

**FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Following last month's strong early warning for severe food insecurity in various places throughout Somalia, FSAU has identified four hot spot areas within which emergency assessments will be conducted during the last two weeks of July, including: 1) Sool Plateau and Nugal Valley, 2) Northern Gedo, 3) Juba Valley Riverine and 4) Parts of Galgadud and Mudug in Central Region (See Map, p.2).
- The assessments will also include several areas of concern, in addition to the normal post-Gu' food security assessments throughout Somalia. Preliminary general results will be presented on August 10th, with final detailed results completed by early September.
- Cumulative Gu' rainfall was below normal in parts of the South, Central and Northwest. Rains have not been sufficient south to support either crop growth or rangeland recovery in the Northern pastoral stressed areas of the Sool Plateau and Nugal Valley (p. 1 & 2).
- During the last two dekads of June, unusually good rains fell over most of the South and parts of Central Somalia. These rains have improved vegetation conditions in those areas, thus benefiting livestock, but they are unlikely to benefit crops, especially maize, which have already passed the critical grain-setting stage (p. 1 & 2).
- Northwest and Awdal Regions received sufficient Gu rains and the situation is generally normal there (p. 1 & 2).
- As a result of the poor Gu rainy season, cereal prices in many parts of the south have increased sharply (p 2).

Report Contents	Page
Food Security Highlights	1
FSAU Activities	1
Gu' Rainfall Outcome	1
Post Gu' Assessments	2
Regional Highlights	2

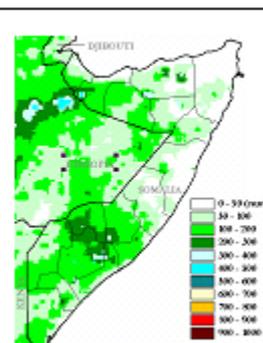
**FSAU ACTIVITIES**

**FSAU June Workshop Retreat** - FSAU held its Strategic Planning Retreat during the month of June. Thanks to all our partner organizations, who participated in and contributed to the work. Workshop Proceedings are being prepared and will be released in August 2004.

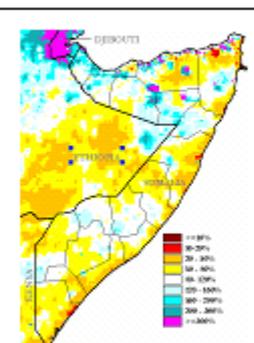
**GU 2004 Food Security Assessment** - Final preparations are underway for Gu' 2004 Food Security Assessment which will take place July 19-30. In addition to the annual national Gu' Food Security Assessment, an in-depth assessment, with a strong nutritional component, will be conducted in areas under severe stress due to a number of factors, including insecurity, successive poor seasons, and the recent failed Gu' rains. An HRG meeting to review initial findings from these special areas is scheduled for August 10 to enable rapid uptake of assessment information. A full Gu' Food Security Assessment Report with Annual Food Security Projections for the entire country will be available by early September.

**GU' RAINFALL OUTCOME**

**Figure 1: Cumulative rainfall amounts (mm) for April - June 2004**



**Figure 2: Percent of Normal Rainfall (%) for April - June 2004**

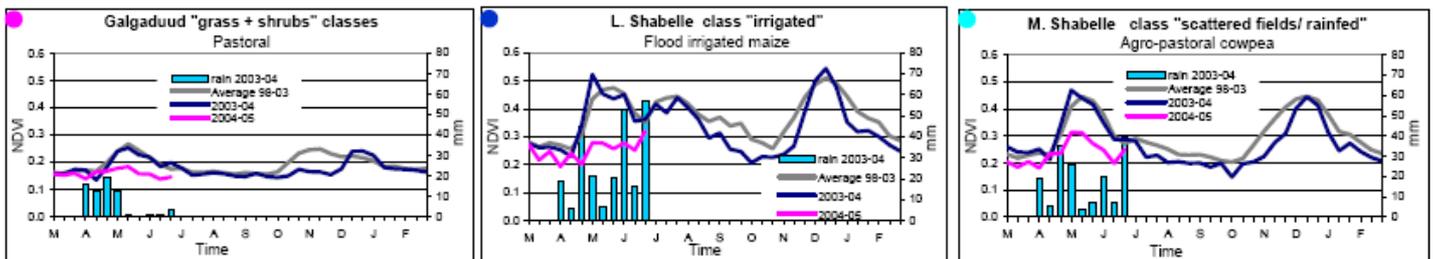


Cumulative Gu' rainfall (April-June 2004) in much of Southern Somalia was poor, as shown in Figure 1. Compared to the long term mean (Figure 2), rains were below normal in parts of the South, Central and Northwest. In the South, rains have not been sufficient for good crop growth, especially in the agricultural areas of Juba and Shabelle Valley.

Unusually good rains fell over most of Southern and parts of Central Somalia during the last two dekads of June leading to improved vegetation conditions, which will be beneficial for livestock during the coming Hagai season. Field reports suggest that these late rains will be less beneficial for crops, especially maize, which had already passed the critical grain-setting stage. Overall, the Central rangelands and parts of Sool Plateau and Nugal Valley received poor rains.

The effects of short and insufficient Gu' rains are clearly visible in the MARS-JRC graphs below. Current rainfall amounts are close to average rainfall yet a near complete crop failure is expected in regions like Shabelle.

