

SOMALIA Food Security Outlook

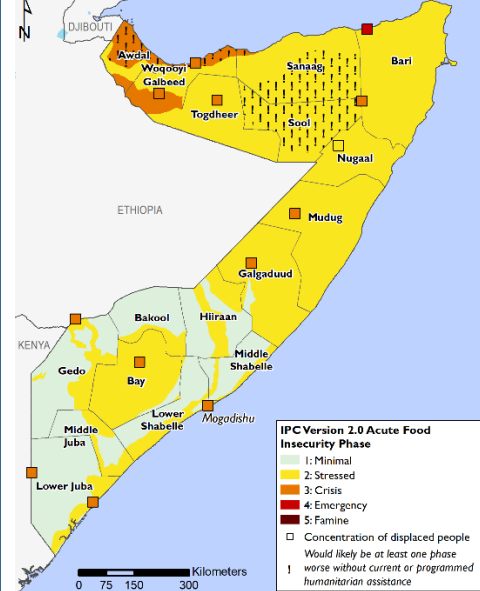
October 2018 to May 2019

Deyr rainfall expected to sustain current outcomes, except in some pastoral areas

KEY MESSAGES

- Food security has continued to improve throughout Somalia since the 2018 *Gu*. Most northern and central livelihood zones are Stressed (IPC Phase 2), while southern livelihood zones are Minimal (IPC Phase 1) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2). In October, humanitarian assistance continued to prevent worse outcomes in Guban Pastoral and northwestern Northern Inland Pastoral (NIP) livelihood zones, where Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) and Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes persist, respectively. Northwest Agropastoral and most IDP settlements are also in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).
- Contrary to earlier forecasts, *Deyr* seasonal rainfall is now expected to be below-average despite the development of a weak El Niño. Overall, favorable soil moisture is anticipated to prevent large declines in *Deyr* crop production and rangeland resources, and current outcomes are likely to be sustained in most livelihood zones through May 2019. In Addun Pastoral, Coastal Deeh Pastoral and Fishing, and northeastern NIP livelihood zones, however, deterioration in pasture and water resources is likely to lead to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes during the 2019 pastoral lean season.
- In the absence of food assistance, deterioration to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone and to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in northwestern NIP livelihood zone is likely. Herd sizes remain significantly below baseline in these zones and poor households have few saleable animals to purchase food. Significant improvements will not occur until after the next cohort of births in May. Other areas of greatest concern include IDP settlements, which will sustain Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

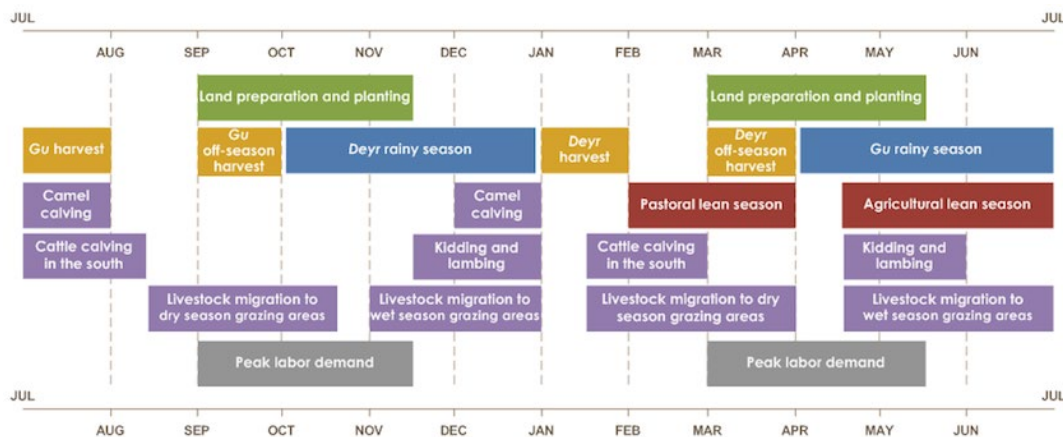
Current food security outcomes, October 2018



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

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

SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR



Source: FEWS NET

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

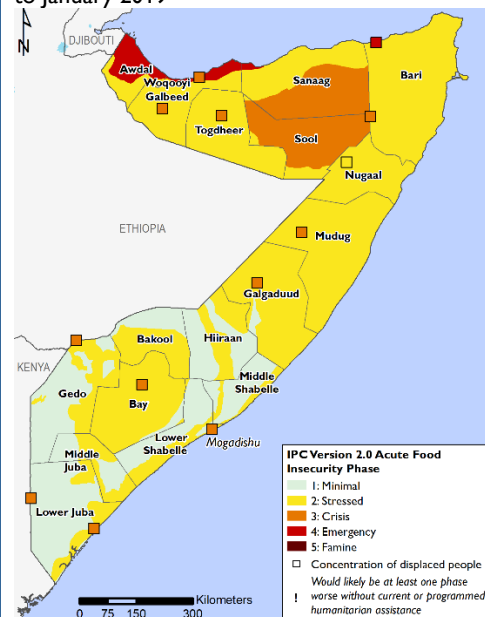
Since the end of Somalia's prolonged drought from late 2016 to late 2017, significant improvement in food security outcomes has occurred throughout the country, driven by mixed rainfall performance during the 2017 *Deyr* season, widely average to above-average 2018 *Gu* season rainfall, and large-scale humanitarian assistance. Southern rainfed agropastoral areas realized above-average 2018 *Gu* production, while most pastoral areas saw gains in livestock production due to average to above-average vegetation conditions and low to medium livestock conception levels. Nevertheless, livelihood protection deficits and food consumption gaps persisted in some pastoral areas in September, indicative of Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) to Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes. This was primarily driven by high livestock losses and off-take during the prolonged drought, and additional severe livestock losses from Cyclone Sagar in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone. A mild July to September *Hagaa* dry season enabled food security improvements, and the start of the *Deyr* rains in October combined with above-average soil moisture is supporting cropping activities and pasture and water regeneration in most rural areas.

During the July to September *Hagaa* dry season, many parts of the country received little to no rainfall. Most of Guban Pastoral livelihood zone has remained seasonally dry since the end of the *Gu* rains in May; however, localized areas in Lughaya and Zeylac districts received unusual light to moderate rains and flash floods in September and October originating in the Golis Mountains, which improved rangeland conditions. Several southern agropastoral and riverine areas received light to moderate rain (Figure 1). Overall, the *Hagaa* season was mild due to the lasting impact of good *Gu* rainfall performance. Lower and Middle Juba, Lower Shabelle, southern Bay, and localized areas of Bakool and Hiiraan received below-average to average cumulative *Hagaa* rainfall that was sufficient to increase forage growth and water availability and support off-season maize and sesame production in rainfed agropastoral and riverine areas.

In northwestern agropastoral areas, a dry spell in July was followed by below-average to average August to September *Karan* rains, thereby improving the short-cycle maize and sorghum harvest outlook for November. However, due to erratic rain distribution and maize stalk borer incidence, sorghum and maize harvests in Northwestern Agropastoral livelihood zone are expected to be 64 percent of the 2010-2017 average. Maize stalk borer is a common pest that typically affects agropastoral production, though it is more common in southern Somalia. Preliminary analysis suggests incidence of stalk borer in this livelihood zone may have been influenced by the poor rainfall, but remained within tolerable and manageable levels. In Togdheer Agropastoral livelihood zone, planting of sorghum and grass for fodder is in progress.

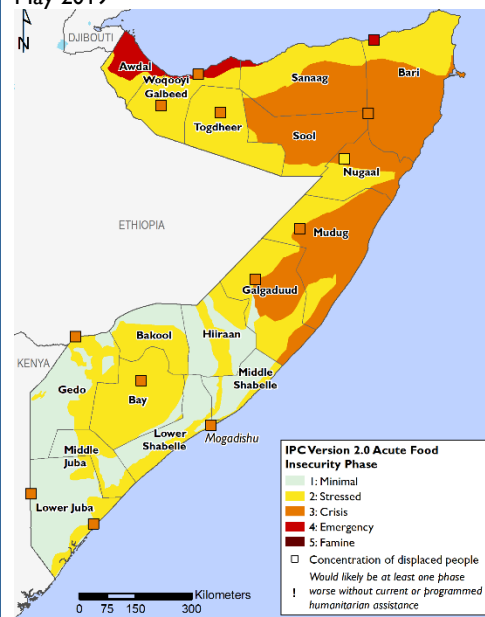
The *Deyr* rainy season typically begins in early October in the northeastern and central regions and mid-October in the South. In parts of northeastern and central regions, September brought some localized early *Deyr* precipitation, but there were few impacts on forage and water availability. The full onset of the *Deyr* was then delayed by one to two weeks to mid-October, according to remote satellite imagery and confirmed by FSNAU field reports. Rainfall has sustained water and rangeland resources in Hawd and some parts of Addun Pastoral and northeastern Northern Inland Pastoral (NIP) livelihood zones. In Cowpea Belt Agropastoral livelihood zone, farmers have initiated land preparation and dry planting of rainfed cowpeas in anticipation of the *Deyr*.

