

FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

**The *Gu* field assessment was carried out between the 17 August and 4 September. A harvest report will be presented at the SACB FSSC/SCORD meeting on September 17.

**The FSAU *Gu* Harvest Workshop will take place in Hargeisa between the 7-15 September. A presentation on the workshop's findings and the annual needs assessment will be made at the SACB FSSC/SCORD meeting on October 9.

** FSAU participated in the FEWS NET food economy workshop in Mendera during August which aimed to train a core team from the Kenya government as well as partners on the household food economy approach. Representatives from Arid Lands, Care, Oxfam (Q), FSAU, SC-UK Ethiopia were involved in the training. Discussions were also held on harmonizing neighbouring food economy baselines (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia) and regional response planning.

** The FSAU Hargeisa Workshop took place between 7-16 August. All FSAU Field Monitors from the North West and North East attended. Areas of food security concern in the north were identified. Field Monitors also received training in computers and market price analysis.

FOOD AID DISTRIBUTION

Somalia's two principal food aid agencies, CARE and World Food Program, continued their operations in August, providing much needed food to targeted beneficiaries through general distribution, food for work and feeding operations. CARE has been able to increase its distributions in Gedo region, easing fears of a major humanitarian crisis there. Distributions, which resumed in the southern part of the region in July, will expand to the northern interior in September, in addition to distributions in northern border areas. In August, CARE distributed 1,584 MT of food aid in Gedo region. 486 MT were distributed in El wak district to 7,360 beneficiaries. 907 MT were distributed in Belet Hawa district to 14,253 beneficiaries and 190 MT were distributed to 2,983 beneficiaries in Dolo district. Food distributions expected to have begun on 1 September in Dolo and 3 September in Luuq district have been postponed due to insecurity.

In August CARE distributed a total of 1,245 MT to 7,451 beneficiaries. Approximately 558 MT were distributed in Hiran region, 280 MT in Belet Weyne, 139 MT in Jalalaqsi, 70 MT in Mahas, 70 MT in Mataban districts. In Middle Shabelle region, Aden Yabal district 70 MT were distributed. In Bakol region, Tieglow district 330 MT were distributed. In Bay region, 140 MT were distributed in Baidoa, 40 MT in Qansah Dere and 108 MT in Bur Hakaba districts.

In August WFP distributed 934 MT of food throughout Somalia. In Bay and Bakol regions, 440 MT were distributed as social support and 306 MT as food for work. The food stock for Bay and Bakol had been pre-positioned before the onset of insecurity, therefore further food distribution activities will not continue if the current security situation persists. Other social support food distributions were carried out, 46 MT were distributed in Mogadishu and Middle Shabelle; 75 MT in the northeast and 67 MT in the North west. On 31 August WFP began a free food distribution in Garbaharey and Burdhubo WFP will provide more details of these distributions in the next monthly report.

For further information on CARE's food aid operations, please contact : narayan@care.or.ke. For further information about WFP's activities, please contact : Prudence.Nkinda-Chaiban@wfp.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

GEDO : The continuing insecurity and operational constraints within northern Gedo to international humanitarian assistance has created increasing concern over the plight of the most vulnerable populations in the effected areas. In the north, insecurity has continued to contribute to the high degree of vulnerability by delaying the return of livestock to some areas, triggering displacement but also restricting essential population movements as well as the delivery of vital humanitarian aid. However, the return of livestock to specific parts of Gedo, especially in the south helped ease some of the stress in less effected areas. Poor households remaining in northern Gedo are reported to have engaged in extreme survival strategies to obtain food, such as selling their last animals but even these strategies are not enabling access to adequate nutritional requirements – as this continues many of their remaining productive assets will be depleted in order to obtain food. The numbers of moderately and severely malnourished children registering at feeding programmes in urban areas are high and are believed by some to represent only a proportion of the children now experiencing the effects of the constraints highlighted.

THE SOOL PLATEAU : Following joint assessments conducted with partners in July, a population of approximately 25,000 is currently reported to be increasingly food insecure. The majority of this population is comprised of poor pastoralists who rely on income derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products as well as access to labour. Water prices have recently increased, putting more strain on their already weakened purchasing power. Other evidence is that milk production/ accessibility has fallen to 50% of the baseline level; livestock prices (especially for local quality goats) decreased by half compared with pre-livestock ban prices. Due to the increased number of people seeking jobs, daily wage rates are only 70% of the baseline level. Social and kinship support has also reduced significantly due to the continual deterioration of the living standard in the Sool Plateau population. These vulnerable groups are in need of livelihood support up to the next (*deyr*) rainy season due to commence in October–November 2002. Only early rains and improved markets can help an earlier recovery. Delays and/or constraints to coping will worsen the situation. In the final quarter of the year (see article on page 3– Consensus climate outlook for September to December 2002) the pasture and water access is expected to improve in neighbouring rangelands and especially to the South East. (Mudug/Nugal). Care is recommended over the timing and positioning of possible interventions so as not to disrupt expected normal migration behaviour.

