



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

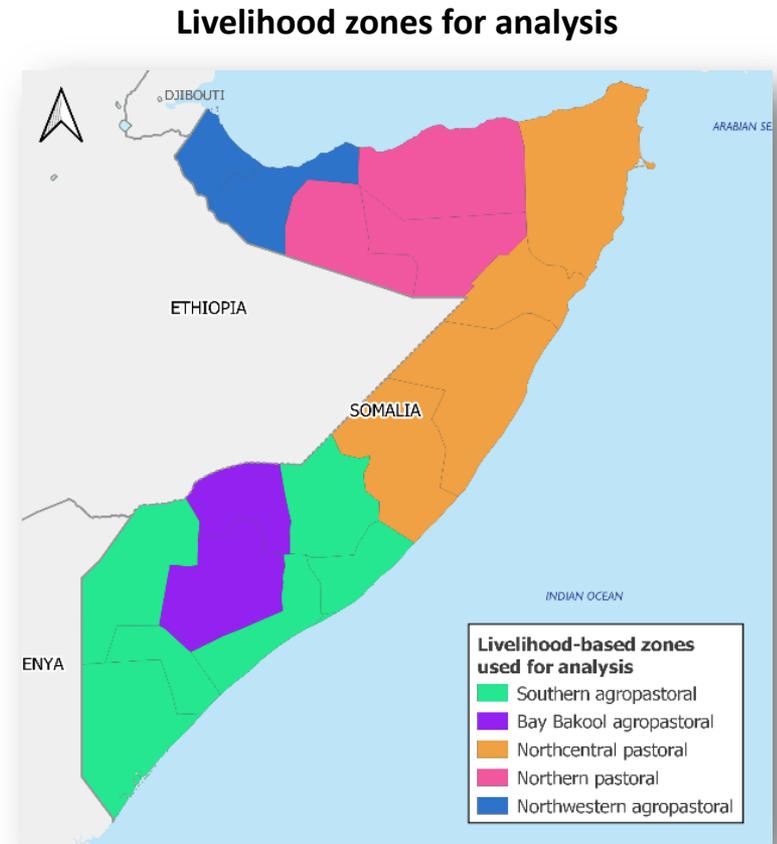
Agricultural livelihoods and food security in the context of COVID-19

Somalia Monitoring Report



Methodology

- Household survey (FAO beneficiaries and random digit dialing) and key informant interviews with extension officers of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and agrodealers
- 18 regions of Somalia included: 110 HH per region; 2,464 respondents (1,213 female, 1,251 male)
- Regions grouped into livelihood zones for analysis
- Duration of the data collection – approximately one month (August-September 2020)
- Remote data collection using phone calls, conducted by Geopoll

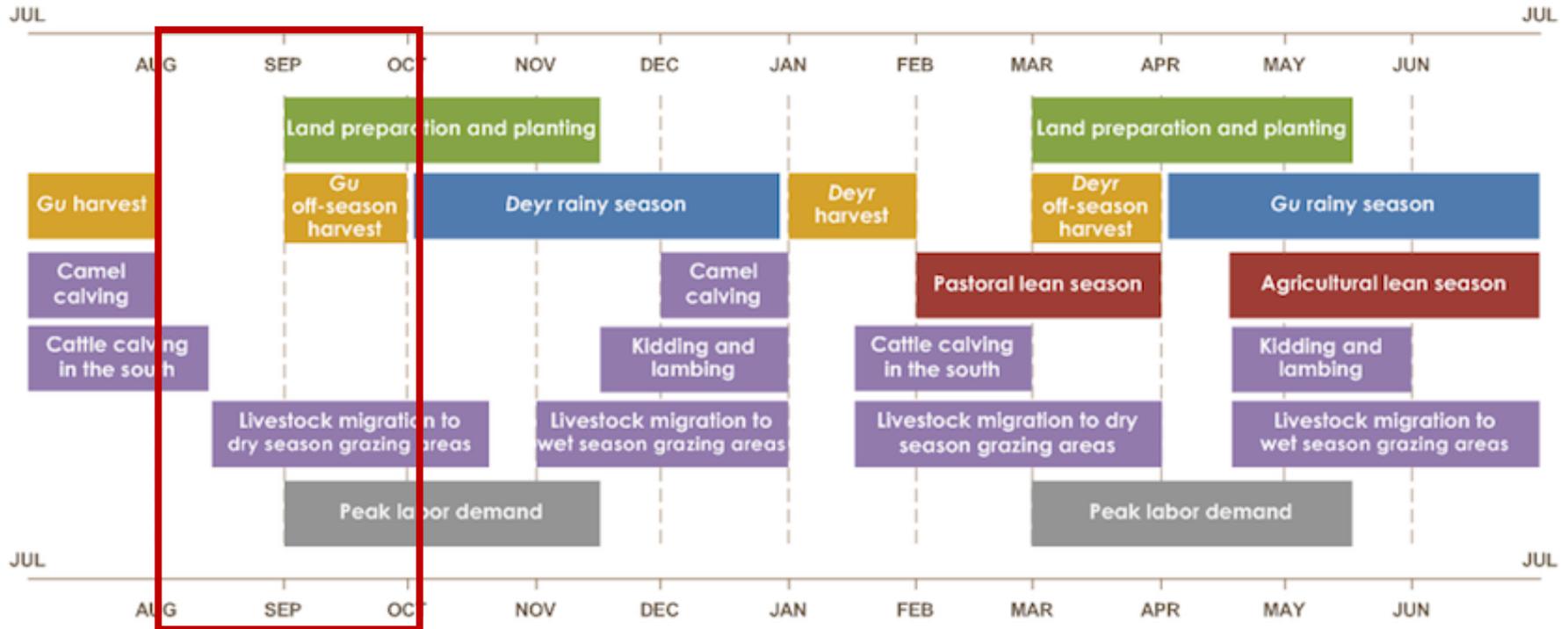


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Seasonal Calendar



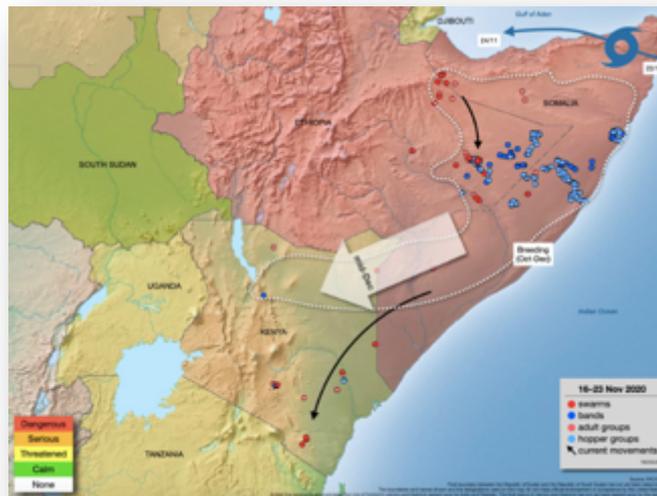
Source: FEWS NET

- Most cropping HHs indicated that they were engaged in either planting or land preparations
- 12% were currently harvesting which, based on seasonality, were likely off-season *Gu* harvests.

