



# Price Surveillance Bulletin

May-September 2015

El Niño

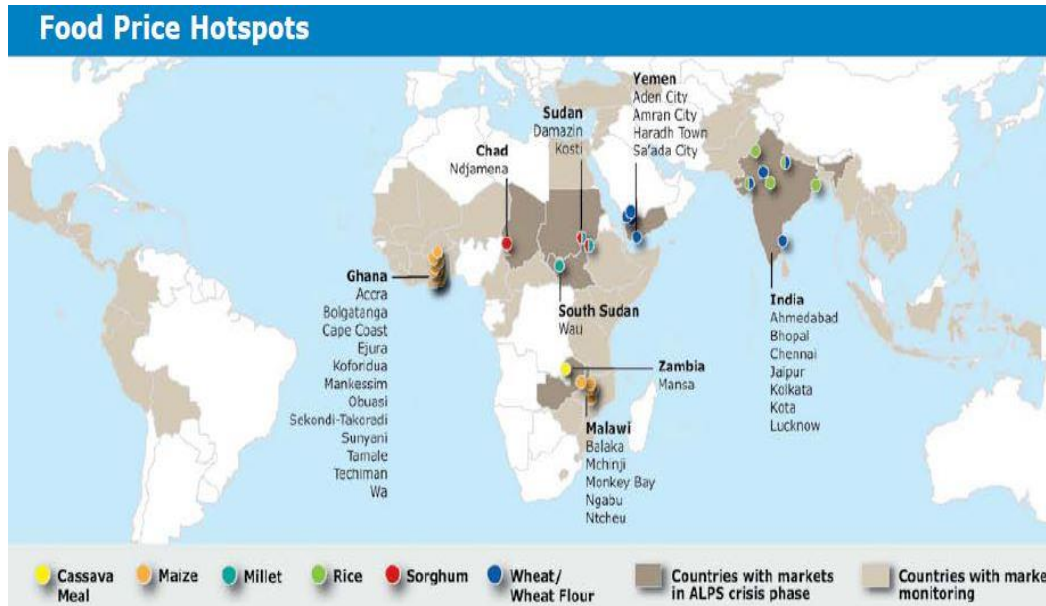
According to several analysts, this **El Niño** could be the most powerful event of its kind since 1950, and may be among **the strongest on historical record** (Climate Prediction Center).

Over the next 12 months, **El Niño** could potentially affect the food security of a large number of individuals who are dependent on agriculture and livestock for their livelihood in Central America, most of Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia (WFP). There is a 95% chance **that El Niño will continue through winter 2015-16**, gradually weakening through spring 2016 (Climate Prediction Center).

Impacts in grain-producing countries could lead to higher and **more volatile commodity prices** and jeopardize the **fragile food security** of those who already spend a large proportion of their income on food (WFP).

Evolution of Food Prices at a Global Scale and Main Determinants:

- **Wheat:** Export prices of wheat generally **increased** in June, after steadily declining in the past several months. The increase reflects harvest delays and concerns about crop quality of the 2015 wheat crop, due to **heavy rain in key-growing areas** of the United States. Worries about the impact of dry conditions on crop yield potential in Canada and the EU provided further support (FAO).
- **Maize:** International **prices of maize also rose** in June, mainly due to excessive rains in June which slowed planting progress early in the month and caused some deterioration in crop conditions in the main producing areas of the United States. In general, maize export prices were well-below their levels of June last year (FAO).
- **Rice:** In June, the FAO All Rice Price Index **fell for the tenth consecutive month** (FAO).



Source: WFP *The Market Monitor* (July 2015)

Countries Requiring Vigilance:

- **Yemen:** The OHCHR classifies the humanitarian situation in Yemen as “**dire**” (OHCHR). The population’s food security situation has continued to deteriorate and **most of the country has fallen into Emergency (IPC Phase 4)**. Prices for basic commodities have increased by 120% since the escalation of the conflict in March 2015, and **the price of 50 kg of wheat is up 150%** (ACF). Reduced income, displacement, and increasing prices are likely to drive large assistance needs through at least February 2016.
- **South Sudan:** Prices for sorghum and millet are on a **severe upward price trend**; prices for sorghum and millet have increased by 82% and 87%, respectively, compared to this same time last year. ACF estimates that 1 million people are living in a state of food insecurity alarmingly close to famine (ACF).
- **Chad:** The price of sorghum in June Ndjamena markets was in **crisis**, meaning that **prices were abnormally high** for that time of the year. The seasonal increase in sorghum prices was also strong in Hadjer Lamis (+25%) and Longone Oriental (+30%), partly because of **increased cross-border insecurity and the influx of refugees from neighboring countries** (WFP).

