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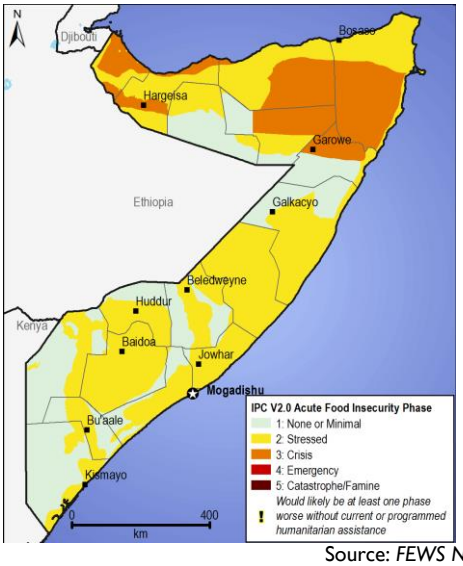
SOMALIA Food Security Outlook — February to September 2016

Despite improvements, one million people remain in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4)

KEY MESSAGES

- Over one million people are currently in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4). The most food insecure people are in Guban Pastoral, Northern Inland Pastoral, and Northwestern Agropastoral livelihood zones, as well as in camps for internally displaced persons. Food security in these areas is primarily the result of below-average rainfall which led to limited pasture and water availability and elevated livestock death rates.
- The October to December *Deyr* rainfall was average to above-average in southern and central regions, driven in part by the ongoing El Niño. These rains improved pasture, browse, and water availability and supported favorable crop production. With the exception of Southern Rainfed Agropastoral livelihood zone, food security is expected to improve in most southern and central regions.
- The *Deyr* harvest of sorghum and maize is estimated at 130,100 metric tons, 18 percent above the five-year average. Production was significantly above average in Bay and Lower and Middle Shabelle Regions. However, the Southern Rainfed agropastoral areas of Lower and Middle Juba and Lower Shabelle Regions had significantly below average crop production.

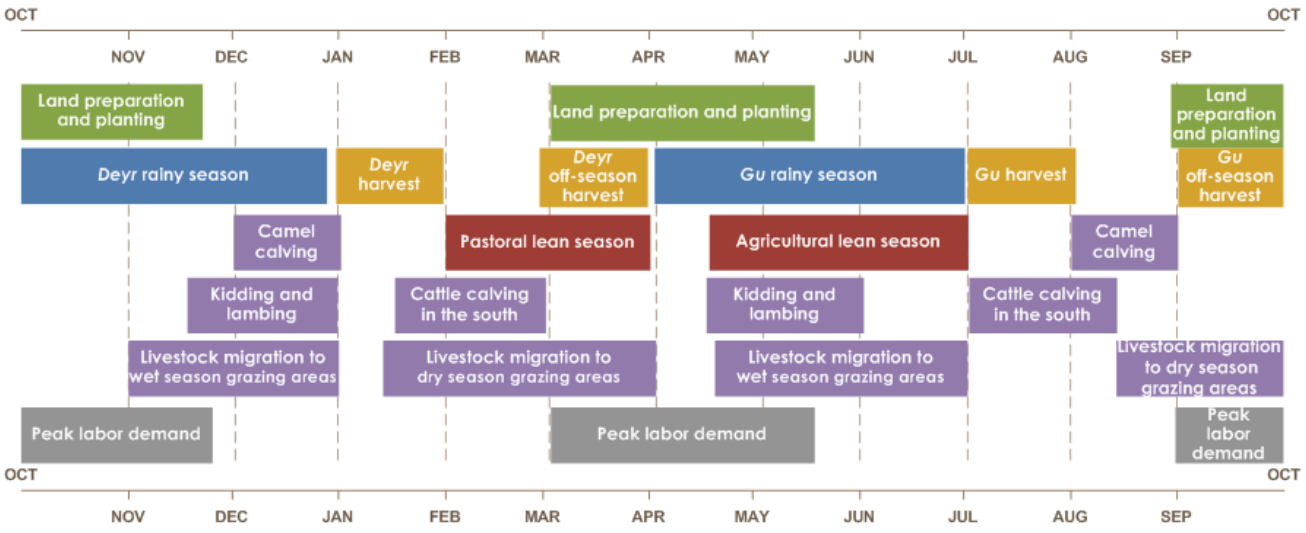
Current food security outcomes, February 2016



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.

SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR



Source: *FEWS NET*

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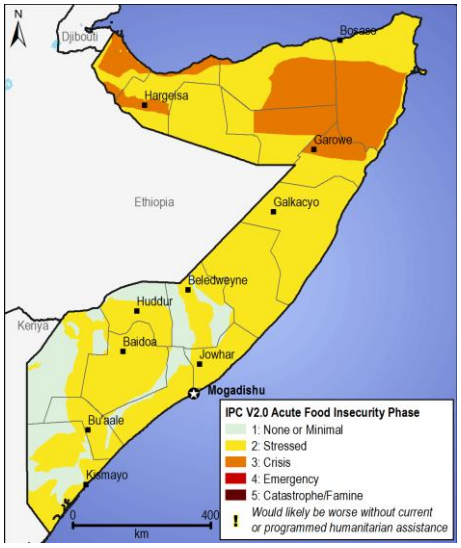
NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

Based on the *Deyr* 2015/16 seasonal food security assessment conducted in December 2015 by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), the Famine Early Warning System (FEWS NET), and partners, approximately one million people are projected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) through June 2016.

