

KEY ISSUES

Growing Humanitarian Emergency (HE) for Internally Displaced People (IDPs): The depth and severity of the IDP Humanitarian Emergency is increasing. The total number of 'new' IDPs increased by more than 100,000 people in May alone, which makes the total number of new IDPs in Somalia at more than 1.3 million people. Evidence suggests that this number may continue

to increase in the coming months, as populations flee to safety both within and outside Somalia. Fighting between the government and opposition forces has intensified since early May. While Mogadishu saw the worst violence, fighting also spread to several other areas and towns in southern and central Somalia, leading to increased civilian casualties, human rights abuses, renewed large scale population displacement, the destruction and confiscation of livelihood assets, and disruptions to economic activities and trade. FSNAU will conduct an emergency IDP impact survey as part of the upcoming post *Gu* '09 assessment (*See Civil Insecurity Section, page 3*).

Sustained Humanitarian Emergency (HE) in the Central Regions due to Prolonged Drought:

The drought in the central regions is intensifying, following five consecutive seasons of rain failure. Already, roughly 60% of the population in the central regions (Galgadud and Mudug) is classified either in *Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis* or *Humanitarian Emergency* due to drought, hyperinflation, and conflict, which have affected rural, urban and IDP populations. Recent nutrition surveys (May '09) confirm that the nutrition situation remains above the emergency threshold for all livelihoods and is classified as *Critical*, with global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates between of 15.3 - 18.0% and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates between 2.6 - 5.5% (*See Livestock and Nutrition Section, page 6 and 8*).

Emerging Drought and Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) in Northern Pastoral Areas:

There is an emerging drought in the north in the regions of Sool, Sanag and northeastern Togdheer, due to recent rain failure, which is compounded by three previous seasons of relatively poor and patchy rainfall. Pasture resources in areas which received moderate rains were quickly depleted due to large livestock in-migration from neighbouring rain deficit areas. There is a high level of livestock off-take, as well as high abortion rates, culling of kids/lambs, and drought induced livestock diseases (*See Livestock Section, page 6*).

Falling Prices and Improved Urban Food Security: There is an improvement in the purchasing power and food access for most of Somalia's urban population, particularly urban poor and IDPs, as a result of lower cereal and other commodity prices and a reduction in the cost of minimum expenditure basket (MEB), especially in the central, north and northeast regions. Since March '09, the average cost of the MEB, or Consumer Price Index (CPI), has reduced from 20-30% in the north, northeast and central regions (*See Markets and Trade Section, page 7*).

Normal Crop Establishment and Production in the South is Improving Food Access: Early indications are that *Gu* '09 crop production will be near normal throughout most of southern Somalia, as a result of near normal to normal crop establishment and growth so far. Exceptions include the Cowpea Belt (Galgadud and southern Mudug), Hiran, parts of Bakool, northern Gedo, and northwest agro-pastoral areas. Agricultural activities, such as sowing, first and second weeding, harvesting of off-season and early planted crops is leading to improved income opportunities, as well as promising improved access to own food production. Local maize and sorghum prices continue to decrease in most main markets throughout Somalia (40% to 60% lower than May '08), although they are still higher than the long-term trend. Purchasing power, as measured by terms of trade between labour and cereal, has increased 15% - 60% when compared to the same month last year in most markets, as a result of decreases in cereal prices and increases in daily labour wage rates (*See Agriculture Section, page 4*).

Climate

Markets

Nutrition

Agriculture

Livestock

Civil
Insecurity

Emerging
Regional
Issues

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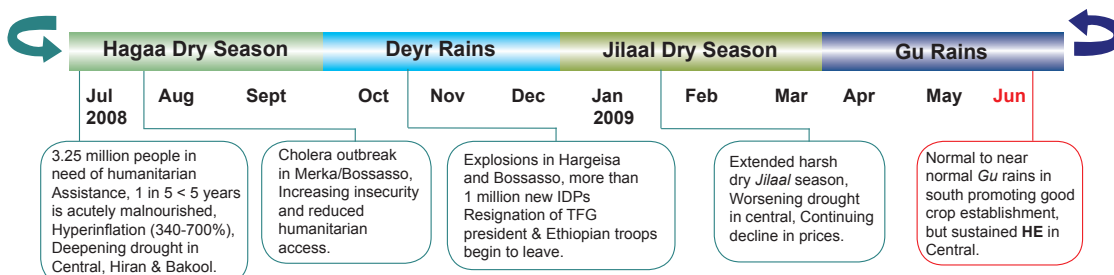
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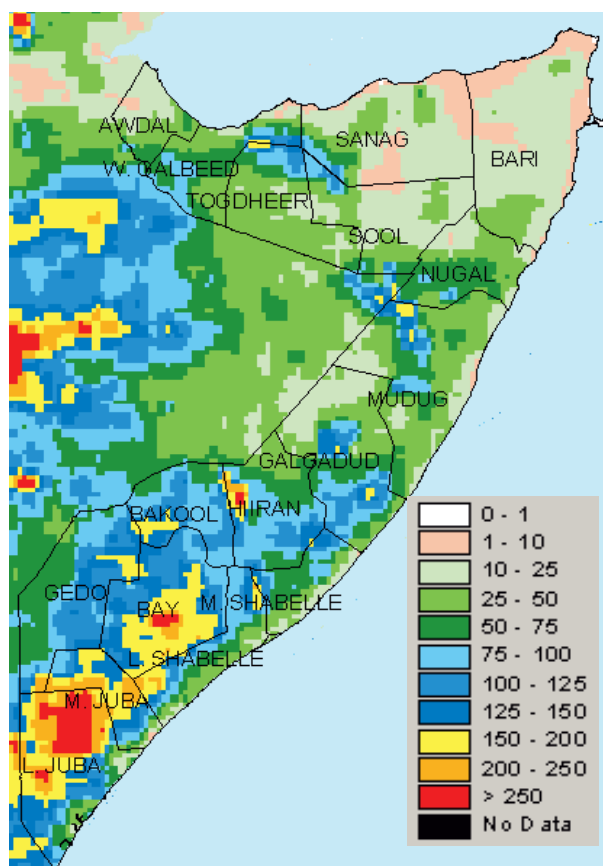


