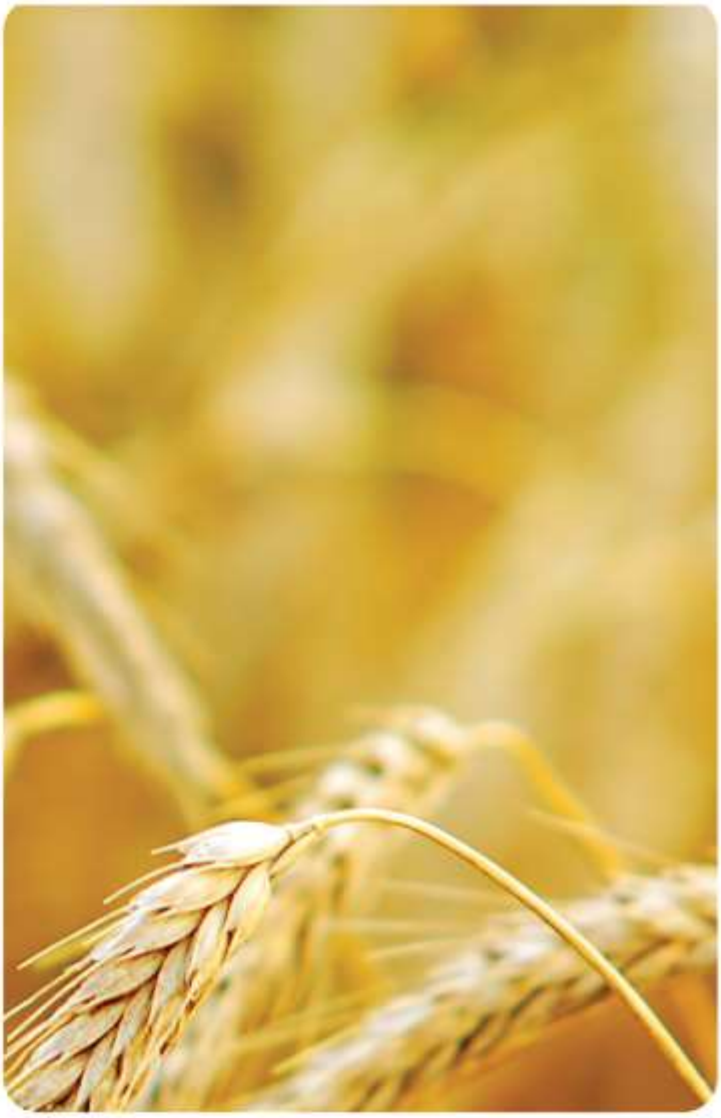
FOOD SECURITY MONITOR



EDITION 43 • DECEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024

AFRICA FOOD TRADE AND RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

The monthly Food Security Monitor is a critical tool for stakeholders across the African agricultural landscape. This report equips policymakers, practitioners, and the wider community with vital insights to navigate challenges, prioritize interventions, and ultimately build a more food-secure future for all. This 43rd edition provides an overview of the food security situation and market prices across East, South, and West Africa.

The Food Security Monitor is produced with support from the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) through the Africa Food Trade & Resilience Programme.

Contents

Summary

Our monthly Food Security Monitor is one way AGRA makes data available to key stakeholders to underpin evidence-based decision-making. Highlights from the December 2023 – January 2024 Food Security Monitor are summarised below:

Global Market Update

Globally, the FAO Food Price Index dipped 1% in January, driven by decreases in cereal and meat prices. Nonetheless, rice prices continue to rise due to a rise in prices of higher quality Indica rice from a strong pace of Thai and Pakistani shipments and additional purchases by Indonesia. For instance, the IGC GOI sub-index for rice rose 31.9% compared to the past one year. Due to attacks in the Red Sea and the return of piracy cases off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Guinea, commodity prices in Africa are expected to increase as shipping costs are passed onto consumers.

Regional Food Security Updates

Food insecurity persists across the monitored regions although with some improvements. In East Africa, 32.6 million people lacked sufficient food in January, down 4.2% from November 2023. Food security improved in Kenya and Uganda but remains dire in Ethiopia and South Sudan due to rising conflicts in the region. In Southern Africa, 21.6 million people lacked sufficient food in January, a 2.3% drop from November 2023. West Africa saw food insecurity rise, with 158.6 million food insecure people in January; this is an increment of 10.1 million people from what was recorded in November 2023, driven by conflict and macroeconomic woes.

Food Trade Updates

In East Africa, the governments of Malawi and Tanzania reversed their bans on maize and maize seed trade, citing sanitary concerns, respectively, in December 2023.

In Southern Africa, Zambia plans to build a new rail connection to link a Lake Tanganyika harbour to an existing line that runs to neighbouring Tanzania, boosting trade with three other nations that share borders with the world's longest freshwater lake.

In West Africa, the Government of Ghana plans to roll out a lending scheme at a subsidised interest rate of 10% to support Women-led businesses interested in exporting under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Meanwhile, the governments of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger have withdrawn their respective countries from the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS).

Food Commodity Prices Updates

Except for Ethiopia, food crop prices in the East African region are generally lower than they were 1-12 months due to increased supplies from ongoing harvests. In South Sudan, the national average prices of all monitored food crops remain higher than the same period a year ago, with cassava and groundnuts increasing the most by 65% and 72% respectively.

In Southern Africa, the prices of food commodities remain mostly elevated above their previous levels as the region is at the peak of its lean season. Malawi and Zambia have had significant increases in prices, with for instance, national average prices of maize being 62% and 66% higher than a year ago, respectively.

In West Africa, mixed trends are observed, with Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Niger mainly having lower prices, while Mali and Togo show stable prices. In Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire, changes in prices are mixed.

Introduction

The AGRA Food Security Monitor reviews and discusses changes in selected variables and their implications on food trade, and food and nutrition security. The discussions presented here focus on selected countries of interest to the AGRA Regional Food Trade and Resilience Initiative: East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda), Southern Africa (Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), and West Africa (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo).

Food Security Dashboard

The Food Security Dashboard (Table 1 and Figure 1) offers a concise overview of fluctuations in the number of people experiencing Insufficient Food Consumption (IFC)[1], snapshots of hunger hotspots, and average changes in food prices[2] over the past two years. ***Figure 1*** displays the prevalence of IFC in November across 17 countries selected from East, Southern, and West Africa. During this month, three food insecurity hotspots, defined as countries where over 50% of the total population has IFC, were identified, i.e., Burkina Faso (56.6%), Mali (69.1%), and Niger (82.6%) with Nigeria inching towards this mark at 49.7%. Notably, compared to the previous year, the number of people with IFC decreased in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, and Uganda On the other hand, the average national maize prices, compared to the past six months declined in most countries, except in Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zambia.

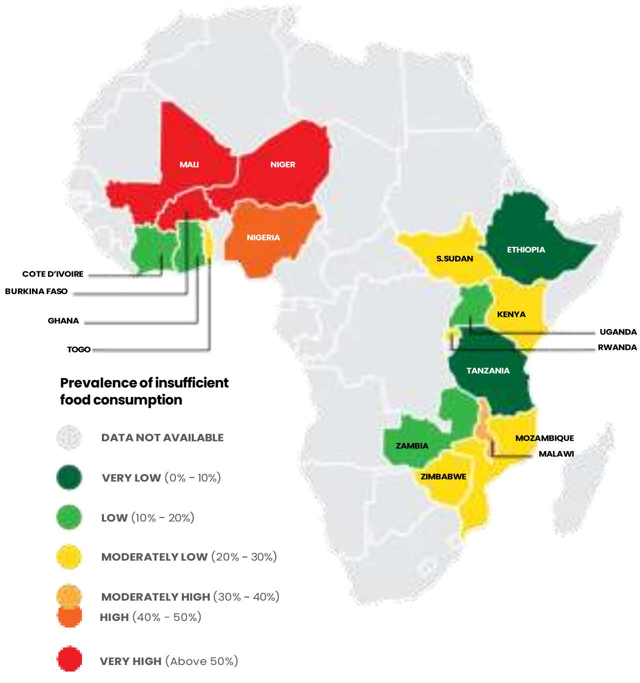
Mali's national average price of millet also rose by 1.96%. Similarly, compared to the past year, the national average prices of maize increased in most countries except Burkina Faso, Ghana, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, and Uganda, as well as millet in Mali.

