Above-average 2020 second season cereal harvest expected in bi-modal rainfall areas

In bi-modal rainfall areas covering most of the country, harvesting of 2020 second season crops is about to start and will be completed in January. The September-November rainy season was characterized by abundant precipitations, especially in northern areas, favouring crop establishment and development. Vegetation conditions are good across the country (see ASI map) and an above-average crop production is expected. However, the torrential rains triggered flooding in September and October near Lake Albert and Lake Kyoga, in northwestern Amuru, Adjumani, Obongi, Packwach, Moyo, Lamwo and Arua districts and in eastern Butaleja and Mbale districts. In addition, landslides occurred in mountain areas of eastern Mbale, southern Kisoro and western Bunyangabo districts. Floods and landslides affected about 16 500 people and caused losses of lives, damage to infrastructure and localized crop losses. Subsequently, in late November, heavy rains caused floods in Mbarara District and landslides in Kasese District, both located in the South Western region, affecting more than 2 000 people.

The first season harvest was concluded in July and production was estimated at above-average levels due to abundant seasonal rains, despite localized but significant flood-related production shortfalls.

Total cereal production for 2020 is put at about 3.6 million tonnes, about 4 percent up from 2019 and similar to the average of the previous five years.
In February 2020, a desert locust outbreak affected northeastern Teso and Karamoja subregions and northern Acholi and Lango subregions. Damage to pastures and crops was localized as swarms were of relatively small size and the Government, with the support of FAO, carried out effective control operations. Although as of late November no swarms were present in the country, Cyclone Gati hit northern Somalia on 22 November bringing heavy rains and creating a conducive environment for the formation of several immature swarms in early December. Some of these swarms could reach northern Kenya by mid-December. As a result, there is a concrete risk of another locust invasion of northeastern and northern areas of the country, characterized by an already fragile food security situation. The desert locust response plan is 90 percent funded through multiple donors and agencies, and contingency plans are in place for surveillance and control measures.

Delayed and reduced harvest gathered in the Karamoja Region

In the uni-modal rainfall agro-pastoral Karamoja Region, the April-September rainy season had an early onset in March, with heavy rains triggering flooding and waterlogging which resulted in delayed and reduced plantings, also due to seed shortages. As a result, although a good performance of seasonal rains benefited yields, cereals and pulses were harvested in October, with about one month of delay, and production is estimated at 10-20 percent below-average due to a reduced planted area and to the continuation of seasonal rains into October, which resulted in increased post-harvest losses.

Abundant seasonal rains benefiting pastoral livelihoods

In agropastoral areas of the cattle corridor and the Karamoja region, abundant rains between September and November have resulted in above-average rangeland conditions (see Vegetation Condition Index Map). Ample availability of water and pasture benefitted animal body conditions, with above-average levels of meat and milk production. However, in the cattle corridor, significant losses of pasture due to floods have been reported in western Ntoroko and Bullisa districts and in central Nakasongola district. In the Karamoja region, the restrictive measures introduced to curb the spread of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and the COVID-19, coupled with persisting insecurity related to cattle raids, have disrupted livestock movement and animal and milk sales.

Prices of maize at low levels due to adequate availabilities and depressed demand

Prices of maize decreased by about 50 percent between May and August in all monitored markets, including the capital, Kampala, as the commercialization of the first season harvest increased market availabilities. The COVID-19-related restrictions exerted further downward pressure on prices, as demand by restaurants, hotels, schools and urban households was constrained by a lower economic activity and declines in incomes. Prices increased by about 15-20 percent in September, as seasonal patterns were compounded by flood-related trade disruptions, remaining subsequently mostly stable in October and November. Maize prices in November were almost 40 percent below their year-earlier levels.

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### Uganda Cereal Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<td>Maize</td>
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<td>2 575</td>
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<td>260</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>3 335</strong></td>
<td>3 455</td>
<td><strong>3 602</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.3</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

### Uganda - Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

#### November 2020

Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.
In the cereal deficit Karamoja region, the availability of low priced cereals from neighboring surplus producing areas in Soroti, Lira and Acholi regions has resulted in a generalized decline of cereal prices, despite the below-average local harvest. In several markets of the region, including Moroto, Kaabong and Napak, prices of sorghum in September were up to 20 percent below their year-earlier levels.

**Food security situation affected by measures adopted to contain the spread of COVID-19**

The restrictive measures introduced in March and April 2020 by the Government to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic had a substantial adverse impact on the food security situation. Despite the easing of restrictions in June/July, the economic and livelihood recovery has been slow.

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, conducted in the Karamoja region, refugee settlements, host communities and in urban areas, 2 million people (17 percent of the analysed population) are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and Phase 4: “Emergency”) in the period September 2020-January 2021. Of these:

- About 182 000 are located in the Karamoja region, mainly as a result of consecutive below-average harvests in 2019 and in 2020 and of reduced livestock and milk sales.
- About 714 000 are members of refugee hosting communities located in northern, western and southern areas, mainly due to a slow recovery of businesses, daily wage incomes and cross border trade and labour movement after the easing of COVID-19 related movement restrictions.
- About 495 000 are refugees and asylum-seekers, out of about 1.4 million individuals, mainly from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The main drivers of food insecurity are the reduction of humanitarian assistance since April due to budget constraints and the economic impact of the several COVID-19 related restrictions still in place.
- About 611 000 are located in traditionally food secure urban areas including the capital Kampala. The food security situation in urban areas was the most affected by the COVID-19 related restrictive measures, as poor households mainly rely on the daily wages obtained through casual labour, petty trading, food vending, construction activities and domestic work. Despite the phasing out of some restrictive measures, the food security situation of the urban poor has not significantly improved, as the restrictions still in place on business operations are resulting in a slow recovery of economic activities.

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FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall favourable prospects for 2020 first season cereal harvest in bi-modal rainfall areas
- Abundant early season rains benefiting crops and pasture in Karamoja Region
- Torrential rains in April and May triggered floods in several areas, affecting about 177,000 people
- Prices of maize increased to high levels in April and May amidst panic-buying and trade disruptions
- Food security situation affected by measures to contain spread of COVID-19 pandemic

Overall favourable prospects for 2020 first season cereal harvest in bi-modal rainfall areas

In bi-modal rainfall areas covering most of the country, except the agro-pastoral uni-modal rainfall Karamoja Region in the northeast, harvesting of 2020 first season crops is about to start. The March-May rainy season had a timely onset and was characterized by well-above precipitations during most of the cropping period. Although a dry spell in the first dekad of April affected crop germination and establishment in some areas, the resumption of rains led to a substantial recovery of water-stressed crops. Current vegetation conditions are good over most cropping areas (see ASI map) and an above-average crop production is expected.

Torrential rains in April and May triggered flooding and landslides in several areas, including Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabale, Rukungiri, Kanungu, Isingiro, Rwampara, Ibanda, Wakiso, Mayuge, Kyegegwa and Nakasongola districts. The floods and landslides affected about 177,000 people, of which about 24,000 were displaced and caused losses of lives, livestock deaths, damage to infrastructure and localized crop losses. Above-average rainfall has also increased water levels in rivers and lakes, especially Lake Kyoga and Lake Victoria. Notably, the water levels of Lake Victoria are reported to be the highest on record in 60 years. The inundation of the areas along lakeshores has resulted in infrastructure damage and livelihood losses.

Since February 2020, a desert locust outbreak is affecting northeastern Teso and Karamoja subregions and northern Acholi and Lango subregions. In April, locust-induced damage to pastures and crops was reported to be localized, as swarms were...
of relatively small size and the Government, with the support of FAO, carried out effective control operations. However, locust infestations are widespread in central and northern areas of neighbouring Kenya, and the heavy March-May rains across the subregion have created a conducive environment for further insect reproduction. As a result, there is a concrete risk of additional locust invasions of northeastern and northern areas of the country, characterized by an already fragile food security situation.

Abundant early season rains benefiting crops and pasture in Karamoja Region

In the uni-modal rainfall agro-pastoral Karamoja Region, the April-September rainy season had an early onset in March and cumulative precipitations between March and mid-May are estimated at about twice the long-term average. The abundant rains benefited germination and establishment of crops and improved rangeland conditions, but triggered floods in the Nakapiripirit District, resulting in localized crop losses.

According to the latest Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) weather forecast, above-average precipitation amounts are expected between June and September, with a favourable impact on pasture conditions and on yields of sorghum, the main cereal grown in the area, for harvest from September.

Prices of maize increased to high levels in March and April

Prices of maize declined by 10-25 percent between December 2019 and February 2020 in all monitored markets, including the capital, Kampala, as the commercialization of the 2019 second season harvest increased market availabilities. Subsequently, prices surged by up to 40 percent between February and April, with seasonal patterns compounded by panic-buying, speculative trading and supply chain disruptions following the implementation of lockdown measures to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Institutional purchases by the Government to implement a food aid distribution programme in urban areas provided further support to prices (see Box below). Prices of maize in April were at high levels, up to 45 percent higher than a year earlier, also due to a tight domestic supply situation following a below-average 2019 cereal production, coupled with sustained export demand from Kenya and South Sudan. Prices of beans followed similar patterns, sharply increasing in March and April, when they were well above their year-earlier levels.

Food security situation affected by measures adopted to contain spread of COVID-19

In recent months, the restrictive measures introduced to contain the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak (see Box below), have resulted in reduced agricultural labour demand, caused by declining purchasing power and disposable income for farmers that employ hired labour. In most bi-modal rainfall areas, where food insecurity is normally at minimal levels, the recent decline of incomes for agricultural workers caused by the reduced labour demand did not have a significant impact on the food security situation. By contrast, in the areas affected by the floods and landslides during the last two rainy seasons, the poor households are currently facing IPC Phase 2: “Stressed” food security situation.
conditions. This is due to the cumulative impact of reduced incomes caused by the restrictive measures and by the disruption of agricultural activities caused by flooding and of flood-induced losses of crops, livestock and productive assets.

In the agro-pastoral Karamoja Region, where IPC Phase 2: “Stressed” levels of food insecurity prevailed before the COVID-19 pandemic, the restrictive measures are resulting in below-average incomes from labour and sales of firewood and charcoal. As a result, the food security situation deteriorated to IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” levels, also due to the suspension of school feeding programmes and high food prices. The food security situation is expected to improve to IPC Phase 2: “Stressed” levels from July/August, when the harvests from within the region and neighbouring bi-modal rainfall areas will improve food availability.

The food security situation in the urban areas is the most affected by the restrictive measures, as the poor households mainly rely on the daily wages obtained through casual labour, petty trading, food vending, construction activities and domestic work. Due to a sharp decline in incomes, coupled with increasing food prices, IPC Phase 2: “Stressed” levels of food insecurity are prevailing among poor urban households. The most vulnerable of them are facing IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” levels of food insecurity, characterized by food consumption gaps. Despite the recent phasing out of some restrictive measures, the food security situation of the urban poor is not expected to improve in the short term, as the restoration of economic activity is likely to be slow.

As of end-April 2020, the country hosted about 1.42 million refugees, including about 880 000 people from South Sudan and about 415 000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The reliance of refugees on humanitarian assistance increased in recent months as movement restrictions constrained the already limited income-earning opportunities.
COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

The Government of Uganda introduced in March and April 2020 several precautionary measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- A nationwide curfew, from 19:00 to 06.30 hours.
- The suspension of all public passenger transport, including trains, buses and taxis.
- The obligation for all citizens to stay indoors unless travel is essential.
- The prohibition of public gatherings by more than five people.
- The suspension of all international flights, except for cargo aircrafts, humanitarian flights and emergency landings.
- The closure of all land borders on entry and exit, including for Ugandan citizens and residents, except for cargo trucks.
- The introduction, in cooperation with Kenya, Rwanda and South Sudan, of a digital surveillance and tracking system to monitor cargo truck drivers engaged in cross-border transport activities.
- The closure of all shops selling non-essential items, with only stores selling food, agricultural and veterinary products, detergents and pharmaceuticals allowed to remain open.
- The prohibition to sell non-food items in markets, with traders of food items required to find accommodation in the proximity of their food stall.
- The prohibition to sell cooked food on the streets.
- The closures of factories and construction sites unless crucial employees may be accommodated around their workplace.
- The closure of all schools and universities.

To mitigate the economic impact of these measures, especially on vulnerable households, the Government introduced:

- The distribution of food aid to 1.4 million beneficiaries in the capital Kampala and in the town of Wakiso.
- A suspension of house rent payments and bank loan repayments.
- A reduction of internet traffic rates to facilitate e-commerce and teleworking activities.

Beginning from May 2020, some restrictive measures have been phased out. For example, hardware shops, workshops, garages and insurance providers have been allowed to resume their activities, abiding to social distancing guidelines. Restaurants have been authorized to re-open, but only take-away is allowed.

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Above-average 2019 second season cereal harvest expected in bi-modal rainfall areas

In bi-modal rainfall areas covering most of the country (except the agropastoral uni-modal rainfall Karamoja Region in the northeast), harvesting of 2019 second season crops is underway and will be completed in late January. The October-December rainy season was characterized by abundant precipitations throughout the cropping period, with cumulative seasonal rains estimated at 40-80 percent above the long-term average over most cropping areas. The heavy precipitation had a positive impact on crop establishment and development, illustrated by good vegetation conditions across the country (see ASI map), and an above-average crop production is expected. However, the torrential rains triggered flooding and landslides in eastern Mount Elgon subregion and in southwestern Ntoroko, Bundibugyo, Kisoro and Kalungu districts, affecting about 300,000 people and causing crop losses and damage to infrastructure. Persisting heavy rains until December 2019 have hampered drying and storage of cereals and pulses, resulting in above-average post-harvest losses, while heavily saturated soils resulted in localized damage to root crops, including cassava, sweet potatoes and groundnuts.

