

KEY ISSUES

The food security situation in all livelihoods of Somalia remain as classified during the post *Deyr* '08/09 assessment (Jan.-June '09), however, the prolonged and harsh *Jilaal* dry season has led to a deterioration in some areas (page 7-8).

- There are indications of some people returning to Mogadishu, however, the overall number of IDPs has increase since Dec. '08 from 1.02 million to more than 1.2 million people (UNHCR, March '09).
- Drought affected populations in central region face continuing deterioration in their food security and nutrition situation as a result of the unusually prolonged and harsh dry *Jilaal* season. The nutrition situation is significantly above emergency levels and is categorized as Very Critical (>20% GAM).
- In Juba and Gedo, pastoral and agro-pastoral community's food security situation has also deteriorated due to severe water and pasture shortages, resulting in increased expenditure on water and fodder, as well as decreased income from livestock and livestock product sales.
- The food security situation of the urban poor, especially in the northwest and parts of the south, is showing signs of improvement with large declines in the cost of minimum basket, however, debt levels are high and currently the poor are still reliant on gifts and loans.

Climate: Moderate '*Todob*' rains fell in Bay, Bakool, and in localized areas of Juba, Hiraan, and Galgadud, temporarily easing the water crises. *Gu* '09 rains started on time in Awdal and W. Galbeed and have begun to significantly replenish water sources and improve rangeland conditions, mainly in the rain deficit areas of pastoral Hawd and Golis/Guban. *Gu* '09 rains in the south are expected to begin in the second dekad of April (page. 2).

Civil Insecurity: Insecurity is continuing in many parts of south and central Somalia. Militia regrouping, sporadic fighting and the threat of fighting, are restricting trade movements. Population displacement is reported in Galgaduud region where families are moving out of urban centers into rural locations. Sea piracy is increasing with 71 incidents already reported this year. Insecurity still continues to be problematic for humanitarian access, and many areas are still inaccessible (page. 3).

Agriculture: Cereal availability is improving due to an increasing imported cereals since Oct. '08, combined with off-season and *Deyr* '08/09 harvests. Since Jan. '09 cereal imports are 55% higher than 3-year average (Jan.-March). Local cereal prices continued to decline, on average between 12-14% since Jan., leading to improvements in household purchasing power. However, prices still remain at record high levels across the country (page. 3-4).

Livestock: In the northwest, rains in agro-pastoral and pastoral areas of Golis/Guban are improving rangeland conditions. Localized rains in the central drought areas have had short-lived benefits as any improvements in pasture and water are quickly depleted due to high demand. Livestock exports are increased and are 82% higher than the same period last year. Livestock prices are declining, except in the northwest, but are still significantly above the March five-year average (page 4-5).

Markets: The Somali Shilling appreciated 7-12% since Jan. '09. Import commodity prices also continued to decline since Oct. '09, although they are still at record high levels (100-160% of 3 year average). The urban poor *Consumer Price Index* (CPI) declined significantly in some regions, mostly attributable to falling sorghum prices. In Somaliland the cost of the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) is now the as base period (March '07). Similarly, the average CPI for the south in March '09, is now only 20% higher than March '07 (page 5).

Nutrition: WHO confirmed a Cholera outbreak in Mogadishu Banadir Hospital following a total of 304 cases of Acute Water Diarrhoea (AWD), with 6 deaths reported from 1st March to 3rd April. Contributing factors may be the return displaced populations to Mogadishu combined with interrupted water and sanitation supplies in the city. AWD cases are also reported from other regions, including Jamaame and Marere in L. Juba, Burhakaba and Baidoa in Bay region and Yaqbariweine in L. Shabelle (page 6).



Somalia Seasonal Timeline & Key Events

Climate

Markets

Nutrition

Agriculture

Livestock

Civil
Insecurity

Emerging
Regional
Issues

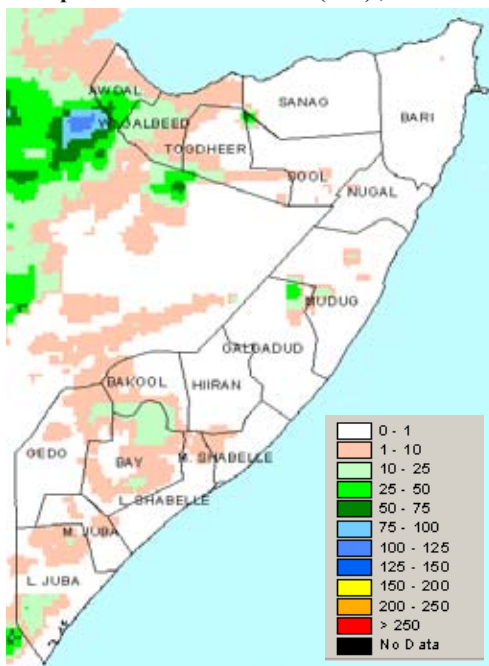
FSAU - Somalia
Box 1230, Village
Market,
Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 374 5734
Fax: +254 20 374 0598
email:
fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke
www.fsausomali.org

