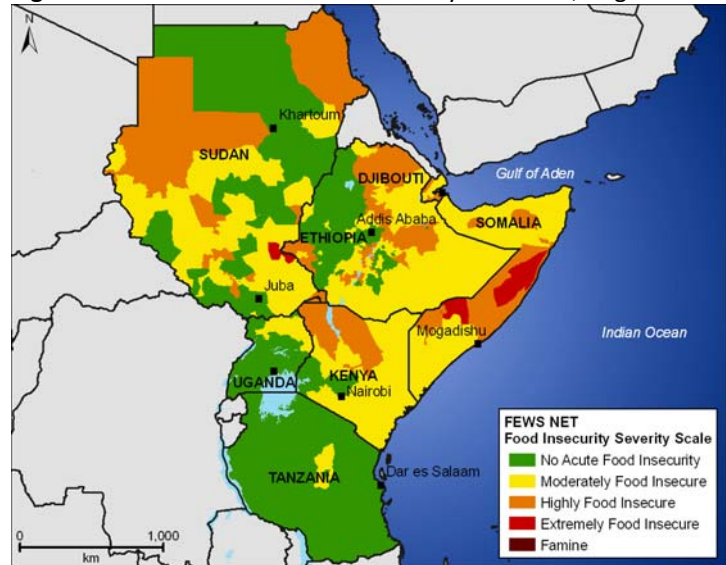


## EAST AFRICA Regional Food Security Outlook July to December 2010

- Following normal to above-normal rainfall in most parts of the region, favorable crop harvests are expected. Rangeland conditions have also benefitted, leading to further improvements in food security conditions in many parts of the region over the last several months (Figure 1).
- However, as the lean season peaks during the July to September period in many areas, levels of food insecurity are generally expected to remain high. Millions of people will continue to rely on food assistance to meet basic food needs as household food stocks and food availability are expected to be low, and cereal prices will likely remain above the recent five-year average. However, food security conditions are likely to improve in southeastern Ethiopia, particularly Somali Region; inland areas of Djibouti; and pastoral and agropastoral areas of Somalia, with the exception of the Northeast and Central regions. In these areas, improved livestock conditions will provide access to livestock products as well as income. In the first season cropping areas of Western, Central, and Eastern Equatoria in Southern Sudan and in bimodal areas of Uganda, conditions are also expected to improve due to incoming harvests and increased labor opportunities.

**Figure 1.** Current estimated food security outcomes, August 2010



Source: FEWS NET  
For more information on FEWS NET's Food Insecurity Severity Scale, please see: [www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale](http://www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale)

- Food security is likely to improve in most parts of the region from October to December as main season harvests take place, employment opportunities increase, and prices of food staples tend to decline. However, forecasts for the October to December rains indicate the probability of below-normal rains in the eastern sector of the region due to a developing La Niña event. In addition to negatively impacting crop production for the early 2011 harvests, below-normal rains are likely to result in shortages of water and pasture and deterioration in pastoralist terms of trade. Above-normal precipitation is expected in the northern and western sector of the region, which could result in good crop production, but would also reduce market access and increase the risk of flooding and waterborne diseases.

### Most likely food security scenario (July-December, 2010)

#### Eastern pastoral areas

In the livestock-dependent eastern sector of the region, though pastoral livelihood groups have experienced improved food and income access due to enhanced rangeland conditions (Figure 2), the traditional lean season from July to September will likely affect milk production, and hence pastoral households' access to food and income. Most of the pastoral livelihood zones in the region experience dry spells at this time of the year, which affect rangeland resources. Increased distance between pasture and water points lead to poor livestock body condition and hence poor productivity and value.

However, the recent lifting of a decade-long livestock import ban by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States will

likely open a new opportunity for livestock export. Pastoral households in northern Somalia and parts of the Somali region of Ethiopia will likely benefit directly or indirectly from the improved livestock trade during the peak Hajj season export between October and December. Livestock prices are therefore likely to increase significantly during this period, thereby improving terms of trade and pastoral household food access. However, poor pastoral households previously affected by the drought and destitute families who lost livestock assets are unlikely to benefit from the improved access to export markets and high livestock prices as they have no animals to sell. These households will continue to require humanitarian support through the end of the year.

The performance of the short rains in the eastern sector of the region (most of the Horn and eastern Africa sub-region) is expected to be below normal due to the presence of the recently declared La Niña event, which is associated with drier-than-normal conditions. La Niña conditions typically result in a significant delay to the rains in the eastern sector and overall erratic and poor rainfall performance. Poor short rains would adversely affect the short-rains dependent areas (pastoral and marginal agricultural areas), and would halt the recovery slowly taking place in pastoral areas. Furthermore, the 2011 long rains prospects are also likely to be impacted by La Niña conditions, depending on the intensity and duration of the event.

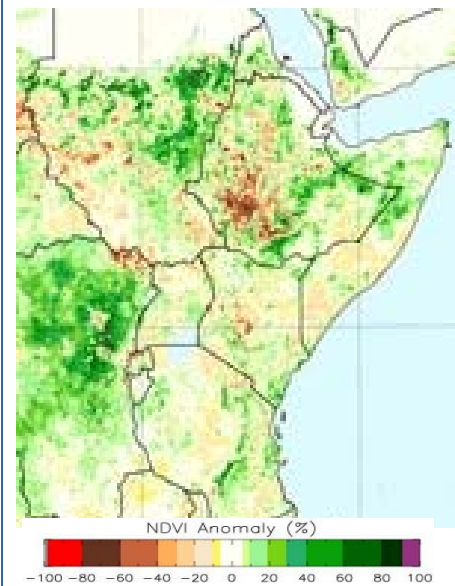
A La Niña event through the end of the year could lead to deterioration in rangeland conditions, especially in central Somalia, parts of northeast Kenya, and the Somali region of Ethiopia, where recent droughts resulted in serious environmental degradation. The livestock sector (herd sizes) is currently expected to recover due to increased conception rates for all livestock species. However the survival rates of young calves, kids and lambs could be in danger if the next rains fail due to the La Niña. This scenario does not auger well for many parts of the region that are still recovering from the severe impacts of several consecutive seasons of poor rainfall. Close monitoring of the progress of the La Niña event is needed to determine the severity of the event, and the potential impacts in these areas.

Therefore, in the most likely scenario between October to December in pastoral and agropastoral communities in south-central Somalia, southeastern Ethiopia (particularly Somali Region), northeastern pastoral areas of Kenya, inland areas of Djibouti, and the Karamoja region of Uganda, conditions would deteriorate toward the end of the quarter if the short rains are poor. In those regions, though livestock conditions had already improved, below-normal rains soon after the end of the drought would begin to reverse the gains made so far by the pastoral sector.

**Northern/western sector of the region**

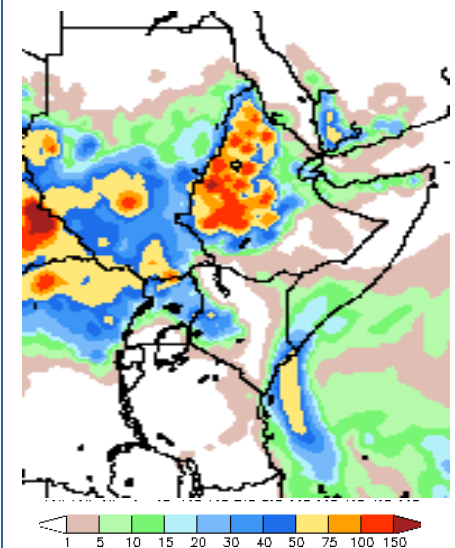
In the northern/western sector of the region (Sudan and parts of Ethiopia), satellite-derived rainfall estimates indicate above-normal rainfall performance in main cropping and pastoral areas, where the June–September season contributes more than 50 percent of annual rainfall. In contrast to the impact of the La Niña event in the eastern sector of the region, the *meher* season (June–September) in the northern and western sector of the region is likely to be favorable. According to the Global Forecast System (GFS), the rains are forecast (Figure 3) to continue until late September. These rains will continue to support good crop performance (Figure 4) as well as increase water recharge and pasture regeneration in pastoral areas. However, the rains also increase

**Figure 2.** Vegetation conditions, July 2010



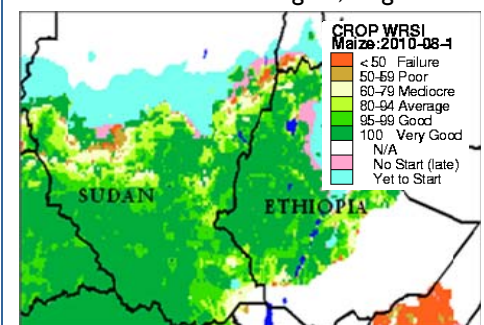
Source: USGS/FEWS NET

**Figure 3.** Seven-day forecast valid up to August 19, 2010 (total precipitation, mm)



Source: NOAA/CPC

**Figure 4.** Crop conditions in the northern sector of the region, Aug. 2010



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

the occurrence of localized flooding in parts of Ethiopia and Sudan. In these areas, above-average rainfall would bring the risk of flooding, flood damage, soil erosion, and associated increases in malaria and waterborne diseases. Excess rainfall would also disrupt access to markets, further reduce grain supplies, and restrict humanitarian access to food insecure populations.

Food security conditions in Northern Sudan are likely to deteriorate during July to September, the peak lean season, and to improve during October to December with the harvest. In Southern Sudan, food security conditions are expected to deteriorate during the peak hunger season of July/August. However, conditions are likely to improve beginning in August in Eastern, Central, and Western Equatoria states. In all other states, conditions are likely to improve during September and October when early cycle crops mature for consumption, but not for displaced households, who are not likely to cultivate this cropping season. However, in both Northern and Southern Sudan, the above-average rains and impacts of potential floods may moderate food security improvements during this period.

**Cropping areas**

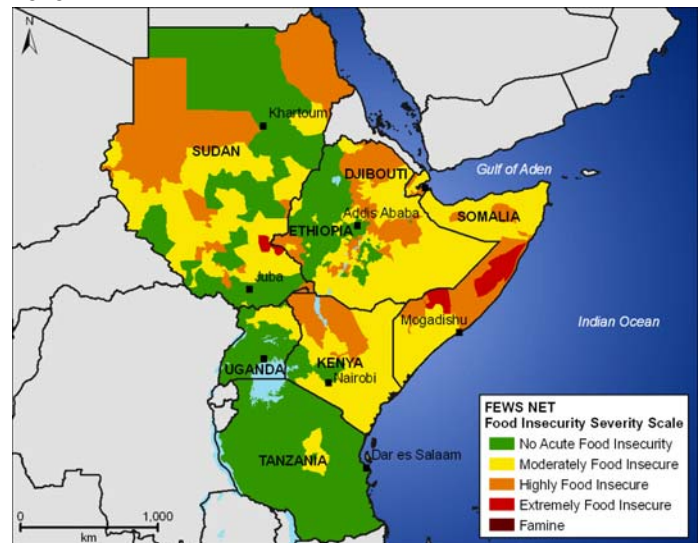
In cropping areas, following the above-normal harvests in many areas, there has been significant improvement in food availability and overall food security conditions. In particular, Tanzania, Uganda and parts of Kenya experienced good harvests.

In the most likely scenario from July to September, the food security situation will remain stable in most of the cropping areas, especially most of Tanzania, the bimodal areas of Uganda, and the cropping districts of Kenya, western Ethiopia, southern Somalia, and western parts of Southern Sudan. Despite localized flooding in parts of Kenya, southern Somalia, and parts of Ethiopia (Gode and Afar zones and SNNP), which resulted in destruction of infrastructure, food stores, and standing crops, good seasonal rains during March to May are expected to result in good cereal harvests. Exceptions are, however, the *meher* cropping areas of SNNP in Ethiopia, parts of marginal cropping areas of Kenya, and parts of southern Somalia, where crops performed poorly during the last season due to below-normal rains. In parts of the southeastern marginal agricultural areas of Kenya, where aflatoxin has affected grain stores, food insecurity will remain moderate through September.

From October to December, farming communities in these regions will have enough cereal stocks to last them through early next year. During this period some improvements are also expected in northeastern and northern Uganda although the recovery is limited by the lingering effects of past droughts and chronic food insecurity resulting from the effects of civil insecurity that have been experienced in the region.

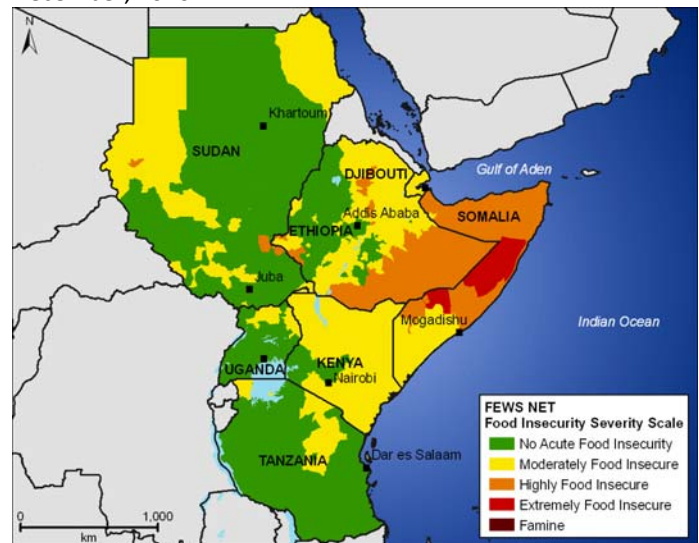
Cereal prices are expected to decline during the last quarter of the year in response to increased seasonal supplies, especially in Kenya, Tanzania, and bimodal areas of Uganda. The low prices occurring in those main producing areas would boost food security for the net-food importing countries through cross-border trade. However, staple food prices will likely remain high in marginal cropping areas and most of the remote areas where the transport network is poor.

**Figure 5.** Most likely food security scenario, July–September, 2010



Source: FEWS NET

**Figure 6.** Most likely food security scenario, September–December, 2010



Source: FEWS NET

In the most likely scenario, conflict and civil insecurity-affected areas of south-central Somalia are likely to witness a severe deterioration in their food security through the end of the year. Disruptions of market and trade flows will continue to push prices of staple foods higher, leading to reduced food access. High food prices coupled with reduced income opportunities will likely increase malnutrition rates.

**Table 1: Less likely events over the next six months that could change the above scenarios**

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Northern sector of the region (Sudan and western Ethiopia)	July-September rains are below normal.	Poor rains during the critical stage of grain setting would affect overall crop performance, leading to poor harvests.
Eastern sector of the region (Main Agricultural areas—Western Kenya, southern Somali region of Ethiopia)	October to December short rains are above normal.	Above-normal rainfall would lead to another season of improved harvests, which would contribute to increased cereal availability and continued food security improvements.