

SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

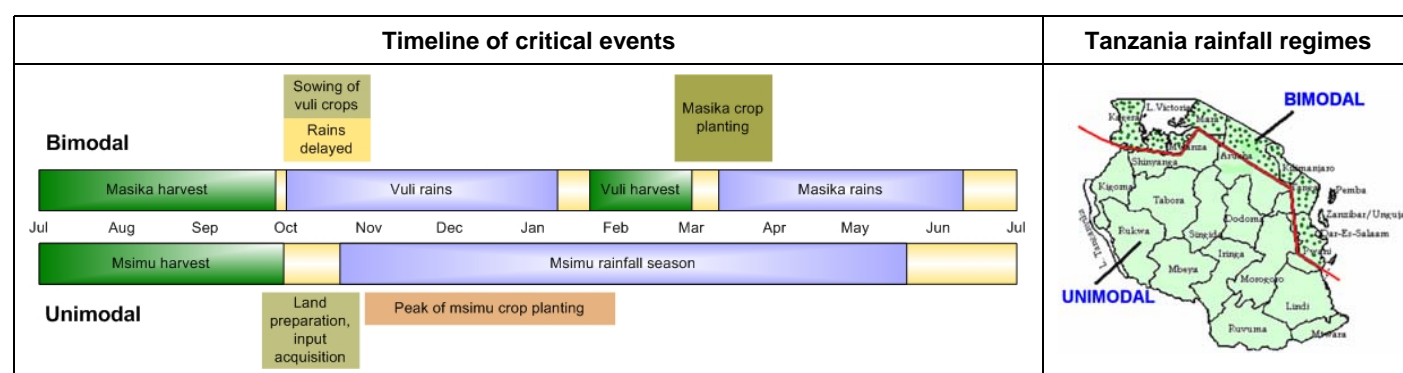
The *vuli* rains that normally begin towards the end of September in the bimodal rainfall areas of northern, northeastern and northern coastal zones of the country have been delayed. This delay is likely to shorten the length of the growing season, which in turn will cause a drop in the total production from the *vuli* harvest, which contributes 15 percent of the total national crop harvest.

Water level in lakes and rivers are low. If the situation continues, it is likely to affect irrigated crop farming and flood recession agriculture along the flood plains of Rufiji, Pangani and Ruaha river basins.

The delayed onset of rains has also led a drop in the fresh water fish catch, while windy weather and rising oil prices have prevented fishermen from deep water fishing in Mafia and Kilwa. Supplies of fish at Dar es Salaam's main fish market have declined as prices have increased, and fish is no longer affordable to poorer households.

Although pasture conditions are below normal due to the delayed onset of the rains, animal conditions have not deteriorated. In the northeast, pasture availability improved in November, which will support livestock production and help stabilize pastoralist livelihoods.

SEASONAL TIMELINE



CURRENT HAZARD SUMMARY

- According to the Tanzania Meteorological Agency reports, the prevailing cold sea surface temperatures over the Indian Ocean have influenced October rainfall anomalies, resulting into below normal rainfall trends over Northern coastal belt and parts of Northeastern highlands.
- Deforestation and cultivation in catchments areas has increased water runoffs and decreased water infiltration, limiting water levels in lakes and rivers.

CURRENT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

Overall food security remains satisfactory. However, Rapid Vulnerability Assessment conducted in August 2005 by the Food Security Information Team (FSIT) revealed that there are 594,503 people in 34 districts facing acute food shortages. The districts and the number of people with acute food insecurity are shown in Table 1 on the following page. Based on these findings, FSIT recommended a release of 20,932 MT of maize from State Grain Reserve (SGR) for sale to the vulnerable households at a subsidized price of 100 TShs per Kg of maize, through a highly targeted and closely supervised mechanism. According to the Disaster Management Department of the Prime Minister's Office, out of the 20,932 MT of maize, 10,000 MT (47.7%), together with funds to support its distribution, have been moved to the 34 districts having households with acute food shortages. Distribution of the subsidized grain had been delayed by the household needs assessment exercise and training on distribution that followed the FSIT Rapid Vulnerability Assessment. The needs assessment exercise and training will facilitate effective community targeting when selling the subsidized maize. The distribution and sale of the subsidized maize, once it begins, is expected to improve household food security through the upcoming *vuli* season harvest in February and March.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, food stocks at the beginning of October were 111,970,616 MT in the

Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) and private traders had stocks of 63,599 MT of Maize, 24,164MT of rice, 63,417MT wheat, 94MT Sorghum and 10,369MT of pulses. This indicates that the SGR has enough food reserves and that private traders will continue moving a variety of food stuffs from surplus to deficit areas. Pastoral districts reported that livestock are still healthy with normal productivity throughout the country. This indicates that pastoralist can sell their animals and purchase grains for required consumption.

The World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with FSIT, is also preparing to implement a Comprehensive Food Security Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) in the whole country, including Zanzibar. Priority will be given to drought prone areas in the central, northwestern and northeastern parts of the country. The CFSVA will also focus on areas with a relatively high prevalence of HIV/AIDS coupled with declining household food security.