## Price Surveillance by Country

Country	Main Staple Food Price Trends	Other Elements Impacting Food Security	Severity and Potential Actions
<b>Iraq</b>	The upsurge in conflict has affected purchasing power: the prices of staple foods are volatile and increasing, labor opportunities are limited, and wage rates are low in conflict-affected areas. The highest price fluctuations have been recorded for wheat flour, sugar, and lentils. Furthermore, disruptions to road access and supply line routes have hampered deliveries of the government-run public distribution system (PDS) which has contributed to price increases in many conflict-affected areas <sup>1</sup> .	In areas under ISIS control, access to stocks is severely reduced and these areas also face significant internal trade restrictions <sup>2</sup> . Funding continues to constrain the humanitarian response; according to OCHA, food security cluster partners will be forced to make even more significant cuts to their current food assistance. Humanitarian access remains challenging, both for humanitarian actors to reach people who are affected by the current crisis and for people to safely access humanitarian assistance and services <sup>3</sup> .	At least 4.4 million people are estimated to need food assistance <sup>4</sup> . According to the FAO, 1.8 million beneficiaries (IDPs, non-displaced food insecure in conflict areas and food insecure host families) are receiving food assistance <sup>5</sup> .
<b>South Sudan</b>	The year-on-year consumer price index (CPI) or the price of a market basket of consumer goods, increased by 42.24%. Prices for sorghum and millet are on a severe upward price trend; prices for sorghum and millet have increased by 82% and 87%, respectively, compared to this same time last year <sup>6</sup> .	South Sudan faces the worst levels of food insecurity in the short history of the country <sup>7</sup> . Conflict and civil insecurity has led to reduced crop production in conflict-affected areas <sup>8</sup> . This has led to abnormal migration of livestock, limited market functionality, high food prices caused by rising inflation and depreciation of the local currency, diminishing purchasing power, depletion of household stocks and a high cost of living. Despite these cold facts, the crop harvests expected from mid-July are anticipated to marginally improve the food security situation <sup>9</sup> .	ACF estimates that 1 million people are living in a state of food insecurity alarmingly close to famine <sup>10</sup> . In June 2015, ACF conducted a nutritional survey in North Bahr El Ghazal and West Gogrial, where the level of global acute malnutrition was at 29.1%, the highest rate of malnutrition ever recorded by ACF since it began these surveys in 2008 <sup>11</sup> . About 4.6 million people, or 40% of the population, are severely food insecure, mainly in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile states, due to early depleted food stocks and difficult access for aid delivery <sup>12</sup> .

<sup>1</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update

<sup>2</sup> FAO (July 2015)

<sup>3</sup> OCHA

<sup>4</sup> OCHA

<sup>5</sup> FAO (July 2015)

<sup>6</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>7</sup> WFP WFP Global Food Security Update

<sup>8</sup> FAO (July 2015)

<sup>9</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update

<sup>10</sup> ACF « Soudan du Sud : Un moment crucial pour lutter contre la faim » (August 2015)

<sup>11</sup> ACF « Soudan du Sud : Un moment crucial pour lutter contre la faim » (August 2015)

<sup>12</sup> FAO (July 2015)

<p><b>Syrian Arab Republic</b></p>	<p>The ongoing conflict continued to disrupt trade across the country and led to a surge in the nominal prices for wheat flour, sugar, and oil. A year-to-year comparison shows that the price of wheat increased by 62%, the price of sugar by 107%, and the price of oil by 84%<sup>13</sup>. The besieged governorate of Deir Ezzor recorded the highest nominal price increases for wheat flour compared to Q2-2014 (+102%)<sup>14</sup>.</p>	<p>Prices increased particularly because of severely constrained supplies in the conflict affected areas<sup>15</sup>. Overall, households spend 55 percent of their income on food compared to 45-47 percent in 2011 and even less previously. People allocate more than two-thirds of their income to food in Dara'a, Sweida, Aleppo and Hama, where households are prioritizing food purchases over other basic needs<sup>16</sup>.</p>	<p>The WFP emergency food assistance to the people affected by unrest within the country has been scaled up to reach 4.5 million people by December 2015, up from 4.25 million in 2014<sup>17</sup>. Approximately 4.4 million people require urgent food assistance – a 57% increase from 2014<sup>18</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Yemen</b></p>	<p>In a country that relies on imports for 80 percent of its food intake, current restrictions have resulted in steep price hikes, which, combined with increases in the price of diesel by some 47 percent, are having a devastating impact on food security<sup>19</sup>. Sharp price increases were recorded in all regions: seasonal prices rose steeply for wheat flour (+57% in Aden, +42% in Amran), sugar (+77% in Aden), and rice (+58% in Al Hudaydah) caused by unusually low availability in local markets<sup>20</sup>. The national average cost of a food basket in July 2015 was 30 percent higher than in the pre-crisis period<sup>21</sup>.</p>	<p>Due to the ongoing air and naval blockade, as well as a broken ceasefire and disrespect of international humanitarian law<sup>22</sup>, very little (food) aid is able to reach civilians. Supply chain bottlenecks and rebel blockades are restricting the supply of critical imported food supplies to conflict-affected governorates, leading to sharply higher retail food prices. Food access continues to be severely constrained because of lower incomes, disrupted labor markets and widespread population displacement<sup>23</sup>. Sieges in a number of governorates have been preventing staple food items, such as wheat, from reaching the civilian population, while airstrikes have reportedly targeted local markets and trucks laden with food items<sup>24</sup>.</p>	<p>As the conflict continues to escalate, over 12.9 people in Yemen are now surviving without adequate access to basic food supplies<sup>25</sup>. As of June, at least 6 million people are facing <i>Emergency</i> (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity. Millions more could easily fall into the emergency conditions unless a political solution is not found quickly<sup>26</sup>. Governorates at the <i>Emergency</i> phase of food insecurity are: Saa'da, Aden, Abyan, Shabwa, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Taiz, Lahj, Al Dhale'e, and Al Baida<sup>27</sup>.</p>

