



GIEWS Updates

VOLUME 2007

The **GIEWS Updates** are issued by FAO's **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)** from mid-2004. The updates focus on developing anomalous conditions aimed at providing early warnings, as well as latest and more elaborate information than other GIEWS regular reports on the food security situation of countries, at both national and sub-national levels.

Date	Title	Page
15-Jan-2007	Mixed prospects for the 2007 cereal crops in Southern Africa	2
19-Feb-2007	Zimbabwe Growing Season Update	5
23-Feb-2007	Severe flooding in Bolivia Food crisis may worsen	10
15-Mar-2007	Update on Bolivia	11
19-Mar-2007	Southern Africa Update - March 2007	12
27-Jun-2007	Latest Updates (91 countries, June 2007)	19
01-Aug-2007	Somalia: persisting critical situation in the Juba valley	68
04-Aug-2007	Bangladesh Update	78
16-Aug-2007	Floods have adversely affected crop prospects and food security of millions of small farmers in south Asia	81
17-Aug-2007	Food supply situation to deteriorate in DPR Korea following severe floods and crop losses	83
22-Aug-2007	Thousands in Need of Humanitarian Assistance after hurricane Dean	84
30-Aug-2007	Severe drought in Moldova	87
05-Sep-2007	Floods cause damage in parts of several east African countries	91
10-Sep-2007	Bangladesh Update	92
25-Sep-2007	Assessment of damage caused by hurricane Dean in Dominica	105
04-Oct-2007	Crop yield estimates for millet and sorghum, East Africa	112
30-Oct-2007	Impact of main natural disasters on food production in Latin America and the Caribbean (2006-2007)	116
31-Oct-2007	Dominican Republic: Tropical Storm Noel causes severe losses to food and cash crops	121
05-Nov-2007	Humanitarian emergency worsens in the Shabelle regions of Somalia	122
06-Nov-2007	Floods in Mexico's State of Tabasco devastate agriculture	123
09-Nov-2007	Mixed Food Security Outlook in West Africa	125
22-Nov-2007	Bangladesh - over 6.7 million people affected by Cyclone Sidr	127
11-Dec-2007	High cereal prices hurting vulnerable populations in developing countries	128
27-Dec-2007	Bangladesh - over 8.9 million people affected by Cyclone Sidr	129

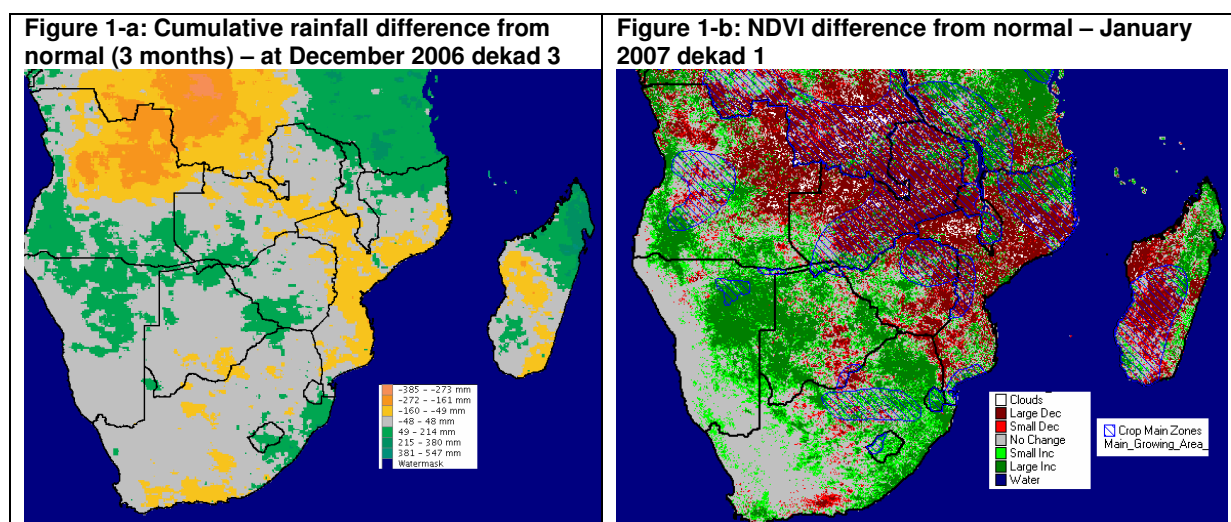
Southern Africa 2006/07 Mid-Season Update

-----January 2007-----

(Regional Update as of 15 January 2007)

Mixed prospects for the 2007 cereal crops in Southern Africa

As the 2006/07 agricultural season in **Southern Africa** nears the mid-point, heavy rains were reported through much of the region in the third dekad of December and beginning of January, causing localized floods in Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar. In October and November favorable rains were received in main crop growing areas of south-western Angola, northern Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. However, the other areas of the region, especially the northern parts, remained generally dry, which delayed planting operations. Cumulative rainfall difference from the average of past eight years for the first three months of the season (October-December), shows normal to above normal precipitation through the western and southern parts of the region and northern areas of Madagascar but below normal in the northern and eastern part of the region, including northern Angola, northern and central Mozambique, areas of Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as central and southeastern areas of Madagascar (see Figure 1-a.). The vegetative growth at the first dekad of January 2007, as indicated by the NDVI difference from the long term average in Figure 1-b, showing also the main maize growing areas in the region, reflects similar but more pronounced west-east and north-south differences in the growing season. Moreover, in southern areas, in spite of generally satisfactory rains during the season, many localized areas have experienced an erratic precipitation including significant dry spells. In addition, the forecast for the second half of the season points to a drier than normal climatology primarily due to the El-Nino conditions. Thus the regional outlook for the 2007 main season cereal harvest at this stage is mixed with early prospects unfavorable in Zambia and Madagascar, and favorable in other countries.



Source: NOAA, FAO/GIEWS.



At the regional level, the area planted to the main maize crop is estimated to have increased. This mainly reflects higher plantings in **South Africa**, where farmer's planting intentions survey indicates that the maize area has expanded from last year's reduced level by about 1.2 million hectares to some 2.8 million hectares, encouraged by current high prices. Overall, input availability at planting time was normal in most countries. Large input subsidy schemes were implemented in **Zambia** and **Malawi**, enabling farmers to use quality seed and fertilizer. This is expected to have a significant positive effect on total maize harvest later this year. By contrast, in **Zimbabwe**, continuous shortages and/or high prices of key inputs such as fertilizer, fuel, draft animal power and spare parts are expected to result in relatively low yields, as in previous years. In **Lesotho** and in several farming districts in Eastern Cape and Free State in **South Africa**, an outbreak of Brown Locust affected maize and other crops in December. Aerial spraying to combat the large swarms was undertaken in both countries. In **Mozambique**, an outbreak of Trypanosomiasis² has reportedly affected cattle in the Central Region of the country, including Manica, Sofala, Zambezia and Tete Provinces³.

Food Imports and Market Prices:

With improved 2006 production from the majority of the countries of the region in 2006, the aggregate cereal import requirement for the 2006/07 marketing year (April/March in most cases) has been revised down to 6.3 million tonnes, about 13 percent lower than in the previous year. If South Africa and Mauritius are excluded, the reduction in the total cereal import requirements of the region is more pronounced; pointing to a decline from the actual imports of 5 million tonnes in 2005/06 to an estimated requirement of about 3.5 million tonnes in 2006/07 (see Table 1). Food assistance needs in 2006/07, estimated at about 547 000 tonnes are also lower than the average annual food aid of the previous five years, calculated at about 700 000 tonnes. Available figures show that so far about half of the import requirements of all cereals and about 55 percent of maize have been received and/or pledged. Imports are likely to pick-up during this last quarter characterized as the food deficit period.

Table1. Import requirements and current import position (received/pledged), Southern Africa, excluding South Africa and Mauritius, 2006/07*

	Import Requirements (^{'000} tonnes)	Import Position (^{'000} tonnes)	(%)
Total Cereals			
Total	3 459	1 654	48%
Commercial	2 912	1 378	47%
Food aid	547	276	50%
Maize			
Total	1 224	672	55%
Commercial	940	608	65%
Food aid	284	64	22%

* Marketing year mostly April/March. *Source:* FAO/GIEWS estimation.

Current prices of maize, the most important staple foodstuff, in most deficit countries are much below the corresponding levels a year ago when widespread food shortages were experienced. For example, as shown in Figure 2, wholesale prices of white maize in the capital city markets in **Zambia** and **Mozambique**, at mid-December 2006, were about US\$193 and US\$238 per tonne, down from US\$309 and US\$334 per tonne respectively at the same time a year ago. Currently these prices are showing a seasonal positive trend since August-September after a long and steady decline from about US\$354 and US\$390 per tonne, respectively, during the peak of the hunger season in February 2006. On the other hand, in **South Africa**, the region's main exporting country, current maize prices in US dollar terms are higher than the corresponding levels last year, reflecting a reduced harvest in 2006 and lower maize supplies. In line with international trends, there has been a steady increase in the

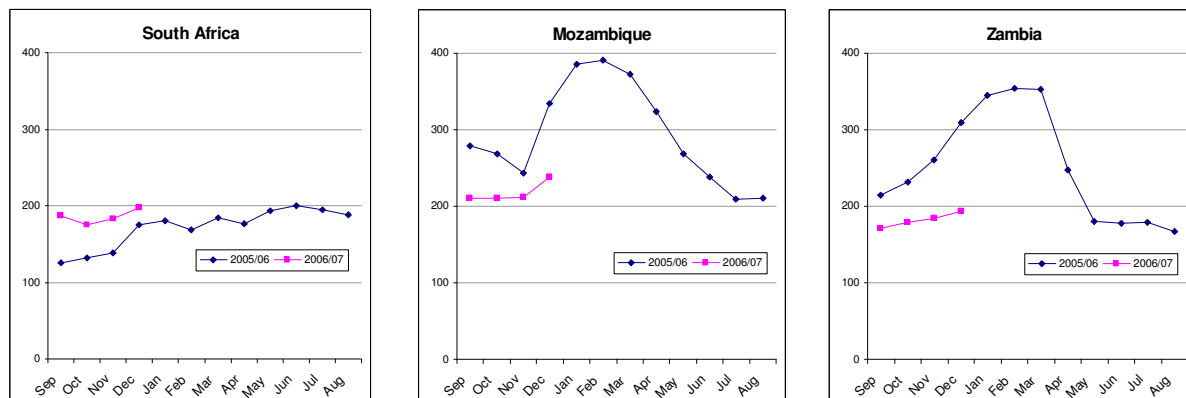
² A parasitic disease caused by tsetse fly.

³ Further information on specific countries can be found on the GIEWS Workstation at:
<http://www.fao.org/giews/workstation/page.jsp>

SAFEX maize price since September 2005. This increase is likely to continue through this lean period until the new harvest in April 2007.

Changes in the maize prices in local currency have been a little more pronounced as compared to the changes in US dollar prices as a result of the weakened Rand in South Africa, but less marked in Zambia due to the strengthening of the Kwacha against the US dollar. In Mozambique, variation in the Metical prices have more or less mirrored changes in the US dollar prices primarily due to this currency's relative stability during this period.

Figure 2: White maize wholesale prices, US\$/tonne



Data sources: South Africa - SAGIS; Zambia - CHC Commodities Ltd.; Mozambique - SIMA.

Food Security Situation:

Overall, aggregate food supply in the region this marketing year has been quite favorable. In **South Africa**, the region's major exporter, supplies of white maize are estimated at 6.3 million tonnes which, compared with a domestic utilization of 4.3 million tonnes, leaves a surplus of about 2 million tonnes. Assuming the level of the strategic reserves at about 600 000 tonnes, the potential exportable surplus of white maize from South Africa is likely to be about 1.4 million tonnes. In addition, some sizeable exportable quantities are estimated from Malawi (200 000 to 350 000 tonnes), Zambia (180 000 to 280 000 tonnes) and Mozambique (150 000 to 250 000 tonnes) after accounting for a build-up of stocks in each of these three countries to a level of about 100 000 tonnes. Thus in aggregate, the regional surplus is more than enough to cover the commercial import requirements of the other maize deficit countries in the region estimated at just under 1 million tonnes. Significant quantities are thus available for local and regional purchases of food aid for distribution in the region.

Despite a significant improvement in most countries' 2006 cereal harvests, food insecurity persists in parts. In **Zimbabwe**, the economic crisis continues to deepen with an estimated 1.4 million rural people (about 17 percent of the total rural population) unable to meet their minimum cereal needs during the 2006/07 season. Unemployment and inflation are also increasing the number of food insecure in the urban areas. In **Lesotho** and **Swaziland**, poor cereal harvests again in 2006 preclude an improvement in the food security of these countries, afflicted by poverty and the impact of HIV/AIDS. In **Angola**, according to the FAO/WFP assessment, despite economic growth and increased oil revenues, localized food insecurity persists for an estimated 800 000 vulnerable people. In **Madagascar**, the food security situation has worsened in southern parts because of drought last season and continuing dry weather this season. Thus, the household food security for the low income and vulnerable populations in several countries of the region from now until the arrival of the next harvest in April, due to exhaustion of household stocks and rising food prices, is of serious concern and requires national and international efforts to deal with it. Under the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, WFP has planned to distribute about 160 000 tonnes of food during 2007, the third and final year of the operation, to about 5.5 million people who are food insecure and/or suffering from the impact of HIV/AIDS.

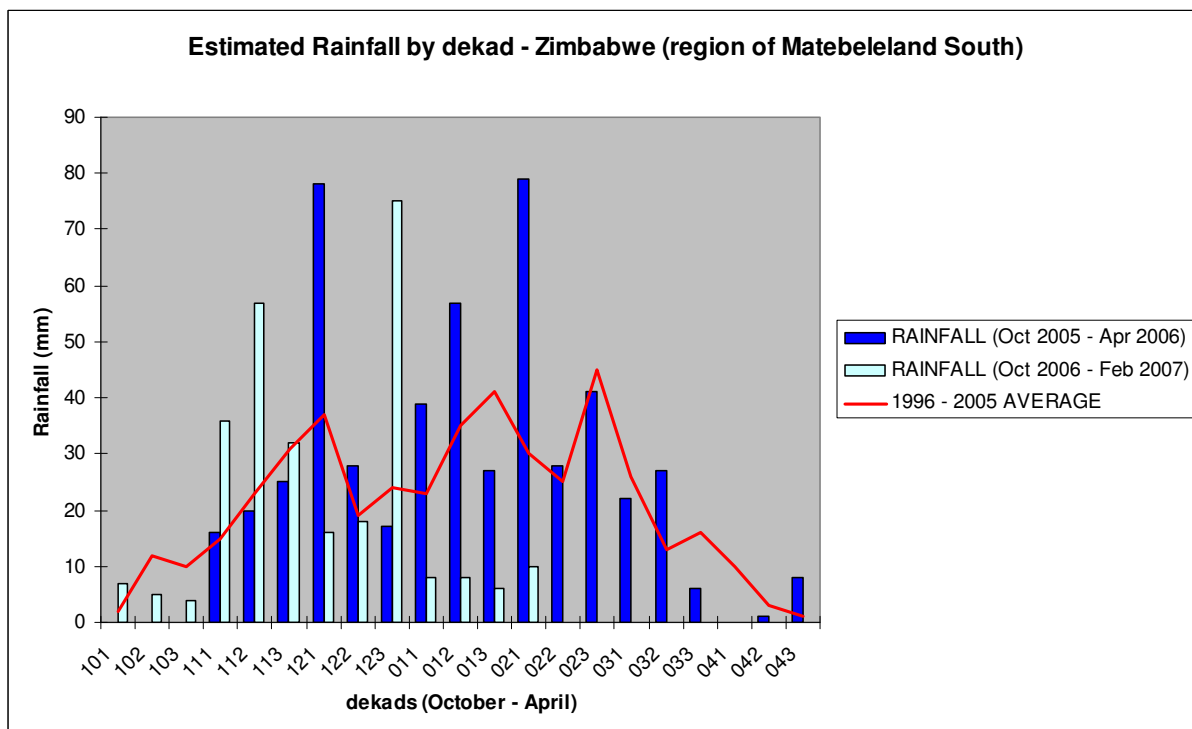
FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

19 February 2007

Zimbabwe Growing Season Update

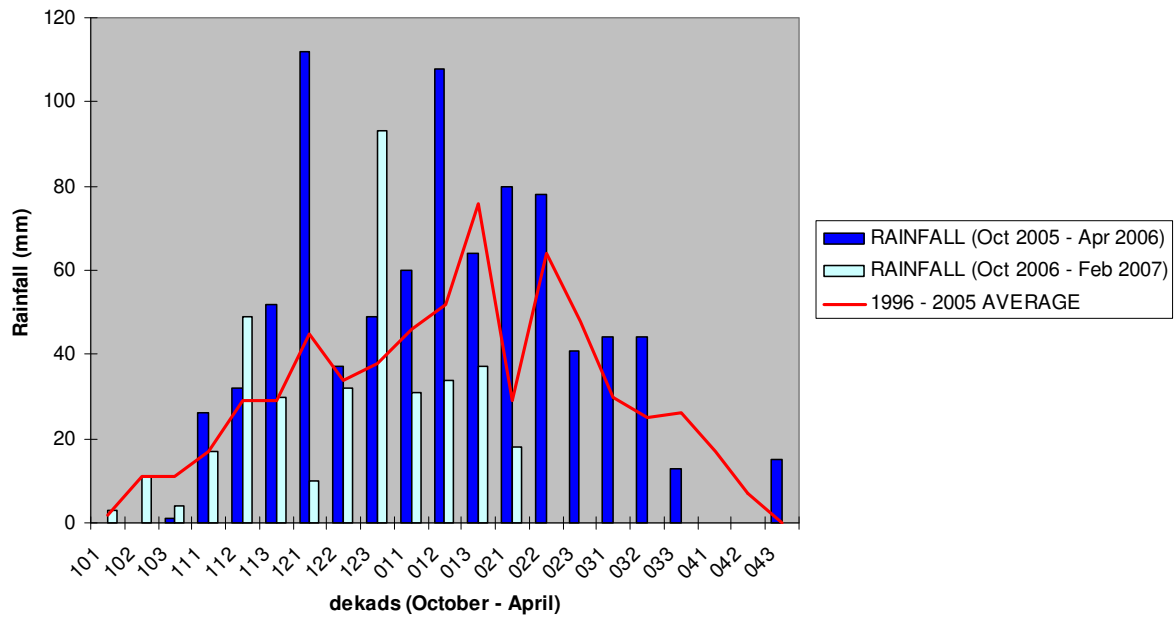
Although cumulative rainfall has been near normal, the distribution of dekadal rainfall since the beginning of October 2006 has been less than satisfactory causing serious concerns for the upcoming harvest in April/May 2007. In the south-southwest half of the country including **Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Midlands and Masvingo** estimated rainfall has been much below average and below last year's generally satisfactory levels, since 1st dekad of January 2007 (see figure 1). This puts significant stress on field crops where they are not already dried up. Rainfall has generally been much better in the north-northeast half of the country covering **Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central and Manicaland**, but less than normal precipitation in February i.e. during the critical growth stage. This is expected to have an adverse impact on yields of maize, the main staple crop in the country (see figure 2). The NDVI for the 1st dekad February, compared to the same dekad previous year, confirms these rainfall patterns resulting in the consequent decrease in vegetative growth this season (see figure 3). The El Niño phenomenon, widely predicted to reduce rainfall in during the second half of the season seems to be in effect. Given these weather irregularities (delayed planting rains and extended dry spells) and serious constraints on availability of key inputs such as fertilizer, herbicides, fuel, etc., early prospects for the cereal harvest this year look unfavourable.

Figure 1 – Estimated rainfall, South-southwest Zimbabwe (panels 1 to 4: Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Midlands and Masvingo)

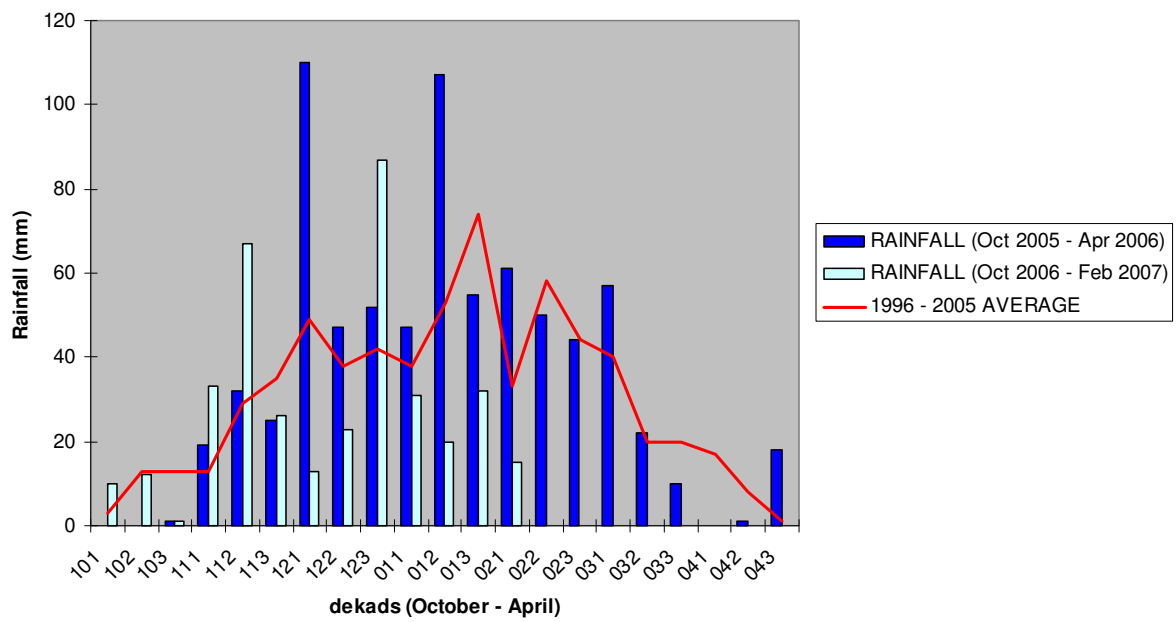


Source: NOAA, FAO/GIEWS.

Estimated Rainfall by dekad - Zimbabwe (region of Matebeleland North)



Estimated Rainfall by dekad - Zimbabwe (region of Midlands)



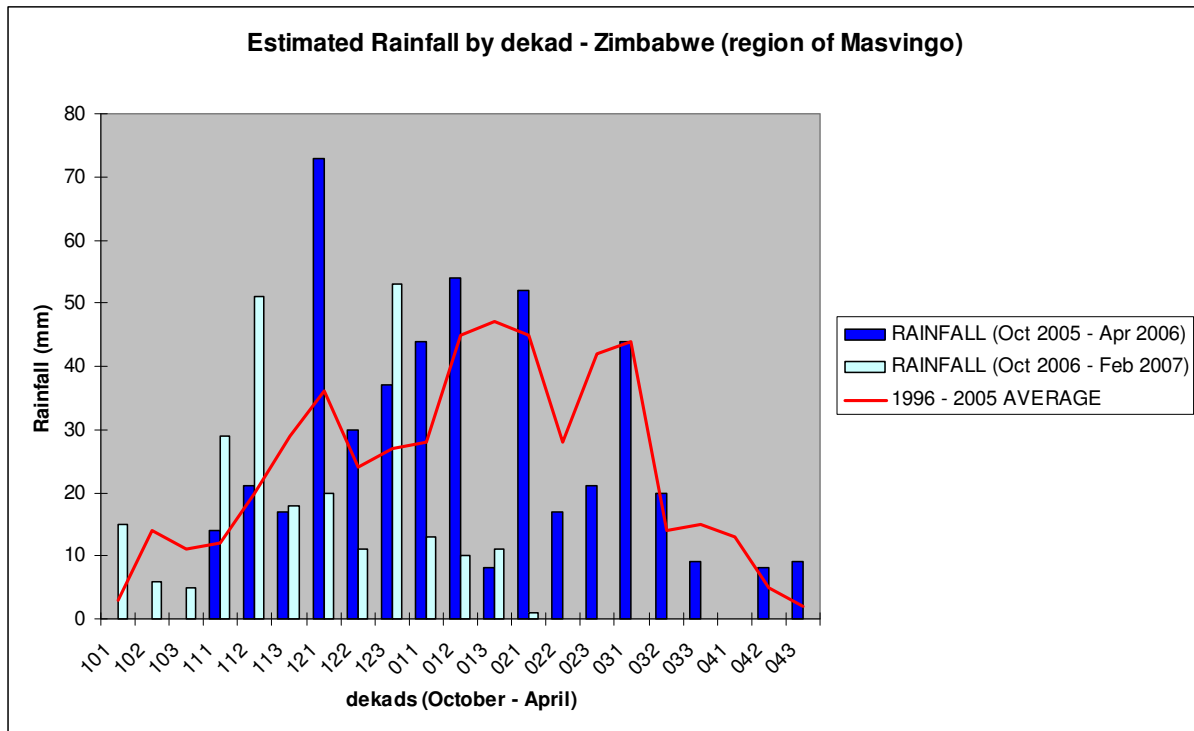
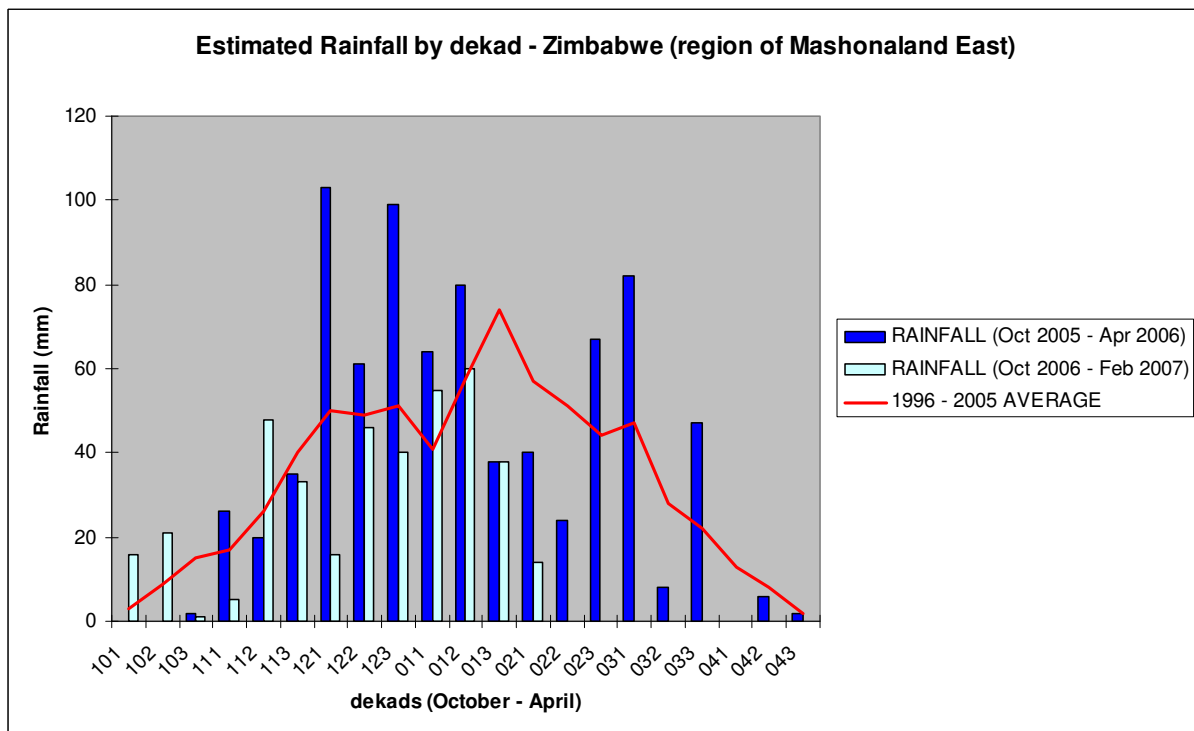
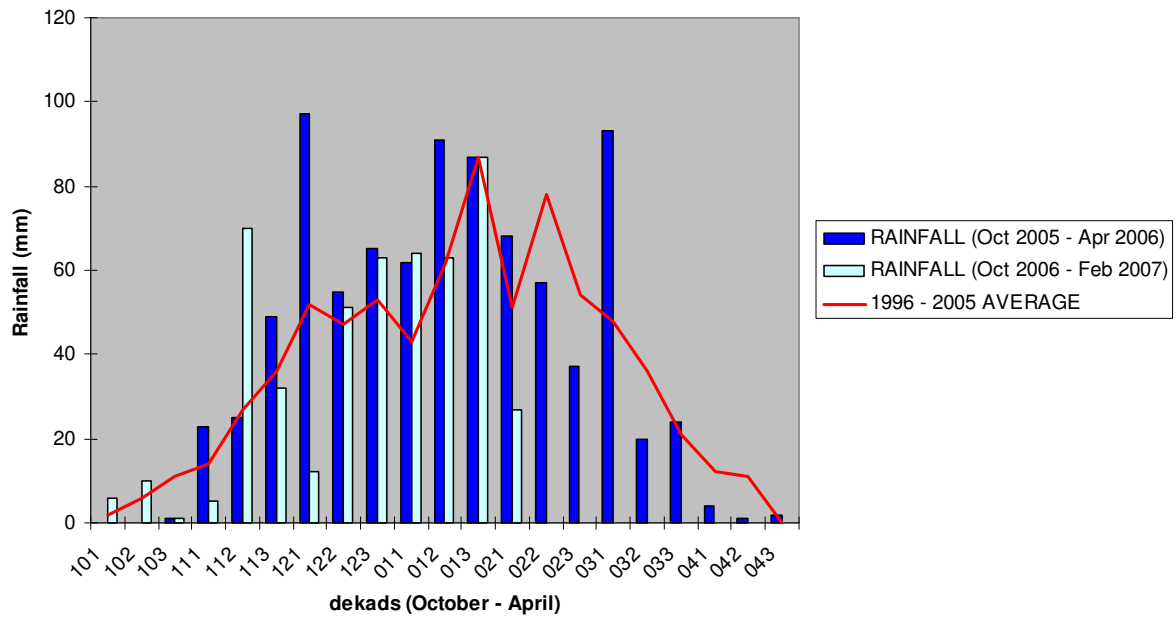


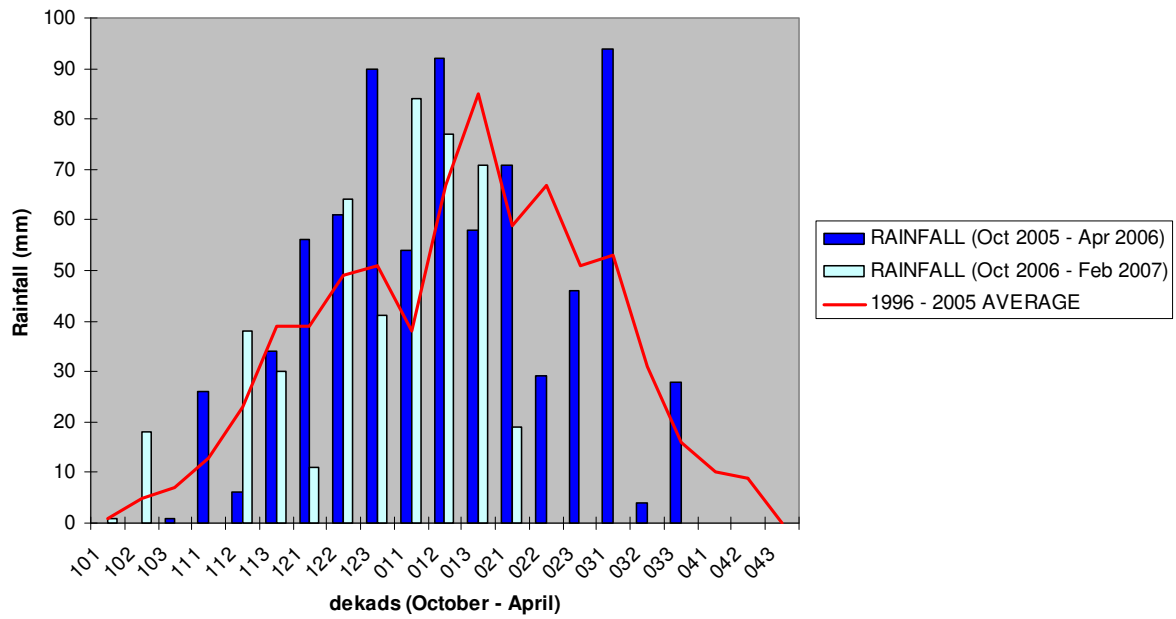
Figure 2 – Estimated rainfall, North-northeast Zimbabwe (panels 1 to 4: Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central and Manicaland)



Estimated Rainfall by dekad - Zimbabwe (region of Mashonaland West)



Estimated Rainfall by dekad - Zimbabwe (region of Mashonaland Central)



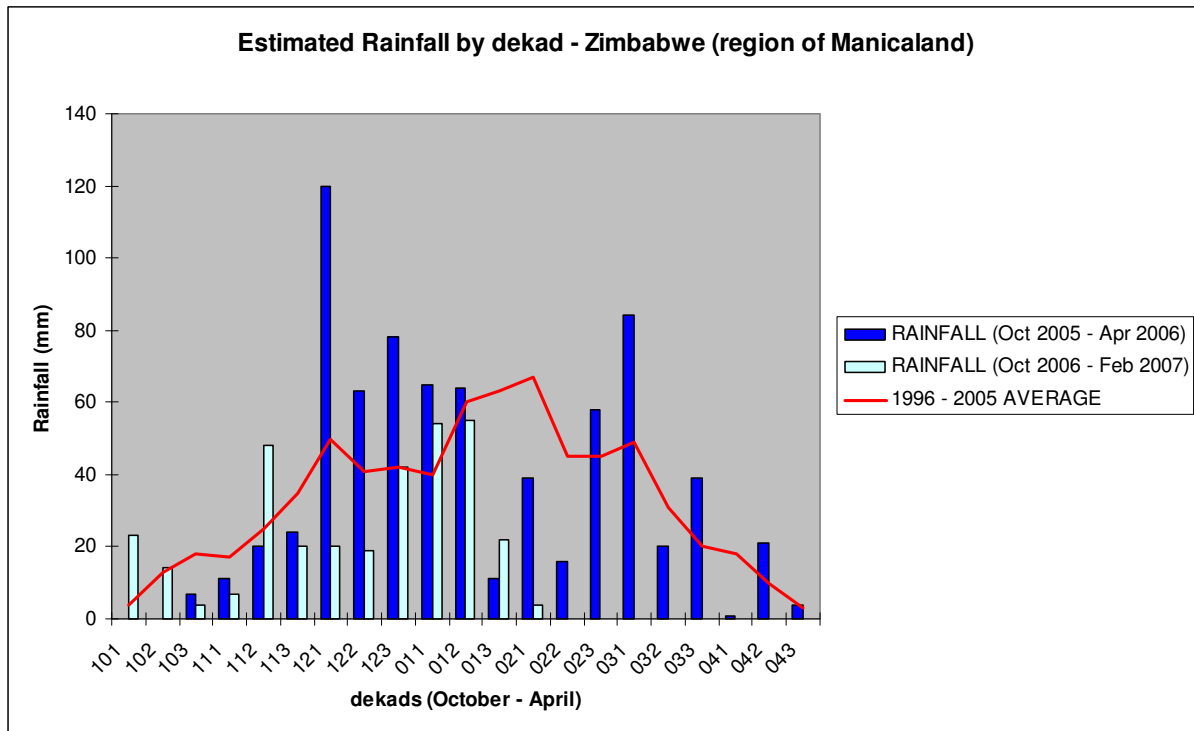
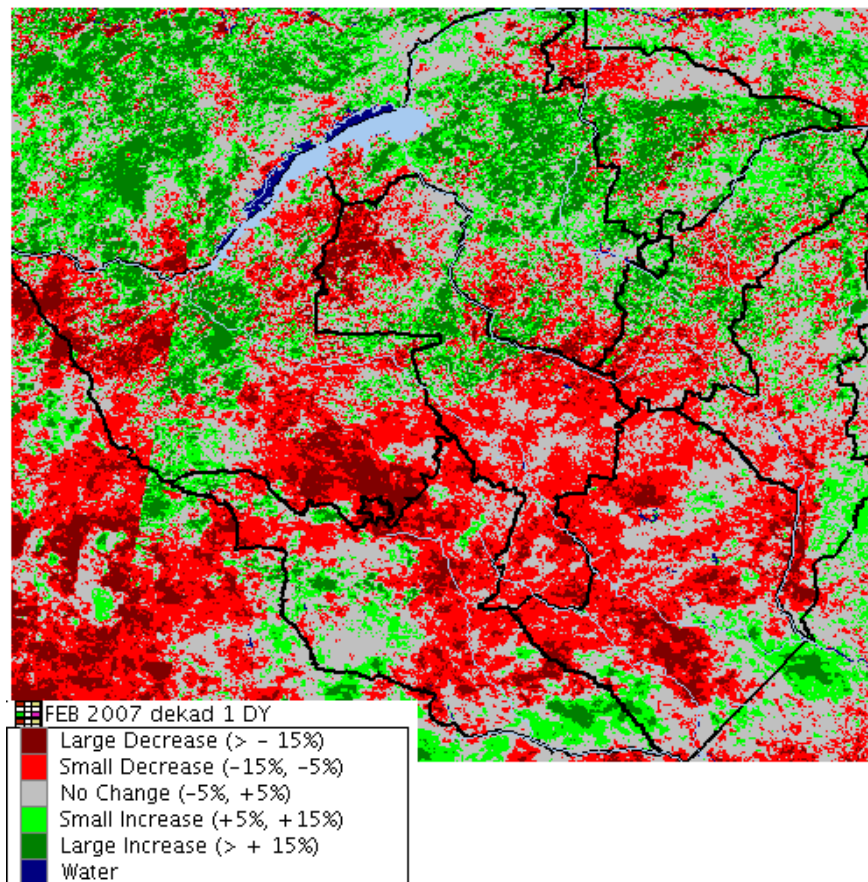


Figure 3: NDVI dekad 1 February 2007 compared to the previous year, same dekad.



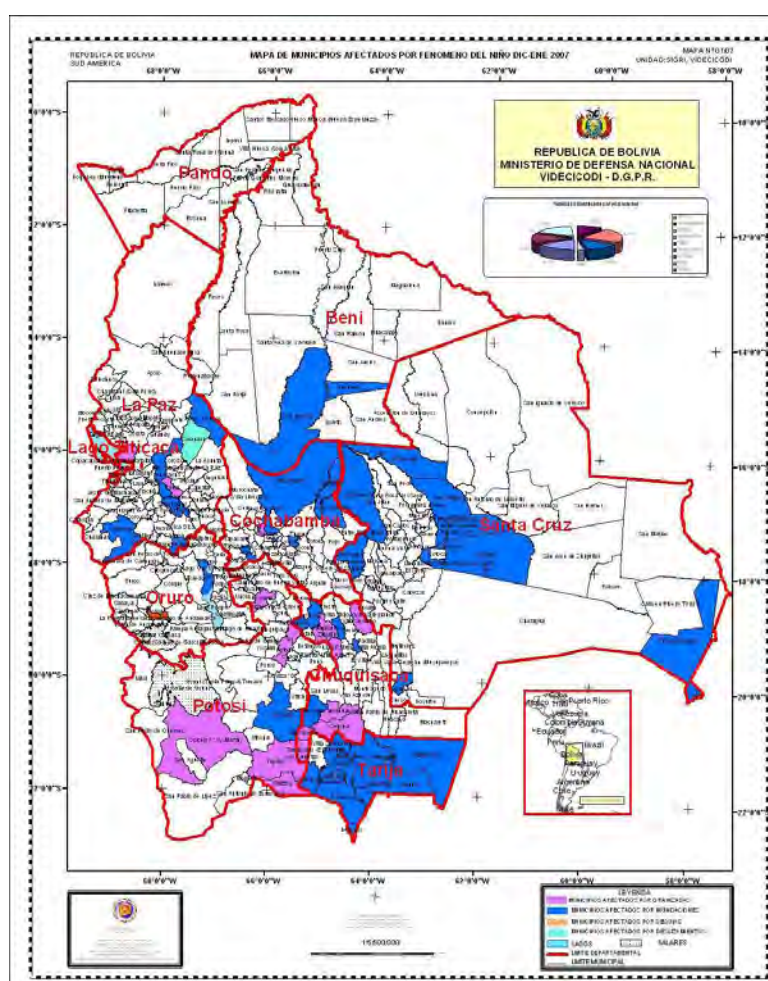
Source: NOAA, FAO/GIEWS.

Severe flooding in Bolivia – Food crisis may worsen

Heavy precipitations from the end of December have resulted in widespread floods affecting seven of nine departments in Bolivia, with losses of human lives and serious damage to infrastructure, housing and agriculture. At the end of January, the Government declared a state of emergency and appealed for international assistance. By February 21, according to the National Service of Civil Defense, up to 350.000 people had been affected, but this number may increase if water levels continue rising, especially in eastern departments of Beni and Santa Cruz.

The heavy rains affected cereals (mainly maize and rice), potatoes and other food crops), as well as the important soy crop of the 2007 main season, planted last October/November, and to be harvested from mid-March. Until a detailed assessment becomes available, early estimates of losses point to about 70.000 hectares of food and cash crops and more than 11.000 head of cattle. Worst affected departments include Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, Tarija and Beni, which account for about 80 percent of annual rice and maize production. Severe problems of food insecurity are foreseen for riverine communities already entering the lean period with very limited food stocks from the previous season, and beset with total crop failure.

With lost roads and bridges, food prices are rising fast in many wholesale markets. In the major market of Santa Cruz city, for example, potato and vegetable prices have reportedly increased by 30-40 percent in a few days due to reduced supplies from Cochabamba, Chuquisaca and Tarija. If food flows are not quickly restored, the crisis will worsen both in terms of food availability and access.



The situation needs to be closely monitored; the National Meteorological Service forecasts continued heavy rains until early March and the arrival of a cold front from Argentina, which could damage crops, especially in the highlands.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

15 March 2007

Update On Bolivia

Since November 2006, several adverse climatic events have affected all of Bolivia's nine departments. Floods and landslides in midlands and lowlands (departments of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, Beni, Chuquisaca Tarija and Pando) as well as drought, hail storms and frost in highlands (departments of Oruro, Chuquisaca, Potosí and La Paz) have caused losses of human lives and damage to infrastructure, housing and agriculture. By early March, although floodwaters were starting to recede in the hardest hit areas of Santa Cruz and southern Beni departments, new areas of Pando and north-western Beni departments were receiving runoffs from the highlands, with high risk of new floods. In particular, the National Meteorological Service of Bolivia forecasts more floods in Pando department due to the growing levels of rivers from Peru.

According to estimates of the National Service of Civil Defence by early March 48 people have died due to the floods and up to 385.000 people (about 77 000 families) had been affected. Water and sanitation conditions have been damaged, causing widespread outbreaks of diseases, such as malaria, dengue and tetanus, as well as respiratory and gastrointestinal infections. According to preliminary estimates from the Ministry of Planning, total damage amounts to about 114 million US dollars, equivalent to 1 per cent of Bolivian gross national product. On January 19, the Government declared a state of emergency and, on February 7, appealed for international assistance.

It is estimated that over 200 000 hectares of the 2007 main summer season food and cash crops, normally scheduled to be harvested from mid-March to May, and some thousands heads of cattle have been affected to different degrees. In the highlands, dry weather conditions and freezing temperatures in December and January damaged food crops that were planted at the end of 2006, such as maize, quinoa, rice, beans and potatoes, with losses up to 50-70 per cent of the total area planted in parts of the departments of Oruro, Potosi and La Paz. Losses of pasture land and fodder crops, such as barley, are also reported. It is estimated that more than 20 000 families of small farmers, who mostly cultivate for self-consumption, have been affected by the severe crop losses in the Highlands region. In the Lowlands and Valleys, the excess of soil moisture affected 115 000 hectares of main agricultural export soy bean crop in the growing department of Santa Cruz, equivalent to 17 per cent of the area planted. However, the abundant precipitation of the season has been beneficial to soy bean crops in eastern areas of the department, where very good yields are expected (almost twice the average), which will partially compensate for heavy losses in northern parts. Serious damage to 14 000 hectares of maize, 20 000 hectares of rice, cash crops and pastures are also reported from Santa Cruz department.

The livestock sub-sector has also been seriously affected by floods, especially in the Beni department, with several thousands of heads lost and increasing animal health problems. Nationwide, it is estimated that at least 50 per cent of the animals are at risk of illness and death due to lack of pasture and excessive humidity.

The food security situation of most vulnerable rural communities is expected to deteriorate as a consequence of the shortage of food and rising food prices. These families were already in the lean period, with very limited food stocks from the previous season and beset with total crop failure. In addition, there may not be enough seeds for the next winter season crops (mainly cereals and potatoes), to be planted from May in the lowlands and from September in the highlands.

A UN Flash Appeal has recently been issued and FAO is requesting some 5 million US dollars to provide emergency assistance to restore the production capacity of small farmers by providing basic farm inputs, as well as feed and veterinarian products.

An FAO Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is planned in order to make an assessment of agricultural damage and emergency assistance needs, so that timely remedial actions can be taken by the government and the international community.

