

## **FSC PARTNERS MEETING MINUTES**

**16<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Mode: Virtual - Zoom**

### **Meeting Agenda:**

- 1. Opening Remarks (MoAI, MoHADM and MoL)**
- 2. FSNAU Post Deyr Updates**
- 3. FSC Response Updates and Targets (post Dyer)**
- 4. Agriculture Technical Working Group Updates**
- 5. Livestock Technical Working Group Updates**
- 6. AOB**

#### **1. Opening Remarks**

Mr Mahmoud (Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation), opened the meeting. He thanked the participants for their timely attendance and commitment in engaging with the cluster and attending the national cluster meetings.

#### **2. FSNAU Update**

- Daniel of FSNAU stated that assessment was done in November/December with partners across the country and data analysis been done on 11<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> January concurrently in Mogadishu, Hargeisa, Garowe and Nairobi.
- A total of 103 participants participated in the 2020 Post Deyr IPC Analysis, these included representatives from federal government, member states, UN bodies, local and international NGOs.
- Briefing was done on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> while final dissemination to all stakeholders on 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2021.

#### **❖ 2020 Deyr Season Rainfall Performance update**

- The 2020 Deyr season rainfall was below average in most parts of the country with adverse impact on replenishment of pasture and water resources and on Deyr season crop production
- Delayed rainfall was reported in most of North and large parts of the South (Gedo, Shabelle, and Juba regions) also Ineffective rainfall establishment was reported in the North
- Favorable rainfall was reported in costal parts due to the Cyclone Gati with torrential rains which hit coastal areas of Bari (late November) although it caused significant damages.
- Average to above average totals in many areas of central regions, parts of Bay, Bakool and Hiiraan and in Cyclone GATI affected areas in the northeast and adjacent parts of

northwest. Also, flooding was reported in Hiiraan, Shabelle and Juba regions from late October to early November.

#### ❖ **2021 Gu Season Rainfall Forecast.**

- La Niña is predicted to continue during Jilaal (95% chance between January and March 2021) as latest forecasts from CPC/NCEP/NWS/IRI indicates.
- Based on assumptions of waning La Niña conditions, warm western Pacific Ocean gradients, and a neutral IOD, there is greater likelihood of below-average to average April to June 2021 Gu season rainfall in central and southern Somalia and below average rainfall in the northern regions.

#### ❖ **Market Prices update**

- Somali/Somaliland Shilling was stable over the past six months, except in Puntland where the local Somali Shilling continued to depreciate against the US Dollar, there was a significant increase in the cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) was observed in the Puntland regions.
- Prices of imported food commodities were generally stable, except in the northeast (Puntland) where prices increased sharply due to depreciation of the local currency. Livestock exports declined sharply between August to December 2020
- Cereal food prices (maize and sorghum) were generally stable and close to the five-year average apart from the northeast region that has been affected by inflationary pressures caused by depreciation of the local currency.

##### ◆ **January-June 2021 Market Price Outlook**

- The SOSH/SLSH exchange rate against USD is likely to be stable in most markets, partly boosted by expected increases in livestock export in the lead up to and during Ramadan and Hajj (March-May). However, some exchange rate fluctuations are expected in northeast markets.
- A below average 2020 Deyr harvest and expected below average 2021 Gu season rainfall will likely tighten domestic cereal supply and put upward pressure on prices starting in April.
- Food import (rice, flour and sugar) prices are expected to be stable through mid-2021 from promising global export availabilities, sluggish demand and low oil price.
- Livestock prices will likely follow seasonally trend through June from improved livestock condition and productivity as well as increased exports. Prices are expected to be close or above the average in most markets with regional differences.

#### ❖ **Impact on Agriculture updates**

- In southern Somalia, the 2020 Deyr season cereal production is estimated at **78 600** tons, including **4 100** tons of off-season harvest expected in March 2021. The 2020 Deyr harvest is 20 percent lower than the long-term average for 1995-2019.
- In northwest regions, the 2020 Gu/Karan cereal production was previously estimated at **22 500** MT (September 2020), based on mid-season crop assessment.

