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More than a Quarter of the Population of Somalia are in Humanitarian Crisis

The Food Security Analysis Unit for Somalia (FAO/FSAU) and FEWS NET Somalia confirm that the overall humanitarian situation in Somalia has deteriorated over the last six months. Between **1.8 and 2 million people, including roughly 1 million IDPs, are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance and livelihood support for at least the next six months.** The food security and nutrition situation has improved for the rural populations of southern regions of Juba and Gedo, regions previously devastated by the regional drought in 2005/6. However, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated over the last six months in the Shabelle, Hiran and Central regions due to a significant increase in the number of *Internally Displaced Persons* (IDPs) fleeing Mogadishu and a deepening drought in Hiran and Central regions. In addition, hyperinflation in basic food and non-food items throughout the country is creating problems of food access for urban populations, especially the urban poor.

These results are based on a country-wide comprehensive Post *Deyr* 2007/08 Seasonal Assessment, which was conducted by the Food Security Analysis Unit for Somalia (FSAU), together with FEWS NET Somalia, and 45 other UN, International and local NGOs, and local authorities. This assessment found that of the total number of people in need of humanitarian and livelihood support, an estimated **850,000 live in rural areas and face conditions of Humanitarian Emergency or Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis**, while an estimated **700,000 are newly displaced people from Mogadishu** (since March 2007), and an estimated **275,000** are long-term or protracted *Internally Displaced Persons* (IDPs).

In the last six months, **the number of people fleeing Mogadishu has more than doubled from 325,000 in August 2007, to more than 700,000.** Most, or 82%, of these newly displaced people have concentrated in the regions that already face the worst problems in the country in terms food access, collapsing livelihoods, and emergency nutrition levels (Lower and Middle Shabelle, Hiran and Central regions). In addition to limited social support from host communities, displaced populations have limited options to earn income and face record high food and non-food prices. Nutrition surveys, also confirm that the protracted *Internally Displaced Persons* (IDPs), who have been displaced for years, require urgent assistance as their nutrition situation is at or greater than internationally acceptable emergency thresholds.

An estimated **155,000 pastoralists in the Central regions** and another **70,000 agriculturalists and agro-pastoralists in Hiran region** face a rapidly deteriorating situation and are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance or livelihood support. The current crisis confirms FSAU/FEWSNET early warnings issued in December (FSAU FSNB, Dec. 21, 2007) of a deteriorating food security and nutrition situation following two consecutive seasons of poor rainfall that has led to crop failures, poor pasture and browse conditions, and water shortages. Pastoralists in Galgadud and south Mudug have limited options for moving their livestock due to insecurity and are forced to continue to purchase expensive trucked water for their livestock during the long dry season (January to mid-April). Furthermore, cereal and other essential commodity prices are at record high levels and are continuing to increase, while disruptions in trade are creating shortages in supplies. In addition, communities are overstretched as these areas are also hosting the second highest concentrations of new IDPs from Mogadishu (32% of the total or 224,000 people).

“The **Shabelle regions remain the worst affected regions in the current humanitarian crisis**”, says Cindy Holleman, UN FAO Chief Technical Advisor to the FSAU, “with more than **325,000 agriculturalists and agro-pastoralists** in states of **Humanitarian Emergency or Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis**. These regions are also hosting the largest concentration of new IDPs from Mogadishu **totaling more than 367,000 people**”. Although there will be limited and temporary relief for some communities due to good rainfed cereal crop production in some areas, overall the total *Deyr* ‘07/08 season cereal production of the two regions is significantly below normal (51% and 66% of Post War Average for Lower and Middle Shabelle), the third consecutive season of below average maize production (39% of Post War Average), and the second lowest annual cereal production in a decade. The nutrition situation is also still critical with rates of global acute malnutrition above emergency thresholds. Continuing insecurity and inflation over the next few months can only lead to further deteriorations in the crisis.

For more information see: www.fsasomali.org, www.fews.net or contact FSAU: fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke.



1. Women are forced to collect water from unsafe sources given the lack of appropriate infrastructure. This poor quality water is a major cause of diarrhoea, which is strongly associated with the chronic high rates of malnutrition in Somalia. Hudur, Bakool, Nov '07.

