

SOMALIA Food Security Outlook

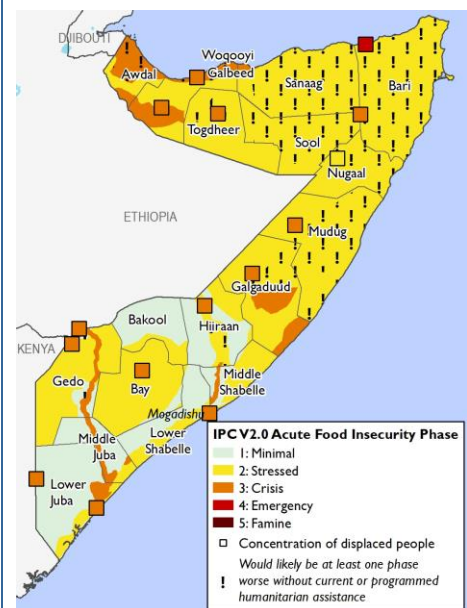
June 2018 to January 2019

Above-average rainfall throughout 2018 expected to drive improvements in food security

KEY MESSAGES

- Food security has improved significantly in many of the areas worst-affected by the 2016/17 drought, as a result of large-scale humanitarian assistance and improvements in seasonal performance. Most areas of the country are currently Stressed (IPC Phase 2), though Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes exist in some areas and among IDP populations. Between July and September, in the absence of continued humanitarian assistance, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are likely in riverine livelihood zones and northern and central Somalia. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is likely in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone.
- Food security is expected to improve between October and January, driven by seasonal improvements, and most areas will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2), though some populations throughout Somalia will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse. Areas of greatest concern are IDP settlements, most of which will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, where poor households have very few saleable animals to purchase food and will likely remain in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).
- April to June *Gu* rainfall started earlier than normal and was significantly above average. Below-average *Gu* production in July is likely in riverine areas where floods caused substantial crop losses, though above-average production is likely in rainfed areas. Overall the harvest in July is expected to be average. Flooding increased recession cultivation opportunities and the September off-season *Gu* harvest is expected to be above average.
- There is an elevated likelihood of an El Niño event occurring in late 2018, driving above-average rainfall during the October to December *Deyr* season. *Deyr* rainfall is expected to support average production and normal livestock births and productivity in most areas, though flooding will likely cause crop losses in riverine and lowland areas.

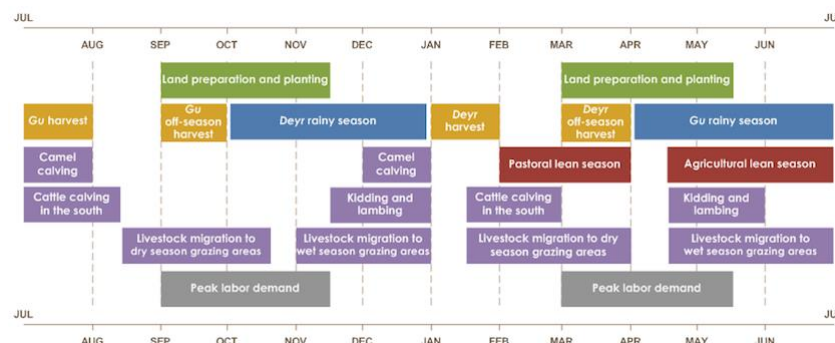
Current food security outcomes, June 2018



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR



Source: FEWS NET

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

From late 2016 through late 2017, Somalia experienced a prolonged drought that resulted in significant livestock losses and consecutive seasons of below-average production, causing severe – and at times extreme – acute food insecurity. The performance of the 2017 *Deyr* season was mixed, but overall rainfall was sufficient to support improved livestock conditions and near normal production, and food security began improving in late 2017. Large-scale humanitarian assistance throughout 2017 also played a significant role in driving improvements and likely preventing Catastrophic outcomes. Despite early indications that the April to June 2018 *Gu* season would be below average, heavy rainfall during this time has been largely beneficial, and this alongside continued humanitarian assistance has supported further food security improvements across much of Somalia.

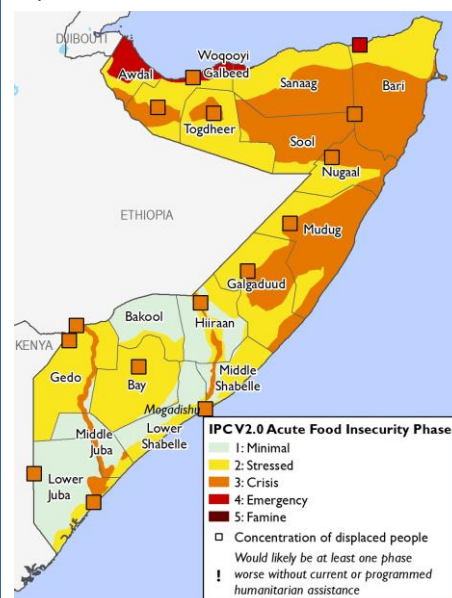
The *Gu* rainy season started earlier than usual in late March and rainfall totals were well above-average through mid-May. Rainfall was closer to average in late May and June (Figure 1). According to Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station data (CHIRPS) rainfall estimates, rainfall totals were 110-190 percent of normal across most of Somalia, though slight rainfall deficits were experienced in the Northeast (Figure 2). This equates to roughly 25-100 millimeters (mm) of rainfall in the Northeast, 50-175 mm in northwestern and central areas, and over 250 mm across the South.

Due to heavy rainfall in Somalia and the Ethiopian highlands, river water levels exceeded full capacity (Figure 3) in late April and **flooded many riverine areas** and caused flashfloods in some lowland areas. Flooding temporarily displacing over 359,000 people, the majority of whom were from Hiraaan. In the northwest, tropical Cyclone Sagar also led to significant flooding that caused fatalities, displaced people, damaged infrastructure and livelihood assets, and killed many livestock.

In riverine areas, floods damaged irrigation and infrastructure and destroyed an estimated 10,900 hectares (ha) of farmland in Hiraaan, 10,000 ha in Middle Shabelle, 11,000 ha in Middle Juba (Figure 4), 8,100 ha in Jamame district of Lower Juba, and some farms in Gedo. Flooding also destroyed many maize crops in Lower Shabelle, a key area for maize production. Although crops are developing normally in all other riverine areas, the area under cultivation for July *Gu* crops is below average in riverine areas overall. Following the flooding, many riverine farmers decided to delay replanting and only engage in recession cultivation, which is now ongoing.

