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World Food Programme
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Regional Food Security and Nutrition Update

Eastern Africa Region

2022 Second Quarter

August 2022

Highlights

- Hunger in the Eastern Africa Region is worsening by the day. Food insecurity is most severe in South Sudan where six in every ten people (63 percent of the population) face acute food insecurity; followed by Somalia (45 percent), Sudan (34 percent) and Rwanda (23 percent). In absolute terms, Ethiopia has the highest number of food insecure people in the region (20.3 million) followed by Sudan (15.6 million).

- The number of children facing the impact of drought and rising food prices including acute hunger, malnutrition, and thirst has increased from 7.25 million in March 2022 to at least 10 million in July 2022 in Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia; Maternal malnutrition is also at a critical level with over 1.5 million requiring nutrition assistance. There is an increasing risk of unprecedented levels of mortality particularly in the worst drought affected areas.

- The devastating effect of the ongoing drought in Kenya, Ethiopia, and parts of Somalia is worse than the 1984 and 2011 drought episodes. This has left about 18.6 – 21.1 million[1] people face high levels of acute food insecurity, caused a historic cereal shortfall and more than 7 million livestock dead in addition to 22 million heads at risk[2] of dying. In Somalia, there is an increasing risk of famine in the coming months because of drought.

- Conflict continues to increase the severity of food insecurity parts of South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia and in northern Ethiopia, the latter with over 13 million people in need of immediate food assistance.

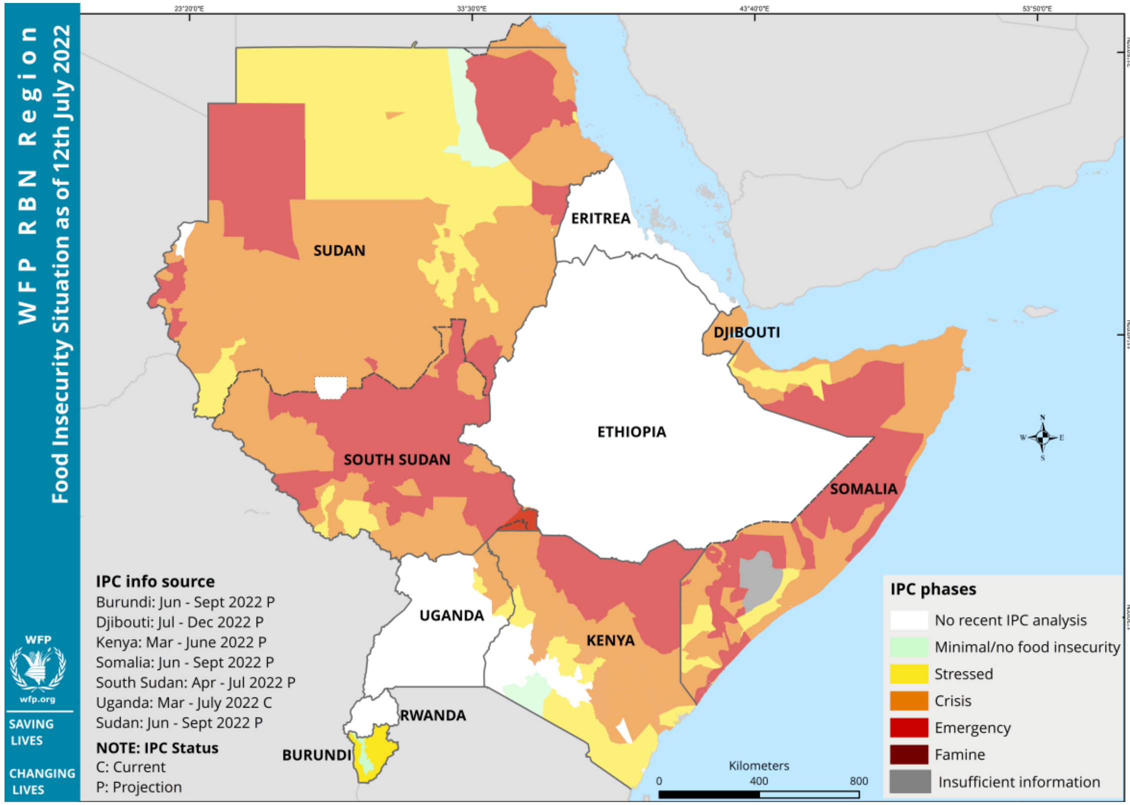
- Macro-economic shocks continue to limit access to food in many countries in the region, worst in Sudan, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. The cost of living[3] has increased to historic levels in the last six months, worsened by the spill-over effects of the Ukraine crisis. Increased risk of economic stagnation this year will erode household purchasing power.

- Even though temporary food security improvement is expected following start of harvests in bi-modal agricultural areas from July, the overall food insecurity is expected to deteriorate across most livelihoods through September 2022 given below average cereal production, rising inflation and worsening drought conditions.

[1] Download the Full Report
[2] https://reliefweb.int/attachments/d9cc9128-be9b-4a2b-bbe8-e7939213c579/ethiopia_drought_update_3_june_2022.pdf
[3] Headline inflation is rising and in double digit terms in Ethiopia (43 percent), Rwanda (24 percent), Burundi (19 percent), Kenya (12 percent) and Uganda (11 percent) and in triple digits in Sudan (141 percent).

Food Security Overview

Hunger in the Eastern Africa Region is worsening by the day, with many livelihoods increasingly tripping to crisis or worse situation (Map. 1) when compared to April this year. Food insecurity is most severe in South Sudan where 63 percent of the population or more than six in every ten people face acute food insecurity. This is followed by Somalia (45 percent), Sudan (34 percent) and Rwanda (23 percent). In absolute terms, Ethiopia has the highest number of food insecure people in the region at 20.3 million followed by Sudan (15.6 million). An unprecedented combination of conflict and insecurity, climate induced shocks and deteriorating socio-economic situation (aggravated by the ripple effects of Ukraine crisis) are worsening food insecurity in the region. Drought in the eastern horn of Africa which is now on its fourth consecutive season has left about 18.6 – 21.1 million[4] people face high levels of acute food insecurity in Kenya, Ethiopia, and parts of Somalia acutely food insecure.



