

## KEY FINDINGS

There are clear signs of a worsening food security situation in most livelihoods of Somalia, as a result of unusually below average precipitation caused by the La Niña meteorological phenomenon. The impact of the poor performance of *Deyr* rains is demonstrated by failed crops in most of the southern crop-producing regions, and considerable water and pasture shortages in most key pastoral areas of the country, causing deterioration in livestock conditions. These developments indicate reduced food production (cereals, milk and meat) in the country, which will consequently be reflected in increased food prices and the numbers of food insecure people is likely to rise in early 2011.

The main areas of concern are rain-fed agropastoral areas of southern and central Somalia, where crop production has largely been impacted by the poor rainfall; cattle-breeding pastoral communities in South-East Pastoral; all livelihoods of Hiran and Bakool regions; entire Coastal *Deeh* livelihood; Addun Pastoral, Nugal Valley and Sool Plateau. Some of these areas have recently suffered from consecutive seasons of below average rainfall. Therefore, the capacity to withstand the current crisis during the harsh *Jilaal* dry season is very limited, particularly in the areas that are currently in Humanitarian Emergency. The poor performance of the short rains will have milder impact on the population in the regions with previous consecutive seasons of good production, such as Bay and Gedo. In addition, parts of the Northwest with average *Deyr* rainfall, such as Awdal, W. Galbeed and western part of Togdheer Agropastoral will not fall into crisis.

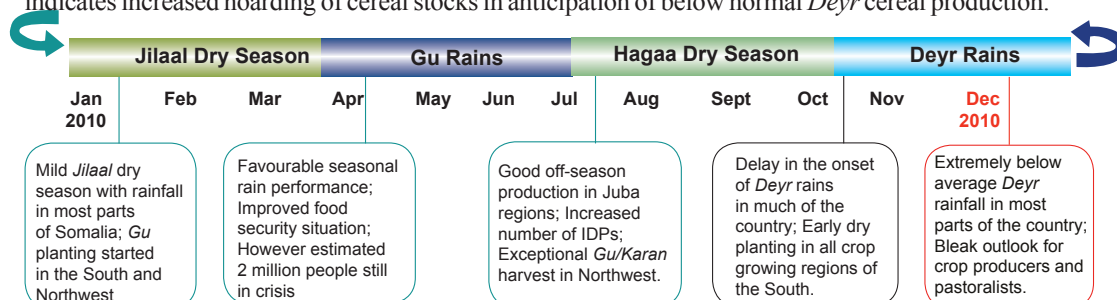
The Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit is currently conducting the countrywide Post-*Deyr* 2010/11 seasonal assessment and results will be released on 28 January 2011. For more details check the website: [www.fsnau.org](http://www.fsnau.org)

## Key Issues and Early Warning for January to June 2011

### Significant Decrease in Crop Production in the South

Current *Deyr* 2010/11 rainfall has been significantly below normal in most agricultural areas (riverine and agro-pastoral livelihoods) of southern Somalia severely affecting *Deyr* season crop performance, particularly in agropastoral areas. Therefore, production of **sorghum**, which is a major staple crop for the majority of the poor population of Somalia, is expected to be significantly below normal. Bay region, which provides 70 percent of the total sorghum supply of the country in a normal year, is similarly affected by poor rains which will lead to a reduction in crop production. In riverine areas, where maize crops are predominantly grown on irrigated farms, the harvest is also likely to be below normal due to limited irrigation capacity resulting from low river levels.

*In addition, maize production costs* are much higher than usual in the current season, due to increased use of irrigation given the lack of rainfall. The negative impact of the poor rainfall performance will be less in riverine areas of Shabelle regions, due to increased production of fodder crops as well as the recent bumper harvest. However, Juba riverine, which suffered from low crop production in the *Gu* season, is likely to retain an emergency food security phase. The early indications of reduced cereal supply has already translated into sharp cereal price increases in November in the South. This price trend, which does not follow the normal seasonal pattern, indicates increased hoarding of cereal stocks in anticipation of below normal *Deyr* cereal production.



Somalia Seasonal Timeline & Key Events

Climate

Markets

Nutrition

Agriculture

Livestock

Civil  
Insecurity

Emerging  
Regional  
Issues

Integrated  
Food Security  
Analysis

FSNAU - Somalia

United Nations Somalia,  
Ngecha Road Campus  
Box 1230, Village Market,  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254-20-4000500  
Cell: +254-722-202146  
/ 733-616881  
Fax: +254-20-4000555  
Email: [info@fsnau.org](mailto:info@fsnau.org)  
Website: [www.fsnau.org](http://www.fsnau.org)

### **Humanitarian Emergency to Sustain in Hiran and Central**

The entire region of Hiran, as well as most parts of Central, have also suffered from below average rainfall, which resulted in complete crop failure, deteriorated pasture conditions and severe water shortages. The areas of concern are all livelihoods of Hiran region as well as Coastal *Deeh*, Nugal valley, Addun Pastoral, Nugal Valley and Cowpea Belt. The poor pastoral population in these regions have limited opportunities for migration, while their asset holdings are low and coping capacity eroded by consecutive seasons of drought.

Although rainfall performance was slightly better in a key pastoral livelihood of Hawd, the available pasture resources are going to be quickly depleted due to overgrazing in view of the massive in-migration of livestock from neighbouring areas. Overall, these regions, which have been in **Humanitarian Emergency** for the past several seasons, are likely to fall into a deeper crisis, which will considerably prolong the process of recovery in the future. The situation is further aggravated by widespread conflicts in these areas and reduced humanitarian space, which will limit the capacity of humanitarian actors to extend support at the required scale.

### **Mixed Food Security Outlook in the North**

The food security situation is deteriorating in many livelihoods in the North with the failed *Deyr* rains. The areas of particular concern are Coastal *Deeh*, Addun and Sool Plateau, where livestock body conditions have started to deteriorate due to critical shortages of pasture and water. The situation is going to deteriorate further due to approaching long *Jilaal* dry season and limited options for accessing rangeland resources.

The areas in the North that received average rainfall are also experiencing reduced pasture and water due to large livestock in-migration from surrounding rain-deficit areas. Although the effect of the price increase in the South is not yet seen in Northeast, the prices are likely to go up in these areas as well, considering their dependence on cereal supplies from southern Somalia. Conversely, the food security outlook is rather positive in Awdal, W.Galbeed and western parts of the Togdheer Agropastoral, where the recent *Gu/Karan* crop harvest was exceptionally good, while water and pasture are available due to an average performance of *Deyr* rains.

### **Soaring Cereal Prices Impacting Food Access in Urban Areas**

As a result of early indications of *Deyr* crop harvest failure, the cereal prices have risen significantly in major cereal producing areas, which will certainly have a spill-over effect on the prices in other parts of the country as well, particularly in central and northern regions. The increase in prices is also observed for other major commodities of the Minimum Basket in urban areas, such as sugar and cooking oil as well as milk, as a result of rising international prices and limited supply from pastoral areas, respectively.

Considering that most urban populations are dependent on food purchases, the soaring food prices will inevitably lead to worsening food accessibility and increased number of people in crisis in urban areas. The purchasing power of the urban poor is already affected by declining terms of trade and rising costs of living. The urban population of South and Central are likely to be the most affected given the volatile civil security situation in these zones, which is likely to remain the main challenge for mitigating the impact of rising prices by means of humanitarian interventions.

### **Improved Nutrition Situation in Central and Northern Regions**

Nutrition rates from recent nutrition surveys conducted in central and northern regions indicate improvements with all reporting Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates of <15%. These improvements are likely due to the positive impacts of the *Gu*, which increased milk access and income at the household level, as well as targeted humanitarian assistance. However, there are concerns that the situation could deteriorate quickly with the current food security outlook.

## SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

### CLIMATE

#### Rainfall Performance

Current *Deyr* '10 short rains (October to December) have been largely below normal in most parts of the country due to the evolving La Niña. The 2010 *Deyr* rains varied by temporal and spatial distributions across the country. In some pastoral areas in the North, such as Golis-Guban zone, most of Awdal and Galbeed regions and parts of the Hawd zone of Togdheer region, the short rains began in mid-September indicating an early onset.

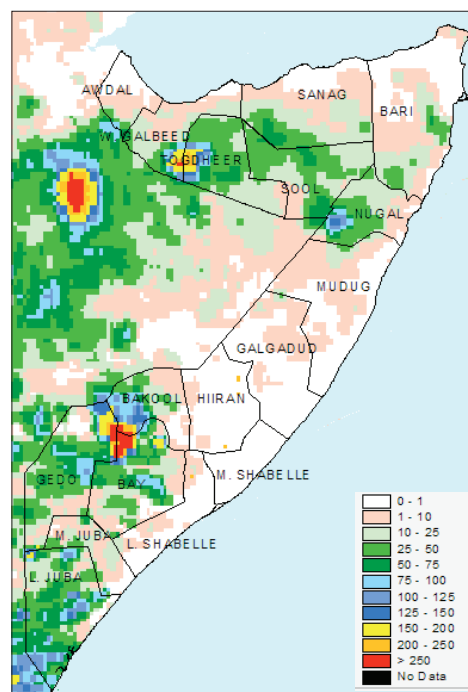
These rains continued throughout October. However, in most parts of the North, rains fell from mid to end of October. Light to moderate rains, ranging from 1 to 25mm, were received in Waqoyi Galbeed, Togdheer, Sanaag, Sool, Nugal. The same range of rainfall was received in parts of Mudug regions in Central, including Hawd of Burtinle, Galdogob and Galkayo. However, according to field reports, most northern and central regions remained dry, particularly Bari region, parts of Sanaag and Addun Pastoral and Coastal *Deeh* of Central and Nugal regions. In the South, *Deyr* rains were erratic and significantly below normal across most livelihoods during October, particularly in Shabelle regions. Likewise, during the month of November, a dry spell persisted in most parts of the country, with little to no rainfall recorded. The overall rainfall performance during the entire month of November remained significantly below normal.

A comparison of rainfall data between the last *dekad* of November 2010 and the long-term mean (LTM) of the same period, shows that most of the country received 0-15 percent of the normal rainfall levels for this time of year. The areas with the lowest levels of precipitation compared to the LTM include Bari, parts of Sool and Sanaag, Coastal *Deeh* of Nugal and Mudug, including Eyl, Eldher, Harardhere and Hobyo. In the South, some localised rains were received in Juba and Shabelle regions during the month of November. Areas of concern in the South include Sorghum Belt of Bay, Bakool, Hiran, and parts of Gedo regions, where rains continued to be patchy and poorly distributed, with most of these areas receiving less than 10 mm of rainfall (Map 1).

#### Vegetation Conditions

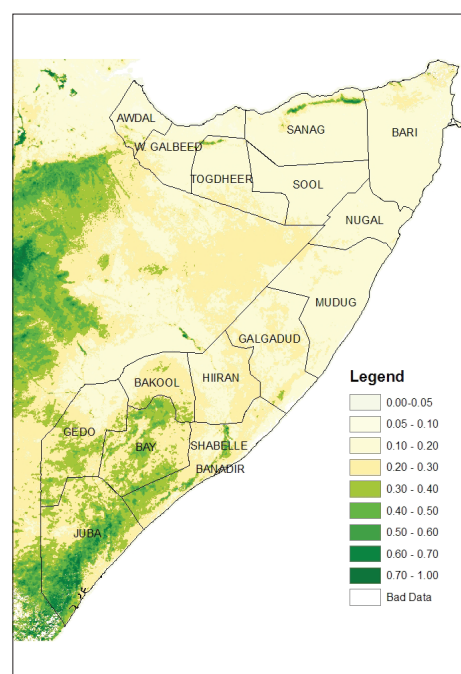
Following the erratic nature of the rains, current vegetation levels are below average in most parts of Somalia. Satellite imagery and ground reports confirm that vegetation conditions are poor even in the localised areas of Juba, Awdal, Bari, Gedo and Bay, which received some showers during the month of November. Satellite derived Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) data (SPOT VEGETATION) analysis, show below normal crop and pasture conditions in most parts of southern and central Somalia. Coastal *Deeh* livelihood zone of Nugal, Mudug and Galgadud is of particular concern. The cropping areas in the South, including the irrigated areas along the River Shabelle as well as the agropastoral areas of Bay region, also indicate a large decrease in vegetation conditions. In most parts of the North, however, vegetation conditions seem to be normal to above normal in certain regions such as Gebiley, Borama and Erigavo, due to average precipitation (Map 2).

**Map 1: Deyr Cummulative Rainfall Estimates**



Source: NOAA

**Map 2: NDVI 1st Dekad December 2010**



Source: JRC/MARSFOOD

## CIVIL INSECURITY

Southern and central Somalia continue to suffer from conflicts and insecurity resulting in human casualties, asset destruction, disrupted livelihoods and population displacement in the last two months (Oct - Nov). Recurrent political clashes between opposing groups prevailed in Mogadishu and Galgaduud regions, while sporadic conflicts occurred in parts of Gedo (Beledhawa) and Bakool (Rabdure and Yeed). However, the conflict between the Puntland authority and an opposing faction in Galgala area of Bossaso town between June and October looks to have subsided as there were no conflicts reported in the months of November and December. Nonetheless, a number of resource based and revenge-induced conflicts were reported in the last two months (October-November) in parts of the North, specifically in the area bordering Burao and Buhodle districts, as well as in Gelin-Soor and Godad areas of central regions of Galgaduud and Mudug, respectively. These conflicts have resulted in human deaths and population displacements.

This ongoing fighting is evidently driving people from their livelihoods, particularly from the capital city of Mogadishu. According to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on population movement tracking (IASC PMT), about 32,600 people were displaced nationwide between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 26<sup>th</sup> November, mainly due to the crippling conflicts in the country. Most of the displacement occurred in Mogadishu (19,000), Shabelles (4,570), Beletweyne of Hiran (3,260), Beledhawa of Gedo (1850) and other parts of southern Somalia. The above mentioned clan-based conflicts in the North, particularly in Burao and Buhodle area, have also seen some people displaced from the area. Despite the ongoing conflicts in central regions (particularly in Galgaduud region), no displacements occurred. The majority of the displaced people still remain in different parts of Mogadishu city, while others moved towards Hiran and other parts of the country. Some internally displaced persons attempted to reach refugee camps in Kenya through the border towns of Elwak, Dhobley and Beledhawa. However, due to border closure since early 2007 by the Kenyan authorities, many of the displaced were unable to secure the refuge in these camps. According to IASC PMT report in November, about 2,500 people are currently stranded at the Kenya-Somali border.

Sea piracy is another aspect of the conflict and insecurity in Somalia. In addition to burden of the international vessels passing by the Somali coast, sea piracy activities have been growing and undermining the local fishing economy mainly in the last two years (2009 and 2010). Piracy activities prevented local fishing communities in the Central and Northeast zones from producing and also reduced significantly the fish product demands from the foreign traders (Yemen and other Gulf countries). Although there is growing international efforts to curb piracy activities off the Somali coast, the pirates are still able to impact the Somali fishing sector and economy and undermine the food access of many coastal communities in the country.

