

OVERVIEW

- An overall improvement in the nutrition situation in **Northern Somalia** and **Hiran Region** is related to the ongoing interventions and the recent improvement in food security.
- Humanitarian inaccessibility due to insecurity in Gedo continues to affect the population wellbeing.
- Security related displacement in Bakool Region has had a negative impact on the population's nutrition status.

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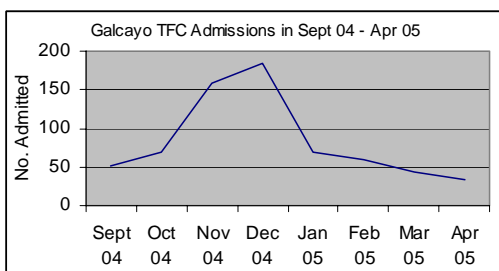
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GALCAYO: Reduced TFC admissions as interventions continue

Following a dramatic increase in admissions in the final quarter of 2004, the trend of admissions of severely malnourished children into the MSF Holland managed Galcayo TFC has continued to decline from 70 in January to 33 in April (see graph). The declining number of admissions is mainly attributed to humanitarian response in terms of food, non food items and cash assistance and partially to the food security improvement after the 2004/05 deyr season (improved access to milk and milk products) and recent gu rains that further improved water availability. The cash transfer projects managed by Horn Relief and Oxfam GB in Togdheer and Sanaag have also helped to offset debts and in food purchase. Among current admissions, inadequate dietary intake and presence of disease are the risk factors associated with severe malnutrition.

MSF Holland also manages a supplementary feeding programme targeting moderately malnourished children (70% ≥ W/H < 80%), a take home ration of rice, maize and oil to the family with malnourished children (support by WFP) and an outpatient clinic. Beneficiaries come from areas faced with humanitarian emergency or livelihood crises (FSAU 2005 Post Deyr Analysis).

Analysis of data indicates that for the 77 TFC admissions for March –April 2005, the majority originated from Galcayo district (36%), Zone 5 of Ethiopia (27%) and Galgaduud (14%). Others came from Nugal (9%), Jerriban (4%), Buhodle (3%), Togdheer (3%), Goldogob (3%) and Bossasso (1%). The situation in these areas of origin is discussed below.

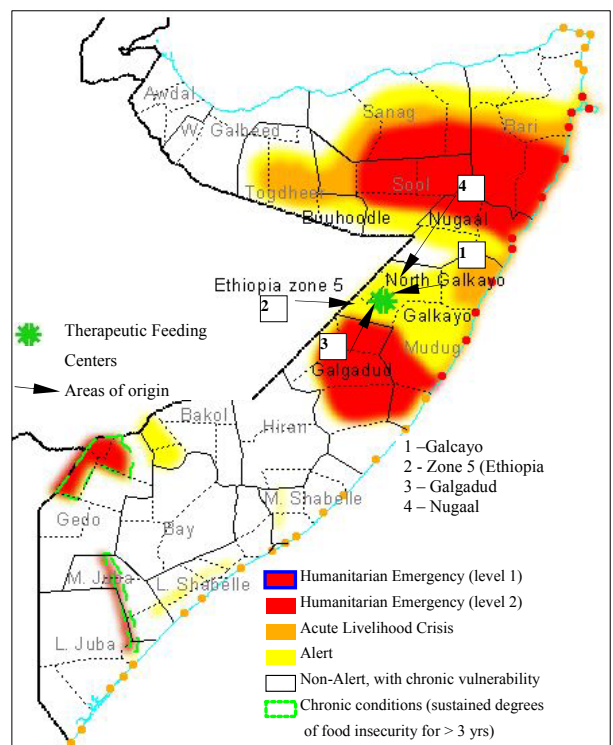


1. Galcayo: Most of the cases are from internally displaced families faced with food insecurity and disease (diarrhoea and ARI). Sanitation in Galcayo town is poor and has

deteriorated in the wet season, leading to contamination of some water points and a resulting increase in cases of diarrhoea and acute malnutrition.

2. Zone 5 of Ethiopia: A slight improvement in the access to milk and milk products following increased kidding and calving has contributed to some improvement in the nutrition situation.

Unfortunately, access to health services by the pastoral communities is still limited, leading to high disease incidences (mainly diarrhoea and ARI) and acute malnutrition. This situation continues to be aggravated by the constant stressful food security situation in Zone 5 region.



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PARTNERS INCLUDE MOHL SOMALILAND, MOSA PUNTLAND, FAO, UNICEF, WHO, SRCS/ICRC, SCRS/IFRC, WVI, GHC, IMC, MSF-S, COSV, AAH, MUSLIM AID-UK, INTERSOS, CISP, ZAMZAM FOUNDATION, COMMUNITIES OF WABERI, HAMARWEIN AND HAMAR JABJAB, ACF, COOPI, MSF-H, MSF-B.

