

## FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

### FSAU HARGEISA WORKSHOP

14 DECEMBER 2002– 4 JANUARY 2003

The FSAU's Household Economy analysis training for partners was completed after nearly 4 weeks of intensive training in Somaliland. A 6-day theory session for 63 participants was closed by the Honourable Minister for Pastoral Development & Environment, Mohamed Muse Awale. The training team then took more than 30 participants from partner agencies to the field for practical training. The teams covered five field locations. Pastoral areas included the Nugal valley (Sool region), the Golis-Guban pastoral communities of Awdal region and the Hawd of Hargeisa and Togdheer regions. Agropastoral areas included rainfed areas in Gebiley, Boroma, Sheikh, Burcao, Berbera and Odweyne and an irrigated food economy zone in Hargeisa district.

The training was a resounding success with participants having benefited from improved knowledge and skills in vulnerability analysis. Discussions were held at the end with participants and their managers to see how the training will help them in the future. The trainees felt that they were confident that the training had equipped them with skills to identify the different livelihood groups within their areas of work, to select appropriate and reliable key informants, to identify and speak to the different socio-economic groups in the community, to use participatory research tools and improved interview skills to gather information, to quantify household economies (assets, food and income sources, expenditure) and to use these skills to assist in project planning, targeting, and monitoring and evaluating their work. Finally, participants had learned about the realities of a rural livelihood - how people have lived in normal years and how they have been coping with recent shocks such as the livestock ban and successive drought. A further bonus of the training was the understanding and adoption of a common analytical framework among partner agencies. The workshop participants resolved to continue the spirit of collaboration, co-ordination and sharing of information and experiences which this workshop has initiated, and that this role should be played by the key ministries, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture (which is planning to hold regular monthly food security meetings). FSAU plans to hold a meeting in Hargeisa in February or March when the findings of the field work will be presented to stakeholders for review and discussion. Again, it is hoped that the Ministry of Agriculture will play a lead role in this. FSAU is grateful to FEWS NET who provided a technical backstop to trainers during the theoretical part of the training and to FEWS NET, CARE, WFP, EU, DRC, USAID, IRC, SADO, OXFAM, SC-UK, ICRC who provided financial and material assistance. FSAU hopes to replicate this training - on a smaller scale - with agencies working in the South, and would like to hear from interested agencies. Please contact FSAU's Field Operations Support Officer : [lesley.adams@fsau.or.ke](mailto:lesley.adams@fsau.or.ke)

### \*\*FSAU DEYR HARVEST ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP IN SOMALIA

FSAU will be holding a workshop at the end of February to assess Deyr Crop Production where they will seek to achieve consensus on their findings amongst implementing agencies and partners working in Somalia. For more information on the Deyr Assessment workshop please contact FSAU Field Team Manager : [yusuf@fsau.or.ke](mailto:yusuf@fsau.or.ke)

## HIGHLIGHTS

**ETHIOPIAN DROUGHT AND MIGRATORY MOVEMENTS TO NW SOMALIA:** Recent rains are replenishing pasture in the NW of Somalia which is expected improve access to milk but some pastoralists are reported to have lost livestock as a result of increased diseases incidence brought on by the rains. Any further shocks may inhibit recovery which is why the situation in neighbouring Ethiopia requires close monitoring. Some abnormal cross-border migration has been reported (Source: WFP, LCNRDD: 10th Jan. 2003). *Reports of families from Ashir district (Ethiopia) moving as family groups with household goods to Awdal are unusual* although livestock migration is normal. The FSAU will verify these reports and confirm numbers as more information is received from the field. Food aid is reported to have been distributed in Shinile region. However, those families on the move may have interpreted this as a signal that more pastoralists will be attracted to the area and therefore kin support (Issa) and more favourable pastures in Awdal offer a better longer-term option. The FSAU will continue to monitor the possible impact of abnormal migrations, relief food distributions in Ethiopia, staple prices and livestock health and production as the situation unfolds.