Projected food security outcomes, October 2018 to January 2019



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

Projected food security outcomes, February to May 2019



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

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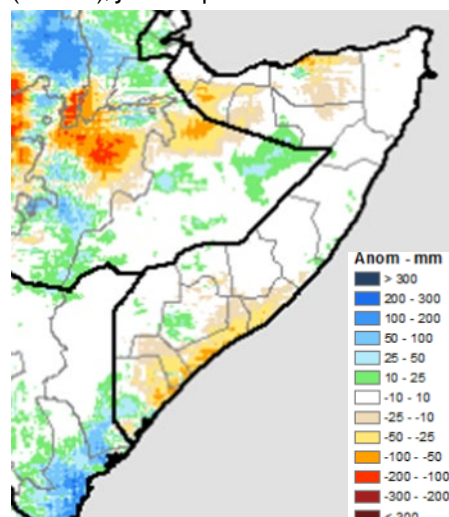
The *Deyr* rains began a week late in most parts of the South, resulting in cumulative deficits of up to 55 percent of normal rainfall in October (Figure 2). Off-season *Gu* harvest activities are still ongoing in riverine areas, and late planted recessionary crops are still in the vegetative stages and performing well. This has slowed the start of *Deyr* cropping activities. Off-season *Gu* production is slightly above the 10-year average due to the combined effects of *Gu* and *Hagaa* rainfall, and is estimated at 7,084 MT of maize, 1,020 MT of sorghum and 6,378 MT of sesame (Figure 3). Meanwhile, land preparation and dry planting for *Deyr* season production have begun in agropastoral south/central regions. These harvest and cultivation activities have restored agricultural labor opportunities and income for riverine and agropastoral poor households to typical levels.

The average to significantly above-average 2018 *Gu* season proved to have lasting effects on vegetation conditions across the country, further bolstered by a mild *Hagaa* dry season and the *Karan* rains (Figure 4). According to field reports, rangeland resources are generally near-average in most northern and central regions and water catchments have been sustained, while above-average conditions are available in most parts of the South, some parts of the Northwest and central regions. However, NIP and northern Coastal Deeh livelihood zones have significant pasture and water depletion due to consecutive seasons of poor and erratic localized rainfall. Water trucking for human and animal consumption is ongoing in parts of Sanaag and Bari and, as a result, prices are above average. In September, a drum of water in Rako village in Bari's Qardho district was 38 percent above the five-year average at 165,000 SOS. In addition, the delayed onset of the *Deyr* is leading to some deterioration in vegetation in the South, most notably in Gedo and Southern Rainfed Agropastoral livelihood zone in Lower Shabelle and Middle and Lower Juba regions.

Due to different levels of access to and quality of available rangeland resources, livestock body conditions vary across the country. In the Northwest, livestock body conditions are average to above-average given enhanced resource availability, except in western NIP livelihood zone (Sanaag). In the Northeast and central regions, livestock body conditions are average to below-average. Although livestock health has generally improved, herd sizes in these regions remain below baseline due to the residual effects of the 2016/2017 drought. Further, herds consist primarily of reproductive animals, which households avoid selling in an effort to restore herd sizes. In the South, herds are near baseline levels and body conditions are trending above average, permitting improvements in productivity and sales. Typical levels of communicable livestock diseases with low mortality are present in some northern pastoral areas, and few cases of disease-induced camel abortions have been reported in Wajid district in Bakool region. Since livestock conception and births are typically minimal during the *Hagaa* dry season, milk yields generally tend to be low to none across the country. However, seasonal levels of camel and cattle milk production have continued in the Juba and Shabelle valleys and Bakool region, facilitated by light to moderate *Hagaa* rains.

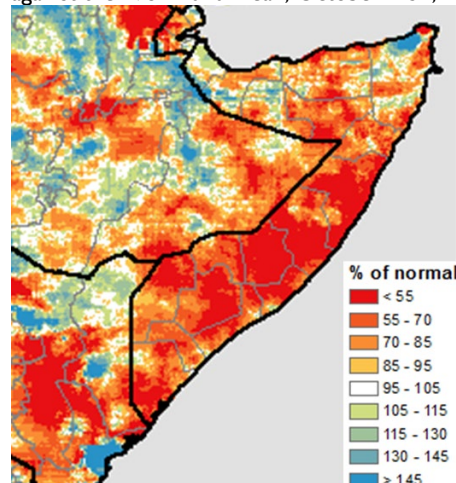
Markets across southern Somalia continue to be well supplied with cereal stocks from *Gu* production, with off-season harvests beginning to enter the market in September and October. From August to September, retail cereal prices steadily declined in key reference markets in the South. Most prices for locally-produced cereal in September were below the 2017 and five-year averages. In Qoryoley in Lower Shabelle and Baidoa in Bay, white maize and sorghum prices were nearly half of September 2017 prices

Figure 1. Rainfall anomaly in millimeters (CHIRPS), June - September 2018



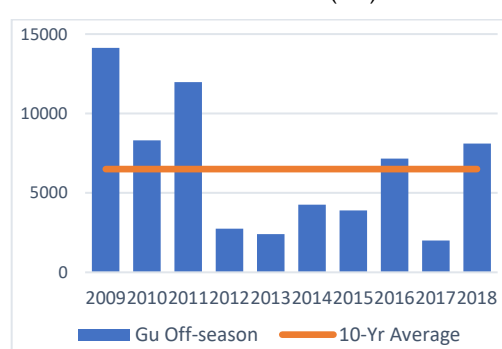
Source: USGS / FEWS NET

Figure 2. Rainfall anomaly (CHIRPS prelim) against the 1981-2010 mean, October 1-31, 2018



Source: USGS / FEWS NET

Figure 3. *Gu* off-season cereal production in southern Somalia in metric tons (MT)



Source: FSNAU data

and 29 to 34 percent lower than the five-year averages, respectively. However, cereal prices are significantly higher in areas with limited local production and in conflict-affected areas where illicit taxation is prevalent. In Belet-Hawa in Gedo region, sorghum was Somali Shilling (SOS) 13,000/kg in September, which is 225 percent higher than neighboring Baidoa, where sorghum was only SOS 4,000/kg.

In the Northwest, locally-produced cereal prices were 13 percent above the five-year average in September, the peak of the lean season. However, prices are 10 percent below the 2017 average for the same period. Although traders anticipate a below-average local *Karan* harvest in November, some cross-border cereal imports from Ethiopia have contributed to price stability. In contrast, the depreciation of the Somaliland Shilling (SLS) resulted in a 20 to 30 percent increase in the price of imported staple foods compared to 2017 and the five-year average. In the Northeast, the prices of imported sugar, wheat flour, and rice in September were slightly above the 2017 and five-year average, due to adequate supply and a slight depreciation of the local Somali Shilling. For example, rice prices recorded a modest 10 percent increase compared to September 2017 and the five-year average.

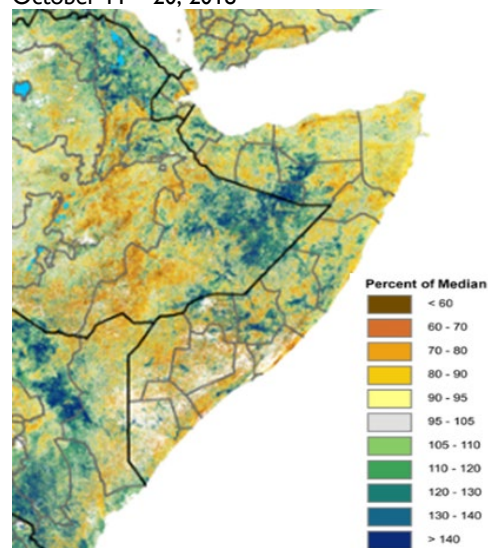
In the South, labor-to-cereals terms of trade (ToT) increased from June to September and are now above the September 2017 and five-year average, driven by below-average cereal prices and higher agricultural labor wages during *Gu* main and off-season production and associated marketing, processing, and transportation activities. As a result, household purchasing power is above average. In Baidoa in Bay, the daily labor wage could buy 25 kg of red sorghum in September, nearly double from 13 kg in 2017. In Jowhar in Middle Shabelle, the daily labor wage could buy 29 kg of white maize in September, up from 18 kg last year. These amounts are sufficient to feed an average family of seven for 10 days. Similar trends have been observed in Middle and Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, and Gedo regions.

