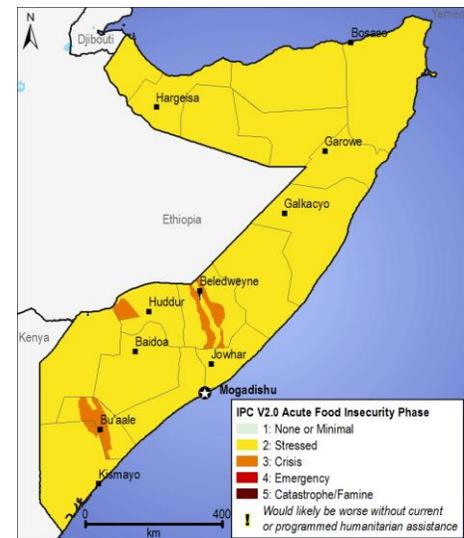


Food security to deteriorate in the South due to intensified conflict

KEY MESSAGES

- In agropastoral areas in the South that had a very limited January/February *Deyr* harvest, food security will remain at or deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) during the April to June lean season. In parts of Bakool and Hiraan, the poorest households will move into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) due to more limited trade, which decreases economic activity.
- In the North, food security is likely to improve through September as a result of increased livestock production and increased livestock prices due demand for Ramadan in June/July and the Hajj in late September. With average to below-average rainfall forecast for this season, pasture and water availability will increase, supporting recovery of livestock body conditions from a warmer and longer than usual January to March *Jilaal* dry season.
- In the riverine livelihood zones in Middle and Lower Juba, food security will deteriorate between now and June as a result of reduced cereal availability from the well below-average off-season harvest in March and reduced agricultural labor income due to likely river flooding in April/May that will reduce demand for labor for land preparation, planting, and weeding.

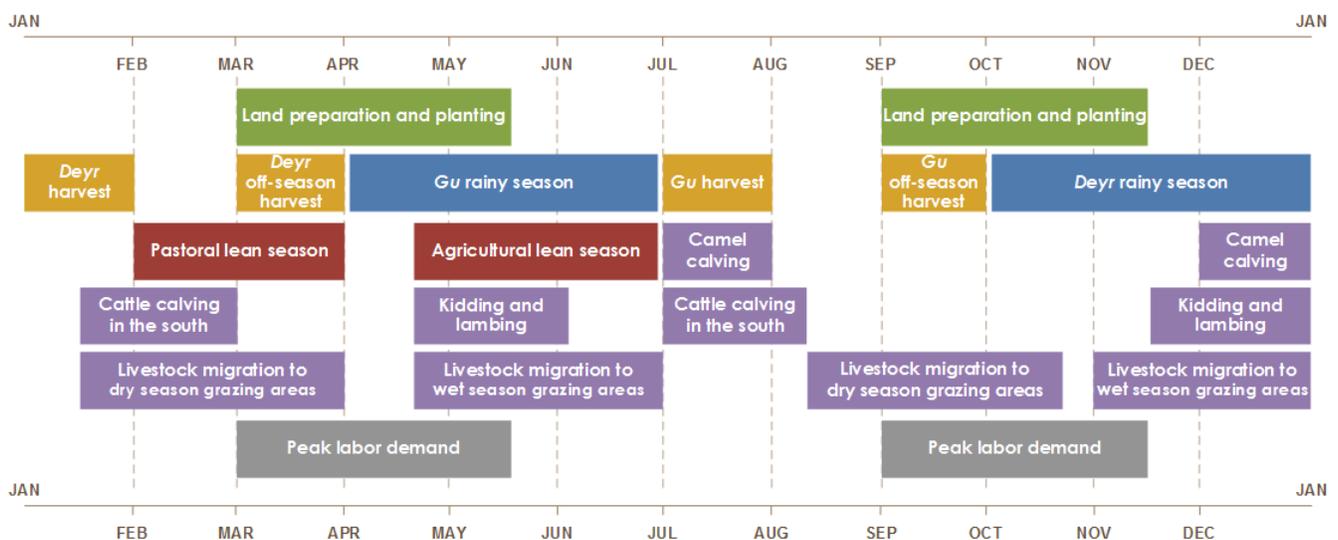
Current food security outcomes, April 2015



Source: FEWS NET

This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click [here](#).

SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR



Source: FEWS NET

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

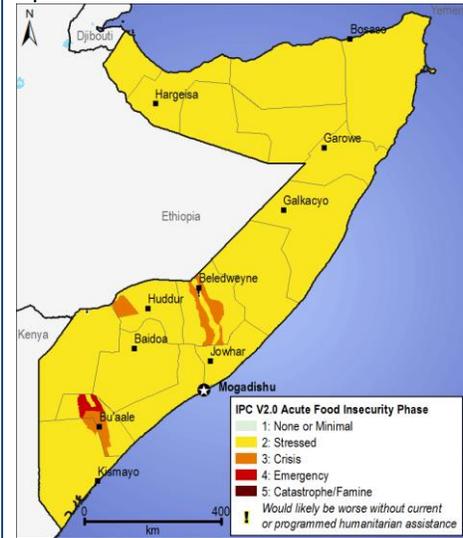
Since January 2015, food security has deteriorated, and **the number of people in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) has increased to nearly one million.**

Food security has deteriorated due to a variety of unanticipated shocks since January. Intensified conflict in 2015 has restricted trader movement. The *Deyr* off-season harvest in March was much less than anticipated as stagnant flood waters reduced the area available for recessional cultivation. Insect infestations also reduced yields. Cereal prices are the highest they have been since 2011 in many markets, which decreased food access. High temperatures during the January to March *Jilaal* dry season accelerated water depletion in *berkads* and other water catchments, resulting in water scarcity in many pastoral areas in the northern and central regions. The higher temperatures also increased the frequency with which livestock needed to be watered. Distances to water points grew longer. Prices for trucked water increased, and water trucking continued later than usual through the end of March. Pasture deteriorated, and the availability of dry pasture was reduced. The driest areas were in Southern Inland Pastoral, Hawd Pastoral, Sool Plateau Pastoral, and Southern Agropastoral livelihood zones.

In late March, light to moderate *Todob* rains fell in some parts of the country. These alleviated the water scarcity, but improvements were short lived as livestock from the drier areas were migrated to refilled water points. These *Todob* rains, the very light rains that precede the heavier April to June *Gu* rainy season, had different levels of intensity, and temporal and spatial distribution were uneven. Between 21 and 24 March, moderate to light rains of between 10 and 75 millimeters (mm) fell in some places. The heaviest amounts fell in West-Golis Pastoral livelihood zone, Northwest Agropastoral, parts of the Hawd in the northwestern regions, and agropastoral areas of Bakool. In the rest of the country, localized light to moderate rains fell in both pastoral and agropastoral areas, but this was not enough rain to facilitate planting. These rains subsided during the last week of March. Most of southern Gedo, Hiraan, Bay, and Middle and Lower Shabelle, and Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zone in both Lower Juba and the central regions remained dry in March. Then in April the *Gu* rains started with mostly normal or even slightly early timing of the onset of rains. Thus far, amounts of mostly been near average (Figure 1).

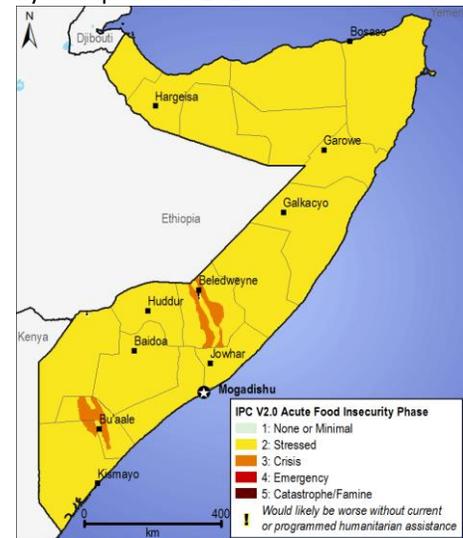
In the **North**, despite the *Todob* rains in late March, water trucking continued through March in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone in Awdal Region, the Hawd, Sool Plateau Pastoral, East Golis Pastoral, Karkaar-Dharor Pastoral, and Nugal Valley Pastoral in Togdheer, Sool, Sanaag, Bari, Nugal, and northern Mudug Regions. In addition to water supply being far below normal, rangeland conditions deteriorated more than usual due to the drier and warmer than usual January to March *Jilaal* dry season. Livestock have needed to be moved more frequently in search of dry pasture. Water and pasture conditions were similar in the **central regions**. In the **South**, temperatures were lower during the January to March *Jilaal* dry season in most of Bay and Middle Shabelle and in some parts of Lower Shabelle, Middle and Lower Juba, and Bakool, preserving some access to pasture and water. However, in the southern areas that received well below-average October to December *Deyr* rains, pasture and water access were lower. Livestock had to be migrated to riverine

