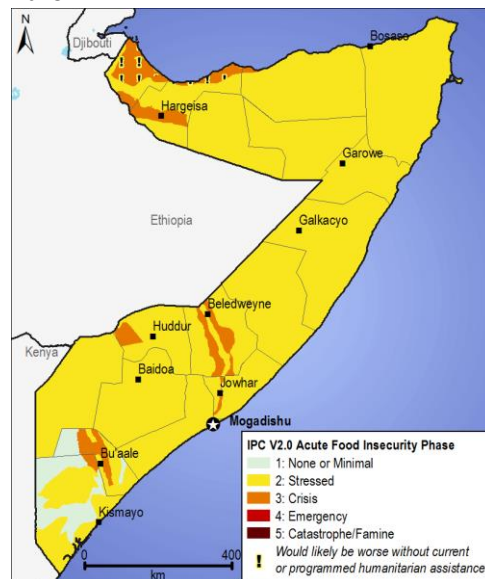


Food security likely to improve following October to December Deyr rains

KEY MESSAGES

- Despite expected above average October to December *Deyr* rains, over one million people will remain in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4). The most food insecure people are in riverine areas of Lower and Middle Juba and Middle Shabelle and Guban Pastoral livelihood zone in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed Regions.
- Food security is expected to improve between January and March 2016 in pastoral and agropastoral livelihood zones. Expected improvement will be driven by increased livestock production, the anticipated above-average *Deyr* harvest in January/February 2016, and income from agricultural labor. Some pastoral areas in both southern and northern regions are expected to improve to Minimal (IPC Phase 1).
- In the event of severe river floods along the Shabelle and Juba Rivers, a high risk with heavy *Deyr* rainfall both in the area and in the rivers' catchments in the Ethiopian highlands, food security outcomes in riverine areas are likely to deteriorate from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to Crisis or above (IPC Phase 3 and 4), while floods hinder agriculture and trade.

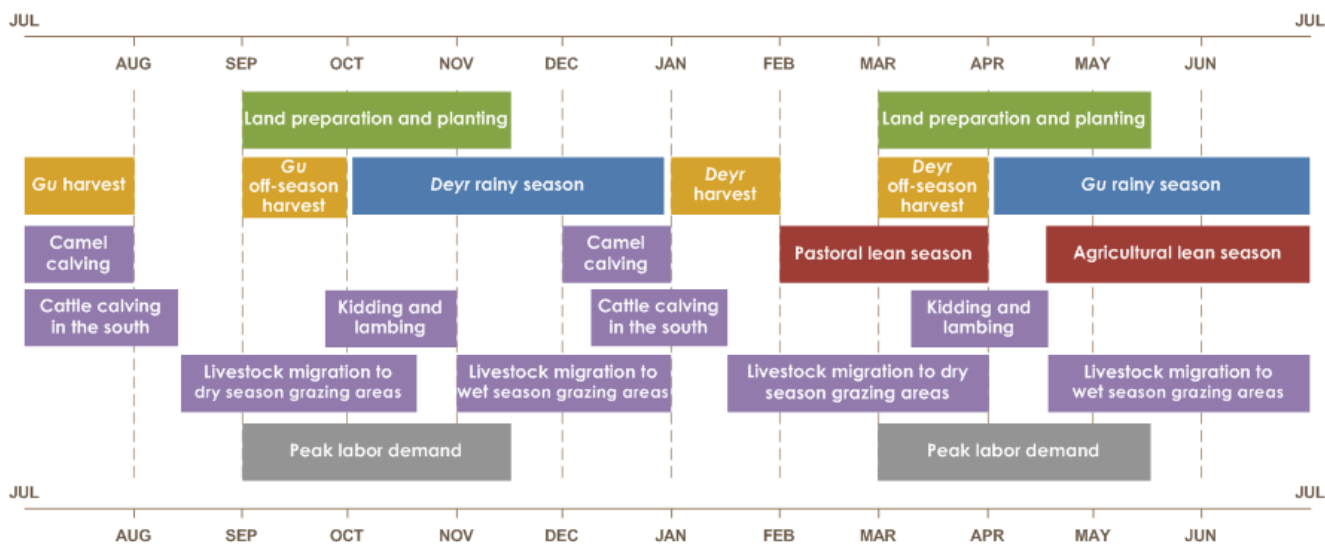
Current food security outcomes, October 2015



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

Based on Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), the Famine Early Warning Systems (FEWS NET), and partners' seasonal food security assessment in July 2015, [855 000 people were projected to remain acutely food insecure through December 2015](#).

