

REGIONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE  
**HORN OF AFRICA**  
AND THE GREAT LAKES REGION

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**JANUARY - MARCH 2017**



**Cover Photo:**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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*This report has been developed collectively with humanitarian partners in the region to inform preparedness and advocacy efforts to mitigate and manage humanitarian risk in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region\*. It presents a three-month trend analysis from October to December 2016 and a humanitarian outlook from January to March 2017. It is the sixth report in the series and updates the previous scenario report which was published in October 2016.*

## REGIONAL TRENDS: OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2016

**The number of people in crisis and emergency food insecurity levels (IPC 3 or above) and in need of humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa region has continued to grow in 2016, reaching an estimated 21.4 million people at the end of the year.** This represents a 30 per cent increase compared to 16.4 million in January 2016. Needs are driven by successive episodes of drought, which have led to consecutively failed harvests, combined with conflict and insecurity, and economic shocks affecting the most vulnerable.

**The impact of the drought is largely comparable to the El Niño-induced East African drought of October - November 2010, which caused a regional food security and nutrition crisis in 2011.** Extensive crop failures and record low vegetation, together with significant livestock deaths, are currently observed across **Somalia, southern and eastern Ethiopia, and northern and coastal Kenya.** Western Kenya, parts of south-western Ethiopia, parts of southern Sudan and the central and eastern part of Uganda are moderately affected. Pasture and water resources for human and livestock consumption are at critically low levels across wide swathes of the region, particularly between Somaliland and southern Ethiopia.

**The coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable households are already stretched** after the second year in a row of poor livestock and crop productivity. Whereas government response capacity is much greater compared to 2010/11 and governments have allocated significant funds to meet growing humanitarian needs (Ethiopia US\$780 million in 2016 and Kenya US\$99 million in 2017), the scale of the current crisis is outpacing existing capacity.

**Acute malnutrition in children under five years remains a major concern in many parts of South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya and Uganda.** Acute malnutrition and anaemia among refugees are of huge concern, especially as due to shortfalls in funding food ration have been significantly cuts. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence in ten out of 24 camps in Ethiopia exceeds the 15 per cent emergency threshold. Anaemia is above the 40 per cent of public health significance in at least nine out of 24 camps. Over 75 percent of the Somali refugee children who have arrived in Dollo Ado in Ethiopia since January were acutely malnourished.

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\* This report includes Burundi, Djibouti, Eastern DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and the impact of the Yemen crisis on the Horn.

**In Burundi, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance increased in 2016 from 1.1 million to at least 3 million** (26 per cent of the total population) - with displaced women, children and youth being the most affected. Protection needs have almost doubled, from 1.1 million to 1.8 million people. The socio-political crisis impacted on the rule of law and on access to essential support services, thus exposing the most vulnerable to multiple protection risks, including gender-based violence.

**Conflict has been the major cause of displacement across borders and a threat to peoples' security. According to UNHCR, as of January 2017, there were 4 million refugees and asylum seekers in the region. The majority of the newly displaced come from South Sudan. More people have fled South Sudan since July 2016 than Syria in the whole of 2016.** There are now more than 1.9 million people are internally displaced, and more than 1.54 million have left to seek refuge in neighboring countries as a result of insecurity and food insecurity. Around 240,000 Sudanese refugees living in South Sudan since 2011 are exposed to continued insecurity. In eastern DRC continued armed conflict and inter-communal violence has led to the displacement of an additional 178,000 people since September 2016. This brings to total number of internally displaced people in the DRC to 2.1 million. Since October 2016, 64,000 Burundians fled to neighbouring countries bringing the total number of refugees to 364,000 (since 2015).

**Simultaneous disease outbreaks persisted with cross-border implications, including yellow fever, malaria, cholera and measles, challenging the region's already overstretched healthcare facilities.** Spikes in malaria cases were reported in Burundi, South Sudan and eastern DRC. According to WHO, more than eight million Burundians were affected by malaria in 2016, some 3,800 of whom died.

**Funding gaps hampered the humanitarian response in the region.** Overall funding needs in 2016 were US\$6.7 billion, which was 66 per cent funded. Refugee appeals were the worst funded and consequently the World Food Programme (WFP) was forced to make food ration cuts in Kenya (50 per cent), South Sudan (30 per cent) and Ethiopia (20 per cent). In addition, food rations for South Sudanese refugees in Uganda were cut by 75 per cent, due to a very serious US\$62 million food assistance funding gap (December - May 2017).

**Humanitarian space continued to be constrained across the region due to insecurity, bureaucratic impediments and financial limitations.** The volatile and insecure operational environment in South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan and eastern DRC made it especially difficult and costly to respond to growing needs. There were access constraints in parts of Eritrea, some areas in Sudan remain inaccessible, and in Burundi access impediments, in particular administrative, were on the rise.

## REGIONAL OUTLOOK: JANUARY- MARCH 2017

**Famine has been declared for parts of Unity State in South Sudan, while the humanitarian situation in Somalia is rapidly deteriorating and famine is a strong possibility in 2017. By February the number of severely food insecure people across the Greater Horn of Africa has increased to 22.9 million and this could rise even further.**

**The food security situation in South Sudan continues to deteriorate,** and the IPC results released in February estimates that 4.9 million people are severely food insecure from February to April 2017. This is projected to increase to 5.5 million people, at the height of the 2017 lean

season in July.

**Drought in the Horn of Africa is expected to intensify in the coming months, with a delayed start to the rainy season and depressed levels of precipitation forecast for March-May 2017 in most of the Horn.** The results of the short-rain assessment conducted in January 2017 indicate that the number of food insecure people in Kenya has doubled to 2.7 million. The situation in Somalia is of particular concern, with the food insecure population increasing from five million in September 2016 to over 6.2 million in February 2017. This includes a drastic increase in the number of people in "crisis" and "emergency" from 1.1 million six months ago to nearly 3 million projected for February to June. **Severe drought, rising prices, continued insecurity and access limitations, and depressed rain forecasts suggest famine is possible again in Somalia.**

**There is a risk of a further escalation of violence in South Sudan.** In **Somalia**, the increased fragmentation of armed groups and the pull-out of foreign troops are worrying developments. Al Shabaab attacks are on rise in Somalia and in Kenya's north-eastern border area. In Kenya, tensions and localized conflicts are set to rise ahead of national elections scheduled for August 2017. **Inter-communal violence is expected to increase in drought-affected areas as** pastoralists trek further afield with their animals looking for increasingly limited water and pasture resources

**Severe new shocks are expected in 2017 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC),** with violence and conflict expected to continue to displace over 2,000 people per day on average. In 2017, the humanitarian context is aggravated by the political deadlock surrounding the postponement of elections, the economic downturn and the recent spike in inter-communal strife. Humanitarian actors are confronted with the expansion of ethnic violence in former Katanga province and the three Kasai provinces; the growing needs of South Sudan refugees in the northeast of the country; and protection concerns for civilians trapped in a cycle of violence in parts of North and South Kivu provinces.

**The socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Burundi is expected to deteriorate further.** Refugee arrivals in Tanzania have steadily increased by 100,000 throughout 2016 and are expected to continue to rise in 2017. Access will likely remain difficult especially in South Sudan and Somalia. The issuance of revised humanitarian directives in **Sudan** in December 2016 can ease restrictions on humanitarian operations if implemented. Recent interagency missions to Golo (Central Darfur) and Kurmuk (Blue Nile), represent positive developments.

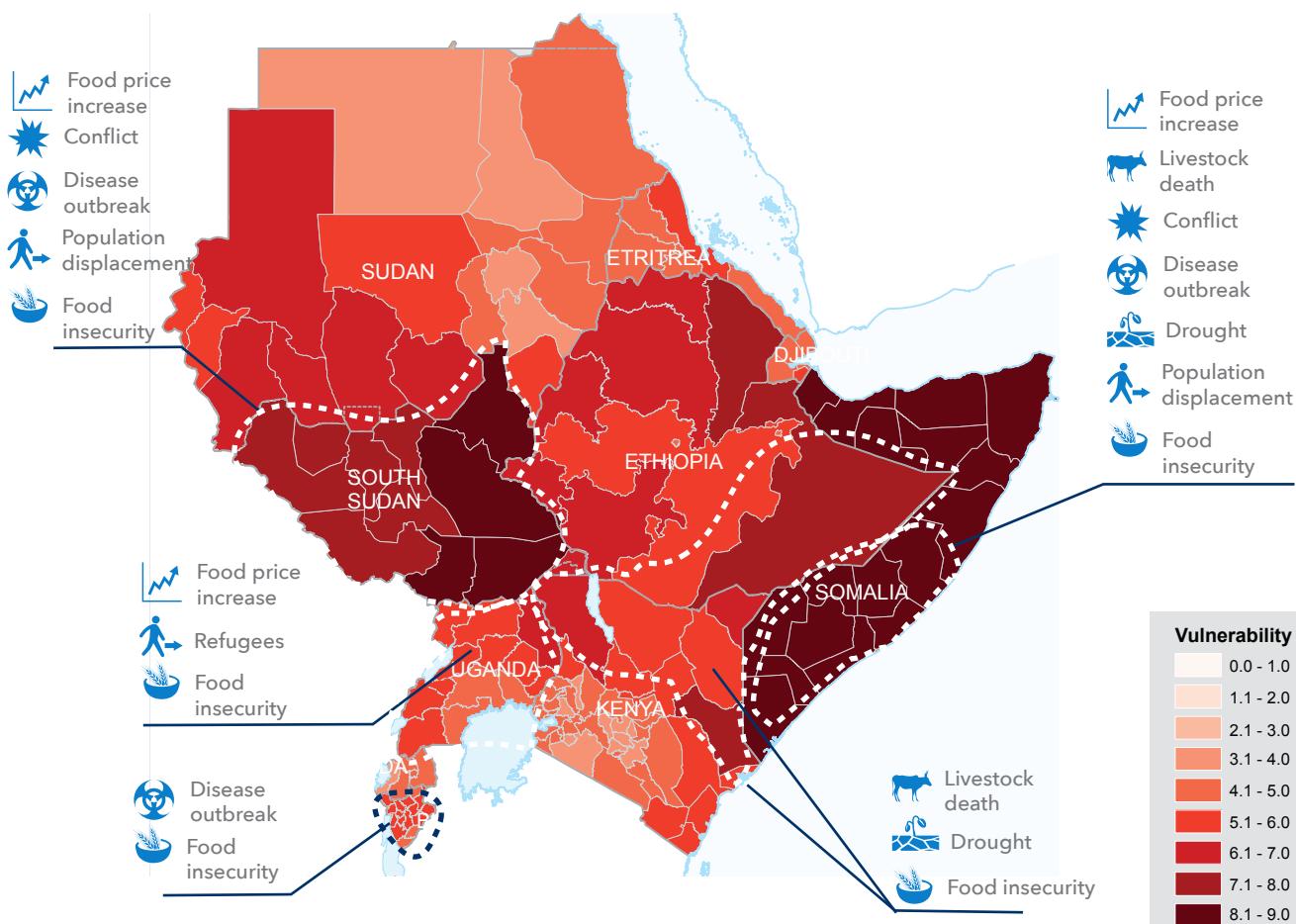
**Communicable diseases will likely spread across the region** due to increased population flows and the gathering of displaced populations into overcrowded settlements characterised by poor sanitation and the shortage of potable water. **Outbreaks of animal diseases are also expected to rise as** herds are crowding around fewer water points.

**Overall funding needs for 2017 stand at US\$6.8 billion a slight increase on last year, but this is likely to rise further.** The Somalia HCT has issued a US\$ 825 operational plan for January-June 2017 to prevent a famine.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HORN OF AFRICA DROUGHT RESPONSE

- The focus should be on supporting nationally-led efforts and country-level response through technical support, advocacy, resource mobilization, country-level interagency coordination, and local NGO support. This is in recognition that while the situation is alarming, government and partners at the national level have made great strides in the last few years to enhance preparedness capacities, set up nationally-led coordination mechanisms, and strengthened their systems to address the effects of droughts. Access and capacity to respond is greater than in 2011, particularly in Kenya and Ethiopia.
- Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team (RHPT) will continue to be the main regional coordination forum. Joint advocacy on the Greater Horn drought response will be based on a Horn of Africa Call for Action.
- Regional coordination and support is focused on cross-border issues such as population displacement, communicable disease outbreaks, livestock movement and logistical constraints on humanitarian aid.
- Partnership with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) should continue at regional level to raise the profile of the regional drought.

