

ISSUED AUGUST 2003

FSAU acknowledges the contribution of key partners FEWS NET, CARE, WFP, SC-UK, UNCU, UNDP

FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

****The Gu 2003 food security seasonal field assessment (crop harvest) is planned for 16th-31st August in the south and central Somalia. This will be followed by a workshop from 7th to 13th September covering the Gu season analysis and the overall food security outlook tentatively planned to be held in Hargesa. The report will be released in the first week of October and the findings will be presented on 8th October at the SACB.**

**The FSAU FOCUS on GU 2003 forecast and outlook for Somalia has been completed.

**FSAU and Save the Children-UK worked on a joint Belet Weyne Urban assessment from 8th to 20th of July which involved field work, analysis and consolidation of data. The report is still being compiled.

**FSAU organised a briefing to partners who are interested in participating in the Gu crop assessment exercise. This was held on 5th August at the FSAU office.

**In July FSAU and FEWS participated in preliminary discussions with Drought Monitoring Centre on improving rainfall data. FSAU and FEWS-Net are planning to install rain gauges in different parts of Somalia in coming months.

**FSAU and FEWS-Net participated in a study tour to the Sahel on Cross Regional Collaboration on Pastoralism from 7th to 21st July, in Mali and Niger. The tour was organised by USAID/REDSO in collaboration with FEWS-Net. More on page 3.

**FSAU and FEWS-Net (regional) and ALRMP (Kenya) participated in a Pastoral Baseline assessment in Garissa district. The report is on progress.

**FSAU and Progressive Interventions (PI) plan to carry out an assessment on 'Livelihoods and interventions in PI Project Area' in Bown, Erigavo and Sheikh areas in the North from 9th to 31st August.

For more information on the FSAU activities or for a copy of the various publications please contact fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke

FSAU is in a period of transition from Phase III to Phase IV of the project. In Phase IV, FSAU will be hiring an Economist. FSAU is looking for a Somali National, with a Masters in Economics for this National Post. Interested applicants should send a comprehensive CV to

fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke

HIGHLIGHTS

Sool Plateau in Alarming Food Security Situation: In the last report FSAU and FEWS-Net indicated 3,500 households in Sool plateau of Sanag and Sool as facing deficits of 25-35% of their energy requirements. And approximately 9000 households in Sool plateau food economy zone as facing chronic vulnerability. The situation is still critical. Some of the hardest hit pastoralist from eastern Sanag have moved to Gardo district in Bari. The pastoralists are losing their sustainable assets and many in the middle groups have slipped into the poor or very poor wealth groups, there is also a danger of many people becoming destitute. WFP and UNICEF have distributed food in the Sool Plateau however, there is need for more interventions.

Jilib in critical food security situation: In July FSAU carried out a rapid food security and nutritional assessment of riverine communities in Jilib district. The report indicated a deteriorating food security situation due to very poor deyr harvests, exhausted coping alternatives and reduced income opportunities. Some riverine villages have manifested a global acute malnutrition of about 28%, several cases of kwashiorkor, outbreaks of diseases such as measles and reported deaths of children. However, there is some improvement due to increased alternative food sources. The newly established therapeutic feeding centres by MSF Holland has helped severely malnourished children to improve their nutritional status. The situation needs close monitoring in the coming months.

Hagaa Rains: Intermittent light showers that occur in July to September have been late and below normal. The most important vegetative growth and grain setting stage is between June and July, therefore these rains are very critical. Farmers value these rains as they slowly penetrate the soil and revive any wilted crops and late planted crops. Consequently, because of poor Hagaa rains crops especially maize are experiencing severe moisture stress which could substantially reduce crop yield. However these rains were only beneficial in improving pasture.

Food Aid Distribution

Transportation income has been generated from food aid destined for Ethiopia through Berbera port.

In July CARE distributed sorghum, split peas and vegetable oil in Gedo region as free food distribution. These were distributed to an estimated 24,347 beneficiaries. A total of about 2,435MT of sorghum were distributed, of which 778MT were distributed in Bulo Hawa, 848MT in Luuq, 366MT in Dolow and 443MT in El Waq districts. A total of 244MT of split peas were distributed of which 37MT were distributed in Dolow, 78MT in Bulo Hawa, 85MT in Luuq and 44MT in EL Waq districts. A total of 45MT of vegetable oil was distributed, of which 8MT distributed in El Waq, 7MT in Dolow, 14MT in Bulo Hawa and 16MT in Luuq districts. They did not distribute any Food for work in July.

No information had been received from WFP as per the date of issue of this report.

Highlights from the FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

In Jilib District, some riverine villages are currently facing a severe deterioration in nutritional status as manifested by a global acute malnutrition of about 28% (MUAC <12.5cm), several cases of kwashiorkor and reported deaths of children (July 2003 FSAU Food security and Nutrition assessment). The malnutrition problem is attributed to poor crop production, unreliable income and food sources, limited intake of proteins and non-use of variety diets. The nutrition situation in the district has however deteriorated since last year when a similar nutritional assessment by FSAU was done, which reported a Global acute malnutrition rate of 14% (MUAC <12.5cm or oedema).