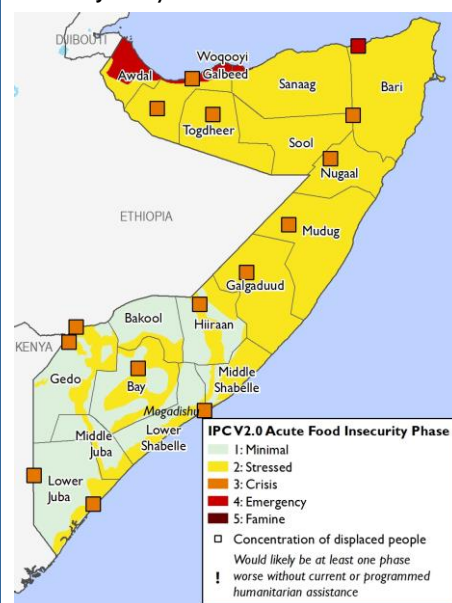
In rainfed agricultural and agropastoral livelihood zones, above-average *Gu* rainfall has been beneficial for crop development and the area planted is average or above average. In most areas, crops are developing normally, though flashfloods caused crop losses in Wanlaweyn, Baidoa, Qansaxdheere, and Afmadow. Crop damage was significant in Afmadow, though their contribution to total national production is minimal. In Bay, a high-production region for sorghum, flashfloods destroyed an estimated 12,800 ha of cropped land. Many crops were replanted and are at the vegetative stage. In central Cowpea Belt livelihood zone, farmers planted a greater than normal area of land; sorghum crops are in good condition and the cowpea harvest is underway. In Northwest Agropastoral livelihood zone, the first round of short-cycle maize cultivation is below normal due to the late start of *Gu* rainfall, though planting of long-cycle sorghum was normal. In Togdheer Agropastoral livelihood zone, farmers planted above-normal amounts of short-cycle sorghum.

Projected food security outcomes, June to September 2018



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

Projected food security outcomes, October 2018 to January 2019



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

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The availability of pasture and water is also average or above average in most areas of the country. The exceptions are parts of Coastal Deeh and Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zones in Banderbeyla, Eyl, Garowe, and Iskushuban; Addun Pastoral livelihood zone in Dhusamareb and Adado; and Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone in southern Galkayo, where ground reports indicate below-normal availability of pasture and water. However, livestock in these districts are able to access sufficient pasture and water in neighboring areas.

Most water catchments were fully replenished with *Gu* rainfall and free water is available through natural sources, causing the price of water to seasonally decline across most reference markets between February and May. In northeastern and central regions, the price of a 20-liter jerry can of water decreased 15-45 percent. The price of water has not declined in some areas of the northwest, however, as high fuel prices are increasing transportation costs.

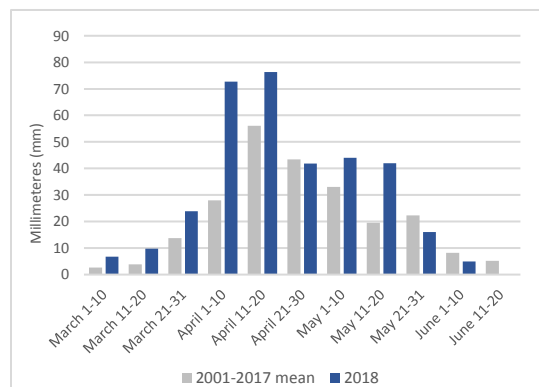
Low to medium goat births occurred during the 2018 *Gu* season, supporting small increases in herd sizes. However, low to no cattle and camel calving occurred this season due to very low conception in 2017. The exceptions to this are in the southern regions of Bay, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Middle Shabelle, and Lower Shabelle, where medium cattle calving occurred. Despite these increases, herd sizes remain well below average as many pastoralists lost between 25 and 75 of their livestock during the 2016/2017 drought and recent births represent small growth from very low levels.

With recent livestock births, most poor household now have access to goat milk for consumption. In northern and central areas where the number of livestock giving birth was still lower than normal, total milk availability remains below average. In the above mentioned southern regions, milk access is near normal.

Medium to high rates of livestock conception took place between April and June 2018 in most areas. High livestock conception rates were driven by the favorable *Gu* season and the fact that fewer than normal livestock conceived in past seasons, allowing a larger proportion of the herd to be available for conception during the *Gu*.

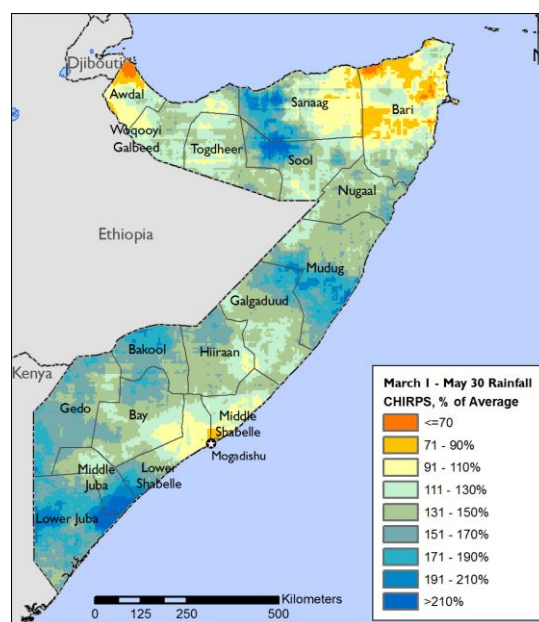
Markets are generally well supplied with local cereals, though at seasonally low levels. Between April and May, the retail price of maize increased 5-15 percent across key markets due to seasonal

Figure 1. Rainfall in millimeters during 10-day periods (dekad) in Bay, March 1 to June 20, 2018, compared to the 2001-2017 mean, CHIRPS



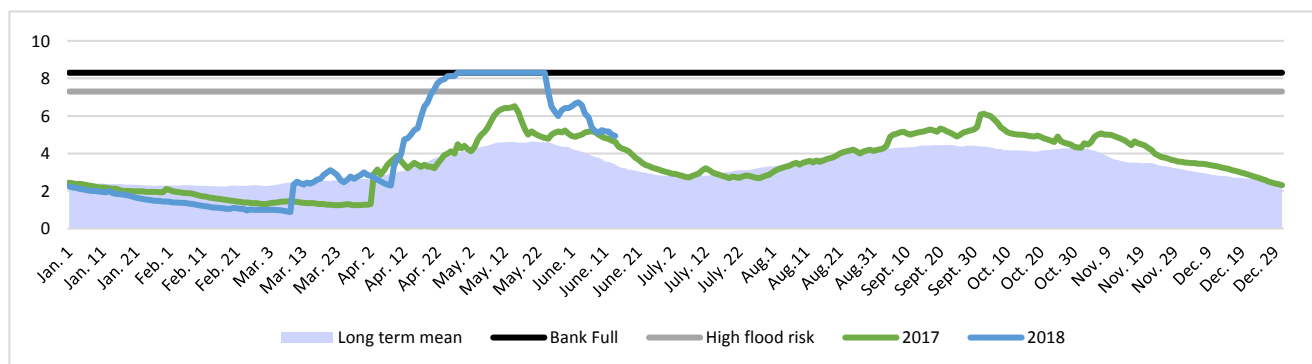
Source: FEWS NET/USGS

Figure 2. Rainfall as a percentage of normal, March 1 to March 30, 2018 compared to the 1981-2010 mean, CHIRPS



Source: FEWS NET/USGS

Figure 3. River water levels in the Shabelle River at Belet Weyne, Hiraan



Source: SWALIM data

declines in stocks and expectations of low maize production in riverine areas. Conversely, the retail price of sorghum remained stable or declined slightly due to adequate supply and normal harvest prospects. Overall, local cereal prices are 20-35 percent below the same time last year and 10-15 percent below the five-year average. The retail price of imported rice, the key staple in northern and some central regions, is 3-10 percent higher than last year and roughly 5 percent above average. However, the retail price of rice in the Northwest is 15 percent higher than last year and 25 percent above average due to the depreciation of the Somaliland Shilling (SLS) against the U.S. Dollar (USD).