### VULNERABILITY HOTSPOTS



Source: INFORM Horn of Africa, OPHI, OCHA (Feb 2017)

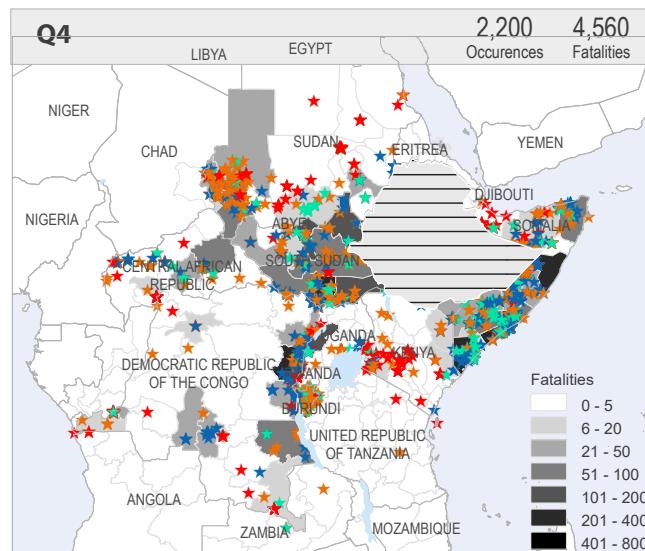
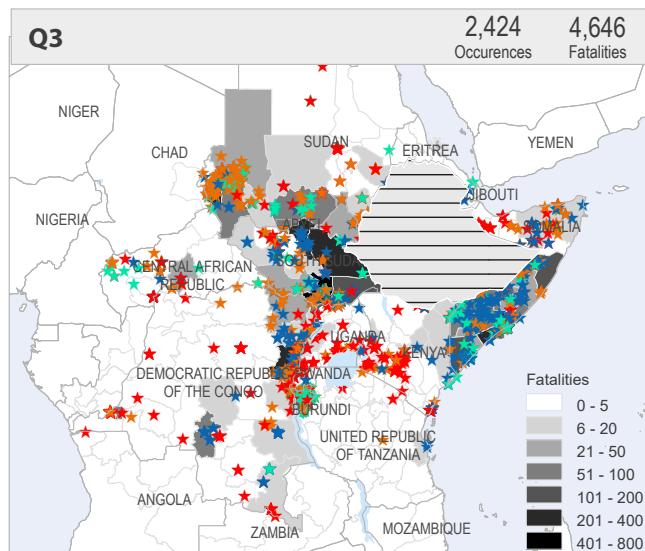
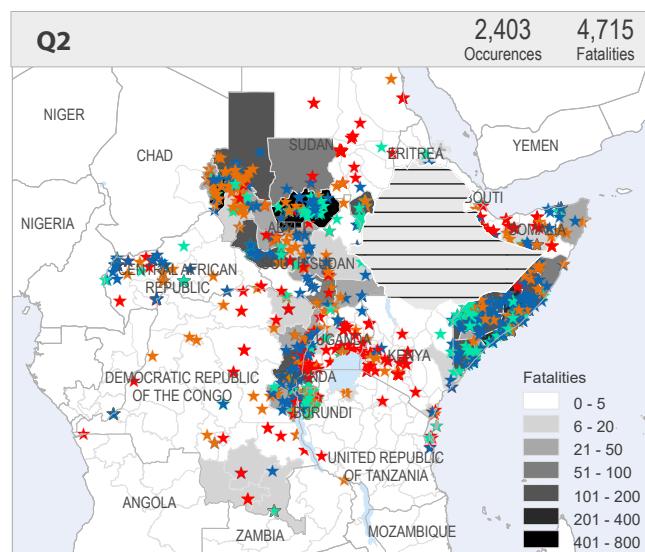
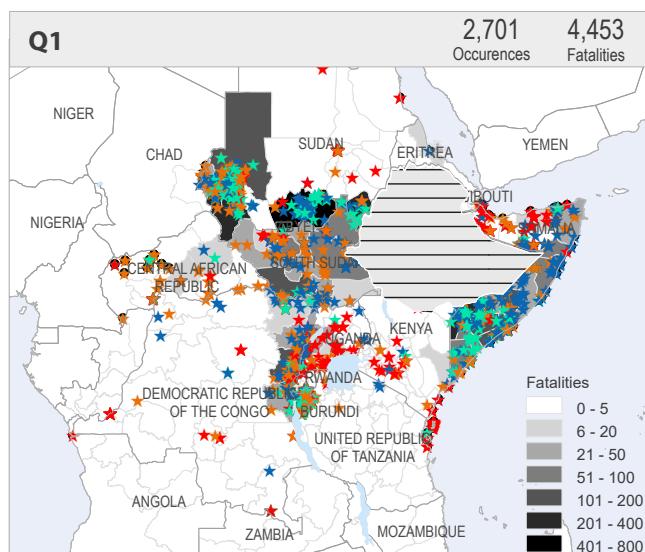
## II. HUMANITARIAN TRENDS: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016

### DRIVERS OF HUMANITARIAN NEED

**The region continued to suffer the effects of multiple shocks:** various conflicts (South Sudan, parts of Sudan, Somalia, and DRC), a succession of climatic events associated with drought and below-average rains (El Niño followed by a strong negative Indian Ocean Dipole and a weak La Niña), and economic crises.

### INSECURITY AND CONFLICT

#### CONFLICT MAPS



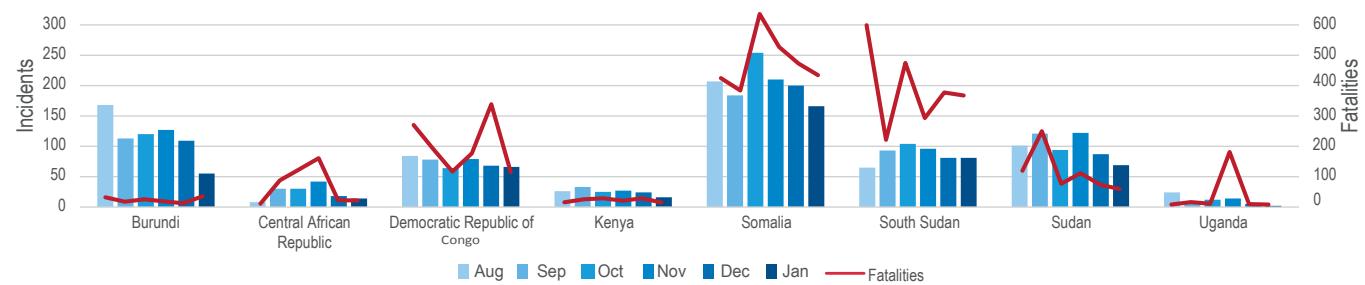
Type of Conflict: ★ Territory battles ★ Riots/Protests ★ Violence against civilians ★ Other ━━━━━━ Data awaiting verification

Source: Armed Conflict Location and events Database (ACLED) Creation Date: 17 Jan 2017 The boundaries shown on this map does not imply official endorsement of the United Nations

**Insecurity and violence persisted in countries in conflict (South Sudan, Somalia and parts of Sudan) but was also recorded in previously stable buffer states.** Renewed violence that broke out in July in **South Sudan** has progressively spread across the country - including in the Greater Equatoria region and Western Bahr el Gazal and Unity states - leading to record levels of internal displacement and unprecedented flow of refugees to neighbouring countries. The trends of increasing militarization, inter-communal violence and economic crises, are likely to continue in the coming months leading to more localized violence (like in Upper Nile in late January 2017).

Widespread impunity in **Somalia** has led to the indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force by different parties to the conflict. Mounting levels of violence against the civilian population has increased humanitarian needs and protection concerns. Elections marred by delay and corruption coincided with the withdrawal of international troops and a spike in conflict in Galkacyo and lower Shabelle. In **Sudan's** Darfur region, no major armed conflict was reported and intercommunal clashes were lower than in previous years, though the situation remained volatile with continued protection concerns for the displaced population, and restrictions on movement for humanitarian actors, particularly in the conflict-affected areas of the Jebel Marra region. The unilateral ceasefires by both parties in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states have largely held, though some clashes were reported in Blue Nile state.

GHOA CONFLICT TREND BAR GRAPH AUG 2016 - JAN 2017



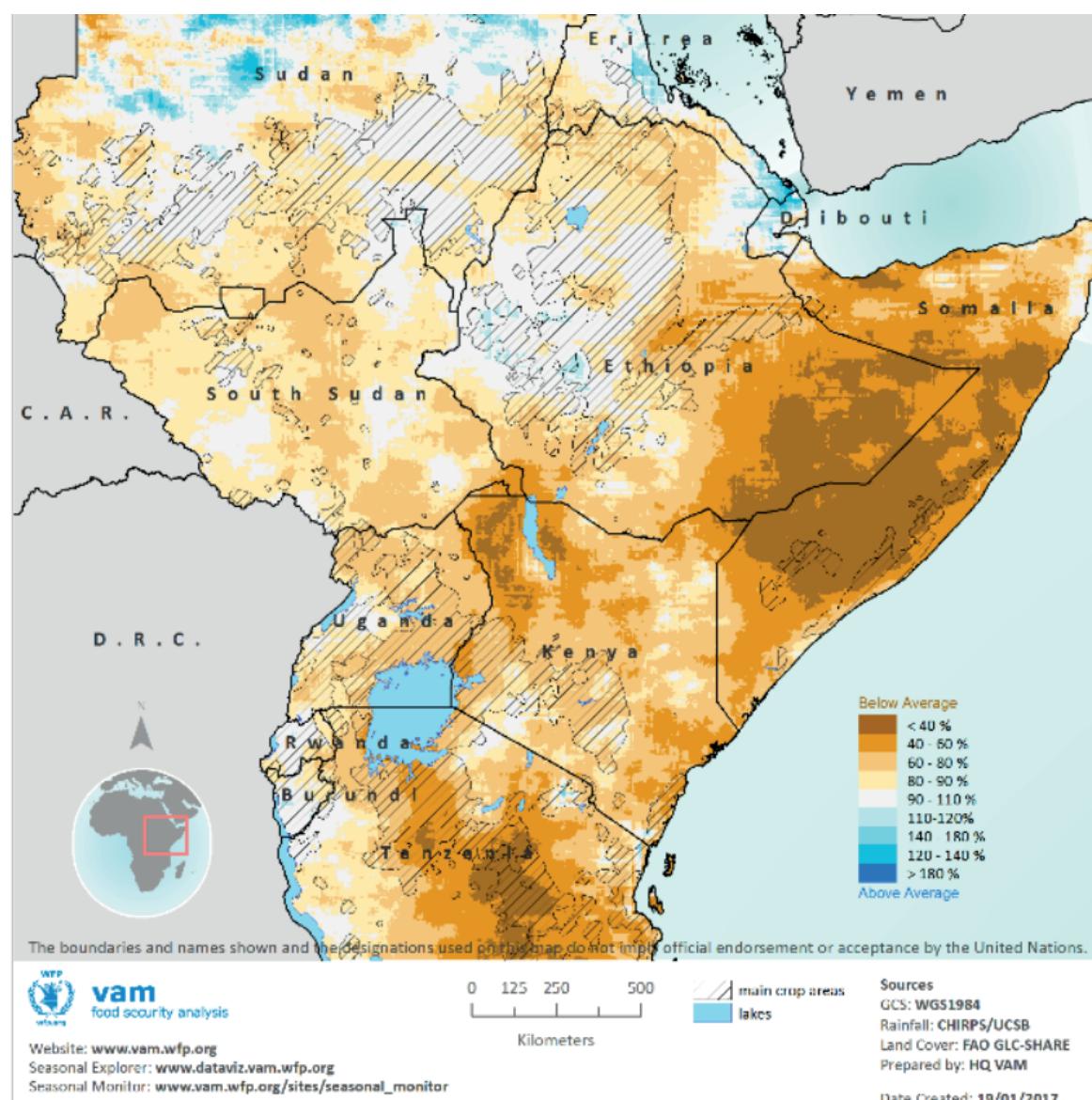
Source: Armed Conflict Location and events Database (ACLED) Creation Date: 14 Feb 2017

Following an alleged IED attack on a security patrol by the royal guard, police and military raided King Mumbere's Rwenzururu Kingdom's palace in Kasese (**Western Uganda**). The clashes left 126 people dead. The security situation in the country is expected to remain stable in the coming months, even if stretched by the massive flow of South Sudan refugees that could lead to localized violence over resources in the northern part of Uganda. Al-Shabaab's capacity to launch attacks in **northeastern Kenya** is undiminished after a series of attacks in October in Mandera. Violence is expected to increase in the coming months as the pre-election campaign has started. In **Ethiopia**, relative calm seems to have been restored and protests have largely subsided. The six-month State of Emergency, declared in October 2016, remains in place. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has called upon the Government of Ethiopia to permit the deployment of independent observers into the country to assess the human rights situation.

## CLIMATE<sup>1</sup>

**The 2016 Deyr or Short Rains season in East Africa (October to December) witnessed severely low levels of rainfall, largely comparable to those of 2010.** These conditions were particularly acute across **Somalia, southeastern Ethiopia** and – to a lesser extent – in the coastal and semi-arid regions of **Kenya, western Uganda** and **southwestern Ethiopia**. Analysis of the cumulative regional rainfall from August to December shows severe deficits. Areas such as central and southern Somalia have registered only a third of their usual seasonal levels. According to WFP drought conditions also extend to northwestern Kenya, western Uganda, parts of Sudan (South Kordofan) and southwestern Ethiopia, affecting areas with poor and vulnerable populations. The drought pattern reached Tanzania and as far south as Madagascar.