Southern Africa 2006/07 Mid-Season Update

-----MARCH 2007-----

(Regional and national Updates as of 19 March 2007)

Regional Summary:

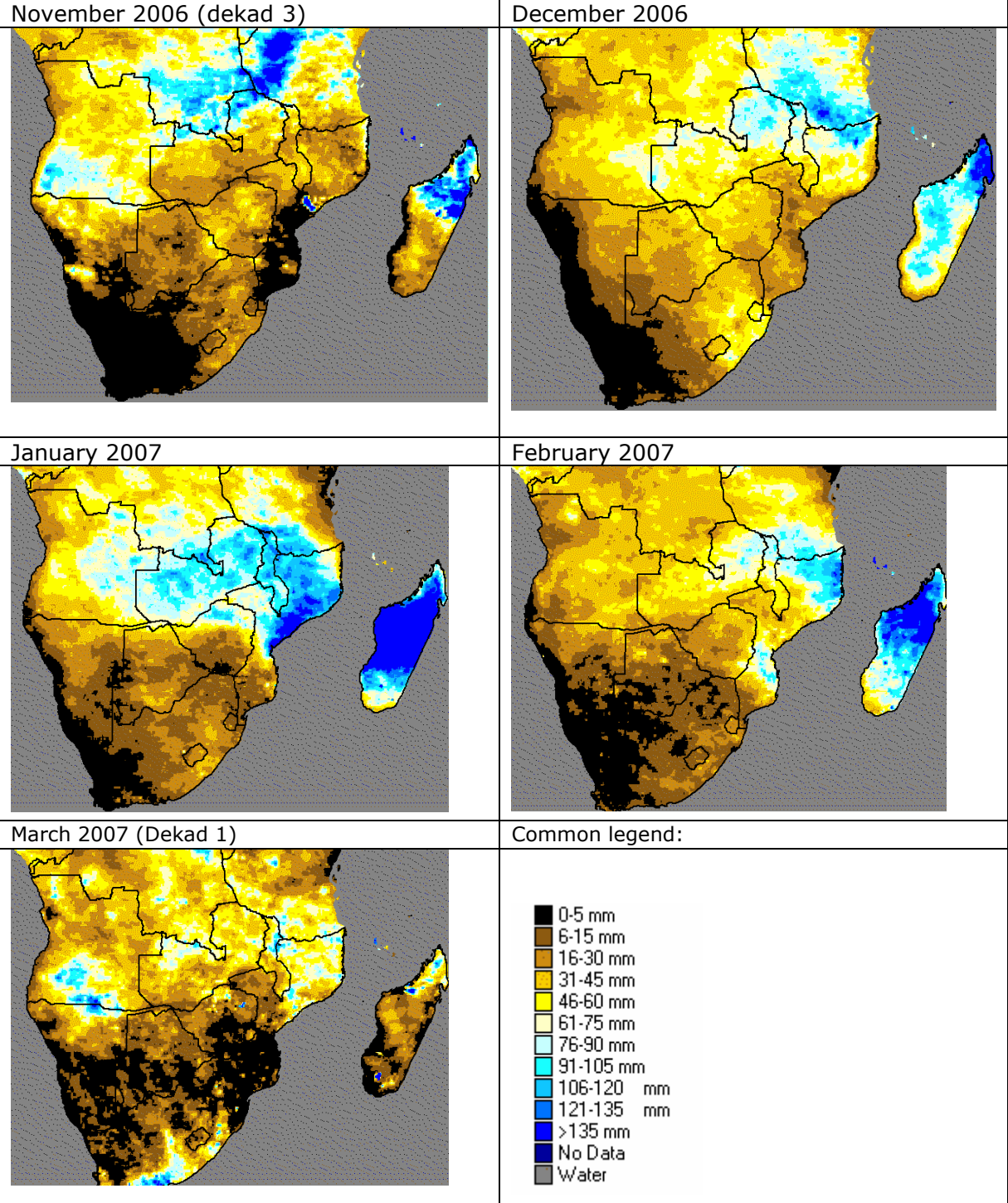
Prospects for the 2007 cereal crops in Southern Africa are mixed, with heavy rains in northern areas, and extended dry spells in southern zones

The second half of 2006/07 agricultural season since January in **Southern Africa** is characterized by heavy rains in northern areas of the region including Angola, Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique and Madagascar island and below average rainfall with prolonged dry spells in southern areas covering Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, southern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique. January-February rains have caused severe flooding in Zambia, Mozambique and Madagascar damaging infrastructure and thousands hectares of standing crops. However, abundant precipitation in other areas is expected improve soil moisture and crop yields.

At the regional level, the area planted to the main maize crop is estimated to have increased. This mainly reflects higher plantings in **South Africa**, where first estimate by CEC indicates that the maize area has expanded from last year's reduced level by about 1 million hectares to some 2.6 million hectares, encouraged by higher prices. However, prolonged dry spells and generally inadequate precipitation in the main maize triangle in the country are expected to reduce yields significantly. Aggregate production is expected to be slightly better than last year's record low level, but below the average of the past five years. Overall, input availability at planting time was normal in most countries including subsidised seed and fertilizer in **Zambia** and **Malawi**. By contrast, in **Zimbabwe**, continuous shortages and/or high prices of key inputs such as fertilizer, fuel, draft animal power and spare parts will likely result in low yields, as in previous years. Dry weather in **Swaziland, Lesotho** and **South Africa, southern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique** is expected to reduce harvests. Maize prices have escalated in South Africa affecting Swaziland, Lesotho and other dependent markets in the region. Similarly, sustained heavy rains in Madagascar have dampened the rice supplies resulting in steep rise in rice prices. FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions (CFSAMs) have been requested by governments in Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Lesotho.



Figure 1: Estimated rainfall from November 2006 to March 2007, southern Africa



Source: NOAA, FAO/GIEWS.

Food Imports and Market Prices:

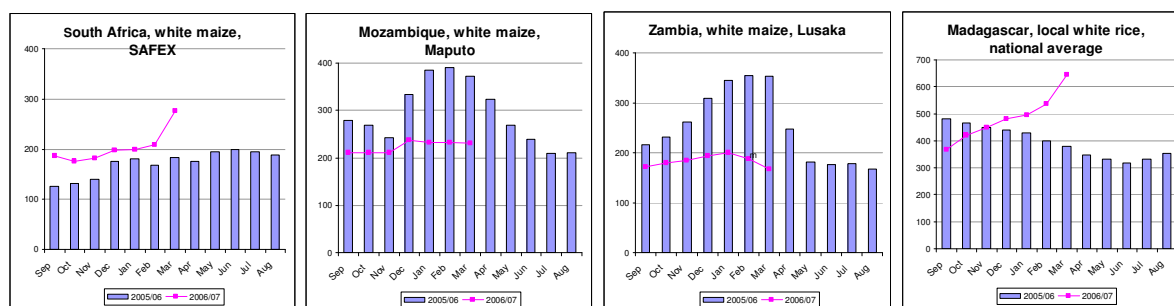
With improved 2006 production from the majority of the countries of the region in 2006, the aggregate cereal import requirement for the 2006/07 marketing year

(April/March in most cases) was estimated at 3.5 million tonnes (excluding South Africa and Mauritius) compared to the actual imports of 5 million tonnes in 2005/06. Based on available figures, by early March only 60 percent of commercial imports and 85 percent of food aid imports had been realized.

In most deficit countries, current prices of maize, the most important staple foodstuff, are much below the corresponding levels a year ago when widespread food shortages were experienced. For example, see Figure 2 with wholesale prices of white maize in the capital city markets in **Zambia** and **Mozambique**. On the other hand, in **South Africa**, the region's main exporting country, current maize prices in US dollar terms are higher than the corresponding levels last year, reflecting a reduced harvest in 2006. Prices are rising rapidly in anticipation of a poor harvest by April 2007.

Changes in the maize prices in local currency have been a little more pronounced than changes in US dollar prices as a result of the weakened Rand in South Africa, but less marked in Zambia due to the strengthening of the Kwacha against the US dollar. In Mozambique, variations in the Metical prices have more or less mirrored changes in the US dollar prices primarily due to this currency's relative stability during this period.

Figure 2: Wholesale prices of white maize in South Africa, Mozambique and Zambia (panels 1 to 3) and of white rice in Madagascar (panel 4)



Sources: South Africa - SAGIS; Zambia - CHC Commodities Ltd.; Mozambique – SIMA; Madagascar - Observatoire du riz.

Notes: South Africa: Futures prices in about 3rd or 4th week of the month (i.e. as close to the spot prices as possible) of white maize. Zambia: Average of weekly prices from selected available series for wholesale white maize prices in Lusaka. Mozambique: Monthly average wholesale price in Maputo. For Madagascar, monthly national average price of local white rice.

Country by country summary:

ANGOLA (16 March 2007)

In **Angola**, moderate rains were reported in February following generally good precipitation in most parts of the country since mid-October. Dry spells were, however, reported in the first half of the season from the East of the country. Reports indicate that there has been an increase in the cultivated area again this year, keeping up the trend of last few years since the signing of peace accord and return of refugees and IDPs. The overall crop prospects point to a recovery from last year's drought affected harvest.

Information on cereal imports is not complete but available data show that cereal imports have been slow and by early March, they amounted to only about 295 000 tonnes, most of them on commercial basis. In Angola food security problems arise due to poor road conditions, underdeveloped marketing systems and due to currently rising maize prices. In spite of the economic boom in the country primarily due to high oil prices, food security for the vulnerable population remains as a concern. Food production and food security in general in the northern areas, where cassava and sweet potatoes are grown, were found to be satisfactory.

BOTSWANA (16 March 2007)

In **Botswana**, the cumulative rainfall for the 2006/07 main season so far has been normal to below normal. Drier than normal weather for the pasture areas of the south and the centre are expected to affect livestock condition in the country. Livestock-raising forms an important part of agriculture through out the country, but particularly in the central and southern areas. Repeated outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, however, have jeopardized the country's beef exports and hurt the livestock industry.

The 2006 main season cereal harvest estimated at 45 000 tonnes represented a significant improvement over the drought-stricken output of the previous year. Consequently, the import requirements for the 2006/07 marketing year (April/March) were reduced by 13 percent from the previous year to a level of 291 000 tonnes; these are expected to be covered through commercial imports. By early March about 220 000 tonnes have been received.

LESOTHO (16 March 2007)

Dry and hot weather experienced in the maize triangle of South Africa has extended into **Lesotho**, seriously affecting crops. Some heavy showers were experienced during mid-October and early-November but extended dry periods have followed since. Large areas of the lowlands remain unplanted due to various factors, such as lack of capital for inputs. Preliminary estimates indicate a drop in area planted under maize, sorghum and wheat despite Government distribution of inputs of seed and fertilizer. Crops in the mountains fared better than those in the southern districts of Mhale's Hoek, Quthing and Mafeteng, which have reportedly completely failed. Thus, prospects for the new harvest are considered unfavourable. According to the FAO Coordinator, crops grown using Conservation Agriculture techniques in Butha Buthe, Quthing and Maseru Districts are clearly better than crops grown using conventional agricultural methods.

Winter wheat production, harvested earlier this year, was considered good. Average annual wheat production over last five years has been about 20 000 tonnes.

Total cereal import requirements for marketing year 2006/07 (April/March), estimated at little over 200 000 tonnes, are almost the same as year before. By early March a total of about 150 000 tonnes were recorded as imported/contracted. WFP and other donor agencies have a food distribution program in the country which covered some 45 500 beneficiaries in October 2006.

MADAGASCAR (15 March 2007)

In **Madagascar**, sustained heavy rains and four cyclones/tropical storms during January-February have caused serious flooding in several areas throughout the country. Preliminary assessment indicates loss of infrastructure and about 100 000 hectares of paddy land with a potential loss of 130 000 to 200 000 tonnes of paddy. Worst floods affected areas are the capital region of Antananarivo, the north western and western parts of the country and the south east. Abundant rains, however, are expected to have beneficial effect in other parts of the country. On the other hand, there were no significant rains until the first dekad of December in the south. This has affected pasture quality for livestock and delayed the sowing of main season crops. Thus, overall prospects for the current season harvest are mixed at this stage.

With flooding and adverse weather in recent months the average national price of local rice has escalated and was observed at about 1 300 Ariary by the end of February 2007 up from about 1 000 Ariary in December 2006. Besides potential production problems, rice prices in Madagascar in US dollar terms this year have been rising due to rise in the international price of rice and a significant strengthening of the Malagasy currency against the US dollar.

Total cereal imports for the 2006/07 marketing year (April/March) were estimated at 305 000 tonnes, slightly reduced from the previous year's estimated imports. However, import realization has been extremely slow; for example, by early March the available statistics show that the cereal imports were recorded at about 116 000 tonnes, about 40 percent of the total requirement. High international rice and fuel prices and transportation problems are responsible.

According to official figures about 200 000 households or 1 million people in aggregate have been affected by floods and 32 000 households or 150 000 people affected by drought. Emergency food and non food assistance and assistance, mainly seeds for planting of the next season, are urgently required for the most vulnerable affected population. FAO has launched an appeal for US\$850 000 to respond to this emergency.

MALAWI (18 March 2007)

In **Malawi**, the first round of crop estimates has been completed and a maize harvest of 3.15 million tonnes is expected, an increase of 27 percent above last year's bumper crop of 2.47 million tonnes. The rice crop is also good and a harvest of 107 797 tonnes is expected, an increase of 17 percent. Rainfall has been above

normal and generally well distributed, in contrast to neighbouring countries in the region. This year again, the Government of Malawi has provided a 70 percent subsidy on 150 000 tons of fertiliser at a cost of almost \$60 million and close to \$6 million on improved seeds.

As a result of a bumper harvest for 2006 an estimated potential surplus of nearly 200 000 tonnes in addition to a stock build-up to about 250 000 tonnes is estimated. The actual commercial imports of cereals in 2005/06 were estimated at 294 000 tonnes, consisting of mainly wheat, rice and maize. So far only about 175 000 tonnes of total cereals have been imported mainly through cross-border trade into food deficit southern Malawi from surplus producing northern provinces of Mozambique. Roughly half of this is maize, some 47 000 tonnes were imported as food aid. The national average price of maize, collected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, has come down from a high of 50 Kwacha/kg in February 2006 to below the ADMARC price of 25 Kwacha/kg in most markets in September 2006. Maize prices in January 2007 were: 25.60 Kwacha in Mzuzu in the North, 25 Kwacha in Lilongwe in the Centre and 24.50 in Lwonde in the South (FEWSNet). January 2007 prices are significantly lower than the corresponding prices a year before. A ban on maize exports has been lifted, with up to 80 000 tonnes being cleared for export.

MOZAMBIQUE (15 March 2007)

In **Mozambique**, heavy rains in the country and in neighbouring Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi have caused serious flooding in the Zambezi river basin including its tributaries during most of January and February. According to the official figures, by the end of February, the flooding had displaced roughly 163 000 people, submerged over 78 000 hectares of crops and damaged roads and other infrastructure in affected areas. Cumulative rainfall in the north of the country since November has been normal to above normal, while in the south and centre regions, it has been below normal with significant dry weather in the extreme south of the country. Earlier an outbreak of Trypanosomiasis affecting cattle in the Central Region of the country, including Manica, Sofala, Zambezia and Tete Provinces was reported.

Total cereal import requirements (gross) for 2006/07 were estimated at 845 000 tonnes, lower than the actual imports of about 1 million tonnes last year. By early March, total cereal imports were estimated at about 586 000 tonnes. All of these, except 84 000 tonnes of food aid, were commercial imports. In spite of good harvest in Malawi this year, cross border exports from Mozambique have continued as in the past. Reflecting the poor harvest of last year in the south and high export demand in the north from neighboring food deficit Malawi, the average price of maize steadily climbed to a peak of 9 526 Mtk/kg in February 2006 in Maputo and remained substantially higher than for the same period in 2005. However, the post-harvest period prices since April 2006 came down significantly and are at 6 000 Mtk/kg in Maputo early March 2007 (SIMA, Ministry of Agriculture). Since August 2006 they are showing the seasonal upward trend heading towards the usual peak in March-April. In US dollar terms, white maize prices in Mozambique at about US\$ 232/tonne are higher than in South Africa and in Zambia.

Unemployment, poverty and localized food insecurity remain as primary concerns throughout the country in spite of the impressive economic growth (7.7 percent in 2005 according to the OECD) fuelled primarily by foreign investment (commercial, aid and debt relief). The national currency had lost its value against the US dollar from 18 500 Metical/USD at the beginning of 2005 to 29 150 Metical in mid-November 2005. However, more donor assistance and FDI flows have brought strength to the national currency.

NAMIBIA (16 March 2007)

In **Namibia**, prolonged dry spells in January and February have adversely affected crops in spite of a favourable start of the season in northern parts of the country and all agricultural inputs being generally available. The Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit puts an early forecast estimate of country's total cereal production at 119 300 tonnes, a drop of about 50 percent from the record harvest of 2006 (officially revised upwards to 181 100 tonnes from an earlier estimate of 110 000 tonnes). The main cause is reduced planted areas in Kavango, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto regions, due to irregular rainfall. Although plantings were up by an estimated 10 percent in Caprivi region, flooding from the Zambezi has swamped many of these crops.

Cereal imports in Namibia typically outweigh domestic production. Total cereal imports so far have been recorded at about 76 000 tonnes out of an anticipated requirement of some 134 000 tonnes. Maize prices in Namibia follow very closely the price movements on the South Africa's SAFEX (futures market). The Namibia Agronomic Board floor price for white maize during November was at N\$1.27/kg, down from N\$1.60 in June-July 2006, whereas the SAFEX white maize actual price for the same period stood at N\$1.4 per kilogram (Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit's Special Report, 6 December 2006). Low prices in various markets indicate adequate stocks and supplies and reflect a relatively satisfactory food security situation in the country.

SOUTH AFRICA (15 March 2007)

In **South Africa**, lack of adequate rainfall in the maize triangle during the critical January and February crop growth period is expected to have serious negative impact on maize yields this year. Crops in Mpumalanga

and Free State are suffering from severe moisture stress and high temperatures have reduced pollination. Some estimates put reduction in maize yields at some 30-40% this year. However, the official estimate indicates that the area planted to maize at 2.60 million ha is about 63 percent above last year's level, primarily as a result of high maize prices at planting time. Consequently, production is expected to be slightly better than last year's record low level, but below the average of the past five years.

The final official estimate of the last winter wheat crop indicates an output of about 2.12 million tonnes, 11 percent higher than the previous year's level, and above the average of the past five years. This reflects mostly higher yields, as the area planted had declined by about 5 percent.

Despite the 2006 low production, the country is estimated to have an exportable surplus of white maize of about 1.4 million tonnes, more than enough to cover the commercial import requirements of the maize deficit countries in the sub-region, put at about 1 million tonnes.

With the expectation of poor harvests this year, maize prices have shot up; the March 2007 SAFEX futures price stands at Rand 1 981/t, up from Rand 1 408 in January. Prices are expected to climb further as witnessed by the August 2007 futures price currently at Rand 2032/t.

SWAZILAND (15 March 2007)

In **Swaziland**, dry spells have had a significant effect on crops in most parts of the country. Consequently a reduction in food production is anticipated. Maize prices have shot up by about 85 percent since mid-January, where as in South Africa, the main supplier to Swaziland, prices have increased only by about 40 percent. In spite of input assistance by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, funded by The Netherlands, prospects for maize harvest have become unfavourable.

For the marketing year 2006/07 (May/April) an import requirement gap of about 127 000 tonnes was estimated. As of early March, estimated cereal imports amount to about 92 000 tonnes, all as commercial imports except for 2 500 tonnes of food aid. Currently rising prices of staple foods are affecting seasonally food insecure populations. Furthermore, chronic food insecurity persists throughout the country owing to declining income-earning opportunities and remittances, high levels of unemployment, and the impact of HIV/AIDS. With a self-sufficiency rate for cereals of only about one-third, the Swazi population is dependent on food imports, mostly from South Africa.

ZAMBIA (16 March 2007)

In **Zambia**, heavy rains in January and February throughout the country have caused serious flooding in several areas damaging infrastructure and crops. Severe damage has been reported in Chavuma, Zambezi and Kalabo districts in the west, and Luangwa and Mambwe districts in the southwest; in all 21 out of total 72 districts have been affected by flooding at varying degrees. Abundant precipitation elsewhere in the country is expected to have beneficial impact on standing crops. The overall net effect is yet uncertain as the assessments have not yet completed. Two input distribution schemes were introduced by the Government this year. One by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, offering a 60 percent subsidy to 160 000 farmers each receiving 10 kgs of hybrid maize seed, 100 kgs of basal fertilizer and 100 kg of Urea. A second one through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare provided free of charge 5 kgs of hybrid maize seed, 50 kgs of basal fertilizer and 50 kgs of urea top dressing to some 22 000 selected poor farmers.

Owing to a record maize harvest of 1.424 million tonnes in 2006, Zambia is estimated to have a potential exportable surplus of about 180 000 tonnes assuming about 200 000 tonnes of closing stocks. Whether it will be actually exported or not remains to be seen since the Government is controlling the export of maize with a ban on private trader exports (FEWS-Net). Total cereal import requirements, mostly wheat and rice and food aid in the form of different grains for the marketing year 2006/07 (May/April), are estimated at about 100 000 tonnes, comprising of commercial imports and food aid roughly half and half. This is less than half of the actual imports of the last year. So far, total cereal imports have been recorded only to the tune of 55 000 tonnes including some 25 000 tonnes of food aid.

Since the arrival of the new harvest, the average price of maize has come down from about 58 000 kwacha/50 kg bag in Lusaka in March 2006 to the current level of Kwacha 39 843 (CHC Commodities Ltd, February 2007).

Owing to the current floods a plan to assist 140 000 seriously affected people in need of relief supplies is being formulated by the Government with international assistance. The humanitarian needs emanating from this emergency are in addition to a relatively large caseload of chronically vulnerable people as a result of consecutive droughts, lack of access to markets, HIV/AIDS, outbreaks of communicable diseases and poverty.

ZIMBABWE (16 March 2007)

In **Zimbabwe**, although cumulative rainfall has been near normal, the distribution of dekadal rainfall since the beginning of October 2006 has been less than satisfactory causing serious concerns for the upcoming harvest in April/May 2007. In the south-southwest half of the country including Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Midlands and Masvingo estimated rainfall has been much below average and below last year's generally satisfactory levels, since 1st dekad of January 2007. This puts significant stress on field crops where they have not already dried up. Rainfall has generally been much better in the north-northeast half of the country covering Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central and Manicaland, but less than normal precipitation in February i.e. during the critical growth stage. This is expected to have an adverse impact on yields of maize, the main staple crop. The El Niño phenomenon, widely predicted to reduce rainfall in during the second half of the season seems to be in effect. Given these weather irregularities (delayed planting rains and extended dry spells) and serious constraints on availability of key inputs such as fertilizer, herbicides, fuel, etc., early prospects for the cereal harvest this year look unfavourable.

Of the 452 000 tonnes of estimated total cereal import requirement for 2006/07 marketing year (April/March), as of early March, about 350 000 tonnes have been reportedly covered but not received. Some 100 000 tonnes of maize from Zambia are expected to be delivered shortly. Commercial import capacity in Zimbabwe is limited by the continuing downward trends in export earnings from main crops such as tobacco and cotton, although this is offset by rising metal export prices as well as official and unofficial remittances from the large number of Zimbabweans (estimated at over 3 million) living outside the country.

Annual inflation in the country continues to spiral upwards with a January 2007 annual inflation rate of about 1600 percent affecting prices for housing, food, fuel and other necessities. The IMF recently stated that inflation could reach 4 279 percent later this year. According to the findings of the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee published earlier, 1.4 million rural people will not be able to meet their minimum cereal needs during the 2006/07 season. This represents about 17 percent of the total rural population, who will require a total of 91 000 tonnes of cereals. In addition, unemployment, lack of incomes and continually eroding purchasing power are increasing the number of food insecure in the urban areas. As the hunger season sets in, access to food is likely to worsen until the arrival of the new harvest in April/May.

The country faces a number of constraints to facilitate access to grain by the majority of the population, particularly in grain cereal deficit areas, including urban areas. Redistribution of grain at the national level will also be difficult. Over the years, the amount of maize intake by the Grain Marketing Board has declined from an average of 34 percent of national production in the 1990's to around 18 percent in the past five years. Given the fact that GMB is by law the only institution allowed to purchase and redistribute maize, this poses a national challenge of redistributing the grain from surplus to deficit areas.



as of late June 2007

AFRICA

NORTHERN AFRICA

Algeria (2007-05-29)

Erratic rains since the beginning of the cropping season have resulted in significantly lower plantings compared to last year. Yields are also anticipated to be slightly below average. Prospects for the 2006/07 winter cereal crops, to be harvested from June, are therefore unfavourable and outputs of wheat and barley, the main cereals, are expected to be below the average of the past 5 years.

Imports of wheat in marketing year 2007/08 (July/June) are forecast at 4.7 million tonnes, some 100 000 tonnes more than in 2006/07 (July/June).

Les précipitations irrégulières enregistrées depuis le début de la campagne agricole ont entraîné une diminution considérable de la superficieensemencée par rapport à l'an dernier. Les rendements devraient aussi être légèrement inférieurs à la moyenne. Les perspectives concernant les céréales d'hiver de la campagne 2006/2007, à récolter à partir de juin, sont donc mauvaises et la production de blé et d'orge - les principales cultures céréalières - devrait se situer au-dessous de la moyenne des cinq dernières années.

Selon les prévisions, les importations de blé pour la campagne commerciale 2007/2008 (juillet/juin) atteindraient 4,7 millions de tonnes, soit quelque 100 000 tonnes de plus qu'en 2006/2007 (juillet/juin).

Egypt (2007-05-29)

Growing conditions are satisfactory for the largely irrigated wheat and barley crops planted in October/November for harvest from June. The area planted to cereal is estimated at about 2.9 million hectares, similar to the previous year, and yields are anticipated to increase only slightly. As a result, the 2007 cereal output estimated at about 22.5 million tonnes is similar to the previous year but above average. This includes 7.9 million tonnes of wheat, 8 million tonnes of coarse grains and 6.6 million tonnes of rice. Nonetheless, the country will need to import about 12 million tonnes of cereals in

2007/08 (July/June) to meet needs. This includes an estimated 7 million tonnes of wheat.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (2007-05-29)

Prospects for current winter crops are favourable, following overall adequate meteorological conditions during the growing season. However, environmental constraints place a severe limit on Libya's agricultural potential. The country is over 90 percent desert, with most agriculturally productive land limited to a strip abutting the Mediterranean Sea. Arable land is only 1.7 percent of Libya's total area and agriculture employs around 6 percent of the workforce. The two main areas of natural farmland are the high coastal plateau of Jebel Akhdar in the north-east and the fertile coastal plain in the north-west. Wheat and barley are the major cereals grown in the country. Other important crops include olives, grapes, dates, almonds and oranges. The country imports about 80 percent of its consumption requirement. The livestock sector also relies heavily on subsidized imports of animal feed.

Morocco (2007-05-29)

Harvesting of the 2006/07 cereal crops is due to start from May/June and below-average outputs are forecast. Insufficient soil moisture at planting and subsequent erratic rains in the main growing areas have resulted in a smaller planted area, particularly for wheat, while yields are also anticipated to be lower than normal.

Wheat imports in marketing year 2007/08 (July/June) are forecast to increase considerably and may reach 2.5 million tonnes, compared to only 1 million tonnes in 2006/07.

La récolte des céréales de la campagne 2006/07 doit commencer à partir de mai/juin, et l'on prévoit des résultats inférieurs à la moyenne. Des réserves d'humidité insuffisantes à l'époque des semis et les pluies irrégulières tombées ensuite dans les principales régions productrices ont entraîné une diminution de la superficie ensemencée, notamment en blé, tandis que les rendements devraient aussi être inférieurs à la normale.

Les importations de blé pour la campagne de commercialisation 2007/08 (juillet/juin) devraient s'accroître considérablement et pourraient atteindre 2,5 millions de tonnes, contre seulement 1 million de tonnes en 2006/07.

Tunisia (2007-05-29)

Erratic rains at the beginning of the cropping season have delayed plantings and resulted in significantly lower area planted compared to last year. However, precipitation resumed in April and remained adequate in May, improving soil moisture conditions and crop

prospects, notably in the major producing areas located in the northern part of the country.

Initial indications are that this year's cereal harvest could be above the 2006 cereal crop estimated at 1.6 million tonnes and close to average.

Les précipitations irrégulières enregistrées au début de la campagne agricole ont retardé les semis et entraîné une diminution considérable de la superficie ensemencée par rapport à l'an dernier. Toutefois, les pluies ont repris en avril et sont restées adéquates en mai, ce qui a amélioré les réserves d'humidité des sols et les perspectives de récolte, notamment dans les principales régions productrices situées au nord du pays.

Selon les premières indications, la récolte de céréales de cette année pourrait dépasser celle de 2006, estimée à 1,6 million de tonnes et proche de la moyenne.

WESTERN AFRICA

Benin (2007-05-29)

Planting of the 2007 main maize crop is nearly complete in the South. Planting of coarse grains will progress northwards following the onset of rains.

The 2006 aggregate cereal output – mostly maize – is estimated by the Government at some 1.1 million tonnes, which is slightly below last year's crop and close to the five years average. Production of roots and tubers is also reported to have decreased slightly. In spite of the reduced output, the overall food supply situation remains satisfactory, reflecting the bumper crops gathered in most neighbouring countries, notably in Nigeria. However, low cotton prices combined with a disruption of input and output markets in the cotton sector have negatively affected farmers' incomes in recent years, significantly increasing the vulnerability of the estimated 2 million people who depend on cotton for their livelihood, mostly in the North of the country. This, along with Nigeria's protectionist policy and the tightening of controls against re-export trade, is making access to food increasingly difficult for a large section of the population.

Les semis du maïs de la campagne principale de 2007 sont pratiquement terminés dans le sud. Les semis de céréales secondaires progresseront vers le nord dès l'arrivée des pluies.

Selon les estimations du gouvernement, la production céréalière - maïs principalement - de 2006 s'élève au total à quelque 1,1 million de tonnes, volume légèrement inférieur à la récolte de l'an dernier et proche de la moyenne quinquennale. La production de plantes-racines et de tubercules serait aussi en légère régression. En dépit de la diminution de la production, la situation globale des approvisionnements alimentaires

reste satisfaisante en raison des récoltes abondantes rentrées dans la plupart des pays voisins, notamment au Nigéria.

Toutefois, la faiblesse des prix du coton, à laquelle il faut ajouter la perturbation des marchés des intrants et des extrants dans le secteur cotonnier, a eu des effets négatifs sur les revenus des exploitants ces dernières années, ce qui a accru considérablement la vulnérabilité des 2 millions de personnes environ dont la subsistance dépend du coton, principalement dans le nord du pays. Cette situation, associée à la politique protectionniste adoptée par le Nigéria et au resserrement des contrôles visant à empêcher les réexportations, rend l'accès à la nourriture de plus en plus difficile pour une grande partie de la population.

Burkina Faso (2007-05-29)

Seasonal rains commenced in May in the southern part of the country, allowing land preparation and planting to start.

Following release of the final 2006 cereal production figures, the aggregate cereal production is estimated at 3.68 million tonnes, which is similar to the bumper crop of 2005 and 13 percent over the average of past five years. This, in addition to adequate food supply in neighbouring countries, should result in a satisfactory food supply situation throughout commercial year 2006/07. However, increasingly tight food situation is reported in several areas where 2006 crop yields were sharply reduced because of delayed rains or floods. These include some departments of the provinces of Komandjari and Gnagna (East), Bam and Sanmentenga (Centre North), Lorum and Passoré (North) as well as Sahel region. In these areas, vulnerable groups need to be continuously monitored and assisted as necessary.

Cereal import requirement in 2006/07 (November/October), mostly rice and wheat for which the country has a structural deficit, is forecast at about 348 000 tonnes, including some 22 000 tonnes of food aid.

Les précipitations saisonnières ont démarré en mai dans la partie méridionale du pays, ce qui a permis de procéder à la préparation des sols et aux semis.

Suite à la diffusion des chiffres définitifs pour 2006, la production céréalière totale est estimée à 3,68 millions de tonnes, soit un volume identique à la récolte exceptionnelle rentrée en 2005 et 13 pour cent de plus que la moyenne des cinq dernières années. Cela, ajouté aux disponibilités vivrières adéquates dans les pays voisins, devrait se traduire par une situation des approvisionnements alimentaires satisfaisante tout au long de la campagne commerciale 2006/2007. Toutefois, on signale que la situation alimentaire devient de plus en plus précaire dans plusieurs régions qui ont enregistré des rendements très réduits en 2006 en raison de l'arrivée tardive des pluies ou des inondations. Il s'agit notamment de certains départements des provinces de Komandjari et Gnagna (à l'est), de Bam et Sanmentenga (au centre-nord), de Lorum et Passoré (au nord) ainsi que de la zone sahélienne. Dans ces zones, les groupes vulnérables doivent

faire l'objet d'un suivi constant et recevoir une assistance si nécessaire. Les besoins d'importations céréalières pour 2006/2007 (novembre/octobre), qui concernent principalement le riz et le blé pour lesquels le pays enregistre un déficit structurel, devraient se monter à 348 000 tonnes, dont quelque 22 000 tonnes au titre de l'aide alimentaire.

Cape Verde (2007-05-29)

Seasonably dry conditions prevail. 2006 maize production has been estimated by a joint CILSS/Government Crop Assessment Mission at 11 800 tonnes, which is three times the drought-affected crop harvested of last year and significantly above average. However, in a normal year, domestic production covers only one-fifth of the country's cereal utilization requirement and the balance has to be imported.

For the marketing year 2006/07 (November/October), imports of cereals are forecast at some 80 000 tonnes, including about 8 000 tonnes of food aid. Available figures show that about 34 percent of forecasted imports (about 26 869 tonnes) have been received as of late January.

Il règne un temps sec de saison. Une mission conjointe CILSS/gouvernement d'évaluation des récoltes a estimé la production de maïs à 11 800 tonnes, soit le triple du volume touché par la sécheresse rentrée l'an dernier et nettement plus que la moyenne. Toutefois, dans les années normales, la production intérieure couvre un cinquième seulement des besoins d'utilisation céréalière du pays et le solde doit être importé. Pour la campagne commerciale 2006/2007 (novembre/octobre), les importations de céréales devraient être de l'ordre de 80 000 tonnes, dont 8 000 tonnes environ au titre de l'aide alimentaire. Selon les chiffres disponibles, environ 34 pour cent des importations prévues (26 869 tonnes environ) avaient été reçues à la fin janvier.

Chad (2007-05-29)

Significant rains fell in the extreme south, where land preparation and planting of coarse grains have started.

Following release of the final production estimates by the national statistical services, the aggregate 2006 cereal production is put at a record 1.99 million tonnes (including rice in paddy terms), some 39 percent higher than the average for the preceding five years.

Sorghum and millet accounted for the bulk of the crop with 1.15 million tonnes and 0.54 million tonnes, respectively.

However, access to food continues to be very difficult for large segments of the population, notably in the eastern part of the country where poor security situation continues to disrupt marketing activities, limiting flows of commodities between regions and leading to food price spikes in some areas. The IDPs, whose number was estimated to reach over 115 000 as of late January, are among the most vulnerable populations. Moreover, and estimated 86,100 people may be at risk of food shortages and may require assistance in Manddoul, Moyen Chari and Mayo Kebbi Departments, as a result of severely reduced yields due to floods. Population displacement may also affect land

preparation for the 2007 cropping season. The situation will continue to be closely monitored.

Des pluies importantes sont tombées dans l'extrême sud, où la préparation des sols et les semis de céréales secondaires ont commencé.

Les services statistiques nationaux viennent de publier des estimations définitives qui établissent la production céréalière totale de 2006 à 1,99 million de tonnes (y compris le riz paddy), soit un chiffre record qui se situe à 39 pour cent au-dessus de la moyenne des cinq années précédentes. Le sorgho et le mil représentent l'essentiel de la récolte, avec respectivement 1,15 million de tonnes et 0,54 million de tonnes.

Toutefois, l'accès à la nourriture reste très difficile pour de vastes segments de la population, notamment dans l'est du pays où les mauvaises conditions de sécurité continuent de perturber les activités commerciales, en limitant la circulation de produits entre régions et en causant de fortes hausses de prix en certains endroits. Les PDI, qui selon les estimations étaient de plus de 115 000 à la fin janvier, comptent parmi les plus vulnérables. En outre, environ 86 100 personnes pourraient connaître des pénuries alimentaires et avoir besoin d'une aide dans les départements de Manddoul, Moyen Chari et Mayo Kebbi, suite à la forte réduction des rendements due aux inondations. Le déplacement de la population, qui se poursuit, pourrait aussi compromettre la préparation des sols pour la campagne agricole 2007, qui doit commencer en mai. La situation continuera d'être suivie de près.

Côte d'Ivoire (2007-05-29)

Planting of the first maize crop is underway in the South. Agricultural production has been severely affected by conflict-induced problems, especially labour shortages arising from population displacements, lack of agricultural support services in parts of the country, notably in the northern half of the country, market segmentation, disruptions by insecurity, and excessive transport costs. Notwithstanding the continuing negative impact of the civil strife on the agricultural sector, 2006 cereal production is estimated to be well above previous year's crop due to favourable weather conditions, according to the results of a crop assessment organized by the Government jointly with FAO and WFP in November-December 2006. The positive turn taken by the political situation is also grounds for optimism.

A satisfactory food supply situation is anticipated for the commercial year 2006/07. However, access to food for many households continues to be hampered by disruption of livelihoods. In the North, smallholder cotton producers are experiencing a significant loss of income due to low cotton prices combined with the continued disruption of input and output markets in the cotton sector. Farmers have been reportedly shifting from cotton

to cashews and food crops.

Les semis du maïs de la première campagne sont en cours dans le sud. La production agricole a été gravement touchée par des problèmes dus au conflit, notamment pénuries de main-d'oeuvre du fait des déplacements de population, manque de services d'appui à l'agriculture en certains endroits du pays - en particulier dans le nord -, fragmentation des marchés, perturbations dues à l'insécurité et coûts de transport excessifs. En dépit de l'impact négatif persistant des troubles civils sur le secteur agricole, la production céréalière de 2006 est estimée en nette hausse par rapport à la récolte de l'année précédente, en raison des bonnes conditions météorologiques, à en juger par les résultats d'une évaluation des récoltes organisée par le gouvernement avec le concours de la FAO et du PAM en novembre-décembre 2006. En outre, l'évolution positive de la situation politique suscite un certain optimisme.

La situation des disponibilités vivrières devrait être satisfaisante pendant la campagne commerciale 2006/2007. Toutefois, de nombreux ménages ont toujours du mal à accéder à la nourriture en raison du bouleversement de leurs moyens de subsistance. Dans le nord, les petits producteurs de coton subissent de lourdes pertes de revenus en raison de la faiblesse des prix du coton, à laquelle il faut ajouter la perturbation des marchés des intrants et des extrants dans le secteur cotonnier. Il semble que les agriculteurs se détournent de la production de coton pour se consacrer à la noix de cajou et aux cultures vivrières.

Gambia (2007-05-29)

The rains have not yet started and farmers are currently preparing their fields. Planting is expected to start in the weeks ahead with the onset of the rains.

Good rains last year have benefited agricultural production. Aggregate 2006 cereal production has been estimated at a record 256 400 tonnes, an increase of nearly 12 percent over the previous year's crop and about 31 percent above the average of the previous five years. Groundnut production, the main source of cash income for rural households, was also estimated to have risen significantly. An improved food security situation is, therefore, expected in 2007. However, domestic cereal production in the Gambia covers less than half of the country's utilisation requirement in a normal year, and food prices are strongly affected by the exchange rate of the Dalasi. Although the rate of decline of the currency is forecast to be moderate in 2007, it remains very vulnerable to exogenous shocks because of the country's limited sources of foreign reserves.

Guinea (2007-05-29)

Planting of the 2007 crops has started in most areas of the country, after significant rains were received in April.

Crops benefited from favourable climatic conditions in most areas of the country during the 2006 growing season and production of rice - the staple food for Guineans- is estimated by the Government at about 1.3 million tonnes, similar to the bumper level achieved last year.

However, access to food continues to be negatively affected by high price inflation. Following a strong depreciation of the Guinea Franc, the price of rice more than doubled over the past two years, fuelling inflation and seriously eroding the purchasing power and access to food of both urban and rural populations. Prices remain high in spite of the ban on food exports imposed by the government in February 2007. The restoration of peace in Sierra Leone and improved situation in Liberia have resulted in a decrease of the number of refugees, but about 40 000 of them are still in Guinea, depending on humanitarian assistance.

Les semis de la campagne 2007 ont commencé dans la plupart du pays, des pluies importantes étant tombées en avril.

Les cultures ont bénéficié de conditions climatiques favorables dans la plupart des régions pendant la campagne de végétation 2006 et le gouvernement estime la production de riz - qui est l'aliment de base des Guinéens - à environ 1,3 million de tonnes, soit un volume identique à la récolte exceptionnelle de l'an dernier.

Toutefois, l'accès à la nourriture continue de se ressentir de la forte inflation et des prix élevés. Suite à la forte dévalorisation du franc guinéen, le prix du riz a plus que doublé au cours des deux dernières années, ce qui a attisé l'inflation et considérablement amenuisé le pouvoir d'achat et l'accès à la nourriture des populations tant dans les villes que dans les campagnes. Les prix restent élevés, bien que le gouvernement ait interdit les exportations de produits alimentaires depuis février 2007. Le retour de la paix en Sierra Leone et l'amélioration de la situation au Libéria ont entraîné une diminution du nombre de réfugiés, mais environ 40 000 d'entre eux se trouvent toujours en Guinée et sont tributaires de l'aide humanitaire.

Guinea-Bissau (2007-05-29)

Currently there is little agricultural activity. Planting is expected to start in the weeks ahead with the onset of the rains. 2006 aggregate cereal production was provisionally estimated in November 2006 by a joint CILSS/Government Mission at a record 225 000 tonnes, an increase of about 6 percent over previous year's bumper crop, and about 37 percent above the average of the previous five years.

However, persisting marketing problems in the cashew sector, the main source of cash

income for rural households, continues to threaten food security of the most vulnerable population. Domestic production of foodcrops does not meet the country's consumption needs and farmers have to buy imported rice to supplement their own production using revenue derived from the sale of cashew. Traders did not buy the 2006 cashew production from farmers due to high prices set by the Government, leaving farmers without income and triggering localized severe food insecurity in several areas, notably the southern regions of Quinara and Tombali. There is a risk that marketing problems may persist in the cashew sector, with further negative impact on producers' food security.

Les activités agricoles sont actuellement quasi-inexistantes. Les semis devraient commencer dans les prochaines semaines, dès l'arrivée des pluies. Selon les estimations provisoires d'une mission conjointe CILSS/gouvernement effectuée en novembre 2006, la production céréalière totale de 2006 s'élève à 225 000 tonnes, chiffre record en hausse d'environ 6 pour cent par rapport au volume exceptionnel récolté l'année précédente et qui représente 37 pour cent de plus que la moyenne des cinq années précédentes. Toutefois, des problèmes de commercialisation de la noix de cajou, qui est la principale source de revenus en espèces des ménages ruraux, continuent de compromettre la sécurité alimentaire de la catégorie de population la plus vulnérable. La production intérieure de cultures vivrières ne couvre pas les besoins de consommation nationaux et les agriculteurs doivent acheter du riz importé pour compléter leur propre production, en utilisant pour cela les recettes tirées de la vente des noix de cajou. Du fait des prix élevés fixés par le gouvernement, les négociants n'ont pas acheté la production de noix de cajou de 2006 aux agriculteurs, ce qui a privé ceux-ci de revenus et provoqué une grave insécurité alimentaire localisée en plusieurs endroits, notamment dans les régions de Quinara et Tombali au sud du pays. Les problèmes de commercialisation risquent de subsister dans la secteur de la noix de cajou, ce qui pourrait avoir de nouveaux effets négatifs sur la sécurité alimentaire des producteurs.

Liberia (2007-05-29)

Planting of the 2007 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country is underway. No official production estimates for the 2006 food crop are available, yet. However, food production is expected to have recovered in spite of the below average rains recorded last year, due mainly to the pest control measures undertaken with the assistance of FAO. Plant disease was the major cause of low yields in 2005. The improved security situation is also expected to have boosted plantings by returning refugees and former displaced farmers.

The repatriation of refugees and resettlement of IDPs started in October and November 2004 respectively. Since then, over 86 000 returnees have been repatriated by UNHCR,

and about 326 000 persons de-registered from IDP camps.

Mali (2007-05-29)

Final 2006 production figures have been released by the government and are significantly higher than the estimates of the CILSS Crop Assessment Mission in October 2006. The aggregate output of cereals is now estimated at 3.69 million tonnes, which is 9 percent above last year bumper crop and 25 percent higher than the average of the previous 5 years. Output of millet, the most important cereal crop, is estimated at about 1.13 million tonnes.

The food supply position in commercial year 2006/07 is anticipated to remain satisfactory, reflecting the record cereal harvest in the country and across the region. The food situation should also improve in the structurally food-deficit areas of the north.

Le gouvernement vient de publier les chiffres définitifs concernant la production de 2006, qui sont nettement supérieurs aux estimations faites en octobre 2006 par la mission d'évaluation des récoltes du CILSS. La production céréalière totale est désormais estimée à 3,69 millions de tonnes, soit une augmentation de 9 pour cent par rapport à la récolte abondante de l'an dernier et 25 pour cent au-dessus de la moyenne des cinq années précédentes. Selon les estimations, la production de mil, qui est la culture céréalière la plus importante, s'établirait à 1,13 million de tonnes environ.

La situation des disponibilités alimentaires pendant la campagne de commercialisation 2006/2007 devrait rester satisfaisante du fait de la récolte céréalière record rentrée dans le pays et dans toute la région. La situation alimentaire devrait aussi s'améliorer dans les zones à déficit vivrier structurel du nord du pays.

Mauritania (2007-05-29)

Seasonably dry conditions prevail. Plantings of coarse grains will start following the onset of rains, which normally begins in July.

Estimated aggregate cereal production in 2006 has been revised down to about 145 000 tonnes compared to 173 000 estimated by the CILSS/FAO mission late last year, mainly reflecting lower yields following pest damage and erratic precipitation. At this level, production is 27 percent lower than previous year's level and below average. Mauritania is a food-deficit country whose domestic production covers only one-third of the country's cereal utilization requirement. The country relies heavily on coarse grain (millet and sorghum) imports from neighbouring Senegal and Mali, and wheat imports from the international market. Consequently, food prices are a key determinant of access to food for the majority of Mauritians. A recent joint CILSS/FAO/FewsNet Assessment Mission to the country observed that the prices of both coarse grains and wheat were at

relatively high levels, reflecting poor harvest in Senegal and increasing wheat price on the international market. However, relatively high livestock prices were also reported, limiting the negative impact of high food prices on pastoralists, who are among the most vulnerable populations. Grain supplies are also relatively abundant in neighbouring Mali. This, along with ongoing safety net programs for households by WFP and the Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire (CSA), is helping to mitigate the negative impact on food security of several consecutive years of crop failure. Market conditions and the situation of vulnerable groups need to be continuously monitored in order to provide necessary assistance.

Il règne un temps sec de saison. Les semis de céréales secondaires commenceront dès l'arrivée des pluies, qui se matérialisent habituellement en juillet.