In most agricultural and agropastoral areas, labor demand and wage rates are near normal. As a result of this and below average cereal prices, the labor-to-cereal terms of trade (ToT) are around 35-140 percent above the same time last year. Relative to the five-year average, however, trends are mixed across the country. In flood-affected areas, agricultural labor demand is low and poor households are earning less income than usual through this source.

Figure 4. Flooded Maize Farm in Tatety Village, Buale, Middle Juba



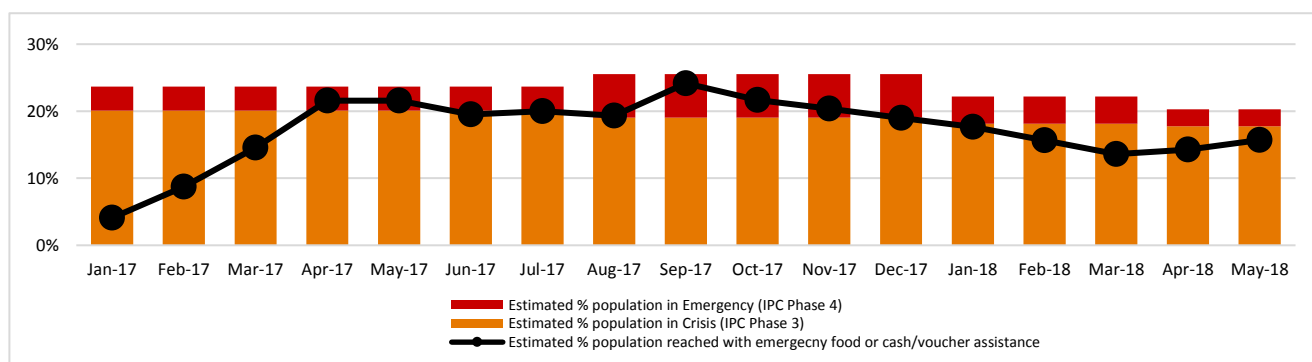
Source: FSNAU

Livestock prices are increasing gradually across the country, driven by improved livestock body conditions and, in some markets, low supply of livestock for sale. In May, the price of a local quality goat was on average 15-20 percent higher than the same time last year and 10-30 percent above the five-year average. As a result of this and below-average cereal prices, household purchasing power is significantly above last year and normal. The sale of a local quality goat purchases between 65 and 100 kilograms of cereal, 10 to 50 percent above average. However, in the Northwest and Sorghum Belt, the goat-to-cereal ToT are average due to relatively higher cereal prices in rural markets to which there are lower trade flows.

Protracted conflict in many southern and central regions continues to cause loss of life and negatively impact the flow of traded goods, market functioning, and access to humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, conflict persists between Somaliland and Puntland over boundary areas, localized clan conflicts are ongoing in Maxaas of Hiraan and Cel-afwein of Sanaag, and there are renewed insurgent attacks in the Golis Mountains of Bosaso and Qandala of Bari. Conflict continues to be a primary driver of displacement across Somalia in addition to climate-related drivers, and an estimated 2.6 million people are internally displaced across Somalia, around 2.2 million of whom are living in settlements in urban areas. According to the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), an estimated 109,000 persons returned to their places of origin between January and May 2018. The number of returnees is significantly higher than the 44,000 who returned in the last half of 2017.

Large-scale humanitarian assistance continues to be delivered in many areas of Somalia. Although the number of beneficiaries reached monthly in 2018 has declined compared to mid- and late 2017, the reach of humanitarians remains high and broadly in line with the estimated (Figure 5). Field information indicates the transfer is between a half ration and full ration.

Figure 5. Percentage of the population reached by emergency humanitarian food/cash-voucher assistance compared to the estimated population in need



Source: FSNAU, FEWS NET, Somalia FSC

Information is not yet available on nutrition outcomes; SMART surveys will be conducted across many rural livelihood zones of Somalia in July. It is expected, though, that the prevalence of malnutrition in rural areas currently is lower than the same time last year due to increased access to milk and other food sources relative to the same time last year. However, Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), as measured by weight-for-height z-score (WHZ), likely remains within 'Serious' (GAM(WHZ) 10.0-14.9%) or 'Critical' (GAM(WHZ) 15.0-29.9%) ranges. High malnutrition is driven by the fact that food availability remains below normal in many areas, and chronic issues including disease and limited access to health services. Since December 2017, 4,300 cases of [AWD/cholera](#), including 28 deaths, have been reported. An estimated 5,736 cases of suspected measles were also reported since the beginning of 2018. Recent nutrition results are available for 13 IDP settlements and two urban centers, Kismayo and Mogadishu. The median GAM (WHZ) across these surveys was 16.6 percent, an improvement from the 2017 post-Gu, during which time the median GAM (WHZ) record was 18.7 percent.

In southern pastoral areas, most poor households are experiencing None (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity and have sufficient milk for consumption and sales, and average livestock to sell to cover food purchases. In agropastoral areas of Bakool, Bay, Hiraan, Lower Shabelle, and Lower Juba, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes exist. Poor households are earning normal levels of income through agricultural labor, including in Bay where many households displaced during the 2016/17 drought are now engaging in agricultural labor and planting crops. Poor households are currently consuming some harvests and are able to purchase normal amounts of food given favorable ToT, meeting their minimal food needs. However, many are diverting some income towards the repayment of debts rather than purchasing non-food needs. In riverine areas of Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba, and Middle Juba, flooding caused significant crop damage, limited agricultural labor, destroyed food stocks, and in some areas led to an increase in water-borne illness. With limited food and income sources, poor households are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and are either facing food consumption gaps or selling livelihood assets to meet their food needs. Many IDPs continue to face food consumption gaps or engage in Crisis coping and remain in need of humanitarian assistance.

In the northern agropastoral areas, Stressed (IPC Phase 2!) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes exist. Poor households do not currently have access to *Gu* crops given minimal maize cultivation and milk access is atypically low. Poor households are relying heavily on humanitarian assistance and community support. In northern and central pastoral livelihood zones, most poor households are Stressed (IPC Phase 2!). The consumption of milk and ability to sell a few livestock have driven these improvements, as well as continued large-scale humanitarian assistance. However, many are unable to afford all basic non-food needs as a high proportion of income from livestock sales is allocated to the repayment of debts accumulated during the prolonged drought. In Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, where many poor households experienced additional livestock losses in mid-2018, food security has further deteriorated. Outcome data and qualitative information collected in May indicates that Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes persist, and humanitarian assistance and social support continue to play a significant role in mitigating food consumption gaps.

