

# Food Security & Nutrition

Issued April 29, 2013

Quarterly Brief - Focus on *Gu* 2013 Season Early Warning

Climate

Markets

Nutrition

Agriculture

Livestock

Civil  
Insecurity

Emerging  
Regional  
Issues

## KEY ISSUES

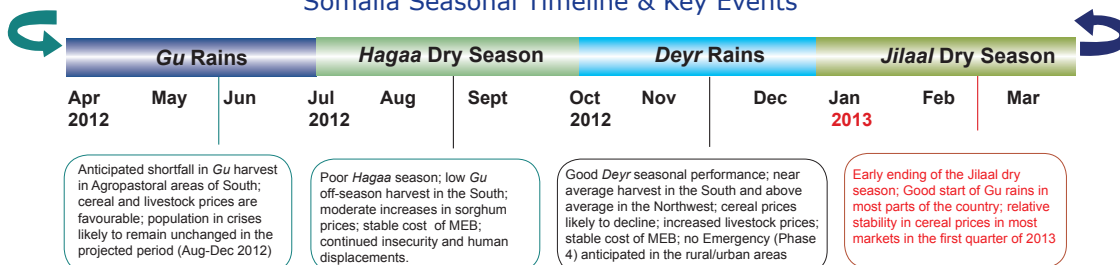
In Somalia, the number of people in acute food insecurity has halved to almost one million (IPC phases 3 and 4) between August 2012 and February 2013. The food security situation in all livelihood zones of Somalia will remain unchanged through June 2013. This is mostly due to milder than usual impact of the January to March *Jilaal* dry season on livelihoods resulting from the overall good October to December *Deyr* rains as well as the early start of the April to June *Gu* long rainy season.

- The early onset of the *Gu* rainy season in mid-March prompted early planting and increased farm labour opportunities for the poor population in most agricultural livelihood zones of Somalia. Intense *Gu* rains have caused flooding in the South and in parts of the North, bringing some damage to crops and resulting in temporary population displacement in some areas.
- Poor households in most agricultural livelihood zones of South-Central have already exhausted their cereal stocks and will rely on market purchases until the next *Gu* harvest from July to August. Exceptions are livelihood zones in the major crop producing regions of southern Somalia, including Bay (High Potential) and Lower Shabelle (riverine and agropastoral in Wanlaweyn and Balad Districts) where cereal stocks of the poor are expected to last until June or July. Recent climate forecasts suggest a mostly average long rainy season, which will facilitate normal proceeding of the farming season. This should lead to access to labor opportunities in major farming areas.
- Local cereal prices remained relatively stable or decreased slightly in most parts of southern Somalia with good cereal availability from recent *Deyr* harvest, some supplies from limited off-season crop collected recently in Gedo riverine livelihood zone, and continued humanitarian assistance.
- In the pastoral livelihoods, where the last *Deyr* rains performed poorly, the natural water sources had dried up by the middle of the *Jilaal* season (page 4). However, the good start of the *Gu* rains alleviated water shortages and brought considerable relief to the pastoral livelihoods. Regeneration of pasture will positively impact the milk yield of livestock and will contribute to increased milk supplies also expected from reproduction of livestock in June and July, particularly in the North.
- In the first quarter of the year, the minimum cost of living remained relatively stable in most areas when measured in local currency terms, driven mostly by relative stability of cereal prices and a slight to moderate decline in imported good prices; the latter is largely a result of continued appreciation of the Somali currency. The stability of food prices is also reflected in stable terms of trade between casual labour (a major income source of the poor) and cereals. This trend is favourable for urban livelihoods where the population heavily depends on market purchases of food. However, reportedly in many areas the U.S. dollar is increasingly becoming the main media of exchange due to the dwindling supplies of local paper currency notes.
- According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report, about 12,000 Somali refugees, mostly from Kenya and Ethiopia, returned to Somalia in the current year. Internal displacement due to insecurity has declined compared to the last quarter of 2012. However, humanitarian access still remains a challenge in most parts of South and Central.
- Between January to March 2013, data from health facilities indicate fluctuating trends in the number of acutely malnourished children admitted to health facilities in southern Somalia; stable to decreasing trends in the Northwest and generally stable trends in the Northeast and Central. The highest percent (>45%) of acutely malnourished children under-five admitted in the monitored health facilities is recorded in Bakool region.
- Humanitarian assistance, geared towards treatment of malnourished children, improved food access, social safety nets and livelihood support is needed until the next *Gu* harvest in July-August.

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## Somalia Seasonal Timeline & Key Events



## SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

### CLIMATE

#### Rainfall Performance

The 2013 January to March *Jilaal* dry season was drier than normal with high land temperatures reported from most parts of the country. However, the good performance of the preceding *Deyr* season, followed by an early onset of *Gu* rains in late March have effectively cut short the dry season and lessened the stresses of the *Jilaal* season, especially for the pastoral population of the country. The short lived dry *Jilaal* season was more prominent in northern livelihood zones of the Sool Plateau, the Nugal Valley, and Golis-Guban Pastoral livelihood zone where the recent October to December *Deyr* and December to February *Hays* rains performed poorly. This had resulted in depletion of rangeland resources including pasture and water.

However, between late-March and early April, normal to above normal rains with an average distribution fell in most parts of the country. In the same period, localized light rains were received in the Gebi Valley and Sool Plateau in Sanag Region. Based on the regional consensus climate forecast issued in February 2013<sup>1</sup> there was a likelihood of near normal (45% probability) to below normal (35% probability) March to May *Gu* rains with late onset and erratic distribution across Somalia. However, the most recent European Centre for Medium Weather Forecast (ECMWF) rainfall forecast for May to July points towards near average rainfall performance. The Climate Prediction Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA-CPC) rainfall forecast valid up to 29th April 2013 indicates continued moderate to heavy rains across southern regions and in the Northwest, as well as in the Shabelle and Juba basins in Ethiopia; in Northeast and Central, the rains are forecasted to be light to moderate.

