**HARGEISA URBAN BASELINE ASSESSMENT**

An urban baseline assessment of Hargeisa town has taken place during February/March. FSU Field Monitors based in the region provided technical assistance to the assessment with support from The Food Economy Assessment and FEWS NET. The urban assessment will provide an improved understanding of how people live in these urban areas, in particular how their food and income options, balances with expenditure requirements and it will enable the establishment of an efficient monitoring system to track urban food security. For more information please contact leslie.adams@fsau.or.ke

**FSAU BASELINE PROFILES**

The FSAU is undertaking field work in order to complete 13 updated baseline profiles. The FSAU Assistant Food Security Analyst is currently working with Field Monitors in Galgadud on the Hawd (Central Somalia) - Pastoral Food Economy Group profile. For more information contact: lesley.adams@fsau.or.ke

**FSAU INTERIM DATABASE**

The FSAU has finalised its interim database which stores key data on population figures, Food Economy Zones, Indicator trend data and Administration. For more information please contact charles@fsau.or.ke

**NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY WORKSHOP, MANDERA, KENYA, 3-5 FEBRUARY, 2003.** A three day workshop on nutrition and food security, organized by FAO and supported by FSU, was held in Mandera (Kenya) for Gedo region for those agencies (10 INGO’s and 20 NGO’s) wishing to carry out interventions in the region. FSU facilitated the first two days by providing relevant information on food security and nutrition concepts. One of the main conclusions was that partners, in consultation with FAO, should develop a regional intervention to address malnutrition in Gedo region. The FSU, Assistant Food Security Analyst who attended the above workshop has also contributed to the latest update on the current food security situation in northern Gedo. See page 5.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Deyr 2002/03 cereal production best ever recorded in post-war era (1993-2001): Very good rainfall with high intensity and frequency fell throughout Southern Somalia during this Deyr season. As a result of plentiful rainfall (which greatly improved condition of livestock and subsequently crops) farmers in the sorghum belt, and from areas ploughing into new sorghum plantings which also greatly enhanced this final production figure. For a full report on the Deyr 2002/03 harvest assessment and its implications on food security see page 2 and 3. However, pockets of food insecurity do still remain in Southern Somalia (See vulnerability map on page 4) and these include pastoralists and agro- pastoralists in Middle and Lower Juba largely as a result of insecurity which has caused disruption to migratory patterns and looting of assets. Similar problems have also been observed in Baidoa and Burahakaba towns, in North Gedo, there was low cereal production and the region remains in crisis despite the fact that livestock have benefited from the good Deyr season.

Humanitarian Response Group (HRG) Meeting called to decide and agree on interventions to relieve crisis in Awdal: An estimated 5,000-7,000 households of Issa cattle/sheep pastoralists have migrated from Shinile Region of Ethiopia into the sub-coastal districts of Awdal Region of "Somalliland". This Awdal area has had below average rains over the last three years, although the ha’ rains in December/January enabled pasture and browse to recover to some extent. The most recent influx of Issa pastoralists report a 50% cattle mortality rate. Their remaining cattle are currently in very poor condition and yielding no milk although their small stock are in better shape and are giving milk. Browse for camels and goats (ie local Gadabursi livestock) is reported to be good and will last until the Gu rains if they are timely. The major concern is that pasture for the Issa cattle keepers will be depleted within the next 2-3 weeks and will not sustain herds until the next rains due in April/May. The FSAU participated in an inter-agency nutrition survey in the area and found 36% acute malnutrition (MUAC <12.5 cm) in the transitory settlements at the end of 2002. UNICEF’s screening of children for supplementary feeding, found approximately 30% acute malnutrition using weight for height out of a total of over 2,000 children. The FSAU also found that two strategically situated boreholes are currently not working, adding stress on livestock who have to trek long distances daily (especially small stock and cattle), and increasing localised pressure on pasture and browse. For a summary of the FSAU’s latest assessment on this area and suggested responses presented and discussed at the HRG (4 March 2003) see page 6.

Food Aid Distribution

**CARE** has pre-positioned 2500 Mt of food in Mandera and El Waaq for Gedo. CARE is also planning to do a registration of beneficiaries in Gedo region. (See also FSAU article on North Gedo food security update on page 5)

**In February,** no food was distributed by CARE in Gedo. El Bon has had good harvest so CARE is planning to carry out food for work, building roads, in the area.

**In February,** WFP distributed 51 Mt in Bay region, 125 Mt in Lower Shabelle (Merka district) and 18 Mt in Mogadishu. In the Northwest, 41 Mt were distributed in the Hargiesa district of Awdal region, 125Mt in Bari region and 9 Mt in Nugal.