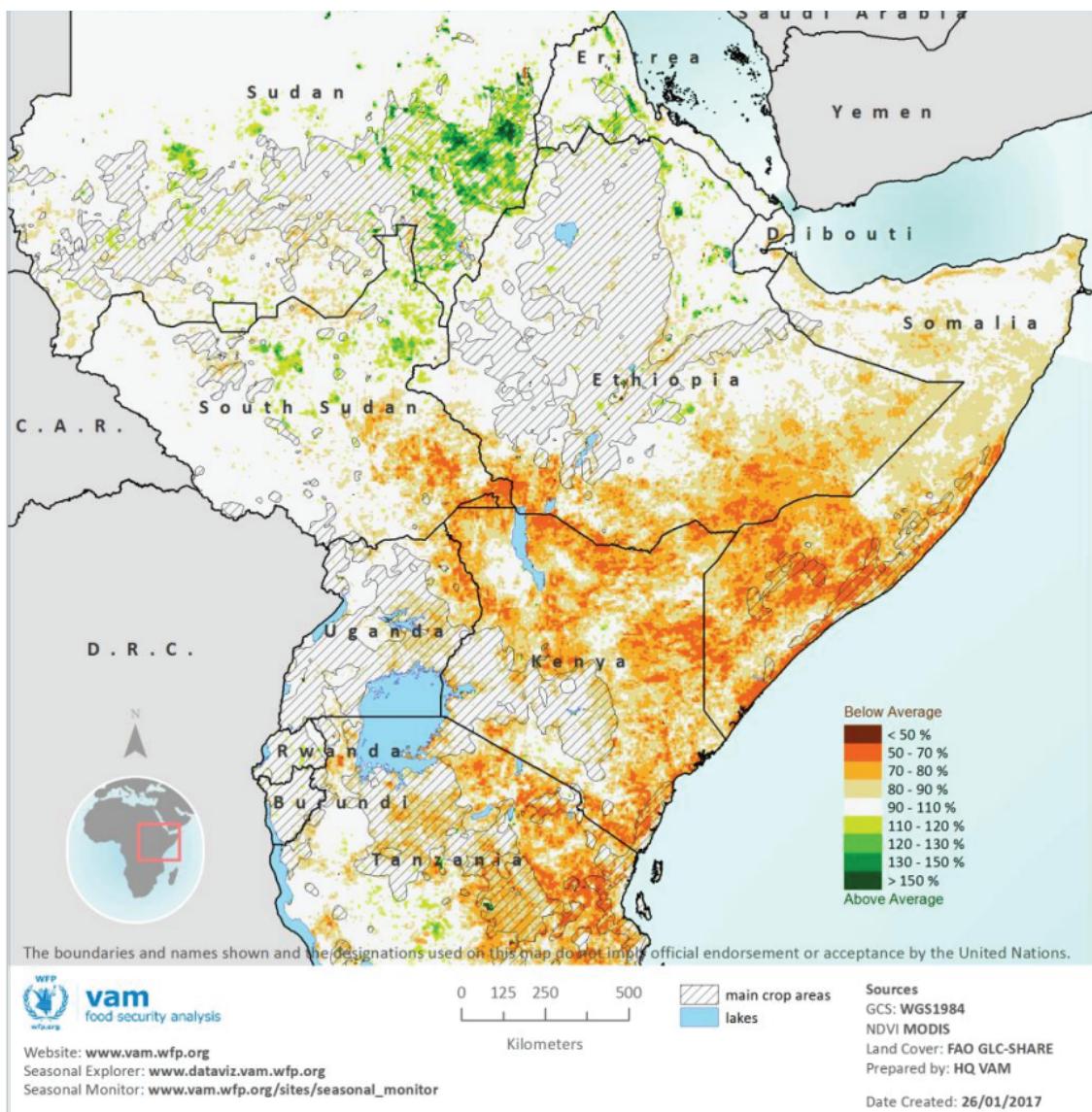
RAINFALL ANOMALY MAP OCT- DEC 2016



<sup>1</sup> WFP/VAM East Africa: The 2016 Season, Severe Drought in the Horn of Africa

**Widespread crop failures** have affected farming communities in most of **Somalia** and northeastern **Kenya**, where moisture conditions were insufficient for planting and early crop growth and could not trigger substantial vegetation development. The October-January average vegetation index (shows low vegetation cover across the region, an impact amplified by the poor rains of the previous season in Somalia and Kenya and the intervening long dry season.

#### VEGETATION COVER DEFICIT



The early stages of the season in November saw record low vegetation across eastern and northeastern Kenya, southern Somalia and southern and eastern Ethiopia. Slight improvement in rainfall patterns in late November brought some localized benefits but had no significant impact. Further dryness in December led to the current scenario of major negative impacts on crop production and extremely scarce pasture resources over very large areas. The next rains and vegetation growth are not expected until mid-March at the earliest.

**Severe and extensive drought has had a major impact on water resources, both on river flow levels and water availability for human and livestock consumption.** Most of the water points in southern and eastern Ethiopia and Kenya are in Near-Dry status (less than 3 per cent

of the long-term usual level). Non-monitored water points within Somalia are expected to be in similar condition, as rainfall patterns have been even more unfavourable.

River basin rainfall totals at the end of season remained at their lowest levels for the larger Shabelle basin and at one of the lowest for the Juba-2 basin. A similar story emerges for other basins. Comparable dry years include 2010, 2005, 2003, and 1991.

This implies that irrigated agriculture along the Juba and Shabelle rivers in Somalia has been seriously affected and irrigated crop production will be at very low levels, possibly comparable to 2010 and 2005.

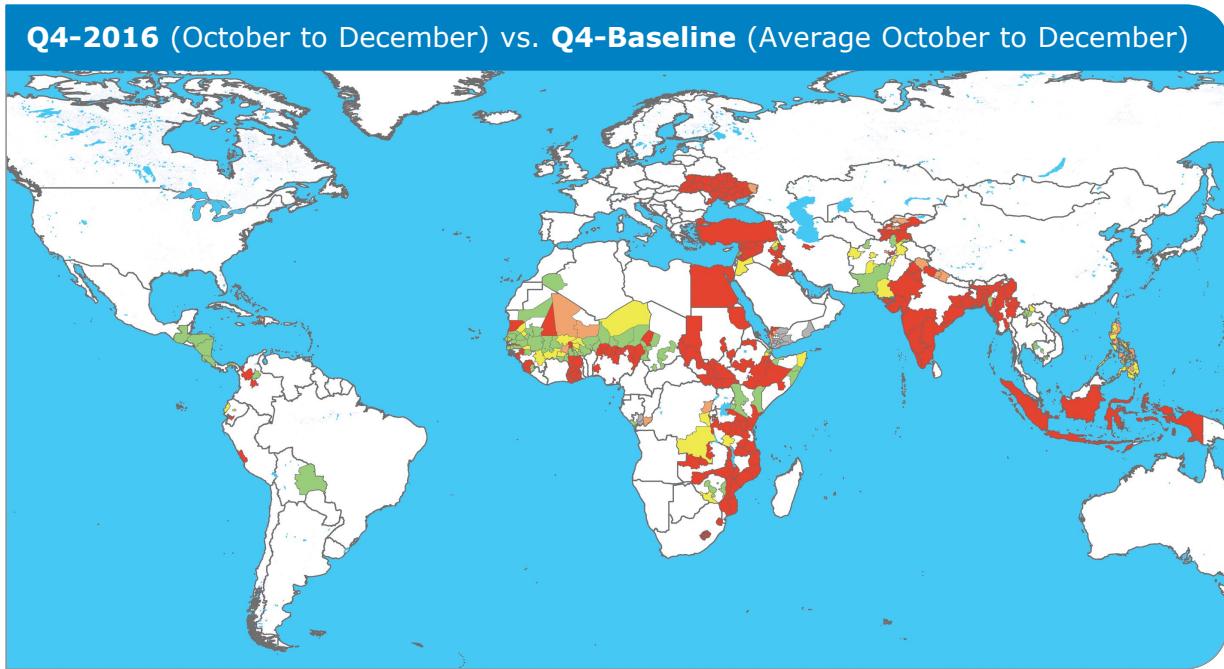
High occurrence of **livestock deaths** is affecting particularly small ruminants, mainly sheep and goats. Significant levels of cattle deaths - ranging from 25 per cent to 75 per cent - were also reported in South Omo zone (SNNP region), Bale zone (Oromia region) and the Somali region in Ethiopia, Marsabit in Kenya, and Gedo in Somalia. The majority of livestock (all types) are reported to be in **poor bodily conditions** and **extremely weak** (some requiring human support to be lifted in the morning), leading to a decline milk production, reduced immunity and increased mortality. In addition there is a risk of **increased occurrence of livestock diseases due to** crowding at fewer water points and the intermingling of herds

In addition to the socio-political situation and to the deterioration of the economy, natural disasters have exacerbated the vulnerability of communities in **Burundi**. More than 4 million people were been affected by floods, landslides, heavy rains and storms in 2016, resulting in internal displacement and the need for humanitarian assistance.

## ECONOMIC SHOCKS

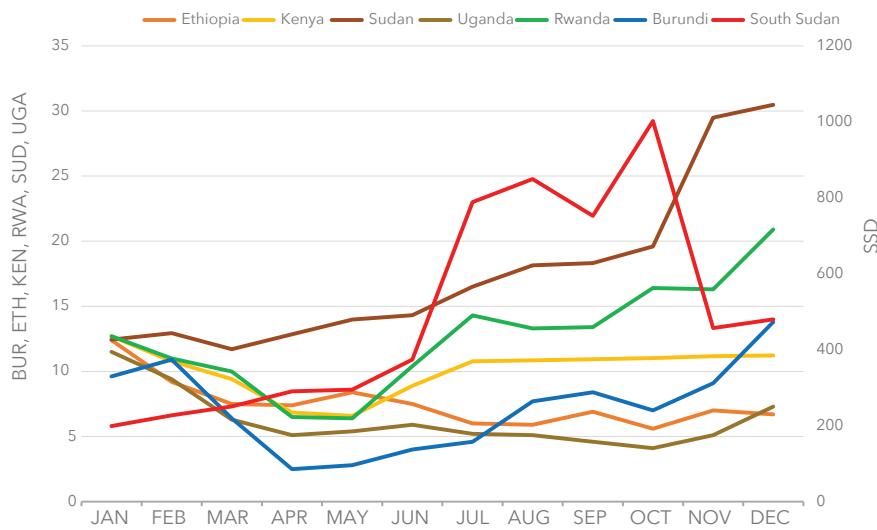
**Prices of food and non-food items continue to be at record highs in drought and conflict affected areas, exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition across the region.** In **South Sudan**, increasing imports and the onset of the harvest season during the fourth quarter of 2016 reduced cereal prices by 33 per cent, sorghum prices by 8 per cent and wheat flower by 29 per cent from the previous quarter. Nevertheless prices remained more than double the 2015 level across the country. **South Sudan** experienced an unprecedented hyperinflationary spiral compared with 2015 (+578.9 per cent CPI; +666.9 per cent food CPI): the official pound was ten times lower than its value in Q4-2015. In **Somalia**, the prices of water and food have increased by up to 66 and 88 per cent respectively. In **Uganda** prices increased from the third to fourth quarter of 2016 by 16 per cent for maize, 10 per cent for millet and 4 per cent for beans, due to a late harvest following a slow onset of rains. In **Ethiopia**, cereal prices in Q4-2016 rose from Q3-2016 (+22 per cent maize; +31 per cent sorghum) despite the harvest in October. In Marsabit, the price of maize has more than doubled according to an FAO/IGAD assessment carried out in January 2017. Inflation in **Sudan** continued to rise to and exceeded 30 per cent in December 2016 while inflation in **Rwanda** surpassed the 20 per cent mark. In the DRC, economic growth has declined further in 2016, with the local currency depreciating by an estimated at 20 per cent and inflation at 11.3 per cent. **Burundi** is also experiencing a severe macroeconomic crisis, with real GDP dropped by 3.9 per cent in 2015. Budgetary resources shrank in 2015 and 2016 largely due to a sharp decline in foreign grants. The projected revenue shortfall exceeded 10 per cent of GDP, which resulted in a sharp drop in public investment. The budget deficit is expected to increase to 7 per cent in 2016, while public debt increased from 33.8 per cent of GDP in 2014 to over 50 per cent of GDP in 2016. There has been a significant loss of foreign exchange reserves in 2015/16.

