

SOMALIA Food Security Outlook

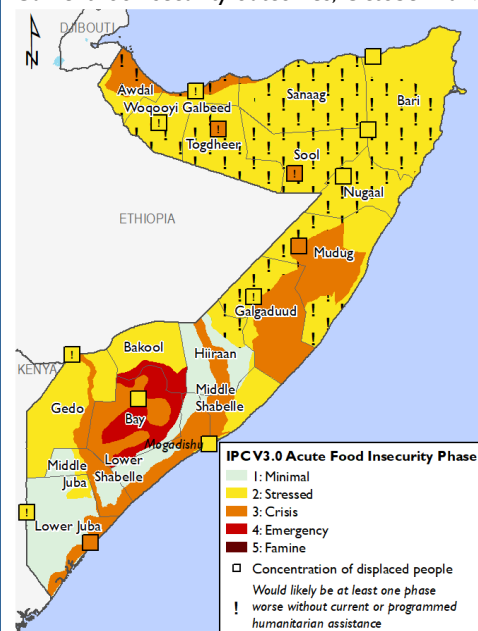
October 2019 to May 2020

Flooding and slow recovery from drought drive Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse in late 2019

KEY MESSAGES

- Sustained, large-scale food assistance continued to play a critical role in mitigating food gaps for many poor households in October, sustaining widespread Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes in pastoral areas and Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone. However, due to slow recovery from recurrent drought in central and northern pastoral areas, river flooding and flash floods in riverine and low-lying agropastoral areas, and protracted conflict and displacement, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity is expected to persist in Somalia through the end of 2019.
- Although earlier forecasts indicated an increased likelihood of above-average *Deyr* rainfall, rainfall in October has been exceptionally above average, leading to flooding and the displacement of an estimated 182,000 people, mainly in Beletweyn district. This is expected to delay main *Deyr* crop production and prolong the lean season, but flood-recession cultivation and off-season *Deyr* planting that occurs after flood waters recede in December are expected to be above normal. Based on historical trends, the total main and off-season *Deyr* cereal harvest from January to March is most likely to be above average.
- In the absence of planned and funded food assistance from November onward, food insecurity is likely to worsen in the short term. In the absence of assistance, more widespread deterioration to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is anticipated through January in northern and central pastoral areas and settlements for internally displaced persons (IDPs), due to the extended impacts of the poor 2019 *Gu* season rainfall and previous droughts. Food security is expected to improve in early 2020, as the October-December *Deyr* rains are likely to ultimately support above-average harvests and improve livestock herd sizes, which will lead to improved household food availability and access.

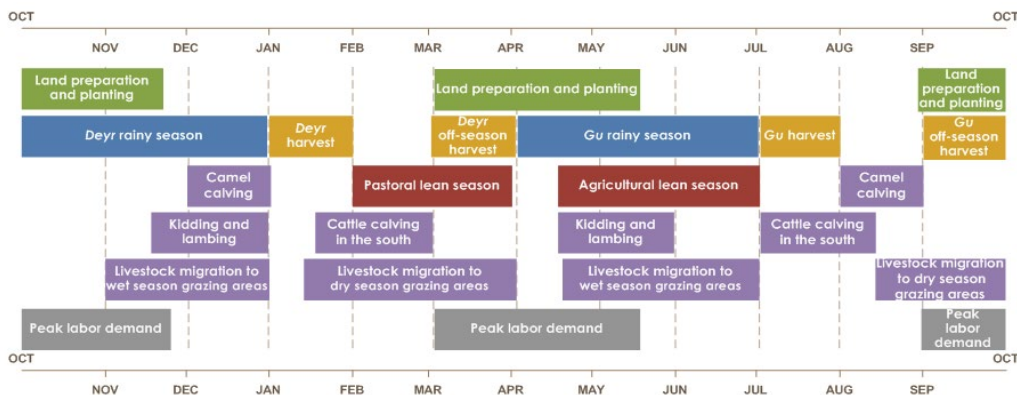
Current food security outcomes, October 2019



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 the consensus of national food security partners.

SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR



Source: FEWS NET

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

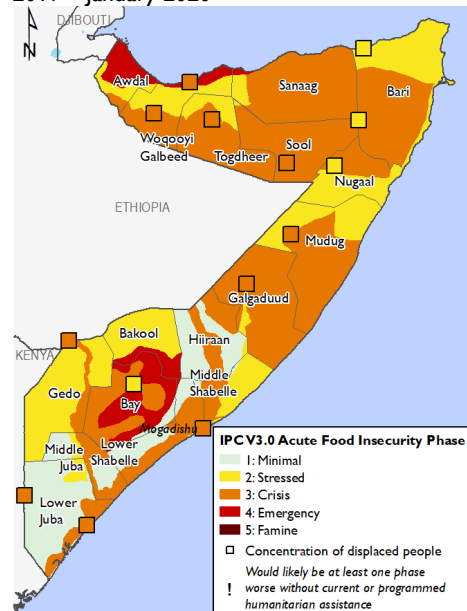
Current Situation

Based on the [August 2019 IPC results](#), 2.1 million people are projected to experience Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes in the absence of humanitarian food assistance in the October to December/January period. The impact of drought from late 2018 through mid-May of 2019 has driven heightened food insecurity throughout 2019, compounded by protracted conflict and continued displacement. Poor *Gu* 2019 rainfall resulted in the lowest cereal harvest since 1995, including the pre-famine *Gu* harvest of 2011 (Figure 1). Poor households' livestock assets, which have yet to recover from losses incurred in the severe 2016/2017 drought, have stagnated or further declined in many areas. A scale up in food assistance from May to August 2019 under the UN and Government of Somalia Drought Impact Response Plan has been critical to mitigating food gaps for many poor households, leading to widespread Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes in pastoral areas and Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone as of October. Although the October-December *Deyr* rains are expected to lead to food security improvements by early 2020, food insecurity is likely to worsen in the near-term without sustained food assistance. Deterioration to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is anticipated in pastoral areas, low-potential rainfed agropastoral areas, and flood-affected riverine areas.

During the *Xagaa* and *Karan* seasons from June to September, most of south-central Somalia experienced hotter-than-normal and dry conditions, while northwestern Somalia received above-average rainfall (Figure 2). In coastal southern areas that are dependent on *Xagaa* showers for off-season *Gu* production, the rains broadly failed, except in agropastoral areas of Lower Juba. As a result, most households in Southern Rainfed Agropastoral livelihood zone experienced crop failure, apart from those in Qoryoley and Baraawe districts of Lower Shabelle. In contrast, the *Karan* rains in northwestern Somalia brought much-needed relief to pastoral and agropastoral areas and slightly improved crop yield prospects. However, given that the seasonal decline in temperatures from October to December will inhibit crop maturation, households plan to harvest some of these crops for fodder sales instead of consumption. Although much of northeastern and central Somalia typically receives little to no rainfall during this period, land surface temperatures were up to 2 °C degrees above average, driving accelerated deterioration of rangeland resources.

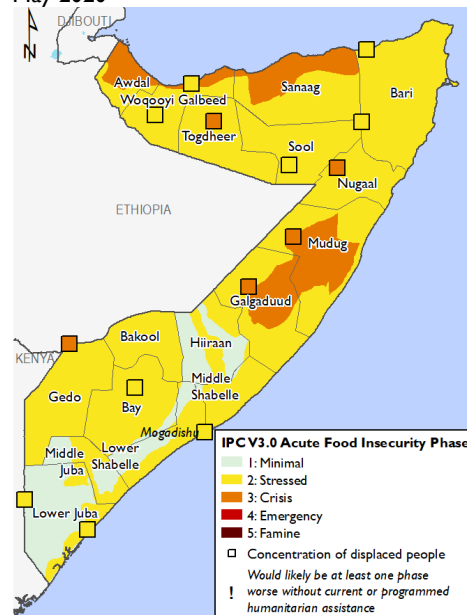
Although earlier forecasts indicated an increased likelihood of average to above-average *Deyr* rainfall, rainfall amounts received so far in October have surpassed previous expectations and [led to flooding and the displacement of an estimated 182,000 people](#). This is associated with one of the strongest Indian Ocean Dipole events on record as a result of atypical warming of sea surface temperatures off the East African coast. In southern Somalia, the *Deyr* rains began one to two weeks early and range from moderate to exceptionally heavy. Satellite-derived data indicate anomalies of 50 to 200 mm above average in many areas, reaching up to 600 percent of normal (Figure 3). Rainfall has also continued to be above average in the northwest, but with less extreme positive anomalies. However, rainfall is fairly normal in north-central Somalia and has yet to be established in the Northeast. Due to heavy rains not only within Somalia but also in the Juba and Shabelle river catchments in the Ethiopian highlands, high river levels have resulted in flooding along the Juba and Shabelle rivers, while flash floods have been reported in Banadir, Lower Shabelle, and Lower Juba. According to Somali Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) data and OCHA reports, the Shabelle river reached bankfull levels in Beletweyne in late October (Figure 4), leading to inundation

Projected food security outcomes, October 2019 – January 2020



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

Projected food security outcomes, February – May 2020



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

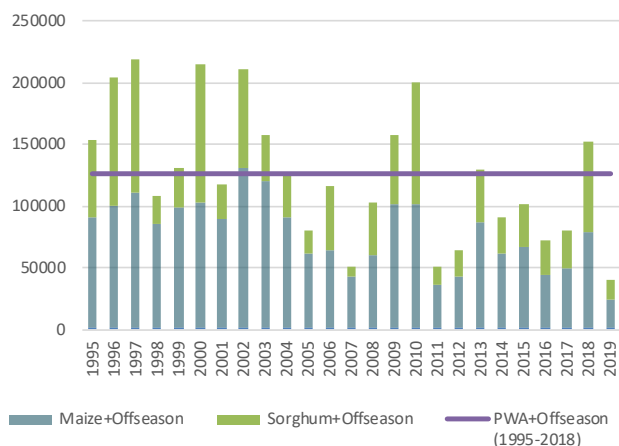
FEWS NET and FSNAU classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

of 85 percent of the town. Flooding has also been reported along the Juba river, with Bardheere of Gedo being worst affected. Flash floods have also been reported in Bay, affecting *Deyr* seed germination. In Shabelle riverine areas in Jowhar, river flooding in mid- September damaged an estimated 7,000 hectares of off-season *Gu* crops.

