Somalia 2020 Post *Gu* Food Security and Nutrition Outcomes and Projections

IGAD Biannual Meeting on Food Security and Nutrition (Virtual)

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Key Drivers of Acute Food Insecurity in Somalia

Flooding

Severe riverine and flash floods have caused significant population displacement, damage to property, infrastructure, farmland, and crops

Desert Locusts

Desert locusts continue to pose a serious risk of damage to both pasture and crops until at least the end of 2020.

COVID-19

Socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 have led to increased food prices, a decline in remittances, and fewer employment/ income opportunities in urban areas.

Exacerbating conditions:

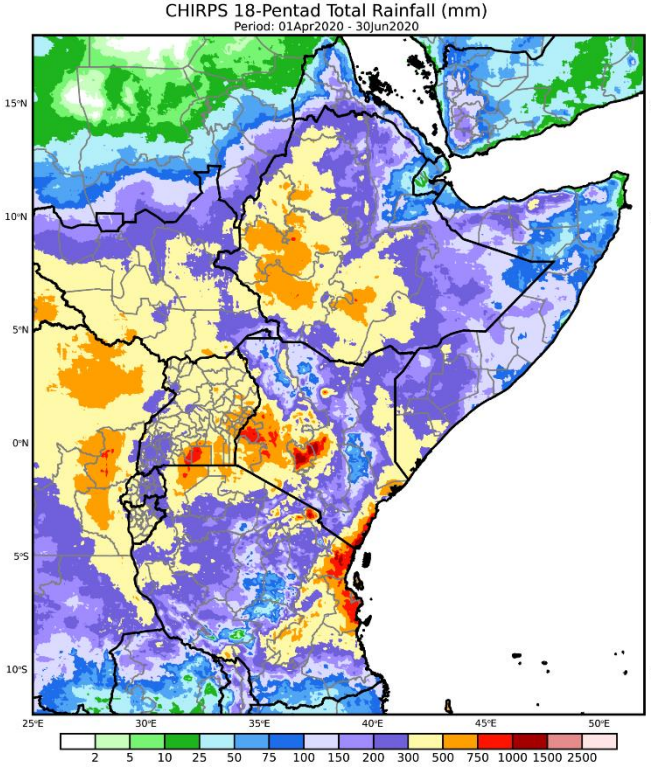
(1) extended impacts of previous shocks (livestock loss during the 2016/17 severe drought; large scale and protracted population displacement due to conflict, drought, floods, etc.; 2.6 million IDPs across Somalia since 2018),

(2) widespread poverty: 69% national (76% among IDPs; 72% in rural and 64% in urban areas) and

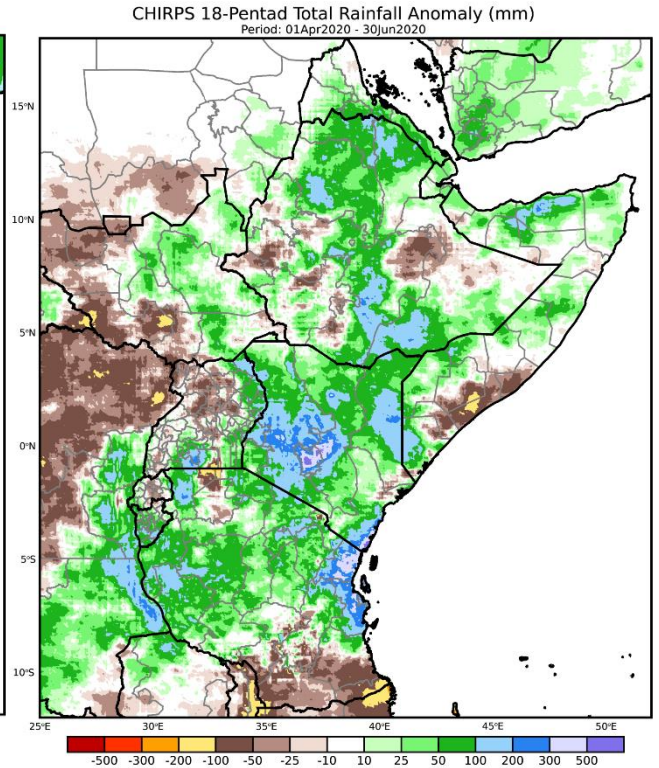
(3) other shocks, including conflict/insecurity during the cropping season and extended dry spell between mid-May and late June

2020 *Gu Season* Rainfall Performance and 2020 *Deyr* Season Forecast

Cumulative Seasonal Rainfall in MM (CHIRPS), Apr-Jun 2020



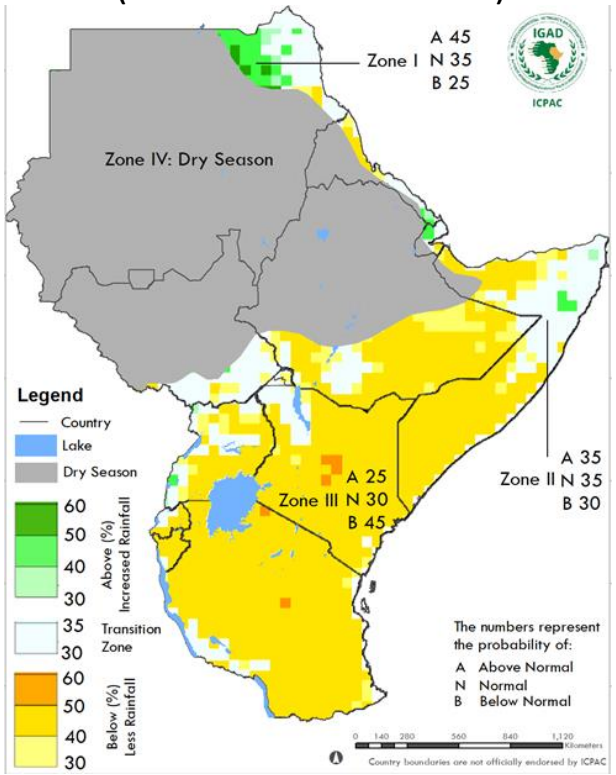
Cumulative Seasonal Rainfall Deviation from Average in MM (CHIRPS), Apr-Jun



- 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.

