

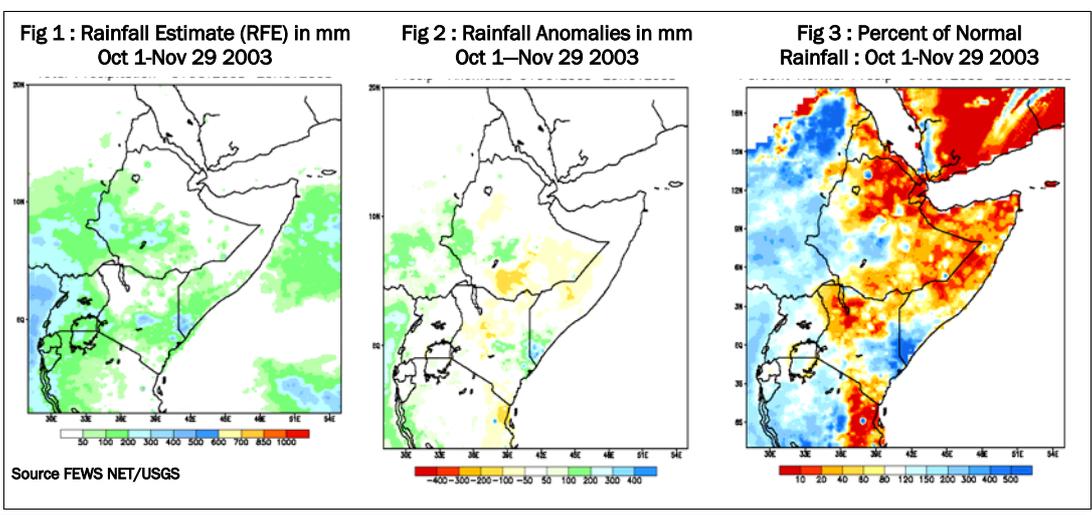
**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Sool Plateau Update:** The short *Deyr* rains have failed on the Sool Plateau and the next rainfall is not expected until April 2004. This is the seventh consecutive rainfall season to fail. A UN emergency assessment determined that over 90,000 pastoralists are now facing an emergency food security situation due to loss of livestock (roughly 60% of herds have died or been sold in distress) and loss of income from livestock and milk sales. An immediate and coordinated response from local authorities and the international community is needed to avert a humanitarian disaster. (see <http://www.unsomaliam.net/FSAU/index.htm> and page 4 for further details.)
- **Poor *Deyr* Rainfall Performance in Northern and Central Regions will have further detrimental impact on Pastoral Conditions:** By sharply reducing the availability of water and pasture, the poor or failed *Deyr* rains have adversely affected pastoralists in 1) the *Hawd* (incorporating the *Hawd* Togdheer, *Hawd* of Hargeisa, *Hawd* of Mudug and the *Hawd* running along the Ethiopia/Somalia border), 2) the North East of Somalia (Sool Plateau, Gebi Valley, Nugal Valley and Kakaar-Dharoor Valley) and 3) the Addun pastoral area in the central regions of Galgadud, Mudug and parts of Nugal. Conditions in these pastoral areas will require close monitoring in the coming weeks. (See article on page 2.)
- ***Deyr* Crop Establishment Progress in South Somalia :** The rains started late but latest field reports and remote sensing analysis suggest that maize and sorghum are currently at establishment stage and making progress in most agricultural areas apart from Hiran and pockets of Bakol. Only if rainfall stops prior to the critical grain filling stage in December will the *Deyr* season become a complete failure. FSAU is monitoring closely.
- **Civil Insecurity :** During November, civil insecurity in Galgadud continued to expose vulnerable groups to increased food insecurity. Some pastoralists have migrated away from the conflict area, reducing their grazing options. Those that have remained behind are expected to become extremely food insecure. IRIN reports that elders in the area say that 2,000 families are already displaced and are now living in the open without shelter and little access to food. The situation is compounded by the poor *Deyr* 2003 rains. In Lower Shabelle (Merca) continued militia tensions are creating unstable conditions with ominous implications for food security. Such conditions can cause increases on levies on commodities being transported by road (increasing consumer prices) and these kind of tensions can also affect the supply and demand of cereals, to and from, markets. Civil insecurity in October, close to Baidoa, led to an assessment by WFP, UNICEF, World Vision and ACF during November which found that up to 6,000 persons are estimated to have been displaced from civil insecurity in the area. For a copy of this Rapid Assessment, please contact Action Contre la Faim : [aicf@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:aicf@africaonline.co.ke)
- **Closure of Garissa Cattle Market and Food Security Implications:** Due to the discovery of a mild form of rinderpest in cattle in Kenya near the Kenya/Somali border, veterinary authorities closed the Garissa cattle market on October 15. This has adversely affected the local population in a number of ways but in particular by limiting income and employment opportunities. In Somalia this market closure has led to decreased cattle prices and increased imported commodity prices. (For a copy of the latest in depth report on the cattle market closure, please contact FEWS-Net: [mawdahir@fews.net](mailto:mawdahir@fews.net).)
- **Post-*Deyr* Assessment:** FSAU intends to carry out a Post-*Deyr* Assessment in early 2004, examining agricultural and pastoralist conditions throughout Somalia, and identifying key areas for increased monitoring and contingency and response planning.