FOOD PRICES ACROSS THE WORLD



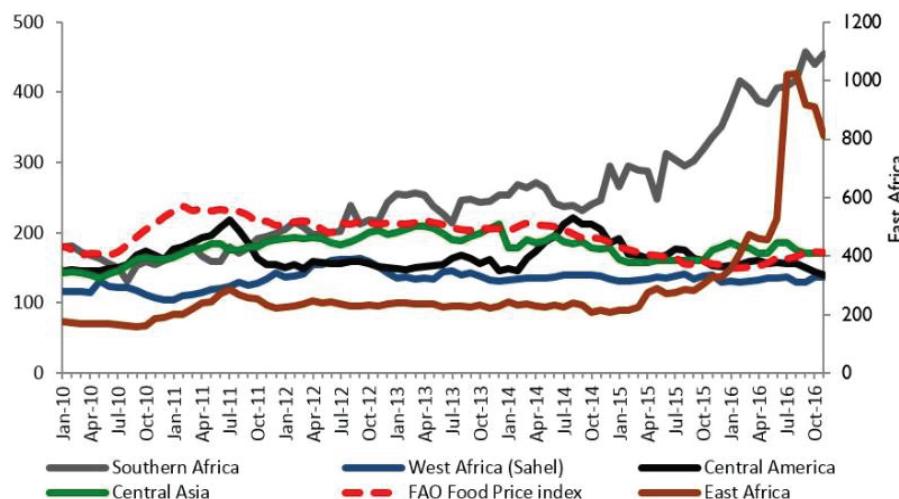
**Note:** This map is based on the calculations at subnational level of column M of the table on pages 8-13. Baseline prices are from Q4 2011-2015.

2016 INFLATION TREND IN HORN OF AFRICA (%)



**The drought has resulted in a collapse in the price of livestock.** For example in North horr (Marsabit) the price of a sheep has declined 95 per cent below the normal price at this time of year. In South-Omo, the price of cattle is 90 per cent below average for cattle, in the Somali region the decline varies between 50 to 70 per cent, in Marsabit over 50 per cent, and in Gedo and in Turkana the decline was close to 50 per cent.

FEWS NET REGIONAL PRICE INDICES AND FAO FOOD PRICE INDEX, JANUARY 2010 - NOVEMBER 2016

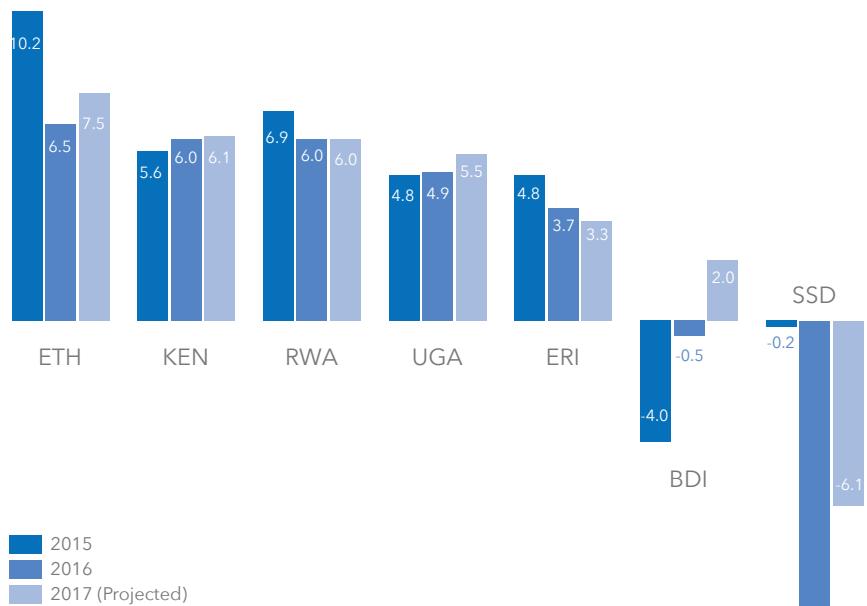


Source: FAO and FEWS NET

by 13 per cent, during its second consecutive year of decline. Burundi has also witnessed two consecutive years of economic contraction, and the suspension of budget support by development donors has resulted in major budget shortfalls.

**Economic growth forecasts were revised sharply downwards** for the region and sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, with growth projected to reach its lowest levels in two decades – although there is notable variation between countries, with Ethiopia continuing to record high growth rates. South Sudan is the worst performing economy on the continent with real GDP projected to decline

HORN OF AFRICA ECONOMIC GROWTH (%)



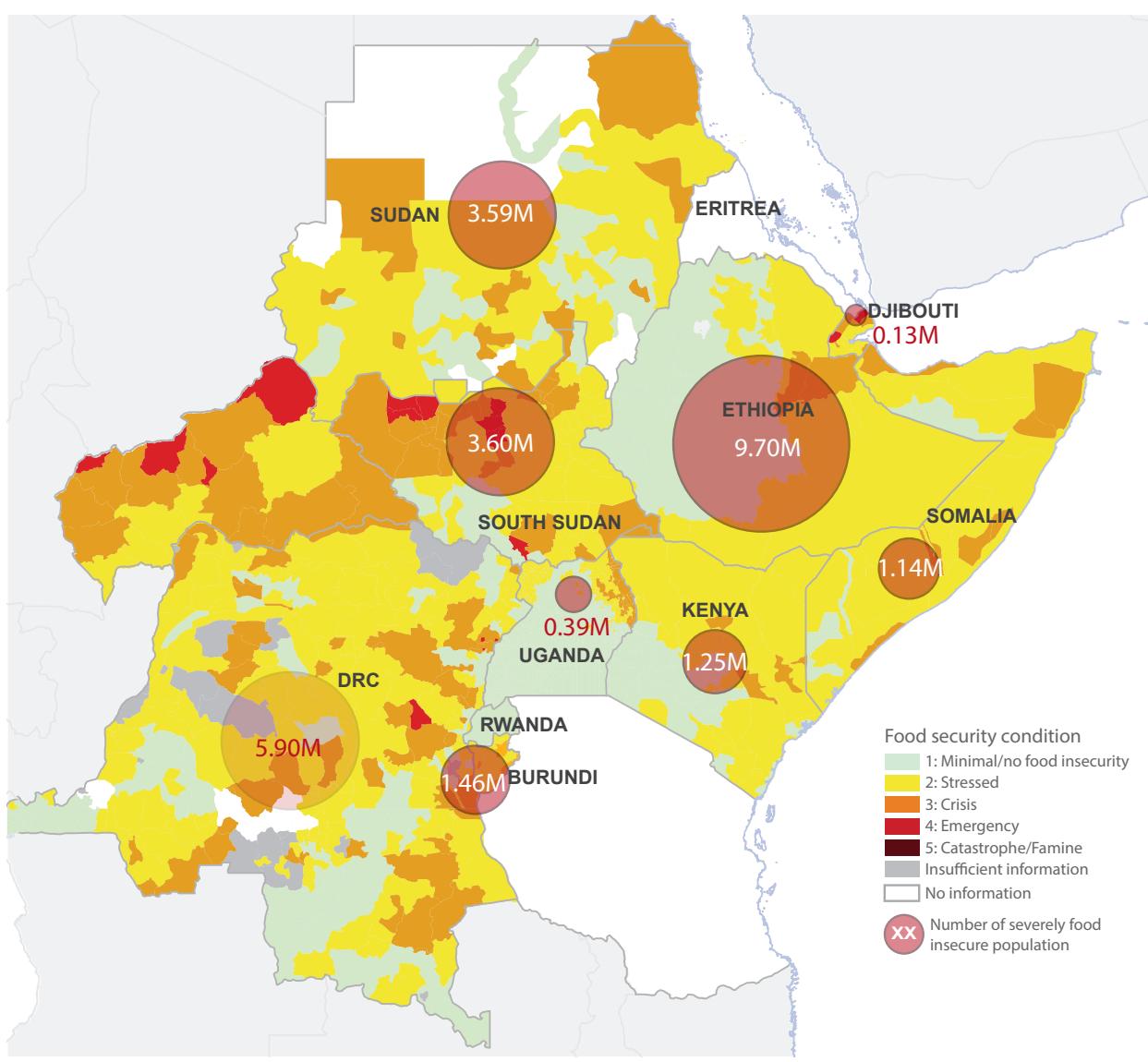
Creation Date: 12 Jan 2017 Source: IMF (Regional Economic Outlook)

## HUMANITARIAN IMPACTS: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016

### FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

**Food insecurity has increased and malnutrition is rising.** By December 2016 an estimated 21.4 million people are suffering from crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC 3 or above) or are in need of humanitarian assistance in the region. Acute malnutrition remains a major concern, with areas of **Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda** reporting a deterioration of the nutrition situation of children under five. Malnutrition among refugees is a major concern. Some 25 per cent of refugee sites in the region have registered Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence above the 15 per cent of emergency threshold. 60 per cent of refugee sites have anaemia prevalence above 40 per cent of public health significance, and 25 per cent suffer a prevalence of stunting above 40 per cent of public health significance.

#### HOA FOOD SECURITY SITUATION (AS OF DECEMBER 2016)



**The humanitarian crisis in South Sudan is severe. By the end of 2016 3.6 million people were reported to be severely food insecure and humanitarian partners already reported an unprecedented nutrition crisis.** Acute malnutrition remains a major public health emergency in South Sudan. Out of 23 counties with recent data, 14 have Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) at or above 15 per cent. GAM of above 30 per cent is observed in Leer and Panyijiar while Mayendit had GAM levels of 27.3 per cent. Similarly, a worsening nutrition situation atypical to the post-harvest season is observed in the Greater Equatoria region – particularly in Greater Central Equatoria – a deterioration associated with widespread insecurity, lack of physical access, disruption of the 2016 agricultural season and the ongoing economic crisis. Areas in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal show higher than usual levels of acute malnutrition expected for the post-harvest season, indicating a worsening situation. Insecurity, displacement, poor access to services, extremely poor diet (in terms of both quality and quantity), low coverage of sanitation facilities and deplorable hygiene practices are underlying the high levels of acute malnutrition. **By the year end humanitarian partners warned for further deterioration and the risk of famine in parts of Unity State if trends were to continue.**

**The food crisis in Somalia is rapidly worsening.** The latest findings from a countrywide seasonal assessment in Somalia conducted in December 2016 indicate that over 1.1 million people face Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity through to June 2017. This represents more than a two-fold increase compared to the previous six months. More than 3.3 million people are classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2), bringing the total number of people facing acute food insecurity across Somalia to over 6.2 million (more than half the overall population).

**Severe drought, rising prices, continued insecurity and access limitations, and depressed rain forecasts suggest famine is possible again in Somalia, according FEWSNET.** Levels of acute malnutrition in **Somalia** have increased since July 2016. Results from 27 separate nutrition surveys conducted between November and December 2016 by FSNAU and partners indicate that an estimated 363,000 children under the age of five are acutely malnourished, including 71,000 who are severely malnourished and face increased risk of morbidity and death. GAM prevalence is above the Critical (15 per cent) threshold in 13 out of 27 rural and displaced population groups surveyed. Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) is Critical/Very Critical ( $\geq 4.0$  per cent) in 6 out of 27 rural and displaced population groups surveyed.

Following the short-rains assessment, the Government of **Kenya** announced on 2 February that the **number of food insecure has more than doubled to 2.7 million people** (20 per cent of the population in pastoral areas). Sharp reductions in the food rations provided to refugees since 2016 – despite alarming rates of malnutrition among the refugee populations, specifically among South Sudanese new arrivals – has compounded the socio-economic fragility of refugee population. In **Ethiopia, 5.6 million** people are facing crisis and emergency food insecurity levels and are in need of urgent assistance and 9.2 mn people targeted with WaSH interventions.

In the **DRC**, 3.9 million people suffer from malnutrition, 847,000 of whom are in need of emergency assistance. Over 1.9 million Congolese children under five are severely malnourished.

**In Burundi,** 1.5 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure. This is due to the rising prices of basic food items, the seasonal rain deficit during the 2016 agriculture season, chronic poverty, and poor harvests, which resulted in households lacking seeds to plant for next season and food products for their immediate consumption. An estimated 58 per cent of children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition, while more than half a million

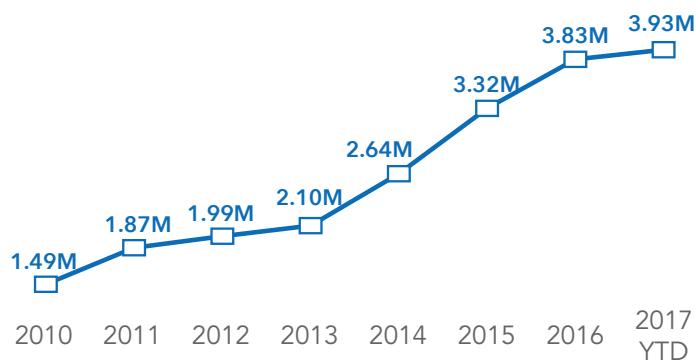
school-aged children lack access to a safe and protective learning environment. Malaria deaths have doubled since 2015, with half of the population affected in 2016. The nutritional status of several provinces of Burundi deteriorated sharply during 2016, with food insecurity affecting almost one in every two households (all phases) and chronic malnutrition affecting six out of ten children. More than 226,000 children suffer from acute malnutrition, of which 56,000 cases are severe. In some communities of the provinces of Rutana and Kirundo, the severe acute malnutrition rate exceeds the emergency threshold of 2 per cent. In these provinces, one in every four children suffers from acute diarrhea and four out of ten children suffer from fever and acute respiratory infections. Socio-economic crisis, increasing food insecurity, poor nutrition and hygiene practices, and reduced access to safe drinking water and medical care have led to these conditions.

