Somalia 2020 Post Gu Food Security and Nutrition Outcomes and Projections

A Virtual Briefing for Somalia FSC Partners

7 October 2020
2020 Post-Gu Assessment, Analysis and Vetting Process

- Planning Workshop/Training: Hargeisa, Garowe, Galkacyo, Dhusamareb, Beletweyne, Mogadishu, Baidoa, Dollow and Kismayo: **Jul/Aug 2020**
- Fieldwork (data collection): **Jul/Aug 2020**
- Regional Analyses Workshops: **3-7 September**
- IPC Analyses Workshops and Technical Vetting: **8-15 Sep**
- Technical Briefing for Government (virtual): **27 Sep**
- Briefing for UN Heads of Humanitarian Agencies (virtual): **28 Sep**
- Briefing for Senior Government Officials: (virtual): **29 Sep**
- Final Dissemination to All Stakeholders (virtual): **30 Sep**

Assessment, analysis and vetting of the results were conducted in collaboration with government, UN agencies, local and international NGOs and technical partners.

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<th>Government Ministry/Institutions and Partners</th>
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• The rainfall during the 2020 has been characterized by heavy rainfall in April and extended dry spell since mid-May in many parts of Somalia. Hagga/Karan (Jul-Sep) rains have been mostly favorable in agropastoral and pastoral livelihoods.

• Excessive rainfall has also led to riverine and flash floods in April and May, with flooding continuing since July in some areas.

• There is greater likelihood of below normal to normal Deyr season (Oct-Dec 2020) rainfall in most parts of Somalia and average to below average rainfall in northeast regions. Below average Xays (Dec-Jan) rainfall is also likely in northwestern Somalia.
River Levels and Flooding

- Severe riverine and flash flooding in April and May have caused significant population displacement, damages to property, infrastructure, farmland as well as planted crops.

- There has also been continuing riverine flooding and flood related damage since July as river levels continued to rise to moderate or high flood-risk/bank full levels, exacerbated by broken and weak river embankments in multiple locations.

- With forecast below average 2020 Deyr season rainfall, the risk of flooding is expected to be low but flooding may still occur during the season and could cause additional damages.

Source of charts: FAO SWALIM
**Market Prices**

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<th>January-June 2020</th>
<th>July-December 2020 Outlook</th>
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<td>• Compared to the US Dollar, the Somali Shilling remained stable in most markets of central and southern Somalia but depreciated in northeast regions. The Somaliland Shilling appreciated.</td>
<td>• Somali Shilling and Somaliland Shilling will likely to be stable with slight fluctuations in northern markets.</td>
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<td>• Despite sharp increases in April and May, imported commodities prices were generally stable in most markets. Prices decreased in northwest markets due to appreciation of the Somaliland Shilling.</td>
<td>• Expected below average 2020 <em>Deyr</em> season rainfall will likely lead to tightening of cereal supply from local production (especially maize), will likely put upward pressure on cereal prices.</td>
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<td>• Maize price was significantly higher compared to last year and the five-year average due to a tight supply situation that followed the below average 2020 <em>Gu</em> harvest. However, sorghum prices are close to average due to carryover stocks from the above average 2019 <em>Deyr</em> season harvest.</td>
<td>• Prices of imported food items (rice, flour, vegetable oil and sugar) will likely be stable due to favorable global supplies and low fuel oil prices.</td>
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<td>• Livestock prices are above average to average in many markets across the country due to availability of pasture and water, good livestock body condition and sustained demand for export and local consumption.</td>
<td>• Livestock prices likely to decline but remain at above average levels, mainly due to a sluggish demand for livestock, following the end of the peak export period</td>
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The 2020 Gu season cereal production in southern Somalia is estimated at **74,000 tons**, including **11,500 tons** of off-season harvest expected late Sep/Oct 2020. The 2020 Gu harvest in southern Somalia is **40 percent** lower than the long-term average for 1995-2019.

The main factors for the 2020 Gu cereal production decline in southern Somalia include: successive and severe flooding, erratic rainfall and a prolonged dry spell and insecurity/conflict.

In northwest regions, the 2020 Gu/Karan cereal production (harvest expected in November) is estimated at **22,500 MT**. This is **45 percent** lower than the average for 2010-2019, mainly due to erratic rainfall.

Despite ongoing control efforts, Desert Locust has caused significant damage to crops (cereals and vegetables) and fruit trees in northwest regions, especially in Togdheer and W. Galbeed.
Impact on Pasture and Water Availability

- Carryover water and pasture from the 2019 Deyr season supported livestock through the dry Jilaal (January-March 2020) season. Despite some Desert Locust damage in northern and central regions, heavy 2020 Gu season rainfall in April through mid-May and Hagaa/Karan rains in July-September have moderated the impact and replenished pasture and browse across most regions.

