

Food Security and Nutrition

January 2006 Monthly Brief

Highlights: Post *Deyr* 2005/6 Seasonal Assessment

Following early indications of a seriously deteriorating food security situation in Southern Somalia, FSAU and FEWSNET began to issue early warnings in November '05, advanced the timeline of its *Deyr* assessment fieldwork, and expanded both the duration and coverage of fieldwork in the South in order to generate a more in-depth understanding of the rapidly evolving crisis. Fieldwork by FSAU with FEWSNET Somalia and another forty different partners was undertaken throughout December '05. Fieldwork was followed by a series of regional analysis workshops and an overall consolidation analysis workshop held the first week of January '06. Results were presented to TFG, UN, INGO/NGO agencies, donor agencies and other partners at the SACB/FSRD meeting on January 18, 2006. This Monthly Brief highlights the key findings of this assessment and analysis. The full FSAU Technical Series Report of the analysis will be released by the first week of February '06.

KEY FINDINGS

An estimated **1.7 million people** in the North, Central and Southern Regions of Somalia are facing conditions of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis or Humanitarian Emergency**¹ at least until June 2006 (*Table 1 and Map 1*). If IDPs (*Internally Displaced Populations*) are included, estimated at **380,000**, the total number of people in need of assistance throughout the country is **2.1 million people**. The crisis is especially severe in the Southern regions of Somalia, where an estimated **1.4 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance**. Results confirm previous early warnings of crop failure; considerable livestock deaths, rapidly increasing cereal prices, falling livestock prices, abnormal population movements, and extreme shortages of, and limited access to, **water and food** (*see FSAU Monthly Briefs for November and December 2005*).

Depending on humanitarian response and access, the potential risks for outbreaks of resource based conflict, and food and water supply shortages, FSAU further warns that there is a **Moderate Risk of Famine** in the coming months for the area around Gedo region (*Map 1*). Threats against the humanitarian community in the last few days have led to the suspension of flights, and therefore access to, Garbaharey and Luq districts in Gedo. This recent incident underscores the potential for conflict, the complexity of the situation, and implications for humanitarian response.

Further stressing the plight of the people in the South is that the drought is **regional in nature**, extending into **Ethiopia and Kenya** and covering large areas of the greater **Somali livelihood system**. The regional scope of this drought translates directly into fewer coping options within the greater Somali livelihood system (e.g. reduced migration and stretched social support) and greater stress on already limited resources. FSAU initiated a series of cross border meetings with technical food security partners in Kenya and Ethiopia to develop an analytical and consistent understanding of the food security crisis in the bordering regions. This initial cross-border technical collaboration between regional partners (FEWSNET, WFP, SC(UK), CARE, UNDP, USAID, OXFAM, ALRMP, OCHA, MOA) and the application of the Food Security Phase Classification to the regional drought clearly delineates the extent and severity of the humanitarian crisis (*Map 2*).

The Southern region is faced with a crisis that will continue and likely to deepen over the coming year. The effects of the drought will only be compounded and worsen over the long Jilaal dry season (Jan-April) and depending on the extent of the loss of livelihoods and lives during this period, the region will require continued humanitarian and development support for several months to come. If the *Gu* '06 rains (April-June) fail or are again below normal in the southern region, the entire region will face a humanitarian crisis on a scale that could be comparable to the 1993 famine in Southern Somalia.

It must be emphasized that the humanitarian response needed for the current crisis is a **multi-sector, 'twin-track' approach**² - addressing both the immediate life saving needs (food, water, health, nutrition), but also simultaneously addressing the medium-term livelihood needs in terms of the protection and rehabilitation of productive assets (livestock, seeds and tools, boreholes, water catchments, irrigation canals, rangelands). If the focus is only on addressing immediate needs – whole livelihood systems could degenerate into relief-reliant communities, deepening poverty and prolonging the humanitarian crisis.

