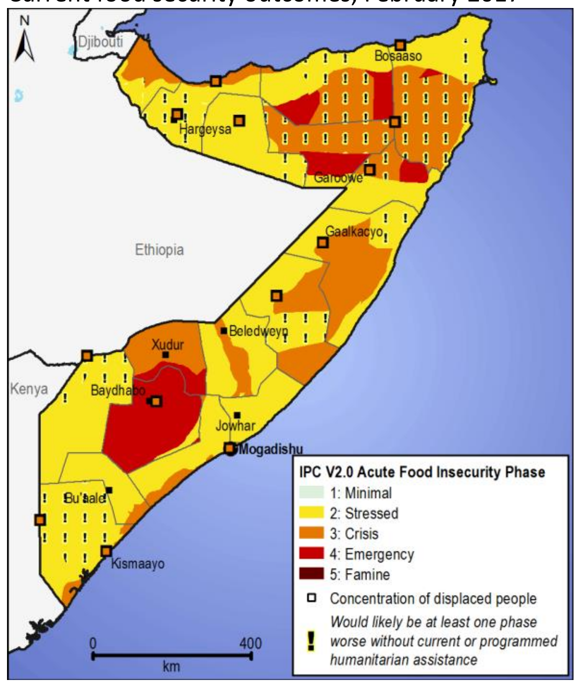
SOMALIA Food Security Outlook February to September 2017

Risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) persists in Somalia

KEY MESSAGES

- In January, FEWS NET and FSNAU released joint statements on deteriorating food security in Somalia and the risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) in a worst-case scenario in which the April to June 2017 *Gu* season performs very poorly, purchasing power declines to levels seen in 2010/11, and humanitarian assistance is unable to reach populations in need. In the most likely scenario, though, agropastoral areas of Bay/Bakool and Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone are expected to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes, and associated risk of increased mortality, through September.
- The April to June *Gu* season is currently forecast to be slightly below average. Terms of trade in southern regions are expected to decline significantly, and may be only slightly better than 2011 levels. Terms of trade in northern regions will be slightly more favorable, given stable rice prices.
- Humanitarian access is relatively better than in 2011 and humanitarian partners are present in previously inaccessible areas of southern Somalia. Humanitarian partners distributed emergency assistance to over 1,079,000 beneficiaries in February, reaching over 50 percent of the need in many areas of Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone and 35 percent of the need in Baidoa, two areas of high concern.
- An estimated 2,912,000 people will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phases 4) acute food insecurity between now and the peak of the agricultural lean season in June. Urgent humanitarian assistance is needed to save lives and livelihoods.
- The ongoing drought has led to high levels of internal and external displacement. According to recent reports by UNHCR, an estimated 256,000 people are newly displaced within Somalia, the majority of whom are in Mudug, Bay, and Banadir (Mogadishu). People have also sought refuge in Dolo Ado camp in Ethiopia, where the over 4,100 Somalis have arrived since January 2017.
- The scarcity of safe drinking water has led to an outbreak of AWD/cholera. According to WHO, there have been 10,571 cases reported and 269 deaths since January 2017. Nearly half of all cases where reported in Bay, and the majority of these cases were in Baidoa town where crowding of newly displaced households is likely exacerbating the outbreak.
- FSNAU plans to conduct SMART surveys in Bay Agropastoral, Northern Inland Pastoral, Bakool Pastoral livelihood zones, Baidoa IDPs and Mogadishu IDPs in early April. The results of these integrated surveys will update the malnutrition, mortality and food security status of these areas.

Current food security outcomes, February 2017



Source: *FEWS NET/FSNAU*

This map represents *acute* food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making, and does not necessarily reflect *chronic* food insecurity. For more information on this scale, please visit www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale.

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Risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) in Somalia in 2017

In January, FEWS NET and FSNAU warned of rapidly deteriorating food security in Somalia and the risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) in a worst-case scenario where the 2017 *Gu* season performs very poorly, purchasing power declines to levels seen in 2011, and humanitarian assistance is unable to reach populations in need.

It was these factors, alongside persistent high levels of acute malnutrition, which led to Famine (IPC Phase 5) in 2011. Conditions in early 2017 compared to early 2011 are mixed (Figure 1). International wheat and rice prices are lower and the prices of these imported commodities are expected to remain stable and act as a price ceiling on maize and sorghum prices, but terms of trade are still expected to deteriorate significantly, and may be only slightly higher than in 2011. Humanitarian access is relatively better, though, and humanitarian partners are present in previously inaccessible areas of southern Somalia. Although there remains a risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5), it is not the most likely scenario given current humanitarian access and the expectation of only slightly below average *Gu* rainfall. In a worst-case scenario where humanitarian assistance is unable to reach populations and need and the *Gu* rains are more below average than currently forecast, Famine (IPC Phase 5) would be likely. Of highest concern are agropastoral areas of Bay and Bakool and Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone.

Figure 1. Conditions in early 2017 compared to early 2011

Factor	Conditions in early 2017 compared to early 2011	
Rainfall in the preceding year	Worse in north and far south	Similar in central
Current food insecurity	Worse in NE and southern agro-pastoral	Better in central and southern pastoral
Current nutrition	Worse in NE and central	Better in south
Local cereal supply	Worse	
Local cereal prices	Similar	
International rice/ wheat prices	Lower	
Expected rainfall	Similar	
Purchasing power	Similar	
Humanitarian access	Somewhat better	

Source: *FEWS NET*

In agropastoral areas of Bay and Bakool, many poor households did not harvest crops during the *Deyr* season and have few livestock to sell to fund cereal purchases. Furthermore, high cereal prices are restricting normal food access. Internal displacement to Baidoa town has increased significantly over the past three months. The scarcity of safe drinking water has led to the outbreak of AWD/cholera in these regions, exacerbated by the overcrowding of newly displaced populations. The prevalence of acute malnutrition was at 'Critical' levels in December and has likely further deteriorated in recent months. In the event that the *Gu* season is significantly delayed or poorer than currently forecast, production will be well below average and food security will further deteriorate. Humanitarian access is relatively better compared to 2011, but there remain inaccessible areas in Bay and Bakool. Food insecurity is expected to be severe for those who cannot be reached by humanitarian assistance. In a worst-case scenario where large-scale assistance is not delivered and the *Gu* season performs poorer than expected, Famine (IPC Phase 5) would be expected.

In Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone, pastoralists are expected to be able to access some food through borrowing and credit, and food security will likely improve minimally after the Gu rains, when livestock body conditions improve and allow for the sale of a few goats. Large-scale humanitariain interventions are also ongoing in this livelihood zone and likely to continue through at least June. Food consumption gaps are expected to remain throughout the scenario period, though, and herd sizes will decline sharply due to atypical deaths and high sales. In the event that the Gu rains perform much worse than currently forecast, additional livestock deaths are expected and some pastoralists would lose their entire herd. Famine (IPC Phase 5) is possible in a worst-case scenario where the Gu rains fail, leaving pastoralists without livestock to sell, and humanitariain actors are unable to distribute large-scale assistance to those in need.

FSNAU plans to conduct SMART surveys in early April in Bay Agropastoral, Northern Inland Pastoral, and Bakool Pastoral livelihood zones, and among Baidoa IDPs and Mogadishu IDPs. The results of these integrated surveys will update the malnutrition, mortality, and food security status of these areas.

