

### IN THIS ISSUE:

**OVERVIEW** ..... 1

**HIGHLIGHTS** ..... 1

**RAINFALL** ..... 1

**DROUGHT** ..... 2

**AFFECTED POPULATIONS** ..... 3

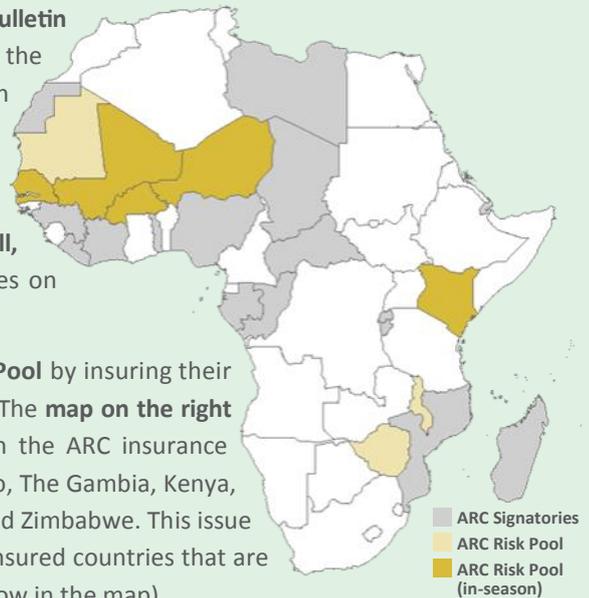
**UPDATE ON THE ARC RISK POOL** .... 3

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIPS** ..... 4

### OVERVIEW:

This month's issue of the *Africa RiskView Bulletin* covers the month of **June 2015**. During the reporting month, the rains continued in most of **Central Africa** and in **West Africa**, while the season in parts of **East Africa** came to an end. The *Africa RiskView Bulletin* covers the following topics: **rainfall, drought, populations affected** and updates on the **ARC Risk Pool**.

**Nine countries** form the **second ARC Risk Pool** by insuring their respective agricultural or pastoral seasons. The **map on the right** highlights the countries that participate in the ARC insurance pool in 2015/16. These include Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Zimbabwe. This issue of the *Africa RiskView Bulletin* focuses on insured countries that are currently in-season (highlighted in dark yellow in the map).



### HIGHLIGHTS:

#### RAINFALL:

- In **East Africa**, the seasonal rains came to an end in Kenya and Somalia, while the main season has started with above average rainfall in Sudan and parts of Ethiopia and Eritrea
- Delayed start of the season in **West Africa**, with dry conditions persisting in most of the Sahel

#### DROUGHT:

- The delayed start of the season in **West Africa** translates into a below average drought index in most areas
- In **Kenya**, the rangeland WRSI is above average in most pastoral areas after the good 2015 long rains season in the country

#### POTENTIALLY AFFECTED POPULATIONS:

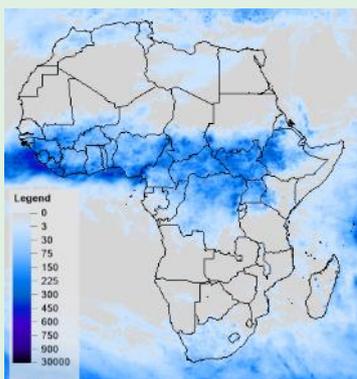
- *Africa RiskView* estimates that only a small number of people are affected in **Kenya** after the end of the 2015 long rains

#### INSURANCE:

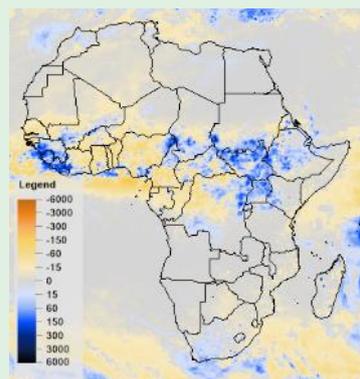
- Three countries (Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) in the first ARC Risk Pool received pay-outs from the ARC Insurance Company Limited in early 2015
- **Nine countries** (Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Zimbabwe) **form the second ARC Risk Pool** by insuring their respective agricultural or pastoral seasons