Map 1. Food Insecurity situation as of 12th July 2022

The 2022 MAM rains were below average in more than 80 percent of the eastern Horn of Africa, which was more severe and widespread than the historic droughts of 1984 and 2011.

In **Ethiopia** crop prospects for the *Belg* harvest starting in July are poor to completely failed in most southern regions while about 2.5 million livestock died because of the most severe drought since 1981. Moreover, after about 18 months of active conflict, food insecurity in Northern Ethiopia remains

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dire because of livelihoods and market disruptions, population displacement and irregular flow of humanitarian assistance. In the Southern Zone of the Tigray and in Amhara regions, agricultural operations continue to be affected by insecurity and shortage of inputs.

In **Somalia**, some 7.1 million people, nearly half of the Somalia's population (45 percent) are facing acute food insecurity (IPC3 or above) between June and September 2022 primarily because of the ongoing drought that has decimated livestock (more than 3 million animals dead) and crop lands (the 2022 *Gu* crop harvests is projected at 40-60 percent below of long-term average). Food insecurity has exacerbated following four consecutive poor rainfall seasons and the unprecedented surge in food prices – mainly due to the spill-over effects of the Ukraine crisis. There is an increasing risk of famine in the next months if humanitarian assistance is not scaled up while household purchasing power is devastated by rising cereal prices that have surpassed record highs during the 2011/2012 famine and the 2007/2008 food crisis. More than 200,000 people are likely to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) through September 2022.

In **Kenya**, the number of people in need of assistance has risen to historical highs in recent years. According to the updated IPC analysis following the Short Rains Assessment, worsening drought together with prolonged drought has left 4.1 million people acutely food insecure (IPC3 and above), including more than a million Kenyans who are facing emergency levels of hunger (IPC Phase 4). In south-eastern and coastal areas, up to 70 percent of cropland is affected by severe drought; whilst an estimated 2.43 million[5] livestock died. Terms of trade is worsening in most pastoralist counties because of stable goat prices and increased maize prices. Milk production is below normal because limited feed and water resources[6].

Food security in **Sudan** has been exacerbated by the combined effects of economic and political crisis, conflict and displacement, climate shocks (including droughts and floods), and poor harvests. According to the Sudan CFSVA June 2022, 34 percent of the population totalling to 15.6 million people are food insecure including 6 percent that are severely food insecure. This is an increase of 7 percent compared to the same time last year, when 27 percent of the population, totalling over 12 million people, were food insecure. The highest prevalence of food insecurity was observed in West Darfur (65 percent); Central Darfur (59 percent); North Darfur (56 percent); and Blue Nile (50 percent). Conflict continues to drive displacement and food insecurity in western Darfur while poor harvests in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Kassala, Red Sea states, and North Kordofan have widened the overall national cereal shortfall. The 2021/2022 cropping year cereal deficit is estimated at 5.1 million tons, likely to only cover 65 percent of the total consumption requirement. While this gap is supposed to be bridged by commercial imports, the shortage in hard currency reserves, currency devaluation and the blockade of Black Sea wheat imports limits cereal supplies into the country.

A combination of community and resource-based conflict, floods, lean seasonal effects, and high food prices has pushed nearly 63 percent of the population in **South Sudan** into acute food insecurity – which is about 7.74 million people including 90,000 in humanitarian catastrophe. Access to crop

[5] https://www.ndma.go.ke/index.php/resource-center/national-drought-bulletin/send/39-drought-updates/6517-national-monthly-drought-updates-june-2022
[6] ibid

and grazing fields has been impossible as floods have inundated large swathes of the Sudd Wetland for three successive years, resulting in below-average production. Moreover, conflict, insecurity and macro-economic challenges continue to impede household access to livelihood sources in many areas in Jonglei, Pibor, Lakes, Unity, Warrap and Western Equatoria. These factors will continue for the rest of the year, exacerbated by the global food and fuel price shocks connected to the Ukraine crisis.

The number of people facing extreme hunger in **Uganda** reached 2.87 million, because of two consecutive below-average seasonal crop production in bimodal areas and Karamoja. FEWSNET[7] projects that harvests from June/July in bimodal areas will likely to be below average in northern, central and eastern areas. In Karamoja, the April to September unimodal rains were delayed because of dry spells, which will likely result in below average and delayed main harvests. Despite being relatively self-sufficient for maize compared to the other countries in the region, Uganda has not been spared by the global spill-over effects of the war in Ukraine after having lately recorded atypical price increases of staples and fuel. The headline inflation rose from 2.7 percent in January 2022 to 6.8 percent in June 2022, the highest since 2018.

According to FEWSNET[8], food availability in rural areas of **Rwanda** is favourable supported by normal Season A maize harvest and fast-maturing vegetable crops from season B. However, headline inflation climbed to 14.8% in May 2022 from 10.5% in April 2022., the highest level since March 2009, underpinned by higher food prices (23.8%) and particularly for imported ones, which is linked to the tight regional supply of cereals and the global food and fuel crisis induced by the Ukraine crisis. The price of imported maize flour and vegetable oil increased in Rwanda since January 2022 by 7 percent and 36 percent and from May 2021 by 32 percent and 38 percent respectively.

