



Food Security Analysis Unit
Somalia

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Emerging
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Issues

FSAU - Somalia
Kalson Towers,
Parklands

Box 1230 Village Market
Nairobi, Kenya

Tel.: +254 20 374 5734

Fax: +254 20 374 5098

email: fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke

www.unsomaliam.net/FSAU/

Food Security and Nutrition

November 2004 Monthly Brief

Highlights

Civil Security: In the North, increasing tensions and insecurity are creating problems of accessibility, not only to water and grazing areas for local pastoralists, but for humanitarian organizations to respond to the ongoing crisis. The Central Region also faces increasing civil insecurity which is limiting humanitarian response to the ongoing emergency there.

Climate: Generally, *Deyr* rains started on time and were normal to above normal in most regions of the country. Exceptions include pockets in Nugaal Valley (Huddun and Taleh districts) which received rains only late in the month and Central Regions, where rains were below normal in most pastoral areas. Storms carrying heavy rains occurred in Dangorayo, Eil, Bayla and surrounding districts late in the month -initial reports indicate human fatalities and large losses of property and livestock (page 2).

Markets: Both the Somali and Somaliland Shilling lost value slightly against the Dollar over the last month, thus slowing the appreciation trend that began in April 2004. Prices of imported commodities especially petrol and vegetable oil, have fallen over the past few months in response to the stronger Shillings (page 2).

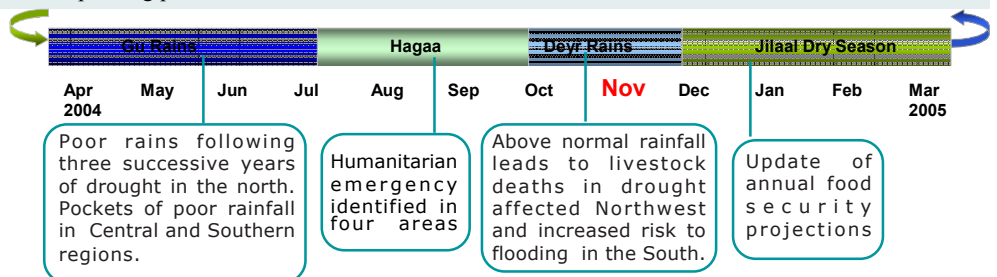
Nutrition: Luuq District currently has exceedingly high malnutrition rates of 25.4% (WFH <-2 Z score/oedema), thus sounding an alarm for immediate and renewed response. Malnutrition levels also are reported to be increasing in the presence of significant displacement and destitution among the populations in Huddun and Taleh Districts. Nutrition surveys conducted in Bari region, indicate malnutrition rates there are high and above the usual range (page 2).

Agriculture: Off season *Hagai* production is ongoing in parts of the South and a normal *Karan* harvest is proceeding in the Northwest, contributing positively to household stocks, increased market supplies and lower cereal prices. Localized flooding of the Juba and parts of Shabelle Rivers occurred mid-October, leading to asset losses. Heavy rains late in the month have caused river levels to rise rapidly increasing the risk of more flooding. It is too early to determine outcome of early high water level warnings (page 3).

Livestock: Livestock exports continue to increase from northern ports in response to the high Hajj seasonal demand. Despite the Saudi Arabia ban, total sheep/goats exports as of October 2004 are 84% of the pre ban levels for the same time period. Drought affected areas in the northeast face new hardships due to exceedingly heavy rains and flooding during the last days of October. Livestock are dying due to flooding, as well as prolonged exposure to heavy rains under weak body conditions. The full extent of the disaster can not be immediately determined since areas are still inaccessible (page 3).

