Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Updates

VOLUME 2004

The ***GIEWS Updates*** are issued by FAO's **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)** from mid-2004. The updates focus on developing anomalous conditions aimed at providing early warnings, as well as latest and more elaborate information than other GIEWS regular reports on the food security situation of countries, at both national and sub-national levels.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

1 July 2004

PROLONGED DROUGHT IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN CUBA

A severe year-long drought is causing extensive damage to food crops and livestock in central and eastern Cuba. In the provinces of Camaguey, Holguin, Las Tunas, Granma, Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo, with about two million people, between April 2003 and May 2004 cumulative precipitation registered a deficit of more than 400 millimetres. This year, the month of May, usually the start of the rainy season, has been the driest in more than 40 years, with near-record temperatures and less than 60 per cent of normal precipitation. At the beginning of June, water levels in reservoirs in Santiago de Cuba, Granma and Las Tunas provinces were between 40 and 50 per cent of their capacity.

The drought is mainly affecting the livestock and sugarcane sectors. In Camaguey, historically Cuba's leading agricultural province, many sources of water on which livestock depend have dried up and preliminary indications suggest that about 36 000 head of cattle have died due to the shortage of forage and water. Surviving animals, watered mainly by tanker trucks, have lost substantial weight, while farmers are seeking alternative feed material, such as banana leaves and waste material from the sugar industry. Milk production also dropped in the most affected provinces.

Standing cane to be harvested from December has been seriously hit by the heat and the lack of water and planting of the new sugar cane crop is also delayed. Although official estimates of the damage are not yet available, early forecast point to a decline in 2004/05 raw sugar output, compared to this year's production. According to industry sources, prospects for coffee, paddy and citrus crops are also poor.

The urban areas of the affected provinces, especially the capital cities of Holguin, Camaguey and Las Tunas, are experiencing shortages of drinking water and people are essentially relying on water trucked in every five to ten days. Fuel shortage is complicating water distribution. The Government is adopting such emergency measures as sinking hundreds of new wells and building aqueducts with the aim to link cities to distant rivers and reservoirs.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

13 July 2004

FLOODING IN CENTRAL AND ATLANTIC NICARAGUA

During the last week of June, three tropical waves passed over Nicaragua with persistent torrential rains that caused several landslides and rivers overflows in central and north Atlantic departments. The Department of Matagalpa and the Autonomous Regions of the North and South Atlantic have been officially declared areas in "State of Natural Disaster". The worst affected areas were 15 villages in the Musún Mountains, nearby the town of Rio Blanco in the department of Matagalpa, and the communities along the banks of the Prinzapolka River in the Autonomous Region of the North Atlantic.

The official evaluation of damages to agriculture and livestock is not yet available. However, early forecast estimates that flooding affected an area of about 22 000 hectares of food and cash crops, approximately 7.3 per cent of the national area. Major damages are reported to the recently planted first season maize and beans crops. In the village of Estelí, in the department of Jinotega, losses of maize and bean crops are respectively estimated at about 33 and 36.5 per cent of the area planted. The departments of Matagalpa and Jinotega are important producing areas of maize, with more than 50 per cent of the national output of the first season crop (approximately 160 000 tonnes per year), and coffee, with about 70 per cent of the national production (approximately 42 000 tonnes of green coffee per year).

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

21 July 2004

MONITORING 2004 SEASONAL MONSOON IN ASIA

There is growing concern that India may face drought conditions in western and northern regions, while in India's eastern states, parts of Bangladesh and of Nepal have had the worst floods in 17 years. More than 20 million people have been affected by monsoon floods in South Asia, mostly in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. At least 400 people have been reportedly killed in the floods in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal. Thousands of hectares of agricultural land in these countries submerged.

Until further notice, we refer interested readers to the following links:

Terra Daily
India Meteorological Department (IMD)
Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD)
Department of Hydrology and Meteorology of Nepal (DHM)

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

4 August 2004

COLD WAVE EMERGENCY IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS OF PERU

A severe cold wave since late June has affected 8 departments in the southern highlands of Peru. The Government has declared a state of emergency in 26 high Andean provinces of the five most affected departments: Arequipa, Cusco, Huancavelica, Moquegua and Puno. The abrupt fall in temperatures, snow storms and frosts have adversely affected some 338 000 local people characterized by high levels of poverty, and has resulted in losses of pastures and livestock. While extreme cold waves are a recurrent problem in these areas, this year's agricultural damage appears to be above average levels. A full assessment of the situation is not yet available but a preliminary evaluation made by the Ministry of Agriculture, indicates that the adverse weather conditions have resulted in locally significant losses of livestock, estimated at about 250 000 heads, mostly sheep, llamas and alpacas. In addition, over 1.6 million heads of livestock are estimated to be at risk due to the reduced availability of pasture. The department that reported the highest number of losses is Puno, the main producing department of alpacas, llamas and sheep in the country. Damages to food crops have been limited, as the harvest of the main crops in these areas –mainly potatoes– had been completed just before the arrival of the cold wave.

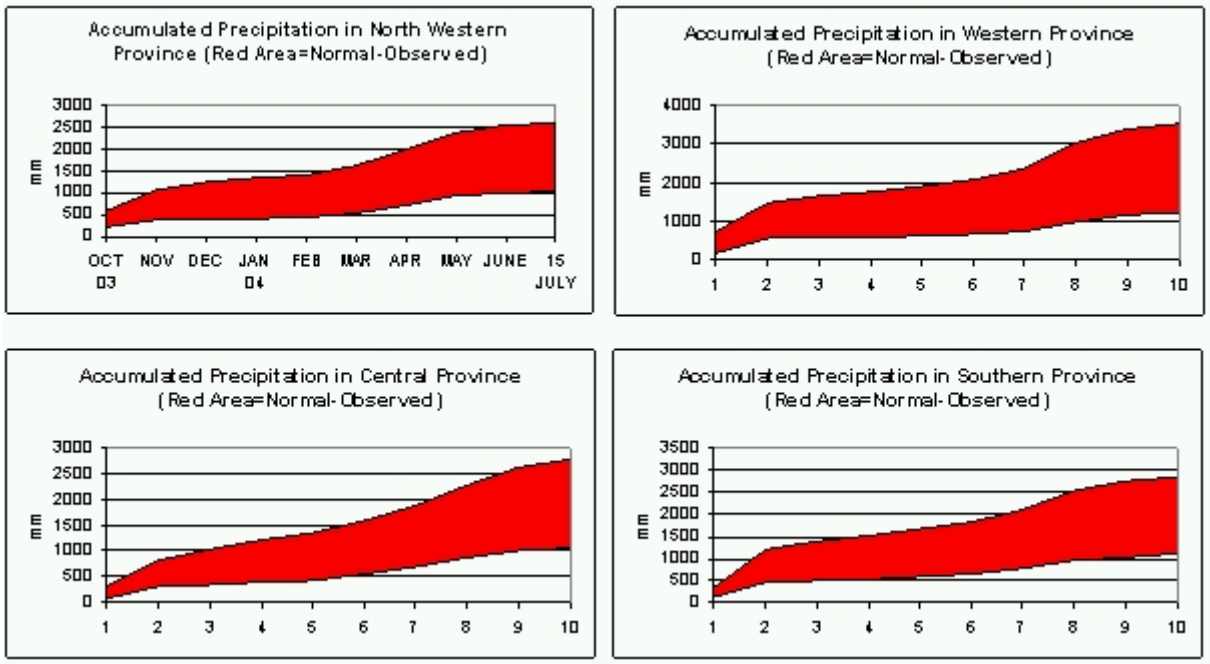
The current situation is of particular concern because, since the end of last year, these areas have been affected by several adverse climatic events, such as drought from October to December 2003, frosts from January to February 2004 and flooding in February 2004. The sequence of all these events is likely to have had a substantial impact on households' income, weakening the local capacity to cope with emergencies and increasing the already high vulnerability of rural families in these areas. It is important to closely monitor the start of the next agricultural season in September in order to timely detect early signs of an eventual food crisis.

Humanitarian assistance including food and non-food items is being distributed by the Government, in cooperation with international agencies, to the affected populations in the five emergency departments, as well as in the departments of Ayacucho, Apurimac and Tacna. By late July, contributions by international agencies amounted to US $ 1 million. In the departments of Cusco, Apurimac and high areas of Tacna, distributions are being hampered by persistent snow, which has blocked roads and isolated several localities.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

06 August 2004

CONTINUED ALERT ON DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN SRI LANKA



Rainfall in Sri Lanka has been extremely low since the beginning of the 2003/04 Maha season (from October 2003 to March 2004); by late February, water levels in the major reservoirs and minor tanks in North-western province and North-Central Province ranged only from 21 to 34 per cent of capacity.

