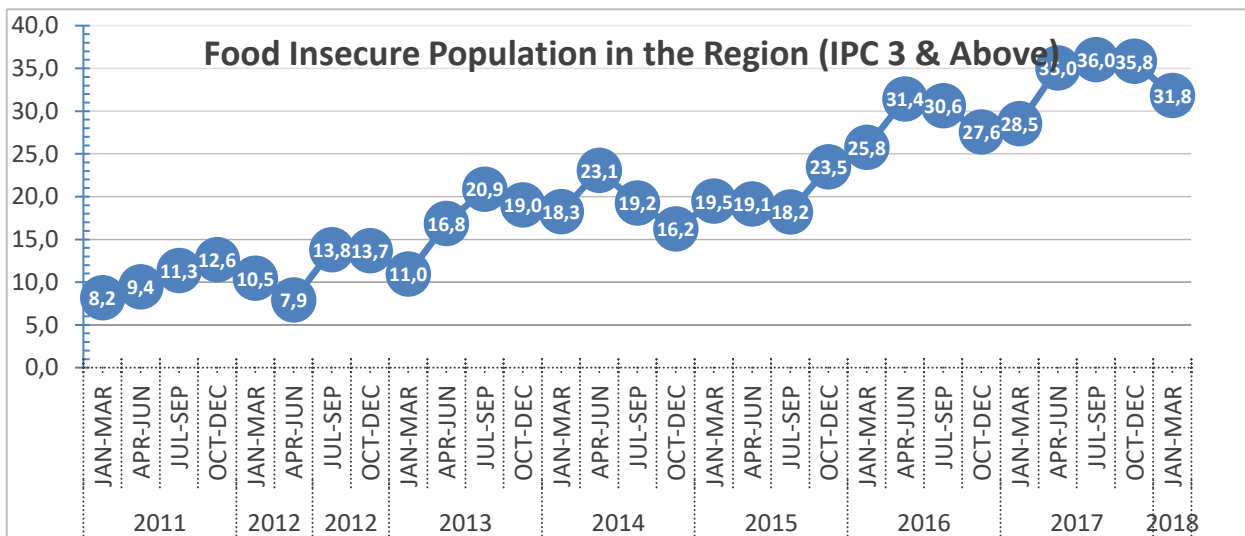


## Update on Food and Nutrition Security Situation in the Great Horn of Africa (GHA), January and Prospects to March 2018

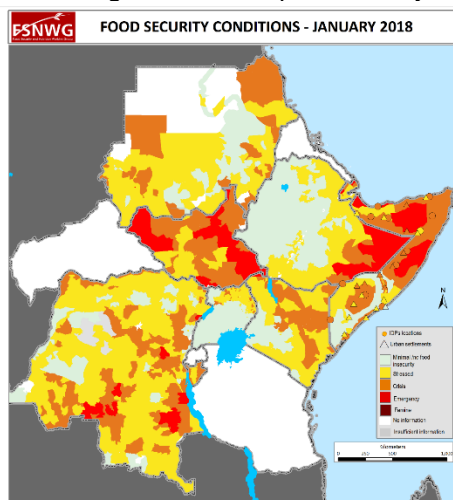
**Key Messages:** About **31.8 Million** people are acutely food insecure compared to **28.5 Million** a year ago. Food insecurity remains **precarious**, despite some marginal improvements following seasonal harvests (in parts of Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan and parts of southern Somalia) and October-December short rains that improved the livestock grazing resources. Price of staple commodities remained above-average but seasonally declining in most of the monitored markets in the region owing to supplies from recent harvests or the forthcoming start of harvest. Generally, food insecurity in the region is largely mixed and needs have continued to increase since 2015, particularly in countries affected by conflicts/insecurity and those affected by consecutive droughts/dry conditions. Despite some **improvement in some areas** over the October-December period following seasonal harvests, **severe food insecurity will persist** in conflict affected states (South Sudan, Burundi, DRC) and those affected by drought conditions/dry spells during OND season (SE Ethiopia, parts of Kenya and Sudan).

**Food insecurity trend in the region: South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and DRC**



### Greatest Areas of Concern

IPC Regional map: January 2018:



**South Sudan:** Food insecurity is higher in northern Jonglei, conflict-affected areas of Upper Nile and Central Equatoria, and greater Kapoeta – a better understanding of the food insecurity situation will be informed by the on-going IPC analysis.

