

TANZANIA Food Security Outlook

February to July 2007

Executive summary

- Tanzania is currently generally food secure. Food is available in markets throughout the country, and below-average prices are enabling good household access to food. The good seasonal rains from November to February have improved pasture conditions. Localized flooding occurred following the heavy rains, but affected households are receiving assistance. Rift Valley Fever (RVF) has impacted livestock trade and reduced the incomes of households working in the livestock industry, but vaccination measures are controlling the spread of the disease.
- Food security is expected to improve through July. The *musimu* rains in unimodal areas will continue well through May, the *masika* rains in bimodal areas from March through June will be normal, and RVF will not spread further in this scenario. As a result, household access to food will be good and pastoralist incomes will continue to improve, leading to general food security throughout most of the country.
- In the worst-case scenario, the *musimu* rains in unimodal areas will end before May and the *masika* rains in bimodal areas will perform poorly. This will lead to below-average production that will reduce food availability and increase food prices. The spread of Cassava Mosaic Disease will reduce cassava production, which is an important substitute crop when the main harvests are poor. Additionally, the spread of RVF will further restrict livestock trade and impact incomes of pastoralists and households that work in the livestock industry. Food insecurity will increase throughout Tanzania, including levels of high and extreme household food insecurity.

Current food security situation

Tanzania is currently generally food secure, as food is available in markets and prices are stable and low compared to last year and the five-year average at this time. The *vuli* crops in the bimodal areas, which normally contribute 30 percent of national crop production in Tanzania, are being harvested. Households that rely on their own production are now food secure following the *vuli* harvest, and food access has improved for those that have to purchase their food. In the unimodal areas, low cereal prices have enabled easy access to

Figure 1: Current estimated food security conditions (March 2007)

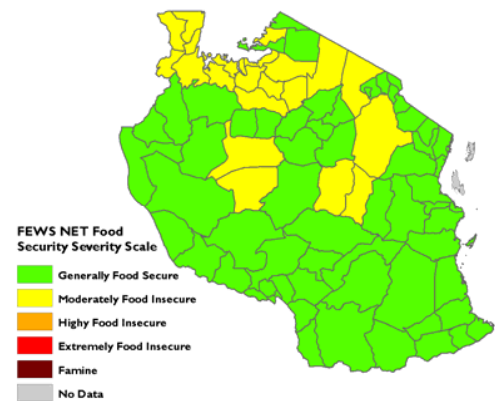


Figure 2: Most-likely scenario: Estimated food security conditions (July 2007)

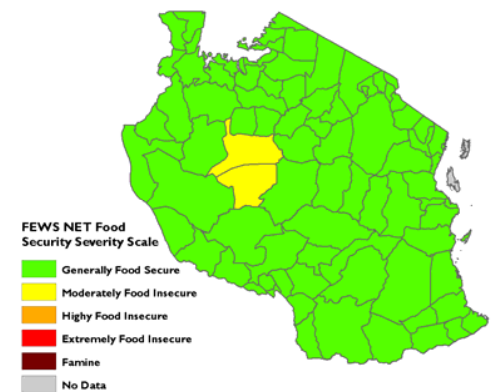
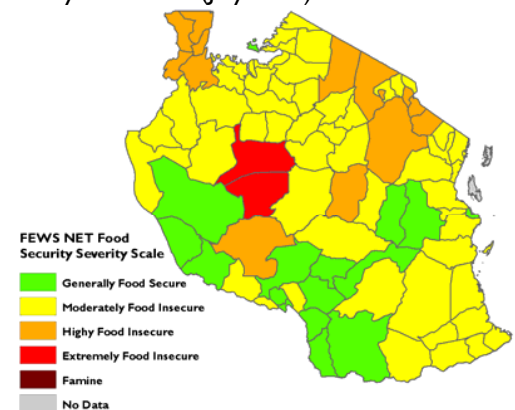


Figure 3: Worst-case scenario: Estimated food security conditions (July 2007)



food, and a good availability of green vegetables has increased the nutritional quality of meals in many households.