### RAINFALL

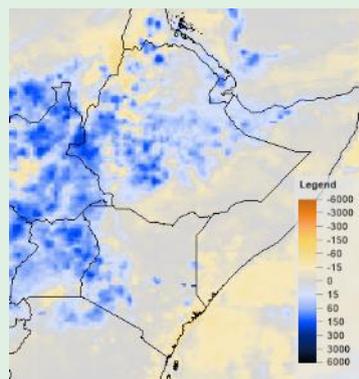
During the reporting month, rains were received in most of **Central Africa**, a region which receives significant rainfall year-round (see Map 2). However, cumulative rains remained slightly below the long-term average (2001-2014) in some areas, including in northern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Gabon and most of Cameroon. On the other hand, above average rains were recorded in parts of the Central African Republic (see Map 3). In line with seasonal patterns, the rainy season in parts of **East Africa**,



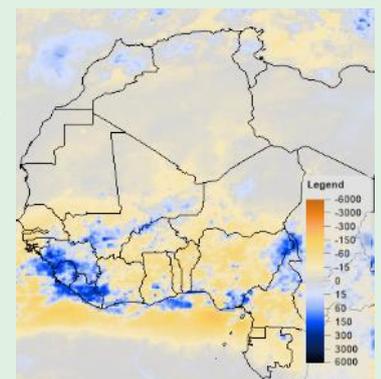
MAP 2: CUMULATIVE RAINFALL, RFE2 (JUNE 2015)



MAP 3: RAINFALL COMPARED TO NORMAL, RFE2 (JUNE 2015)



MAP 4: RAINFALL COMPARED TO NORMAL, HORN OF AFRICA, RFE2 (JUNE 2015)



MAP 5: RAINFALL COMPARED TO NORMAL, WEST AFRICA, RFE2 (JUNE 2015)

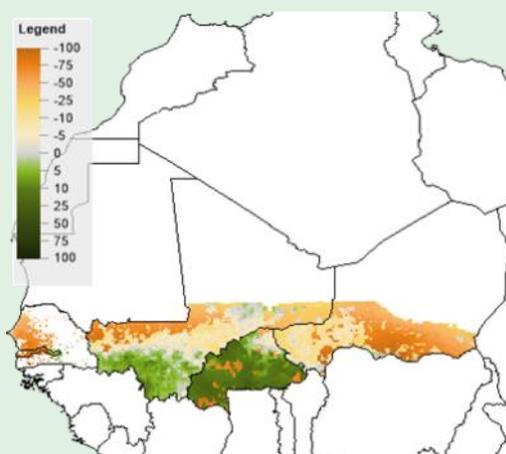
including Kenya and Somalia, came to an end. In Sudan, Eritrea and parts of Ethiopia, the main rainy season has started during the reporting month, with above normal rainfall in most areas (see Map 4).

In **West Africa**, the rains continued their northward progression and intensified in the southern Sahel. However, the drier than normal conditions observed in May persisted in most areas, including Nigeria, Benin, Togo and Ghana. Moreover, most parts of the Sahel experienced significant rainfall deficits of over 80 mm (or up to 90 percent below normal), including areas in The Gambia, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger (see Map 5). Particularly in the former two, this delayed start of the season comes after a poor rainy season in 2014, and thus needs to be monitored particularly closely. The poor start of the season is confirmed by external data such as vegetation and soil moisture indices, and rainfall in July will be crucial to determine the performance of the 2015 agricultural season.

## DROUGHT

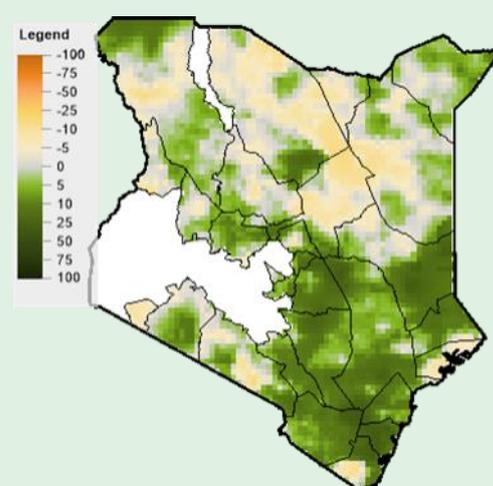
*Africa RiskView* uses the **Water Requirements Satisfaction Index (WRSI)** as an **indicator for drought**. The WRSI is an index developed by the *Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)*, which, based on satellite rainfall estimates, calculates whether a particular crop is getting the amount of water it needs at different stages of its development. To maximise the accuracy of *Africa RiskView*, **countries intending to take out insurance customise the software's parameters** to reflect the realities on the ground. This issue of the *Africa RiskView* Bulletin will discuss insured countries that are currently in-season.