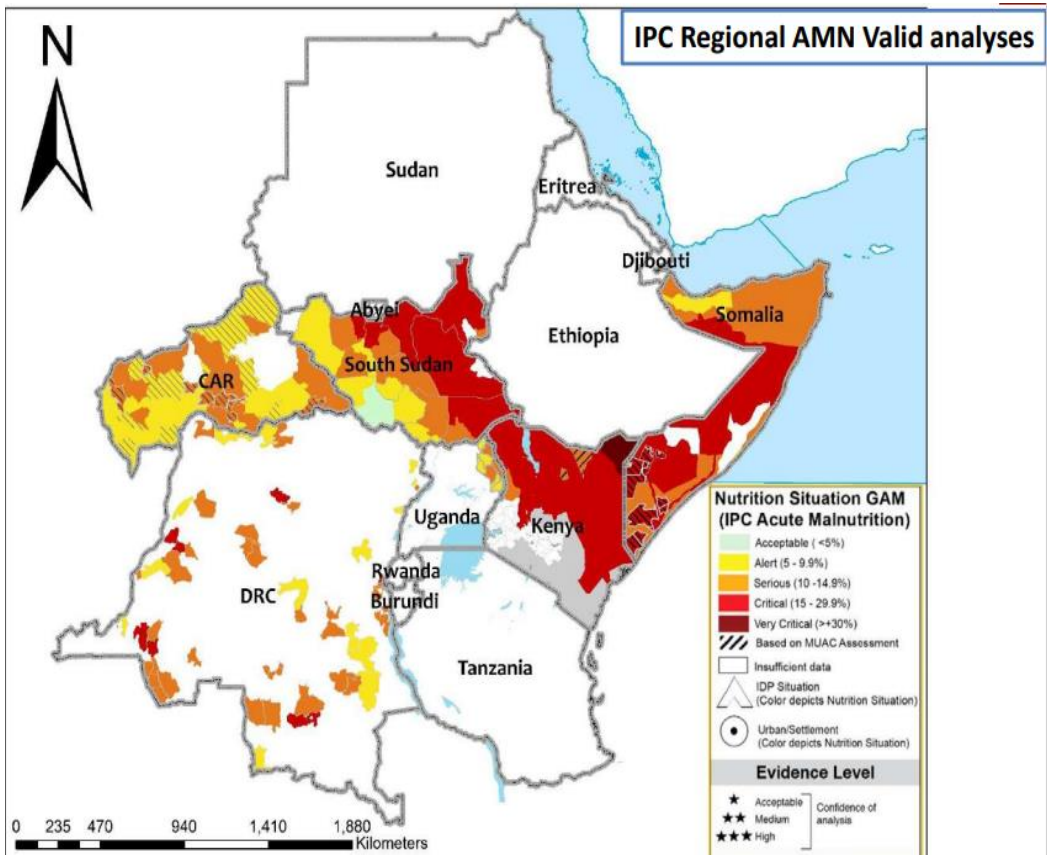
In Burundi, household food access and availability improved from June following start of the projected near-normal 2022 B Season crop harvest which accounts for around 50 percent of their annual crop production[9]. However, food access is still limited by rising inflation and reduced incomes from cross-border informal trade and income emanating from COVID-19 restrictions and control measures. May 2022 headline inflation stood at 19% after having risen from 12.3% in January 2022, the highest rate in the last four years (since 2018) while the food inflation stood at slightly above 22 percent. An estimated 1.1 million people were classified as acutely food insecure through May 2022[10].

[7] https://fews.net/east-africa/uganda
[8] https://fews.net/east-africa/rwanda
[9] FEWSNET Burundi Food Security Outlook Update, June 2022 to January 2023
[10] ibid

In **Djibouti** an estimated 192,000 people which is 16 percent of the population are currenting facing severe acute food insecurity due to worsening drought and increased food prices because of the Ukraine crisis. Djibouti's headline inflation in May stood at 5.3%, a historic high in the last 10 years. The inflation has been on the rise since March 2022 which coincided with the knock off effects of the Ukraine crisis given its high consumption demand for wheat products which are mainly imported from Russia and Ukraine.

Nutrition Overview[11]

The number of children facing the impact of drought including acute hunger, malnutrition, and thirst has **increased from 7.25 million to at least 10 million in Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia.** Maternal malnutrition is at a critical level with **over 1.5 million requiring nutrition assistance**. With these numbers and inadequate response, there is a risk of unprecedented levels of mortality, and it is essential to increase nutrition services and food support to avert the crisis now. The common cases of malnutrition include wasted children, those who suffer from micronutrient deficiencies which is more elevated among more than 50% of refugee women and children and stunting. Eventually, these lead to the death of children and other affected populations.