Sool Plateau

Meanwhile, serious under-nutrition continues to persist in Sool plateau. Facility data in areas visited by this population e.g. Las Anod and Huudun MCHs shows increasing malnu-

trition levels from May 2003. In Las Anod for example, Global acute malnutrition reported at the facility has increased from less than 10% (WFH <-2 z-scores or oedema) in April to about 15% in July 2003. WFP has already distributed a one-month ration to some 1,200 households in parts of Sool plateau and Upper Dharoor Food economy zones while interventions by UNICEF targeting malnourished children with supplementary foods and provision of basic health services in Sool plateau is currently underway. However, sustainable livelihood sources still remain inadequate in the plateau. FSAU has in the past outlined various recommendations suggested for interventions in the area (FSAU July Monthly food security and Nutrition updates).

For copies of the nutrition survey reports and further information related to nutrition, see copies of the FSAU monthly publication 'Nutrition Update' or contact: Noreen.prendiville@fsau.or.ke



The FSAU is implemented by the FAO and funded by the EC.

Further information is available through PO Box 1230, Nairobi, Tel: (254-2) 3741299, 3745734, 3748297, Fax: 3740598, E-mail: fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke, or look at www.unsomalia.net under the 'FSAU' webpage.

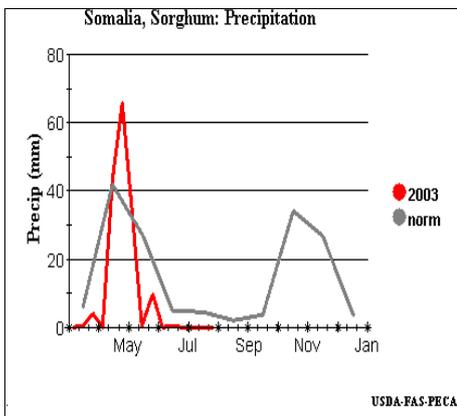
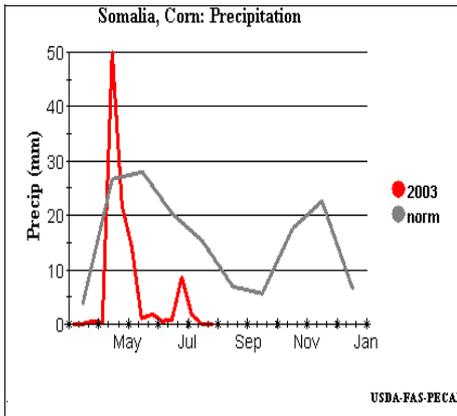


The FSAU Nutrition component is funded by USAID.

While all efforts have been made to utilize the most accurate data and information available, neither FSAU, FEWS Net or any of their supporters or partners endorse any figure or political boundary as definitive.



GU 2003 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE IN MAIZE AND SORGHUM PRODUCING AREAS IN SOUTHERN SOMALIA

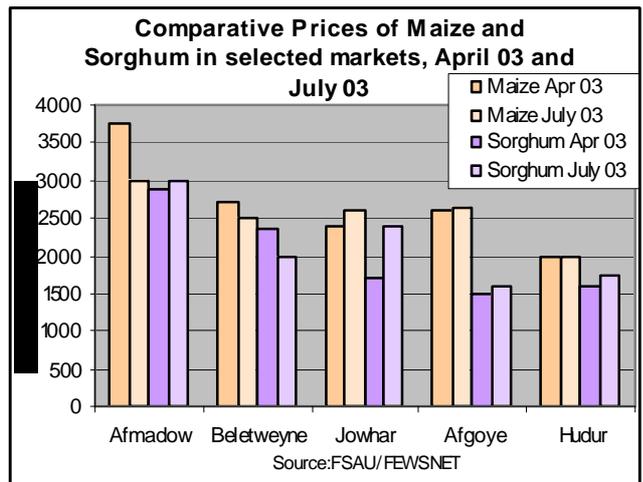


The performance of rainfall for the Gu season 2003 in agricultural regions of southern Somalia shows similar trends in both sorghum belt (Bay, Bakool and parts of Hiran and Gedo) as well as maize growing areas of Juba and Shabelle Valleys. Both regions received substantial rains (50mm/dekad for maize area and 65mm/dekad for sorghum belts) as shown on the graphs on the left. These rains were however short in duration, and concentrated in the first two dekads of May. Thereafter, rains declined well below the normal level and unfortunately the most important vegetative growth and grain setting stage is during June and July. Information from the ground suggests similar situation and crops especially maize is experiencing severe moisture stress which could substantially reduce crop yield.

MARKET PRICES AND TRADE

As shown in the figure below, prices for sorghum are higher in July compared to April (the gu onset), in the reported markets except for Belet Weyne. Maize prices are higher than sorghum prices in all selected markets with an average of 20 percent more than sorghum. Except for Jowhar and Afgoye, prices of maize have decreased or remained the same in most markets, which is normal at this time when harvesting has begun.

Prices in July for sorghum in Huddur district are lower than expected due to food aid interventions which are going on in the district. In July sorghum prices in Hudur were Ssh1,750 per kilogram. However, in irrigated Jowhar market, sorghum prices jumped to Ssh2,400 per kilogram in July.



