

FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

****FSAU DEYR HARVEST ASSESSMENT** : FSAU is carrying out the *Deyr* field assessment between 29 January and 10 February 2003. The findings will be shared with key partners to reach a consensus. The FSAU Field Team Manager will also produce a *Deyr* Crop Focus at the end of February/beginning of March. Please contact FSAU Field Team Manager : yusuf@fsau.or.ke for more details on the *Deyr* Assessment.

****URBAN BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF HARGEISA** : FSAU / FEWS-NET will be carrying out a household economy baseline survey in urban Hargeisa between 1st and 30th March (with prior planning and training). A limited number of places are available to include field staff from partner agencies who are involved in urban food security interventions and who have some knowledge/experience of the Household Economy Approach. For more details contact Sidow of FEWS (Sidow@few-net.org) or Lesley Adams of FSAU (lesley.adams@fsau.or.ke).

****HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY APPROACH DEBRIEFING IN NAIROBI**: Following FSAU Hargeisa HEA training in December/ January the HEA training debriefing will now take place in Nairobi on March 20 at FSAU. (Not Hargeisa as reported last month) The reason for the change is to enable as many decision-makers from international agencies as possible to attend. FSAU and UNCU will be happy to facilitate the involvement of other agencies and government representatives who are based in Somaliland. If you would like to attend please contact lesley.adams@fsau.or.ke or ibrahim.ali@fsau.or.ke

****FAO WORKSHOP** : An FAO workshop has been held looking at a multi-sectoral approach to reducing malnutrition and food insecurity in Gedo Region. The workshop was held in Mandera between 3 - 5 February 2003

HIGHLIGHTS

ETHIOPIAN DROUGHT AND MIGRATORY MOVEMENTS TO NW SOMALIA: The migration of households from Ethiopia to Awdal appears to have ended. However, with an estimated 2,000-3,000 additional households in the Awdal area, having left the drought stricken Shinile region of Ethiopia, the impact on Awdal's inhabitants and resources—and the situation of the migrants, needs to be carefully monitored until the commencement of the *Gu* rains. For an indepth report, see p. 2.

HIRAN : The good *Deyr* season has resulted in a crop that is likely to reverse the poor food security situation that was predicted after the very low crop production in the 2002 *Gu* season. The area under production is above normal and yields are expected to be good. Livestock condition has also improved. As a result of the good *Deyr*, the FSAU Nutrition Surveillance Project reports that the high levels of acute malnutrition related to food security appear to be decreasing. However, the longer term food security issues (poverty, low income levels, difficulties accessing good production) remain, particularly amongst the 'poor riverine' groups of the region.

GEDO : Gedo region has been food insecure for several consecutive years due to lack of sufficient rainfall. However, as a result of good *Deyr* rains, the area is now experiencing a period of temporary recovery as it enters the harsh, dry, *Jilaal* season. The region is currently moving from a period of acute food insecurity to a more chronic state of food insecurity that existed prior to the recent crisis so it is important that underlying factors which detrimentally affect livelihoods in the longer term are closely monitored—particularly if the *Gu* rains, beginning in March or April are delayed or fail. In northern Gedo, insecurity prevented planting during October/ November 2002 in the agro-pastoral and riverine areas close to Luuq and Belet Hawa and a poor crop is expected. It is important to recognise that overall crop production in the region contributes less than 15 per cent to household food needs because two thirds of the population are estimated to be pastoralists. The other third of the population (agro-pastoral and riverine groups) rely on crops for an estimated 60-65 per cent of their household incomes.

ADDUN : The *Jilaal* season is being felt by the poorest households in parts of the Hawd and Addun pastoral areas of central Somalia (particularly around Jariban) and is a cause for some concern. This is a consequence of previous poor rainy seasons (particularly *Gu* 2002), which reduced their animals' production with consequent income and food losses. Around 20-30 per cent of households in the area are affected; at present they are coping by increasing the amount of labour they do for others, engaging in small self-employment opportunities, decreasing their number of meals and switching expenditure to basic food items.

