Somalia 2020 Post Gu Food Security and Nutrition Outcomes and Projections

A Virtual Briefing for All Stakeholders

30 September 2020

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2020 Post-Gu Assessment, Analysis and Vetting Process

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- Fieldwork (data collection): **Jul/Aug 2020**
- Regional Analyses Workshops: **3-7 September**

Assessment, analysis and vetting of the results were conducted in collaboration with government, UN agencies, local and international NGOs and technical partners.

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The 2020 *Gu* season started early in late March in many parts of Somalia. In April, rainfall intensified and expanded to cover all parts of the country, with heavy rains leading to flash floods in some areas.

Rainfall during May has been below average in most parts of Somalia. Although rains continued in May, there has been an extended dry spell between mid-May and late June in many parts of the country.

Rainfall has also been below average in some areas in April and June.
The rainfall during the 2020 has been characterized by heavy rainfall in April and extended dry spell since mid-May in many parts of Somalia. Hagga/Karan (Jul-Sep) rains have been mostly favorable in agropastoral and pastoral livelihoods.

Excessive rainfall has also led to riverine and flash floods in April and May, with flooding continuing since July in some areas.

There is greater likelihood of below normal to normal Deyr season (Oct-Dec 2020) rainfall in most parts of Somalia and average to below average rainfall in northeast regions. Below average Xays (Dec-Jan) rainfall is also likely in northwestern Somalia.
River Levels and Flooding

Shabelle River at Beletweyne, Hiran Region

Juba River at Buale, M Juba Region

- Severe riverine and flash flooding in April and May have caused significant population displacement, damages to property, infrastructure, farmland as well as planted crops.

- There has also been continuing riverine flooding and flood related damage since July as river levels continued to rise to moderate or high flood-risk/bank full levels, exacerbated by broken and weak river embankments in multiple locations.

- With forecast below average 2020 Deyr season rainfall, the risk of flooding is expected to be low but flooding may still occur during the season and could cause additional damages.

Source of charts: FAO SWALIM
Market Prices

**January-June 2020**
- Compared to the US Dollar, the Somali Shilling remained stable in most markets of central and southern Somalia but depreciated in northeast regions. The Somaliland Shilling appreciated.

- Despite sharp increases in April and May, imported commodities prices were generally stable in most markets. Prices decreased in northwest markets due to appreciation of the Somaliland Shilling.

- Maize price was significantly higher compared to last year and the five-year average due to a tight supply situation that followed the below average 2020 Gu harvest. However, sorghum prices are close to average due to carryover stocks from the above average 2019 Deyr season harvest.

- Livestock prices are above average to average in many markets across the country due to availability of pasture and water, good livestock body condition and sustained demand for export and local consumption.

**July-December 2020 Outlook**
- Somali Shilling and Somaliland Shilling will likely to be stable with slight fluctuations in northern markets.

- Expected below average 2020 Deyr season rainfall will likely lead to tightening of cereal supply from local production (especially maize), will likely put upward pressure on cereal prices.

- Prices of imported food items (rice, flour, vegetable oil and sugar) will likely be stable due to favorable global supplies and low fuel oil prices.

- Livestock prices likely to decline but remain at above average levels, mainly due to a sluggish demand for livestock, following the end of the peak export period.
• The 2020 *Gu* season cereal production in southern Somalia is estimated at **74,000 tons**, including **11,500 tons** of off-season harvest expected late Sep/Oct 2020. The 2020 *Gu* harvest in southern Somalia is **40 percent** lower than the long-term average for 1995-2019.

• The main factors for the 2020 *Gu* cereal production decline in southern Somalia include: successive and severe flooding, erratic rainfall and a prolonged dry spell and insecurity/conflict.

• In northwest regions, the 2020 *Gu/Karan* cereal production (harvest expected in November) is estimated at **22,500 MT**. This is **45 percent** lower than the average for 2010-2019, mainly due to erratic rainfall.