Given the mild *Hagaa* season and ample water and pasture resources in agropastoral areas, many pastoralists opted to migrate livestock away from main markets to grazing areas for fattening, resulting in higher export and local livestock prices. Generally, goat and cattle prices increased from April to September, culminating at prices 15 to 68 percent higher than September 2017 and 30 to 55 higher than the five-year average. Prices reached a seasonal peak in September due to high demand generated by *Hajj* activities, particularly for export quality livestock. Fewer livestock than usual had the body conditions to be considered export quality, further driving up export prices. As a result, pastoral households' purchasing power is above average. September goat-to-cereal ToT in central and northern rural areas were comparable to September 2017, but above the five-year average. In Beletweyn in Hiiraan, a local quality goat could be exchanged for 106 kg of white sorghum, up from 62 kg in September 2017. In Burao in Togdheer Region, a goat could be sold to pay for 113 kg of red rice, compared to 78 kg in September 2017.

Protracted insecurity, ongoing conflict, and climatic shocks remain the main drivers of displacement, with conflict in southern and central regions causing loss of life, market and trade disruptions, and restrictions to humanitarian access and normal population movement. New displacement continues to occur among destitute pastoralists who have been unable to recover from the impact of the 2016/17 drought. According to UNHCR, an estimated 158,385 people were displaced between July and September, of which 50 percent originated from Lower Shabelle. More than two-thirds were displaced due to conflict and 23 percent due to drought. Drought-related displacement declined significantly in the third quarter of 2018, with 36,210 people displaced compared to 135,549 during the third quarter of 2017. Total new displacement in 2018 is now estimated at 761,250 people. Secondary displacements through forced evictions are also a major concern in some urban areas in the South (mainly Mogadishu and Baidoa), worsening humanitarian protection risks for IDP population.

Large-scale humanitarian assistance has been instrumental in preventing worse food security outcomes in many areas, particularly where household assets have been depleted due to the prolonged effects of the 2016/2017 drought. According to the Somalia Food Security Cluster, an average of 2,015,000 beneficiaries were reached monthly between July and September with cash/voucher or in-kind assistance equivalent to between a half and full ration. The majority received cash/voucher assistance. The number of beneficiaries reached in September was the second highest in 2018, with 2.1 million beneficiaries receiving assistance (Figure 5). However, field enumerators observed during the FSNAU *Hagaa* impact

Figure 4. eMODIS percent of median NDVI, October 11 – 20, 2018

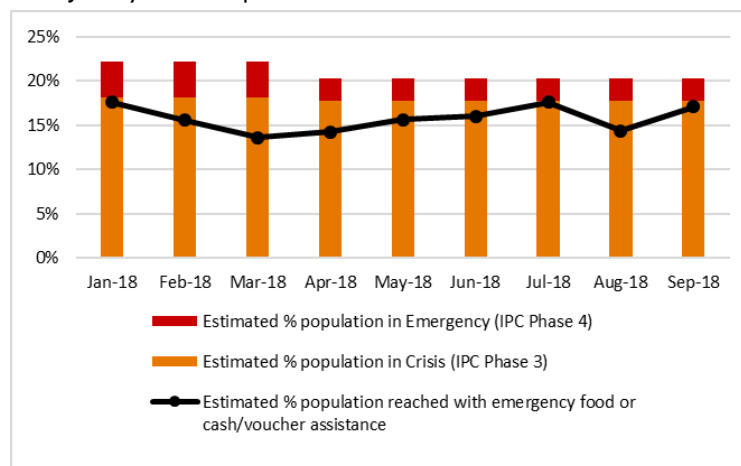


Source: USGS / FEWS NET

assessment in September that most food assistance was delivered to IDP settlements, rather than rural areas.

SMART surveys conducted in June and July 2018 by FSNAU and partners indicated the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), as measured by weight-for-height z-score (WHZ), was within 'Serious' (GAM WHZ 10.0-14.9 percent) levels in most southern livelihood zones and East Golis and Addun Pastoral livelihood zones, and it is expected that this has been sustained. It is further expected that GAM levels in northwestern NIP and West Golis Pastoral livelihood zones have deteriorated from 'Alert' (GAM WHZ 5.0-9.9 percent) in July 2018 to 'Serious' in October, due to lower than typical livestock holdings, reduced access to milk during the *Hagaa* season, increasing levels of destitution, and seasonal trends in acute malnutrition. 'Critical' (GAM WHZ 15.0-29.9 percent) levels were observed in July 2018 in northeastern Hawd Pastoral, northeastern NIP, Guban Pastoral, and riverine livelihood zones in Gedo and Hiiraan. 'Critical' levels of acute malnutrition were also observed in June 2018 in IDP camps in Bossaso, Qardho, Garowe and Galkacyo in the Northeast and in Banaadir, Baidoa, and Dolow in the South, and this is expected to be sustained based on historical data trends coupled with limited labour opportunities.

Figure 5. Percentage of the population reached by emergency humanitarian food/cash-voucher assistance compared to the estimated population in need, January 2018 – September 2018



Source: Somalia Food Security Cluster data

As a result of the above factors, most poor households in southern pastoral areas are sustaining None (IPC Phase 1) outcomes. Poor households have adequate milk for consumption and sales and average levels of livestock to sell to cover their food and non-food needs. In northern and central pastoral areas, most poor households are Stressed (IPC Phase 2), with reduced livestock productivity continuing to impact milk consumption and sales. Poor households in NIP livelihood zone are worse off given that herd sizes remain significantly below baseline. With few saleable animals, household income is low, reducing food access. In October, high levels of humanitarian assistance in northwestern NIP prevented food consumption gaps and enabled Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes. In Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, the combined impacts of recurrent drought and Cyclone Sagar in May 2018 have reduced poor households' assets to non-sustainable levels. Most poor households do not have sufficient saleable animals to fund food purchases and remain highly dependent on humanitarian assistance, food gifts, and loans. Humanitarian assistance enabled Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes and will continue to be required to mitigate food consumption gaps and reduce acute malnutrition.

In Northwestern Agropastoral livelihood zone, poor households have limited maize stocks from a below-average *Gu* harvest and reduced income from livestock and milk sales due to below-baseline herd sizes. Most households have difficulty purchasing adequate food and are currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Food security outcomes are not expected to improve until the arrival of the *Karan* harvest in November. In southern agropastoral areas, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes prevail. Poor households' cereal stocks from the *Gu* 2018 harvest have been depleted and they are currently purchase dependent. With access to income from agricultural labor and limited livestock sales and favorable ToT, households can purchase sufficient quantities of food through cash and credit to meet their minimum food needs, but must reduce non-food expenditures. In riverine areas, outcomes have improved to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) since the *Gu* off-season harvests in September.

Assumptions

The October 2018 to May 2019 most likely scenario is based on the following national-level assumptions:

- According to CPC/IRI consensus forecasts, the most likely ENSO phase from October through December is a weak El Niño. Based on cumulative rainfall deficits to date, below-average total cumulative *Deyr* rainfall is expected. Ethiopia is expected to receive average rainfall, which poses a low to medium flood risk in riverine areas of Somalia.
- In the event of below-average *Deyr* rains, the January to March *Jilaal* dry season is likely to be somewhat harsh in most livelihood zones but especially in the Northeast, which received below-average rainfall during the 2018 *Gu*.

