

KEY ISSUES

The humanitarian situation in Somalia is deteriorating at an accelerated pace due to the combination of sky rocketing food prices, a significantly devalued Somali Shilling, a deepening drought following an abnormally harsh dry season and a delayed and poor start to the seasonal rains (mid-April to June), and increasing civil insecurity. As result the number of people in need of assistance has increased to **2.6 million people** (35% of the total population), **which is an increase of more than 40% since January '08** (up from 1.83 million).

This increase is mainly due to the addition of 600,000 urban poor, who now face conditions of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) and Humanitarian Emergency (HE)**. The number of internally displaced people from Mogadishu has also increased, by 21% since January and is now at 857,000 people, bringing the total number IDPS, both newly displaced IDPs from Mogadishu and the long-term protracted, to 1.1 million people. In addition, the drought is deepening in Bakool and Central regions, pushing a further 60,000 pastoralists into **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis** (Map 1 and IPC Table 1).

Early Warning for Worsening Humanitarian Situation

FSAU and FEWSNET issue an early warning that the humanitarian situation is likely to continue to deteriorate and worsen in the coming months, especially for the urban poor and drought affected rural communities. In the worst case scenario, in which the *Gu* seasonal rains are significantly below normal, the Somali Shilling continues to lose value, food prices increase further, and civil insecurity worsens, then we could be facing a situation whereby **3.5 million people**, or half the total population of the country are in either **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) or Humanitarian Emergency (HE)** by the end of the year.

Implications for Action:

- **Immediate scale-up in the current response** to meet the increased livelihood support and humanitarian needs of 2.6 million people until the end of June, including the urban poor who are now facing conditions of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis**.
- **Contingency planning and preparations now for the worst case scenario of 3.5 million people** in need of either livelihood support or humanitarian assistance by the end of 2008 is critical if response is to be timely and at appropriate levels.
- **The 'new food crisis' among the urban poor demands strategic thinking and response 'outside the box'**, to enable people to access food and other essential items without leading to further harmful economic and market distortions. Complementary interventions are needed to address underlying issues including the inability of the poor to cover the costs of a basic minimum basket of expenditures, hyperinflation, currency devaluation, and the reduction in purchasing power.
- **Concrete actions to ensure humanitarian actors have safe access to areas in crisis.** Humanitarian space is shrinking and it is becoming increasingly dangerous for humanitarian actors at a time of greatest need.
- **Advocacy at all levels to resolve the political and civil insecurity issues** which continue to undermine the proper functioning of markets, of internal, import, and cross-border trade, and continue to limit income earning opportunities.

FSN Brief Highlights

Urban Poor in Crisis: For the first time, an estimated 600,000 urban poor (20% of total urban population) living in main towns and rural settlements are now facing conditions of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) and Humanitarian Emergency (HE)**. These urban poor are struggling to cope with sky rocketing food and basic commodity prices, rapid devaluation, and declining purchasing power, according to the results of an FSAU Somalia-wide *Rapid Emergency Urban Assessment* (April, 2008) (see page 4).

Deepening Drought and Crisis for the Pastoral Populations: There is a deepening of the drought in parts of south and central Somalia, as well as deteriorations in rangeland conditions in other areas in the north, due to an abnormally harsh '*Jilaal*' dry season (Jan. - April), that is now followed by a delayed and poor onset of the *Gu* seasonal rains (mid-April to June). As a result, there has been a deterioration in the severity of the crisis from AFLC to HE in Central, Bakool and Hiran regions and increased levels of warning of risks to further deterioration in Shabelle regions, and in the northern parts of Hawd, Sool and Nugal regions (see pages 5, 9, 13, 14).

Climate

Markets

Nutrition

Agriculture

Livestock

Civil
Insecurity

Emerging
Regional
Issues

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Sector Highlights

- **Climate** – Field reports confirm the delayed, poor, and localized *Gu* rains in most parts of the country. Indications are that performance of the season is likely to be well below normal (see page 6).
- **Civil Insecurity** - Civil insecurity increased significantly in the last three months, both in terms of the number of insecurity epicenters and the incidences of political, clan and resource based conflicts. This has resulted in further population displacement, human rights abuses, reductions in humanitarian space, and has contributed to further disruptions in trade and economic activities and commodity price increases (see page 7).
- **Agriculture** – Poor crop germination and development is reported in many agriculture areas in southern Somalia, especially in Lower and Middle Shabelle, parts of Juba and Bay, and Hiran regions following the delayed start and below normal *Gu* rainfall. Irrigated area planted is reported to be below normal due to increased costs of inputs, especially tractor and fuel costs (see page 8).
- **Livestock** - Pasture and water conditions deteriorated in most pastoral areas as a result of an unusually harsh *Jilaal* dry season (Jan. to mid-April) and a delayed and poor onset of the main *Gu* season rains (mid-April to June), especially in drought affected areas. Terms of trade (local goat to cereal) has fallen dramatically in all regions, due to sharp increases in cereal prices (see page 9).
- **Markets** – the Somali Shilling is continuing to lose value against the dollar at a rapid rate. Currently the shilling is trading between 30,000- 34,000 SoSh per US\$, which is an increase of 125% in the last four months, and record historic high. Somalia is a net-importer of food, importing roughly 60% of the countries food needs. Food and nonfood imported commodity prices have increased by as much as 375% in some areas in the last 12 months (see page 11).
- **Nutrition** - A nutrition survey conducted by FSAU, IMC and SRCS in El Berde district of Bakool region in April '08, has highlighted **Very Critical** rates of malnutrition of **24.1%** global acute malnutrition and **2.8%** severe acute malnutrition. Increasing trends of admissions of severely malnourished children in International NGO feeding centers are being reported in various locations in Somalia, most notably in Mogadishu (see page 12).

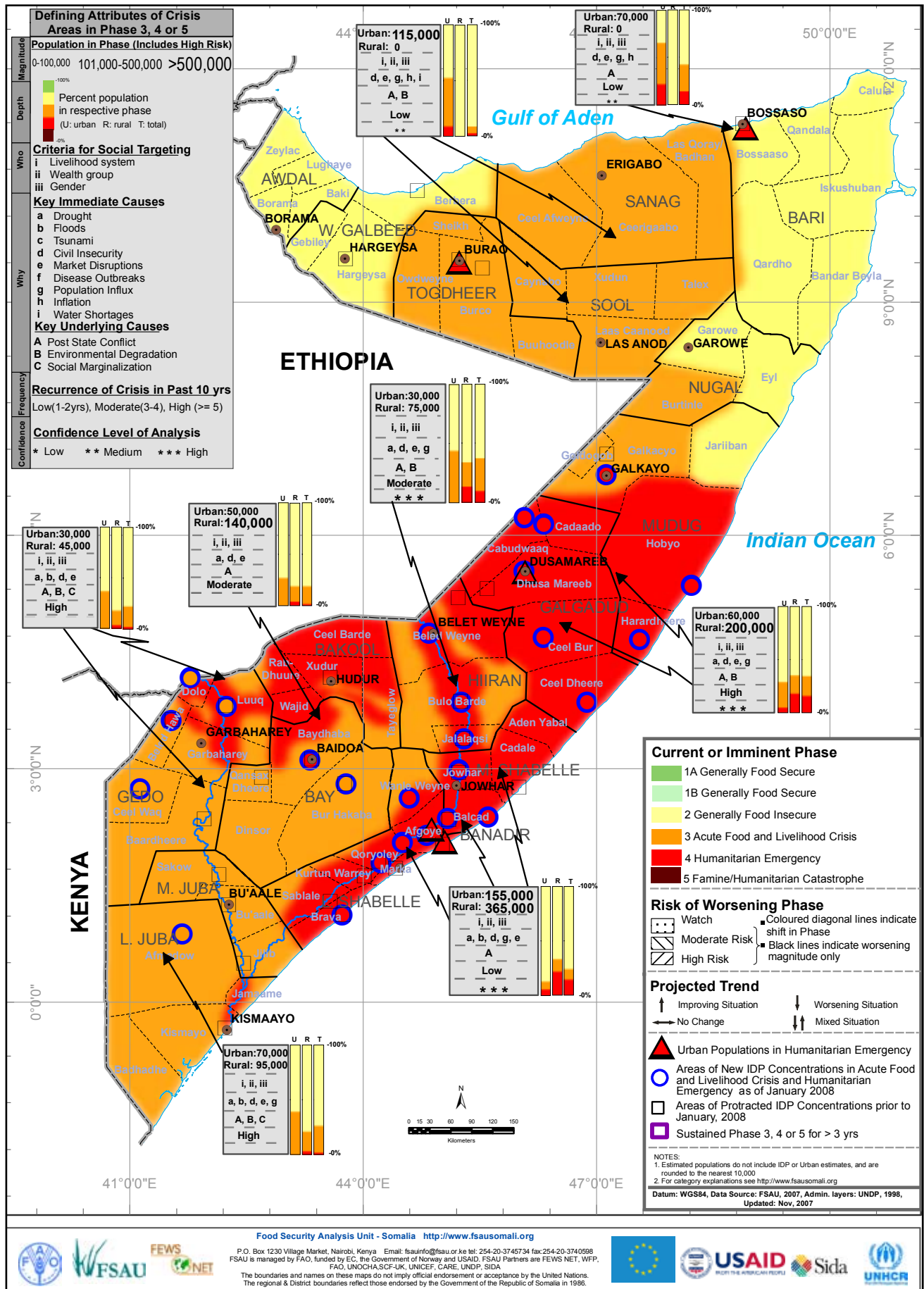
Table 1: Somalia IPC Rural, Urban and IDP Population Numbers, April - June 2008