• Despite ongoing control efforts, Desert Locust has caused significant damage to crops (cereals and vegetables) and fruit trees in northwest regions, especially in Togdheer and W. Galbeed.
Carryover water and pasture from the 2019 *Deyr* season supported livestock through the dry *Jilaal* (January-March 2020) season. Despite some Desert Locust damage in northern and central regions, heavy 2020 *Gu* season rainfall in April through mid-May and *Hagaa/Karan* rains in July-September have moderated the impact and replenished pasture and browse across most regions.

In most parts of the country, current pasture, browse and water availability is adequate to support livestock at least through the start of the 2020 *Deyr* season rainfall in October. However, pasture and water availability will likely decline towards the end of the year due to the anticipated below average *Deyr* season rainfall.
Impact on Livestock Production and Productivity

• As a result of favorable pasture and water conditions, conception among small ruminants (sheep and goats) is Medium to high. Conception among large ruminants (camels and cattle) is Low to Medium as most of them have already conceived during the preceding (2019 Deyr) season and they have longer gestation periods.

• Lambing/kidding and calving follow a similar trend for the same reasons: Medium to High for sheep and goats and Low to Medium for camels and cattle.

• Milk production and availability is below average in northern and central regions due to limited number of milking/lactating animals. This is due to both (1) low to medium calving during the season and (2) below baseline livestock holdings in most rural livelihoods that have yet to recover from the extended cumulative impact of previous droughts. On the other hand milk availability is average to above average in southern Somalia, except in Gedo where milk availability is low due to less favorable pasture and browse conditions.

• Milk availability is expected to increase through the end of the year as animals that conceived during the 2019 Deyr and 2020 Gu season are expected to give birth, leading to Medium to High kidding/lambing and calving.

• Reported livestock holding among poor pastoral households increased or remained stable compared to the 2019 Deyr. Further increases are expected towards the end of the year due to the anticipated Medium to High kidding/lambing and calving between now and December 2020.

• By the end of the year, livestock holding among poor pastoral households will still remain below baseline in northern and central Somalia but reach baseline or above baseline levels in southern Somalia.
Desert Locust Infestation and Outlook

- In Somalia, Desert Locust infestation has been mostly confined to northern and central regions since the beginning of 2020.

- Government-led control operations are making good progress against Desert Locust swarms in Somaliland and Puntland. However, Desert Locust has caused damage to cereal crops, vegetables, fruit trees and pasture in northern and central regions. An increasing number of adult groups were reported in the central region (Galgadud) around mid-September.

- Latest forecasts indicate that Desert Locust continues to pose a Serious risk to rural livelihoods across Somalia, potentially exacerbating the impact of a below average 2020 Deyr season.
Overall 893,000 people were displaced between January and August 2020, mainly due to floods (71%) and insecurity/conflict (20%).

Most of the displacements occurred between April and August, mainly driven by floods. Although flood related displacements tend to only last 1-3 months, they have a lasting impact on the food security and livelihoods of those who have been affected.

Most of the population displacements occurred in Hiran, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Gedo, Bay and Banadir regions. While most population displacement are internal (within regions), there have also been displacements to other regions (e.g. from Shabelle to Mogadishu (Banadir)).

Flooding and insecurity/conflict related displacements have contributed to lower crop production in Hiran, Middle and Lower Shabelle regions.
Remittances Among Urban and IDP Households

- The proportion of Urban and IDP households who reported receiving external remittances between April/May and July 2020 is not more than 15%, except in Hargeisa Urban (28%) and Beletweyne Urban (18%).

- Relatively more urban households than IDP and rural household reported receiving remittances between April/May and July 2020. Average amounts were also higher among urban households.

- Amounts received by IDP households (US $0 to US $200) are also lower compared to those received by urban (US $75 to US $397).

- A majority of urban and IDP households who received remittances reported a 10-30 percent decline in remittances compared to what they typically/normally receive.
The proportion of rural households who reported receiving external remittances between April/May and July 2020 is not more than 10%.