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

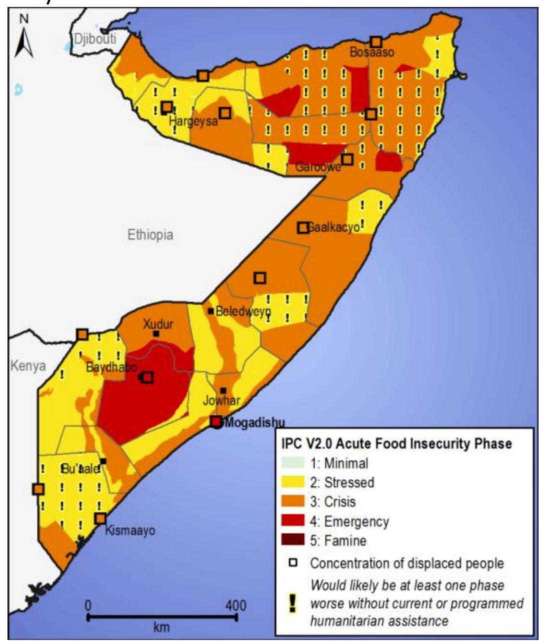
Rainfall. Somalia has two rainy seasons a year, the April to June *Gu* season and the October to December *Deyr* season. The October-December 2016 *Deyr* rainy season was significantly below average throughout Somalia and failed in many areas. In most areas, rainfall was two to four weeks late, distribution was erratic, and precipitation was 30–60 percent below normal (Figure 2). In the northeast, the rainy season was poor in all areas and significantly below average in Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone and Hawd and Addun Pastoral livelihood zones of northern Mudug. In the northwest, unseasonal rainfall was received in late 2016, but the subsequent *Xeys* rains, which are typically received in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone in December and January, were below average. In central regions, near average rainfall was reported in localized areas of Addun Pastoral and Central (Cowpea) Agropastoral livelihood zones, but all other areas received only 10-50 mm of rainfall. In the South, there was little to no rainfall until late November. From late November through the end of December 50-100 mm of rainfall were received in Lower and Middle Juba, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, and Bay.

Production. As a result of the extremely poor rains, *Deyr* cereal production in the south was well below average, estimated at 32,600 metric tons (MT), 68 percent below the 1995-2015 long-term/post-war average (PWA) and 75 percent below the 2011-2015 five-year average (Figure 3). This is the second lowest cereal harvest on record, after 2010/11 *Deyr* production. Sorghum production was 80 percent below the PWA in Bay, the main sorghum-producing region, and maize production was 58 percent below the PWA in Lower Shabelle, the key maize-producing region. Nationally, this is the second consecutive poor season: 2016 *Gu* production was 20 percent below average.

Conversely, in Northwest Agropastoral livelihood zone, the only production area in the north, November/December *Gu/Karan* cereal production was estimated at 37,500 MT, 68 percent higher than the 2011-2015 five-year average. Production was relatively better in this area, which follows a different rainfall pattern, due to favorable 2016 *Gu/Karaan* rainfall.

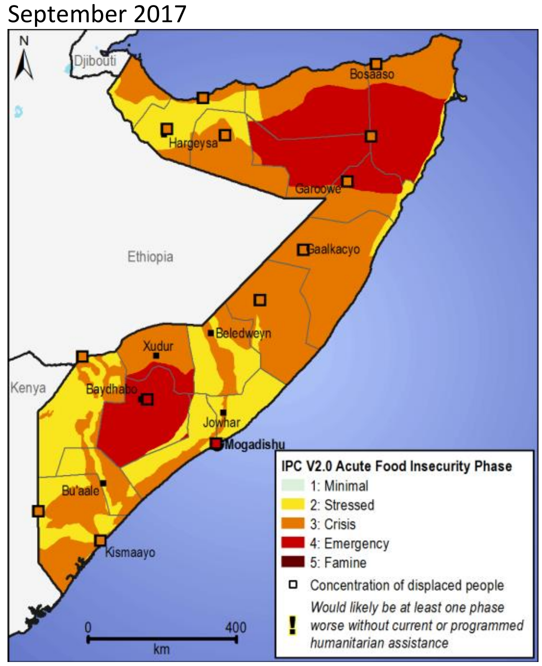
Pasture and water resources. Rangeland conditions in most pastoral livelihood zones are significantly below average. Rainfall totals were higher in the northwest and parts of Bay, Gedo, Middle and Lower Juba, and Lower Shabelle and pasture partially regenerated in December, but was quickly depleted by the heavy influx of livestock from other drought-affected areas. Resources are the scarcest in Northern Inland Pastoral, Addun, Hawd, Coastal Deeh, and agropastoral areas in Hiran. Extensive water trucking is ongoing in these areas. In northeastern regions, the price of a 200-liter drum of water is around 45,000 SOS, 60 percent higher than the 2012-2016 average and the highest price observed in these areas since April 2011.

Projected food security outcomes, February to May 2017



Source: *FEWS NET and FSNAU*

Projected food security outcomes, June to September 2017



Source: *FEWS NET and FSNAU*

This map represents *acute* food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making, and does not necessarily reflect *chronic* food insecurity. For more information on this scale, please visit www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale.

The scarcity of water in reservoirs has increased demand for water from the Shabelle River. The heavy use of the river upstream has led to lower river water levels for households downstream. In Jowhar of Middle Shabelle, river water is only 0.5 meters high, substantially lower than the 1.8 meters typical of this time. It is quite likely river water levels are even lower in this area, though; partners at SWALIM have noted that although the gauge reads 0.5 meters, ground reports indicate the river is completely dry at Jowhar. Water levels in the Juba River in Gedo, Middle Juba, and Lower Juba remain at or above normal levels due to relatively better rainfall in the Juba River basin, a greater number of tributaries, and the lower intensity with which river water is used for irrigation purposes.

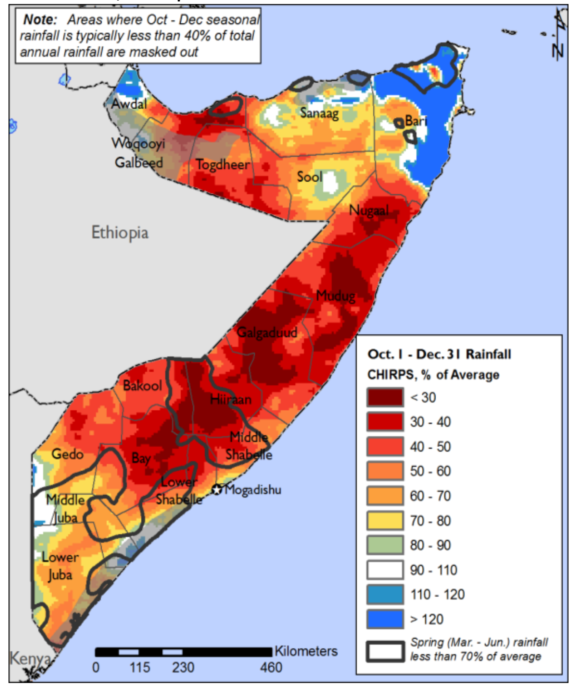
Livestock. Due to scarce pasture and water resources throughout the country, livestock body conditions have atypically deteriorated. In northeastern and central regions, livestock body conditions are very poor and atypical livestock deaths have been reported in Northern Inland Pastoral, Hawd Pastoral, Addun Pastoral, and Coastal Deeh livelihood zones. Livestock body conditions are slightly better in the northwest and south, but still poorer than normal. Rates of livestock conception during the *Deyr* season were very low in all northeastern, central, and southern regions. Due to limited livestock births and poor body conditions, milk production is extremely poor in most northeastern and central regions and only slightly better in the south and northwest.

Poor livestock body conditions have also driven the decline in livestock prices across the country. Between December and January, prices decreased sharply. The most significant decline was in Cerrigaabo of Sanag where the price of a local quality goat declined 72 percent. Price decreases were less significant between January and February, and in some markets prices increased slightly, but prices remain significantly below average. Cattle prices exhibited a similar trend, declining 25-40 percent below average in most southern and central markets between December and February.

Labor. In addition to the loss of income that households are experiencing due to declining livestock prices, household income from agricultural labor is also below average, as low demand is driving lower wage rates. Wage rates in Baidoa and Qorioley remain stable compared to the five-year average, but all districts of Bay and Lower Shabelle, wage rates have declined significantly in recent months and are now between 5-20 percent below average.

