2018 Somalia Post Gu Seasonal Food Security and Nutrition Assessment
Key Findings

18 September 2018, Nairobi
• **2018 Gu (Apr-Jun) was the wettest season in nearly two decades**; favorable rainfall during the season has helped end the drought that persisted since mid-2016.

• A **cyclone with torrential rains** in the coastal areas of the Northwest in May that resulted in destruction of infrastructure and properties and loss of livestock.

• However, the **adverse impacts of the 2016-2017 severe drought are expected to persist**, especially among people who became destitute and got displaced due to the drought and among pastoralists who lost most of their animals.

• **Pressing humanitarian needs remain** despite improvements.

• Between August and December 2018, an estimated **294,000** children under the age of five are likely to be acutely malnourished, including **55,000** who are likely to be severely malnourished.

• **Over 1.5 million people face acute food security Crisis or worse** (IPC Phases 3 or higher) between now and December 2018. Approximately, **3.1 million people are Stressed** (IPC Phase 2). This brings the total number of people in need (IPC Phases 2 or higher) through the end of 2018 to **4.6 million**.
Apr-Jun 2018 Rainfall as % of Normal (TAMSAT)

- The 2018 Gu rains started early or on time and amounts were average to above average in most areas.
- Rainfall amounts were slightly below average to near average in the northeast.
- Low lying areas along Shabelle and Juba rivers and other depressed areas were affected by riverine and flash floods.
• 2018 *Gu* is the wettest season in nearly two decades; favorable rainfall during the 2018 *Gu* season has helped end drought conditions that persisted since *Gu* 2016.

• However, the adverse impacts of the 2016-2017 severe drought are expected to persist, especially among people who became destitute and were displaced due to the drought and among pastoralists who lost most of their animals.
• Jul-Aug Karan rains is below average in NW agropastoral areas, however, near average precipitations reported in early September.

• Below average Jul-Aug Hagaa rains observed in Juba and Shabelle regions except Badhaadhe district which is above average.
A recent forecast issued by the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF50), indicates a **greater likelihood** of normal to above normal 2018 *Deyr* (Oct-Dec) rains across Somalia.

The December to January *Xays* rains over coastal areas in the Northwest are likely to be average in amount with temperatures expected to be normal to below normal.

As a result, pasture and water availability, crop cultivation, livestock reproduction, access to agricultural employment, water and food prices are expected to continue to improve through the end of this year.

However, the expected average to above average rains may also cause flooding in some low-lying and riverine areas of the country.
Impact on Pasture and Water

- Favorable rainfall has improved availability of pasture and water for livestock across most parts of the country leading to increased livestock productivity (conception, births and milk) although livestock herd sizes, especially in Central and North, remain below baseline levels.

- In parts of northeastern regions that currently have below average pasture, livestock migration possibilities to adjacent livelihoods and forecast average to above average rains during Deyr are expected to help minimize any adverse impact on livestock.
• In the northwest where crop production has been affected by erratic rainfall, the 2018 Gu/Karan harvest in northwest is estimated at 19,000 MT, which is 58 percent lower than the average for 2010-17.

• In southern Somalia the 2018 Gu season cereal production is estimated at 147,200 MT, including 7,200 MT off-season harvest expected in October.

• This level of production is 17 percent higher than the long-term average/PWA (1995-2017) and 58 percent more than the five year average (2013-17).
Recent Trends in Acute Malnutrition in Somalia

- Overall, level of acute malnutrition at national level has improved to Serious in the current Gu 2018 (median GAM of 14.0%) from Critical in Gu 2017 (median GAM of 17.4%). There are no improvement in the overall current acute malnutrition prevalence compared to Deyr 2017/18 (median GAM of 13.8%).

- The corresponding median SAM prevalence are: 2.2% (Gu 2018), 1.9% (Deyr 2017/18) and 3.2% (Gu 2017).
Recent Trends in Acute Food Security Situation in Somalia

- Overall food security conditions have continued to improve in many parts of Somalia.
- However, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse conditions will persist among some population groups between now and December 2018.
Acute food insecurity is present in all regions of Somalia.

However, the magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity varies across regions.
2018 Gu (Apr-Jun) is the wettest season in nearly two decades; favorable rainfall during the season has helped end the drought that persisted since mid-2016.

However, the adverse impacts of the 2016-2017 severe drought are expected to persist, especially among people who became destitute and got displaced due to the drought and among pastoralists who lost most of their animals.

Pressing humanitarian needs remain despite improvements.

Between August and December 2018, an estimated 294,200 children under the age of five are likely to be acutely malnourished, including 55,200 who are likely to be severely malnourished.
Conclusion and Key Messages

• Over **1.5 million** people face acute food security Crisis or worse (IPC Phases 3 or higher) between now and December 2018. Approximately **3.1 million** people are Stressed (IPC Phase 2). This brings the total number of people in need (IPC Phases 2 or higher) through the end of 2018 to **4.6 million**.

• Those facing acute food security Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse need urgent humanitarian assistance and livelihood support. Livelihood support is also required for people who are Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

• Between August and December 2018, an estimated **294 200** children under the age of five are likely to be acutely malnourished, including **55 200** who are likely to be severely malnourished. Acutely malnourished children need nutrition and health support.

• Understanding and addressing underlying causes of persistent high levels of acute malnutrition and large scale, long-term displacement require priority consideration for policy, strategy and programme development.
Thank you

For additional information, please visit:

www.fsnau.org and www.fews.net/Somalia