



Quarterly Early Warning Bulletin for Food and Agriculture

December 2012 – February 2013

The Quarterly Early Warning Bulletin is a product of the collaboration between the Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) for transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases and food safety threats, and the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), coordinated by the Food Chain Crisis Management Framework (FCC). Data is provided by GIEWS and EMPRES. The Bulletin integrates information on food security and threats to the food chain for the three months ahead.

HIGHLIGHTS

International prices of all major cereals, except rice, remain well above last year. For wheat and maize, while prices have stabilized in recent weeks, unfavourable weather for 2013 crops in several important regions is a concern.

In Western Africa, the overall food security situation has started to improve in the Sahel following an above-average 2012 cereal harvest. However, a large number of people are still affected by civil strife and the impact of last year's drought.

In the Near East, the deteriorating food security situation continues to be a major concern in the Syrian Arab Republic as a result of civil conflict and in Yemen due to security problems.

Increased risks of Desert Locust expected in north-western Africa and Red Sea coastal areas.

Increased risk of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreaks in the northern hemisphere with potential spread within endemic countries, as well as risk to spread to currently free areas with potential impact to livelihoods and food security.

Due to unregulated trade movements, there exists a continued risk for introduction of Foot-and-Mouth Disease serotypes unknown to livestock in Africa and Near East in many regions potentially causing large uncontrolled outbreaks.

Peste des Petits Ruminants incursion and spread in Angola from other Peste des Petits Ruminants endemic areas in Africa and potential spread to other non affected SADC countries, represent a threat for livelihoods and food security in these countries and neighbouring at-risk countries.

Rabies continues to severely impact urban and rural communities worldwide with a serious impact on livelihoods in Africa, Asia and some regions of Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. The emergence of rabies in livestock in some regions of Latin America impacts food security in rural communities.

Cholera outbreaks are predicted to increase in Haiti (more than 3,593 cholera cases and 837 suspected cases confirmed by IOM). Moderate to large outbreaks of cholera, diarrhoea and dysentery are also predicted in Dominican Republic, parts of Africa (Ghana, Sierra, Zambia, Angola), parts of Asia (India, China, Iraq) and other countries and sub-regions around the world with poor quality of drinking water, resulting in occasional to persistent contamination of food chain.





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REGIONAL ISSUES	
AFRICA	In Western Africa, the overall food security situation has started to improve in the Sahel following an above-average 2012 cereal harvest. However, a large number of people are still affected by civil strife and the impact of last year's drought.
	In the Great Lakes, the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo worsened following the recent escalation of conflict. An estimated 6.3 million people require emergency assistance, about 2 million more than last year.
	Increased Desert Locust risks expected in north-western Africa.
	Due to unregulated trade movements, there exists a continued risk for introduction of Foot-and-Mouth Disease serotypes unknown to livestock in many regions of Africa potentially causing large uncontrolled outbreaks.
	Peste des Petits Ruminants incursion and spread in Angola from other Peste des Petits Ruminants endemic areas in Africa and potential spread to other non affected SADC countries, representing a threat for livelihoods and food security in these countries and neighbouring at-risk countries.
	Small, moderate to large outbreaks of anthrax, affecting domestic and wild ruminants, and people touching or consuming sick or dead animals, are predicted in the sub-regions and areas with seasonal rainfalls in East/Horn of Africa.
	Small to moderate outbreaks of foodborne diseases due to consumption of contaminated or improperly handled food in many regions of Africa.
NEAR EAST	In the Near East, the deteriorating food security situation continues to be a major concern in the Syrian Arab Republic as a result of civil conflict and in Yemen due to security problems.
	Small-scale breeding Desert Locust along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal plains will cause locust numbers to increase.
	Due to unregulated trade movements, there exists a continued risk for introduction of Foot-and-Mouth Disease serotypes unknown to livestock in this region potentially causing large uncontrolled outbreaks.
	Increased risk of further spread of Lumpy skin disease in livestock from endemic locations.
ASIA & THE PACIFIC	Increased risk of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreaks in the northern hemisphere with potential spread within endemic countries, as well as risk to spread to currently free areas with potential impact to livelihoods and food security.
EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA	African swine fever in livestock continues to impact livelihood and food security of small scale pig farming systems in the region.