**Figure 3**

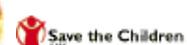


Source: MARS- JRC

FSAU's Key Funding Agencies



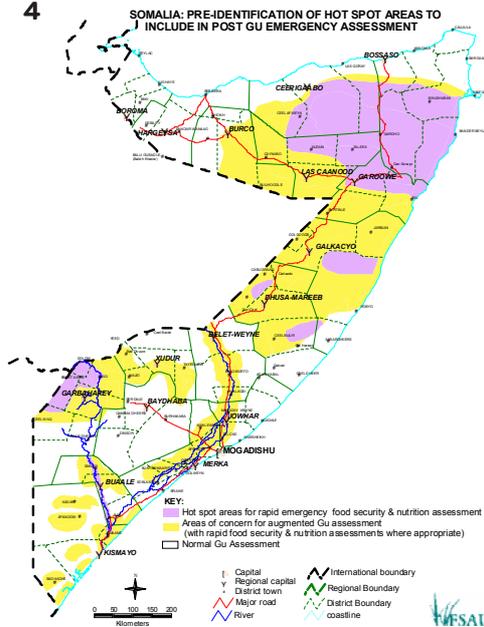
United States Agency for International Development



FSAU's Key Technical Partners

## POST Gu' ASSESSMENTS

Figure 4



In response to increasing concern over poor Gu' rainfall performance, FSAU together with partners will conduct **emergency assessments** in four hot spot areas:

- i Sool Plateau and Nugal Valley,
- ii Northern Gedo,
- iii Juba Valley Riverine, and
- iv Parts of Galgadud and Mudug in Central Region (Fig. 4)

Seven other areas of concern are identified for an augmented Post-Gu' Assessment - Hawd of Togdheer, North Mudug / South Nugal, Bakool, Hiran, and agro pastoral areas in Shabelle and Juba Valleys.

The assessments will specifically identify food insecure populations and those facing a livelihood crisis to facilitate appropriate response. The findings of the post Gu' assessments will be available at the end of August. Initial findings will be shared at a HRG meeting scheduled for the 10th of August, 2004 to facilitate a more rapid uptake of assessment information.

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Awdal and Northwest**

- June rainfall amounts were good and livestock body condition is considered normal.
- Significant number of Somali families newly arrived from Europe, North America, and the Gulf countries in Hargeisa, Borama, and Gabiley towns. Positive spillover effects on the local economies through increased expenditures.

**Sool Plateau**

- Poor Gu' rains have adversely affected livestock production and reproduction rates. Field reports indicate that herders are migrating to the Hawd pastoral areas for pasture and water.
- Deteriorating terms of trade for pastoralists due to a combination of factors, including: excess supply of small stock to the market; rising demand for cereals due to declining animal production; and seasonal closure of ports, such as Bossaso, because of difficulties associated with high tides

**North Mudug and South Nugal**

- There is a general improvement in livestock body condition in the area, however "abnormal" in-migration of pastoralists from Addun of Nugal and parts of Mudug to the Southern Hawd of Nugal has exerted enormous pressure on the available water and pasture resources in the area. Water prices have increased by about 100 percent during the month of June and are expected to worsen in the coming months.

**Mudug and Galgadud**

- Less than 50% of water catchments are currently functioning, resulting in permanent water shortages (availability and accessibility) for the following districts: Mudug (Harar-dheer villages of Warshubo, Dinco, Dhalwo and Ris); Galgadud (El dheer villages of Galdhabo, Xajiiman and Cawsweyne); and the Hobyo villages of Gawan, Afgadudle and Haro.
- Water prices increased four-fold due to severe drought in Ciid and Addun Pastoral Livelihood Zone and there is unusual watering of livestock from water tankers.
- Prices of local and export shoats have dropped by 30-35% and 20-23% respectively due to excessive sales by the poor and middle classes.

**Gedo**

- Rainfall received in late June improved water availability and access for both human and livestock consumption.
- A total crop failure in rain-fed areas is anticipated in Burdhubo and Garbaharay Districts. Irrigated areas throughout Northern Gedo, are less affected by the poor Gu' rains.

**Juba Valley**

- The food security situation in the region is below normal. Crops are wilting, except for the recessional areas and irrigated farms in Sakow.
- Prices for local and imported goods have increased due to the closure of Kismayo port and militia blockades along the main tarmac road linking Juba to Mogadishu.
- Abnormal influx of livestock from Garissa District of Kenya to Badhadhe is increasing pressure on local communities and depleting available resources. Pasture conditions in Badhadhe are relatively better than in Garissa.
- Cereal prices are increasing to record levels. A bag of maize or sorghum costs between 240,000 and 260,000 SSH.

**Middle Shabelle**

- Inland areas received no significant rains; coastal plains received light Hagai showers.
- Pasture and grazing conditions remain poor due to lack of rains.
- Cattle body condition continues to deteriorate. Due to limited pasture animals are fed by paying for fallow field fodder.
- Small scale farmers are unable to utilize gravity irrigation because the river water level has dropped, leading to higher fuel expenditures while fuel prices are also increasing.

**Lower Shabelle**

- The coastal area of the region received localized Hagai rains which improved water availability and accessibility and had a positive impact on crop and livestock.
- Rain-fed maize and sorghum suffered moisture stress and show stunted conditions and maize prices increased by 15-20% throughout the region.
- Cattle are in poor condition. Prices declined by 23% due to lowered demand, increased supply and poor body condition.

**Bakol**

- Many pastoralists have moved their livestock from Tieglof of Bakol to Bulu-burte in Hiran Region in search of pasture.
- Cereal availability in the region dropped and led to a price increase from 1,875/kg to 4,000/kg, due to high demand from Hiran and central regions.

**Bay**

- All districts recorded normal rainfall, although Baidoa recorded 64 mm (twice the amount received the same time last year)
- Pasture and grazing conditions have recovered resulting in improved livestock conditions
- Clan fighting in Dinsor District resulted in mass displacement of people from Dinsor town, Misire, Tugarhosle Yaqbrawe, Kananah and Rahole villages.