Table 1: Insufficient Food Consumption and Commodities Price Changes

Country	Change in people with insufficient food consumption from last 1 year (%)		Change in people with insufficient food consumption from last 2 years (%)		Commodity Price Changes in the last 6 months (%)		Commodity Price Changes in the last 1 year (%)	
Burkina Faso	-4.27	↓	-2.61	↓	-2.98	↓	-4.99	↓
Cote d'Ivoire	9.09	↑	-11.11	↓	14.73	↑	18.48	↑
Ethiopia					-5.56	↓	35.12	↑
Ghana	-19.40	↓	0.00	○	-45.07	↓	-24.79	↓
Kenya	52.81	↑			-10.26	↓	1.18	↑
Malawi	74.36	↑	195.65	↑	57.13	↑	62.45	↑
Mali*	-5.04	↓	10.92	↑	1.96	↑	-17.33	↓
Mozambique	20.63	↑	13.43	↑	52.23	↑	40.30	↑
Niger	18.89	↑	63.36	↑	-20.81	↓	11.76	↑
Nigeria	69.24	↑	78.86	↑	37.28	↑	66.71	↑
Rwanda	-6.67	↓	12.00	↑	-17.98	↓	-25.01	↓
South Sudan	-48.39	↓	-51.52	↓	-11.29	↓	31.68	↑
Tanzania	-9.09	↓	16.28	↑	-26.69	↓	-35.90	↓
Togo	-29.63	↓	-9.52	↓	-14.49	↓	-3.63	↓
Uganda	-51.52	↓	-43.26	↓	-31.64	↓	-33.00	↓
Zambia	135.71	↑	37.50	↑	47.32	↑	66.37	↑
Zimbabwe	8.33	↑	-23.53	↓				

Key: ○ No Change ↑ = increase ↓ = decrease

Figure 1: Hunger Hotspots Snapshot, January 2024



Source: Own analysis based on data from WFP (2024)

1 **People with insufficient food consumption (IFC) refers to those with poor or borderline food consumption, according to the Food Consumption Score (FCS)**. The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a proxy indicator for food security that measures the diversity of household diets, and how frequently food is consumed. The FCS is calculated using the frequency of consump- tion of eight food groups by a household over 7 days before the survey, using standardized weights for each of the food groups reflecting its respective nutrient density. It then classifies households as having 'poor', 'borderline' or 'acceptable' food consumption. **Poor food consumption** typically refers to households that do not consume staples and vegetables every day, and never, or very seldom, consume protein-rich food such as meat and dairy (FCS of less than 28). **Borderline food consumption** typically refers to households that consume staples and vegetables every day, accompanied by oils and pulses a few times a week (FCS of less than 42). **Acceptable food consumption** typically refers to households that consume staples and vegetables every day, frequently accompanied by oils and pulses, and occasionally meat, fish and dairy (FCS greater than 42).

2 Maize is the main commodity being tracked on this dashboard, except in Mali, where we use millet. It should be noted that the price changes presented here are average price changes over a number of selected markets, which implies that in certain markets, the prices may actually be higher or lower.

Global Market Update

Global trade is currently being affected by recent attacks on Red Sea shipping, geopolitical crises, and climate-related challenges.[3] Although the impact of these is yet to be felt on food prices in Africa, its impact on shipping costs is expected to have a snowball effect on the cost of agriculture inputs and products in the coming months.

The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI)(Figure 2) saw a dip of 1% in January, driven by decreases in the price indices for cereals and meat, which offset an increase in the sugar price index and marginal increases in the dairy and vegetable price indices.[4] The International Grain Council's (IGC) Grain and Oil Index (GOI) (Table 2) showed a decline in all major grains indices except that of rice which rose 1.46% and 31.9% compared to the past 1 and 12 months respectively, due to a rise in prices of higher quality Indica rice from a strong pace of Thai and Pakistani shipments and additional purchases by Indonesia.

Figure 2: FAO Food Price Index (FFPI)[5]

Table 2: IGC GOI Commodity Price Indices[6]

Jan 2000 = 100	30-Jan	% Change 1M	% Change 1Y
GOI	238.90	*-6.72*	*-22.68*
Wheat	219.34	*-2.25*	*-22.40*
Maize	211.53	*-6.86*	*-32.90*
Rice	265.55	*1.46*	*31.30*
Soyabeans	224.35	*-11.22*	*-27.10*
Barley	219.15	*-2.12*	*-28.52*

Global Fertilizer Prices

Overall, the prices of all selected types of fertilizer remain low compared to the same time last month and year (Table 3). Except for the price of DAP, which rose by 1.8%, all remaining types of fertilizer have experienced minor declines in January 2024, not exceeding 2%, compared to December 2023. Compared to January 2023, the prices of all monitored fertilizer types are between 6.5% and 28.7% lower.

Table 3: Global Fertilizer Prices ($/ton)[7]

Date Range	DAP	MAP	POTASH	UREA
Jan 23-Jan 27 2023	855	865	714	708
Feb 20-Feb 24 2023	836	834	673	666
Mar 20-Mar 24 2023	821	812	645	627
Apr 17-21 2023	826	812	643	626
May 15-19 2023	829	831	627	619
June 12-16 2023	823	832	621	624
July 10-14 2023	811	823	614	609
Aug 7-Aug 11 2023	758	764	566	576
Sep 4-8 2023	738	745	518	563
Oct 2-6 2023	705	791	508	573
Oct 30-Nov 3 2023	713	801	508	573
Nov 27-Dec 1 2023	715	820	518	552
Dec 25-29 2023	721	812	514	536
Jan 22-26 2024	734	809	509	527
% Change 29 Dec 2023 - 26 Jan 2024	1.8	-0.4	-1.0	-1.7
% Change Jan 2023 - Jan 2024	-14.2	-6.5	-28.7	-25.6

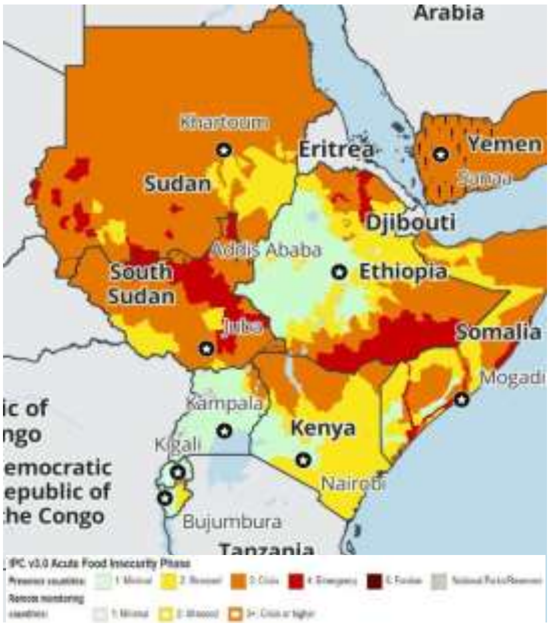
Source: *DTN*

3 UNCTAD Sounds the Alarm Over Unprecedented Disruptions to Global Trade (gcaptain.com)
4 https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/
5 FAO, 2024. Accessed at https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/
6 Author's construction based on data from IGC GOI, 2023. Accessed at https://www.igc.int/en/markets/marketinfo-goi.aspx
7 https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2024/01/30/six-fertilizers-lead-prices-lower

Food Insecurity Updates

East Africa Food Security Update

Figure 3: East African countries Food Security Outlook, November 2023 - January 2024



Ethiopia: Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes persist in parts of eastern, southern, and central Tigray as a result of failed meher harvest due to drought and conflicts, which is preventing the flow of food commodities from Addis/Oromia/Amhara highlands to the south.[8]

Kenya: The El Niño enhanced October-December short rains supported increased crop production activities and are expected to improve the food security situation in Kenya, with IPC Phase 1 and 2 conditions expected overall across the country. Nonetheless, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are still present in northwestern, northern, and northeastern pastoral livelihood zones.[9]

South Sudan: Despite ongoing harvests, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes persist across South Sudan, primarily driven by the impacts of conflict and/or flooding, rising returnee burden, and high food prices.

Uganda: Above-average second season bimodal harvest improves food security in Uganda, with IPC phase 1 and 2 outcomes mostly persisting across the country.

Prevalence of insufficient food consumption

As of January 31, 2024, 32.6 million people across five selected East African countries (excluding Ethiopia) (see Table 4) did not have sufficient food for consumption, representing a 4.2% drop from the November 2023 level (34 million) (which also excludes Ethiopia). This indicates an improvement in the food security situation across the monitored countries, with most countries contributing to this trend. Notably, 8.88% (Tanzania) and 29.09% (South Sudan) of the total population have insufficient food for consumption. However, the number of people insecure about food in the region is lower than in 2023 (40.1 million) and 2022 (34.3 million).

Table 4 below provides updates on variations in the prevalence of insufficient food consumption across the selected East African countries in January 2024.