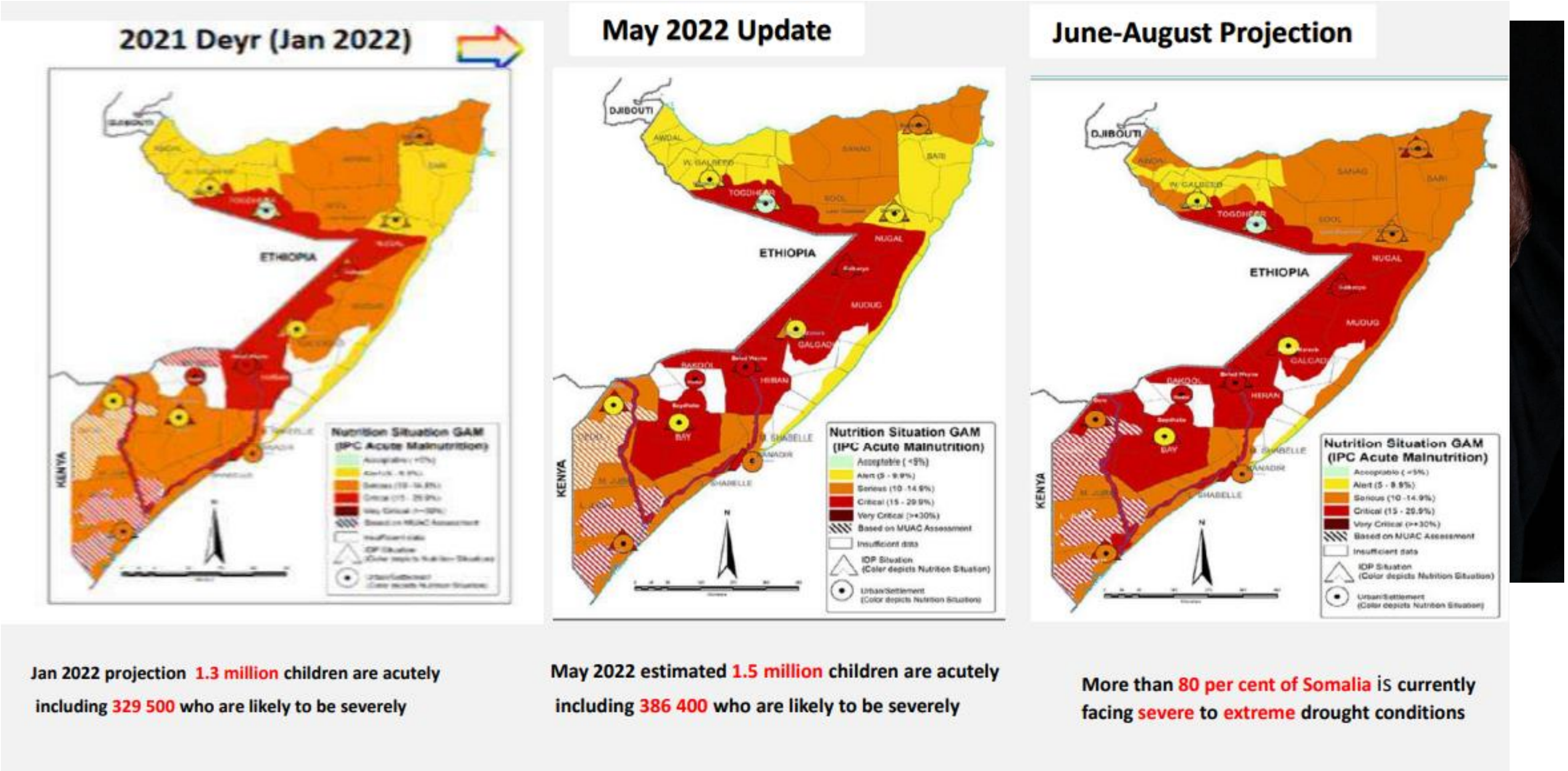
Map 2. IPC Regional Acute Malnutrition Situation

COVID-19 has disrupted most of the nutrition assessments that collect mortality data. However, routine recent UNICEF data reported through Voice of America (VOA) in Somalia indicates that 500 children among those who were admitted for severe acute malnutrition treatment have died. Previous models by agencies like Save the Children and Oxfam have all reported excess deaths of malnourished children. Persistent and chronic Malnutrition in all its forms is known to reduce human capital and impede the pace of development. We see a vicious cycle that will take years to reverse and reduce the GDP growth of these countries. Previously, there has been good and mixed progress in Ethiopia and

[11] The malnutrition figures sourced from recent IPC Acute Malnutrition Analysis Reports

Kenya and some pockets in Somalia. However, in the case of Ethiopia and Somalia, protracted and recent conflicts threaten to wipe all the possible gains earlier reported and hence reducing any gains towards achieving the SDGs.

Major challenges include inadequate and timely funding to help increase coverage. Climatic shocks (cyclical droughts and floods), poor access due to conflict, and currently the disruption of food and nutrition supply chains caused by COVID-19 and the knock-off effects of the war in Ukraine are the



Map 3. Somalia Acute Malnutrition Trends 2022

main factors affecting child health and

nutritional status in Eastern Africa. Indeed, the Ukraine crisis is currently one of the key drivers of the increasing levels of children in need of nutrition prevention and treatment services and increased cost of nutritious diets. This is seen through the reduction in agricultural production and blockades in the Black Sea Maritime Corridor coupled with export trade restriction policies affecting flows of essential goods such as grains. The consequential rise in fuel and food prices have pushed up inflation rates across East African countries, implying households – especially the poorest ones – have fewer resources to spend on essential food and non-food needs and key farming inputs like fertilizers.


UNICEF Somalia child screening centre, Somalia/2019/Knowles Coursin

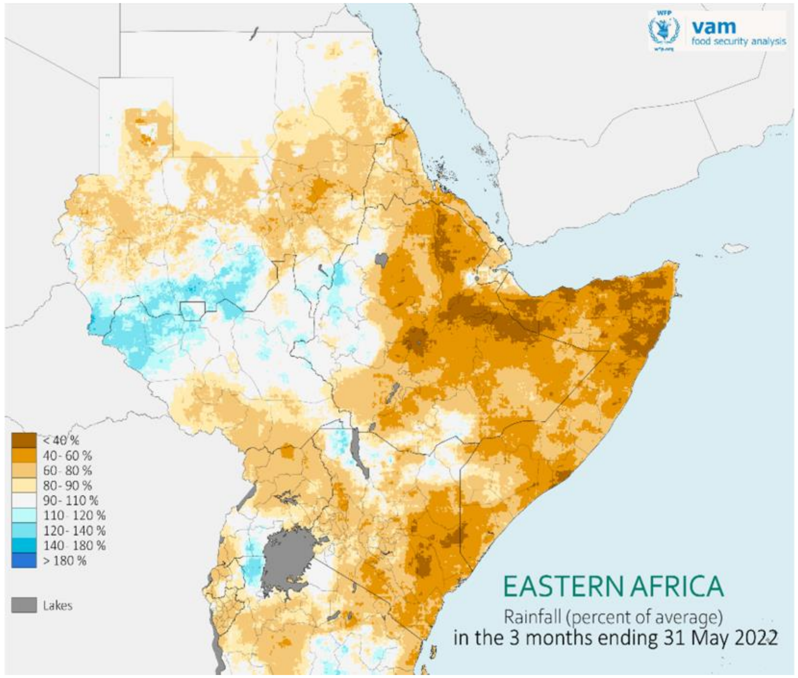
The current drought, the worst in 70 years, has intensified food insecurity, disrupted food systems, and dried up water resources. Governments should work to support pro-agriculture policies like water conservation ventures, tax exemption for key agricultural inputs, research e.g in dryland agriculture, livestock offtake/insurance schemes, and support and protection of smallholder farmers through initiatives like post-harvest loss reduction and farmer-to-market alliances. Timely and anticipatory type of funding is needed to build on previous lessons on preventing famine and scaling up humanitarian response in the horn of Africa region. These should happen along with long-term development initiatives by governments and partners that include addressing the root causes e.g conflict and climate change.