**AWDAL :** The long awaited *hais* rains arrived in the coastal and sub coastal belts of the region at the end of December. This brought some relief to pastoralists, whose livelihoods— are often weakened at this difficult time of year—especially if the *hais* rains are delayed. There are three phases of *hais* rains and the first and second phase (Kodxin and Dirir) failed. This past long dry spell caused significant livestock deaths - particularly of sheep. The dry spell also affected other animals productivity and marketability. When the third phase (Daadallo) of *hais* rains arrived in the last week of December, livestock were already weak - because of the dry spell, but livestock condition worsened as the heavy continuous rains fell and the temperature dropped making sheep and goats without shelter - more susceptible to pneumonia. The FSAU Livestock Officer who visited Awdal in December 2002 reports that death of livestock due to the recent heavy rains is likely to be much higher than deaths that were reported as a result of the long dry period. For further FSAU information on Awdal see Page 2. and Page 3.

**CROP PRODUCTION FROM DEYR HARVEST EXPECTED TO BE SATISFACTORY** Deyr 2002/2003 is likely to be exceptional throughout Southern Somalia as rainfall was outstanding in both occurrence and distribution. In the Shabelle and Juba valleys - where most of the crops are rain dependent - good production is expected. Livestock also felt the positive effects of plentiful rainfall. A promising Deyr harvest is likely to compensate for the poor performance in some areas during the Gu 2002 season.

### Food Aid Distribution

Somalia's two principal food aid agencies, CARE and World Food Programme continued their operations in December, providing food to targeted beneficiaries through general distribution, food for work and feeding operations. WFP distributed 286 MT of relief food to targeted beneficiaries in NW Somalia. They also carried out Food For Work in Bakol-459 MT, Hiran-35 MT and in the North West-86 MT. In the form of social support-WFP also distributed the following 170 MT in Bakol, 55 MT in Hiran, 9 MT in Lower Shabelle, 49 MT in Mogadishu, 75 MT in the North West and 244 MT in the North East.

Meanwhile, CARE distributed 17 MT of lentils and vegetable oil to 871 beneficiaries in Belet Hawa-Gedo region. For further information on CARE's food aid operations, please contact : [narayan@care.or.ke](mailto:narayan@care.or.ke). For further information about WFP's activities, please contact : [Lubna.alaman@wfp.org](mailto:Lubna.alaman@wfp.org).

### Highlights from the FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

The January 'Nutrition Update' highlights the recent assessment in Awdal and provides a map highlighting areas where high malnutrition rates reflect the deterioration in food security. The benefits of the recent rains are unlikely to be felt for two to three months.

The report also focuses on the situation in Belet Weyne and the difficulties encountered by humanitarian organisations in implementing appropriate interventions. A copy of the FSAU/UNICEF nutrition calendar for Somalia will also be included with the 'Nutrition Update'. Poster sized copies are available on request.

**For copies of nutrition survey reports and further information related to nutrition, see the FSAU monthly publication 'Nutrition Update' or contact : [noreen.prendville@fsau.or.ke](mailto:noreen.prendville@fsau.or.ke)**

**Coastal belt of Awdal and Sahil Regions—Somaliland  
Food Security and Nutrition Assessment. 10-14 December 2002. (FSAU/UNICEF/MOHL)**

**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the assessment were:-

- ? To assess the current food security situation in the coastal belt of Awdal and Sahil. (Sahil is a coastal area situated between the regions of Awdal and Galbeed)
- ? To determine malnutrition rates in the coastal belt of Awdal and Sahil Regions using the Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement of children between 6-59 months. To describe the possible causes of malnutrition in the coastal belt of Awdal and Sahil.
- ? To suggest recommendations for interventions.

**FOOD SECURITY SITUATION**

This is a summary of the food security situation in Awdal as reported by FSAU's Livestock Officer—Mahdi Kayad, a member of the December Awdal Assessment team. (December 10-14 2002). It was written before the third phase of the *hais* rains commenced in late December. However, the report still sheds light on some of the underlying problems associated with lack of sufficient rainfall over several years for the people and animals living in the coastal and sub-coastal belt which are often magnified at this time of year, especially when the *hais* rains are delayed or fail completely. For a copy of Mahdi Kayad's report please contact : alex.williams@fsau.or.ke