Earlier in the year, the first season harvest was concluded in August with a one-month delay and was estimated to be 10-15 percent below average, as severe dryness during March and most of April 2019 resulted in widespread germination failures and in a significant contraction of planted area.
Total cereal production for 2019 is put at about 3.5 million tonnes, about 2 percent below the average output obtained in 2018.

**Reduced and delayed harvest gathered in Karamoja Region**

In the uni-modal rainfall agropastoral Karamoja Region, the April-September rainy season did not fully establish until mid-May, substantially delaying planting. Torrential rains in June offset the moisture deficits, but hindered ploughing and sowing activities in some areas. As a result, the planted area declined to below-average levels, also due to the limited amounts of cereal seeds that most households were able to retain from the poor 2018 harvest. Average to above-average rains between June and September 2019 benefited yields, but unseasonal precipitations in October and November disrupted cereal harvesting, drying and storage. The harvest of sorghum, the main cereal grown in the area, was concluded in several areas in December with about two months of delay and production is estimated at 20-30 percent below average.

**Abundant seasonal rains benefiting pastoral livelihoods**

In agropastoral areas of the Cattle Corridor, the abundant October-December 2019 rains have resulted in ample water and pasture availability, benefiting both intensive and free-range livestock production systems. As a result of above-average animal body conditions, both meat and milk production increased to above-average levels. Similarly, in Karamoja Region, abundant rains since August led to the complete recharge of water points and benefited pasture availability, resulting in above-average animal conditions and milk production. Due to the ample availability of rangeland resources, livestock migration to dry-season grazing areas, typically beginning in November, has been substantially delayed and may not occur at all this year, with the proximity of herds to homesteads significantly improving household milk availability.

**Maize prices increased to very high levels**

Prices of maize declined by 20-35 percent between July and September in all monitored markets, including the capital, Kampala, as the first season harvest increased market availabilities. Subsequently, prices surged by up to 50 percent between September and November, with seasonal patterns compounded by increased transport costs and trade disruptions caused by torrential rains. November prices were at very high levels, up to twice their year-earlier values, mainly due to a tight domestic supply situation following the below-average first season harvest coupled with sustained export demand from Kenya and South Sudan.

**Despite below-average cereal output, food security conditions improve in Karamoja Region**

The country is generally food secure, with food insecurity at minimal levels in most bi-modal rainfall areas, where the ongoing above-average second season harvest is expected to maintain stable food security conditions. However, in the areas affected by floods and landslides, due to crop and livestock losses, poor households are currently facing IPC Phase 2: “Stressed” food security conditions, with a minimally adequate food consumption and are unable to meet some essential non-food needs.
In the agropastoral Karamoja Region, food security conditions have recently improved from IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” to IPC Phase 2: “Stressed” due to the availability of the recently harvested crops. Although the below-average crop production will result in an earlier-than-usual depletion of household cereal stocks, the above-average availability of livestock products will maintain a stable food security situation and the lean season is expected to begin as usual in March.

As of end-November 2019, the country hosted about 1.38 million refugees, including about 860 000 people from South Sudan and about 398 000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. During 2019, about 96 000 South Sudanese refugees returned to South Sudan due to an improved security situation following the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan in September 2018. By contrast, about 83 000 new refugee arrivals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo were recorded during 2019, mainly due to heightened violence in eastern areas since mid-2019.

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GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 27-August-2019

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**

- Below-average 2019 first season harvest expected in bi-modal rainfall areas due to severe early season dryness
- Reduced crop output expected in uni-modal Karamoja Region due to below-average planted area
- Prices of maize firm at very high levels in June and July
- Severe food insecurity in Karamoja and Teso regions due to consecutive below-average harvests

**Below-average 2019 first season harvest expected in bi-modal rainfall areas**

In bi-modal rainfall areas covering most of the country (except the agropastoral uni-modal rainfall Karamoja Region in the northeast), harvesting of 2019 second season crops is about to be completed with almost a one-month delay. The March-June rainy season was characterized by drought conditions in March (see Precipitation anomaly map) and in the first two dekads of April, as tropical Cyclone Idai, which formed in early March in the Mozambique Channel, redirected precipitations away from East Africa. The exceptional dryness was among the worst on record since 1982, with the largest rainfall deficits recorded in northern and eastern areas of the country, where cumulative rains between early March and the second dekad of April were between 60 and 80 percent below average, impeding planting operations. In central and southern areas, where some rains were received, planting was carried out. However, insufficient precipitation, about half of the long-term average, coupled with high land surface temperatures, between 3 and 8 degrees Celsius above the average, resulted in widespread germination failures and crop wilting. In addition, according to an assessment conducted in mid-April in central areas and in some eastern districts, about 60 percent of the surveyed fields were affected by Fall Armyworm outbreaks, with infestation levels fostered by the prevailing dry conditions.

Improved rains in late April allowed planting in drought-affected northern and eastern areas and replanting of failed crops in central and southern areas, but planted area was below average as several farmers did not have enough seeds for replanting or opted not to plant as the rainy season was already too advanced. Near average to average rains in May followed by abundant precipitations in June mostly offset the early rainfall deficits, benefitting the establishment and development of late-planted and re-planted crops. However, according to remote sensing...
Total cereal production for 2019, assuming an average output of the second season harvest, to be gathered from December, is tentatively set at about 3.4 million tonnes, nearly 10 percent down from 2018 and 5 percent below the average of the previous five years.

Reduced and delayed harvest expected in Karamoja Region

In the uni-modal rainfall agropastoral Karamoja Region, the April-September rainy season did not fully establish until mid-May, substantially delaying planting. Torrential rains in June offset the moisture deficits, but hindered ploughing and sowing activities in some areas. Therefore, the planted area is estimated at below average levels, also due to the limited amounts of cereal seeds that most households were able to retain from the poor 2018 harvest. Despite the rains continued at above-average levels in July and August and improved vegetation conditions, a reduced and delayed harvest for the second consecutive year is expected.

Maize prices firm at very high levels

Prices of maize followed an increasing trend since early 2019, with seasonal patterns compounded by an earlier-than-usual depletion of stocks as the output of the 2018 second season crops was affected by inadequate precipitations. Subsequently, prices had a sharp acceleration due to concerns over the impact of early season dryness on the performance of the 2019 first season harvest, with prices of maize surging by almost 50 percent between March and May. Prices levelled off in June and July as the improved late season rains lifted crop prospects, but due to the recent increases, prices in July were more than twice their year-earlier levels.

Severe food insecurity in Karamoja and Teso regions

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, conducted in Karamoja and in Teso regions, about 475 000 people (18 percent of the population of the two regions) were estimated to be severely food insecure between January and March 2019. The areas of major concern were Abim, Kaabong, Kotido and Moroto districts in the Karamoja Region and Bukedea, Kumi and Ngora districts in the Teso Region, where IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” levels of food insecurity prevailed. The food insecure caseload increased by more than 70 percent from late 2018, when it was estimated at 277 000 people due to substantial crop production shortfalls in 2018. Subsequently, the food security situation continued to deteriorate,
driven by a harsh and prolonged lean season, due to the early depletion of stocks of the poor 2018 crop production and the delayed 2019 harvests. In addition, below-average agricultural labour demand due to the poor seasonal rains and high food prices have resulted in significant constraints to households’ purchasing power and food access. Food security has started to improve in the Teso Region in July with the first season green harvest and in the Karamoja Region in August with the 2019 season green harvest. However, the below-average 2019 crop production (the second and the third consecutive poor seasons in Karamoja and Teso regions, respectively) will again result in an early start of the next lean season.

As of July 2019, the country hosts about 1.3 million refugees, including about 838,000 people from South Sudan and about 366,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A recent wave of violence led to an increase in new refugee arrivals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the daily arrival rate doubling from about 150 to 300 between May and June, and subsequently declining to about 200 in July. By contrast, the daily rate of new refugee arrivals from South Sudan declined from about 200 in May to about 70 in June and 30 in July. In the same month, 9,500 South Sudanese refugees returned to South Sudan and total voluntary returns are reported at about 89,000.

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GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 07-November-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early season dryness affected planting and establishment of second season crops in Eastern Region
- First season cereal production in 2018 estimated at above-average levels
- Delayed harvest and reduced cereal output in Karamoja Region due to floods and erratic rains
- Prices of maize seasonally increasing in recent months but still at low levels
- Pockets of severe food insecurity in Karamoja Region

Early season dryness affecting planting and establishment of second season crops in Eastern Region

In bi-modal rainfall areas, planting of the 2018 second season crops, to be harvested from December, was completed in October in most cropping areas. The September-December 2017 rainy season had a timely onset and a good performance so far over Central and Northern regions and most of Western Region, benefiting planting and establishment of crops. By contrast, in the Eastern Region and in southern parts of the Western Region (Isingiro, Kabale Mbarara, Ntungamo and Sheema districts), cumulative rainfall in September and October was 15-40 percent below average. In the south of the Western Region the precipitations received, although reduced, were still sufficient for the water requirements of crops and vegetation conditions are generally good, while in the Eastern Region, where rainfall deficits were more severe, planting delays and below-average crop conditions are reported. According to remote sensing information and analysis (see ASI map), by end-October, dryness was affecting up to 25 percent of the cropland in several areas of the Eastern Region and 25 to 55 percent of the cropland in Mayuge, Jinja, Luuka and Butaleja districts (see yellow and orange areas on the ASI map).

Rainfall amounts and distribution during the next weeks will be crucial for the outcome of the cropping season, especially in the areas affected by early season dryness.

Earlier in the year, production of the first season harvest, gathered in June and July, was estimated at above-average levels as yields benefited from exceptionally abundant March-May seasonal rains. Torrential rains triggered floods in several areas, but crop losses were limited and mainly localized in Mount
Elgon, Teso and Kigezi areas. In addition, the impact of Fall Armyworm outbreaks was minimal as abundant rains suppressed the spread of the pest.

Delayed harvest and reduced cereal production in Karamoja Region
In the northeastern uni-modal rainfall Karamoja Region, the 2018 harvest is about to be completed, more than one month later than normal. Excessive rains between April and June disrupted planting operations and resulted in flooding and waterlogging in lowland areas, forcing farmers to re-plant. Subsequently, erratic and below-average rainfall in July and August affected the establishment and development of re-planted crops. As a result, cereal production is estimated at well below-average levels, with the lowest output registered in Kotido and Kaabong districts. However, the abundant rains received during the first part of the rainy season prompted a substantial regeneration of rangeland resources and the increased availability of pasture and water for livestock resulted in an increase in milk production.

Maize prices still at low levels despite recent seasonal increases
Prices of maize declined in all monitored markets by about 40 percent between June and August 2018 as the first season harvest increased supplies. Subsequently, prices seasonally increased by 15-50 percent between August and October, but remained 25-40 percent below their year-earlier levels due to adequate domestic availabilities and reduced export demand from Kenya, where an above-average cereal production was obtained in 2018.

Pockets of severe food insecurity in Karamoja Region
The country is generally food secure, with chronic food insecurity at minimal levels in most bi-modal rainfall areas due to adequate domestic availabilities and low food prices. By contrast, in the Karamoja Region, households’ stocks are expected to be depleted by December, with an ensuing early start of the lean season. Typical coping strategies, including firewood and charcoal sales, hunting and gathering, and the availability of agricultural labour opportunities starting from February 2019 are likely to prevent most households from facing severe levels of food insecurity. However, vulnerable households in Kotido and Kaabong districts, where the most severe crop production shortfalls occurred, have already depleted their food stocks. As a result, despite recurring to unsustainable coping strategies, including selling productive assets and foregoing health and school expenditures, they are facing food consumption gaps and are expected to face severe levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis”) until July 2019, when the 2019 green harvest will be available for consumption.

As of end-October 2018, the country hosts about 1.1 million refugees, including about 771 000 people from South Sudan, mainly sheltering in camps in northern Yumbe, Moyo, Arua, Adjumani and Lamwo districts. Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo are estimated at about 243 000 and mainly reside in camps in southwestern Hoima and Kyegowa districts. While the arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees has declined in 2018 compared to 2017, the refugee influx from the Democratic Republic of the Congo has sharply increased since late 2017, following the escalation of conflict in Ituri and North Kivu provinces.
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Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.
GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 28-February-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Satisfactory outcome of 2017 second season harvest in bi-modal rainfall areas
- Delayed harvest and reduced maize production in Karamoja Region due to erratic rainfall and Fall Armyworm attacks
- Aggregate 2017 cereal production estimated at 3.6 million tonnes, 5 percent up from 2016 and slightly above average of previous five years
- Below-average pasture and water availability in pastoral areas due to early cessation of seasonal rainfall and high temperatures
- Prices of maize declining in recent months
- Food security situation improved in 2017, with food insecure caseload declining from 1.6 million in February to 0.4 million in November
- As of end-January 2018, the number of refugees from South Sudan estimated at about 1 million
- Refugee influx from Democratic Republic of Congo accelerated since December 2017 due to escalation of conflict

Satisfactory 2017 second season harvest gathered in bi-modal rainfall areas

In bi-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of 2017 second season crops was concluded in January and production is estimated at average to above-average levels. The September-December 2017 rainy season had an early onset in August, which induced farmers to anticipate plantings. Above-average rains in September and October and near-average precipitations in November supported crop establishment and development. Although rains had an early cessation in early December, the impact on yields was minimal as most crops had already reached maturity and were ready for harvest. Fall Armyworm infestations were reported in mid-2017 in 60 of the country’s 112 districts. However, crop losses are reported to be less significant than originally expected due to increased pest management and prevention measures.