In **Sudan**, food insecurity is likely to improve due to above average rainfall. **Most people in need live in the conflict-affected** Darfur region and South Kordofan and Blue Nile States, as well as Red Sea, Kassala, North Kordofan, West Kordofan and White Nile States. Rainfall in parts of South Kordofan has been poor and around 100,000 people are believed to be severely food insecure, having lost their harvest for the second year in a row.

**1.59 million across Uganda are facing crisis and emergency food insecurity IPC levels 3 and 4** and are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The main drivers are below average (30 – 40 per cent) harvest in areas impacted by the prolonged dry spell (some parts of southwestern Uganda have received the lowest rainfall in the past 16 years), crop and livestock diseases, and insecurity. The influx of new refugees from South Sudan puts further pressure on the country. Karamoja region, Acholi, Teso and West Nile are experiencing stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2) with a forecast of these moving to Crisis phase from February 2017, assuming current conditions prevail.

## DISPLACEMENT

REFUGEES / ASYLUM SEEKERS TREND



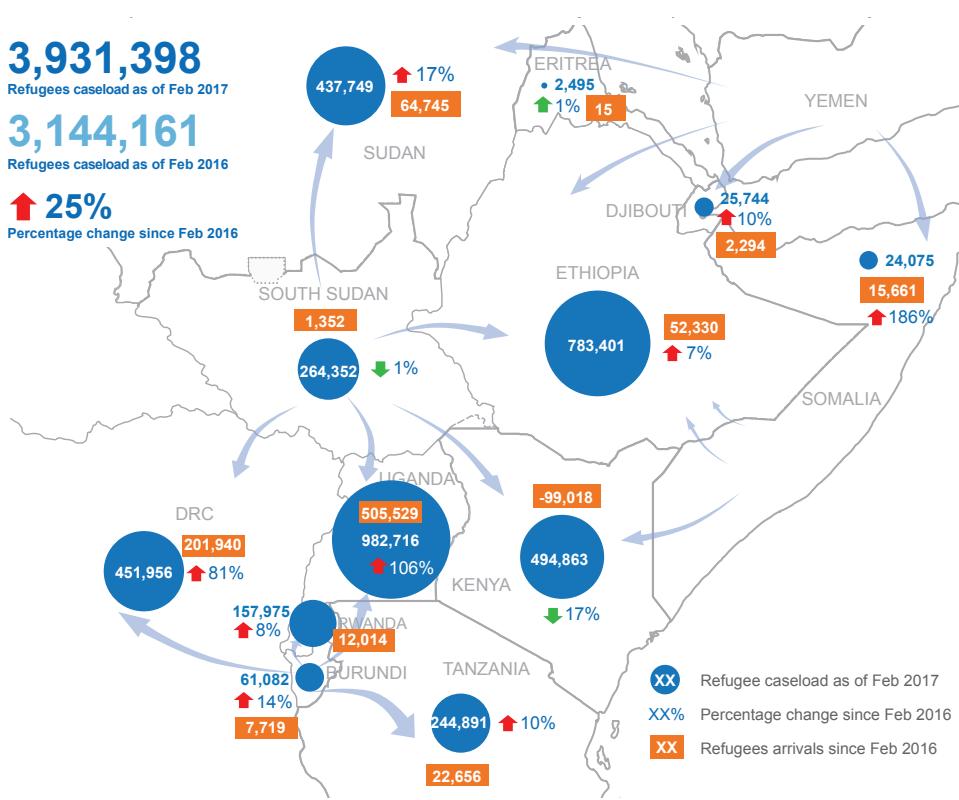
**There are nearly 4 million refugees and asylum seekers in the region, including half a million new refugees in 2016 alone.**

REFUGEE CASELOAD

**3,931,398**  
Refugees caseload as of Feb 2017

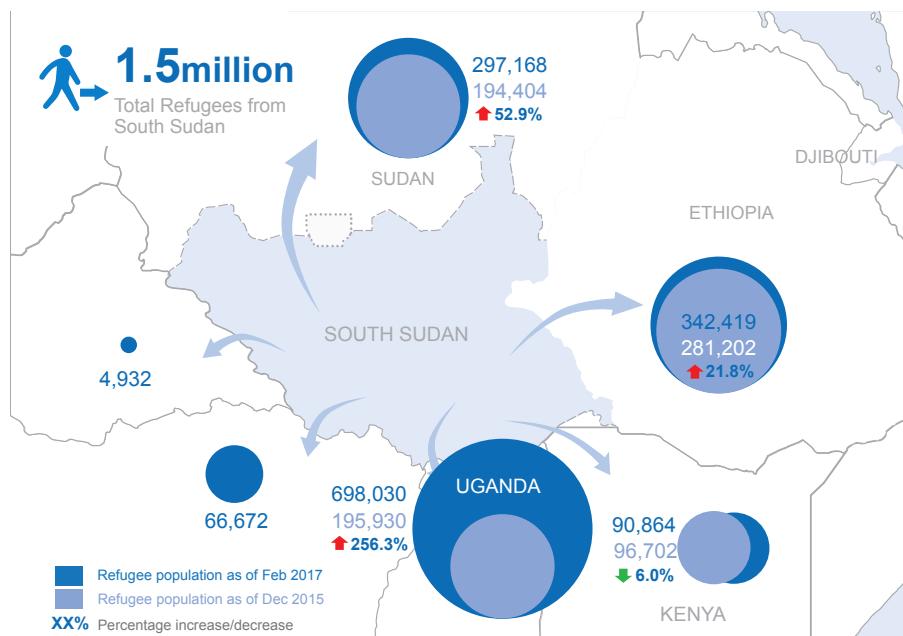
**3,144,161**  
Refugees caseload as of Feb 2016

**↑ 25%**  
Percentage change since Feb 2016



crossed out of South Sudan daily to Uganda, DRC, Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya. Nine out of every ten refugees arriving in neighbouring countries are women and children. The biggest outflow was into Uganda, which saw a 200 per cent increase in the number of refugees in 2016. Since July 2016, 417,448 South Sudanese have sought protection, bringing the total number of refugees to 880,000 by the end of 2016 - the highest number in the continent.

SOUTH SUDAN REFUGEES MOVEMENT



**One in four people in South Sudan have been forced to flee their homes** since December 2013, including more than 1.3 million people who have fled to neighbouring countries as refugees and nearly 1.9 million people who are internally displaced, the majority of whom are children. The number of people displaced by the conflict escalated dramatically following the eruption of conflict in Juba in July 2016. In October, an average of 3,500 South Sudanese

**Displacement continues in the Great Lakes region.** On-going tensions have resulted in widespread protection incidents across Burundi. Displaced persons, youth, children and women are particularly exposed. Internally displaced persons in Burundi are estimated at 170,000, while the spontaneous returnees identified so far in some targeted provinces are approximately 37,000. The monthly rate of arrivals from August to October 2016

doubled when compared to the previous months, and the increasing trend was confirmed in the first weeks of 2017. By December 2016, the number of Burundian who arrived since April 2015 stood at 364,000, with the majority seeking protection in Tanzania. There has been a marked deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo; which has led to 470,000 Congolese fleeing to neighbouring countries and 2.1 million IDPs at the end of 2016.

**Despite conflict and rapidly deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Yemen, more than 111,000 people in 2016 risked their lives on the high seas to reach Yemen from the Horn of Africa by boat.** This underscores the need for urgent support in countries of origin and transit. This number surpasses the previous record of 2012, when a total of 107,532 migrants were estimated to have arrived in Yemen. Among the arrivals in 2016 are 96,966 Ethiopians (83 per cent) and 20,128 Somalis, who travelled overland to the coastal towns of Obock (Djibouti) and, primarily Bossaso (Puntland, Somalia) assisted by smugglers to cross the Red Sea or Gulf of Aden to Yemen. In 2015, 92,446 crossings to Yemen were recorded, while in 2006 the total figure was 25,898. The 2016 increase has occurred despite heightened conflict and insecurity in Yemen in the past two years.

**Closure of Dadaab postponed.** The Government of Kenya announced in May 2016 that – due to security, environmental and economic burdens – it would close Dadaab camp, which houses over 284,000 Somalis, by 30 November 2016. The planned closure date was later postponed by six months to April 2017. On 29 August, Jubaland authorities in Somalia announced the temporary suspension of voluntary returns due to the lack of absorption capacity for the returnees, notably in already densely populated areas such as Kismayo. The suspension was lifted in October 2016. However, in February 2017 the High Court ruled that the closure of Dadaab is unconstitutional, although the Government of Kenya is expected to appeal this decision. Returns to Somalia could stall as a result of severe drought, and could even drive more Somali refugees across the border to neighbouring countries, including Kenya.

**The drought is uprooting people in Somalia.** In the first three weeks of 2017 alone, more than 33,000 people were displaced due to drought in southern and central Somalia alone, including 3,000 who crossed the border to Ethiopia. In Borama, Somaliland, approximately 8,000 households (40,000 individuals) are reported as being newly displaced in January 2017.

In February, the President of the United States of America Donald Trump signed an **Executive Order** temporarily banning travel from seven countries, including Somalia and Sudan, to the United States. The ban has since been suspended by US courts, but President Trump has announced the possibility of issuing a new executive order. According to UNHCR, 26,000 refugees in Kenya have been affected by the ban and ensuing uncertainty, half of whom had already been cleared for resettlement in the USA.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE OUTBREAKS

**Simultaneous disease outbreaks, including yellow fever, malaria, cholera and measles, are further challenging the region's already overstretched healthcare facilities, with cross-border implications.**

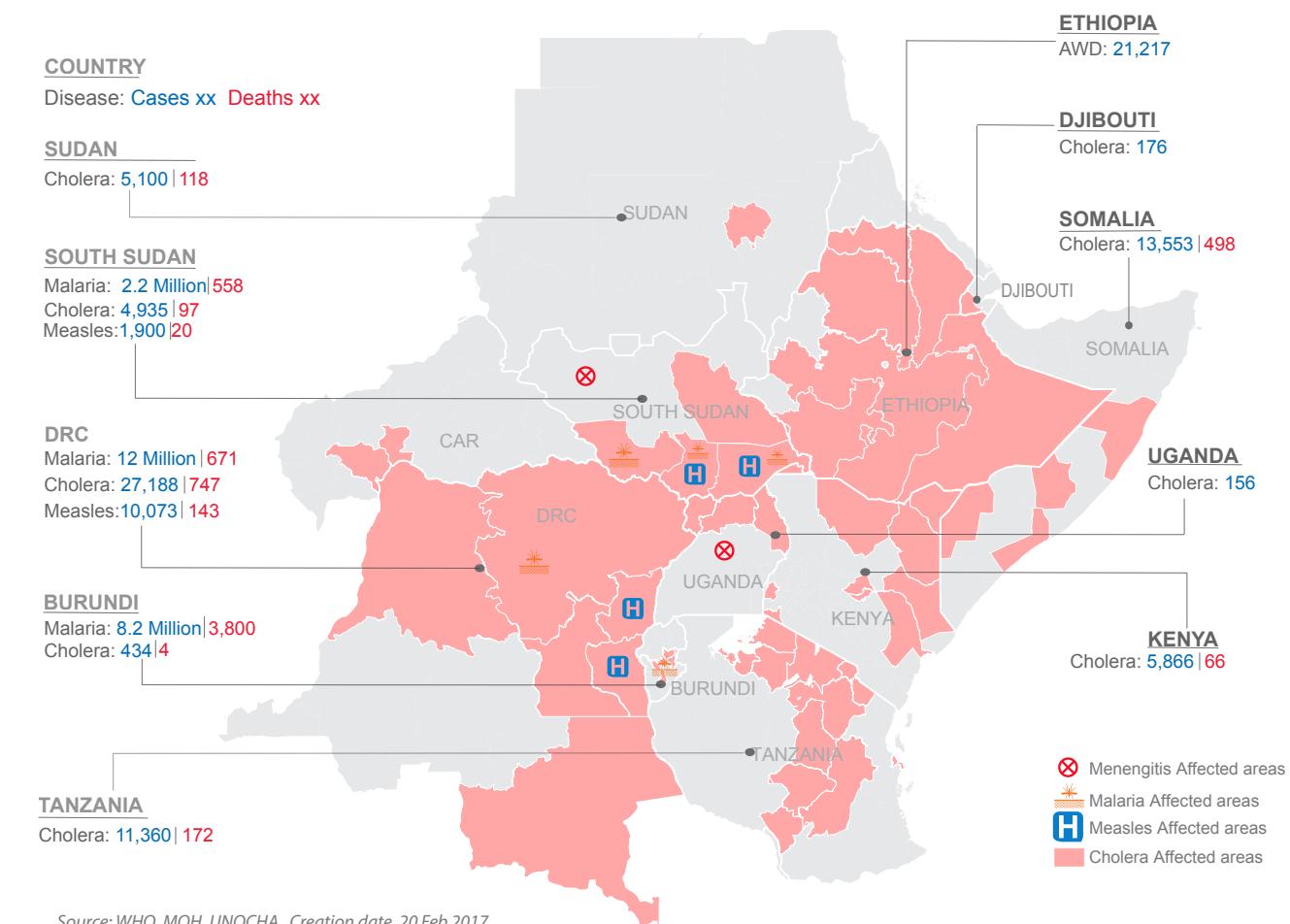
Multiple communicable disease outbreaks are impacting the region. Cholera/Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) and malaria are major concerns in the Horn of Africa. While yellow fever is under control, in 2016 there were over 60,000 suspected cases of Cholera/AWD with active transmission ongoing in DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and South Sudan. In 2016,

27,188 cholera cases and 747 deaths were reported in DRC from January to December – more than 15,907 cases and 232 deaths for the same period in 2015. In Ethiopia, more than 30,000 AWD cases were reported in 2016.

