

SOMALIA Food Security Outlook

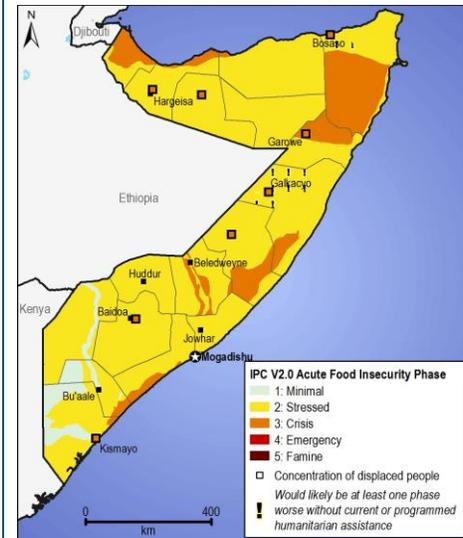
October 2016 to May 2017

Food security expected to deteriorate following forecast below-average Deyr rains

KEY MESSAGES

- It is estimated **1,371,500 people will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or higher between January and May 2017**. The key drivers of food insecurity during this time include forecast below-average October to December *Deyr* rains, driven by La Niña-like conditions, and the preceding poor *Gu* season. Below-average *Deyr* rains will lead to a second consecutive season of lower than normal production and continued poor livestock body conditions. Food insecurity is expected to be highest in agropastoral areas of southern and central Somalia and in Northern Inland Pastoral and Guban Pastoral livelihood zones.
- In southern Somalia, rangeland conditions are significantly below average. Pasture and water resources failed to adequately restore during the poor April to June *Gu* season. The dry and hot July to September *Xagaa* season drove faster than usual depletion of rangeland resources and conditions continue to deteriorate given the delay of *Deyr* rains. As of mid-October, eMODIS Normalized Vegetation Index (NDVI), a measure of green vegetation, is at its lowest levels in the past five years in all southern regions.
- Near-average June to September *Karan* rains in agropastoral and pastoral areas of the Northwest are expected to lead to an above-average *Karan* harvest in November, increasing food security in these regions. Northwestern agropastoral livelihood zone will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) throughout the outlook period.

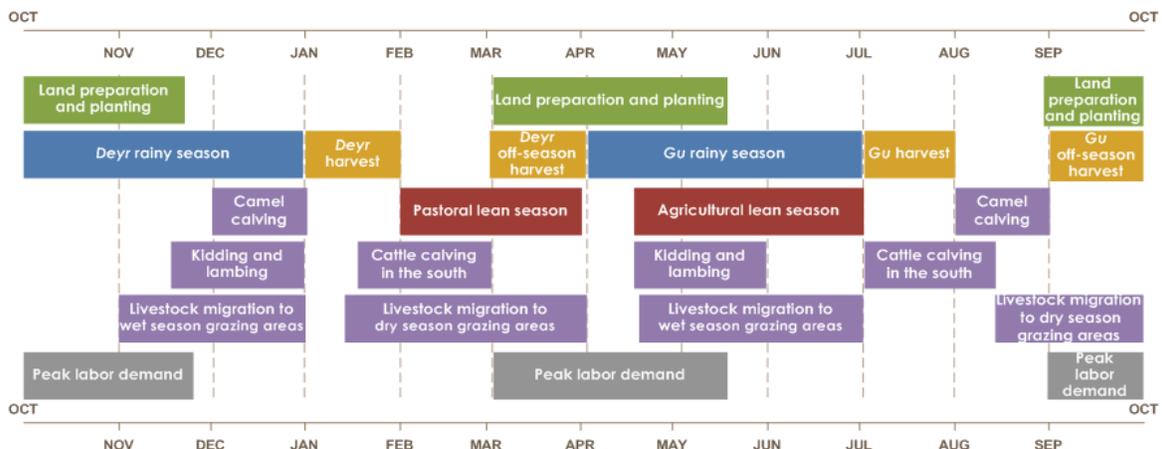
Current food security outcomes, October 2016



Source: FEWS NET

This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click [here](#).

SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR



Source: FEWS NET

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

Based on the Post-*Gu* 2016 Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis, conducted in July/August by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), and partners, an estimated 1,096,000 people will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 43,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between August and December 2016. An additional 3,900,000 people are classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2). The key drivers of current food insecurity include poor March to May *Gu* rains that led to below-average production and poor livestock body conditions and ongoing conflict that has caused trade disruptions and displacement.

Since the Post-*Gu* analysis, most of Somalia remained seasonally dry during the July to September *Xagaa* season. However, rainfall fell in the Northwest, which typically receives July to September *Karan* rains, and along the southern coast, which receives July to September *Xagaa* rains.

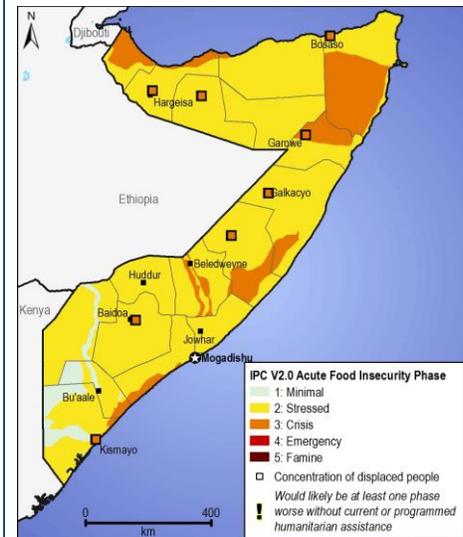
- In the **Northwest**, near normal *Karan* rains fell from July to September in most areas of Northwestern Agropastoral and West Golis Pastoral livelihood zones. Although Guban Pastoral livelihood zone does not typically receive *Karan* rains, some rainfall precipitated in Zeylac and western Lughaya District of this livelihood zone. Northern Inland Pastoral and Hawd Pastoral livelihood zones remained seasonally dry.
- In the **Northeast**, most areas remained seasonally dry, although light showers fell in late September in pockets of East Golis and Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zones in Bari.
- **Central regions** remained seasonally dry during the July to September *Xagaa* season.
- In the **South**, the July to September *Xagaa* rains in coastal and adjacent agropastoral areas were significantly below normal. Most areas of Lower and Middle Juba and Lower Shabelle received only erratic, light to moderate rains. The rest of southern Somalia remained seasonally dry.

Deyr rainfall typically starts in early to mid-October, and by the end of October most areas of the country have received between 30 and 80 mm of rainfall. However, as of October 20, little to no rainfall has been received in most parts of the country (Figure 1).