Delayed harvest and reduced maize production in Karamoja Region

In the northeastern uni-modal rainfall Karamoja Region, the 2017 harvest was concluded in October 2017, one month later than normal. The April-September 2017 rainy season was
characterized by a delayed onset in late April, followed by average precipitations in May and by a prolonged dry spell in June. Subsequently, abundant rains from July to September offset the moisture deficits and lifted crop prospects. While sorghum production is estimated at average levels, the output of maize, more vulnerable to moisture stress and Fall Armyworm attacks, is estimated at below-average levels.

National cereal production for 2017 is estimated at about 3.6 million tonnes, 5 percent up from 2016 and slightly above the average of the previous five years.

Below-average pasture and water availability in pastoral areas affecting livestock

In pastoral areas of the cattle corridor, water and pasture availability are currently below average due to the early cessation of seasonal rains and above-average temperatures and evapotranspiration. As a result, livestock body conditions are expected to below average until the onset of the 2018 first rainy season in March.

Maize prices declining in recent months

Prices of maize, after having seasonally increased by 5–20 percent in August and September, declined by 20–30 percent between October 2017 and January 2018, as the release of stock by traders and newly-harvested second season crops increased supplies. Prices of maize in January were about 40 percent lower than the high levels of 12 months earlier, which were supported by a reduced 2016 crop production due to dry weather, and around their levels of 24 months earlier.

Despite overall improvements in 2017, pockets of food insecurity persist in northern areas

In November 2017, about 440,000 people were estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis”), about 70 percent less than the estimate of 1.6 million in February 2017. The improvement is mainly due to overall more favourable weather conditions in 2017 compared to 2016, which benefited crop and livestock production. The areas still affected by severe food insecurity are the northern and northeastern subregions of West Nile, Acholi, Teso and Karamoja, due to soil degradation and low agricultural productivity, less favourable weather conditions and the influx of South Sudanese refugees straining the limited local resources.

As of end-January 2018, the country hosts about 1.4 million refugees, including about 1 million people from South Sudan, mainly sheltering in camps in northern Yumbe, Moyo, Arua, Adjumani and Lamwo districts. Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo are estimated at about 252,000 and mainly reside in camps in southwestern Hoima and Kyegegwa districts. While the arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees has declined in recent months, the refugee influx from the Democratic Republic of the Congo has accelerated since mid-December, with about 34,000 new arrivals being registered in 2018, following the escalation of conflict in Ituri and North Kivu provinces.

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GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 30-August-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below-average 2017 first season harvest gathered in bi-modal rainfall areas due to unfavourable weather
- Reduced crop output expected also in uni-modal Karamoja Region due to poor rains
- Below-average pasture and water availability in pastoral areas affecting livestock
- Prices of food declining in recent months
- Food security situation improving, but earlier than usual onset of lean season expected due to reduced harvests
- About 1 million refugees from South Sudan in urgent need of humanitarian assistance

Below-average 2017 first season harvest gathered in bi-modal rainfall areas

In bi-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2017 first season crops was completed in July and crop output is estimated at below-average levels. Seasonal rainfall was poor and erratic in several southwestern and northern districts, having a negative impact on crop establishment and development. The most severe rainfall deficits were recorded in southwestern Kibaale, Bushenyi, Kanungu and Rukungiri districts, where March-May accumulated rainfall was 30-40 percent below the long-term average. In northern districts, rainfall amounts were near average, but had an erratic temporal distribution with a prolonged dry spell in the first two dekads of April. According to the FAO Agricultural Stress Index (ASI), the areas most affected by the reduced rainfall, where in early June more than 70 percent of cropland was affected by drought, were northeastern Otuke, Alebtong, Soroti, Amuria, Kaberamaido, Lira, Serere and Dokolo districts and southwestern Kibaale, Kyenjojo, Kyeggegwa, Kamwenge, Hoima and Mubende districts (see ASI map).

Fall Armyworm infestations, reported in 60 of the country’s 111 districts, have adversely affected yields, mainly of maize, in localized areas.

Total cereal production for 2017 is tentatively set at 3.2 million tonnes, 7 percent below the previous five-year average.
Reduced and delayed harvest expected in Karamoja Region

In the uni-modal rainfall Karamoja Region, where sorghum and millet are predominantly grown, harvesting is expected to start in September with about a one-month delay. Crop production is forecast at below-average levels, as seasonal rains had a delayed onset, an erratic temporal distribution and below-average cumulative amounts. Improved late season rains in July reduced soil moisture deficits, but in Kaabong, Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts, the cumulative rainfall between March and early-August remained up to 20 percent below-average.

Below-average pasture and water availability in pastoral areas affecting livestock

In the most pastoral areas of the cattle corridor and in Karamoja Region, rangeland conditions are poorer than normal (see VCI map) and water availability is reduced due to consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall. In the Karamoja Region and in eastern areas, overgrazing put additional pressure on rangeland resources, as Kaabong, Moroto, Kotido, and Amudat districts host additional livestock from South Sudan and Kenya, where pastoralists were displaced by civil conflict and drought, respectively. Prolonged pasture and water stress had a negative impact on livestock body conditions and animal emaciation is reported in the cattle corridor.

Food prices declining in recent months

Prices of maize increased by 35-40 percent between January and May 2017, reaching record levels in most markets, driven by tight supplies from the reduced 2016 cereal output and concerns over the performance of the 2017 first season harvest. Subsequently, they declined seasonally by 40-45 percent between May and July following the harvest period for first season crops. However, maize prices in July 2017 were 5 and 10 percent higher than their year-earlier levels, respectively, in the capital, Kampala, and in Lira market, located in a northern key-producing area.

In Kampala, prices of matooke (cooking bananas) and beans, important staples in the local diet, declined by about 35 percent between May and July 2017.

Food security situation improving, but early onset of lean season is expected

As of February 2017, about 1.6 million people were estimated to be severely food insecure, IPC Phase 3: “Crisis”, mainly concentrated in some central districts and in the Karamoja Region. In bi-modal rainfall areas, food security conditions are improving as first season crops have recently become available for consumption, and currently IPC Phase 1: “Minimal” levels of food insecurity prevail. However, in southwestern Kanungu, Rukungiri, Rubirizi, Kisoro and Kabale districts, the first season harvests were severely affected by unfavourable weather, poor households are estimated to be facing IPC Phase 2: “Stressed” levels of food insecurity through November, when the second season green crops will be harvested. In the Karamoja Region, IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” levels
of food insecurity persist in Napak, Kaabong and Moroto until September when crops of the delayed harvest will be available for consumption and improvement to IPC Phase 2: “Stressed” is expected. However, in both bi-modal areas and in the Karamoja Region, stocks will be depleted earlier than usual due to below-average crop outputs and an early onset of the lean season is expected.

The country hosts about 1.34 million refugees, including about 1 million people from South Sudan, mainly sheltering in camps in northern Yumbe, Moyo, Arua, Adjumani and Lamwo districts. Refugees who arrived after July 2016 received a plot of land from the Government upon arrival, typically around 900 square meters, to both establish a settlement and cultivate crops. Only refugees who arrived by December 2016 were likely able to plant some crops, while the others mainly rely on food assistance, which is allowing most of the refugees to have a minimally adequate food consumption, IPC Phase 2: “Stressed”, while some of them are facing IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” levels of food insecurity.

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FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Late and erratic rains affecting planting and establishment of 2016 second season crops
- Below-average harvest almost completed in Karamoja region
- Maize prices on the rise in most markets
- Food security improves in Karamoja region, but stocks expected to end earlier than usual
- Rapidly increasing numbers of refugees from South Sudan in urgent need of humanitarian assistance

Late and erratic rains affecting planting and establishment of second season crops

In bi-modal rainfall areas, planting of 2016 second season crops, to be harvested by December, is normally completed in October. However, planting operations are still underway in some areas as rains started in early October with a delay of about 1-2 dekads. So far, precipitations have been erratically-distributed in time and space with a negative impact on crop development in parts. In particular, the FAO Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) for the first dekad of November 2016 indicates a significant risk of drought conditions developing in eastern and southwestern areas around the Lake Victoria basin (see ASI map). Rangeland conditions are also depressed in central districts of the cattle corridor. By contrast, better vegetation conditions are reported in western areas along the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Over most bi-modal rainfall areas, according to latest meteorological forecasts, the remainder of the rainy season is expected to be characterized by average rainfall amounts which may offset, in some areas, the moisture deficits caused by early season dryness.

Aggregate 2016 cereal production is forecast at about 3.4 million tonnes, slightly below the average of the last five years. Import requirements for the 2017 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at an average 500 000 tonnes, mainly wheat, wheat flour and rice. A surplus of about 200 000 tonnes of maize is expected to be available for exports to neighbouring countries including Kenya, South Sudan and Rwanda.

Below-average harvest almost completed in Karamoja region

In the mostly uni-modal rainfall Karamoja region, harvesting operations have almost been concluded with only few crops still to be harvested in Kotido and Kaabong districts. Cereal
production is expected to be slightly higher than last year’s output, severely affected by El Niño; but still at below-average levels following the negative impact on yields of a prolonged dry spell between mid-May and early June. In particular, cereal production has been significantly reduced in Napak and Abim districts.

**Prices of maize increasing earlier than usual due to tight supplies**

Prices of maize declined by 12-14 percent between June and August in all monitored markets with the commercialization of the 2016 first (main) season harvest. Subsequently, prices increased by 10–20 percent between August and October as the lean season was reaching its peak. In October, prices were 15-18 percent higher than 12 months earlier. The sharp and earlier-than-usual increases in prices are due to tight domestic supplies, coupled with sustained export demand by neighbouring Kenya where crop production was negatively impacted by erratic rainfall and crop pests and diseases. Similarly, in the capital, Kampala, October prices of beans and cassava flour, important staples, were 17 and 14 percent, respectively, higher than one year earlier, while prices of matooke (cooking bananas) were around their year-earlier levels.

**Improving food security conditions in Karamoja region**

The country is generally food secure with chronic food insecurity at minimal levels in most bi-modal rainfall areas and overall improvements are expected by the end of the year when second season crops will be available for consumption. However, pockets of food insecurity are reported in Teso and Acholi regions, where poor households have already depleted food stocks from the 2016 below-average first season crops (harvested in July/August) and are essentially relying on local markets to satisfy their food requirements. In these regions, recent labour opportunities related to land preparation and planting activities of 2016 second season crops have provided some income opportunities, with an ensuing improvement in terms of food access.

In the Karamoja region, food security conditions have recently improved due to the availability of recently-harvested crops. However, as the output has been below-average, household stocks are expected to be depleted earlier than usual, most likely by February. Prospects are better for the households in Kotido and Kaabong districts that gathered a better output and stocks are thus expected to last longer.

As of late July 2016, the country hosts over 568,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from South Sudan, in addition to minor groups from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and Somalia. The influx of South Sudanese refugees has significantly accelerated since early August 2016, when heavy fighting spread in several counties of Greater Equatoria region and additional 232,000 new arrivals are recorded. Most South Sudanese refugees are hosted in camps in northwestern districts of Adjumani and Yumbe and are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.
Favourable prospects for 2016 first season crop production

In bi-modal areas, planting of the 2016 “long-rains” first season crops was completed at the beginning of April, with one-two weeks of delay due to below average rainfall amounts in mid-March. However, abundant precipitations in April have improved soil moisture conditions across southern and central cropping areas. Pasture conditions are improving along most of the cattle corridor, with the exception of northern districts of Lira, Apac and Soroti, that experienced some dry spells in March. Meteorological forecasts for the month of May indicate an increased likelihood of normal to above normal rainfall, which is expected to have a favourable impact on yields of the 2016 first season crops, to be harvested by June.

Pasture conditions improving in southern and central Karamoja Region

In uni-modal rainfall Karamoja Region, planting activities are underway as rains started during the second dekad of April, with a slight delay of one-two weeks. Recent favourable rains improved availability of pasture and water resources after the negative effects of the January to March dry season. However, as of late April, pockets of below average pasture conditions still persist in the northern district of Kaabong, as shown by the NDVI anomaly map.

Maize prices seasonally increasing but at low levels

Wholesale prices of maize declined by 15-25 percent in all monitored markets between November 2015 and January 2016, as crops from the 2015 “short-rains” second season harvest increased supplies. Subsequently, prices increased by 15-20 percent between January and April 2016 in the capital, Kampala and in Masindi, following normal seasonal patterns. In Busia, a key cross-border hub with Kenya, prices seasonally increased by about 20 percent between January and March 2016, subsequently declining by 7 percent in April due to lower export demand from Kenya, where domestic availabilities increased following the recent completion of the “short-rains” harvest. Overall, prices of maize in April were around or below their levels of the same month of the previous year. In Kampala, retail prices of “matooke” (cooking bananas), an important staple, were stable in recent months and subsequently declined by 15 percent in April 2016. By contrast, prices of beans and cassava flour increased in April by 2 and 8 percent, respectively.
Satisfactory food security conditions, except in Karamoja Region

The bumper 2015 second season crop production, harvested at the beginning of the year, has improved food availability and access in most bi-modal areas, and food stocks are expected to last until the next harvest in June. Labour opportunities related to planting and weeding of 2016 first season crops are providing some income to poor households, with an ensuing improvement in local purchasing power.