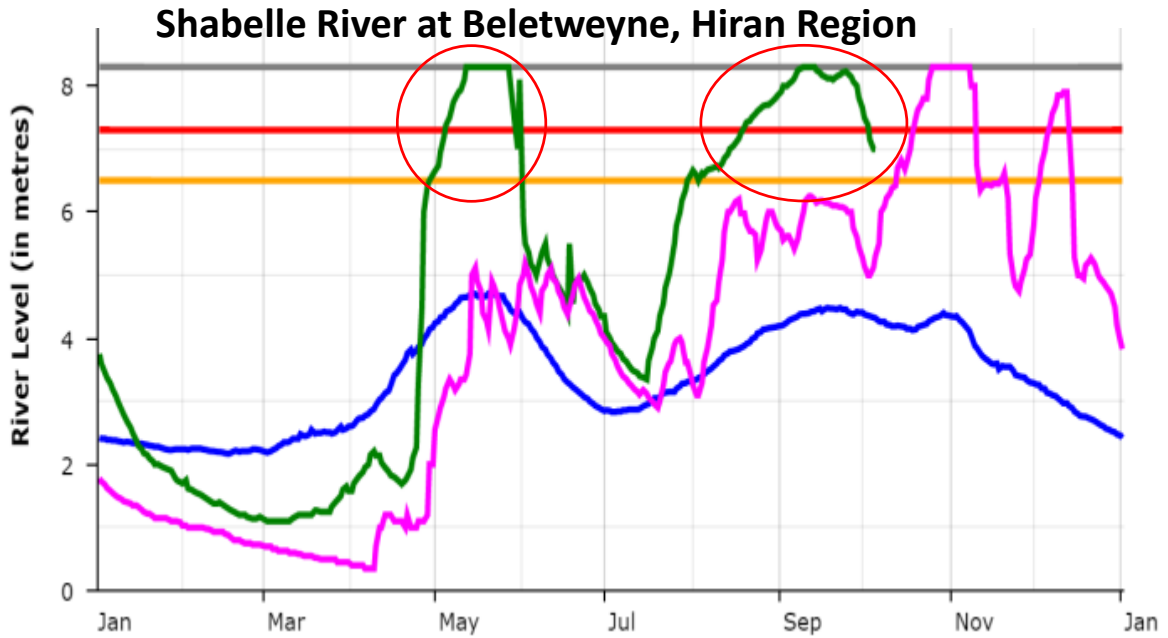
- Excessive rainfall has also led to riverine and flash floods in April and May, with flooding continuing since July in some areas.

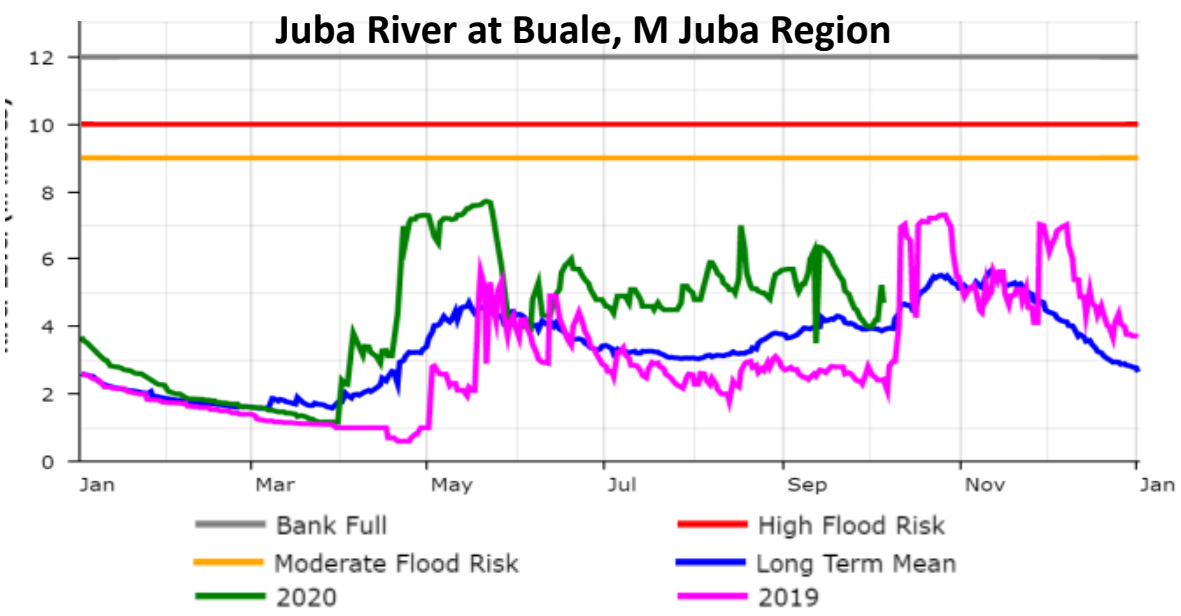
Oct-Dec 2020 Rainfall Outlook (Probabilistic Forecast)

