

FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

- ? *The FSAU Rapid Assessment in Awdal Region was led by FSAU Food Security Analyst Charles Rethman and Livestock Officer Mahdi Kayad between 22-27 May. Its objectives were to strengthen baseline information and obtain a rough update on the food security situation, as well as to look at the Gu agricultural season in the mountainous area. (Ogo) For a copy of the four page report, please contact alex.williams@fsau.or.ke*
- ? *The FSAU-FEWS NET Market Enumerators Workshop in Somaliland was held in Hargeisa on 23-24 May led by Sidow Addou (FEWS NET) and Thierry Antoine (FSAU). A similar workshop for market enumerators will be held in Baidoa in June.*
- ? *The FSAU/CARE joint report on Household Food Access and Use Survey in Luuq District Gedo Region (18-26 March 2002) is available on request.*
- ? *A Central Somalia Food Security Network workshop, sponsored by NOVIB, will be held in Jowhar, Middle Shabelle, between 8-12 June.*

GU 2002 CROP ESTABLISHMENT

The Gu cropping season is still promising in the main sorghum producing zones of Bay (well above average rains were received in April followed by sufficient rains in May). On the other hand, the crop situation is uncertain in most rain-fed areas of Bakol and Hiran (poor rains in May). Cultivated land was close to normal in southern Gedo where crops were well established. Planting of both rain-fed and irrigated crops was hampered by insecurity in northern Gedo (cropped land has been far below normal). June's rainfall will be crucial in most rain-fed areas in order to achieve good yields. Due to heavy rains received in April, crops had to be replanted in parts of Middle and Lower Juba. Good prospects are foreseen for irrigated maize in Middle and Lower Shabelle. The FSAU Gu 2002 crop establishment field survey (27/05 -08/06) has recently concluded in southern Somalia. Final results will be available in the coming weeks.

HIGHLIGHTS

- GEDO** : Gedo Region, particularly the north, is in an acute food security crisis, with food intake for a large number of people well below any acceptable minimum. Even though productive animals have reportedly returned from Middle and Lower Juba and Ethiopia and Bakol, these animals are providing no direct benefits because:
- ? The animals have not yet been re-integrated with their families. (They are hanging back in Southern Gedo awaiting the end of the fighting)
 - ? Fighting has spread out of the urban centres into the rural hinterland.
 - ? Without trading activities and even with a livestock presence, households have no means of accessing food other than milk and trade mechanisms are essential for supporting the poor who do not have the necessary livestock holdings.
 - ? There has been no food aid for more than a month. The last distributions will be depleted. There has been also an influx of refugees from Gedo into both Mandera and Dolow, Ethiopia. Of primary concern are about 4,500 people in Mandera who have not received shelter or assistance from the clan network and who are housed in a camp named BP1 (Border Post One), just inside Kenya, between Mandera and Belet Hawa. MSF Spain in Mandera are treating 60 children in their therapeutic feeding programme (TFP) and there are 1,000 children and 400 lactating women registered for a supplementary feeding programme (SFP). Refugees in Dolow are thought to number around 3,000-5,000 people, none of whom have received any assistance. (For more details see p. 2. and regional summaries p. 4.)
- SANAAG AND SOOL REGIONS** : These two regions continue to be highly food insecure, following scattered and sporadic Gu rains. The rains were enough to recharge water supplies but pasture remains depleted. FSAU still recommends targeted food aid assistance, therefore for 2,000 households in Sool region and 3,000 in Sanaag region. (For more details, see regional summaries, p. 3.)
- FLOOD RISK IN SOUTHERN SOMALIA IS OVER** : Heavy rainfall in the Ethiopian Highlands and Southern Somalia during April caused river levels to rise, increasing concerns over possible flooding. However, below-average rains during May has lessened the flood risk for the time being. (For more details, see regional summaries on p. 4.)

LINKS BETWEEN HIV/AIDS AND FOOD SECURITY

Currently there are very few statistics available for the number of people infected with the HIV/AIDS virus in Somalia. However, statistics in surrounding countries are of grave concern. In 1999, four East African countries reported prevalence levels above 10%; neighboring Ethiopia has one of the largest populations living with HIV/AIDS in the world. While the pandemic was primarily perceived as a health crisis in its early years, linkages are now widely acknowledged between HIV/AIDS and a broad range of other issues including food security. HIV/AIDS undermines agricultural systems and affects the nutritional situation and food security of rural families. As adults fall ill and die, families face declining productivity as well as loss of knowledge about indigenous farming methods and loss of assets. FAO has estimated that in the 25 most-affected African countries, AIDS could kill 16 million agricultural workers within the next 20 years. Contact FEWS NET (Somalia@fews.net) for the Somalia presentation on this subject at the June 11th SACB Food Security Meeting.