In Karamoja Region, however, most poor households are experiencing a long and harsh lean season that started in January, about two months earlier than usual, due to a below-average crop production harvested at the end of last year. As household food stocks have already been depleted, the local population mainly relies on the markets to satisfy its food needs. Labour opportunities linked to the start of the cropping season are providing some income to poor households with a positive impact on their purchasing capacity. However, major improvements in food security conditions are not expected before next July, when first green crops will become available. Consumption of wild foods is on the rise with the onset of the rainy season.

As of late March 2016, the country hosts almost 526,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and Somalia. In particular, the number of South Sudanese new arrivals has dramatically picked up during the first two weeks of April due to militia activities in Bor, Twic, Uror and Fangak counties. According to UNHCR, about 30,000 refugees have already arrived from South Sudan during the first quarter of the year, equal to 80 percent of the initial planning figure for the whole year. High malnutrition rates are reported amongst the new arrivals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cereal production</th>
<th>2010-2014 average 000 tonnes</th>
<th>2014 estimate 000 tonnes</th>
<th>change 2015/2014 percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>2,634</td>
<td>2,763</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorghum</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millet</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,484</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,558</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,416</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wholesale prices of maize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uganda Shilling per Kg</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

GIEWS global information and early warning system on food and agriculture
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good prospects for 2016 first season crop production
- Maize prices decline, but still at high levels due to sustained regional demand
- High food vulnerability persists in Karamoja region

Favourable prospects for 2016 first season crop production

Land preparation of the 2016 "long-rains" first season crops is underway in bi-modal areas, while planting has already started in southern cropping areas with the arrival of first seasonal rains at the end of February. Rains are expected to be fully established in March in the rest of the country, with the exception of the uni-modal rainfall Karamoja region where the onset of the rains is likely to take place in April. Meteorological forecasts for the March-May period indicate an increased likelihood of normal to above-normal rainfall, which is expected to have a favourable impact on 2016 first season crop production to be harvested by June in bi-modal rainfall areas.

Pasture conditions have seasonally deteriorated during the January to February dry season. However, current pasture and water resources are at above-average levels in most central and northern areas, including parts of Karamoja region, following the favourable abundant and extended 2015 second season rains. By contrast, pasture conditions are quickly deteriorating in southwestern parts of the cattle corridor due to well above-average temperatures.

Maize prices decline, but remain at high levels due to sustained regional demand

Wholesale prices of maize declined 10-25 percent in all monitored markets between November 2015 and January 2016 as crops from the 2015 “short-rains” second season harvest increased supplies. Subsequently, prices started to seasonally increase in February in the capital, Kampala, and in Busia, a key cross-border hub with Kenya, while they continued to decline in Lira, located in a major producing area. However, maize prices in February were between 35 and 50 percent higher than 12 months earlier, due to a sustained export demand from neighbouring Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In Kampala, retail prices of matooke (cooking bananas), an important staple, declined between December 2015 and February 2016 by about 20 percent, while prices of cassava flour, stable in recent months, increased by 8 percent in February.

Satisfactory food security conditions, except in Karamoja region

The bumper 2015 season crop production, harvested in January/February, has improved food availability and access in most bi-modal areas and food stocks are expected to last until the next harvest in June. Labour opportunities related to ongoing land preparation and planting of 2016 first season crops are providing some
income to poor households, with consequent improvement in local purchasing power.

In Karamoja region, however, most poor households are experiencing a long and harsh lean season that started in January, about two months earlier than usual, due to a below-average production harvested at the end of last year. Food stocks have already been depleted and the local population relies mainly on the markets to cover their food needs. This situation is expected to deteriorate further until July, when the first green crops will be available. Consumption of wild food is expected to increase in April with the onset of the rainy season.

The country hosts almost half a million refugees from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. Most of them have been granted some land from the Government of Uganda and host communities, so they are able to produce some food that integrates the assistance received from national and international institutions.
Food Security Snapshot

- In bi-modal rainfall areas, planting operations of 2015 second season crops are still ongoing due to early season dryness
- Below-average crop production expected in Karamoja region
- Maize prices sharply increasing and at high levels
- Serious food security situation in the Karamoja region

Dry conditions at start of 2015 second season

In some bi-modal rainfall areas, land preparation and planting of 2015 second season crops, to be harvested by December, are still underway due to early season dryness. Cumulative precipitation in August and September was 30-40 percent below-average in several cropping areas (see Map 1), with the most severe moisture deficits recorded in central and western parts (Amolatar, Apac, Arua, Gulu, Lira, Nebbi districts). Under the forecast of a strong El Niño episode, which is likely to continue into the first months of next year, the September-December rains are expected at above-average levels, reducing current rainfall deficits and thus benefiting crops. However, exceptionally heavy rains could increase the risk of flash floods in low-lying areas, negatively affecting standing crops, livestock and destroying rural infrastructures.

Earlier in the year, harvesting of the 2015 first season crops, normally completed by end-July, was concluded two to three weeks late in August. After a late onset of seasonal rains at the end of March, rainfall was erratic, with well above-average amounts in most northern areas and a dry spell in the second and third dekad of May in central and southern areas, which negatively impacted on crop development and yields (see Map 2).

Unfavourable prospects for crops to be harvested from November in eastern Karamoja region

In the mostly uni-modal Karamoja region, harvesting of long-cycle crops, which normally starts in November, will be delayed by more than one month and cereal crop production is forecast at below-average levels. Dry spells throughout the growing period required some replanting and had a severe impact on crop development, particularly in Kaabong, Moroto and Kotido districts.

Maize prices sharply increasing and at high levels

After having peaked in April/May, prices of maize seasonally declined in all monitored markets by 25-39 percent between May and August as the first season harvest increased supplies. Subsequently, prices surged, increasing by 34-62 percent between August and October. Normal seasonal patterns were compounded by concerns over the performance of the second season harvest and by increased export demand from neighbouring Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, and South Sudan. As a result from the recent spikes, current maize prices are 43-67 percent higher than 12 months earlier. In September 2015, prices of important staples like beans and cassava flour were generally stable while, those of cooking bananas (matooke) increased in Kampala wholesale market by 10 percent compared to August.
Serious food security situation in Karamoja region

The country is generally food secure with chronic food insecurity at minimal levels in most bi-modal rainfall areas. Conversely, in Karamoja region, the food security situation is serious, due to the early depletion of food stocks from a reduced 2014 harvest and a high prevalence of livestock diseases. According to the multi-agency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment carried out in June 2015, 67 percent of households had no food stocks and the stocks of the remaining 33 percent were not expected to last more than four to five weeks from the time of the assessment. In addition, as of May 2015, prices of sorghum and maize were at the same high levels of 12 months earlier but higher than 24 months earlier, while prices of beans were at their highest levels since January 2013. As a result of reduced availabilities and access constraints due to high market prices, the food security situation is precarious. According the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from June to September 2015, about 295 000 people (30 percent of the population) are in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis and in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”). The whole Karamoja region was classified in overall Phase 3 (“Crisis”), with the most affected areas being Kaabong, Kotido, Napak and Moroto districts. The precarious current food security situation, coupled with the delayed harvest and the unfavourable prospects for the 2015 crops, raises serious concerns and calls for sustained humanitarian assistance.

The number of South Sudanese refugees that entered Uganda following the conflict which erupted from 15 December 2014 in South Sudan, was estimated by UNHCR at about 170 000 in early October; about 80 percent of them are hosted in camps in northwestern towns of Adjutant and Kiryandongo. In addition, as of early October, Uganda hosts about 14 000 Burundians which left the country since early 2015 due to the election-related violence; about 75 percent of them are hosted in the Nakivale camp, located in the southwestern Isingiro district.
Uganda - Karamoja region
Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
Projection June 2015 – September 2015

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FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- In bi-modal rainfall areas, production of second season crops is estimated at average level
- Below-average crop production harvested in Karamoja region
- Maize prices at record low levels in main producing areas
- Food security concerns persist in parts of Karamoja region

Favourable prospects for the 2014 second season crop production in bi-modal areas
In bi-modal areas, harvesting of 2014 second season crops is almost complete and production is estimated at average level. The second rainy season (September-December) started early at the end of August and rains were abundant and well-distributed until the beginning of December when they started to gradually withdraw, accelerating the final crop ripening phase.

In the mostly uni-modal Karamoja region, harvesting of long-cycle crops was completed in November/December. Cereal production is estimated at below-average levels following reduced plantings due to unfavourable rains in April as well as below-average and erratic rainfall during the rainy season (April-September). In particular, yields were affected by a prolonged dry spell between the end of June and mid-July and by very limited rainfall amounts during the last two dekads of September. Additional losses occurred in early October as unseasonal heavy rains affected sorghum crops that were drying in the fields.

Aggregate 2014 cereal production is forecast at about 3.5 million tonnes, similar to last year’s bumper harvest and about 3 percent above the last five-year average. Import requirements for the 2015 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at an average level of 440 000 tonnes, mainly wheat and rice. In addition, a surplus of about 300 000 tonnes of maize is available for exports to neighbouring countries such as Rwanda, South Sudan and Kenya.

Maize prices continue to seasonally decline
Since May/June 2014, wholesale prices of maize have steadily declined in most markets as a result of the abundant local supply due to the good first season harvest as well as the reduced export flow to South Sudan. The favourable prospects for the ongoing second season harvest have exerted additional downward pressure on prices. Despite the sustained export demand from neighbouring Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, current maize prices are about 30-50 percent below last year’s levels. In Busia and Lira wholesale markets, located in major producing areas, maize was traded in January 2015 between UGX 350 and UGX 500 per kg, the lowest prices registered since early 2009. In Kampala, retail prices of matooke (cooking bananas), an important staple, declined since the end of 2014 by 15-18 percent, while prices of beans and cassava flour have been mostly stable.

Pockets of acute food insecurity in Karamoja
region calls for sustained humanitarian assistance

The country is generally food secure with chronic food insecurity at minimal levels in most bi-modal rainfall areas. The availability of recently-harvested crops and the decline in food prices are improving overall food security conditions. Conversely, in Karamoja region, about 700 000 people remain at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) level of acute food insecurity. Local food security conditions have slightly improved with the start of the recent harvest, but food stocks have been only partially replenished and they are about to be exhausted, especially in Moroto and Kaabong districts, extending the length of the next lean season (normally starting in March) by at least a couple of months.

According to UNHCR, the country hosts over 420 000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. Main humanitarian agencies are currently providing emergency food assistance. By end-January 2015, as a result of insufficient funding, WFP decided to reduce food rations by 50 percent to about 150 000 refugees that arrived in Uganda before July 2013. If WFP fails to receive substantial contributions in the coming months, the cuts could be extended also to the new South Sudanese refugees.
Favourable prospects for the 2014 second season crop production in bi-modal areas

In bi-modal areas, harvesting of 2014 second season crops is about to start and production prospects are favourable. The second rainy season (September-December) started early at the end of August and rainfall has been generally abundant and well-distributed, with positive effects on yields and pasture conditions. However, according to satellite imagery analysis localized moderate soil moisture deficits are currently reported in eastern Iganga district as well as in Mpigi and Kampala districts bordering Lake Victoria.

Aggregate 2014 cereal production is forecast at about 3.5 million tonnes, similar to last year’s bumper harvest and about 3 percent above the last five-year average. Import requirements for the 2015 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at an average 440 000 tonnes, mainly wheat and rice. In addition, a surplus of about 300 000 tonnes of maize is available for exports to neighbouring countries such as Rwanda, South Sudan and Kenya.

Unfavourable crop prospects in eastern uni-modal Karamoja region

In the mostly uni-modal Karamoja region, harvesting of long-cycle crops is underway. Cereal production is forecast at below-average levels following reduced plantings due to unfavourable rains in April as well as below-average and erratic rainfall during the rainy season (April-September). In particular, yields were affected by a prolonged dry spell between the end of June and mid-July and by very limited rainfall amounts during the last two dekads of September. Additional losses occurred in early October as unseasonal heavy rains affected sorghum crops that were drying in the fields.

Very good pasture conditions in the cattle corridor

The abundant rains during the second rainy season benefitted grazing resources across most bimodal areas. In the “cattle corridor” districts, especially in the southwest, animal body conditions are generally good and milk production is satisfactory. Further improvements are expected during the next few months as rains are forecast at average to above-average levels until the end of the year.

Maize prices continue to seasonally decline

Wholesale prices of maize declined seasonally during the last five months by about 40-45 percent as crops from the first season harvest started to increase supplies from last June. Favourable prospects for the second season harvest, to be gathered soon, are exerting additional downward pressure on prices. Despite the sustained export...
demand from neighbouring Kenya, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, current maize prices are about 35-45 percent below last year’s levels. In Kampala, retail prices of matooke (cooking bananas), an important staple, increased in October by 12 percent, while prices of beans and cassava flour were mostly stable.

**Pockets of acute food insecurity in Karamoja region calls for sustained humanitarian assistance**

The country is generally food secure with chronic food insecurity at minimal levels in most bi-modal rainfall areas. The availability of recently-harvested crops and the decline in food prices are improving overall food security conditions. Conversely, in Karamoja region, about 700 000 people remain at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) level of acute food insecurity. Local food security conditions have slightly improved with the start of the ongoing harvest but food stocks are expected to be only partially replenished and they will likely be exhausted by January 2015, extending the length of the next lean season (normally starting in March) by at least a couple of months. In addition, an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) since May 2014 has restricted livestock movements in the region, with significant reduction in sales and worsening terms of trade for pastoralists.

According to UNHCR, following the conflict in South Sudan which erupted from 15 December 2014, about 129 300 South Sudanese refugees entered Uganda, half of them are children under 12 years and are hosted in camps in northwestern towns of Adjumani and Kiryandongo. Main humanitarian agencies are currently providing emergency food assistance.
GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 15-September-2014

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- In bi-modal rainfall areas, production of first season crops is estimated at average level
- Below-average crop production expected in Karamoja region
- Maize prices continue to seasonally decline in most markets in bi-modal rainfall areas
- Food security concerns persist in parts of Karamoja region

**First season crop production estimated at average level**

In southern and central bi-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2014 first season crops was completed by end-July and production is estimated at average level. Rains have been generally favourable, except in some southwestern cropping areas, in particular Mbarara, Buseni and Sembabule districts, as well as around the Lake Victoria which experienced significant moisture deficits during April and May.

Land preparation and planting of 2014 second season crops, to be harvested by December, is ongoing following the timely onset of the second rainy season during the third dekad of August (except in the northwest). September to December rainfall forecast indicates average to above-average levels, with likely positive effects on crop yields and pasture conditions.

**Unfavourable prospects for crops to be harvested from November in eastern Karamoja region**

In the mostly uni-modal Karamoja region, harvesting of long-cycle crops is expected to start in November. Cereal crop production is forecast at below-average levels following reduced plantings due to unfavourable rains in April. Despite some abundant rains at the beginning of May, significant water deficits persisted during the season, especially in the eastern parts of the region along the border with Kenya.

**Recent rains improved pasture conditions**

The recent start of the second rainy season benefitted grazing resources across the country. However, below-average pasture conditions are reported in the cattle corridor districts of Apac and Lira, in parts of northern Gulu and Kitgum districts as well as in parts of Kaabong, Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts in Karamoja region.

**Maize prices decline seasonally in most markets**

Wholesale prices of maize started to seasonally decline in June with the beginning of the first season harvest. Between June and August, prices declined by 25-40 percent in most monitored markets. Despite the sustained export demand from neighbouring Kenya, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, current maize prices are about 10-25 percent below last year’s level. Conversely, maize prices in most markets of Karamoja region are on the rise and above average. In August 2014, prices of important staples like beans and cassava flour were generally stable, while those of cooking bananas (matooke) increased in Kampala wholesale market by over 30 percent compared to July.
Pockets of acute food insecurity in Karamoja region call for sustained humanitarian assistance

The country is generally food secure with chronic food insecurity at minimal levels in most bi-modal rainfall areas. The availability of recently harvested crops and the decline in food prices are improving overall food security conditions. Conversely, in Karamoja region, most vulnerable people in eastern parts of the region remain at Crisis (IPC Phase 3) level of acute food insecurity. Green consumption, which usually starts in August, is minimal and food access continues to be difficult for the majority of households. Food stocks are expected to be only partially replenished in November and will likely be exhausted by January 2015, extending the length of the next lean season (normally starting in March) by at least a couple of months. In addition, an outbreak of foot and mouth disease since May 2014 has induced the closure of local livestock markets to traders from outside the region, with significant reduction in sales and worsening terms of trade for pastoralists.

According to UNHCR, following the conflict which erupted from 15 December 2014 in South Sudan, about 125,800 South Sudanese refugees entered Uganda, half of them are children under 12 years, and are hosted in camps in northwestern towns of Adjumani and Kiryandongo. Main humanitarian agencies are currently providing emergency food assistance.
GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 16-May-2014

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- Poor rains affect first season crops in some uni-modal and bi-modal rainfall areas
- Maize prices increase since January and are near-record levels in Kampala
- Food security concerns persist in Karamoja region

**Dry weather conditions in April affect first season crops along Lake Victoria**

Planting of the 2014 first season crops was completed in March in bi-modal rainfall areas following the timely start of the main rainy season. So far, rains have been characterized by below average amounts and significant water stress is recorded in cropping areas in central districts bordering Lake Victoria such as Mayuge, Jinja, Iganga, Busia and Kampala districts. Other districts with notable moisture deficits are Soroti and Katakwi in the east as well as Mbarara and Bushenyi in the west. Rains resumed in May in most affected areas and are forecast to continue until the end of the season, with likely positive effects on yields of crops to be harvested in June/July.

**Significant water stress in some northern areas of Karamoja region**

In the mostly uni-modal Karamoja region, planting of early-maturing coarse grains (to be harvested in June/July) has been completed in March, while planting of long-cycle crops (to be harvested by November) is still ongoing. According to satellite image analysis, crop conditions are satisfactory in most agro-pastoral areas of Abim, Napak and Moroto districts. Despite abundant rains at the beginning of May, significant water deficit still remains in some areas of Kotido and Kaabong districts, with possible negative impact on germinating crops.

**Maize prices at near-record level in Kampala**

As the lean season progresses, wholesale prices of maize increased substantially since the beginning of the year in most markets. In particular, maize prices increased by about 62 percent in the capital Kampala, pushed up by the high export demand from Kenya and institutional purchases, reaching near-record levels of about USD 430 per tonne, about 40 percent above the prices of April 2013. Similarly, retail prices of beans increased by 38 percent from January 2014 to April, and currently they are 10 percent higher than 12 months earlier. By contrast, retail prices of cooking bananas (matooke), an important staple, sharply declined in recent months from the record levels reached in December 2013. Despite an 11 percent increase in April, prices of matooke are currently at very low levels, about one-third of the prices recorded a year earlier.

**A prolonged lean season in Karamoja region calls for sustained humanitarian assistance**

Chronic food insecurity is at minimal levels in bi-modal areas. In Karamoja region, the lean season started at the beginning of February instead of March as food stocks were exhausted earlier than usual.
following the below-average 2013 production. Here, food security conditions of poor households are likely to worsen until early maturing maize and sorghum crops will be available for consumption in June/July. The continuing delivery of humanitarian assistance during the remaining part of the lean season is essential to avoid higher levels of food insecurity.

According to UNHCR, following the conflict which erupted from mid-December 2014 in neighboring South Sudan, about 88 800 South Sudanese refugees entered Uganda and are hosted in camps in north-western towns of Adjumani, Kiryandongo and Arua. Their number is expected to increase by over 100 000 during the coming months. Humanitarian agencies are currently providing emergency food assistance.
GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 10-February-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Reduced 2013 cereal production due to erratic rainfall
- Maize prices declined in December and January as newly harvested crops increased supplies
- Food security concerns persist in Karamoja

Reduced 2013 cereal production due to erratic rainfall

Harvesting of the 2013 second season cereal crops in bimodal rainfall areas, the main cropping season in central, southern and western Uganda, has been recently completed. After a timely onset of seasonal rains in September, several regions of the center and the south experienced a dry spell in October. Subsequently, rainfall resumed in November, but was generally not sufficient to compensate for the deficits observed in October, and the total rainfall amounts received during the growing period were generally below average in the affected areas.

Earlier in the year, the harvest of the 2013 first season crops, concluded in August, was affected in parts by a long dry spell in May/June, which negatively impacted on yields of late planted crops in central areas that were at flowering/grain setting stage.

In northern uni-modal rainfall agro-pastoral and pastoral areas of Karamoja region, harvesting of the 2013 crops was concluded last October/November, with some late-maturing varieties of sorghum harvested in January 2014. The April-to-October rainy season started on time, improving availability of grazing resources and inducing farmers to increase planted area; however, a dry spell between late-May and mid-June has significantly affected germinating/flowering sorghum and maize crops, especially in the highlands of Kaabong, Moroto and Kotido districts. Although rains resumed in July and continued in August in some areas, crop growth has been widely affected by the dry spell, and cereal output was at well below average levels in most areas.

As a result, the overall cereal production in 2013 is estimated at about 3.1 million tonnes, 11 percent down from last year’s levels and 8 percent below the average of the previous five years.

Maize prices declining as newly harvested crops increased supplies

Prices of maize, after having peaked in November, declined in December and January by about 30 percent, as crops from the 2013 second season harvest increased supplies. Compared to the same month last year, in the capital Kampala, January prices were 13 percent lower than 12 months earlier, while in Lira, a market located in a key producing area in the north of the country, they were 12 percent higher. Prices of main staple “matooke” cooking bananas sharply declined in January, while prices of beans, another important staple, remained unchanged. January prices of matooke were around the same levels of the same month last year, while prices of beans were 7 percent higher.
Increased food insecurity in Karamoja

In Uganda, despite the localized production shortfalls in 2013, acute food insecurity is minimal in most bi-modal rainfall areas, due to consecutive good harvests during the last few years that replenished stocks and provided additional income through sales of crops to surplus producing farmers. However, food insecurity is worsening in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Karamoja region, where the reduced 2013 cereal output was preceded by two years of below average production that only partially replenished stocks. The 2013 lean season (normally between March and July) was two to three months longer than usual while the 2014 lean season has currently began two months earlier than usual, mainly in districts like Napak and Moroto. According to the findings of a joint FAO/WFP Rapid Crop and Food Security Assessment, conducted last August, the number of food insecure people in need of humanitarian assistance, was estimated at about 350 000 in the October-November 2013 post-harvest period. This number could increase to 600 000 with the start of the lean season in February 2014. A joint Government, FAO and WFP food security assessment mission in Karamoja, currently underway, is expected to shed more light on this.

Following instability and conflict in neighboring South Sudan, 63 800 South Sudanese refugees entered northeastern Uganda between 16 December 2013 and 3 February 2014. Humanitarian agencies are currently providing emergency food assistance.
GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 22-August-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Harvesting of 2013 first season crops is complete and production prospects are near average
- A long dry spell in May/June affected cereal crops in some central cropping areas
- Unfavourable prospects for crop production in Karamoja region
- Maize prices stabilize in most markets since early August
- Overall food security is satisfactory, but deteriorate in Karamoja region

Land preparation is underway for planting the 2013 second season grains in bimodal rainfall areas – covering most parts of the country. Harvesting of the second season crop normally starts from November/December.

A long dry spell affected yields of the 2013 first season crops
In bi-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2013 first season crops is complete and production is estimated at near average levels. Following a timely and favourable start of the March-to-June rainy season, with above average amounts received until the first dekad of May, rains receded in most cropping areas of the country, resulting in an early onset of the dry season. The long dry spell in May/June affected especially yields of late planted crops in central areas that were at flowering/grain setting stage. By contrast, production of early planted crops in southern and south-western areas, harvested during the dry spell, is estimated at average levels, having benefitted from previous abundant rainfall amounts.

Below average cereal output expected in Karamoja
In uni-modal rainfall agro-pastoral and pastoral areas of Karamoja region, the April-to-October rainy season started on time, improving availability of grazing resources and inducing farmers to increase planted area. However, between late-May and mid-June, a long dry spell has significantly affected germinating/flowering sorghum and maize crops, especially in the highlands of Kaabong, Moroto and Kotido districts prompting re-plantings. Although rains resumed in July and continued in August in some areas, crop growth has already been widely affected by the dry spell. Accordingly, the crop harvest from September/October is expected at well below average levels in most areas.

Maize prices stabilize in August
Prices of maize increased in July in Kampala and Lira wholesale markets by 7 and 10 percent, respectively, reflecting concerns about the overall 2013 first season crop production. Subsequently, prices started to level off at the beginning of August in both markets as the bulk of the new harvest increased local supply. Maize prices are expected to decline in the coming months despite the sustained export demand from neighboring countries, mainly Kenya, South Sudan and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In Kampala wholesale market, cassava flour was sold in August at UGX 800 per kg, about
Worsening food security conditions in Karamoja

Acute food insecurity is minimal in most bi-modal rainfall areas which benefitted from a series of good harvests during the last few years that replenished stocks and provided additional income through sales of crops to surplus producing farmers. However, food insecurity is worsening in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Karamoja region, following two years of below average production that only partially replenished stocks. Here, the 2013 lean season has been two/three months longer than usual, starting last January with the early exhaustion of 2012 food stocks and will continue until the beginning of September, one month later than usual, when the green harvest is expected to start. Access to food markets for most poor households is currently very limited due to their low purchasing power and the scarcity of assets, mainly livestock, still available to be sold. Consequently, most food needs of poor households are mainly met through food assistance.

According to a recent multi-agency analysis, about 392,500 people are considered in “crisis” food security conditions (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, IPC, phase 3). They are essentially concentrated in Karamoja and Acholi regions plus about 25,000 people in Western and Elgon regions that were affected by displacements and flooding last May.
GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 19-July-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Harvesting of 2013 first season crops is underway and production prospects are near average
- A long dry spell between May and June affected crops in central/northern areas
- Unfavourable prospects for crop production in Karamoja region
- Maize prices increased in most markets since early July
- Overall food security is satisfactory but deteriorate in Karamoja region

A long dry spell in May/June affects yields of 2013 first season crops in some bi-modal areas
In bi-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2013 “long rains” season crops is underway and production prospects are near average. After a timely and favourable start of the rainy season, with above average amounts received until the first dekad of May, rains receded in most cropping areas of the country, resulting in an early onset of the dry season. The long dry spell affected especially yields of late planted crops in central/northern areas that were at flowering/grain setting stage. By contrast, production of early planted crops in southern areas, about to be harvested during the dry spell, is estimated at average levels, having benefitted from previous abundant rainfall amounts.

Below average cereal output expected in Karamoja
In uni-modal agricultural and agro-pastoral areas of Karamoja region, the rainy season started on-time in April and has been well above average up to mid April, improving availability of grazing resources and inducing farmers to increase planted area. However, between late-May and mid-June, a long dry spell has significantly affected recently germinated sorghum and maize crops, especially in the highlands of Kaabong, Abim and Kotido districts, which often dried up and re-planting with early maturing varieties was needed. Although rains resumed in July in some areas, short-term weather forecast indicates that rains are likely to be depressed during the remaining of the season and, consequently, production of crops to be harvested from September/October is expected at below average levels.

