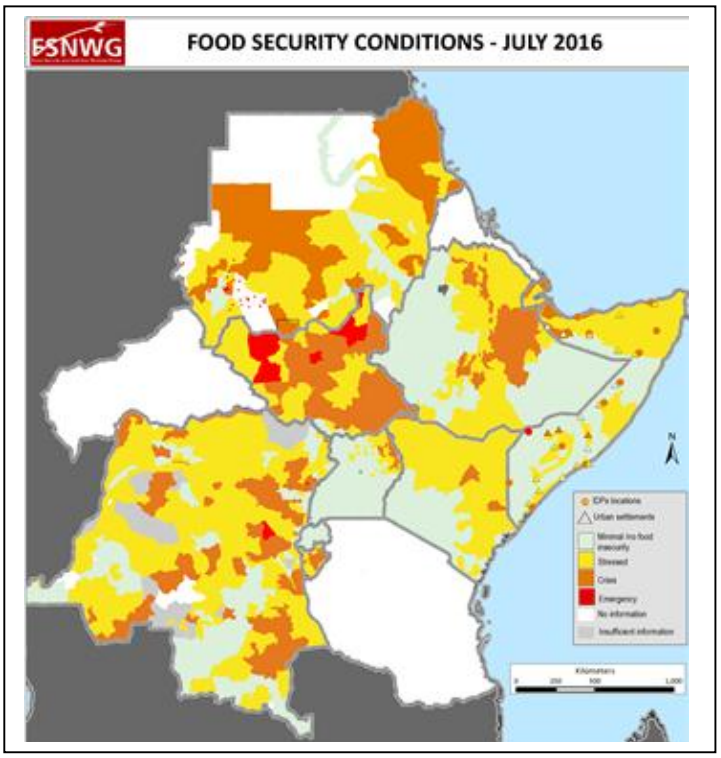
Food insecurity increased by about 51 percent compared with the same period in 2015. This is mainly due to significant increases in Ethiopia, Burundi, Sudan, South-Sudan, and to a much lesser extent Somalia and Djibouti.

The number of food insecure will likely decline in Ethiopia through the last quarter of 2016 but increase in South Sudan due to impacts of recent conflicts, and in Somalia due to poor rainfall performance in the past rain seasons.

Country	Pop in IPC phase 3 & 4 (August 2014)	Pop in IPC phase 3 & 4 (August 2015)	Pop in IPC phase 3 & 4 (August 2016)	Difference 2015-2016	Source (August 2016)
Burundi	1,303,824	460,000	2,286,033	1,826,033	IPC May-June 2016
CAR	1,700,000	1,268,000			IPC April 2015
Djibouti	120,000	162,000	227,463	65,463	IPC Oct 2015
DRC	4,100,000	6,500,000	5,895,844	-604,156	IPC Jun 2016
Ethiopia	2,200,000	4,505,111	10,241,725	5,736,614	HRD, Dec 2015
Kenya	1,506,400	1,074,900	639,549	-435,351	KFSSG, Feb 2016
Somalia	1,100,000	731,000	953,000	222,000	FSNAU, Feb-June 2016
South Sudan	3,890,717	2,750,000	4,785,000	2,035,000	IPC April 2016 update
Uganda	252,810	294,945	392,909	97,964	IPC Nov 2015-April 2016
Sudan	4,380,935	1,288,759	4,415,354	3,126,595	IPC April – July 2016
TOTAL	20,554,686	19,559,815	**29,836,877**	10,277,062	

Distribution of the Food insecure

An estimated 29.8 million people in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) region are severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 Crisis and Phase 4 Emergency) and are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (Annex 1). This excludes the refugees and those in CAR for which no updated figures are available. Majority of the food insecure are in Ethiopia (10.2 million)[2], DRC (5.9), South Sudan[3] (4.8), Sudan (4.4) and Burundi (2.3).



Nutrition situation worrisome

The nutrition situation in the region remains worrisome. There is currently a total of 1,250,000 expected target admissions for severe acute malnutrition of which 458,000 are in Ethiopia. This number remains the same compared to the June 2016 update. The children acutely malnourished in Ethiopia increased from 1.44 million to 1.96 million (an increase by 8,000 from 450,000 severely malnourished children during the period June to July 2016.