For further information on CARE’s food aid operations, please contact: narayan@care.or.ke. For further information about WFP’s activities, please contact: Lubna.alaman@wfp.org.
Introduction

Fieldwork for the Deyr 2002/03 harvest assessment in southern Somalia was carried out between 27 January and 10 February. FSAU field monitors gathered information on Deyr crop harvest and then analysed the impact on households within their respective Food Economy Zones (FEZ) and wealth groups. Data was compiled, discussed and analysed in Hargeisa in mid-February.

Rainfall
- Normal to above normal rains, with high intensity and frequency, fell throughout southern Somalia, improving the situation of both crop and livestock.
- The Deyr 2002/03 rainfall reduced irrigation inputs for maize in the riverine areas of Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, Hiran and Gedo regions.
- In Bay and Bakool where pure rainfed agricultural is practiced, the Deyr rainfall encouraged new sorghum plantings rather than ratooning.
- Crops in southern Somalia reached full development stages with successful grain filling.
- Results show that 90-95% of the total harvested area was produced under rain-fed conditions. Few harvested areas utilised controlled or un-controlled flood irrigation in the Shabelle and Juba valley regions. This was attributed to the good rainfall coverage across the main agricultural areas of Southern Somalia.

An overview of cereal production

Households planted an estimated 320,550 ha (75% sorghum and 25% maize) in the 2002/03 Deyr. Significant production was recorded in the Bay region for sorghum. Lower Shabelle region contributed most of the maize production. However, the total Deyr cereal production is estimated at 164,624 Mt (56% sorghum and 44% maize). This is close to an 80% increase on the average Deyr production for the post war period (1995-2001) - see Figure 1. The percentage contribution to total cereal production by region (sorghum and maize) of southern Somalia was: Lower Shabelle 39% followed by Bay region 24% (N.B. Little maize production) Middle Shabelle region contributed 19%, Hiran 8%, Gedo 5%, Bakool 2%, Middle Juba 2% and Lower Juba 1%.

Yields were estimated in the range of 0.1—0.6 Mt/ha for sorghum and 0.5—1.0 Mt/ha for maize. Neither birds nor insecurity hampered the 2002/03 Deyr production in southern Somalia.

Generally the Deyr season provides 25-30% of annual cereal production, however this year it contributed 43-47% of the annual cereal production in southern Somalia.

The good Deyr harvest has relieved the pressure at household level in Gedo, Hiran and Bakol which were areas of food security concern. However, it is worth noting that areas of Lower Juba, especially the mixed pastoral maize-cattle Food economy zone, might experience a food shortage at the onset of Gu 2003. The poor wealth groups in this FEZ are located in the Almadow, Badade and southern Kismayo areas. Close monitoring in Gedo region, which has experienced three consecutive dry years and where the economy has deteriorated, is also necessary.

Sorghum
- In the southern regions of Somalia, an estimated 239,530 ha of sorghum was harvested during the season.
- Total sorghum production, estimated at 92,636 Mt, is 92% higher than the post-war Deyr season average (1995-2001).
- About 52% of the harvested area is located in Bay region. During the 2001/02 Deyr season the region experienced a degree of peace and agro-pastoralist returnees started to plant again.
- The 2002/03 Deyr sorghum production in the Bay region (39,150 Mt) is 54% higher than the post war Bay Region average (1995-2001).

Maize

Normally maize is a Gu season crop, however, when Deyr rainfall is good, households in Shabelle and Juba valley regions plant substantial amounts of maize as well. Mixed fields of maize and sesame were grown in Lower and Middle Shabelle and Lower and Middle Juba regions because of the uniform rainfall coverage across southern Somalia.

Approximately 81,000 ha of maize was harvested in the 2002/03 Deyr season. About 54% of the maize area is located in districts of Lower Shabelle region. However the following constraints limited production in the area:

1. Out-break of ‘army worms’ in localized areas of southern regions of Somalia.
2. Excessive rainfall causing water-logging in low-lying maize fields.
3. Low maize price discouraged irrigation farmers who opted for cash crops (sesame and vegetables) in Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba.
4. River fluctuation caused problems for farmers in irrigated areas of the eastern parts of the down streams of Lower Shabelle and coastal areas. Coastal rainfall was erratic and poorly distributed.

