

Issued

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Climate
Markets
Nutrition
Agriculture
Livestock
**Emerging
Regional
Issues**

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Highlights

FSAU will conduct a Post Gu Food, Nutrition and Livelihood Security Assessment with partners July 5-25. Preliminary results will be available in early August (page 4).

Civil Insecurity: Increasing tensions in Northern Gedo, Bay and Bakool continue to affect water and pasture accessibility and disrupt ongoing agricultural activities. The lack of security is also limiting humanitarian access to these areas. This week's relocation of the Federal Transitional Government to Somalia is seen as a positive step towards enhancing the overall stability of livelihoods.

Climate: The *Gu* rains (March - May 2005) so far were evenly distributed and significantly above normal in most of the Northern, Central, and Juba pastoral areas. On the other hand, key cropping areas in the south, in particular Lower Shabelle, rains were erratic, below normal and unevenly distributed (page 2).

Markets: Both the Somali and Somaliland Shilling continue to remain stable in most of the main markets throughout the region. Currencies traded at an average of 15,390 Ssh/US\$ and 6,200 SLSh/US\$ in May. Import commodity prices also remained fairly stable in May except for petrol prices which show an increasing trend over the past four months in the Sorghum Belt, Shabelle, and Juba Regions (page 2).

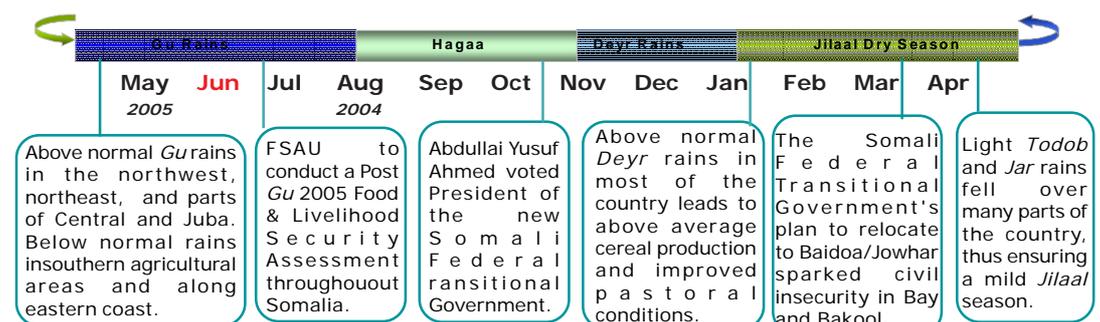
Nutrition: Levels of global acute malnutrition in Sool Plateau are reported to be 10-14.9% (WFH z scores), which is within the usual range. Recovery in the overall food security and continued humanitarian interventions are explanatory factors. In Galgaduud and Gedo, the levels of global acute malnutrition (above 20% WFH z scores) are significantly above the usual range. Levels of global acute malnutrition in Hobyo and Bakool are also above the usual range (page 2).

Agriculture: Farmlands along the Juba River began to flood in mid-May from southern Gedo all the way down to Jamaame flooding farmlands up to 5-10 km on both sides of the river and destroying an estimated 80-90% of the maize crops. Across the Shabelle Valley the *Gu* rains so far were ineffective for crop production, thus prospects for rainfed maize are poor. Farmers along the river increased gravity and pump irrigation taking advantage of high river levels which in turn prevented flooding. Maize prices have increased significantly in both Juba and Shabelle Region due to the very poor production in the last *Deyr* season, and the anticipated poor maize production of this *Gu* season. Cereal Balance Sheet Projections for 2005/06 indicate no overall cereal supply gap, even assuming a below normal cereal production in the south (page 3).

Livestock: Above normal *Gu* rains in the north and central pastoral areas is continuing to promote improvements in livestock conditions and production. *Berkeds* and shallow wells are full, pastures are regenerating, and livestock calving and kidding rates are high. Some pastoral areas in the south and central regions received inadequate rainfall this *Gu* season, however the successful *Deyr* rains have ensured adequate water and pasture and overall livestock conditions are reported to be good (page 3).