COVID-19 in the Context of Multiple Hazards

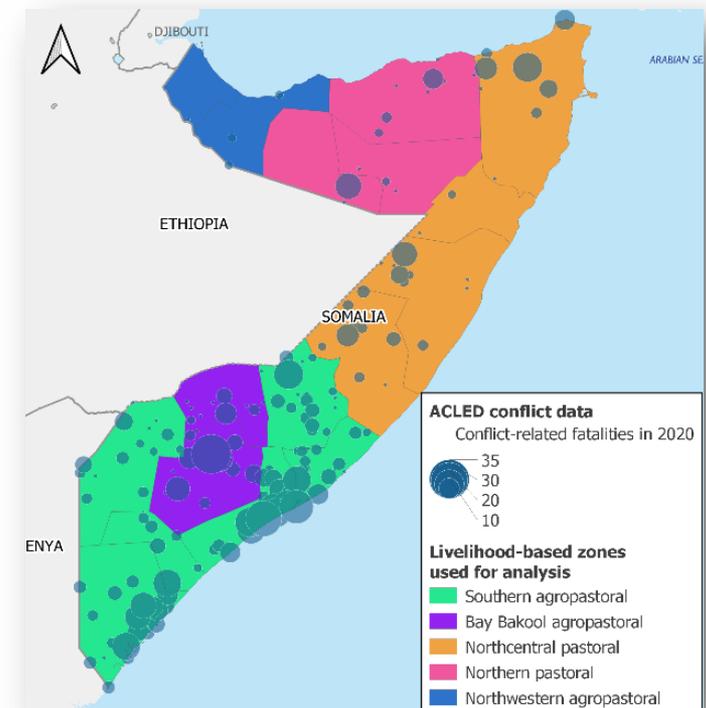
- Somalia is currently facing the worst **Desert Locust invasion** in 25 years
- **Conflict/instability** plague the country, disrupting livelihoods and driving population displacements (193 000 people displaced by conflict in 2020)
- **Flash floods** caused population displacements and damage to property, infrastructure, and crops. March-May: 546 000 people affected, 217 000 displaced; June-Sep: 633 000 affected, 43 000 displaced.

Desert locust forecast



Source: FAO

Geographical distribution of conflict-related fatalities in 2020

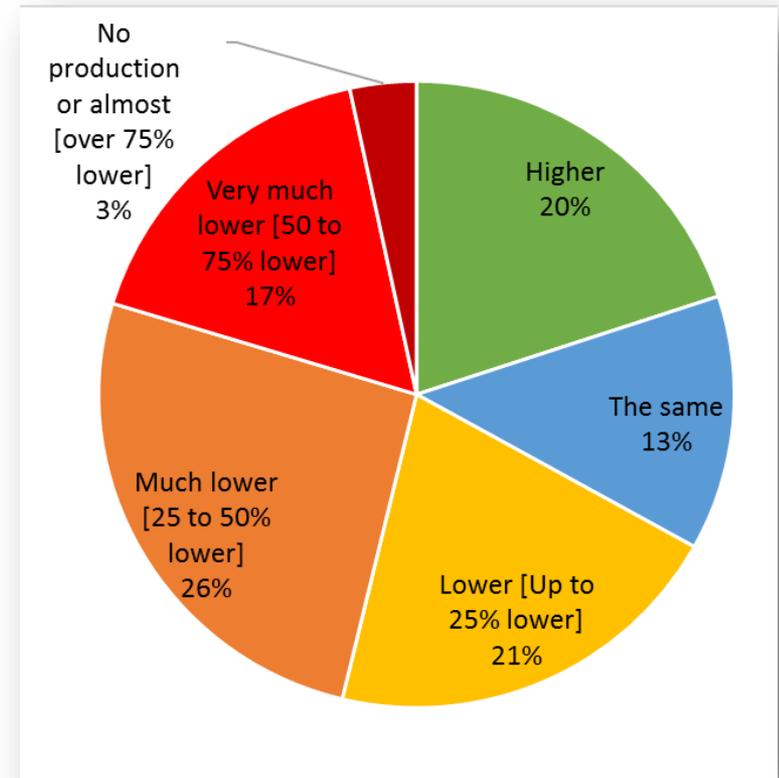


Source: FAO : Source of data: ACLED. (2020)

Agricultural Production

- 46% of HHs reported crop production as one of their two main income sources
- 82% of cropping respondents faced unusual difficulties, most commonly dry spells and pests/diseases, followed by difficulties accessing fertilizers and pesticides, hail/storms/strong winds, heavy rains/floods, and labour being too expensive/HH lacked income to hire labour
- Majority of those involved in off season Gu production expected harvests to be below average, with 20% reporting much lower to no production.

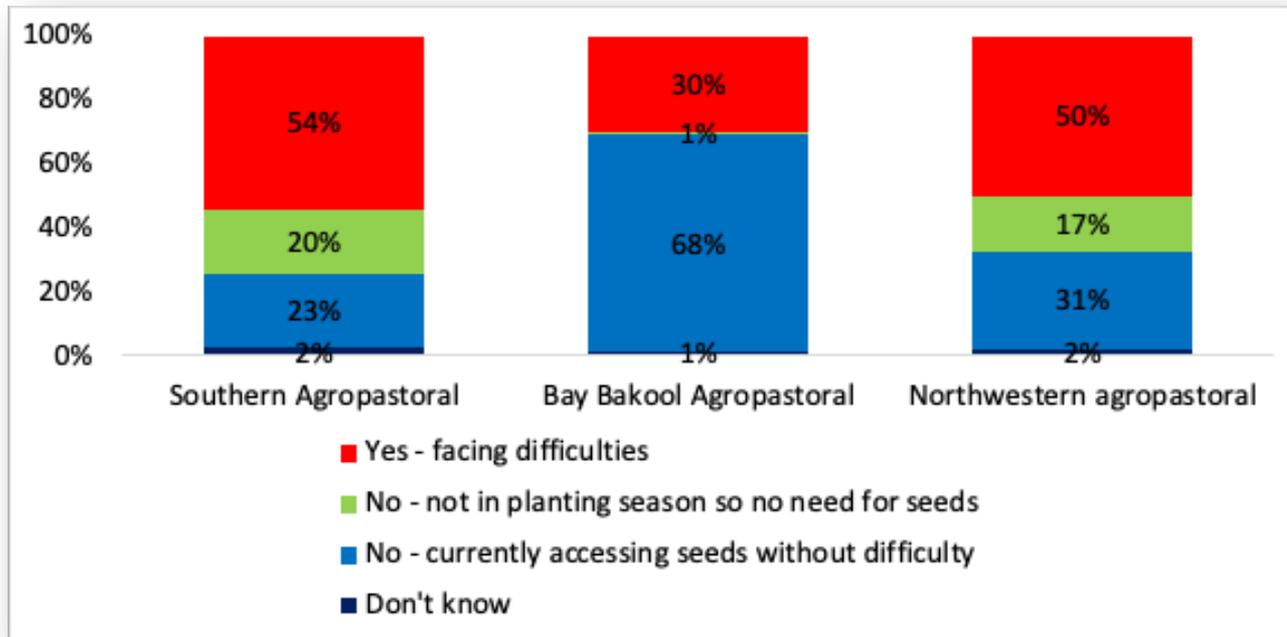
Harvest expectations amongst respondents involved in off-season Gu harvests



Area Planted and Seed Access

- 52% of HHs reported difficulties in accessing seeds
- Challenges included: unavailable from vendors or local markets, household incomes being insufficient to buy seeds, and higher seed prices than usual
- 48% HHs indicated that they would be either reducing their area planted to less than half of usual levels or would be unable to plant this season at all.