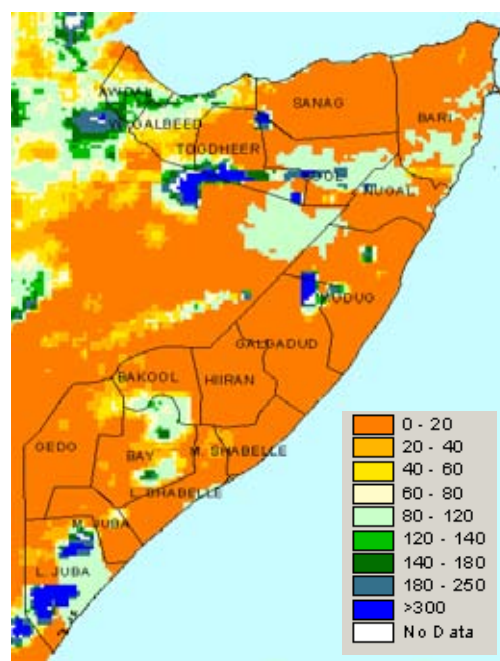
SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

CLIMATE

Map 1: Cumulative Rainfall (mm) , March '09



Map 2: Percent of Longterm Mean, March '09



Outcome of Jillaal Dry Season

The current *Jillaal* dry season (Jan. – April) is exceptionally harsh and long due to the early cessation of the *Deyr* '08/09 rains (prematurely ended in Nov. '08). This has led to high evaporation rates and subsequently an early depletion of natural and communal water catchments in most parts of the country. This has resulted in extreme water and pasture shortages across many parts of the country, especially in the central, Juba, Southern Inland pastoral areas of Gedo, Hawd of Hirran and Middle Shebelle regions. Vegetation conditions are extremely poor (See FSAU Climate Data Update, March '09) and most of the shallow wells, water catchments and concrete water reservoirs (*berked*) remain dry. As a result, pastoral communities in the central regions have abnormally migrated and concentrated around boreholes, while in Juba and Gedo cattle pastoralists have migrated to the riverine *desheks* (flood areas). Field reports confirmed serious shortages of water and pasture in livestock dependent regions, including Mudug, Galgaduud, and parts of Sanaag and Sool and water trucking continues in those regions. In addition, unusual water trucking is ongoing in Afmadow and Badade districts of Juba and Elwaq of Gedo.

Southern Early 'Todob' Rains and Northwest Gu '09

During the third dekad of March, moderate '*Todob*' (normal showers in last dekad of March) rains were received in localized areas of Juba, Bay, and Bakool regions. At the same time, localized moderate rains were reported in the drought affected pastoral triangle between Elder, Elbur, and Mahas districts in central region. These rains immediately supported to ease the tension on pasture and water crisis, but were not sufficient to alleviate the drought's effects and water supplies were swiftly exhausted due to massive in-migration from neighboring livelihoods zones (see FSAU Climate Data Update, March '09). Coastal pockets of Eldher, Xaradhere, Hobyo (Galgaduud and Mudug regions), Bendarbeyla and Golis of Cerigabo and Iskushuba and Nugal Valley of Lasanod have received localized light rains (northern pastoral areas) (Map 1 and 2).

In the northwest, where Gu rains arrive earlier than in the south and central, field reports confirm an early start of *Gu* '09 rains in many areas in the last dekad of March, mainly in the rain deficit areas of the Hawd pastoral, the agro-pastoral and Golis/Guban of Awdal and W. Galbeed regions.

Rains have intensified during the first dekad of April and are reported to have significantly replenished water sources and improved pasture regeneration in the northwest. In addition, parts of Bay region and localized areas of Juba region in the south, have also received rainfall during the first dekad of April. FSAU and FEWS NET alongside their partners will be working together to carefully monitor rainfall levels, pasture and rangeland conditions, as *Gu* '09 season approaches (mid-April – June).

