

ISSUED JUNE 2003

FSAU acknowledges the contribution of key partners FEWS NET, CARE, WFP, SC-UK, UNCU, UNDP

FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

** The FSAU *Gu* 2003 Seasonal Workshop and analysis will take place between 16-24 June in Hargeisa. This will assess crop establishment in Southern Somalia and look at the state of the pastoral areas in the Northeast and Northwest and Central Regions. For more information please contact : fsauintfo@fsau.or.ke

** The FSAU Livestock Officer will go to the Northwest for two days in June to investigate reports of an unknown sheep disease. Mahdi Kayad will report back to the July SACB Livestock Working Group with his findings.

Food Aid Distribution

Care did not carry out food relief distributions during May.

WFP Somalia distributed a total of 1,355 MT in Somalia. In the south, 325 MT were distributed in Bakol, 42 MT in Bay, 9 MT in Lower Shabelle, 263 MT in Hiran, 50 MT in Mogadishu. In the Northwest 170MT were distributed. In the Northeast, 245 MT were distributed in Bari region, 14 MT were distributed in Nugal, 16 MT were distributed in Sool, 221 MT were distributed in Mudug. The food distributed was either relief, rehabilitation or social support.

For further information on WFP's activities please contact Lubna.alaman@wfp.org. For information on future CARE operations please contact narayan@care.or.ke

HIGHLIGHTS

Gu 2003 Crop Prospects : Initial reports from the field suggest a mixed performance in the *Gu* 2003 season. *Gu* 2003 cereal production may be slightly below average because of localized lack of rain and flooding especially in Lower/Middle Shabelle and Lower/Middle Juba. The FSAU July Monthly Report will contain more comprehensive details on crop establishment and the *Gu* seasonal assessment and analysis.

Flood Update : The FSAU April Monthly Report highlighted localized flooding which had occurred in the downstream stretches of the Juba and Shabelle rivers. The flood risk continued into the second week of May. River levels continued to rise, for example, in Belet-Weyne, (a normal river level would be considered up to 3 metres) but it reached 6.3 metres. By the third week of May, however, the river levels had drastically reduced. With most of the flooded areas now drying out, farmers are replanting their lost crops in recessionary areas. The FSAU recommends that interested UN agencies, INGO's, and NGO's assist flood-affected farmers by providing seeds and tools. UNICEF and ICRC have already provided assistance to farmers in Jilib. The impact of the floods on agricultural land in Jowhar, Mahaday and Jalalaqsi district in Middle Shabelle also needs further investigation. In the long term, the flood risk can be reduced by comprehensive river bank maintenance and the de-silting of river beds. Prior to 1991, this was one of the prime responsibilities of Somalia's government.

Sool Plateau Update : Although rains did fall during May, their intensity and distribution were not uniform and the cumulative number of days that it rained was below 'normal'. Pastoralists who were able to move out of the plateau have limited access to markets due to the long distance from their villages. Middle and poor pastoral groups who remained on the plateau are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain sufficient cash to purchase their daily food requirements, having lost up to 60% of their income. There is virtually no income from milk sales, which used to provide approximately 40% of a household's income and the return on livestock sales, which typically provide an additional 40% of income, has been halved. *Berkads* have not been replenished sufficiently and water continues to be expensive and difficult to obtain. For additional pastoral areas of concern, see the vulnerability map and the regional highlights in the north. A nutrition survey by FSAU, UNICEF, NPA and SRCS has recently been completed in the Sool Plateau. Data analysis is underway and preliminary results will be shared in the June 2003 nutrition update.

Highlights from the FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

Preliminary results of the Kismayo District nutrition survey undertaken in May 2003 indicate a poor nutritional status of the population. The global acute malnutrition defined as weight for height <-2 z-scores or oedema was 12.3% (95% CI 9.6 % - 15.6%) while the severe acute malnutrition defined as weight for height <-3 z-scores or oedema was 1.9% (95% CI 1.1% - 3.0%). Mortality data results further indicate an alert situation that needs close monitoring. The under five mortality rate was 2.2/10000/day while the crude mortality rate was 1.9/10000/day. Poor child care practices, consumption of unsafe water, diarrhoea, ARI and poor sanitation practices are among the factors contributing to malnutrition in Kismayo District.

In March/April 2003 UNICEF/FSAU and MOH Puntland collaboratively carried out repeat nutrition survey in Northern Galkayo town. Results of the survey indicate a global acute malnutrition defined as W/H<-2 z-scores or oedema of 8.3% (95% CI 6.7% - 10.4%), and

severe acute malnutrition defined as W/H<-3 z-scores or oedema of 2.3% (95% CI 1.4% - 3.5%). Issues related to poor child feeding practices, inadequate access to good quality health services, sex of household head and ARI were the factors found to be influencing the children's nutritional status. The lack of improvement in the nutritional status of the population is disappointing since the survey results indicate a similar malnutrition rate as that reported in the March 2002 nutrition survey.