IMPLICATIONS FOR RESPONSE:

- **Response:** A full range of response options is necessary, including: food aid, cash assistance, water relief and rehabilitation, livestock herd survival programmes (including destocking and breeding stock protection), health and nutrition assistance, and protection of vulnerable groups.
- **Timeframe of Response:** **Jan. - May:** Humanitarian response focused on immediate needs and medium-term protection and rehabilitation of assets. **June – Dec.:** If *Gu* '06 rains are good, continuation of immediate needs assistance for most vulnerable populations and full continuation of activities focused on protection and rehabilitation of assets. If *Gu* '06 rains fail, increased and continued immediate needs response with expanded coverage and intensity.
- **Implementation of Response:** Somali authorities, civil society, and humanitarian actors urgently need to step up interventions to prevent a large scale disaster. Somali leaders will be critical to ensuring security and access to affected areas.

continued page 2

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Highlights continued

- **Financial Response:** Donors must urgently ensure implementing agencies and organizations have the full financial backing to implement the necessary responses. As demonstrated in previous crises, the Somali Diaspora can play a key role through remittances to help mitigate the crisis.
- **Consistent Regional Response:** A balanced, needs-based humanitarian response for the entire drought affected region (Somalia, Ethiopia & Kenya) is necessary in order to prevent a further escalation of the crisis through cross border population movements and outbreaks of conflict over resources.
- **Crisis as Opportunity:** The severity of the crisis will provoke critical awareness of Somalia's situation from both the international community and Somali people's perspective. Harnessed constructively, this energy can be used to address key underlying issues that will continue to undermine Somali livelihoods indefinitely if left unchecked. Key opportunities include: 1) demonstration of the benefits of a functioning civil society through TFG leadership, 2) reversing the trend of massive and nearly irreversible degradation of rangelands through deforestation for charcoal production, and 3) others.

Table 1: Estimated Population in Humanitarian Emergency (HE) and Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC), inclusive of the High Risk Groups.

Affected Regions	Estimated Population ¹	Assessed and Contingency Population in AFLC and HE		
		Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) ^{2,3,4}	Humanitarian Emergency (HE) ^{2,3,4}	Total in AFLC or HE as % of Region Population
North				
Bari	235,975	45,000	0	19
Nugal	99,635	20,000	0	20
Sanag	190,455	55,000	0	29
Sool	194,660	50,000	0	26
Togdheer	302,155	40,000	0	13
Coastal (fishing)		20,000		
Subtotal	1,022,880	230,000	0	22
Central				
Galgadud	319,735	40,000	0	13
Mudug	199,895	20,000	0	10
Subtotal	519,630	60,000	0	12
South				
Bakol	225,450	45,000	105,000	67
Bay	655,686	130,000	395,000	80
Gedo	375,280	80,000	180,000	69
Hiran	280,880	55,000	0	20
Lower Juba	329,240	60,000	115,000	53
Middle Juba	244,275	50,000	120,000	70
Subtotal	2,110,811	420,000	915,000	63
Total	3,653,321	710,000	915,000	44
Assessed and Contingency Population Numbers in AFLC or HE		1,625,000		20⁸
Urban Populations in Crisis Areas in the South⁵		30,000		0⁸
Combined Assessed, Urban & Contingency Populations in AFLC and HE		1700000⁶		23⁸
Estimated Number of IDPs⁷		400,000		5⁸
Estimated Total Population in Crisis		2,100,000		29⁸

1 Source: WHO 2004. Note this only includes population figures in affected regions.

2 Estimated numbers are rounded to the nearest five thousand.

3 Estimated numbers based on resident population not considering current or anticipated migration.

4 Estimated numbers are inclusive of population at High Risk to HE or AFLC (estimated at 210,000) for purposes of contingency planning.

5 Initial urban population in Southern Somalia in crisis roughly estimated as 30% and 20% of urban population in HE and AFLC areas respectively.

6 Actual numbers 1,655,000, however numbers are rounded to 1,700,000 for purposes of rough planning and ease of communication.