3. Galgadud: The basic causes of malnutrition in Galgadud are related to civil insecurity. Since critical levels of malnutrition were recorded late last year (rapid assessments and nutrition survey¹), interventions have been limited by poor access.

4. Nugal, Toghdeer, Buhodle and Jerriban: Humanitarian assistance since February 2005 has increased access of the population to food and non-food items, improving dietary intake. Livestock recovery has increased access to milk and milk products with an associated improvement in nutritional status.

The situation analysis of the areas of origin of TFC beneficiaries indicates that an integrated approach which includes peace building and conflict resolution, household food insecurity and primary health care is crucial.

SOOL / LOWER NUGAAL: Improvement in nutrition situation

The nutrition situation in both Sool Plateau and Lower Nugaal Valley is gradually improving. Health facilities in the area (e.g. Huddun MCH) indicate declining malnutrition levels among children screened monthly. No notable increase in common diseases has been observed. The improvement in nutritional status is mainly attributed to the recovery in the overall food security and continued humanitarian support. Since April 2005, kidding of shoats begun and is above normal. This has increased milk and ghee availability at household level, adding further to the diversity and quality of the diet.

Since February 2005, several agencies have undertaken humanitarian interventions in Sool Plateau and Lower Nugaal Valley consisting of free food distributions and food for work (WFP), cash distribution (Horn Relief), cash for work (Horn Relief, CARE and NPA), health and nutrition interventions (UNICEF) and distribution of non food items e.g. blankets, plastic sheets and water containers (UNICEF and UNHCR). Social support networks and interventions from local NGOs continue to make a significant positive contribution.

FSAU, UNICEF and MOHL in collaboration with partners in Northwest Somalia plan to undertake a nutrition survey in June 2005 covering Taleex and Huddun Districts, Sool Region.

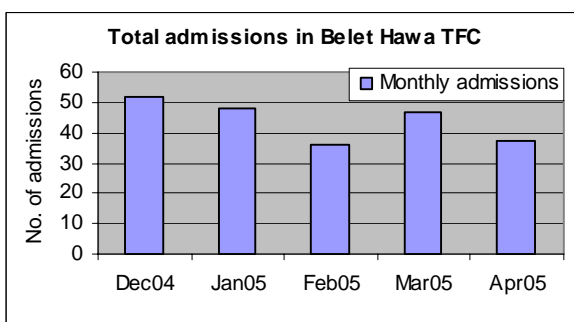
TOGDHEER REGION: Low levels of malnutrition

Since December 2004, information from MCH screening, interventions and the overall food security situation suggests that the nutrition situation in Toghdeer region remains within the range considered typical of that area in recent years (under 10% GAM). This is attributed to social support and humanitarian assistance in parts of Toghdeer that recently encountered an acute livelihood crisis or an 'alert' situation. WFP has been providing a general ration in targeted villages; UNICEF and SCF have been distributing supplementary foods, and OXFAM and Novib through Havayoco and Candlelight support cash transfer activities.

The onset of the *Gu* rains in April 2005 has improved water availability and pasture regeneration. Increased calving and kidding has improved milk availability. The heavy rains however caused flooding that led to displacements, destruction of property, dilapidation of infrastructure and increased vulnerability to many households. The area has also experienced high incidences of diarrhoeal diseases and ARI. Measles cases are still reported among the returnees/IDPs in the resettlement sites.

GEDO: Insecurity hinders humanitarian access causing nutrition crisis

The 2004/05 deyr season improved the pastoral livelihoods in Gedo. However, the situation has not changed significantly in Northern Gedo (Belet Hawa, Dolow and Luuq districts) particularly among poor urban and agro-pastoralist that lost assets in the past four to five years. Significantly high levels of malnutrition have been recorded in Luuq and Belet Hawa MCH centres



with surveillance data from each of the centres recording over 30% malnutrition of the estimated 100 children screened monthly. High numbers of admissions in the GHC managed Belet-Hawa therapeutic feeding centre continue. An average of forty severely malnourished children was admitted monthly to Belet Hawa TFC for the past five months, as shown in the chart.