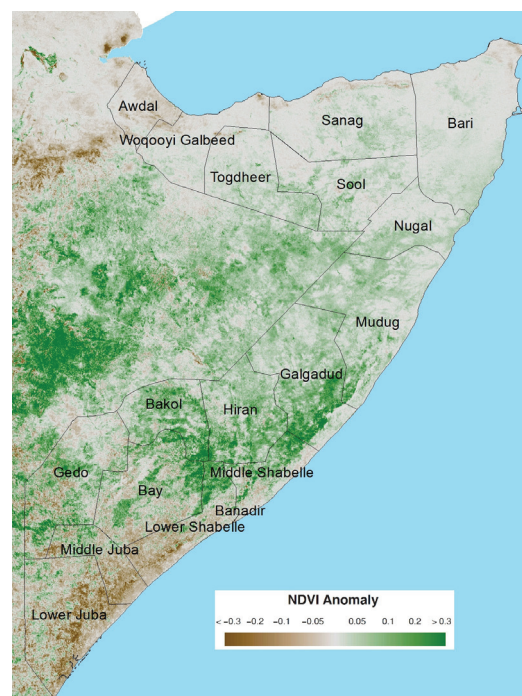
#### Floods

Large increases in river levels have been reported in April in the Shabelle and Juba Rivers following heavy rains both in the Ethiopian highlands and locally. This caused seasonal floods along farms in the lower reaches of the two rivers especially in Jowhar District in Middle Shabelle and Kurtunwarey District in Lower Shabelle. Weak river embankments and failed flood control structures are the main contributing factors for river flooding. The above average rains in Somalia have also resulted in flash floods in Wanlaweyn in late March and in Baidoa, Qansax Dheere, and Bardhera Districts in April. Flash floods also occurred in some districts in the Northwest in late March (Hudun in Sool and Sanaag) and mid-April (Burao). Flood-related displacements have been reported in Jowhar, Baidoa, and Wanlaweyn districts in the South. As of end-April (26/04), the river levels at Jowhar in Middle Shabelle were still at flood alert levels.

#### Vegetation Conditions

In view of recent and ongoing *Gu* rains, vegetation including pasture and browse are expected to regenerate and gradually improve. This is supported by satellite derived Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for early April which indicates positive vegetation conditions in most parts of the country (Map 1). Exceptions are the coastal areas of the Jubas and Shabelles where significant decreases in NDVI from the Long Term Mean (LTM) are depicted. However, these areas as well as adjacent inland areas typically receive *Hagaa* rains in July and August.

Map 1. NDVI Anomaly April 11-20, 2013



Source: E-Modis



Floods in Wanlaweyn Town, Lower Shabelle.  
FSNAU, April 2013

<sup>1</sup> IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) released the forecast for the *Gu* rains in February 2013.

## CIVIL INSECURITY

### Events

During the first quarter of 2013, incidences of violence such as car bomb explosions and targeted killings of government officials and media workers continued in the southern regions. Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) field reports suggest continued conflict between the Somali Federal Government (SFG), supported by African Mission for Somalia (AMISOM), and anti-government militias (including Al-Shabab), in parts of the South. In March, the anti-government militias regained control over Huddur town (Bakool), while the Somali government took over Burhakaba town (Bay). In the rural areas, sporadic inter-clan clashes and killings occurred in Elbur and Dhusamareb Districts.

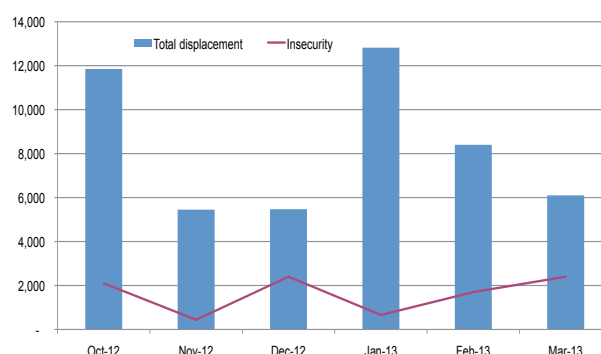
### Impacts

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that 17 percent (27,320 people) of all population movements in the first quarter of 2013 was due to insecurity. Other reasons include cross-border movement (52%), eviction from public/government buildings (12%), and loss of livelihood (9%). Mostly, the movements occurred from and within regions of Banadir, Lower Juba, Bakool, Hiran, and Gedo. However, insecurity-related movements have declined (22%) compared to the 4th quarter of 2012 due to relatively improved security situation in South-Central Somalia (Figure 1). UNHCR also reported about 12,000 returnees, mostly from Kenya and Ethiopia, to Somalia (source: United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs [UN-OCHA] *Humanitarian Bulletin*, Feb 2013).

The insecurity continued to affect trade and market activities, as well as the delivery of humanitarian assistance in South-Central Somalia. According to FSNAU field reports, conflict disrupted movement of food and of other basic commodities in most parts of the southern regions. Also, according to field reports, militia groups in the Central regions increased number of checkpoints on the Galkayo-Gelinsoor trade route, which affected commercial transport movement and supply of commodities into southern Mudug region. Insecurity also continues to disrupt delivery of aid to the affected population in most parts of South-Central. According to UN-OCHA's Humanitarian Bulletin (Feb' 13), humanitarian access remained a challenge in most parts of southern and central Somalia.

The conflict between the federal government and the opposing militias is likely to continue in South-Central Somalia. FSNAU will continue monitoring impact of the conflict on food security situation in Somalia.

Figure 1: 2012 Monthly Internal Displacement Trends



## AGRICULTURE

In late March 2013, FSNAU undertook a rapid assessment to assess the *Jilaal* dry season impact on livelihoods in Somalia. *Gu* season crop planting activities (land tillage, sowing, irrigation, etc.), and off-season cereal crop harvest in Gedo region. According to assessment results, an estimated 550 MT of off-season maize was harvested in the riverine livelihood zone of Gedo region in late February-early March 2013 (Table 1). This is the second lowest off-season crop harvest in southern Somalia since 2004, which is attributable to lack of floods during the recent *Deyr* rainy season to prompt recessionary cultivation in Juba regions, normally the largest producer of *Deyr* off-season cereals.

Table 1: *Deyr* 2012/13 Off-Season Production Estimates

Gedo Region	March 2012/13 Off-Season Production Estimates (Mt)		
	Maize planted areas/Ha	Maize harvested areas/Ha	Production
Baardheere	300	270	200
Garbohaarey	250	240	200
Luuq	130	120	100
Doolow	60	50	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>550</b>

*Gu* farming activities have accelerated since the early start of the long rainy season in late March 2013. Gradual planting and seed germination is progressing in most of the South, the Cowpea Belt of Central and agropastoral livelihoods of Northwest. However, planting started with some delay in maize agropastoral livelihood zone of Lower



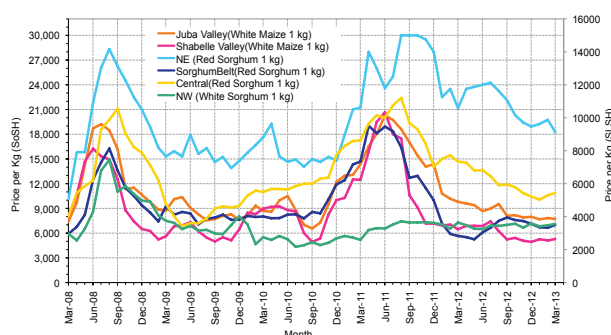
Shabelle and Lower Juba Agropastoral livelihood zone in Jamaame district due to delayed *Gu* rains. Reportedly, recent localized floods in the middle and lower reaches of the Shabelle regions (Jowhar and Kurtunwarey districts) caused inundation of crop fields, damaging harvested sesame in Kurtunwarey district and newly germinated maize seedlings in Jowhar district. Increased farming activities created farm labour opportunities for poor households in the South and the Northwest. As a result, daily labor wage rates increased sharply (23-32%) in March 2013 compared to the previous month, in most regions of the South. The rates of increase are less significant in the regions of Lower Shabelle, Gedo, and Hiran where labour opportunities are available throughout the year due to continuous cash crop (banana, onions, etc.) farming activities.