The Maha crop, accounting for 60% of annual production, was severely affected by the drought. The failure of rains, especially in the districts of Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Puttalam, reduced by 77.5, 37.0 and 63.3 percent, respectively, Maha paddy production compared to the previous year (see Special Report: FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to Sri Lanka, April 2004). Other rainfed crops, including maize, various pulses and chillies, were also heavily damaged.

Since the beginning of the Yala season (April to September 2004), drought conditions have worsened. As shown above, the observed cumulative rainfall by mid-July were about 30 to 50 percent below normal in most parts of the country. The cumulative precipitation registered 548 millimetres (mm) on average for the country, 543 mm in North Western province, 652 in Center province, 662 mm in Southern province, and 1049 mm in Western province.

Based on recent additional FAO estimates, 2004 Yala crops have been seriously affected by the prolonged drought, especially in Kurunegala, Puttalam and Anuradhapura, where only 4% (in Anuradhapura) to 25% (Kurunegara) of available areas for Yala paddy were planted. The yields for Yala crops under minor irrigation and in rainfed zones are expected to be much lower in many districts due to low rainfall during the late development stage. Some of the Yala paddy was actually abandoned.

The next couple of months will be critical for the 2004/05 Main season. Without a significant improvement in rainfall, the next Maha crops will be at risk and some districts may suffer a third consecutive crop failure. Livestock would be affected as well. The situation continues to warrant very close monitoring.

FSAU
Food Security Analysis Unit - Somalia

Monthly Food Security and Nutrition Report

ISSUED AUGUST 13, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS

- The FSAU recently completed a post Gu food security, nutrition, and livelihood security assessment throughout Somalia. Seventeen UN agencies, INGOs, and Somali authorities participated in the field work.
- The assessment confirmed previous early warnings of severe food insecurity in pockets in the South, Central, and Northern regions. A total of 616,300 people are in need of urgent assistance, with 261,000 in a state of Humanitarian emergency and 355,300 facing a severe livelihood crisis.
- The Northeast region is experiencing a profound environmental crisis which is having dramatic effects on livelihoods due to degraded rangelands and massive livestock deaths (cumulative death rates are roughly 60% for shoats and 80% for camels). Many pastoralists have already dropped out of their livelihood and have become destitute. A three year drought that has not been experienced since 1974 has precipitated the environmental crisis, which is the culmination of a number of factors. Both short-term emergency interventions and longer-term strategic planning are urgently required.
- The Central regions are experiencing yet another year of below normal rainfall, which, in combination with ongoing civil insecurity, has lead to severe food insecurity.
- Agricultural areas in the South are experiencing one of the three worst cereal production years since 1995, with total cereal production of 75% of the post war average. Chronically food insecure areas of Gedo and Jubba Valley are facing severe conditions this year, with malnutrition rates in Jubba Valley 19.5% (see p 5). Bakol region is experiencing an acute crisis this year.
- A full assessment report will be released by the end of August.

Report Contents	Pg.

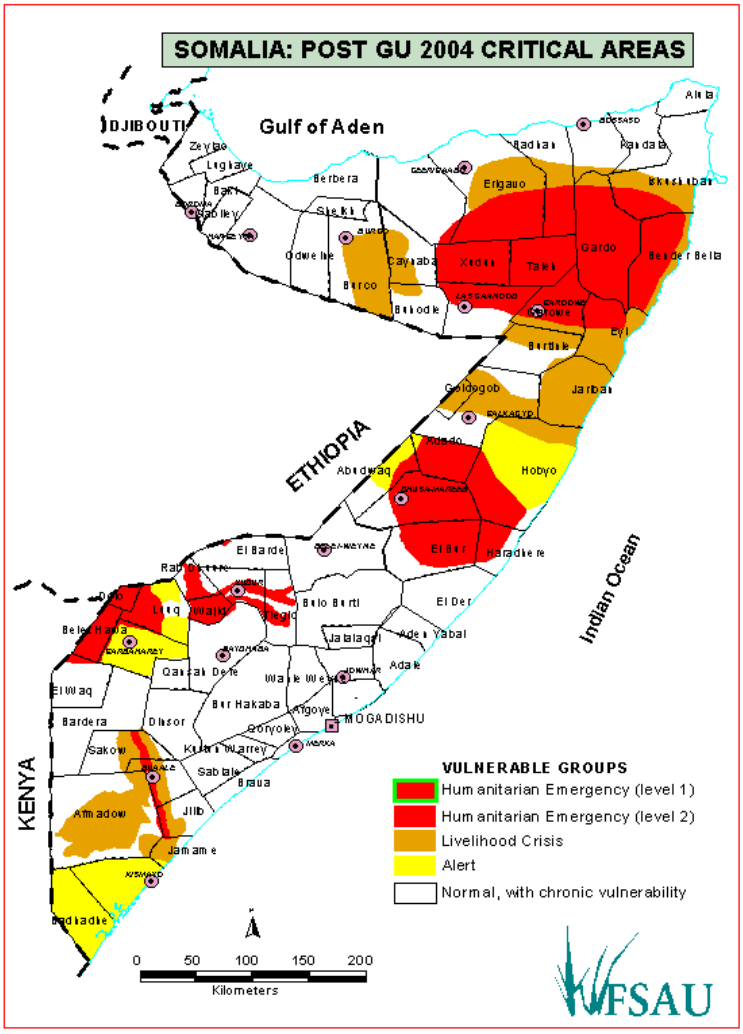
FOOD INSECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD PHASE CLASSIFICATION

Phase	General Characteristics	Implications
Humanitarian Emergency – Level 1	• CMR: > 5 deaths / 10,000 / day • Wasting: > 40% • Large scale, concentrated destitution • Widespread civil conflict	• Critically urgent resource transfer (e.g., food or cash assistance) • Critically urgent assistance on basic needs (e.g., health, shelter, water, etc.)
Humanitarian Emergency – Level 2	• CMR: > 2 / 10,000 / day • Under 5yrs death rate: > 4 / 10,000 / day • Wasting: > 15% • Widespread, diffuse destitution • Near complete asset depletion • Credit limits nearly exhausted • Large scale natural resource degradation • Acute or widespread civil conflict	• Urgent resource transfer (e.g., food or cash assistance) • Provision of water, health services, etc. • Preventative interventions • Environmental protection and rehabilitation
Livelihood Crisis	• CMR: 1-2 / 10,000 / day • Under 5yrs death rate: 2-4 / 10,000 / day • Wasting: 10 – 15% • Large and increasing debt • Natural resource degradation • Critical Asset Depletion • Unusual large scale human migrations • Acute civil conflict	• Urgent livelihood support (e.g., food / cash for work, water supply assistance / rehabilitation, transportation assistance, health services support, education, etc.) • Preventative interventions • Environmental protection and rehabilitation
Alert	• Wasting: 5 - 10% • CMR: 1-2 / 10,000 / day • Lack of access to credit • Declining terms of trade • Livelihood shock • Civil conflict • Increased attendance at health clinics	• Careful monitoring • Preventative interventions
Normal, with Chronic Vulnerability	• Near normal conditions	• Longer term development

Post Gu 2004 Estimated No. of People in Need of Assistance

Region	Region Population	Livelihood Crisis	Humanitarian Emergency (Level 2)	Total in Need as % of Total Population
North				
Togdheer	302,155	19,900	0	7
Sanag	190,455	44,800	38,900	44
Sool	194,660	44,400	11,100	29
Bari	266,450	11,700	24,900	14
Nugal	113,265	22,200	10,200	29
Central				
Galgadud	275,720	3,100	10,200	5
Mudug	251,520	30,100	13,900	17
South				
Bakol	215,180	8,700	61,000	32
Gedo	385,380	58,200	37,200	25
Middle Juba	248,620	66,900	53,600	48
Lower Juba	329,240	45,300	0	14
TOTAL	2,772,645	355,300	261,000	22
Total Number In Need Of Assistance			616,300	

Note: Figures indicated here do not include IDPs or urban centers



Technical and Managerial Support

Funding Agencies

European Commission

USAID

Food Security Analysis Unit - Somalia
Peponi Plaza, Westlands
Box 1230 Village Market
Nairobi, Kenya
Ph: 254-20-3745734
Mob: 0733- 616881, 0722-202146
Fax: 254-20-3745098
Email: fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke

Key Technical Partners

RAINFALL

Figure1 : Cumulative Rainfall Amounts (mm) for April – July 2004

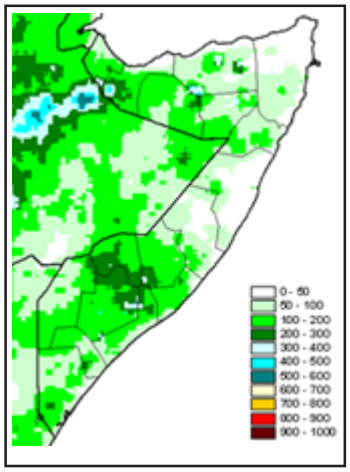
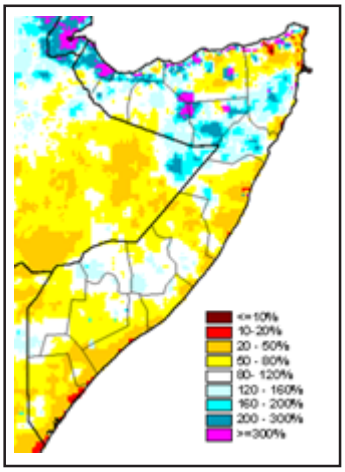


Figure 2: Percent of Normal Rainfall (%) for April- July 2004



Source: NOAA /FEWSNET

Generally Gu rains were erratic and started late in most parts of the country. In some pockets in the North, rains were significantly higher than normal and attracted huge livestock immigration from surrounding drought affected regions. This has led to overgrazing and early depletion of resources.