Highlights from the FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

During September, humanitarian organisations operating in **Belet Weyne** (Hiran Region) will meet to discuss the food security, health and nutrition situation in the district with particular reference to the results of the nutrition survey conducted there in May which showed a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 21% (W/H-2 z-scores and/or presence of oedema) and Severe Acute Malnutrition rate of 2.7% (W/H <-3 z-scores and/or oedema).

Organisations involved in the emergency nutrition intervention in **Bakool** Region have completed the first stage of a review of the experience. Further evaluation is likely to be

undertaken in the coming months.

The **FAO workshop** on 'Nutrition and Food Security' will be held in Huddur, Bakool Region on September 17-18. Partners will be involved in the analysis of factors contributing to malnutrition and the planning of interventions to improve nutrition in the Region.

An FSAU report on '**Food Utilisation in Somalia**' will be completed during September.

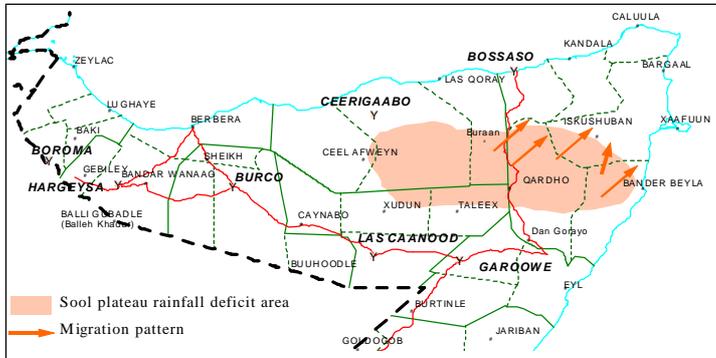
For further information on nutrition surveys and other issues related to nutrition, see the FSAU monthly publication 'Nutrition Update' or contact noreen.prendiville@fsau.or.ke

DETERIORATING FOOD SECURITY IN THE SOOL PLATEAU : A VULNERABILITY UPDATE

BACKGROUND

The Sool Plateau stretches between the regions of Sanaag, Sool and Bari. Over 40% of the Sool Plateau is located in Bari region, 35% in Sanaag region and the remainder in Sool region. The Plateau is rich in pasture resources; its diverse vegetation cover, ranges from bushy woodland to browse plants. The Plateau ends in the sub coastal Indian Ocean zone of Bari region. (See Figure 1. below)

Figure 1 : Sool Plateau, Somalia



According to the FSAU baseline survey conducted earlier this year, the population of the Plateau is estimated around 150,000, of which 85-90% are pastoralists while 10-15% are urbanites. The area is a potentially good grazing area with a high livestock population. Historically, the Plateau was used as a wet season grazing area due to its low water table and lack of permanent surface water. However, the increasing number of livestock and human population over the last two decades has led to a proliferation of *berkads* and an increase in water availability.

The increasing population has clustered into villages while public agencies have drilled more boreholes to support the additional people and animals. These developments and the proliferation of *berkads*, have converted the Sool Plateau into a year round grazing area and attracted a relatively higher concentration of livestock, mainly shoats (sheep and goats) and camels.

In the recent past, several successive rainy season failures (*Gu* 2001, *Deyr* 2001/02 and *Gu* 2002) which resulted in poor pasture, decreased livestock productivity, especially milk and meat. The continuing livestock import ban by some Persian Gulf States also increased livestock population in the area and resulted in overgrazing and reduction of the rangeland's carrying capacity. Moreover, local livestock markets have been oversupplied, reducing livestock prices and grain/animal terms of trade for pastoral households. Below normal rains in most parts of Sool Plateau during the 2002 *Gu* season (April-June) aggravated the situation.

WEALTH DETERMINANT AND LIVELIHOOD SOURCES

Pastoralism is the main livelihood for the population of the Sool Plateau and shoats are the main determinants of wealth. (See Table I below) The Sale of livestock and livestock products, (milk, ghee and skins) provides the main income sources, out of which households purchase food and non-food items.

Table 1 : Description of Wealth Groups in the Sool Plateau (Reference Year 1994)

Wealth Group	Livestock holdings	Other Assets	% of population	Household Size
Poor	Shoats 70-90 Camels 5-10 Donkeys 1	Nil	25-30%	5-7
Middle	Shoats 120-150 Camels 20-30 Cattle 5-10 Donkeys 0-1	0-1 Berkad	45-55%	6-8
Rich	Shoats 200-250 Camels 50-80 Cattle 10-15	1-2 Berkads 1 House	15-20%	8-9

Source : FSAU

In a normal year (for which those interviewed selected 1994 as the reference year) the poor wealth group (about 25-30% of the population) gets 20-25% of its food needs through the consumption of its own milk and meat production and purchases 60-70% of other requirements from the market. The remaining consumption comes from gifts and kinship support.

The sale of livestock and livestock products contributes 60-70% of the poor household income in a normal year. This is followed by self-employment activities : collection and sale of bush products, production and sale of charcoal, incense, gums and fishing contribute around 20% of the household total income. Pastoralists in Iskushuban and Banderbeyle have the advantage of fishing in the Indian Ocean. Employment income and gifts provide around 13% and 3%, respectively. All income sources are 'expandable' during a normal year so that contributions can be increased or expanded to offset a shortfall in other income sources.

