

FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

** FSAU is providing Household Economy Analysis (HEA) training in Hargeisa, Somaliland – aimed to enhance partner's use of vulnerability analysis for programme implementation. It is also hoped that the training will increase the use and application of FSAU information by working alongside FSAU partners based in the field. Training begins on December 14 and continues through to January 11 2003 when the final analysis and report writing will be undertaken. FSAU regrets that no more candidates can be taken for the training as the course was over subscribed, however, another course will be arranged later on in 2003. Over 50 participants from UN, local government, local and international NGOs are participating in the theory, and more than 30 of these will continue through into the field work and final analysis stages.

UN: WFP and FAO

NGOs: CARE, IRC, ICRC, CINS, SCUUK, Handicap International, Oxfam, VETAID, FEWS NET
Local NGOs: SADO, ARDA

Government: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock, Ministry of Pastoral Development and Environment

The training is being generously supported by many of these international organisations who are participating, including CARE, WFP, EU, DRC, USAID, IRC, SADO, ARDA, ICRC.

For more details please contact Lesley. Adams@fsau.or.ke.

FOOD AID DISTRIBUTION

Somalia's two principal food aid agencies, CARE and World Food Programme, continued their operations in November, providing much needed food to targeted beneficiaries through general distribution, food for work and feeding operations. In November, CARE distributed a total of 4,192 MT in Gedo of which 1, 472 MT was distributed in Belet Hawa, 471 MT in El Waq, 2,248 MT in Luuq districts. These were free food distributions. In the food for work section, the main activities were road rehabilitation and canal building. CARE distributed 66 MT in Hiran working with 972 beneficiaries and 100 MT in Middle Shabelle working with 270 beneficiaries.

In November WFP distributed 6 MT in Wajid district in Bakool. Further distribution in Bay and Bakol was hampered by logistical problems. 51 MT were distributed in Mogadishu, 105 MT in Galbeed, 15 MT in Togdheer, 184 MT in Sanag and 156 MT in Sool. All this was in the form of food for work mainly for rehabilitation and social support.

For further information on CARE's food aid operations, please contact : narayan@care.or.ke. For further information about WFP's activities, please contact : Lubna.alaman@wfp.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

AWDAL REGION : Awdal region of north west Somalia which shares a border with Ethiopia is already showing signs of being indirectly affected by reports of increasing food insecurity in Ethiopia. A higher than normal number of herders, many from Shinile, (an Ethiopian area close to Somalia's border) are reported to have crossed over into the coastal areas of Awdal increasing pressure on Awdal's rangeland resources. The Awdal economy is also struggling with the effects of the Ethiopian government's attempt to curb illegal cross border trade. This has been reflected in an increase in both livestock and milk prices in Awdal's major town - Borama. The increase in the price of milk is expected to be even greater in Hargeisa as much of the milk consumed in this town comes from Jijiga (An Ethiopian region bordering Somalia) and the border area. The situation in Awdal has been made worse by delayed *Hais/Deyr* rains. The FSAU nutrition surveillance team is currently undertaking an assessment in the area with representatives from the FSAU technical team and UNICEF also participating. For further information on North West and Awdal – see regional highlight on page 3.

THE RISK OF SHABELLE AND JUBA RIVERS FLOODING LESSENS : Heavy rains have been reported throughout southern and central Somalia, especially in Hiran, Galgaduud and Middle Shabelle. However, the SACB Flood Working Group reports that there were no major breaches of the Shabelle and Juba rivers during November. The SACB Flood Working Group will continue to monitor the situation closely until it is clear that the risk of flooding has completely diminished.

DEYR RAINS BRING SOME RELIEF IN HIRAN, BAKOL AND GEDO : The poor *Gu* performance in Hiran, Bakol and Gedo regions, reported by FSAU in their recent Focus, has been alleviated to a degree – by a good *Deyr* rainfall season. Improved access to food and income sources are reported. The lower price of staple and higher wage rates are also benefiting the poorer groups especially in agro-pastoral and riverine food economy zones. For further information on the *Deyr* rainfall performance—see page 2.