CIVIL INSECURITY

The security situation in most of south and central Somalia remains volatile and very insecure. Militia regrouping, sporadic fighting and the threat of fighting, are increasing, and this is restricting trade movements and other social activities. Most recently there have been notable increases in militia activity in the areas of Balad (Middle Shabelle), Elbarde, Rabdhuure and Xudur (Bakool), Dhuusamareeb, Ceelbuur, and Guriceel (Galgadud) and Mogadishu. Population displacement, as a result of insecurity, is now reported to be affecting Galgaduud region and in the district centres of Ceelbuur, Dhusamareeb, and Guri-ceel there is a noticeable increase in families moving out of urban centers into rural areas (where there are severe food and water shortages) for security reasons.

Furthermore, there have been reports that a significant number of people are seeking refuge to neighbouring countries, most notably in Kenya and Ethiopia, and departing by sea for Yemen from Bossasso. The UN IASC Protection Cluster reported in March '09 that an estimated of 54,000 people have returned to Mogadishu, while an estimated of 27,000 people left Mogadishu, heading to Galkacyo and Bossasso. Overall, the latest estimates of IDPs have increased from 1.02 to 1.2 million people between Jan. and March '09.

The number of insecurity epicenters has significantly increased since Jan. '09. During the last three months there have been security incidents in Bosasso, Galkacyo, Dhusamareeb, Elbuur, Guri-ceel, Mogadishu, Xudur, Rabdhuurre and Baardheere. In Mogadishu, the security situation is also volatile, with suicide attacks aimed at the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). These incidents have persistently limited trading activities, restricted population movement, and continued to increase transportation costs. Different factional groups are continuing to fight for power in various regions, following the withdrawal of TFG and Ethiopian troops. Resource based conflict and clan retaliation, however, are reported to have decreased. Sea piracy incidents are increasing, 111 incidents were reported in 2008, while 71 incidents were reported between Jan. and mid-Apr '09. In addition 17 ships and 300 persons were abducted and are still in the hands of sea pirates.

The killing and abductions of humanitarian staff is continuing, though declining (Figure 1). This, however, is likely due to the significantly reduced numbers of humanitarian staff who are currently deployed and working within Somalia. Many areas are still inaccessible, but the humanitarian needs are great, with an estimated 3.2 million people in need of humanitarian and livelihood response, the worst affected regions are the drought affected areas of Central, Hiran and Middle Shabelle.

AGRICULTURE

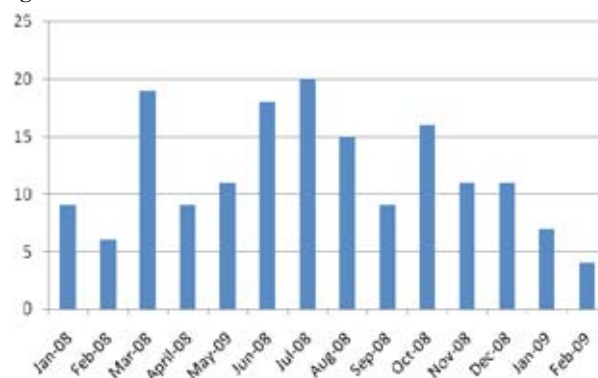
Ongoing Agriculture Activities

In March '09, localised '*Todob*' rains were received in the several agriculture areas which supported the start of land preparation and early planting. These include agro-pastoral areas of Dinsor, Qansah Dhere, Burhakaba and Baidoa districts in Bay region, and Rabdurre, El Berde and Wajid districts in Bakool region. Similarly, localised rains were received in agriculture areas of Buale and Sakow in Middle Juba and Bardhere in Gedo. Also good rains were received in the northwest agro-pastoral areas of Awdal and Galbeed. However, Shabelle and Hiran agriculture areas remain dry. In Shabelle riverine areas, farmers have started planting and irrigating maize and rice crops, resulting in the improvement of labour opportunities.

Below average *Deyr* '08/09 rainfall, together with high input costs, led to significantly below average *Deyr* '08/09 cereal production in the Juba regions. However, man-made and natural floods during Nov. '08 fully recharged all *desheks* (flood areas) along the riverine areas and brought opportunities for off-season flood recession crop cultivation. This early *Deyr* off-season cereal production from the *desheks* was roughly estimated at 7,500MT in the FSAU Post *Deyr* '08/09 Assessment, which represented roughly 14% of cereal production (maize and sorghum) in southern Somalia.