The level of a poor household income determines the level of expenditure. In a normal year around two thirds of household income is used to purchase staple foods, while about one third are used to purchase other essential items (water, veterinary care and human drugs, clothes, sugar and edible oil) and what remains is used to buy other non-essentials.

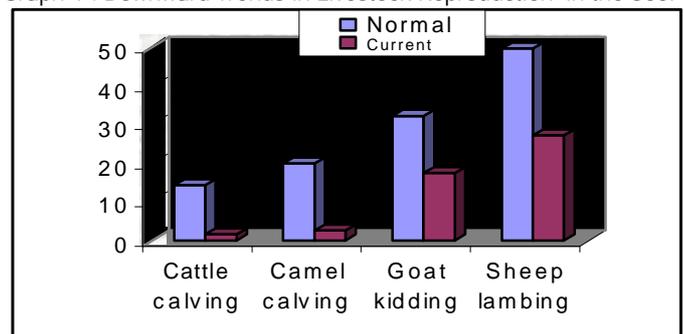
ABNORMAL SEASONAL MIGRATION IN SOOL PLATEAU

Gu season 2002 rainfall in the Sool Plateau started earlier and ended earlier than normal (March-May rather than April-June). These rains were short and patchy in distribution but attracted a large in-migration of livestock during the early days of the season, leading to overstocking and overgrazing. Potential rangelands in neighbouring Togdheer region and parts of Hawd also experienced poor rainfall; water resources in eastern Sanaag were depleted earlier than normal. Pasture conditions in these areas were inadequate to support the big ruminants—camel and cattle deteriorated on an alarming scale, further complicating pastoralist livelihoods in the Sool Plateau.

Calving rates, milk production and livestock value are directly proportional to nutritional status and availability of water and pasture; so the cumulative effect of deteriorating conditions in the Sool Plateau over the last several years has resulted in declining reproduction rates for all species. (See Graph 1 below) This has prompted an abnormal livestock migration within Sool, Sanaag and Bari regions as well as to the Somali region of eastern Ethiopia. This abnormal livestock migration will have negative food security implications in terms of accessibility to livestock and livestock products for the different pastoral wealth groups. As usual, poor wealth groups will be the worst hit.

The imbalance between the density of livestock and the capacity of the boreholes to cover the water requirement for the pastoralist and urban dwellers is becoming a growing problem. Distances between the strategic water points and grazing areas are gradually increasing as most in-between *berkads* have dried up. Consequently, households in Dhahar district of Sanaag region started to truck water to weakened animals, which cannot walk long distances. This also caused stress and reduced livestock productivity in reproductive age females, as shown in the graph below.

Graph 1 : Downward Trends in Livestock Reproduction in the Sool



Source : FSAU

Graph 1 shows a significant reduction of livestock reproduction rates in the Sool Plateau. Since the livelihood of the Plateau's population revolves directly or indirectly around pastoralism, this downward trend will have grave food security implications. In the short term there will be a reduction of milk availability at the household level—hence inadequate diets and malnutrition especially in mothers and children. Asset depletion in the form of fewer animals could therefore be imminent. The long term effect will be the reduction of herds, in terms of numbers of animals and mix of species from necessary levels to sustain pastoralism as a viable way of life. This will put further strain on the rangeland and environment since poor, destitute, drop-out pastoralists (those who lost their livestock assets and those remaining with too few) will try to cope by turning to the collection of bush products, charcoal burning etc. One of the consequences will be the intensification of environmental degradation.

CURRENT FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION SITUATION

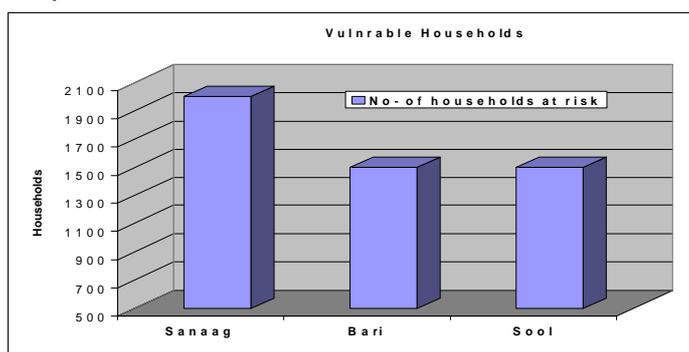
According to the FSAU and Horn Relief, which conducted an assessment in July, a population of approximately 25,000 is currently highly food insecure and facing the risk of malnutrition. The majority of this population, divided amongst the regions, is comprised of poor pastoralists who mainly rely on income derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products.

In May 2002, a nutrition survey was conducted in Sanaag Region that showed a high global acute malnutrition rate of 14% reflecting the effects of the preceding prolonged period of food insecurity. Although the *Gu* rains that followed were not 'normal', they brought some relief to the area. The improvement in food security, including the increased availability of and access to milk is likely to have contributed to the improvement in nutritional status reflected in a more recent assessment (FSAU, July 2002).

