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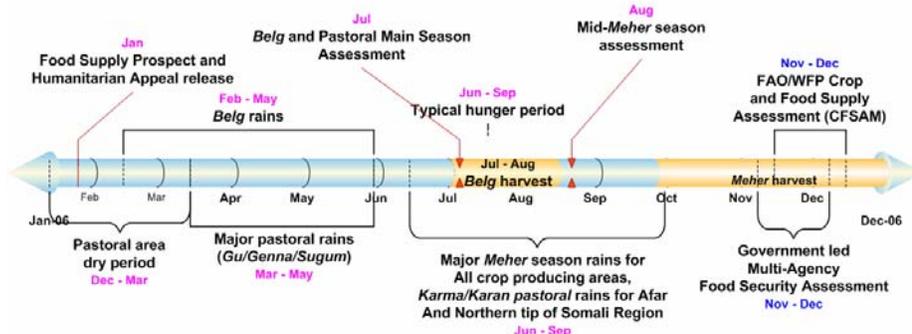
Summary and implications

In August, the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) released the findings of the *Belg* Pre-Harvest and Emergency Needs Assessment, which were conducted from late June through mid-July. The assessment results estimate the food requirements for August - December 2006. According to the findings, despite an overall improvement in the food security situation, the flooding that affected all of Ethiopia and sustained food insecurity in pastoral areas has increased the number of people requiring emergency assistance for the second half of the year to 3 million. This is considerably higher than the 1.7 million projected in the January appeal for August 2006, and also higher than the appeal's peak number of 2.6 million. Recurrent droughts, insecurity (conflict), persistent price hikes and the underlying causes to chronic food insecurity are the major culprits making millions of people in Ethiopia dependent on humanitarian assistance.

According to World Food Program (WFP) pipeline information, the total grain requirements during September to December 2006 are estimated to be 171,871 MT. At present, only 31,371 MT of food has been pledged for distribution. The total cereal, vegetable oil, and pulses *shortfall* to the end of December comes to 140,500 MT. While pledges are sufficient to meet needs for blended food until December 2006, pledges for cereal, vegetable oil, and pulses will only partially meet requirements through September. Therefore, there will be a break in the cereal food aid pipeline beginning in September. Furthermore, a US\$ 71 million shortfall remains out of the total non-food requirement of US\$ 111 million for the period January to December 2006. In addition, the flood appeal also seeks US \$21.9 million to meet emergency non-food and rehabilitation requirements (Table 1).

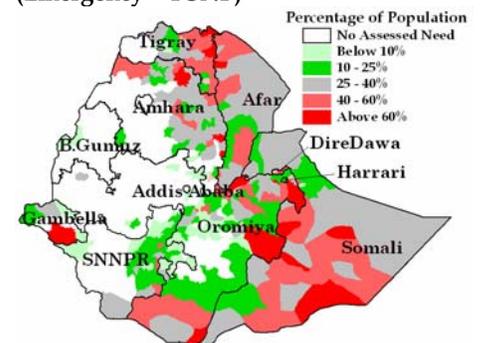
The Government of Ethiopia (GOE) and partners must make concurrent and urgent efforts to address remaining immediate needs for 2006, and help households preserve and re-build assets and avert further impoverishment over the longer term. Timely delivery and distribution of additional food aid is crucial for maintaining minimum nutritional levels. Moreover, expanded coverage for non-food assistance would contribute to improving the impact and sustainability of interventions.

Seasonal calendar



Humanitarian needs

Figure 1: Percentage of population needing humanitarian assistance in 2006 (Emergency + PSNP)



Data source: Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) and Food Security Coordination Bureau (FSCB). Graphics by FEWS NET, Sep. 2006.