Somalia Seasonal Timeline & Key Events

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

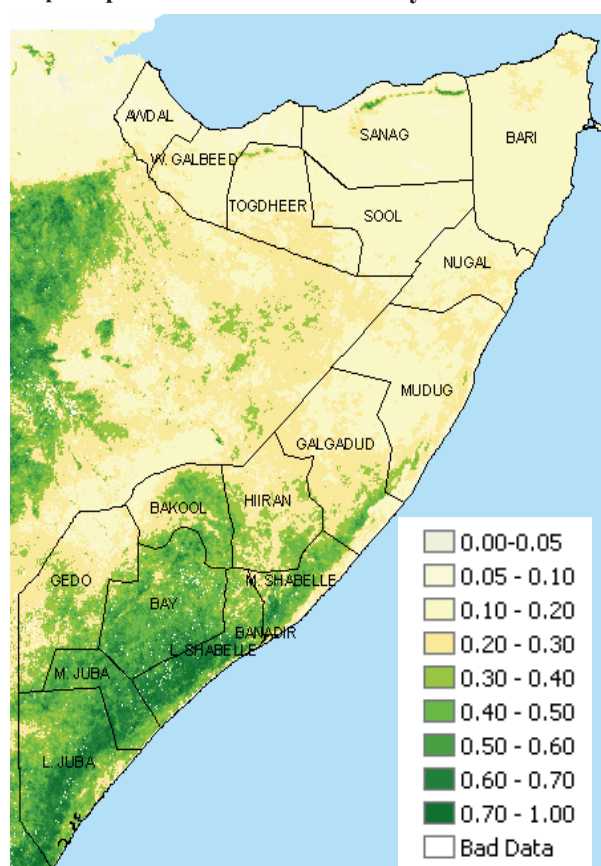
CLIMATE

Map 1: Cumulative RFE April & May '09



Source: NOAA

Map 2: Spot NDVI 3rd Dekad of May '09



Source: NOAA

Gu '09 rains began during late March and early April in northern Somalia, as well as in parts of southern Somalia, indicating a timely onset of the main rainy season in these areas. As the season advanced, however, the progress of the season in terms of rainfall intensity and spatial distribution has been mixed, with most of southern regions receiving normal to near normal rains, while the key pastoral regions of central and northern parts experienced erratic and localized rainfall. In addition, during the first *dekad* of June 2009, moderate *Hagaa* rains were received in Juba, Shabelle and Bay regions. These rains improved crop growth and water and pasture conditions.

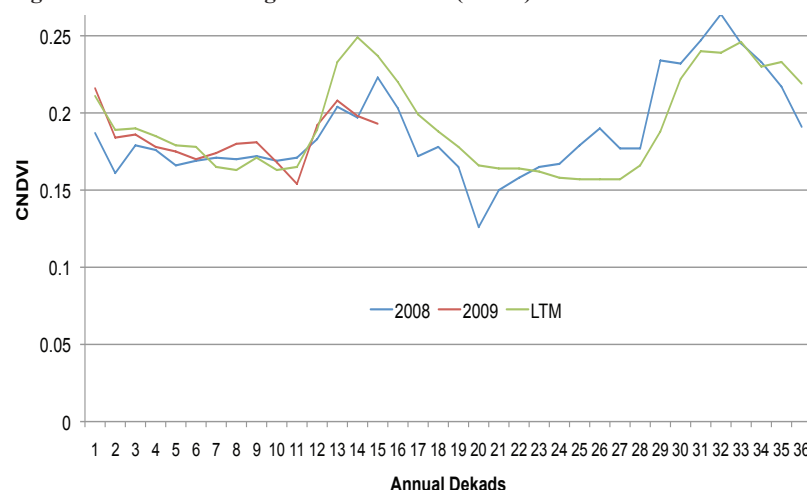
The *Gu* rains performed poorly in most of the drought affected areas of Galgadud and Mudug, as well as in Hirran region, where extreme water and pasture shortages are reported. Overall *Gu* '09 rainfall distribution was poor and cumulative totals are well below normal, leading to poor vegetation conditions (Maps 1 and 2 and Figure 1). Although satellite images show some rainfall, information from the field confirms that most districts in these regions received little to no rains. However, Harardhere and Elbur districts, located in the Cowpea Belt along the coast, received moderate rains, which partially replenished water reservoirs (*berkads*) and water catchments. Rains have also improved crop germination in those districts. The Coastal *Deeh*, Galdogob, Guricel, Adado, Abudwak and Galkacyo districts and most parts of the Addun pastoral livelihood zones of Hobyo and Harardhere districts received light showers, which had little impact on the already poor rangeland conditions.

In the north, rains started early in late March and intensified during the first *dekad* of April, especially in Hawd of Hargeisa and parts of Awdal and Togdheer regions. Light to moderate rains also fell in the Golis and Guban livelihood zone, the Awdal agro-pastoral zone, central Nugal Valley, central Hawd, and some parts of the agro-pastoral zone of Odweyne district. However, overall *Gu* performance in these areas has been sporadic, localized and significantly below normal, thereby affecting rangeland conditions, especially in the key pastoral areas of Nugal Valley, Sool plateau, most of Sanag, Togdheer and parts of Kakaar-Dharor pastoral zone in Bari region. A comparison between actual rainfall and the long-term mean indicates that overall rainfall performance has been 20 to 60% of normal during this *Gu* for most parts of the north and northeast region. Rains were insufficient to improve pasture and browse conditions and failed

to increase water availability in most of the potential grazing areas, leading to abnormal pastoral out-migration to Hawd of Ethiopia and into areas that received rainfall, putting extreme pressure on pasture resources in these areas. Unless rains re-establish in the coming days, the season will be considered a failure once again.