- Cumulative rainfall during the 2019 *Gu* long rains (April to June) is likely to be average, tending to below-average over southern Somalia. However, uncertainty exists given the long-term nature of this projection.
- In agropastoral areas, area planted for cash crops and cereals will likely be below average in anticipation of below-average *Deyr* rainfall. Agropastoral maize and sorghum *Deyr* production is thus likely to be below average. In riverine areas, main season cereal production is expected to be average, while off-season sesame and maize is likely to be below average to poor.
- In agropastoral areas, agricultural labor demand and wages are expected to be below average through the January *Deyr* harvest. In riverine areas, agricultural labor demand is likely to be average from October through December. Demand will then be sustained through January due to off-season recessionary cultivation.
- Given the 2019 *Gu* rainfall forecast, area planted for *Gu* crops in April is expected to be below average. Agricultural labor demand for land preparation, planting, weeding and harvesting is likely to be below normal from March through June.
- Water and rangeland conditions are expected to deteriorate in southern and central regions, while current below-average conditions are likely to be sustained in the Northeast. During the *Jilaal* dry season, rangeland resources will seasonally decline and body conditions of livestock that are lactating or recently conceived will deteriorate. As a result, livestock body conditions are likely to be normal in the Northwest but seasonally deteriorate elsewhere through April.
- Livestock migration is expected to be mostly normal in most pastoral and agropastoral areas of the country and this is expected to moderate the impact of below-average *Deyr* rainfall.
- A medium rate of calving, kidding, and lambing is expected in October and November in both pastoral and agropastoral areas in the South. However, in central and northern livelihood zones, low to medium camel calving is expected in November/December. Medium goats and sheep conception rates and low to medium camel and cattle conception rates are likely in October-December, resulting in medium goat and sheep livestock births in April to May 2019.
- Milk availability will seasonally increase through January in the South, except in riverine areas since livestock migrate away to wet-season grazing areas. Overall milk production in the central and northern regions will likely remain below average due to below average rangeland conditions and lower than normal milking livestock availability as herd sizes remain significantly below the baseline.
- Livestock prices are expected to follow seasonal trends but remain slightly above average in northern and central regions due to below-average supply and stable demand for domestic consumption and restocking. In the south, livestock prices are expected to be stable and sustain average levels due to relatively normal supply and improved conditions.
- In the Northwest, local cereal prices are expected to remain above the five-year average until the *Karan* harvest in November alleviates cereal scarcity in markets. Prices will trend average following the harvest.
- Locally produced maize and sorghum prices in southern Somalia will likely seasonally increase during the agricultural lean (October-December) season as *Gu* stocks dwindle and farmers increase market food purchases. In January to March, staple food prices will likely decline as the *Deyr* harvest in agropastoral areas gradually enters the market. However, based on FEWS NET's Baidoa and Qoryoley market analysis, sorghum and maize prices are expected to remain below the 2017 and five-year average through May 2019.
- Consistent with seasonal trends, food and diesel imports are likely to increase following the end of the south-westerly Indian Ocean summer monsoon season tide in September. The prices of imported rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar, and diesel are expected to remain stable but high in local currency terms due to depreciation of both the Somali and Somaliland shilling and increasing fuel prices.
- Goats-to-cereal ToT is expected to remain above average through November in many central and northeastern reference markets, driven by above-average livestock prices. In the Northwest, ToT are expected to be near average through May. Based on FEWS NET's market analysis in Baidoa and Qoryoley, labor-to-cereal ToT is likely to follow seasonal trends and be near average through January due to stable agricultural wages and below-average to average cereal prices. Labor-to-cereal ToT will then likely fall to slightly below the five-year average in March to May with seasonal cereal price increases.
- Funding levels for humanitarian assistance during the projection period could not be confirmed. Therefore, this scenario assumes an absence of assistance through May 2019.

- Clashes between the government forces supported by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Al Shabaab insurgents are likely to continue to impede trade and population movements, agricultural activities, and humanitarian access and cause population displacement and loss of life and assets.
- Some drought displaced people from rural areas in Bay, Bakool, Middle and Lower Juba, and Middle and Lower Shabelle are likely to split their households and send some members back to their livelihood zones to cultivate land through May 2019, despite the below-average *Deyr* forecast. Destitute pastoralists are expected to remain in displacement camps for another season until their remaining livestock, currently with kinship, return to sustainable levels. Conflict-related displacement through May 2019 is expected to continue. The net number of IDPs is expected to remain similar to the current total of 2.6 million.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

From October to January, Guban Pastoral livelihood zone would likely be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and northwestern Northern Inland Pastoral (NIP) in Sool and Sanaag regions would likely be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in the absence of continued humanitarian assistance. It is assumed NIP Northwest has deteriorated to 'Serious' (GAM -WHZ 10-14.9%) malnutrition since the post-*Gu*, and is likely to sustain 'Serious' levels. Guban is likely to deteriorate within current 'Critical' levels (GAM -WHZ 15-29.9%). Herd sizes remain significantly below baseline, causing an income deficit from livestock and livestock product sales. As a result, poor households' food purchases will be insufficient, and they are likely to face large food consumption gaps. These outcomes are expected to continue in the February to May period as well, with significant improvements expected towards the end of the *Gu* 2019 season in late May/June when more livestock give birth. In NIP, food access will begin to improve in May when camel milk gifts from better-off households become available, and low-medium goat and sheep births by May will permit increased livestock and milk sales. In Guban, livestock body conditions will likely improve between January and March due to improved pasture and water access from *Xeys* rainfall and five to six goat births are likely by May; no camel births are expected among poor households. Livestock herd sizes are expected to be 34-44 percent of normal in northwestern NIP and 38-40 percent of normal in Guban, still far below baseline levels but permitting some livestock and milk sales for food purchases and debt repayment.

Most other northern and central pastoral areas are likely to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through January, as they suffered fewer losses in the 2016/2017 drought. Increased milk availability and a medium to low level of livestock births during the *Deyr* will generally improve food security outcomes slightly. However, Addun Pastoral, northeastern NIP and Coastal Deeh Pastoral and Fishing livelihoods are expected to deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between February and May due to existing income deficits from livestock and product sales, increased expenditures on water trucking, and expected debt repayment. As a result, most poor households are expected to face food consumption gaps without accelerated depletion of livestock assets. In the South, Southern Inland and Juba Cattle Pastoral livelihood zones are likely to sustain Minimal (IPC Phase 1), given near-baseline herd sizes and further improvements in livestock production and body conditions in the *Deyr*. Most pastoral populations are likely to maintain or slightly deteriorate from current nutrition outcomes.

In Northwestern and Togdheer Agropastoral livelihood zones, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are expected by November and will be sustained through May. In Togdheer Agropastoral, access to agricultural labor and sales of fodder crops will enable most poor households to meet their minimum food needs starting in October. In Northwestern Agropastoral, the completion of the *Karan* harvest in November will provide poor households with at least two months of food stocks and the ability to earn income through crop and fodder sales. Late planted maize/sorghum crop is likely to be non-productive and will be sold as a fodder. Agricultural labor opportunities will become available again in late March/April with the start of the *Gu* season.

In southern rainfed agropastoral areas, most poor households are expected to be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) throughout the projection period, although some poor households in Bay Bakool Low Potential Agropastoral livelihood zone may fall into Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Overall, limited *Gu* carryover stocks and one-to-two months of cereals harvested during the *Deyr*, combined with below-average agricultural labor income, favorable ToT, and medium to high shoat and cattle births – enhancing milk consumption and sales – will enable most households to meet their minimum food needs. Livestock herd sizes will continue to increase, remaining below baseline levels in many areas but increasing to near-baseline levels in Southern Agropastoral livelihood zone in Bakool and Middle and Lower Juba and Sorghum High Potential Agropastoral in Middle and Lower Shabelle. However, typical livestock disease outbreaks and deaths from harmful insect bites are likely during October-December rainy season. Rainfall may increase water-borne disease prevalence, and seasonal deterioration within 'Serious' levels (GAM WHZ 10-14.9%) in malnutrition is expected during the February to May lean period.

Food security in Riverine Pump Irrigation and Riverine Gravity Irrigation livelihood zones will improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) as a result of moderate flood-recession cultivation and available river irrigation, given below-average *Deyr* rainfall in southern Somalia and average *Deyr* rainfall in the upper catchments of the Shabelle and Juba Rivers in southeastern Ethiopia. The low to medium risk of flooding should permit normal planting activities and modest agriculture labor income. From February to May, food security outcomes are expected to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) with the availability of stocks, and local cereal prices will seasonally decline as cereals from agropastoral areas also enter the riverine markets. However, due to chronic factors contributing to acute malnutrition, 'Critical' level of acute malnutrition (GAM WHZ 15-29.9%) is likely to be sustained through May 2019.

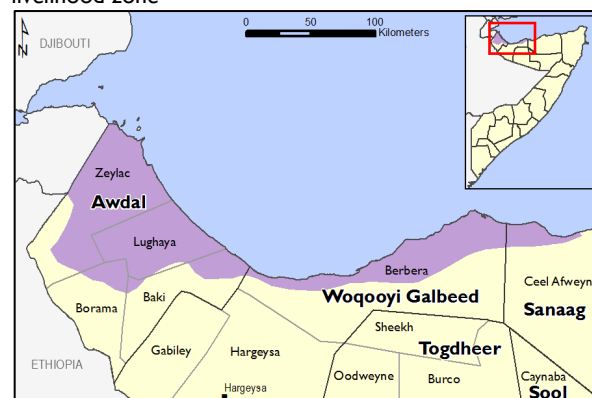
AREAS OF CONCERN

Guban Pastoral Livelihood Zone

Current Situation

Food security, livelihoods change, and nutrition outcome data collected by FSNAU and FEWS NET in July 2018 indicated that Guban Pastoral livelihood zone was in Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) following the cumulative effects of drought and Cyclone Sagar, with large-scale humanitarian food assistance preventing worse outcomes. Approximately 41 percent of households reported a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS), while 25 percent reported moderate hunger on the Household Hunger scale (Figure 7). The reporting of poor FCS increased from 32 percent reported in the May post-Jilaal survey, though severe hunger declined to zero. GAM WHZ has also deteriorated, from 10.0 percent ('Serious') in May to 15.6 percent ('Critical').