However, based on crop harvest assessments conducted in November, the revised production estimate is **17 100** MT. This is 58% lower than the average for 2010- 2019, mainly due to erratic rainfall, Desert Locust and stalk borer infestation on both sorghum and maize crops.

#### ❖ **Impact on Pasture and Water Availability**

- Despite Desert Locust damage in northern and central and parts of south regions, average to near average 2020 Dey rainfall in November have moderated the impact and replenished pasture and browse in south/central and parts of north.
- In late November, tropical cyclone GATI was experienced in northern regions although the cyclone caused significant damage, it also improved pasture and water in the affected areas.
- Harsh Jiilaal (January-March 2021) is expected particularly in rain deficit areas of northern and central regions, leading to water scarcity and a typical livestock migration.

#### ❖ **Impact on Livestock Production and Productivity**

- Milk availability is reported average to above average in southern Somalia, except in Gedo where the availability is low due to less favorable pasture and browse conditions. Availability is expected to decline through mid-2021 due to harsh conditions during Jilaal and a likely below average 2021 Gu (April-June) season rainfall, particularly in northern and central regions.
- Livestock holding among poor pastoral households continued to increase during the 2020 Deyr season. Further increases are expected towards mid-2021 year due to anticipated medium births between now and mid-2021 in southern regions.
- However, livestock holding among poor pastoral households will remain below baseline in central and parts of northern Somalia by mid-2021 but reach near baseline or above baseline levels in southern Somalia.

#### ❖ **Desert Locust Infestation and Outlook**

- Desert locust has mostly affected northern and central regions since late 2019, it also expanded to southern Somalia in October 2020. It caused significant damage to 2020 Deyr season cereal crop cultivation and harvest in central and southern regions.
- The southward movement and breeding of Desert Locust coincided with both the planting and harvesting periods. Despite ongoing control operations which are reducing impacts.

- Latest forecasts indicate that Desert Locust continues to pose a very high risk to rural livelihoods across Somalia in 2021, potentially exacerbating the impact of a below average 2021 Gu.

#### ❖ **Population Movement/Displacement and Impact,**

- Overall, nearly **661 000** persons were displaced between July and Dec 2020, mainly due to floods (**69%**), insecurity/conflict (**14%**) and lack of livelihoods (**14%**). These displacements mostly occurred in Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle and Banadir regions.
- Most of the displacements occurred between July and November, was mainly driven by recurrent floods.
- Flooding and insecurity/conflict related displacements have contributed to lower crop production in Hiran, Middle and Lower Shabelle regions.
- Armed and political conflict, drought and flood related displacements are expected to continue through mid-2021, further exacerbating food insecurity across many parts of Somalia.

#### ❖ **Remittance Receipts by Households.**

- Up to 22% of urban, 12% of rural and 6% IDPs received remittances between Aug/Sep and Oct/Nov 2020. Amount recipients, average amounts are significant in many areas
- Most recipients (>50%) reported significant declines in remittances.

#### ❖ **2020 Post Deyr Nutrition Situation:**

At the national level, the median prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) has remained Serious (10–14.9%) over the past three seasons (11.8% in 2020 Deyr; (11.8% in 2020 Gu and 13.1% in 2019 Deyr).

#### ❖ **Nutrition Outcomes and Projections:**

Based on results of the 2020 Post Deyr assessment, an estimated **838 900** children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden) face acute malnutrition between January and December 2021, including **143 200** likely to be severely malnourished. This reflect a slight improvement in the overall nutrition situation and outlook compared to 2019 Deyr and 2020 Post Gu.

❖ **Food Security Outcomes and Projections (Jul 2020-Jun 2021)**

- Based on results of the 2020 Post Deyr assessments, the estimated number of people in urgent need is currently **1.6 million** (Jan- Mar 2021), even in the presence of humanitarian assistance. This number would have been higher if there has not been sustained and large-scale food assistance.
- Considering various risk factors (likely below average 2021 Gu season rainfall, continued Desert Locust infestation and socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19), this number is expected to increase to **2.65 million** (Apr-Jun 2021).