Information on Food Aid Distribution is on Page Two

Highlights from the FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

Assessments and Surveys

The January '*Nutrition Update*' provided the results of nutrition assessments in Awdal, Somaliland and in the Gardo, Dangarayo and Jariban areas of Puntland. These will be followed in February by a summary of the recent UNICEF nutrition surveys in Galgodob and Jariban in Puntland whose preliminary results do not reflect major differences from the rates usually seen in these areas. An interagency nutrition survey, led by UNICEF, is currently underway in Hargeisa urban areas.

In February, the '*Nutrition Update*' will also include a review of ongoing interventions in **Gedo Region** and in **Belet Weyne District** in Hiran Region where humanitarian organisation have faced significant challenges in the implementation of nutrition related interventions.

During January and February, 500 copies of the **FSAU/UNICEF 'Nutrition' calendar** are being distributed throughout Somalia. The calendar carries some key messages related to health, food security and care issues that affect nutrition.

FSAU will conduct a **training** workshop for partners on nutrition and nutrition related issues between 15th and 17th February 2003 in Hargeisa. The workshop will focus on the collection, analysis and interpretation of information related to nutrition.

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

IMPLICATIONS FOR PASTORALISTS FOLLOWING THE ONSET OF THE JILAAL SEASON

The nomadic population makes up to sixty per cent of the total Somali population. The onset of the long dry season—*Jilaal* (January–March) undoubtedly represents the most difficult time of year for this group. Water and pasture is a greater distance from homesteads, milk production is lower and household/water costs higher. During this period, households and herds usually separate due to the fact that camels, cattle, and shoats have different grazing habits and watering needs—and different household members cater for different roles. The father and elder sons will usually take the hardest and most mobile animals to distant ranges in search of pasture (*horowyn*). On these journeys, the herdsman may eat only milk and wild foods for several months. The mother and children usually stay with the remaining 'milk herd' or *nugal* (shoats and pregnant or lactating camels and cattle) near their home wells.

Pastoral movements have never been very extensive in Somalia, as mobility patterns are restricted to some extent by traditionally demarcated ranges known as *degaans*. While rainfall is the main determining factor, *horowyn* migrations are complex matters that depend upon many factors, including clan relations and grazing rights, key rangeland resources, disease risks and the location and importance of market centres and routes. Movements of *nugal* across *degaans* are usually observed only in dry years or in very dry inland areas. *Nugal* movements could therefore represent a useful indicator of critical conditions. Any disruption to normal migration, border closures, drought, clan tensions will contribute to the pressures on traditional pastoralist livelihoods. As an example, out migration away from Awdal at the end of March beginning of April will be vital, so this movement needs to be closely monitored.

HEAVY MIGRATION FROM ETHIOPIA INCREASES PRESSURE ON PASTORALIST GROUPS IN NORTH WEST SOMALIA

In early October 2002, the first out-migration of pastoralists took place from Shinnile region in Ethiopia (Aisha'a, Shinnile and Dembal) heading towards the coast of Awdal region, particularly the Guban area (sub-coastal and coastal plains of northern Awdal) in search of good pasture and water to keep their main livelihood asset – livestock, in satisfactory condition. Migrations in the area are normal – and necessary – especially during this season. However, the movement from Ethiopia of more household members with goods was considered abnormal. This is likely to be a result of previous difficult seasons which have meant that weak lactating livestock cannot support a homestead base—as is considered normal.

Shinnile zone in Ethiopia had experienced very poor performances of both *deyr* and *karan* (October 2002) seasonal rains. They were poorly distributed and insufficient and didn't bring the much needed relief that was urgently required to rejuvenate the region.

These rain failures were complicated by conflict involving the Issa clan with the neighbouring Afar people putting severe constraints on livestock movement to alternative water and grazing areas. As a result, the Issa from Shinnile (Ethiopia) did not have as many options as normal and this has precipitated the more sudden en-masse movement to Awdal, instead of the usual sporadic migrations. The situation led to the weakening of livestock and increasingly livestock mortality. The Afar region also did not receive adequate rains.