In spite of the above constraints, the 2002/03 Deyr maize production is the best ever experienced in southern Somalia, with the total production estimated at 71,990 Mt, 69% higher than the post-war Deyr average. (1995-2001)

Regional contributions to the production of maize in southern Somalia are as follows: Lower Shabelle 60%, Middle Shabelle 28%, Hiran 5%, Middle Juba 2%, Gedo 3%, Lower Juba 2% and Bakool 3%.
The European Joint Research Council Centre (JRC) has a project called MARS (Monitoring Agriculture with Remote Sensing), which produces (since the end of 2001) a bulletin every ten days on the main crop-producing areas of Somalia. The bulletin contains:

- A rainfall map for the preceding dekad.
- An NDVI map for the dekad. See vegetation map opposite.
- A series of four graphs showing temporal NDVI's for certain agricultural AFRICOVER land classes. (One of the graphs, for the land cover class in Bay Region “continuous fields/rain-fed”, has also been reproduced below the map)

The land cover classes correspond closely to identified food economy zones, making this data useful for FSAU crop and food security analysis. The map and the graphs in the latest Joint Research Centre Mars Unit bulletin show a fairly high vegetation index for the whole Deyr season, compared to last year and the average, supporting the field assessments (above) which indicate a good Deyr crop yield.

More details, including other temporal graphs of NDVI and rainfall data for the last year, can be obtained by downloading the latest Somalia Bulletins from: ftp://mars.jrc.it/bulletin/somalia. The MARS/JRC website produces bulletins on the monitoring of agricultural vegetation for Somalia as well as for the whole of Eastern Africa using the SPOT VGT vegetation index, Africover and Global Meteorological Modelling. For more information, see the MARS/JRC website: http://marsunit.jrc.it/africa. FSAU will assist any interested parties with contacting this group.

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The 2002/03 Gu and Deyr seasons were exceptional in terms of cereal (sorghum and maize) production. Uniform distribution of plentiful rainfall was the main factor attributed to the enhanced production. The 2002 cereal production (Gu and Deyr) is estimated at 373,553 Mt. This is 51% higher than the combined cereal production of the Gu and Deyr average (252,845 Mt) in the post war period (1995-2001).

Moreover, the percentage distribution of cereal in the year 2002/03 is 55% for the Gu and 45% for Deyr. Thus the 2002/03 (Gu and Deyr) year is the best year ever in terms of cereal production in post-war period.

With reference to the table above, the high production of sesame in the middle and lower Juba valley, which is a cash crop—and which prevailed over maize in the Deyr season explains the negative figure for cereals in these two areas as compared to the pre and post war average. The price of sesame seeds may increase in the next three months with expected high demand. Sesame seed is sold in the range of Ssh.10-12000/Kg at the markets.

Access to food through labour increased for the poor riverine households during the Deyr season and through sale of livestock products for the agro-pastoralists of southern Somalia. Sale of fodder is another source of income for the poor in riverine areas and in the Shabelle and Juba valley regions.

For more information on the Deyr 2003 Assessment—please contact FSAU Field Team Manager—Yusuf Mohamoud: yusuf@fsau.or.ke.

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### Cereal Production in 2002/03 (Gu and Deyr)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Deyr 2002</th>
<th>Deyr 2001</th>
<th>Post-War</th>
<th>Pre-War</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sorghum</td>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>Sorghum + Maize</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakool</td>
<td>2,915</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>3,526</td>
<td>+81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay</td>
<td>39,150</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39,150</td>
<td>+3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gedo</td>
<td>6,620</td>
<td>1,797</td>
<td>8,417</td>
<td>+123%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiran</td>
<td>9,900</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>13,500</td>
<td>+17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L/Juba</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>1,055</td>
<td>1,265</td>
<td>+14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L/Shabelle</td>
<td>20,700</td>
<td>42,860</td>
<td>63,560</td>
<td>+8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/Juba</td>
<td>2,160</td>
<td>1,565</td>
<td>3,725</td>
<td>+6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/Shabelle</td>
<td>10,981</td>
<td>20,500</td>
<td>31,481</td>
<td>+45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>92,636</td>
<td>71,988</td>
<td>164,624</td>
<td>+17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2002/03 Gu and Deyr seasons were exceptional in terms of cereal (sorghum and maize) production. Uniform distribution of plentiful rainfall was the main factor attributed to the enhanced production. The 2002 cereal production (Gu and Deyr) is estimated at 373,553 Mt. This is 51% higher than the combined cereal production of the Gu and Deyr average (252,845 Mt) in the post war period (1995-2001). Moreover, the percentage distribution of cereal in the year 2002/03 is 55% for the Gu and 45% for Deyr. Thus the 2002/03 (Gu and Deyr) year is the best year ever in terms of cereal production in post-war period.