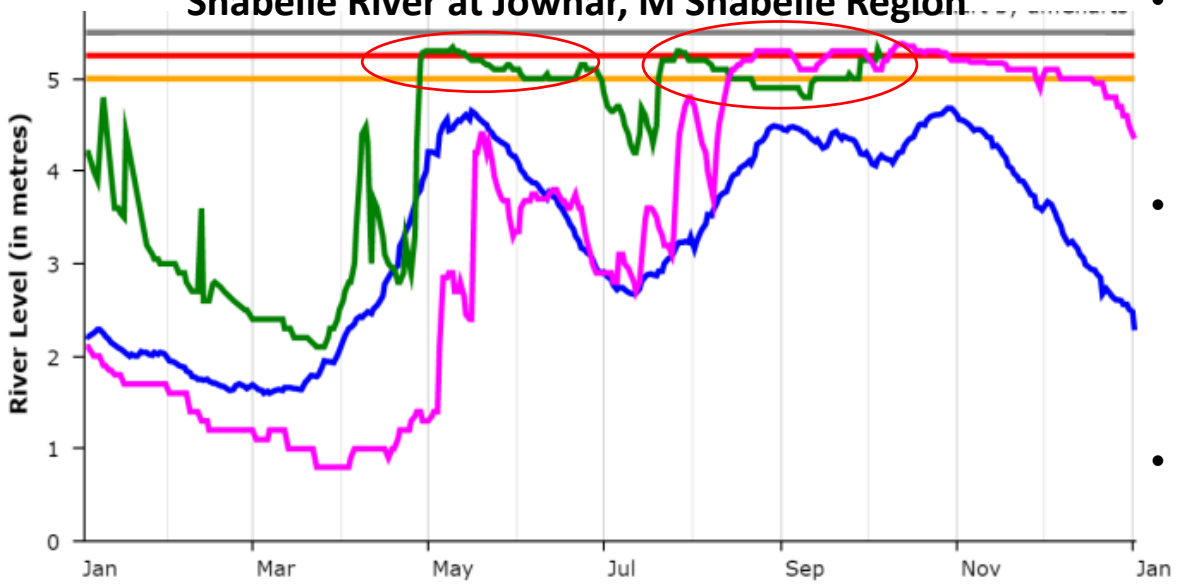


- There is greater likelihood of below normal to normal *Deyr* season (Oct-Dec 2020) rainfall in most parts of Somalia and average to below average rainfall in northeast regions. Below average Xays (Dec-Jan) rainfall is also likely in northwestern Somalia.