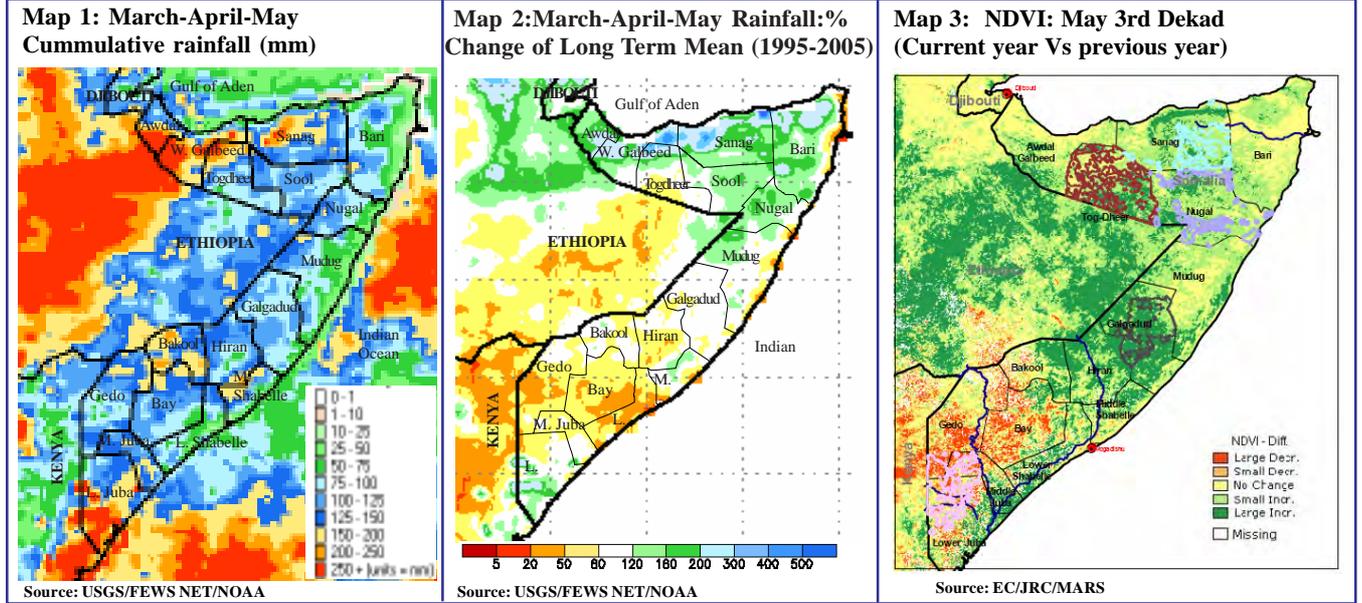
Emerging Regional Issues: (page 4)

- **Severe flooding in Lower and Middle Juba, which began in mid-May due to heavy rains in Ethiopia, is worsening the Humanitarian Emergency among the Juba riverine communities.** Other flood impacts include limited food supplies and access, rapidly rising market prices, increased water borne diseases, poor sanitation and a shortage of clean water. So far there is limited humanitarian response. OCHA is planning an inter-agency emergency assessment of the flood affected areas.
- **Severe flooding of the Shabelle River in Hiran region displaced or negatively affected an estimated 7,000 households.** Flood impacts include displaced populations, isolated villages, blocked trade routes, damaged cash crops, destroyed latrines and contaminated hand dug wells. Humanitarian response was quick but inadequate to meet all the needs. Recent civil insecurity around Belet Weyne has hampered humanitarian access.



Somalia Seasonal Timeline & Key Events

Climate



So far the *Gu* rainfall season (March-May 2005) has been very good for most of the pastoral areas in the central and northern areas. (Figure 1). However, erratic rains fell in pockets of the southern agricultural areas.