**Summary of 'Deyr' Rainfall Performance**

- The *Deyr* is the secondary rainy season in Somalia that begins in October and ends in December. *Deyr* rains break the long dry spell after the *Gu* rains end in June until the *Gu* rains resume in April. *Deyr* rains are thus critical for both crops and livestock.
- For the time period October 1st to November 29th (the bulk of the *Deyr* rainfall season), the total rainfall, anomalies, and percent of normal are shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Figure 3 indicates that cumulative *Deyr* 2003 rainfall has all but failed in northern and central pastoral areas, with some pastoral areas only receiving 10-20% of normal rainfall.
- One of the most common coping mechanisms of pastoralists is migration to areas with better water and pasture but conditions in neighboring Ethiopia are similarly poor. Late and scanty rains in Region Five of Ethiopia have not greatly helped the many Somali pastoralists from the *Hawd* of Togdheer and Hargeisa who have moved to Warder Zone of Region Five in search of pasture and water.

- In southern Somalia, where the main livelihoods revolve around farming and agropastoralism, the rains have been relatively good, ranging from 80-120% of normal. These near-normal rains are likely to boost the performance of crop and livestock production.



FSAU's Key Funding Agencies :

European Commission



United States Agency for International Development

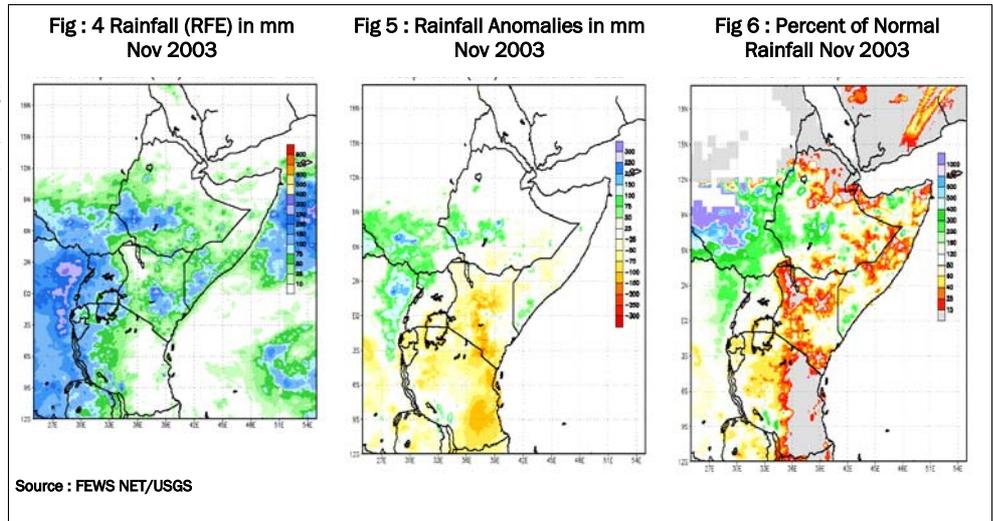


FSAU's Key Technical Partners :



World Food Programme

- Field reports also indicate that parts of Bay, Lower and Middle Shabelle, and Gedo regions received good late Deyr rains. Increased fodder and cereal production will improve household access to food and income sources.
- The sequence of rainfall within a season is also critical. Crops that germinated and established during October require steady precipitation during November for growth and development. Figure 5 shows estimated rainfall in November (note different scale from Figure 1). Figure 5 shows that rainfall anomalies were not as pronounced in November as in October-November, indicating that most rainfall shortages occurred in October, as widely perceived. Rainfall in November was mainly above normal in extreme southern Somalia. Figure 6 shows percent of normal rainfall during November, again suggesting better rainfall in November (though the scales are not directly comparable between Figure 3 and Figure 6). November rainfall was above normal in parts of southern Somalia and some pockets in the north.



**Concern for Widespread Pastoral Stress**

Much of Central and Northern Somalia pastoral areas are experiencing at least two seasons of below normal rainfall, as illustrated in Fig 7, which shows percent deviation from normal rainfall for the combined Gu and Deyr seasons. This is further highlighted with Fig 8 and 9, which show negative deviations for both NDVI and rainfall in the pastoral areas of Galgaduud and Togdheer.

**Hawd (Togdheer, Hargeisa, Mudug and border area Hawd between Somalia and Ethiopia)**

- Hawd of Togdheer** : Poor rainfall and a lack of availability of fodder and water prompted pastoral households to migrate to Ethiopia's Region V, (Warder Zone) which has also had Deyr rain failure.
- Region V of Ethiopia** : Reports from the Regional Disaster and Prevention Bureau, Ethiopia, on November 30 have said of Warder zone in Region V: 'There has been little or no rain reported so far and the water and food security situation is poor'. It should be noted, however, that there are some deep permanent wells known as Dollo in Warder district. The Somalis have a saying : 'Deyr la waayey Dollo loo raac' which means 'if the Deyr goes missing, head for Dollo'.
- Hawd of Hargeisa** : Deyr rains failed in Hawd of Hargeisa. Many pastoralists moved to either Ethiopia or the highlands (Golis mountains) where rains were good. Livestock in the highland pastoral zone are in good condition and the field monitor reports no diseases. Other pastoralists are reported to have moved to Gebiley, Kalabaydh, Togwajale and Allaybady agro-pastoral areas where they can find fodder. The coastal belt in North East Somalia has already received the Hais rains (starting a month earlier than last year) and some highland pastoralists have already moved down to these areas to benefit from the good rain and pasture.
- Hawd of Mudug** : Localized and poor rains have been received.