Highlights from the FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

The crisis for the population of Gedo Region worsens by the hour. Humanitarian organisations emphasise the need for urgent humanitarian access to deliver the vital food-aid on which the population is now dependant. **Approximately 200,000 people inside the region have been without their main source of food for over one month with fighting and landmines preventing deliveries.**

Refugees in Mandera, Kenya, estimated to number up to 15,000, have not received food aid to date. In an effort to save lives among the most vulnerable, some selective feeding programmes are in place in Luuq, Belet Hawa and in Mandera, Kenya.

Malnutrition, death and displacement due to insecurity inside northern Gedo can now be assumed to be critical.

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

THE GEDO REFUGEES AND THEIR SITUATION

GEDO REFUGEES IN MANDERA, KENYA

In the second week of May, up to 10,000 additional people moved across the border into Mandera (Kenya) as a result of insecurity in Belet Hawa (Somalia). A previous influx of some 6,000 refugees from Belet Hawa in mid-April was mostly absorbed into the Mandera Somali community with whom they are linked by marriage, business and other activities. However, the second influx from Belet Hawa town has remained in a location on the outskirts of Mandera known as BP1 (Border Post 1) a few hundred metres inside Kenya. Within a few days and following some military developments in Somalia, many of the refugees in BP1 decided to return to Somalia. However, about 4,500 refugees remained in BP1. Reports suggest that many of the refugees at BP1 are formerly internally displaced people from within Somalia who had been trying to make a living in Belet Hawa and who have no ties with the Mandera community. Even before these former IDP'S arrived in Mandera, their nutritional status is likely to have been extremely poor.

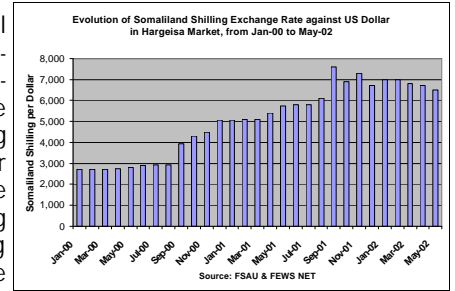
As the refugee crisis evolved at the beginning of May, WFP airlifted 7.5 MT of food to Mandera for distribution at BP1. However, insecurity at the camp prevented any distribution. WFP then trucked 100 MT of food to Mandera for further general food distributions but they have been unable to deliver to the refugees due to the insecurity. WFP has donated half a ton of Corn Soya Blend (highly nutritious porridge) to the MSF TFC. UNHCR is coordinating a plan with other agencies and NGO's to open a SFC to provide food relief to those in need. An alternative solution which involves the transfer of refugees to Dadaab (approx. 80 km to the west) has not happened, due to bureaucratic difficulties. UNHCR has made necessary arrangements but is still waiting for clearance from the Kenyan government to proceed. The Kenyan government rejected the transfer of refugees to another location in Mandera, further away from the border and where security could be guaranteed.

GEDO REFUGEES IN DOLOW, ETHIOPIA

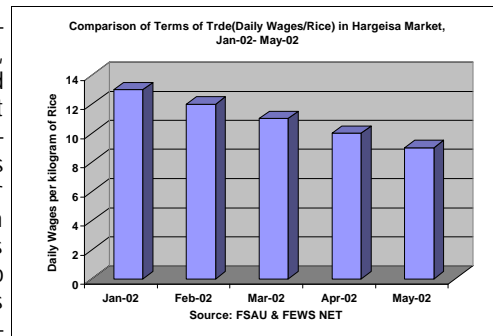
Around the third week of May, some 3,000-5,000 refugees moved into Dolow Ethiopia. It is thought many, originating from the Luuq area were intending to go to the proposed Kenyan refugee camp in Dadaab but were not allowed to proceed through the Kenyan border post. No food, shelter or medicine has currently reached these refugees, although SC-US has said it is willing to provide emergency assistance. Subsequently the Ethiopians shut their border with Somalia stopping any further influx of refugees. The FSAU field monitor in the region also reports that some Gedo IDP'S have moved in to Bay and Bakol to flee the insecurity. (See also p. 3. Pipeline and Food Aid Distributions and P. 4. Gedo Highlights)

MARKET PRICES AND TRENDS

Because many cereal commodities are imported into the North-West, the evolution of the Somaliland shilling against the US Dollar plays a major role in the local economy, affecting people's purchasing power. The graph on the right shows that the Somaliland shilling lost 45% of its value against the dollar, between Jan 2000-May 2002. What is striking, though, is that the shilling normally loses value faster than the price increases in imported commodities, effectively making them cheaper.