FOCUS ON JULY: PERCENT NORMAL RAINFALL FOR HAGAA SEASON

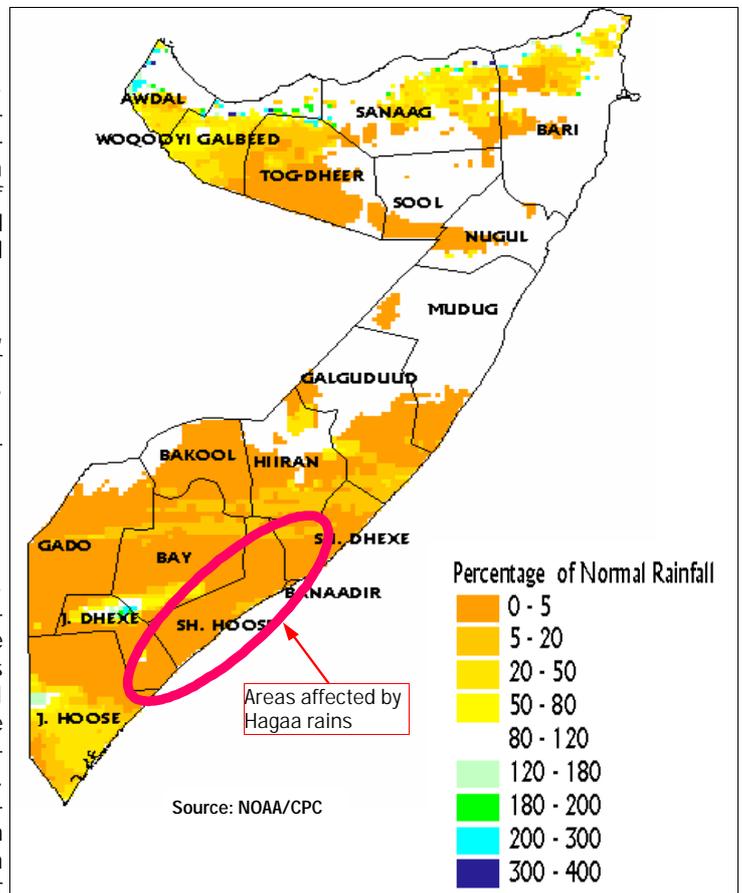
Background

Normally when the Gu season subsides, showers and light winds known as Hagaa arrive in the most coastal areas of southern Somalia. These are typical Hagaa rains. These are intermittent showers which occur in the coastal areas of southern Somalia between July and September. In normal years, these rains cover a range of 60-100 km from the Indian Ocean coast. In exceptionally good years, the front of these rains may reach up to 200-250km inland (Dinsor and Baidoa).

The coastal regions, which greatly benefit from the Hagaa rains, include Lower, Middle Shabelle and parts of Middle and Lower Juba valleys as well as Galgaduud region. Farmers and pastoralists of these regions value these intermittent and light showers most. This is, because they slowly infiltrates the soil and keeps crop performance and pasture in good condition.

Current

Both satellite imagery and field reports indicate the late and less than normal Hagaa rains in most parts in country. See figure showing the satellite images. Meteosat imagery shows the percentage of normal rainfall for the period as spot light rainfall in small areas (middle and Lower Juba). There is a great concern on late planted crops, which Hagaa rains normally helps in their performances. The images indicated that the prominent Hagaa agriculture areas received only maximum of 5 percent millimeter of the normal rainfall. When the Gu rains are below normal, the Hagaa rains play an important role in increasing the crop yield, because they cover an average of 60 percent of the rainfed agriculture areas. However, in this season, Hagaa showers were beneficial to livestock rather than crop.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITIONAL STATUS ASSESSMENT OF JILIB DISTRICT

Introduction

As a follow up of MSF Holland mortality assessment which took place from 17th to 19th June 2003, FSAU team conducted a rapid Food security and Nutritional assessment of the riverine communities in Jilib district from 22nd to 27th July 2003. The assessment focused on these following points:

- ? Exclusion of the riverine groups from assistances in Jilib district
- ? Widespread food insecurity among the riverine FEZ in Jilib
- ? Disease outbreaks and severe malnutrition rates among the children under five

Findings

The report revealed extreme poor Deyr 02/03 harvests of 100MT compared to 189 MT post war average, for all wealth groups in the communities. This not only affected cereals but also cash crops such as pumpkin, tomatoes and water melon and vegetables. Income sources such as crop sales, employment and self employment were also reduced. Coping alternatives such as gifts and the absence of the common wild foods (Makadeey and Dhoomaal) were exhausted. These wild foods are an important food source for the poorer groups even in the normal years. The period between late June and early July is known as hunger period (Yibil Baroor), has further aggravated the food security situation of the poor group in the area.

There has been recent disease outbreaks mainly measles which have further worsened the situation, cases of death have been reported. There have also been four cases of Kwashiorkor found in three villages, one case of Pellagra in Awramale village. No severe anemic and vitamin A, cases were observed and qualitative data collected indicate people had died in the different villages in the course of the last two months.