Emerging Regional Issues:

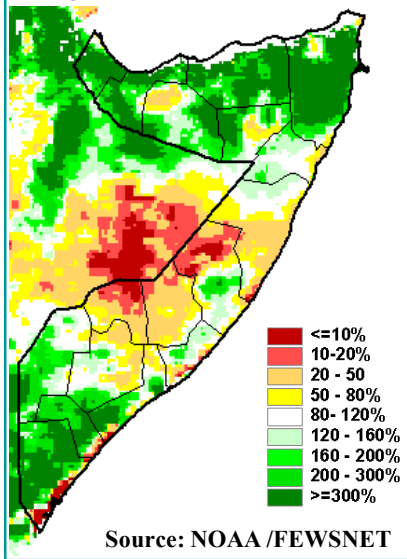
- In the **Northwest**, *Karan* crop harvest is underway and is expected to be good. *Deyr* rains were normal to above normal in most areas. There is some concern over the Sahil areas and a rapid assessment is currently underway.
- Increased civil insecurity in the **North** is threatening to plunge the region further into humanitarian emergency, as inaccessibility is limiting the humanitarian response, as well as creating disruptions and instability in the local economy. Torrential rains and floods occurred in most of Bari and northern Nugal, leading to loss of assets and a worsening humanitarian emergency.
- In the **Central Region**, the humanitarian emergency is deteriorating due to poor inland rainfall and continuing drought conditions in pastoral areas. Increasing civil insecurity is worsening the situation and limiting emergency response.
- In the **South**, harvesting of off season crops is progressing, improving overall food security. Good rains promise increase in area cultivated in this *Deyr* agricultural season. Resource pressures along riverine areas is improving as pastoralists have begun to move their livestock back to the rangelands where good rains are improving pasture and water.



Somalia Seasonal Timeline & Key Events

Climate

Fig 1: October Rainfall as a percent of long term mean

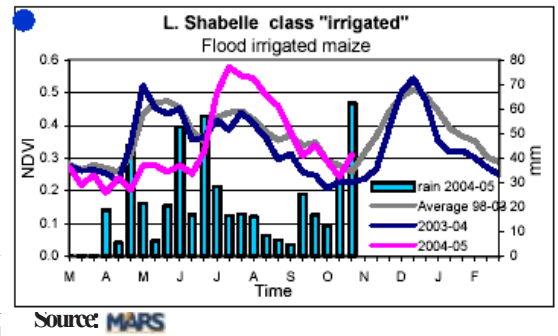


Generally, *Deyr* rains started on time and were significantly above normal in many parts of the country (Fig. 1).

Rains were significantly above normal, in most drought affected areas of the North. In parts of Bari, north Nugal and Sanaag region, heavy rains with storms reportedly destroyed houses and led to extensive asset loss, e.g. livestock and fishing gear. For most of October, rains were reported to be extremely poor in pockets of Nugaal Valley (Huddun and Taleh Districts) and parts of Togdheer, leading to population movement towards the neighboring areas where it had rained.

In Central Regions, rains were below normal in most of the pastoral areas including neighboring parts of Ethiopia. Exceptions were the cowpea belt of Galgadud where good rains will facilitate crop germination and replenish water and pasture sources. In the South, agricultural areas received normal to above normal rains (Fig. 2). As a result, normal crop germination, pasture and browse conditions were reported. In the last few days rains reportedly started in Bakool and Hiran, providing some initial relief.

Fig 2: Rainfall and NDVI for Lower Shabelle



markets - nutrition - climate

Markets

From Sept. to Oct., both the Somali and Somaliland Shillings lost value slightly against the US Dollar, thus slowing the appreciation trend that began in April 2004 (Fig. 3 & 4). Prices of imported items began to fall in most markets following the appreciation earlier this year. Petrol and vegetable oil prices show a larger and more immediate decrease compared to sugar and rice prices which remained more stable. Lower food and nonfood prices will help increase the purchasing power of the poor.