**West Africa (2015 agricultural season):** As discussed above, most parts of the Sahel have experienced a poor start of the rainy season in June 2015. While it is currently too early to make accurate projections on the impact of this delayed start in the five insured countries that are currently in-season (Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Mali, Niger and Senegal, with the season in Mauritania starting in July), *Africa RiskView's* current estimates highlight how poor the start of the season was in the region. *Africa RiskView* uses rainfall recorded to date combined with normal rainfall until the end of the season to estimate the performance of agricultural seasons in insured countries. Currently, this projected end-of-season WRSI is below average (2001-2014) in most of the Sahel, with the exception of Burkina Faso and southern Mali, where despite below normal rains, sowing conditions were reached in June in most areas. The sowing window extends until the end of July in all five countries, which means that the rains over the coming weeks will be crucial in determining the performance of the season. The situation in the Sahel will be discussed in more detail in the upcoming issues of the *Africa RiskView* Bulletin.



MAP 6: WRSI COMPARED TO NORMAL, WEST AFRICA (2015 AGRICULTURAL SEASON)

**Kenya (2015 first rangeland season, first ARC Risk Pool):** Kenya chose to cover its arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) in the context of its participation in the first ARC insurance pool in 2014/15. *Africa RiskView* was customised to show rangeland development in the country's bi-modal pastoral areas. The 2015 long rains season came to an end during the reporting month, and according to ARV's estimates, rangeland conditions are above average (2001-2014) in most pastoral areas (see Map 7). This means pasture conditions have improved throughout the country, likely compensating for the poor 2014/15 short rains season. Nonetheless, some areas in central and northern Kenya record a below average rangeland WRSI at the end of the season. Particularly in Isiolo in central Kenya, the aggregated rangeland WRSI is 15 percent below average. Similarly adverse conditions can also be observed in other pastoral areas, which according to ARV and external sources have suffered from several consecutive poor seasons since 2013. It can be assumed that in these areas, pasture resources did not regenerate fully and are thus likely to deplete quicker than normal, extending the upcoming lean season.

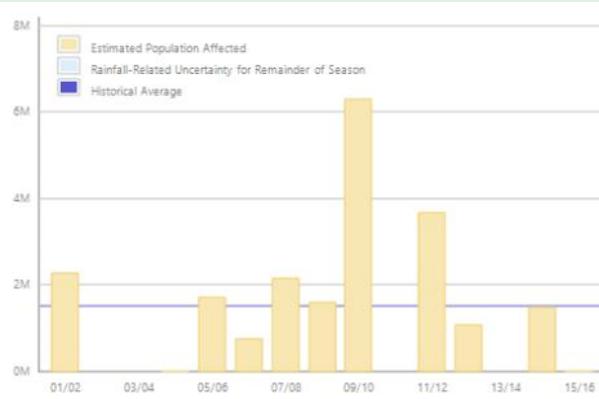


MAP 7: RANGELAND WRSI COMPARED TO NORMAL, KENYA (2015 FIRST RANGELAND SEASON)

### AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Based on the WRSI calculations discussed in the previous section of this bulletin, *Africa RiskView* estimates the **number of people potentially affected by drought** for each country participating in the insurance pool. As part of the in-country customisation process, **vulnerability profiles** are developed at the sub-national level for each country, which define the potential impact of a drought on the population living in a specific area. It is important to note that not all those affected by a drought might be in need of humanitarian assistance. Moreover, needs are often driven by a variety of factors including but not limited to the weather. This bulletin reviews the drought affected population estimates and projections for countries insured and in-season. Regarding the ongoing agricultural season in West Africa, it has to be noted that it is currently too early to estimate the impact of the below normal conditions on vulnerable populations in the Sahel. Updated forecasts will be presented in the upcoming issues of the *Africa RiskView* Bulletin.

**Kenya (2015 first rangeland season):** As mentioned in the previous section, the overall performance of the 2015 long rains season was positive in most of Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands. While some areas did suffer from a below normal rangeland WRSI, the drought triggers, which are also defined by the performance of the previous seasons, were not hit in any of the vulnerability areas defined during the customisation of *Africa RiskView*, with the exception of a small number of people affected in the north-eastern coastal areas of the country. Compared to previous years, it appears that the 2015 long rains season performed well in a country that is frequently affected by droughts, as Graph 1 shows. The droughts were particularly severe in 2009 and 2011, Kenya's pastoral areas experienced major rainfall deficits, which affected up to 6 million people. It is important to note that *Africa RiskView's* estimate only looks at the impact of the 2015 long rains season itself, and does not take into account potential carry-over effects from previous seasons. In some of central and northern Kenya however, several consecutive poor rainy seasons since 2013 have affected the resilience of vulnerable households. Consequently, these areas are currently classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions, according to [reports by FEWS NET and other partners](#).



