

Summary

For a combination of reasons (fairly good *deyr* 2000 rains, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure in Lower/Middle Shabelle regions, high but stable river water levels during October-November, and improved security in the agricultural areas), crop production prospects are good in the agriculturally-important regions of southern Somalia (Bay, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle). There are, however, many districts in which *deyr* rainfall was not so good and therefore, crops nearly failed because of moisture stress. Such districts include Hagar, Jamame and Jilib (Lower Juba Region).

In southern Somalia, the overall food security situation is considered good. There are fairly good grain stocks (maize and sorghum) in Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle and Bay Regions. Prices of these crops are still unseasonably low in the riverine areas. In contrast, prices of imported food and non-food items increased in all markets far from seaports. Livestock are in good shape.

There is a new and worrisome development in Bay and Bakol Regions. For the first time since the RRA was established, two opposing groups of Rahanweyn Resistance Army (RRA) fought each other in Bay and Bakol Regions in the first 10 days of January 2001. The two clashes, described as fierce by the BBC, took place in Idaley village, about 60 km south of Baidoa and near Tieglow. What is worrisome from the food security point of view, is the widespread looting (including looting of grain stocks) which took place in Idaley village. According to the BBC Somali service, both groups ransacked and destroyed the village.

If these armed confrontations continue and spread, even for few weeks, grain stocks are likely to be looted and the *deyr* 2000 harvest disrupted. The likelihood that security may deteriorate in the coming months would push the farmers to get rid of their grain stocks at throwaway prices. Pastoralists would also be likely to leave the area for fear of raiders. The food security gained in the 1999/2000 *deyr* and 2000 *gu* seasons could be lost in a short time.

The food security situation in Somaliland, Puntland and Central Somalia is also considered good for the time being, mainly because fairly good *deyr* 2000 rains improved livestock conditions, and hence seasonal milk and meat production in the rural areas. Pastoral households still consume a substantial amount of milk and sell the rest in the nearest towns and villages. The availability of relatively cheap local grains and local livestock markets keep the pastoral community going during the livestock trade embargo, now in its fourth month.

However, the ban on the export of livestock to Arabian peninsula and Persian Gulf countries is being felt throughout Somalia. On average, livestock exports dropped by 92 percent during September-December 2000. All those whose livelihoods depended on livestock trade, such as livestock traders, brokers, assemblers and transporters are virtually jobless. In particular, the administrations of Somaliland and Puntland, whose economies are based almost exclusively on the livestock exports and port revenues, are in deep financial and social crisis. Somaliland and Puntland have already issued several appeals for financial assistance, but additional aid does not seem forthcoming.

As a result of the livestock trade embargo, the overwhelming majority of the pastoralists in Puntland, Somaliland and Central Somalia are not likely to be able to pay for water from bore holes and wells for their livestock in the coming *jilal* season (January-March). It will also be difficult for them to sustain their families because of lack of money to buy food and non-food items. Reports of massive livestock movements in the central regions of Somalia (Mudug, Galgadud) are already in. Repairs of as many wells/boreholes as possible are urgently needed now so that livestock can have access to cheap water during the *jilal* season.

1. **Deyr 2000 Crop Production Prospects in Southern Somalia**

Recent reports from the field indicate that the bulk of the 2000 *deyr* crops are at grain filling stages. The final harvest is expected at the end of January 2001. So far, *deyr* production prospects are good in many regions. According to many informed observers, expected cereal production will not be less than average *deyr* cereal production (90-110,000 MT).

As usual, the bulk of the production in this *deyr* season is expected from Bay (sorghum), Lower and Middle Shabelle (maize/sorghum) Regions. The main factors which enhanced *deyr* crop performance in these regions, include particularly good rainfall in Bay Region, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure in Lower and Middle Shabelle Regions and targeted input supplies to poor farmers and female-headed households in Lower Shabelle Region.

According to reliable sources, farmers in Lower Shabelle Region are greatly benefiting from the canal rehabilitation undertaken by the NGOs and UN agencies operating there. For instance, Diakonie/Bread for the World-Germany (DBG) has rehabilitated a 10 km-long canal in Qorioley District and prepared one hundred hectares of farmland for one hundred female-headed households in Bulo Sheikh and Haduman villages (Qorioley District). The DBG also distributed seeds to these female-headed households at the beginning of the *deyr* season in September-October.