Fig 3: Southern Market Import Commodities Prices Compared to the Exchange Rate (aggregate across markets)

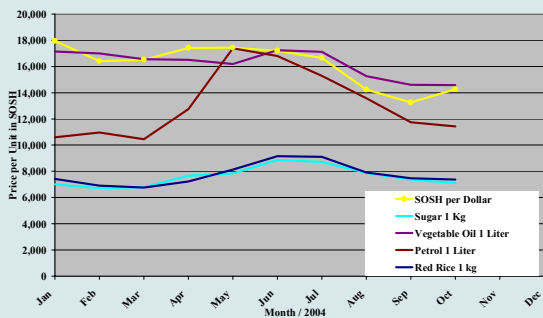
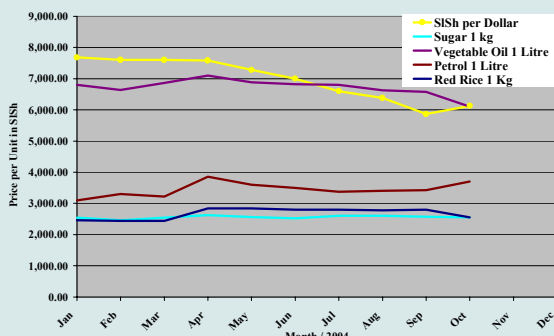


Fig 4: Hargeisa Import Commodities Prices Compared to the Exchange Rate



Nutrition

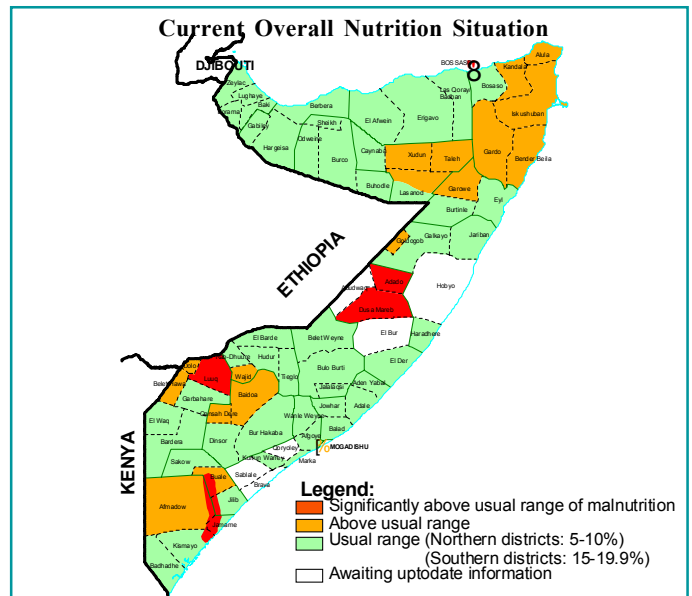
Taleh and Huddun Districts: Malnutrition levels are reported to be increasing in the presence of significant population displacement and destitution among the populations of these districts.

Luuq District: FSAU in collaboration with UNICEF, CARE and GHC conducted a nutrition survey in Luuq in October 2004. Preliminary results indicate a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 25.4% (WFH <-2 Z Score or oedema), which is significantly above the already high level usually seen in the area. Detailed results are in the November FSAU Nutrition Update.

Bosasso: UNICEF and WFP are providing supplementary food to the malnourished children in Bosasso IDP camps and distribution of family rations is being considered.

Jilib: MSF-Holland has established mobile teams to distribute food to households with malnourished children.

Bari: In October, UNICEF and partners conducted two nutrition surveys in Bari Region. Preliminary results indicate malnutrition rates above the usual range. Full report is in preparation.



Agriculture

Harvesting of off-season *Hagai* production in parts of the South and *Karan* crops in the Northwest is ongoing. Both harvests are contributing positively to household stocks, increased market supplies and lower cereal prices. (Fig. 5). Initial field reports indicate that more land is expected to be planted in this *Deyr* season compared to the last four *Deyr* seasons, due to the prevailing normal to above normal *Deyr* rainfall in most areas.

Juba River flooded between 17-22 October from Sakow to Jamame damaging over 2000 hectares of land under cultivation. Similarly, Shabelle River flooded between Afgoi and Kurtunwarey Districts causing loss of assets and damage to farm lands. Heavy rains in the last few days are leading to rapidly rising water levels and increasing the risk of more flooding. It is too early to determine the overall magnitude and implications of these early high water level warnings.