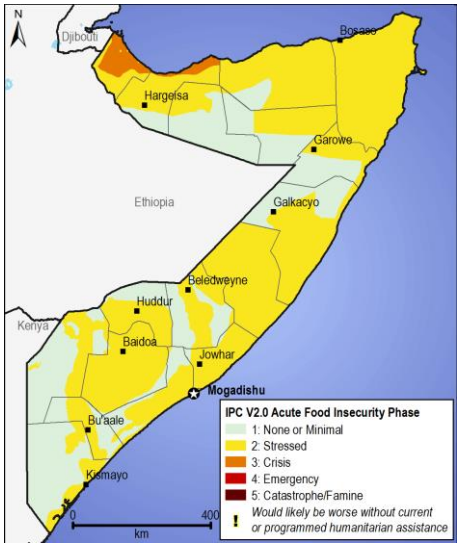
- **The *Deyr* season began in early October, although the rains did not become fully established until the third week of the month.** Rainfall was average to above-average with adequate temporal and spatially distribution for most pastoral and agropastoral areas in south and central Somalia, as well as in areas of Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone in the North. However, the rains were relatively erratic and well below average in most pastoral areas in the North and in the coastal areas of Juba and Shabelle Valley (Figure 1). The *Deyr* rains ended earlier than normal, between November and mid-December.
    - **In the Northwest**, rainfall was moderate with average distribution in Hawd and West Golis Pastoral livelihood zones in Hargeysa and Berbera Districts. Guban Pastoral livelihood zone in Lughaya and Zeylac Districts received atypical, moderate rains in October and November, followed by moderate to light *Xeys* rains in December. Areas of Togdheer, Sool, and Sanaag Regions received almost no rainfall in November and December.
    - **In the Northeast**, the *Deyr* rains were below average with erratic temporal and spatial distribution in most parts of Nugaal and Bari Regions. Only Hawd and Addun pastoral areas in Nugaal and North Mudug Regions received average rainfall with normal temporal and spatial distribution. The poor rains significantly impacted Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone, failing to restore pasture and water resources and causing high livestock out-migration.
    - **In central regions**, moderate to good rains with typical distribution were received in Cowpea-Belt Agropastoral, Hawd and Addun Pastoral, and Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zones. Rainfall replenished water sources, improved pasture conditions, and supported cowpea crop development. The exception to this was in Hobyo District where rains were relatively poor.
    - **In the South**, most regions received average to above-average rainfall with typical spatial and temporal distribution. These rains improved pasture, browse, and water availability and supported crop production. However, rainfall was erratic and relatively poor in parts of Southern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone in Gedo Region and Southern Rainfed Agropastoral livelihood zone in Jubas and Lower Shabelle.

Projected food security outcomes, February to May 2016



Source: *FEWS NET*

Projected food security outcomes, June to September 2016



Source: *FEWS NET*

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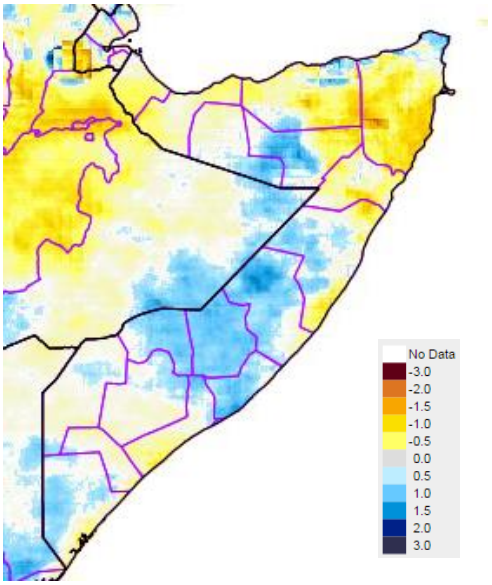
- **Rangeland and water conditions in most pastoral and agropastoral livelihood zones are average**, except in pastoral areas of Bari and Sanaag, and in Southern Inland Pastoral and North Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zones. In these areas, most private water catchments and communal dams remained empty during the rains. Rainfall-deficit areas in the North have relied on high priced trucked-in water since September 2015.

- In the **Northwest**, average *Deyr* rains received in Hawd Pastoral and West Golis Pastoral livelihood zones of Woqooyi Galbeed and Togdheer Regions maintained average access to pasture and water. However, in pastoral livelihood zones of Sanaag where *Deyr* rainfall was signicantly below average, pasture and water conditions are poor. In these areas, rangeland conditions are far worse than in recent years, and atypical livestock outmigration to Guban Pastoral livelihood zone and Hawd of Sool region has been reported.
- In the **Northeast**, water and rangeland availability are atypically poor. Some localized rains were received in pockets of Qardho and Iskushuban during November, but they had little impact on replenishing pasture or water. Water prices have increased in rural reference markets: in Rako village of Qardho District, the January 2016 price of a 20-liter jerry can was 5,000 SOS, 25 percent higher than January 2015.
- In the **South and central regions**, pasture and water conditions are average to above-average in Bakool, Bay, Galgaduud, Gedo, Hiiraan, and Lower Juba Regions. *Deyr* rainfall was sufficient to refill water sources, rejuvenate rangeland conditions, and allow crop development. However, pasture and water availability remain poor in coastal areas of Lower and Middle Juba and Lower Shabelle Regions, and localized pastoral areas in Bakool and Gedo, where rains were well below average.

Figure 1. October to December 2015 rainfall, anomaly in millimeters (mm) as a standard deviation (SD/z-score) from 2000-2014 mean using Climate Hazards Group Precipitation with Stations (CHIRPS) data



Source: *U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)/FEWS NET*

- **Livestock body conditions, production, and values:** As a result of near-normal to above-normal October to December *Deyr* rains, both pasture and water availability have increased, contributing to improved livestock body conditions. However, poor livestock body conditions are found in rain-deficit areas, including Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone, Guban Pastoral livelihood zone of Zeylac District, Northwestern Agropastoral and West Golis Pastoral livelihood zones of Borama and Gabiley Districts, Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone of Togdheer and Woqooi Galbeed, and some parts of Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zone in Mudug, Lower and Middle Juba, and Lower Shabelle regions.
  - In pastoral and agropastoral areas of southern and central regions, average birth and conception rates were observed for all livestock from October to December. However, low to medium rates of cattle and camels calving and medium birth rates of sheep/goats were observed in the North due to medium to low rates of conception during the 2015 *Gu* and the *Deyr* rains. Milk availability has increased to average in most agropastoral and pastoral livelihood zones. Overall, herd sizes in December 2015 were mostly near baseline to above baseline levels, with the exception of in Northern Inland Pastoral, Guban Pastoral, and Northwestern Agropastoral livelihood zones where herd sizes are below average.
  - **Livestock Migration is largely following seasonal patterns.** However, livestock from Bari and Sanaag Regions have been migrated to Hawd and Addun Pastoral livelihood zones, while livestock from Hawd and Northwestern Agropastoral livelihood zones of Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed Regions were migrated to the Awdal Region of Guban Pastoral livelihood zone.
- **Crop performance and harvest:**
  - ***Deyr* 2016 harvests** of sorghum and maize, including March off-season production in riverine areas, is estimated at nearly 130,100 metric tons (MT), 28 percent above the (1995-2014) post-war average (PWA) and 18 percent above the five-year average (2010-2014). Production was significantly above average in Bay and Lower and Middle Shabelle Regions. However, the Southern Rainfed agropastoral areas of Lower and Middle Juba and Lower Shabelle Regions had significantly below average crop production.