1 The East and Central Africa Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) is a multi-stakeholder regional forum, chaired by IGAD and FAO, and mandated to conduct regional food and nutrition security situational and response analysis in the region.
2 This is according to the Ethiopian HRD December 2015; a new HRD is expected in the next 1to 2 months.
3 According to IPC Nov 2015 - March 2016; a new IPC assessment report is expected in July/August

Main drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition

The main drivers of food and nutrition insecurity are:

- Continued impact of the 2015/16 El Nino induced drought especially in northeastern parts of Ethiopia, parts of Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, and Karamoja;
- Floods and landslides between March and May 2016, which affected parts of Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda, resulting in below average food production;
- Political unrest, conflict and insecurity (new, protracted and inter-communal) in and around Juba, Eastern and Central Equatoria, the Greater Upper Nile states, Unity, Lakes, Jonglei, Unity and Warrap of South Sudan; eastern Darfur region and central North, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states of Sudan; south-central Somalia; and Burundi.
- Economic shocks (high food prices and inflation) particularly in South Sudan, Djibouti and Burundi;
- Other inherent vulnerability factors such as poverty, displacement, migration, etc.

Markets update

In most countries, prices of main commodities in the main retail and wholesale markets were stable or increased smoothly in June following seasonal patterns, except in Tanzania and South Sudan where diverging patterns were observed. In the surplus-producing areas of Tanzania, maize prices decreased from the previous month as unimodal and first bimodal harvests started reaching the markets. In South Sudan, the year-on-year inflation rate recorded an unprecedented 310% increase since June 2015, the highest ever and in the world. The conflict in early July in Juba disrupted markets in the capital and compromised the functionality of major markets in central and northern South Sudan. The continuous depreciation of the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) further constrained ability of traders to supply markets and is increasingly affecting the economic access to food for the vulnerable populations, especially those dependent on markets across the country[4].

Population displacement

The deterioration of the security situation in the region, more specifically in South Sudan, has increased the caseload of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs across Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region. As of 1st June 2016 the total number of refugees and asylum seekers that need UNHCR protection has reached alarming levels increasing to 3.43 million in comparison to 3.32 million as of end of 2015 (a summary is provided in Annex 2).

Outlook

With the relatively fair performance of the March-May 2016 rains and the promising June-September rains in the northern sector of the region, improved food and nutrition security are expected in the previously drought affected areas of Ethiopia, Karamoja in Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea and Sudan. However, below average rainfall since March in southeast, coastal and northeastern Kenya, as well as south-central and northern Somalia affected crop and pasture production and could lead to earlier deterioration of rangeland resources needed for livestock production. The current food and nutrition insecurity could be sustained or further deteriorate through December 2016 in the last quarter of 2016 in eastern half of the GHA region - (coastal parts of Tanzania and Kenya, southern agricultural areas of Somalia, Djibouti and Ethiopian arid and semi-arid areas) due to the impact of the likely occurrence of a weak La Niña 5 event and in South Sudan and Burundi due to the continued conflict and insecurity.

---

4 More details to be found in the Special Focus section on South Sudan.

5 This is according to the GHACOF43 statement and the WMO Update on La Nino dated 28 July 2016. This statement will be updated following the release of a new regional outlook for SOND 2016 expected from GHACOF44 which is scheduled to take place in Kampala Uganda on 29-30 August 2016

Special Focus: South Sudan - Increasing Concerns on Food Security & Nutrition Status

The FSNWG has noted with concern that the ongoing crisis in South Sudan is aggravating an already fragile socio-economic context, in which many households are at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition both in rural and urban centers. The South Sudan IPC of April 2016 estimated that 4.8 million people (40% of the total population) would face severe food insecurity countrywide in the May-July 2016 lean season period. This estimate does not include about 360,000 food insecure population in Juba, Wau, and Aweil towns.