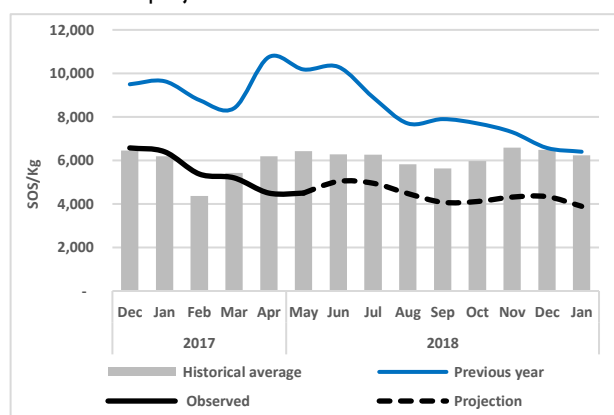
Assumptions

- July/August *Gu* production is expected to be near average, consisting of above-average sorghum production and slightly below-average maize production. Production in riverine areas, primarily maize, is expected to be well below average; however, production in rainfed areas is likely to be above average for both maize and sorghum, and rainfed maize production will nearly compensate for losses in riverine areas. Above-average off-season September production is likely and when considering this, total maize production will likely be average or above average.
- In northern agropastoral areas, below-average *Gu/Karan* maize production is likely in July/August, though average sorghum production is expected in October/November.
- The July to August *Xagaa* coastal rainfall and *Karan* rains in northwestern Somalia are both forecast to be average.
- According to the IRI/CPC consensus forecast, El Niño conditions are likely during the Northern Hemisphere winter. Over the Horn of East Africa, El Niño conditions are expected to drive above-average rainfall during the October to December *Deyr* season. Higher than normal incidents of flashfloods and river flooding are expected.
- Agricultural labor opportunities are likely to be average. Despite the likelihood that flooding during the *Deyr* season will disrupt some labor opportunities, *Gu* and *Deyr* recession cropping will provide agricultural labor opportunities.
- January 2019 *Deyr* production is expected to be near average, due to likely above-average production in rainfed areas

and below-average production in riverine areas. In addition to crop losses due to flooding, it is expected farmers in riverine areas will increase the production of sesame crops, a common practice when recession cultivation opportunities are high and when lower humidity after *Deyr* seasons supports sesame cultivation.

- Pasture and water availability are expected to remain normal or above normal throughout the projection period. Normal livestock migration and livestock body conditions are expected.
- A high rate of goat kidding is expected in late 2018 and medium to low camel and cattle calving is likely in early 2019. Even with some livestock sales over this time, herd sizes are expected to increase slightly through early 2019, leading to herd size recovery to around 50-60 percent of average in the worst-affected central and northern pastoral areas.

Figure 6. Retail price of a kilogram of sorghum in Baidoa, Bay, observed and projected



Source: FSNAU data; FEWS NET projection

- Based on FEWS NET's integrated price projections in Baidoa and Qoroley, local staple food prices are expected to follow seasonal trends and remain below the five-year average (Figure 6). Maize prices will likely increase in the near-term given expectations of poor production in riverine areas, but will then decline and remain below-average as maize harvests in rainfed areas and off-season production adequately supply markets.
- Rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar, and diesel import volumes will be normal and prices will remain stable. The exception is in the Northwest, where moderate price increases are likely due to continued depreciation of the SLS.
- Livestock prices are expected to remain above average through September due to improvement in livestock body conditions and continued low livestock supply. However, prices are likely to decline closer to average in late 2018 as livestock births encourage additional sales. Livestock-to-cereal ToT will likely be above average through September, and near average from October to January.
- Humanitarian partners plan to distribute a 15-30 day ration via food or cash/voucher assistance to an estimated 2.8 million people per month between June and August, and an estimated 1.5-1.8 million people per month between September and December. However, funding levels for assistance beyond July are unknown. Therefore, this scenario assumes an absence of assistance from August 2018 to January 2019.
- Government troops supported by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) are expected to continue seeking control of major towns in Middle Juba and Galgaduud, and armed conflict with al-Shabaab is likely. Conflict between Puntland and Somaliland over border areas is also expected throughout the projection period. Conflict is likely to lead to the loss of life and continued displacement of civilians, as well as disrupt trade and limit humanitarian access.
- Many of the individuals displaced due to the 2016/2017 drought and recent flooding are likely to return to their areas of origin during the projection period. Conversely, many destitute pastoralists are likely to remain in displacement camps for another 1-2 seasons until their remaining livestock, currently with kinship, return to sustainable levels. Most of the estimated 179,000 people displaced by Cyclone Sagar are expected to remain displaced throughout the projection period. Conflict-related displacement in 2018 is expected to be similar to that of 2017. Overall, the number of internally displaced people is estimated to remain similar to the current estimated of 2.6 million.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Between June and September, some northern and central pastoral areas are expected to be Stressed (IPC Phase 2), and Addun Pastoral, Coastal Deeh Pastoral, and Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zones would be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in the absence of continued humanitarian assistance. During this time, milk consumption will decline and poor households will only be able to sell 2-3 goats; they will be required to use a portion of this income to repay debts accrued during the 2016/17 drought. Despite favorable ToT, total purchases will be insufficient to meet all basic food and non-food needs. Between October to January 2019, 5-10 goat births are likely in these livelihood zones, which will improve milk consumption, and poor households will be able to repay some loans and purchase cereal with livestock sales. Most will meet their minimum food needs but will have insufficient income to purchase all basic non-food needs, remaining Stressed (IPC Phase 2). The exception

is Guban Pastoral livelihood where Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are expected throughout the projection period in the absence of assistance. No livestock births occurred during the *Gu* and only 4-5 goat births are expected during the *Deyr*. Households may sell an additional 1-2 livestock towards the end of the year, and consumption will increase slightly with milk availability, but most income will go to repaying debts. Poor households are unlikely to sell additional livestock as doing so would risk exhausting remaining livelihood assets. Large food consumption gaps would persist in the absence of assistance.

In Northwestern Agropastoral and Togdheer Agropastoral livelihood zones, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected between June and September, when poor households will have minimal *Gu* harvests. Additionally, households will have lower than normal access to milk during this time given below-average herd sizes. Food security is expected to improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in Northwestern Agropastoral livelihood zone in November with average *Karan* crop production, which will increase consumption and income from crop sales. Togdheer Agropastoral is also expected to improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) between October and January, when goats and households have access to milk for consumption and livestock for sale.