Les estimations concernant la production céréalière totale de 2006 ont été révisées à la baisse, passant à environ 145 000 tonnes, contre 173 000 tonnes selon la mission CILSS/FAO à la fin de l'an dernier, ce qui s'explique essentiellement par la réduction des rendements due aux infestations de ravageurs et aux précipitations irrégulières. Ainsi, la production est en baisse de 27 pour cent par rapport au niveau de l'an dernier et au-dessous de la moyenne. La Mauritanie est un pays à déficit vivrier dont la production intérieure ne couvre qu'un tiers des besoins d'utilisation nationaux. Elle est largement tributaire des importations de céréales secondaires (mil et sorgho) en provenance du Sénégal et du Mali voisins, ainsi que des achats de blé sur le marché international. Par conséquent, les prix des denrées alimentaires sont un facteur clé pour l'accès à la nourriture de la majorité des Mauritaniens. Une mission d'évaluation conjointe CILSS/FAO/FewsNet qui s'est rendue récemment dans le pays a constaté que les prix tant des céréales secondaires que du blé étaient relativement élevés, en raison d'une mauvaise récolte au Sénégal et de la hausse des prix du blé sur le marché international. Toutefois, les prix du bétail étaient eux aussi relativement élevés, ce qui a limité l'incidence négative de la cherté des denrées alimentaires sur les pasteurs, qui comptent parmi les plus vulnérables. Les disponibilités céréalières sont également assez abondantes au Mali voisin. Cela, ainsi que les programmes de protection sociale destinés aux ménages qui sont menés actuellement par le PAM et le Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire (CSA), contribue à mitiger l'incidence négative de plusieurs années consécutives de mauvaises récoltes sur la sécurité alimentaire. Les conditions du marché et la situation des groupes vulnérables doivent faire l'objet d'un suivi constant, afin de fournir une aide si nécessaire.

Niger (2007-05-29)

Land preparation is underway and first planting has started in the extreme south,

following early rains in May. Planting will progress northwards with the onset of the rains. A joint FAO/CILSS Crop Assessment Mission in October 2006 gave a provisional estimate of the aggregate output of cereals at a record 4 million tonnes. Output of millet, the most important cereal crop, is estimated to have increased by 12 percent to about 3.1 million tonnes. The good crop, together with the good harvest prospects in neighbouring countries which usually export cereals to Niger, notably Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso, presages a satisfactory food supply situation and reasonable prices during marketing year 2006/07. Farmers will be able to replenish their grain stocks. The Government is also encouraged to replenish national food reserves depleted by food relief distributions or subsidized sales during the 2005 food crisis.

However, about 30 percent of the population remain food insecure in spite of last year's record crop, according to the latest Joint Vulnerability Assessment Survey carried out by the Government of Niger, FAO, FEWSNet and WFP, as a result of localized crop failures and widespread poverty. The departments with the highest proportion of food insecure people include Tahoua (38 percent), Tillabéri (34 percent) and Zinder (31 percent). Although this represents an important improvement compared to last year, the survey reveals the structural nature of food insecurity in Niger.

La préparation des sols est en cours et les premiers semis ont commencé dans l'extrême sud, les premières précipitations étant tombées en mai. Les semis progresseront vers le nord dès l'arrivée des pluies.

Une mission conjointe FAO/CILSS d'évaluation des récoltes qui s'est rendue dans le pays en octobre 2006 a estimé provisoirement la production céréalière totale à 4 millions de tonnes, soit un niveau record. Selon les estimations, la production de mil - qui est la culture céréalière la plus importante - aurait progressé de 12 pour cent pour s'établir à 3,1 millions de tonnes environ. Cette bonne récolte, ainsi que les résultats positifs auxquels l'on s'attend dans les pays voisins qui exportent généralement des céréales à destination du Niger, notamment le Nigéria, le Mali et le Burkina Faso, laisse entrevoir une situation des approvisionnements alimentaires satisfaisante et des prix raisonnables pendant la campagne commerciale 2006/07. Les agriculteurs seront en mesure de reconstituer leurs stocks de céréales. Le gouvernement est aussi encouragé à regarnir les réserves vivrières nationales, qui sont réduites après les distributions de secours alimentaires ou les ventes subventionnées effectuées pendant la crise alimentaire de 2005.

Toutefois, environ 30 pour cent de la population reste en proie à l'insécurité alimentaire en dépit de la récolte record enregistrée l'an dernier, selon la toute dernière évaluation de la vulnérabilité menée conjointement par le gouvernement nigérien, la FAO, FEWSNet et le PAM, du fait des mauvaises récoltes en certains endroits et de la pauvreté

généralisée. Parmi les départements qui comprennent le plus grand nombre de personnes exposées à l'insécurité alimentaire figurent Tahoua (38 pour cent), Tillabéri (34 pour cent) et Zinder (31 pour cent). Même si les chiffres suggèrent une nette amélioration par rapport à l'an dernier, l'enquête fait apparaître le caractère structurel de l'insécurité alimentaire au Niger.

Nigeria (2007-05-29)

Aggregate cereal production in 2006 has been estimated at about 29 million tonnes, some 27 percent above the average for the previous five years, reflecting generally favourable growing conditions during the cropping season and increased efforts by both the Federal and some State Governments to make fertilizer available to farmers at subsidized rates.

Markets are well supplied and cereal prices reportedly remain low, reflecting the bumper crop harvested in 2006. In addition to the good harvest, the low prices are due to the devastating effects avian flu has had last year on the Nigerian poultry sector, which absorbs an important share of domestic maize production. The re-emergence of avian flu this year in the northern part of the country has dampened hope for a strong recovery of the poultry sector in the near future. In spite of a government plan to buy 150 000 tonnes of maize in 2007 in order to support declining producer prices, a sustainable recovery of the cereal sector will depend largely on the evolution of the avian flu epidemics in Nigeria and the subregion.

Cereal imports have trended upwards in recent years, due mainly to high urban population growth, changing consumption pattern, increased feed use in the rapidly growing poultry sector and the continuous expansion of the country's milling capacity. In spite of the tightening of controls on illegal rice and wheat inflows, and the negative effects of the avian flu epidemic on the poultry sector, imports of cereals are forecast to remain above 5 million tonnes in 2007.

Senegal (2007-05-29)

The estimate of aggregate cereal production in 2006 has been revised downward by national statistics services to about 988 000 tonnes, a decrease of about 33 percent compared to 2005 and about 16 percent compared to the average of the past five years. The reduction results from the impact of erratic rains and inadequate supply of inputs in 2006. Groundnut production, the main source of cash income for rural households, is estimated to have decreased by 34 percent to 461 578 tonnes. Production of beans, sesame and watermelon also dropped significantly.

Low supply and increasing prices of millet and sorghum continue to be reported in most regions. However, in areas with high consumer population such as Dakar, Saint-Louis,

Thiès and Kaolack, higher purchasing power and effective demand have meant that markets are better supplied both with domestic production and imports. Since prices are increasing more rapidly in rural areas, vulnerable groups in areas that have experienced sharp declines in production, or were affected by other shocks, need to be continuously monitored and assisted as necessary. These include:

- Matam region, where limited rainfall has reduced opportunity for recession crops, a major source of income in the area;
- the rural communities of Koulor in Tambacounda region, Maka Yopp in Kaolack region, as well as Keur Samba Kane, Réfane and Gawane in Bambey region, where adverse weather and lack of inputs have resulted in severe crop losses;
- parts of Podor region where the diéri crop failed; and
- Casamance region where insecurity has led to the displacement of thousands of people.

Les estimations concernant la production céréalière totale de 2006 ont été revues à la baisse par les services de statistiques nationaux, passant à environ 988 000 tonnes, soit une diminution d'environ 33 pour cent par rapport à 2005 et d'environ 16 pour cent par rapport à la moyenne des cinq dernières années. Ce recul est dû aux précipitations irrégulières et à l'insuffisance des disponibilités d'intrants en 2006. Selon les estimations, la production d'arachides, principale source de revenu en espèces des ménages ruraux, aurait diminué de 34 pour cent, pour passer à 461 578 tonnes. La production de haricots, de sésame et de pastèque a aussi accusé un recul significatif.

De faibles disponibilités et un renchérissement du mil et du sorgho continuent d'être signalés dans la plupart des régions. Toutefois, dans les zones où le niveau de consommation est élevé, telles que Dakar, Saint-Louis, Thiès et Kaolack, les marchés sont mieux approvisionnés tant en produits locaux qu'en produits d'importation, car le pouvoir d'achat est élevé et la demande bien réelle. Étant donné que les prix augmentent plus rapidement dans les zones rurales, les groupes vulnérables des zones où la production a fortement reculé ou qui ont été touchées par d'autres chocs doivent faire l'objet d'un suivi constant et recevoir une assistance si nécessaire. Il s'agit notamment:

- de Matam, où la faible pluviosité a réduit les possibilités en ce qui concerne les cultures de récession, importante source de revenus dans la région;
 - des communautés rurales de Koulor dans le Tambacounda et Maka Yopp dans le Kaolack, ainsi que Keur Samba Kane, Réfane et Gawane dans la région de Bambey, où les mauvaises conditions météorologiques et la pénurie d'intrants ont entraîné d'importantes pertes de récoltes;
 - de certains endroits de Podor, où la récolte diéri a été perdue; et
 - de la Casamance, où l'insécurité a entraîné le déplacement de milliers de personnes.
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Sierra Leone (2007-05-29)

Planting of the 2007 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country has just started. Agriculture has been recovering steadily since the end of the civil war in 2002, with increasing plantings by returning refugees and previously displaced farmers, as well as improved conditions for the distribution of agricultural inputs.

Reflecting the significant improvement in the food supply situation, inflation has been dropping steady since the end of the war. Food prices are the biggest factor in Sierra Leone's rate of inflation and have a 54 percent weight in the consumer price index. In 2006, the year-on-year rate of inflation declined from 13.8 percent in January to 6.7 percent in November (over 50 percent decrease), according to the Bank of Sierra Leone. As a result of stable and relatively low prices, overall access to food has improved significantly.

Togo (2007-05-29)

The first rains started in the south in April, allowing planting of the main maize crop due for harvest from July. The 2006 aggregate cereal output – mostly maize – is provisionally estimated by the Government at some 866 000 tonnes, which is 12 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of root crops, estimated at about 1.4 million tonnes, was also good.

Cereal imports for domestic use and re-exports during the 2007 marketing year are estimated at about 185 000 tonnes; it has been anticipated that this will be covered mainly through commercial sources.

Les premières pluies sont tombées en avril dans le sud, ce qui a permis de procéder aux semis du maïs de la campagne principale, à récolter à partir de juillet. Selon des estimations provisoires du gouvernement, la production céréalière totale de 2006 - maïs principalement - se situerait à quelque 866 000 tonnes, soit 12 pour cent de plus que la moyenne des cinq années précédentes La production de plantes-racines, qui est estimée à 1,4 million de tonnes, a elle aussi été bonne.

Les importations de céréales destinées à la consommation intérieure et aux réexportations au cours de la campagne commerciale 2007 sont estimées à 185 000 tonnes environ; il est prévu qu'elles seront assurées pour l'essentiel par des voies commerciales.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Cameroon (2007-05-29)

Satellite imagery indicates that the rainy season started on time in the south, allowing

land preparation and sowing of the first 2007 maize crop, due for harvest from July. Planting of coarse grains will progress northwards following the onset of rains. The 2006/07 cropping season was marked by favourable weather conditions and an increase in area planted, according to the estimates of a joint Mission of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and World Food Programme (WFP), which recently visited the northern provinces of Adamaoua, North and Extreme-North. Aggregate cereal production in the three provinces (accounting for 60 percent of national production) was estimated at about 1.38 million tonnes which is 13 percent higher than the previous year's good crop. Following the good harvest in Cameroon and in neighbouring countries, notably in Nigeria, cereal markets are well supplied and prices were mostly stable and lower than those during the previous year. A satisfactory food supply situation is expected for 2007, including the Chari and Logone regions in the extreme north of the country, which were struck by a serious food crisis in 2005.

Les images satellite montrent que la saison des pluies a commencé à temps dans le sud, ce qui a permis de procéder à la préparation des sols et aux semis de maïs de la première campagne de 2007, à récolter à partir de juillet. Les semis de céréales secondaires progresseront vers le nord dès l'arrivée des pluies.

La campagne agricole 2006/2007 a été marquée par de bonnes conditions météorologiques et une progression de la superficie ensemencée, selon les estimations d'une mission conjointe Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural (MINADER) et Programme alimentaire mondial qui s'est rendue dans les provinces septentrionales d'Adamaoua, Nord et Extrême-Nord. La production céréalière totale de ces trois provinces (qui assurent 60 pour cent de la production nationale) a été estimée à environ 1,38 million de tonnes, ce qui représente une augmentation de 13 pour cent par rapport à la bonne récolte de l'année précédente. Suite à la bonne récolte rentrée au Cameroun et dans les pays voisins, notamment au Nigéria, les marchés céréaliers sont bien approvisionnés et les prix étaient généralement stables et inférieurs à ceux pratiqués l'année précédente. La situation des approvisionnements vivriers devrait être satisfaisante en 2007, y compris dans les régions de Chari et Logone à l'extrême-nord du pays, qui ont connu une grave crise alimentaire en 2005.

Central African Republic (2007-05-29)

Satellite imagery indicates that the rainy season started in April, allowing land preparation and sowing of the first 2007 maize crop, due for harvest from July. However, persistent insecurity continues to hamper farming activities and large-scale population movements both within the country and to neighbouring countries are reported, notably in the north.

A WFP Mission that visited the country in February 2007 estimated that 70 000 additional people have been displaced since September 2006, bringing the total number of IDPs in the country to about 220 000. The Mission recommended the distribution of emergency food aid to about 190 000 people.

Les images satellite montrent que la saison des pluies a commencé en avril, ce qui a permis de procéder à la préparation des sols et aux semis du maïs de la première campagne de 2007, à récolter à partir de juillet. Toutefois, l'insécurité persistante continue de perturber les travaux agricoles et des déplacements de population à grande échelle sont signalés, tant à l'intérieur du pays que vers des pays voisins, notamment dans le nord.

Une mission du PAM qui s'est rendue dans le pays en février 2007 a estimé que 70 000 personnes supplémentaires ont été déplacées depuis septembre 2006, ce qui porte le nombre total de PDI à 220 000 environ. La Mission a recommandé que des secours alimentaires d'urgence soient distribués à 190 000 personnes environ.

Congo (2007-05-29)

Cassava is the major staple food and accounts for over 80 percent of total calorie intake. Domestic cereal production covers about 3 percent of total cereal requirements; the balance is imported, mostly on commercial terms. Cereal import requirements for marketing year 2007 are projected at about 300 000 tonnes.

The effects of the 1997-99 civil war continue to be felt in the agricultural sector due to the disruption of production and marketing activities across the country. The Government has been implementing a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme for former militiamen since October 2005. About 30 000 former combatants are to benefit from reintegration under the DDR, but the volatile security situation, notably in the Pool region, is affecting the programme and disrupting delivery of humanitarian assistance. According to the UNHCR, the country hosts a large number of refugees from conflicts in neighbouring countries, including DRC Congolese, Angolans and Rwandans.

Le manioc représente la principale denrée de base et assure plus de 80 pour cent de l'apport calorique total. La production céréalière intérieure couvre environ 3 pour cent de la totalité des besoins; le solde est importé, principalement par des voies commerciales. Les besoins d'importations céréalières pour la campagne commerciale de 2007 devraient avoisiner 300 000 tonnes.

Les effets de la guerre civile de 1997-1999 continuent de se faire sentir dans le secteur agricole, du fait de la perturbation des activités de production et de commercialisation

dans tout le pays. Le gouvernement met en oeuvre un programme de désarmement, de démobilisation et de réintégration à l'intention des anciennes milices depuis octobre 2005. Environ 30 000 anciens combattants doivent bénéficier d'une aide à la réintégration en vertu de ce programme, mais la précarité de la sécurité, notamment dans la région de Pool, perturbe les activités et entrave la livraison de l'aide humanitaire. Selon le HCR, le pays accueille un grand nombre de réfugiés qui ont fui les conflits dans les pays voisins, notamment des Congolais de la RDC, des Angolais et des Rwandais.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (2007-06-03)

Harvesting of the 2007 secondary maize crop is underway. Rains in the month of April and the first two decades of May were relatively good. This should also help the sorghum crops planted in April and May. Harvesting of main season maize starts in October in the north and continues until February in the south. The forecast for total cereal production, consisting mainly of maize and rice paddy, is put at 1.58 million tonnes for 2007, more or less at the average level of the past few years.

Total cereal import requirements for 2007 (January/December) are estimated to be about 550 000 tonnes, slightly lower than for 2006. Most of them, with the exception of some 60 000 tonnes of food aid, are expected to be covered by commercial imports. Typically, the majority of commercial imports consist of wheat and rice and most of the food aid consists of maize. Although the general security situation has improved over the last two years, more security-related problems have been reported in recent months, especially in the north-eastern parts of the country, potentially disrupting farming activities and causing localized food insecurity. Recently, UNHCR reported that some 140 000 Congolese refugees remain in neighbouring countries – Tanzania, Zambia, Rwanda and the Republic of Congo. Some 103 000 refugees have returned so far since 2004. According to WFP, up to 1.6 million internally-displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable people nationwide need assistance.

Equatorial Guinea (2007-05-29)

The country does not produce a significant quantity of cereals. The staple foods are sweet potatoes, cassava and plantains. It imports on average 14 000 tonnes of wheat and 7 000 tonnes of rice.

In recent years inflation in Equatorial Guinea has been higher than in other countries of the Franc Zone, due to rapidly rising domestic demand since the oil boom began in the mid-1990s. Annual inflation is forecast to slow down in 2007, to 4.5 percent, from an estimated 5 percent in 2005 and 5.2 percent in 2006, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit.

El país no produce una cantidad significativa de cereales. Los alimentos básicos son la batata, la yuca y los plátanos. Por término medio, se importan 14 000 toneladas de trigo y 7 000 toneladas

de arroz.

En los últimos años, la inflación ha sido mayor en Guinea Ecuatorial que en los otros países de la zona del franco, debido al rápido aumento de la demanda interna debido al auge del petróleo a mediados de los años noventa. Según los pronósticos de la Economist Intelligence Unit, la inflación anual descenderá a 4,5 por ciento en 2007, desde un valor estimado de 5 por ciento en 2005 y 5,2 por ciento en 2006.

Gabon (2007-05-29)

The contribution of agriculture to GDP is about 8 percent, reflecting the dominance of the oil sector. The country imports commercially the bulk of its cereal requirement. The main foodcrops are cassava and plantains but some maize is also produced (around 30 000 tonnes).

Imports of cereals in 2007, mainly wheat and rice, are estimated at some 175 000 tonnes. Economic growth which has trended downwards recently, due to declining oil production, is forecasted by the Economist Intelligence Unit at just 1.5 percent in 2007.

L'agriculture représente 8 pour cent environ du PIB, ce qui reflète la prédominance du secteur du pétrole. Le pays importe par des voies commerciales le gros des céréales dont il a besoin. Les principales cultures vivrières sont le manioc et les plantains, mais le pays produit aussi un peu de maïs (30 000 tonnes environ).

Les importations céréalières pour 2007, blé et riz principalement, sont estimées à 175 000 tonnes environ. La croissance économique, qui a accusé une tendance à la baisse dernièrement du fait du recul de la production de pétrole, devrait se maintenir à tout juste 1,5 pour cent en 2007, selon les prévisions du centre d'information de l'Economist.

Sao Tome and Principe (2007-05-29)

The staple food crops are roots, plantains and tubers. Annual imports of cereals are estimated at some 12 000 tonnes. Agriculture accounts for about 19 percent of GDP and about 86 percent of exports, but the structure of the economy will be significantly transformed by oil production which is expected to begin by 2010.

Les cultures vivrières de base sont les plantes-racines, les plantains et les tubercules. Les importations de céréales sont estimées à quelque 12 000 tonnes par an. L'agriculture représente 19 pour cent du PIB et environ 86 pour cent des exportations, mais la structure de l'économie sera radicalement transformée par la production pétrolière qui devrait commencer en 2010.

EASTERN AFRICA

Burundi (2007-06-03)

Harvesting of the 2007 main season foodcrops, beans, maize and sorghum, begins in June and will continue through July. Reduced precipitation in late March-early April put some strain on standing crops, but rains resumed from the second decade of April, which should have helped to improve yields. Cereals of the secondary season (2007A), mainly maize and sorghum, were harvested during January-February. Its output was estimated to be about normal. The preliminary forecast for total cereal production for 2007 is set at 287 000 tonnes, about the same as in 2006. On average the main season (B) accounts for about 55 percent of annual output of cereals, while seasons A and C add about 40 and 5 percent, respectively. However, the contribution of season B has been increasing over the years and amounted to about 67 percent in 2006.

Cereal import requirements for 2007 (January/December) are estimated at about 119 000 tonnes, slightly higher than the 101 000 tonnes imported in 2006, of which 57 000 tonnes were as food aid. According to the National Early Warning System, in Bujumbura, the average market price of rice in January 2007 was about 7 percent above the levels of a year ago. The price of cassava had climbed and was some 77 percent higher in January 2007 as compared to the same period a year earlier due to a reduced harvest of this crop. Food price inflation has crept up as the cost of a food basket increased by 32 percent in January 2007 compared to the same time in 2006, primarily due to poor harvests of roots and tubers, banana and sweet potatoes. Currently, however, main foodcrop prices are following a seasonal downward trend. Burundi and Rwanda were admitted to the East African Community in November 2006. This is expected to improve trade in the region and help reduce generally high prices of maize in these two countries compared to the neighbouring market centres.

The security situation is improving with the signing of cease-fire between the Government and the country's last remaining rebel group on 7 September 2006, potentially ending a 13-year civil conflict. Food insecurity for the vulnerable groups (IDPs, returnees, and those affected by the drought earlier in the year) is of concern. During the month of April WFP distributed about 10 000 tonnes of food to 1.8 million beneficiaries.

Les cultures de la campagne principale, maïs et sorgho, sont récoltées à partir de juin et tout au long de juillet. La récolte de haricots est également en cours. L'insuffisance des précipitations fin mars-début avril a eu une incidence quelque peu néfaste sur les cultures sur pied. Les pluies ont repris à partir de la deuxième décennie d'avril, ce qui devrait contribuer à améliorer les rendements. Les céréales de la campagne secondaire (campagne A de 2007), essentiellement maïs et sorgho, ont été récoltées en janvier-février. La production est jugée proche de la normale. Selon les prévisions préliminaires, la production céréalière totale pour 2007 atteindrait 287 000 tonnes, volume identique à celui de 2006. En moyenne, la campagne principale (campagne B) assure environ 55 pour cent de la production annuelle de céréales, tandis que les campagnes A et C y contribuent à raison d'environ 40 et 5 pour cent respectivement. Toutefois, la part de la campagne B a progressé au fil des années et s'est élevée à environ 67 pour cent en 2006.

Selon les estimations, les besoins d'importations céréalières pour 2007 avoisineraient 119 000 tonnes, en légère hausse par rapport à 2006 (101 000 tonnes). En 2006, environ 57 000 tonnes de

céréales ont été importées au titre de l'aide alimentaire. Selon le système national d'alerte rapide, le prix moyen du riz sur les marchés à Bujumbura avait gagné en janvier 2007 environ 7 pour cent par rapport au niveau d'un an auparavant. Le prix du manioc avait grimpé, et était de quelque 77 pour cent plus élevé en janvier 2007 qu'à la même époque un an auparavant, la récolte de cette céréale ayant été réduite. Les prix des denrées alimentaires ont grimpé et le coût d'un assortiment alimentaire étant en augmentation de 32 pour cent en janvier 2007 par rapport à la même époque l'année dernière, principalement du fait des mauvaises récoltes de plantes-racines et de tubercules, de bananes et de patates douces. Actuellement, les prix des principaux produits agricoles accusent une tendance saisonnière à la baisse. Le Burundi et le Rwanda sont entrés dans la Communauté d'Afrique de l'Est en novembre 2006, ce qui devrait améliorer les perspectives commerciales dans la région et contribuer à faire baisser les prix du maïs, qui sont en général élevés dans ces deux pays par rapport à ceux pratiqués sur les marchés voisins.

La situation de la sécurité s'améliore suite à la signature, le 7 septembre 2006, d'un cessez-le-feu entre le gouvernement et le dernier groupe de rebelles restant dans le pays, accord qui pourrait mettre fin à treize ans de guerre civile. L'insécurité alimentaire des groupes vulnérables (PDI, rapatriés et populations touchées par la sécheresse au début de l'année) est préoccupante. En avril, le PAM a distribué environ 10 000 tonnes de vivres à 1,8 million de bénéficiaires.

Djibouti (2007-06-01)

Le secteur agricole représente moins de 3 pour cent du Produit Intérieur Brut. La population est essentiellement urbaine et est concentrée dans la capitale. La production agricole est marginale et la plupart des denrées alimentaires sont importées. L'économie du pays est dominée par les activités commerciales basées sur un port et les infrastructures aéroportuaires.

Des conditions de sécheresse sévère ces dernières années ont soumis plus de 100,000 personnes, un septième de la population du pays, au risque de faim.

Eritrea (2007-05-15)

Satellite based imagery indicate that, during the 2007 "azmera" rains (March to May), which are important for land preparation, are generally favourable in most parts of the country. However, in South Red Sea, less than half of the average rainfall has occurred so far, stressing pasture and water supplies for the mainly pastoralists inhabitants.

Official estimates of the 2006/07 main season crops have not yet been provided but the crop is generally expected to be above average. Rainfall amounts during both cropping seasons, the main "kiremti" (June to September) and the smaller "bahri" seasons (October to February) were average to above average in most parts of the country. The Kiremti rains are important for agricultural production in Maekel, Debub, Anseba and Gash Barka areas which normally account for about 80 percent of agriculture production. The bahri rains are important in the lowland areas of Northern Red Sea, mainly for pasture but also for crop

production using spate irrigation.

Crop production in Eritrea varied considerably over the years, depending largely on rainfall performance. The average cereal crop production from 1994 to 2004 is about 187 000 tonnes, ranging between a low of 64 000 tonnes in 2002 to a high of 472 000 tonnes in 1998. However, even in good years, Eritrea produces only a fraction of its total food requirements, and largely depends on imports. Prices of main cereals in major urban centres remain high, notwithstanding some fall in prices during October 2006 to January 2007. Since January, however, most prices started to go up again. For instance, the average sorghum price in Asmara dropped to about Nakfa 800/100kg in January 2007 compared with about Nakfa 1 200/100kg in October 2006. However, in February and March 2007, the average price rose again to about Nakfa 900/100kg.

Ethiopia (2007-05-15)

In Ethiopia, where the "belg" crop is scheduled to be harvested from June, the outlook is generally favourable following beneficial rains during the season. However, some concern is raised in belg crop producing areas of eastern Ahmara due to scant rainfall in recent weeks which resulted in crop stress. The belg crop normally accounts for around 10 percent of annual cereal and pulse production but in some of the northern parts of the country it provides important amounts of the annual grain production. Good rains have also improved the availability of pasture and water in southern and south-eastern pastoral areas of the country but Ethiopia's Afar region, received well below average rains resulting in water and pasture shortages.

The 2006/07 main "Meher" season grain crop, harvested from late last year, was estimated by an FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission last November/December at a record 20.1 million tonnes, some 10 percent above the previous year's outturn and 53 percent higher than the average for the previous five years. This represents a third consecutive bumper harvest. Generally well-distributed and timely rainfall, increased use of fertiliser and improved seeds, and very low pressure from pests and diseases, together with expansion in cultivated area, accounted for the bumper crops.

Despite the bumper crop, the Food Security Bureau (FSB) tentatively estimates that about 7.3 million chronically food insecure people need cash or food assistance through the Productive Safety Net Programme, and a further 1.3

million people require emergency food assistance. Throughout the country, grain and livestock prices remain firm or rising, boosted by a combination of economic growth and effective demand, formal and informal trade, higher oil prices, local purchases by cooperatives and relief agencies, and expectations of further price hikes. Despite a bumper harvest and favourable macro-economic situation, the steady increase and relatively high levels of food prices mean that poorer households will find it more difficult to secure access to adequate food supplies. Currently, the Government is considering several options to ease the price hike, including the release of about 20 000 tonnes of cereals from the national food reserve on the market.

Kenya (2007-05-15)

The 2007 long-rains season is well advanced in the main growing areas. Planting prospects have improved with a significant increase in precipitation in past weeks. Delayed onset of the long rains, coupled with late harvesting of the previous short rains crop due to the continuation of unseasonable rains well into February, resulted in reduced planting in March and April. The recent good rains have also benefited north-eastern pastoral areas but moisture deficits are reported in south-eastern parts

The aggregate 2006/07 cereal production has, therefore, been revised upwards to about 3.6 million tonnes, including nearly 3 million tonnes of maize. At this level, the cereal crop is about 4 percent up on the previous year.

Despite the good prospects, food insecurity in arid and semi-arid areas of Eastern and North-eastern provinces, which were hit by drought and floods in 2006 and by livestock diseases at the beginning of 2007, could be aggravated by low rainfall. Floods after the excessive October-December 2006 short rains led to the outbreak of Rift Valley Fever (RVF). The North-eastern Province was the worst affected, with large livestock losses.

Rwanda (2007-06-03)

Harvesting of the 2007 main season foodcrops, beans, maize and sorghum, begins in June and will continue through July. Reduced rainfall in late March-early April put some strain on standing crops. Rains resumed from the second decade of April, which should have helped to improve yields. The cereal harvest of the secondary season, 2007A, completed in January-February, was estimated at below normal levels due to late and poor rains during the early part of the season. Total cereal output for 2007 is forecast at 355 000 tonnes, similar to last year's harvest. On average, the main season (B) accounts for about 60 percent of the annual output of cereals; but the relative contribution of the secondary season (A) has been decreasing over the years, and amounted to

about 32 percent in 2006.

Total cereal import requirements in 2007 (January/December) are estimated to increase from the estimated 200 000 tonnes in 2006 to a level 210 000 tonnes, including a food aid requirement of 36 000 tonnes, slightly higher than the aid received in the previous year. Prices of maize have steadily come down from its levels of a year ago. For example, the monthly average wholesale maize price in Kigali was US\$226/tonne during the 3rd week of May 2007 as opposed to US\$265 in March 2006. Maize prices had reached a high of US\$329 in May 2006. By contrast, prices of beans have fluctuated wildly reflecting seasonal harvest prospects and are currently at US\$ 412/tonne, slightly above the level the year before. Burundi and Rwanda were admitted to the East African Community in November 2006. This is expected to improve trade in the region and help reduce generally high prices of maize in these two countries. Food security among the pastoralists in eastern provinces of Umutara and Kibungo has been affected by the outbreak of foot and mouth disease earlier and the subsequent total quarantine and ban on the sale of livestock and animal products.

Les cultures de la campagne principale de 2007 - maïs et sorgho - sont récoltées à partir de juin et tout au long de juillet. La récolte de haricots est également en cours. L'insuffisance des précipitations fin mars-début avril a eu une incidence quelque peu néfaste sur les cultures sur pied. Les pluies ont repris à partir de la deuxième décennie d'avril, ce qui devrait contribuer à améliorer les rendements. La récolte céréalière de la campagne secondaire (campagne A de 2007) s'est achevée en janvier-février avec des résultats inférieurs à la normale, les précipitations ayant été tardives et insuffisantes au cours de la première partie de la campagne. La production céréalière totale pour 2007 devrait s'élever à 355 000 tonnes, soit un volume identique à celui récolté l'an dernier. En moyenne, la campagne principale (campagne B) assure environ 60 pour cent de la production annuelle de céréales; toutefois, la contribution relative de la campagne secondaire (campagne A) n'a cessé de reculer au fil des ans, et elle était d'environ 32 pour cent en 2006. Selon les estimations, les besoins d'importations céréalières en 2007 (janvier/décembre) devraient passer de 200 000 tonnes (chiffre estimatif pour 2006) à 210 000 tonnes, dont 36 000 tonnes requise au titre de l'aide alimentaire, soit un peu plus que l'aide reçue l'an dernier. Les prix du maïs n'ont cessé de baisser par rapport aux niveaux de l'an dernier. Par exemple, la moyenne mensuelle des prix de gros du maïs à Kigali était de 226 dollars EU la tonne au cours de la troisième semaine de mai 2007, contre 265 dollars EU en mars 2006. Les prix du maïs ont atteint le sommet de 329 dollars EU en mai 2006. Le prix des haricots, en revanche, a subi de fortes fluctuations en raison des perspectives saisonnières de récolte, et il se situe actuellement à 412 dollars EU la tonne, ce qui est légèrement plus qu'un an auparavant. Le Burundi et le Rwanda sont entrés dans la Communauté d'Afrique de l'Est en novembre 2006, ce qui devrait améliorer les perspectives commerciales dans la région et contribuer à faire baisser les prix du maïs, qui sont en général élevés dans ces deux pays. La sécurité alimentaire des pasteurs des provinces orientales d'Umutara et de Kibungo a aussi été compromise par la récente flambée de fièvre aphteuse, qui a conduit à prendre des mesures de quarantaine et à interdire totalement les ventes de bétail et de

produits animaux.

Seychelles (2007-06-01)

Agriculture (mainly fisheries) is one of the traditional activities in Seychelles. However, its contribution to GDP remains small and declining. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries (excluding Tuna canning) account for about 3 percent of GDP. The services sector – including tourism, transport, communications and commerce – dominates the economy and has accounted for just under 70 percent of GDP in recent years. With a GDP per head of US\$8 795 in 2003, Seychelles is classified as an "upper middle-income" country. The population of Seychelles is estimated at about 84 000 (2003) and the annual population growth rate for 2000–2005 is 0.88 percent, with the projected population for the year 2015 at 88 000. Most of the country's food needs are met through imports.

Somalia (2007-05-15)

The escalation of the conflict since January, mainly in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, has dramatically increased the number of displaced people. Fighting in Mogadishu during March and April has resulted in the displacement of up to 365 000 people, or roughly one third of the city's population of almost 1 million. In addition, another 30-40 percent of the population of Mogadishu is estimated to be displaced within the city. Most of the population who have fled Mogadishu are concentrated in central region (51 percent) and Shabelle region (39 percent). The magnitude and concentration of newly displaced people is leading to a humanitarian crisis in which basic amenities of shelter, clean water, safe sanitation, health care, medicines and food are severely constrained. In areas of concentrated and high population displacement, prices for rental properties, transportation, water, and basic food and non-food items have increased sharply, between 30-70 percent in the last four weeks. These sharp price increases are compounding problems related to the loss of livelihoods and income. In addition to this already critical situation, there is an ongoing and increasing outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), which is most severe in the areas where there are large concentrations of displaced populations.

In other developments, good rains in the second decade of April benefited planting of the 2007 main "Gu" crops, for harvest from August. However, total monthly rainfall in April remained below average in large parts of the country. According to the Somalia's Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU), the 2006/07 deyr season cereal crop is estimated at about 111 000 tonnes, 13 percent above the post-war (1995-2005) average. Above normal rainfall contributed to the good production in many regions. In north-western Somalia (Somaliland), the gu/karan cereal production harvested in November 2006 is estimated at 25 000

tonnes, about 47 percent above the post war average but 3 percent below the previous year's crop. Overall, total cereal production in 2006/07 is estimated at about 272 000 tonnes, slightly higher than the post war average.

Further information and analysis can be accessed at: www.fsausomali.org

Sudan (2007-05-15)

Harvesting of the 2006/07 wheat crop is complete. The latest forecast puts wheat output at an above-average 642 000 tonnes, more than 50 percent higher than last year. Similarly, output of the main coarse grain crop in 2006, harvested late last year, was estimated at a record 6 million tonnes by an FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM), 16 percent above the previous year's level.

Despite the bumper harvest, problems of physical and financial access to food due to war, displacement, poor infrastructure, weak marketing system and economic isolation continue to render millions of vulnerable people dependent on food assistance. About 4.6 million people in Sudan will need emergency food assistance during 2007 mainly due to civil unrest. The recent escalation of conflict in Darfur region alone is estimated to have resulted in substantial losses of cropped areas and in the displacement of about 1.6 million people.

Uganda (2007-05-15)

Abundant rain in the second dekad of April improved prospects for planting of the 2007 first season in southern bi-modal areas, where field operations had been delayed by dry weather in March. Precipitation was also good in the main producing areas of the north, where sowing begins from April.

Total cereal production in 2006/07 is estimated at about 2.7 million tonnes, nearly 12 percent above average. Consequently, domestic supply of commodities to major markets is steady with prices remaining fairly stable over the last two months. According to the Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN), the demand from Kenyan traders for Ugandan maize has increased in March 2007 which in turn started to create an upward pressure on wholesale commodity prices at the border. Rwanda has also continued to rely on Ugandan maize, importing on average 2 200 tonnes of maize every month.

The above notwithstanding, conflict coupled with a poor cropping season continues to affect the food security of thousands of people in the Karamoja region. In northern parts, better security conditions have improved access to productive resources for IDPs, but the slow progress of the peace process continues to hamper their return home. WFP still provides assistance for nearly 1.28 million people that remain trapped in squalid camps in the northern districts of Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Pader. In addition, WFP is providing drought relief assistance to 500 000 people in Karamoja region that is planned to last until June 2007 at a cost of over US\$10 million. WFP also provides food aid to 182 000 refugees in Uganda. Constrained by a critical lack of funds, WFP has declared that it would be forced from the beginning of April to cut by half food rations for nearly 1.5 million displaced people and refugees.

United Republic of Tanzania (2007-05-15)

Well-distributed seasonal rains across much of the country provided favourable growing conditions for the 2007 maize crop. In the grain basket region of the southern highlands harvesting of the maize crop has just started, while in the bi-modal northern production areas it is developing. Pasture conditions and water levels in dams across the country have also improved significantly. Prospects for 2007 main season "msimiu" coarse grain crops, for harvest from May/June, in the uni-modal rainfall areas (central, southern and western parts of the country including the maize surplus growing south-western highlands), are favourable following abundant rainfall since the beginning of the season.

The heavy rains have improved pasture conditions, which has reduced pastoralist movement in search of pasture, increased the availability of milk and improved the overall food security of pastoralist households. However, an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever has been reported in the country and the death toll in March stood at 16. The first two deaths from the highly contagious disease were reported in northern Tanzania in January after spreading from neighbouring Kenya. It has since spread to other areas in central and north-western Tanzania.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola (2007-06-03)

Harvesting of the 2007 main season cereal crops is completed with an anticipation of a major improvement in the cereal harvest over the last year's drought-affected output. FAO's preliminary estimate puts maize production at 700 000 tonnes, an increase of almost one-third over 2006 due to a rise in the area cultivated and yields. As a result of the good outcome, the total cereal import requirement for the 2007/08 marketing year is estimated at 744 000 tonnes, about 4 percent lower than the year before.

In spite of the economic boom in the country, primarily due to high oil prices, food security for the vulnerable population remains a concern. Food security problems arise due to poor road conditions, underdeveloped marketing systems and due to currently rising maize prices following increased costs of imports. By contrast, in northern areas, where cassava and sweet potatoes are grown, food production and food security in general were found to be satisfactory.

La récolte des céréales de la campagne principale est terminée, et l'on s'attend à une nette amélioration de la récolte céréalière par rapport au volume de l'an dernier, touché par la sécheresse. Les estimations préliminaires de la FAO établissent la production de maïs à 700 000 tonnes, soit une progression de près d'un tiers par rapport à l'an dernier qui s'explique par l'accroissement de la superficie cultivée et des rendements. Par conséquent, les besoins d'importations céréalières pour la campagne de commercialisation 2007/08 sont estimés à 744 000 tonnes, soit environ 4 pour cent de moins que l'année précédente.

Des problèmes de sécurité alimentaire apparaissent en Angola du fait du mauvais état des routes et de l'insuffisance des systèmes de commercialisation ainsi que de la hausse des prix du maïs constatée actuellement. Malgré l'essor économique que connaît le pays, principalement du fait de la hausse des prix du pétrole, la sécurité alimentaire des populations vulnérables reste préoccupante. La production vivrière et la sécurité alimentaire ont été jugées satisfaisantes dans le nord, où l'on cultive le manioc et la patate douce.

Botswana (2007-06-03)

Harvesting of the 2007 main season cereal crops, mainly sorghum and maize, is completed. Below average rainfall with frequent dry spells this year have resulted in a poor outcome, preliminarily estimated at about 37 000 tonnes, some 18 percent below last year's bumper harvest. The import requirements for the 2007/08 marketing year (April/March) have increased by 6 percent from the previous year to a level of 290 000 tonnes; these are expected to be covered through commercial imports. Drier than normal weather for pasture areas in the south and centre has affected livestock condition in the country. Livestock raising is an important agriculture activity throughout the country, but particularly in the central and southern areas. Repeated outbreaks of foot and mouth disease have also jeopardized the country's beef exports and hurt the livestock industry.

Lesotho (2007-06-03)

A joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission visited the country from 22 April to 5 May 2007 and estimated the 2007 total maize production at 50 825 tonnes and sorghum at 11 182 tonnes, some 51 percent and 42 percent respectively lower than in 2006. The winter wheat (being planted now) was forecast at 5 411 tonnes, a drop of about 4 percent compared with the previous year. Overall, the 2007 cereal production is forecast at about 67 000 tonnes, and cereal import requirements for the 2007/08 marketing year (April/March) are estimated at 261 000 tonnes, of which 224 000 tonnes are expected to be imported commercially. With food aid stocks and pipeline at 7 000 tonnes, there remains an uncovered deficit of around 30 000 tonnes which would need to be covered by additional Government and/or international assistance to be targeted to the estimated 401 200 food insecure and vulnerable people.

While many households have exhausted their coping capacity, the escalation of grain prices, due to domestic shortages and rising maize prices in South Africa, the main supplier of maize in the region, will accentuate food insecurity overall, and especially among landless and urban populations limiting even more their access to available market supplies. While poverty in Lesotho is very closely associated with the absence of wage employment and income, the HIV/AIDS pandemic is increasingly undermining the economic resource base especially of those affected. This has resulted in visible lack of labour for essential agricultural activities and in some agricultural fields being left idle.

Madagascar (2007-06-01)

Harvest of the 2007 paddy crop is underway, while harvest of maize and other small grains is completed. FAO's preliminary estimate of this year's paddy production is 3.3 million tonnes, down from last year's bumper harvest of 3.5 million tonnes. Maize production, affected by a late start of the rains and significant dry spells in the south of the country, is expected to decline by about a quarter to some 220 000 tonnes. As a result, total cereal import requirements for the 2007/08 marketing year (April/March) are expected to increase over 400 000 tonnes from the average level of about 300 000 tonne and last year's actual imports of about 200 000 tonnes. Heavy rains and four cyclones/storms during January-February caused serious flooding in several areas throughout the country resulting in loss of infrastructure and about 100 000 hectares of paddy land. The worst-affected areas were the capital region of Antananarivo, the north-western and western parts of the country and the south-east. Abundant rains, however, benefited developing crops elsewhere

in the country.

With reduced harvest prospects earlier in the season, the average national price of local rice escalated and peaked at 1 333 Ariary in March, up from about 1 000 Ariary in December 2006. Since then they have come down to the current level of about 993 (mid-May 2007). Rice prices this year have been significantly higher than the corresponding periods last year.

According to official figures, about 1 million people in aggregate, were affected by floods and another 150 000 by drought. Appeals for emergency food and non-food assistance for the next season were launched, including FAO's appeal for US\$850 000 to provide emergency agricultural inputs to the most affected population.

La récolte de paddy est en cours et celle de maïs et d'autres petites cultures céréalières est terminée. Les estimations préliminaires de la FAO établissent la récolte de paddy de cette année à 3,3 millions de tonnes, soit une baisse par rapport au volume abondant de l'an dernier (3,5 millions de tonnes). Toutefois, la production de maïs, qui a été touchée par des vagues de sécheresse dans le sud du pays, devrait reculer d'environ un quart, pour passer à quelque 220 000 tonnes. Par conséquent, les besoins d'importations céréalières pour la campagne commerciale 2007/2008 (avril/mars) devraient passer à plus de 400 000 tonnes, alors que le niveau moyen est d'environ 300 000 tonnes et que les importations effectives ont atteint l'an dernier environ 200 000 tonnes. Des pluies violentes et quatre cyclones/tempêtes en janvier-février ont provoqué de graves inondations dans plusieurs endroits du pays, entraînant la perte de l'infrastructure et d'environ 100 000 hectares de terres consacrées au paddy. Les zones les plus touchées sont les alentours d'Antananarivo, le nord-ouest et l'ouest du pays, ainsi que le sud-est. Dans le reste du pays, les pluies abondantes ont été bénéfiques. En revanche, le sud du pays a enregistré des semis tardifs à cause des pluies, ainsi que des vagues de sécheresse importantes.

Du fait de la récolte réduite en perspective en début de campagne, le prix moyen du riz local dans le pays a grimpé, pour culminer à 1 333 ariary en mars, contre environ 1 000 ariary en décembre 2006. Il a depuis baissé pour se situer à environ 993 ariary (mi-mai 2007). Les prix du riz cette année se sont maintenus à un niveau beaucoup plus élevé qu'aux mêmes époques l'an dernier. Selon les chiffres officiels, environ 1 million de personnes en tout ont été touchées par les inondations et 150 000 autres par la sécheresse. Des appels ont été lancés pour mobiliser des secours alimentaires d'urgence et autres en vue de la prochaine campagne; la FAO a notamment lancé un appel en vue de recueillir 850 000 dollars E.-U. pour faire face à la crise.

Malawi (2007-06-03)

The second round of official crop estimates show the 2007 maize harvest at 3.22 million tonnes, an increase of 25 percent above last year's bumper crop. The rice harvest was also good and production is expected at 110 568 tonnes, an increase of 20 percent over 2006. Rainfall was above normal and generally well-distributed, in contrast to neighbouring countries in the region. This year again, the Government of Malawi has provided a 70 percent subsidy on 150 000 tonnes of fertilizer at a cost of almost US\$60 million and close to US\$6 million on improved seeds. The cassava crop is also expected to yield a good harvest of 3.2 million tonnes of fresh weight (roughly 1 million tonnes

of cereal equivalent), representing a small increase over the previous year mainly due to an increase in area planted.

As a result of bumper harvests in 2006 and now 2007, an estimated potential surplus of about 1 million tonnes, to be used for exports and for grain reserves, is projected for the 2007/08 marketing year. Malawi recently signed a contract to supply 400 000 tonnes of maize to Zimbabwe. The national average price of maize, collected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, has come down from a high of 50 Kwacha/kg in February 2006 to well below the fixed price of the Agricultural Development Marketing Corporation (ADMARC) of 30 Kwacha/kg in most markets.

The overall food security in Malawi is considered to be generally good.

Mauritius (2007-06-03)

Total cereal import requirements for 2007 (January/December) in Mauritius are expected to remain stable at about 320 000 tonnes. The country imports commercially virtually its entire cereal consumption requirements. Sugarcane, the main cash crop, is grown on about 90 percent of the cultivated land area and accounts for 25 percent of the country's export earnings. The anticipated loss of preferential access to US and European markets this year is expected to have negative consequences for sugar and textiles exports, the most important exports of the country. This may result in a drop of about 37.5 percent in sugar prices. To deal with this situation, the World Bank has provided a US\$16 million loan to help the country move into higher technology industries and services.

Although the country has sustained high annual growth rates for the last two decades, the unemployment rate has been relatively high, in excess of 10 percent since 2003.