One way of analysing purchasing power is to look at terms of trade, in this case the daily labour wage against the cereal price. The graph shows a steady decline, indicating that although the poor can still purchase their food needs, they will not be able to afford other essential goods and services.



SEASONAL RAINS INSTIGATE SOME RECOVERY IN NE AND NW

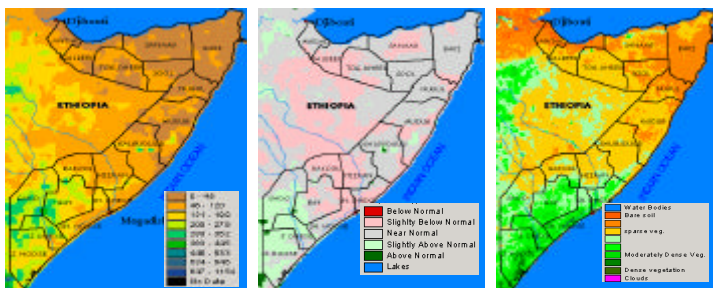
Seasonal *Gu* rains have been moderate and unevenly distributed but most *berkads* and *balleys* are replenished and pasture in parts of the NE and NW have recovered. In Awdal, the coastal and sub-coastal belt has made a good recovery but East Sanaag and Sool are still suffering from depleted pasture and the Hawd of Hargeisa, received only one day's rain, pushing livestock into Ethiopia. At this time of year, animals are being fattened up, away from urban centres and supply to markets has decreased. Key markets demonstrate that in dollar terms, prices fetched for livestock were slightly higher this May than last May and are even close to when the import ban was imposed in Sept 2000. At this time of year, people consume a lot of milk and the demand is helping keep the pastoralist economy alive. FSAU staff report that remittance to pastoralists, particularly around urban areas, from Somali Diaspora has increased, as has assistance from relatives within the country. Export of cattle continues to Yemen and camels to Egypt. The seasonal closure of Bossasso and Indian Ocean seaports will begin from July to September due to rough seas. **Why are prices good when the livestock import ban has caused the loss of major market outlets?** Initial analysis, (to be further refined in coming months) suggests that pastoralists in the NE and NW have adjusted to the livestock ban by reducing animal sales, thus limiting supply. To get their required incomes, they have shifted over to milk sales. A milk marketing system has developed since the start of the livestock import ban in Sept 2000. There is a catch, however, more milk sales stem from more animal reproduction and greater requirements of pasture and water. This has put greater strain on an already fragile environment, accentuating the risk and impact of future droughts.

REVIEW OF GU RAINFALL AND VEGETATION

Fig 1

Fig 2

Fig 3



Rainfall Performance, March-May, 2002

Comparative Rainfall Actual - Average (Mar-May)

Vegetation Condition May 21-31, 2002

The *Gu* rainfall season, March-May 2002, produced mixed results. Figure 1 shows the cumulative rainfall for the season where heavy rains were mainly confined to Southern Somalia. Figure 2 comparing actual (or current) to average rainfall shows that only parts of Middle and Lower Juba, S. Gedo and Bay had above average rains. The rest of the country had near normal to below normal rainfall. In areas where there was a rainfall deficit, moisture stress has hampered crop development. However, Figure 3 shows that vegetation has responded to the seasonal rains in most parts of Southern Somalia.

