

# FAMINE IN SOUTHERN SOMALIA

*Evidence for a declaration*

*Nairobi, Kenya  
July 19, 2011*



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Swiss Agency for  
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Cooperation SDC

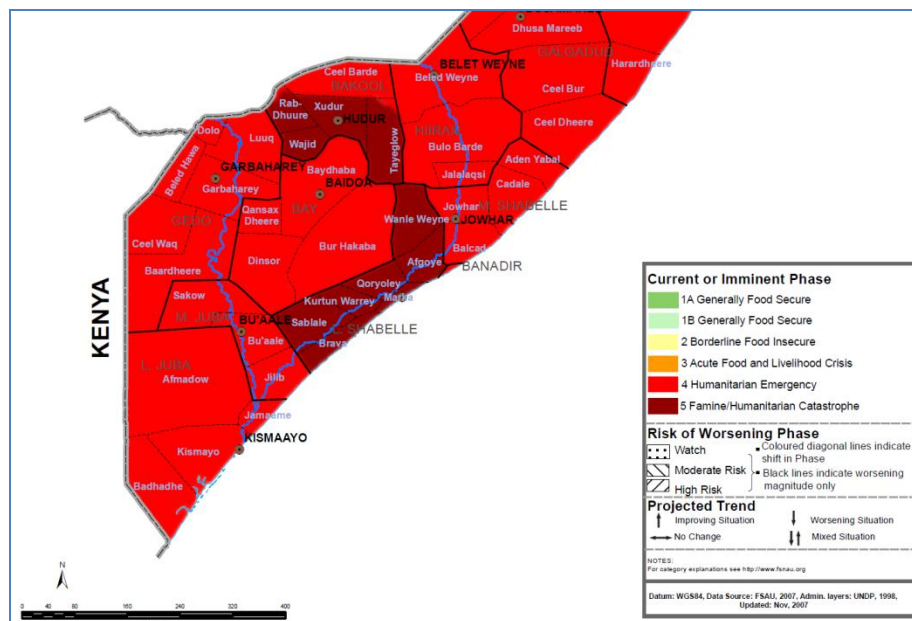


# Key Messages

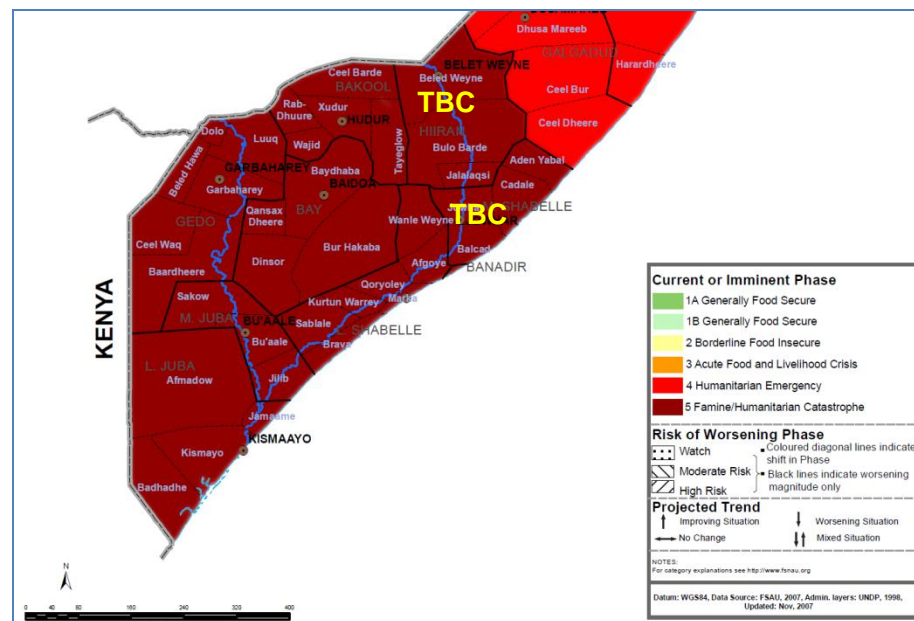
1. Evidence indicates that famine currently exists in Bakool agropastoral and Lower Shabelle and that a humanitarian emergency exists across the rest of the south.
2. This crisis represents the most serious food insecurity situation in the world today, in terms of both scale and severity. Current humanitarian response is inadequate to meet emergency needs. Assuming current levels of response, evidence suggests that famine across all regions of the south will occur in the coming 1-2 months.
3. A massive multisectoral response is critical to prevent additional deaths and total livelihood/social collapse. Most immediately, interventions to improve food access and to address health/nutrition issues are needed. In the medium term, interventions to rebuild and support livelihoods are critical. Extraordinary measures to provide this response should be implemented.
4. Tens of thousands of lives can be saved, but the window of opportunity to do so is extremely limited. These assistance needs will persist through at least December 2011.

# Key Messages

Current food security classification,  
July 2011



Most-likely food security classification,  
August-December 2011



**TBC** – Final classification awaiting nutrition and mortality survey data which is expected July 27th

# Defining famine - The IPC Phases

PHASE		SUMMARY DESCRIPTION
	<b>GENERALLY FOOD SECURE</b>	More than 80% of households can meet basic food needs without atypical coping strategies.
	<b>BORDERLINE FOOD INSECURE</b>	For at least 20 percent of households, food consumption is reduced but minimally adequate without having to engage in irreversible coping strategies. These households cannot fully meet livelihoods protection needs.
	<b>ACUTE FOOD AND LIVELIHOOD CRISIS</b>	At least 20 percent of households have significant food consumption gaps OR are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies such as liquidating livelihood assets. Levels of acute malnutrition are high and above normal.
	<b>HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY</b>	At least 20 percent of households face extreme food consumption gaps, resulting in very high levels of acute malnutrition and excess mortality; OR HH households face an extreme loss of livelihood assets that will likely lead to food consumption gaps.
	<b>FAMINE</b>	At least 20 percent of households face a complete lack of food and/or other basic needs and starvation, death, and destitution are evident ; and acute malnutrition prevalence exceeds 30% ; and mortality rates exceed 2/10000/day

## Defining famine

For many food security analysis agencies\* the term famine is a scientific statement based on evidence using the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).

