

Issued

November 14, 2005

Climate

Markets

Nutrition

Agriculture

Livestock

Civil
Security

Emerging
Regional
Issues

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Civil Insecurity Continues to Threaten Food Security and Livelihoods in Southern Somalia

The recent assassination attempt on the TFG Prime Minister, Ali Gedi, highlights the potential for a rapid deterioration of the political situation, which would have direct and widespread negative implications on food and livelihood security. Reports of the increased importation of weaponry, allied to existing political divisions within the TFG, means that localised or widespread conflict in southern Somalia cannot be ruled out. Therefore the general **Alert** Phase Classification status for southern Somalia remains.

- **Implications for Action:** (1) Contingency planning for the possibility of widespread humanitarian relief continues to be an urgent priority for Southern Somalia. (2) Recommitment to peaceful negotiations from all political parties.

Delayed and Below Normal Deyr 2005 Rainfall to Date in Southern Somalia of Increased Concern

The start of the *Deyr* rains (Oct.-Dec.) is delayed in southern Somalia, with the exception of patchy and localized showers in parts of Bakool, Hiran and Bay regions. Though it is still too early to predict the overall outcome of the *Deyr* rains, this late and below normal start is of increased concern, especially given it is preceded by a below normal 2005 *Gu* rainfall throughout southern Somalia. If the *Deyr* rains remain below normal or fail in Southern Somalia implications are: (a) total annual crop production (June '05-May '06) could be the lowest in a decade, (b) resulting in an annual cereal availability shortfall, and (c) severely depleted rangeland and livestock conditions. Such a scenario would translate directly into increased problems of food access and increased food insecurity. See *Climate Article p. 2, Agriculture Article p.3, and Livestock Article p. 4.*

Agro-pastoralist and Pastoralists in Gedo and Juba valley at High Risk to Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis

Agro-pastoralist and pastoralists in Gedo and Juba regions are at *High Risk of an Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis* within the next two months if the *Deyr* rains are below normal or fail. Pasture and water is already severely depleted, livestock conditions are weak, cattle prices are significantly reduced (50% decline since April '05) and cattle deaths are reported since October. Livestock from Juba valley and Southern Gedo, as well as a significant number of in-migrated livestock from Kenya are concentrated in Juba riverine areas and water and fodder sources there can not continue to sustain such high concentrations. New reports indicate that entire communities in agro-pastoral areas are now abandoning their villages in search of water and pasture. See *Livestock Article p. 3 and Regional Highlights p.4.*

- **Implications for Actions:** (1) Close monitoring of *Deyr* rains, livestock migrations and production, and overall pastoral conditions, (2) Enhanced livestock intervention programs are needed, including provision of animal health services and rehabilitation of strategic boreholes, (3) If *Deyr* rains are below normal or fail, there will be a need for a coordinated multi-agency emergency assessment in Dec. '05, ideally coordinated with Kenya and Ethiopia due to the regional nature of the pastoral problem and cross-border linkages.

Areas Most Affected by Conflict in Bay Region now in a State of Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis

An estimated 94,000 people are now in a state of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis**, which is a deterioration of the **Alert** status highlighted in Sept. '05. This deterioration is caused by the compounding impact of high levels of livelihood asset loss following contracted civil conflict, aggravated by *Gu* '05 crop failure (31% of PWA), delayed and below normal start of *Deyr* rains, overall poor pasture conditions and limited income earning opportunities. Nutrition indicators also show a worsening nutrition situation over the last three months, and are now 'significantly above the long term trend'. See *Regional Highlights p. 4, Map p. 5, and Nutrition Article p. 3.*

- **Implications for Action:** (1) Reconciliation of conflict is critical to facilitate access to the region by humanitarian agencies. Currently humanitarian agencies can not easily access this area, (2) Immediate livelihood support is required for affected households, as well as continued targeted feeding and health programs.

