

ISSUED SEPTEMBER 2003

FSAU acknowledges the contribution of key partners FEWS-Net, CARE, WFP, SC-UK, UNCU, UNDP

FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Date	Location	FSAU Activity
18-29 August	Central and Southern Somalia	Gu 2003 Food Security Seasonal Field Assessment.
8-15 September	Hargeisa	FSAU Workshop to analyse Field Assessment Findings.
16 September	Hargeisa	FSAU meeting with partners to reach consensus on the assessment findings. Organizations who are implementing food security projects in Somalia or who can provide technical assistance have been invited to attend.
8 October	Nairobi SACB Food Security and Rural Development Committee Meeting	FSAU will present final results of the "Gu 2003 Assessment and Food Security Forecast to Gu 2004". A FSAU Focus will be issued simultaneously identifying areas of food security concern and analysis.

**** Between 25-31 August FSAU and Progressive Interventions (PI) assessed the effectiveness of current livelihood programmes in Bown, Erigavo and Sheikh and recommended steps for strengthening these programmes.**

****Two FSAU Field Monitors will participate in a FEWS-Net urban livelihoods assessment in Djibouti during September.**

For more details on any of the above activities please contact :
fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke

HIGHLIGHTS

- Unseasonal rains in Northern Somalia miss the Sool Plateau :** Field reports and data from remote sensing sources show that the rains reported to have recently fallen in northern Somalia ('Karin') affected the Golis Mountains (Erigavo) and the northern extreme of the Gebi or Upper Dharoor Valley. They did not affect the drought-affected areas identified on the Sool Plateau and in most of the Upper Dharoor, which continue to be highly food-insecure and where the crisis highlighted in May, June and July is worsening. See page 2 for more details.
- Climate Outlook Forum :** The Twelfth Climate Outlook Forum convened in Nairobi between 25-27 August and has issued its rainfall forecast for the September–December season throughout the Greater Horn of Africa. The Forum forecasts that most of Somalia is likely to receive slightly below-normal to normal rainfall during this period, while the areas of Galgadud, Hiran and Togdher along the Ethiopian border are likely to receive above-normal rainfall.
- FSAU 2003 Gu Analysis :** A FSAU workshop is currently underway in Hargeisa (8-15 September) to analyse the Gu 2003 field assessment findings. On September 16, FSAU will hold a meeting with partners in Hargeisa to reach consensus on these findings. The final Results of the 'Gu 2003 Assessment and Food Security Forecast to Gu 2004' will be presented on October 8 at the SACB FSRDC in Nairobi.

Food Aid Distribution

During August, CARE dispatched a total of 360 MT to be distributed as food for work. (240 MT/Hiran, 60 MT/Bakol, 60 MT/Middle Shabelle) Bay region has been inaccessible but distributions are expected to take place in September. In Gedo region, CARE distributed the following in the form of free food distributions : 1,248 MT of sorghum of which 420 MT were distributed in Bulo Hawa, 424 MT in Luuq, 183 MT in Dolow and 221 MT in El Waq districts. 124 MT of split peas of which 18 MT were distributed in Dolow, 42 MT in Bulo Hawa, 42 MT in Luuq and 22 MT in EL Waq districts. A total of 23 MT of vegetable oil, of which 4 MT were distributed in El Waq, 3 MT in Dolow, 8 MT in Bulo Hawa and 8 MT in Luuq districts. This reached an estimated 24,966 beneficiaries. For further information on CARE's food aid operations please contact narayan@care.or.ke.

Highlights from the FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

In **Middle Juba**, humanitarian organizations have highlighted the problem of severe acute malnutrition in a number of riverine villages. The problem was also reported for a short period last year and seems closely related to the limited variety of diet, particularly in the period before the main harvest. MSF Holland has established a therapeutic feeding centre to assist in reducing the problem. MSF Holland is also attempting to reach villages close to Buale, to investigate the extent of the problem, but so far Buale remains inaccessible due to insecurity. UNICEF in collaboration with FSAU and the Ministry of Health carried out a repeat nutrition survey among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Bossaso in July. Preliminary results indicate a persistently high malnutrition rate of 16.2% (Weight for Height <-2 z-scores or oedema) for global acute malnutrition and 3.2% (Weight for Height <-3 z-scores or oedema) for severe acute malnutrition. A previous survey in June 2002 also showed a high global acute malnutrition rate of 18.7% (Weight for Height <-2 z-scores or oedema) and a severe malnutrition rate of 7.5% (Weight for Height <-3 z-scores or oedema). In Belet Weyne, preliminary results of a nutrition survey indicate a global acute malnutrition rate of 17.1% using W/H <-2 Z score or oedema compared to 21% in 2002. Severe acute malnutrition reached 2.3% (W/H <-3 Z score or Oedema) compared to 2.7% last year. The difference in malnutrition rates between surveys undertaken this year and in previous years is not statistically significant. In late August, FSAU produced its first Somali language edition of the 'Nutrition Update'. **For a copy of this Somali language report and further information related to nutrition, see the FSAU monthly publication 'Nutrition Update' or contact :noren.prendiville@fsau.or.ke.**