**GRAPH 1: ESTIMATED POPULATION AFFECTED BY DROUGHT, KENYA (FIRST RANGELAND SEASON, 2001-2015)**

### UPDATE ON THE ARC RISK POOL

In a fourth and final step, *Africa RiskView* converts the numbers of affected people into **response costs**. For countries participating in the insurance pool these national response costs are the **underlying basis of the insurance policies**. Pay-outs will be triggered from the ARC Insurance Company Limited to countries where the estimated response cost **at the end of the season** exceeds a pre-defined threshold specified in the insurance contracts. This bulletin discusses potential pay-outs by the ARC Insurance Company Limited, and their implementation.

Currently, nine countries form the **second ARC insurance pool**. These include five new countries that joined in 2015 (Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Malawi, Mali and Zimbabwe), in addition to the four members of the first risk pool, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. During its first annual cycle, which ended in June 2015, three countries received pay-outs due to the poor performance of their respective seasons, namely Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. On the other hand, in Kenya, the conditions for a pay-out were not triggered at the end of either of the two pastoral seasons. In order to renew their participation in the ARC risk pool, all four countries went through a review and validation exercise aimed at maximising the accuracy of *Africa RiskView's* model. The participation of the five new countries on the other hand follows an 18-month period in which they defined their participation in the pool. With support from the ARC Agency, these counties customised *Africa RiskView* and defined Operations Plans which outline the assistance to be provided to vulnerable populations in case of a pay-out by the ARC Insurance Company Limited. For the four ongoing seasons, it is currently too early to make any projections on the likelihood of potential pay-outs.

As mentioned above, **Mauritania, Senegal and Niger received insurance pay-outs by the ARC Insurance Company Limited in early 2015**, which were triggered by the poor performance of their respective agricultural seasons in 2014. The pay-outs are being used by the countries to fund activities outlined in the **Final Implementation Plans (FIPs)**, which were approved by the ARC Agency Governing Board in January 2015.

### About ARC:

- The **African Risk Capacity (ARC)** is a specialised agency of the African Union designed to improve the capacity of AU Member States to manage natural disaster risk, adapt to climate change and protect food insecure populations.
- The **Africa RiskView** software is the technical engine of ARC. It uses satellite-based rainfall information to estimate the costs of responding to a drought, which triggers a corresponding insurance pay-out.
- The **ARC Insurance Company Limited** is the commercial affiliate of the ARC Agency, which pools risk across the continent through issuing insurance policies to participating countries.

The **Africa RiskView Bulletin** is a regular publication of the ARC Agency. It provides information about current rainfall and drought index developments as detected by *Africa RiskView*, and their potential impact on vulnerable populations. It also provides updates on the ARC Risk Pool and the estimated response costs, which are the underlying basis of the insurance policies issued by the ARC Insurance Company Limited.

[www.africanriskcapacity.org](http://www.africanriskcapacity.org)  
[support@africanriskview.org](mailto:support@africanriskview.org)

### UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIPS

In **Mauritania**, food distributions to vulnerable households started in April in the most affected regions of the country (Hodh Ech Chargui, Tagant, Gorgol and Brakna), using rice procured from local suppliers through an existing government purchase programme. The operation concluded shortly after Ramadan and 250,000 beneficiaries have now received 4 months of rations, facilitated with ARC funds.

**Senegal** was able to immediately procure livestock fodder from Dakar-based local producers to scale up the Ministry of Livestock's ongoing subsidised sales of feed at 14 distribution points in the most affected areas. The original purchase targeted 570,000 cattle belonging to approximately 60,000 pastoralists. A targeting exercise, together with partners, for food distribution identified 92,000 food insecure households in need. ARC funds were used to procure and pre-position food in July, with operations to assist 75,000 households in the coming months.

Finally, in **Niger**, cash-for-work activities started in June 2015 in Tillabéri, Dosso, Maradi, Zinder and Diffa regions. Additionally, 600 MT of staple foods are being distributed to severely affected households in Diffa and Dosso regions.

**Disclaimer:** The data and information contained in this bulletin have been developed for the purposes of, and using the methodology of, Africa RiskView and the African Risk Capacity Group. The data in this bulletin is provided to the public for information purposes only, and neither the ARC Agency, its affiliates nor each of their respective officers, directors, employees and agents make any representation or warranty regarding the fitness of the data and information for any particular purpose. In no event shall the ARC Agency, its affiliates nor each of their respective officers, directors, employees and agents be held liable with respect to any subject matter presented here. Pay-outs under insurance policies issued by ARC Insurance Company Limited are calculated using a stand-alone version of Africa RiskView, the results of which can differ from those presented here.