With the exception of parts of the Bay and Hiran regions (Fig. 1), in most of the South and Central, rains were below normal, leading to crop failure, poor pasture and limited water availability. Compared to the long-term average, rainfall performance was extremely poor in Jubba and Shabelle valleys (Fig. 2, 4, 5).

With the *Hagai* season in progress a few areas received showers during July which improved pasture availability. Most of the Southern regions remained dry during the month. Satellite imagery however shows unusual but significant rains falling over the Northeast and Northwest during the second dekad of July (Fig. 1).

Figure 3 :

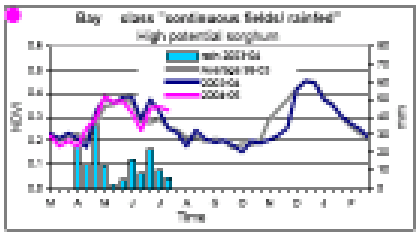


Figure 4 :

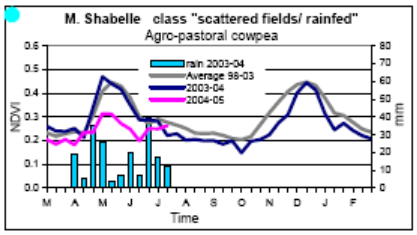
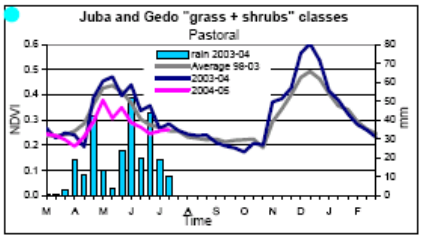


Figure 5 :



Source: MARS

Particularly good rains of over 50 mm fell over Badhan town and Biyogudud village of eastern Sanaag, which was one of the hardest hit by the prevailing drought in Sool Plateau and Nugal valley pastoral livelihood zones.

Reports from the field confirm that these rains (July 12th) regenerated pasture and brought about some relief even though the problem of water access still remains. The recent FSAU assessment to the region confirmed that these rains have attracted large numbers of livestock from Laasanood, Taleeh and Huddun districts of the lower Nugal valley as well as from within the region.

In the South, with the exception of pockets in Lower Jubba, *Hagai* rains were below normal during the month (Fig. 2). *Hagai* rains during this time of the year are helpful for off-season crops as well as to improve pasture.

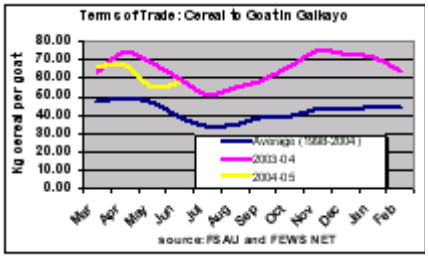
MARKETS AND TERMS OF TRADE

Cereal prices have significantly increased especially in agropastoral and riverine areas. In Galkayo, (main central pastoral regions market) like most markets in the north, local consumption patterns rely mainly on livestock products and imported rice which is the main staple food. The purchasing power of the pastoralists depends on livestock sales. In Galkayo, as shown in Figure 6, the terms of trade, are not as low as the long term average, however most poor pastoralists are not able to take advantage of this terms of trade due to poor livestock body condition and livestock deaths especially those in areas that have suffered prolonged drought. (A similar trend was observed in Bossaso market.) However, in Lasanod market, terms of trade are favorable for pastoralist this year compared to last year. (See Figure 7)

In the agro pastoral and riverine areas where most local consumption patterns depend on local cereal and labor, terms of trade are extremely unfavorable, especially in the critical areas (See regional summaries). For example, in Jamame market in Lower Juba as shown in Figure 8, the terms of trade this year are significantly lower compared to the long term average of the same period last year. Only two to three kg of maize can be purchased for one day's labour in the past three months compared to about 10 Kgs in an average year. The crop failure in most of the Jubba Valley has consequently reduced agriculture labour activities, therefore reducing wage rates. This has significantly decreased the purchasing power of the poor who rely on agricultural activity and increased their vulnerability.

However, in the sorghum belt, especially in Baidoa region, where crop conditions and labor activity are close to normal, the terms of trade for agricultural labour against cereal are nearly average, but lower than last year. Terms of trade for labour to cereal was 10 kg of sorghum per day's labor work in the past three months, while last year during the same period one would trade 15 kg of sorghum per day's labor. (See Fig 9)

Figure 6:



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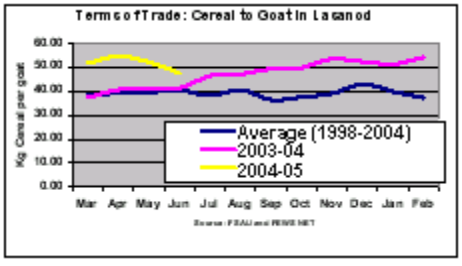

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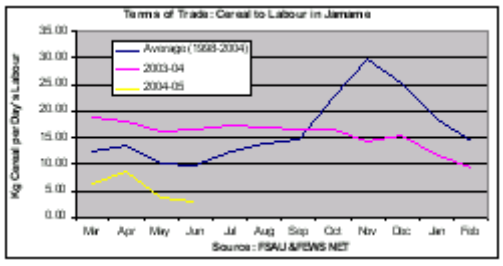


MARKETS AND TERMS OF TRADE (cont'd)

Currency and Exchange Rate Analysis

As illustrated in Figure 10, all markets using Somali Shillings follow a similar trend of devaluation since 2001. The Somali Shilling significantly devalued from an average of 10,000Ssh per dollar in September 2001 to an average of 20,000Ssh per dollar in September 2001. The Somaliland Shilling though having a different rate had also devalued over the same period from an average of 3,000Slsh to the dollar to 6,000Slsh to the dollar. This trend was maintained until recently.

Both currencies have now gained against the dollar in the past few months with all the southern markets trading for slightly less than an average 15,000Ssh in July 2004, from above an average 18,000Ssh in December 2003. In Mogadishu, the exchange rate moved from 17,700Ssh in early July to 15,400Ssh in the beginning of August, 2004. For the Somaliland shilling the exchange rate moved from 7,000Slsh in June to 6,600Slsh in July. There is speculation that these recent fluctuations are related to the ongoing peace talks and imminent changes in governance.

Figure 9:

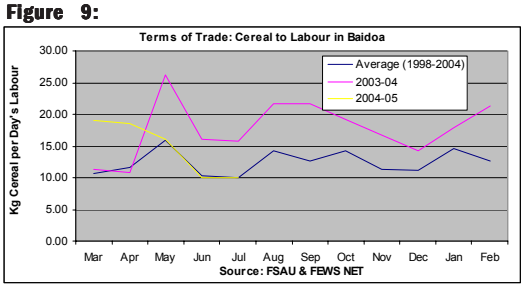
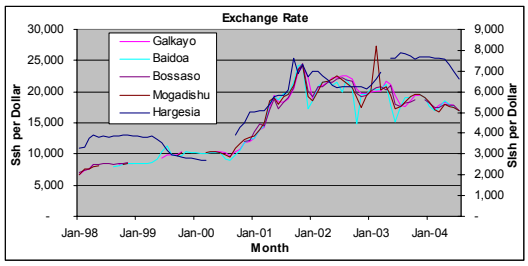


Figure 10:



Gu 2004 CEREAL HARVEST ESTIMATE - SOUTHERN SOMALIA

Overview of the 2004 Gu Season

The post Gu 2004 cereal harvest is estimated to be one of the three worst seasons since 1995. Rainfall was unevenly distributed over time and space across southern Somalia. During April-May 2004, cereal crops faced severe stress in both rainfed and irrigated areas of Southern Somalia.

