

Food Security and Nutrition

August 2005 Monthly Brief

Highlights: FSAU Post *Gu* 2005 Seasonal Assessment

In June/July FSAU with FEWSNET and other partners completed its post *Gu* 2005 food, nutrition and livelihood security assessment throughout Somalia. This Monthly Brief highlights key findings, and the full technical report will be released the end of August. This assessment updates FSAU's post Deyr 2004/05 analysis presented in February 2005 (see Technical Series Report No. IV. 3). Twenty UN agencies, INGOs, local NGOs and Somali authorities participated in the fieldwork and preliminary results were reviewed with stakeholders in regional meetings in Somalia and Somaliland, and with local and international partners in Nairobi.

KEY FINDINGS

An estimated 919,000 people are in need of immediate assistance in Somalia, of which 197,000 people are in a state of Humanitarian Emergency, 343,000 people face an Acute Livelihood Crisis, and a further 377,000 are IDPs (Table 1). In the North and Central regions, a second consecutive season of exceptionally good rains (*Gu* '05 and *Deyr* '04/05) confirms the end of a +3 year drought cycle and is stimulating a recovery of pastoral livelihoods. Despite this improvement there is a considerable lag time for full recovery given the severity of the previous emergency, therefore the area is identified in a state of **Acute Livelihood Crisis** and an estimated 254,000 people require immediate livelihood support. In addition, there are an estimated 28,000 destitute people who still are in a **Humanitarian Emergency**. In the South, the **Chronic Humanitarian Emergencies** in Juba and Gedo have deteriorated further and an estimated 169,000 people are in **Humanitarian Emergency** and another 91,000 are in an **Acute Livelihood Crisis** (Map 1 & Table 1).

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **In the North**, exceptionally good *Gu* '05 rains following on from above normal *Deyr* 2004/05 rains confirms the end of the +3 year drought cycle in the region and is stimulating a recovery in pastoral livelihoods. Overall the area is downgraded from Humanitarian Emergency, but remains in **Acute Livelihood Crisis** due to the lag time in livelihood recovery given the cumulative livestock deaths, reduced herd sizes, high level of indebtedness, and extent of environmental degradation (Map 1). An estimated 254,000 people are in an Acute Livelihood Crisis and require immediate livelihood support. An additional 28,000 destitute continue to remain in a state of **Humanitarian Emergency** and require immediate humanitarian assistance and livelihood support (Table 1). These destitute households are concentrated in pockets of urban areas and small towns throughout the region and continue to suffer from high acute malnutrition, near or complete asset depletion and high indebtedness.
- **In the Central Region**, pastoralists are benefiting from above normal *Gu* '05 rains, following on from the good *Deyr* 2004/5 rains. Overall, the area is downgraded from the previous Humanitarian Emergency, but remains in **Acute Livelihood Crisis** (Map 1). Average debt levels have reduced from previous levels, rangeland conditions have improved and livestock holdings are gradually increasing though malnutrition rates are still considered above the usual range for the region. However, unresolved conflict and continuing tension in the northern parts of

Galgadud and South Mudug continues to distort markets and hinder the migration of pastoralists. An estimated 57,000 people in Galgadud and south Mudug require livelihood support (Table 1). Further insecurity in the northern areas will delay livelihood recovery.

- **In the South**, previously defined areas of Humanitarian Emergency in northern Gedo and Juba riverine continue to be in a state of **Chronic Humanitarian Emergency** and the situation has deteriorated since the last seasonal assessment (Map 1). Immediate humanitarian assistance is required for these populations, estimated at 53,000 people in Gedo and 116,000 people in Juba (Table 1). In Gedo the situation is deteriorating due to below normal *Gu* '05 rains, increased cross border market and trade disruptions, and increased stress following influx of IDPs

