



Prices Surveillance Bulletin

October- December 2014

General Statement of International prices variations

- Evolution of food prices at international scale and main determinants:

World cereal production in 2014 is forecasted at a new record of 2 532 million tons (including rice in milled terms), 7 million tons (0.3 percent) above last year's peak. The forecast for maize production has been raised by over 5 million tons, driven primarily by upward adjustments to production levels in China, the EU and Mexico. Global wheat production is currently forecast at 725 million tons, up 7.6 million tons (1.1 percent) from the 2013 record level. Unlike for the other cereals, rice production may undergo a slight contraction in 2014, in the order of 2 million tonnes, or 0.4 percent.

➤ **Wheat:** Wheat export prices are stable and below last year and 5-year average. Prices were mainly underpinned by concerns about export restrictions in the Russian Federation, which introduced an export duty on December 25, in place until June 30 this year. The light increase in prices in December 2014 was limited by low trading activity and ample global supplies¹.

➤ **Maize:** Export prices of maize remained relatively stable following good supplies;

➤ **Rice:** International rice prices generally stable: Export prices dipped most in Viet Nam, India, and Pakistan as new supplies reached the market, while they stay relatively firm in Thailand. Prices subsided in all the four market segments, in particular for aromatic rice, which weakened by 11 percent to a level not seen since November 2007².

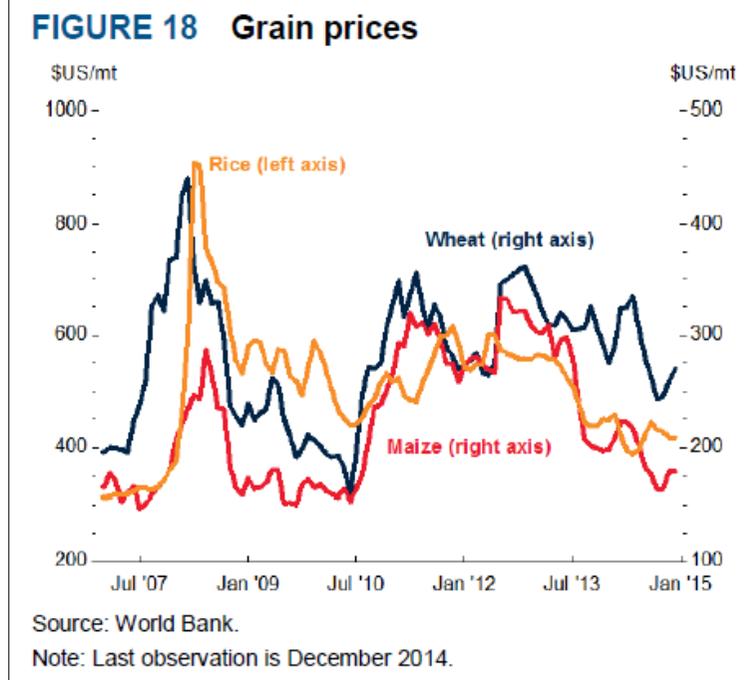
- Countries requiring vigilance :

- **Central African Republic:** The socio-political crisis, which is affecting the entire population, territory and economy, has resulted in widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities, and caused massive displacements.

- **Sierra Leone:** Ebola-related fears and official restrictions on population movements have limited market functioning and typical livelihood activities. 28% of weekly markets were closed as of 12th December 2014³. According to Fewsnets, starting in February, prices will begin to rise seasonally and will evolve to above average levels between April and June due to atypically strong demand and low food stock levels.

- **South Sudan:** Staple food availability remains limited in many markets in Greater Upper Nile despite harvests. Poor road conditions and fuel shortages have further constrained already low levels of trade. Cereal prices in most markets in conflict-affected areas are currently three to four times higher than in the rest of the country⁴.

- **Syrian Arab Republic:** Recent hikes in domestic fuel prices are expected to lead to even higher food prices as transport costs increase in the first quarter of 2015.



¹ FAO, 12/01/2015

² FAO, 12/01/2015

³ Fewsnets, FOOD SECURITY OUTLOOK FOR GUINEA, LIBERIA, AND SIERRA LEONE, January to June 2015

⁴ <http://www.fews.net/east-africa/south-sudan>

Price surveillance per country

Countries	Main staple food price trends	Other elements impacting food security	Severity and potential actions
Central African Republic (CAR)	<p>Significant increases in food prices: prices from March to August 2014 increased by 30–70%⁵. No information is available on the markets evolution since August 2014 but we expect food prices to be well above normal average.</p>	<p>The socio-political crisis has resulted in widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities, and caused massive displacements. Food crop production in 2014 is expected to be 58% below average, as a result of insecurity, erratic rainfall and pest attacks⁶. Food stocks in rural areas are 40–50% below average due to recurring raids. Fish supply has fallen by 40% and cattle-breeding has fallen by 77% compared to pre-crisis levels, cumulated with insecurity and poor road conditions that have disrupted market linkages⁷. Cash crop production is down 80% compared to five years ago⁸. Migration and movement of producers away from lands as a result of the conflict, combined with low production facilities triggered this significant production drop⁹. This will likely result in the early onset of the lean season, which typically starts in May¹⁰. Although the October 2014 IPC analysis found an improvement in food security across the country compared to April 2014 (lean season), the situation is worse than at the same period last year (harvest).</p> <p>- 166,045 IDPs in displacement sites¹¹ and 58,662 IDPs in Bangui¹² - 189,090 CAR refugees are registered in neighboring countries since December 2013¹³.</p>	<p>As of December, 1.5 million people are in Crisis and Emergency phases of food insecurity. 210,000 are in Bangui and 1.32 million in rural areas¹⁴. 26% of households have inadequate food consumption, compared to 15% in 2013. The percentage of households resorting to negative coping mechanisms is 30%¹⁵; The areas most affected by food insecurity are Ouham, Nana Grebizi and Kemo prefectures in the northwest. Violent attacks, threats against aid workers, and roadblocks hinder the supply of humanitarian assistance outside Bangui, where humanitarian needs are significant¹⁶.</p>
Liberia	<p>The price of imported rice in Liberia has increased during several consecutive months, spiking well above usual seasonal patterns. Prices stabilized in November 2014 but remained higher than a year</p>	<p>Reduced harvests, mainly of rice, as labor shortages, resulting from the Ebola outbreak, curtailed harvesting activities. The aggregate food crop production in 2014 is estimated at 323 000 tons, about 8% lower than 2013, cassava production is estimated to have declined</p>	<p>In November 2014, about 630 000 people, with 76% in rural areas, are estimated to be severely food insecure of which the EVD impacts</p>