7 Source: UN-OCHA updated April 2004 (376,630) and UNHCR IDP map Dec'2005 (407,000), rounded to 400,000 as an estimate.

8 Estimated percentage of the total population for Somalia; 7,309,266 WHO 2004.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

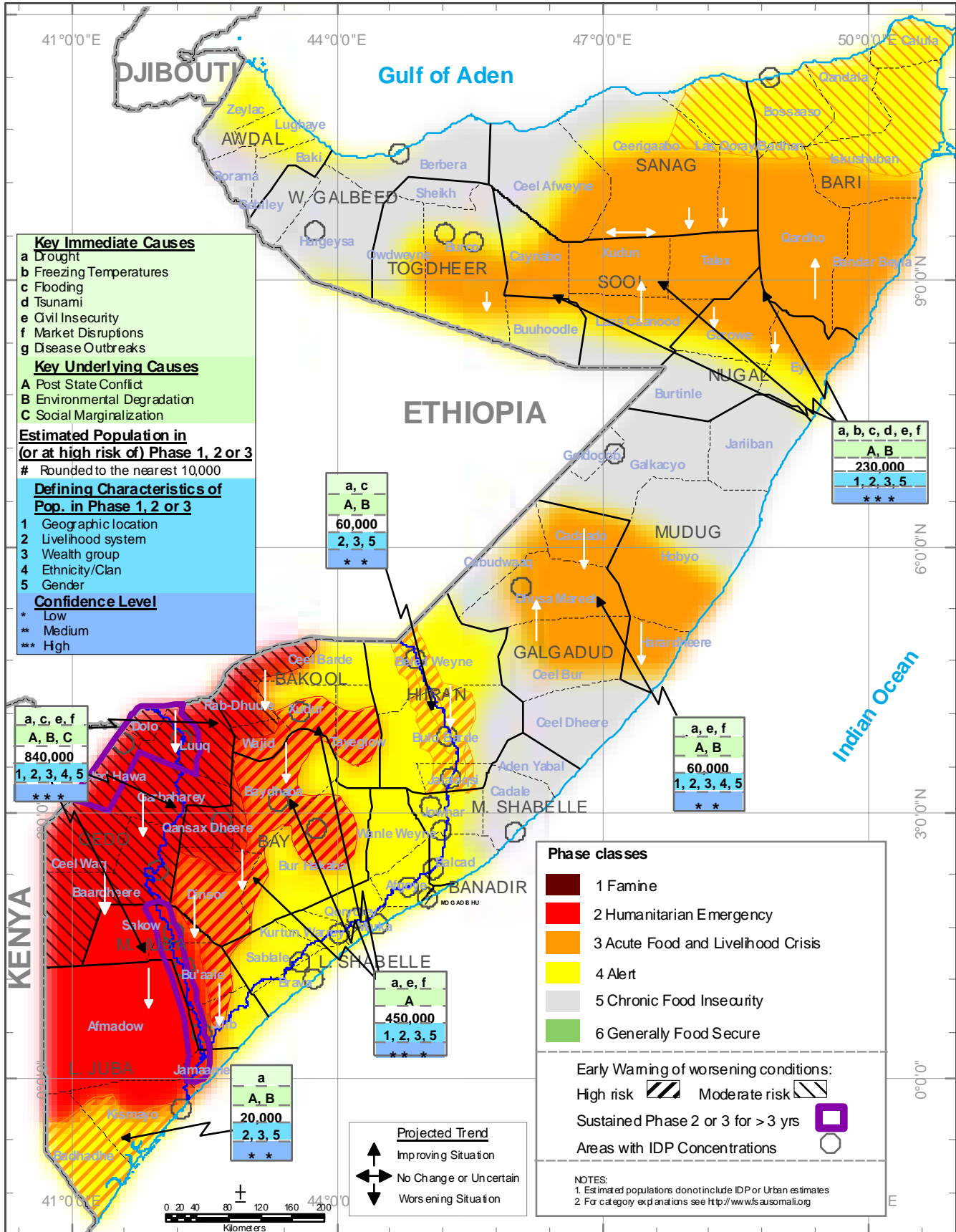
• SOUTHERN REGION

Southern Somalia is currently facing a dire **Humanitarian Emergency** with a severity that rivals other current humanitarian crises in the world. An estimated **1.4 million** people in Gedo, Juba, Bay, Bakol and Hiran regions are facing conditions of either **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis or Humanitarian Emergency** and are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance (Map 1 and Table 1). Of this 1.4 million people, **870,000** people in Gedo, Juba and parts of Bay and Bakol are currently identified in state of **Humanitarian Emergency**. Gedo, the most severely drought affected area within the region, is also identified at a **Moderate Risk to Famine** in the coming months. It should be highlighted that there are two areas within this Humanitarian Emergency area, which were already in a prolonged state (longer than 3 years) of Chronic Humanitarian Emergency, that of Northern Gedo (Belet Hawa, Dolo and part of Luq) and Juba Riverine (Sakow, Buale Jilib and Jamame) (Map 1). Another **450,000** people in parts of Bakol, Bay, and Juba are currently in a state of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis** and are at a **High Risk** of falling into a state of **Humanitarian Emergency** before June '06.

The current crisis is primarily due to the impact of two consecutive very poor rainy seasons (below normal *Gu* '05 rains, followed by a completely failed *Deyr* '05 rains), compounded by ongoing civil insecurity. All livelihood systems (agro-pastoralists, pastoralists and riverine agriculturalists), are affected by this drought. Access to food and income is severely stressed due to a combination of poor crop and livestock production, limited income options (wage labour and sale of production), asset losses (cereal and livestock), and deteriorating terms of trade (increasing cereal prices and falling livestock prices). Even before this crisis, acute malnutrition rates in many of the affected areas were already among the worst in the region reaching over 20% W/H <-2 Z scores or oedema in parts of Gedo. Early indications of deteriorating nutrition status trends are already observed in many of the worst affected areas (parts of Belet Hawa, Luuq, Dinsor, Qansah Dere, Baidoa, Rab Dhure, El Barde and Afmadow).

