

FSAU REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

****Hargeisa Urban Baseline Assessment** : An urban baseline assessment of Hargeisa town has taken place during February/March. FSAU Field Monitors based in the region provided technical assistance to the assessment with support from The Food Economy Group and FEWS NET. The urban assessment will provide an improved understanding of how people live in these urban areas, in particular how their food and income options balance with expenditure requirements and it will enable the establishment of an efficient monitoring system to track urban food security. For more information please contact : sidow@few.net

**** FSAU Baseline Profiles** : The FSAU is undertaking field work in order to complete 13 updated baseline profiles. The FSAU Assistant Food Security Analyst is currently working with Field Monitors in Galgaduud on The Hawd (Central Somalia) - Pastoral Food Economy Group profile. For more information contact : lesley.adams@fsau.or.ke

**** FSAU Interim Database** : FSAU has finalized its interim database which stores key data on population figures, Food Economy Zones, Indicator trend data and Administration. For more information please contact charles@fsau.or.ke

****Nutrition and Food Security Workshop. Mandera, Kenya. 3 - 5 February. 2003.** A three day workshop on nutrition and food security, organized by FAO, and supported by FSAU, was held in Mandera (Kenya) for Gedo region for those agencies (10 INGO's and 20 LINGO's) wishing to carry out interventions in the region. FSAU facilitated the first two days by providing relevant information on food security and nutrition concepts. One of the main conclusions was that partners, in collaboration with FAO, would work on practical interventions to address malnutrition in Gedo region. The FSAU, Assistant Food Security Analyst who attended the above workshop has also contributed to the latest update on the current food security situation in northern Gedo. See page Five.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Deyr 2002/03** cereal production best ever recorded in post-war era (1995-2001): Very good rainfall with high intensity and frequency fell throughout Southern Somalia during the *Deyr* season. This greatly improved the condition of livestock and subsequently crops, while farmers in the sorghum belt switched from ratoon planting to new sorghum plantings which greatly enhanced the final production figure. For a full report on the *Deyr* 2002/03 harvest assessment and its implications on food security see page 2 and 3.
- **Insecurity and Food insecurity** : Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in Middle and Lower Juba are experiencing food insecurity as a result of insecurity which has caused disruption to migratory patterns and looting of assets. Similar problems have also been observed in Baidoa and Burhakaba. In North Gedo, the region remains precarious despite the fact that livestock have benefited from the good *Deyr* season. See Vulnerability Map on Page 4.
- **Pockets of Food Insecurity in Sool Plateau and Addun pastoral areas** : These areas have experienced successive dry seasons. This, combined with additional factors specific to each area has created vulnerability. For more information See Vulnerability Map on Page 4 and Regional Highlights.
- **Humanitarian Response Group (HRG) Meeting called to decide and agree on interventions to relieve crisis in Awdal** : The major concern is that pasture for the Issa cattle keepers (from Ethiopia) will be depleted within the next 2-3 weeks and will not sustain herds until the next rains due in April/May. For a summary of the FSAU's latest assessment on this area and suggested responses presented and discussed at the HRG (4 March 2003) see page 6.

Food Aid Distribution

****CARE** has pre-positioned 2500 Mt of food in Mandera and El Waq for Gedo. CARE is also planning to do a registration of beneficiaries in Gedo region. (See also FSAU article on North Gedo food security update on page 5)

****In February**, no food was distributed by CARE in Gedo. El Bon has had good harvest so CARE is planning to carry out food for work, building roads, in the area.

****In February**, WFP distributed 51Mt in Bay region, 204 Mt in Bakol, 25 Mt in Hiran,(Belet Weyne) and 126 Mt in Lower Shabelle (Merka district) and 18 Mt in Mogadishu. In the Northwest, 41 Mt were distributed in the Hargeisa district of Awdal region, 125 Mt in Bari region and 9 Mt in Nugal.

For further information on CARE's food aid operations, please contact : narayan@care.or.ke. For further information about WFP's activities, please contact : Lubna.alaman@wfp.org.

Highlights from the FSAU 'Nutrition Update'

- In Jeriban, UNICEF, MOSA and the FSAU conducted a nutrition survey in mid December 2002. Preliminary findings suggest a global acute malnutrition rate of 9.8% (CI: 8.0% - 12.0%) and severe acute malnutrition of 1.7% (CI: 1.0% - 2.8%).
 - At the same time, UNICEF, MOSA and FSAU carried out a separate nutrition survey in Galgadob Town using an exhaustive methodology. Results indicate a global acute malnutrition rate of 12.5% and a severe acute malnutrition rate of 3.7%.
 - In response to demand from partners, the FSAU conducted a training workshop in Hargeisa focussing on the collection, analysis and use of nutrition and food security information. Partners from a number of sectors attended. There was high demand for further training and assistance with the interpretation of nutrition information. Similar training workshops will be conducted in other locations in the coming months.
 - From 31 March to 2 April, UNICEF and partners with an interest in nutrition in Southern Somalia will support a workshop in Huddur. The objective is 'to review the nature and scope of the nutrition problem in central and south Somalia and on-going programmes addressing those problems.'
- For copies of nutrition survey reports and further information related to nutrition, see the FSAU monthly publication 'Nutrition Update' or contact :noreen.prendiville@fsau.or.ke



DEYR 2002/03 HARVEST ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Introduction

Fieldwork for the *Deyr* 2002/03 harvest assessment in southern Somalia was carried out between 27 January and 10 February. FSAU field monitors gathered information on *Deyr* crop harvest production and then analysed the impact on households within their respective Food Economy Zones (FEZ) and wealth groups. Data was compiled, discussed and analysed in Hargeisa in mid-February.