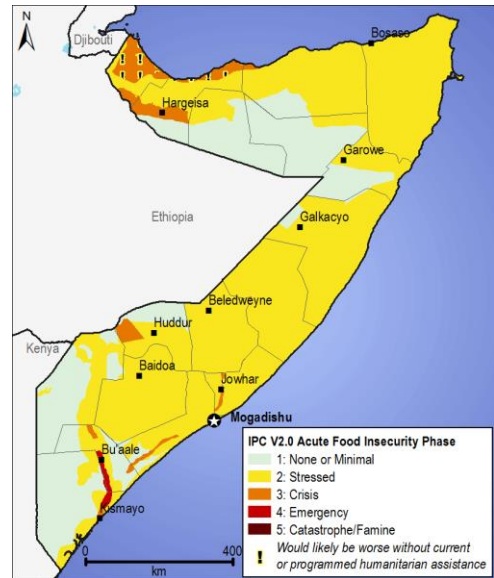
- **Most parts of the country were seasonally dry during the July to September *Xagaa* season.**

- In the Northwest, some localized light to moderate rains fell during September in most areas. However, Guban Pastoral livelihood zone continued to remain dry since the end of the *Gu* rains in May.
- The Northeast was dry during most of the July to September *Xagaa* season, but some light showers fell in September in parts of Coastal Deeh and Northern Inland Pastoral (NIP) livelihood zones in Eyl District in Nugaal Region, but there were no visible impacts on forage or water availability. However, some parts of East Golis and NIP in Qandala and Qardho Districts of Bari Region, there were moderate rains during September.
- In the central regions, no rains or even showers were reported during the July to September *Xagaa*.
- In the South, some moderate to heavier rains fell between mid-August and mid-September in Lower Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, and Bay. These rains helped increase forage growth and water availability. Some localized, light rains were also reported in Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone in Hiran. The rest of the South remained dry.

- ***Deyr* rains started early, during the first 10 days of October in some parts of the country.** However, many parts of the country, particularly northern regions, still remain dry (Figure 1).

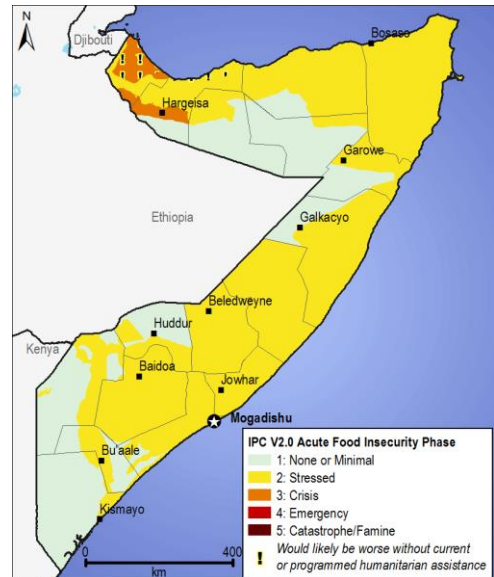
- **In the Northwest**, moderate *Karan* rains fell in August and September in most parts of Northwestern Agropastoral and West Golis Pastoral livelihood zones in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed Regions. Moderate *Deyr* rains were also reported in some parts of the Hawd and Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone in Togdheer and Sool Regions.
- **In the Northeast**, very light rains with poor spatial coverage fell in northern Mudug and Nugaal. Thus far, it has not rained in Bari.
- **In central regions**, some moderate rains with typical distribution were fell in Cowpea-Belt Agropastoral, Addun Pastoral, and Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zones. These helped improve water and pasture conditions and availability. These rains also allowed planting of cowpeas.
- **In the South**, localized, moderate July and August *Xagaa* showers in Lower Shabelle and Lower and Middle Juba were followed by moderate rains with typical temporal and spatial distribution. These early *Deyr* rains fell during the first 10 days of October in Lower Shabelle, Bay, and Bakool. The rest of the South has had less rainfall or no rainfall until later in October.

Projected food security outcomes, October to December 2015



Source: FEWS NET

Projected food security outcomes, January to March 2016



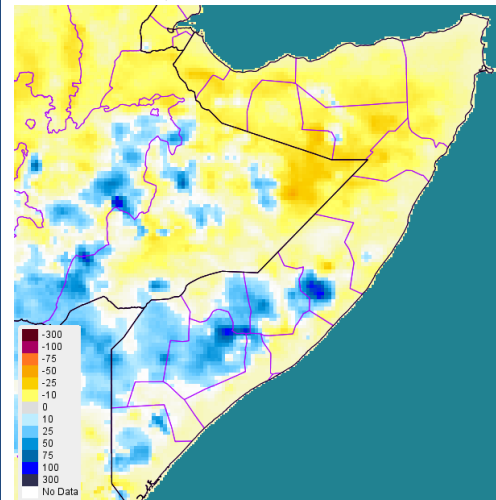
Source: FEWS NET

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](#).

While pasture and water resources are typically depleted during the *Xagaa* dry season, vegetation conditions as measured by Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) are currently below-average in many parts of the country. However, ground reports indicate average to above-average pasture and water availability, resulting from the preliminary and unusually early rains in late September and early October in pastoral and agropastoral areas in the Northwest, though not in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone. Pasture and water availability are similar in Lower Shabelle, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, and Bay. The eModis NDVI, which measures the conditions and vigor of the vegetation, indicate average to below average in most parts of the country, but with some areas in Lower Shabelle, Bay, and Middle Juba Regions being above average (Figure 2).