Seed Access Difficulties



Crop Sales

- Amongst households who indicated cropping as their main livelihood activity, the majority indicated that the level of their sales were reduced compared to last year
- 79% of respondents indicated that they were forced to give away or destroy part of their production due to a lack of marketing and storage capacity during the past three months
- 69% faced difficulties selling their crops

Marketing challenges for crops



Prices too low



Lower demand than usual



Higher costs of transportation

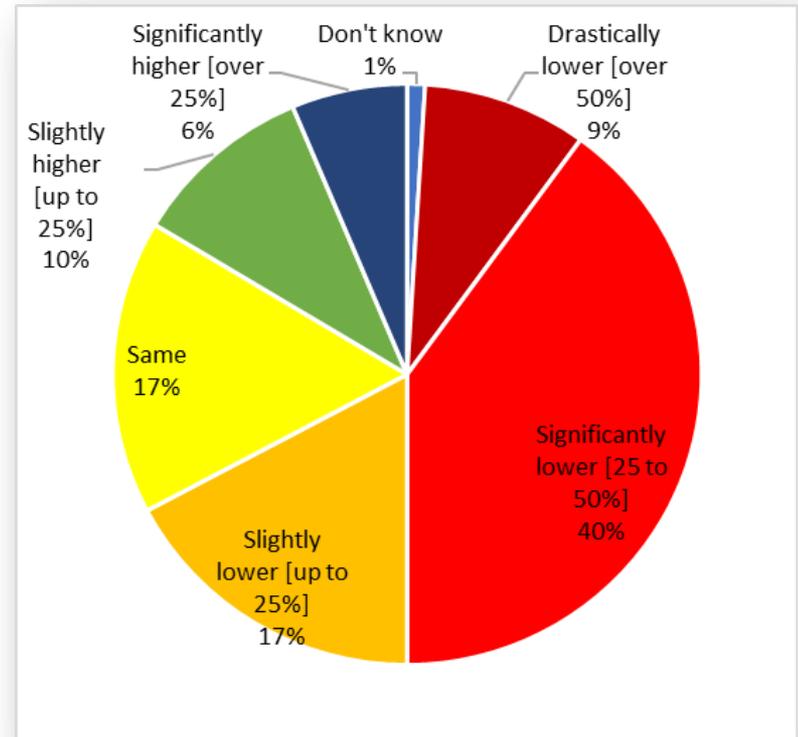


Constrained market access



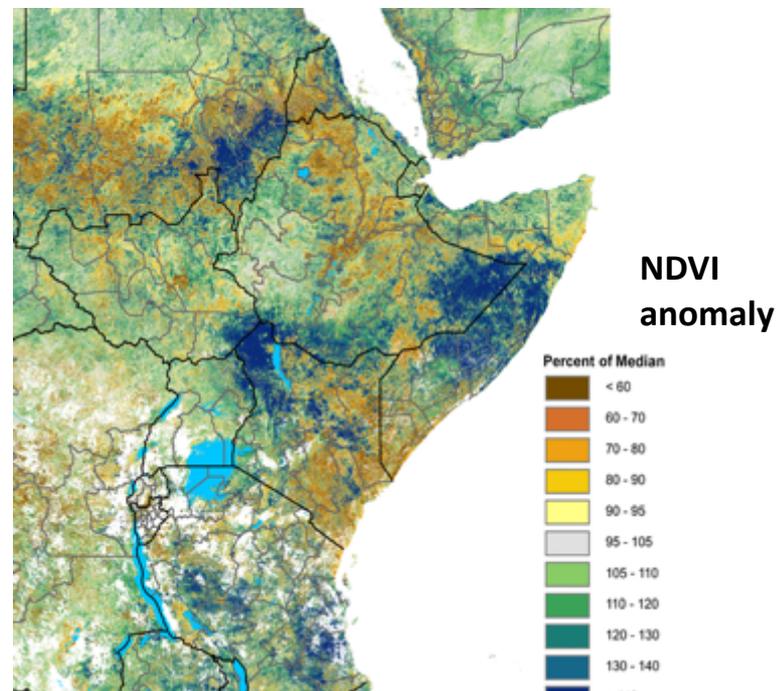
Usual traders not coming to buy produce anymore

Crop sales compared to last year (% cropping HH)



Livestock

- 70% of livestock-rearing HHs indicated that they faced difficulties during past 3 months.
- In the southern agropastoral and northcentral pastoral zones, accessing veterinary services was most important challenge, while constrained water access was the most important challenge for northern pastoral and northwestern agropastoral zones.
- Lack of income was the most common reason for difficulties accessing veterinary services, veterinary inputs, and feed access
- Mixed performance of the Deyr rains to date



Challenges facing sale of livestock/livestock products

- The majority indicated that the level of their sales were reduced over the past three months compared to the same time last year
- 59% of livestock-rearing households indicated unusual challenges selling their livestock production during the past three months



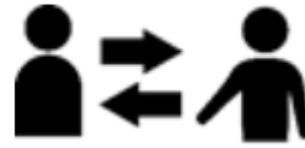
Prices too low



Higher cost of transportation compared to usual



Lower demand than usual



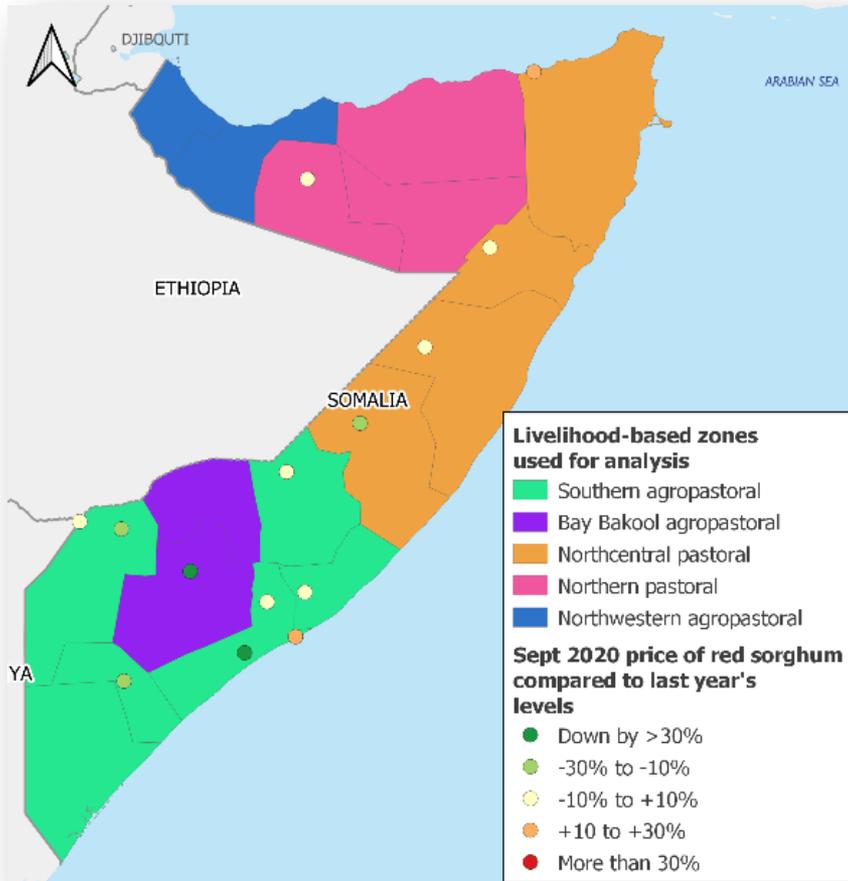
Usual traders not coming to buy production anymore