<sup>13</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>14</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>15</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>16</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Syrian Arab Republic (30 July 2015)

<sup>17</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Syrian Arab Republic (30 July 2015)

<sup>18</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update

<sup>19</sup> Hilal Elver, OHCHR 11 August 2015

<sup>20</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>21</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>22</sup> ACF « Yémen : La trêve violée, le pays s'enfoncé dans la violence » (July 2015)

<sup>23</sup> WFP VAM Food Security Analysis Bulletin 1 August 2015 : Yemen

<sup>24</sup> Hilal Elver, OHCHR 11 August 2015

<sup>25</sup> Hilal Elver, OHCHR 11 August 2015

<sup>26</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update

<sup>27</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update

<p><b>Cameroon</b></p>	<p>Prices of maize, the most consumed cereal, were around the levels of a year earlier, largely reflecting the adequate availabilities from the average 2014 cereal production<sup>28</sup>. In the Far North region, staple food prices are much more volatile due to ongoing conflict. More than 60 percent of the region's income comes from cross-border trade with Nigeria and Chad; with no goods to sell and very few customers, many merchants have fled their market stalls altogether. According to MINADER, the prices of basic commodities including corn, sorghum, and petrol have risen 20 to 80 percent since March 2014<sup>29</sup>.</p>	<p>In the Far North region, civil insecurity severely disrupted agricultural activities and caused a reduction in the planted area; according to the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) carried out by WFP in June 2015, 60 percent of farmers in the region indicated major land access constraints on account of civil insecurity<sup>30</sup>. Attacks by militant group Boko Haram have forced farmers to abandon their fields, shut down local markets, and have halted the movement of people and goods<sup>31</sup>.</p>	<p>The overall food security situation has sharply deteriorated in 2015 due to multiple shocks, including the influx of refugees from CAR and Nigeria, increasing civil insecurity and natural hazards. In early 2015, the number of food insecure people was estimated at 1.08 million, three times higher than two years earlier. The food security situation is particularly worrying in the Far North region, especially for IDPs. An estimated 75 percent of IDPs have engaged in "crisis" and "urgency" strategies such as the reduction of non-essential expenses, sale of productive assets, and begging<sup>32</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Central African Republic (CAR)</b></p>	<p>Nominal maize prices surged in Q2-2015 (+34%) because continuing insecurity led to the widespread abandonment of cultivated lands and reduced crop production<sup>33</sup>. The sudden tightening of available supplies of animal food products has driven up the cost of animal protein. The price of one chicken has jumped from CFA 1,000 (1.7 USD) to somewhere between CFA 3000-4000 (5.2-6.9 USD)<sup>34</sup>. Current information is not available on how prices differ on a year-to-year comparison, nor on how prices compare to the 5 year baseline<sup>35</sup>.</p>	<p>The decline in livestock numbers from 2013 due to theft, looting, and mass slaughter of animals is estimated at 67 percent for cattle and 77 percent for small livestock and poultry. Furthermore, local populations no longer have access to certain types of food, such as beef, since the departure of pastoralists to Cameroon at the beginning of 2014. Fish supplies have also declined by about 40 percent from pre-crisis levels due to insecurity in fishing areas and loss of fishing equipment<sup>36</sup>. A large segment of the population of CAR is facing serious and constantly deteriorating food access constraints, due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production, sharply curtailed market activity, food availabilities, and access. Not only is the quantity of food intake reduced, but dietary diversity is also drastically diminished. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns and has a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health<sup>37</sup>.</p>	<p>As of April 2015, approximately 1,268,000 people are in need of urgent assistance. The most affected prefectures in <i>Emergency</i> (IPC Phase 4) are Ouham-Pendé, Ouham, and some areas of the capital Bangui<sup>38</sup>. Additional food security indicators show a deterioration of the situation compared to a year earlier. The percentage of households with inadequate food consumption stood at 36 percent in March 2015, compared to 26 percent in October 2014<sup>39</sup>.</p>

<sup>28</sup> GIEWS Country Brief: Cameroon (18 August 2015)

<sup>29</sup> IRN

<sup>30</sup> GIEWS Country Brief: Cameroon (18 August 2015)

<sup>31</sup> IRIN

<sup>32</sup> GIEWS Country Brief: Cameroon (18 August 2015)

<sup>33</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>34</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Central African Republic (17 June 2015)

<sup>35</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>36</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Central African Republic (17 June 2015)

<sup>37</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Central African Republic (17 June 2015)

<sup>38</sup> IPC

<sup>39</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Central African Republic (17 June 2015)