The second livestock in-migration into Awdal took place shortly after the first in-migration—this was because the *hais* rains are usually expected to fall in the *Guban* between November 2002 and February 2003. The pastoralists, who belonged to the Issa clan moved through the areas of Harirad and A/kadir villages of Awdal on their way to *Guban* – and the Gadabuursi clan (from Aisha'a, Dembal and Awbarre) passed through Gadabuursi settlements and territories. The situation of these in-migrating pastoralists and their households became worse when the *hais* rains of Awdal were delayed. Many of them and their livestock had to stay in the mountains of central Awdal where they could find water and browsing for their camels and goats. Those pastoralists (mostly with sheep) who had already moved on to the *Guban* areas encountered the harsh dry climate where there was inadequate fodder for livestock consumption and severe water shortages. Their sheep were particularly badly hit by tick borne diseases with which they were unfamiliar.

In the second week of December, FSAU, UNICEF and representatives of several Somaliland ministries conducted a drought assessment in villages around Zeila (Gerissa, ElGal and AshaAddo) where they met with elders from Shinnile region. Following interviews it became clear that those pastoralists who had in-migrated from Ethiopia were suffering the highest livestock mortality rate in the region and their animals were the least marketable with the worst productivity. At the beginning of December, the Ethiopian pastoralists were located in Zeila district only. As reported in the last monthly report, the *hais* rains actually commenced in the last week of December and covered most of the drought affected areas of Zeila, Lughaya and parts of Berbera districts, stretching up to the Ogo and Golis plateau of Awdal and Galbeed regions. In a WFP Ethiopia report dated 9 January 2003, Jijiga and Shinnile zones did also receive light *hais* rains but they had little impact on the condition of human and livestock in the region.

WFP Ethiopia reports that a population of 284,224 people from Shinnile districts have been affected by the drought. The FSAU estimates that if 10-15% of this population has possibly moved to Awdal, this would represent 4,000-7,000 households, which is estimated to be 2,000-3,000 households more than is usual.

A third phase of migration into Awdal, from Ethiopia, commenced when the *Guban* rains began. This group faced less problems compared to the two other migrations—on their way to the coast— as

rain fell in the Awdal and Shinnile highlands but not enough to significantly regenerate pasture and water catchments, however, the climate is cooler and water is available.

WFP Ethiopia reported the migration of entire households following the start of the *hais* rains in the Guban areas. This has been confirmed by FSAU radio communications, where camels and donkeys and families carrying possessions have been reported walking through Hariirad village towards the *Guban* areas.

This abnormal in-migration of livestock from Ethiopia to Awdal is likely to remain in the *Guban* until the *Gu* rains begin. However, due to the carrying capacity of the area and the excessive number of livestock, new pasture will be grazed prematurely without a chance to regenerate and shed seeds. Overgrazing is likely to take place earlier than expected. Another worrying factor is that animals are concentrated in a very specific area (from the coast to the mountains) and the outbreak of disease is highly probable, especially as animals originate from so many different parts of the region.

The resident population which are already under pressure (see earlier FSAU reports) is stretching usual kin support. People arriving in Awdal are stressed and justify external support. In the absence of alternative humanitarian response, relief food at the present targeted level of distributions could be extended to the next *Gu* rains to relieve some pressure on households. The *Gu* season is expected to start at the end of March/beginning April 2003. This food is not expected to increase migration/pull as food aid is being distributed in Shinnile and most of the migratory movement is believed to have already occurred into Awdal.