- In the **Northwest**, the *Karan* rains received in July together with moderate rains during August to September in agropastoral areas, the Golis Mountains in Awdal, and Woqooyi Galbeed Region maintained average access to pasture and water and improved crop development. An exception is Guban pastoral livelihood that did not receive rains since last December to January *Xays* rains. In this area, rangeland conditions are far worse than in recent years, and unusual livestock deaths have been reported. Pasture and water conditions in the pastoral livelihood zones in Sanaag are also seasonally poor due to below-average rainfall received during the April to June *Gu*.
- In the **Northeast**, pasture and water availability is low, which is typical during the July to September *Xagaa* dry season. Some localized rains that were received in pockets of Qardho and Qandala during September with little impact on pasture or water availability. Water is even less available than usual for the dry season in some areas, and water prices have increased in some inland areas. For example, in Rako village in Qardho District, the price of a 20-liter jerry can of water increased 50 percent from August to September and could be purchased in September for SOS 2,000 to SOS 3,000.
- In the **central regions and Hiiraan**, most areas remained dry. High winds in these areas during the *Xagaa* accelerated the depletion of pasture and water resources. However, a few localized rains were reported in the pockets of Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone in Hiiraan in September, but the condition of pasture remains poorer than usual for this time of year.
- In the **South**, pasture and water availability varied. The pasture and water conditions are typical to a bit better than usual for the areas received moderate *Xagaa* rains in Lower Shabelle, and Lower and Middle Juba regions in July and August. These rains were sufficient to replenish rangeland resources and allow crop growth. However, rangeland resources remain poor in quality in Bakool, Gedo, and Lower Shabelle where high, dry winds during the *Xagaa* dry season led to faster deterioration than usual.
- In the **South**, the *Deyr* rains that fell in early October supported seed germination in both agropastoral and riverine areas.
- **Livestock body conditions, production, and values:** Livestock body conditions vary across the country. In the Northwest, the livestock body conditions in Sool, Sanaag, and Togdheer tend to be poor due to poor availability and quality of rangeland resources during the July to September *Xagaa*. The poorest rangeland conditions and livestock body conditions are in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone. In other parts of Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed Regions, livestock body conditions are normal following the moderate *Karan* rains in August and September. In the northeastern and central regions, livestock body conditions are poor due to deterioration during the July to September *Xagaa* dry season. In the South, thanks to normal to above-normal April to June *Gu* rains, *Xagaa* showers, and unusually early rain in September, the livestock body conditions of all species are normal to good in Middle and Lower Shabelle, Middle and Lower Juba, and Bay. However, in the rest of the South, the livestock body conditions are poor.
- Livestock conception, calving and kidding are minimal at this time of the year. Milk yields in most parts of the country

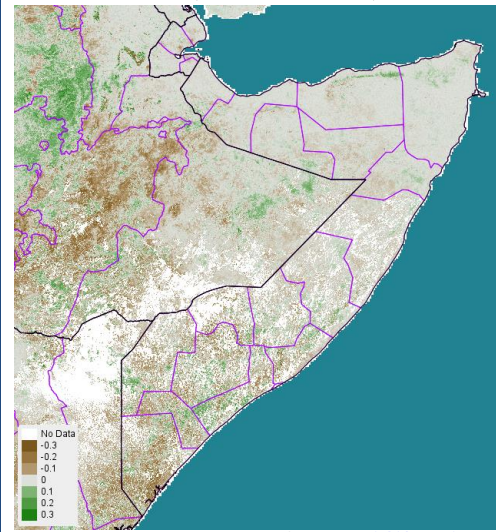
Figure 1. Rainfall anomaly in millimeters (mm) from 2001-2014 mean (RFE2), October 1-10, 2015



Source: [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\)/FEWS NET](#)

- are either low or non-existent as many livestock are dry as a result of poor rangeland resources and the lack of recent births. However, near average milk production was observed in both the Juba and Shabelle Valleys and in Bay regions in the South. It was also observed in Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone in Woqooyi Galbeed Region in the Northwest. Some normal livestock diseases with low mortality are reported in the Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone in Sanaag. Also, unusual cases of goat abortions were reported in East Golis Pastoral livelihood zone in Bari Region and in some areas in the central regions.
- **Crop performance and land preparation:**
 - **In the Northwest**, average to above-average *Karan* rains in August and September allowed additional late planting and accelerated the development of the standing crops.
 - In the **central regions**, land preparation and planting is in progress for rainfed cowpeas.
 - In the **South**, planting started in September and continued through October. With above-average October to December *Deyr* rains, planted area was larger than last season. The off-season cash crop harvest is underway in riverine areas of the Shabelle and Juba Valleys. However, late *Xagaa* showers in August and September damaged some cash crops, including sesame and watermelon in Bay Region. Land preparation, canal rehabilitation, and early planting of maize in riverine areas and dry planting of sorghum in agropastoral areas are ongoing. These activities have increased the demand for agricultural labor, and as a result, both poor riverine and agropastoral households have increased their incomes.

