

OMN – Executive Board – November 2013

Regional overview

Food security situation

- Overall, the region currently has a **relatively good food security situation**, following generally favorable food production between July and October.
- A total of 55 assessments have been undertaken in the region over the course of this year to ensure that WFP operations are based on the assessed need. These include FSMS analysis, EFSAs, CFSAMs, IPCs and market assessments.
 - For example, in **Kenya**, the number of people in need of immediate food assistance has declined from 1.1 million in February of this year to 850,000 in September, after the recent long rains assessment conducted in August.
 - Also in **Somalia**, after the latest September assessment, the number of people in IPC phases of emergency and crisis has decreased from 1 million to 825,000 people.
 - In **Ethiopia**, while there are certainly pockets of food insecurity and increased vulnerability for those dependent on the short Belg rains (which have now been below average for 3-4 years), other parts of country are enjoying a significant surplus of maize. The total harvest is estimated to be at least 10% higher than last year.
- However, there are pockets of significant concern hidden behind this overall good outlook
 - In **Eritrea**, [where WFP has an operational presence but no operations], the food security situation remains critical, due to late rains and heavy rainfall in August.
 - In the Karamoja region of **Uganda**, the first 2013 harvest was relatively poor due to dry spells in most farming areas. The current food insecurity situation is severe for about 100,000 people, and another 250,000 are under stress and require food assistance.
 - In **Somalia**, 2.3 million people remain classified as “stressed” under the IPC, and struggle to meet their minimal food requirements.
 - The food security situation has improved in rural **Djibouti**, but around 105,000 people (around 13 percent of the total population) are severely to moderately food insecure and therefore in need of humanitarian assistance. The September 2013 food security monitoring indicates that Overall, 59 percent of rural households are food insecure.
 - In **South Sudan**, flooding has affected six out of the ten states in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal and Greater Upper Nile regions and 156,000 people have been affected since August 2013.

Nutrition

- **Stunting** is a serious issue in the region
 - Three countries in the region, Burundi (58%), Ethiopia and Rwanda (44%) are among the countries globally with the highest rates of stunting.
 - South Sudan, with a 23% wasting rate, is among the top ten countries globally with the highest prevalence of wasting, and Ethiopia, with one million wasted children, is among the countries with the highest number of wasted children.
- WFP, along with the African Union, NEPAD and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has undertaken the groundbreaking **Cost of Hunger in Africa study**, which shows that undernutrition is not just a health issue, but an economic concern as well.
 - In **Ethiopia**, US\$4.7 billion was lost in 2009 as a result of child undernutrition, equivalent to 16.5 percent of GDP.
 - In **Uganda**, US\$899 million was lost in the year 2009 as a result of child undernutrition, equivalent to 5.6 percent of GDP.
- **Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates are also of concern in some areas of the region.** These rates are very important as they are determinants of the type and intensity of nutritional interventions for WFP and other partners.
 - In **Somalia** critical levels of acute malnutrition persist, with the overall GAM rate exceeding 15% in most parts of the country, with more than 206,000 children under 5 remain acutely malnourished. Over the coming months, deterioration in the nutrition situation is expected in most parts of the country, with the next peak of malnutrition expected in late 2013.
 - In **Kenya**, in the arid and semi-arid areas, GAM rates for children under 5 are consistently above the 15% emergency threshold.
 - For **South Sudan**, FSMS data shows GAM rates hovering at 12%, with parts of Jonglei and Upper Nile states above the 15% threshold.
 - Latest data for **Djibouti** (2010) shows GAM among children under five at 10 percent in 2010 (8.5 percent in urban areas, and 11.4 percent in rural areas) while severe acute malnutrition is 1.2 percent.