Region	UNDP 2005 Total Population ¹	UNDP 2005 Urban Population ¹	UNDP 2005 Rural Population ¹	Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) ²		Humanitarian Emergency (HE) ²		Total in AFLC and HE as % of Region population
				Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	
North								
Awdal	305,455	110,942	194,513	0	0	0	0	0
Bari ³	367,638	179,633	188,005	45,000	0	25,000	0	19
Nugaal	145,341	54,749	90,592	5,000	0	0	0	3
Sanaag	270,367	56,079	214,288	20,000	0	0	0	7
Sool	150,277	39,134	111,143	20,000	0	0	0	13
Togdheer	402,295	123,402	278,893	55,000	0	20,000	0	19
Woqooyi Galbeed	700,345	490,432	209,913	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total	2,341,718	1,054,371	1,287,347	145,000	0	45,000	0	8
Central								
Galgaduud	330,057	58,977	271,080	15,000	55,000	10,000	70,000	45
Mudug	350,099	94,405	255,694	30,000	25,000	0	30,000	24
Sub-total	680,156	153,382	526,774	45,000	80,000	10,000	100,000	35
South								
Bakool	310,627	61,438	249,189	25,000	90,000	0	25,000	45
Bay	620,562	126,813	493,749	25,000	20,000	0	5,000	8
Gedo	328,378	81,302	247,076	30,000	35,000	0	10,000	23
Hiraan	329,811	69,113	260,698	30,000	60,000	0	35,000	38
Shabelle Dhexe (Middle)	514,901	95,831	419,070	20,000	40,000	0	85,000	28
Shabelle Hoose (Lower)	850,651	172,714	677,937	35,000	85,000	15,000	155,000	34
Juba Dhexe (Middle)	238,877	54,739	184,138	25,000	20,000	0	0	19
Juba Hoose (Lower)	385,790	124,682	261,108	45,000	60,000	0	15,000	31
Sub-total	3,579,597	786,632	2,792,965	235,000	410,000	15,000	330,000	28
Banadir	901,183	901,183	0	30,000	-	55,000	-	9
Grand Total	7,502,654	2,895,568	4,607,086	455,000	490,000	125,000	430,000	20

Assessed Urban population in AFLC and HE	580,000	8 ⁵
Assessed Rural population in AFLC and HE	920,000	12 ⁵
Estimated number of new IDPs updated Apr 24	855,000	11 ⁵
Estimated number of protracted IDPs ⁴	275,000	4 ⁵
Estimated Rural, Urban and IDP population in crisis	2,630,000	35 ⁵

- Source: Population Estimates by Region/District, UNDP Somalia, August 1, 2005. FSAU does not round these population estimates as they are the official estimates provided by UNDP. Provisional revised population numbers for 2008 are available, but are not used because they have not been endorsed yet and are only available at the regional level of disaggregation
- Estimated numbers are rounded to the nearest five thousand, based on resident population not considering current or anticipated migration, and are inclusive of population in High Risk of AFLC or HE for purposes of planning
- Dan Gorayo is included within Bari Region following precedent set in population data prior to the UNDP/WHO 2005 population estimates
- Source: Revised from UN-OCHA / UNHCR estimate following the new IDP movement which included protracted IDPs (February 2008), previously 400,000.
- Total population in crisis as a percent of total population of Somalia estimated at 7,502,654 (UNDP/WHO 2005)

Map 1: SOMALIA INTEGRATED PHASE CLASSIFICATION MAP, Rural, Urban and IDP Populations, Projections to the end of June '08



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- Of the 27 towns surveyed, in 21 of these, results show that the urban poor do not have enough income to cover the full cost of the 'minimum expenditure basket' (Figure 3). The greatest expenditure gaps were recorded in Afgoi, Dhusamareb and Bosaso, all with 30% or more deficits. Although both main urban towns and rural settlement towns all indicate expenditure gaps, gaps are greatest in the main urban towns.

The urban poor are simultaneously adopting a number of different coping strategies to counter the impact of increased prices and decline purchasing power, such as reducing quantities purchased, both food and nonfood items. In addition, there is evidence of switching to cheaper cereals, such as from rice to sorghum or from maize to sorghum, reducing non-food expenditure (soap, medicines and schooling) and more reliance on self-employment activities.

In some areas households have increased the number of labor wage days, as well as increased dependency on remittances, loans and gifts, however, this still does not compensate for the rapid and dramatic increase in their minimum expenditures needs. In some areas there are reports of family members moving to other areas looking for employment and skipping meals. Based on this expenditure gap analysis, FSAU correlated the gaps with other IPC reference outcomes to determine the IPC phase classification for main urban and rural settlement towns in each region, linked to thresholds (Table 2).

The overall results indicate that roughly *580,000 urban poor* (20% of total urban population) living in main towns and rural settlements are now facing humanitarian crisis conditions, of which most, or 456,000 are in **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis** and 120,000 are in **Humanitarian Emergency** (Table 1 and Map 1). Urban populations identified in **Humanitarian Emergency** are found in five large main urban towns, Burao (Togdheer Region in northwest), Bosaso (Puntland), Dhusamareb (Galgadud), Afgoi (Middle Shabelle), and Mogadishu. The growing urban food security crisis in Somalia is likely to continue to worsen over the coming months, especially if local cereal prices and commercial import prices continue to increase and remain at record high levels. The longer this situation persists the more difficult it will be for urban households to cope.

FSAU will continue to monitor the impact of rising food prices and declining purchasing power in urban centers. This analysis will be updated on a quarterly basis and for some urban sites the food security analysis will be complemented with rapid nutrition assessments. The urban assessment will be repeated and expanded during the Gu 2008 seasonal assessment and a quarterly monitoring system set-up in each of the sampled urban sites.

Map 2: SOMALIA INTEGRATED PHASE CLASSIFICATION MAP, Urban Populations, Projections to the end of June '08