River Levels and Flooding



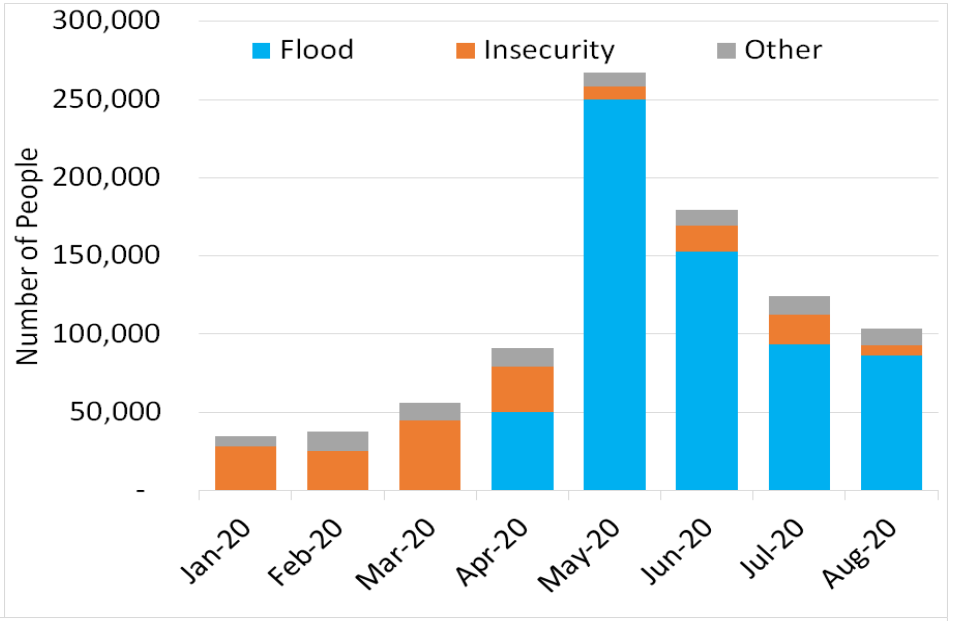


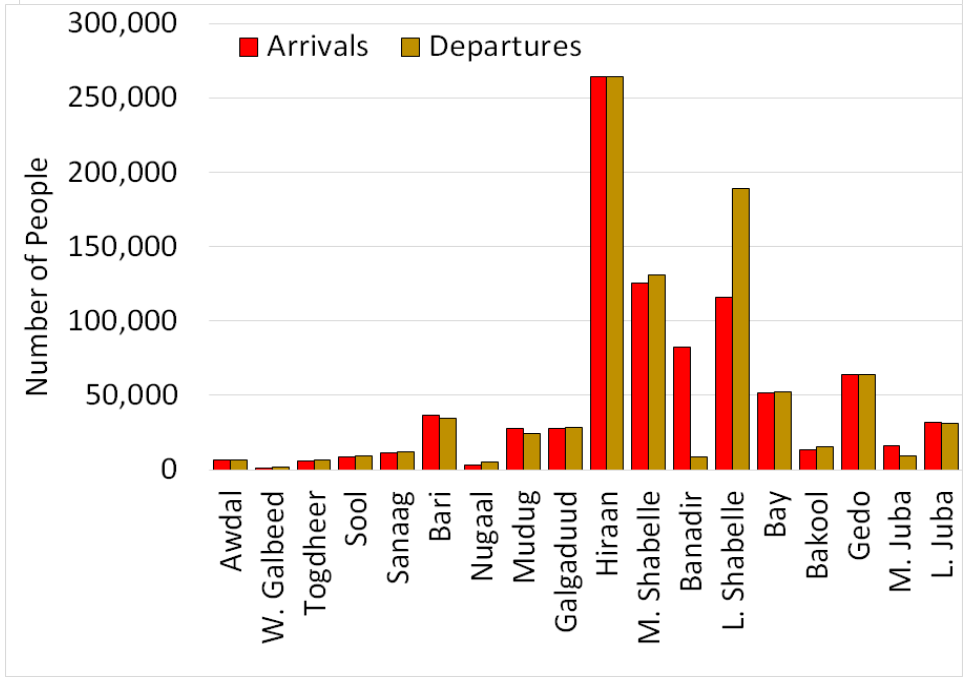


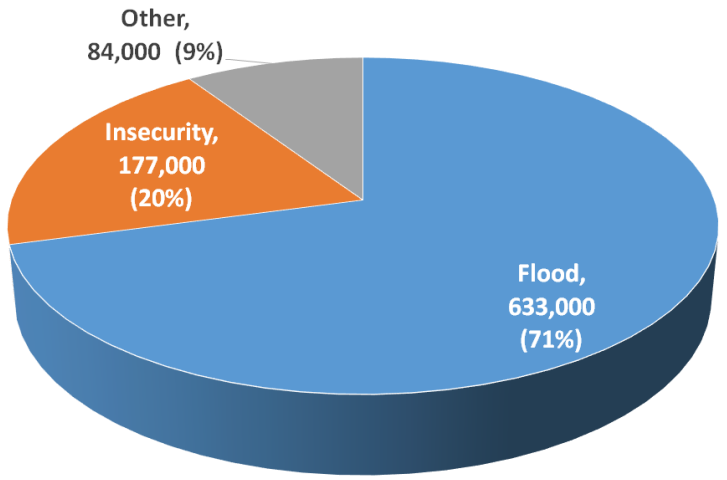
- Severe riverine and flash flooding in April and May have caused significant population displacement, damages to property, infrastructure, farmland as well as planted crops.
- There has also been continuing riverine flooding and flood related damage since July as river levels continued to rise to moderate 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

Somalia Population Movement/Displacement and Impact, Jan-Aug 2020 (UNHCR/PRMN Data)







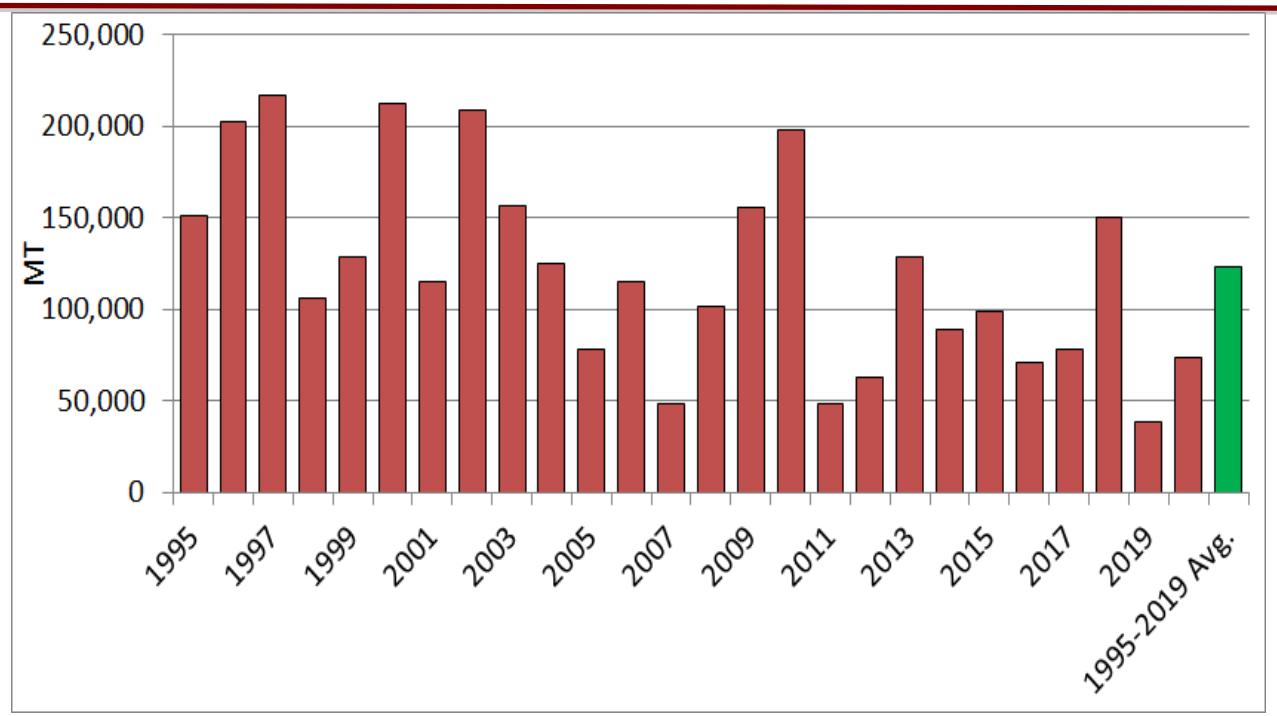
Overall **893 000** people were displaced between January and August 2020, mainly due to floods (**71%**) and insecurity/conflict (**20%**).

- 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).

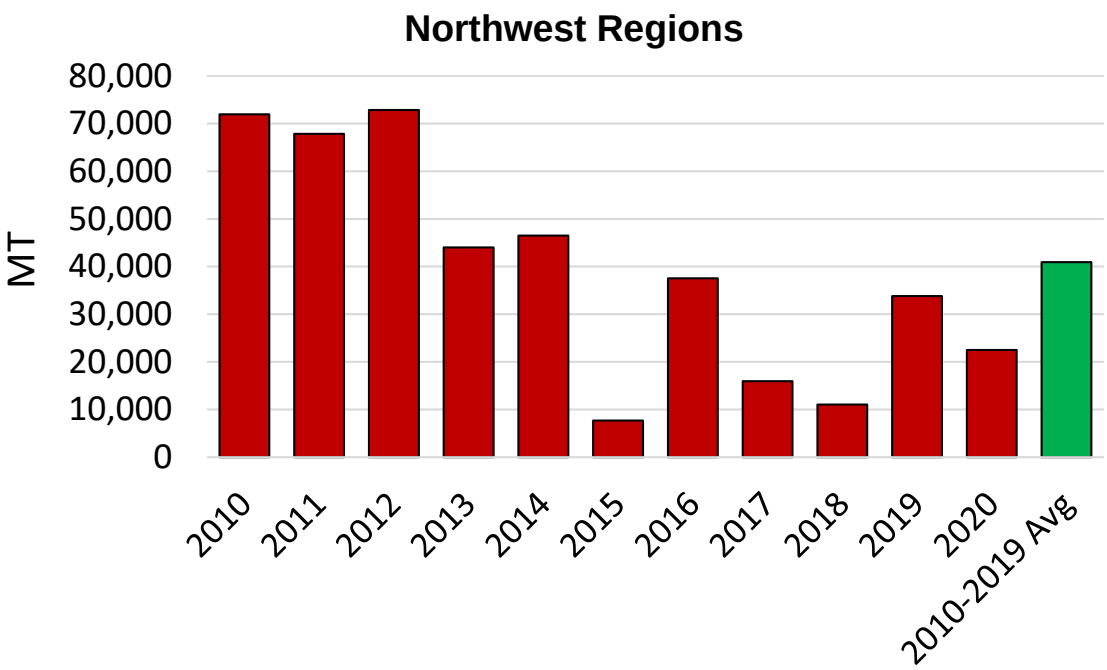
- Flooding and insecurity/conflict related displacements have contributed to lower crop production in Hiran, Middle and Lower Shabelle regions.