Current hazard summary

- Complete or partial *deyr/gu* season failures in southern and southeastern Ethiopia affected the lives of millions of pastoralists, limiting or depleting the availability of water, browse and fodder.
- Floods and hailstorms caused the deaths of more than 600 people, with many more unaccounted for, and caused serious damage to crops and household assets during the current *meher* rainy season (June – September).
- Cereal prices remain at record high levels, showing continuous increases since January 2006; terms-of-trade are unfavorable for pastoralists.
- Tribal and resource-based conflicts occurred during the May-July period in southern Oromiya and Somali regions.
- Formal and informal commercial cross-border trade is restricted, due to insecurity and official border closure.

Food security summary

During the January 2006 appeal, it was anticipated that the *belg* (March-May) rainfall would be normal, and the resulting improvement in household food security would lead to a significant reduction in beneficiary numbers to less than 2 million beginning in August 2006. However, the number of people requiring emergency food assistance increased to 3 million from the peak number of 2.6 million people; this is significantly more beneficiaries than the January appeal estimated for August (1.7 million beneficiaries). Unlike the previous years, the food aid requirements over the past five years, and again in 2006, have remained much higher towards the end of the year (Figure 3). This requirement includes the findings of a recent flood appeal, which identified about 200,000 people in need of emergency assistance. However, this does not include the recent flood victims of Amhara Region, which are estimated to be about 100,000.

As illustrated in Figure 2, the percentage of people requiring food aid is highest in the pastoral areas of Somali Region and Borena Zone of Oromiya Region. While most of the country experienced good harvests and attained better food security during the *belg*-2006 season, pastoral areas of southern and southeastern Ethiopia and poor rural communities in marginal agricultural areas in the south, east, and north have been the exceptions. Flooding and poor rains, combined with continued food insecurity from previous failed seasons, have left the bulk of the population highly vulnerable to food insecurity. Poor livestock conditions, reduced household assets and income sources, and a sizeable displaced population necessitate continued food aid. An estimated 1.6 million people in Somali Region alone require food aid until the end of the year. More than 500,000 beneficiaries in Afar Region are going to be covered by the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP).

Figure 2: Woredas requiring emergency food aid (Aug. - Dec.) (2.8 million for drought and 300,000 flood affected)

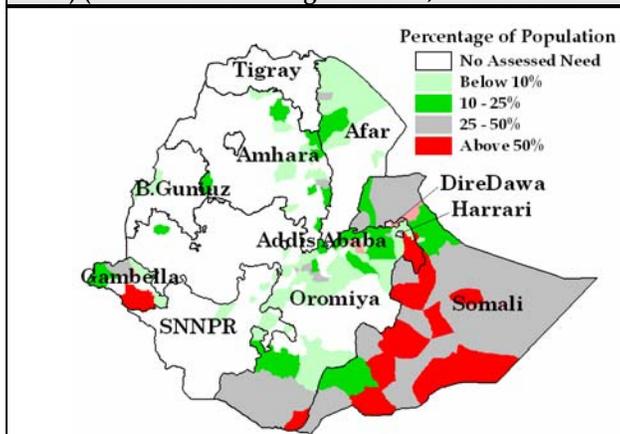
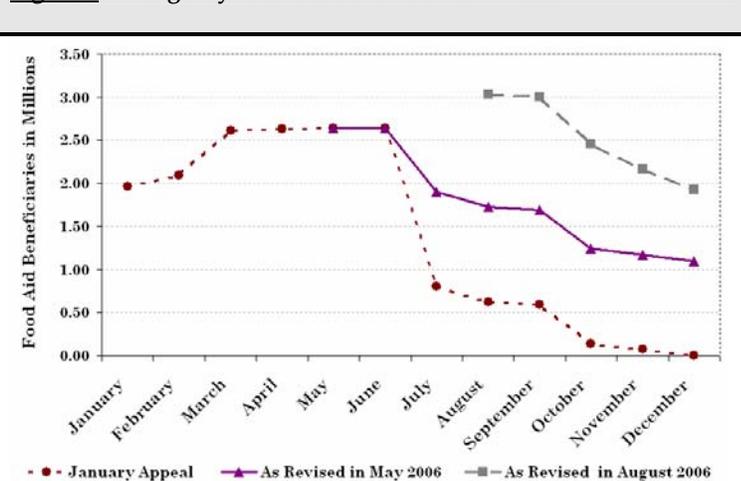


Figure 3: Emergency food aid beneficiaries in 2006



Source: Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency, *Belg* and Pastoral Area Assessment and Food Requirement (August - December 2006); WFP/VAM. Graphics by FEWS NET/Ethiopia. Note: These charts do not include more than 7.3 million PSNP beneficiaries which are indicated in Figure 1. Most or all of Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and SNNP Regions' beneficiaries are covered by PSNP.