Constrained market access

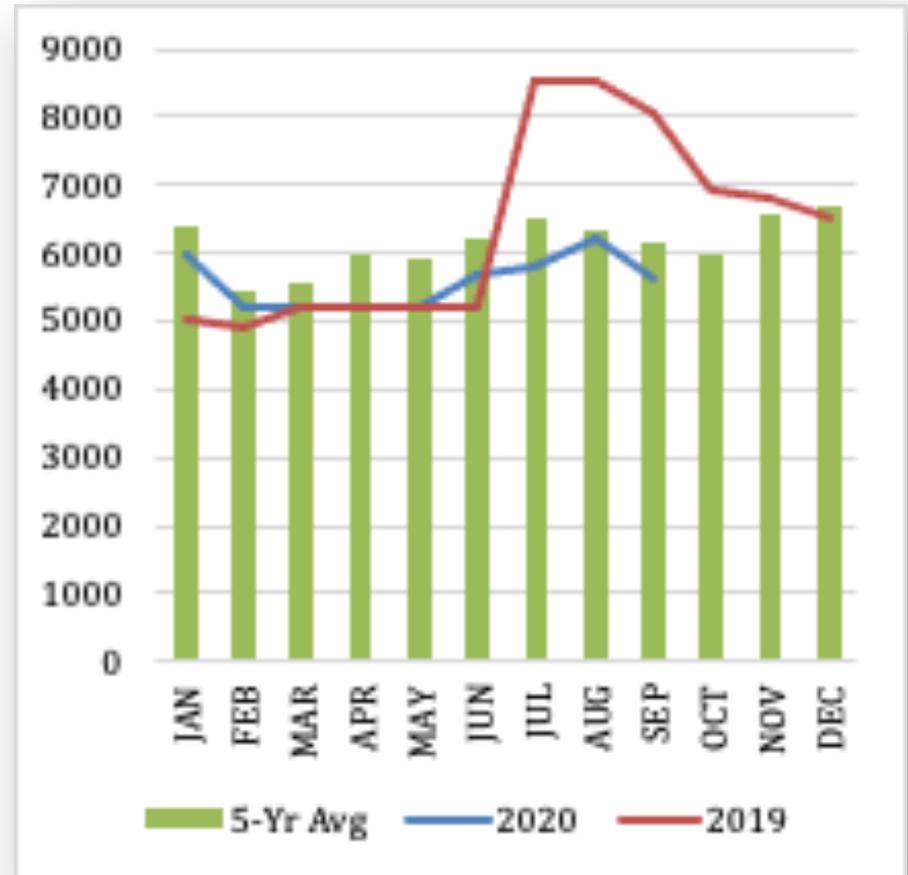
Local cereal prices

Price of red sorghum compared to 2019



Source: FAO : Source of data: FSNAU/FEWS NET

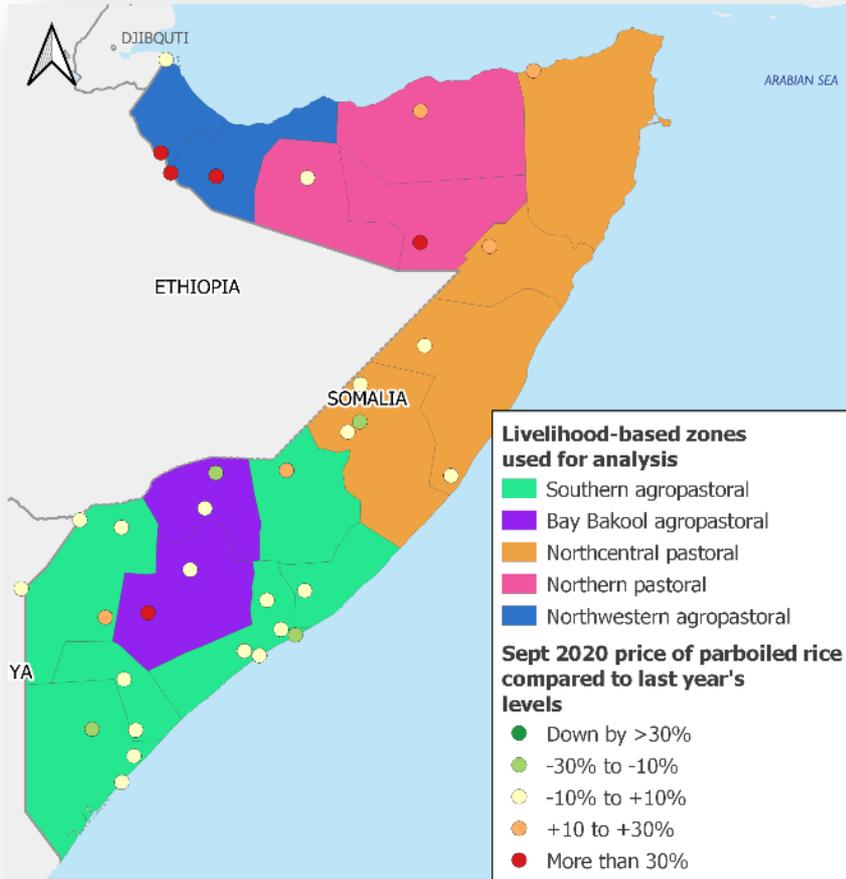
Price of red sorghum in Baidoa



Source: FAO : Source of data: FSNAU/FEWS NET