Table 4: Prevalence of insufficient food consumption across selected East African countries (January 2024)[10]

Country	Total Population (millions)	People with insufficient food consumption (millions)*	People with insufficient food consumption (millions)**	Percentage of total population with insufficient food for consumption (%)	Change in people with insufficient food consumption from previous month (%)	Change in people with insufficient food consumption from 1yr ago (%)	Change in people with insufficient food consumption from 2yrs ago (%)
Ethiopia	101.10		23.20				
Kenya	51.40	13.60	14.20	26.46	-4.23	52.81	100.00
Rwanda	12.30	2.80	3.50	22.76	-20.00	-6.67	12.00
South Sudan	11.00	3.20	3.30	29.09	-3.03	-48.39	-51.52
Tanzania	56.30	5.00	4.70	8.88	6.38	-9.09	16.28
Uganda	42.70	8.00	8.30	18.74	-3.61	-51.52	-43.26

*Current month and **Previous month

= No change; = Low increase (0-10%); = Moderate increase (10-30%); = High increase (>30%)

= Low decrease (0-10%); = Moderate decrease (10-30%); = High decrease (>30%)

8 East Africa Food Security Outlook, December 2023 - Ethiopia | ReliefWeb

9 https://fews.net/east-africa/kenya

10 https://hungermap.wfp.org/

Commodity Prices

***Key drivers of commodity prices in EA*[11]**

	Conflicts	Conflicts and insecurity persist particularly in South Sudan and Ethiopia preventing price recovery from high levels despite ongoing harvests.
	Seasonal Dynamics	Seasonal harvests are increasing supplies in most markets and resulting in price declines. However, droughts and flooding have negatively impacted harvests and prevented price recovery in certain areas.
	Macroeconomic Shocks	Poor macroeconomic conditions, an influx of returned refugees, and localized poor harvests have particularly sustained higher prices in South Sudan.

Ethiopia

Overall, the prices of food commodities remain elevated across all monitored markets of Ethiopia due mostly to drought and conflicts (Table 5). Compared to December 2023, prices in January 2024 had declined only in Nekemte Town and Shashemene Town for sorghum, Bahir Dar Kebele for maize, and Shashemene Town for wheat. The prices of most commodities remain well above their one-year levels, with majority of markets registering more than 50% increment.

***Table 5: Percentage Changes in prices in Ethiopia*[12]**

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
NPS 19-38-0 + 7S	National Average, USD/50KG	35.19	1.38	4.14	3.87	-12.66
NPSB 18.9-37.7-0 + 6.95S + 0.1B	National Average, USD/50KG	35.31	1.38	4.10	4.01	-13.31
Red Teff (Quintal)	Bahir Dar kebele 04, Retail, ETB/100kg*	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	30.72	94.81
Red Teff (Quintal)	Bale Robe, Retail, ETB/100kg*	10,775.00	9.39	11.66	53.38	100.47
Red Teff (Quintal)	Hawassa , Retail, ETB/100kg*	11,725.00	4.22	20.41	61.72	
Red Teff (Quintal)	Hosaena, Retail, ETB/100kg*	11,333.33	3.03	5.92	39.92	101.18
Red Teff (Quintal)	Nekemte Town, Retail, ETB/100kg*	9,775.00	2.36	3.99	44.28	109.46
Red Teff (Quintal)	Shashemene Town, Retail, ETB/100kg*	10,620.00	9.11	9.86	38.82	97.40
Sorghum (Quintal)	Bale Robe, Retail, ETB/100kg*	4,262.50	3.33	8.25	3.65	30.65
Sorghum (Quintal)	Hawassa , Retail, ETB/100kg*	6,500.00	0.00	19.27	62.50	
Sorghum (Quintal)	Hosaena, Retail, ETB/100kg*	4,500.00	5.88	-3.57	28.57	50.00
Sorghum (Quintal)	Nekemte Town, Retail, ETB/100kg*	4,200.00	-4.00	-5.33	13.21	52.54
Sorghum (Quintal)	Shashemene Town, Retail, ETB/100kg*	4,650.00	-0.27	-10.58	0.54	32.10
Urea	National Average, USD/50KG	35.64	1.37	4.06	4.30	-14.70
White Maize (Quintal)	Bahir Dar kebele 04, Retail, ETB/100kg*	4,600.00	-8.00	-8.00	2.22	46.81
White Maize (Quintal)	Bale Robe, Retail, ETB/100kg*	3,925.00	7.53	0.64	-16.13	21.71
White Maize (Quintal)	Hawassa , Retail, ETB/100kg*	4,500.00	5.88	-16.67	2.27	
White Maize (Quintal)	Hosaena, Retail, ETB/100kg*	4,000.00	5.96	-13.04	-9.09	27.66
White Maize (Quintal)	Nekemte Town, Retail, ETB/100kg*	3,408.75	13.48	-8.12	-6.48	40.28
White Maize (Quintal)	Shashemene Town, Retail, ETB/100kg*	4,480.00	13.42	17.89	-6.18	39.13
White Teff (Quintal)	Bahir Dar kebele 04, Retail, ETB/100kg*	13,750.00	6.60	14.58	43.23	117.11
White Teff (Quintal)	Hawassa , Retail, ETB/100kg*	12,850.00	4.05	23.86	50.59	
White Teff (Quintal)	Hosaena, Retail, ETB/100kg*	12,500.00	10.62	13.12	43.68	111.86
White Teff (Quintal)	Nekemte Town, Retail, ETB/100kg*	12,000.00	3.67	0.63	36.75	106.90
White Teff (Quintal)	Shashemene Town, Retail, ETB/100kg*	12,900.00	9.79	28.96	65.92	128.32
White Wheat (Quintal)	Bahir Dar kebele 04, Retail, ETB/100kg*	8,750.00	4.48	9.38	59.09	75.00
White Wheat (Quintal)	Bale Robe, Retail, ETB/100kg*	5,975.00	28.49	-3.24	22.25	71.94
White Wheat (Quintal)	Hawassa , Retail, ETB/100kg*	8,000.00	0.31	0.00	23.08	
White Wheat (Quintal)	Hosaena, Retail, ETB/100kg*	6,566.67	18.32	3.68	23.13	45.93
White Wheat (Quintal)	Nekemte Town, Retail, ETB/100kg*	6,699.00	7.98	26.85	45.00	69.17
White Wheat (Quintal)	Shashemene Town, Retail, ETB/100kg*	6,820.00	-5.93	3.33	14.14	46.98

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023
= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),
= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

11 https://fews.net/east-africa .

12 Author's construction based on Ethiopia's Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency data. http://www.nmis.et/#/

Kenya

Generally, the prices of food commodities in selected markets of Kenya show lower trends compared to the past 1-12 months. The average national price of beans, finger millet, rice, and white maize was lower in January 2024 compared to the past 1-12 months. This is due to increased season supplies and cross-border imports from Tanzania and Uganda.[13] However, wheat prices were higher by 19.46% and 17.65% than in the past 1 and 3 months, respectively. Also, the price of white Irish potato was 22.41% higher than the previous month. The prices of all fertilizers generally declined in the past 1-12 months, except CAN, which remains higher than 3-12 months ago. This may be partly due to increased supplies from donation of 16,000 Mt from Algeria.[14]

Table 6: Percentage Changes in prices in Kenya[15]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Beans (Yellow-Green)	National Average, Retail, KES/KG*	162.23	-11.22	-14.16	-17.56	-9.89
Beans Red Haricot (Wairimu)	National Average, Retail, KES/KG*	122.14	-14.31	-21.67	-17.90	-3.91
Fertilizer (CAN)	National Average, Retail, KES/KG*	138.59	-52.91	39.29	39.52	24.26
Fertilizer (DAP)	National Average, Retail, KES/KG*	126.67	-58.76	-41.95	8.29	-3.05
Fertilizer (NPK)	National Average, Retail, KES/KG*	103.30	-43.33	4.11	8.60	-13.01
Finger Millet	National Average, Retail, KES/KG*	117.68	-6.96	-4.68	-3.83	-11.28
Rice	National Average, Retail, KES/KG*	131.89	-7.46	-13.74	-13.78	-21.66
Wheat	National Average, Retail, KES/KG*	60.00	19.46	17.65	-27.63	-42.32
White Irish Potatoes	National Average, Retail, KES/KG*	57.26	22.41	-21.98	4.42	-23.57
White Maize	National Average, Retail, KES/KG*	89.41	-39.27	-1.07	-10.26	1.18

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

Rwanda

Overall, food crop prices are lower than they were 1-12 months ago due to increased supplies from ongoing harvests. Beans prices show significant drops between 12% and 55%, whereas maize prices were between 3% and 35% across the comparison periods, except for a moderate increase of 5.65% in Kabuga. On the other hand, sorghum prices were primarily high in Kigeme and Mugera across almost all periods.