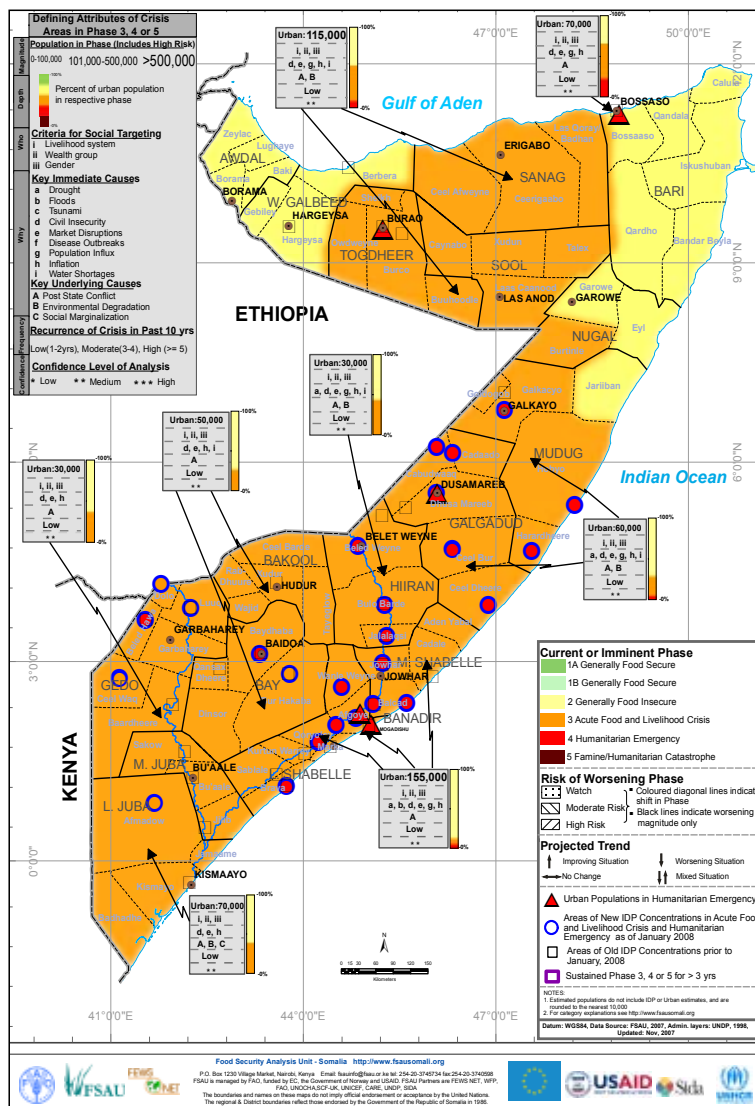
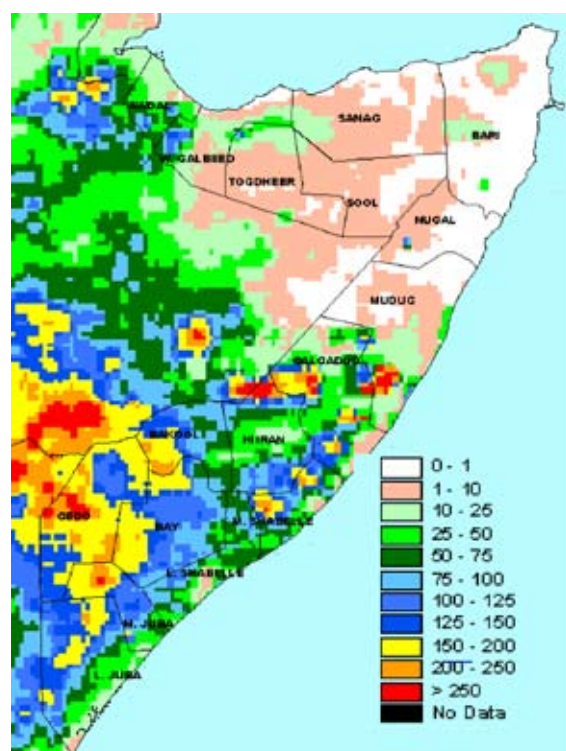


Table 2: Thresholds for IPC Classification

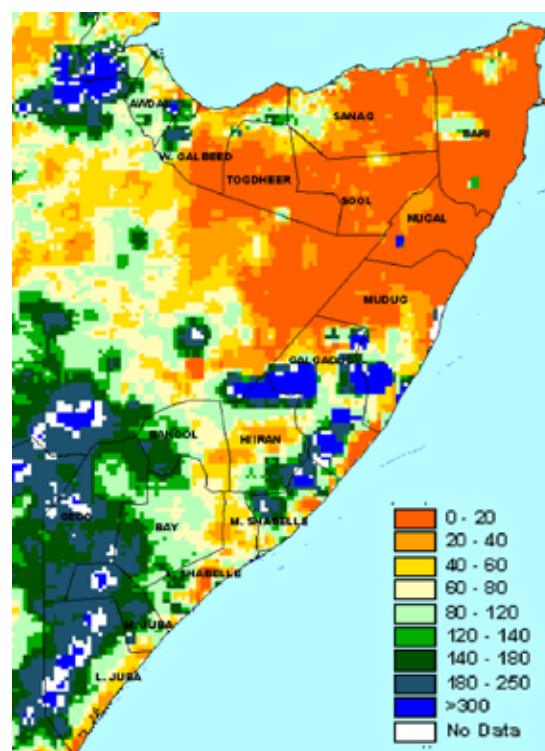
% Gap in Minimum food and Non Food Basket	Percent of Population Affected
+10 to -10	50% Poor AFLC
-10 to -20	100% Poor AFLC
-20 to -30	50% Poor and 50% Middle AFLC 50% Poor HE
-30 +	100% Poor HE 50% MiddleAFLC

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

Map 3: Cumulative Rainfall (mm), April 1-30, '08



Map 4: Percent of Normal Rainfall, April 1-30 '08



Source: USGS/FEWSNET

CLIMATE

The *Gu* 2008 rains started in most southern regions of the country and in a few areas in the north during the second dekad of April (April 10-20). Areas where initial rains were received include parts of Awdal and Hargiesa, most of Gedo region and parts of Bay, Bakool, Middle and Lower Juba regions (Map 3). However, the onset of the season is later than normal, and so far the rainfall performance has generally been poor. Parts of Shabelle, Hiran and Central regions as well as areas in Sool, Sanaag, and Nugal regions in the north have been especially affected by the late start and poor performance. In the north, the rains started on April 30 and most of the areas in Togdheer, which experienced severe water shortage, received good rains with an average intensity and good durations.

During the third dekad of the month (April 20-30) only Gedo, parts of Bay, Bakool and localized areas in Middle and Lower Juba regions received light to moderate rains. However, the rains subsided during the third dekad resulting in a growing concern for potentially poor *Gu* rains. Light showers to moderate rains were received in localized areas in the coastal districts and parts of the cowpea belt in Mudug and Galgadud regions. However, the absence of rainfall in the drought affected areas of Hiran, and most of central regions, during the third dekad of April is causing concern that the performance of the season could be well below normal.

With the exception of Gedo and parts of Juba, most of the regions received below normal rains during the month (Map 4). Although satellite images show significant rains in parts of Shabelle, Hiran and Central regions, field reports confirm these areas received little or no rain by the end of April. Other regions where progress of the season has, so far, remained poor include most of northeast and northwest. Compared to a long-term mean, most of these regions received less than 20 percent of normal rainfall for the period April 1-30 (Map 4). Field reports also confirm serious shortages of water and pasture in livestock dependent regions including Mudug, Galgadud, and parts of Sanaag, Sool and Hawd of Hargiesa. Water trucking is still continuing in those regions and there is an unusual movement of people and livestock towards the few functioning boreholes. Rains are also erratic in the Somali region of Ethiopia leading to below normal river levels. The performance of the *Gu* season will largely depend on the rains over the coming weeks.

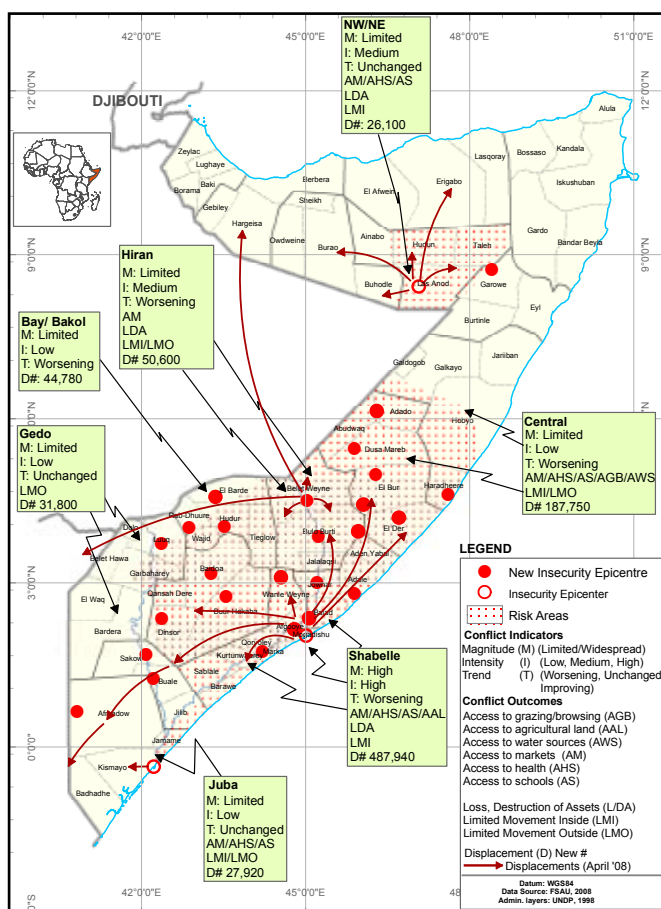
CIVIL INSECURITY

Throughout southern and central Somalia, the security situation continues to deteriorate. Military movements, and the threat of fighting, are increasingly common, and this is restricting trade and other activities. Most recently there have been notable increases in military activity in the areas of Jowhar, Buloburti and Belet Weyne. In addition, the presence of Ethiopian troops raises tension.