<p><b>Chad</b></p>	<p>According to the WFP's <i>Alert for Price Spikes</i> (ALPS), sorghum in Ndjamena markets for June 2015 is in <i>crisis</i>, meaning that prices are abnormally high (greater than or equal to 2 standard deviations above the normally recorded price for this time of year).<sup>40</sup> The seasonal increase in sorghum prices was also strong in Hadjer Lamis (+25%) and Longone Oriental (+30%), partly because of increased cross-border insecurity and the influx of refugees from neighboring countries<sup>41</sup>. The cost of a basic food basket with sorghum, millet, and maize increased by 14% from the 5 year baseline<sup>42</sup>.</p>	<p>Chad requires external assistance to ensure food security. Over 460,000 people from the Darfur region, the Central African Republic and northern Nigeria, as well as the return of an estimated 340,000 Chadians, have placed added pressure on local food supplies, negatively affecting food security<sup>43</sup>. The country is prone to natural disasters such as drought, floods and crop enemies, which further undermine the already fragile livelihoods of the most vulnerable<sup>44</sup>.</p>	<p>663,000 people are deemed by OCHA to be severely food insecure<sup>45</sup>. Food insecurity is aggravated by chronic drought and negative coping strategies, in the context of limited capacity. Malnutrition is not only linked to food insecurity, but is also caused by poor eating habits<sup>46</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Haiti</b></p>	<p>Fresh products are less available in markets and the price of local produce has increased by over 60 percent in some areas<sup>47</sup>. Although nominal prices remained stable for rice in Haiti, the ALPS (Alert for Price Spikes) indicator was at "alert" level for maize in Jeremie and Port-au-Prince in June<sup>48</sup>. Local maize is being sold at prices 17% higher than those of the same month last year. Due to El Niño, prices are increasing for staple foods in different markets, except for sugar and imported rice &amp; corn. However, the price of corn and beans, produced locally, have increased abnormally by 2% and 8% per month between January and June 2015, which represents a 12% and 32% annual increase, respectively<sup>49</sup>.</p>	<p>The effects of El Niño in Haiti are felt in the North East, the North West, the South, the Southeast and the Nippes; these areas have been severely affected by insufficient rains, worsening the existing drought situation that is impacting thousands of families. This situation has worsened the level of food security in the country, due to a considerable reduction in the availability of locally-produced foodstuffs<sup>50</sup>. What's more, a lack of irrigation infrastructure and reduced levels of water in the rivers, especially in the South, and has made farmers and rural populations especially vulnerable<sup>51</sup>.</p>	<p>Crop losses and increasing staple food prices are limiting staple food access for very poor households along the North West, upper Artibonite, North East, South East, and along the southern peninsula. Food insecurity should not deteriorate below <i>Stressed</i> (IPC Phase 2) or <i>Crisis</i> (IPC Phase 3)<sup>52</sup>.</p>

<sup>40</sup> WFP The Alert for Price Spikes (*ALPS*)

<sup>41</sup> WFP Market Monitor (July 2015)

<sup>42</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>43</sup> FAO Crop Prospects and Food Situation

<sup>44</sup> OCHA: Chad Humanitarian Overview (31 August 2015)

<sup>45</sup> OCHA: Chad Humanitarian Overview (31 August 2015)

<sup>46</sup> OCHA: Chad Humanitarian Overview (31 August 2015)

<sup>47</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update

<sup>48</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>49</sup> OCHA

<sup>50</sup> ACF 2015: « Haiti : La secheresse et l'insécurité alimentaire en ballotage »

<sup>51</sup> OCHA

<sup>52</sup> FEWS NET



<b>Ethiopia</b>	While the current overall price trend for maize, sorghum, wheat, and fava beans is decreasing (-2% from the previous quarter), the cumulative impact of changes on the cost of a food basket still remains 19% higher than the 5-year baseline <sup>53</sup> .	El Niño will most likely lead to flooding in coastal and flood-prone areas within the equatorial sector, and below normal to normal rains in the northern sector of the Greater Horn of Africa <sup>54</sup> . Poor and erratically-distributed rains have already lowered production prospects for the 2015 minor “belg” season crops. El Niño-induced drought is likely to compound the effects of already drier-than-normal vegetation conditions. Severe and prolonged flooding may lead to outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever and other tropical water-borne diseases, especially dangerous for livestock <sup>55</sup> .	An estimated 4.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, which represents a significant increase from the annual projection of 3.3 million people. Humanitarian requirements increased in the second half of 2015 as a result of failed rains, and partly due to delays in food relief during the first half of the year <sup>56</sup> .
<b>Liberia</b>	The price of a food basket is 14% higher than the 5-year baseline. The price of cassava continues to increase slightly, and its current price is 15% higher than it was at this same time last year <sup>57</sup> . Prices of oil and imported rice have decreased by 11% and increased by 13%, respectively, compared to the same month last year. <sup>58</sup>	As of June 2015, farming activities and food markets are recovering across the country and prices are relatively stable after the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak <sup>59</sup> . Daily and weekly markets remained open and functional, although they are operating at reduced levels compared to May 2014 because of continued Ebola-related fears, low household purchasing power, limited cross border flows, and reduced demand for exports <sup>60</sup> .	The most food insecure counties are located in the southeastern part of the country. While poor households and households led by women have higher negative coping levels, data shows that the food security indicators of these households improved during Q2 2015 <sup>61</sup> .

<sup>53</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>54</sup> Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG )(August 2015)

<sup>55</sup> OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin (July-August 2015)

<sup>56</sup> HRD Humanitarian Requirements Mid-Year Review 2015

<sup>57</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>58</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>59</sup> WFP (June 2015)

<sup>60</sup> Fews Net Special Report “Poor purchasing power will continue to limit food access through September” (May 2015)