LIVESTOCK EXPORT TABLE

BOSSASSO *	February 2002	March 2002	April 2002	May 2002
CAMEL	1020	385	1183	744
CATTLE	1738	3977	4250	3470
SHOATS	199840	102948	39780	85310
TOTAL	202,598	107310	45213	89,524
BERBERA **	February 2002	March 2002	April 2002	May 2002
CAMEL	1922	1018	2020	647
CATTLE	3466	2390	854	N/A
SHOATS	59349	22932	6777	15034
TOTAL	64,739	26340	9651	15681

* Source : UNCTAD

** Source : Berbera Port Authority

FARMERS ACCESS SEED IN BAKOL REGION PRIOR TO THE GU PLANTING SEASON

In Bakol Region, 15,000 farming families across four districts (Huddur, Rabdure, Tayeglow and El Berde) were able to access a total of 287.5 MT of sorghum and 47.5 MT of cowpeas in good time for the onset of the *Gu* rains following the trial of seed voucher/seed fair scheme by FAO in partnership with InterSOS. Since the *Deyr* harvest was good in most parts of southern Somalia, it was expected that the requirements for external assistance for seeds would be limited. However, after an initial assessment in seed needs and availability in Bakol Region, it was evident that the *Deyr* harvest was below average in most parts and FAO in partnership with InterSOS planned to trial a seed voucher scheme for the distribution of seeds (sorghum and cowpeas). The system offers key advantages over traditional seed distribution methods in that beneficiaries are able to access local seed varieties and local seed traders are supported which in turn supports the local economy.

Identification and targeting of vulnerable farm families was difficult and the project staff

relied on statistics and information provided on the ground regarding the severity of the drought and the number of people affected. Beneficiaries were selected with the collaboration of village elders and local district authorities. During community mobilization activities community elders, local authorities, village committees, traders, beneficiaries were informed of the project, the approach, what was expected of each party, dates of seed fairs, how the fairs would be organized etc. Seed fairs were conducted with the beneficiaries receiving seed in exchange for vouchers from local traders.

Monitoring is continuing through focus group discussions, structured interviews and farm visits to gain an understanding of what happened to the seed, crop establishment and harvest, and ongoing problems being experienced by the farmers.

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PIPELINE AND FOOD AID DISTRIBUTIONS

Pipeline: WFP has pre-positioned approx. 657 MT in Mandera, ready for distribution in Gedo region, Garbahare, Burdhubo and Bardera districts, as soon as security situation allows. CARE has about 2800 MT of food en route to El Waq for distribution and when security situation allows, some of this food will be moved up to Belet Hawa, Luuq, Dolow districts. In May, WFP distributed 260 MT in the NW to a approx. 3,874 recipients, of which 152 MT went to social support and 108 MT as food for work. In Bay and Bakol region, a total of 675 MT was distributed to 8,280 recipients, of which 184 MT went to the maternal-child health centers (MCH) and 491 MT went to food for work. In Mogadishu, a total of 47 MT was distributed to 739 recipients in the TB and MCH centers. CARE distributed 40 MT to Middle Shabelle.

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.

NORTH WEST & AWDAL

Rains have been somewhat scattered and sporadic across these two regions, delaying farming activities until the 2nd dekad of May, especially on the Hargeysa/Gebiley side. Better rains fell in Region 5 of Ethiopia, attracting animals from the Hawd and tractors from the agro-pastoral zone. Water in most reservoirs has been replenished and boreholes at the most strategic sites are functioning; however, many newly dug wells (including those at Lughaye and Fardho Lago Xidh) are either dry or the water is highly saline. Pasture, although recovering slowly, is adequate and livestock are in good condition, except for the agro-pastoral area of Hargeysa and Gebiley, as well as the Hawd of Hargeysa. Prices for livestock are high, as are food prices. In Zeylec, prices are considerably higher, due to border closure with Djibouti; causing food access problems for the local population.

SOOL (and the Buhoodle Hawd)

Near the end of the season, rainfall in most of this area is inadequate, in terms of intensity and coverage, the most affected districts being Xudun, Taleh and Ainabo. This has prevented recovery and poor pastoralists are still in need of assistance, for which targeted food aid to approximately 2,000 households is recommended. Rains been normal in the Hawd of Sool Region and in Buhoodle, however. Camel calving rates have dropped significantly, affecting milk production and household income, but goats and cattle are only marginally down. Prices for livestock are good as pastoralists hold back on sales.

SANAG & TOGHDEER

Generally, food security in these two regions ranges from normal to far below normal. *Gu* rains in Sanag have been very poor, with few scattered showers in April and nothing in May. Water is available for the time being but pasture is well below normal, especially in the Hadeed Plain and the Gebi valley. There is still a need for food aid in this area (3,000 households) because animal reproduction rates are down (50% of normal), hampering recovery of milk production and therefore incomes, while poorer households have sold productive assets to get through the *jilaal* period. A further adverse *Deyr* season will compound current difficulties and will lead to a critical situation in the area. Terms of trade: one export quality goat fetches 60 kg sorghum or maize; the difficulty for most families being the availability of good livestock.