In the IPC, for Famine to be declared there must be evidence of three triangulating conditions in a given area:

- (1) at least 20% of households face extreme food shortages with limited ability to cope;
- (2) Global acute malnutrition prevalence must exceed 30%; and
- (3) Crude death rates must exceed 2/10,000/day.

Other characteristics used to support a classification a famine include: destitution, large displacement, disease outbreaks, and social collapse.

\*IPC global partner agencies include: CARE, FAO, FEWSNET, the European Joint Research Center, Save the Children, Oxfam, and WFP

## Nutrition/mortality data validation process

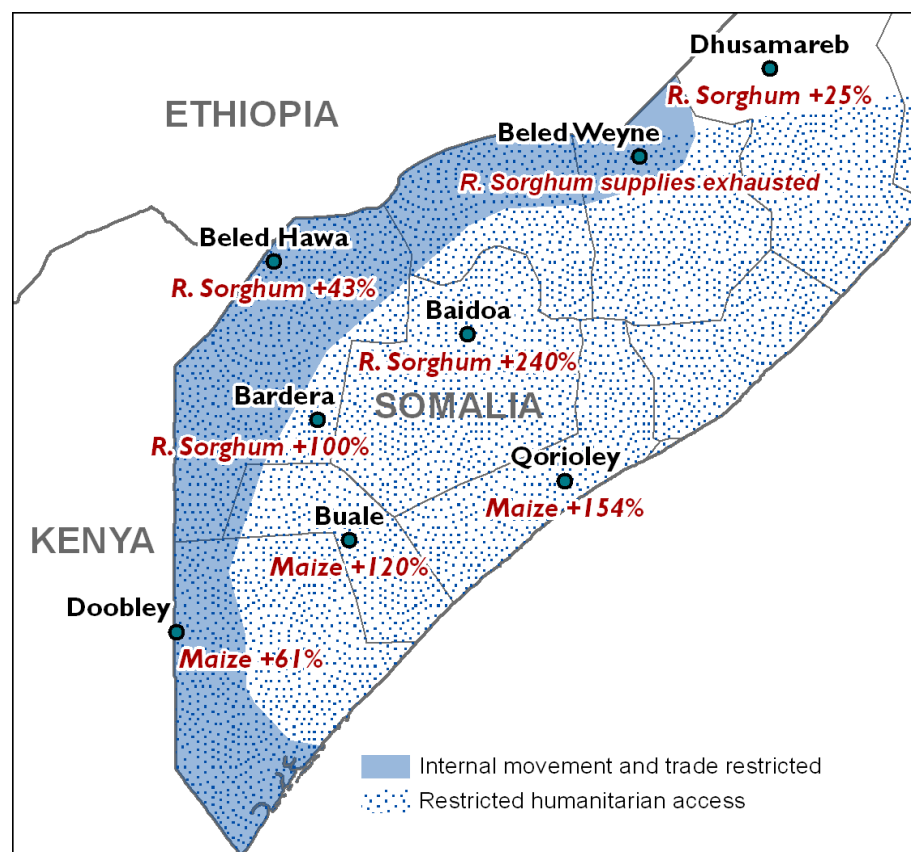
- 11 nutrition surveys conducted over the first 10 days of July – remaining 6 ongoing (Middle Shabelle, Hiran, Afgoye IDPs).
- 15 surveys used SMART methodology, 2 used small sample methods. All survey results are statistically representative.
- All SMART surveys results were verified and endorsed by CDC.
- The level of the current crisis suggested by survey data has been triangulated with information from partners on the ground who are implementing programs and conducting assessments – notably Lower Shabelle
- Consensus among key UN and NGO partners was reached regarding survey findings and famine classification.

# **CURRENT CONDITIONS AND OUTCOMES**

# Evidence of substantial constraints to food availability/access

- 2011 *Deyr* season harvests were <20 percent of average. Stocks of locally produced cereals began to run out in April 2011
- Local cereal prices remain substantially higher than average (more than double 2010 in some areas) and continue to increase.
- *Gu* harvests have been delayed by one month due to the late onset of rains.
- Asset losses and reduced labor income indicate that poor households in Lower Shabelle and Bakool agropastoral (~30% of the population) are largely unable to meet basic food needs

May 2010 – May 2011 changes in the price of the local cereal most consumed by the poor in selected southern Somalia markets