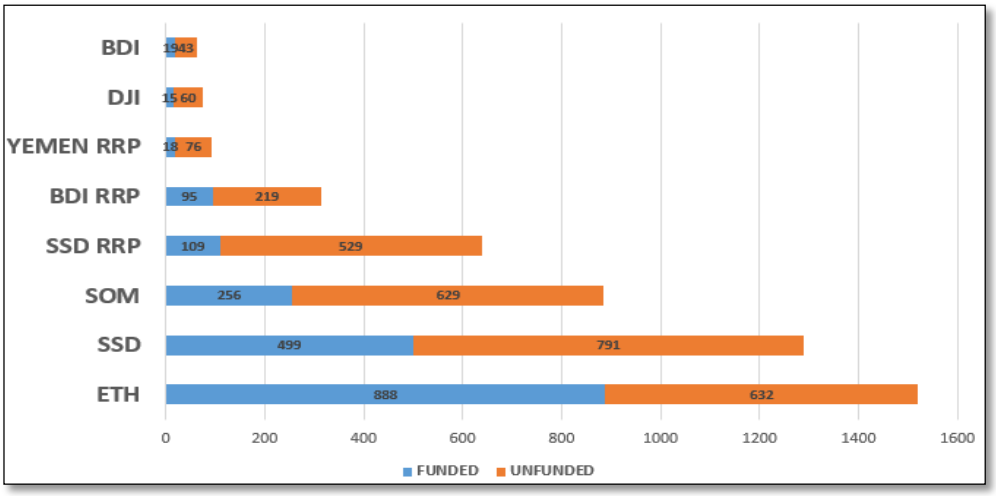
An unseasonal increase in food insecurity was observed in June (FSNMS, July 2016) compared to both June and November 2015 and is the worst since the start of the conflict in December 2013. The deteriorating food and nutrition situation is more pronounced in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBS), Western Bahr el Ghazal (WBS), Upper Nile (UNS) and Warrap where more than 20% of the population faced severe food insecurity conditions and high prevalence of Global Acute malnutrition above emergency thresholds. The IPC analysis currently underway will further update the population in need and make projections until December 2016.

OUTLOOK: The number of food insecure population is expected to increase until new harvest comes in end of August/September more so following the recent fighting that broke out in Juba in early July. The conflict has resulted in disruptions to key infrastructure that supports livelihoods including markets, and further displacement of populations in Juba and out of the country[6]. Worsening food security, high morbidity due to fever, and conflict-related population displacements may further fuel the already fragile food security and deteriorating nutrition situation aggravated by a number of factors that include the poor physical and economic access to food for South Sudan's poor population, estimated at 60% as of 2015; continued increase in food prices; market disruptions due to insecurity; continued depreciation of the South Sudanese pound; and erosion of livelihoods.

Regional Funding Update as Of July 2016

The El Niño impact has exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation in a region where humanitarian requirements are high. As of early July 2016, US$5.8 billion was required to address humanitarian needs in the region and only 39 percent was funded. Of this, Ethiopia has the highest El Niño related requirements, totaling US$1.52 billion of which US$545 million is yet to be resourced. The Sudan El Niño Mitigation and Preparedness Plan called for US$82 million to assist 3.5 million people.

Funding Status in USD Millions (as of July 2016; *Source UNOCHA*)



[6] An estimated 36,000 people were displaced, and currently an estimated 15,000 remain displaced without adequate shelter, food, water, or sanitation and hygiene facilities.

In Somalia, a drought "Call for Aid" was issued in March 2016, requiring US$105 million to support over one million people. The regional refugee response plans for South Sudan, Yemen and Burundi remain underfunded, yet displacements from these countries are expected to continue while capacities of host countries to meet the growing refugee needs is limited.

Recommended general actions:

The FSNWG urges further coordinated planning by all concerned stakeholders in order to respond more effectively to the current life and livelihood threatening situation and to prepare to address the negative impacts of the impending La Niña event.

- Governments, UN, NGOs, IGAD, EAC and AU should increase coordinated resource mobilization efforts to enhance key preparedness, early warning and response action for the projected La Niña evolving situation in the fourth quarter of 2016. This includes regular risk analysis, updating and implementation of national contingency plans for drought and flood response.
- Scale-up integrated multi-sectoral emergency response, recovery and resilience building interventions including cash transfers/social safety nets, market based intervention, nutrition supplies, water, sanitation, health, provision of animal fodder and seeds, destocking and plan for recovery activities, cross border coordination to address disease outbreaks.
- Prepare for a deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the conflict-affected areas of countries with underfunded humanitarian and/or regional refugee response plans through further developing regional multi-country contingency plans with aligned scenario planning and analysis. For countries that were affected by El Niño with activated contingency plans and taskforces, there is need to expand their mandates to prepare for the developing La Niña situation towards the end of the year.