Figure 2. eMODIS Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomaly from 2001-2010 mean, October 11-20, 2015



Source: [USGS/FEWS NET](#)

- **Sorghum and maize prices:** From August to September, in most markets in the south, cereal prices continued to decline. Most locally-produced cereal prices in September were below last year and their five-year averages. For example, in September, white maize price in Qoryoley in Lower Shabelle was 22 percent lower than last year, while red sorghum in Baidoa in Bay Region was 11 percent less than September 2014. Fresh supplies from the below-average *Gu* harvest and above-average *Gu* off-season harvest continue to enter markets in September and October.
- However, in areas with more limited local production, conflict, the associated increase in unofficial taxation, prices are much higher. Maize and sorghum in Lugh in Gedo Region in September were SOS 12,250 and SOS 10,000 per kilogram (kg), respectively. In neighboring Baidoa, maize was only SOS 5,125 and red sorghum only SOS 5,500 per kg.
- Locally-produced cereal prices in Northwest were high but stable from August to September during the peak of the lean season. Traders are anticipating a below-average local *Karan* harvest in October/November, but some cereal imports from Ethiopia have contributed to price stability.
- Imported foods such as sugar, wheat flour, and rice have declined in price or remained stable since the beginning of 2015. September prices were less or near last year's prices. This has been attributed to ample supply on international markets and most stable exchange rates between both the Somalia shilling (SOS) and the Somaliland shilling (SLS) and major international currencies like the U.S. dollar (USD).
- **Livestock prices:** Prices were seasonally high in September as the exports for the Hajj were underway and demand was seasonally high. Due to the dry *Xagaa* season, fewer livestock had the body conditions to be export quality, leading to higher prices. Generally, both goat and cattle prices grew from April to September, but September prices were mostly similar to a year ago and their five-year averages.

In the agropastoral areas of southern Somalia, the labor-to-cereals terms of trade (TOT) increased from June to September, largely due to growing labor demand. In addition, in all regions labor-to-cereals TOTs are higher than last year and above their five-year average. This is attributed to increased demand for agricultural labor during the recent *Gu* agricultural season and the harvest and continued labor demand during the crop marketing season for processing, transportation, and other market-related activities. In Baidoa, for instance, a day of casual labor in September could buy 20 kg of red sorghum, an

increase from 15 kg a year ago. In Jowhar in Middle Shabelle, the daily labor wage could buy 14 kg of white maize this September, up from 9 kg last year. Similar trends have been seen in Middle and Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle and Gedo Regions.

Income from livestock sales in rural areas has also increased or remained stable over the past year with seasonally high livestock prices and lower stable food prices, improving access to food. Goat-to-cereal TOT in pastoral areas in the central and northern regions were similar in September to last year, but they were above their five-year averages. In September 2015 in Beledweyn Hiiraan, a local quality goat could be exchanged for 96 kg of white sorghum, up from 85 kg in September 2014. Similarly, In Burao in Togdheer Region, a goat sale could be sold to pay for 123 kg of red rice up from 117 kg in September last year.

With below-average *GU* agricultural production in July and August, followed the July to September dry *Xagaa* and intensified conflict and insecurity in much of the Southern, food security outcomes have deteriorated. A number of areas are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), including Northwestern Agropastoral and Guan Pastoral livelihood zones in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed Regions, Riverine Gravity Irrigation in Middle Shabelle, and Southern Agropastoral livelihood zone in Middle Juba and Hiiraan Regions, and Rabdhurre District in Bakool Region. However, Riverine Gravity Irrigation livelihood zone in Middle Juba improved to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) after the *Gu* off-season harvest in September and continuous need for agricultural labor since then. High demand for agricultural labor has also improved food security in agropastoral areas in the South.

Assumptions

The October 2015 to March 2016 most likely scenario is based on the following national-level assumptions:

- **Climate:** El Niño is anticipated to result in above average to average rainfall over south/central Somalia during the October to December *Deyr* rains. However, near average to below average *Deyr* rainfall is likely in most of the northern regions. There may be areas where the rains have poor spatial and temporal coverage.
- River flooding is likely during the October to December *Deyr* rains in flood-prone riverine areas in the Juba and Shabelle Regions. Flash floods are likely in both agropastoral and pastoral lowlands during the heaviest rains.
- The December to January *Xays* rains over coastal areas in the Northwest are likely to be near average in amount with temperatures not expected to be particularly high.

Crop production and agricultural labor:

- Due to flooding, there is likely to be less demand in riverine areas for agricultural labor than usual, until flood waters subside in January/February.
- In agropastoral areas, heavy rainfall though will increase agricultural labor demand and wages through the completion of the *Deyr* harvest in February.
- Flood-recession cultivation and off-season *Deyr* crop planting will likely occur in late December or early January. As a result, overall, agricultural labor will be most needed in January, especially in riverine areas. With many areas unlikely to harvest until March, labor demand will continue through then in riverine areas.
- In agropastoral areas, both cash crops and cereals will have higher planted area than normal.
- The *Deyr* harvest in agropastoral areas will likely be above average in January/February.
- An above-average, off-season cereal harvest, primarily of maize, is likely in March in riverine areas.