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For more information on the Deyr 2003 Assessment—please contact FSAU Field Team Manager—Yusuf Mohamoud: yusuf@fsau.or.ke.
Vulnerability Map following Deyr Assessment 2003

**FSAU Monthly Food Security Report March 2003**

**VULNERABLE POPULATION GROUPS**

- **Pastoral: Priority Areas**
- **Pastoral: Other Vulnerable areas**
- **Agro-Pastoral: Priority Areas**
- **Agro-Pastoral: Other Vulnerable areas**
- **Riverine: Vulnerable areas**

**Main Areas with IDPs, Returnees & Destitutes**

**FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT UNIT**

FSAU is managed by the FAO, funded by EC and supported by USAID-Somalia and WFP-Somalia.

FSAU partners are WFP-Somalia, FEWS-Somalia, FAO, UNICEF, SCFUK and UNDP-Somalia.

IN CO-OPERATION WITH UNDP, SOMALIA

March, 2003

Property of FSAU-FAO, P.O. Box 1230 Village Market (Nairobi), Tel 3745734/8297/1299/6509, Fax: 3740598, E-mail: fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke.

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**North Gedo (Pastoral, Agro-Pastoral & Riverine)**
- Low production
- Prevailing insecurity threat
- Not yet recovered from previous crisis

**Addun Pastoral Area**
- Successive dry seasons
- Limited market access
- Insecurity

**Las Caanood**
- Insecurity for the urban poor and IDPs

**Cropping Area of Rabdhure**
- Low production
- Not yet recovered from previous crisis

**Guban Pastoral Area**
- Consecutive dry seasons
- Immigration from Shinille
- Weak markets

**successive dry seasons**
- Water shortage
- Insecurity

**Sool Plateau & Haded Pastoral**
- Consecutive dry seasons
- Poor pasture

**Parts of Middle & Lower Juba**
- Insecurity
- Restricted pastoralists movements
- Looting of harvests & assets
- Displacements and destruction of villages

**SOMALIA**

- **Galo & Addun Pastoral Area**
- **Lower Juba**
- **Middle Juba**
- **Parts of Middle & Lower Juba**
- **Insecurity**
- Restricted pastoralist movements
- Looting of harvests & assets
- Displacements and destruction of villages

**Main Areas with IDPs, Returnees & Destitutes**

- **FSAU Monthly Food Security Report March 2003**
- **Property of FSAU-FAO, P.O. Box 1230 Village Market (Nairobi), Tel 3745734/8297/1299/6509, Fax: 3740598, E-mail: fsauinfo@fsau.or.ke.**
- **March, 2003**
Food Security Update—North Gedo (Assessment 13-17 February 2003)

Summary
Over the past three years, the weather conditions in Gedo region have been particularly dry. This has resulted in poor crop and livestock production, massive population displacement and huge livestock migrations. This has occurred on top of civil/ clan conflict.

The northern districts of Gedo region consist of above 200,000 people of which roughly 55% are pastoralists, 20% are rainfed agro-pastoralists, 15% are urban dwellers and 10% riverine farmers. Cheap relief food coming across the border from Ethiopia and northern Kenya and relief interventions are likely to have attracted additional people to the area.

During the last six months it is possible that population figures in the region may have fallen as people dispersed with good rains and subsequent reduced food assistance. The FSU has therefore suggested that population figures for the region be reassessed so that food assistance calculations can be done on a more accurate number of people now inhabiting the area. This is being carried out by CARE.

The Deyr season (02/03) rainfall was exceptionally good in terms of distribution, intensity, coverage and duration. The season restored hope amongst north Gedo inhabitants that their food security situation would improve, particularly in the Dawa Pastoral food economy group. The good rainfall has improved pasture and grazing opportunities, increasing livestock production (milk, meat and ghee) and improved terms of trade for pastoralists.

The effects of the good Deyr season on the four FEZ’s in north Gedo and food security implications are as follows:

1. **DAWA PASTORAL**
   1. Improved pasture and grazing
   2. Increased water access and availability
   3. Increased livestock production (milk yields, meat and ghee)
   4. Good terms of trade

(1 goat fetches of around 150 kgs of sorghum)

One indication of the improved food security situation is that livestock in-migrations of cattle and camel from Ethiopia and parts lower and middle Juba regions have been observed. Programmes led by VSF/EPAG have led to improved livestock health and drug availability which has also positively affected local livestock production and reproduction abilities.