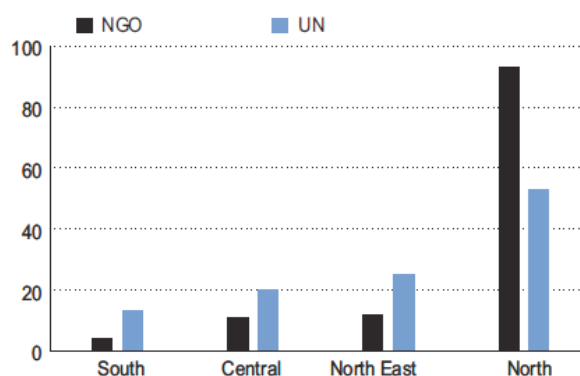
The unfriendly and insecure environment still remains the main challenge for humanitarian actors in addressing the needs of the population in crisis, particularly in southern and central Somalia. Although the international staff presence in the South and Central has recently increased, humanitarian assistance in much of these zones is still limited compared to last year, following a pull-out of international agencies from these areas as of January 2010 due to insecurity. However, due to increased presence in the North the total number of international staff in Somalia is currently estimated at 230 people, which is nearly 30 percent higher compared to the beginning of the year (Figure 1).

1 Source: United Nations Department for Security and Safety, October 2010



IDPs in Arafat Camp, Galkayo, Somalia, FSNAU, Nov '10

Figure 1: Somalia UN & International Staff Presence (October 2010)



Source: OCHA Somalia - Humanitarian Access Update (October '09).



## AGRICULTURE

The *Deyr* season cereal production outlook in southern and central Somalia is of great concern as a result of the poor *Deyr* rainfall, which negatively impacted crop performance, both germination and growth. This is in contrast to the Northwest *Gu/Karan* crop harvest collected in agropastoral areas in October-November 2010, which was significantly above average due to good rainfall performance (see FSNAU Food Security and Nutrition Brief, Nov. 6, '10). In Togdheer Agropastoral, where short-cycle crops are cultivated, development of crops was negatively affected by moisture stress in November. These crops can still survive if rains resume in Golis livelihoods in January 2011.



Planted field, Garasmamow Village, Wajid, Bakool, FSNAU, Oct. '10

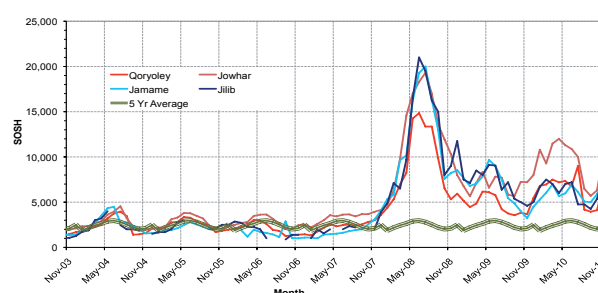
*Deyr* crops in rain-fed areas of southern and central Somalia are in a worse state compared to irrigated areas, due to persisting dry conditions throughout the season. Reportedly, crops did not germinate at all in most parts of agropastoral livelihoods of Juba, Gedo, Shabelle, Hiran, Bakool, Bay as well as the Cowpea Belt of central regions. In localised areas in Baidoa and Diinsoor districts of Bay and Bardera district of Gedo, rain-fed crops have germinated, however, crop development was poor due to limited rainfall during the early stage of the crop cycle. The established crops in the rain-fed areas that are now 50-55 days old are currently suffering moisture stress, and these crops are also likely to fail.

The lack of rainfall has also resulted in a non-uniform crop development in the irrigated zones of southern Somalia. Due to the erratic nature of the current *Deyr* rains, farmers have been irrigating their crops using gravity irrigation systems in parts of Shabelle and pump irrigation along the Juba river. However, the scarcity of rains has resulted in a drop-down of river levels affecting the irrigation capacity, resulting in high competition for irrigation among the farmers. Overall, in riverine livelihoods, the area with standing food crops is well below average for this time of the year, due to a combination of factors, including, constraints with irrigation following the decrease in river levels, inundated *desheks* in Juba regions since the *Gu* 2010 floods, and increased growing of fodder crops due to higher demand from pastoral communities.

### Cereal Prices

The local cereal (maize and sorghum) price trends between June and November 2010, vary in the reference markets of cereal producing areas. There was a sharp increase in cereal prices between October and November 2010 in all cereal producing regions of southern Somalia, due to the anticipated poor *Deyr* cereal production. With current prospects of poor *Deyr* cereal harvest in the South, the cereal prices are expected to increase further in the coming months. Nevertheless, maize prices in most riverine markets of Shabelle regions are 5-19 percent lower compared to their levels in June 2010, due to increased cereal supply from good *Gu* 2010 cereal production. However, cereal prices have increased in most other regions of the South. Namely, in Juba riverine, maize prices have increased by 6-13 percent since June 2010, due to reduced production in the livelihood affected by *Gu* 2010 floods. The maize price levels vary by markets in the main maize producing districts. The highest maize prices (≈10,000 SoSh/kg) in November were recorded in the markets of Jowhar and Buale, while the lowest in Qoryoley (6,890SoSh/kg) and Jammame (7,320SoSh/kg). The lower prices in the last two districts are attributable to good *Gu* (Qoryoley) and *Gu* off-season (Jammame) harvests. However, the highest cereal prices in Juba and Shabelle regions are in pastoral areas due to their remoteness from the major producing districts (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Shabelle and Juba Riverine-Trends in Maize Prices



In the Sorghum Belt, sorghum prices have also shown an increasing trend since June 2010. The highest increase was observed in Beletweyne (20%) and Luuq (33%) due to low supply as a result of several consecutive seasons of poor crop production, including the current *Deyr* season and trade disruptions caused by frequent conflicts. The rise in price was also significant in Bay region due to increased demand from other areas, including Mogadishu city, central and neighbouring regions, as well as refugee camps in Kenya. Due to this increased demand, as well as indications of *Deyr* crop failure, grain traders have increased the purchases of sorghum in anticipation of selling it at higher prices in the post-*Deyr* period. However, the prices of sorghum are still lowest in the Bay region (7400-8500 SoSh/kg) compared to other markets of the Sorghum Belt (Figure 3).

The increase in cereal prices between June and November 2010, has translated into a deteriorating trend of household purchasing power in the main towns of Hiran (21%), Bay (25-29%) and Bakool (20%). Conversely, following the decrease of maize prices in Shabelle in the same period, Terms of Trade (ToT) between daily labour and maize has increased by 29 percent. There was also 22 percent increase in ToT in Lower Juba region, which is mostly attributable to labour wage increases related to considerable charcoal production in the region following the lifting of charcoal export ban by local authorities in August this year. The ToT has remained stable in Bardera, the main cereal producing district of Gedo. Similarly, in Middle Juba and agropastoral areas of Northwest, the ToT in November are comparable with the levels in June 2010.

## LIVESTOCK

### Pasture and Water Conditions

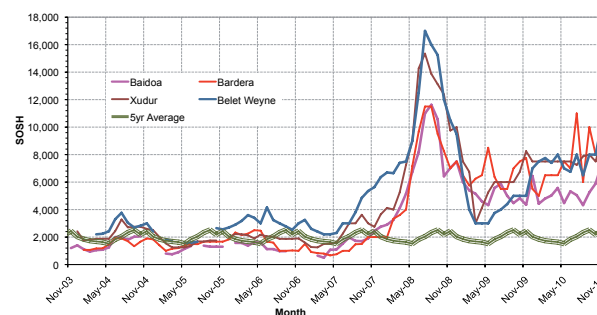
Following the poor performance of *Deyr* rains, browse and grazing conditions have significantly deteriorated in most parts of South and Central as well as in parts of the North. Water conditions are significantly below normal and livestock body has started to deteriorate in the rain-deficit areas.