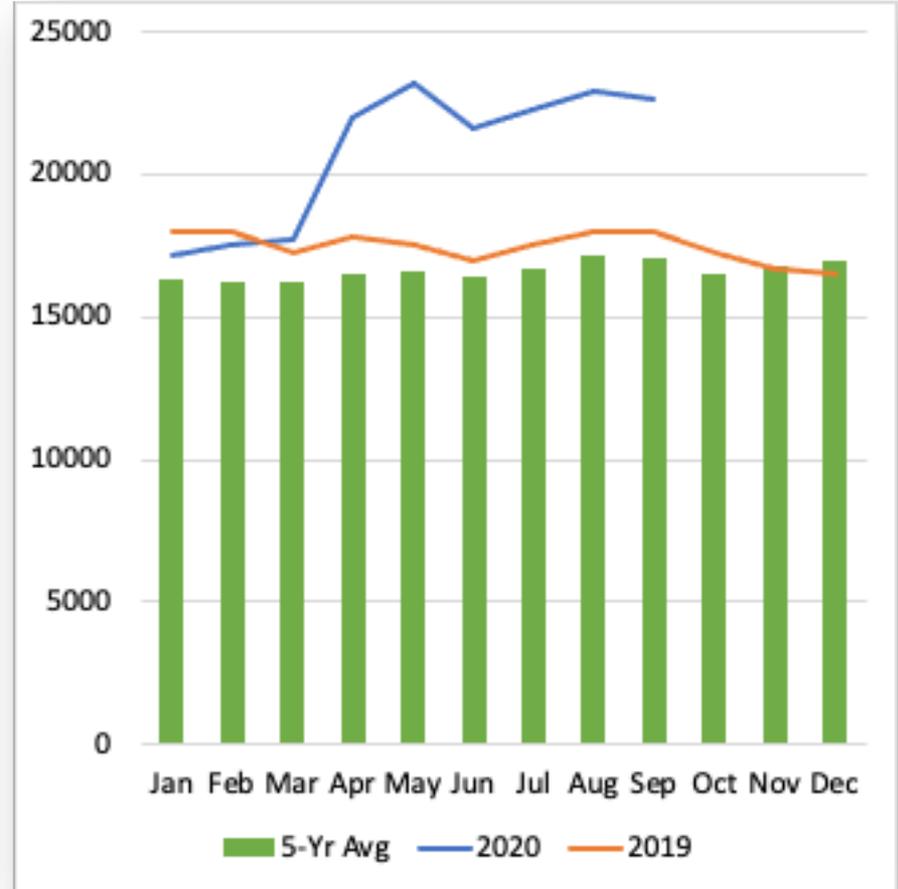
Imported rice prices

Price of parboiled rice compared to 2019



Source: FAO : Source of data: FSNAU/FEWS NET

Price of parboiled rice at Garowe

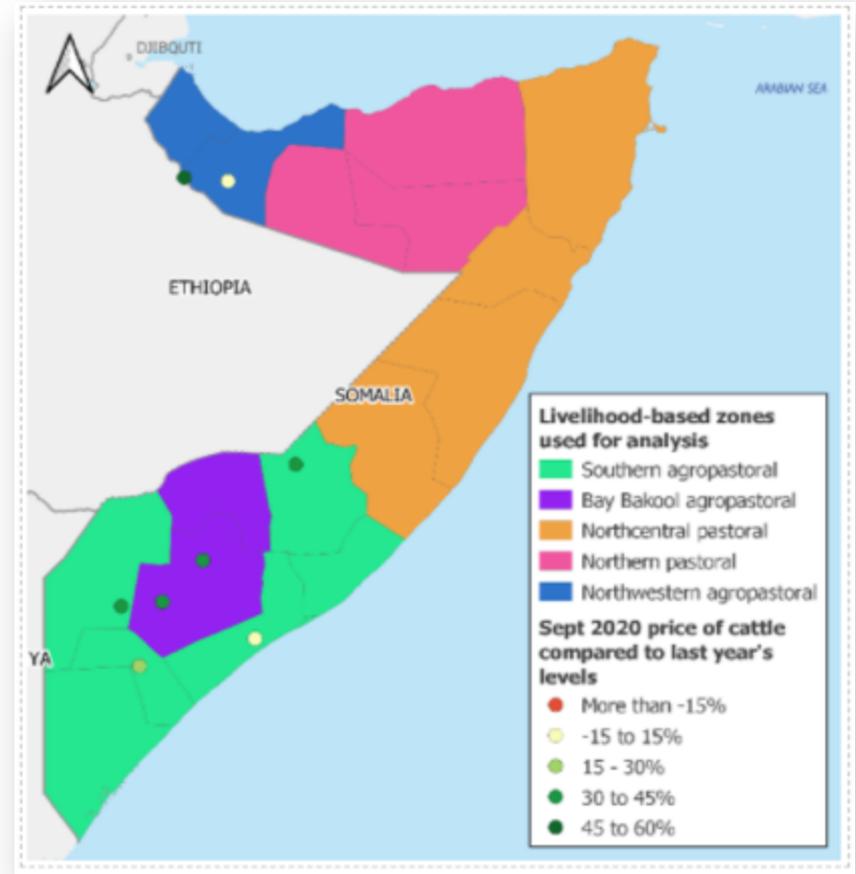
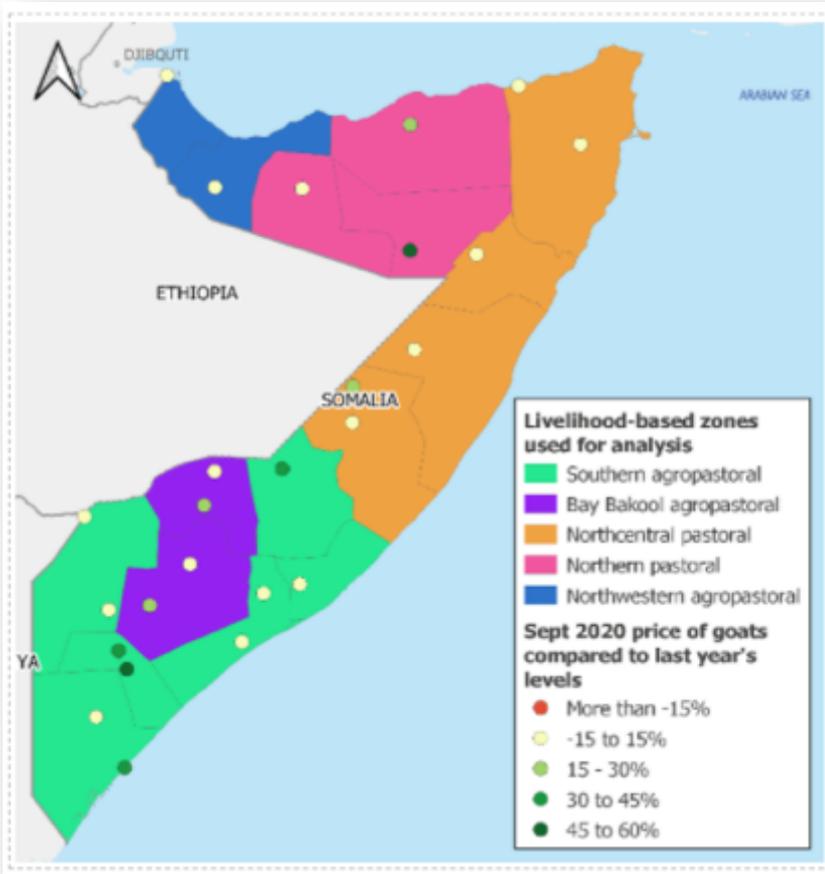


