



## FSC PARTNERS MEETING MINUTES

29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Mode: Virtual - Zoom

### Meeting Agenda:

1. Opening Remarks (MoAI, MoHADM and MoL)
2. Food Security Outlook - FEWS NET/FSNAU
3. Climate update – SWALIM
4. Update recent displacements
5. FSC Response Planning
6. Distance Learning via radio - FAO
7. Agriculture Technical Working Group Updates
8. Livestock Technical Working Group Updates
9. AOB

### Action Points

- At the meeting, FSNAU and FEWSNET presented results of a Jilaal impact rapid food security assessment conducted in rural livelihoods across Somalia between late March and early April. Subsequent to the presentation, FSC partners requested that IPC population estimates be revised to inform the response. The exercise to review the IPC projections through September 2021 is thus ongoing.

#### 1. Opening Remarks

Mr Mahmoud (Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation) opened the meeting. He thanked the partners for their engagement with the cluster and participation in humanitarian response.

#### 2. Food Security Outlook - FEWS NET/FSNAU

##### *Current IPC Food Insecurity Phases*

- Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Crisis (IPC 3) in IDP settlements and in Guban Pastoral; Togdheer Agropastoral; East Golis of Sanaag; Northeast/Central Coastal Deeh Pastoral; Addun Pastoral; Riverine of Hiraan, Middle Juba and Gedo; Southern Rainfed Maize Agro pastoral of Juba; and Bay and Bakool Agropastoral. Below sustainable herd levels as primary drivers of food insecurity.
- Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Minimal (IPC Phase 1) outcomes across the rest of Somalia.



- Below average rangeland conditions and livestock productivity resulting from poor 2020 *deyr*, harsh 2021 *jilaal* season, and locust infestation impacting pastoral livelihoods
- Poor start of *gu* 2021 and below average March/April off-season harvest negatively impacting seasonal agricultural labor income and food access poor households in riverine and agropastoral areas.

### *COVID-19 Impact*

There has been recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, deaths and Case Fatality Rates (CFR) in Somalia as a result of a new wave.

COVID-19 is likely continue to have negative socio-economic impacts through:

- Decline in remittance flows
- Decline in economic activities in urban areas.
- Decline in livestock exports

### *Locust Swarms and Impact*

- As projected in March, recent below-average rainfall amounts, and current dry conditions have mitigated locust breeding and slowed down hatching.
- However, the relative increase in rainfall amounts through early May could be sufficient to support hatching in May.
- The northward shift of the seasonal monsoon winds will remain conducive to swarm movement northward in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.
- The coastal Somali jet stream will likely continue to mitigate the spread of locusts in the Shabelle, Juba, and Bay regions.

### *Gu Rainfall and Planting*

- Delayed or poor start of the *Gu* reported across most areas of the country; Onset of the *gu* reported earlier in Bay and more recently in localized areas of southern, central and northern regions. However, performance remains below average.
- Forecasts indicate increased likelihood of moderate to heavy rainfall in the next 7 days in the Northwest and scattered light to moderate rainfall in the rest of the country.
- *Gu* preparation (land clearing, plowing, and planting) underway across riverine and agropastoral areas of the country with crop germination reports in Bay and in few other pockets in other regions.
- Access to agricultural labor remains below average negatively impacting poor households' labor income.
- There is less likelihood of floods over the coming weeks, although river water levels are elevating slightly. Prospects of below average Riverine *Gu* production, especially in Shabelle areas.

### *Rangelands, Livestock Production and Reproduction*

- Hotter than typical January-March *Jilaal* accelerating rangeland resource depletion (water and pasture) across most of the regions.
- Poor *gu* onset and expected below average performance across the country likely impact less on rangelands and livestock conception and production (milk)
- Below average *gu* outcomes likely further decrease the already below-baseline pastoral herd sizes as well as livestock value, mainly in central and north

#### *Rainfall Forecasts for Africa: April –June 2021*

- Based on below-average average rainfall to date and a forecast of below-average to average rainfall in May, cumulative rainfall during the March-June 2021 long *gu* rainy season is most likely to be 50-85 percent of average across Somalia.
- Based on the SPI model, meteorological drought conditions are anticipated in parts of central and northeastern Somalia.
- Based on the NMME, C3S, and WMO forecasts, the July-September 2021 *hagaa* rains in southern Somalia are likely to be below average.
- However, the July-September 2021 *karan/karma* rains in Ethiopia and north western Somalia are likely to be above average.

