

## FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

*\*\* In July, two FSAU field monitors carried out an assessment in North Mudug and Nugal regions to assess impact of the gu rains. See a summary of their findings in page 3.*

*\*\* FSAU assistant Livestock Specialist and COOPI carried out a joint assessment between 17th to 27th July to assess effects of water shortage on general food security in Awdal region.*

*\*\* FSAU has appointed a National Programme Manager, Ibrahim Ali. .*

*\*\*The Gu Pre-Filedwork briefing and training workshop will take place between 7th August – 13th August in Hargeisa.*

*\*\* The FSAU workshop for the Gu crop assessment and Annual Food Security Analysis (Gu 2002-2003) will be held between September 4th– 20th September in Hargesia.*

*\*\*The Gu field assessment will be carried out from 17th Aug to 4th Sept. a harvest report will be presented to the SACB meeting on Sept 11th. The annual food security analysis will be presented to the SACB on 9th Oct.*

## FOOD AID DISTRIBUTION

Increased insecurity in northern Gedo is hindering the much needed food aid distribution especially in Luuq district. In July, CARE distributed 468MT of food in Elwag district, Gedo for a total of 7572 beneficiaries (women). WFP is currently loading 130MT of food commodities from Elwak to be transported to Bardera (Gedo) for the FFW (Food for work) projects that will target about 1,245 families? Distribution is likely to take place in the first week of August.

WFP Merka will not carry out any FFW projects in M/L Shabelle in the next 3 months as farmers are harvesting and trying to sell their crop. WFP will focus on supporting Cash - for-Work projects and limited food assistance to insecure groups (IDPs from Bay) as need arises. No food aid distribution is being done in Bay region due to insecurity.

WFP distributed the a total of 200MT in Hiran for FFW projects; 50MT in Mahas, 30MT in Jalalaqsi, 60MT in Belet Weyne and 60MT in Bulo Burte districts. CARE distributed a total of 521MT as food for work. In Hiran region, 160MT were distributed in Belet weyne, 79MT in Jalalaqsi, 48MT in Mahas and 40MT in Mataban districts. In Bay region, 60MT were distributed in Baidoa, 54MT in Bur Hakaba and 20MT in Qansah Dere. In Bakol region, 60MT were distributed in Tieglo district.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**GEDO:** The UNCU/OCHA interagency humanitarian assessment in Luuq (16th to 17th July,) noted that the cease-fire agreement still holds but tension remains in the region. A number of roads remained closed due to landmines. There is hope that Elders will negotiate for their removal as insecurity has now blocked the Baidoa option further hindering food aid from reaching the region. The results of the joint survey undertaken by FSAU, FEWS NET and CARE in March/April have been released (For further information contact carol.kingori@fsau.or.ke) and they indicate that households in Luuq obtain 38% of the calorific food needs from food aid. However, restricted access has prevented food aid distributions in the last four months due to insecurity in Luuq district. There are no cereal stocks and coping mechanisms reported are borrowing and selling of fodder to obtain cereal. Many of the more vulnerable groups have moved to El bon in search of employment. Others have dispersed into neighbouring areas. The plight of those remaining in Luuq is causing the greatest concern where some food is available but unaffordable.

**SOOL AND SANAG:** The majority of poor pastoralists living in the Sool and Sanaag regions are becoming increasing vulnerable to the rising costs of essential commodities. Their purchasing ability is steadily declining and this group are highly dependant on the labor market for income and their ability to purchase food from the market. As grazing becomes exhausted with the high concentration of livestock, vulnerability to disease also increases. Some pastoralist are forecasting significant losses. Weakening livestock will be closely monitored as well as signals of malnutrition and health problems within pastoral groups. All indications are that the impact of the poor Gu rains, combined with the lost livestock export trade, are biting harder and harder. Changes in consumption patterns, minimizing household expenditure, access to remittances and other forms of social support are unlikely to sustain the more vulnerable groups through to the next Deyr. Any political tensions could disrupt very essential access to markets and trade.