❖ **Humanitarian Assistance and Government Support.**

- Food assistance reached 1.6 million to 1.9 million people between July and December or an average of 1.8 million people per month.
- Government/WFP safety net in urban areas (Banadir) is reaching 125,000 people every month since July 2018 (\$35/month/HH). Government safety net in rural areas (Baxnanao/resilience, reached 440,900 people between July to December 2020 (\$20/month/HH).
- Life-saving curative and preventive services have been implemented at scale throughout 2020.
- Large scale and sustained humanitarian assistance and government support has contributed to preventing the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes across many parts of Somalia.

**3. FSC Response Updates and Targets (post Dyer)**

**Under objective 1 (improved access to food),** FSC partners assisted **2,052,239** in the month of January out of **2,103,495** targeted (98% achievement). This means, there was an 8% increase comparing with December responses.

**Under objective 2 (Livelihood Seasonal Inputs and Livestock Assets Protection):** The season for livelihood inputs started in August for a target **821,315** to be supported. In January **35,767** people were assisted, bringing the cumulative assistance FSC partners to **353,969** beneficiaries with seasonal inputs. This represents 43% of the seasonal target.

**DISTRICTS WITH LESS THAN 10% COVERAGE IN OBJ 1 (JANUARY 2021)-** These districts include Caluula with 4% response, Afmadow/Xagar 3%, Adan Yabaal, Badhaadhe, Baraawe, Bu'aale, Buur Hakaba, Ceel Buur, Ceel Dheer, Jamaame, Jilib, Saakow/Salagle, Sablaale and Tayeeglow with no response reported.

**APRIL TO JUNE 2021 PROJECTION TARGETS AT REGION LEVEL-** Based on results of the 2020 Post Deyr assessments released by FSNAU, The target for FSC response was projected to be **2,652,000** for



objective 1 (improved access to food) responses and **1,250,300** for objective 2 (Livelihood Seasonal Inputs and Livestock Assets Protection) for Apr-Jun 2021

#### **ACTION POINT(S)**

- Discuss with partners reporting from those districts with 10 % response what could be the barrier
- Share with respective working groups (Agriculture and livestock) emergency IPC 3 and 4 focused targets.
- Partners who are not in the cluster mailing list to communicate for them to be added to the mailing list

#### **4. Agriculture Technical Working Group**

The working Group is well functional in coordinating with partners and established partnership with several partners. The existence and activities of WG is now known by the partners.

- TOR for AWG was developed and forwarded for DGs for review.
- AWG is dedicated for further strengthening upcoming partners meetings to coordinate even more.
- On 4<sup>th</sup> February, had a meeting with FMS DGs.

#### **5. Updates from MOHADM**

- Conducted consultation Workshop for Humanitarian agencies, civil societies, business worker and Diaspora on how to respond to areas affected by the crisis.
- 07 Feb 2021, MoHADM distributed food aid consisting different food items to more than a thousand people in Xudur District.
- The ministry has prepared 2020- 2024 NHS
- Somalia Humanitarian Response plan (HRP) was launched on 15th February 2021. The HRP seeks \$1.09 billion to provide life-saving assistance to 4 Million people who will be in critical need of Humanitarian assistance across the country in 2021.
- All Humanitarian agencies are requested to provide aid assistance to area affected by crisis.

#### **6. A.O.B**

- FSC to communicate with partners regarding meeting for Humanitarian reports and AAP that will be held (most probably) the following week.
- FSC to organize meeting with partners to discuss gaps in districts for which coverage is 10% or less.
- As the election of Cluster Review Committee (CRC) and Strategic Review Committee (SRC) was finalized, the cluster will share results of the elections updates on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Mr Mohamoud (Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation FGS).