⁵ FAO, 29/10/2014

⁶ OCHA, 18/12/2014

⁷ FAO, 29/10/2014

⁸ Reuters, 08/01/2015

⁹ Fewsnet

¹⁰ WFP Global Food Security Update, December 2014

¹¹ OCHA, 08/12/2014

¹² OCHA, 19/12/2014

¹³ UNHCR, 19/12/2014

¹⁴ IPC, 31/10/2014

¹⁵ FAO, 17/11/2014

¹⁶ OCHA, 07/11/2014

	<p>earlier in most markets. A recent survey by the World Bank reports that current rice prices are 40% above the January baseline¹⁷. There is significant spatial price variation; prices are statistically significantly lower in Monrovia compared to the rest of the country and higher in the eastern counties. Prices are highest in Lofa, where the EVD outbreak started¹⁸. Compared to last year's levels, cassava prices varied, with prices below last year's levels in Zwedru (-11 percent), stable in Pleebo and Voinjama, and up 33 percent in Monrovia¹⁹.</p> <p>The high level of prices is mainly the result of the depreciation of the national currency in June and July, reduced domestic market and trade functioning and increased transport costs²⁰.</p> <p>Expectations: prices shall begin to rise seasonally in February due to strong demand and low food stock levels²¹.</p>	<p>by 5% and milled rice production is about 12% below 2013. In Lofa and Margibi, counties hit hard by the disease, losses of paddy crop are estimated as high as 25%²². Liberia cereal import dependency ratio is over 60% and at the estimated level of cereal production, the cereal import requirement in 2015 is set at 445 000 tons of cereals, about 24% more than the average of the previous five years. Rice import requirements account for about 350 000 tons of the total²³. With commercial imports, the uncovered gap is estimated at about 90 000 tons for which additional resources and international assistance is required.</p> <p>Access to food for many households is being constrained by disruption of livelihoods and loss of income combined with increasing food prices²⁴. According to the World Bank, about half of those working at the start of the Ebola crisis were unemployed as of early November 2014. In particular, the ban on bush meat is depriving many households of an important source of nutrition and income. Household income had dropped by 35% in Liberia as of October, due to the consequences of the Ebola outbreak²⁵. Most weekly markets have reportedly reopened but inadequate food availability on markets was reported by 25–50% of traders in Lofa, Gbapolu, Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties²⁶.</p>	<p>account for 170 000 people. The number of food insecure is projected to increase to 750 000 by March 2015, of which 290 000 people are due to EVD²⁷.</p> <p>People are more vulnerable in the western zone of Liberia that includes Gbaroplu, Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Counties.</p> <p>Varying types of assistance are required in addition to covering the uncovered food import gap, including cash/voucher transfers where appropriate to assure food access for people whose main livelihood is not agriculture. Support to food production during dry season (lowland rice and vegetables) in most affected counties is also needed²⁸.</p>
<p>Somalia</p>	<p>Overall, in November, prices were up to 90% higher than their levels a year earlier, due to a reduced 2014 main Gu season harvest and trade and marketing disruptions caused by civil insecurity. In particular, red sorghum was traded in December in Mogadishu at about 75% higher than</p>	<p>Conflict and civil insecurity remain the main reasons for severe food insecurity in parts of southern Somalia³⁴. The situation has continued to deteriorate despite improvements in water and pasture following recent gu rains, due to the severe impact of six consecutive seasons of drought, and high food and non-food prices. Heavy rains in eastern Ethiopian highlands in late October/early</p>	<p>1.025 million in Somalia remain under IPC Crisis and Emergency, a 20% increase since February 2014. The most food-insecure populations are in the central and southern regions, and in IDP settlements³⁶.</p>

¹⁷ World Bank, January 2015

¹⁸ Special mVAM Regional Bulletin #2, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, December 2014

¹⁹ Fewsnet, GUINEA, LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE Special Report, December 31, 2014

²⁰ FAO, GIEWS Global Food Price Monitor, December 2014

²¹ Fewsnet, GUINEA, LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE Special Report, December 31, 2014

²² <http://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=LBR>

²³ FAO, WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment, Special Report, 17 december 2014

²⁴ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

²⁵ UNDP, 14/11/2014

²⁶ FEWSNET 07/01/2015

²⁷ FAO, WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment, Special Report, 17 december 2014

²⁸ Special mVAM Regional Bulletin #2, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, December 2014

	<p>the price of December 2013 while prices of maize sharply \searrow following humanitarian aid distributions²⁹. Some exceptions are represented by sorghum prices in Galkayo and Hargeisa retail markets where current prices are 14-22% lower than one year ago following the recent commercialization of the good “karan” sorghum crop production³⁰. In contrast, prices of imported rice were at around the same levels a year earlier in most markets³¹. Although cereal prices started to decline in January 2015, they remain high in most markets³².</p> <p>Expectations: expected declines in cereal prices when the <i>Deyr</i> harvest enters the market (January-February) is likely to exert a downward pressure on the cost of living through March 2015. However, this could be compromised by deteriorating security conditions, particularly in southern parts of the country³³.</p>	<p>November caused flooding along Juba and Shabelle perennial rivers, affecting standing crops in Jowhar and Balad districts of Middle Shabelle region and in Sakow, Buale, Jilib and Jamame districts of Middle and Lower Juba regions. However, as result of recession cultivation in these areas, a good off-season crop production is expected to be harvested by March-April 2015. Aggregate 2014/15 cereal production is estimated at about 237 000 tonnes, about 13 percent below the last five-year average³⁵. Pasture and water shortages could be expected towards the end of <i>Jilaal</i> season (in March 2015) in pastoral parts of southern Gedo, Middle and Lower Juba and parts of Central due to below normal <i>Deyr</i> rainfall performance.</p>	<p>Somaliland: 7,000 people are in Phase 3/4; there are 84,000 IDPs. Puntland: 60,000 people are in Phase 3/4; there are 129,000 IDPs. South-central: 155,000 people are in Phase 3/4; there are 952,000 IDPs³⁷. Areas along the Juba River from Buale in Middle Juba to Jamame district in Lower Juba will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through March 2015³⁸.</p>
<p>South Sudan</p>	<p>Staple food prices have been mainly declining with supplies from the October to January harvest but remained exceptionally high, due to civil insecurity, seasonal deterioration of road conditions and fuel scarcity. For instance, in Unity State sorghum prices were three to four times higher than in non-conflict-affected areas³⁹. In Greater Upper Nile, food prices are very high, up to ten times higher</p>	<p>Production prospects are generally favourable except in the conflict-affected states of Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei where the area planted was significantly reduced following displacements, insecurity and shortage of seeds. In particular, an estimated 40 percent reduction in planted area is reported in the important mechanized farming areas of Renk County in Upper Nile state. Conflict and civil insecurity remain the main reasons for severe food insecurity in the Greater Upper Nile in South Sudan. In</p>	<p>According to the results of the latest available Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis (September 2014), food security across the country has improved from August to December, following seasonal patterns. The estimated number of people in acute food</p>

³⁴ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

³⁶ WFP, Global Food Security Update, Issue 16, December 2014

²⁹ FAO, 11/12/2014

³⁰ FAO, GIEWS Country Brief, Reference Date: 09-January-2015

³¹ FAO, GIEWS Global Food Price Monitor, December 2014

³² FAO, 09/01/2015

³³ <http://www.fsnao.org/in-focus/fsnao-preliminary-outlook-first-half-2015-indicates-only-slight-improvement-overall-food-se>

³⁵ FAO, GIEWS Country Brief, Reference Date: 09-January-2015

³⁷ OCHA, June 2014

³⁸ <http://www.fsnao.org/in-focus/fsnao-preliminary-outlook-first-half-2015-indicates-only-slight-improvement-overall-food-se>

³⁹ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

	<p>than pre-crisis levels in some areas, such as Bentiu and Rubkona⁴⁰.</p>	<p>particular, the conflict in South Sudan is likely to escalate in the coming months as road conditions gradually improve during the dry season allowing better movements of people. Furthermore, serious concerns remain for the beginning of 2015 as households' food stocks are expected to be only partially replenished in most conflict-affected areas and coping mechanism may have been exhausted⁴¹. Outside of the directly conflict affected areas, staple food availability continues to improve with the ongoing above average October to January harvest. Cross border trade has increased in recent months, although at below average levels⁴².</p> <p>- 1.5million IDPs since December 2013⁴³</p> <p>- Over 488,000 South Sudanese refugees moved across borders since December 2013⁴⁴</p>	<p>insecurity and livelihood crisis is nearly 1.5 million. Between January and March 2015, the number of people in IPC phase 3 "Crisis" and 4 "Emergency" is expected to scale up to 2.5 million. Over 60 percent of the people in need of assistance are concentrated in the most conflict-affected states of Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei⁴⁵.</p>
<p>Syrian Arab Republic</p>	<p>From May 2014 to December 2014 - a \nearrow of 14.3% in the price of wheat flour and 20% in the retail price of rice were recorded.</p> <p>When compared to 2011 price level, the retail price trends show significant \nearrow (192% for wheat flour and by 387% for rice).</p> <p>Since May 2014 the average retail prices of bread \nearrow by approximately 50%.</p> <p>In December 2014, shortages of fuels were reported in most of the monitored market. Compared to the same month last year, diesel is up by 81% and a cylinder of butane gas is up by 32.3%⁴⁶.</p> <p>Expectations: recent hikes in domestic fuel prices are expected to lead to even higher food prices as transport costs increase. In the absence of an aggressive import strategy to meet demand, food prices will continue to skyrocket well into the winter, when vulnerable families will have</p>	<p>In many areas of Syria, food security is deteriorating because of continuing civil unrest and fragmentation, coupled with international sanctions, disrupted food production and hikes in domestic fuel and food prices. Many farmers and rural households have fled their fields in Erbil and Dahuk and in conflict-affected and government-controlled areas, and the suspension of government services in these governorates means farmers have not yet received payment for wheat, creating cash flow problems. In Ninewa and Dahuk, farmers are selling livestock at lower prices as a result.</p> <p>Estimates by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) put the actual wheat and barley plantings about 23 and 19% lower, respectively, than the intended level of planting at the start of the season. IS fighters reportedly took more than a quarter of the overall national output – around one million tons – to Syria.</p> <p>The Syrian Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) estimated the 2014 wheat production at 40% less than in 2013 and the lowest level of wheat production for 25 years⁴⁸.</p> <p>Although some international food assistance is being provided, Syrian refugees are also putting strain on other host communities in</p>	<p>According to the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster analyses, 9.8 million people need various levels of food, agriculture and livelihood-related assistance⁴⁹. Of these, 6.8 million people live in high-priority districts and require critical food assistance⁵⁰, which is 7% more than last year's estimate of 6.3 million people.</p> <p>2.2 million People are beyond the reach of aid agencies according to the UN. Access is highly constrained in Anbar, Salah al Din, and Ninewa governorates⁵¹.</p>