**Ethiopia:** Mainly in South eastern Ethiopia, Somali region – pastoral livelihoods and Belg season dependent areas.

**Somalia:** Deteriorating food and nutrition security in central northern and north east Somalia.

**Kenya:** Pastoral and marginal agricultural parts of Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo, Garissa, Tana River, Samburu, and Laikipia.

**Burundi:** Imbo Plains (Bujumbura, Bubanza, Cibitoke, Rumonge) and parts of Makamba province.

## Nutrition status

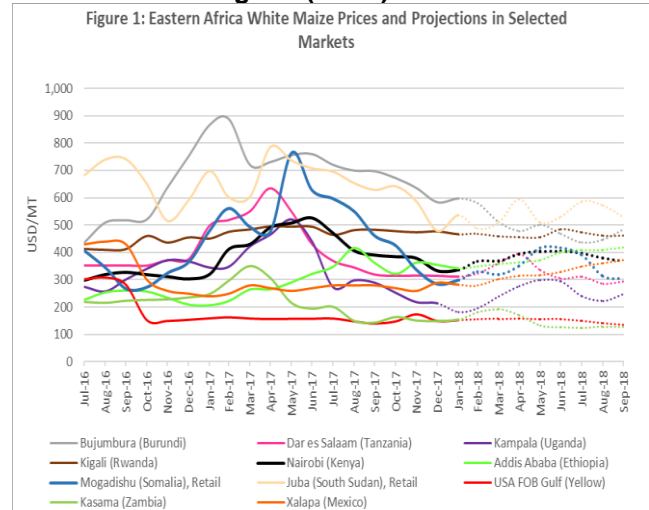
The nutrition status remains of concern in the region, despite some improvement in the food security status. Following the nutrition analysis and projections for October and December 2017, the nutrition status and response in most of the countries in the region is expected to remain the same in January. Some of the key highlights for 2017. Approximately 980,000 children under the age of five received treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Somalia, South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Eritrea, More than 1.5 Million children supported for management of moderate acute malnutrition. Capacity building on nutrition in emergencies and response including coordination, information management and surveillance was enhanced across the region. Nutrition situation continues to be monitored with on-going nutrition assessment Kenya, Somali, South Sudan to augment existing secondary information. Both nutrition sensitive and nutrition specific interventions are ongoing with an advocacy to further scale up. Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda (refugee population) Somalia, DRC remains under close nutrition monitoring. Detailed information on the nutrition situation to be provided in the upcoming updates.

## Main Drives of the Current Food and Nutrition Insecurity;

- Impact of **Fall Armyworm** on production in Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan and Ethiopia.
- Continued **conflict/insecurity** in parts of the region (South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia) influx of refugees together with IDPs from internal conflicts in these countries.
- Declined humanitarian assistance with anticipated funding shortfalls affecting vulnerable households.
- Continued rise of staple food prices, due to sustained high regional demand against limited supplies and trade bans affected the access to food especially within the vulnerable population. seasonally decline in some parts due to realized harvests and supplies in market.

## Maize Prices in some countries across the region ( WFP)

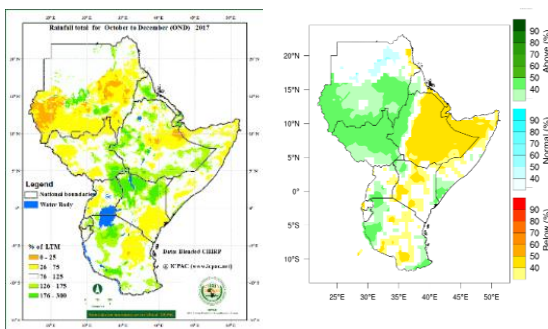
Domestic maize prices in Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia, will mostly be higher than the respective last year and recent five-year average levels, and this will affect food access, (low production. Maize exports from Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia are expected to increase exceptionally in the first-through second quarters of 2018 following increased supply from October-to-December-January 2018 (Uganda and Ethiopia) and May-to-August (Tanzania) harvests. Better price incentives for regional maize exports to Kenya may affect exports to Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan through lower volumes and or lack of downward pressure on local prices. **Trend:** due to the lingering effects of previous below average national harvests, supported by increased exports Prices likely to remain above average until harvesting in July 2018.



## Climate Update and impact on food security:

October, November, December Per.