Rainfall

- Normal to above normal rains, with high intensity and frequency, fell throughout southern Somalia, improving the situation of both crop and livestock.
- The *Deyr* 2002/03 rainfall reduced irrigation inputs for maize in the riverine areas of Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, Hiran and Gedo regions.
- In Bay and Bakool where pure rainfed agricultural is practiced, the *Deyr* rainfall encouraged new sorghum plantings rather than ratooning.
- Crops in southern Somalia reached full development stages with successful grain filling.
- Results show that 90-95% of the total harvested area was produced under rain-fed conditions. Few harvested areas utilised controlled or un-controlled flood irrigation in the Shabelle and Juba valley regions. This was attributed to the good rainfall coverage across the main agricultural areas of Southern Somalia.

An overview of cereal production

Households planted an estimated 320,550 ha (75% sorghum and 25% maize) in the 2002/03 *Deyr*. Significant production was recorded in the Bay region for sorghum. Lower Shabelle region contributed most of the maize production. However, the total *Deyr* cereal production is estimated at 164,624 Mt (56% sorghum and 44% maize). This is close to an 80% increase on the average *Deyr* production for the post war period (1995-2001) - see Figure 1. The percentage contribution to total cereal production by region (sorghum and maize) of southern Somalia was : Lower Shabelle 39% followed by Bay region 24% (N.B. Little maize production) Middle Shabelle region contributed 19%, Hiran 8%, Gedo 5%, Bakool 2%, Middle Juba 2% and Lower Juba 1%.

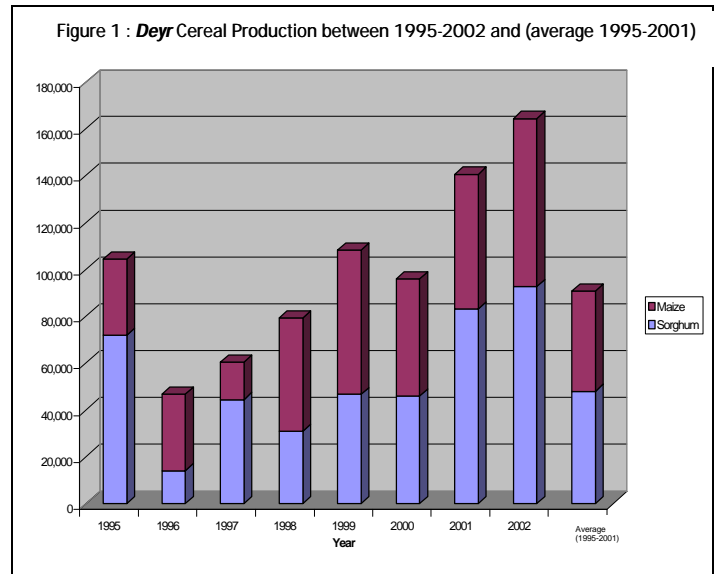
Yields were estimated in the range of 0.1–0.6 Mt/ha for sorghum and 0.5–1.0 Mt/ha for maize. Neither birds nor insecurity hampered the 2002/03 *Deyr* production in southern Somalia.

Generally the *Deyr* season provides 25-30 % of annual cereal production, however this year it contributed 43-47% of the annual cereal production in southern Somalia.

The good *Deyr* harvest has relieved the pressure at household level in Gedo, Hiran and Bakool which were areas of food security concern. However, it is worth noting that areas of Lower Juba, especially the mixed pastoral maize-cattle Food economy zone, might experience a food shortage at the onset of *Gu* 2003. The poor wealth groups in this FEZ are located in the Afmadow, Badade and southern Kismayo areas. Close monitoring in Gedo region, which has experienced three consecutive dry years and where the economy has deteriorated, is also necessary.

Sorghum

- In the southern regions of Somalia, an estimated 239,530 ha of sorghum was harvested during the season.
- Total sorghum production, estimated at 92,636 Mt, is 92% higher than the post-war *Deyr* season average (1995-2001).
- About 52% of the harvested area is located in Bay region. During the 2001/02 *Deyr* season the region experienced a degree of peace and agro-pastoralist returnees started to plant again.
- The 2002/03 *Deyr* sorghum production in the Bay region



(39,150 Mt) is 54% higher than the post war Bay Region average (1995-2001).

While outstanding sorghum production was the rule for the 2002/03 *Deyr*, an out-break of 'army worms' affected seriously the sorghum seedlings in districts of Lower Shabelle region. The high contribution of sorghum production to the 2002/03 *Deyr* was attributed to new planting of sorghum instead of common *Deyr* season ratoon cropping practice.

