

### Highlights

Climate

Markets

Nutrition

Agriculture

Livestock

Civil  
Security

Emerging  
Regional  
Issues

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

Tel: +254 20 374 5734  
Fax: +254 20 374 5098  
email:  
fasauinfo@fsau.or.ke  
www.fsausomali.org

#### Rapidly Deteriorating Food Security Situation in Southern Somalia

Failed Deyr rains, the second consecutive season of below normal rains, are leading to a rapid and alarming deterioration in food security throughout southern Somalia. Pastoralists in Gedo and the northern parts of Juba already face a critical food security situation and are at high risk of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis**. For populations already classified in a chronic state of **Humanitarian Emergency** in Gedo and Juba, the effect of a deteriorating food security is already evident in increasing levels of malnutrition – in populations where malnutrition rates are already significantly above acceptable international levels (see page 2). Other regions in the south face the same problems of poor pasture, limited water and poor crop harvests due to two seasons of below normal rainfall and their food security situation will continue to deteriorate in the coming months with the onset of the long Jilaal season (Jan.-March).

Total annual cereal production is expected to be the lowest in a decade, leading to an overall shortfall in annual cereal supply (see *FSAU Monthly Report November 2005*). Access to food will be considerably worse given that cereal prices are expected to increase, while income opportunities will be limited and terms of trade will deteriorate over the next four months.

In a worst case scenario, poor crop production and rangeland conditions, combined with the potential for increased civil insecurity would lead to a significant part of **Southern Somalia rapidly deteriorating into a major Humanitarian Emergency**. Even without increased civil insecurity, the food security of a large proportion of the population will continue to decline over the coming long Jilaal season (Jan.-March), with limited potential for improvement until the next Gu rains (April/May 2006).

#### Implications for Action:

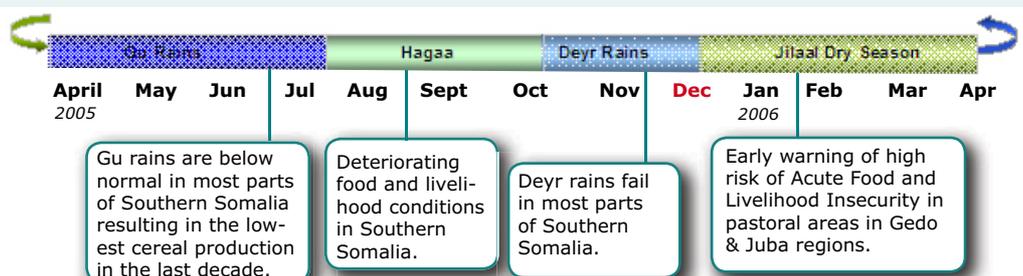
- *Immediate livelihood support interventions for pastoralists at high risk of Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis in Gedo and Juba regions (see Map 3)*
- *Increased humanitarian assistance to support basic needs of populations in Humanitarian Emergency in Gedo and Juba regions (see Map 3)*
- *Stepped-up efforts at peace and reconciliation to prevent or mitigate widespread conflict, which would be the trigger factor leading to a major Humanitarian Emergency in Southern Somalia.*
- *Contingency Planning for a major Humanitarian Emergency throughout Southern Somalia*
- *Prepositioning of donor support to respond according to assessment findings of the FSAU & Partners' Expanded Deyr Assessment in Southern and Central Somalia. (Results will be released second week of January 2006.)*

#### Livelihood Recovery in Northern Regions Jeopardized by Pockets of Poor Rainfall

Although Deyr rains have been generally good throughout the North, there are pockets of areas (particularly in Eastern Sanaag, Northern Bari, and parts of Togdheer) with severe water shortages. The livelihood destruction of the previous drought limits pastoralists' coping options (e.g., lack of pack camels, financial stress due to outstanding loans, limited capacity for social support). As such there is an urgent need to continue to support livelihood recovery in general throughout the North, and in particular in the pockets of water stress.

#### Civil Insecurity

The deteriorating food security situation throughout southern Somalia has the potential to lead to increased localized conflict over access and rights to limited resources such as pasture and water--in this way, conflict can be both a cause and effect of food insecurity. The risk for increased resource based conflict will increase in the coming weeks as resources become scarce during the long dry harsh Jilaal season (Jan.-March). Although there have been general improvements in the security in some areas, the security situation has deteriorated in others. Security incidents and increased tensions are restricting access for the humanitarian community and will compound existing humanitarian problems.