<sup>61</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update

<p><b>Madagascar</b></p>	<p>Information from local agricultural services suggests prices of staple foods such as maize remains significantly above average in the southern markets of Amboasary and Ambovombe. Higher than normal prices for cassava, as food stocks are exhausted and households become market dependent as the lean season approaches<sup>62</sup>. Lower international rice prices have helped to temper rice price gains in the country; imports of rice in the 2014/15 marketing year are estimated to have decreased by approximately 25 percent from the high level of the previous year, reflecting the improved 2014 domestic output<sup>63</sup>.</p>	<p>Food security conditions are expected to remain close to the low levels of the previous two years; the ensuing tight supply situation is anticipated to have a negative impact on food security<sup>64</sup>. Cyclones Chedza and Fundi caused flooding in early 2015, affecting approximately 265,000 people. Food insecurity remains severe in southern regions, due to limited cereal availability, while dry weather is expected to result in a third successive depressed cereal output in 2015 in these areas<sup>65</sup>. Forecasts for a continued El Niño through the start of the 2015/16 rainy season suggest seasonal rainfall may be below average in southern Madagascar, which may result in below-average labor opportunities as the peak of the lean season approaches<sup>66</sup>.</p>	<p>In Androy, Atsimo Andrefana and parts of Anosy Regions, an early exhaustion of food stocks, reduced coping capacity from the previous lean season, and unusually high staple food prices will likely result in <i>Stressed</i> (IPC Phase 2) outcomes in August 2015. Where maize production was extremely low (Tsihome and Ambovombe Districts), poor households will likely be in <i>Crisis</i> (IPC Phase 3) between September and December 2015<sup>67</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Nepal</b></p>	<p>Prices of rice and wheat remain stable across the country. The price of a food basket is 19% higher than the 5 year baseline<sup>68</sup>.</p>	<p>Food markets are now largely functional in less affected southern areas and are fast recovering in the seismic belt. A major concern for both immediate and longer term food security are widespread losses of household food stocks. In the most food-insecure areas, 80 percent of households have lost their entire food stocks, and an overall 55 percent of households have lost more than half of their cereal stocks<sup>69</sup>.</p>	<p>The Nepal earthquake has significantly impacted food security, with an estimated 1.4 million people in need of food assistance (excluding the urban Kathmandu Valley area). The majority of these individuals live in the most heavily affected areas along the seismic belt and in the mountains, with the rest living in the less severely damaged, but densely populated, southern areas<sup>70</sup>.</p>

<sup>62</sup> FEWS NET

<sup>63</sup> GIEWS Country Brief: Madagascar (June 2015)

<sup>64</sup> GIEWS Country Brief: Madagascar (June 2015)

<sup>65</sup> FAO (July 2015)

<sup>66</sup> FEWS NET

<sup>67</sup> FEWS NET

<sup>68</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>69</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update

<sup>70</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update



<p><b>Somalia</b></p>	<p>Prices for sorghum have dropped 16% compared to this time last year<sup>71</sup>. Severe flooding in Middle Shabelle led to continued high food prices and very low food access in that area<sup>72</sup>. This year, small-scale farmers in Puntland are unable to export and sell their livestock to the United Arab Emirates due to a monopoly imposed by a single exporter in the entire zone who established drastically lower prices for livestock (40 to 50 USD per animal instead of the normal 90 USD per animal). Farmers are unwilling to sell their livestock for such a low price. As a result, there is much livestock in the region, little revenue for farmers, and a lack of large-scale export of animals.</p>	<p>The food security situation varies across the country. Food security outcomes in most pastoral livelihood zones, especially in Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone in the the North and Southern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone in the South, are likely to continue improving. The <i>Gu</i> rains, which were erratically distributed across time, will likely lead to a well below average harvest in agro pastoral areas in the Northwest, Hiraan, and Middle Juba. Food security outcomes in riverine areas are likely to deteriorate in Middle Shabelle, due to severe river floods along the Shabelle river, which prevented cropping, limited humanitarian access, and limited trade<sup>73</sup>.</p>	<p>731,000 people are in <i>Crisis</i> and <i>Emergency</i> phases (IPC Phases 3 and 4)<sup>74</sup>. In terms of El Niño, the regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) urges preparedness measures and early action to mitigate the impacts of both the drier-than-normal conditions and flooding in the affected areas of Somalia<sup>75</sup>. While some countries experience depressed rains during El Niño events, Somalia experiences heavier rainfall amounts that usually lead to flooding, disease, destruction, and death<sup>76</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Afghanistan</b></p>	<p>The recent winter harvest in Pakistan and the upcoming spring wheat harvest in Kazakhstan are both expected to be sufficient to allow normal trade flows of wheat and wheat flour into Afghanistan, with stability in prices expected. Livestock prices are likely to remain higher than last year in most parts of the country<sup>77</sup>.</p>	<p>National wheat production is likely to be above the last two years, due to relatively favorable weather and precipitation, which has resulted in increased cultivation of both rain-fed and irrigated wheat.<sup>78</sup> Although agricultural production is expected to be greater than the last two years, many IDPs and returnees affected by conflict, as well as households affected by natural disasters including flash floods, frost, plant diseases, and pests, will experience acute food insecurity<sup>79</sup>.</p>	<p>In the face of ongoing conflict and population displacement, 2.1 million people are classified as very severely food insecure, of which 1.7 million are targeted with food assistance<sup>80</sup>.</p>

<sup>71</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>72</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update

<sup>73</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update

<sup>74</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update

<sup>75</sup> OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin (July-August 2015)

<sup>76</sup> FAO

<sup>77</sup> FEWS NET Special Report “National wheat production is expected to be greater than the last two years” (June 2015)

<sup>78</sup> FEWS NET Special Report “National wheat production is expected to be greater than the last two years” (June 2015)