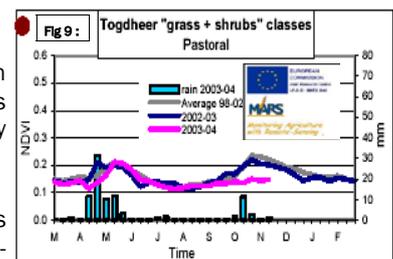
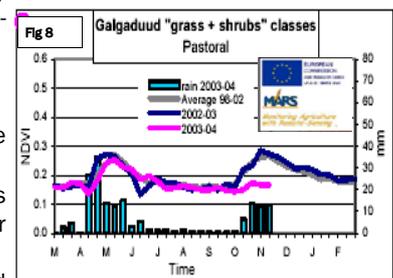
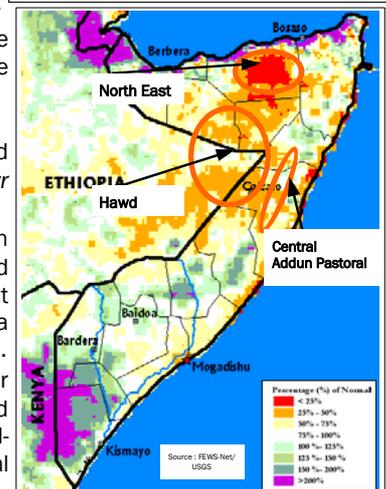
**North East (Sool Plateau, Gebi Valley, Nugal Valley, parts of Kakaar-Dharoor Valley)**

- The Sool Plateau continues to be an area of critical concern. For more information see the article on page 4 and the regional highlights.
- Parts of neighbouring Gebi Valley and Nugal Valley have also experienced Deyr rain failure (as well as Gu 2003 failure). These two areas have better access to water but their pasture for livestock is depleted. Their food security situation requires close monitoring.
- Parts of Kakaar-Dharoor valley have experienced very poor Deyr rains and only in localized spots.

**The Addun Pastoral area in the Central Regions of Galgaduud, Mudug and part of Nugal.**

- The Addun pastoral area has experienced two years (2001 and 2002) of consecutive rain failure. It was hoped that the Deyr rains of 2003 would alleviate the effects of the previous drought experienced over the last two years but the Deyr rains have been disappointingly below normal.
- Water trucking is already going on and the price of water is 4 to 5 times higher than normal.
- Livestock body condition is below normal for the season. Poor and lower middle households have very few sellable animals in any case, having lost about 80% of their income from livestock sales since [month]. Consequently, they have little or no access to milk production. The price of camel milk has reached an unusual high of 34,000 Ssh, about 300% above the average price, because of poor supply as milk has to be transported distances of up to 250 Km.
- The poor and the lower middle households who have remained in the Addun area are the most vulnerable to hunger and diseases.
- Poor pasture and lack of water led to early out-migration in the Deyr season by the better-off and middle wealth groups who moved to Burtinle district in Nugal Region, which did receive some rain.

**Fig 7 : Rainfall Deviation From Normal For Both The Long Rains 'Gu' And Short Rains 'Deyr'.**

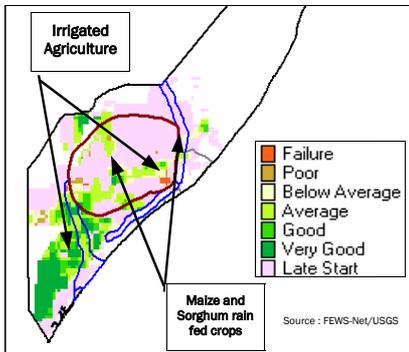


Recent Field Reports (Mon 8 December) which arrived the day of publishing this report, indicate that rains fell in the north east and north west. FSAU will monitor the impact of this rain on food security and report on its consequences in January. 2004 Monthly Report.

### A Snapshot of Deyr 2003 Crop Establishment Progress in South Somalia

The Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI) measures crop performance with respect to soil moisture content during the crop growth. The WRSI is specific to a particular crop, in this case, maize. Looking at Deyr season cultivation (October-February), the WRSI for

**Fig 10 : WRSI Maize Performance Map as of 30 November 2003 in South Somalia**



the third dekad of November (21-30) shows that crop conditions in most parts of the south, especially in Juba Valley, are fairly normal. In particular, the model shows that maize conditions in Bardhere, Sakow, Buale Jilib and Kismayo are very good.

Given that sorghum, the other main cereal grown in southern Somalia, is more drought resistant than maize, its performance is likely to be as good as maize and possibly better.

The WRSI model shows a late start of the Deyr season in parts of Shabelle Valley and Sorghum Belt. The start of season is defined by USGS as at least 25 mm of rainfall in the first dekad in a given area, followed by at least 20 mm during the next two consecutive dekads. Recent information from the field indicates that rains started in the first dekad of November, about one month late, and have been fairly normal since then in terms of frequency and volume. It is expected that these rains will improve crop conditions. Rains began normally in Middle and Lower Juba. These areas (maize growing) have experienced a normal to above normal growing season. Further up, in Gedo, most of Bay, Middle and Lower Shabelle, rainfall was delayed (by as much as a month) but once the season started, it appears to have been sufficient to allow the season to start. There is concern that if the rains halt this month it could damage crops; however, all indications seem to be that this will not be the case. Rainfall in Bakol and Hiran has, however, been insufficient for rain-fed farming. Riverine groups have depended largely on irrigation, which is costly; this has been ameliorated by better grain prices. However, the poor riverine and agro-pastoral households are not benefiting as labour opportunities and water and grazing for cattle have decreased.