In rainfed areas, crops in lowland areas recovered a bit with June-July rains. In general, crop recovery was markedly evident on late planted crops (rainfed and irrigated) and pasture of the Shabelle valley, Bay, Hiran and Jubba valley regions. The effect of June-July rains was more conspicuous on pasture regrowth and regeneration than crops in lower and Middle Jubba, Hiran and parts of Gedo regions.

The June-July rain saved the Shabelle valley and Bay regions from complete crop failure. Moreover, the coastal rains encouraged substantial sesame planting thus ensuring an income source for Riverine and Agro-pastoral communities of Shabelle and Jubba valley regions.

Hagai is usually limited to coastal areas of Shabelle and Jubba valley regions. Unexpectedly, the Hagai-rains in the 2004 Gu was exceptional. The Hagai reached further inland areas of the Shabelle valley, Bay, Hiran and Jubba valley regions. Before Hagai-rains, riverine, agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood remained desperate. Almost all livelihood zones of southern Somalia regained hope with the June-July rains. The reason was mainly attributed to the supplementary effect of the Hagai-rains over the coastal and inland areas of Somalia.

Area Under Cereal Crops

About 85-90% of cereal production is based on rainfed farming. In the event of rainfall failure, cereal crops are supplemented, in certain areas, with gravity or pump irrigation. However farmers face competition for gravity irrigation (Shabelle valley) and high diesel costs in pump-irrigated areas (Hiran, Gedo, lower and Middle Juba). Even if irrigation facilities are accessed at the onset of the season, farmers are reluctant to irrigate crops lest irrigation and rainfall coincide. Thus farmers always rely on rainfall during the months of April-May. Farmers try to resort to irrigation whenever they lose hope of rainfall.

In southern Somalia an estimated coverage of 326,400 Ha (57% sorghum and 43% maize) has been projected at harvest of the 2004 Gu. Inspite of constraints in the gravity irrigation of Lower and Middle Shabelle, area coverage under maize is increasing, especially in the Kurtun-Warey district. The reason is mainly attributed to the bush clearing of new fertile land at Kurtun-Warey district in the Lower Shabelle region by wealthy merchants.

Regions	Gu 2004 Production in Mt	Gu 2004 Production in Mt	Gu 2004 Production in Mt	Gu 2004 as % of Gu 2003	Gu 2004 as % of Gu PWA
	Sorghum	Maize	Total Cereal		
Bakool	450	20	470	140%	16%
Bay	22,700	4,100	26,800	92%	62%
Gedo	2,885	1,795	4,680	100%	62%
Hiran	1,890	2,540	4,430	498%	92%
L/Juba	245	610	855	13%	11%
L/Shabelle	5,000	63,610	68,610	74%	95%
M/Juba	820	1,140	1,960	37%	17%
M/Shabelle	2,300	15,200	17,500	109%	104%
Total	36,290	89,015	125,305	80%	75%

The area under cereal crop of Lower Shabelle is approximately 35 % (78% maize and 22% sorghum) of the total area of southern Somalia. The fertile area of Kurtun-warey attracted many flood affected villages such as Bulo-Warbo. The area has attracted labour migration and share-cropping systems from coastal area of Kurtun-warey and Brava. Moreover, new villages (Mustaqbal and Duray) have been created to utilize the fertile areas of irrigated Kurtun-warey.

In the Juba valley, Deshek farming is a major cropping system for maize production. In the last three years, the flooding of river Juba into the depression areas of Deshek has not materialized across Lower and Middle Juba regions. Consequently the absence of flood recession cultivation in the Deshek has caused cereal deficits frequently in the Juba Valley regions. Usually the flood recession cultivation contributes substantially to cereal production in the Juba Valley regions.

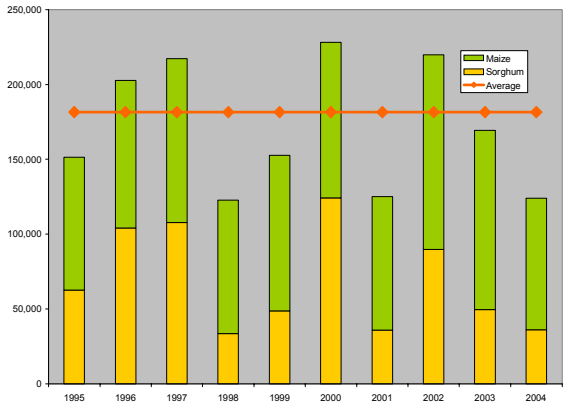
Cereal Production Levels

Crops (maize, sorghum) of the 2004-Gu emerged with the rainfall at the end of April and 1st week of May 2004. Except for crops on the down stream of Lower Shabelle (Kurtun-warey, Marka and Qoryoley), all other crops of Southern Somalia faced a long dry spell of 45-50 days. Some crops, recovered and reached irreversible wilting-point. The June-July rains restored hope of cereal producers and encouraged sesame planting across southern Somalia.

Gu 2004 Cereal Harvest Estimate - Southern Somalia (cont'd)

The total cereal production of southern Somalia is estimated at 125,100 Mt (71% maize and 29% sorghum). The 2004 Gu cereal production was lower than seven Gu-seasons out of the ten seasons of the postwar period (Fig.11). Moreover, the 2004 Gu is lower also by 25% of the postwar average (1995-2003) (i.e. the 2004 Gu cereal production is nearly 75% of the postwar average). In Bay region (sorghum basket of Somalia), in a normal Gu season, the region produces 40-45% sorghum of southern Somalia. Sorghum is the most affected in terms of yield/unit area (0.2Mt/Ha) across southern Somalia. Maize has also faced serious constraints at growth and grain filling stages. Yield/unit area of maize is estimated at approximately 0.6Mt/Ha. Figure 12 summarizes estimated regional contribution of cereal production by Southern Somalia for Gu 2004.

Figure 11: Gu Production Trends (1995-2004)

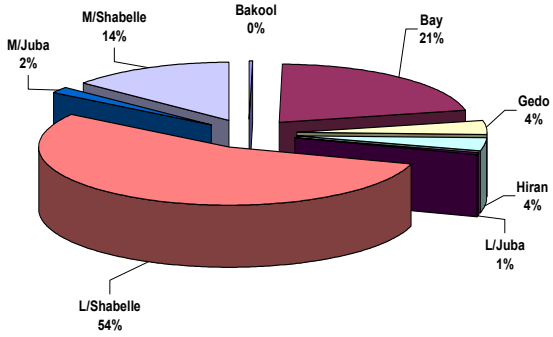


Other Crops

Sesame is one of the most important cash crops produced in southern Somalia. This is further supported by the fact that in the Gu 2004 season the area under sesame cultivation increased by 25% compare to last year. This increase in land cultivation under sesame is attributed to its high demand for export to Gulf countries. Sesame pure seed is sold at 22,000 Ssh/kg and for oil it sells for 20,000 Ssh/kg. Sesame is extensively produced from Shabelle valley. The total estimated production for this Gu 2004 is 10,130Mt.

The bulk of cereal production of Southern Somalia is expected to enter into markets at the end of August 2004. The actual high prices of cereal (4500-5000 Ssh/Kg) have been projected to decline 50% from actual price during the months of September-October-November 2004. Thereafter, it has been projected that cereal prices will show an upward trend till the Deyr 2004/05 harvest. If the 2004/05 Deyr is a normal season, again a short period of cereal price decline is expected. Otherwise, cereal prices will be unaffordable even in the major producing areas of southern Somalia up to July 2005.