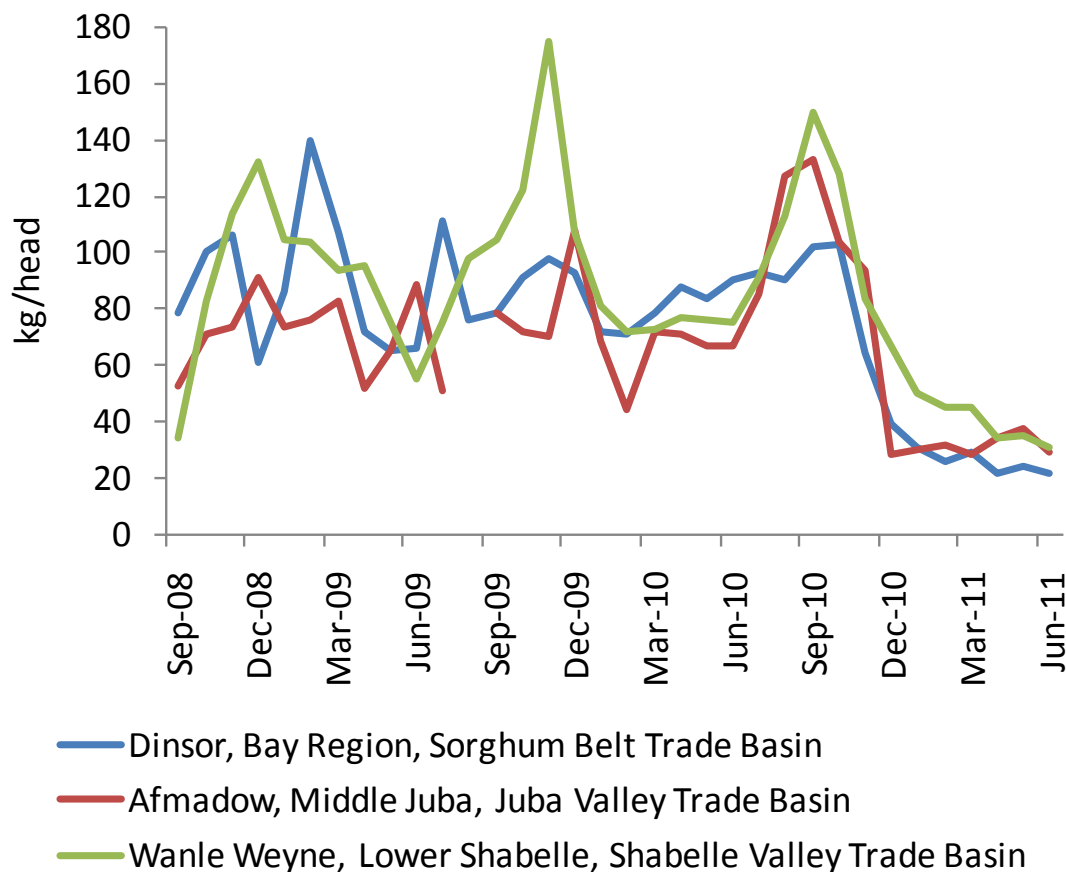


Source: FEWS NET



# Evidence of substantial constraints to food availability/access

Kilograms of white maize per sale of one head local quality goat, 2008-2011



## Evidence of GAM prevalence >30 percent

Region	Survey Type	Livelihood	GAM prevalence (WHO)	SAM Prevalence (WHO)
Lower Shabelle	Standard	Riverine	<b>28.7</b> (24.4-33.5)	<b>14.2</b> (11.6-17.2)
		Agpast./Past	<b>38.6</b> (32.6-44.9)	<b>17.8</b> (13.6-23.1)
Middle/Lower Juba	Standard	Riverine	<b>45.9</b> (41.5-50.3)	<b>21.9</b> (18.9-25.2)
		Agpast.	<b>39.0</b> (34.9-43.2)	<b>10.4</b> (7.4-14.3)
		Pastoral	<b>39.5</b> (36.0-43.1)	<b>18.7</b> (15.8-21.9)
Bakool	33x6	Agpast.	<b>&gt;43.6</b> (Pr=0.90)	<b>&gt;14.1</b> (Pr=0.90)
		Pastoral	<b>&gt;51.7</b> (Pr=0.90)	<b>&gt;17.3</b> (Pr=0.90)
Bay	Standard	Agpast.	<b>55.0</b> (45.8-63.9)	<b>29.8</b> (22.8-37.9)
Gedo	Standard	Riverine	<b>48.1</b> (38.6-57.8)	<b>25.2</b> (18.9-32.8)
		Pastoral	<b>23.8</b> (20.1-28.0)	<b>5.9</b> (4.1-8.5)

## Evidence of famine-level mortality

Region	Survey Type	Livelihood	CDR (deaths/10,000 /day)	U5DR (deaths/10,000 /day)
Lower Shabelle	Standard	Riverine	<b>6.12</b>	<b>20.3</b>
		Agpast./Past	<b>4.29</b>	<b>13.2</b>
Middle/Lower Juba	Standard	Riverine	1.18	<b>4.76</b>
		Agpast.	1.13	<b>4.20</b>
		Pastoral	1.25	<b>4.33</b>
Bakool	33x6	Agpast.	<b>2.20</b>	<b>7.00</b>
		Pastoral	1.94	<b>5.30</b>
Bay	Standard	Agpast.	1.10	<b>4.12</b>
Gedo	Standard	Riverine	1.62	<b>6.20</b>
		Pastoral	1.21	<b>6.06</b>

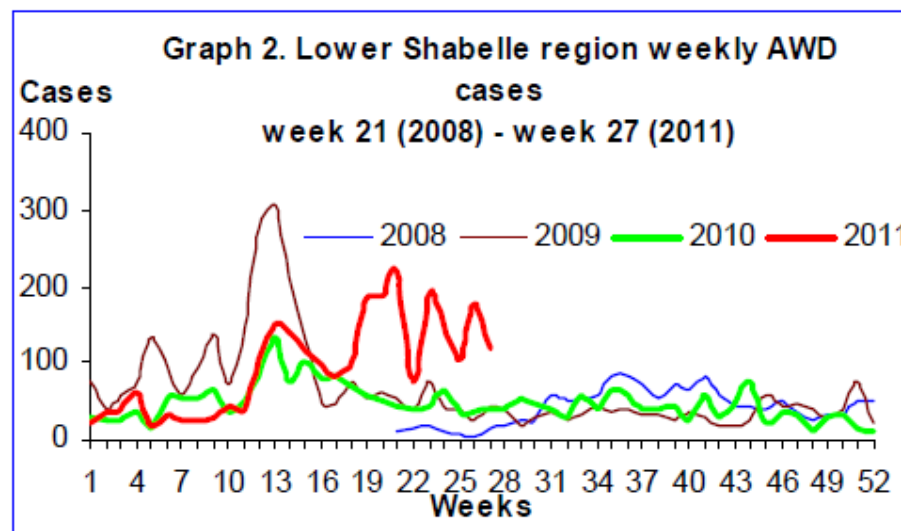
# Additional evidence to support a famine declaration

## Displacement

- 1,000 – 1,300 people per day are arriving Kenya's Dadaab camps and in Doolow Ado camp in Ethiopia. In total over 135,000 Somalis have sought asylum in neighboring countries due to the drought in 2011.
- In the last 3 months, about 9,000 households have moved into Mogadishu, mainly in the TGF protected areas.