A nutrition training workshop for partners in Puntland will be undertaken in Garowe between 17th - 19th June 2003.

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



The FSAU is funded by the EC and implemented by FAO.

Further information is available through PO Box 1230, Nairobi, Tel: (254-2) 3741299, 3745734, 3748297, Fax: 3740598, E-mail: fsauintfo@fsau.or.ke, or look at www.unsomalia.net under the 'FSAU' webpage.



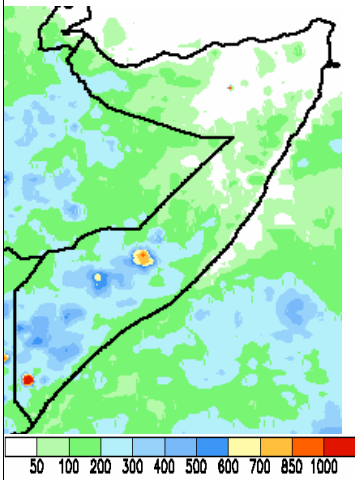
The FSAU Nutrition component is funded by USAID.

While all efforts have been made to utilize the most accurate data and information available, neither FSAU, FEWS Net or any of their supporters or partners endorse any figure or political boundary as definitive.



MIXED RAINFALL AND VEGETATION PERFORMANCE SO FAR THIS GU SEASON

Fig. 1. Cumulative Actual Rainfall in Millimeters, March-May 2003



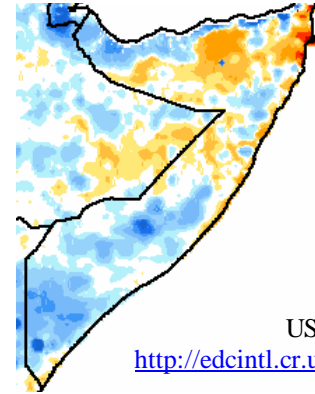
Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Normally the main Gu rainfall season, which accounts for approximately 70-75% of the annual cereal production in southern Somalia, starts in mid-March and continues to the end of May. It determines both crop and livestock performance which form the back bone of the Somali economy.

However, this year's Gu rainfall season started late in mid-April and the cumulative rainfall for the period between March and May 2003 is below normal for most pastoral areas. Rainfall has been insufficient to revive pasture adequately and livestock conditions and subsequent milk production are not as good as they should be at this time of year.

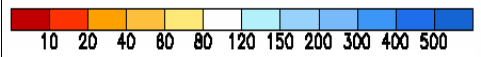
Northeast, Northwest and Central Somalia, and parts of Lower Shabelle received below normal rainfall. The Lower Juba Valley and parts of Gedo, on the other hand, received above normal rainfall, with cumulative rainfall around 200% of normal. See Fig 2. As reported last month, there was localized flooding in these areas, particularly in the Juba valley, however, it was not as severe or as destructive as the 1997/98 flood season.

Fig 2. Percentage of Normal Precipitation, March-May 2003 (In Millimeters)



USGS Website:

<http://edcintl.cr.usgs.gov/adds>

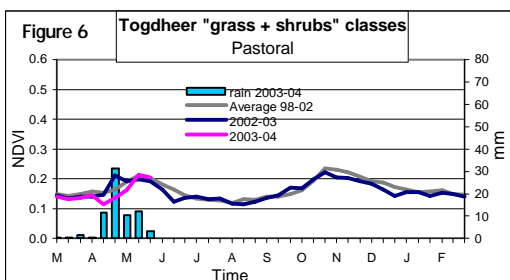
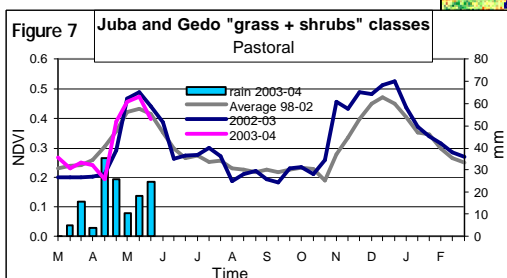
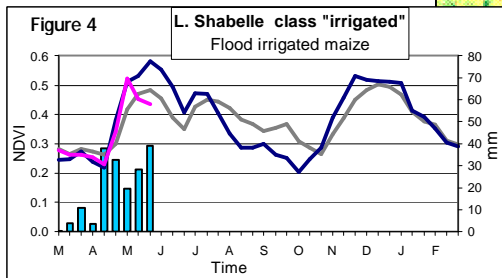
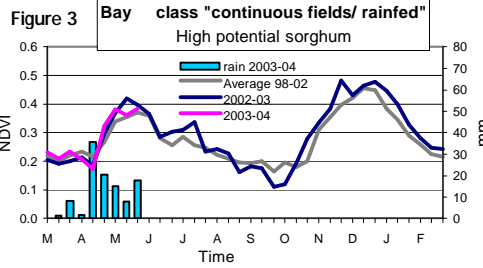


SOURCE: USGS/FEWS-Net

In the March to May period, most rain fell in the last part of April and the last part of May. The distribution of rain was not good in the agro-pastoral rain-fed areas, especially in the sorghum belt of Bakool, where inadequate rains have led to delays in planting and poor crop development.