There are five food economy zones in the region of Hargeisa and Awdal : urban, agro-pastoral, Hawd pastoral, Highland pastoral and coast and sub-coastal pastoral. The first four groups have a similar rainy season while the latter has a different season. The coast and sub coastal communities have been waiting for rain since October 2002 so their *hais* has been delayed for almost three months. This delay, combined with four successive poor rainy seasons has caused a shortage of supply of pasture and has resulted in the deterioration of livestock condition and death of animals. The assessment team observed carcasses scattered around water points—a significant number had been abandoned after they had lost their capability to walk. The *hais* rains did actually commence in the last week of December and have been strong with good distribution/intensity and without winds. These heavy rains have increased livestock death as the animals were weak due to the prolonged drought and are subsequently more susceptible to livestock diseases such as pneumonia. Sheep and donkeys are particularly badly affected, the latter are important as they are often used to transport water in poor pastoral households when water is scarce. Animals are fetching low market prices and the terms of trade for these pastoralists are unfavourable. Reproductivity and productivity rates are extremely low and milk is unavailable to the majority of the coastal inhabitants. The number of

female animals has declined which has affected herd production and milk supply to households. Slaughtering of animals for meat has been restricted as the animals are in such poor condition. Pastoralists have been forced to sell more animals to earn less food. Accessibility to pasture and water for the livestock is very poor and far apart. The impact of lack of sufficient rainfall over the past few years has created long term economic problems and put enormous pressure on the environment—as well as caused migration to urban centres.

An inter agency reponse group comprising UN, relevant Somaliland government departments and INGO's aims to develop a common strategy to mitigate the effects of the current drought and severe food security reported in the region. Short term emergency responses as well as long term interventions are recommended. Recommendations following consultation with UNICEF and MOHL include :

- ? Targeted general ration to populations in small temporary settlements for a period of 3 months. During this period, the situation will be re-evaluated.
- ? Decentralised supplementary feeding programmes (SFP) with separate strategies for permanent and temporary settlements.
- ? Immediate rehabilitation of Karurre borehole that has not operated since May 2002.
- ? Immunisation services expanded in the vast areas of the belt not covered by static health services.
- ? Examine ways of strengthening the quality of the general health service delivery as well as intensifying morbidity and nutrition surveillance.

FSAU also suggests the following longer term measures, for discussion, to enhance food security in the region :

- (a) Improve soil management practice following the deterioration of soils over past four years—affecting grazing.
- (b) Establish and control, with the help of local communities and elders, grazing reserves which will assist in reducing land degradation and overgrazing.
- (c) Improve access to water— working with local communities.

In late December, *hais* rains were also received in the highland areas of Hargeisa and Awdal. These rains may attract people with their animals from other parts of the region and or/neighbouring regions. However, the FSAU field monitor reported that during December there was no significant immigration of pastoralists fleeing the drought in Ethiopia. The January edition of 'Nutrition Update' has more in depth information on the nutritional issues associated with the problems in the coastal and Sahil regions.

**2002/2003 DEYR CROP ESTABLISHMENT IN SOUTHERN SOMALIA**

In the *Deyr* season it is usual for rainfall to be erratic and unevenly distributed throughout southern Somalia. However, *Deyr* 2002/2003 was exceptional as rainfall was outstanding in both occurrence and distribution. In the Shabelle and Juba Valleys most crops are rain dependent and so good production is expected. Livestock also felt the positive effects of plentiful rainfall. The FSAU field team have summarized the key points of the *Deyr* crop establishment and prospects for expected crop production—below.

- ? The *Deyr* rainfall reduced the amount of irrigation required by maize in the riverine areas of Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, Hiran and Gedo regions, thus helping to reduce farmer's costs.
- ? Bay and Bakol rely on rainfed farming. Farmers were so encouraged by the exceptional rainfall, they replanted their sorghum instead of ratooning.
- ? In the past, the *Deyr* contributed up to 25-30% of Somalia's annual cereal production. The *Deyr* crop production is very promising and is expected to compensate for the poor *Gu* 2002 crop performance.

However, final *Deyr* production could still be affected by the following factors :

- i) Outbreak of army worms in localized areas of southern Somalia.
- ii) Excessive rainfall damaging established areas of sorghum and

maize in low lying fields.

- iii) The low price of maize discouraging irrigated farmers to plant a maize crop—so they opt to plant cash crops (sesame and vegetables) in Lower and Middle Shabelle and Lower and Middle Juba.
- iv) High cost of tractor rent - can reduce expected *deyr* cropped areas.
- v) Farmers discouraged by river fluctuation in irrigated areas of downstream Lower Shabelle. They were unsure whether to invest in planting maize which needs irrigation and can be costly but were also concerned about possible flooding .