However, the overall current food security situation of the Juba Riverine group in Jilib district, particularly the poorer group is improving due increased alternative food sources such as eating premature maize cobs and cowpea buds as well as the extensive mango fruit collection and consumption. The newly established therapeutic feeding centres (TFCs) by MSF Holland has helped severely malnourished children to improve their nutritional status.

Responses

The situation needs close monitoring and possible interventions include:

- ? The continuation of the TFCs for at least one more month is necessary.
- ? Provision of enough fishing nets and related implements.
- ? Encourage and strengthen the existing health facilities (particularly assist the Somali Provisional Forum in establishing their MCH in Mareerey and main villages).

For more information please contact Abdinasir and Hersi at fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke

STUDY TOUR TO THE SAHEL ON CROSS REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON PASTORALISM

In November 2001, USAID/REDSO regional office in collaboration with FEWS NET, organized a regional workshop on Pastoral Early Warning and Early Response Systems in the Greater Horn of Africa in Mombassa. Organizations and representatives from the governments in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) attended. The overall objective of that workshop was to develop a strategy on pastoral sector to improve food security situation of pastoralist communities in the region. The workshop advocated for a better early warning system for improving food security in pastoral livelihoods through better information, communication and National Action Plan.

The study tour was therefore a first effort to implement on recommendations of the pastoral workshop. The FEWS NET Project, in collaboration with the Regional AGRHYMET Center of CILSS and with sponsorship from the regional USAID office in Nairobi and FEWS NET, organized the tour to Mali and Niger on July 7-21, 2003 to share experiences in addressing pastoralists' food security concerns and establish cross regional networks on pastoralism.

Fourteen participants from food security departments/organizations in Kenya, Somali and Ethiopia took part. Members of the Somalia team comprised FSAU, Vetaid, Ministry of Pastoral Development and Environment and, FEWS NET Somalia. Selection of the team was made with the consultation of the SACB Livestock Working Group.

Objectives of the Study Tour could be summarized:-

- 1.To review policies influencing land use rights and utilization;
 - 2.To share experiences on livestock trade and understand how it functions
 - 3.To study how community pastoral associations have been established and integrated in the local, national and regional systems and their role to strengthen decision-making and responses to the food security issues of pastoralists and;
 - 4.To understand how institutional networks in the Sahel countries are addressing the pastoral early warning and responses to mitigate conflict and drought-induced food security crises.
- During the tour, the Somalia team presented profile on Somali pastoralism (economic importance of the livestock sector, forms of pastoralism in Somalia, livestock production system, migration pattern, conflicts and conflict resolution, local and export markets, con-

strains of livestock production and marketing, early warning system—traditional and conventional etc). FSAU and FEWS NET experiences, activities and methodologies for food security monitoring and early warning were shared with the Sahelian counterparts.

The team intends to translate lessons learned from the shared experiences into actions that will improve the food security of pastoralists in the Greater Horn of Africa countries, where vulnerability of pastoralists to food insecurity has recently been rapidly increasing.

Expected Outcome

Regional and country specific reports will be produced and shared with the network partners. Moreover finding of the tour and the experience learned will be presented to SACB Livestock Working Group in Nairobi and Hargiesa. 'Workable' action plan will also be developed.

For the full report please contact Mahdi and Awdahir at fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke

LIVESTOCK EXPORT TABLE JULY 2003

Bossaso*	April	May	June	July
Camels	145	389	677	0
Cattle	5,185	3,098	6,590	3,153
Shoats	89,655	116,058	117,476	129,100
Total	95,985	119,545	124,743	132,253
Berbera**				
Camel	0	2,405	800	2,568
Cattle	1,566	2,518	3866	15,177
Shoats	12,035	22,971	16,502	27,306
Total	13,601	27,894	21,168	45,051