In Figure 5, the cropping land cover class in Bay Region (the pink polygon, corresponding with the high-potential sorghum agro-pastoral food economy zone) has a slightly negative NDVI for Baydhaba and Qansax-Dheere districts and a positive one in Burhakaba. Plotted as a temporal graph (Figure 3), the whole area shows some recovery in vegetation, after a noticeable drop in the second decade of May. In Somalia an average of 70% of the cereal crops (sorghum and maize) are directly dependent on rain. Field reports suggest that yields in the most predominant crop production areas are expected to range from moderate to below normal.

The NDVI temporal graph for the irrigated class in Lower Shabelle (see Figure 4, corresponding to the dark blue shape on the map in Figure 5) shows a marked decrease in vegetation over the last two decades; this is attributed to flooding. The "agricultural" land cover class in Awdal-



Galbeed (Grey polygon in the top inset of Figure 5) however, shows a slight improvement.

JRC-MARS have begun analysing NDVI images over land cover classes that correspond to pastoral grazing areas; two examples are provided in Figures 6 and 7 from Togdheer and Lower Juba regions respectively. Notice the lag in the NDVI for Togdheer –this reflects the poor rainfall and late start to the season (see Figure 2). A similar picture exists for the whole north-eastern and central parts of Somalia.

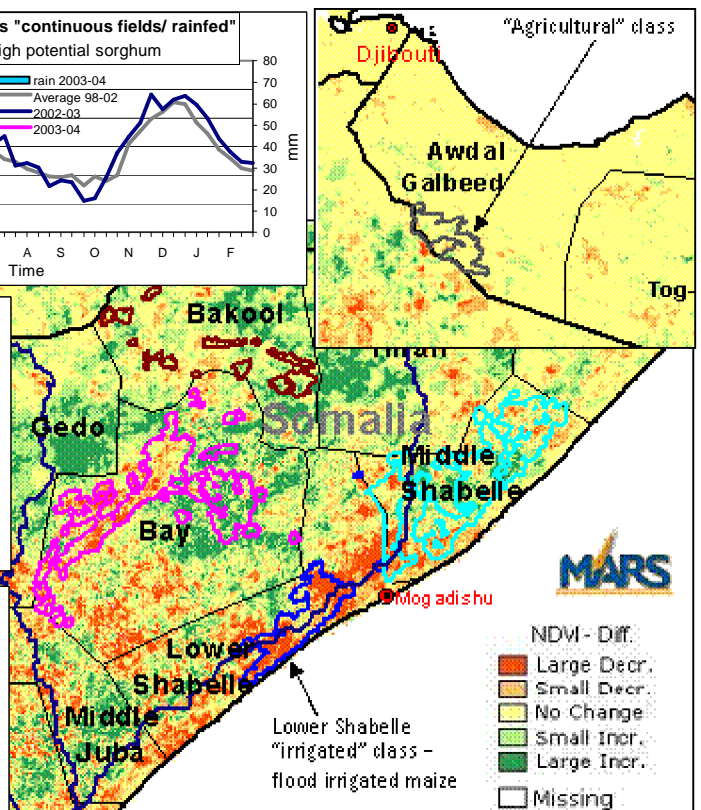


Figure 5 – NDVI map images: Source (including graphs) MARS – Monitoring Agriculture through Remote Sensing. MARS is a project implemented by the EC and FAO in the Joint Research Centre at Ispra in Italy. Contact: Jacques Delincé, Head of Mars Unit, I-21020 Ispra, Italy. Fax: +39-0332-789029; Download address: <http://mars.jrc.it/bulletin/somalia>

SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AND LIVELIHOOD IMPLICATIONS IF WOOD FUEL AND CHARCOAL PRODUCTION CONTINUES

FSAU Livestock Officer, Mahdi Kayad, has written a report on the impact of wood fuel and charcoal production on the environment and livelihoods in Somalia. This article is a summary of his report—please e-mail Mahdi.Kayad@fsau.or.ke for a copy.

The majority of the Somali people are intrinsically linked to the country's natural environment and resources through both their livelihood and culture. The rangelands in Somalia have always sustained two production systems: 1. the wood fuel and charcoal production system, on which the country has depended for hundreds of years for its energy and 2. the livestock production system.

The wood fuel and charcoal industry has particularly benefited the poorer wealth groups as it creates employment and income opportunities, providing an important cash alternative especially in times of poor crop production.