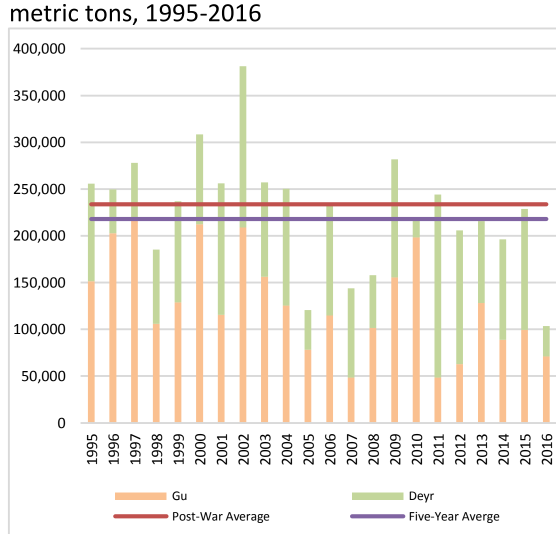
Food prices. At the same time that income from livestock sales and labor is decreasing, local cereal prices have sharply increased due to low supply. In Baidoa of Bay, the key reference market in sorghum-producing areas, the price of sorghum in February was 116 percent above last year and 74 percent above the five-year average. In Qorioley of Lower Shabelle, the key reference market in maize-producing areas, the price of maize in February was 43 percent above last year, but near average. The price of maize in Qorioley was 74 percent above average in January, but declined 71 percent between January and February. In both markets, prices are below those observed in 2010-2011 (Figure 4). The price of imported rice and wheat is roughly two to three times higher than the price of maize and sorghum, but prices remain stable, owing to sufficient international supply and relatively low transportation costs.

Figure 2: Rainfall as a percentage of normal, Oct. – Dec. 2016, compared to the 1981-2010 mean



Source: *FEWS NET/USGS, CHIRPS*

Figure 3. Annual cereal production in Somalia in metric tons, 1995-2016



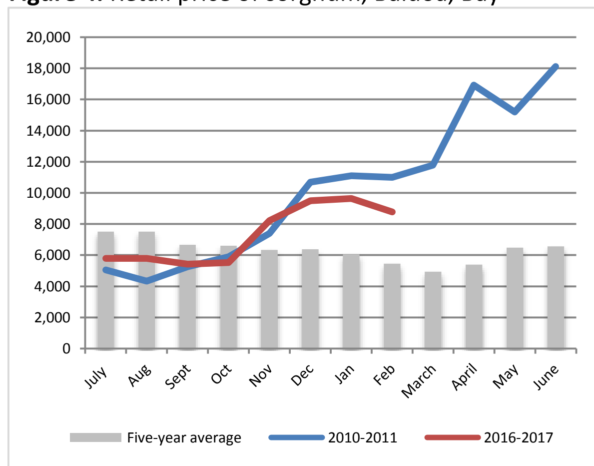
Source: *FSNAU*

Terms of trade. The combination of rising cereal prices and diminishing income has led to a sharp decline in household purchasing power, as measured by terms of trade (ToT) (Figure 4). The most significant declines were observed in regions such as Bay, Bakool, and Lower Shabelle, where maize or sorghum prices are increasing alongside declining livestock and labor prices. In Hudur of Bakool, a day's labor now only purchases 3 kilograms of sorghum and the sale of a goat purchases 30 kilograms of sorghum, both more than 50 percent less than average. In pastoral areas of Lower Juba, Middle Juba, and Gedo, the decline in ToT has been more slight, despite high maize and sorghum prices, due to a less significant decrease in livestock prices. In northeastern and central regions, where rice prices remain stable, declining livestock prices are driving lower than normal ToT. Relatively better ToT can be observed in northwestern regions such as Woqooyi Galbeed, where livestock prices are near normal and rice prices are stable.

Displacement. The ongoing drought has forced many people to leave their homes in search of alternative sources of food and water. According to UNHCR, over 256,000 people have been newly displaced between November 2016 and February 2017, as a result of the ongoing drought. The majority of new displacements are in Mudug, Bay and Mogadishu, and Mudug (Figure 6). Internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been observed moving to current IDP settlements as well as setting up new settlements in town centers. People have also sought refuge in Dolo Ado camp in Ethiopia, where the over 4,100 Somalis have arrived since January 2017. The majority of new arrivals are from Bay, Middle Juba, and Gedo. According to nutrition screenings conducted by UNHCR, the prevalence of acute malnutrition among newly arrived children under five is extremely concerning. No Somalis have been recorded moving towards Dadaab camp in Kenya.

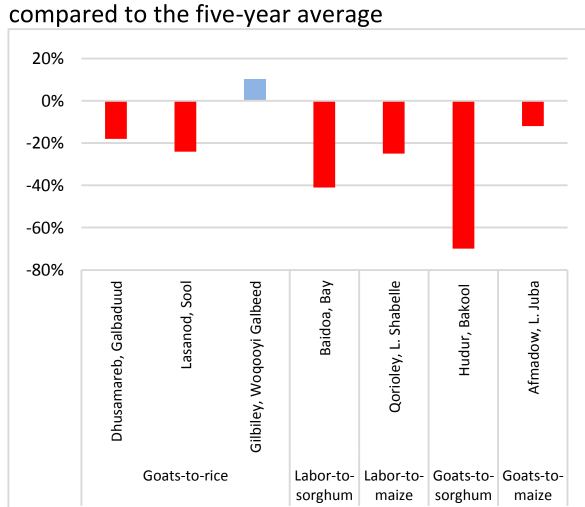
Outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD)/cholera. WHO reported 10,571 cases and 269 deaths between January 1 and March 10 across 39 districts in 12 regions of Somalia. Nearly half of all cases where reported in Bay and the majority of these cases were in Baidoa town where crowding of newly displaced households is likely exacerbating the outbreak. The epidemic is attributed to the drought that started in October 2016 that has caused limited access to safe water and sanitation services.

Figure 4. Retail price of sorghum, Baidoa, Bay



Source: *FSNAU/FEWS NET*

Figure 5. Change in terms of trade (ToT), January 2017 compared to the five-year average



Source: *FSNAU/FEWS NET*

According to data gathered by Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), FEWS NET, and partners during the 2016 post-*Deyr* assessment, over 1,644,000 people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in January 2017.

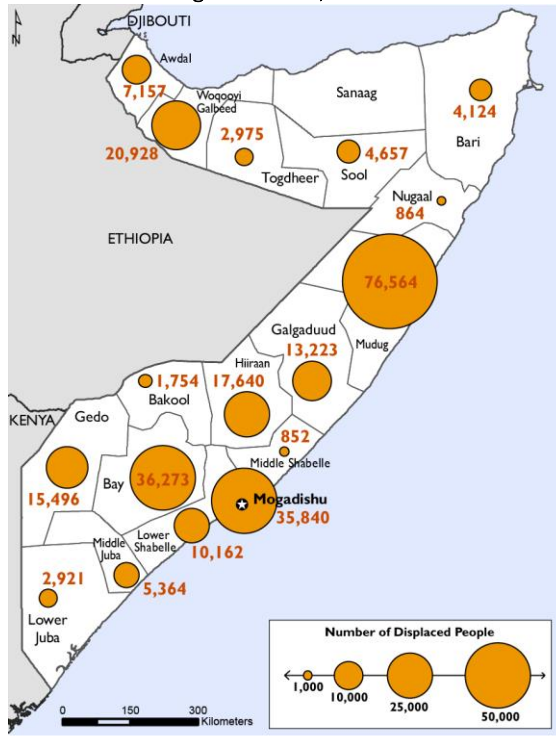
Rural areas: In southern agropastoral areas, *Deyr* production among poor households was significantly below average. Poor households have already exhausted cereal stocks and are now heavily dependent on markets to access food. However, recent price spikes and declining income are lowering household food access. Many are coping through selling atypically high numbers of livestock, purchasing on loans, and seeking assistance through community support. Of highest concern are agropastoral areas in Bay and Bakool where production was a near complete failure and poor households own few livestock to sell as a coping mechanism. As of late February, around 30,000 people have been internally displaced, moving from rural areas to Baidoa, Gedo, and Mogadishu in search of assistance. This area is currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), but an increasing number of households are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In northern and central pastoral areas, pastoralists have limited livestock to sell, as most have very poor body conditions and some have died as a result of the drought. With limited access to income, household purchases of cereals are below normal. Milk consumption is also very low. Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes exist in most pastoral areas. Northern Inland Pastoral, which has experienced several consecutive seasons of drought, is of high concern. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes existed in January. In February, during the pastoral lean season, some areas have deteriorated to Emergency (IPC Phase 4), but many districts of this livelihood zone remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) due to ongoing, large-scale humanitariain assistance. In northwestern areas, near average to above-average 2016 rainfall supported favorable livestock conditions and near-average cereal production, and in southern pastoral areas, late rainfall improved pasture and water for livestock. In these areas households have greater access to milk and saleable livestock to fund market purchases, resulting in somewhat better consumption. Most of these areas are Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Urban areas: Food security has also declined in most southern urban areas, due to rising food prices alongside declining income. Income from casual labor and petty trade declined in all southern regions except Middle Shabelle. The largest declines were in Mogadishu and Bakool where the wage rate in February dropped 25-30 percent below the five-year average. Due to lower than normal food access, urban areas in Mudug, Hiraan, Bakool, Bay, and Middle Juba are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Conversely, casual labor wages remained relatively stable in most central and northern urban areas. As a result of this and staple imported commodity prices, ToT in northern and central Somalia have remained stable compared to average. Most urban areas in these regions are Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

IDP settlements: Among internally displaced persons (IPDs) who were displaced by December 2016, approximately 402,000 are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 39,000 are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), based on results from the post-*Deyr* assessment. In seven of the 12 IDP settlements, more than 30 percent of the population has a poor or borderline food consumption score and over 80 percent of all IDPs reported engaging in mild to moderate coping mechanisms to access food. Given that most IDP households allocate over 70 percent of their income to food expenditures, current price spikes are lowering food access. Since the post-*Deyr* assessment, an additional 250,000 people have become internally displaced. It is expected that the majority of these newly displaced households have sold or lost many livelihood assets and are accessing food through community support and available humanitarian assistance. It is likely many are facing food consumption gaps and are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse.