Source * Bossaso Port Authority

** Berbera Port Authority

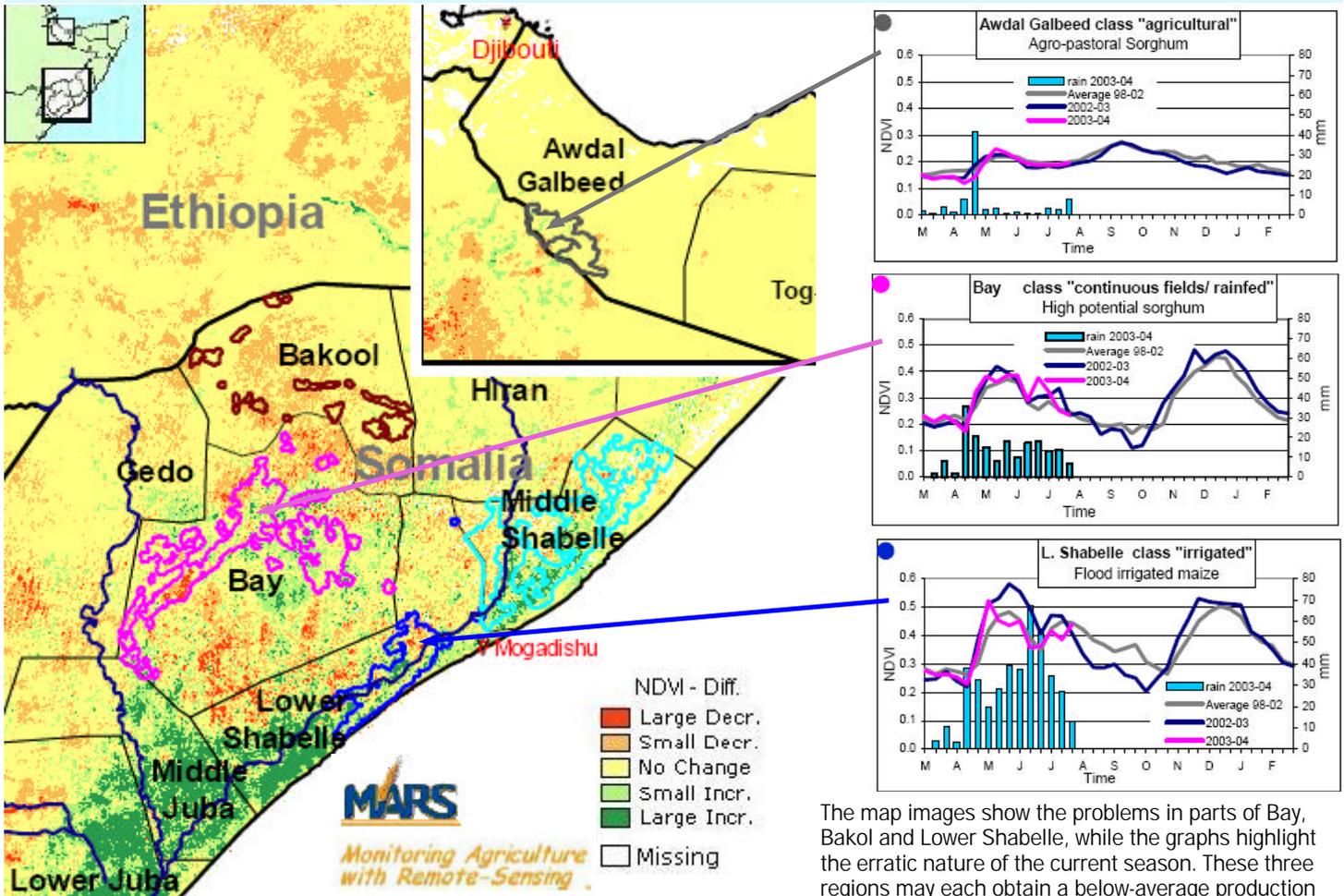
Livestock export figures for Berbera port doubled because:

1. Seasonal tides that affected the Bossaso seaport.
2. More demands of cattle from Yemen markets.
3. More camels were demanded by Egyptians.

For Bossaso port there was increased demand for more shoats by Oman and UAE.

NDVI IMAGES AND GRAPHS FOR CERTAIN LAND COVER CLASSES

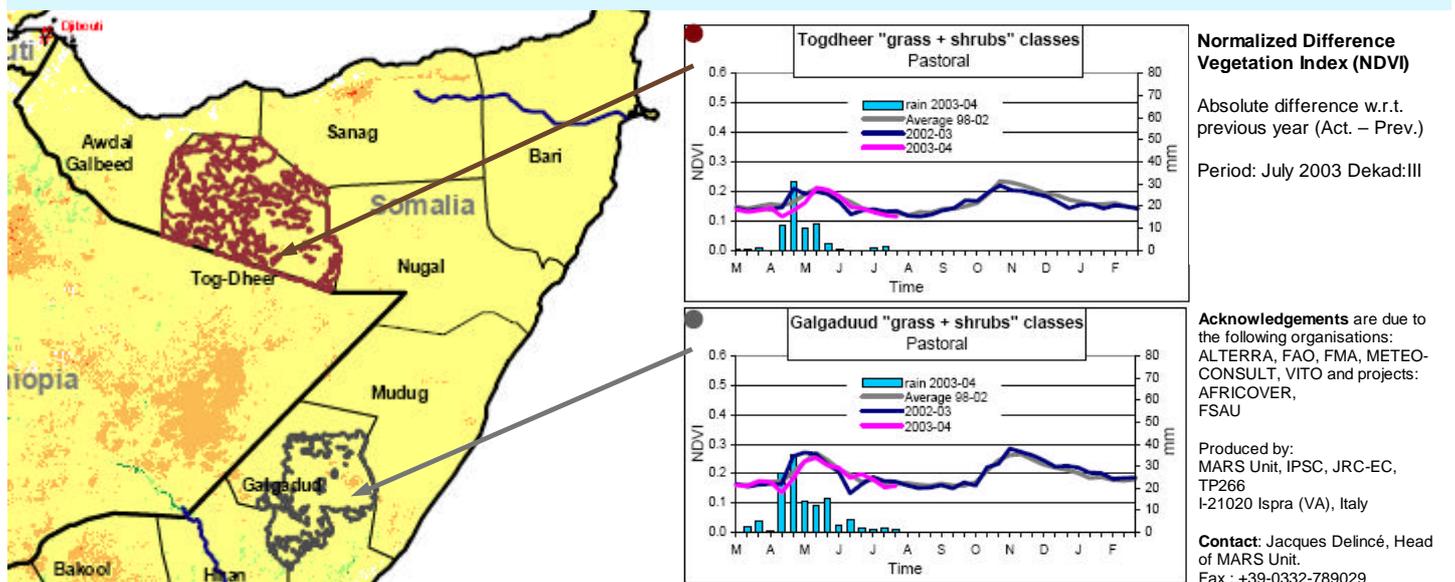
Agricultural Areas



The map images show the problems in parts of Bay, Bakol and Lower Shabelle, while the graphs highlight the erratic nature of the current season. These three regions may each obtain a below-average production figure and a substantial reduction compared with last year.