In the North, browse and grazing conditions are mostly good in the western regions of Awdal, W. Galbeed and western part of Togdheer, owing to the average performance of *Deyr* rains. Water and pasture conditions have improved since last *Hagaa* season in most grazing sites of Hawd Pastoral, Golis/Guban Pastoral, Northwest and Togdheer Agropastoral livelihood zones in the North. Dried pasture is still available in most of the Sanaag, Sool, Nugal and Bari regions. This is due to the localized light rains received during the month of September. However, these regions experienced water shortages due to a long dry spell in October-November. Extremely limited water and pasture availability are reported in Dharoor/Karkaar of Bari region and Hawd Pastoral livelihood in Sool, Togdheer and Nugal regions, as a consequence of a massive livestock influx from neighboring rain-deficit livelihood zones, following moderate rainfall in October.

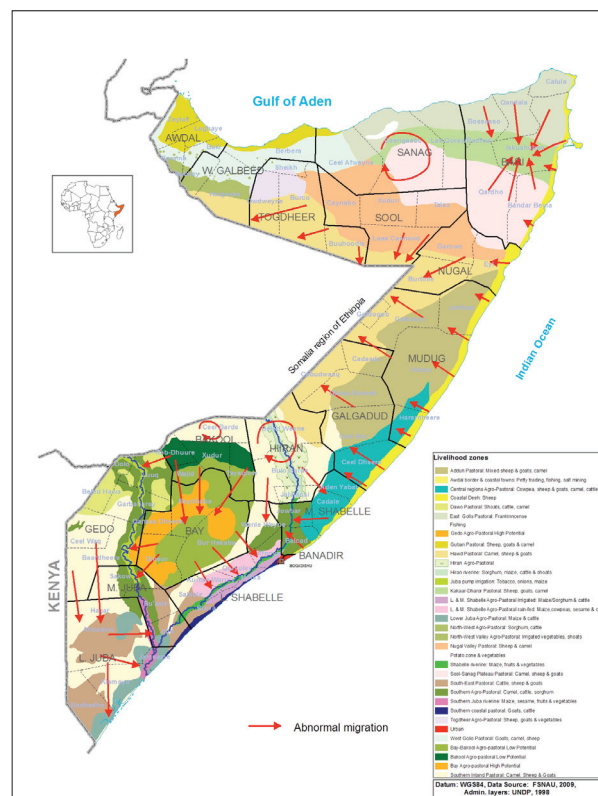
In central regions, both pasture and water in *berkads*, communal dams and water catchments are depleted in key pastoral areas of Hawd, Addun and Coastal *Deeh*. Similarly, pasture and water shortages are also reported in Hiran region, where *Deyr* rains were extremely poor throughout the season. Dry grass, which is available in isolated areas away from permanent water points, cannot be utilized by the poor and most of middle households, as they cannot afford high costs of trucked water. Early water trucking reportedly started in late October in most parts of Addun and Hawd livelihoods, resulting in considerable water price increases. The shortages of pasture and water resources in Central have even triggered clan conflicts in the northeastern part of Galkayo district, resulting in human life losses and livestock looting.

In the South, pasture and water resources are also depleted in the key grazing areas due to poor *Deyr* rainfall between October and November. Abnormal migration of livestock from pastoral areas of southern Gedo, Bay, Juba and Shabelle regions, as well as northeastern province of Kenya towards the Juba and Shabelle valleys, has been going on since October. In addition, the pastoralists who migrated to riverine areas of Juba and Shabelle regions during *Hagaa* dry season, still remain in these zones as they cannot return to the hinterlands due to the lack of water and limited pasture. As a result, livestock are placed at risk of infection by the trypanosomiasis disease transmitted by tsetse fly, common in riverine areas at this time of the year. Reportedly, because of strained water and fodder resources, some pastoralists have started purchasing standing crops for animal feed, while others are renting riverine farms for fodder use.

Figure 3: Sorghum Belt Trend in Sorghum Prices



Map 3: Somalia Livestock Zones Migration



### Livestock Migration

Poor seasonal performance has resulted in significant abnormal livestock movement across the country during the month of November towards the areas with relatively better pasture and water produced by localized *Deyr* rains (Map 3). Mechanized livestock migration by the better-off households, particularly from Coastal *Deeh* of Central has also been reported.

### Livestock Body Condition

In the northern regions, livestock maintain strong body conditions, particularly in W. Galbeed, Awdal and Togdheer regions due to good pasture resulting from good *Gu/Karan* 2010 rains and normal *Deyr* rains. However, deterioration can be expected during the coming long *Jilaal* dry season. Conversely, in the Coastal *Deeh* of Eyl and Bander-Beyla districts in Northeast, shoats body condition is very poor due to past droughts and the current poor seasonal performance. Therefore, most of the small ruminants in these areas are unlikely to survive during *Jilaal* season, particularly kids, lambs and lactating animals. In Central and Hiran, livestock body condition has further deteriorated, specifically for cattle and sheep. The worst situation is in the Coastal *Deeh* livelihood of central zone where livestock (cattle and sheep) body condition is very poor due to pasture, water scarcity and limited migration options, particularly for the households from poor and lower middle wealth groups. Livestock deaths have also been reported in some areas of this livelihood due to insufficient water and pasture. In the South, camel body conditions remain normal due to several successive good seasons in the past. However, lactating cattle and sheep body condition is poor and may deteriorate further in the coming *Jilaal* season.

### Livestock Production and Reproduction

In the North, goat and sheep reproduction is high due to the high conception rates during the past *Jillaal* and *Gu* 2010. Conversely, camel calving rate is very low as significant camel conception occurred during *Gu* 2010 and calving is expected only in *Gu* 2011. Cattle calving rate is also low in agropastoral areas of Northwest, where this livestock species is mostly reared. Very low cattle calving rate is also reported in agropastoral livelihoods of Central and Hiran, due to very low conception rates during *Gu* 2010 because of the recurrent droughts. However, in most southern regions reproduction rates are medium for all livestock species with the exception of Bakool region, where cattle calving is low due to the low conception rate during *Jilaal* and *Gu* 2010. Milk production and availability are poor in all regions of the North and Central, Hiran and Bakool regions due to very low rates of calving for camel and cattle, which are the main milk producing species in these areas. However, milk yields are relatively better in Shabelle, Juba and Bay regions because of medium calving of cattle and camel during the current *Deyr* and *Gu* 2010 seasons.

### Livestock Trade, Prices and Terms of Trade (TOT)

Livestock prices showed a mixed trend since June 2010 in most markets of the country. Local goat prices have increased in the Northeast, Central and South due to restocking for Eid festival as well as for Hajj demand in North and Central. The highest increase in local goat prices since June was recorded in Juba regions (33%) due to lack of supply in the main markets (Figure 4). Conversely, in the Northwest, the local goat prices as well as cattle prices, decreased by 14 and 8 percent, respectively, since June 2010 due to oversupply of livestock from Somali region of Ethiopia in the markets of Burao and Hargeisa during the festive season. Cattle prices have also fallen by 10-15 percent in the same period in the main cattle-rearing regions of the South, due to increased sales to meet the expenses for migration and water purchases.

The average ToT between local quality goat and cereals reduced in June-November period in the Northwest by 17% due to decreases in livestock prices as well as cereal price increases. The ToT decline is also observed in Central (3%) and Sorghum Belt (12%) due to the cereal prices increases. Conversely, the ToT has improved in Juba (48%), Shabelle (10%) and Northeast (9%) since June 2010, due to decreased cereal prices and increased local goat prices (Figure 5).

The total livestock exports from Bossaso increased by 37 percent between October and November (from 227,857 to 311,750 heads) while total livestock exports from Berbera port increased by 101 percent between September and October (from 275,124 to 552,579 head) because of the Hajj season demand. In addition to the export of live animals, Burao slaughter house carcass exports in November 2010 decreased by 48 percent (from 2,871 to 1,500 carcasses) compared to the previous month (October) due to increased demand in live animal exports in the Gulf States.