**ABNORMAL LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS:** Following poor Gu rains in many pastoral areas unusually early seasonal livestock migrations have been observed. Sool and Sanaag report livestock coming from Nugal and Bari. Camels are on the move from Bari to Gagaab and Golis. Livestock are moving from Toghdeer to region V. North West and Awdal are hoping that recent rains will halt an influx of livestock from other areas. (See also regional summaries)

## Highlights from the FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

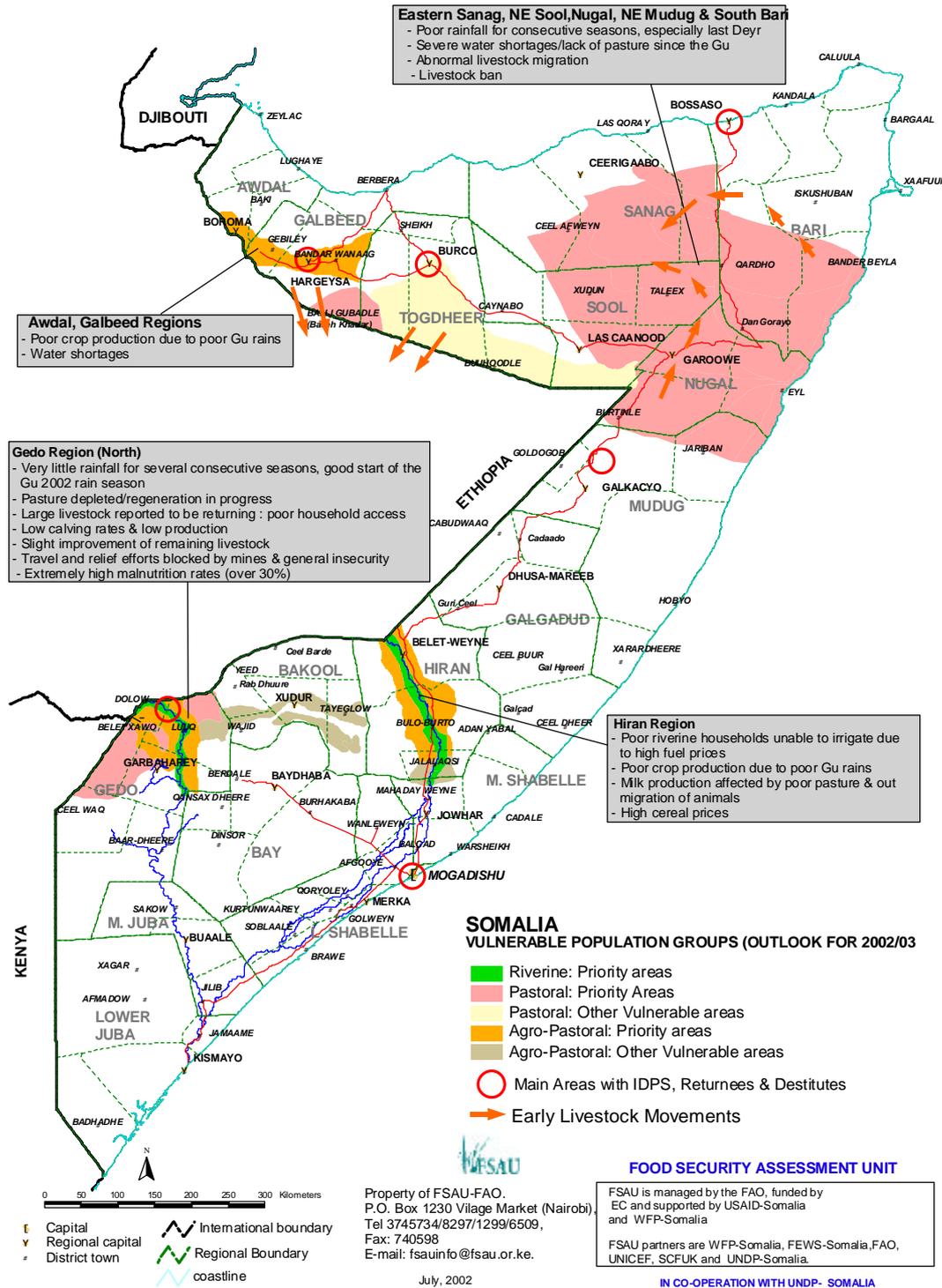
The food security challenges in Sanaag are increasingly becoming more evident. The preliminary results of a nutrition survey conducted by UNICEF/FSAU in May 2002 had noted fairly high malnutrition rates of about 14%. Severe acute malnutrition was 1.7% while oedema was 3.3%. The situation is expected to deteriorate with continued depletion of the survival strategies and insurmountable economic downturn resulting from the effects of persistent livestock ban. Milk production, a source of protein for most people in the region, is scarce. The poor find it increasingly difficult to afford imported food stuffs. Furthermore migration of the middle income groups with their animals to places where they can find water and pasture has been reported weakening the social network support in the region. It would be paramount for agencies (both national and international) to mount an intervention strategy before the worsening situation intensifies. The