### Scenario Adjustments for Deyr 2003

In October FSAU released a forecast for food security throughout Somalia until the end of the next Gu season (end of July 2004) in the areas where agriculture is practised and until the beginning of the next Gu season (beginning of April 2004) in the areas that are purely dependent on pastoralism. The forecast was divided into two scenarios, based on the outcome of the Deyr rainy season. The first scenario was based on an average Deyr, i.e., where rains, crop production and livestock product yields were all average. The second scenario was based on a fifty percent Deyr, i.e., where crop production and livestock product yields were half of average. However, with the imminent failure of the Deyr rains in some areas, FSAU has drafted a third scenario, based on twenty percent crop and livestock production. This scenario is expected to cover all the areas that have received poor rains; in particular:

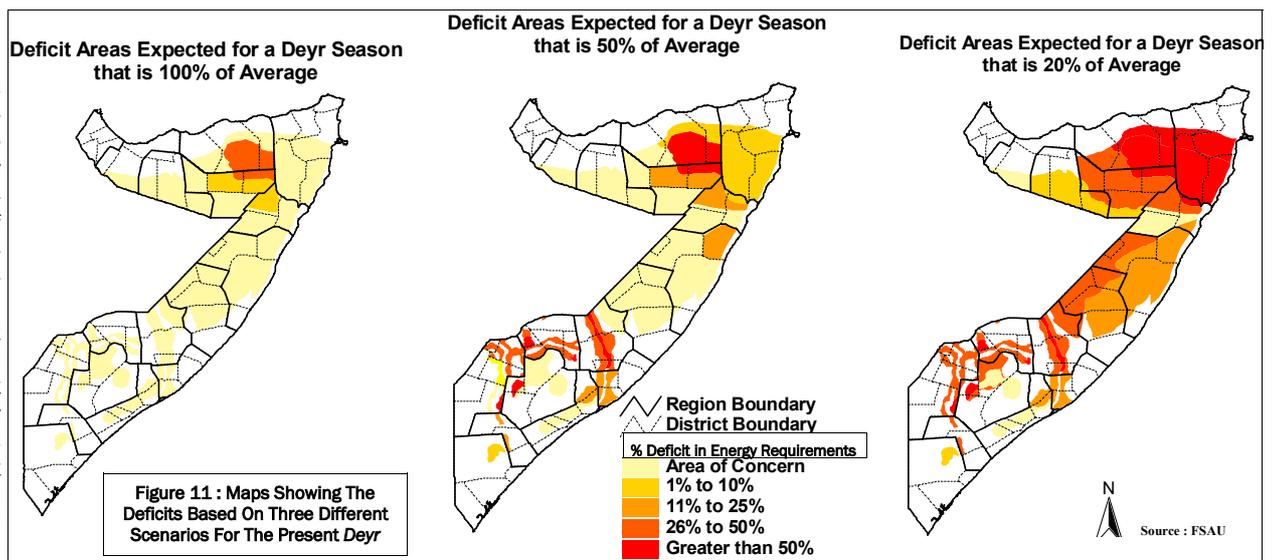
- The 'sorghum belt' of Gedo, Bay, Bakol and Hiran.
- The Addun area in the central regions of Galgadud, Mudug and part of Nugal.
- The Hawd along the border of Somalia and Ethiopia.
- Puntland south of the Kakaar-Dharoor valley
- Somaliland, east of Burcao.

These scenarios do not in anyway imply the likelihood of any particular combination of events occurring in any particular place. They are meant to provide a guide so that users can easily see which areas face the worst food deficits; in the event that a failure occurs in

the Deyr rains. This analysis has been based on many factors. Some of the factors include:

- The impact of the Deyr scenario on agricultural labour availability (and, in some cases, the possibility for 'poor' pastoralists in engaging in 'labour' such as herd-trekking).
- The impact of the Deyr scenario on herd production: both in terms of milk and livestock body condition.
- The impact of commodity prices. So far, grain prices (in US Dollar terms) have remained stable but there are some reports of hoarding and consequent fluctuations. Livestock prices have actually gone up, although this should not be confused with the average value of a herd, which due to declining body condition has, in many places, dropped off substantially. Commodity prices may also be influenced by conflict and other factors.

As the climatic outlook develops, FSAU will inform users of which scenario is becoming most likely in which area. Furthermore, if the situation warrants it, FSAU will partake in the necessary assessments to provide a more accurate analysis of affected areas.



**Figure 11 : Maps Showing The Deficits Based On Three Different Scenarios For The Present Deyr**

### NUTRITION HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOOL AND TIEGLOW

In Oct 2003, FSAU, UNICEF, SRCS and CARE conducted a nutrition survey in Tieglow, District, Bakol Region. Results showed higher than expected global acute malnutrition rate of 17.2% (W/H < -2 z-score or oedema) and severe acute malnutrition (W/H < -3 Z score or oedema) of 3.1%. Civil insecurity in neighbouring pastoral lands in Bay Region had limited access to pasture thereby reducing food availability and livestock production especially among the pastoral households. The results of the survey are significant because of the failure of 2003 Gu

harvest and poor outlook of the current season's harvest. In November 2003, a rapid assessment in Dhahar District (of Sool Plateau) showed a global acute malnutrition rate of 13.7% (W/H < -2 z-score or oedema) and severe acute malnutrition (W/H < -3 Z score or oedema) of 3.5%. The assessment was conducted in villages that experienced significant immigration of pastoralists displaced after losing their livestock. As expected, the level of malnutrition appeared higher among children who had recently arrived to the villages from surrounding rural areas. The number of children presenting at the MCH centre had also increased.