Table 1: Post *Gu* Food Security Phase Classification: Estimated Populations

REGION	Region Population 2004	Livelihood Crisis ¹	Humanitarian Emergency (Level 2) ¹	Total in Need as % of Total Population ¹
North				
<i>Bari</i>	235,975	38,000	8,000	19
<i>Nugal</i>	99,635	16,000	3,000	19
<i>Sanag</i>	190,455	45,000	9,000	28
<i>Sool</i>	194,660	40,000	8,000	25
<i>Togdheer</i>	302,155	36,000	0	12
<i>Coastal (fishing)</i>		22,000		
Subtotal	1,022,880	197,000	28,000	22
Central				
<i>Galgadud</i>	319,735	38,000	0	12
<i>Mudug</i>	199,895	19,000	0	10
Subtotal	519,630	57,000	0	11
South				
<i>Bakol</i>	225,450	12,000	0	4
<i>Gedo</i>	375,280	59,000	53,000	30
<i>Lower Juba</i>	329,240	6,000	37,000	13
<i>Middle Juba</i>	244,275	14,000	79,000	38
Subtotal	1,174,245	91,000	169,000	22
Total	2,716,755	345,000	197,000	20
Assessed number in need of assistance			542,000	7 ²
Estimated number of IDPs			377,000 ³	5 ²
Total number in need of assistance			919,000⁴	13²

Footnotes: 1 Estimated population figures are rounded to the nearest thousand; 2 Percentage of the estimated total population for Somalia; 7,309,266 WHO 2004; 3 Source: UN-OCHA updated April 2004; 4 This figures do not include the urban poor.

from El Waq. The situation in Juba riverine is deteriorating as a result of devastating floods May/June, an almost complete Gu '05 crop failure (4% and 10% of PWA for Lower and Middle Juba respectively) and significantly increased cereal prices (45% increase in maize prices from April to June '05). The conflict area centering on Rab-Dhuure district (Map 1) is deteriorated from Alert to **Acute Livelihood Crisis** due to increased civil insecurity which is resulting in a worsening nutrition situation and increased population displacement.

All of Southern Somalia is identified in an **Alert Phase** due to increasing tension and uncertainty surrounding political divisions within the Somalia Transitional Federal Government (TFG). If widespread combat were to ensue it would have devastating effects on human lives and livelihoods. In addition to this overall Alert Phase, there are **region specific Alerts**, which include the areas bordering regional conflict affected areas of El Waq and Rab-Dhuure (all of Gabahare and Wajid districts and parts of Luuq, Hudur, Baidoa and El Barde Districts). These conflict 'overspill' areas are facing increased civil tension, market and labour disruptions, and an influx of IDPs. Other region specific areas on Alert include the Shabelle riverine and agro-pastoral areas due to two consecutive seasons of exceptionally below normal cereal production and Hiran riverine area following devastating floods in May/June.

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

CLIMATE

Gu '05 rains were significantly delayed (1-4 dekads) and also significantly below normal in most areas in the South (10-50% below normal in Shabelle Valley and 20-80% below normal in Juba Valley, Bay, Bakool and Hiran). Gu '05 rains in the Central and Northern regions, however, were generally on time and exceptionally good (160-300% above normal in Northwest and Northeast), with exceptions in parts of southwestern Togdheer (50-80% of normal).

AGRICULTURE

Gu '05 cereal production in the South is the lowest in a decade (44% of PWA and estimated at roughly 73,000 MT). In four regions cereal production is less than 10% of PWA (Hiran 3%, Middle Juba 4%, Gedo 7%, Lower Juba 10%), while another three regions it is between 30-50% of PWA (Bay 31%, Bakool 36%, Lower Shabelle 51%). In the South, Middle Shabelle is the only region recording above normal cereal production (116% of PWA) as the region benefited from high river levels and flood gravity irrigation. Crop establishment figures in the Northwest indicate that *Karan* cereal production will be above normal (190% of PWA with harvest expected in early November).

LIVESTOCK

In the North and Central Regions, water and pasture conditions are good to excellent in most places, livestock body conditions are good and improving and there is normal seasonal migration. Goat and sheep kidding is ongoing and kidding rates in the northern Livelihood Crisis areas are above normal (40-60% kidding rates). Camel calving is expected in Deyr '05. In the South, water and pasture conditions are generally normal in Bay, Bakool and Riverine areas in Shabelle, but stressed in Juba, Gedo and ago-pastoral areas of Shabelle. Livestock body conditions are generally normal, but there is unusually high cattle migration to riverine and coastal areas in Juba and Gedo disrupted migration in parts of Bay and Bakool due to civil insecurity and unusual migration from Shabelle to Bravo and Jilib Districts.