Impact on Agriculture (Maize and Sorghum Production)



- 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 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.

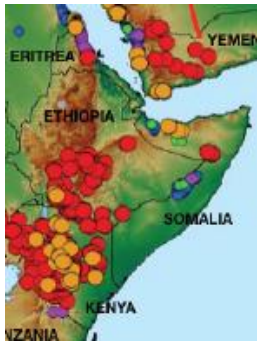
- Milk availability is expected to increase through the end of the year as animals that conceived during the 2019 *Deyr* and 2020 *Gu* season are expected to give birth, leading to Medium to High kidding/lambing and calving.

- 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.

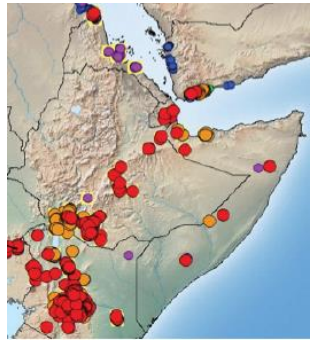
- By the end of the year, livestock holding among poor pastoral households will still remain below baseline in northern and central Somalia but reach baseline or above baseline levels in southern Somalia.

Desert Locust Infestation and Outlook

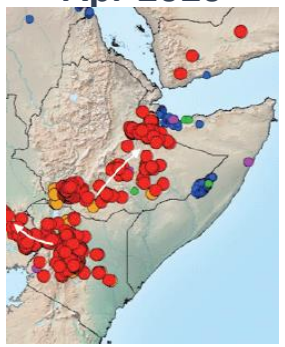
Feb 2020



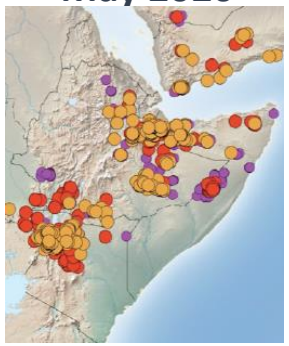
Mar 2020



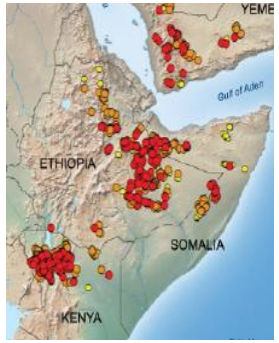
Apr 2020



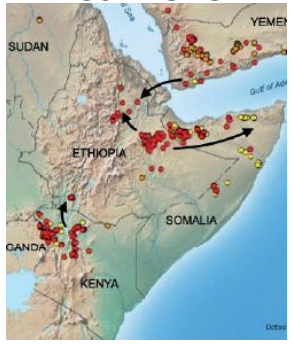
May 2020



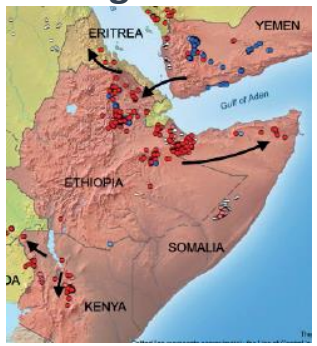
Jun 2020



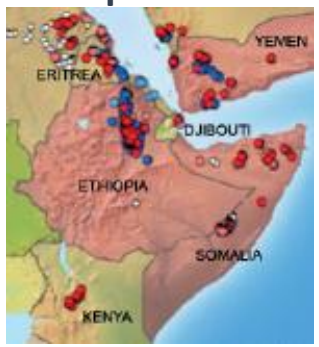
Jul 2020



Aug 2020

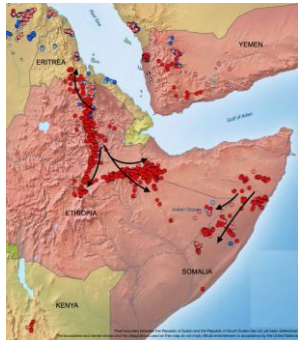


Sep 2020



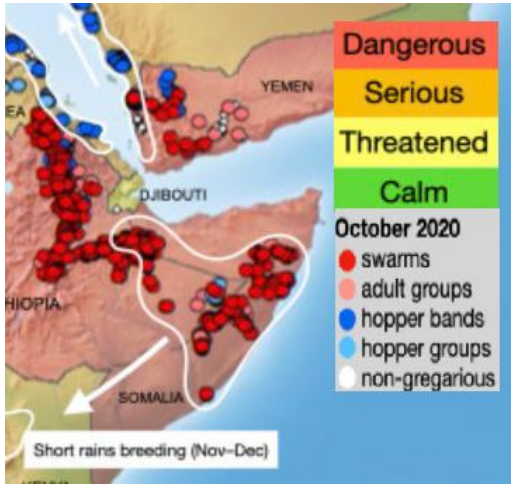
- In Somalia, Desert Locust infestation has been mostly confined to northern and central regions since the beginning of 2020.
- Government-led control operations are making good progress against Desert Locust swarms in Somaliland and Puntland. Despite ongoing control efforts, Desert Locust has caused damage to cereal crops, vegetables, fruit trees and pasture in northern and central regions.
- During October, the immature adults that prevailed in the northeast (Bari region) moved southwards to central Somalia (Mudug and Galgadud regions) by mid-October and further south in Hiran, Bay and Shabelle by late October.

