ASSESSMENT REPORT

RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN ABUDWAK, GALGADUD REGION, CENTRAL SOMALIA

ASSESSMENT DURATION: 6th – 11 AUGUST 2008

ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED BY: SADO

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Decision Making Summary

The district of Abudwak is located in northwest of Galgadud region in central Somalia. It is one of the eight districts in the region. Galgadud is the nationally recognised region with its headquarters in Dhusa-Mareb. The city of Abudwak is believed to be the largest commercial city in the whole of Galgadud region. It shares a borderline with the Somali region of Ethiopia. According to the locals, the population of the district is roughly around 220,000 including surrounding villages but UNDP puts the population number around 41,500. Most of these people are pastoralists herding camels, cattle and goats. Abudwak and surrounding area is red sandy with semi desert look. Further into the grazing lands near the border with Ethiopia's Somali Province, one finds forest and mountains where mostly camels are herded. The city's population has increased due to influx of people that fled from the fighting in Mogadishu.

In the recent years, food security situation in Abudwak and the entire Galgadud region have been deteriorating. According to FSU, the region shifted from Generally Food Insecure (GFI) to Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC). In its 2007/08 post deyr analysis, FSU indicated that over 20,000 people in Galgadud region were in terrible Humanitarian Emergency. While 115,000 people were in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis. 16,000 of this figure came from Abudwak. FSU highlighted in its Deyr 07/08 analysis that the region is facing the impact of multiple shocks including successive seasons of below normal rains. Nutrition situation is also very critical, according to FSU.

The seasonal rain failures have caused water shortages in Abudwak forcing locals to engage in water trucking activities. Prolonged drought is causing human suffering and massive loss of livestock. According to the assessments estimate, almost 50% of cows have died and 40% of sheep have also disappeared. Camel death is estimated around 11%. Diseases are also causing similar deaths. The prolonged dry season raises the costs of trucking and is also exhausting the capacity of the locals. Additionally, as rangelands deteriorate, livestock conditions continue to weaken, loss of livestock is expected to increase horribly.

Due to the water shortages, the communities are spending over 60% of their income on water and only 30% is being spent on food and other non-food essentials.

The crisis in Abudwak seems to be surpassing all the communities' efforts and capacities and all current coping mechanisms are exhausted. The assessment recommends the following urgent interventions to curb the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the area:

- Conduct blanket food distribution for all livelihood groups in Abudwak districts and the surrounding villages.
- Support the affected communities with de-stocking programs to enable restart their livestock activities after the end of the rainy season.
- Establish feeding centers to combat the increasing rates of malnutrition in the area.
- Support the pastoral communities' water burden in distant places through water trucking delivered to a short distant within a short reach.
- Embark cash relief initiatives to bolster household income and purchasing powers of the most vulnerable.
- Health facilities needs to improved and established to enable access to health facilities.
- Rehabilitate broken boreholes and active ones to reduce congestion and thus prevent degradation of the environment.
- Provide mass livestock treatment in the area to avoid the death of livestock due to diseases.
1. Background

The district of Abudwak is located in northwest of Galgadud region in central Somalia. It is one of the eight districts in the region. Galgadud is the nationally recognised region with its headquarters in Dhusa-Mareb. The city of Abudwak is believed to be the largest commercial city in the whole of Galgadud region. It shares a borderline with the Somali region of Ethiopia. According to the local communities, the population of the district is roughly around 220,000 including surrounding villages but UNDP puts the population number around 41,500. Most of these people are pastoralists herding camels, cattle and goats. Abudwak and surrounding area is red sandy with semi desert look. Further into the grazing lands near the border with Ethiopia’s Somali Province, one finds forest and mountains where mostly camels are herded. The city’s population has increased due to influx of people that fled from the fighting in Mugadishu.