Spikes in malaria have been reported in Burundi, South Sudan and eastern DRC in recent months. Burundi has reported the highest cases of malaria with over 8 million cases from January to December 2016, and South Sudan has reported over 2.2 million cases.

Measles is increasingly a concern. As of December 2016, the DRC has reported over 10,000 cases and 143 deaths of measles, while South Sudan has reported 1,842 cases and 19 deaths. In Ethiopia, some 4,680 measles cases were reported in 2016. A countrywide measles vaccination campaign targeting 22.5 million children will be launched in February 2017.

#### COMMUNICABLE DISEASES MAP



#### EDUCATION

Drought, economic shocks and conflict in the region have disrupted the education of millions of children. An increase in school drop-outs and child labour has been observed across the region. In Somalia, more than 110,000 school-aged children enrolled in schools in drought-affected areas are at risk of being forced out of education. In Ethiopia, 578 schools have temporarily closed due to the effects of the drought, affecting nearly 228,000 students. In Kenya, 175,000 pre-primary and primary school children in ten counties are out of school due to drought.

South Sudan's education indicators remain among the worst in the world. Results from the

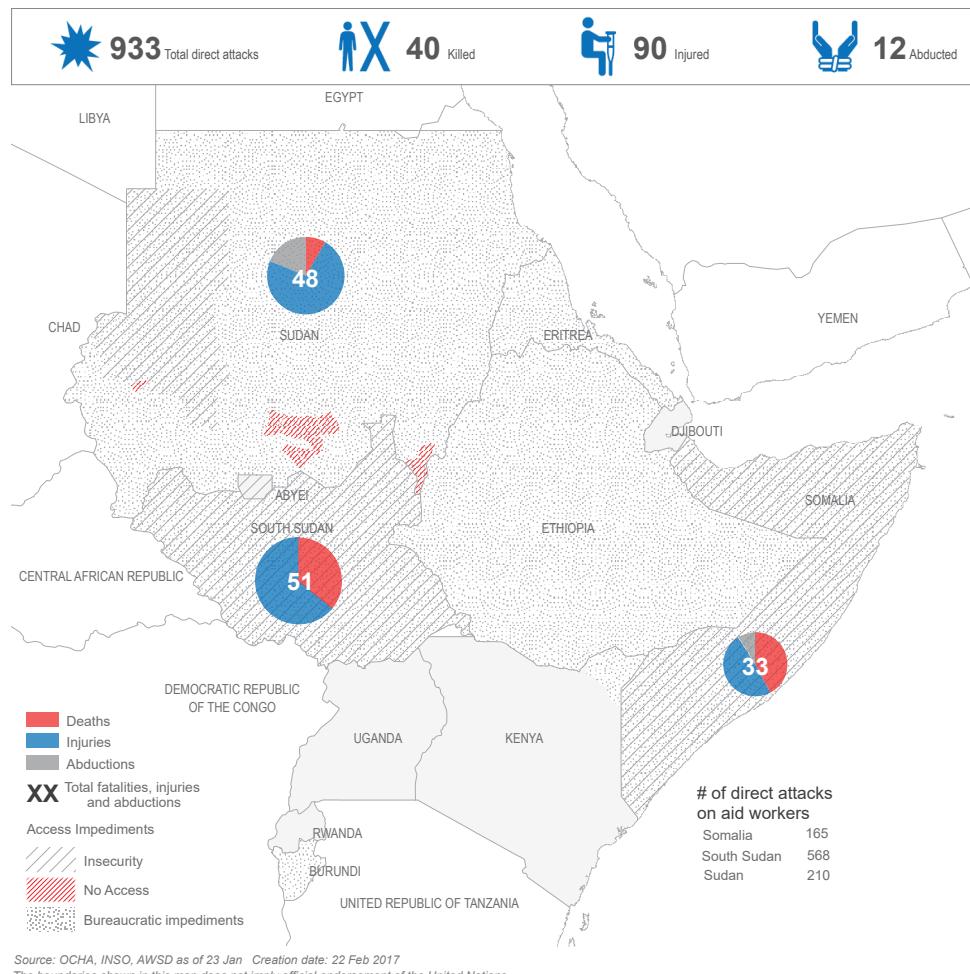
national education assessment conducted in South Sudan in November 2016 showed that 25 per cent of schools that had been functional at any point since 2013 were non-functional at the time of the assessment, with insecurity reported as the main cause of school closures, followed by the delayed or non-payment of teacher salaries. There has also been a 10 per cent decrease in the number of students enrolled at the start of 2016 compared to the start of 2013. The dropout rate since the beginning of the 2016 school year was 11 per cent for girls and 10 per cent for boys, with the lack of food being the main reason for children dropping out.

## RESPONSE CONSTRAINTS (JANUARY - MARCH 2017)

### HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

In late 2016, the ability to respond to growing humanitarian needs across the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region was hindered by rising insecurity, bureaucratic impediments, poor infrastructure and funding constraints. Insecurity and intimidation curtailed the ability of affected people to access assistance and services. Humanitarian actors did deliver aid in insecure areas, but at an unsustainable financial and human cost. The operational environment is expected to remain fragile in the coming months, particularly in South Sudan and Somalia, with a rise in incidents of extortion, looting and robberies and road access restrictions. Concerted efforts by all actors are necessary to secure and maintain safe and unfettered access for the humanitarian community to provide life-saving assistance and protection services and to scale up the response and halt the impending famine in Somalia and South Sudan.

#### HUMANITARIAN ACCESS MAP FOR 2016

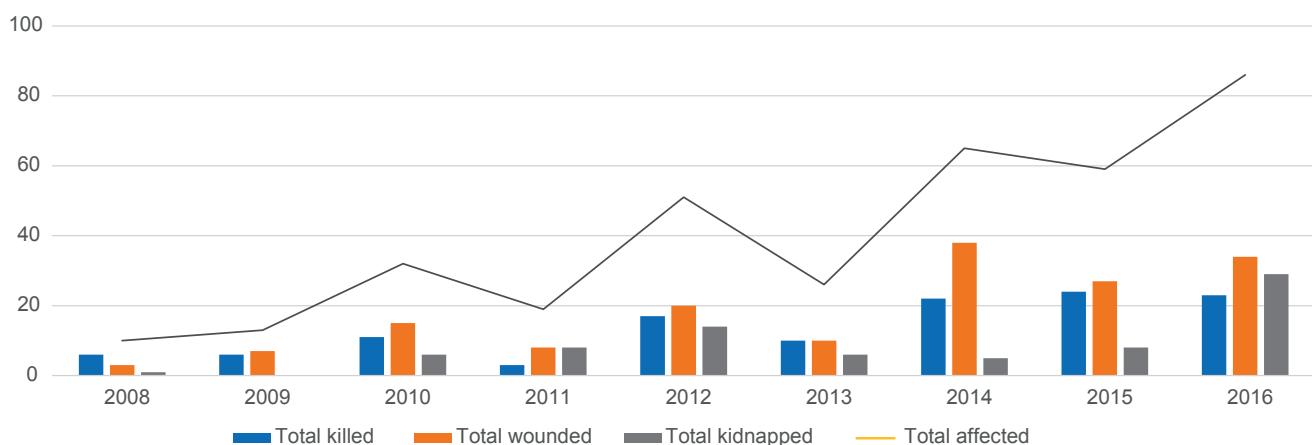


A total of 908 access incidents were recorded in 2016 in **South Sudan** (267 during the last quarter) 62 per cent of which involved violence against personnel and assets. As a result, 22 humanitarian workers were killed. Government interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities is also on the rise, reaching an unprecedented 27 per cent of the total access incidents in December 2016. Four senior INGO staff were deported from South Sudan in 2016.

In **Somalia** more than 165 violent incidents in 2016 - an 18 per cent increase from 2015 - led to the deaths of 14 humanitarian staff. Humanitarian organizations continue to experience a volatile and challenging operating environment due to high levels of insecurity and violence, particularly in areas in southern and central Somalia. The proliferation of illegal checkpoints by both non-state and state armed actors also affects the ability of humanitarian organizations to transport humanitarian supplies by road. Bureaucratic impediments are also on the increase due to the absence of a centralized regulatory framework for NGOs and international organizations.

In parts of the region, access continues to be denied though needs are expected to be high as a result of conflict, displacement and erratic rains. In **Sudan**, cross-line access to hundreds of thousands of people in SPLM/A-North controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile remains cut off since 2011. Over 500,000 people are displaced in areas under their control, and humanitarian needs - including lack of vaccinations - are believed to be significant. The revision of the humanitarian 'Directives' by the Government of Sudan is expected to facilitate access to non-conflict areas in the first six months of 2017.

#### ATTACKS ON AID WORKERS IN EAST AFRICA



Source: Aid workers security database Creation Date: 22 Dec 2016

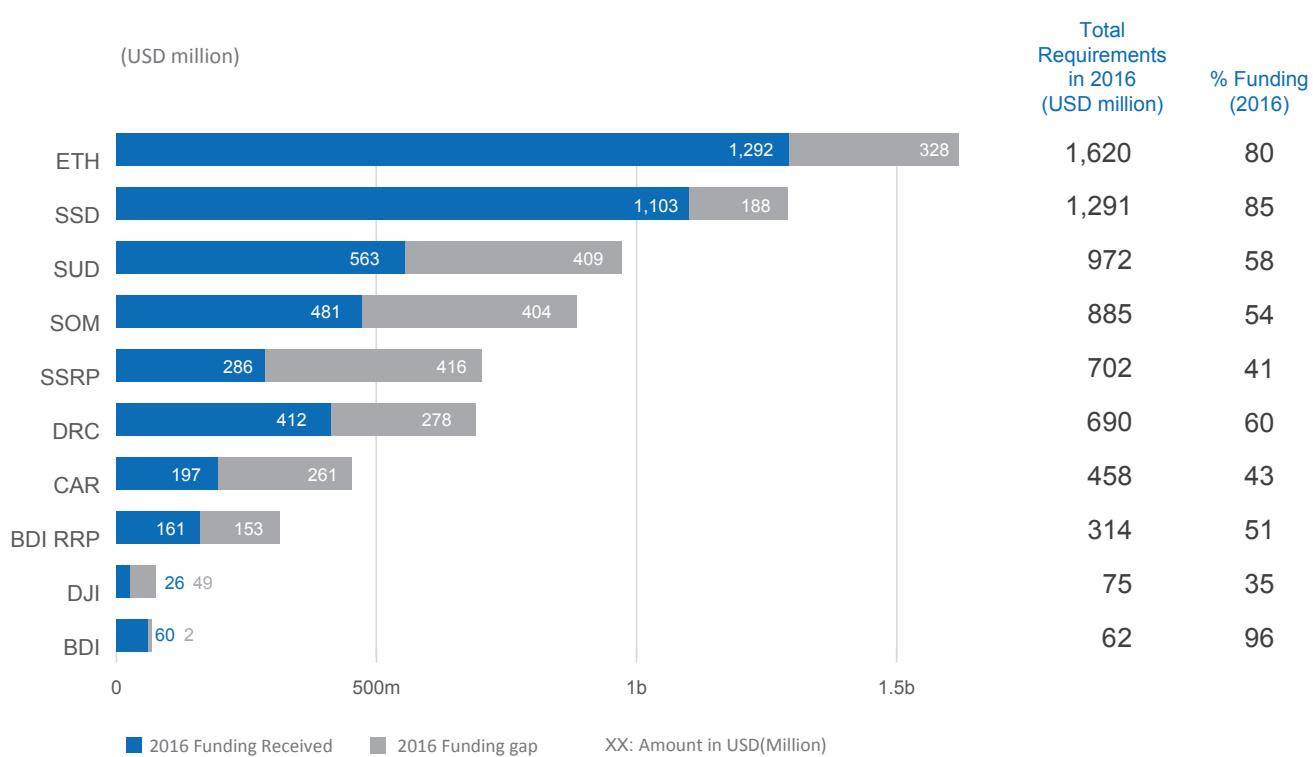
While humanitarian and protection concerns are on the rise in **Burundi**, the operational capacity and the independence of national and international humanitarian partners is increasingly limited by bureaucratic impediments and movement restrictions imposed by the authorities. Humanitarian partners report increasing delays in obtaining visas, obstacles to import assets, interference in the activities, and threats and intimidations to national staff. Missions outside Bujumbura require ten days of advance notice to obtain clearance. Government representatives are required to accompany humanitarian field missions. New financial regulations enacted in late 2016 are expected to further contain the operational independence of the NGOs.

