

FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

***During June, the FSAU Field team manager and field team have been working in Somalia on the Gu crop establishment exercises. See Page 2 for a summary of their initial findings and analysis. These findings will be presented at the SACB Food Security Meeting on July 10th where FSAU will make a presentation on Crop Establishment.*

***FSAU has appointed a Field Operations Support Officer, Lesley Adams. Her main duties include capacity-building of the FSAU Somali field team, and building better links with partner agencies to enhance understanding and use of FSAU information and analytical capacity, particularly in project planning. Lesley can be reached at : Lesley.Adams@fsau.or.ke*

*** The FSAU August Monthly Report will be two pages highlighting Somalia's Regional Summaries due to increased field activities and staff leave.*

*** The Gu crop assessment workshop will take place between September 4th–Monday 12th September in Baidoa.*

FOOD AID DISTRIBUTION

In Northern Gedo a major source of food for the population is food aid. However, due to insecurity, there were no major food distributions in this region between late April and early June. UNCU/OCHA initiated a process to try and ensure enough security to allow the much needed humanitarian relief interventions to access the region. In late June CARE managed to distribute 471 MT in El Waq, 899 MT in Belet Hawa district and 177 MT in parts of Dolo district. The food ration consisted of sorghum, lentils and oil. Luuq and parts of Dolo are currently inaccessible and **UNCU and CARE are proposing food air drops**. In Luuq district, 11 drop off points have been identified, targeting 18,172 beneficiaries with a planned distribution of about 1,090 MT. In Dolo district, 2 drop off points, targeting about 3,441 beneficiaries with a planned distribution of about 206 MT have been identified. CARE have pre-positioned 3,943 MT of food in Mandera and 558 MT of food in El Waq, Kenya. WFP has also pre-positioned food on the two Kenyan border towns, Mandera and El waq, with 750 MT in each, for expected distribution in Garbaharey and Burdhubo districts as soon as the security situation allows.

During June WFP distributed a total of 819 MT throughout Somalia. 422 MT were distributed in Baidoa district, (Bay region) of which 76 MT was in the form of relief food the rest was social support and food for work (FFW). In Merka (Lower Shabelle) 20 MT were distributed as FFW. In Mogadishu 47 MT were distributed as social support in the maternal health centres (MCH). In the Northwest, 257 MT were distributed as FFW and 73 MT as social support. In Awdal, Borama district 5 MT were distributed. In Galbeed region, 51 MT were distributed in Hargesia, 29 MT in Gebiley, 1 MT in Baligubadle, 53 MT in Berbera and 7 MT in Salahley districts. In Togdheer region, 16 MT were distributed in Burao, 9 MT in Odwenye, and 4 MT in Sheikh. In Sanag region 12 MT were distributed in Badhan and 43 MT in Erigavo. In the Sool region 56 MT were distributed in Lasanod and 44 MT in Taleh.

HIGHLIGHTS

GEDO: Luuq, Dolo and Belet Hawa, northern districts of Garbaharey as well as Burdhubo continue to be critically food insecure. A major source of food for these populations is food aid, although there were no major food distributions in these districts between early April and June. Inhabitants are struggling to survive through selling animals, selling remaining assets, collecting bush products and moving to Mandera, Kenya or Dolow, Ethiopia as well as internally within the region. Consistent food aid distributions are entirely dependent on the security situation—UNCU/OCHA initiated a process to ensure enough security to allow urgent humanitarian relief interventions in the region in the coming months. As a result, CARE managed to distribute 893 MT in Belet Hawa (during the last week of June) and in addition food was distributed to the people of Dolo through a separate distribution in near-by Belet Hawa. CARE and WFP continue to keep considerable stocks of food in Mandera for distribution as soon as the security situation allows. For more background information and analysis see the joint FSAU/FEWS NET Flash issued June 2002 on the Critical Situation Prevailing in Northern Gedo.