The agriculturally rich center and west of the country have not been spared this year as flooding, hail storms, and persistent heavy rains have lowered crop production in localized areas and increased the vulnerability of many households.

Despite coordinated efforts by humanitarian actors and the government, the food and non-food needs remain high. Elongated recovery time and limited coping abilities, combined with continued poor rainfall and limited access to water, browse, and fodder in pastoral areas will prolong the need for food and non-food assistance even beyond the end of 2006.

The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) forecasted a high likelihood of normal to above-normal rainfall for the period September to December for most parts of Ethiopia, especially parts of Somali and Borena zones of Oromiya Region. If the forecast holds true, the food security situation of pastoralists will significantly improve through regenerating pasture and water availability. However, it will take more than one good season for pastoralists to recover from the loss of animals and the negative effects that reduced herd sizes have on their ability to cope with food insecurity.

Flood update

Persistent heavy rains in July and August resulted in heavy flooding that caused serious damage in almost all of Ethiopia, especially affecting the lives and livelihoods of people living in lowland areas. Field level information indicates that flooding this year has been the worst since the mid 1990s. More than 600 people are reported to have died, and more than 70,000 people have lost their homes and are displaced and living in temporary shelters. Heavy and persistent rains continued through the first dekad of September, and there is still a serious, continuing danger of increases in waterborne diseases, if these heavy rains continue.

On August 25, 2006, the GOE and humanitarian partners appealed for additional emergency assistance above the January appeal (revised in May) to address the worsening humanitarian crisis following to the floods. This revised appeal, which reflects the findings of a multi-agency assessment, identified about 200,000 people in need of emergency assistance. An additional 300,000 people are expected to be affected if heavy rains persist. Floods in September in Amhara Region affected about 100,000 people, displacing more than 37,000 people, and inundated more than 15,000 Ha of crop land.

Due to the flooding, the DPPA estimates that there are now about 3.1 million people in need of emergency assistance for the remainder of the year. With this increase in beneficiaries, about 172,000 MT of food aid, of which 10,000 MT are for flood-affected areas, are needed to meet emergency food needs for the rest of the year. The flood appeal seeks US \$22 million to meet emergency non-food and rehabilitation requirements (Table 1). The full impact of the flooding is still unknown and being assessed.

Table 1: Emergency relief and rehabilitation requirements for flood victims in Ethiopia (in US\$)

Total Requirements		27,099,526	
Emergency		Rehabilitation	
Sector	Requirement	Sector	Requirement
Food Sub-total	5,184,673	Housing	3,337,786
Health	5,292,834	Infrastructure	934,256
Water	1,307,170	Non-Food Items	922,722
Seed	1,177,854	Livelihood Support	603,977
Temporary shelter and NFI	5,081,256	Water Supply and Water Schemes	1,893,465
Livestock health	382,399	Agriculture	49,596
Search and Rescue	608,351	Health Services	155,709
Non-Food Sub-Total	13,849,864	Education	167,478
		Rehabilitation Sub-Total	8,064,989