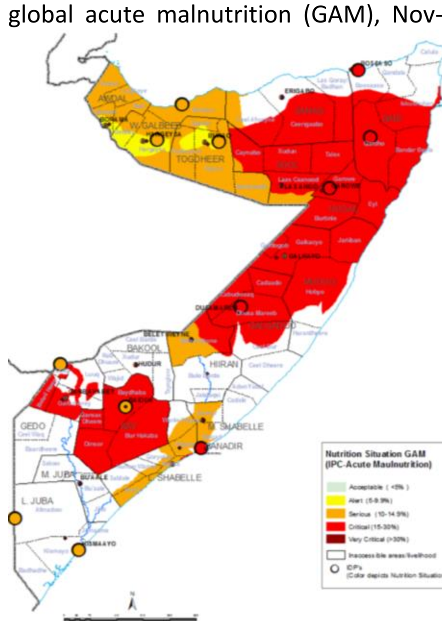
Nutritional Status: The results of 27 SMART surveys conducted by FSNAU between October and December 2016 show the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM), as measured by weight-for-height z-score (WHZ), has increased in many areas of the country since the July 2016 post-*Gu* assessment. Critical levels of GAM (15-30%) were observed in Northern Inland Pastoral, Coastal Deeh, Aduun Pastoral, and Hawd Pastoral livelihood zones, and in Gedo and Bay Regions (Figure 7). An estimated 363,000 children between the ages of six and 59 months were suffering from acute malnutrition in Somalia, including over 71,000 children who were severely malnourished. The number of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases is 28 percent higher than the same time last year. It is expected that food security and nutritional status has further deteriorated in January and February given high food prices and declining income, which together are decreasing food access.

Figure 6. Drought-related internal displacement in Somalia according to UNHCR, Nov. 2016-Feb. 2017



Source: UNHCR

Figure 7. Nutrition outcomes as measured by global acute malnutrition (GAM), Nov-Dec. 2016



Source: *FSNAU*

Ongoing humanitarian response. An estimated 825 million USD is required from January to June 2017 to implement the Somalia Operational Plan for Pre-Famine Scale Up of Humanitarian Assistance. As of 13 March 2017, a total of 183.8 million USD has been received against the appeal, approximately 22.3 percentage of requirements. According to the Food Security

Cluster, humanitarian actors reached 508,161 beneficiaries in January and 1,079,000 beneficiaries in February with emergency food assistance, delivered either in-kind or through cash/voucher. This assistance reached over 50 percent of the estimated population in need in Borama of Awdal, Bender Belia, Gardo, and Iskushuban of Bari, El Bur, Belet Hawa, Dolo, El Waq, and Luuq of Gedo, Kismayo and Afmadow of Lower Juba, Jariban of Mudug, Badhan and Erigavo of Sanaag, Caynabo, Taleh, and Xudun of Sool, Buhodle of Togdheer, and Gabiley and Hargeisa of Woqooyi Galbeed. It is expected that food security outcomes in these areas are at least one phase better due to this humanitarian assistance.

Assumptions

The February to September 2017 most likely scenario is based on the following national-level assumptions:

Weather

- The January to March *Jilaal* dry season will be drier and hotter than normal throughout the country.
- In southern and central Somalia, seasonal forecasts and analyses conducted by NOAA forecast below-average April to June *Gu* rainfall. An analysis of analog years of similar climate drivers indicates that rainfall is likely to be 10-25 percent below average, with pockets of rainfall as much as 25-50 percent below average along the southern border with Ethiopia. A delayed onset of rainfall by one to two weeks and erratic rainfall distribution is also expected, given similar trends in analog years. In northern Somalia, forecasts indicate rainfall totals are expected to be near average.
- June to August *Karan* rains in northwestern Somalia are expected to be average.
- The July to September *Xagaa* coastal showers in Lower and Middle Shabelle and Lower and Middle Juba are forecast to be average.
- Water levels in the Shabelle River will likely remain significantly below average to completely dry through April in most areas down river of Hiraan. Given the forecast for average to below-average April to September rainfall in the Ethiopian highlands, which feeds in to the Shabelle River, and below average *Gu* rains, river water levels are expected to remain lower than normal from April through September. This will result in lower than normal irrigation planting.
- River water levels in the Juba River are expected to remain average to slightly below average throughout the outlook period, given current levels and the expectation of below average *Gu* rains.

Agricultural labor demand and crop production:

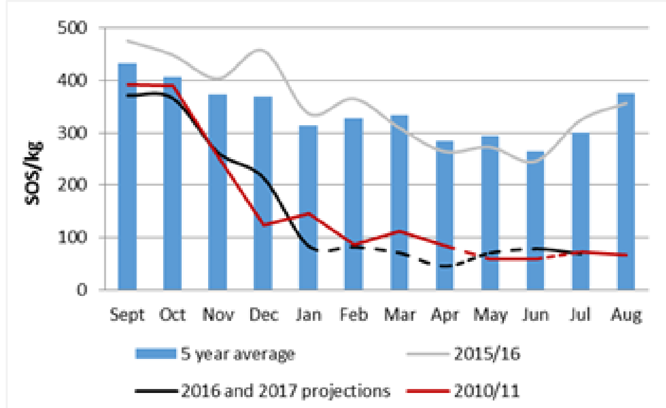
- Local cereal stocks are expected to be well below average through June, both on markets and at the household-level.
- As a result of forecast below-average *Gu* rainfall in most areas of southern and central Somalia, the area planted, agricultural labor opportunities, and production are all likely to be below average. Sorghum, which is slightly more resistant to drought, is expected to be slightly below average, while maize production will be relatively more below average. Cowpea production, which requires a shorter cultivation period but is susceptible to erratic rainfall, is also likely to be below average. Overall *Gu* production is expected to be 25-30 percent below average.

Livestock:

- Livestock body conditions are likely to further deteriorate during the January to March *Jilaal* season due to limited availability of water or pasture. As a result, atypical livestock migration patterns and higher than normal livestock deaths among cattle and goats/sheep are expected in most regions of the county. Water and pasture availability are expected to replenish in May, following the start of the April to June *Gu* rains.
- A very low rate of kidding of small ruminants and calving of camels and cattle are expected in most areas as a result of high abortion rates during the July to September *Xagaa* 2016 season and minimal conception during the *Deyr* 2016/17.
- Milk availability will be well below average through March, as a high number of milking females will not produce milk. Milk production will increase from April to September, but remain lower than normal due to limited livestock births.
- Atypically high livestock deaths, abortions, and distress selling of livestock are likely through March, reducing her sizes. The greatest losses are expected in northern and central pastoral areas where livestock herd sizes are expected to decline 50 percent below baseline levels.

Markets and trade:

Figure 8. Projected goat-to-maize terms of trade, Qorioley, Lower Shabelle.