In southern pastoral areas, where fewer livestock losses occurred during the drought and two consecutive favorable seasons have allowed for average livestock productivity, Minimal (IPC Phase 1) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are expected throughout the projection period. In southern rainfed agropastoral areas, poor households are expected to harvest 2-3 months of cereal and consume some milk following low to medium camel and cattle calving in July. Income from agricultural labor and below-average prices will allow households to purchase normal levels of food. However, many poor households in these areas also need to use a large proportion of income earned to repay debts. Many will face difficulty meeting basic non-food needs and will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2). This includes Bay/Bakool Agropastoral Low Potential livelihood zones where many poor households lost a significant level of livelihood assets during the drought. Food security will further improve between October and December with another above-average season, though poor households will continue to divert a large proportion of income to debt repayment and remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

In most southern riverine livelihood zones of Hiraan, Gedo, Lower and Middle Shabelle, and Lower and Middle Juba, poor households lost many crops due to flooding and lost months of income as agricultural activities were limited. Recession cultivation started in June, providing some labor opportunities; however, poor households will still have far fewer food and income sources overall through September and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected. Poor households will harvest crops in September, at which time food consumption will improve significantly. Households will access income from labor through late January 2019, primarily from recession cultivation, supporting food purchases. Although January harvests are likely to be below average, food stocks from above-average off-season *Gu* harvests, supplemented by average fish and wild foods, are expected to support Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes between October and January. The majority of IDPs across the country will remain in need of emergency humanitarian assistance.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Guban Pastoral livelihood zone (Figure 7)

Current Situation

Poor households in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone lost a significant number of livestock during the 2016/17 drought, and it was estimated in April that poor households owned 1-3 camels and around 12 shoats. In May, Cyclone Sagar hit the northwestern coast of Somalia, and Guban Pastoral livelihood zone received between 85 and 130 mm of rainfall, equivalent to the amount of rainfall typically received in a full year. Subsequent flashfloods caused fatalities, destroyed cash crop farms near seasonal rivers, damaged infrastructure, and killed many livestock (Figure 8). Better-off households were able to migrate their livestock to higher grounds prior to the cyclone, but poor households lacked the resources to do so. Based on an assessment conducted in late May by FSNAU and FEWS NET, it is estimated that poor households now have 1-2 camels and roughly 9 shoats. Livestock herd sizes are significantly below the baseline levels of 1-3 camels and 35-45 shoats.

Cyclone Sagar also displaced an estimated 26,850 people, increasing the total number of displaced persons in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone to about 125,500 people, according to UNHCR. Among those displaced are many destitute pastoralists residing in main towns and villages within this livelihood zone.

There were, however, some positive impacts from the heavy rainfall. Wells and seasonal rivers were refilled and households have access to free water through these sources. Additionally, pasture and browse, which were previously sparse, have increased significantly, as confirmed by both FEWS NET's field visit and remote monitoring data. As a result, livestock body conditions have improved to average.

The rate of goat and sheep kidding/lambing was low in May and June, due to low conception during the 2017 *Deyr*. Few to no camel births were reported due to consecutive poor seasons in 2017 that limited conception. As a result, there is little to no milk available for consumption or sale. The price of a liter of camel's milk is 54 percent above average, the second highest price on record, reflecting the scarcity of production. However, favorable rangeland and water availability are now supporting high livestock conception among remaining livestock.

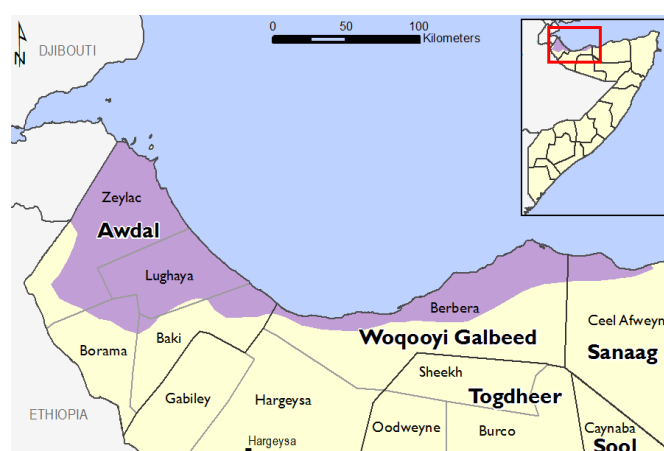
In May, the retail price of imported rice, the key staple in this livelihood zone, was 8,400 SLS/kg in Lawyaddo/Zaylac. This is the highest price on record since September 2008, driven by the depreciation of the SLS against the USD. The retail price of wheat flour is similarly high at 8,400 SLS, 51 percent above average. The average price of a local quality goat in May was 405,000 SLS, roughly 25 percent higher than the five-year average, due to sustained low supply of livestock for sale. Although goat prices are above average, food prices are more significantly above average. As a result, goat-to-rice ToT are around 15 percent below average. The availability of saleable animals is extremely low, however, and the majority of poor households are not selling livestock in an effort to allow their remaining livestock to conceive.

Many poor households are earning typical levels of income through key secondary sources, including labor migration and the sale of firewood/charcoal. However, there is limited opportunity for households to sell additional charcoal/firewood for greater income, given the scarcity of these resources in the livelihood zones' terrain.

Access to credit food purchases is now nearly nonexistent as the current debt level among poor households is around 400-600 USD, which surpasses the value of their livestock assets and signals to merchants a high unlikelyhood that debts will be repaid in the near-term. In the absence of credit purchases, other key food and income sources include social support, remittances, and humanitarian assistance. Local authorities have organized a cyclone relief committee, which has delivered donations to five districts, including Baki, Berbera, Gabiley, Lughaya, and Zeylac. Additionally, international humanitarian actors have reached roughly 19,000 beneficiaries a month between February and May in Awdal, roughly 40 percent of the population, with assistance equivalent to a 30-day ration. Ground information from the preliminary *Gu* 2018 assessment also noted the presence of significant assistance.

During the 2018 post-*Jilaal* assessment conducted in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, data were collected on food consumption, livelihood coping, and nutrition. Analysis indicates Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes likely persist in this livelihood zone, with humanitarian assistance and social support acting as a key factor in preventing more extreme outcomes. Approximately 32 percent of households reported a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS), and 37 percent reported a borderline FCS. Seven percent of households reported severe hunger on the Household Hunger Scale (HHS), and 25 percent reported moderate hunger. Relative to past seasons, the reporting of moderate and severe hunger has increased, as has borderline food consumption. However, the reporting of poor food consumption has declined (Figure 9). An analysis of the convergence of these outcomes at the household-level indicates an area-level classification of Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in May, but with some households in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The GAM (WHZ) was 10.0 percent (6.9-14.1), also indicative of Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and a deterioration from the 6.6 percent (4.7-9.1) GAM (WHZ) prevalence recorded during the 2017/18 post-*Deyr*.