Most of Dawa pastoral herders derive their income from the sale of livestock and livestock products, mainly milk and ghee (around 50%-60% of income). Most of the better off and middle groups are receiving satisfactory income from these sales and so these two wealth groups do not require food assistance. The poor wealth group of the Dawa Food economy group (roughly 35%) produces the least amount of milk during the Jilaal season and due to their depleted asset levels (down by 50%) as a result of three dry years, the poor wealth group has the least opportunity to acquire income and therefore will need food assistance until a full recovery of their assets has been made.

2. **AGRO-PASTORAL** (Southern Agro Pastoral Food Economy Group)
   1. Very good Deyr rainfall in all parts of the agro-pastoral areas but unfortunately few inhabitants benefited (those who did were in Lugh east, Elbon area, and smaller groups in between Lugh, Dolow and Belet hawa). This was due to insecurity.
   2. They have no carry over stocks and will receive only a limited harvest. This is applicable to all wealth groups, including the better off group who own larger farms.
   3. Middle and poor groups have already started moving towards riverine areas where they hope to find employment activities to earn income. They will carry out palm tree cutting, share-cropping, grass cutting and Gu land preparation activities.
   4. Better off groups with relatively higher livestock ownership have received some income from livestock sales and some of this group will have a harvest from this Deyr season.

3. **RIVERINE GROUP** (Juba Pump Irrigated Commercial)
   1. Good Deyr rainfall helped farmers to lower the fuel costs usually incurred during the season since they used the available rainfall in addition to irrigation.
   2. Very few water pumps were running along both Juba and Dawa rivers in this Deyr season due to insecurity. This is likely to have reduced local crop production.

   3. Extremely poor harvest of both cereals and cash crops (onion and tobacco) experienced in both middle and poor groups of the Food economy group—even with the good Deyr rainfall.
   4. No previous/current stocks for middle and poor groups and only a few people amongst the better off—group, confirm enough back up stocks to last until next Gu season harvest.
   5. No livestock livestock product sale benefits for this food economy group.
   6. Decreased employment options since activities along the riverine areas declined and thus reduced income for all other employment seekers in the area.

4. **URBAN AND IDP’s**
   1. Increased milk sales by the Dawa pastoralists helped most of the urban dwellers and IDPs to receive cheaper and fresh milk, ghee and local quality goats.
   2. Decreased income options due to high population concentration and persistent insecurity.
   3. Disrupted remittance flow from local and overseas diaspora, due to the uncertainty of the recipient’s positions.
   4. Disconnected trade routes and less movement of trucks coming from Mogadishu through Gedo to Kenya and Ethiopia.
   5. Decreased UN and International NGOs presence in the region which decreases the expected income and the related job opportunities – reduced salary incomes, car hire costs and the local NGOs partner project associated expenses.

The better off and middle urban wealth groups still have connections with relatives and the diaspora and are receiving remittances. However, the poor urban and IDPs do not have this network and struggle on a daily basis to survive. They have to work for others, beg, seek local remittances and borrow from relatives.

It should be noted that the main problem facing vulnerable groups in north Gedo is lack of income—food is not available in markets. Possible responses should seek to continue to address improving income and employment opportunities.

The following groups are considered food insecure in Gedo.

**Dawa pastoral:** The poor group of this FEZ cannot meet their needs and some external interventions should be considered until there has been a full recovery of their asset levels which were seriously depleted over the last three dry years.

**Agro-pastoral:** Both middle and poor wealth groups cannot meet their needs with no stocks and limited income alternatives.

**Riverine group:** Most of poor and only lower middle groups are experiencing difficulties and are unable to meet their needs due to their low purchasing power.

**Urban and IDPs:** Most of the poor urban households in the main towns and all IDP groups are food insecure with few income earning opportunities. Some IDP groups are using relief food as a coping mechanism rather than returning to traditional strategies. Other groups living in north Gedo are likely to sustain their families by diversification of their income options/earnings and better asset levels.