FOOD INSECURITY CONTINUES IN THE SOOL PLATEAU OF SANAG AND SOOL REGIONS

Food security in Sool Plateau continues to deteriorate and FSAU, along with partners and organisations who have visited the area, are calling the situation there an emergency and are calling for appropriate responses. This region is now in the *Hagai* season and it is during this period (and the *Jilaa* season) that demands on the Somali livelihood increase. In addition, Horn Relief (August 2003) circulated a report that there has been a drastic cut in asset holdings among all wealth groups, indicating that more than 80% of camels and more than 50% of shoats on the Plateau have been sold, moved out or have died.

As well as recent livestock deaths, there have been other issues arising over the past month in the Sool Plateau:

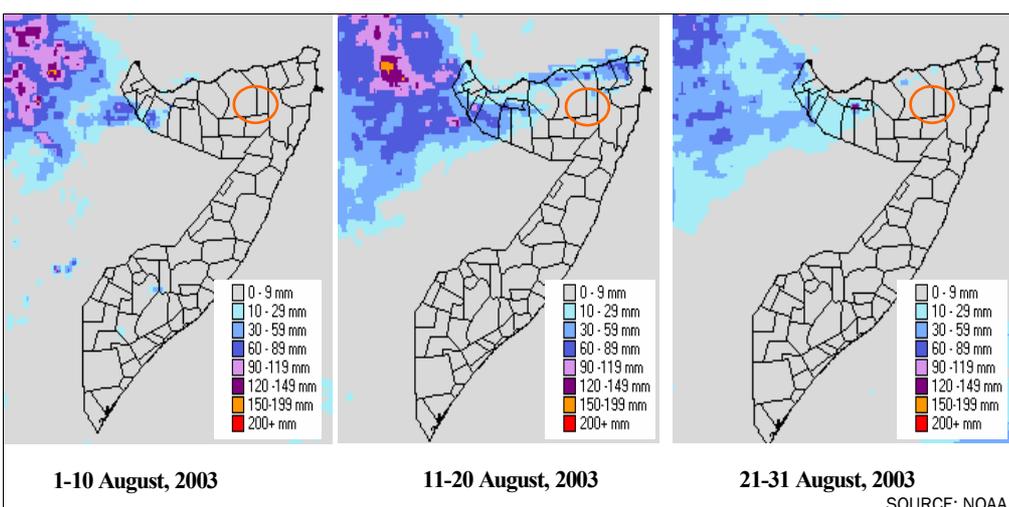


Figure 1 : Estimated Rainfall Performance over Somalia between 1–31 August, 2003

- Reported rainfall. The August SACB Food Security Rural Development Committee meeting in Hargeisa reported that 'in certain areas there have been sporadic rains'. FSAU and partners in the field have confirmed that while there were showers in the Golis Mountains (north of Erigavo) and the northern extreme of the Gebi or Upper Dharoor valley, the western part of Sanag which falls in the Sool Plateau did not receive any rain. The satellite imagery in **Figure 1** shows clearly that the Sool Plateau did not receive any rainfall for August 2003.

- Malnutrition and mortality rates. In May 2003 FSAU and partners conducted a survey in the Sool Plateau and found a high global acute malnutrition rate (13%, <-2z-scores or oedema). Under-five mortality rates were reported at 1.9/10,000 children per day. Although not as extreme as that of other parts of Somalia, the rate is actually higher than what would 'normally' be expected in the area. Intensified nutrition surveillance activities on the plateau also show that factors influencing nutritional status of the population have worsened since the survey; in addition to heightened food insecurity and reduced food intake, incidences of childhood diseases have also been on the rise. Surveillance figures have noted malnutrition rates rising from below 10% in April 2003 to more than 17% in July, out of the average of 200 children visiting these facilities on a monthly basis. A screening of 697 children conducted by UNICEF before registering children in their SFP in August 2003 also showed a malnutrition level more than 20% (Z-score <-2 or oedema). In short, the while malnutrition rates do not show the same degree of *consistent under-nutrition* as in south Somalia, they do show a *trend* that reflects an *acute shortage* of basic food needs.