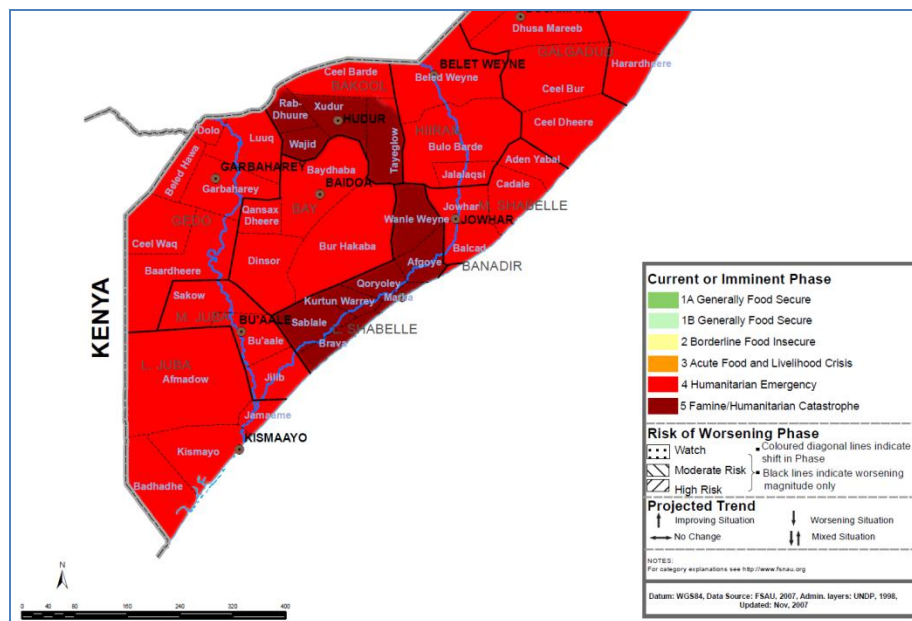
## Health

- Confirmed measles in Mogadishu
- Confirmed cholera/ AWD cases in Mogadishu, Afgoye, Baidoa, Lower Shabelle.



# Current food security classification

## *Updated IPC Map and numbers for July 2011*



### Planning figures (July-December)

- Number of people in crisis nationwide: **3.7 million**, compared to 2.85 million in June 2011.
- Number in need of lifesaving assistance nationwide (HE and Famine): **3.2 million**
- Number in need of lifesaving assistance in southern Somalia (HE and Famine): **2.8 million** compared to 1.75 million in June 2011.

# Current food security outcomes - Somalia

## *Historical Context*

Year	Country	Location	CDR Per 10,000/day	U5DR Per 10,000/day	Excess deaths	Source
2011	Somalia	<i>Southern Somalia</i>	1.10 - 6.12	4.12 – 20.3	n/a	FSNAU
2005	Niger	<i>Zinder</i>	1.5	4.1	n/a	Epicentre
2000/01	Ethiopia	<i>Gode Zone</i>	3.2	6.8	6,070	Salama et al, 2001
1998	Sudan	<i>Bahr el Gazel</i>	9.2 – 26.1	17.6 – 45.7	70,000	Deng, 1999
1991/2	Somalia	<i>Jowhar</i>	1.9	3.8	220,000 (national total)	Cited in Hansch, 1994
		<i>Mogadishu</i>	12.5	3.2		
		<i>Hoddur</i>	n/a	19.8		
		<i>Bardera</i>	11.8	22.7		

# LOOKING AHEAD THROUGH DECEMBER 2011

# Most likely scenario (July – December 2011)

## *Crop and Humanitarian Response Assumptions*

### **Crop production**

- July Gu-season harvests expected to be 50 percent of the 1995-2010 average, at best.
- Major cereal harvests in the east Africa region are currently forecast to be near-normal, though trade restrictions exist.