Drivers of Food Insecurity

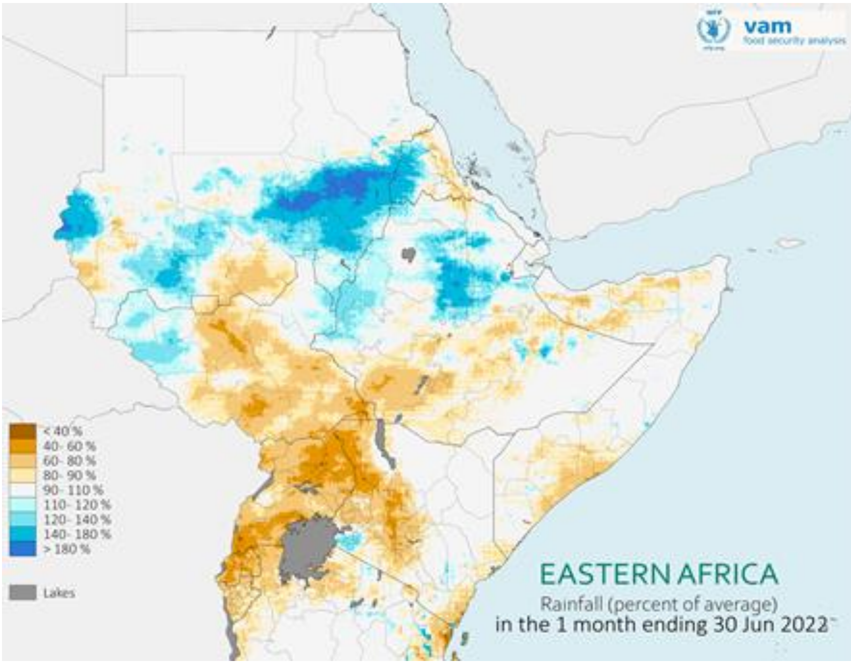
I. Agro-climatic Shocks with Implications on Crop and Livestock Production and Access to Food[12]

A 4th consecutive below-average rainfall season, the worst in the last 42 years, amplified by high air temperature.

The March–May 2022 seasonal rains had a delayed start across, which prolonged the hot and dry period that prevailed from January and February. Thereafter, the March to May long rains (or Gu) rainfall performance was extremely poor, punctuated dry spells the in benefiting areas, with significant rainfall deficits across much of Somalia, Kenya, southern and southeast Ethiopia, parts of eastern and northern Uganda, and equatorial South Sudan. In most of these areas, the received amounts were the lowest in the past 70 years. In comparison to long-term average, there was widespread and



Map 4. March to May rainfall anomaly a a percentage of average (source: CHIRPS 2.0)



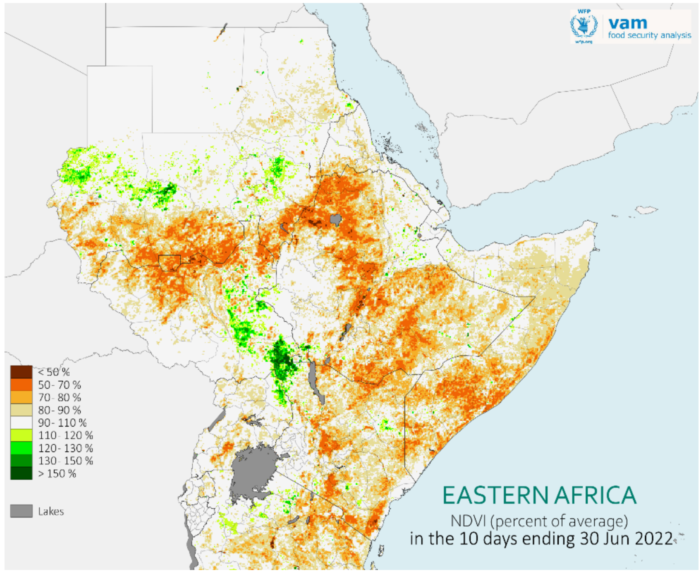
Map 5. Rainfall anomaly for June as a percentage of average (source: CHIRPS 2.0)

[12] Cereal production estimates based on [FAO Crop Prospects and Food Situation #1, March 2022](), unless otherwise specified

significantly below-average rains (<60 percent) across most areas (Map 4), which worsened the ongoing drought in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya, and across most of Somalia.

Extremely limited grazing and water resources in most pastoral and agropastoral areas of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia

By end of June 2022, most rangelands had not recovered and had significant vegetation deficits (Map 6) while most surface water points have not adequately replenished and are still in alert to seasonally dry status. This has been made worse by the below average seasons since late 2020 had led to poor rangelands, widespread vegetation deficits and water scarcity. The widespread water scarcity and vegetation deficits even after the season continues to impact on the livestock sector through below average livestock body conditions, reduced productivity, increased trekking distances to water points and pastures, as well as atypical livestock migration perstans. Given the inadequate rangelands and water replenishment, water and pastures will deteriorate (or get depleted) earlier-than-usual during the July-September dry season.