<sup>79</sup> FEWS NET Special Report “National wheat production is expected to be greater than the last two years” (June 2015)

<sup>80</sup> FAO (July 2015)

<b>Bangladesh</b>	Overall prices of wheat flour and rice are decreasing– the price of coarse rice, which represents 70% of caloric distribution, has dropped 15% compared to the same month last year <sup>81</sup> .	Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world with cyclones, floods, saltwater intrusion, river erosion and drought expected to increase in severity due to the effects of climate change. Coping strategies adopted by the poor such as reducing food intake, withdrawing children from school and selling productive assets increase the vulnerability of low-income households and worsen people's prospects to escape the poverty cycle <sup>82</sup> .	The country remains highly food insecure with roughly one quarter of the population not having regular access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food <sup>83</sup> .
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	Prices for sorghum, millet, and maize remain stable, reflecting a minimal monthly change from last year <sup>84</sup> .	The massive influx of refugees from Mali places additional pressure on local food supplies <sup>85</sup> Regular rains since mid-July have accelerated agricultural operations in the country. Rains have been a positive factor in stabilizing the price of cereals and in reassuring key market actors.	The majority of the country faces minimal food insecurity. The Far North region is at a <i>Stressed</i> (IPC Phase 2) level of food insecurity <sup>86</sup> .
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	Overall, current prices represent a slight increase (+5%) over the last five years on the cost of a household food basket <sup>87</sup> . The price of palm oil is 23% higher than it was at this time last year. Prices of imported rice, cassava, and maize all decreased slightly over the same period.	Agriculture is a major driver of economic growth in Côte d'Ivoire – one of the top exporters of cocoa – and two-thirds of Ivorian households earn a living from it. However, recent political unrest, preceded by a decade-long crisis, has made it difficult for most households to provide for themselves. Steep prices for food and agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, have only made matters worse, with serious impacts on the levels of nutrition and food security in the country <sup>88</sup> .	Most of the country reports minimal food insecurity. The North of the country reports higher “stressed” levels of food insecurity <sup>89</sup> .

<sup>81</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>82</sup> WFP: Bangladesh

<sup>83</sup> WFP: Bangladesh

<sup>84</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>85</sup> FAO Crop Prospects and Food Situation

<sup>86</sup> FEWS NET

<sup>87</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>88</sup> FAO in Emergencies

<sup>89</sup> FAO + FEWS NET

<b>Djibouti</b>	Prices of wheat flour, imported rice, cooking oil, and sugar remain stable. The price of cooking oil dropped 11% compared to the same month last year <sup>90</sup> .	Inadequate pasture availability, coupled with an anticipated decline in labor opportunities, as well as depleted food and productive resources for the poor, is stretching the ability of rural families to cope, which continues to widen food consumption gaps <sup>91</sup> . The food insecurity situation could deteriorate, especially in the southeastern Pastoral Border Zone and in rural Obock, following an early cessation of Heys/Dadaa rains and poor performance of June Dirac/Sugum rains <sup>92</sup> .	Two consecutively poor rainy seasons and their negative impact on poor households are expected to result in <i>Crisis</i> (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity through December in Southeastern and Obock Pastoral Zones. An estimated 120,000 people are in <i>Stressed</i> (IPC Phase 2) and <i>Crisis</i> (IPC Phase 3), mainly in Obock Region and in Southeastern Pastoral areas <sup>93</sup> .
<b>Guinea</b>	Prices of local and imported rice have slightly decreased in recent months. The price of local rice has dropped 17% and the price of oil has increased by 13% compared to the same month last year <sup>94</sup> .	The EVD outbreak resulted in a serious shock to the agriculture and food sectors in 2014 and limited national production of staple crops including rice, maize, and cassava. The relatively low level of impact of lower rice production at the national level masks the sub-national production and food security impacts. For example, impact on rice production is estimated as high as -8.5 percent in N'zérékore. Otherwise, all neighboring countries have reopened their borders with Guinea, which has led to a significant increase in trade flows <sup>95</sup> .	Beyond its impact on the agriculture and food sector, the EVD has seriously affected all other sectors of the economy. National economic output is forecast to contract by 1.5 percent in 2015, with serious impacts on livelihoods, income, and access to food. More than half of all food insecure people are in Labe and Nzérékore <sup>96</sup> .
<b>India</b>	It is important to note that, despite relative stability and recent price decreases, prices still remain 17% higher than the 5 year baseline <sup>97</sup> . The price of sugar dropped 15% compared to the same month last year. Prices of wheat and rice remained stable. An expected decline in output and quality of the 2015 wheat crop, following adverse weather conditions, has limited further price decreases <sup>98</sup> .	Heavy rains, coupled with strong winds and localized hail, during the first dekad of March over the northern and central main wheat producing states, is reported to have negatively affected the standing wheat crop in the final stages of development. According to preliminary reports, the most affected states include Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Madyha Pradesh, which all together account for approximately 80 percent of total wheat production. Pending a more detailed assessment, the FAO has further lowered its 2015 wheat production forecast to 92 million tons – at the revised level, the 2015 wheat output would be 4 percent lower than the record level of 2014 <sup>99</sup> .	The overall food security in India is considered to be satisfactory, given ample food stocks and the provision of highly subsidized rice and wheat through distribution programs, especially for the below-poverty line families under the National Food Security Act. Nearly 800 million people are entitled to receive subsidized food grains, including rice at INR 3 per kg, wheat at INR 2 per kg, and coarse grains at INR 1 per kg <sup>100</sup> .