Abudwak region has some of the richest grazing lands in the region. Economy mostly depends on livestock, food commodities and household products trading. All four main livestock species - camel, cattle, sheep and goats – are available in this commercial town. Various Abudwak markets are also supported by smaller towns such as Balanbal and Dhusa Mareb. Another economic sector which has been growing over the years is the construction and building sector. Construction activities in Abudwak for office spaces, warehouses and private homes have been on the rise. The most stable currency earner for Abudwak residents was the stream of activities at local Abudwak livestock markets. Consumers buy plenty of livestock byproducts such as milk, butter, hide and skins for sale. The city has one of the largest animal markets in the region.

On the fledgling agriculture sector, there are family farms on the outskirts of Abudwak city. These farmers grow many of the basic vegetables and fruits such as onions, tomatoes, hot peppers, green peppers, carrots, watermelon, and beans. The closest river is hundreds of kilometers away so residents cultivate small farms for own consumption and sometimes for sale at the vegetable and fruit market.

In the recent years, food security situation in Abudwak district and the entire Galgadud region have been deteriorating. According to FSAU, the entire region had shifted from Generally Food Insecure (GFI) to Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC). In its 2007/08 post deyr analysis, FSAU indicated that over 20,000 people in Galgadud region were in terrible Humanitarian Emergency. While 115,000 people were in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis and in HE, 16,000 of this figure came from Abudwak district. FSAU highlighted in its Deyr 07/08 analysis that the region is facing the impact of multiple shocks including successive seasons of below normal rains.

The seasonal rain failures have caused water shortages in Abudwak district and the surrounding settlements forcing locals to engage in water trucking activities. Prolonged and severe drought is causing human suffering and massive loss of livestock. Water availability have become scarce hence resorting to water trucking as the prolonged dry season raises the costs of trucking and also exhausting the capacity of the locals. Additionally, as rangelands deteriorate, livestock conditions continue to weaken and local pastoralists will be losing more livestock.

Moreover, due to the historic nationwide inflation and insecurity, food shortages are hurting the local community. Food prices have skyrocketed to a historic level leaving so many households with severe livelihood crisis with little options to cope the stress. Besides, the situation is more aggravated by an estimated 856 and more displaced people who fled from the fighting from Mugadishu and the harsh drought as well. These IDPs camped in the vicinity of the towns of Abudwak and Balanbale and other small settlements.

The population has recognized the severity and the magnitude of the current drought as the worst in living memory. Locally, the drought and the high level of inflation are recognised as historical and beyond the memory of the living elders. Local elders say it is a disaster that has equally touched the lives of income groups.
2. Objective of the Assessment

The main objective of the assessment was to determine the severity and the magnitude of the current humanitarian emergency in the town of Abudwak in Galgadud region. Within that scope, the assessment team focused to obtain significant data in the following specific issues:

- The effect of the drought on livestock and its production
- The level of livestock mortality
- The level of IDPs’ influx into Abudwak district
- The impact of the crisis on livelihoods and the coping mechanisms employed by the local people
- Identifying gaps and the immediate needs of the affected communities and livelihood groups.
- Assess the level of interventions by the local and international organisations.

3. Methodologies of the Assessment

The assessment was carried out from 6th to 11th of August 2008. Eight randomly selected villages and IDP settlements were visited for collection of tangible and quality information. Various pressing issues including water availability, food availability, pasture and grazing rangelands, livestock status and mortality, migration and pastoral movement and market performance have been examined thoroughly by the assessment team.

The assessment has been conducting interviews using semi-structured questionnaires with key informants in the main towns and villages as well. The team also had meetings with the local authorities to absorb information from their side of the story. Community focus groups with different Food Economy Groups have also been used to gather necessary information on the drought and other hazards affecting the communities in Abudwak. Interviews with pastoralists and field observations of animal carcasses have been applied to compile livestock mortality levels. Random stops have also been made at village and pastoral settlements along the roads for observations on the conditions of rural communities and IDPs.

The assessment comprised of a three member team from SADO, a members from Abudwak district administration, three members of the Abudwak Council of Elders and three members from the private sector (Hormud, Nation link and Somtel Tele-Communication Companies).