It is very likely that the current deterioration in food security will reverse this positive trend and cause the nutritional status to deteriorate again. Water prices have recently increased, putting

more strain on the already poor purchasing power of the poor pastoralists. Other evidence is that milk production/accessibility has fallen to 50% of the baseline level; livestock prices (especially for local quality goats) decreased by half compared with pre-livestock ban prices. Due to the increased number of people seeking jobs, daily wage rates are only 70% of the baseline level. Social and kinship support has also reduced significantly due to the continual deterioration of the living standard in the Sool Plateau population. The highly food insecure population of approximately 25,000 are in need assistance and livelihood support up to the next (*deyr*) rainy season due to commence in October–November 2002. However, later in the year, the movement of pastoralists and their animals should be encouraged back to neighbouring areas (e.g. Nugal, Mudug) and care should be taken over the positioning of relief interventions so as not to disrupt natural migratory patterns. In the final quarter of the year (as shown in the article below) the pasture and water access is expected to improve in surrounding grazing grounds.

Graph 2 : Number of Sool Plateau Households at Risk



Source : FSAU

** See also Sanag & Togdher, Bari and Sool highlights on page 5

CONSENSUS CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2002

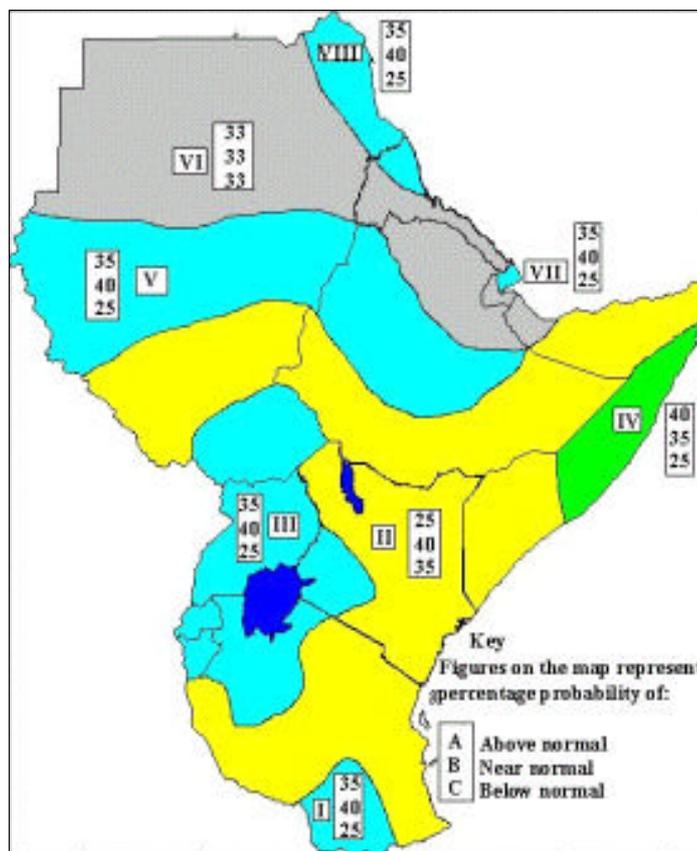
Between August 26-30 2002, the Drought Monitoring Centre in Nairobi (DMCN), convened national and international meteorologists to the 10th Climate Outlook Forum for the Greater Horn of Africa to reach a consensus on the climate outlook for the period between September to December 2002. The Forum's findings indicate that there is an increased likelihood of near normal to below-normal rainfall over much of northern and southern Somalia.(Zone II) There is an enhanced probability of above normal to normal rainfall in most of Mudug, Nugal and Galgaduud regions (Zone IV), which are mostly pastoral areas. The numbers in the map indicate for each zone the probability of :

- (A) above normal rainfall
- (B) near normal rainfall
- (C) Below normal rainfall

The top number indicates the probability of above-rainfall occurring in the four month period; the middle number indicates the probability of near normal rainfall and the bottom number the probability of below-normal rainfall. For example, in southern Somalia (Zone II), there is a 25 percent probability of above normal rainfall; a 40 percent probability of near-normal rainfall; and a 35 percent probability of below-normal rainfall. The outlook is relevant only for the seasonal time scales (September- December 2002) and relatively large areas. It is likely that local and month to month variations will also occur.

During the Forum, the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI), issued a statement forecasting a high likelihood of a weak to moderate El Nino event occurring during the forecast period. As shown in the map, the forecast indicates a high probability of near-normal (40%) to above normal (35%) rainfall over the highlands of Ethiopia. Often heavy rainfall in the Ethiopian highlands is the main cause of flooding in southern Somalia - particularly in the Juba and Shabelle Valleys. High rainfall causes flooding and possible outbreaks of diseases (amongst humans and livestock). Yet, low rainfall also causes detrimental moisture stress in rain-fed agro-pastoral areas and reduces access to water, particularly for livestock and humans.

FIGURE 2. Greater Horn of Africa Consensus Climate Outlook for Rainfall during September to December 2002



SOURCE : Drought Monitoring Centre, Nairobi

LIVESTOCK UPDATES IN NORTH GEDO

BELET HAWA : Short *Gu* rains and the failure of the *Hagai* rains has led to a decline in pasture condition so livestock are moving south. The milk production of the remaining livestock has greatly reduced. Insecurity has restricted milk sales by pastoralists to urban centres. This has resulted in higher prices in and around the towns and lost income for rural groups.