In the southern agricultural regions of Bay, Bakool, parts of Gedo, Juba, and the Shabelles, *Gu* rainfall performance has been fairly good in terms of total amount, frequency and spatial distribution. In the Bay and Bakool regions, most of the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods received very good, intense and well distributed rainfall. The exceptions are, however, the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones of Rabdhure and El berde districts, which received only sporadic and localized light rains, leading to abnormal pastoral out-migration towards the Afdheer zone of Ethiopia. In the Shabelle regions and parts of Juba, adequate rains with good distribution were received across the regions, improving crop and rangeland conditions. Of particular concern are, however, parts of Jamame, most areas in southern Jilib district, and coastal areas of Badhadhe district of Lower Juba region, as well as northern Gedo districts of Luq, Dolo, Bula Hawa and Garbaharey, where performance of *Gu* rains has been poor since April.

Figure 1: Dusamareb Vegetation condition (NDVI) Trend



CIVIL INSECURITY

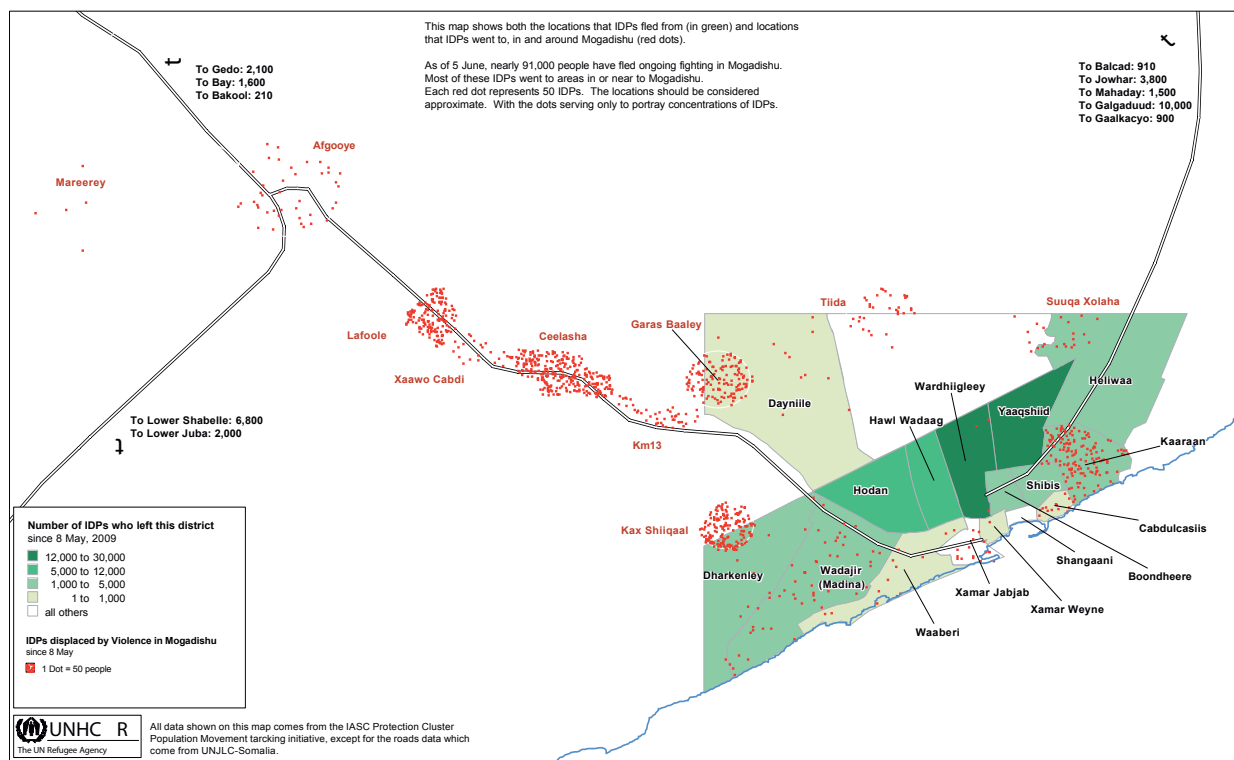
The civil insecurity situation has worsened since the start of May in several areas of southern and central Somalia. At the start of May, fresh fighting erupted in Mogadishu between insurgents and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), the worst fighting seen in months, causing both civilian deaths and massive displacement, as mortars landed in residential areas in the Dharkenley, Wardhiigleey and Yaaqshiid districts of Mogadishu. Mogadishu's main *Bakaara* market was attacked with mortars and subsequently all market trading activities were halted. Fighting also spread into parts of Middle Shabelle, Hiran and Galgadud regions, temporarily halting transport north. Both sides have increased the intensity of their attacks. There are also unconfirmed reports that former faction leaders supported by Ethiopia have amassed their forces along the border of Ethiopia and of Bakool and Gedo regions, while others have entered Beletweyn town, aiming to recapture their respective areas. Fierce fighting, organized killings, kidnappings and road side bump explosions aimed at TFG officials, insurgents and the media have been reported. Clashes between TFG supporters and insurgents have been reported in Wabho, Jowhar and Mahadai, disrupting human and trade movement, increasing transport costs and reducing food commodity market supplies. There are also reports of clan disputes over water and pasture resources at the border of Jowhar and Jalalaqsi districts in Middle Shabelle, resulting in population displacement and forcing the abandonment of valuable water and pasture resources.

Incidents of sea piracy have continued to increase since January, despite a series of helicopter and Ship counter attacks and the arrest of dozens of pirates by multinational naval forces—it is reported that more than 100 Somali pirates are currently being held in police custody in Kenya. Since early 2008, pirates have carried out approximately 144 attacks and hijacked 44 ships. Approximately fourteen vessels and their crew are currently being held for ransom. Multi-national naval forces continue to escort ships carrying humanitarian aid to Somalia, ensuring that humanitarian assistance is delivered to the estimated 43% of the population in humanitarian crisis.