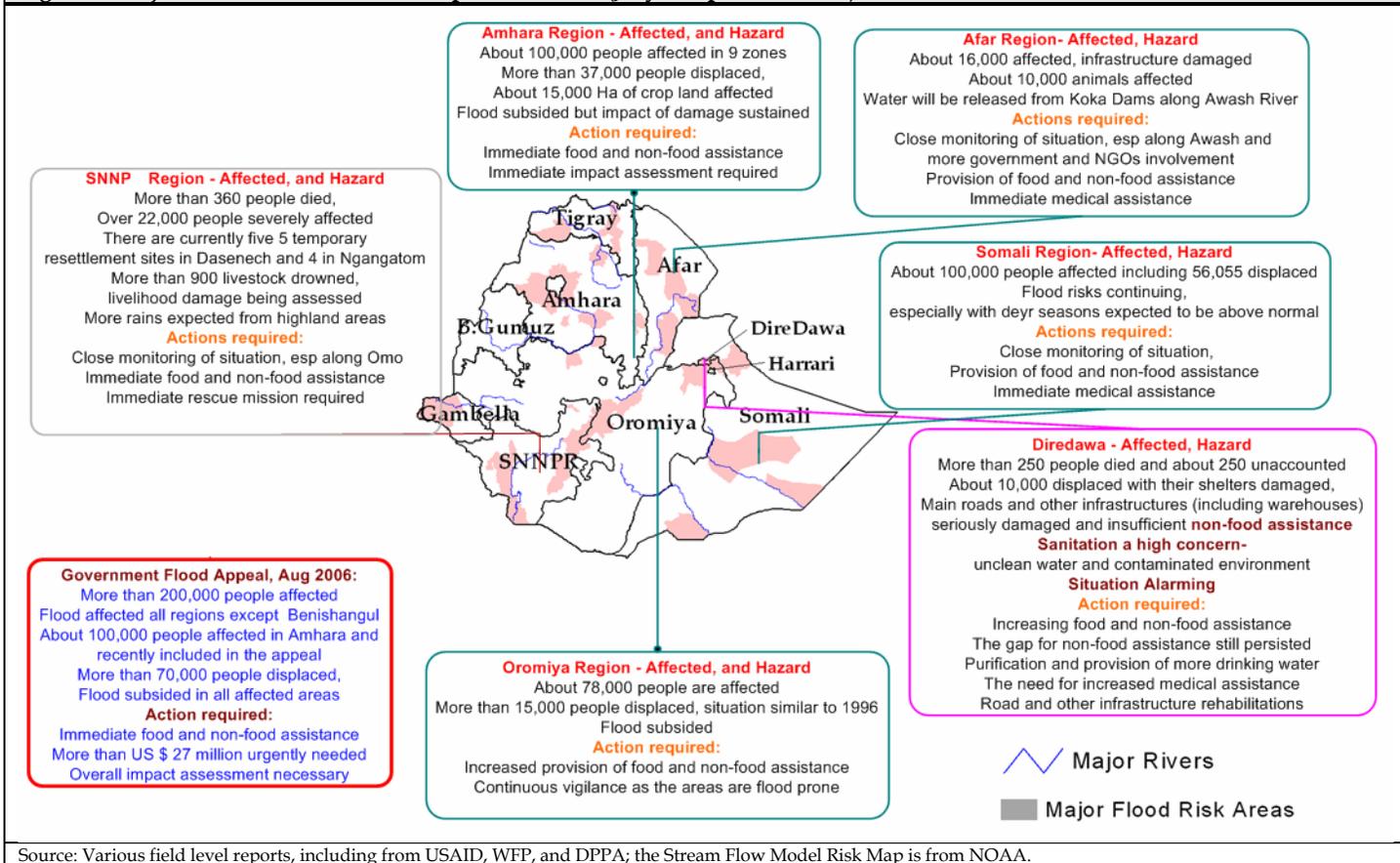
Source: DPPA, Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners Flash Appeal for 2006 Flood Disaster in Ethiopia, August 2006.

The flood-affected areas with the most damages include Diredawa town and areas along the Omo Basin in South Omo Zone of Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and along Lake Tana in Amhara Region. Serious damage to property and farmland is also reported in other parts of the country, including areas in Oromiya, Amhara, Gambella, Tigray and the predominantly pastoral regions of Afar and Somali, where a significant number of people have been displaced and are in dire need of assistance.