Similarly, World Concern embarked on agricultural credit program in many villages of Kurtun-Warey District (Lower Shabelle Region). This agency selected about 50 poor farming families and prepared two hectares of arable land per household and supplied them sesame seeds. Another international NGO, ACORD, provided thousands of sandbags in order to prevent river floods and protect recessionary agriculture in Sablale district (Lower Shabelle Region). Many farmers from Brava District (Lower Shabelle Region) apparently farm in these areas.

CARE International, WFP/Somalia, FAO and Water for Life (WFL) have also been involved in canal rehabilitation and seed distribution for the poor farmers in Lower Shabelle. The high river level that allowed easy gravity-flow irrigation throughout October and November allowed farmers to diversify their crops and focus more on high-value cash crops. In fact, recent reports from this region speak about intensive planting of sesame, tomatoes and watermelon in fields from which other crops have been just harvested.

As in Lower Shabelle, agricultural infrastructure such as canals, sluice gates, main roads and feeder roads have been rehabilitated in Middle Shabelle Region. As a result, farmers in Middle Shabelle Region have greatly benefited from steady gravity-flow irrigation. Standing maize crops are reportedly in good shape and extensive land for sesame is being prepared. The only known concern so far in parts of Middle and Lower Shabelle Regions is rainfed sorghum that suffered moisture stress.

The overwhelming majority of the rainfed farmers in Bay Region planted their crops with the first good rains of October 2000. Additional rains, which substantially increased the soil moisture in both pastoral and agricultural areas, fell during November. The latest reports from Bay Region indicate that all early-planted crops (about 70-75%) are in good condition. However, swarms of grasshoppers reportedly attacked late-planted, unharvested crops (25-30%). Due to heavy attacks by stalk borers and *quelea-quelea* birds, ratoon crops (re-growth of second-generation off-shoots of previous sorghum crops left in the fields) did not perform well in Bay Region.

As in the case of Bay Region, the *deyr*-cropping season started in Gedo, Bakol and Hiran Regions in the first dekad of October. However, unlike the case of Bay Region, scanty rainfall followed by long dry spells in October and November hampered proper crop establishment/development in most of these

regions. As a result, crop production prospects are not as good as in Bay Region. Particularly poor crop performance was reported in some districts of Bakol (Wajid and Rabdhurre). Strangely enough, ratoon crops are reportedly performing better than the newly planted crops in Bakol Region in this *deyr* season, even though newly planted crops always perform better than ratoon crops.

In Gedo and Hiran Regions, irrigated maize and cash crops (such as sesame and onions) suffered moisture stress because of fuel shortages when supplementary pump irrigation was needed most in October and November.

As a result of the fairly good rainfall which fell in parts of Lower and Middle Juba Regions during October and November, crop production prospects are good in Afmadow, Sakow, Badhadhe and Kismaio Districts. In contrast, because of poor rainfall, crop performance is not good in Hagar, Jamame, Jilib and parts of Bu'aale District. In late November, when farmers in Jilib, Jamame and Bu'aale Districts lost hope of reliable *deyr* rains, they broke river embankments and flooded their *dhesheks* (floodplains that are cultivated as water recedes). Now, most of the standing crops are at establishment stages, late for the season.

2. Current Food Security Conditions

2.1. Food Security Situation in Southern Somalia

Broadly speaking, food security situation has slightly improved in the last three cropping seasons in southern Somalia. This is mainly because:

- Factional/clan fighting, which in the past nine years displaced so many people and disrupted all economic activities in southern Somalia, has sharply decreased since the start of the Somali reconciliation conference in Djibouti in May 2000.
- Rainfall was fairly good in the last three cropping seasons (*deyr* 1999, *gu* 2000 and *deyr* 2000).
- Rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure (particularly roads and irrigation systems) was undertaken by many international NGOs and UN agencies operating in Lower and Middle Shabelle Regions (section 1, paragraphs 2-5).
- Active informal trade between Somalia and Kenya (exports of Somali livestock and imports of all kinds of goods).
- Leaking of some food aid from the drought-affected regions of Ethiopia (Zone Five) to the neighboring regions of Hiran, Gedo and Bakol.
- Limited and targeted amount of food aid and FFW supplied to vulnerable people in several regions of southern Somalia.
- Livestock are in good shape.
- There are fairly good grain stocks (maize and sorghum) in the agriculturally important regions of southern Somalia such as Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle and Bay Regions where prices of maize and sorghum are still unseasonably low.