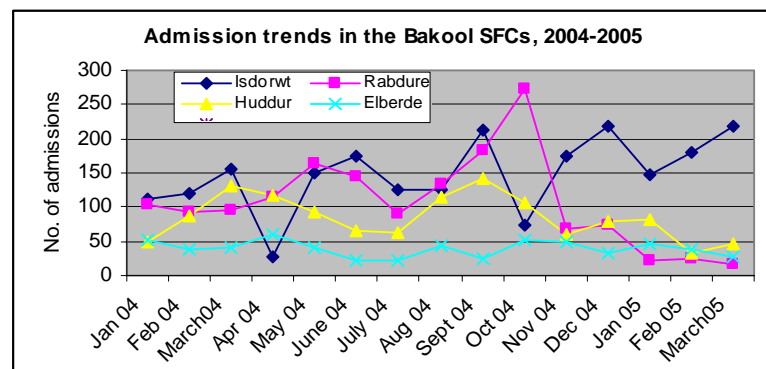
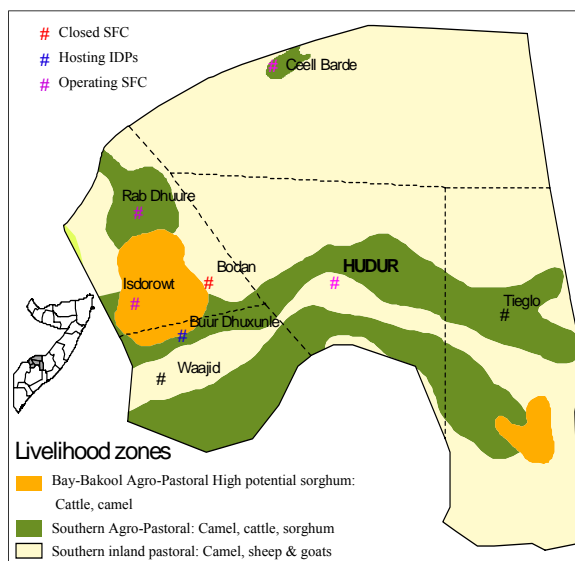
Recent displacement and limited access by humanitarian agencies may result in deterioration of the nutrition situation of this chronically vulnerable population. About 60 households have however, returned to Elwak (from Busaar, Garsaal, Dhamase and Faafahduun) as the security situation gradually improves. ICRC has organised missions

to conflict hit areas of Elwak in mid April to establish the magnitude of the humanitarian needs of the IDPs.

¹ Global acute malnutrition rates (W/H < - 2 Z score or oedema) of 20.5% were recorded in the Sept 2004 nutrition survey.

BAKOOL: Malnutrition persists as populations are displaced

The nutrition situation in Bakool region has been poor despite the relatively good deyr 2004/05 harvests and the ongoing interventions. Some pockets in Bakool experienced suboptimal crop production due to excessive deyr rains that led to crop destruction, pests attack and poor performance of the ratoons². High proportions of malnourished cases continue to be recorded at the MCH centres. About 40% of the estimated 700-800 children screened in Rabdure MCH between in January 2005 and March 2005 were malnourished while about half of the 400-500 children screened monthly in the same period were also malnourished. High numbers of children are screened in Huddur, Rabdure and Elberde MCH centres mainly due to the ongoing UNICEF/WFP/IMC sponsored supplementary feeding programmes. Blended foods and family rations are distributed to the moderately malnourished children (70% \geq w/h < 80%) and their households respectively while a comprehensive health package is offered to all the children screened. Severely malnourished children (mainly from Isdorwt) are referred to the MSF-Belgium managed TFC in Huddur. Malnourished cases are followed up through these MCH centres hence higher proportions of malnutrition being recorded through regular screening activities in these MCHs.



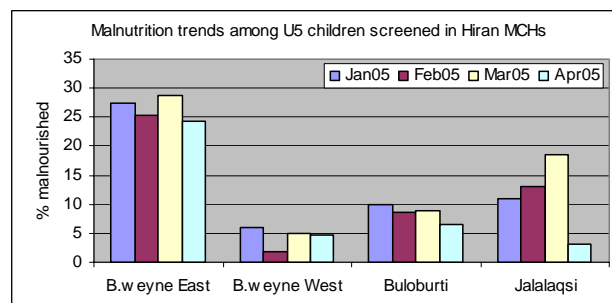
MCH, SFP and other information suggests that levels of malnutrition in Rabdure and Wajiid districts are increasing above levels usually seen in these areas i.e. 15-19.9% W/H. The recent displacement from Elberde and Rabdure districts into Buurdhuhunle / Isdorwt area has worsened the situation (April 2005, Nutrition Update) and malnourished children from Wajiid and other parts of Rabdure have been seeking humanitarian assistance at the Isdorwt SFC³. The closure of Bodan SFC in mid 2004 (due to insecurity) and the population displacement has led to concentration of populations around Isdorwt area,

hence the increased incidences of moderately malnourished children in Isdorwt (218 admissions in March 2005 compared to the usual 150). As shown in the graph, there is a reduction in admissions in the other SFCs.