Highlights from the FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

Insecurity was responsible for a period undertaken there before the middle of when the activities of humanitarian organisations in Belet Weyne District, Hiran Region were disrupted. However, plans to implement a coordinated approach to the acute food insecurity are now almost complete. WFP has identified an implementing partner through which relief food will be distributed and the combined activities of IMC and UNICEF will ensure the delivery of targeted selective feeding interventions and a range of both curative and preventive health services. The duration of this intervention will depend on the outcome of the next harvest.

There have been repeated reports of food insecurity and malnutrition in Awdal Region, it is hoped that a rapid assessment will be undertaken there before the middle of December. The December 'Nutrition Update' will include a report on some rapid nutrition assessments undertaken recently in the IDP camps of Kismayo. Early analysis of the results suggest that malnutrition rates among IDPs are likely to be high with reduced access to food, unsanitary and overcrowded living conditions and limited access to health services being of primary concern.

For copies of nutrition survey reports and further information related to nutrition, see the FSAU monthly publication 'Nutrition Update' or contact : noreen.prendiville@fsau.or.ke

INCREASING CATTLE PRICES IN THE SOUTH MAY IMPROVE POOR HOUSEHOLDS ACCESS TO INCOME AND FOOD

In southern Somalia, cattle are an important asset amongst the population of pastoral and agro pastoral zones. Cattle provide sources of livelihood through milk and meat production and market sales. Over the past ten years or so, the importance of cattle among these livelihood groups has been increasing due to the high value of cattle and ever-increasing seasonal demand in local markets, such as Baidoa, Afgoi, Salagle, Bardhere and Afmadow, among others. Traders from Kenya and other parts of the country buy cattle from these markets. Most cattle are trekked to Garissa (Kenya), where prices are higher, to meet Kenyan demand. A sizable number of cattle are also exported from Berbera and Bossaso ports to the Arabian Peninsula during normal years. For instance, ships and cargo statistics from port of Bossaso for the year 2001/2002 shows significant cattle export of about 42,248 heads.

In Southern Somalia, the cattle marketing and the related service sector provide income and employment opportunities to a wide range of people from different food economy and wealth groups. These beneficiaries include cattle owners; traders and brokers; fodder and water sellers; veterinary service providers; those who trek the livestock to the final destination; cattle branders; money vendors who facilitate transactions; local authorities which generate revenue through taxation – and even militia at check points. In short, cattle marketing helps to lubricate the local economy.

Poor households from pastoral and agro pastoral food economy zones with relatively fewer cattle usually sell their animals, especially local quality bulls, during the first 1-2 months of the rainy season to get cash income to buy food staples. Seasonal terms of trade put these poorer households at a disadvantage because this is the period when cereal price increases and livestock productivity is still reviving from the effect of the dry season.

Information from FSAU Field Monitors indicates a remarkable price increase for local quality cattle across southern Somalia between October and November, particularly in livestock markets in Jowhar, Afgoi, Bardhere and Beletweyne. The highest increase was reported in Afgoi (46% increase), followed by Bardhere (20%) and Jowhar (11%). Other markets, which reported increased prices, are Hudur, Salagle (Middle Juba) and Hager (Lower Juba). More importantly, these price increases are quite significant, even after taking usual seasonal price changes into account. Increased cattle prices during this *Jilaal* period could mean improved access to food and income among poor pastoralists and agropastoralists.

However, the recent announcement by the FAO Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme about the presence of rinderpest disease in northeastern Kenya and southern Somalia has created confusion among herders and traders. Rinderpest could have a negative impact on the booming cattle trade between Somalia and its neighbours, as well as new markets in Southeast Asia. For more information on this subject please contact mawdahir@fews.net

DEYR RAINFALL AND DEYR CROP CONDITION

Generally, *Deyr* 2002/03 rains (mid-October to mid-November) were considered normal to above normal throughout Somalia. November was marked by a significant increase in rainfall over most of the central and southern regions of Somalia, especially inter-riverine agricultural producing areas.

In particular, rains were good from Hiran to the extreme south in the Juba Valley. However, excessive rains were received during the first and second dekads of November. According to satellite imagery for the period between November 1-20, almost all regions in the south received above-normal rainfall, averaging 125 mm > 175 mm daily. Information from the field also confirmed the above normal rains during that particular time. According to FSAU Field Monitors, these rains even resulted in the loss of lives (both human and livestock) and destruction of property in some places like northern Gedo, which, over the recent past, have experienced different degrees of food insecurity. Yet, rainfall has had an overall beneficial impact on riverine, pastoralists and agro pastoralists in Hiran and Bakol (which experienced poor *Gu* 2002 rains) and riverine and pastoral food economy groups in parts of Gedo region (which experienced successive periods of drought). The rains are reported to have improved people's access to food and created more income options through increased agricultural labor and improved livestock production and markets.