Cereal availability has improved in most markets nation-wide due to increased supplies from good *Deyr* 2012/13 harvest, *Deyr* off-season harvest, commercial imports, and humanitarian assistance. Between January and March 2013, maize prices remained stable in the riverine markets of Shabelle and Juba. In March 2013, the lowest maize prices (4,000-5,300 SoSh/kg) were recorded in the main producing districts of Lower Shabelle (Qoryoley, Marka and Afgoye), while the highest prices were reported in the remote districts of Afmadow and Dhobley in Lower Juba (10,000 SoSh/kg). On the other hand, sorghum prices have marginally (2-7%) decreased in Bay, Gedo and Northeast in the first quarter of the year. However, trade disruptions due to prevailing insecurity and heavy rains caused cereal price increases in Bakool (3%), Central (7%) and Hiran regions (14%). In the Northwest, sorghum prices have remained stable since January 2013. In March 2013, the lowest nominal sorghum prices were recorded in the major sorghum producing areas of Bay High Potential livelihood and the Wanlaweyn district of Lower Shabelle (1,800-2,700 SoSh/kg) due to good *Deyr* 2012/13 harvest. The highest sorghum prices were in Adanyabal district of Middle Shabelle (35,000 SoSh/kg), which is characterized by limited local production and lack of humanitarian access due to prevailing insecurity in the region.



Tractor ploughing, Beletweyn, Hiran, FSNAU, March 2013

Figure 2: Monthly Trends in Local Cereal Prices



The yearly cereal price comparison (March 2012 to March 2013) indicates decreases in maize prices in the markets of Shabelle (11-23%) and Juba (10-36%) regions. Red sorghum prices decreased in Central (26%) and Northeast (14%), but increased in most regions of the Sorghum Belt, apart from the Bay region, which exhibited a decline (23%). Particularly, very high annual increase (65%) in cereal price is recorded in Bakool region, which is attributable to deteriorated security situation in the region and recapturing of Hudur town by anti-government militias in mid March 2013 (Figure 2).

## LIVESTOCK

### Pasture, Water and Livestock Migration

The impact of the *Jilaal* dry season (Jan-Mar) on pastoral livelihoods of the country was mild due to good *Deyr* 2012/13 seasonal performance and an early onset of the *Gu* 2013 rains. The pasture and water condition in most of the key pastoral and agropastoral areas deteriorated slightly, while the livestock body conditions remained average or near average. Exceptions are Sool Plateau, Nugaal Valley, parts of Guban in the North, Coastal *Deeh* of Lower Shabelle and pockets of Dawa pastoral in southern Somalia, where the *berkads* and the natural water ponds dried up by late February due to lack of precipitation during *Deyr* and *Hays* rainy seasons. Consequently, water trucking started at peak period of the *Jilaal* season, causing increase in water prices. For instance, in February 2013, the price of a 20 litre jerrican of water showed a monthly increase in the rural markets of Sool Plateau Bari region (64%), Nugaal Valley of Sool (57%), Sool Plateau of Sanag (22%) and Dawa Pastoral of Gedo (18%). However, water prices remained stable in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, where water sources have been replenished by the flash floods from the Golis Mountains. The early onset of the *Gu* rains (Mar 2013) alleviated the water shortage resulting in the decline in water prices in the above mentioned areas.

Livestock migration for the most parts was normal with movements confined within or adjacent livelihood zone, with better pasture and water. During the *Jilaal* period, there was a large livestock in-migration to Sool Plateau of Bari region from Nugaal and Sool Plateau of Sanaag region. However, the start of *Gu* rains prompted a return of the out-migrated livestock back to normal wet season grazing areas of their original livelihood zone.

### Livestock Condition, Production and Reproduction

In most of the pastoral and agropastoral livelihood zones across the country, livestock body conditions remained average or near average (Pictorial Evaluation Tool [PET] scores of 3). However, in the livelihood zones where Deyr and Hays rainy seasons performed poorly (see above), the body condition of lactating goats deteriorated to below average (PET score of 2). At the end of *Jilaal* (March) season, kidding and lambing was mostly low in the North-Central but moderate to high in the South. A few cases of livestock deaths and abortion were also reported in the Sool Plateau of Sanaag region. Most of the cattle in the South (a larger cohort) calved in the last *Hagaa* season and are expected to conceive in the current *Gu*. Most of the camels in the South are currently lactating, while some camel calving is also expected during the current *Gu*. Similarly, in the Northwest, a small cohort of cattle is expected to calve in this *Gu* season. Consequently, milk availability is anticipated to gradually increase as the *Gu* season progresses.

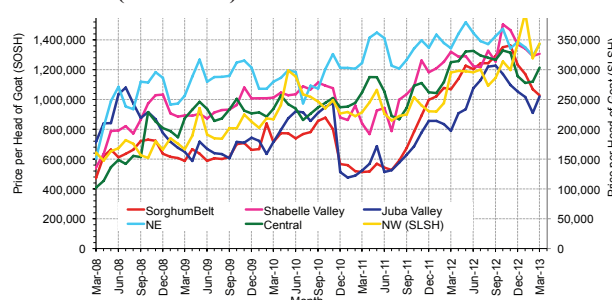


*Out-migrated livestock returning back to Sool Plateau, Sanaag region, FSNAU, March 2013*

### Livestock Trade and Prices

Livestock prices exhibited mixed trends in the first quarter of the year. In January to March 2013, local quality goat prices increased by 9 percent, on average, in the trade basin of Central but declined in Northwest (10%). A yearly price comparison indicates an increase in the Northwest (12%) and relative stability in Northeast and in Central. In southern Somalia, the local quality goat price indicated mixed trends across the regions in the current year but were relatively stable compared to a year ago (Figure 3). The local quality cattle prices showed a declining trend in January to March 2013 in most regions of southern Somalia and the Northwest, with the exception of Middle Shabelle where it increased (10%). A yearly comparison indicates increases across the South and Northwest, with the exception of a few markets in Bay and Gedo regions where the prices have declined. Most notably, cattle prices increased in Bakool region (87%) due to the isolated market and reduced supply owing to insecurity.