Regional contributions to the sorghum production of southern Somalia are : Bay region 42%, Lower Shabelle 22%, Middle Shabelle 12%, Hiran region 11%, Gedo region 7%, Bakool region 3%, Middle Juba 2% and Lower Juba 1%.

Maize

Normally maize is a *Gu* season crop, however, when *Deyr* rainfall is good, households in Shabelle and Juba valley regions plant substantial amounts of maize as well. Mixed fields of maize and sesame were grown in Lower and Middle Shabelle and Lower and Middle Juba regions because of the uniform rainfall coverage across southern Somalia.

Approximately 81,000 ha of maize was harvested in the 2002/03 *Deyr* season. About 54% of the maize area is located in districts of Lower Shabelle region. However the following constraints limited production in the area :

- Out-break of 'army worms' in localized areas of southern regions of Somalia.
- Excessive rainfall causing water-logging in low-lying maize fields.
- Low maize price discouraged irrigation farmers who opted for cash crops (sesame and vegetables) in Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba.
- River fluctuation caused problems for farmers in irrigated areas of the eastern parts of the down streams of Lower Shabelle and coastal areas. Coastal rainfall was erratic and poorly distributed.

In spite of the above constraints, the 2002/03 *Deyr* maize production is the best ever experienced in southern Somalia, with the total production estimated at 71,990 Mt, 69% higher than the post-war *Deyr* average. (1995-2001)

Regional contributions to the production of maize in southern Somalia are as follows:- Lower Shabelle 60%, Middle Shabelle 28%, Hiran 5%, Middle Juba 2%, Gedo 3%, Lower Juba 2% and Bakool 1%.

Deyr 2002/03 Harvest Production (MT) with comparisons to 2001 and Pre and Post War Average

Regions	Deyr 2002			% Change in Production		
	Sorghum	Maize	Sorghum + Maize	Deyr 2001	Post-War	Pre-War
Bakool	2,915	611	3,526	+81%	+200%	+92%
Bay	39,150	0	39,150	+3%	+54%	+142%
Gedo	6,620	1,797	8,417	+123%	+130%	+62%
Hiran	9,900	3,600	13,500	+17%	+97%	+92%
L/Juba	210	1,055	1,265	+14%	-42%	-78%
L/Shabelle	20,700	42,860	63,560	+8%	+77%	+70%
M/Juba	2,160	1,565	3,725	+6%	-13%	-29%
M/Shabelle	10,981	20,500	31,481	+45%	+180%	+108%
TOTAL	92,636	71,988	164,624	+17%	+81%	+76%

Cereal Production in 2002/03 (Gu and Deyr)

The 2002/03 *Gu* and *Deyr* seasons were exceptional in terms of cereal (sorghum and maize) production. Uniform distribution of plentiful rainfall was the main factor attributed to the enhanced production.

The 2002 cereal production (*Gu and Deyr*) is estimated at 373,553 Mt. This is 51% higher than the combined cereal production of the *Gu and Deyr* average (252,845 Mt) in the post war period (1995-2001).

Moreover, the percentage distribution of cereal in the year 2002/03 is 55% for the *Gu* and 45% for *Deyr*. Thus the 2002/03 (*Gu and Deyr*) year is the best year ever in terms of cereal production in post-war period.

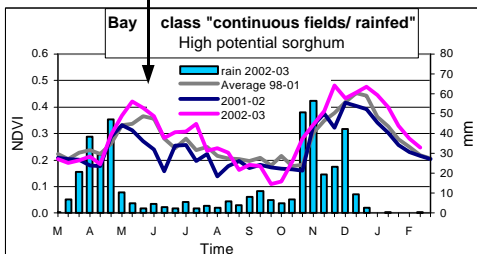
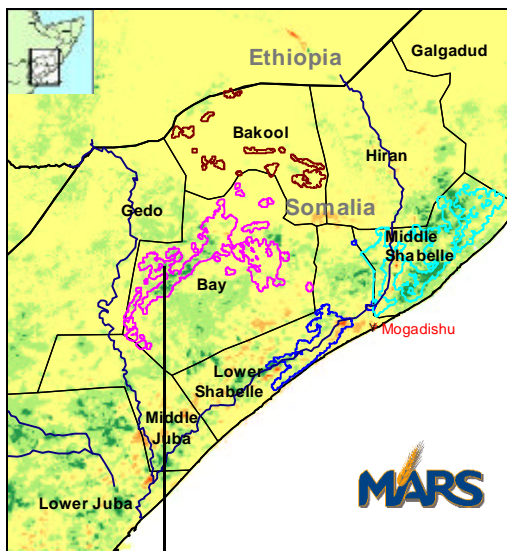
With reference to the table above, the high production of sesame in

the middle and lower Juba valley, which is a cash crop—and which prevailed over maize in the *Deyr* season explains the negative figure for cereals in these two areas as compared to the pre and post war average. The price of sesame seeds may increase in the next three months with expected high demand. Sesame seed is sold in the range of Ssh.10-12000/Kg at the markets.

Access to food through labour increased for the poor riverine households during the *Deyr* season and through sale of livestock products for the agro-pastoralists of southern Somalia. Sale of fodder is another source of income for the poor in riverine areas and in the Shabelle and Juba valley regions.

