

ISSUED JULY 2003

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

## FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

\*\*The FSAU FOCUS on *Gu* 2003 Crop Establishment will be issued at the end of July.

\*\* The FSAU field team in the north is working on *Gu* crop establishment in Somaliland. The results will be highlighted in the August Monthly Report.

\*\* An urban baseline livelihood assessment is being conducted in Belet Weyne. The work is being led by SC-UK and FSAU as well as other partners working in the district. It will investigate urban livelihoods among all wealth groups and identify factors which may have contributed to the recent high rates of malnutrition, even following good *Deyr* rains. A nutrition survey (led by UNICEF and IMC) to investigate current nutrition status in the area is expected to be conducted shortly after the livelihood baseline assessment.

\*\*The FSAU workshop for the *Gu* crop assessment and annual food security analysis (*Gu* 2003 to *Gu* 2004) will take place in September.

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 [mariam@fsau.or.ke](mailto:mariam@fsau.or.ke)

## Food Aid Distribution

In June CARE despatched to Somalia, the following food relief, for distributions scheduled to take place during July. 700 Mt for distribution in Hiran, Bakol, Bay and Lower Juba. This will take the form of Food for work for road rehabilitation and the clearing of canals. A total of approximately 2,523 Mt of sorghum for Gedo region was dispatched of which 843 Mt is for Belet Hawa, 899 Mt for Luuq, 366 Mt for Dolow and 414 Mt for El Waq. A total of 259 Mt of split peas were despatched of which 37 Mt is for Dolow, 84 Mt for Belet Hawa, 93 Mt for Luuq and 44 Mt for EL Waq. A total of 87 Mt of vegetable oil was despatched, 7 Mt for Dolow, 35 Mt for Belet Hawa and 35 Mt for Luuq and 9 Mt for El Waq. CARE's food relief distributions are now underway in the above areas.

During June, WFP Somalia distributed a total of 438 Mt in Somalia. In Bakol (133 Mt), Bay (41 Mt), Lower Shabelle (9 Mt), Middle Shabelle (1 Mt), Hiran (3 Mt), Mogadishu (57 Mt), Galbeed (68 Mt), Togdheer (17 Mt), Awdal (3 Mt), Bari (51 Mt), and Nugal (55 Mt).

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Sool Plateau In Alarming Food Security Situation** : In June, FSAU carried out a food security assessment of the most vulnerable areas in the Sool plateau of Sanag and Sool region which confirmed that up to 3,500 households were facing deficits of 25-35% of their energy requirements. This information was corroborated by a nutrition survey undertaken by FSAU, UNICEF, MOHL and SRCS which indicated a GAM of 12.5% (see below) in the area. These households require immediate assistance. The FSAU northern pastoral assessment which was also carried out in June, estimated that approximately 9,000 households in Sool Plateau Food Economy Zone, (this figure includes the 3,500 households in the Sool plateau of Sanag and Sool) Dharoor Food Economy Zone (upper Dharoor in Sanag region) and Nugal Food Economy Zone (the lower valley) are facing chronic vulnerability and need close monitoring for interventions.

**Gu 2003 Cereal Forecast For Southern Somalia.** The total *Gu* 2003 cereal production in southern Somalia (on average contributing 95% to the final *Gu* production figure) is expected to be approximately 214,900 MT. Maize accounts for 68% of this production and sorghum 32%. This is 28% more than the post-war average (167,900 MT) and is very close to the final *Gu* 2002 cereal production figure. Areas that are not faring well are parts of Middle Juba, Bay region—in particular Qansah-Dere and Dinsor districts and parts of Hiran. Latest field reports indicate that insecurity, insufficient rainfall and pests could further reduce the final cereal production figure. For more information on the *Gu* 2003 crop establishment see page 2.

**Pastoral Conditions In Somalia** : Pastoral conditions in the north of the country are normal other than those areas highlighted above : Sool Plateau Food Economy Zone, Dharoor Food Economy Zone (upper Dharoor in Sanag region) and Nugal Food Economy Zone. (the lower valley) A comprehensive pastoral assessment was not carried out in southern Somalia but all indicators in the most likely vulnerable areas suggest that conditions are near normal.

## Highlights from the FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

The results of a nutrition survey undertaken collaboratively between FSAU, MOHL, UNICEF and SRCS in Sool plateau of Sanag and Sool Regions in May/June 2003 confirm serious under-nutrition and a compromised health status of the plateau's population. The results indicated a global acute malnutrition rate of 12.5% (CI 10.5-14.9) using Weight/Height <-2 Z scores or oedema and severe acute malnutrition 1.8 % (CI 1.1 -3.0) using Weight/Height <-3 z-scores or oedema. The under-five mortality rate was 1.9 deaths/10,000 children/day. The area has experienced persistent drought for three years resulting in inadequate accessibility to water (humans and livestock) and pasture. (livestock) A food security assessment conducted during the survey showed a resultant food deficit of 25–35% among the poor (some households in the 'middle' category may also have deficits). The lack of sufficient rainfall has subsequently affected the production of livestock and livestock products. This has affected food availability since the population depends on these for food and income. With income opportunities diminished, access to medication is also a major challenge. Child-care practices have also been negatively affected. For example inadequate food intake by mothers affects breastfeeding and there is only minimal food varieties available for complementary feeding. Children also suffer as a re-

sult of their parents absence when mothers are forced to spend long periods away from home, in search of food to eat.

