

ETHIOPIA Food Security Alert

December 30, 2009

Food security projected to deteriorate further in 2010

Poor performance of the June to September rains has resulted in below-normal harvests in *meher*-cropping areas as well as poor water availability and pasture regeneration in northern pastoral zones. This, combined with two consecutive poor *belg* cropping seasons (March-May), high staple food prices, poor livestock production, and reduced agricultural wages, is expected to drive elevated food insecurity over the coming six months (Figures 1 and 2). This follows high levels of food insecurity in 2009. Areas of particular concern are eastern marginal cropping areas in Tigray, Amhara, and Oromia, pastoral areas of Afar and northern and southeastern Somali region, Gambella region, and most low-lying areas of southern and central SNNPR. In most areas of the country, food insecurity during the first half of 2010 is projected to be significantly worse than during the same period in 2009 (Figures 3 and 4). However, improved food aid distribution and trade flows, along with recent rainfall, will benefit pastoral populations in southern and eastern Somali region. Food security in eastern marginal cropping areas will likely deteriorate even further between July and September 2010. Overall, humanitarian assistance needs are expected to be very high.

Figure 1. Projected food security conditions, Jan-Mar 2010

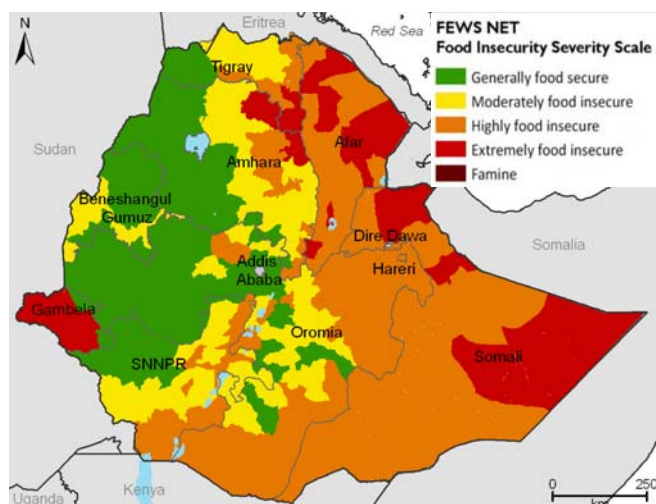


Figure 2. Projected food security conditions, Apr-Jun 2010

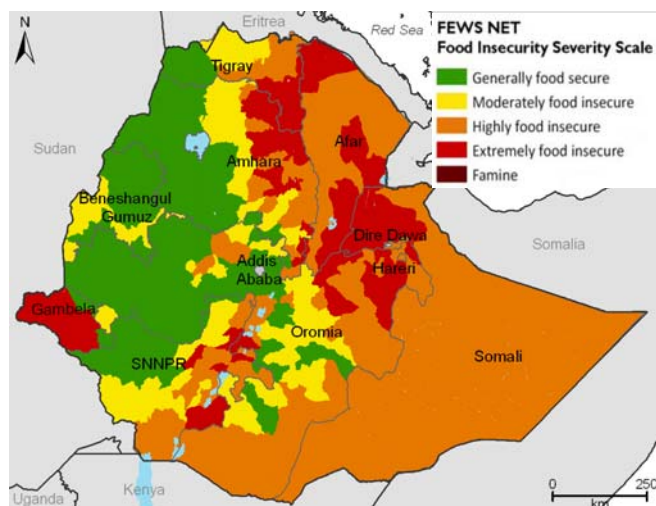


Figure 3. Change in food security conditions between Jan-Mar 2009 and Jan-Mar 2010

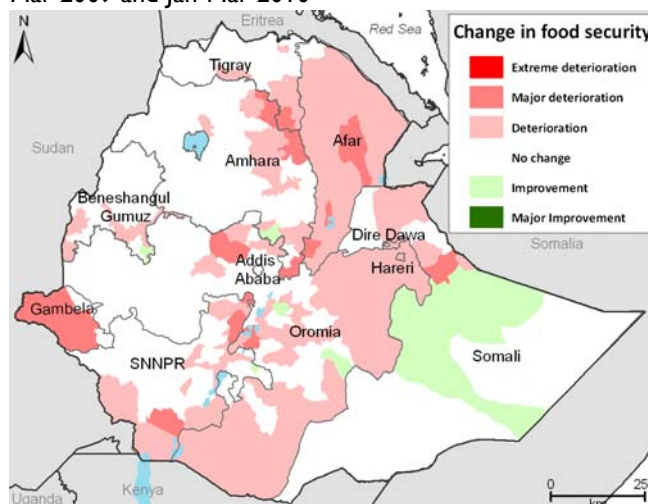
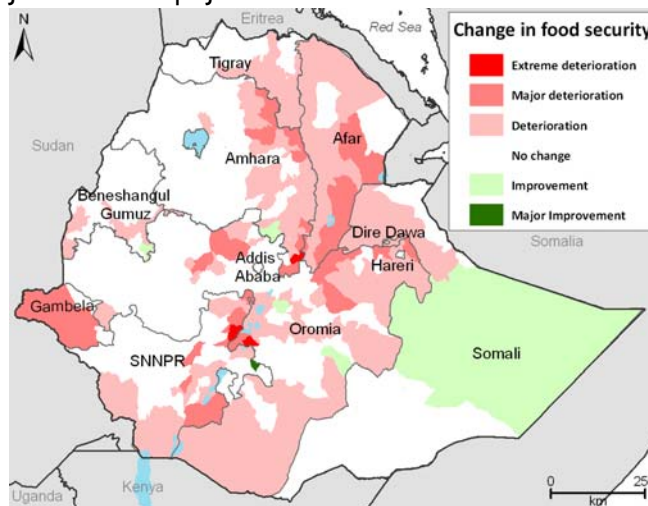


Figure 4. Change in food security conditions between Apr-Jun 2009 and Apr-Jun 2010



Source: FEWS NET and WFP Ethiopia

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) issues alerts to prompt decision-maker action to prevent or mitigate potential or actual food insecurity. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the view of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.