Worse Case Scenario: Widespread Civil Insecurity Combined with Deyr '05 Rain Failure Has the Potential to Lead to a Major Humanitarian Emergency in Southern Somalia

In a worst case scenario, widespread civil insecurity combined with Deyr rain failure would likely lead to a major Humanitarian Emergency in Southern Somalia. Thus, FSAU is classifying most of Southern Somalia to be at **Moderate Risk of Humanitarian Emergency**. While currently unpredictable, yet possible, this early warning is based on a potential combined scenario of: (a) failure of *Deyr* rains leading to the lowest annual cereal production in ten years, (b) unresolved and increasing political tensions resulting in widespread conflict that would lead to direct loss of lives, displacement, and disruption in market channels for food and other essential commodity flows, (c) the continued deterioration of rangeland conditions, (d) decreased humanitarian access and disrupted relief supply lines, and (e) the deterioration of on-going localized conflicts in El Wak, Bay, and Bakool. While civil insecurity could worsen at any time, in early December impacts of the *Deyr* rain season can be evaluated with reasonable accuracy.

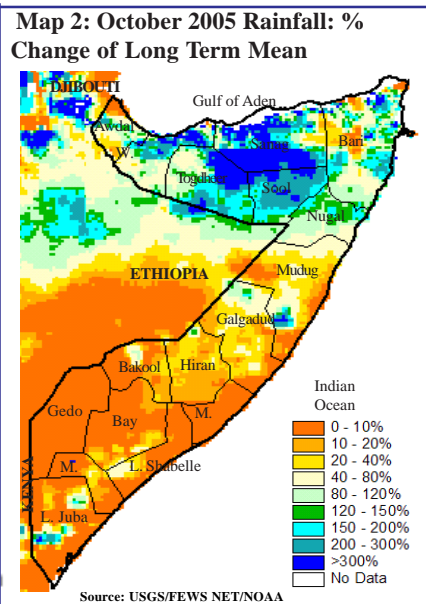
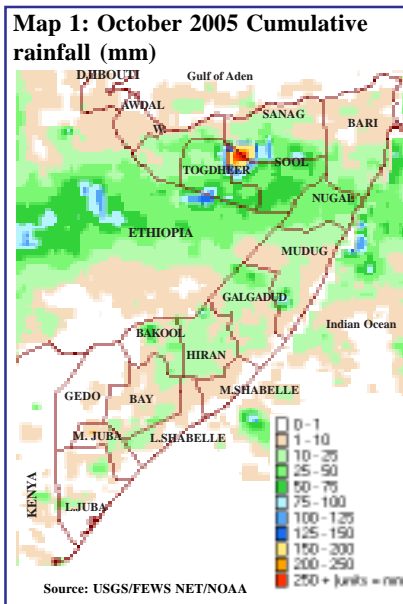
- **Implications for Actions:** (1) Stepped-up efforts at comprehensive contingency planning, (2) Recommitment to peaceful negotiation from all political actors, and (3) Close monitoring of nutritional, climatic, civil security, pastoral, and agricultural conditions. FSAU will monitor all of these aspects closely and provide updates as necessary.

Climate

The start of the *Deyr* rains (October-December), the secondary rainy season, are delayed in southern Somalia. With the exception of patchy and localized showers in parts of Bakool, Hiran and Bay Regions, most of the southern Somalia did not receive any rains during October which is unusual (Map 1 and 2).

Since *Gu* rains (April-June) were below normal in the south, the delay of the *Deyr* rains give cause for concern. Water shortages in agro-pastoral and pastoral areas have already prompted unusual movement of people and livestock towards permanent water sources in Juba Valley and Gedo. Delayed *Deyr* rains will also negatively affect *Deyr* crop germination and development.

In the north, on the other hand, *Deyr* rains started on time. Satellite imagery indicates and field report confirm that most of the key pastoral areas in the North received a cumulative monthly rainfall reaching up to 70mm (Map 1). Rainfall distribution and intensity were good and replenished water and pasture resources. Togdheer, Sool, Nugaal and parts of Sanaag received up to 150% of normal rainfall for October (Map 2). Compared to a long-term mean, these rains are significantly above normal. See FSAU Climate Data Update, November 2005.