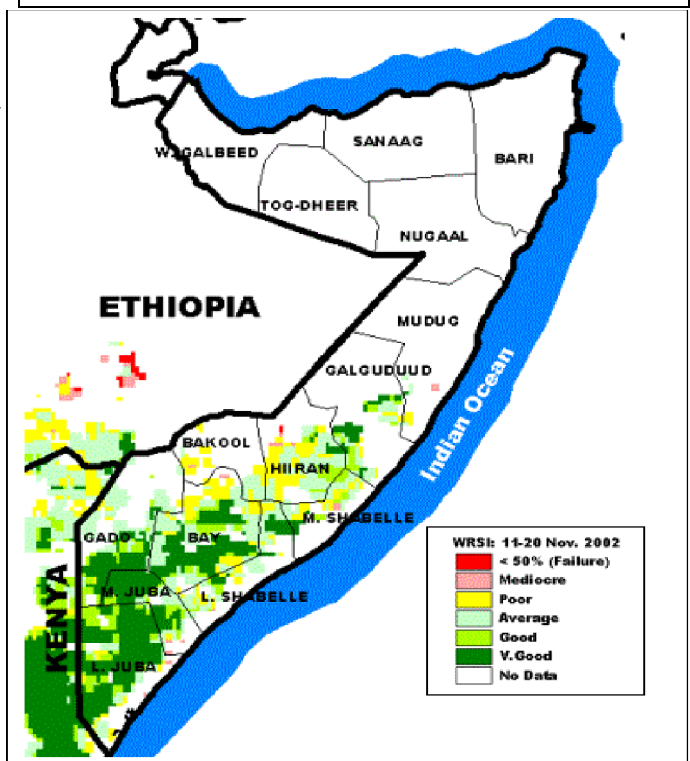
The Good *Deyr* rains improved crop conditions but had the problem of increasing weeds. The weeding activity had therefore increased costs implications on the farmer especially for the better off and middle households. These wealth groups normally rely on poor households' labour for most weeding activities. Therefore, employment opportunities for the very poor and poor households of riverine and agro pastoral food economy groups are good.

Farmers are however complaining about the high cost of weeding throughout south Somalia. In Beletweyn, cost of weeding for one *ta'ab* (10 x 30m) is 30,000-50,000 Shs depending on the weed conditions in the field. Compared to previous seasons, this is high. In Lower Shabelle daily wage rates increased significantly, ranging from 15,000-25,000 Shs and the terms of trade for labour and cereals is about 12 kgs per day of labour. Cheap cereals and high wage rates would mean improved income/purchasing power for very poor and poor agro pastoral and riverine households. This will enable them to reduce the hunger gap and have sufficient food from November through December when green maize cobs and cowpea will be available for home consumption.

Moreover, maize performance, as derived from the Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI) in Figure 1, suggests that crop conditions during the second dekad of November were exceptionally good throughout the maize producing areas of Shabelle and Juba Valleys. As overall good cereal production in the country, especially during the *Deyr* season, is traditionally associated with good maize production, the prevailing good maize crop performance may mean good harvests prospects. Even though this crop modeling imagery only shows maize conditions, it is likely that sorghum is also doing the same or even better due to its lower water requirement than that of maize. Given the good prospects for crops and livestock, the two mainstays of the local economy, it is likely that the situation of food insecure groups in Gedo, Bakol and Hiran regions – especially those identified by FSAU for close monitoring – could improve gradually.

Figure 1. Maize Performance based on Water Requirement Satisfaction Index : (WRSI) 11-20 November 2002

Source: USGS/FEWS NET



REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONITORS >> P.3

Every month, the 22 FSAU Field Monitors provide in depth information on food security indicators in their areas. If you would like to obtain a copy of their district reports - please contact alex.williams@fsau.or.ke. The Regional highlights are a summary of this field information.

