

## EDITORIAL

The FSAU has been highlighting vulnerability in pastoral areas in the Northern and Central regions since October 2001 (for recent reports see page 2). The Livestock Ban, an uneven distribution of Deyr rain, (causing pasture and water catchments to dry up) reduced availability of milk, poor terms of trade, reduced remittances, inflation and insecurity throughout the region have contributed to the current situation where clearly some of the poor and more vulnerable pastoralist households are under increasing pressure. Vulnerable groups are often mobile and difficult to pinpoint and the number of households in each district is often small. The FSAU would like to follow this up with implementing agencies at the next SACB Food Security Meeting to address appropriate responses for these vulnerable groups and to come to a consensus on any intervention strategies before these pastoral economies enter the 'Critical Phase' (The 'critical phase' and what it means for pastoralists can be further explained by FSAU Livestock Asst. (Mahdi.kayad@fsau.or.ke)

## FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

\* **SOOL ECO-ZONE DROUGHT ASSESMENT** (12-22 January 2002). Post *Deyr* Pastoral Assessment over the drought affected *Sool* plateau.

\* **AWDAL BRIEF** (30 Jan–1 Feb) 2002.

Brief on Awdal Coast - The Lughaya district.

\* **DEYR HARVEST ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP** (February 7<sup>th</sup>) FSAU will be holding a workshop in Baidoa. *Deyr* crop production figures for 2001/02 will be assessed and the FSAU will seek consensus amongst implementing agencies and partners working in Somalia. The crop production figures will be released following discussions with these groups towards the end of February.

\* **CENTRAL PROVINCES (JOINT ASSESSMENT MISSION)** Michele Nori, (michele.nori@fsau.or.ke) the FSAU Pastoral Livelihoods Analyst is co-ordinating a mission to the central provinces of Somalia. This will commence as soon as security clearance is given.

\* **FOOD SECURITY WORKSHOP FOR NGOS:** This is planned for April, FSAU is committed to assist implementing partners and agencies better utilise FSAU information in planning both emergency and longer-term programme design. Initially six NGO's will participate and address issues related to food security projects in Lower Shabelle.

To receive more information on the above or to request FSAU assessments or training, please contact alex.williams@fsau.or.ke

## HIGHLIGHTS

**AWDAL (Somaliland)** : The *hays* rains on the coastal belt of Awdal region were poor and unevenly distributed. Its unlikely that more rain will be received in the coastal areas. Poor and vulnerable households in the coastal belt are likely to face serious problems in the coming months. (FSAU Brief on Lughaya district of Awdal 2002. P.2)

**SOOL PLATEAU** : The situation on the *Sool plateau of Sanaag* is worsening. Many of the water *berkads* and *balleys* are not working and water is expensive. The poor and vulnerable pastoralists are still just managing to access enough food although the high cost of water could mean that this situation rapidly deteriorates. (FSAU February Assessment of Sool. P.2)

**BARI** : *Dharoor/Karkaar* eco-zone and the *Sool of Bari* are increasingly vulnerable and under pressure. The livestock are in poor condition with limited migration options. Water *berkads* and *balleys* are dried up, water is expensive and the problems have been made worse by the breakdown of the *Iskushuban* borehole at the beginning of the *Jilaal* season.

**GEDO** : The situation in the north of the region remains critically food insecure, while in the south the situation appears to be slightly improving with some reports of animals returning. More information on the current situation within Gedo will be produced in an FSAU Focus to be released on Friday February 15<sup>th</sup> 2002. Please contact : alex.williams@fsau.or.ke to receive a copy.

**BAY/BAKOOL** : FSAU is predicting a reasonably good *Deyr* harvest for Bay and Bakool, although there are areas that received no rain and that continue to cause concern, particularly in the west of Bakool, especially Rabdure.