In Buale District, Lower Juba Region the population affected by the inter-clan tension showed extremely high malnutrition rates of 28% using MUAC measurement <12.5 cm and a further 11% were reported at risk of malnutrition. This population has experienced the destruction of property and food stocks, businesses, standing crops and underground granaries. The riverine food economy group and villages surrounding Buale town have been the most affected by this insecurity. Insecurity has also hampered the market supply of local cereals and imported foods. Prices have risen by 50% compared to May 2002.

UNICEF, MOH and FSAU in collaboration with local partners began a repeat nutrition survey in Bossaso IDP camps on 2 July 2003, expected to end in two weeks time. At the same time, UNICEF in collaboration with FSAU, IMC and SRCS plan to undertake a nutrition survey in Beletweyne district between 12 and 21 July 2003. The two surveys are expected to have a strong food security input.

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

## GU 2003 CROPPING SEASON IN SOUTHERN SOMALIA

## Background

Rainfall was erratic and distributed unevenly during the *Gu* 2003 rainfall season in southern Somalia. This has implications for the crop establishment for both sorghum and maize crops as they are mostly rain-dependent. Insecurity has also negatively affected crop establishment especially in Bay region and parts of Middle Shabelle, while other factors such as soil insects (white grubs) grass-hoppers, stem borers and rodents (rats) have also taken their toll.

- The total cropped area for the *Gu* 2003 in southern Somalia is estimated at 388,100 Ha, marginally up (2%) from the post-war average of 332,500 Ha and slightly down (-2%) from the area cultivated –397,800 Ha, in *Gu* 2002. Sorghum accounts for 54% of this year's cultivated area and maize 46%.
- The total *Gu* 2003 cereal production is expected to be approximately 214,900 MT. Maize accounts for 68% of this production and sorghum 32%. This production is 28% more than the post-war average harvest (167,900 MT) and is marginally more than the final *Gu* 2002 cereal harvest figure (208,900 MT). These estimates are subject to 'risk factors' outlined in the box opposite.
- The following are the estimated regional contributions to the 2003 *Gu* production figures: Lower Shabelle 58%, Bay region 14%, Middle Shabelle 13%, Gedo 7%, Lower Juba 3%, Middle Juba 3%, Hiran 1% and Bakol 1%. On average, most of the cereal production in southern Somalia comes from Bay (27%) and Lower Shabelle (41%).

*Gu* 2003 predicted cereal production figures for Bay region are quite low at 30,400 Mt (-33% compared with post-war average and -52% compared with 2002). This is attributed to poor growing conditions in Qansah-Dere and Dinsor as well as insecurity in Baidoa. In Lower Shabelle, predicted cereal production is 108,450 Mt, up 79% on the post-war average and 23% on the 2002 figure. Hiran region has experienced another poor *Gu* cropping season, with an output that is estimated at 1,710 MT, 68% lower than its post-war average. Tieglo in Bakol and parts of Middle and Lower Juba also experienced low production when compared with the post-war average.

## Maize

Although the predicted maize production is 146,900 MT, up to half this crop has a risk of failing before harvesting. See box opposite for possible 'risk' factors. In those areas where maize is irrigated (Gedo and Hiran) higher diesel prices and a poor return from low staple prices have impacted irrigation. In Lower and Middle Shabelle, poor infrastructure and inaccessibility will reduce irrigation from being used to improve production.

## Sorghum

The predicted sorghum production—68,300 MT, is expected to be more stable over the next few months as compared to maize as sorghum is better able to withstand dry conditions during the grain-forming stages. See yellow box opposite for 'risk' factors which could reduce this sorghum production figure before harvesting.

## The Effect Of Flooding On Cropped Areas

In the last dekad of April and the first dekad of May—the Shabelle and Juba rivers upstream reached full crest. At their highest point the river Shabelle reached 6m in Belet Weyne (as compared to around 3m which is normal for the time of year) and the Juba reached 5m in Bardera. However, fears of disastrous flooding downstream in both valleys were relieved when the short cresting of the two rivers and the halt in *Gu* rainfall across the Shabelle and Juba valleys prevented it. (Although there was small-scale localized flood-

BOX: Risk Factors That May Affect Final *Gu* 2003 Production Figures

It is important to highlight that crop establishment figures are 'optimistic'. During the second week of July, FSAU had reports of insufficient rainfall in pockets during the grain-filling stage for maize. Pest attacks, insecurity, outbreak of birds, grain eating insects, stem borers, rodents (rats) and smut diseases could also substantially diminish yields.