Map 6. Vegetation (NDVI) anomaly as a percentage of average for 21st-30th June 2022 (Source: MODIS NDVI)

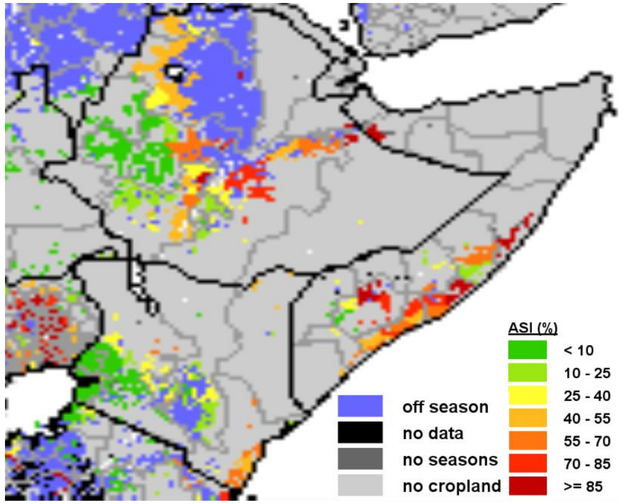
Drought-induced destitution on the rise in pastoral and agropastoral livelihoods

The increased need for distress sales has lowered livestock prices eroding the household purchasing power through worsening terms of trade. Similarly, households continue to lose livelihood assets through livestock deaths. At least 7 million livestock deaths have occurred since 2021 including 1.5 million in Kenya, about 2.1-2.5 million heads in Ethiopia in addition to 22 million heads at risk (OCHA, June 2022[13]), and over 3 million in Somalia since mid-2021 (Joint UNICEF/WFP/FAO/OCHA (June 2022[14]) and IPC report (June 2022[15]). Livestock and humans trekking over longer distances in search of water, unusual outmigration, water trucking and livestock deaths will continue in worst affected areas through the next short rains from October this year.

[13] https://reliefweb.int/attachments/d9cc9128-be9b-4a2b-bbe8-e7939213c579/ethiopia_drought_update_3_june_2022.pdf
[14] https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/as-rains-fail-again-catastrophic-hunger-looms-over-somalia/en
[15] https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1155662/?iso3=SOM

Crop production deficits following record low, erratic and poorly distributed seasonal rains in eastern and coastal Kenya, Somalia, Belg areas of Ethiopia and isolated areas in Uganda and South Sudan

- The belg production prospects remain unfavourable in Ethiopia's Belg producing areas[16] in southern Tigray, eastern Amhara, eastern Oromiya and northeastern SNNPR.
- In the Gu producing areas of Southern Somalia where production accounts for about 60 percent of the country's total annual cereal output, cropping was severely affected by poor seasonal rains, high input prices that limited access to inputs and shortage of labour as people moved in search of alternative livelihoods. Despite some improved rains in May, the crops did not fully recover and between 40 and 85 percent of cropland is affected by severe drought as of mid-June (Map 8). As a result, the season cereal production is estimated to be 40-60 percent below-average (FSNAU and FEWS NET[17]), which will be the fifth consecutive season with a reduced cereal output.
- In Kenya's marginal agricultural areas of south-eastern and coastal areas, planting and establishment of the main long rains (March-May) seasonal crops was affected by severe moisture deficits in March and early April, with cumulative precipitation amounts at 50-85 percent below-average. Although the rains improved in late April, crop recovery was modest. By mid-June, between 40 and 70 percent of cropland was affected by severe drought going by the ASI. This raises the prospects of unfavourable cereal production in these areas, which will lead to a fourth consecutive poor harvest.



Map 8: Percentage of cropland affected by severe drought by 2nd Dekad, June 2022 (FAO GIEWS)

[16] The rains had a delayed onset, rainfall amounts ranged from 20 to 50 percent below-average, with an erratic spatial and temporal distribution. As a result, the FAO Agricultural Stress Index (ASI), as of mid-June, showed that in most cropping areas, between 40 to 85+ percent of cropland were affected by severe drought
[17] https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-food-security-alert-may-31-2022

II. Macro-Economic Shocks Including the Impacts of the Ukraine Crisis

International food and commodity prices increased to historical levels following the war Ukraine

The conflict in Ukraine poses aggravated inflation risks in the region given high reliance on wheat and cooking oil imports from Ukraine and Russia while at the same time having limited capacity to address the global spill-over effects of the unfolding food crisis. Global disruptions of the food trade and shipments and restrictive policies on food exports following the conflict in Ukraine have pushed up prices of food in the global markets. Global grain prices were at record highs in June (74-92% above the five-year average; 18-23% higher than pre- war/ Jan 2022) despite recent easing m-o-m (wheat & maize down 12% and 3 % respectively) given improved seasonal availability.

Crude oil (Brent &WTI) prices slowed down in July 2022, registering a 10% - 32% increase compared to the peak 40-50% in June, the recent easing attributed to rising fears and concerns that the global recession could curtail demand for oil and petroleum products.

Food prices are spiking across Eastern Africa markets, due to a combination of pre-existing macro-economic challenges, below average harvests and rising global food and fuel crisis

Prices of locally produced staple cereal increased in June 2022 compared to the same month last year (table 3):

- Sudan- 182 percent
- Kenya- 123 percent
- Ethiopia 67-101 percent
- Burundi- 94 percent
- South Sudan- 35 percent and
- Somalia -28-35 percent.