The *Deyr* rains generally facilitated timely land preparation and planting of cereals in most southern and central agropastoral and riverine areas, though recent heavy rains and flooding have led to suspension of planting, especially in riverine areas. In agropastoral areas, farmers have increased area planted with cereals to above-normal levels, encouraged by the early rains and high market cereal prices. Early seed germination has already been observed in many areas, though heavy rains prevented germination in low-lying areas like in Bay. In many riverine areas, desilting and canal rehabilitation activities prior to the start of the rains provided labor opportunities. These activities have generally increased the demand for agricultural labor, and as a result, both poor riverine and agropastoral households realized a temporary increase in income in September. In Farsoley rural market in Qoryoley of Lower Shabelle, the agriculture labor rate increased 78 percent from 22,500 SOS/day in August to 40,000 SOS/day in September, returning to near-average levels. In Bardale market in Baidoa of Bay, the agriculture labor rate increased by 56 and 41 percent compared to the 2018 and five-year averages, respectively. In October, however, labor demand has stagnated due to the atypically heavy rains.

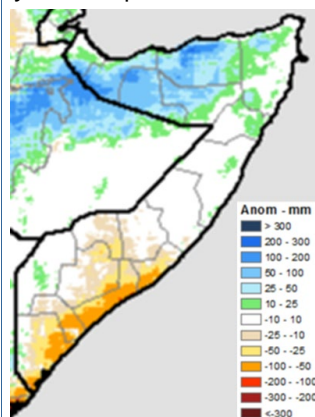
According to the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and field reports as of late October, pasture and water availability is broadly below normal in central and northeastern pastoral areas, mixed in southern pastoral areas, and well above normal in northwestern pastoral areas. However, *Deyr* rainfall is beginning to lead to rangeland resource regeneration (Figure 5). Although late *Gu* rainfall in May and June regenerated rangeland resources across most pastoral areas, above-average land surface temperatures and strong dry winds in northeastern and central Somalia accelerated their depletion during the *Xagaa* dry season, prompting atypically high levels of livestock migration and water trucking. In the Northeast, significant livestock out-migration occurred towards Sool, Sanaag, and Ethiopia; in central Somalia, significant out-migration from Hawd Pastoral to Ethiopia occurred but migration was limited within Addun Pastoral livelihood zone due to clan conflict. In September, the price of a 200-liter drum of trucked water was significantly above normal in most northeastern and central reference markets. For example, in rural settlements of Addun of northern Mudug, key informants reported the price of a drum was 170 percent above normal at SOS 96,855. In Dhusamareeb of Galgaduud, the price reached SOS 30,000, which is 114 and 61 percent above the September 2018 and five-year average, respectively. In the South, pasture conditions vary based on the performance of

Figure 1. *Gu* main and off-season cereal production in metric tons in southern Somalia, 1995-2019



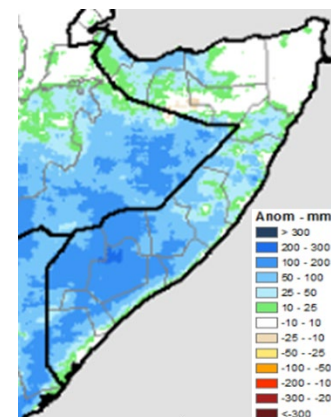
Source: FSNAU data

Figure 2. CHIRPS rainfall accumulation anomaly in mm compared to 1981-2010 mean, June 1 – September 30, 2019



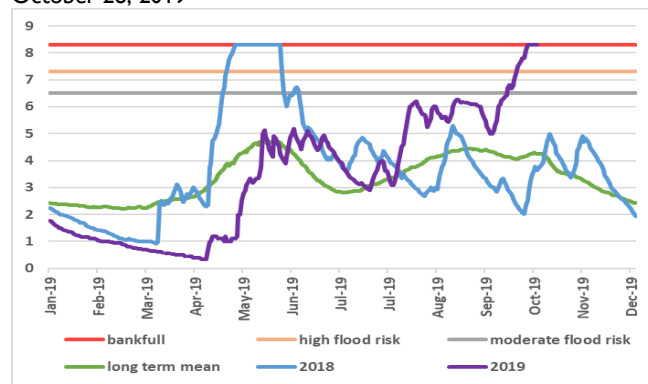
Source: FEWS NET/USGS

Figure 3. CHIRPS rainfall accumulation anomaly in mm compared to 1981-2010 mean, October 1 – 25, 2019



Source: FEWS NET/USGS

Figure 4. Comparison of current river level in meters against 2018 and the long-term average, Beletweyne station on Shabelle river, October 28, 2019



Source: SWALIM

the *Gu* and *Xagaa* rains, with below-average conditions observed in parts of Gedo, Middle and Lower Shabelle, and Hiiraan.

Despite general improving trends in vegetation in October, FSNAU field reports indicated that locust swarms have damaged pasture in parts of Hawd and west Golis Pastoral of Burao and Sheikh, Buuhoodle, and Oodweyne districts in northwestern Somalia and devastated vegetable farms and grasslands in Iskushuban district of Bari. Eggs laid earlier in the year in East Golis Pastoral areas and Dharoor Valley of Bari region hatched in late September, flying westward and southward to Ethiopia. Pastoral households in Ethiopia's Somali region, where locusts damaged local pasture, have out-migrated to Sanaag and Sool in search of pasture. Additional locust breeding has been reported in northeast and eastern Ethiopia and along Somalia's northwest coast, posing a risk of additional locust damage later in the season if adequate control measures are not implemented urgently.

Reflective of rangeland resource conditions and migration patterns, livestock body conditions are varied across Somalia. In the northwest, where rangeland conditions are at historically optimal levels due to the *Karan* and early *Deyr* rains, livestock body conditions are average to good. In most northeastern and central areas, livestock body conditions are generally poor, though livestock that have benefitted from migration to areas with dry pasture are currently in average condition, primarily in Bari and the western sector of Hawd of Nugaal and Mudug. In the South, livestock body conditions are normal to good in Middle and Lower Shabelle, Middle and Lower Juba, and Bay. This is inclusive of coastal areas, as livestock were able to migrate to riverine areas in the dry season. However, in the rest of the South, including Bakool, Hiran and Gedo, livestock body conditions are poor.

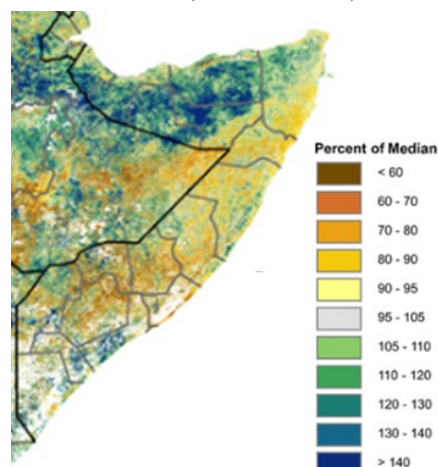
Livestock birth and conception levels vary across the country, with peak livestock reproduction in the *Deyr* typically occurring in late October/November. Households that received favorable off-season or *Karan* rainfall in pastoral and agropastoral areas of Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed regions report medium conception rates across all species. Medium kidding levels have begun in most northern pastoral areas and in most of the South and milk yields are seasonally normal. In contrast, in eastern Hawd, Addun, and Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zones as well as in Southern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone of Gedo, kidding is low to none due to prior poor conception levels and the impact of the harsh *Xagaa* season, which led to a significant number of spontaneous goat and sheep abortions. Milk production is poor across these areas as well as in agropastoral areas of Hiiraan, not only due to harsh *Xagaa* conditions but also due to low camel calving rates during the *Gu*.

In September, household purchasing power remained below normal across Somalia due to the impact of low market supply on cereal prices and below-normal household income from agricultural labor and livestock sales. In the South, domestic staple cereal prices were above the September 2018 and five-year average. In Baidoa reference markets of Bay, the price of a kilogram (kg) of red sorghum was double that of September 2018 and 39 percent above the five-year average. In Qoryoley reference markets of Lower Shabelle, a kg of white maize was double that of September 2018 and 33 percent above the five-year average. Prices are still higher in areas that are affected by even more limited domestic *Gu* production and the impact of conflict and associated unofficial taxation – namely, in Bakool, Gedo, and Hiiraan regions. In Wajid markets of Bakool and Belet Hawa markets of Gedo, the price of sorghum was SOS 12,000/kg and SOS 17,800/kg, respectively, or 52 and 28 percent higher than five-year average, respectively. In neighboring Baidoa, maize cost SOS 8,750/kg and red sorghum SOS 8,050/kg.