Recommended recovery actions:

In areas that were affected by El Nino driven drought, stakeholders are encouraged to pursue efforts on recovery for the most affected population notably by:

- Availing funding to support livelihoods recovery such as restocking of livestock;
- Expanding social safety-nets programs to support more vulnerable people.

Recommended long term/resilience building responses

- Strengthening crop and livestock insurance schemes;
- Supporting the promotion of climate-smart agricultural initiatives along targeted value chains;
- Supporting investments in water harvesting and storage infrastructure;
- Supporting actions that encourage long-term productivity and livelihood diversification;
- Promoting community resilience and climate change adaptation initiatives;
- Ensuring that nutrition sector coordination mechanisms are operational both at central and at sub-national level for more efficient nutrition sector response.

Conclusion

While food insecurity and malnutrition have worsened significantly compared to July 2015, conditions are largely expected to improve in parts of the region due to generally average long rains in the period March to May 2016 and to the on-going June-August 2016 season. Hence, the number of food insecure could decline in near future. However, the vulnerable populations in El Nino-affected areas will continue to require humanitarian and livelihood assistance till the next harvests.

Food security may deteriorate particularly in coastal zones of Tanzania and Kenya, eastern and north-eastern parts of Kenya, much of Somalia and the eastern and south eastern ASAL regions of Ethiopia due to past below-average season performance and effects of the anticipated La Niña event by the end of the year.

The FSNWG will continue collaborating with its stakeholders in monitoring the situation and providing updates/early warnings in support of preparedness and response should need arise.

ANNEX 1: DETAILS OF COUNTRY-LEVEL FOOD SECURITY CONDITIONS

Country	Food Insecurity (IPC 3&4)	Major Driver & Season Progress	Areas of concern
Ethiopia	10,241,725	Climatic Shock: Caseloads are due to the continued impact of the 2015/2016 El Nino-driven drought	Areas under crisis (IPC Phase 3) in parts of Tigray, Amhara, lower Afar, central Oromiya, and SNNPR regions
Sudan	4,415,354	Climatic shock (main), conflict and insecurity: Late start of June-Oct rains & subsequent poor distribution led to more than 50 per cent yield reduction.	Eastern Darfur region and central North, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.
South Sudan	4,785,000	Conflict and insecurity: continued conflict and insecurity threatens humanitarian activities.	Greater Upper Nile states, Unity, Lakes, Jonglei, Unity and Warrap
Somalia	953,000	Climatic shock (and insecurity): Below average rains in 3 consecutive seasons since 2015	Agricultural areas of South, Central and Puntland including Lower Shabelle, Bay, Bakol, Gedo, Hiraan, Lower & Middle Juba regions and Cowpea Belt livelihood zone of central Somalia
Uganda	392,909	Climatic shock: Late onset and below average performance of 2016 rains in Karamoja sub region	Karamoja sub region
Burundi	2,286,033	Conflict and insecurity, economic and climate shock: Diminishing labour opportunities, depreciation of Burundian Franc associated with inflation, early withdrawal of 2016 Season B rains,	Much of the country
DRC	5,895,844	Conflict and insecurity: Interrupted farming activities	areas under crisis especially in the eastern part of the country and isolated areas in the west
Kenya	639,549	Climatic shock: Below average long rains	Northeastern pastoral and southeast as well as marginal mixed farming araeas that have had below-average rainfall
Djibouti	227,463	Climatic shock: Three to four successive below average seasonal rainfall performance	South east, north west and Obock regions
Total	**29,836,877**		

ANNEX 2: NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS AS OF 1ST JUNE 2016