Recent developments seem to indicate that flooding has subsided in almost all the affected regions. However, there is an ongoing concern in southern parts of Somali Region and south Omo Zone of SNNPR along the Omo River, as normal to above-normal rains are expected during the September – December period.

The government, relief agencies and NGOs working in the affected areas have mounted response efforts, providing full rations for affected beneficiaries, along with medical, water and sanitation services, and plastic sheeting, blankets, jerry cans, and high energy biscuits. Despite these timely and coordinated efforts, resource gaps are being reported from different areas, as less than 10 percent of the flood disaster appeal has been met so far. According to the flash appeal, many people remain stranded or in shelters due to heavy rains. There is an urgent need for search and rescue boats and life-vests, emergency non-food items, and water, sanitation and health services. Hence, more needs to be done. In the medium- to long-term, effective flood early warning along these basins is needed. Not only is urgent action needed in flood-affected areas, but sustained operations to mitigate the extreme food insecurity prevalent in many parts of the country must also remain a priority.

Figure 4: Major Flood Risk Areas and Impacts of Flood (July – September 2006)



Source: Various field level reports, including from USAID, WFP, and DPPA; the Stream Flow Model Risk Map is from NOAA.

Market analysis

Cereal prices have shown a rising trend since January 2006. Despite a favorable *belg* harvest and *meher* prospects this year, prices have continued to increase in August, a trend that started earlier than normal. Cereal prices also remained much above average (2001-2005) levels for August (Figures 5 and 6).

Figure 5: Addis Ababa wholesale prices for selected staple cereals

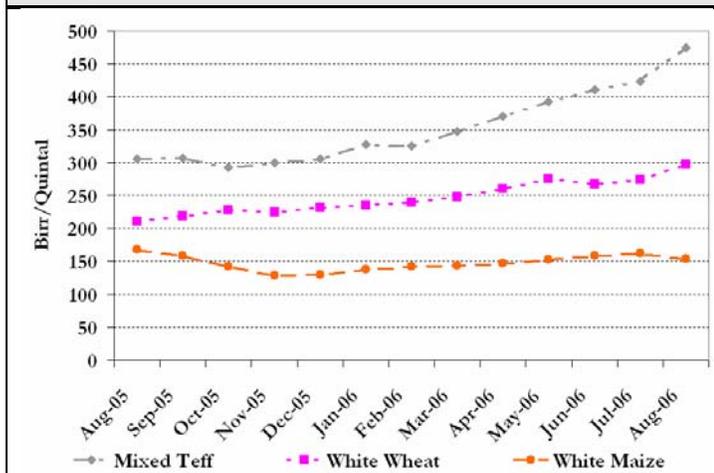
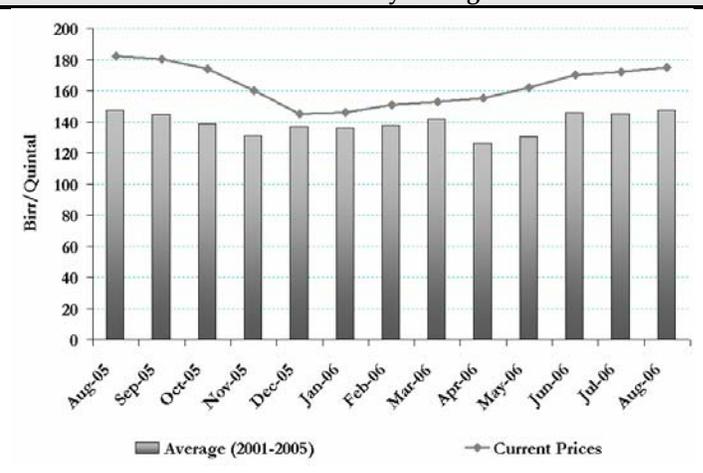


Figure 6: Real retail prices of white maize in Addis Ababa: 13-month trend and 2001-2005 monthly average



Source: Data archives of FEWS NET/Ethiopia, and Ethiopian Grain Trade Enterprise (EGTE). Graphics by FEWS NET/Ethiopia.