Vegetation indices (NDVI) and the percentage of normal rainfall analysis (Map 2 and 3) both confirm this pattern, showing significantly above normal conditions in the central, northern, and Juba pastoral areas. On the other hand, key cropping areas in the south, in particular Lower Shabelle, show below normal conditions.

As a result of these rains, rangelands have improved throughout Somalia, with notable exceptions in Gedo, Bay, and Bakool (Map

3). As these good rains follow an above normal rainfall *Deyr* season, the multi-year climatological drought in central and northern areas is now officially over.

On the downside, above normal rains in Ethiopia (Map 1) have led to flooding along both the Shabelle and Juba Rivers. In the short term this flooding has displaced populations and destroyed standing crops. In the medium term, however, the residual moisture in flooded areas will offer opportunities for recessional agriculture.

See FSAU/FEWSNET Climate Data Update, June 2005.

Nutrition

In the Sool Plateau, information from sentinel site surveillance, health facilities and other sources indicate that malnutrition rates are within the usual range of 10-14.9% (WFH z scores). Recovery in the overall food security and continued humanitarian interventions are explanatory factors. In Galgaduud and Gedo, the levels of global acute malnutrition are significantly above the usual range of above 20% (WFH z scores). In Hobyo and Bakool available information shows that the level of acute malnutrition is above the usual range of 10-14.9% and is 15-19.9% (WFH z scores) respectively. In Jubba Valley malnutrition is above the usual range of 15% (WFH z scores).

Insecurity is the major reason for these high levels of malnutrition, because it hampers humanitarian interventions and keeps households from engaging in their normal activities to secure food and income.

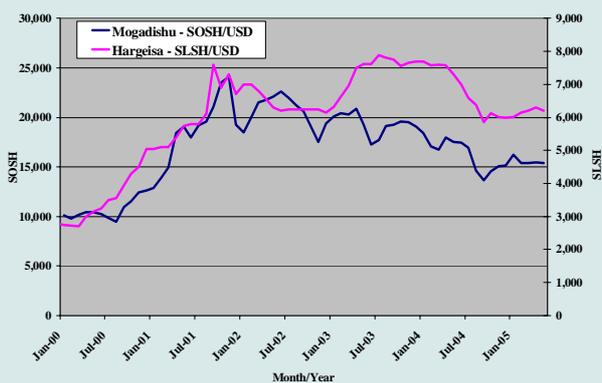
See FSAU Nutrition Update, May 2005.

Markets

Both the Somali and Somaliland Shilling continue to remain stable in most of the main markets throughout the region. The Somali Shilling traded at an average of 15,390 Ssh/US\$ in May (15,475 Ssh/US\$ in April), while the Somaliland Shilling traded at an average of 6,200 SLSH/US\$ (6,300 SLSH/US\$ in April). Import commodity prices also remained fairly stable through May in most regions, except for petrol prices which show an increasing trend over the past four months in the Sorghum Belt and Shabelle and Juba Valley Regions.

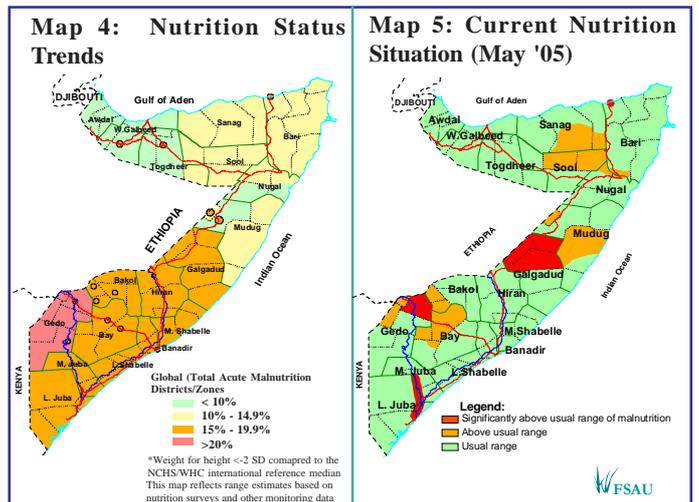
See FSAU/FEWSNET Market Data Update, June 2005.

