



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Focus on drought challenges in Southeast South Sudan

**A case of Greater Kapoeta & Greater Pibor Administrative
Area**

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Background

- Most of Greater Kapoeta and Greater Pibor Administrative Area lies in the **South-Eastern Semi-Arid Pastoral Livelihood Zone**.
- Kapoeta and Pibor areas are bordered by Kenya and Ethiopia.
- **Main livelihood is pastoralism, with limited crop production** - most of the grains/food are acquired through purchase and/or exchange from/with Kenya and Ethiopia.
- Soils are favourable for crop farming, BUT the **semi-arid conditions severely limit crop production**.
- A few permanent **rivers or water points are found in the zone along the highlands on the Ethiopian border, which offer good grazing and livestock watering points** – hence why when drought hits hard, most of the population moves towards Ethiopia. Kenya is also a destination in search of pasture and water.



Background contd.

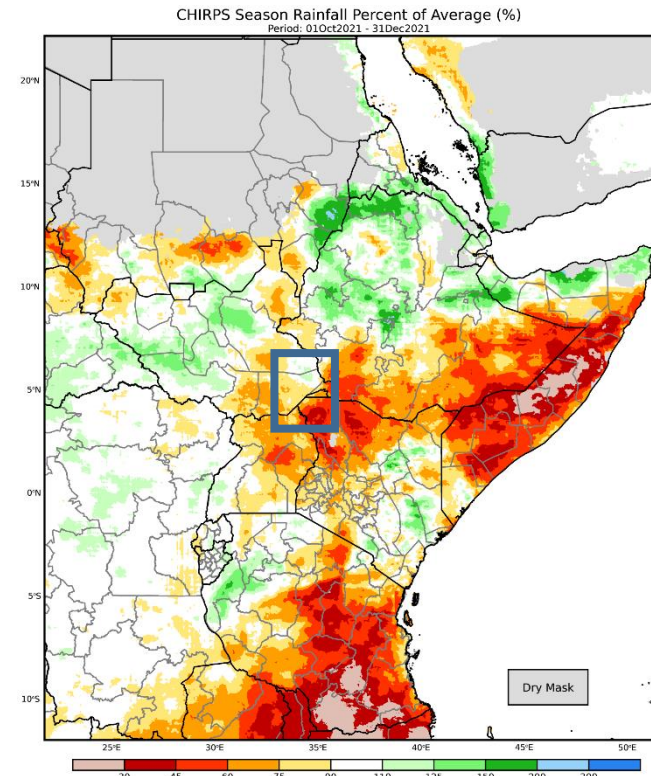
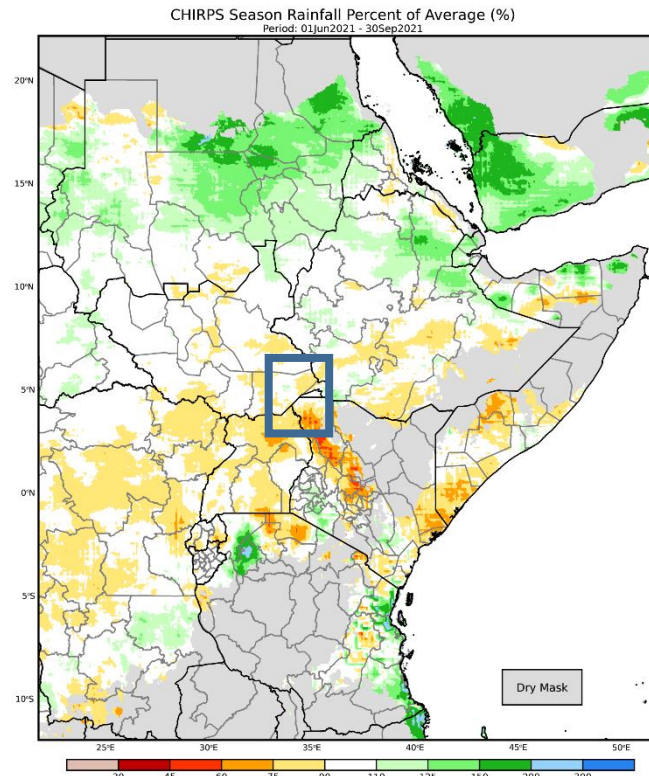
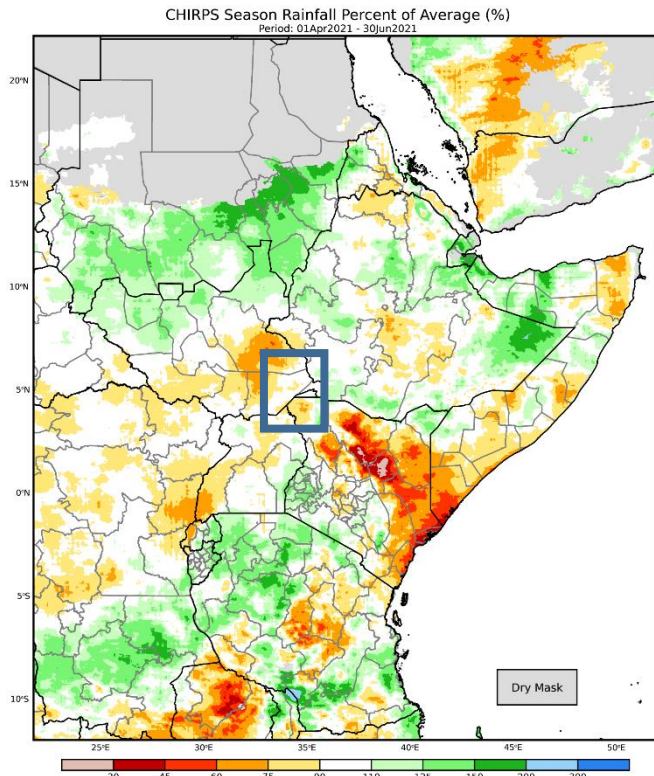
- The **zone is affected by cattle raiding and conflict over pasture and watering points**, particularly during the dry season from February to May.
- **Average size of land cultivated** per household is about **0.4 hectares**.
- Primary **determinant of wealth** is the number of **livestock owned per household**. Livestock sales are a critical source of cash income.
- **Poor households usually cover approximately 2 months of their staple food needs from own production**, while better-off households only slightly more.
- **Rainy season starts in June and ends in October**. Land Preparation (Feb/Mar); Wet sowing (Apr); Wedding (Jun); Green consumption (Sep); Dry harvest (Sep/Oct). The main cereal grown is **sorghum**.