The safety and security situation of humanitarian workers is worsening in southern Somalia, as relief agencies continue to struggle to reach people in need of humanitarian and livelihood support (Somalia Humanitarian Overview, OCHA, May 5, 2009). The security situation in Jowhar, Balad, Elbur, Kismayo, Badhade, Merka, Afgoye and Mogadishu has deteriorated, and the UN has reclassified the areas to UN Security Phase V, which imposes additional restrictions on humanitarian agencies working in these areas. Areas that are most insecure are also the very areas where the humanitarian and livelihood support needs are the greatest.

Increasing Population Displacement

Internal population displacement is ongoing and increasing as a result of the deterioration in the civil insecurity situation. The latest estimate of the number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) increased from 1.2 to 1.3 million between March and April '09 (UNHCR, June 5, '09).

Map 3: Mogadishu Displacement from 8 May to 4 June 2009

Map: Mogadishu Displacement from 8 May to 4 June 2009 - this map shows both the locations that IDPs fled from (in green) and locations that IDPs went to, in and around Mogadishu (red dots) - Credit: UNHCR

UNHCR Somalia Population Movement Tracking estimates that approximately 96,000 people have been displaced since May (as of June 5), due to increased insecurity and fighting in Mogadishu (Map 3). Many families are currently trapped in their homes in Mogadishu, with no access to food and water. Flash floods have destroyed makeshift huts in IDP settlements along the outskirts of Mogadishu, worsening living conditions and increasing morbidity amongst IDPs. The majority of the new IDPs (around 36,000 people) have moved to safer areas within Mogadishu and along the town's outskirts (Dayniile, Dharkeenlay, Kaaraan and Wadajir), while 26,000 people have moved to the Afgoye corridor, where they join more than 400,000 previously displaced people. The rest have fled to more distant places, including Galgaduud, Lower and Middle Shabelle, Gedo and Juba regions.

Thousands or more people were forced to flee fighting that erupted in Wabho of Galgaduud and Jowhar and Mahadai of Middle Shabelle. Some of these people have fled to rural settlements, while others are currently en route to northern Somalia or to Kenyan border refugee camps. It is reported that the number of Somali refugees fleeing to Kenya doubled from an average of 100 to nearly 200 per day (OCHA, May '09). UNHCR Kenya reported that 30,823 people were registered during this year, while many more unregistered refugees are in living Kenya's heavily congested Dadaab camps, surviving on handouts from relatives and friends. Currently, the number of Somali refugees in Kenya has increased to more than 300,000. This number is presumed to be much higher, however, due to the large number of unregistered refugees. The number of Somali migrants and asylum seekers reaching Yemen is also increasing. UNHCR reported that in the first quarter of 2009, the number of migrants and asylum seekers increased by 30%, when compared to the same period in 2008. Nearly 24,000 Somali people arrived at the Yemen coast in May '09. The growing number of IDPs and Somali refugees is indicative of the desperate conditions faced by millions of Somalis, who remain in the country and struggle to survive under extreme conditions.

AGRICULTURE

Ongoing Crop Activities

Early indications are that Gu '09 crop production will be near normal in southern Somalia. Most of the agricultural regions in the south received moderate, and in some places, heavy rains during the month of May. For example, most of Bay, Shabelle, Juba and parts of Bakool and Gedo (Bardera) regions recorded 50-150 mm of rainfall during the month (see Climate Sector). These rains have enabled crops to germinate and establish normally and have improved early planted crops. The continuation of rains into June will be important for crop growth. Where there is good rainfall and crop establishment, income opportunities for poor households have improved. Agricultural activities such as sowing (coastal areas) and first and second weeding are ongoing. In addition, in the Juba riverine livelihood, ongoing off-season crop harvesting (maize, cowpea, sesame and vegetables) and harvesting of early planted maize, sesame

and vegetables in Kurtunwarey and Qoryoley in Lower Shabelle and Jowhar in Middle Shabelle, have also improved income opportunities as well.

Initial field reports indicate that sorghum establishment is normal in Bay, Middle Shabelle, Bardera (Gedo), Sakow/Salagle in Middle Juba and parts of Bakool and above normal in Wanle Weyne district in Lower Shabelle. Similarly, maize establishment (riverine and agro-pastoral livelihoods) in the Shabelle, Middle Juba, Bay, parts of Lower Juba and Bakool regions are considered normal to near normal. However, the crop establishment is very poor in the Cowpea Belt (Galgadud and south Mudug), Hiran, parts of Bakool and northern Gedo due to very poor *Gu* '09 performance. In the northwest, the crop establishment is extremely poor in areas of Galbeed and Togdheer due to poor *Gu* rains. Overall sorghum production in the northwest agro-pastoral livelihood will depend on the performance of the *Karan* rains, which will commence in late July.

Local maize and sorghum prices in most main markets throughout Somalia continue to decrease. Although local cereal prices are 40% to 60% lower than prices during the same period last year in the southern regions, they are still higher than the long-term trend (Figure 2) and have increased slightly in the last month in some markets (from April to May 2009). Cereal prices vary among the main markets in southern Somalia with the lowest maize prices in May '09 recorded in Qoryoley, Jowhar, Afgoi and Merka in Shabelle regions (6,000-7,000SoSh/kg) and Buale and Jilib in Middle Juba (8,000SoSh/kg). The lowest sorghum prices are found in Beletweyne (3,000SoSh/kg), Baidoa and Hudur (4,000-5,000SoSh/kg). The lower prices are due to good off-season maize production from Juba, the start of the harvest of early planted maize in the Shabelle regions, a general decrease in imported commodity prices, the availability of sorghum stocks in Bay and food aid distribution in some regions.