Imported rice prices in the North, declined slightly (4%) compared to last month's market price. Maize and sorghum production from the South continues to be marketed by local traders to Central and Northern Regions where prices remain high. Recent flooding of the Juba River pushed up prices of maize slightly (9%) in this region (Fig. 5).

Due to the good *Deyr* season, improvement of seasonal labor opportunities for the poor households in agricultural and agro-pastoral livelihoods has been reported. Terms of trade (cereal to wage labor) in Juba and Shabelle Valleys have increased by 33% and 22% respectively, enabling better access to food for the communities in the region (Fig 6).

Fig 5: Average Cereal Prices (aggregated across markets)

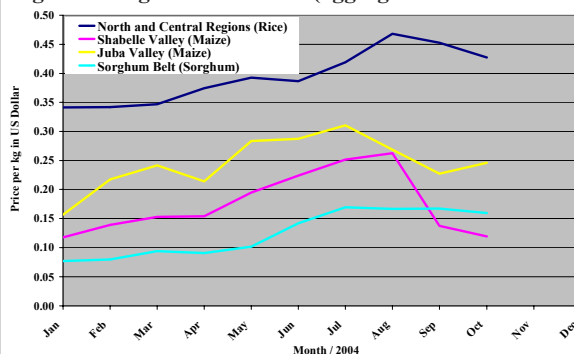
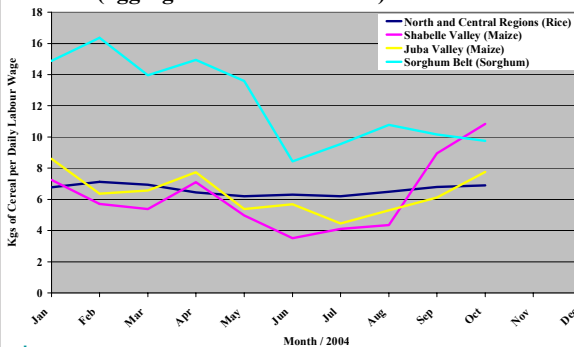


Fig 6: Terms of Trade Cereal To Labour (aggregated across markets)



* North and Central - Bossaso, Garowe, Galkayo, Hargesia, Lasanod; Juba Valley - Afmadow, Buale, Kismayo, Jamame, Hagar; Sorghum Belt - Bardera, Belet Weyne, Hudur, Baidoa; Shabelle Valley - Afgoye, Merka, Qoryoley, Jowhar

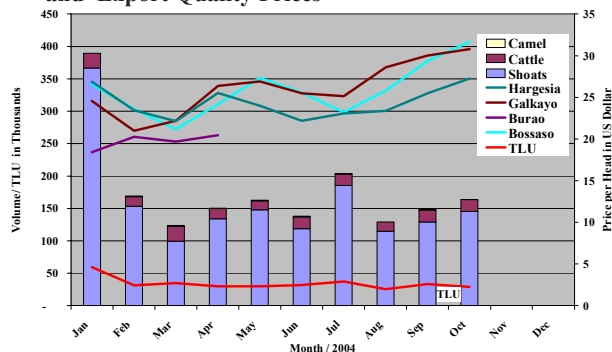
Livestock

Livestock exports through the ports of Berbera and Bossaso continue to increase due to the high demand associated with the approaching Hajj season (Fig. 7). Sheep/Goat Exports from the port of Berbera and Bossaso combined increased nearly 13% over the last month.

Total livestock exports combined for 2004 are now at 1,595,827 sheep/goats, 174,985 cattle and 7,267 camel. Sheep/goat exports are 84% of the pre-livestock ban levels for the same time in the year, thus signaling a strong recovery despite the continuing livestock ban by Saudi Arabia. Export quality goat prices continue to improve in response to the approaching peak demand for livestock exports.