Mozambique (2007-06-03)

The harvesting of the 2007 maize and other main season crops is nearly over. Early estimate by FAO puts maize production at about 1.5 million tonnes, similar to last year and some 10 percent over the average of the previous five years. Earlier in the season, heavy rains in the country and in neighbouring Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi, caused serious flooding in the Zambezi river basin, including its tributaries, displacing roughly 163 000 people, submerging over 78 000 hectares of crops and causing damage to roads and other infrastructure. Cumulative rainfall in the north of the country has been normal to above normal, while in the south and centre regions, it has been below normal with significant dry weather in the extreme south of the country.

Total cereal import requirements (gross) for 2007/08 are estimated at 868 000 tonnes, higher than the actual imports of about 836 000 tonnes last year (740 000 tonnes commercial and 96 000 tonnes of food aid). Maize prices that had remained low and steady since January this year at about 6 000 Meticals/kg in Maputo wholesale market, declined to 5 190 Meticals/kg by the third week of May. In US dollar terms, white maize prices in Mozambique at about US\$ 199/tonne are higher than in Malawi and in Zambia but lower than in South Africa.

Unemployment, poverty and localized food insecurity remain primary concerns throughout the country, in spite of the impressive economic growth in recent years fuelled primarily by foreign investment (commercial, aid and debt relief). Following donor assistance and FDI flows, the national currency that had lost its value against the US dollar in 2005 has strengthened in 2007.

Namibia (2007-06-03)

The harvest of the 2007 main season cereals, namely millet, maize and sorghum, is nearly completed. Prolonged dry spells in January and February and generally below average rainfall this season is expected to have reduced harvest significantly. The Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit forecast puts the country's total cereal production at 119 300 tonnes, a drop of about 50 percent from the record harvest of 2006 (which was officially revised upwards to 181 100 tonnes from an earlier estimate of 110 000 tonnes). The main cause is reduced planted areas in Kavango, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto regions, due to irregular rainfall. Although plantings were up in Caprivi region by an estimated 10 percent, flooding from the Zambezi had waterlogged many crops there.

Cereal imports in Namibia typically outweigh domestic production. Total cereal import requirements for 2007/08 marketing year are estimated at 137 000 tonnes, considerably up over last year's 110 000 tonnes. Maize prices in Namibia are rising as they follow very closely the price movements on the South Africa's market. The overall food security in Namibia, however, is considered to be relatively good.

South Africa (2007-06-01)

Lack of adequate rainfall in the maize triangle during the critical January and February crop growth period is expected to have a serious negative impact on maize yields this year. Crops in Mpumalanga and Free State suffered from severe moisture stress and high temperatures have reduced pollination. The latest official estimate puts the total national maize production for 2007 close to 7.3 million tonnes, about last year's crop and some 25 percent below the average of the previous five years. The official estimate indicates that the area planted to maize, at 2.55 million hectares, is about 59 percent above last year's level, primarily as a result of high maize prices at planting time. However, declining yields due to adverse weather during the season reduced overall production.

The final official estimate of the 2006 wheat crop indicates an output of about 2.1 million tonnes, about 10 percent higher than the previous year's level, and above the average of the past five years. This reflects higher yields, as the area planted had declined by about 5 percent. In spite of the current high prices of wheat, the area to be planted to the winter crops this year is expected to be slightly lower due to low water levels after a dry summer season.

Given the much reduced 2007 maize harvest, projected closing stocks, as of 30 April 2008, of white maize during 2007/08 marketing year, are about 600 000 tonnes (CEC April 2007 Bulletin) leaving very little, if any, exportable surplus.

With the expectation of a poor harvest earlier this year, maize prices shot up to a high of Rand 1 981/tonne in March 2007 on SAFEX futures up from R 1 408 in January but have come down since at a post harvest level of R 1 652 in May. Prices this year are generally much higher than the same periods last year. The futures prices on SAFEX currently climb steadily to a December price of R 1 794.

Swaziland (2007-06-03)

A joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission visited the country in late April and

early May and estimated total maize production for 2007 at 26 170 tonnes, the lowest harvest on record and about 62 percent below the five-year average. Sorghum and millet production is very low in Swaziland, despite the suitability of these drought resistant crops for the Lowveld's dry conditions. Prolonged dry spells and high temperature levels at critical stages of the maize crop development decimated Swaziland's summer cereals this year. Consequently, the total cereal import requirement in the 2007/08 marketing year (April/March) is estimated at about 173 800 tonnes, of which 129 000 tonnes are expected to be imported commercially. Extended dry conditions and ensuing water shortages caused some stress on livestock, but late rains improved pasture and animal conditions in most parts of the country. Livestock production is expected to help offset, to some extent, the impact of crop failure.

Prices of major cereals have increased significantly in response to the shortages locally and as a result of significant maize price increases in South Africa, the main supplier of Swaziland's import requirements. The upward trend in prices is expected to continue during the rest of this year as supplies from domestic and regional sources may be rather limited due to reduced crops in South Africa and other neighbouring countries.

With about 4 800 tonnes of food aid in stock and in the pipeline, the uncovered deficit, for which international assistance is needed, is estimated at 40 000 tonnes for about 407 000 food-insecure and vulnerable people. A targeted approach for food aid is required, focused on mitigating adverse effects on the most vulnerable households, and on direct support to those with no access to sufficient food and agricultural inputs.

The Mission also recommended a timely support with agricultural inputs, including seeds, fertilizers, credit facilities, as well as tractor availability to revive production capacity in time for the 2007/08 cropping season.

Zambia (2007-06-01)

The harvest of the main summer crops is almost over and although official estimates are not yet available, it is expected that the total 2007 coarse grain harvest would be significantly reduced from last year's bumper output. The expected harvest of summer cereals (maize, sorghum and millets) still remains slightly above the past five-year average level of 1.11 million tonnes. Heavy rains in January and February throughout the country had caused serious flooding in several areas; in all 21 out of a total of 72 districts in the west and the southwe-st suffered damage to infrastructure and crops. Ironically, dry spells later in the season were also experienced in Southern Province. The northern half of the country received stable and adequate rainfall after the flooding in February, but leaching of fertilizer nutrients, late application of basal fertilizers and strong weed growth following heavy rain reduced yields in many areas. Seed and fertilizer distribution for 182 000 selected poor farmers has had a positive effect on their production. The Food Reserve Agency is planning to procure about 400 000 tonnes at a price of ZK 38 000/50 kg bag.

Owing to a record maize harvest of 1.424 million tonnes in 2006, Zambia was estimated to have a sizeable surplus of about 380 000 tonnes for export and its own reserves. Reportedly the country has exported more than 200 000 tonnes during the last marketing year. Average wholesale prices of maize in Lusaka peaked at about 43 000 ZK/50 kg bag in January this year but with the

beginning of the harvest have come down and stabilized by mid-May at about 32 500. The current price of maize is slightly above last year's price at the same time reflecting a less favourable harvest this year. Once the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) buying starts, the price is expected to move to or above the FRA price floor.

The overall food security situation remains good, except for the vulnerable groups and farmers who lost their crops to floods or were adversely affected by dry spells.

Zimbabwe (2007-06-03)

A joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission visited the country from 25 April to 18 May 2007 and estimated total maize production for 2007 at 799 000 tonnes, some 46 percent lower than last year and 13 percent lower than the year before. Primary factors responsible for this decline were, adverse weather, severe economic constraints leading to shortages of key inputs, deteriorating infrastructure, especially for irrigation, and most importantly, financially uneconomical prices for most of the Government-controlled crops. Total national cereal production, including some 128 000 tonnes as a forecast of winter wheat currently being planted, is estimated to remain 44 percent below the official estimate of the 2006 production, resulting in a significant national import requirement of about 1.052 million tonnes, for the 2007/08 marketing year (April/March), of which the maize deficit accounts for 813 000 tonnes.

A structural decline in national agricultural production over the last 6-7 years is also due to the inability by newly-settled farmers to utilize all the prime land allocated to them. The settlement farmers were able to cultivate only about 30 to 55 percent of their total arable land owing to shortages of tractor/draught power, fuel and fertilizers, under-investment in infrastructure/improvements, lack of incentive because of price controls and absenteeism on the part of settler beneficiaries. Following the land reform programme, based on the Central Statistics Office (CSO) data, the large-scale commercial sector now produces less than one-tenth of the maize that it produced in the 1990s, or less than 5 percent of the country's total maize production.

Hyperinflation which reached 3 714 percent in April has drastically reduced the purchasing power of households, greatly limiting access to available supplies for low- and middle-income and vulnerable people. In parallel, the ever-plummeting exchange rate of the local currency in parallel markets has caused shortages of foreign currency and reduced the country's ability to import fuel, electricity and other capital goods.

Given the acute shortage of foreign exchange, the dwindling export base, and current very high prices for maize in the region, the Mission estimated that total commercial cereal imports will amount to 700 000 tonnes, leaving an uncovered deficit of 352 000 tonnes of maize. Commercial imports include 400 000 tonnes of maize which have already been contracted from Malawi, 217 000 tonnes of wheat, 22 000 tonnes of rice, and an additional 61 000 tonnes of maize is expected to be imported by individuals and petty traders through informal channels and in-kind remittances from South Africa, Mozambique and Zambia.

Along with its call for food assistance of 442 000 tonnes for some 4.1 million food-insecure and vulnerable people, the FAO/WFP Mission made recommendations to improve next year's harvest and national food supply. These include an adequate and timely supply to farmers of good quality seeds and fertilizer ahead of the next cropping season. It also urges the Government and the

international community to work jointly on improving food security by investing in farm mechanization and infrastructure.

Finally, the Mission supported the Government's newly-stated goal of moving to a market-based economy. Specific measures could include a reassessment of producer price controls, allowing the free movement of grain within the country, lifting the ban on private sector imports, and removing restrictions on cross-border trade.

ASIA

Bangladesh (2007-06-01)

Harvesting of the 2007 wheat crop, a small contributor to the country's total food supply, has been completed. A smaller wheat crop than last year is estimated due to unseasonably high temperatures during the winter development period. The country wheat imports in 2007/08 are expected to increase to about 2.8 million tonnes, up from the previous year's 2.3 million tonnes. Harvesting of the 2007 Boro (spring) rice, accounting for more than 50 percent of total annual rice production, was just completed and the production is estimated at 15.7 million tonnes, similar to the previous year.

China (2007-06-01)

In China (Mainland), harvesting of the 2007 early rice crop will start soon and production is expected to increase by 1.2 million tonnes on last year to reach 33.1 million tonnes. This reflects a larger area sown and favourable weather. The 2007 aggregate paddy production is tentatively forecast at 183 million tonnes. Harvesting of the 2007 winter wheat crop has commenced and the 2007 aggregate wheat output is tentatively forecast at 101 million tonnes (including the small spring crop), 2.5 percent below last year's record but still 8 percent above the average of the previous five years. The sowing of 2007 coarse grain crops, mainly maize, is complete in the major producing regions and a large area planted is estimated due to land diversion from soybeans because of higher profitability of maize.

Based on the latest forecast, China in 2007/08 is expected to be almost self-sufficient in cereals. China, however, is expected to import 33 million tonnes of soybeans, up 3 million tonnes from the previous year, to meet growing domestic demand. Soybeans are defined as grains in China.

Dem People's Rep of Korea (2007-05-11)

The aggregate 2006 cereal output was estimated at some 4 million tonnes (including rice in milled terms), some 2.6 percent below the good crop of 2005, but still 14 percent above the average of the past five years (see figure). With the steady recovery in agricultural production over the past few years, the cereal import requirement has been almost halved since the start of the decade. Given the relatively high level of production again in 2006, the cereal deficit for the 2006/07 marketing year (November/October) is estimated to remain just under 1 million tonnes, the second lowest in the past seven years. If the estimated level of imports materializes, the per caput cereal consumption in the country would remain at some 160 kg, and close to the status quo. For the period November 2006 to April 2007, the Central Government commercially imported 40 000 tonnes of grains and received another 900 tonnes as food aid. The Republic of Korea has also pledged 400 000 tonnes of rice under an agreement reached at the 13th meeting of the North-South Committee for the Promotion of Economic Cooperation, which was held from 18-22 April. However, even if these commitments are fulfilled, there would remain a deficit of 510 000 tonnes in the current marketing year, which needs to be covered by additional commercial imports and/or food aid.

Prospects are favourable for the current 2006/07 secondary (winter/spring) season cereal crops, mostly wheat and barley, to be harvested from June. This crop accounts for 5 percent of annual cereal production. However, potatoes are also grown in this season and their importance as a food has increased in recent years following chronic food and feed supply problems. The total area planted for the current crops is estimated to be similar to last year's, and weather during the season has been favourable with some well distributed rainfall and close to normal temperatures. At this stage, the secondary cereal crop output is expected to be similar to last year's 220 000 tonnes, assuming the weather remains clement until the harvest. Potato production is put at 230 000 tonnes.

Planting of the 2007 main maize and rice crops will start in mid-May/early-June, right after the harvest of the secondary crops. Output, as usual, will depend critically on the weather during the main rainy season and the availability of fertilizer and other essential inputs, which have remained in short supply in past seasons. As in the past few years, the Republic of Korea has donated 300 000 tonnes of fertilizer aid for the coming main season.

India (2007-06-01)

Harvesting of the 2007 wheat crop is underway and planting of the coarse grains and Kharif rice for harvest in September/November has begun. The 2007 wheat output forecast has been revised up to 73.5 million tonnes, 6 percent up from last year, reflecting area expansion and favourable weather during most of the growing season. As a result, wheat imports in 2007/08 are forecast to decline sharply from the previous year's high level of 6.5 million tonnes to some 3 million tonnes.

According to India Meteorological Department, the southwest monsoon rainfall for 2007 has timely started in the country's southern coast. The June-September monsoon is vital to the cereal production in the country.

Indonesia (2007-06-01)

Output of the 2007 main season rice crop, which is already well advanced, is forecast to fall by about 2 percent, following a 3 percent reduction in plantings caused by the late arrival of the north-east monsoon rainfall. The aggregate 2007 rice output is tentatively forecast at 53 million tonnes, down from last year 54.4 million tonnes and the 2007/08 rice import is expected at the same high level of the previous year's of some 2 million tonnes.

Harvesting of maize is complete and the 2007 output is estimated at an above-average level of 12.4 million tones. As a result, the import requirement in 2007/08 (April/March) is anticipated to decline sharply to some 700 000 tonnes. Wheat is not produced in Indonesia and its import in 2007/08 is forecast at some 4.8 million tonnes, unchanged from the previous year.

Localized food insecurity persists in the Yogyakarta regency of Sleman following the May 27, 2006 earthquake which resulted in severe damage to housing and infrastructure.

Japan (2007-06-01)

Planting of the 2007 main rice crop for harvesting in October-November is underway. Production is early forecast at some 7.5 million, a slight decline from last year's level due to an anticipated reduction in plantings following changes in Government's rice policy including the gradual elimination of controls on production by 2008. The import of wheat and coarse grain in 2007/08 (July/June) is forecast to remain steady at 5.5 million tonnes for wheat and 19.7 million tonnes for coarse grains.

Malaysia (2007-06-01)

Planting of the 2007 irrigated secondary paddy crop, which normally accounts for more than 40 percent of total production, has been completed. Harvesting of the main paddy crop, planted in August to November last year, finished in April. In aggregate, the 2007 paddy output is provisionally forecast at 2.2 million tonnes. Rice imports in 2007/08 (July/June) are expected at some 800 000 tonnes, representing some 35 percent of domestic consumption. Wheat is not produced in Malaysia and maize production is insignificant. The 2007/08 import requirement is forecast at some 1.45 million tonnes for wheat and 2.7 million tonnes for maize.

Mongolia (2007-06-15)

Planting of the 2007 wheat crop, virtually the only cereal produced in the country, has

been completed under normal weather conditions. The outcome of this year harvest will depend on rains and temperatures during summer months. The 2006 wheat output was estimated by an FAO Mission at 145 000 tonnes, a marked recovery from the drought reduced crop of the previous year. At this level, production is expected to cover some 60 percent of the domestic wheat utilization. Import requirement in 2006/07 (September/August) are forecast at 230 000 tonnes, to be mostly supplied from neighbouring Russia.

Livestock production is the dominant agricultural activity and one of country's key economic sector. Pastures and animals are reported in good conditions following favourable weather conditions during winter months.

A UN Joint Food Security Assessment Mission, comprising FAO, UNICEF and UNDP, visited the country last October. The Mission found that the food security situation was overall satisfactory. Availability of main food staples (wheat, meat, milk and vegetables) was adequate reflecting the recovery of the agricultural sector in the past three years and increased food imports. Trade liberalization has contributed to improve availability and stability of food supplies. Markets throughout the country were well-stocked with national and imported food products. Prices of most basic foods, except meat, have remained stable or have declined in real terms since 2000. The terms of trade between meat/flour and meat/potatoes have improved benefiting access to food by herder populations. However, the bright panorama at national level hides the vulnerability and food insecurity of large numbers of households in the capital Ulaanbaatar and urban centres, where about 60 percent of the country's population is concentrated.

Pakistan (2007-06-01)

Harvesting of the 2007 winter wheat is complete in the main wheat-growing provinces. A record production of some 23 million tones is anticipated, as a result of increased use of fertilizers, following Government's subsidies, and favourable weather. Given the increase in domestic wheat supplies expected, the country is expected to export some 1.5 million tonnes of wheat in 2007/08.

The planting of the paddy crop just started and 2007 paddy production is tentatively forecast at some 8.4 million tonnes. The 2007 coarse grains output, mostly maize, is forecast at some 3.5 million tonnes. Pakistan is one of world major rice exporters and the 2007 export is forecast at some 3 million tonnes.

Republic of Korea (2007-06-01)

Planting of the 2007 paddy, the main cereal crop, is underway. In 2006, production of rice in milled terms was estimated at some 4.7 million tonnes, slightly lower than in the previous year.

The country produces only about one third of its annual cereal consumption requirement. Cereal imports in the 2006/07 marketing year (October/September) are estimated at 13.2 million tonnes, with 9.2 million tonnes of maize and 3.6 million tonnes of wheat.

Thailand (2007-06-01)

Planting of the 2007 main season crops and harvesting of the secondary season paddy crop are underway. The 2007 aggregate rice production is expected at some 30 million tonnes, similar to the good harvests of the previous two years. The 2007 maize crop, now being sown, is early forecast at some 4 million tonnes, close to the average.

Thailand, the world's largest rice exporter, is expected to increase its rice exports to some 8.5 to 8.8 million tonnes in 2007, up from 7.4 million tonnes in 2006, reflecting this year's good crop and reduced production in other major rice exporting countries in the region.

NEAR EAST

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2007-06-01)

Wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated during the winter period in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Harvesting of the 2007 barley crop was completed in March, while harvesting of wheat has just commenced. Good crops are expected for the second consecutive year reflecting favorable weather conditions and the Government's support measures including guaranteed procurement prices and provision of agriculture inputs. The country has virtually achieved self-sufficient in wheat in the recent years.

Iraq (2007-05-15)

Satellite based imagery indicate that agro-meteorological conditions during November-February were unfavourable for winter crops due to moisture deficit. Crop status at the end of February was reported to be close to the previous year. The food security situation in the country remains extremely fragile. Recent events indicate a rise in humanitarian needs due to increased displacements. UN and other international agencies are monitoring the evolution of the situation and providing assistance as needed.

2006 total cereal production, harvested last June, has been tentatively estimated at 2.7 million tonnes, similar to the previous year's level.

Israel (2007-05-15)

The output of the wheat crop, now being harvested, is expected to be an above average crop, due to generally favourable growing conditions. Production of wheat in 2006 is estimated at 132 000 tonnes, some 26 percent below the previous year's crop.

Imports of wheat in 2006/07 (October/September) are forecast at some 1.6 million tonnes, slightly above the previous year.

Jordan (2007-05-15)

Good rains in February with average temperature levels improved prospects for the 2007 winter grains, being harvested. This signified a welcome relief from the adverse weather conditions that affected crop production in 2006.

Aggregate production of wheat and barley in 2006 is estimated at 42 000 tonnes, some 36 percent down on previous year's harvest. Production of lentils, another important food crop, increased by 74 percent to 1 390 tonnes, while chickpeas production in 2006, estimated at 2 380 tonnes, was nearly 40 percent lower than the previous year.

Imports of wheat in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at more than 850 000 tonnes, about 9 percent above the previous year. Coarse grain imports are forecast at about 1 million tonnes, slightly higher than in 2005/06.

Lebanon (2007-05-15)

Prospects for the 2007 winter harvest in June/July remain favourable. Production of wheat and barley in 2006, estimated at 139 000 tonnes, remained similar to the previous year. However, the impact of the 2006 conflict between Israel and political factions in Lebanon is still heavily felt.

Domestic cereal output usually covers only about 10 percent of consumption requirements, and the country depends heavily on imports for such essential food items as wheat, rice, sugar and milk powder. Imports of cereals -- mainly wheat -- in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at some 800 000 tonnes.

The conflict has disrupted food, fuel and medical supplies and large parts of the country's infrastructure lay in ruins. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced within and outside the country. The cessation of hostilities has eased some of the problems but humanitarian assistance is still needed.

Le blé et l'orge de 2007, sur le point d'être récoltés, ont bénéficié de bonnes conditions météorologiques. La production de blé et d'orge de 2006, estimée à 139 000 tonnes, est restée inchangée par rapport à l'année précédente. Toutefois, l'impact véritable du conflit de 2006 entre Israël et les factions politiques au Liban doit encore être mesuré.

La production intérieure de céréales ne couvre habituellement que 10 pour cent environ des besoins de la consommation, et le pays est lourdement tributaire des importations pour des denrées essentielles telles que le blé, le riz, le sucre et le lait en poudre. Les importations de céréales - principalement blé - en 2006/2007 (juillet/juin) devraient se monter à quelque 800 000 tonnes.

Les troubles ont eu des incidences négatives sur les approvisionnements en vivres, en carburant et en médicaments et des pans entiers de l'infrastructure du pays sont en ruine. Des centaines de milliers de personnes ont été déplacées, tant à l'intérieur du pays qu'en dehors. La cessation des hostilités a atténué quelque peu les difficultés mais une aide humanitaire reste nécessaire.

Saudi Arabia (2007-05-15)

The output of the wheat crop, now being harvested, is expected to be below average due to generally unfavourable climatic conditions. Aerial and ground control operations against desert locusts continue on the Red Sea coast against late hopper bands and residual groups of mature adults, and in the interior against mature swarms that are laying eggs. Teams treated nearly 13 000 ha on 1 to 10 May 2007.

Production of wheat in 2006 is estimated at about 2.7 million tonnes, about 12 percent above the previous year. The output of barley is estimated at about 138 000 tonnes.

Imports of cereals in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at about 8.5 million

tonnes, including about 5.8 million tonnes of barley.

Syrian Arab Republic (2007-05-15)

The harvesting of the 2007 wheat and barley crops has just started and will continue through July. Remote sensing indicators show that the winter crop status at the end of April 2007 was close to the good 2006 season.

2006 wheat production, harvested last summer, is estimated at 5.2 million tonnes. At this level, the production is about 11 percent above the previous year's crop. Barley production, which is almost entirely rainfed, is estimated at 700 000 tonnes, slightly below last year's crop.

The bulk of the domestically produced wheat is durum wheat and imports of some 180 000 tonnes of wheat flour are forecast during the marketing year 2006/07 (July/June). Imports of rice in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 250 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

Turkey (2007-05-15)

Prospects for the 2007 winter crops, to be harvested from June, are generally unfavourable due to drier than normal weather conditions.

Wheat production in 2006 was estimated at 20.5 million tonnes, almost similar to the previous year. Production of barley, estimated at 8.8 million tonnes, was 0.4 million tonnes lower than the 2005 harvest. Maize output, estimated at about 3.2 million tonnes, is some 13 percent lower than in 2005. Record high production of maize in 2005, estimated at 3.7 million tonnes, resulted in significant reduction of area planted for maize in 2006 which in turn resulted in lower production. The Turkish Grain Board (TMO) announced recently a tender to buy maize and bought a total of 55 000 tonnes. The delivery period of the tender will be in the second half of 2007.

Wheat imports in 2006/07 (July/June) are forecast at 0.6 million tonnes compared to 0.2 million tonnes estimated for the previous year. Maize imports are also forecast to increase. The Turkish Grain Board (TMO) announced a tender in February 2007 to purchase wheat and maize. The maximum quantities to be bought are 200 000 tonnes of milling wheat and 300 000 tonnes of maize.

Yemen (2007-05-15)

Planting of the main sorghum and millet crops, to be harvested towards the end of

the year, is underway. Weather conditions are reported to be generally normal. Total cereal production in 2006, estimated at 727 000 tonnes, is 47 percent above 2005. Wheat production increased by 32 percent to about 149 000 tonnes while sorghum production increased by more than 52 percent to 402 000 tonnes. Millet production, estimated at about 82 300 tonnes is 24 percent higher than in 2005. Hatching and hopper band formations of desert locusts were reported to be underway in the interior of the country near Al-Abr and Thamud. Small adult groups and perhaps a few swarms could form in breeding areas on the southern coast near Sayut and move into the Hadhramaut interior. Control operations have not been implemented yet because of beekeepers in the area. Imports of cereals in 2007 - mainly wheat - are forecast at about 2.8 million tonnes, an increase of some 6 percent compared with 2006.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Costa Rica (2007-05-22)

La temporada de lluvias de la temporada principal de 2007 ha comenzado al inicio del mes de mayo con unas lluvias dispersas en el sur del país. Desde entonces todas las provincias, con la excepción de Guanacaste en el noroeste, están recibiendo copiosas precipitaciones, elevando el nivel de humedad de los suelos. El Instituto Meteorológico Nacional prevé una estación de lluvias más fuerte de lo normal, con posibilidades de inundaciones y deslizamientos en las zonas más propensas. Con la llegada de las lluvias, ha comenzado la siembra de la cosecha de cereales y frijoles de la primera temporada de 2007 y se prevé que las superficies sembradas con arroz y maíz blanco serán semejantes a las del año anterior, de 55 000 y 7 000 hectáreas, respectivamente. El país depende totalmente de las importaciones para satisfacer la demanda nacional de maíz y trigo y las necesidades para la campaña comercial 2007/08 (julio/junio) se pronostican en un nivel promedio de 600 000 toneladas de maíz y 225 000 toneladas de trigo. A esos volúmenes se tienen que añadir unas 110 000 toneladas de arroz.

Cuba (2007-05-31)

Unas lluvias entre moderadas e intensas han aumentado la humedad del suelo favoreciendo las operaciones de siembra de los cultivos de maíz y arroz de primavera y de verano. La zafra de 2007 acaba de terminar y, a pesar de que decenas de ingenios azucareros permanecieron abiertos hasta finales de mayo en el tentativo de acopiar una mayor producción, fuentes no oficiales estiman que la producción de azúcar crudo de 2007 podría apenas superar un millón de toneladas, convirtiéndose en el volumen más bajo obtenido en los últimos cien años. Ese resultado se debe fundamentalmente a las inusuales lluvias caídas en el mes de marzo que deterioraron el rendimiento en sacarosa y dificultaron las labores de campo, perjudicando la realización de los objetivos oficiales de producir entre 1,5 y 1,6 millones de toneladas. Fuentes oficiales reportan que el exceso de lluvia y las altas temperaturas en los primeros meses del año han afectado también las producciones de papa y de tabaco.

En la campaña comercial 2007/08 (junio/julio), se prevé que las importaciones de trigo sean alrededor del nivel normal de casi un millón de toneladas. Las importaciones de maíz han crecido fuertemente en los últimos años al fin de satisfacer la demanda nacional para piensos y se estiman en 650 000 toneladas, volumen similar al del 2006/07.

El Salvador (2007-05-31)

Con algún retraso por la limitada humedad del suelo en el litoral costero y los valles intermedios, la siembra de las importantes cosechas de cereales secundarios y arroz de la primera temporada de 2007 acaba de comenzar en la región central del país. Los pronósticos iniciales indican que la superficie sembrada será semejante a la del año anterior con 245 000 hectáreas de maíz, 90 000 hectáreas de sorgo y 4 000 hectáreas de arroz. Las necesidades de importaciones para el año comercial 2007/08 (julio/junio) se estiman en 440 000 toneladas de maíz, 300 000 toneladas de trigo y 65 000 toneladas de arroz.

Guatemala (2007-05-29)

Entre febrero y abril, utilizando la humedad residual del suelo, los pequeños productores de los departamentos de Occidente y de las zonas altas del país ya han sembrado el maíz que será cosechado en nueve/diez meses, hasta febrero de 2008. Con la llegada de las primeras lluvias a finales de mayo, acaba de comenzar la siembra de las cosechas de maíz y frijoles de la primera temporada de 2007 en los departamentos de Oriente, Norte y de la Costa. La superficie sembrada con maíz se pronostica en un nivel promedio de

600 000 hectáreas. El periodo anual de escasez de alimentos acaba de empezar en algunos departamentos del Oriente, donde ya se han terminado las reservas de granos básicos, y pronto esa situación será generalizada en todo el país. La necesidad de muchas familias de acceder a los mercados hasta la llegada de la próxima cosecha en agosto podría ser más difícil que en pasado a causa del nivel excepcional del precio del maíz que, debido principalmente a la fuerte demanda internacional para bio-combustibles, ha llegado a registrar en mayo un 30 por ciento arriba del promedio de los últimos años.

Para el trigo, el país depende totalmente de las importaciones que, en la campaña comercial 2007/08 (julio/junio), se prevén en alrededor de medio millón de toneladas, como en los últimos dos años. Las necesidades de importación de maíz amarillo, necesario para abastecer la creciente demanda de la industria de los alimentos balanceados, se pronostican en un nivel sin precedentes de 750 000 toneladas.

Honduras (2007-05-29)

Con la llegada de las lluvias estacionales acaba de comenzar la siembra de las cosechas de cereales y frijoles de la primera temporada de 2007 que continuará hasta julio. Al fin de mejorar la oferta nacional de cereales secundarios y reducir sus importaciones, el Gobierno ha lanzado el "Plan Nacional de Maíz y Sorgo". El Plan prevé incentivar la siembra de maíz y sorgo a través de la distribución de semilla mejorada y fertilizantes, de un mejor acceso al crédito y de la garantía de un precio mínimo pagado por la agroindustria. Se prevé que alrededor de 80 000 productores participarán en el Plan con el objetivo de sembrar unas 340 000 hectáreas con maíz y, si las condiciones climáticas serán favorables durante el año, obtener una producción sin precedentes. Hay preocupaciones en algunos municipios del sur del país donde se prevé un periodo de escasez de alimentos más difícil que lo normal por las reducidas cosechas obtenidas en 2006/07 y el limitado acceso a los mercados a causa del elevado precio del maíz. Al fin de evitar el desabastecimiento de los mercados locales por el alto precio internacional, las exportaciones de maíz han sido prohibidas por medio de un decreto gubernamental hasta el 30 de agosto.

Las necesidades de importaciones en la campaña comercial 2007/08 (julio/junio) se estiman en 320 000 toneladas de maíz amarillo para satisfacer la creciente demanda de la industria avícola, 250 000 toneladas de trigo y 125 000 toneladas de arroz.

Mexico (2007-05-31)

En las principales zonas productoras del noroeste, bajo condiciones atmosféricas calurosas y secas, la recolección de la importante cosecha de trigo de invierno de 2006/07 está bien avanzada. Las abundantes lluvias del mes de marzo beneficiaron el desarrollo del trigo en su fase reproductiva y de llenado de grano, reduciendo las necesidades de irrigación especialmente en las importantes áreas de producción del departamento de Sonora. La producción de trigo de la presente campaña se estima provisionalmente en 3,1 millones de toneladas, volumen levemente superior al buen resultado del año anterior. También está en curso la recolección de la cosecha de maíz de invierno de 2006/07, sembrada a fines de 2006, cuya producción se estima provisionalmente en 6,3 millones de toneladas, un 6 por ciento más que la misma temporada del año pasado. El tiempo seco ha acelerado la maduración de la cosecha de sorgo de invierno que se cultiva principalmente en el estado nororiental de Tamaulipas. La producción del sorgo de invierno se estima en 2,6 millones de toneladas, alrededor de un 17 por ciento más que la producción de la misma campaña en los últimos dos años, como consecuencia de un aumento de la superficie plantada entre febrero y marzo. La siembra de la importante cosecha de maíz de verano de 2007 ya ha comenzado en los departamentos de México, Puebla y Veracruz y las intenciones de siembra indican una superficie de 7,1 millones de hectáreas, levemente superior al programa de siembra de la misma temporada de 2006.

Se prevé que, en la campaña comercial 2007/08 (julio/junio), las importaciones de maíz

se mantendrán al nivel record del año anterior de 7,5 millones de toneladas al fin de aumentar la oferta nacional y controlar el precio en los mercados locales. Volúmenes record de importaciones se estiman también para el trigo con 3,6 millones de toneladas y el arroz con 550 000 toneladas. Completan las necesidades de importaciones unos 3 millones de toneladas de sorgo con destino a la industria de los alimentos concentrados.

Trinidad and Tobago (2007-05-31)

The country's agriculture is oriented to sugar and vegetables production. A limited quantity of cereals is locally produced: about 3 000 tonnes of maize and 3 000 tonnes of paddy in 2006. To satisfy domestic needs, cereal import requirements for marketing year 2007/08 (July/June) are estimated at about 180 000 tonnes of wheat, 65 000 tonnes of rice and 80 000 tonnes of maize, largely to fill the increasing demand of the animal feed industry.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina (2007-06-13)

La recolección de la cosecha de maíz de 2007 está actualmente en curso, favorecida por un tiempo seco y frío. A la primera semana de junio se había recogido el 82 por ciento de la superficie plantada, con una demora de un 6 por ciento en comparación a la misma fecha del año anterior. Ese retraso se debe a la mayor cantidad de hectáreas sembradas en fechas tardías, entre finales de noviembre y la mitad de diciembre, dado que las siembras tempranas no pudieron realizarse oportunamente por la limitada humedad del suelo. El rendimiento promedio se estima en alrededor de 78 quintales por hectárea, un 20 por ciento más que el rendimiento promedio de los últimos cinco años. Gracias también al aumento en la superficie plantada, los pronósticos iniciales apuntan a una producción sin precedentes de 22 millones de toneladas. La recolección de la cosecha de sorgo de 2007 está en curso y se prevé una producción sin precedentes de 3 millones de toneladas. Ese resultado se debe principalmente al importante incremento en la superficie sembrada, un 16 por ciento más que el promedio de los últimos cinco años, consecuencias de precios favorables y expectativas exportadoras.

La plantación de la cosecha de trigo de invierno de 2007, que se recogerá hacia el final del año, comenzó a mediados de mayo y sigue con un cierto retraso a causa de la escasa humedad del suelo en algunas áreas productoras de La Pampa, el sudoeste de Córdoba y el oeste de Buenos Aires. Las intenciones de siembra apuntan a 5.4 millones de hectáreas, cifra ligeramente inferior a los 5.5 millones de hectáreas de la última campaña.

La recolección de la cosecha de arroz de 2007 terminó a finales de mayo y estimaciones oficiales indican una producción ligeramente superior a un millón de toneladas, la cual es un 10 por ciento menos de la excelente producción del año anterior y un 14 por ciento más del promedio de los últimos cinco años.

Bolivia (2007-05-23)

La recolección de las cosechas principales de cereales y tubérculos de verano 2007 ha terminado al inicio de mayo, mientras acaba de comenzar la siembra de la campaña secundaria de cereales, principalmente trigo y sorgo en el departamento de Santa Cruz, que se cosecharán a partir de septiembre. La producción de cereales y tubérculos de 2007 ha sido severamente afectada por una serie de eventos climáticos adversos tales como sequías, heladas e inundaciones que han interesado prácticamente todo el país. Una misión conjunta FAO/PMA de evaluación de cultivos y suministros de alimentos visitó el país en abril y estimó la producción de cereales y tubérculos en 1.6 millones de toneladas y 985 000 toneladas respectivamente, con una reducción en ambos casos del 13 por ciento en comparación al año anterior. En particular, la producción de arroz ha bajado de 444 000 toneladas en 2006 a 290 000 toneladas, es decir una reducción del 35 por ciento, que refleja las cuantiosas pérdidas de superficie a cosechar en la región del Oriente y en los valles mesotérmicos. Una reducción de producción entre el 5 y el 8 por ciento es estimada para el maíz y la cebada en grano. Las necesidades de importación de cereales para la campaña 2007/2008 se estiman en

un nivel record de 76 000 toneladas para el arroz y en un nivel promedio de 450 000 toneladas para el trigo. Además, el déficit de unas 250 000 toneladas de papas, debido a las pérdidas de producción a causa de las heladas y la falta de lluvia en el altiplano, podría ser cubierto en parte por importaciones no registradas desde Perú y Argentina y en parte con un aumento del consumo de pasta y pan a través de unas importaciones adicionales de trigo y harina de trigo. El PMA acaba de aprobar una Operación de Emergencia de unas 10 000 toneladas de alimentos para asistir hasta abril 2008 a unas 90 000 personas más afectadas por las recientes inundaciones en los departamentos de Santa Cruz, Beni, Cochabamba, Tarija y Pando.

Brazil (2007-05-31)

Harvesting of 2007 first season summer maize crop is well advanced in Centre-South states and output is officially forecast at record 36.4 million tonnes, about 15 percent above the volume of last year's drought-affected first season. This result is essentially due to favourable weather conditions throughout the growing season that boosted yield from 3.39 tonnes per hectare in 2006 to 3.85 tonnes per hectare in 2007. Maize crop productivity increased especially in southern states of Parana, Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, responsible for about 50 per cent of first season maize crop is produced, where 2006 average yield is estimated at high 5.25 tonnes per hectares, about 30 per cent above last five years average. In Centre-West states, dry weather conditions are favouring maturation of 2007 second season (*safrinha*) winter maize crop that was planted until March after soybean harvest. Safrinha's production is early forecast at record 15 million tonnes mainly due to the effect of high international prices at planting time that have induced farmers to increase the area planted from 3.3 million hectares in 2006 to 4.2 million hectare in 2007. In addition, yield prospects are good due to early planting in key producing areas where harvesting of soybean crop was promoted by dry weather conditions. Aggregate maize crop production in 2007 is officially forecast at record 51.4 million tonnes.

Planting of winter wheat crop has been virtually completed in Parana, but it is still underway in Rio Grande do Sul where planting takes place after the harvest of soybean crop. Wheat planted area is early forecast at 1.75 million hectares, about 13 percent above previous year.

Harvesting of paddy crop has been virtually completed in Centre-South states, while it is starting in the North and North-East. Good yields are expected due to favourable precipitation in non-irrigated areas of Centre-West and North-East as well as adequate availability of water in irrigated areas of Centre-South. Paddy production in 2007 is early estimated at 11.3 million tonnes, similar to previous year, but still well below the record of about 13 million tonnes of 2005 and 2004.

Chile (2007-05-31)

La recolección de la cosecha de maíz de 2007 está muy avanzada y se prevé una producción sin precedentes levemente superior al millón y medio de toneladas. Ese resultado se debe al buen precio nacional pagado a finales de la temporada anterior y a la evolución creciente de los precios internacionales que incentivaron el aumento de la superficie plantada. Además, unas condiciones meteorológicas favorables han sido determinantes para obtener excelentes rendimientos. La recolección de la cosecha de arroz de 2007 ha terminado hace poco con una producción estimada oficialmente en 135 000 toneladas, un 16 por ciento menos del volumen sin precedentes del año anterior. Dos factores han causado ese resultado: (1) las bajas expectativas de rentabilidad, basadas en el resultado de la cosecha anterior cuando el precio fue muy inferior al del año 2005, determinaron una reducción del 5,2 por ciento en la superficie sembrada y (2) unas intensas lluvias caídas en octubre impidieron las siembras más tempranas y las que pudieron realizarse fueron afectadas por fríos intensos y resultaron en menores rendimientos. Las necesidades de importación para la campaña comercial 2007/08 (julio/junio) se pronostican en 1.7 millones de toneladas de maíz (principalmente amarillo para las industrias avícola y porcina en continua expansión), 950 000 toneladas de trigo y 90 000 toneladas de arroz.

Ecuador (2007-05-29)

La recolección de las cosechas principales de arroz y de maíz de invierno de 2007 ha comenzado a finales de abril. La producción anual de arroz se estima en 1.3 millones de toneladas, un volumen ligeramente inferior a lo del año anterior a causa de la reducción en la superficie sembrada y de la escasez de agua al inicio del año, especialmente en los departamentos de la costa. De hecho, varios productores de zonas altas o sin riego decidieron remplazar el arroz con productos más rentables, como maíz, palma africana, cacao, soya y caña de azúcar. La producción de maíz, principalmente de tipo amarillo, se estima en 880 000 toneladas, con una recuperación del 7 por ciento respecto al año anterior cuya producción fue mermada por algunos eventos climáticos adversos. Mientras se prevé que el país sea autosuficiente en arroz, las necesidades de importación para la campaña comercial 2007 (enero/diciembre) se pronostican en 420 000 toneladas de maíz y 500 000 toneladas de trigo.

Uruguay (2007-05-31)

Unas precipitaciones torrenciales, insólitas para mediados de mayo, causaron fuertes inundaciones especialmente en los departamentos de Durazno, Soriano y Treinta y Tres. Fuentes oficiales reportan, sin embargo, que las pérdidas se limitan a una reducción de la calidad de granos, como arroz, maíz, sorgo y soya, y que los volúmenes esperados de las cosechas no han sido afectados. La recolección de la cosecha de maíz y sorgo de 2007 ha recién terminado y, gracias al simultáneo aumento de superficie plantada y rendimientos, ambas producciones se estiman en niveles sin precedentes con 280 000 y 190 000 toneladas, respectivamente. Está terminada la recolección de la cosecha de arroz de 2007 y la producción se estima en 1,2 millones de toneladas, volumen ligeramente inferior a la producción sin precedentes del año anterior. El efecto de la reducción de la superficie sembrada de casi el 20 por ciento a causa de la limitada disponibilidad de agua al momento de la siembra a finales de 2006 ha sido compensado por el aumento de los rendimientos, que se estiman en promedio en unas 7.9 toneladas por hectárea, un 20 por ciento más de la productividad de los últimos cinco años.

Venezuela (2007-05-29)

Al inicio de mayo, las primeras lluvias de la estación han favorecido el comienzo de la siembra de la cosecha de maíz de la campaña de verano 2007 en las principales zonas productoras de Portuguesa, Guarico y Barinas. Según el Plan Nacional de Siembras, se prevé alcanzar las 700 000 hectáreas sembradas y, gracias a un mejor acceso al uso de fertilizantes, obtener una producción sin precedentes de 2,5 millones de toneladas. La recolección de la cosecha de arroz de invierno ha también iniciado y la producción (en cáscara) se estima provisionalmente en 800 000 toneladas, un 6 por ciento más de la producción del 2006 pero aún inferior al promedio de los últimos cinco años. El país es tradicionalmente autosuficiente en arroz y sus necesidades de importar maíz se van reduciendo progresivamente al aumentar la producción nacional; al contrario, en el caso del trigo, depende totalmente de las importaciones para satisfacer el creciente consumo doméstico. Según se prevé, en la campaña comercial 2007/08 (julio/junio) las importaciones de trigo y maíz alcanzarán los volúmenes de 1,6 millones de toneladas y 250 000 toneladas, respectivamente.

NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE AND OCEANIA

NORTH AMERICA

Canada (2007-06-01)

In Canada, planting of the main 2007 grain crops is underway. Late season snowfall is reported to have improved moisture conditions in some areas where dryness prevailed from last year, but some parts, especially southern Saskatchewan would still benefit from more moisture. According the Statistics Canada Planting Intentions report of 24 April, Canadian farmers intend to reduce sharply the area planted to spring wheat (the major cereal), in favour of durum wheat, barley, oats or non-cereals such as canola or field peas, which are expected to generate better returns this year.

United States of America (2007-06-11)

Prospects for the 2007 cereal production in the United States are very favourable. In early June, the bulk of the wheat crop was still reported in good to excellent condition. With an almost 20 percent increase forecast in the area to be harvested this year, following increased plantings and much less winterkill, aggregate wheat output is forecast to reach a bumper 59 million tonnes, compared to 49 million tonnes in 2006. This would be the largest harvest since the record in 2003. Regarding coarse grains, the country is on track to produce its biggest ever maize crop in 2007. As of early June, maize planting was reported to be virtually complete and the area is estimated to be the largest since 1944, mostly in response to exceptionally strong domestic demand for maize-based ethanol production. Assuming average to above-average yields, should the generally favourable conditions experienced during the season continue, then a record output, well in excess of 300 million tonnes, could be achieved. So far the bulk of the crop is reported in good to excellent condition but as of early June, more rain is needed in some eastern Corn Belt states, where, otherwise, dry conditions could start to stress crops.

EUROPE

EU (2007-06-11)

In the European Union, latest prospects still point to an increase in cereal production in 2007 although, following exceptionally dry weather in some major producing parts in April, the aggregate cereal output will likely fall short of the forecasts earlier in the season. An estimated 2 percent increase in the aggregate cereal area in the 27 countries provides the basis for this year's larger production forecast but yield expectations are somewhat mixed after varied weather conditions across the region. In **France**, the moisture availability didn't improve much in May in central and northern parts, after dry conditions already throughout April, and there is expected to be a significant impact on yields. In **Germany**, rain in May improved conditions for developing crops after a very dry April but it probably arrived too late to avoid some loss of the yield potential. In **Italy**, where the Government declared a drought emergency in early May, good rains

later in the month have reduced fears for severe crop losses. Good rains in the late spring in the **United Kingdom** and **Poland** reduced the likelihood of irreversible damage to crops in these two countries also. **Spain** continued to have favourable weather conditions this season with regular rain and mild temperatures and a sharp increase in cereal production is forecast this year following the last two years drought-reduced crops. Prospects in the eastern EU countries are among the most unfavourable. In **Romania**, the total cereal output may remain close to last year's reduced level, but the wheat crop may be the lowest since the severe drought year of 2003. In **Bulgaria**, the harvest prospects are very uncertain after unusual and rapidly changing weather throughout the season. However, it seems that some reasonable rains in mid-season were not sufficient to prevent significant yield losses and a below-average cereal crop is expected.

Moldova (2007-06-01)

Warm weather and generally favourable crop growing conditions during winter, coupled with lack of frost in March and April, have benefited development of the 2007 winter cereal crops. FAO has provided improved seed varieties this season as the country struggles to increase its capacity to meet seed requirements, but fertiliser and agro-chemical application remain below optimum since independence time. Latest reports indicate that the 2007 winter crops are generally in good conditions and winterkill has been insignificant. Provided that favourable weather conditions persist, the 2007 cereal production (winter and spring crops) is officially forecast at nearly 3 million tonnes, the highest level of the past two decades.

