Somalia 2021 Post Gu Food Security and Nutrition Outcomes and Projections

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During the 2021 Gu (Apr-Jun) season, 100-200 mm rainfall totals were recorded in southern and north-western regions; 50-100 mm recorded in large parts of central and north-eastern areas; with the least amount (25-50 mm) reported in Bari region.

Relative to average rainfall, rainfall deficit ranging 25-100 mm were observed in most parts southern and northeast and some parts of central regions. Rainfall totals were equivalent to 50-80% of the long-term average in many areas, except in northwest regions which received average or above average levels although both temporal and spatial distribution was poor.

River flooding was reported in Jowhar district in May and in August, leading to disruptions in the transport network and access to markets in flood-affected areas and increased propagation of water-borne diseases.
Forecast issued by the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) through IGAD/ICPAC in late August 2021 indicated a greater likelihood of below normal Deyr (Oct-Dec 2021) season rainfall in most parts of Somalia and average rainfall in Sool and Sanaag (northwest) and Bari and Nugaal (northeast) regions.

Below average Hays (Dec-Jan) rainfall was also considered likely in northwestern Somalia.

The onset of the 2021 Deyr rains is also likely to be delayed by one to three weeks in Most parts of Somalia.

Warmer than average temperatures are likely between October and December over most parts of Somalia.
• In the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) region, La Niña is usually associated with drought conditions and El Niño with flooding. GHA climate is also influenced by the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD).

• Latest forecasts from C3S/ECMWF (EU) and NMME (USA) indicates that drier than normal conditions are expected during October – December in most parts of Somalia except some northern regions (Bari, Nugal, Sanaag and Sool) that are likely to receive near average rainfall.

• Based on assumptions of increasing La Niña conditions, near average sea surface temperature and negative IOD will likely persist through November, There is also greater likelihood (54-66%) of a below-average rainfall in March to April 2022 (start of Gu season rainfall in Somalia),
Market Prices

January-July 2021

• The Somali/Somaliland Shilling were stable in most markets against the US dollar.

• However, the local Somali Shilling in the northeast (Puntland) continued to depreciate due excess supply and rejection by traders (reduced demand).

• Prices of both local and imported food prices have been increasing in recent months mainly due to poor 2021 Gu season harvest prospects and inflationary pressures (both internal and external).

• There have also been significant increase in the Cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (CMB) related to increasing prices of items in the basket (mainly food).

August-December 2021 Outlook

• The SOSH/SLSH exchange rate against USD are likely to remain stable in most markets, partly boosted by continued livestock exports. However, some exchange rate fluctuations is expected in northeast markets.

• A below average 2021 Gu harvest and expected below average 2021 Deyr season rainfall will likely tighten domestic cereal supply and put further upward pressure on prices.

• Sorghum and maize imports from Ethiopia will supplement supplies and moderate price increases in regions that are bordering Ethiopia.

• Food import (rice, flour and sugar) prices are expected to be high through end of 2021 from strong international prices.

• Livestock prices will likely follow a seasonal trend through December 2021 from improved livestock condition and productivity as well as increased exports. Livestock prices are expected to be close to or above the average in most markets.
The 2021 Gu season cereal production in southern Somalia is estimated at 48,900 tons, including 8,100 tons of off-season harvest expected in late September/Oct 2021. 2021 Gu harvest in southern Somalia is 60 percent lower than the long-term average for 1995-2020. It is the third lowest Gu harvest since 2010.

The lower production in 2021 Gu mainly reflects the impact of the poor rainfall, ongoing civil insecurity, river floods, shortage of farm inputs and pests.

In northwest regions, the 2021 Gu/Karan cereal production is expected to be harvested in November.

Based on preliminary assessments conducted in July, production is estimated to be 14,550 tons. This is 63 percent lower than the average for 2010-2020.

The production decline is mainly due to erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells and Desert Locust damage during the growing season.
After substantial deterioration since the beginning of the year, pasture, browse and water availability improved in many areas following intense rainfall between late April and mid-May.

However, pasture and browse availability is below average in most parts of central Somalia, Bakool, Gedo, Middle Juba and Lower Juba regions. Pasture is also below average to poor in coastal parts of Bari and Nugaal regions.

Abnormal livestock migration from Gedo to adjacent areas in Ethiopia and from coastal areas of Nugaal and North Mudug to Hawd near the Ethiopian border have been reported.