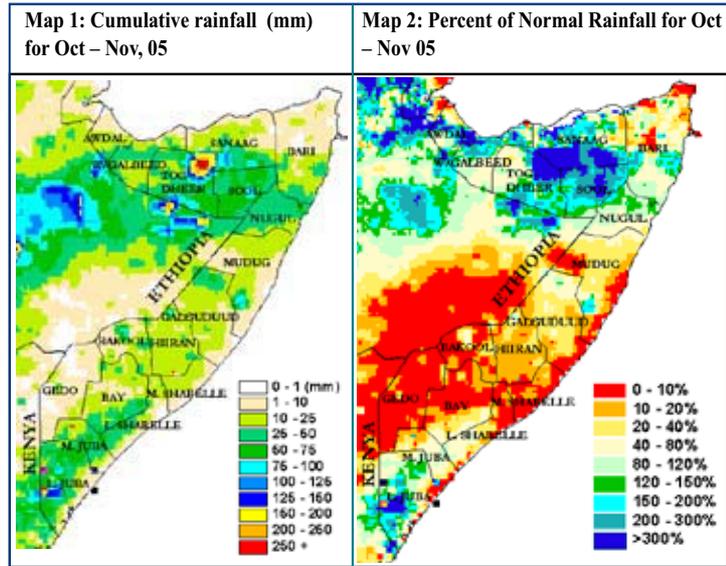


Somalia Seasonal Timeline & Key Events

## Climate

The Deyr rains failed in most of southern and central Somalia. Rains started late in most of the southern agricultural regions, were significantly below normal and poorly distributed geographically and over time.

Satellite imagery shows and field reports confirm that with the exception of parts of Juba Valley, the entire southern agricultural regions and, parts of central Somalia received less than 100mm of cumulative rainfall for the period Oct-November (Map 1). Comparison between actual and normal rainfall for this time of the year shows that rains thus far received are less than 40% of the normal rainfall (Map 2).



Source: FEWS NET/USGS

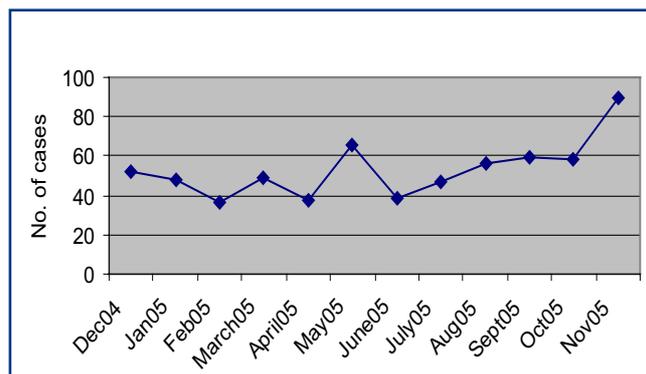
In Juba Valley three days of heavy, but localized rainfall in the hinterland around Hagar, Afmadow and Badhadhe district (Lower Juba Region) replenished water catchments and eased water problems among pastoral communities, but had little impact on pasture re-growth.

In comparison, in general key northern pastoral areas in Sool, parts of Sanaag, Togdheer and Nugaal regions received good rains which improved water and pasture resources. However pocket in eastern Sanaag, parts of Togdheer and Bari regions received below normal rains.

## Nutrition

In Northern Gedo, the effect of deteriorating food security is already evident in increasing levels of malnutrition in the population in and around Belet Hawa. Intensified nutrition surveillance and MCH data show an increase in malnutrition in young children. A significant increase in admissions of severely malnourished children has been recorded in Belet Hawa TFC (see Figure 1) and in Mandera (Kenya).

Figure 1: Trend in Monthly TFC Admissions, Belet Hawa (Gedo)



The nutrition situation among the Juba riverine population is still very poor despite improved food availability from the off-season production and recent food aid. A nutrition assessment in both the riverine and agro-pastoral population is underway.

An intensified nutrition surveillance system is now in place to monitor the unfolding situation in Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Galgaduud and South Mudug. The northern part of Somalia shows progressive recovery in the wellbeing of the population with the exception of the destitute families and the internally displaced/returnee populations who are yet to be integrated with the rest of the populations. A rapid assessment recorded a total malnutrition level of 15% among displaced persons in Burao (Oct 2005). Among displaced persons in Bosasso the proportion of the malnourished children recorded in the screening activities is still high. Full reports and further details available at FSAU.