Terms of trade (TOT) between labour and cereal have increased in most markets throughout Somalia, as a result of decreases in cereal prices and increases in daily labour wage rates (Figure 3). The TOT between labour and cereal have increased between 15% - 60%, when compared to the same month last year in most markets in Somalia. Changes in the TOT differ amongst Somalia's main markets, with the highest percentage increase since May '08 recorded in Beletweyne and Afgoi (709% and 464% between May '08 and May '09, respectively). The highest TOT between labour and maize has been recorded in Buale in Middle Juba and Kismayo in Lower Juba (16kg and 15kg/daily labour wage rate, respectively). In the Sorghum Belt, the average TOT between labour and sorghum is 17kg/daily wage rate, and in Beletweyne, also part of the Sorghum Belt, the TOT is unusually high at 45kg/daily wage rate. This improvement in purchasing power is enhanced by improved job opportunities, especially in agricultural areas due to ongoing first and second weeding and sowing and off-season harvesting.



Good Rainfed Maize, Qoryoley, May, 2009.



Early Planted Maize, Jowhar, May 11, 2009

Figure 2: Regional Trends in Cereal Prices (SoSh)

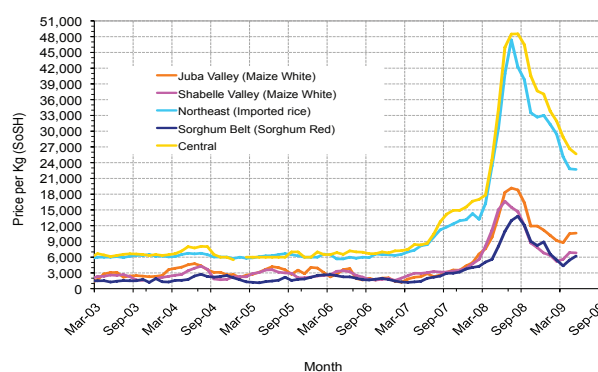
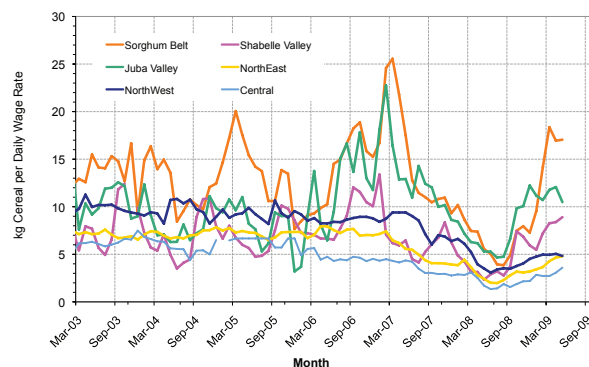


Figure 3: Regional Trends in Terms of Trade, Labour to Cereal



LIVESTOCK

Pasture and Water Conditions

Given the poor to near normal localized rainfall in the most areas of the north, pasture and water conditions have further deteriorated. Although localized moderate rains were received in some areas of Golis, Sool, Hawd and Nugal Valley, which helped regenerate pasture and replenish water sources, rangeland resources were quickly depleted due to large livestock in-migration from neighbouring rain deficit areas. Boreholes have already resumed full operation, as the need for water trucking is high in Sool plateau of Sanag and Hawd of Nugal and Sool regions. In contrast, key pastoral areas of Bari, Awdal and W. Galbeed regions have received moderate rains, which have significantly improved both pasture and water conditions. Pastoral areas of West Golis/Guban, and the Addun, Hawd and Coastal *Deeh* of Eyl district in Bari that received poor seasonal rainfall the past two seasons, have received moderate rains, resulting in remarkable regeneration of fodder and pasture and improved ground surface and sub-surface water levels. This has improved pastoralists' access to water, even from dry river beds.

In the central regions (Mudug and Galgadud) and Hiran, particularly localized areas of the key pastoral livelihoods of Galkacyo, Burtinle, Jariban, Haradhere and Elder, light to moderate rains are reported; these rains have partially replenished water and pasture resources. However, due to the intermittent poor coverage of *Gu* rainfall and the preceding long dry spell, most of the key pastoral areas of the central regions have not received adequate rainfall for more than five consecutive seasons, and most *berkads* remain dry into last *dekad* of the *Gu* season. Ongoing water trucking in the Hawd and most parts of the Addun livelihood has alleviated the already dire situation created by recurrent rain failure. Water prices in Hawd in the central regions (Mudug and Galgadud) increased considerably between April and May '09. In just one month, prices increased by 32% (from 190,000-250,000 SoSh/drum), while in the Addun and Cowpea Belt, water prices remain mostly unchanged, at a range of 80,000-100,000 SoSh/drum.

In southern Somalia, *Gu* rains have intensified both in terms of coverage and intensity throughout the southern regions, with the exception of the northern part of Gedo (Garboharrey, Blethawo, Dolo and Luq), Juba (Badade) and the bordering districts of Bakool region (Rabdhure and Elberde) to Ethiopia. Rainfall has fully replenished most water sources and significantly improved pasture conditions.

Livestock Migration

Due to persistent drought and poor rainfall, there is a massive abnormal livestock migration in central and northern regions, with livestock moving to areas that received normal rains. Pastoralists from Middle and Better-off wealth groups in Nugal Valley transported their livestock by trucks to southeast Hawd of Togdheer, while those from Sool plateau of Sanag transported their livestock to Dhahar and Qardho district. Poor pastoral households with smaller livestock herds and those who could not afford to transport their livestock by truck, generally remained behind in areas that received less rainfall. Pastoralists in the central region migrated to eastern Galgadud (Elder, Elbur), northern Mudug (Galkacyo, Jariban) and Eyl district, which received localized near normal *Gu* rains.

Livestock Body Conditions and Production

Livestock body conditions for all species improved slightly in areas of localized rainfall of the central (Mudug, Galgaduud, Hiran) and northern (Sanag, Sool and upper Nugal) regions. However, body conditions are expected to reverse due to the early depletion of the water and pasture resources. In Awdal, W. Galbeed, Bari and eastern Nugal regions, which received moderate rains, livestock body conditions have recovered significantly from the harsh long *Jilaal* period. In the central and northern regions, there is a high level of livestock off-take due to depleted pasture and water resources, high abortion rates, culling of new born sheep/goats and drought induced disease. Cattle holdings in the central regions are becoming less visible due to these enormous losses, following five consecutive seasons of rain failure. Although there has been high lambing and kidding rates reported in the northern and central regions, milk production is low due to high abortion rates and the culling of new born sheep and goats to save the mothers.