**FISH DEATHS OFF SOMALI WATERS** : The Coast Watch of both Kenya and Somalia is reporting that the hundreds of fish that were dying off their shores are reducing, however the numbers remain high around Kismayu and a minor increase in fish mortality was observed in the Kiunga area – around the Ishakani Islands (just south of the Somali border)

## Highlights from FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

### Gedo

The response to the nutrition crisis in Gedo Region has involved substantial inputs in food aid as well as interventions in the health and water sector. Since January, food aid in Belet Hawa, Dolo, Garbaharey, Burdhubo and Luuq have included cereals, pulses and oil and from February all households will be targeted. Supplementary feeding has commenced or is about to start in all districts. A therapeutic feeding centre has been established in Belet Hawa Hospital in an effort to reduce the malnutrition related mortality reported there during December and January. The Belet Hawa nutrition survey report is

now available and although surveys in other areas are required, insecurity has so far prevented these.

### Nutrition Surveys

Nutrition survey reports for the following areas have been released recently: Rabdure District in Bakool Region, Qansaxdheere District in Bay Region, Lughaya and Zeila Districts in Awdal Region.

**For details on these and other issues related to nutrition in Somalia, see the January and February 2001 issues of 'Nutrition Update', or contact noreen.prendiville@fsau.or.ke**

**BRIEF ON ZEYLAC AND LUGHAYE COASTAL DISTRICTS IN AWDAL REGION, JAN/FEB 2002**

Zeylac and Lughaye districts are located in the far northwest of Somalia; Zeylac borders with Djibouti and Ethiopia. Both districts stretch from the inland mountainous areas (called the *Ogo*) to the flat coastal belt (called the *Guban*). The *Ogo* receives *Gu* (April-June), *Karin* (Sept-Oct) and sometimes *Hays* (Jan-Feb) rains, the latter falling slightly earlier than on the coast. The *Guban* receives very little rain (<100 mm) and only during *Hays*. Between the *Guban* and the *Ogo* lies a hilly 'sub-coastal' strip, that receives *Hays* and occasionally *Karin* rains as well. Good soils in the *Guban* and sub-coastal belts allow pasture to regenerate well and despite the low rainfall, the pasture lasts long after the *Ogo* has been denuded. This report focuses on the people from the *Guban* (coastal) and the sub-coastal strips.

The inhabitants of the *Ogo* and *Guban* strips can be divided into three groups. Those in the far NW (Zeylac) are from the Issa clan and normally migrate between the *Guban* and the *Ogo* but in bad years they will need to go further, passing via Djibouti into Ethiopia. Between the coast of Zeylac and the *Ogo* is a roughly triangular area referred to locally as the *Ban Geeriyaad* (or 'death plain'), because of the scarcity of water there. People moving out of the *Guban* need to cross this plain on both short and long migrations. The next group are different clans from the S and E end of the *Guban* who are able to migrate over the *Ogo* to the *Hawd*, a comparative advantage for them. Lastly, there is a group of sedentary pastoralists who inhabit a thin strip either side of Lughaye Town, they are mostly poor people with small herds and who also engage in fishing and petty trading.

Since mid-2001 there have been three key adverse factors in the area. (1) **Three consecutive years of rain failure** – depleted grazing and water availability in the *Guban* and the *NW Ogo*. (2) **The ongoing livestock ban** – people depend on selling animals to purchase staples; (3) **The closure of the Djibouti border (Apr-Sep, 2001)**, restricting the exchange of goods. Even with the re-opening of the border, the flow of goods is still prevented and commodities have to pass the 'long way' through Berbera port, forcing up prices. (4) **The closure of the refugee camps in Ethiopia**. Two of these camps, *Aw Barre* and *Dhar-Wanaaje* were closed in June 2001. Staple prices jumped up by 50% in response to the halt in supply passed on by refugees.