It is worth noting, however, that the bright picture of improved food security in southern Somalia does not apply to all regions and districts. For instance, because of poor *deyr* rainfall and devastating floods, food security situation is not good in several districts of Lower Juba Region (Hagar, Kamsuma and Jamame) and Middle Juba Region (Jilib and Bu'aale). November floods virtually cut off Jamame town from all neighboring districts. WFP/Somalia is planning to send about 400 MT of Food for Work to the area. There are also vulnerable population categories (farmers, pastoralists and others.) in the rainfed areas of

Gedo, Bakol and Hiran Regions. CARE International is assisting thousands of vulnerable people in Gedo Region.

Despite these pockets of continuing food insecurity, it is now estimated that the number of vulnerable people (at risk of food insecurity) has decreased from 750,000 to 450,000-500,000 for the reasons cited previously. Most of these people live in southern Somalia.

There is a recent and worrisome development in Bay and Bakol Regions. After nearly four months of simmering disagreement over the RRA (Rahanweyn Resistance Army) participation in the Transitional National Government (TNG), the RRA leadership split into two groups. The secretary general of the RRA, now speaker of the Somali Parliament, and many politicians from Bay and Bakol Regions support the TNG. The Chairman of the RRA and most of the armed militia are against the TNG. As soon as the BBC Somali Service announced the split of the RRA leadership, clans in Bay and Bakol started aligning themselves behind their leaders. For the first time since the RRA was established, two opposing groups (known in Somalia as factions) of RRA fought in Bay Region on January 2, 2001. The fighting, described as fierce by the BBC, took place in Idaley village, about 60 km south of Baidoa. According to the BBC, two people died and many others were wounded in this armed conflict. On January 5, a delegation from the TNG led by the speaker of the Somali Parliament was ambushed by the RRA in Tieglow (speaker's hometown). The RRA claimed to have killed nine militiamen and captured all the battlewagons, fuel and weapons of the militia escorting the delegation. Tensions are now running high in Bay and Bakol Regions.

What makes this worrisome, from the food security point of view, is the widespread looting (including grain stocks) which took place in Idaley village. According to the BBC, both groups ransacked and destroyed the village. If these armed confrontations expand to other areas, even for few weeks, grain stocks are likely to be looted and the *deyr* 2000 harvest disrupted. The possibility that tensions may increase and conflict get out of hand in the coming months could easily push farmers to get rid of their grain stocks at throwaway prices. Pastoralists are also likely to leave the area for fear of raiders. All the food security gains of the last two seasons could be lost in a short time.

2.2. Food Security Situation in the Central and Northern Regions of Somalia

Food security conditions in Somaliland, Puntland and Central Somalia are considered good for the time being. This is mainly because fairly good *deyr*2000 rains improved livestock conditions, and hence seasonal milk and meat production in the rural areas. Pastoral households still consume a substantial amount of milk and sell the rest to the nearest towns and villages, particularly in Awdal and part of Woqoyi Galbeed Regions of Somaliland. The availability of relatively cheap local grains and local livestock keeps the pastoral community still going.