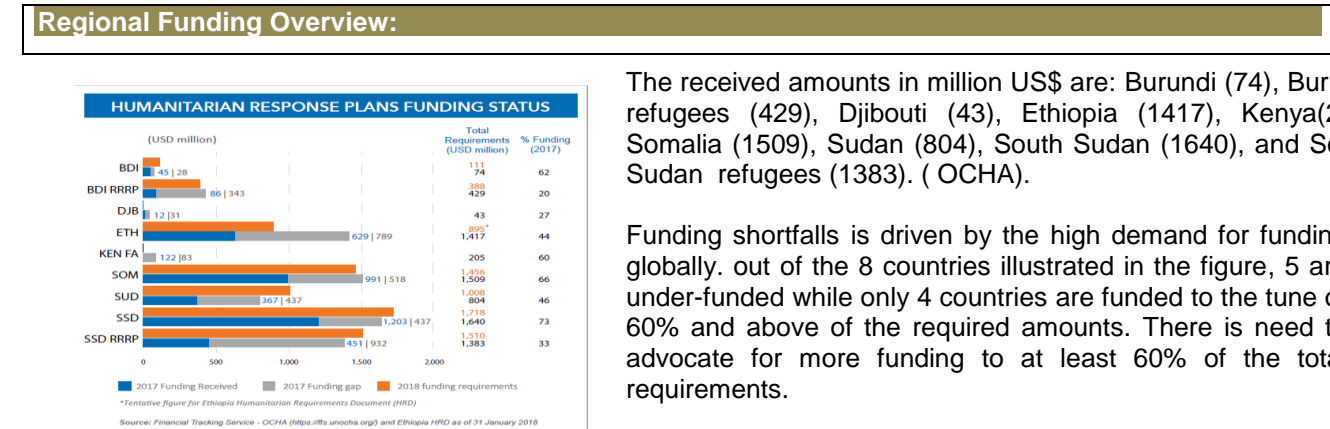
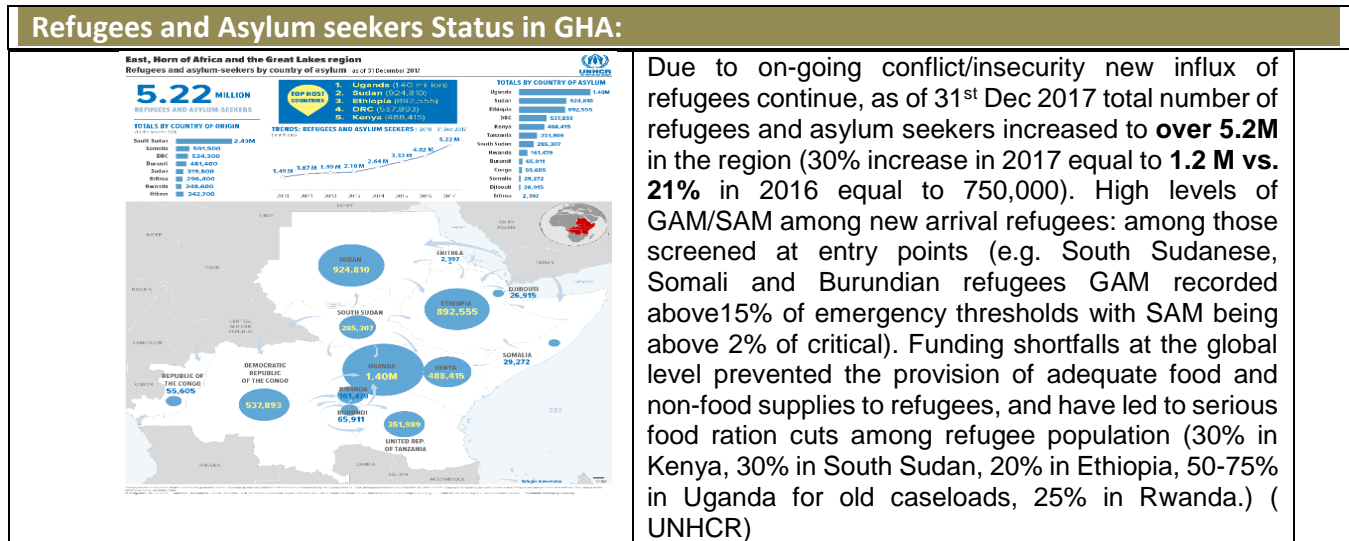
February – April FMA 2018 forecast



Normal to Above normal rainfall is expected over the southern parts of Sudan, most parts of South Sudan and western Ethiopia. Near Normal rainfall conditions are expected over North Western Tanzania, southern Uganda and south Somalia. Most Parts of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Somalia are likely to experience near Normal to Below Normal Rainfall conditions. ( ICPAC)

The multi-model averages predict weak La Niña conditions during the period of January-March 2018. Normal to above normal. In terms of climate systems, the ocean and atmosphere system remains consistent with ENSO-neutral, although edging closer to La Niña conditions. Model forecasts for February and April 2018 shows that IOD is likely to be in Neutral phase.