GU CEREAL FORECAST IN SOMALILAND : The 2002 Gu crop forecast in Somaliland is showing initial signs of a very poor harvest . Although 5340 ha of land were prepared, only an estimated area of 1670 ha has established crops due to poor rainfall. Close monitoring of the situation in all agro-pastoral areas, where households stocks are low, is needed until the harvest in October-November, particularly in Togdheer, Saazil, Awdal and Hargesia regions. Due to the poor Gu rains there has also been significant pasture deterioration at a time when income from livestock is limited because of the import ban and insignificant milk production, many cattle are losing body-weight due to poor pasture. Food prices are rising continuously. For the 2002 FSAU Gu cereal forecast in Somaliland and suggested agricultural interventions - please contact alex.williams@fsau.or.ke

FOOD SECURITY DETERIORATES IN THE SOOL PLATEAU, NUGAL VALLEY, GEBI VALLEY AND IYAH AREAS: This encompasses much of Sool, Sanag and Nugal Regions, as well as the southern part of Bari. This year's Gu rains have been sporadic and scattered, with strong Hagay winds causing the early drying up of pasture and watering points. The Hawd of Hargeysa has also been affected. A lot depends on the Karan rains; if these fail or are delayed, there will be hunger amongst people living in these areas.

GU CROP ESTABLISHMENT IN SOUTHERN SOMALIA: FSAU estimated the total established cropped area at about 435,000 ha for cereals (55% for sorghum and 45% for maize), which is above the average cropped area (350,000 ha during the post-war period). The projected cereal production was estimated at about 260,000 MT in the best case scenario, which would be significantly higher (50%) than the post-war average. If the generally good prospects materialize, crop production would be more than double (125%) compared to the relatively poor Gu 2001 and even slightly higher (22%) than the good Gu 2000 production. See page 2 for further analysis.

REOPENING OF BORDER BETWEEN DJIBOUTI AND SOMALILAND : The Lowyado border point has finally reopened between Djibouti and Somaliland. Communities in Awdal and the West particularly those on the coastal and sub coastal belt are likely to benefit from this reopening, as well as traders. It is hoped that trade in food, non-food items and passengers will help re-vitalize the region. It is too early to predict food security improvements but the reopening has sparked a renewed optimism in the area.

Highlights from the FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

FAO has introduced the 'Nutrition and Food Security Project' that is about to be launched for Gedo, Bay and Bakool Regions of Somalia in the coming months. The project will emphasise the need to determine and analyse the specific causes of malnutrition in particular areas and will support partner organisations in the identification and design of interventions that will address these causes. FAO partner organisations will be supported with the necessary technical and material resources to implement food security and nutrition projects in the three regions.

To introduce partners to the project and an appropriate methodology for the analysis of food security and nutrition related issues, a two day workshop was organised in Nairobi on June 5th and 6th 2002. The workshop was very well attended and participants showed a high level of interest and commitment to addressing the unacceptably high levels of malnutrition in the three regions. In the coming months, FAO and partners will commence the process of analysis and project identification in Somalia.

For more details, see the FSAU monthly publication 'Nutrition Update', or contact noreen.prendiville@fsau.or.ke

GU 2002 CROPPING SEASON IN SOUTHERN SOMALIA

Best Case Scenario - Expected Production (MT) by Region compared to Post-War Average (1993-2001)

REGIONS	GU 2002			% Post-War (*)
	Sorghum	Maize	S and M	
Bakool	1,900	50	1,950	-53%
Bay	60,400	7,700	68,100	43%
Gedo	7,150	5,200	12,350	29%
Hiran	600	1,500	2,100	-69%
L/Juba	300	9,000	9,300	14%
L/Shabelle	14,500	105,600	120,100	94%
M/Juba	4,100	11,700	15,800	27%
M/Shabelle	10,800	18,700	29,600	34%
TOTAL	99,750	159,450	259,300	50%

(*) Post-War: average 1993-2001

FSAU's Gu 2002 crop establishment assessment took place in southern Somalia late May/early June. Field activities were completed on the 8th June and data were compiled in Baidoa. The total established cropped area was estimated at about 435,000 ha for cereals (55% for sorghum and 45% for maize), which is above the average cropped area (350,000 ha during the post-war period). The projected cereal production was estimated at about 260,000 MT in the best case scenario (see table), which would be significantly higher than the post-war average

(+50%). If the generally good prospects materialize, crop production would be more than double compared to the relatively poor Gu 2001 (+125%) and even slightly higher than the good Gu 2000 production (+22%).

