



Quarterly Early Warning Bulletin for Food and Agriculture

May – July 2012

The Quarterly Early Warning Bulletin is a product of the collaboration between the Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) for transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases and food safety threats, the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) and the Food Chain Crisis Management Framework (FCC). Data is provided by GIEWS and EMPRES. The Bulletin integrates information on food security and threats to the food chain for the three months ahead. It contributes to FAO's Strategic Objective I, Improved preparedness for and effective response to food and agricultural threats and emergencies.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Sahel region continues to face increasing food insecurity and malnutrition due to a sharp drop in cereal and pasture production in 2011, combined with high local food prices and civil strife.

Desert Locust threat in Western and north-western Africa.

Middle East and North Africa: Potential spread of foot-and-mouth disease SAT2 serotype to susceptible livestock populations from recently infected countries such as Libya and Egypt and potential re-introduction of other serotypes from sub-saharan Africa, resulting in significant impact on food security

Moderate to large outbreaks or possibly epidemics of cholera and typhoid are predicted in endemic regions, mainly due to a lack of proper sanitation of water, resulting also in persistent microbial contamination of their food chains.

Clusters of foodborne and waterborne diseases (e.g. Salmonella, Norovirus) are expected to occur in many countries during the summer due to extensive, typical seasonal outdoor activities and poor food handling, storage and preparation practices.

REGIONAL¹ ISSUES

AFRICA

In West Africa, a sharp drop in last year's cereal and pasture production combined with high food prices and civil strife has led to increasing food insecurity and malnutrition in several countries. The escalation of armed conflict in northern Mali in April 2012 has resulted in a large displacement of people and serious disruption in commodity movement, worsening food security in the subregion.

Peste des Petits ruminants will continue to spread and impede livelihoods and food security, with potential spread to susceptible populations in southern Africa, especially for the SADC countries which have been free of the disease so far.

Arrival of Desert Locust in Niger, Mali and, to a lower extent, Chad, coinciding with planting and emergence of this year's summer rain fed crops, results in an immediate and severe threat to both pastures and crops.

Madagascar will have to face a locust plague from the beginning of the next rainy season (October 2012).

¹ UNDP regional classification





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	Cholera (typhoid and dysentery) outbreaks could escalate due to predicted heavy rains and a lack of proper water infrastructure, resulting also in the consumption of contaminated food in the regions of Great Lakes/Central Africa/ East/Horn of Africa.
	Continued increase in outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease In West and North Africa.
	In West and North Africa, more anthrax cases are predicted in domestic ruminants and wildlife during forthcoming heavy rain seasons. Small to moderate, frequently under-reported, clusters of anthrax in humans are expected due to the consumption of meat of infected or dead animals. In African sub-regions Small to moderate outbreaks of anthrax, affecting domestic ruminants, wildlife and people consuming meat of sick or dead animals are predicted with the onset of a long rainy season (April-October).
ARAB STATES	Unless controlled, Desert Locust swarms could form at the end of the summer in Sahel and invade Mauritania, Algeria, Libya and perhaps Morocco.
ASIA & THE PACIFIC	Continued risk of highly virulent pathogenic porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome spreading in some countries in South East Asia (e.g. Viet Nam).
EUROPE and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	A new virus affecting cattle and small ruminants has been confirmed, starting in December 2011 in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Given that this virus is transmitted by means of midges, further virus transmission reoccur in the spring and summer 2012. This virus belongs to the Bunyaviridae family, genus Orthobunya virus, "Schmallenberg virus".
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	Increased number of New World Screwworm infestations in Panama may potentially move north towards New World Screwworm free Central American countries.
	Increased risk of classical swine fever in Central America, spreading from Guatemala to neighbouring countries through informal movement of pigs and products across borders.