Aggregate cereal export during the marketing year 2007/08(July/June) are forecast to increase from the 2006/07 projected level of 360 000 tonnes.

Ukraine (2007-06-01)

Warm weather conditions and adequate soil moisture during winter encouraged farmers to plant relatively larger areas with winter cereals, while generally favourable weather and lack of frost in March and April favoured crop development and enabled farmers to complete spring cereal planting, almost a month ahead of schedule. This is in contrast to the normal seasonal conditions of cold snaps and frost in March-April, which can often compromise significant areas of winter cereals and delay spring planting.

Latest estimates indicate that some 6.6 million hectares have been sowed with winter cereals this year, more than half a million hectares up on last year. Winter cereals are reportedly in good conditions and prospects are for an above average harvest. The 2007 aggregate cereal output (winter and spring crops) is tentatively forecast at about 38 million tonnes, nearly 4 million tonnes up on last year's level.

In view of favourable prospects for this year's cereal crops, Ukraine lifted a ceiling on cereal exports in December 2006, and since then allowed 800 000 tonnes of exports. Aggregate cereal export for the 2007/08 marketing year (July/June) is forecast to increase for the 2006/07 level projected of some 10 million tonnes.

OCEANIA

Australia (2007-06-11)

The outlook for the 2007 winter cereal crops is mixed across the country. In the eastern states,

prospects are generally favourable following the timely arrival of rains in May. It is reported that farmers in South Australia have planted the largest area on record to winter crops, most of which is wheat, and favourable conditions allowed the bulk of planting to be carried out at the optimum time. In southeast Queensland and northern New South Wales, after a more patchy start to the season's rainfall, soaking rains in early June have greatly improved the prospects for a return to average cereal production levels in 2007 after drought-reduced crops in recent years. By contrast, as of early June, many parts of Western Australian had not received sufficient rainfall to allow planting. However, it is still too early to estimate the final planted area although the optimum time for planting is mid-May, crops can be sown until early July should there be a good rainfall.

A good crop is needed in 2007 to improve the country's cereal supply situation after the severe drought in 2006, which cut production drastically, forcing exports to be reduced and causing a sharp reduction in stocks.

Overview

- Findings from three nutrition assessments conducted in June 2007 in Middle and Lower Juba indicate a **serious** nutrition situation in the Agro Pastoral and Pastoral population and a **critical** nutrition situation in the Riverine population. Retrospective crude mortality rates indicate an alert situation (CMR between 1 and 2/10,000/day) in two of the three livelihood zones:
 - The Juba Riverine Nutrition Assessment findings report a **Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)** rate of **15.4%** CI: (13.4-17.4) and a **Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)** rate of **3.2%** CI: (2.3-4.2). The ³crude mortality rate was estimated at **1.98/10,000/day** CI: (1.29-2.67)
 - The Juba Pastoral Nutrition Assessment findings report a **GAM** rate of **13.4%** CI: (11.0-15.8) and a **SAM** rate of **1.3%** CI: (0.5-2.1). The crude mortality rate was estimated at **0.85/10,000/day** CI:(0.47-1.23)
 - The Juba Agro pastoral Nutrition Assessment findings indicate a **GAM** rate of **10.2%** CI: (8.0-12.4) and a **SAM** rate of **1.3%** CI: (0.4-2.2). The crude mortality rate was estimated at **1.1/10,000/day** CI: (0.79-1.41).
- Although the nutrition situation in the Riverine population remains critical and to a lesser extent in the Agro Pastorals and Pastoral populations, there are indications of an improvement across the Region. This improvement is seen to a larger degree in the Pastoral and Agropastoral populations and is likely to be associated with increased access to milk and milk products following significant recovery of livestock body conditions, kidding and calving during the Deyr 06/07 season.
- Morbidity rates in these populations remain high, most notably as a result of Acute Watery Epidemic (AWD) in the last few months where a cumulative number of 3,690 cases were reported with a **Case Fatality Rate (CFR)** of **7.16%** (*WHO June 29th AWD bulletin*) reported in Juba. This AWD outbreak is also likely to have contributed to the elevated mortality rates.
- As part of the Post Gu '07 seasonal assessment, the nutrition team of FSAU have been conducting rapid assessments using MUAC in areas of the country not surveyed this year. These results, along with additional nutrition and health information from health centres, selective feeding centres, sentinel sites and nutrition assessments, will be analysed together to provide an updated integrated analysis

1 Global Acute Malnutrition (Weight for height Z scores < -2 and/or bilateral oedema)
 2 Severe Acute Malnutrition (Weight for Height Z scores < -3 and/or bilateral oedema)
 3 90 days recall period
 4 CFR refers to the number of deaths per 100 cases. Prompt and appropriate medical management of cases would enable the CFR to remain at manageable levels <2% in rural settings and <1% in urban settings.

SPECIAL FOCUS ON MIDDLE AND LOWER JUBA

Context

Middle and Lower Juba Regions are located in the Juba Valley in Southern Somalia (*See Map 1*). The regions border Kenya to the west, the Indian Ocean and Lower Shabelle Region to the southeast, Gedo Region to the north and Bay Region to the east. Middle Juba Region is comprised of three districts (Bu'aale, Sakow/Salagle and Jilib) and Lower Juba is comprised of five districts (Badhadhe, Hagar, Afmadow, Kismayo and Jamame). The total population of the ⁵two regions is estimated at 624,667 who fall into five livelihood zones⁶: Riverine, Pastoral, Agro-pastoral, Coastal and Urban.

⁵ Middle Juba has a population size of 385,790 and Lower Juba of 238, 877

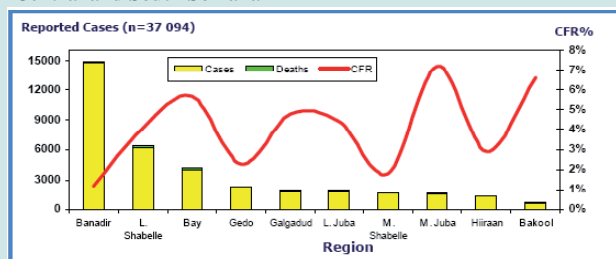
⁶ The Baseline Profiles are currently being revised by FSAU

of the nutrition situation across the country. This analysis, with a new *Estimated Nutrition Situation Map*, will be presented in a Special Gu Nutrition Update, next month.

Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) – Highlights from the WHO Update 29th June 2007

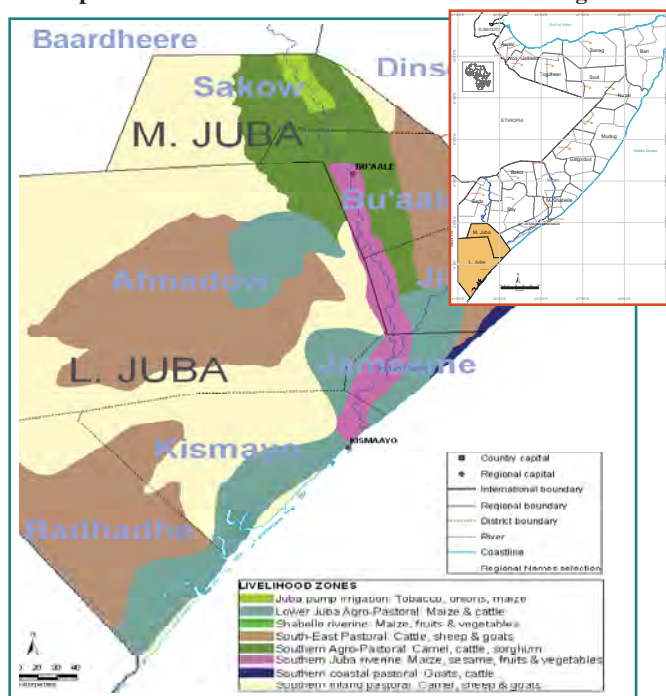
Between January 1st and June 29th, 2007, **37,301** cases of AWD were reported from the ten regions of South and Central Zone including **1,133** related deaths, with a case fatality rate (CFR) of **3.05%**. Although Middle Juba reported only 5% (1690) of the total reported cases, they reported the highest overall CFR of **7.16%**. A total of 2000 cases, (6%), were reported from Lower Juba, with an overall CFR of **4.35%**. The overall CFR continued to decrease from 4.32% in epidemiological week 14, with no related-deaths reported from all regions in week 26 (**CFR=0.00**). **The Acute Watery diarrhoea trend has shown that the number of reported cases is decreasing in all regions except Middle Juba.**

Figure 1: Distribution of AWD cases,deaths, and CRF by region, Central and South Somalia



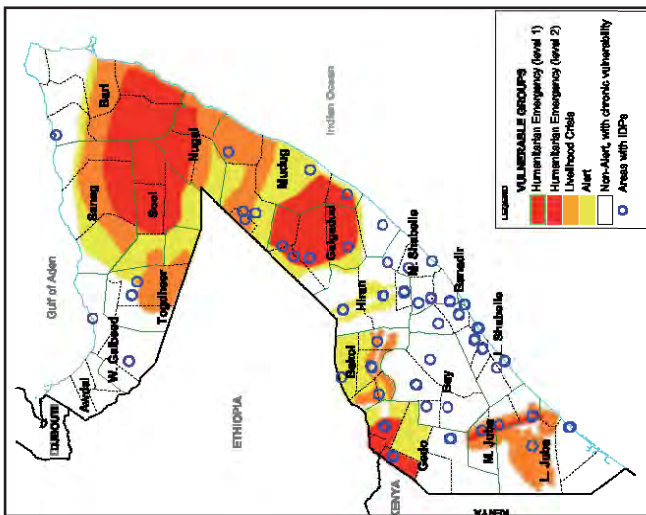
In the northwest zone, a total of **3,019** cases of AWD have been reported including **43** deaths (**CFR=1.19%**) between January 1st and July 13th, 2007. **The overall CFR shows a decreasing trend from 5.26% in epidemiological week 20 to 1.43% in the current week (week 28).** Awdal region reported the highest CFR of **2.23%**. The number of reported AWD cases shows a decreasing trend in all regions in the northwest zone.

Map 1: Livelihood Zones Middle & Lower Juba Region

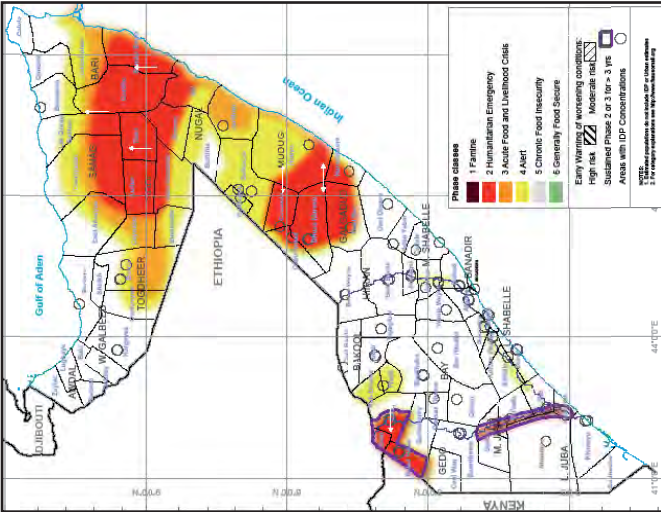


TIME-SERIES OF THE INTEGRATED PHASE CLASSIFICATIONS (IPC) MAPS FOR SOMALIA 2004 – 2007

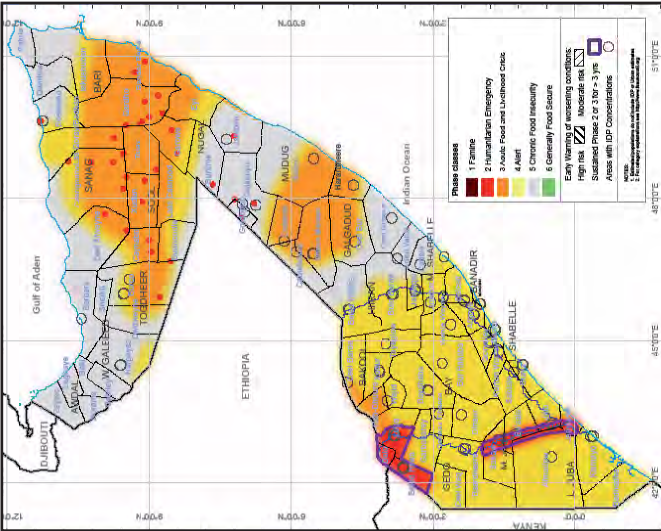
POST GU 2004 (JULY '04)



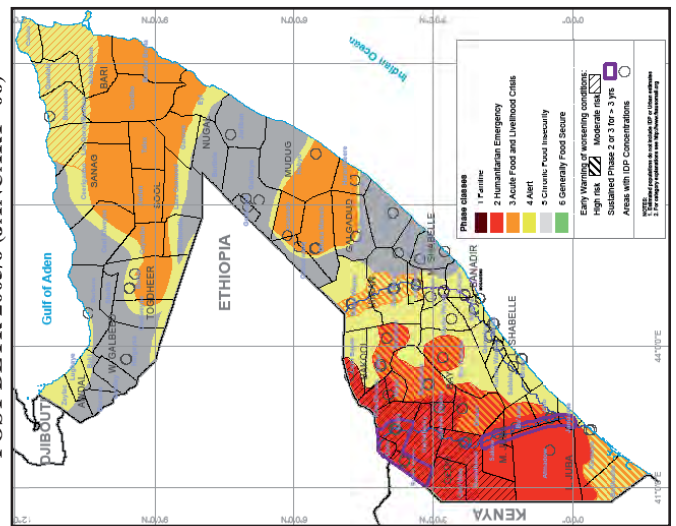
POST DEYR 2004/5 (JANUARY '05)



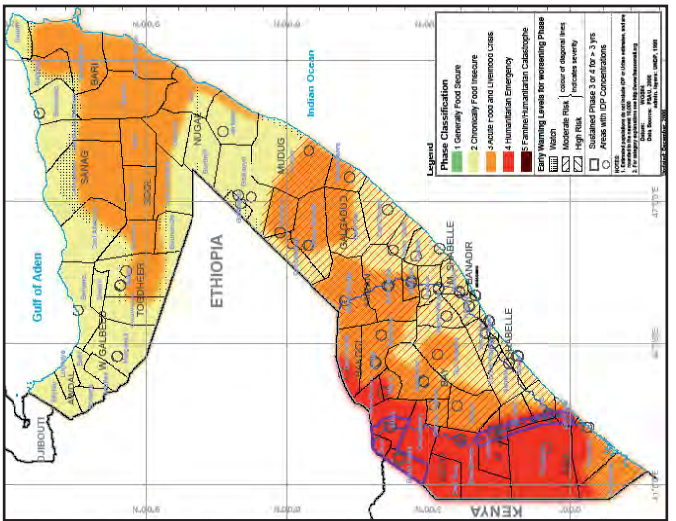
POST GU 2005 (JULY '05)



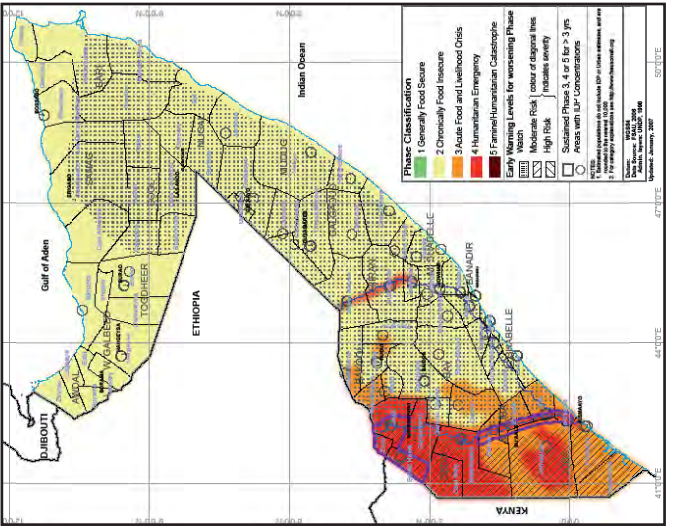
POST DEYR 2005/6 (JANUARY '06)



POST GU 2006 (JULY '06)



POST DEYR 2006/7 (JANUARY '07)



Since the collapse of the Somali Central Government in 1991, South and Central Somalia, including Middle and Lower Juba Regions, have faced a series of disasters, both natural (floods and droughts) and man-made (poor governance, sporadic armed conflict and widespread human rights abuses). The aftermaths of which, have been limited resilience for parts of the population to recover from shocks. The FSAU Integrated Phase Classification series of Maps from 2004 (*See page 2*) highlights sustained Humanitarian Emergency (HE) or Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) in parts of Middle and Lower Juba Regions over the last few years. For the Riverine group, the humanitarian emergency situation has been sustained for over three years (indicated by the purple line).

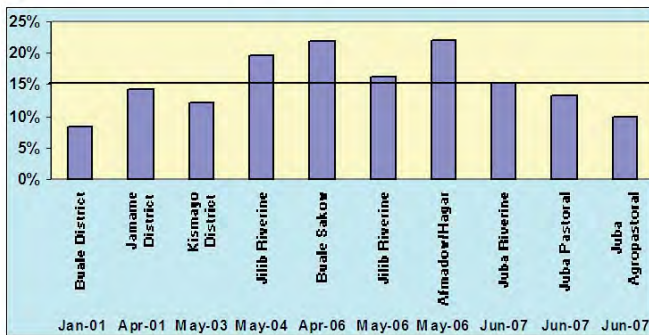


Photo 1. Arare Village flooded, Jamame District, Jan 2007 (FSAU)

Historical Nutrition Situation

Historical data on nutrition surveys conducted in Middle and Lower Juba Regions indicates a serious nutrition situation with global acute malnutrition levels ranging from 10-22.0%, with three assessments reporting above the emergency threshold of >15% in this timeframe as illustrated (*Figure 2*). Although a direct comparison between assessments is not possible, due to the varying locations and timings of the assessments, with the exception of Bu'ale District assessment (January 2001), these trends illustrate a persistent serious nutrition situation with results of >10%, being reported throughout 2001 to current time. However, what is of note is the downward trend in the prevalence of acute malnutrition in 2007.

Figure 2. Trends in Acute Malnutrition 2001 to 2007, Juba Regions, Expressed in Z Scores, (<-2 Scores WHZ)

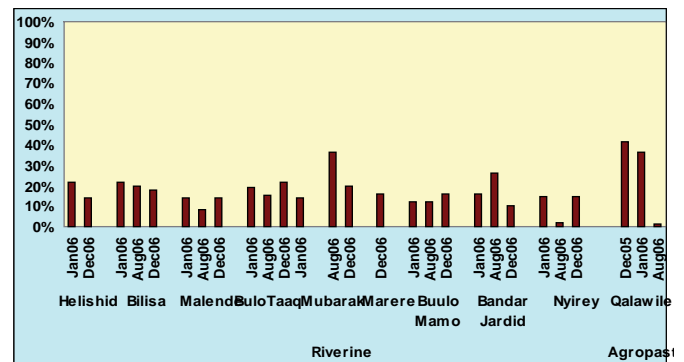


Of most nutritional concern are the **Riverine population**, who have experienced a series of shocks over recent years, which has resulted in high levels of nutritional vulnerability and limited opportunities to recover.

This is the result of the high reliance for food and income from rain fed and irrigated crops, which are very susceptible to losses from flooding. In addition, with limited alternative opportunities to diversify livelihoods, a history of marginalisation with limited external support and sub standard water and sanitation facilities, these populations have very low resilience when faced with a shock. This is already observed in the higher levels of acute malnutrition reported from the assessments conducted in the Riverine areas in (*Figure 2*). Further to this, following the Deyr '06/07, the nutrition situation in Juba Riverine had indicated deterioration from the already critical situation.

This was associated with the severe flooding in November and December '06 (*Photo 1*) where an increase in water borne diseases was being reported, in addition to significant loss of food stocks and crops planted. Trends in levels of acutely malnourished children from the sentinel sites in these areas had indicated an improvement earlier in 2006 (Jan to August) but from August '06 to December '06 deterioration in the levels of acutely malnourished children had been reported in several sites due to this shock (*Figure 3*).

Figure 3. Levels of acutely malnourished children from sentinel sites in Juba Valley, Agropastoral and Riverine livelihoods



The historical timeline of events in the Middle and Lower Juba Regions and their potential contribution to the sustained serious nutrition situation is provided in the table beginning overleaf.

Historical Timeline of Events In Middle and Lower Juba Regions and Their Potential Contribution to The Sustained Serious Nutrition Situation		
Year	Events And Potential Risk Factors for Acute Malnutrition	Nutritional Status Outcome
1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collapse of the Somalia Central Government and with it, governance problems and sporadic armed conflict in Middle and Lower Juba Regions. This led to widespread human rights abuses, interruption to normal livelihood practices and reduced access to food and health care services. • Heavy fighting and insecurity in Kismayo leads to heavy looting of crops, livestock and assets in the surrounding areas. • The Gu rains are average but the Deyr rains failed. This marks the beginning of drought conditions reported in parts of South and Central Somalia and leads to reduced availability of meat, milk and milk products for consumption, livestock deaths and crop failure. • Massive displacement of people within Somalia and across the border into refugee camps in Kenya in search of assistance • Food Economy Baseline Profile (2000): A Poor – Medium year <p><i>(Sources: FSAU Food Economy Baseline Profile, 2001-2002, FSAU Nutrition Update for April 2007; Inter Agency Assessment Gedo Region, February-April 2000).</i></p>	<i>Nutrition data not available this year for Juba</i>
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing insecurity across the two Juba Regions limits access for humanitarian actors • Drought and famine conditions continue in the South. Total collapse of livelihoods following massive livestock deaths (limiting access to meat, milk and milk products for consumption) and crop failure. This leads to high numbers of internally displaced populations within the region and across the border to Kenya • ICRC provides relief food in region • 'Operation Restore Hope', UNITAF, commences in Somalia December 1992 • FSAU Baseline Profile: A Bad year <p><i>(Sources: FSAU Food Economy Baseline Profile, 2001-2002, FSAU Nutrition Update for April 2007; Inter Agency Assessment Gedo Region, February-April 2000).</i></p>	<i>Nutrition data not available this year for Juba</i>
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing insecurity and fighting with populations in Kismayo and Sakow badly affected • UNISOM takes over from 'Operation Restore Hope' (UNITAF) in May, enabling humanitarian food assistance to commence in South Somalia, including Middle and Lower Juba Regions. UNISOM sponsors 'Kismayo Airport Juba land reconciliation'. • End of the drought. Improved rainfall leading to increased production in both agriculture and livestock sectors • A cholera outbreak in the Juba Valley mainly in the Agro pastoral and Pastoral areas kills large numbers of people • FSAU Livelihood Profile: A Normal-Good year <p><i>(Sources: FSAU Food Economy Baseline Profile, 2001-2002, FSAU Nutrition Update for April 2007; Inter Agency Assessment Gedo Region, February-April 2000)</i></p>	<i>Nutrition data not available this year for Juba</i>
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNISOM's continued presence in Somalia • The Somali Aid Coordination Body established to coordinate humanitarian response in Somalia • UNHCR coordinates refugee repatriation movement from Kenya to Juba • The Absame tribe peace conference is held in Doble • Medium rains are received, pasture becomes available and livestock conditions and production are good. Crop production is good and prices of food commodities normal across the regions. • FSAU Baseline Profile: A Good year <p><i>(Sources: FSAU Food Economy Baseline Profile, 2001-2002, FSAU Nutrition Update for April 2007; Inter Agency Assessment Gedo Region, February-April 2000).</i></p>	<i>Nutrition data not available this year for Juba</i>
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNISOM withdraws from Somalia due to heightened insecurity. • UNHCR repatriates Middle and Lower Juba refugees from Kenyan camps • Gu & Deyr rainfall failure causing crop failure and poor livestock condition • FSAU Baseline Profile: A Good year <p><i>(Sources: FSAU Food Economy Baseline Profile, 2001-2002, FSAU Nutrition Update for April 2007; Inter Agency Assessment Gedo Region, February-April 2000).</i></p>	<i>Nutrition data not available this year for Juba</i>
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average crop production but very poor livestock condition • Massive livestock slaughter due to disease (suspected severe Foot and Mouth Disease) and drought. • Southern Somalia is classified as a humanitarian emergency zone by the UN Appeal for 1996/97 • Refugee movement to Kenya • FSAU Baseline Profile: A Bad year <p><i>(Sources: FSAU Food Economy Baseline Profile, 2001-2002, FSAU Nutrition Update for April 2007; Inter Agency Assessment Gedo Region, February-April 2000).</i></p>	<i>Nutrition data not available this year for Juba</i>
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El-Nino rains, increasing water and pasture availability, resulting in good livestock production in the short term. However, with continued heavy rains, large numbers of people, shoats and camel deaths occur. An unknown camel disease leading to livestock deaths is reported. • The persistently heavy rains cause serious floods, deaths and extensive damage to infrastructure and property. Hundreds of thousands of people are displaced and significant crops and livestock lost. Flood recession commences towards the end of the year. • Communicable disease outbreaks mainly, malaria and acute watery diarrhoea, causing high mortality are reported • FSAU Baseline Profile: A Mixed Year <p><i>(Sources: FSAU Food Economy Baseline Profile, 2001-2002, FSAU Nutrition Update for April 2007; Inter Agency Assessment Gedo Region, February-April 2000).</i></p>	<i>Nutrition data not available this year for Juba</i>

<p>1998</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rift valley fever outbreak in Juba Valley following El-Nino floods The Saudi Arabian Government, the main importer of Somalia's livestock, imposes a ban due to RVF. This leads to reduced income access options for Somalia including Middle and Lower Juba Regions Pasture and water availability normal High infestation of birds and rats severely attack crop causing major damage. Suspected anthrax and tick borne diseases attack livestock. There is serious clan fighting in Sakow District from November 1998-April 1999. FSAU Baseline Profile: A Mixed year <p><i>(Sources: FSAU Food Economy Baseline Profile, 2001-2002, FSAU Nutrition Update for April 2007: Inter Agency Assessment Gedo Region, February-April 2000), February-April 2000)</i></p>	<p><i>Nutrition data not available this year for Juba</i></p>
<p>1999</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battle for control of Kismayo continues Normal Gu rains and crop production but the Deyr is below normal FSAU Baseline Profile: A Normal Year <p><i>(Sources: FSAU Food Economy Baseline Profile, 2001-2002, FSAU Nutrition Update for April 2007: Inter Agency Assessment Gedo Region, February-April 2000)</i></p>	<p><i>Nutrition data not available this year for Juba</i></p>
<p>2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is unusual live-stock migration from Kenya, M&L Juba to the Juba riverine areas for pastures and water, due to the drought Crop and livestock production are low The livestock ban imposed by the gulf countries in 1998 on Somali livestock due to Rift Valley Fever (RVF) still in place FSAU Baseline Profile: A Mixed Year <p><i>(Sources: FSAU Food Economy Baseline Profile, 2001-2002, FSAU Nutrition Update for April 2007: Inter Agency Assessment Gedo Region, February-April 2000)</i></p>	<p><i>Nutrition data not available this year for Juba</i></p>
<p>2001</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued unusual livestock migration to the Juba riverine areas for pastures and water, due to the drought Closure of the Kenya- Somalia border due to conflict and insecurity in the Juba areas Disrupted trade link between Juba Valley and Mogadishu due to fighting in the riverine areas FSAU Baseline Profile: A Bad Year <p><i>(Sources: FSAU Food Economy Baseline Profile, 2001-2002, FSAU Nutrition Update for April 2007: FSAU Monthly reports for February & August 2001, Inter Agency Assessment Gedo Region, February-April 2000)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FSAU/UNICEF Bu'aale District Survey reported a GAM rate of 8.4% Jamame District survey (FSAU/ UNICEF/ April 2001) reported a GAM rate of 14.3%
<p>2002</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor Deyr '01/02 rains lead to significant crop failure and out-migration of livestock in search of water and pasture. There is significant loss of assets especially in the poor wealth groups and cereal prices become extremely high and inaccessible for majority of the poor Light Gu rains lead to an improvement in water and pasture availability, and crop production. Cereal prices reduce with the Gu harvest and become more accessible. FSAU Baseline Profile: A Very Bad Year <p><i>(Source: FSAU Monthly Reports, February 02: July-Aug 02: FSAU Food Economy Baseline Profile 2001-2002)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afmadow Town (FSAU April 2002), Rapid MUAC assessment with 9.5% identified as acutely malnourished (N=200) with MUAC (<12.5cm or oedema) Hagar Town (FSAU April 2002), Rapid MUAC assessment with 10.5% identified as acutely malnourished (MUAC < 12.5 cm) Jilib District, 8 villages (FSAU October 2002), Rapid MUAC assessment with 14.6% identified as acutely malnourished with MUAC < 12.5 cm (N=365) <p><i>(Source: Nutrition Updates for April & October 2002)</i></p>
<p>2003</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor Deyr 02/03 performance in Afmadow and Hagar but average - normal in the riverine areas <i>(FSAU Monthly Report for March 2003)</i> Food insecurity situation following poor Gu 2003 rains. Insecurity disrupts seasonal migration of agro pastoralists and pastoralists to grazing areas, leading to food insecurity in these groups <p><i>(Sources: FSAU Monthly reports August-December 2003)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kismayo District survey (FSAU/May 2003): GAM: 12.2% Jilib riverine villages (FSAU/July 2003): MUAC assessment recorded 28% acute malnutrition (MUAC<12.5 or oedema). Jilib riverine villages (FSAU/Oct 2003): MUAC assessment recorded 14.8% acute malnutrition (MUAC<12.5 or oedema). Kismayo IDP rapid assessment (FSAU/March 2003): 21% acute malnutrition amongst under fives (MUAC< 12.5 cm or oedema).
<p>2004</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FSAU Post Gu '04 Analysis: 54,000 people in the riverine community of the Middle Juba are faced with a Humanitarian Emergency and 61,000 with a Livelihood Crisis due to chronic and on-going civil insecurity. Consecutive seasons of near crop failure, unaffordable food prices, limited income earning opportunities, and limited social support networks have pushed this fragile group into a state of humanitarian emergency. An additional 59,000 agro-pastoral and pastoral households face a livelihood crisis in Afmadow and Jamame Districts. Therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs by MSFH on-going in Marere, Jilib District <p><i>(Source: The FSAU Post Gu '04 Analysis, Technical Series Report IV.2 Sept. 2004)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jilib riverine survey (FSAU/UNICEF /May 2004) reported a GAM rate of 19.5% and USMR of 5.4/10,000/day FSAU Post Gu Integrated Nutrition Situation Analysis indicates: A Critical Nutrition Situation coupled with high disease burden <i>(Source: The FSAU Post Gu '04 Analysis, Technical Series Report IV.2 Sept. 2004)</i>

<p>2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSAU Post Deyr '04/05 Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Juba Riverine areas are of significant concern due to the continuing and chronic state of Humanitarian Emergency, with an estimated 83,000 people in a state of Humanitarian Emergency with no improvement since the previous FSAU assessment in Sept '04. o Excessive rains and river floods destroyed more than half of the maize production. Civil insecurity, the main underlying cause of the areas vulnerability, continues to disrupt economic activities and undermine people's livelihoods food security and well being • FSAU Post Gu '05 Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 116,000 people in the Middle and Lower Juba Valley are in a state of Chronic Humanitarian Emergency, with a further 20,000 in a state of Acute Livelihood Crisis. o The deteriorating situation of the Juba Riverine communities is attributed to the devastating floods during the May-June 2005 which destroyed standing crops (including fruit trees) and underground granaries or bakaars, submerged farms and villages, destroyed feeder roads and cut-off settlements and villages from the main towns and markets. o The Pastoral and Agro pastoral populations in the Juba valley region in a state of Alert. (Sources: <i>The FSAU Post Deyr '04/05 Analysis, Technical Series Reports IV.3 Feb 2005; The FSAU Post Gu'05 Analysis, Technical Series Reports IV.7 Sept. 2005</i>) • Therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs by MSFH on-going in Marere, Jilib District <i>(Source: MSFH 2005, Monthly reports on Therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSAU Post Deyr 04/05 Integrated Nutrition Situation Analysis indicates A Critical Nutrition Situation in M&L Juba and Very Critical Nutrition in the Riverine areas (Source: <i>The FSAU Post Deyr 04/05 Analysis, Technical Series Report IV.3, February 28, 2005</i>) • FSAU's first round of sentinel sites conducted in 8 sites in Juba indicate levels of acute malnutrition of >15% WHZ or oedema. • Bu'aale riverine (Sukeyla village) (FSAU/July 2005): MUAC assessment recorded 27.4% acute malnutrition (MUAC <12.5cm or oedema)
<p>2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSAU Post Deyr '05/06 Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o An estimated 235,000 people in Middle and Lower Juba face a Humanitarian Emergency and 110,000 face an Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis as a result of prolonged drought that has led to crop failure and loss of livestock. All livelihood systems are affected. Juba Riverine community are now faced with 'Sustained Humanitarian Emergency' for preceding 3 years. o Middle and Lower Juba are also hosting a large number of people from north eastern Kenya and Gedo, who have migrated into the area and have settled around strategic boreholes and water points along the Juba River. • FSAU Post Gu'06 Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 210,000 in Middle and Lower Juba Regions are faced with a Humanitarian Emergency and 87,000 with an Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis o The overall performance of the Gu rains throughout the season was poor, both in intensity and distribution over time and geographically, despite some improvement in pasture and browsing conditions in the hinterland. Water availability is critical. Many pastoralists and agro pastoralists have migrated towards the riverine and coastal areas in search of water due to water shortages and high competition for resources from in-migrated livestock from Gedo and North-eastern Kenya. o Middle and Lower Juba regions have also experienced a third consecutive season of cereal crop failure. As a result, households stocks are extremely low, leading to increased staple food prices and poor access to food for most of the poor households in these regions. (Sources: <i>The FSAU Post Deyr '05/06 Analysis, Technical Series Reports IV.8 Feb 2006; The FSAU Post Gu '06 Analysis, Technical Series Reports V.9 Sept. 2006</i>) • Therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs by MSFH in Marere, Jilib District on-going. <i>(Source: MSFH 2006: Monthly reports on Therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSAU Post Deyr 05/06 Integrated Nutrition Situation Analysis indicates A Critical Nutrition Situation coupled with high disease burden in Middle Juba and a serious nutrition situation in Lower Juba (Source: <i>The FSAU Post Deyr 05/06 Analysis, Technical Series Report IV.8 February 2006</i>); • Jilib Riverine Nutrition assessment (FSAU/May 06) indicates a critical situation with a GAM rate of 16.2% • Afmadow Hagar Districts Nutrition Assessment (FSAU/May 06) report a GAM rate of 22.0 % • Bu'aale, Sakow Districts Nutrition Assessment (FSAU/Apr06) report a GAM rate of 21.9% <i>(Source: FSAU Nutrition Survey Reports)</i> • FSAU Post Gu'06 Integrated Nutrition Situation Analysis indicates Critical - Very critical in Middle and Lower Juba (Source: <i>The FSAU Post Gu'06 Analysis, Technical Series Report V.9, September 15, 2006</i>)
<p>Jan-June 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSAU Post Deyr '06/07 Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A total of 110, 000 people in Humanitarian Emergency and 170,000 in Acute food and Livelihood Crisis. o The humanitarian situation of the Riverine populations in Juba Valley is critical and deteriorating due to the compounding impacts of the previous drought and severe flooding this season leading to total maize crop failure though some off season production is expected from March '07 onwards. Of the riverine population in the Juba Valley, 106,000 people are in a state of Humanitarian Emergency and 12,000 are in a state of Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis. Of these, in Middle Juba, 66,000 people are in Humanitarian Emergency and 5,000 in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis and in Lower Juba, 40,000 people are in a state of Humanitarian Emergency and 7,000 in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis. <p>In the pastoral and agro pastoral areas, the food, livelihood and nutrition situation has improved since the Gu'06. Pastoral recovery continues due to the good rainfall in the Gu '06 and the exceptionally good rainfall in the Deyr '06/07.</p> <p><i>(Source: The FSAU Post Deyr 06/07 Analysis, Technical Series Reports V.12 March 2007)</i></p> • Acute watery diarrhoea cases indicating a declining trend in South Central Somalia except for Middle Juba. Additionally, whereas Middle Juba reported 5% of all the cases for Jan-June 29th, 2007, the highest CFR of 7.16% was also reported here (Source: <i>WHO June 29th 2007 bulletin on Acute Watery Diarrhoea</i>) • Therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs by MSFH on-going in Marere, Jilib District <i>(Source: MSFH 2007, Monthly reports on Therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSAU Post Deyr 06/07 Integrated Nutrition Situation Analysis indicates a Critical Nutrition Situation in Middle and Lower Juba, and a Very Critical Nutrition situation in the Riverine Population. (Source: <i>The FSAU Post Deyr 06/07 Analysis, Technical Series Report V.12, March 7, 2007</i>) • FSAU led Nutrition Assessments in June 2007 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o M&L Juba Riverine report a GAM rate of 15.4% (13.4-17.4) o M&L Juba Pastorals report a GAM rate of 13.4% (11.0-15.8) o Juba Agro-Pastorals report a GAM rate of 10.2% (8.0-12.4)

CURRENT SITUATION IN JUBA VALLEY

Food Security Context

In Juba Valley the **pastoral** livelihood system is the predominant livelihood with about 34.5% of the Middle and Lower Juba population engaged in cattle, camel, goat and/or sheep rearing. Their main source of income is sale of livestock products (milk, ghee, meat) as well as live animals. Livestock, especially cattle, are normally traded in Kenya, with good prices during the ⁸*Gu* and *Deyr* season as well as the beginning of the ⁹*Jilaal* (January – March). Pastoralists are most vulnerable to malnutrition and food insecurity during drought or in the dry seasons of *Jilaal* and *Hagar* when there is reduced or limited access to pasture and/or water to sustain their livestock; or when the Kenyan border is closed, restricting their access to livestock markets.



Photo 2. Healthy Cattle, Jabikore Village, Buale District, June 2007 (FSAU)

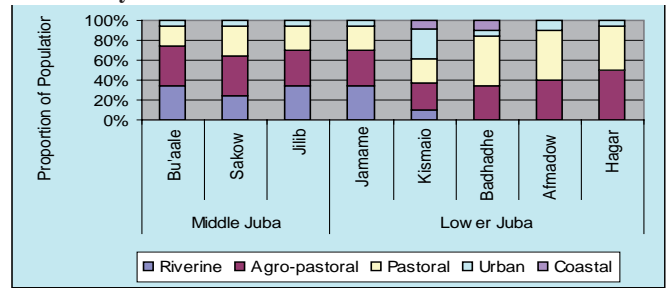
The second most important livelihood system is the Agro-pastoral which is practiced by 29.4% of the Juba Valley population. **Agro-pastoral** populations combine livestock rearing (cattle, camel, shoats) with agricultural (maize and sorghum) production. The Agro-pastoral crop production depends on rain or *dhesheks*¹⁰ for water. During the cultivation period (*Gu* and *Deyr* rainy seasons), animals are moved away from the farming area resulting in reduced access to milk. In the dry season livestock are moved towards *dhesheks* and riverine areas, with core households remaining at home. Depending on the type and size of crop establishments and livestock at their disposal, Agro-pastoral populations may have more options for dealing with shocks that predispose them to nutrition and food insecurity.

The **Riverine** livelihood group constitutes of pure farmers who live within three kilometers of the Juba River. They mainly access food and income through production and sale of crops. They are sedentary, keep negligible stocks of livestock, and are highly vulnerable to nutrition and food insecurity in the event of shocks such as floods and crop failure in the *Gu* and *Deyr* seasons. The **Urban** group's main source of livelihood constitutes of employment, trade and casual labour. Food is mainly accessed through purchase; therefore a secure environment, that enables access to income and essential basic services, is key to sustained nutrition and food security. The coastal group of Kismayo and Badhadhe undertake fishing and collect lobsters for food and income generation as their main livelihood. They are mostly vulnerable to nutrition and food insecurity in June – September when the sea is rough and fishing becomes dangerous.

7 FSAU Livelihoods Baseline Profile, 2000.
 8 *Gu* refers to the long rains (Apr-Jun) while *Deyr* refers to the short rains (Oct-Dec) seasons.
 9 *Jilaal* refers to the hot and dry (January - March) season; *Hagar* refers to the cool and dry (July – September) season
 10 *Dheshek* refers to water holding depressions, where recession cropping is commonplace

Figure 4 highlights the proportions of the Juba population by livelihood.

Figure 4: Proportion of M&L Juba Population by Livelihood Systems



The FSAU Post Deyr '06/07 analysis¹¹ estimated a total of 280,000 people in Middle and Lower Juba Regions to be in a state of Humanitarian Emergency (110,000) or Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (170,000), and in dire need of humanitarian assistance or livelihood support. This was a slight reduction in the total number requiring some form of assistance from the Post *Gu*'06 when a total of 297,000 people were identified to be in need. Although the total number of people in crisis is roughly the same in the *Gu*'06, an improvement was also reflected in a general shift from **Humanitarian Emergency (HE)** to **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC)** from 210,000 in **HE** and 87,000 in **AFLC** during *Gu*'06¹² to the *Deyr* projection (Jan - June '07) of 108,000 in **HE** and 163,000 in **AFLC**. In general, the food, livelihood and nutrition situation for pastoralists improved due to the good rainfall of *Gu*'06 and exceptionally good *Deyr*'06/07 rains.

Health Context

As mentioned earlier, the Juba Regions are highly susceptible to flooding and thus to water borne disease. In 2007 there has been a wide spread epidemic of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) throughout the country with no exception in the Juba Region.

Figure 5: Acute Watery Diarrhoea Cases and Case Fatality Rate in Middle and Lower Juba Regions 1st Jan 26th June 2007

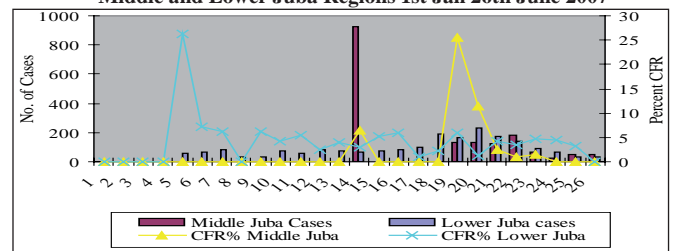


Figure 5 provides a summary of AWD cases and case fatality rates (CFR) in Middle and Lower Juba Regions from January 1st – June 26th, 2007 (Source of Data: WHO AWD June 28th Update). In total from Jan 1st to 29th June, 1,690 cases of AWD were reported in Middle Juba with a CFR of 7.16%.

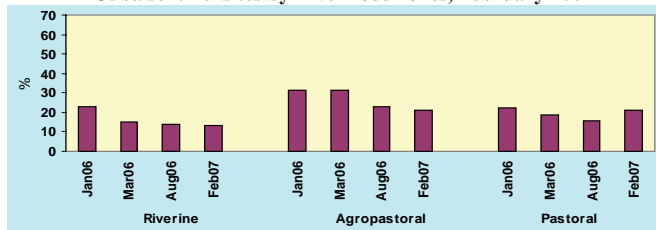
In Lower Juba 2000 cases have been reported in the same period with a lower, yet still concerning, CFR of 4.35%. One of the biggest challenges in the Juba's is the delivery of humanitarian assistance which, when delivered in a timely manner, can greatly reduce the fatalities associated with AWD. However limited access by humanitarian actors, due to the ongoing insecurity and poor road conditions, prevent the needs of the population being met.

11 FSAU 2006/07 Post Deyr Analysis. Technical Series V.12; March 2007
 12 FSAU 2006 Post Gu Analysis. Technical Series V.9; September 2006

Nutrition Context

The overall nutrition situation in Middle and Lower Juba indicated a slight improvement for most of the areas in the period six months prior to the last post *Deyr* analysis possibly associated with the positive impacts of the *Gu'06* rains and other mitigating factors such as increased humanitarian support. However, localised areas of deterioration were reported, with an increase in seasonal morbidity trends. In addition ongoing risks of conflict and disease in lower Juba were still of concern. Therefore the nutrition situation at that time in these areas was classified as critical with an uncertain trend for the following months.

Figure 6: Distribution of acutely malnourished children in the Lower Juba sentinel sites by Livelihood zones, February 2007



The most recent sentinel site surveillance data¹³ indicated that nutrition situation in these areas was consistent with the food security analysis classified as critical in the Pastoral and Agro pastoral populations and very critical in the Riverine populations. Additional information from Maternal and Child Health Centres showed similar trends in acute malnutrition in the regions. Communicable diseases especially the acute watery diarrhoea outbreak aggravated the nutrition situation as highlighted above. Therefore in order to determine the current nutrition situation, FSAU and partners¹⁴ conducted three nutrition assessments in Juba valley (Middle and Lower Juba) in June 2007 based on three main livelihood systems:- Pastoral, Agro pastoral and Riverine livelihood systems (*Map 1*). The two stage cluster sampling technique of 30 by 30 was used. Hence 906-936 children were assessed at household level, while retrospective mortality assessment was conducted in 906 households (irrespective of whether or not they had an under five) in each assessment.



Photo 3. Child being measured in nutrition assessment, Sakow District, June 07 (FSAU)

Table 1: Summary of Findings

Indicator	No	%	95% CI
Total number of Households surveyed	474	100	
Total number of children assessed	936	100	
Global Acute Malnutrition (WHZ<-2 or oedema)	144	15.4	13.4 – 17.4
Severe Acute Malnutrition (WHZ<-3 or oedema)	30	3.2	2.3 – 4.2
Oedema	6	0.6	0.2 – 1.1
Global Acute Malnutrition (WHM<80 or oedema)	109	11.7	9.8 – 13.6
Severe Acute Malnutrition (WHM<70 or oedema)	13	1.4	0.9 – 1.9
Children reported to have diarrhoea in 2 weeks prior to study	124	13.2	11.2 – 15.6
Children reported to have ARI within 2 weeks prior to study	57	6.1	4.7 – 7.0
Children reported with suspected malaria/febrile illness in 2 weeks prior to study	213	22.8	20.1 – 25.6
Children reported with suspected measles within one month prior to study (N=877)	14	1.6	0.9 – 2.7
Children (9-59 months) immunized against measles (N=877)	666	75.9	72.9 – 78.7
Children who have ever received polio vaccine (N=936)	924	98.7	97.7 – 99.3
Children supplemented with vitamin A in last 6 months	569	60.8	57.6 – 63.9
Households who reported to have consumed <4 food groups (N=474)	18	3.8	2.3 – 6.0
Households who reported to have consumed ≥4 food groups (N=474)	456	96.2	94.0 – 97.7
Children 6-24 months reported to be breastfeeding(N=329)	161	48.9	43.4 – 54.5
Children introduced to other foods before 6 months (N=329)	281	85.4	81.0 – 89.0
Under five Mortality Rate (U5MR) as deaths/10,000/ day	3.01		1.72 – 4.29
Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) as deaths/10,000/ day	1.98		1.29 – 2.67

The results indicate a critical nutrition situation according to WHO classification. Since the past nutrition assessment were conducted based either on administrative boundaries or covering part of the livelihood zone, it is not feasible to do a direct comparison of the current findings with past results. Nevertheless, the nutrition assessments conducted in Jilib Riverine in May 2006 recorded a **GAM rate of 16.2%** (13.8 – 18.8) and a **SAM rate of 4.2%** (3.2 – 6.0) while the Bu'aale & Sakow districts nutrition assessment carried out in April 2006 recorded a very critical nutrition situation with a **GAM rate of 21.9%** (19.3 – 24.8) and a **SAM rate of 6.6%** (5.1 – 8.4). The current results are, therefore, showing a persistence of a critical nutrition situation in the Riverine livelihood zone.