Figure 12 : Estimated Regional Contribution of Cereal Production in Southern Somalia for Gu 2004



Following are some relevant constraints for the 2004 Gu cereal production:

- Erratic and uneven distribution of rainfall
- Inefficiency of irrigation infrastructure
- Mismanagement of irrigation water sharing
- Moisture stress at growth and grain filling stage
- Pests like Aphids, stem borers, smut and birds
- Insecurity during the 2004 Gu

LIVESTOCK EXPORTS

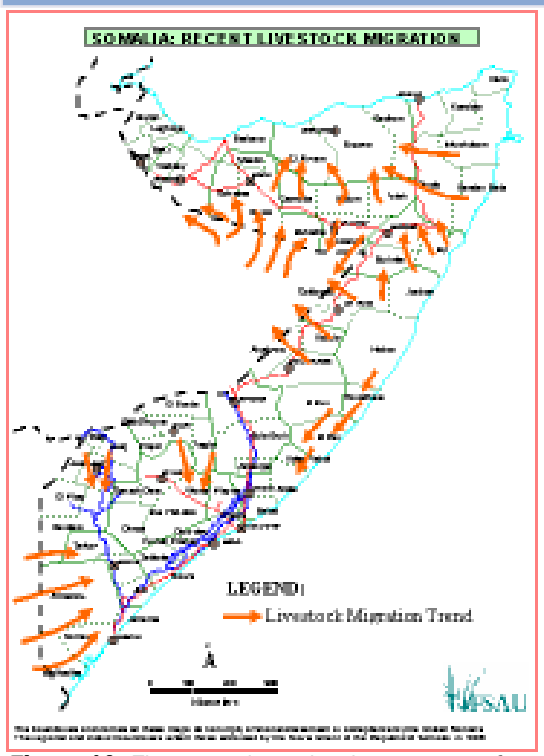
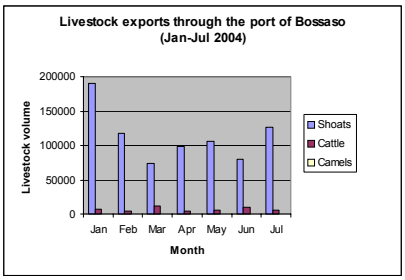
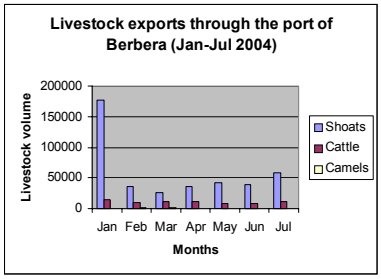


Figure 13: The map shows herd movements from drought affected areas to wetter areas within the Somali regions of the Horn of Africa during and after the Gu of 2004.

Livestock from northern Somalia are exported mainly through the ports of Berbera and Bossaso. While Bossaso port leads in shoat exports, the port of Berbera is the leader in cattle and camel exports for the period of January to July 2004. The highest shoat exports are recorded in the month of January with Berbera and Bossaso exporting 177,376 and 189,167, respectively. The high export figures represent high shoat demand during the Hajj season in Saudi Arabia. The exports of shoats have increased by 48 and 60 percent for Berbera and Bossaso between June and July 2004, respectively.

Livestock Exports Jan to Jul 2004





From Bossaso port

Month	Shoats	Cattle	Camels
January	189167	7944	99
February	118014	5041	52
March	74257	11842	175
April	98780	4766	478
May	106040	6439	66
June	79150	9670	466
July	126295	5904	479
Total	791703	51606	1815

From Berbera port

Month	Shoats	Cattle	Camel
January	177376	14792	0
February	35573	9435	1018
March	25207	10782	1250
April	35176	10995	0
May	42030	7461	625
June	39800	8390	726
July	59041	11950	0
Total	414203	73805	3619

NUTRITION

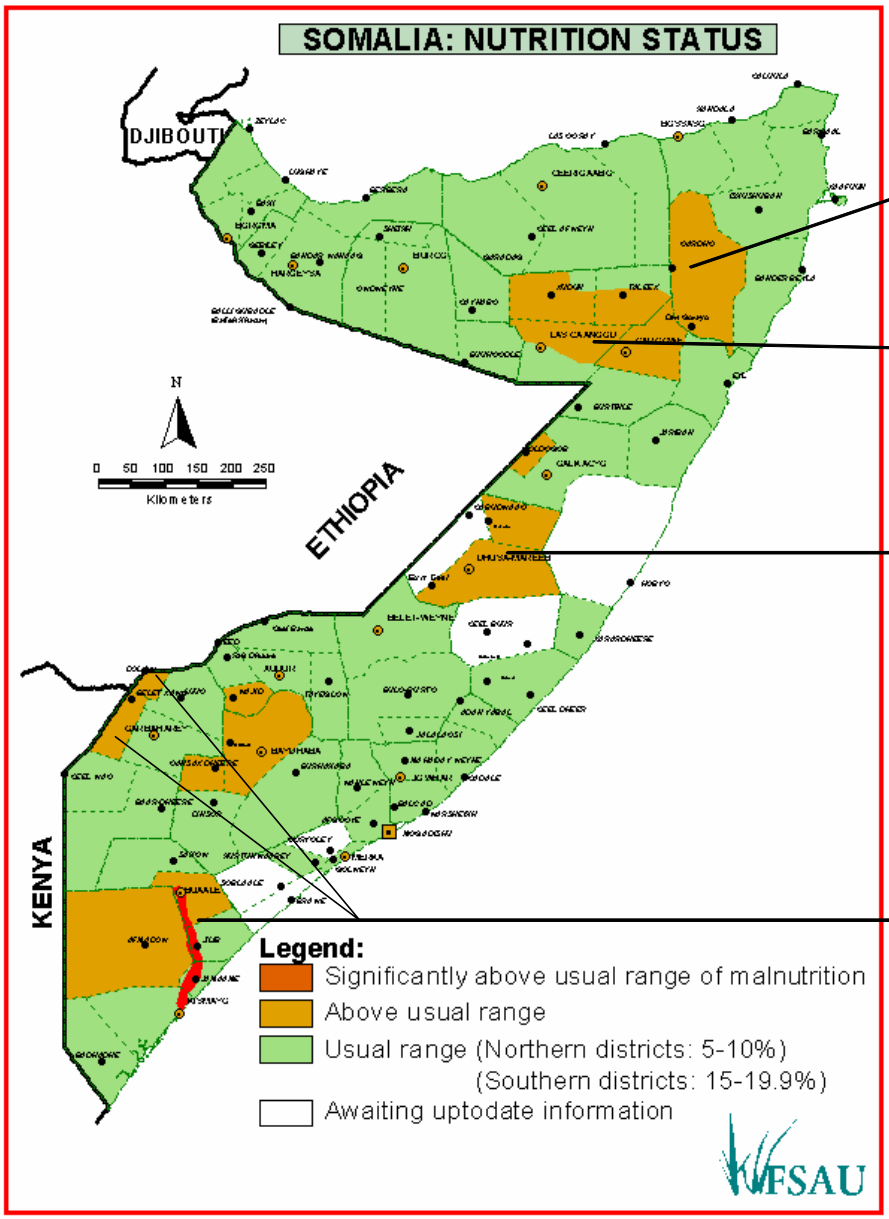
Nutrition Situation - Preliminary Results of Rapid Assessments

Nutritional data for the Gu assessment has been obtained from three sources: four district nutrition surveys conducted from April-June 2004, rapid assessments conducted in twenty three districts (July 2004) and analysis of the trends of health facility data in the last one year. Weight for height (WFH) indicator was used in the nutrition surveys and health facility data; and the Mid upper arm circumference (MUAC) indicator in rapid assessments. Interpretation of the current nutrition situation is based on whether the findings are within the usual range of malnutrition for the season, below the usual (i.e. the situation has improved), above the usual and significantly above.

Generally, the situation is varied throughout Somalia.

- In the Jilib riverine zone, the level of acute malnutrition was significantly above the usual range of acute malnutrition.
- In specific districts of Sool and Bari region (Qardho, Garowe, Huddun, Taleex and Lasanood), Goldogoob, Galgaduud (Dhusa Mareeb, Caadado), Hiran (Bulo-Burto), acute malnutrition was above the usual range. Also in this category was: Afmadow, Baydhabo, Wajid, and Buale.
- In other parts of the country including the north western part of Somalia, Ceerigabo, parts of Taleex and the coastal districts of Puntand region, (Ishkushban, Bander Bayla, Eyl, Jariban, Burtinle and Galckayo) acute malnutrition was within the usual range.

Actual findings in some of the areas with above/significantly above the usual levels of acute malnutrition and retrospective crude mortality rates (CMR) per 10,000 per day are highlighted below. Sources are also indicated



Qardho: 20% < 12.5 cm MUAC or oedema, CMR: 0.8
Garowe: 24% < 12.5 cm MUAC or oedema
Source: Rapid Assessments, July 2004

Xuddun: 28% < 12.5 cm MUAC or oedema
Taleex: 21% < 12.5 cm MUAC or oedema, CMR: 0.55
Lasanood: 18% < 12.5 cm MUAC or oedema
Source: Rapid Assessments, July 2004

Cadaado: 28% < 12.5 cm MUAC or oedema, CMR 3.0
Dhusa-Mareeb: 32% < 12.5 cm MUAC or oedema
Source: Rapid Assessments, July 2004

Buale: 17% < - 12.5 cm MUAC or oedema
Beletxawa: 38% < 12.5 cm MUAC or oedema, CMR 3.4
Dolow: 34% < 12.5 cm MUAC or oedema, CMR 2.5
Source: Rapid Assessments, July 2004
Jilib Riverine: 19.5% < -2z scores WFH or oedema, CMR 2.2
Source: Nutrition Survey, May 2004

Above/significantly above the usual levels of acute malnutrition were attributed to various factors. In the northern districts (Lasanood, Huddun, Taleex, Garowe, Dangoroyo and Gardho), the causal factors were food insecurity (which has led to increased destitution), high morbidity (especially malaria), limited access to health care, limited access to safe water, and a poor social care environment for women and children. Mitigating factors included social support and humanitarian assistance. In the south and central zone, causal factors included food insecurity, poor water and sanitation, high prevalence of diseases (diarrheal, ARI and intestinal parasites).