### Sool Plateau Continues To Face Deterioration in Food Security And No Rains Expected Until April 2004

In November FSAU and FEWS-Net issued a joint emergency alert on Sool Plateau. To view this warning please visit the FSAU web pages at <http://www.unsomalia.net/FSAU/index.htm> and the FEWS-Net web pages at : <http://www.fews.net>. Recent field reports from Sool Plateau confirm the continued deterioration in the food security situation and explain that some pastoralists have given up saving their animals from death and are more concerned about obtaining water for human consumption and survival. This desperate strategy is an ominous precursor to loss of livelihoods and imminent destitution.

- In the past six months food security indicators have continued to deteriorate. There is also considerable concern regarding the ability of households to maintain their nutritional status.
- A UN Multi-agency humanitarian assessment conducted in October 2003 in the Plateau recommended a continued food security and nutrition monitoring system as an important component of any intervention package.
- FSAU has subsequently started strengthening its capacity to monitor changes in trends of key indicators through the establishment of a Food Security and Nutrition Surveillance System based on 10 sentinel sites.
- The monitoring system will provide a detailed analysis of a pastoral household livelihood system, reporting on food consumption and utilization issues, livestock deaths and migrations, market price changes, social support systems, coping mechanisms and resilience of the pastoral households living on the plateau.
- The 10 sentinel sites are situated to reflect the three different groups living on the Plateau. These groups are catchment/urban pastoral households (who have migrated to urban areas out of desperation); rural pastoral households who are perceived to be critically affected and rural households who are in less critical condition.
- Training of FSAU field personnel on the sentinel based surveillance was conducted between 18 and 22 November. The first round of data collection started immediately after Ramadhan and preliminary reports from the teams indicate that the situation in the Plateau is deteriorating further. Pastoralists are reported to have given up saving their animals and are currently more concerned about getting water for human survival.
- Findings from the first round of this monitoring will be presented in the monthly reports (both Food Security and Nutrition) in January 2004. The on going monitoring based on sentinel sites is envisaged to continue beyond this emergency and possibly be replicated in other parts of Somalia.
- A technical workshop to revise the monitoring instruments will be held at FSAU the week of December 15th, and all stakeholders are encouraged to provide their input.

**Table 1 : Livestock Export Table for November 2003**

|                                | August         | September      | October        | November       |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Bossaso*</b>                |                |                |                |                |
| Camel                          | 28             | 618            | 160            | 8              |
| Cattle                         | 6,278          | 8,879          | 10,250         | 5,773          |
| Shoats                         | 113,098        | 110,380        | 161,795        | 114,832        |
| Sub-Total Boss.                | 119,404        | 119,877        | 172,205        | 120,613        |
| <b>Berbera**</b>               |                |                |                |                |
| Camel                          | 1,399          | 3,144          | 2,775          | 0              |
| Cattle                         | 3,694          | 7,835          | 7,726          | 9,519          |
| Shoats                         | 24,817         | 49,863         | 40,262         | 72,819         |
| Sub-Total Berb.                | 29,910         | 60,842         | 50,763         | 82,338         |
| <b>Total Number of Exports</b> | <b>149,314</b> | <b>180,719</b> | <b>222,968</b> | <b>202,951</b> |

\* Bossaso Port Authority

\*\* Berbera Port Authority

NOTE : Livestock export through Berbera port is 38% higher than October. This is due to high demand from Gulf countries during Ramadhan. An increased number of animals are expected to be sent to the Gulf and Egypt in the next two months in the lead up to the Haj.

### LONG TERM MARKET TRENDS MASK PERSISTENT FOOD INSECURITY

**Fig 12 : Cereal Commodity Prices Across South Somalia**

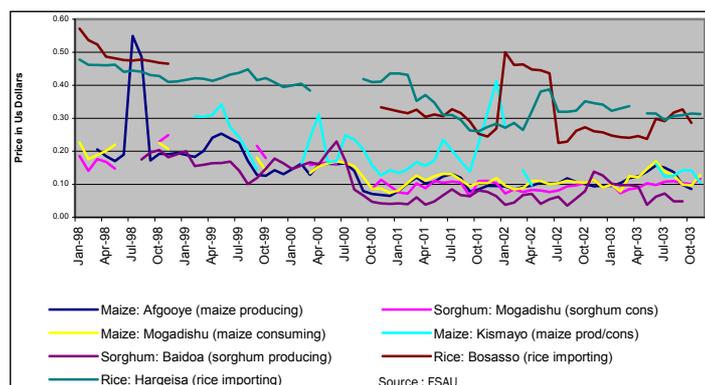
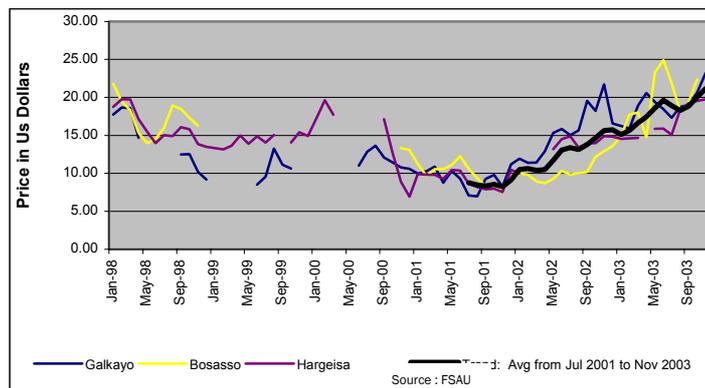