**POSSIBLE RESPONSES FOR FOOD INSECURE GROUPS**

**Improving the system of provision of water pumps, seeds and tools, fuel supply, spare parts and training to mechanics to the Juba riverine farmers.**

**Rehabilitation of areas in north Gedo where environmental degradation has occurred including re-forestation with fodder plants and bushes.**

It is important to note that conflict resolution and peace building are essential prerequisites for interventions to have any long lasting impact in the region and as mentioned above, that the main problem facing vulnerable groups in north Gedo is lack of income—it is not that food is not available in markets.
Livestock trade has traditionally played a major role in Somaliland’s economy and culture, sustaining income and employment levels, and increasing foreign exchange earnings. Prior to the ban, for example in 1997, 2.8 million head of live animals were exported from Berbera port, the largest number of animals exported from a single port in the world that year — and the export value of the market for 1997 was valued at US$120 million. In these times exports accounted for approx. 30% of Somaliland’s revenue. The livestock import embargo imposed in September 2000 by the Gulf states was the second embargo that Somaliland had faced in five years, so by late 2002, and more than two years into the latest ban, Somaliland was feeling the drastic effect of lost millions of potential dollars from livestock sales but also the loss of thousands of dollars in potential export and import levies, crucial to the economy. The import trade at Berbera is being used as collateral or as a guarantee with traders. Remittances increased but are stretched to maximum.

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The FSAU Livestock Consultant and accompanying FSAU assessment team visited Awdal between 19 - 24 February 2003. Following discussions with the Issa (from Ethiopia) and Gadabursi (local inhabitants) livestock owners and local leaders in Gerissa, Xariradd, Jidhi,Karuure, Ceel Gal, Zeyla, Lughaye, Kalalwe and Osooli, the assessment team concluded the following:

1. An estimated 5,000-7,000 Issa households have migrated into the Awdal region from Shimbile and other parts of Ethiopia Region V.
2. Local livestock (mainly camels and small stock) belonging to the Gadabursi are in good condition and some have calved/kidded/lambed and are providing milk.
3. Some of the Issa have come with families, but many are just young and old men with the cattle.
4. A few Issa households have moved with camels and smallstock, but most have moved only with cattle.
5. Some Issa claim to have lost 50% of their cattle whilst migrating and their cattle are extremely thin and in poor condition.

At the end of December/January the area received scattered late hais rains, heavy enough to bring into leaf the browse plant species and perennial grasses but not enough to generate significant growth of annual grasses. Forage conditions for browsers are generally fair to good; grazing for cattle is poor and will be exhausted by middle to late March. Browse will last for another 4-6 weeks. It is unlikely that more rain will fall in the Guuban coastal belt in which case the local residents will take their normal migration route to the highlands (Baki district). The Issa from Ethiopia may have to follow this route too, but it would be a new precedent as they would normally return to Ethiopia as the rains are expected there in March/April. Since February conditions have likely improved for those with goats and camels – mainly the local Gadabursi and a few of the Issa from Ethiopia. Conditions will have deteriorated for the cattle owners – mainly the Issa cattle owners from Ethiopia.

If rains fail in Ethiopia in March then the Issa will be in an extremely precarious situation that will quickly destroy their livelihoods unless external interventions are provided. If March rains fail in the highlands of Somaliland then the Gadabursi will also suffer but they may be able to move into Ethiopia depending on rains there. The FSAU assessment team also found that competition for grazing between species is not too serious at the moment as most Issa came with cattle and not camels or small stock, while local Gadabursi are mainly camel and smallstock owners. The Issa migrants are finding it hard to access credit as they are not well known in the area and guns are being used as collateral or as a guarantee with traders. Remittances increased but are stretched to maximum.

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**REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED BY FSAU FIELD MONITORS**

Every month, the 22 FSAU Field Monitors provide in depth information on food security indicators in their areas. If you would like to obtain a copy of their district reports - please contact alex.williams@fsau.or.ke. The Regional highlights are a summary of this field information.

**NORTH WEST & AWDAL**

See also page 1 highlight and page 6 of this report. Usually February is dry but unusual rainfall fell at the end of February in Borama district, good rains also fell in the west of Jididi and Asho Addo in Zeila district and Bulhar in Berbera district. Water availability is normal for the time of year. Pasture is beginning to dry out particularly in the Hawd and the agro-pastoral areas of the region. Poor situation in the Hawd caused livestock to move to the coast and sub-coastal areas, Guble and agro-pastoral areas and Hawd of Togdheer and Zone V of Ethiopia. The recent rain has confused farmers in the agro-pastoral community about when best to plant. Terms of trade for pastoralists are currently good and the labour rate remains the same. Berbera port experienced a busy start to the month with ships going to Saudi, camels to Egypt and cattle to UAE. Due to Jilaal season, the production and sale of charcoal has increased and helping bring income to poorer households; the restriction on trade for the Haj is over. In turn this has also increased this activity which is likely to negatively impact the environment.