Further analysis of the results is currently underway and details will be avialble in the August Nutrition Update

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Northeast and Northwest

Overview of events

A 3+ year drought throughout northern and central Somalia has led to severe environmental stress. Contributing factors include large-scale charcoal production, berkad proliferation, decline of lobster fishing, tension between authorities, and a general lack of rangeland management. A majority of our key informants consider the severity of the current drought at least as bad as 1974. The impact of the prolonged drought was severe on camels, particularly pack camels that have been decimated by the drought. The lack of pack camels have hampered the ability of herders in the area to move to places that have received rainfall.

Effects on livelihood assets

Natural capital: The effects of the prolonged drought and resultant environmental crisis on the natural capital are manifested in lowered range productivity, development of sand dunes, and on the positive side; a reduction in tick diseases.

Physical capital: The impact of the drought on physical capital is in the form of massive livestock deaths, especially pack camels. During 2002/2003, an estimated 24 and 31 percent of shoats and camels were lost, respectively. Livestock deaths escalated during the 2003/2004 period with 51 and 70 percent deaths for shoats and camels, respectively. The cumulative losses for shoats and camels are 62% and 79%, respectively (See Fig. 15).

Social capital: While strong social support system in the form of gifts, loans, remittances, and family support exists in the northeast, northwest, and central Somalia, the heavy strain on the mechanism casts doubt on whether the support system will be able to continue in the future and for how long.

Human capital: There has not been major outbreaks of human diseases in the region. Some areas have high levels of malnutrition

Financial capital: The majority of households in the area are heavily indebted, with debts of up to $1000 per household. Consequently, some shops have closed due to debts. Water truckers are extending loans of water as part of their social responsibility and with some desperate hope that pastoralists will some day be able to repay. If they cease water loans now, the likelihood of complete loan defaulting would be high.

A camel carcass in northern Somalia where an estimated 90% of pack camels and 80% of camels died.

Effects on livelihood strategies

Income sources More than 60 percent of pastoral incomes comes from sales of livestock and livestock products in normal years. Pastoral income has dramatically reduced because of the lack of livestock products e.g. milk, lack of marketable animals, and poor purchasing power.

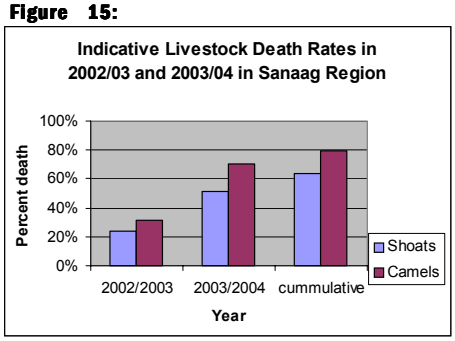
Food Source 70-80 percent of food sources are purchased. Currently, this percentage is likely to increase because of the lack of livestock products like milk and poor incomes from livestock and livestock product sales.

Expenditures Expenditure of pastoral households has increased significantly because of increased costs of water, foodstuff and livestock trucking.

North : Estimated No. of People in Need by District

DISTRICT	Population	Livelihood Crisis	Humanitarian Emergency	Total in Need as % of Total Pop
Bari				
Bender Beila	8,325	2,900	2,600	66
Bosaso	95,540	3,900	0	4
Calula	32,130	0	0	0
Gardo	64,235	0	22,300	35
Iskushuban	44,580	4,900	0	11
Kandala	21,640	0	0	0
SUB TOTAL	**266,450**	**11,700**	**24,900**	14
Nugal				
Burtinle	37,190	1,000	-	3
Eyl	26,520	8,000	3,100	42
Garowe	49,555	13,200	7,100	41
SUB TOTAL	**113,265**	**22,200**	**10,200**	29
Sanag				
Badhan	92,050	25,000	22,300	51
Ceel Afweyn	38,080	9,800	8,600	48
Ceerigaabo	60,325	10,000	8,000	30
SUB TOTAL	**190,455**	**44,800**	**38,900**	44
Sool				
Caynaba	45,990	800	0	0
Laas Caanood	90,110	18,900	4,800	26
Taleh	29,660	12,500	3,200	53
Xudun	28,900	12,200	3,100	53
SUB TOTAL	**194,660**	**44,400**	**11,100**	28
Togdheer				
Buhodle	35,800	0	0	0
Burco	202,770	19,900	0	10
Odweine	39,905	0	0	0
Sheikh	23,680	0	0	0
SUB TOTAL	**302,155**	**19,900**	**0**	7
TOTAL	**1,066,985**	**143,000**	**85,100**	**21**

Figure 15:



Nutrition situation

Critical areas in Northwest and Northeast include Sool plateau of Bari, Garowe, Dangaroyo, parts of Lasanood, Taleeh and Huddun Districts. Past nutrition data are consistent with recent rapid assessments which indicate levels of malnutrition above the usual range as measured by Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC* <12.5 cm or oedema) ranging from 18% to 28%. Other areas of concern include Sool Plateau of Sool and Sanaag regions (June 2004) and Goldogob Districts (April 2004) where nutrition surveys indicate a serious nutrition situation with global acute malnutrition rates (<-2 Z scores or oedema) of 13.7% and 14.2% respectively. Food insecurity, water shortage, limited access to healthcare, suboptimal childcare practices and morbidity are among the factors contributing to malnutrition. Humanitarian interventions in some areas and the relatively strong social support network remain key mitigating factors. [*Note: MUAC not comparable with survey rates]

Qardho: A pastoral family migrated to live with the assistance of their relations in town.

Coping strategies

Coping strategies include an overwhelming reliance on social support, severe indebtedness, migration to urban areas in search of jobs, slaughtering of weak and young animals to save mothers, eating once per day, shift to cheaper cereals and food aid, and extraordinary controlled breeding (commonly in sheep).

Pastoral migration is one of the most important coping strategies. This pastoralist has migrated with his livestock eleven times in the last few years. He is likely to survive the current severe drought in northern Somalia despite having lost most of his livestock.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Future outlook

Range resources that are currently available in the northern part of Sanaag may not last until the Deyr rains. In addition to being inadequate for full pasture regeneration, those areas that received rainfall are currently experiencing excessive pressure from immigrant pastoralists. As the drought persists and environmental resources continue to be stressed, more movement of livestock is expected until a satisfactory Deyr is received. The region is experiencing more strain on the social support system—the big question is: when will the social support system start to collapse? The general impact of these scenarios will be increasing rates of destitution and malnutrition throughout the region.

Widespread environmental degradation by destruction of vegetation in Bakol.

Livestock that died due to unknown diseases is burned to avoid the spread of the disease.

Central:Estimated No. of People in Need by District

DISTRICT	District	Livelihood Crisis	Humanitarian Emergency	Total in Need as % of Total Pop
Galgadud				
Abudwaq	62,500	0	0	0
Adado	37,500	800	1,300	6
Dusa Mareb	56,500	1,400	2,100	6
El Bur	55,300	900	3,900	9
El Der	63,920		2,900	5
SUB TOTAL	275,720	3,100	10,200	5
Mudug				
Galkayo	95,055	9,800	0	10
Goldogob	39,605	10,000	0	25
Haradhere	43,705	1,800	6,200	18
Hobyo	42,895	1,300	7,700	21
Jariban	30,260	7,200	0	24
SUB TOTAL	251,520	30,100	13,900	17
TOTAL	527,240	33,200	24,100	11

Central Somalia

Overview of events

The following factors contributed significantly to the level of the crises in the region:

- 3+ years of consecutive droughts aggravated the situation
- Apart from drought related food scarcity, the region suffers from frequent inter-clan conflicts
- Acute shortage of water availability and accessibility
- Environmental degradation

Effects on livelihood assets

Natural capital:

- The region has experienced sky rocketing water prices due to prolonged droughts. Water cost increased four fold from US$0.6/drum to US$ 2.2/drum.
- Environmental degradation due to over grazing. Environmental degradation is also increasing sand dunes which covers the grazeland and fertile areas.
- Drying up of berkads and water catchments have contributed to the scarcity of water availability and accessibility
- High level loss of palatable plants due to over grazing and sand dunes

Physical capital

- Deteriorating road and transport infrastructure
- Inadequate veterinary services
- Significant number of livestock death due to prolonged drought
- Livestock assets depletion

Social Capital

- Strained social support
- Weakening support from Diaspora
- Increased number of IDPs and destitute people

Human capital

- High malnutrition levels and high disease burden
- Reduced productivity of workforce.