Country of Asylum East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes	Refugees and Asylum Seekers as of 1st June 2016			
	31-Dec-15	31-May-16	Absolute change	Percentage change
Burundi	56,294	55,902	-392	-1%
Djibouti	22,006	19,763	-2,243	-10%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	384,078	398,654	14,576	4%
Eritrea	2,550	2,287	-263	-10%
Ethiopia	738,217	737,979	-238	0%
Kenya	593,881	600,442	6,561	1%

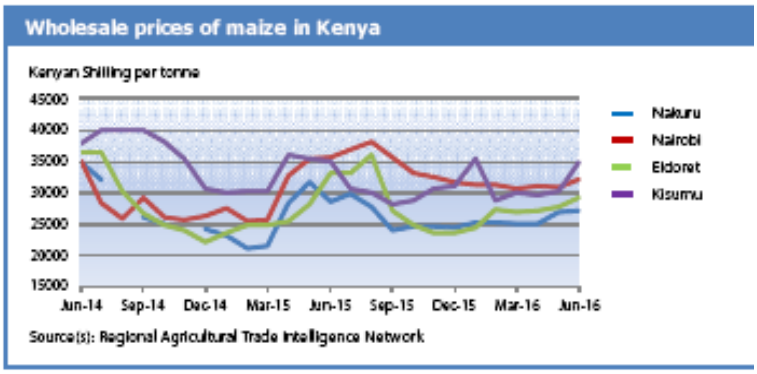
Rwanda	145,151	150,533	5,382	4%
Somalia	18,201	21,223	3,022	17%
South Sudan	263,855	272,293	8,438	3%
Sudan	322,220	363,398	41,178	13%
Uganda	512,966	538,252	25,286	5%
Tanzania	213,995	217,306	3,311	2%
Total	**3,273,414**	**3,378,032**	104,618	**3.2%**

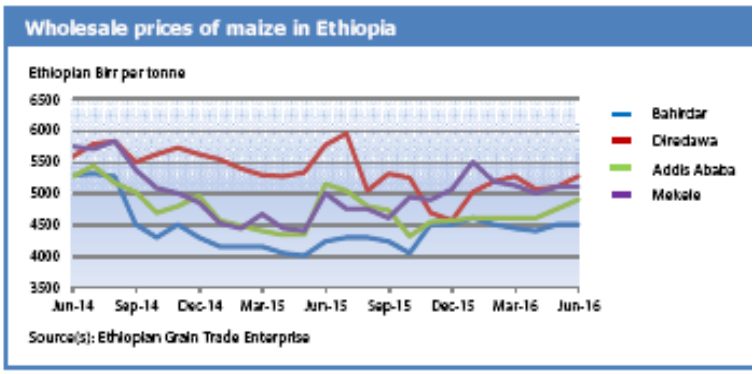
Note: UNHCR data as of 1st June 2016

ANNEX 3: DETAILED MARKETS AND PRICES UPDATE

In the May-June 2016 period, markets were generally well supplied in surplus-producing **Uganda** and **Tanzania**. Maize, sorghum, and cooking banana prices declined in May in bimodal areas of Tanzania and Uganda as producers and traders sold off stocks ahead of the upcoming June-August harvests. In June, prices of maize rose in most markets in Uganda as the first bi-modal harvest was delayed while they continued to decline in Tanzania due to higher availability from the Msimu harvest reaching the markets in unimodal areas, and from the green harvest of the first-bimodal Masika harvest. Prices in both countries remain well below their year-earlier levels in most monitored markets.

In **Kenya** and **Ethiopia**, prices of maize increased seasonably but were still below their year-earlier levels due to adequate stock availabilities from the October to December short rains harvest. In Ethiopia, the below average 2015 Belg and Meher harvests were compensated by imports of wheat and wheat flour (USDA FAS) and humanitarian assistance which contributed to stabilize market supply and food prices.





In the **Sudan**, prices of main staples (sorghum and millet) continued to increase seasonably in June with the progress of the lean season, and were about 50 percent higher than their levels a year earlier due to low domestic availabilities following the drought-reduced 2015 output.

In **South Sudan**, the year-on-year inflation rate recorded in June an unprecedented 310% increase since June 2015, mainly underpinned by food and non-alcoholic beverages price increases, with Juba, Torit, Rumbek, Aweil, and Wau recording the sharpest spikes. The monthly consumer price index (CPI) increased seasonably but sharply by 25% since May 2016. Insecurity, high transportation costs, seasonally low food availability and depreciation of SSP are the main causes for monthly food prices increase.

Markets disruption following the recent fighting in Juba and insecurity across the main import highway Nimule-Juba les to a massive increase of prices of basic commodities in Juba and concerns over availability in key markets in the central and northern towns of Aweil, Wau, Rumbek and Mingkaman (see table on the right).

Food prices are expected to continue rising in August due to low functionality of markets following poor road access, associated to decreasing stocks availability. The upcoming green harvests (early August) will grant physical access to food and temporary reprieve for households in localized net producing areas, but will not be widely felt in deficit producing areas. The urban poor are likely to be the most affected by the current instability and high prices. Food availability and access is expected to improve during the main harvest November-December in parts of Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile.

The recent looting of food stocks and tools in humanitarian partners' warehouses in Juba by armed elements will likely put additional strain on vulnerable populations who rely on humanitarian assistance in Juba and in rural areas.

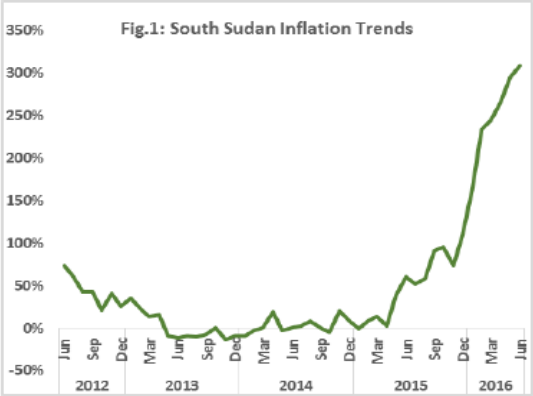
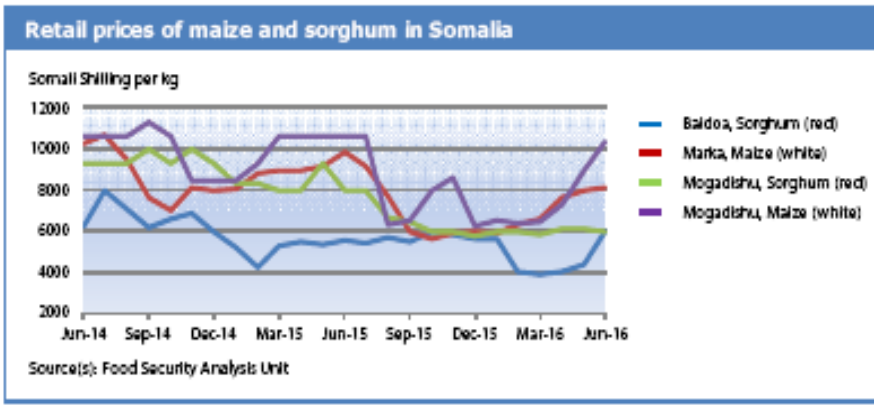


Table 1: Price changes following Recent Fighting in Juba	Retail Price in SSP		percent change
Custom/Nyakuron & Gudele Markets	week 5/ June 2016	week 2/ July 2016	% Change
Cereals			
Rice	46	72	58%
White sorghum (feterita) grain	125	140	12%
White maize grain	121	137	13%
Dried Cassava (not ground)	121	140	15%
Legumes/ other foods			
Foul el masri (broad beans)	86	125	45%
Beans (Janjaro)	48	78	63%
Groundnuts (shelled)	70	119	70%
Sesame	67	121	82%
Vegetable Oil	62	76	24%
Fish (dried tilapia)	119	149	25%
Fuel			
Petrol	64	113	77%
Diesel	62	108	74%

In **Somalia**, prices of locally-produced sorghum and maize continued the increasing trend of recent months following uncertain prospects for the 2016 August main Gu season harvest following below average March to May Gu rainfall. However, prices remained lower than a year earlier due to adequate domestic availabilities. Economic access to food is being constrained since April as most households depend on market, and only partially eased by international imports of wheat and rice reinforcing domestic food supplies.