Displacement as a result of insecurity is now affecting other parts of the country and is not only restricted to Mogadishu. Larger centers are commonly targeted and there is a noticeable increase in families moving out of urban centers into rural locations for security reasons. In addition, there have been reports that a significant number of people are looking beyond Somalia to seek refuge, most notably over land to Kenya and Ethiopia, and departing by sea for the Gulf States from Bossaso. According to the latest Protection Cluster estimates the current number of recent IDPs (since early 2007) has reached 857,000 (Table 3).

There is a significant increase in the number of insecurity epicenters (Map 5). In addition to locations identified in January, there have been incidents in Garowe, Buloburti, Luuq, Sakow, Buale, Baidoa, Jowhar, Marka and Adale. In these areas the impact is felt through continued limited trade of goods, the restriction of movement by the population, increased transportation costs and increased prices. Humanitarian access and the cost of humanitarian response remains a serious concern especially in Central, Hiran and the Shabelle.

Map 5: Somalia Insecurity Outcomes, April - May '08



Resource based conflict and clan retaliation, especially in areas where there have been significant shortages in pasture and water, have also increased. Reports from Central, Hiran, and Shabelle regions indicate clashes have occurred over the last month, mostly over access to water. The deterioration of security, the increase in the number of the IDP caseload and the compounding effects of the increasing levels of rural and urban food insecurity has resulted in a revision of the phase classification for the country. (See Key Findings)

Table 3: Newly Displaced Populations from Mogadishu, March '07 - April '08

Region	Estimated population (UNDP 2005)	Estimated Urban Population (UNDP 2005)	Estimated # of IDPs to-date	% of total (estimated) IDPs by region	% of Regional Total Population	% of Regional urban Population
Awdal	305,455	110,942	80	0	0.0	0.1
Woqooyi Galbeed	700,345	490,432	13,120	2	1.9	2.7
Togdheer	402,295	123,402	710	0	0.2	0.6
Sanaag	270,367	56,079	760	0	0.3	1.4
Sool	150,277	39,134	4,400	1	2.9	11.2
Bari	367,638	179,633	6,900	1	1.9	3.8
Nugal	145,341	54,749	210	0	0.1	0.4
Mudug	350,099	94,405	61,050	7	17.4	64.7
Galgaduud	330,057	58,977.00	126,700	15	38.4	214.8
Hiraan	329,811	69,113.00	50,600	6	15.3	73.2
Bakool	310,627	61,438.00	2,300	0	0.7	3.7
Bay	620,562	126,813.00	42,480	5	6.8	33.5
Middle Shabelle	514,901	95,831.00	59,930	7	11.6	62.5
Banadir	901,183	90,1183	83,000	10	9.2	9.2
Lower Shabelle	850,651	172,714.00	345,010	40	40.6	199.8
Gedo	328,378	81,302	31,800	4	9.7	39.1
Middle & Lower Juba	624,667	179,421	27,920	3	4.5	15.6
TOTAL	7,502,654	2,895,568	856,970	100.00	11.4	29.6

Source: Population Estimates UNDP Somalia 2005. Number displaced and/or returned, IASU Somalia Protection Cluster; April 24, 2008

AGRICULTURE

To date, rains are considered to be below normal and delayed in many regions, particularly the main agricultural areas in the Lower and Middle Shabelle, and Hiran. As a result, crop germination and development is poor and later compared to normal. Land preparation in crop growing regions is below average for this time of the year. This is due to a combination of high tractor and fuel costs, and poor access to and availability of seeds due to the high local cereal prices. In Bay, light rains fell in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Qansah-dhere, Baidoa and Dinsor districts. Also, good rains were received in Lower and Middle Juba regions (Buale, Sakow, Kismayo, Badhadhe and Afmadow). In the Northwest, localized rains were received in parts of Gabiley and Borama agro-pastoral areas, as well as in Togdheer.

Off-season crop production of maize, sesame and vegetables in Shabelle and Juba regions is expected to be less than normal for this time of the year due to less flooding during the *Deyr* '07/08 season. Despite this reduction, sesame cultivated as a cash crop, is reported to be the main off-season crop due to favorable prices and high export demand. Most of the sesame harvest in Lower Shabelle and Middle Juba regions was completed in March '08. Off-season activities such as harvesting, threshing and weeding, created labor opportunities for poor households. In Hiran, due to the very poor pasture, late irrigated cereal crops have been harvested for animal fodder due to the high demand, resulting in a significant increase in fodder sales and prices.

Cereal Prices

As expected, and previously reported, cereal prices are continuing to increase. Low cereal supplies as a result of two consecutive seasons of below normal cereal production is compounded by the additional demand from IDPs and the urban community, and a significant increase of the imported commodity prices (Figure 5). In the Shabelle regions, the aggregated average maize prices for April '07, are 134% higher than in Jan. '08 (Figure 4). Sorghum prices also vary among main reference markets in Shabelle regions and have increased 81% - 163% since Jan. '08. This is due to a combination of low cereal production and supply and increased demand for locally produced cereals following hyper-inflation of imported food prices.

There is considerable price difference between regional markets. The highest sorghum prices in the Sorghum Belt in April were in Beletweyne market (7,500 SoSh/kg), and Hudur (7,250 SoSh/kg), and the lowest were in Bardera (3,600 SoSh/kg) and Baidoa (5,150 SoSh/kg). There is increased demand for sorghum from the neighboring regions of Shabelle (7,111 SoSh/kg) and Central (10,000 SoSh/kg). Sorghum prices continue to show an upward trend in the Sorghum Belt markets and overall have increased by 64% since Jan. '08. Cereal prices are likely to maintain an upward trend until the coming *Gu* '08 harvest period due to previous low cereal production and supplies, as well as increased demand.

Terms of Trade

Generally, the terms of trade between cereal and labour has declined in all major main markets from Jan. – April '08 with labour losing value against cereal. For instance, in the Shabelle regions, the terms of trade between labor and maize dropped by 35% between Jan. and April '08, by which time daily labour could only be rewarded with 3kg maize. The lowest terms of trade in Shabelle markets are recorded in Afgoi, which are now 40% lower than in January. In Juba regions, the terms of trade between maize and labor are 27% lower than Jan. '08. The daily labor in exchange for cereals in Juba and the Sorghum Belt regions are equivalent to 6kg and 7kg of maize and sorghum respectively (Figure 6).

Figure 4: Shabelle Regions Threefold Increase in Maize Prices

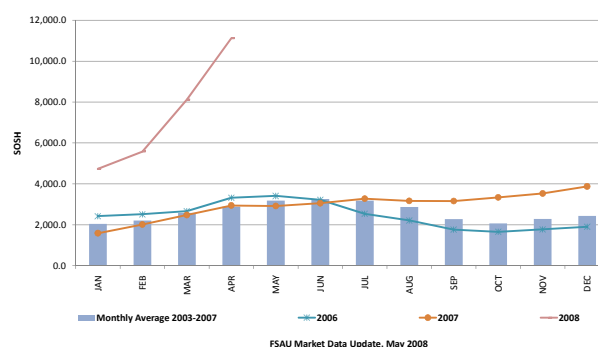


Figure 5: Regional Trends in Cereal Prices SoSh

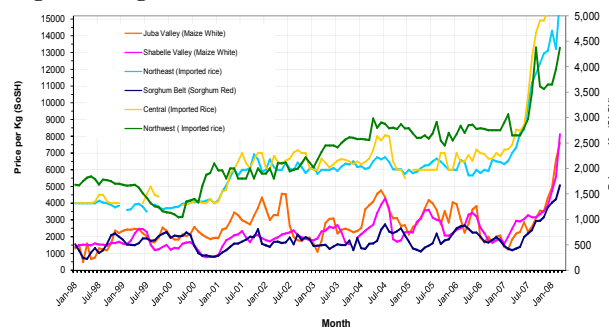
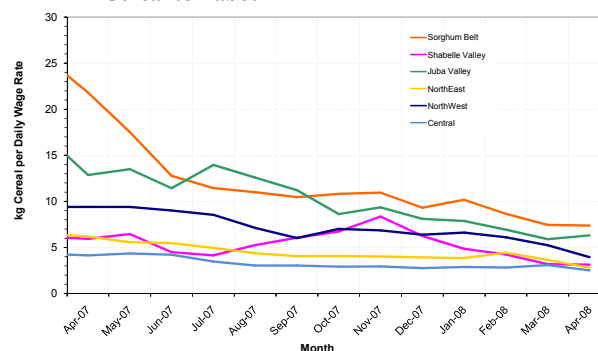