<sup>90</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>91</sup> FEWS NET

<sup>92</sup> WFP Global Food Security Update

<sup>93</sup> FEWS NET

<sup>94</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>95</sup> GIEWS Country Brief: Guinea (7 August 2015)

<sup>96</sup> GIEWS Country Brief: Guinea (7 August 2015)

<sup>97</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>98</sup> GIEWS Country Brief: India (March 2015)

<sup>99</sup> GIEWS Country Brief: India (March 2015)

<b>Indonesia</b>	The average prices of medium quality rice, the main staple in the country, remained stable for the second consecutive month in July, but at near-record levels <sup>101</sup> . Prices of rice, vegetable oil, sugar, and wheat are 23% higher than the 5 year baseline average <sup>102</sup> .	The near-record level of rice prices reflects harvest delays, coupled with higher fuel and transport costs. Prices were also supported by concerns over the possible impact of the El Niño phenomenon on the secondary season crop, as well as the ongoing procurement program <sup>103</sup> . At this stage, no precise quantitative association between the occurrence of El Niño and its impact on agricultural production can be deduced.	Although overall bumper rice and maize outputs are forecast for 2015, crop losses due to drought could be significant at the local level – large numbers of subsistence farming families particularly in the districts declared in drought situations are likely to be affected the most. If rains do not improve in the coming weeks, the affected rural families may need short-term assistance <sup>104</sup> .
<b>Jordan</b>	Cereal inflation remains low. Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidized at .22 USD/kg and all consumers are entitled to it. The government sells wheat flour at 50 USD/ton to bakeries, with market prices nearing 450 USD/ton. Food inflation is driven by prices of seasonal products, such as vegetables, which are set freely <sup>105</sup> .	Wheat imports are estimated at about 925,000 tons, 20 percent higher than the last five-year average. The increase is due to increasing population and continued presence of registered refugees which now, according to the UNHCR, make up 10 percent of the population <sup>106</sup> . According to the UNHCR, as of late May 2015, an estimated 627,000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders.	There has been a dramatic increase in the vulnerability and food insecurity of registered Syrian refugees living in Jordan over the past year. In 2015, 85% of households both in camps and host communities are either food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. In host communities, only 15% of refugee households are food secure in 2015, down from 52% in the previous year <sup>107</sup> .
<b>Myanmar</b>	Wholesale prices of Emata rice, the most commonly consumed variety, decreased in July with the arrival of the 2014/15 second season harvest, but remained above their year-earlier levels in July, after sustained increases in the previous months due to strong import demand from China, supported by the depreciation of the national currency <sup>108</sup> .	Over 260,000 people, mainly in the western and northern parts of the country, have been severely affected by the recent floods as a result of cyclone Komen. Losses of stored food and livestock are likely to be high in the most affected areas, and coupled with disruption to international trade, availability and access to food is expected to be severely constrained, resulting in deterioration in the food security situation of the affected population <sup>109</sup> .	According to the International Displacement Monitoring Centre, as of March 2015, an estimated 662,400 people remain displaced in Rakhine State, Chin State, Sagaing Region and Magway Region, following recurrent inter-communal tensions beginning in June 2012 <sup>110</sup> .

<sup>100</sup> GIEWS Country Brief: India (March 2015)

<sup>101</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Indonesia (20 August 2015)

<sup>102</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>103</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Indonesia (20 August 2015)

<sup>104</sup> GIEWS Country Brief: Indonesia (20 August 2015)

<sup>105</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Jordan (26 May 2015)

<sup>106</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Jordan (26 May 2015)

<sup>107</sup> REACH

<sup>108</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Myanmar (10 August 2015)

<sup>109</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Myanmar (10 August 2015)

<sup>110</sup> GIEWS Country Brief : Myanmar (10 August 2015)

<b>Sierra Leone</b>	The price of imported rice is increasingly slightly, up 6% this quarter and up 2% on a year-to-year comparison <sup>111</sup> . For locally produced commodities, such as rice and cassava, prices in Sierra Leone rose seasonally between April and July to reach above average levels, due to low food stock levels at the market and household levels, strong demand for seed, and high transportation costs <sup>112</sup> .	Agriculture is the most affected sector by the Ebola crisis. Every district has seen a significant decrease in rice production compared to the previous year harvest. Average rice crop production is down by 39% compared to last year, and is down by 40% in the Moyamba district, where ACF is currently active <sup>113</sup> . Most containment measures were lifted at the beginning of August – there are no longer any restrictions on gathering and “lumas” (a local term for temporary markets in rural areas). Thus, the market situation is expected to improve in the upcoming months, particularly after the lean season and the rice harvest season <sup>114</sup> .	43% of the population is food insecure, of which 7% are severely food insecure. Those most affected by food insecurity are: (i) farmers of food crops who saw their rice production fall by 39 percent compared to the previous year, (ii) agricultural wage laborers who suffered from a decline in income of 12 percent and have also been affected by a drop in employment opportunities, and (iii) traders who have been affected by market disruption <sup>115</sup> .
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Prices of Zimbabwe’s two staple foods, maize meal and wheat flour, are decreasing. Maize is being sold at prices 19% below those of the same month last year, and 23% below the 5 year baseline <sup>116</sup> . Maize meal availability and prices may be affected by the recent government ban on lower priced maize meal imports <sup>117</sup> .	Food insecurity is expected to worsen in the southern provinces due to limited livelihood options. In southern provinces, some households are selling livestock earlier than normal in order to be able to purchase mainly maize meal, and individuals are seeking more work in petty trading and informal gold panning/mining <sup>118</sup> .	Safety-net interventions by the government and partners are expected to be limited. Lean season humanitarian assistance is also expected to be lower than normal due to a challenging funding situation <sup>119</sup> .