For more information on the *Deyr* 2003 Assessment—please contact FSAU Field Team Manager—Yusuf Mohamoud : yusuf@fsau.or.ke.

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)
Period: 1-10 February 2003



Crop monitoring Remote Sensing Data from the Joint Research Centre MARS Unit based on remote sensing and weather model data

The European Joint Research Council Centre (JRC) has a project called MARS (Monitoring Agriculture with Remote Sensing), which produces (since the end of 2001) a bulletin every ten days on the main crop-producing areas of Somalia.

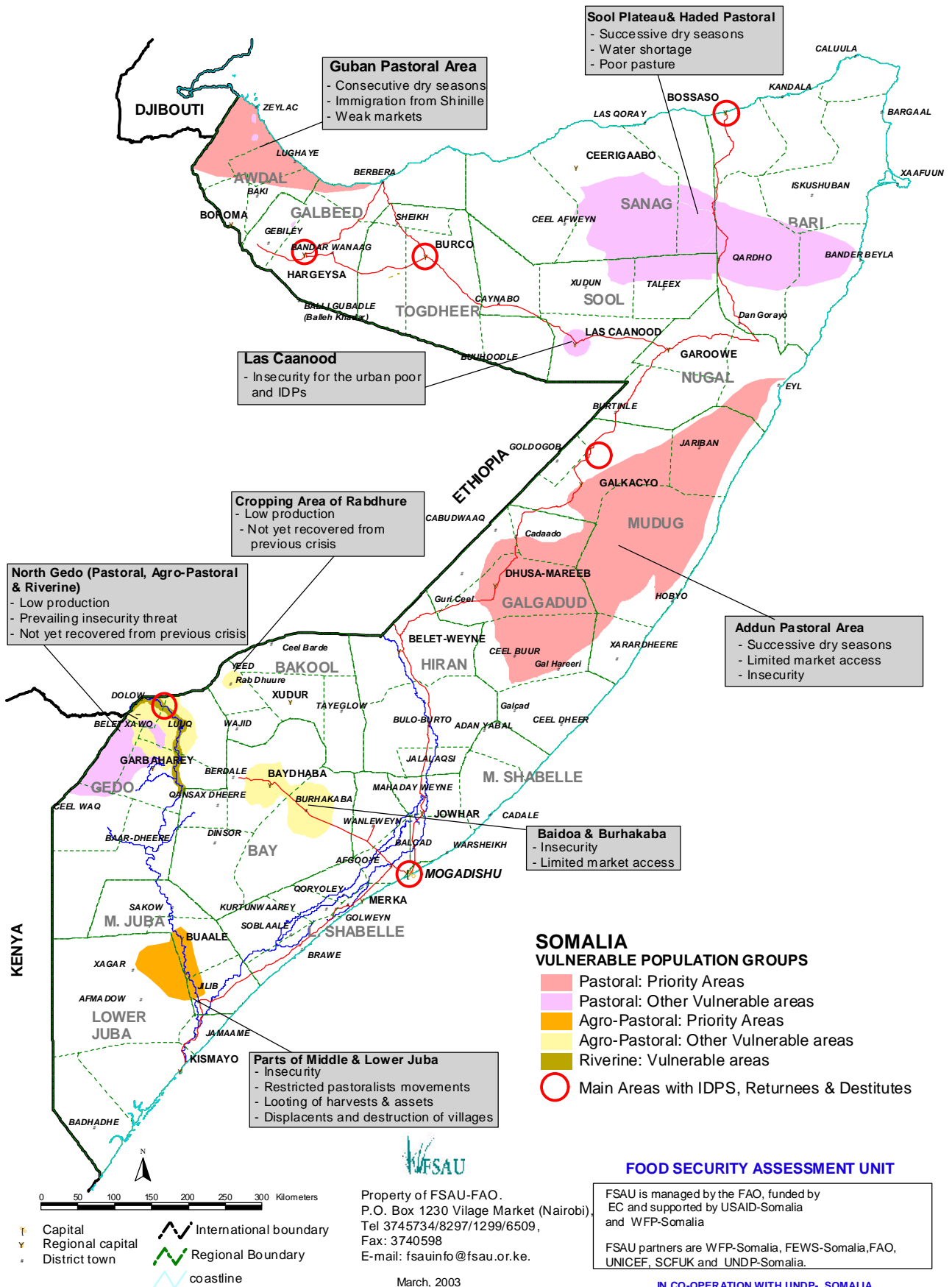
The bulletin contains :

- A rainfall map for the preceding dekad.
- An NDVI map for the dekad. See vegetation map opposite.
- A series of four graphs showing temporal NDVI's for certain agricultural AFRICOVER land classes. (One of the graphs, for the land cover class in Bay Region "continuous fields/rain-fed", has also been reproduced below the map)

The land cover classes correspond closely to identified food economy zones, making this data useful for FSAU crop and food security analysis. The map and the graphs in the latest Joint Research Centre Mars Unit bulletin show a fairly high vegetation index for the whole *Deyr* season, compared to last year and the average, supporting the field assessments (above) which indicate a good *Deyr* crop yield.