Domestic cereal prices in central and northern reference markets are similarly high, as traders and farmers anticipate a below-average local *Karan* harvest in October/November. The highest price increases are observed in the reference markets of Togdheer and Woqooyi Galbeed, where cereal prices are 20 to 30 percent above the five-average. Higher price increases have been mitigated by cereal imports from Ethiopia in the towns along the border. However, the cost of imported staple foods in this region, including sugar, wheat flour, and rice, remained near- to below average in September, a trend observed since early 2019. This is attributed to ample supply on international markets and gains in the exchange rate of the Somalia shilling (SOS) and Somaliland shilling (SLS) against international currencies like the US Dollar (USD), due to implementation of exchange rate transaction controls.

High cereal prices have outpaced any gains in the labor wage, and the labor-to-cereals terms of trade (TOT) remained low or declined from June to September in most agropastoral areas of southern Somalia. In most regions, labor-to-cereals TOTs are lower than last year and their five-year average. Further, demand for agricultural labor during the below-average 2019 *Gu*

Figure 5. eMODIS NDVI as a percent of the 2003-2019 median, October 11-20, 2019



Source: FEWS NET/USGS

season was low, as was labor demand in the crop marketing season for processing, transportation, and other market-related activities. In Beletweyne in Hiraa, the daily labor wage in September could only buy 9 kg of white sorghum, down from 17 kg in September 2018 and the 11 kg five-year average. In Qoryoley in Lower Shabelle, the daily labor wage could buy only 12 kg of white maize, nearly half the amount a laborer could buy one year ago and less than the 17 kg five-year average.

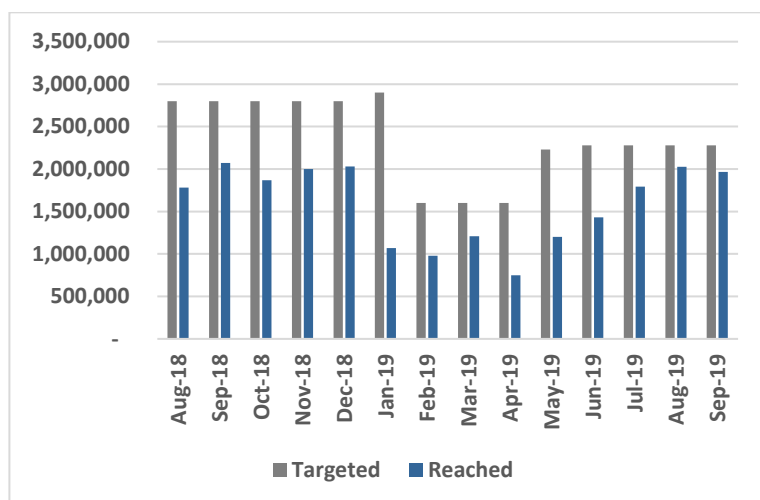
Livestock prices continue to be broadly above average in most central and northern reference markets, driven by a low supply of saleable animals with good body condition. Comparable rises in goat and cereal prices maintained favorable goat-to-cereals TOT across these pastoral areas in September, which were near the September 2018 average and near- to above the five-year average. For example, in Galkayo in Mudug, a local quality goat could be exchanged for 100 kg of imported red rice, up from 95 kg in September 2018 and the 71 kg five-year average. Despite the favorable TOT, most poor households are limited in their ability to earn this amount, given their limited number of saleable animals. In the South, livestock prices exhibit a downward trend due to high supply, as many households sold more livestock than usual during the *Xagaa* dry season. In September, livestock prices in the South were up to 20 percent below the five-year average, with the lowest prices observed in Middle Juba, Bay, and Hiraa. Coupled with high local cereal prices, the goat-to-cereal TOT declined in September relative to the September 2018 five-year averages. For example, in Baidoa markets of Bay, a goat could be sold in exchange for 136 kg of sorghum, compared to 281 kg in September 2018 and the 214 kg five-year average.

Conflict continues to be a contributing factor to food insecurity in many parts of Somalia, due to disruption of livelihoods and abandonment of fields, loss of household assets, and increased illicit taxation. According to ACLED and other sources, the number of conflict events since May is similar to slightly higher than the same period of 2018. In many southern and central regions, armed confrontations have increased between insurgents and federal troops supported by AMISOM, with most confrontations occurring in the Shabelle, Juba, Gedo, and Bay regions. Insurgents and allied militias also continue implementing road blockades, which restrict trade flows and humanitarian access to most rural settlements in south/central Somalia. Inter-clan conflict in Lower Shabelle and central Somalia has also resulted in loss of life and displacement.

Large-scale humanitarian assistance has been instrumental in preventing worse food security outcomes in many rural areas and IDP settlements, particularly where household assets have been depleted due to the severe impact of the 2016/17 drought, resurgence of drought in 2018/19, and ongoing conflict. According to the Somalia Food Security Cluster, an average of 1.9 million beneficiaries were reached monthly from July through September with cash/voucher or in-kind assistance ranging from a half to full ration, which most households share within their community. The majority received cash/voucher assistance. The number of beneficiaries reached in August was the highest in 2019, with more than 2.025 million beneficiaries receiving assistance (Figure 6). However, field enumerators observed during the FSNAU and FEWS NET *Xagaa* impact assessment in September that most food assistance was delivered to IDP settlements, rather than rural areas. Assistance continued at comparable levels in October, reaching an estimate 1.9 million.

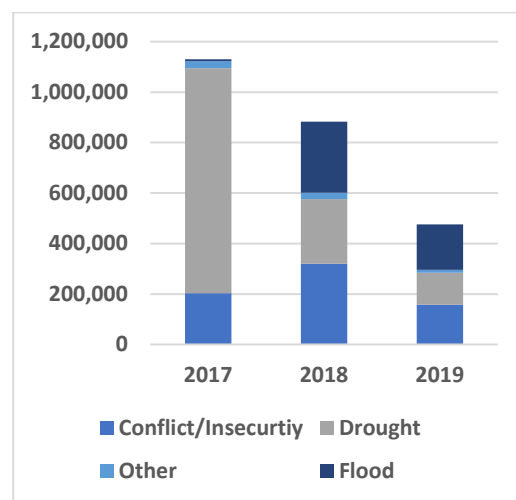
According to the [UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), conflict and drought continue to be the primary cause of displacement in 2019, with additional displacement due to recent flooding in October. As of January 2019,

Figure 6. Population reached with emergency humanitarian food/cash-voucher assistance compared to targeted population, January-September 2019



Source: Somalia Food Security Cluster data

Figure 7. Causes of internal displacement within Somalia, January 2017 to September 2019



Source: UNHCR PRMN and OCHA

an estimated 2.65 million people were internally displaced across Somalia. From January to September, an estimated 302,000 additional people were displaced, followed by more than 180,000 people in October due to flooding. Of those displaced in 2019, at least 75 percent originated from Lower and Middle Shabelle, Bay, Bakool, and Sanaag regions. 42 percent of new population displacement in 2019 was due to drought-related issues, with new displacement spiking during the *Xagga* dry season, while 52 percent were displaced due to conflict (Figure 7). Although displacement from January to October is approximately half that of 2018, it should be noted that many persons who have been displaced in recent years have yet to return home. The ever-rising number of displaced people face difficulties in accessing labor opportunities and face vulnerability to illness due to inadequate sanitation in IDP settlements. Gifts from social networks, a critical source of income for rural poor households and IDPs, are increasingly overstretched. In October, humanitarian assistance continues to reach at least 25 percent of the population and meet at least 25 percent of their kilocalorie needs in Hargeysa, Berbera, Burao, Laasanod, Dhusamareb, Dollow and Doble IDP camps, enabling Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) and Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes. Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes prevail elsewhere.

In most rural areas in October, household food and income sources are significantly below average, food stocks have largely been exhausted, and high food prices continue to limit food access. Ongoing humanitarian assistance has continued to prevent more extreme outcomes in many areas, including Guban Pastoral, where Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) exists given slow recovery of household livestock assets since losses incurred in the 2016/2017 drought and Cyclone Sagar, though there is an improving trend in livestock productivity and reproductivity in 2019. In Hawd Pastoral, Northern Inland Pastoral, and Northwestern and Togdheer Agropastoral livelihood zones, as well as Cowpea Belt Agropastoral and Coastal Deeh Pastoral and Fishing of Mudug region, Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes exist in the presence of assistance. In these areas, food assistance has largely prevented food gaps for poor households, though household income remains low due to below-normal livestock and milk production and consecutive seasons of poor crop and fodder production.

In areas where crop and livestock production has been poor and food assistance is not significant, many poor households are facing food gaps indicative of Crisis (IPC Phase 3). This includes central Addun Pastoral, Cowpea Belt Agropastoral, and Coastal Deeh Pastoral and Fishing of Galgaduud, Southern Agropastoral of Hiiraan, Southern Rainfed Agropastoral, and Sorghum High Potential Agropastoral livelihood zones. Poor households in central Addun, Hawd, and Coastal Deeh livelihood zones, as well as in Southern Agropastoral of Hiraan are worse off relative to neighboring parts of their respective livelihood zones due to much lower herd sizes, more limited humanitarian access, and conflict that limits market functioning, disrupts livelihood activities, or inhibits livestock migration. More severe Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes exist in Bay Bakool Low Potential Agropastoral livelihood zone, given failed *Gu* production, below-normal labor demand, few livestock, and few alternative sources of income. In riverine areas along the Shabelle and Juba rivers, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is expected given that heavy *Deyr* rainfall and flooding has suspended agricultural labor opportunities and caused displacement, and most poor households have already exhausted their food stocks from the below-average *Gu* harvest.