SOMALIA FOOD SECURITY SITUATION ANALYSIS:

Post Deyr 2005/6 Projection, January 2006 Through June 2006



Updated: January, 2006

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Cereal production for the year in Gedo, Juba, Bay and Bakol is considered an almost complete crop failure, ranging between 9-23% of annual PWA. Cereal prices in Gedo, Juba and Bay and Bakol are increasing rapidly, 50% between Nov.-Dec. alone and are expected to continue to increase sharply in the coming months. Sorghum prices, generally a cheaper cereal, are now higher than the maize prices in Shabelle and are at their highest levels in the last five years. In Gedo, sorghum prices have more than doubled since Sept. '05.

Pasture and water is severely depleted, with the worst affected regions being Gedo, followed by Juba, Bay and Bakool. Already an estimated 20-30% of the cattle in Gedo have died due to lack of pasture, water and drought related disease, and preliminary estimates are that upwards to 80% of the cattle will die by April. Due to poor body condition, cattle prices have plummeted by over 50% in the past few months. Pastoralists are engaging in a range of distress coping strategies including abnormal migration, inducing still births to save breeding stock, skinning animals for their hide, sale of breeding animals, exposing animals to tsetse fly infested areas, and conducting 'compassion slaughtering' of weak animals as they move from place to place in search of water. The regional nature of this drought (Map 2), further worsens the plight of pastoralists as it means that there are limited options for migration, as well as increased pressure on water and pasture due to in-migrating livestock from Kenya and Ethiopia.

CENTRAL REGION

The area recovering from a previous stage of Humanitarian Emergency continues to remain in a state of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis** (Map 1). There is a trend of improvement in most of Galgadud, but within northern Galgadud and south Mudug (between Adado/Gelinsor, Hobyo and Harar Dere) the situation is deteriorating due to the uncertainty surrounding the ongoing conflict. A total of **60,000 people are estimated to be in a continuing state of Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis**, of which 40,000 are in Galgadud and 20,000 in south Mudug (Table 1).