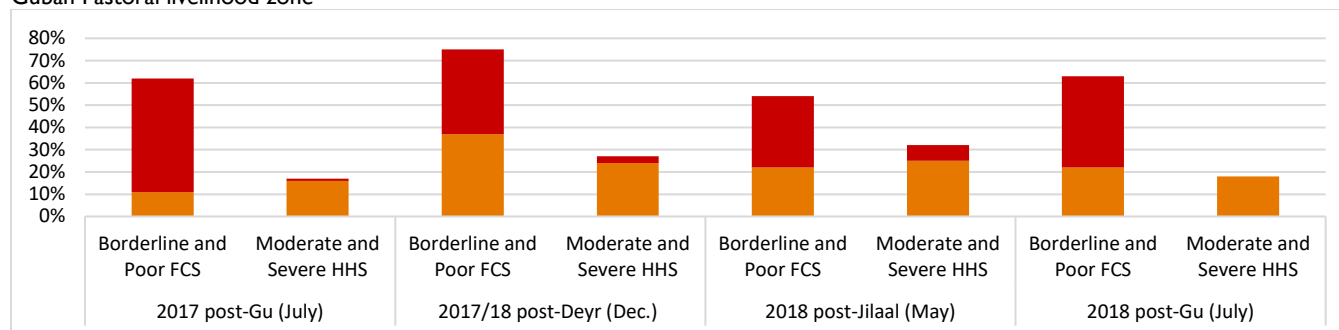
Figure 6. Area of concern reference map, Guban Pastoral livelihood zone



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

In October, most poor households are still slowly recovering from significant livestock losses and widespread damage to homes and public infrastructure, including water sources. Lughaya and Baki districts in Awdal are most severely impacted. Water shortages are common in Lughaya, as many shallow wells were buried and boreholes in Garbodadar, Gargaara and Dhamaso villages are still undergoing repairs. A large proportion of households remain displaced. Humanitarian assistance has prevented worse outcomes, but deterioration to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is likely if emergency assistance is not continued, as many still face large food consumption gaps. Food assistance reached an average 205,650 beneficiaries a month in affected districts between June and September, representing 21 percent of the population (Figure 8). Assistance was in the form of cash and food vouchers, equivalent to a 30-day ration. It is assumed that beneficiaries also share their rations, enabling more households to be reached with a partial ration. Therefore, humanitarian assistance was significant enough to prevent deterioration to Emergency (IPC Phase 4). However, it is estimated that a quarter of poor households have sold one to two livestock as an extreme coping strategy if they were unable to access food assistance or social support.

Figure 7: Percentage of households reporting borderline or poor FCS and moderate or severe HHS, 2017 post-Gu to 2018 post-Gu, Guban Pastoral livelihood zone



Source: FSNAU survey data, 2017 – 2018

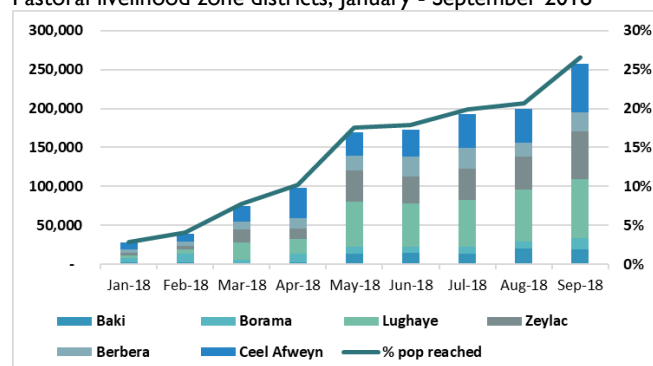
According to the July 2018 post-*Gu* FSNAU household survey in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, households reported ownership of an average of 10 sheep/goats and 1 camel, which is approximately 75 percent below baseline levels. Focus Group (FG) discussions conducted by FSNAU and FEWS NET in July 2018 indicate that, due to the impact of past drought and the May cyclone, the number of camels and sheep/goats declined by approximately 40 percent from January to June 2018 (Figure 9). The cyclone's torrential rainfall has had a lasting impact on rangeland resources, despite the subsequent *Hagaa* dry season. In October, vegetation remains largely average to above average, according to remote monitoring data on NDVI (vegetation cover) and confirmed by field reports. In addition, only typical levels of tick-borne and endoparasitic diseases have been reported. As a result, livestock body conditions are above average, but this has not led to improved milk productivity because livestock births have been low to none. This is primarily due to the prior drought, as few to no camel and few sheep/goat conceptions occurred during the 2017 *Deyr* season. Further, many households also chose to control sheep and goat conceptions after the cyclone out of uncertainty of the performance of the forthcoming December to January *Keyis* rains and the ability of new offspring to survive.

As a result of low milk availability, September milk prices in Guban markets were 20,000 SLS, which is 29 percent higher than the five-year average but 20 percent lower than the September 2017 average. The price decline from 2017 to 2018 is due to the return of livestock of better-off households that had been able to migrate to better pastures in Ethiopia, which has moderately increased milk supply to markets. Livestock prices reflect a similar trend. In Zeylac and Lughaya district reference markets, the price of a local quality goat in September was eight percent above the five-year average but 25 percent lower than the September 2017 average.

While goat prices have returned to near-average levels, the price of imported staple food commodities, including rice and wheat flour, continue to remain significantly above average. In Zeylac/Lawyado market, the price of rice was 8,000 SLS/kg in September, or 54 and 41 percent higher than the 2017 and five-year average, respectively. Similarly, the price of wheat flour was 9,000 SLS/kg, or 50 and 56 percent higher than the 2017 and five-year average, respectively. Although the depreciation of the SLS against the USD is the primary driver of the price increase, price increases were exacerbated by infrastructure damages caused by cyclone Sagar and a seasonal decline in imports from April to September due to high sea tides during monsoon season. The current value of the SLS (10,000 SLS/1 USD) is comparable to 2017 but is 32 percent below the five-year average (7,600 SLS/1 USD). Consequently, goat-to-rice TOT has declined to 50 kg, which is 25 percent lower than the five-year average.

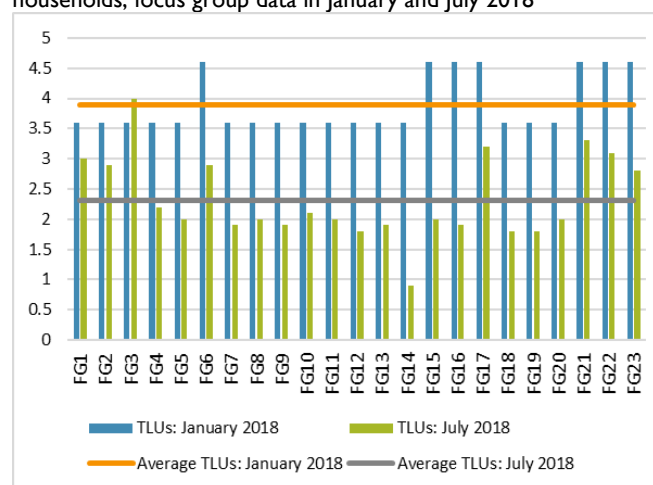
As a result of these trends, poor households' access to food and income remain constrained. To rebuild their livelihoods, the majority of the poor are not selling livestock, as nearly all remaining sheep and goats are reproductive animals that are being kept for breeding to grow herds back to sustainable levels. Until births occur in 2019, poor households are also unable to earn income from milk sales. Most poor households remain indebted at USD 170, a high level that restricts their access to additional credit food purchases as merchants expect a decreased likelihood that they will be able to repay their debts. Some households are earning typical levels of income through charcoal production and firewood collection, but the ability to expand this income source is low due to low vegetation density. Many rely on a combination of social support, remittances,

Figure 8: Emergency food and cash/voucher assistance in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone districts, January - September 2018



Source: Somalia Food Security Cluster data

Figure 9: Tropical Livestock units for Guban Pastoral poor households, focus group data in January and July 2018



Source: FSNAU and FEWS NET

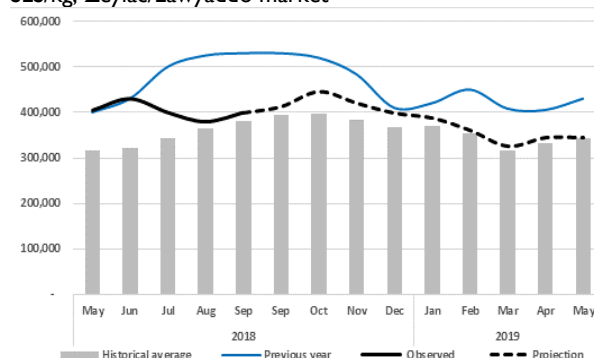
and humanitarian assistance. Social support has largely been exhausted, though some poor households report they are now seeking new support from kinship and wider communities in main towns and villages outside the livelihood zone.