### **Humanitarian response**

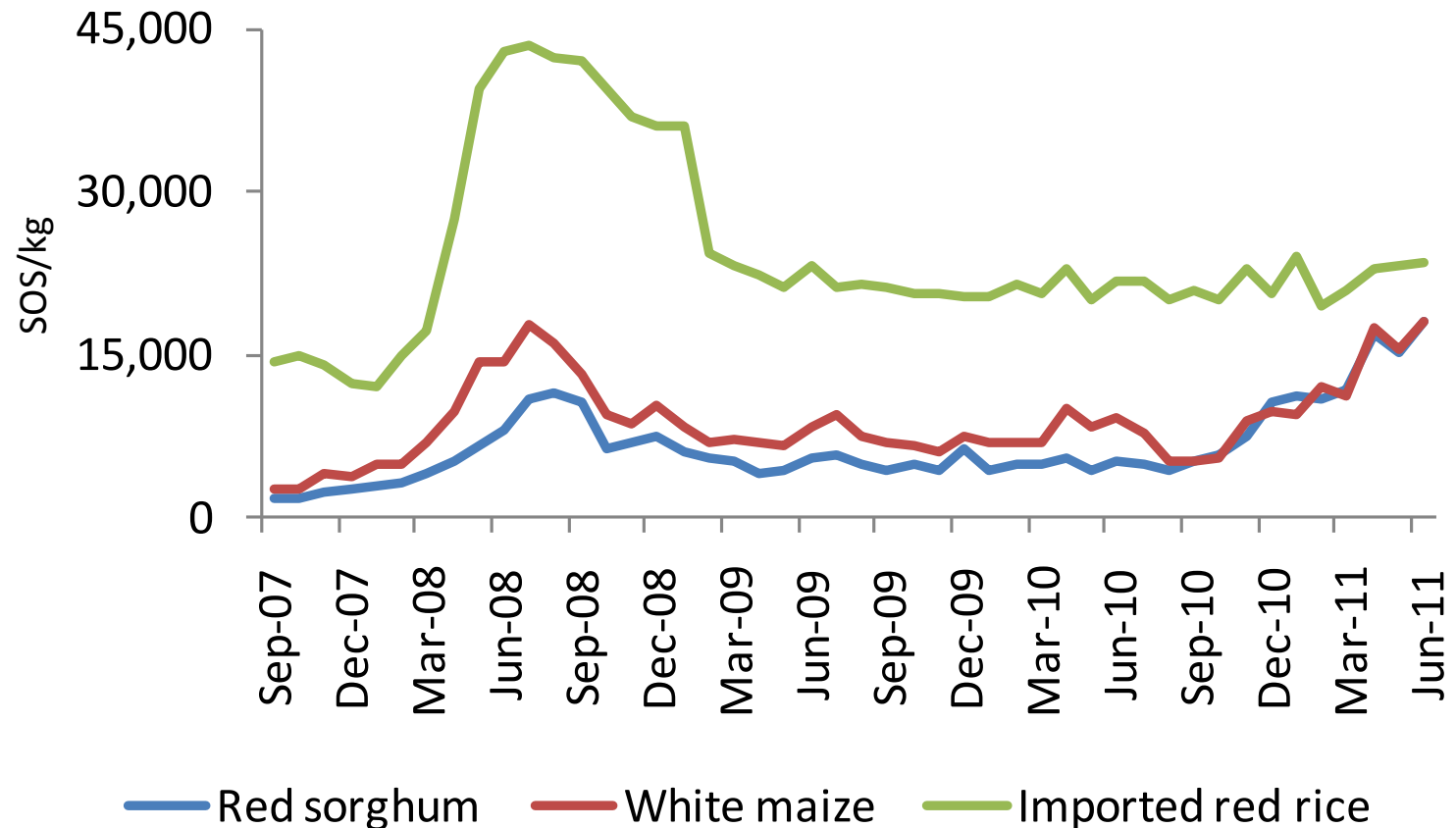
- No new humanitarian response has been assumed.



# Most likely scenario (July – December 2011)

*Continued increase in local cereal prices, but the imported rice price will act as a ceiling*