Food prices increase in July
Prices of maize have increased during the first two weeks of July in Kampala and Lira markets following declines in May and June. A 12 percent increase, compared to a month earlier, was registered in both market reflecting concerns about the overall 2013 first season crop production. Nevertheless, current prices are still 25-30 percent lower than a year ago due to adequate supplies from the good 2012 second season harvest, completed last January, and reduced export demand from South Sudan and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Similarly, prices of beans, an important staple, increased in July in Kampala and Lira by 18 and 11 percent, respectively.

Worsening food security conditions in Karamoja
Currently, acute food insecurity is minimal across the country.

GIEWS global information and early warning system on food and agriculture
Households in most bi-modal rainfall areas have benefitted from a series of good harvests during the last few years, which replenished stocks and provided additional income through sales of crops to surplus producing farmers. However, food insecurity is increasing in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Karamoja region as the lean season is reaching its peak in August.

According to the Uganda Food Security Steering Group (FSSG), about 80 000 people are considered in “crisis” food security conditions (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, IPC, phase 3). They are mostly concentrated in Karamoja region, where a harsh and long lean season started last January, two/three months earlier than usual, and will continue until August when the green harvest begins.

By mid-July, about 66 000 refugees fled fighting from North Kivu province in DRC and arrived in Uganda’s western district of Bundibugyo. Such massive inflow of people is putting high pressure on the capacity of Government and humanitarian agencies to meet new refugees’ needs in terms of food, water, shelter, sanitation and health. In addition, even before the arrival of these new refugees, the country was already hosting about 210 000 refugees and asylum seeker, over 60 percent from DRC.
Good prospects for the 2013 first season crops

In bi-modal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2013 “long rains” season crops has just started in southern cropping zones which planted early and will continue northward until its completion by end July. Production prospects for main staples, such as maize, sorghum, cassava and bananas are generally favourable as most areas received average to above average amounts of rain along the season. At the beginning of May, heavy rains caused flooding and water logging in western Kasese district, displacing over 30,000 people and washing away roads, infrastructure, crops and livestock.

In uni-modal agricultural and agro-pastoral areas of Karamoja region, the rainy season started on-time in April and until now rains have been well above average. Current pasture and water availability are satisfactory with positive effects on livestock body conditions and milk production. So far, production prospects for crops to be harvested from August/September are good, but the final output will depend on weather conditions in the remainder of the season. The current rainfall forecast by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) indicates an average to below average levels.

Maize prices decline in most markets

During last two months, prices of maize have declined in Kampala and Lira markets by 22 and 16 percent, respectively. In addition, current prices of maize are about 32 percent lower than one year ago on account of favorable crop prospects, for harvest from June and the reduced export demand from South Sudan. By contrast, prices of beans, an important staple, remained firm over the same period as the harvest has just started and crops have not yet reached main markets. Prices of cooking bananas (“matooke”) increased by 25 percent in several markets of the country due to heavy rains which disrupted harvesting and transport to markets.

Favourable food security conditions across the country

Acute food insecurity is minimal across the country. Households in most bi-modal rainfall areas have benefitted from a series of good harvests during the last few years, which replenished stocks and provided additional income through sales of crops to surplus producing farmers. Currently, about 80,000 people are considered in stressed food security conditions (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, IPC, phase 2), mainly in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Karamoja region that gathered a below average harvest at the end of last year.
due to water-logging and attacks of fungal diseases on sorghum. Here, the lean season started last January, two/three months earlier than usual and is expected to continue until August when the green harvest starts. However, the recent improvements in livestock productivity are expected to start having a positive effect on households’ food security conditions, together with the continued delivery of assistance programmes of food-for-work and cash-for-work.
**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**

- Harvesting of 2012 second season crops is almost complete
- Aggregate 2012 cereal production is tentatively estimated at a slightly above average level
- Pasture conditions are generally good in Karamoja region
- Maize prices increasing in Kampala

**Average production expected from the 2012 second season crops**

Harvesting of the 2012 second season cereal crops in bimodal rainfall areas, the main cropping season in central, southern and western Uganda, is almost complete. Production is tentatively estimated at about average to above average levels. In some areas, high post-harvest losses are expected due to some unseasonal late rains that jeopardized drying conditions. Land preparation is underway for planting the 2013 first season crops to coincide with the start of the seasonal rains in March. Some dry sowing activities are already taking place in areas of the eastern and northern regions. The overall cereal production in 2012 is estimated at about 2.9 million tonnes, slightly above the previous year and the last five years average.

**Water-logging and disease affected yields in the Karamoja region**

In uni-modal rainfall areas of Karamoja region, harvesting of the 2012 cereal and pulse crops was concluded last October/November, with some late-maturing varieties of sorghum harvested in January 2013. Production is estimated at below average levels following water-logging conditions (especially during germination and flowering stages) and attacks of some fungal diseases. In particular, very low yields are reported in parts of Kaabong, Kotido and Moroto districts. The abundant and prolonged rainy season has however improved pasture conditions with positive effects on livestock body conditions and reducing/delaying migration toward better grazing areas.

**High demand for maize pushes prices up in Kampala’s market**

Prices of maize in the capital Kampala continued the increasing trend of recent months (+10 percent from December to January), due to strong local and export demand, in particular from Kenya, South Sudan, DRC and Rwanda. By contrast, maize prices declined by 9 percent over the same period in Lira’s market, located in one of the major producing areas as newly harvested second season crops increased supplies. Compared to the same month last year, January maize prices were 27 percent higher in Kampala, while they were at about the same level in Lira. Prices of beans and cassava flour, important staples, were generally stable between December and January. While January prices of beans were at about the same levels of the same month last year, prices of cassava flour were about 50 percent higher.

**Food security outlook remains favourable across the country**
Food insecurity is minimal in most regions of the country following the good 2012 second season harvest that replenished household food stocks and crop sales provided additional income to surplus producing farmers. However, some food stress was reported in parts of Karamoja, especially in those areas that gathered a below average harvest. Here the lean season started in January, a couple of months earlier than usual, as many households have already depleted their food stocks and have started to sell their animals in order to buy food.
Favourable outlook of the 2012 first season crops
In bimodal rainfall areas of the country, harvesting of the 2012 first season cereal and bean crops has just been completed in southern and south-western districts. In most Central, Eastern and Northern districts, the onset of the March-to-May rainy season was delayed by almost one month and harvesting operations are still underway. In general, crop production prospects are good, especially in eastern districts, following abundant rains along the season that benefitted crop growth across the country.

With the arrival of first seasonal rains, planting of 2012 second season crops has just started. In some districts of Acholi region, heavy rains at the beginning of September have displaced about 15,000 people, with damage to infrastructures, housing and standing crops.

Good pasture conditions in Karamoja region
In uni-modal rainfall areas of Karamoja region, favourable rains since April have improved water and pasture availability, leading to better animal body conditions and milk production. Outbreaks of brucellosis and foot-and-mouth diseases are reported in Abim, Amudat, Kotido and Nakapiripirit districts. Abundant rainfall has also benefitted yields of crops whose harvest is likely to start at the end of September.

Generalized decline in food prices
Prices of maize declined by 30 percent between July and August in key markets, such as Kampala and Lira, as local supplies increased following the start of the 2012 first season harvest and traders released old stocks. Currently, maize is traded at USD 260-270 per tonne compared to USD 370-380 per tonne one year earlier. Prices of other important staple food such as beans and matooke also sharply decline in July and then stabilised in August at about the same level of one year earlier. Prices of cassava flour were also stable in August, but remained well above the levels of 12 months earlier (+33 percent).

Favourable food security outlook across the country
Food insecurity is minimal in most regions of the country following the good 2012 first season harvest and declining food prices that are improving food availability and access. Pockets of poor households with food stress, with high Global Acute Malnutrition levels, are reported in Karamoja, Acholi, Teso and West-Nile regions.
Uganda
Selected wholesale food prices in Kampala
USD per Tonne

Source: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network, RIT Uganda
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Harvesting of the 2012 first season crops has started
- Despite the late onset of rains, crops and pasture conditions are generally good
- High food prices reported in most markets
- Minimal levels of food insecurity across the country

Favourable outlook of the 2012 first season crops
In bimodal rainfall areas of the country, harvesting of the 2012 first season cereal and bean crops has started in early June, mainly in southern and south-western districts where planting took place in February/March. In most Central, Eastern and Northern districts, the onset of the March-to-May rainy season was delayed by almost one month and harvesting operations are expected to start from end July. In general, crop prospects are good following abundant rains since April that have benefitted crop growth across the country.

Pasture conditions improve in Karamoja region
In uni-modal rainfall areas of Karamoja region, favourable rains since April have improved water and pasture availability, leading to better animal body conditions and milk production. Outbreaks of brucellosis and foot-and-mouth diseases are reported in Abim, Amudat, Kotido and Nakapiripirit districts. According to the National Meteorological Service, above average rainfall is forecast until the end of August, the remaining period of the rainy season. Further improvements are therefore expected in water and pasture availability together with a positive outlook for crop yields, for harvest in September.

Prices of maize and beans remain high
Food prices are high in almost all markets as the lean season progresses and household stocks are gradually being depleted. Additional factors are high fuel prices and the strong import demand from the neighbouring countries of South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi.

Average wholesale maize prices have increased by about 60 percent between January and April 2012 and then stabilized at around USD 390 per tonne, about 42 percent higher than a year earlier. Similarly, prices of beans are quoted at very high levels with a tonne of beans in Kampala traded for USD 960 in June 2012. At this level prices are just 3 percent below the record high level of the previous month, but almost 85 percent higher than six months earlier. Maize and bean prices are likely to decline during coming weeks as the bulk of newly harvested crops reaches main markets.

Since the beginning of the year, prices of matooke and cassava flour have increased by 53 and 34 percent, respectively, following dry weather conditions from January to March and disease outbreaks (mosaic on cassava, black sigatooka on bananas and others) that significantly reduced supply.
Low levels of food insecurity across the country

Food insecurity is minimal in most regions of the country. Some areas with food stress, with high Global Acute Malnutrition levels, are reported in Karamoja, Acholi, Teso and West-Nile regions. Currently, as usual during the lean season, poor households face problems of accessing food due to high market prices. However, as the bulk of newly harvested crops get commercialized during the coming weeks, the overall food security situation is expected to improve for most households.
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Late start of to the 2012 first rainy season
- Dry weather conditions affect pasture in Karamoja region
- Maize prices remain stable, while prices of beans increase
- Overall, the food security situation is stable

Late onset of the 2012 first rains in bimodal areas
In bimodal rainfall areas of the country, land preparation has started for planting of the 2012 first season cereal crops, for harvest from June. The onset of the March-to-May rainy season is already late by a couple of weeks and, according to latest meteorological forecast, the country is expected to receive normal to below-normal precipitations during the whole season.

Worsening pasture conditions in Karamoja region
In uni-modal rainfall areas of Karamoja region, abundant unseasonable rains in October and November improved water and pasture availability, leading to better animal body conditions and milk production. However, the establishment of dry weather conditions since December led to a widespread deterioration of grazing resources and livestock started to migrate in search of pasture and water in neighbouring districts of Katakwi, Amuria and Pader. The next rainy season is expected to start at the beginning of April and is expected to bring some relief to pastoral and agro-pastoral areas.

Prices of maize stabilize in main markets
In main markets, prices of maize gradually declined from their record level of USD 400-470 per tonne in July 2011 and stabilized around USD 240-280 per tonnes during first quarter of 2012, almost at the same level of one year earlier. By contrast, the average price of beans has increased by almost 40 percent since October 2011. In February 2012 one tonne of beans was traded in Kampala market at USD 660.

Food security situation remain generally stable
The good production of sorghum and bulrush millet obtained in December 2011 in uni-modal areas followed by an above-average harvest of secondary season cereal crops in January 2012 in bi-modal areas have significantly improved food availability and the majority of the population has currently adequate access to food. Some concerns remain about food security of poor pastoral households in Karamoja region as the lean season is reaching its peak at the end of March.
Uganda

Total cereal imports

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<th>Average 2008/07-2010/11</th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>2011/12 forecast</th>
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<tr>
<td>tonnes</td>
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Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years. 
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Uganda

Selected wholesale food prices in Kampala

USD per Tonne

Source: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network, FIT Uganda
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- 2011 secondary season cereal production is estimated at above average levels
- G Favourable outlook for crop and rangeland in Karamoja region
- Food prices indicate a general decline as newly harvested crops replenished main markets
- Overall, the food security situation is satisfactory

Favourable rains boost cereal production in the 2011 secondary cropping season
In bimodal areas, harvesting of the 2011 secondary rainy season crops is well advanced and output is expected to be above average. The season started on time in August and has been favourable in most cropping areas. However, heavy rains from October to early November caused floods in some eastern and western districts, with localized losses of crops.

Good production prospects in Karamoja region
In uni-modal areas of Karamoja region, harvesting of sorghum and bulrush millet has been finalized in December and production prospects are generally favourable. Abundant rains in October and November have also benefitted pastoral areas of Amudat, Moroto and Kaabong districts, improving livestock access to water and pasture and leading to better animal body conditions and milk production. In the “cattle corridor”, a successful vaccination campaign against the Foot and Mouth Disease resulted in the re-opening of the Amudat livestock market that was temporary closed to control an outbreak of the disease.