EL WAK : Few livestock remain in the area, many of the animals have moved into Kenya and Juba valley in search of pasture. This results in reduced access to milk for remaining household members.

DOLOW : Declining pasture availability has led to reduced milk availability and subsequently consumption at household level. Purchasing power is similarly weakened with lost income making available food unaffordable amongst the poorer groups.

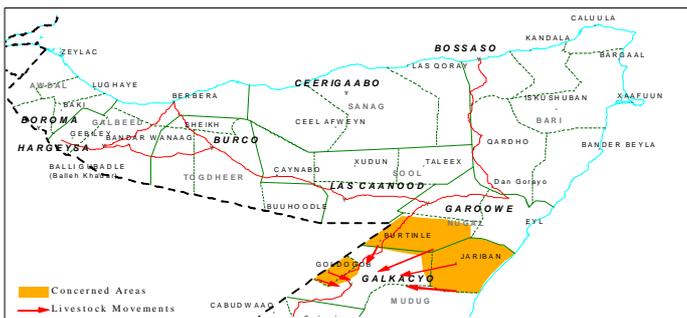
LUUQ : Shoats and camels that were attracted into areas with better grazing resulted in a rapid depletion of pastures but milk prices consequently declined compared to other districts. (See Gedo Highlight on page 6 for more information)

PASTORAL SITUATION IN MUDUG

A large in-migration of livestock (from the Mudug Hawd) has been reported in the southern parts of Goldogob district and along the southern grazing areas of Galkacyo district. The previous *Gu* rains were good in these areas and regenerated pasture and fodder crops. However over grazing and the depletion of water supplies may now become a problem. The FSAU Livestock Officer will be monitoring the situation closely in the coming months.

In Jerriban district, pasture availability has become extremely poor causing livestock body condition to deteriorate. Camels and goats produce little milk or meat. The FSAU Field Monitor reports there has been a worrying increase in the outbreak of epidemic diseases, such as camel pneumonia. The FSAU Livestock Officer reports that in general, livestock diseases occur more frequently when animals are weakened as a result of lack of food or stress due to transportation. It is also likely that between 40-50% of the sheep and goats (shoats) in Jerriban are now infected by Theileriosis, a tick borne disease which subsequently affects the production and marketing of livestock. Insecurity continues to be a constraint to the provision of veterinary services.

FIGURE 2 : PASTORAL SITUATION IN MUDUG



The population of Jerriban is approximately 20,000 people and can be divided into three food economy zones or livelihood groups. Pastoralists (90 percent), Fishermen (5 percent) and urbanites (5 percent). About 80-90 percent of the poor households, about 25-30 percent of the population (or 4,500-5,500 people) have no access to livestock production, or animals to sell - to obtain their food requirements. These poor households are coping by taking up employment as labourers and by receiving food gifts from relatives. Families have also split to overcome livelihood difficulties, some family members moving to urban areas, having sold large numbers of animals and leaving the remaining ones at home with their relatives. There is likely to be an increase in destitution in the near future. The livestock conception rate during the last *Deyr* season was poor and the reproduction rate in the coming *Deyr* season is expected to be below normal as animal reproduction depends upon good pasture and water for a healthy herd, which are not available. (See also South Nugal and North Mudug highlights on page 5)

ESTABLISHING THE PASTORAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GEDO REGION

Funded by the European Community's (Humanitarian Aid Office) and implemented by the NGO's, COOPI and VSF Suisse, the overall objective of the pastoral assistance program is to improve access to food and enhance terms of trade for pastoralists in Gedo Region. The program started in March and is scheduled to last for nine months. The specific project purpose is to strengthen the community based animal health delivery system to improve livestock health and minimize the impact of drought and disease on their productive potential. About 25,000 pastoral families are expected to benefit and up to 250,000 animals are expected to be treated or vaccinated in the region. At least 50 community animal health workers and 10 Assistant Health Workers will also be trained and monitored.

Following a needs assessment in November, a baseline study in the program area was carried out in February, to provide baseline data on livestock conditions and a better understanding of veterinary services in Gedo region. This data will be used for assessing project impact later—and to monitor trends in the livestock sector in the region. The results of the baseline study indicated that the livestock condition in Gedo was extremely poor and that there was an absence of functional and useful animal health care providers in Gedo. Significantly this study found that there were no veterinarians living or working in Gedo, a result later confirmed by the District Commissioner in El Wak.

The project also found an absence of a reliable and effective veterinary drug supply and distribution network in Gedo. Yet pastoralists claim that they are willing and able to meet the full cost of animal health care, assuming that the condition of their livestock and availability of pasture in the region improves. It is not clear whether the absence of a drug supply and distribution network is a practical constraint prohibiting livestock professionals from practicing in Gedo or if the absence of these professionals leads to the lack of veterinary drug supplies. The baseline study noted that there is also a serious risk to the human population of contracting diseases from livestock particularly tuberculosis and brucellosis.