The retrospective crude and under five mortality rates were estimated at **1.98 CI: (1.29 – 2.67)** and **3.01 CI: (1.72 – 4.29)** deaths/10,000/day respectively, both indicating an 'alert' situation (WHO). The crude mortality rate is higher than the rates recorded in the earlier assessments conducted in May 2006 in Jilib Riverine, 0.80 (0.32 – 1.28) & Bu'aale and Sakow district, 0.16 (0.39 – 0.83) assessments and hence an indication of a deteriorating situation. Under five mortality rate is equally higher than the rates recorded during the above assessments but as the confidence intervals overlap the difference is not statistically significant. The overwhelming majority (>80%) of deaths were reportedly caused by diarrhoea. It should be noted that the mortality recall period covered months April and May 2007 that experienced the AWD outbreak with high case fatality rates (CFR) ranging from 5.88 - 25.58% recorded in Middle and Lower Juba (WHO report). As of 29th June 2006, the CFR in Middle and Lower Juba were 7.16% and 4.35% respectively both above the recommended threshold of 1% for urban and 2% for rural populations. Other reported causes of deaths included suspected malaria/febrile illnesses, complications arising during birth, and ARI. The majority of the assessed households (96.2%) consumed a diet comprised of four or more food groups (mean=5.9) which is a reflection of a diversified diet. The source of most of the food was humanitarian food assistance distributed by WFP and partner agencies.

Consumption of a diversified diet has a potential of enhancing nutrition status and this may have minimized risks of malnutrition. Child feeding practices were evidently sub-optimal. Less than half (48.9%) of the children aged 6-24 months were breastfeeding at the time of the assessment, while the majority, 85.4%, had been introduced to complementary foods before the age of 6 months. This is contrary to the international recommendations for exclusive breastfeeding up to the first six months of life; introduction of appropriate complementary

CURRENT NUTRITION SITUATION

Findings of the June 2007 Juba Valley Livelihood Based Nutrition Assessments

Riverine Population Assessment Findings

A total of 936 children aged 6 – 59 months and measuring 65 – 109.9 cm in height/length from 474 households were assessed with mortality data collected from 902 households. Preliminary results reported a **GAM rate of 15.4%** CI: (13.4 – 17.4) and a **SAM rate of 3.2%** CI: (2.3 – 4.2).

¹³ FSAU Nutrition Update March 2007
¹⁴ UNICEF, WVI, SRCS and Muslim Aid

food at the age of six months and continued breastfeeding up-to the age of 24 months and beyond (WHO). Impact of poor childcare practices was further demonstrated with analysis indicating that younger children were relatively more malnourished with 17.4% of the children aged 6-29 months being malnourished as compared to 13.7% of the children aged 30- 59 months. The difference was however not significant ($p>0.05$).



Photo 4. Children playing, Afmadow Town, June 2007 (FSAU)

The reported morbidity rates in the two weeks prior to the assessment was high, with about 36% of the assessed children reported to have suffered from one or more of communicable diseases during this time frame. Suspected malaria/febrile illness and diarrhoea recorded the highest prevalence of diseases having reportedly affected

22.8% and 13.2% of the children respectively. It is of note that a very high proportion of the population access their drinking water from unprotected sources (50-70%) and this is likely to have contributed to the high incidence of diarrhoea (Photo 5), in addition access to sanitation facilities is low ranging from 20-50%. About 55% of the children had sought medical services from public health facilities and this may have mitigated the negative impact of morbidity on nutritional status to some extent. The remaining 26% sought health services either from traditional healers, private clinics or used 'own' medication while 19% did not seek for any assistance. With exception of polio immunization (98.7%) that was within the range of the recommended coverage, the other health programmes; Vitamin A supplementation and measles vaccination were far below the recommended minimum coverage of 95% as illustrated in the table 1.(Sphere 2004).



Photo 5. Humans and livestock sharing water, Jabikore Dheshek, Buale District, June 2007 (FSAU)

The persistence of a critical nutrition situation is attributed to high morbidity coupled with poor child care and feeding practices. Past and current assessments point to the fact that malaria is endemic in the area while diarrhoea is a frequent occurrence especially during

the wet seasons. Poor breastfeeding practices and early introduction of complementary and irregular feeding do not only deny the child nutritional benefits associated with breast milk, but also expose to risks of morbidity. It is also noted that most of the land in the riverine zone is still inundated with flood water since Deyr 06/07. Consequently, farmers have not planted maize crop which is the staple food in the area and hence rely on food aid. In some of the areas where water has receded, some farmers have planted sesame, a cash crop. The negative impact of heavy rains is demonstrated further, where livestock often move away from the area to avoid tsetse flies infestation hence depriving households of milk and the associated milk benefits. These factors could partly explain the critical nutrition situation while good dietary diversity may have mitigated the situation to some extent. Even though dietary diversity is high this is mainly due to food aid from WFP and partners. The nutrition situation of the Riverine population requires close monitoring due to the chronic and highly vulnerable nature of this crisis.

Pastoral Population Assessment Findings

A total 919 children aged 6- 59 months and measuring 65 cm and/or less than 110cm were assessed with mortality data collected from 906 households. The results of the assessment are presented as follows:

Table 2. Summary of the Juba pastoral assessment findings

Indicator	n	%	95% CI
Total number of households surveyed	456	100	
Total number of children assessed	919	100	
Global Acute Malnutrition (WHZ<-2 or oedema)	123	13.4	11.0 – 15.8
Severe Acute Malnutrition (WHZ<-3 or oedema)	12	1.3	0.5 – 2.1
Oedema	2	0.2	0.0 – 0.6
Global Acute Malnutrition (WHM<80% or oedema)	62	6.7	5.0 – 8.5
Severe Acute Malnutrition (WHM<70% or oedema)	2	0.2	0.0 – 0.6
Children reported with diarrhoea in 2 weeks prior to assessment	227	24.7	18.2 – 31.2
Children reported with ARI within two weeks prior to assessment	157	17.1	11.7 – 22.5
Children reported with febrile illness in 2 weeks prior to assessment	278	30.3	24.8 – 35.7
Children reported with suspected measles within one month prior to assessment (N=878)	37	4.2	1.9 – 6.5
Children (9-59 months) immunised against measles (N=878)	233	26.5	13.3 – 39.8
Children who have ever received polio vaccine	877	95.4	93.2 – 97.6
Children reported to have received vitamin A supplementation in last 6 months	198	21.5	9.9 – 33.2
Proportion of children 6-24 months reported to be breastfeeding (N=270)	149	55.2	46.7 – 63.7
Children (6-24 months) reported to have been introduced to other foods before 6 months	262	97.0	93.3 – 100
Proportion of households who reported to have consumed ≤3 food groups (N=456)	73	16.0	7.3 – 24.7
Proportion of households who reported to have consumed ≥4 food groups (N=456)	383	84.0	75.3 – 92.7
Under five Death Rate (U5DR) as deaths/10,000/ day	2.52		1.00 – 4.04
Crude Death Rate (CDR) as deaths/10,000/ day	0.85		0.47 – 1.23

Results recorded a **GAM rate of 13.4%** (CI: 11.0 – 15.8) and a **SAM rate of 1.3%** (CI: 0.5 – 2.1). The crude and U5 mortality rates of 0.85 (0.47–1.23) and 2.52 (1.00–4.04) respectively ranged from normal to 'alert' levels in the assessment among the Pastoral population in Juba valley.

These results indicate a serious situation but an improvement in the nutrition situation estimated as part of an integrated analysis following the Deyr '06/07. Two oedema cases (0.2%) were reported during the assessment. In relation to previous assessments conducted in this region, direct comparison may not be feasible but integrated analysis shows an improvement from very critical levels in two previous assessments¹⁵ in Afmadow/Hagar and Bu'aale/Sakow nutrition assessments conducted based on administrative district boundaries when **GAM rate of 22.0%** CI: (19.4 - 24.9%) and 21.9% CI: (19.3 – 24.8) were reported. The assessments followed a period of drought-induced humanitarian emergency that affected the most of southern Somalia due to poor *Gu* '05 rains and failed *Deyr* '05/06 rains that resulted in massive animal deaths and human suffering. Since then, significant humanitarian interventions have taken place and the region has received good rains in the *Gu* '06 and *Deyr* '06/07 leading to significant recovery of livestock conditions and improved access to milk and other livestock products. Dietary diversity was high with 84% of the households consuming four or more food groups in the previous 24 hours. Improved milk consumption (91.4%) and recent supplies of cereals, pulses and oil from humanitarian food assistance, in addition to access by purchase of sorghum (readily available in the market) have contributed to improved dietary diversity and by extension to improved nutrition status. However, poor access to health services and low coverage of vitamin A supplementation (21.5%) and measles vaccination (26.5%) among the pastoralists are worrying and require urgent attention. This, coupled with consistently high morbidity rates, especially diarrhoea (24.7%) and suspected malaria/febrile illness (30.3%) are possible aggravating factors to the nutrition situation. Almost half (46.6%) of the assessed children reportedly fell ill from one or more of the communicable diseases during the two weeks (one month for measles) prior to the assessment.

Analysis continues to show strong association between malnutrition and morbidity rates, with children who fell ill being 1.6 times more likely to be malnourished (RR=1.57 CI: 1.11-2.11). Poor feeding practices remain one of the main risk factors of malnutrition in the region, given 44.8% of children stopped breastfeeding prematurely and most (84.4%) children were prematurely introduced to complementary



Photo 6. Teenage mother, Doble Village, Afmadow District, June 2007 (FSAU)

foods within three months of their life. Frequency of complementary feeding showed a significant association with acute malnutrition with those who were fed less than five times a day more likely ($1.28 < RR = 3.18 < 7.92$; $p=0.03$) to be malnourished than those who were fed at least five times as recommended (Sphere, 2004). Limited access to protected water sources and sanitation facilities also remain a huge concern with only 25% of the population using water from protected sources and a slighter higher 33% using sanitation facilities, both of which are likely to have contributed to the elevated diarrhoeal incidence. Continued measures to enhance sustainable livelihoods, water & sanitation facilities, access to health services and nutrition care practices are therefore recommended to sustain the Juba Pastoral population on a path to full livelihood and nutritional security.

proportion (60%) of children aged 6 – 24 months were still breastfeeding, contributing positively to the children’s nutritional status. Mortality data indicates a crude mortality rate (CMR) of **1.1** (0.79–1.41) and under five mortality rate (U5MR) of **2.47** (1.27–3.68). Both rates indicate an alert situation according to WHO classification. Diarrhoeal disease was the main cause of death reported by the households. This was not surprising following the acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak which occurred in South Central Somalia including the Juba valley in January 2007. Not surprisingly over the recall period (March 2007 and June 2007) for the mortality data collection, WHO had reported significantly high AWD case fatality rates in both Lower and Middle Juba, as illustrated earlier.



Photo 7. Children Playing, Doble Village, Afmadow District, June 2007 (FSAU)

The proportion of children who had suffered from one or more communicable childhood diseases during the two weeks prior to the assessment was high (40.3%). As shown on *table 3*, the proportion of children that had reportedly suffered from diarrhoea, ARI and suspected malaria two weeks prior to the study was 16.6%, 11.7% and 26.6% respectively. Disease and poor food intake remain the immediate

causes of acute malnutrition among children. In the Juba Agro-pastoral incidence of diarrhoea and ARI were significantly associated with children’s nutritional status ($p\text{-value} < 0.05$) with children suffering from these illnesses one and a half times more likely to be acutely malnourished than their healthy counterparts. Again as earlier highlighted, the AWD outbreak contributed to the high prevalence of diarrhoeal diseases and predisposed children to malnutrition. Past studies and qualitative data showed that sanitation and water quality for household consumption remained poor. While diseases continue to predispose children to malnutrition, concern remains on child care practices as about 46% of the sick children’s caretakers did not seek medical assistance when their children were ill. Further, the majority (89%) of the children were introduced to complementary foods before the age of 6 months which predisposes them to disease and malnutrition. Past studies have shown that vitamin A greatly improves the immunity of individuals, hence reducing the disease burden of a population. However, as shown on *table 3*, measles immunisation and vitamin A supplementation coverage were far below the WHO recommended coverage of 95%.

In summary the nutrition situation in Juba Valley, though still serious, has indicated some recovery in recent months following the good Deyr ’06/07 rains. However, in order to ensure nutrition recovery of the population to acceptable levels, intensive efforts to address the underlying causes of malnutrition through enhanced delivery and access to health care, enhanced availability and access of protected water services, enhanced sanitation facilities and education opportunities to enhance care practices for mothers, are essential in a peaceful and secure environment. This will require a shift in current focus from life saving and humanitarian interventions to parallel humanitarian and long term sustainable development assistance.

Training and courses announcements

- *Nutrition in Emergencies Course, University of Westminster, UK, on 10th-14th September. For details contact, Kate Godden at k.godden@wmin.ac.uk*
- *Public Health in Complex Emergency (PHCE) Course, Makerere University Institute of Public Health (IPH) in Kampala on December 3-15. Information and application forms are also available at: www.phcetraining.org*

Other related publications and Releases

- o *FSAU/FEWSNET Climate Data Update, July 2007*
- o *FSAU Food Security and Nutrition Brief, June 15th 2007*
- o *FSAU/FEWSNET Market Data Update, June 2007.*
- o *FSAU/FEWSNET Climate Data Update, June 2007*

16 GAM rates 22.0% (19.4 – 24.9)
17 GAM rates 21.9% (19.3 – 24.8)

Agro Pastoral Population Assessment Findings

A total of 915 children aged 6 – 59 months were assessed from 443 households. Mortality data was collected from 901 households. Preliminary results indicate a **GAM rate of 10.2% (8.0 – 12.4)** with a **SAM rate of 1.3% (0.4 – 2.2)**. The results indicate a serious nutrition

Indicator	No	%	95% CI
Total number of households surveyed	443	100	
Total number of children assessed	915	100	
Global Acute Malnutrition (WHZ<-2 or oedema)	93	10.2	8.0 – 12.4
Severe Acute Malnutrition (WHZ<-3 or oedema)	12	1.3	0.4 – 2.2
Oedema	0	0	0
Global Acute Malnutrition (WHM<80 or oedema)	63	6.8	5.0-8.8
Severe Acute Malnutrition (WHM<70 or oedema)	7	0.8	0.3-1.3
Children reported to have diarrhoea in 2 weeks prior to study	152	16.6	10.7 – 22.5
Children reported to have ARI within 2 weeks prior to study	107	11.7	8.2 – 15.2
Children with suspected malaria/febrile illness in 2 weeks prior to study	243	26.6	18.7 – 34.4
Suspected measles within one month prior to study	15	1.6	0.6 – 2.7
Children (9-59 months) immunised against measles (N=882)	432	49.0	34.4 – 63.3
Children who have ever received polio vaccine	855	93.4	91.6 – 94.9
Children supplemented with vitamin A in last 6 months	203	22.2	19.6 – 25.0
Households who consumed ≤3 food groups (N=443)	80	18.1	14.7-22.0
Households who consumed ≥4 food groups(N=443)	363	81.9	78.0 – 85.3
Children 6-24 months who are breastfeeding (N=244)	134	60.0	48.1 – 61.7
Children introduced to other foods before 6 months	217	88.9	84.3 – 92.6
Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) as deaths/10,000/day	2.47		(1.27–3.68)
Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) as deaths/10,000/day	1.1		(0.79–1.41)

situation according to WHO classification. Nutrition surveys conducted in the Juba valley in Afmadow/Hagar districts¹⁶ and Bu’aale/Sakow districts¹⁶ in April/May 2006 both indicated global acute malnutrition rates of about 22%. The Juba Agro Pastoral population, which forms about 30% of the population in the Juba Valley, was included in these assessments. Although direct comparison of the assessment findings is not feasible, the assessment findings indicate an improvement in the nutrition situation. Since April/May 2006, there has been an ongoing improvement in the food security situation in the Juba Agro-pastoral livelihood zone following improved *Gu’06* rains and exceptionally good *Deyr ’06/07*. This is reflected by an increase in the proportion of households that were consuming a diversified diet (81.9%) during the current assessment and also trends observed from the FSAU sentinel surveillance sites in agro pastoral areas. The observed improved dietary diversity partly accounts for the improvement in the nutrition situation due to increased access to milk and cereals. Additionally, a relatively high



WFP Bangladesh Bulletin

HAZARD EARLY WARNING & HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Issue 29/ 2007

2 Aug 2007

HIGHLIGHTS

- The flood situation in Northwest Bangladesh is likely to improve whereas in three Northeast districts the situation may remain steady.
- Water levels are rising in Central and Western regions of the country, yet falling in the extreme North.
- The prevailing flood situation in numerous districts in Central Bangladesh surrounding Dhaka is likely to worsen further.
- Thirty flood related deaths have been reported thus far.
- The rainfall forecast for the next few days suggests light to moderate rain for much of the country, as well as for neighboring upstream regions.
- The GoB at a press briefing on 1 August confirmed that the overall flood situation is improving and it was not necessary to declare a state of national disaster.
- As of the morning of the 2nd August 27 out of 60 river level monitoring stations were above danger level.



Rainfall Extremes and Forecast:

Rainfall throughout Bangladesh was below the threshold value of localized flooding between the 1st and 2nd August. According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department/BMD bulletin of 2nd August, light to moderate rainfall is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions of the country.

The 3-day forecast (2nd -4th August) indicates no area in Bangladesh expected to receive cumulative rainfall above 150 mms. The same forecast applies for the neighboring regions within India, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan.

Note: Rainfall thresholds for potential localized flooding are 75 mms (24 hours) and 150 mms (72 hours).



Flood and River Levels:

As of the morning of the 2nd August, rivers were flowing above their respective danger levels at 27 stations in the districts of Kurigram, Gaibandha, Serajganj, Jamalpur, Narayanganj, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Netrokona, and Chandpur. Between the morning of the 1st and 2nd August, water levels rose at 39 stations and fell at 20, and was unchanged 1 with a total of 60 stations reporting.



Humanitarian Operations and Preparedness:

The GoB is continuing relief assistance in the flood affected districts of the country. As of 2nd August the total GoB relief distribution is 1,370 MT rice, 3,241,143 local currency Taka (equivalent to approximately USD 47,805). GoB has scaled up relief assistance in a few districts. The GoB reports that emergency food reserve stocks are adequate. Advance preparation is being taken to supply seeds and fertilizers to help farmers in preparing seedbeds with the recession of flood waters. The Heads of UN Agencies based in Dhaka met on 1 Aug to get an overview of the

deteriorating flood situation. It has been reported that the Department for International Development/DFID is supporting the GoB's ongoing relief operation channeling \$1.8 million aid through UNDP, and that the European Union has declared \$2 million for the flood victims.

Local NGOs are responding within their limited capacity basically limited to rescue, flood shelter management etc. A few NGOs are providing oral saline, water purification tablets, flattened rice and molasses.

Data Sources: Rainfall: BMD/ Bangladesh Meteorological Department
FFWC/ Flood Forecasting and Warning Center: <http://www.ffwc.gov.bd/>
CPC/ Climate Prediction Center: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>
IMD/ Indian Meteorological Department: <http://www.imd.gov.in>
River Level: FFWC/ Flood Forecasting and Warning Center: <http://www.ffwc.gov.bd/>
Localized Disaster: The Daily Star/ The Daily Ittefaq
Disasters General: CDMP/ Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme Situation Report:
http://www.cdmp.org.bd/Situation_report.html

Note: 1. This Bulletin is available at WFP Bangladesh website at <http://bangladesh.wfp.org> and LCG DER Website at <http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/derweb/index.php>
2. Comments on this bulletin should be sent to hewhr.bangladesh@wfp.org

HAZARD EARLY WARNING & HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Issue 29/ 2007

2 Aug 2007

Relief Distribution by Government of Bangladesh to Flood Affected Districts as of 1st Aug 2007:

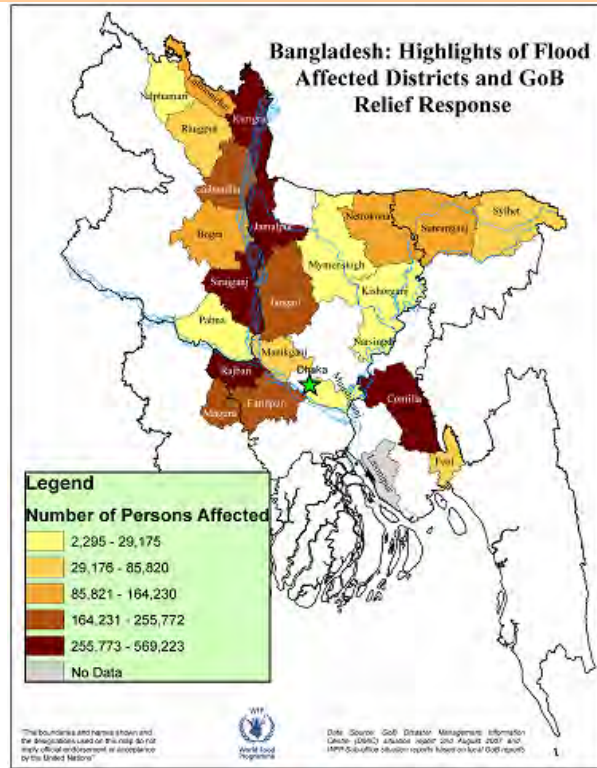
SI No	Affected District	No. of affected Upazilas	No. of affected Unions	No. of People affected	No. of People at Shelter	GoB Assistance		
						Rice (MT)	Cash (Tk.)	Biscuits (Carton)
1	Gaibandha	4	31	220,847	6,618	105	265,000	850
2	Sirajganj	9	58	470,069	56,036	176	391,143	132
3	Tangail	4	76	252,323	2,730	23	238,000	-
4	Kurigram	9	54	560,210	121,193	222	340,000	-
5	Comilla	12	105	398,611	3,500	49	126,000	-
6	Mymensingh	3	13	10,000	250	16	200,000	20
7	Netrokona	7	35	164,230	6,458	7	-	113
8	Jamalpur	6	45	569,223	3,806	99	145,000	153
9	Manikganj	4	35	85,820	-	100	325,000	-
10	Sylhet	10	51	59,450	120	62	25,000	26
11	Sunamganj	11	61	128,717	2,403	25	-	-
12	Faridpur	8	77	201,789	418	44	149,500	-
13	Rajbari	4	45	461,298	-	100	358,000	2
14	Feni	5	30	41,600	21	-	-	-
15	Nilphamari	2	11	13,609	294	27	20,000	100
16	Munshiganj	1	1	2,295	-	50	200,000	-
17	Magura	4	28	255,772	1,086	60	50,000	-
18	Laxmipur	-	-	-	-	-	150,000	-
19	Bogra	3	23	155,976	1,050	90	100,000	-
20	Rangpur	3	14	61,568	70	18.93	77,000	-
21	Lalmonirhat	5	17	126,556	-	44.90	56,500	-
22	Pabna	3	20	29,175	300	34	-	-
23	Kishorganj	6	31	3,570	-	0.27	-	-
24	Narsingdi	1	8	18,300	-	17	25,000	-
Total	24	124	869	4,291,008	206,353	1,370	3,241,143	1,396

Relief Assistance by NGOs:

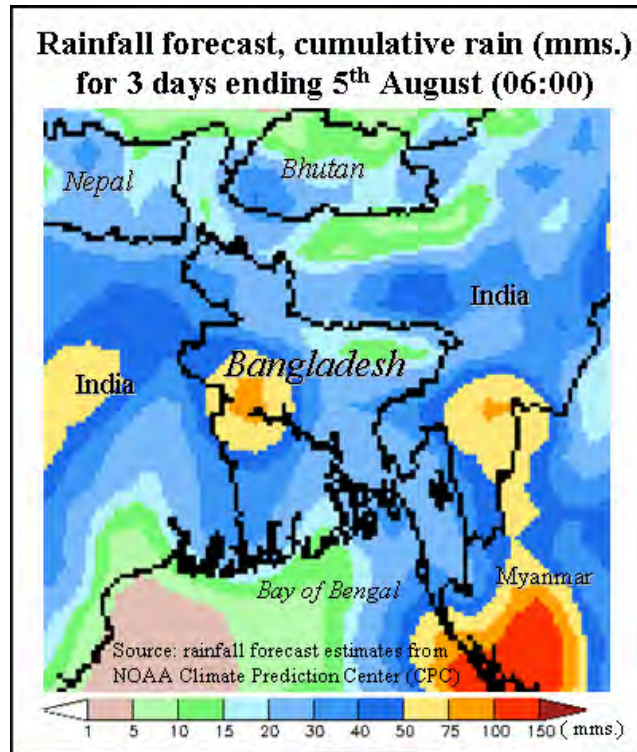
- IFRC/BDRCS supported 8,410 families in Bogra, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban and Feni districts with rice, dal, oil, salt, saree, lungi, water purification tablets and bleaching power.
- Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services/ RDRS provided 80 Tarpaulins in three camps of Kurigram and allocated cash Tk. 60,000 for dry food at two camps for 750 families and rescue boats.
- Concern Worldwide distributed 25 MT flatten rice, 5 MT molasses and 25,000 packets biscuits for 5,000 families in Serajganj.
- Action Aid started distribution of flatten rice, molasses, water purification tablets, oral rehydration saline, soap, lighter, candle, drinking water and dettol for 2,400 families in Jamalpur, 1,800 families in Serajganj and 1,800 families in Faridpur.
- Gana Unnayan Kendra/GUK responded with rescue boats, 5,000 packets ORS, 5,000 packets alum, polythine sheet for 1,500 families, 2,000 water purification tablets in Gaibandha.

HAZARD EARLY WARNING & HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Highlights of Flood Affected Districts:



Short Term Rainfall Forecast:



FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

14 August 2007

Floods Have Adversely Affected Crop Prospects and Food Security of Millions of Small Farmers in South Asia

Torrential rains from mid-July to early August across south Asia resulted in flash floods and landslides, which caused loss of life, severe damage to housing and infrastructure which left millions of people homeless, and crops and livestock losses. Provisional estimates indicate that overall more than 28 million people have been affected by the floods in India, Bangladesh and Nepal. Most of the affected population is critically dependent on agriculture for its living and many are vulnerable to food insecurity. The floods occurred when the 2007 main season cereal crops, mainly paddy and maize, have just been planted/transplanted or were still being sown. Although flood levels have started to recede in the past days there are concerns of serious food shortages in the affected communities due to the difficulties in delivering food assistance. The prospective food situation gives also serious cause for concern because of the loss of animals and unfavorable crop prospects following damage to recently planted crops. Opportunities for replanting once the water has fully receded are limited as the sowing period of the main cereal season normally ends in July in India and Bangladesh and by mid-August in Nepal.

Nepal

The recent floods and landslides brought large-scale destruction adversely affecting 33 of the country's 75 districts. Torrential monsoon rains from 10 July 2007 caused severe flooding in southern Terai and landslides in the zone of the Hills. According to the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), more than 21 570 families were displaced, over 26 500 houses were either damaged or destroyed and, overall, some 56 500 families (or 333 000 people) were severely affected by the floods. The most severely hit districts are Kalilali (Far Western Region), Banke and Bardiya (Mid Western Region), and Dhanusa, Parsa and Saptari (Central Terai Districts).

The affected agro-ecological zone of Terai (plains) is the country's grain basket, accounting for over 70 percent of the total production of paddy which is the basic staple in Nepal. Paddy is generally transplanted in June/August with the monsoon rains and harvested in October/November. Though water levels have receded from the second week of August, thousands of hectares of agricultural land have been destroyed at the peak of the rice planting season. While a detailed assessment of the crop losses is not yet available, the overall outlook for this year's paddy production has deteriorated. At sub-national level, the difficult food security in areas of the Terai, affected by drought and floods in 2006, is likely to deteriorate further with the current floods. In general, and based on a FAO/WFP Food Security Report, a total of 42 out of the country's 75 districts are estimated to be food-deficit in 2006/07 (November/October) following consecutive years of adverse weather conditions.

Nepal: Paddy field damaged by July/early August floods in Terai



Source: Photo by Mr Subhash Singh (Field Coordinator Officer of WFP).

Bangladesh

Heavy rainfall since early June resulted in floods and landslides by mid-July killing 400 people, destroying 56 000 houses and partially damaging 700 000. Overall, official estimates indicate that some 10 million persons across 39 districts have been negatively affected by the floods. Worst affected districts are Sirajganj, Kurigram, Jamalpur, Bogra and Tangail, as well as Netrokona, Gaibandha and Nilphamary. Based on the updated report of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) dated 12 August, the water has receded significantly in most rivers and the flood situation is likely to continue to improve further in next days.

Almost all of the country's cereal production is paddy crop. When the floods occurred harvesting of the 2007 'Boro' paddy crop, accounting for some 30 percent of the annual production, had been virtually completed, the 'Aus' crop (20 percent of total production) was being harvested and the main 'Aman' crop (50 of total production) was being planted. Preliminary official estimates indicate that some 854 000 hectares of paddy have been lost to floods and another 582 000 hectares have been partially damaged. In aggregate, the area affected represents some 13 percent of the total paddy planted area, seriously compromising prospects for this year rice production.

India

The South-west monsoon has been active across the country since the beginning of the season in May and by the end of June resulted in the worst flooding in India for decades, causing loss of life and severe damage to housing, infrastructure and the agriculture sector. Official estimates indicate that close to 18 million people have been adversely affected by the floods, with hundreds of thousands at risk of hunger and disease. The hardest-hit areas are the three northeastern states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam. In Bihar, more than 10 million people in 21 districts have been officially estimated badly affected, while in Assam some 5.5 million people in 5 800 villages of 26 districts have been reportedly affected. In Uttar Pradesh, about 2 million people in 2 665 villages have been affected.

The main (summer) cropping season coincides with the monsoon rains, extending from late-May to September. Some 85 percent of the annual production of the main paddy crop and the entire maize crop are grown in this season. According to India Meteorological Department, the 2007 southwest monsoon arrived over the South Andaman Sea on 10 May, about 10 days ahead of the normal schedule, covered the northeastern states by 10 June, and the entire country by 4 July, about 11 days ahead of normal. As on 31 July, the cumulative seasonal rainfall since 1 June was 103 percent its long-term national average. The three worst flood-affected states are important rice producers, accounting for roughly a quarter of the country's total paddy area and production. Preliminary reports indicate that about one million hectares of cereal land have been submerged in Bihar State alone. While this year's cereal production is likely to be reduced in the three north-eastern affected states, at national level the output of this season will depend on weather conditions in the coming months.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

17 August 2007

Food Supply Situation to Deteriorate in DPR Korea Following Severe Floods and Crop Losses

Unprecedented torrential rains from 5 to 12 August along the River Taedong displaced hundreds of thousands of people and resulted in severe damage to housing, infrastructure and the agriculture sector. The exceptional heavy rains, reported to be the highest in several decades in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, arrived when the 2007 main (summer) season cereal crops, mostly rice and maize, were at the critical development stage. The summer season, normally harvested from October to November, accounts for some 87 percent of the country's annual production of cereals, the main staple in DPR Korea.

A detailed assessment of the flood damage to crops is not yet available as waters have not yet receded and rains continue to fall. However, according to preliminary official estimates as of 14 August, more than 11 percent of the area planted with rice and maize has been submerged or washed away by floods. In the past five years, an average of 584 000 hectares of paddy and 495 000 hectares of maize have been planted in the country with productions of some 2.4 million tonnes of paddy and 1.83 million tonnes of maize, respectively. Government reports indicate that the worst affected areas are the provinces of South Pyongan, North Hwanghae and South Hwanghae, which are the bread basket of the country, accounting for about half of the total rice and maize production in recent years. The cereal area lost or damaged by the floods is estimated at 26 700 hectares in South Phyongan (20 000 of paddy and 6 700 of maize), at some 20 000 hectares in South Hwanghae (14 000 hectares of paddy and 6 000 hectares of maize) and at 37 000 hectares, or about one-third of the cereal plantings of the province, in North Hwanghae. The floods are likely to have a significant negative impact on the 2007 cereal production. Although it is too early to have a comprehensive assessment of production losses, rough estimates indicate that up to 200 000-300 000 tonnes of cereals could have been lost to floods; the final outcome of the cropping season, however, will depend on weather conditions in the next few months.

The country's already tight food supply situation will deteriorate with the anticipated reduction in the 2007 cereal output. Even if DPR Korea has benefited from a steady recovery in agricultural production in the last few years, the cereal deficit in the 2006/07 marketing year (November/October) was still estimated at 1 million tonnes before the floods. Most of the deficit is expected to be covered by food aid. However, in the period from November 2006 to July 2007, total cereal imports received in the country amounted at only 500 000 tonnes (mainly food aid from the Republic of Korea). The remaining cereal deficit of 500 000 tonnes needs to be covered by additional food aid and/or commercial imports if food consumption levels in the country are to be maintained. At household level, losses of standing crops and of food stocks will adversely affect food security of the communities hardest hit by the floods well into the year 2008.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

22 August 2007

Thousands in Need of Humanitarian Assistance after hurricane Dean

Banana Plantations Destroyed on Several Islands

After having strengthened into the highest category 5, Hurricane Dean, the first major Atlantic hurricane of the 2007 season and the third most intense on record, hit the Mexican east coast of Yucatan State on 21 August with winds up to 280 km/hour, to subsequently weaken and be downgraded to category 1. Dean is moving over the coast of the neighbouring Campeche State where it is expected to landfall on 22 August.

Hurricane Dean entered the eastern Caribbean on 17 August, causing 13 deaths and resulting in thousands of displaced people, as well as severe damage to housing and infrastructure in **Martinique, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Belize and Mexico**. United Nations country assessment teams are evaluating the emergency humanitarian needs in the aftermath of the disaster. Large numbers of affected population are in need of food and non-food assistance throughout the region. Distribution operations by Government and non-governmental organizations are already underway.

Severe damage to the agriculture sector is reported in the two French islands of **Martinique and Guadeloupe**, where preliminary estimates indicate that 100 percent and 80 percent respectively of the important banana crop have been destroyed, with the cost of the damage amounting to Euro 100-120 million. Losses of fruits and vegetable crops, as well as livestock, are also reported.

In **Dominica**, provisional official estimates indicate massive damage to agriculture, with 99 percent of the important banana sector, accounting for some 10 percent of the country's GDP, adversely affected by the Hurricane's passage. Other crops were also badly damaged.

In **Jamaica**, a detailed assessment of crop losses is not yet available but serious damage to bananas plantations and other food crops is reported in seven of the country's 13 parishes. Worst affected have been the eastern parishes, in particular Portland and St. Mary where 90 to 100 percent of the banana trees have been destroyed.

In **Saint Lucia**, according to a recent report of the National Emergency and Management Organization flooding caused severe battering to the banana plantations in six of the country's valleys, with 85 percent of the plantations affected in the Roseau valley (region 7), 65 percent in the Cul de Sac valley (region 8), 60 percent in Dennery valley (region 3), 80 percent in the Northern Farms, 70 percent in the Micoud/Patiente (region 4) and 40 percent in Belle vue (region 5). Heavy seas have also resulted in a number of boats and engines being lost and damaged.

Despite the loss of preferential treatment in the European market, banana remains a key export commodity and source of foreign exchange in the affected islands of the Caribbean, in particular in Dominica and Saint Lucia. Rehabilitation and replanting of banana trees will take several years.

In **Haiti**, extensive damage to banana plantations is reported in southern parts. By contrast, abundant rains elsewhere in the country are likely to have benefited the second season sorghum crop and other foodcrops on the ground. In the Dominican Republic, no damage to the agriculture sector has been reported so far.

Banana trees in Martinique flattened by Hurricane Dean (AFP photo)



Banana fields destroyed in the French Caribbean island of Martinique, as a result of Hurricane Dean (AFP photo)



A Haitian woman jumps over tree felled by Hurricane Dean, in Cayes-Jacmel, southeastern Haiti.



The straw roof of house damaged by Hurricane Dean is seen in Cayes-Jacmel, southeastern Haiti.



Republic of Moldova – Impact and Implications of the 2007 Drought

Summary of Preliminary Findings and Recommendations by the FAO/WFP
Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission
Chisinau, 22 August 2007

1. As reported by the Ministry of Agriculture, drought and other climatic events have severely affected Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 crop production and other aspects of the agricultural sector. Latest production estimates are presented below:

Crop	Total area 2006	Total production 2006	Total Area 2007	Estimated production 2007	2007 as % of 2006
	(000) ha	(000) tons	(000) ha	(000) tons	
Winter wheat	290.2	968	305	431.2	44.5
Winter barley	39.4	73.4	54	71.03	96.8
Spring barley	69.3	126.7	72.3	63.6	50.2
Peas	17.8	33.8	17.5	12.1	35.8
Corn	459.3	1322.2	481.3	364.6	27.6
Sunflower	287.4	379.9	231.6	108.5	28.6
Sugarbeet	42.4	1173	34.6	566	48.3
Soya	55.7	79.8	50.5	37.2	46.6
Tobacco	3.5	4.9	3.1	1.6	32.7

2. This has been an extreme, but not isolated situation; it may recur, even if on a smaller scale.
3. The reduced yields in Fall and Spring crops have affected farming on a larger scale, and drastically reduced the returns to land leased by the majority of small holders, in terms of wheat, corn, oil. The drought and reduced availability of water have also sharply reduced household production from home gardens, a mainstay of food source for virtually all rural families.
4. The lack of pasture and fodder, and the need to purchase increasingly expensive food (no longer produced in home gardens) has forced a large number of people to sell part of their livestock, especially cattle, but also pigs, and sheep.
5. For small holders, the financial impact of the drought has been felt mostly through a reduction in food available from home garden production, having to pay higher prices for food, and the loss of savings, food and income source from livestock. The forced sales of a cow, for example, amounts to losing the net present value of milk and offspring over several years.
6. Sharply reduced yields in winter cereals and in summer crops (with a nearly total loss of corn, significant losses in sunflower and sugarbeet) have severe financial implications.
7. Many of the small farmer associations and limited liability companies had borrowed from banks, Savings and Loans Associations, and from input suppliers, to finance purchases of

seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and plowing services. There is a significant amount of debt outstanding.

8. Loans must be re-scheduled, otherwise a failed cropping season may be followed by a delayed or sharply curtailed one.

9. In addition, many smallholders financed production from their own resources, or with funds provided by relatives working abroad. These people have no access to the financial and insurance sectors and the burden of risk from crop failure rests largely on them.

10. The reduction in domestic cereal production has been significant. Total requirements can be met through commercial imports from the region, but this implies that people must have access to this total supply of wheat and corn.

11. The fate of the grape and wine sector remains unclear; wine companies have had difficulty selling their output, and the purchases of grapes from last year are yet unpaid; it is not clear whether they will be able to purchase this year's lower production, even if it is of good quality.

12. A number of measures must be taken to ensure the success of the upcoming agricultural season, and the food security of the population over the next year. In the short term:

13. National requirements for winter season cereal seeds (mostly wheat, barley, rye) must be met, and be made available to farmers. Any requirements in seed for Winter forage crops must also be provided for.

14. Other essential inputs must be provided, through the financial sector for LLCs and associations which have repaid/rescheduled their loans, and on a grant basis for smaller associations and small holders which are not integrated into the formal financial markets.

15. The Government should also take action to relieve the tax burden on most vulnerable groups, through tax holidays on land taxes, taxes on economic activity in rural areas, and remove import duties on all imported essential food items.

16. Livestock feed, concentrate and other essential feed items must be provided on a subsidized basis to smallholder households, to avoid further destocking of the national herd.

17. The current system of social protection must be expanded to include the people who will be falling into the vulnerable category, because of a combination of reduced agricultural incomes, loss of household savings and higher prices for food and other essentials.

18. This system includes allowances to vulnerable families; these allowances should be raised. In addition, school lunches for school children in grades 1-4 should be provided without financial contribution from the population. Resources allowing, school lunches could also be provided to school children in higher grades.

19. Iron deficiency is prevalent. Importing fortified cereals, or fortifying cereals in local processing plants would help address this problem.

20. Depending on the severity of the crisis, local governments should also provide free meals, using the same school canteen facilities, to the most vulnerable families.

21. Public work opportunities for casual labourers who have lost income must be provided.

22. In the medium term:

23. The national herd must be rebuilt by providing smallholders with highly subsidized breeding stock, especially cattle and pigs. Animal husbandry for other species, currently raised by a minority of farmers, should be promoted (e.g. rabbits).

24. Improved seed production and multiplication will have to be expanded; at the same time, a mix of suitable, economic and risk-minimizing crops must be defined. For example, due consideration given to crops which perform well in both normal and dry years (e.g. red sorghum, for livestock feed).

25. The crop mix for home gardens must also be diversified, and upgraded. Smallholders (for home gardens) must have access to information and genetic material to reduce their risk of loss from unfavourable weather.

26. In areas where there are sufficient groundwater resources, home garden production should benefit from greater and more efficient access to water resources (e.g. hand pumps).
27. At the same time, rainwater harvesting at the household level must be developed further, especially in areas with relatively scarce groundwater resources.
28. To reduce risk from weather events, better food security monitoring and early warning tools and systems must be established.
29. In the longer term:
30. The sustainable strategy for the agricultural sector, including proper farming practices, crop mixes, and efficient use of the natural resource base, including water, must be prepared and implemented. Technical assistance will be available from FAO and can also be expected from other interested donor agencies.
31. The financial sector remains poorly developed; the agricultural insurance sector is even more basic (see, for example, World Bank Report 2006). Efficiency in agriculture will require that more LLCs, farmers' associations and individuals have easier and less expensive access to credit.
32. As far as smallholders are concerned, the capitalization of the credit fund managed by the National federation of farmers, with ACSA technical assistance, could be increased by donor contributions. In any case, the credit fund should be insured (at least partially) against losses from weather-related disasters.
33. Better and more widespread agricultural insurance, including weather-indexed insurance, must be developed. It will reduce the risk of lending and therefore, lower the cost of borrowing. Properly combined with the financial sector, it will also provide the means to compensate people for losses due to disasters, and lower the burden on all segments of the economy.



Debriefing on FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission

Following the severe drought during the 2007 agricultural season, the Government of Moldova requested that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations assess the effects of the drought on the food supply in order to develop appropriate measures to ensure food security, as well as to identify immediate and medium-term measures to mitigate the impact of drought on the agricultural sector.

The *FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission* was carried out during the period of 12 – 22 August 2007. The Mission's findings and recommendations were presented on 22 August, 2007, at a joint meeting of the government with the donor community, organized by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Moldova.

According to *Dr. Henri Josserand*, Mission Team Leader, the estimated cost of lost production is nearly €300 million for cereal crops only, while the losses to the livestock sector are likely to be even larger. The Mission also reported that the drought has caused a reduction in food available from home garden production, loss of savings, food and income source from liquidated family livestock, increased food expenditures and higher prices for other basic requirements (energy, gas, heating, etc).

The Mission advised that immediate support be provided to farmers to meet the requirements for winter season cereal seeds (mostly wheat, barley, and rye). In addition, it recommended that the current system of social protection be expanded to include people becoming vulnerable as a result of: (i) reduced agricultural incomes; (ii) loss of household savings; (iii) higher prices for food and other essentials.

With respect to mid-term measures, the Mission advocated for (i) better food security monitoring and establishment of early warning tools and systems; (ii) improved seed production and diversification and upgrading of crops; (iii) rebuilding of national herds by providing smallholders with subsidized breeding stock. In the long run, a sustainable strategy for the agricultural sector, including proper farming practices, crop mixes, and efficient use of the natural resource base (including water) should be developed and implemented. Better and more widespread agricultural insurance, including weather-indexed insurance, should be also developed.

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5 September 2007

Floods Cause Damage in Parts of Several East African Countries

Recent heavy rains and floods in parts of several countries of East Africa have killed a number of people and/or displaced thousands, destroyed or damaged crops and increased the likelihood of serious localised food shortages. The sub-region's 2007 main cropping season is being concluded in southern parts of the sub-region while in northern parts crops are at varying stages of development.

In **Sudan**, heavy rains within the country and in neighbouring Ethiopian and Eritrean highlands caused an overflow of the main rivers. So far, torrential rains and floods have killed some 90 people across Sudan and destroyed more than 70 000 homes. At least 12 000 head of livestock and more than 42 000 hectares of crops are reported to have been destroyed. In addition, more than 200 000 people have also lost their homes and an estimated 3.5 million people are reported to be at risk of epidemics. Worst affected areas include Kassala in eastern Sudan, parts of Unity and Upper Nile states. The 2007 rainfall season is turning out to be one of the wettest of recent record across many areas of Sudan. The early onset of the season was characterised by very wet June and July conditions which continued through August. The amount of rainfall has been above average in most parts of the country with more northern regions receiving twice the average rainfall. Harvesting of current season crops is expected to start in November. An appeal was made for US\$20 million to support the humanitarian assistance launched by the United Nations.

Similarly, in **Ethiopia**, floods have so far affected more than 130 000 people with an estimated 36 000 of them being displaced in Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Tigray and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) regions. Furthermore, as the ongoing rains raise the water level of Lake Tana, there are concerns that more people in the surrounding districts of northwestern Ethiopia could be displaced. This year's flooding seems to have also occurred in normally non-flood prone areas, increasing floodwater area coverage. Government and humanitarian joint contingency plans anticipate relief and recovery assistance will be required for 324 000 people this season under the most likely scenario.

In **Uganda**, floods in August were reported to have displaced tens of families and destroyed crops in the eastern parts of the country. The Minister for relief, disaster preparedness and refugees indicated that high waters had submerged entire villages and destroyed many farms. Several communities in Aakum in the Katakwi district, and Acowa in Amuria district, have been affected by the flooding. Neighbouring regions in north-western Kenya have also been affected, with more than one thousand families displaced after heavy rains in the western highlands caused a river to burst its banks and flood villages.