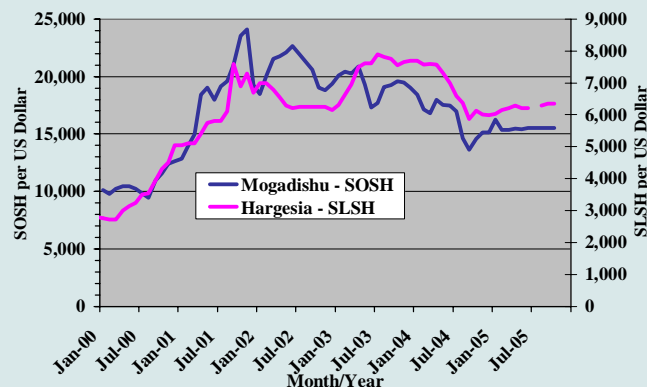


Markets

The values of both the Somali and Somaliland Shilling have remained consistently stable over the last year (since October 2004). During this time the Somali Shilling traded on average at 15,400 Ssh/US\$, while the Somaliland Shilling traded on average at 6,200 SLSH/US\$ (Figure 1). This stability contrasts to the wide fluctuations experienced by both currencies since they began to appreciate significantly in July 2000. The current stability is partially attributed to the political reconciliation process in Southern Somalia following the formation of the TFG in October 2004.

See FSAU Market Data Update, November 2005.

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



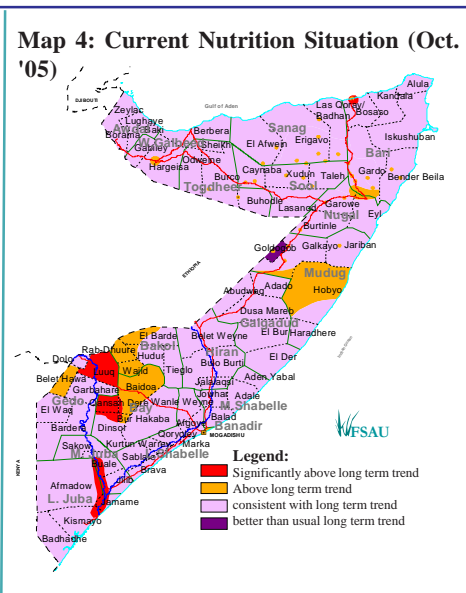
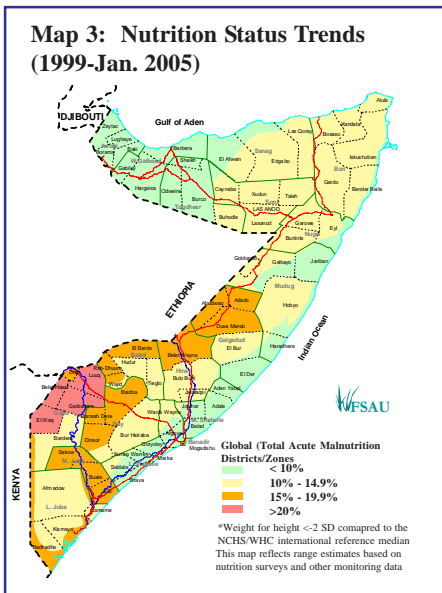
Nutrition

In Bay Region, sentinel sites surveillance data (Oct. '05) indicates extremely high levels of acute malnutrition, especially in the predominantly agro-pastoral areas that have been affected by conflict in Qansaxdheere district and parts of Dinsor and Berdaale districts (Map 3 & 4). Also of concern, is the high incidence of illness among assessed children in the two weeks prior to the assessment. Roughly forty-one

percent of the 378 children assessed in the nine sites suffered from either acute respiratory infection, diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, intestinal worms, skin infections, malaria and/or anaemia.

Intensified surveillance in South Galcayo and Galgaduud indicate high levels of malnutrition, whereas the situation in South Mudug appears to be stable. A rapid assessment conducted in four sites in Sept. '05 indicates critical levels of acute malnutrition in the assessed children: total acute malnutrition of 19% (WFH < -2 z scores and/or oedema) and severe acute malnutrition of 2.9% (WFH < -3 z scores and/or oedema). In Galgaduud Region, a poor nutrition situation persists especially among the non-resident population groups.

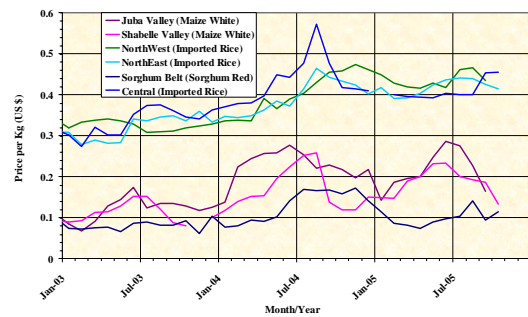
See FSAU Nutrition Update, October 2005.