Livestock:

- During the rains from October to December, rangeland conditions will improve and water availability will increase in South-Central Somalia, more than in other parts of the country. However, in the northern regions, water and pasture availability are likely to recover to normal levels.
- As a result of more availability and better quality of rangeland resources, livestock body conditions will seasonally improve through January.

- A medium rate of calving, kidding, and lambing rate is expected in October and November in both pastoral and agropastoral areas.
- Milk availability is likely to seasonally increase through January in both pastoral and agropastoral areas. However, in riverine areas, milk availability decreases as livestock are migrated to wet-season grazing areas.
- Livestock prices are likely to decline as is the seasonal trend, in November and December, now that export demand for the Hajj has ceased.

Markets and trade:

- Locally-produced maize and sorghum prices in southern Somalia increase from October to December during the agricultural lean season. Stocks will be drawn down as additional households return to making market purchases after drawing down their own *Gu* stocks. However, these prices will likely decline from January to March as *Deyr* harvest restocks both households and markets, especially in agropastoral areas.
- In areas that flood, staple food prices will likely sharply increase after floods, but as feeder roads reopen and markets are resupplied, they will fall more in line with surrounding areas.
- In the Northwest, local cereal prices will remain stable near their current highs until *Karan* harvest in November. With expected below-average production in this region, they will decline less than usual after that.
- In areas with trade restrictions due to conflict in the Shabelles, the Jubas, Bakool, and Hiiraan, both locally-produced and imported commodities will be less available. Prices are likely to remain higher while trade restrictions remain in place. Heavy *Deyr* rains are likely to further reduce trade and push prices up in these areas, as traders are unable to stock in anticipation of the rains in many of these areas.
- As the monsoon winds ended in September, imported food and diesel will arrive in higher quantities at ports between now and April 2016. This will likely contribute to continued stability in prices and increased availability of rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar, and diesel through April. However, between October and January, some markets may have higher prices for imported commodities due to poor road access during the rains.

Humanitarian assistance:

- Humanitarian access will likely reduce seasonally from October to December due to flooding and heavy *Deyr* rains, especially preventing movement along feeder roads between rural settlements and trading towns.
- Humanitarian access in South-Central Somalia remained limited due to ongoing conflict and many logistical challenges. Coverage of humanitarian needs in South-Central Somalia remains less than ideal, and some planned programs may not be able to be implemented due to insecurity and other access challenges.

Conflict:

- Improved security is not expected in South-Central Somalia between now and March. Clashes between the government supported by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Al Shabaab are likely to continue to impede trade and population movements, agriculture, and access to markets for livestock, crops, and labor. Armed confrontations are likely to continue to constrict humanitarian access, increase loss of life and assets, and disrupt both trade and population movements. The conflict is likely to continue to result in displacement.
- The most curtailed movement will likely be in Hiiraan, Bakool, and Diinsoor District in Bay Region. Food prices in these areas will remain high due to unusually low traded volume.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Areas currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) such as Southern Agropastoral livelihood zone in Raddhuure District in Barolo Region, Riverine Gravity Irrigation livelihood zone in Middle Shabelle, and Guban Pastoral livelihood zone in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed Regions are unlikely to see significant improvement in their food security until January or February. However, in Riverine Gravity Irrigation in Lower and Middle Juba Regions and Kurtunwarrey and Sablaale Districts in Lower Shabelle, food security will significantly deteriorate during expected flooding. In pastoral and agropastoral areas, food security outcomes are expected to improve between October and March, primarily as a result of increased livestock production and

reproduction, increased households and market cereal stocks, and the effects of the above-average *Deyr* cereal harvest on demand for agricultural labor and agricultural labor wages.

Between October and December, in agropastoral areas in South-Central Somalia, increased agricultural labor incomes, slightly below-average cereal prices, slightly above-average livestock prices, and increased livestock herd sizes and milk production will allow many poor households to access food. However, some livestock disease outbreaks and deaths from hypothermia are likely during the rains. The rains are also likely to increase cases of water-borne and vector-borne diseases and thus, malnutrition prevalence. Food security outcomes will likely remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in most agropastoral areas through March. However, in Sorghum High Potential Agropastoral livelihood zone in Bay, many households will move into None (IPC Phase 1) after the *Deyr* harvest, though the area is likely to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Conversely, river and flash flooding will likely cause displacement. As arable land is underwater, agricultural labor incomes will reduce to nearly nothing in flooded riverine areas. Poor and even lower middle income households in riverine areas will likely move from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in Middle Shabelle Region and Kurtunwarrey and Sablaale Districts of Lower Shabelle. In some places, humanitarian access will allow responses to help households until labor income and access to land are restored. However, in Middle and Lower Juba through February 2016, households in flooded areas are likely to not receive assistance. While food access will improve after the flood waters recede, during the floods, these are likely to be the most food insecure areas of Somalia.