**BARI REGION—Bossaso**

In the Dharoor food economy zone the situation is normal for Jilaal. The effects of the dry season has negatively affected water and pasture availability and also livestock production. The watering cycle of animals is progressively increasing while the availability of pasture remains normal. In the Coastal food economy group the food security situation is normal. The access to food for different wealth groups is stable and normal with the exception of a few households in IDP camps of Bossasso town due to limited coping options. According to the Bossasso market data the price of both local and imported cereals has gone down compared to last month since the peak period of livestock trade for the Haj is over. In turn, poorer households and urban dwellers are switching from buying rice to purchasing local cereals (maize and sorghum) as the price is low.

**SOUTH NUGAL & NORTH MUDUG**

In the Hawd food economy zone the situation is normal except for 25-30% of the poor pastoralist households in the eastern parts of the Food economy zone who are in a state of alert and who are going to find it extremely difficult to access food and cope in the coming months. Most of these people have benefitted from increased food gifts during the Haj and Idd festivals and are coping by finding labour and self-employment opportunities. They have also changed their eating habits, reducing the number of meals and switching to eating cereals. The food security situation in Addun Food economy group is normal but the poor wealth groups in the middle of the remote areas remain in a state of alert. The price of water has increased 20-30% in some drought affected areas. The worst affected poor households in western Addun are starting to move in-land to villages and, others are sending their children to relatives to reduce household expenditure. If the Gu rains arrive on time the food security situation will improve although good camel calving rate is not expected due to poor conception rate in last Gu season. Then, FSAU believes that 15% of the poor population will be extremely vulnerable if the Gu rains do not start on time.

**NORTH NUGAL & SOUTH BARI**

In the Hawd, Sool and Iyah Food Economy Zone the food security situation is satisfactory. In general livestock prices are high and cereal prices are low. More goats will be kidding in March/April, therefore an increase in milk production is expected. The Coastal (Dee) food economy group is relatively food secure with a bumper-season of lobsters harvested. The Nugal food economy group is fortunate in that it has a plentiful supply of natural water which is readily available and accessible to everyone, therefore the cost of water in Jilaal is not an issue. This is not the case for pastoralists in the Hawd, Sool and Iyah’s. However the Nugal valley did not receive Deyr rains so livestock migrated to neighbouring areas. The poor pastoralist households left behind in the Nugal valley have experienced difficulty and some of their animals are wasting and deaths are expected, especially in the young, old and sick animals. Conception and birthing rates of animals is much lower in this group as compared to others. The urban food economy group in this region has been affected by the high price of milk and meat, the price of milk rising from 6,000-9,000 Shs to 10,000-13,000 Shs.

**SANAG & TOGHDHEER**

The food security situation is satisfactory apart from the Sool plateau. Good rains however fell in the Gololichten food economy zone which offset the negative impact of the Jilaal season. In Sool plateau water trucking has already started in remote areas and water prices are very high. The price of a barrel of water is $US 2 as opposed to $US 1.50 for February at the same time last year. There is an acute water shortage in Armale village due to problems with the borehole. In both Sanag and Togdheer livestock prices have fallen by 20-30% compared to last month since the peak period of livestock trade for the Haj is over. In turn, poorer households and urban dwellers are switching from buying rice to purchasing local cereals (maize and sorghum) as the price is low.

**SOOL**

The harsh Jilaal weather is prevailing and the food security situation of the region varies within the different food economy zones and wealth groups. Unlike previous Jilaal seasons food and water availability and accessibility for most of the pastoral households is fairly good. Livestock body condition is normal considering the stress of the dry season. Pockets of Taleh district and the entire Sool plateau are exceptional, as food security situation has been declining due to successive poor rains; water shortages and poor pasture conditions. In Hawd, the distance between watering points and the rangelands is getting wider, forcing pastoralists and their livestock to walk longer distances. This, will also make labor more intensive and reduce milk productivity. Poor urban and peri-urban populations in Lasanod, and other major towns in the region are facing food shortages due to declining labor availability and associated income losses mainly due to insecurity. Staple food prices have increased quite dramatically. For instance, compared to last month, the price of local sorghum and imported rice has increased in Lasanod market by 8% and 5% respectively, however terms of trade are still favorable for pastoralists. One local quality goat can be exchanged for one 50kg bag of rice while 1 litre of fresh camel milk can fetch 1.5kg of rice.