High water levels in the *desheks* after the *Deyr* '08/09 rains created an opportunity for another round of off-season crops. The standing off-season crops are currently at different stages, from planting to harvesting, depending on the time of planting, length of crop maturation, and speed of water recession. FSAU with FEWS.NET conducted an off-season crop harvest assessment in Lower and Middle Juba regions (Sakow, Buale, Jilib, Jamame and "*Deshek Wamo*" in Afmadow) from 14th to 27th March '09. Civil insecurity prevented normal field access for off-season assessment team in Jilib, Jamame and Afmadow, but with the support of FSAU and FEWS.NET enumerators and key informants,

Figure 1: Direct Humanitarian Incidents 2008-2009



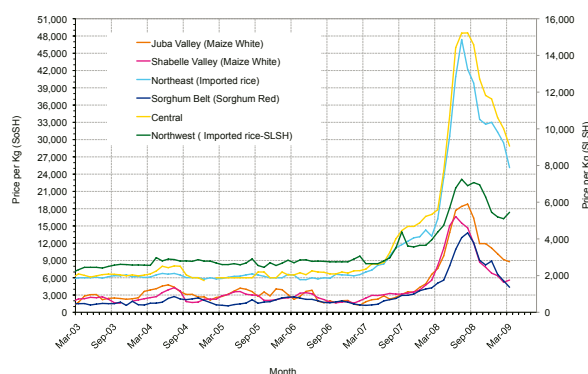
FSAU was able to collect information through teleconferencing from the other districts.

According to the Juba Off-season Crop Assessment (March 2009), off-season maize production is estimated at about 5,400 MT, of which 37% is from Jamame, 37% is from Jilib, 17% is from Buale, and 8% is from Sakow. Sesame production is estimated at 2,300MT, of which 43% is from Jamame, 29% is from Jilib, and 6% is from Kismayo. Additionally, there is an estimated 560 MT of off-season cowpeas, of which 80% is from Middle Juba and 20% is from Lower Juba. The maize and sesame productions from these five districts is 72% and 460% of the projected off-season production estimated in the Post *Deyr* '08/09 assessment, respectively. Although there is a slight decrease of the projected maize production estimates, sesame cultivated as a cash crop is much higher and is reported to be the main off-season crop in Middle Juba, due to favourable prices and high export demand. Off-season activities, such as harvesting, threshing, weeding and the ongoing planting, are creating labour opportunities for poor households.

Cereal Availability, Prices and Terms of Trade

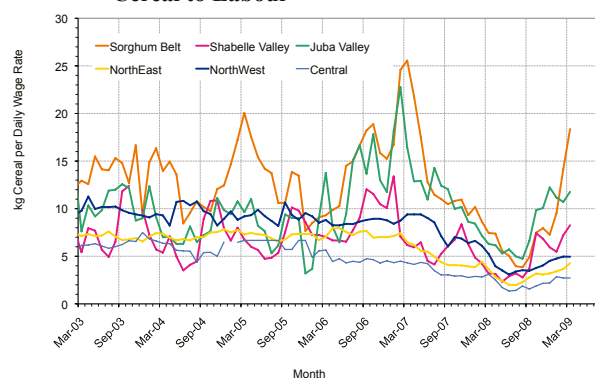
Cereal availability is improving in most markets in Somalia. This is due to a combination of factors, including the positive impact of the marketed local cereal harvests of the *Gu* '08 off-season, *Deyr* '08/09 and *Deyr* '08/09 off-season cereal productions and the increased availability of food aid in the market. In addition, there has been an improvement in commercial cereal imports in the last six months. Estimated cereal import figures, consisting of rice, wheat and spaghetti expressed in cereal equivalents, from Berbera and Bossasso Ports, indicate increasing trend since Oct. '08. Total cereal imports for Jan. - March '09 excluding food aid imports, are estimated at 128,000MT, 55% higher than the Jan.-March three year average (2006 – 2008), estimated at 82,500MT. This is mainly due to the appreciation of the Somali Shilling (see Market section), combined with decreased global commodities prices, and reduced piracy activities in Aden and the Persian Gulf in the first three months of this year. Commercial cereal imports into Mogadishu Port show similar trends. This improved cereal availability has led to a reduction in average maize and sorghum prices since July '08. In the last three months, Jan. to March '09, local cereal prices have continued to decline. Average maize prices have fallen 14% and 12% in the Juba and Shabelle regions, respectively, and sorghum prices have fallen 14% in the Sorghum-belt, between Jan. '09 and March '09. Despite these decreases, however, prices of locally produced cereals remain at all time highs across the country and are currently 150 – 230% higher than the 5-year March average (2004 – 2008) (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Regional Trend in Cereal Prices (SoSH)



