Rainfall deficit in two consecutive seasons (Figure 4) resulted in localized poor seasonal performance, mainly in the East. Though July normally marks a post-harvest increase in food stocks (Figure 1), poor and middle income households in dry spell affected areas are currently facing lower than normal food stocks.

Staple food prices stabilized in June compared to the previous month, but were higher than their respective previous-year and five-year averages, especially for roots and tubers.

Animal and pasture stress levels are higher than normal due to reduced moisture conditions since May, this is expected to last till the next rains onset in September.
Poor season 2016 B performance affects food access, mostly in the East: In localized areas, especially in the East, household level food stock duration is expected to be shorter than normal as a result of reduced season B production. Basic food and non-food needs are most likely not being met due to households’ limited resources as a result of reduced agricultural output.

This will last till the end of the next agricultural season in December-January, in absence of required assistance. Additionally, the poor households whose main livelihood activity is agriculture production will be most additionally constrained by reduced access to inputs for the next season.

Key staples were generally more expensive than usual: According to data from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), main staple prices in June 2016 were generally higher than five-year-average. Prices were also higher compared to last year, but stable compared to last month in both rural and urban markets.

Comparisons of the current prices with last year and five-year averages indicate that the top three most expensive commodities in both urban and rural markets were the starchy staples, especially Irish potato, cassava flour and sweet potato (Figure 3). Maize grain prices in June showed a slight increase, about 10% more than previous month.

Moreover, the food and non-alcoholic consumer price index gradually increased from January up to April, stabilized in May, and surged in June (Figure 2).

In the event markets are not supplied with cheaper imports, staple prices will most likely increase earlier than normal, due to higher demand from dry-spell affected locations.
**Figure 2:** Evolution of food and non-alcoholic beverages consumer price index

![Graph showing the evolution of food and non-alcoholic beverages consumer price index from January to June 2016 for All Rwanda, Rural, and Urban areas.]

Source: Based on NISR CPI data


**Figure 3:** June 2016 prices and anomalies

![Graphs showing Rwanda June 2016 prices and Rwanda price anomalies June 2016 for Urban and Rural areas.]

Source: Calculations based on NISR price data
Livestock conditions deteriorated earlier than usual in the East: Reduced moisture and water availability in general has not only adversely affected seasonal performance, but also livestock. Countrywide, rainfall ranged between normal and below normal during the March-May period. The eastern region, in particular, experienced a late rain onset, with a 25-50 mm deficit in March, when planting normally takes place. The same extent of atypically dry conditions was observed in May (Figure 4).

MIDIMAR indicates that response in terms of food assistance (Maize and beans), potable water for human consumption as well as water for cattle is being provided to the affected populations of Nyagatare, Kayonza, Kirehe, Ngoma and Gatsibo, following adverse effects incurred by dry-spells.¹

Figure 4: Rainfall anomalies. This depicts the deviation of current rainfall from the long-term mean. In other words, current rainfall minus the long-term average might result in positive (above average) or negative (below average) figures.

Source: Early Warning Explorer/USGS

¹ MIDIMAR, unpublished