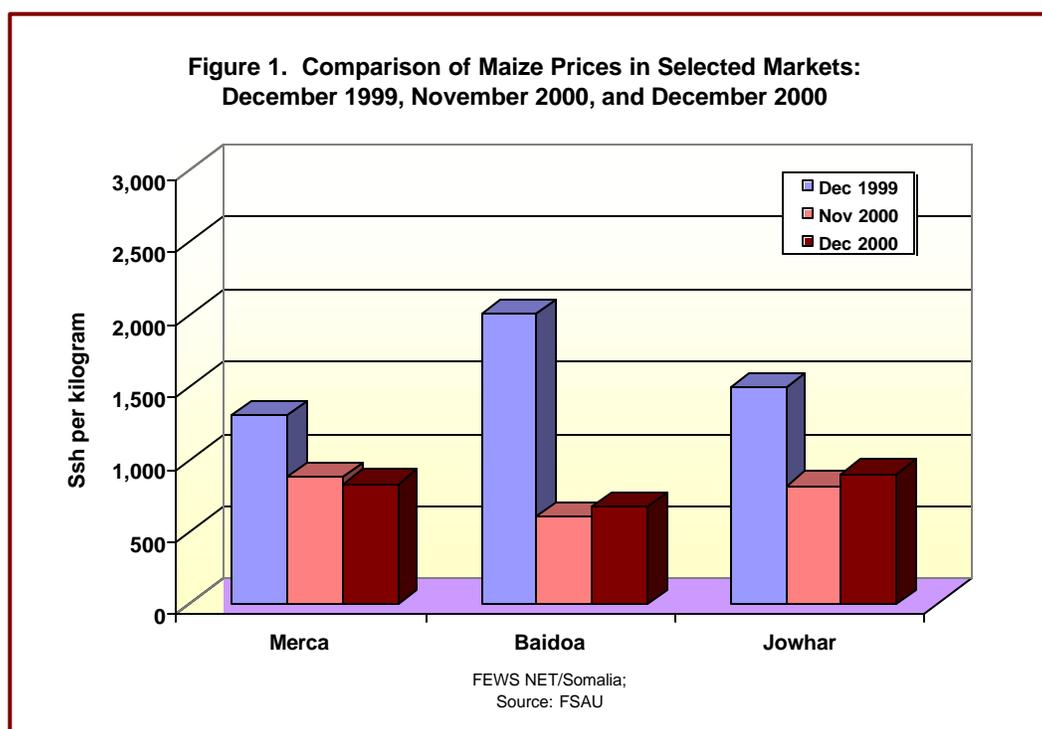
However, the ban on the import of export-quality livestock by Arabian peninsula and Persian Gulf countries is being felt throughout Somalia. All those whose livelihoods depended on livestock trade, such as livestock traders, brokers, assemblers and transporters, are virtually jobless. Daily proceeds from teashops, drugstores and kiosks have reportedly dropped throughout Somaliland and Puntland.

The administrations of Somaliland and Puntland, whose economies are almost exclusively based on the livestock export and revenues from the ports, are in deep crisis. This is mainly because the hard-won peace and security in these regions was achieved through the demobilization of militia and the recruitment of considerable numbers of policemen who were paid out of the export levy on livestock and import duties on goods purchased from livestock export proceeds. When the ban was imposed on Somali livestock in September, both Somaliland and Puntland administrations lost this main source of income and have not been able to properly pay the security forces and civil servants.

In order to overcome the financial crisis, both Puntland and Somaliland administrations launched several appeals by December for financial assistance. All UN agencies and donor countries based in Nairobi fully understand the problems, but there is no clear commitment so far of extra financial support to these regions.