In the best case scenario, the projected sorghum production of southern Somalia was estimated at about 100,000 MT, which would be well above the 1995-2000 average (+50%). After the last good Deyr cropping season, sorghum crop results are again promising in Bay region (60% of the total projected sorghum production). Similarly, the expected maize production is well above average, particularly in Lower Shabelle with a projection of above 100,000 MT (see table).

The projected production of maize and sorghum combined by region is above the post-war average all over southern Somalia with the exception of Bakol (-53%) and Hiran (-69%) where the poor distribution of the rains badly impacted on the rain-fed crops (good rains received in April, but not afterwards). Although the total projected production of Gedo appears to be slightly above average (+29%, see table), the situation of the region is rather contrasted with relatively good prospects in the south and very poor crop situation in the north where both rain-fed and irrigated agriculture were hampered by insecurity.

Gu crop establishment in Southern Somalia: implications for food security in 2002/2003

The Gu crop establishment in southern Somalia was good overall, suggesting that the Gu harvest in Southern Somalia could reach as high as 260,000 MT. Aside from the usual factors that could seriously erode the actual harvest obtained in August (such as pests and failed Hagay rains) predicting food access over the coming consumption year (August 2002-July 2003) depends on a great number of assumptions. Generally, the most important of these are:

- **Conflict and Insecurity.** Insecurity seems particularly volatile at the moment and has far-reaching consequences, such as curtailed production, limited access to markets, reduced labour opportunities and restricted access to livestock or pasture for agro-pastoral and pastoral groups. For the sake of forecasting, however, *this year FSAU assumes a brighter outlook than that observed in recent months with relatively localised outbursts of violence or low-level conflict, similar to that found in southern Somalia in 2001.*
- **The Deyr season.** As the Deyr harvest in seven months cannot be predicted with any certainty, *FSAU assumes that Deyr 2002/03 will be 35% of the Post War Average (PWA) annual crop production for 1995-2002, the usual contribution.*
- **Crop and Livestock Prices.** Assumptions about the direction of expected price changes are specific to each area. Dollar denominated price changes are noted for those cases where many in the affected wealth group have access to dollars.
- **Livestock production.** Assumptions about future yields for milk depend on (seasonal) calving and hence lactation rates, accessibility of the herd and disease outbreaks. Assumptions about livestock sales can be derived from animal quality and value, composition of the herd by species—as well as access to the herd. *Generally, in areas with poor livestock performance in 2001/2002, limited improvement is expected during the course of 2001/2002, because of low calving rates and higher than normal sales rates.*