BARI REGION

Most of the region received adequate rainfall, which regenerated pasture and filled berkads and balleys, with the exception of Dharjaale and Kafabayr villages. Pasture and animal condition have consequently improved, although smaller livestock are lagging somewhat. Milk production, especially that of camels, is hampered by a low calving rate. Terms of trade for pastoralists are good, although cereals prices have risen along with those of livestock. This has impacted on the poorest, who depend on labour and firewood/collection activities for income. There has been a seasonal migration from Bosasso to rural areas to escape the hot weather. With the seasonal closure of Bosasso port looming, the number of vessels calling in is in decline.

SOUTH NUGAL & NORTH MUDUG

Livestock in the hawd of Mudug are recovering as pastured has been renewed by recent rains. Deeh and Addun areas have received only light showers following a particularly harsh and difficult dry season. Livestock body condition remains weak and not adequate for marketing. Food prices are increasing due to the expected closure of the small ports from the beginning of July due to rough seas. The United Arab Emirates is refusing to accept chilled meat from the Galkacyo slaughterhouse unless it has appropriate certification. Unless this is resolved swiftly it could affect up to 200 jobs and cause an increase in prices.

NORTH NUGAL & SOUTH BARI

The *Gu* rains in this area have been poor this year. The areas of eastern Nugal and parts of Eyl district received nothing while that of the Hawd and Iyah was below normal. The result is that many important berkads have not filled. Conversely, the Nugal valley received heavy flash floods in April, which have brought limited benefits and which caused considerable destruction. Nevertheless, animals are recovering from the *Jilaal* season and are in good condition although water shortages later on in Hagay are expected. Terms of trade are lower than last month but are still quite good for pastoral groups. Security is reported to have improved and construction activities (labour opportunities for the poor) are said to be starting again after a long interruption.

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

GEDO

Gedo Region, particularly the north, is in an acute food security crisis, with a large number of people's food intake well below any acceptable minimum. This is despite the fact that productive animals have reportedly returned from Middle and Lower Juba and Ethiopia and Bakol. (see highlights on p.1 for further explanation.) The Gedo population would be in urgent need of food relief even without the presence of the current conflict. This is because three years of drought has eroded livelihoods, primarily by reducing income earned from milk and livestock sales, casual labour opportunities and collection of bush products and self-employment activities. The drought also caused the outright failure of the few crops that were produced in the region. The latest fighting and insecurity has further stressed this critical situation by disrupting trade and exchange, by increasing the IDP caseload, and by preventing people from taking advantage of the modest rains through access to their herds of animals and through some agriculture. **Prior to the outbreak of conflict, households were dependent on food aid for up to half of their daily needs and as no distributions have taken place within Gedo since the end of March and early April, food intake, especially women and children is below any acceptable minimum.** The road from Baidoa/Mogadishu has been closed, affecting the price of both local and imported goods which have increased. Following the good start to the *Gu* rainy season in April, rainfall in May has been extremely disappointing. The Juba and Dawa river levels have decreased and will lessen irrigation opportunities. The crops in South Gedo are well established due to good rains in April. However, in northern districts the area planted has been greatly reduced due to insecurity. Livestock condition in the region is improving due to April rains.

HIRAN

Gu rains stopped at the beginning of May but light showers did begin to fall again in the third dekad. The Shabelle river level dropped considerably (compared to the beginning of May) alleviating flood threats in the area. Water availability for people and livestock remain normal. Livestock production (milk and meat) has improved. In pastoral areas, grazing and browsing are good but riverine and agro-pastoral areas continue to feel the affect of limited rain and pasture has already dried out. There has been some small-scale livestock movement towards Middle/Lower Shabelle in search of pasture which is not normal for the time of the year. The area planted was reduced due to poor irrigation facilities. Some established crops have suffered pest infestation. Irrigated farmers prefer cash crops to cereals and insect spray used on crops has badly damaged the honey industry along the river, which is an important source of income for poorer riverine households. Cereal prices have remained steady over the last two months and supply in markets is good. Crop establishment in the Shabelle region of Ethiopia has been poor due to pest infestation and this could affect market supplies in the region, causing cereal prices to rise.