Notes: (1) Prices are expressed in Ethiopian Birr per Quintal. (2) One Quintal = 100 kg; 1 Ethiopian Birr ≈ 12 US Cents. (3) Average prices (2001-2005) are deflated by their respective consumer price index values.

Deficit markets of Mekele, Dire Dawa, Jijiga, and Addis Ababa have shown a more than five percent increase in August. Cereal prices have also shown increases in some typical surplus producing areas of BahirDar, Hossana and Nakempt,

though with a lesser magnitude. The prospect of an above-average *meher* harvest, which begins in late September in the lowland areas and extends through February in the typical highland areas, does not seem to have any stabilizing or decreasing impact so far.

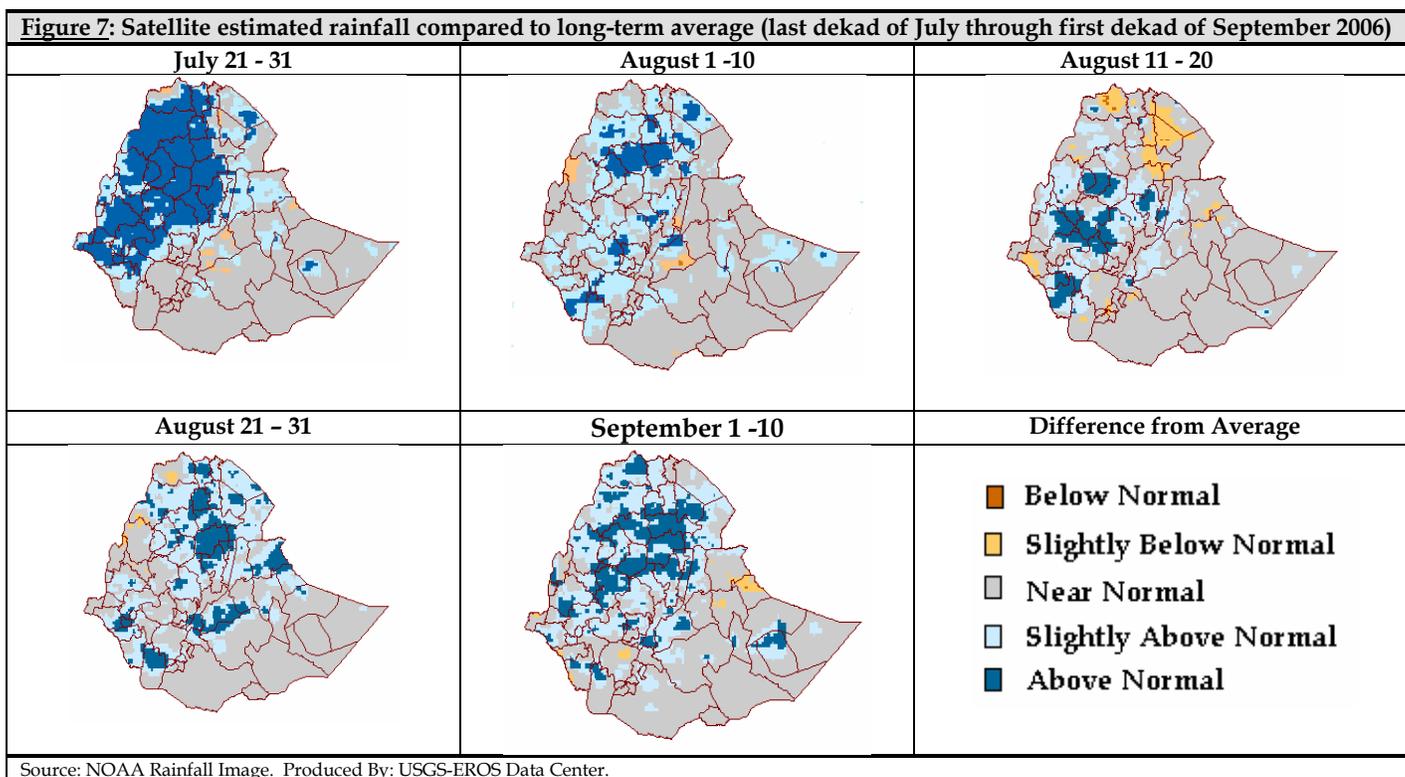
Prices are normally expected to decrease as the harvest period (late September to December) approaches. However, prices are not showing any signs of declining and are instead increasing due to several factors including decreased supply due to depletion of grain stocks held by farmers and traders, fuel price increases, floods in some areas, persistent poor performances of rains in pastoral areas, and traders holding onto stocks in anticipation of further price increases. This indicates that prices may further increase for the coming few months, contrary to average seasonal movement for this time.