Agriculture

The delayed *Deyr* rains in southern agricultural and agro-pastoral areas so far are low and erratic. There is a high risk of a poor *Deyr* crop establishment due to prevailing low soil moisture levels aggravated by the lack of adequate resources for crop production management and/or practices. Farmers have attempted to replant with difficulties resulting from high diesel and tractor hire costs, particularly in Shabelle valley. The situation is even worse in rainfed areas, partly because of persisting dry conditions. Climate variability has considerable consequences for Somalia's crop production and its management. An early end to the *Deyr* rains would lead to a very poor *Deyr* season crop production. This in combination with hot temperatures during the *Jilal* season (Jan. to March) would lead to severe conditions, particularly across the rain-fed agricultural areas of southern Somalia. This will have major implications for food security in southern Somalia, given the severity of *Gu* season crop losses, i.e. total *Gu* 2005 cereal production in southern Somalia was only 44% of the post-war average or 73,000mt.

Figure 2: Regional Average Monthly Cereal Prices (USD)



Off season cereal crop production in Lower and Middle Juba is estimated at 3,700 MT, which is 330% of *Gu* '05 cereal production. This off season crop production has provided a much needed cereal injection into this region since the *Gu* '05 crop production was an almost complete failure (4% and 10% of PWA respectively for Lower and Middle Juba). However, even when this off season production is combined with the *Gu* production, it represents only 27% of *Gu* PWA. In a good year, *Deyr* season cereal production only contributes an additional 20% to annual cereal production. In Shabelle and Hiran, off season cereal production is negligible as most cereal crops failed due to prolonged dry conditions and high insect infestations among other negative factors. Farmers opted instead, especially in Hiran, to sell crops as fodder. The *Gu-Karan* harvest in Northwest agro-pastoral areas is expected in late November and is expected to be normal to above normal and good rains have also encouraged planting of short cycle crops of sorghum and maize.

Gu '05 cereal production in Southern Somalia proved to be the lowest in a decade (73,000 MT), as both sorghum and maize production suffered significant losses due to a combination of below normal and delayed rains, aggravated by flooding, high crop pest damages, and civil insecurity in some areas. The prospect of poor *Deyr* season cereal production is, therefore, of great concern. This year's annual cereal production (combining *Gu* '05, Off Season and *Deyr* '05/06), updated with actual off season production and combined with a scenario of a poor *Deyr* production outcome (scenario taken as the average of three lowest *Deyr* seasons – or 51,000mt) results in an estimated total annual cereal production of 159,000mt, which is 55% of PWA of annual cereal production PWA. If this scenario occurs, this would be the lowest annual production level in a decade.

FSAU estimated an annual cereal balance sheet for the year (June '05-May '06), with the overall outcome indicating no cereal supply shortfall (FSAU, Technical Series, Report No IV.7, Post *Gu* Analysis, Sept. 13, 2005). This preliminary cereal balance sheet was based on actual post *Gu* '05 crop estimates and assumed a 'normal' or average *Deyr* 2005/06 crop production. This cereal balance sheet is now revised to account for the high likelihood of a poor *Deyr* seasonal crop outcome in order to facilitate early warning and planning (Table 1). Four revised annual cereal balance sheet (June 2005 to May 2006) scenarios are presented in Table 1:

- 1.) below normal *Deyr* crop production (measured as the average of the three lowest *Deyr* crop productions in the last 10 years)
- 2.) below normal *Deyr* crop production as above but also revised commercial import estimate considering that roughly 25% of this goes to Ethiopia and Northern Kenya,
- 3.) worse case scenario for *Deyr* crop outcome, in which only irrigated and recessional crops mature, and
- 4.) worse case scenario for *Deyr* crop outcome as above but also revised commercial import estimate considering that roughly 25% of this goes to Ethiopia and Northern Kenya.