4. Scope and Limitations of the Assessment

The assessment has covered the town of Abudwak and the surrounding settlements. Abudwak city is one of the major commercial cities in Galgadud region. The assessment was restricted to this major town in the region because of poor presence of both local and international organisations. Due to several incidents of insecurity and killings of aid workers, the area has become a no go zone for international organisations. It has remained isolated as the humanitarian conditions deteriorated.

The assessment had also one critical restriction. Collection of GPS readings of visited villages was also not possible. Due to the presence of Islamic militants and Ethiopian Soldiers in the region, the assessment team were warned of taking such risks by the local elders. It is because of such security reasons that collection of GPS readings was not done by the team.

5. Key findings

5.1 Rainfall and Weather Conditions
The Water Case:

Water shortages are very severe more in areas far from the river. This areas, according to the locals, have some pasture but there in no water. Poor and vulnerable households cannot to keep their livestock here if they cannot truck water with water carriers and barrels. Only the better off individuals and business men are practising it. Water trucked are stored in the berkeds. Business persons sell while others keep them for their animals. However, this coping mechanisms even for the better off is getting exhausted as dry season prolongs.

Water is trucked into the areas that sorround the villages of Ballicad, Shiilamadow, ari cadeys, Ballikibir, dafle and labagale in Abudwak Sorroundings. In Balanbale, water is trucked inot the villages of Baran Cad, Axmed Gurey, jiicle, ina tudho and Bacda. These are areas where water trucking is still active however it looks to be reducing each day as households come close to the main boreholes. The nearest distance water is trucked to is 30km and furthest has been identified to be 45km.

The entire Galgadud region has almost suffered three seasons of below normal rainfalls. The latest seasons Deyr’ 07/08 and Gu’ 08 have failed. Due to the Abduwak locals dependency on livestock resources, the total failure of consecutive rainy seasons have contributed gravely to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Abudwak and the entire Galgadud region. The local pastoralists indicated that almost the last five seasonal rains were below normal. According to FSAU’s 07/08 post Deyr Analysis (Technical series Report No V. 14), key pastoral areas in central regions received below normal rains. Moreover, FSAU’s special brief of July 23rd, the overall performance of the GU’ 08 was poor in many regions including Galgadud. The failures have resulted in deterioration of rangelands, berked water sources, reduced access to food commodities and animal resources and increased the pastoral movement and displaced hundreds of households.

5.2 Water Resources

Water is a major complication facing the local communities in Abud wak district and its villages. The main water sources in these areas are Berkeds and boreholes. Berkeds are used for water collection during the rainy seasons. They are usually located in villages or somewhere close to grazing fields. But since rains failed for over three seasons, Berkeds dried up. Pastoral communities had to migrate to main boreholes. The only functioning sources are some boreholes while some have suffered a breakdown. The challenge facing pastoralists is that pasture is not available around boreholes. And they are not able to deliver water to distant areas where garzing fields still hold a little pasture.

Better off pastoral households have started water trucking as early as january 2007 and had to extend towards the months of the recent Gu’ 08 seasons due to failed rains. This local effort looks exhausted due to weakening financial capacity as the dry season prolongs. According to the local pastoralists, a a trucked barrel of water is sold at 270,000 somali shillings. This is roughly $8 compared to january last year when it was sold at $4 per barrel.

The local drought relief committee has reported that six people, two of them children died after water could not be delivered in time. The table below shows the status of the water sources in the area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of town/Village</th>
<th>Nbr of Boreholes</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Abudwaq</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 are functioning and 2 are not functioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Balanbale</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>One is functioning and is not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bangeeley</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Functioning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interesting Narration:

My name is Aden Mohamed Barre. I am a pastoralist in Abudwaq district. I was badly affected by the drought in the area. I owned 32 camels, 26 cows and 135 shoats. I also had a berk as a water source. The berk is dry and I moved away from it. There was some pasture there but I could not truck water there because it is expensive. Here I moved close to the borehole. But what is sense ... nothing because there is no pasture, only water you get with difficulty. You see how my hut looks. I fed them with the animals. Not all animals but the ones I love. I didn't want to lose them. They are of a good breed. What else can I do? Some of them have already died.