⁴⁰ GIEWS, Country Brief, South Sudan, Reference date: 23 January 2015

⁴¹ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

⁴² Fewsnet, SOUTH SUDAN: Monthly Market Update, December 30, 2014

⁴³ OCHA, 01/2015

⁴⁴ UNHCR 12/2014

⁴⁵ GIEWS, Country Brief, South Sudan, Reference date: 23 January 2015

⁴⁶ WFP, VAM, Syria Country Office, MARKET PRICE WATCH BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2014, ISSUE 3

	depleted their own resources and will rely on markets ⁴⁷ .	neighboring countries. As of early December 2014, about 3.2 million refugees are registered in the region covering Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.	
Chad	<p>Stable millet prices were reported in October in most markets in Chad⁵². Markets are well supplied by recent cereal harvests. Prices remained stable in the Soudanian zone while they have slightly decreased in the Sahelian zone. In Abéché, mil prices are 20% lower compared to last year and 7% lower in Mongo, they are respectively 12 and 29% inferior to the 5 year average. Following export restrictions to neighboring countries, livestock prices have substantially decreased in 2014, putting pressure on pastor's livelihoods and on their access to food.</p> <p>The energetic crisis impacted fuel prices that are currently negotiated around 1250 to 2500 FFCFA compared to 600FCFA on average, leading to an increase in transport costs⁵³ that is probably going to lead to an increase of food prices in the coming weeks.</p>	<p>Following scant rainfall, output declined in the country. Officials expect a 45% rice production drop from the heights achieved in 2013⁵⁴. The total cereal production is estimated to have increased by 9% compared to 5-year average. Despite this global increase, production is at low levels in Wadi Fira, Tandjilé, Kanem, Mayo Kebbi Ouest, Moyen Chari and Hadjer Lamis regions⁵⁵.</p> <p>The food security of households have improved in November all over the country following harvests but large influx of refugees put additional pressure on local food supplies. Over 461 000 people from the Sudan's Darfur region, the Central African Republic and northern Nigeria have arrived in Chad, and an estimated 340 000 Chadians returned to the country, adding pressure on local food supply. Given the increase in Boko Haram's attacks in Nigeria, there is a risk of additional population movements to Chad and of a worsening humanitarian situation⁵⁶.</p>	<p>Over 550 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis⁵⁷. Between January and March, households from Kanem, Bar-El-Gazal, and Guera regions will have reduced access to food as their market dependency will increase and as prices are expected to rise⁵⁸.</p> <p>Access to affected areas remains a challenge, given that people are staying on several islands on Lake Chad, some of which can only be reached by boat, and weather conditions can limit the possibilities of movement of humanitarian actors⁵⁹.</p>
Côte d'Ivoire	Due to limited exports with neighbors countries, producers have to lower their prices considerably especially in rural markets and border towns. In some areas, the price of 20 litres of red palm oil has dropped by 40%. The price of a basket of	The closure of borders due to the Ebola outbreak in neighbor countries has caused the supply system of rural markets to become dysfunctional. Very few traders go to markets such as Banneu, Kouyaguiépleu (Zouan Hounien), Gbapleu and Gbinta (Danané) and Tiobly, Bakoubly and Toyebly (Toulepleu) where people are finding it	The Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) signed an agreement in November to finance a project that

⁴⁸ GIEWS Country Brief, Syrian Arab Republic, Reference Date: 22-December-2014

⁴⁹ Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (2014), Rapid Nutrition Assessment covering IDPs in shelters (2014) and WFP/FAO Joint Rapid Food Needs Assessment (2013).

⁵⁰ Food Security and Livelihoods Sector, Whole of Syria, Food Security Prioritization Matrix (2014).

⁵¹ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

⁴⁷ WFP, Global Food Security Update, Issue 16, December 2014

⁵² FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

⁵³ Fewsnets, TCHAD, Mise à jour sur la sécurité alimentaire, Novembre 2014

⁵⁴ FAO, Rice Market Monitor, December 2014

⁵⁵ Fewsnets, TCHAD, Mise à jour sur la sécurité alimentaire, Novembre 2014

⁵⁶ OCHA, Chad: Arrivals from Nigeria in the Lac Region, Situation Report No 1 (as of 12 January 2015)

⁵⁷ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

⁵⁸ Fewsnets, TCHAD, Mise à jour sur la sécurité alimentaire, Novembre 2014

⁵⁹ OCHA, Chad: Arrivals from Nigeria in the Lac Region, Situation Report No 1 (as of 12 January 2015)

	<p>cassava has fallen from CFA 500 to CFA 200. Consequently, smallholders' income has fallen by between 40 and 60% depending on what they produce. It has also led to an explosion in prices for imported foodstuffs in border towns compared with last year. The price of frozen fish has risen from CFA 100 to CFA 300, and the price of mass consumption imported rice has risen from CFA 350 to CFA 400. The price of beef has remained stable but supplies are very low⁶⁰.</p> <p>The country has increased the cocoa support guaranteed minimum farm gate price for the main marketing season 2014/15 (October/March) to 850FCFA/KG from 750FCFA in the previous season⁶¹.</p>	<p>difficult to procure food or sell their produce. With production gains still assessed insufficient to cater to growing consumption needs, rice deliveries to Cote d'Ivoire are forecast to remain strong and in the order of 1.3 million tonnes⁶².</p> <p>On 10 and 11 January, attacks by unidentified armed elements in western Cote D'Ivoire, near Grabo, have caused the displacement of approximately 2,000 people, mainly from the village of Dahioké, towards surrounding villages⁶³.</p>	<p>aims to improve food security in six regions in the west by increasing smallholder farmers' access to services, technologies and markets while strengthening the resilience of their production systems to climate change⁶⁴.</p>
<p>Guinea</p>	<p>↘ 8 to 20% of prices of local rice in several markets in November and December compared to last year with increased supplies from the new harvest, reflecting three consecutive years of good harvests and reduced cross-border exports to neighbouring countries due to closure of borders. Prices of imported rice, which normally covers 24% of the country's consumption requirements, remained stable and around their levels a year earlier⁶⁵.</p> <p>The largest declines for local rice prices were observed in Nzérékoré, where November prices declined by 20% compared to last year. In Labé, where Irish potato producers are reporting difficulties marketing their crop production, November potato prices were down 19% compared to last year's levels.</p> <p>Expectations: Prices for imported rice are</p>	<p>Various farming activities including land preparation/planting, crop maintenance and harvesting, have been disrupted mostly through labor shortages due to Ebola epidemic⁶⁷. The border closures with neighboring Senegal, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau have also led to a decline in trade volumes.</p> <p>In Labé, Irish potato producers have been reporting widespread spoilage of their production (in some cases exceeding 50%) due to the closure of the Senegalese border and limited storage capacity. Similar issues have been reported by fruit and tomato producers in Kindia, who typically export to Senegal, resulting in below-average producer incomes. The combined effects of low household purchasing power, border closures, and trader fears about frequenting Ebola-affected zones have lowered domestic demand. While this is the case, urban markets in the regional capitals are currently still well supplied with local produce and ports remain open. With regards to animal sales, the sale of bush meat has been banned, significantly reducing household incomes from this source in Nzérékoré⁶⁸.</p>	<p>According to the FAO/WFP CFSAM⁷², as of December 2014, approximately 970 000 individuals are food insecure in the country. According to these estimates, a large number of the food insecure that has been added in December 2014 are in the highly Ebola affected province of N'zérékore. The number of food insecure is projected to increase to 1.2 million in March 2015, 470 000 of which are Ebola driven. Different type of food assistance will be required. In addition to covering the import gap, cash/voucher transfers can assure food access for some segments of the population. Given the reductions in trader activity, local purchase in</p>