Table 1: Updated Cereal Supply and Demand Balance Forecast for 2005 /06

Annual Cereal Balance Sheet for Somalia (June 2005 to May 2006)	Post <i>Gu</i> Report ¹	Scenario: Below normal <i>Deyr</i> Production (50% of PWA) ('000 MT)		Scenario: Very Poor <i>Deyr</i> Production (30% of PWA) ('000MT)	
	<i>Gu</i> Production 2005 ('000 MT)	(Scenario 1) 100% ² Commercial Imports	(Scenario 2) 75% ³ Commercial Imports	(Scenario 3) 100% ² Commercial Imports	(Scenario 4) 75% ³ Commercial Imports
DOMESTIC AVAILABILITY	245	183	183	164	164
Opening Stocks	24	24	24	24	24
Domestic Cereal Supply 2004/05	221	159	159	140	140
<i>Gu</i> 2005 South Somalia	73	73	73	73	73
<i>Gu-Karan</i> 2005 Northwest	31	31	31	31	31
Off-season <i>Gu</i> 2005	9	4	4	4	4
<i>Deyr</i> 2005	108	51	51	32	32
DOMESTIC UTILIZATION					
Cereal Utilization Requirements	633	633	633	633	633
IMPORT REQUIREMENTS					
Anticipated Commercial Imports	395	395	303	395	303
Food Aid Distributed	6	26	26	26	26
ESTIMATED SURPLUS/DEFICIT – CEREAL	13	-29	-121	-48	-140
Food Aid Stocks, Transit or Pipeline	43	30	30	30	30
TOTAL ESTIMATED SURPLUS/DEFICIT – CEREAL⁴	60	0	-90	-20	-110

¹ Projections made in the FSAU 2005 Post *Gu* Analysis Technical Report.

² Assumes all cereal imports remain the same.

³ Assumes roughly 30 percent of imports from Berbera and Bossaso ports, and 10% of imports from El Maan and Jazira ports are in transit to Ethiopia and North Kenya.

⁴ Rounded to the nearest ten.

In all scenarios food aid in stocks, transit or pipeline are clearly separated out from the amount distributed to date since one of the problems facing humanitarian agencies now is increased access to southern Somalia, primarily following increased hijacking of ships along the coast of Somalia, as well as disruptions in access due to conflict.

In summary, three of the four scenarios indicate a cereal supply shortfall (Table 1). Cereal balance sheet analysis is only an indicator for overall cereal supply, it does not address access issues, which would be considerably worse for many regions. With limited income options and volatile markets hampered by widespread civil insecurity, many households in such a scenario would be expected to intensify reliance on negative livelihood strategies and would experience serious food insecurity.

Livestock

The livestock situation is rapidly deteriorating in many parts of southern Somalia, and especially in the agro-pastoral and pastoral areas of Gedo and Juba regions. FSAU forecasts a high risk of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis** within the coming two months in these two regions if the Deyr rains are below normal (see Map 5). Already cattle deaths are reported in the hinterland of Gedo and Juba regions around water points, due to the lack of pasture and water. Pasture and water sources were depleted early in the traditional grazing areas due to the below normal Gu 2005 rains (April-June), which prompted an early (May/June) and unusual movement of people and livestock towards the Juba riverine and coastal areas of Kismayo. The delayed and so far ineffective *Deyr* 2005 rains (October-December) is leading to an acceleration and further deterioration in the situation.

Field reports confirm that entire communities in agro-pastoral areas of Bardhere (Gedo), Saakow and Bu'aale (Middle Juba) were abandoned in October as people and their livestock moved into the riverine areas in search of water and fodder. Livestock body condition is weak affecting milk production and livestock prices. Cattle prices in Gedo and Juba Valley regions are significantly lower than earlier this year. Since April 2005, cattle prices have decreased 46% in Bardera (Gedo) and 50% in Afmadow (Lower Juba). In the month of October, animal deaths, particularly cattle, are reported in southern Gedo, as well as in Afmadow and Hager districts in Lower Juba Region.

Figure 3: Regional Average Monthly Prices Local Quality Cattle (US\$)

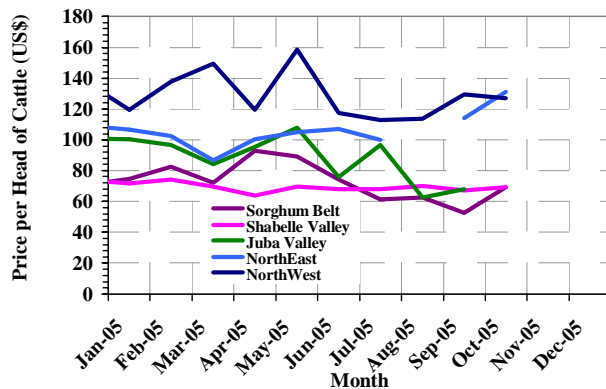
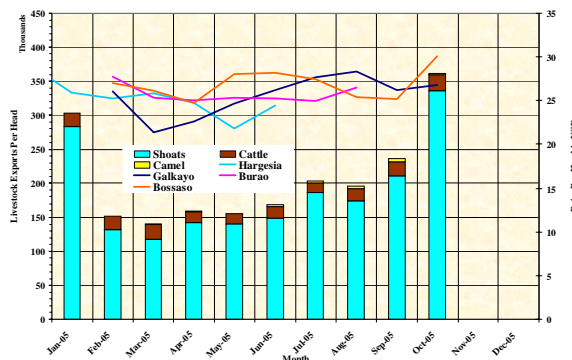