This continued trend has caused problems in the pastoral areas and other typical deficit areas by limiting market access for rural and urban poor populations. The increase in prices may help producers get better earnings at the start of the harvest season because producers can sell grain at current record high prices.

Weather update

Kiremt rains (June – September) normally begin to taper off in late August/early September in the northeast and follow a progressive withdrawal toward the southwest where the season may extend until late November. During July and August, flooding, hailstorms and thunderstorms are quite common along the major rivers, and the western, central highlands and northwestern parts of the country are particularly prone to water logging due to saturated soils.

This year, from the start of the season in June through the first half of July, the temporal and spatial distribution of rains was regular, and volumes were sufficient over crop-dependent parts of the country, with some exceptions and irregularities in the northeastern highlands. The onset of rainfall has been late in East, South, and Central Tigray zones of Tigray Region. The eastern lowlands of North and South Wello zones also received late rains, with a late start of planting. The western half of the country has received normal to above-normal rainfall throughout the period.



After the late start, rains were somewhat erratic during the second dekad of July, after which the rainfall amount and distribution over most of the western, eastern and northeastern parts of Ethiopia significantly improved through the first dekad of September. The rains covered the entire *meher* producing areas and the pastoral areas of Afar and much of the southern regions, including South Omo Zone. Normal to above-normal rains during August and the first dekad of September were beneficial for the lowland and midland areas for long-cycle crops, facilitating their flowering and full

ripeness stages. Figure 7 indicates much above-average rainfall for all *kiremt* dependent areas of the country. The southern and southeastern pastoral areas of the country remained seasonably dry.

Heavy and frequent rains caused flash floods and losses of human lives, and inflicted serious damage to roads, bridges and crops in different parts of the country. Flooding of the Omo River in SNNPR, the Baro River in Gambela Region, the Awash River in Oromiya and Afar regions, and Lake Tana in Amhara Region reportedly affected more than 300,000 people.

Good performance of the *belg* (minor growing season) 2006 harvest followed by good to very good *kiremt* (major growing season) rainfall distribution in the major crop producing areas of the country will continue to improve the overall domestic production of food supplies into 2007. Cereals in the western half of the country, particularly in Tigray, Oromiya and northern Amhara Region, are developing well following a good distribution of rains from July through the first dekad of September. These crops experienced a longer period of moisture, which is expected to continue as crops still need that level of moisture to reach maturity. The prevailing rainy spells in northern regions appear to be continuing.

Looking at the overall production prospects for the *meher* 2006 season, despite some expected poor performance in the northeastern highlands, the overall national production is expected to be one of the best in recent years. Western, southwestern, and northwestern regions, which produce a significant proportion of national production, are expected to harvest more than the previous six-year average. This is generally due to the good rains that have occurred this season.

Recovery of the pastoral sector in southern Ethiopia will largely depend on the *deyr* rains from October – December, in which the regional climate forecast indicates normal to above-normal rainfall. It will, however, take more than one good rainy season for pastoralists to recover from the loss of animals and the negative effect that reduced herd sizes have on their ability to cope with food insecurity.