Figure 6: Regional Average Monthly Terms of Trade, Cereal to Labour



LIVESTOCK

Pasture and water conditions deteriorated in most pastoral areas as a result of an unusually harsh *Jilaal* dry season (Jan. to mid-April) and a delayed and poor onset of the main Gu season rains (mid-April to June) (see Climate section). Of greatest concern are the previous *Deyr* '07/08 rain deficit areas, namely the regions of Central, Hiran, localized areas of Sool and Nugal, parts of Bakool, and the coastal areas of Shabelle. Livestock migration patterns are considered to be the same as the past two months (see FSAU Post *Deyr* '07/08 Analysis, Technical Series Report, Map 10). The exceptions are that livestock originating in Bakool, Sool and Hawd pastoral areas have returned from Zone-5 of Ethiopia and Bari region and are now concentrated in Bakool, Nugal and Sool livelihood zones. This has put pressure on the limited poor pasture and water resources in these areas.

Boreholes in most of the water crisis areas are operating day and night to support livestock and water tankers. The water levels in all shallow wells have declined drastically and some have completely dried out due to the unusually high demand for water for both livestock and human consumption. The price of water in the worst affected rain deficit areas has increased dramatically and is now at the highest levels ever recorded. For example, the price of water in March '08 in rural areas of Sool and Sanaag was SoSh120,000-150,000/200 litre drum, in Hawd and eastern Nugal was SoSh80,000-100,000/drum, while in the central regions the price was SoSh40,000-50,000/drum.

Goats in the *Deyr* '07 rain deficit areas of Sool, Sanaag, Nugal, Hawd of Togdheer, Central, Hiraan, coastal *Deeh* of Shabelle and Bakool have lost considerable bodyweight (See Photos). In Bakool, Sool, Sanaag and Central regions, pastoralists reported an increasing trend of goat deaths due to poor pasture conditions and outbreaks of endemic disease among weakened livestock. In these areas, the lambing season started during a period of unusually harsh conditions and some pastoralists have been forced to slaughter new born animals to save the mother. In other regions, such as Juba, Gedo, Bay, and most parts of the northwest, livestock body conditions are considered to be average. Camel milk is available in all markets, however, the supply is low because of poor pasture availability, but is expected to improve as the *Gu* season progresses. Calving, kidding and lambing started in April throughout most livelihood zones.

Livestock disease cases of *Peste des Petites Ruminants* (PPR) and/or *Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia* (CCPP) have been reported, although not all confirmed, in Awdal, Hawd of Togdheer, and Sanaag regions in the north, in parts of Galgaduud and Mudug in the central regions, in northern Bakool and in coastal areas of Jilib and Jamame districts of Juba region. Given the weakened body condition of livestock in many of these rain deficit pastoral areas, an added risk is that livestock mortality may increase if the rains come due to the shock of cold, freezing rains. This has occurred in other similar occasions, as recently as earlier this year in the northern range of the Golis Mountains in Baki and Lughay districts of Awdal region. Already unconfirmed reports of livestock deaths from cold rains are coming out of parts of Jariban in northern Mudug in central region.



Cattle in poor condition, El Dher, Central Somalia, April, 2008.

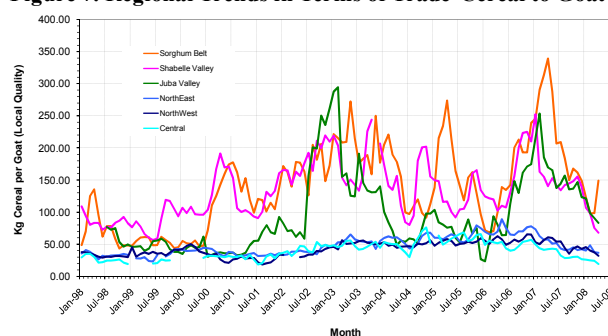


Goat kid in weak condition, Bakool, April 2008.



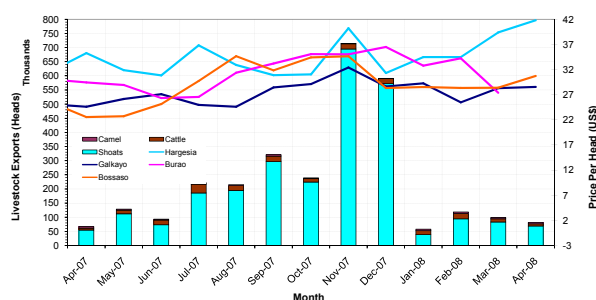
Camel calving, Dharoor Valley, Bari Region, March 2008.

Figure 7: Regional Trends in Terms of Trade-Cereal to Goat



Despite a slight increase in livestock export numbers since January, the total numbers are lower in both Bossaso and Berbera compared to this time last year and in the previous six years (Figure 8). In Bossaso livestock exports in March '08 (48,846 head) were 4% and 63% lower than March '07 and March '06, respectively. Total livestock exports from Berbera in April '08 (32,688 head) were 48% lower than the same period last year. One reason for the decline in livestock exports is because of the weakened body conditions of livestock following the harsh *Jilaal* dry season and reported livestock disease (PPR and CCPP) in the region which is discouraging livestock traders. Carcass meat continues to be exported from Burao slaughter house, 24,788 carcasses in April '08, which is 78% more than was exported last year in March '08 when there was a ban by the Gulf on livestock carcass from Somalia (See FSAU Post Gu '07 Analysis, Technical Series Report, Sept. '07). The Kenya livestock trade ban was lifted a year ago and the currently the Garissa cattle market remains active. Cattle prices in Juba, Shabelle and Sorghum Belt show an increasing trend since April '07 and are significantly higher than last year.

Figure 8: Berbera & Bossaso Livestock Exports (Heads) and Export Quality Goat prices (US\$)



Local goat and cattle prices show an increasing trend compared to earlier this year and to last year in all regions in local currency terms, however, most of this increase reflects the devaluation or loss in value of the local currency (Figure 9). In real terms, as measured in US\$ terms, the rate of increase is much lower and even negative in some areas like central and northeast regions. In Juba, Shabelle, the Sorghum Belt and in the northeast, in real terms (as measured in US\$) these prices show an increasing trend, but at a lower rates of increase (Table 4). The exceptions are in central regions and in the northwest, where the value of livestock has not kept pace with monetary inflation and shows deterioration in prices. For example, April '08 cattle prices in central regions have fallen by 21% since Jan. '08 and by 46% since last year (April '07). Similarly, local goat prices in central regions have fallen by 12% since Jan. '08 and by 23% since last year (April '07). These declining livestock prices in central regions are due to the extremely poor livestock body conditions due to the ongoing drought.

Table 4: Regional Trends in Livestock Prices

Zones	Livestock price % change Jan – Apr '08		Livestock price% change Apr '07 – Apr '08	
	Local Cattle	Local Goat	Local Cattle	Local Goat
Juba	+27% SoSh + 5% USD	+30% SoSH +4% USD	+150% SoSH +49% USD	+129% SoSh +31% USD
Shabelle	+44% SoSh +13% USD	+43% SoSh +11% USD	+194% SoSh +73% USD	+79% SoSh +4% USD
Sorghum Belt	+48% SoSh +14% USD	+84% SoSh +39% USD	+129% SoSh +32% USD	+110% SoSh +20% USD
Central	0% SoSh -21% USD	+12% SoSh -12% USD	-5% SoSh -46% USD	+35% SoSh -23% USD
Northeast		+ 45% SoSh +12% USD		+97% SoSh +12% USD
Northwest		+10% SoSh -7% USD		+12% SoSh -8% USD

Source: FSAU Market Monitoring System.

The purchasing power of livestock owners, as measured by the terms of trade between local goat and cereals, has dramatically deteriorated due to soaring cereal prices throughout all regions of Somalia (Table 5). Despite the sharp increases in goat prices in local currency terms, cereal price increases are far greater and resulting in a significant deterioration in people's purchasing power.