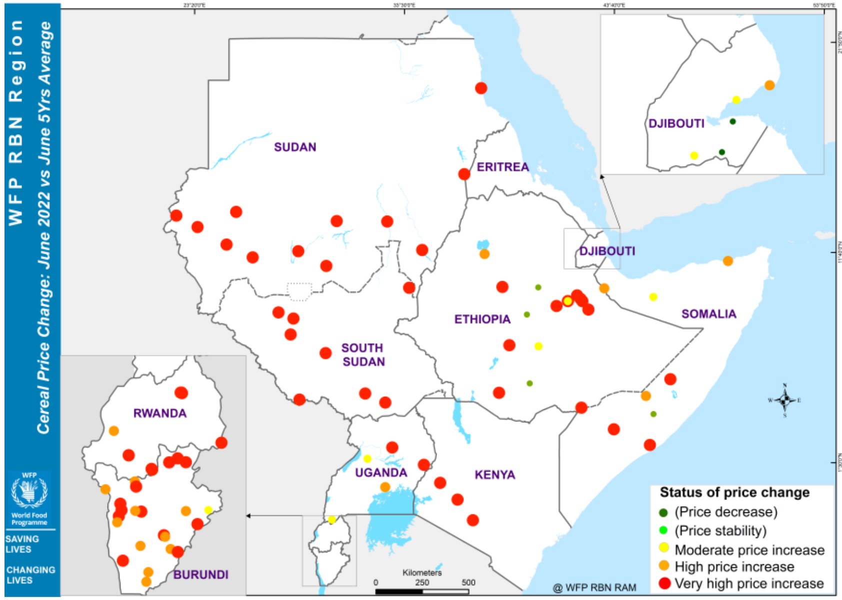
Price levels in Somalia (where a risk of famine exists) are measuring up or surpassed nearing the 2017 drought and the 2011 famine levels.

	Price changes/ Variations					
	maize flour/grain		sorghum/millet/ casava flour		beans/ lentils	
Country	pre-war (June/ Jan '22)	Annual (2022/2021)	pre-war (June/ Jan '22)	Annual (2022/2021)	pre-war (June/ Jan '22)	Annual (2022/2021)
Burundi	-4%	**60%**	**10%**	**38%**	**32%**	**94%**
Ethiopia			**15%**	**67%**	**45%**	**101%**
Kenya	**17%**	**123%**				
Rwanda	-5%	**78%**			**58%**	11%
Somalia (SoShs)	4%	**18%**	**11%**	**35%**		
Somalia (SlShs)	-1%	**28%**	**8%**	**17%**		
South Sudan	**67%**	**35%**	**73%**	12%		
Sudan			**86%**	**182%**		
Uganda	**54%**	**88%**	**46%**	**52%**	**47%**	6%

Prices of imported cereals and cooking oil increased at a much higher rate in the last six months than they did over the last one year which reflects a faster rate of transmission of the global food prices to local markets because of the Ukraine crisis:

- Somalia (41% vs. 16%);
- South Sudan (67% vs. 35%) and
- Ethiopia (24% vs. 14%).

When compared to the five-year average, the June 2022 staple cereal prices remained significantly higher region-wise with pockets of stable or decreased prices in areas where bi-modal harvests have reached markets (Map 9).



Map 9: staple price variation from the 5 Year Average

The increasing food prices have been reflected in the increasing cost of living. The June 2022 headline inflation[18] rose by double digits in most countries (Table 2). Food inflation was even higher:

- Sudan (141%)
- Ethiopia (43%)
- Rwanda (24%)
- Burundi (19%)
- Kenya (12%) and
- Uganda (11%).

Inflation will likely sustain increasing trends given the global food crisis, continued conflict in Ukraine and increasing fuel and fertilizer prices.

Weaker currencies increasing inflation risks

Regional domestic currencies have depreciated against the USD dollar through June 2022 making food imports more expensive while ballooning the external public debt repayment costs. Sudan recorded the highest depreciation (down 29 percent) over the last one year, followed by Ethiopia (down 28 percent) and Kenya (down 21 percent). In South Sudan and Burundi where black market forex trading is outlawed, shortage of foreign currencies persists, increasing transaction costs to do business and making it difficult for ordinary traders to import food. Table 1 provides a summary of key macro-economic indicators.

18 Domestic price inflation (measured as year-on-year change in the food component of a country's Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Fallout of the war in Ukraine is piling pressure to already fragile economies in Eastern Africa that are still struggling to recover from impacts of COVID-19.

After a rebound in 2021 – following the fallout of COVID-19 in 2020 - economies in the region are forecast to record decline in growth in 2022, mainly in Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda[19], Somalia & South Sudan[20] and even slower recovery in the rest of the countries. The GDP slow-down is because of reduced agricultural output, slower growth in the tourism sector and high cost of living that will depress domestic consumer demand. This is expected to erode household purchasing power. These risks comes at a time when most countries are facing increased fiscal imbalances and rising public debt pressure limiting capacity of public-backed subsidies and social protection systems to address inflation pressure on the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Table 2: Currency depreciation and inflation trends

Country	Currency fluctuation/ change against the US $		Annual Headline Inflation				Food Inflation
	LCU/USD (June 2022)	June Y-o-Y (2022 vs. 2021)	2019	2020	2021	May-22	May-22
Sudan	428	-29%	61%	281%	263%	193%	141%
Ethiopia	41	-28%	16%	20%	27%	38%	43%
Kenya	117	-21%	5%	5%	6%	7%	12%
Uganda	3787	-6%	2%	3%	2%	6%	11%
Rwanda	1000	-5%	3%	10%	0%	15%	24%
Burundi	1957	-3%	-3%	7%	7%	16%	19%
Djibouti	178	0%	3%	1%	2%	4%	7%
Eritrea	15	0%	4%	5%	3%		
Somalia	575	0%	4%	6%	5%	7%	15%
South Sudan	465	5%	25%	31%	12%	-4%	0%

III. Conflict, Insecurity and Displacement

Protracted conflict combined with limited humanitarian assistance and displacement have made an already dire situation in Northern Ethiopia worse.

Over 13 million people need food assistance: 5.4 million in Tigray, 1.2 million in Afar and 7 million in Amhara. Since convoys restarted, WFP has scaled-up operations in Northern Ethiopia by reaching 620,000 people with emergency food assistance in Tigray, many of whom had not received any form of food assistance for over eight months. Food deliveries continue on track in Afar and Amhara – where WFP is preparing to start 2022's Round 2 distributions to 630,000 and 650,000 people, respectively[21].

Persistent insecurity and conflict coupled with global supply and price shocks driving destitution and displacement South-Central Somalia

- Conflict-related displacement continues to disrupt market access and functionality, impede household access to livelihood opportunities and restricts access to humanitarian assistance.