2. Empty and dry berked resulting in continued expensive water trucking. Ceelbuur, Galgadud, Dec. '07

Climate

Civil
Insecurity

Agriculture

Livestock

Markets

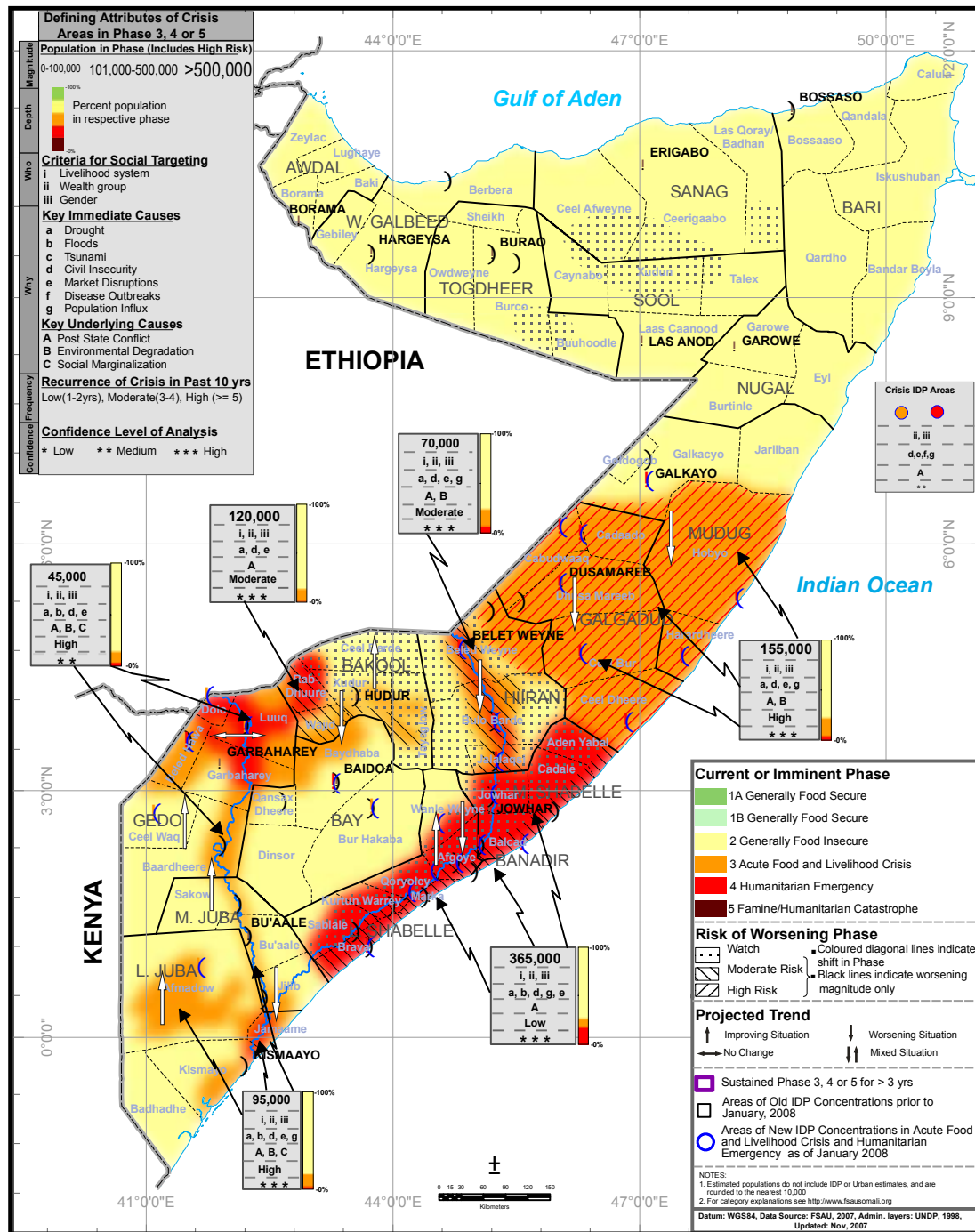
Nutrition

Emerging
Regional
Issues

FSAU - Somalia
Kalon Towers,
Parklands
Box 1230 Village
Market
Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 374 5734
Fax: +254 20 374 0598
email:
fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke
www.fsasomali.org

Somalia Food Security Situation Analysis: Post Deyr '07/08 Projection, January - June 2008



Somalia Food Security Situation Analysis: Post Deyr '07/08 Population Numbers, Jan. - June 2008

Affected Regions	UNDP 2005 Total Population ¹	Assessed and Contingency Population in AFLC and HE		Total in AFLC or HE as % of Region population
		Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC)	Humanitarian Emergency (HE)	
North	2,341,718	0	0	0
Central				
Galgaduud	330,057	80,000	15,000	29
Mudug	350,099	35,000	5,000	11
Sub-Total (Central)	680,156	115,000	20,000	20
South				
Bakool	310,627	90,000	5,000	31
Bay	620,562	25,000	0	4
Gedo	328,378	35,000	10,000	14
Hiraan	329,811	65,000	25,000	27
Juba Dhexe (Middle)	238,877	20,000	0	8
Juba Hoose (Lower)	385,790	60,000	15,000	19
Shabelle Dhexe (Middle)	514,901	40,000	85,000	24
Shabelle Hoose (Lower)	850,651	85,000	155,000	28
Sub-Total (South)	3,579,597	420,000	295,000	20
Banadir	901,183			
GRAND TOTAL	7,502,654	535,000	315,000	11
Assessed Rural population in AFLC or HE		850,000	11	
Estimated number of new IDPs updated Jan 08		705,000	9	
Estimated number of old IDPs		275,000	4	
Estimated total population in crisis		1,830,000	24	