- Interventions that have taken place: WFP distributed rations to targeted villages on the plateau, while UNICEF also provided rations in their SFP. These two distributions temporarily relieved shortages for their beneficiaries but field sources said that additional villages and households still require assistance. While there are projects going on in Erigavo and Las Anod, their activities have small impact and do not reach the vulnerable households on the Sool Plateau.

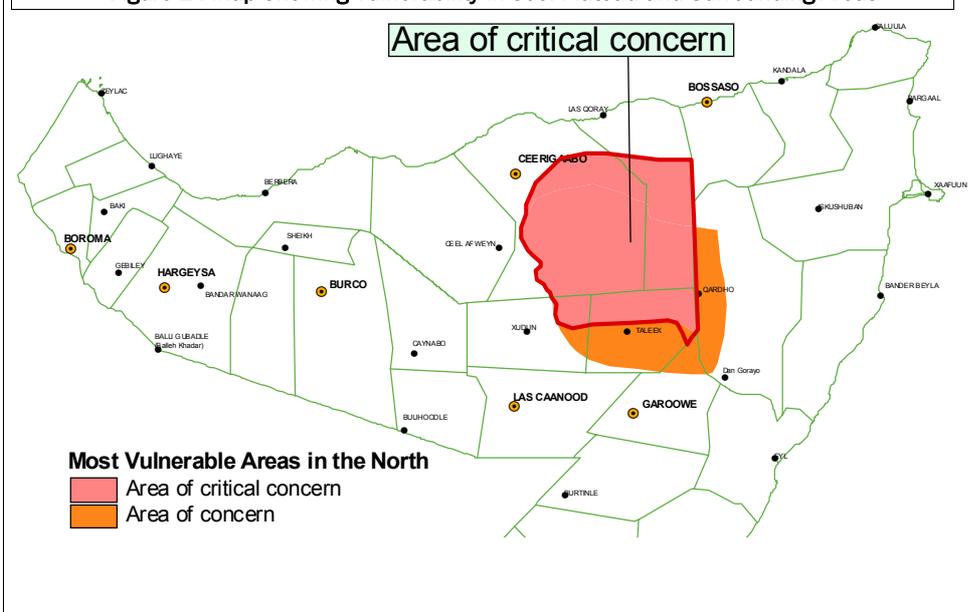
FSAU's analysis shows that household food insecurity is due to low access, rather than the lack of *availability* (food is available locally but people do not have the means to purchase it). This is because they lack income and much of what little income they do have is diverted to water purchases. The EC representative at the HRG meeting convened in Nairobi on 26 August 2003 reported that funds for income support projects (such as cash-for-work) will not be available before January 2004. By then, household debts, unsustainable destruction of meagre environmental resources and low food intake will result in long-term damage. FSAU will follow the situation and update.

Recommendations: FSAU strongly supports an inter-agency emergency needs assessment in the area to design the most appropriate response to the crisis.

This assessment could consider the following possibilities:

- Increasing water availability. This is essential as it would allow-households to focus their expenditure on food; trucking is recommended as it is quick to organise and it allows the implementer to decide where to move the water.
- Targeted Food Aid. As many households are currently experiencing food deficits, FSAU continues to recommend targeted distributions of food aid to areas of critical concern.
- Blended supplementary foods to all under-fives.
- Improved health and care services.

Figure 2 : Map Showing Vulnerability in Sool Plateau and Surrounding Areas



HIRAN REGION BENEFITS FROM INCREASED CATTLE DEMAND FROM BOSSASO

In southern Somalia, cattle are an important asset especially for agro pastoral and pastoral food economy groups as most households derive a significant portion of their food and income from livestock and livestock products. Cattle provide food in the form of milk, ghee and meat. Households earn income by selling livestock and livestock products. This in turn enables households to purchase food and essential non-food items. Households can also use their income for restocking, particularly of the young female animals and for investing in crop production or small businesses.