Source: *FEWS NET projection based on FSNAU data*

- As a result of slightly below-average *Gu* 2016 production, significantly below-average 2016/17 *Deyr* production, and expected below-average *Gu* 2017 production, domestic staple cereal supply is expected to be well below average throughout 2017 and similar to that of 2011. Sorghum and maize imports from Ethiopia are expected to be above average, but total quantities are trivial and not likely to impact domestic supply of maize and sorghum.
- Due to the fact that international markets are well supplied with rice and wheat and prices are below average, wheat and rice imports into Somalia are expected to be well above average and address domestic staple food supply gaps.
- Imported wheat flour and rice prices are expected to remain stable, with only moderate price increases due to slight depreciation of the SOS and SLS. Prices will likely remain near 15,000 SOS in most markets throughout the outlook period.
- Maize and sorghum prices are expected to further increase through at least July, driven by low supplies. Below-average and stable wheat/rice prices are expected to act as a price ceiling for maize and sorghum. As a result, local cereal prices are unlikely to exceed 15,000 SOS in most markets, slightly below peak price levels in 2011.
- Livestock prices are likely to further decrease through April, as livestock body conditions deteriorate. It is also possible that Saudi Arabia's ban on livestock imports from Somalia will lower demand, further decreasing prices. Livestock conditions and prices are likely to improve slightly from May through September, but remain slightly below average.
- Household purchasing power, as measured by goats-to-cereal and labor-to-cereal ToT, is expected to drop significantly and be near 2011 levels (Figure 8) in many key markets. These should be considered conservative estimates, as they do not fully reflect the possible decrease in livestock and labor prices.
- Milk prices will sharply increase during the January to March *Jilaal* dry season due to limited availability, decrease slightly from April through June, and seasonally increase from July through September.

Humanitarian assistance:

- According to the foods security cluster, humanitarian actors plan to reach 2,800,000 people a month from March through June with emergency in-kind or cash/voucher assistance. In all regions but Middle Juba, humanitarian actors are targeting between 50 and 100 percent of the need. Given uncertainty around levels of funding through June, and possible access constraints, it is unclear if the current assistance plan will be fully implemented. However, it is assumed that humanitarian assistance will continue at least at levels seen in February. Information on funding levels and distribution plans from July to September are unknown; in the absence of this information the most likely scenario assumes the absence of humanitarian assistance from July to September.

Conflict:

- Conflict will likely remain at current levels or higher given the Federal Government and AMISOM's planned offensive against insurgents. Inter-clan conflicts are likely in Lower and Middle Shabelle. Disruptions to trade and humanitarian access are expected in Mogadishu, Lower and Middle Shabelle, Bay, Bakool, Gedo, and Lower and Middle Juba.

Displacement and migration

- Continued internal displacement, at rates already observed or higher, is expected through at least March.
- Displacement is expected primarily among poor rural households who are moving to towns in search of assistance and labor opportunities. Internal displacement is likely to slow in April, with the start of the rainy season.
- Further external displacement is expected through at least March. It is likely the majority will seek refuge at Dolo Ado

refugee camp in Ethiopia and it is expected arrivals will continue at or above the current rate of about 70 people a day through at least March. External displacement it is not expected to be as high as in 2011, though, due to improved humanitarian access in southern and central Somalia compared to 2011. Improved access is likely to allow for a larger humanitarian intervention in 2017, decreasing the number who would otherwise seek assistance in neighboring countries. Furthermore, displacement is expected to slow in April with the start of the *Gu* rains, contrary to 2011 when the *Gu* rains were significantly delayed and external displacement further spiked[1].

- As a result of the High Court of Kenya declaring that Dadaab should remain open, it is possible the rate of Somali returnees will slow. However, it is unlikely that new arrivals from Somalia will be permitted to enter Dadaab.

Nutrition

- The prevalence of GAM is expected to increase atypically through June across Somalia as a result of low cereal stocks, limited milk availability, high prices lowering food access, and increased morbidity.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Food security is expected to deteriorate through June, the end of the agropastoral lean season. An estimated 2,912,000 people are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or higher between now and the June, 439,000 of whom are likely to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). With the availability of the *Gu* harvest in July and improvements to livestock body conditions and productivity alongside the April-June *Gu* season, food security is expected to improve slightly between July and September 2017. An estimated 2,500,000 are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or higher at this time.

In southern agropastoral areas, food security is expected to deteriorate through June, the peak of the lean season. Most poor households have depleted household food stocks and rely primarily on marekts to access food. Although prices are not likely to reach 2011 peak levels, expected increases are still upwards of 200 percent, which will significantly limit the amount of food poor households will be able to purchase. With the onset of the *Gu* rains in April, agricultural labor opportunities will be available, but the *Gu* season is forecast to be below average and erratic, which will lead to lower planting and subsequently fewer labor opportunities. Most agropastoral areas are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through June. In agropastoral areas of Bay and Bakool, where food security outcomes are already severe, many poor and displaced households will be heavily dependent on community support and loans to access food. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are expected to persist in these areas. After the arrival of the *Gu* harvest in July, food security will improve slightly. However, many poor households will need to sell a higher than normal proportion of their harvest to repay heavy debts accrued during the lean season. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) are expected throughout the scenario period. In a worst-case scenario where large-scale assistance is not delivered and the *Gu* season performs poorer than expected, Famine (IPC Phase 5) would be expected.

In pastoral areas, food insecurity will be most severe during the peak of the lean season in March. At this time, pasture and water will be very limited and pastoralists will have few livestock to sell to fund cereal purchases. Where they are able to sell, they will receive atypically low prices. In southern regions, where the staple is sorghum or maize, pastoralists will face extremely high cereal prices. Pastoralists in central and northern regions are likely to have relatively better food access, due to stable rice prices. During the April-June *Gu* season, pasture and water resources will likely regenerate to near normal levels, both in the north where average rainfall is forecast and in southern and central regions where rainfall 10-25 percent below average is still sufficient to restore pasture and water. This will not lead to immediate improvements in food security, though. Once livestock body conditions improve in May and pastoralist can sell additional livestock, income from sales will go to both food purchases and repaying debts. Most areas will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), athough ongoing humanitariain assistance is expected to support Stressed (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes in areas of Gedo, Lower Juba, Galgaduud, Mudug, Awdal, and Woqooyi Galbeed through June. Of greatest concern is Northern Inland Pastoral, where reoccurant drought has lead to higher livestock deaths and some pastoralists are destitute. Average *Gu* rains will improve the conditions of remaining livestock, but pastoralists have few to sell and debts are very high. Food consumption gaps and increased asset depletion are expected. Large-scale humanitarian interventions planned, funded, and likely through June are expected to keep many areas of this livelihood zone in Crisis (IPC Phase 3!), but from July through September, in the absense of humanitariain assistance, Northern Inland Pastroal would be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

In urban areas and IDP settlements, food security is expected to further deteriorate through at least June, as higher than normal food prices drive below average purchasing capacity. Based on outcomes collected during the post-*Deyr* assessment,

[1] See ***Events That May Change the Scenario*** for expected displacement in the event *Gu* rainfall is significantly delayed and more below average than currently forecast

it was estimated that 452,000 IDPs would be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 48,000 would be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) through June 2017. Since this assessment, approximately 250,000 additional people have been displaced, most of whom likely have limited access to sufficient food. As a result, it is likely the estimated number of IDPs who are acutely food insecure will be larger than previously expected and will be located not only in previously estimated IDP settlments, but also in informal settlements in main towns throughout the country. The influx of IDPs to urban centers is also expected to increase competition for labor and could lead to more cases of cholera/AWD.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Sorghum Agropastoral High Potential of Bay Region and Agropastoral Low Potential in Bay and Bakool Regions.

Current situation

The October to December *Deyr* rains were 50-70 percent below average and poorly distributed throughout Bay and Bakool, negatively impacting crop development in both the Sorghum Agropastoral High Potential and Agropastoral Low Potential livelihood zones. Cereal production in Bay, estimated at 7,100 MT, was 80-86 percent below both the five-year and PWA. In Bakool, production was estimated at only 200 MT, roughly 95 percent below the five-year average. Significantly below-average *Deyr* production follows below-average *Gu* 2016 production. As a result, maize and sorghum stocks in both regions are extremely low. It is expected most poor household depleted household food stocks in February.