Until, the late 1950's it appears that the production of wood fuel and charcoal had little noted impact on the environment. This changed in the 1960's when the increasing growth of populations in urban areas such as Mogadishu and the accompanying demand for energy, combined with charcoal exports, meant deforestation was occurring at an alarming rate. As a result, between 1969 and 1991 the Somali government banned charcoal exportation. With the subsequent collapse of the government, charcoal production and burning re-commenced at ever more destructive rates.

Charcoal is produced from the acacia Bussei hardwood tree and is found in high densities in Sanag, Sool, Bari, Togdheer, Galbeed, Bay and Bakol. In the short term, cutting down trees removes valuable fodder and forest products from the livestock sector, decreases wildlife habitats, increases soil erosion and causes hardship to local people who depend on trees for a multitude of traditional purposes. Long term effects of charcoal production include the eventual depletion of reserves, energy deficits and high fuel prices. Recognizing the negative impact on the environment, the Puntland administration has recently banned the export of charcoal to the Gulf states and the Somaliland administration is considering new regulations to put an end to charcoal production in the North West. This has increased conflict between those who depend on charcoal to sustain their livelihoods and those who depend on range resources for other uses.

An assessment of charcoal production was carried out by the Ministry of Pastoralism and the Environment in Somaliland between 1997 and 2002, focusing on three urban towns: Hargeisa, Berbera and Burao. Data was collected from the main check points and tax-paying locations in the towns.

TABLE ONE : CHARCOAL PRODUCTION BETWEEN 1997-2002 IN HARGEISA, BERBERA AND BURAO

Year	1997 (MT)	1998 (MT)	1999 (MT)	2000 (MT)	2001 (MT)	2002 (MT)	Total (MT)
Hargeisa	100	184	550	637	720	1000	3191
Berbera	5	15	25	40	60	54	199
Burao	35	55	62	86	94	104	436
Total	140	254	637	763	874	1158	3826

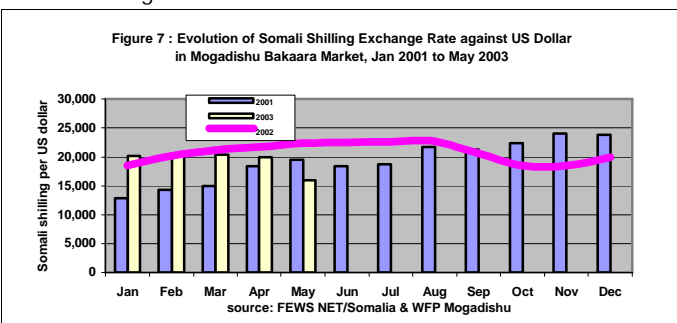
The FSAU field monitor in Hargeisa reports that charcoal production in the three towns has increased for the following reasons: urban populations have grown, increasing the demand; charcoal production has become a common income option for rural communities; the price of coal has increased; and there are no effective controls in place to protect the environment from de-forestation. Possible ideas to address the impact of the wood fuel and charcoal industry on the environment include the following:

- (1) Improve efficiency of charcoal production (for example, include fuel-wood trees in agro-forestry planning).
- (2) Improve efficiency of charcoal and fuel-wood use (for example, through improved stoves and education)
- (3) Provide alternative sources of energy especially those that are competitive in price, such as kerosene, coal, biogas, solar gas and other natural gases.

THE SOMALI SHILLING APPRECIATES IN MAY STRENGTHENING POORER GROUPS PURCHASING POWER

The Somali shilling/dollar exchange rate is particularly relevant to a household's purchasing power in relation to imported commodities. When the Somali shilling gains value, imported commodities become cheaper, when it loses value, goods become more expensive. In April the dollar traded for 20,000 Ssh and in May it was down to 16, 000 Ssh. See Figure 7.

Traders imported extra commodities in May, just before Bossaso and other seaports closed due to the Indian Ocean high tides. This improved the supply of imported commodities, bringing prices down. During May, the Somali shilling strengthened in most urban markets as a result of the relative calm in the country and the expectations raised by the International Reconciliation Mission which visited parts of the country to examine ways of restoring comprehensive peace. This gave traders confidence to release additional dollars onto the market, reducing the demand for dollars and strengthening the Somali shilling.



SEASONAL CLOSURE OF BOSSASO PORT

Between June and September the Indian Ocean's high tide prevents small vessels getting into Bossaso port. Berbera port can accommodate much bigger ships, so Bossaso closes down during these months. In June the number of animals exported from Bossaso will reduce dramatically. This affects livestock exports, as traders switch to Berbera, and it also reduces employment and income opportunities for urban and poor groups who work at the port. The Livestock Export Table below shows that exports from Bossaso increased considerably during May as traders did as much business with the Gulf States as possible before the port closure in June.