The decreasing trends in cereal prices also translates into improved household purchasing power, as measured by 'terms of trade' (TOT) (labour to cereal). In the Shabelle regions, as a result of declining cereal prices and increased agricultural labour opportunities, terms of trade continued to improve and increased 51% between Jan. '09 and March '09 (from 5 to 8 kg per daily wage) – improving food access for poor riverine communities. Similarly, in the Sorghum-belt, terms of trade increased by 92% during the same period (from 10 to 18 kg) due to the near average *Deyr* '08/'09 sorghum production. In the Juba region, also, terms of trade increased only 5% during this period as wage rates fell 4% due to increased labour supply from agro-pastoral areas (Figure 3). However, TOTs are still lower than the long term trend. Agricultural labour opportunities are expected to continue to improve in the coming months with the off-season harvest and preparations for the coming *Gu* '09 season.

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



LIVESTOCK

Pasture and Water Conditions

Pasture and water conditions began to improve as a result of moderate '*Todob*' rains (normal showers in last dekad of March) in localized pastoral areas of Juba, Bay, and Bakool regions. In the northwest, earlier *Gu* '09 rains started in many parts of the W. Galbeed, and Awdal regions, importantly in the rain deficit livelihood zones of northwest agro-pastoral, West Golis/Guban and Hawd pastoral. In the drought affected central regions, localized moderate rains fell in the pastoral triangle between Elder, Elbur and Mahas districts. Although these showers in the central regions were beneficial and immediately helped to improve the critical pasture and water situations, the benefits were short-lived as they were quickly depleted due to a huge livestock in-migration from the neighboring rain deficit areas. Coastal

pockets of Hobyo, Eldheere and Xaradheere districts in central region also received localized light rains, which slightly improved pasture and water conditions. The rest of the pastoral areas of the country, however, remain dry, with high temperatures and heavy cloud build-up. Live-stock migration patterns are unchanged (see *Deyr* '08/09 Technical Series Map 10), however, camel pastoralists have started to return to their home areas, while others are awaiting the start of the *Gu* '09 performance expected in the last dekad April.

Most *berkads* and water catchments are dry throughout the drought affected and rain deficit regions, while shallow wells have either dried up or drastically declined water levels due to the huge demand by livestock and human use as a result of the current harsh long *Jilaal* dry season. Boreholes are the only source serving the community in Hawd of central and are operating day and night to support water tankers, as well as livestock. Unusual water trucking is ongoing in Afmadow, Badade (L. Juba) and Elwaq districts (Gedo). The only borehole serving Badade district has had several breakdowns, and as a result there is a water shortage and crisis for both human and livestock. The price of water in the drought affected areas of central (Mudug, Galgaduud) and Hiraan has increased dramatically and is at an all time high. The price of water during March '09 in central regions coastal and cowpea-belt areas was SoSh 60,000-80,000/drum, while in Hawd pastoral water prices are between SoSh 180,000 – 200,000/drum, which are four to five times above normal levels. Local quality goat could fetch 6 drums of water, while in Juba was SoSh 50,000/drum (see FSAU SLIM Market Data).

Livestock Body Conditions and Production

The body condition of livestock in the drought stricken and rain deficit areas of central, Hiran and Juba regions has further deteriorated, with cattle and sheep the worst affected. Most calves and kids born during *Deyr* '08/09 have died in central and Juba regions. Lactating sheep and pack camels in central were also reported to be dying due to hunger and endemic diseases, and field interview indicate that pastoralists are slaughtering their weak animals to save the skin for household use. Calving, kidding and lambing are expected to start in April '09, throughout all livelihood zones, however, low calving/kidding are expected in drought affected regions of central and Hiran.

Livestock Trade, Prices and Terms of Trade

Prospect for livestock exports seems to be good, as total livestock exports during January and February reached 324,169 heads, of which 53% were exported Berbera and 47% through Bosasso Port. This level of livestock exports in Jan. and Feb. '09 is 82% higher than the same period last year. However, Burao and Galkayo slaughter houses exported 35,870 carcasses in Jan - March '09, 39% lower than same time last year, due to low market demand.

In March '09, livestock prices showed a declining trend throughout most of the country, except in the northwest. Currently, however, local goat prices in the south, central and northeast are 100% - 200% higher compared to the March five-year average (see FSAU March '09 Market Data Update). Average terms of trade (TOT) (cereal to goat) have increased throughout Somalia when compared to Dec. '08, but are still 20% - 35% lower when compared to the March 5-year average. This is due to a significant decline of cereal prices; while livestock prices are still above the long-term mean (Figure 4).