Figure 7. Area of concern reference map, Guban Pastoral livelihood zone



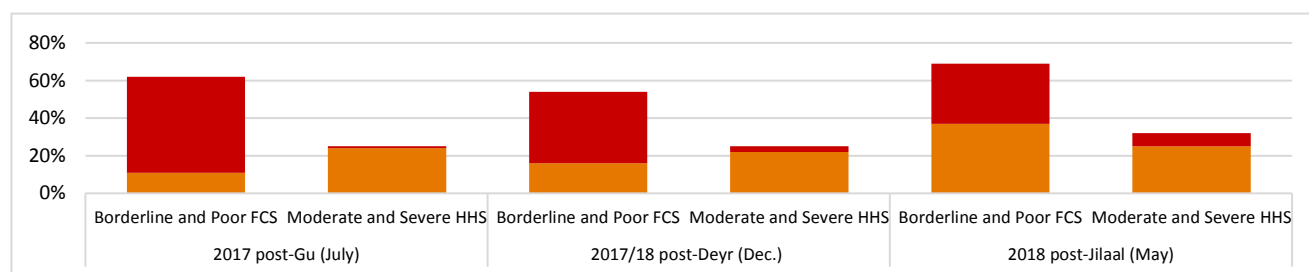
Source: FEWS NET/FSNAU

Figure 8. Goats killed by Cyclone Sagar in Gargaara village of Lughaya, Awdal, Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, May 2018



Source: FEWS NET

Figure 9. Percentage of households reporting borderline or poor FCS and moderate or severe HHS, 2017 post-*Gu* to 2018 post-*Jilaal*, Guban Pastoral livelihood zone



Source: FSNAU/FEWS NET

Assumptions

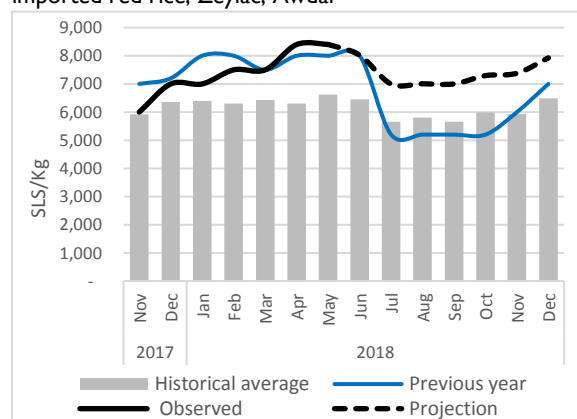
In addition to the national-level assumptions, the following assumptions have been made for Guban Pastoral livelihood zone:

- Occurrences of flashfloods from *Karan* rains are expected at normal rates between July and September.
- Based on FEWS NET's integrated price projections, the retail price of imported rice is expected to remain roughly 40 percent above average due to likely continued depreciation of the SLS against the USD (Figure 10).
- The retail price of a local quality goat, currently around 25 percent above average, is expected to remain similarly above average throughout the projection period due to continued low supply of livestock for sale.
- As a result of high livestock conception rates during the *Gu* and forecast above-average *Deyr* rains, a high rate of goat births is expected in October/November. Little to no camel calving is likely during the projection period, given the longer gestation period, though medium camel births are likely in May 2019. Poor households' herd sizes will likely remain around 1-3 camels and 9 shoats through September, but shoat herds should increase to around 14 in October/November.
- Normal income from firewood and charcoal sales is expected over the scenario period. A higher than normal number of people will seek labor in main towns, though total household income from this source will not increase significantly.
- Poor households' access to credit food purchases will remain limited during the projection period as the value of their livestock assets will remain below total debts.
- Social support throughout Somalia is expected to remain low given low asset holdings among better-off households, though remittances from the diaspora are expected to be higher than normal in response to Cyclone Sagar.
- According to the Food Security Cluster, roughly 138,400 people will be targeted in Zeylac, Lughaye, Bako, and Berbera in July and August. However, due to funding uncertainties, no humanitarian assistance is assumed from August 2018 to January 2019.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Throughout the scenario period, most poor households are unlikely to sell livestock, typically their key source of income. Through July, many will be able to minimize food consumption gaps and unsustainable livelihood coping with the receipt of humanitarian assistance, and Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes are likely. From August through January, however, poor households are likely to face extreme food consumption gaps in the absence of humanitarian assistance. They will earn some income through the sale of firewood/charcoal and labor migration, and assistance from the diaspora, though total income from these sources will be insufficient to purchase all basic food needs. Slight improvement is anticipated between October and January, after the expected 4-5 livestock births, enabling households to access some milk. Milk access will increase

Figure 10. Observed and projected price for a kilogram of imported red rice, Zeylac, Awdal



Source: FSNAU data; FEWS NET projection

consumption, but only minimally. Some livestock sales are possible, though total sales will be low as most livestock will be newborn or lactating. Among households who do sell livestock, a large portion of the income will be used to repay debts, limiting the amount that can be used for food purchases. In the absence of assistance, poor households would still need to engage in extreme coping, including dropping out of pastoralism and leaving remaining livestock with kinship in order to migrate towards cities in search of alternatives. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes would be likely.

Hiraan Riverine Pump Irrigation livelihood zone and Middle Shabelle Riverine Gravity Irrigation livelihood zone (Figure 11)

Poor households in the above two livelihood zones have similar typical sources of food and income: their primary food source is own production, while their secondary source is food purchases funded through crop sales, self-employment, and agricultural labor. One key difference is small livestock ownership of 2-4 shoats among poor households in Hiraan. Given broad similarities in livelihoods and similarities in current shocks and assumptions over the projection period, these livelihood zones were analyzed together.

Current situation

Gu rainfall in riverine areas in Hiraan and Middle Shabelle was 110–170 percent of average and this alongside heavy rainfall in the Ethiopian highlands led to river flooding that inundated an estimated 54,500 ha of arable land and destroyed nearly 25 percent of the crops planted in these areas. Most flood-related displacement occurred in riverine areas of Hiraan and Middle Shabelle, and more than 80 villages remain inaccessible by road as waters have not fully receded.

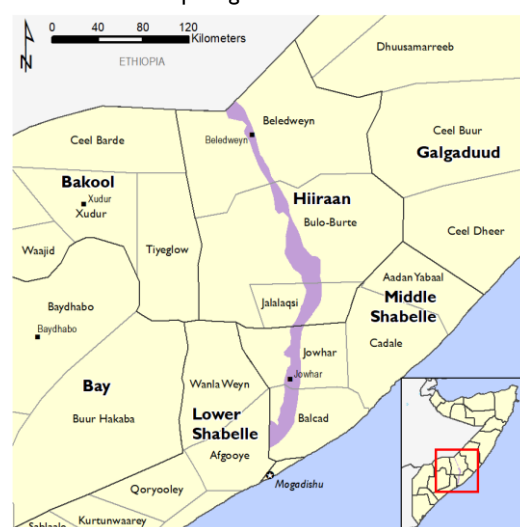
Households in these areas typically source 50-70 percent of their food from own crop production and 30-40 percent through market purchases, which are funded through income earned from agricultural and casual labor. Given extensive crop damage, poor households not only lost most of their own crops but also lost many agricultural labor opportunities as better-off households who hire labor also lost crops. Furthermore, any cereal stocks from the previous season were spoiled by flooding, as grains are customarily stored in underground pits. Typically, green consumption is available during this time, marking the end of the lean season, but few households in these livelihood zones are currently harvesting crops.

Recession cultivation started in many areas in May, offering some agricultural labor opportunities and increasing wage rates from April. Staple food prices in these areas have increased in recent months given poor production prospects, but still remain 20-30 percent below average. As a result, labor-to-cereal ToT are near average; however, poor households are working a significantly lower number of days than usual and are therefore purchasing lower amounts of food. Many are utilizing credit to purchase food and are increasing consumption of fish and wild fruits and vegetables.