## Agriculture (Northwest)

Unlike the Gu and Deyr '05 crop production in the Southern Somalia, last months Gu/Karan '05 cereal harvest in the northwest was exceptionally good. The performance of the *Gu/Karan* '05 rains in the northwest was above normal leading to a bumper cereal harvest last month (November), as well as improved pasture and water availability. Approximately 27,000mt of cereals were harvested (82% and 18% of sorghum and maize respectively) in the northwest this current season. This production figure is the second highest achieved for the last seven years, or 150% of PWA for the area. This is due to a combination of factors including timely and evenly distributed rainfall and substantial assistance received by the small farmers from International Fund for Agricultural Development.

In the Northwest, unlike the Southern bimodal cropping pattern, there is only one main cropping season in the North (*Gu/Karan*), which is from May-October. The northwest cereal production, although important for the north, only constitutes 5-10% of the annual cereal production of the country.

The above normal *Gu/Karan* production in the northwest and the overall good performance of the rainy season in this region has improved the food security situation in the Northwest. Increased availability of staple food in the markets and high livestock and fodder prices will improve terms of trade for the agro-pastoral communities in Somaliland. In addition to cereals, farmers also grow cash crops (water melon, tomatoes, cow pea, onion), which performed well. All of these are expected to contribute significantly to the household food and income sources.

## Livestock

The food security situation of pastoralists in Gedo and parts of Juba Valley continues to deteriorate and the worst affected in this region are at high risk of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis**. There is a serious shortage of water and pasture in key grazing areas, in most of Gedo region and parts of Middle Juba (Salagle). Livestock conditions, especially cattle, are deteriorating at an alarming rate. Pastoralists continue to migrate towards riverine areas due to rain failure with increasing localized resource incidents between farmers and herders, which has the potential to lead to resource based conflicts. A number of incidents have already been reported in southern Gedo. Livestock production and prices are dramatically reduced. Compared to January this year and, the same month last year, prices of cattle in Bardhere dropped by 66% and 34% respectively. Terms of trade between cereals and livestock has dropped by similar proportions.

In Afmadow, Hagar and Badhadhe district (Lower Juba), a few days of heavy rains improved water access in the hinterland, prompting migration of livestock from riverine areas. However, due to the high concentration of animals, available water and pasture resources may not last long and the situation will worsen during the forthcoming long dry *Jilaal* season (January-March).