Projected rural food security outcomes, April to June 2015



Source: FEWS NET

Projected rural food security outcomes, July to September 2015



Source: FEWS NET Somalia

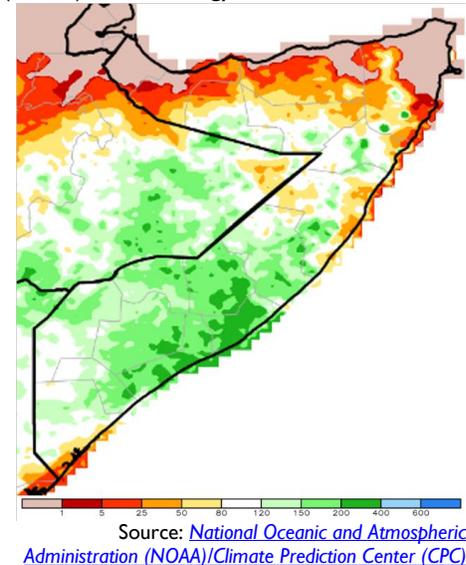
This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click [here](#).

areas or over long distances to access dry pasture. These areas included agropastoral areas in Lower and Middle Juba, Hiraan, and Gedo Regions along with some parts of Lower Shabelle and Southern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone in Gedo and Lower and Middle Juba.

The off-season *Deyr* harvest in March from riverine areas along the Juba River was well below average and below expectations from January. Flood waters did not recede in all areas, limiting planting. Also, moisture stress, insect damage, and foggy and cloudy weather reduced yields. Some households sold maize as fodder, realizing it would not reach maturity. Sesame yields were also lower than anticipated. Approximately 1,200 metric tons (MT) of maize and 2,900 MT of sesame were harvested in March.

- Despite persistent insecurity, **land preparation** in agropastoral and riverine areas in the southern regions continued in March. However, a significant amount of land that is usually planted in Middle Juba was not prepared due to stagnant flood waters and limited cash for better-off households to hire labor for bush clearing.
- **Maize and sorghum** prices increased from January to March in all cereal surplus-producing and deficit areas. The below-average *Deyr* harvest in January/February and *Deyr* off-season harvest in March along with reduced cereal imports for humanitarian assistance have decreased cereal supply. In the sorghum belt, sorghum prices have reached levels above last year, but they are generally near their five-year averages. Similarly, in the Juba Valley, the March white maize prices were generally higher than last year and recent months but near the five-year averages. The recent increases in prices are probably due to the low supply. In the Shabelles, maize prices have followed similar trends, but due to more outflow to the Jubas, they tend to be slightly above their five-year averages.
- **Imported red rice prices in the northeastern and central regions have decreased slightly since last May.** Rice prices are significantly lower than their five-year averages. However, unlike in the rest of the country, in the Northwest, imported red rice prices have been stable over the past year.
- **Cumulative January to March 2015 informal exports of sorghum and maize from Ethiopia to central and northern Somalia were 25 percent more than last year.** This was attributed to less domestic production of maize in surplus-producing Lower Shabelle during the *Deyr* and to trade restrictions in and around Bay Region, which is main supplier of sorghum to the North.
- **Livestock prices** started to seasonally increase in most southern, central, and northwestern markets from February to March. From February to March in the sorghum belt, local-quality goat prices increased slightly. In the central regions, higher prices in March are likely due to the low number of sellable animals despite stable demand. In the northeastern regions, local-quality goat prices decreased from February to March. In the Northwest, March prices were slightly higher than February and generally above their five-year averages. The higher prices may be driven by lower imports from Somali Region in Ethiopia and central Somalia.
- **In the sorghum belt in Bakool, Gedo, and Hiraan Regions, livestock-to-cereal terms of trade (ToT) are generally below average.** The March local-quality goat to sorghum terms of trade (ToT) in Beletweyne is 32 percent lower than the five-year average, while in El Barde in Bakool, it was 56 percent below the five-year average. Similarly, in other areas that have been much drier than usual, livestock-to-cereal terms of trade are low. For example, in Sakow in Middle Juba, local-quality goat to white maize ToT in March was 45 percent below the five-year average. While much of the country still has livestock-to-cereal terms of trade that are above-average, the actual values vary greatly. Throughout Lower and Middle Juba, livestock-to-cereal terms of trade remain low compared to other parts of the country despite being above-average. For example, in Afmadow in Lower Juba, a local-quality goat can only buy 85 kilograms (kg) of white maize, compared to the five-year average of 69 kg of white maize per local-quality goat. In contrast, in Baidoa in Bay Region in March a local-quality goat could fetch 203 kilograms (kg) of red sorghum compared to a five-year average of 285 kg. In

Figure 1. Cumulative rainfall April 1 to 27, 2015 as a percent of the 1981-to-2010 mean, African rainfall climatology-2 (ARC2) methodology



Qoryoley in Lower Shabelle Region, a local-quality goat was worth 146 kg of white maize in March, actually slightly below the five-year average of 158 kg.