More details, including other temporal graphs of NDVI and rainfall data for the last year, can be obtained by downloading the latest Somalia Bulletins from: <ftp://mars.jrc.it/bulletin/somalia>. The MARS/JRC website produces bulletins on the monitoring of agricultural vegetation for Somalia as well as for the whole of Eastern Africa using the SPOT VGT vegetation index, Africover and Global Meteorological Modelling. For more information, see the MARS/JRC website: <http://marsunit.jrc.it/africa>. FSAU will assist any interested parties with contacting this group.

Vulnerability Map following Deyr Assessment 2003



An FSAU Awdal Situation Analysis focusing on Livestock in the Region

The FSAU Livestock Consultant and accompanying FSAU assessment team visited Awdal between 19 – 24 February 2003. Following discussions with the Issa (from Ethiopia) and Gadabursi (local inhabitants) livestock owners and local leaders in Gerissa, Xariradd, Jidhi, Karuure, Ceel Gal, Zeyla, Lughaye, Kalalwe and Osooli, the assessment team concluded the following :

- An estimated 5,000-7,000 Issa households have migrated into the Awdal region from Shinile and other parts of Ethiopia Region V.
- Local livestock (mainly camels and small stock) belonging to the Gadabursi are in good condition and some have calved/kidded/lambled and are providing milk.
- Some of the Issa have come with families, but many are just young and old men with the cattle.
- A few Issa households have moved with camels and smallstock, but most have moved only with cattle.
- Some Issa claim to have lost 50% of their cattle whilst migrating and their cattle are extremely thin and in poor condition.

At the end of December/January the area received scattered late *hais* rains, heavy enough to bring into leaf the browse plant species and perennial grasses but not enough to generate significant growth of annual grasses. Forage conditions for browsers are generally fair to good; grazing for cattle is poor and will be exhausted by middle to late March. Browse will last for another 4-6 weeks. It is unlikely that more rain will fall in the Guban coastal belt in which case the local residents will take their normal migration route to the highlands (Baki district). The Issa from Ethiopia may have to follow this route too, but it would be a new precedent as they would normally return to Ethiopia as the rains are expected there in March/April.

Since February conditions have likely improved for those with goats and camels – mainly the local Gadabursi and a few of the Issa from Ethiopia. Conditions will have deteriorated for the cattle owners – mainly the Issa cattle owners from Ethiopia.

If rains fail in Ethiopia in March then the Issa will be in an extremely precarious situation that will quickly destroy their livelihoods unless external interventions are provided. If March rains fail in the highlands of Somaliland then the Gadabursi will also suffer but they may be able to move into Ethiopia depending on rains there.

The FSAU assessment team also found that competition for grazing between species is not too serious at the moment as most Issa came with cattle and not camels or smallstock, while local Gadabursi are mainly camel and smallstock owners. The Issa migrants are finding it hard to access credit as they are not well known in the area and guns are being used as collateral or as a guarantee with traders. Remittances increased but are stretched to maximum.

Suggested Livestock orientated interventions for further discussion

Intervention One : Emergency destocking of droughted stock aimed at both Issa cattle and Gadabursi smallstock (and possibly cull males)

Aim: To reduce livestock numbers whilst providing food to the malnourished and those at risk.

Method : Exchange cereals, rice or pasta for livestock at a two-tier exchange rate for good and poor condition livestock. Slaughter livestock and distribute fresh meat or *nyirinyiri* (dried and deep fried meat) to most needy.

Intervention Two : Negotiate access for the Issa (and lesser extent Gadabursi) cattle to Bown area (and if necessary other areas if drought continues)

Aim: Enable droughted Issa cattle to reach drought fodder reserves of prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* spp) that is abundant in the Bown Valley.

Method : Negotiate with Bown area farmers and pastoralists for Issa cattle to access prickly pear fields.

Intervention Three : Provide emergency livestock health intervention to Issa cattle

Aim: Improve utilisation of limited fodder available by providing anthelmintic drench and acaricides treatments to cattle and pack camels.

Method : CAHWs treat all surviving cattle and load camels with anthelmintic drench and acaricide (using backpack sprayers or pour-ons)

Intervention Four : Emergency repair of malfunctioning bore holes at Karuure and Kalawle.

Aim: Improve distribution of cattle and reduce trekking stress to waterpoints by repairing existing but broken boreholes in grazing areas.

Method : Mechanical repairs undertaken.