This is a natural disaster. I lost 18 cows, 31 shoats and 2 camels. They have died. The rains are not near. I fear I may lose more. The camels are getting weaker each day. So are the remaining shoats. It is bad luck. I am slowly becoming poor, very poor. I cannot continue keeping my children..... what else will I do if I lose my animals. No problem God will help us.

The functioning boreholes experience some severe challenges that include:

- Congestion and over population of both animals and human beings.
- Lack of critical spare parts.
- Fuel and engine oil.
- Rehabilitation of animal troughs.

### 5.3 Pasture and Grazing Zones

The Hawd and Adun pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones are good grazing zones for the pastoralists in Abudwak district. However, the failure of the three consecutive seasons has resulted in degradation in the grazing rangelands. Pasture is hardly available in the fields that were once abundant in animal feeds. Grazing has deteriorated to the extent that animals are fed like human beings with cereal. Some pastoralists reported feeding cows with wheat and as a result the animals started diarrhoea. In some special cases, households are sharing meals with special animals they said they liked and will not afford to lose them. Mr. Aden Mohamed Barre claimed that he has fed his hut with some of his livestock and has no where to shelter. Mr. Barre told the assessment team that this was the last resort and has no other alternative remaining for him. These are all indications of the deterioration of the grazing lands.

An informed pastoralist, Mr. Mohamed Yusuf told us that cows have started migrating to the far South months before the drought intensified. They are reported to have gone as far as Gedo and Bu’alle. Staffs contacted from the SADO office in Bardera confirmed that over 50 households with their animals have reach Gedo region. Thirty of them have travelled further to Bu’alle in the Middle Juba region.

Some pastoralists informed the assessment team that there is a little pasture available in distance areas but they could not go for it because of lack of water in the zone. Trucking was costly and said they could not afford it.

### 5.4 Livestock Conditions and mortality rates

Livestock body condition and productivity are significantly below normal. The prices of Camel, cattle and even shoats have reduced dramatically. Abudwak city has one of the largest livestock market in the central regions. However, known to be always busy, the market has a very few number of animals. None is selling well. During the assessment, a camel in Abudwak sold at less than Ssh3, 000,000 while a cow sold at Ssh450, 000. In a normal year, a cow sold at Ssh2, 500,
000 while a camel sold at Ssh 12,000,000. A goat, at present, sells at Ssh300,000 while in a normal year it sells at around Ssh900,000 and above. The sharp decrease in the animal price is due to the poor condition of the livestock. As pasture disappears, the body condition of all the livestock species deteriorates. The worst affected are the cows followed by shotts and then camel. Over 50 households were reported to have migrated to the far South, some going as far as Gedo and Middle Juba.

In addition, livestock resources like milk and ghee are scarcely available in the local market. Cow milk and ghee are never available in the market. So are goat milk and ghee. The only scarcely available products are the camel milk also sold at a very high price only afforded by better off households. The price of fresh camel's milk has reached the highest level ever recorded in the town of Abudwak and the surrounding main villages. A litre of camel milk sold at 35,000 Sshs. This is unacceptable level compared to the usual sell per litre at Sshs10,000 to Sshs12,000. The milk supply is also another sign of the intensifying drought gripping the pastoral livelihood groups. The restricted access of milk and other animal products is a major concern since milk is a significant source of nutrition for the community. As a result, reduced accessibility of milk and other animal products, FSAU’s nutrition update of May-June 2008 reported a GAM rate of 19.3% and 18.4% in the Hawd and Addun Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood Zones respectively.