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NATIONAL ISSUES				
REGION	COUNTRY	TYPE OF THREAT	LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
AFRICA	Burkina Faso	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing season caused cereal production to fall by nearly 20 percent in 2011. Cereal prices increased sharply across the country. About 1.7 million people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity. Massive influx of refugees from Mali has put additional pressure on already tight local food markets.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Despite the current major Desert Locust threat in the Sahel, the country should not be at risk.
	Burundi	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Poor rains in 2012 expected to result in a successive poor harvest, while persistent high food prices continue to erode purchasing power of low-income households.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Medium	Possible arrival of swarms of Red Locust from Tanzania if no or late control operations in the country.
	Cameroon	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		About 400 000 individuals in need of relief food assistance due to production shortfalls in some northern areas.
	Central African Republic	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Civil conflict and insecurity caused the displacement of more than 100 000 individuals and restricted access to agricultural land and food.
	Chad	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Irregular rains and extended dry spells led to a sharp decline in cereal and pasture output in 2011 in both the southern Sudanian and northern Sahelian zones of the country. Cereal production dropped by 49 percent in 2011 compared to the previous year. Moreover, large numbers of refugees are located in southern and eastern regions of Chad (over 300 000 people from the Sudan's Darfur region and the Central African Republic). Also, the return of an estimated 79 000 Chadians from Libya is putting additional pressure on the local food supply.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	There is a moderate risk that groups and swarms could arrive from the Algerian-Libyan border and continue towards cropping areas.
	Congo	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Influx of more than 100 000 refugees since the end of 2009, mostly from Democratic Republic of Congo, has increased pressure on limited local food resources.





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	Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Conflict-related damage to agriculture in recent years and the lack of support services mainly in the northern regions. The recent post-election crisis has forced thousands of people to leave the country and seek refuge, mostly in eastern Liberia, where about 67 000 Ivorian refugees were still living as of mid-May 2012.
	Democratic Republic of Congo	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Civil conflict has displaced an estimated 2 million people, hindering agricultural activities, while high food prices continue to impede food access. A total of 4.5 million people are estimated to be in food and livelihood crisis.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	<i>Peste des petits ruminants</i> will continue to spread and impact livelihoods and food security unless appropriate control measures (such as vaccination) are urgently implemented.
	Djibouti	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		About 300 000 people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance due to high food prices and several consecutive poor rainy seasons affecting pastoralists.
	Eritrea	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		Vulnerability to food insecurity due to economic constraints and high international food and fuel prices.
	Ethiopia	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		About 3.2 million people are in need of relief food assistance due to lingering effects of the 2011 drought in southern and southeastern pastoral areas and in some secondary belg season crop producing areas.
	Gambia	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Cereal production is officially estimated to have dropped by 56 percent in 2011 compared to the previous year. Production shortfalls and high food prices led to a deterioration of the food security situation in several parts of the country. About 500 000 people are estimated to be seriously affected.
	Guinea	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Access to food is negatively affected by high food prices and general inflation.
	Kenya	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Acute food insecure population is estimated at 2.2 million (plus about 555 000 refugees) in agropastoralist areas in northern, southeastern and coastal districts that had three to four consecutive dry seasons.
	Lesotho	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Poor rains and late planting likely to result in poor harvest, while increasing cereal prices aggravate food insecurity conditions for low-income households.





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	Liberia	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		Slow recovery from war-related damage. Inadequate social services and infrastructure, as well as poor market access and high food prices. Massive influx of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire: about 67 000 Ivorian refugees were still living in Liberia as of mid-May 2012.
	Madagascar	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Cyclones in early 2012 damaged homesteads and crops, deteriorating food security conditions of the affected populations, particularly in eastern districts.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	A plague of the Migratory Locust is in progress and swarms started leaving the outbreak area (south-west of the Island) towards the west from mid-May.
	Malawi	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Rapid rise in maize prices aggravated food insecurity conditions in southern areas in early 2012, while recent currency devaluation worsens food access of affected households.
	Mali	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Civil strife and insecurity in northern Mali forced over 190 000 people to leave the country and seek refuge in neighboring countries, while 200 000 more were internally displaced as of early May. This has worsened the already precarious food security situation created by last year's poor harvest. Cereal production declined by 10 percent in 2011 compared to 2010, leaving about 3 million people at risk of food insecurity.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	As a consequence of the non fully controlled Desert Locust outbreak at the Algerian-Libyan border, there were numerous reports of locusts, including groups and swarms, from the northern part of the country. A first generation of breeding will start soon, probably followed by a second one at a larger scale if limited interventions only are implemented.
	Mozambique	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		An estimated 146 500 people require assistance, mostly in central provinces, following weather-related shocks that negatively affected production during the 2011/12 season.
Niger	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		After the severe food crisis that struck the country in 2009/10, erratic rains and extended dry spells throughout the growing season led to a sharp decline in 2011 cereal and pasture output. In addition, large numbers of refugees and returning	