**Figure 3: Regional Trends in Local Quality Goat Prices (SoSh/SISH)**



According to official Berbera port data, about 384,772 heads of livestock were exported from Berbera port between January and February 2013. Compared to the same period last year, the livestock exports indicate a seven percent decline due to less inflow of livestock from Ethiopia as a result of increased custom costs introduced by the Ethiopian government along the border with Somalia. Livestock export data was not available from the Bossaso port for the reporting period.

## MARKETS AND TRADE

### Exchange Rate Trends

From January to March 2013 the Somali shilling (SoSh) continued to appreciate against the U.S. dollar (USD). However, the level of appreciation varied between regional markets with Banadir and neighboring Bay, the Shabelle, and the Juba recording gains between 21 and 25 percent in their regional averages. In the central and northeastern markets, the shilling gained only modestly, appreciating between six and nine percent. By March, the retail exchange markets in Banadir Region (Mogadishu), for example, quoted the SoSh at a monthly average of 15,900 per USD, significantly reduced from the January level of 22,275 SoSh per USD. The shilling has experienced gradual appreciation since late 2011 with annual gains representing between an average of 19 and 30 percent in the southern regions and 13 to 17

percent in the central and northeastern regions. The rates have been driven primarily by increasing economic activity in Mogadishu and buoyed by the limited supply of currency notes. The highest rate of appreciation was observed in Mogadishu. Over the same period, the Somaliland shilling (SISh) to USD exchange rate was relatively stable across most markets of the Somaliland shilling-using area. However, the SISh depreciated 10 percent against the USD from March 2012 to March 2013. The depreciation has been attributed to increased injection of new notes circulated by the Somaliland authorities to cover expenses.

### Cereal Imports and Commodity Price Trends

As a result of the gains of the SoSh, prices of imported food items in SoSh terms have declined, accordingly (Figures 4 and 5). In the southern markets, in the Banadir, Shabelle Valley, Juba Valley, and Sorghum Belt trade basins, the average prices of essential imported commodities such as rice, wheat flour, diesel fuel, and imported vegetable oil declined between 8 and 22 percent in the first quarter of 2013. The largest price decrease for imported food items was observed in the Shabelle Valley trade basin, which includes markets in Wanlaweyne, Afgoi, Merka, Qoryoley, Jowhar, and Adan Yabal. In the central and northern Somali shilling-using areas, imported goods' prices remained stable or decreased slightly (6-9 percent) from January to March. The average annual price changes from March 2012 indicate that the prices of these items in Somali shilling terms have fallen between 13 and 30 percent in the central and southern markets. In the Northeast, the declines were more modest between 7 and 14 percent. The decline in prices in Somali shilling terms is primarily on account of the stronger shilling leading to lower imported good prices.

While the shilling gain has led to a decline in the local currency cost of imported items, this has not necessarily increased the purchasing power of many households. This is because of dollarization of the economy with the dollar becoming the primary currency of exchange in many parts of the country. The supply of Somali shilling has remained fixed over the last four years, and existing notes are being pulled out of circulation due to wear and tear, as there is not yet an effective central bank in place to replace them. It is therefore easier to use the U.S. dollar since there are fewer shillings in circulation. In the Somaliland shilling markets of the Northwest, on the other hand, prices of imported food items were relatively stable from January to March as the modest depreciation of the currency appears not to have significantly impacted consumer prices of imported items. However, over the past year, the prices of these imported items have increased moderately, between 10 and 15 percent as result of the modest, annual inflation related, at least in part, to the increased supply of paper SISh currency.

### Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for urban households, measured through the changes in the cost of items in the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), shows stable inflation rates over the first three months of 2013. This reflects the overall stability of the local currency prices of the major commodities that make up the bulk of the consumer basket such as cereals and sugar. However, the CPI has decreased by 24 percent in the Somali shilling-using areas in South-Central Somalia and the Northeast, mainly due to the effects of the stronger Somali Shilling leading to lower local currency costs of imported goods such as sugar, wheat flour, and rice. They remained largely unchanged at relatively lower levels of index in the North's Somaliland shilling using areas (Figure 6).

Figure 4: Trend in Imported Rice Prices (SoSh/SLSh)

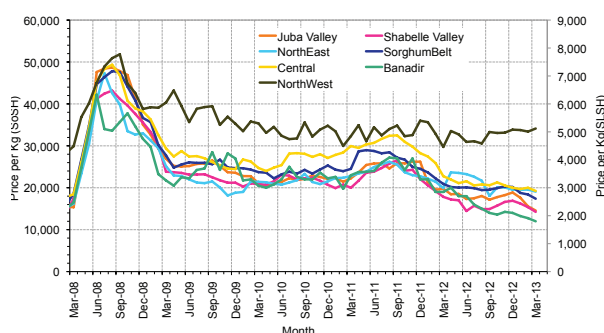


Figure 5: Trend in Imported Wheat Flour Prices (SoSh/SLSh)

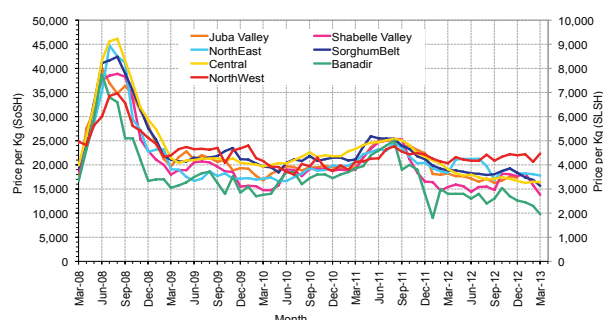
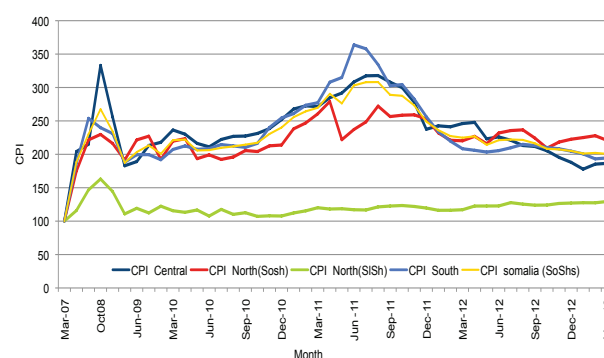


Figure 6: Monthly Trends in Consumer Price Index (CPI)





## NUTRITION SITUATION

### Southern regions

The integrated nutrition situation analysis conducted by FSNAU and partners in January 2013 indicated a sustained *Very Critical* situation in Bakool Pastoral, Juba riverine, Southern Gedo and Mataban district since *Gu* 2012 while other livelihoods showed an improvement to either *Serious* or *Critical* nutrition situation. In Lower and Middle Shabelle region, nutrition assessments could not be done due to prevailing insecurity and the available health facility data was insufficient to classify the nutrition situation in these areas. (Source: *Nutrition Technical Series Report, February 28, 2013*).