Figure 9. Food security and nutrition outcomes, Bay Agropastoral livelihood zones, post-*Deyr* analysis, December 2016-January 2017

Food security Indicators	Food Consumption Score (FCS)	22% poor; 20% borderline
	Household Hunger Score (HHS)	28% severe; 29% moderate
Nutritional Status	Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM(WHZ))	20.0% (15.6-25.3)
Mortality	Crude Death Rate (CDR)	0.73/10,000/day

Source: *FSNAU*

Due to low supplies, sorghum prices have increased significantly. In February, the price of sorghum was 8,775 SOS/kg in Baidoa market of Bay, 116 percent above the same time last year and 74 percent above the five-year average. The trend was similar in Bakool where the price of sorghum in Hudur market was 67 percent above last year and 102 percent above the five-year average.

While cereal prices have drastically increased, income-earning opportunities are declining. Agricultural employment, which typically accounts for 34-50 percent of poor households' usual income, is limited. The daily agricultural labor wage in Bay was on average 45,750 SOS in February, roughly 20 percent below the five-year average.

The poor *Deyr* rains also failed to fully restore pasture and water resources. Most seasonal water catchments have dried up and water prices have increased drastically. The price of a 20-liter jerry can of water in Burhakaba District currently costs around 6,000 SOS, triple the price in December 2016 and double the five-year average. Local administrations, traders, and humanitarian organizations including the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) are providing trucked-in water, but water access remains lower than normal. As a result, livestock body conditions have deteriorated significantly and livestock conception, births, and production (milk, meat, and ghee) have reduced drastically.

Livestock prices have declined sharply in both Bay and Bakool. In January, the price of a goat in Baidoa was 775,000 SOS, 12 percent below the same time last year and 37 percent below the five-year average. A similar trend was observed in Hudur, where the goat price was 625,000 SOS, a decline of 18 percent from last year and 35 percent from the five-year average.

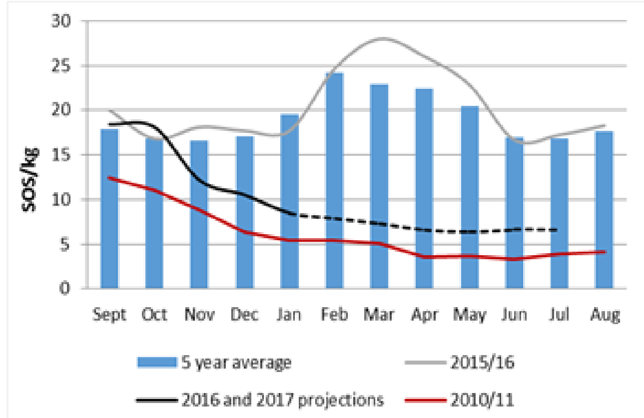
The combination of increasing cereal prices and declining wage rates is lowering household purchasing power well below normal. In February, the labor-to-sorghum ToT in Bay was 10 kg/daily wage, down from the five-year average of 15 kgs/daily wage. A similar decline was observed in Bakool. Although most poor households derive the majority of their income from labor, the sale of goats is also a regular income source. The goat-to-sorghum ToT are also declining. In February, goat-to-sorghum ToT in Bay were 88 kg/goat, a decrease of 64 percent from the five-year average. In Bakool, the goat-to-sorghum ToT declined to 32 kgs/goat, down from 96 kgs last year and a five-year average of 90 kgs.

Field observations suggest ongoing population displacement in Bay and Bakool toward urban towns, as well as towards Mogadishu and Dolow Ado refugee camp in Ethiopia. Key informant information in early February indicated that some households have sold all livestock to fund their movement. Newly displaced households have been observed gathering in makeshift settlements/new IDP set-ups in Baidoa to seek assistance from the local community. According to UNHCR, an estimated 36,000 people are newly displaced in Bay, the majority of whom are in Baidoa town.

Over 3,618 cases of AWD/cholera and 70 deaths have been reported since November 2016 in Bay. WHO reports that the ongoing response includes the training of health workers and distribution of hygienic kits in Baidoa, but that insecurity in the region is limiting the capacity to respond.

According to the food security cluster, humanitarian actors aim to reach 125,000 beneficiaries in Baidoa district, and 70,000 beneficiaries in Buur Hakaba, Dinsor, and Quanshah districts, monthly from March through June. In February, they were able to reach approximately 43,000 in Baidoa and nearly 7,000 in Dinsor, 35 percent and 10 percent, respectively, of the population in need in each district. In Bakool, humanitarian actors aim to reach 88,000 beneficiaries a month through June. In February, 45,000 beneficiaries were reached with emergency assistance, the majority of whom where in El Burde and Hudur. Over 67 percent of the population in need in El Barde was reached in February.

Figure 10. Expected labor-to-sorghum terms of trade, Baidoa, Bay



Sources: *FEWS NET projections based on FSNAU data*

Following a below-average *Gu* season and near complete failure of the *Deyr* season, poor households have no household food stocks and are entirely dependent on markets to access food. However, rapidly rising cereal prices, low agricultural labor demand, and declining livestock prices are decreasing food access. As a result, the food security of the Bay and Bakool agropastoral livelihood zones has deteriorated significantly. Results from the post-*Deyr* assessment reported that 22 percent of households had a poor food consumption score (FCS) and 28 percent had a severe household hunger score (HHS) (Figure 9). The prevalence of GAM (WHZ), recorded at 20 percent (15.6-25.3) in December, indicates a 'Critical' level of acute malnutrition according to WHO classification, but is typical for this livelihood zone across seasons.

Since the post-*Deyr* assessment, key informants report that food security has further deteriorated. Ongoing, high levels of internal displacement also point to a likely deterioration of the already severe food insecurity. Between December and February, many households have sold additional assets and prices have further risen. Households are relying primarily on community support and available humanitarian assistance to access food. Food consumption gaps are likely and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are likely, although some poor households are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The outbreak of cholera is further affecting household utilization of food, and it is expected the prevalence of malnutrition has increased.

Assumptions

In addition to the national level assumptions, the following assumptions have been made for agropastoral livelihood zones in Bay and Bakool:

- The January-March *Jilaal* season is expected to be atypically dry, leading to further deterioration of any remaining pasture and water resources. Livestock body conditions will likely worsen, increasing susceptibility to diseases and mortality. Cattle will be most impacted and high cattle deaths are likely.
- Through at least March, human diseases, including cholera/AWD, are expected to increase due to the limited supply of safe water sources. The high concentration of newly displaced people and poor sanitation services will further exacerbate the spread of disease.
- *Gu* rainfall is forecast to be 10-25 percent below average, with pockets of rainfall 25-50 percent below average.
- *Gu* 2017 planting is likely to be below average given that some households have lost livelihood assets, limiting their capacity to plant, and due to high levels of displacement out of the area. Sorghum production is expected to be below average due to below-average planting, forecast below-average rainfall, and the possibility of poor rainfall distribution.
- Due to expected cereal price increases and labor wage declines, labor-to-sorghum ToT are expected to remain atypically low and near 2011 levels (Figure 10).

Livestock prices in Baidoa are expected to decline to around 400,000 SOS by March, approximately 65 percent below average. Livestock body conditions and value will likely increase slightly from June through September, although prices are expected to remain slightly below average.

- Displacement from rural areas of Bay and Bakool to nearby towns, including Baidoa, Dinsor, Hudur, and Wajid, is expected from now through at least March, as many households move in search of alternative food and income sources. Further displacement towards Dolow Ado in Ethiopia and Mogadishu is also expected.
- Humanitarian actors plan to reach over 190,000 people a month from March through June in Bay with emergency assistance. The majority of planned beneficiaries are in Baidoa, where 83 percent of the need is targeted to receive assistance. Humanitarian actors plan to reach over 80,000 people a month in Bakool, over the same period. Given uncertainty around funding levels through June, and access constraints in these regions, it is unclear if the current assistance plan will be fully implemented. However, it is assumed that humanitarian assistance will continue at least at levels seen in February. Information on funding levels and distribution plans from July to September are unknown; in the absence of this information the most likely scenario assumes the absence of humanitarian assistance from July to September.

Most likely food security outcomes

With little to no household food stocks or saleable livestock, below average wage rates, and significantly above-average market prices, households are expected to face extreme difficulty accessing sufficient food from now until the arrival of the *Gu* harvest in July. Households are likely to migrate in search of food and sell all saleable livestock. Households will also seek assistance from the community and try to purchase on loans. However, given the high level of need, households will be unable to borrow all that is needed to purchase sufficient food. Household income will increase some starting in March, as agricultural labor opportunities for land preparation and planting of *Gu* crops become available. This will support increased cereal purchases for many households. However, given the poor rainfall forecast and displacement, not all poor households will have access to agricultural labor income. Furthermore, those who are severely malnourished or suffering from AWD/cholera are unlikely to be able to engage in labor opportunities. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are expected to persist through the peak of the lean season in June.