Amounts received by rural households ranged from US $1 to US $167.

A majority of rural households who received remittances reported a 10-30 percent decline in remittances compared to what they typically/normally receive.
Humanitarian Assistance and Government Support

Food Assistance Coverage: January to August 2020 (FSC Data)

- Food assistance reached **1.6 million** to **2.3 million** people between April and August or an average of **1.8 million** people per month.

- Nutrition assistance to acutely malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) reached **253 200** to **321 700** people between April and August or an average of **293 700** people per month.

- Government/WFP safety net in urban areas (Banadir) is reaching **125 000 people** every month since July 2018 ($35/month/HH).

- Government safety net in rural areas (Baxnano/resilience, reached **264 000 people** between January and June 2020 ($20/month/HH).

- Government support to alleviate the economic impact of COVID-19:
  - FGS: **100%** tax exemption on rice and dates; **50%** tax exemption on wheat flour and cooking oil.
  - Somaliland: **20%** tax exemption on the importation of wheat flour, cooking oil, sugar, and pasta.

- Large scale and sustained humanitarian assistance (food security and nutrition) and government support have contributed to preventing the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes across many parts of Somalia.
There has been some improvement in the overall nutrition situation among rural populations compared to previous seasons: fewer population groups with Critical and Serious GAM/SAM, lower median GAM/SAM.

Morbidity rates were high (≥ 20%) among some rural population groups: East Golis Pastoral, Coastal Deeh Pastoral, Shabelle Agropastoral and Bay Agropastoral. Crude Death Rate (CDR) and Under-Five Death Rate (USDR) were low across most rural livelihoods. Exceptions were W Golis Pastoral and East Golis Pastoral which had serious level of CDR (0.5-1/10 000/day). Measles vaccination, Vitamin A supplementation and household access to clean water and sanitation remain low in many rural livelihoods.
Nutrition Situation Among Urban Populations

- There has been some improvement in the overall nutrition situation among urban populations compare to the 2019 Deyr season: fewer population groups with Critical or Serious GAM/SAM, lower median GAM/SAM.

- Morbidity rates were high (≥ 20%) among urban populations in Garowe, Mogadishu and Baidoa. Crude Death Rate (CDR) and Under-Five Death Rate (USDR) were low across most urban population groups, with the exceptions of Garowe Urban which had a serious level of CDR. Measles vaccination, Vitamin A supplementation and household access to clean water and sanitation are high in most of the urban populations surveyed, also better compared to coverage among both rural and displaced populations.
Nutrition Situation Among IDP Populations

- The nutrition situation among IDPS has shown no improvement. There are as many IDP population groups with Critical and Serious GAM as in previous three seasons. SAM prevalence has increased in most IDP population groups compared to the previous three seasons. These results underscore the underlying vulnerability of IDP populations.

- Morbidity rates were high (≥ 20%) among some IDP population groups: Garowe IDPs, Galkacyo IDPs, Mogadishu IDPs and Baidoa IDPs. Crude Death Rate (CDR) and Under-Five Death Rate (U5DR) were low across most IDP population groups. Exceptions were IDPs in Garowe, Mogadishu, Dollow and Baidoa which had serious level of CDR and/or U5DR. Measles vaccination, Vitamin A supplementation are low in several of the IDP population groups. However, household access to clean water and sanitation is high in most of the displaced populations.
Nutrition Situation Among Women of Child-Bearing Age (15-49 Years Old)

- Acute malnutrition prevalence is worrisome among women of child-bearing age in some population groups.

- Critical levels of acute malnutrition were observed among women of child bearing age in the following population groups: East Golis Pastoral, Bossasso IDPs, Hawd Pastoral of Central, Galkacyo IDPs, South Gedo Pastoral, South Gedor Riverine, South Gedo Agropastoral, Elberde Pastoral of Bakool.