SOS per kilogram in Baidoa, Bay Region, Sorghum Belt Trade Basin, 2007-2011

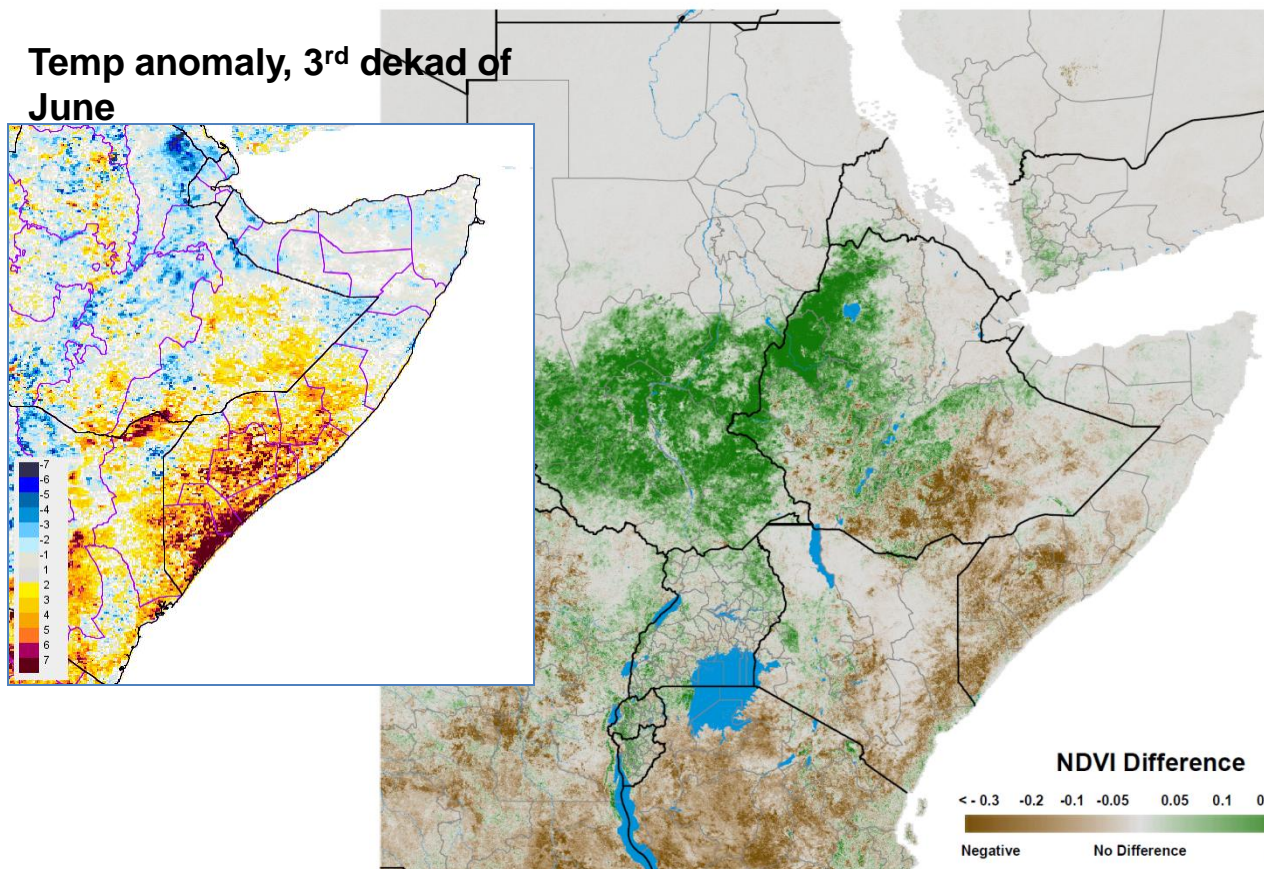


# Most likely scenario (July – December 2011)

## *Below-normal Pasture availability*

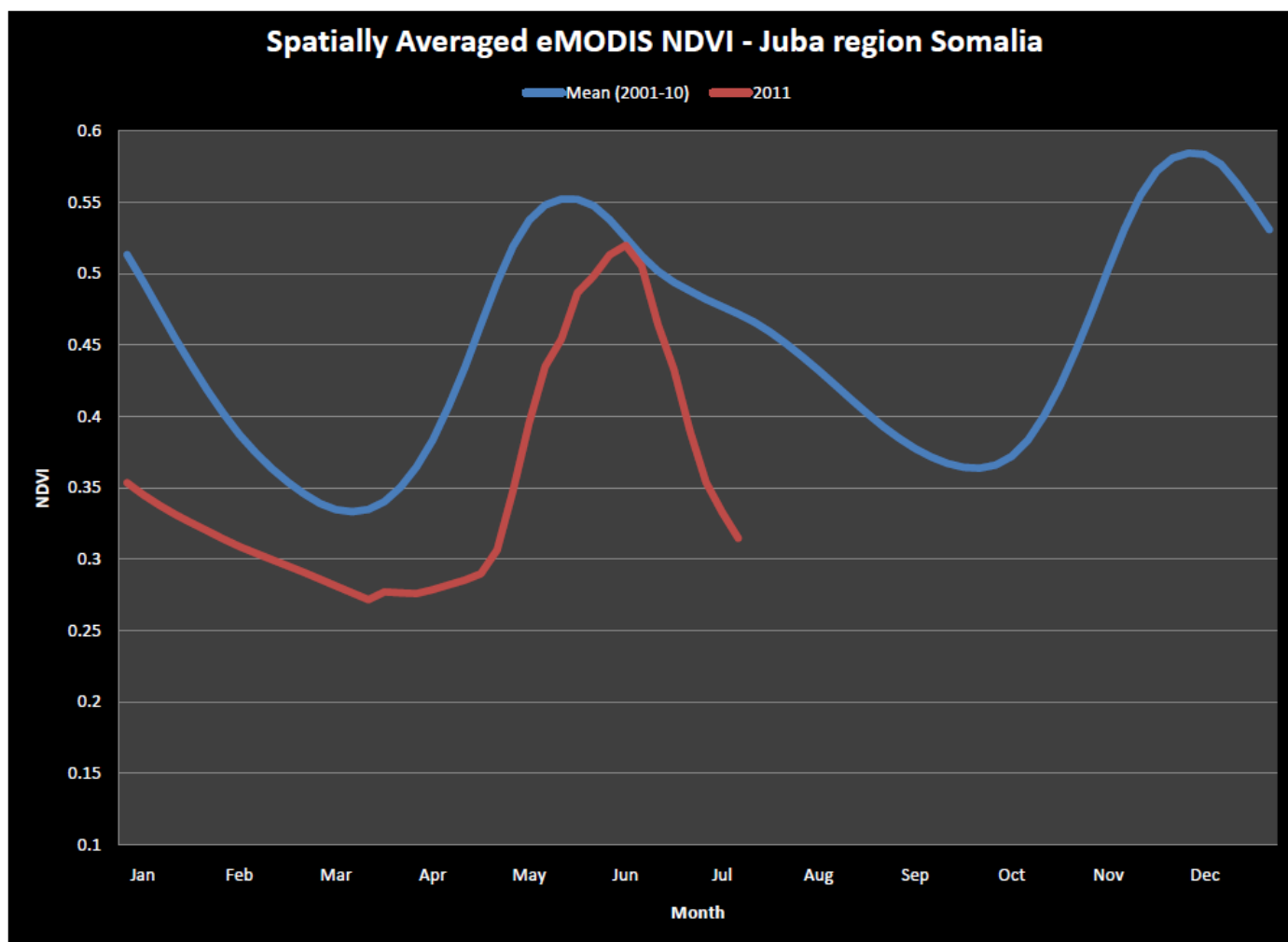
East Africa eMODIS 250m NDVI Difference

Period 36 (Jun 21-30) minus Period 30 (May 21-31), 2011



# Most likely scenario (July – December 2011)

*Rapid pasture depletion*



# Most likely scenario (July – December 2011)

## *Average October to December rainfall forecast*

ECMWF Seasonal Forecast