Observed improvements in pasture and water availability that followed increased rainfall in late April and early May are expected to be short-lived in the northeast and parts of the southern regions, due to early cessation of the Gu rains and overgrazing as livestock congregate in areas with relatively better pasture.
Impact on Livestock Production and Productivity

• Conception among livestock has been Low to Medium during 2021 Gu season, partly due to the impact of below average rainfall during the season. Livestock lambing, kidding and calving have also been Low to Medium.

• Milk production and availability is near average to poor in northern and central regions but mostly average in southern Somalia, except in Gedo and Bakool regions where milk availability is low due to poor pasture and browse conditions.

• Further decline of milk availability is expected through the end of 2021 due to anticipated low camel and cattle calving in most of the country and a likely below average 2021 Deyr season rainfall.

• As of July 2021, livestock holding among poor pastoral households is lower in most of the pastoral livelihoods in the country compared to reported holdings in December 2020. Further decreases are expected towards the end of the year due to the anticipated Low calving between now and increased off-take to cover rising food and other costs.

• By December 2021, Livestock holding among poor pastoral households will remain below baseline in central and most parts of northern Somalia but near baseline to baseline levels in most southern regions.

• However, livestock holding among poor pastoralists in Gedo region are expected to decline to below baseline levels as drought conditions in this region worsen.
• After limited damage to pasture was reported in localized areas of Puntland and Somaliland in February, Desert Locust upsurge had significantly declined in March and April. Ongoing control operations, coupled with poor rainfall that was less conducive to hatching, led to declining Desert Locust swarms.

• However, some swarms and adult groups are still present in parts of Somaliland and Puntland.

• As vegetation dries out in September, some of the swarms from hard-to-reach areas in northeast Ethiopia (due to the ongoing conflict in/around Afar Region) are expected to migrate eastwards to northern Somalia, mature, and lay eggs with the onset of seasonal rains in October. This poses a threat to both pasture and crops during the Deyr season.

• Therefore, ongoing surveillance and control measures in Somalia should be maintained at least through the end of the year.
Overall, nearly 537,000 persons were displaced between Jan and July 2021, mainly due to insecurity/conflict (72%), lack of livelihoods and drought (15%) and floods (11%).

Most of the insecurity related displacements occurred in February, April while floods related displacement occurred in May.

Most of the population displacements occurred in Banadir, Bay and Gedo (insecurity) and Middle Shabelle (floods).

Insecurity/conflict and floods related displacements have contributed to lower crop production in Hiran, Middle and Lower Shabelle regions and restricted livestock migration options (Hiran, Galgaduud and Sool).  

Displacements due to armed conflict and political tensions, drought, and lack of livelihoods are expected to continue through late 2021, further exacerbating food insecurity in many areas.
Proportion of households who reported receiving remittances is fairly low (<10%) among most population groups surveyed. Exceptions are Mogadishu urban (23%), Hargeisa urban (19%), rural Bay Agropastoral (13%), and Galkayo urban (10%).

A majority of recipients (60-69%) reported at least 10-20% decline in amounts received compared to normal (typical).
Key Nutrition Related Findings

- Acute malnutrition remains high in many parts of Somalia.

- Critical prevalence of acute malnutrition persisted in Shabelle Riverine livelihood and among IDPs in Mogadishu since 2019 Deyr due to high morbidity and reduced food access.

- Morbidity: Out of a total of 40 surveyed population groups, 18 recorded high morbidity prevalence (≥ 20%). Highest morbidity was reported in Bay Agropastoral (41.0%), Baidoa IDPs (34.5%), Mogadishu IDPs (29.7%), Beletwein Urban (34.2%) and Juba Cattle Pastoral (28.7 %). Vitamin A Supplementation and Measles Vaccination remain Low (<40%) in several population groups.

- Current acute malnutrition situation is projected to worsen among some population groups:
  - Serious to Critical among Baidoa IDPs, Bay Agro-pastoral and Hiran Region
  - Alert to Serious among Coastal Deeh Pastoral in Central, Garowe IDPs, Baidoa urban and Dollow urban
  - Other areas may also worsen but will likely sustain current acute malnutrition IPC Phase.

- Population groups with Critical or worse level of acute malnutrition in the current or projection period are considered Hotspot Areas required urgent humanitarian response. These are: Shabelle Riverine, Gedo Riverine, Juba Riverine, Juba Cattle Pastoral, Hiran Region (including urban and IDPs), Pastoral population in Elberde district, Hawd Pastoral of Central regions, Mogadishu IDPs, Galkacyo IDPs and Bosasso IDPs.