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)
 Absolute difference w.r.t. previous year (Act. - Prev.)
 Period: July 2003 Dekad:III

Pastoral Areas



Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)
 Absolute difference w.r.t. previous year (Act. - Prev.)
 Period: July 2003 Dekad:III

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Pastoral areas appear fairly normal, although for the land cover class "grass and shrubs" in Togdheer, vegetation is slightly lower than average. Of concern is a slight worsening situation in Galgaduud – this has been accentuated by insecurity in that region.

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 fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke. The Regional highlights are a summary of this field information.

References to Food Economy Zones (FEZ's) relate to information concerning different Food Economy and Livelihood Zones. For a map of these areas please contact : fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke

BARI

The food security situation in Bari is relatively normal. However, pastoralists in Sool plateau FEZ of Bender Beyla remain vulnerable due to the poor Gu rains, high cereal prices, and long term effects of drought on camel reproduction and low milk production. Poor pasture condition due to poor rains has caused considerable migration. The Dharoor FEZ especially the poor have been negatively impacted by high cereal prices, low prices of livestock and influx of Sool herders. The very poor urban and the Bossaso IDPs are particularly vulnerable, they are reliant on employment and are faced with reduced income generating activities especially due to reduced trade to the gulf due to rough seas at this time of the year. They have limited coping mechanisms and have resulted to skipping one meal.

SOUTH NUGAL & NORTH MUDUG

The overall food security condition of the Hawd and Addun pastoral food economies is normal. The dry windy haggaa season is causing a deterioration of the pasture condition. The livestock condition has improved compared to last month. However milk production is low, goat milk production is low due to their short milking period, camel milk production is below normal, and therefore access to milk is below normal especially for poor households. They have increased coping strategies such as gifts, employment and self employment. Poor households in Addun and east of the Hawd are having poor incomes due to poor market accessibility and livestock holdings are likely to decrease due to poor reproduction in Gu 2002. Supply of cereals in the market has reduced though prices have not increased due to appreciation of the Somali shilling.

SANAG AND TOGHDEER

The general food security situation of the affected economy zones of Sool plateau and upper Dharoor(Gebi valley) is deteriorating gradually. This is mainly caused by four years of prolonged drought followed by loss of assets and loss of the earnings from livestock sales and livestock products. This coincided with the high price of water and also sales of breeding and pack animals, furthermore, the normal coping strategies have become depleted or fewer. The food and income sources of the Sool plateau FEZ have changed considerable in terms of the quantity and quality. Since there is a change in the number of daily meals from three to one, and 80% of their food secure is purchased, many households especially the poor and middle are selling their breeding and pack animals, women's gold and guns. The subsistence economy has already or almost collapsed in Sool plateau, 50-60% of the middle group slipped down to poor and even to very poor wealth groups. If the expected Deyr rains fail or are delayed massive livestock deaths and huge number of destitute are expected. Other Food economy zones like Hawd and Golis pastoralists are experiencing normal Haggaa.

NORTH NUGAL & SOUTH BARI

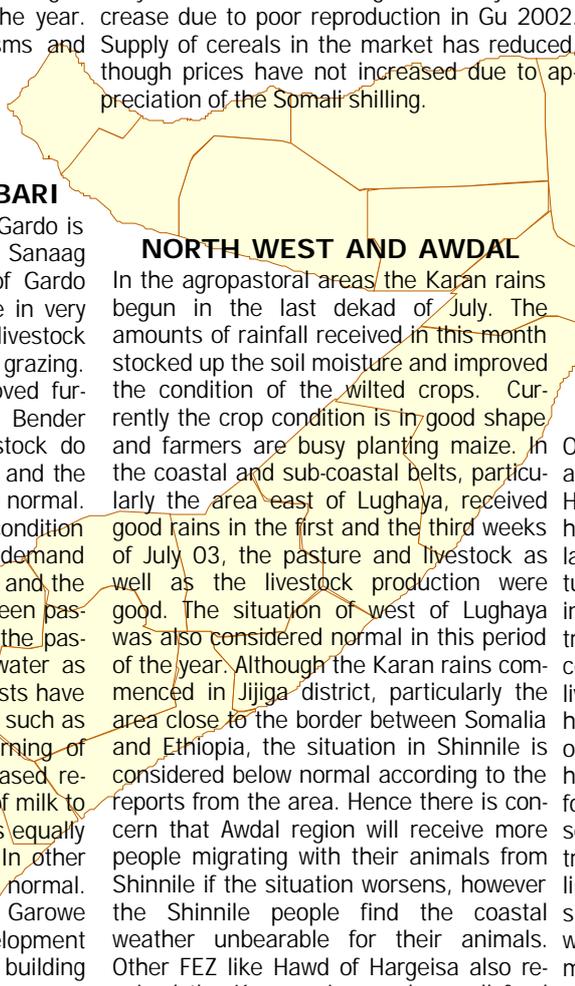
The situation in Sool plateau FEZ of Gardo is alarming. Hardest hit pastoralist of Sanaag moved into the Sool plateau FEZ of Gardo district with their livestock which are in very poor condition. The high density of livestock has caused depletion of pasture and grazing. The indigenous pastoralist have moved further south towards Dangoroyo and Bender Beyla districts. The in-migrated livestock do not have milk from lactating animals and the number of sellable animals are below normal. However, livestock that are in good condition are fetching good prices, because of demand for export animals. Water is available and the prices are normal. The distance between pasture and water is shorter. However, the pastoralists have to spend money on water as they are far from home. The pastoralists have resulted to negative coping strategies such as selling of breeding animals and burning of acacia trees for charcoal, and increased remittance seeking from abroad. Gifts of milk to the poor have failed as the shock has equally affected the middle and better off. In other areas, the food security situation is normal. Labour availability has improved in Garowe and Nugal, following several development projects by Diakonia and UNICEF, building schools in rural areas and running water system. Lobster fishermen are also investing in construction. The Nugal FEZ (lower valley) has also faced successive rain failures, however the affected pastoralist have had no in-migration and they do not need to spend on buying water as they are the natives of the area.