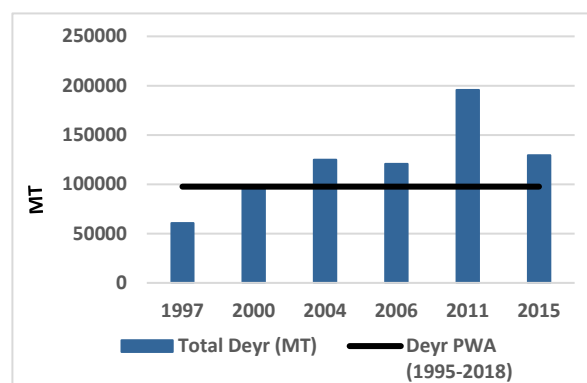
Less severe outcomes are observed in southern and northern pastoral areas where livestock herd recovery has been relatively sustained, permitting relatively better access to income and milk production. In areas where herd sizes and saleability remain below normal, impacting milk consumption and milk and livestock sales, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are prevalent. However, where herd sizes near normal and vegetation has supported body conditions and milk production, Minimal (IPC Phase 1) is observed, despite intermittent disruptions to livelihood activities as a result of the conflict.

Based on SMART survey data collected by FSNAU and partners in June and July 2019 and the results of the August 2019 Acute Malnutrition Analysis, global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence by weight-for-height z-score (WHZ) is projected to be Critical (GAM WHZ 15-29.9 percent) across most analyzed areas in the south as well as in central Hawd Pastoral and East Golis Pastoral livelihood zones as a result of both food and non-food security factors. Serious (GAM WHZ 10-14.9 percent) levels of acute malnutrition are projected in most remaining rural areas and IDP camps, with the exception of Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, where Alert (GAM WHZ 5-9.9 percent) levels are expected given humanitarian interventions for health and nutrition services. One contributing non-food security factor to consistently poor acute malnutrition is the incidence of measles as well as AWD/cholera, due to unprotected water use and poor WASH practices. According to joint WHO and Somalia Federal Ministry of Health reports, nearly 1,257 measles cases were reported from January to August 2019, keeping the outbreak at epidemic levels. In the same period, 1,909 cases of AWD/cholera were reported, an increase of 48 percent from the number of cases reported in June to August 2018, but 31 percent lower than same time in 2017 drought year. More than 250 cases were reported in August 2019. There is concern for increased waterborne disease in October due to ongoing flooding and contamination of water sources.

Assumptions

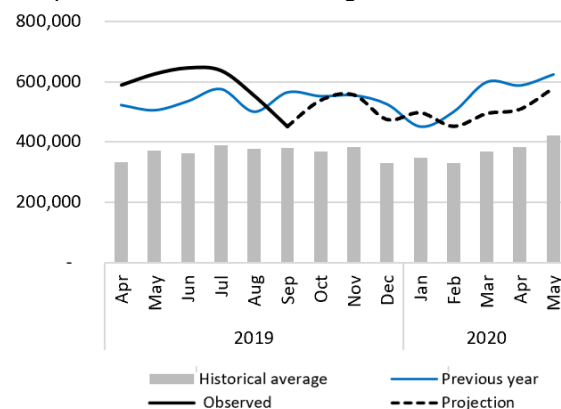
- Based on rainfall accumulated to date and forecasts by NOAA and ICPAC, total cumulative rainfall from October to December is expected to be above average, driven by the current positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). Rainfall is most likely to be above average through the end of October, but is forecast to ease to normal levels by mid-November. Given current river levels, flooding is expected in riverine and lowland agropastoral areas in Hiraan and the Juba and Shabelle regions. Widespread flash floods are also likely in other low-lying areas across the country, particularly in Gedo, Bay, and Bakool regions as well as in the Nugaal and Dharoor Valleys in the Northeast.
- Riverine and flash floods are likely to cause displacement in the short term. Of high concern are Beletweyne town of Hiraan, which lies on the Shabelle River and has a population of 400,000 people, and Lower Shabelle region, where the population exceeds 1.2 million people and humanitarian access is poor. Coupled with continued displacement from armed conflict, the internally displaced population is expected to rise and could reach the highest level on record.
- According to CPC/IRI and NOAA forecasts, the IOD is expected to transition to neutral by January. El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are currently neutral and will likely remain neutral through May. Based on these conditions, the December to January *Xays* rains in northern coastal Somalia are most likely to be average. Similarly, the April to June 2020 *Gu* rains are most likely to be average. However, there is uncertainty given the long-term nature of this forecast.
- Based on the rainfall forecast and past trends, farmers in most south-central agropastoral areas are anticipated to increase area planted with cereal and cash crops. In riverine and low-lying agropastoral areas, main season planting activities will likely be negatively impacted by flooding; however, flood-recession cultivation and off-season *Deyr* planting that occurs after flood waters recede in December are expected to be above normal. Although some crop loss is expected, the total main and off-season *Deyr* cereal harvest from January to March is most likely to be above average (Figure 8).
- Given the presence of locusts in northeast Ethiopia and direction of north easterly monsoon winds, there is high of risk of locust destruction of crops and pasture in parts of the Northwest and localized areas in the South in November.
- Based on planting and harvest activities, agricultural labor demand is likely to be above normal through February in most agropastoral areas. In riverine areas, agricultural labor demand is likely to be below normal until December and above normal from December through the end of the off-season harvest in March.
- According to the Somaliland Ministry of Agriculture, the *Gu*/*Karan* production estimate has been revised to 28,000 MT, which is 21 percent higher than estimates made in July 2019 but 32 percent below the 2010-2018 PET averages.
- Driven by *Deyr* rainfall, pasture and water availability is expected to improve to normal to above-normal levels across most of Somalia through December. In the unimodal Northwest, where rainfall is minimal during the *Deyr*, pasture and water availability will seasonally decline. Seasonal trends are expected in the January-March *Jilaal* and April-June *Gu*.
- Given adequate rangeland resource availability, livestock body conditions in *Deyr*-receiving areas are expected to be restored to normal from October through January and in December and January in unimodal areas. Based on this and prior conception rates, low to medium births are expected across species in October and November in northern and

Figure 8. Main and off-season *Deyr* production in years with significant flooding events compared to the 1995-2018 average



Source: FSNAU data

Figure 9. Observed and projected price of a local goat in SLS, Burao market, Togdheer region, April 2019-May 2020 compared to the 2015-2018 average



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

central pastoral and agropastoral areas. A medium rate of births is projected in the South.

- Due to expected births and average body conditions as well as average to good rangeland, milk availability is anticipated to seasonally increase through January in both pastoral and agropastoral areas. In riverine areas, however, milk availability typically decreases as livestock are migrated away to wet season grazing areas. Overall, milk production will likely be below normal due to low births and below-baseline herd sizes in many livelihood zones in north-central regions.
- Based on FEWS NET and FSNAU's analysis of livestock prices in the key reference markets of Hargeysa, Galkacyo, Burao, and Baidoa, local goat prices in northern and central regions are expected to follow seasonal trends but will remain above the five-year average due to below-normal supply and stable demand (Figure 9). In the South, an increase in income from agricultural labor is expected to reduce distressed livestock sales. As a result of lower supply, local goat prices are expected to return to the five-year average.
- Based on FEWS NET and FSNAU's analysis of cereal prices in the key reference markets of Baidoa and Beletweyne, the retail price of locally-produced maize and sorghum is expected to remain above the five-year average in southern and central markets through May, though prices are expected to decline with the *Deyr* harvest. High prices will be driven by below-average *Gu* 2019 market stocks, structurally deficit *Deyr* cereal production, and high household demand. Price increases will be sharpest in flood-affected areas, where market feeder roads are expected to close.
- Based on FEWS NET and FSNAU's analysis of cereal prices in the key reference market of Hargeysa, local cereal prices in the Northwest are expected to rise until December, when the bulk of *Karan* harvest begins to enter the market. Although the *Karan* harvest is likely to drive a modest decline in prices, cross border imports from Ethiopia will contribute to overall price stability and prices will likely be average through May.
- The goat-to-cereal TOT are expected to improve in pastoral areas given above-average goat prices and declining cereal prices. In the South, the goat-to-cereal TOT are likely to remain below average, though the TOT are likely to improve after the *Deyr* harvest given anticipated price declines for local cereals. Similarly, high cereal prices are expected to sustain below-average labor-to-cereal TOT until at least the middle of the *Deyr* harvest in agropastoral and riverine areas.
- According to the Somalia Food Security Cluster, planned humanitarian food assistance is expected to reach an average 1.6 million people in November and December. However, the distribution plan is not yet available to FEWS NET and FSNAU. From January to May, planning and funding is not yet confirmed. An absence of food assistance is assumed from November to May.
- Government troops supported by AMISOM will likely continue attacks, aiming to take control of major towns in the Shabelle, Juba, Bay, and Bakool regions from Al Shabaab and open roads linking towns to rural settlements. Organized and targeted killings, suicide bombings, and car bombings will likely continue in Mogadishu and Kismayo as well as other major towns. The conflict is likely to continue to constrain humanitarian access, increase loss of life and assets, and periodically disrupt both trade and population movements.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Pastoral areas

In most central and northern pastoral areas, food security outcomes will likely deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through January in the absence of sustained humanitarian assistance. However, given relatively better livestock production assets, food security outcomes in northwestern West Golis Pastoral, northeastern areas of Addun Pastoral, Hawd Pastoral, East Golis Pastoral, and Coastal Deeh Pastoral and Fishing will likely sustain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through January. During the current *Deyr* and subsequent 2020 *Gu*, milk availability and livestock herd sizes are likely to increase across most livelihood zones, but will remain below baseline levels; the exception is central Addun Pastoral livelihood zone, where significantly below-normal herd sizes are most likely to remain stagnant after births and sales. As a result of increased income from livestock production and favorable TOT, food security is expected to improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in most pastoral areas from February to May. However, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is likely to persist where herd sizes are lowest, including central Addun Pastoral and East Golis Pastoral of Sanaag. In Southern Inland Pastoral of Gedo and Bakool regions in the South, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes will likely persist through May. Conversely, Southern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone in Hiraan, Lower and Middle Juba, and Lower Shabelle will likely remain in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) through May with no new shocks anticipated.

In Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, poor households will likely deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in the absence of assistance through January. Low to no calving and kidding is expected until December and current herd sizes remain small and inadequate to provide enough income for poor households' to meet their minimum food needs without engaging in asset

stripping. However, improvement to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is expected in the February to May period due to two anticipated birth cohorts: first, medium kidding and lambing during the December-January *Xays* rains among shoats that conceived in the June-September off-season rains; and second, medium to high kidding and lambing in April/May 2020 among shoats that conceive in the *Deyr*. These births are expected to increase livestock herd sizes to slightly below baseline levels, supporting livestock herd sustainability and permitting some sales increased milk consumption and sales. However, some households are likely to still remain in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), a percentage equivalent to less than 20 percent of the population.

Agropastoral areas

From October to January, many rainfed agropastoral areas are expected to sustain Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes due to limited to no household cereal stocks, total dependency on market food purchases, and below-baseline livestock herd sizes, as well as below-average TOT and disruptions to agricultural labor opportunities as a result of flash floods. In Bay and Bakool Low Potential Agropastoral livelihood zone, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is likely to be sustained given still lower income from livestock and milk sales, less favorable TOT, and higher dependency on market purchases and gifts. Additionally, the heavy rainfall and flash floods are expected to cause some livestock disease outbreaks and deaths from hypothermia. Increased cases of water-borne diseases among humans is also expected to increase acute malnutrition prevalence. Food security is not expected to improve until the completion of the *Deyr* harvest in February/March. Replenishment of household food stocks and declining cereal prices, combined with *Gu* 2020 agricultural labor opportunities and seasonal livestock production, is likely to significantly improve food access and lead to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes.

In Northwestern and Togdheer Agropastoral livelihood zones, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is expected to be sustained through the end of 2019 given low household income and no household food stocks. However, the below-average *Gu/Karan* harvest in November and December will offer some stocks for household consumption, while the bulk will likely be sold as fodder to livestock exporters during the 2020 *Jilaal* season or used for own livestock feed. In addition, cows that conceived in May 2019 will give birth in February 2020, while medium kidding and lambing will occur in March/April, thus improving milk consumption and sales. Finally, the start of the 2020 *Gu* in March will offer seasonal labor opportunities. As a result, these food and income sources are expected to drive improvement to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from January to May.

Riverine Areas

In riverine areas, river and flash flooding have already led to significant displacement, and additional displacement is likely in the months to come. This will likely increase food insecurity in the short term. While food access will improve after the flood waters recede in December, these areas are likely to be among the most food insecure in Somalia in the October-December period. With cultivable land inundated, agricultural labor income is likely to be little to none. A rising number of poor and even some middle-income households will likely deteriorate from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in Gedo, Hiraan, Juba, and Shabelle regions. In places controlled by the government and AMISOM, humanitarian access will enable assistance to reach flood-affected households until labor income and road accessibility are restored. However, in Middle and Lower Juba and most parts of the Shabelle regions, households are not likely to receive assistance. After the flood waters recede, food security outcomes are expected to improve from February to May as large-scale and widespread recessionary cultivation will likely take place. Agricultural labor and off-season harvests in February and March 2020, followed by 2020 *Gu* cultivation, are expected to gradually drive improvement to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) by March.

IDP settlements

In the absence of assistance, deterioration in food security outcomes from Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is expected in Hargeysa, Berbera, Dhusamareeb, Dollow, and Doble IDP settlements through January. However, slight improvements in access to gifts from kin with livestock and seasonal casual labor opportunities are expected to mitigate widening food gaps in Burao and Laasanod, and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is expected. In other settlements, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are expected. However, in the prolonged absence of assistance, more widespread deterioration to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is expected from February to May.

Acute malnutrition

Based on the nutrition survey analysis and projections conducted by FSNAU and partners in June and July 2019, an estimated 1,008,500 children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden) are likely to be acutely malnourished through June 2020. This includes 178,400 who are likely to be severely malnourished. In areas of concern including East Golis Pastoral, Hawd Pastoral of northeast and central, and all livelihood zones in Bakool, Bay, Hiraan and Gedo, the prevalence of GAM (WHZ) is expected to increase atypically through the end of 2019 and remain 'Critical,' driven by high incidence of disease and lower than normal food access. In addition, Coastal Deeh Pastoral and Fishing will likely deteriorate from 'Alert' to

‘Serious’ levels of acute malnutrition, driven by declines in milk consumption and access to credit and cash for food purchases.

Events that Might Change the Outlook

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

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Riverine areas in the South	Continued heavy rainfall through November resulting in widespread, large-scale river flooding and flash floods	Continuous rainfall through end of November would likely lead to crop destruction of approximately 45 percent of riverine cropped land. Recessional cultivation would likely be further delayed, and local harvests would most likely be below-average <i>Deyr</i> harvest in February/March. Additional high levels of displacement and loss of agricultural labor income would likely lead to large food consumption gaps in the absence of assistance. Food security would likely deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) through early 2020.
National	Early cessation of November to December <i>Deyr</i> rainfall	Should the rainfall season end early, re-planting after flash floods would be suspended and poor crop production or crop failure would be likely. Limited cereal stocks for consumption and sales and an increase in distressed livestock sales would drive more widespread deterioration to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Bay Bakool High and Low Potential Agropastoral and Southern Rainfed Agropastoral livelihood zones and sustain Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in other southern agropastoral livelihood zones until the start of the 2020 <i>Gu</i> . However, Stressed (IPC phase 2) would remain most likely in riverine areas, as current soil moisture levels and irrigation would support some off-season <i>Deyr</i> production. In central and northern pastoral areas – especially in the Northeast where rainfall is still yet to be fully established – pasture and water regeneration would stall, with negative impacts on livestock conception and milk production. The dry January to March <i>Jilaal</i> season would increase the likelihood of livestock deaths and spontaneous abortions, while minimizing livestock marketability for food purchases. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes would be widespread without food assistance.
Pastoral and agropastoral areas in north-central Somalia	Sustained, large-scale assistance at planned levels in areas of concern through December	Sustained, large-scale humanitarian assistance at current levels (reaching 1.8 to 2 million people per month) is expected to reduce the food consumption gaps of those reached and Stressed (IPC Phase 2!) in central and Northern pastoral and agropastoral livelihood zones and Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes would be likely in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone between October-January 2020.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Sorghum High Potential and Low Potential Agropastoral and Livelihood Zones of Bay and Bakool

Poor households in these two livelihood zones have similar typical sources of income and food. Own-produced crops serve as the primary food source, supplemented by own-produced milk and staple food purchases. Agricultural labor is the primary source of income, with additional income earned from crop, milk, or livestock sales. However, given that low potential areas have less fertile land, poor households in these areas produce less of their own crops and milk and are more dependent on food purchases. Given broad similarities in livelihoods and vulnerability to climactic shocks, these areas are analyzed together.

Current Situation

Due to delayed and significantly below-average rainfall during the 2019 *Gu*, the July/August cereal harvest in these livelihood zones was poor. According to FSNAU, *Gu* cereal production in Bay was estimated to be 9,500 MT, equivalent to only 28

percent of the 1995-2018 post-war average and 35 percent of the five-year average. In Bakool, *Gu* cereal production was only 300 MT and equivalent to 17 percent and 23 percent post-war average and five-year average, respectively. As a result, most poor households consumed their own-produced food stocks in less than one month and had zero stocks remaining as soon as August. Normally, poor households' *Gu* stocks would last 3-4 months.

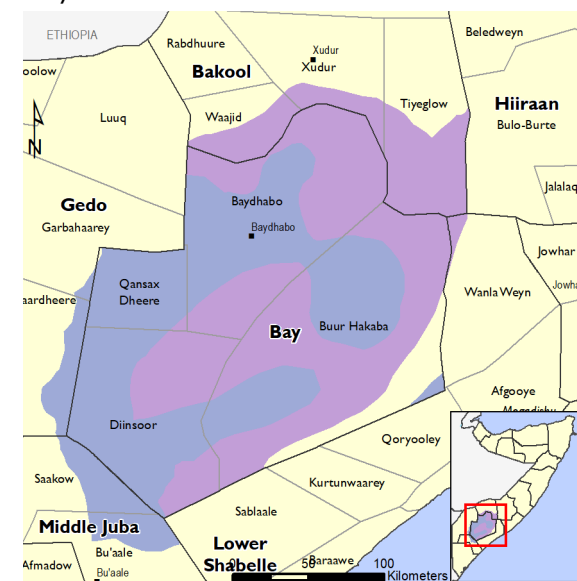
The early start of the *Deyr* has prompted planting activities, but key informant information indicates that recent heavy rainfall has enhanced soil moisture to above normal levels. Water logging is also reported in parts of Qansax, Dheere, and Diinsoor districts, with the potential to delay planting or prevent seed germination. The rains have also reportedly damaged traditional underground cereal storage pits in agropastoral villages of Qansax Dheere and Diinsoor, spoiling what few cereal stocks remain.