Food insecurity (especially limited diet diversity) and diseases have been associated with high levels of malnutrition in Bakool Region. Additional aggravating factors like conflict, poor water and sanitation, childcare issues and interruption of humanitarian assistance worsen the situation. In March 2005, increased cases of acute respiratory infection and diarrhoea were recorded in border areas of Wajiid and Rabdure (the host area of some IDPs). FSAU and partners will continue to monitor the situation closely as well as establishing the situation among the displaced.

HIRAN: Low levels of malnutrition

Following the near normal *Gu* 2004 crop production and the exceptionally good cereal production during the deyr 2004/05 season, the food availability and access in Hiran has been good (2004 Post Gu Analysis, Technical series, Sept 2004 and 2005 Post Deyr Analysis, Technical Series, Feb 2005). Pasture recovery in the past seasons and improvement in livestock body conditions have led to increased milk, meat and ghee availability. The majority of the residents in urban areas consume three meals in a day while their rural counterparts consume twice. The diet mainly consists of maize, sorghum, rice, meat (mainly camel meat), beans and milk and milk products. Consequently, the nutrition situation for the majority of the Hiran population has generally improved with relatively lower malnutrition rates recorded in the MCH centres within the region (see graph). Exceptionally,



² Crop stumps from the previous cropping season

³ Isdorwt beneficiaries come from Wardhujiley, Burdhuhunle, Bansofe, Alemow, Garsaley, Eljedow and Wajiid town.

the poor wealth group has limited access to a diversified diet and make ends meet by selling handcrafts and bush products. The poor consume sweet potatoes which are grown along the river, unlike the other wealth groups. Seasonal scarcity of milk and milk products in Jalalaqsi (during the Jilaal season) has been associated with the increasing trends in malnutrition in that area.

High monthly attendance (600 - 800 children) and proportions of malnutrition (about 25%) are recorded in the Beletweyne East MCH due to the follow up activities of some malnourished children. Supplementary feeding and comprehensive health services are offered at Beletweyne East MCH. About 200 children are screened monthly in Beletweyne West MCH, 170 in Bulu Burti and 100 in Jalalaqsi. Currently common diseases especially diarrhoea, ARI, malaria and intestinal worms are the main factors associated with malnutrition in Hiran. The late May 2005 flooding may increase risk for water borne disease in the area.

PROPOSED NUTRITION SURVEY PLAN FOR 2005

Dates	Region	Area	Organisations	Status 26 th May 2005
June 2005	Sool	Taleh / Huddun Districts	FSAU/UNICEF/MOHL	Planning in progress
June 2005	Bari	Dangoroyo / Eyl Districts	FSAU/ UNICEF/MOH	To be confirmed
July 2005	Bay	Berdaale District	FSAU/UNICEF/SRCS	Proposed
July 2005	Bari	Goldogob District	UNICEF/FSAU/MOH	Proposed
July 2005	Galbeed	Hargeisa Resettlement camp	FSAU/ UNICEF/MOHL	Proposed
July 2005	M. Juba	Jilib Riverine	FSAU/SRCS/UNICEF/MSF-H	Proposed
August 2005	Bakool	Rabdure District	FSAU / UNICEF/ IMC/ MSF- B	Proposed
Sept 2005	Bari	Ishkushban/Alula/Kandala	FSAU/MOH/UNICEF	Proposed
Sept 2005	Nugal	Gardo/Bander Beyla Districts	UNICEF/FSAU/MOH	Proposed
Sept 2005	Togdheer	Hawd of Togdheer	FSAU/MOHL/SCRS	Proposed
Nov 2005	Gedo	Belet Hawa or Luuq	FSAU/UNICEF/CARE/ GHC	Proposed
2005	Benadir	Mogadishu	ACF	Proposed

TRAINING COURSES

- AMREF International Training Centre, Nairobi, is offering a series of short courses on health and related fields in 2005 and a one year Diploma course in Community Health. Details on www.amref.org/shortcourses.htm
- AMREF Directorate of Learning System announces the 3rd edition of Health System Research Course to be held from 6th – 24th June 2005. Details at www.amref.org/shortcourses.htm
- MEASURE Evaluation and Addis Ababa University have a Regional Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation of Population, Health and Nutrition programmes: 1st – 19th August 2005. Details at www.cpc.unc.edu/measure

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- FSAU Food Security and Nutrition May 2005 Monthly Brief
- FSAU/FEWSNET Market Data Update, May 2005
- FSAU/FEWSNET Climate Data Update, May 2005
- FEWSNET Food Security Update, May 2005
- FEWSNET-Somalia: Rain-watch, May 2005
- FEWSNET-Somalia/SWALIMS: Flood Bulletin, May 2005

WEBSITES

This 'Nutrition Update', along with other relevant materials, is available on:
Relief Web. <http://www.reliefweb.int>
FSAU's website: www.fsau.org will be available in May 2005



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