<sup>111</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>112</sup> FEWS NET : West Africa Special Report (30 April 2015)

<sup>113</sup> ACF « Ebola: Ne pas faiblir dans la lutte contre l'épidémie en Sierra Leone » (August 2015)

<sup>114</sup> ACF

<sup>115</sup> WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment: Sierra Leone (June 2015)

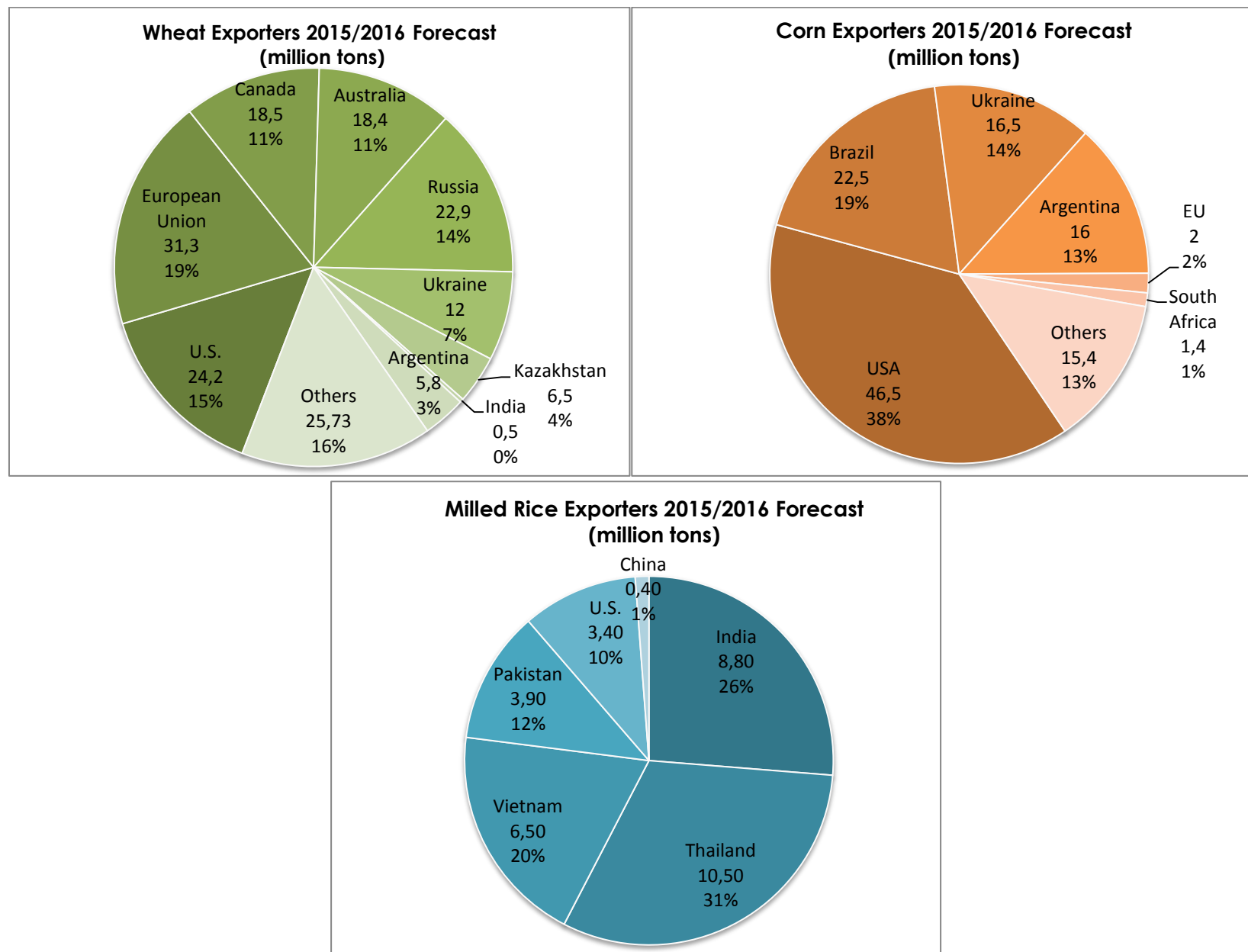
<sup>116</sup> WFP Market Monitor July 2015

<sup>117</sup> FEWS NET

<sup>118</sup> FEWS NET

<sup>119</sup> FEWS NET

## International Exchanges



Source for Exports Data: International Grains Council, data from July 2015



**The Price Surveillance Bulletin** is prepared and updated by the Expertise and Advocacy Department at Action Contre la Faim-France. ACF edits the bulletin on a quarterly basis. The bulletin presents the evolution of food prices in various countries, including in countries where ACF is active, by gathering data from different organizations, actors, and relevant sources. The Price Surveillance Bulletin and its updates are available online at the following URL address:  
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