BARI

Iskushuban and B/Beyla districts (Sool FEZ): The overall situation remains normal. However, the reproductive performance of livestock has not picked up since the last drought. This will impact on milk access and sales. Recent rains have resulted in improved access to pasture and water. Seasonal migration to the sub coastal plains is reported. Poorer groups along the coastal belt (B/Beyla) lost income from fishing during Ramadam as elders called a halt during the lobster breeding season. Milk sales continue to replace consumption in order to enable staple purchases. Income has also been effected by lower than normal livestock prices but terms of trade are good for both Livestock/grain and Milk/grain with staple being 90% of the baseline and the value of milk being considerably higher (200% of baseline).

Bossaso, Iskushuban Districts (Dharoor FEZ): Apart from limited camel milk production the situation is reported as normal. Following rains in the sub-coastal plains seasonal livestock migration has occurred. The poorer pastoral groups are coping by accessing milk from better-off relatives as well as other food gifts. Cereals are also accessed through barter of non-essential goods or purchases. Terms of trade: Livestock / grain is 70% of baseline (i.e. below normal) Milk/grain is up as much as 150-200 % of baseline, largely benefiting middle and better-off groups. Labour /grain is down (60% of baseline) with no change from last month. Many poorer households have been able to compensate for low labour rates by increasing self-employment (i.e. fishing). Income from intense activities also makes a considerable contribution during this period.

Bossaso, Iskushuban and B/Beyla Districts: (Coastal FEZ): Poor Urban wealth groups, including IDPs are a cause for concern with water and staple prices seeing little change despite an upturn in port activity and increased food availability. The rest of the zone is reported to be normal for the season following good rains. The port is active - seasonal fishing continues apart from in B/Beyla where activity ceased to allow for the Lobster breeding period following the advice of elders. Normal livestock movement from Sool and Dharoor FEZs has taken place and this has resulted in increased milk availability. Poorer pastoral groups are coping through expanding employment i.e. limestone burning, firewood collection, fishing and frankincense.

SANAG AND TOGDHEER

In the **Sool plateau** seasonal problems are commonly compounded by high water costs. Poor *Deyr* rains have resulted in many herders moving out to surrounding areas. Despite the recognised high dependence on key boreholes they continue to fall into disrepair. There appears to be a high expectation for outside interventions to solve this problem. However, without increased community responsibility/participation for their upkeep and evidence of community management, an expanding livestock and human population will only increase pressures on the rangeland environment beyond its carrying capacity. If this remains un-addressed it is expected that we shall see this problem recurring in the forthcoming *Jilaal* season. The **Haud of Togdheer** pastoralists are experiencing a normal season apart from dry pockets in Tunyo and Aroori plains. Herd condition is reported to be good and migrations back and forth into Region V of Ethiopia are unrestricted although recently imposed regulations are affecting trade and have resulted in less employment opportunities and petty trade. Agro-pastoralists are reported to have had a poor crop and so switched to more fodder sales. During Ramadam, urban groups and IDPs were affected by less employment. In Buraao, and elsewhere, this was compensated for by increased access to gifts and remittances. Both camel and milk prices increased due to low supply.

SOOL REGION
Deyr rainfall was mixed. In Sool plateau and lower Nugal valley (Taleh/Hudon) rainfall was patchy and insufficient. Despite the fact that *berkads* were replenished on the plateau, the rainfall didn't regenerate enough pasture for the season. This triggered extensive out migration of camel herds and 20-30% of the core households from rainfall deficit areas to upper Nugal Valley and Hawd plateau where the *dery* rains were reported as good. Poor pastoralists on Sool plateau need to be monitored during the coming *Jilaal* months. In contrast the food security conditions of pastoral FEG's living in Hawd plateau and upper Nugal are reported as normal this month. Livestock prices remain high due to increased demand.