Table 7: Percentage Changes in prices in Rwanda[16]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Bean (dry)	Kabuga, Retail, RWF/KG*	466.67	-18.60	-55.97	-55.20	-43.24
Bean (dry)	Kigeme, Retail, RWF/KG*	575.00	-20.23	-52.01	-50.65	-47.50
Bean (dry)	Mugera, Retail, RWF/KG*	433.33	-12.61	-54.78	-54.94	-55.48
Bean (dry)	Nyabiheke (Camp), Retail, RWF/KG*	461.11	-18.01	-55.97	-58.00	-51.00
Maize (white)	Kabuga, Retail, RWF/KG*	483.33	5.65	-23.31	-28.87	-18.88
Maize (white)	Kigeme, Retail, RWF/KG*	525.00	-3.08	-20.42	-12.99	-11.31
Maize (white)	Mugera, Retail, RWF/KG*	391.67	-26.56	-24.76	-13.04	-34.78
Maize (white)	Nyabiheke (Camp), Retail, RWF/KG*	416.67	-21.53	-26.01	-17.01	-35.06
Sorghum	Kabuga, Retail, RWF/KG	700.00	0.00	-2.33	7.69	-3.45
Sorghum	Kigeme, Retail, RWF/KG	700.00	-9.68	6.33	7.69	-3.45
Sorghum	Mugera, Retail, RWF/KG	700.00	3.70	14.29	16.67	30.23
Sorghum	Nyabiheke (Camp), Retail, RWF/KG	600.00	0.00		0.00	100.00

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

13 https://fews.net/east-africa/kenya

14 RATIN | News | Algeria donates 16,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer to Kenya

15 Ministry of Agriculture, Livesto bck, Fisheries and Co-operatives, Kenya (2024)

16 Author's construction based on data from WFP (2024).

South Sudan

Mixed trends have been observed for the national average prices of selected food crops in South Sudan (Table 8). Whereas the national average price of groundnuts remained elevated above what was recorded in the past 1-12 months, maize price is lower than in the past 1-6 months, driven by increased supplies from ongoing harvests. Compared to November 2023, the prices registered in December 2023 are also lower for sorghum, while cassava and wheat flour prices only experienced a low surge (0-5%). Overall, the national average prices of all monitored food crops remain higher than in the same period a year ago, with groundnuts increasing the most by 72%. Combined incidences of conflicts, rising returnee burden, and extreme weather conditions continue to hamper agriculture and trading activities, putting upward pressure on prices.[17]

Table 8: Percentage Changes in prices in South Sudan[18]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Cassava	National Average, Retail, SSP/Kg	691.64	4.91	-3.97	6.56	65.15
Groundnuts	National Average, Retail, SSP/Kg	1,926.25	10.22	15.44	-12.12	72.04
Maize (white	National Average, Retail, SSP/Kg	673.07	-12.54	-4.30	-11.29	31.68
Sorghum (Feterita)	National Average,Retail, SSP/Kg	748.07	-17.92	1.20	-5.95	31.39
Wheat (flour)	National Average, Retail, SSP/Kg	1,638.15	2.39	-6.92	-30.18	33.41

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

Tanzania

Except for sorghum and wheat, the national average prices of all selected food commodities in Tanzania had declined due to improvements in seasonal supplies (Table 9). Maize, in particular, has had significant drops ranging from 12.18% to 35.9%, followed by Irish potato, which also dropped between 9.75% and 29.71% compared to the past 1-12 months. Conversely, sorghum and wheat have surged, with sorghum rising the most between 5.72% and 27.03 compared to the past 1-12 months.

Table 9: Percentage Changes in prices in Tanzania[19]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Beans (Maharage)	National Average, Wholesale, TZS/100KG*	250,000.00	-8.69	-5.94	-6.79	-16.67
Finger Millet (Ulezi)	National Average, Wholesale, TZS/100KG*	155,000.00	-3.13	-6.12	-2.88	-15.12
Irish Potato (local)	National Average, Wholesale, TZS/100KG*	75,000.00	-9.75	-9.86	-29.38	-29.71
Maize (Mahindi)	National Average, Wholesale, TZS/100KG*	75,000.00	-12.18	-15.92	-26.69	-35.90
Rice (Mchele)	National Average, Wholesale, TZS/100KG*	237,500.00	-9.94	-10.14	-6.35	-18.72
Sorghum (Mtama)	National Average, Wholesale, TZS/100KG*	156,250.00	27.03	18.37	5.72	6.29
Wheat (Ngano)	National Average, Wholesale, TZS/100KG	188,300.00	1.07	16.96	-2.49	-2.64

Note: Last price is for October 2023, *November, **September, ***August, and ****June

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

17 https://fews.net/east-africa/south-sudan

18 Author's construction based on data from FAO (2024).

19 Author's construction based on data from the Ministry of Agriculture, Tanzania Monthly Market Bulletin

Uganda

Overall, except beans in Mbale and millet in Gulu, the prices of food commodities in all monitored markets remain lower than they were in the past 1-12 months and are expected to remain so in the next 3-6 months (Table 10). Increased supplies from second season harvests largely support this downward trend.[20] Compared to the previous month, however, the prices of beans and millet in Gulu have seen low (0-5%) increases.

Table 10: Percentage Changes in prices in Uganda[21]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	Next 3 Months*	Next 6 Months*
Beans	Gulu, Wholesale, UGX/KG	5,700.00	3.64	-5.00	-14.65	0.71	-46.76	-43.79
Beans	Lira, Wholesale, UGX/KG	2,933.00	-11.12	-35.89	-34.82	-16.20	-39.22	-18.41
Beans	Mbale, Wholesale, UGX/KG	5,000.00	8.70	17.65	-4.76	42.86	-50.55	-59.62
Beans	Mbarara, Wholesale, UGX/KG	4,500.00	-4.26	-10.00	-18.18	12.50	-51.00	-31.86
Maize	Gulu, Wholesale, UGX/KG	1,360.00	-3.61	-3.82	-29.64	-32.00	-0.70	-0.81
Maize	Lira, Wholesale, UGX/KG	700.00	-8.74	-36.36	-56.92	-53.33	13.96	60.80
Maize	Mbale, Wholesale, UGX/KG	1,200.00	0.00	-5.88	-40.00	-46.67	-22.76	-20.30
Maize	Mbarara, Wholesale, UGX/KG	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-55.46	-38.22
Millet	Gulu, Retail, UGX/KG	2,550.00	2.00	7.55	-56.20	-36.25	-19.48	4.80
Millet	Lira, Millet, UGX/KG	2,000.00	0.00	-9.09	-56.99	0.00	-40.12	-38.27
Millet	Mbarara, Retail, UGX/KG	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	-25.00	0.00	-24.78	-10.90

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

Seasonal Monitor and Crop Yield Forecasts

In **Kenya**, El Niño enhanced October to December short rains supported increased crop production activities despite the historic drought and widespread floodings.[22] Conditions in over 40% of the country's counties driven by strong El Nino conditions threaten good harvests[23].

In **Uganda**, above-average harvests across the country have supported improved prices and improved food security situation.[24] In **Ethiopia**, the meher harvest is improving access to food for most people while in the conflict-affected north below-average harvests were recorded due to droughts.[25]

In **South Sudan**, harvests are ongoing, although estimated to be below average due to sustained conflicts and weather-related challenges.[26]

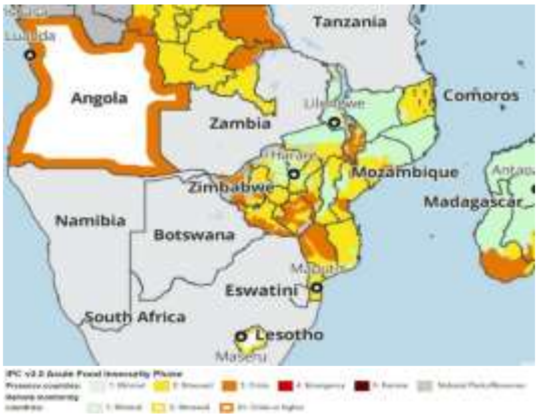
Meanwhile, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) seasonal rainfall forecast for February to April 2024 shows that there will be:

- Wetter than usual conditions are expected over northern Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, southern South Sudan, much of Ethiopia, Somalia, and Djibouti.
- Drier than usual conditions are expected over southern areas of Tanzania and localized regions in Ethiopia.
- The rest of the region is generally dry during this season.

20 https://fews.net/east-africa/uganda
21 Author's construction based on data from WFP (2024).
22 https://fews.net/east-africa/kenya
23 https://fews.net/east-africa/kenya
24 https://fews.net/east-africa/uganda
25 East Africa Food Security Outlook, December 2023 - Ethiopia | ReliefWeb
26 https://fews.net/east-africa/south-sudan

Southern Africa Food Security Update

Figure 4: Southern Africa countries Food Security Outlook, October 2023 - January 2024



Malawi: Generally, the food security situation has improved across the country with IPC Phase 2 and 3 conditions prevailing due to increased humanitarian assistance.[27]

Mozambique: IPC Phase 2 and 3 conditions persist across the country, driven by the aftermath of extreme weather conditions in 2023 and conflicts in parts of the country.