malnutrition rates revealed could just be an indication of major problems threatening the survival fabrics of the community. However, most parts of the north remain nutritionally stable as noted in the recent nutrition surveys (Nutrition Update June and July 2002).

Overall, Southern Somalia especially Gedo, parts of Hiran and Bakol continue to experience precarious nutrition situation with food insecurity, high disease prevalence and insecurity remaining major hindrances to stable welfare status. It also notable that though there is stable food and nutrition security in some regions of central and southern Somalia, the prevailing insecurity in grain belts like Bay threatens the sustainability of such balance should unrests persist.

**For more details, see the FSAU monthly publication 'Nutrition Update', or contact noreen.prendiville@fsau.or.ke**

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



LIVESTOCK UPDATE

The SACB held a meeting in Hargeisa on 30th July with the aim of improving collaboration with pastoralists in Somalia. This increased dialogue would inform local stakeholders of what the SACB is doing and ensure activities are more in-line with local needs, and also begin to build local capacity. In future livestock working group meetings would be held in other parts of Somalia.

At the meeting the ongoing drought assessment in Eastern Sanaag and Sool was also highlighted. These areas have been badly affected by poor Gu rains and recurrent droughts compounded by inter-regional movements of livestock with the resulting environmental degradation. Most of the better-off pastoralists and some of the middle wealth group migrated from the affected areas of Nugal, Bari and Sool to less affected areas of Sanag region. This type of movement is very abnormal at this time of the year. The distance between the water and pasture is very far for the weak livestock, compelling many pastoralists to truck water from distant places to

the grazing areas. The poor have very limited coping options.

PORT MOVEMENT TABLE

BOSSASSO *	April 2002	May 2002	June 2002	July 2002
CAMEL	1183	744	883	820
CATTLE	4250	3470	5470	7610
SHOATS	39780	85310	109900	121490
TOTAL	45213	89,524	116253	129920
BERBERA **	April 2002	May 2002	June 2002	July 2002
CAMEL	2020	647	2658	1151
CATTLE	854	N/A	1910	1752
SHOATS	6777	15034	10378	12861
TOTAL	9651	15681	14946	15764

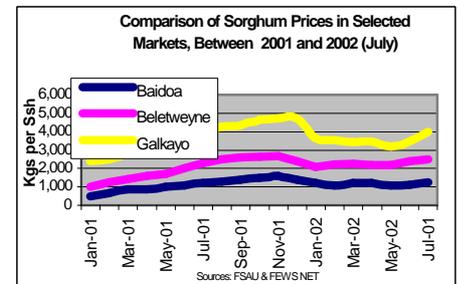
Sources: Berbera and Bossaso port authorities