Source: FAO : Source of data: FSNAU/FEWS NET

Livestock prices

Price of goats in key markets compared to 2019

Price of cattle in key markets compared to 2019

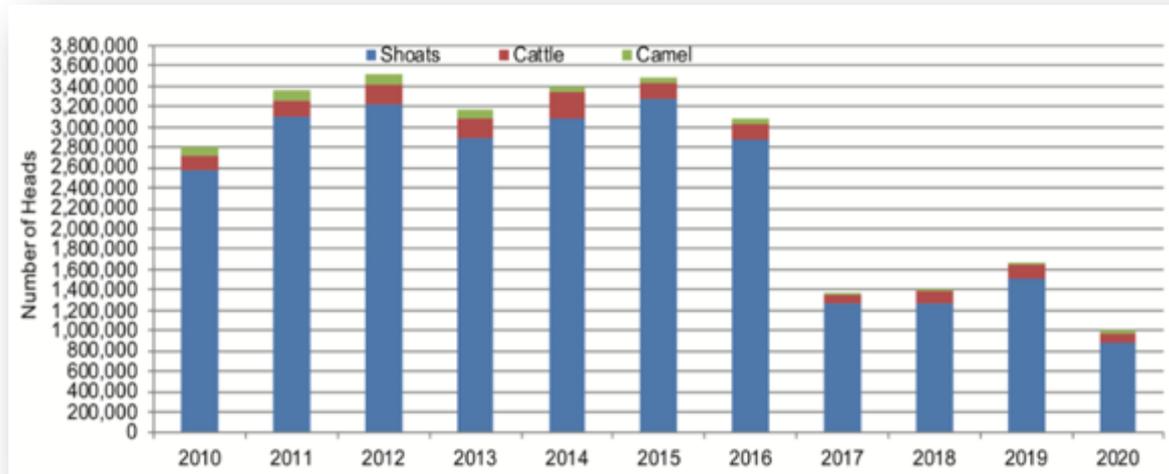


Source: FAO : Source of data: FSNAU/FEWS NET

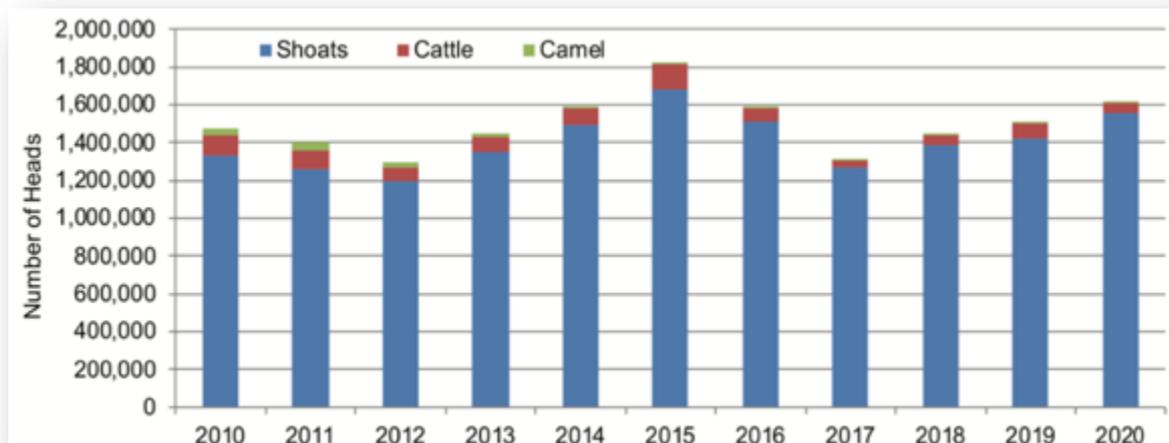
Source: FAO : Source of data: FSNAU/FEWS NET

Livestock exports

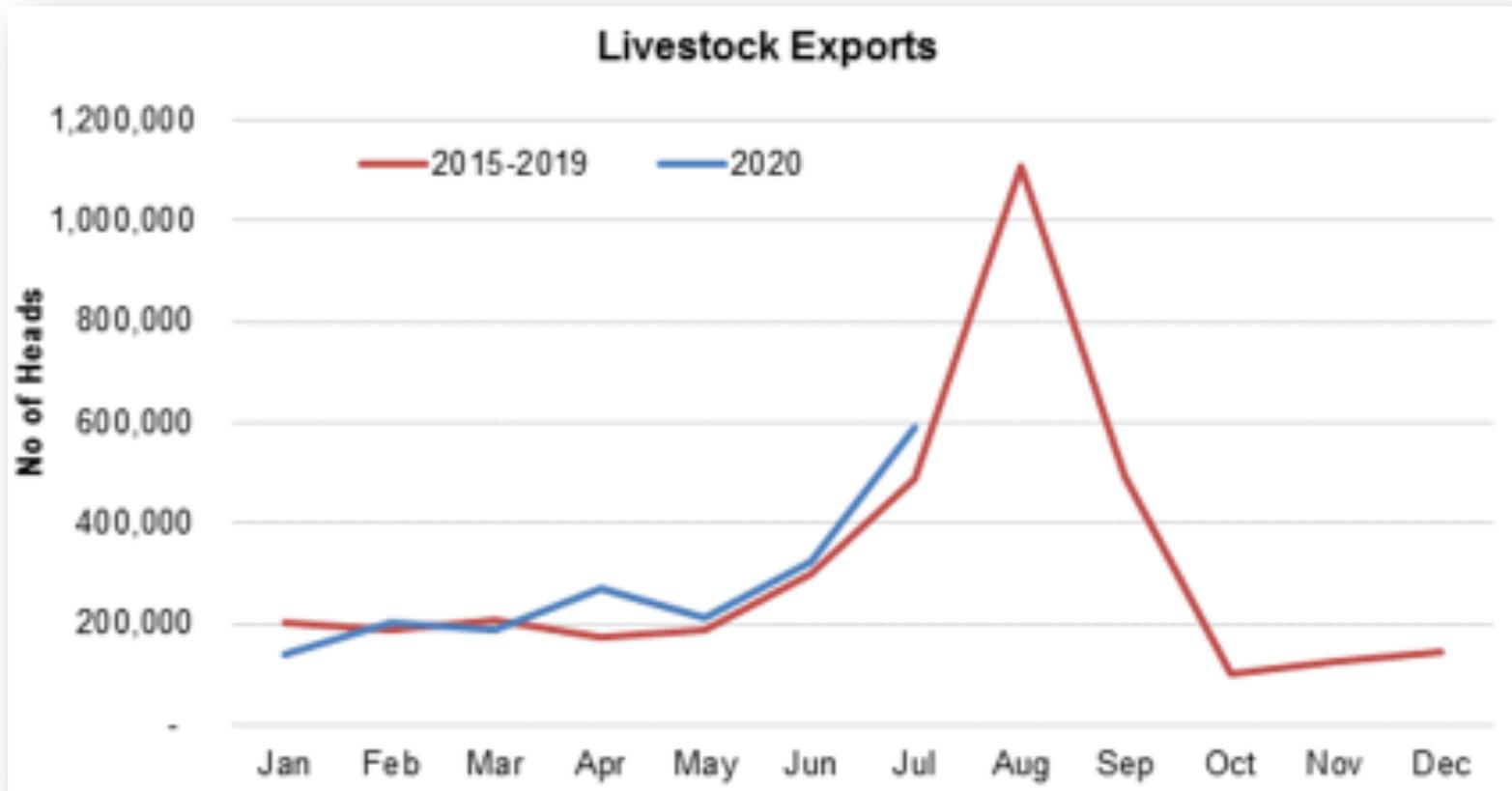
Historical livestock export levels (heads of animals) from Berbera port



