

## Climate

## Civil Insecurity

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## Emerging Regional Issues

### Latest Nutrition Information from the Shabelle Regions, November 19th, 2007

Preliminary results from three Nutrition Surveys conducted in the Shabelle regions from October 30th to November 9th, by FSAU and partners, indicate that the **nutrition situation** remains at, or close to, **emergency threshold levels** (>15%) without any statistically significant change from the levels reported in May 2007.

Preliminary\* results indicate the following:

- **Rural Agropastoral populations in Lower and Middle Shabelle Regions** - Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of **17.6%** (13.3 - 21.8) with **3.2%** (1.7 - 4.6) Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). These results indicate sustained levels from May, where a GAM rate of 17.3% (13.3 - 21.3) and a SAM rate of 4.5% (2.5 - 6.6) were reported.
- **Newly displaced populations in Afgoye and Merka (from February '07)** - GAM rate of **15.2%** (11.7 - 18.6) and a SAM rate of **3.2%** (1.9 - 4.5). This is the first detailed nutrition survey to be conducted on this population, therefore there is no previous data to compare to.
- **Rural Riverine populations in Lower and Middle Shabelle Regions** - GAM rate of **14.0%** (11.2 - 16.7) and a SAM rate of **2.9%** (1.6 - 4.1) - although these results appear lower than the rates reported in May of 17% (13.4 - 20.5) GAM and 4.8% (3.0 - 6.7) SAM, the change is not statistically significant.
- **Preliminary Mortality Rates** are similar to the studies in May, indicating **alert levels** in all three assessments.

These results indicate that the rates of acute malnutrition have not deteriorated further and remain at, or close to, the emergency threshold levels of >15%, with continuing high rates of severe acute malnutrition. The lack of further deterioration in the nutrition situation is likely due to the harvest in July 2007, which increased access to food, as well as the increased humanitarian interventions by response agencies from May 2007. However, these results continue to highlight a critical nutrition situation, indicating an estimated<sup>1</sup> **45,000 children under five years of age who are acutely malnourished** of which nearly **8,500 are severely malnourished** and in need of specialist care, without which they are at high risk of death.

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Shabelle regions continues to remain critical due to the impact of several shocks in the last few months, including the lowest cereal production in thirteen years, trade disruptions, massive displacement, hyper inflation and continued civil insecurity. Food access and availability also remain of great concern with **prices of imported food commodities** like rice, sugar and vegetable oil, now at **peak levels** in all markets in the Shabelle and Central regions. For example, in the Shabelle regions, the price of imported rice is **160 percent above** the October 2006 price and 144% above the five year average price. In Central region markets, an area also hosting significant numbers of IDPs, the price of rice, sugar and vegetable oil have increased by 124%, 15%, and 101%, respectively, since October 2006. Factors affecting these price increases and therefore reducing poor households purchasing power and food access are the **rapid and continued devaluation of the Somali Shilling**, increased transportation costs and conflict-related disruptions in internal trade and import activities.

A further stress on the already highly vulnerable populations in the Shabelle regions is the latest wave of population displacement. Current estimates of up to 200,000 newly displaced populations from Mogadishu, many remaining in the Shabelle regions, have been reported by UNHCR in the last month due to the renewed conflict.

The current *Deyr* '07 rainy season performance has been mixed with some regions receiving good rains while in others, little or no rains were received. Of particular concern are parts of Hiran, Galgaduud and Mudug regions in central Somalia, areas hosting large numbers of IDPs, where there are early indications of below normal rains, in both amount and distribution.

Humanitarian assistance for the displaced populations, host communities and rural populations in crisis in the Shabelle region is urgently needed to avert a slide into a humanitarian crisis of increased magnitude. Increased advocacy at all levels is essential to secure sufficient humanitarian access and space to meet the increasing needs.

*\*The detailed results will be reported in the next Nutrition Update which will be published before the end of November. For any queries please contact Grainne Moloney, Nutrition Project Manager; Email: [grainne.moloney@fsau.or.ke](mailto:grainne.moloney@fsau.or.ke)*

<sup>1</sup> These numbers are based on the three surveys sample population of 1.3 million, which excludes the main urban centres of Mogadishu, Jowhar and Merka.