## NORTH-EAST PASTORAL SITUATION ASSESSMENT

Two FSAU Field Monitors completed an assessment covering 1700 km in North Mudug and Nugal regions during July to assess the impact of the poor Gu rains. Livestock condition is reported to be weakening in many parts of Nugal and Hawd. Strategic Berkedes in Hawd and Iyah areas did not replenish last Gu. Although the terms of trade are currently adequate, it is expected that in a few weeks from now, the physical condition of livestock will rapidly deteriorate, therefore market-worthy animals will be very few. Calving rates in Hagaa and Jilaal were below normal resulting in reduced milk access. Increasing vulnerability will be expected even with timely start up of the Deyr season and concern has already been expressed over the deteriorating nutritional state of children. Presently, the poor and middle FEGs in the Hawd are stretching their resources to buy water thus forgoing part of their expenditure on food and other essential non-food items. Coping mechanisms are reported to include the expansion of income by selling more livestock or seeking gifts and reducing expenditure to the minimum essential items. However their ability to expand income is being progressively eroded as the livestock condition is deteriorating. **Out look:** If Deyr rains commence normally the majority of pastoralists will cope, but at the cost of depleting their reserves and asset base. The better off will be those pastoralists owning camels and shoats and /or those who have access to remittances and other forms of social support. Complicating factors would include a delayed or poor Deyr rains possibly triggering an outbreak of livestock diseases. A worsening security situation could threaten the trade routes disrupting essential market access and tip the balance from a precarious to critical situation.

## MARKET PRICE

Pre-harvest cereals prices are high in most reported markets, due to short supplies, especially in rainfed markets, where Gu production prospective is less favorable. However, in some irrigated areas, where the gu production prospective is favorable, cereal prices are close to normal. As shown below, cereal prices, especially sorghum prices are higher in most markets, with the exception in Bay region, where good gu harvest is expected.



## REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONITORS

Every month, the 22 FSAU Field Monitors provide in depth information on food security indicators in their areas. If you would like to obtain a copy of their district reports - please contact alex.williams@fsau.or.ke. The Regional highlights are a summary of this field information.

### SANAG & TOGHDEER

In Toghdeer continuing water shortages have seen further livestock movements into Region V in Ethiopia. Agro-pastoral areas are reporting poor crop performance. In Sanaag below normal pasture availability, livestock condition and production has prompted increased petty trade and income from employment. Food security for poor groups is precarious with unfavorable terms of trade. Hundreds of unskilled laborers, petty traders and port workers are reported to have left Bossaso due to insecurity, many returning to areas in eastern Sanaag. Key areas of concern include Xadeed plateau, within the Sool plateau, the Saraar and Ban-adde plains and the Gebi valley. These traditionally prime grazing areas of the region are presently overstocked, with additional herds entering from Nugal and Bari, placing insupportable pressure on the rangeland resources. Migration options are now limited for those remaining. The pressure on pasture and depletion of water reserves is expected to worsen until the start of the Deyr.

### BARI REGION

Pastoral groups have benefited from good Gu rains. An influx of camels herds from *Sool of Gardo* and *Iyah of Nugaal* is reported while local camel herders are on the move to *Gagaab* and *Golis* from *Dharoor*. Dry winds (*Hagaa*) and a high concentration of animals are increasing demand for water notably in *Uur Aleed* (sub zone of *Dharoor*). The poorer groups are under pressure due to their market dependence and with the seasonal economic downturn reducing income opportunities. However, with one quality goat exchanging for one sack of rice, terms of trade appear more favorable than this time last year. The situation is regarded as stable apart from some urban groups (inc. IDPs) who are more affected by the reduced port activities during this season.

### NORTH WEST & AWDAL

Water access and availability are normal apart from the problems linked to broken boreholes in Karuure and Kalawle. Grazing condition is not good due to poor Gu rains and milk prices are on the increase with the exception of Baki and Lughaye. There is hope that the recent rains will continue and halt an influx of livestock from other areas. Rain-fed crops are in poor condition and wilting as a result of poor soil moisture. A prolonged *Karan* season may enable some recovery in overall production and the impact of this on agro-pastoral groups needs to be closely monitored. Trade with Djibouti has normalized with reopening of the border and significantly improving the purchasing power of households in Awdal region. Increased port activity at Berbera has also been noted. About 6000 and 2000 returnees from Ethiopia and Djibouti respectively were received in the North West regions.

### NORTH NUGAL & SOUTH BARI

Poor Gu rains are resulting in abnormally high migration of livestock and a deterioration in their general condition. Despite this prices remain reasonable and helping to alleviate some pressure on food insecurity. Milk is showing the largest price increase. These trends are expected to continue and might result in weakening livestock condition and increasing difficulties in accessing water due to associated costs. Reduced access to milk for urban poor and children will be one predictable outcome.