In the 2002 crop establishment, total production for the southern Somalia *Gu* season was projected at 259,000 MT. At harvest time, this figure was revised to 208,900 MT, a difference of -19%. Most of the 'losses' between establishment and harvest occurred in Lower Shabelle and other maize-growing areas.

Farmers are also expecting yields to be reduced come harvest time, hence they are withholding stocks and market prices have begun rising. This is further evidence that supports a large difference between establishment and harvest figures this year.

Importantly, the lost production will also affect labour and weeding opportunities at harvest time and the poor will find it harder to replace depleted household food stocks during or before the next cropping season.

ing—often caused by farmers deliberately breaking embankments.) Historically, flooding has usually taken place during the *Deyr* season. Similar river levels to that experienced in the *Gu* 2003 season were recorded during the 1997 El-Niño *Deyr*. In the past, it was the responsibility of the government to ensure that the river bed and irrigation canals did not get silted up. In post-war years, possible downstream flooding has caused great concern amongst the riverine communities of Lower and Middle Shabelle as overflowing, seepage and poor bank structures have meant they are more vulnerable when flooding occurs.

Without large scale destructive flooding during the *Gu* 2003 season, there were minor benefits from excess water such as an increase in the production of cash crops particularly sesame and vegetables. Grazing also became increasingly accessible as flood waters receded.

## Conclusion

The overall cereal production in southern Somalia is expected to be near normal; however those regions that need to be closely monitored are Bay, (Qansah-Dere and Dinsor districts) Hiran, Bakol (Tieglo) and parts of Middle and Lower Juba.

Table I – 2003 *Gu* Crop Production By Region Compared With Post-war

Region	<i>Gu</i> 2003 Sorghum	<i>Gu</i> 2003 Maize	<i>Gu</i> 2003 Sorghum +Maize	% Change from <i>Gu</i> Harvest	% Change from post-war
Bakol	1,170	450	1,620	+35%	-49%
Bay	25,900	4,500	30,400	-52%	+33%
Gedo	10,030	6,420	16,450	+307%	+107%
Hiran	610	1,100	1,710	+155%	-68%
L/Juba	210	6,210	6,400	-5%	-17%
L/Shabelle	15,680	108,450	124,130	+23%	+79%
M/Juba	3,050	2,380	5,430	-53%	-56%
M/Shabelle	11,670	17,100	28,770	+38%	+70%
TOTAL	68,300	146,610	214,910	+3%	+28%

**Gu Season Assessment: Crop Establishment (Southern Areas) and Pastoral Areas Of Concern (Northern/Central areas)**

**AN ASSESSMENT OF PASTORAL CONDITIONS IN THE NORTH FOLLOWING GU SEASON RAINFALL**

**Background**

The following analysis is based on a pastoral assessment carried out in the north during June in the following regions : Galgadud, Mudug, Nugal, Bari Sanaag, Sool, Togdheer, Galbeed and Awdal Region.

In southern Somalia a comprehensive pastoral assessment was not carried out but all indicators in the most likely vulnerable areas suggest that conditions are near normal.

In the North-East and North-West of Somalia, there are three main grazing areas – the *Hawd*, Sool Plateau and Nugal Valley – and several lesser areas - Dharoor, Deeh, Addun Golis and Gagaab. The level of migration in and out of these grazing areas during the *Gu* season is the main indicator of the *Gu* rainfall's impact on pastoral livelihoods.

Mixed rainfall performance during the *Gu* 2003 season has impacted pastoral grazing areas (and hence the pastoral livelihood) to different degrees.