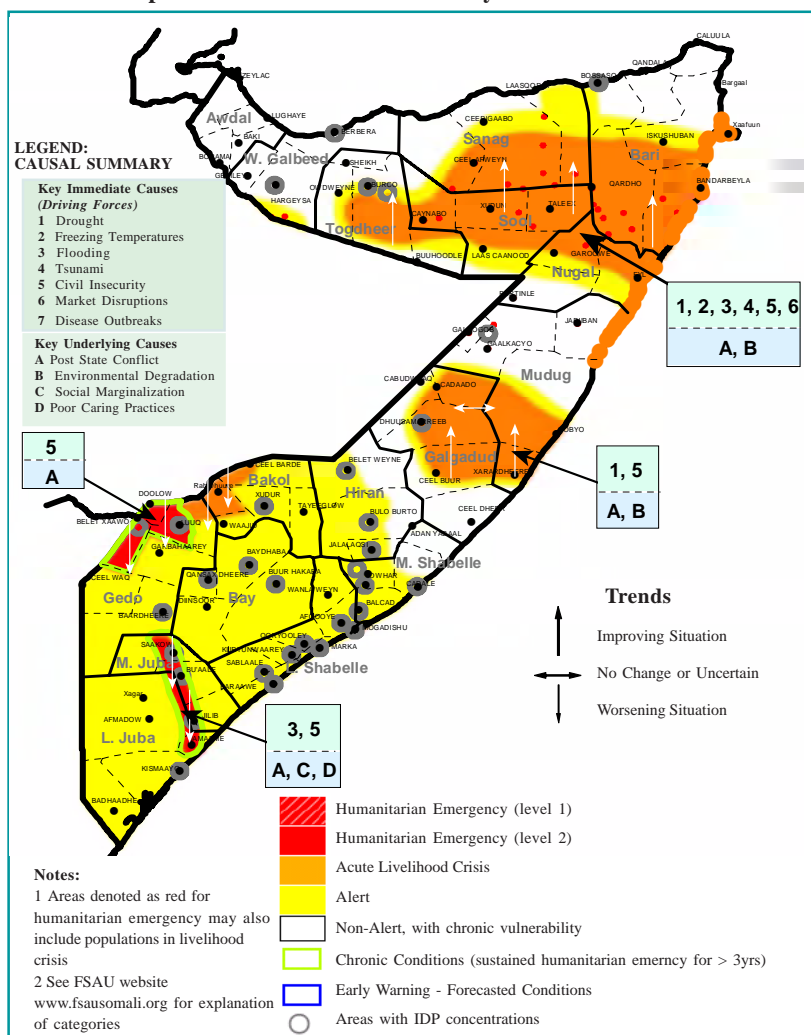
MARKETS

Both the Somali and Somaliland Shillings continue to remain stable over the last six months (6,100 SLSH/US\$ and 15,000 SSH/US\$). Imported rice prices in the North and Central Regions remained fairly stable through Gu '05 season. Maize prices in Shabelle and Juba increased significantly and steadily since April '05 (15% in Shabelle, 45% Juba between April-June 2005). Sorghum prices in the Sorghum Belt, though lower due to bumper Deyr 04/05 harvest, also began to increase in the last three months following a poor Gu '05 (43% April - June 2005).

NUTRITION

Malnutrition rates remain substantially higher than internationally accepted norms in most regions. In many parts of Bay, Bakool and Central regions as well as among the destitute and IDP families, levels of malnutrition are higher than those usually seen. Malnutrition rates are significantly worsened in Northern Gedo and parts of the Juba riverine areas.

Map 1: Post GU 2005 Food Security Phase Classification



The comprehensive Post Gu Analysis will be released as an FSAU technical series report at the end of August 2005