Historical livestock export levels (heads of animals) from Bossaso port



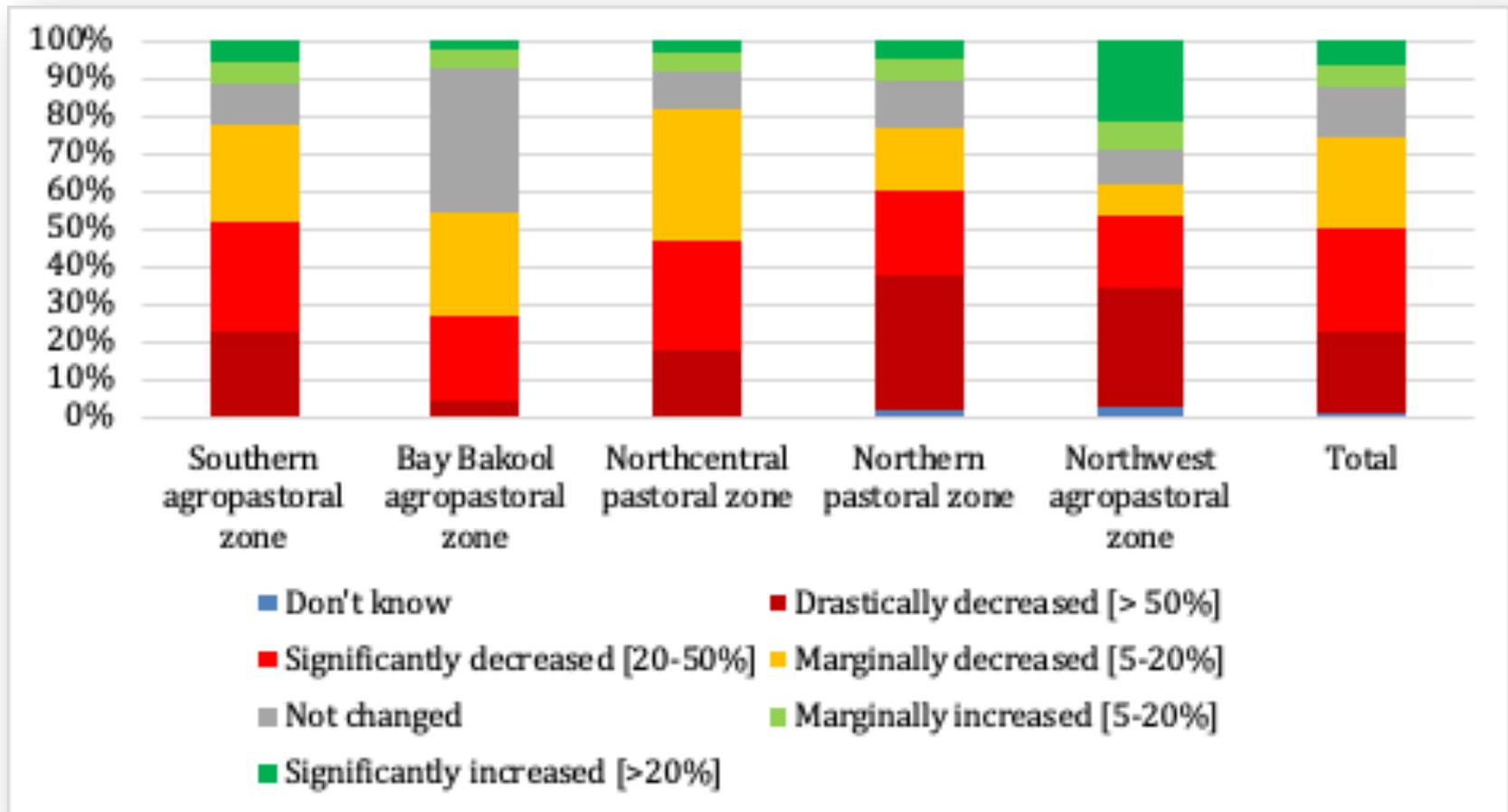
Livestock exports



HH Incomes

Most (73 percent) of the interviewed households reported that their overall income from their main income sources has decreased during the past 3 months

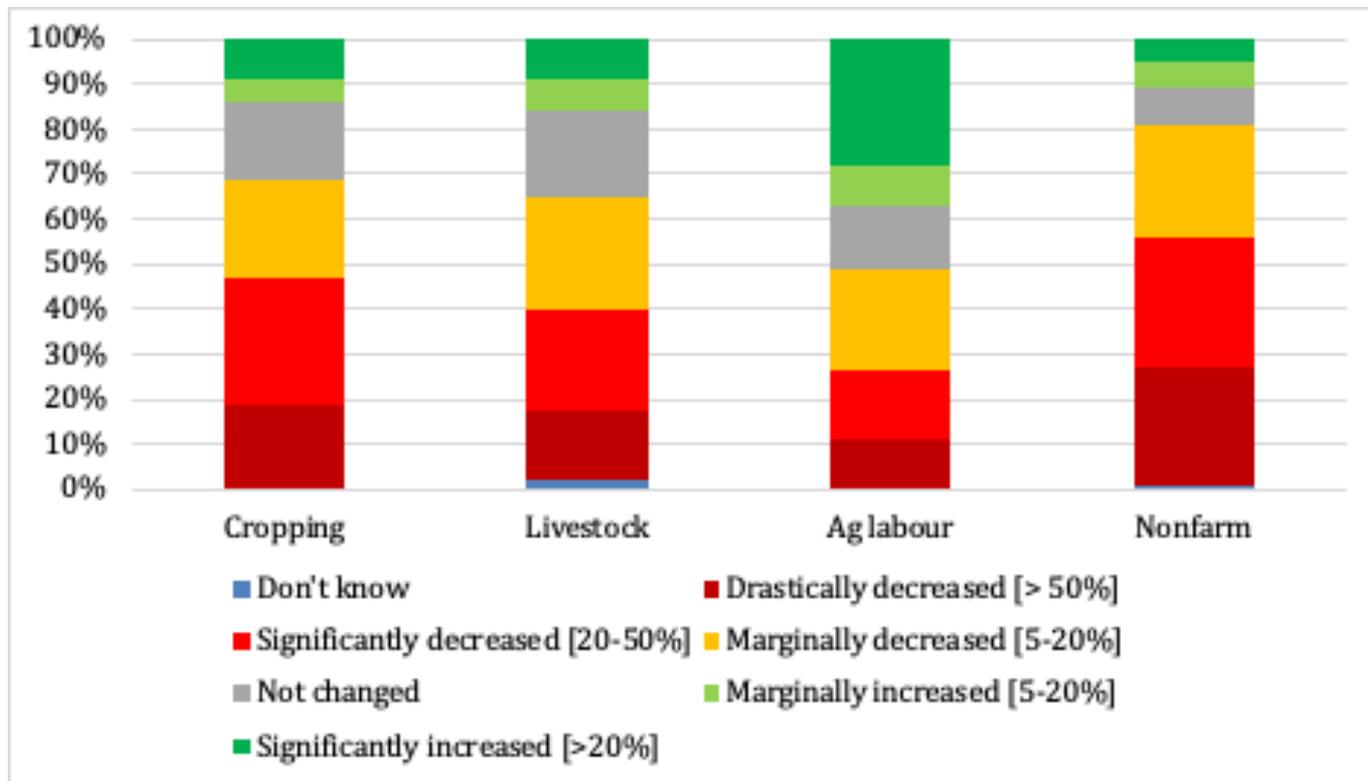
Income changes (percentage of respondents)



HH Incomes

The highest percentage of HH reporting a decrease in their income was observed amongst households involved in nonfarm activities, suggesting that HH involved in agriculture were slightly less exposed to COVID-19 related income shocks in comparison to those involved in nonfarm activities.