This year, however, above normal *Hays* rainfall was received in the S and E end of the sub-coastal belt. This precipitated animal influxes from Baki, Gabley and even Hargeysa districts, joining those from the *Guban* and putting pressure on pasture, which is not expected to be able to regenerate sufficiently to support cattle and sheep until the *Gu* season. However, camels and goats will be able to sustain themselves until *Gu* and milk is available for human consumption.

**Poor nutritional status in Lughaye and Zeylac.** In November 2001,

before the *Hays* rains, UNICEF found that these districts had an unacceptably high malnutrition rate of 27% (weight for height, z-score = -2 or oedema, see Nutrition Update, January 2002). This survey included households from the NW (Issa) group as well as the sedentary pastoral group around Lughaye. Subsequently, the *Hays* rains failed for the third time in a row in the *Guban* coastal belt.

Households from the sedentary pastoral group around Lughaye will not be able to take advantage of the *Hays* rains in the *Ogo* because their herds are small and comprise more of sheep, which are in weak condition and will be susceptible to disease and cold on the higher ground. They are therefore dependent on income-based coping strategies. However, the livestock ban, combined with poor animal condition, means that they will only obtain enough income through unsustainable levels of livestock sales. They are being squeezed further by high staple prices (SLshs. 3,000 for rice and SLshs. 1,500 for sorghum), which are linked to the trade restrictions with Djibouti.

Households from the NW (Issa) group who travelled to the S and E part of the *Ogo* will not be able to sustain themselves until the following *Hays*. Their herds now comprise mostly shoats and their only recourse will be to cross the *Ban Geeriyaad* to the NW part of the *Ogo*, which did not benefit from the 'above normal' rains. In the meantime, the poor and the core household members (the women and children) are in much the same position as the sedentary pastoralists in Lughaye; they have few options for obtaining food or income. Water is a particularly acute problem in the *Guban*. Currently there are only three functioning boreholes in the pastoral areas of the two districts. One very strategic but damaged borehole is located at Karuure, right in the middle of the *Ban Geeriyaad*. Reports on the prevalence of tick-borne diseases as well as high abortion rates among animals in 2001 indicate that there is an urgent need for veterinary services.

In response to the situation, WFP distributed general rations to families in the main villages of both districts. COOPI operates an MCH clinic in Lughaye town and assists with soil and water conservation techniques. UNICEF is involved in supporting health services and in water. UNHCR is considering issues of resettling refugees in the district. Iqra, a local NGO, are experimenting with a fishing pilot project.

**FSAU Recommendations:** Repair of the Karuure borehole would greatly facilitate livestock movement in Zeylac district, while digging additional wells (FFW?) may be beneficial. Veterinary services are recommended. There is a need for subsidised food or the freeing up of trade links with Djibouti, to reduce staple prices. Finally, community-based projects that either enhance income generation or that promote environmental and rangeland management (such as soil conservation projects) would help in the mid to long term.

**FSAU DROUGHT ASSESSMENT IN SANAG & BARI REGIONS, JANUARY 2002**

The Sool Plateau stretches over the southern parts of Ceel Gaabo and Las Qoray districts in Sanag region, the northeast corner of Taleex district in Sool region and into the central part Qardho district and the northern half of Banda Beila district in Bari. In the middle of the Sanag part of the Sool plateau is an area called the Hadeed Plateau, while between this and the Golis Mountains is the Gebi valley. This entire area is home to an estimated 150,000 people, 80-95% of whom are pastoralists and belong primarily to the Sool Plateau Pastoral food economy zone. The remainder are urban dwellers. Like the Kakaar-Dharoor and Gagaab areas in NE Bari, large herds of sheep and goats are kept, as well as camels and a few cattle. The area used to be used for wet season grazing, as there is no natural permanent water, but the construction of *berkads* and boreholes has allowed far