**Impacts:** Food security was seriously affected by the poor OND season that resulted in a number of affected population competing for the available food. The below-average rains during the OND season led to deteriorating food insecurity in some areas, among them the pastoral areas of Kenya, SE Ethiopia, central and northern Somalia. Production was hampered and rangeland recovery was not optimal. The fact that the January-March period will remain dry, food insecurity and malnutrition are likely to deteriorate further in those areas until the next rains in March/early April”.



### Food security situation by country:

<p><b>Ethiopia:</b>          Food security improved from October (parts of Amhara, Tigray, and NE SNNPR) but severe food insecurity persists in parts of Somali region despite some slight improvement following Oct-Dec short rains which regenerated pastures and replenished water for remaining livestock.</p>	<p><b>Sudan:</b>          An estimated 9 % (3.8M people) are severely food-insecure in Oct-Dec period.  <b>Drivers:</b> National harvests of cash and staple cereal crops are likely to be average to above-average in some parts of the country thereby improving availability. Conflicts and instability in some areas/ displacements (IDPs), and influx of refugees as well</p>
--	--

<p><b>Drivers:</b> Good meher harvests, labor income from harvests improved food availability at household level through production. This is despite late onset of rains and dry spells experienced during growing period in some areas, in addition to fall army worm infestation in others.</p> <p><b>Trend:</b> A slight reduction in the number of people in need (8.5M in August 2017). The main Meher harvest is favourable and will improve the overall food security, but food security in the south and south eastern pastoral areas is not expected to improve much. Poor households in these areas will need assistance in 2018.</p>	<p>as climatic shocks/dry spells during production in some areas (Darfur, Gedaref, Kassala and North Kordofan) will drive food insecurity in some pockets of the country.</p> <p><b>Trends:</b> From Jan to March as a result of the harvest season, food is expected to be available, but the increase of food and non-food commodities prices will negatively affect food access and diversity thereafter.</p>
<p><b>SOMALIA:</b></p> <p>In January 2018 the number of food insecure was estimated at 1.6M people following some improvement following the realised Deyr harvests and effects of Oct-Dec shorts rains against a backdrop of scaled up humanitarian assistance through late 2017.</p> <p><b>Drivers:</b> fifth consecutive below-average seasons, below average cereal production, declined pasture and water availability, reduced livestock reproduction, limited access to agricultural employment and increased water and food prices.</p> <p><b>Trends:</b> in February to June, the situation will deteriorate with over 2.7M people projected to face acute food insecurity until June 2018. In the absence of humanitarian assistance many households will likely face large food consumption gaps especially in the upcoming Jilaal season during which pasture and water availability, crop cultivation, livestock reproduction, access to agricultural employment, water and food prices are expected to be adversely impacted and expected to deteriorate further in parts of northern Somalia and parts of Gedo region in the South (seasonal assessment by FEWSNET &amp; FSNAU).</p>	<p><b>Burundi:</b></p> <p>The period July-December was estimated to face high incidence of food insecurity (&gt;50% of the population or 2.6million people) especially in Congo Ridge Millet (50%), Bugesera (54%) and Eastern Lowlands (48%) (FSMS, Nov-Dec 2017) owing to the effects of the main lean season. Significant deterioration in food insecurity was expected in Northern Lowlands/Bugeresera &amp; Eastern lowlands. The food security situation was expected to improve due to households realise the Season A harvests, thereby bringing down the number of people in need in early part of 2018.</p> <p><b>Drivers:</b> Cross-border seasonal labour movements and trade limitations. High recurrence of climatic shocks/ drought in Bukeresera, high number of returnees &amp; IDPs in Makamba). FAW reportes in 81 communes (FAO</p> <p><b>Trends:</b> Season B rainfall (February-May 2018) is forecasted to be below average, which may lead to a below-average harvest. Low maize harvests expected in Lowlands; Imbo Plains due to erratic/deficit rains. Caseload of needs expected to rise by April 2018.</p>
<p><b>Kenya:</b></p> <p>3.4 M.are in ( phase 3 +) October – December due to short rains in eastern Kenya and Marsabit were average rains tending to below average and erratic. In the south eastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas, crop harvests are likely to be below average, rangeland conditions are currently stable, but this may quickly deteriorated before the next season.</p> <p><b>Drivers:</b> declining household food stocks, below-normal harvest for maize severe vegetation deficits In some pastoral areas, Fall army warm infestation in some of the main crop growing areas which lowered production, and above-average staple food prices.</p> <p><b>Trends:</b> Short-cycle crops available from December, are expected to restore depleted household food stocks, Below normal harvest for maize also expected in other high and medium-producing areas. Staple food prices are expected to remain above the five-year average through March 2018. Below-average vegetation condition in Isiolo, eastern parts of Mandera, parts of Garissa, Tana</p>	<p><b>South SUDAN:</b></p> <p>The overall food security situation throughout South Sudan slightly improved by end of 2017 owing to realized harvests but the harvests are expected to be short-lived with households depleting their stocks earlier than normal. The prevalence of acute malnutrition remains “very critical” in several areas of the country even during the post-harvest period due to perturbation of agricultural activities and disruption in the provision of humanitarian assistance.</p> <p><b>Drivers:</b> below-average crop production, continuous devaluation of the South Sudanese pound and the need to import staple food lead to increase in prices of food commodities, insecurity/conflicts that has notably increased in some areas (Jonglei, Central Unity, Western Bahr-el-Gazal, Upper Nile and Lakes).</p> <p><b>Trends:</b> large food consumption gaps are expected in the coming months (Many households are expected to deplete their minimal harvests by early</p>