- The **daily labor wage rate** in the most of the crop-producing areas in the South remained largely stable or have marginally increased from November 2014 to March 2015. In Bay, Gedo, and Hiraaan, rates are generally above the five-year averages, and most daily rates increased slightly from February to March due to the seasonal rise in demand for agricultural labor for land preparation. However, in Bakool, rates increased more substantially from February to March, but they were still mostly lower than last year.
- **Between January and March 2015, troops from African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) and the government did not lose control of any territory.** However, targeted killings, suicide and car bombings, and other violent incidents continued in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo, Galkacyo, and other larger towns in the South. Al Shabaab has carried out ambushes on army convoys and trucks of humanitarian assistance. They have also killed prominent people in several towns. Al Shabaab has largely retreated into rural areas, but they are still able to block roads leading into towns and confiscate goods destined for these towns. This along with active fighting and traders' fear for their own personal security have disrupted trade and displaced thousands of people from towns. Approximately, 60 percent of the population have left Buloburte in Hiraaan for Beletweyne and Mogadishu along with nearby villages in agropastoral areas.
- **Inter-clan conflict** has caused displacement and the loss of lives and assets in Guriel District in Galgaduud Region, Marka in Lower Shabelle Region, and Beletweyne District in Hiraaan.

Assumptions

The April to September 2015 most likely scenario is based on the following national-level assumptions:

Climate:

- The cumulative **April-to-June Gu rainfall** in most of Somalia is likely to be near average to below-average with erratic distribution. However, most of the North and parts of Lower Juba will likely receive near average to above-average rainfall.
- **June-to-August coastal Xagaa rains** are likely to have a normally timed start and have average to below-average amounts of rain in the coastal areas and adjacent inland areas in Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, and Bay Region. The June to August *Xagaa* rains will seasonably increase water and pasture availability and allow the growth of late-planted and off-season crops.
- The **June-to-September Karan rains in northwestern Somalia** are likely to start on time and have near average to below-average amounts of rain.

Agricultural labor demand and crop production:

- With a high likelihood of below-average rainfall and the rains having started late in some areas, **below-average planted area** is likely. This would result in a below-average *Gu* harvest in July.
- **Agricultural labor demand is likely to be below average** in May to July due to low planted area both in agropastoral areas and in riverine areas along the Shabelle and Juba Rivers, which may have significant flooding. Some river bank breakages remain open, so even near average rainfall in both the upper river catchments in Ethiopia and locally in southern Somalia could lead to flooding. As result of floods, agricultural activities are likely to be delayed in many riverine areas, reducing agricultural labor demand throughout the *Gu* season.
- As flood waters recede, **recession cultivation** of off-season *Gu* crops will likely occur in July.
- In agropastoral areas of the Jubas, Hiraaan, and Gedo, the poor will likely spend more **time doing agricultural labor** for others than working on their own land in order to increase cash income. However, this will reduce area planted. Conversely, in Bay, Bakool, and the Shabelles, planted area under cereals is likely to be higher than last year as households seek to build cereal stocks since prices have been higher after the below-average *Deyr* harvest in January/February 2015.

Livestock:

- With the projected near average to below-average April to June *Gu* rainfall, **grazing and water conditions** are likely to be seasonally normal, but the availability of pasture, browse, and water will likely decline gradually during the July to September *Xagaa* dry season. With mostly average to good grazing conditions expected, livestock migration patterns should remain typical.
- No major **livestock disease outbreaks** are anticipated, and the current average to good livestock body conditions are expected to be maintained. **A low to medium level of livestock births** are expected during the *Gu* along with a medium rate of conceptions, particularly in the South.
- **Camel, cattle, and goat milk availability and access will likely increase** in most pastoral and agropastoral livelihood zones from mid-April to July as a result of the low to medium level of calving, and the expected medium level of kidding expected during the *Gu* as well as the increased water availability and improved pasture conditions.
- **Livestock prices** will seasonally increase from April through September as livestock export demand in the Middle East increases for Ramadan in June/July and in September for the Hajj. Restocking by traders both in Somalia and the Middle East steadily grows between April and September in anticipation of a large spike in demand for the Hajj.