NORTH WEST AND AWDAL

In the agropastoral areas the Karan rains begun in the last dekad of July. The amounts of rainfall received in this month stocked up the soil moisture and improved the condition of the wilted crops. Currently the crop condition is in good shape and farmers are busy planting maize. In the coastal and sub-coastal belts, particularly the area east of Lughaya, received good rains in the first and the third weeks of July 03, the pasture and livestock as well as the livestock production were good. The situation of west of Lughaya was also considered normal in this period of the year. Although the Karan rains commenced in Jijiga district, particularly the area close to the border between Somalia and Ethiopia, the situation in Shinnile is considered below normal according to the reports from the area. Hence there is concern that Awdal region will receive more people migrating with their animals from Shinnile if the situation worsens, however the Shinnile people find the coastal weather unbearable for their animals. Other FEZ like Hawd of Hargeisa also received the Karan rains, and overall food security situation is normal. Construction activities contributed a large portion of employment opportunity in this month of July due more investments from abroad (Diaspora) and rehabilitation on roads between Hargeisa, Gebiley and Borama, Kalabaydh and Togwajale roads. Refugees from Dulad refugee camp in Ethiopia returned to Hargeisa.

SOOL REGION

Once more Sool plateau FEZ has reverted into an emergency situation. Weather conditions of Haggaa dry season coupled by an abnormal high velocity winds, are devastating to grazing lands and precipitated the desiccation of pasture resources. As most species started watering rhythms amid water crisis, costly water trucking remained the sole means to have access to drinking water for both human and livestock in the area. Many of the out-migrated herders in the early days of the season now opted to return back to the plateau to their home villages because of strong affiliation and for credit and other facilities. The overall food security conditions continue to face downward trends. Almost all lower social groups have limited access to daily energy needs. The situation has been exacerbated with soaring water prices, (45,000Sshs compared to normal price of 5000 Sshs), declining income sources and over stretched coping options. Income from milk continues to reduce to zero. However livestock sales are showing some improvement and local herders now have 90% baseline access to that income. Remittance and loans also contributed to income. Income from self employment has improved. Food security situation of other FEZ is normal as strong and dry winds of Haggaa continue to blow.



BAKOL

Food security for poor groups continues to be normal. In the areas where sorghum failed (southern parts of Tieglow and Hudur), good cowpea harvests have improved household food diversification and maintained access. Cowpea and sorghum fetch the same price in markets this month, while in the past cowpea prices were twice as much, reflecting the relative production and supply situation. Bird attacks have significantly damaged sorghum crops in the agro-pastoral areas of Rabdure, reducing the crop expectation to a much lower level than previously expected. Though self-employment (collection, micro-scale manufacture, trade) options are available, many poor households are missing employment activities during and after the coming harvest that could support their incomes. Expenditure on cereal for the poor wealth groups is on the increase, while cereal production is not promising this season. However, livestock-to-cereal terms of trade are good, benefiting both agro-pastoral and pastoral households.

GEDO

With the recently distributed food aid in the northern districts of the region from CARE, there has been an improved food security. The unexpected increase of the cropped area during the season by the local farmers and the prospects of good harvests, were hampered by the extreme wind blows and severe *Quellea Quellea* bird attacks on sorghum crop which had a lasting damage on the expected production. Livestock condition is fairly normal and there is improved animal production in most of the potential grazing areas of the region thus milk yields are very good for pastoralists. One of the key boreholes in the centre of the region's potential pasture areas, the Ceel Gadud, broke down and created unexpected significant livestock movements towards Garbaharey areas. TOTs remain favorable (one local goat fetches around 3 bags). The recent Border closure between Mandera and Belet hawa, has led to an end of the trade flow from Gedo to both Kenya and Ethiopia, hence decreased coping strategies. A capacity building workshop for the local administrations and authorities, sponsored by the Norwegian church aid (NCA) was held in El-wak town aiming at narrowing their differences and enhancing reconciliation process.