⁶⁰ <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/fao-in-action/stories/stories-detail/en/c/272839/>

⁶¹ <http://www.fao.org/giews/food-prices/food-policies/detail/en/c/261160/>

⁶² FAO, Giews Global Food Price Monitor, December 2014

⁶³ <http://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/west-and-central-africa-region-weekly-regional-humanitarian-snapsh-8>

⁶⁴ <http://reliefweb.int/report/c-te-divoire/ifad-invests-rural-populations-western-c-te-d-ivoire-boost-food-security-and>

⁶⁵ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

	<p>expected to remain stable throughout the country. However, due to difficulties transporting local rice from Nzérékoré to other regions, prices in this zone will remain well below last year's levels⁶⁶.</p>	<p>Losses in cereals production are particularly concentrated in the Guinée forestière region⁶⁹ that normally accounts for 23% of overall production and is amongst those most struck by the epidemic. Cocoa production is estimated to have fallen by 1/3, while coffee production has \searrow by 50% and palm oil by 75%. Corn production has \searrow by 25%⁷⁰. Fish exports \searrow by more than 40%. Based on commercial forecasts, Guinea has a rice import gap of about 44,000 metric tons⁷¹ thus requiring international assistance.</p>	<p>surplus areas can also be recommended.</p>
Indonésie	<p>The average prices of medium-quality rice \nearrow slightly in November to near-record levels, despite the ongoing 2014 secondary dry paddy season harvest. A sharp \nearrow of more than 30% in fuel prices (gasoline and diesel), in mid-November, following the reduction of Government subsidies, supported rice prices. Overall, prices were above their year-earlier levels both in nominal and real terms⁷³. Bulog, the state procurement agency of Indonesia, announced in November 2014 its intention to purchase 3.2 million tonnes of rice from domestic farmers in 2015, unchanged from the previous year, to build-up boost reserves⁷⁴.</p>	<p>In Indonesia, harvesting activities of 2014 secondary (dry-season) crops are virtually concluded. In January 2015, Hundreds of hectares of rice fields and horticultural plots in Langkat regency, North Sumatra, were reported to have been destroyed by floods. Floods also caused harvest failures for other plants such as cassava, peanuts, long beans and cucumbers⁷⁵.</p>	<p>The government announced in November that it planned to allocate Rupiah 100 trillion (USD 8.0 billion) worth of 2015 state funds, released from the reduction of fuel subsidies, to the development of infrastructure in the agricultural sector and other productive sectors⁷⁶.</p>
Iraq	<p>Iraq's Ministry of Trade, through the Public Food Distribution System, continues to subsidize basic staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and baby milk formula)⁷⁷. Farmers and rural households have been heavily affected by the current conflict. Some farmers have been forced to sell their livestock at lower</p>	<p>Government's reports indicate that the Iraqi Grain Board managed to buy some 3.4 million tonnes of wheat from farmers (the Board buys wheat at about USD 480 per tonne). Such levels of purchases indicate that the production levels may have been higher than forecast. However, the delivery of the wheat crop to the silos coincided, from the second week of June, with the escalation of conflict and large areas falling under the control of the Islamic State</p>	<p>As fighting prevails in Iraq, an estimated 2.2 million people across the governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Diyala, Ninewa and Salah al-Din are in need of emergency food assistance⁷⁹.</p>

⁶⁷ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

⁶⁸ Fewsnet, GUINEA, LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE Special Report, December 31, 2014

⁷² FAO/WFP CROP AND FOOD SECURITY, ASSESSMENT - GUINEA, 17 decembre 2014

⁶⁶ Fewsnet, GUINEA, LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE Special Report, December 31, 2014

⁶⁹ FAO, Rice Market Monitor, December 2014

⁷⁰ World Bank, 02/12/2014; UNECA, 15/12/2014; UNDP, 19/12/2014

⁷¹ World Bank, 02/12/2014; UNECA, 15/12/2014; UNDP, 19/12/2014, WFP, 05/01/2015

⁷³ FAO, GIEWS Global Food Price Monitor, December 2014

⁷⁴ <http://www.fao.org/giews/food-prices/food-policies/detail/en/c/271371/>

⁷⁵ <http://reliefweb.int/report/indonesia/floods-destroy-hundreds-hectares-rice-fields>

⁷⁶ FAO, Rice Market Monitor, December 2014

⁷⁷ Fao GIEWS Country Brief, Iraq, Updated 10 nov 2014

	<p>prices, either for generating fast cash or because of their inability to afford fodder and vaccination for their cattle⁷⁸.</p> <p>During the period, food prices were generally stable but disruptions of markets cross border trade and restricted movement of food commodities are a concern.</p>	<p>fighters, especially in the provinces of Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen. A number of Grain Board silos are located in these areas and were reported to have come under the control of IS fighters.</p> <p>Escalation of the conflict has caused large internal displacement, over 2 million people have been displaced since January 2014.</p>	
Sierra Leone	<p>Local rice prices have dropped by 10% in the Southern and Eastern Provinces in December. The decline has been less pronounced in Northern Province (-3%), and prices have remained stable in Western Area. Palm oil prices fell by 8 to 12% compared to November in Eastern and Southern Provinces, whereas they typically increase at this time of the year. This anomalous trend could signal reduced income for palm oil selling households⁸⁰.</p> <p>Expectations: according to Fewsnets, starting in February, prices will begin to rise seasonally and will evolve to above average levels between April and June due to atypically strong demand, transportation disruptions, and low food stock levels⁸¹.</p>	<p>Up to 40% of farms have been abandoned in the most Ebola-affected areas, according to IFAD. Nationally, the aggregate food crop production is estimated at about 5% lower than 2013⁸².</p> <p>In Sierra Leone, restrictions on movement continue to be in force in the districts of Moyamba, Bombali, Port Loko and Kenema (ICG report). On 1st December, the restrictions were extended to Tonkolili⁸³.</p> <p>Compared to 2012, there are 69% fewer domestic rice traders In Kailahun and Kenema and rice and cassava production are down by 17 % and 6%, respectively, compared to 2013 levels. Reduction in trader activity will be particularly harmful for farmers relying on cash crops such as cocoa and coffee⁸⁴.</p> <p>As of 22 December, 28% of weekly markets were closed according to Fewsnets. Household income has dropped by 29.7% as of October, due to the consequences of the Ebola outbreak according to UNDP. Below-average incomes and an atypical early dependence on market purchases will cause poor households to face difficulties accessing food by June 2015⁸⁵.</p>	<p>About 450,000 people were estimated to be severely food insecure as of December 2014, the impact of EVD accounting for more than a quarter of the food insecure. By March 2015, this number is projected to increase to 610,000⁸⁶.</p> <p>Households are continuing to rely on high levels of negative coping mechanisms in Kailahun and Kono.</p> <p>Given reductions in trader activity, local purchase in surplus areas can assure that surpluses are being redistributed.</p>
Ukraine	<p>The price of the minimum food basket in Donetsk and Luhansk is higher than the national average by 6.3% and 12.5%, respectively⁸⁷.</p>	<p>The civil conflict, which began in spring 2014 in the eastern part of the Ukraine, has severely affected the overall food security situation in this area. According to official reports, food reserves of these</p>	<p>1.1 million People are in need of food assistance⁹⁰. The most pressing needs are in Zaporizhzhia region, Donestk</p>