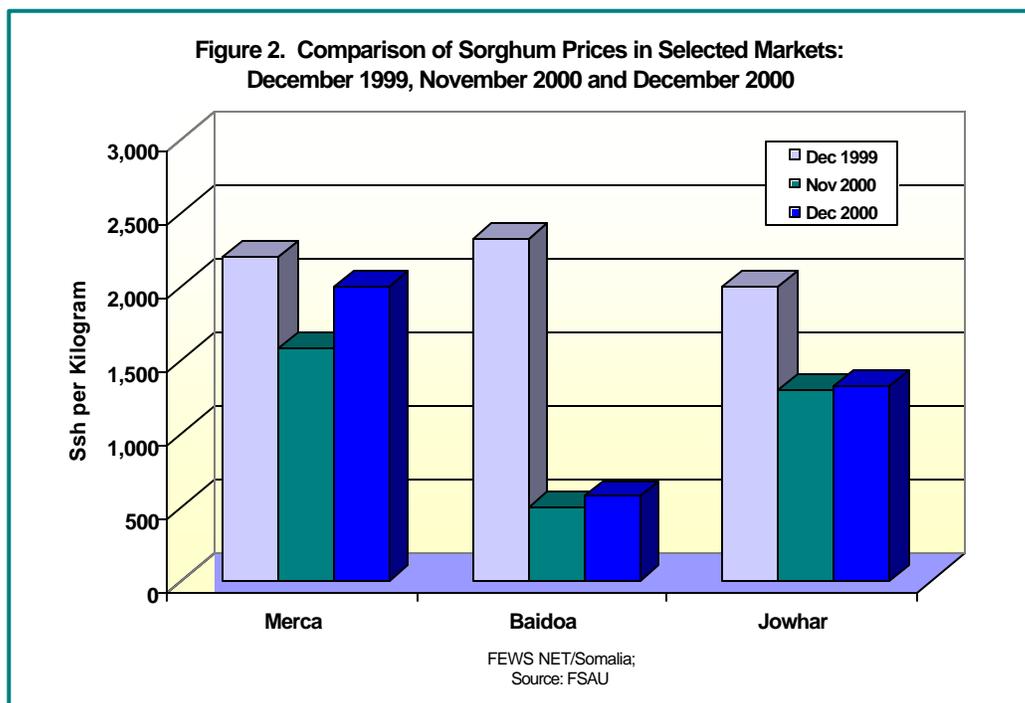
3. Food availability, Access, Price Trends and Trade Activities

Maize is available in the irrigated riverine areas and marketed supplies are expected to increase as the *deyr* harvest begins. In contrast, maize availability is below normal in the rainfed areas and in the central regions of Somalia. The price of maize remained fairly stable during December relative to November prices. Compared to the average monthly prices one year ago in December 1999, prices are some 5-10 percent lower this year. Figure 1 compares average maize prices in three producing zone region markets, Merca (Lower Shabele Region); Jowhar (Middle Shabele Region) and Baidoa (Bay Region), between August 1998 and December 2000. Low maize prices offer an inexpensive alternative to sorghum, particularly beneficial for poorer households.



Reports from the sorghum belt (Bay and neighboring regions) indicate that sorghum prices remained stable or increased moderately, but are still lower than their usual range of Ssh 700-900 per kg. For instance, in Baidoa, sorghum prices increased by 15 percent, from Ssh 500 per kg in November to Ssh 575 per kg in December. Other markets, including pastoral area markets, also reported sorghum price increases. Figure 2 (drawn to the same scale as Figure 1) compares average prices of sorghum in three producing zone region markets, Merca (Lower Shabele Region); Jowhar (Middle Shabele Region) and Baidoa (Bay Region), between August 1998 and December 2000. The outlook for sorghum prices is unclear, given the outbreak of fighting between RRA factions in Bay Region (section 1). This fighting

could lead to lower prices outside of Bay Region as farmers quickly unload their crops, but lead to higher prices within Bay Region as the newly harvested supplies dwindle in the coming months.



Imported commodity prices moderately increased in most inland markets. On average, prices of imported commodities rose by some five and eight percent during December in Bay, Gedo and Middle Shabele Region markets. For instance, in Baidoa and Bardera markets, sugar prices increased by an average of five and seven percent, respectively, compared with November prices. However, rice prices decreased moderately due to low local cereal prices.

Livestock prices were below normal in most markets during December. However, cattle prices slightly improved in markets near the Kenya border. Prices for local-quality goats continued to drop due to the ready availability and relatively low prices of export-quality animals. In Jowhar, local-quality-goats decreased by four percent, from Ssh 125,000 per head in November to Ssh 120,000 per head in December. Similarly, in Baidoa, local-quality goat prices decreased by eight percent, from Ssh 177,500 per head in November to Ssh 162,500 per head in December. Camel prices also declined by 8-10 percent in Baidoa and Jowhar.