The availability of milk on markets has declined as many livestock were migrated away from flooded riverine areas where the risk of livestock disease is higher. Subsequently, milk prices have increased 30-40 percent in recent months. Given high prices and low income, most poor households in Middle Shabelle are not currently consuming milk. Poor households in Hiraan have some access to goat milk, given small livestock holdings.

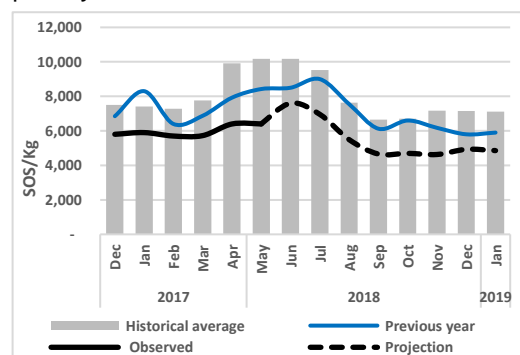
Clan conflict in Jowhar has been suspended and trade restrictions lifted in order to allow riverine communities to resume cultivation and engage in trade; however, insecurity persists across these livelihood zones. Both regional authorities and insurgents are imposing taxation on goods traded, lowering the commodities sold to neighboring areas. Currently, cereal flows out of Hiraan are very low as the prices and taxation are higher than commodity prices in neighboring Ethiopia.

Figure 11. Area of concern reference map, Riverine Gravity Irrigation livelihood zone in Middle Shabelle and Riverine Pump Irrigation livelihood zone in Hiraan



Source: FEWS NET/FSNAU

Figure 12. Observed and projected white maize prices, Jowhar, Middle Shabelle



Source: FSNAU data; FEWS NET projection

Humanitarian actors reached roughly 3,030 people in Middle Shabelle and 175,700 in Hiraan each month with humanitarian food assistance between February and April 2018. However, support is primarily given to district capitals and surrounding villages, as insecurity limits access to rural villages.

Poor households in these livelihood zones have seen a significant decline in their key sources of food and income. Although many are mitigating food consumption gaps through fishing and consumption of wild foods, these food sources are insufficient to meet their basic needs. Many are engaging in Stressed and Crisis coping strategies, including purchasing food on credit, reducing expenditure on non-food essentials such as medicine, and selling productive household assets. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes exist in June.

Assumptions

- The regular *Gu* harvest will still occur in July, though total cereal crops harvested at this time will be well below average.
- Many households will not harvest during the regular July season and will harvest only September off-season *Gu* production. Although off-season production is expected to be above-average nationally, flood waters recede more slowly in Hiraan and Middle Shabelle, making recession cultivation opportunities relatively low compared to the Juba regions. This year water will not recede fast enough to allow sufficient drying for all crops before the next rainy season. As a result, below-average *Gu* off-season production is expected in these livelihood zones.
- Above-average *Deyr* rainfall will likely lead to river flooding in October/November, which will damage some crops and lead to below-average January *Deyr* production. Given the projected below-average *Gu* and *Deyr* production, agricultural labor demand will likely be lower than normal throughout the projection period.
- Based on FEWS NET's integrated price projection in Jowhar, local cereal prices will likely increase in the near-term, but decline in July when stocks from rainfed areas and off-season production enter markets. Throughout the projection period, prices are expected to remain below average (Figure 12).
- Milk availability is likely to be lower than normal throughout the projection period as many livestock will remain away from flooded riverine areas.
- Poor households will increase their engagement in fishing and collection of wild vegetables and water lilies throughout the projection period, both for consumption and sales.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected through September, with households relying primarily on the consumption of fish, wild foods, and low amounts of cereal purchased from markets. Poor households will earn some income from agricultural labor during *Gu* recession cultivation, but it will be much lower than normal and insufficient to purchase all food requirements. Many will purchase cereal on credit and receive some cash from friends and relatives. In September, food security will improve with the off-season harvest. Although production will be below average, it is estimated poor households will harvest two months of cereal. This, alongside some income from *Deyr* labor opportunities, and continued consumption of fish and wild foods, will allow households to meet their basic food needs without engaging in Crisis coping. Although *Deyr* harvest will also be below average, the harvest of an additional 2-3 months of cereal towards the end of the projection period will also support poor households' ability to meet their minimum food needs and Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are likely.

Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone (Figure 11)

Current Situation

Similar to Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, poor households in Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone lost a significant number of their livestock during the 2016/2017 drought due to deaths and the need for atypically high sales. Food security began to improve slightly in late 2017 with relatively better seasonal performance that led to improved livestock productivity and conception, and large-scale humanitarian assistance prevented more extreme outcomes in many areas. Greater food security improvements have been observed in the first half of 2018.

During the *Gu* season, rainfall was 25-100 mm above average in most areas, though rainfall totals were 10-25 mm below average in eastern areas of Bari and some areas of Sanaag and Nugaal. Overall, rainfall supported the regeneration of pasture

and browse in most areas, and livestock in rainfall-deficit areas were able to migrate for pasture and water. The rainfall also increased water availability in communal sources, causing water prices to decline. In May, the price of a 20-liter jerry can of water was 2,000-4,100 Somali Shillings (SOS) in rural markets of Bari, Nugaal, Sanaag, and Sool, a 45 percent decline from April and nearly 30 percent below the five-year average.

The favorable 2018 *Gu* season has also supported medium to high conception among goats, and low to medium births among goats that conceived during the 2017 *Deyr*. No camel births occurred during the *Gu* and camels have not yet conceived; however, their body conditions are favorable to support conception in the coming months.

Poor households are now consuming goat milk following recent births, though total consumption is still below typical levels due to overall below-average herd sizes. There has been a modest growth of poor households' goat/sheep herds: the average ownership is now 25 heads, up from 19 at the end of 2017, yet this is still well below baseline levels of roughly 50 (Figure 12). Herd sizes remain lower among those who left their livestock with kinship and moved to IDP camps in 2017. There have been some reports of individuals returning from camps to their pastoral livelihood, but the number is low.

The price of a local quality goat in this livelihood zone has increased in recent months and remains well above the five-year average due to improved body conditions and continued low market supply. In Garowe of Nugaal, the price increased from 1,612,500 Somalia Shillings (SOS) in January to 1,965,000 in May, and the May price is now 40 percent above average. Similar improvements were observed in rural markets where the price of a local quality goat is about 20 percent above average.

The retail price of imported rice remains stable across markets in this livelihood zone, around 18,000 SOS. Due to stable rice prices and above-average livestock prices, the goat-to-rice ToT have increased and are roughly 20 percent above average in key reference markets and 15 percent above average in rural markets. In May, the sale of a local quality goat purchased 109 kg of rice in Garowe (Nugaal), 88 kg in Iskushuban (Bari), 94kg in Lasanod (Sool), and 109 kg in Erigabo (Sanaag); this is sufficient to meet roughly 80 percent of the basic food needs for household of seven for one month. Despite these favorable ToT, most poor households are not able to sell more than 1 or 2 goats due to significantly below average herd sizes and the fact that most adult livestock are either lactating or have just conceived.