⁷⁹ WFP, Global Food Security Update, Issue 16, December 2014

⁷⁸ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

⁸⁰ Special mVAM Regional Bulletin #2, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, December 2014

⁸¹ Fewsnets, GUINEA, LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE Special Report, December 31, 2014

⁸² FAO/WFP CROP AND FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT, Sierra Leone, 17 December 2014

⁸³ Special mVAM Regional Bulletin #2, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, December 2014

⁸⁴ FAO/WFP CROP AND FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT, Sierra Leone, 17 December 2014

⁸⁵ Fewnet, Food Assistance Outlook Brief, December 2014

⁸⁶ FAO, 17/12/2014

⁸⁷ WFP, December 2014

⁹⁰ OCHA, December 2014

	<p>Wholesale prices of wheat and wheat flour increased markedly in the first two weeks of December and were at record levels in nominal terms, after sustained increases in the past months. Despite ample supplies from the record 2014 harvest, prices were supported by the depreciation of the national currency which dropped by some 20% since early November, after depreciating by 16% in August. The depreciation also supported export prices of wheat and maize which increased by 6 percent and 7 percent, respectively (in USD terms) since early November⁸⁸.</p>	<p>areas are fully depleted and infrastructure is partly destroyed. Furthermore, record prices of wheat products, as well as destroyed transportation routes and city markets leads to an increasingly difficult food security situation. Preliminary results from the WFP food security assessment indicate that at least 20% of the population living in the five regions of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Dnepropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia have limited access to markets. The 2014 aggregate cereal production is estimated at almost 28% above the five-year average following favorable weather conditions, which more than offset a slight contraction in the planted area compared to last year⁸⁹.</p>	<p>region, and in Luhansk region⁹¹. In response, an Emergency Operation (EMOP) was approved jointly by WFP and FAO on 10 November 2014 to provide food assistance to an estimated 120 000 IDPs, returnees and vulnerable residents affected by conflict in eastern Ukraine for a period of six months, starting November 2014 to April 2015⁹².</p>
Afghanistan	<p>In Afghanistan, prices of wheat grain and wheat flour remained stable in November and December 2014 at levels about 8.9% higher than a year ago and by 25.8% compared to the last 5-year average price despite two consecutive record-high wheat harvests gathered in 2013 and 2014⁹³. The average retail price of Low Quality Rice in December was lower by 8.4% compared to the same month last year, but significantly higher by 10.8% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same month⁹⁴.</p>	<p>Fighting between the Government and insurgent forces resulted in further displacement. The latest available information from the UNHCR indicates that the total number of IDPs in the country is 702 000, with Helmand province being the most affected. In this province, conflict hampered farmers' ability to harvest their crops⁹⁵. During the winter, heavy snow and road blockages will occur in some provinces. Food prices will also increase in line with seasonality</p>	<p>According to the IPC analysis of September 2014, 7 million people – 23.4% of the population – are severely food insecure (in IPC Phase 3 or higher). Causes include natural disasters, extreme weather, conflict, insecurity and animal diseases. Food security is expected to deteriorate through March 2015 especially in Bamyan, Daykundi, Nooristan, Ghazni and Badghis provinces⁹⁶.</p>
Bangladesh	<p>In Bangladesh, domestic rice prices have been stable and close to last year's level. The downward pressure on prices from the ongoing 2014 Aman season harvest was offset by the Government Aman procurement program. Wheat flour prices strengthened in November with the progress of the lean season⁹⁷.</p>	<p>Good weather in Bangladesh helped push cereal production to a record level. In October 2014, the government announced that it would buy 300 000 tons of rice from the 2014 Aman harvest at Taka 32 per kilo (USD 406 per tonne)⁹⁸. The procurement of Aman rice will run from 15 November 2014 to 28 February 2015⁹⁹.</p>	

⁸⁸ GIEWS, Country Brief, Ukraine, Reference Date: 17-December-2014

⁸⁹ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

⁹¹ OCHA, December 2014

⁹² GIEWS, Country Brief, Ukraine, Reference Date: 17-December-2014

⁹³ FAO, GIEWS Global Food Price Monitor, December 2014

⁹⁴ WFP, VAM, Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of December 2014 (Reported in January 2014)

⁹⁵ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

⁹⁶ WFP, Global Food Security Update, Issue 16, December 2014

⁹⁷ FAO, GIEWS Global Food Price Monitor, December 2014

Burkina Faso	Reflecting the increased supplies from ongoing harvests, millet prices in Burkina Faso remained generally stable in November, but declined significantly in several markets ¹⁰⁰ . Moreover, fuel prices decreased by 25 francs CFA in January 2015 ¹⁰¹ .	Massive influx of refugees from Mali put additional pressure on local food supplies. Over 33 000 Malian refugees are estimated to be living in the country as of September 2014.	19.8 million people are suffering from food insecurity in the Sahel region ¹⁰² . In Burkina Faso, the major part of food insecure population is concentrated in Soum department
Cameroon	In Cameroon, the average inflation rate increased slightly to 3.2 percent in 2014, mainly as a result of higher fuel prices ¹⁰³ . Rice prices increased seasonally in 2014, but remained below their year earlier levels, reflecting improved rice supplies in 2014. Similarly, the average price of imported rice, which has been comparatively more stable, is 5% below its level of October 2013 ¹⁰⁴ .	Erratic rainfalls and dryness from July to December 2014 have put pressure on crop outputs ¹⁰⁵ . Cameroon is hosting more than 200,000 refugees. In several locations the number of refugees from CAR and Nigeria exceeds the local population. Living conditions have become increasingly difficult, with host communities and refugees competing over already inadequate resources, especially in the North and Far North regions, where the food situation was already precarious due to recurrent climatic shocks ¹⁰⁶ .	1,078,000 people are food insecure, mostly in the Far North, North, Adamawa and East regions ¹⁰⁷ . Funding constrains and civil insecurity along the borders with Nigeria and CAR has limited the level of interventions to date. In response, the Cameroon Strategic Response Plan 2014-2016, launched in January 2014, has been scaled up in July ¹⁰⁸ .
Djibouti	Rice and wheat prices are similar to last year level and sorghum prices are a bit above last year levels ¹⁰⁹ . Compared to last year, prices of food and beverages increased by 3% between November 2013 and November 2014 ¹¹⁰ .	Rainfall totals in 2014 were well below average in rural Obock and the Southeast Pastoral Border Zone, where a succession of poor rainy seasons have caused the depletion of pasture and water resources, impacting livestock body conditions and households' physical and economic access to food ¹¹¹ . Despite decreased food assistance, food security in most rural areas should improve in the coming months, as Xays/Dadaa rains in coastal areas from October through March are likely to be near average ¹¹² .	About 160 000 people are severely food insecure, mainly in pastoral southeastern areas and in the Obock region ¹¹³ .