### **3. Climate Update-SWALIM 2021- Gu Season Rainfall Performance**

- Gu rains have started and have continued to spread in space and time. Moderate to heavy rains recorded in Puntland and Somaliland between 25 – 28 April 2021.
- Southern parts also continue to record rains but with below normal amounts
- The good rains will see a boost in pasture and refill of surface and sub surface water resources
- More rains are required to meet the deep ground water deficit in many parts across the country
- Available forecasts indicate that rainfall will likely continue through the end of April and will likely cover more parts of the country, including northern and central regions.  
However, cumulative rainfall amounts through the end of April are expected to remain below average in most parts of Somalia.

#### *Rainfall Forecast for May and June*

- Heavy rains will be experienced in Somaliland and parts of Puntland between 29 April to 05 May 2021.
- The forecast for May 2021 indicates cumulative rainfall amounts not exceeding 75 mm; while little or no rains are expected in the month of June.
- With only limited rainfall amounts expected in May and little or no rainfall in June, drought conditions are expected to have a lasting impact on livelihoods and food security outcomes.

### **Shabelle and Juba River levels**

**Shabelle river:** Shabelle River has remained low since mid-January 2021. The levels have had a slight increase at Belet Weyne in the last few days and expected to rise in the coming week following some



rains in the Ethiopian highlands. Levels are still very low in mid and lower reaches of the river and this may continue until the end of April

**Juba river:** Juba River levels are also low but relatively better in comparison to the Shabelle River. The levels are expected to rise gradually in the coming days as rains continue both in Somalia and Ethiopia.

#### **Drought conditions in March and April**

- Drought analysis from 2000 to March 2021 shows that Somalia has been experiencing cyclic droughts every five to six years: 2000/2001, 2004/2005, 2010/2011, 2016/2017 and currently in 2020/2021
- Below average 2020 Oct-Dec Deyr rains followed by a harsh and warmer than normal Jan-Mar Jilaal season and a delayed and poor start of the current Gu season have led to worsening of drought conditions across the country in March and April.
- More than 80 percent of the country is currently experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions
- Worst affected areas include larger parts of Somaliland and Puntland, central regions and Gedo region.

#### ***Observed and Likely drought impacts***

- Deterioration and depletion of pasture and browse, acute and widespread water shortages, exorbitant water prices, poor livestock body conditions and abnormal livestock migration to distant grazing areas have been observed in northern, central and parts of southern Somalia. Most surface and shallow water sources are reported to have dried across many parts of the country
- Earlier than normal and widespread but expensive water trucking is the primary source of water in most pastoral areas in northern and central regions.
- In southern regions, the performance of Jilaal was mixed, with below average conditions in most areas. However, in Gedo, Hiraan and Juba regions, extreme temperature during the Jilaal have led to rapid depletion of pasture, browse and water resources, forcing livestock to migrate towards tsetse fly infested riverine areas.
- Abortion and death among small ruminants due to drought were reported in the worst affected regions: W. Galbeed, Sanaag, Mudug, Gal-gadud, Hiran and Gedo regions.
- Gu season crop planting is also being adversely affected by the delayed and poor start of the rains.
- If Gu season rainfall continues to perform poorly, this could lead to a worsening of the current humanitarian situation in Somalia, especially in rural areas, through late 2021.

#### **4. Update-recent displacements**

There are displacements reported in Baadweyne, Banadir and Berdale . Partners to monitor the situation and gather more information.

Region/Locatio n	Ongoing response	Additional response	Total response expected in May	Comments
Bardale	19,536	12,000	31,536	The ongoing response was supporting existing IDPs. The planned response will support the new
Banadir	20,229	25,000	45,229	Additional resources being mobilized. Take note that that the existing need (people in IPC 3 & 4) is 260,600
Baadweyne		12,000	12,000	One of the key partners is contacting an assessment and we expect feedback on planned responses in the

## 5. FSC Responses January -March 2021

FSC updated the partners on the responses for the months of January 2021 -March 2021 as follows

### Objective 1: Improved Access to Food

- In January 2021, partners reached 2,052,239 out of 2,103,495 people targeted (98%) achievement
- In February 2021, partners assisted 1,396,370 out of 2,103,495. This is 66% achievement.
- In March 2021, FSC partners assisted 1,573,031 people out of 2,103,495

At the current rate of response, over 1 million people will be excluded from assistance starting April due to funding shortfalls: an estimated US\$51 million is required through July 2021 to meet this gap. There are already more negative coping strategies emerging now due to the combined impact of locust infestations, climate shocks and COVID-19 through 2020. If we fail to respond adequately, the earlier gains could be wiped out completely.

### Objective 2: Livelihood Seasonal Inputs on Agriculture and Livestock Asset Protection responses

- In January, partners assisted 353,969 people (43%) . A new season started in February partners have managed to reach 336,042 people cumulatively for the months of February and March out of a seasonal target of 1,250,300 (27%) achievement.