The deficient production season resulted in low agricultural labor demand, leaving few income-earning opportunities for poor households. Although the early start of the *Deyr* is beginning to drive an increase in agricultural labor demand, the effects are still being seen on wage rates in Bakool, where the daily labor wage in was 49 and 36 percent below the 2018 and five-averages, respectively, in September. In Bay, wage rates September are 26 and 17 percent above the 2018 and five-year average. At the same time, low local and national crop production has driven a dramatic increase in sorghum and maize prices in key reference markets since June. One kilogram of sorghum in Baidoa rose to SOS 8,050 in September, double of the price of September 2018 and 39 percent above five-year average. In Bakool, where insecurity and high transport costs additionally limit market supply, a kilogram of sorghum in Xudur market was SOS 15,000, nearly double the price in Bay and 43 and 28 percent higher than the September 2018 and five-year averages, respectively. The current unit price in Bakool is comparable to prices observed in September 2017, toward the end of the 2016/2017 drought.

Poor households' food and income sources are also severely constrained by low herd sizes and low milk consumption. Although the early onset of the *Deyr* rains have begun to improve livestock body conditions, most are still below average and this has affected their saleability and market value, especially for cattle. Based on FEWS NET and FSNAU's herd dynamics analysis, the average poor household is likely to have sold two sheep or goats since the post-*Gu* assessment in July in order to purchase food, leaving them with only three – half of their baseline herd of 6 shoats. Cattle herds have also been reduced from a typical three cows to two. Due to low cattle conception in the past two seasons, milk production is also currently low. Although livestock prices remain favorable and stable, prices range from slightly (Bay) to moderately (Bakool) below average and additional sales would constitute liquidation of assets for poor households.

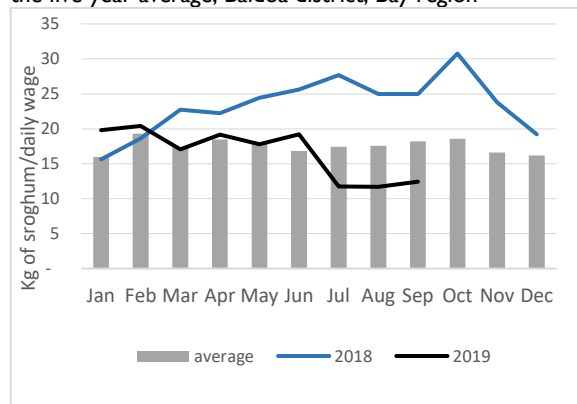
Given these trends, household purchasing power has drastically declined since June. In Baidoa, the labor-to-sorghum ToT fell from 19 kg to 12 kg from June to July and remained 12 kg in September, which is 50 and 32 percent below the 2018 and five-year averages, respectively (Figure 11). In Xudur, the ToT were only 5 kg in September, a decline of 11 and 28 percent from the 2018 and five-year average, respectively. Poor households in Low Potential Agropastoral zone in Bakool have the lowest ToT in Somalia and earn four times less than their counterparts in neighboring Bay region. Similar trends are observed in the goat-to-cereal ToT. In Baidoa, the ToT were 136 kg in September, 52 and 36 percent below the 2018 and five-year averages, respectively, though still at a favorable level. In Bakool, the ToT in Xudur are only 56 kg, which is 40 and 25 percent below the 2018 and five-year averages, respectively, and by comparison nearly four times less than those households in Bay. A poor

Figure 10. Area of concern reference map, Sorghum High Potential (left) and Low Potential (right) livelihood zones of Bay and Bakool



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

Figure 11. Kilograms of red sorghum that can be bought with one day's labor wage in 2018 and 2019 compared to the five-year average, Baidoa district, Bay region



Source: market data from FSNAU

household in Bakool would need to sell nearly three goats, each goat at SOS 837,500 based on September price in Xudur market, in order to afford the monthly essential food and non-food minimum expenditure basket at the cost of SOS 2,053,000.

According to data from the Food Security Cluster, the reach of humanitarian assistance remains below 25 percent of the population in rural areas. However, food assistance reached nearly 30 percent of the population in Baidoa from July to September. Observations from FSNAU field staff suggest access to food assistance in Baidoa is mainly in urban and IDP settlements, with some re-distribution to relatives in rural areas.

Although the results of the post-*Gu* assessment indicated Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes existed in High Potential and Low Potential areas, respectively, the rapid depletion of poor households' food and income sources has led to rapid deterioration in food security. In October, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are present in High Potential areas. In low potential areas, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) exists due to poor households' comparatively lower asset base, household income, and purchasing power, especially in Bakool. Based on the post-*Gu* analysis of nutrition outcomes, acute malnutrition has also likely deteriorated to Critical (GAM WHZ 15-29.9 percent) levels. With little milk consumption and no ability to earn income from milk or livestock sales without liquidating household assets, most poor households are relying on agricultural labor, which is not enough to meet their minimum food needs. Many households have been forced to send family members or move the entire household to main towns. According to [UNHCR Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\) data](#), 54,000 people from Bay and Bakool have been displaced since January 2019 due to the impact of the drought on their livelihood. New displacement due to drought in 2019 is still only a fraction (16 percent) of the displacement that occurred in the same period of 2017, when 336,000 people were displaced from January to September. However, many of those originally displaced in 2017 have yet been able to return to their livelihood.

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions described above, the following assumptions have been made for this zone:

- Due to flash floods, an estimated 10 percent of Bay cropped land is expected to be replanted in November. The main harvest is most likely to be delayed to January/February. Given good soil moisture, good yield per unit area is expected and slightly above-average production is most likely. Given these production prospects, agricultural labor demand is expected to be restored in November and follow normal trends through May.
- Based on FEWS NET's integrated price projection for Baidoa reference market, the price of a kilogram of sorghum is expected to remain above average through December, though the start of the slightly above-average cereal harvest in January and anticipation of an average *Gu* harvest will likely drive a decline in the unit price from January through May.
- Given low herd sizes, household access to milk for consumption and sales will remain limited throughout the scenario period. Cattle births and cattle milk production are unlikely throughout the scenario period due to low to no conception in the 2019 *Gu* and *Xagaa*. Atypically low goat births are likely during the *Deyr* and at the start of the *Gu*.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

From October to January, poor households are expected to have moderate to large food gaps given few household food sources, high reliance on market food purchases, and low household purchasing power. While improved access to agricultural labor is likely by November, this income is likely insufficient to prevent large food gaps. Mitigation of food gaps would require near-liquidation of livestock assets. Given the concurrent likelihood of elevated, atypical levels of acute malnutrition at 'Critical' (GAM WHZ 15-29.9 percent) levels due to disease incidence and reduced food and milk intake, poor households in Bay Bakool Low Potential Agropastoral livelihood zone are expected to sustain Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes through while poor households in Sorghum High Potential Agropastoral livelihood zone will likely sustain Crisis (IPC 3) outcomes. The difference in the severity of the two agropastoral groups is mainly due to substantial variation in access to agricultural labor and wages as well as levels of cereal prices and their impact and household purchasing capacity.

The start of the slightly above-average *Deyr* harvest in January/February is expected to gradually drive improvement to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in both agropastoral livelihood zones from February to May. The replenishment of household food stocks from the *Deyr* harvest is expected to provide food and income through March, while seasonal agricultural labor income will be earned during the March-May *Gu*. However, poor households are likely to be constrained by debt repayment and will seek to partially restock their herds. Some poor households who did not have sufficient agricultural inputs to plant or who must pay off significant debt are expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), due to early depletion of stocks in the lean season

(April-May) when agricultural labor income alone would not permit them to meet their minimum dietary requirements.

Southern Rainfed Agropastoral Livelihood Zone

Current Situation

Gu and *Xagaa* rainfall in Southern Rainfed Agropastoral livelihood zone ranged from significantly below average to failed, resulting in poor *Gu* crop production and below-normal rangeland conditions. Satellite imagery and field reports both indicate that *Gu* rainfall was significantly below-average, amounting to only 50-150 mm in Lower Shabelle and 100-200 mm Middle and Lower Juba compared to typical amounts of 300-400 mm. Further, *Hagaa* rains were also localized with poor intensity and temporal distribution and ranged from 50-75 percent below average in Lower Shabelle and 25-50 percent below normal in the Jubas.

Gu 2019 main season cereal production in Juba and Lower Shabelle regions were estimated at 2,300 MT and 15,100MT, respectively, which is only 26 percent and 36 percent of the *Gu* post-war average, respectively. No cropping took place in Marka and parts of Qoryoley districts due to escalated conflict and poor *Hagaa* showers. Crops failed completely in most parts of Qoryoley, except where irrigation occurred from the extended canals of Qollow and Liibaani, and parts Barawa and Sablaale where *Xagaa* showers were moderate. Off-season *Gu* maize production was also significantly below average, estimated at 3,261 MT in Lower Shabelle and 476 MT in the Jubas, or 29 and 52 percent below original projections, respectively. Poor households' food stocks from own production generally lasted only one month and most are now atypically dependent on market food purchases. The heavy *Deyr* rains have impeded agricultural labor opportunities in this zone, where poor households heavily rely on desilting labor and off-season recessionary cultivation.

Maize prices in key markets of Middle and Lower Juba are above average as regional production was insufficient to push prices down to seasonal norms after July. Despite near failed local agricultural production, the markets are primarily supplied by neighboring riverine production, which was largely below-average. The price for maize in Jamame of Lower Juba (8,125 SOS/kg) in August was 20 and 30 percent higher than both last year and five-year average while the price of maize in Marka of Lower Shabelle (8,225 SOS/kg) was 50 percent higher than last year and the five-year average, respectively. Prices have slightly decreased in September, due to some off-season riverine and late-planted agropastoral maize harvest in September.

