

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Eritrea

May-August 2011

Key Messages

- Although there is no price data available, food security is expected to be affected by high international food and fuel prices as a consequence of the country's high dependence on imports.
- Although there is no official data on the food security situation, FAO Global information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) reports exceptional shortfalls in food production/supply.
- Late and erratic onset of rains affected planting of long cycle crops such as sorghum, maize and finger millet.
- Government supports food insecure segment of the population through social programmes such as cash for work.

Background

The total population is around 5 million, with an annual growth rate of 3%. The estimated proportion of undernourishment reached 65%. Although the rural population amounts at 78%, the agricultural value added to GDP is 14%.

Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2010 (WB)	5.253
Population growth rate - 2010 (WB)	3%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2010 (WB)	540
Population below 1\$ PPP per day	n.a.
Rural population - 2010 (WB)	78%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2009 (WB)	14%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2006/2008(FAO)	65%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	74%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption	n.a.

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	14%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2009 (WHO)	66
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	61%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2009 (WHO)	0.8%

Prices

No price data available.

Food Security Situation Assessment

No current data (official or otherwise) is available on the food security situation and food price levels in the country. However, given the high dependence of the country on imports, current high international fuel and food prices are expected to negatively impact on the overall food security situation of vulnerable people. GiEWS reports exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies. FAO Hunger Map estimates very high prevalence of undernourishment and IFPRI Global Hunger Index depicts extremely alarming situation of hunger.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT

			FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2011
Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	

Eritrea is not covered by FEWSNET. FEWSNET coverage is limited 14 African countries 1 Caribbean (Haiti) and 1 Central Asia (Afghanistan). Food security status is given for different parts of the country in each case. [FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)

					FAO Hunger Map
Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)	

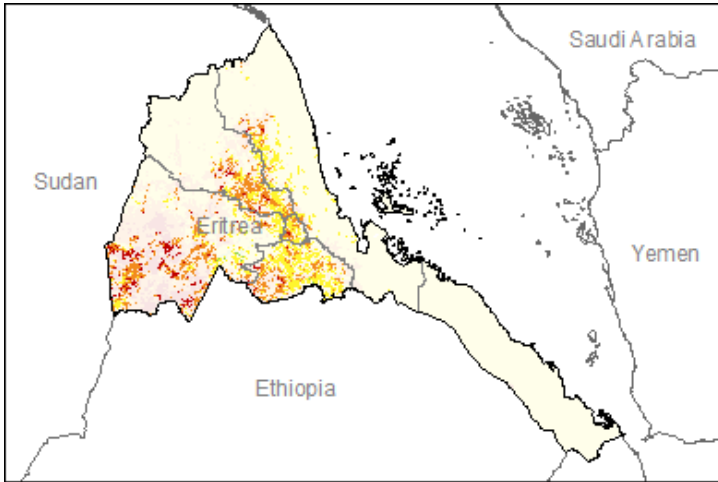
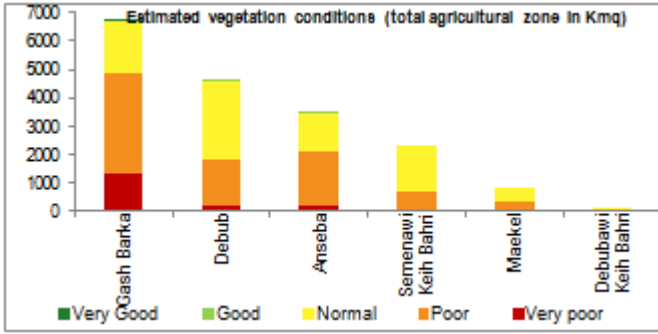
FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

					IFPRI/2011 GHI
Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	

Information required to draw this chart is not available.

Vegetation Condition

At the middle of the rainy season, poor to very poor conditions are observed for the South-West of the country (provinces of Gash Barka, Debub and Anseba) where a rainfall deficit from mid-June to mid-August affected the vegetation development. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the absolute difference between the NDVI for August 2011 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the Africover dataset (FAO).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

Sowing	Barley - Maize - Millet - Sorghum - Wheat
Growing	Barley - Maize - Millet - Sorghum - Wheat
Harvesting	Barley - Maize - Millet - Sorghum - Wheat

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

The 2011 “azmera” rainy season (normally extending from March to May) started in the highlands at the beginning of May, with almost four weeks of delay. Notable deficits of total rainfall were reported especially in the Debub, Gash Barka and Anseba regions that may lead to re-planting or to lower plantings.

Refugees and IDPs	2008	2009	n.a.
Total in the country	5084	4893	n.a.
Total outside the country	201094	223570	n.a.

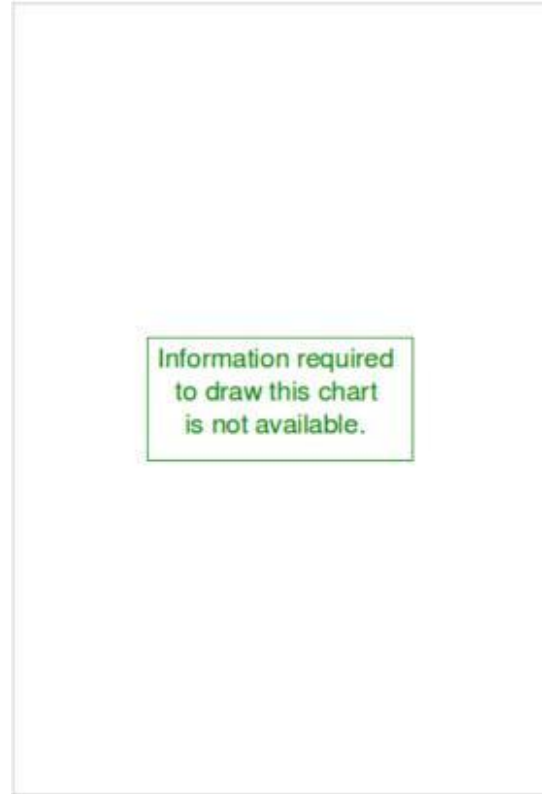
Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/12/2010.

Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
Earthquake	2011-03-31	Denakil Province	1/3
Earthquake	2011-03-25	Akale Guzay Province	1/3
Earthquake	2009-02-06	Sahil	1/3

Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System - 3 = 1000 or more people killed or 800000 or more people displaced. 2 = 100 or more people killed or 80000 or more displaced.

Food Balance Sheet

No official data is available for crop production. The late and erratic onset of the “azmera” rains had a negative impact on land preparation and planting of long cycle crops such as sorghum, maize and finger millet. Import requirements for 2011 are put at 337,000 tonnes, some 5% above imports of 2010 (322,000 tonnes).



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

Safety nets are in place such as the cash for work programme implemented by the government in food insecure areas replacing direct food aid. The government is also investing micro-dams to boost production on a sustainable basis.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	Irrigation
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Cash for Work

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

[Evidence, monthly UNISDR newsletter: issue 01, October...](#)
[Taking care of more than the educational needs of refu...](#)
[Eritrea's efforts to achieve food security registering...](#)
[Somalis in the East and Horn of Africa Region - As of ...](#)
[Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries: ...](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
 Website: www.foodsec.org

Powered By the **GIEWS Workstation**

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