In **Somalia**, recent reports indicate that the Shabelle River has spilled over its banks and submerged farming areas in some villages in Middle Shabelle region. These floods, resulting mainly from heavy rains in the Ethiopian highlands, are expected to exacerbate the already vulnerable situation in the region. Recently, Somalia's Food Security analysis Unit (FSAU) and partners reported that cereal production in the current main agricultural "gu" season in southern Somalia was estimated at 48 600 tonnes, the lowest level in the last thirteen years, representing only 31 percent of the 1995 to 2006 post-war average (PWA) and 43 percent of last year's gu 2006 production. The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased by 50 percent in the last six months from 1 million to 1.5 million people. Nearly one fifth of these people are classified in Humanitarian Emergency (HE) requiring life saving interventions while a third are in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) requiring livelihood support. In addition, there are 325 000 people who are newly displaced from Mogadishu and 400 000 already displaced requiring both life and livelihood saving interventions.



**Disaster Management Information Centre
Disaster Management Bureau (DMB)
Ministry of Food and Disaster Management**



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Emergency Title:	Flood Situation
Emergency Location:	Bangladesh 20°22'N-26°36'N, 87°48'E-92°41'E,
Covering Period:	From: SAT-08-SEP-2007:1800 To: SUN-09-SEP-2007:1800
Transmission Date/Time:	SUN-09-SEP-2007:1800
Prepared by:	DMIC, DMB

Flood, Rainfall and River Situation; Summary of Water Levels; Flood Forecast (24 & 48 Hrs); Weather Forecast, District Wise Flood Status and Brief Report on Relief Activities

Current Situation: Monsoon remains vigorously active over the GMB (Ganges, Meghna Brahmaputra) basins both in and outside of the country. High flood situation prevails in few districts of India and flood water will automatically be drained by the Brahmaputra through Bangladesh. Northern districts like Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur & Gaibandha are experiencing flash flood as the Sub-Himalayan West Bengal discharging huge runoff through flashy rivers the Teesta, Dharla & Dudkumar. The prevailing flood situation in the district of Sylhet is likely to deteriorate further. South-eastern districts are experiencing flash flood and the situation may deteriorate. The mighty Brahmaputra-Jamuna is rising alarmingly and may cross danger level at few places. The Ganges-Padma is also in rising trend. **North, north-central and south-central parts of the country are in a threat of 2nd spell of flooding by next 48-72hrs.**

Flood, Rainfall and River Situation Summary (as on September 09, 2007)

Flood Outlook

- Monsoon remains mostly active over the GMB (Ganges, Meghna Brahmaputra) basins both in and outside of the country and also over the south-eastern hill basin.
- **Indian meteorological department forecast:** Isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely over Assam & Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh (Brahmaputra basin). Isolated heavy rainfall is likely over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura (Meghna basin) and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim (Ganges basin) during next 48 hrs.
- Bangladesh meteorological Department (BMD) also forecast for moderate rainfall at many places over the country during next 24hrs.
- High flood situation prevails in the districts of Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Sonitpur & Sivsagar in Indian state Assam and moderate flood situation in many districts of Assam & Meghalaya. The flood water will automatically be drained by the Brahmaputra through Bangladesh.

The Disaster Management Information Centre is the information hub of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management for risk reduction, hazard early warnings and emergency response and recovery activities



Situation Report

- Faizabad of Uttar Pradesh and Muzaffarpur of Bihar are experiencing high flood situation and the flood water travelling by the Ganges to Bangladesh.
- The mighty Brahmaputra-Jamuna continued rising alarmingly and the rate of rise expected to be slowed down in the next 24-72 hrs.
- The Ganges-Padma is also in rising trend and the river is likely to rise further in the next 24-72 hrs.
- **North, north-central and south-central parts of the country are in a threat of 2nd spell of flooding by next 24-48 hrs.**
- Flash flood situation in the northern districts is likely to remain static and expected to start improving in the next 24-48 hrs as monsoon became relatively weak over the area.
- The prevailing flood situation in the north-eastern part (Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj, Moulvi bazaar, Netrokona & Sherpur) of the country deteriorate further and spread over more areas, the situation is likely to aggravate further in the next 24hrs.
- South-eastern districts Comilla, Feni, Noakhali, Chittagonj, Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari are experiencing flash flood and the situation may deteriorate slightly in the next 24hrs.

[Source: Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre - FFWC]

Rainfall

- Monsoon remains very active over the country and south, south-east, north and north-eastern part of the country received heavy to very heavy rainfall during last 24 hrs ending at 6 AM today.
- Significant rainfalls recorded are:

Sylhet: 155.0 mm	Ramgarh: 137.0 mm	Panchpukuria: 118.0 mm
Nakuagaon: 128 mm	Comilla: 115.0 mm	Chandpur: 109.0 mm
Durgapur: 90.2 mm.		

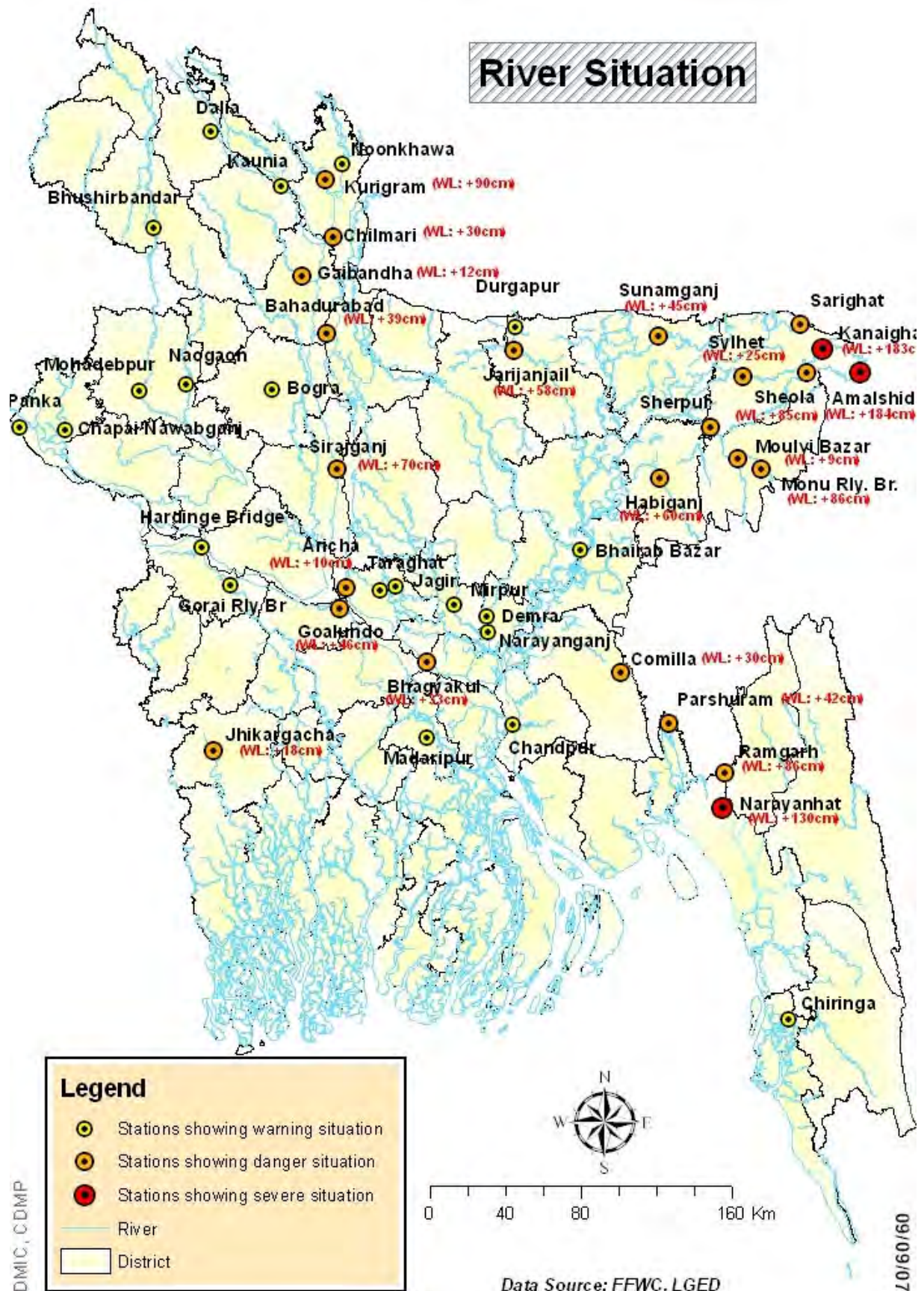
Summary of Water Level

District	River	Station Name	D.L. (m)	WATER LEVEL	
				08-09-2007 (cm)	09-09-2007 (cm)
BRAHMAPUTRA BASIN					
Kurigram	DHARLA	Kurigram	26.50	+62	+ 90
Nilphamari	TEESTA	Dalia	52.25	+70	Below D.L.
Gaibandha	GHAGOT	Gaibandha	21.70	Below D.L.	+ 12
Kurigram	BRAHMAPUTRA	Noonkhawa	27.25	Below D.L.	+ 2
Kurigram	BRAHMAPUTRA	Chilmari	24.00	Below D.L.	+ 30
Jalapur	JAMUNA	Bahadurabad	19.50	Below D.L.	+ 39
Sirajganj	JAMUNA	Sirajganj	13.75	+35	+ 70
Manikganj	JAMUNA	Aricha	9.40	Below D.L.	+ 10
Jalapur	OLD BRAHMAPUTRA	Jalapur	17.00	Below D.L.	Below D.L.
Mymensingh	OLD BRAHMAPUTRA	Mymensingh	12.50	Below D.L.	Below D.L.
Dhaka	BURIGANGA	Dhaka	6.00	Below D.L.	Below D.L.
Dhaka	BALU	Demra	5.75	Below D.L.	Below D.L.
Narayanganj	LAKHYA	Narayanganj	5.50	Below D.L.	Below D.L.
Dhaka	TURAG	Mirpur	5.94	Below D.L.	Below D.L.
Dhaka	TONGI KHAL	Tongi	6.08	Below D.L.	Below D.L.
Manikganj	KALIGANGA	Taraghat	8.38	Below D.L.	Below D.L.
Manikganj	DHALESWARI	Jagir	8.23	Below D.L.	Below D.L.
Manikganj	DHALESWARI	Rekabi Bazar	5.18	Below D.L.	Below D.L.
GANGES BASIN					
Chapainawabganj	GANGES	Pankha	21.50	Below D.L.	
Rajbari	PADMA	Goalundo	8.50	+25	+ 46
Munshiganj	PADMA	Bhagyakul	6.00	+18	+ 33
Jessore	KOBADAK	Jhikargacha	4.11	+ 19	+ 18
MEGHNA BASIN					
Sylhet	SURMA	Kanaighat	13.20	+ 150	+ 183
Sylhet	SURMA	Sylhet	11.25	Below D.L.	+ 25
Sunamganj	SURMA	Sunamganj	8.25	+15	+ 45
Sylhet	KUSHIYARA	Amalshid	13.50	+137	+ 184
Sylhet	KUSHIYARA	Sheola	13.50	+38	+ 85
Moulvibazar	MANU	Manu Rly. Br.	18.00	Below D.L.	+ 86
Moulvibazar	MANU	Moulvibazar	11.75	Below D.L.	+ 9
Habiganj	KHOWAI	Habiganj	9.50	Below D.L.	+ 60
Netrokona	KANGSHA	Jariajanjail	9.75	+23.	+ 58
Kishorhanj	MEGHNA	Bhairab Bazar	6.25	Below D.L.	Below D.L.
Comilla	GUMTI	Comilla	11.75	Below D.L.	+ 30
Comilla	GUMTI	Debiddar	8.09	Below D.L.	+ 7
SOUTH EASTERN HILL BASIN					
Feni	MUHURI	Parshuram	13.00	+85	+ 42
Chittagong	HALDA	Narayan Hat	15.25	+140	+ 130
Rangamati	FENI	Ramgarh	17.37	Below D.L.	+ 86

D.L – Danger Level

[Source: Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre - FFWC]

River Situation Map
(As on September 09, 2007)



[Data Source: Flood Forecasting and Warning Center – FFWC]

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FLOOD FORECAST FOR NEXT 24 & 48 HRS (SEPT.10 & 11 AT 6 AM)

The Brahmaputra-Jamuna at:

- 1) Chuilmari is likely to rise by 12 cm & 11cm and **may flow 42 cm & 53 cm above danger level** in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.
- 2) Bahadurabad is likely to rise by 10 cm & 8 cm and **may flow 49 cm & 57 cm above danger level** in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.
- 3) Serajganj is likely to rise by 24 cm & 16 cm and **may flow 94 cm & 110 cm above danger level*** in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.
- 4) Aricha is likely to rise by 26 cm & 15 cm and **may flow 36 cm & 51 cm above danger level** in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.

The Kaliganga at Taraghat is likely to rise by 39 cm and may align with the danger mark in the next 24 hrs. In the next 48 hrs it may rise further 45 cm and may flow **45 cm above danger level**.

The Turag at Mirpur is likely to rise by 15 cm & 13 cm and may flow 54 cm & 41 cm below danger level in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.

The Buriganga at Dhaka is likely to rise by 17 cm & 14 cm and may flow 103 cm & 89 cm below danger level in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.

The Balu at Demra is likely to rise by 10 cm & 12 cm and may flow 51 cm & 39 cm below danger level in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.

The Lakhya at Narayanganj is likely to rise by 5 cm & 7 cm and may flow 46 cm below & 39 cm below danger level in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.

* Danger level at a river location is the level above which it is likely that the flood may cause damages to nearby crops and homesteads. In a river having no embankment, danger level is about annual average flood level. In an embanked river, danger level is fixed slightly below design flood level of the embankment.

The Padma at:

- 1) Goalundo is likely to rise by 22 cm & 13 cm and may flow 68 cm & 81 cm above danger level in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.
- 2) Bhagyakul is likely to rise by 22 cm & 12 cm and may flow 55 cm & 67 cm above danger level in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.

The Surma at:

- 1) Sylhet is likely to rise by 18 cm & 15 cm and may flow 43 cm & 58 cm above danger level in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.
- 2) Sunamganj is likely to rise by 21 cm & 16 cm and may flow 66 cm & 82 cm above danger level in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.

The Kushiyara at Sheola is likely to rise by 38 and 10 cm and may flow 123 & 133 cm above danger level in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.

The Meghna at Bhairab Bazar is likely to rise by 7 cm & 8 cm and may flow 33 cm & 25 cm below danger level in the next 24 & 48 hrs respectively.

General River Condition

- Water Level stations: Above danger level:13 Rise: 48 Fall: 8 Steady: 0 Not Reported: 7
- Almost all the rivers over the country observed rise.

[Source: Flood Forecasting and Warning Center – FFWC]

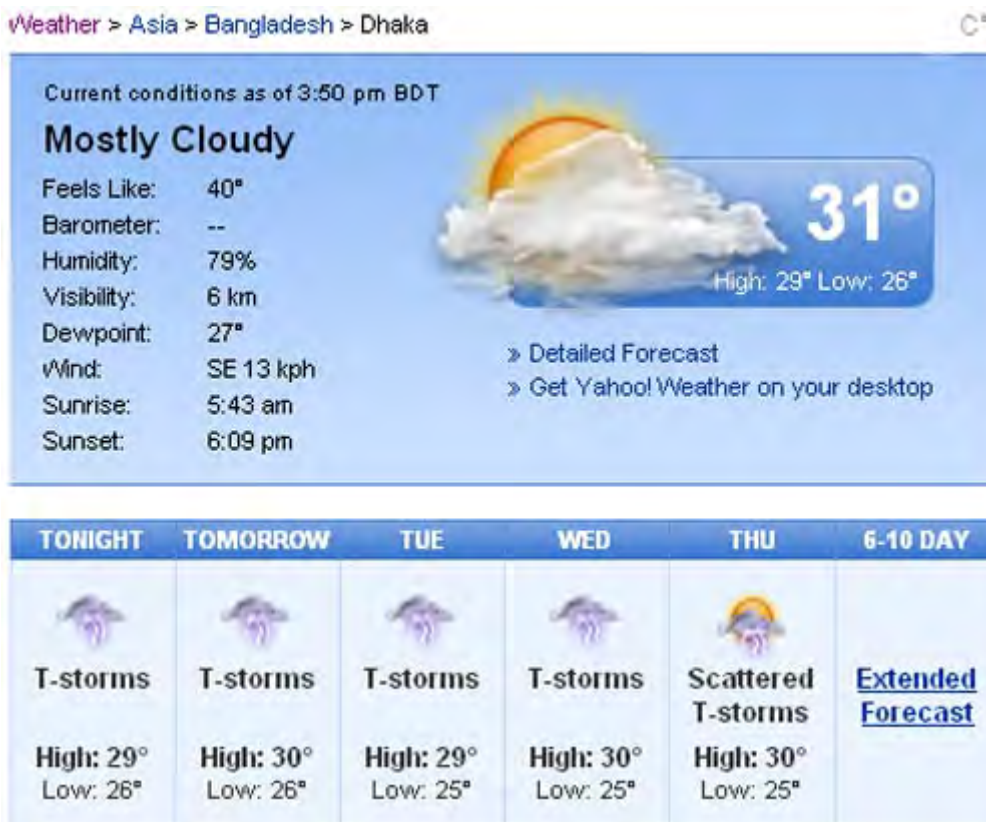
Weather Forecast (valid for 24 Hours commencing 09 AM today)

Synoptic Situation: Monsoon axis runs through Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and thence northeastwards to Assam across northern part of Bangladesh. One of its associated troughs extends to Northeast Bay. Monsoon is fairly active over Bangladesh and moderate elsewhere over North Bay.

Forecast: Light to moderate rain/T. showers accompanied by tempo. gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

[Source: Bangladesh Meteorological Department - BMD]



[Source: weather.com]

DISTRICTS WISE SITUATION STATUS

Sylhet: Fresh flood has prevailed at 7 upazilas as water entered into several new low lying areas over the embankment as the Surma and the Kushiara are flowing over danger level. Rain is continuing and all upazilas are likely to be flooded by tomorrow. Efforts against the flood are being continued. 86,325 people of 17,115 families from 47 unions of 7 upazilas are affected by the 2nd phase flood. Besides crops full 3520 acre, 12456 acres partial, households partial 180, roads 96 km partial, 4 educational institutions, 30 km embankment, 1 bridge/culvert are damaged. 87.5 metric ton GR rice, BDT 50,000 GR cash and 26 tins biscuits distributed.

Sunamganj: The river is flowing above the danger level but started falling. No information received about any fresh flood. Situation is normal.

Hobiganj: Water level at Hawor area slightly increased but no information received about any fresh flood. Flood situation did not deteriorate.

Moulvibazar: Flood situation is under control and unlikely to deteriorate.

Barisal: Light rain accompanied with temporary squally wind occurred last day, otherwise the situation is good.

Patuakhali: District administrator informed that there was no possibility of flood.

Barguna: Light rain occurred. No information about damage received yet.

Bhola: Rainfall stopped. Newly sowed seed field went under water at Doulatkhan, Tjumoddin, Charfashion, Sadar and Monpura due to heavy rainfall. River erosion has become devastating at Sadar, Doulatkhan and Monpura.

Rajbari: Situation is under control and unlikely to deteriorate.

Munshiganj: The Padma is increasing and water level has already crossed the danger mark at Bhagyakul. Fresh flood may occur at low lying areas in case of continuation of water level rising. Situation is under observation.

Manikganj: The Jamuna has been increased at Aricha but no new crisis showed up yet anywhere.

Sherpur: Onrush of water from the hilly regions of near by border triggered by continuous torrential rains caused inundation of areas. 29 unions and 2 pourashovas of Nalitabari, Jhinagatee and Sreebodi upazila adjacent to border submerged with water again for the second spell. Fields of newly planted seeds of aman remain inundated. People of inundated households are taking place at high lands with their livestock. The Brahmaputra is continuing to rise. The Sherpur-Jamalpur highway is going under water. 23 unions and 2 pourashovas are likely to be flooded if water form upstream and the level of the Brahmaputra continue to rise. Relief activities started.

Sirajganj: The Jamuna is flowing over the danger level. The low lying areas and roads are inundated. People from flooded areas are continuing to shift to shelters. Fields of crops are flooded newly. Detail damage report has not been received yet.

Nilphamari: The river is flowing above the danger level but is in falling trend. Water is decreasing from crop fields. If this continues then the situation will be normal very soon.

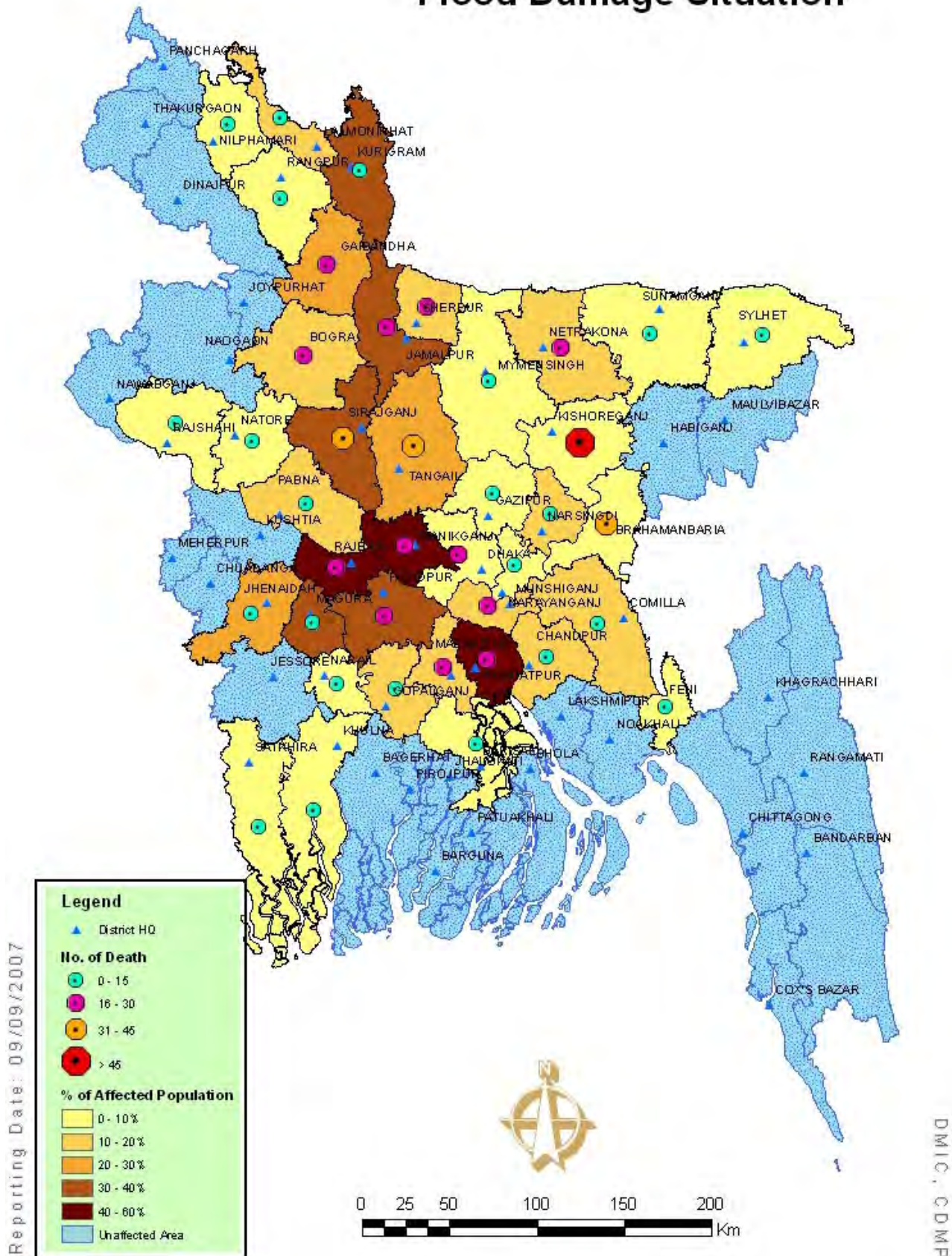
Rangpur: The river decreased, no rain at present and the sky is clear. 4 flood shelter opened as low lying areas of Gangachara upazila was flooded due to heavy rainfall. 1000 people took place at the shelters and few people are still water logged.

Lalmonirhat: The Teesta is decreasing rapidly and the Dharla is in falling trend.

Kurigram: The Dhara is 105 cm above, the Brahmaputra is 18 cm above and the Dudhkamal is flowing little above the danger level. Most of the embankments of most of the unions of Sadar and Rajarghat upazila are damaged. The Kurigram-Nageshwari road is underwater. All unions of Phulbari upazila and 4 unions of Vurungamari upazila are flooded again freshly. Low lying areas of other unions are submerging newly. 21 flood shelter opened and people are coming to take place.

Damage Map
(As on September 09, 2007)

Flood Damage Situation



[Data Source: Flood Forecasting and Warning Center – FFWC]

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Situation Report

Chittagong: 6 households fully and 23 households partially damaged in Satkania upazila due to heavy rainfall and river bank erosion. 3 Metricton G.R Rice and 5000 taka G. R. Cash have been allocated to the affected people.

Yesterday a Tornado hit the word number 1 of Sandip Pourashava and word number 3 and 4 of Musapur union at 8.00am to till 11.00am. 8 households fully and 42 shop partially of Sandip Pourashava and 19 households fully and 22 households partially of Musapur union have been affected. 26 families took shelter in Gurudaspur Cyclone Center. 10 Metricton Rice, 60 Bundle C.I Sheet and 20000 taka have been distributed to the affected people. Rescue and relief activities in the Cyclone affected areas are carrying by the Armed forces and Non Government Organization.

Rangamati: Situation is improving. Bagaichari, Langdu, Naniar char, Juraichari and Rangamati sadar have been affected. Water entered to the Rajnagar and Morisya Armi Camp. 6 Centers have been opened in this district for shelter and 1200 people took shelter. 28 Metricton G.R Rice and 60000 taka G. R Cash have been distributed to the affected people.

Kagrachari: Due to torrent mount stream flood situation have been created. 4 upazilas have been inundated. Communication has been break down from Chittagong to Khagrachari due to road damaged at manikchhari.

Noakhali: Heavy rainfall is till continuing.

Feni: Heavy rainfall decreased than yesterday. Low lying areas of Porshuram and Fulgaizi upazila have been inundated. Other upazilas have been affected by water logging due to heavy rainfall. Kahua river is flowing above danger level till now but started decreasing now. Situation is under control now.

Natore: Tornado stroke Kalinagar of Kalam union at Singra Upazilla in Natore at the morning 5.21am. 17 families have been affected due to this Tornado. 92000 taka of house building allocation have been distributed to the affected peoples of 17 families. Without this at 5.00pm a Tornado stroke suddenly in Bhatshala and Pakuria union of District Sadar, Sherpur. Approximate 200 households affected.

ALLOCATION FROM HONOURABLE CHIEF ADVISER'S RELIEF AND WELFARE FUND

Item	Distribute to DC Office
GR Cash	BDT 117000000
House building Grant	BDT 380800000

TOTAL ALLOCATION OF RELIEF TO DCs OF DIFFERENT DISTRICTS

Item	Distribute to DC Office
GR Rice	17015 MT
GR Cash	BDT 46651000
GR Cash (Relief activities/ Rescue)	BDT 4200000
House building Grant	BDT 62466500

[Source: Relief Control Cell, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management]

DONATION TO CHIEF ADVISER'S RELIEF AND WELFARE FUND

Please note down the bank account number to donate your money to Chief Advisors Relief and Welfare Fund for the flood affected people:

Chief Advisors Relief and Welfare Fund
Current Account no. 33004093
Sonali Bank
Chief Adviser's Office Branch
Tejgaon, Dhaka

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Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation
Flood 2007: Relief Activities
Date: 09/09/2007

Sl. No.	District	Allocation of Relief Materials					VGF		Allocation from Honorable Chief Advisor's Relief and Welfare Fund		Total Allocation (Tk.)
		GR Rice (MT)	Price (TK)	GR Cash (TK)	HB Grant (TK)	Others (TK)	Rice (MT)	Price (TK)	GR Cash	HB Grant	
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1	Sirajganj	1,600	32,334,400	2,900,000	6,250,000	1,300,000	4,920	99,428,280	15,000,000	73,050,000	230,262,680
2	Kurigram	800	16,167,200	1,700,000	3,750,000	400,000	9,000	181,881,000	15,000,000	19,050,000	237,948,200
3	Bogra	600	12,125,400	400,000	2,500,000	100,000	1,920	38,801,280	5,000,000	7,300,000	66,226,680
4	Gaibandha	600	12,125,400	1,925,000	3,450,000	500,000	10,250	207,142,250	10,000,000	32,550,000	267,692,650
5	Rangpur	350	7,073,150	1,400,000	400,000	0	10,375	209,668,375	0	1,100,000	219,641,525
6	Nilphamari	200	4,041,800	675,000	275,000	50,000	7,500	151,567,500	0	400,000	157,009,300
7	Lalmonirhat	300	6,062,700	575,000	700,000	50,000	5,250	106,097,250	0	8,000,000	121,484,950
8	Pabna	400	8,083,600	1,100,000	1,400,000	400,000	2,760	55,776,840	5,000,000	15,500,000	87,260,440
9	Rajshahi	150	3,031,350	400,000	300,000	0	920	18,592,280	0	1,100,000	23,423,630
10	Natore	250	5,052,250	375,000	900,000	0	1,440	29,100,960	2,000,000	3,100,000	40,528,210
11	Tangail	600	12,125,400	2,100,000	5,000,000	600,000	3,600	72,752,400	5,000,000	19,600,000	117,177,800
12	Dhaka	600	12,125,400	2,900,000	2,500,000	700,000	2,700	54,564,300	0	13,400,000	86,189,700
13	Manikganj	700	14,146,300	2,000,000	3,500,000	650,000	3,900	78,815,100	10,000,000	22,900,000	132,011,400
14	Netrokona	250	5,052,250	900,000	1,200,000	250,000	3,000	60,627,000	5,000,000	5,900,000	78,929,250
15	Jamalpur	800	16,167,200	1,800,000	4,050,000	100,000	4,575	92,456,175	10,000,000	34,050,000	158,623,375
16	Faridpur	1,250	25,261,250	2,000,000	3,350,000	550,000	6,225	125,801,025	5,000,000	14,150,000	176,112,275
17	Rajbari	450	9,094,050	1,400,000	2,870,000	200,000	3,375	68,205,375	5,000,000	12,370,000	99,139,425
18	Gopalganj	200	4,041,800	675,000	650,000	0	3,300	66,689,700	0	8,050,000	80,106,500
19	Narsingdi	300	6,062,700	650,000	1,100,000	200,000	1,120	22,634,080	0	1,500,000	32,146,780
20	Kishorganj	150	3,031,350	300,000	200,000	0	3,900	78,815,100	0	4,200,000	86,546,450
21	Sherpur	400	8,083,600	775,000	1,050,000	0	3,375	68,205,375	0	3,750,000	81,863,975
22	Narayanganj	350	7,073,150	1,075,000	550,000	50,000	800	16,167,200	0	1,750,000	26,665,350
23	Mymensing	200	4,041,800	300,000	500,000	500,000	2,000	40,418,000	0	2,400,000	48,159,800
24	Madaripur	450	9,094,050	1,150,000	1,100,000	100,000	4,200	84,877,800	0	6,300,000	102,621,850
25	Sariatpur	900	18,188,100	1,200,000	2,900,000	300,000	4,875	98,518,875	5,000,000	22,900,000	149,006,975

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Situation Report

Sl. No.	District	Allocation of Relief Materials					VGF		Allocation from Honorable Chief Advisor's Relief and Welfare Fund		Total Allocation (Tk.)
		GR Rice (MT)	Price (TK)	GR Cash (TK)	HB Grant (TK)	Others (TK)	Rice (MT)	Price (TK)	GR Cash	HB Grant	
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
26	Munshiganj	500	10,104,500	1,675,000	1,000,000	300,000	3,120	63,052,080	5,000,000	8,400,000	89,531,580
27	Gazipur	100	2,020,900	375,000	150,000	100,000	880	17,783,920	0	4,150,000	24,579,820
28	Comilla	250	5,052,250	600,000	1,700,000	0	3,200	64,668,800	0	5,000,000	77,021,050
29	Feni	200	4,041,800	775,000	280,000	50,000	1,800	36,376,200	0	1,880,000	43,403,000
30	Chandpur	100	2,020,900	400,000	1,200,000	0	3,300	66,689,700	0	6,900,000	77,210,600
31	B. Baria	300	6,062,700	1,200,000	200,000	100,000	1,920	38,801,280	0	600,000	46,963,980
32	Sylhet	400	8,083,600	800,000	300,000	0	2,280	46,076,520	0	1,100,000	56,360,120
33	Sunamganj	150	3,031,350	200,000	600,000	0	3,000	60,627,000	5,000,000	5,200,000	74,658,350
34	Magura	250	5,052,250	850,000	1,350,000	350,000	1,800	36,376,200	5,000,000	3,900,000	52,878,450
35	Narail	150	3,031,350	250,000	150,000	100,000	920	18,592,280	0	500,000	22,623,630
36	Satkhira	150	3,031,350	400,000	75,000	0	960	19,400,640	0	600,000	23,506,990
37	Jinaidah	150	3,031,350	375,000	1,575,000	0	1,000	20,209,000	5,000,000	6,000,000	36,190,350
38	Khulna	100	2,020,900	300,000	100,000	100,000	1,200	24,250,800	0	500,000	27,271,700
39	Barisal	300	6,062,700	700,000	400,000	500,000	1,680	33,951,120	0	21,400,000	63,013,820
Total		15,950	322,333,550	39,575,000	59,525,000	8,600,000	132,340	2,674,459,060	117,000,000	400,500,000	3,621,992,610

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Flood 2007
Relief Material Distribution (Government - Non Government)
Date: 09/09/2007

Sl. No.	District	Relief Allocation Gov. (Tk.) including VGF & GR Rice	Relief Allocation Non Gov. (Tk.)
1	2	3	4
1	Sirajganj	230,262,680	69,683,457
2	Kurigram	237,948,200	75,191,534
3	Bogra	66,226,680	27,475,243
4	Gaibandha	267,692,650	55,639,741
5	Rangpur	219,641,525	3,262,530
6	Nilphamari	157,009,300	803,528
7	Lalmonirhat	121,484,950	8,587,434
8	Pabna	87,260,440	6,499,575
9	Rajshahi	23,423,630	45,500
10	Natore	40,528,210	2,280,913
11	Tangail	117,177,800	28,838,370
12	Dhaka	86,189,700	7,145,799
13	Manikganj	132,011,400	4,594,244
14	Netrokona	78,929,250	9,259,377
15	Jamalpur	158,623,375	34,430,903
16	Faridpur	176,112,275	15,121,090
17	Rajbari	99,139,425	17,500,000
18	Gopalganj	80,106,500	621,000
19	Narsingdi	32,146,780	1,076,093
20	Kishorganj	86,546,450	8,156,067
Total		2,498,461,220	376,212,398

Sl. No.	District	Relief Allocation Gov. (Tk.) including VGF & GR Rice	Relief Allocation Non Gov. (Tk.)
5	6	7	8
21	Sherpur	81,863,975	3,494,901
22	Narayanganj	26,665,350	4,587,361
23	Mymensing	48,159,800	2,104,220
24	Madaripur	102,621,850	5,809,100
25	Sariatpur	149,006,975	39,171,653
26	Munshiganj	89,531,580	17,327,109
27	Gazipur	24,579,820	1,075,050
28	Comilla	77,021,050	2,411,260
29	Feni	43,403,000	37,100
30	Chandpur	77,210,600	4,451,765
31	B. Baria	46,963,980	1,718,927
32	Sylhet	56,360,120	4,542,120
33	Sunamganj	74,658,350	12,698,871
34	Magura	52,878,450	2,050,000
35	Narail	22,623,630	863,710
36	Satkhira	23,506,990	781,200
37	Jinaidah	36,190,350	683,202
38	Khulna	27,271,700	0
39	Barisal	63,013,820	0
		1,123,531,390	103,807,549
	G. Total	3,621,992,610	480,019,947

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Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation
Flood 2007: Brief Report on Damage and Relief Activities
Date: 09/09/2007

Damage		
1	Total District	39
2	Total Upazila	256
3	Total Pouroshova	68
4	Total Union	1,994
5	Total Area (sq. km.)	21,037
6	Affected Family	22,85,630
7	Affected People	1,06,61,488
8	Number of Death	578
9	Death cattles	1,276
Damage Crops (Hectre)		
10	Partial	2,68,357
11	Full	2,93,307
Households		
12	Total	9,15,439
13	Full	69,811
Roads (km)		
14	Kacha Partial	20,189
15	Kacha Total	2,737
16	Pucca Partial	2,940
17	Pucca Full	398
Embankments (km)		
18	Partial	675.59
19	Full	77.45
Institutions/Establishments		
20	Partial	7,637
21	Full	390
22	Number of Shelters	24
23	Number of Sheltered People	6,281
24	Remarks	
Onrush of water from upstream triggered by torrential rains caused the rise in the water level of the rivers. 16 districts experienced fresh flood.		

Relief Distribution		
Total Allotment		
1	GR Rice	15,950
2	GR Cash	39575000
3	Housebuilding Grant	59525000
4	Others	86,00,000
Honorable Chief Advisor's Relief and Welfare Fund		
5	GR Cash	11,70,00,000
6	Housebuilding Grant	40,05,00,000

[Source: Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation - DRR]

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**FAO AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT MISSION TO DOMINICA
FOLLOWING HURRICANE DEAN
TCP/DMI/3102**

**PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION
September 17, 2007**

Document prepared by the Global Information & Early Warning System (GIEWS) of the Trade and Markets Division in collaboration with the Emergency and Operation Service (TCEO) of the Technical Cooperation Department. The final assessment report is expected to be published at the beginning of October.

Background

The Commonwealth of Dominica is located in the Eastern Caribbean and is the largest and most mountainous of the Windward Islands with an area of 750.6 square kilometers. It has an estimated population of 71,000 of which about 20,000 live around the capital city of Roseau which is located on the south-west coast. The country experienced serious economic difficulties during the 1990s and recorded negative growth for 2001 and 2002 but this has subsequently been reversed with annual positive growth rates of over 3% from 2004. The agricultural sector plays a major role in the economic and rural development accounting for about 17 percent of GDP and 24 percent of employment. National policies have identified agriculture as a major agent for rural transformation and the attainment of macro-economic stability and sustainable development. Crop production led by banana is a primary foreign exchange earner and provides a major source of employment.

Hurricane force winds, torrential rains and high sea swells resulting from the passage of Hurricane Dean between August 16 and 17, 2007 severely affected all sectors of the Dominican economy including agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Wind gusts of up to 170 km/hr and precipitation in excess of 200 mm over a period of 18 hours resulted in swollen rivers, flash floods and landslides that caused extensive damage to agriculture, housing and infrastructure. Agriculture was the sector hardest hit by the storm with widespread damage in all growing areas throughout the country and losses of over 70 percent of total agricultural production. Over 3,200 farmers have reported some level of damage to their established plots while in excess of 3,000 fishers and vendors have had their earnings sharply reduced. The worst hit areas were the south, south-east, east and west regions. The areas in the south and east concentrate the more vulnerable population. Significant damage to infrastructure, with feeder roads made impassible as a result of landslides, fallen trees, mass debris and drain blockage also adversely affected access to farms.

The Government has sought assistance to address the most critical and immediate needs of the vulnerable farming and fishing communities that were affected by Hurricane Dean.

Loss of earnings as a result of the hurricane was estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture at US\$10.0 million and the cost of rehabilitation at US\$14.0 million. Under request of the Ministry of Agriculture, the FAO fielded a mission to conduct an assessment of damage and losses as well as to prepare project proposals for the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector. The Mission comprised four national consultants along with an international team coordinator and two FAO experts. The team commenced work on September 03, 2007 by spending the first two days conducting interviews with government institutions and international agencies in order to collect available information and data. The team then spent about 10 days of field visits to audit the data previously collected by the Ministry of Agriculture on the impact of the hurricane damage on the agricultural sector and to evaluate the effects on the most vulnerable groups. Preliminary findings and recommendations of the Mission are summarized below:

Crops sub-sector

Prior to the hurricane tree crop production (banana, plantains and fruits) occupied an estimated 2 830 hectares or 66 percent of the island's 4 260 hectares under crop production. Some 1 890 hectares or 87 percent of the tree crop area were damaged by the passage of Hurricane Dean. Banana is the major export crop earning over US\$7.5 million annually which is more than half of the total foreign exchange that is generated from the sale of agricultural produce and some 20 percent of the country's total exports. Over 90 percent of the estimated 970 hectares under banana grown by 730 farmers was totally destroyed while for plantain, losses are estimated at 357 hectares, affecting 883 farmers. The export of plantain generates about US\$1.4 million annually. The other major tree crops including citrus, avocado and mango also suffered high losses of fruits and broken branches while coconut trees suffered extensive damage to their tops as a result of the high winds. These crops are also significant foreign exchange earners and are exported primarily by the local hucksters to the nearby islands. The export of these tree crops generate in excess of US\$2.0 million annually and provide employment for over 200 hucksters.

Dominica is also a major producer of root crops and these occupied an estimated 1100 hectares before the storm, generating about US\$1.4 million annually in the export trade and playing a major role in the food security of rural households. Some 720 hectares or 66 percent of the area planted were damaged by the passage of Hurricane Dean. Damage to dasheen and yam resulted mainly from the high winds, heavy rainfall and land slides. Other crops of significance that suffered high losses include breadfruit, hot pepper and passion fruit. Pineapple, a major fruit crop suffered minor damage, while coffee and the bay plant, used to produce an essential oil, were practically not damaged. Vegetable production in the open field, which occupied a relatively small 30 hectares, was completely lost. Out of 198 greenhouses for vegetable production prior to the hurricane 60 suffered serious damages. Thirty three of the houses suffered structural damages mainly because the plastic cover was not removed.

There is also a significant level of agro-processing using local raw materials including green papaya, passion fruit, hot pepper, grapefruit, orange and lime. The passage of the

hurricane has resulted in the complete loss the local raw materials resulting in the need for import and the resulting additional expenditure of foreign exchange. The main agro-processor normally purchases from about 200 farmers.

Livestock sub-sector

The livestock sub-sector is relatively small contributing about 1.7 percent to GDP. Serious losses have been reported from 148 livestock farmers who lost over 2 200 animals, mainly poultry. In general the livestock farmers suffered varying levels of physical damage to farm buildings, livestock housing and pastures. Poultry production forms a significant part of the sub-sector and local production meets the domestic demand for eggs. Production of eggs declined following the hurricane following a reduction of 70 percent in the older flocks and of 30 percent in the younger birds. Broiler production is relatively small and losses resulting from the storm were less than 5 percent with a few exceptions where 70 to 80 percent of the birds were killed as a result of the roof crashing in on them.

Pork production provides a significant income to a number of rural households many of which were affected by the storm. Significant damage was caused to livestock housing, mainly to the roofs due to inadequate investment in construction materials. Substantial damage to water supply lines was also reported. Up to 70 farmers lost sheep and goats due to trees and/or housing falling on animals in confinement. Beef cattle production is predominantly small scale and cash derived from the sale of meat augments family income usually at special times of the year. There is also a small dairy industry that provides regular income to a limited number of small farmers. In general, damage to the dairy industry was mainly to infrastructure and little or no significant damage was reported to the animals. Serious damage to fencing was reported from some livestock farms, varying according to location.

Fisheries sub-sector

The fisheries sub-sector employs approximately 3 100 fishers and fish vendors and contributes about 2.0 percent to GDP. The value of fish landings is about US\$ 2.2 million annually and most of the fish landed is consumed locally making a significant contribution to national food security. The damage to the fisheries sector varied according to the landing site location and the quality of the infrastructure. High damage to the sub-sector resulted from storm surges and high winds that ravaged boat sheds, destroyed fishing boats and equipment and rendered a number of landing sites inaccessible to fishers. The south eastern coast was the most severely affected leaving much damage to coastal habitats and the landing sites at Scotts Head, Stowe, Fond St. Jean and San Sauveur. At Fond St. Jean, the landing site was inaccessible to fishers from both land and sea as a result of deposition of large boulders. At Scotts Head, the main isthmus was cut off causing flushing of the water from the Atlantic Ocean into the Caribbean Sea. The Stowe and San Sauveur landing sites were also severely affected and required the clearing of boulders and debris following the passage of the storm.

The highest losses were reported for fishing gear mainly fish pots and fish aggregating devices (FADs). Fishers reported losing between 1 100 to 1 200 fish pots and several FADs. It is anticipated that more than half of the pots would remain lost resulting in ghost fishing and reduction of the fishery. Fishers with pots would have suffered high losses due mainly to the remoteness of the gear and their inability to respond quickly and safely to the hurricane warnings. Fishers also reported losing 15 outboard motors while 21 boats were damaged beyond repair. Damage was also reported for 30 boat sheds, 11 buildings and 7 locker rooms while four jetties were damaged.

Considerable coastal degradation occurred as a result of high seas, and a large amount of silt, mud and debris that was brought down by the rivers and other surface runoff. It has been observed that the current management of land based quarrying activities is adversely affecting fishing activities on the west coast due to high runoff levels into the sea. High rainfall level also increases the runoff of agro-chemicals from agricultural areas into the sea that results in algal bloom with the corresponding growth of algae that kills fish life.

Forestry sub-sector

Maintenance of the forest cover is critical for Dominica so that it can promote its “Nature Island” image that is used as a major selling point for tourism. Dominica’s natural vegetation covers an estimated 51 770 ha or 65.7 percent of the land area. The impact of Hurricane Dean on the forest included defoliation, broken tree limbs, uprooted trees and landslides. The defoliation as a result of the hurricane is extensive and can result in accelerated erosion of the top soil, increased runoff, flash flooding and adverse impact on lives and property downstream. The damage to trees including broken tree limbs and uprooting was not excessive and not concentrated in any one area but scattered over wide areas. The Eastern Forest Range was the most affected by the winds resulting in loss of up to 35 percent of the forest cover while the Central, Northern and Roseau Forest Ranges were not so seriously affected.

The forest in Dominica plays an important role in the preservation of wild life and water resources. The wild life of the forest depends on seeds, fruits and young shoots to survive, as well as the forest cover for protection and opportunities for nesting. The damage to the forest will place survival of wildlife under significant pressure and could result in depredation of agricultural crops. The forest is also an important area for eco-tourism related activities including nature trails and national parks. Some of the trails were severely affected with broken branches, water erosion, flooding and uprooted trees.