Figure 4: Livestock Exports from Berbera & Bossaso Ports and Export Quality Shoat Prices



Last month's shoat exports were the largest number exported this year and is attributed to the increased supply of export quality shoats coupled with increased demand from the Gulf due to Iid-UI-Fitr and an early preparation for the upcoming peak demand period associated with the Hajj which begins from the first week of January (Figure 4).

Export quality sheep and goat (shoat) prices also increased over last month, an increase of 20% in Bossaso, from approximately US\$25/head in September to US\$30/head in October (Figure 4). Export prices show an increasing trend since they collapsed in 2000/01, reaching pre-livestock ban levels. Export volumes, though recovering have not yet reached the pre-livestock ban peak levels (Figure 5).

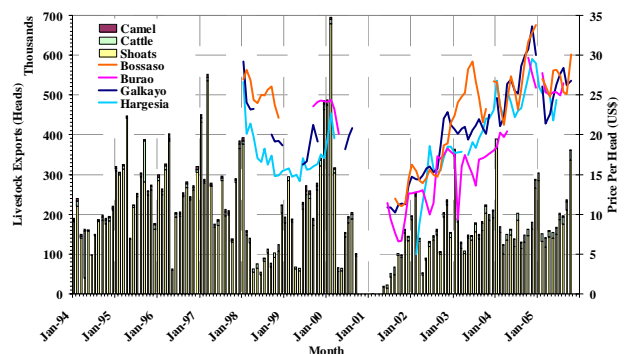
Normally, livestock should have moved away from riverine areas at this time of the year, however, the delayed start of the *Deyr* season (October-December) is forcing pastoralists to remain in riverine areas. This poses a further risk to livestock conditions due to the high incidence of tsetse fly related livestock diseases in the riverine areas.

In addition, the already strained water and fodder sources in the riverine areas cannot sustain the high concentration of livestock and the new influx of livestock. Juba Valley is hosting not only Juba pastoralists and southern Gedo pastoralists, but a significant number of Kenya pastoralists who migrated from Northeastern Province during June.

In the North and Central regions, availability of water and pasture is above normal due to successive seasons of above normal rainfall. Livestock reproduction rate is above normal with increased availability of milk and ghee at the household level. Generally, the recovery process among the drought affected Sool Plateau and Nugal Valley pastoralists is on track.

Sheep and goat exports from Bossaso and Berbera ports surged during October to a high of 335,996 heads, an increase of 60% over last month (Figure 4). Of this total number exported, 142,554 were exported through Berbera port while another 193,442 were exported through Bossaso port.

Figure 5: Berbera & Bossaso: Trend in Livestock Exports (Heads) and Export Quality Goat Prices (US\$)



Integrated Food Security Analysis: Emerging Regional Issues

North

Northeast- *Deyr* rainfall in the region was normal to above normal during the month of October, except for parts of north Bari (Dharoor and Golis livelihood zones). Given the two previous successful rainy seasons water, pasture and livestock body condition are good throughout the region. High rates of camel calving are expected to begin in November, which will improve the overall well being of pastoralists. Terms of trade are beginning to improve with the start of the peak livestock export season (between Ramadan and Hajj). The start of the fishing season (November – March) and the corresponding labor opportunities it brings will benefit the tsunami affected communities and migrant fishing labor.

Northwest- Most of the northwest areas received normal to above normal rainfall during October, except for parts of southern Awdal region. Optimism amongst pastoralists is high as herd sizes continue to recover, goat kidding and camel calving is ongoing and there is increased availability of livestock products for consumption and sale. Among agro-pastoralists, the *Gu/Karan* harvest is expected in late November and further rains have encouraged planting of short cycle crops of sorghum and maize. The rise in fuel prices continues, increasing input costs (0.66USD/litre of petrol in August, 0.81USD in September).