Despite prevailing insecurity in most of northern Gedo, the project was able to start up with only minor delays. Early on, much effort was given to strengthening communication channels with pastoral communities that had been identified during the needs assessment and the baseline study. Pastoralists are placing great emphasis on livestock health not only because of the risks of disease after the long rains, but also because healthier animals give them improved terms of trade.

To obtain a copy of this report and others, please contact Jeanine Cooper VSF-Suisse—Programme Manager on nep.gedo@vsfsuisse.org or 573632 (telephone) and 573517 (fax).

LIVESTOCK EXPORTS MAY– AUGUST 2002

BOSSASSO *	May	June	July	August
CAMEL	744	883	820	170
CATTLE	3470	5470	7610	7740
SHOATS	85310	109900	121490	113300
TOTAL	89,524	116,253	129920	121210
BERBERA **	May	June	July	August
CAMEL	647	2658	1151	3589
CATTLE	N/A	1910	1752	2092
SHOATS	15034	10378	12861	35233 ***
TOTAL	15681	14946	15764	40914

Source *: UNCTAD

Source **: Berbera Port Authority

***The FSAU Livestock Officer reports that shoat exports from Berbera are very high due to diversion of exports from Bossasso for two reasons. Firstly, due to seasonally high tides (between July and September) when small vessels cannot pass through Bossasso's low waters when the tide is out. Secondly, insecurity in the region has disrupted Bossasso livestock markets so traders throughout Puntland and Region V of Ethiopia are taking their animals to Berbera for export. Bossasso's shoat exports may pick up from October.

MARKET PRICES AND TRADE

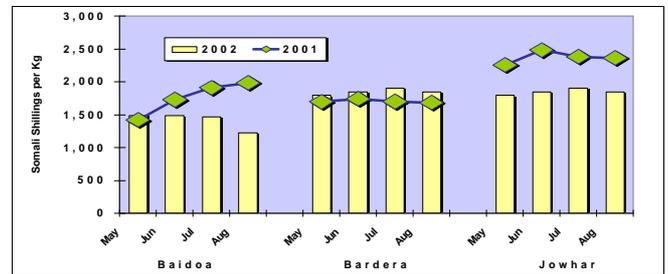
In most years, local cereal prices drop in anticipation of the *gu* harvest, as farmers and traders release old stocks onto the market, and remain low for several months after the harvest. Prices then rise steadily until just before the next harvest, when the price cycle repeats itself.

Fears of Insecurity appear to have impacted on the main production areas and kept prices high in August in most markets monitored. However, in Baidoa, stocks are reported to be plentiful but with outside traders staying away prices remain low. This has been a windfall for poor wealth groups, but a loss of income for farming households who wish to sell. In fact, sorghum prices fell sharply from Ssh 1,250 per kg in July to Ssh 775 in August, a drop of 38 percent. Maize prices decreased more moderately from Ssh 1,486 in July to Ssh 1,225 in August, a 17 percent decrease.

As the graph shows, local maize prices in August this year were lower than prices in August last year in Baidoa (by 38 percent) and Jowhar (22 percent), but somewhat higher than this in Bardera (by 10 percent), reflecting constraints to market access in Gedo Region

and a degree of trade disruption. In comparison with Baidoa, maize prices were fairly stable in recent months in both Bardera and Jowhar. Market stocks in Merka and Dinsoor are reported to be plentiful so cereal prices are lower than those of last year. Low prices in Hagar, Middle Juba, follow a similar pattern.

Comparison of Maize Prices in Baidoa, Bardera and Jowhar : May-August 2001 in Somali Shillings



Source : FEWS NET and FSAU

REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONITORS >> P.5

Every month, the 22 FSAU Field Monitors provide in depth information on food security indicators in their areas. If you would like to obtain a copy of their district reports - please contact alex.williams@fsau.or.ke. The Regional highlights are a summary of this field information.

SANAG & TOGDHEER

Overall, the food security situation of Sanag / Togdheer regions varies from normal, below normal and far below normal. The situation in Sanag is far more serious than in Togdheer. In many areas of Sanag such as Xadeed, Bancadle, Saraar, eastern/southern parts of Erigavo – 70 percent of the poor pastoralists are currently getting by on one or two meals a day instead of three. It is estimated that more than 300 urban households in Erigavo are currently getting only 65-70 percent of normal food requirements per day. Livestock herds in Bancadle plains and Xadeed plateau exhausted the last pockets of pasture, about 60 days ago, as a result of overgrazing. Cattle and camel deaths (which commenced several months ago) are continuing with increasing momentum especially among new borns and milking animals. Milk production in the Sanag plains is poor or negligible, levels which have not been observed in the last fifty years. Water shortages in some parts of the Sool Plateau have caused the level of water in wells and boreholes to drop to new lows. In most areas the average price of 200 litres of water is 40,000 SoSh – too expensive for poor pastoralists. In Sanag and Togdheer, petty trade, import and export activities have declined significantly, over the last month due to the poor purchasing power of the vast majority of the population – pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and poor urban dwellers. All indicators reflecting food security are considerably below normal – animal death rates, reproduction rates, demand for export quality animals, pasture and water availability and household cereal reserves. In the Hawd of Togdheer there are also water shortages and over grazing but the FSAU Field Monitor reports that groups living in this area should manage until the end of September. The agro-pastoralists of Togdheer region who did not receive the *karan* rains are also vulnerable. Many poorer agropastoral groups have depleted assets after several attempts at reseeding and the extra associated costs with additional tillage result from several difficult seasons and the delayed *karan* rains.