**Hawd Plateau**

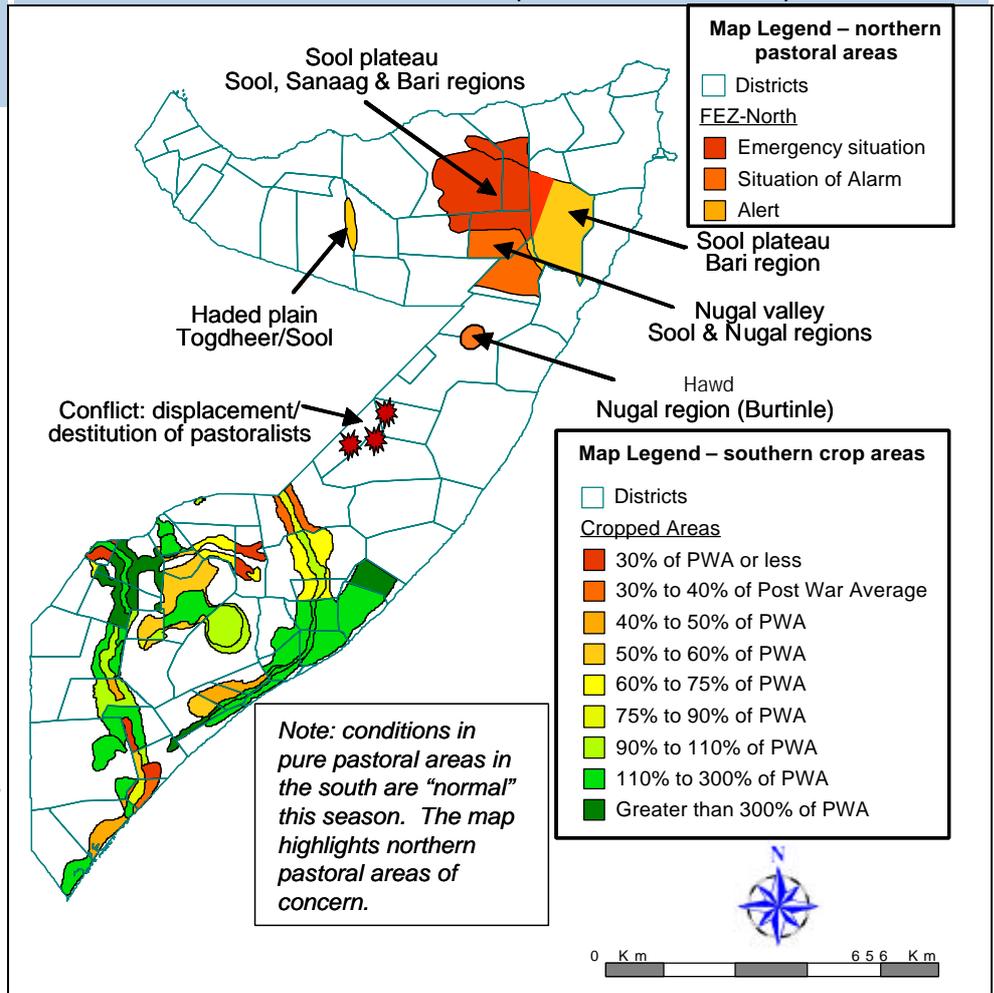
Rainfall began on time and was evenly distributed throughout the *Hawd* plateau. Good rain intensity regenerated pasture and replenished water sources. Livestock body condition recovered and milk yields were normal. However, due to below-normal rains in last *Gu* season, camel conception rates were low and this is reflected in a lower calving rate and overall production this *Gu*. Sheep and goat reproduction was normal following good *Deyr* rains. Goat milk production is expected to offset the income deficit from camel milk sales and will possibly increase access to household food sources.

**Nugal Valley**

The lower Nugal valley extends from Taleh district of Sool region up to Dangorayo of Nugal region. In this pastoral area, the rains started late and were below normal. Run off water from the Sool plateau, which normally helps to regenerate pasture, did not occur. Eighty per cent of the lower valley experienced rain failure. Livestock migrated out of the area; camels went to the *Hawd* and shoats to the Upper Nugal valley. Lower Nugal Valley has experienced the same pattern of successive rain failures as the Sool Plateau but pastoral households in Lower Nugal Valley have easier access to water through hand-dug wells, so poor households still have access to water.

Key changes in productive and exchange elements for households in the lower Nugal Valley are livestock production (25%) and livestock sales (70%). Livestock prices and milk prices are, however, up (by 30% and 50%, respectively) while opportunities for the poor in employment and self-employment are reduced. The poor are therefore not expected to be able to cope adequately and, unless they resort to extreme coping strategies, they will experience a food deficit of 15-25%. This group needs to be monitored closely for interventions.

The upper Nugal Valley received good rainfall – similar to that received in the *Hawd*.



**Deeh, Addun, Gagaab and Golis**

The *Gu* season in this area was above normal and similar to the *Hawd*. Livestock condition is normal. Pastoral indicators show that households are likely to access enough food and income over the coming months.

**Dharoor**

Consecutive poor rains have detrimentally affected the upper Dharoor in Sanag region which extends to the south of Erigavo and Bosasso. The 2003 *Gu* season failed in ninety per cent of the area which prompted a massive migration towards the neighboring Golis mountains and the upper Nugal valley. These households, who are not currently expected to face a deficit, are also not expected to return to their home areas until the *Deyr* rains arrive.