Assumptions

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

- The December to January Xeys rains in East Golis and Guban Pastoral livelihood zones are most likely to be near average, sustaining average water and pasture availability. Given current and assumed pasture availability, livestock outmigration is not expected.
- A medium level of sheep and goat conception is expected to occur during the Xeys season, resulting in five to six births in May 2019. As a result, poor households' herd sizes are expected to increase to an average of 15 shoats. Better-off households are expected to have one camel birth in May 2019. Since Guban Pastoral livelihood zone has a unimodal rainfall climate, recovery to baseline levels of 38 sheep and goats and three to five camels will require four to five years of average seasonal performance and conception.
- Based on FEWS NET's integrated price projections, the retail price of a local quality goat is likely to follow seasonal trends and remain near the five-year average (Figure 10). Imported rice prices are expected to follow seasonal trends but remain 14 to 21 percent above the five-year average given depreciation of the SLS.
- A higher than normal number of poor households are likely to engage in firewood and charcoal production and sales to maximize their incomes. This is likely to result in increased competition and drive down prices, limiting the expandability of this household income source.
- Access to credit is likely to remain atypically low given previously accumulated debt levels and low asset holdings. Social support is also likely to remain low given similarly lower asset holdings among wealthier households.
- In the absence of humanitarian assistance, poor households are likely to sell two to four goats for food purchases.

Figure 10: Observed and projected local goat prices in SLS/kg, Zeylac/Lawyaddo market



Source: FSNAU and FEWS NET

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Given unsustainable herd sizes, poor households are expected to have significantly below average income throughout the scenario period, with limited ability to sell livestock or milk. In the absence of humanitarian food assistance, most are likely to face large food consumption gaps and a substantial livelihoods protection deficit. The prevalence of acute malnutrition (GAM WHZ) would likely deteriorate but remain within 'Critical' levels and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes would be likely between October and May. Although the Xeys rains in December and January are expected to further improve rangelands and livestock body conditions, no births are expected until the 2019 *Gu* season. With the expected five to six livestock births, some improvement is anticipated at the end of the scenario period in May 2019 when households are able to access minimal levels of milk for consumption. Until then, households will be reliant on limited income through the sale of firewood and charcoal, as well as below-average social support. Both in-kind and cash gifts from better-off households, which normally provide a minor source of food or income, will be below-average. Some food and cash assistance from the extended community/kinship in urban areas is also likely, but the impact will be limited as the needs are greater than the available support. Given limited alternatives, it is likely that most poor households will be forced to sell two to four reproductive goats in order to purchase food. This reflects accelerated depletion of livestock assets and will further erode the sustainability of their herds, and yet income from these sales will not be sufficient to meet their minimum food needs over the eight-month scenario period as roughly about two-thirds of the income is likely to be spent on debt repayment. Currently displaced households living in IDP settlements or main villages are likely to remain in those sites, and some additional poor households who become destitute would be likely to migrate to join them in search of livelihood alternatives.

Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone

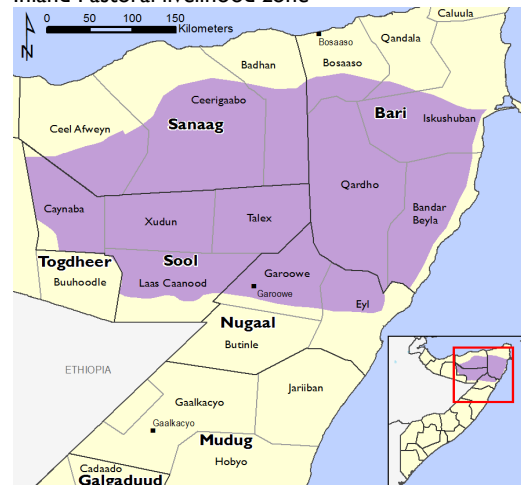
Current Situation

Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone (NIP) suffered significant livestock losses during the 2016/2017 drought and received slightly below-average rainfall in the 2018 *Gu* season. Food security, livelihoods change, and nutrition outcome data collected by FSNAU, FEWS NET, and partners in the June and July 2018 post-*Gu* survey indicated that the area was in Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!), with humanitarian assistance preventing worse outcomes. Approximately 45 percent of households in Sool and Sanaag regions in northwestern NIP reported moderate hunger and two percent reported severe hunger on the Household Hunger Scale, compared to 42 percent reporting moderate hunger and 14 percent reporting severe hunger in the December 2017 post-*Deyr* survey. Eight percent of households also reported borderline FCS and nine percent reported poor FCS, compared to four percent reporting borderline FCS and 17 percent reporting poor FCS in December 2017. In general, households in northwestern NIP reported worse outcomes relative to northeastern NIP. Since July, most households in Sool and Sanaag regions in northwestern NIP have remained Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!), with humanitarian food assistance continuing to mitigate food consumption gaps. By September, most households in Bari and Nugaal regions in northeastern NIP improved to Stressed (IPC Phase 2), even in the absence of assistance.

Following typically dry and hot conditions during the July to September *Hagaa* season, NIP livelihood zone received only localized, light to moderate *Deyr* rainfall in late September and October. According to preliminary Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station data (CHIRPS), total estimated cumulative rainfall from September 25th to October 31st in Bari, Sanaag, Sool, and Nugaal regions ranged between 18 and 39 mm, which is 15 to 40 percent below the September to October 2010-2017 average. Water sources for both livestock and human consumption have been depleted, especially in Iskushuban district in Bari, Lasqoray district in Sanaag, and Garowe and Eyl district in Nugaal. Many livestock in Nugaal and Sool have migrated out of NIP livelihood zone to Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone in search of better rangeland resources. Recent flash floods caused by rainfall in the East Golis and Karkaar Mountains replenished water sources and improved pasture in some parts of Karkaar/Dharoor Valley in Bari and Sanaag. However, improved pasture conditions in these areas encouraged significant livestock inward migration and, as a result, pasture and water resources were quickly exhausted.

Facing widespread water scarcity, most households are reliant on water trucked in from commercial sources (Figure 12). The September 2018 average price of a 20-liter jerry can of water in Xudun rural market in Sool was 7,625 SOS, which is approximately 22 and 17 percent above the September 2017 and five-year average, respectively. Livestock body conditions are poor to average, as livestock must travel long distances to access dry pasture in remote areas and are enduring long periods without water (Figure 13).

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



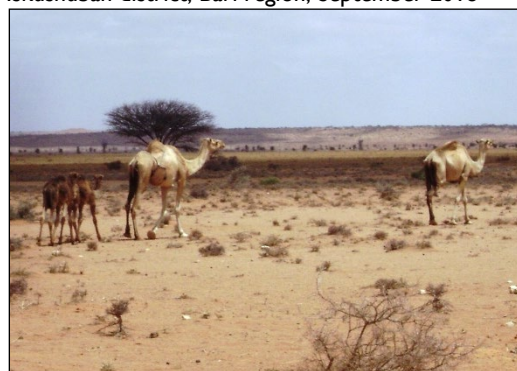
Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

Figure 12. Commercial water trucking queue, Qaawane borehole, Bari region, September 2018



Source: FSNAU

Figure 13. Below-average camel body conditions, Iskushuban district, Bari region, September 2018



Source: FSNAU

According to the July 2018 post-*Gu* survey, households reported livestock ownership at 47 to 56 percent below baseline levels and medium to low sheep and goat conception. Households in northwestern NIP generally reported fewer livestock compared to northeastern NIP. Due to livestock off-take and losses during the drought, herds are composed primarily of reproductive female and juvenile animals. In September and October, field reports indicated that a medium to low level of camel births and medium level of goat kidding were taking place. Despite these births, poor rainfall performance and depleted rangeland conditions are resulting in low milk productivity, which is significantly reducing the availability of milk for consumption and sales for poor households and reducing their food and income sources. Given poor to average livestock body conditions and the high proportion of reproductive and juvenile animals in their herd, poor households have few animals to sell without harming their ability to grow their herds back to sustainable levels and protect their livelihoods in the future.

In September, goat prices observed in rural reference markets in Bari, Sanaag, and Sool were 24 percent above the 2017 average and 20 percent above the five-year average. The elevated prices are being driven by a low supply of saleable livestock and sustained livestock market demand. Meanwhile, imported commodity prices have remained low and stable in most markets. September prices of imported rice and wheat flour were near or slightly above the September 2017 and five-year average across key reference markets. As a result of above-average goat prices and stable cereal prices, the goat-to-rice ToT has increased and is now 17 and 22 percent above the last year and five-year averages, respectively.

With a low number of saleable animals and reduced milk availability for sales, poor households have below average to significantly below-average incomes, which is in turn reducing their access to food purchases despite favorable terms of trade. Although it is estimated that the average USD 537 debt level reported in July 2018 has declined, household debt remains high and this is constraining many households from accessing credit food purchases. As a result, most households in northwestern NIP are highly dependent on sustained humanitarian food assistance to mitigate food consumption gaps and depletion of assets. In northeastern NIP, many poor households are able to meet their minimum food needs, but a small proportion of poor households would face food consumption gaps in the absence of humanitarian assistance.