NORTH WEST & AWDAL

The *Karan* rains started in the last dekad of July. They have been scattered, sporadic and of varied intensity but are an improvement on the *Gu* rains – and have significantly improved the crop condition, especially the sorghum. The *Karan* rains have also improved pasture and grazing and the livestock body condition is fairly good. Trade links between Djibouti and Somaliland have normalized since the reopening of the border in June. Some livestock traders are taking their animals to Djibouti where they are taken on to Gulf countries. Hence the purchasing power of people is expected to be strengthened. Construction activities are providing employment opportunities and in both regions the sale of charcoal has been observed as a coping mechanism.

BARI REGION

There has been widespread water shortages over the primary grazing areas of Iskushuban and B/Beyla areas. The areas affected are Uur Aleed, Aboob, Karkaara Hoose, Sarmaan Qoodad, Kodmo madow, Lyah of Beyla. Dry *Hagai* winds reduced soil moisture and vegetation dried up quickly. Approximately 70-80 per cent of *berkads* in Dharoor and Sool are empty. Private tankers are bringing water in and its expensive. Mobile herds have moved to boreholes where livestock feed is sparse. Recent fighting occurred in Gardo and increased road blocks between Garowe and Bossaso town have disrupted market accessibility and reduced human mobility but have not restricted livestock migration patterns and access to resources. Livestock traders have initiated links with the camel markets in Libya – 850 heads had been shipped at the end of August. The Sool plateau and Reebiyoo and Ruuman depressions had failed rains in *Gu* 2002 and *Deyr* 2001 – the *Deyr* rains in 2002 will be critical for survival.

SOUTH NUGAL & NORTH MUDUG

The situation is particularly poor in the upper and eastern Burtinle Hawd and northern Jerriban district villages, where in some cases, settlements have been abandoned due to pasture depletion and water deficit. On top of this - the chaotic political situation has affected trade routes and supply, causing cereal prices to rise in markets. The large migration of livestock population to the southern part of Goldogob and nearby villages has also brought associated environmental problems and has put pressure on the boreholes in the area. Overall the food security situation in the area has worsened due to the poor *Gu* seasonal rainfall, followed by the prolonged *Hagai* season, which has left water levels low, particularly in *berkads*. Water trucking has started in some of the most remote areas in northern Hawd and Addun and prices are high, up to 30,000-40,000 Somali shillings a drum.

SOOL (and the Buhoodle Hawd)

Food insecurity in the previously vulnerable areas of the Sool plateau continue, north of Ainabo district and parts of lower Nugal valley. Livestock body condition has deteriorated and there are significant deaths within herds. In Buhoodle Hawd, the level of water in *berkads* is poor. Prices for water increased and herds out-migrated to the west and Nugaal valley. There are significant shortfalls of milk and other dairy products. One litre of milk is now costing 14,00 SoSI in main markets as compared to 5,000-6,000 SoSI a litre last year. The supply situation of most imported cereals is normal, however cheap sorghum and maize is in short supply in all areas. There is grazing scarcity amongst pastoral groups due to poor *gu* rains. Overall livestock productivity has declined over the last 2-3 seasons and the cumulative effects are being felt in pastoral communities. Camels are particularly badly affected by malnourishment and if *deyr* rains do not start on time, the consequences will be devastating.

>> P.6 REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONTIORS

GEDO

In south Gedo livestock conditions are reported to be normal. In other parts of the region livestock numbers have reduced (see migration details below). In northern Gedo livestock are far from water and grazing areas and there are long distances to be travelled between the two, reducing milk access for urban and less mobile groups. In northern districts about 60 percent of the camel migrated and about 10-15 percent returned. About 80 percent of the cattle left during the drought but only 10-20 percent have returned. Shoats did not tend to move during the drought but the concern is where to graze them because of insecurity. Poor pastoralists are reported to have adapted through increasing labour migration, begging, petty trade, borrowing, gifts from relatives, collection of firewood and charcoal burning. Cereal availability is reported to have improved although still unaffordable for poorer groups.

HIRAN

Adverse weather conditions are prevailing throughout the region, while the overall food security situation remains below normal in all food economy groups. The expected harvest and cereal supplies from neighboring regions has not been good, thus accelerating the vulnerability of the area. Crop production has been affected by poor rainfall during the *Gu* season and the subsequent prolonged dry spell and the current bad harvests in both rain fed and irrigated areas of the region. This has already led to depleted stock levels for all crop producing FEG's, especially poor households where intra household movements and split families have already been observed earlier than expected. In pastoral areas the current livestock body condition continues to deteriorate as pasture and grazing opportunities are limited. Cattle have been particularly badly affected and many are hand fed, imposing higher fodder expenses on poor agro pastoral and riverine groups whose income opportunities have been badly affected by the adverse climatic conditions. Market accessibility for all groups remains satisfactory and purchasing power of the majority is manageable.