System 3

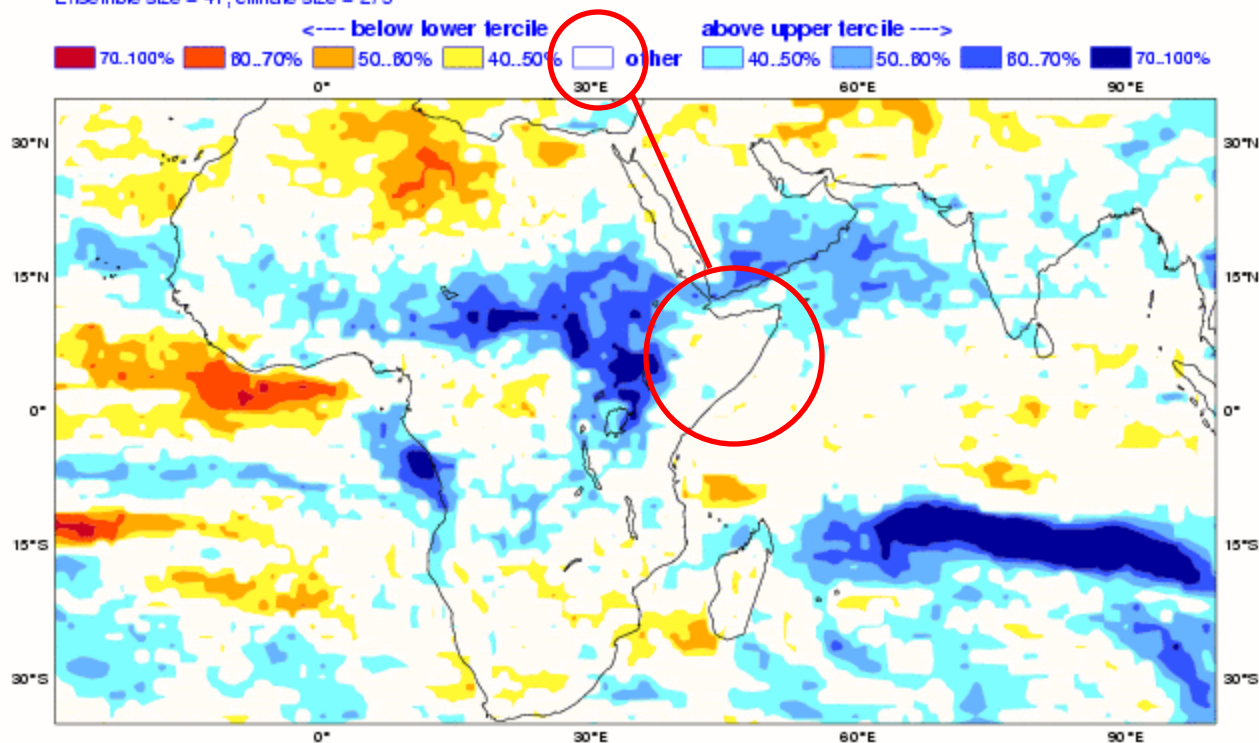
Prob(most likely category of precipitation)

OND 2011

Forecast start reference is 01/08/11

No significance test applied

Ensemble size = 41, climate size = 275



Forecast issue date: 15/08/2011

ECMWF

# Most likely scenario (July – December 2011)

## *Implications of Oct-Dec rainfall for crop and livestock production and health*

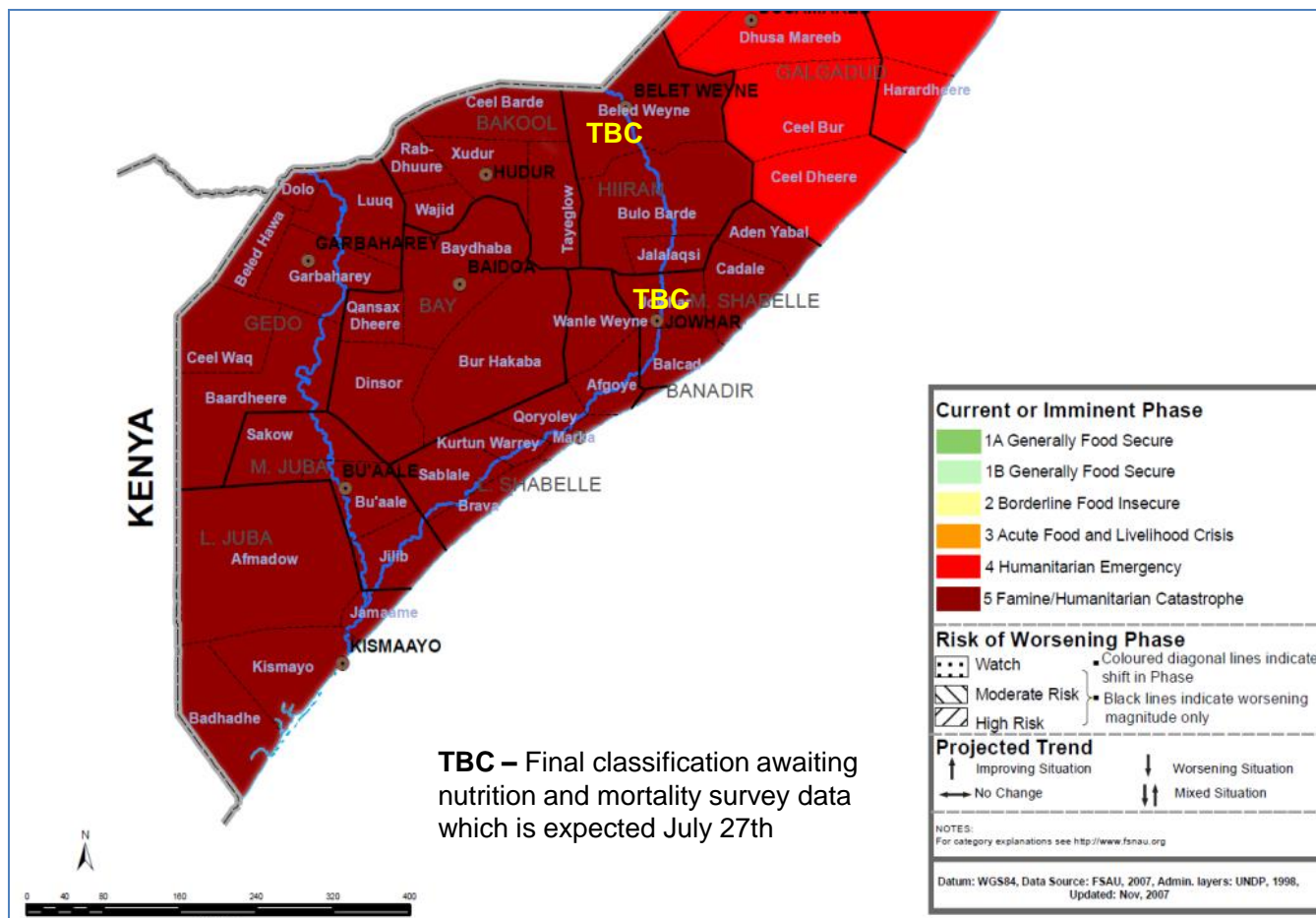
Even if rains are normal.....