Figure 4: Regional Trend in Local Quality Goat Prices(SoSh/SLSH)

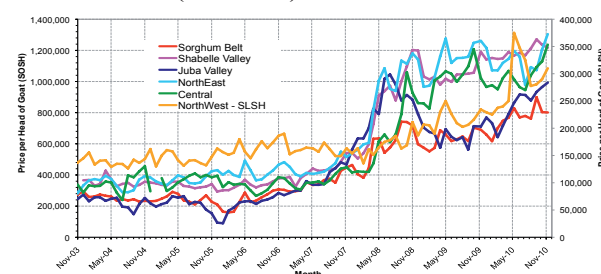
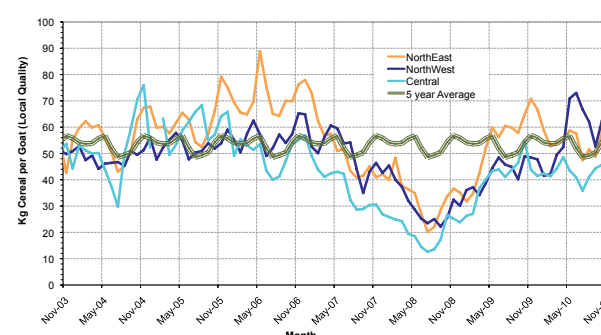


Figure 5: Terms of Trade - Cereal to Goat, North and Central





## MARKETS AND TRADE

### Exchange Rates

The Somali Shilling (SoSh) remained relatively stable or depreciated marginally against the US Dollar since the last reporting period (Sep '10) in most main markets. For instance, the SoSh in Mogadishu's main Bakaara and foreign exchange markets, was traded at an average rate of 31,800 against the US Dollar in November 2010, indicating about 3 percent decrease in value since September this year (30,750 SoSh/USD). Similar marginal decreases (1-3%) were reported in the other main markets of the SoSh areas, such as Kismayo, Jowhar and Baidoa. The shilling remained stable in November and is closely comparable (0-2%) with its rate from the same month last year in the main reference markets.

In addition, the Somaliland Shilling (SiSh) continued to strengthen over the last three months, appreciating by 6-8 percent in all the reference markets. For example, in Hargeisa's foreign exchange market, the currency appreciated by six percent, from SiSh 5,900/USD in September, to SiSh 5,575/USD in November. This appreciation is attributable to the increased supply of dollars from foreign exchange earnings from livestock exports during the Hajj period and a stable political environment. The SiSh has also appreciated against the USD by about 5-19 percent since November 2009 (Figure 6).

### Imported Commodity Prices

The prices of major imported commodities, including red rice, wheat flour and fuel, remained relatively stable in most markets since September (Figure 7), due to an increased supply from the main regional ports of entry, after the end of the seasonal high seas (July-September). The exceptions are sugar and vegetable oil prices, which increased in the South over the same period. The respective increases in the prices of these commodities are equivalent to 14 and 10 percent in Shabelle, 19 and 10 percents in Juba, 4 and 7 percent in Banadir and 14 and 3 percent in Sorghum Belt livelihood zones (Figure 7). This is owed to several factors which include, increased prices of sugar and maize in the international markets over the last few months<sup>1</sup>, slight depreciation of the SoSh, and continuous disruptions of the main market in the South (Bakara) due to insecurity.

Compared to last year (Nov '09), the price trends of rice, wheat flour and vegetable oil have shown mixed patterns, while sugar and diesel prices have increased throughout the country. In particular, in main rice consuming regions of Central and the Northeast, the price of rice increased by 14-15 percent in line with rising prices on international markets (27%)<sup>2</sup>. However, the price of rice is slightly lower (6%) in the Northwest due to increased supply of cheap local cereals from the current year exceptional harvests in the zone. Namely, the sorghum price in the Northwest was 30 percent lower in November compared to the same month last year. Wheat flour prices, on the other hand, are lower in the Northwest (18%), Banadir (7%) and Sorghum Belt (10%) but higher (3-11%) in other parts of the country. Further, vegetable oil exhibited an upward trend in the South<sup>3</sup>, while remaining relatively stable in the Northeast and Central and decelerating in Northwest (12%). Conversely, sugar and diesel prices showed notable increases of 14-24 percent throughout the country in the same period, in line with international price rises of these commodities (7% for sugar<sup>4</sup> and 8% for crude oil<sup>5</sup>).

Figure 6: Trends in Exchange Rates - SoSh and SiSh to USD

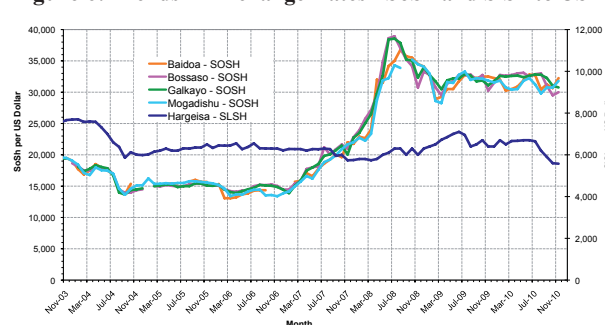


Figure 7: Shabelle-Trend in Imported Commodity Prices Compared to Exchange Rate

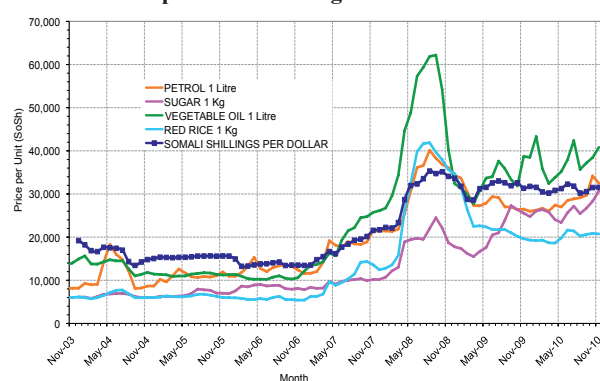
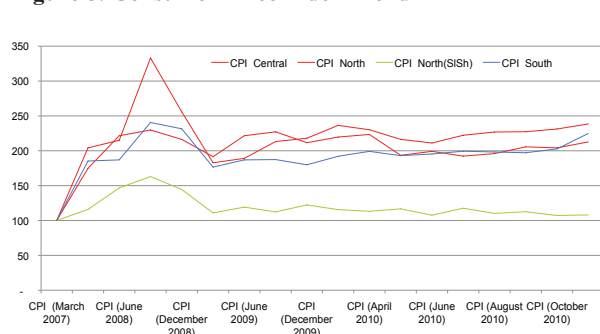


Figure 8: Consumer Price Index Trend



1 FAO, Food Outlook, Nov. '10

2 Comparison of prices in November 2009 and 2010, White Broken Rice, Thai A1 Super, f.o.b Bangkok; Source: FAO international prices database

3 Highest increases, equivalent to 15-22% were noted in Juba and Shabelle regions

4 FAO, Food Outlook, Nov. '10

5 Crude Oil; Dubai Freight-on-Board price; Source: IMF Primary Commodity Prices; <http://www.imf.org/external/np/res/commmod/index.asp>



## Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is based on the Minimum Basket for Somalia, accelerated in all regions of the country during the month of November 2010. From the previous month, the inflation increased rapidly (11%) in the South, only marginally in the Northeast and Central (3-4%) while remaining relatively stable in the Northwest. The acceleration in the CPI in SoSh regions are mainly attributable to sorghum, sugar, cooking oil and milk prices dynamics, which together account for a large portion of the cost of the basket in different regions of Somalia (42-66%). Namely, high inflation rate in the South is prompted by increases in the prices of sorghum (16%), milk (36%), sugar (8%), wheat flour (3%) and cooking oil (4%) in November 2010. The inflation is significantly higher than in the base year of 2007 (March) in SoSh areas (125%) and slightly lower in SiSh areas of Northwest (8%) (Figure 8).