- The nutrition situation in the above hotspot areas calls for urgent and sustained humanitarian interventions in the form of integrated nutrition but also include nutrition sensitive programs with special focus on resilience and prevention.

- Coverage of health and nutrition services (both treatment and prevention), including vitamin A supplementation and measles vaccination should be expanded, especially in areas where coverage is currently low.
Nutrition Outcomes and Projections

- Based on results of the 2021 Post Gu assessment and revised population figures (15.7 million total), an estimated 1.2 million children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden) face acute malnutrition between August 2021 and July 2022, including 213,400 likely to be severely malnourished.
Food Assistance Coverage: January to June 2021 (FSC Data)

- Food assistance reached **1.4 million** to **2 million** people between January to June 2021 or an average of **1.6 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 (Baxnano/resilience, reached **440 900 people** between January to June 2021 ($20/month/HH).

- Life-saving curative and preventive services have been implemented at scale under the Nutrition Cluster between January and June 2021.

- Sustained humanitarian assistance and government support have contributed to preventing the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes in northern and central parts of Somalia.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of boys and girls 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treated</td>
<td>140 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of boys and girls 6-59 months with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treated</td>
<td>327 700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of PLW with acute malnutrition treated</td>
<td>100 600</td>
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In many pastoral livelihood zones, poor households will face moderate to large food consumption gaps through late 2021 due to below-average or poor milk availability, a limited number of saleable animals, and increased indebtedness related to increased expenditures on food and water.

In agropastoral livelihood zones, where the main shocks include erratically distributed rainfall and conflict, poor households have experienced substantial crop losses and low income from agricultural employment. Consequently, a significant proportion of poor households in riverine areas will also face moderate to large food consumption gaps through late 2021.

A majority of the estimated 2.9 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across Somalia are poor with limited livelihood assets, few income-earning opportunities, low communal support and high reliance on external humanitarian assistance. As a result, a significant proportion of IDPs (in both rural and urban settlements) face moderate to large food consumption gaps through late 2021. Some of the urban poor across Somalia also continue to face moderate to large food consumption gaps over the same period, partly due to a slowdown in economic activities in urban areas and the rising costs of food and other essential non-food items.

More than 2.2 million people face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes in the presence of planned and likely humanitarian assistance during the July to September 2021 period. An additional 3.4 million people are Stressed (IPC Phase 2), bringing the total number of people experiencing acute food insecurity to 5.6 million.

From October to December 2021, food insecurity is expected to further deteriorate among poor rural, urban, and displaced populations due to the impacts of anticipated, below-average 2021 Deyr (October-December) season rainfall, continued insecurity and other food security related risk factors, including rising food prices and cost of living, declining availability of milk for both consumption and sale, and a likely reduction in agricultural employment opportunities during the forthcoming Deyr season. Without sustained humanitarian food assistance, 3.5 million people across Somalia are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes between October and December 2021. An additional 3.7 million people are expected to be Stressed (IPC Phase 2), bringing the total number of people facing acute food insecurity to 7.2 million.

Sustained humanitarian assistance and government support have contributed to preventing the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes in northern and central parts of Somalia.
People in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4): 2.2 Million

2021 Post Gu (Jul-Sep 2021)

Based on results of the 2021 Post Gu assessments and revised population figures (15.7 million total), the estimated number of people in urgent need is currently **2.2 million** (Jul-Sep 2021), even in the presence of humanitarian assistance.

• Considering various risk factors (likely below average 2021 Deyr season rainfall and other food security related risk factors), the number of people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance (i.e. IPC 3 and above) is expected to increase to **3.5 million** (Oct-Dec 2021) in the absence of humanitarian assistance.
Key Messages

• In conclusion, levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia remain high.

• An estimated 1.2 million children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden) face acute malnutrition between August 2021 and July 2022, including 213,400 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.

• Coverage of health and nutrition services (both treatment and prevention), including vitamin A supplementation and measles vaccination should be expanded, especially in areas where coverage is currently low.

• Currently (July-September 2021), an estimated 2.2 million people are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and need urgent humanitarian assistance. This number is expected to increase to 3.5 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between October and December 2021 due to multiple risk factors.

• Ongoing humanitarian assistance must be scaled up and sustained through the end of 2021 to address urgent needs. 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.

• Below average rainfall during the forthcoming October to December Deyr season could worsen the current situation and could potentially evolve into a major drought by early to mid-2022.
Additional information on the 2021 Post Gu seasonal food security and nutrition assessment results can be found at:

www.fsnau.org

Somalia IPC Core Team Members: