



REGIONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE
HORN OF AFRICA
AND GREAT LAKES

APRIL - JUNE 2017



Cover Photo:

3 February 2016, Ula Arba kebele, Ziway Dugda district, Arsi zone, Oromia region, Ethiopia.

Hussein is resident in Ziway Dugda district with a population of 149,000 people. About 82,000 people (55 per cent) require emergency food assistance. The price of livestock has gone down by 80 per cent while the price of cereals have increased three-fold.

"This drought is the worst we have experienced in for 30 years", says Hussein

Credit: OCHA/ Charlotte Cans

CONTENTS

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
II. DRIVERS OF HUMANITARIAN NEED	7
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND CONFLICT	7
CLIMATE AND NATURAL DISASTERS	9
ECONOMIC SHOCKS	13
III. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS	16
DISPLACEMENT	16
FOOD SECURITY AND MALNUTRITION	20
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE OUTBREAKS	24
PROTECTION	25
IV. RESPONSE CONSTRAINTS	27
HUMANITARIAN ACCESS	27
FUNDING	29

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

East Africa faces one of the biggest humanitarian crises in its history. The number of people in need of food assistance has increased to 26.5 million and the number of refugees who have sought protection in the Horn of Africa region has increased by 640,000 people to 4.4 million over the past six months.¹ An additional 3 million people were internally displaced during the past eight months. This is driven by successive episodes of drought and failed harvests, conflict, insecurity and economic shocks affecting the most vulnerable. Humanitarian needs are expected to increase in the months ahead.

Recent rainfall has been insufficient to compensate for the delayed start of the rainy season, which brought below average levels of precipitation in March and April. The current drought in the Horn is largely comparable to that of October to November 2010 that peaked in 2011 with grave humanitarian needs. Extensive growing season failures and record low vegetation are observed across **Somalia, southeastern Ethiopia and coastal Kenya.** Northern and western Kenya, southwestern Ethiopia and eastern Uganda are also affected, although with more moderate consequences. Extensive livestock deaths have been reported. April field reports from Somalia indicate that, due to distress selling and livestock deaths, households in northern and central areas have lost 40 to 60 per cent of their livestock and households in southern regions 20 to 40 per cent of their herds, since the Deyr 2016/17 assessment.

The number of people in Integrated Phase Classification Crisis (IPC) phase 3, 4 and 5 has increased significantly to 26.5 million – a 62 per cent increase compared to a year ago (16.4 million in May 2016). In South Sudan a famine affecting 90,000 people in Unity State was declared in February. Conditions in South Sudan continue to deteriorate with 5.5 million people expected to be severely food insecure in July – the peak of the lean season. The situation in Somalia has deteriorated and is of particular concern: 3.2 million people face Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity (up from 2.9 million) and **severe drought, rising prices, continued access limitations, and depressed rain forecasts suggest an elevated risk of famine in Somalia in 2017.²** The food insecure population in Ethiopia has increased from 5.6 to 7.8 million following a poor start to the rainy season. This number is expected to increase further for the second half of the year. In Burundi, 2.6 million people are food insecure, including 700,000 in IPC Emergency Phase 4 and in Kenya 2.6 million are acutely food insecure.

Food insecurity is set to worsen due to continued conflict, a possible El-Niño and the Fall Armyworm infestation. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the probability of El-Niño occurring in the autumn is at 50 to 60 per cent. It is expected to affect Ethiopia, northern Kenya, Somalia, western Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and southwestern South Sudan. The Fall Armyworm has appeared in western Kenya, southwestern Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda and central and western Uganda. In Uganda, it affects 54 districts, attacking up to 40 per cent of maize farms in some areas.

Acute malnutrition, especially among refugees and children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers remains a major concern in many parts of South Sudan, Sudan (Darfur, Kordofan region, and Eastern Sudan), northern Kenya and Uganda's Karamoja

1. Refugees and asylum seekers

2 FSNAU/FEWSNET SOMALIA Food Security Alert May 9, 2017 (http://www.fews.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/FSNAU-FEWS%20NET%20Alert_05092017_0.pdf)

region. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates in South Sudan are above the 15 per cent emergency threshold in seven of the ten states, reaching 33 per cent in northern Bahr el-Ghazal. Over 1.1 million South Sudanese children under five are acutely malnourished this year. Kenya is facing a nutrition crisis with GAM rates exceeding 30 per cent in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL). In Somalia, the projected number of acutely malnourished children has shot up by 50 per cent since the beginning of the year to 1.4 million, including over 275,000 who have or will suffer life-threatening severe acute malnutrition in 2017.

Conflict is pervasive and spreading in South Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), while Kenya faces the risk of election-related violence in 2017. Insecurity and conflict are likely to increase in South Sudan due to the fragmentation of Government and armed groups. The emergence of new groups could lead to rising levels of insecurity and conflict in the long term. However, as much of the country's access routes are impassable from April to November, a short-term reduction in fighting is expected during the current rainy season. Serious abuses against civilians in South Sudan have been reported, including killing, torture, rape and other forms of SGBV, recruitment of child soldiers, and destruction of property and livelihoods. The December 2016 power-sharing agreement in DRC has effectively collapsed and the elections planned for 2017 will likely be postponed. Conflict has intensified between the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and the Kamuina Nsapu militia in Kasai province, and between Twa and Luba communities in Tanganyika. Resource scarcity in northern Kenya, coupled with the upcoming elections in August 2017, increases the risk of conflict and violence. Al-Shabaab is growing stronger in Somalia and attacks against civilians, NGOs and security forces will likely increase. A recent Government announcement on increased military offensives against al-Shabaab may further increase insecurity in Somalia. In Burundi, conflict is not out in the open but significant human rights violations continued to be reported. In Ethiopia, the situation remains relatively stable but the state of emergency in place since October 2016 was further extended at the end of March for four months. Conflict has reduced in Sudan since mid-2016 due to the unilateral cessation of hostilities announced by the Government of Sudan and some armed movements.

Nearly 640,000 people have sought protection since the start of 2017, making a total of 4.4 million refugees and asylum seekers in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region. The majority of the newly displaced are from South Sudan and Burundi, with South Sudan being the fastest growing refugee crisis globally. Almost 2 million people are internally displaced in South Sudan, and more than 1.9 million South Sudanese have fled the country as refugees and asylum seekers since December 2013. This has led to a revision of the South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP). Humanitarian partners anticipate 2.13 million South Sudanese refugees by the end of 2017. Nearly 65,000 Burundians have sought refuge since the start of the year bringing the total number of new refugees to 408,857.

More than 3 million people have become internally displaced in the region as a result of conflict and drought. Conflict in DRC has displaced more than 1.6 million people since August 2016 in the Kasai and Tanganyika provinces. **Almost a million people have been displaced by drought conditions, predominantly internally.** Over 739,000 people have been displaced in Somalia as a result of drought since November 2016, while nearly 200,000 people have been displaced in Ethiopia due to drought since the beginning of the year.

Consecutive droughts, failed harvests and livestock losses have **eroded the coping capacity of the most vulnerable households.** Whereas Government response capacity is much greater than in 2010/11 (for example both the Kenyan and Ethiopian Governments have allocated significant funds to meet humanitarian need) the scale of the current crisis exceeds that

increased capacity.

Simultaneous disease outbreaks persist with cross-border implications, including malaria, cholera/AWD and measles, challenging the region's already overstretched healthcare facilities. A malaria epidemic was declared in Burundi in March 2017. Since January, more than 2.2 million cases and 1,000 deaths have been reported. A significant reduction of donor funding to Burundi's health budget limits its capacity to deal with the epidemic. Borderlands in the Horn and Great Lakes are at sustained risk for further outbreaks, taking into account current displacement and migration routes, the presence of vulnerable people in marginalized areas with limited access to basic services, and an increasing refugee population. Somalia is facing an Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD)/Cholera outbreak in 12 of its 18 regions affecting more than 45,400 and killing 738 people since the beginning of the year. In Ethiopia, over 35,000 AWD cases have been reported in six regions, of which nearly 90 per cent in Somali region. Discovery of Ebola in DRC, bordering the Central African Republic, could have catastrophic impacts in the region if the disease affects refugees and IDPs. As of 13 June, five confirmed cases and three probable and one suspected case have been reported. Of the confirmed and probable cases, four survived and four died, resulting in a case fatality rate of 50 per cent.

Record unmet financial requirements are putting lives at risk. Refugee appeals are particularly underfunded, which is hampering the response. Overall funding requirements have increased to US\$8.3 billion, which is less than 25 per cent funded, with US\$6.3 billion unmet needs. Funding requirements increased after a revision of the Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the South Sudan Refugee Response Plan (RRRP), and the launch of the Kenya Flash Appeal. The Ethiopia Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) may need revision to address increased needs following the completion of the ongoing assessment.

The humanitarian space continues to be constrained across the region due to insecurity and bureaucratic impediments, especially in South Sudan, Somalia and Sudan. Between January and April 2017, there were 213 access incidents in South Sudan with at least eight humanitarian convoys attacked and 15 staff killed. Four aid workers were declared persona non grata, expelled or deported from South Sudan in November and December 2016, including the Country Director of Norwegian Refugee Council and another senior staff member. During that period, there were also reports of aid workers being denied access to areas in Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Western Equatoria. Attacks by armed and listed terrorist groups, including al-Shabaab along the Kenya and Somalia border have increased. Since the beginning of May, it is estimated that at least 30 people have been killed in such incidents, including two INGO staff. **In Sudan, humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states remains limited** due to a lack of agreement between the Government and non-state armed groups on cross-line humanitarian access and aid provision modalities to those areas, despite the unilateral cessation of hostilities. **Access remains constrained in eastern DRC** due to insecurity and budget challenges.

II. DRIVERS OF HUMANITARIAN NEED

The humanitarian crisis in the region continues to be driven by three factors: conflict, climate and natural disasters, and economic shocks. Conflicts continued in South Sudan, Somalia and DRC. Drought persisted in Somalia, northern Kenya and parts of Burundi, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Weak economic performance, including negative growth in South Sudan and Burundi, coupled with high food prices signal growing humanitarian needs and tough times for affected populations.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND CONFLICT

Violence continued to spread across South Sudan, with particularly intense fighting in the greater Equatoria region causing record displacement to Uganda. In Jonglei, clashes have recently reached new locations, including Motot, Waat and Yau. A political power struggle continues to fragment down ethnic lines, further complicating localised political and military dynamics. Reports indicate that attacks on civilians are carried out by all parties to the conflict. Civilians are deliberately and systematically targeted on the basis of their ethnicity for killing, abduction, unlawful detention, deprivation of liberty, sexual violence including rape, the burning of their villages, and looting.³

Legislative elections in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** scheduled for July 2017 were postponed to later in the year. Despite a call by stakeholders, including the Security Council,⁴ for implementation of the December 2016 power-sharing agreement, the cost of elections and challenges in voter registration are likely to delay elections beyond 2017. Voter registration has been hindered by fighting, notably in North Kivu and Kasai provinces. According to FEWSNET, current food prices are above normal and are still on the rise against the backdrop of an economic crisis shaped by the sharp depreciation of the Congolese franc against the US dollar.

Fighting in the eastern part of DRC between the Congolese army and rebels has forced tens of thousands of people to flee areas in Tanganyika, Haut-Katanga, the Kivus, and in the Kasai provinces. Amid a backdrop of escalating conflicts, MONUSCO's mandate was renewed for an additional year on 31 March but with a reduction of the mission's troop ceiling by some 3,600 military personnel.

Conflict involving FARDC and the Kamuina Nsapu militia in the Kasai provinces has displaced 1.3 million people since August 2016, with humanitarian needs exceeding capacity in the majority of sectors. In early May, 100,000 new IDPs were reported over a single week. Prolonged confrontation is expected as militias re-organize in response to additional troop deployments. The conflict in the Kasai is expected to continue to spill over into Angola where some 20,563 refugees have arrived since early April.

The conflict in Tanganyika between the Twa and Luba communities has displaced more than 430,000 people since August, with violence spreading to all six territories of the province. Conflict in Tanganyika and Haut-Katanga is preventing people from accessing their livelihoods and contributing to the deterioration of food security in provinces already facing crisis levels (IPC phase 3). Tanzania and Zambia may be affected by the violence in ex-Katanga region in the

³ Ibid.

⁴ <http://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/security-council-press-statement-situation-democratic-republic-3>

long run. Humanitarian access remains constrained by fighting and the threat of kidnapping and attacks on humanitarian in North Kivu, but also in Tanganyika and the Kasai where two UN experts were murdered in March.

A destabilization in DRC risks spreading insecurity across borders and affecting the entire sub-region. The re-emergence of the Rwandan-backed M23 rebellion at the border between North Kivu, Uganda and Rwanda risks causing new cross-border displacement. Internal security struggles will be compounded by increasing flows of refugees from South Sudan, Central African Republic (CAR) and Burundi.

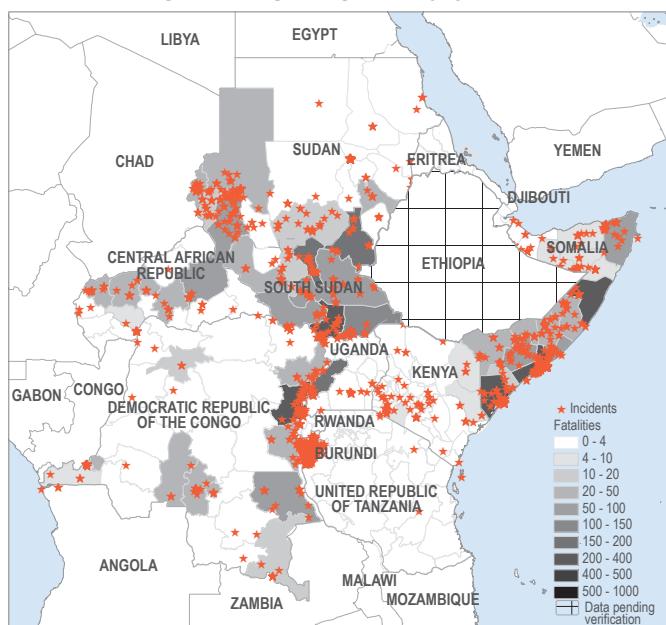
The downsizing of bilateral contingents in support of AMISOM and fragmentation of control on the ground have contributed to a highly insecure environment in **southern and central Somalia**. This is likely to worsen as a result of the ongoing drought. Al-Shabaab also attacked civilians and launched a series of attacks against NGOs on the border with Kenya. The violence has hampered cross-border humanitarian response. Government security officers were also attacked on 9 May in Baidoa town, leaving 12 dead and five injured. Military reinforcements were sent by South West State of Somalia and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The fighting disrupted voluntary returns of drought-affected IDPs from the area. Despite ongoing efforts by AMISOM and Somali security forces, Al-Shabaab remains a potent threat. It has shown resilience and adaptability, recovering from challenges and drawbacks while maintaining a united core in spite of internal squabbles and fracturing. The group's tactical evolution and growing level of sophistication in its execution of complex terrorist operations in urban and rural settings are a testament to that. Al-Shabaab has also exploited the drought to promote its own propaganda objectives.⁵

The political crisis in **Burundi** that started in 2015 and evolved into a low-intensity conflict may sharply escalate into violence with humanitarian consequences. As a negotiated political resolution to the crisis is increasingly unlikely, events such as the revision of the Constitution could trigger further destabilization. Ethnically-charged inflammatory speech used by government-affiliated youth groups may serve as a catalyst for mass atrocities. In particular, the use of rhetoric encouraging rape as a weapon of war by members of the ruling party's youth league, the *Imbonerakure*, could trigger a spike in violence targeting anyone associated with the opposition. Some 20,000 *Imbonerakure* members are allegedly involved in human rights violations throughout the country and are believed to act with total impunity. Predicting if or when an event would trigger an escalation into mass atrocities is difficult, yet the 'criteria and conditions for genocide' were already in place in November 2016 according to the International Federation for Human Rights. The political conflict has further exposed the lack of cohesion within the armed forces. While the purge of predominantly Tutsi officers opposing the regime has reduced the risk of a coup, the trend of politicization of the army is likely to lead to a slow decline of the institution, to jeopardize Burundi's role as a peacekeeping-contributing country, and to increase the risk of army mutinies. The suspension of the Movement for Solidarity and Democracy (MSD) opposition party confirms the Government's resolve to quell dissent.

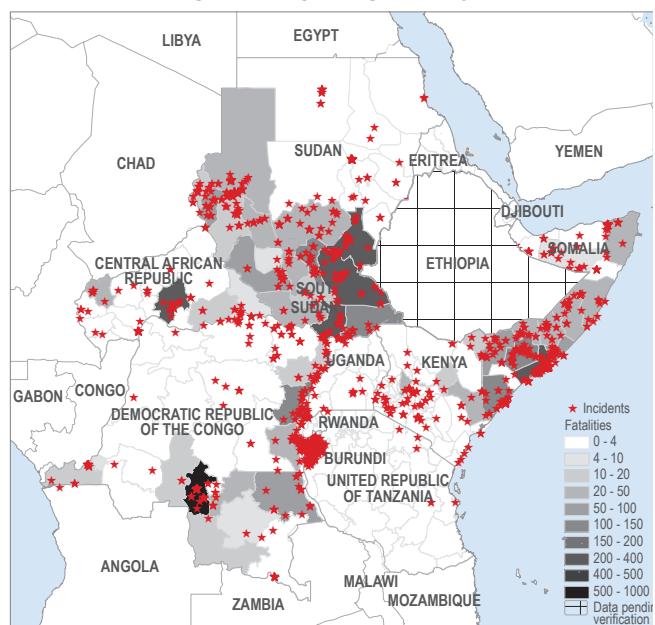
⁵ Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia

CONFLICT EVENTS MAPS

CONFLICT: OCT TO DEC 2016



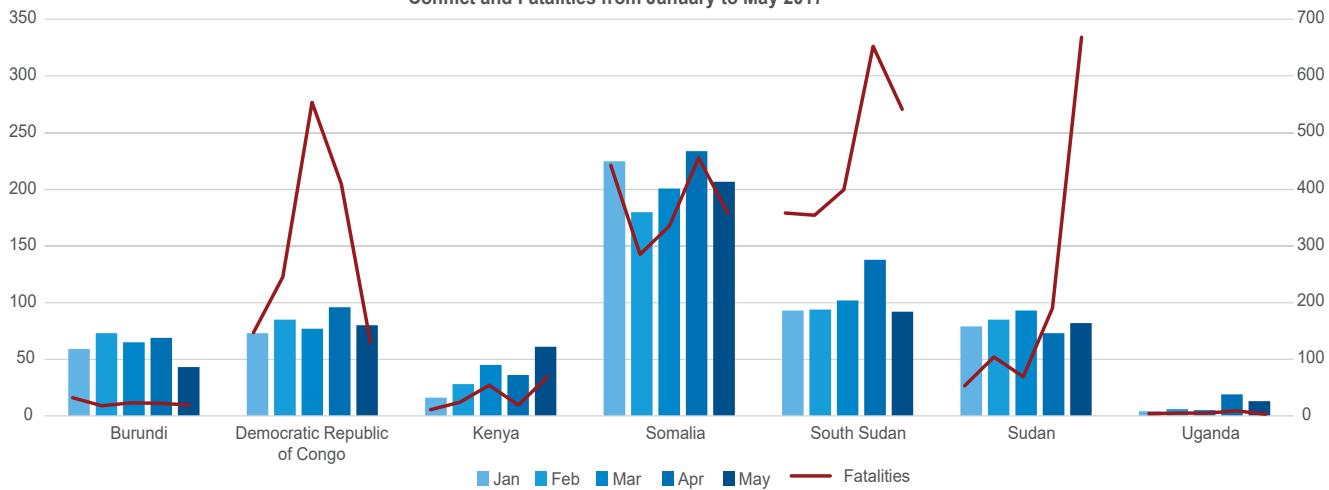
CONFLICT: JAN TO MAR 2017



Source: Armed Conflict Location and Events Database (ACLED) Creation Date: 16th May 2017

GHOA CONFLICT TREND BAR GRAPH

Conflict and Fatalities from January to May 2017

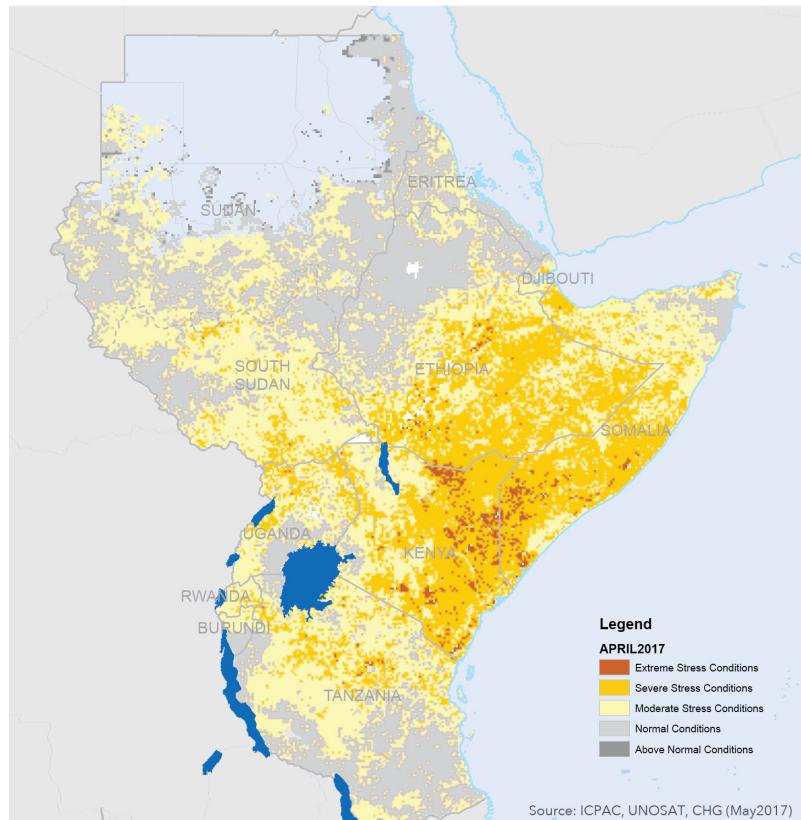


Source: Armed conflict events and location database (ACLED)

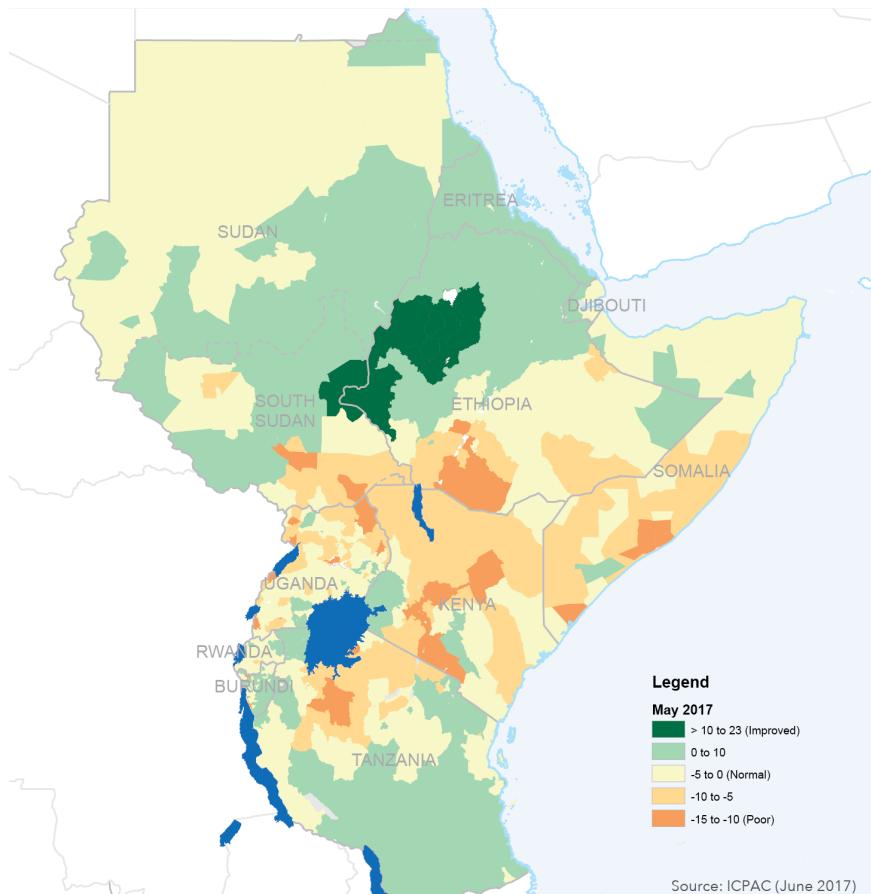
CLIMATE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

Drought in the region continues to drive food insecurity outcomes with poor seasonal rainfall (characterized by delayed onset, poor distribution and large deficits) since March.

GREATER HORN OF AFRICA DROUGHT CONDITIONS, FEB - APR 2017



There are concerns that many pastoral and agricultural areas in **Somalia, southern and southeastern Ethiopia, and northern and eastern Kenya** will face another season of below average rainfall. However, prospects for rain-fed crops are poor in many of these areas and the overall regeneration of pasture and water resources will be limited.

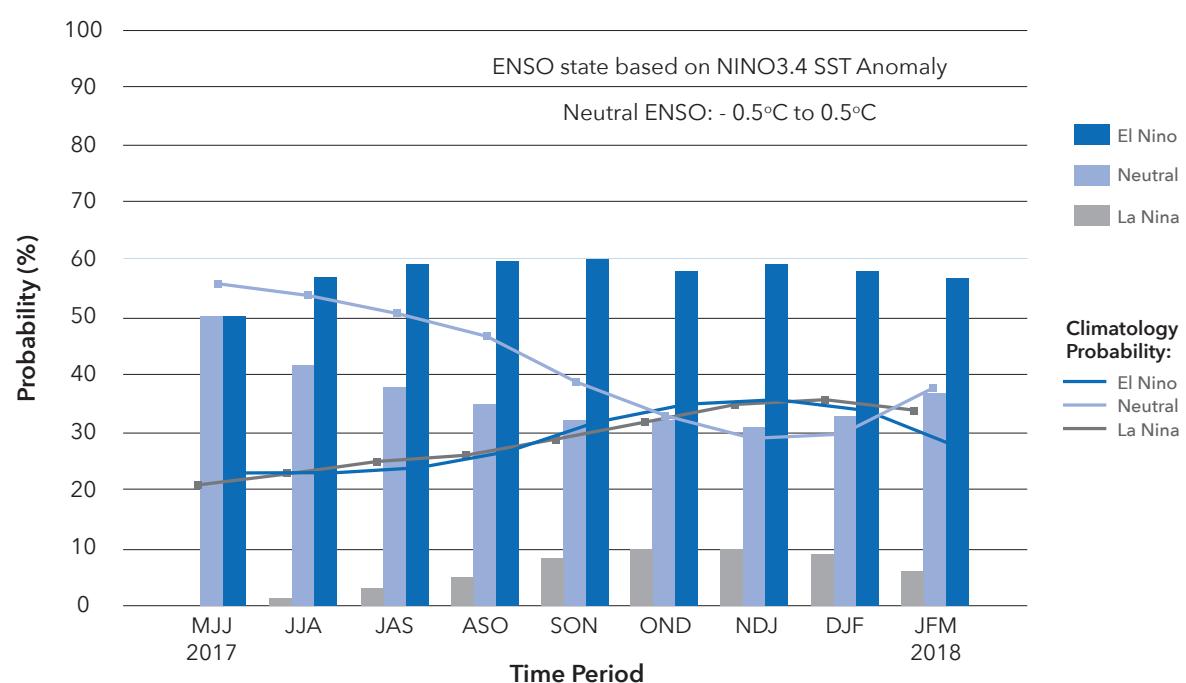
VEGETATION COVER DEFICIT⁶: GREATER HORN OF AFRICA NDVI ANOMALY MAY 2017

⁶ eMODIS NDVI Anomaly, 1-31 May 2017, Source: ICPAC, NOAA, USGS

In Somalia, the Gu rains typically start in April. However the onset of rains this year was delayed until the beginning of May. Rainfall deficits are severely impacting the development of rain-fed crops in southern areas. In **Ethiopia**, parts of eastern Somali Region remained atypically dry through mid-April, while the Belg rains began in February in most areas of SNNPR. Most Belg-producing areas of eastern Amhara and southern Tigray had near average to above average rainfall. In central, southern and eastern Oromia, rainfall has been below average and poorly distributed over time. Cropping activities are not yet fully underway in some areas. **In Kenya**, the March to May long rains were delayed and cumulative rainfall has been below average. April to May rains helped to ease rainfall deficits in areas of northern and eastern Kenya, and even caused some localized flooding, but are unlikely to substantially improve cropping prospects, particularly for maize in coastal and southeastern marginal agricultural areas of Kenya. **In Uganda**, the March to May seasonal rains started earlier than normal in February, but were erratically distributed and below average for most parts of the country. Rainfall has recently intensified and cumulative totals have reached near average levels but are yet to be fully established in northeastern areas. **In Burundi and Rwanda**, the seasonal start of Season B occurred in February and March respectively. Cropping and rangeland resources are expected to continue to improve with the ongoing seasonal rains, which have recently been near or above average.

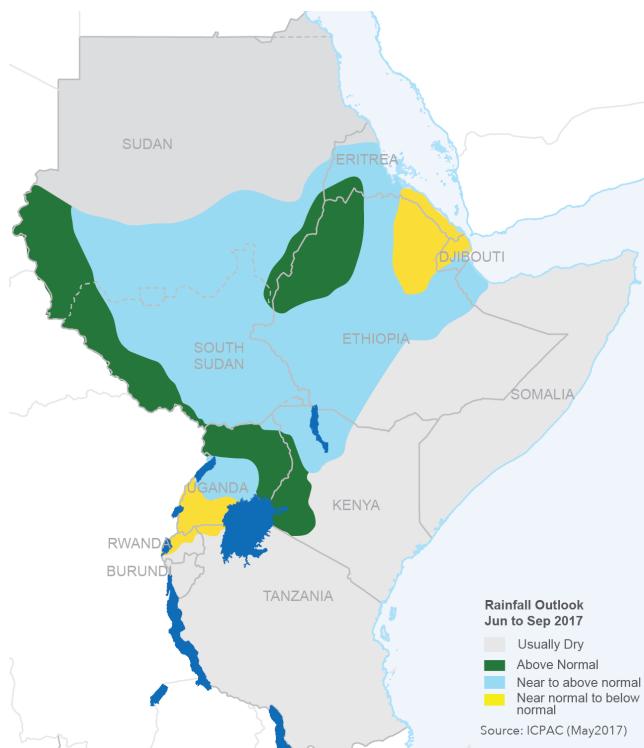
Climate experts⁷ confirm the persistence of El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) - neutral conditions - during April to June 2017, and a 60 per cent chance of a shift towards El Niño near the end of 2017.

MID-MAY IRI/CPC MODEL - BASED PROBABILITIES ENSO FORECAST



⁷ http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/enso_update_latest.html, accessed 5 May 2017.

SEPTEMBER 2017 CONSENSUS RAINFALL FORECAST

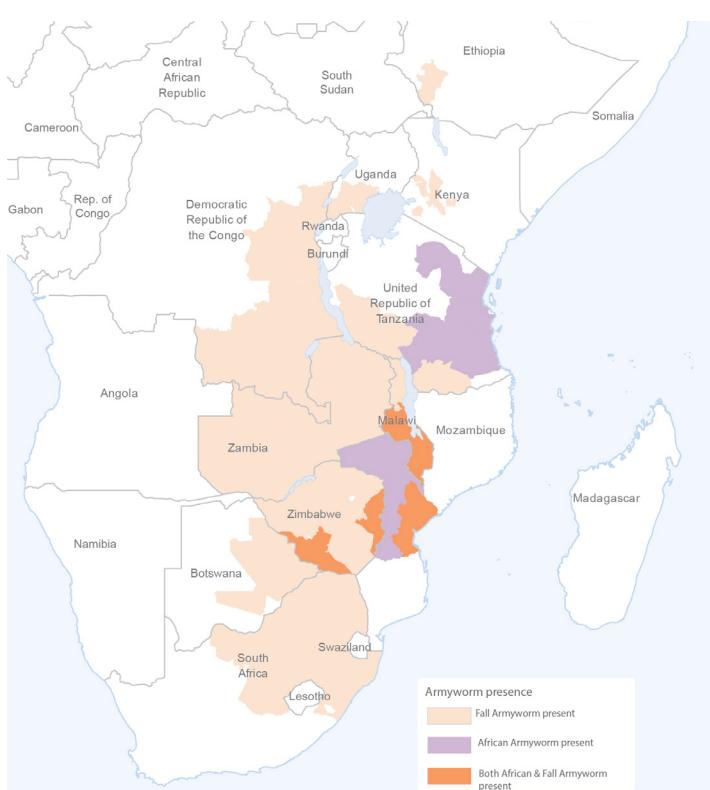


It is seasonally dry in most of Somalia, southeastern Ethiopia, and central and eastern Kenya between June and September, with limited opportunities for regeneration and replenishment. However, this period constitutes an important rainfall season over the northern sector, as well as parts of the coastal and western areas of the equatorial sector of the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) region. The regional consensus climate outlook (JJAS) for the June to September 2017 rainfall season indicates an increased likelihood of near normal rainfall over most parts of the northern sector of the GHA, with some areas including **northern Ethiopia, parts of the Sudan, South Sudan, parts of Uganda and western Kenya having an increased likelihood of above average rainfall.**

Fall Armyworm

An infestation of Fall Armyworm - first detected in Southern Africa - is now spreading across Eastern Africa, severely impacting crops.

INFESTATION OF ARMYWORM



In Kenya, Fall Armyworm has affected key maize and wheat producing counties in Western and in the Rift Valley. There are unconfirmed reports in eastern and coastal areas. The Ministry of Agriculture requires over US\$3 million to train extension officers, launch public information campaigns and purchase pesticides. The pest could develop resistance to pesticides if application is not carefully managed.

In Uganda, Fall Armyworm has affected 54 out of 116 districts and is spreading quickly. The Ministry of Agriculture is advising farmers to use a combination of Lambda-cyhalothrin, Thiamethoxam and Rocket, while more sustainable measures are explored.

In Ethiopia, Fall Armyworm has affected 52,962 hectares in 144 districts in three of the major maize-growing regional states – Gambella, Oromia and SNNPR. Local authorities are using pheromone trap methods to detect the pests and spray pesticides.

ECONOMIC SHOCKS

In East Africa, cereal prices continued to increase at a fast pace in March. They reached record or near-record highs in most countries due to a dearth in supplies and the uncertain prospects for the upcoming 2017 main harvests. High prices of cereals and low livestock prices further deteriorated the terms of trade for pastoralists. This has severely constrained their access to food and exacerbated food insecurity and malnutrition across the region. While the economic growth forecast for 2017 in sub-Saharan Africa recovered after the lowest growth in two decades in 2016, growth levels are not fast enough to deliver per capita income gains.

In Burundi, food stocks were limited after the failure of the December to February harvest and the suspension of cross-border imports from Tanzania. Civil unrest continued to trigger displacement and constrain supply. Seasonally adjusted food prices have risen since the fourth quarter of 2016 (+17% sweet potatoes; +23% beans; +25% cassava; +11% maize). **In South Sudan,** Central Equatoria's staple food prices have fallen since the fourth quarter of 2016 (-2% sorghum; -36% wheat flour; -7% millet), as have staple foods in Unity State (-45% sorghum; -22% millet). Fuel scarcity and insecurity along the main roads pose a continuous threat to internal and cross-border trade in the rest of the country, where food prices remained three to four times higher than the previous year. **In Somalia,** seasonally adjusted prices for the first quarter of 2017 rose (+27% sorghum; +20% maize) compared to the previous quarter as yields from the January to February harvest were half of what was predicted. Prices skyrocketed for sorghum in Banadir (+60%), Bay (+68%), Bakool (+42%) and Hiraan (+50%) where severe rainfall deficits continue to shrink agricultural resources to emergency levels. **Northwestern Kenya** suffered from similar dryness, and water scarcity is affecting both rain-fed and irrigated crops. Maize prices have spiked since the fourth quarter of 2016 in Nyanza (+27%) and the Rift Valley (+25%). In an attempt to tackle soaring prices in April, the Government of Kenya waived import taxes on maize until the end of July and has introduced fixed prices for maize flour. The poor outcome of the winter harvest in bimodal areas of Uganda also led to atypically high increases in maize prices: (+11%) since the fourth quarter of 2016 and (+45%) higher than twelve months prior.

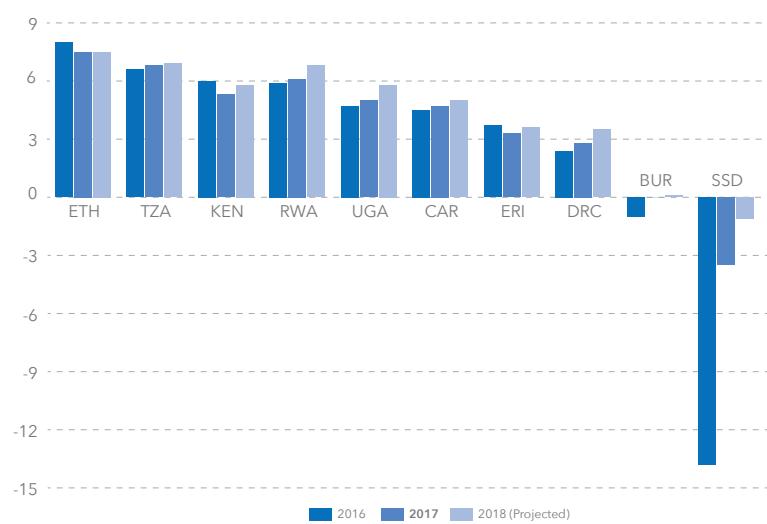
Livestock conditions continue to deteriorate as a result of drought. In Ethiopia, poor body conditions of livestock in southeastern pastoral areas and destocking by farmers have led to

a decline in livestock prices and a sustained increase in prices of livestock products. **In the drought-affected Somali region**, prices of **milk**, **cheese** and **eggs** have risen, on average, by almost 50 per cent since June 2016. In **Kenya**, livestock prices in most drought-affected pastoral areas have declined in recent months as animal body conditions deteriorate and pastoralists reduce herd sizes. In Marsabit, Garissa and Tana River counties, the prices of **goats** in March were 25 to 55 per cent lower than a year earlier. **In pastoral areas in Somalia**, severe drought has led to shortages in water and grazing resources, affecting the body conditions of livestock. Consequently, **livestock prices** have sharply declined in recent months, especially in southern areas. In March, they were up to 70 per cent lower than a year earlier. High cereal prices, coupled with low livestock prices, have significantly deteriorated the terms of trade for pastoralists. In Buale market, by March 2017, the equivalent in maize of a medium-sized **goat** had declined from 123 to 28 kilogrammes within less than a year. Drought has also caused a sharp decline in **milk** production and a surge in prices, which are up to 80 per cent higher than a year earlier.

In South Sudan, fuel prices are still at record high levels compared to the first quarter of 2016 (+270% gasoline; +239% diesel). Despite better fuel availability in major towns, fuel supplies remain severely constrained in the rest of the country.⁸ During the first quarter of 2017, fuel prices were also up **in Kenya** (+6% gasoline; +5% diesel) and **Somalia** (+16.8% diesel), in line with rising import costs for petroleum by-products.

Rising transport costs fuelled an increase in Burundi's year-on-year inflation rate to 21.1 per cent in March, up from 20.7 percent a month before. **In Rwanda**, sluggish local and regional cereal supplies have continued to push prices up since the first quarter of 2016 (+23.3% food CPI; +12.8% CPI). **South Sudan is still undergoing hyperinflation**: year-on-year headline and food inflation remains at over 300 per cent. The South Sudan Pound exchange rate stands at 221 per cent below its value last year, losing even more ground on the black market. The cost of living in the second week of March was reportedly more than three times higher than the corresponding period last year and more than 15 times above levels in March 2014. In **DRC**, food prices are higher than average due to the depreciation of the Congolese franc, crop diseases, armyworms and population movements, which have led to lower than average agricultural production.⁹

HOA ECONOMIC GROWTH



Creation Date: 15 June 2017 Source: IMF (Regional Economic Outlook) <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/SSA/Issues/2017/05/03/sre0517>

⁸ World Food Programme

Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is rebounding in 2017 after registering the worst decline in more than two decades in 2016.¹⁰ Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda continue to exhibit economic resilience, supported by domestic demand, posting annual growth rates above 5.4 per cent between 2015 and 2017. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised its forecast for Burundi's economic growth this year to zero from the previous projection of 2 per cent. South Sudan's economy continues to contract. Without significant progress toward peace and economic stabilization, the economic trajectory for South Sudan is highly unstable, and the country's economic performance and security conditions continue to deteriorate with high humanitarian costs. According to the IMF article IV Consultation¹¹, real GDP growth declined by nearly 20 per cent in the two years through 2015/16, and annual inflation rose to 550 per cent in September 2016 before declining to 370 per cent in January 2017. Real income growth is projected to decline by 10.5 per cent.

10 World Bank Africa's Pulse [Add link & issue if possible]

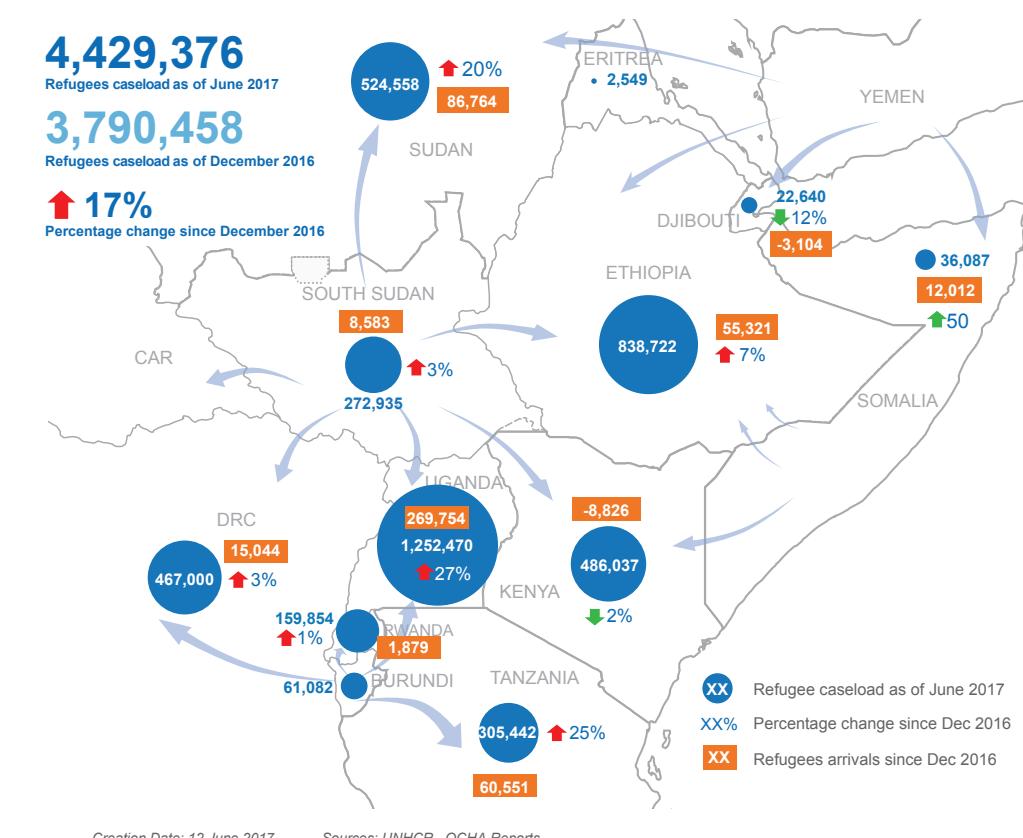
11 <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2017/03/23/pr1797-south-sudan-imf-executive-board-concludes-2016-article-iv-consultation>

III. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

DISPLACEMENT

Nearly 640,000 people have sought protection since the start of 2017, making a total of 4.4 million refugees and asylum seekers in the Horn of Africa region. Drought and conflict continue to uproot people internally with more than 3 million additional internally displaced persons (IDPs) since August 2016.

REFUGEE DISPLACEMENT MAP



South Sudan

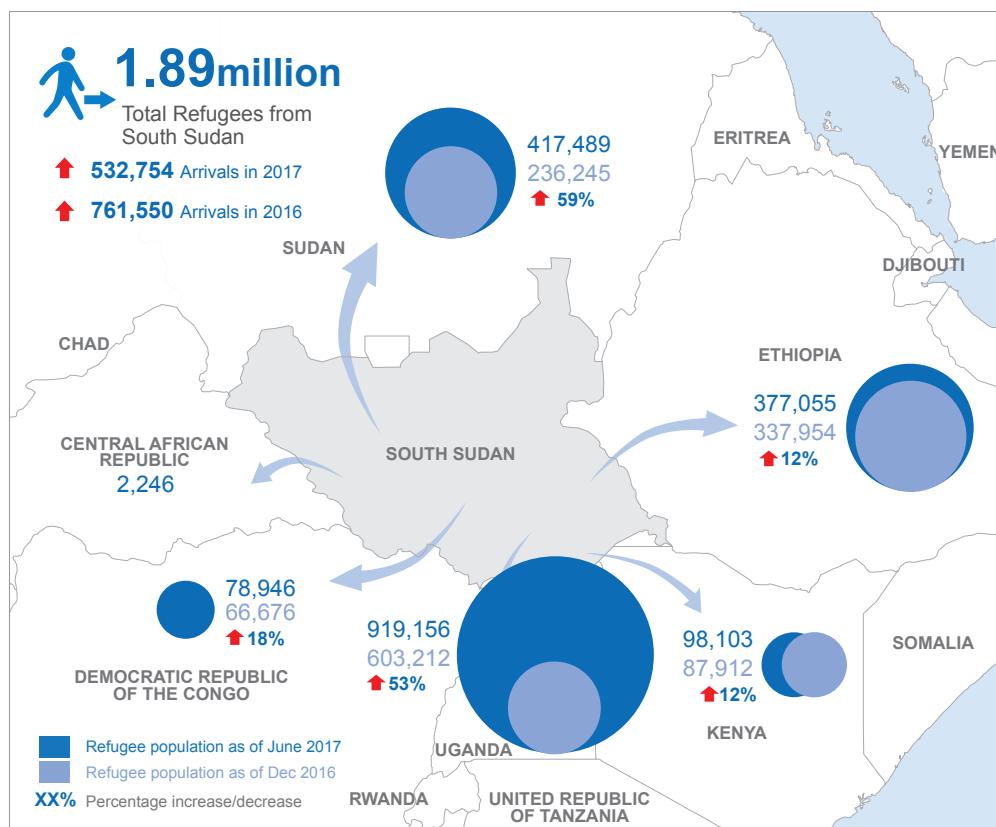
The majority of newly displaced are from South Sudan, the fastest growing refugee crisis globally.¹² Intensified clashes between Government and allied forces and other armed groups have impacted large swathes of the country - including Greater Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity states throughout 2016 and into 2017. Massive human rights violations and conflict are triggering large scale refugee outflows primarily to Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia but also to Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Nine out of ten South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries are women and children according to UNHCR. More than 75,000 South Sudanese refugee children were unaccompanied or separated from their parents by March 2017. Many women have assumed the leadership role over households in an extremely challenging context with virtually no

12 <http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2017/3/58cbfa304/refugee-crisis-south-sudan-worlds-fastest-growing.html>

resources. **Sixty-two per cent of refugees coming out of South Sudan are under the age of 18, nearly 70 per cent in the case of Uganda.** More than 1.8 million South Sudanese have fled the country as refugees since December 2013. This has led to a revision of the South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP).

SOUTH SUDAN REFUGEE MOVEMENT



Outlook for South Sudan

More than 1.9 million South Sudanese have fled the country as refugees and asylum-seekers since December 2013. This has led to a revision the South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP). UNHCR projects that more than 2.1 million South Sudanese will seek protection in the region by the end of the year.

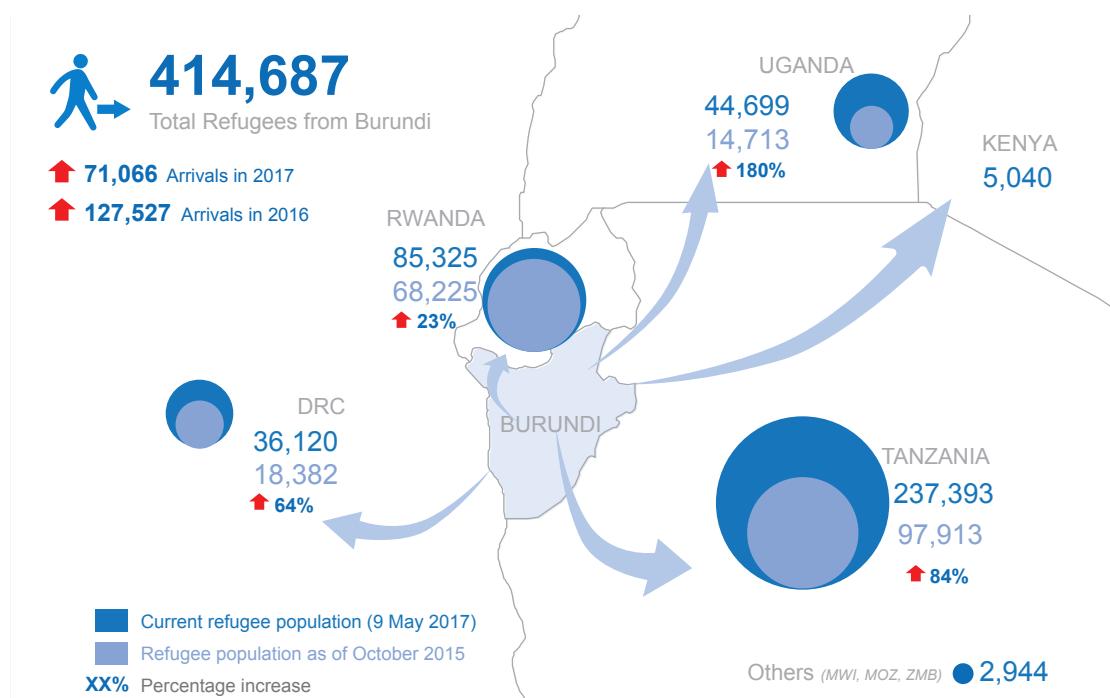
The South Sudanese refugee population hosted by Uganda has already more than tripled since 2015. Four new refugee settlements have opened and filled to capacity since July 2016. The pace of new arrivals has not dropped below 1,000 refugees a day. For example, between 15 and 21 May, the daily average of arrivals was 2,051 refugees. The Government of Uganda allocates arable land to refugee households upon arrival. However, without adequate resources from the international community, the considerable gains of this settlement model could be jeopardized and social cohesion between refugees and their hosts could begin to fray. Nearly 137,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan between January and May 2017, outpacing projections, and bringing the total number since 2013 to 913,142.

The dynamics of internal displacement in South Sudan: At least 200,000 people were forced to flee their homes due to the escalation of conflict in multiple locations in April. In Jonglei, renewed fighting displaced at least 100,000 people from several areas – including

Waat and Walgak - to Akobo town, Kaikuiny, Wei-kol, and other remote locations. In Upper Nile, at least 25,000 people were displaced from Tonga, Kodok and surrounding areas during the Government offensive on the west bank. Most arrived in Aburoc, while several thousand moved towards Sudan. In Eastern Equatoria, attacks against civilians in Pajok, Magwi county, forced at least 7,000 people to flee to Uganda, and displaced around 20,000 people to nearby villages and bushland. In western Bahr el-Ghazal, clashes outside Wau and security operations in Wau town caused at least 24,000 additional people to seek shelter in IDP sites. People also reportedly fled from Wau and Jur River counties to Tonj North and South in Warrap. Fighting in Raja reportedly displaced some 25,000 people, including to northern Bahr el-Ghazal, with numbers yet to be verified. The ongoing hostilities caused the number of South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries to rise by 80,000, most of whom fled to Uganda. Separately, the cholera outbreak continued to spread in South Sudan, with new cases confirmed in four counties in April: Ayod (Jonglei), Kodok (Upper Nile), Mayom (Unity) and Yirol West (Lakes).

The continuing political crisis in **Burundi** that began in April 2015 has caused more than half a million people to flee their homes: 149,000 IDPs and 408,857 refugees and asylum-seekers as of end April 2017. The majority of refugees and IDPs are children. Most refugees and asylum-seekers from the crisis in Burundi are found in Tanzania (56.7 per cent), followed by Rwanda (20.4 per cent), Uganda (11.5 per cent) and DRC (8.8 per cent) and Uganda (8.4 per cent). The number of Burundians seeking protections is expected to reach 500,000 by the end of the year.

BURUNDI REFUGEE MOVEMENT



Access to asylum in neighbouring countries is becoming increasingly difficult, in particular in Tanzania where the Government, at the urging of Burundian authorities, ceased on 20 January 2017 *prima facie* recognition of refugees from Burundi and has introduced screening at border points. UNHCR reports that since the introduction of measures, the number of asylum-seekers arriving in Tanzania from Burundi has dropped by almost 50 per cent to 234 persons a day in the first few months of 2017. There are reports of a growing number of asylum-seekers from Burundi being refused entry to Tanzania at the border.

Meanwhile, refugees and asylum-seekers face intensified risk and pressure to return to Burundi. There are reports of refugee-hosting countries in the region being actively encouraged by the authorities in Burundi to return refugees. A senior official from Uganda, for one, has clarified in a statement on 16 February 2017, that ‘there is not going to be any forceful return of Burundian refugees’ and that any returns ‘will be done under a tripartite arrangement with UNHCR – if it is to be done at all – when conditions are such that the refugees here feel safe to return, and in a dignified manner.’¹³

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

DRC has experienced large-scale displacement for more than 20 years. In addition to this protracted caseload, DRC was among the top ten countries worldwide with the highest levels of new internal displacement in 2015.¹⁴ Since then, this trend has only intensified, in particular with the outbreak in mid-2016 of conflict in the previously peaceful Kasai region, in eastern DRC. The crisis, which began in early August with the violent uprising of a local militia in central Kasai, followed by still ongoing clashes with Government forces, has since spread to the provinces of Kasai, Eastern Kasai, Lomami, and Sankuru, generating regular – often daily – internal displacements in these provinces, as well as towards the provinces of Lualaba and Haut-Lomami.

As of mid-April 2017, more than 1 million people are internally displaced within Kasai; 60 per cent of these IDPs are from central Kasai. Nationally, the number of IDPs in the country now stands at 3.7 million. While a lull in fighting in eastern Kasai in early 2017 reportedly enabled some 97,000 IDPs to return to their homes in the area, the sustainability of these returns is unclear in the context of ongoing insecurity and displacement. In April 2017, new displacements continue to be reported daily across the five provinces of: Kasai, Central Kasai, Eastern Kasai, Lomani and Sankuru. On 6 April, for example, a displacement of more than 57 000 persons was reported in Mweka and Luebo (Kasai province), while on 8 April, the displacement of 200 persons in the Luili area (Eastern Kasai) was reported. OCHA reports that ‘these internal displacements are caused, on the one hand, by protection risks generated by the presence of the FARDC and attacks on villages by militia, and on the other hand by the clashes between these parties. The dynamics of multiple and pendular displacements are observed, depending on the areas where conflicts between militias and armed groups erupt. In some towns, such as Luebo (Kasai), the population chose to stay at home and submit to the authority of militias, whereas local authorities have fled the area.’ Barring a dramatic improvement in the situation, the number of people displaced by fighting in Kasai is expected to further increase. Conflict-induced displacement also has spiked in Tanganyika province: 23,000 people were displaced between 21 and 23 February 2017 alone, of whom 16,000 were new displacements, while 7,000 IDPs experienced secondary displacement.

Meanwhile, cross-border movements, in particular from Kasai, have recently increased, primarily to Angola, where over 20,563 refugees have sought safety since the crisis began. A spike in violence in Kasai has led to a dramatic rise in refugees, with over 9,000 arriving in Angola during the first three weeks of April alone. Among them are many women and children. Some parents have reportedly sent their children alone across the border for fear they will be forcibly recruited by militias if they stay in DRC. In January 2017, it was reported that some 4,562 Congolese had been expelled from Angola back to DRC. In light of the upsurge of violence and refugee arrivals from Kasai and neighbouring provinces, UNHCR has welcomed the decision of the Government of Angola to keep its borders open for continued refugee arrivals, and underlined the importance of not returning people in need of international protection to the DRC.

¹³ Refugees International, press release, 15 February 2017.

¹⁴ IDMC, Africa report, p. 8

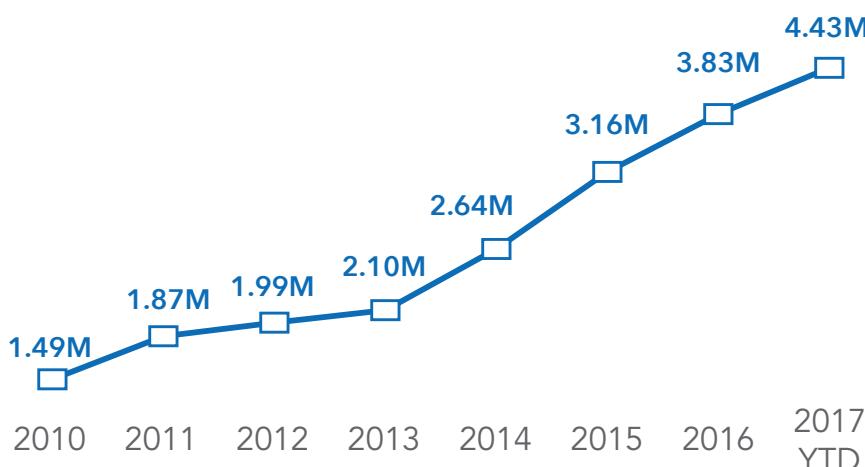
Drought induced displacement

The latest UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) report in Somalia indicates that the number of drought-related displacements has increased to 739,000 since November 2016. New drought-driven displacements were down by 70 per cent in May (46,000 people) compared to April. During the month of May, PRMN also monitored the first significant returns of 7,700 displaced people primarily from IDP sites in Baidoa town to their homes in Baidoa district and elsewhere in Bay region. Disaggregated data from PRMN interviews at household level indicate that of the 739,000 drought-displaced people, some 195,000 (26 per cent) are children under five years old.

Over 843,000 people remain displaced due to drought, floods and conflict in **Ethiopia**. Since January 2017, 5,044 Somali new arrivals have been recorded in Melkadida, Ethiopia. The average GAM rate amongst new arrivals below the age of five is 74 per cent.

By May, over 6,500 people were displaced by floods in **Kenya**'s Taita Taveta, Kwale and Mombasa counties. Since January, a total of 23,058 Somali refugees have voluntarily returned to Somalia, 707 of whom during the last two weeks of April. However, 509 Somalis crossed into camps in Garissa during that same period.

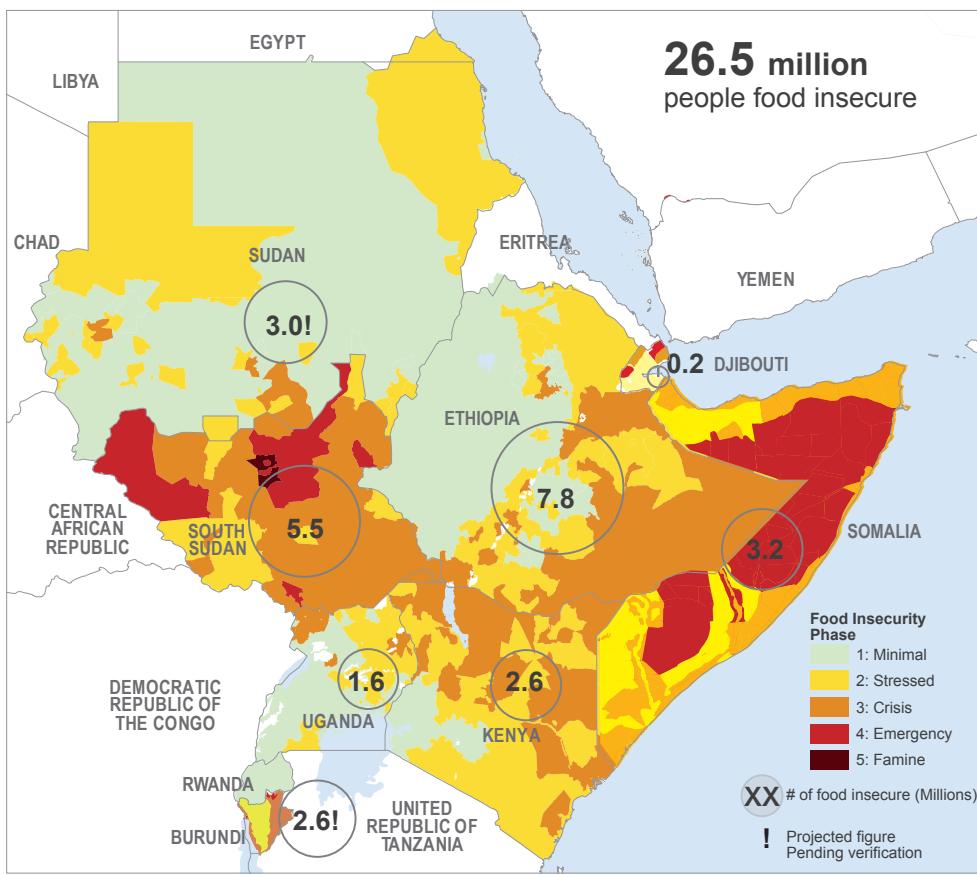
REFUGEES / ASYLUM SEEKERS TREND



FOOD SECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

The Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region is experiencing **serious food insecurity challenges**. As of May 2017, **approximately 26.5 million people** face crisis (IPC 3), emergency (IPC 4) and famine (IPC 5) levels of food insecurity and are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.¹⁵. Of major concern are areas where food insecurity has continued to deteriorate due to drought (Somalia, Kenya, and pastoral areas of Ethiopia) and insecurity (South Sudan and Burundi). **The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) - especially among children below five years, pregnant and lactating mothers and other vulnerable groups** - is worryingly high and above emergency thresholds, while severe acute malnutrition (SAM) is above critical levels. In parts of northern Kenya, South Sudan and Somalia, GAM rates are as high as 30 per cent and above, and there is urgent need for life-saving assistance.

HORN OF AFRICA FOOD SECURITY MAP



Source: IPC TWG (Dji Oct 2016, RWA Oct 2016)
FEWSNET (BDI, DJI, ETH, KEN, SOM, SUD, SSD, UGA, Feb-May 2017 projected) Creation date: 12 May 2017

In Ethiopia, the food insecure population requiring humanitarian assistance increased from 5.6 million in December 2016 to 7.8 million. Shortage of fodder and water in Oromia, Amhara and SNNP regions, unexpected floods, and frost during last year's Meher season are blamed for the low livestock production and poor crop yields which resulted in the increased humanitarian caseloads. Nutrition reports by UNICEF indicate a worsening nutrition situation in Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions. Regarding nutrition outcomes, the Somali, SNNP, Oromia and Afar regions are the most affected. Acute Watery Diarrhea outbreaks are on the rise in Somali region burdening the over-stretched health system in the region. Close to 200 out of 732 severely affected districts have been targeted as Hotspot Priority 1.

In Somalia, a joint FSNAU¹⁶-FEWSNET Food Security Alert reveals that results from the post-Jilaal assessment and recent SMART surveys indicate Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity persist in many areas of Somalia, with the rest of the country in Stress (IPC Phase 2). The Post-Jilaal assessment also indicates an elevated risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) in parts of Somalia. In addition to high levels of food insecurity, there is an ongoing severe AWD/cholera outbreak. Approximately 3.2 million people - 2.5 million in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 0.7 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) - will need humanitarian assistance before June. Gu production will be below average owing to the late onset and below average rainfall progression being observed. Food security outcomes are expected to improve only modestly in July/August.

In Kenya, the food insecure population in Crisis IPC Phase 3 is now approximately 2.2 million,

¹⁶ Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit

with another 400,000 people acutely food insecure and needing humanitarian assistance. The IPC assessment for acute malnutrition conducted in February 2017 revealed that Turkana North, and North Horr in Marsabit have a very critical nutrition situation, while east Pokot, Isiolo and Turkana west, south and central counties reported a critical nutrition situation. Tana River County reported a serious nutrition situation. The March to May 2017 rains were below average in parts of the country and are insufficient to trigger full recovery. Below-average harvest prospects in the marginal cropping areas of southeastern Kenya are expected. Although in southeastern Kenya maize crop conditions are generally good, the end of seasonal rains in June could result in significantly reduced yields. In addition, some parts of the high potential cropping areas are equally affected by below average rains observed during March and April. While in others, there are reports of over 80,000 hectares of maize that have been affected by Fall Armyworm outbreaks, with expected crop losses. It should be noted that the impacts of the 2016/17 drought on food security are still affecting lives and livelihoods, particularly in the drought-prone pastoral, agro-pastoral and southeastern marginal agricultural counties. The situation may worsen if the current season also fails. Other factors contributing to food insecurity include: livestock deaths that have eroded the livelihood base of vulnerable populations since December 2016, and resource-based conflicts leading to displacement, loss of assets, and deteriorating terms of trade. The nutrition situation across all the ASALs may persist or just slightly improve with the ongoing rains.

In Uganda, 1.6 million people were facing crisis food insecure levels (IPC Phase 3) during the January to March period. Another 9.3 million people faced Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity. The main driver of this huge caseload was the impact of 2016 drought. In Teso, Busoga, and eastern and central regions of bimodal Uganda, poor households have experienced two consecutive seasons of below-average production. Household food stocks were depleted in January, four months earlier than normal. Many people are now engaged in casual labour while others are selling livestock to purchase food, but face atypically high food prices. Poor households are able to minimally meet their basic food needs, but lack the income to afford essential non-food needs and are therefore stressed. There has also been increased demand for food and services from South Sudanese refugees – especially in northern Uganda and West Nile region – leading to unusually stressed conditions during this time of the year. In Karamoja, reduced purchasing power has been reported among vulnerable households yet retail prices of maize, beans and sorghum have been rising and are above the 2013 to 2016 average. Although the situation is largely expected to improve later in the year, the burden of refugees, the erratic March to May 2017 rains in Northern, Karamoja, Teso and Busoga sub-regions, and the invasion of maize gardens by the Fall Armyworm in central and parts of western Uganda, mean that food production prospects are expected to be below average. Only a slight improvement in food security is likely in central, western and southwestern regions, while the current situation may persist in Karamoja, and northern and eastern regions. In terms of nutrition outcomes, overall Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates are stable but of concern. Approximately 31,000 children under five are estimated to need SAM treatment, while high levels of stunting and anaemia have been reported, particularly amongst refugee populations.

In South Sudan, as of May **5.5 million** people are in Crisis (IPC 3), Emergency (IPC 4) and Famine (IPC) 5 levels of food insecurity. This includes **90,000 people** who are facing famine in Leer and Mayendit counties of Unity state.¹⁷ Continued conflict and insecurity are the main

¹⁷ On 21 June it was announced that famine is no longer occurring in Leer and Mayendit counties, and further deterioration was prevented in Koch and Panyijiar counties of former Southern Unity State as a result of immediate and sustained multi-sector humanitarian assistance delivered to the affected population since March 2017. However, as of June-July 2017, **45,000 people** in localized areas of South Sudan are still **facing famine conditions** (IPC Phase 5) and **1.7 million people** are **facing emergency levels of food insecurity** (IPC Phase 4) - one-step below Famine on the IPC scale.

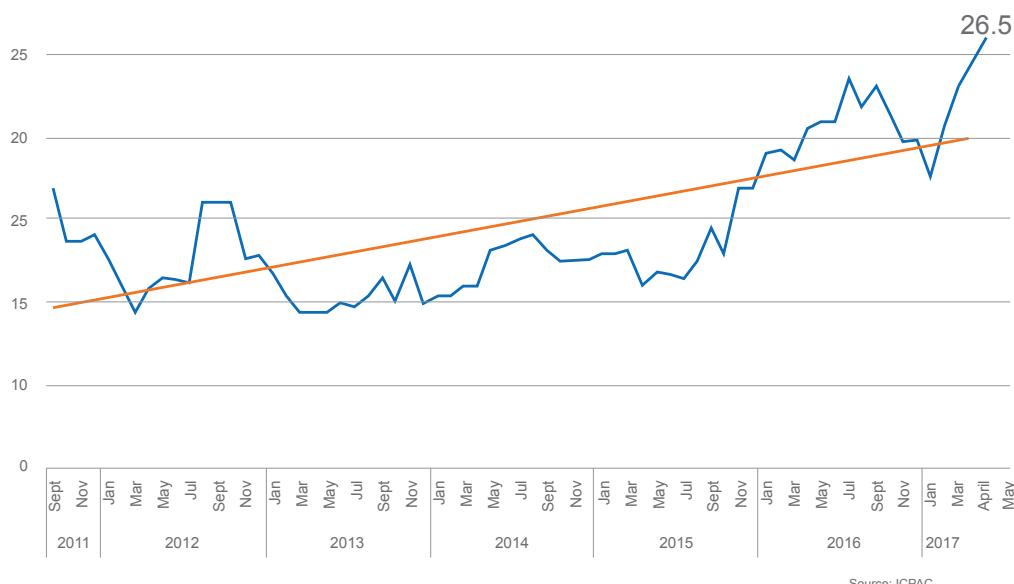
drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition, especially in areas in Emergency (IPC 4) and Famine (IPC 5). Renewed violence in equatorial region is likely to significantly impact on the current cropping season. Other drivers of the current situation are high transport costs and insecurity along supply routes, inflation (which has remained high and continues to affect the purchasing power of affected population), high market prices, limited income-earning opportunities, and limited availability of basic food and other commodities. Currency depreciation is also affecting traders' ability to supply food to the main markets. Recent attacks on humanitarian staff have further hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Burundi, remains affected by acute food insecurity dominated by Stress (IPC 2) and Crisis (IPC 3), with isolated areas in Crisis (IPC 4). Approximately 2.6 million people are currently in Crisis and Emergency (IPC 3 and 4), mostly in eastern and far western areas, and need humanitarian assistance. An additional 4 million are Stressed (IPC 2), making it the worst food insecurity situation in the last four years. The main drivers of food insecurity include the below average crop production owing to climatic shocks, insecurity and economic crisis, low income opportunities that have challenged households' ability to absorb the shock of production shortfalls, and rising food prices due to production shortfalls and reduced imports. For example, in March 2017, prices were 30 to 50 per cent higher than a year ago. Prospects for a favourable Season B are good due to well-established rainfall between March and May 2017. In addition, the Government and partners are supporting households with agricultural inputs.