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LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	In Central America and the Caribbean, prospects for 2012 in Haiti point to a significant drop in aggregate cereal production by 35 percent due to a dry spell earlier in the season and subsequent heavy rains and floods.
	In South America, prospects for 2012 wheat production have deteriorated in Argentina due to a decrease in area planted and in Brazil due to dry weather conditions. However, the outlook for the 2013 maize crop is favourable.
	Increased risk of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreaks in the northern hemisphere with potential spread within endemic countries, as well as risk to spread to currently free areas with potential impact to livelihoods and food security.
	Moderate to large outbreaks of cholera and typhoid are predicted in areas with poor quality of drinking water resulting in occasional to persistent low to moderate contamination of food chain. Potential epidemics can't be excluded.

REGION	COUNTRY	TYPE OF THREAT	LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
AFRICA	Angola	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Peste des Petits Ruminants incursion and spread in Angola with concern of spread to naive populations of small ruminants in central and southern Angola and neighbouring countries of SADC region, representing a risk to impact livelihoods and food security.
	Burkina Faso	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Cereal prices remain at relatively high levels although production recovered significantly this year. Massive influx of refugees from Mali has put additional pressure on local food markets.
	Burundi	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Below-average seasonal harvests, coupled with high food prices, continue to erode purchasing power of low-income households.
	Cameroon	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		About 400 000 individuals in need of relief food assistance due to production shortfalls in some northern areas. The situation in the north of the country has been further aggravated in August by widespread floods which affected about 60 000 people, depriving them of their livelihoods.
	Central African Republic	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Civil conflict and insecurity caused the displacement of more than 90 000 individuals and restricted access to agricultural land and food. The situation has been further aggravated in August/September by widespread floods which affected about 20 000 people, depriving them of their livelihoods.





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	Chad	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Lingering effects of last year sharp drop in production which resulted in depletion of household assets. Moreover, large numbers of refugees are located in southern and eastern regions of Chad (over 300 000 people from the Sudan's Darfur region and the Central African Republic). Also, the return of an estimated 79 000 Chadians from Libya is putting additional pressure on the local food supply.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Small swarms of Desert Locust formed and moved north into north-western Africa. The situation will become calm by the end of December.
	Congo	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Influx of more than 100 000 refugees since the end of 2009, mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has increased pressure on limited local food resources. The situation has been further aggravated in August/September by widespread floods which affected about 54 000 people, depriving them of their livelihoods.
	Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Conflict-related damage to agriculture in recent years and the lack of support services mainly in the northern regions. Last year's post-election crisis forced thousands of people to leave the country and seek refuge, mostly in eastern Liberia, where over 65 000 Ivorian refugees were still living as of early November 2012.
	Democratic Republic of Congo	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Escalation of conflict has displaced additional people increasing the total number of internally displaced persons to an estimated 2.4 million people. Agricultural activities were hindered, especially in eastern parts, while high food prices continue to impede food access. A total of 6.3 million people are estimated to be in food and livelihood crisis.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Peste des Petits Ruminants continued spread in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There is a concern for susceptible small ruminants in neighbouring countries, representing a risk to impact livelihoods and food security.
Djibouti	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		About 180 000 people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance due to high food prices and consecutive poor rainy seasons affecting	



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				pastoralists.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Small-scale breeding Desert Locust may occur on the eastern coastal plains, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.
	Eritrea	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		Vulnerability to food insecurity due to economic constraints and high international food and fuel prices.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low - Moderate	Small-scale breeding Desert Locust may occur on the eastern coastal plains, causing locust numbers to increase slightly.
	Ethiopia	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is estimated at 3.7 million higher by half a million than earlier this year. However, food security conditions are improving with the start of the favourable 2012 “meher” season harvest.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Heavy rainfall, in September 2012, in the north-western part of Ethiopia water levels in the Sobat River, possibly triggering flooding in the Upper Nile counties, increasing reports of livestock diseases including anthrax, black quarter and hemorrhagic septicaemia, and increasing the risk for Rift Valley Fever in livestock.
	Gambia	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		A steep drop in 2011 cereal production and high food prices led to a deterioration of the food security situation in several parts of the country. Assistance is still needed in parts, in spite of this year’s increased production.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Increased risk of further spread of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia in cattle.
	Guinea	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Access to food is negatively affected by high food prices and general inflation.
	Kenya	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is estimated at 2.1 million. Overall food security conditions are improving as the bulk of the 2012 long-rains harvest is being commercialized.



