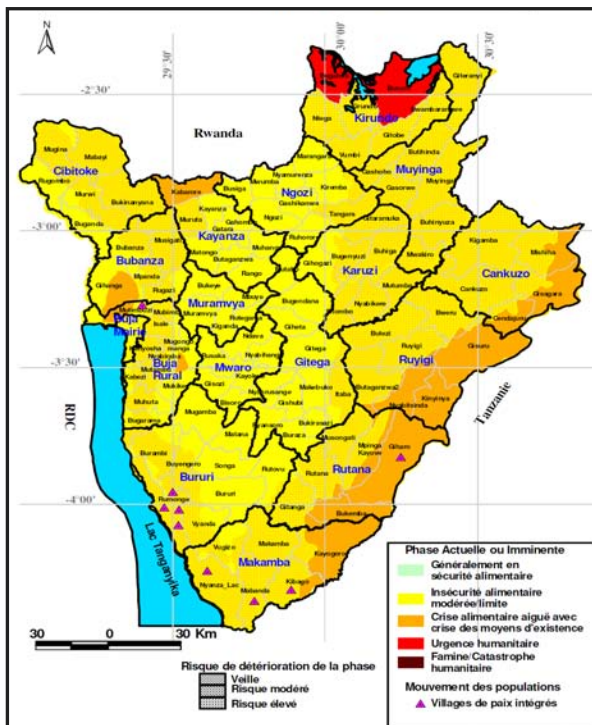


FSNWG Update

Food Security & Nutrition Working Group

Central & Eastern Africa | 11 March 2010

Food security situation in decline...



IPC Map - Burundi predictions Jan-July 2010

Humanitarian Emergency declared in Northern Burundi

Humanitarian Emergency (Phase 4 according to the food security Integrated Phase Classification - IPC) is declared in **Bugabira** and **Busoni** Provinces and parts of **Kirundo** Commune **Northern Burundi**. According to a joint mission (Gov, UN, NGOs) carried out on 16-18 February 2010, it is estimated that **35 710 households** (i.e. about 178 550 people) are in **Humanitarian Emergency** and another **15 000 households** (i.e. 75 000 people) are in **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis** (Phase 3) in the same region. Communities in these areas had suffered from food production deficits in the last 10 years due to repeated dry spells, lack of seeds and cuts, high population density and soil degradation. Food security was further threatened by the drought that has prevailed from October 2009 to January 2010 and rising food prices. As a consequence the first season of 2010 has resulted in total crop failure. The failed harvest of January to February 2010 was expected to provide food through June.

Another area of concern is **the livelihood zone of Moso; Eastern Burundi**, where phase 3 **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis** was declared as a consequence of the combination of factors that have seriously deteriorated the food security situation since December 2009: Total crop failure resulted from: shortage of water due to delayed rains (2 months) followed by floods in November – December 2010; jeopardized wetlands productions; rainfall disruption for one month in late January early February 2010; hail storms/high winds and high food prices. A survey conducted by UNICEF shows that as many as 50-65% children in Moso suffer from chronic malnutrition and the nutrition intake per capita is alarmingly low. Overall in Burundi, although crop performance has increased, it remains the worst food security situation in the last 7 years.

	Bugabira	Busoni	Kirundo	Total
Phase 4: Humanitarian Emergency	53 550	85 000	40 000	178 550
Phase 3: Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis	30 000	35 000	10 000	75 000
Total no. of people	83 550	120 000	50 000	253 550

➔ Recommendations for Action:

- Agricultural inputs to the vulnerable farmers for season 2010B
- Multiply and distribute existing healthy cassava cuttings

Further Information:

Regional rainfall forecast, March – May 2010: <http://www.icpac.net/>

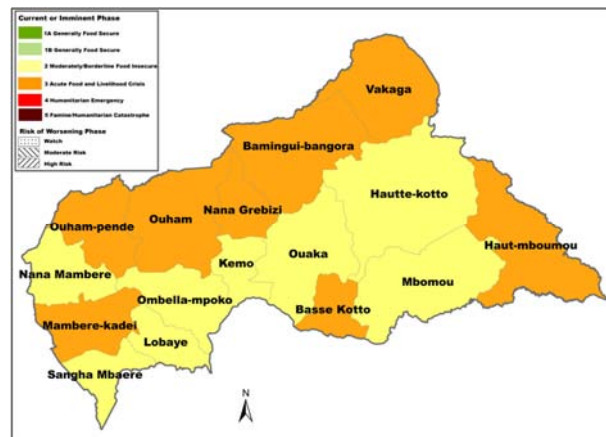
Further information on floods in the region (Mid-March 2010)

Kenya: [http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFFiles2010.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/MDCS-83NCFA-full_report.pdf/\\$File/full_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFFiles2010.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/MDCS-83NCFA-full_report.pdf/$File/full_report.pdf)

Uganda: [http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFFiles2010.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/MDCS-83NCFA-full_report.pdf/\\$File/](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFFiles2010.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/MDCS-83NCFA-full_report.pdf/$File/)

Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis in CAR

Preliminary results show that as many as **8 Préfectures spread over 5 out of 6 regions**: Mambere Kadei (west), Ouham Pende, Ouham, Nana Gribizi, Bamingui Bangora, Vakaga (north), Basse Kotto (south) and Haute Mbomou (east) are in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (IPC map - February to June 2010). These Préfectures are suffering from irregular rains/dry spells, crops and livestock disease, rising foodstuff prices, crashing cash crop prices, low yields, rural poverty as high as 73% and high HIV/AIDS prevalence. Increasing violence in the same areas threaten the food security situation to further deteriorate into a Humanitarian Emergency (see page 2).



Upcoming elections: a possible risk?

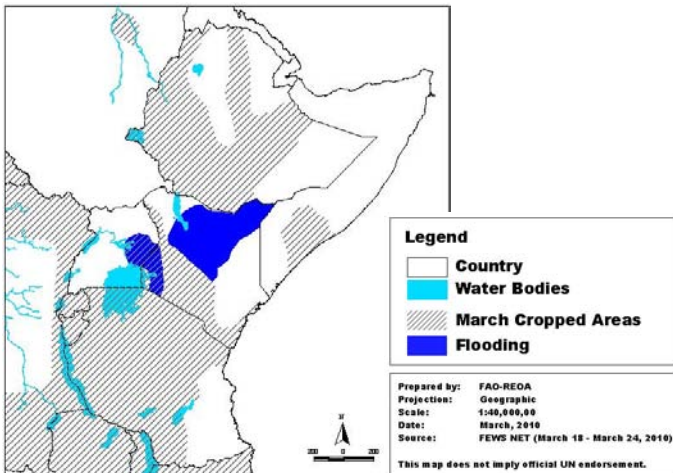
Elections time line:

20 May: Communal
28 June: Presidential
23 July: National Assembly

The food security situation in **Burundi** could be at risk as tensions are rising with the upcoming elections, especially as the Presidential Elections will coincide with the harvest season. Tensions opposing the Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL) and the Front pour la Démocratie au Burundi (FRODEBU) to the Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie – Forces de Défense de la Démocratie (CNDD-FDD) youth wing and escalating violence could cause decrease access to food, fields, markets, as well a internal and external trade flow.

In **CAR**, the Presidential Elections are scheduled for April 2010. There is a high probability that they will be postponed for insufficient technical preparation as well as for lack of security. National reconciliation efforts are being undermined as conflicts continue north, north west, and violence is escalating north east (ICG, Africa Briefing 69). Since May 2009, the Lord 's Resistance Army (LRA) re-entered the country south-east causing further tensions. This escalation of clashes threatens to result in further internal population displacement, restricted access to food, stripping of livelihood assets and coping strategies; and consequently regions in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis risk to fall into a state of Humanitarian Emergency.

Localized floods threaten food security



The current regional rainfall is above average due to El Niño and in some areas, rains are one month early. Heavy rains have caused localized floods notably Uganda and Kenya, but also in Burundi and Somalia. **East and north east of Uganda**, floods, landslides and water logging have affected about 10 000 people (IFRC) and caused displacement, damage of properties and infrastructures, crop loss and disease outbreak have been reported. Concern arises as rains are expected to continue up to late April/May 2010. According to OCHA/KRCS floods **north west of Kenya** between January/March have affected more than 8 000 people, caused the displacement of 1 097 households, the death of 11 people, damage to infrastructure and loss of crops and livestock. Immediate concern is for affected areas in Mandera district (>4 000 HH), Tinderet, Lokori, Marsabit, Garbatulla and Isiolo where access to potable water, shelter and food are priorities. In Burundi, acute food and livelihood crisis is declared in the livelihood zone of the **Plaine Limbo** where Gihanga, Mpanda and Mutumbuzi Communes have also suffering from floods. **North west of Somalia**, in Gebiley, floods have caused the displacement of 1 000 people.

Risk reduction in dryland regions

Current interventions in the Horn of Africa have significantly favoured pastoralists or pure settled farmers while agro-pastoralists have largely been neglected. Not having the mobility of pastoralists in search of water and pasture, nor having access to high potential lands, they are often the most vulnerable to natural hazards and conflict over natural resources.

The Agricultural sub-working group of the FSNWG attempts to propose an "Integrated risk reduction programme for agro-pastoral communities in dryland regions " for the Horn of Africa sub-region

Programmes are often implemented by institutions in isolation from each other, both thematically and geographically, or at best in a coordinated manner preventing overlaps. This programme is entirely integrated. Many stakeholders will implement complementary activities for the same beneficiaries in order to increase its impact. Institutions involved already have a strong field presence. By creating an economy of scale, the running costs associated to the interventions will be significantly reduced. The programme will be implemented in true partnership by Action Against Hunger, Alliance of the CGIAR Centers, Action Aid, Cabi, Caritas, Coopi, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Greentree, Solidarités, Trocaire and Vétérinaires Sans Frontières-Suisse. Merging the network of NGOs at field level, with the network of the alliance of the CGIAR centers, and the unique technical mandate of FAO with country members, creates an environment conducive to link short-term to long-term sustainable activities.

The programme will be implemented in dryland areas of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia where the following criteria are matching: (i) 100 – 600 mm of rainfall per year, (ii) Agro-pastoral livelihood and (iii) High, medium and marginal suitability for rain fed sorghum. It will have a strong focus on areas in **"Phase 3 – Acute food and livelihood crisis"** as per the harmonised IPC system in the region. Currently some 2.63 million people are in acute food and livelihood crisis in the programme priority areas.

Goal: To contribute to sustainable food security and livelihoods.

Outcome: Increased resilience of households in drylands.

Outputs: Reduced risk of crop/livestock production failure
Secured production in a sustainable way
Reduced pre and post-harvest losses
Added value to production

The activities foreseen are fully aligned with country priorities and strategies. The holistic choice of stakeholders – NGOs, FAO and research institutes is a guaranty that bottom up and top-down approaches will meet in a synergetic and reciprocal influential manner. As such, this programme is a clear contribution to the implementation of the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The programme formulation will be completed by end March and the document launched and presented to donors early April.

Coming Events...

Date	Event	Location
22-27/03/10	National IPC analytical workshop	DRC

Several International NGOs and UN Agencies have underlined their interest in developing a regional food security and nutrition coordination mechanism, technically supported by FAO. As a result of this request, a thematic working group - the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group - was established in 2005 with the participation of CRS, IFRC, Save the Children, OCHA, World Vision, WFP, FAO/FSAU, FAO, Concern Universal, FEWS NET, OXFAM, and UNICEF. The FSNWG now covers 12 countries: Burundi, CAR, Djibouti, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. For more information, please contact FAO Regional Emergency Office for Africa (REOA): fsn-gha-workinggroup@fao.org