- In addition to cereals, nearly 45,500 MT of other crops were harvested, including **sesame, cowpeas, rice, onions, tomatoes, ground nuts, and watermelon**. These higher value crops were mainly harvested in Lower and Middle Shabelle, Bay, Juba, Gedo, Hiran, and Galgadud Regions. In the Cowpea Belt livelihood zone in central regions, an above-average area was put under cultivation following the above-average *Deyr* rains, resulting in an estimated 5,000 MT of cowpeas, the second highest harvest in that area since 2011.

- **Commodity prices:** Staple food prices were stable or began decreasing in January as the *Deyr* harvest of sorghum, maize, and cowpeas, and imports of rice, wheat flour, and sugar, all improved food availability. However, prices remained high, or continued to increase, in crop deficit areas of northern and central regions as price transmission is often delayed. In conflict-affected localities in the south, prices also remain above average as disruptions to markets and trade activities continue to hamper the delivery of supplies to markets.
  - In Bay Region, the price of red sorghum in Baidoa remained stable in January 2016, but slightly higher than last year and the five-year average, given that *Deyr* harvests have not yet reached this market. In Qoryooley market, the price of white maize sharply increased by 27 percent from December 2015 due to trade blockades put in place by insurgents, increased insecurity, and clan conflict over the region. Despite this increase, prices are 29 and 24 percent lower than January 2015 and five-year averages, respectively.
  - In the Northwest, in the cereal producing markets of Borama, Hargeysa, and Togwajaale, white sorghum prices in January were 15 percent lower than last year due to both continued imports from the Somali region of Ethiopia and favorable *Deyr* harvests. Despite this, prices remain 10 percent higher than five-year averages.
  - The prices of international imports such as rice, sugar, and wheat flour remain stable have remained stable or declined since June 2015 and remain below their respective 2015 levels. This is likely driven in part by decreasing fuel prices, lowering the cost of transportation and irrigated farming.
  - In **northern and central pastoral zones,** livestock prices are typical and seasonally decreasing following the end of peak exports in October. In addition, the increased inflow of higher quality livestock from the Somali Region of Ethiopia is contributing to a lower demand for local livestock.

- **Terms of Trade (TOT):** In most areas of the country, the goat-to-cereal and wage-to-cereal TOT have improved over the last year. In January, in central and northern pastoral areas, the price of a local quality goat was equivalent to 74.5 kg of rice, an increase of approximately 18 percent from last year and 30 percent from the five-year average. Also in January, the daily wage was equivalent to 5 to 10 kg of cereals, which is 25 to 54 percent above the five-year average. In most crop-producing areas in southern Somalia, the daily wage rate in January was equivalent to 11-16 kg of red sorghum or white maize, an increase of 22-60 percent from last year and 17-45 percent from the five-year average.

- **Nutrition:** According to a Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) nutrition survey conducted by FSNAU, FEWS NET, and partners from October to December 2015, despite the improvement of food access and availability in most rural areas, the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) has increased since July 2015, sustaining ***Critical*** levels (15.0 to 19.9 percent) among pastoralists in Beletweyn and Mataban Districts (Hiraan), in Awdal, Sanaag, and Woqooyi Galbeed of Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, and among pastoralist in Bay Region. However, the GAM prevalence slightly declined in East Golis of Bari and Sanaag regions, Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone in central regions, and Coastal *Deeh* Pastoral livelihood zone, but still sustain ***Serious*** (10.0 to 14.9 percent) levels.

Current Food Security

Despite persistent conflict and insecurity in most southern and central regions, the above-average *Deyr* production has improved food security in most rural livelihood zones. Food security has also improved in most areas of Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone, improving to Minimal (IPC Phase 1) as a result of increased milk production for consumption and sale. However, food security has deteriorated in Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone of Hargeysa District after poor rainfall led to atypical livestock outmigration. Food security has also deteriorated in Southern Rainfed Agropastroal livelihood zone in Lower Shabelle and the Jubas as a result of poor *Deyr* rainfall that led to near crop failure. The majority of households are now in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and an estimated 25 percent of poor households are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). In northern Somalia, several areas remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), including Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone in Bari, Nugaal, Sanaag, and Sool Regions, and Guban and Northwestern Agropastoral livelihood zones in Adwal and Woqooyi Galbeed as a

result of consecutive poor rainfall seasons, lowering livestock productivity and herd sizes.

Urban Food Security

According to the FSNAU/FEWS NET 2015/2016 post-*Deyr* assessment, the food security of urban populations has improved since the 2015 post-*Gu* assessment. The urban population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) has reduced by nearly 50 percent, from 104,000 people to 54,000. Roughly 70 percent of these people live in southern regions, in Bakool, Bay, Hiiraan, and Lower Juba, which continue to experience prolonged insecurity and few economic opportunities.

Multiple factors contributed to the observed improvement in urban food security. Firstly, the above-average *Deyr* harvest has led to a decline in the price of local cereals. The January 2016 price of maize in Mogadishu was SOS 6,900, 31 percent and 20 percent lower than the last year price and five-year average, respectively. A similar trend has been observed in many markets in southern and central regions. Secondly, there has been stability in commercial food imports, reducing the price of rice, wheat flour, and vegetable oil. Thirdly, decreasing fuel prices are reducing transportation costs. The price of diesel in January 2016 in Banaadir's Bakara market, a key supply point for southern and central regions and cross-border trade, was SOS 16,500, a 37 percent reduction from the five-year average. Furthermore, market trade activities have been stable or increasing, improving access to wage labor. Lastly, increased access to water following average to above-average *Deyr* rainfall improved milk production and access to milk through seasonally declining milk prices. Increased investment and trade in Mogadishu and humanitarian assistance that improves access to food, health, and social services are all further contributing to improved urban food security.