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		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low-Moderate	In general wheat rust is at dormant period but in some areas rust diseases may cause problems in wheat crops.
			Moderate	Increased detection of Foot-and-Mouth Disease types and Peste des Petits Ruminants outbreak in some regions of the country.
				Risk potential Rift Valley Fever outbreaks and other vector borne diseases in livestock based on forecast of increased rains in the country, most enhanced in the western part, necessitates increased surveillance in at-risk areas.
	Lesotho	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Sharp decrease in 2012 cereal output caused a severe deterioration in the food insecurity situation. Higher food prices, in addition, continue to constrain food access. An estimated 39 percent of the population is food insecure.
	Liberia	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		Slow recovery from war-related damage. Inadequate social services and infrastructure, as well as poor market access and high food prices. Massive influx of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire: about 65 647 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia as of early November 2012.
	Madagascar	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Cyclones in early 2012 damaged homesteads and crops, deteriorating food security conditions of the affected population, particularly in eastern districts. However, generally stable prices prevail, despite the reduced 2012 rice harvest. Overall, 35 percent of households are estimated to be food insecure.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	The Migratory Locust situation, which has turned into a plague, is expected to further worsen with the second generation of the 2012/2013 rainy season. Until the prerequisites raised by FAO and donors in June 2012 are fully filled (lessons learnt but also declaration of disaster and consistent short/medium-term strategy for return to recession, etc.), no international emergency assistance will be provided. In parallel, national capacities will be strengthened with finalization of the national locust contingency plan (emergency component), against development project funded by the Agence Française de Développement.





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	Malawi	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		Persistently high food prices, poor production prospects for the off-season crop and limited wage labour opportunities in the Southern region, caused an increase in the number of food insecure persons to nearly 2 million, up from 1.6 million.
	Mali	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Civil strife and insecurity in northern Mali forced over 209 888 people to leave the country and seek refuge in neighbouring countries, while 203 845 more were internally displaced as of November. This has worsened the already precarious food security situation created by last year's poor harvest.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Small swarms formed moved north to north-western Africa. The situation will become calm by January. A few residual populations could persist in a few limited areas that remain green in the northeast.
	Mozambique	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		An estimated 255 000 people require humanitarian assistance following reduced harvests in central and southern parts earlier in the year. Although recent harvests from the secondary season have augmented food supplies, humanitarian assistance is only reaching 100 000 persons are following a break in the food pipeline.
	Niger	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		The country has been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years that resulted in depletion of household assets and high levels of indebtedness. In addition, large numbers of refugees and returning national migrant workers from Mali and Libya placed an increasing demand on food.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Small swarms formed moved north to north-western Africa. The situation will become calm by January. A few residual populations could persist in a few limited areas that remain green in the Air Mountains.
	Rwanda	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Foot-and-Mouth Disease incursions and spread continue from endemic areas.
	Senegal	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Production shortfalls and high food prices led to a deterioration of the food security situation in several parts of the country.





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		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Low numbers of Desert locust adults could appear in the north in December.
			High	Increased risk of further spread of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia in cattle.
	Sierra Leone	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		Slow recovery from war-related damage. Depreciation of currency led to higher inflation rates negatively affecting households' purchasing power and food security conditions.
	Somalia	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		About 2.1 million people are in need of emergency assistance due to the past severe drought, the ongoing civil conflict and limitations in delivering humanitarian assistance.
	South Sudan	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		About 850 000 people are estimated to be food insecure due to civil insecurity, trade restrictions, localized floods and increasing food demand by Internal Displaced Persons, returnees and refugees.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Rainfall has intensified, leading to flooding in several locations in the month of September 2012 with potential risks for vector borne diseases including Rift Valley Fever in livestock.
	Sudan	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		The estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has been revised downwards from 4.3 to 3.5 million people are due to the start of the improved 2012 main season harvest.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low-Moderate	Small-moderate scale breeding of Desert Locust on the Red Sea coast will cause locust numbers to increase. In general wheat rust is at dormant period but in some areas rust diseases may cause problems in wheat crops.
	Tanzania	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Continued spread of Peste des Petits Ruminants, risk of movement to neighbouring countries.
			Low-Moderate	In general wheat rust is at dormant period but in some areas rust diseases may cause problems in wheat crops.





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			Moderate	Potential Rift Valley Fever outbreaks in livestock based on forecast of increased rains in the country most enhanced in the western, central, south-western highlands, southern region and southern coast, necessitate increased surveillance in at-risk areas.
	Uganda	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Foot-and-Mouth Disease spread continues from endemic areas.
	Zambia	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Potential for Peste des Petits Ruminants incursion and spread from known Peste des Petits Ruminants endemic countries, with concern for susceptible small ruminants, representing a risk to impact livelihoods and food security.
	Zimbabwe	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Tighter maize supplies in southern regions push up prices straining food access for vulnerable households. An estimated 1.2 million people are food insecure. This number is forecast to increase in 2013 as household and market supplies decrease as the lean season approaches.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Potential for Peste des Petits Ruminants incursion and spread from known Peste des Petits Ruminants endemic countries, with concern for susceptible small ruminants, representing a risk to impact rural economy, livelihoods and food security.
NEAR EAST	Algeria	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Adult groups and swarms of Desert Locust will arrive in December from northern Sahel and breed, causing locust numbers to increase throughout the spring and, if uncontrolled, adults will form groups and swarms.
	Egypt	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low - Moderate	Small-scale breeding Desert Locust will occur on the Red Sea coastal plains, causing locust numbers to increase, which may be supplemented by the arrival of small groups and swarms in December from Sudan. In general wheat rust is at dormant period but in some areas rust diseases may cause problems in wheat crops.
			High	Seasonal increase in the number of cases of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and H9N2 virus in poultry.





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			Moderate	Due to unregulated trade movements, there exists a continued risk for introduction of Foot-and-Mouth Disease serotypes unknown to livestock in this region potentially causing large uncontrolled outbreaks.
				Risk of spread of Peste des Petits Ruminants impacting livelihoods.
	Iran, Islamic Republic of	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		Sharp devaluation of the Rial (over 80 percent between the end of 2011 and October 2012) limits the purchasing power of the population, particularly the poor.
	Iraq	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Severe civil insecurity.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low to moderate	Cholera risks.
	Libya	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Adult groups and swarms of Desert Locust will arrive in December from Sahel and breed, causing locust numbers to increase throughout the spring and, if uncontrolled, adults will form groups and swarms.
			Moderate	Due to unregulated trade movements, there exists a continued risk for introduction of Foot-and-Mouth Disease serotypes unknown to livestock in this region potentially causing large uncontrolled outbreaks.
	Mauritania	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Lingering effects of last year sharp drop in production which resulted in depletion of household assets. The country is also affected by high international food prices due to its high import dependency. Moreover, more than 108 953 Malian refugees have been registered in Hodh Ech Chargui Region in the south-eastern part of the country, as of November 2012.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Adult groups and swarms of Desert Locust may arrive in December from the northern Sahel. Small to moderate-scale breeding will continue in northwest, causing locust numbers to increase and, if uncontrolled, adults will form