Figure 1: Fluctuation in the Somali and Somaliland Shilling in Mogadishu and Hargeisa Markets, 2000 - Current



Map 4: Nutrition Status Trends

Map 5: Current Nutrition Situation (May '05)



Agriculture

Gu rains in Shabelle Valley in April-May were erratic and ineffective for crop production. Prospects for rain-fed maize are considered poor. On the other hand, farmers increased gravity and pump irrigation along the river, facilitated by high river levels. This increased water off-take for irrigation prevented flooding in the Shabelle Valley, however, many canals are silted and inefficient, keeping water delivery confined to areas close to the river.

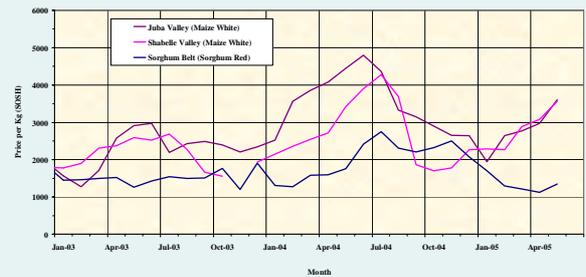
Farmlands along the Juba River began to flood in mid-May from southern Gedo all the way down to Jamaame. An area extending up to 5-10 km on both sides of the river is now inundated with water and it is estimated that 80-90% of the maize crops are completely destroyed. Desheks, which were dry and in poor condition, are now uniformly full for the first time since the El Nino in 1997. These will provide good opportunities for recessional cultivation as well as increased fishing opportunities.

In the Sorghum Belt, *Gu* rains are below normal and localized. Rains that fell in the last dekad of April were sufficient for crop emergence in nearly all agro-pastoral areas, however, a dry spell which lasted between thirteen and nineteen days occurred at the beginning of May and resulted in crop wilting. Successful sorghum production is contingent upon sufficient rains continuing through June. According to local reports, some farmers are not willing to grow sorghum this year since the good *Deyr* 2004/05 harvest resulted in low sorghum prices which made surplus production unprofitable.

Crop production in agropastoral areas of northwestern Awdal and W. Gabiley Regions is performing well due to the above normal *Gu* rains. Maize crops planted in March/April are silking (flowering), green maize is expected to be ready in mid-June, with the main maize harvest occurring in July. In response to the good rains, farmers in the area continued to plant sorghum, which functions as both a source of fodder and food. The sorghum harvest is expected in August/October.

Maize prices, both in nominal and real terms, increased significantly in the last 3-4 months in the primary maize producing areas of the south (Figure 2). Nominal prices (SOSH) and real prices (US\$) increased by 58% and 53% respectively in Shabelle, while they increased 85% and 79% respectively in Juba. Maize prices are increasing due to a very poor *Deyr* 2004/05 production, followed by what is anticipated as a poor *Gu* 2005 production. Similar maize price increases occurred following maize crop failures in the *Gu* 2004.

Figure 2: Regional Average Monthly Cereal Prices in (SOSH)



Somalia Cereal Balance Sheet (Estimates based upon historical data and scenarios development)

The Cereal Balance Sheet for the current agricultural year (June 2005- May 2006) indicates that even with a below *Gu* 2005 crop production, there will not be a cereal supply shortfall in Somalia. Table 1 presents the results of four scenarios based on different projections for *Gu* 2005 crop production: normal, below normal, above normal, and below normal in southern areas only. Cereal Balance Sheets provide an overall indication and estimation of macro-level cereal availability compared to overall per capita needs.