Prices of main staple food decline in main markets
In the capital city Kampala, wholesale prices of beans have declined between November and December by 11 percent (and declined by 5 percent compared to a year earlier) as newly harvested crops of the 2011 secondary season harvest have reached main markets. Similarly, prices of maize, an important crop also for export, declined by 16 percent between November and December. However, prices of maize are still 25 percent higher than their levels a year earlier, essentially due to the sustained import demand from neighbouring countries.

The food security situation has generally improved
No acute food insecurity is anticipated through March. The country, including the Karamoja region, is expected to remain at IPC Phase 1 (no or minimal food insecurity). Overall the majority of the population is expected to have adequate access to food and the re-opening of the Amudat livestock market is also expected to ease the severity of the lean season (from December to March) for pastoral households.
Above average cereal production estimated in the 2011 first and second cropping seasons

In bimodal areas, harvesting of main season crops has been completed at the beginning of September and overall production is estimated at above average levels. Yields have been particularly good in most southern and central districts as rains were beneficial throughout the season. By contrast, a below average harvest is expected in northern and north-western districts due to the late onset of the long rains season and the start of the secondary rainy season that is hampering harvesting operations and increasing post-harvest losses.

Very good prospects for 2011 crops in Karamoja

In uni-modal areas of Karamoja region, harvesting has started by mid-September and will continue until January. Following a positive start of the rainy season in March and near average rains in main agricultural districts of Kaabong, Abim, Napak and Nakapiripirit, crop production prospects are favourable. Sufficient rains have also benefitted pastoral areas of Amudat, Moroto and Kaabong districts, improving water and pasture conditions and leading to better animal body conditions and milk production. Pasture in north-western Kenya induced local pastoralists to migrate to Kaabong district three months earlier than normal.

A successful vaccination campaign against the Foot and Mouth Disease resulted in the partial lifting of the quarantine in Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts that was introduced last February due to an outbreak of the disease in several areas of the “cattle corridor”. Local livestock markets are likely to re-open by December.

Maize prices stabilize at high levels

In the capital city Kampala, prices of beans were on the rise in the first semester of 2011 but decreased from June onwards and are currently at about the same levels of a year ago. Similarly, prices of maize, an important crop also for export, after having reached record levels in July (about USD 470 per ton), have sharply declined in August and September, stabilizing around USD 230 per ton in October. Despite the
pronounced decline, current average maize prices are still about 70 percent above their levels of October 2010, essentially due to the sustained import demand from neighbouring countries.

Food security is generally good and is expected to be stable through March 2012

The overall food security situation has improved following the good 2011 main season cereal production and the country, including the Karmoja region, is expected to remain at IPC Phase 1 (no or minimal food insecurity) until March 2012. Household food stocks have been replenished and are expected to last until December, when the 2011 secondary season crops will be harvested and commercialized. Further declines in food prices are also expected during next two months.
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Production prospects are favourable in southern and central districts, while uncertain in Karamoja region
- Maize prices increase sharply in July as harvest is delayed
- Food security situation is generally stable

Favourable outlook for 2011 main harvest in southern and central districts

With some delay, following a late onset of the rainy season, harvesting of the 2011 “long rains” season crops in bimodal areas has just started and overall cereal production is tentatively forecast at an above average level. In particular, production prospects are favourable in most southern and central districts as rains were beneficial throughout the season. In northern districts, harvest is expected to start in September, also with some delay and harvesting operations may be hampered by the start of the secondary rainy season, with negative effects on the quality of the produce.

Uncertain prospects for 2011 crops in Karamoja

In uni-modal agricultural and agro-pastoral areas of Karamoja region, crop prospects, for harvest from September, are uncertain. A positive start of the rainy season in March was followed by erratic and below-average rains which may likely lead to a below average output. Pasture conditions improved following the beneficial rains until mid-April, leading to better animal body conditions and milk production. However, the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease from last February has spread to several areas of the “cattle corridor”, causing the temporary closure of livestock markets in Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts. This had a negative impact on pastoral livelihood and many have resorted to increased firewood and charcoal collection and sales as coping strategies to augment their income.

Maize prices stabilize at high levels

In the capital city Kampala, prices of important staples like plantains (matoke) and beans, which were on the rise since the beginning of the year, decrease substantially in May/June, but they are still currently 60 and 82 percent higher than a year ago as a consequence of high fuel prices that increased transport costs. Prices of maize, an important crop for export, firm since March, sharply increased in July (+69 percent from June to July) reflecting the delay of the 2011 main harvest. Current maize prices are almost four times their levels of July 2010, essentially due to the sustained import demand from neighbouring countries.

Food security is generally good, with some concerns for Acholi and Karamoja regions

Overall, the food security situation in the country is stable following the good 2010 aggregate cereal production, which improved household food stocks, market supplies and income. Pockets of chronic food insecurity exist particularly in northern Uganda and an estimated...
600,000 people are moderately food insecure, mainly in Karamoja and Acholi regions. In these regions, the number of food vulnerable households may change in the coming weeks depending on rainfall performance, outbreaks of animal diseases and the correct functioning of livestock markets in north-east districts.
GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 23-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Production prospects are favourable in the south and uncertain in the north
- An outbreak of Foot & Mouth Disease affect pastoral livelihoods in Karamoja region
- Maize prices stabilize at high levels
- Food security situation is generally satisfactory

Favourable outlook for 2011 main harvest in the south, but poor rains affect crops in the north
Harvesting of the 2011 “long rains” season crops in bimodal areas is expected to start in June. In southern districts, production prospects are favourable as rains started on time at the beginning of March and continued with average to above average amounts. By contrast, in most pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of northern and north-western Acholi and West Nile regions, early production prospects are poor following delayed plantings, by about two to three weeks, due to insufficient and erratic rains and soil moisture.

Uncertain prospects for 2011 crops in Karamoja
In uni-modal agricultural and agro-pastoral areas of Karamoja region, after a positive start of the rainy season in March, rains were quite erratic and are forecast at below-average levels until July. With such forecast, crop output, for harvest from September, is expected to be below average. A close monitoring of the remainder of the rainy season is therefore warranted.

Pasture conditions have generally improved in Karamoja region due to beneficial rains until mid-March, leading to better animal body conditions and milk production. However, the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease from last February has spread to several areas of the “cattle corridor”, causing the closure of livestock markets in Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts. This had a negative impact on pastoral livelihood and many have resorted to increased firewood and charcoal collection and sales as coping strategies to augment their income.

Maize prices stabilize at high levels
Prices of important staples like plantains (matoke), beans and cassava flour have been rising in recent months and as of April 2011 were 42, 33 and 7 percent up compared to a year ago, respectively. This reflects reduced outputs in previous months as well as heavy rains in April that caused localized crop damage and disrupted trade activities. Prices of maize, an important crop for export, were quite stable between March and May, but are currently about 95 percent higher than 12 months earlier mainly due to sustained import demand from neighbouring countries such as South Sudan and increasing fuel and transport costs. Generally, food prices are expected to decline soon as production of the first 2011 season harvest reaches main markets in June, replenishing stocks.

Food security is generally good, with some
concerns for Acholi and Karamoja regions
The country is generally food secure following the good 2010 aggregate cereal production, which improved household food stocks, market supplies and income. According to the latest Integrated Food Security phase Classification (IPC) Analysis Report (March 2011), about 815 000 people are estimated to be moderately food insecure, essentially in Karamoja and Acholi regions. In these regions, the number of food vulnerable households may increase during next weeks if dry weather conditions persist in north and north-western districts and if livestock markets do not resume their activities in north-east districts.

Uganda
Selected wholesale cereal prices in Kampala
USD per tonne

Source: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network
Good start of 2011 rainy season, but weather forecast for the north is uncertain

Planting for the 2011 “long rains” season crops, to be harvested from June, has just been completed in bimodal areas. Rains started almost on time at the beginning of March and continued with average to above average amounts. In unimodal Karamoja region, rains started in mid-March two weeks earlier than usual, anticipating the planting of crops for harvest from September. This also gave some relief to grazing and pasture conditions following the long dry season that started last October.

According to latest meteorological forecast, precipitation is expected to be abundant until May in southern areas of the country, while average to below average in the north.

Since February, an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease is spreading in several districts of the “cattle corridor”, from Rakai, Sembabule and Mbarara in the south-west to Karamoja region in the north-east. The negative impact of the disease on pastoralist livelihoods may be substantial as resources for vaccines are quite limited.

High import demand from neighbouring countries push maize prices up

Prices of important staples plants (matoke) and beans have been rising in recent months and as of March were 35 and 21 percent up from a year ago, respectively. These price increases are the result of drought-reduced harvests, combined with higher fuel prices. Prices of maize, an important cash crop for export, increased sharply between February and March (+37 percent) and are more than double their low levels of the previous year. The upward price pull is mainly driven by greater import demand from neighbouring countries. By contrast, cassava flour remained at price levels similar to those of a year earlier.

In marketing year 2010/11 (July/June), cereal exports are forecast at record 400 000 tonnes, compared to last years’ average of 160 000 to 170 000 tonnes.

Food security is generally good, but likely to deteriorate until harvest in June

The country is generally food secure following the good 2010 aggregate cereal production, which improved household food stocks, market supplies and income. According to the latest Integrated Food Security
phase Classification (IPC) Analysis Report, about 815,000 people are estimated to be moderately food insecure, mainly very poor households in Karamoja region. This number is expected to slightly increase until June’s harvest as the lean season progresses.
**Uganda**

**Reference Date: 09-February-2011**

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- Second season cereal production is estimated at average levels
- Dry weather conditions likely to affect crops and livestock
- Maize prices increase due to high demand of domestic and neighbouring markets
- Food security is currently satisfactory, but it may deteriorate soon due to unfavourable weather conditions

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**Good production of 2010 second season crops**

In bimodal areas, harvesting of the 2010 second season cereal crops is almost complete and production is estimated at average levels. Second season rains have been particularly favourable in Northern Uganda, while moisture deficits were reported in some districts of Central and Southern regions. In Karamoja region, harvesting of 2010 cereal and pulse crops was complete in October and maize crop production is estimated to be above average due to abundant seasonal precipitation in agricultural and agro-pastoral areas, while production of sorghum and millet was reduced by attacks of honey dew and smut diseases.

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**Unfavourable weather forecast for coming months**

Land preparation is underway in bimodal areas of Northern and Eastern regions. The 2011 first rainy season is expected to start at the beginning of March and the early forecast indicates below average rainfall with likely negative impact on production of cereal crops to be harvested from June.

In pastoral and agro-pastoral unimodal areas of Karamoja region, current dry season is being characterized by higher-than-average temperatures, causing quicker depletion of grazing and water resources and consequent deterioration of animal body conditions and milk production. If the below average rainfall forecast between April and July 2011 materialises, livestock conditions and crop production, for harvest from next September, may be affected severely.

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**High domestic demand and exports push maize prices up**

Cereal prices started to increase in September 2010 following the declining trend since the end of 2009. In January 2010, maize was traded in Kampala wholesale market at USD 235 per tonne, more than double of the record low level of USD 108 per tonne registered in August 2010. The increasing trend is partially due to the substantial import demand from neighbouring countries (mostly Kenya, Southern Sudan and Rwanda). In marketing year 2010/11 (July/June), cereal exports are forecast to reach 450 000 tonnes, compared to 300 000 tonnes in 2009/10 and 210 000 tonnes in 2008/09.

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**Food security is generally good, but it may worsen due to adverse weather**

The country is generally food secure following the good production of 2010 first and second season crops, which improved household food stocks, market supplies and income. According to the latest Integrated
Food Security phase Classification (IPC) Analysis Report, about 815,000 people are estimated to be moderately food insecure, mainly very poor households in Karamoja region.

Unfavourable weather forecast for the incoming rainy season may worsen food security conditions of most vulnerable households, especially in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Acholi and Karamoja regions.
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
• Second season cereal production is estimated at average levels
• Maize prices increase in the main markets, but still remain below average
• Satisfactory food security, including in Karamoja region

Good production of 2010 second season crops
In bimodal areas, harvesting of the 2010 second season cereal crops is underway and production is expected to be average. Second season rains have been particularly favourable in the Northern region, while deficits were reported in some districts of Central and Southern regions.

In Karamoja region, harvesting of 2010 cereal and pulse crops was completed in October. Maize crop production is estimated to be above average due to abundant seasonal precipitation in agricultural and agro-pastoral areas, while production of sorghum and millet was reduced by attacks of honey dew and smut diseases.

Increasing trend for maize prices, but still below average
Cereal prices started to increase in September 2010 after having declined since the end of 2009. In December 2010, maize was traded in Kampala wholesale market at USD 171 per tonne, some USD 63 more than the record low level of USD 108 per tonne registered in August 2010, but still half the price of one year before. The recent increasing trend is in part due to the substantial import demand from neighbouring countries (mostly Kenya and Southern Sudan), where maize prices are substantially higher than in Uganda. In fact, in the marketing year 2010/11 (July/June), cereal exports are forecast to reach 450 000 tonnes, compared to 300 000 tonnes in 2009/10 and 210 000 tonnes in 2008/09.

General improvement in food security, including in Karamoja
The country is generally food secure following a good first season crop, harvested in September, which improved household food stocks, market supplies and income. Food access has also improved in Northern and Karamoja regions, where terms of trade have recently turned more favourable to pastoralists.