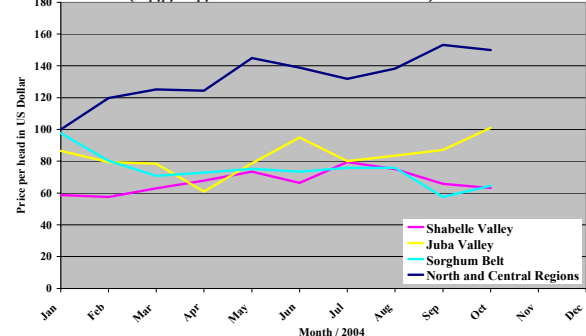
agriculture - livestock

Fig 7: Livestock Exports from Berbera and Bossaso and Export Quality Prices



** Camel exports average 800 per month, thus do not appear on the graph

Fig 8: Average Local Quality Cattle Prices (aggregated across markets)



Drought-affected areas of Northeast are currently hard hit by exceedingly heavy rains and flooding. Local NGO's and authorities are reporting that thousands of livestock already weakened by the drought, are dying as a result of floods and prolonged exposure to heavy rains. Initial reports indicate the worst affected areas are in Bari, northern Nugal, and the mountainous regions of Sanag (affected districts identified so far include Dangoroyo, Eil, Beyla, Gardho, Garowe and Iskushuban). The full extent and coverage of the disaster, cannot be immediately established because large areas are still inaccessible. Emergency assessments are currently being planned by UNOCHA, UNICEF, COOPI and PACE.

On the positive side, pasture conditions are improving and berkedes are filling up. Areas that were under serious drought conditions until early October, such as Taleh and Huddun, have received rains in the later part of the month. Pastoralists who had migrated to parts of Sanaag are contemplating to return to their usual grazing areas in the Sool Region.

In the South, livestock in the Juba Valley are beginning to migrate from the riverine area to Savannah area to the South because of the rainy conditions towards the Kenyan border. Livestock prices are increasing in the South, due to the prevailing rainy conditions. For example, the price of cattle in Afmadow has increased from SoSh 1,176,750 in the month of September to SoSh 1,313,300 in October.

Integrated Food Security Analysis: Emerging Regional Issues

emerging regional issues

Northwest Awdal/Galbeed

Normal to above normal *Deyr* rainfall was received in most areas. Some concern over the Sahil mountainous region and a rapid assessment is currently underway in this area. *Karan* crop harvest began and good production is expected, which will normalize cereal prices and fodder availability. Cross border livestock migration diminished due to uniform coverage of rainfall in the neighbouring parts of Ethiopia.

Hiran/ Bakool

Rains intensified in the last dekad of October, resulting in pastoralists return to normal wet season grazing areas. Water trucking in areas bordering Galgadud Region has decreased.

Gedo

Food insecurity is severe and deteriorating. The area currently has the highest malnutrition levels in the country which are significantly above the usual range (25.4% GAM, Oct. 2004). Ongoing civil insecurity has limited humanitarian access and resulting in inadequate provision of food and non-food relief response.

Sool / Sanaag

Good rains fell in October in most parts of Sool-Sanaag Plateau and Nugal Valley Pastoral Livelihood Zones, but humanitarian emergency and livelihood crisis will continue due to extreme asset loss, high debt levels, and destitution. Building tensions and conflict in the region around Las Anod threatens humanitarian access to the ongoing emergency and limits possibilities for recovery.

Bari/Nugal/North Mudug

Torrential rains late in the month, especially in Dangorayo, Eil, Bayla and surrounding districts, are reported to have resulted in the death of over 20 people, destroyed hundreds of traditional portable huts, and led to thousands of livestock deaths. Preliminary survey results indicate higher than usual malnutrition rates in Bari Region (Oct. 2004)