- In most parts of the country, current pasture, browse and water availability is adequate to support livestock at least through the start of the 2020 Deyr season rainfall in October. However, pasture and water availability will likely decline towards the end of the year due to the anticipated below average Deyr season rainfall.
Impact on Livestock Production and Productivity

• As a result of favorable pasture and water conditions, conception among small ruminants (sheep and goats) is Medium to high. Conception among large ruminants (camels and cattle) is Low to Medium as most of them have already conceived during the preceding (2019 Deyr) season and they have longer gestation periods.

• Lambing/kidding and calving follow a similar trend for the same reasons: Medium to High for sheep and goats and Low to Medium for camels and cattle.

• Milk production and availability is below average in northern and central regions due to limited number of milking/lactating animals. This is due to both (1) low to medium calving during the season and (2) below baseline livestock holdings in most rural livelihoods that have yet to recover from the extended cumulative impact of previous droughts. On the other hand milk availability is average to above average in southern Somalia, except in Gedo where milk availability is low due to less favorable pasture and browse conditions.

• Milk availability is expected to increase through the end of the year as animals that conceived during the 2019 Deyr and 2020 Gu season are expected to give birth, leading to Medium to High kidding/lambing and calving.

• Reported livestock holding among poor pastoral households increased or remained stable compared to the 2019 Deyr. Further increases are expected towards the end of the year due to the anticipated Medium to High kidding/lambing and calving between now and December 2020.

• By the end of the year, livestock holding among poor pastoral households will still remain below baseline in northern and central Somalia but reach baseline or above baseline levels in southern Somalia.
Rainfall in September 2020 and Forecast for October

Rainfall in September was mostly confined to northern regions. This is beneficial for Gu/Karan crops and replenishment of pasture and water in the region.

Northern regions received above average to average rainfall in September.

Forecast for the next two weeks indicates the possibility of rainfall mainly in central region but also in adjacent parts of northern and southern Somalia.
In Somalia, Desert Locust infestation has been mostly confined to northern and central regions since the beginning of 2020.

Government-led control operations are making good progress against Desert Locust swarms in Somaliland and Puntland. Despite ongoing control efforts, Desert Locust has caused damage to cereal crops, vegetables, fruit trees and pasture in northern and central regions.

An increasing number of adult groups were reported in the central region (Galgadud) around mid-September.

By late September, an increasing number of swarms have been reported in northern Somalia, including cross-border movements between northwest Somalia and eastern Ethiopia.

As prevailing winds coming from the north become established over the Horn of Africa, there will be an increased threat of swarm migration from Yemen, northeast Ethiopia and northern Somalia south towards eastern Ethiopia and central Somalia in October.

As a result, latest forecasts indicate the highest (Dangerous) level of Desert Locust risk for Somalia between October and November/December 2020. This is expected to exacerbate the impact of a below average 2020 Deyr season rainfall on Deyr season crop production and availability of pasture.
Overall 893,000 people were displaced between January and August 2020, mainly due to floods (71%) and insecurity/conflict (20%).

- Most of the displacements occurred between April and August, mainly driven by floods. Although flood related displacements tend to only last 1-3 months, they have a lasting impact on the food security and livelihoods of those who have been affected.

- Most of the population displacements occurred in Hiran, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Gedo, Bay and Banadir regions. While most population displacement are internal (within regions), there have also been displacements to other regions (e.g. from Shabelle to Mogadishu (Banadir).

- Flooding and insecurity/conflict related displacements have contributed to lower crop production in Hiran, Middle and Lower Shabelle regions.
Remittances Among Urban and IDP Households

- The proportion of Urban and IDP households who reported receiving external remittances between April/May and July 2020 is not more than 15%, except in Hargeisa Urban (28%) and Beletweyne Urban (18%).

- Relatively more urban households than IDP and rural household reported receiving remittances between April/May and July 2020. Average amounts were also higher among urban households.

- Amounts received by IDP households (US $0 to US $200) are also lower compared to those received by urban (US $75 to US $397).

- A majority of urban and IDP households who received remittances reported a 10-30 percent decline in remittances compared to what they typically/normally receive.
Remittances Among Rural Households

The proportion of rural households who reported receiving external remittances between April/May and July 2020 is not more than 10%.

Amounts received by rural households ranged from US $1 to US $167.

A majority of rural households who received remittances reported a 10-30 percent decline in remittances compared to what they typically/normally receive.
Humanitarian Assistance and Government Support

Food Assistance Coverage: January to August 2020 (FSC Data)

- Food assistance reached **1.6 million** to **2.3 million** people between April and August or an average of **1.8 million** people per month.
- Nutrition assistance to acutely malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) reached **253 200** to **321 700** people between April and August or an average of **293 700** 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 (Baxnano/resilience, reached **264 000 people** between January and June 2020 ($20/month/HH).