In April '08, average terms of trade (cereal to goat) declined between 20% and 40% as compared to Jan. '08 and by 40% to 60% as compared to last April '07 (Table 5). Terms of trade (cereal to goat) in the central regions in April '08 is equivalent to 19 kg of rice to one goat, which is the lowest exchange value since Dec. '98.

Table 5: Regional Trends in Terms of Trade

Zones	TOT % change Jan - Apr '08	TOT% change Apr '07 – Apr '08
	Local Goat/ Cereal 1	Local Goat/ Cereal 1
Juba	-32%	-51%
Shabelle	-36%	-52%
Sorghum Belt	-21%	-56%
Central	-25%	-54%
Northeast	-9%	-37%
Northwest	-29%	-47%

Note: 1. Measured in local currency (SoSh or SLSh)

MARKETS

The Somali Shilling exchange rate continued to depreciate sharply in most urban markets in April and is currently at its lowest value against the US dollar in the last 17 years (Figure 9). For example, in Mogadishu's main Bakaara market the Shilling lost value against the US dollar by 27 %, since Jan. '08 (from SoSh 22,725 per dollar in Jan. '08 to SoSh 28,750 per dollar in April '08), and has lost value by 71% as compared to last April '07 (SoSh 16,775 per USD).

Similar rates of devaluation in the SoSh are observed in all markets. This depreciation is primarily attributed to monetary inflation caused by a large injection of newly printed Somali Shillings notes, combined with ongoing instability and civil insecurity, that are disrupting main markets, such as the Mogadishu Bakara market. It is expected that the Somali Shilling will continue to depreciate in the coming months, which in turn will lead to further increase the local shilling cost of imported food items. In contrast, the Somaliland shilling maintained its value at about 5,800 per dollar over the last four months and in some markets gained value by about 8%.

The prices of imported commodities, such as rice, sugar, wheat flour and vegetable oil, have continued to increase significantly in most southern markets over the last four months, therefore increasing the cost of living. There are a number of compounding factors that are the cause of the soaring prices of imported commodities, including the sharp devaluation in the SoSh which makes imports more expensive, as well as general increases in global food prices, local trade collusion, high levels of tariffs, taxation, and extortion, high transportation costs, civil insecurity and restricted inter-regional and cross border trade.

Imported food prices are exceptionally high in central, northeast and southern regional markets. Imported rice prices show the most dramatic increases over the last four months and have hit record high levels, increasing by 200% to 350% as compared to Jan. '07 (Table 6). In Dhusamareb district in the central region, the price of rice increased by 39% since earlier this year, from SoSh 18,000 per kilogram in Jan. '08 to SoSh 25,000 per kilogram in April '08 (Table 6).

In the Lower Shabelle main market of Merka, the rice price increased by 108% during this same period, from SoSh 13,000 per kilogram in Jan. '08 to SoSh 27,000 in April '08 (Figure 11).

In the north, especially Erigavo and Lasanod markets, rice prices increased by 111% and 60%, respectively from Jan. '08 to April '08 (Figure 12). Since Jan. '07, rice prices have more than doubled in most of the southern and northern markets. Other imported commodities such as sugar, wheat flour and vegetable oil have increased by similar margins. Petrol prices have maintained high levels for the last four months, ranging from about SoSh 19,000 to SoSh 25,000 per liter in most markets.

Figure 9: Monthly Exchange Rates - SoSh to USD



Figure 10: Central Region Trends in Imported Commodity Prices Compared to Exchange Rate

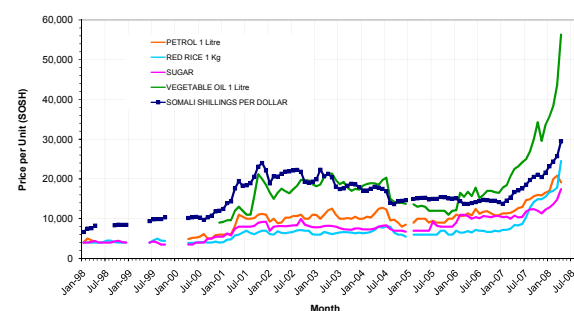


Table 6: Average Retail Price of Rice in Selected Markets, Jan. '07 compared to Apr. '08

Market	April 2008 Price (Ssh)	Compared to Jan 2007	
		Price (Ssh)	% change
Afmadow	27,250	8,000	↑ 241
Merka	27,000	5,875	↑ 359
Jamame	25,500	6,500	↑ 292
Mogadishu	24,750	6,000	↑ 313
Belet Weyne	28,250	7,000	↑ 304
Dhusamareb	25,000	8,000	↑ 213
Galkayo	24,000	6,600	↑ 264
Jowhar	28,000	6,500	↑ 330
Burao	12,500	7,000	↑ 79
Erigavo	29,500	6,500	↑ 354

Figure 11: Shabelle Regions Imported Commodity Prices Compared to Exchange Rate

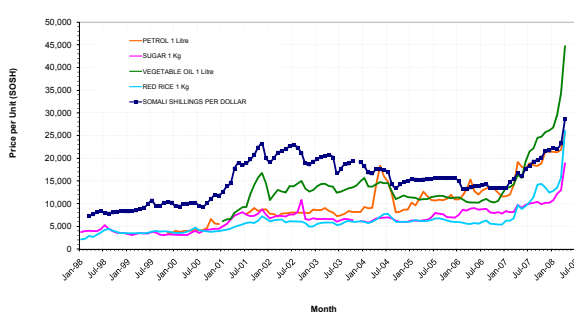
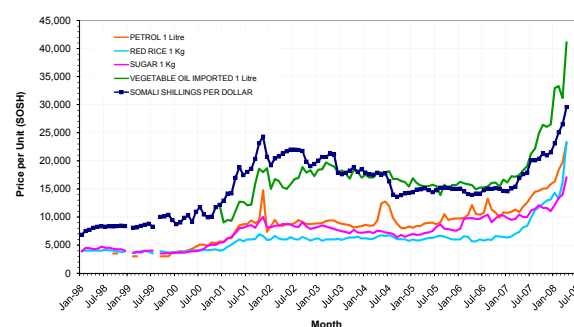


Figure 12: Northeast Imported Commodity Prices Compared to Exchange Rate



NUTRITION

FSAU, IMC and SRCS conducted a two stage cluster sampling nutrition assessment in El Berde District, Bakool region, in April 2008. The results indicated a **Very Critical** nutrition situation with global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels of **24.1%** (18.5-29.7) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) levels of **2.8%** (1.2-4.4). These results are very alarming and warrant immediate intervention. The crude and under five years mortality levels were below the alert cut off at **0.69** (0.01-1.39) and **1.08** (0.0-2.17), respectively. Previous nutrition results from El Berde highlighted a concerning situation when a rapid assessment was conducted by FSAU in December using MUAC, this prompted the need for a more detailed nutrition survey. In addition, IMC had reported increasing trends in admissions into their feeding centres.

Historically El Berde district has indicated high levels of nutritional vulnerability, with median rates between 15-19% in surveys conducted from 2000 to 2006. However, the current results indicate deterioration in the situation. The food security analysis from the region indicates poor pasture and water availability, in addition to increased small animal mortality likely due to a combination of disease and the lack of pasture and water. This has resulted in reduced livestock prices. The wealthier pastoral households migrated to Ethiopia early in the year but due to poor pasture and water there, they have now returned adding pressure to the already stressed situation. The poor who remained behind are struggling due to all these factors combined with the ever increasing cereal prices, as is illustrated by the alarming nutrition situation.

FSAU conducted rapid nutrition assessments using Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) in four of the twenty eight locations where the urban assessments were conducted. These locations were in Sanaag region (n=300), in Erigavo as the main market town and Sarmaanyo as the rural settlement and in Juba region (n=300) with Kismayo as the main market town and Sanguni as the rural settlement. The results indicated stable levels of acute malnutrition as compared to the most recent assessment in those same areas (December 2007). However, of concern is that international NGO ACF, are reporting abnormal increasing trends in admission into their therapeutic feeding centres in Mogadishu.

FSAU and/or partner agencies are currently conducting a further six surveys, three in Gedo region and three in central region regions. The results of these six surveys should be available by the end of May.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

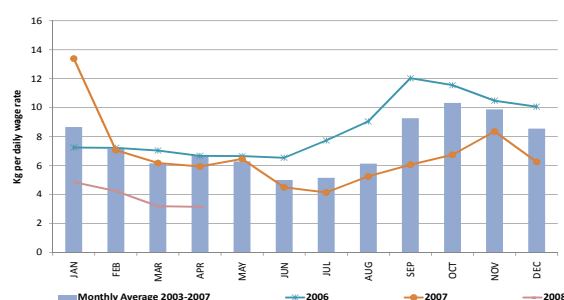
SOUTHERN REGIONS

The Humanitarian situation in Somalia is deteriorating at an accelerating pace due to sky rocking prices, and an abnormally harsh dry season, that has been followed by a delayed and poor start to the Gu seasonal rains (mid-April to May).

Shabelle Regions: The situation in Shabelle regions continues to be classified as **Humanitarian Emergency (HE)** and **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC)** for the riverine and the agro-pastoral as reported in Deyr '07/08 assessment with a total of 365,000 rural population in crisis. In addition, the results from the April '08 FSAU *Rapid Emergency Urban Assessment* confirm that 155,000 urban are in **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC)** or **Humanitarian Emergency (HE)**. Rainfall during the month of April has been poor and localized. As a result there has been very little pasture regeneration and crop establishment is poor. Cereal prices (maize and sorghum) have increased significantly in all reference markets due to low cereal supply and market availability, hyperinflation and continuing insecurity.

The average maize prices are 135% and 278% higher than Jan. '08 and April '07, respectively, and sorghum has a similar trend. Imported commodity prices in Shabelle regions have also risen significantly since April '07 and are at an all time high due to hyperinflation and the depreciation of the Somali shilling against the US dollar. Wheat flour is 59% and 182% higher compared to Jan. '08 and April '07, respectively. The price of rice is 103% and 170% higher compared Jan. '08 and April '07 (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Shabelle Regions Terms of Trade-Cereal to Labour



Current terms of trade between labor and cereals declined since April '07 following the significant increase of cereal prices, hyperinflation and insecurity. The TOT (labour/maize) is 35% and 47% of Jan '08 and April '07 respectively. The TOT between maize and local quality goat is 36% and 52% of Jan '08 and April '07 respectively. The decreasing terms of trade combined with scarce labor opportunities makes it difficult for poor wealth groups to access food.

Fighting in Mogadishu is ongoing and increasing open conflict and insecurity throughout the region. This is leading to increased population displacement from Mogadishu, further trade, market and economic disruptions, and is creating problems market access.

Bay and Bakool: The findings of the post Deyr '07/08 assessment, indicated that Bakool region faced both **Humanitarian Emergency (HE)** and **Acute Food and Livelihood Crises (AFLC)**, with a moderate risk level of further deterioration. The results from the *FSAU Rapid Emergency Urban Assessment* (April '08) and the Nutrition Assessment conducted in Bakool (April '08), has found the situation has deteriorated for the urban poor and the Southern Inland Pastoralists (SIP) of Elbarde, and north Hudur. As a result, pastoralists in these areas are now identified in both **AFLC** and **HE**, and the urban poor are in **AFLC**. In total, 140,000 rural and 50,000 urban people are in either **AFLC** or **HE**. Malnutrition rates in these areas are reported to be very high (see Nutrition section)

During the last dekad of April, good rains fell over Bay and Bakool regions with good distribution and intensity. However, it is still too early in the rainy season to predict the overall outcome of the rains. Rains received so far, have had a positive impact on crop germination and establishment, water replenishment and vegetation regeneration. In Elbarde district in north Bakool region, however, the rainfall situation is reported as poor and localized. This deterioration in the situation over the last four months is attributed to the sharp increase of local cereal and imported commodity prices, as well as the negative impact of the harsh dry season.

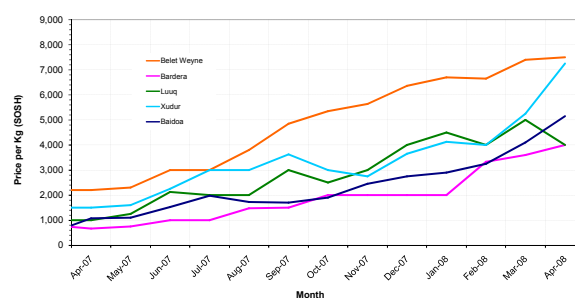
In addition, pastoralists who migrated out in search of water and pasture were forced back to the region due to lack of water in the surrounding areas. Sorghum prices in Baidoa are over 379% higher than April '07. In Hudur district in Bakool region, the sorghum prices are over 383% higher than April '07. Cereal prices are expected to continue to increase due to the demand of cereals and low supply of cereals in the market (Figure 14).

In Baidoa, the rice and wheat flour prices have increased by 168% and 176%, respectively compared to April '07. In Hudur, rice and wheat flour prices have increased by 136% and 146%, respectively compared to April '07. In Baidoa, terms of trade between labor and cereals has decreased 32% since April '07 following the significant increase of cereal prices, and local quality goat is 84% of April '07. These changes are making it difficult for poor households to purchase food from markets.

Juba and Gedo Regions: As of the end of April, the Juba and Gedo rural population in crisis remains at 140,000 in **AFLC** and **HE**, but now there are a 100,000 urban poor identified in **AFLC** based on the results of the *FSAU Rapid Emergency Urban Assessment* conducted in early April. Rainfall in Gedo region is moderate and coverage is poor to average in the overall agricultural and rangeland areas. In Juba region the rainfall condition is average in the pastoral areas, but is localized in the agricultural areas which is negatively affecting on crop germination.

Prices of imported commodities in Juba regions, as well as Gedo region, have significantly increased since April '07. For example in Juba, the price of rice was 289% of April '07, and 179% of Jan. '08. In Gedo region, similar price trends are recorded in all markets. In Juba regions, the terms of trade (TOT) between local quality goat and labor is decreasing and are substantially lower than April '07 and Jan. '08, even though the livestock prices and unskilled labor rate levels have increased since April '07 in both nominal and real terms. The TOT between maize and labor is 20%, and 51% of Jan. '08 and April '07 respectively. The TOT (goat for maize) is 61% and 44% of Jan. '08 and April '07, respectively. In Gedo region, the TOT is showing similar trend in all markets.

Figure 14: Sorghum Belt, Average Monthly Sorghum Price (SoSh)



Traveling long distance to fetch water, Elbarde, Bakool, April 2008.

CENTRAL REGIONS

The overall food security situation in Galgadud, south Mudug and Hiran has deteriorated further since last *Deyr* 07/08 from **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC)** with high risk of Humanitarian Emergency (HE) into **Humanitarian Emergency (HE)**. As a result, 100,000 people are in **HE** representing 100% of the poor, while another 80,000 people are in **AFLC**, representing 50% of the middle wealth groups. In Hiran, 35,000 people are in **HE**, representing 25% of poor wealth groups of Hiran agro-pastoral, 25% poor pastoral, and 100% poor riverine. Another 60,000 people of the same livelihoods are in **AFLC**, representing 75% poor agro-pastoral, 25% poor pastoral, and 25% of the middle riverine. In addition, as a result of the rapidly increasing food prices, there are 60,000 urban people identified in **AFLC** or **HE** (see Urban Assessment section).

Sorghum prices have increased significantly in Central and Hiran regions, due to a combination increased demand for cheaper cereals (switching from imported rice to sorghum), of low sorghum cereal supplies, and increased costs associated with bringing cereals from the south into the regions. The price of sorghum increased by 48% between January and April '08 (from SoSh6,667 in January to SoSh9,833/kg in April) and 201% higher than the same period last year (SoSh3,267/kg). Similarly in Central and Hiran, white maize, which is mainly from Ethiopia, has increased by 32% and 101% between January and April '08 and 167% and 390% higher than the same month of last year (Figure 15).

The increase in price of sorghum and maize has negatively affected terms of trade and are currently not favorable for pastoralists in the region (Figure 16). For riverine communities in Hiran, agricultural labour opportunities and production declined with the loss of the expected *Deyr* off-season production as farmers sold maize plants as fodder for cash in March '08. The poor start of the *Gu* '08 rains and high fuel prices, which increased tractor costs, has lead to reduced areas planted that in turn has further limited access to income for poor households and, therefore, food access.