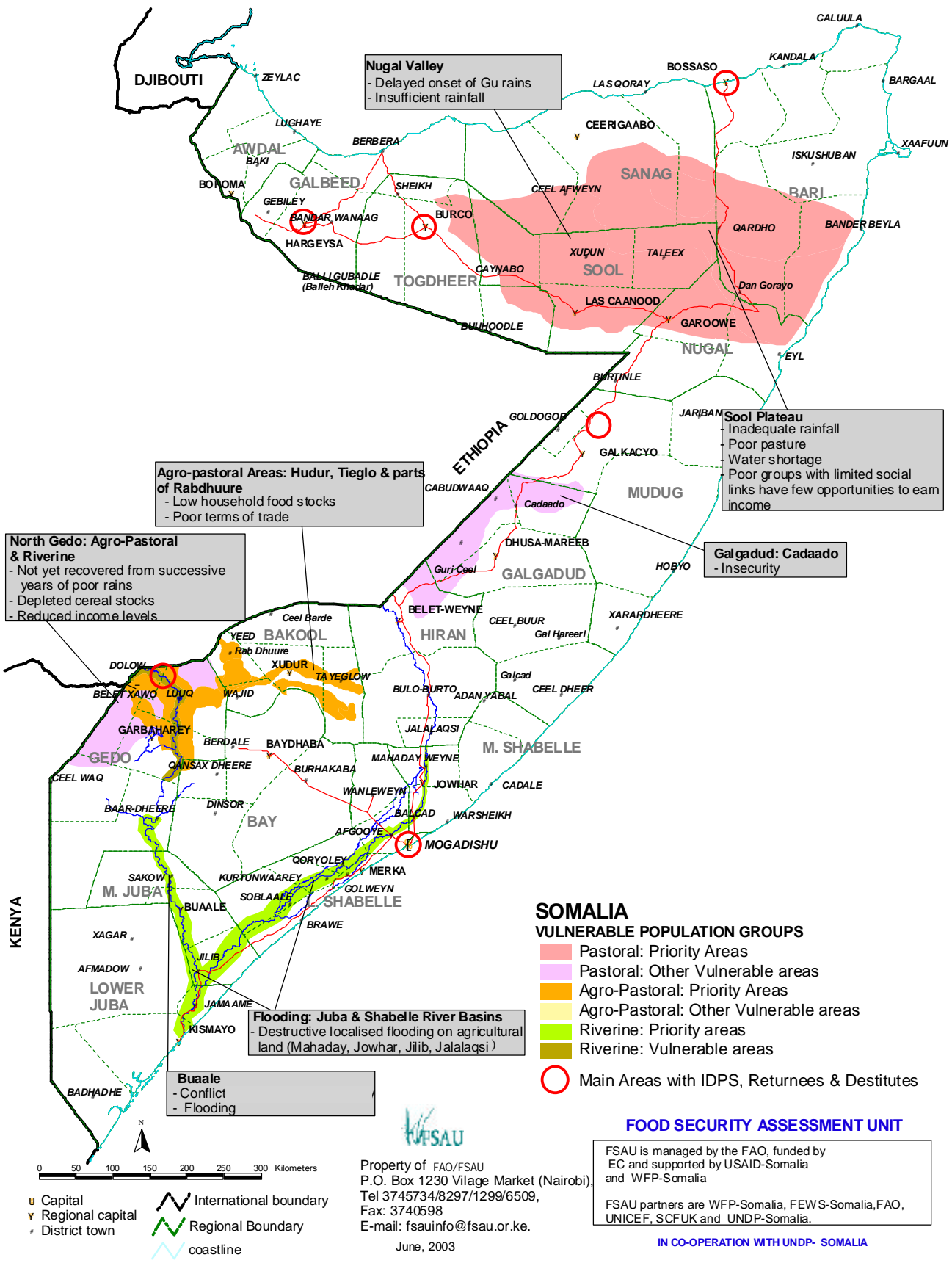
TABLE TWO : LIVESTOCK EXPORT TABLE MAY 2003

Bossaso*	February	March	April	May
Camels	650	1,020	145	389
Cattle	3,236	9,013	5,185	3,098
Shoats	118,070	91,725	89,655	116,058
Total	121,956	101,758	95,985	119,545
Berbera**				
Camel	2,156	2,173	0	2,405
Cattle	5,003	3,273	1,566	2,518
Shoats	61,046	22,655	12,035	22,971
Total	68,205	28,111	13,601	27,894

Source * Bossaso Port Authority

** Berbera Port Authority

June Vulnerability Map 2003



- SOMALIA**
VULNERABLE POPULATION GROUPS
- Pastoral: Priority Areas
 - Pastoral: Other Vulnerable areas
 - Agro-Pastoral: Priority Areas
 - Agro-Pastoral: Other Vulnerable areas
 - Riverine: Priority areas
 - Riverine: Vulnerable areas
 - Main Areas with IDPS, Returnees & Destitutes

FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT UNIT

FSAU is managed by the FAO, funded by EC and supported by USAID-Somalia and WFP-Somalia

FSAU partners are WFP-Somalia, FEWS-Somalia, FAO, UNICEF, SCFUK and UNDP-Somalia.

IN CO-OPERATION WITH UNDP- SOMALIA

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 June, 2003

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.

BARI

Good rains have substantially improved the situation of those living in Bari region, which is comprised of three FEZ's: Sool FEZ, Dharoor FEZ and the Coastal/Urban FEZ. In general the food security situation in the Sool FEZ is normal since good rains in May regenerated pasture. However, poor pastoral groups with poor social links and limited alternative income opportunities are continuing to experience difficulty. Income opportunities have decreased as a result of 1. restrictions imposed on charcoal burning activities and 2. lowered camel milk production, which provides essential food and income. In the Dharoor FEZ the overall food security situation is stable. Significant rains fell over the whole area in the first week of May, filling berkads, improving pasture and grazing opportunities and increasing livestock production, as well as improving pastoralists terms of trade. Livestock have returned to traditional grazing areas. In the Urban FEZ the food security situation is normal with the exception of some poor urban groups and IDPs whose opportunity to acquire income is limited. This situation is made worse by the fact that the Bossaso seaport will close in the coming weeks further reducing job opportunities.

SOOL REGION

The delayed *Gu* rains arrived but their performance has been mixed over the various ecological zones of the region. The *Hawd* plateau and upper valley of *Lasanod* and *Ainabo* districts received average *Gu* rains which reduced the threat of livestock losses and food insecurity. With the exception of lower Nugal valley (and especially Taleh district which is in an alarming situation), the Nugal valley FEZ is in normal condition. Most Nugal valley herders of *Lasanod* and *Hudon* district out-migrated to *Ainabo* district last month but have returned to their home areas this month, where it has rained. In contrast, pastoralists in Taleh district are moving from their grazing areas to *Garowe* districts due to poor rainfall. In the Sool Plateau FEZ rainfall intensity is below normal. Many livestock-holders have paid for costly out migration to the South West (*Hudon* district) which is the closest area to receive beneficial rains. Access to local markets is becoming more difficult due to the long distance from their villages. In general, the food security situation is improving in those areas that received rains. However, the food access for poor and fifty percent of middle wealth groups in Sool plateau and parts of lower *Nugal* is below normal. The FSAU Field Monitor recommends that the SACB Food Aid working group look at this area for possible food relief and also consider measures to address the structural vulnerability of adversely affected groups, for example restocking for poor and destitute families.

SOUTH NUGAL & NORTH MUDUG

The *Hawd* FEZ has received normal *Gu* rains which have replenished the berkeds. Access to food improved with increased milk production. The poor have normal access to goat milk for their own use and to barter for cereals. Camel milk production is still below normal due to the poor conception rate last year. Livestock sales have not improved due to poor livestock body condition; milk is the main source of income. The poor and the middle wealth groups are coping through labor, gifts, remittance and self employment activities. Households have increased expenditure on livestock drugs due to livestock disease, but this has been accommodated by switching expenditure away from water. Poor access to markets still remains a major constraint. The *Addun* FEZ received rains, improving water availability. Access to food has improved. The poor wealth groups affected by the poor *Gu* last year now have access to some goat milk which they sell to buy staple food. Camel milk production is relatively low. They are managing through gifts and remittances. Milk is the main source of income especially for those in eastern *Addun*. Livestock sales are low due to poor body condition. Expenditure on water has now been switched to expenditure on staple and non-staple foods. Market inaccessibility and poor infrastructure are still major constraints.

SANAG AND TOGHDEER

The overall food security situation in the *Hawd* of *Toghdeer* is normal due to good rains which have improved livestock and milk production. There has also been a rise in livestock prices. Some localized pockets, however did not benefit from this good rain. In *Sanaag* region, the death of livestock due to lack of pasture is still occurring on the plains of *Erigavo* and some parts of *Badhan* district. The growth in herd size of shoats is 50% lower than normal because of drought related infertility, abortion and the death of new born lambs and kids. Many poor and middle households are spending 70-80% of their income on food and others have reduced their number of meals from three to one. In the *Sanaag* region the rain has been mixed. In *Nugal* Pastoral valley in *Eil-Aifweyn* district, there has been rainfall but it was not sufficient. Community elders from *Eil-Afwyne* and *Erivago* have verified around 230 destitute households who have moved into villages and up to 400 'invisible' destitute who have moved to various urban centres. The positive impact of these mixed rains are unlikely to immediately reverse the economic and social problems that communities are experiencing. Most parts of *Sanag* (including *Sool* Plateau) have experienced three years of erratic and poor seasonal rainfall. Purchasing power is reduced due to the livestock ban and there has been a high death rate amongst breeding and pack animals.