MARKETS AND TRADE

Commercial Import Commodity Prices, Exchange Rate

The Somali shilling continued to appreciate over the last three months (see FSAU Market Data Update, March '09). For example, in Mogadishu's main market, Bakaara, the shilling appreciated at about 14% compared to the US dollar (from SoSh 32,950/USD in January to SoSh 28,250 in March), while in Galkayo, the shilling appreciated by 7%, for the same period. Similar trends were observed in other markets. This appreciation is due to low demand for the dollar, an increase in the supply of dollars from livestock export sales and piracy, combined with the

Figure 4: Regional Trend in Terms of Trade, Cereal to Goat

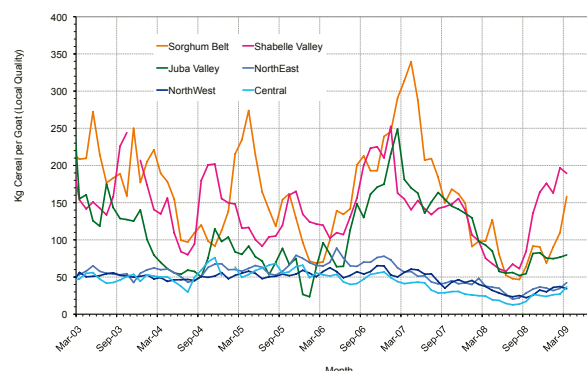


Figure 5: Monthly Exchange Rates - SoSh and SiSh to USD



cessation of money printing as well as positive developments in political reconciliation. In contrast, the Somaliland Shilling depreciated by about 5%, during the same period.

Prices of imported commodities have declined steadily since Oct. '09, although they are still at record levels. For instance, from January to March this year, in central regional markets, rice prices decreased by 15%, from SoSh 33,833 per kg in January to SoSh 28,867 per kg in March. However, when comparing the last year during the same period and five-year average prices, rice prices are 62% and 224% higher, respectively. Similarly, in Shabelle Valley markets, average rice prices decreased by 29%, from SoSh 31,563 per kg in January to SoSh 22,500 per kg in March, but are 43% and 179% higher than last year at the same time and the five year average prices, respectively. Similar trends were observed in other markets. The decrease in commercial commodity prices is the result of the appreciation of the Somali Shilling, which translates into cheaper imports. In the case of rice prices, other contributing factors include improved cereal supply in the markets, both local post *Deyr* '08/09 and off-season harvests, increased cereal imports in the first three months of the year and food aid.

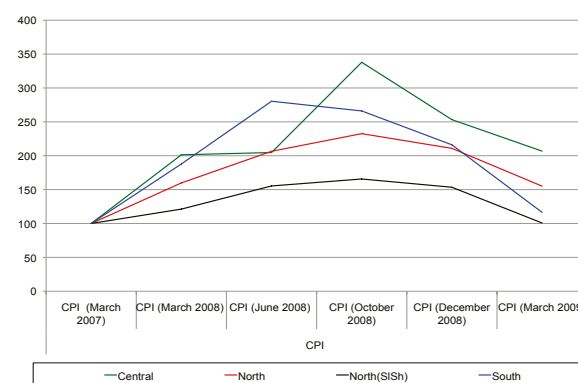
Urban Poor Cost of Living (CPI)

Lower cereal and commodity prices and the strengthening of the Somali shilling has led to a reduction in the cost of minimum expenditure basket (MEB) of basic food and nonfood needs. The urban poor consumer price index (CPI) indicates a continuing decreasing trend in the cost of the minimum expenditure basket (CMB) since Oct. '08 (Figure 6).

The CPI reached its peak in Oct. '08, ranging between 165-340% of the cost, in the base period in March '07 (100). However, by March '09, the CPI had declined significantly in some regions, especially in Somaliland where the cost of the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) is now equivalent to the cost in the base March '07 period.

Similarly, the average CPI for the south in March '09, is now only 20% higher than March '07 (CPI is 120). The CPI is highest in Central region, followed by the northern SoSh areas (Figure 6). These sharp declines in the CPI over the last five months are largely attributed to decreased sorghum prices, as cereal constitutes the largest proportion (50-60%) of the urban poor MEB. Similar price declines in other basic food and nonfood items also contribute to the overall declining trend, though to a lesser degree. The reduction in the cost of living will help improve the purchasing power and food access of most of the urban population, especially for the urban poor and IDPs.