Agricultural labor and the sale of livestock are two main sources of income for poor households. However, labor is slightly more important in Lower Shabelle and Middle Juba, whereas the sale of small livestock is slightly more important to livelihoods in Lower Juba. Currently, poor livestock-to-maize and labor-to-maize TOT are lowering household food access. In Marka of Lower Shabelle, the daily wage rate (SOS 64,375) is 4 percent below last year and 11 percent below the five-year average. Given the dip in the wage and high maize price, the labor-to-maize TOT (9kg) in August were 40 and 18 percent below the August 2018 and the five-year average. To cope, members of poor households are migrating to urban and riverine areas in search of labor and self-employment opportunities. A less severe trend is observed in Lower Juba (Jamame), where the August TOT (14kg) were 22 percent lower than last year, but 8 percent above the five-year average. It should be noted that the daily wage in August is actually among the highest recorded in August since 2010 (SOS 95,000) and is 10 percent above the five-year average. However, this is due to fewer people competing for available labor as most able men and women

Figure 13. Area of concern reference map, Southern Rainfed livelihood zone

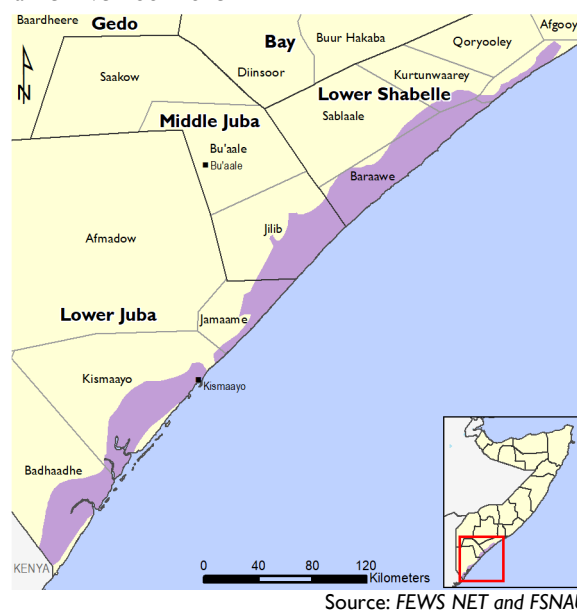
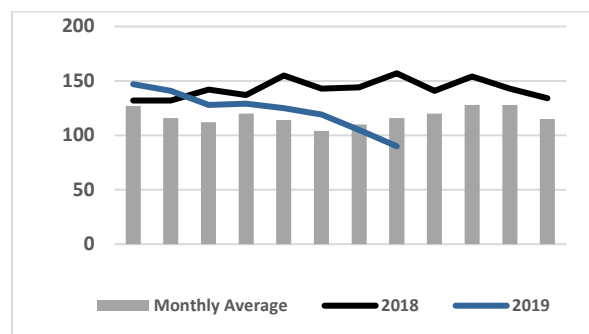


Figure 14. Kilograms of maize that can be bought with the sale of one goat in 2018 and 2019 compared to the five-year average, Jamame, Jilib, and Kismaayo districts, Lower and Middle Juba



Source: market data from FSNAU

escaped from the conflict and migrated to Kismayo, where port activity and labor demand is higher.

In Juba regions, increasing cereal prices and falling goat prices have reduced the livestock-to-maize TOT. In Juba reference markets (Jilib, Jamame and Kismayo) of Lower Juba, the price of a goat (782,500/head) is 25 percent below last year and 15 percent below the five-year average. The average goat-to-maize TOT in these markets (90 kg/local goat) fell 43 from August 2018 and 22 percent from five-year average (Figure 14). In contrast, the average local goat price in Lower Shabelle reference markets (Marka and Qoryoley) remains near average (SOS 1,641,250/head). This positive trend is attributed to sustained high demand in neighboring Mogadishu and, despite above-average maize prices, the goat-to-maize TOT are only 7 percent below the five-year average. Although the wage-to-cereal TOT is slightly more indicative of poor household's purchasing power in Lower Shabelle, some poor households are able to sell small livestock and benefit from this.

No nutrition assessment was conducted during the post-*Gu* assessment in this livelihood zone; however, a SMART survey conducted in neighboring Sorghum High Potential Agropastoral of Lower Shabelle recorded a GAM prevalence of 15.9 (CI: 14.0-24.4) percent indicating 'Critical' levels of malnutrition. This outcome was extrapolated to this livelihood. Since the time of the survey, most poor households have exhausted household stocks and milk production is atypically low. As a result, it is likely nutrition has further deteriorated from July to October. In all districts, poor households harvested poor volumes of cereal during the *Gu* and *Hagaa* seasons and are heavily dependent on markets to access food. Lower than normal agricultural activities and above-average maize prices are reducing household purchasing capacity. In Lower and Middle Juba, falling goat prices are further limiting household income. Given ongoing dry conditions through September, livestock body conditions have further deteriorated and income from livestock sales is even lower than reflected in August prices. It is likely many households are accessing food from markets through increasing debt. Poor households are unable to access adequate food to meet basic needs and are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and experiencing notable food consumption gaps.

Assumptions

In addition to the national-level assumptions described above, the following assumptions have been for this zone:

- Based on FEWS NET's integrated price projections for Qoryoley market in Lower Shabelle, maize prices are expected to remain above average through May. Due to poor *Gu* and *Hagaa* harvests and expected poor road accessibility due to above-average *Deyr* rainfall, cereal supplies are expected to be lower than normal at both the market and household level. Prices are expected to rise until the arrival of the harvest in January. After a moderate decline, prices are again likely to rise during the March-May agricultural lean season, reaching 14 percent above average.
- Some poor households are expected to atypically increase livestock sales from October through December while prices are high to support increased cereal purchases. Goat prices are expected to be slightly above average given low market supply from pastoral areas. Atypically high sales by agropastoral households are not expected from February to May, given harvest availability as well as increased supply from pastoral areas.
- Given expected river floods and flash floods in riverine and agropastoral lowlands, reduced cropping activities is likely during *Deyr* season, affecting labor migration opportunities and agriculture labor income. However, after flood water recedes, off-season *Deyr* production is expected to be above normal, providing labor income from weeding and desilting. Many poor households, especially in Lower and Middle Shabelle, will likely engage in increased sesame cropping between December/January to increase income and recoup losses from missed planting in the main *Deyr*.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Most households have already depleted their cereal stocks and face poor TOT, which is lowering purchasing capacity at a time when households are atypically market dependent. From October to January, household food security will improve only slightly, as rainfall increases rangeland conditions and livestock productivity increases. Poor households are expected to earn some income from agricultural labor and increase livestock sales to purchase food, but total income will be below average. Since *Gu* production in riverine areas was also below average, which sources markets in Lower Shabelle, cereal prices are expected to rise through January and constrain food access. Household food security will slightly improve with seasonal increases in livestock and milk production, but many will still face food consumption gaps and will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Normal cereal stocks from the *Deyr* harvest are expected to last as usual in March. With improved income-earning opportunities and average to good livestock body conditions as a result of the effects of the above-average *Deyr* rains following a mild *Jilaal* dry season, household purchasing capacity is expected to improve from January to May. Towards the end of this period, goat prices typically rise due to high demand for *Ramadhan* restocking. Households are also likely to send

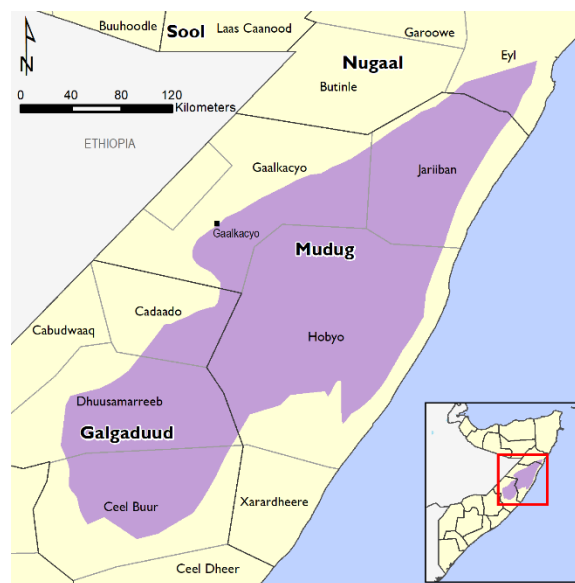
household members to neighboring riverine areas or main towns to access labor, and to increase milk sales while reducing consumption levels. However, income from labor and livestock sales will unlikely suffice to pay off debts and purchase essential food needs, as saleable livestock availability will be low and competition for jobs will be high. From February to May, food security outcomes will likely improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) though a significant number of people are likely to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). An analysis of the historical nutrition survey data conducted among agropastoral areas of Lower Shabelle from 2001-2018 indicate a typical 'Serious' (GAM WHZ 10 to 14.9 percent) level of acute malnutrition for the October to January period and a 'Critical' level (GAM WHZ 15 to 30 percent) for the February to May period. It is anticipated that acute malnutrition will follow the above seasonal trends.