In pastoral areas of the northwestern, northeastern, and central regions, food security outcomes will likely remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through December. However, flowing continued gains in livestock production and increased access to water and pasture, food security outcomes in Hawd Pastoral and Nugal Valley Pastoral livelihood zones in the northern regions will likely improve to Minimal (IPC Phase 1) from November to March. Milk availability and livestock herd sizes are likely to increase. Similarly, Southern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone in Lower and Middle Juba and Lower Shabelle will likely remain in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) through March with no new shocks anticipated. Pastoralists in these areas will likely access to food and income from their herds.

Poor pastoralists in **Guban Pastoral livelihood zone of the Northwest** will likely remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) but only with continued humanitarian assistance. No kidding or calving are expected between now and March. Due to the poor body conditions of livestock, unusual livestock deaths from hypothermia are expected at the beginning of the *Xays* rains in December. While herd sizes will remain small and inadequate to provide enough income for food access, livestock body conditions will likely improve between January and March as a result of improved pasture and water access following the December and January *Xays* rains.

Riverine areas in Hiiraan, Gedo, and most parts of Lower Shabelle Region are expected to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through March. Anticipated river floods will likely be more localized in these areas. However, floods will cause increased malnutrition prevalence due to increased morbidity from water-borne and vector-borne diseases and delayed planting through December. However, from January to March, food security outcomes are expected to improve as large-scale and widespread recessionary cultivation will likely take place. The number of households who are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) will likely decline, and the number of households in None (IPC Phase 1) will likely increase. However, the area classification is unlikely to change.

In **agropastoral areas in Woqooyi Galbeed**, additional planting and replanting of short-cycle maize and sorghum for the *Gu/Karan* harvest in November took place in August and September. A September field assessment estimates that production, even though primarily of low-yielding, short-cycle grain varieties, could be up to 55 percent of 2014 and up to a third of the three-year average. Food security outcomes will likely improve in this area, and the number of people in Crisis phase (IPC Phase 3) is likely to decrease, moving the area to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through March.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Guban Pastoral Livelihood Zone in the Northwest

Current Situation

Significantly below December 2014 to January 2015 *Xays* rains were followed by the long *Xagaa* dry period. Temperatures were higher than normal from April to September, accelerating the depletion of water from communal dams and private concrete water reservoirs (*berkads*) and reducing pasture availability. As a result, livestock are being fed paper trash and, in some cases, households are purchasing cereals to feed them. Many livestock were out-migrated to West Golis Pastoral livelihood zone in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed Regions. However, as many of these livestock were in poor condition and health before migrating, they were killed by hypothermia during especially cold *Karan* rains in August and September. Drought and lack of forage also cause unusual livestock deaths, primarily of sheep, older female camels that had been milking, and calves. These losses significantly reduced the households' herd size.

Along the border between Lughaya and Zeylac Districts, one day of localized moderate rain fell in September. In addition, near average *Karan* rains in the adjacent Golis Mountains ran off and supplied some of the seasonal rivers. As a result of these localized moderate rains and run-off, more households could access free water in August and September. Households have little to no access to milk. In September 2015, local quality goat prices in Lawyado were 3 and 8 percent below August and last year, respectively, but like much of the country, they were nearly 20 percent above the five-year average. Much of the price stability over the past six months has been attributed to the decreasing the number of saleable livestock being supplied to the market. Unfortunately, many poor households do not have saleable livestock.

In September, white sorghum prices had remained unchanged since the beginning of the year, but they remain slightly above the five-year average. Similarly, the imported rice price has remained stable and near the five-year average. Significantly reduced livestock herd sizes and deteriorating livestock body conditions have reduced the number of saleable animals. Also, with fewer saleable animals, access to credit for food purchases falls, as traders worry that debts may not be repaid. Goat to rice terms of trade marginally increased from April to September. Although local quality goat to white sorghum terms of trade reached the third highest on record at 71 kg per head, poor households do not have enough saleable livestock to buy food.

The Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) nutrition survey conducted by FSNAU in September recorded a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence of 23 percent (with a 95 percent confidence interval (CI) of 17.7 to 27.6), a **Critical** nutrition situation. Prevalence of severe form of acute malnutrition (SAM) was 5.9 percent (CI 3.6 to 9.7). The crude mortality rate (CMR) was 0.63 per 10 000 people per day, and the under-five death (U5MR) rates were 1.32 per 10 000 per day, below the World Health Organization's (WHO's) emergency threshold for mortality (CMR >1/10,000/day and U5DR >2/10,000/day). This high prevalence of acute malnutrition is attributed to the current drought which has limited access to milk and water along with income from livestock and livestock product sales. Households are reducing their food purchases, and they have limited access to health and nutrition services compared to other parts of the Northwest.

Support has been provided from business people and other residents of Djibouti, the Somaliland authorities, and the Qatar Foundation. The World Food Program (WFP) distributed food in August and September. The entire poor wealth group and the lower half of the middle wealth group are only consuming food through outside assistance, kinship support, food loans, and accelerated depletion of their livestock herds. These areas are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) but only due to the presence of humanitarian assistance.