NORTH WEST AND AWDAL

Conditions are deteriorating with delayed *Hais/Deyr* rains and normal problems with boreholes. The arrival of herders from Shinile district in Ethiopia will increase the pressure on rangeland resources. Zeila and Borama districts are reported to be in a critical condition with pastoralist purchasing power being weakened by declining terms of trade (mainly for labour/grain and effecting the poor more than others). In Lughaya and Bulhar tensions between pastoralists and settlers are mounting as livestock are moved to the highlands. Cross border trade has been adversely affected by the increasing Ethiopian government controls. The prices of sorghum, maize and wheat (partly because of increased demand during Ramadam) at the border have increased by between 5-20% compared to October and November this year. The availability of some local production helped ease these increases. Livestock movements and trade have not been effected but have increased. Increased construction employment (roads and building) and charcoal production have been expanded to cover increased expenditure and lost income. Where households have split with livestock movements out of the area, the elderly and children remaining are reported to be increasingly vulnerable according to observations from Sallahay and coastal belt communities.

SOUTH NUGAL AND NORTH MUDUG

Above normal rains have brought relief to the hard pressed areas of Addun, Deeh, and the Haud of N. Mudug and S. Nugal. It is hoped that livestock condition will improve enough to allow them to manage through the *Jilaal* of 2003. **Addun FEZ:** Birth rates are reported to be 50% below normal due to tough conditions in the previous season as well as increased livestock sales/deaths. Access to milk and income from milk sales is therefore well below normal (75% of baseline). More vulnerable households normally increase income from livestock sales but this is difficult because of asset losses/reduced herd sizes. Increased gifts and remittances have compensated for these losses. Similarly, increased employment in towns and fishing areas has been expanded (150-200 % of baseline). Others have expanded self employment, collection of bush products, opening tea shops etc. This has been supported by reduced expenditure on water, vet. drugs and medicines.

Table 1 : Livestock Exports November 2002

	August	Sept	October	November
Bosasso*				
Camel	170	650	782	765
Cattle	7,740	3,864	4,448	3,433
Shoats	121,490	69,308	150,845	160,245
Total	121,210	73,822	156,075	164,443
Berbera**				
Camel	3,589	921	1,251	3,627
Cattle	2,092	1,843	4,503	5,519
Shoats	35,233	30,089	42,261	62,549
Total	40,194	32,023	48,015	71,695

Source *: Bossasso Port Authority

Source **: Berbera Port Authority

>> P.4 REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONITORS

HIRAN

Rainfall in Hiran got off to an uneven start but in November good rains were received, the best since 1997. The rains filled most depressed areas and the water is expected to last up until the dry *Jilal* season. Despite this, river levels went down, reducing the threat of flooding in the region. The drought in the Ethiopian Shabelle region may bring people and livestock from that part into Hiran, depending on the availability of grazing and water. Livestock condition is good, households that split in search of better grazing have re-united and production is normal. Crops are well-established (they are at different stages of development, though) and the total area planted is estimated 27,000 ha –their condition is good; farmers complain of high weeding costs although this will benefit the poor through labour access. Most market prices are normal, although camel and cattle milk prices declined by 50% and 20% respectively, due to increased supply.

GEDO

In contrast to the last three years, this month has seen some improvement in general food security in this region, especially in the north. There has been good rainfall throughout the region. As a consequence, most livestock (90%) have moved back into the region and improved body condition, fewer diseases and increased production have been reported –part of this is attributed to the new veterinary services provided by VSF and EPAK in collaboration with local veterinarians in Garbaha, Belet Hawa, Dolo and Luuq. The prospects of a normal harvest have increased, although the riverine groups have been affected by high fuel prices and restricted supplies –although this has improved compared with last month. In the markets, cereal availability in the north is normal, as are prices, while in the south availability is above normal and this has pushed the price down to some extent.

LOWER SHABELLE

Food availability and accessibility in the Lower Shabelle region is considered normal. Favourable *Deyr* rains have contributed to the improvement of livestock condition in terms of body weight and milk production coupled with increased availability of agricultural jobs. In addition cereal availability at household level in all three main food economy zones (riverine, agro-pastoral rain-fed and agro-pastoral irrigated) remains satisfactory with the exception of poor riverine households who rely on purchase. Staple food prices are affordable in all markets of the Lower Shabelle region. Farmers have shown a preference for sesame over maize because of its value –a consequence of the good *Gu* crop achieved in August. There has been an outbreak of army worm in Afgoi and Wanle Weyne, which spread to Qorioley, the extent of the damage of which will be reported in the *Deyr* crop establishment. Markets have remained stable.