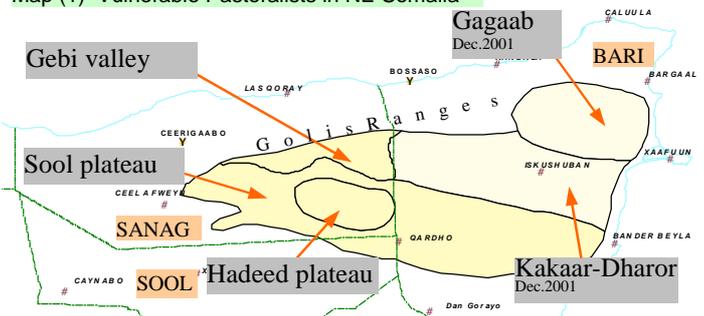
greater herd numbers to be accommodated. This has been accentuated recently by the livestock ban, while three years of low rainfall have not been sufficient to allow either regeneration of pasture or re-charging of water in the *berkads*. Water shortages and overgrazing are particularly acute in the Sanag part of the Sool

Plateau, where animals are showing signs of weight loss and disease. Most *berkads* are reported empty and the cost of water has become prohibitive (the price has roughly doubled in US dollar terms). Larger

livestock, especially camels, have been taken away (mostly to the Hawd area in the south of Sool Region) and it is the core families remaining behind with the smaller animals who are facing deteriorating food security. Because of their poor condition, these animals fetch relatively uncompetitive prices, effectively lowering livestock to food terms of trade. However, it is the diversion of income into water purchases that is really causing the pinch for the poorest of the poor. The FSAU team that recently visited the area recommended that boreholes be rehabilitated, that access to veterinary services be increased and that relief food be provided to the most vulnerable households (see table). It is also recommended that consideration be given to animal off-take schemes, fodder or animal feed programmes and even water trucking.

REGION	HOUSEHOLDS AT RISK
Sanaag	3000
Bari	2500
Sool	2000
<b>Total</b>	<b>7500 Households</b>

Map (1) Vulnerable Pastoralists in NE Somalia



**LIVESTOCK EXPORTS**

Livestock export (Goat, Sheep, Cattle and Camel) from Bosasso and Berbera Seaports From January 2000 to December 20 01 (number of heads) Source : UNCTAD

BOSASSO		TOTAL
	2000	607,236
	2001	593,051
BERBERA		TOTAL
	2000	1,681,330
	2001	55,977

About 1,700,000 animals were exported through Berbera sea port between January and mid-September 2000, that is to say before the imposition of the actual livestock ban (all species combined, see table). The number of heads exported through Berbera in 2000 was higher than in 1998, which was a very poor year in terms of livestock exports due to the imposition of the previous livestock ban (slightly above 1,000,000 of heads exported). However, compared to the most recent good years, the total figures for 2000 appeared to be relatively low (close to 3,000,000 heads in 1997, about 2,200,000 heads in 1999). One of the key factor was the timing of the ban (imposed just before the peak export season). As a result of the continuous livestock ban, total export figures for Berbera became almost insignificant in 2001 (well below 100,000 heads!). About 600,000 animals were exported through Bosasso in 2000 (Bosasso export levels are always lower than in Berbera). Starting from May 2001, the lifting of the ban by the UAE (followed by Oman and Qatar) had a significant positive impact on Bosasso port activities, although those countries only accommodates for about 2% of the total livestock exported to Arab countries.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS**

In late December 2001 to January 2002 CARE distributed 1470MT and an additional 1683MT in January 2002 in **Gedo Region**, to Dolo/Gedweyne, Luuq, El Waq and Belet Hawa districts. WFP distributed 515 MT to Garbaharey, Burdhubo, Luuq and Bardera districts. These were free food distributions and partly food for work for WFP. Between July and December 2001, ICRC carried out 19 community intervention projects in Gedo region, mainly cleaning up existing water catchments and house reconstruction projects. **In other regions**, in December 2001, WFP distributed 550 MT in Bay and Bakol, 100 MT in Hiran, 60 MT in Mogadishu, 250 MT in Shabelle region, 250 MT in the North-West which was either in the form of FFW or social support. CARE distributed 110 MT in Bakol, 560 MT in Bay, 589 MT in Hiran and 40 MT in Middle Shabelle regions.

**REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONITORS >> P.3**

Every month, the 19 FSAU Field Monitors provide in depth information on food security indicators in their area. If you would like to obtain a copy of their district report - please contact alex.williams@fsau.or.ke. The Regional highlights are a summary of this field information.

**SOUTH NUGAL & N MUDUG**

The overall food security situation is slightly better than normal, compared to an average Jilaal season, with sufficient water and pasture for livestock, improving their condition. However the exception is Nugal hawd of Burtinle district, where a large number of livestock, particularly from middle and better off wealth groups migrated into the area, from Sanag and Sool putting increased pressure on water and forcing water prices to increase dramatically. A prolonged dry season could aggravate this situation. In Addun and Deeh, the deyr rains were insufficient, and unfortunately the livestock have been unable to move out of this area as they are less resistant to tick born disease. There is a problem for the poor pastoralists in Galdogob district who are finding it difficult to trade milk and livestock for cereal, about 30-35% of households in this area are relying on assistance from relatives. Cereal prices decreased due to the increased availability of imported cereals. 76,239 shoats were slaughtered in the Galkaio abattoir and exported as chilled meat to UAE during November and December 2001. Uncertain security conditions throughout the region is the most serious factor affecting food security in the region this month.

**SOOL**

Localised areas of drought have engulfed pockets of the Sool plateau. The situation has emerged after the failure of Deyr rains which resulted in a critical shortage of pasture and water. The rangeland's productive potential has declined dramatically, affecting livestock condition. Small ruminant and cattle deaths are expected before the onset of the next rainy season. Nugal valley has been overgrazed by large in coming herds that flooded the fragile rangelands. Despite the huge in migration of camel herds into Hawd eco-zone, the overall food security situation remained normal. The staple food supply situation is normal but prices rose slightly reflecting further shilling devaluation. Export quality livestock market demand dropped due to oversupply and Yemen reversing the ban. The poor pastoral wealth group in Sool plateau of Sool region and Dhahar district of Eastern Sanaag are faced with localised food insecurity. As reported on page 2, about 3500-4000 households living in Sool plateau of Sool and Sanaag regions are facing a fragile food security situation.

**BARI REGION**

The Deyr rain failure has adversely affected the well being of the poor pastoral population in the region, as well as their livestock. The main area of concern is still Dharoor/Karkaar eco-zone. Livestock are in poor condition with limited migration options. This is because 70 – 80% of the major dry season grazing areas did not receive *hays* rains. Berkads and balleys are dried up, water prices are above normal and the breakdown of the Iskushuban borehole at the onset of the long dry Jilaal season has reduced accessibility for drought affected villagers and nomads in Dharoor/Karkaar. The areas which received *hays* rain (Buur Deyo abd B/Beyla) attracted a large number of livestock from the region but the pasture unfortunately did not have time to regenerate. Shoats have been returning to their normal dry season grazing areas on the coastal plains and Noobir while the camels have been moving to the Hawd of Mudug and Sool regions.

**N-NUGAL & S-BARI**

The FSAU FM is on mission in Ethiopia working with SCUK on cross border issues

**SANAG & TOGHDEER**

In Sanag region, the drought affected districts of Erigavo (eastern and southern) and Badhan district (found in Gebi Valley, Hadeed plateau and Sool Plateau) are giving cause for concern. The availability of water and pasture is scarce with long distances between these two resources. The price of 200 litres of water increased from 5,000 to 40,000 Somali Shillings in the remote villages. The livestock condition and production is poor. Consequently they are unable to compete with export livestock from unaffected areas. A higher than normal livestock deaths were reported at the end of January due to drought induced diseases. This situation has been made worse by over grazing during the last five years which has not allowed the pasture and browse to sufficiently regenerate to support the livestock numbers.