⁹⁸ <http://www.fao.org/giews/food-prices/food-policies/detail/en/c/262541/>

⁹⁹ <http://www.fao.org/giews/food-prices/food-policies/detail/en/c/267136/>

¹⁰⁰ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹⁰¹ <http://fr.starafrika.com/actualites/baisse-de-25-fcfa-sur-le-prix-des-hydrocarbures-au-burkina-faso.html>

¹⁰² OCHA, December 2014

¹⁰³ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹⁰⁴ GIEWS Country Brief, November 2014

¹⁰⁵ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹⁰⁶ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹⁰⁷ OCHA, December 2014

¹⁰⁸ GIEWS Country Brief, November 2014

¹⁰⁹ Fewsnets DJIBOUTI Price Bulletin of December 2014

¹¹⁰ BULLETIN DE L'IPC DU MOIS DE DECEMBRE 2014, Direction de la Statistique et des Études Démographiques, République de Djibouti

¹¹¹ Fewsnets, DJIBOUTI Food Security Outlook Update, November 2014

¹¹² Fewsnets, DJIBOUTI Food Security Outlook Update, November 2014

¹¹³ Fewsnets, DJIBOUTI Food Security Outlook Update, November 2014

Ethiopia	<p>Prices of maize in December were between 3 and 30% below the levels of 12 months earlier in most markets, while in the capital, Addis Ababa, they were 8% higher due to sustained local demand. In Addis Ababa, prices of red sorghum have been decreasing since May, and in December they were 30% lower than 12 months earlier, while prices of wheat, teff and white sorghum were mostly stable in recent months, and in December they were around the same levels of one year earlier¹¹⁴. Livestock prices declined in most of Borena and Guji Zones due to the poor livestock body conditions.</p>	<p>Production prospects for “meher” crops are generally favorable, despite a prolonged dry spell from June to mid-July. Pasture conditions are however below average in northern Afar region and in parts of the Somali region¹¹⁵.</p> <p>In most southern and southeastern pastoral areas, the October to December Deyr/Hageya rains started on time, but there was a dry spell at the end of October. IN southern Borena Zone and in Dollo Zone, livestock body conditions have not yet recovered from the dry season, and access to milk has remained low¹¹⁶. Flooding in September along the Shabelle River led to deteriorated livestock conditions, and diminished household access to food and income¹¹⁷. By mid-January, Ethiopia hosted about 656 000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and the Sudan.</p>	<p>In Ethiopia, pockets of high food insecurity are reported in pastoral areas of Afar region and in the “belg” season cropping areas in Amhara region that had a below-average harvest last May¹¹⁸.</p>
Haiti	<p>In Haiti, prices of imported rice, remained stable in most markets and declined in the capital, Port-au-Prince, following trends in the United States of America, the country’s main supplier. Local maize meal prices remained stable in most markets in spite of a sharp reduction in 2014 maize production¹¹⁹. Black bean prices stabilized in November following the local harvests. However, below-average food stocks due to the prolonged drought are expected to result in higher food prices between March and April 2015¹²⁰.</p>	<p>Heavy rainfall at the beginning of November affected agricultural output, with 62% and 29% losses in breeding production in the north and northeast, respectively according to the Government. In contrast, drought conditions during the 2014 main first season have significantly reduced supplies of maize and rice. Total cereal production is estimated at almost 40% below last year’s bumper crop and well below the country’s five-year average¹²¹. Imports of rice and maize are expected to increase by 8 and 18%, respectively, from last year as a result of the sharp drop in this year’s production¹²².</p>	<p>Preliminary assessments point to 16 000 families being affected by the drop in production in the Central Plateau, North-West, South-East and Western regions of the country. These families are currently being assisted by WFP with cash-for-work programmes, the Haitian Government with food vouchers and by other UN agencies¹²³.</p>
India	<p>In India, the average retail rice prices in November generally declined, with improved supplies from the ongoing 2014 Kharif main season harvest. Prices of wheat remained generally stable, despite the record production this year and ample public</p>	<p>The 2014/15 aggregate paddy production in India is forecasted at about 156 million tonnes, 2 percent below the 2013. Large losses were reported in Andhra Pradesh from the passage in October of Cyclone Hudhud¹²⁵. As of November 1st, India is officially estimated to have 30.1 million</p>	<p>The floods in northeastern parts of the country caused the loss of hundreds of lives, displaced almost 1 million people and adversely affected more than 3 million¹²⁸.</p>

¹¹⁴ GIEWS, Country Brief, Ethiopia, Reference Date: 23-January-2015

¹¹⁵ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹¹⁶ Fewsnet, Ethiopia, Food Security Outlook Update, December 2014

¹¹⁷ Fewsnet, November 2014

¹¹⁸ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹¹⁹ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹²⁰ Alterpress, November 2014

¹²¹ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹²² GIEWS, Country brief, Haiti, 2 december 2014

¹²³ GIEWS, Country brief, Haiti, 2 december 2014

	stocks. Higher Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for wheat during the 2014/15 marketing year (April/March) provided support ¹²⁴ .	tons of wheat in government warehouses, more than double the official target, while its milled rice inventory is estimated to stand at 13.7 million tons, against a target of 7.2 million ¹²⁶ . In January 2015, The Government of India decided to offload excess stocks, which are currently double the current official target, through open market sales or exports. This will allow reducing inflation in food grain prices and storage costs ¹²⁷ .	
Jordan	Stable prices prevailed for subsidized food commodities, such as bread and cereals in Jordan ¹²⁹ . The year-on-year inflation during the first seven months of 2014 averaged at 3.1 percent. Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidized ¹³⁰ .	The International Office of Migration (IOM) reported 15,000 new arrivals during the third quarter of 2014 ¹³¹ . There are 1.4 million Syrian refugees in the country, including 622,397 since the Syrian crisis ¹³² . Syrians continue to face increasing difficulty accessing Jordan. Additionally, An estimated 43,000 Iraqi refugees are registered with UNHCR.	The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) informally requires all aid agencies assisting Syrians to include vulnerable Jordanians as 30% of their beneficiaries, and some NGOs have faced pressure to increase the proportion of Jordanians to 50%.
Madagascar	After decreasing between February and June 2014, rice prices increased seasonally and are below their year-earlier levels, reflecting improved rice supplies in 2014. Similarly, the average price of imported rice, which has been comparatively more stable ¹³³ .	Rice production in Madagascar increased in 2014 on account of good rains. In addition, the joint Government-FAO anti-locust campaign that commenced in late 2013 prevented the further spread of the locust plague ¹³⁴ . The national 2014 cereal harvest is put at 4.35 million tons, higher than 2013's output but about 9% below the previous five-year average ¹³⁵ . Authorities in Madagascar aim to sustain a full recovery of the sector over the course of the 2015 season, with 4.5 million tons (3.0 million tons, milled basis) targeted to be produced ¹³⁶ .	Food insecurity remains severe in southern regions, due to limited cereal availability ¹³⁸ . Households in Atsimo Andrefana and Androy regions are expected to face a difficult lean season (October-March), given households' low purchasing power. Based on the CFSAM survey results, the overall rate of food insecurity

¹²⁵ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹²⁸ <http://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=IND>

¹²⁴ FAO, GIEWS Global Food Price Monitor, December 2014

¹²⁶ <http://www.fao.org/giews/food-prices/food-policies/detail/en/c/265766/>

¹²⁷ <http://www.fao.org/giews/food-prices/food-policies/detail/en/c/275550/>

¹²⁹ FAO, GIEWS Global Food Price Monitor, December 2014

¹³⁰ <http://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=JOR>

¹³¹ WFP, Global Food Security Update, Issue 16, December 2014

¹³² UNHCR, January 2015

¹³³ GIEWS, Country Brief, Madagascar, Reference Date: 04-November-2014

¹³⁴ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹³⁵ GIEWS, Country Brief, Madagascar, Reference Date: 04-November-2014