Regional summary

Slight seasonal improvement but medium-term deterioration. Food security is seasonal and is likely to improve slightly in some areas given the near average April to May 2017 rains, which will partially improve water resources, pasture regeneration for livestock, and agricultural production. However, food insecurity will persist in many areas owing to forecasted below average seasonal performance, malfunctioning markets, rising food prices, economic shocks, effects of conflicts/insecurity, and loss of livelihood assets. Three failed planting seasons, coupled with expected El-Niño rains, indicate that food insecurity will continue to worsen in the Greater Horn of Africa. As a consequence, the number of Stressed (IPC 2) people is also likely to increase over time.

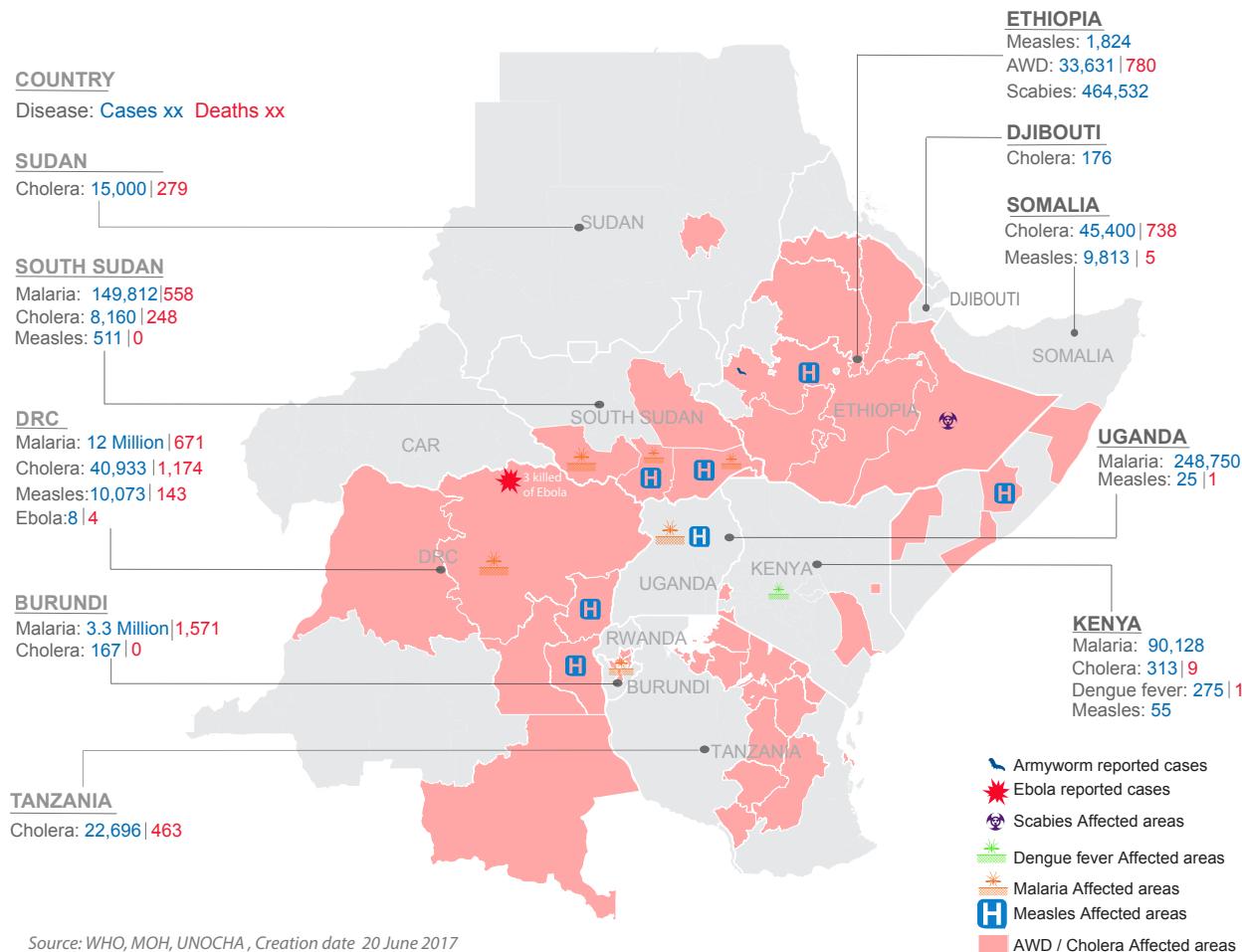
REGIONAL FOOD INSECURITY TRENDS (IN MILLIONS)



Source: ICPAC

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE OUTBREAKS

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES



The disease burden continues to be high, due to population displacement and the poor living conditions of refugees and IDPs and vulnerable populations. AWD/cholera outbreaks have occurred in **DRC, Ethiopia, South Sudan, northern and northeastern Kenya and parts of Somalia**. Measles cases and deaths have been reported in **South Sudan and DRC**, while malaria is prevalent in **South Sudan and Burundi**. Communicable and other diseases are expected to increase due a corresponding increase in the number of displaced populations and expected El-Niño floods.

According to WHO and UNICEF, there are 7,400 children with measles and 3.4 million children under five years at high risk of measles in drought-affected areas of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

In **Somalia**, the prolonged drought has led to lack of water and the largest outbreak of cholera Somalia has seen in the last five years – with nearly 45,400 cases and almost 738 deaths so far in 2017. With the beginning of the rainy season and projected flooding, these numbers are expected to increase to 50,000 cases by the end of June. Cases of measles are also on the rise with over 7,000 cases reported this year, 65 per cent of them affecting children under age five.

Kenya, since January, has reported 581 cholera cases and seven deaths, 1,015 cases of dengue

fever with one death, and 203 cases of kala azar with seven deaths. As of 4 May, 153 cases of dengue fever (119 confirmed) have been reported in Kisauni and a measles outbreak is ongoing in Garissa County with 22 cases affecting both refugees and the host community. Other notable outbreaks include dengue fever (>200 cases), salmonella typhii in Lamu (112 cases, 2 deaths), anthrax in Embu (9 cases) and Taveta (47 cases, 2 deaths), and visceral leishmaniasis in Isiolo, Turkana, Marsabit and Baringo among children.

In **Ethiopia**, water shortages are exacerbating an ongoing AWD outbreak with some 35,000 cases reported in six regions of the country, of which 90 per cent in Somali region. AWD cases have also been reported in ten states in **Sudan**. **Uganda** is suffering a measles outbreak in Kamwenge district. Other districts on alert include Kampala, Mayuge and Wakiso.

As of 13 June, a total of five confirmed cases and three probable and one suspected case have been reported. Of the confirmed and probable cases, four survived and four died, resulting in a case fatality rate of 50 per cent. Investigations and laboratory results confirmed an Ebola outbreak of subtype Zaire on 11 May. WHO has acknowledged that 416 close contacts have been identified and are being monitored. This is the eighth outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the DRC since the discovery of the virus in 1976.

PROTECTION

South Sudan is a protection crisis. From March 2014 to March 2017, 83,537 incidents of grave child rights violations were documented in South Sudan using the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations of children's rights in situations of armed conflict.¹⁸

From March 2015 to March 2017, 4,870 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) were recorded in South Sudan using the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System. The actual number of SGBV cases in South Sudan is believed to be much higher and remains grossly underreported. The double tragedy of the conflict and SGBV has psychological consequences on women and children.

Cross-border child abductions in Gambella region in Ethiopia – reportedly by South Sudanese Murle tribesman – have increased insecurity and displacement. According to the Gambella Bureau of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCA), 156 Anuak and Nuer children were abducted in 2016 and taken into South Sudan by Murle tribesmen. From July 2016 to April 2017, 79 children were abducted.

The Human Rights Council Interactive Dialogue on the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** reports that the conflict between Twa and Luba communities in Tanganyika province has witnessed a new wave of violence leaving at least 127 people killed since September 2016. In addition, 120 people have experienced sexual violence, including gang-rape, since July 2016. The Kamuina Nsapu militiamen are engaged in killing state actors, recruiting children, and targeting government buildings, police stations and churches. For example, on 9 March, Kamuina Nsapu reportedly made an incursion into Lomami province where they decapitated two policemen. On 11 March, alleged members of the Kamuina Nsapu militia attacked the city of Mwene Ditu, resulting in 30 civilian deaths, including at least nine minors and a woman. On

¹⁸ The six grave children's rights violations include the killing or maiming of children, the recruitment or use of children by armed forces or armed groups, attacks on schools or hospitals, rape or other sexual violence against children, abduction of children and denial of humanitarian access to children.

14 and 15 March, Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo* or FARDC) and Congolese National Police (PNC) agents killed between 35 and 100 people in Nganza commune in Kasai province for their alleged affiliation with Kamuina Nsapu including three minors shot in the head by the PNC agents.¹⁹

Members of the Commission of Inquiry on **Burundi** stated on 13 March 2017 that, on the basis of a first series of interviews held with a range of sources, the trends observed in 2015 and 2016 appear to be continuing. Persistent allegations of violations of the right to life and physical integrity, notably an increase in enforced disappearances, were noted. Arrests, particularly of people suspected of participating in opposition groups, continue to be reported, along with allegations of torture.²⁰

19 <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21431&LangID=E>

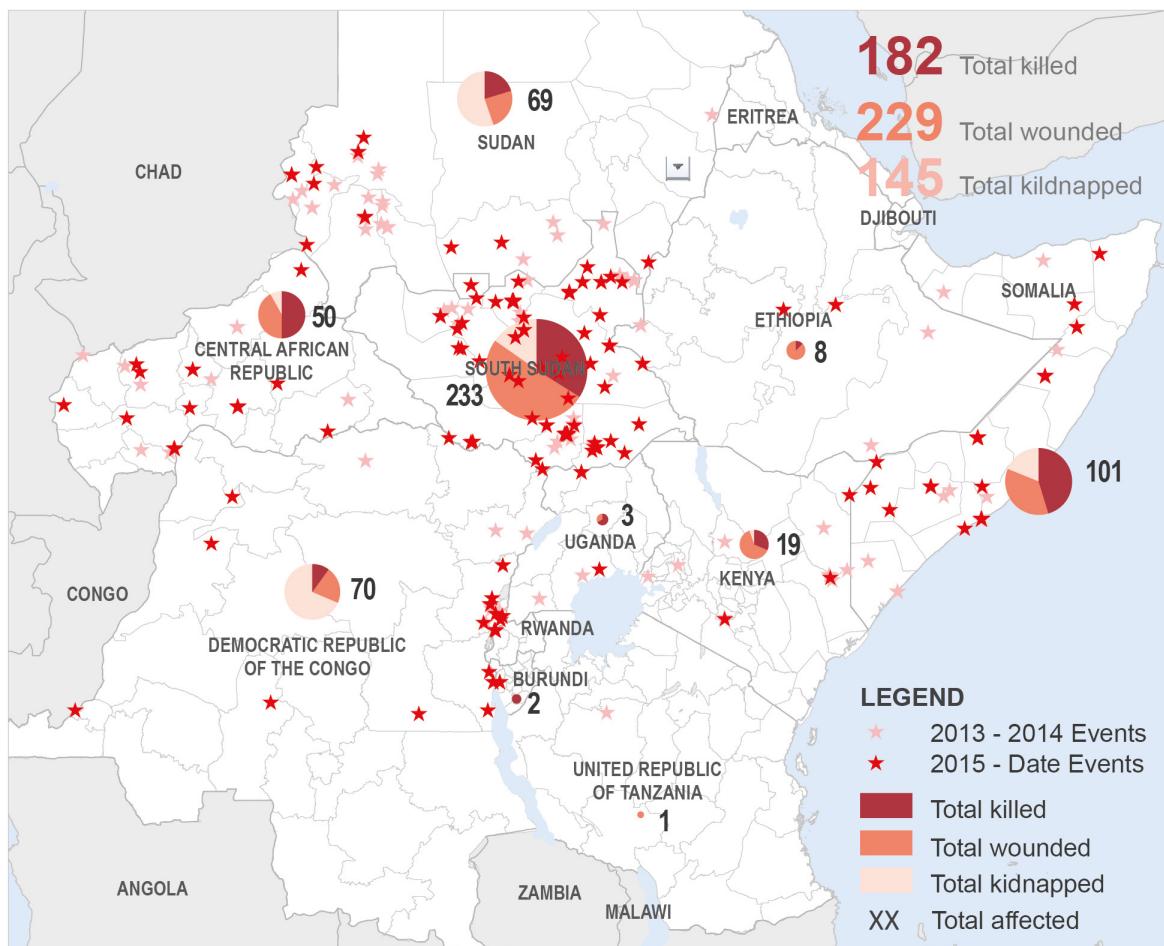
20 <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21361&LangID=E>

IV. RESPONSE CONSTRAINTS

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

The humanitarian space continues to be constrained across the region due to insecurity and bureaucratic impediments, especially in South Sudan, Somalia and Sudan.