Deyr '05/'06 rainfall in most inland pastoral areas was 80% of normal, with some areas up to 150% above normal. This is further supporting recovery in the area, especially as it follows above normal Gu '05 rains, as well as good Deyr 2004/5 rains. While much of Galgadud benefited from improvements in security, unresolved conflict in south Mudug and northern Galgadud continues to hinder livelihood recovery. Clan conflict boundaries are disrupting the migrations of people and livestock, and have affected access to markets and hindered commercial trade. Concentrations of IDPs from the current insecurity are present in Dusa Mareb, Adado, Bandiradley and Harar Dere. Although there are pockets of water shortages in some areas, pasture conditions are considered normal and recovery signs include improved livestock conditions, and continuing recovery in livestock productivity and reproduction.

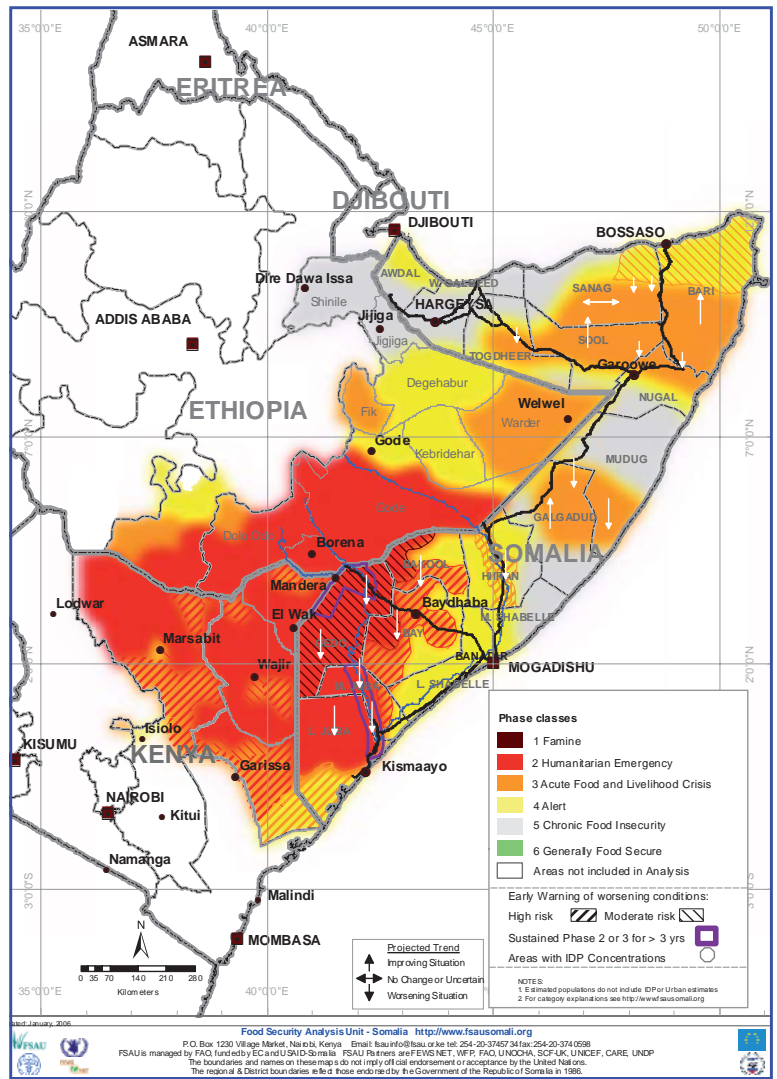
NORTHERN REGION

Overall the area recovering from a three year drought and humanitarian emergency continues to remain in a state of **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis** due to the lag time in livelihood recovery given the cumulative livestock deaths, reduced herd sizes and continuing indebtedness (Map 1). **An estimated 230,000 people are in state of Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis** and require immediate livelihood support. This includes the worst affected households who lost most of their assets (an estimated 31,000 people) who are now concentrated in pockets of urban areas and small towns throughout the region and an estimated 20,000 people from the coastal fishing zone affected by the Tsunami (Table 1).