Central

Deyr rains so far in Central regions are normal to below normal. Reports indicate that most berkads and water catchments are replenished. Caabud-waaq and Goldogob districts received good rains and, as a result, livestock body conditions remain good. In many areas livestock migration is limited as a result of sufficient pasture and water, as well as security improvements in the region. Exceptions are Eldher coastal areas, the area around Bohol and other localized areas where pasture remains poor. Districts like Cadaado, Galinsor and Hobyo remain tense due to earlier clan fighting that resulted in loss of assets and disruption of markets. Unconfirmed reports indicate that the livelihood situation of IDPs settlements in Dhusamareed (IDPs from Xeraale), Cadaado (IDPs from Bandiiradley) and Wisil and Colguula (IDPs from Hobyo) is worsening.

South

Hiran - *Deyr* rains have started on time but have been poor and erratic in agricultural areas. Seasonal rivers and *waadis* remain dry due to poor rains/run off. Rains have improved browse and pasture conditions in all livelihood zones although open grazing land continues to decline as result of clan segregations. There is no current risk of flooding of the Shabelle river in Hiran, but close monitoring is required. *Deyr* land preparations were delayed due to several factors, including high fuel prices and seasonal overlap with the off-season crops, but are now underway.

Bakool - Good *Deyr* rains fell in Tieglow and Huddur districts prompting an in-migration of pastoralists to these areas from other districts of the region including Rabdhure, El-barde and Dinsor. In other areas *Deyr* rains have been sporadic and localized. Tensions remain high between two clans over limited resources of grazing in Rabdhure and El-barde districts, resulting in an estimated 250 IDPs in Burduhunle of Wajid district, business interruptions, and disruptions of farming activities.

Bay -The food security situation is deteriorating in Qansahdhere and parts of Dinsor districts due to a poor *Gu* harvest coupled with increased civil insecurity associated with high levels of livelihood asset loss, civilian displacement, and delayed *Deyr* rains. It is estimated that 94,000 people are in **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis**. Critical water shortages have been reported from the villages of Habibayaal, Tugaarhoosle, and Rahole of Dinsor district.