- Serious levels of acute malnutrition were observed among women of child bearing age in the following population groups: Baidoa IDPs (Bay), Bay Agropastoral, Beletwein Urban, Coastal Deeh Pastoral of Northeast, Dhusamareb IDPs (Galgadud), Mogadishu IDPs (Banadir), North Gedo Riverine, and Northern Inland Pastoral of Northwest.
Key Nutrition Related Findings

Current:

• At the national level, the median prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) has remained Serious (10–14.9%) over the past three seasons (11.8% in 2020 Gu, 13.1% in 2019 Deyr and 13.8% in 2019 Gu).

• Areas with Significant improvement since 2019 Gu: Hargeisa IDPs, Hawd and Northern Inland Pastoral; Northeast Hawd; Northern Inland Pastoral; Beletweyne district; North Gedo Riverine and Dollow IDPs

• Areas with improvement but not significant since 2019 Gu: West Golis pastoral in NW; Addun in Central; North Gedo Pastoral and Shabelle Agropastoral in southern Somalia

• Areas with significant deterioration since 2019 Gu: Garowe IDPs in the northeast.

• Areas with deterioration which is not significant since 2019 Gu: Dhusamreb IDPs (Central) and Shabelle Riverine (southern Somalia)

• Over the past six months (since 2019 Deyr), nutrition situation among Northwest Agro-pastoral, Hawd pastoral and Bay agropastoral reflect a significant decrease in GAM and SAM prevalence. On the other hand, Garowe IDPs have shown a statistically significant increase in GAM and SAM since 2019 Deyr.

• Serious and Critical levels of acute malnutrition prevalence were observed among women of child-bearing age in several of the population groups surveyed.
Key Nutrition Related Findings

• There have been decreases in morbidity levels across the country compared to Gu 2019 with Median Prevalence of 15.5%. Out of 37 population groups surveyed, 11 recorded morbidity prevalence above 20%. Highest Morbidity was reported in in East Golis Pastoral (34%), Baidoa IDPs (31.7%), Baidoa Urban (31.5%) and Bay Agropastoral (30.5%).

• Vitamin A supplementation status and measles vaccination reported are low based on the last six months recall period, with most of these rates below 60 percent.

• Hargeisa IDPs (29.5% and 35%), Shabelle Riverine and Bay agro-pastoral (24.1 % and 20.2%) and Shabelle riverine (37.3% and 37.5%) had the lowest measles vaccination and vitamin A supplementation, respectively.

• Bay Agropastoral, Northwest Hawd Pastoral, Beletweyne district and North Gedo Pastoral reported low access (<36%) to safe water, while NW agropastoral, Coastal Deeh, N Gedo Pastoral and Bay Agropastoral also reported low (40%) access to sanitation services.

Projection:
• The nutrition situation is likely to deteriorate from October to December 2020 among some population groups (Addun Pastoral, Guban Pastoral, NW Agropastoral, Hargeisa Urban, Burao Urban, Baioa IDPs and Hiran region) due to seasonal factors as well as expected deterioration in food security conditions (access to milk, declining household cereal food stocks and likely increase in cereal prices). All other livelihoods are likely to sustain their current classification (i.e. IPC AMN Phases).
Based on results of the 2020 Post Gu assessment, an estimated 849,900 children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden) face acute malnutrition between September 2020 and August 2021, including 143,400 who are likely to be severely malnourished.

This reflects a slight improvement in the overall nutrition situation and outlook compared to 2019 Gu and 2019 Deyr due to several factors, including increased access to milk, low morbidity and increased humanitarian assistance.
Key Food Security Related Findings

• The 2020 Gu season rainfall has been favorable in most pastoral areas, with a positive impact on the food security and livelihoods of pastoral households. Some of the poor pastoral households in northern and central Somalia continue to face moderate to large food consumption gaps as they have limited number of livestock to help them cope with the various shocks both during the current and projection periods.