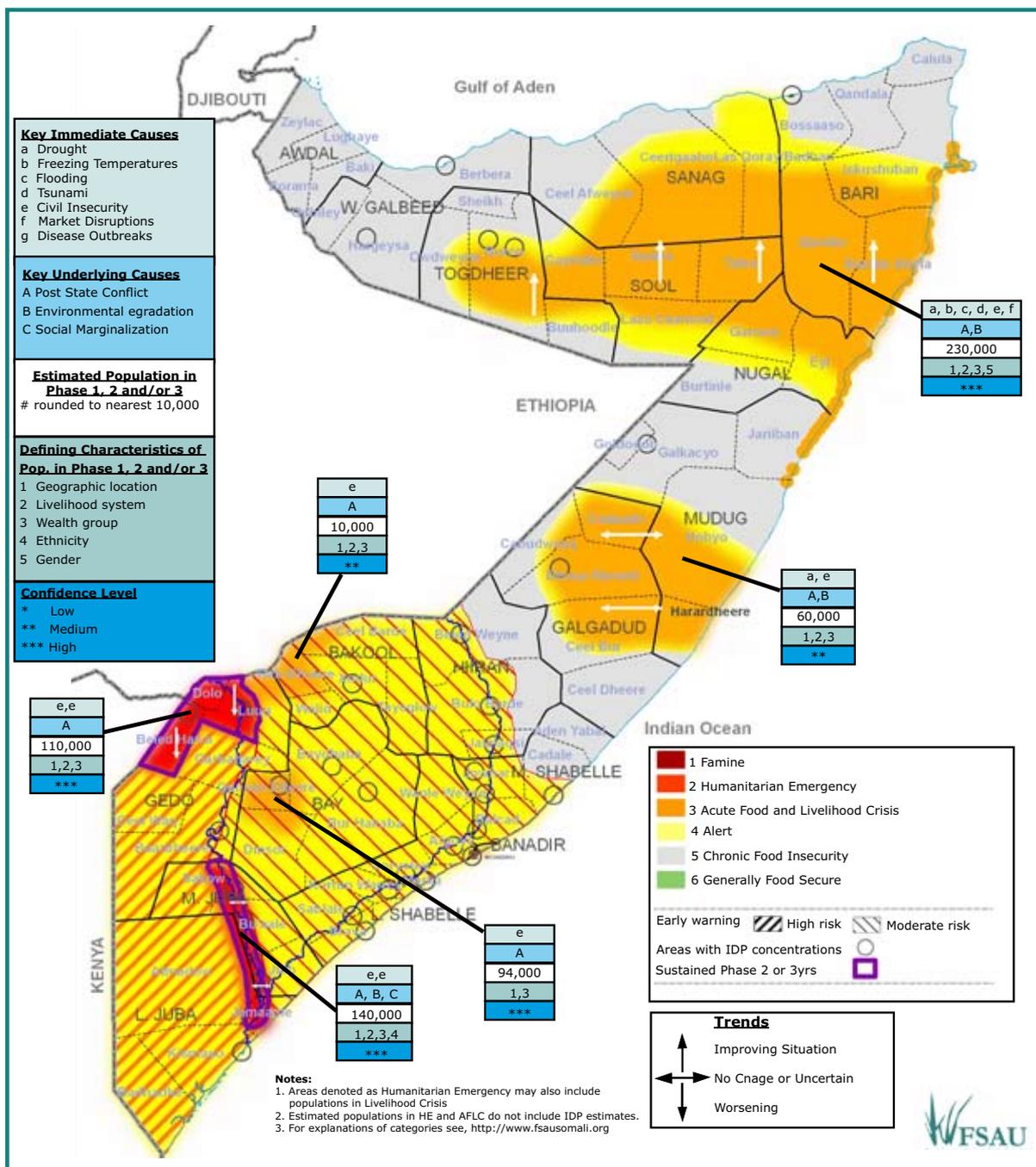
In Shabelle Valley, livestock condition largely remains normal while in Bay, Bakool and Hiran Regions, pastoralists are under stress. In central regions, renewed clan conflict in Hobyo district is posing a major threat to the livelihoods of pastoral communities, especially those already affected by acute food and livelihood crisis.

In the Northern Regions, livestock condition is generally improving. Renewed pasture and water sources in most areas have improved livestock production. Camel calving rates are high, leading to increased availability of milk and ghee. Parts of eastern Sanaag, Togdheer and Bari regions, however, have experienced severe rain failure, which, combined with non-operating boreholes in Hingalool, Armale, Ceel Buuh, and Baragahaqol, has led to severe water shortages. Water prices are increasing dramatically. The limited availability of pack camels is constraining the migration coping strategies and leading to high costs of transport.

Improved overall livestock conditions, combined with seasonal demand (Hajj) for shoats (sheep and goats) has led to increased exports as compared to this time last year. A total of 260,318 of sheep and goats were exported through Berbera and Bosasso ports, a decline of 75,678 heads from last month (following the peak marketing season for the Hajj). Of this total, 140,318 were exported through Bosasso and 119,982 through Berbera.

Map 3: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

phase classification



FSAU with partners are currently conducting an Expanded Deyr Pastoral and Crop Establishment Assessment throughout southern and central Somalia, as well as a pastoral assessment in the north.

Following is a timeline with key events:

- 11 December 2005 – Regional Assessment Planning Meetings in Merca, Buale, Beletweyne, Hudur, Garowe & Hargeisa
- 14 - 27 December 2005 – Fieldwork in Shabelle Valley, Juba Valley, Central, Southwest, Northwest and Northeast regions
- 17-19 December – Micronutrient training in Hargeisa, FSAU
- 31 December 2005 – Regional Analysis Meetings in Merca, Buale, Beletweyne, Hudur, Garowe and Hargeisa
- 4 - 8 January 2006 – All Team Assessment Analysis Workshop in Hargeisa
- 16 January 2006 – Preliminary findings to be shared at Special Meeting of the SACB FSRD
- 31 January 2006 – Release of FSAU Technical Series Report of Post Deyr Assessment Analysis

