

FOOD SECURITY PORTAL FOR AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA

www.ssa.foodsecurityportal.org



2010 CIAT/Neil Palmer

The Africa south of the Sahara Food Security Portal presents current information about agriculture, food security, and nutrition in Africa south of the Sahara and about dynamic developments in the region's food system. It is facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and brings together a network of regional partners.

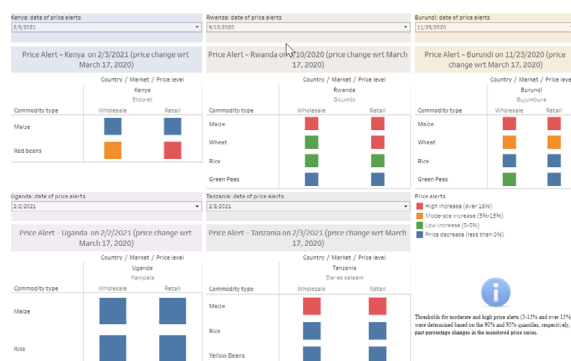
More precise and timely data on food security are more important than ever. More than 250 million people in Africa are undernourished, and the number of undernourished people is growing more quickly in this region than anywhere else in the world.¹ In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic is hitting hardest on the most vulnerable and has caused enormous setbacks in progress made in reducing food insecurity. To combat these trends, reliable data and evidence-based knowledge is needed. The Food Security Portal for Africa south of the Sahara (SSA-FSP) (<http://ssa.foodsecurityportal.org>; <http://ssa.foodsecurityportal.org/fr>), available in English and French and created by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) with support from the European Commission, provides open access to timely, relevant, and high-quality country-level information, focusing on SSA's regional conditions and food security and nutrition needs as well as global issues and trends impacting the region.

The SSA-FSP serves as a one-stop source for food security and nutrition data and early warning indicators, providing structured evidence and information about the different dimensions of food security to contribute to the design of high quality, timely, and relevant food security policies in the region. The portal will also strengthen regional capacity for improved food security and nutrition policy research and analysis through in-country networks and policy dialogues throughout the region. The SSA-FSP aims to be a focal point of dialogue between food security stakeholders and is intended to foster a better flow of information for policies designed by public and private stakeholders.

KEY PORTAL FEATURES

- The **Food Price Watch** feature on the homepage provides instant overview of the latest monthly, weekly, and daily global prices of nine major commodities, as well as an innovative daily volatility status to alert policymakers to periods of excessive price volatility. Work is underway to provide daily updates of volatility specific to SSA. The Price Watch also currently features the Africa COVID-19 Food Price Monitor, which provides daily updates on wholesale and retail price movements in the region in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **Early Warning Hub** includes a **Control Panel** for real-time monitoring of key food crisis risks. It brings together reliable, timely information regarding both global and regional food production and

Africa COVID-19 Food Price Monitor

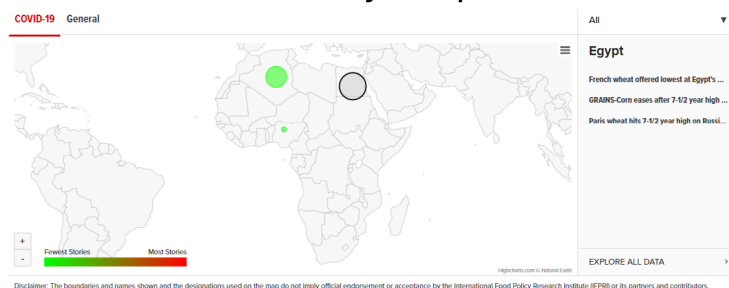


¹ <https://www.wfp.org/publications/state-food-security-and-nutrition-world-sofi-report-2020>

availability, food prices, and hunger levels to help policymakers anticipate and mitigate food security crises. These sections features data, alerts, research, and analysis from a number of early warning systems and organizations at the global and the country levels, including the Global Report on Food Crises, FSIN, FAO GIEWS, FEWS Net, IPC, and the FSP's Excessive Food Price Variability Early Warning System.

- The **COVID-19 section** tracks the effect of the global pandemic on global and regional food prices, food security, nutrition, and agricultural trade. The section features tools and resources, blog posts, and links to external COVID-19 monitoring resources.
- The **Policy Analysis Tools** provide information and analysis for governments and researchers, including the most innovative analysis tools, such as the Excessive Food Price Variability Early Warning System. This tool measures excessive food price variability and is the only mechanism currently available to identify increased price variability, which happens when commodity returns rise above a certain threshold multiple times in a 60-day period.
- An interactive **Media Analysis Map** tracks discussions in international media outlets regarding food security, food prices, and hunger in Africa south of the Sahara. Research has found that media coverage can have an impact on commodity prices and volatility; tracking this coverage provides users with important information on the dynamics of agricultural commodity markets. The tool also analyzes coverage of COVID-19 in the region.
- The **Data Gateway** contains over 12,000 datasets related to excessive price variability, COVID-19 food price monitoring, media analysis, high-frequency commodity prices, food security indicators, and others. The data is drawn from reliable, authoritative sources like the World Bank, FAO, UNICEF, and IFPRI and is available to freely download, aggregate, and share.
- The **Events** section highlights webinars and policy dialogues from the FSP and external sources on important regional food security issues such as climate change adaptation, value chain transformation for enhanced nutrition, and increasing resilience in the face of economic shocks. These events allow for collaborative sharing of information and ideas among policymakers and food security experts. Many events feature live virtual panel discussions with experts in the field of food and nutrition security.
- The **SSA-FSP blog** features in-depth, evidence-based blogs on pressing food security issues like local and regional food prices, informal cross-border trade, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and weather shocks, and the impact of ongoing conflict. The blog features videos and publications from leading researchers, as well as links to the latest data and food security reports released by FAO, FEWS Net, AGRODEP, the Malabo Montpellier Panel, and other trustworthy global sources.
- It is hoped that the SSA-FSP's emphasis on open information-sharing and dialogue will help to increase the resilience of the region's poor to potential food-related crises, including price and climate shocks. The SSA-FSP offers a monthly newsletter (<https://bit.ly/2Z3hwbN>; available in French and English) with the latest blog posts, news, and features. You can also follow the latest announcements from the FSP on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

Africa COVID-19 Media Analysis Map



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