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions described above, the following assumptions for Guban Pastoral livelihood zone have been made:

- Milk availability will decline further as pasture availability declines further. Many currently lactating camels will dry out.
- No camel calving is over the scenario, as there have been almost no camel conceptions over the past two years.

- A very low kidding rate is likely in October.
- Livestock herd sizes will continue to fall from sales, deaths, and other forms of off-take.
- Poor households who can will continue to purchase food on credit.
- Poor households will seek gifts of food and cash from within their clans and from both close and distant relatives.
- Cross-border trade and population movements with Djibouti are likely to continue. This will allow mostly normal labor migration and trade patterns. Income from remittances, labor migration, and road taxes will continue to be available.
- The projected December to January near average *Xays* rains will replenish water sources and regenerate pasture. This will likely improve livestock body conditions and may allow livestock becoming health enough to conceive, particularly for small ruminants in February.
- Malnutrition prevalence may grow further during from October to December due to deteriorating food access.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Livestock body conditions are deteriorating, and livestock values are declining. Herd sizes are likely to fall further. Households will have very little and in many cases no income from livestock sales. Households will continue to have income though from labor migration to Djibouti, remittances, gifts, and some income from trade-related labor from October to March. With very few livestock births since 2013 though, most households do not have livestock of marketable ages to sell.

With declining incomes, access to credit, and even the already very limited milk production, food security outcomes will likely deteriorate further between October and December. Therefore, poor households will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) but only due to the continued presence of humanitarian assistance.

However, following the *Xays* rains in December and January, pasture and water availability will likely increase. Eventually, livestock body conditions will improve. With many poor households having up to 25 small ruminants, primarily goats, many poor households may be able to sell two goats to purchase food. Local cereal prices will likely decline as the *Karan* harvest enters markets in December. However, milk consumption will remain very low. Many female camels will need to recover much of their body weight before conceiving, calving, and lactating again. Poor households' access to food on credit will likely decline as many households already have large debts, and traders may be unable to support more access to credit. So, despite some improvements after the rains, between January and March, poor households will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Riverine Gravity Irrigation Livelihood Zone in Middle Shabelle and Lower and Middle Juba

Current Situation

- There was less *Xagaa* rainfall than usual in July 2015, but there were moderate showers in August in some areas. These supported off-season crop development. Gradual recession cultivation is continuing. Those displaced by flooding during the April to June *GU* rains had almost all returned to their villages of origin by August.
- Household income from livestock and milk sales are atypically low. In Jowhar in Middle Shabelle and in Bu'aale in Middle Juba Region, cattle milk prices in August were 32 and 10 percent below their five-year averages, respectively.
- As the Shabelle River flooded in May, poor households in Middle Shabelle largely did not have a *Gu* crop, and they are currently purchasing food from markets on credit. With less income from agricultural labor last season than usual, they need to use credit for food purchases. In Walamoy village in Middle Shabelle, a day of agricultural labor in August paid 31 percent less than last year and 20 percent less than the five-year average.
- Poor households in riverine areas of the Jubas have similarly been purchasing food and non-food items on credit. However, green maize consumption from the *Gu* off-season started in September.

- In Jowhar in Middle Shabelle, a day of labor pays the equivalent of 14 kg of white maize in August. This was similar to August last year, and 56 percent above the five-year average. Similarly, in Buaale in Middle Juba, the August labor could buy 14 kg of white maize, but in Buaale, that was higher than last year and 8 percent above the five-year average.
- Clashes have continued to occur sporadically between government troops supported by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Al Shabaab. Targeted killings such as assassinations also continue. The conflict has increased the number of road block, forced a high level of taxation along most trade routes, and contributes to limiting households' purchasing power due to higher commodity prices than in other parts of South-Central Somalia.
- A SMART nutrition survey conducted by FSNAU and partners in July 2015 in Middle Shabelle Riverine recorded GAM prevalence of 10 percent (CI 7.3 to 13.5) and a CDR of 0.17 (CI 0.07-0.43).
- In Middle Shabelle, including Balcad and Jowhar towns and nearby areas, humanitarian agencies have some access, and assistance programs are provided to poor households and to internally displaced persons (IDPs). However, humanitarian access to rural areas remains very difficult and risky due to insecurity and widespread control of rural areas by the insurgents.