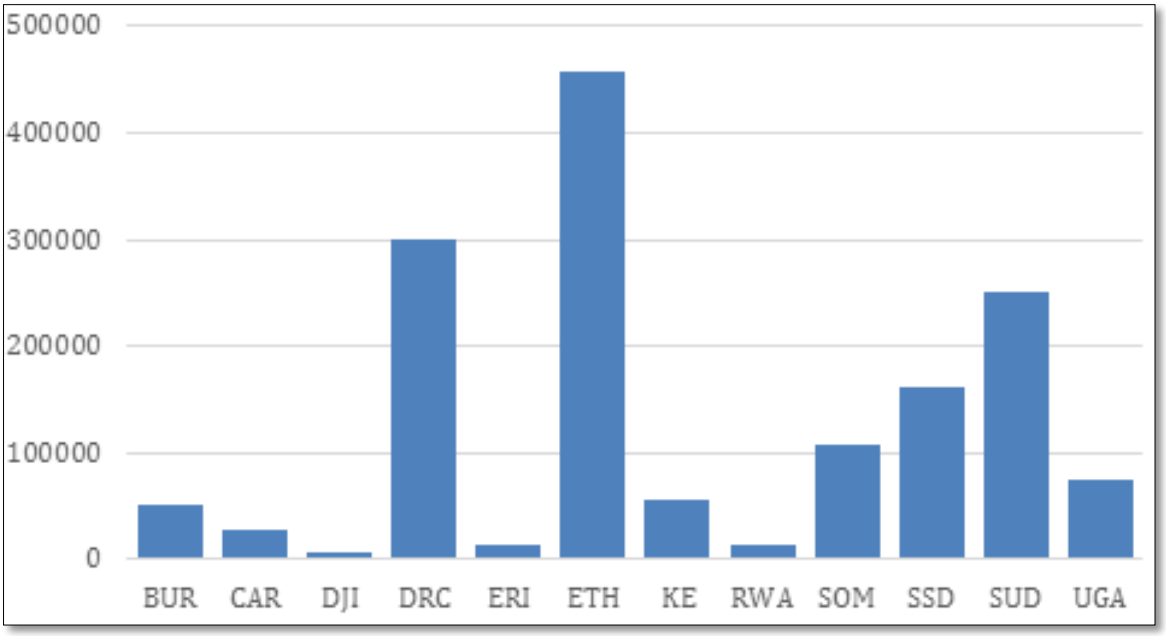


In **Burundi** and **Rwanda**, the current Season B production is projected as average, with exception in north-eastern districts of Rwanda recently affected by drought. Prices are expected to remain near five-year averages in most markets through October, improving household purchasing capacity compared to last year. Additionally, adequate food imports are expected from Tanzania following good unimodal and bi-modal harvests in the country.

ANNEX 4. DETAILED NUTRITION CONDITIONS UPDATE

Most countries such as Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Eritrea are currently reaching their peak in admissions in the coming months, as the lean season is just starting. Several countries in the region, including Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia, have seen earlier increases in admissions indicating that the lean season started earlier than normal. It is also anticipated that overall admissions for severe acute

malnutrition will have increased compared to previous years. In other countries such as Somalia, DRC and CAR that have been in a prolonged crisis situation, the malnutrition prevalence has stabilized though on a high level. Continuous support to address the problem as well as the underlying causes is still needed. The number of children under five targeted for severe acute malnutrition treatment as of 26th July 2016 is highest in Ethiopia followed by DRC, Sudan and South Sudan as indicated in figure below.



Number of children under five targeted for severe acute malnutrition treatment, as of 26th July 2016

The on-going monitoring of the nutritional status among children aged 6-59 months in refugee sites show that in 29% of the sites have GAM prevalence above 15% (emergency threshold); 38% of sites have stunting above the 40% which is of public health significance; and 62% of sites have anaemia prevalence above the 40%. Dependency on food assistance, limited livelihood and agriculture opportunities, and reduced ration cuts (30% in Dadaab affecting about 217,929 refugees, 30% ration cuts in South Sudan affecting 272,293 refugees; and cuts in super cereals in Ethiopia and Djibouti) due to funding limitation can possibly have strong negative impact, exacerbating the underlying poor nutritional status of refugee populations across the greater Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region.