Food Economy Zone	Section of Zone	Crop production as % of PWA (1995-2001)	Key Assumptions made for the Area	Wealth Group Affected	Expected Deficit in Energy Intake for the Whole Year
Hiran Riverine	Whole zone	33% (maize & sorghum)	• Milk affected by bad pasture and out-migration of animals	Poor	10-20% (poor)
Southern Agro-pastoral	Belet Weyne & Burlo Burti	15-20% (sorghum)	• Poor livestock (goat) conditions + high off-take last year reduces overall sales • Labour opportunities down due to poor production • Staple price stable (in \$ terms, for those with access to \$)	Poor	None, but expected to exist among the poorer half of the 'poor'. Food security is very fragile and change for the worse quite easily. This is the second bad year, hence the population is already weak.
Southern Agro-pastoral	North Gedo	15% (sorghum)	• Milk production very low (25%, slightly up from 2001/02) due to low calving rates. • Low livestock sales due to previous high selling and low calving/kidding rates. • Labour opportunities very low (25%) because season disrupted by fighting • Prices stable, except for 'collection' items (firewood, charcoal, etc. - 50%) and labour rate (30%).	Poor Middle	40-50% (poor) 20-30% (middle)
Southern Agro-pastoral	Bakol	40-45%	• Milk production decreased because of reduced pasture. • Livestock sales affected by poor pasture. • Prices stable compared with last year (proximity to Baidoa), but down compared with 1998 (in \$ terms).	Poor	None, but population already weak from last year and the 'bottom end' (very poor) expected to be vulnerable.
Bay-Bakol Agro-pastoral: High Potential sorghum	Bay and Bardhera	130%	• Milk production is good. • Livestock sales are normal. • Prices stable compared with last year (proximity to Baidoa), but down compared with 1998 (in \$ terms).		Not vulnerable, except for very poor, IDP's and those affected by recent fighting.
Bay-Bakol Agro-pastoral: High Potential sorghum	Bakol	50%	• Milk production decreased because of reduced pasture and distance from herd. • Household income from livestock sales reduced by poor pasture and distance from herd. • Crop and Livestock prices stable.	Poor	None, but the poorest half of the 'poor' vulnerable. Food security very fragile and change for the worse quite easily. Second bad year, hence pop. already weak.

The table on the left outlines the most affected food economy zones: the expected crop production as a percentage of Post-War Average (PWA), key assumptions for the resultant analysis and the resultant deficit for the 2002/03 consumption year. On the whole, the rains have been good for most pastoral groups, who also enjoy high prices for the commodities they produce and a low price for staples. However, households from the Dawa Pastoral food economy in north Gedo are still highly vulnerable

and will continue to require assistance. This is because they have not yet been able to get full access to their (now returning) herds, while calving and kidding rates were low during the last six months resulting in low numbers of lactating females. Overall herd sizes have also decreased due to livestock deaths and 'survival' selling and the human population have been in a highly weakened state for quite some time.

Vulnerable districts and populations. The following districts in southern Somalia are estimated to have highly vulnerable and vulnerable populations. **Belet Hawa** : 65,000 people highly vulnerable. **Dolow** : 25,000 people highly vulnerable. **Luuq** : 80,000 people highly vulnerable; 26,000 people vulnerable (Ceel bon). **Garbaharey** : 35,000 people highly vulnerable. **Wajid** : 11,000 people vulnerable. **Hudur** : 15,000 people vulnerable. **Tieglow** : 24,000 vulnerable, **Belet Weyne** : 8,400 people vulnerable (riverine poor); 22,800 people vulnerable (other riverine and agro-pastoral poor) **Bulo Burti** : 13,600 vulnerable people, **Jalalaqsi** : 6,100 people vulnerable.

MARKET PRICES AND TRADE

Reports from Mogadishu's Bakara market indicate that the Somalia shilling depreciated against the US dollar by some six percent, from Ssh 21,000 per dollar in May to Ssh 22,200 per dollar in June, as a result of continued high demand for dollars. The Somali shilling has been losing value against the dollar this year, about 20% a

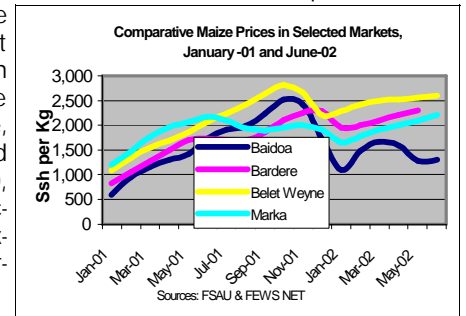
month, on average. Other markets using the Somali shilling reported similar levels of depreciation. This raises the shilling price of imported consumer commodities, boosting inflation generally, but decreases the purchasing power of people without dollar remittances, especially poorer people in urban centers.