Table 1: Scenerio Analysis Cereal Balance Sheet June 2005 to May 2006

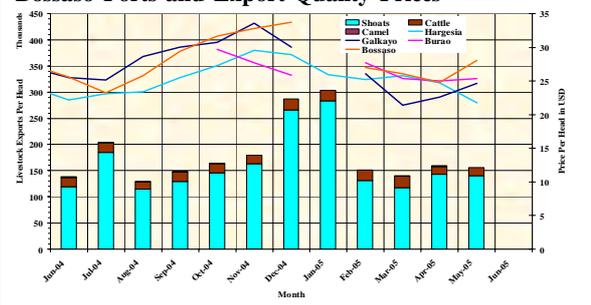
Annual Cereal Balance Sheet for Somalia (June 2005 through May 2006)	Four Scenarios: Annual Projections			
	Post War Average[1] ('000MT)	Below Normal Gu 2005[2] ('000 MT)	Above Normal 2005[3] ('000 MT)	Below Normal Southern Production Gu 2005[4] ('000 MT)
DOMESTIC AVAILABILITY	306	233	393	278
Opening Stocks[5]	24	24	24	24
Domestic Cereal Supply 2004/05	282	209	369	254
Gu 2005[6]	178	105	265	150
Deyr 2005[7]	104	104	104	104
DOMESTIC UTILIZATION				
Cereal Utilization Requirements[8]	640	633	649	637
IMPORT REQUIREMENTS				
Anticipated Commercial Imports[9]	395	395	395	395
Food Aid Stocks, Transit or Pipeline[10]	12	12	12	12
ESTIMATED SURPLUS – CEREAL	73	7	151	48

Footnotes to Table 1:

¹ FSAU historical data 1995-2004. ² Average of three lowest *Gu* production seasons by region. ³ Average of three highest *Gu* production seasons by region. ⁴ PWA for all regions, excepta average of three lowest *Gu* production seasons for Juba and Shabelle. ⁵ Opening stock consists of food aid and commercial import stocks at ports. As of May 29, 2005 WFP stocks are 6,075MT, CARE 1,540MT and commercial stocks are estimated at 16,000MT (FAO/WFP CSFM, Sept. '99). ⁷ PWA *Deyr*, includes off-season crop. ⁸ Food use based on population (WHO 2004) and per capita cereal consumption of 80kg/year as per (FAO/WFP CFSAM '99), feed use and seed losses based on % estimates of production (FAO/WFP CFSAM '99). ⁹ Anticipated commercial imports, exclude food aid and are estimated from a three year average cereal imports (2002-2004), for Berbera, Bossaso, El-Ma'an and Jazira Ports (source of data is Berbera and BossasoPort Authorities and WFP for El-Ma'an and Jazira Port Figures). Estimated commercial imports consist of rice, wheat grain, wheat flour, pasta and small amounts of maize and sorghum. Note some cereal imports from Berbera and Bossaso are re-exported to Ethiopia, but cross border trade, as well as unofficial imports from other informal small ports along the west coast are not recorded/available. ¹⁰ As of May 29, 2005 WFP reports 4,260MT in transit and 8,480MT in pipeline. CARE reports 0 MT on transit and pipeline.

agriculture - livestock

Figure 3: Livestock Exports from Berbera and Bossaso Ports and Export Quality Prices



Livestock

Above normal *Gu* 2005 rains in the north and central pastoral regions (following on good *Deyr* 2004/05 rains) is continuing to promote improvement in livestock conditions and production. Some pastoral areas in the south and central regions received limited rainfall this *Gu* season, however, the successful *Deyr* rains have ensured adequate water and pasture and overall livestock conditions are reported to be good.

A total of 155,391 heads of sheep/goats were exported from Berbera and Bossaso Ports in May, which is a slight increase (9%) over April (142,578 heads), but slightly lower than the total shoats exported last year in May 2004 (161,970 heads).