BAY

The *Deyr* rains, which started in the last dekad of September, continued up until the middle of November. Pasture has regenerated and is expected to continue improving, resulting in better livestock condition and increased production, while there has not been any reports of a major disease outbreak. Milk prices have decreased with increasing supply. Crops are being weeded and this, coupled with self-employment opportunities, has improved income access for the poorest households. The exception is Baidoa town, where persistent insecurity has resulted in less trade and decreased investment considerably reducing income opportunities. Market activity, except for security reasons in Baidoa and Burhakaba, have been normal; prices for livestock are up (by 40%-50%) and cereals down (by 30%) making terms of trade for pastoral groups very good. The low cereal price has been attributed to difficult road conditions, insecurity and increased road blocks, which have hampered export demand.

MIDDLE SHABELLE

Most parts of the region received good rainfall, except the area between Balad and Mogadishu. Field drainage in the riverine areas is poor and it is feared that further rainfall may lead to crop damage. Pasture has improved and consequently so has animal condition and milk supply, while there has been no reported outbreak of disease. Milk prices have dropped with the increasing supply. Farmers are busy planting sesame, weeding and replanting maize where it has been water damaged. The river level is normal allowing gravity irrigation and there has been no reported infestation of crops. The supply of maize, sorghum and cowpea increased slightly. Consequently, retail prices of maize and sorghum decreased by 9% respectively, while cowpea decreased by 28%. Small scale farmers are gradually marketing grain in order to meet farm expenses and family cash needs.

GALGADUD

The *Deyr* rains this year resulted in about 50% of the pasture in this region (the eastern and southern parts) improving, along with livestock condition and production. However, the remaining areas have not really been able to recover properly, and the berkads are just under half full –insufficient to last the coming long, dry *Jilal* season. Terms of trade are fairly normal and poor households are depending largely on self-employment or bush-collection activities to purchase their food needs.

COWPEA BELT

Rains have been quite good, especially in the areas from Hobyo to Harar Dheere, Galhareri to El Dheer and Adanyabal. Less rains are reported around Adale and Warshik. Consequently water availability is normal and prices have declined (10-15,000/- down to 8-10,000/- per drum). Pasture, and consequently livestock condition and production, has also recovered except where the rains have been less, which is also an area of insecurity. There has also been some dry land farming (mostly sorghum, cowpea and watermelon) along the well-rained inland areas. Pests and diseases are minimal and farmers recently carried out their first weeding. Prices for imported items have risen and terms of trade for pastoralists are worse than normal (one goat fetches 1½ bags sorghum instead of 2 bags). Most movement of people has involved fishing communities and pastoralists who have gone up and down the coast.

BAKOL

This region has had a mixed *Deyr* season so far, with good rains last month and much less this month, particularly around Tieglo and Rabdure. Livestock condition, meat and milk production are normal, except in El Barde and Rabdure –where low conception rates due to poor rains in the previous seasons. Rabdure has also seen more livestock disease and there are no veterinary services. There has been an outbreak of tsetse fly in parts of Hudur and El Barde, forcing pastoralists to move the Qarin area of Rabdure. Crops are doing reasonably well, except in Rabdure where crops have been affected by poor rains and pests at their germinating stage. This district may experience another failure if the rains do not return. Elsewhere, in Tieglo, some ratoon crops have been affected by stalk borer. Nevertheless, weeding and other farming activities are providing poor agro-pastoral and urban households with increased labour opportunities, while terms of trade on goats to cereal are good –1 goat to 3-5 bags sorghum (somewhat worse in Rabdure and El Barde –1 goat to 2-3 bags sorghum). Livestock sales have been boosted by high demand in Mogadishu and Mandera.

JUBA VALLEY

Rainfall in these two regions has been above normal and has resulted in some flooding, particularly in the dhesheks (depressions) around Afmadow and Hagar. As these filled up and joined, they destroyed 1,400 Ha of the main maize crop for the season in those two districts. At the same time, roads to and from the area as well as around Badhadhe in the extreme south were cut off, causing temporary shortages and very high prices (typically, 2-3 times as much as normal). Otherwise, the *Deyr* rains have improved pasture and grazing and with it, animal condition and milk supply. There have been an unknown disease outbreak around Jilib. There was some fighting Buale and Jilib that resulted in 5 villages razed and approximately 100 households displaced to Jilib or neighbouring villages.