**Sool Plateau**

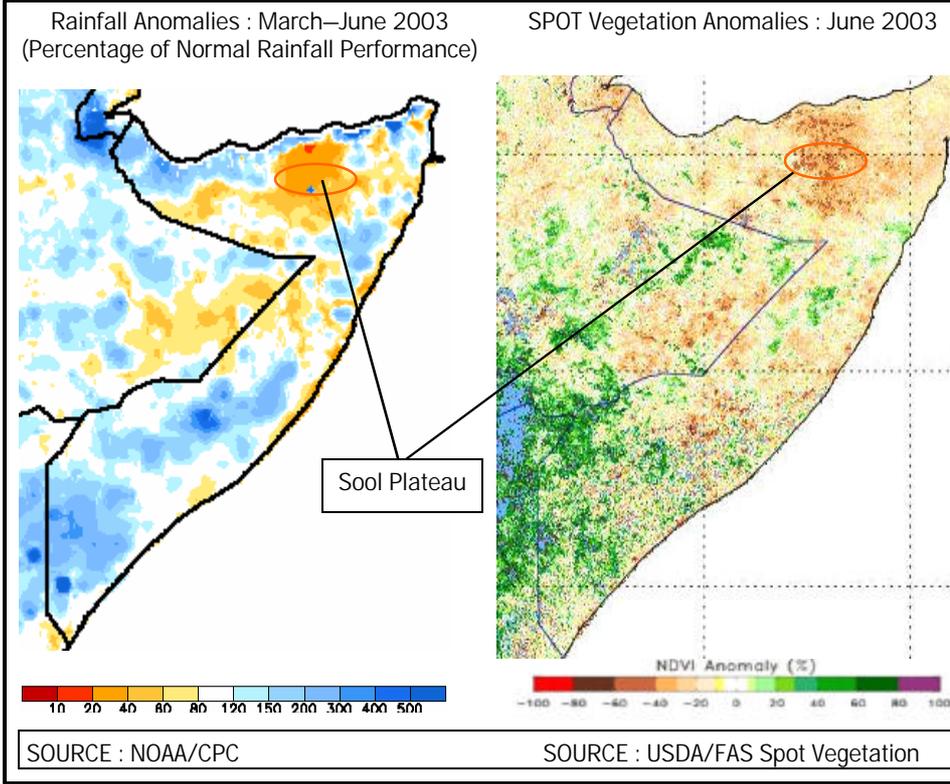
(Covering parts of Sool, Bari and Sanag Region)

This area has experienced three years of successive rain failure which has killed a significant number of livestock. Overgrazing and poor pasture have resulted in poor livestock productivity, which, combined with a low water availability has decreased herd sizes and their composition. The marketing of livestock has become more difficult forcing poorer pastoral households to adopt extreme coping strategies to survive. Heavy charcoal collection, one of these strategies, has serious long term environmental consequences.

**The Normal situation**

Normally, poor households on Sool Plateau get an estimated 25% of their annual household energy needs from livestock products such as milk, ghee and meat, while 70% of their annual energy comes through the market purchase of staple food for which they

**RAINFALL AND VEGETATION IN GU 2003 SEASON**



hold energy needs deficit of between 25-35% and more than 3,500 households are facing chronic food insecurity.

FSAU, MOHL, UNICEF and SRCS undertook a nutrition survey on the plateau in May/June 2003, which indicated a global acute malnutrition rate of 12.5% (CI 10.5-14.9%) and a severe malnutrition rate of 1.8% (CI 1.1-3.0%). Under-five mortality was reported at 1.9 deaths/10,000 under-five children/day.

**Responses**

FSAU, UNICEF, WFP, MOHL and the Ministry for Pastoralism and the Environment held a meeting on 9 June in Hargeisa to discuss possible interventions.

- Targeted general food distributions in the highly vulnerable areas of the plateau for the next 2-3 months (until the Deyr season) to an estimated vulnerable population of up to 3,500 households in the Sool plateau of Sanag and Sool Regions.

- Supplementary feeding programme for pregnant/lactating mothers and children under five years in the plateau in the next 2-3 months.
- Rehabilitate run-down boreholes, berkads and dams with an aim of increasing access to water for both human and livestock. The water points normally dry up quickly and need to be deep to maintain a constant water supply.
- Promote alternative income generating activities through a credit programme to reduce over-reliance on livestock sources for maintaining livelihoods.
- Continued close monitoring of the food and nutrition situation in the area and intensification of surveillance activities.
- Intensify the promotion of preventive health care interventions focusing on immunisation, hygiene, and control of water related diseases.
- Promote nutrition education through the MCH/outposts focusing on breastfeeding, complementary feeding and frequency of feeding of infants and young children as well as a feeding of sick children.

require income. About 40% of this required income would come from the sale of livestock products, livestock sales would provide 30-45%, self-employment 20-30%, employment 10-20% and gifts/social support 5-10%. Drought, however, has changed household livelihoods from this baseline significantly.

**The Current Situation on Sool Plateau**

Ninety per cent of the Sool Plateau received no rain. There was however localized rain in parts of Bari and Sanag which brought some relief in terms of water availability and forage regeneration. However, in-migration to those areas rapidly led to overgrazing. As a result of the poor rainfall situation, early migration took place in Sool plateau to Nugal Valley, the Hawd, and the coastal/Deeh areas. Wealthier households used trucks to transport their animals while poorer households walked, leaving behind a trail of dead camels and shoats on the migration route. Aggravated by the long distance between pasture and water points, households remaining on the plateau had to rely on water trucking, an expensive undertaking that costs Sshs. 30,000-50,000 per drum of water. This has gone up from Sshs. 10,000 in a normal year.