Integrated Food Security Analysis: Emerging Regional Issues

emerging regional issues

Northwest

Gu rains are 300% above long term average in most of Awdal, Galbeed and the coastal regions. These rains replenished water sources, regenerated pastures and improved livestock body conditions. In the agro-pastoral areas high soil moisture, floods from the highlands and high tractor costs hampered field preparation, however, good harvests are expected in August/October.

Northcentral & Northeast

Above normal *Gu* rains continued in May (150-290%) further increasing the optimism for rangeland and pastoral recovery in the region. Livestock body conditions are improving and calving and kidding rates are high, thus increasing prospects for pastoralist recovery. Pockets of destitute are evident and an assessment on their capacity to recover is required. Toghdeer faced cyclonic rains in May which de-roofed buildings in Ainabo, while torrential rains isolated communities and blocked trade routes in the Sool region (Hudun, Taleh and SE Las Anod Hawd). Conflict in South Mudug has subsided, thus trade has resumed between the Northeast and the South. Eil, Dangoryo, Garowe and Jarriban remain food insecure as they recover from consecutive droughts, cold rains and the tsunami.

Central

Galgadud received normal and above normal rains (80 -150%) which increased water availability and improved pasturelands and livestock conditions. Mediation by clan elders alleviated some of the tensions in Hobyo and Harardhere. But transport remained restricted. Malnutrition rates are significantly above the usual range as insecurity restricted access to basic services.

Hiran

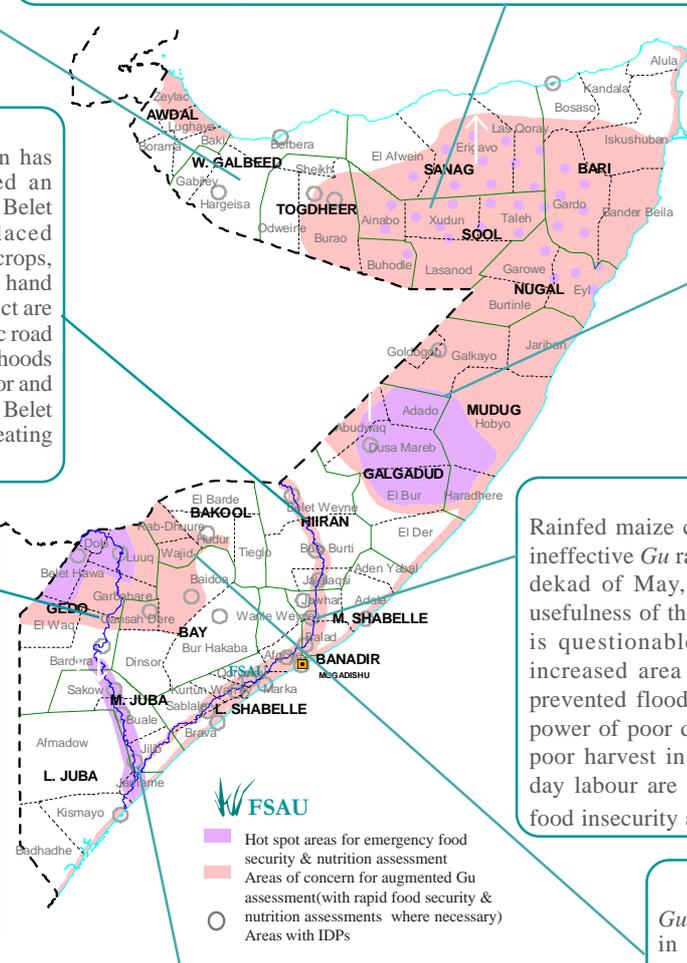
Extensive flooding in Hiran region has resulted in displaced or affected an estimated 7,000 households. Parts of Belet Weyne town flooded and displaced populations. Floods damaged cash crops, destroyed latrines and contaminated hand dug wells. Villages in Jalalaqsi district are cut off and isolated as the main tarmac road is impassable. Floods disrupted livelihoods and opportunities for agricultural labor and other urban activities. Clan fighting in Belet Weyne and surrounding areas is creating access problems.