Figure 12 shows a simple time series of major cereal prices for markets across Somalia. Prices were converted into US Dollars to make comparisons over time more realistic (local currencies have fluctuated substantially and this has influenced prices). The curves all show a longer-term declining trend, meaning that in real terms, prices for grain have steadily come down. This can be interpreted as being beneficial to the poor but this is only true if incomes have improved. The question, for those analysing longer-term poverty trends, is whether real incomes have declined by a similar amount. If this is so, then households will not benefit from the cheaper cereal price, while other important commodities (such as sugar or milk) that have kept a more consistent price have become more difficult to purchase.

**Fig 13 : Local Goats Prices in Three Markets in North and Central Regions**



There have been reports this month of sudden increases attributed to traders hoarding stocks in anticipation of a poor Deyr cropping season. This has not yet been confirmed by market data.

There are a number of reports indicating that livestock values have dropped substantially in Puntland and Somaliland. This should not be confused with livestock prices. The former is an assessment of the money livestock owners may receive for their herd, which has been adversely affected in terms of body condition by the persistent drought. The latter, the livestock price, reflects only the money received for a particular standard of animal, which according to Figure 13, has steadily improved. This improvement is associated with an increase in demand building up to the Haj period and a decrease in supply as the Deyr rains failure in many pastoral areas starts to bite. This means that while goat prices may be good, pastoralists do not have the animals to sell and are not benefiting.

### Food Relief Distribution During November

CARE distributed 472 MT of sorghum, lentils and oil in Belet Hawa District (Gedo Region) to 8,436 beneficiaries in November. This was a free food distribution as CARE did not carry out any food for work during the month. At the time of going to press (December 8) WFP Somalia were unable to provide their food distribution figures for Somalia during November.

## REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONITORS

References to Food Economy Zones (FEZ's) relate to information concerning different Food Economy and Livelihood Zones. For a map of these areas please contact : fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke or look at [www.unsomalia.net](http://www.unsomalia.net) under the 'FSAU' webpage and Maps.

**\*\*Recent Field Reports (Mon 8 December) which arrived the day of publishing this report, indicate good rains fell in the north east and north west. FSAU will monitor the impact of this rain on food security and report on its consequences in January.**

## AWDAL &amp; NORTH WEST REGION

The situation in this region is in general good. For the purposes of further clarification the regions have been divided into four areas. In the **Agropastoral area** most farmers started their harvest in the middle of Ramadhan. Availability and access to water is normal. However, the condition of pasture in the agro-pastoral area of Hargeisa district is below normal. As a result of rain failure in the *Hawd* many animals moved from Salahlay and Zone V of Ethiopia to south and south-east Hargeisa and have put pressure on the limited pasture and water there. However, some agro pastoralists have benefited from selling their sorghum and maize stalks as fodder to the in-migrating pastoralists increasing the purchasing power of the community. **In the highland pastoral area** the situation is good. This area received animals from the *Hawd* of Hargeisa and Region V of Ethiopia. The *Hais* rainfall season began in November and some highland pastoralists have already moved to the coastal areas. Pasture and grazing conditions in this area are considered normal. **In the *Hawd* Pastoral food economy zone** the *Deyr* rainfall season failed. This caused animal migration from the *Hawd* areas of Somaliland as well as Region V to areas close to Hargeisa and highland areas. However, the communities expectation of having rainfall is very high and livestock condition is still relatively good. **In the coastal and sub coastal belts** the *Hais* rainfall season commenced in mid November starting 35 days earlier than last year and improving grazing and pasture. As the *Hais* season commenced early the coastal community will host many animals from different locations (Djibouti, and Region V). Some animals from the highland pastoral areas have already migrated there. However, as was reported last month, rainfall was poor in the Shinnile district of Region V and as a result of the early onset of the *Hais* rain (and similar to last year) the coastal and sub coastal belt is expected to host many animals from Shinnile. 250 households from Harta Sheikh Refugee camp, in Ethiopia, returned to Hargeisa region in this month of November 2003. An increased number of vessels arrived at the Berbera seaport during the month. The vessels were carrying food and non-food items. The non-food items were mainly delivered for the *Eid* festival occasion. In line with this, more money as remittance were sent by the diaspora particularly in the last ten days of Ramadan (15-26 November). These activities increased the purchasing power in urban areas.