- Given the increased vulnerability of populations, especially the displaced, the onset of rains is likely to result in an increased risk of morbidity and mortality. Malaria is of particular concern.
- Livestock births and milk availability are likely to be very low given significantly below normal livestock conceptions during the past two seasons.
- Large scale displacement may impact *deyr* season crop cultivation.



# Most likely scenario (August – December 2011)

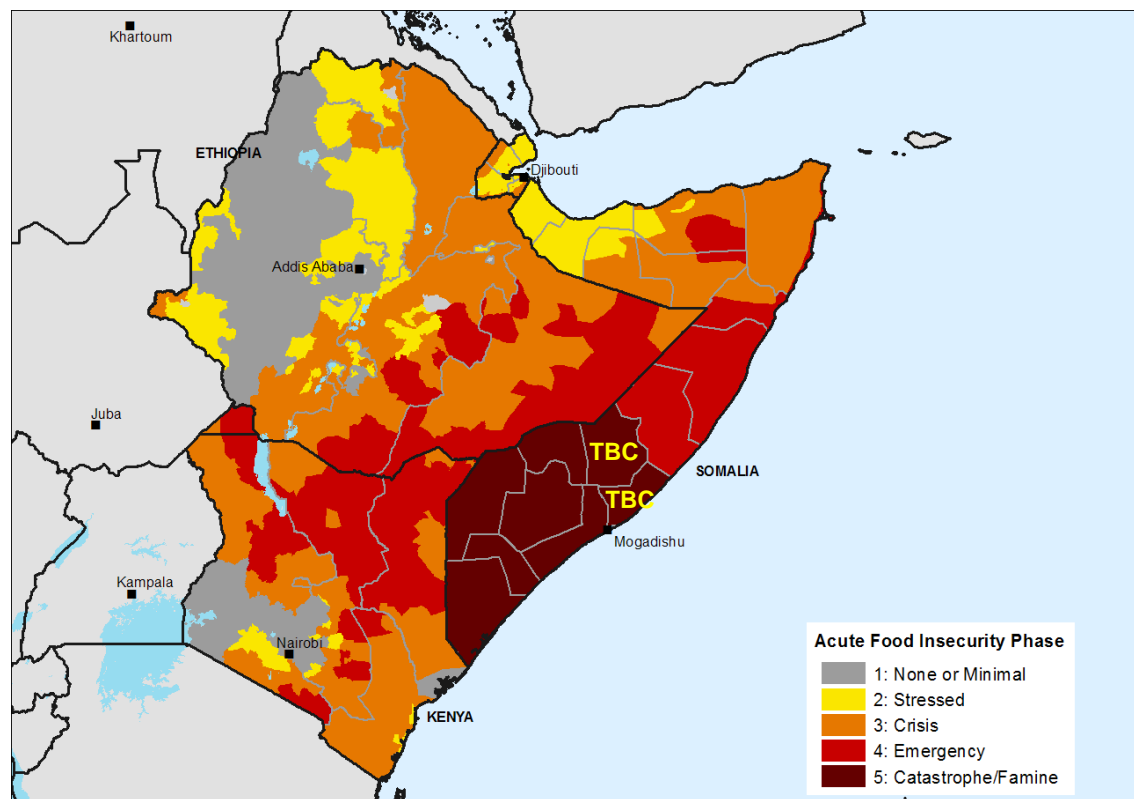
## *Projected food security outcomes*



# Most likely scenario (July – September 2011)

## *Projected regional food security outcomes*

- The current food security crisis is regional, and lifesaving assistance is also needed in Kenya and Ethiopia.
- However, famine and risk of famine are only present in southern Somalia



## Implications for response

- Large scale, immediate, comprehensive humanitarian response is required in the south. These assistance needs will persist through at least December 2011.
- Food access response should be coordinated with market traders and importers
- Provide agricultural inputs and livestock support services to maximize upcoming rains and increase productivity.
- Consider interventions which help to prevent large scale movement and concentration of people as they will reduce short-term negative impacts on health and longer term impacts on livelihoods.
- Ongoing response in Central and Northern Regions remains critical, especially given deteriorating levels of malnutrition among IDPs.



## Additional considerations

- Conditions are fluid, but current humanitarian access remains very limited across southern Somalia. Negotiations for improved humanitarian access should continue, as should access monitoring and reporting.
- While household purchasing power is limited, price monitoring, import data, and cross border trade data suggest that markets are functioning. Despite current trade restrictions traders are able to supply markets with imported staple foods (rice, pasta, wheat flour).

# Worst-case Scenario (July-December 2011)

- Widespread disease outbreaks such as measles, cholera/AWD, and others
- Livestock disease outbreaks
- Deyr rains less than average causing poor crop production and worsening pasture conditions
- A disruption to the flow of imported cereals → price/availability impacts.
- Conflict increases causing trade disruptions, looting, or population displacement
- Worsening humanitarian access

**Implications:** increasing severity, increasing numbers, increased displacement, and extension of the crisis further into 2012 with current or higher levels of severity.

## Next Steps

- UN Resident Coordinator press conference July 20<sup>th</sup> on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team
- Simultaneous joint press release by FSNAU/FEWS NET.
- Joint FEWS NET/FSNAU dekadal reporting begins July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Post-Gu assessment ongoing, findings to be released August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Establishment of nutrition/mortality monitoring system to be initiated in consultation from technical experts.

## Key Messages

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