MIDDLE SHABELLE

Hagai shower received during the month improved pasture and browsing condition. It however did not help crops as they passed the critical stage. Exception is the late-planted maize and sesame, which will benefit from the ongoing hagai rains. Livestock body condition and production in terms of meat and milk is normal which improved price. Water availability for human and livestock is good. On farm job opportunities are available for poor households. These include weeding (off season maize), guarding and bird scaring. Cereal supply to the market is decreasing due to stock depletion. Gu harvest supply is not yet in the market with the exception of green cobs.

BAY

Bay region received *Hagay* showers, benefiting both pasture and crops. Crops improvements in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts also led to increased opportunities for labour in these districts, while in Qansah-Dere and Dinsor, both crop condition and labour opportunities have remained poor due to the poor start in the season. Livestock condition throughout the region has improved, although there have been some movements within each district as pastoral groups maximise their access to pasture, water and security. There are no reported outbreaks of disease. Milk prices have declined slightly, while prices for staples have increased, as farmers withhold their stocks in anticipation of a lower harvest. This, combined with trade constraints associated with insecurity (checkpoints) and port operations has sharply reduced the quantity of food available in local markets. Nevertheless, stocks from the 2002 seasons and still-favourable terms of trade for pastoralists mean that there has not yet been any deterioration in food security.

JUBA VALLEY

Intense rain fell almost on all coastal and some parts of inland areas of the valley from last dekad of June up to the end of July. These late rains improved maize crop yields forecasted, despite the pest attacks reported. In all areas production improved except for Buale riverine where the expected production will remain poor during the season. To the contrary, sorghum yields declined due to the severe bird attacks reported in mainly sorghum producing areas of Sakow and Jilib of the two regions. The cereal prices have increased and are about three times than normal in Buale town due to the very low supply coupled by low cereal availability due to poor harvests. The overall livestock body condition, production and reproduction remains favorable and animals are near the vicinity of the main towns where milk prices have gone down by 20-30 % in the previous months. TOTs remains good for pastoralists as 1 goat fetches 2 and more bags of cereals in most of the pastoral areas.

LOWER SHABELLE

Hagai rains which were received in the coastal areas improved pasture, and browsing condition. This attracted an influx of livestock from the neighboring regions of Bay, Middle Shabelle and Galgadud. Water availability and accessibility is good and livestock body condition and health is normal. Rainfed maize condition is however poor/failure, with the exception of localized depressions and areas where rains were adequate during vegetative growth and grain setting stages. The riverine FEG have depleted cereal stock and are very dependent on market purchase and consumption of green cobs and cowpea. Agropastoral FEG on the other hand have enough cereal stock as they withhold their stocks due to poor production outlook. Cereal prices in market vary depending on location but price of maize remain high due to high demand and low supply resulting from increased road blocks/high taxation.

COWPEA BELT

The cowpea belt districts (Adanyabal, Adale, Elder, Galhareri, Hara-dhere and Hobyo). The general food security situation is normal. Water is available in most water sources with low prices around the coast and gradually increasing further inland. There is normal availability of pasture and livestock body condition is normal with reliable milk and meat production. Thus the marketability of the livestock has improved, and they are being sold to major towns such as Mogadishu and Galkayo. The harvesting of sorghum and cowpeas is in progress in the various districts. Household cereal stocks have improved with recent harvest. Sale of livestock and livestock products, bush product collection, fishing and remittances are the main coping strategies. Health conditions are normal with pockets of malaria and respiratory diseases.

GALGADUUD

Excessive winds, cool temperatures and cover clouds are prevailing in the region and it is normally which is normal at this time of the year. The overall food security situation is normal. There is adequate pasture and grazing are available in the area. There are normal livestock movements along the water point areas. The current water expenses experienced by the poorer groups will imminently exhausted income earlier than expected and this will soon have purchasing power implications. The present livestock trade and sales is excellent for the poorer households as they derive the most needed income from the related activities. There are remarkable food supplies from other neighboring areas to stabilize food prices and therefore food prices for only few commodities, sugar and imported cereals show an increasing trend since last month. Terms of trade of the pastoralists are good in all parts despite the fact that the season was not adequate to sustain the overall livelihood of the pastoralists. The current and renewed conflicts in some parts of the region could create a buffer zone for free grazing options exist and restricted movements might discourage migratory coping strategies from being adopted.

HIRAN

Rainfall has been normal in the agro-pastoral and riverine areas, while being slightly below normal in the pastoral areas. This has meant that water catchments in pastoral areas are under some pressure as demand is currently high. Access to food for all main livelihood groups is normal (due to the good *Deyr*), although stocks in both households and markets are starting to dwindle. This has manifested itself by a rise in the local price of cereal (15%). The poor cropping season this *Gu* has, however, diminished labour opportunities for poor agro-pastoral and riverine households, reducing their incomes. Insect pests and bird damage have affected cereal production and figures from the crop establishment will most likely be revised downwards