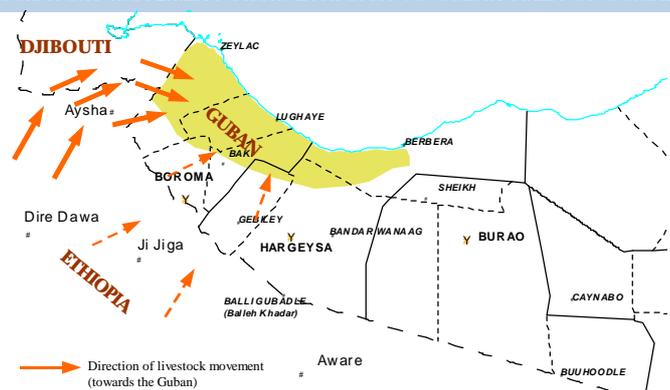
Critical factors to be watched in the coming months are

- (1) The commencement of the *Gu* rains in Shinnile/highlands of Awdal—particularly their timing and quantity.
- (2) Any delay or failure of rains will prevent the migrants from returning which should normally occur in late March/April and this will pre-empt a collapse of the sustainability of the *Guban* rangelands carrying capacity and hasten resource depletion in Awdal. The vital return of the migrants at the beginning of April is expected to happen as rangelands will be depleted. This should encourage them to return with their livestock to their place of origin. Interventions that encourage the migrants to stay in Awdal could create additional problems.

The onset of the *Gu* rains in Shinnile in Ethiopia are critical.

- (3) The pastoralists are highly dependent on income from milk and livestock sales.

MIGRATORY MOVEMENT FROM ETHIOPIA TO GUBAN AREA OF SOMALIA



FOOD AID DISTRIBUTION IN SOMALIA FOR JANUARY 2003

During January CARE did not distribute in Gedo region and they are expected to reduce their number of beneficiaries in the region in coming months. CARE have 2,500 MT in the pipeline in Mandera. During January in the form of Food for Work (FFW) WFP distributed 32 MT in Berdale district of Bay. 412 MT was distributed in Wajid, Huddur, El Berde and Baddhure in Bakol, 51 MT were distributed in Hiran and 9 MT in Lower Shabelle, 14 MT in Mudug. FFW carried out in the North, 19 MT in Borama and 244 MT in Hargeisa. Other distributions in the north included 54 MT in Togdheer, 7 MT in Sanag, 54 MT in Bari and 10 MT in Sool regions.

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.

BARI REGION

The overall food security situation in Dharoor FEZ, Sool FEZ and Coastal FEZ is normal with the exception of poor urban wealth groups, particularly the IDP'S in Bossaso who have limited coping options available to them. Weather conditions are typical of the hot dry *Jilaal* season. In the Dharoor FEZ poor pastoralist groups are still feeling the effects of low livestock reproduction due to last drought, depressed livestock value, and the effects of the harsh *Jilaal* season. Poor pastoralists access to dairy products is also below normal as the number of milking animals is limited and available to only a few households. Normal food expandability options (gifts or purchase of cereals) have been effective in counter balancing the food gap. The consumption patterns of the pastoralists are likely to change as the *Jilaal* season progresses. Milk yields will drastically decrease and consumption of non pastoral food items are likely to increase. Generally livestock condition is good. In the Sool FEZ, the income sources of pastoralists have returned to normal although they are still losing about 9% of their total income because of inaccessibility to fishing activities over the last two months. Income from livestock sales is still below normal – about 67.5% of the baseline price. However, pastoralists are managing the loss of income through selling milk instead of consuming it and increasing livestock sales. There is no water crisis on the sool plateau of Bari region – although water could become a problem at the end of *Jilaal*. Fishing activities resumed in January. An overall improvement in pastoral well-being is not expected unless camel reproduction returns to normal and the livestock ban is lifted. The following have positively affecting the improvement of the overall livelihoods of the coastal FEZ especially in Bossaso town. The low price of rice and relief maize, availability of related livestock trade and port activities, construction trade and an adequate supply of food commodities.