IDP Food Security

According to the FSNAU/FEWS NET 2015/2016 post-*Deyr* assessment, 649,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4), 68 percent of the total national population currently classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Of the 13 IDP settlements surveyed, 12 were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and one (Dolow) in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). More than half of all IDPs in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) are in Banaadir (Mogadishu).

High levels of acute malnutrition continue to persist in all IDP settlements. A SMART survey conducted by FSNAU, FEWS NET, and partners between October and December 2015 reported GAM prevalence of 16.8 (95 percent confidence interval 14.3 – 19.7) in Bosasso, 19.5 (95 percent confidence interval 16.5 – 22.9) in Garowe, 16.5 (95 percent confidence interval 13.5-20.0) in Gaalkacyo, and 25 percent in Dolow (95 percent confidence interval 21.2-29.3), all at ***Critical*** levels. The GAM prevalence in Dhusamareeb, Banaadir, Kismayo, Baidoa, and Dhobley, were all at ***Serious*** levels.

A number of factors contribute to continued food insecurity among IDPs. First, the majority of IDPs have few assets: 80 percent reported owning few to no livestock, productive, or domestic assets. Secondly, many IDPs are reliant on unstable or limited sources of income. Thirdly, most IDPs are reliant on market purchases to access food and are therefore more vulnerable to market shocks such as price inflation. The majority of IDPs in all assessed settlements reported high food spending ranging between 75 to 87 percent of total expenditure. Fourthly, many IDPs have weak social and family/clan connections that can be vital forms of assistance in time of need. Lastly, many have inadequate access to social services such as health, sanitation, and education.

Assumptions

The January to September 2016 most likely scenario is based on the following national-level assumptions:

Climate:

- The **January to March 2016 *Jilaal* dry season** is expected to be mild in terms of the length and temperatures are not expected to be significantly above average (.5-1 degree Celsius above average), except in Northern Inland Pastoral and Northwest Agropastoral livelihood zones where the dry period is likely to be harsher than normal.
- **As a result of a normal *Jilaal* dry season**, water and pasture availability are expected to seasonally decrease in most areas. However, in Northern Inland Pastoral, Northwestern Agropastoral, Hawd, and Coastal *Deeh* Pastoral livelihood zones, pasture and water resources are expected to decrease faster than normal.
- The **April to June *Gu* rains** are likely to be near average in amount with an erratic start.

- The peak of East Africa coastal strip rains, from May to June, is expected to be below average in terms of cumulative rainfall.
- The **July to August *Hagaa* rains** in South Coastal Deeh and Southern Ranifed Agropastoral livelihood zones and **the July to September *Karan* rains** in the northwestern Somalia are expected to be near-average in amount.
- It is expected rainfall will be influenced by the ongoing El Niño, which is forecast to weaken and transition to ENSO-neutral conditions in late spring (*Gu*) to early summer (*Hagaa*).

Agricultural labor demand and crop production:

- **The 2015 *Deyr* cash crop harvest** (sesame and cowpea) in January/February is likely to be lower than last year due to reduced sesame demand in international markets. The decreased production will likely result in decreased cash income for middle and better-off households from lower sales and reduced income for poor households from fewer labor opportunities.
- **Agricultural labor demand** through April is expected to be average in most southern agricultural areas. Harvesting cash crops in southern regions will be as important as harvesting cereals as a source of income for this season.
- From May to August, with likely near normal performance of the *Gu* rains, **area planted** is expected to be near average. Agricultural labor demand is likely to be typical from March through August for land preparation, planting, weeding and harvesting.

Livestock:

- **Livestock body conditions** are likely to remain seasonlly average during the January to March *Jilaal* dry season due to the anticipated continued availability of dry pasture and browse. However, in parts of Awdal, Sanaag, Bari, Nugaal and Hobyo Districts, where pasture, browse, and water resources are below average, livestock body condition will likely remain poor through April but seasonably will improve from May through September.
- Atypcial migration patterns are expected through March from areas that received below-average *Deyr* rainfall to areas that received average to above average Deyr rainfall.
- In South-Central regions, a medium rate of camel **calving and kidding** is expected from late March through July while cattle calving will likely be low to medium. In the North, cattle and camel calving is expected to be low to medium while sheep and goat births will likely be medium.
- **Milk availability** is expected to seasonally decline through March as pasture quality deteriorates and the number of milking females dry up during the Jilaal dry season. However, milk availability will improve following births between late March and July.
- **Milk prices** will follow seasonal trends, increasing through March and decreasing during the April to July wet season following livestock births.
    - In riverine livelihood zones, milk prices will seasonally increase in May during the middle of the *Gu* rains unlike the decrease in prices expected in other areas of Somalia. This is due to the fact that most milking livestock will have migrated away from riverine homesteads to wet season grazing areas.
- **Livestock prices** are likely to follow normal, seasonal trends, decreasing through the end of February due to low export and low domestic demand. Livestock prices are expected to then gradually increase from March through August as traders restock for sales during Ramadan and Hajj.

Markets and trade:

- Sorghum **and maize prices** are expected to follow seasonal trends, decreasing thorugh February as Deyr harves reach markets, increasing from March through June as market stocks are drawn down and demand increases, and decreasing thorugh August until increasing again in September.

- **Poor *Gu/Karan* production** in northwest agropastoral zones and reduced cross-border trade with Ethiopia due to below average production contributed to soaring cereal prices. Sorghum and maize prices are likely to remain high in Northwest regions.
- In anticipation of **average 2016 *Gu* cereal production**, market supply of sorghum and maize in both producer and consumer markets is likely to be normal.
- In areas where insecurity limits trade and humanitarian access, prices are expected to remain high.
- **Cross-border trade** in re-exports of rice and sugar from Somalia to Kenya is expected to be below average due to heightened security operations along the border. Sorghum and maize imports from Ethiopia are expected to be the below average following below-average production in parts of Ethiopia. Livestock trade between Ethiopia and Somalia is expected to remain high and stable.
- **Imported commodity prices** are expected to remain largely stable through April. From May to August prices are expected to rise slightly as monsoon winds off the coast cause a seasonal decerase in shipping.
- **Between May and June**, market supplies of imported commodities in inland areas are expected to decrease as rainfall renders roads impassable, disrupting trade routes. This will cause an increase in prices of imported goods in rural inland markets. From July through September, market supply will increase and prices will typically decline.