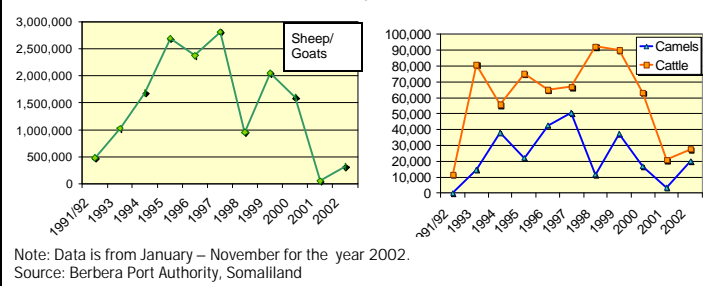
For more information on considerations, constraints and possible alternatives to the above interventions—please contact FSAU livestock Consultant : Piers.Simpkin@fsau.or.ke

The Socio-economic Implications of the Livestock Ban in Somaliland. A Summary of the FEWS NET Consultancy Report

Livestock trade has traditionally played a major role in Somaliland's economy and culture, sustaining income and employment levels, and increasing foreign exchange earnings. Prior to the ban, for example in 1997, 2.8 million head of live animals were exported from Berbera port, the largest number of animals exported from a single port in the world that year— and the export value of the market for 1997 was valued at US\$120 million. In these times exports accounted for approx. 30% of Somaliland's revenue. The livestock import embargo imposed in September 2000 by the Gulf states was the second embargo that Somaliland had faced in five years, so by late 2002, and more than two years into the latest ban, Somaliland was feeling the drastic effect of lost millions of potential dollars from livestock sales but also the loss of thousands of dollars in potential export and import levies, crucial to the economy. The import trade at Berbera is thought to be closely linked as livestock export earnings pay for imports. The main objective of this FEWS NET study was to assess the impact of the livestock ban and examine its socio-economic implications since its imposition in September 2000. 80% of Somaliland's

inhabitants are pastoralists and there have been serious consequences for them which are examined in the report. Somaliland's dependence on a single regional market for its livestock exports is a severe liability. There is also currently serious pressure on Somaliland's rangelands due to increased number of animals, in the past money was invested in rangelands to conserve them, this money which came via the export trade is no longer available. Shippers and traders have been forced out of the market and to diversify business—there has been a noticeable increase in milk marketing in urban areas. Contact mawdahir@fews.net for the FEWS NET report.

Figure 2: Post Civil War Trends in Livestock Exports from Berbera Port : 1991 – 2002 (Number per Year)



REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONITORS

Every month, the 22 FSAU Field Monitors provide in depth information on food security indicators in their areas. If you would like to obtain a copy of their district reports - please contact alex.williams@fsau.or.ke. The Regional highlights are a summary of this field information.

NORTH WEST & AWDAL

See also page 1 highlight and page 6 of this report. Usually February is dry but unusual rainfall fell at the end of February in Borama district, good rains also fell in the west of Jidhi and Asho Addo in Zeila district and Bulhar in Berbera district. Water availability is normal for the time of year. Pasture is beginning to dry out particularly in the Hawd and the agro-pastoral areas of the region. Poor situation in the Hawd caused livestock to move to the coast and sub-coastal areas, Gebiley agro-pastoral areas and Hawd of Togdheer and Zone V of Ethiopia. The recent rain has confused farmers in the agro-pastoral community about when best to plant. Terms of trade for pastoralists are currently good and the labour rate remains the same. Berbera port experienced a busy start to the month with shoats going to Saudi, camels to Egypt and cattle to UAE. Due to *Jilaal* season, the production and sale of charcoal has increased and helping bring income to poorer households; the restriction on trade between Somaliland and Ethiopia has also increased this activity which is likely to negatively impact the environment.

BARI REGION—Bossaso

In the Dharoor food economy zone the situation is normal for *Jilaal*. The effects of the dry season has negatively affected water and pasture availability and also livestock production. The watering cycle of animals is progressively increasing while the availability of pasture remains normal. In the Coastal food economy group the food security situation is normal. The access to food for different wealth groups is stable and normal with the exception of a few households in IDP camps of Bossaso town due to limited coping options. According to the Bossaso market data the price of both local and imported cereals has gone down compared to last month due to an increase in supply while livestock prices have gone up in the Haj period. Although there has been a decrease in the value of the somali shilling, no changes have been observed so far in market activities. There have infact been some improvements in the livelihoods of the coastal population particularly Bossaso inhabitants due to : increase activities related to livestock trade, continual decrease in price of local and imported cereals and sugar due to above normal supply, availability of relief maize. In the Sool food economy group the situation is normal. Income from livestock sales has extensively improved. However the pastoralists are compensating for their loss of income by selling milk instead of consuming or selling extra shoats. Water availability and accessibility is normal and the price of one drum of water varies from Ssh 5,000 to 10,000 and is normal for the season.

SOUTH NUGAL & NORTH MUDUG

In the Hawd food economy zone the situation is normal except for 25-30% of the poor pastoralist households in the eastern parts of the Food economy zone who are in a state of alert and who are going to find it extremely difficult to access food and cope in the coming weeks. Most of these people have benefitted from increased food gifts during the Haj and Idd festivals and are coping by finding labour and self-employment opportunities. They have also changed their eating habits, reducing the number of meals and switching to eating cereals. The food security situation in Addun Food economy group is normal but the poor wealth groups in the middle of the remote areas remain in a state of alert. The price of water has increased 20-30% in some drought affected areas. The worst affected poor households in western Addun are starting to move in-land to villages and, others are sending their children to relatives to reduce household expenditure. If the Gu rains arrive on time the food security situation will improve although good camel calving rate is not expected due to poor conception rate in last *Gu* season. The FSAU believes that 15% of the poor population will be extremely vulnerable if the *Gu* rains do not start on time.