## FUNDING

**Donors showed a remarkable commitment** to respond to growing humanitarian needs in East Africa, and by 31 December 2016 the US\$6.7 billion regional humanitarian appeal was 66 per cent funded. The South Sudan and Ethiopia humanitarian funding appeals had received proportionately the highest levels of funding, however both the climate induced humanitarian needs and conflict induced displacement continue to be underfunded. The Somalia appeal was only marginally more than 50 per cent funded. These dwindling resources amid increasing needs in Somalia resulted in some partners scaling down life-saving activities.

**Regional Refugee Plans (South Sudan, Burundi and Yemen) were severely underfunded.** More people are on the move, especially from South Sudan, and food insecurity among refugees is rising. As a result, rations were cut for all refugee operations in the region (30 per cent in Dadaab, 30 per cent in South Sudan, 20 per cent in Ethiopia and 50 per cent for the old caseload in Uganda). This has a serious impact as most refugees are wholly dependent on food assistance.

### 2016 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANS FUNDING STATUS



*Creation Date: 31 Jan 2017   Source: FTS*

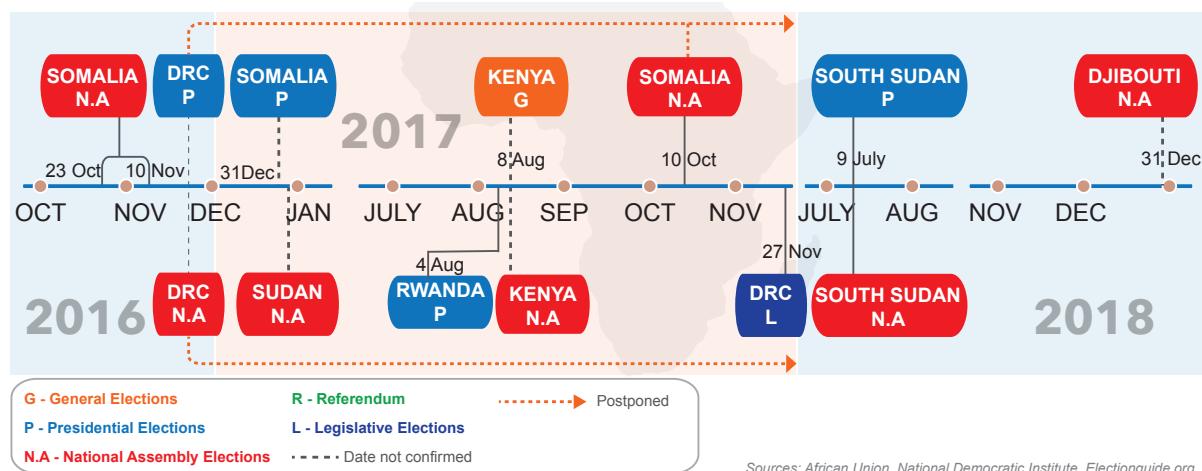
# III. HUMANITARIAN OUTLOOK: JANUARY - MARCH 2017

## DRIVERS OF HUMANITARIAN NEED

### INSECURITY AND CONFLICT

**Risk of escalation of violence in South Sudan.** South Sudan has entered the dry season, when fighting is expected to increase, causing more displacement and growing humanitarian need. The proliferation of armed groups and increasing intercommunal fighting, especially in the Equatoria and Upper Nile, coupled with protracted economic crisis, represent a major threat to stability. The most recent Panel of Experts report to the Security Council projected a rapid escalation of violence from December, as armed actors are already recruiting and training in advance of the dry season. The implementation of the peace agreement is poor, with major violations of the ceasefire from all sides. The splintering of the SPLA-IO and the emergence of new armed groups mean the agreement is no longer reflective of the conflict dynamics and actors on the ground. All calls by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) on the government to restore the ceasefire, to allow for the deployment of the Security Council mandated Regional Protection Force and to facilitate a return of Riek Machar through an amnesty, have so far gone unheeded. Meanwhile the government has called for a National Dialogue to bring all parties together, but its inclusiveness is questionable. The lack of impunity to atrocities committed remains a major threat to sustainable peace. The UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, visited South Sudan in November 2016. In his assessment, presented to the Security Council on 18 November, he highlighted the strong risk of violence escalating along ethnic lines with the potential for genocide. A UN commission on human rights in South Sudan reported in December that "a steady process of ethnic cleansing is underway in the country, involving massacres, starvation, gang rape and the destruction of villages."

### EAST AFRICA ELECTORAL TIMELINE



**The potential of Somalia conflict to increase is real.** The fragmentation of non-state armed groups and their areas of control are a major threat, while al-Shabaab targeted attacks are on the rise. Since October 2016, the 4,000 Ethiopian soldiers that provided crucial support to

AMISOM have been withdrawn from Somalia. The troops were required on domestic soil and did not qualify for international funding. The draw-down of AMISOM troops due to commence in 2018 carries the risk of undoing hard-won security gains in parts of the country.

The postponement of the elections in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC) and the lack of endorsement of President Kabila of the interim power sharing arrangement brokered by the Catholic Church threatens the political stability of the country in the coming months. This has the potential to further destabilize the Great Lakes region and lead to additional population displacement, including across borders. Meanwhile insecurity in the Eastern part of DRC (Kivu, Tanganyika and Ituri provinces) is expected to continue as a result of the growing presence of armed groups, intercommunal violence and the increasing role of the national army to contain the violence.

**Kenya is facing a convergence of potential risks**, including a drought in northeastern and coastal parts of the country, the potential closure of Dadaab camp, al-Shabaab threats throughout the country and the upcoming elections in August 2017.

**The Government of Sudan extended the ceasefire for six months with opposition groups in Darfur and in South Kordofan and Blue Nile.** If this holds, new displacement from conflict – which is often highest in the early months of the year – could be considerably lower in 2017. The government decision is linked to discussions between Khartoum and Washington that prompted the latter to ease the economic sanctions imposed on Sudan since 1997. Khartoum is also expected to allow improved humanitarian access, to stop giving support to South Sudan militias, to cooperate on counter-terrorism and the fight against the Lord Resistance Army (LRA), and to uphold civil rights and political freedoms. The lifting of the sanctions is conditional on further progress on these tracks, to be evaluated by the US Government after six months.

**Cross-border movement of people and livestock is a trigger for intercommunal conflict** as it is stretching limited water and pasture resources. An increase of livestock movement has been observed from Turkana (Kenya) into Karamoja (Uganda) and Nadapal (South Sudan). Livestock in Marsabit (Kenya) is concentrated along the border and crossing into Ethiopia, whereas livestock from South-Omo is crossing into Marsabit. Most livestock from Moyale (Kenya) and Dire (Ethiopia) have moved into Marsabit but started returning back due to water shortages in the area. In Gedo (Somalia) all communities have minimized their cross-border flows as movements of animals in search of pasture are no longer considered feasible given the similar drought conditions across the border. The high density of animals concentrated on riverbanks is fuelling conflict between pastoralists and farmers.

## CLIMATE

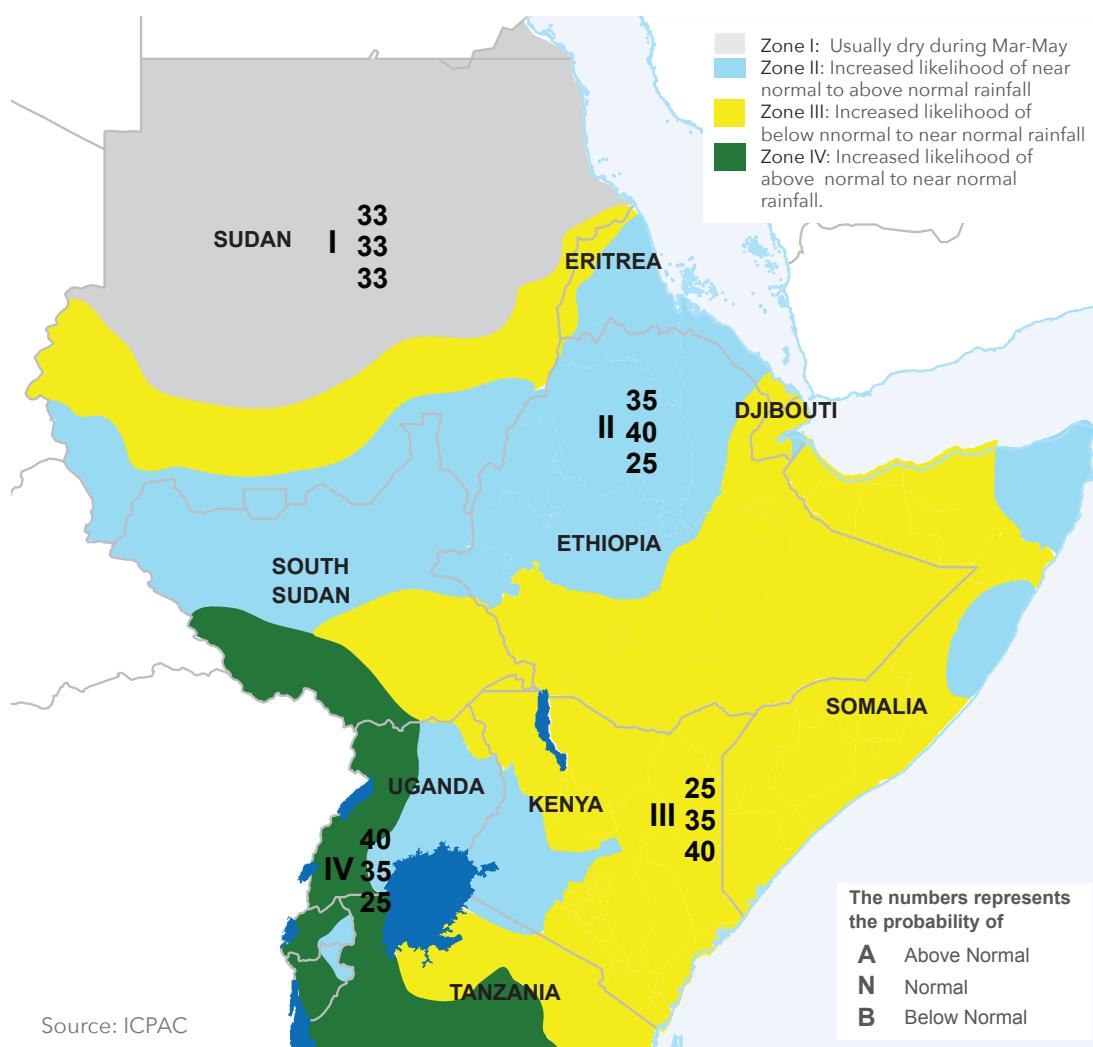
In **Somalia, southeastern Ethiopia and northeastern Kenya** there will be no further rainfall until the start of the next rainfall season in March-May 2017. Other drought-affected regions are now in a low rainfall period until substantial rains arrive in March. Below average spring rains been forecast for Ethiopia, which could dramatically worsen the humanitarian situation, particularly in areas affected by the new lowland drought. Dry conditions during this intermediate period will enhance the impact of previous rainfall deficits.

The drought is largely **comparable to conditions in October and November 2010, except for** coastal Kenya, northern Somalia, and southeastern Ethiopia where the situation may be worse. However, unlike the 2010 drought, which was preceded by a good season, in 2016 the coping capacities of the most vulnerable households have already been reduced by poor March-May rains.

The next season (Gu/ Long Rains) normally starts in early March with the harvest not occurring before late May. A good performance of the next growing season is now critical to avoid a major humanitarian crisis.

However, while **forecasts** for the **March-May 2017 rainfall still have a high level of uncertainty, early projections** suggest that the eastern Horn of Africa could face a late start to the rainy season and **below average precipitation**. A scenario of a third or fourth drought-affected season in a row should be considered, potentially leading to a situation similar to the 2010-2011 humanitarian crisis.

**RAINFALL OUTLOOK MAP**



Poor rainfall experienced in the upper parts of the Shabelle basin during the previous rainy season coupled with over utilization of the river water in Somalia and Ethiopia have led to a significant reduction in the water levels in Shabelle River, according to the Somalia Water and Land Information Management. Some parts of the river in the lower reaches have dried up, already several weeks ago. The Dawa river is drying up much earlier than usual and is expected to dry up by the end of January 2017, two months earlier than normal.