In spite of the above constraints, crop production for *Deyr* 2002/03 is good with an expected yield/unit of 0.3-0.6Mt/Ha for sorghum and 1.0-1.2 Mt/Ha for maize. Only the outbreak of birds and insecurity may impair the expected sorghum production from Bay region, Lower and Middle Shabelle and Lower and Middle Juba.

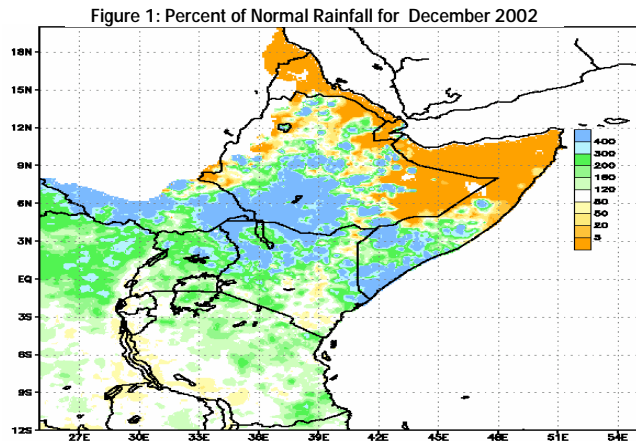
The *Deyr* provided access to green maize. It also increased access to food through labour for the poor riverine groups. The sale of livestock products also helped the poorer agro-pastoral groups. A significant production of sorghum is expected from Bay region while most of the maize will come from Lower Shabelle. Cowpea and sesame production is also expected to contribute to this exceptional *deyr* through sale of cash crops in the Shabelle and Juba valley regions.

For more details on *Deyr* Crop establishment—please contact FSAU Field Team Manager : Yusuf@fsau.or.ke.

DECEMBER RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

December saw a significant increase in rainfall over the equatorial sector of the Greater Horn of Africa. The areas that received above normal rainfall are shaded in blue/green in Figure 1. In the first dekad in Southern Somalia parts of Juba and Shabelle Valleys received above average rainfall, while parts of Bay, Bakool, Gedo and Hiran received normal rainfall. However, in the northeast, northwest and central regions the rains were below normal during the month. Throughout Somalia, rains became less intense in the second and last dekad of December.

The Source of the graphic on the right is The Drought Monitoring Centre-Nairobi



REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONITORS

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.

NORTH WEST & AWDAL

In the coastal and sub-coastal belt, rainfall has been insufficient during the *hais* rainy season, and this has been occurring over the last four years. Therefore pasture availability is poor. As the *hais* rains were delayed this year—the compounded effect of a long dry spell and insufficient rainfall over a period of years has resulted in mortality amongst small ruminants, severe weakened body condition in livestock and a large reduction in purchasing power within the coastal communities. In other parts of this region, both pasture/grazing and browse condition are considered normal or near normal for December. Pastoral households on the coast and sub-coastal belt that were able, migrated into the highlands (putting pressure on grazing resources) —although the pastoralists that moved lost many small ruminants due to the wetter and colder weather conditions—making their livestock susceptible to disease. West of Berbera, the Major of Djibouti provided some food relief to communities close to Zeila town. In addition WFP in December provided 244 MT consisting of cereal, (219 MT) pulses and edible oil. The attempt by the Ethiopian government to curb illegal trade into their country has had little significant effect on the economy of the north west. No significant migration of pastoralists from Ethiopia to this area has been noted during December.