SANAG & TOGHDEER

Toghdeer and Sanag agro-pastoral zone which had a poor *Gu* season has made some recovery due to good *Deyr* rains in the area. In Sool Plateau of eastern Sanaag the main problem for pastoralists remains the shortage of water coming from bore holes. Most of these are old and fragile and during the *Jilaal* are vulnerable as a result of mechanical damage due to over-pumping. Pastoralists in this area are also suffering from a reduced camel calving rate due to the effects of the last drought. The price of milk is still 30% higher than normal due to low milk production. It is expected that some pastoralists are expected to start water trucking at the end of February until the *Gu* rains are received. The fishing communities in eastern Sanaag have however experienced a good season. They are benefiting from the establishment of the Laskorey fish factory. Local people have benefited from transport related activities in Berbera related to food aid on its way to Ethiopia.

SOOL (and the Buhoodle Hawd)

Unusual rainfall fell in January in Sool Plateau around Dhahar district but its unlikely to regenerate pasture which is in its dormant stage. With the exception of the urban poor (who are affected by security problems) other FEZ's have access to normal food daily intake. The pastoral community in the area are benefiting from the favourable Terms of Trade and improved livestock market demand for both local and export quality stock. Livestock have normal body condition and weight—only a small percentage of young and lactating animals are in poor body condition. However, pasture availability is already beginning to decline and water shortage is already being felt in parts of Sool Plateau. Pasture exhaustion is already occurring in Nugal Valley.

SOUTH NUGAL & NORTH MUDUG

The Hawd Food Economy Zone is normal with the exception of the 25-30 per cent of poor pastoralist households in the drought hit eastern areas of the Food Economy Group who are increasingly food insecure, particularly around Jariban district. These households have low milk production and poor access to livestock sales. They are coping through self employment and other labour opportunities. Despite the livestock ban—the better off and middle wealth groups are able to access their usual income. Access to water is normal except in Goldogob district borehole, where water is more scarce, being sold at the abnormal price of 12,000 sh/drum, more than three times the price for this time of year. The western part of the Addun Pastoral Food Economy Zone is worrying. Camel conception rates have declined last year during a series of successive droughts and this, combined with poor market accessibility, poor infrastructure and the ongoing livestock ban means that 20-30 per cent of poor households in this area are finding it increasingly difficult to access food. In order to cope, they are exploiting different self employment activities to try and maintain their income and purchasing power. In the Deeh Food Economy Zone food security the situation is normal.

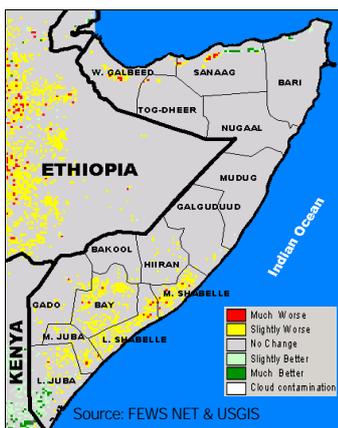
NORTH NUGAL & SOUTH BARI

Despite the drought experienced in the last *hagai* season, which reduced herd size in Hawd and Lyax eco-zones, (and below normal milk production during the *Deyr*) pastoralists are coping due to good terms of trade for: shoat/rice, shoat/sorghum, and shoat/drum of water. All *berkads* have been replenished. One water drum of 200 litres cost 10,000 Somali shillings while in the previous *hagai* the same drum cost 45,000-75,000 Ssh. There are pockets such as the Nugal valley which did not receive *deyr* rains so many pastoralists migrated elsewhere, some however stayed behind and it is now too late for them to move to far-flung areas such as Addun or Deeh/coastal. Camel herds from Lyah, Nugal and Sool which have not fully recuperated physically from the severe droughts will struggle to survive the *Jilaal*. Camels in *hawd* seem to be fully recovered due to the good quality pasture in the region.

NORTH WEST & AWDAL

See highlights on the front page and article on page 2.

Fig 1 : Current Vegetation conditions (early February) compared to previous dekad of 21 –30 January 2003.