• In agropastoral livelihoods of Somalia that have been affected by erratic rainfall, extended dry spell and Desert Locust, the 2020 Gu season cereal harvest and agricultural employment have been affected significantly. As a results, some of the poor agropastoral households in these regions face moderate to large food consumption gaps both during the current and projection periods.

• In riverine livelihoods of southern Somalia, devastating floods during the 2020 Gu season have destroyed farm land, planted crops, and population displacement, leading to a significant declines in crop harvest, loss of agricultural employment opportunities. As a consequence, a significant proportion of poor households in riverine livelihoods face moderate to large food consumption gaps both during the current and projection periods.

• Internally displaced persons (IDPs), a majority of whom are poor and live in urban areas in desperate conditions, with limited livelihood assets and options and greater reliance on external humanitarian assistance. As a result, a significant proportion of IDPs continue to face moderate to large food consumption gaps. Some of the urban poor across Somalia who struggle to make ends meet also continue to face moderate to large food consumption gaps. For both groups (i.e. IDPs and urban poor), the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 was a factor (decline in remittances, increased food prices, decline in employment and income earning opportunities in urban areas).
• Due to multiple shocks facing Somalia since early 2020, the projected number of people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (i.e. IPC Phase 3 & 4) were **2.7 million** (Apr-Jun 2020) and **3.5 million** (Jul-Sep 2020). Most of these needs (75%) were in urban areas due to the anticipated significant socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on urban populations (including IDPs).

• Based on results of the 2020 Post Gu assessments, the estimated number of people in urgent need is **1.3 million** (Jul-Sep 2020), even in the presence of humanitarian assistance. Considering various risk factors, this number is expected to increase to **2.1 million** (Oct-Dec 2020), in the absence of food assistance.
• Acute food insecurity increased among urban and displaced populations since late 2019, partly driven by the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

• The magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity in rural areas is expected to increase significantly in 2021, due to the likely impacts of forecast below average 2020 Deyr seasonal rainfall and possible delay and/or poor performance of rainfall during the 2021 Gu season.
Key Messages

• In conclusion, current and projected levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia remain high although both the magnitude and severity are lower compared to earlier projections. This is in part due to support provided by government and large scale and sustained humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian assistance (food security and nutrition) and government support have prevented the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes across many parts of Somalia.

• Currently (July-September 2020), an estimated 1.3 million (i.e. people in IPC Phases 3 & 4) people have food consumption gaps, even in the presence of humanitarian assistance. This number is expected to increase to 2.1 million people between now and the end of the year due to multiple risk factors.

• Ongoing humanitarian assistance must be scaled up and sustained through December 2020 to address the urgent needs of the people who are likely to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Livelihoods support is also required for people that are likely to be Stressed or worse (IPC Phase 2 or higher). Population in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) could slide into Crisis or Emergency when they are unable to cope with shocks.

• An estimated 849,900 children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden) face acute malnutrition over the next 12 months (Sep 2020-Aug 2021), including 143,400 likely to be severely malnourished. Urgent nutrition and health support is required to address their needs. Urgent health and nutrition support is also required for areas with high prevalence of acute maternal malnutrition.

• Ongoing nutrition interventions should be sustained and expanded to areas that currently have low coverage. Sustained and integrated humanitarian interventions must include enhancing the coverage of health and nutrition services (treatment and prevention) as well as nutrition sensitive programming with special focus on resilience and prevention.

• Final note: Humanitarian needs could increase further in 2021 due to the influence of a La Nina that is currently developing (75% chance through Feb 2021). Potential drought conditions will likely develop as a result of below average 2020 Deyr (Oct-Dec), a harsh 2021 dry Jilaal (Jan-Mar) season and a possible delay and/or poor performance of the 2021 Gu (Apr-Jun).
Thank you

Somalia IPC Core Team Members: FSNAU/FAO, FEWS NET, WFP/VAM, Food Security Cluster