- In the **Northwest**, localized, light rainfall has precipitated in a few areas of Hawd, East Golis, and Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zones in Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer, Sanaag, and Sool.
- In the **Northeast**, light rainfall with poor spatial distribution fell in parts of Bari, but it has not rained in Nugal or north Mudug.
- In **central regions**, light rains with poor frequency and distribution were received in localized areas in Central Agropastoral (Cowpea Belt), Addun Pastoral, and Hawd Pastoral livelihood zones.
- In the **South**, localized areas of Hiran, Bay, Bakool, and Gedo received light showers. However, most southern areas have yet to receive any rainfall.

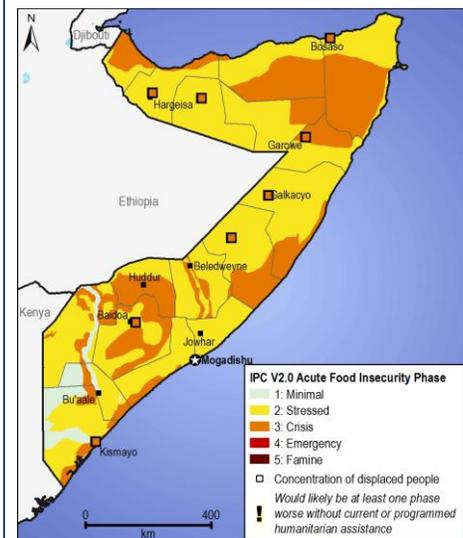
Pasture availability is significantly below average in many parts of the country, as shown by the eMODIS Normalized Vegetation Index (NDVI), a measure of green vegetation (Figure 2). The exception to this is in isolated northern areas.

Projected food security outcomes, October 2016 to January 2017



Source: FEWS NET

Projected food security outcomes, February to May 2017

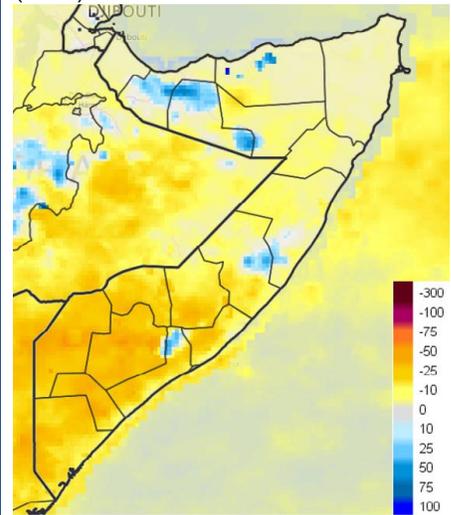


Source: FEWS NET

This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click [here](#).

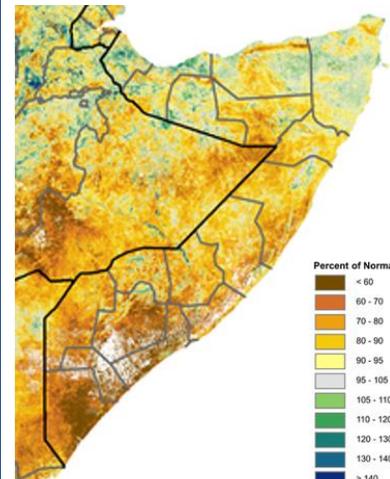
- In **the Northwest**, due to near-normal *Karan* rains, pasture and water availability are at average levels in most parts of Northwestern Agropastoral and West Golis Pastoral livelihood zones. However, pasture conditions in most pastoral areas of Togdheer, Sanaag, and Sool remain poor. Water prices in Sool have increased: A 20-liter jerrycan in Sarmanyo village increased from SOS 3,000 in July to SOS 4,125 in August. However, this is below the five-year average is SOS 4,925. In most parts of Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, little to no rainfall has been received throughout 2016 and pasture and water resources are far worse than in recent years.
 - Livestock body conditions and milk production are both near normal in Northwestern Agropastoral and West Golis Pastoral livelihood zones. However, livestock body conditions are very poor in Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone and most parts of Guban Pastoral livelihood zone.
- In **the Northeast**, the cumulative impact of poor April to June *Gu* rainfall, the hot and dry *Xagaa* season, and delay of *Deyr* rains has led to poor rangeland. In September, unusual livestock deaths due to starvation were reported. Despite some localized rainfall in pockets of Qardho, Calula, and Qandala in late September and early October, pasture and water resources have not significantly improved. Water prices in Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone have increased significantly: In Rako village of Qardho District, a 20-liter jerry can of water increased from SOS 6,000 in July to 10,400 in August, significantly above the five-year average of SOS 4,100.
 - Livestock body conditions are poor throughout the Northeast due to limited availability of pasture and water. The poorest livestock body conditions are in Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone, where increased cases of drought-related livestock disease and small ruminant abortions have recently been reported.
- In **central regions**, hot and strong winds during the July to September *Xagaa* season accelerated the deterioration of pasture and water conditions in Addun Pastoral, Hawd Pastoral, and Coast Deeh Pastoral livelihood zones. Localized light *Deyr* rainfall has been insufficient to adequate restore rangeland.
 - In central areas, livestock body conditions are atypically poor, having deteriorated faster than normal during the *Xagaa* season.
- In **the South**, rangeland conditions are significantly below average. Pasture and water resources failed to adequately restore during the April to June *Gu* season, as rainfall was poor. The dry July to September *Xagaa* season then drove faster than usual depletion of rangeland. In Juba riverine areas, pasture and water resources are atypically depleting due to abnormal livestock migration to the area from other pastoral areas of Juba and Gedo. Furthermore, increased demand for fodder is incentivizing traders to sell pasture from Juba riverine areas. Vegetation deterioration is ongoing given the delay of *Deyr* rains. As of mid-October in all southern regions, NDVI conditions are at their lowest levels in the past five years.
 - Due to the flood plains in riverine areas, adequate pasture and water resources have supported average livestock body conditions and normal milk production in riverine areas of Hiran, Gedo, Middle and Lower Shabelle, Middle and Lower Juba, and Bay. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to migrate livestock to these areas due to limited pasture and no water along the trekking route. In other areas, livestock conditions are poor. A higher than normal level of livestock disease was reported in Juba Cattle Pastoral livelihood zone.

Figure 1. Rainfall anomaly in millimeters (mm) from 2001-2014 mean (RFE2), October 11-20, 2016



Source: [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\)/FEWS NET](#)

Figure 2. eMODIS Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) percent of normal from 2001-2010 mean, October 16-25, 2016



Source: [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\)/FEWS NET](#)

Crop performance and land preparation is ongoing in most areas of the country.