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				national migrant workers from Libya and Mali placed an increasing demand on food: 5.5 million people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	As a consequence of the non fully controlled Desert Locust outbreak at the Algerian-Libyan border, more than 17 adult groups and swarms arrived in northern Niger from 31 May to 11 June. A first generation of breeding will start soon, probably followed by a second one at a larger scale if limited interventions only are implemented.
	Rwanda	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Medium	Possible arrival of swarms of Red Locust from Tanzania if no or late control operations in that country.
	Senegal	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Production shortfalls and high food prices led to a deterioration of the food security situation in several parts of the country.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Despite the current major Desert Locust threat in the Sahel, the country should not be at risk.
	Sierra Leone	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		Slow recovery from war-related damage. Depreciation of currency led to higher inflation rates negatively affecting households' purchasing power and food security conditions.
	Somalia	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		About 2.3 million people are in need of emergency assistance due to the past severe drought, the ongoing civil conflict and limitations in delivering humanitarian assistance.
	South Sudan	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		About 3.2 million people are estimated to be food insecure due to low cereal production in 2011, civil insecurity, trade restrictions, high food prices and increasing demand by IDPs and returnees.
	Sudan	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		About 4.7 million people are in need of food assistance (including about 2 million IDPs in Darfur) due to a very low 2011 cereal production, civil insecurity (mainly in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur) and high food prices.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Increased risk of spread of transboundary animal diseases including foot-and-mouth disease, Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, Lumpy skin disease due to civil unrest with potential disease incursions into neighbouring countries in Northern and Eastern Africa.





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	Tanzania	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	The Red Locust situation remained critical in April with numerous swarms escaping the outbreak areas. It was expected that approx. 300,000 ha of crops would be under threat in the coming months and that the next campaign would be more serious.
	Uganda	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate to high	A cholera outbreak in Uganda could escalate as predicted heavy rains are likely to lead to flooding.
	Zimbabwe	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Dry spells in late 2011 and early 2012 are expected to result in a 31 percent decrease in cereal production, particularly impacting southern areas, which were also affected by poor harvests in 2011. However, economic stability has improved the country's import capacity, while sizeable carryover stocks will help stabilize domestic supplies.
ARAB STATES	Afghanistan	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Drought, conflict, insecurity and high food prices. Moderately food insecure areas are in the centre and northeast of the country. The poor 2011 wheat harvest has exacerbated food insecurity.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate to High	No significant developments of Desert Locust situation are likely. Hopper development of Moroccan Locust was completed in May and more than 60,000 ha have been treated against hopper bands. Control operations should stop during the second week of June in most parts of the country (situation level: caution).
	Algeria	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	The Desert Locust outbreak that developed in early February along the Algerian-Libyan border continued in April and May. Immature swarms formed in both countries. More than 41,000 ha have been treated up to the end of May. As ecological conditions began to dry out, adult groups and swarms moved south from late May onwards.
	Egypt	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate to high	Avian influenza H5N1 control activities have been substantially reduced in 2011 due in part to the civil unrest and frequent changes of authorities. Due to latter resulting in a lack of veterinary/government infrastructure, reports of H5N1 infections in poultry and humans, as well as other diseases such as FMD are likely to increase.
	Iraq	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		Severe civil insecurity.



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	Libya	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	<p>Widespread distribution of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks. Moderate risk of incursion to neighbouring countries. Surveillance activities and an appropriate vaccination plan needs to be developed and implemented as soon as possible</p> <p>The Desert Locust outbreak that developed in early February along the Algerian-Libyan border continued in April and May. Immature swarms formed in both countries. More than 21,000 ha have been treated up to the end of May. As ecological conditions began to dry out, adult groups and swarms moved south from late May onwards.</p>
	Mauritania	<i>Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies</i>		<p>Cereal production dropped by 34 percent in 2011 due to poor distribution of rainfall. Pasture conditions were also severely affected in the pastoral and agropastoral zones of the country. The country is also affected by high international food prices due to its high import dependency. About 700 000 people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity. Moreover, 64 000 Malian refugees have been registered in the small town of Fassala in the southeastern part of the country, as of early May 2012.</p>
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	<p>Scattered adults of Desert Locust are likely to be present in parts of Inchiri and Tiris Zemmour. Small-scale breeding is expected to occur in areas receiving rains. The country could receive Desert Locust populations issued from summer breeding in Mali and Niger at the end of the rainy season.</p>
	Morocco	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	<p>Low numbers of Desert Locust adults may appear south of the Atlas Mountains. If the current situation outbreak in West Africa is not controlled, swarms could invade the country from September/October onwards.</p>
	Oman	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	<p>Desert Locust. Small-scale breeding occurred in May. An increasing number of small groups is expected to form and to move towards the northeast in July/August.</p>
	Syrian Arab Republic	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		<p>An estimated 1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance due to the impact of the prolonged social unrest on household economy and food distribution channels in several markets.</p>
	Tunisia	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	<p>Risk of further spread of <i>peste des petits ruminants</i> within the country.</p>
	Yemen	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	<p>Low numbers of adults of Desert Locust are likely to be present in a few places along the central Tihama. They could breed on a small-scale in areas of recent rainfall.</p>