¹³⁶ FAO, Rice Market Monitor, December 2014

		In January 2015, 51,000 inhabitants in the southwest and southeast of Madagascar, as well as the country's capital, Antananarivo have been affected by flooding ¹³⁷ .	(moderate and severe) is estimated at about 36% ¹³⁹ .
Mongolia	Wheat flour prices in Ulaanbaatar were generally stable for the third consecutive month in October but were 34% above last year's level. This is due to a strong domestic demand. Prices of beef and mutton meat in Ulaanbaatar have been generally decreasing since July 2014 following the usual seasonal trend. According to the Central Bank of Mongolia, the year-on-year inflation rate in October 2014 was 12% ¹⁴⁰ .	Harvesting of the 2014 main season crops, mainly wheat, barley and oats, was completed with a slight delay in mid-October. Latest official estimates put the 2014 wheat production at 465 000 tonnes, 26% up from last year's weather-depressed harvest. Cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (October/September) are forecast to decrease by 19% from last year's above-average level ¹⁴¹ .	
Myanmar	In Myanmar, wholesale prices of Emata rice decreased for the fourth consecutive month in November and were below their levels a year earlier. The arrival into the markets of the 2014 main wet-season crop and low export demand, particularly from China, continued to put downward pressure on prices ¹⁴² .	In November 2014, the government was considering the launch of a local procurement campaign, via the National Rice Reserves Supervisory Committee, to lend support to paddy prices, after these have come under pressure from disruptions to border trade with China (Mainland) ¹⁴³ . 640,000 IDPs, including mainly Rohingya Muslim.	According to OCHA, 70,000 people are food insecure in Rakhine state.
Népal	No data available on variation of food prices. Fuel price has been dropping almost every month after the government adopted automatic pricing mechanism on 29 September, 2014. As per this mechanism, fuel price automatically drops or rises in Nepal when Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) revises its petroleum price every fortnight. In January, petrol will sell for Rs 111.50 per liter.	Harvesting of the 2014 main season rice crop was completed by mid-December. FAO estimates this year's rice production at 4.6 million tons, down 9% from last year's bumper level but close to the average of the past five years. The decrease is attributed to a contraction in area planted as a result of late and below-average monsoon rains which hindered sowing operations and reduced yields. Additional damages to the crop were caused by floods and landslides across Mid-Western and Far-Western regions of the country following heavy rains in August.	Overall, the food security situation in the country is satisfactory following average harvest, improved employment opportunities provided by development programs and the relatively regular supply of food to the local markets, including those in the hill and mountain areas ¹⁴⁴ .
Yemen	Retail food prices have continued to decline in December reflecting the improved availability of fuel and stability of fuel prices.	The overall market monitoring information in December 2014 shows that food has been available in all markets except in some areas where localized conflicts had intensified. Especially, the flow of food	About 10.6 million are considered food insecure ¹⁴⁸ , including 5 million severely food insecure. Sa'ada

¹³⁸ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹³⁷ http://indiablooms.com/ibns_new/health-details/E/691/un-agencies-ramp-up-aid-efforts-to-flood-hit-southern-africa-countries.html#sthash.Zmr0W527.dpuf

¹³⁹ GIEWS, Country Brief, Madagascar, Reference Date: 04-November-2014

¹⁴⁰ GIEWS, Country Brief, Mongolia, Reference Date: 17-November-2014

¹⁴¹ GIEWS, Country Brief, Mongolia, Reference Date: 17-November-2014

¹⁴² FAO, GIEWS Global Food Price Monitor, December 2014

¹⁴³ FAO, Rice Market Monitor, December 2014

¹⁴⁴ GIEWS, Country Brief, Nepal, Reference Date: 22-December-2014

	<p>In October 2014, the general inflation rate of the country was 8.49% while the food inflation was 3.52%. The Cereal Price Index averaged 184 points in December, lower by 4 percent than December last year¹⁴⁵.</p>	<p>commodities was disrupted in some areas such as Hajja, Sa'ada, and Hudaydah, due to localised conflicts and restricted border market access with Saudi Arabia¹⁴⁶. Although the purchasing power dropped for livestock dependent households, declining retail prices of staple food commodities has compensated for the impact of continuing local conflicts and instability¹⁴⁷.</p>	<p>governorate has the country's most food insecure areas; more than 40% are of the governorate's population severely food insecure¹⁴⁹. Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) are expected in Shabwah, Abyan, Sa'ada, Hajjah and Lahj governorates over January- June 2015¹⁵⁰.</p>
<p>Zimbabwe</p>	<p>Prices of maize in Zimbabwe, have been generally stable or increased seasonally in 2014, but at a restrained rate compared to the previous year, reflecting the favorable supply situation in 2014¹⁵¹. Currently maize grain is selling at prices that are 23% below last year's levels and 14% below the two-year average¹⁵².</p>	<p>In 2014, Zimbabwe registered a well above-average cereal output compared to the sharply reduced 2013 harvest. However, reduced localized crop production in southern and western regions have been reported and conditions are expected to be stressed during the peak lean season from January to March 2015¹⁵³. Also, northern areas have experienced a late start of the season by up to 20 days. This delay has slowed down agriculture related activities that typically provide additional incomes for poor households during this time of the year¹⁵⁴.</p>	<p>An estimated 331 000 people require food assistance. The overall food security situation improved in 2014, with a 78% decrease in the number of food insecure persons compared to 2013, mainly attributed to more stable maize supplies¹⁵⁵.</p>

¹⁴⁸ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹⁴⁵ WFP, VAM, YEMEN MONTHLY MARKET WATCH December 2014

¹⁴⁶ WFP, VAM, YEMEN MONTHLY MARKET WATCH December 2014

¹⁴⁷ WFP, VAM, YEMEN MONTHLY MARKET WATCH December 2014

¹⁴⁹ Comprehensive Food Security Survey 2014

¹⁵⁰ IPC, OCHA, December 2014

¹⁵¹ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹⁵² Fewsnet, ZIMBABWE Food Security Update, December 2014

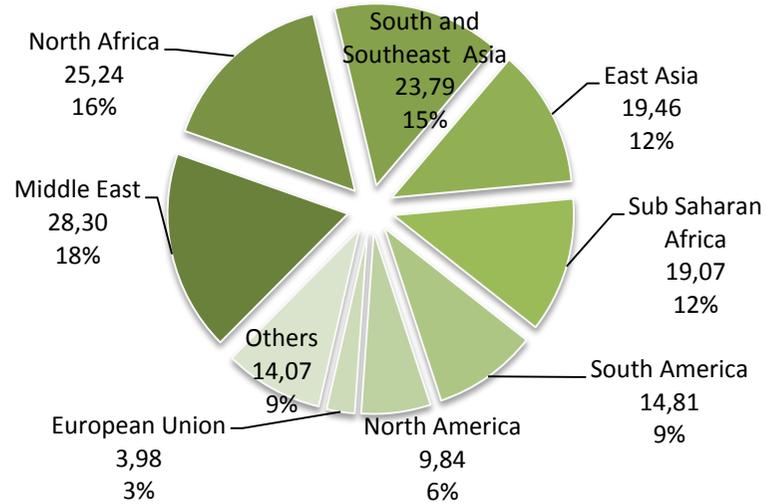
¹⁵³ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

¹⁵⁴ Fewsnet, ZIMBABWE Food Security Update, December 2014

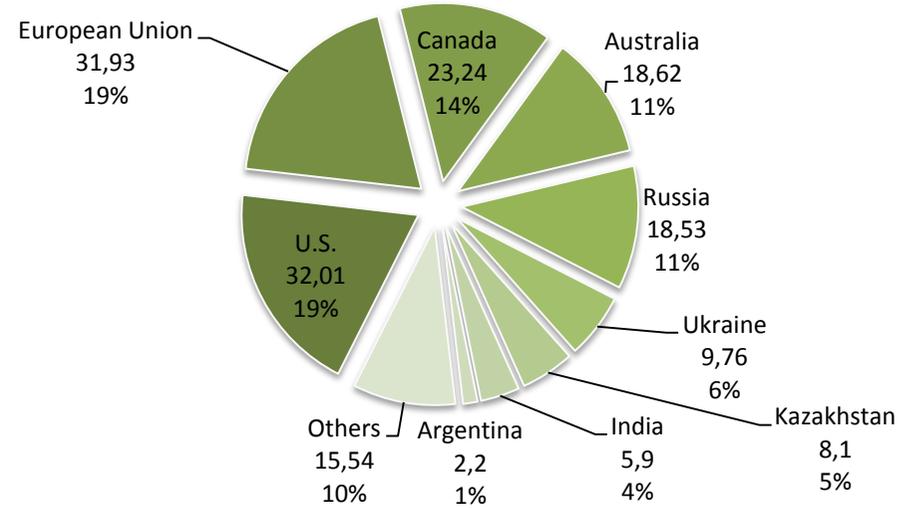
¹⁵⁵ FAO, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, No.4, December 2014