Markets and trade:

- **Sorghum and maize prices** will likely increase significantly during the April to June lean season before green consumption of the *Gu* harvest begins in July. Prices will likely follow a seasonal decreasing trend between July and August, despite somewhat low cereal stocks as a result of low production in previous seasons and projected flood damage and of overall below-average planted area for the *Gu*.
- March maize and sorghum prices at markets in surplus-producing Bay Region are the lowest they have been since May 2014, and they are likely to remain low due to the reduced ability to take this supply to other parts of the country due to **trade restrictions**. However, in Lower Shabelle, the March maize prices are at the highest they have been since August 2014, and they are likely to continue increasing through July due to high demand for maize from the Juba Regions.
- **Seasonal monsoon high sea winds** between April and September prevent smaller ships from sailing from many of the smaller ports. This will likely contribute to a seasonally reduced volume of imports, including of rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar, and fuel. The market supply of imported goods though will likely remain seasonally typical, and prices will only increase seasonally.
- The **Somali shilling (SOS)** is likely to appreciate against major foreign currencies due to reduced imports during the monsoon high sea closure season between April and September, high demand for shilling related to the expected livestock exports, and the limited supply of the paper Somali shilling notes in circulation.
- Due to difficulties in sending **remittances**, less money is likely to be remitted to Somalia with the largest reduction likely being remittances from Kenya.

Humanitarian assistance:

- Access to humanitarian interventions will likely be reduced from current levels due to sustained civil insecurity in rural areas of the South controlled by armed groups and roads' impassibility during the April to June *Gu* rains. However, **ongoing humanitarian assistance** is likely to continue in the more secure and easier-to-reach areas including in the western parts of the central, northeastern, and northwestern regions.
- Humanitarian assistance is also assumed to continue in the **areas that are currently controlled by the Federal Government of Somalia** supported by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) including some parts of Lower Juba, northern Gedo Region, El Barde District in Bakool, and Beletweyne District in Hiraa.
- **Restrictions on trade** into Buloburte, Rabdhure, Xudur, Tiye glow, Wajid, and El Barde towns will likely continue to restrict access to these towns both for traders and for humanitarian agencies.

Conflict:

- Attacks on Federal Government of Somalia's personnel and AMISOM troops are likely to continue. **Armed conflict** is likely to continue, mainly in the South and especially in the Juba and Shabelle Regions. The conflict will continue to hinder

humanitarian access, cause further losses of life and assets, and interruptions of both population movements and trade. Additional people are likely to be displaced by the conflict from April to September.

- **Returnees and refugees from Yemen** will continue to arrive in northern Somalia, primarily to coastal areas but also with some arrivals in Mogadishu, due to likely continued conflict and civil insecurity in Yemen. Households hosting returnees and refugees will face additional, unanticipated expenses, and some areas may see additional competition for certain types of labor.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

As a result of limited cereal stocks, early depletion of water points, and deteriorating pasture conditions during the warmer and drier than usual January to March *Jilaal* dry season, high local cereal prices, insufficient income to cover both food purchases and debt repayments, overstretched of social support networks, and escalating insecurity in South-Central Somalia, food insecurity in many places is expected to deteriorate between April to June. **This will increase the number people who are acutely food insecure above the estimated 731,000 people in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phase 3 or 4) that was made in January.**

From April through June, livestock productivity will seasonally increase during the rainy season. Many livestock will give birth. Even if below-average, April to June rainfall will likely still recharge water points and improve pasture and browse conditions. This will even be the case in the areas that had less October-to-December *Deyr* rainfall, including the Hawd, Addun Pastoral, and Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zones. However, change will be gradual, as livestock body conditions slowly recover. There will continue to be a limited number of sellable livestock, high cereal prices, and high debts. No major shifts in acute food insecurity phases are expected between now and June. All pastoral and most agropastoral livelihood zones in South-Central are expected to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

However, in agropastoral areas in Hiraan, Bakool, and Middle Juba, food security will further deteriorate during the April to June lean season due to limited household cereal stocks, high local and imported food prices, low livestock prices, and conflict constraining market access and trade. Nutrition will likely deteriorate. Riverine areas in Middle Juba are likely to flood, damaging any standing recessional crops still in the fields and further reducing agricultural labor demand in Middle Juba. Food security outcome in these areas is expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) though the poorest households may have worse outcomes from April to June.