## SOOL REGION

Sool Plateau in Sool Region remains in an emergency situation. The area remained dry and no *Deyr* rains were received. Livestock deaths continue. The FSAU Field Monitor reports that destitution of poor and middle wealth groups looks to be increasing. Water and pasture availability in the area is virtually non-existent. Expensive trucking of water is the sole means most inhabitants are using to obtain drinking water for humans and livestock. Pastoralists are now making decisions between sparing their animals at the expense of human suffering or losing their animals to save their own lives. There have been reports of some rains in Bender-Beila district in Bari region and reportedly some stock owners are moving their livestock by lorries to this area. The situation in Nugal Valley remains of concern. Most of the pastoralists have out migrated towards Ethiopia's Region V and other neighbouring food economy zones. However, the poor and lower middle households who have remained behind are in a critical condition. WFP Somalia were going to distribute 69 MT of food in three villages of Nugal in the first week of December. Animal productivity is also critically low with equally few animals in saleable condition.

## SANAAG AND TOGDHEER

The Sool Plateau in Sanaag region remains in an emergency condition, for more details refer to the Sool Region highlight. As a result of failed *Deyr* rains, 70% of the the pastoralists from *Hawd* of Togdheer moved to Region V of Ethiopia or the Golis mountains to minimize further asset losses. Those who have remained behind are experiencing a sudden food deficit of between 25-30% and it is expected that this deficit will worsen by the end of December. 70-80% of the camel population has moved to Region V of Ethiopia therefore the very poor households who remain cannot share camel milk with their poorer relatives. Fourteen schools have shut due to the drought conditions. Those remaining in the *Hawd* of Togdheer have little ability to meet their minimum food requirements and expand their coping options and rains are not due until April 2004. Thousands of *berkads* remain empty. Over, the last two months an increasing number of pastoral households have resorted to charcoal burning. Food is available in markets but purchasing power is the problem. The FSAU Field Monitor reports that the *Hawd* of Togdheer received two days of rain towards the end of Nov in and around Balli-dhiig and Odweine districts and more rain has been reported in Sheikh and surrounding areas. It is hoped these rain will go some way to alleviating the current situation.

## SOUTH NUGAL &amp; NORTH MUDUG

No substantial rains have been reported except along the coast and some localized parts of eastern *Hawd* of Burtinle district. On the whole the *Deyr* season was below normal. Pasture and water availability has deteriorated and led to an early migration of the better-off and middle wealth groups from east Addun to Burtinle district which is becoming overcrowded and overgrazed. Poor and lower middle households who remain in affected areas are now suffering livestock losses, death of newborns of all species, including camels. The poor and lower middle groups have very few saleable animals due to poor body condition, thus losing almost 70% of income from livestock sales. Also, they have practically no access to milk for consumption or sale. Water trucking has started and the price of water is 4 to 5 times above the normal price. The price of livestock has increased because of reduced supply. The price of milk has increased by 70% compared to last month and is more than 300% compared to baseline, though it is not available in some markets. The price of cereals has increased due to reduced supply from the south. It is important to note that this is an area that has had two years of consecutive rain failure in 2001 and 2002, and a poor *Deyr* season will have an adverse effect on the food security situation of the poor.

## NORTH NUGAL AND SOUTH BARI

This region remains in critical condition although coastal and Deeh areas did receive some rains during November particularly between Eil and Bander Beyla districts. Although the strip is only 30 Km wide. The pastoralists in the Nugal Valley and *Hawd* food economy zones have been hardest hit. Affluent pastoralists have migrated to the coastal areas but those left behind are becoming increasingly food insecure. Those that have migrated will find the pasture depletes very quickly due to the heavy carrying capacity of animals and its likely that they will fall back to the Sool of Gardo which did receive rain showers in November. Other pastoralists have moved from Nugal Valley, *Hawd* of Eil, Addun and the coastal area between Eil and Gra'ad districts towards the *Hawd* of Garowe and Burtinle where sporadic showers were received in October. These pastoralists have been unfortunate as pasture re-growth has been poor and there is a high concentration of livestock in the Burtinle area. The FSAU field monitor reports that he has not witnessed destitute camps but he has seen destitute pastoralists camping in urban neighbourhoods and mosques appealing for assistance. Some rains are reported in neighbouring districts of Iskushuban, Bossaso and their intensity and frequency has been reported as good so animals are expected to have moved there too.

## REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONITORS

## MIDDLE AND LOWER JUBA

From mid November – normal to good rains were received. Very heavy rains raised concerns about flooding since some off season crops have already be destroyed by heavy rains in *desheks*. Those crops which have not been destroyed - mainly sesame, maize, cowpeas and vegetables, are ready for harvest. This will improve household cereal stocks especially in the poor agro pastoral households in Hagar and riverine households in Buale. The seasonal crops are at germination stage and are in good condition after major replanting activities, however it is feared that the crops will suffer moisture stress before maturity as *Deyr* rains are expected to be over in mid-December. Livestock are now recovering due to availability of water and pasture, and livestock that had migrated are returning. The price of imported foods and non-food items is high as heavy rains affected transportation and supply. However, the price of sugar decreased due to overstocking by traders. Milk prices are high as livestock had migrated to remote areas. Garissa cattle market has been closed due to the discovery of a mild form of rinderpest in Kenya close to the Somalia/Kenya border. This has reduced the levels of income for communities in Afmadow and Badhadhe, especially the poor, who depend on the sale of livestock and livestock products. This measure will also affect local welfare support. If the livestock ban continues, this cattle market closure will greatly affect the livelihood of people living in the area. PACE has responded by starting a vaccination campaign in districts along the Kenya/Somalia border.

## GEDO

In November normal levels of rainfall were received. However, in some areas, the heavy rains actually caused localized flooding (Belet Hawa and Garbaharey). Despite this in general the pasture and water availability have improved and the situation of crops is also looking better although in the districts of Luuq and Burdhubo, crop condition is reported as below average. Livestock body condition is improving though still below normal. Cereal prices are high because of low supply.