- In the **Northwest**, the July to September *Karan* rains in Northwestern agropastoral areas were near normal. Most areas of Awdal and Woqoyi Galbeed received average rains that supported crop development. However, rainfall was below average in September, which negatively impacted some crops, reducing yields from estimates made earlier in the season. According to the Somaliland Ministry of Agriculture, approximately 37,120 MT of sorghum and maize will be harvested in November. Although lower than previously estimates, this is still 66 percent above the five-year average.
- In the **central regions**, land preparation and dry planting is in progress for rainfed cowpeas.
- In the **South**, agricultural activities, including off-season harvesting, threshing, and land preparation, are ongoing in riverine areas of Hiran, Juba, and Lower Shabelle. The August/September off-season *Gu* harvest from riverine areas was poor due to below-average *Xagaa* rainfall, which did not lead to sufficient river flooding to support high off-season production. Approximately 5,750 MT of maize and 2,109 MT of sesame were harvested. Some households sold maize plants that were unable to reach maturity as fodder. Agricultural activities for *Deyr* production are ongoing.

Sorghum and maize prices have seasonally decreased in most areas, but remain higher than last year.

- In the **Northwest**, where the currency is the Somaliland Shilling (SLS), the *Karan* harvest has yet to enter markets and, as a result, cereal prices remain high. In Hargeisa, the price of yellow maize is 5,000 SLS/kg, 25 and 34 percent higher than September 2015 and the five-year average, respectively. Similarly, sorghum prices are 14 percent higher than September of last year and the five-year average.
- In **central and northeastern regions**, maize and sorghum prices are seasonally high and above last year. In Abudwak, the price of sorghum is 14,000 SOS/kg, 75 and 40 percent higher than last year and the five-year average, respectively. The average price across regional markets is 17 percent above last year, but similar to the five-year average.
- In the **South**, cereal prices seasonally declined between August and September, as supplies from the *Gu* main and off-season harvests entered markets. Most cereal prices were either similar to last year or slightly above. The price of white maize in Qoryoley of Lower Shabelle is 28 percent higher than a year ago, while the price of red sorghum in Baidoa of Bay is similar to last year. Although above last year, prices remain similar to, or below, the five-year average. This is due in part to very high prices in 2011 that drive up the five-year average.
- However, in areas with limited local production and conflict-related disruptions to trade movements, prices are much higher. In September in Luuq of Gedo, the price of maize was 13,000 SOS/kg and the price of sorghum was 12,000 SOS/kg. Similarly, in Sakow of Middle Juba, the price of maize was 9,000 SOS/kg and in Beletweine of Hiran the price of sorghum was 11,500 SOS/kg. These prices are between 40 and 60 percent above their respective five-year averages. They are also nearly double the price of cereals in Qoryoley of Lower Shabelle or Baidoa of Bay.
- The price of imported foods such as vegetable oil, wheat flour, and rice have generally remained stable since early 2015. September prices of most of these items were 10-30 percent lower than their five-year averages.

Livestock prices are seasonally high in most regions of the country, given high export demand for the *Hajj*. Goat prices in most regions are similar to both last year and the five-year average. However, in Middle and Lower Juba, livestock prices have been declining since June and are 23 percent below the five-year average. This is due to oversupply in riverine markets, as many households are selling additional animals to purchase food and animal drugs from the market.

- Household purchasing capacity, measured by terms of trade (ToT), is above average in most areas. In Baidoa of Bay, a day of casual labor in September bought 18 kg of red sorghum, a 20 percent increase from the five-year average. In Kismayo of Lower Juba, the daily labor wage bought 20 kg of white maize in September, up from the five-year average of 14 kg. Similar trends exist throughout Somalia, although exceptions are noted in the areas of concern.
- Similarly, the goat-to-cereal ToT in most pastoral areas in the central and northern regions was similar to September of last year and above the five-year average. In September in Galkayo of Mududg, the sale of local quality goat bought 76 kg of rice, up from 70 kg in September 2015. Similarly, in Togwajaale of Waqqoyi Galbeed, the sale of a goat bought 69 kg of red rice, similar to last year but up from the five-year average of 64 kg. The exception to this is Lower and Middle Juba where the livestock to cereals terms of trade are around 35 percent below average.
- Conflict in southern and central regions has increased from last year. In particular, interclan conflict in Galkacyo has resulted in the loss of assets and human lives. Humanitarian agencies in Galkacyo estimated that over 75,000 people have been displaced. In addition, 40,000 displaced people living in Galkacyo have faced temporary displacement from

their settlements and moved to the nearby villages and small settlements. Insurgents and allied militias continue implementing road blockades, constraining trade and humanitarian access.

- From assessments conducted by the Kenyan Government and UNHCR in July and August, there were [263,000 Somali refugees in Dadaab in August](#), a reduction of 75,000 from the number of Somali residents in July. Approximately 18,110 returned to Somalia in 2016. In mid-August, more than 24,000 Somali refugees who left Dadaab were stranded near the border after Jubaland Administration stop receiving them, citing inadequate humanitarian support.

In many areas, favorable ToT and the arrival of the *Gu* harvest are supporting seasonal improvements in food access. However, in all areas but the Northwest, rangeland resources are deteriorating faster than normal and remain significantly below average. In many regions, NDVI is the worst on record in the past five years. Consequently, livestock body conditions are weakening. Furthermore, although the *Gu* harvest is supporting a seasonal decrease in staple food prices, local cereal prices are still higher than last year in most areas, given that the harvest was below average. Typically, the consumption of livestock products improves in October with the onset of *Deyr* rainfall; however, given that no significant rainfall has precipitated, milk production remains atypically low for October.

Most pastoral areas are Stressed (IPC Phase 2), as reduced livestock productivity is lowering milk consumption and income from sales. Many parts of Central Agropastoral (Cowpea Belt), Southern Rainfed Maize and Cattle, and Southern Agropastoral livelihood zones are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) because, in addition to the above factors impacting pastoral areas, poor households in agropastoral areas also had significantly poor *Gu* production. This is lowering food access and household income from crop sales. Many poor households in these areas also had below average harvests in 2015 and have remained atypically market dependent for many months. With low income from livestock and crop sales, many households in agropastoral areas are facing difficulty purchasing adequate food from markets. Additionally, Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone of Bari and Nugal and Guban Pastoral livelihood zone are also in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) due to several seasons of poor rainfall that has led to atypical livestock deaths, reducing poor household assets below sustainable levels. Most do not have sufficient saleable animals to fund food purchases. In Bossaso of Bari and Gaalkacyo of Mudug, high levels of humanitarian assistance are helping to maintain Stressed (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes. The most food secure area is Southern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone, which remains in Minimal (IPC Phase 1). In urban areas, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) persists in the conflict-affected areas of Hiiraan (Buloburte), Bakool (Hudur, Tayeglow and Wajid), Bay (Dinsor), and Lower Shabelle (Marka). In these regions, conflict has lowered trade flows, restricted market access, and limited the ability of households to move to pursue income-earning opportunities.