Conflict:

- **Improved security is not expected in South-Central Somalia between now and September.** Conflict between Al-Shabaab and government forces supported by troops from the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) are likely to increase between January and March 2016, as the dry season makes roads passible and as the government and allied regional state authorities continue to expand to areas controlled by insurgents, mostly in Middle Juba, parts of Shabelle, Gedo, Bay/Bakool, and Hiran. This will likely reduce trader and humanitarian movements, cause displacements and increases in taxation through road blocks, and result in the loss of assets and human lives. The same issues will likely continue during the July to September Hagaa dry season.
- **Resource conflicts** in Merka and Janaale areas of Lower Shabelle, Defow and Buq Koosaar of Hiran, and clan conflicts in Xeraale and Balanbale of Galgadud are expected to continue throughout the outlook period, limiting trade, labor opportunities, and normal movement of people and goods in these areas.

Nutrition:

- The prevalence of acute malnutrition is projected to deteriorate in some northern and central regions from ***Alert*** to ***Serious*** and from ***Serious*** to ***Critical*** from February to June due to significantly below average livestock production, which is limiting access to milk and reducing household income. Many southern areas are expected to sustained ***Critical*** levels of acute malnutrition over the same time period.

Humanitarian assistance:

- **Humanitarian access** will likely be normal between January and April in most northern and central regions. However, in the South, humanitarian access is expected to be limited to main towns as ongoing conflict and many logistical challenges are expected to limit access in rural areas. Between April and June, physical access to nearly all isolated rural areas, northern and southern, will decline when most dirt roads become impassible during the rains. Roads will open and access will improve after June.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

The average to above-average *Deyr* harvest in most southern and central high agricultural productivity areas in Bay and Lower Shabelle Regions will replenish household and market stocks, supporting improved consumption and allowing households to provide average levels of crop gifts (*zakat*) to poorer households. Staple food prices are expected to follow seasonal trends, but remain below the five-year average in most areas, supporting household purchasing capacity and further improving food security. The exception to this is in **Southern Rainfed Agropastoral livelihood zone** where maize

production will likely be significantly below average due to poor *Deyr* rainfall. However, in neighboring riverine areas cereal production was average to above-average and households from Southern Rainfed Agropastoral livelihood zone were able to access agricultural labor opportunities in riverine areas. Many households Southern Rainfed Agropastoral livelihood zone will be able to maintain minimally adequate food access but will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through September.

Agropastoral and riverine households are expected to have average cereal and cash crops production during July/August *Gu* harvest and off-season harvest. This will likely allow poor households to restock and receive crop gifts (*zakat*), and access average cash income from cash crop sales and agriculture labor. Households will likely be able to meet their basic food needs without having to engage in irreversible coping strategies but will remain Stressd (IPC Phase 2) due to below-average stocks and persistant insecurity that forces households to reallocate money to illegal taxation rather than food.

Food security in most **pastoral areas** is expected to seasonally deteriorate through March as the *Jilaal* dry season carries on, due to reduced income from lower livestock productivity. However, food security should improve and remain stable through September as the forecast near normal *Gu* rains improve pasture and water availability and support near average livestock body conditions, medium kidding and lambing in March/April, and low to medium calving in April/June. Milk should remain available for both sale and consumption during April to August. Furthermore, with anticipated high but stable imported commodity prices, and rising livestock prices, the purchasing power of poor pastoral households is expected to remain stable, supporting food access. Despite these improvements, the majority of pastoral households are expected to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) due to below average herd sizes which will result in continued below-average household income. With below average income, most pastoral households will face difficulty purchasing necessary food and non-food needs.

Areas currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) include **Northwestern Agropastoral livelihood zone and Guban Pastoral livelihood zone** in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed Regions, Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone in Sanaag, Bari, Sool, and Nugaal Regions. Poor households in Northwestern Agropastoral livelihood zone are unlikely to see significant improvement in their food security until June at the end of their lean season when own production becomes available, at which point households are expected to improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2). **In Guban pastoral livelihood zone**, despite the improvement of pasture and water after atypical, moderate rainfall from October to December, which improved livestock body conditions and production, poor households are expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through September as a result of limited milk consumption and sales, low income from livestock sales due to past drought effects that lowered herd sizes, and high local cereal and imported food prices. In **Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone**, food security is expected to continue to deteriorate as atypical outmigration and livestock deaths have limited own milk consumption and cereal and imported food prices remain high. Poor households will likely increase seeking food gifts from friends and family and rely heavily on credit to purchase food. As a result, food security outcomes will likely deteriorate but remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between February and April 2016. The forcast average *Gu* rainfall will likely improve livestock production and reproduction, increase milk consumption and income through sales. All of this will support increased food purchases and consumption. It is expected most pastoral households in Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone will improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in June and remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) thorugh at least September.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Southern Rainfed Agropastoral Livelihood Zone – Maize, Cattle, and Goats

Current Situation

Southern Rainfed Agropastoral livelihood zone in Shabelle and Juba Regions received significantly below-average *Deyr* rainfall ranging between 10-50 percent of the short-term mean (2001-2010). Maize crops largely failed to grow. The *Deyr* harvest in Brawa and Marka of Lower Shabelle was estimated at 39-67 percent of the five-year average. Production in the Juba regions was estimated at 150 MT, 71 percent of the five-year average. This significantly below-average harvest compounds food insecurity has many households had limited cereal stocks from the previous below-average harvest. Poor households are entirely depending on food purchases, but have been able to benefit from increased agricultural labor opportunities in riverine areas where above-average *Deyr* cropping activities took place, providing many with adequate income to purchase basic food needs.

Livestock migrated earlier than usual toward riverine areas where pasture and water resources were more abundant.

Average livestock births were observed, although households were unable to consume cattle milk during this time with livestock away from homesteads. Livestock body conditions for all species are average to above average and herd sizes are near baseline levels in the the Juba Regions of this livelihood zone, but below baseline levels in the Shabelle Region where dry conditions were more severe, and due to previous poor seasons in Shabelle. Despite the very poor *Deyr* crop harvest, maize prices declined in all reference markets as a result of above-average cereal production in riverine areas. Maize prices in Merka of Lower Shabelle were 27 below last year and 22 percent below the five-year average. Similarly, in Jamame market of Lower Juba, prices were 23 percent below last year and 29 percent below the five-year average.

Increasing livestock prices and stable or decreasing staple food prices are supporting household food access. Local quality goat prices in Jamame and Merka have seasonally fluctuated since June 2015, but January 2016 prices were stable with last year. The local quality goat-to-white maize TOT have increased 15 percent in Jamame and 50 percent in Merka compared to January 2015, and three and 38 percent above the five-year average, respectively. This increase is attributable to high and stable goat prices and decreasing maize prices. Similarly, wage rate-to-white maize TOT in Merka market remained stable with the five-year average and increased 45 percent above the five-year average in Jamame.

The current debt level for poor households in Juba is estimated between 75 and 110 USD, an increase from the 65 to 100 USD levels recorded in July 2015. In Lower Shabelle debt levels sustained 10 to 25 USD, at the same levels as July 2015.

Clan conflicts and frequent clashes between insurgents and government troops supported by the AMSOM are affecting cultivation and driving an increase in commodity prices through illegal taxes at road blocks, diverting income from increased food purchases.

Most poor households in Lower Shabelle Region and Jamame Districts, which are crop dependent, are Stressed (IPC Phase 2), but 5 percent of poor households are in Crisis Phase (IPC Phase 3). Poor households in agropastoral areas of this livelihood zone, which are largely livestock dependent, are Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

A SMART nutrition survey conducted by FSNAU, FEWS NET, and partners between October and December 2015 recorded a GAM prevalence of 14.3 percent in this livelihood zone (95 percent confidence interval 10.8 – 18.7), sustaining ***Serious*** levels. The prevalence of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) was 1.4 percent (95 percent confidence interval 0.7— 2.9). The crude mortality rate (CMR) was recorded at 0.32/10,000/day and under-five death (U5MR) rates were (0.64/10,000/day), below the World Health Organization's (WHO) emergency threshold for mortality (CMR >1 and U5DR >2 10 000/day). This high level of acute malnutrition is attributed to persisted conflict, poor *Deyr* rainfall limiting milk access, below-average income from low livestock and livestock product sales, and limited access to safe water, health, and nutrition services.

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions described above, the following assumptions have been made about the Southern Rainfed Agropastoral livelihood zone in Lower and Middle Juba and Lower Shabelle:

- A hotter and drier than normal January to March *Jilaal* season will likely accelerate pasture depletion, forcing livestock to remain in riverine areas through April and causing an increase in livestock death rates due to trypanosomiasis.
- Near normal July-September *Hagaa* rains are expected to support above average *Gu* off-season crop harvest and provide typical levels of agricultural labor and sharecropping in neighboring riverine areas.
- Due to limited cereal stocks from the below-average *Deyr* 2015/16 production, households will be largely dependent on market purchases through May to access food. Debt levels are expected to increase as poor households continue to purchase on credit.
- Cereal prices are expected to seasonally increase through June and decline in July after *Gu* harvest enter markets.
    - Maize prices in Merka of Lower Shabelle are likely to increase atypically between February and June from SOS 7,300 to SOS 10,700, in Jilib of Middle Juba from SOS 8,300 to 11, 200, and in Jamame of Lower Juba from SOS 6,900 to SOS 9,300. The price will start falling from July through September from SOS 9,900 to SOS 7,500 for Merka, from SOS 10,600 to SOS 9,300 in Jamame, and from SOS 9,200 to SOS 7,450 for Jilib.
    - Atypical local cereal price increases are expected in Kismayo and Jamaame and will likely continue through June until green maize consumption is available.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

The below-average 2015/2016 *Deyr* harvest is the third consecutive below-average harvest in the Southern Rainfed Maize livelihood zone of the Shabelle and Juba Regions. As a result, households have consistently had few household stocks from own production. Currently, households have low income as few agricultural labor opportunities are available during the Jilaal dry season. Poor households have largely been able to meet basic food needs by earning income thorugh agricultural labor in reverine areas where production was above-average. This production also helped keep down cereal prices in the Southern Rainfed Maize livelihood zone. However, food insecurity is expected to further deteriorate from now through June given that milk consumption and income from livestock sales will remain atypically below average given the season's negative impact on body conditions. During both the remainder of the dry January to March *Jilaal* season and the April to June agricultural lean season, the number of households experiencing food consumption gaps is expected to increase, but the majority of households will be able to meet basic food needs and will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Near normal March to May *Gu* rainfall followed by average July to August *Hagaa* showers is expected to result in improved pasture and water availability and support maize crop development. Despite previous below-average seasons, households have access to adequate inputs and are expected to cultivate the typical area of land. Poor households will have access to typical levels of agricultural-related income-earning opportunities during weeding and harvest, and access to green consumption and own milk in July. Poor households' food access will improve significantly, but most will sustain Stressed Phase (IPC Phase 2) due to low livestock holdings resulting in below-average income and high taxation by both the insurgents and the government army limiting income that can be spent on food purchases.

Guban Pastoral Livelihood Zone

Current Situation

Deyr rainfall in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone was significantly below average. The area did receive atypical, moderate rainfall in October and November, which slightly increased pasture and water availability. The January 2016 *Xeys* rains were also below-average, but did slightly improve pasture conditions and replenished shallow wells, communal dams, and private concrete water reservoirs (*berkads*) in Baki, Lughaya, and parts of Zeylac Districts of Awdal region. However, this has also resulted in the inward migration of livestock from Northwestern Agropastoral, Hawd Pastoral, and West Golis Pastoral livelihood zones, as well as from Ethiopia and Djibouti (Figure 2), putting stress on the replenished water and pasture resources. Water for livestock and human use is scare and many households are traveling upwards of 20 km to the nearst bore hole. 200 liters of water in this area currently costs 4,500 Somaliland Shillings (SLS), 13 percent higher than last year and 15 percent above the five-year average. Livestock production and milk availability are still poor as a result of multiple poor seasons, and consequently goat and camel births have been significantly below average, reducing livestock holdings. In January 2016, the price of a local quality goat in Zeylac/Lawycado declined by 11 percent from December 2015 due to slightly increased market supplies, but were 68 and 86 percent above January 2015 and the five-year average, respectively. Despite high livestock prices, many poor households lack saleable livestock and do not benefit from the high sale prices.