However, poor pastoral and agro-pastoral households in Northern and Karamoja regions are expected to face moderate food insecurity conditions from March 2011, as second-season food stocks will be depleted and staple food prices are expected to rise in local markets. However, part of their basic needs will be covered by livestock sales and other sources of income, such as casual labour and sales of charcoal and firewood.
Uganda

Total cereal exports

000 tonnes

\begin{tabular}{c|c}
Year & Exports (000 tonnes) \\
\hline
2005/06-2009/10 & 210 \\
2009/10 & 301 \\
2010/11 forecast & 451 \\
\end{tabular}

Note: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split-year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Uganda

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Kampala

USD per tonne

\begin{tabular}{c|c|c}
Month & Rice & Maize \\
\hline
Dec 08 & 1200 & 600 \\
Dec 09 & 1200 & 600 \\
Dec 10 & 900 & 400 \\
Dec 11 & 700 & 350 \\
Dec 12 & 650 & 300 \\
Dec 13 & 600 & 250 \\
Dec 14 & 550 & 200 \\
Dec 15 & 500 & 150 \\
Dec 16 & 450 & 100 \\
\end{tabular}

Source: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network
GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 08-September-2010

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- First season cereal production estimated at above-average levels
- Maize prices continue to decline in main markets
- Food security improves, including in Karamoja region

**Good prospects for 2010 first season cereal crops**
In bimodal areas, harvesting of the 2010 first season cereal crops is almost complete and production prospects are favourable following a generally positive rainy season. In fact, extended 2009 second season rains in February merged with an early onset of 2010 first season rains in March and resulted in widespread benefit for crops and pasture, especially in the central to south-western “cattle corridor”. Planting of the 2010 second season crops (to be harvested from November) is underway and production prospects are favourable. Some floods and landslides may occur with possible damage to infrastructure and crops.

In Karamoja region, adequate seasonal precipitation has improved conditions in agricultural and agro-pastoral areas. Harvesting of 2010 cereal and pulse crops has just started and production is expected to be above-average. “La Niña” phenomenon is expected to mitigate the effects of the October-December dry season, maintaining adequate rangeland conditions and reducing/delaying the need for livestock migrations to better pasture.

**Maize prices continue to decline in main markets**
Cereal prices started to decline by the end of 2009 when the bumper 2009 second season maize crop started to reach the major markets in bimodal areas and resulted in the early release of stocks by traders. In August 2010, maize was traded in Kampala wholesale market at USD 104 per tonne, some 70 percent less that the peak registered in December 2009 and 14 percent lower than the prices recorded in October 2007, just before the start of the food price crisis. Maize and sorghum prices are still higher in Karamoja region due to the succession of five poor harvests that failed to meet the local food demand, but are likely to decrease in the coming weeks with the arrival on markets of the newly harvested crops.

**General improvement in food security, including in Karamoja**
The country is generally food secure following the good first season crop production that improved household food stocks, market supplies and income. Food access has also improved in northern Uganda, although most of the local population remain moderately food insecure after displacement due to prolonged conflict. In Karamoja region, about 610 000 people are currently estimated to be moderately food insecure. However, with the imminent arrival on markets of the newly harvested 2010 good production, food assistance requirements are expected to decline significantly in Karamoja region until December 2010. This represents an important improvement compared to 12 months earlier when almost all of the population of Karamoja region was receiving food aid.
Uganda
Selected wholesale cereal prices in Kampala

USD per tonne

Source: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network
**GIEWS Country Brief**

**Uganda**

Reference Date: 06-August-2010

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**

- First season cereal production estimated at above-average levels
- Maize prices continue to decline in main markets
- Food security improves, including in in Karamoja region

**Good prospects for 2010 first season cereal crops**

In bimodal areas, harvesting of the 2010 first season (March/August) cereal crops is well advanced and production prospects are favourable due to a generally positive rainy season. In fact, extended 2009 second season rains in February merged with an early onset of 2010 first season rains in March and resulted in widespread benefit for crops and pasture, especially in areas of central to south-western “cattle corridor”. Land preparation for planting of the second season crops (August/December) has just started and the harvest is expected at the end of the year.

In Karamoja region, adequate precipitations have improved conditions of rangeland in pastoral areas and crops in agricultural and agro-pastoral areas. Harvesting will start in September and, if beneficial rains continue in August as forecast, crop production is expected to be above-average.

**Maize price continue to decline in main markets**

Cereal prices started to decline by the end of 2009 when the bumper 2009 second season maize crop started to reach the main markets in bimodal areas and induced traders in early release of their stocks. In August 2010, maize was traded in Kampala wholesale market at USD 104 per tonne, some 70 percent less that the peak registered in December 2009 and 14 percent lower than the prices recorded in October 2007, just before the start of the food price crisis. Maize and sorghum prices are still higher in Karamoja region due to the succession of five poor harvests that failed to meet the local food demand, but are likely to decrease by September with the arrival on markets of the newly harvested crops.

**General improvement in food security, including in Karamoja**

The country is generally food secure following the good first season crop production that improved household food stocks, market supplies and income. Food access has also improved in northern Uganda, although most of the local population remain moderately food insecure after displacement due to prolonged conflict. In Karamoja region, about 610 000 people are currently estimated to be moderately food insecure, but this figure is expected to be revised downwards by the end of August when green consumption of locally produced maize and sorghum crops start. If the September harvest turns out to be good, as expected, food assistance requirements are expected to decline significantly in Karamoja region until December 2010. This represents an important improvement compared to 12 months earlier when almost all of the population of Karamoja region was receiving food aid.
Uganda
Selected wholesale cereal prices in Kampala
USD per tonne

Source: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network.
**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**

- Favourable rainfall expected to boost first season cereal production, for harvest from June
- New viral disease threatens cassava production
- Maize prices still declining in main markets
- Continued food insecurity in Karamoja region

**Good prospects for 2010 first season cereal crops, but concerns on cassava production**

Harvesting of the 2010 first season cereal crops is expected to start in June/July. Crop production prospects in bimodal areas are favourable due to a generally positive rainy season. In fact, extended 2009 second season rains in February merged with an early onset of 2010 first season rains in March. This resulted in a widespread benefit for crops and pasture, especially in areas of central to south-western “cattle corridor” and in north-eastern Karamoja region. Abundant precipitations have also improved browse and water availability for livestock, reducing trekking distances with positive effects on animal body conditions, milk production and calving rates.

Official reports indicate that the Cassava Brown Streak, a new viral infection that mainly affects the plant’s edible roots, is quickly spreading over the country and has already hardly hit some central, northern and north-eastern areas, with devastating impact on yields. Cassava is an important staple food, representing about 12 percent of the average calories intake.

In March as well as in May, consecutive days of heavy rains have caused flooding and landslides in several mountainous areas of eastern and south-western Uganda, causing losses of human lives, damages to infrastructures and displacement of population. Localized losses of crops and food stocks have also been reported.

**Substantial drop in maize price**

Cereal prices started to decline by the end of 2009 when the bumper 2009 second season maize crop started to reach the main markets in bimodal areas and induced traders to early release of their stocks. In May 2010, maize was traded in Kampala wholesale market at a low of USD 138 per tonne, some 60 percent less that the peak registered in December 2009 and similar to prevailing prices at the end of 2007, just before the start of the food price crisis. However, maize and sorghum prices are higher in Karamoja region due to the succession of five poor harvests that failed to meet the local food demand. Prices here are expected to further rise up to July as cereal supplies from bimodal areas decline.

**General improvement in food security, less so in Karamoja**

The bumper crop obtained in bimodal areas during the 2009/10 second season improved food availability and reduced food prices thus decreasing the estimated number of food insecure from 1.4 to 1.1 million people. Although the recent start of the 2010 season in
Karamoja region is providing labour opportunities to local households, still 900,000 people are considered highly food insecure as a consequence of the drought-affected 2009 crop production. In particular in the districts of Abim, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, and Nakapiripirit food stocks lasted less than usual and the lean season, which starts normally in March/April, was early by several weeks. In addition, 200,000 moderately food insecure people are located in northern Uganda, mainly in the districts of Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Prader, where local population is slowly recovering from a prolonged period of civil insecurity. The total number of food insecure people is expected to gradually increase until June/July when the 2010 first season crop production will be available on markets.
GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 31-March-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Good early prospects for 2010 first season crop production
- Maize prices continue to decline in main markets
- High food vulnerability persists in Karamoja region

Favourable prospects for 2010 first season crop production
Planting of the 2010 first season cereal crops has just started in eastern bimodal areas, while it has almost been completed in the north. Extended 2009 second season rains in February merged with an early onset of 2010 first season rains in March and resulted in a widespread positive impact on crops and pasture, especially in areas of central to south-western “cattle corridor” and in north-eastern Karamoja region. The abundant precipitations have improved browse and water availability for livestock, reducing trekking distances with positive effects on animal body conditions, milk production and calving rates. At the beginning of March, consecutive days of heavy rains have caused flooding and landslides in the districts of Bududa and Butaleja in eastern Uganda, causing losses of human lives, damages to infrastructures and displacement of population.

Early prospects for 2010 first season crop production, to be harvested by June in bimodal areas, are generally favourable. With the exception of some areas in north and north-east Uganda, the country is expected to receive normal to above-normal precipitations in the coming months.

Substantial drop in maize price
The prospects of a good 2009 second season harvest induced traders to reduce their stocks and food prices started to decline by the end of 2009. In March 2010, with the arrival on Kampala market of the newly harvested and dried maize crop, its wholesale price dropped to USD 139 per tonne, some 60 percent less that the peak registered in December 2009 and about half of the price one year before.

General improvement in food security, less so in Karamoja
The 2009 second season bumper crop obtained in bimodal areas has improved food availability and reduced food prices thus decreasing the estimated number of food insecure from 1.4 to 1.1 million people. It includes some 900 000 highly food insecure people in Karamoja region where 2009 crop production has been severely affected by dry weather conditions. Targeted food aid distribution by WFP is planned to start in Karamoja region by April as food stocks are expected to run out. Most food insecure households are located in the districts of Abim, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, and Nakapiripirit in Karamoja region and in the districts of Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Prader in northern Uganda. It is also estimated that some 125 000 people are in need of food emergency assistance in the eastern flood affected districts.
Uganda
Selected cereal prices

USD per tonne

Source: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network.
GIEWS Country Brief
Uganda

Reference Date: 01-February-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Aggregate 2009 cereal production is estimated above average
- Dry weather affected farmers and pastoralists in Northern Uganda and Karamoja
- Maize prices starts to decline
- High food vulnerability persists in Karamoja

Favourable prospects for 2009 second season crop production, except in Karamoja
Harvesting of the 2009 second season crops is underway in bimodal areas. Production prospects are generally favourable, reflecting the good secondary rainy season that has been characterized by an early onset of precipitations, with a favourable distribution and a normal to above-normal quantity. Abundant rainfall has also supported pasture and water availability for livestock, especially in the “cattle corridor” in central and southern Uganda, with consequent positive effects on body conditions, milk production and calving rates. In contrast, in unimodal Karamoja region, food production has been severely affected by dry weather conditions and it is expected to be less than half of average levels, covering food needs of the agricultural households only up to January 2010 and leaving minimal stocks to be sold in pastoral and agropastoral areas. In addition, the unfavourable weather conditions have increased movements of Karamoja pastoralists and their livestock westward in search of pasture and water sources with negative consequences on animals’ body conditions.

Substantial drop in maize price
The commercialization of green maize in October and the prospects of a good second season harvest induced traders to reduce their stocks in anticipation and food prices have started to decline in November 2009. In January 2010, with the arrival on Kampala markets of the newly harvested and dried maize, its wholesale price dropped at USD 239 per tonne, some 30 percent less that the average price of last 2009 quarter and 7 percent less than one year before.

High food vulnerability in Karamoja
It is estimated that about 1.4 million people are currently food insecure, including some 900 000 highly food insecure people in Karamoja. The most food insecure households are located in the districts of Abim, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, and Nakapiripirit in Karamoja and in the districts of Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Prader in northern Uganda.
Uganda
Selected cereal prices

USD per tonne

Source: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network
Unfavourable weather hits 2009 first season crop production and livestock

Harvesting of 2009 first season crops has been completed at the beginning of August. Production is forecast at a well below average level, representing the forth successive poor harvest. In the Acholi region, northern Uganda, the late onset of the main rains (March-July) together with the below average precipitation between April and July have severely hindered crop development and 2009 first season cereal and pulse production is estimated about 50 percent below the average. This limits households’ ability to replenish food stocks and improve their food security situation following several years of displacement due to civil insecurity. Similarly, in Karamoja, low cumulative rainfall negatively impacted on crop growth, especially sorghum, whose harvest has just started. Access to water and pasture for livestock has also been limited. The progressive deterioration of body conditions of livestock has often lowered their market prices, worsening terms of trade for pastoralists. By contrast, the supply of the main staple roots and tubers is normal in most parts of the country, partly cushioning households’ food intake.

Positive early outlook for 2009 second season crop production

Although the secondary 2009 rainy season was expected to start in late September, almost a delay of one month, a weak El Niño phenomenon resulted in well distributed precipitations since mid-August. This has induced farmers to intensify field activities and begin planting seasonal crops. Rainfall is forecast to continue during October to December, with positive effects on crop production with some risk of flooding, especially in the East.

High food prices persist with deterioration of food access

Prices of staple foods have continued to increase during 2009, restricting food access, particularly for market dependent households. Maize prices in July in Kampala, the largest urban market, were approximately twice their level in the pre-crisis period of July 2007. The below average harvest in bimodal regions has contributed to maintaining the high levels of prices by limiting cereal supplies to the market.
High food vulnerability in Karamoja
Currently, more than one million people are estimated to be food insecure and this number may even increase as the hunger season progresses until the beginning of 2009 second season harvest in mid-November. The most food insecure households are located in the districts of Abim, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, and Nakapiripirit in Karamoja and in the districts of Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Prader in northern Uganda.