No major changes in food security classification are expected between now and September in pastoral areas. Despite the increased livestock production and value through September, incomes will likely still not cover food purchases, debt repayments, and other essential expenses. Poor households will likely be able to access milk and some income from milk sales. Most pastoral areas are expected to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Recently money remittances companies were closed by the Government of Kenya. This, along with continued difficulties in remitting from western countries will reduce **income from remittances**. The closures in Kenya will likely reduce the volume of cross-border trade between Kenya and Somalia as payments become more difficult to make and increase the likelihood of some refugee households returning to Somalia from Kenya.

In riverine areas and some agropastoral areas in Hiraan, Bakool, and Middle Juba, nutrition outcomes may deteriorate during the April to June *Gu* rains and afterwards due to high incidence of communicable diseases such as diarrhea, malaria, and respiratory tract infections that are common during the rainy season. However, **nutrition outcomes are likely to improve in most pastoral and agropastoral livelihood zones between April and September as food consumption slowly increases, especially of milk.**

AREAS OF CONCERN

Hiraan Agropastoral livelihood zone

Current Situation

In Hiraan Agropastoral livelihood zone, owing to the warmer than normal *Jilaal* dry season which started early in December and continued through late March, water sources were depleted early, both from communal dams and privately-owned water catchments. The dry heat degraded the pasture in Hiraan's Southern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone and nearby parts of the Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone where livestock had been migrated in January. As a result, livestock body conditions deteriorated to poor, earning a condition score (CS) of two using the [pictorial evaluation tool](#), in most cases. No livestock conceptions were reported between January and March. Livestock have since been returned to riverine and agropastoral areas to consume crop residue and in many cases to access water from the Shabelle River. However, for those closest to the river, they are currently at risk of insect-borne diseases from the Tsetse flies, ticks, and mosquitoes. As livestock have been traveling long distances between water and pasture, milk production has declined to almost nothing. In December, [the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia's](#) (FSNAU's) December information indicates that households had sold or lost 12 percent of their cattle since June 2014, representing declining herd sizes. However, small ruminant numbers did not change significantly over this time period. In March, in order to pay for the cost of the minimum basket (CMB), a computation of minimal living expenses in Somalia, a household in agropastoral areas in Hiraan would have needed to sell three goats or sheep per month. Not having enough sellable males, poor households are either selling animals of reproductive age, reducing future herd size growth potential or taking on more debt or asking for more gifts from the better off to meet their food needs.

Very few cattle or camels calved between January and March. A medium rate of kidding and lambing was reported in March due to a medium conception rate during the October to December *Deyr* rains. Livestock sales are currently primarily being used to pay down debts incurred to pay for food and other essential non-food needs between January and March. Livestock productivity is low, and since January, cattle milk availability has been declining. By March, cattle milk prices in Halagan town were 33 percent higher than last year due to low supply. Similarly, the March camel milk price in Halagan was 24 percent higher than last year.

In March, livestock prices had marginally increased since February, but they were the lowest they had been since July 2011 in Beletweyne with a local-quality goat priced 12 percent lower than the five-year average. In Halgan, a local-quality goat in March cost seven percent less than last year but was near the five-year average.

Prices of locally-produced staple foods including white sorghum and maize increased very slightly from February to March, as is the seasonal trend in Beletweyne due to the rising cost of bringing in supplies from Lower Shabelle and Somali Region of Ethiopia. Cereal prices in March in Halagan, a more rural market than Beletweyne, were eight percent higher than March 2014. Higher cereal prices are primarily the result of well below-average crop production for the last three seasons as well as trade restrictions and insecurity raising the cost of supply from other areas.

As the *Deyr* harvest in February 2014, the *Gu* harvest in August 2014, and the *Deyr* harvest in February 2013 had almost no production in these agropastoral areas, households do not have any cereal stocks from their own production and must purchase all of their food. However, [the marketing of cereals and of livestock have been curtailed by insecurity, especially in Buloburte and Jalalaqsi Districts in southern Hiraan where roads have been blocked by armed groups](#). These trade routes are typically quite busy as they provide an important connection between Mogadishu and the South with the central regions and the Northeast.

Land preparation for the *Gu* started in March, and the moderate increase in labor opportunities has increased income from agricultural labor. The daily labor rate thus increased eight percent from February to March and was very close to what it was last year. The labor-to-white-sorghum terms of trade were close to the five-year average in March with one day of labor being worth 11 kg of white sorghum. However, labor income right now will not be able to recuperate the missed income from *Deyr* cash crop and cereal sales, so households have overall lower purchasing power. Poor households are currently funding market purchases of food through loans, cash gift, selling milk, selling bush products like firewood and charcoal, and doing labor,

mostly for land preparation. In December, poor households had debts of around USD 153, and this has likely increased since then with additional loans and food purchases on credit.