Pasture conditions and water levels in dams in the northeast have improved significantly. Overall, there is adequate forage for livestock, and the areas that experienced forage deficit during 2006 have recovered. The good pasture has improved animal conditions, which is improving terms of trade for pastoralist households.

However, localized areas of moderate food insecurity exist. Some households were affected by localized floods caused by heavy rains from November to January, but they are receiving assistance. Additionally, the RVF outbreak in northern and central areas is impacting the livestock trade and pastoralist income. Many people are refraining from eating red meat, decreasing the demand for livestock products, and livestock markets are constrained by the quarantine measures in the districts that have RVF outbreak. These effects have impacted all livelihoods that are dependent on the livestock trade, such as those involved in abattoirs, butcheries and the sale of fresh milk and roasted meat. Also, increases in the prices of substitute meats, such as chicken and fish, are restricting access for poor households. RVF has been confirmed in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Dodoma, Morogoro, Iringa and Singida regions, but the reduced demand to avoid contracting the disease from eating red meat has spread throughout most of the country. To date, 104 people have contracted the disease, 26 of whom have died.

Most-likely food security scenario

Food security is likely to improve in Tanzania through July, and most households will be generally food secure due to the expected increased food production resulting from the normal to above-normal rains across the country. The *musimu* rains in unimodal areas that began in 2006 will continue to perform well through the end of May, and the *masika* rains in bimodal areas from March to June will also perform well in this scenario, leading to above-average levels of production throughout the country.

The food security conditions of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are expected to improve, as the continued good rains will further improve pasture conditions. RVF will be controlled by government vaccination interventions, and no flooding is expected in this scenario (which enables the hatching of mosquitoes that transmit the disease).

However, the high production will likely cause prices to decrease even further, and the returns to farmers for their production will be low. Increased market avenues will be needed to absorb the surplus produced and to motivate farmers to continue to expand their production. Increased market access will also enable farmers to sell at more favorable prices.

Worst-case food security scenario

In the worst-case scenario, poor rainfall and disease outbreaks cause moderate levels of food insecurity throughout much of Tanzania, with pockets of high and extreme household food insecurity. The *musimu* rains will end early before the normal end-of-season in May, stressing crops and leading to low production in unimodal areas following the harvest in June. The *masika* rains in bimodal areas from March to June will also be below average. RVF will spread to more districts, and Cassava Mosaic Disease will spread further south into Kigoma, Morogoro, Lindi and Mtwara regions.

The poor rains will result in poor harvests throughout Tanzania, and prices will consequently rise three to four months after the harvest. The poor own production and increased prices will limit food access for poor households. In some areas, the deficit rains will compound the effects of recent flooding on crops and lead to extreme levels of household food insecurity. Insufficient vaccination resources could enable the spread of RVF, which will deplete herds through miscarriages and

Table I: Scenario indicators and triggers

Most-likely food security scenario

- Continued above-normal *musimu* rains in unimodal areas through May
- Normal *masika* rains in bimodal areas from March through June
- RVF is controlled

Worst-case food security scenario

- *Musimu* rains end early, before May
- *Masika* rains from March through June are below average
- RVF spreads further in the country
- Cassava Mosaic Disease spreads further south

further restrict livestock trade, preventing continued pastoralist recovery from the animal deaths that occurred in 2006 following severe drought. RVF will be particularly devastating if it affects people already suffering from HIV/AIDS, and the reduced consumption of protein will deteriorate the nutritional status of households unable to afford substitute meats. The spread of Cassava Mosaic Disease through the sharing of planting materials will cause significant production losses of the cassava crop. This will have a particularly strong impact on household food security in this scenario, as cassava is a main substitute crop when households face food shortages from poor rains.

The scenario could necessitate food aid or market interventions to save the livelihoods of affected people. The magnitude of intervention would be determined after preliminary harvest assessments in June.