According to the Post-*Gu* assessment of 13 IDP settlements¹, food insecurity remains high among displaced populations. Of the estimated 1,200,000 IDPs in Somalia, approximately 638,000 are Crisis (IPC Phase 3). About 28,000 in Woqooyi Galbeed, Banadir, Bay, Gedo, and Juba are likely in Emergency (IPC 4). Poor or borderline food consumption, poor dietary diversity, and 'Series' (Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence 10-14.9 percent) to 'Critical' (GAM prevalence 15-30 percent) malnutrition levels were observed in these areas. Food insecurity remains high due to loss of livelihoods, significantly low asset holdings, few income-earning opportunities, and poor access to social services.

Assumptions

The October 2016 to May 2017 most likely scenario is based on the following national-level assumptions:

Seasonal forecast:

- As of mid-October, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported a 55-70 percent probability of La Niña (negative ENSO) conditions through mid-winter 2016/2017. Although conditions may not meet the operational definition for NOAA to declare an official La Niña, FEWS NET expects La Niña-like impacts on October to December rainfall. This is due to a combination of the ENSO conditions mentioned above and the ongoing negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), which typically exacerbates the effects of La Niña on rainfall over the Horn. As a result, below-average rainfall, with erratic onset and poor distribution, is expected in October and November. Given the forecast for a neutral IOD by December, rainfall is expected to be near average in December. Overall, cumulative *Deyr* rainfall is expected to be 10-25 percent below average (Figure 3).

¹ Baidoa (Bay), Banadir, Berbera (W.Galbeed), Bossaso (Bari), Burco (Togdheer), Dhusamareb (Galgaduud), Doble (I. Hoose), Dolow (Gedo), Galkayo (Mudug), Garowe (Nugaal), Hargeisa (W.Galbeed), Kismayo (L. Juba), Qardho (Bari)

- The December to January *Xeys* rains in East Golis and Guban Pastoral livelihood zones are forecast to be normal.
- The January to March *Jilaal* dry season is likely to be drier than usual, except in the Northwest, which received near normal *Karan* rains, and East Golis and Guban Pastoral livelihood zones, which will likely receive normal *Xeys* rains.
- La Niña-like conditions are expected to end in early 2017, as neutral ENSO conditions and a neutral IOD are both forecast. As a result, the March to June *Gu* rains are expected to be average and start on time.

Crop production and agricultural labor:

- The area planted for *Deyr* crops is likely to be below average. Although many farmers will seek to increase area cultivated, in an effort to increase food stocks following poor *Gu* production, increased cultivation efforts are likely to fail, given the erratic start of rainfall. Some farmers may experience early season crop losses and others may switch to cash crop cultivation. Agricultural labor demand will be atypically low through January.
- The January/February *Deyr* cereal harvest is expected to be below average. Consequently, cereal stocks available both in markets and at the household-level will be below normal throughout the outlook period.
- The *Deyr* cash crop harvest is likely to be below average. This is despite the fact that some farmers may switch to cash crop cultivation. However, production of cash crops is not expected to be as below average as *Deyr* cereal production given that cash crops require less moisture.
- The October/November *Gu/Karan* harvest in the Northwest is estimated to be 37,120 MT, 66 percent above the five-year average. Production is expected to replenish local markets and sustain household cereal needs through March.
- The March 2017 *Deyr* off-season harvest is expected to be below average as crops are at increased risk of moisture stress during the January to March *Jilaal* dry season, following poor October to December *Deyr* rainfall.

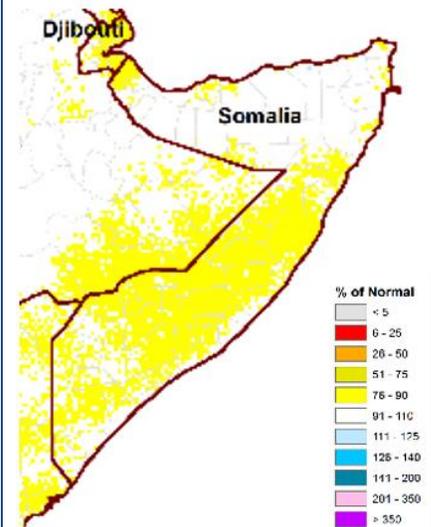
Livestock:

- In the Northwest, pasture and water resources are expected to remain typical throughout the outlook period, supporting normal livestock body conditions and productivity. In Guban Pastoral livelihood zone, where livestock conditions are currently poor, they are expected to continue to deteriorate until the start of *Xeys* rains in December. Accordingly, milk production will be below average to near average.
- In northeastern, central, and southern areas, pasture and water resources are expected to improve from October to December alongside *Deyr* rainfall, as 75 to 90 percent of average rainfall is sufficient to adequately restore rangeland. However, erratic rainfall could drive below-average conditions in some areas. Conditions will again deteriorate from January to March, before improving in April with *Gu* rainfall. Livestock body conditions and productivity are expected to be below normal throughout the outlook.
- Low to medium camel/cattle conception and calving rates are expected in most of the country in October/November due to low to medium camel and cattle conception rates last year. Furthermore, due to forecast below-average *Deyr* rainfall, medium to low sheep/goat conception and medium kidding/lambing rates are expected in most southern, central, and northeastern pastoral areas in September/October. In the Northwest and Southern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone of Juba, rates are expected to be average.

Markets and Trade:

- As a result of below-average *Gu* production, local cereal prices are expected to increase through December. Many traders are likely to keep stocks off the market until December, in anticipation of high profits proceeding the *Deyr* harvest. As a result, market supply is expected to be lower than normal from October to December, driving price increases. Additionally, many households have below-average personal stocks and market demand is expected to increase, also driving price increases. Prices are expected to seasonally decrease in early 2017, as *Deyr* production replenishes household and market stocks; however, given the expectation of below-average *Deyr* production, price

Figure 3. Expected percentage of normal rainfall, October to December



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

decreases will be minimal and it is expected prices will again increase from February through May.