Zimbabwe: IPC Phase 3 outcomes persist in deficit-producing areas due to the increasing cost of living and the effect of the lean season, while IPC Phase 1 and 2 conditions are occurring in surplus-producing areas due to own-produced stocks from 2023. Meanwhile, the current grain supply in Zimbabwe is anticipated to only cover four months.[28]

Prevalence of insufficient food consumption

As of January 31, 2024, 21.6 million people across four selected Southern African countries (see Table 11) did not have sufficient food for consumption, which is a 2.3% improvement in the region's food security situation compared to November 2023 (22.1 million people). All countries, except Malawi, contributed to this downward trend during this period. Malawi has the highest population (37.57%) not having sufficient food for consumption, while Zambia has the lowest (18.97%)

However, the current number of food insecure people is higher than recorded in the same period last year (15.2 million) and 2022 (16.5 million).

Table 11: Prevalence of insufficient food consumption in selected Southern African Countries (January 2024)[29]

Country	Total Population (millions)	People with insufficient food consumption (millions)*	People with insufficient food consumption (millions)**	Percentage of total population with insufficient food for consumption (%)	Change in people with insufficient food consumption from previous month (%)	Change in people with insufficient food consumption from 1yr ago (%)	Change in people with insufficient food consumption from 2yrs ago (%)
Malawi	18.10	6.80	4.60	37.57	47.83 ↑	74.36 ↑	195.65 ↑
Mozambique	29.50	7.60	8.40	25.76	-9.52 ↘	20.63 ↑	13.43 ↑
Zambia	17.40	3.30	4.00	18.97	-17.50 ↓	135.71 ↑	37.50 ↑
Zimbabwe	15.20	3.90	5.10	25.66	-23.53 ↓	8.33 ↗	-23.53 ↓

**Current month and **Previous month*

● = *no change;* ↗ = *low increase (0-5%),* ↑ = *moderate increase (5-15%),* ↑ = *high increase (>15%),*
↘ = *low decrease (0-5%),* ↓ = *moderate decrease (5-15%),* ↓ = *high decrease (>15%)*

27 https://fews.net/southern-africa/malawi

28 Zim left with four months grain supply -Newsday Zimbabwe

29 https://hungermap.wfp.org/

Commodity Prices

Key drivers of prices in the Southern Africa region[30]

	Seasonality Patterns	Most Southern African countries are experiencing seasonal declines in grain supplies as the lean season takes full effect, putting upward pressure on prices.
	Weather Shocks	The aftermath of the cyclone, drought shocks, and heavy flooding early in the planting season led to below-average harvests from the just-ended season, resulting in higher food prices.
	Macroeconomic Shocks	Poor macroeconomic conditions, caused by forex shortages, high food inflation, and high debt repayments, are driving high food prices.

Malawi

Overall, the prices of food commodities remain elevated as the lean season takes full effect with the national average price of maize 62.45% above the one-year average and Lilongwe registering 180% above its one-year level (Table 12). Maize shortages are being reported as stocks held by private traders, the government-run Agriculture Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC), and the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) remain insufficient. In addition, worsening macro- and microeconomic conditions, and increasing transportation costs.[31]

Table 12: Percentage Changes in prices in Malawi[32]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Cassava	Mzuzu, MWK/Kg****	1,480.00	11.28	21.39	5.11	50.10
Maize	Lilongwe, MWK/Kg****	700.00	-6.67	54.70	9.80	180.00
Maize	Liwonde, MWK/Kg**	864.00	2.98	11.99	53.33	75.47
Maize	Mzimba, MWK/Kg**	647.00	3.98	14.41	64.32	68.84
Maize	Mzuzu, MWK/Kg**	635.00	5.66	11.65	28.93	54.50
Maize	National Average, MWK/Kg**	744.00	3.77	8.81	57.13	62.45
Maize	Nsanje, MWK/Kg**	770.00	3.74	13.15	90.95	59.94
Rice	Lilongwe, MWK/Kg****	1,600.00	-4.48	-3.03	6.67	14.29
Rice	Mzuzu, MWK/Kg****	1,800.00	4.05	4.50	0.00	33.33

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

Mozambique

The prices of food commodities in selected markets of Mozambique have remained fairly stable for at least the past month. However, compared to the past 6-12 months, the prices of the monitored commodities are generally higher. This is largely due to reducing stocks as the lean season peaks and the cumulative impacts of previous climatic shocks and high fuel and transportation costs.[33]

30 FEWSNET, 2024. https://fews.net/southern-africa.

31 https://fews.net/southern-africa/malawi

32 Author's construction based on data from FAO (2024).

Table 13: Percentage Changes in prices in Mozambique[34]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	Next 3 Months*	Next 6 Months*
Maize (white)	Mandimba, Retail, MZN/KG	30.00	5.01	12.49	100.00	75.03	-42.75	-11.84
Maize (white)	Maputo, Retail, MZN/KG	34.29	0.00	20.02	50.00	50.00	-13.38	-20.82
Maize (white)	Mocuba, Retail, MZN/KG	31.28	8.35	8.35	73.30	30.01	-35.64	-11.60
Maize (white)	Montepuez, Retail, MZN/KG	28.57	0.00	0.00	15.39	53.85	9.48	28.80
Maize (white)	Panda, Retail, MZN/KG	28.00	-2.00	-18.34	22.48	-7.41	7.65	9.92
Rice (imported)	Maputo, Retail, MZN/KG	50.00	0.00	-2.44	0.00	0.00	-3.35	0.01
Rice (imported)	Mocuba, Retail, MZN/KG	60.00	0.00	0.00	9.09	20.00	-12.96	-14.28
Rice (imported)	Montepuez, Retail, MZN/KG	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.09	-28.23	-26.45
Rice (imported)	Panda, Retail, MZN/KG	62.50	17.19	-1.31	17.19	20.48	-18.62	-18.52

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

Zambia

The national average price of maize in Zambia remains elevated above the past 1-12 months' levels as the lean season takes full effect (Table 14). The current price is above the past month's and year's levels by 5.69% and 66.37%, respectively. Similarly, fertilizer prices are moderately higher than the past 1-3 months' level by between 1% and 6.79%, although below what was recorded a year ago by between 5% and 8%.

Table 14: Percentage Changes in prices in Zambia[35]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Maize (white)	National Average, Retail, Kwacha/KG	7.30	5.69	21.38	47.32	66.37
NPK 10-20-10 + 6S	National, ZMW/50KG**	863.60	5.57	6.79	-2.09	-5.23
Urea	National, ZMW/50KG**	858.67	4.12	4.67	1.02	-8.26

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

Seasonal Monitor and Crop Yield Forecasts

In **Malawi**, improved rainfall is helping cropping conditions. Specifically, below-average rainfall is expected in southern Malawi, driven by El Niño conditions, while rainfall in parts of central and northern Malawi are expected to be average to above average.

In **Mozambique**, cropping conditions are good even though El Niño conditions have delayed the start of the season, and in addition to localized flooding, it is expected that the crop-growing season and harvests will be affected.[36]

In **Zimbabwe**, despite the above-average cumulative rainfall, erratic rainfall in the south, east, west, and extreme north, has resulted in an overall area planted for staple foods being lower than usual across the country, particularly in the south.[37]

33 https://fews.net/southern-africa/mozambique

34 https://fews.net/southern-africa/mozambique

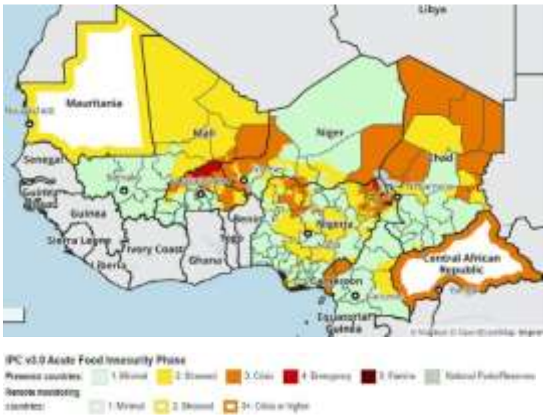
35 Author's construction based on data from WFP (2024).

36 https://fews.net/southern-africa/mozambique

37 https://fews.net/southern-africa/zimbabwe

West Africa Food Security Update

Figure 5: West African countries Food Security Outlook, October 2023 - January 2024



Burkina Faso: Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) conditions are likely occurring in northern Burkina Faso, particularly those areas under blockade, due to persistent conflicts and suspension of humanitarian assistance.[38]

Niger: Largely, IPC Phase 3 outcomes persist across the country due to the depletion of cereal stocks in poor households and the rise in food prices, worsened by the economic and commercial sanctions applied by ECOWAS and UEMOA and further complicated by the definitive withdrawal from ECOWAS by Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso.