With the relatively higher price of rice and wheat flour, demand for maize and sorghum has increased, pushing up prices. Reports from FSAU field monitors in different regions indicate that in many markets, local cereals are in short supply and prices are high. The graph below shows maize prices in selected markets in June 2002. Maize prices are higher in major maize production areas (Belet Weyne, Bardera and Marka). However, in the minor maize production areas (Baidoa), maize prices are lower, which could be partly a result of Food for Work. For instance, in Baidoa market, a kilogram of maize costs at about Ssh 1,300 in June, while in Belet-weyne, Bardera and Marka, cost at about Ssh 2,500, Ssh 2,300 and Ssh 2,100 respectively. Local cereal prices are expected to increase up to the *Gu* harvest in August.

LIVESTOCK EXPORT TABLE

BOSSASSO *	March 2002	April 2002	May 2002	June 2002
CAMEL	385	1183	744	883
CATTLE	3977	4250	3470	5470
SHOATS	102948	39780	85310	109900
TOTAL	107310	45213	89,524	116253
BERBERA **	March 2002	April 2002	May 2002	June 2002
CAMEL	1018	2020	647	2658
CATTLE	2390	854	N/A	1910
SHOATS	22932	6777	15034	10378
TOTAL	26340	9651	15681	14946

Source *: UNCTAD Source ** : Berbera Port Authority



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.

SANAG & TOGHDEER

Apart from in the Golis mountains, the *Gu* rains in most of Sanag region have been insufficient to provide enough pasture and water until the end of the *Hagay* season. Currently, water availability on the Sool plateau is below normal, as is livestock condition and production. Further assessment and close monitoring of this part of Sanag is recommended. The *Hawd* of Togdheer received some rainfall and pastoral groups were encouraged to return from Region 5 in Ethiopia; however this has placed increased strain on the rangelands. The sporadic and erratic nature of the rains also resulted in poor crop performance in Togdheer, where output is expected to be less than half of normal. The returnees in Koosar Camp are depending on social support as the lack of employment and their lack of assets or resources does not allow them many options for access to enough food. Currently terms of trade for pastoralists are good, although both the import and export of commodities is at a low point. Terms of trade on labour for grain are currently bad.

SOOL (and the Buhoodle Hawd)

In the *Hawd*, there were rains during the second week of the month, which triggered a movement of livestock into the area. Livestock condition (and hence meat productivity) is improving, however milk production remains low due to the low calving rates, particularly among camels, during the past season. In the Sool plateau and the eastern parts of the Nugal valley, no rains were reported and pastoral resources continued to be depleted. Pasture no longer sufficient for large ruminants to make it through the *Hagay* season. Earlier in the month, WFP supplied 100.162 MT for food for work-intended to provide each beneficiary with one month's rations. Terms of trade remain quite food for pastoral groups, while the wage for one day's unskilled labour fetches 7-8 kg of sorghum.

NORTH WEST & AWDAL

On the whole, the recent *Gu* season has not provided adequate rains to generate good pasture or crops in these two regions. With the exception of Salahlay district, Hargiesa *Hawd* did receive relatively good rains in early June, attracting significant numbers of livestock from other areas. On the Qool-Aday plain, rainfall was patchy and insufficient to produce enough pasture for the overstocked herds. However, the situation is expected to improve in three weeks when the Karan rains start. Crops are facing moisture stress and poor production is expected, depending on mid-season Karan rains. The livestock market comprises mainly local quality stock, although there are some export camels in the markets. Limited numbers of camels are calving this season, although small ruminants' reproduction is normal. Milk availability is increasing both in the markets and in households as cattle, goat and lactating camels are on production.

BARI REGION

The *Gu* rains this year provided substantial relief for pastoral groups in Bari, although a few areas remained dry. Livestock from these dry areas have moved to the better watered places (particularly the Kakaar eco-zone) and the herd concentrations is putting pressure on the pasture. The price of borehole water is up (fuel price increase) while that of berkads has remained the same. The seasonal *Hagay* winds have begun and this is expected to speed up the drying of vegetation and natural water sources. Nevertheless, animal condition remains good. Higher prices in town have improved terms of trade for pastoral groups, where they have access to markets. However, with the seasonal port closure and decreased labour opportunities, IDP's and the urban poor are struggling to make ends meet.