- In the Northwest, local cereal prices are likely to remain around 3,600 SOS/kg, 3 to 5 percent above the five-year average. Prices are expected to decline in November as the *Karan* harvest enters markets, supporting price decreases to near or below the five-year average.
- Sorghum and maize imports from Ethiopia to northwestern regions are expected to decline in November, given the expectation of above-average *Gu/Karan* harvests, which will decrease the demand for cereal imports.
- In markets where increasing conflict is limiting trade and humanitarian movement, such as Dinsor and Wajid, market supplies of both locally produced and imported goods will be below normal. Prices are likely to remain high.
- Imported commodity prices will likely remain stable through April and then rise slightly in May as shipping is curtailed at the start of the monsoon season.
- Although rainfall is forecast to be sufficient to improve pasture and water resources, livestock body conditions, which are currently poor, will improve slowly. Livestock body conditions are likely to deteriorate more than normal during the January to March *Xagaa*, and prices are likely to be atypically low throughout the outlook period.

Humanitarian assistance:

- It is expected that emergency humanitarian assistance through WFP and FAO will continue through general food distributions and cash/voucher programs, most significantly in northern regions where access is less restricted. However, due to resource constraints, WFP has scaled back some programs, prioritizing the provision of emergency relief assistance and targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) programs for children under five.

Returnees

- The planning figure for voluntary returnees to Somalia in 2016 has been revised from 100,000 to 50,000, of which 18,110 have already returned.² It is expected the remaining individuals will return between now and December 2016, if additional resources to support movements are allocated. Most refugees are returning to Juba and Kismayo, where there are limited social services or income-earning opportunities.

Conflict:

- The conflict between Al-Shabaab and the Government supported by AMISOM in South/Central is likely to escalate during October/November elections, further constraining trade, population movement, and humanitarian access, and increasing population displacement and the loss of life and assets. The areas that are most likely to be impacted are Beletweyn, Kismayo, Mogadishu, Merka, and Baidoa because of their economic importance and strategic locations. Ongoing armed clashes between Al-Shabaab and AMISOM troops and the Somali Army are expected throughout the outlook period, and could increase in some regions as Ethiopian troops have started pulling out of Somalia.

Nutrition

- Based on analysis of the historical survey data from 2001-2016, malnutrition at the national level is typically 'Serious' (10-15 percent) from October to January. From February to May, malnutrition prevalence is normally 'Critical' (15-30 percent). Deterioration during these months is attributed to declining food stocks and seasonally low milk access. Despite expected below-average crop and livestock production throughout the outlook period, malnutrition is still expected to follow the above trends, due in part to chronic factors that contribute to acute malnutrition across seasons, including poor infant and young child feeding and low access to health and nutrition services.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

From October to January, food security is expected to increase seasonally, although many poor households in both agropastoral and pastoral areas throughout the country are still expected to face difficulty meeting their basic food and non-food needs and be Stressed (IPC Phase 2). In pastoral areas, livestock body conditions are expected to improve seasonally with the start of rainfall, improving milk production and, as a result, household consumption of livestock products. However, given the delay of rainfall, which has significantly impacted pasture conditions, body conditions are expected to improve slowly and milk production will likely be below average. In agropastoral areas, households will have

² Voluntary Repatriation of Somali Refugees from Kenya/Operations Strategy 2015-2019

seasonally increased access to income-earning opportunities with *Deyr* cultivation, but given forecast poor rainfall, labor demand will be below average. Households will also face above-average cereal prices, given that stocks on markets are low following poor *Gu* production. In January, the *Deyr* harvest will increase household food access, although less so than in a normal year. Areas already in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) are expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), as the forecast below-average season will not be sufficient to improve food security outcomes.

From February to May, food security is expected to deteriorate, and it is estimated 1,371,500 people will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or higher. The most significant deterioration in food security is expected in most southern and central agropastoral livelihood zones where Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions will exist. Household and market stocks will be below-average due to poor *Deyr* production. Households are expected to be atypically market dependent, but face higher prices with below-average incomes. Pastoral areas will be slightly better off as livestock body conditions are expected to improve at least slightly with *Deyr* rainfall and more significantly following normal March to May rainfall, increasing household income from the sale of livestock and livestock products and household consumption of milk. Riverine areas of Lower and Middle Juba and Lower Shabelle will benefit from recession cultivation in December that supports an off-season harvest in May, improving food consumption in these areas. Similarly, in the Northwest, the favorable *Karan* harvest is expected to support near normal consumption in northwestern agropastoral areas.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Southern Rainfed Agropastoral Livelihood Zone – Maize, Cattle & Goats in Lower Shabelle, Lower Juba, and Middle Juba

Current situation

Satellite imagery and field reports both indicate that Southern Rainfed Agropastoral Livelihood zone in Lower Shabelle, Middle Juba, and Lower Juba received below-average *Gu* rainfall amounts and rainfall was erratic in spatial and temporal distribution. Lower Shabelle received between 25 mm and 200 mm while Middle and Lower Juba received between 100 and 200 mm. This is significantly below the 300 to 400 mm that these areas typically receive during the *Gu* season. Rainfall was insufficient to support average crop development and rangeland conditions were only partially replenished.

As rains were below average, *Gu* 2016 cereal production in this livelihood zone was below the five-year average. Crops completely failed in Marka of Lower Shabelle and Jilib of Middle Juba, while production in Barawe and Kurtun Warey of Lower Shabelle was 57 percent below last year and around 40 percent below the five-year average. Production was more favorable in Kismayo and Jamame of Lower Juba, at 56 percent and 35 percent, respectively, above the five-year average.

Maize prices in key markets of Middle and Lower Juba have increased since March, and production was insufficient to push prices down to seasonal norms after July. The price for maize in Jilib of Middle Juba (9,750 SOS/kg) in August was 66 and 16 percent higher than both last year and five-year average while the price of maize in Jamame of Lower Juba (8,000 SOS/kg) was 67 and 15 percent higher than last year and the five-year average, respectively. Conversely, prices in Lower Shabelle are below average. In Marka of Lower Shabelle, the price of maize is six percent below last year and 27 percent below the five-year average. Despite failed agricultural production in this area, the market is primarily supplied by neighboring riverine production, which was only slightly below average. Prices have further decreased seasonally since August proceeding the off-season riverine maize harvest in September.

On average, poor households' stocks from own production lasted only one month and most are now atypically dependent on market purchases to access food. Agricultural labor and the sale of livestock are two main sources of income for poor households. Labor is slightly more important to livelihoods in Lower Shabelle and Middle Juba, whereas the sale of small livestock is slightly more important in Lower Juba. Currently, poor livestock-to-maize and labor-to-maize ToT are lowering household food access.