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				groups and swarms.
	Morocco	<i>unfavourable prospects for current crops</i>		Unfavourable weather conditions delayed planting prospects, followed by moisture stress resulting in a lower wheat production of 3.9 million tonnes, over 36 percent less than in 2011.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Small-scale breeding Desert Locust will cause locust numbers to increase in the Western Sahara, which may be supplemented by the arrival of small groups and swarms in December from the Sahel. If breeding is uncontrolled, adults will form groups and swarms. Small-scale breeding could commence in February along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains if winter temperatures are unusually mild.
	Saudi Arabia	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Small to moderate scale breeding Desert Locust along the Red Sea coastal plains will cause locust numbers to increase.
	Syrian Arab Republic	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Severe civil unrest continues. The number of people in need of urgent food and livelihood assistance is estimated to be 3 million. Syrian refugees are also putting strain on the region.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Risk of spread of endemic animal diseases and incursions from neighbouring countries of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Peste des Petits Ruminants, due to civil unrest and reduction of veterinary services activities.
	Tunisia	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	The arrival of small groups and swarms of Desert Locust in December from the Sahel will cause locust numbers to increase throughout the spring and, if uncontrolled, adults will form groups and swarms.
	Yemen	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		The severely food-insecure population in need of emergency food assistance is estimated at over 10 million people (46 percent of the population) as a result of high levels of poverty, prolonged conflict and high food and fuel prices.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low-Moderate	Small-scale breeding along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal plains will cause locust numbers to increase slightly.





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ASIA & THE PACIFIC	Afghanistan	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Some areas, particularly in the extreme northeast and some higher elevations of the central highlands are faced with increased food insecurity due to lost livestock and lower remittances from the Islam Republic of Iran.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Control operations of Moroccan and Italian locusts came to an end in June.
	Bangladesh	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Risk of an increase in the number of cases of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.
	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		A dry spell in May-June 2012 affected early season harvest of wheat, barley and potatoes and main season soybeans. Impact of the dry spell and localized floods in July-August on the 2012 main season crops, mainly maize and rice, was largely overcome by timely distribution of key inputs including seeds and fertilizer. However, the FAO/WFP assessment estimated that the country still faces an uncovered food deficit of 207 000 tonnes. Consequently an external assistance is required for 2.8 million severely vulnerable people during the 2012/13 marketing year (November/October).
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Risk of incursions of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza from wild birds due to cold front forecasted in Far East Asia.
	India	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Risk of an increase in the number of cases of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in newly affected areas.
	Japan	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Risk of incursions of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza from wild birds due to cold front forecasted in Far East Asia.
	Republic of Korea	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Risk of incursions of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza from wild birds due to cold front forecasted in Far East Asia.
	Sri Lanka	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Potential introduction of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza from neighbouring countries.





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EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA	Armenia	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Risk of an increase in the number of cases of anthrax with associated risk to humans.
	Belarus	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Potential incursion of Classical swine fever and African swine fever in livestock from neighbouring countries.
	Georgia	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Risk of an increase in the number of cases of anthrax with associated risk to humans.
	Israel	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Increased risk of further spread of Lumpy skin disease in livestock from endemic locations.
	Kyrgyzstan	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Socio-political tension since June 2010 in Jalalabad, Osh and Batken Oblasts, in parallel with a lower cereal production and increasing food prices, hinder access to food and causing threats on food security among vulnerable groups of the population.
	Latvia	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Potential risk of further spread of Classical swine fever and incursion of African swine fever in livestock from a neighbouring country.
	Russian Federation	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Continues spread of African swine fever in domestic and wild boar populations.
	Pakistan	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Low numbers of adults may persist in Baluchistan and start to breed on a small scale in February
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	Dominican Republic	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Risk of incursion of teschovirus and Classical swine fever in pigs from endemic areas of the Hispaniola Island.
	Guatemala	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Increased risk of further spread of Classical swine fever in livestock through informal movement of pigs and products across borders with risks of spread to neighbouring countries.
	Haiti	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Tropical storms Isaac and Sandy caused severe damage to agriculture, housing and infrastructure.





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		<i>unfavourable prospects for current crops</i>		More recently, damages to 2012/13 autumn/winter cereal crop planting brought by hurricane Sandy.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Continued spread of rabies, Classical swine fever and teschovirus in pigs.
			Moderate to high	Cholera outbreaks are predicted to be on the rise.