Table 1: Population facing acute food shortages, by district

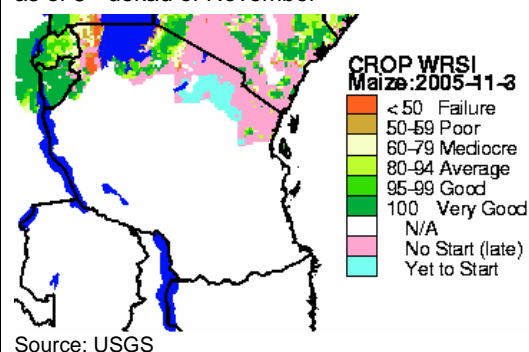
DISTRICT	Population facing acute shortages	DISTRICT	Population facing acute shortages
Karatu	20,142	Liwale	3,833
Monduli	30,149	Simanjiro	14,005
Arumeru	22,746	Bunda	23,115
Ngorongoro	13,853	Musoma	14,570
Dodoma R	30,266	Tarime	10,585
Kondoa	1,665	Masasi	39,188
Mpwapwa	6,567	Misungwi	21,252
Dodoma U	8,946	Magu	34,470
Iringa	6,982	Kwimba	31,194
Kilolo	7,896	Meatu	52,711
Same	31,645	Maswa	8,997
Mwanga	3,510	Singida	8,613
Hai	5,360	Manyoni	31,459
Moshi	10,946	Iramba	14,624
Ruangwa	6,682	Igunga	31,083
Kilwa	10,947	Tabora	5,048
Lindi R	17,398	Sikonge	14,056
TOTAL			594,503

Source: FSIT

RAINFALL AND VEGETATION CONDITION

Soil moisture replenishment in bimodal rainfall areas of Lake Victoria Basin and in pockets of the northern coastal and northeastern areas favored crop development and growth. However, elsewhere in the bimodal areas, the *vuli* rains have been late, and soil moisture is inadequate. (See Figure 1.) In unimodal areas, seasonal dryness continues, and the supply and quality of pasture is gradually deteriorating.

Figure 1: Water requirement satisfaction index, as of 3rd dekad of November



MARKET SITUATION

In October 2005, maize prices in Lindi, Shinyanga, Sumbawanga, Shinyanga and Tabora, and beans prices in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Lindi, Shinyanga and Tabora were higher than the long-term average for the month of October, and also higher than the average price from January – September 2005. Dar es Salaam maize prices however remained stable. (See Figures 2 and 3, following page).

With exception of Dar es Salaam and Sumbawanga market centers, the other areas were found to have households facing acute food insecurity during RVA that was conducted by FSIT in August 2005. The impact of the high prices in these districts with acute food insecurity was compounded by the delay in sales of government subsidized maize.

The economy of Lindi, which recorded the highest maize and beans prices, depends mainly on cashew crop. With the decline in cashew prices, the high maize and bean prices were all the more detrimental to household food security. Given the high protein content of beans, high prices will limit the ability of poorer households to access adequate protein in their diet.

While consumers in Dar es Salaam switched from maize to rice during Ramadan, the supply of rice was adequate to meet demand, and prices remained stable.

Figure 2: October 2005 Maize Prices Compared to Long term average and current year average in TShs per 100 Kg

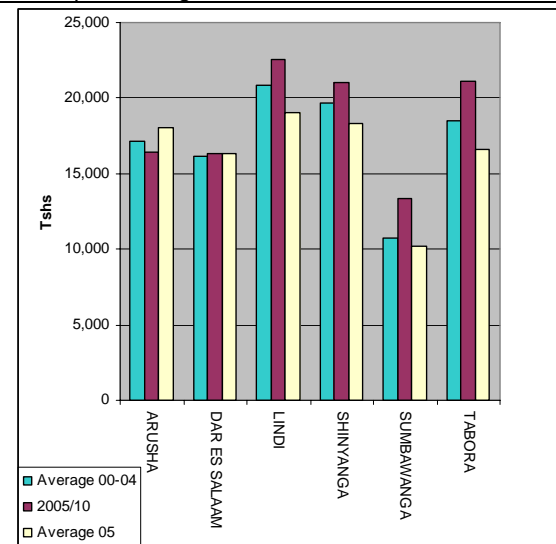
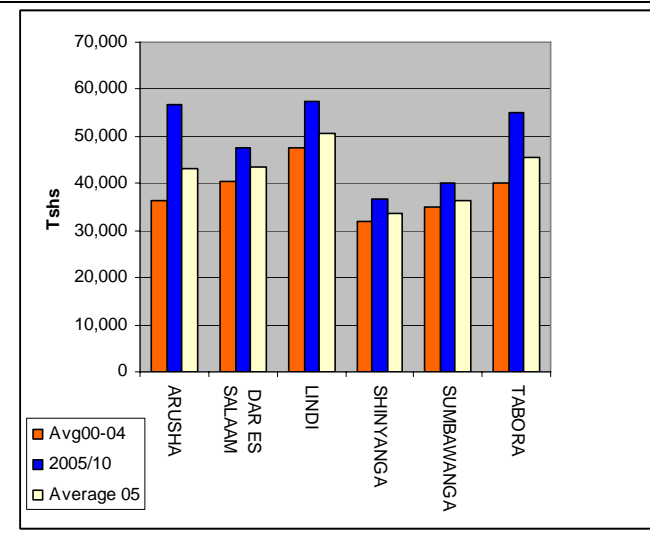


Figure 3: October 2005 Beans Prices Compared to Long term average and current year average in TShs per 100 Kg



According to the fishery monitors at landing stations, both marine and freshwater fish catches have decreased to below normal levels. At the Dar es Salaam station (the main marine fish landing station), the abnormal windy weather has affected the distance to which the small artisan fishers could go to fish (most of fishers use small boats and cannot go far during the windy weather). Also, an increase in fuel costs has kept most fishermen from long distance fishing off the shores of Mafia and Kilwa (80% of the catch comes from Mafia, and 15 % from Kilwa, while 2% comes from Zanzibar, 1% from Tanga and 2% come from Bagamoyo). Prices for Nile perch at the Bukoba landing station were also reported have increased from (TShs.1400/- — 1450/-) to (TShs 1500/- — 1650/-) per kilo. The drop in catch landing has increased fish prices and consequently affects the ability of poor households to access adequate protein. This has also affected the incomes of all groups whose livelihoods depend on fishing (fishers, middlemen and fish mongers).