From July to September, food consumption is expected to increase slightly, as the *Gu* harvest partially replenishes household and market stocks, supporting slight price decreases. However, food consumption gaps will remain as many poor households will have a below-average harvest and few livestock available to sell, but will need to repay debts. Food consumption gaps are expected to continue and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are likely through September.

Humanitarian access is relatively better than in 2011, but there remain inaccessible areas. Food insecurity is expected to be severe for those who cannot be reached by humanitarian assistance. In a worst-case scenario where large-scale assistance is not delivered and the *Gu* season performs poorer than expected, Famine (IPC Phase 5) would be expected.

The current malnutrition situation, which indicates a 'Critical' level (GAM 15-30%) of acute malnutrition, is expected to persist throughout the outlook period, due to reduced food access, low milk access due to limited milking animals and poor livestock body conditions, increased disease, and limited access to health and nutrition services. GAM may exceed 30 percent at the peak of the lean season, and is even more likely to do so if *Gu* 2017 rainfall fails.

Northern Inland Pastoral Livelihood Zone in Bari, Nugal, Sanag, and Sool Regions

Current situation

Most areas of Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone received less than 20 mm of rainfall during the October to December 2016 *Deyr* season, more than 50 percent below typical rainfall amounts. This is the third consecutive poor rainy season in this livelihood zone (Figure 11). As a result, pasture and water resources have remained poorer than normal for an extended period. Many pastoralists atypical migrated to Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone during April-June *Gu* season, returned to Northern Inland Pastoral in September in anticipation of *Deyr* rains, and subsequently migrated to Coastal Deeh livelihood zone of Bari and Togdheer after the *Deyr* rains failed. Some pastoralists were unable to migrate, either due to financial constraints or weak livestock body conditions, and remained in this livelihood zone.

All catchments and private reservoirs are currently dry and households are purchasing trucked-in water, primarily on credit. Due to scarcity, water prices are high: 20 liters in December in most rural markets was roughly 5,000 SOS, 53 percent higher than last year and 81 percent above the five-year average. Due to the scarcity of safe drinking water, 429 cases of AWD/cholera, resulting in 26 deaths, have been reported between November 2016 and February 2017 in Bari and Nugal.

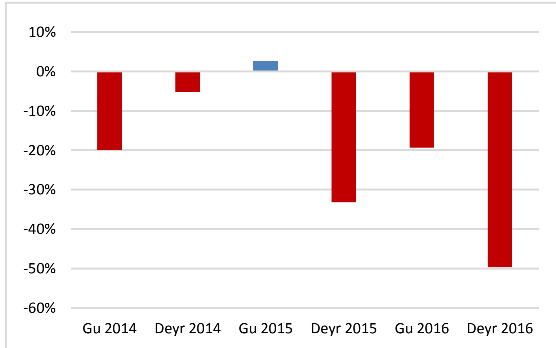
Livestock have lost weight due to lack of pasture for consumption and longer trekking distances in search of pasture and water. Livestock productivity has subsequently declined. Milk is available on most markets, but prices are over 70 percent above average.

The livestock holdings of an average poor households declined 30-40 percent between July and December 2016, to an estimated 1 camel and 39 sheep/goats. It is expected herd sizes have further reduced in January and February, due to the combination of atypical deaths and limited births. Furthermore, many pastoralists are now distress selling livestock to fund food purchases and to get rid of animals that they will not be able to support during the *Jilaal*.

Imported rice is the main staple consumed in this livelihood zone and prices in rural reference markets (Dhahar, Kalabeyr, Garadag, Rako, Sarmanyo and Xudun) remain stable at about 16,830 SOS/kg. The main source of income is the sale of livestock, and in February the average price of a goat in rural markets was 5 percent below last year and 18 percent below the five-year average, due primarily to poorer than normal livestock body conditions. As a result, goat-to-rice ToT have declined 5 percent compared to the five-year average.

As livestock body conditions further deteriorate and herd sizes decline, poor pastoralists are unable to sell enough livestock to purchase sufficient food and are relying on credit. According to the post-*Deyr* assessment, debt levels for poor households increased 59 percent in the northeast of this livelihood zone, from 353 USD in July to 561 USD in December, and 37 percent in the northwest, from 333 USD to 455 USD. Some households collect remittances from the diaspora, although remittances are not widely received in these areas. According to the food security assessments conducted by FSNAU in Northern Inland Pastoral over the past ten years, less than 20 percent of respondents report receiving remittances.

Figure 11. Rainfall totals in Qardho, Bari, Northern Inland Pastoral compared to the 2000-2015 mean, CHIRPS



Sources: *USGS CHIRPS*

Figure 12. Food security and nutrition outcomes, Northern Inland Pastoral, December/January 2017 post-*Deyr* analysis

Food security Indicators	Food Consumption Score (FCS)	44% poor, 21% borderline
	Household Hunger Score (HHS)	4% severe, 58% moderate
Nutritional Status	Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM(WHZ))	18.0% (14.0-22.9)
Mortality	Crude Death Rate (CDR)	0.60/10,000/day

Source: *FSNAU*

However, levels of humanitarian assistance have been fairly high in Northern Inland Pastoral. According to the recent post-*Deyr* assessment, 42 percent of households reported receiving food assistance at least once between July and December 2016 and 4 percent reported receiving cash assistance. Humanitarian actors reached over 50 percent of the population in need in Bender Belia, Gardo, and Iskushuban of Bari, Jariban of Mudug, Badhan and Erigavo of Sanaag, Caynabo, and Taleh, and Xudun of Sool.

Pastoralists have limited migration options and livestock production and reproduction have both sharply reduced, limiting household milk consumption and income from milk sales. Although livestock-to-rice ToT are only slightly below average, pastoralists have limited saleable livestock, reducing their ability to purchase food from markets. Results from the post-*Deyr* assessment indicate Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes were likely in January (Figure 12). Food security has further deteriorated during the February to March lean season and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes exists in some areas, but ongoing humanitarian assistance is preventing this deterioration in many areas and Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes persist.

The nutrition survey conducted by FSNAU between October and December 2016 recorded a GAM (WHZ) prevalence of 18.0 percent (14.0-22.9), which indicates a 'Critical' nutrition situation. This is a statistically significant deterioration from the GAM prevalence of 8.0 percent (5.9-10.9) recorded at the same time last year. The crude death rate (CDR) was recorded at 0.60/10,000/day and the under-five death (U5MR) rate was 0.94/10,000/day, both of which are below the WHO emergency threshold for mortality (CMR >1/10,000/day and U5DR >2/10,000/day).

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions, the following assumptions have been made for Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone:

- The price of imported rice and wheat is expected to remain stable through September, around 16,000-17,000 SOS/kg.
- Households will rely on trucked-in water through March. The price of water is likely to remain around 6,000-7,500 SOS/20 liters. Natural water sources are expected to replenish to normal levels in April, alongside *Gu* rainfall.
- Low livestock conception rates are expected between April and July. Low to no camel calving or goat kidding is likely during the outlook period as 2016 conception rates were low and abortion rates in recent months have been high.
- Forecast average March to June *Gu* rains are likely to improve rangeland resources starting in late April. This will lead to improvements in animal body conditions in May.
- Milk availability is expected to be well below average through September due to limited births.
- Local goat prices are likely to continue declining through April, reach a low of approximately 385,000 SOS, 65 percent below the five-year average. Livestock body conditions and value are likely to improve slightly from May through September, but prices will remain below the five-year average.
- Livestock herd sizes are expected to further reduce through March, and most pastoralists are expected to have only 30 percent of their average herd size, 0-1 camel and 15-18 shoats, by the start of the *Gu* rains.
- Poor households will likely continue seeking credit to purchase food, as well as food and cash gifts, throughout the scenario period. However, households will be unable to access all necessary food through credit or gifts as the high need is likely to overwhelm the capacity of social support.
- Humanitarian actors plan to reach over 215,000 beneficiaries a month in Bari, over 105,000 a month in Sool, and over 160,000 a month in Sanaag, from March through June. Given that the number of beneficiaries reached in February was similar to March to June plans, and funding is likely through June, it is expected the majority of planned beneficiaries will be met through June. Information on funding and planned assistance from July to September is unavailable.
- Increased pastoral destitution and internal displacement is expected during the *Jilaal* to main villages and towns in Bari, Nugal, Sanag, and Sool.

