GIEWS Country Brief
The United Republic of Tanzania

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**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- Below-average “Masika” harvest expected in bi-modal rainfall areas
- Above-average major “Msimu” harvest gathered in southern and central uni-modal rainfall areas
- Maize prices seasonally declined in June, but remained at high levels due to sustained export demand
- Concerns for vulnerable households in northeastern areas affected by consecutive crop production shortfalls
- As of late June, about 266,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo face difficult food security conditions

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**Below-average “Masika” harvest expected in bi-modal rainfall areas**

In northern, northeastern and coastal bi-modal rainfall areas, the 2019 “Masika” crops, planted between February and March, are currently being harvested. According to GIEWS remote sensing analysis and the Tanzania Meteorological Agency, the March-May rainy season was characterized by inadequate precipitation amounts received over several cropping areas (see the first Rainfall Anomaly map), and cereal production is expected at below-average levels. In particular, significant crop production shortfalls are expected in northeastern Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions, where cumulative seasonal rains were about 40 percent below average.

**Above-average major “Msimu” harvest gathered in southern and central uni-modal rainfall areas**

In central and southern uni-modal rainfall areas, the major “Msimu” harvest was completed in June. The November-April rainy season began in mid-November with about a two week delay. Subsequently, near average rainfall volumes were received until February while precipitations were slightly above average for the remainder of the cropping season. Overall, according to GIEWS remote sensing analysis and the Tanzania Meteorological Agency, cumulative seasonal rainfall was average over most cropping areas (see the second Rainfall Anomaly map). Adequate and well-distributed precipitations benefited yields and resulted in good vegetation conditions over
key-cropping areas of the southern highlands, which account for about 60 percent of the aggregated yearly cereal production (see Vegetation Condition Index map). By contrast, in parts of central Tabora, Singida and Dodoma regions, an erratic temporal distribution of rains had a negative impact on vegetation conditions and yields. Overall, the 2019 “Msimu” cereal production is estimated at above-average levels.

Fall Armyworm outbreaks have been reported in most cropping areas. In most central and southern uni-modal rainfall areas, the adequate and well distributed “Msimu” rains limited to some extent the spread of the pest. By contrast, in northern, northeastern and coastal bi-modal rainfall areas, the poor “Masika” rains fostered infestation levels, which were estimated at more than 50 percent in Manyara, Geita, Kagera, Simiyu, and Kilimanjaro regions.

The 2019 aggregate cereal production (including an average output of the “Vuli” harvest, to be harvested in early 2020 in bi-modal rainfall areas) is tentatively set at 10.5 million tonnes, similar to the output obtained in 2018 and slightly above the average of the previous five years.

Maize prices declined in June, but remained at high levels due to sustained export demand

Prices of maize increased by 20-35 percent between March and May in several markets, more than doubling over the same period in Mbeya market, located in a key-growing area in the south, as seasonal patterns were compounded by sustained export demand from Kenya and some Southern African countries. Prices declined in June by about 20 percent in Iringa and Mbeya markets as the “Msimu” harvest increased market availabilities. By contrast, prices increased by about 10 percent in June in Dar Es Salaam, the largest urban centre, as sustained local demand was compounded by concerns over the performance of the “Masika” harvest in neighbouring bi-modal rainfall cropping areas. Overall, maize prices in June were about 30 percent higher than in the same month of the previous year. Prices of beans increased by approximately 20 percent between March and May and levelled off in June, when they were around their year-earlier levels.

Concerns for vulnerable households in northeastern areas affected by consecutive crop production shortfalls

The country is generally food secure. The food security situation has started improving in May in central and southern uni-modal rainfall areas and in June in northeastern bi-modal areas, as food crops from the 2019 “Msimu” and “Masika” harvests, respectively, became available for consumption. However, concerns remain for poor households in northeastern Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions, where the below-average 2019 “Masika” harvest, currently underway, will result in the second consecutive reduced output, after the 2018 “Vuli” harvest, gathered last February, estimated at below-average levels due to poor seasonal rains.

As of late June 2019, about 266 000 refugees and asylum seekers are residing in the country as a result of violence and political instability in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Nearly 90 percent of refugees and asylum seekers live in camps in western Katavi, Kigoma and Tabora regions, including more than 150 000 people residing in Nyarugusu camp in
Kigoma region, near the border with Burundi. Refugees and asylum seekers lack access to livelihood opportunities and rely entirely on humanitarian assistance.

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Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.