Data from health facilities in Bakool region for January-March 2013 reflects a very high (>45 %) and fluctuating trend of acutely malnourished children. In addition, cases of suspected measles have been reported in parts of Bay and Bakool and this coupled with limited access to health facilities is likely to aggravate the nutrition situation (*WHO Health Update February 2013*). However, the nutrition situation is expected to improve due to increased access to milk in all livelihoods following early onset of *Gu* rainfall which boosted livestock production in the regions.

### Northern and Central regions

The integrated nutrition situation analysis conducted by FSNAU and partners in January 2013 indicated a *Serious* nutrition situation across livelihoods in Northwest, Northeast and Central Somalia. This was with exception of West Golis/Guban in Northwest and Coastal *Deeh* in Central regions livelihoods which were in a *Critical* nutrition situation and Sool plateau livelihood which was in *Alert* situation. (Source: *Nutrition Technical Series Report, February 28, 2013*). A review of the health facility data and field reports indicate a generally stable nutrition situation across livelihoods in Northwest, Northeast and Central regions that is within same levels as in *Deyr* 2012/13.



Nutrition Survey Interview. Northwest, FSNAU, March 2013

In the Northwest, health facilities data show a high (>10%) and either stable or decreasing trends of acutely malnourished children identified in Agropastoral, Hawd and West Golis/Guban livelihoods. Household access to milk is the key driving factor of malnutrition in these largely pastoral areas. Field reports indicated reduced milk access in the *Jilaal* dry season, however the situation is likely to improve following the timely onset of *Gu* rainfall in the region. According to surveillance reports by the Ministry of Health and partners, measles cases have continuously been reported from January to March across all regions in Somaliland with W. Galbeed Region accounting for most of the reported cases. The outbreak of measles is likely to aggravate the nutrition situation in the affected region.

In Northeast and Central, health facility data show a general stable trend with facilities in Sool Plateau, Golis/Kakar and Nugal Valley livelihoods showing low (<10%) proportion of acutely malnourished children while facilities in Addun and Hawd livelihoods show High (>10%) proportion of acutely malnourished children. According to the MOH surveillance reports, malaria outbreak has been reported in Bossaso town since December 2012 and so far ,5800 cases have been positively confirmed using rapid diagnostic tests. Puntland MOH in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF and other stakeholder in health have put in place a response mechanism to manage and control the outbreak. This outbreak, if not arrested in time, is expected to have a negative impact on the nutrition and wellbeing of the urban and IDP communities in the city.

### April – July 2013 nutrition survey schedule

FSNAU and partners are scheduled to conduct nutrition surveys among the displaced populations in Northwest and Northeast regions from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013 onwards while the countrywide (Rural and urban) nutrition surveys will be undertaken in June-July 2013.

## Humanitarian Response to Current Food and Nutrition Security Situation in Somalia

In post-*Deyr* 2012/13, FSNAU estimated 1.05 million people in **Crisis** (IPC Phase 3) and **Emergency** (IPC Phase 4), and 1.68 million people in **Stressed** (IPC Phase 2). In December 2012, an estimated 215,000 children under five years of age were malnourished, out of which at least 45,000 were severely malnourished.

This article summaries humanitarian assistance activities in Somalia, with emphasis on the activities of the Nutrition Cluster partners, as well as the Food Security Cluster (FSC). It highlights the actual beneficiary numbers reached by these two clusters between January and February 2013, as well as the planned activities for February - July 2013. This information was obtained and consolidated from secondary sources availed by the Somalia FSC, and the UNOCHA, Somalia.

In January-February 2013, the nutrition cluster partners have reached a total of 94,434 acutely malnourished children between 6-59 months, of which 29,200 were severely malnourished (Table 2). The cluster plans to reach 6,500 severely malnourished children and 25,500 moderately malnourished children every month between February and July 2013.

The FSC is working with its members to target 2.1 million people with activities that invest in rural livelihoods during February-July 2013 period. In February, as it is the start of the season, FSC members have provided support to a total of 367,004 beneficiaries. Livelihood support responses are linked to the seasonal calendar in order to maximise the benefit of input use by the beneficiaries during planting season. In April-May 2013 (start-mid of the *Gu* rainy season), FSC and implementing agencies plan to scale up provision of seasonal livelihood inputs.

**Table 2: Food and Nutrition Security Humanitarian Response levels (Jan-Feb'13)**

GEOGRAPHIC ZONES	FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER			NUTRITION CLUSTER
	Number of people targeted through livelihood investment activities	Number of people targeted through interventions geared towards improving access to food and safety nets		Treatment of Acute Malnutrition Children 6-59 months of Age
	<i>Feb-13</i>	<i>Jan-13</i>	<i>Feb-13</i>	<i>Jan-Feb-13</i>
<b>South</b>	151,762	219,359	219,359	76,938
<b>Central</b>	100,607	8,193	61,317	10,764
<b>Northeast</b>	38,304	23,836	40,900	1,823
<b>Northwest</b>	76,331	72,504	132,652	4,909
<b>Total</b>	<b>367,004</b>	<b>323,892</b>	<b>454,228</b>	<b>94,434</b>

**Source:** Single Reporting Format UNOCHA Somalia (Jan-Feb 2013)

FSC has also developed targets for the reference period (Feb-July 2013), seeking to reach more beneficiaries with responses geared towards improving food access (810,000) and safety nets (69,000 people)<sup>1</sup>. Implementing agencies concluded specific local level assessments and community targeting exercises by mid-March 2013 to determine the number of beneficiaries by livelihood, location and response activities they would target based on the FSC's needs estimation.

<sup>1</sup> Somalia Food Security Cluster March 2013. <https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Somalia/FSC-POST%20DEYR%202013%20TARGETS.pdf>



## INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS

### URBAN

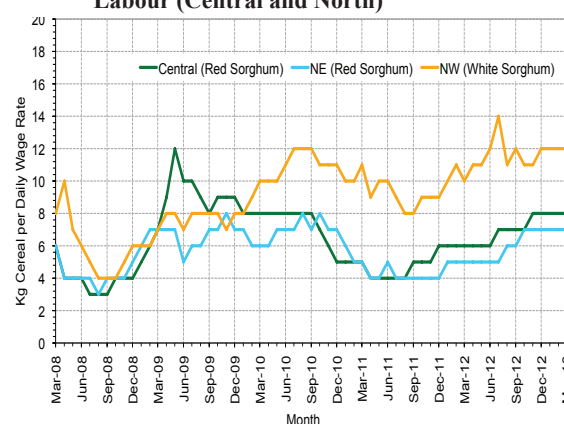
The urban food security improved across the country in the post *Deyr* 2012/13. In February - June 2013, the majority of the urban areas are classified in **Stressed** phase (IPC Phase 2) with the exception of Bakool, Middle Juba and Lower Shabelle, which are in **Crisis** (IPC Phase 3). Major factors that contributed to the overall improved situation include reduced cost of living, strengthening purchasing power of the urban poor, intensified economic activities, particularly in Mogadishu, and improved food security situation in rural areas. The urban food security situation in the country is expected to remain stable up to June 2013.