Agricultural labor wages in Barawe of Lower Shabelle fell by approximately 49 percent between the 2015 *Gu* season (42,500-68,750 SOS/day) and 2016 *Gu* season (21,250-38,750 SOS/day). Similarly, in Marka of Lower Shabelle, the wage rate is 36 percent below last year and 42 percent below the five-year average. Given that maize prices in Lower Shabelle are below average, poor labor-to-maize ToT are being driven by low wages (Figure 4). To cope, members of poor households are migrating to urban and riverine areas in search of labor and self-employment opportunities.

In Lower and Middle Juba, increasing cereal prices and falling goat prices are reducing livestock-to-maize ToT. In Jamame

of Lower Juba, the price of goats is 10 percent below last year and 21 percent below average. The goat-to-maize ToT in this market declined 46 percent from last year and 49 percent from average. Similar trends exist in other markets of Lower and Middle Juba (Figure 5).

Conversely, in Lower Shabelle, goat prices are either stable or increasing from average, attributed to sustained high demand in neighboring Mogadishu. In Marka, as a result of above-average goat prices and below-average maize prices, the goat-to-maize ToT are 19 percent higher than last year and 35 percent above the five-year average. Although the wage-to-cereal ToT is slightly more indicative of poor households' purchasing power in Lower Shabelle, some poor households in this region are able to sell small livestock and are benefiting from the favorable goat-to-maize ToT.

Food Security Outcomes

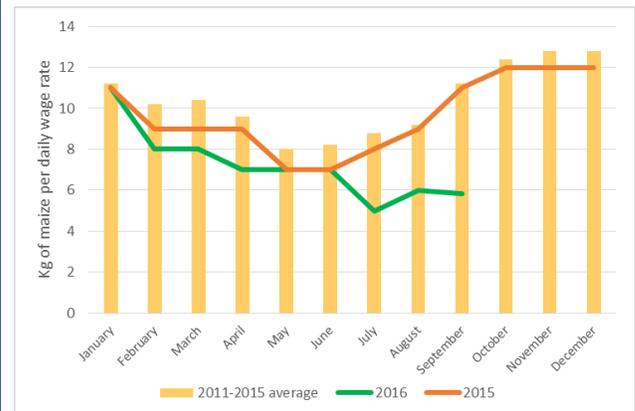
A July SMART survey conducted during the post-*Gu* assessment in Lower Shabelle recorded a GAM prevalence of 14.5 percent (11.0-19.0). Since the time of the survey, most poor households have exhausted household stocks and milk production is atypically low. As a result, it is likely nutrition has further deteriorated between July and October. In all districts except Kismayo and Jamame, poor households harvested below-average volumes of cereal during the *Gu* season and are heavily dependent on markets to access food. Lower than normal agricultural activities and above-average maize prices are lowering household purchasing capacity. In Lower and Middle Juba, falling goat prices are further limiting household income. Given ongoing dry conditions in October, it is expected livestock body conditions have further deteriorated and income from livestock sales is even lower than reflected in September prices. It is likely many households are accessing food from markets through increasing debt. It is unlikely poor households are able to access adequate food to meet basic needs and are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and experiencing food consumption gaps.

Assumptions

In addition to the national-level assumptions described above, the following assumptions have been used to develop the most-likely scenario through May 2017:

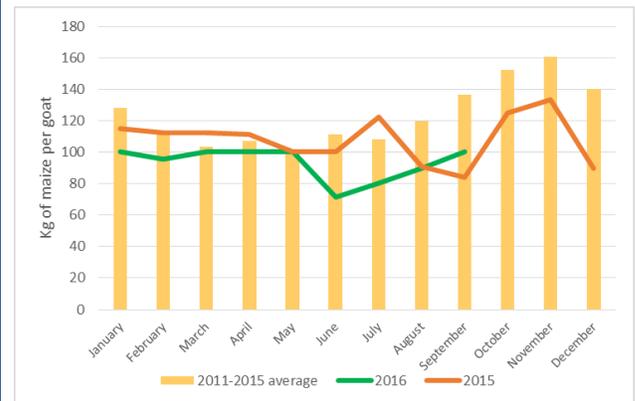
- These regions typically receive 150-200 mm of rainfall during the *Deyr* season, and rainfall is forecast to be 10-25 percent below average with erratic distribution. Although the variety of maize grown in this region is more drought resistant than typical maize varieties, the erratic and low volume of rain will still negatively impact development. Similarly, [the Water Requirement Satisfaction Index \(WRSI\)](#), an indicator of crop performance based on the availability of water during the growing season, is showing a high likelihood of maize cropping failure in this region.
- Given that rangeland is already significantly below average and poor *Deyr* rains are forecast, only slight pasture regeneration is expected during the outlook. Similarly, water levels in shallow wells are likely to remain low.
- As a result of below-average *Gu* harvests and likely below-average *Deyr* production, cereal supplies are expected to be lower than normal at both the market and household level. Prices are expected to reduce slightly in January and February with the arrival of the harvest, but then increase around late March. By May prices are expected to reach nearly 35 percent above average (10,200 SOS/kg) in Marka of Lower Shabelle and 135 percent (17,500 SOS/kg) above average in Jamame of Lower Juba.

Figure 4. Labor-to-maize ToT, Marka of Lower Shabelle



Source: FEWS NET/FSNAU

Figure 5. Goat-to-maize ToT, Kismayo of Lower Juba



Source: FEWS NET/FSNAU

- Some poor households are expected to atypically increase livestock sales from October through December, before price fall during January to March *Jilaal* season, to support increased cereal purchases. However, prices are expected to be below average, given poor livestock body conditions, reducing income from high sales. Atypically high sales are not expected between February to May, as demand becomes too low to support increased sales.
- Given the likelihood of below-average *Deyr* production, many poor households, especially in Lower and Middle Juba, will likely engage in increased sesame cropping and fodder production to increase income.
- Given expected low river water levels, competition over water for irrigation is expected. Many households upriver in Lower Shabelle are likely to create water blockages, reducing irrigation access and planting activities in downstream areas, affecting Qoryoley and Kurtunwarey of Marka District most significantly.
- It is expected insecurity will continue to negatively affect trade flows, market access, and humanitarian access.
- An analysis of the historical nutrition survey data conducted among agropastoral areas of Lower Shabelle from 2001-2016 indicates 'Serious' (10 to 15 percent) levels of acute malnutrition are typical for the October to January period and 'Critical' levels (GAM 15 to 30 percent) are typical from February to May. It is anticipated that acute malnutrition will follow the above seasonal trends.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Most households have already depleted their cereal stocks and face poor ToT, which is lowering purchasing capacity at a time when households are atypically market dependent. From October to January, household food security will improve only slightly, as rainfall increases rangeland conditions, if only slightly, and livestock productivity increases. Households will earn income from agricultural labor to purchase food, although income will be below average. In January, *Deyr* crop production is likely to be significantly below average in this livelihood zone. Although production will be less impacted in neighboring riverine areas that sources markets in Lower Shabelle, prices are still expected to rise. Household food security will improve slightly with access to production, but many will still face food consumption gaps. It is estimated approximately 32,200 people in this livelihood zone will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while 35,900 people will likely be Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Stocks from the *Deyr* harvest are expected to be exhausted earlier than usual. With limited income-earning opportunities and poorer than normal livestock body conditions, household purchasing capacity is expected to further deteriorate, most notably from January to March when prices rise and livestock body conditions are poorest. Households are likely to employ severe coping strategies, including sending additional household members to neighboring riverine areas or main towns to access labor, borrowing, selling productive animals, and selling productive assets such as donkey carts. However, income from labor and livestock sales will be insufficient to pay debts and purchase essential food needs. From February to May, the number of people facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in this livelihood zone is estimated to be 52,500 people, while 42,000 people will likely be Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Southern Agropastoral Livelihood Zone in Hiran