The number of saleable animals in herds have decreased due to weak body condition. This has led to reduced purchasing power amongst poor households and the lower strata of households in the 'middle' wealth group. Camel and pack animals have been hardest hit by the drought due to scarce vegetation and more frequent water transportation stress while estimates show that 20-30% of shoats on the plateau have died. The Gu season coincides with the delivery period for sheep –pastoralists have culled the new-born to save their mothers. This will undermine the future herd reconstitution, production and off-take.

Consequently, livestock productivity, livestock salability, opportunities for employment, opportunities for self-employment and gifts/social support are now half what they would be in a baseline year. Unlike the Nugal Valley, households in this area are paying an extra 40% (in US Dollar terms) for water. Despite making comprehensive use of coping mechanisms, poor households on Sool plateau of Sanag and Sool region are still facing an annual house-

**TABLE II : LIVESTOCK EXPORT TABLE JUNE 2003**

	March	April	May	June
<b>Bossaso*</b>				
Camels	1,020	145	389	677
Cattle	9,013	5,185	3,098	6,590
Shoats	91,725	89,655	116,058	117,476
Total	101,758	95,985	119,545	124,743
<b>Berbera**</b>				
Camel	2,173	0	2,405	800
Cattle	3,273	1,566	2,518	3866
Shoats	22,655	12,035	22,971	16,502
Total	28,111	13,601	27,894	21,168

Source \* Bossaso Port Authority

\*\* Berbera Port Authority

Note : This month most livestock traders switch from Bossaso port (high tides cause it to shut until September) to Berbera port. This affects livestock traders as port charges are higher at Berbera.

**THE ONSET OF THE HAGAI/KARAN SEASON IN SOMALIA**

Following the *Gu* season, from June to mid July, showers and light winds known as *Hagai* arrive in the coastal areas of southern Somalia. In areas where there has been poor *Gu* rainfall, the *Hagai* season can have a positive effect on crop development particularly in Lower and Middle Shabelle and Juba valley.

During the *Hagai* in the north east of the country, there is not so much rain but a strong wind which blows over pastoral areas, reducing mainland temperatures. This wind can sometimes

prematurely reduce soil moisture causing vegetation to dry out faster.

In the north west the *Karan* rains have started. These fall in June through to August. They have a positive effect on agro-pastoralists and help to regenerate grazing areas.

In the sub-coastal areas of Sahil and Galbeed, un-seasonal but beneficial showers have already been received. These showers reduced worries of early pasture depletion which was exacerbated by an abnormal influx of pastoralists from Ethiopia into the area at the beginning of 2003.

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

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 : alex.williams@fsau.or.ke

**BARI**

All FEZ's in the region are relatively food secure as the *Gu* rains positively impacted their livelihoods. However, some pastoralists in Dharoor FEZ of Bossaso district and Sool Plateau FEZ of Bender Beyla remain vulnerable with slow recovery of their animals. The poorest households in *Uur Aleed* (Dharoor FEZ) also require monitoring. However, they are making use of coping strategies such as the collection of frankincense, the collection of palms and firewood and the production of limestone in order to maintain their food needs. Rains were particularly erratic in Bossaso and Bender Beyla districts but the coastal area of Bender Beyla and Iskhushuban received an above normal level of rain. The poor urban groups in Bossaso are experiencing several factors which are negatively affecting their livelihoods. These include the closure of Bossaso sea port due to seasonal tides, limited income generating opportunities and high cereal prices.

**SOOL REGION**

The part of the Sool plateau which falls in the Sool region continues to remain in an alarming situation (with the Sool of Sanag) as up to 3,500 households face deficits of 25-35% of their energy requirements. For more information on this area see the article on page 3. The lower Nugal Valley is in an alarming situation with the poor group experiencing a 15-25% deficit of energy requirements. The remaining areas of the Nugal Valley FEZ are experiencing normal conditions for the time of year. Food security has improved as livestock condition has improved, following adequate *Gu* rains. Animals are easier to sell and livestock prices are now 20% higher than the baseline. In the third week of June the weather changed to the *Hagai* dry season characterized by dry winds. The situation in the *Hawd* FEZ is normal. Most of the grazing rangelands are in good condition and there is limited out migration taking place in the area. However, rangeland resources may be stretched as in-migration of camel herds from Sool plateau have now moved into the *Hawd*.

**SOUTH NUGAL & NORTH MUDUG**

The overall food security condition of the *Hawd*, Addun and Deeh pastoral FEZ's is normal. Water availability is good and the *berkeds* are full and likely to last until the coming *Deyr* season. Livestock body condition has improved. There is good access to goat milk by all wealth groups and the price has therefore reduced significantly. Current conception rate for both camel and shoats is normal; although the camel calving rate is low compared to normal as a result of poor conception rates in the last *Gu* season. Camel milk production is poor and the price has risen. The price of export quality shoats has reduced by about 25% due to low demand as a result of the Bossaso seasonal port closure. Livestock migration remains normal. Livestock that was trucked from the eastern *Hawd* to western Addun has returned. The price fetched for a local goat remains the same as last month.