Oct 2020



Source of Maps and Forecast: FAO Desert Locust Watch

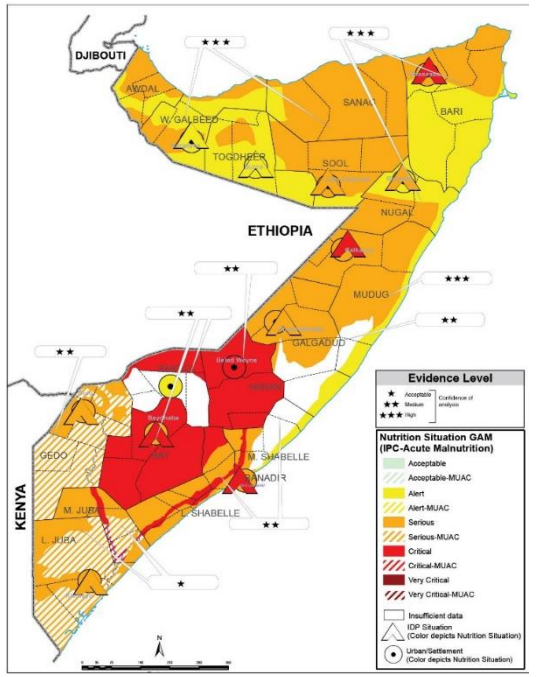
Nov-Dec 2020 (Forecast)



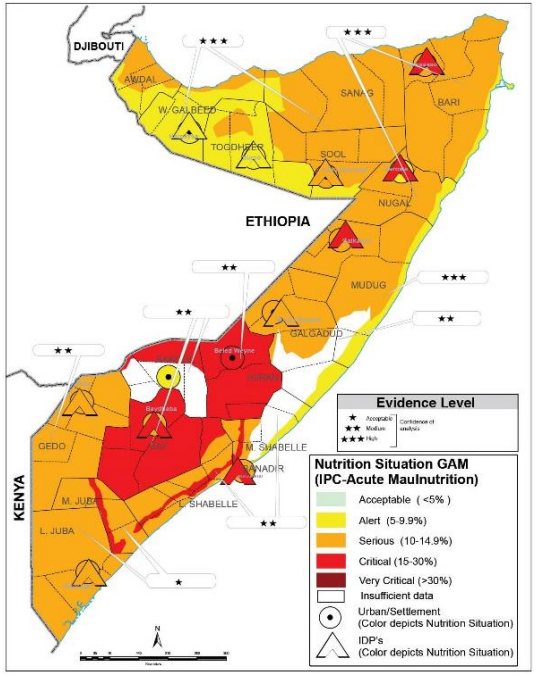
- Current forecasts indicate the highest (Dangerous) level of Desert Locust risk for Somalia between November and December 2020 with widespread hatching and band formation expected to occur between northeast and southern parts of Somalia which could cause substantial swarms to start forming from early December onwards which would coincide with the Deyr season crop maturity and harvest period in southern Somalia.
- As a result, Desert Locust is expected to exacerbate the impact of a below average 2020 Deyr season rainfall on Deyr season crop production and availability of pasture.

Nutrition Outcomes and Projections: 2019 Post *Deyr* and 2020 Post *Gu*

2019/20 Deyr (Jan 2020)

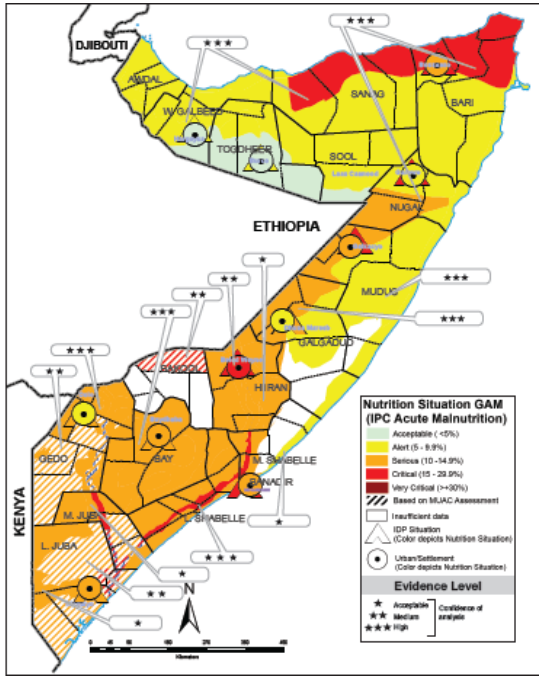


2019/20 Deyr (Feb-Apr 2020)

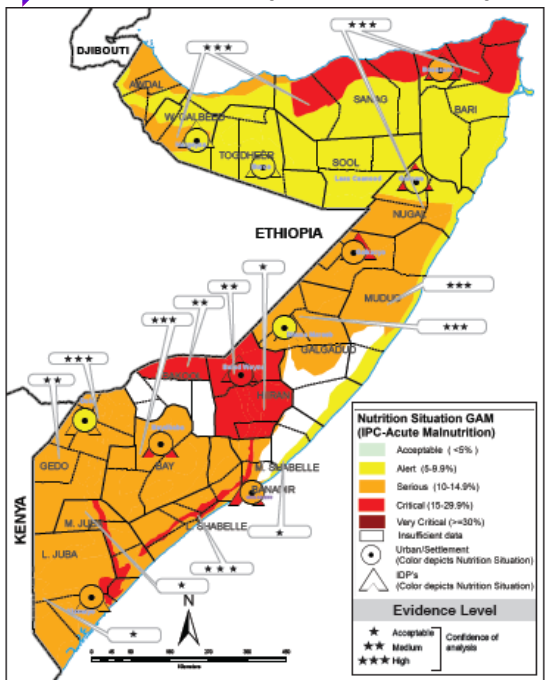


Total Burden (Jan–Dec 2020): 962 900 acutely malnourished, including 162 000 who are likely to be severely malnourished