Current Situation

In the Southern Agropastoral livelihood zone of Hiran, most *Gu* crops failed as rainfall was insufficient to support adequate crop development. Most production to this area is from neighboring riverine areas in Hiran, although total *Gu* production in Hiran was also below average. Production was estimated at 2,100 MT, 35 percent lower than last year's production and 11 percent lower than the five-year average. Poor households' food stocks lasted 1-2 months, until September/October, and most poor households have since been atypically dependent on market to access food.

Despite poor production, market supplies and prices are near normal, as this area is also typically supplied by production from Ethiopia and Bay, the latter of which had only slightly below-average production. In September, the price of sorghum was 11,500 SOS/kg, similar to both last year and average. However, due to reduced agricultural labor opportunities during the poor *Gu* season, labor incomes in August were 21 percent below the same time last year and 19 percent below the five-year average. The agricultural labor-to-sorghum ToT have deteriorated by 25 percent from last year and 14 percent from the five-year average. Currently, the daily wage rate for agricultural labor can purchase 6 kilograms of sorghum.

Below-average *Gu* rains were followed by the July to September *Xagaa* season, which caused faster than normal depletion of water from communal dams and private water catchments and worsened pasture conditions. However, during the third week of October, moderate rains were received in most parts of Hiran. Rainfall partially replenished water catchments and

is expect to enhance pasture and browse. Many households and livestock have seasonally migrated towards riverine areas of Hiran to benefit from crop sharing with relatives and pasture and water resources, which are more abundant in riverine areas. Despite this, livestock body conditions have not sufficiently recovered and lower than normal livestock conception rates were reported in July. The rains have encouraged crop sowing in riverine and agropastoral livelihood areas.

Livestock herd sizes among poor households are currently around 3-4 cattle and 35-40 goats/sheep. In this livelihood zone, household purchasing capacity is typically measured by the sale of goat/sheep for cereals. In Halgen and Jalalaqsi of Hiran, the price of an average local quality goat declined between May and August and is now 9 and 16 percent below last year and the five-year average, respectively. Although sorghum prices are near average, declining livestock prices are driving lower than normal purchasing capacity. In Beletweyn, the goat-to-white sorghum ToT is 9 percent lower than last year and 16 percent below the five-year average. In Halgan and Jalalaqsi, the goat-to-white sorghum ToT goat is similar to last year, but 10 percent lower than the five-year average. With lower than normal livestock-to-cereal ToT, it is likely many households are purchasing food on credit, increasing debt levels that already stood at approximately 100 USD in July.

Milk availability in markets and at the household level has declined slightly to lower than normal levels due to poor livestock productivity and limited camel and cattle births during the *Gu* season. Cattle milk prices at Halgan (SLIMS) markets in August were 16,600 SOS/liter, near the five-year average. Camel milk prices are 11 percent above the five-year average, because camels have migrated away from this livelihood zone to access water, reducing camel milk supply.

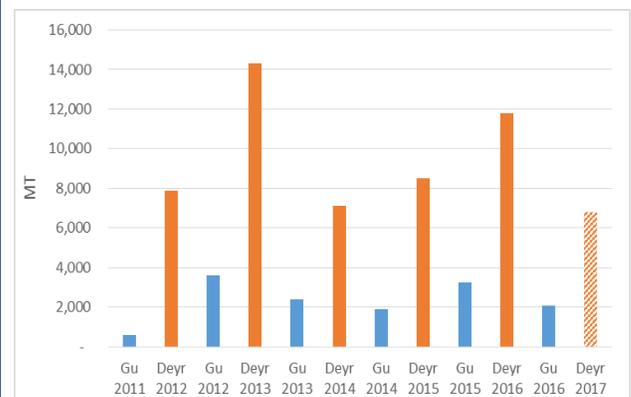
The security situation in Hiran remains unstable and tense. Buloburte remains under siege and insurgents are restricting the movement of people and commodities. Assistance was delivered to approximately 21,395 beneficiaries in flood-affected areas of Beletweyn and Mataban in July/August; however, no humanitarian assistance is reaching most agropastoral areas of this region due to insecurity and bans by insurgents.

According to a July SMART survey conducted during the post-*Gu* assessment, the malnutrition prevalence in Beletweyn is 'Critical.' The GAM (WHZ) prevalence was 15.6 percent (12.4-19.5) and the CDR was 0.42/10,000/day (0.19-0.93). The agropastoral areas of Buloburte and Jalalaqsi remain inaccessible and no surveys were conducted in these areas; however, based on the fact that livelihoods in these areas are similar to those in Beletweyn, nutrition levels are likely also 'Critical.'