In the last decade, many of the traded cattle from southern Somalia have been trekked to the Garissa market (Northeastern Province, Kenya) where Somali cattle are in demand due to their good quality. Following the collapse of the Somali government at the beginning of the 1990's, trade regulations and custom systems disappeared, thereby 'liberalizing' the cattle trade. This created opportunities for pastoralists and Somali and Kenyan traders to exchange their animals, through a network of middle-men, at a good price, throughout the year. Traders buy cattle from most of the following main markets : Belet Weyne, Baidoa, Afgoi, Dinsor, Bardhere, Salagle and, Afmadow. Traders then hire members of the poor pastoral and agro pastoral households to trek cattle overland to Garissa.

For the past six months, pastoralists in Hiran region have also been benefiting from an increased demand for export cattle via Bossaso, Bari. Since March 2003, 200-300 animals have been transported each month from Belet Weyne, Hiran to Bossaso. By buying cattle from Hiran region, Bossaso traders are injecting large amounts of money in to the local economy. Traders also bring food and non-food items which are much cheaper than buying the same items from Mogadishu.

As a result, cattle prices (local and export quality animals) in Belet-Weyne's main market have increased. (see Figure III below) The increased cattle price is likely to improve pastoralist purchasing power and hence their terms of trade, provided the price of other costs remains stable. This has significant food security implications because parts of Hiran region have just experienced a poor *Gu* crop season which reduced cereal supply to the local markets, thereby raising staple food prices across the main markets throughout the region.

Currently the price of export quality cattle ranges from 1,600,000 Ssh to 2,300,000Ssh in Belet Weyne, B/Burti and Jalalqsi. Cattle sellers have further benefited by a new arrangement in which each major town has only one designated 'market day' a week, effectively restricting supplies and raising prices.

FIGURE III : AVERAGE MONTHLY CATTLE PRICES IN BELET WEYNE : JANUARY–AUGUST 2003

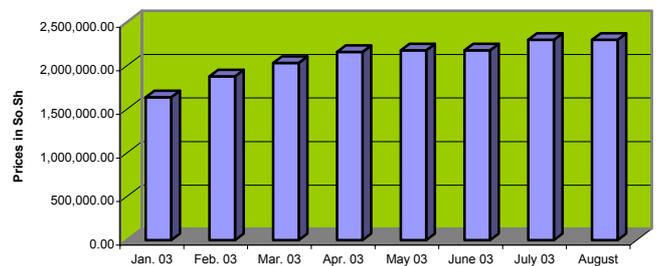
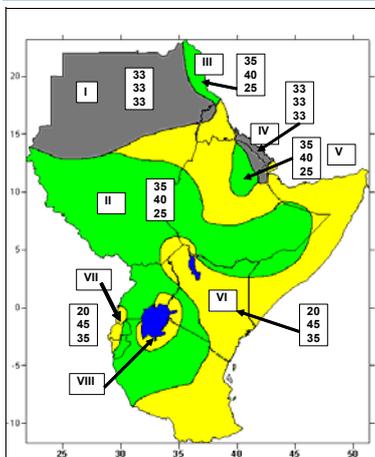


FIGURE IV : SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER 2003 SEASONAL FORECAST



CLIMATE OUTLOOK BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER 2003

The Twelfth Climate Outlook Forum was convened between 25-27 August 2003, in Nairobi, Kenya, by the Drought Monitoring Centre (DMC-N). The Forum formulated a consensus forecast for the September–December rainfall season in the Greater Horn of Africa. The period, constitutes an important rainfall season in the Greater Horn and especially Somalia because these months correspond with the end of the *Deyr* rainy season and the beginning of *Jilaa*, the harsh, dry season.

The seasonal forecast indicates an increased likelihood of near-normal rainfall over much of the Greater Horn of Africa. The rainfall outlook is broken into zones as indicated in Figure IV. Zones II, III, V and VIII are more likely to receive normal to above normal rainfall during September–December. However, Zone IV is likely to receive normal to below-normal rainfall.

As seen in Figure IV, the Climate Outlook Forum divides Somalia into two main zones : II and VI. The Forum forecasted that most of Somalia is likely to have a below normal to near normal rainy season. The Somalia/Ethiopian border areas of Galgaduud, Hiran and Togdher have a somewhat higher probability of above-normal rainfall.

Throughout Somalia there is also a significant probability (35%) of below normal rainfall. This is worrying, especially in areas that have already experienced a poor *Gu* rain season such as the Sool Plateau of Sanag and Sool region.