Despite the slight increase of purchasing power in March with the seasonal increase in agricultural labor demand, in March the terms of trade (ToT) between a local-quality goat and white sorghum in Beletweyne were 32 percent below the five-year average with one local-quality goat worth 77 kilograms (kg) of white sorghum.

Inter-clan conflict and conflict between the Federal Government of Somalia and armed groups continues in Hiraan. Insecurity has increased over the past six months, leading to less trade [with some roads blocked going to the main towns](#). This has disrupted both trade and population movement. Increasing collection of fees and other levies on traded commodities has increased transaction costs and discourages trade. Humanitarian access is incredibly limited in Buloburte and Jalalaqsi Districts and most parts of Beletweyne District. Based on these factors, coupled with continued insecurity and limited humanitarian assistance, poor households have significant food consumption gaps and are currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) with the poorest households in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions described above, the following assumptions have been made about agropastoral areas in Hiraan:

- Due to trade restrictions limiting cereal inflow from Bay Region and other parts of the South, **local cereal prices** are likely to increase more than the seasonal trend from now through August when the *Gu* harvest enters the market.
- **Livestock herd sizes** are likely to decline further due to an unsustainable level of sales to meet food needs, essential non-food needs, and cash needs for debt repayments from May to September.
- **Sales of bush products** will provide less income than usual during the April to June rainy season due to low demand in urban markets, attributed to insecurity and difficulties in getting these products to markets.
- **Continued active conflict** will lead to loss of life and assets. Conflict will limit humanitarian access, lead to lower labor demand from towns than usual, and lower demand for other goods and services in towns. Conflict will continue to increase transaction costs for trade and limit the volume of goods traded.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Agropastoral areas in Hiraan Region are more dependent on livestock than crops as a source of food and income, so other than milk, most other foods are purchased. Income from livestock sales, milk sales, and some cash crop sales typically provide the income to fund these food purchases. With some livestock births expected, from April to June, most poor households may receive a lactating female animal on loan from a better-off household or gifts of milk, which will increase households' milk consumption and sales from their current low levels.

Despite likely increased milk consumption and sales, the cash obtained will not suffice to repay debts and continue to purchase food. Poor households will likely be unable to purchase or borrow sufficient quantities of food between now and June. Humanitarian assistance will likely not reach these rural areas. These areas will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) during the lean season from April to June, and the poorest households may fall into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between April to June.

Following the dry and windy July to September *Xagaa* season and possibly below-average April to June *Gu* rainfall, wild fruit availability is likely to be minimal. As the few milking animals dry-up during the August and September *Xagaa* dry season, poor households will have less milk from their own animals, from loaned lactating animals, and as milk gifts. This will reduce income from milk sales and milk consumption. Livestock sales income will increase slightly as livestock demand and prices will rise due to Hajj restocking in August and September, but most households will have few sellable animals, especially male animals, as they have been overselling since the poor *Gu* harvest in August/September 2014. Then the *Gu* harvest will likely be below average in volume due to likely below-average rainfall.

Despite the expected increase in cereal stocks with the harvest in August and some green maize and green sorghum consumption in July, most poor households are likely to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from July to September with not enough income to fund purchases of food, essential non-food items, and debt repayments. Some poor households with relatively larger livestock holdings may move into Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and the poorest are likely to gain enough additional food and income to move out of Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and back into Crisis (IPC Phase 3), but there are unlikely to be enough households moving to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to change the area classification from Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Southern Agropastoral livelihood zone in Lower and Middle Juba Regions

Current Situation

In the agropastoral areas of the Juba Regions, the January to March *Jilaal* dry season was hotter than normal. Livestock were migrated to riverine areas to access water and pasture earlier than normal, resulting in an increased incidence of insect-borne diseases. Livestock body conditions deteriorated due to longer than normal distances to pasture and water. No calving and kidding took place during the *Jilaal* due to three successive seasons of below-average rainfall, which led to low conception rates over the past year and a half. Households have livestock holdings [below their 2005 baseline levels](#). Households are selling livestock to fund market purchases of food and other essential items as the *Deyr* harvest in February/March was significantly below average in this area.

Todob rains fell in late March and continued into early April in some agropastoral areas of Middle and Lower Juba Regions. Gradually, planting started in late March, and thus far the seeds are germinating at normal rates with April *Gu* rainfall thus far being near average in these areas (Figure 1).

The average **labor wage rates** in agropastoral areas remained stable from February to March 2015 though road access improved allowing more movement to seek labor opportunities. Trade has resumed as earthen roads dried up during the dry season, and traders started restocking maize from Lower Shabelle and imported commodities for the coming lean season.