Figure 2. In-migrated cattle from Northwestern Agropastoral livelihood zone in Guban areas in Lughaya District, Awdal Region, December 2015

Source: FEWS NET

In January 2016, the price of imported rice was 15 percent lower than the December 2015 price, but seven and six percent above the same time last year and the five-year average, respectively. High rice prices and a declining number of saleable livestock have resulted in households increasingly purchasing food with credit. Debt levels for poor households currently range between 150 and 300 USD, significantly above the reported July debt level of around 100 USD.

The nutrition SMART survey conducted by FSNAU and partners in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone between October and December 2015, recorded a GAM prevalence of 22.3 percent (95 percent confidence interval 17.7 – 27.6) which indicates

a ***Critical*** nutrition situation. The prevalence of SAM is 5.9 percent (95 percent confidence interval 3.6—9.7). The CMR was recorded at 0.63/10,000/day and the U5MR rates were 1.32/10,000/day, below the WHO's emergency threshold for mortality (CMR >1 and U5DR >2 10 000/day). This high level of acute malnutrition is attributed to the recurrent below-average seasons limiting milk access and income, reducing household food purchases. Furthermore, many households have limited access to safe water, health, and nutrition services

Despite recent improvement of pasture and water availability, which improved livestock body conditions and production, poor households are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Both humanitarian assistance and community support are vital in supporting the food security of many poor households in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone.

Assumptions

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

- No camel calving is expected during the scenario period, as there as been no camel conception over the past 2-years. However, low to medium goat kidding is expected in October.
- Camel milk availability is expected to decrease during the remainder of the January to April *Jilaal* dry period.
- Improved, but below-average, access to goat milk is expected following likely low to medium goat births in May.
- With forecast normal *Gu* rains, average flash floods from West-Golis livelihood zone will improve water resources.
- Medium livestock conception rates for camels and sheep/goats will likely occur through February given expected average livestock body conditions.
- The number of saleable livestock will be lower than normal as livestock herd sizes remain significantly below baseline levels. Livestock prices will follow seasonal price trends, increasing following the May to June Ramadan restocking and August to September Hajj season and will range between SLS 350,000-450,000.
- Poor households will likely continue credit food purchases and seeking food and cash gifts through at least September.
- Cross-border trade and population movements with Djibouti are expected to continue, allowing for normal labor migration and trade patterns. Income from remittances and road taxes will continue at normal levels.
- Malnutrition prevalence may increase further through September due to limited consumption of livestock products.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Livestock body conditions will deteriorate as the dry season continues through September. Despite having fewer than normal saleable animals, many households will attempt to sell livestock to pay off debts, further reducing livestock herd sizes and diverting income from food purchases. Typically, poor households would sell 18 goats to support basic annual food and non-food needs, but given below-average herd sizes it is estimated that during this outlook period households will only be able to sell 2-3 sheep/goats. Labor migration to Djibouti, remittances, gifts, and some income from small petty trade will continue through September, although gradually decline between the April to August hot season when trade and trasporation typically decline.

Reduced saleable livestock and limited milk production will result in decreased access to income for food purchases. Households will continue to rely on credit to purchase food, although it is possible access to credit will be limited as many traders may wish to avoid further risk given past unpaid debts. Poor households are also expected to continue seeking food gifts from friends and kinship. With reduced purchasing power, food consumption will continue to decline. Overstretched social support, poor dietary diversity, and limited milk availability will negatively affect nutritional status. The malnutrition rate is expected to increase further but remain within the current Critical level.

Poor households are expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through September. Between June and September 2016, some run-off water from the Golis Mountains is likely to relieve areas of Guban Pastoral livelihood zone that have severe water shortages. Livestock have benefited from improved pasture conditions and outmigration to West Golis and it is

expected that these improvements, along with expected improvements following the average *Gu/Karan* rains in West Golis, livestock from Guban Pastoral livelihood zone will have average to good body conditions. Poor households will have access to a few saleable goats. Despite these slightly improvements, access to food during this time will continue to be inadequate and consumption will largely consist of only cereals, sugar, and oil. The number of very poor households in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) could increase, but the majority of poor and very poor households will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Significant improvement in food security is not expected until the end of the year with the *Xeys* rains.

Northern Inland Pastoral Livelihood Zone in Bari, Nugaal, Sanaag and Sool Regions

Current Situation

Due to below-average *Deyr* rainfall throughout Northern Inland Pastoral (NIP) livelihood zone, there was significant livestock outmigration to Hawd and Addun Pastoral livelihood zones in Mudug, Nugaal, and Sool Regions. This has placed additional pressure on pasture and water resources in these areas. Athough dry pasture is still available in localized areas in NIP livelihood zone, water availability is limited, resulting in reliance on trucked-in water at high prices. In Dhahar, Rako, Sarmanyo, and Xudun water prices were upwards of SOS 6,687 per 20-liter jerry can, 62 percent above the January 2015 price and 7 percent higher than the five-year average.

Poor households' sheep/goats herd sizes have slightly decreased over the past two seasons. The 2012 baseline is around 55 to 64 goats/sheep while currently in Sanaag Region herd sizes are around 48 sheep/goats, 16 percent lower than baseline levels. As a result of stable local demand but limited saleable livestock, due to poor livestock body conditions, livestock prices have slightly increased in January 2016, but remain one of the lowest in Somalia. In January, the price of a local quality goat in rural reference markets was around SOS 981,250, 8 percent higher than last year, but 10 percent below the five-year average.

Imported commodity prices including rice, sugar, and wheat flour have been mostly stable from the start of the 2014 as a result of stable production in exporting countries. Stable or decreasing staple food prices and slightly increasing livestock prices have improved the livestock-to-cereals TOT, but the poor households cannot significantly benefit as they have few saleable animals.