BAY

There has been evenly distributed rainfall of good intensity, which has continued to improve crop condition and replenish water sources and pasture. (total rainfall for April/May is about 300mm which is slightly above average) Agricultural job opportunities are available creating income for the poor agro-pastoral wealth groups. Some insect infestation has been observed on sorghum and maize crops. Sorghum prices were decreasing at the end of May (700Ssh/kg as compared to 1,100 Ssh/kg at the end of May 2001). Livestock are making a recovery from the long *Jilaal* season, as replenished pasture and water availability is good. Livestock production (milk and meat) has improved. Terms of trade are very good for livestock sellers above 8 bags of sorghum per local goat in Baidoa.

BAKOL

Only small quantities of localised rains were received during this month compared to close to average rains in April. Poor May rainfall has affected crop establishment, renewal of pasture and agricultural opportunities. In some districts crops have not even reached establishment, despite the fact that germination was good at the beginning of the season. (Exceptions are Madayto and south of Wajid). The maize crop has already suffered from moisture stress particularly in Huddur and Tieglow district. Livestock condition has not fully recovered in some areas and there has been some internal livestock movement in search of better pasture. Camel milk price is high (4,000 Ssh/litre) as grazing is poor close near towns. However, shallow wells and water catchments are replenished. The price of sorghum is much higher than Baidoa although it slightly decreased in May. This is due to a good supply of cereals from markets in neighbouring Bay region whose crop establishment is promising, encouraging old stocks to be sold off. Terms of trade are favourable to livestock owners (3 sorghum bags for one quality goat in Huddur).

LOWER SHABELLE

Rain commenced again in the third dekad of May, after twenty dry days, creating relief in the farming community. All water catchments are full from the April rains. The Shabelle river level dropped (compared to the start of the month) alleviating flood threats in the region. The May rains have improved pasture conditions, which were in depletion due to over grazing. Livestock condition is normal; milk production is increasing and prices are starting to fall. Rains have also improved crop condition in the rain-fed as well as in the irrigated areas. The much-needed rain has eased the insect pest problem and irrigation competition. The overall food security situation in the region is fairly normal due to the availability of agricultural jobs. (especially in the banana industry.) The price of cereal has increased during the May, especially maize (12%) compared to last month while milk prices have decreased.

JUBA VALLEY

Rainfall of equal distribution and intensity fell over most of the region. This has improved livestock condition and production. However, cereal supply in markets is low, and this combined with low household cereal stocks has caused the price of staple food to rise. Poor and vulnerable households among agro-pastoralists are struggling to purchase food. (Above 5,000 Ssh/kg for maize in the most vulnerable areas of Afmadow and Hagar) However, the poor are earning some income from farming activities. Livestock have been moved away from urban areas for better grazing creating a milk shortage among urban and agro-pastoral populations. Camel and cattle milk has been brought in to markets from further away but is sold at a high price. Hagar, Julib, Jamame, Salagle and Badhadhe have been hit by a seed shortage.

COWPEA BELT/GALGADUD

In Cowpea, during May, the *Gu* rains have been scattered and of moderate intensity. However, most water catchments are replenished. In some inland areas, however, the price of a drum of water remains high (Ssh 10,000-15,000 for 200 litres). Livestock production has improved but not in the districts where rainfall was poor. Crop establishment and farming activities are usual for this time of year. In Galgadud the overall food security situation is normal due to increase milk supply and good cereal availability in markets. Water availability has improved for humans and livestock and livestock production has increased significantly.

MIDDLE SHABELLE

With exception of parts of Jowhar district, no rainfall was received throughout the region during this month. Water availability for human and livestock is however normal in potential rangelands and agro-pastoral setting. Pasture and browsing condition also improved in the traditional grazing areas prompting herders to move away from riverine areas to avoid Tse Tse fly-related livestock diseases. Agricultural activity especially weeding is under way providing income opportunities for poorer households. Signs of moisture stress have been observed in most farms. The river level has dropped earlier than usual, making all sorts of gravity irrigation impossible. The only form of feasible supplementary irrigation is by using pump that will eventually increase the cost of production for better off and middle wealth groups. High fuel price may also hamper availability of sufficient irrigation for small farmers. Cereal stocks at household level are healthy for all wealth groups and availability of staple food is normal though relatively highly priced compared to last month. For instance maize and sorghum retail price increased by 14% and 16% respectively. This is due to the high tax imposed by the local authorities which forced many households to withhold their cereals from the market and hence increased demand.