BARI REGION— Bossaso,

Iskushuban and B/Beyla districts

In Dharoor FEZ the overall food security situation is normal—although poor pastoral groups have been affected by low livestock production due to the effects of *Deyr* 2001 drought, depressed livestock prices and suspension of lobster catching and fishing camps by militias. (Note : fishing activities start in September through to April - in a normal year in this region - fishing would account for up to 21% of a poor pastoralist's income) Some poor pastoral households have also changed their access to their main food source because the number of their milking camels is still greatly reduced. Recovery of camel reproduction from drought years takes time. They are coping by receiving food gifts (*Zakatul-firi*) or reducing non-staple and non essential purchases. In the Sool FEZ (Iskushuban and B/Beyla districts) the overall food security situation is normal and all the *berkads* in the Sool plateau of Iskushuban and B/Beyla are now full. Livestock milk production has increased though the number of milking animals is still below normal due to the poor calving rates of the last wet season. In Coastal FEZ (Bossaso, Iskushuban and B/Beyla districts) the food security situation is normal with the exception of poor urban groups particularly IDP'S in Bossaso due to the limited coping options available to them. Seasonal fishing is continuing at coastal settlements around Bossaso but have ceased in Iskushuban and B/Beyla coastal areas due to militia activities. For urban groups access to food is stable due to the low cereal price and an increase in employment options due to port activity and construction works.

SANAG & TOGHDEER

In the Sool plateau of Eastern Sanaag, pastoralists are still experiencing the cumulative effects of several consecutive poor rainy seasons. However, some pastoralists migrated to less affected areas for better grazing. The FSAU field monitor reports that pastoralists in this vulnerable eco-zone will face asset losses and short-term food insecurity in the last month of *Jilaal* (March) even if the *Gu* rains start on time. Otherwise good *Deyr* rains were received in the two regions—the most vulnerable eco-zone in Togdheer region (Hawd) is now facing a normal *Jilaal* season. In both regions the livestock prices are near to normal.

NORTH NUGAL & SOUTH BARI

The four food economy zones in this region are Hawd, Nugal, Sool and Coastal. All *berkads* in these zones have been seasonally replenished. It is expected that the *Jilaal* will be mild in Hawd, Addun and Coastal because of the good late rains in November and December. Recovery of small ruminants is seasonally normal while cattle and camel are recovering more slowly due to the the poor *hagaai* and *gu*. Lower Nugal valley received poor rains and livestock have moved to the Hawd and Burtinle district where rainfall has been abundant. In Gardo district livestock have moved to Beyla on the coast where pasture is better. As the *Deyr* season ends pastoralists are relying more on cereal consumption as opposed to milk—as milk remained scarce during the season.

SOUTH NUGAL & NORTH MUDUG

The food security situation is normal—pasture and grazing are optimal for the season—although early migration to western Hawd of Burtinle districts and Goldogob may cause overgrazing - higher population in latter district due to insecurity which is limiting grazing access. The only water borehole that is functioning in Goldogob district is under pressure due to enlarged population and is operating round the clock—the price of water has gone up 100 per cent from baseline norm. There has been a small upsurge in livestock diseases—shoats are particularly badly affected. Pastoralists report inadequate drug supply and veterinary treatment available.

SOOL (and the Buhoodle Hawd)

In this region the pastoral food security situation is more or less normal reflecting the improved livestock condition and good market prices. There has however been a shortfall of lactating camel and calving in the season which has been reflected in the high price of milk. The water price is normal. Sool Plateau and Lower Nugal need close monitoring after poor *Deyr* rains and out migration of camel herds to Hawd and upper Nugal valley. As long as good rain is received in these areas, rangeland should be able to support livestock in the coming dry season. Inter-regional movements and trading activities have been disrupted by insecurity in the region. Poor urban dwellers for example in LasAnod town have been badly affected and many have fled to the countryside.

REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONTIORS

**JUBA VALLEY**

Uniform rainfall fell throughout Middle and Lower Juba regions during December which replenished all water reservoirs and improved crop/pasture conditions. The predominant crops planted in Juba valley during the *deyr* were sesame and sorghum and their cropping pattern is normal. All crops in the *deyshek* farming areas of Juba valley are well established and are now in vegetative and development stages. A reasonable production of sorghum and sesame are expected from Middle Juba, whilst an outstanding sesame production is expected from Lower Juba. In spite of the good *deyr* prospects, **birds and insecurity** might have a negative impact on the expected production of the *deyr* season. Insecurity has already restricted livestock movements throughout Middle and Lower Juba regions. The movement of goods has also been restricted. The terms of trade favour the middle and better-off pastoralists :one local goat can be bartered with 3-4 bags of cereal of 50 kg. There is no alarming hunger across the Juba valley regions. However, insecurity limits the numerous coping mechanisms which are at the disposal of the poor pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and riverine groups particularly in the areas of : sale of livestock products, paid employment, self-employments and fishing. Some may find it difficult to access food at household level.