MIDDLE SHABELLE

The general weather conditions in the region continue to be hot and dry. The failed *Hagai* showers in the region negatively affected the overall crop and livestock production. This has also led to widespread pastoralist movement within the region in search of better grazing opportunities. Camel and goats remain in the browsing areas of the region while cattle moved into the riverine areas where they feed on crop residues. Sheep are restricted to the coastal plains which had very poor *Hagai* rains. Apart from the failure of the *Hagai* rains, crops also suffered from stalk borer, smuts and aphid attacks which decimated the expected harvests of the region. Although food is available in the market, supplies of maize, sorghum and cowpeas are below normal, leading to price increases of up to 45% for some of these commodities.

BAY

Light and localized *hagai* rains still continue to be received in all parts of the region, improving rangelands. Baidoa rain gauge collected 25 mm of rainfall this month. The crop production of the region was good, due to good *Gu* rainfall and the continued *hagai* rains soon after - and has helped local farmers boost their production, despite sporadic insecurity. Once, insecurity subsides, there are likely to be large cereal demands from the neighboring regions which may rapidly deplete the reserves of the current good harvest. Livestock conditions are good and normal seasonal migration is taking place towards rain fed areas - mainly within the region - but to neighboring areas too. Significantly the Bakol pastoralists are not moving into the region because of insecurity. The overall security situation of the region is fragile but calm and Baidoa town remains the most affected.

BAKOL

The food security situation continued to deteriorate in most parts of the region as a result of the poor and erratic *Gu* and *Hagai* rains. The situation was further worsened by the migration of displaced people from Bay region. The overall crop production in the region was extremely poor. Employment and income opportunities for the poor from agricultural related activities were therefore minimal. The migration of poor groups in Bakool region to Bay has not been possible due to the insecurity in Bay and has severely limited coping strategies. Current camel and goat condition are normal, however, cattle condition continued to deteriorate. Cattle productivity was poor and milk prices for the month are relatively high. Though terms of trade for pastoral groups remained favourable, it was nevertheless bad for poor pastoralists and agro pastoralists. Poor employment opportunities, higher staple food prices, and the unfavourable dollar rates affecting imported commodities has made the poor particularly vulnerable.

LOWER SHABELLE

With the exception of some areas (Afgoye and Merca) the overall food security situation of the region is good. Most parts of the region had a very good *Gu* harvest and fair livestock production. Browsing for camels is available inland, while cattle and shoats are concentrated along the riverine areas where they feed on crop stalks and fields. The late *Hagai* rains along the coastal areas of Brava and parts of K/ waley districts have helped sesame cultivation. Maize prices in most markets dropped from last month's average except for Afgoye as the supply of maize remained low. Cowpea prices are high in the whole region due to crop failure. Prices for all imported food items have not eased during the last two months and remain high. The recent fighting in Qoriyoley has led to crop looting and displacement of the Bantu groups in the riverine villages and will affect food security in the area. The villages include Abdi-Ali, M-farah, Gorgaal, Armoy, Mombasa, Afgoye-yarey and Idow gudow. The security situation of the region continues to deteriorate because of clan conflicts and cattle rustling.

JUBA VALLEY

The overall food security situation in Juba valley is mixed. It is fair for pastoral and riverine groups and below normal for agro pastoral groups especially in Buale and Sakow (including eastern part of Jilib). Inland, weather conditions remain dry and cool while lower Juba coastal areas received *hagai* rains as normal. Crop production in the area has been hampered by adverse conditions prevailing in all parts of the rain-fed areas, varying from moisture stress to severe bird attacks which have significantly affecting expected crop production output. Poor agro pastoral households have already taken their supplies to local markets which have lowered the price of local cereals by 30% for sorghum and 25% for maize. Traders have been encouraged by the low prices and purchased - bulk loads. This may create stock depletion in parts of the area and worries about food availability are forseen.

GALGADUD

The food security situation is normal. There is pasture and grazing availability. The current livestock trade and sales is good for the poorer households as they can derive some needed income from these activities. There is also good supply of food which helps to stabilize food prices and therefore overall terms of trade and food availability for most pastoralists is quite good. The weather is dry and hot with no rain although in parts of Elbur and Dusamareb some small showers have occurred. Livestock has concentrated around water points which is putting increasing pressure on them. The current conflict in Bosasso and poor communications with Mogadishu have limited the fuel supply to the region. Water and fuel prices have therefore increased.

COWPEA BELT

The general food security situation is worsening in terms of food purchases, water prices, pasture availability, livestock sales and crop production. Most parts of the region received no rain although some light showers were received along the coastal districts of the region. Water for both people and livestock is scarce in the interior and water prices even around boreholes and *berkads* has increased. A barrel of water now costs around 20-30,000 SoSh in many parts of the region. The general livestock condition is poor due to lack of good pasture. The vegetation consists of dry shrubs and grasses and little browsing opportunities. Livestock production is below normal and in comparison to last month, the terms of trade are much worse. Livestock health conditions does not seem good and tick born diseases need close monitoring. The region experienced poor crop production because of the poor *hagai* rains and heavy winds. The regions poor harvests will put strain on stocks and if the situation does not improve will badly affect the agro-pastoral groups in the area.