In Middle Shabelle, despite recent gradual improvement in household food security from off-season production and increasing income from labor, poor households missed an entire growing season of income and have no food stocks. They are currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

In Middle and Lower Juba poor households' food consumption increased due to the off-season harvest, green consumption of off-season crops, more labor income, and more milk availability. These areas are in currently Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions described above, the following assumptions for Riverine Gravity Irrigation Livelihood Zone in Middle Shabelle and Lower and Middle Juba have been made:

- Due to silt build-up in river beds and wider and more numerous river bank breakage due to successive floods over the past several years, floods are likely to inundate a larger area than in 2006 or 1997.
- In areas that flood, both locally-produced and imported food prices will likely sharply increase after floods, but as feeder roads reopen and markets are resupplied, they will fall more in line with surrounding areas.
- Fishing in swamps and in the rivers and collection of wild vegetables and water lilies for consumption will increase, as is seasonally normal starting in October. These resources will remain available for longer due to the floods.
- Even in areas that do not flood, milk availability will fall from October to December during the rains as livestock are out-migrated to wet-season grazing areas. Milk availability will increase during the dry January to March *Jalal* as livestock are returned to riverine areas.
- In Middle Shabelle, humanitarian access will be limited to major towns and possibly rural areas along the tarmac road linking Jowhar to Mogadishu. However, Lower and Middle Juba Regions will likely see no increase in humanitarian access.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

In many areas, crops will be covered in water in November and December. Consequently, the primary *Deyr* harvest in January is likely to be below-average, as it will be concentrated only in the drier riverine areas. Poor households will likely miss income from second and third weeding, from the harvest, and even some post-harvest handling and marketing income between November and January. Most households need to acquire food on credit. Prices will be high both in October, as some households buy grain to plant, and from November to January as the floods cut off some feeder roads.

Households will consume largely typical amounts of wild foods and fish is likely through March. Poor households in Middle Shabelle will enter Crisis (IPC Phase 3) during the floods, though in some areas, there will be a humanitarian response. However, in Lower and Middle Juba, with almost no income, having largely exhausted the ability to get more credit, poor households may enter Emergency (IPC Phase 4) from November through January.

The displaced will likely return to their villages of origin in January. By February flood-recession cultivation will increase agricultural labor demand. Labor wages will rise, and slowly households will regain some income. At the same time, as feeder roads reopen, even rural market will be supplied by cereals from the *Deyr* harvest in nearby agropastoral areas and imported commodities. Markets will have more supply, and prices will return to levels more similar to right now. Green maize consumption from the off-season crop will be available by late February or early March. In late March or early April, the off-season harvest will provide many more households with food and likely reduce the prices of locally-produced cereals. Households will continue to fish and collect wild foods. As a result of these factors, poor riverine households will move into Stressed (IPC Phase 2) between January and March.

Figure 3. Sorghum, Northwestern Agropastoral livelihood zone, Dila, Baki District, Awdal Region, September 2015



Source: FEWS NET

Northwestern Agropastoral livelihood zones in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed

Poor households typically are consuming own-produced maize and cattle milk from July to September. However, due to drought, they are in an extended lean season. With highly limited green harvest or dry harvest right now, they are still needing to purchase all or almost all of their food from markets. Many are primarily acquiring food on credit. Currently, poor households are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

An estimated 49,000 hectares (ha) were planted in Northwest Agropastoral livelihood zone, 23 percent of the planted area being under maize. *Karan* crops are at different stages of development in different areas, but they mostly at the flowering and grain-filling stages (Figure 3). Close to a third of the crop was planted late, and these crops are currently at the vegetative stage. The April to June Gu rains were below-average. They ended in May, so both June and July were dry. As a result of the long dry spell and poor temporal distribution of the rains, short-cycle maize wilted. However, August and September *Karan* rains were near average. This allowed late planted crops to become established. In addition to allowing crop development, these rains partially refilled water points and regenerate forage. However, much of the sorghum in northern Borama and parts of Hargeysa has not developed well and may start wilting or withering. An estimated third of the area planted will not reach maturity, so it will not be harvested. However, an estimated 38 percent of the planted area can be harvested for grain. The rest though can be sold or used as livestock fodder. Very little maize has reached maturity, and that part of the harvest is usually in November. Livestock that were out-migrated to the Hawd have been returned. However, they are generally not lactating.

Prices of sorghum in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed decreased by 12 and 9 percent from August 2015 and September 2014, respectively, as green consumption started and traders cleared old stocks expecting the new harvest in November locally and an increase in imports from Ethiopia around the same time. Maize prices have remained quite stable for the past two years, and in September they were around 18 percent above the five-year average. However, reflecting the current low cattle milk production, in Borama, fresh cattle milk prices increased 17 percent from August to September, and they were 49 percent higher than the five-year average. Prices of imported red rice have remained stable since March. Livestock prices were at their seasonal high in September due to high demand for exports to the Middle East for the Hajj and Eid al-Adha in late September.

With the *Karan* harvest in November expected to be well below-average, this area will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through December. However, from January to March, horticultural crop sales and consumption are likely to increase food consumption, but not enough to move this area out of Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

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
Riverine Gravity Irrigation in Lower and Middle Juba and Middle Shabelle	Well below-average October to December <i>Deyr</i> rainfall	Without flooding, many riverine areas could remain or move into Stressed (IPC Phase 2) during the rains due to higher labor income, continued trade, and other factors.
Guban Pastoral in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed	Unseasonal, moderate to light rains in October/November followed above-average December to January <i>Xays</i> rains	By improving water availability and the availability of forage, livestock could recover their body conditions more quickly. However, poor households would likely remain Crisis (IPC Phase 3) for some time.

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](#).