NORTH NUGAL & SOUTH BARI

In the Hawd, Sool and Iyah Food Economy Zone the food security situation is satisfactory. In general livestock prices are high and cereal prices are low. More goats will be kidding in March/April, therefore an increase in milk production is expected. The Coastal (Deeh) food economy group is relatively food secure with a bumper season of lobsters harvested. The Nugal food economy group is fortunate in that it has a plentiful supply of natural water which is readily available and accessible to everyone, therefore the cost of water in *Jilaal* is not an issue. (This is not the case for pastoralists in the Hawd, Sool and Iyah Fez's) However the Nugal valley did not receive *Deyr* rains so livestock migrated to neighbouring areas. The poor pastoralist households left behind in the Nugal valley have experienced difficulty and some of their animals are wasting and deaths are expected, especially in the young, old and sick animals. Conception and birthing rates of animals is much lower in this group as compared to others. The urban food economy group in this region has been affected by the high price of milk and meat, the price of milk rising from 6,000-9,000 Ssh to 10,000-13,000 Ssh.

SANAG & TOGHDEER

The food security situation is satisfactory apart from the Sool plateau. Good rains however fell in the Golis Guban food economy zone which offset the negative impact of the *Jilaal* season. In Sool plateau water trucking has already started in remote areas and water prices are very high. The price of a barrel of water is \$US 2 as opposed to \$US 1.50 for February at the same time last year. There is an acute water shortage in Armale village due to problems with the borehole. In both Sanag and Togdheer livestock prices have fallen by 20%-30% compared to last month since the peak period of livestock trade for the Haj is over. In Burco town, poorer households and urban dwellers are switching from buying rice to purchasing local cereals (maize and sorghum) as the price is low.

SOOL

The harsh *Jilaal* weather is prevailing and the food security situation of the region varies within the different food economy zones and wealth groups. Unlike previous *Jilaal* seasons however, water availability and accessibility for most of the pastoral households is fairly good. Livestock body condition is normal considering the stress of the dry season. Pockets of Taleh district and the entire Sool Plateau are exceptional, as food security situation has been declining due to successive poor rains; water shortages and poor pasture conditions. In Hawd, the distance between watering points and the rangelands is getting wider, forcing pastoralists and their livestock to walk long distances. This will also make labor more intensive and reduce milk productivity. Poor urban and peri-urban populations in Lasanod, and other major towns in the region are facing food shortages due to declining labor availability and associated income losses mainly due to insecurity. Staple food prices have increased quite dramatically. For instance, compared to last month, the price of local sorghum and imported rice has increased in Lasanod market by 8% and 5% respectively, however terms of trade are still favorable for pastoralists. One local quality goat can be exchanged for one 50kg bag of rice while 1 litre of fresh camel milk can fetch 1.5kg of rice.

LIVESTOCK EXPORT TABLE FEBRUARY 2003

Bosasso *	November	December	January	February
Camel	765	1,300	50	650
Cattle	3,433	3,773	5,820	3,236
Shoats	160,245	100,154	209,030	118,070
Total	164,443	105,227	214,900	121,956
Berbera **				
Camel	3,627	450	2,947	2,156
Cattle	5,519	8,800	10,174	5,003
Shoats	62,549	40,396	123,089	61,046
Total	71,695	49,646	136,211	68,205

Source *: Bosasso Port Authority

** : Berbera Port Authority

REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONITORS

JUBA VALLEY

The harsh *Jilal* season is in progress and has negatively affected the availability of water and pasture in grazing areas. Water shortages have forced pastoralists to move to the few functioning boreholes and hand dug wells in Afmadow and Doble. Livestock concentration in those areas is very high, overstretching resources and increasing prevalence of livestock diseases. Clan conflict in the Middle Juba region and other desheks, (low lying flood lands) south of Buale town have prevented pastoralists in the region and their livestock migrating to traditional dry-seasonal grazing areas around the river where water and pasture are plenty. This has reduced livestock productivity in general and increased the mortality rate among weak animals. The insecurity has also affected the pastoralists in Hager who, during the dry season, normally migrate towards riverine areas. In the rest of the valley, food security is normal as the price of staple commodities has reduced substantially. In Afmadow and Hager, *deyr crop performance was poor*. Pastoralists terms of trade is good. Due to high seasonal demand for cattle in Garissa (Kenya) and shoats and camel in local markets, prices of local quality animals have increased significantly improving purchasing power.

HIRAN

Deyr rainfall was above normal and the food security situation is improving for all food economy groups in the region. *Deyr* crop harvest yields were good. This is the best crop yield for the *Deyr* in five years. Good rains have meant that pasture and grazing are available for pastoral and agro-pastoral open grazing. However in riverine areas pasture has depleted as it received less rains than other areas and suffers from permanent grazing which causes over grazing. For poorer households there are agricultural and self-employment opportunities.

