



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Regional Food Security & Nutrition Update

Eastern Africa Region

Update #3

December 2022

Highlights

- Throughout 2022 levels of food insecurity have continued to increase in Eastern Africa, with 82 million people who are suffering from hunger. In **South Sudan**, approximately 6.6 million people – or over half of South Sudan’s population – are projected to experience high levels of acute food insecurity between October and November 2022. An estimated 22.6 million people are suffering from food insecurity across **Ethiopia**. Approximately 6.7 million people across **Somalia** are expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) between October and December 2022, particularly affected are agropastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts and displaced populations in Baidoa town of Bay Region.
- Despite global efforts, the levels of malnutrition and food insecurity have kept increasing. Over 7.3 million children are likely to be acutely malnourished in **Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia** including more than 5.5 million moderately malnourished. Those areas with a high prevalence of malnutrition in the region are mainly linked but not limited to the drought. Conflicts, inflation, epidemics such as cholera and measles, and climate shocks play a key role in food and nutrition security.
- Seasonal rains in 2022 had a delayed start, with poor or minimal rains in October which later improved in some areas in November. In comparison to the long-term average, the October-November rains have been below-normal in most areas, particularly in the Horn of Africa. A 5th consecutive below-average season is very likely, which will aggravate the drought conditions. This has greatly affected crop and livestock production and even caused displacement, particularly among agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in **Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya**.
- Countries across the region continue to face macroeconomic challenges aggravated by multiple factors including weakening currencies against the dollar, high inflation, and the repercussions of the conflict in Ukraine. This continues to negatively impact households’ purchasing power and consequently exacerbate existing food insecurity vulnerabilities. Throughout quarter three, most countries generally experienced significantly higher food prices than the long-term average.
- Localized conflict continues to affect households in the region particularly across **Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan**. This coupled with the drought in the Eastern Horn of Africa has led to a significant rise in regional displacement. There are 17.8 million forcibly displaced people (nearly 5 million Refugees, Asylum Seekers, 170,500 Returnees, and 12.8M IDPs).
- The multiple shocks the Region is facing could further deteriorate an already fragile food security situation. In the third consecutive year of La Niña conditions, armed localized protracted conflict and insecurity are expected to continue to affect access to markets and disrupt agricultural activities in South Sudan, Sudan, and Ethiopia. Economic prospects in 2023 including inflationary pressures for the region and high food and fuel prices remain uncertain and are tied to developments in the global economy, the conflict in Ukraine, the lingering impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain disruptions.

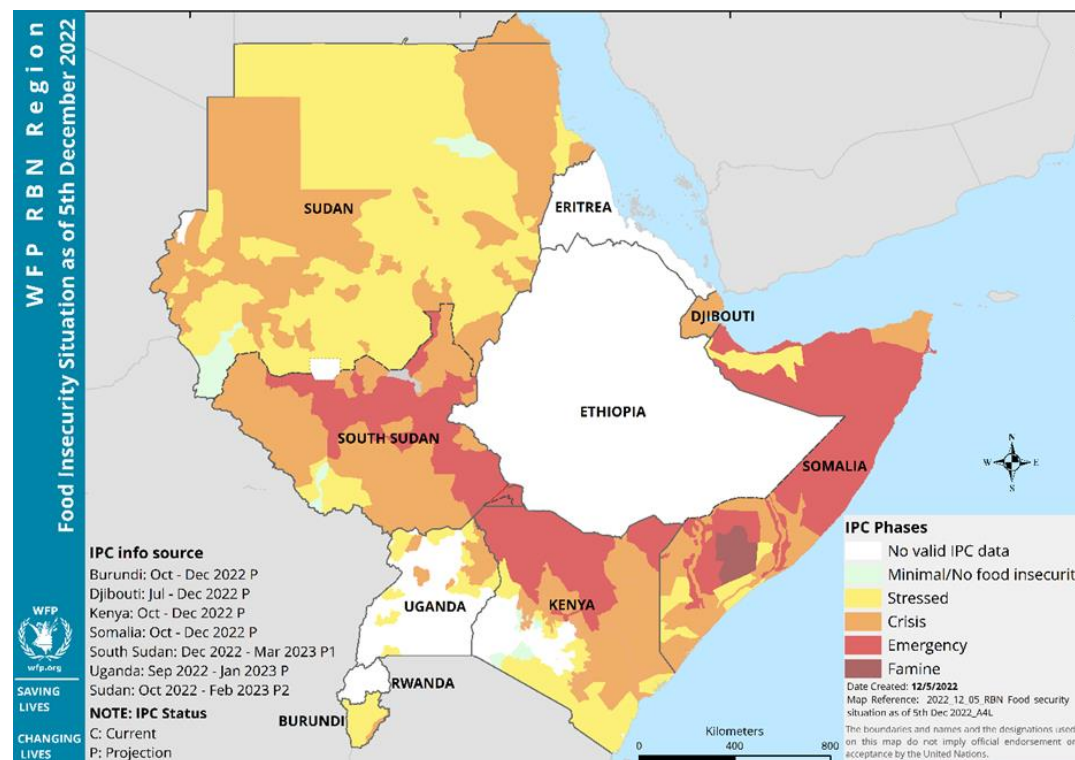
Food Security Overview

Map 1: Food Insecurity Situation according to the IPC, December 2022

The convergence of conflict, climate change, and the consequences of the conflict in Ukraine on top of the fallout of COVID-19 drove an unprecedented increase in the number of people in need across the Eastern Africa Region. The number of people suffering from hunger has reached 82 million, with Ethiopia, Sudan, and Somalia recording the highest number of food-insecure people. The region is also recording a high prevalence of acute malnutrition, especially among displaced populations. In the drought-affected areas of the Horn of Africa, where there are an estimated 7.3 million acutely malnourished children.

Insecurity, conflict over scarce resources following four consecutive below-average seasons, and floods have led to the displacement of 17.8 million people across the region according to UNHCR, including 4.5 million refugees and asylum seekers, 170,500 returnees, and 13.49 million IDPs¹.

Climate change continues to affect food insecurity in **Burundi**, particularly in rural livelihoods and food systems. The combination of a below-average 2022 Season B bean harvest and reduced crop planting during Season A has reduced household income from crop sales and agricultural labour.² In addition, the compound effect of COVID-19 containment measures on supply chains and inflationary pressures since the start of the conflict in Ukraine added to an already fragile humanitarian situation.³ According to the August 2022 IPC, 10 percent of the population (1.18 million people) is facing acute food insecurity and requires immediate assistance. In addition, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children below 5, is estimated to be at 55.8 percent (a 3 percent increase since 2020). During the projected period (October-December 2022), the population that is highly acutely food insecure will likely increase to over



¹ [UNHCR Regional Dashboard RB EHAGL: Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons \(IDPs\) in the IGAD Region \(31 September 2022\)](#)

² [FEWSNET, Burundi Food Security Outlook October 2022 – May 2023](#)

³ [WFP Burundi Country Brief, September 2022](#)

Regional Food Security and Nutrition Update – Eastern Africa Region, Update #3

1.4 million people, of which 51,000 people will likely be in a food insecure situation of Emergency (IPC Phase 4).⁴ As of September 2022, the country hosts 87,000 refugees, 85,000 IDPs, and 204,000 returnees, adding extra pressure on already-vulnerable host communities.⁵

Reduced maritime traffic and supplies following the Black Sea blockade coupled with sluggish demand from Ethiopia have slowed-down economic activity and increased inflationary pressures in **Djibouti**.⁶ Deteriorated vegetation and pasture, reduced rainfall, and record-high temperatures also contributed to the erosion of food security by increasing displacement and forcing many rural populations to exhaust their coping mechanisms. According to an assessment conducted by IOM in September 2022, access to food is one of the top humanitarian needs among displaced and migrants.⁷ In the same month, the cost of a local WFP food basket in the market of Obock-Ville (where refugees in Markazi purchase their food) increased by 58 percent compared to a year ago.⁸ Increased prices of sugar, wheat, and sorghum flour are driving this increase, constraining household economic access to food. According to the latest IPC analysis, approximately 192,000 people (representing 16 percent of the analyzed population) are estimated to be acutely food insecure for the projected period of July-December 2022.

An estimated 22.6 million people are suffering from food insecurity across **Ethiopia**,⁹ an increase of more than 2 million people since quarter 2. Over 13.6 million people are food insecure in the conflict-affected areas in the north and 18.1 million people suffer from food insecurity in drought-affected areas.¹⁰

Over 4.5 million livestock have died and more than 30 million are reported emaciated, which is affecting milk production and making livestock increasingly unsellable.¹¹ Increased costs of living are adding to an already-fragile socio-economic situation. Annual inflation remains high, driven by high food and fuel prices as well as poor macroeconomic conditions.¹² Moreover, the Ethiopian Birr (ETB) continues to depreciate on the formal and parallel markets, further limiting households' ability to purchase food and non-food items to meet their basic needs.¹³

Approximately 4.4 million people are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity in **Kenya** in the last quarter of the year.¹⁴ The fourth consecutive below-average rainy season led to below-average crop production, poor livestock production, and localized resource-based conflict. Reduction in local produce coupled with shocks from global commodity markets pushed up domestic prices. In 2022, headline inflation hit its record high since June 2017 (more than 8 percent since July), driven

⁴ IPC Burundi. [Acute Food Insecurity Situation June - September 2022 and Projection for October - December 2022](#)

⁵ UNHCR. [Operational Data Portal](#)

⁶ World Bank. [MPO, October 2022](#).

⁷ IOM. [Rapid Assessment of the Impact of the Drought in the 5 Regions of Djibouti, September 2022](#)

⁸ WFP Djibouti. [Bulletin Mensuel de Suivi de Prix, Octobre 2022](#)

⁹ Ethiopia. [Humanitarian Response Plan Mid-Year Review \(November 2022\)](#)

¹⁰ WFP Ethiopia. [Northern Ethiopia Emergency Response – Situation Report #8, August-September 2022](#)

¹¹ FEWS NET. [Ethiopia - Large-scale Humanitarian Assistance is Needed to Prevent Further Deterioration in Food Security. September 2022](#)

¹² WFP Ethiopia. [Market Watch, October 2022](#).

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ IPC Kenya. [ASAL Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis IPC, July – December 2022](#)

Regional Food Security and Nutrition Update – Eastern Africa Region, Update #3

by the increased cost of food and transport. The high prices are eroding household purchasing power and limiting household access to food at a time when subsistence production is constrained by the below-average long rains harvest.¹⁵

Amidst rising global commodity prices, adjustments to fuel and fertilizer prices, and reduced agricultural food production, **Rwanda** has recorded increasing double-digit headline and food inflation rates since April 2022.¹⁶ The sharp increase in the cost of living is constraining access to food among the most vulnerable segments of society, by reducing their ability to meet their basic food and non-food needs. Despite the season A harvest in December being expected to replenish food stocks among rural households, the harvest is forecast to be below average following delayed and erratic Season A rainfall and reduced use of agricultural inputs due to high prices.¹⁷ As planting for season A started in September, the reduced use of fertilizers is also expected to affect the 2023 cropping season, further constraining domestic produce.¹⁸

Approximately 6.7 million people across **Somalia** are expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) between October and December 2022. Agropastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts and displaced populations in Baidoa town of Bay Region are projected to face Famine (IPC Phase 5) between October and December 2022 in the absence of significant humanitarian assistance reaching people most in need.¹⁹ The nutrition situation is also deteriorating, with 1.8 million children under-five years old facing acute malnutrition, including half a million children severely malnourished.²⁰ Food insecurity and malnutrition rates are projected to increase if market prices remain high, below-average rains and subsequent crop failure materialize and humanitarian assistance is not at sufficient scale.²¹

Conflict, insecurity, and extreme weather events such as floods continue to disrupt livelihoods across different areas in **South Sudan**, approximately 6.6 million people – or over half the population – are projected to experience high levels of acute food insecurity between October and November 2022. The number of food insecure is expected to slightly decrease to 6.31 million people in the post-harvest projection period of December 2022 to March 2023.²² Despite the increased availability of produce following the first-season harvest in bimodal areas of southern South Sudan and the green harvest in parts of unimodal Greater Upper Nile and Greater Bahr el Ghazal regions, many households have still been struggling to meet their food needs. Since August 2022, torrential rains and flash floods have swept across South Sudan damaging livelihood assets, food crops, and livestock, affecting more than 1 million people.²³ In addition, sub-national and localized violence continues to threaten lives and livelihoods by displacing populations and disrupting household access to food and income sources.²⁴

¹⁵ FEWS NET. [Kenya - Declining livestock body conditions and high maize prices continue to reduce household purchasing power, September 2022](#)

¹⁶ WFP Rwanda. [Update on Food Security Drivers, Issue #63](#)

¹⁷ FEWS NET. [Rwanda – High food prices and reduced food stocks result in Stressed \(IPC 2\) outcomes, November 2022](#)

¹⁸ WFP Rwanda. [Update on Food Security Drivers, Issue #63](#)

¹⁹ Somalia. [Acute Food Insecurity Situation July - September 2022 and Projection for October - December 2022](#)

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ FSNWG IPC East and Central Africa Region Update October 2022

²² IPC South Sudan. [South Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation October - November 2022 and Projections for December 2022 - March 2023 and April - July 2023](#)

²³ WFP South Sudan. [Situation Report # 306, October 2022.](#)

²⁴ FEWS NET. [South Sudan – Conflict and flooding continue to drive Crisis \(IPC Phase 3\) or worse outcomes, September 2022](#)

Regional Food Security and Nutrition Update – Eastern Africa Region, Update #3

Lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as higher food inflation due to the conflict in Ukraine added to an already fragile socio-economic context. High import costs, rising fuel prices, disruption in trade flows, and depreciation of the South Sudanese Pound are pushing up prices on local markets.²⁵ This is eroding the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households and increasing humanitarian operational costs which has the potential to negatively impact WFP's ability to provide sufficient assistance to the food-insecure population.

According to the latest Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA), over 15 million people – 34 percent of the population were food insecure in **Sudan** in the first quarter of 2022. Projections indicate that this may have increased up to 18 million people (39 percent of the population) by the third quarter of the year.²⁶ The prolonged economic crisis, political instability, continuing inter-communal clashes, and skyrocketing prices are the main drivers of increased humanitarian needs in the country. High prices and shortages of agricultural inputs, limited access to finance, irrigation difficulties, flooding, and waterlogging continue to affect agricultural activities which in turn could harm crop production.²⁷ However, the midseason assessment indicates that the upcoming agricultural season's performance is anticipated to be average to above average, provided that pests and diseases are controlled in time. The planted area is expected to be about 52.5 million feddans, representing 80.1 percent of the targeted area. In September, the government sharply raised taxes on agricultural products, port and road fees, industry, and trade, which led to strikes, and disruptions in trade activities while contributing to overall increased costs of living.²⁸ Despite the decline observed since March 2022, annual inflation remains in triple digits (noting 103 percent in October 2022), following a significant reduction in commodity subsidies on fuel, wheat, and medicines amidst the higher global food and fuel prices arising from the conflict in Ukraine.²⁹ The national average price of the Local Food Basket (LFB) per person per day reached 568 Sudanese Pounds in October – more than double the price one year ago.³⁰ The significant increase in the LFB represents a significant erosion in households' capacity to meet their food needs at markets as well as additional operational costs for WFP programmes and local commodity procurement.³¹

Between June and August 2022, around 1.8 million people in Karamoja, Teso sub-regions, and refugee-hosting districts of **Uganda** experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above), including over 250,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Key drivers of food insecurity were poor and below-average harvests, constrained livestock production, and sharp increases in commodity prices. Seasonal crop pests and diseases as well as endemic livestock vectors and diseases and conflict in Karamoja and Teso also contributed. During the projection period (September 2022 – January 2023), the overall situation is expected to improve, with 1.1 million food-insecure people.³²

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ WFP Sudan. [Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment \(CFSVA\) - Summary Report, Q1 2022 - June 2022](#)

²⁷ GEOGLAM. [Crop Monitor for Early Warning, November 2022.](#)

²⁸ FEWS NET. [Sudan – Conflict and poor macroeconomic conditions drive Crisis \(IPC Phase 3\) acute food insecurity](#)

²⁹ World Bank. [Sudan – Macro Poverty Outlook, October 2022](#)

³⁰ WFP Sudan. [WFP Market Monitor - Sudan: October 2022](#)

³¹ WFP Sudan. [Country Brief, September 2022.](#)

³² IPC Uganda. [Acute Food Insecurity Situation June - August 2022 and Projection for September 2022 - January 2023](#)

Regional Food Security and Nutrition Update – Eastern Africa Region, Update #3

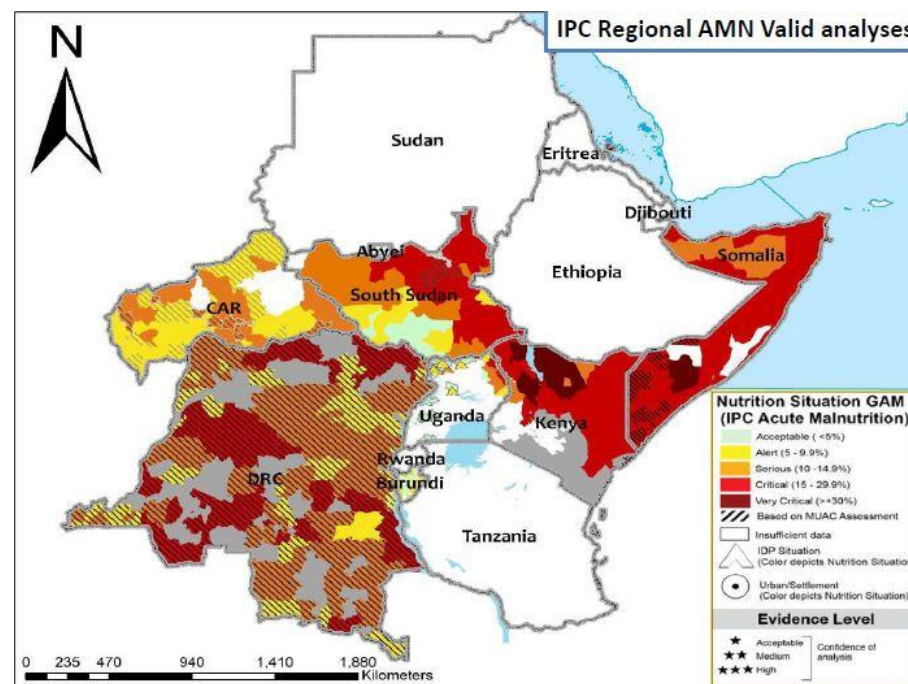
Below-average rainfall since mid-September has caused moisture stress on crops still in the germinating and early vegetative stages while delaying planting in some areas. At the same time localized heavy precipitations, floods and landslides have affected tens of thousands of people in the Elgon, Southwestern, Lango, and West Nile subregions.³³ Following consecutive below-average harvests³⁴ and above-average regional demand for Ugandan exports, inflationary pressures increased in 2022 exacerbated by above-average fuel prices and subsequent high transportation costs that have been impacted by the conflict in Ukraine.³⁵ Since September 2022, the country is also facing one of the largest Ebola virus outbreaks in its history, with 131 confirmed cases and a further 21 probable cases reported as of early November.³⁶

Nutrition Overview³⁷

Despite global efforts, the levels of malnutrition and food insecurity are increasing and increasing fast. Over 7.3 million children are likely to be acutely malnourished in **Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia**,³⁸ including more than 5.5 million moderately malnourished. Maternal malnutrition has afflicted 2.4 million pregnant and breastfeeding women requiring continued nutritional support.

In **Somalia**, every second child is malnourished (54 percent) with a total of 1.8 million children projected to be acutely malnourished in the next 12 months of which, about 1.3 million with moderate acute malnutrition. High mortality rates among children and adults are being reported, especially in the districts of Baidoa and Burhakaba where famine is projected from October to December 2022. One child is being admitted for treatment of acute malnutrition every minute.³⁹ In August 2022 for the first time in **Somalia**, more than 100,000 children were admitted into Therapeutic Supplementary Feeding Programme for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.

Map 2: Regional IPC AMN results (as of October 2022)



³³ FEWS NET. [Uganda – Rising prices continue to constrain food access as recent rainfall deficits threaten crop progress, September 2022](#)

³⁴ FAO GIEWS. [Uganda Country Brief, October 2022](#)

³⁵ World Bank. [MPO, October 2022](#)

³⁶ WFP Uganda. [Ebola Virus Disease Situation Report, 04 November 2022](#)

³⁷ The malnutrition figures sourced from recent IPC Acute Malnutrition Analysis Reports

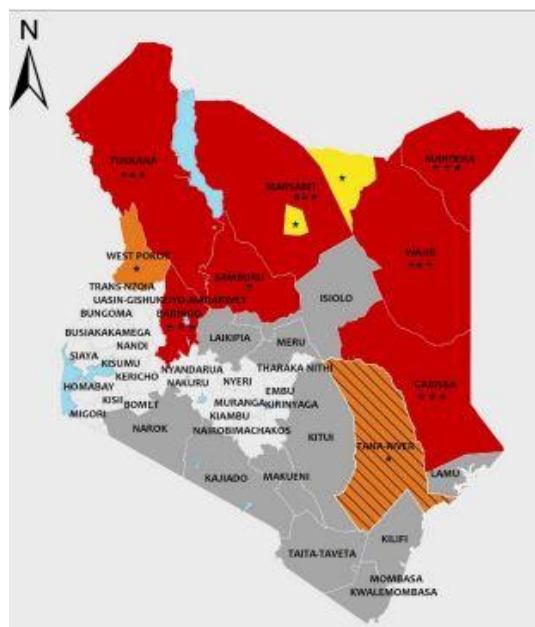
³⁸ Sources: Somalia September FSNAU analysis released in September 2022, Kenya IPC AMN analysis released in October 2022, Ethiopia 2022 HRP released in July 2022.

³⁹ Statement from UNICEF spokesperson - Reuters

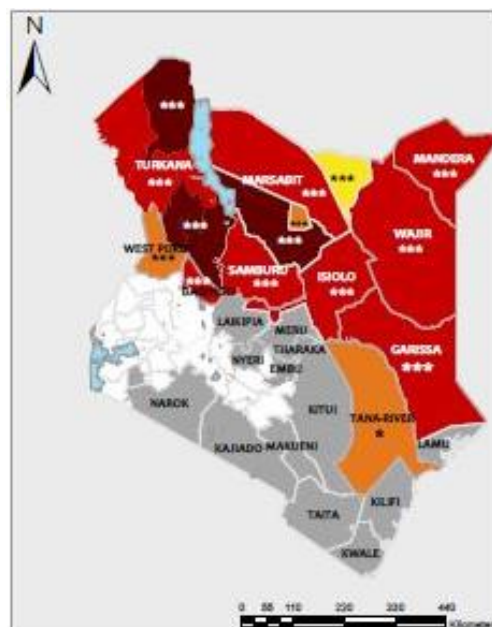
Regional Food Security and Nutrition Update – Eastern Africa Region, Update #3

In **Kenya**, levels of food insecurity are unprecedented. As of October 2022, it is estimated that 4.4 million people are food insecure (IPC 3 and above), including 1.2 million people in IPC 4 (Emergency).

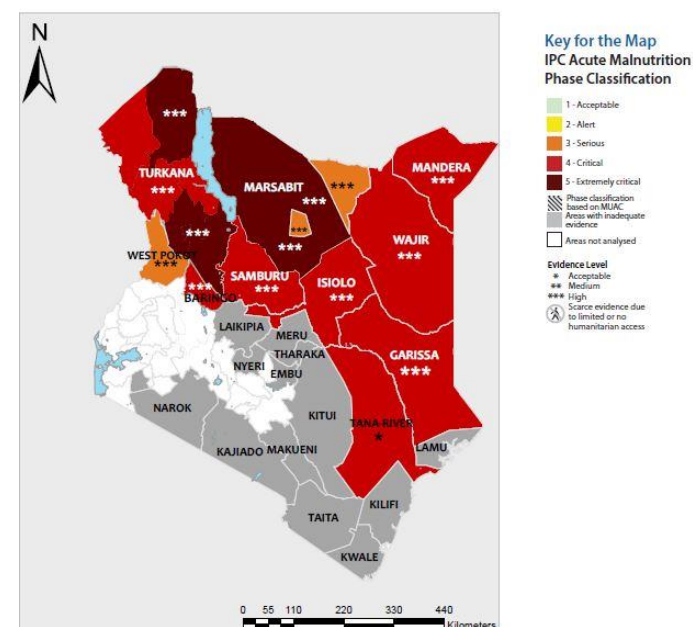
Map 3: IPC AMN Kenya – July 2021



Map 4: IPC AMN Kenya – July 2022



Map 5: IPC AMN Kenya – Projections August to October 2022



Across **Ethiopia**, an estimated 240,000 children are at risk of dying if malnutrition treatment is not secured.

In **South Sudan**, around 1.4 million children and 740,000 PBW are acutely malnourished (including 1.05 million moderate acute malnourished). Almost 60 percent of the districts (45 out of 77) are classified in IPC AMN Phase 3 (Serious) and 4 (Critical).

Regional Food Security and Nutrition Update – Eastern Africa Region, Update #3

With these high numbers and insufficient response, there is a risk of unprecedented levels of mortality. It is essential to increase and secure nutrition services and food support to avert the crisis now. During the third quarter of 2022, WFP massively scaled up its nutrition intervention, especially in **Somalia** and **Kenya**.

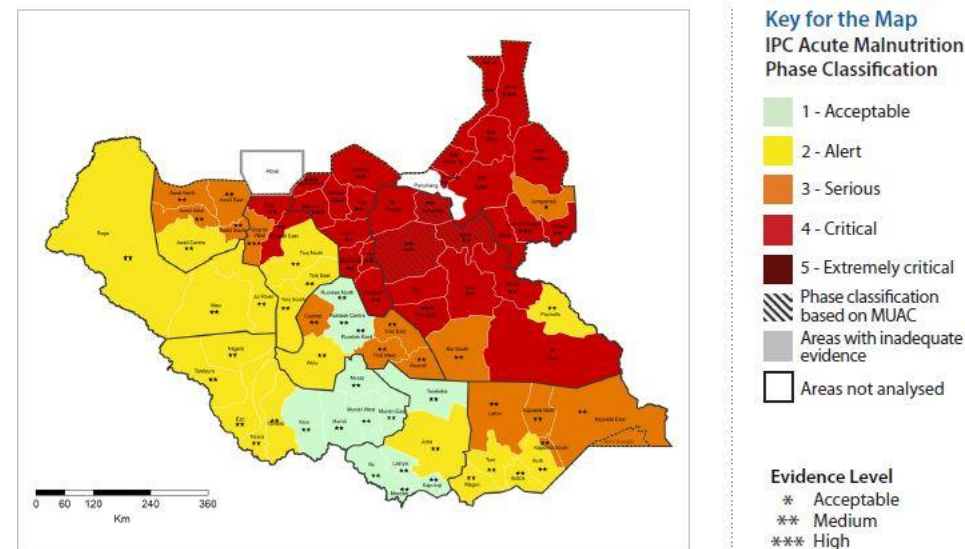
WFP is scaling up its prevention of malnutrition efforts across the region using in-kind (Specialized Nutritious Food) in combination with alternative approaches such as cash-based transfers and vouchers to reach more children and PBW in the community and at home. The prevention response is deemed necessary considering the limited number of health facilities and access to treatment addressing malnutrition cannot be business as usual. Support is required to prevent malnutrition at community levels through resilience and adopting local solutions.

Malnourished women have a higher risk of carrying and delivering undernourished babies with a high risk of death for the mother and the baby. The long-term impact of hunger and undernutrition on women and girls affects the entirety of their households and the future of their children – basically the future human capital of this region. The 2.4 million women and girls in the Horn of Africa with acute malnutrition need health and nutrition interventions to improve their nutritional status. Where people face extreme food insecurity and have limited access to diverse nutritious diets, Specialized Nutritious Food (SNF) plays a vital role. These foods help prevent and treat malnutrition and reduce mortality among children and PBW by improving nutrient adequacy, strengthening immune systems, and enabling proper weight gain.

The high prevalence of malnutrition in the region is mainly linked to but not limited to the drought. Conflicts, inflation, epidemics such as cholera and measles, and climate shocks play a key role in food and nutrition security. They will have long-lasting consequences that need to be addressed through relief, nutrition intervention but also through food systems strengthening, advancing social protection, and anticipatory actions.

In **Uganda**, an outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) was confirmed on the 19th of September 2022. It quickly spreads to several districts where WFP provided nutrition and food relief assistance to people affected by EVD, suspect cases as well as health personnel.

Map 6: South Sudan IPC Acute Malnutrition July to October 2022

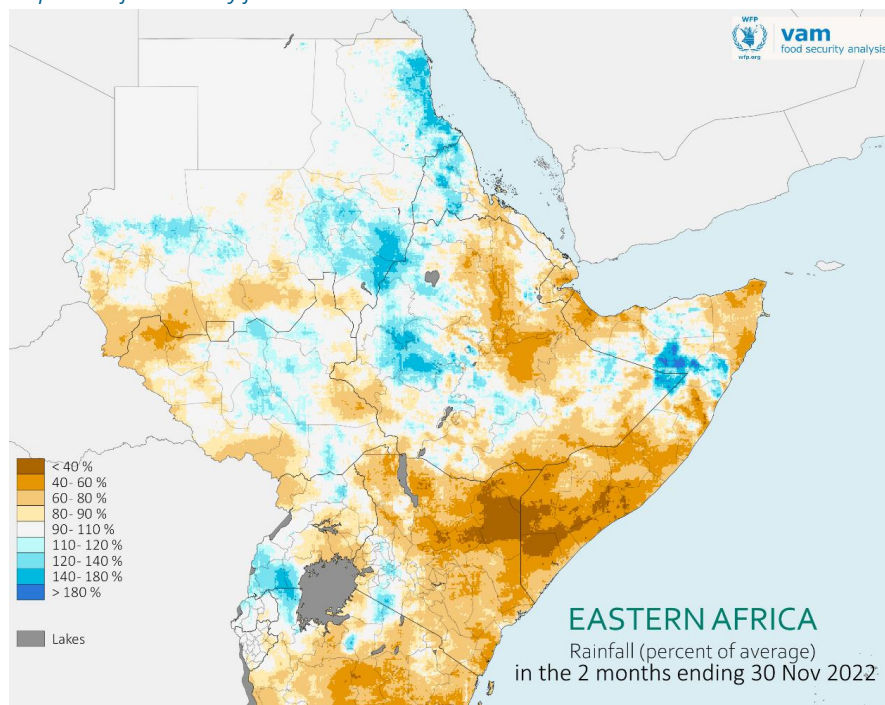


Drivers of Food Insecurity

I. Agro-climatic Shocks (Drought and Floods) with Implications on Crop and Livestock Production and Access to Food

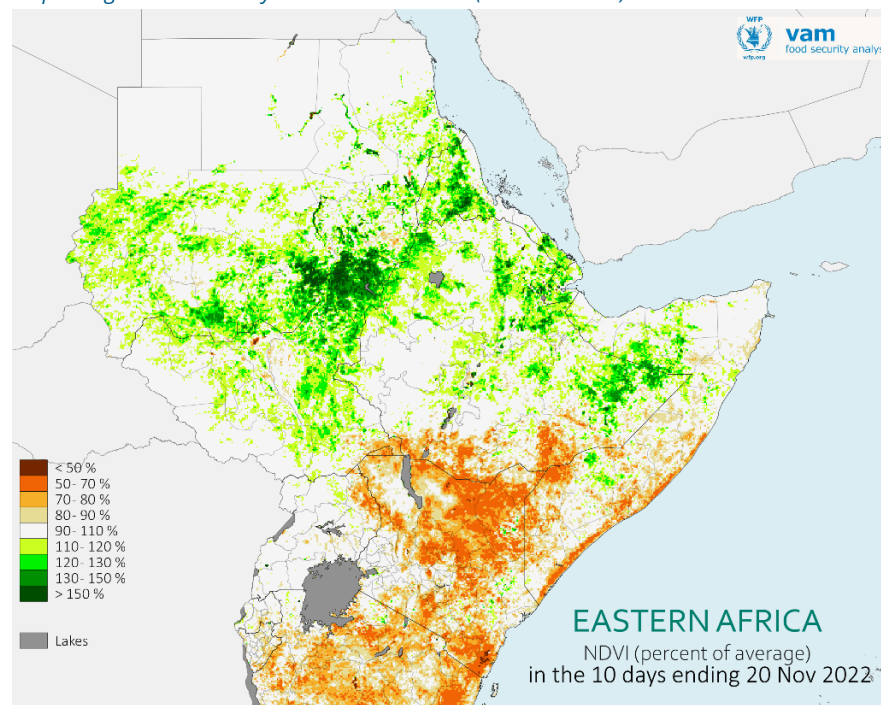
The second seasonal (short/*Deyr*) rains in the equatorial areas of the region (**Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi**, equatorial states in **South Sudan**, southern and southeast **Ethiopia**, and **Somalia**) normally occur from October through December. This year the seasonal rains had a delayed start, and the distribution was poor with minimal rains in October which later improved in some areas in November. Cumulatively, the western areas of the region (comprising **Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda**, and southern areas of **South Sudan**), western and southwest **Ethiopia**, and parts of **Kenya** (western, central, and coast) received over 100mm of rain by end of November while minimal in most drought-affected areas of **Somalia**, southern and southeast **Ethiopia**, and the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands of **Kenya**.

Map 7: Rainfall anomaly for October-November 2022



Source: CHIRPS (blues for wetter than average conditions, browns for drier than average conditions)

Map 8: Vegetation status by mid-November 2022 (Source: MODIS)



Source: MODIS (greens for above-average conditions, browns for below-average conditions)

Regional Food Security and Nutrition Update – Eastern Africa Region, Update #3

In comparison to the long-term average, the October-November rains have been below-normal in most areas, particularly in the drought-affected areas of the region (Map 7). This implies that the rainfall performance in these areas has not been sufficient to alleviate the situation. A 5th consecutive below-average season is very likely, which will aggravate the drought conditions.

Given the depressed rains, most areas continue to experience significant vegetation deficits as reflected by the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) in Map 8. There is limited rangeland recovery and regeneration of pastures and browsing for livestock. For instance, in **Kenya's** ASAL areas, the pastures and browse remain poor and worse off compared to previous years and may not last long due to livestock and wildlife concentration.⁴⁰ In **Somalia**, water and pasture/browse shortages are expected to persist across agropastoral areas and pastoral areas, causing widespread abnormal livestock migration patterns towards riverine areas, that received some *Deyr* rains and areas that receive *Karan* and *Axis* rains in the northwest. However, the atypical influx of livestock migrating from drought-affected areas will drive faster deterioration/depletion. As a result, the livestock recovery process will be slow, affecting the production, availability, and consumption of milk among the pastoral and agropastoral communities. The livestock prices are also generally low in drought-affected areas due to poor body conditions⁴¹, denying households the opportunity to raise money to access food.

Inadequate availability of pasture has led to over **9.5 million** livestock deaths since the drought started (4.0 million in **Ethiopia**, 3 million in **Somalia**, and 2.5 million in **Kenya**) eroding the livelihood assets depended upon by pastoralists for food. This is in addition to millions of others at risk and with reduced production and productivity due to weakened body condition.

Similarly, despite the light to moderate rains, most areas in the ASALs of **Kenya**, southern Ethiopia, and Somalia continue to face severe water shortages. The USGS/Fews Net water point monitoring system shows that most water points still have an inadequate amount of water⁴² (Map 9) to cater to human, livestock, and wildlife consumption needs. About **23.75 million** people in the region cannot access adequate water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning, which also increases incidences of water-borne diseases.⁴³ Water scarcity is expected to continue into early 2023.

The short rains are the main production season in marginal agricultural areas of Kenya, accounting for 70 percent of annual crop production.⁴⁴ The rains also support a sizeable proportion of the annual production in southern Somalia, particularly in Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Gedo, Middle and Lower Juba, and Middle and Lower Shebelle regions. The below-average seasonal rainfall performance across **Kenya** and **Somalia** has greatly affected agricultural activities and crop development. The delayed start and depressed rains led to late planting and reduced area planting. By mid-November, the FAO GIEWS⁴⁵ showed that planted crops in southern Somalia and along the Kenya coast were facing drought stress (Map 5).

⁴⁰ NDMA Kenya. [Drought deteriorates in Kenya and the Horn of Africa \(May-June 2022\)](#)

⁴¹ Ibid

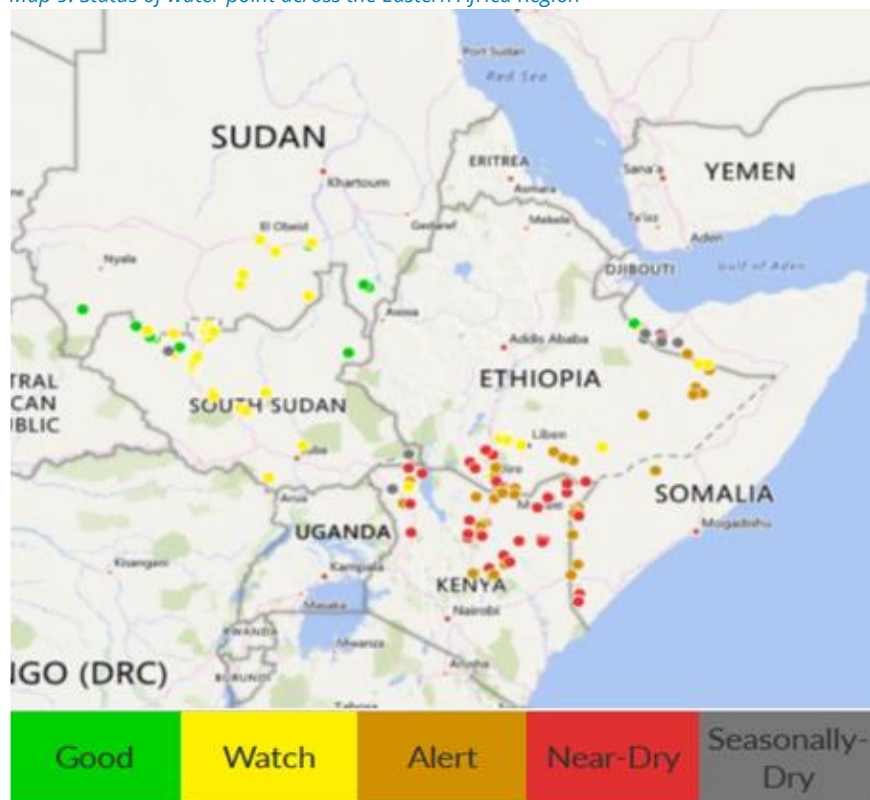
⁴² USGS USAID/FEWSNET. [CHIRPS waterpoint](#)

⁴³ OCHA. [Horn of Africa Drought: Regional Humanitarian Overview & Call to Action, 28 November 2022](#)

⁴⁴ The short/Deyr rains are the main production season in marginal agricultural areas of Kenya, accounting for 70 percent of annual crop production

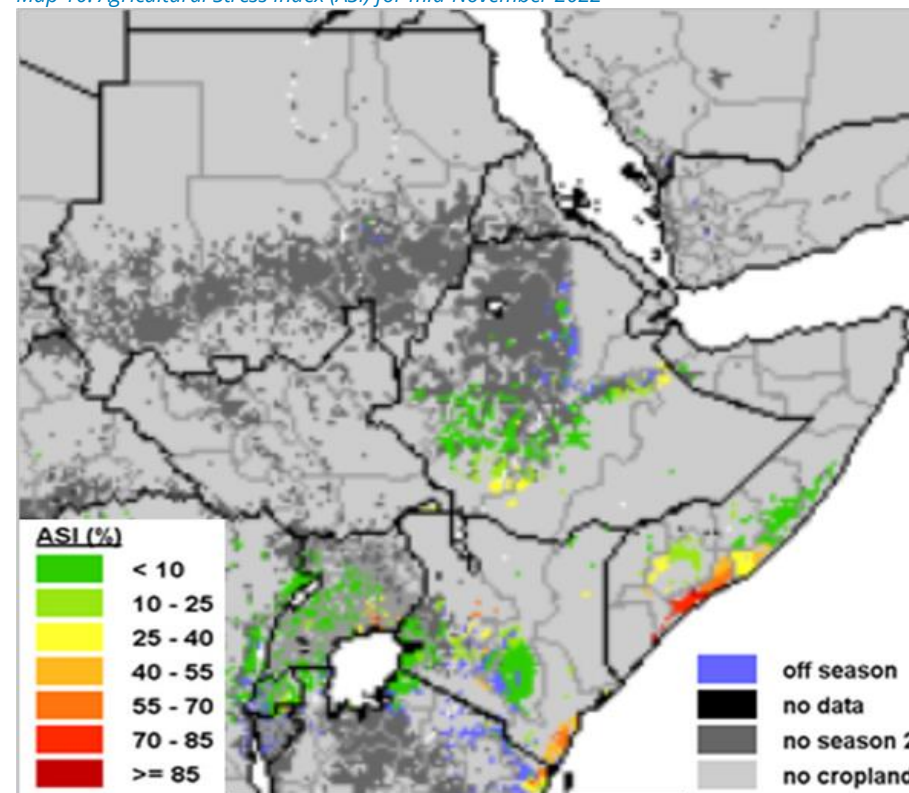
⁴⁵ FAO GIEWS. [Earth Observation, November 2022](#)

Map 9: Status of water point across the Eastern Africa Region



Source: USGS USAID/FEWSNET.

Map 10: Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) for mid-November 2022



Source: FAO GIEWS

In **Somalia**, the drought conditions pushed households to migrate in search of humanitarian assistance, alternative livelihoods, or for pastures and water for livestock, which has limited wage labour availability to attend crops.⁴⁶ There is a concern in marginal agricultural areas of **Kenya**, **Somalia**, and southern **Ethiopia** due to delayed rainfall onset and the dry conditions that are forecast to continue through February 2023 because it will negatively impact crop development and maturation leading to a fifth consecutive below-average seasonal harvests, which will constrain food availability and market supply. The realized harvests will not meet households' food needs for long, and with limited supply, market prices will remain elevated and unaffordable, thereby prolonging the period of food insecurity into early 2023.

⁴⁶ WFP Somalia CO.

Regional Food Security and Nutrition Update – Eastern Africa Region, Update #3

In **Uganda**, the situation is mixed. The first season harvests in bimodal agricultural areas were 30-50 percent below average due to poor climatic performance over March-May 2022 season.⁴⁷ In Karamoja, crop harvests are delayed and below average largely due to the dry conditions that prevailed during the growing season, and the limited availability of production inputs.⁴⁸ The realized harvests will not last households for long before they start depending on markets despite food prices being still high owing to limited supply.

While the equatorial areas are affected by droughts, the northern parts of the region (particularly South Sudan and Sudan) continue to experience the effects of floods following enhanced rains over the June-September period. In **Sudan**, the wetter-than-normal rains over June-September favourably supported crop production despite causing massive floods in 16 of the 18 states impacting 349,000 people, 4,800 heads of livestock, and over 12,100 feddans (about 5,100 hectares) of agricultural lands,⁴⁹ which will impact on the seasonal harvests in affected areas. The national food production is expected to be better than last year. However, the impact of floods and reduced food production in localized areas will have additional pressure on states currently with a high number of food-insecure populations.⁵⁰

In **South Sudan**, parts of Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile, and Warrap states have experienced consecutive flooding since 2019. This year, severe flooding extended to areas not previously affected including Eastern and Western Equatoria states, which led to over 900,000 people being impacted, and thousands of croplands inundated.⁵¹ Most affected crops are those planted in lowlands as well as those that were in the early stages of development when the floods started. In areas where flood waters from previous years had not receded, access to farmlands for crop planting was hindered. The effect of reduced planting and crop damages is expected to result in below-average crop harvests by end of this year, which comes at a time when the country is facing severe food insecurity due to impacts of conflicts, macroeconomic challenges, and past flooding events.

In **Ethiopia**, the climatic conditions over the *Meher* growing season were favourable for crop production and normal harvests are expected except in areas affected by conflicts and socio-economic challenges (Tigray, Afar, and Amhara) or by drought conditions in southern Oromiya, southern SNNPR and Somali regions where crops are unlikely to recover. Similarly, localized below-average crop production is expected in areas affected by flooding such as the 12 woredas and in the regional capital of Gambella where they damaged farmlands in addition to displacing over 185,200 people.⁵² The impact of displacement and reduced food production will have a negative impact on the food security status of affected populations.

⁴⁷ FAO GIEWS. [Country Brief: Uganda, October 2022](#)

⁴⁸ FEWS NET. [Uganda Food Security Outlook October 2022 to May 2023, December 2022](#)

⁴⁹ OCHA [Sudan: Weekly Floods round-up No. 9, 17 October 2022](#)

⁵⁰ IPC Sudan. [Acute Food Insecurity Situation April-May 2022 and Projections for June-September 2022 and October 2022-February 2023, June 2022](#)

⁵¹ UNHCR. [Devastation in South Sudan following fourth year of historic floods, October 2022](#)

⁵² OCHA. [Ethiopia - Gambella Region Flood Update, 21 October 2022](#)

II. Macro-Economic Shocks including the impacts of the Ukraine Crisis

Countries across the region continue to face macro-economic challenges aggravated by multiple factors including the spill-over effects of the conflict in Ukraine. This continues to negatively impact households’ purchasing power and consequently exacerbate existing food insecurity vulnerabilities. Throughout quarter three, most countries generally experienced upward price pressures with Sudan, Ethiopia, and Rwanda recording the highest annual inflation rates at 107.3, 30.7, and 23.9 percent respectively as of September 2022. Despite Sudan recording the highest annual inflation rate, this marks a significant decline from rates recorded at the same time previous year. Food prices as measured by food inflation remain high across the region with all countries at double digits while Sudan, Rwanda, and Ethiopia record the highest (See Table 1). Drivers of inflation vary across countries, however, one common factor across most countries over the reference period is elevated petroleum prices in both international and local markets which greatly affect the cost of production and transportation leading to increased commodity prices.

Food Price Remain High Across the Region

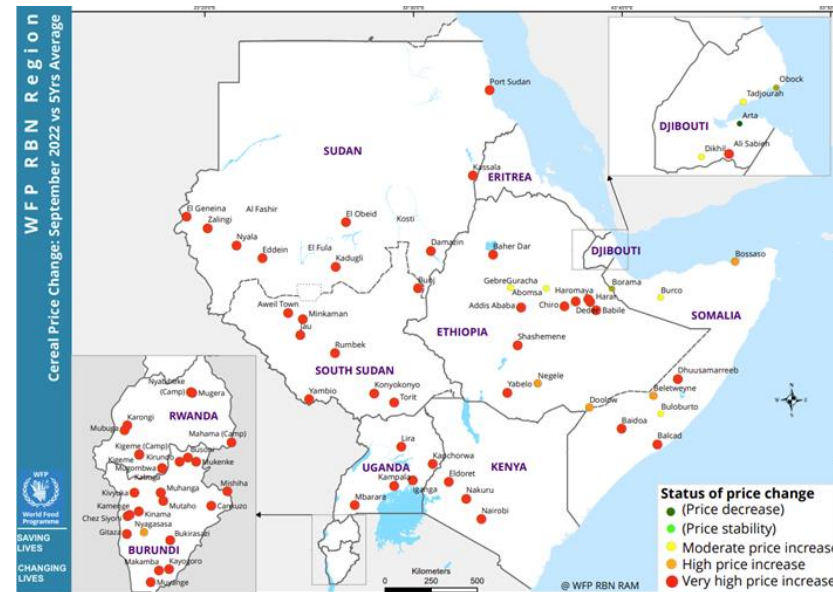
Prices of locally produced staples remained significantly higher than the long-term averages throughout the third quarter, primarily driven by ongoing drought which has significantly affected production reducing availability in local markets amongst other factors such as macro-economic challenges and spill-over effects of the Ukraine-Russia crisis. In Djibouti however, a stable economic environment and price controls helped keep food prices stable over the reference period.

Table 1: Headline and Food Inflation Rates as of Sep 2022

Country	Annual Inflation		Food Inflation	
	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-21	Sep-22
Burundi	10.5%	20.9%	13.7%	26.6%
Djibouti	2.6%	6.1%	4.7%	12.7%
Ethiopia	34.8%	30.7%	41.9%	31.0%
Kenya	6.9%	9.2%	10.6%	15.5%
Rwanda	-3.2%	23.9%	-8.4%	33.2%
Somalia	4.2%	7.2%	5.9%	16.1%
South Sudan	5.1%		0.6%	
Sudan	365.8%	107.3%	226.9%	78.6%
Uganda	2.2%	10.0%	2.9%	18.4%

Sources: National Institutes of Statistics and WFP COs

Map 11: Cereal Price Change: September 2022 against the 5-year Average



Regional Food Security and Nutrition Update – Eastern Africa Region, Update #3

Similarly, prices of imported goods remained elevated in most parts of the region despite the ease in international commodity prices observed at the beginning of the third quarter after several months of sustained upward trends largely driven by the conflict in Ukraine. For instance, in the mid of quarter three, fuel (diesel) prices remained high ranging between 52 percent in Rwanda to 180 percent in Burundi above year-earlier levels recorded despite slight ease observed in the international markets over the same period⁵³.

Currency Fluctuations

Weakening currencies against the dollar continued to drive prices and inflation high in most countries across the Eastern Africa region throughout the third quarter. While almost all currencies in the region have lost against USD on a y-o-y basis, the highest rate of depreciation was recorded in South Sudan (36.8 percent), Ethiopia (12.8 percent), and Sudan (23 percent) as of September 2022 observed higher parallel exchange rates Ethiopia's (See Table 2). Minimal m-o-m depreciation was however recorded in most countries except in Uganda and Djibouti where currencies slightly strengthened and remained stable, respectively. Currency depreciation translates to higher importation costs and widens the public debt burden which increases inflationary pressure on local economies eventually affecting the cost of the food basket and thus compounding food insecurity vulnerabilities.

Table 2: Currency Exchange Rates as of Sep 2022

Country	Currency	Type	Sep-22	Sep/Aug 2022 (m-o-m)	Sep 2022/ Sep 2021 (y-o-y)
Burundi	BIF/USD	Official	2,065	-0.2%	-2.8%
	BIF/USD	Parallel	3,500	-1.4%	4.3%
Djibouti	DJF/USD	Official	178	0.0%	0.0%
Ethiopia	ETB/USD	Official	53	-0.4%	-12.8%
	ETB/USD	Parallel	90	-11.1%	-33.9%
Kenya	KES/USD	Official	120	-0.6%	-8.4%
Rwanda	RWF/USD	Official	1,040	-0.5%	-3.3%
Somalia	SLS/USD	SOS	32,083	0.0%	-4.3%
	SOS/USD	SLS	8,500	-0.1%	0.0%
South Sudan	SSP/USD	Official	646	0.4%	-36.8%
	SSP/USD	Parallel	643	-0.8%	-36.4%
Sudan	SDG/USD	Official	574	-0.9%	-23.0%
	SDG/USD	Parallel	575	-0.9%	-22.3%
Uganda	UGX/USD	Official	3,818	0.4%	-7.5%

Sources: Central banks and WFP COs

⁵³ WFP RBN. [WFP, Eastern Africa Market and Trade Update, October 2022](#)

III. Conflict, Insecurity, and Displacement

After almost 2 years, the conflict in northern **Ethiopia** continues to disrupt the lives of millions of people. By the end of the 3rd quarter of 2022 over 13.6 million people across conflict-affected Regions of Tigray, Afar, and Amhara required food assistance. Despite a humanitarian truce declared by the Government in March 2022 by the end of August the recommencement of conflict meant that humanitarian access continued to be difficult.⁵⁴ However, the truce agreement of the 2nd of November has now allowed humanitarian access to affected regions.⁵⁵ The latest Tigray food security assessment in August found that the food security levels have plummeted since the start of the conflict: 89 percent of the households were food insecure. Those households hosting Internally Displaced People and Returnees reported the largest incidence of food insecurity, with 97 percent of hosting households and 96 percent of Returnee households food insecure.⁵⁶ The security situation has also continued to deteriorate in Somalia with the escalation of armed conflict between Al-Shabab and the alliance of Somali security forces and local militias. They claimed responsibility for twin blasts in Mogadishu that killed more than 120 people, the deadliest attack by the group in the last five years.⁵⁷ As of October 2022, there were more than 538,000 displacements related to conflict/insecurity since January 2022, mainly in Hiraaan and Galgaduud which were the highest arrival and departure regions.⁵⁸

In **South Sudan**, the ceasefire continues to hold in many parts of the country however conflict continues to affect the population. As of July 2022, there had been 257,000 people displaced due to conflict in 2022 and more than 80 percent of civilian casualties were attributed to sub-national violence and community-based militias. Those states most affected by conflict also register high levels of food insecurity.⁵⁹

In **Sudan** more than 250 people were killed, 385 injured and more than 55,000 people were displaced due to intern-communal violence in October in Western Kordofan and parts of Blue Nile. Since July 2022 in Blue Nile State, there has been a significant wave of violence that has displaced more than 97,000 people. This has also impacted significantly on livelihoods as it has led to lost goods, livestock, and/or cattle.⁶⁰

Across the region, displacement has been rising significantly. There are 17.8 million forcibly displaced people (nearly 5M Refugees, Asylum Seekers, 170,500 Returnees, and 12.8M IDPs). Uganda (1.5 million) and Sudan (1.2 million) recorded the highest number of refugees; **Ethiopia** (4.5 million), **Sudan** (3 million), **Somalia** (3 million of which 1 million due to drought), **South Sudan** (2.2 million), and **Burundi** (850,000) recorded the highest number of IDPs.⁶¹

⁵⁴ WFP Ethiopia. [WFP, Northern Ethiopia Emergency Response Situation Report #8, August-September 2022](#)

⁵⁵ UN News Ethiopia. [Peace agreement between Government and Tigray 'a critical first step': Guterres, November 2022](#)

⁵⁶ WFP Ethiopia. [WFP, Emergency Food Security Assessment – Tigray Ethiopia, July 2022](#)

⁵⁷ UNHCR. [Somalia Operational Update, 31st October 2022](#)

⁵⁸ UNHCR. [Somalia Internal Displacement Dashboard, October 2022](#)

⁵⁹ OCHA. [South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023, November 2022](#)

⁶⁰ OCHA. [Sudan situation Report, November 2022](#)

⁶¹ UNHCR. [Regional Dashboard: Refugees, returnees, and internally displaced persons in the IGAD region, 30th September 2022](#)

Food Security and Nutrition Outlook (April-June 2022)

The multiple shocks the Region is facing could further deteriorate an already fragile food security situation. La Niña conditions for the third year in a row raise concerns about repeat dry conditions in Eastern Africa. As weather forecasts point to below-average rains for the remainder of 2022 and high chances for below-normal March-April-May (MAM) 2023 rainfall; production prospects continue to be unfavourable in several countries across the Region, mainly in **Somalia** and south-eastern **Kenya**.⁶² In pastoral and agropastoral areas of southern **Ethiopia**, central and northern **Somalia**, and northern and eastern **Kenya**, consistent and expansive wet conditions are required for drought recovery for human health, livestock, and agricultural activities. However, poor October–December rains hampered the regeneration of rangeland and water resources and only marginally improved livestock body condition.⁶³ Floods and conflicts are also contributing to localized production shortfalls, mainly in **South Sudan**, **Sudan**, and **Uganda**. In addition, the prolonged period of high fertilizer prices has reduced purchases by farmers, resulting in lower usage throughout the year and eventually impacting crop development and harvest for the 2023 harvest.

Armed localized protracted conflict and insecurity are expected to continue to affect access to markets and disrupt agricultural activities in **South Sudan**, **Sudan**, and **Ethiopia**.

Economic prospects for the Region in 2023 remain uncertain and are tied to developments in the global economy, mainly in terms of policy response of the world's largest economies to elevated inflation; developments of the conflict in Ukraine, and the ongoing lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁴ Inflationary pressures are expected to remain elevated until the end of the year and into 2023 due to ongoing drought, depreciation of domestic currencies, and higher fuel and energy prices, with differences across countries.

Countries of concern

Ethiopia:⁶⁵ Ethiopia will continue to experience one of the world's worst humanitarian emergencies due to the combination of protracted conflict in the north, prolonged drought in the south and southeast, and poor economic conditions. Tigray will remain the area of highest concern due to conflict, displacement, and high food prices. Food security and sustainability of income sources of pastoralist households in drought-affected areas are also of concern as depletion of water sources and minimal pasture has led to increasingly poor to emaciated livestock body conditions while reducing the availability of milk and making livestock increasingly unsellable. Shortage of hard currency and low foreign reserves are likely to result in further depreciation of the ETB and drive poor macroeconomic conditions until the end of 2022. This coupled with high fuel prices and transportation costs following the reduction in fuel subsidies is expected to keep the annual inflation rate high.

⁶² GEOGLAM.

⁶³ FAO. [Crop Prospects and Food Situation Quarterly Global Report, December 2022](#)

⁶⁴ World Bank. [Regional Economic Outlook – Sub-Saharan Africa, October 2022](#)

⁶⁵ FEWS NET. [Ethiopia Food Security Outlook – June to January 2023](#)

Regional Food Security and Nutrition Update – Eastern Africa Region, Update #3

Kenya:⁶⁶ Following a decline in pasture, forage, and water resources, livestock migration is likely to intensify in pastoralist areas across ASAL, reducing milk production while increasing the chances of disease and conflict over scarce resources. Poor crop production following the prolonged drought and above-average staple food and energy prices are likely to persist through 2023, further constraining households' purchasing power and access to food and other basic needs.

Rwanda:⁶⁷ Due to the sharp increase of agricultural inputs and fuel since the conflict in Ukraine started, many farmers are likely to reduce the size of planted areas, which will lead to a reduction in Season A 2023 crop yields and early depletion of food stocks. Higher costs of living are equally affecting rural and urban households and are likely to continue to limit access to food and non-food items through 2023.

Somalia:⁶⁸ Dry and hot conditions during the October-December *Deyr* rainy season will exacerbate water shortages and livestock body conditions while causing localized conflict over scarce resources and further displacement. Pastoralists are of particular concern as their food consumption deficits are likely to increase amid high food prices and increased costs to keep their livestock alive. Milk consumption and sales will also be extremely low given the critical livestock body condition. Production prospects for the January 2023 harvest are poor following below-average *Deyr* rains and reduced usage of costly agricultural inputs. Higher-than-average local and imported staple food prices will continue to constrain household purchasing power through 2023.

South Sudan:⁶⁹ The country is likely to continue to face one of the most severe food security emergencies due to recurrent shocks and limited capacity to recover. Despite the ongoing harvest, food security will only marginally improve until early 2023 due to protracted conflict, flooding, and high food prices.

Sudan:⁷⁰ Until January 2023, food security is likely to improve relative to the lean season as food availability increases with the start of harvest and the price of local produce goes down. Yet, prices of food and non-food items are likely to remain well above average, eroding households' purchasing power and being the main driver of needs in early 2023.

⁶⁶ FEWS NET. [Kenya Food Security Outlook – June to January 2023](#)

⁶⁷ FEWS NET. [Rwanda Remote Monitoring Update, October 2022](#)

⁶⁸ FEWS NET. [Somalia Food Security Outlook – June to January 2023](#)

⁶⁹ FEWS NET. [South Sudan Food Security Outlook – June to January 2023](#)

⁷⁰ FEWS NET. [Sudan Food Security Outlook – June to January 2023](#)

For further information:

Siddharth Krishnaswamy

Regional RAM Adviser

siddharth.krishnaswamy@wfp.org

Edith Amondi

Market Analyst

edith.amondi@wfp.org

Cinzia Monetta

VAM Officer

cinzia.monetta@wfp.org

Zaccheus Ndirima

GIS Officer

zaccheus.ndirima@wfp.org

Cyprian Ouma

Nutrition Officer

cyprian.ouma@wfp.org