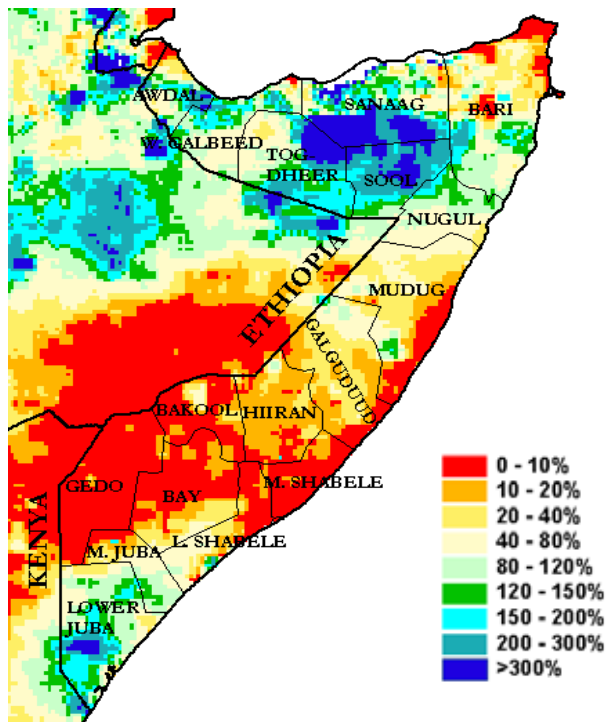
Pastoral livelihood recovery continues in most areas, following generally above normal Deyr '05 rains, which follows the exceptionally good Gu '05 rains and the above normal Deyr '04 rains. In the pockets that received poor Deyr '05 rains (within the Hawd of Togder, and districts of Taleh, Hudun, Bandabeyla, Gardo, Badan and Dahar) livelihood recovery is threatened as the loss of pack animals limits pastoral mobility and access to available water sources. Water trucking has commenced unseasonably early and expenditure on water and animal transport, as well as competition for existing pasture resources is increasing in these areas.

Northeast Bari (within Qandala, Alula and Iskushuban districts), the Hawd of Hargeisa, the southeast of the Hawd of Togder, and the Awdal and Marodi Jeh coastal zone are all identified in an **Alert** phase (Map 1). In all these areas Deyr '05 rains were below normal, leading to limited and deteriorating water and/or pasture availability, increasing distances between water and pasture resources, and abnormal migration patterns. The situation in northeast Bari is considered more severe and is identified at a **Moderate Risk** of deteriorating to **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis**. All of these areas in **Alert** require close monitoring over the coming long Jilaal dry season (Jan.-April).

Map 2. Somalia Cross Border Food Security Situation Analysis: Post Deyr 2005/6 Projection, January 2006 Through June 2006

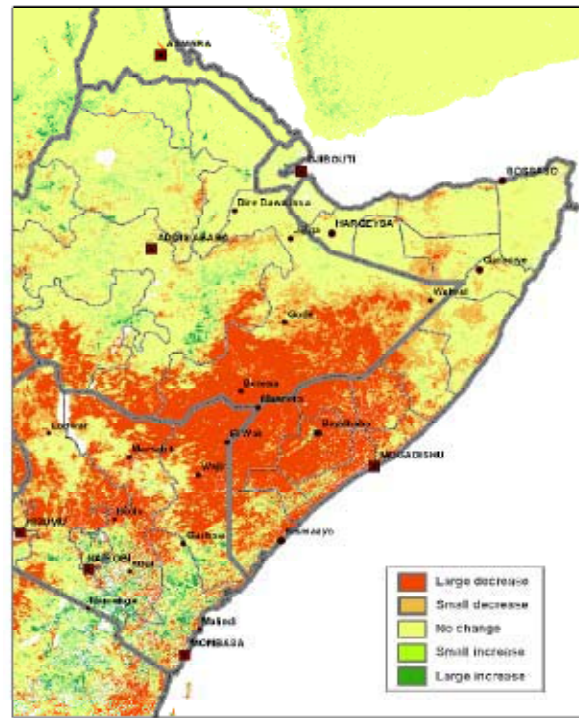


Map 3. Percent of Normal rainfall Oct 1 – Dec 30, 2005



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Map 4. NDVI Absolute Difference 3rd Dekad Nov Act-Prev - 2005