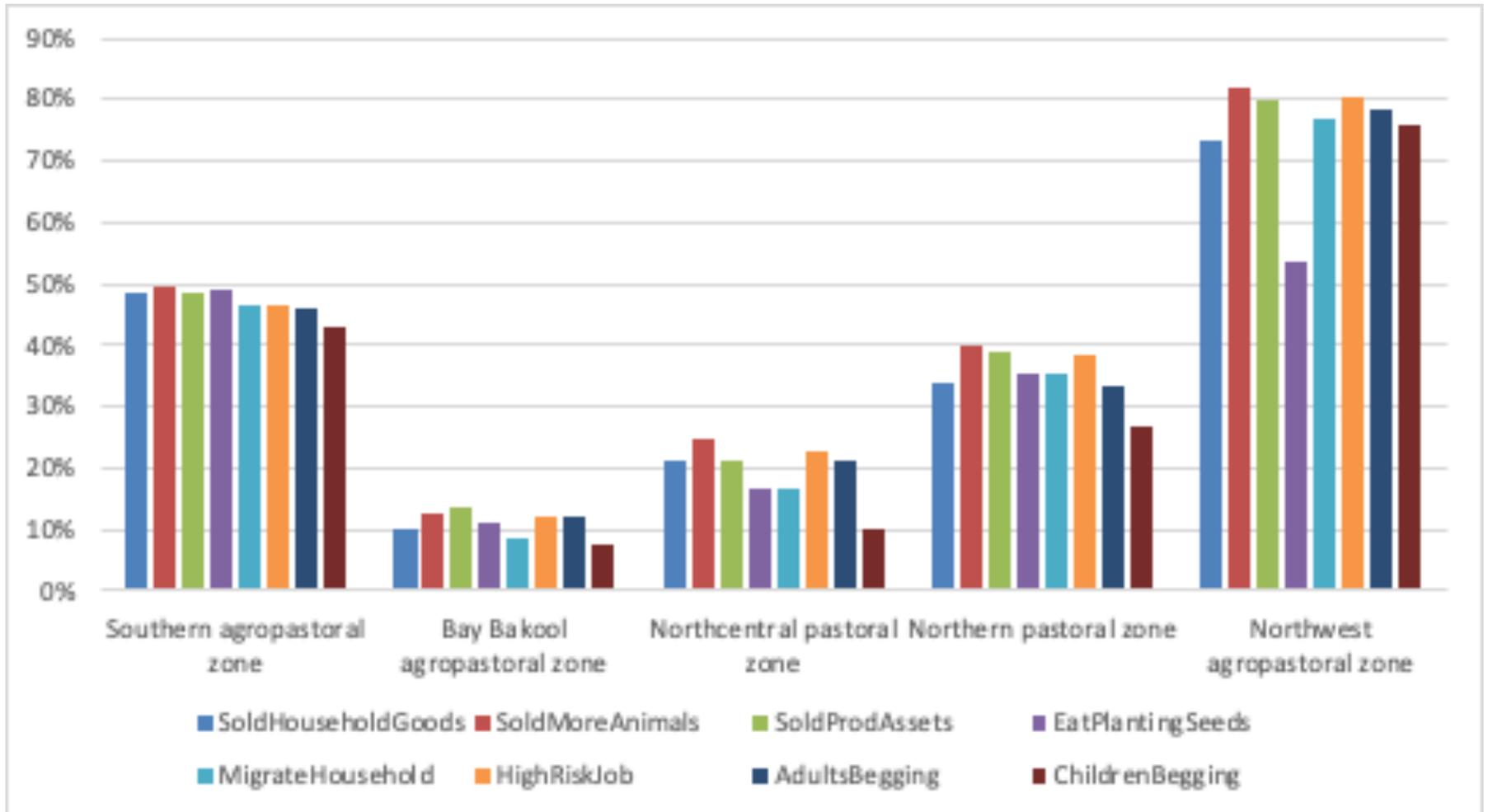
Income changes (percentage of respondents)



Remittances

- Only 3% of respondents indicated that remittances were one of their top two income sources
- According to FSNAU-Somalia, up to 15 percent of urban and IDP households in 11 assessed areas said they received external remittances between April and June, with the exception of urban households in Hargeisa (28 percent) and Beletweyne (18 percent).
- Urban households were more likely to receive remittances and to receive higher amounts than IDP households.
- Urban and IDP household reported a 10-30 percent decline in the amount that they typically receive.

Coping strategies



Priority Needs

Bay Bakool

Southern agropastoral

- ① Cash assistance
- ② Seeds
- ② Tools
- ③ Marketing support
- ③ Pesticides

Agropastoral

- ① Cash assistance
- ② Fertilizers
- ② Pesticides
- ② Tools

Northcentral Pastoral

- ① Cash assistance
- ③ Access to water
- ③ Animal feed
- ③ Seeds
- ③ Tools
- ③ Veterinary services

Northern pastoral

- ① Cash assistance
- ③ Access to water
- ③ Marketing support
- ③ Tools
- ③ Veterinary services

Northwestern agropastoral

- ① Cash assistance
- ② Seeds
- ③ Access to water
- ③ Animal feed
- ③ Info on COVID safety measures for ag work
- ③ Marketing support
- ③ Tools
- ③ Veterinary inputs

① = high priority; ② = medium priority; ③ = low priority

Conclusions

- Cropping households (HHs) experienced below-average *Gu* harvests, and many indicated that they were planning to plant a reduced land area for the *Deyr*. In addition to climatic shocks, challenges included a lack of income to hire labour and buy seeds and fertilizer, as well as marketing difficulties.
- Pastoral HHs benefited from above-average *Gu* rainfall. Livestock-rearing respondents indicated challenges relating to marketing and accessing veterinary services, feed, pasture and water.
- Most HHs reported that their incomes had decreased during the past 3 months with HHs involved in non-farm activities being more likely to report declines.
- COVID-19 did not have major impacts on the price of locally produced staples, though a brief increase in imported rice prices in April and May was observed. Impacts of COVID-19 on livestock exports was less than previously anticipated with relatively stable exports and above-average livestock prices.

Recommendations

- Populations in IPC Phase 3+ require urgent action to prevent food consumption gaps and acute malnutrition. Populations in IPC Phase 2+ require livelihood support programs. HHs indicated a strong preference for cash.
- Programs that build resilience, improve food availability and stabilize access are required. This could include activities that enhance access to agricultural and livestock assets and advisory services. Attention should also be given to post-harvest technologies and developing local feed and farming input supply modalities.
- Support programs to populations who abandoned agriculture because of conflict or the 2016/17 drought but are interested in re-entering the sector now should be provided.
- Awareness raising should be undertaken to ensure that food supply chain actors are not at risk of COVID-19 transmission. Revised modalities for agricultural extension and protocols to comply with hygiene/safety measures during planting, harvesting, and selling need to be implemented. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures in the downstream value chain should also be intensified.
- Strengthened EW systems are needed to inform anticipatory actions. Close monitoring of the current *Deyr*, as well as upcoming *Gu* seasonal forecasts, is also needed.

Questions?