### SOUTH NUGAL & NORTH MUDUG

In the southern Nugal districts of Burtinle Hawd and northern Addun (Jerriban), berkedes are reported to be dry. Poorer households have moved to Goldogob, Golol valley and Galkayo suburbs where water is more accessible. Declining lactations and poor terms of trade has reduced the purchasing power of the poor increasing their need to access social support. In the Addun FEZ the price of water is reported at double the normal rates, partly due to higher fuel costs. Elsewhere, the distances to water in central areas is normal and so is access to free water in the shallow wells. The livestock condition and production are also reported to be normal for the season. In the southern parts of the region and in the vicinity of Galkayo terms of trade are reported to be normal following close to normal Gu rainfall and resulting good livestock condition and production.

### SOOL (and the Buhoodle Hawd)

Overstocking of rangelands that received some patchy Gu rains has depleted grazing earlier than usual. Livestock condition is expected to deteriorate as a result until further rains. Water prices are reported to have stabilized but the crucial distance between water and pasture is widening. Oversupply in the livestock markets is reducing pastoralists purchasing ability and income. However, increased urban construction (linked to Diaspora investment) is reported to be providing essential income opportunities although workers from southern Somalia and possibly Region V are expected to increase competition for this important income source. With milk yields declining, there is a higher dependence on food purchases but the majority are reported to be coping through increased livestock sales and remittance support. Goat terms of trade have improved for rice with little change on other commodities. Key areas affected are the Sool Plateau and Ainabo.

REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONTIORS

**GEDO**

No rainfall was received throughout Gedo region during the month (N.B. Normal) . However, no water shortages were reported as the main water sources and the prominent boreholes remain functional for both livestock and human consumption but water catchments are drying . Most livestock are concentrated in Dirhara (between Garbaharey and El-wak Districts) where they moved after good April rains. However competition for water and pasture is now expected to increase with the large livestock numbers reported in the area. Camel diseases and reduced livestock milk yields are reported by herders. Some Dawa pastoralists have returned to their home areas despite the feeling of current insecurity in north Gedo. Prospects for crop harvests in north Gedo are narrowing as the poor Gu rainfall met with increased fuel prices, restricting production in the irrigated areas. Southern rain fed areas of Bardera encountered severe bird damage and declining soil moisture, thus reducing crop performance. Food availability in the south is normal for all FEGs while in the north the situation is more complicated. Trade routes were cut by either banditry or land mines and prices are higher than normal as a result. The poorer households have limited purchasing ability and remain heavily dependant on relief food. Refugee repatriation has taken place from Mandera to B/hawa this month, where the security situation was still fragile, and similarly, refugees camped in Dolo Ethiopia were reported to have returned to Dolo Somalia following peace initiatives among Elders. The remaining inhabitants in and around Luuq remain highly vulnerable.

**HIRAN**

The adverse climatic conditions prevailing in most parts of the region, dry, hot and cool weather affected the overall livestock and crop production. No rainfall was received in all districts of the region and that was quite normal as the region does not expect the coastal Hagai rains. The total cropped area in all the rain-fed areas is drastically reduced as a result of poor Gu rains. This will result in lower production this Gu season compared to the norm. In the irrigated areas, farmers encountered sudden fuel price rise which undermined the required irrigation intervals, thus reducing yields and production. In pastoral areas, the livestock condition continues to deteriorate as pasture and grazing opportunities are limited. Livestock migrations involving the strong and non lactating animals towards Bakool, M/L Shabelle regions and Ethiopia have been observed during the month. The weak and lactating animals remained and need continuous feeding support. The overall food security situation of the region will need close monitoring. The purchasing power of the majority as well as the terms of trade for pastoralists was relatively normal.