Assumptions

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

- Five to six sheep and goat births are expected in the *Deyr* season. A medium to low level of conception is also expected. Since livestock body conditions are expected to deteriorate to below normal in the January to April *Jilaal* dry season, some abortions are likely. As a result, only three to four births are expected in March/April 2019. Poor households' herd sizes will remain below baseline.
- A higher than normal number of poor households are likely to engage in firewood and charcoal production and sales to maximize their incomes. This is likely to result in increased competition and drive down prices, limiting the expandability of this household income source.
- Access to credit is likely to remain atypically low given previously accumulated debt levels and low asset holdings. Social support is also likely to remain low given similarly lower asset holdings among wealthier households.
- In the absence of humanitarian assistance, poor households are likely to sell two to three reproductive livestock for debt repayment in order to access credit food purchases.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Although five to six sheep and goat births are expected in the *Deyr* and the next cohort is expected to give birth to another three to four lambs/kids in March/April 2019, food security outcomes are not expected to improve. Households may increase the quantity of their herd size but are not expected to increase the number of saleable animals due to the impact of deteriorating rangeland resources on livestock body conditions. Further, most goats will be milking or juvenile. Below-average rainfall during the *Deyr* will affect the amount of milk produced, resulting in below-average milk sales, and milk sales are likely to be suspended altogether during the harsh *Jilaal* dry season. Though access to income will be limited, poor households are likely to increase expenditures on trucked water. They are also expected to divert some earnings to debt repayment in order

to regain access to credit food purchases, though total debt levels will remain high. However, imported food commodity prices are expected to remain stable while livestock prices are likely to remain above average due to reduced market supply and stable demand for domestic consumption and restocking. Despite favorable livestock-to-cereal ToT, poor households will struggle to meet their minimum food needs without selling reproductive animals. Milk gifts from better-off households will also be low to none as they are anticipated to migrate their livestock to Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone or the Somali region of Ethiopia. Therefore, in the absence of continued assistance, poor households are likely to deteriorate from Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in Sool and Sanaag in northwestern NIP from October through May 2019. In Bari and Nugaal in northeastern NIP, most households have slightly higher numbers of livestock and are expected to be able to meet their minimum food needs through January. However, due to fewer livestock births, reduced milk productivity, and increased expenditures on water trucking, they are also expected to deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) by February. The prevalence of acute malnutrition is expected to deteriorate within the current 'Critical' (GAM WHZ 15-29.9 percent) range in northeastern NIP and current 'Serious' (GAM WHZ 10.0-14.9 percent) range in northwestern NIP due to lower than normal food accessibility and increased morbidity.

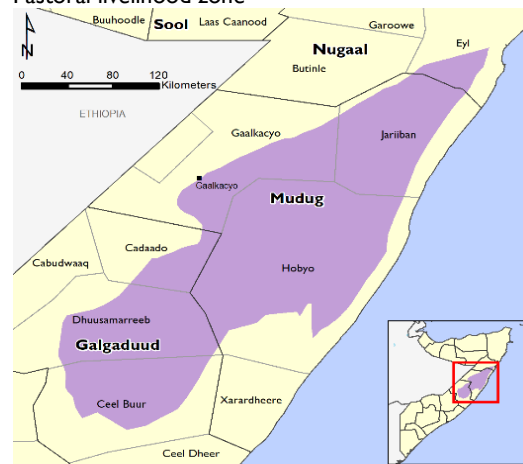
OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN

Addun Pastoral livelihood zone

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Like Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood, pastoralists in Addun Pastoral livelihood zone experienced significant livestock losses during the 2016/2017 drought. According to the June and July post-*Gu* survey, households reported ownership of an average 40 sheep and goats, and average to above-average *Gu* 2018 rainfall supported medium livestock births and medium to high conception. Livestock herds remain 61 and 64 percent below baseline for sheep/goats and camel, respectively, but milk and livestock sales were adequate to support Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes in October. Improved rangeland conditions resulting from *Gu* 2018 rainfall were sustained through the mild *Hagaa* dry season. As of October, most pasture and water resources are still available but are beginning to decline, due to the delayed onset and poor rainfall performance of the *Deyr* season so far. Goat and sheep kidding and lambing began in October, and a total of eight to nine births are expected for poor households by the end of the *Deyr* in December. One camel birth is also expected in late November or December. As a result, households are accessing milk for consumption and sales and they are likely to sell approximately one to three animals to earn income, though it is expected most of these sales are reproductive animals. This income is expected to partially fund market purchases to meet their minimum food needs, while the rest will be diverted to partial debt repayment. Livestock prices are expected to remain above average and goat-to-cereal ToT are expected to remain favorable to near-average, in line with national trends. As a result, the combination of cash and credit food purchases is expected to be adequate for most poor households' minimum food needs through December or January. Therefore, even in the absence of assistance, poor households are expected to sustain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes through January.

Figure 14. Area of concern reference map, Addun Pastoral livelihood zone



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

As the *Deyr* season progress, however, below-average total cumulative rainfall is likely to accelerate the depletion of rangeland resources, leading to a decline in livestock body conditions and milk productivity and a lower rate of conception. As a result of poor *Deyr* rainfall, the January to March *Jilaal* dry season will be harsher than normal and likely to further constrain rangeland resources. During *Jilaal*, it is expected that the deterioration in livestock body conditions and reduction in productivity will result in a higher number of sheep and goat abortions and will negatively affect livestock market value. Consequently, poor households are expected to earn less income from milk and typical livestock sales during the February to May period. At the same time, households will likely increase their expenditures on commercial water trucking, as most poor households are unable to afford to outmigrate their livestock in search of water and pasture. In the absence of humanitarian assistance, poor households are expected to cope by accelerating sales of reproductive animals in order to meet their food needs. Therefore, food security for most poor households is likely to deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) February through May.

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Middle Shabelle Riverine Gravity Irrigation livelihood zone and Hiiraan Riverine Pump Irrigation livelihood zone

Prior to mid-October and the late onset of the Deyr, the seasonal forecast indicated Deyr seasonal rainfall would be above average. This was originally expected to lead to widespread flooding and subsequent Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes in the riverine areas of concern. However, the change in the seasonal forecast to below-average total seasonal rainfall has changed the most likely outcome to Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Since the full scenario development analytical process was already completed and this represents a change from previously projected outcomes, FEWS NET and FSNAU have opted to publish the section on the riverine areas of concern below.

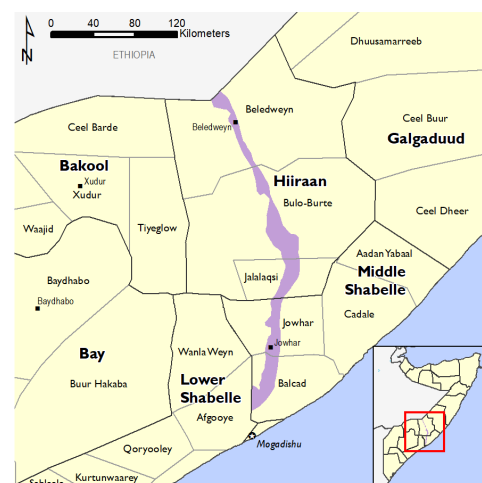
Poor households in the above two livelihood zones have similar typical sources of food and income: their primary food source is own production, while their secondary source is food purchases funded through crop sales, self-employment, and agricultural labor. On key difference is small livestock ownership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

Current Situation

Food security, livelihoods change, and nutrition outcome data collected by FSNAU and FEWS NET in July 2018 indicated that Middle Shabelle Riverine Gravity Irrigation and Hiiraan Riverine Pump Irrigation livelihood zone was in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) following extensive flooding in the March to May 2018 *Gu* rainy season. In Hiiraan, 14 percent of households reported poor FCS and 4 percent reported borderline FCS, while 16 and 24 percent reported severe and moderate HHS, respectively. Significantly above-average *Gu* rainfall over these livelihood zones and the catchment of the Shabelle River in the Ethiopian highlands led to flooding that inundated close to 30,000 hectares (ha) of arable land and destroyed 26 percent (5,000 ha) of crops planted in those area. As a result, many poor households lost a significant source of food as well as agricultural labor opportunities. Although some were able to replant, the main harvest was significantly below-average and delayed from July to September. However, most households were able to return and participate in the off-season cropping season. It was originally anticipated that the slow recession of the flood waters would also decrease recession cultivation opportunities, resulting in below-average off-season production. However, below-average *Hagaa* rainfall from June to August largely accelerated the flood water recession and allowed sufficiently dry conditions for the crops to reach maturity, though it is estimated that water logging prevented cultivation on 800 to 1,000 ha of arable land. Above-average off-season harvests are now expected, and the availability of household stocks and labor opportunities is enabling Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes in October, as households are limiting non-food expenditures in order to divert income to debt repayments.