Figure 6: Regional CPI Trends



NUTRITION SITUATION

FSAU with collaboration from UNICEF, WHO WFP and the technical lead of the Institute of Child Health University of London, have just commenced a micronutrient malnutrition survey in Puntland. This is the first of 3 surveys which aim to assess the public health significance of the major micronutrient deficiencies (iron, iodine and vitamin A). In addition, infant child and adult nutritional status will be assessed as well as malaria prevalence and other relevant household indicators. The study aims to provide a baseline to inform and guide an appropriate response strategy. This information should also support a deeper analysis and understanding of the factors affecting malnutrition in Somalia. The Somaliland survey will follow in May and assuming access, in South Central in June. Preliminary results should be available in August.

Four nutrition assessments, three at livelihood level (pastoral, agropastoral and riverine) and one covering Beletweyne district, are currently on-going in Hiran region. The nutrition situation in Hiran has been of concern following the severe food security situation and confirmed with data collected from rapid assessments and health centres however, due to insecurity no representative surveys have been conducted since the first half of 2008, therefore this survey is essential to provide an up to date picture. Also in April three nutrition surveys will be conducted in the protracted IDP population of the northwest and later in the month the central surveys will also be conducted.

Highlights from the *Somali Health Cluster* include: confirmed cholera outbreak in parts of Lower Juba (Marere and Jamaame), Bay (Burhakaba and Baidoa) and Lower Shabelle (Yaqbariweine) with response activities on-going; and the marking of the *World Water Day* (March 22nd) and the *World TB Day* (March 24th) with several health activities. The *World Health Day* will be held on April 7th, 2009. WHO and UNICEF conducted Phase 1 of the *Child Health Days* in all regions of Southern Somalia. For details, see the *Somali health Cluster Bulletin No. 12* at www.emro.who.int/somalia/healthcluster.

INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS

In general, the food security situation in all livelihood zones of Somalia remain as classified during the post *Deyr* '08/09 assessment. An estimated 3.2 million people are in Humanitarian Emergency (HE) and Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC), of which 34% are in AFLC and 26% in HE, while the remaining 40% are Internally Displaced People. However, livelihoods in drought affected central regions (Mudug, Galgaduud and Hiran) has further deteriorated due to the prolonged harsh dry *Jilaal* season, which has followed four consecutive of rain failure, heavy livestock losses, hyperinflation, civil insecurity and market disruptions. The nutrition situation is also very alarming and significantly above emergency levels (**Very Critical**). In addition, the food security situation of pastoral and agro-pastoral in Juba and Gedo have also deteriorated due to severe water and pasture shortages, resulting in increased expenditure costs on water and fodder purchases at the household level, as well as decreased income from livestock and livestock product sales. In contrast, moderate *Todob* rains fell in most parts of Bay and Bakool while *Gu* '09 rains started in Awdal and W. Galbeed and have begun to improve livelihood conditions, though it is still too early to determine whether the situation will continue to improve.

NORTHERN REGIONS

In the northern regions, the prolonged harsh *Jilaal* weather conditions negatively affected pastoral livelihoods of the Hawd of Sool and Nugal, all livelihoods of Sanaag and agro-pastoral of Togdheer regions. Excessive heat accelerated the drying of *Berkads* and dams and the depletion of pasture and browse. Continuing water trucking in the last three months has increased water prices in the Hawd pastoral of Nugal region by 33%, while the other *Berkad* dependent livelihoods have maintained all time high water prices. However, livelihoods in W. Galbeed and Awdal have received moderate rains in the last few weeks, which significantly improved both water and pasture conditions. Terms of trade between local goat and cereal (rice) shows an increasing trend since April '08, due to the increase of livestock price and decrease of cereal prices, however, it is still 28% - 45% lower than March 5-year average ('04 – '08) (see livestock sector). A micronutrient malnutrition survey is currently ongoing throughout the northeast region and selected preliminary findings will be reported in the coming month.

CENTRAL REGIONS (MUDUG, GALGADUD AND HIRAAN)

The food security and nutrition situation in central regions have been deteriorating since *Gu* '07, due to poor seasonal performance, high presence of IDPs, insecurity, sea piracy activities, hyperinflation, high cereal prices and market disruptions. Since *Gu* '07, central regions were hit and affected by four successive seasons of rain failures, which combined with hyperinflation in 2008, has drastic decreases in all livelihood assets, forcing households to adopt extreme distress coping strategies to survive. Livestock herd size, the main income source have declined significantly due to high off-take and deaths; camel is 43%, cattle 51% and sheep/goats 57% lower than baseline levels (FSAU Post *Deyr* '08/09 Assessment). The long dry and harsh *Jilaal* resulted in a further deterioration of rangeland and water conditions, which contributed to more livestock deaths, particularly calves, kids and lambs, as well as pack camels and old aged animals. This has depleted poor households livestock herd size, forcing them to live destitution in the main towns.