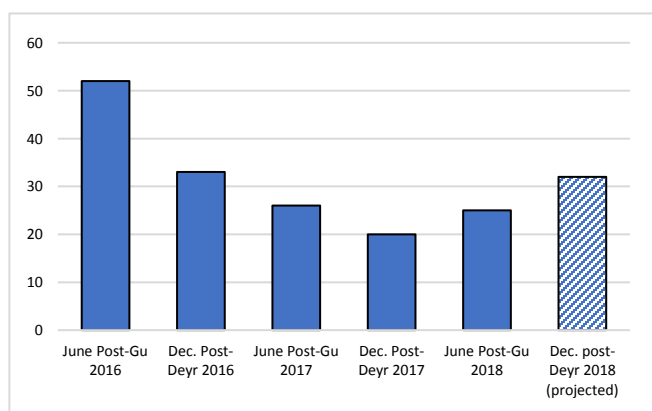
With income from livestock still below average, key sources of income include the sale of firewood and charcoal, though poor households are unable to significantly increase income from this source given that natural resources in the area are not abundant. Most poor households are also receiving some food or income through community support, though households

Figure 11. Area of concern reference map, Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone



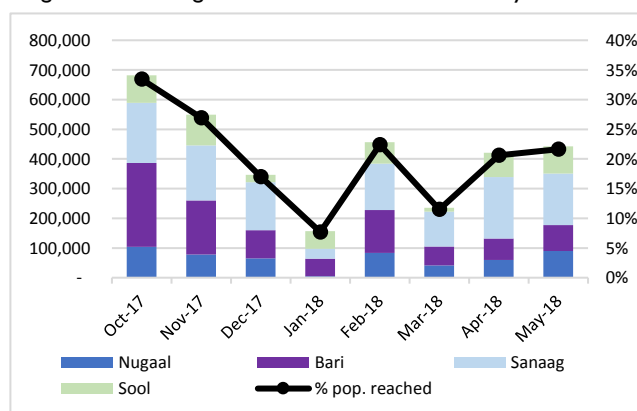
Source: FEWS NET/ FSNAU

Figure 12. Sheep and goat herd sizes among poor households in Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone



Source: FSNAU/FEWS NET

Figure 13. Emergency food and cash/voucher assistance in Nugaal, Bari, Sanaag, and Sool, October 2017 to May 2018



Source: FSNAU/FEWS NET

report that community support has declined in 2018 compared to 2017. Poor households also have some, but limited, access to credit purchases; typical debt levels are around 830 USD and, up until the recent births of goats, most poor households have been unwilling or unable to repay debts, limiting their access to new loans. Humanitarian food and cash/voucher assistance continues to be a key source of food in this livelihood zone. Although the number of beneficiaries reached in 2018 is lower than in 2017 (Figure 13), more than 20 percent of the total population is still being reached.

Food security has improved slightly in June with recent livestock births, enabling many poor pastoralists to access milk for consumption. Many have also either already sold 1-2 goats or will be able to do so in the near-term. Combined with some community support and continued humanitarian assistance, this has mitigated food consumption gaps and is likely preventing households from selling further livestock. With these sources, it is likely most poor households are able to minimally meet their basic food needs. Among those who have already sold a few goats, however, income will be divided between repaying debts and purchasing food, and as a result most poor households remain unable to purchase many basic non-food needs. It is expected Stressed (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes persist among most households, though some poor households without access to assistance likely face food consumption gaps and are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Assumptions

In addition to the national-level assumptions, the following assumptions have been made for Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone:

- Medium to high goat kidding and milk production are likely between October and December. Following goat births, herd sizes are expected to increase to roughly 31-33 goats/sheep (Figure 12). Medium goat conception is also expected during the *Deyr* season, though the births of these livestock will not occur until May-July 2019.
- Poor households are expected to sell 1-2 livestock between June and September. After the estimated 7-9 goat births during the 2018 *Deyr*, poor households will likely sell 5-7 goats between late 2017 and early 2018. With these sales, herd sizes are expected to decline somewhat, though further goat births would be likely by mid-2018. The income from livestock sales will go towards both food purchases and repayment of debts.
- Based on a price projection by FEWS NET for goats in Garowe market, the sale of a local quality goat is expected to remain roughly 35-45 percent above average throughout the projection period, due to continued low supply of livestock for sale on markets. Prices will be highest between May and September due to Ramadan and Hajj restocking and will then decline towards the end of 2017 as livestock births allow for increased sales.
- According to the Food Security Cluster, roughly has confirmed that 390,500 people will be targeted in Bari, Sool, and Sanaag, in July and August. However, due to funding uncertainties, no humanitarian assistance is assumed from August 2018 to January 2019.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Between June and September, poor households will have access to some milk and will be able to purchase roughly one month of cereal and repay some debt with the sale of 1-2 livestock. Some food will also be accessed through social support and the sale of firewood/charcoal. In the absence of humanitarian assistance, however, these food and income sources would be insufficient to meet basic food needs. It is unlikely that most households would sell additional livestock during this period, in an effort to sustain the growth of herd sizes. Many would experience at least small food consumption gaps and be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). However, food security is expected to improve between October and January, and it is expected poor households will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) even in the absence of assistance. At projected prices, the sale of 5-7 livestock during this period will allow poor households to purchase sufficient rice to meet household food needs for roughly 3 months, after diverting half of the income to debt repayment. Poor households will also have access to higher levels of milk for consumption, newly-available credit, income from some firewood/charcoal sales, and *zakat* from wealthier households in the form of animals and cash. Although livestock herd sizes will decline as households sell nearly the same number of livestock as recent gains, herd sizes will likely begin to stabilize with additional births by mid-2019, indicating that households will engage in sales of livestock without accelerated depletion of assets. From this combination of food and income sources, most are expected to meet their basic food needs and be Stressed (IPC Phase 2). However, it is still expected that some – primarily those who remain in IDP camps or those who are still engaged in pastoralism but have smaller, unsustainable herd sizes – will face food consumption gaps during this time and will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

Table 1. Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
National	Well below-average or failed October to December <i>Deyr</i> rainfall	<p>In southern agropastoral and riverine areas, poor production and below-average labor opportunities would reverse some of the improvements currently observed, resulting in fewer food and income sources while households are working to rebuild assets and repay debts. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes or worse would be expected in many areas.</p> <p>In central and northern pastoral areas of greatest concern, well below-average or failed rainfall would not support livestock births during the <i>Deyr</i> and the improvements witnessed would be reversed as households would have little to no milk to consume and livestock body conditions would prevent sales to purchase food. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes would likely persist, though some areas could be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in the absence of assistance.</p>
Guban Pastoral Livelihood Zone	Continued humanitarian assistance and/or significant community support	Continued humanitarian assistance would allow many households to meet their basic food needs without engaging in extreme coping. Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes are likely and some areas could improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2!) if assistance in livestock restocking also occurred.

ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming eight months. [Learn more here.](#)