**JUBA VALLEY**

Light Hagai rains were received in most parts of the region. Water availability for almost all areas was relatively good for this time of year, but limited, with the only permanent water sources being along the riverine and dheshek areas. Following the previous poor production season, staple prices have now declined with the availability of green maize. Imported commodity prices remain high impacting more on the purchasing power of urban dwellers and the poor. Rainfed agricultural areas have experienced serious bird damage on sorghum crops. Stalk borer attacks will reduce overall production in many parts of the region. The late planted crops are suffering from moisture stress in all districts. Crops damaged by earlier flooding in Lagdera area of Afmado district have now been replaced with sesame, maize and vegetable crops. Clan fighting occurred in Waldina and Hosingo areas of Badade District in July and that has already affected the food security situation of the district. Trade routes were cut and livestock herders moved away from the conflict zones.

**BAY**

Most parts of the region received some rather localized Hagai rains with cloudy and cooler weather conditions. The general crop conditions looks good and promising. Job opportunities involving scaring of crop bird pests were good and providing needed income for poor households. Cereal prices have gone down due to the expected good Gu harvests, though prices of imported commodities tended to increase because of the insecurity. Livestock conditions are good and terms of trade for herders is favorable and promising. The insecurity in Baldoa has led to migrations to other towns in the region as well as to Bakool region.

**LOWER SHABELLE**

With the exception of Afgoye and W/weyn districts Hagai showers were good. Water availability increased in the coastal areas and are normal elsewhere in the region. Livestock body condition and health seems normal in the southern parts of the region. Pasture and grazing conditions improved attracting livestock in-migration from M/Shabelle. Elsewhere normal seasonal migration patterns are noted. Crop production in the rain-fed areas of the region is doing well with exception of Afgoye and parts of Merca districts where rainfall has been poor. Irrigated maize is normal, although widespread aphid infestations were observed. Extensive sesame in the coastal areas is expected to yield well. Food security for all FEGs improved with increased consumption of green maize, access to fruits, sweat potatoes and plantains plus improved access to milk. Clan conflicts, road blocks and cattle rustling became frequent threatening the stability of the region.

**BAKOL**

No rainfall was recorded throughout Bakol region during July as expected and the weather remained partly dry and cool. Camel and shoats body weight, productivity, and marketability were close to normal. However, due to poor pasture and grazing, cattle condition continued to deteriorate during the month. Livestock movement from Bay region was observed during the month because of the on-going insecurity. Displaced people from Bay region might put pressure on the fragile food security situation in the area by affecting both the supply and prices. Significant cross border trade was reported between Bakool region and Ethiopia involving local cereals. Market demand being good for the better off groups but not for the poor unless increased labor results later in the season. The overall security situation of the region continues to be good.

**GALGADUD**

The general weather condition for most of G/gudud region was dry and cool which is typical of the Hagai season. Light rainfall was received along the border between Somalia and Ethiopia during the month, but not throughout the region. The overall situation in terms of water, pasture and grazing remained normal for the region and the general food security conditions seem normal. Food availability for all increased due to regular supplies from other areas which has helped stabilise food prices and improve accessibility for even the poorer groups.

**COWPEA BELT**

Light Hagai rains fell in the coastal areas of the cowpea belt and those areas favored for pasture and water availability. Inland settlements received minimal rainfall during the month as is expected at this time of the year. Water availability will remain scarce until the onset of the coming Deyr rains. Water price increases have been observed in most of the grazing areas of the region. Pasture availability around the coastal villages is moderate following the Hagai rains. Most of the cowpea belt livestock are in the inland pastoral areas of Mudug and G/gudud where pasture and grazing is becoming scarce . Terms of trade for pastoralists was decreasing because of unfavorable animal body condition. Crop performance will be affected by the low rainfall during late Gu and Hagai rainy seasons and by the extreme Hagai winds.

**MIDDLE SHABELLE**

Little rainfall was received in the region during the month of July and this was far below normal as the region expects Hagai rains. Weather conditions remained dry and hot. Even the coastal areas did not receive the expected Hagai rains and this is a signal for drought according to many herders in both pastoral and agro pastoral communities. Pasture condition is still normal in many parts of the region and similarly animal production/ reproduction levels are normal. Livestock are moving within the region in search of better pasture and water. In the crop producing areas, the harvest period is beginning to create job opportunities for poor households .However, crops harvests are expected to drop due to serious losses at the end of crop development stage, mainly from stalk borer, smuts and aphids.