Nigeria: IPC Phase 3 outcomes persist in most conflict affected areas of Nigeria, aggravated by poor macroeconomic conditions.[39] In **Mali**, seasonal improvement in household access to food and the seasonal drop in cereal prices are sustaining IPC 2 conditions in some parts of the country while IPC 3 conditions prevail in other parts due to difficulties in accessing usual sources of income and food, and humanitarian assistance as a result of insecurity.[40]

Prevalence of insufficient food consumption

As of January 31, 2024, 158.6 million people across seven selected West African countries (see Table 15) had insufficient food for consumption. This is an increment of 10.1 million people (6.8%) from what was recorded in November 2023 (148.5 million) and an indication of deterioration in the food security situation across the monitored countries. The prevalence of insufficient food consumption remains significantly high in Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso, with as high as 82.63%, 69.11%, and 56.57% of their populations, respectively, found in this category. This figure is also substantially above last year's period (116.9 million people) and two years ago (105.7 million people).

Table 15: Prevalence of insufficient food consumption in selected West African countries (January 2024)[41]

Country	Total Population (millions)	People with insufficient food consumption (millions)*	People with insufficient food consumption (millions)**	Percentage of total population with insufficient food for consumption (%)	Change in people with insufficient food consumption from previous month (%)	Change in people with insufficient food consumption from 1yr ago (%)	Change in people with insufficient food consumption from 2yrs ago (%)
Burkina Faso	19.80	11.20	11.00	56.57	1.82	-4.27	-2.61
Cote d'Ivoire	29.40	4.80	4.80	16.33	0.00	9.09	-11.11
Ghana	29.80	5.40	5.40	18.12	0.00	-19.40	0.00
Mali	19.10	13.20	13.20	69.11	0.00	-5.04	10.92
Niger	25.90	21.40	22.00	82.63	-2.73	18.89	63.36
Nigeria	202.80	100.70	90.20	49.65	11.64	69.24	78.86
Togo	7.90	1.90	1.90	24.05	0.00	-29.63	-9.52

*Current month and **Previous month

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

38 https://fews.net/west-africa/burkina-faso

39 https://fews.net/west-africa/nigeria

40 https://fews.net/west-africa/mali

41 https://hungermap.wfp.org/

Commodity prices

Key drivers of the price movements in West Africa include[42]

	Insecurity & Armed Conflicts	Conflict and insecurity in parts of West Africa continue to disrupt agriculture, trade, and food assistance activities, resulting in higher food prices.
	Macroeconomic Challenges	Poor macroeconomic conditions, driven by local currency depreciations and high fuel and transport costs, are increasing food prices in some West African countries.
	Seasonal Dynamics	Seasonal harvests in most West African countries are improving food availability, hence lowering or stabilizing prices in these countries.

Burkina Faso

Generally, the prices of monitored commodities in selected markets of Burkina Faso show a decline or marginal increases compared to the past 1-12 months (Table 16). Compared to the previous month, the prices of maize were only significantly up by 11.38% and 14.29% in Faramana and Ouargaye respectively, while millet prices were only significantly 5.86% and 5.88% higher in Gourcy and Ouargaye. Compared to the same time a year ago, only maize registered a moderate increase of 9.61% and 14.89% in Dori and Ouargaye respectively. The prices of these commodities are expected to remain low in the next three months but will begin to climb up in the next six months.

Table 16: Percentage Changes in prices in Burkina Faso[43]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	Next 3 Months*	Next 6 Months*
Maize	Batié, Retail, XOF/KG	239.00	-4.78	-7.00	-12.13	-16.14	-21.95	-14.46
Maize	Bousse, Retail, XOF/KG	225.00	0.00	-9.64	-9.27	-9.27	0.81	1.12
Maize	Dori, Retail, XOF/KG	308.00	0.98	-14.68	-9.68	9.61	-11.56	-5.42
Maize	Faramana, Retail, XOF/KG	137.00	11.38	-15.95	7.03	-15.43	7.69	5.90
Maize	Gourcy, Retail, XOF/KG	252.00	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-3.08	-9.42	0.09
Maize	Ouagadougo (Sankaryare), Retail, XOF/KG	241.00	-3.98	-6.59	-2.82	0.00	-3.58	15.04
Maize	Ouargaye, Retail, XOF/KG	216.00	14.29	0.93	-2.26	14.89	-26.79	-23.76
Maize	Titao, Retail, XOF/KG	333.00	-4.86	-6.72	5.71	-20.53	-38.52	-27.40
Millet	Batié, Retail, XOF/KG	410.00	-3.53	-6.39	2.76	1.99	-21.08	-29.99
Millet	Bousse, Retail, XOF/KG	294.00	-1.67	3.89	0.34	-18.11	-27.41	0.76
Millet	Dori, Retail, XOF/KG	359.00	1.13	-8.65	-7.71	-11.79	-5.39	-1.72
Millet	Faramana, Retail, XOF/KG	187.00	-10.95	-11.79	-2.60	-12.62	-12.14	0.97
Millet	Gourcy, Retail, XOF/KG	271.00	5.86	5.04	3.83	-2.17	-23.12	1.98
Millet	Ouagadougo (Sankaryare), Retail, XOF/KG	342.00	0.59	-1.16	3.64	-14.71	-14.26	5.62
Millet	Ouargaye, Retail, XOF/KG	216.00	5.88	-6.09	-13.60	-17.56	8.95	16.19
Millet	Titao, Retail, XOF/KG	378.00	2.44	-6.44	7.08	-25.44	-53.05	-39.95

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

Cote d'Ivoire

Mixed trends of changes in prices of maize and rice in selected markets of Cote d'Ivoire are observed (Table 17). Compared to December 2023, prices in January 2024 remain largely stable except for the price of maize and local rice which declined by 4.4% and moderately increased by 6.67%, respectively, in Korhogo. These prices are expected to decline significantly in the next 3-6 months where new harvests are expected.

42 FEWSNET, 2024. Accessed at https://fews.net/west-africa .

43 Author's construction based on data from WFP (2024).

Table 17: Percentage Changes in prices in Cote d'Ivoire[44]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	Next 3 Months*	Next 6 Months*
Urea	National Av. USD/50KG*	40.73	2.11	0.42	-26.17			
Maize (white)	Korhogo, Retail, XOF/KG*	275.00	6.67	15.79	19.46	48.96	-27.26	-22.85
Maize (white)	Man, Retail, XOF/KG*	275.00	0.00	-22.81	10.00	-12.00	-18.01	13.41
Rice (denikassia imported)	Korhogo, Retail, XOF/KG*	525.00	0.00	6.60	16.67	10.53	-34.44	-33.68
Rice (danikassia imported)	Man, Retail, XOF/KG*	475.00	2.01	5.56	5.56	5.56	-9.67	-11.12
Rice (Local)	Korhogo, Retail, XOF/KG*	475.00	-4.40	0.00	4.35	5.56	-22.33	-19.92
Rice (Local)	Man, Retail, XOF/KG*	550.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	-12.17	-15.28

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

Ghana

Overall, Ghana's food commodities prices showed lower trends based on WFP's forecasted prices (Table 18). These trends have been validated by industry players citing particularly a drop in maize prices, which had positively impacted the poultry industry.[45] Except for maize in Kumasi, the current maize prices remain significantly dropped below their levels 6-12 months ago. Similarly, compared to the past month, only maize and imported rice prices in Sekondi/Takoradi had moderately increased. The prices of all types of fertilizer also show significant declines, a reflection of low off-season demands.