## LOWER SHABELLE AND MIDDLE SHABELLE

The River Shabelle was low during November but farmers had already benefited from gravity irrigation (for maize) during Sept and Oct. The region did not receive any rain in October but during the second dekad of November, heavy rains began to fall and have continued until the time of writing (December 3). This rain restored hope amongst farmers and livestock owners. It also encouraged migration of livestock from riverine to safe grazing areas between Bay and Lower Shabelle. Pasture is recovering and cattle in Lower and Middle Shabelle are obtaining a normal body weight. With the onset of the heavy November *Deyr* rains, the rainfall levels for this month are now considered normal. Rain fed maize planted in November may find it difficult to mature if rains end early in December. However, sorghum in Afgoi and WanleWeyne districts could complete without additional rain in December. The heavy rains in Lower and Middle Shabelle has inundated crop growing areas. These rain flooded areas will probably be used during the *Jilaa* season (January to March) for sesame, cowpea and tomato production, which will help offset the reduction in rain fed maize. The amount of land planted under sesame is expected to be higher than a normal *Deyr* sesame season and the price of sesame seeds has risen accordingly. Irrigated maize across Lower and Middle Shabelle is at full development stage. The price of maize has increased in the Qoryoley district of Lower shabelle (the maize basket of southern Somalia), this is due to delayed rains but also there is high demand from Mogadishu and WanleWeyne and Central regions. Plenty of labour opportunities are available for the poor riverine and agro pastoral groups. A days labour has increased from 15,000 Ssh a day in Oct to 20,000 Ssh during November.

## BAY

Bay region received rains during November, although farmers that put down crops in October were mostly forced to replant. The rain gauges in Baidoa town (World Vision International) showed 155 mm. Crops are at risk of suffering moisture stress but are so far growing satisfactorily. The rains have replenished water supplies and pasture has begun regenerating, although browse is doing so faster than grasses. Milk prices dropped slightly owing to an increase in supply. There have not been outbreaks of civil insecurity although security remains tense and roadblocks hamper trade. The overall food security is described as normal.

## HIRAN

*Deyr* rains were delayed and partially failed in Hiran which has affected both pastoral and agro pastoral groups who are experiencing an alarming food security situation. Better off riverine groups put down irrigated crops but agro pastoral and riverine rain fed fields were not planted. Families are selling livestock to cover the price of fuel which is expensive. In villages groups have organized themselves to hire water pumps and start planting. Maize is expensive requiring three times as much water so sorghum is being planted. Early planted crops have been affected by bird attacks. The price of cereals has gone up since October, maize from 110,000 to 150,000 Ssh per 50Kg sack, milk from 8,000 to 16,000 Ssh per litre. This is abnormal. The prices of livestock have also dropped. There were a lot of livestock migration in the region seeking water and pasture. In addition there have been disease outbreaks most notably amongst shoats. **On 5, 6 and 7 December, evenly distributed rain fell across 5 districts of the region FSAU will report on the impact of this rainfall on food security in the January Monthly Report.**

## BAKOL

In terms of rainfall Bakol region has not experienced good *Deyr* rains. Wajid was reported to have had better rainfall than other parts of the region, while Rabdure received some rains in the northern pastoral areas, between Yeed and Atto villages. In these two districts, there have been reports of some crop germination in the high-potential sorghum area around Madhaytu. El Barde received some rains in the last dekad of November along the border with Ethiopia. This has led to the concentration of livestock in that area while animals from the Qarin (the main grazing area in Bakol) have been split between this and Rabdure. Seven days of rainfall, amounting to 65 mm, were recorded by the rain gauge in Hudur, which has had little effect on crops or pasture so far. The district that received the least was Tieglow, with the town and some villages in the south reported to have received only two days rainfall. About 70% of pastoral households have migrated to Bay region in search of water and pasture, while people from agro-pastoral households have also moved to Bay in search of labour opportunities. Throughout the region, water has become a problem as surface stores have dried while that in shallow wells is receding. There has been an increase in cereal prices (+10%) since last month and this has affected the poor, who are facing drastic reductions in agricultural labour opportunities due to poor cropping. On the more positive side, there have been increased livestock sales and favourable animal/grain terms of trade, while animal condition is normal. Households are also benefiting from some natural resource exploitation (gums, honey, poles and firewood gathering) as well as the continued Food For Work (FFW) and Supplementary Feeding programmes.

## GALGADUD

No *Deyr* rains have been received during the month except for light showers in Adaado district, Addo-kibir area, and southern parts of Guriel and Herale area. Livestock body condition and production is poor. There are very few sellable animals. The middle and better-off have migrated to Addo-Kibir area in search of water and pasture. They are using trucks to cover distances of 75 Kms as animals are too weak to walk. The poor who cannot afford trucks have been left behind. Some pastoralists moved to Eh-dhinle in Ethiopia as the area received some rains. The situation has been aggravated by on going civil insecurity in the region which has created loss of income, particularly in El Bur as there are labour opportunities at the salt and granite stone works. Expenditure has increased; the water price has increased five times as compared to Oct. OCHA is planning to do a rapid assessment in the area; FSAU will participate in this. **On 5, 6 and 7 Dec rainfall fell, FSAU will monitor the implications.**