Most likely outcomes

Between February and May, poor households' food security is expected to deteriorate, with food insecurity being most severe in March, at the peak of the pastoral lean season. During this time, pastoralists will have limiting saleable livestock due to poor body conditions and further livestock deaths. Where they are able to sell, they will receive significantly below-average prices for livestock. Food access, as marked by livestock-to-rice ToT, is more favorable than in southern regions given stable rice prices. However, many pastoralists will redirect limited income to water purchases, both for human consumption and to keep livestock alive, reducing income available to purchase food. Increased need is expected in urban centers, where it is likely the number of destitute pastoralists will increase. Community support through water trucking and humanitarian assistance are likely to improve consumption among some poor pastoralists. Some areas of NIP are likely to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), but large-scale ongoing humanitarian assistance is expected to keep many districts of Sanaag, Sool, and Bari in Crisis (IPC Phase 3!).

Between June and September, average *Gu* rains will improve the conditions of remaining livestock. Pastoralists are likely to have a few saleable animals, but income from livestock sales will go to both purchasing food and repaying debts. Food consumption gaps and increased asset depletion are expected to continue through September and, in the absense of humanitariain assistance, this area is likely to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

In a worst-case scenario where the *Gu* rains perform poorer than currently expected, including a significantly delayed start and rainfall totals that are insufficient to replenish water and pasture resources, additional livestock deaths are expected. With no saleable livestock, some poor households could exhaust the capcity to cope and Famine (IPC Phase 5) could be possible in this worst-case scenario.

Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone

Current Situation

Deyr rainfall was approximately 40-60 percent below average in most areas of Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone, although rainfall was slightly better in isolated areas of Sool. The preceding April-June 2016 *Gu* season was also slightly below average, but relatively better than in neighboring regions. As a result, there was a heavy influx of livestock that led to faster than normal depletion of pasture and water resources. The extremely poor *Deyr* season then failed to regenerate rangeland or water resources. Shallow wells, communal dams, and private reservoirs (*berkads*) throughout this livelihood zone are dry and trucked-in water, currently priced 23 percent above average, is the only available water source.

Abnormal livestock migration to Addun Pastoral and Coastal Deeh livelihood zones, as well as to Ethiopia, has been reported. Roughly, 50 percent of pastoralists were able to migrate with the support of kin, but those who lack financial resources remain in Hawd. Those who reached Addun Pastoral and Coastal Deeh contributed to accelerated pasture depletion in those areas.

Livestock body conditions have deteriorated significantly. Poor households reported losing between 35-40 percent of their goats by December, from a baseline of 55 to approximately 37. This was due to limited births, distress selling, and atypical livestock deaths. Households have not reported any camel deaths and camel herd sizes remain around five.

As a result of poor body conditions, livestock prices are declining. The price of a local quality goat in Galkayo in February 2017 was 26 percent lower than the five-year average. Rice prices, the main staple in this livelihood zone, remain stable, but low livestock prices are driving the decline in terms of trade. The sale of a goat in February bought approximately 56 kg of rice, 28 percent less than the same time last year and 7 percent less than the five-year average.

Poor livestock body conditions and limited kidding and calving have also led to low milk production, lowering household milk consumption. Milk is available on markets, but prices are rising: In Jalam of Burtinle District, the price of milk increased 28 percent from the same time last year and 37 percent from the five-year average.

As of February, drought-related displacement in this livelihood zone is relatively low, with few cases of household migration to camps or pastoral destitution. However, the IOM reported the abnormal migration of over 80,000 pastoralists in Hiraan and UNHCR reported over 76,000 new displacements throughout Mudug Region.

According to the post-*Deyr* assessment, 59 percent of households had poor food consumption score (FCS) and 3 percent had a severe household hunger score (HHS). During the post-*Deyr* assessment, northeastern and central Hawd Pastoral recorded a GAM prevalence of 17.2 percent (CI:14.2-21.8), indicating a 'Critical' nutrition situation, a deterioration from the GAM prevalence of 12.0 percent (8.4-17.0%) from the same time last year.

Humanitarian actors reached over 196,000 beneficiaries in Mudug, Nugal, Togdheer, and Galgaduud in February. This assistance reached roughly 20-40 percent of the population in need in these regions. Many households are also relying on credit and borrowing to access food, and some are distress selling livestock, where available. Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes exist in February in this livelihood zone, although some poor households are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Assumptions

In addition to the national level assumptions, the following assumptions have been made for Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone:

- *Gu* rains are forecast to be average in northern parts of Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone (Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer, Sool, and Nugal) and 10-25 percent below average in southern areas (Mudug, Galgaduud, and Hiiran).
- Pasture and water conditions are expected to be extremely scarce through March, but improve from April-July, alongside *Gu* rainfall. Even in southern regions where rainfall is expected to be slightly below average, rainfall totals are still expected to be sufficient for normal pasture and water regeneration.
- Livestock herd sizes are expected to further decline through April due to high off-take from both sales and deaths, and most pastoralists are expected to have only 50 percent of their average herd size by the start of the *Gu* rains.
- Milk availability is expected to be very low through September given poor livestock conditions and because goat calving is not expected until the end of September.

- Poor households will have few salable animals through April. After May, livestock body conditions will improve, enabling households to sell some animals through September.
- Goat prices are expected to further decreasing through May and be significantly below the five-year average, after which prices will increase through September, but remain at least slightly below average.
- Remittances inflows are likely to be above average due to more demand for this support.
- Community support (water and credit) are likely to continue at current levels through the *Jilaal* season, although not all poor households are expected to receive sufficient assistance through this source.
- Humanitarian actors plan to reach over 786,000 people a month from March through June with emergency in-kind or cash/voucher assistance. Given uncertainty around funding levels through June, it is unclear if the current assistance plan will be fully implemented. However, it is assumed that humanitarian assistance will continue at least at levels seen in February. Information on funding levels and distribution plans from July to September are unknown; in the absence of this information the most likely scenario assumes the absence of humanitarian assistance from July to September.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Food security is expected to deteriorate through May, as poor households will have limited access to milk and few saleable livestock with which to fund cereal purchases. Most pastoralists will purchase food on credit and will seek food gifts from friends and kinships. Despite ongoing humanitarian assistance and expected increased remittances, food consumption gaps are expected and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes will persist during this time. Food security is expected to improve in late May, as livestock body conditions improve and pastoralists have some saleable animals and access to milk gifts from wealthier households. Pastoralists will need to spend income on repaying debts as well as purchasing food, though, and food consumption gaps and atypically high livestock sales are expected from June through September. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are likely to persist during this time.

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

Table 1: Possible events over the next six months that could change the most-likely scenario.

<table>
<tr><th>Area</th><th>Event</th><th>Impact on food security outcomes</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">National</td><td>Significantly below-average Gu rainfall, characterized by a delayed start, poor distribution, and below-average total rainfall amounts.</td><td rowspan="3">A second season of well below average rainfall would lead to poor production and livestock deaths throughout the country, increasing food insecurity throughout the country. Of greatest concern would be agropastoral areas of Bay and Bakool and Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone.
In Bay, this would result in a significantly below average harvest. In a worst-case scenario where large-scale assistance is not delivered and the Gu season performs poorer than expected, Famine (IPC Phase 5) would be expected.
In Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood, Famine (IPC Phase 5) is possible in a worst-case scenario where the Gu rains fail, leaving pastoralists without livestock to sell, and humanitarian actors are unable to distribute large-scale assistance.
In the event that the Gu rainy season is significantly delayed and more below average than currently forecast, it is expected both internal and external displacement will further spike from May through September, as was observed in 2011 when the Gu season failed to start on time.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Terms of trade drop even further than expected, to 2011 levels or lower</td></tr>
<tr><td>Limited and/or late delivery of humanitarian assistance</td></tr>
</table>

ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

To project food security outcomes over a six-month period, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes those assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to develop scenarios estimating food security outcomes. Typically, FEWS NET reports only the most likely scenario.

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