*IDPs from Mogadishu at Igoyo, Middle Shabelle, Nov '07, FSAU.*

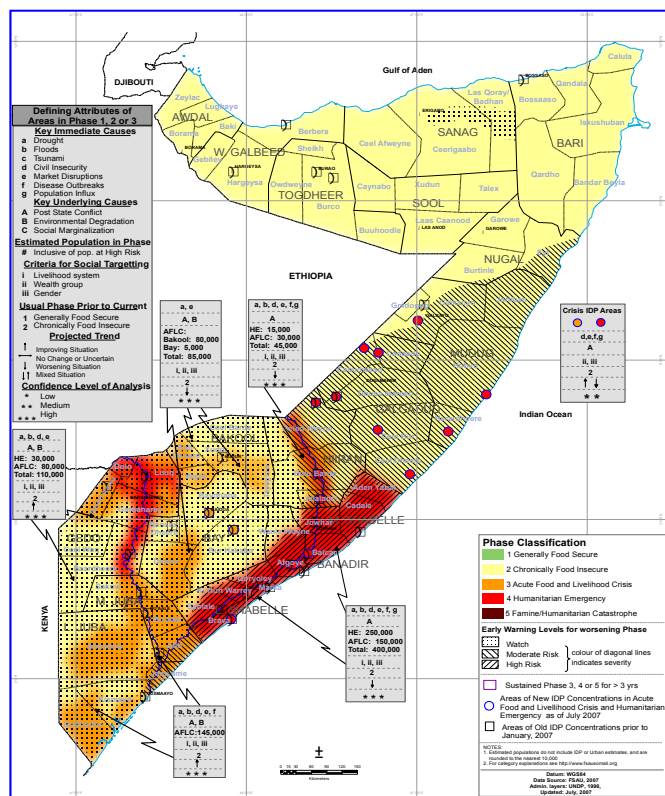


*Measuring the Height of child, Middle Shabelle, Nov '07, FSAU.*

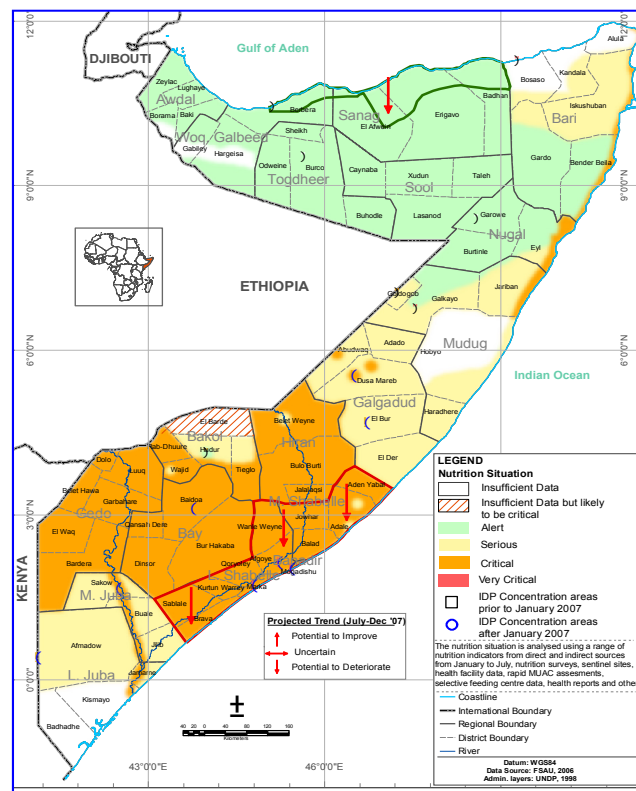
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## Somalia Food Security Situation Analysis: Post Gu '07 Projection, July - December '07



## Nutrition Situation: July 2007



Post Gu: Assessed and Contingency Population in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) and Humanitarian Emergency (HE) by Region, inclusive of the High Risk Groups.

Affected Regions	UNDP 2005 Total Population <sup>1</sup>	Assessed and High Risk Population in AFLC and HE		
		Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) <sup>2</sup>	Humanitarian Emergency (HE) <sup>2</sup>	Total in AFLC or HE as % of Region population
North <sup>3</sup>	2,341,718	0	0	0
Central	680,156	0	0	0
South				0
Bakool	310,627	80,000	0	26
Bay	620,562	5,000	0	1
Gedo	328,378	80,000	30,000	33
Hiraan	329,811	30,000	15,000	14
Juba Dhexe (Middle)	238,877	65,000	0	27
Juba Hoose (Lower)	385,790	80,000	0	21
Shabelle Dhexe (Middle)	514,901	60,000	85,000	28
Shabelle Hoose (Lower)	850,651	90,000	165,000	30
<b>Sub-Total (South)</b>	<b>3,579,597</b>	<b>490,000</b>	<b>295,000</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Banadir</b>	<b>901,183</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>7,502,654</b>	<b>490,000</b>	<b>295,000</b>	<b>10</b>

Assessed Rural population in AFLC or HE	785,000	10 <sup>5</sup>
Approx No. of new IDPs from Apr- Nov 19, 2007	600,000	8 <sup>5</sup>
Estimated number of old IDPs	400,000 <sup>4</sup>	5 <sup>5</sup>
Estimated total population in crisis	1,785,000	24 <sup>5</sup>

### Footnotes

1 Source: Population Estimates by Region/District, UNDP Somalia, August 1, 2005. Note this only includes population figures in affected regions. FSAU does not round these population estimates as they are the official estimates provided by UNDP

2 Estimated numbers are rounded to the nearest five thousand, based on resident population not considering current or anticipated migration, and are inclusive of population in High Risk of AFLC or HE for purposes of planning

3 Dan Gorayo is included within Bari Region following precedent set in population data prior to UNDP/WHO 2005

4 Source: UN-OCHA updated April 2004 (376,630) and UNHCR IDP map Dec.2005 (407,000), rounded to 400,000 as an estimate

5 Percent of total population of Somalia estimated at 7,502,654 (UNDP/WHO 2005)