Milk prices in January increased in the NIP livelihood zone due to below-average availability in December 2015. On average, the January 2016 price was 27 percent higher than last year in Rako of Bari Region, Dhahar of Sanaag Region, and Sarmanyo and Xudun of Sool Region. Due to above-average total *Deyr* rainfall on the Hawd and Addun pastoral areas, livestock from NIP livelihood zone outmigrated to north Mudug and south of Nugaal and Sool Regions and have benefited from favorable pasture. A medium level of goat kidding and low to medium camel calving was reported. However, household milk availability is below average in NIP pastoral areas as most livestock remain away from homesteads.

Debt levels rose from July to December, driven primarily by household borrowing for livestock transportation and water expenditures. Average household debt was already between USD 198 and 367 in July 2015 and rose to between USD 234 and 466 by December. In order to repay a debt of this level, poor households would need to sell 15 to 20 goats/sheep, a amount of sales that could also purchase six months food and non-food essentials. Where possible, households are expected to sell additional livestock to both repay debts and purchase basic food needs, although food consumption could slightly deteriorate and livestock herd sizes are expected to reduce. Overstretched kinship support including food gifts continue to support poor households' food access. Despite kinship support additional debt, households will have significant food consumption gaps and are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Humanitarian assistance in a form of nutrition intervention was delivered to the households with acute malnutrition children in Banderbeyla District of Bari region.

A SMART survey conducted by FSNAU and partners in between October to December in Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone reported GAM prevlance of 8.0 percent (95 percent confidence interval 5.9 to 10.9), SAM prevalance of 0.7 percent (95 percent confidence interval 0.3 - 1.6), CMR of 0.63/ 10 000/day and U5MR rates of (0.74/10 000/day). These *Alert* levels of acute malnutrition are attributed to the current below-average income from low livestock and livestock product sales which is reducing food purchases, and households' limited access to safe water, health, and nutrition services.

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions described above, the following assumptions have been made about Sool Plateau Pastoral livelihood zone:

- Water is expected to reamin scarce for both human and livestock use from no until the start of the *Gu* rains in April. Households' are expected to spend an atypically high portion of their income on water purchases.
- Water from communal dams and private concrete reservoirs (*berkads*) will likely be replenished following the forecast normal *Gu* rains.
- Improved milk consumption likely to decrease child malnutrition rates between May and August 2016.
- Livestock body condtions are expected to continue to deteriorate until the start of the *Gu* rains. Improved pasture and water conditions are expected after the foracast normal *Gu* rains, improving pasture and water resources, livestock body condtions, improving milk availability, and allowing for normal migration.
    - As a result of starvation, below-average goat/sheep kidding/lambing is expected between late-March and April due to continuing livestock abortion.
    - Atypcially high livestock death rates are expected from February to May due to starvation and hypothermia. It is expected only 10 of every 50 sheep/goats will give birth from March to April, compared to an average of 30.
    - Camel and goat milk availability is likely to be limited, moreso than is usual, – from now through March with the remainder of the Jilaal dry due to atypically seasonal decline.
    - Low camel calving is expected as camel conception was low in June 2015.
    - It is expected lower than normal saleable livestock will be available during the first part of the scenario period (February-May) as livestock body condition will further deteriorate and herd size will be below baseline levels.
- Poor households are expected to continue to seek credit to purchase food as well as rely on gifts from friends and family. In anticipation of near normal April – June *Gu* rains, poor households will likely sell more goats than usual to begin the repayment of debts.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Between February and mid-April increased water purchases will likely reduce poor households' access to purchasing foods. As a result of limited income from low livestock and milk sales, households will likely continue accessing both food and water through credit and gifts. Milk availability will likely be limited from February to April due to reduced pasture and water availability as well as the declining number of milking animals. No goat milk is expected to be available, further driving reduced nutritional status. Income-earning opportunities will be available from port and construction labor in main towns that will continue at average levels during the January to March cold season. However, labor opportunities will significantly decline during the hot and Monsoon seasons from April through August 2016. Poor households are likely to face difficulty purchasing basic food and no-food needs and are expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through May.

As a result of forecast average April and June *Gu* rainfall, pasture and water availability in NIP livelihood zone will likely improve. Livestock production and values are expected to increase in May, increasing the number of saleable animal and poor households' purchasing power. A low to medium level of camel calving and medium level of goat kidding are expected in between March and June, which will most likely increase milk availability and milk sales through September. Milk gifts provided to the poor by better-off households are expected to take place in May at typical levels. Poor households' access to gifts will increase as improved livestock conditions and values lead to larger gifts from the better off to the poor. With these gifts, poor households will gain additional access to food.

Between June and September, increased access of saleable animals and milk sales, as well as expected increased livestock prices for Hajj restocking, will likely result in increased income, improving poor households' purchasing capacity. However, with high debts, it is likely households will need to make some debt repayments, reducing the amount of income that can

be used for food purchases. Despite some expected excess livestock deaths due to hypothermia, livestock conception rates will likely be average with improved availability of pasture, browse, and water. However, the number of milking camels will remain low due to last season's poor conception rate. Livestock currently in Hawd Pastoral and Addun Pastoral livelihood zones with average body conditions are expected to return to NIP livelihood zone, increasing household milk consumption as livestock are near homesteads. Given these improvements, poor households are expected to improve from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in June, and remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) thorugh at least September.

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

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

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Northwest Agropastoral areas of Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed Regions	Well below-average March to May *Gu* rainfall and July to September *Karan* rainfall.	Very poor *Gu* and *Karan* rains could result in significantly below average *Gu/Karan* harvest in July and November, leading to below average income from crop sales and household stocks. Households would increase livestock sales to purchase food, further reducing the herd sizes of poor households to unsustainable level. Poor households would have to become further indebted to purchase food, but it is unlikely most traders would continue to extend credit. Some poor households may deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity between June and September with little or no food from own production and limited income to purchase food.
Northern Inland Pastoral in Bari, Nugaal, Sanaag, and Sool Regions	Below-normal March-May Gu 2016 rains	Poor *Gu* rainfall would further limit pasture and water availability and livestock body conditions would further deteriorate, possibly increasing livestock death rates and limiting livestock productivity and income from milk and livestock sales. As a result, poor households will have significantly below-average income, decreasing purchasing power. As a result, food consumption gaps would be likely, as well as increased prevalence of acute malnutrition and mortality rates. An increased number of households would likely deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity.

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.