In the first quarter of the year, the cost of the MEB, which is a proxy for measuring the cost of living in Somalia, fluctuated slightly but remained relatively stable in most urban markets. However, the cost of the MEB in local currency terms decreased by 6-13 percent in Banadir, the Shabelles, Middle Juba and Bay as a result of continued reduction in the prices of local and imported food (*see Agriculture and Market chapters*). In contrast, the cost of the MEB spiked in Hiran (8%) due to hampered cereal flow from the Somali region at Ethiopia, the key supply area for the region, as a result of heavy rains in Ethiopia in late March. The cost of MEB also rose in the Mudug region of Central (10%), mainly as a result of increased transportation costs due to checkpoints established by the local militia along the main Galkayo-Gelinsor/Adado transport route (*see Civil Insecurity chapter*). In March 2013, the lowest nominal cost of the MEB in the country was recorded in the South, particularly in the Shabelles, Banadir and Bay regions, while the highest was in the Northeast regions (Table 3). Overall the MEB cost is lower compared to the same period (Jan-Mar 2012) last year in most regions of the country. Exceptions are Hiran, Sool, Sanaag, Togdheer and Awdal regions where the cost of the MEB increased by 6-18 percent.

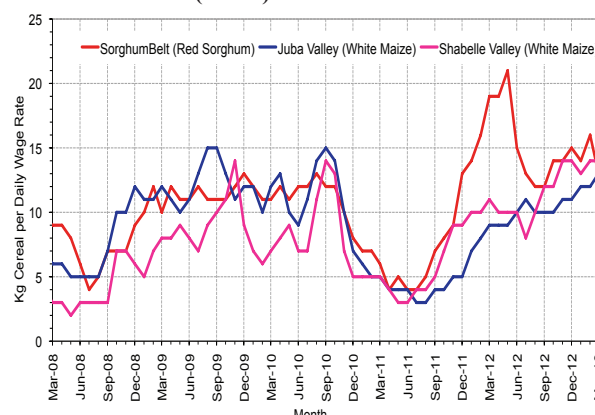
According to recent urban surveys and assessments (Dec '12), poor urban households engage in casual labour, on average, for 16-23 days per month in the South-Central and for 22-25 days per month in the North. FSNAU main market monitoring data indicates stable labour wages across the country in the first quarter of the year. In SoSh areas, the lowest wage rates in March 2013 were recorded in the South (55,000 SoSh in Bay) and the highest were in the Northeast (150,000SoSh in Sool). In the North SiSh areas, wage rates ranged from SiSh 36,000 to 46,000.

From January to March 2013, the Terms of Trade (ToT) between daily labour wage and local cereals remained generally stable in most urban markets (Figures 7 and 8). In March 2013, the highest ToT between labour and cereal (24kg/daily labour wage) was in Bay region and the lowest was in Bakool (6kg/daily labour wage); the latter is mainly attributable to low market supply of cereals due to ongoing conflict (*see Civil Insecurity chapter*). The ToT in March 2013 was higher compared to the March 2012, primarily due to lower current cereal prices (13-31%) in most regions that use Somali shilling. Table below 3 provides the ToT data across the regions of Somalia.

**Figure 7: Regional Trend in Terms of Trade Cereal to Labour (Central and North)**



**Figure 8: Regional Trend in Terms of Trade Cereal to Labour (South)**



**Table 3: Minimum Expenditure Basket**

ZONES/REGIONS	Cost of MEB (Mar 2013)	Percent change from	
		Mar 2012	Jan 2013
NORTHWEST			
Awdal	957,000	118%	99%
Woqooyi Galbeed	995,000	104%	104%
Togdheer	1,007,000	106%	104%
NORTHEAST			
Sanaag	4,564,000	107%	97%
Sool	4,529,000	108%	99%
Nugaal	3,839,000	98%	96%
Bari	3,665,000	87%	100%
CENTRAL			
Mudug	2,396,000	80%	110%
Galgaduud	2,786,000	73%	102%
SOUTH			
Hiraan	2,280,000	107%	108%
Lower Shabelle	1,451,000	83%	87%
Middle Shabelle	1,638,000	83%	94%
Middle Juba	2,030,000	91%	94%
Banaadir	1,775,000	85%	94%
Lower Juba	2,337,000	90%	98%
Bay	1,482,000	78%	94%
Bakool	2,166,000	111%	101%
Gedo	2,210,000	101%	100%

## RURAL

### Northern regions

In the post *Deyr* 2012/13, the food security situation improved in most livelihood zones. However, 40,000 people are estimated to be in acute food insecurity phases of **Crisis** (IPC Phase 3) and **Emergency** (IPC Phase 4) up to June 2013. Over the January to March *Jilaal* period, rangeland and water resources degraded in most of the livelihood zones, particularly in the Nugaal Valley, Sool Plateau of Sool /Sanaag regions, and parts of Guban, where *Deyr* 2012/13 and *Hays* rains were below normal. The rangeland conditions have also deteriorated in Sool of Bari region due to large number of in-migrated livestock from the neighboring, rain-deficit areas. As a consequence, early water trucking and increased water prices were reported in these livelihoods in February 2013. Increased debt levels amongst poor households, owing to elevated water costs since the mid-*Jilaal* season, have been reported in the Sool Plateau of Bari region. However, early rains in March alleviated water shortages and ceased water trucking. Low to medium kidding and lambing of goat and sheep occurred in most of the northern rural livelihoods at the end of the *Jilaal* period. Limited cases of livestock deaths (mostly among the lactating goats and their offspring) and abortions were reported in Sool Plateau of Sanaag owing to poor feeding. Livestock body conditions deteriorated from average to below average (PET score of 2) in the rain-deficit areas (see above), because of the degraded rangeland conditions. Milk production is currently below average due to low calving (camel and cattle) in *Deyr* 2012/13 and reduced milk yield as a result of poor pasture conditions. However, camel calving and increased milk availability is expected during *Gu* 2013 from May 2013 and onwards in Hawd, Addun, parts of Sool and Karkaar/Dharoor. Land tilling and planting started in agropastoral livelihood zones in Awdal, Waqooyi Galbeed and Togdheer regions following the onset of the *Gu* 2013 rainy season. However, tractor ploughing cost in March was high (USD 10-13 per hour), 30 percent higher than the same month of last year. Nevertheless, the area planted is expected to increase this season compared to the *Gu* long-term average (1998-2012) due to early onset and good start of *Gu* 2013 rains.