Agricultural labor opportunities became more available as land preparation started in March, increasing poor households' income and food access. However, in the cropping-dominant agropastoral areas of Sakow District in Middle Juba Region where agricultural production during the *Deyr* was especially low, households typically provide labor to irrigated farms in riverine areas. During this January to March *Jilaal*, some of these areas could not irrigate as the Juba River was almost entirely dry. Other riverine areas were still flooded, preventing much of the horticultural production that occurs during the dry season and requires labor from agropastoral areas.

All of Southern Agropastoral livelihood zone in Juba is controlled by insurgents. No major clashes occurred but armed skirmishes, organized killing, and aerial bombardment were reported. This reduces trade and population movements, such as labor migration, for fears about personal security. Taxation of livestock, food, and non-food commodity trade has further reduced poor households' purchasing power, resulting in food consumption gaps as households are unable to purchase adequate quantities of food.

Cattle **milk prices** increased from February to March. They were higher in March than six months before, but they were an average of eight percent lower than their five-year averages. Similarly, the prices of camel milk also increased but remained lower than their five-year averages. Increasing milk prices are due to the recent decline in milk availability as livestock were migrated to wet season grazing areas that received moderate *Todob* rains in late March.

The average local quality goat prices in Buaale, Hagar, Jilib, and Sakow started to increase in March, following usual, seasonal trends. The average March terms of trade (ToT) between a local-quality goat and white maize in these markets was 10 percent below the five-year average. Similarly, the average daily labor wage rate to white maize ToT in March was 11 percent below the five-year average. Lower labor-to-white-maize and goat-to-white-maize ToT are primarily due to higher maize prices. Locally-produced white sorghum prices in Sakow in March had been stable since January, but they are 17 higher than last year. This higher price is attributed to three successive season of below-average crop production and reduced cereal trade due to insecurity. ToT between local quality goats and white sorghum in March In Sakow, local-quality goat to white sorghum ToT in March were the lowest they had been since September 2012 and 59 below the five-year average.

Poor households have significant food consumption gaps and are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions described above, the following assumption has been made about Southern Agropastoral livelihood zone in Lower and Middle Juba Regions:

- Insecurity in northeastern Kenya and the closure by the Government of Kenya of some money transfer companies in Kenya will further reduce livestock, food, and non-food export trade from southern Somalia to Kenya. This will likely reduce cattle prices in Southern Agropastoral livelihood zone and demand for some other goods.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

From April to June during the lean season, food security will further deteriorate as high locally-produced cereal prices rise further and insufficient incomes limit food purchases. Households will need to use some of their income for debt repayments, as many have borrowed money or food over the past year. Poor households have few sellable male animals and thus are unlikely to benefit from the higher livestock prices as Ramadan approaches. Some livestock will give birth in late March and early April. However, poor households will likely remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). In Sakow District, the area with the lowest *Deyr* production, poor households will move into Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Between July and September, poor households will gradually start consuming more food, following the start of green consumption in July and the main *Gu* harvest in August. A low-to-medium rate of cattle and camel calving is expected from May through July, increasing the amount of milk available for consumption and sale by the end of May. Income from livestock sales and crop sales as well as *zakat*, gifts from the better off to the poor, of crops and loans of milking cows to the poor will increase food access, but poor households will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). In Middle Juba, average *Xagaa* rains will bring further improvements by July when green consumption begins, so, despite recent dry conditions, this area is likely to improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from July to September.

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

Table 1: Possible events over the next six months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Southern Agropastoral livelihood zone in Lower and Middle Juba and Hiraan Agropastoral livelihood zone	Near average to above-average April to June <i>Gu</i> rainfall	The rains would increase crop production, increasing labor demand and causing cereal prices to decrease as locally-held stocks increased. The number of poor households in Crisis (IPC phase 3) would decrease, and it would be possible that the area would move into Stressed (IPC Phase 2).
	Far below-average <i>Gu</i> rainfall	Very low crop production, limited labor opportunities, and low milk production would likely lead to higher cereal prices and limited social support. Food access would decline. Therefore, households will experience extreme food consumption gaps and loss of assets and likely move into or remain in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).
Southern Agropastoral livelihood zone in Lower and Middle Juba	Above-average <i>Xagaa</i> rainfall in July and August	Poor households would be able to do more sharecropping in nearby riverine areas and provide agriculture labor to those areas, increasing their incomes. They will also have more of their own cash crop production, further increasing food access between July to September. Food security could move into Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from July to September.

ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

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