Livestock body conditions have improved in the south due to above average late rainfall in May, which significantly improved pasture and water availability and accessibility. However, cattle of Dawa Pastoral of Gedo and Southern Inland Pastoral in northern Bakool are weak and have yet to recover from the previous drought. In southern Somalia, medium conception rates of cattle and goats were observed, and camel milk production has significantly improved, although camel calving rates are still fairly low as most camels conceived during the *Deyr* '08/09; therefore, calving is not expected until *Deyr* '09/10. In addition, milk market supply still remains poor as pastoralists have not returned to areas close to main towns, where they typically market their milk.

Livestock Trade, Prices and Terms of Trade (TOT)

The total number of livestock exported has increased since April '09. Although exports were higher than during May of last year, they are still lower than the peak export period (Dec./Jan.). In May, livestock exports from Bossasso Port (87,354 head) were 57% and 75% higher than May '08 and May '07, respectively. Total exports from Berbera Port in May (38,625 head) were 25% lower than the same period last year; however, a new overland ground livestock export route has been established from Lawyaddo to Djibouti, through which 14,517 heads were exported in May. Poor pasture and water in W. Galbeed region has reduced the number of livestock holdings there and forced traders to increase overland exports to Djibouti through Lawyaddo (see Market Section). Carcass meat exports increased in May '09, and Burao and Galkayo slaughter houses exported 10,687 carcasses combined; however, this is 44% lower than May of last year (19,106 carcasses).

In general, livestock prices in May '09 slightly increased, when compared to April '09, sustaining at record high levels. Currently, local goat prices in the Sorghum Belt, Shabelle and Juba regions are 72%-110% higher, when compared to the May five-year average (Figure 4). In the northeast and central regions, despite the poor livestock body conditions, following drought and poor rainfall, goat prices are 138% and 165% higher than the May five-year average, respectively. This is due to the low supply and high market demand. Cattle prices in Juba and the northeast have further decreased by 10%-12%, when compared to last month, due to low market demand and poor body conditions.

The average terms of trade (TOT) between goat and cereal have improved throughout Somalia, when compared to April '09, with the exception of the Sorghum Belt. This is due to a decrease in cereal prices and an increase in livestock prices, which remain above the long-term mean (Figure 5). In the central and northern regions, the TOT have maintained at May five-year average levels; however, in the Juba and the Sorghum Belt, the TOT are 13% and 32% lower, when compared to the May five-year average, respectively. The highest average TOT (goat to cereal) were reported in the Shabelle regions, which is 40% higher than the May five-year average. This increase in the TOT is due to a declining trend of maize prices since March '08 and an increase in livestock prices, which remain above the long-term mean.

MARKETS AND TRADE

Although the Somali Shilling (SoSh) has gained in value against the dollar in the last six months, it is still significantly depreciated when compared to the five-year average exchange rate of 19,000 SoSh/USD, a difference of 64%. In May 2009, the Somali shilling appreciated marginally in most markets. For instance, in Mogadishu's main Bakaara market, the Somali Shilling traded at an average of 31,250 against the US dollar in May, an approximate 1% increase in value since April (31,625 SoSh/USD); similar increases were reported in Bosasso and Galkayo markets. In addition, in most southern markets, the shilling either gained in value or remained stable.

The Somaliland Shilling (SiSh) in Hargeisa market traded at 7,000 SiSh/USD in May, a depreciation of 2% compared to April (6,850 SiSh/USD in April). This slight depreciation is likely due to low supply of dollars, resulting from low levels of overseas livestock trade and perhaps a reduction in remittances. When compared to the five-year average (SiSh 6,412/USD), the SiSh has depreciated by 10%.

Imported commodity prices are closely linked to exchange rate trends. Although importation of commodities continues and warehouses are well stocked in anticipation of the rough seas, imported commodity prices are still higher when compared to five- year averages (Figure 6 and 7).

Figure 4: Regional Trend in Local Goat Prices (US\$)

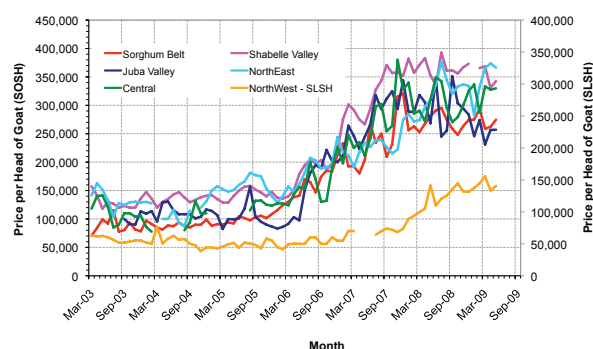
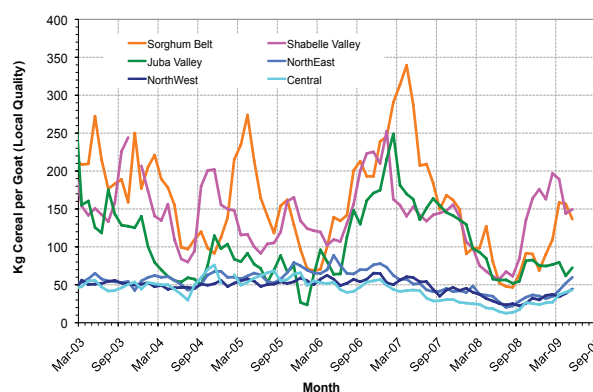


Figure 5: Regional Trend in Terms of Trade, Cereal to Goat



Imported commodity prices, when compared to last month, have decreased slightly in some areas. For instance, in Jowhar, Afmadow, and Baidoa, rice prices decreased by approximately 4% since April. In other southern markets, rice prices remained stable. Nonetheless, the prices of other imported commodities, such as sugar, vegetable oil and petrol, are showing increasing trends.