Livestock mortality rates are high. It is not only the poor pasture that contributed to the livestock death. Outbreaks of fatal diseases are equally contributing to the death of the livestock. Although some of these diseases are curable, it is the weak and less nutritious body of the livestock that supports easy attack and then death. The assessment discovered that hides and skin market is flourishing due to high mortality rate of animals. Some of the major diseases affecting animals include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Type</th>
<th>Type of Disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>Watery Diarrhoea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>Skin diseases, Pleuropneumonia (Sambab), Doox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>Skin diseases, Pleuropneumonia (Sambab), Diarrhoeal disease (Doox)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camel</td>
<td>Extreme watery diarrhoea (miir)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table below provides estimates of livestock mortality based on the informant data gathered by the assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Type</th>
<th>Estimated Mortality since 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>50-45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As indicated in the report, over 50 families have moved to the south. Some have already gone as far as Gedo and Middle Juba.

### 5.5 Health and nutrition

Health and service delivery is limited in Abudwak District and its villages. There is only one MCH run by SRCS in the town. Other settlements depend on commercial pharmacies for treatment. However, no accurate data could be obtained on the nutrition status of the area. However, according to data obtained from SRCS MCH and the local pharmacies, the most common diseases are malaria, URI, diarrhoea, UTI, scabies, eye infections and dysentery. In nutrition, according to FSAU’s May-June 2008 nutrition update, the Hawd and Adun Pastoral/Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones – both available in Abudwak and surrounding villages - have high rates of malnutrition rates. The preliminary results in the update reported a GAM rate of 19.3% in Hawd and a SAM rate of 2.3% and two cases of oedema. According to FSAU, the results indicate critical nutrition according to WHO classification. Similarly, the Adun Livelihood Zone also available in Abudwak had similar results. The FSAU’s preliminary result reported a GAM of 18.4% and a SAM of 2.8%. The results also indicate critical nutrition situation. The report also indicated the assessed children fell ill in two weeks. According to the report, 20.5% of the assessed children had diarrhoea two weeks before the assessment. 29.4% have also had acute respiratory infection. The report also showed that 11.4% of the assessed children were reported to have had febrile illness.

This critical level of nutrition is also promoted by the poor access of milk by most of the vulnerable children. The situation is also complicated by the lack of intervention to support children suffering from critical malnutrition. No mortality results could be available from any source.

### 5.6 Livelihoods and overall coping Strategies

In normal times, the main source of income is livestock products and sale of livestock. Some of the locals depend on remittance from abroad and on commercial business. However, as the food security deteriorated, thousands depending on livestock resources are drastically affected and are in dire and urgent need. The middle and poor income groups in Abudwak are suffering from asset depletion – selling off major immovable assets like land. Food aid is rarely delivered due to insecurity in the area. Pastoralists groups seem to depend on hand outs from better off relatives. This is followed by borrowing food on credit. Moreover, the poorer have resorted to charcoal burning and other bush materials for income. Notably, because of the dire and extreme shortages of water, the better off groups are also spending over 60% of their income on water. This shows that only 40% is spent on food and other non-food items. The assessment has also found that all groups share meals and food ration with animals. This is a clear sign of how bleak the situation is – livestock sharing meals with the human being. Generally, every household in Abudwak has compromised food expenditure.

The poor and middle income of all Food Economy Groups have re-strategised their livelihood patterns to cope with the deteriorating situation. Some of the options employed by the affected people include:

- Migration in search of pasture of water and pasture. Some households are reported to have migrated as far as the South with some reported to have reached Gedo and Middle Juba;
- Increased borrowing of loans from better off households (next of kin) and from local businesspersons;
- Focusing on firewood, charcoal burning and other bush materials for income;
- Reduction of frequent intake of meals from 3 to 2 to 1 meals per day;
- Reduction of quantity of food consumed per meal;
- Purchasing food on credit;
- Increased seeking of social and kinship support, some go begging in streets;
- Dividing of families – some search other opportunities while some keep animals;
- Killing the young ones of lactating mothers to save the senior;
- Households have divided with the stronger members migrating in search of labour opportunities.

### 5.7 Market performance

The impact of the drought is not the only hazards affecting the inhabitants of Abudwak district and the entire galgadud region. The devaluation of the Somali shilling, conflict, disruptions of the supply routes and trade between regions have resulted in a historic inflation that affected people of all walks of life. The inflation has doubled the plight of people already devastated by the drought and loss of livestock. The purchasing power of the vulnerable groups has been crippled further.