SOUTH NUGAL & NORTH MUDUG

In North Mudug and South Nugal, the overall rains were far below normal which is devastating for pasture and water conditions, particularly in northern Hawd and Addun. 30-40% of the poor pastoralists in Burtinle zone and 50-60% of poor in Addun are not able to move to better pasture and water. Some households are barely coping with the seasonal deficit and sending one member of the family to town in search of labour, some are relying on gifts from relatives and some households are selling animals at a low price. Those who have been able to move in abnormal migration patterns have gone to Goldogob, where pressure has been put on water sources, particularly poorly maintained bore holes. The price of water is expected to increase significantly in the area.

NORTH NUGAL & SOUTH BARI

In contrast to northern Bari, the *Gu* season went very badly in Nugal and south Bari. After the heavy showers and flooding of April, there was no rain during May and June and temperatures were high - accelerating the drying up of pasture and water points. The affected areas are the Hawd and Iyah eco-zones. Livestock-to-staple terms of trade are down compared with last month, although they are still higher than the same time last year. Milk prices are higher and this is due to low supply resulting from poor production. Despite the stable exchange rate, the prices for imported items rose and this is attributed to increased taxation and berthing charges at Bosasso port. Local sorghum became slightly cheaper while the labour rate and pump (retail) diesel remained the same. Construction and business activities have resumed in the towns and are returning to normal.

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

GEDO

Gedo received no rain in the north and scattered showers in the south during June. Although the primary water source in Gedo is the Juba and Dawa rivers and the water levels varied – other water catchments are relatively full which is good for pastoralists who have short distances to walk to find water. As in other parts of southern Somalia, above normal *Gu* rains were received in Gedo in April 2002. Pasture conditions improved significantly leading to a revival of the rangeland carrying capacity. Following the high mortality rates that had been recorded during the prolonged dry period, the situation of the few remaining animals improved slightly, starting from the end of April. However, households that remained in Gedo have not been able to take full advantage of the good *Gu* rains. Most of the northern Gedo pastoralists were prevented from returning due to the prevailing insecurity, limiting their potential to recover. Herders awaiting the end of fighting have not been re-united with their families. Drought related stress has severely diminished calving rates, limiting the supply of valuable milk. Insecurity also hampered both rainfed and irrigated agriculture. Coping through domestic kinship ties or social support systems were already strained. Trading mechanisms are not functioning normally, which are essential for poor households to buy food in times of crisis. Insecurity has affected the flow of traded cereals into Gedo from other parts of the country due to banditry and the mining of strategic roads linking major towns. In spite of the very good *Deyr* 01/02 harvest in the neighbouring Bay region, the inflow of cereals remained extremely limited. Most rain-fed farmers, especially those on the western side of the Juba river did not plant their crops as they fled their land when conflict broke out. Farmers who rely on irrigation from the major rivers—the Juba and Dawa also fled and those that remained cannot afford to buy fuel which has risen in price. Subsequently, small yields are expected from the coming *Gu* harvest in August.

HIRAN

The general weather conditions remained dry, adversely affecting overall livestock and crop production. Crop condition in the rainfed area is extremely poor and the crops have wilted due to poor soil moisture. In pastoral areas, the condition of livestock is normal as pasture and grazing conditions remain satisfactory but declining livestock condition was reported in both riverine and agro-pastoral areas of the region due to the scarce availability of pasture. This has caused some cattle migration towards the Shabelle areas and Ethiopia. Camel and goat prices are higher than normal but cattle prices have declined and young oxen are in demand (via Bosasso) and old cattle for meat consumption (towards southern markets) The food security situation is currently normal as most households can access food through purchase at reasonable prices and terms of trade for pastoralists are also good. ***There is a high probability of food insecurity in Belet-wein district from August onwards and should be monitored very closely.***

BAY

Light showers distributed throughout the region were received in June, which has improved crop and pasture conditions and replenished water catchments. Rainfed crop production in the region is promising with very good harvest prospects and early planted sorghum was at flowering stage while the late planted crops were at knee stage development. Early maturing cowpeas can now be eaten as vegetables and have helped the poor and very poor households especially in those areas that had crop failure in the last *Deyr* season. Pasture and grazing conditions in the region are normal in agro-pastoral and pastoral areas. Weak cattle are still recovering from the effects of the previous *Jilal*