Terms of trade for poor households (cereal to labour) has remained stable since January as a result of daily labour rates increasing. However, labour opportunities have declined in April in line with the poor rainfall performance of *Gu* '08. Water prices increased throughout the region by 60% between Jan. – April '08 (SoSh 30,000–SoSh 50,000/200 litre drum), with the exception of the coastal Deeh and Cowpea Belt areas which received some rains during the second and third dekad of April.

The long distances to travel in search of water and pasture has weakened livestock, causing poor body conditions and in some cases death. In some areas up to 30%–40% of old and young animals have died due to compounding effects of disease, ecto and endo parasites and poor pasture and water accessibility. Pastoralists are reported to be killing newly born calves, kids and lambs to save the mothers. Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are required to sell more livestock to allow them to meet additional expenses of water for human use and livestock, as well as food. Livestock holdings are declining to below baseline levels.



Hand fed-watering animal, Elberde, Bakool, April 2008.



Cattle in poor body condition in Bakool, April 2008.

Figure 15: Central Terms of Trade-Local Goat, Export Goat, Labour to Cereal

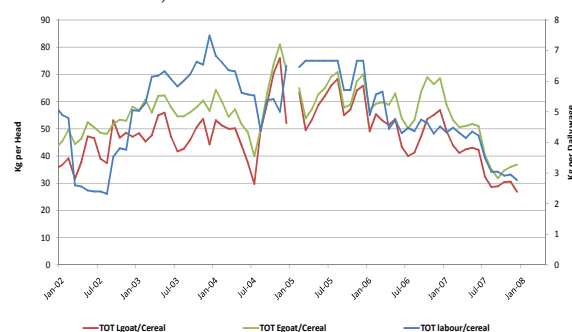
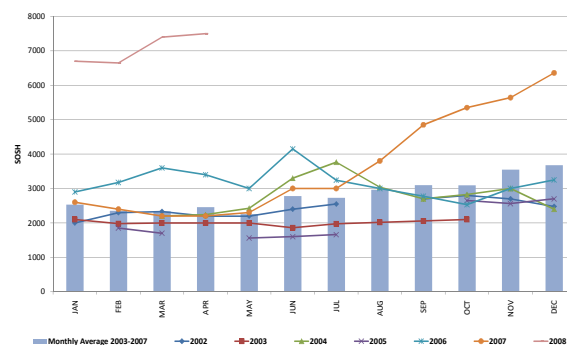


Figure 16: Hiran Regional Trends in Sorghum Prices



NORTHERN REGIONS

Most pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones in northern regions remain in the phase of **Generally Food Insecure (GFI)**, which was identified during the post *Deyr* '07/08 assessment. However, localized areas in Hawd of Togdheer, Nugal Valley, and Sool plateau of Sanag and Sool regions that were previously identified with **Watch** in *Deyr* '07/08 have been reclassified to moderate risk of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC)**. In addition, as a result of rapidly increasing food prices, there are 190,000 urban people are identified in AFLC and HE mostly in Togdheer, Sool and Sanaag and Bosasso (see Urban Assessment section).

The extended harsh *Jilaal* weather conditions and delayed *Gu* rainfall had affected the entire Sool/Sanaag, Nugal and Hawd of Togdheer and Nugal regions. Excessive heat accelerated the drying up of water sources and there has been a further deterioration of pasture and browse, which is close to depletion. Localized rainfall fell in the Golis and Guban livelihood zone; however, drier areas of Hawd and Sool plateaus had not received *Gu* rainfall in April. The acute water scarcity resulted in water trucking during the three months (February to April) with associated abnormally high prices of water. The cost of water is reported to be SoSh 80,000 – SoSh 100,000/200ltr drum in Hawd and SoSh 120,000 – SoSh 150,000/200ltr drum in Sool/Sanaag. The *berked* dependent areas that are long distances from boreholes are the worst affected.

The Golis/Guban livelihood zones of Baki and Lughaya districts experienced cold *Hays* rains in March and these zones were also affected by livestock disease (PPR) that resulted a significant livestock (sheep and goats) deaths estimated to 50-60% (FAO report March '08). These areas have now received normal *Gu* rains, which replenished water and improved pasture. There is, however, a risk that PPR could spread into the neighboring regions as livestock herders are likely to migrate to the relatively good grazing areas of north-west agro-pastoral, Guban and West-Golis pastoral livelihood zones of Awdal region. In Sool/Sanaag, body conditions and productivity are decreasing for all livestock species due to poor pasture and water availability. Lambing planned for the beginning of the *Gu* has resulted in high birth rates at a time of harsh conditions (due to delayed rains), resulting in 30-40% death rates among young animals born in April '08.

In the northern regions, livestock prices have increased respectively with the seasonal trends. In northwest, the export quality goat average price has increased significantly in April '08 and is higher than prices in April '07. Similarly, local quality goat prices have followed the same trend and are currently the highest on record. In the northeast, export quality goat prices have also increased significantly and are at all time high. Local quality goat and camel prices are the highest recorded in April '08, from SoSh 815,625/head and SoSh 8,225,000/head, respectively. In contrast, terms of trade (local quality goat to rice), in the northeast and northwest have declined to the lowest since the drought year of August 2002 (36kg/goat and 32kg/goat) in April '08 as the result of soaring rice prices. Pastoralists, therefore, need to sell 40% more of their livestock just to maintain baseline staple food needs in a normal year (Figure 17, 18, 19, 20).

Figure 17: Northeast Average Monthly Price of Local Quality Goat (SOSH)

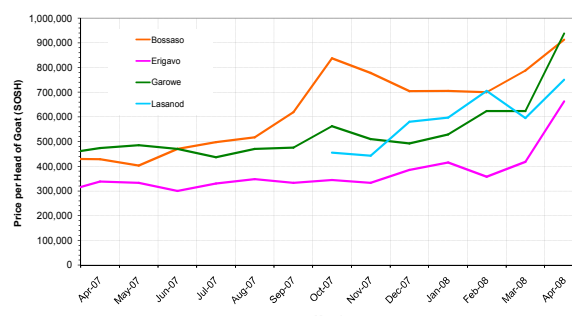


Figure 18: Northwest Average Monthly Price of Local Quality Goat (SOSH)

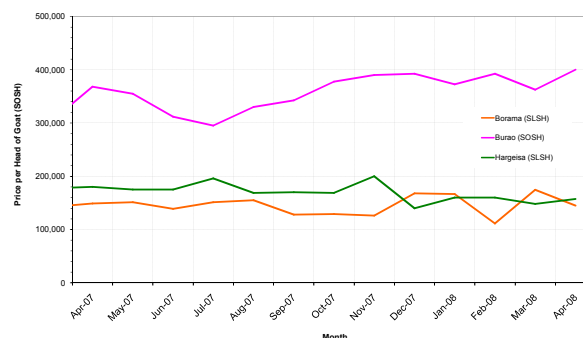


Figure 19: Northeast Terms of Trade-Local Goat, Export Goat, Labour to Cereal

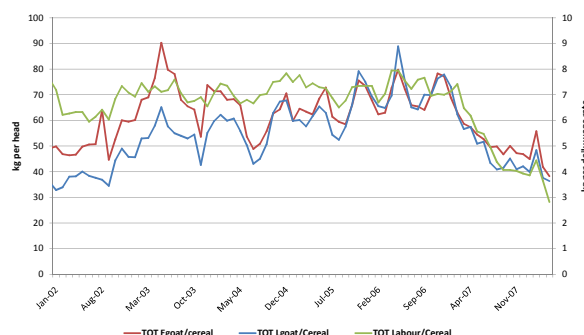
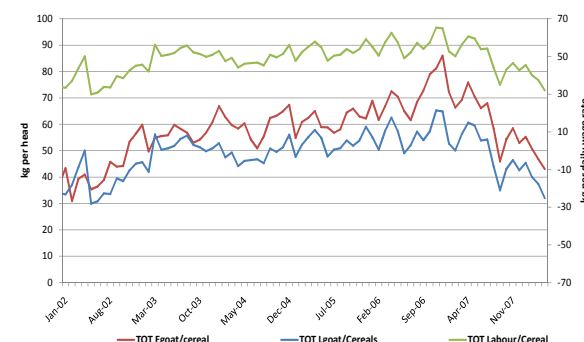


Figure 20: Northwest Terms of Trade-Local Goat, Export Goat, Labour to Cereal



Recent and forthcoming publications and releases

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FSAU/FEWSNET Market Data Update, May 2008

FSAU/FEWSNET Climate Data Update, May 2008

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