2020 Gu (Sep 2020)



2020 Gu (Oct-Dec 2020)



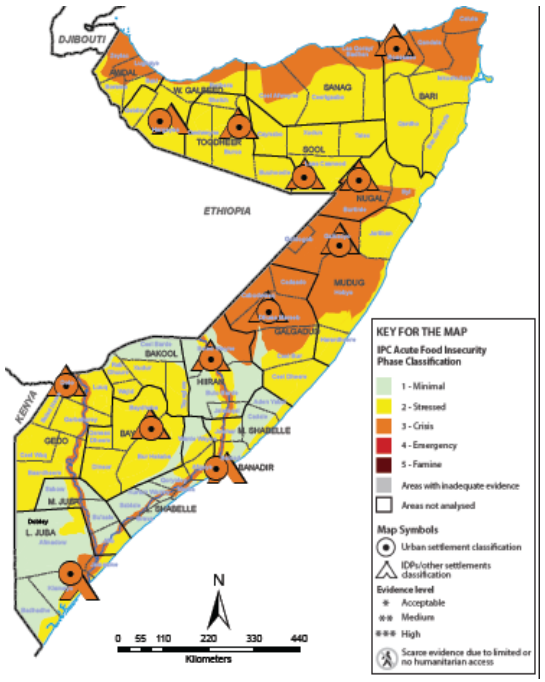
Total Burden (Jul 2020–Jun 2021): 849 900 acutely malnourished, including 143 400 who are likely to be severely malnourished

- 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** likely to be severely malnourished.

- This reflect 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 morbidly and increased humanitarian assistance.

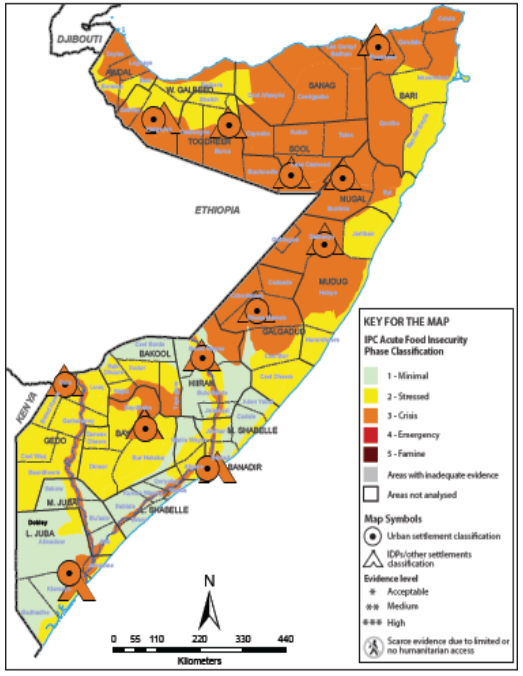
2020 Food Security Outcomes and Projections, Apr-Dec 2020

Previous Proj. (Apr-Jun 2020)



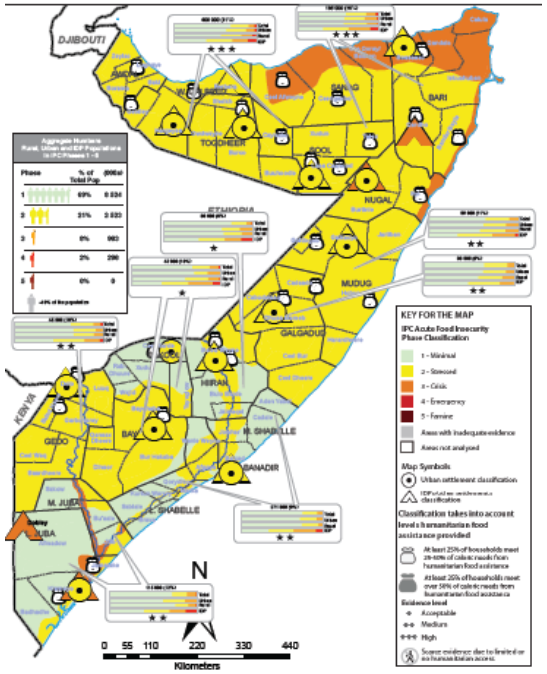
People in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4):
2.7 Million

Previous Proj. (Jul-Sep 2020)



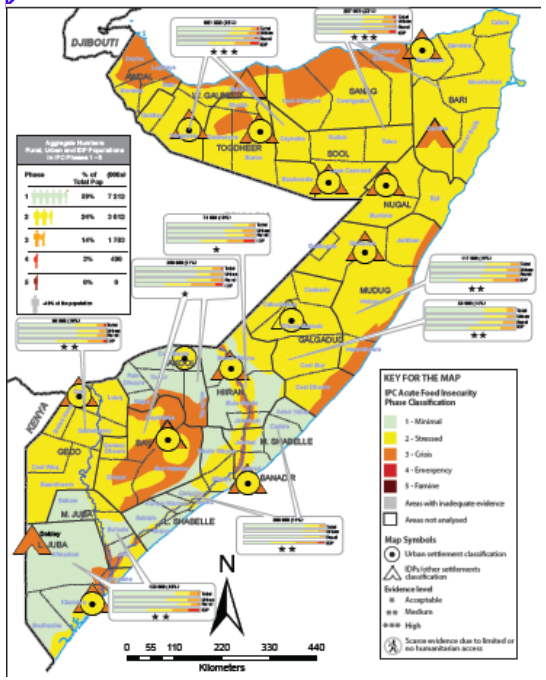
People in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4):
3.5 Million

Current (Jul-Sep 2020)



People in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4):
1.3 Million

Projected (Oct-Dec 2020)



People in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4):
2.1 Million

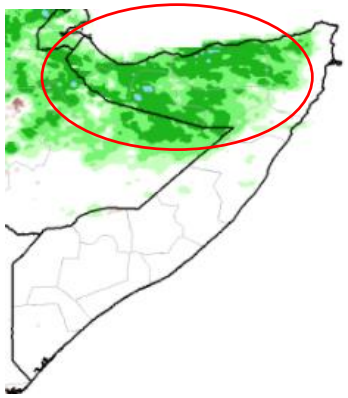
- Due to multiple shocks facing Somalia since early 2020, the projected number of people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (i.e. IPC Phase 3 & 4) were **2.7 million** (Apr-Jun 2020) and **3.5 million** (Jul-Sep 2020). Most of these needs (75%) were in urban areas due to the anticipated significant 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.