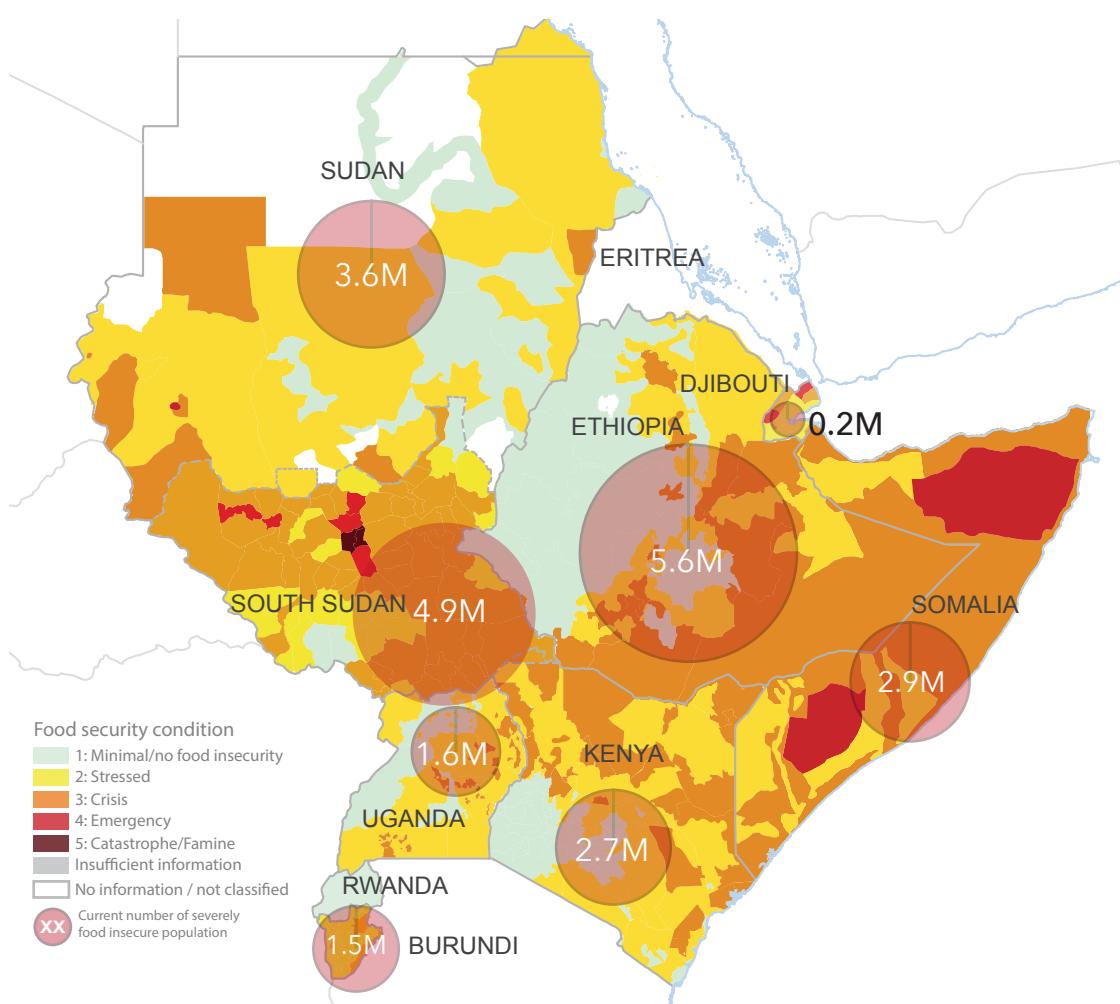
## HUMANITARIAN IMPACTS: JANUARY - MARCH 2017

### FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

**Famine has been declared for parts of Unity State in South Sudan, while the humanitarian situation in Somalia is rapidly deteriorating and famine is a strong possibility in 2017. The number of severely food insecure people across the Greater Horn of Africa has increased to 22.9 million and could rise even further.**

The food security situation in **South Sudan** continues to deteriorate, with 4.9 million (about 42 per cent of population) estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phases 3, 4, and 5), from February to April 2017. This is projected to increase to 5.5 million people, (47% of the national population) at the height of the 2017 lean season in July. The magnitude of these food insecure populations is unprecedented. Acute malnutrition remains a major public health emergency in South Sudan. Out of 23 counties with recent data, 14 have Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) at or above 15 per cent. GAM of above 30 per cent is observed in Leer and Panyijiar while Mayendit had GAM levels of 27.3 per cent.

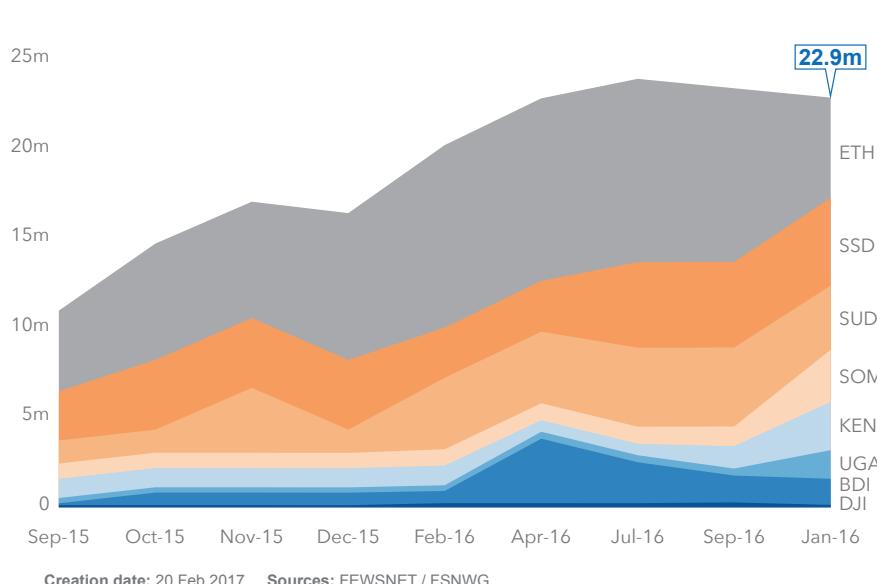
#### FOOD SECURITY SITUATION (AS OF FEBRUARY 2017)



Created: 20 Feb 2017, Source: FSNWG, WFP, Ethiopia HRD

**Drought in the Horn of Africa is expected to intensify even further in the coming months, with a delayed start to the rainy season and depressed levels of precipitation forecast for March-May 2017 in most of the Horn.** The results of the short-rain assessment conducted in January 2017 indicate that the number of food insecure people in Kenya has doubled to 2.7 million. The situation in Somalia is of particular concern, where more than half the population is in need of food assistance. Somalia's food insecure population increased from five million in September 2016 to over 6.2 million in February 2017. This includes a drastic increase in the number of people in "crisis" and "emergency" from 1.1 million six months ago to nearly 3 million projected for February to June. This is happening only five years after the worst famine of the century occurred in Somalia, causing a quarter of a million deaths.

#### FOOD SECURITY SITUATION (AS OF FEBRUARY 2017)



In a worst-case scenario where the April-June Gu season performs even poorer than currently forecast, purchasing power declines to levels seen in 2010/2011, and humanitarian assistance is unable to reach populations in need, Famine (IPC Phase 5) would be expected in Somalia.

Malnutrition levels are rising in Somalia, with the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence above the critical (15 per cent) threshold in 13 out of 27 rural and displaced groups.

There are 363,000 acutely malnourished children, of which 71,000 are severely malnourished, (point prevalence) while the overall need and/or burden is estimated to be close to one million acutely malnourished children with 185,000 being severely malnourished.

Malnutrition levels in Kenya are also very high. In Kenya three sub-counties (Turkana North, North Hor and Mandera) have GAM rates above 30 per cent – double the emergency threshold. Another six sub-counties (Turkana Central, Turkana South, Turkana West, Laisamis, East Pokot and Isiolo) have GAM rates between 15 and 29 per cent.

In contrast in Eritrea, the Government states that, "the main Kremti rains between June and September 2016 were abundant in terms of geographical distribution, frequency and timing. These tallied well with crop harvesting cycles and patterns contributing to almost a bumper harvest."<sup>2</sup>

## DISPLACEMENT

Displacement from **South Sudan** is expected to continue, and may even accelerate at an alarming rate. More refugees are fleeing to Uganda than across Mediterranean. UNHCR projects that the total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda will be close to a million

<sup>2</sup> Press Release, Ministry of Information, Eritrea, 2 February 2017

by the end of the year, bringing the total number of South Sudanese refugees to 1.9 million. Ethiopia hosts 342,000 South Sudanese refugees. Nearly 11,000 refugees arrived in Sudan in January 2017 alone, bringing the cumulative total number of refugees in Sudan to 305,000 since the start of the emergency to date in 2017.

The socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Burundi is expected to deteriorate further. Refugee arrivals in Tanzania have steadily increased to 500 per day and UNHCR is projecting that the number of Burundian refugees will exceed 500,000 by the end of the year. Secondary movements of refugees are reported.

The severe drought could trigger more refugees and returns to Somalia could stall. In 2017, more than 3,000 Somali refugees arrived in Ethiopia during the month of January alone.

If the political crisis in the DRC were to flare up, this could result in 235,000 additional refugees into East Africa region.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES OUTBREAKS

An increase in population movements into overcrowded settlements combined with poor sanitation and shortage of potable water could lead to the **spread of communicable diseases** in the region. In Burundi, the health budget has a 54 per cent shortfall as a result of the withdrawal of donor support to the budget. This is resulting in shortages in the supply of medicine to clinics.

**Outbreaks of animal diseases are expected to rise.** Due to a shortage of water, herds are crowding around fewer water points and there is an intermingling of herds that could increase the occurrence of livestock diseases. In Uganda, an avian influenza (H5N8) outbreak affecting wild migratory and domestic birds was confirmed in January 2017. An estimated 100,000 birds will be culled, and intensified surveillance is underway in all affected districts to detect possible human cases. Kenya has banned importation of eggs and other poultry products from Uganda, and other countries may do the same.

## RESPONSE CONSTRAINTS: JANUARY - MARCH 2017

### HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Access in South Sudan and Somalia is expected to continue to be restricted, hampering the delivery of humanitarian assistance, while the food insecurity situation in both countries continues to deteriorate. The issuance of revised Humanitarian Directives in Sudan in December 2016, following sustained advocacy, is a positive step forward. If properly implemented, humanitarian access could significantly improve in the country and that has to be carefully monitored.

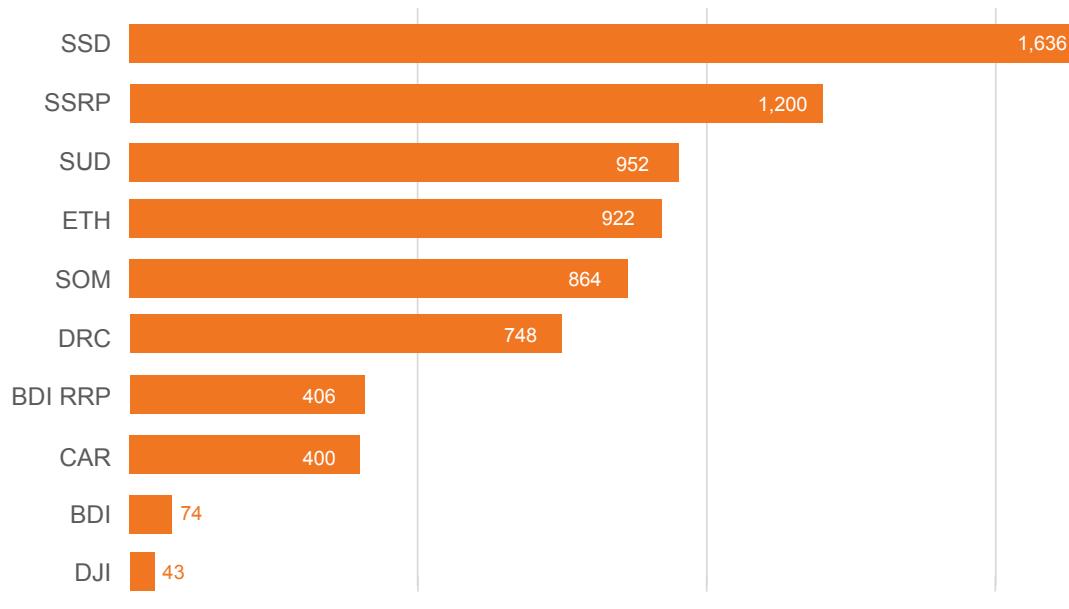
### FUNDING

Overall humanitarian funding needs for 2017 stand at US\$6.8 billion a slight increase on last year, but this is likely to rise further. On 17 February the Somalia HCT issued a US\$ 825 operational plan for January-June 2017 to prevent a famine. Following the release of the short rain assessment the Government of Kenya has indicated that its response has \$109 million shortfall.

**The CERF has allocated funding for Somalia and Uganda** through its 2017 underfunded emergency window. Somalia received US\$18 million for the drought response while Uganda received US\$15 million for refugee assistance. In early 2017, partners in Ethiopia received US\$18.5 million for the drought response in the Somali region.

#### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2017

(USD million)



XX: Amount in USD(Million)

*Creation Date: 31 Jan 2017 Source: FTS*

#### LIMITED FOOD SUPPLIES & LOGISTICAL CONSTRAINTS

**Food insecurity across the eastern and southern Africa region may lead to a reduction of available regional food stocks.** In 2016, Tanzania and Zambia imposed export restrictions after a poor harvest, and Uganda may follow suit as the number of food insecure people has recently quadrupled. An outbreak of crop-destroying army worm is causing havoc in Southern Africa, with Zambia being particularly impacted. This has significant implications for regional crop production and cereal supplies. Large volumes of humanitarian and commercially purchased food will need to be imported and transported through limited port facilities in the Horn of Africa, which could become a key constraint.





CARITAS



UNOCHA 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>