AS JILAAL SEASON ARRIVES PASTORALISTS ARE FACING DETERIORATION IN QUALITY OF PASTURE :

Current pasture and livestock conditions are reported to be adequate/fair in Lower and Middle Shabelle, Bay and Juba Valley. However, in the rest of the country pasture is drying quicker than is usual. Fig 1 looks at current vegetation (early February) compared to the previous dekad 21-30 January 2003. The deteriorating pasture conditions are more evident in parts of Bay, Lower and Middle Shabelle, Middle Juba, central Galbeed and along the northern coastal belt. Nevertheless, there are still good vegetation conditions in lower Juba regions. Reports from the field confirm this situation, which could lead to overgrazing.

LIVESTOCK EXPORT TABLE JANUARY 2003

	October	November	December	January
Bosasso *				
Camel	782	765	1,300	50
Cattle	4,448	3,433	3,773	5,820
Shoats	150,845	160,245	100,154	209,030
Total	156,075	164,443	105,227	214,900
Berbera **				
Camel	1,251	3,627	450	2,947
Cattle	4,503	5,519	8,800	10,174
Shoats	42,261	62,549	40,396	123,089
Total	48,015	71,695	49,646	136,211

Source *: Bosasso Port Authority Source **: Berbera Port Authority

REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONTIORS

GEDO

The food security situation is good and no severe food shortages are reported. This is the best beginning to the start of *Jilaal* in four years and the harsh, hot, dry season is expected to be relatively cool. There are a few localized showers in some areas which is unusual. Currently pasture and grazing is considered above average – pasture is green allowing some livestock to remain in the region during *Jilaal* which is unusual. Pastoralists are staying close to urban centres because of good pasture and plenty of water. Livestock are strong and healthy. Livestock milk production is good in terms of yields—especially cattle and goats, camel milk yield is a bit below normal but plenty of availability. All livestock species are fetching good market prices and terms of trade are favourable to pastoralists. Goats and cattle are going to Garissa markets, while camels are being sent to Mogadishu and Kenya. Rain fed farmers have stopped selling their sorghum grain because availability is plenty and because the cereal is fetching a low price – farmers are storing in local ground pits. Maize supply and prices are normal.

HIRAN

The food security situation is improving as a result of the good *Deyr*. The harvest of early planted crops has finished while the late planted crops will be finished at the end of January. The total cropped area is above normal because of the good *Deyr* rains. Crop condition is good despite slight infestation of pests and bird attacks. The *Deyr* rains started in early October and were initially poor and unevenly distributed but these rains improved in December which is traditionally a dry month improving pasture and water availability. Livestock condition has improved as well as meat and milk production. The river level has been fluctuating in the last two months but recently the river level dropped drastically making mini floods in the area unlikely. The drought in the Ethiopian Shabelle region has not made a significant impact on Hiran region's livelihoods; no abnormal migration of livestock or humans has been observed. There is a good supply of cereals, which are even available to poor households and cereal prices have declined. There are job opportunities in the agricultural sector for poorer households too which is enabling them to access income.

JUBA VALLEY

Middle Juba (Sakow, Buale and Jilib) is experiencing dry, hot weather typical of *Jilaal*. Pasture and grazing are still available. Overall livestock condition is normal. Although insecurity exists, people are managing through their usual coping mechanisms. In Lower Juba (Kismayo, Baolaole, Afmadow, Hagar, Jamamma districts) the weather is hot and cloudy. Poor wealth groups have small stocks of cereal left following the poor *Gu* 2002. Livestock production is normal. Pasture and grazing is in good condition while water availability is starting to decline.

BAY

In mid January some districts (Kansahdere and Dinsoor) received unexpected rain. This replenished many of the water catchments in the agro-pastoral and pastoral areas and improved pasture and grazing. In terms of milk and meat production, the situation is normal for the time of year. Milk prices have slightly decreased. Harvesting activities have begun in farming areas of the region, improving agricultural opportunities for very poor wealth groups. The price of staple food (sorghum and maize) has decreased by 50% due to insecurity. This has worried farmers as non-food items such as clothes, medicine and sugar have not been affected by the price drop. Agro-pastoralists have good stocks until the next *Gu* while pastoralists are experiencing favourable Terms of Trade. Insecurity in Baidoa, Dinsor and Oflow is negatively affecting food security.