### *Districts with less than 30% coverage under Objective1*

District	Obj 1 Monthly Target	March response	% coverage (Actual_vs_Target)
Bossaso	114,087	29,580	26%
Afmadow/Xagar	21,650	2,352	11%
Banadir	371,946	20,229	5%
Qansax Dheere	10,293	468	5%
Afgooye	26,646	300	1%
Waajid	10,169	105	1%
Baraawe	6,532	60	1%
Adan Yabaal	711		0%
Badhaadhe	4,427		0%
Bu'aale	11,861		0%
Buur Hakaba	20,866		0%
Ceel Barde	5,295		0%
Ceel Buur	8,698		0%
Ceel Dheer	9,796		0%
Jamaame	11,125		0%
Jilib	19,533		0%
Kurtunwaarey	10,980		0%
Qoryooley	15,701		0%
Rab Dhuure	2,268		0%
Saakow/Salagle	9,876		0%
Sablaale	2,013		0%
Tayeeglow	6,872		0%

#### 6. *Distance learning via radio FAO*

The objective of the training is to Support FAO ground activities in Somalia with a broad auxiliary communication approach, Accompany farmers, pastoralists and fishermen with distance learning and information activities through radio and to facilitate access to technical information and knowledge.

#### ***Baseline study & Overview of the communication Landscape in Somalia***

Somalia's media landscape is characterized by a predominant role of the radio and mobile telephony.

- RADIO: 63 radio stations across the country, 98% of the population receive a clear FM signal for at least some local stations while 77% do for most stations
- TELEVISION: 21 TV channels operating in Somalia and Somaliland. There are 7 public TV channel across the country. The remaining television channels are privately owned.
- ONLINE MEDIA: the internet penetration is roughly 11 % of the population. Social media are very popular and used by 95% of internet users (Facebook with 1.6 M users, followed by Whatsapp and Youtube).
- MOBILE TELEPHONY: ownership is above 90% in all districts. Smartphone penetration is much lower, at 49% overall with a great urban/rural gap, only 12% of rural population has a smartphone compared to 54% in urban areas

#### **Remote Training Via Radio in figures**

- 4 themes identified and 4 series of training designed (Good Agricultural Practices, Livestock, Fishery and Nutrition)
- 2 Radio stations contracted for production in 2 local dialects (Maxaa Tiri and Maay)
- Production and recording of 58 episodes (2 languages), format 20 min per episode



- 8 Local radio stations involved country wide. Broadcasting aligned with FAO field activities and population's seasonal priorities
- 304 Broadcasting sessions (6000 minutes) aired between October 2020 and February 2021

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation: key outcomes Estimation of listenership, all radios:**

- 6M persons daily, according to the self-evaluation of listenership of radios
- 750 000 to 900 000 persons weekly, according to a more realistic estimation (5 to 6 % of the country population)

#### *Listener's feedback:*

- Several hundreds of feedback received from listeners, of which 40% are women. 77% of them predominantly use their cell phones for communication and the age range was wide ranging from 25-50 years old (78%). Young farmers (16- 25 years old) represent 19% of listeners

#### ***Related media products and outreach***

✓ Social media promotion – FAO Soundcloud, Yenka Regional

ComDev platform), Press release in coincidence with the beginning of broadcast, Twitter Media cards, Facebook, Instagram, post on UNSOM, Facebook pages of Broadcasting radio stations, Videos, Photo Gallery

**Other:** Nutrition Radio programs Featured in the SOFI 2021 as Good practice to Covid19 Response

#### ***Looking forward***

1. Qualitative and Quantitative M&E Report,
2. Program consolidation and Scaling up
  - 21 weeks Programming in South Central Region on GAP and Nutrition
  - 17 weeks Programming in Puntland and Galmudug on Livestock, Fishery and Nutrition
  - In collaboration with Line Ministries and National Radio, launching a tailored program for Somaliland
  - Integrating audience feedback from Pilot in new programs, in line with FAO learning outcomes, programmatic and seasonal priorities
  - Developing new series on Agriculture Value Chains, Climate Smart Agriculture and other topics.
3. Exploring opportunities and platforms for dissemination of agriculture related information
4. Develop a full-fledged Multi-year Communication for Development Strategy

#### ***7. Agriculture Technical Working Group***



- Met with partners and discussed seed quality, water harvesting, water use and conservation
- Working on mapping of implementing partners, emergency response.

**8. Livestock Working Group.**

- No sub working meeting held in April
- There is Vaccination campaign underway
- Action work plan is being developed for supporting livestock

**There being no other business, Mr Mahmoud closed the meeting**