Due to recurrent shocks, the number of people in Humanitarian Emergency (HE) and Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) have increased between *Deyr* '07/08 and *Deyr* '08/09 from 28% to 78% of the total population of the regions, respectively, (see *Post Deyr Analysis Reports for '07/08 and '08/09*). The humanitarian crisis is severe, affecting not only the rural populations, but the urban poor and IDPS, of which the majority (60%) of those in crisis are in Humanitarian Emergency (HE). Even if the *Gu* '09 rains are good and inflation continues to reduce, the



Central: Pack camel die due to severe drought, March '09



MUAC measurement in a previous assessment

population will continue to face conditions of HE and AFLC for some time. The recovery of the livelihood assets and strategies will take several consecutive normal seasons, because of the prolonged nature and severity of the crisis.

SOUTHERN REGIONS

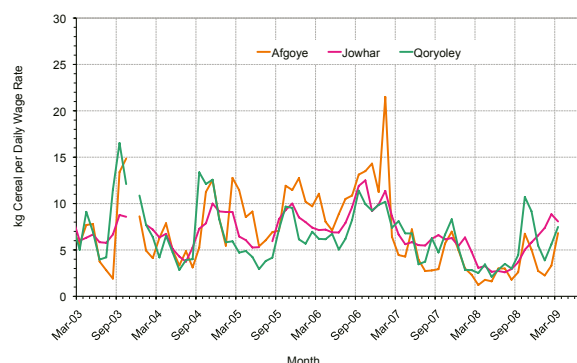
The food security situation of rural livelihoods in the south is mixed, with the riverine livelihoods and agro-pastoral and pastoral of Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool showing an improvement, while the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods, particularly, in Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba and El Wak in Gedo experiencing further deterioration as a result of the prolonged and harsh dry *Jilaal*.

The very poor performance and early end of the *Deyr* '08/09 rainfall (Dec. '08 was largely dry), further compounded by a longer than usual and harsh prolonged *Jilaal* dry season, has resulted in deteriorating livestock body, water and the rangeland conditions in southern inland pastoral, agro-pastoral and coastal livelihoods in these regions. Acute water shortages are reported and the competition for water between humans and livestock is leading to a loss of calves, kids and aged animals. Emaciated animals are wide spread, particularly in Afmadow (L. Juba), El Wak (Gedo) and Adale (M. Shabelle) districts. Significant water trucking is ongoing in the affected areas, resulting in escalated household expense due to high water costs. However, riverine livelihoods in Shabelle and Juba, agro-pastoral and pastoral in Bakool, Bay and Lower Shabelle regions are showing an improvement in food access, due to improving terms of trade between labour and cereals or livestock and cereals, average crop harvests, including off-season, improved livestock body conditions with good prices, and decreasing cereal prices (see crop, climate and livestock sectors) (Figure 7).

A further concern is the newly reported Cholera outbreak¹ in parts of Southern regions including Banadir, Lower Juba, Bay and Lower Shabelle regions. Cholera is endemic in Somalia and exacerbated by water shortages as water quality is affected and population displacements, which facilitate the spread of the disease. WHO have reported 304 cases of AWD in Banadir with 6 deaths from March 1st and April 3rd '09. Cholera was confirmed and the threshold level for declaring an outbreak reached of one death of a patient of 5 years of older or laboratory confirmation of *Vibrio Cholerae*. Given the high nutritional vulnerability of population in Southern Somalia, this outbreak could lead to a further deterioration in the nutritional situation.

1 WHO Press Release, 6th April 2009, Central South Somalia on the verge of Cholera Outbreaks.

Figure 7: Shabelle Riverine Terms of Trade: Cereal to Labour



Recent and forthcoming publications and releases

FSAU/FEWSNET Market Data Update, April 2009
 FSAU/FEWSNET Climate Data Update, April 2009
 FSAU Technical Series Report, Post Deyr '08/09 Analysis, March 4, 2009
 FSAU Technical Series Report, Nutrition Analysis, February 20, 2009
 FSAU Post Deyr 08/09 Special Brief, February 11, 2009
 FSAU Press Release, February 5, 2009

NOTE: The above publications and releases are available on the FSAU website: www.fsausomali.org