Assumptions

- It is estimated that *Deyr* production in Hiraan could be upwards of 30 percent below average (Figure 6). This is based on the fact that 10 percent of riverine areas cannot be cultivated as they are under cultivation of late-planted *Gu* crops, which are poorly developed and will likely be used as fodder. Additionally, sorghum requires around 200-300 mm of rainfall and a growing period of 95-120 days. This area usually receives 250-300 mm of rainfall during the *Deyr* season, and given the forecast for 10-25 percent below-average rainfall with erratic distribution, moisture stress is likely in some areas and reduced yields are expected.
- Most poor households in this area are likely to sell around 10 additional goats to purchase basic food and non-food needs and repay debts. As a result, it is expected livestock herd sizes will reduce to below average levels during the outlook period.
- Persisted insecurity in Hiran, at levels above recent years, will likely negatively impact trade flows, ultimately increasing food prices. This is also expected to limit humanitarian access.
- Cereal prices are expected to increase through January as *Gu* stocks are drawn down, but remain slightly above the five-year average of 8,500 SOS/kg. Given that the *Deyr* harvest is expected to be below average, prices are likely to then increase through May, reaching around 12,000 SOS/kg, 20 percent above the five-year average.
- Past nutrition data from surveys conducted in Hiran from 2002-2015 have shown persistent 'Critical' (GAM WHZ 15-30

Figure 6. Historical cereal production in Hiraan, *Deyr* 2017 estimated production



Source: FEWS NET/FSNAU

percent) levels of acute malnutrition across seasons. It is anticipated malnutrition will remain at these levels.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

From October to January, poor households' food security is expected to moderately deteriorate as most households have depleted household food stocks and milk availability is seasonally low with livestock away from homesteads. However, sustained average food prices during this time and the availability of saleable animals will grant households some food access. It is expected households will need to sell more animals than normal to purchase food from the markets, given the early depletion of stocks, and this will lead to atypical depletion of assets. It is estimated 35,000 people will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while another 35,000 will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) during this time period.

From February to May, poor households' food security is expected to improve in January with the arrival of the *Deyr* harvest and increased milk availability, as livestock body conditions improve with normal March to May rainfall. However, given the likely below-average *Deyr* harvest, prices are expected to atypically increase, reducing household purchasing capacity. With below-average income from agricultural production and lower livestock herd sizes, most will purchase food on credit. Households will earn income from labor and milk sales from March to May; however, some income will need to go towards debt repayment. Although many poor households will improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in January and February, they are expected to deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in March. During this time, the number of food insecure people is expected to increase to an estimated 52,500 people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 40,500 Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Other Areas of Concern

Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zones in Bari, Nugal, Sanaag and Sool

In this livelihood zone, rainfall was below average during the 2015 *Deyr* season and 2016 *Gu* season. Livestock body conditions remain significantly below average, as overgrazed rangeland conditions have been largely exhausted. Livestock deaths and high abortion rates have been reported. Milk productivity has been low to nonexistent for many poor households, limiting own consumption and income from sales. Most poor households are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The forecast rainfall is sufficient to support pasture and water development, but given how poor livestock body conditions currently are, only small improvements are expected. Furthermore, given high death rates, herd sizes will remain below average. While imported food commodity prices are expected to remain stable, given the likely decrease in livestock prices, the livestock-to-cereal ToT will further deteriorate, reducing household purchasing capacity. Gifts from better-off households will also likely reduce between October to May 2017 as most milking livestock had dried due to starvation. Some male pastoralists will continue seeking job opportunities in main towns to earn additional income. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is expected to persist. Some households who have already lost significant numbers of livestock and are relying solely on borrowing and gifts to access food will likely deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Central Agropastoral (Cowpea Belt) livelihood zones in south Mudug and Galgadud

Following *Gu* crop failure, poor households are atypically dependent on markets to access food, but most are purchasing on loans. Income from livestock sales is below average. Livestock prices and the volume of livestock exports has decreased due to a gradual depletion of export quality males, poor livestock body conditions prolonged below-average rainfall, and restrictions imposed by the Ethiopian authorities on livestock exports. Between January and August, livestock exports at Bossaso port decreased 33 percent from the same period in 2015. A further decrease in livestock prices is expected in October to March due to low seasonal demand, restricted trade between Central and Bosasso port due to clan conflict and poor livestock body conditions. Based on an assumption of below-average *Deyr* rains, livestock body conditions and productivity will only minimally improve. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected throughout the outlook period.

Juba Pastoral – Cattle & Goats Livelihood Zone

Dry weather persisted throughout the *Xagaa* season, resulting in significant deterioration of pasture and water conditions in most key pastoral areas of Lower and Middle Juba. This has further weakened livestock body conditions, especially lactating and pregnant animals. Although many livestock from these areas migrated during and after the April to June rainy season to riverine areas with better pasture resources, ground reports indicate that livestock body conditions are still below average. Conception rates between July and September were also significantly low, due to high abortion rates from starvation and disease. In July, cattle herd sizes were estimated to be 71 percent of baseline levels and sheep/goat herd sizes were 75 percent of baseline levels. Given the prolonged dry season, additional livestock losses can be expected.

Poor livestock body conditions are reflected in below-average livestock prices in these areas. The price of goats continues to decline in Afmadow and remains stable but below average in Jamame and Kismayo. In the Juba pastoral reference markets (Afmadow, Hagar, and Doblei), local quality goat prices declined 25 percent compared to the five-year average. The goat-to-rice ToT is 22 percent below average. In Afmadow, the goat-to-maize terms of trade (58 kg/head) is at its lowest since 2011. Similarly, cattle prices in Juba have decreased by 18 percent from average. This is attributed to both poor livestock body conditions and increased market supply, as households are selling additional livestock to purchase basic food needs, animal fodder, and drugs. With below-average *Deyr* rains, conditions are not expected to improve significantly and poor households will likely fall into Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from February to May as poor livestock productivity limits milk for consumption and sale.

Urban areas, IDPs, Returnees

The forecast below-average *Deyr* season is expected to cause increased food insecurity in urban areas by reducing food stocks on markets, driving food prices up throughout the scenario period. The urban poor will also face competition for labor opportunities with rural migrants. Food price increases and the likely decline of income from labor will lower household purchasing power. The population acutely food insecure is expected to increase by 15-20 percent by May 2017.

Similar levels of acute food insecurity as currently exist among IDPs are expected to persist through May. Insecurity and limited livelihood options, low income-earning opportunities, and high cereal prices will continue to drive food insecurity.

In 2016, the planning figure for voluntary returns to Somalia has been revised to 50,000 from 100,000. It is expected most will relocate to Juba and Kismayo where they will have limited access to food and income and likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

Table 1: Possible events over the next six months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Southern and central Somalia	Significantly below-average rainfall	The start of the October to December <i>Deyr</i> rains has been significantly below average. There has been minimal to no rainfall in most southern and central regions. Although rainfall is still forecast to increase in November and December, if rainfall is not received as forecast, conditions will significantly deteriorate. Crops that are already planted will not adequately develop and farmers are unlikely to plant additional crops. Livestock body conditions, which are already poor, will further deteriorate given that most will not have access to sufficient pasture or water. Households will have limited income with lack of access to typical livestock sales. A poorer than expected <i>Deyr</i> harvest will reduce household food access. Many poor households in southern and central households who are already in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) would deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4).