LOWER SHABELLE

Food security situation is normal. Most wealth groups have stocks and/or cash crops (sesame). In addition agricultural labour is still satisfactory and the price of local produce is affordable to most households. Livestock are in good condition and are fetching a good price. Cattle have started to move back to the riverine area—improving milk access for the riverine population. However, localised conflict is causing some difficulty in specific areas which is lessening the coping option for poorer wealth groups.

MIDDLE SHABELLE

Pasture and grazing conditions are becoming poor because of the prevailing dry weather and temporary water catchments have dried up in the rangelands. Browsing animals (camel and goats) are better off compared to non-browsing animals due to the availability of ever green trees and shrubs. The dry weather has caused a reduction in milk production and a loss in animal body weight. Cattle have moved to riverine areas in order to graze crop residues. Maize and sorghum crops have been harvested and early planting of sesame is in progress. River levels rose between 6-15 January. During the high river level some farmers had the opportunity to irrigate their fields. Insect infestation and bird attacks were not alarming this season. Food availability in the market is good. The supply of maize, sorghum, cowpea and sesame is good due to the *deyr* harvest. Traders from other places are in the market collecting local products. Maize and sesame are transported to Mogadishu while cowpea is shipped to Hiran, central regions, and even Mudug. Retail prices of maize, sorghum and cowpea have decreased by 11%, 18% and 16% respectively compared to last months levels. Household stocks in both irrigated and rainfed remain good because of the seasonal harvest. Therefore, currently the overall food security situation for all wealth groups is normal.

BAKOL

The food security situation is fairly good despite some food insecure pockets in areas around Wajid and villages in Huddur district. Water shortages are expected around southern villages of Rabdure and Huddur districts (Bodan, Emilow and Wabgarad) which rely heavily on catchments and shallow wells. Catchments are already drying up causing livestock to move to fixed water points. ADRA is working on rehabilitation of wells in Huddur and Rabdure to try and improve the situation. Due to good *Deyr* rains, however pasture continues to be available and livestock survival especially camel and shoats is expected through until the start of the next rainy season. Crop harvesting should be completed by the first week in January. Some pockets of Wajid and Tieglow have seen crop losses following the late showers in December. Livestock availability and marketing is normal. Livestock prices are good for both sustainable livestock holding pastorals and agro pastorals making the Terms of Trade favourable. Staple and non-staple food markets, in terms of demand, supply and accessibility is normal. Cereal prices have substantially dropped this month by 35-45%. There are reports of shoaat diseases in Rabdure.

COWPEA BELT

Above normal *Deyr* rains have meant households have good availability and accessibility to food, water and pasture. Livestock are producing milk and meat and the harvest is expected to produce a good sorghum and cowpea crop. Water for people and livestock is available with normal prices for the season. Livestock products are being consumed locally as well as being sent to Galkaio and Mogadishu which is enabling pastoralists to purchase imported staple food (rice, flour) and other essential commodities such as sugar.

GALGADUD

The food security situation is normal as the region enters the *Jilaal* season. Water availability for the season is normal. Livestock are concentrated near to water points except in C/Wak and parts of Adado where the watering frequencies are reported to be high due to the prevailing harsh *Jilaal* season—the boreholes are also few and livestock quite dense in this area. Poor households are the most susceptible to the ongoing *Jilaal* season in terms of water accessibility as they won't be able to afford the price of water if the season is prolonged. Pasture and grazing conditions are normal. Cereal supply to markets and the price of staple food (maize) has declined by 16% this month making purchase easier for poorer pastoral groups. During *Jilaal* pastoralists need to purchase food because of a decline in the productivity of animals.