Poor pasture, Nugaal valley, Sool region, FSNAU, March 2013

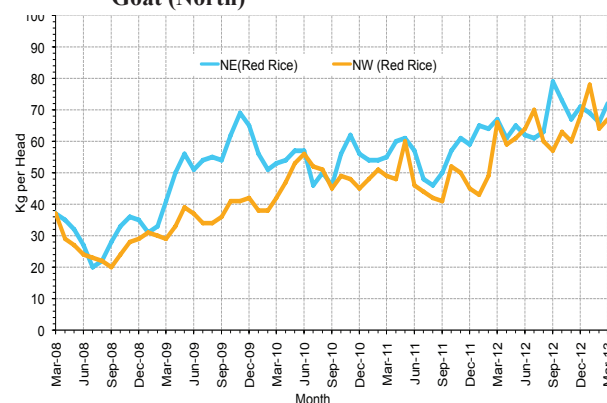
In January-March 2013, local quality goat prices increased slightly in most markets of the North. However, price declined on average by 34 percent in Awdal, which is attributable to poor body condition of goats and oversupply on the markets from the rain deficit livelihood of Guban. Rice prices declined marginally across the northern regions. In the rural areas of Northeast, the ToT between local quality goat and imported rice increased slightly (4%) to reach 72kg/head in March 2013 (Figure 9). ToT for local quality goat/ sorghum in the Northeast was equivalent to 75 kg/head. In most rural livelihoods of Northwest, the ToT between local quality goat and imported rice remained stable in the first quarter of 2013. The only exception is Awdal region where ToT has declined significantly (by 34% on average), down to 53 kg/head, reflecting decrease in goat price. The ToT between local quality goat and white sorghum was equivalent to 97kg/head (March 2013).

### Central Regions

In the post *Deyr* 2012/13, the food security situation improved in all central region livelihood zones, primarily due to the positive impact of the good *Deyr* season. However, 66,000 people in the rural areas are still classified in **Crisis** (IPC Phase 3) and **Emergency** (IPC Phase 4). The Cowpea Belt, Addun and Hawd livelihood zones are in **Stressed** (IPC Phase 2), while Coastal *Deeh*, where poor households have not yet recovered from significant asset (livestock) losses due to the previous drought years 2008-2011), is classified **Crisis** (IPC Phase 3). This *Jilaal* dry season was mild in the pastoral and agropastoral livelihoods of the Central regions (Hawd, Addun, Cowpea Belt, and Coastal *Deeh*). Water reserves in temporary water sources such as *berkads* have reduced during *Jilaal* season, while water ponds dried up by February 2013. Dry pasture was available in sufficient quantities until the early onset of *Gu* rains, which started in some localized areas of the Cowpea Belt, Addun and Hawd livelihoods mid- to late March. Hence, water shortages were alleviated and pasture regenerated. Average livestock body conditions are reported in all the livelihood zones, but milk production has declined due to the reduced quality of available pasture and browse, as well as low camel calving rates in last *Deyr* 2012/13. However, milk availability is projected to increase before the end of the *Gu* rainy season with some camel calving expected in June 2013. Additionally, kidding/lambing that commenced at end of the *Jilaal* season is expected to increase over the course of the *Gu* season.

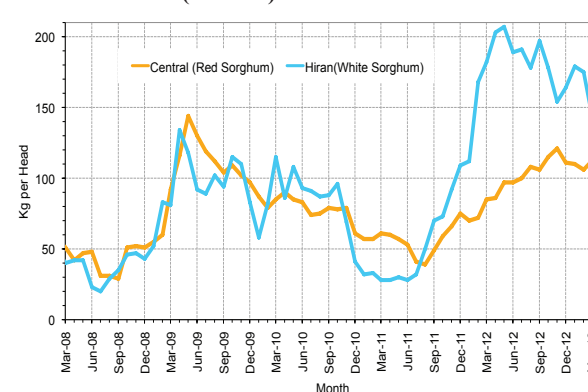
Available cowpea stocks (6-8 bags), for poor households in the Cowpea Belt are expected to last up until the end of April, while in the remaining two months (May-June) households will resort to cereal purchases. In January-March 2013, local quality goat prices increased by 25 percent in the Coastal *Deeh*/Cowpea Belt and also slightly (2%) in Hawd/Addun livelihoods. This trend is attributable to the increasing demand given the start of live animal stocking by traders for the upcoming *Ramadhan* period (July). The ToT between local quality goat and red sorghum increased marginally in all the livelihood zones of Central in the first quarter of the year (Figure 10). Currently (March 2013), ToT for local quality goat/ red sorghum is equivalent to 100kg/head in Hawd/Addun and 143kg/head in the Cowpea Belt/Coastal *Deeh*.

**Figure 9: Regional Trend in Terms of Trade Cereal to Goat (North)**



Average sheep body condition, Coastal *Deeh*- Cadale, Middle Shabelle region, FSNAU, March 2013

**Figure 10: Regional Trend in Terms of Trade Cereal to Goat (Central)**





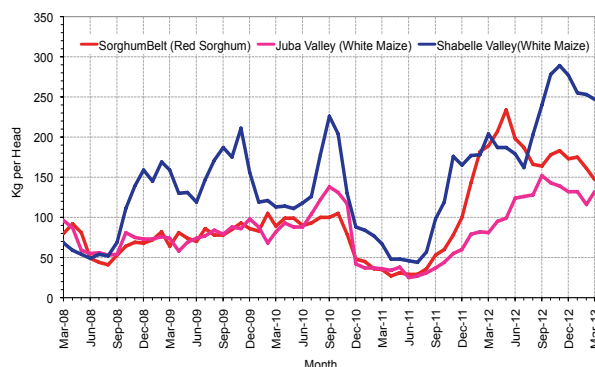
Rice prices declined in Coastal *Deeh*/Cowpea Belt (13%), but increased slightly (4%) in other livelihood zones. Increased goat prices, as well as reduced rice prices in the Coastal *Deeh*/Cowpea Belt significantly improved the ToT between local quality goat and rice. In these livelihoods ToT increased by 43 percent (from 49 to 70kg/head) between January and March 2013. However, in the areas where the security situation is particularly tense (including Dhusamareb, Galkaáyo and Abudwaaq districts), ToT either remained stable or declined marginally (2%). The annual comparison shows an increase in ToT (10-30%), which is a result of reduced rice prices and increased livestock prices.