It is expected that the price of imported commodities will increase in the coming months, as imports decline during the monsoon season. In addition, as fighting intensifies in Mogadishu and its environs, trade is likely to reduce, especially inter-regional trade. Hence, price increases are expected to impact the food security situation of the urban poor, who rely heavily on market purchase as a food source.

Urban Poor Cost of Living and the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Lower cereal and other commodity prices have led to a reduction in the cost of minimum expenditure basket (MEB), especially in the central, north and northeast regions. From Dec. '08 to April '09, the average cost of the MEB, or CPI, has reduced from 30-65% in the north, northeast, central and southern regions (Figure 8). The reduction in basic standard of living costs will help improve the purchasing power and food access of most of Somalia's urban population, particularly the urban poor and IDPs.

The decline in the CPI over the last months is largely attributed to a decrease in cereal prices, especially sorghum as cereal constitutes the largest proportion (50-60%) of the urban poor MEB. Similar price decreases in other basic food and non-food items have also contributed to the overall decline, though to a lesser degree.

NUTRITION SITUATION

Official Move by FSNAU/Somalia Nutrition Cluster to WHO 2006 Growth Standards

In line with the international recommendations from the Standing Committee on Nutrition and the Global Nutrition Cluster, from 2009 the FSNAU and the Somalia Nutrition Cluster will report all nutrition surveys results using the WHO 2006 Growth Standards (WHOGS). These new growth standards replace the previously used National Centre for Health Statistics (NCHS) growth references from the 1970's and represent a more appropriate and relevant set of standards from which to assess child growth and development. Details can be accessed from the FSNAU May 2009 Nutrition Update and the WHO website <http://www.who.int/childgrowth>. Therefore, please note the below results are using the WHOGS. For comparability purposes, historical results will also be presented using the WHOGS.

Nutrition Situation in the Somali Population

In May 2009, FSNAU, in collaboration with partners, conducted seven nutrition surveys in central and southeast Somalia. In the central regions, surveys assessed pastoral populations from the Hawd, Addun and the Coastal *Deeh* livelihood zones, and agro-pastoral populations in the Cowpea Belt livelihood zones. In the southeastern Shabelle regions, surveys assessed agro-pastoral populations, riverine populations and internally displaced Persons (IDPs) in the Afgoye–Merka corridor. A separate survey was done in Adale District at the request of an INGO. The standard two stage cluster sampling methodology was used in all the surveys, except in the Cowpea Belt and Shabelle Riverine, where the Lot Quality Assurance (LQAs) methodology was used.

Figure 6: Shabelle Valley, Trend in Imported Commodity Prices compared to Exchange Rate

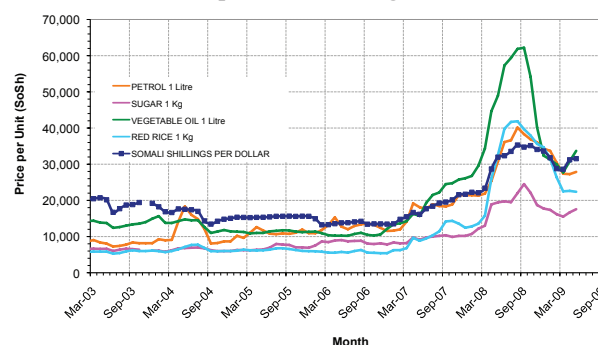


Figure 7: Central, Trend in Imported Commodity Prices compared to Exchange Rate

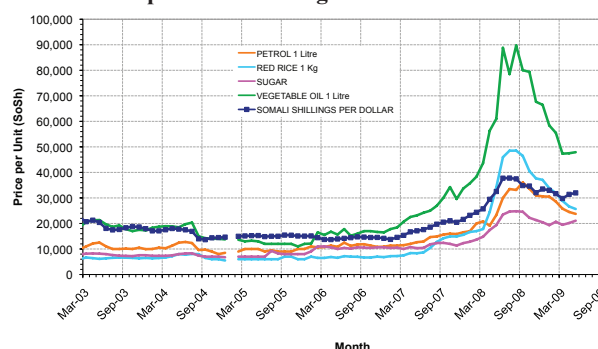
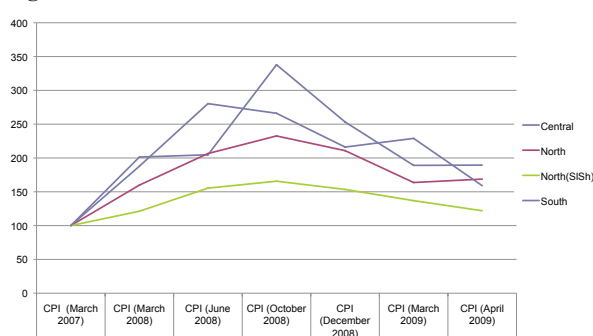


Figure 8: Consumer Price Index



In the central regions, the nutrition situation remains above the emergency threshold and has been classified as **Critical** across the assessed livelihoods (Figure 10). These results indicate a sustained **Critical** situation from the most recent surveys conducted in November 2008.

