

Latest findings from a joint assessment by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia (FSNAU), the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and other partners indicate that an estimated 1 025 000 people across Somalia are experiencing acute food security Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) from August to December 2014. Over 2.1 million additional people are in acute food insecurity Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions. The findings also indicate that an estimated 218 000 children under the age of five are acutely malnourished, 43 800 of them severely malnourished and at even higher risk of morbidity and death (prevalence). These numbers of malnourished children are expected to increase to 393 000 and 76 800, respectively by the end of the year (incidence).

**A Comparison of Key Indicators between the Pre-Famine Period (pre-Gu 2011), Famine (Gu 2011) and Recent Seasons:**

Key Indicators for Comparison	Deyr 2009/10	Gu 2010	Deyr 2010/11	Gu 2011 (Famine)	Gu 2013	Deyr 13/14	Gu 2014	Deyr 2014/15
Climate/rainfall in southern regions	Near to above normal rainfall	Normal to above normal rainfall	Below normal	Below normal	Near to above normal	Mostly near to above normal	Mostly near to below normal	Near to above normal rainfall forecast (El Nino)
			Worst drought in 60 years (La Nina)					
Cereal crop production in southern regions (Tonnes)	126 400	198 200	17 900	48 500	128 200	87 800	89 500	
Consumer Price Index (CPI) for southern regions (March 2007=100)	192	215	254	358	187	211	235	
Average cereal price for southern regions	7 240	8 490	12 162	18 789	7 113	7 719	11 099	
Average daily labour wage for southern regions (in Somali Shillings)	82 497	86 905	75 720	69 951	92 126	87 604	84 399	
Average Terms of Trade (daily labour wage to cereals) for southern regions in Kilograms	11.4	10.2	6.2	3.7	13.0	11.3	7.6	
Average local goat price for southern regions (Thousands of Somali Shillings)	804.2	923.3	653.1	613.7	1 129.0	1 143.8	1 042.9	
Median Global Acute Malnutrition-GAM rates (South-central)	21.2	15.95	25.85	39.5	16.1	15.1	17.3	
Median Severe Acute Malnutrition-SAM rates (South-central)	5.4	2.05	5.2	17.2	3.9	2.8	3.7	
Median Crude Death Rate-CDR (South-central)	0.9	0.80	0.34	1.85	0.38	0.76	0.6	
Humanitarian access in Southern Somalia (# of districts with access coefficient 1-10)	Dec 2009: 16	Jun 2010: 12	Nov 2010: 25	Jun 2011: 22	Mar 2013: 22	Sep 2013: 22	Jun 2014: 24	
Actual funding for humanitarian assistance requirement as stated in UN Consolidated Appeals (CAPs)	as % of UN CAP requirements	2009: 66%	2010: 69%	2011: 89%	2013: 48%		Jul 2014: 29%	
	In Millions of US \$	2009: 663.9	2010: 490.8	2011: 1 350.0	2013: 714.4		July 2014: 458.4	

**Notes:** 1/Gu is the main rainy season in Somalia that extends from April to June; Deyr is the secondary rainy season from October to December. 2/ Prices and Terms of Trade (TOT) are for December and July of each year. 3/Access coefficient 1-10=access extremely restricted/denied (data source: OCHA reports and maps).4/Data source for humanitarian assistance: OCHA Financial Tracking Service.

At present, there are no famine conditions anywhere in Somalia, nor are they imminent. However, the current trajectory of key food security and nutrition related indicators is a major concern (see table above). Several of the indicators observed in Gu 2014 are worse or as bad as they were in Gu 2010 - one year before the famine declaration of July 2011. In order to mitigate this situation, 1) timely and adequate delivery of life saving humanitarian assistance between now and the end of the year, 2) timely arrival of the expected near to above normal Deyr (October-December) rains, and 3) improved humanitarian access and easing of the siege that continues to disrupt trade flow into urban areas recently recaptured by the Government will be crucial.

During the 2011 famine, an estimated 258 000 people died in the context of a severe drought, large-scale food insecurity and in the absence of a timely and adequate humanitarian response. One of the key lessons from the 2011 famine is that an early action, based on available early warning information, could have prevented some of these deaths. Similarly, the need for early action now to avert a further deterioration of the current food security and nutrition situation across Somalia is critical.