**NW & AWDAL**

Livestock from Awdal and Galbeed pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas migrated to the sub coastal areas of the northern parts of the two regions. This was due to recent rains—although intensity and distribution were not even. The concentration of livestock is having an adverse impact on the environment. Livestock prices in the main markets remain normal and are expected to stay this way through the build up to the Haj. Cereal prices also remain stable but this is partly due to normal production during the October harvest. In the NW region. Mass vaccination against meningitis is scheduled to start in Hargeysa on 24 January, lasting 7 days and targeting all persons aged 2-40 years in the town.

>> P.4 REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONITORS

**GEDO**

*The overall food security situation in this region is still of great concern.* The agro-pastoralists are likely to receive little *deyr* harvest particularly on rain-fed farms. Irrigated farms along the Juba and Dawa rivers may produce a greatly reduced crop of cereals. Poor urban groups are finding it difficult to access income and pastoralists that remain in the region, lack productivity particularly those with small ruminants who are unable to move. However, for those who can move there are continuous livestock migrations within the region from Northern districts towards Elwak and Bardhera areas and outside the region towards Bay, Bakool and Ethiopia in search of water and better grazing. Livestock productivity in the region has decreased particularly in the north. Water availability in potential grazing areas is difficult. The water level of the Juba and Dawa rivers dropped reducing water quality and creating fear of water-borne diseases amongst urban populations. For food aid distributions during the month of Jan see p.3. For WFP current distribution (6-10 February) WFP is now planning to distribute a total of 653.04 MT of food commodities (maize 513.4; pulses 102.68 and vegetable oil 36.96) maize, to about some 10,268 families in two Garbahare and Burdhubo districts.

**HIRAN**

Harvest of early planted crops is already finished, and for late planted crops – the harvest is imminent. Both crops are in good condition and free of pests. This will contribute to a good cereal stock for farmers in the coming months. However in some remote areas water catchments have dried up or their capacity diminished due to over watering by livestock. FSAU will continue to monitor these areas closely during the *Jilaal* season. The river water level has suddenly dropped - so riverine farmers are increasingly using small pump irrigation. Farmers have planted twice this season – which has gone some way to strengthening food security in the region. Cereal is available and prices are low in the region. Harvesting, threshing and transporting are the main agricultural jobs which have improved the source of income and purchasing power of poor households. A large number of livestock have crossed from the Ethiopian border to potential grazing land, which has led to depletion of free open grazing – this will be monitored by FSAU during the long dry *Jilaal* season.

**LOWER SHABELLE**

As elsewhere in the south, no rainfall was reported this month, which is normal. Grazing is decreasing in the rain-fed areas while it is available in the riverine area but at a price. Browsing, however, for shoats and camels, is still quite good. Livestock condition and milk production are considered normal, however cattle have been moved closer to the river. The river level has dropped early and there are some parts where the irrigation canals are dry. Many farmers harvested their sorghum crop early to avoid bird damage (thus reducing yields), while maize harvest is still in progress. The coastal belt suffered a rain failure but coping is possible through the labour opportunities that have been made available by the harvest. Most prices have decreased in January due to good supply conditions, including imported goods, and terms of trade are relatively good for the poor and the livestock keepers.

**BAY**

No rain was received but the water situation in most of the region remains quite good; notable exceptions are Shelow zone, Gelgel zone in Dinsor district and the eastern part of Buhakaba district. Livestock have been coming in from Gedo (precipitated by the continued drought and the food crisis there) to Qansax-Deere and Berdale, searching for water and sorghum stalks. The influx, combined with cattle and shoat sales intended to raise money for sorghum, has increased supply on the local markets, pushing down prices. Camels are still sent to Mogadishu market. Except for these groups of immigrants and some pockets that received poor rains, overall food security is quite good, due to the *deyr* rains that were better than expected. Sorghum prices started dropping from December, prior to harvest particularly in Baidoa/Bay from 1,400 Ssh/kg at the beginning of December to 800 Ssh at the end of the month.