NORTH NUGAL & SOUTH BARI

There are three FEZ's situated in this region: *Sool* FEZ, *Nugal* FEZ and *Hawd/Deeh* or *Coastal* FEZ. The *Sool* FEZ received plentiful rains in the second dekad of May, filling berkads but not alleviating the serious food security situation of the poor and middle wealth groups. During the extended *Jilaal* they had endured high water prices and an above normal number of animals died. These households are currently experiencing a gap between livestock recovery and milk production. Pasture re-growth is also below normal. They are managing through charcoal burning (although local authorities are trying to control this), local gifts and remittance. Many have incurred unusually high debts due to the high cost of water trucking. The SACB Food Aid Working Group should consider the FSAU Field Monitor's proposal of food for work for a period of 90 days to 1,000 households in this area. *Nugal* FEZ suffered from rain failure until the first dekad of May. However, unlike the *Sool* pastoralists, water trucking did not take place here, as the area has abundant water sources and is closer to the *Hawd* ecozone where rainfall was normal to above normal. This is the third year in a row that rainfall in *Nugal* valley has been below normal, and while many pastoralists moved out of the valley, one pastoralist group, whose camels are known locally known as *Qasaal* (500 families), did not move because its breed of camel cannot consume the thorny grass found in the *Hawd* and *Sool* plateau. This group relies heavily on camel milk sales, but camel calving has been close to nil, so their income source is far below normal. The Field Monitor recommends 90 days of food for work for these pastoralist families. The situation in *Hawd/Deeh* and *Coastal* FEZ's is normal as the rains have been good. Terms of trade and access to food is above normal for pastoralist households in these areas.

NORTH WEST AND AWDAL

Good rains fell in April in both regions and although it is unusual for it to rain in May, the sub-coastal and coastal belts received rain during the month. Availability and accessibility to both pasture and water has improved, replenishing both water surface catchments and shallow wells. Animal and milk production increased in May. In *Wajaale*, the price of cattle milk fell by 34% compared to April. However, the price of milk in urban markets such as *Hargeisa* did not decline as animals remain far away from the main markets. The Ethiopian border restrictions continue, making it difficult to collect milk from across the border in Ethiopia. 70-75% of the agro-pastoral households planted their fields in April and May with maize and sorghum. Poor households have been badly affected by a lack of tractors. The condition of the crops planted to date is good. The FSAU will follow up on area planted and crop establishment in next month's report.

MIDDLE SHABELLE

Gu rains are continuing in the region. Floods have affected two villages in Mahaday district and seven villages in Jowhar district. The damaged agricultural area is estimated at 750 Ha in Maladay district and 2,250 Ha in Jowhar. Most river openings have been closed with the exception of Raqueyle which is 16 metres wide, although the local people and authorities have made attempts to close it. The river level remains high and especially worrying because of a lack of river embankments. Pasture and grazing conditions have improved with the *Gu* rains, improving livestock condition and production. However, animals have moved away from the riverine area due to the Tse Tse fly problem. Maize and sorghum are doing well and agricultural activities such as weeding are underway. Food availability and access is good and the price of maize and sorghum remains the same as last month.

GEDO

The overall food security situation of the Riverine and Agro-pastoral groups in north Gedo is still below normal and is not expected to improve until the *Gu* harvest. Successive droughts and insecurity have depleted cereal stocks and reduced income. Most of Dawa and Southern Inland Pastoral groups are in good condition as a result of the rains in April and May which increased the availability of pasture and water substantially. As a result, indigenous pastoralists have returned home from the Juba and Bay/Bakol areas. Improved animal health facilities provided by VSF/EPAG and local Para VETs have increased the production and reproduction of livestock and favorable terms of trade still prevail over most of the pastoral area. There has been a sharp decline in food availability in markets, especially of imported commodities, their prices are high. This has resulted in reduced purchasing power for the poorer wealth groups. The river levels of both the Juba and Dawa rivers remained high for the first two weeks of the month but subsequently dropped.

BAKOL

Most rain in Bakol appears to have fallen in Hudur. This has partly replenished water catchments, where previous months' rainfall had been inadequate. Overall, the intensity and coverage of the rain in the region is reported as normal. Livestock condition and production have improved, resulting in a substantial drop of around 40% in milk retail prices. This benefits the poor and should improve the diversity of their diet. However, a mixture of localised rainfall failures, windy conditions, diseases and pests have adversely affected crop production (especially sorghum) in some areas, notably the High Potential Sorghum and Southern Agro-Pastoral Food Economy Zones around Hudur and Tieglo, leaving crop prospects there uncertain. In Rabdure, cropping is reported to be normal, although pockets of poor performance remain due to diseases and insufficient rains. Disruptions to SFP activities this month reportedly affected poor households' access to food; SFP and FFW are seen as still being of high importance to the region.