September-early November 2020 Rainfall and Forecast

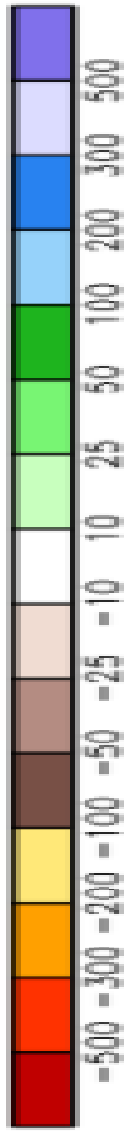
Rainfall Difference from Average(MM)

Sep 2020

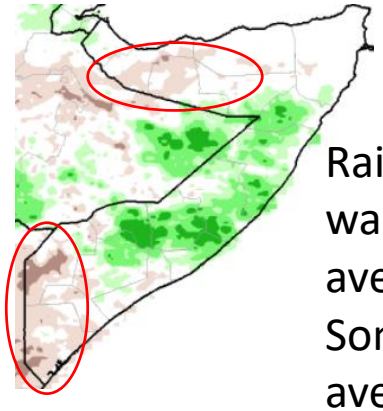


Rainfall in September was mostly confined to northern regions.

Rainfall Amounts in these regions were mostly above average.

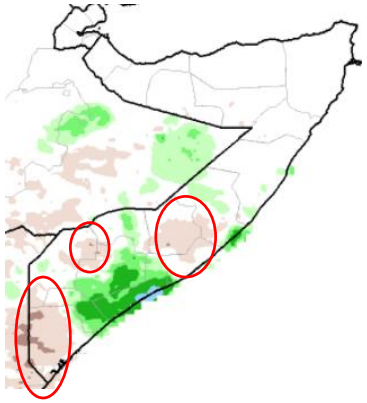


Oct 2020



Rainfall in October was near to above average in central Somalia and below average to near average in most other parts of the country.

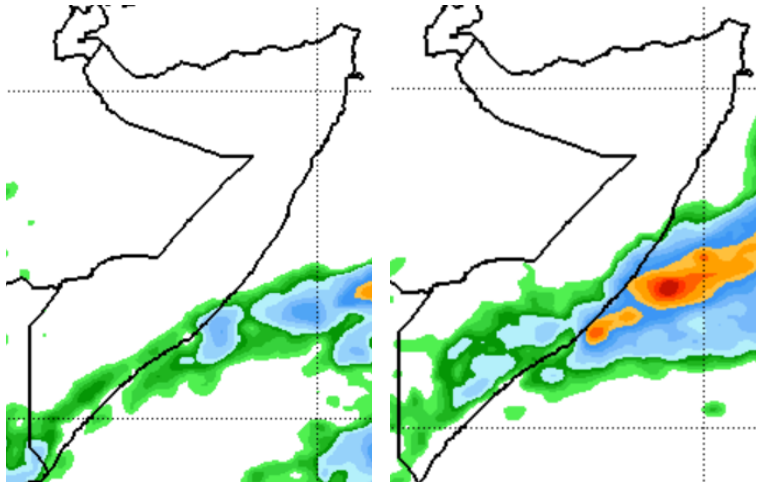
1-8 Nov 2020



Below average rainfall observed in parts of central and southern Somalia in the first week of Nov

Rainfall/Forecast (MM)

Rainfall in the first week of November was confined to the central portion of southern Somalia. Amount remained below average in some parts of Hiran and most parts of Middle and Lower Juba.



Forecast for the next two weeks (8-22 November) indicates the possibility of little or no rainfall in the first week and localized rainfall in parts of central and southern Somalia.

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.

- Currently (July-September 2020), an estimated **1.3 million** (i.e. people in IPC Phases 3 & 4) people have food consumption gaps, even in the presence of humanitarian assistance. This number is expected to increase to **2.1 million** people between now and the end of the year 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 (Sep 2020-Aug 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.

- Exacerbated by Desert Locust and the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, humanitarian needs could increase further in 2021 due to the influence of a La Niña that is likely to persist (~85% chance through Feb 2021 and into spring 2021 (~60% chance during February-April). 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). Two back-to-back seasons of poor or failed rainfall could trigger a major humanitarian crisis as observed in 2010/2011 and 2016/2017.

Challenges, Lessons Learnt and Best Practices

Challenges

- Population data used in the analyses is the only available official data from the 2014 Population Estimation. This estimate is outdated and does not take into account population increases and/or movements since 2014.

- Due to security and access difficulties, outcome data was not collected in several parts of southern Somalia. For these areas, food security and nutrition outcomes were inferred by taking into account data from similar livelihoods, historical data and current contributing factors.

- Although the 2020 Post Gu IPC AFI and IPC AMN analyses were conducted with full and active participation of government, UN, NGO and technical partners, Somalia does not yet have a formal IPC Technical Working Group (TWG). Efforts are underway to establish a government led and inclusive Somalia IPC TWG.

Lessons Learnt and Best Practices

- By exercising COVID-19 related risk mitigation measures (use of face masks, sanitizers and gloves and social distancing, FNSAU and partners were able to conduct 37 integrated nutrition, mortality and food security assessments (representative surveys) and 7 MUAC assessments (representative surveys)

- The IPC analyses workshops were also conducted in four locations (Hargeisa, Garowe and Mogadishu in Somalia and Nairobi in Kenya) concurrently both in-person attendance for those in the four locations and the four locations and other participants communicating and participating virtually (via zoom). COVID-19 related risk mitigation measures were also observed during the IPC analyses in all four locations (use of face masks, sanitizers and social distancing).

Thank you

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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FSNAU Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit - Somalia

Information for Better Livelihoods

FEWS NET FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS NETWORK

WFP wfp.org

vam food security analysis

SOMALIA FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER *Strengthening Humanitarian Response*