In the local market, the value of the somali shilling against the dollar continued to drop over the past one year. The current exchange rate is the highest ever seen over past decade and half of anarchy. Moreover, the inhabitants of Abudwak who depend on livestock importation had to bear the brunt of the livestock ban which has reduced the circulation of the Somali shilling even before the eve of the drought and the inflation. According to the local business men and women, the grave devaluation of the shilling was due to the massive printing of the shilling supplied to almost all major markets in Somalia.

During the assessment, the local traders have confirmed that imported goods such as rice, oil, flour, pasta, sugar and powder milk are readily available in markets. But the drought and inflation have weakened the purchasing power of the local people. In the main market of Abudwak, local products like sorghum and maize are scarce compared to the availability of imported food stuffs. The animal market is also performing poorly due to the weak body conditions of the livestock. Livestock trading with other regions is no longer active. So are animal products. The table below shows the prices of essential commodities in the Abudwak main market:

#### Current Prices of Commodities in the Main Market of Abudwak District, Galgadud Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodities</th>
<th>Unit Measure</th>
<th>Price in Shillings in Sshs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>Per 50kg bag</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>Per 50kg bag</td>
<td>2,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>Per liter</td>
<td>90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White flour</td>
<td>Per 50kg bag</td>
<td>2,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel</td>
<td>Per barrel</td>
<td>11,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk Powder</td>
<td>Per tin</td>
<td>900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>Per kilo</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorghum</td>
<td>Per 50kg bag</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>Per litre</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5.8 Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

The town of Abudwak, Balanbale and other major villages have hosted people displaced by drought after losing livestock or fleeing harsh jilaal season and households displaced by the conflicts in Mugadishu and parts central Somalia. Although there has been no proper data collected on the IDPs, most of them have located themselves in camps while many were hosted by relatives and friends. However, in the town of Balanbale IDPs have settled themselves in
camps north, west and south of the town along big green shady trees. In Abudwak, IDPs have located themselves in El-gargaar village. The table below shows the IDPs and their locations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Town</th>
<th>Number of IDP HHs</th>
<th>Total number of Persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abduwak</td>
<td>230 households</td>
<td>780 – 1000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanbale</td>
<td>481 households</td>
<td>2000 – 2230 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangelle</td>
<td>80 households</td>
<td>400 – 450 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhabad</td>
<td>65 households</td>
<td>300 – 350 persons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Other Humanitarian Interventions

There is no presence of international organisations in the area. Similarly, active INGOs are not present in the area. SRCS is the only organisation operating in the district. The local authority have reported that SRCS have supported 381 IDPs in Balanbale with shelter and household utensils. There has been no other support provided to either the pastoralists suffering from the droughts or the IDPs. Aid agencies could not move into the area due to incidents of insecurity. Currently, there is presence of some Islamic groups and Ethiopian troops in the area around Abudwaq. Due to the drought, inflation and displacement, the local inhabitants are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance to reduce increased vulnerability.

7. Urgent Humanitarian Needs Recommended by the Assessment

The crisis in Abudwak and other settlements under its administrative district has prolonged and is beyond the local capacities as coping mechanisms have exhausted. The assessment team recommend the following immediate needs to be covered as life saving:

- Conduct blanket food distribution for all livelihood groups in Abudwak districts.
- Support the affected communities with de-stocking programs to enable restart their livestock activities after the end of the rainy season.
- Establish feeding centers to combat the increasing rates of malnutrition in the area.
- Support the pastoral communities’ water burden in distant places through water trucking delivered to a short distant within a short reach.
- Embark cash relief initiatives to bolster household income and purchasing powers of the most vulnerable.
- Health facilities needs to improved and established to improve accessibility to health facilities.
- Rehabilitate broken boreholes and active ones to reduce congestion and thus prevent degradation of the environment.
- Provide mass livestock treatment in the area to avoid the death of livestock due to diseases.
- Support rehabilitation of Berkeds before the start of the Deyr season to allow successful harvest of rain water.