International exchanges

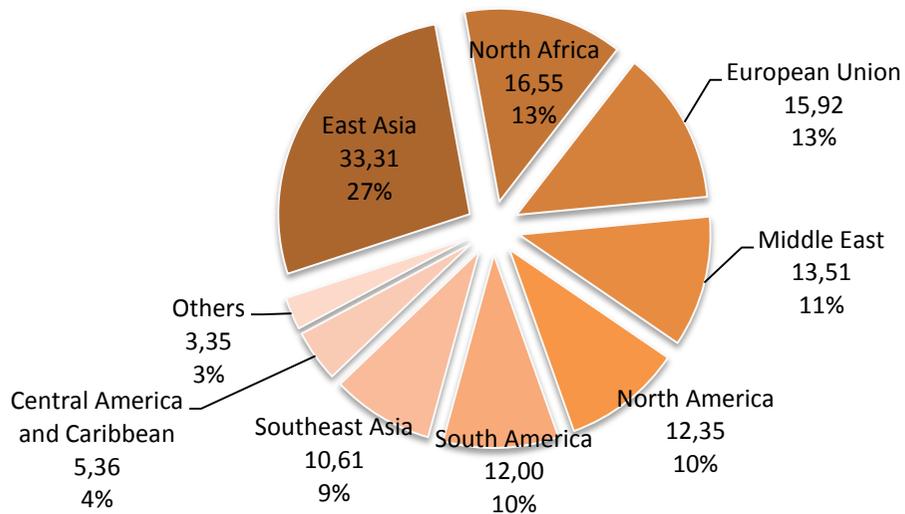
Wheat Importers 2013/2014 est. (Million Metric Tons)



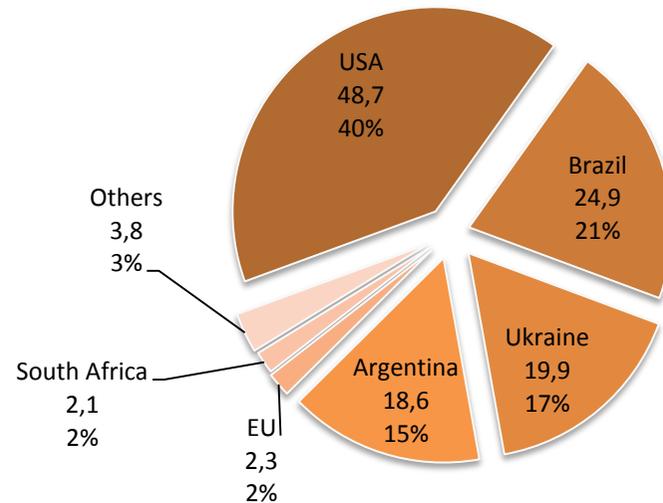
Wheat exporters 2013/2014 est. (Million Metric Tons)

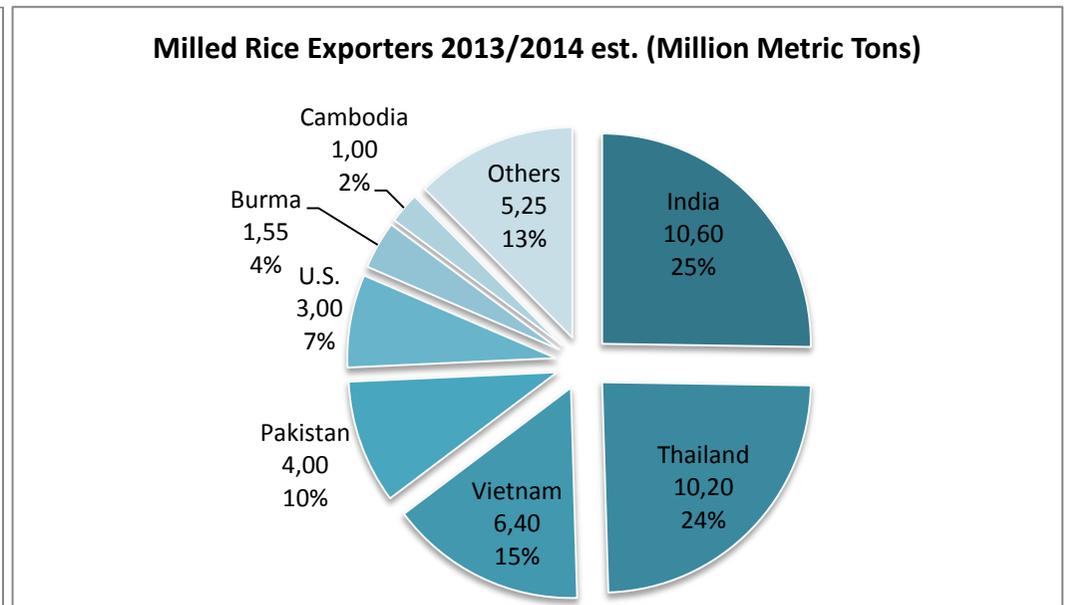
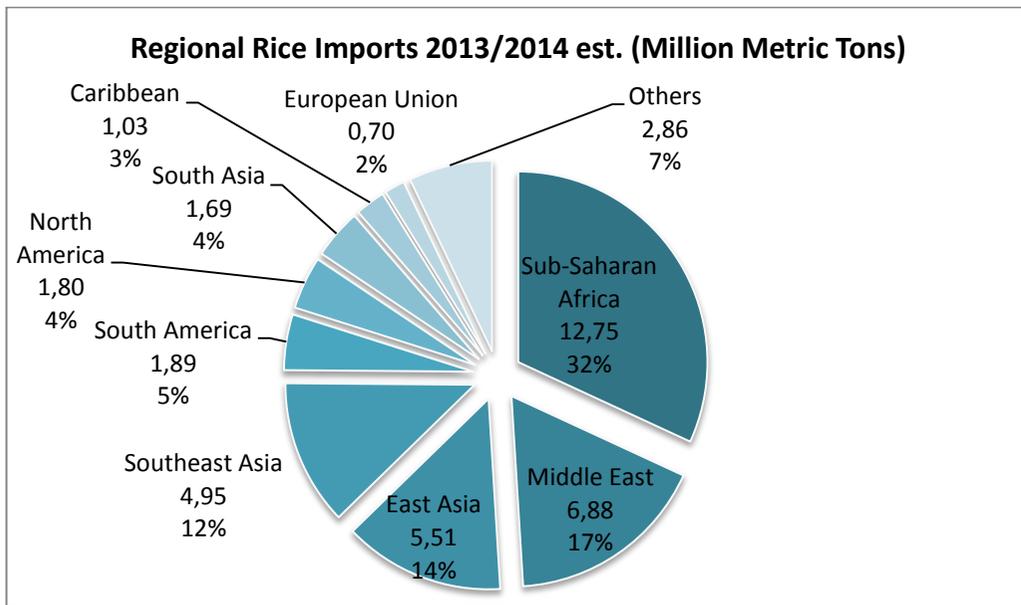


Regional Corn Imports 2013/2014 est. (Million Metric Tons)



Corn Exporters 2013/2014 est. (Million Metric Tons)





Source for Imports data: United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, data from January 2015

Source for Exports data: International Grain Council, data from 22 January 2015

The Price Surveillance Bulletin and its updates are prepared by the Scientific & Technical Department of Action Contre la Faim France. The bulletin is edited on a quarterly basis by ACF. It describes the evolution of food prices in various countries, including some countries of actions of ACF by gathering together data from different organizations, actors and available sources. The evolution of prices in countries in alert, listed in red, is revised on a monthly basis. The Price Surveillance Bulletin and its updates are available on the internet as part of the ACF World Wide Web (<http://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/>) at the following URL address:

<http://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/actualites/publications>.

Enquiries may be directed to:

Scientific & Technical Department
Food Security and Livelihoods

ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM | ACF-France

14-16 boulevard Douaumont. 75017 Paris

E-mail: foodsec@actioncontrelafaim.org; clekiefs@actioncontrelafaim.org