[19] African Development Bank – African Economic Outlook 2022
[20] World Bank Regional Economic Outlook
[21] WFP Ethiopia – Northern Ethiopia Emergency Response, Situation Report #7

- Prolonged drought has increased competition over scarce pasture and water resources, leading to clashes among pastoral communities.
- As of May 2022, UNHCR estimates 128,000 people have been internally displaced due to conflict and insecurity, whilst another 560,000 have been displaced due to drought[22].

Localized conflict and internal displacement, influx of refugees from South Sudan & Ethiopia continue to disrupt livelihoods in Sudan.
Between January and May 2022, approximately 85,000 people were displaced due to conflict, with the bulk of the uprooting in West and Central Darfur[23]. Intercommunal violence in Darfur, Kordofan, and Kassala states and political instability are expected to continue through September 2022, worsening the unprecedented price spikes triggered by a macroeconomic crisis, conflict, civil unrest, political instability and exacerbated by the Ukraine's war. Moreover, the rainy season is forecast to cause an upsurge in resource-based conflict leading to increased displacements and further restrictions on income and livelihood opportunities[24]. Al Gedaref, Kassala, and Blue Nile states are expected to continue receiving refugees from Tigray Region, increasing tensions over the Sudan-Ethiopia border.

Internally displaced population reach 2 million in South Sudan because of continued subnational and localized violence
Sporadic violence between the Dinka Ngok and Dinka Twic communities continues in the Warrap and Abyei Administrative Area (AAA) border; whilst the ongoing migration of Dinka Bor cattle-keepers from areas of Eastern and Central Equatoria is fuelling intercommunal tensions, creating an increasingly unpredictable access environment. In Leer County, one of the highly food-insecure areas in Unity, thousands of people remain displaced since April due to ongoing fighting. Moreover, the volatility of the security situation has hindered assessments and delayed the humanitarian response in southern Unity[25]. The country is also hosting more than 2.3 million refugees and asylum seekers, mainly originating from Uganda (39.7 percent of the total refugee population), Sudan (34.5 percent) and Ethiopia (17.3 percent)[26].

[22] UNHCR – Somalia Internal Displacement Dashboard
[23] OCHA Sudan – Humanitarian Snapshot, May 2022
[24] IPC Sudan – Acute Food Insecurity Classification, June 2022
[25] OCHA – South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot, May 2022
[26] UNHCR Operational Data Portal, June 2022

Food Security and Nutrition Outlook (July-September 2022)

There is expected reprieve for household food security as new harvests are realized in bimodal areas, increasing food access at households and in markets. However, these gains will be temporary given overall regional cereal production deficits and very high food prices. The food insecurity and malnutrition is therefore projected to worsen in most livelihoods across the region through September because of overlapping shocks. The worst affected will be areas experiencing the ongoing drought in North-eastern Kenya, Karamoja Uganda, South-Central Somalia and southern Ethiopia.

Risk of famine has been flagged in Somalia, Somali Region of Ethiopia and Mandera County in Kenya where acute malnutrition has exceeded the critical famine threshold (GAM > 30 percent). There is an increased high probability of a fifth consecutive failed October – December season rains in the Eastern Horn of Africa.

The prospect of Uganda facing below average harvests and high maize prices will affect regional food availability in Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, and South Sudan. Regional over-reliance and increased demand for maize from Tanzania will drive staple food prices higher through the end of 2022. In Rwanda and Burundi, although the 2022 season B harvests are expected to be near normal and improve food availability, rising inflation and fuel and fertilizer crisis will lower household purchasing power.

Countries of concern

- In **Kenya**, the drought situation continues to worsen in nineteen (19) of the 23 ASAL counties likely to increase the magnitude and severity of food insecurity in the coming three months.
- In **Somalia,** worsening drought is putting numerous areas across the country at risk of famine in the next months should food and nutrition assistance not match needs through the remainder of the year[27]. Food prices are expected to extend rising trends in the next three months.
- Food insecurity in **South Sudan** is expected to remain high through September because of chronic vulnerabilities that have exacerbated by multiple shocks.

[27] https://fews.net/east-africa/somalia

- In **Sudan**, macro-economic and political instability, localized conflict, below normal cereal production, high inflation, above average food prices and sharply depreciated local currency will continue to negatively impact household purchasing power and limit access to food. The June-September main rainfall season is forecasted to be above average, increasing the risk of flooding near major river basins in northern and eastern South Sudan and Sudan[28] that will likely destroy infrastructure and disrupt markets and livelihoods and result in crop losses.

- In **Ethiopia**, biting drought in Southern regions, conflict and attendant displacement in the Northern regions and elsewhere and macro-economic crisis will continue to increase people in need of humanitarian assistance through the end of the year. Food prices remain particularly high in Tigray on the backdrop of low commercial supplies and scarcity of food commodities despite recent ceasefire between warring parties. Uncertainty over the 2022 rains in southern Ethiopia increases the risk of further deterioration in food security.
- In **Uganda**, except for southern areas and regions around Lake Victoria, where rains started on time, there is increased risk of worsening food insecurity, largely in the eastern and northern areas including Karamoja where precipitation has been significantly below average which also delayed planting and resulted in below average vegetation and water conditions (FEWSNET). Food prices have increased rapidly in recent months, because of low household stocks and rising fuel prices.
- In Djibouti, severe food insecurity is expected to deteriorate through September 2022 because of the worsening drought conditions and increased food prices. Djibouti's headline inflation in May stood at 5.3%, the highest in more than 10 years (since January 2012).

[28] ibid

Siddharth Krishnaswamy
Regional RAM Adviser
siddharth.krishnaswamy@wfp.org

Kennedy Nanga
VAM Officer
kennedy.nanga@wfp.org

Cinzia Monetta
VAM Officer
cinzia.monetta@wfp.org

Cyprian Ouma
Nutrition Officer
cyprian.ouma@wfp.org

Zaccheus Ndirima
VAM Officer
zaccheus.ndirima@wfp.org