Regions with the highest probability of below normal rainfall will require close monitoring. FEWS-Net and FSAU will continue to monitor *Deyr* rainfall patterns closely for implications on Somalia's food security situation.

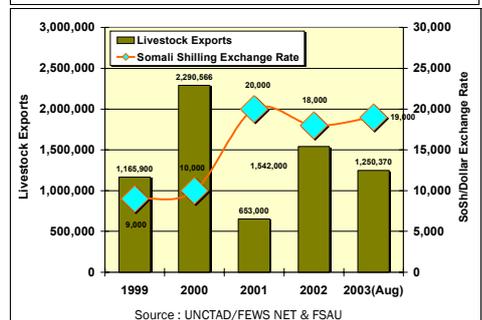
THE EFFECT OF LIVESTOCK EXPORTS ON SOMALIA'S EXCHANGE RATE

As there is no central bank handling foreign exchange transactions for the Somali Shilling, there is no national exchange rate. The Somali currency market consists mainly of the major money changers in Mogadishu's Bakara market as well as Hargeisa and Bossaso markets, who set the exchange rate for the Somali shilling, every day, through their knowledge of the supply and demand for dollars and Somali shillings. Bakara market is the 'pace setter' rate that influences the other regional Somali exchange rates. Fluctuations can be caused by a variety of factors but the imposition of the livestock export ban in September 2000 was a major factor causing the Somali shilling to lose considerable value and creating turmoil in the currency markets. Before the ban on imports of So-

mali livestock by major trading partners, the livestock sector accounted for 40% of GDP and 80% of exports as well as the major source of foreign exchange. As Figure V shows, the Somali shilling is directly linked to livestock exports; the more livestock exports increase, the more the Somali shilling appreciates. Unsurprisingly, the shilling gained value in the peak export period before the livestock ban came into place, trading at about 10,000 Ssh/US\$ in 2000 but in the ban period the Somali shilling lost value and the exchange rate doubled to 20,000 Ssh/US\$ in 2001. The Somali shilling gained value in 2002 due to the partial resumption of livestock exports to Egypt and the UAE. Over the past year it has also gradually gained in value against the US\$. (19,000

Ssh in August 2003) Even a slight appreciation will help poor groups by increasing their purchasing power and improving their access to imported goods which are paid for in US\$.

FIGURE V : A COMPARISON OF LIVESTOCK EXPORTS WITH SOMALIA'S EXCHANGE RATE



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 under the 'FSAU' webpage and Maps.

BAY

Bay region received some *Hagai* showers, which improved grazing and browsing conditions and enhanced livestock productivity. *Hagai* showers were good in Baidoa, Burhakaba and Dinsor districts. With the exception of Dinsor and parts of Qansadhere, which experienced total crop failure, *Gu* harvest operations during August offered additional job opportunities for poor agro pastoral households. Overall crop production in the region was, however, considered below normal, mainly due to diseases and pest infestation. Insecurity also forced farmers in Gofguddu and Burey villages of Baidoa district to abandon their farms during the critical stage of bird scaring. Consequently farmers harvested no crops. The generally poor harvest resulted in abnormally high cereal prices in many areas, aggravated by high transportation costs and numerous checkpoints. Terms of trade are still favourable for pastoralists. One local quality goat fetched 50 Kg of sorghum. As there have been two good previous harvests, cereal stocks at household level are healthy and the food security situation is normal.

BAKOL

Crop harvesting is complete and the overall cereal production in Bakol is considered to have partially failed. Pests, stalk-borer infestation, excessive wind and heavy bird damage are among the factors that have contributed to the failure. However, the FSAU field monitor has noted that above average cowpea production has been realised which may improve food diversification/nutrition status of children following the poor harvest. Abnormal livestock (camel and goat) migrations in the agro-pastoral food economy zones have been reported. These animals are moving to the grazing areas of Burhakaba of Bay Region as livestock, particularly camels, lost access to fodder. Livestock diseases are reported in some areas with high mortality rate amongst offspring; the FSAU Field Monitor also reports high mortality rates of camels and cattle. Despite the provision of some Food for Work, cereal prices are high due to the poor crop and insecurity. This is likely to create difficulties amongst the agro-pastoral food economy zones in the region as they partly rely on the cheap purchase of cereals at this time.