Source: JRC MARS / FSAU

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

CLIMATE

Deyr 2005/06 season rains (October-December) generally started late in the south and parts of central regions and were poorly distributed in terms of time and spatial coverage. *Deyr* rains in many parts of southern Somalia are 0-10% of the long term mean for the season, which is considered a complete rainfall failure (Map 3). *Deyr* rains, similarly, failed in the neighboring border regions of Kenya and Ethiopia. This poor *Deyr* rainfall performance is further compounded by the fact that the previous main seasonal rains, *Gu* 2005 rains (April-June), were also largely below normal in much of the south, ranging between 20-50% of long term mean in parts of Bay, Shabele and Hiran, and between 50-80% of long term mean in Gedo, Juba and Bakol. Satellite images of vegetation coverage (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index, NDVI) clearly indicate a severe lack of vegetative cover in most of the agro-pastoral and pastoral areas in the southern region (Map 4). In the north, *Deyr* 2005/06 rains were largely normal, with the exception of pockets in eastern Sanag, northeast Bari and parts of Hawd and Awdal region bordering Djibouti.

AGRICULTURE

Deyr '05/06 cereal production in the southern Somalia, estimated at 42,400 MT, is the lowest *Deyr* production in a decade (39% of *Deyr* Post War Average or PWA, 34% of last *Deyr*). Two regions, Middle Juba and Lower Juba, experienced almost complete crop failure with estimated production levels less than 10% *Deyr* PWA (L. Juba 1% and M. Juba 7% of *Deyr* PWA). Cereal production estimates in another four regions (the Sorghum Belt) were also extremely poor, less than 20% *Deyr* PWA (Bakol 13%, Gedo 14%, Hiran 16% and Bay 23%). In addition, maize production estimates in Middle and Lower Shabelle was also significantly below normal, 50% and 64% of *Deyr* PWA respectively. Combined with the very poor cereal production estimate of the preceding *Gu* '05 season, which was also the lowest cereal production in a decade, translates into an overall annual cereal production (*Gu* '05 plus *Deyr* '05/'06) which is 50% of PWA and the lowest annual cereal production in a decade. The Annual Cereal Balance Sheet (June '05-May '06) was updated with *Deyr* production estimates and actual food aid distributions to Dec. '05. The results indicate that there will potentially be an overall shortfall in cereal supply of approximately 100,000 MT. Two consecutive seasons of below normal sorghum and maize production is already resulting in increased cereal prices. On average, sorghum prices throughout the Sorghum Belt (Gedo, Bay, Bakol and Hiran) have reached their highest levels in the last five years and are now even higher than maize prices in Shabelle. In the Sorghum Belt, on average sorghum prices have doubled since Sept. '05 and in the last month alone increased by 50% between Nov.-Dec. '05. Maize prices in Juba have also increased sharply by 40% between Nov. and Dec. '05.

In contrast, *Karan* (harvested in Nov. '05) cereal production in the northwest agro-pastoral areas (Awdal, Galbed and Togdher) is estimated at 160% above normal *Karan* cereal production. Although, this above normal production will benefit the northwestern region, it only contributes roughly 26,000 MT to the total domestic cereal production.

LIVESTOCK

Livestock body conditions, production and reproduction throughout most of the South is extremely poor and severely stressed due to limited water and pasture as the result of the compounding effects of a poor *Gu* '05 (April – June) and failed *Deyr* '05/'06 (October-December) rains. Cattle, the main livestock species in Gedo, Juba Valley and parts of Bay and Bakool regions, are the hardest hit by the drought and their survival over the coming long Jilaal dry season (January-April) is precarious at best. It is estimated that 20-30% of the cattle have already died in Gedo and parts of Juba Valley due to the lack of water, pasture and drought-related diseases. Preliminary estimates are that upwards to 80% of the cattle in Gedo could perish by April, before the next rains are expected. Abnormal livestock migration to Juba riverine areas has occurred since August '05, but is now increased and intensified. Abnormal migration of pastoralists from northeast Kenya to the Juba riverine area in search of water and pasture is worsening the situation by further depleting limited