**Field Monitors from Galgadud, Hiran, Middle Shabelle and Bakol have been participating in the FSAU Workshop in Hargeisa. Regional highlights from these areas will continue as usual in the February Food Security Report.**

**BAY**

Normal rains have been received in the region which have improved crop and pasture condition. Early planted sorghum is at the milking stage. Livestock condition is also normal following the late rains which improved grazing areas. Milk and meat production is normal. The price of staple food (sorghum and maize) is very low due to a road block between the main market (Baidoa) and other regions Bakol and Gedo caused by insecurity. In contrast imported food is very expensive such as sugar, rice and cooking oil. Job opportunities in the region are good although agricultural activities slightly reduced in December. Security situation is unstable and this is effecting transportation costs too.

**GEDO**

The *Deyr* rains ended in early December, allowing good establishment of crops—some of these are now being harvested and are also supplying local markets. Pasture is above average, resulting in good livestock condition, while animals are now fetching good prices—buoyed by their good health and strong demand. There has been renewed trade—and trucks are moving between the region and Mogadishu (as well as Kenya). Taken together, these factors have boosted food access for the poor as they now have greater possibilities of income and food availability is good. The biggest threat to future food security comes from insecurity, although current agreements and truces are still holding.

**LOWER SHABELLE**

The food security situation of the region is normal due to good rains throughout the *Deyr* season. Most wealth groups have good stocks with the exception of poor pastoral and agro pastoral groups who manage through agricultural employment and self-employment. Livestock are in good condition increasing the production of milk and meat — and improving purchasing power of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. The price of milk is stable and affordable to most poor households. Agricultural labour wages are good. The prospect of a good *Deyr* harvest (sorghum, maize and beans) remains high. Farmers are also planting sesame but the constraining factor for some farmers is that sesame seed price remains high. Cheap cereals and good wage rates provide improved income for poor households, especially for riverine and urban groups who mainly rely on purchase.

**COWPEA BELT**

The food security situation is normal for the time of year due to good *Deyr* rains—although a couple of districts—Warshik and Adale have not benefited from the good rains. This is reflected in less availability of pasture, food—and low production of milk/meat and less marketability. In other areas water for both livestock and people is available. The price of a barrel of water has decreased from 8-10,000 Sh in November for 200 litres to 6-8,000 Sh in December. Pasture conditions are good and the livestock condition is improving which is positively effecting milk and meat production.

**LIVESTOCK EXPORT— DECEMBER 2002**

Bosasso *	September	October	November	December
Camel	650	782	765	1,300
Cattle	3,864	4,448	3,433	3,773
Shoats	69,308	150,845	160,245	100,154
Total	73,822	156,075	164,443	105,227
Berbera **				
Camel	921	1,251	3,627	450
Cattle	1,843	4,503	5,519	8,800
Shoats	30,089	42,261	62,549	40,396
Total	32,023	48,015	71,695	49,646

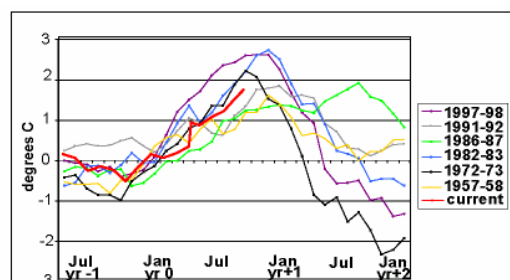
Source \*: Bosasso Port Authority Source \*\*: Berbera Port Authority

**EL NINO UPDATE**

Climate prediction models indicate that the current moderate El-Nino is in its mature stage and will continue into January-February-March 2003 before it significantly weakens. However, it is unlikely to have any significant impact on Somalia. Historically, El-Nino events tend to develop between April through June and reach their maximum intensity between December through February. This seems to be the trend for the current El Nino, as shown in Figure 2, which compares the current scenario (by measuring sea temperature) to the previous El - Nino events.

A qualitative review of the Drought Monitoring Centre—Nairobi forecast for the period November through December 2002, has generally be realized. However, it is still possible that heavy rains could fall in the Lower Juba/Shabelle river basins and this needs to need to be closely monitored in the next few months.

Figure 2: Current vs. Previous El-Nino events



Source: IRI for Climate Prediction (updated 17.Dec. 2002)