Financial capital

- High level of indebtedness due to prolonged borrowing of money from traders and better off wealth groups
- Income from livestock production and sale declined due to large scale livestock death and low body condition due to the drought.
- Poor purchasing power

Effects on livelihood strategies

- Income of food source from livestock sale declined due to successive rain failure.
- Reduced purchasing power due to lack of income from employment and livestock sales
- Low income source from livestock products and remittance
- Reduced number of meals
- Reduced purchase of non-staple items

¢##High cereal and imported commodity prices due to crop failure in the south

Nutrition Situation

The overall nutrition situation in central region appears to be within the usual range of 15-19.9 % WFH (< -2 Z score or oedema) except in Dhusa-Mareeb and Adaado in Galgadud region where the nutrition situation indicates an emergency situation. During a rapid nutrition assessment carried out in July 04 in Adaado and Dusamareb indicated high levels of malnutrition of 27.8% and 31% (MUAC* < 12.5 cm or oedema) respectively, while the retrospective under five and crude mortality rates for Adaado district is 4.7/ 10,000/day and 3/10,000/day respectively indicating an emergency situation. This situation was mainly attributed to low and poor quality dietary consumption, poor access to milk at household level as most of the livestock has moved and high prevalence of diseases e.g. diarrhea, ARI and measles.

[* Note: MUAC not comparable with survey]

Coping strategy

- Reliance on loans and remittance from traders and relatives
- Migration to urban and agricultural areas in search of employment
- Collection of wild fruits for sustenance
- Family splitting to minimize household food requirements
- Increased dependence on food aid

Future outlook

- The livestock productivity will take many seasons to recover due to the high level of rangeland degradation and required breeding time.
- Poor pastoral households will likely drop out of pastoralism
- The change of livelihood pattern will result in rural-urban migration, which will further strain the already poor social services
- Malnutrition rate among children and women are likely to continue deteriorating.

Southern Somalia

Overview of events

Poor rainfall and civil insecurity have directly contributed to near total crop failure in certain areas of Southern Somalia. 45-50 days of dry spell during the critical stage of grain setting resulted in a serious crop failure. Other factors include:

¢##Heavy insect infestation for cereals and bird attack for sorghum

¢##Conflict/insecurity during planting time forced farmers to abandon their farms particularly in Jubba valley and Gedo

¢#Localized floods in Jubba valley delayed timely planting

¢##High fuel prices for irrigation and land preparation hampered potential production in the valleys

¢#Low river level in Shabelle prevented the possibility of gravity irrigation, hence reduced production

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Area cultivated was limited due to inadequate purchased agricultural inputs and inappropriate technology (eg. uncertified seeds)
- High prices of commodity due to increasing number of road blocks
- High pastoral immigration from North Eastern Kenya resulted in stiff competition for scarce resources (pasture, water, market etc.)

Effects on livelihood assets

Natural capital
- Conflict over potential areas for farming and grazing
- Environmental degradation through charcoal production mainly in Jubba valley and Bakol.
- Several seasons of erratic rainfall and crop failure in Jubba riverine, Northern Gedo, and Bakol

Physical capital
- Poor road network and transport infrastructure restricted smooth flow of services and commodities thus increasing prices of staple food
- Insufficient irrigation facilities and infrastructure resulted in poor harvest

Social Capital
- Weak social/kinship support among riverine communities increased their vulnerability
- Recurrent civil insecurity have increased the number of IDPs and destitute people

Human capital
- High malnutrition levels and high disease burden
- Reduced productivity of workforce.

Financial capital
- High level of unemployment resulted in low income level
- Unstable exchange rates weakened purchasing power/terms of trade

Effects on livelihood strategies

- Food and income source declined from the baseline levels due to poor production
- Low purchasing power due to abnormal staple food prices resulted in reduced number of meals

Nutrition situation

In the Jubba riverine zone, the levels of acute malnutrition and crude mortality are significantly above usual. The May 2004 Jilib riverine survey indicated GAM of 19.5% (WFH <-2 Z score or oedema) with higher number of children admitted to the TFC in Marerey main village of Jilib district and high crude mortality rate of 2.2 per 10,000 per day. The causal factors for the deteriorated nutrition situation is attributed to food insecurity, high prevalence of diseases (diarrhea, intestinal parasites and ARI), limited access to safe water, poor sanitation, low purchasing power, a fragile social support network and limited access to remittances. The affected communities are coping through reduced meal frequency, migration to urban areas for job opportunities and intensified wild food collection.

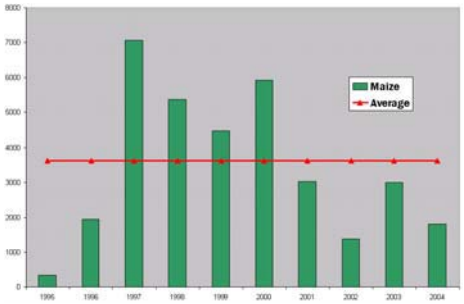
In the northern Gedo region where the usual range of acute malnutrition is above 20% (WFH <-2 Z score or oedema), the situation appears to have deteriorated frurther with findings of malnutrition rate of 37% (MUAC* <12.5cm or oedema) in Bulahawa and 34.1% (MUAC* <12.5cm or oedema) in Dolow. This situation is attributed to food insecurity which has resulted from a disrupted livelihood system, with recurrent insecurity being a basic factor. Additional contributing factors include high prevalence of diseases, poor sanitation and unhygienic practices.

Usually, the level of acute malnutrition in the southern Zone (apart from Gedo) falls within the range of 15-19.9 % (WFH <-2 Z score or oedema). In many parts of the southern zone (Afmadow, Buale, Belet Xawo, Dolow, Wajid, Baydhaba and Qansaxdheere) the nutrition situation appear to be above the usual range.

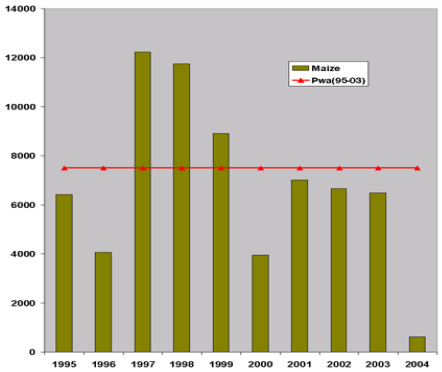
[* Note: MUAC not comparable with survey rates]

Figure 16:
Crop Production Series 1995-2004 compared to Post War Average

Gedo



Juba



Buale: Sorghum plants affected by disease.

Coping strategies

- Collection of bush products provides alternative income sources
- Migration to urban areas in search of employment
- Collection of wild fruits
- Fishing for own consumption and sale
- Family splitting - activemembers migrate to urban areas for work
- Increased dependence on food aid

Future outlook

- Poor riverine wealth group production being not enough till next season
- Increased number of destitute people
- Emergency interventions need to continue
- Re-enforced food aid dependence (Gedo)

Sorghum harvested early in order to prevent bird attack in Sakow.

South : Estimated No. of People in Need by District

REGION/ DISTRICT	Population	Livelihood Crisis	Humanitarian Emergency (Level 2)	Total in Need as % of Total Population
Bakol				
El Barde	42,350	4,200	3,600	18
Hudur	51,725	1,600	16,700	35
Rabdure	33,580	1,100	9,100	30
Tieglo	57,525	1,400	20,000	37
Wajid	30,000	400	11,600	40
SUB TOTAL	**215,180**	**8,700**	**61,000**	32
Gedo				
Bardera	76,850	0	0	0
Belet Xaawo	68,135	20,700	14,600	52
Ceel Waaq	52,150	0	0	0
Dolow	39,050	17,800	700	47
Garbahaarey	76,075	0	0	0
Luuq	73,120	19,700	21,900	57
SUB TOTAL	**385,380**	**58,200**	**37,200**	25
Lower Juba				
Afmadow	100,075	25,200	0	25
Badhadhe	41,695	0	0	0
Jamame	100,625	20,100	0	20
Kismayo	86,845	0	0	0
SUB TOTAL	**329,240**	**45,300**	**0**	14
Middle Juba				
Buale	50,000	10,900	14,900	52
Jilib	114,720	30,300	24,400	48
Sakow	83,900	25,700	14,300	48
SUB TOTAL	**248,620**	**66,900**	**53,600**	48
TOTAL	**1,178,420**	**179,100**	**151,800**	28

FSAU ACTIVITIES

Please note our name change. **Food Security Assessment Unit** will now be known as the **Food Security Analysis Unit - Somalia.** Henceforth all references should utilize our new name.