**SANAG AND TOGHDEER**

The part of the Sool plateau which falls in the Sanag region continues to remain in an alarming situation (along with the Sool of Sool region) as up to 3,500 households face deficits of 25-35% of their energy requirements. In the Sool plateau of Sanag region, *berkads* and *balleys* remain empty as a result of sporadic and insufficient *Gu* rain. Access to employment and self-employment are limited and almost 30% of pastoralists do not have sellable animals due to the prolonged dry spell and debt burden. To fill an increasing deficit many poor pastoralists on the Sool plateau have turned to charcoal burning, despite the environmental implications. For more information see the article on page 3. Consecutive poor rains have detrimentally affected the upper Dharoor in Sanag region which extends to the south of Erigavo and Bosasso. The 2003 *Gu* season failed in ninety per cent of the area which prompted a massive migration towards the neighboring Golis mountains and the upper Nugal valley. In the Golis Guban of Togdheer and Sanaag, the *Gu* rains were good and revived browse and grazing, benefitting livestock. In the *Hawd* of Togdheer, the situation is good. This is a result of good rainfall, favourable terms of trade, improved range resources, abundant water, sustainable herd size and normal livestock production.

**NORTH NUGAL & SOUTH BARI**

In Nugal FEZ, *Gu* rain failure occurred in lower Nugal valley; apart from the border area with *Hawd* and Garowe town. Some animals have concentrated in these areas and overgrazing is causing rapid depletion of forage. A lot of the Lower Nugal valley population are currently found in *Hawd* FEZ where pasture remains good and water catchments are full. Milk prices have started to increase and livestock production is starting to decline. *Hagai* winds have commenced which has seen vegetation start to wilt. In the Sool Plateau FEZ (Gardo district) late rains were received in May allowing vegetation to slightly recover but the delayed rain and successive droughts in the area has put livelihoods under increasing strain. Livestock recovery and milk production is also below normal. In Sool of Dangoroyo district, the quality of vegetation is poor and during June there was no rain so pastoralists have moved easily to the adjacent areas of *Hawd* and Coastal and Deeh. In Deeh and Addun – no rainfall was received in June but in general *Gu* rainfall has been good which has positively affected livelihoods.

**NORTH WEST AND AWDAL**

In the agro-pastoral areas of the region *Gu* rains started on time in April but had eased up by June. A slightly reduced area is likely to have been planted in the region due to lack of availability of tractors, the selling of traction animals due to the high prices that they were fetching in early months of the year, the selling of farmland close to towns as they enlarge especially in Hargeisa, Borama, Gabiley and Tog-Wajale. In general, the sorghum and maize is doing well apart from a handful of villages. Livestock body and production is normal for June. In the coastal and sub-coastal belts, livestock body condition and production is good. Pasture and browse has regenerated following its depletion earlier this year when Ethiopian pastoralists in-migrated to the region from Shinnile. The FSAU field monitor reports that Awdal maybe bracing itself for a new influx of migrants from this area due to the deteriorating situation in this part of Ethiopia. FSAU will monitor. Good rainfall was received in the *Hawd* where livestock production and body condition is reported as good.

**GEDO**

In general the food security situation in the region has improved and continues to show gradual signs of recovery from successive years of drought and persistent insecurity. However, little rainfall was received in June and some farmers are now concerned about the condition of their sorghum standing crops. In the rainfed areas of Bardhera and Luuq, poor yields are expected and a slightly below normal harvest is forecast for the rest of the region. Livestock production and reproduction levels remain satisfactory and terms of trade are still favourable for pastoralists. There is good availability of pasture and water so many livestock are found in the region's grazing areas. This is likely to last until the onset of the *Deyr* season. Trade routes and supply have been affected by insecurity in Bay region. An increased number of road blocks with tolls have also contributed to a rise in the price of imported commodities. CARE has begun food distributions in Gedo's northern districts, this will improve food availability amongst poorer groups and may help stabilize cereal prices.

**JUBA VALLEY**

Overall cereal production in the middle Juba region is expected to be lower than usual due to erratic rainfall, insufficient and poor quality seeds, rat attack, river flood and (for Buale district) increased insecurity. In Buale cereal prices are extremely high due to poor supply as a result of insecurity (130,000-150,000 Ssh/50Kg) compared to normal (40,000-50,000 Ssh/50Kg). The Buale riverine FEZ have poor access to food at household level and their situation needs to be monitored closely. In Lower Juba, most of the region received good rains. In Jamame and Kismayo over 1600 Ha of farm land has been affected by localized flooding destroying some crops. Coping mechanisms in this area are limited and families have split – those who are strong have been sent to Kismayo to find work. In general livestock condition and reproduction in the region is good with no disease outbreak reported. Production of milk and meat has improved and the price of cattle is 25% higher than May.