<p>River and Kajiado counties impacting on availability of livestock feed.</p>	<p>2018, facing (FNSMS preliminary results, Dec 2017-Jan 2018). Preliminary findings also indicate overall cereal production in 2017 to be even lower than 2016, thus likely to cause almost half a million metric tons of cereal deficit in 2018. Food insecurity likely to persist especially in areas affected by conflicts/insecurity.</p>
<p><b>RWANDA:</b> Erratic and below-average October-December rainfall was experienced across most areas of Rwanda, which is likely to result in below-average season A harvest thereby affecting food security situation (Since early December). <b>Drivers:</b> Delays in delivery of seeds by majority of farmers cooperatives. Below-average rainfall (except in eastern parts of the country). Fall Armyworms in several districts. <b>Trends:</b> price drops in December and January are expected to be moderated by total Season A production likely being below average. However, food security is expected to improve in January/ February once season A harvests are realized which will enhance food availability.</p>	<p><b>Uganda:</b> The food security situation generally improved in 2017 following favourable rains and crop production but an estimated 0.4million people are under crisis (IPC phase 3) in Karamoja and northern Uganda. The majority of the country has favorable pasture conditions with only few areas in Eastern Uganda that are under “watch” and parts of Amudat and Moroto districts with “poor” conditions (crop monitor report). <b>Drivers:</b> favourable production in 2017 despite Fall armyworm infestation, near-normal to below-normal October-December short rains that improve pastures and water for livestock, . <b>Trend:</b> Food insecurity to remain relatively stable between January and March owing to harvests in unimodal areas of Karamoja but with likely deterioration thereafter as households deplete stock during the lean season starting in March/April.</p>

<p><b>DRC:</b></p>
<p>Food insecurity persist over June – December 2017. 11% (7.7M) of the population in IPC 3 and above</p>
<p><b>Djibouti :</b> People in need are estimated as 0 .05 M.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p><b>Food security:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humanitarian assistance is needed for people in phase 3 and above and contingency plans be made ready to respond should the situation deteriorate further..</li> <li>• Develop the capacities of the states to avail food security information.</li> <li>• Building a well-established food security information system for better analysis (states).</li> <li>• Increase attention to management of FAW to prevent significant maize (and sorghum) harvest losses” Advocate for improvement of rangeland and animal conditions that affected by drought</li> </ul> <p><b>Nutrition:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs for quick interventions to improve nutrition status for the malnourished population.</li> <li>• Need for assessment to provide accurate information especially for GAM and SAM.</li> </ul> <p><b>Climate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measurements to eliminate the consequences of climate change (drought) in the region.</li> <li>• Capacity development for analysing impact of climate change on food security.</li> </ul> <p><b>IDPs and Refugees:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint advocacy on the needs of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs in the region (food and non-food requirements).</li> <li>* Continue joint efforts for the provision of humanitarian assistance specifically in the field of nutrition and food security to the refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs in the region.</li> <li>* Strengthen multi-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration for the provision of nutrition and food security services and interventions in IDPs contexts (e.g. the use of multi-sectoral IYCF friendly framework).</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding:</b> Advocate for more funding to close the gaps and save lives of the people in need. Find other sources for funding humanitarian and medium-term needs (Partnership with new donors).</p>