Addun Pastoral livelihood zone

Current Situation

Recurrent drought since 2016, combined with ongoing inter-clan conflict in Galgaduud and Mudug, continue to drive elevated food insecurity across this zone and especially in central Addun. The 2019 *Gu* rains were delayed and limited to a three-week period in May, which brought only temporary relief to pasture and browse conditions and did not fully replenish water sources. The *Hagaa* season was very hot, dry, and windy, leading to rapid deterioration in vegetation. Most communal dams and private water reservoirs (*berkads*) quickly dried up again, and most households are relying on water trucking for domestic and livestock use. In September, water prices were SOS 19,500 per 200-liter drum in Dhusamareeb of Galgaduud and Xarardheere of Mudug, which is 44 and 19 percent higher than the 2018 and five-year averages, respectively. The situation is exacerbated by conflict, which limits out-migration options to northern or cross-border areas for local pastoralists in central Addun. According to UNHCR PRMN, 64 percent of new displacement in Galgaduud and Mudug in 2019 has been driven by conflict/insecurity. Although the *Deyr* rains had an early onset in October and have been above average in most areas, the cumulative amount remains below 100 mm and pasture regeneration is occurring slowly. A faster pace of improvement in pasture and water resource availability has been impeded by the associated rise in grazing pressure as livestock quickly migrate within the livelihood zone to areas that receive rain.

Figure 15. Area of concern reference map, Addun Pastoral livelihood zone



Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

Most poor households have struggled to recover their livestock assets since experiencing heavy losses in the 2016/2017 drought, and the average poor household's herd size has declined since 2018. In 2019, poor rainfall has restricted livestock conception rates and resulted in excess goat and sheep mortalities during the *Gu* and spontaneous abortions during the *Gu* and *Hagaa*. In central Addun, sales and off-take of livestock continue to outpace births and, based on FSNAU's post-*Hagaa* assessment in September, it is estimated that the average herd size consists of only 25 goats/sheep and 2 camels, compared to 36 shoats and 2 camels in the 2018/19 *Deyr* and 57 shoats and 3 camels in the baseline year. Livestock body conditions are currently poor across species, with many in weak condition. Households have had to increase their expenditures on water and cereals to feed their animals, given deficient pasture. In addition to the limitations imposed by clan conflict, many poor pastoralists have been unable to migrate their animals by foot due to their condition and the high cost of motorized migration.

Household food access has consequently declined, despite the prevailing favorable goat-to-cereals TOT. In local key reference markets, livestock prices remain above the five-year average due to low market supply, while the prices of rice and wheat flour are only marginally above the 2018 and five-year average. However, household income from livestock and milk sales is severely constrained, as most do not have an adequate number of animals in saleable condition or sufficient quantities of own-produced milk to sell. In addition, other typical sources of income such as casual labor, sales of natural resource products, and petty trade activities remain below normal due to the increase in the number of people pursuing these activities without a corresponding increase in demand. Most poor households are relying on credit to purchase food, as well as cash or in-kind gifts and community support when available. Combined with additional expenditures on water and animal feed, the average debt level is now likely higher than the average debt of USD 400-500 that poor households reported in July, which was roughly equivalent to the value of 8-10 goats or 30-80 percent of the average herd size. According to data on humanitarian food

assistance distributions from the Somalia Food Security Cluster, humanitarian assistance has reached less than 25 percent of the population in the districts of this livelihood zone since July.

At the time of the post-*Gu* in July, the temporary boost in vegetation from the late *Gu* rains and, consequently, livestock body conditions, combined with a seasonal increase in gifts during religious festivities, had improved food security outcomes to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) for the majority of poor households. However, given current poor food access and milk availability in October, many poor households are again experiencing food gaps indicative of Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in central Addun Pastoral areas of Galgaduud and southern Mudug, in areas south of the Puntland region. In contrast, due to higher herd sizes assets, lower levels of insecurity, and freedom of migration northward within Puntland, poor households in northeastern Addun Pastoral areas are sustaining Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes. Based on the post-*Gu* analysis of nutrition outcomes, acute malnutrition has also likely deteriorated but remains within Serious (GAM WHZ 10-14.9 percent) levels.

Assumptions

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

- Based on rainfall accumulation to date and the current condition of vegetation and livestock migration, pasture availability is not expected to reach normal levels until mid-November. As rangeland resource availability and livestock body conditions improve, livestock migration patterns are likely to return to normal within the livelihood zone for the remainder of the scenario period. However, migration out of central areas of Addun Pastoral livelihood zone will continue to be restricted due to clan conflict.
- Due to low livestock conception levels and subsequent abortions in the 2019 *Gu* and *Hagaa*, a low level of births is expected during the 2019 *Deyr*. Further, due to the significantly low livestock herd sizes – especially in central Addun –, conception levels in the 2019 *Deyr* and births in the 2020 *Gu* are expected to remain low. As a result, herd sizes are likely to remain stagnant through May (Table 1). Although the few births during the *Deyr* and *Gu* will produce some milk for consumption and sales, milk availability will remain below normal given the low number of milking animals.

Table 1. Observed and projected average herd size from July 2019 to May 2020 compared to the average baseline herd size in 2015 among poor households, central Addun Pastoral livelihood zone

	2019 <i>Gu</i> (Jul. '19)	Births (Jul.-Oct. '19)	Sales (Jul.-Oct. '19)	Start of 2019 <i>Deyr</i> (Sep. '19)	Projected Births (Nov. '19-May '20)	Projected Sales (Nov '19- May '20)	2020 <i>Gu</i> (May '20)	Baseline Herd Size (2015)
camel	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	3
goats/sheep	28	0	3	25	6	4	27	57

Source: FEWS NET and FSNAU

- Based on FEWS NET and FSNAU's integrated price analysis, the price of a local goat in Galkayo reference market is expected to remain above average throughout the scenario period, ranging from 30 to 45 percent above the five-year average. High prices are expected to be sustained due to continued low supply as a result of low conceptions and low household livestock holdings.

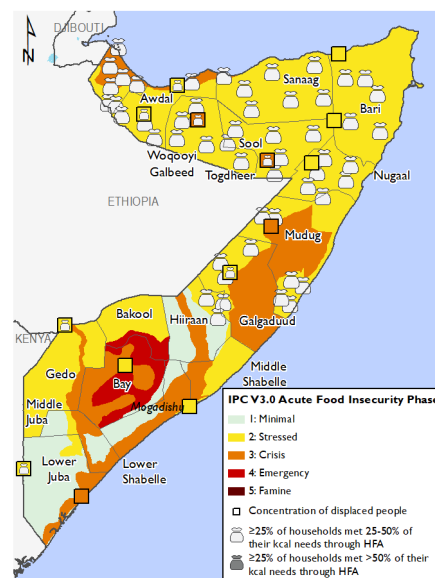
Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Given a low number of marketable or milking animals, below-average income from casual labor and trade, and high debt levels, poor households in central Addun Pastoral areas are expected to continue to have below-average income that is inadequate to meet their food needs without further depleting their livelihood assets. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are likely to persist through May. Poor households are most likely to continue to seek credit for food purchases, but will be constrained in their ability to do so given existing high debt and traders' declining ability to provide more. Most poor households are expected to sustain food consumption gaps, even after selling some productive animals. Given small herd sizes and limited availability of animals for sale, only two goat sales are likely in the *Deyr* and two goat sales in the *Gu*. Young sheep and goats that were born in the 2019 *Jilaal* will not reach maturity and be available for sale (roughly 4-5 heads) until the 2020 *Jilaal*. This small increment in livestock holdings will help pay for some of the debts beside other household needs, but after accounting for births and sales, herd sizes are most likely to remain fairly stagnant. In contrast, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are likely to be maintained throughout the scenario period in northeastern Addun Pastoral areas.

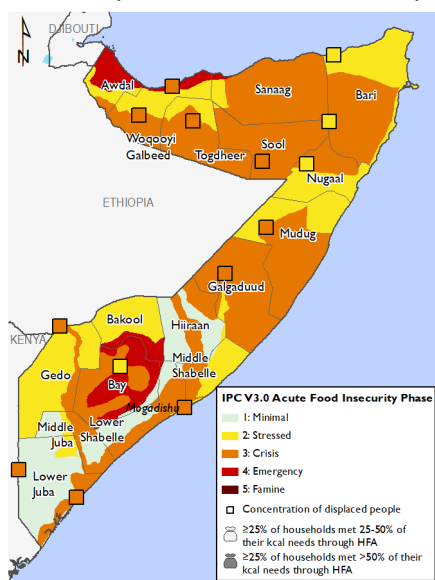
MOST LIKELY FOOD SECURITY OUTCOMES AND AREAS RECEIVING SIGNIFICANT LEVELS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE*

Each of these maps adheres to IPC v3.0 humanitarian assistance mapping protocols and flags where significant levels of humanitarian assistance are being/are expected to be provided. ☐ indicates that at least 25 percent of households receive on average 25–50 percent of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance (HFA). ☑ indicates that at least 25 percent of households receive on average over 50 percent of caloric needs through HFA. This mapping protocol differs from the (!) protocol used in the maps at the top of the report. The use of (!) indicates areas that would likely be at least one phase worse in the absence of current or programmed humanitarian assistance.

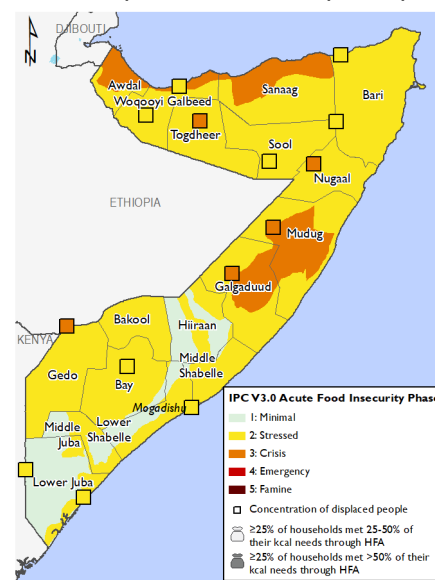
Current, October 2019



Projected food security outcomes, October 2019 to January 2020



Projected food security outcomes, February to May 2020



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

ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

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