## NUTRITION SITUATION

From November to mid-December 2010, FSNAU/ UNICEF in collaboration with Ministries of Health in Somaliland, Puntland, Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and Medair have undertaken 17 nutrition surveys in the Central regions, Puntland and Somaliland based on the standard methodology. Seven of the surveys focused on IDPs in Hargeisa, Burao and Berbera in Somaliland, and Garowe, Galkayo, Bossaso and Qardho in Puntland, and ten on rural livelihoods zones. FSNAU additionally is undertaking rapid assessments in the urban centers. Data collection for ten of the surveys is completed and analysis currently on-going. Additional surveys are planned in Gedo, Juba, Bay, Bakool, Hiran and Shabelle in December 2010.



A survey team interviews a mother,

Galkayo IDP Camp, Dec. '10

Preliminary findings indicate Global Acute (GAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rates of **13.0** (10.4-16.2) and **2.9** (1.8-4.7) in the Hawd livelihood zone, **11.0** (7.7-15.5) and **2.5** (1.3-5.1) in the Addun Livelihood zone, and **12.8** (10.0-15.9) and **1.5** (0.4-2.3) in Galgaduud Region respectively, reflecting a **Serious** nutrition situation. The results show improvements from the *Gu* 2010 period, when the situation was *Critical* and *Very Critical* in the Hawd and Addun, with GAM rates of 15.3 (12.0-18.6) and 22.8 (19.2-27.0), and SAM rates, 3.9 (1.6-6.1) and 7.1 (4.7-10.5) respectively. The change is of statistical significance in the Addun ( $p=0.000$ ), though not in the Hawd livelihood zone ( $p=0.284$ ). In Nugal Valley livelihood zone, the GAM rate is **10.3** (7.0-14.8) and the SAM, **1.0** (0.83-3) indicating a **Serious** situation, and a deterioration but not of statistical significance ( $p>0.05$ ) from the *Gu* 2010 when the GAM rate was  $>8.8\%$  ( $Pr=0.90$ ) and the situation classified as *Alert*. (Table 1 provides the summary of findings).

In the northwest IDP settlements of Hargeisa, Burao and Berbera, the GAM rates are **10.8** (8.9-13.0), **12.1** (8.8-15.4) and **14.2** (10.9-18.3) respectively, all indicating a **Serious** situation, and improvements from *Critical* in Burao and Berbera IDPs, but a sustained situation in Hargeisa from the *Gu* 2010. In the northeast IDP camps of Garowe, Galkayo and Bossaso, the GAM rates are **13.3** (11.0-15.9), **16.3** (13.2-20.0) and **15.6** (12.7-19.1) indicating a sustained **Serious** situation in Garowe and *Critical* situations in Galkayo and Bossaso. The situation in Galkayo has deteriorated from *Serious* levels (GAM rate  $>11.3$ ,  $pr=0.90$ ) while in Bossaso there is an improvement from the *Very Critical* (GAM rate  $>26.0$ ,  $pr=0.90$ ) situation in *Gu* 10.

Apart from the Addun livelihood zone with 3.4%, Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rates are  $<3\%$  in all the assessed population groups. Additionally, crude death rates are below 0.5 per 10,000 per day within *acceptable* levels (based on WHO classification) across the assessed population groups with the exception of Addun, Nugal Valley, Hargeisa IDPs and Galgaduud Region where the levels are above 0.5 but below 1 per 10,000 per day, indicating an *alert* situation. The main suspected cause of the deaths is diarrhoea in all the surveys, apart from in Hargeisa IDPs where likely are suspected measles cases.

**Table 1: Summary of Nutrition Assessments (November – December 2010)**

Population Assessed	GAM ((WHZ<-2 or oedema, WHO GS)	SAM ((WHZ<-3 or oedema, WHO GS)	Crude death rate (CDR)/10,000/ day
Hawd LZ	<b>13.0</b> (10.4-16.2) N=593	<b>2.9</b> (1.8-4.7)	<b>0.33</b> (0.15-0.71) N=2350
Addun LZ	<b>11.0</b> (7.7-15.5) N=591	<b>2.5</b> (1.3-5.1)	0.70 (0.42-1.17) N=3161
Galgaduud Region	<b>12.8</b> (10.0-15.9) N=591	<b>1.5</b> (0.4-2.3)	0.67 (0.43-1.02) N=4653
Nugal Valley (Sool-Nugal)	<b>10.3</b> (7.0-14.8) N=510	<b>1.0</b> (0.8-3.3)	0.53 (0.32-0.90) N=2638
Hargeisa IDPs	<b>10.8</b> (8.9-13.0) N=651	<b>1.5</b> (0.8-2.8)	0.58 (0.31-1.06) N=1148
Burao IDPs	<b>12.1</b> (8.8-15.4) N=652	<b>1.7</b> (0.5-2.9)	0.47 (0.29-0.75) N=4243
Berbera IDPs	<b>14.2</b> (10.9-18.3) N=542	<b>2.2</b> (1.2-4.1)	0.12 (0.05-0.33) N=3563
Garowe IDPs	<b>13.3</b> (11.0-15.9) N=761	<b>2.5</b> (1.6-3.9)	0.24 (0.10-0.60) N=3675
Galkayo IDPs	<b>16.3</b> (13.2-20.0) N=869	<b>2.9</b> (1.8-4.5)	0.98 (0.51-1.85) N=3917
Bossaso IDPs	<b>15.6</b> (12.7-19.1) N=749	<b>2.8</b> (1.6-4.8)	0.65 (0.39-1.08) N=3532

The general improvements in central regions and the IDP camps is likely associated with the positive impact of the Gu season, which improved livestock body condition leading to increased milk availability and income at the household level. Humanitarian assistance at scale is also ongoing in the region. Detailed analysis of findings are provided in the November-December Nutrition Update scheduled for release late December, 2010.

## INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS

### URBAN

Soaring cereal prices in most parts of the country as a result of early indications of *Deyr* crop failure has started affecting food accessibility in the urban areas. This is manifested by the constrained purchasing power among the urban poor due to increased cereal prices, declining Terms of Trade and the rising cost of living. Additionally, the continuing violence in the South and Central and influx of IDPs in the major urban centers are also contributing to worsening food security situation of the urban poor. Given the poor prospects of food production in the current *Deyr* season and the unstable security situation in the country, cereal price increase up until the next production season (Aug '11) are very likely in most parts of the country, which will primarily affect food security of urban poor households.

#### Inflation and Cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

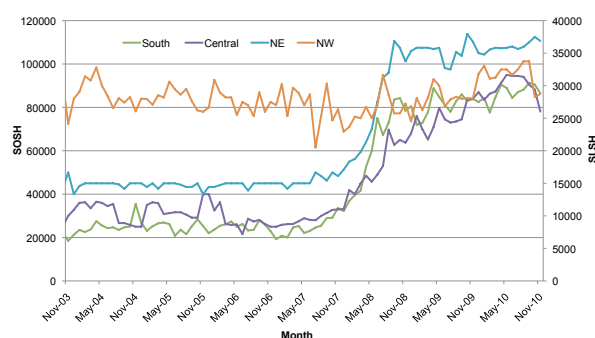
The cost of living increased in the last month from the levels seen in June 2010 in most urban centers of the country. This is shown by the increase of the cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB). While the basket cost has been relatively stable in the urban areas of the SiSh zone, notable increases were observed in most parts of the SoSh areas. Namely, the average cost of the MEB in the South increased by 15 percent between June and November 2010 which is 22 percent higher than November last year. The MEB cost in Central has risen by 13 percent and 9 percent in the same periods of comparison, respectively, while in the Northeast, the current cost of MEB is also 7 percent higher than in June 2010, whilst stable compared to November last year. The highest increases in the cost of MEB over the last five months were observed in Beletweyne (30%), Elbarde (31%) and Baidoa (18%), and in central regions of Abudwaq (20%) and Eldher (21%). The mounting minimum cost of living in these particular towns are attributable to the escalation in the prices of red sorghum (20-60%), wheat flour (12-26%), sugar (7-39%), vegetable oil (8-22%) as well as milk (16-141%).