Economic Impact

The passage of Hurricane Dean is having a significant negative impact on agricultural production and livelihoods in Dominica. The crop destruction has resulted in the immediate suspension of banana exports to the United Kingdom and non-banana crops to the regional markets resulting in the loss of foreign exchange earnings in excess of US\$11.0 million in 2007. Worst affected by the Hurricane destruction are 3 000 farmers and their families whose livelihoods have been disrupted by the sudden loss of their cash

income. The passage of the hurricane has also virtually destroyed food crop production and thus is expected to adversely affect food security. Immediately after the storm, farmers were able to salvage some food crops, making them available on the domestic markets. Consequently, severe food shortages have not yet been experienced. However food availability in local markets is already diminishing, prices starting to rise and the situation is expected to deteriorate in the next few weeks. Farmers are suffering from a loss of income as for many their main source of earning was suddenly taken away. This loss of income is expected to reduce their purchasing power and therefore their adequate food intake, as well as affect farmers' ability to make loan and utility payments. Some farmers have started to rehabilitate their farms using their savings and others are expected to seek alternative forms of employment including fishing during the period of their farm rehabilitation.

Fish landings have decreased due to the loss of gear, damage of landings sites and degradation of habitats. This has had an immediate adverse impact on the earnings of over 3 000 fishers and vendors along with their families as well as the availability of fish as an important food source. Several fishers have been servicing loans and will now find it difficult to maintain their commitment for payment due to reduced income. The third quarter of the year is the main period for pot fishing and the high loss of pots as a result of the hurricane has resulted in a marked decline in fish landings. Fishers have begun the rebuilding of pots but previous experience has shown a tendency to use smaller size mesh wire after a storm resulting in the catching of smaller fishes and depletion of the fishery. Some fishers have integrated their income with farming activities, for example bay leaf production. In the case of the bay plant the crop has suffered only minimal damage and is being harvested at this time.

Damage to the forest cover is expected to be associated with accelerated erosion of the top soil, management of watersheds and water catchments, increased flash flooding and landslides and the potential for impacting on lives and properties down stream as well as adversely affecting the marine environment. Damage to the forest is also expected to impact on the wildlife habitat and the availability of food sources. It is anticipated that the wildlife would turn to agricultural crops for food resulting in further losses and hardship to farmers. Damage to the forest can also affect revenue generation for eco-tourism related activities that is an important selling point for tourism promotion to the island.

Recommendations

Immediate relief assistance

- Provision of inputs required for urgent rehabilitation including planting material, seeds, fertilizers, soil ameliorants, agricultural chemicals, small farm machinery and equipment;
- Supply of plastic / shade cloth for greenhouses;
- Material assistance for repair of irrigation lines;
- Supply of poultry feed, medication and other needed supplies;
- Supply of building materials for repairs to livestock housing;

- Provision of chicks to poultry producers and small ruminants for livestock farmers;
- Supply two week old broilers and feed to selected small farm families to enable them to produce their own meat;
- Supply of materials for the construction of fish pots, FADS and other fishing materials;
- Supply of material for the repairs to fishing boats, engines and boat houses;
- Supply of chainsaws for forest rehabilitation;
- Conduct training workshop on the maintenance and safe use of chainsaws.

Medium-term assistance

- Development of a project for a comprehensive land use management plan;
- Strengthening of farmer / fisher groups and associations to assist with disaster management.

❖ **Crop sub-sector**

- Improvement of cropping practices to expand use of wind breaks, grass barriers, storm drains, contour planting and pruning;
- Promotion of cropping cycle to ensure maturity of selected food crops during the peak period of the hurricane season;
- Market development and expansion of crops that have shown greater tolerance to hurricane force winds;
- Development of hurricane disaster plans for farmers;
- Improvement of an agricultural information system;
- Improvement of agro-meteorological data collection;
- Develop (particularly for livestock) designs for farm structures that are more resistant to hurricanes;
- Development of crop insurance scheme for non-banana crops.

❖ **Fisheries sub-sector**

- Development of disaster management plans for each landing site;
- Encouragement of fishing techniques to remove dependence on fish pots during the hurricane season;
- Conduct training of fishers in improved fishing gear and methods;
- Provision of grant funding to national Fishermen Cooperatives organization to develop revolving funds for the purchase of replacement gear;
- Conduct rehabilitation of landing sites to improve protection from high seas;
- Improve and expand locker room facilities;
- Conduct a study to determine the level of habitat degradation and impact on fishers as a result of the hurricane, other storm events and land based activities;
- Review the relatively large number of landing sites with an aim to develop 6 to 8 major protected sites for use during inclement weather;
- Develop and implement appropriate policies and management for land based facilities including quarries and dumps that affect the marine environment.

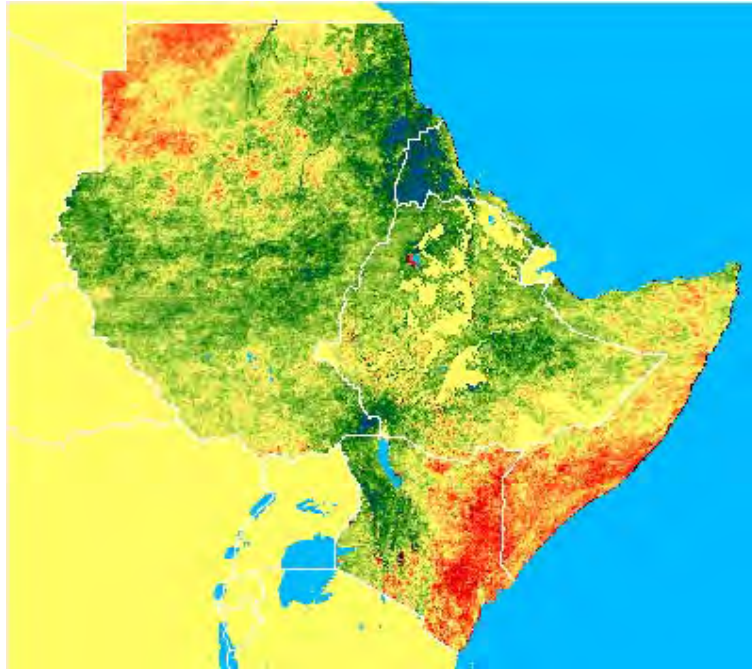
❖ **Forestry**

- Manipulation of canopy in parrot habitats to induce growth of wild life trees where seeds have fallen onto the ground;
- Implement maintenance and utilization work to remove fallen and vulnerable trees;
- Employment of chainsaw teams for maintenance and utilization within the forest reserve and national parks;
- Implement regular maintenance of forest trails;
- Develop a plan for the management of private forestry lands;
- Develop and conduct training for safety measures to be adhered to by staff, farmers, tour guides and all visitors to the forest;
- Conduct research on crop depredation by forest wildlife;
- Development of agro-forestry practices for steep slopes;
- Seek assistance for a project to conduct a study of current forestry ownership, land use practices and boundary demarcation.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

04 October 2007

Expected crop yields for millet and sorghum,
East Africa - 3st dekad September 2007



This product , undergoing validation, is derived from hourly visual and thermal infrared MSG data. It presents the deviation of expected crop yields for the dekad of reference relative to the previous 5 -year dekadal mean. Yellow is average , or not processed. Green and blue indicate above average yields. Red and black point to below average yields.

Source: EARS, Delft, the Netherlands

[Product Description \(next page\)](#)

FAST 5 – Difference Crop Yield

General file description

Products are derived with both Meteosat and Meteosat Second Generation satellite imagery:

- (a) 2002 until 2005: Image data of the visual channel 1 and the thermal infrared channel 2 of the MultiSpectral Radiometer of Meteosat. Meteosat has a pixel resolution at the equator of 5 km.
- (b) 2006 and 2007: Level 1.5 Image data of the visual channels 1 and 2 and the thermal infrared channels 9 and 10 of the SEVIRI sensor of Meteosat Second Generation (MSG). MSG has a pixel resolution at the equator of 3 km.

Products are provided per dekad. Every month has three dekads, such that the first two dekads have 10 days (i.e., 1-10, 11-20), and the third is comprised of the remaining days of the month. Therefore, the length of the third dekad of each month is not consistent and varies from 8-11 days, depending on the length of the month.

For each dekad the difference yield (DY) of a certain crop is the difference between its observed relative yield (RY_{obs}) and the historical mean of its relative yield (RY_{hist}):

$$DY = (RY_{obs} - RY_{hist})$$

The products (%) are provided for Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan and Somalia. The historical mean RY_{hist} was derived by averaging the previous 5 years relative yield of the same dekad.

Product retrieval methodology

Radiation and evapotranspiration data derived from MSG imagery enter into a crop growth model which simulates dekadal relative yields for different crops. The crop growth simulation model calculates light use efficiency and takes into account the conversion efficiency of solar energy to biomass and daily respiration losses depending on the crop type. Yield response of the plant to water supply or depletion is quantified through the yield response factor k_y (table 1). The yield response factor relates the relative yield decrease ($1 - Y_{act}/Y_{pot}$) to the relative evapotranspiration deficit ($1 - ET_{act}/ET_{pot}$).

Due to the similarity of the crops (1) Sorghum and Millet and (2) Wheat and Barley respectively, simulations were performed treating both crops in each group as one, assuming that crop parameters (ky, respiration, ..) and the start of the growing season is the same. When the start of the growing season was reported differently for two crops in the same simulation, the earliest start of the growing season was chosen.

Three different crop growth simulations were performed:

- (1) Sorghum and Millet
- (2) Wheat and Barley
- (3) Maize

The start of the growing season given in table 1 for each country is based on the USDA crop calendar of Kenya (2004), Ethiopia (2003) and Somalia (2001), FAO 1997 crop calendar for Sudan and crop calendars of the GMFS project for Sorghum and Maize.

Table 1: Yield response factor ky and start of the growing season for different crop types

	ky	Kenya		Ethiopia		Eritrea	Sudan	Somalia
			0-400 m	400 – 1400 m	1400-2200 m			
Maize	1.2	15 / 03	-	15/04	01/05	01/06	01/04	01/04
Sorghum and Millet	0.9	01/04	01/04	01/04	01/04	01/06	01/05	01/04
Wheat and Barley	1	01/04	-	15/05	01/06	01/06	01/06	-

Projection

Type of projection: geographic projection (Plate Carré)
 Projection parameters: origin of the grid 0°/0°
 Datum: WGS84
 Ellipsoid of reference: WGS84
 Step size of the grid: 0.04° x 0.04°

Spatial coverage

- Latitude of the North-West corner: 22.98° North
- Latitude of the South-West corner: -5.38° South
- Longitude of the North-West corner: 20.02° East
- Longitude of the North-East corner: 51.98° East

Data format

The products are provided in three different file formats:

1. ArcInfo Grid : header consists of 2 lines with number of columns and number of rows
2. Bitmap: for convenience quick looks are provided with the 'bmp' extension files. Scaling of the bitmaps is from -20% to 20%.
3. Generic Binary Files: 16 Bit signed raw binary files (2 byte per pixel) of 710 rows by 800 columns (HR region for use with ImageShow)

File name convention

ArcInfo Grid: [*DYyyyymmdec.grd]

For example: WDY200705d3.grd is the difference yield of wheat and barley for the period 21/05/2007 until 31/05/2007 provided in ArcInfo Grid format.

Bitmap: [*DYyyyymmdec.bmp]

For example: WDY200705d3.bmp is the difference yield of wheat and barley for the period 21/05/2007 until 31/05/2007 provided in bitmap format for quick looks.

Generic Binary: [yyyymmdec.*dy]

For example: 200705d3.wdy is the difference yield of wheat and barley for the period 21/05/2007 until 31/05/2007 provided in raw binary format for viewing with ImageShow.

* is replaced by M for Maize, S for Sorghum and Millet and W for Wheat and Barley

Impact of main natural disasters on food production in Latin America and the Caribbean (2006-2007)

Since the end of 2006, several natural disasters have affected food and cash crop production in Latin America and the Caribbean. Their impact on rural development and food security has been varied. It went from moderate crop losses and localized effects as in the case, for example, of floods in Central America in September 2007 or the cold wave in Peru in June 2007, to significant damage to the overall economy as a consequence of the passage of powerful hurricanes over some Caribbean state islands.

In many cases, natural disasters have affected the poorest and most vulnerable population, without weak livelihood systems and limited alternatives as coping strategies and, frequently, also in very fragile ecosystems. Worth mentioning the devastating impact of hurricane Felix on some indigenous groups of the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region in Nicaragua, probably the poorest community in Central America, as well as the reduction in food security of small subsistence farmers in Bolivia's highlands due to heavy losses of potato crop as a consequence of prolonged dry weather conditions during the growing season.

Central America & Caribbean tropical depression (October 2007)

During the second week of October, a tropical depression hit Central America and the Caribbean. In Costa Rica, the North Pacific, Central Pacific and Central Valley regions suffered extensive flooding and mudslides with loss of human lives and serious damage to road and housing infrastructure. On October 20, the government declared a national state of emergency. Regarding agriculture, some localized damages to sugar cane plantations and melon crops are reported. In Nicaragua, about 24 000 people (some 5 000 families) have been affected in the Pacific Western departments of Chinandega, León, Managua, Granada, Matagalpa and Jinotega. Losses of second season maize and bean crops are provisionally estimated by official sources at 4 and 14 per cent of the annual production, respectively. In Haiti, torrential rains caused loss of human lives and damage to housing and infrastructure throughout the country. Some 14 000 families are in need of food and non-food emergency assistance. Minor losses of the second season maize and bean crops, as well as banana plantations are reported especially in the South, West and Artibonite departments. Floods and landslides are also reported in eastern El Salvador, southern Honduras and western Guatemala as well as in the Mexican state of Chiapas, but with limited damage to food and cash crops. In many areas around the Gulf of Fonseca, however, soil conditions are saturated and additional precipitations in the coming weeks may further impact crops.

Hurricane Felix (September 2007)

Hurricane Felix was the second major hurricane of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season. As a tropical wave, it passed through the southern Windward Islands on September 1 before strengthening to attain hurricane status. On September 4, as Category 5, Felix made landfall just south of the border between Nicaragua and Honduras in the region historically known as the Mosquito Coast.

Nicaragua

Powerful hurricane “Felix” severely hit the north-east Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, affecting the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) and the departments of Jinotega and Nueva Segovia. It caused floods and landslides, resulting in loss of human life, significant damage to housing and infrastructure, as well as to basic food crops (mainly recently planted second season maize and paddy crops), and fruit trees such as banana, coconut and mango. Continued flooding and saturated soils may prevent maize and paddy crops re-planting activities. More than 32 000 families, mainly poor and vulnerable indigenous groups, have been affected and are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance to recover their livelihoods.

Honduras

The passage of Hurricane “Felix” caused some infrastructural damage, especially in northern departments of Colón, Olancho and Cortés, but losses of cereal crops are officially reported to be minimal. However, at the same time, heavy rains have improved soil moisture in southern departments of Choluteca and Valle that were previously affected by poor rainfall distribution in June and July.

Guatemala

Despite some localized damage to food crops due to floods caused by the remote passage of Hurricane Felix, maize crop aggregate output (main and second season) is still early forecast at average level of about 1.1 million tonnes.

Hurricane Dean (August 2007)

Hurricane Dean was the first major hurricane of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season. It entered the Caribbean through the Saint Lucia Channel on August 17, while still a Category 2 hurricane, affecting between St. Lucia, Martinique and Dominica. Then the storm passed to the south of most of the Greater Antilles and its intensity continued to build up to category 4, delivering hurricane force winds to Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Cayman Islands. On August 20, Dean was upgraded to a Category 5 hurricane and made landfall in Quintana Roo's Costa Maya region, some 65 km northeast of the border between Mexico and Belize.

Dominica

At request of the Ministry of Agriculture of Dominica, an FAO mission visited the country from 3-12 September to assess the damage caused by the passage of hurricane Dean on 16-17 August and to evaluate short and medium term rehabilitation of the crops, livestock, fishery and forestry sub-sectors. Major losses have been reported in the banana sector, still a major foreign exchange earner, where over 90 percent of the production has been totally destroyed. Other important export crops to be sold in nearby islands such as citrus, avocado, mango, cocoa and hot peppers have also suffered important damage. The main losses are reported in the south, southeast, east and west regions. Reduced availability of food crops coupled with rising prices is expected in the incoming weeks in the main Dominica markets with reduced access to food for the poorest consumers. The livelihood systems of about 3 000 farming families and 3 000 fishing families have been seriously affected and will need several months to recover.

The full Mission report is available at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/ah875e/ah875e00.pdf>

Jamaica

The passage of category 5 hurricane Dean severely affected the agricultural sector. Crop losses between 75 and 30 per cent have been reported to important food and cash crops such

as banana, cassava, maize, vegetables, cocoa and sugar cane. Emergency food assistance has been provided by the international community, especially in the most affected parishes of St. Thomas, Clarendon and St. Catherine. Production of cereals is negligible and the country is fully dependent on imports to cover its consumption needs. Import requirements for marketing year 2007/08 (July/June) are estimated at 300 000 tonnes of wheat, 240 000 tonnes of maize and 70 000 tonnes of rice.

Haiti

The remote passage of hurricane Dean caused floods and infrastructural damage in southern departments. Despite localized losses of banana and bean crops, it is reported that the abundant hurricane rains have been in general beneficial to the development of second season crops, especially to sorghum crop. In aggregate, the 2007 maize production is tentatively forecast at high level of 220 000 tonnes, some 10 per cent above last five years average, as a consequence of sufficient and well distributed precipitations along the first season. The good production of the 2007 main season food crops has increased food supply in many rural and urban markets, determining a significant reduction in retail prices and a better access to food for the most vulnerable families.

Belize

The passage of hurricane Dean caused flooding and infrastructural damage in northern districts of Orange Walk and Corozal. Official sources report that 95 per cent of papaya crop has been lost and about 10 per cent of sugarcane plantations has been damaged. It is reported that damage in the agricultural sector has reduced employment opportunities for about 2 500 seasonal workers, with a negative impact on their purchasing power and consequent access to food.

Paraguay's fires (September 2007)

Lack of rainfall, high temperatures and strong winds in early September, coupled with the traditional practice of burning pasture and grassland, have been the causes of widespread fires in north-eastern and western regions. About one million hectares of forest, pasture and crops have been destroyed and it is estimated that approximately 200 000 people have been directly affected by this disaster. Loss of biodiversity is also expected to be substantial. On 7 September 2007, the Government declared a state of emergency in the departments of Concepción, San Pedro, Amambay and Presidente Hayes for a period of 60 days. The most affected department was San Pedro, where almost half population (about 4 000 families) lost their production, especially maize and orange, putting at risk their food security.

Peru's cold wave (May/June 2007) and earthquake (August 2007)

Between the beginning of May and the end of June 2007, several departments have been affected by frosts and record low temperatures. The departments hardest hit are at altitudes of over 2 500 metres, in the central and southern Andean region, with more than 700 000 people affected. Loss of human lives, especially among children, due to respiratory diseases has been reported. Annual crops had only limited damage, having the majority of them already been harvested, but livestock has been adversely affected by the cold weather. The international community is providing food assistance to the population of departments of Ica, and parts of Huancavelica and Ayacucho whose livelihood systems were severely affected by a strong earthquake on August 15.

Bolivia's floods and drought (from November 2006 to March 2007)

Since November 2006, several adverse climatic events have affected all of Bolivia's nine departments. Floods and landslides in midlands and lowlands (departments of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, Beni, Chuquisaca, Tarija and Pando) as well as dry weather conditions, hail storms and frost in highlands (departments of Oruro, Chuquisaca, Potosí and La Paz) have caused losses of human lives and damage to infrastructure, housing and agriculture.

Having declared a state of emergency in January, the Government of Bolivia requested an FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to assess the country's production of staple crops (essentially cereals and tubers) for the 2006/07 cropping season and estimate import requirements for the marketing year 2007/08 (July/June).

The main preliminary results of the Mission are the following:

- At national level, the aggregate productions of cereals and tubers are forecast to decline some 11 percent from last year's average levels to about 1.8 million tonnes and 1.1 million tonnes respectively. The bulk of the reductions is expected in rice, barley and potato crops. Soya, the most important export crop, is anticipated some 13 percent lower than in 2006.
- In eastern and northern lowland departments of Santa Cruz, Beni and Pando, floods have caused complete loss of soybean, paddy and maize crops in some areas and reduced yield potential of surviving crops. In addition, the important livestock sector has also been severely affected, with thousands of animals reported dead, loss of pasture land and increasing health problems.
- In the highlands, dry weather conditions coupled with hailstorms and frosts have damaged tuber and quinoa production in several areas. Shortage of pasture for camelids, mainly llamas and alpacas, is foreseen starting from next August/September as a consequence of the limited precipitation received at the beginning of the year.
- Throughout the country, grain and tuber prices are showing a rising trend and are well above their levels of a year earlier. This reflects the expectation of reduced supplies, as well as ongoing speculation by traders and assemblers that are acquiring large amounts of products (mainly cereals and oilseeds) to be then gradually released according to market conditions.
- The country, normally self-sufficient in rice, is forecast to import about 50 000 tonnes in marketing year 2007/08 (July/June). The deficit of potatoes is estimated at 160 000 tonnes, or some 21 percent of last year's production, and is expected to be fulfilled partly with cross-border imports from Peru and Argentina, and partly with wheat substitution. Imports of wheat, that in normal years cover most of the consumption requirements, are also anticipated to increase in 2007/08.
- The population worst affected by the adverse weather conditions of this season are the small subsistence farmers of the highlands departments of La Paz and Oruro as well as the small herders in the department of Beni. Large numbers of this population will require emergency food and agricultural rehabilitation assistance in the coming months.

The full CFSAM report is available at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/ah867s/ah867s00.pdf>

Other events

Colombia

Heavy precipitations in June as well as in August caused floods in Northern provinces of Cordoba, Bolivar, Sucre and Antioquia, displacing more than 100 000 people, resulting in localized losses of food and cash crops.

Mexico

Heavy and constant rains in August have caused the rivers to overflow resulting in floods in coastal areas of northern departments of Tamaulipas and Veracruz, with localized losses of coffee, sugar cane and citrus crops. However, in all major cereal producing areas, moderate to heavy precipitations have maintained favourable moisture levels. Early official forecasts point to a record coarse grain production of above 30 million tonnes, an increase of 7.4 percent from the previous year's good level, mainly as a consequence of an expansion in the areas planted.

Uruguay

In mid May 2007, torrential precipitations, unusual in this period of the year, caused serious flooding especially in departments of Durazno, Soriano and Treinta y Tres. Official source reported that losses were limited to reduction of quality of grains such as rice, maize, sorghum and soybean, while quantity has not been affected.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

31 October 2007

Dominican Republic: Tropical Storm Noel causes severe losses to food and cash crops

Strong winds and torrential rain on October 29 associated with Tropical Storm Noel, the 14th named storm of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season in the Caribbean, resulted in major flooding and mudslides in the Hispaniola Island (Dominican Republic and Haiti). Heavy precipitations have been also reported in Cuba, particularly in the eastern provinces of Guantánamo, Holguín, Las Tunas and Camagüey, as well as in the central province of Ciego de Avila.

The Dominican Republic has been severely affected by the storm, with loss of human lives and damage to urban and rural infrastructure, especially in the provinces of San Juan, La Vega, Sánchez Ramírez, Azua, Barahona and the Distrito Nacional. Main agricultural losses are reported in plantain and banana plantations, in the vegetable sub-sector (especially tomatoes and red onions), as well as in cassava and paddy crops. In several areas, although a detailed assessment is not yet available, it is reported that production of plantains and vegetables has been almost completely lost. The excess of soil moisture will also probably delay planting operations of the 2007 third season bean crop that were expected to start at the beginning of November. In addition, in the coming days, the gradual release of the water exceptionally accumulated in the Tavare dam in the province of Santiago may cause the overflow of the Yaque del Norte River, with further floods in the north-west provinces between the towns of Navarrete and Montecristi. In these provinces, harvesting of the 2007 second season paddy crop, which represents almost 30 per cent of the annual production, is still under way and, if floods increase, the prolonged saturation of soils may dramatically increase output losses.

In Haiti, the impact of Tropical Storm Noel was moderate, with damages to just a few houses in the North-East and no reports of fatalities. The excess of soil moisture is expected to cause some damages to the 2007 second season bean crop that is being harvested in the highlands. The abundant precipitations have also slowed down the pace of clearing and recovery operations in the areas that were recently flooded on October 10, with negative consequences for the affected families.

5 November 2007

**Humanitarian Emergency Worsens in the Shabelle Regions of Somalia
A new wave of thousands of families flee Mogadishu**

Renewed armed conflict and civil insecurity in Mogadishu has resulted in a new wave of thousands of people fleeing the capital to the surrounding Shabelle regions. This new displacement signals a significant deterioration in an already serious Humanitarian Emergency ongoing since March 2007 in the Shabelle regions due to conflict, drought and displacement, affecting more than an estimated 600 000 people.

Overall, the combined effects of the worst main cropping "gu" season in thirteen years, disruptions in trade, displacement, high inflation and continued civil insecurity are drastically reducing household food access. The humanitarian situation, especially in the Shabelle Valley, Hiran and Mogadishu regions where households are already extremely food insecure, continues to deteriorate.

Cereal production in the current main agricultural "gu" season in southern Somalia was estimated at 48 600 tonnes, representing only 31 percent of the 1995 to 2006 post-war average and 43 percent of last year's gu production. The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased by 50 percent in the last six months from 1 million to 1.5 million people. Nearly one-fifth of these people are classified in Humanitarian Emergency (HE) requiring life saving interventions while a third are in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) requiring livelihood support. In addition, there are 325 000 people who are newly displaced from Mogadishu and 400 000 already displaced requiring both life and livelihood saving interventions.

Further information and analysis can be accessed from the Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU) at: www.fsasomali.org.

6 November 2007

Floods in Mexico's State of Tabasco devastate agriculture

The south-eastern Mexican state of Tabasco has suffered the worst floods in more than 50 years after a week of heavy rain. Since 28 October, torrential precipitations have caused river levels to rise, flooding at least 80 per cent of the oil-rich state, including the capital Villahermosa. About 500 000 people have been made homeless and more than one million people, or about half of the state's population, have been affected. According to official statements, almost the totality of food and cash crops grown in the state has been lost to the floods.



Less than ten per cent of the state's territory is devoted to agriculture, while the vast majority is covered by rain forests and mangrove. Tabasco's agriculture is essentially rain-fed and oriented to permanent crops such as cocoa, (it is the first national producer with 25 000 tonnes, or 65 per cent of national production), plantains and coconut. Regarding cereals, the area cultivated with 2007 spring/summer crops amounted at some 45 000 hectares of maize (less than 0.6 per cent of national area) and some 13 000 hectares of paddy (about 18-20 per cent of national area). Harvesting operations started in October, before the floods, and were expected to end at the beginning of 2008. Production of 2007 spring/summer maize and paddy crops was forecast at 78 000 tonnes and 47 000 tonnes, respectively. While at national level the food supply situation will not be seriously comprised, at the regional level a difficult food security situation is anticipated for small farmers who have also lost their cash crop production. Severe crop losses have also been reported for citrus, coffee, pineapple and beans. Although harvesting of sugar cane crop was completed just before the floods with about 1.5 million tonnes (representing some 3-4 per cent of national output), plantations are likely to have suffered damage due to excessive soils moisture.



The Government of Mexico have not requested international assistance. However, the General Coordination of Civil Defense of the Secretary of Government has issued an emergency declaration in order to activate resources from the Revolving Fund for Natural Resources to assist the affected population.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

9 November 2007

Mixed Food Security Outlook in West Africa

Joint CILSS/FewsNet Crop Assessment Missions to the nine Sahelian countries (Burkina-Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) have recently been completed, to review the evolution of 2007 cropping season and preliminary cereal production estimates prepared by the national agricultural statistics services. This year, the exercise was extended to three coastal countries: Benin, Ghana and Nigeria. FAO participated in some of these missions.

According to preliminary findings, a relatively good crop is expected in the Sahel in spite of this year's erratic rains. Aggregate cereal production is forecast to be above the average of the previous five years in all Sahel countries, except in **Cape Verde** and **Senegal**, where output is expected to decline by 46 percent and 11 percent respectively. Crop prospects are less favourable in the countries along the Gulf of Guinea, notably in northern Nigeria, where coarse grain production is anticipated to decline significantly due to late and poorly distributed rains, and in Ghana where agricultural production was severely affected by long dry spells and floods. As a result, outlook for food production and availability is mixed in the Sub-region.

In view of the size of the agricultural sector in **Nigeria** and **Ghana**, a large cereal deficit in these countries will have a significant impact on regional cereal markets and push up prices because of the high level of market integration in West Africa. Nigeria is the largest producer in West Africa and its agricultural sector strongly affects the food supply position of the whole subregion, notably in some poor and vulnerable neighbouring Sahel nations. There are also significant trade flows between Ghana and Burkina-Faso, so losses in northern Ghana will likely be offset with inflows from Burkina Faso. There are already reports of rising food prices in northern Nigeria; GIEWS will continue to monitor closely price trends in Nigeria and neighbouring countries.

In **Cape Verde**, production of rainfed maize is estimated to be down by one-third in relation to last year's below average crop (46 percent below the average of the previous five years). Haricot beans, which are usually associated with maize, have also been badly affected by adverse weather conditions. As a result of deteriorating agricultural conditions including decreasing and volatile rainfall, production has fallen sharply in recent years. Although Cape Verde usually imports the bulk of its consumption requirement, the continuing drop in food production may have serious consequences for food security because maize is mostly for home consumption, and a large proportion of farmers are finding themselves in a situation of increased vulnerability. Moreover, the implementation of the country's safety net program may now be constrained by the low level of available food aid. Until recently, food aid played a major role in Cape Verde's food policy, accounting for over 50 percent of total cereal consumption in some years. Monetisation of food aid to finance "cash for work" activities has been the main instrument used by the Government to deal with food emergencies. However, the amount of food aid received has declined sharply in recent years due to various factors, including the upgrading of Cape Verde to medium-developed country status from least-developed country, and the shift of several donors' aid policy to direct budget support. As of late September the country had received only 3500 tonnes of food aid in 2007 compared to 22000 tonnes by the same period last year. Moreover, food imports and distribution, which were handled by a parastatal food supply agency, have been completely liberalised, increasing the exposure of the domestic food market to international commodity markets variability. Therefore, the food situation during marketing year 2007-08 will depend on two major factors:

- The capacity of the Government to finance and implement an effective safety net program in the short term, to assist affected populations and restore their production capacity for the next agricultural season;
- The evolution of international food prices and actions the Government may take to mitigate their impact on consumers' purchasing power.

In **Senegal**, cereal production is estimated to have declined by 11 percent compared to the average of the previous five years, for the second year running. Large segments of the rural population, already suffering from the effects of last year's low production, have yet again had poor harvests because of adverse weather. Their food security status will remain precarious and may even deteriorate further in commercial year 2007-2008 due to high and rising international food prices. Senegal is a food-deficit country whose domestic production covers only about half of the country's cereal utilization requirements, so it relies heavily on rice and wheat imports, amounting to an average of 900 000 tonnes per annum, from the international market. Food prices are thus a key determinant of access to food for the majority of Senegalese. Lower domestic production in a context of tight international market is likely to lead to high inflationist pressure on the domestic food market and erode the purchasing power of urban and rural consumers. Finally, **Mauritania** is also likely to be seriously affected by increased international prices due to its high food import dependence and low per capita income levels.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=75216>

22 November 2007

Livelihood of over 6.7 million people adversely affected by Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh

Cyclone Sidr hit south and south-west coasts of Bangladesh late on 15 November with winds up to 240 km/hour that whipped up 5 metre tidal surge. The category 4 tropical storm was the strongest cyclone since 1991.

Disaster preparedness measures, by which 3.2 million people were evacuated to safe places, mitigated the negative effects of the Cyclone. However, official reports by the Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) by 21 November, estimate 2 982 casualties, 1 724 persons missing and over 6.7 million people adversely affected as a result of the cyclone, with the numbers on the increase. Out of the 64 districts of the country, 30 were hit by the cyclone and report severe damage to housing, with almost 1.2 million houses totally or partially destroyed, roads, bridges, crops, livestock and fishery infrastructure. The worst affected areas are the three districts of Patuakhali, Borguna and Jhalakathi, with a combined affected population of over 1.9 million people. [\(See map on next page\)](#)

Rice is the main staple food in the country and by far the most important food crop, with an average annual production of 27 million tonnes (milled terms) grown in three cropping seasons: "aus", "aman" and "boro". Small amounts of rice are imported averaging 800 000 tonnes in the past five years. In addition, the country imports annually average 2 million tonnes of wheat to satisfy domestic cereal consumption.

At the time of the passage of cyclone Sidr, the main 2007 "aman" rice crop, accounting for about 50 percent of the annual production, was being harvested. Although the full impact of the cyclone on crop production is still unclear, preliminary data from the DMB indicates that some 644 000 hectares of rice and other standing crops were totally or partially damaged. This area represents only about 6.2 percent of the total area cultivated with paddy crop, but at localized level the losses are substantial. In 11 of the worst affected coastal districts, crop losses are estimated at 95 percent of the cultivated area. Livestock losses are reported to be severe with more than 350 000 ruminants (cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats) and large numbers of poultry estimated to have been lost. Localized devastation to fisheries infrastructure and the shrimp aquaculture sector is also reported, with shrimp hatcheries badly hit, particularly in Satkhira, Khulna and Cox's Bazar districts. In Morelganj and Sharankhola upazilas, important shrimp producing areas, some 5 000 shrimp enclosures were destroyed. In Bagerhat district some 90 percent of the shrimp enclosures (gher), along the Baleshwar River are destroyed and flushed by tidal waves.

Most of the affected population is critically dependent on agriculture for its living and many are vulnerable to food insecurity. Therefore, the severe damage to the agriculture sector will have a negative impact on their livelihood and it is anticipated to result in a deterioration of their prospective food security situation.

On 19 November the Bangladesh Government announced it welcomes all possible assistance for the cyclone victims and for post-cyclone rehabilitation. Distribution of food and non food emergency assistance is already underway by the government international and non-governmental organizations. Official reports indicate that 90 percent of the cyclone affected areas have been reached. In areas still inaccessible, helicopters of the armed forces are airdropping WFP fortified biscuits.

At national level, the crop damage due to Cyclone Sidr follows severe floods in July and August that affected some 10 million people and resulted in the lost of large area of the "aus" paddy crop (20 percent of the annual production) being harvested, and of the "aman" crop being planted. Overall, it was estimated that some 13 percent of the total area with paddy was comprised by the floods. Prospects for this year's paddy crop have deteriorated further and the aggregate 2007 rice production could decline significantly from the good level of 2006. Assessments of the damage to the agricultural sector are ongoing, but a comprehensive evaluation is not yet available. UN Agencies are continuing their assistance in damage assessment and relief. The priority at this stage is to provide for shelter, food, water and medical care to the hurricane affected people, as well as to re-establish basic services and infrastructure. In the agricultural sector, there is urgent need for inputs and vegetable seeds, fishing material (including for the shrimp aquaculture sector), and feed and vaccination for the livestock. Special attention is also needed for the mangrove forestry sector and for reforestation activities.

11 December 2007

High cereal prices are hurting vulnerable populations in developing countries

Prevailing high international cereal prices, coupled with soaring freight rates and record world fuel prices, have resulted in substantial rises in retail prices of cereal based food staples, such as bread, pasta and tortillas, as well as milk and meat, in countries across the world, generating inflationary pressure on domestic food markets and fuelling social unrest. In the past months, food riots have broken out in such countries as **Mexico, Morocco, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Guinea, Mauritania** and **Senegal**.

Most affected by the higher cereal prices are those developing countries that depend heavily on imports from the world market to cover their cereal consumption requirements. Poor populations are anticipated to bear the heaviest burden, because their diets consist of a very high proportion of cereals. In addition, the poor spend a higher share of their income on food than do wealthier sections of populations: the most vulnerable groups can spend up to 80 percent of their total expenditures on basic foods alone. As a result, the higher cereal prices are not only leading to the deterioration of their diets in terms of quantity and quality, but also significantly eroding their overall purchasing power.

Governments around the world have implemented a series of policy measures to limit the increase of domestic food prices and prevent consumption from falling, including price controls, subsidies, reduction/waiving of import barriers and imposition of export restrictions. The impact of these measures on the food security of vulnerable households will vary widely and is yet to be assessed.

In **North Africa**, in **Algeria, Egypt** and **Morocco**, which have imported on average 66 percent, 50 percent and 36 percent respectively of their total wheat utilization over the past 5 years, soaring international prices have pushed up domestic prices of bread, the main staple, seriously affecting food security of vulnerable households. The Government of Morocco recently cut wheat import tariffs to the lowest level ever, while Egypt has significantly raised food subsidies.

In the **CIS countries**, there is concern about wheat supplies in **Tajikistan** and **Kyrgyzstan**. In the latter country, where poor people spend over 70 percent of their incomes on food alone, the price of bread in the capital, Bishkek, has increased by 50 percent. Salaries and pensions, on the other hand, have increased only by 10 percent this year. It is roughly estimated that 500 000 people in the poorest strata of the population are directly affected by the increase in bread and other basic products. In an attempt to ease the situation, the Government has released wheat from the emergency reserve in the poorest areas but without any effect on inflation. With spiralling food costs, the Government has revised the country's 2007 annual inflation estimate from 5-6 percent up to 9 percent.

In **Central America**, production of the main food staple, tortilla, depends on large imports of maize, retail prices for which are well above the previous year's level in most markets of the subregion. In **Guatemala**, the price of maize in September was almost 50 percent higher than a year earlier. Bread from wheat flour (fully imported except in Mexico), another important component of the food basket in Central America, has also increased sharply, eroding the purchasing power of the poorest households and hampering their access to food.

In **Andean countries of South America**, where production of the basic staple bread heavily depends on imported wheat flour, the current high level of international wheat prices is also raising concern about the food security of low-income households. In **Peru**, the price of imported wheat has increased by 50 percent since the beginning of the year with resulting increases in the price of bread; the local Bakers Association has proposed the adoption of "bread-coupons" in order to subsidize bread for the poorest families. In **Ecuador**, the Government has authorized imports with no levy for wheat and wheat flour from Argentina in order to control local bread prices. In **Bolivia**, the Government has empowered the national army to run some industrial bakeries to produce bread at affordable prices for the most vulnerable population groups.

Elsewhere in the world, cereal import dependent countries such as **Cape Verde, the Gambia, Eritrea, Somalia, Lesotho** and **Swaziland** in Africa, or **Mongolia, Sri Lanka** and **Timor-Leste** in Asia, which, even in good agricultural years import at least 50 percent of their total cereal consumption, are among those more affected by the high levels of international cereal prices.

Read more in the latest issue of:

Crop Prospects and Food Situation - No.6, December 2007

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

21 December 2007

(this information updates the previous report of 30 November 2007)

Livelihood of over 8.9 million people adversely affected by Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh

Cyclone Sidr hit south and south-west coasts of Bangladesh late on 15 November with winds up to 240 km/hour that whipped up 5 metre tidal surge. The category 4 tropical storm was the strongest cyclone since 1991.

Disaster preparedness measures, by which 3.2 million people were evacuated to safe places, mitigated the negative effects of the Cyclone. However, official reports from the Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) by 13 December, estimate 3 347 casualties, 871 persons missing and over 8.93 million people adversely affected as a result of the cyclone. Out of the 64 districts of the country, 30 were hit by the cyclone and report severe damage to housing, with almost 1.52 million houses totally or partially destroyed, roads, bridges, crops, livestock and fishery infrastructure. Four districts, Bagerhat, Barguna, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur concentrate 47 percent of all the affected families. (See map on next page)

Rice is the main staple food in the country and by far the most important food crop, with an average annual production of 27 million tonnes (milled terms) grown in three cropping seasons: "aus", "aman" and "boro". Small amounts of rice are imported averaging 800 000 tonnes in the past five years. In addition, the country imports annually average 2 million tonnes of wheat to satisfy domestic cereal consumption.

At the time of the passage of cyclone Sidr, the main 2007 "aman" rice crop, accounting for about 70 percent of the annual production in the most affected area, was nearing harvest. According to the estimate by Department of Agricultural Extension of Bangladesh, the loss in rice equivalent is at some 1.23 million tonnes (Table 1), with 535 707 tonnes in the four severely affected districts, 555 997 tonnes in badly affected 9 districts and 203 600 tonnes in moderately affected 17 districts.

Table 1. Loss of Crop Production and Affected Farmer Families

	Totally Damaged Cropland (ha)	Partially Damaged Cropland (ha)	Loss of Production (Tonnes)	No. of Affected Farmer Families
Worst affected 4 districts	55 950	472 505	535 707	772 071
Badly affected 9 districts	42 585	522 254	555 997	1 067 915
Moderately affected 17 districts	14 344	4085 240	203 611	384 475
Total	112 879	1 399 999	1 295 315	2 224 461

Source: Cyclonic Storm "SIDR" Situation Report by DMB (December 13, 2007)

Livestock losses are also reported to be severe with large numbers of cattle, buffalo, goats and poultry killed. Latest reports from DMB put the number of animals killed close to 1.2 million, most of which are believed to be ruminants. Localized devastation to fisheries infrastructure and the shrimp aquaculture sector is also reported, with shrimp hatcheries badly hit, particularly in Satkhira, Khulna and Cox'Bazar districts. In Morelganj and Sharankhola upazilas, important shrimp producing areas, some 5 000 shrimp enclosures were destroyed. In Bagerhat district some 90 percent of the shrimp enclosures (gher), along the Baleshwar River, were destroyed and flushed by tidal waves.

At national level, the crop damage due to Cyclone Sidr follows severe floods in July and August that affected some 10 million people and resulted in the loss of large area of the "aus" paddy crop (20 percent of the annual production) being harvested, and of the "aman" crop being planted. Overall, it was estimated that some 13 percent of the total area with paddy was compromised by the floods. Prospects for this year's paddy crop have deteriorated further and the 2007 aggregate rice production decline at least 5 percent from the good level of 2006 based on the official estimate.

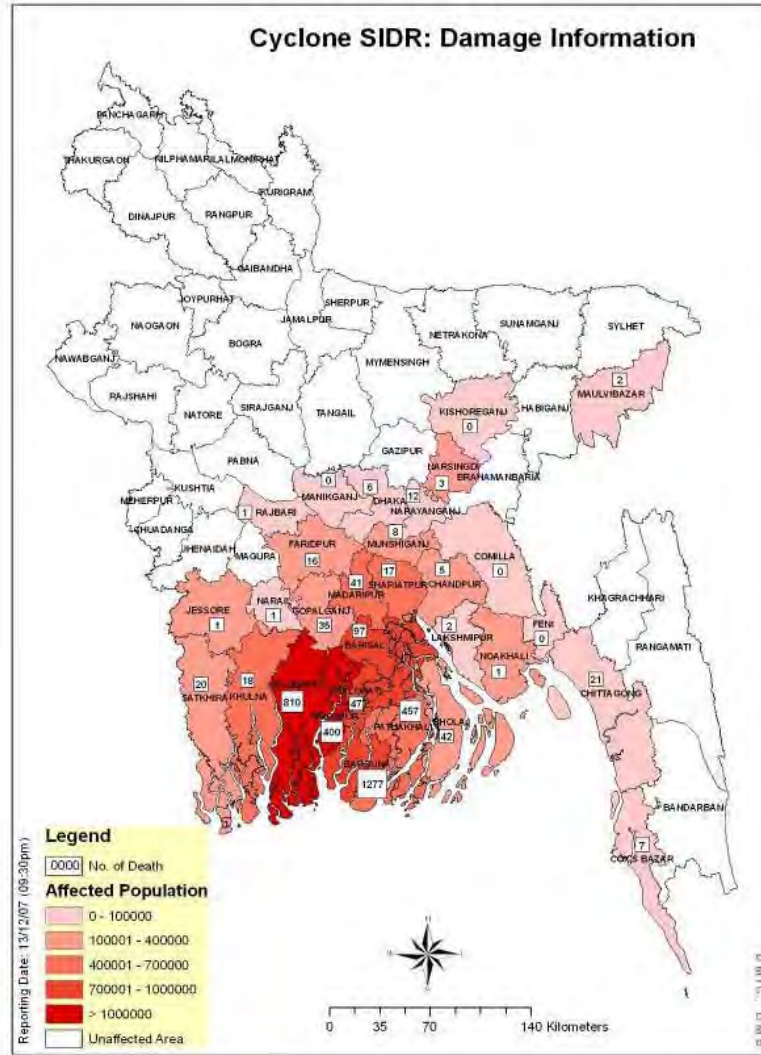
Most of the population affected by the cyclone is critically dependent on agriculture for its living and many are vulnerable to food insecurity. Therefore, the severe damage to the agriculture sector will have a negative impact on their livelihood and it is anticipated to result in a deterioration of their prospective food security situation.

Food markets in the affected area are generally functional. But, many small shops selling food in the worst affected areas have collapsed, or are severely damaged due to the strong winds and falling trees associated with the storm. The food prices were already high before the cyclone arrived due to high international cereal prices and earlier floods related losses.

So far, the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management of Bangladesh has allocated some 17 000 tonnes of rice to the affected districts. The World Food Program is distributing food aid in five worst affected districts and has started an Emergency Operation (EMOP) to provide 71 364 tonnes of food assistance to targeted 2.2 million people over a period of six months. Through Food-for-Work/Cash-for-Work programmes, the EMOP will also contribute to restoring local livelihood systems and strengthening the emergency response capacity of rural communities.

In the agricultural sector, there is an urgent need for inputs such as seeds, tillage and irrigation services, fertilizers for the upcoming dry season crop production. The crops grown in the dry season are pulses (khesari and mung beans), vegetables (potato, radish, spinach, lalsak, bottle gourd, sweet gourd, papaya), and spices (chillies). There is also a need for fishing materials (including those for the shrimp aquaculture sector) and feed and vaccination for the livestock. Special attention is also needed for the mangrove forestry sector and for afforestation activities. FAO has established an Emergency coordination and rehabilitation unit within the FAO Representation in Bangladesh to support its relief and rehabilitation operations in the cyclone-affected regions, targeting some 47 000 households through the distribution of fishing nets, seeds, and other agricultural inputs.

SIDR Damage
Most affected areas by Sidr



The Disaster Management Information Centre is the information hub of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management for risk reduction, hazard early warnings and emergency response and recovery activities



This report is prepared by the **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)** of the Trade and Markets Division of FAO. The updates focus on developing anomalous conditions aimed at providing early warnings, as well as latest and more elaborate information than other GIEWS regular reports on the food security situation of countries, at both national and sub-national levels. None of the information in this report should be regarded as statements of governmental views.

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