Background contd.

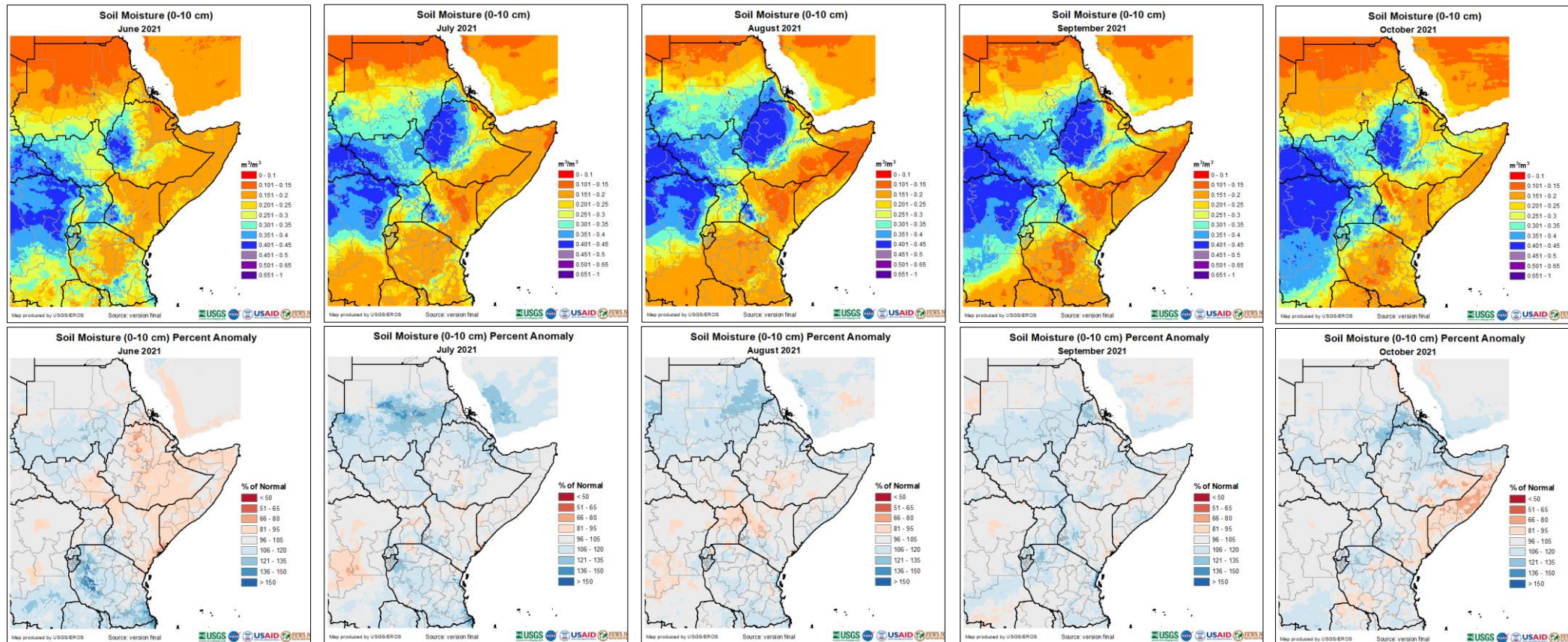
- Livestock move out of the zone in search of water and pasture in *November* and *December* and return in *April/May*; **access to livestock products is limited between November and March.**
- **Lean season is March to July.**
- **Poor households purchase cereals** (sorghum) for most of the year **except in August and September when they harvest their own.**

Rainfall trends (2021) - % of average



From April to December, the quarterly rainfall amount as a percentage of the average (1981-2020) was mostly normal (dry conditions) to 60% of the average – indicating a drier-than-normal situation that would force majority of the population to migrate in search of water and pasture.

Soil moisture (June – October 2021)



The Kapoetas, especially Kapoeta East are the most affected by dry conditions, with the soil moisture index hardly going above 0.25 during the period that is considered the rainy season.

Pibor (GPAA) fared much better during the same period.



Parting thoughts / recommendations ...

- Greater Kapoeta is more affected by dry weather conditions, compared to Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA).
- To support the pastoralists, **cross-border ‘negotiations’** are required at government and community levels to guarantee safe migration and utilization of pasture and water in neighbouring countries at times of extreme drought. Strengthen **early warning systems**.
- Investment by Government (supported by humanitarian actors) in **feed management** practices/technologies as well as establishment of **solar-powered watering points** to limit migration and associated resource-based conflicts.
- Explore **destocking** and **restocking** for pastoral communities in Greater Kapoeta. This means investing in **livestock markets**.
- Invest in **livestock value chains** to ensure that pastoralists get the maximum benefits from their animals.



Thank you.