Central Regions

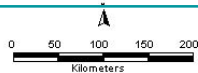
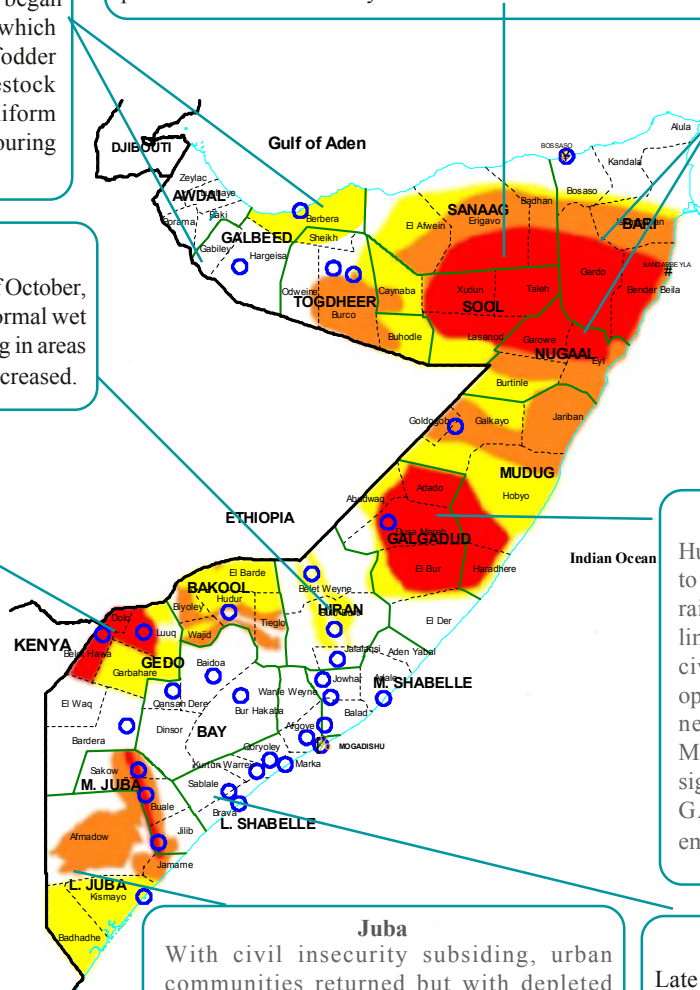
Humanitarian emergency intensifies due to poor and limited coverage of inland rainfall. Emergency interventions are limited due to ongoing and increasing civil insecurity. Pastoral migration options are limited due to drought in neighboring Zone V of Ethiopia. Malnutrition levels are critical and significantly above usual range (20.5% GAM, Sept. 2004), signaling an emergency situation.

Juba

With civil insecurity subsiding, urban communities returned but with depleted livelihood assets. Cross border trade is slowly recovering, although supplies are limited and food prices have doubled. With the start of the *Deyr* rains, pastoralists have begun to return from riverine to inland areas due to improvement in pasture and water. The area is still hosting large numbers of Kenyan pastoralists from Wajir and Garissa, due to continuing drought on the Kenya side. Rapidly rising river levels threaten flooding in November.

Shabelle

Late harvesting of Hagai planted crops increased market supply and reduced cereal prices. Rains have begun to replenish water catchments and rangelands, resulting in a return of livestock to inland grazing lands. Increasing water levels promoted gravity irrigation, however localized floods between Afgoye and Kurtomay destroyed some farms. Rapidly rising river levels threaten flooding in November.



- VULNERABLE GROUPS**
- Humanitarian Emergency (level 1)
 - Humanitarian Emergency (level 2)
 - Livelihood Crisis
 - Alert
 - Non-Alert with chronic vulnerability
 - Areas with IDPs

Map Source: FSAU Technical Series Report No IV.2, September 2004

- Recent Reports:** Monthly Nutrition Update, FSAU, Oct. 2004.
Dusamareb and Adado Districts Nutrition Survey Report, FSAU, Sept. 2004.
- Current Surveys:** Inter-agency Emergency Needs Assessments are currently being planned for the Northwest Rapid Assessment Sahil Region, Somaliland, November 8-12, 2004.
Awdal/Galbeed Post-Harvest Crop Assessment, November 16-22, 2004.
- Workshops:** Data Collection, Analysis, Interpretation and Use, FSAU, Jowhar Somalia, November 19 -22, 2004.
Constraints and Opportunities for Marginal Lands Workshop in Somalia, EC, Nairobi, Kenya, Nov. 23- 25, 2004.

**** Agencies are encouraged to submit information on reports, surveys and forthcoming workshops to be highlighted in this section ****