BAKOL

No rains were received in June for the whole region. Crop condition is poor and many did not reach the establishment stage and are being used as fodder to feed livestock. The total estimated *Gu* crop production figures for sorghum and maize are likely to be considerably reduced. The main agricultural zone between Huddur and Tayeglow districts are very poor, particularly villages of El-garas Gudo, Abaqbeday and Dudumale. Camel and shoat condition is close to normal in terms of productivity and marketability but cattle condition is weak due to poor pasture and grazing conditions. Milk production is below normal. There is livestock movement in the region from location to location in search of pasture and water. The cereal price is rising slightly because of low supply from Bay and no cereal stocks in the region at the moment especially for the poor and very poor families. Terms of Trade are normal for the time of year. A medium size goat can fetch two bags of sorghum.

LOWER SHABELLE

Good rainfall fell in the first ten days of June, throughout the region, although intensity of rainfall varied. Water and pasture availability for human and livestock consumption is normal although the river level remained low. The June rains have improved pasture and grazing and animals are returning to traditional grazing areas and where they have close access to markets. The overall crop production of the region is considered above normal with the exception of Afgoye and Merca where maize crops have been affected by moisture stress. The food security situation is healthy as household food accessibility is good. No change has occurred to the poor riverine household cereal availability during June, however the vast majority of the agro-pastoral rain-fed sorghum and irrigated maize have enough stocks to last until the coming *Gu* harvest. Cereal prices in markets vary depending on location but prices currently reflect the supply of the commodity and the cereal's prospect in the upcoming *Gu* harvest. There is serious insecurity in the region.

JUBA VALLEY

There were light showers distributed across the region in June. There is low availability of household cereal stocks. The price of cereal is extremely high in the markets and not accessible to all groups, particularly poor households. In Jilib and Buale, traders are supplying 'debt sorghum' giving one bag of sorghum in exchange for two bags of maize at harvest. Milk consumption in towns and villages is low because lactating animals have been moved away from urban areas for good pasture and water. 1400 Ha of maize and cowpea crops in Afamadou district were destroyed by flood waters.

GALGADUD

The general situation in terms of food, water availability and prices is good. Pasture and grazing conditions are good and livestock exportation activities are quite robust, with cattle exportation showing a marked increase. Terms of trade for Livestock owners are good. The price of some food commodities have increased due to inflation. Crop plantation is not significant in this region, although the water melon, a product of the main *Gu* harvest is now available in good quantities in El/bur district.

COWPEA BELT

Rainfall has been poor and has affected water, pasture and farming in the region. Water for humans and livestock is normal at the coast but inland the price of water is extremely high. (15-20,000 Shsom per barrel of 200 litres). The cropped land of sorghum and cowpea is deteriorating due to poor rainfall and moisture stress. The cereal stocks kept by the poor and middle wealth groups are low and declining rapidly combined with small income from livestock products. ***The FSAU field monitor reports that the population will be facing food insecurity in the coming months and should be monitored very closely.***

MIDDLE SHABELLE

No rainfall was received during June, except on the Balad coastal plain. Pasture and grazing are normal so livestock body condition and reproduction are good, as is milk production. Most animals remain far inland for better grazing and safe from Tse-Tse fly. The river level has dropped earlier than usual, therefore pump irrigation has become necessary – however there is a shortage of these pumps – maize farmers face long queues to access the machines and safeguard their crops. Food access and availability remain normal in the region. The supply of maize, sorghum and cowpea has slightly decreased, pushing the price up slightly. (Maize by 23%, Sorghum by 18% and cowpeas by 13%) Terms of trade are favourable for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. A goat fetches 3 bags of 50Kg of cereals. Conflict in the area has caused abnormal migration of pastoralists at a time when pasture and water is favourable in original locations. There has been no looting or asset lost so the situation is not yet alarming.