GALGADUD

Insecurity in the region continues to cause problems for the poorer wealth groups, restricting their access to livestock grazing areas and water points. In the Addun food economy zone, the food security situation is normal except for poorer wealth groups in remote areas whose food security situation remains below normal due to lack of milk marketing, poor livestock prices and high food prices. Pockets of the pastoral Ciid/Hawd food economy zone in the west and north east are still experiencing some problems; as is the south east of El Bur district, part of an agro-pastoral food economy zone. People are coping through the collection of fire-wood and construction stones. The *Hagai* season arrived early bringing extreme winds that caused early pasture depletion. In the longer term this can affect and sometimes reduce livestock production. In pastoral areas access to water and availability remains fairly good, although milk production has started to decline which is common for this time of year. ICRC made a distribution to 350 pastoral and urban households who moved due to insecurity and are now living in camps in Dusa-mareb, Adaado and Bohol. Despite the dry season cereals/livestock terms of trade are still favourable to pastoralists.

AWDAL AND NORTH WEST

The *Karan* rains commenced in both regions improving pasture and grazing conditions and the condition of established crops. For this time of year, crop and livestock condition are considered seasonably normal. The coast and sub-coastal belts in the two regions also received good August rains but there is concern over a possible outbreak of locusts due to conducive climatic conditions. This possible outbreak needs to be closely monitored. It has been reported that there were rains in Shinile district in zone V of Ethiopia which will reduce the tension of having to host people and animals in the coastal belt of Awdal region in coming months. Conditions in the *Hawd* agro pastoral area and highland pastoral zones are good.

BARI

The overall food security situation of the Coastal FEZ is normal while the situation of the urban poor and *Bossaso* IDP's are below normal. Access to food has been severely disrupted by the effects of the *Hagai* season which limits income earning opportunities particularly as a result of reduced activity at *Bossaso* port. The price of imported (food and non-food) commodities have also risen. In (lower) Dharoor food economy zone (*Bossaso* and *Iskushuban* districts only) conditions are normal except for the high concentration of livestock in *Uur Aleed* which is depleting grazing. In the Sool Plateau of Bari (*Iskushuban* and *B/Beyla* districts only) the situation is normal except in the sool of *B/Beyla* where there is a shortage of water and pasture due to poor *Gu* 2003 rainfall.

NORTH NUGAL AND SOUTH BARI

In the Sool Plateau of Bari, Sanag pastoralists have moved back to their homes taking their weakened livestock with them; this has alleviated the stress on the Sool of Gardo. FSAU is further examining these dynamics. In the lower Nugal valley, livestock continue to appear 'scrawny'. The area is suffering from lower than normal milk production, reduced availability of grazing and pasture and fewer sellable animals in a herd. Livestock condition is better in the *Hawd*, *Deeh* and Coastal and Addun food economy zones.

CONSOLIDATED APPEAL FOR SOMALIA (CAP 2004)

FSAU and FEWS-Net participated in the Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Somalia (CAP 2004) workshop during August in Nairobi. The workshop was attended by a broad range of UN agencies, donors, NGO's. FSAU and FEWS-Net mainly contributed input to one of the main objectives looking at the approach to livelihood analysis. A commonly accepted understanding of livelihoods is : 'a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living : a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the long and short term.' (Chambers and Conway (1992; 7-8)) The final outcome against this specific CAP workshop objective is expected to be : 'A presentation and discussion of a pilot approach to livelihoods assessment in Somalia as a basis for a comprehensive analysis of underlying causes of vulnerability.'

LIVESTOCK EXPORT TABLE FOR AUGUST 2003

	May	June	July	August
Bossaso*				
Camels	389	677	0	28
Cattle	3,098	6,590	3,153	6,278
Shoats	116,058	117,476	129,100	113,098
Total	119,545	124,743	132,253	119,404
Berbera**				
Camel	2,405	800	2,568	1,399
Cattle	2,518	3866	15,177	3,694
Shoats	22,971	16,502	27,306	24,817
Total	27,894	21,168	45,051	29,910

*Bossaso Port Authority

**Berbera Port Authority

Due to seasonal high tides (July–September) many smaller vessels are unable to dock in Bossaso port. Despite the high tides, larger vessels are still managing to access the port which helps account for the 119,404 animals exported from Bossaso during August; a month when reduced port activity is expected. Compared to the same month last year, Bossaso export activity this month has reduced. In August 2002 the total number of livestock exported was 121,210.

** To enable FSAU field staff to concentrate on the 'Gu 2003 Food Security Seasonal Field Assessment' work, the September Monthly Report does not include all the regular highlights.