Preliminary results are as follows:

- The **Hawd Pastoral** livelihood zone assessment results indicate a **Critical** nutrition situation with a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate (WHZ<-2 or oedema) of **18.0%** (13.8-23.1) and a severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate (WHZ<-3 or oedema) of **5.5%** (3.7-7.9) with one case of oedema (0.1%). Although not statistically significant, the GAM results have reduced from the November 2008 *Very Critical* rate of 21%; however, the SAM levels have remained elevated when compared to the 7% reported in November 2008. These levels of SAM remain unacceptably high and warrant sustained humanitarian relief efforts. The compounded effects of prolonged drought, hyperinflation of prices of commodities and civil insecurity have not only contributed to loss of livestock in the pastoral livelihood, but also continue to limit access to water, food and sustainable livelihoods, necessitating continued humanitarian response.
- The **Addun Pastoral** livelihood zone assessment results also indicate a **Critical** nutrition situation, with a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate (WHZ<-2 or oedema) of **17.3%** (13.8-21.5) and a severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate (WHZ <-3 or oedema) of **2.6%** (1.6-4.4) with two oedema cases (0.1%). The situation has remained in a sustained **Critical** phase since the November 2008 assessments, where a GAM of 18.8% and a SAM of 6.1% (4.2-8.1) were reported.
- The **Cowpea Belt Agro-pastoral** livelihood zone assessment results also indicate a **Critical** nutrition situation with a GAM rate of **15.3%** (12.4-18.7) and a SAM rate of **3.8%** (2.6-5.4) including three cases of oedema (0.4%). This is the first time a representative survey has been conducted in this population.
- In the **Coastal Deeh Pastoral** livelihood zone, where the LQAs method was applied, the nutrition situation is classified also as **Critical** with 36 out of the 198 children assessed being acutely malnourished, and 10 severely malnourished. These findings indicate a high probability of the GAM rate being within the 15-20% range (Pr=0.76).

Figure 9: Trends in Acute Malnutrition (WHZ<-2 or oedema, WHO GS) Middle & Lower Shabelle Regions, 2007-2009

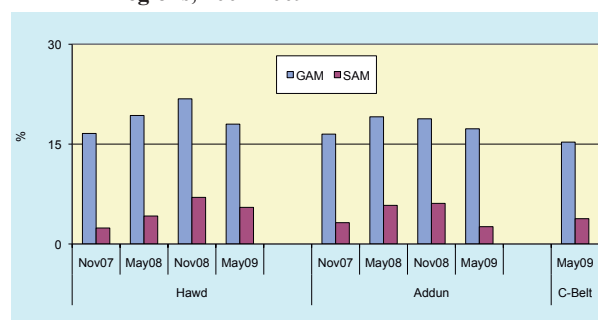
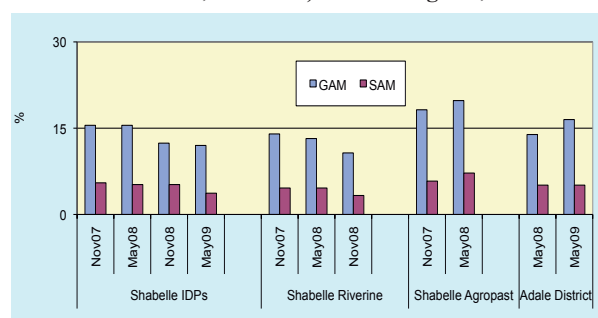


Figure 10: Trends of Acute Malnutrition (WHZ<-2 or oedema, WHO GS) Central regions, 2007-2009



Dried Blood Spot on Filter Paper to assess Vitamin A and Iron status

In the Southeast regions, the nutrition situation is in a sustained **Serious** phase (Figure 9). Preliminary results of the assessments conducted are as follows:

- **Shabelle Riverine** in which the LQAS methodology was used, identified 22 acutely malnourished children, four of whom were severely malnourished. These findings indicate a high probability of the GAM rate being within the 10.0-14.9% range. These findings are in line with the findings of the November 2008 LQAS survey.
- **Shabelle IDPs** indicate a GAM rate of **12.0%** (19.1-15.7) and a SAM rate of **3.7%** (2.3-5.9) including one case of oedema (0.1%); these findings are also in line with the findings of November 2008, where a GAM of 12.4% and a SAM of 5.2% were reported.
- **Adale District** indicates a GAM rate of **16.5%** (13.5-20.0) and a SAM rate of **5.1%** (3.5-7.4) including one case of oedema (0.1%). Although not a statistically significant change, the GAM has increased slightly from the surveys conducted 12 months ago where a GAM of 13.9% and a SAM of 5.1% were reported. The sustained high level of SAM is of concern and warrants intervention.



A nurse conducts a diagnostic test for malaria in the Hawd

FSNAU, in collaboration with partners, is currently conducting livelihood based nutrition assessments in the coastal livelihood zones of Somaliland and Puntland (Golis) and in Bay and Bakool regions.

A micronutrient study was also conducted in Somaliland in May 2009. This was the second of three surveys, which form a strata for the national micronutrients study. The national study aims to assess the public health significance of major micronutrient deficiencies (iron, iodine and vitamin A) in the Somali population. The purpose of the study is to provide baseline information as well as to inform and guide an appropriate response strategy. The information collected also incorporates infant, child and maternal nutritional status, malaria prevalence and relevant household indicators that provide a deeper analysis and understanding of the factors affecting malnutrition in the Somali population. The results should be available in September 09. Plans are underway to conduct the study in south central areas from late June 2009.

Recent and forthcoming publications and releases

FSNAU/FEWSNET Market Data Update, June 2009
FSNAU/FEWSNET Climate Data Update, June 2009
FSNAU Technical Series Report, Baidoa Urban Baseline Analysis Report, May 2009
FSNAU Technical Series Report, Bay Bakool Rural Baseline Analysis Report, May 2009
FSNAU Baidoa Urban Baseline Profile, May 2009
FSNAU Southern Inland Pastoral Profile, May 2009
FSNAU Bakool Agro-pastoral Profile, May 2009
FSNAU Bay Bakool Agro-pastoral Low Potential Profile, May 2009
FSNAU Bay Agro-pastoral High Potential Profile, May 2009
FSNAU Bi-Monthly Nutrition Update, March-April 2009
FSNAU Technical Series Report, Post Deyr '08/09 Analysis, March 4, 2009
FSNAU Technical Series Report, Nutrition Analysis, February 20, 2009
FSNAU Post Deyr 08/09 Special Brief, February 11, 2009