Gedo

Northern Gedo received good rains, but in the south rains were localized and infrequent which has adversely affected prospects of rainfed production. In late May, high waters coming from Ethiopia created severe flooding of riverine farmlands destroying an estimated 80-85% of crops. Elwak district faces water shortage due to the poor *Gu* rains and increased pressure from IDPs who fled from conflict in Elwak. Conflict increased in Elwak, Garboharey and Burdubo districts. Malnutrition rates remain above the usual range.

Shabelle

Rainfed maize crops are performing poorly due to ineffective *Gu* rains. Localized rains fell in the third dekad of May, in parts of Lower Shabelle, but usefulness of these late rains for crop development is questionable. High river levels facilitated increased area planted for irrigated maize and prevented flooding. Despite an eroded purchasing power of poor due to inaccessibility of credits and poor harvest in the year 2004, sharecropping and day labour are available and there is no alarming food insecurity at this period of *Gu* season.



- Hot spot areas for emergency food security & nutrition assessment
- Areas of concern for augmented *Gu* assessment (with rapid food security & nutrition assessments where necessary)
- Areas with IDPs

Bay & Bakool

Gu rains are below normal and localized in the region. Successful sorghum production is contingent upon sufficient rains through June. In Bay, rains fell primarily in pastoral areas, thus improved pasture and livestock body conditions. In Bakool pasture regeneration is localized in Elberde and Rabdure with little improvements in Huddur and Tieglow. Continuing and intensifying civil insecurity in parts of Bay and Bakool threaten food and livelihood security in the region.

Juba

Extensive flooding of the Juba River (Southern Gedo down to Jamaame) from mid-May destroyed an estimated 80-90% of the crops. In some areas farmlands are fully submerged, damaging fruit trees and destroying banana and papaya plants. It is likely that *Gu* '05 crop production will be one of the worst in recent years. All desheks in the Juba Region are uniformly full for the first time since the Elnino 1997, which will provide improved fishing opportunities, 'domal' fruit (underground fruit) and if seeds are accessible, deshek recession crop cultivation. Other serious flood impacts include limited food supplies, rapidly rising prices due to isolated villages and blocked trade routes, increased water borne diseases and a shortage of clean water. Despite interventions malnutrition in children in the area continues to be high.

FSAU Post *Gu* 2005 Food, Nutrition and Livelihood Security Assessment

FSAU will be conducting its Post *Gu* 2005 assessment throughout Somalia from July 5-25. We welcome partner participation in the fieldwork and analysis. Two partner planning meetings are scheduled for June 13 (Agriculture Focus) and June 16 (Pastoral Focus).

In addition to the normal *Gu* assessment, FSAU will conduct emergency food and nutrition assessments in four 'Hot Spot Areas': 1. Juba Valley Riverine, 2. Northern Gedo, 3. Parts of Galgadud and Mudug, 4. Sool Plateau and Nugal Valley. Five other "Areas of Concern" are identified for an augmented Post *Gu* Assessment: 1. Awdal Coast Pastoral Zone, 2. Hawd of Togdheer, 3. Parts of Bari and Mudug, 4. Shabelle Riverine (Hiran to Lower Shabelle), and 5. Conflict areas of Bay/Bakool/Gedo. See Map Below for a full delineation of these areas.

Reports: FSAU Monthly Nutrition Update, May 2005; FSAU/FEWSNET Climate Data Update, June 2005; FSAU/FEWSNET Market Data Update, June 2005
FEWSNET-Somalia/SWALIMS Food Bulletin, May 2005; FEWSNET-Somalia: Rain-watch, May 2005

Assessments: An OCHA led interagency assessment on areas in Juba Valley is planned to take place from 16-26 June 2005



Technical and Managerial Support



Funding Agencies



Technical Partners