Government support to alleviate the economic impact of COVID-19:

- **FGS:** 100% tax exemption on rice and dates; 50% tax exemption on wheat flour and cooking oil.
- **Somaliland:** 20% tax exemption on the importation of wheat flour, cooking oil, sugar, and pasta.

Large scale and sustained humanitarian assistance (food security and nutrition) and government support have contributed to preventing the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes across many parts of Somalia.
Based on results of the 2020 Post Gu assessment, an estimated **849,900** children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden) face acute malnutrition between September 2020 and August 2021, including **143,400** who are likely to be severely malnourished.

This reflects a slight improvement in the overall nutrition situation and outlook compared to 2019 Gu and 2019 Deyr due to several factors, including increased access to milk, low morbidity and increased humanitarian assistance.
Key Food Security Related Findings

• The 2020 Gu season rainfall has been favorable in most pastoral areas, with a positive impact on the food security and livelihoods of pastoral households. Some of the poor pastoral households in northern and central Somalia continue to face moderate to large food consumption gaps as they have limited number of livestock to help them cope with the various shocks both during the current and projection periods.

• In agropastoral livelihoods of Somalia that have been affected by erratic rainfall, extended dry spell and Desert Locust, the 2020 Gu season cereal harvest and agricultural employment have been affected significantly. As a result, some of the poor agropastoral households in these regions face moderate to large food consumption gaps both during the current and projection periods.

• In riverine livelihoods of southern Somalia, devastating floods during the 2020 Gu season have destroyed farm land, planted crops, and population displacement, leading to a significant declines in crop harvest, loss of agricultural employment opportunities. As a consequence, a significant proportion of poor households in riverine livelihoods face moderate to large food consumption gaps both during the current and projection periods.

• Internally displaced persons (IDPs), a majority of whom are poor and live in urban areas in desperate conditions, with limited livelihood assets and options and greater reliance on external humanitarian assistance. As a result, a significant proportion of IDPs continue to face moderate to large food consumption gaps. Some of the urban poor across Somalia who struggle to make ends meet also continue to face moderate to large food consumption gaps. For both groups (i.e. IDPs and urban poor), the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 was a factor (decline in remittances, increased food prices, decline in employment and income earning opportunities in urban areas).
Due to multiple shocks facing Somalia since early 2020, the projected number of people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (i.e. IPC Phase 3 & 4) were **2.7 million** (Apr-Jun 2020) and **3.5 million** (Jul-Sep 2020). Most of these needs (75%) were in urban areas due to the anticipated significant socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on urban populations (including IDPs).

Based on results of the 2020 Post Gu assessments, the estimated number of people in urgent need is **1.3 million** (Jul-Sep 2020), even in the presence of humanitarian assistance. Considering various risk factors, this number is expected to increase to **2.1 million** (Oct-Dec 2020), in the absence of food assistance.
Key Messages

• In conclusion, current and projected levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia remain high although both the magnitude and severity are lower compared to earlier projections. This is in part due to support provided by government and large scale and sustained humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian assistance (food security and nutrition) and government support have prevented the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes across many parts of Somalia.

• Between now and the end of the year (October-December 2020), an estimated 2.1 million (i.e. people in IPC Phases 3 & 4) people face food consumption gaps due to multiple risk factors. Ongoing humanitarian assistance must be scaled up and sustained through December 2020 to address the urgent needs of the people who are likely to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

• Livelihoods support is also required for people that are likely to be Stressed or worse (IPC Phase 2 or higher). Population in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) could slide into Crisis or Emergency when they are unable to cope with shocks.

• An estimated 849,900 children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden) face acute malnutrition over the next 12 months (Jul 2020-Jun 2021), including 143,400 likely to be severely malnourished. Urgent nutrition and health support is required to address their needs. Urgent health and nutrition support is also required for areas with high prevalence of acute maternal malnutrition.

• Ongoing nutrition interventions should be sustained and expanded to areas that currently have low coverage. Sustained and integrated humanitarian interventions must include enhancing the coverage of health and nutrition services (treatment and prevention) as well as nutrition sensitive programming with special focus on resilience and prevention.

• Final note: Humanitarian needs could increase further in 2021 due to the influence of a La Nina that is currently developing (75% chance through Feb 2021). Potential drought conditions will likely develop as a result of below average 2020 Deyr (Oct-Dec), a harsh 2021 dry Jilaal (Jan-Mar) season and a possible delay and/or poor performance of the 2021 Gu (Apr-Jun). The continued presence and Desert locust could also exacerbate the situation.
Thank you

Somalia IPC Core Team Members: FSNAU/FAO, FEWS NET, WFP/VAM, Food Security Cluster