Table 18: Percentage Changes in prices in Ghana[46]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Amonium Sulphate	National Average, (US$/50kg)	22.97	-0.48	-10.62	-9.57	
Maize	Kumasi, Retail, GHC/KG	6.58	-4.29	-13.07	-27.91	11.63
Maize	Sekondi/Takoradi, Retail, GHC/KG	4.68	5.82	4.53	-62.13	-51.05
Maize (white)	Accra, Retail, Ghc/KG	3.75	-0.76	-6.30	-45.17	-34.95
Maize (Yellow)	Accra, Retail, Ghc/KG	4.22	-1.18	5.91	-43.23	-33.38
Maize (Yellow)	Kumasi, Retail, GHC/KG	7.16	-3.03	-9.18	-29.34	20.62
Maize (Yellow)	Sekondi/Takoradi, Retail, GHC/KG	4.70	6.50	2.66	-62.39	-53.22
Maize (Yellow)	Tamale, Retail, GHC/KG	2.91	-2.41	16.76	-51.63	-42.46
Millet	Accra, Retail, Ghc/KG	5.67	-0.62	12.54	-39.65	-29.75
Millet	Kumasi, Retail, GHC/KG	4.33	-0.63	-1.96	-59.98	-49.60
Millet	Sekondi/Takoradi, Retail, GHC/KG	4.92	-0.56	-11.11	-60.87	-51.57
Millet	Tamale, Retail, GHC/KG	3.60	-1.45	-7.28	-57.87	-58.82
NPK 20-10-10	National Average, (US$/50kg)	33.21	-1.63	-5.28	-16.01	-8.76
NPK 23-10-5	National Average, (US$/50kg)	36.48	-0.49	-1.59	-10.01	-6.22
Rice (imported)	Accra, Retail, Ghc/KG	5.28	-1.59	13.32	-73.61	-47.22
Rice (imported)	Kumasi, Retail, GHC/KG	6.08	0.08	0.38	-59.90	-36.17
Rice (imported)	Sekondi/Takoradi, Retail, GHC/KG	6.70	5.27	12.69	-51.39	-53.09
Rice (Local)	Tamale, Retail, GHC/KG	2.98	-1.23	-10.96	-60.45	-66.59
Sorghum	Accra, Retail, Ghc/KG	6.67	-1.72	-0.84	-6.64	-18.86
Sorghum	Kumasi, Retail, GHC/KG	4.37	-0.49	-1.52	-56.26	-46.26
Sorghum	Sekondi/Takoradi, Retail, GHC/KG	4.64	0.55	-5.54	-63.12	-53.88
Sorghum	Tamale, Retail, GHC/KG	3.74	-1.44	-2.45	-52.73	-55.22
Urea	Urea (US$/50kg)	33.86	-0.56	-3.12	-12.73	-30.77

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

44 Author's construction based on data from WFP (2024).

45 https://thebftonline.com/2024/01/10/maize-price-drop-excites-poultry-farmers/

Mali

Overall, the prices of monitored commodities in selected markets of Mali remained largely stable (Table 19). Compared to the past month, millet prices were only up by 6.67% and 8.33% in Mopti and Tombouctou, respectively, while the price of rice went up only in Kayes by 4%, and the price of sorghum also went up only in Kayes and Tombouctou by 3.85% and 9.17% respectively. Compared to the same period a year ago, maize price remained significantly lower while rice and sorghum show mixed trends in monitored markets.

Table 19: Percentage Changes in prices in Mali[47]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Millet	Bamako, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	23,000.00	0.00	-8.00	0.00	-8.00
Millet	Gao, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	32,500.00	-7.14	-7.14	38.30	-7.14
Millet	Kayes, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	28,000.00	0.00	-3.45	-3.45	-20.00
Millet	Mopti, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	24,000.00	6.67	0.00	-4.00	-11.11
Millet	Ségou, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	19,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-20.83
Millet	Sikasso, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	22,500.00	0.00	-10.00	-10.00	-47.06
Millet	Tombouctou, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	32,500.00	8.33	-18.75	-7.14	-7.14
Rice	Bamako, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	42,500.00	-5.56	-7.61	-7.61	-5.56
Rice	Gao, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	55,000.00	-8.33	15.79	15.79	10.00
Rice	Kayes, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	52,000.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	4.00
Rice	Mopti, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	40,000.00	-11.11	-9.09	-11.11	-15.79
Rice	Ségou, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	47,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.47
Rice	Sikasso, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	42,500.00	-5.56	-5.56	-10.53	-5.56
Rice	Tombouctou, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rice (imported)	Gao, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	60,000.00	0.00	26.32	33.33	42.86
Rice (imported)	Kayes, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	39,500.00	-1.25	2.60	1.28	14.49
Rice (imported)	Mopti, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	44,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
Rice (imported)	Sikasso, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	44,000.00	0.00	4.76	76.00	4.76
Sorghum	Bamako, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	23,000.00	0.00	-4.17	15.00	2.22
Sorghum	Gao, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	30,000.00	-14.29	-14.29	-14.29	-25.00
Sorghum	Kayes, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	27,000.00	3.85	0.00	12.50	-18.18
Sorghum	Mopti, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	23,000.00	0.00	-4.17	-4.17	9.52
Sorghum	Ségou, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	21,000.00	-4.55	5.00	5.00	0.00
Sorghum	Sikasso, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	18,000.00	-12.20	-20.00	-14.29	-48.57
Sorghum	Tombouctou, Wholesale, XOF/100 KG	32,750.00	9.17	-12.67	-0.76	-6.43

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

Niger

Overall, lower prices were registered in all monitored markets for the selected commodities over the past 1-6 months (Table 20). These drops were particularly high (>15%) for maize and millet in all selected markets compared to the past 3-6 months. Compared to the past month, however, Abalak registered a low surge in millet price by 2.17%. Almost all prices for all commodities in most selected markets remain above their one-year level.

47 Author's construction based on data from WFP (2024)

Table 20: Percentage Changes in prices in Niger[48]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	Next 3 Months*	Next 6 Months*
Maize	Abalak, Retail, XOF/KG**	329.00	-1.20	-19.36	-19.36	2.33	-8.97	6.92
Maize	Bonkaney, Retail, XOF/KG**	279.00	-10.00	-21.41	-21.41	22.91	-15.59	3.13
Maize	Goure, Retail, XOF/KG**	340.00	-19.43	-21.84	-21.84	27.82	-9.39	14.70
Maize	Katako, Retail, XOF/KG**	296.00	-1.33	-20.64	-20.64	-6.03	-13.42	-6.85
Millet	Abalak, Retail, XOF/KG**	329.00	2.17	-18.97	-18.97	-14.55	-9.66	9.71
Millet	Bonkaney, Retail, XOF/KG**	295.00	-6.65	-16.43	-16.43	29.96	2.98	5.30
Millet	Goure, Retail, XOF/KG**	322.00	-1.23	-25.29	-25.29	15.41	-5.60	15.01
Millet	Katako, Retail, XOF/KG**	286.00	-5.61	-20.99	-20.99	6.72	2.93	13.43
NPK 15-15-15	National Average, USD/50KG*	19,286.00	2.66	-10.06	-0.67			
Sorghum	Abalak, Retail, XOF/KG**	252.00	-25.00	-39.71	-39.71	-6.67	20.67	38.05
Sorghum	Bonkaney, Retail, XOF/KG**	341.00	-6.06	-5.28	-5.28	55.71	-18.95	-15.83
Sorghum	Goure, Retail, XOF/KG**	300.00	-7.11	-12.02	-12.02	64.84	-10.87	17.22
Sorghum	Katako, Retail, XOF/KG**	323.00	-8.50	-11.75	-11.75	17.45	-16.66	-5.58
Urea	National Average, USD/50KG*	17,625.00	-1.74	-12.71	-15.57			

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023
= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),
= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

Nigeria

Nigeria's prices of monitored food commodities show mixed trends (Table 21). Whereas the prices of maize and millet are lower compared to at least 1-3 months ago, those of rice and sorghum show mostly a significant surge compared to the past 1-12 months ago. Below-average cereal harvests, conflicts in the north, and poor macroeconomic conditions continue to drive up prices. Fertilizer prices[49], however, remain primarily lower compared to the past 1-12 months.

Table 21: Percentage Changes in prices in Nigeria[50]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Maize (white)	Giwa, NGN/KG***	287.10	-47.80	-25.62	24.29	43.55
Maize (white)	Ibadan, NGN/KG***	440.00	-3.51	3.00	35.97	101.47
Maize (white)	Kano, NGN/KG***	308.70	-22.77	-24.91	24.78	33.94
Maize (white)	Kaura Namoda, NGN/KG***	343.40	-27.25	-14.81	43.30	68.60
Maize (white)	Lagos, NGN/KG***	405.50	-0.61	-3.59	52.90	80.70
Maize (white)	Maiduguri, NGN/KG***	347.50	-36.82	-16.47	42.42	72.03
Millet	Giwa, NGN/KG***	469.50	-21.75	7.93	67.68	79.20
Millet	Ibadan, NGN/KG***	364.00	-0.92	-11.22	35.62	80.20
Millet	Kano, NGN/KG***	359.50	12.45	-3.73	32.30	52.74
Millet	Kaura Namoda, NGN/KG***	354.85	-10.84	-12.34	42.44	53.85
Millet	Lagos, NGN/KG***	505.00	-8.84	18.54	61.86	89.42
Millet	Maiduguri, NGN/KG***	367.50	-23.44	-1.21	48.19	65.54
NPK 15-15-15	National, USD/50KG	32.77	-1.89	-7.25	-34.47	-43.72
NPK 20-10-10	National, USD/50KG	29.94	-1.87	-6.90	-32.73	-44.12
Rice (imported)	Giwa, NGN/KG***	924.20	-1.68	24.89	20.97	42.62
Rice (imported)	Ibadan, NGN/KG***	985.00	20.12	39.36	46.14	42.75
Rice (imported)	Kaura Namoda, NGN/KG***	978.30	10.62	36.41	44.36	45.36
Rice (imported)	Lagos, NGN/KG***	1,036.00	7.47	32.14	28.34	40.76
Rice (imported)	Maiduguri, NGN/KG***	1,010.00	5.21	18.54	25.00	20.81
Rice (milled)	Giwa, NGN/KG***	1,582.50	-5.80	4.80	20.62	51.00
Rice (milled)	Kano, NGN/KG***	944.00	18.15	28.44	59.73	55.52
Rice (milled)	Kaura Namoda, NGN/KG***	1,560.50	0.44	16.00	38.05	50.34
Rice (milled)	Maiduguri, NGN/KG***	1,415.00	-11.56	1.07	9.86	31.51
Sorghum (white)	Giwa, NGN/KG***	497.00	-14.31	24.25	136.67	147.26
Sorghum (white)	Ibadan, NGN/KG***	670.00	14.73	44.40	139.29	142.40
Sorghum (white)	Kano, NGN/KG***	459.25	-4.20	32.28	102.19	85.83
Sorghum (white)	Kaura Namoda, NGN/KG***	499.00	-11.68	21.12	96.02	108.19
Sorghum (white)	Lagos, NGN/KG***	673.00	4.83	69.61	136.31	138.82
Sorghum (white)	Maiduguri, NGN/KG***	400.00	-20.00	21.95	92.31	96.08
Urea	National, USD/50KG	28.72	-2.11	10.21	-13.60	-39.24

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023
= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),
= low decrease (0-5%), = moderate decrease (5-15%), = high decrease (>15%)

48 Author's construction based on data from WFP (2024)

49 https://fews.net/west-africa/nigeria

50 Author's construction based on data from FAO (2024)

Togo

Mixed trends are observed in the changes in prices of food commodities in Togo. Maize and millet prices show predominantly downward trends compared to the past 1-3 months in most monitored markets. However, only a few markets show a decline in the prices of rice and sorghum compared to the past month. Overall, the current prices of all these commodities remain above their levels 6-12 months ago. The prices of all types of fertilizers monitored in Togo show mostly declines compared to the past 1-12 months, except for the price of urea, which is higher than it was three months ago.

Table 22: Percentage Changes in prices in Togo[51]

Crop	Market	Last Price	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Maize (white)	Amegnran, XOF/Kg	225.00	0.00	0.00	-10.00	-2.17
Maize (white)	Anie, XOF/Kg	215.00	0.47	0.00	-10.42	1.90
Maize (white)	Cinkassé, XOF/Kg	220.00	-2.22	-2.22	-15.38	-14.06
Maize (white)	Kara, XOF/Kg	250.00	0.00	-13.79	-26.47	5.04
Maize (white)	Korbongou, XOF/Kg	220.00	0.00	0.00	-15.38	-13.73
Maize (white)	Lomé, XOF/Kg	245.00	0.41	-9.26	-9.26	1.24
Rice (imported)	Amegnran, XOF/Kg	540.00	0.93	-5.26	-1.82	0.00
Rice (imported)	Anie, XOF/Kg	500.00	0.00	2.04	8.70	8.70
Rice (imported)	Cinkassé, XOF/Kg	490.00	-1.01	5.38	5.38	6.52
Rice (imported)	Kara, XOF/Kg	475.00	0.00	-3.06	-3.06	3.26
Rice (imported)	Korbongou, XOF/Kg	510.00	0.00	-5.56	-7.27	6.25
Rice (imported)	Lomé, XOF/Kg	505.00	0.00	3.06	3.06	9.78
Sorghum	Anie, XOF/Kg	375.00	-1.32	20.97	25.00	41.51
Sorghum	Cinkassé, XOF/Kg	350.00	0.00	11.11	16.67	29.63
Sorghum	Kara, XOF/Kg	400.00	0.00	11.11	17.65	34.23
Sorghum	Korbongou, XOF/Kg	350.00	-2.78	0.00	16.67	25.00
Sorghum	Lomé, XOF/Kg	470.00	-2.08	1.08	30.56	38.24

Note: Last price is for December 2023, *January 2024, **November 2023, ***October 2023, and ****September 2023

= no change; = low increase (0-5%), = moderate increase (5-15%), = high increase (>15%),

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Seasonal Monitor and Crop Yield Forecasts

In **Mali**, the current off-season crop is generally average in the country for both market gardening crops and rice and flood recession crops.[52]

In **Niger,** the results of the 2023-2024 agricultural production estimates show deficit due to rainfall deficits, long dry spells, and floods, as well as insecurity in certain production areas.[53]

In **Nigeria**, past harvests were estimated to be below-average due to prolonged dry spells in the surplus-producing regions of the north, high cost of agricultural inputs, ongoing conflict, and localized flooding.[54]

51 Author's construction based on data from FAO (2024)

52 https://fews.net/west-africa/mali

53 https://fews.net/west-africa/niger

54 https://fews.net/west-africa/nigeria

Food Trade Updates

Food Trade Updates

Continental

November 2023 has seen some major events and activities that have significantly influenced food trade across the continent. These occurrences have had a significant impact on the trade of foodstuff.

- China, through its Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, has announced that it will provide zero-tariff treatment of 98 per cent of taxable products for six least-developed African countries, including Angola, the Gambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mali and Mauritania starting from December 25, 2023.[55]

- As part of implementing the AfCFTA private sector plan, 12 industry giants commit $130 billion to projects to transform the automotive, agriculture and agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, and logistics and transport sectors, a leap in realizing the potential of intra-African trade.[56]

- Red sea attacks and return of piracy cases off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Guinea are expected to increase shipping costs and have a trickle-down effect on the prices of major commodities such as fuel, wheat, and other grains imported into Africa.[57]

- The African Development Bank (AfDB), with a $2 million grant from the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF), will create an African Ports Index aimed at sealing data gaps in Africa's port operations by producing a port data book that provides performance data and practical information for Africa's ports.[58]

East Africa

The following are some of the major events and activities that occurred during the month with implications on regional food trade within the East African region:

Figure 6 provides an overview of the events and activities that have taken place across various countries in East Africa in the last month and are affecting food trade in the region.

Figure 6: East Africa Cross border trade updates January 2024

Tanzania

The governments of Malawi and Tanzania have reversed their bans on maize and maize seed trade imposed in December 2023, citing sanitary concerns.

Rwanda

Burundi has closed its border with Rwanda amidst political tension. This is expected to significantly impact the free movement of people and goods between the two countries.

55 https://english.news.cn/20231206/15922dd504d146098f6188ec75bac88c/c.html
56 https://tvbrics.com/en/news/south-africa-will-favour-the-development-of-the-african-continental-free-trade-area-within-the-brics/
57 https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/return-of-piracy-on-somalia-waters-to-push-up-costs-4490794; https://blogs.worldbank.org/trade/will-prolonged-rerouting-ships-suez-trigger-new-supply-chain-crisis
58 https://maritime-executive.com/article/african-development-bank-to-create-african-ports-index

Southern Africa

The following are some of the major events and activities that occurred during the month with implications on regional food trade within the Southern African region:

Figure 7 below summarises some key activities and events recorded across Southern Africa impacting food trade activities.

- Zambia plans to build a new rail connection to link a Lake Tanganyika harbour to an existing line that runs to neighbouring Tanzania, boosting trade with three other nations that share borders with the world's longest freshwater lake.
  The southern African nation's Transport and Logistics Ministry asked companies to express interest in financing, building, and running the concession that will be about 192 kilometres (119 miles) long.
- Malawi joins the Central Corridor Transport Facilitation Agency (CCTTFA) on 1 December 2023, alongside Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo to enhance its regional trade and connectivity.
  The Central Corridor, a key multimodal transport network, plays a vital role in linking landlocked countries in the region to the Indian Ocean port of Dar es Salaam. It stands as a cornerstone for promoting trade and development across the continent.

Figure 7: Southern Africa Food Trade updates for January 2024

Zimbabwe

The government of Zimbabwe has issued new fiscal measures which include tighter tax clearance certificates (ITF263) and Value Added Tax (VAT) requirements for economic players that came into effect with the 2024 national budget.

West Africa

Figure 8 provides an update of the issues and events reported in selected West African countries with implications on food trade and food security in the region.

- Meanwhile, the governments of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger have withdrawn their respective countries from the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS).

Figure 8: West Africa Cross Border Trade Updates January 2024

Ghana

The Government of Ghana plans to roll out a lending scheme at a subsidised interest rate of 10% to support Women-led businesses interested in exporting under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

59 https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/rest-of-africa/why-mali-burkina-faso-and-niger-want-to-leave-ecowas-4515528

The digital Regional Food Balance Sheet provides near real-time estimates and projections for core staple crop production, stock levels, and other information in East and Southern Africa.

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AFRICA FOOD TRADE AND RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

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