Somalia – Food Security Overview

May 2020
Nairobi, Kenya
Presentation Outline

• Current Agro-climatic Conditions and Outlook

• COVID-19 Impact to Households Food Economy

• Somalia Food Security Overview and Outlook

• Questions
### IPC 3.0 area phase classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHASE 1</th>
<th>Minimal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households are able to meeting essential food and non-food needs without engaging atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHASE 2</th>
<th>Stressed</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Household have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.</td>
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<tr>
<th>PHASE 3</th>
<th>Crisis</th>
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<td>Households face food consumption gaps or are only meeting minimal food needs through unsustainable coping strategies.</td>
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<th>PHASE 4</th>
<th>Emergency</th>
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<td>Households face extreme food consumption gaps or are experiencing extreme loss of livelihood assets that will likely lead to food consumption gaps.</td>
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<th>PHASE 5</th>
<th>Famine</th>
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<td>Households have a near complete lack of food and/or other basic needs. Starvation, death, and destitution are evident.</td>
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Phased classification would likely be worse without current or programmed humanitarian assistance.
Current Agro-Climatic Conditions and Outlook
(March 2020 – September 2020)
2019-2020 Seasonal Rainfall Performance

- **April - June 2019**: Below average rainfall performance in Somalia during the Gu/Genna/long rains has been significantly delayed and the season was mostly below average.

- **October – December 2019**: Well above average rainfall performance in Most of the South/Central and Northwest regions. However, slightly below average in parts of Northeast and coastal areas of south Somalia.

- **March – April 2020**: Significantly above average amounts across the country enhanced water availability and pasture condition.
Impacts on Rangeland Resources...

- **Significant improvement in rangeland resources (vegetation and water) conditions** across Somalia, in response to the above average rainfall performance in late March to April 2020.

- **Gradual decline in pasture and water conditions**, due to recent Jilaal dry season (January-March) 2020 and ongoing soil moisture decline as well as continuous browsing and grazing.
Dry Jilaal Season but cooler-than-Normal Land Surface Conditions

- Current mild Jilaal dry season but significantly cooler-than-normal conditions in **All** livelihood zones of Somalia except Coastal Deeh Pastoral areas of south Somalia.
Crop Production Prospects

- **Favorable, above average Gu rains** encouraged farmers in the South, Central and Northwest regions to start planting, increase planting areas, and improve labor opportunities and agriculture wage rates.

- **Ongoing river floods and crop-water logging remained constraint to production** for riverine areas in Jubas, Bardhera (Gedo), Jowhar and Balcad (Middle Shabelle) and Beletweyne (Hiran). River flood water suspended cropping activities and destroyed the standing off-season crops in riverine lowlands, and displaced the entire Beletweyne town population.

- **Significant shortfall in crop production expected over Gravity Irrigation Riverine Livelihood Zone in Jubas, Gedo, Hiran and Middle Shabelle regions**, following above average rainfall received in upper Rivers catchments in Ethiopia highlands and in south Somalia causing severe river floods.

*Figure 1: Shabelle River Levels at Beletweyne (Hiran Region)*

*March-April Rainfall Crop Performance 2020*
So far Somalia has surpassed its long term average by up to between 105 – 145% in most areas with a few pockets of below average in the south coastal regions.

The next 1 to 2 weeks are key in recharging these deficits areas with a high likelihood of rainfall in the coastal regions.
Based on the Ensemble NMME forecast high likelihood for average conditions across Somalia for the JJA season

- The June – September Karan rains in northwestern Somalia and northeastern Ethiopia are most likely to be average.
- The June – August Xagaa (Hagaa) rains in southern Somalia are most likely to be average.
COVID-19 Impact on Food Security

- On May 10, Ministry of Health and Human Services reported 1054 confirmed cases, 115 recoveries and 51 fatalities.
- There is an increasing evidence that cases had gone undetected or undiagnosed as most of the people with symptoms remain homes, avoiding visiting the COVID-19 centers thus community transmission had intensified.
- Mogadishu is now the epic center of the Coronavirus in Somalia as it hosts the highest IDP population (497,000 people) and urban poor (606,000 people) living in crowded settlements with limited access to health, sanitation and hygiene services and potable water is very scarce.
- Remittance services which is the lifeline for Somalia where disrupted due to lockdowns in USA, UK, Saudi Arabia, and rest of Europe that laid-off many employees, suspended their small business and disrupted the flow of funds from money transfer businesses (MTB) thus reduced both amounts of cash and number of people receiving remittance by 30-35% in April.
- Both imports and business investments were also reduced significantly and affected labor opportunities and wage rates in urban settlements, and commodity market supply.
- All night vendors mostly engaged by the poor HHs were suspended by the curfew, reducing income and food access.
Stable but fluctuating Local Cereal Prices in Key Markets

- Red Sorghum prices in Baidoa market remain stable between February and March. This attributed to carry stocks and above average production in Deyr 2019/20 season.

- White maize prices in Qorioley in the lower Shabelle region increased by 20 percent from last year due to increased demand from Juba regions where Deyr production failed and expected off-season maize harvest was destroyed by high pest infestation and early start of river flooding in April.
Food Security Overview and Outlook
Key Messages

• Between April and September, about 2.7-3.5 million people are in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phase 3&4) and need urgent humanitarian assistance and livelihood support, while 2.9 million people are expected to be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and require livelihood protection and resilience support.

• Multiple shocks including pandemic COVID-19 impacts which slowed down of remittance follow, reduced labour opportunities and business trade activities and increased imported commodity prices, and destructive river floods, increased locust presence and infestation, limited own food stock reversed most gains achieved during the past several seasons of average to above average 2019 Deyr (Oct-DEc) season.

• Constrained food and income sources have maintained households in most urban and IDPs monitored, some northern (Guban and East Golis pastoral) and south/central (Addun and Hawd), Riverine LZ (Hiran, Shabellas, Gedo and Jubas) regions, are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) regions, and Beletweyne Riverine and urban population are currently in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

• Pastoral and agropastoral livelihoods in north/central are fragile and have limited livestock holdings predisposing households to recurrent shocks and hazards.
Projected Food Security Outcomes
(April-September 2020)

Projected food security outcomes January-March 2020

Projected food security outcomes April-June 2020

Projected food security outcomes April-June 2020

Source: FSNAU and FEWS NET
Questions?