Most harvesting of off-season crops is now completed though opportunistic recession cultivation is ongoing. Total *Gu* main and off-season cereal production is an estimated 19,591 MT, twice the amount in 2017 and 150 percent of the five-year average. Although main season harvests were significantly below average, poor households are expected to harvest 1-2 months of off-season sorghum and maize and above-average harvests of cash crops, including melons, tomatoes, and cucumber. In addition to own production, poor households expect to receive 25-50 kg of sorghum and maize combined as *zakat* from better-off households, which is an average amount during the *Gu* season. The availability of fish and wild vegetables has declined overall due to receding river levels, but household production compensates for this food source.

Figure 15. Area of concern reference map, Riverine Gravity Irrigation livelihood zone in Middle Shabelle and Riverine Pump Irrigation livelihood zone in Hiiraan



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

Figure 16. Intercropped maize and sesame in Middle Shabelle Riverine Irrigation livelihood zone



Source: FSNAU

Given ongoing harvesting activities, poor households also have access to agricultural labor opportunities on the farms of wealthier households. There is currently heightened demand for labor, due to the combination of an above-average off-season harvest and an increased need to remove weeds that thrived from the flooding in preparation for *Deyr* planting. Fewer poor households are seeking labor opportunities than normal, given above-average fruits and vegetable production on their own farms. As a result, agriculture labor wage rates in September ranged from six to nine percent above the September 2017 average and from 11 to 36 percent above the five-year average across local references markets. The above-average harvest has also led to below-average cereal prices, resulting in above-average labor-to-maize TOT. In Walomoy rural reference market in Jowhar District, the agriculture labor wage payment was equivalent to 7 kg of white maize, which is 17 percent above both the 2017 and five-year average. In Jalalaqsi reference market in Hiiran, the agriculture labor wage payment was equivalent to 15 kg of white maize, which is 25 and 67 percent above the 2017 and five-year average, respectively.

Abundant pasture and water resources have further improved livestock body conditions for poor households in Hiiraan. With the birth of one to two goats and up to two cattle births in the *Gu*, they are able to access typical amounts of own goat and cattle milk as well as gifts of cattle milk for household consumption and sale. Fresh cattle milk prices in Walomoy in Jowhar district have been declining since July – when prices were recorded at 14 and 11 percent below the July 2017 and 5-year average – due to increased milk supply from neighboring agropastoral and pastoral livelihood zones and reduced demand due to increased wild food consumption.

Despite these positive trends, poor households are significantly indebted, with the average reported debt level increasing 32 percent from USD 190 at the end of the *Deyr* 2017 to USD 250 currently. Many households had to purchase food on credit from April to August given the lack of agricultural labor income and destruction of food stocks. They also took on new debt to finance replanting and land preparation and repair their homes after the floods. In addition, persistent insecurity arising from clashes between Al Shabaab and AMISOM forces continues to restrict trade flows and humanitarian access, which further limited access to food during and after the floods.

Local cereal prices have significantly declined from August to September with the availability of the off-season crop harvest and incoming supply of bumper *Gu* harvests from neighboring agropastoral areas. In Jowhar, maize prices are 31 and 37 percent below the September 2017 and five-year average, respectively. In Beletweyn, white sorghum prices are 36 and 33 percent lower than the September 2017 and five-year average, respectively.

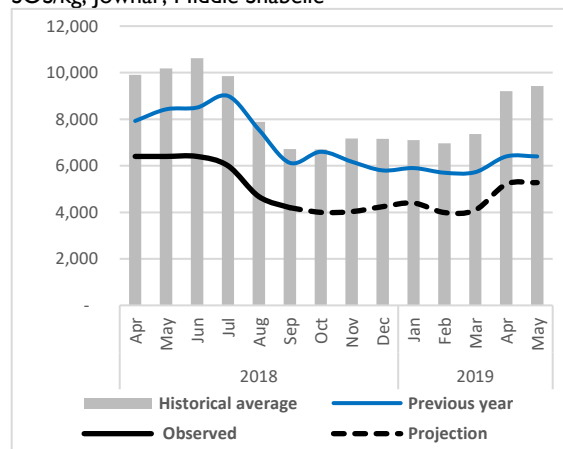
According to the Somalia Food Security Cluster, international humanitarian assistance reached an average 244,857 people per month with a food or cash voucher equivalent to a 30-day ration in Beletweyn, Bulo Burti, Jalalaqsi, Balcad and Jowhar districts from June to September. However, due to access constraints, the distribution of assistance was heavily weighted to Beletweyn, reaching 62 percent of the district population; in other districts, only two to 12 percent of the population received assistance. Aside from Beletweyn, the level of assistance was not significant enough to prevent worse outcomes.

Assumptions

In addition to the national-level assumptions, the following assumptions have been made for Middle Shabelle Riverine Gravity Irrigation and Hiiraan Riverine Pump Irrigation livelihood zones:

- With flooding likely to be limited in November-December in riverine lowlands, households will be able to engage in continuous recessionary cultivation and harvest late-planted off-season crops through November. Lower river levels will also permit main *Deyr* season planting, but off-season *Deyr* production is likely to be significantly below average. Total net production will be average.
- Agricultural labor demand will remain average through January before dropping to minimal levels. Average labor opportunities will resume as March-June *Gu* 2019 cropping season starts.
- Poor households are expected to engage in average fishing activities and wild vegetables and water lilies collection for consumption and sales from November to January. Fishing and wild foods collection will decline as flood water recedes.

Figure 17. Observed and projected white maize prices, SOS/kg, Jowhar, Middle Shabelle



Source: FSNAU/FEWS NET data

- Based on FEWS NET's integrated price projection in Jowhar, local cereal prices are likely to follow seasonal trends but remain 20 to 30 percent below average throughout the projection period (Figure 13).

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Although poor households are benefitting from current *Gu* off-season cereal stocks, low market cereal prices, and social support such as *zakat*, most are still recovering from the recent floods and will divert a large portion of labor and crop sales income to repay debts incurred from replanting and repairing their homes. Limited flooding of the Shabelle and Juba rivers is likely to promote late-planted *Gu* off-season harvests through November and will continue to support main *Deyr* season cropping activities through the January harvest period, resulting in increased food availability and average agricultural labor opportunities. Limited off-season *Deyr* cultivation will only slightly boost overall *Deyr* production. A seasonal rise in malnutrition levels within the current 'Critical' range (GAM WHZ 15-29.9%) in Hiiraan and the 'Serious' range (GAM WHZ 10-14.9%) in Middle Shabelle is likely due to increased morbidity and water-borne disease, in addition to poor sanitation and chronic poor child feeding practices. Food security will improve with the off-season *Gu* harvest in November and main *Deyr* harvest in February, and it is expected that households will have sufficient cereal stocks through March as well as access to income from cash crop sales. When combined with agricultural labor opportunities and seasonal declines in cereal prices, most households will likely improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) during the November to May 2019 period, even in the absence of humanitarian assistance. Some poor households may remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) throughout the scenario period, but the number would be below the 20 percent threshold.

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

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

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
National	Significantly below average or failed November to December <i>Deyr</i> rainfall.	<p>In Bay Bakool High and Low Potential agropastoral livelihood zones, poor crop production or crop failure would result in significantly below-average household cereal stocks for sale and consumption. Poor households would sell more productive animals than usual, even as livestock body conditions decreased due to poor vegetation. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes would be likely. Households in other southern agropastoral livelihoods zone would remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2), given higher livestock holdings. In riverine areas, off-season <i>Gu</i> stocks would maintain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes and current soil moisture levels would permit below-average <i>Deyr</i> production.</p> <p>In central and northern pastoral areas, significantly below-average or failed rainfall would not support livestock conception or milk production during the <i>Deyr</i>. Improvements witnessed since the <i>Gu</i> would be reversed, with households accessing little to no milk for consumption. Livestock body conditions would deteriorate during the January to March <i>Jilaal</i> dry season, which would increase the livestock abortion rate and minimize livestock salability for food purchases. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes would be widespread.</p>
Guban Pastoral in Awdal and Woqoyi Galbeed	Continued atypical rainfall in November-December and sustained levels of humanitarian assistance and significant community support	If the unusual October rains continue, poor households would see a decrease in typical livestock deaths and livestock body conditions would improve. When selling livestock for food purchases, this would slightly increase the value of the sale and mitigate additional households from depleting their livestock assets and abandoning pastoralism as their livelihood. However, poor households would only marginally be able to meet minimum food needs by depleting these assets. If emergency assistance is sustained, it would allow many households to meet their basic food needs without engaging in extreme coping and Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes would be maintained.

FSNAU is a multi-donor project managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

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 six months. Learn more [here](#).