Extremely good rains have returned to the Afar pastoral region of northeastern Ethiopia. There are already reports that access to browse, fodder, and water have improved markedly, and this is improving livestock conditions.

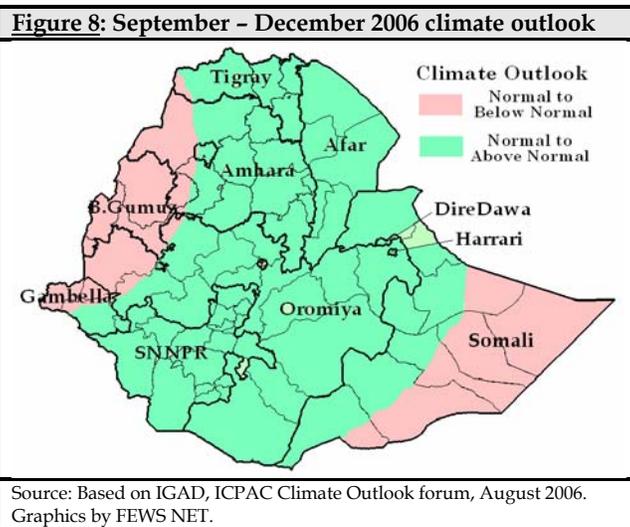
Climate Outlook – September to December 2006

In late August, the Eighteenth Climate Outlook Forum for the Greater Horn of Africa, organized by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), forecasted a high likelihood of normal to above-normal rainfall for the September to December period for most parts of Ethiopia. The forecast for the vulnerable areas of the southeastern tip of Somali Region is not as favorable, with the forecast predicting a high probability for below-average rainfall between September and December 2006 (see Figure 8).

By late September, *meher* rains often withdraw from most crop-dependent areas. In these areas, the period from October to December is normally dry, during which most crops attain full maturity. This year, meteorologists have predicted that the rain withdrawal will be normal, with some probable late withdrawal. In these areas where *meher* rainfall has been normal to above-normal so far, late withdrawal of rains (after mid-October) would interfere with the harvest and in some cases it could damage the already maturing crops. On the other hand, predicted below-normal rains in Gambella and Benishangul regions will not have any negative impact as the areas got enough precipitation during the season so far.

In September and early October, the northeastern half of Ethiopia, which frequently suffers from inadequate rains and shorter growing period, will have normal to above-normal rainfall that will stimulate seed setting and the crop grain filling process, resulting in increased production. Areas in SNNPR will be able to produce short-cycle crops such as *teff* and pulses with the extended residual moisture.

September to December constitutes an important rainfall season over much of southern and southeastern lowland areas as it provides a long-awaited respite to the dry conditions currently prevailing in these areas. It should be noted that



pasture and water availability have been diminishing in these areas due to consecutive poor seasons, seriously affecting livestock and human well-being. If the forecast of above-normal rainfall holds true for most of northern and western Somali Region and Borena Zone of Oromiya Region, the food security situation of pastoralists will significantly improve through regenerating pasture and increased water availability, thereby increasing livestock productivity. However, recovery in these areas needs more than one good season. A similar outcome could be expected in the mainly pastoral, drought-affected Afar Region. The crop-dependent parts of South Omo may also produce some maize.

If this rains fail or are much less than normal, as forecasted for the southeastern tip of Somali Region, the food security status among pastoralists who still have livestock and those trying to recover from the loss of animals may decline rapidly, and the livestock sector could be set back even further. Food shortages are almost certain to emerge among pastoralists and significant production shortfalls can be expected in the agro-pastoral zones, especially recession agriculture in low- and mid-altitude areas. Moreover, as major pastoral areas in neighboring Somalia and northeastern parts of Kenya are also anticipating poor rains during the September-December period, the normal pastoral coping strategy of cross-border livestock migration to better grazing areas will be constrained and could lead to increased conflict over scarce resources.

Since localized month-to-month and dekad-to-dekad variations are likely to occur, the forecasting center advises users to follow the regular forecast updates provided by the National Meteorological Agency.