## Southern Regions

In the post-*Deyr* 2012/13, the food security situation improved significantly in most rural areas of the southern regions. This was a result of the positive impact of the good *Deyr* season, humanitarian interventions and generally improved macro-economic conditions (Mogadishu port functioning, on-going investments, increased labor opportunities, etc.). However, an estimated 170,000 people still remain in acute food insecurity IPC phases of **Crisis** (IPC Phase 3) and **Emergency** (IPC Phase 4) in the projection period up to June 2013. The *Jilaal* dry season was relatively mild as dry pasture and water were widely available in most livelihoods while *Gu* rains had an early start (2<sup>nd</sup> dekad of March) in parts of the South. In late March 2013, normal livestock migration and medium to high kidding rates were reported in most of agropastoral and pastoral livelihoods in the South. The cereal stocks from *Deyr* 2012/13 harvest will be available to poor households until June or July in Bay High Potential livelihood, Lower Shabelle riverine and parts of agropastoral areas of Shabelle regions (Wanlaweyn and Balad). The *Deyr* stocks are sufficient to last until the end of April in Hiran, Middle Shabelle riverine, agropastoral of Sakow (Middle Juba), agropastoral of Jowhar (Middle Shabelle) and Bardhere (Gedo). However, in the other areas, cereal stocks have already been exhausted. The start of *Gu* planting availed labour opportunities to poor people in agricultural areas resulting in increased labour wages in rural markets between February and March 2013 (27% in Juba, 18% in Shabelle and 11% in Sorghum Belt ).

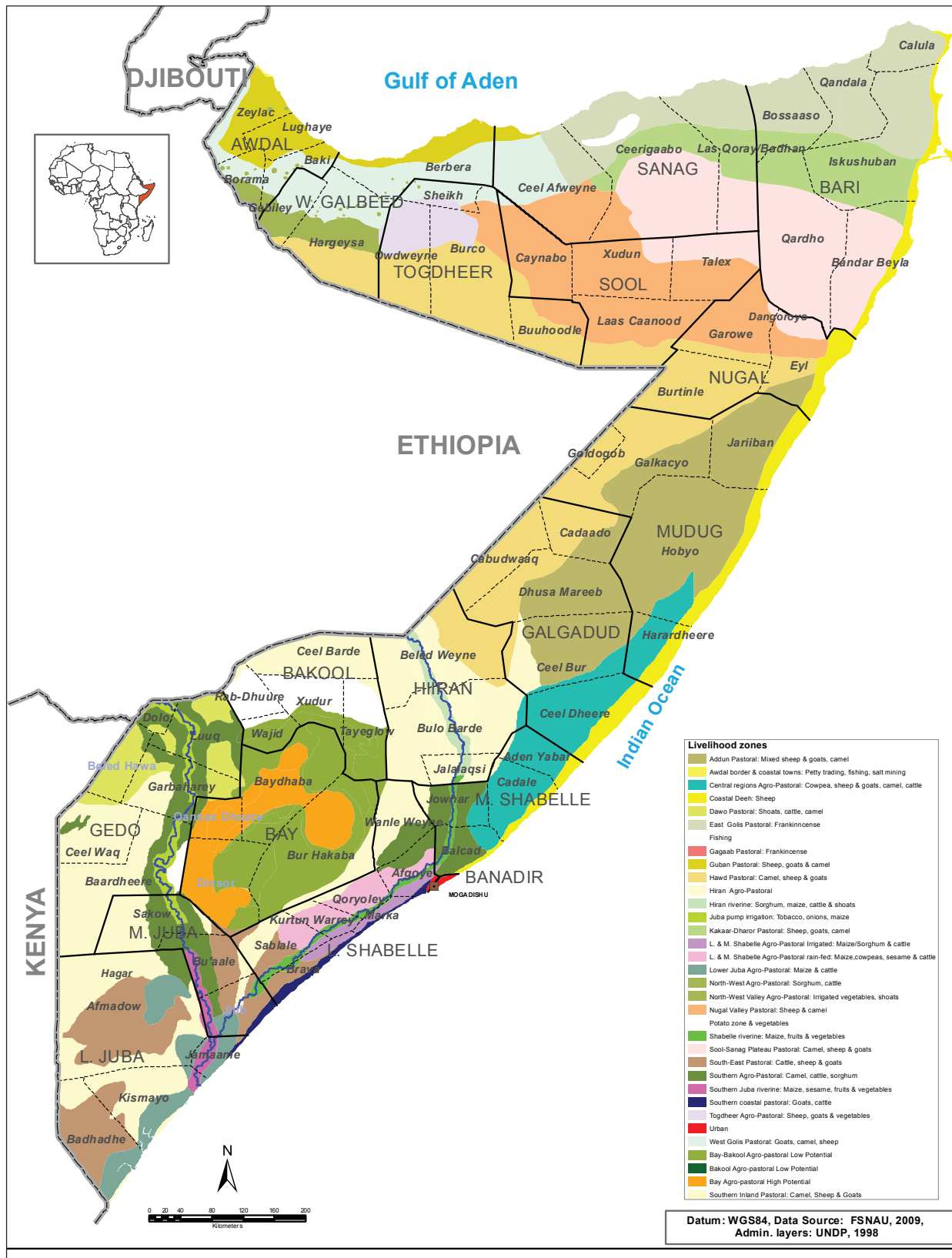
In the first quarter of the year (Jan-Mar '13), the ToT between maize and labour wages declined by 29 and 19 percent in rural areas of Juba (from 14 to 10 kg) and Shabelle (from 13 to 11 kg) regions, respectively as a result of wage rate increase and stable maize price. In the Sorghum Belt, the ToT between red sorghum and daily wage rate increased by 25 percent in Gedo (20kg/daily wage rate in Mar '13) and remained stable in Bakool (14kg/daily wage rate in Mar '13) and Bay (23kg/daily wage rate in Mar '13); the ToT declined (20%) in Hiran (20kg/daily wage rate in Mar '13) due to increased white sorghum price. Compared to a year ago, ToT increased across all southern regions as a result of both reduced cereal prices and improved labour wages. Particularly high increases were recorded in the regions of the Jubas (100%) and Shabelles (57%) mainly due to increase in agriculture labour wages. In the Sorghum Belt regions, ToT annual trends in ToT also indicate an increase of 25 percent in Bay region, while in other regions ToT remained stable. In January-March 2013, local quality goat prices indicated a seasonal decline in most of the southern markets (see Livestock Sector). The ToT between local quality goat and cereals declined in rural areas of Gedo (17%) and Juba (26%) down to 130kg/head and 90Kg/head respectively. These declines were due to increase in cereal prices and a decrease in local quality goat price. ToT remained relatively stable in the rest of southern regions in the first quarter of the year (Figure 11).

**Figure 11: Regional Trend in Terms of Trade Cereal to Goat (South)**



*Germinated seedlings, Buale, Middle Juba, FSNAU, March 2013*

## SOMALIA LIVELIHOODS ZONE MAP



### Recent and forthcoming publications and releases

*FSNAU/FEWSNET Climate Update, March 2013*

*FSNAU/FEWSNET Market Data Update, March 2013*

*FSNAU Post Deyr 2012/13 Nutrition Technical Report*

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