BAKOL

Agro-pastoralists in the region have finalized their good harvest although some pockets in Rabdure and Huddur (south western villages) have experienced poorer production. In the latter villages few households rear livestock, so they have fewer income options. The level of household cereal stocks in general is good. There are seasonal water shortages in some villages of Rabdure (Burdhuhulle) and Huddur. People have been observed moving their livestock to nearest sustainable water point. Livestock in Wajid that use to move to Baidoa has not done so due to conflict. Cereal movement into Ethiopia through Elberede is reported to be slow due to low demand from neighbouring Ethiopia and yet no food aid supply was reported in the areas neighbouring this region. Staple and non-staple food is available in markets, demand, supply and accessibility is normal. The price of milk continues to be high, 5,000-8,000 Ssh – price varies depending on livestock proximity to markets, low milk production, livestock being far away from markets.

BAY

Deyr rains improved pasture and grazing conditions in the region. Water availability is satisfactory in all districts except Baidoa town which has experienced problems due to a drop in the water table. Milk prices in Baidoa have increased due to insecurity and animals being taken away from the town. A litre of camel milk was Ssh6,000 but is now Ssh10,000. Agricultural job opportunities have lessened this month, the only activities being storing harvested grain. Self employment opportunities have increased in Baidoa town where water selling is the main activity for the poor wealth group and other activities such as firewood collection, making charcoal, cereal selling and milk selling are also available. Staple food prices have decreased by 33 per cent as compared to last month.

LOWER SHABELLE

The *Deyr* season was good with plenty of rain for crops and animals. Most middle and better off wealth groups have enough cereal stocks at household level that will last beyond the upcoming *Gu* season. Agricultural jobs are available (harvesting of sesame, tomatoes and watermelon- as well as threshing) providing income opportunities for poorer households. Localized conflict in Qoridley and Kurtun-warey districts has caused the displacement of some farmers who have lost their *Deyr* crop. As usual, there have been no rains during the *Jilal*. Water availability is normal, although localized rain-fed areas are experiencing water scarcity. The Shabelle river level has dropped to a very low level causing water shortages in riverine areas. The overall livestock condition is appearing good with normal milk and meat production. Animals are fetching a good price in local markets. The local sorghum price has decreased by 11 per cent from last month due to good supply. The price of goats has increased by 9 per cent –this is likely to be a result of the Hajj period.

MIDDLE SHABELLE

The situation is usual for the middle of the *Jilal* season. Maize and sorghum harvests have been finalized while the sesame harvest is progressing. Land preparation for the *Gu* is underway in some areas. Jowhar market is well supplied with both locally produced and imported commodities. Consequently the retail price of maize and sorghum decreased by 10 per cent and 30 per cent respectively while cowpea price increased by 13 per cent due to low supply and high demand from other regions. The price of sesame had dropped drastically due to over supply (from the rain-fed areas) as a result of good *Deyr* rains. Household stocks remain good in both irrigated and rain fed areas remain good with the exception of Gashanle village whose stocks were destroyed by fire. Despite prevailing dry weather, water availability is good. Pasture is drying out a little quicker than usual, however, cattle herders have been able to benefit from the crop residues left in the fields.

GEDO

See the analysis from the Gedo assessment report on page 5. The good *Deyr* rains mean that water availability is good which is unusual for the *Jilal* season and the cost of water is much less than normal for this season. In general there is pasture availability and the livestock condition is good—some pastures are showing signs of drying up causing internal movement of livestock within the region. (This internal movement last happened in the region four years ago) Good cereal production in Bardera and Burdhubo has meant good food availability. Livestock are fetching a good price and terms of trade for pastoralists are good.

COWPEA BELT

The cowpea belt districts (Adenyabal, Adale, Elder, Galhareri, Harardere and Hobio) are experiencing the usual decline in water and pasture associated with the *Jilal* season. Household cereal stocks are available to the middle and better off wealth groups. There is a shortage of household stock in the areas around Adale to Warsnik. The livestock condition is satisfactory but as the *Jilal* proceeds a decline in milk and meat production is likely to be observed. The price of milk has risen from 4,000 to 5,500 Ssh and livestock prices have increased from 270,000-450,000 Ssh probably because of the Hajj period. Common coping strategies during the harsh *Jilal* season include selling livestock and bush products. (Building sticks, firewoods, charcoal and grasses). The consumption of wild food at this time of year is very low except for some coastal fishing, wild hunting and the collection of bush fruits, gums and resins.

GALGADUD

The north east and north west of the region is currently experiencing below normal water availability, poor pasture conditions, long distances between water points and grazing areas and reduced livestock production and sales. This is a result of insufficient rains for the last two wet seasons. The southern regions are however experiencing conditions which are considered normal for *Jilal*. In the north, animals are concentrated near water points and in some cases water trucking has started already. Livestock body condition is beginning to deteriorate. Some animals have moved towards Ethiopia (which is normal during *Jilal*) in search of better pasture and water. The price fetched for shoats has been good due to good demand in Mogadishu and the Hajj. Milk production has started to decline throughout the region as the pasture decreases which is common in *Jilal* – milk prices have also risen. Poor pastoral households are expanding their coping strategies by collecting firewood, charcoal burning, salt collection. Food accessibility in local markets is good but accessibility to food for poorer pastoral groups is difficult. There is an inflow of maize from Ethiopia (which is thought to be food aid) through Galkayo in Dhusa Mared and A/dado markets.