Terms of trade consider market prices by looking at how much of one product can be obtained in exchange for another product. As a result of low cereal prices, local goat/sorghum terms of trade improved in December in most markets for those selling goats. For example, in Baidoa and Mogadishu, one local goat could be exchanged for more than five 50 kg sacks of sorghum, compared to three sacks in Baidoa and four and one-half sacks in Mogadishu in November. The sorghum/camel milk terms of trade for also favored milk sellers in most markets who received at least one kilogram of sorghum per liter of milk. In Jowhar, Baidoa, Mogadishu and Merca, a liter of milk fetched five, four, three and one kg of sorghum respectively. Sorghum/unskilled labor terms of trade in Baidoa and Mogadishu, indicate that workers earned about twentykg of sorghum for one day's work, while those in Jowhar and Merca received only five and four kilograms, respectively, for one day's work.

In most markets, the Somali shillings depreciated steadily against the US dollars in December. In Mogadishu Bakaara market, the shilling depreciated slightly by one percent, from Ssh 12,450 in November to Ssh 12,650 in December. A similar trend was observed in other markets using the Somali shilling. However, in Somaliland markets, the Somaliland shilling remained stable in December.

4. Trade Activities

In normal years, trade is very active during December, especially livestock trade. However, due to the livestock import ban, trade activities have slowed down in most markets. Generally, imports increase in relation to livestock exports as the proceeds from livestock sales are usually used for the import of food and non-food items. Thus, the livestock trade has a significant impact on food security in Somalia, especially the northeast and northwest (section 2.2).

Table 1 compares the number of livestock exported from the port of Berbera to Arabian peninsula and Persian Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia, between September and December 1999 with September and December 2000. Livestock population figures in September-December 2000, represent only animals exported in the first half of September. Because of the livestock import ban, no animals were exported from Berbera after September.

Table 1. Livestock Exports from Berbera, September-December: 1999 compared to 2000			
Livestock	Sep-Dec 1999	Sep-Dec 2000	Percent Change
Sheep and goats	956,772	69,508	-93
Cattle	34,491	2,986	-91
Camels	17,212	2,005	-88
Total	1,008,475	74,499	-92
<i>Source: UNCTAD, 2000</i>			

As seen in Table 1, exports in 2000 are only a fraction of those exported last year. Livestock exports dropped by an average of 92 percent, from a total of 1,008,475 heads in September-December 1999 to 74,499 heads in September-December 2000. Somalia has thus lost the proceeds from the sales of about 933,976 animals during this period.

Southern Somalia, particularly Gedo, Lower and Middle Juba Regions, is an important cattle supplier to Kenya. There was some expansion in the cattle trade just before and during the Christmas (December 25) and *Id-al-Fitri* (December 27) festivities due to high demand for meat, particularly beef, in Kenya.. Somali traders are able to take advantage of strong seasonal demand for beef in Kenya that boosts cattle prices 20 to 25 percent higher, on average, than during other periods. These traders bring back all sorts of consumer goods, including food items, to the Juba River Valley.

5. New UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Somalia

In December the UN agencies operating in Somalia circulated their consolidated interagency appeal for Somalia for the year 2001. In order to address humanitarian needs in Somalia and help Somaliland, Puntland and the TNG administrations build and strengthen the peace, these UN agencies have appealed for US\$101.5 million. As seen in Table 2, about one third of the requested funds will be spent on governance, development, land mine awareness and return of return of Somali nationals with technical and administrative skills to help with nation rebuilding.

Table 2. Sectoral Requirements for Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for 2001		
Sector	Agency	Assistance
Food Security	FAO	\$4,160,000
	WFP	13,120,000
Health and Nutrition	UNICEF	9,200,000
	WHO	4,353,500
	UNFPA	1,830,000
Water and Environmental Sanitation	UNICEF	7,540,000
Education	UNESCO	4,600,000
	UNICEF	6,800,000
Reintegration of Refugees and Resettlement of IDPs	UNHCR	6,580,800
	IOM	5,000,000
Human Rights and Gender	UNIFEM	1,028,000
	UNICEF	900,000
	OHCHR	850,000
Governance and Development	UNDP	30,000,000
Mine Awareness	UNICEF	300,000
Return of Trained Nationals	IOM	3,170,000
Support Services (co-ordination and security)	UNCU	1,300,000
	UNDP	800,000
TOTAL		\$101,532,300
<i>Source: UNDP/Somalia</i>		