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		<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		The severely food insecure population in need of emergency food assistance is estimated at about 5 million people as a result of high levels of poverty, prolonged conflict and high food and fuel prices.
ASIA & THE PACIFIC	Bangladesh	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low to moderate	More anthrax cases are predicted in domestic ruminants and wildlife during forthcoming heavy rain seasons. Small to moderate, frequently under-reported, clusters of anthrax in humans are expected due to the consumption of meat of infected or dead animals.
	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	<i>Widespread lack of access</i>		In spite of the improved food production in 2011, economic constraints, late season floods and lack of agricultural inputs continue to lead to inadequate food supplies.
	India	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	High	Foot-and-mouth disease and <i>peste des petits ruminants</i> will continue to spread and impede livelihoods and food security.
	Pakistan	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Desert Locust. Low numbers of adults issued from spring breeding will move to summer breeding areas and lay eggs.
	Viet Nam	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Continued spread of highly virulent pathogenic porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome in Viet Nam and continued occurrence of HPAI H5N1.
EUROPE & the CISRussia	Armenia	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Hatching of Italian Locust, delayed by rainy and cool weather, should have started in early June. Control operations will be undertaken as needed. No significant developments are likely.
	Azerbaijan	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Moroccan Locust fledging should start in early June and control operations will continue against adults. No significant developments are likely.
	Georgia	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate to high	Hopper development took place in May for the Moroccan Locust (situation level: caution) and will continue in June for the Italian Locust (situation level: threat). Control operations will continue in June.
	Kazakhstan	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Moroccan Locust should have fledged in May and Italian Locust fledging should occur during the first half of June. Migratory Locust hopper development should be completed in June. Control operations are in progress.
	Kyrgyzstan	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Lingering effects of socio-political conflict since June 2010 in Jalalabad, Osh and Batken Oblasts hinder access to food and causing vulnerability and tension.





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		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low to moderate	Hatching started end of April/early May for the Moroccan Locust and the Italian Locust (mass hatching being expected in June in the latter case). Control operations will continue in June/July 2012.
	Russia	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate to High	Hopper development of Moroccan, Italian and Migratory locusts will continue throughout June. Control operations are in progress. The area treated in May 2012 against the Italian Locust was more than 12 times higher than in May 2011 (situation level: threat).
	Tajikistan	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low to moderate	Moroccan Locust fledged in May and the Italian Locust will fledge in June. Control operations will continue in June/July.
	Turkmenistan	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low to moderate	Hatching of Moroccan locust should have started in April and hopper development should have been completed in May.
	Uzbekistan	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Low	Moroccan, Italian and Migratory Locusts will fledge in June, lay eggs and progressively disappear. Control operations will end in June. The situation is less serious this year than in 2011.
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	Haiti	<i>Severe localized food insecurity</i>		Lingering effects of devastating earthquake of January 2010. Food insecurity deteriorates with an increase in the cholera fatalities associated with the onset of the rainy season since April 2012.
		<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Increased of classical swine fever outbreaks in rural areas due to reduction in coverage of classical swine fever campaign in particular in rural areas.
	Moderate		Mostly small to moderate cholera jump peaks are predicted as the disease is shifting to endemic phase due to the development of population immunity and evolution of the predominant bacteria strains. The number of cholera cases has dropped as the country leaves the annual rainy season. However efforts must be maintained on stemming the outbreak as Haiti enters the tropical storm season.	
	Panama	<i>Threats to the food chain</i>	Moderate	Increased number of New World Screwworm infestations identified in Panama.