In general, increased prices of the locally produced cereals, imported commodities (sugar and vegetable oil) and milk products are the primary factors pushing the cost of living up in southern and central zones of Somalia (see Market Sector). Increased prices on cereals, the main expense of the urban poor, as well as for milk, are attributable to poor performance of the current *Deyr* season, which constrained livestock and crop production in most parts of the country. The recurrent political conflicts and tensions in these zones, particularly in Mogadishu, Beletweyne, urban centers in Galgaduud and periodic clashes in parts of Bakool and Gedo, also contribute to the rising cost of living through disruption in trade, market access and commodity movements.

#### Labour Availability and Wage Rates

The trend of wage rates for labour<sup>1</sup> activities, the main income source of the urban poor, has exhibited mixed pattern in the different zones of the country since June this year (Figure 9). In the South, wage rates (Nov '10) in one out of two monitored towns<sup>2</sup> followed the seasonal trend, indicating increases during the dry *Hagaa* season (Jul-Sep '10) and falling during the *Deyr* season (Nov '10). Current wage rates in most regions of the South range between SoSh 64,000 and SoSh 130,000. However, significantly lower rates, equivalent to SoSh 38,000-45,000, are noted in Bakool region due to periodic conflicts and resultant disruptions in trade and market activities.

**Figure 9: Urban Average Wage Trends in SoSh and SiSh Areas**



In the Central, wage rates have been consistently decreasing since June 2010, particularly in Abudwaq, Eldher, and Harardhere districts due to continuing fighting and tension, and subsequent disruption in trade and economic activities in the zone. Since June this year, wage rates in Abudwaq, Harardhere and Elder decreased in the range of 22-32 percents, standing at SoSh 82,000 and SoSh 56,000 in November 2010. The wages remained stable in Galkayo and Dhusamareb due to good road infrastructure and relatively lower transport costs. There have been no changes in wages rates in the

<sup>1</sup> Reference is made to either unskilled construction labour or portage, which are the dominant and common sources of labour in urban towns.

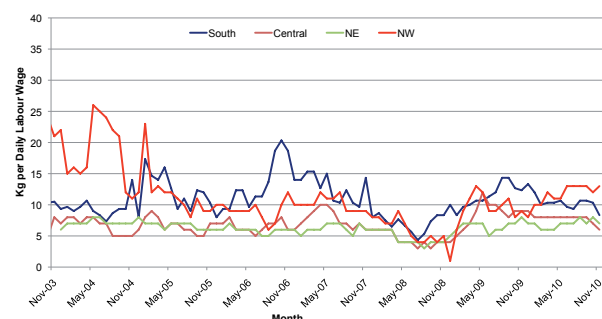
<sup>2</sup> Merka and Afgoye (Lower Shabelle), Buale (Middle Juba), Kismayo (Lower Juba), Beletweyne (Hiran), Hudur (Bakool), and Bardhere (Gedo).

North in the same period of comparison, except for the 15 percent increase in Garowe (Nugal) due to the booming construction sector and 14 percent decline in Borama (Awdal) attributable to low economic activities following the end of *xagaa-bax* period<sup>3</sup>. In the Northeast, current wage rates range between SoSh 80,000 and 120,000 with Bossaso recording the lowest wages, due to high competition for labour between the urban poor and internally displaced people<sup>4</sup>. Rates in the Northwest SiSh zone range between SiSh 25,000 and 30,000 (Figure 10).

### Purchasing Power

The ToT between wage rates and cereals, which measure the relative purchasing power of the urban poor, has also shown a mixed trend since June 2010. The ToT significantly plummeted during October and November months this year in many urban areas in the South and Central after rising in June-September, as a result of reduced cereal prices in the *Gu* post-harvest period. In the South, the ToT (daily labour wages to local sorghum or maize) in the urban centers within the key cereal producing southern regions (Lower Shabelle, Middle Juba and Bay regions) has decreased at higher rates than in other parts of the zone. This trend is attributed to cereal price rises and decreased labour wage rates stemming from the poor performance of *Deyr* rains, which affected food crop production and reduced agricultural labour opportunities. The ToT in these regions are well below the levels of last year (42%, 55% and 61% respectively) and five-year averages (2003-2007) indicating a dire situation for the urban poor. Similar trends of weakening purchasing power are also observed in almost all urban centers of Central, except in Galkayo, where the terms have increased by 38 percent due to a significant decline of sorghum price (29%) since June this year. Conversely, the ToT remained stable in the North with marginal fluctuations in some parts between June and November 2011 (Figure 10).

**Figure 10: Urban Terms of Trade (ToT) Sorghum to daily Labour Wage by Zone**



## RURAL

### Southern Regions

The food security situation has started to deteriorate in southern Somalia following the *Deyr* season failure with a significant negative impact on crop and livestock conditions. The situation is further exacerbated by worsening civil insecurity and resultant civilian displacement in Mogadishu, Shabelle, Hiran, parts of Gedo, Bakool and Bay regions.

Hot dry weather that persisted in much of southern Somalia throughout October-November months and preceeding Hagaa dry season has resulted in critical shortages of water, pasture and browse, particularly in the rain-fed areas. As a result, early abnormal migration of livestock (mainly small ruminants and cattle) in key pastoral areas of the zone is on going and livestock body conditions have started to deteriorate, particularly for cattle and lactating animals. Lack of *Deyr* rainfall in Somalia coupled with below average rains in the Ethiopian highlands has considerably reduced the irrigation capacity of Shabelle and Juba Rivers during *Deyr* 2010/11. Overall crop prospects for the *Deyr* 2010/11 are far below normal with almost complete failure in southern agropastoral areas due to prolonged moisture stress. The agricultural job opportunities are also scarce in much of the zone, as there were few planting and weeding activities available. In riverine areas, increasing irrigation for fodder production are reported, while the cereal production outlook is unfavourable.



*Livestock awaiting water from Afmadow Shallow wells*



*Overcrowded Water Point. Tabta, Afmadow, Lower Juba, FSNAU, Oct. '10*

<sup>3</sup> This is a period when large numbers of urban population from the coastal zones and Djibouti flow into inland urban towns such as Hargeisa, Borama, Buao, Sheikh and other parts in rural areas to escape a period of high temperature (May-Sep).

<sup>4</sup> Bossaso is hosting a large number of IDPs who are competing with the urban poor for labour and social support opportunities



Cereal prices also increased sharply between October and November 2010 in all cereal producing regions of southern Somalia due to an anticipated poor Deyr cereal production. This translated into a declining trend of household purchasing power in most regions, including Hiran, Middle Juba, Gedo and Bay. However, due to a considerable cereal supply from the recent good Gu production, the cereal prices in Shabelle regions are maintained below their levels in June 2010. Therefore, the purchasing power in this region is still stronger in November 2010 compared to June. Similarly, the purchasing power is also higher in Lower Juba due to increased labour wages as a result of on-going intense charcoal production. However, significantly reduced Deyr cereal supply will lead to further increase in cereal prices in the coming months, which will eventually be reflected in degraded purchasing power in much of the zone, including Juba and Shabelle regions.

### **Central Regions (Mudug, Galgaduud and Hiran)**

The food security situation in central regions, particularly Addun, Coastal Deeh and the Cowpea Belt, has deteriorated after a short-term improvement during the Gu 2010 season. The recent Deyr rain failure is the main cause of worsening situation. Other contributing factors include the widespread conflict, high IDP presence, trade disruptions, high cereal prices, depletion of pastoral households assets and increased pastoral destitution as a consequence of several successive seasonal failures in the past.

However, in the Hawd of central regions, the moderate rains in October, slightly improved rangeland and water conditions, leading to improved livestock body condition and availability of saleable animals at the household level. However, pasture and water improvements in Hawd have been short lived due to the huge livestock migration from neighbouring rain-deficit livelihoods. Abnormal livestock migration in Coastal Deeh, Addun and parts of Hawd pastoral livelihoods, towards neighbouring regions of the country, as well as Somali Region of Ethiopia, has resulted in family splitting and increased resource-based conflict over the limited pasture and water resources. The situation has further deteriorated since last Gu in Cowpea Belt livelihood in Galgaduud and Mudug regions, due to two consecutive seasons of crop failure and reduction in farm labour opportunities, such as sowing, weeding, threshing, etc.



*Emaciated goat body condition in Coastal Deeh of Central, FSNAU, Nov '10*

Despite the deteriorating pasture and water in central regions, the goat prices are higher (8%) in November compared to June, which is mostly attributable to the recent Hajj season. However, the ToT between local goat and rice has slightly declined due to rice price increases by 10% in the same period. The ToT between labour and cereal has also declined both for rice as well as sorghum due to increased labour wage rates (17%) and increased cereal prices. Thus, the food security situation is going to deteriorate further in central regions, at least until the next rainy season. The main contributing factors include high water prices, reduced income from livestock sales, declining purchasing power as a result of increased cereal prices and market disruptions stemming from widespread conflicts in the zone.

### **Northern Regions**

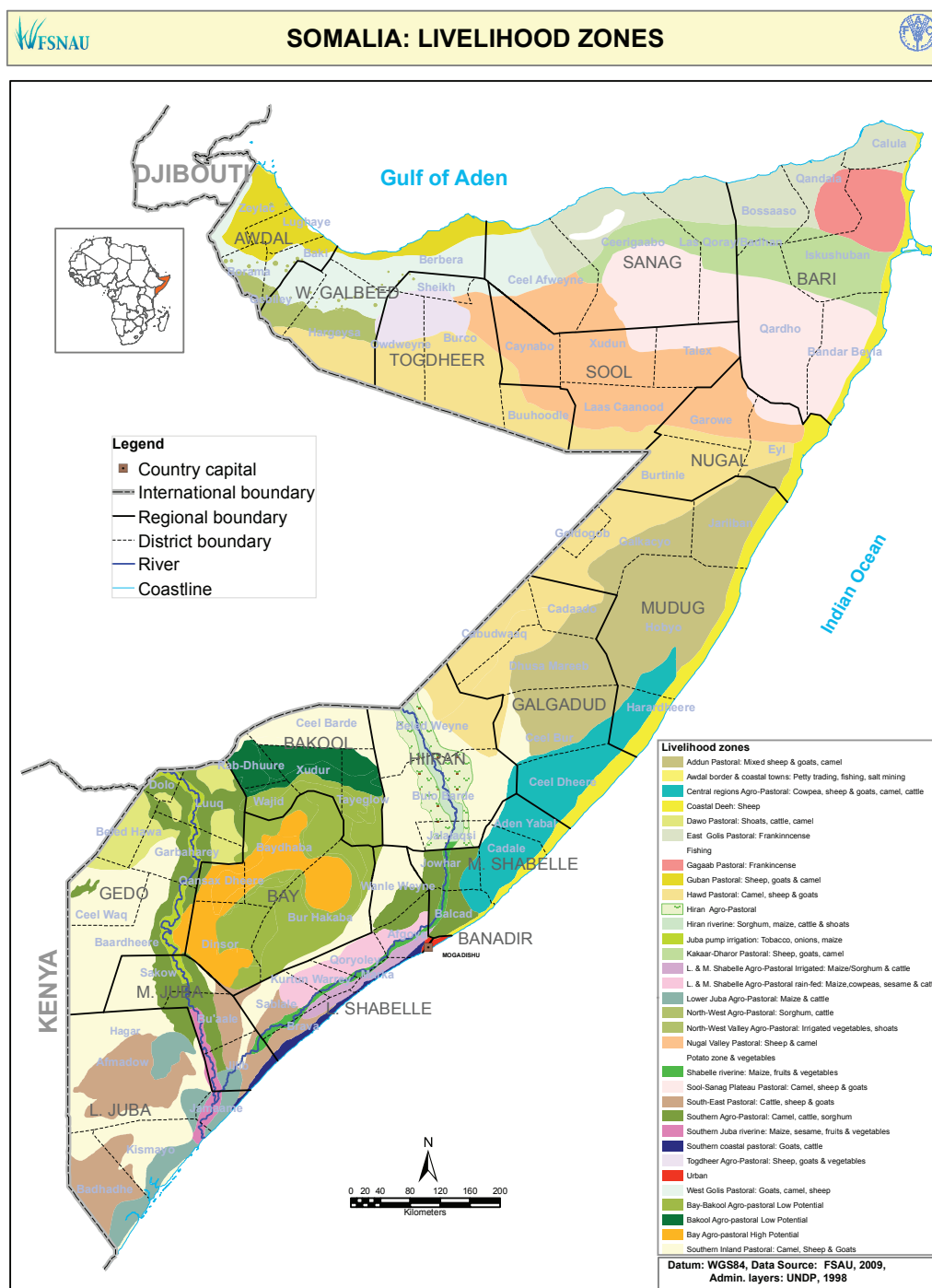
The current situation in the North is showing a mixed picture, with some improvements observed in the livelihoods of Awdal and W.Galbeed regions and deterioration seen in other parts. The improvements in the mentioned regions are attributed to average Deyr rains and unseasonal rainfall in Guban livelihoods of Awdal region, which further enhanced pasture and water conditions and resulted in improved livestock body conditions. The recent rainfall received in the Guban has also helped seasonal livestock migrations from Golis areas. High kidding and lambing and improved milk availability are also reported in all livelihoods of the two regions. The crop performance is also positive (in both establishment and development) in parts of agropastoral areas of Awdal and W. Galbeed. Other factors that contributed to the improved food security situation include, increased livestock trade activities and livestock prices due to high export demand for Hajj;



*Poor Pasture in Nugaal Valley of Northwest, FSNAU, Nov '10*

reduced local cereal prices (sorghum, maize) due to exceptionally good crop harvested this year; high labour wages and stronger purchasing power. In November, ToT between local cereals and local quality goat are 17-22 percent higher in these regions compared to the same month last year.

In contrary, the situation has deteriorated in other parts of Northwest and entire regions of the Northeast. Specifically, very poor *Deyr* rains preceded by the dry *Hagaa* season negatively affected pastoral livelihoods of the Nugal Valley of Sool, Sanaag and Nugal regions, Sool Pastoral, Coastal *Deeh*, Addun, and Togdheer Agropastoral areas. The situation is also deteriorating in Hawd and Dharoor/Karkaar livelihoods, which received average rainfall in October, but the regenerated pasture and water harvested during the rains have soon been depleted by massive livestock influx from neighbouring rain-deficit areas. Livestock body conditions in the areas with poor pasture and water started to deteriorate, while in Coastal *Deeh* and Addun livelihoods, the livestock is already emaciated. Therefore, the Coastal *Deeh*, Addun and Sool Plateau are likely to experience the worst food security situation compared to the other livelihoods in the North.



#### **Recent and forthcoming publications and releases**

*FSNAU/FEWSNET Climate Data Update, November 2010*

*FSNAU/FEWSNET Market Data Update, November 2010*

*FSNAU Technical Series Report Nutrition Situation, November 2010*

*FSNAU Quarterly Brief October 2010*

*FSNAU Technical Series Report Nutrition Situation, September 2010*

*FSNAU Technical Series Report, Post Gu '10 Analysis, September 2010*

*NOTE: The above publications and releases are available on the FSNAU website: [www.fsnau.org](http://www.fsnau.org)*

Technical and  
Managerial Support