DIRECT VIOLENT ATTACKS AGAINST AID WORKERS



Source: Aid workers security database for the map. OCHA for the trend graph. Creation date: 16 May 2017

Access is a major impediment in South Sudan due to insecurity and bureaucratic constraints. There were about 213 access incidents - including at least 8 humanitarian convoys attacked and 15 staff killed - between January and April 2017. In three and a half years of conflict, 84 aid workers have lost their lives in the country. Six aid workers (three Kenyans and three South Sudanese) were shot dead on 25 March in an ambush on the Juba-Pibor road in Central Equatoria. This was the highest number of aid workers killed in a single incident since the conflict began in December 2013. In April, three WFP contractors were brutally murdered around Wau in Western Bahr el-Gazal. Moreover, humanitarian workers are regularly harassed, threatened, arrested and beaten by both state security forces and non-state armed actors. Active hostilities, including looting of humanitarian assets, have forced the withdrawal of humanitarian staff and the suspension of projects in parts of Equatoria and Upper Nile. One partner estimated losses of over US\$200,000 in the Wau Shilluk area during February fighting. Restrictions of movement have hampered assistance to 1.97 million IDPs affected by

the conflict. Main roads between Yambio (Western Equatoria) and Wau (western Bahr al-Ghazal) and within the Upper Nile region remain closed due to insecurity. **Bureaucratic constraints and operational interference also impede access.** The Government's demand for a US\$10,000 work permit fee per international aid workers was suspended following effective coordinated advocacy by the humanitarian community. However on 2 May, the Government announced an increased NGO registration fee: INGOs will face a sevenfold increase in annual registration fees from US\$500 to US\$3,500, while fees for national NGOs are doubling to US\$500.

Cooperation between countries has facilitated cross-border humanitarian assistance to severely food insecure groups in hard to access areas. **Sudan has opened three corridors to assist severely food-insecure people in South Sudan.** This has facilitated the timely delivery of aid and reduced reliance on air operations which cost six to seven times more than moving food by river and road. **Kenya and Somalia have re-opened two corridors to facilitate the response to drought-affected communities in Somalia. At the same time,** INGOs based in Kenya and operating within the region are facing constraints in obtaining work permits for foreign staff. Over the past 6 months, 67 per cent of work permit applications were either rejected or remain pending. This affects the ability of INGOs to respond in a timely and effective manner to the growing humanitarian crises in the region.

In recent months, and particularly since the issuance of revised humanitarian directives in December 2016, there have been improvements in humanitarian access in **Sudan**. In Darfur, a number of previously inaccessible locations in the Jebel Marra are receiving assistance – including Golo, Guldo, Rokero, and Fanga Suk. Although other areas, including those under control of Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW), remain inaccessible. Access is also limited by localized insecurity caused by criminal and armed groups. In Blue Nile, new areas around Kurmuk have been accessed. In general, partners have reported faster approval of travel requests in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. However, implementation of the directives needs to be standardized across states, including procedures for travel clearance and approval of INGO technical agreements. There are also reported delays in the issuance of entry visas for humanitarian staff of some agencies. Cross-line access to SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile remains cut off due to lack of agreement between the parties on access modalities.

In Somalia, access to rural areas remains a major concern. Since the beginning of the year, people have been migrating to urban areas for assistance. Various layers of bureaucratic restrictions imposed by authorities have resulted in higher costs and delayed the response. The Cash Working Group this week raised concern over the continued economic blockade imposed by non-state armed actors in Wajiid (Bakool region) and Diinsor (Bay region) towns since March. The blockade is affecting supply routes and impacting the availability of key commodities in markets in Diinsoor town and surrounding areas. The shortage in foodstuffs has resulted in increased prices in the affected areas. A number of security incidents impacting civilians have been reported in the two regions. In April, nine humanitarian staff were kidnapped. Attempts to negotiate access and safety of the population and staff with al-Shabaab through the local elders continue. However, the situation is unlikely to improve in the short-term. On 29 March, authorities in Gaalkayo reported that the blockade on the border between Puntland and Galmudug administrations, effective since 1 December 2016, had been lifted. The blockade had affected the movement of humanitarian and commercial goods.

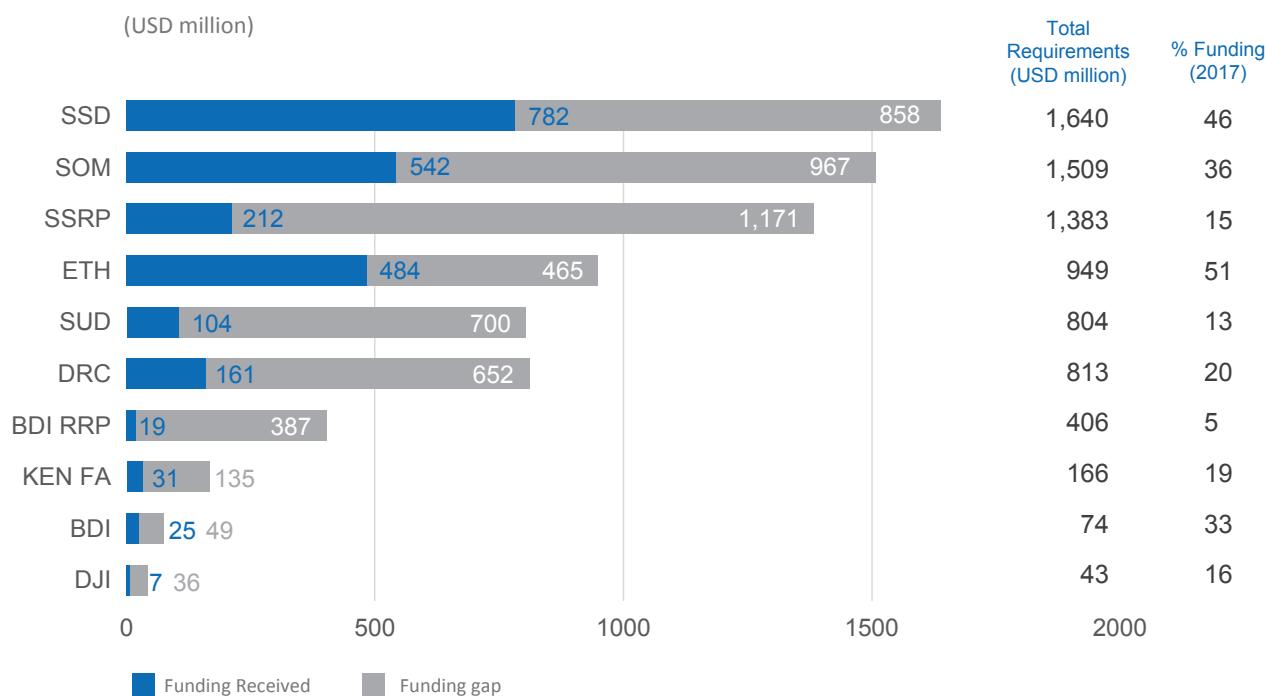
Significant access improvements are observed in Burundi since January 2017. The Government's recognition of the crisis, coupled with a transparent HNO/HRP process, has led to enhanced cooperation and coordination with the humanitarian community.

This resulted in significant access improvements and the lifting of major bureaucratic impediments imposed since 2015. The movement of humanitarian staff into most provinces of the country and for most sectors is ongoing. However, protection and health services remain strictly controlled. It is not possible, for example, to keep emergency medical stock in the country. Financial hurdles imposed by the Government since December 2016 that significantly limit the independence of INGOs and local non-profit civil organizations remain in place.

Despite the fact that humanitarian needs and protection concerns are on the rise **in Eastern DRC due to insecurity and budget challenges, access remains constrained.** A reduced humanitarian response is affecting displaced persons, returnees, host families and refugees, especially children. Since 2016, over five million people have been left without assistance due to insecurity and reduced funding in Eastern DRC. Between January and February 2017, 17 incidents against NGOs (robberies and intimidations) were recorded. As a result 1.2 million people could not be assisted in South Kivu, Haut-Katanga and Tanganyika. Seventy per cent of the affected people were not assisted due to limited funds. The humanitarian community also currently lacks the capacity to respond to the consequences of the inter-communal conflict in Tanganyika province that has spread to Haut Lomami province. In April alone, at least 70,000 displaced persons could not be assisted. The situation is likely to deteriorate in the coming months due to widespread violence and lack of Government control in the region.

FUNDING

2017 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANS FUNDING STATUS



Creation Date: 26 June 2017 Source: FTS

Both climate and conflict induced humanitarian needs continue to be underfunded. As of 18 May, the 2017 regional humanitarian requirements of US\$8.3bn – the highest funding requirement in the region's history – was less than 25 per cent funded. The Ethiopia humanitarian funding appeal received the highest levels of funding, although a significant part of the funds were carry-overs from the previous year. As humanitarian needs increase, funding requirements will too. Without additional funding, the Food Cluster projects that relief food stocks will be exhausted by early July 2017, leaving 7.8 million people without food assistance. In contrast, the revised Somalia appeal is 25.5 per cent funded.

More people are on the move but refugee response plans are severely underfunded, particularly for South Sudan and Burundi. This has led to cuts in food rations in all refugee response operations regionally, despite the rising levels of food insecurity, increasing the likelihood of malnutrition and death. For example, the World Food Programme has been forced to implement food cuts affecting Burundian refugees in Tanzania and Rwanda; this has a serious impact as most refugees are wholly dependent on food assistance.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has released more than US\$100 million to kickstart humanitarian operations aimed at helping more than 3 million people in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. In addition, CERF has extended a loan to FAO Somalia to ensure a scale up of famine prevention activities. Funds allow humanitarian partners to expand mitigation measures, avert further loss of livelihood and respond to severe food insecurity and malnutrition.

Development actors have also stepped up their response to humanitarian needs. For example, the World Bank is preparing operations worth US\$150 million to scale up cash transfers and expand water supplies. A US\$150 million contingency loan aimed at addressing disaster risk preparedness is also being developed. In Ethiopia, the World Bank is financing an additional US\$110 million in emergency Crisis Response Window resources to scale up the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). In May, the World Bank approved an additional US\$50 million grant to provide direct food assistance in South Sudan through UN agencies.



Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa (ROSEA)

<http://www.unocha.org/southern-eastern-africa>

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/eastern-africa>

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/southern-eastern-africa>