**JUBA VALLEY**

The overall food security situation in the region is normal. Seasonal Livestock migration towards the permanent water points like Afmadow wells, deshek and riverine areas is already in progress. This is because water is scarce in potential grazing areas in the Juba valley including Hager. A major problem in the riverine areas is the presence of Tse Tse fly, which carries a number of livestock diseases, and which will be expensive for the poor and very poor pastoral households to contain. The prospect of a good crop yield is not good in most parts of the Juba valley particularly in areas like Hager, Buale Salagele, Sakow and Afmadow. However, the rest of the Juba valley especially in the lower parts - the riverine farmers and agropastoral food economy groups are expecting normal yields. AFREC, a Local NGO based in Marere and World Concern distributed hooks and fish nets in gosha areas along the river. Prices of staple food and imported commodities remain high throughout the valley. Milk price is also high. Livestock price especially cattle shows a downward trend due to the low seasonal demand in Garissa cattle market. Situation was aggravated by the continuous migration of Gedo pastoralist competing for the same market.

**BAKOOL**

There has been no rainfall this month, which is normal. However, the weather has become windy and dusty with cold nights, particularly in Huddur, Rabdure and El Barde areas, which is not normal for this time of year. Water availability is close to normal, except in Rabdure and El Barde, where the *deyr* rains failed. Grass is becoming scarce, especially in these two districts, and cattle are being moved to the farming areas for stalk/fodder feeding. Crops are being harvested and no pest or bird damage has been noted but it is anticipated that the actual harvest would most likely be lower than that projected in the crop establishment exercise, due to failure of the late-planted crops in Madhayto and villages to the south-east of Huddur. Markets are relatively stable, with a lower staple price due to farmers in productive areas in Bay off-loading their stored grain to make way for the fresh harvest. Terms of trade for the poor and for pastoralists are relatively good (100 kg to a goat and 12kg to a day's labour). High transport costs and taxation have prevented the recent gains by the Somali shilling from having much benefit on the prices of imported goods. Overall, food security is below normal for the region and with little or no household stocks, the poor are dependent on income-earning opportunities for staple purchase and food aid.

**COWPEA BELT**

Reliable *deyr* rains have improved the availability of pasture, productivity and condition of livestock as well as enhancing rain-fed farming for harvest. The planted areas of sorghum and watermelon are in good condition and local farmers are expecting adequate production, as long as disease or pests do not strike. Drinking water for humans and livestock in areas where they are concentrated inland in the areas of Afgadulle and Hadile, South Hobyo and Kowsan South Elbur and Yamaarugle North Harardhere need close monitoring for water management and possible rehabilitation during the *Jilaal*. Current household cereal stocks are normal – there are pockets with less harvest and livestock products at Warsheikh, Adale, and Eldher to Harardhere area. There is insecurity throughout the region.

**MIDDLE SHABELLE**

No rainfall was received during January and it remained hot and dry. However, pasture condition remains normal but is expected to dry up in the rangelands shortly. Animals have returned to the agricultural area and pastoral groups are purchasing maize stalks as fodder, resulting in normal animal body condition and milk productivity. The maize harvest is progressing, while the sorghum has been completed and the heads have been left in the fields for drying. The stalks of both crops are also left in the field as animal fodder; usually only the maize is sold. Sesame is performing well and will be ready in late March. The markets are well-supplied and traders are purchasing maize (for Mogadishu) and cowpea (for Hiran and central regions). Prices of both maize and cereal decreased by 16% and 21 % respectively – a seasonal effect. With the recent appreciation of the Somali shilling, prices of imported commodities decreased by 20% local currency terms. Goats and cattle decrease by similar amounts as well. ToT are relatively good for the poor and for livestock keepers; a day's wage fetches 10 kg of sorghum and a goat 170 kg.