LOWER SHABELLE

A dry spell of fifteen days occurred in May causing agricultural employment opportunities to drop by 30-40%. This is the main source of income for the poor riverine people. The price of cereals has also risen in all markets following the normal seasonal trend. Nevertheless, the overall food security situation is considered normal as livestock condition has improved with good production of milk and ghee. Animals are fetching good prices because of the start of the seasonal demand in Garissa, Kenya. This is contributing to favourable terms of trade for agro-pastoralists. Water availability is normal for the region. Rain-fed maize is in poor condition due to the dry spell compared to irrigated maize which is in good condition. Farmers have started to irrigate their crops, although lack of canal maintenance hinders irrigation. Maize crops in areas with poor irrigation facilities have shown severe moisture stress. If immediate rain is not received in rain-fed areas, total crop failure is inevitable. Farmers are performing the second weeding and replanting in the flood recession areas of Jenale and Qorioley. The poor and some middle riverine groups have inadequate cereal stocks.

JUBA VALLEY

The weather remained dry during the last three weeks of May following rainfall during April; most of the *dhesheks* have been filled with run-off water. However, rainfall has been poor and unsatisfactory along the riverine areas. During May, the Juba river level rose dramatically and flooded onto farmland along the Riverine areas in both Buale and Jilib Districts, washing away standing crops, blocking roads and inundating village settlements. As waters recede farmers are re-planting, but seeds and tools are required to resume production. UNICEF and ICRC have already provide assistance to flooded villages. There was normal livestock movement from Riverine areas to remote inland areas such as Doble and parts of south Gedo in order to access better grazing and to escape the tse tse fly. Milk and meat production remain good in pure pastoral areas, however, milk access is reduced in main towns and prices have increased. Prices of all commodities increased during the month because of the depreciation of the Somali Shilling, disrupted trade routes due to insecurity, heavy rain and an increased number of checkpoints along the road between Kismayo and Mogadishu.

BAY

Rainfall in Baidoa and Qansax-Dheere has been slightly above normal, while that in Qansax-Dheere and Dinsor has been below normal. Owing to the rain and insect and pest infestations, the latter two districts have not established their crops and this has also impacted on labour opportunities. Pasture and grazing, however, has improved due to good rains in the pastoral areas and with it, livestock condition and milk production. Water resources in these areas have also been replenished. However, camel milk has *increased* in price (+20%); this is because herders have taken their animals further from the main markets and farming areas, thus making supply more difficult. Cereal prices have increased (+26% for sorghum and +40% for maize) as better-off farmers retained their stock until the season develops.

COWPEA BELT

The cowpea belt districts are Adanyabal, Adale, Elder, Galhareri, Hara-dhere and Hobyo. The food security situation is improving as a result of normal rainfall in the area. The price of water has decreased. The livestock condition has improved and this has led to an increase in milk and meat production. These products can be sold in the markets in more populated towns. The cereal stocks for poor and middle households remain low, but improvements are expected by the end of the *Gu* rains. Poor and middle households are still using limited alternative coping strategies. The price of imported commodities remains high. The terms of trade of cowpea or sorghum to milk are near normal.

HIRAN

Despite a late start, the southern districts of Hiran received normal to slightly above normal rains, while Belet Weyne received below normal rains. The river flooded some areas and this helped the poorer riverine farmers, but overall the area established under crops was below normal. This is attributed to poor rains (in Belet Weyne) and a low return for produce compared with high input costs. In the pastoral areas, pasture regenerated sufficiently and livestock condition is normal; however, in the agro-pastoral areas pasture regeneration was uneven due to the rains. This has been depleted by overgrazing. At present, livestock condition is normal; camels and shoats are faring better than cattle. Market activity was low compared with the previous month: supply from Bay and Bakol has decreased due to bad road conditions and insecurity while the central regions looked to a cheaper price for sorghum in Mogadishu rather than Belet Weyne. Terms of trade for pastoralists are good (one goat fetched 150 kg cereal), while those depending on wage labour can buy the normal 5-7 kg for each day worked.

GALGADUD

Rainfall and environmental conditions are reported to be normal in Galgadud this month, a situation that is, however, marred by outbreaks of conflict at a village called Herale, 45-50 km south-west of Abudwaq, and Hurshe, 20 km south-east of Abudwaq. This has resulted in an estimated 400-450 households (mostly pastoralists from the Hawd [Ciid] Pastoral FEZ and a few 'urban' households) losing assets and being displaced. They are presently camped at Dhusa-Mareb and some surrounding villages. ICRC has responded with medical assistance. Otherwise, rains have replenished around 60% of *berkads* in the Hawd (Ciid) and Addun pastoral areas and around 50% of *berkads* in the agro-pastoral areas. Normal cultivation is taking place in the agro-pastoral areas around El-Bur.