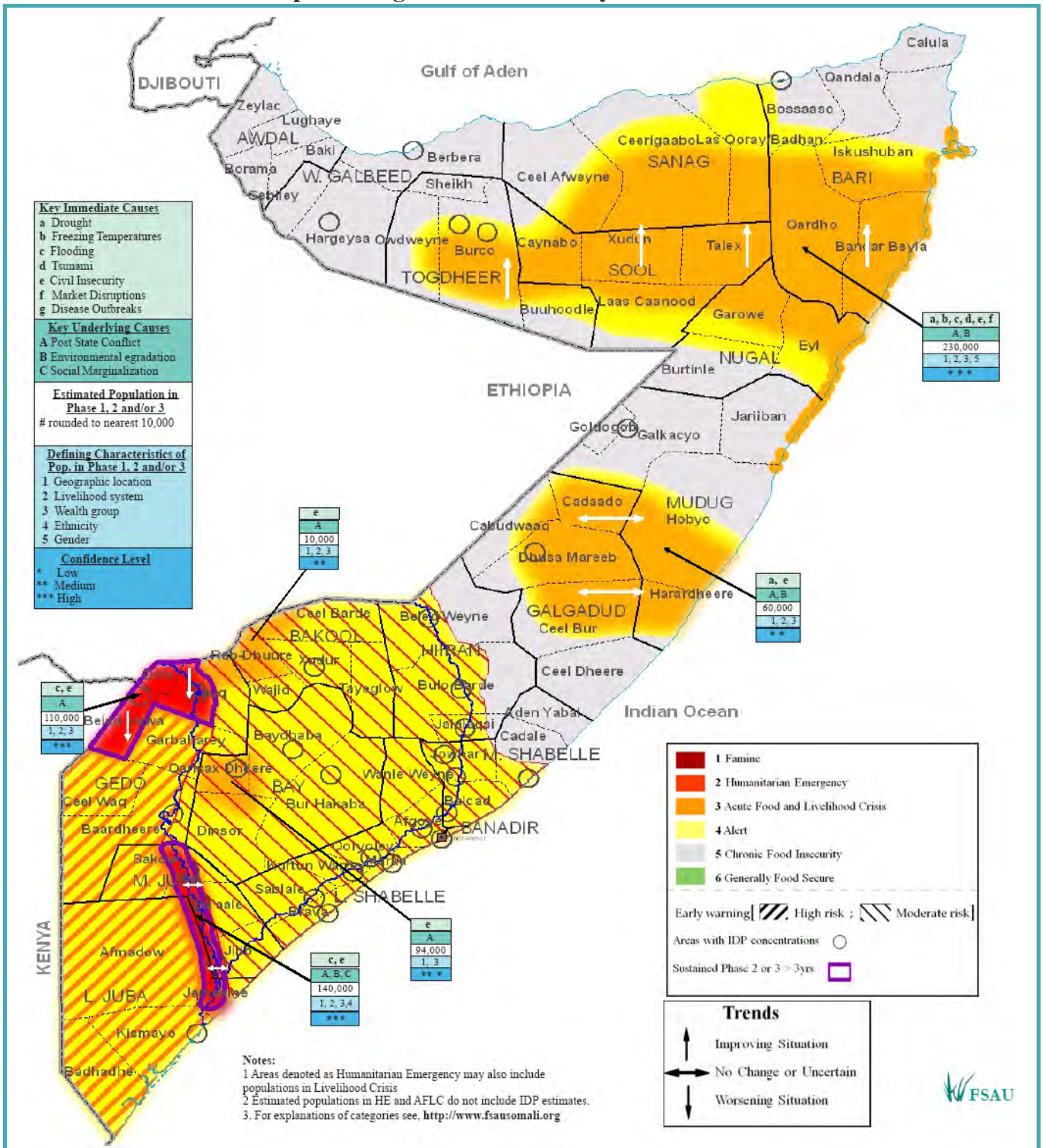
Middle and Lower Shabelle - *Deyr* season rains have started across Lower and Middle Shabelle regions, but are unevenly distributed. Tortorow in Afgoi district, Farsoley in Qoryoley district, Jowhar and Mahaday in Middle Shabelle experienced heavy rains in October, while other areas such as parts of Marka, Brava and Sablale districts rainfall was poor. Where rains have fallen pasture conditions are improving and cattle have moved away from the riverine areas, and in rainfed agricultural areas land preparation, planting and weeding are underway. However, traditional forecasting, based on the arrival of dew formation, is signalling an early end to the *Deyr* season. Average maize prices continued to decline as the previous seasons stocks are being released onto the market to generate funds for agricultural activities, e.g. white maize in Marka is now US\$0.13/kg compared to US\$0.24 in June. Terms of trade (maize to labour rates) also improved, up 34% from the previous month.

Middle and Lower Juba - During the *Gu* 2005 season, extensive flooding of the Juba river between southern Gedo and Jamame destroyed an estimated 80-90% of the standing crops and resulted in displacement of farmers and urban communities. However, on the positive side it was expected that this flood would create opportunities for off-season *deshek* (flood recession) cultivation (see the FSAU Technical Series. Report No IV. 7 13 September, 2005). A recent FSAU off-season crop production assessment (27th October – 5th November 2005) in Middle Juba (Buale, Sakow, districts) and Lower Juba (Jilib and Jamame districts) estimates a total off season cropped land of 15,210 hectares and 620 hectares respectively. Estimated total harvest between October and November for the two regions combined is 3,080 MT of maize, 640 MT cowpeas, and 430 MT of sesame.

In response to below normal rainfall and rangeland conditions in pastoral areas of the Juba valley during the *Gu* 2005, there was an unusually high migration of cattle to riverine and coastal areas. Due to delayed and erratic *Deyr* rains, there continues to be a high concentration of cattle (from southern Gedo and northeastern districts of Kenya) in riverine areas, and camels as far as Kismayo district. Cattle remaining in the pastoral areas of the west bank (Saakow and Afmadow districts) are in poor condition, milk production is limited, and there are reports of cattle deaths.

Map 5: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

phase classification



FSAU Nutrition Update, October 31, 2005

FSAU/ FEWSNET Market Data Update, November 12 2005

FSAU/FEWSNET Climate Data Update, November 12 2005

SWALIM Flood Watch Somalia, November 8 2005

FEWSNET Somalia Rain Watch, November 11 2005

FSAU Gu & Karan Crop Harvest Assessment Report, forthcoming mid-November

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