**LIVESTOCK EXPORT TABLE FEBRUARY 2003**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bosasso **</th>
<th>Berbera **</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Camel</strong></td>
<td>765</td>
<td>3,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cattle</strong></td>
<td>3,433</td>
<td>5,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheep</strong></td>
<td>160,245</td>
<td>62,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>164,443</td>
<td>71,695</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source**: Bosasso Port Authority

**Berbera Port Authority**
The harsh season is in progress and has negatively affected the availability of water and pasture in grazing areas. Water shortages have forced pastoralists to move to the few functioning boreholes and hand dug wells in Afmadow and Doblo. Livestock concentration in those areas is very high, overstretching resources and increasing prevalence of livestock diseases. Clan conflict in the Middle Juba region and other desheks, (low lying flood lands) south of Buale town have prevented pastoralists in the region and their livestock migrating to traditional dry-seasonal grazing areas around the river where water and pasture are plentiful. This has reduced livestock productivity in general and increased the mortality rate among weak animals. The insecurity has also affected the pastoralists in Hager who, during the dry season, normally migrate towards riverine areas. In the rest of the valley, food security is normal as the price of staple commodities has reduced substantially. In Afmadow and Hager, dyr performance was poor. Pastoralists terms of trade is good. Due to high seasonal demand for cattle in Garissa (Kenya) and sheep and camel in local markets, prices of local quality animals have increased significantly improving purchasing power.

HIRAN

Dyr rainfall was above normal and the food security situation is improving for all food economy groups in the region. Dyr crop harvest yields were good. This is the best crop yield for the Dyr in four years. Good rains have meant that pasture and grazing are available for pastoral and agro-pastoral open grazing. However in riverine areas pastures have been depleted as it received less rains than other areas and suffers from permanent grazing which causes over grazing. For poorer households there are agricultural and self-employment opportunities.

BAKOL

Agro-pastoralists in the region have finalized their good harvest although some pockets in Rabdure and Huddur (south western villages) have experienced poorer production. In the latter villages few households have harvested some crops, however, they have fewer income options. The level of household cereal stocks in general is good. There are seasonal water shortages in some villages of Rabdure (Burhundulle) and Huddur. People have been observed moving their livestock to nearest sustainable water point. Livestock in Wajid that use to move to Baidoa has not done so due to conflict. Cereal movement into Ethiopia through Elberede is reported to be slow due to low demand from neighbouring Ethiopia and yet no food aid supply was reported in the areas neighbouring this region. Staple and non-staple food is available in markets, demand, supply and accessibility is normal. The price of milk continues to be high, 5,000-8,000 Shs - price varies depending on livestock proximity to markets, low milk production, livestock being far away from markets, Dyr rains improved pasture and grazing conditions in the region. Water availability is satisfactory in all districts except Baidoa town which has experienced problems due to a drop in the water table. Milk prices in Baidoa have increased due to insecurity and animals being taken away from the town. A litre of camel milk was Shs6,000 but is now Shs10,000. Agricultural job opportunities have lessened this month, the only activities being storing harvested grain. Self employment opportunities have increased in Baidoa town where water selling is the main activity for the poor wealth group and other activities such as firewood collection, making charcoal, cereal selling and milk selling are also available. Staple food prices have decreased by 33 per cent as compared to last month.

LOWER SHABELLE

The Dyr season was good with plenty of rain for crops and animals. Most middle and better off wealth groups have enough cereal stocks at household level that will last beyond the upcoming Gu season. Agricultural jobs are available (harvesting of sesame, tomatoes and watermelon- as well as threshing) providing income opportunities for poorer households. Localized conflict in Qorey and Kurtun-warey districts has caused the displacement of some farmers who have lost their Dyr crop. As usual, there have been no rains during the Jilaal. Water availability is normal, although localized rain-fed areas are experiencing water scarcity. The Shabelle river level has dropped to a very low level causing water shortages in riverine areas. The overall livestock condition is appearing good with normal milk and meat production. Animals are fetching a good price in local markets. The local sorghum price has decreased by 11 per cent from last month due to good supply. The price of goats has increased by 9 per cent - this is likely to be a result of the Hajj period.

MIDDLE SHABELLE

The situation is usual for the middle of the Jilaal season. Maize and sorghum harvests have been finalized while the sesame harvest is progressing. Land preparation for the Gu is underway in some areas. Jowhar market is well supplied with both locally produced and imported commodities. Consequently the retail price of maize and sorghum decreased by 10 per cent and 30 per cent respectively while cowpea price increased by 13 per cent due to low supply and high demand from other regions. The price of sesame has dropped drastically due to over supply (from the rain-fed areas) as a result of good Dyr rains. Household stocks remain good in both irrigated and rain fed areas remain good with the exception of some villages whose stocks were destroyed by fire. Despite prevailing dry weather, water availability is good. Pasture is drying out a little quicker than usual, however, cattle herders have been able to benefit from the crop residues left in the fields.