Having conducted the Post Gu assessment in July and early August 2004, FSAU will hold regional meetings in Somalia in the first week of September to share the findings with local partners. Exact dates and location will be determined.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

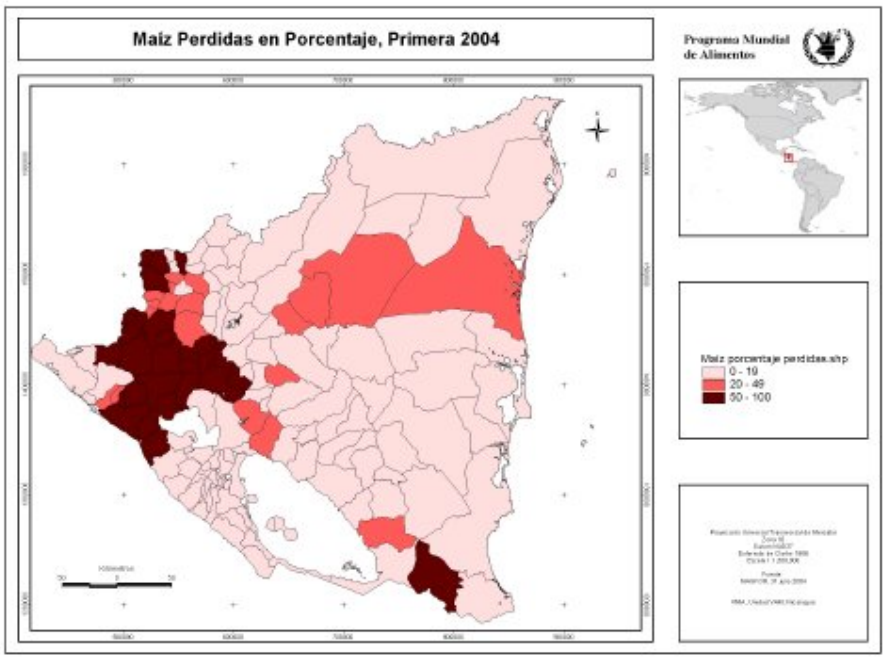
26 August 2004

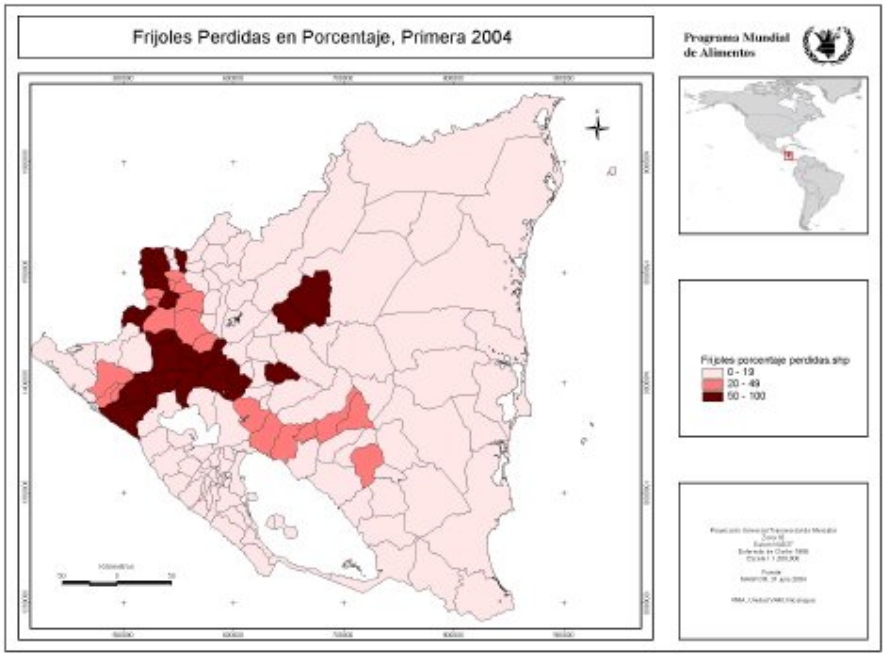
DROUGHT IS AFFECTING FIRST SEASON FOOD CROPS IN NICARAGUA

In Nicaragua, a prolonged drought has caused extensive damages to the 2004/05 first season food crops, mainly maize and beans crops about to be harvested. The most affected municipalities are in the north and north-west departments of León, Chinandega, Madriz, Esteli and Matagalpa. The National Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER) reports that cumulative precipitation from the beginning of the rainy season in May to the end of July has been 55 per cent less than average in León and 35 per cent less in Chinandega.

Preliminary estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture indicate that about 63 270 hectares of maize and to 22 000 hectares of beans have been lost due to dry weather conditions. This represents a reduction of the area to be harvested for maize of about 23 per cent from the good level of last year's same season. The first ("de primera") season accounts for some 60 per cent. of the aggregate (first, second and third seasons) annual production of maize and, therefore, the prolonged dry weather of the current season will negatively affect the 2004 output. For beans, which are mostly cultivated in the third season, the reduction of the area harvested in the first season is estimated at about 8 percent.

However, in several communities of the most affected areas, losses of the area planted to maize and beans are estimated between 50 and 100 per cent of plantings, as shown in the maps below. These communities are among the poorest in the country, where farmers essentially produce for self-consumption. The food situation of these populations is reported to be tight and could deteriorate in the coming months. In order to support production of the second "de postrera" season maize and beans crops, to be planted from September, the Ministry of Agriculture is distributing certified seeds and fertilizers to drought-affected farmers in the departments of León and Chinandega using funds of the programme 'Libra por libra'.




Frijoles Perdidas en Porcentaje, Primera 2004
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
Frijoles porcentaje perdidas.shp
0 - 19
20 - 49
50 - 100

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

3 September 2004

PROLONGED 'CANICULA' AFFECTS FIRST SEASON CROPS IN GUATEMALA

In Guatemala, irregular rainfalls affected 2004/05 first "de primera" season maize and bean crops that are about to be harvested. The 'canicula', the so-called dry period that usually takes place in August during the rainy season, prolonged its duration from the normal 2-3 weeks to 30-40 days. The most affected departments are Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez in the south-west, especially the areas on the Pacific coast, and El Progreso, Zacapa and Chiquimula in the east. The south-eastern departments of Jutiapa and Jalapa have also reported some minor losses. In particular, the adverse weather conditions affected those farmers that, due to late arrival of the first rains, had to postpone maize plantings until the second half of May.

The first season harvest represents the bulk of the annual maize crop production, being very small the second season crop that is planted from September in coastal areas and in southern provinces of the departments of Alta Verapaz and Izabal. Unofficial early forecast of 2004 maize production were already pointing to a decline from 1 million tonnes obtained in 2003 to 950 000 tonnes this year due to reduced plantings. The negative effects of the dry weather would imply a further downward revision of these figures.

The food supply situation is reported as problematic in the affected departments and it is likely to deteriorate in the coming months. In order to support the production of the second "de postrera" season bean crops, to be planted from the beginning of September, the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA) and FAO are distributing certified seeds and fertilizers to drought-affected communities in eastern departments.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

14 September 2004

HURRICANE "IVAN" APPROACHING CUBA AND MEXICO

After having affected southeast Caribbean (mainly in Grenada, Jamaica and Caiman Islands), extremely dangerous Hurricane “Ivan” is approaching western provinces of Cuba and north Yucatan in Mexico in the next 24 hours. Heavy rains and winds could cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides.

FAO/GIEWS Global Watch

11 November 2004

Desert Locusts – Mixed picture in the Sahel

Sahel - Overall, agricultural production in the nine CILSS countries is expected to be close to the five-year average. However, the country-by-country situation is quite mixed. Mauritania, already beset by several years of unfavourable rainfall and low production, has born the brunt of desert locust damage --the swarms stayed there much longer than anywhere else. Cape Verde will be facing a larger than usual food deficit. In addition, many areas in the northern part of most countries suffered from a combination of drought and locust attacks. Pastoral and agro-pastoral groups have, therefore, been especially hard hit. With scarce pasture and water, the early southern movement of livestock herds has already started, leading to serious confrontations in a number of locales. Urgent action is needed to establish safe passage areas for livestock and to vaccinate animals on their way to southern pastures. In addition to food assistance to the most vulnerable populations, many farming families will need seeds and other inputs for off-season agriculture, and even for the next main growing season. Continued monitoring and preparation for desert locust control is also needed; if good rains fall, swarms are likely to return to the Sahel next year unless Winter/Spring control in north west Africa is fully effective.

This report is prepared by the **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)** of the Trade and Markets Division of FAO. The updates focus on developing anomalous conditions aimed at providing early warnings, as well as latest and more elaborate information than other GIEWS regular reports on the food security situation of countries, at both national and sub-national levels. None of the information in this report should be regarded as statements of governmental views.

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