**COWPEA BELT**

The cowpea belt districts are Adanyabal, Adale, Elder, Galhareri, Hara-dhere and Hobyo. The food security situation is normal. Good rains were received and there is water availability. The livestock body condition is good with access to markets and good prices fetched for animals. The amount of land under cultivation is above normal; crops planted include cowpea, sorghum and watermelon with small pockets of peanuts and finger millet. Access to food has improved due to the increase in livestock production and harvesting of 'green' cowpea.

**BAY**

Baidoa and Burhakaba received some *Hagai* showers this month but, as has been the pattern throughout the season, Qansah-Dere and Dinsor did not. Water catchments in the latter two districts are drying up. The weather has remained cool and cloudy, but dry. These showers improved crop condition and with it, labour opportunities for the poor but where the showers failed, this has reduced. Generally speaking, pasture and livestock condition throughout has improved, although there have been movements as pastoralists seek the best options for grazing and water. Fresh camel milk prices have risen somewhat (10-30%), in response to those animals moving further away from the main centres, especially Baidoa. Sorghum prices have increased by 30% and maize by 50%; farmers have reduced the sale of their stocks. MSF-Switzerland has highlighted the urgent need for water source (deep well) rehabilitation to curb the growing incidence of water-borne disease noted in Dinsor health centre.

**GALGADUD**

Good rains have brought relief to drought-affected pastoral areas. Livestock body condition and access to water and pasture is now normal and milk production has improved. Terms of trade are favourable, with 1 shoat fetching 100+ kg grain, a day's labour 10-12kgs grain and 1 litre of milk 2-2.5kgs grain. However, the situation of pastoralists displaced from the Herale conflict who are camped at Dusamareb, Adado and Guri-el districts are of serious concern. Having suffered major asset loss, many are resorting to detrimental coping strategies such as sale of breeding stock and reducing meals to get by. Outbreaks of diarrhoeal disease have been reported. In agro-pastoral areas and Addun pastoral zone livestock production and environmental conditions are normal. Fluctuations in the exchange rate in recent months continue to affect prices of fuel, sugar and drugs.

**MIDDLE SHABELLE**

Light showers in localized areas were received throughout the region. Pasture and grazing conditions remain good so livestock body condition and milk production are normal. Most animals have remained inland for better grazing and to stay away from the tse-tse fly. Weeding for the late planting of maize and sesame is continuing. The river level is still high allowing gravity irrigation for farmers. The retail price of maize and sorghum is the same as last month.

**BAKOL**

Overall, food security conditions are similar to last month and generally normal, but poor agro-pastoral households are, as usual for this time of year, facing moderate food shortages as household cereal stocks from the *Deyr* are finished. Livestock sales and natural resources exploitation are normal. However, pockets of rain failure (Tieglow) and pests (*Quelea Quelea* in Rabdure) have caused sorghum prices to increase (in Xudur and Tieglow markets sorghum is up 23% and 37% from last month). Good pastoral conditions have maintained favourable terms of trade with 1 goat fetching 100-150 kg sorghum compared with the normal 50 kg. Market supplies of sorghum are normal (but declining in Rabdure), coming reportedly from Hiran region to Tieglow market. Continuation of food for work and social support projects will help the poor, while better-off households are benefiting from favourable pasture conditions.

**HIRAN**

Below-normal cereal harvests are predicted this *Gu* because of poor rainfall across the region and heavy insect infestation in riverine areas. Cereal prices are not increasing because of several factors: (i) stocks remain from the last *Deyr*; (ii) FFW maize distribution locally and in Central region; and (iii) reduced demand from Bay and Bakool because of road blocks. Last month the maize price in riverine areas declined 30% from the previous month, and terms of trade are currently favourable for consumers in all livelihood zones with 1 goat fetching 130kgs grain and 1 day's labour 8kgs grain. Predictions of a good harvest across the border in Ethiopia (rainfed and gravity-irrigated areas), together with factors mentioned above, suggest that grain availability and prices will remain relatively stable despite poor harvest prospects locally. Of concern is the abnormal migration of agro-pastoralist cattle herds into Ethiopia and the anticipated reduction in agricultural labour opportunities for poor households. Conditions in pastoral areas are good for browsing animals but poor for grazers (cattle and sheep).

**LOWER SHABELLE**

*Hagai* showers started in the last dekad of the month, they were erratic and did not benefit crops. About 60-70% of the rainfed maize has failed, as a result of the long dry spell. Irrigated crops have performed better and are in the grain filling and flowering stages of development. In the riverine areas both poor and middle wealth groups have cereal shortfalls and rely heavily on purchase. Pasture and grazing conditions are normal although there is a high concentration of animals from neighboring districts in the area creating competition for grazing and water. This can also lead to disputes with farmers. Cereal prices in markets vary depending on location but prices (maize) remain high due to high demand, reduced supply and uncertain *Gu* production prospects in rainfed areas.