Regional Funding Overview/Shortfalls

Key operational priorities over this period include:

South Sudan – Jonglei situation, including protection considerations
Refugee needs (Great Lakes and Somali)
Kenya - biometrics

- Requirements for the next six months (October 2013 – March 2014) in the OMN region amount to US \$928 million. Of this we have \$400 million secured but still require nearly \$530 million in new resources to meet beneficiary needs. This amounts to a 56% shortfall and is very worrisome as, unlike previous years (2011 and 2012); very few operations have significant funds to carry-over into 2014.
- We are particularly concerned about operations in the Great Lakes Region that are hosting refugees from the DRC. Operations in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi are all more than 60% unfunded and, while recent developments may affect population movements in the region, it is a complex crisis and we continue to support over 300,000 refugees; many of whom have few or no other sources of food.
- Refugee operations in Ethiopia and Kenya are also critically underfunded. In Ethiopia the refugee operation is nearly 70% unfunded and we desperately need \$32 million to ensure food availability in the New Year. In Kenya the situation is even worse. We have recently sent out an appeal to our membership for the \$54 million (80% shortfall) needed to feed over 500,000 refugees in the Dadaab and Kakuma camps for the next six months. While a very generous \$20 million contribution of food from the US is expected to arrive for distribution in March, we have almost nothing for January and February distributions and have been forced to apply a 20% ration cut to November and December allocations. There is never a good time to cut rations but this comes at an extremely critical juncture as the innovative new biometric identification process for food distributions, which strengthens beneficiary targeting and enhances accountability and control, was just launched in October. It is not clear how ration cuts may affect beneficiary acceptance of its introduction.
- Relief, Recovery and Development operations are also facing similarly critical shortfalls. In particular, the EMOP in South Sudan requires \$47 million before its closure at the end of the year, in large part to repay advances that were used to preposition stocks for use in the rainy season when large parts of the country's road network becomes impassible. Kenya's recovery and resilience building operation requires over \$30 million for the next six months (50% shortfall) and has almost no resources available for cash distributions to beneficiaries participating in the successful cash for assets programme which is helping communities in the arid and semi-arid areas build assets like water catchments which help them increase agricultural productivity and enhance their resilience to future climate shocks. Development operations across the region are highly underfunded to the extent where WFP has been forced scale back activities including the reduction or suspension of school feeding programmes in Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda.

Security

The move of the Somalia CO to Mogadishu has been delayed by the June 2013 bombing and the Westgate attack in Nairobi.

Rome-based agencies and regional bodies collaboration update

Somalia - Joint Resilience Strategy

- FAO, WFP and UNICEF (Somalia) have finalized a Memorandum of Understanding detailing areas of collaboration between the three agencies (the Common Results Framework, joint area-based

planning of interventions, improved information, monitoring and evaluation of local resiliency and vulnerability, joint advocacy and joint analytical work) and defining governance mechanisms

- 74 partners in the five pilot districts have been trained on how to implement community consultation and action plan processes
- 33 WFP Food or Voucher for Assets livelihoods programmes targeting 131,000 beneficiaries are currently being implemented or are being completed in the five pilot districts - projects include irrigation canal rehabilitation, water harvesting structures, vegetable gardens, road rehabilitation, soil and water conservation.
- In the current 33 locations where WFP implements livelihoods programmes, WFP is ensuring communities also benefit from nutrition programmes..

IGAD and other regional resilience work highlights

- The IGAD Secretariat has requested FAO, UNICEF and WFP to support their capacity and that of their Member States to measure and analyze resilience. A Resilience Analysis Unit (RAU) housed within IGAD premises in Nairobi will serve as a regional technical hub for the 3 agencies and other key partners to build this capacity and to provide strategic cross-sectoral analysis and knowledge to inform resilience planning and programming.
- This work at the regional level will be linked to the work that a broad range of experts from academia, development partners and NGOs are undertaking at the global level through the Technical Working Group to develop a common monitoring and evaluation framework in which IGAD is also represented.

Food Security Clusters

WFP and FAO are currently co-leading Food Security Clusters in South Sudan and Somalia. These clusters are playing a critical role in leading common assessments and coordinating programmatic interventions. Indeed, the cluster in Somalia is considered a model for other clusters, and a lessons-learned exercise is currently being undertaken by the global food security cluste