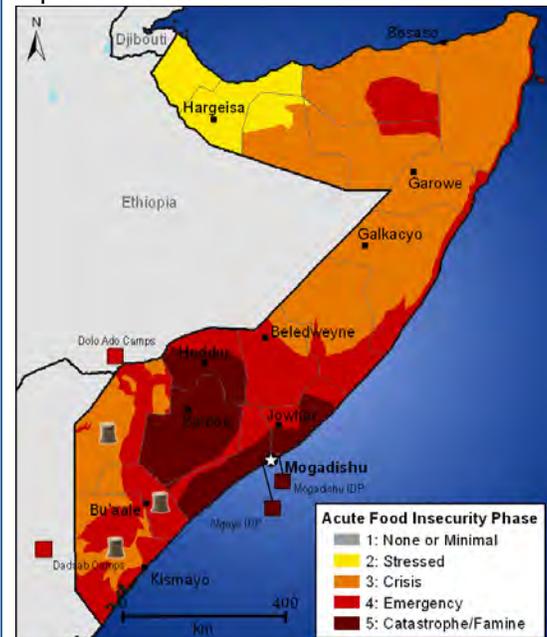


## SOMALIA Food Security Outlook

October 2011 to March 2012

- Tens of thousands of people have died in southern Somalia over the past six months, most of them children under five, due to an ongoing famine in Lower Shabelle, Bay, agropastoral Bakool and Middle Shabelle, and among IDP populations in Afgoye and Mogadishu. Four million people are in need of emergency with 750,000 people at imminent risk of starvation.
- In the most likely scenario, famine will persist until the Jan/Feb *Deyr* harvests due to a combination of high food prices, limited 2011 crop production, and continued assistance gaps related to Al Shabaab access restrictions. Following a projected average to below-average *Deyr* harvest, improvements are expected, though continued high local cereal prices, the sale of crop harvests for debt repayment, and inadequate emergency response, are likely to result in a continuation IPC Phase 4 – Emergency outcomes in some southern cropping and pastoral areas.
- Very early forecasts for the 2012 *Gu* season suggest that below-average rainfall is likely, in part due to the re-emergence of a La Nina. Below-average main season crop production would constrain recovery and could result in a persistent Emergency throughout 2012.
- In the worst case scenario, both 2011 *Deyr* and 2012 *Gu* season rainfall would be significantly below normal and humanitarian access would deteriorate in part due to increased military activity. In this scenario, though improvements in food security would occur in the medium term, Famine could re-emerge during 2012.

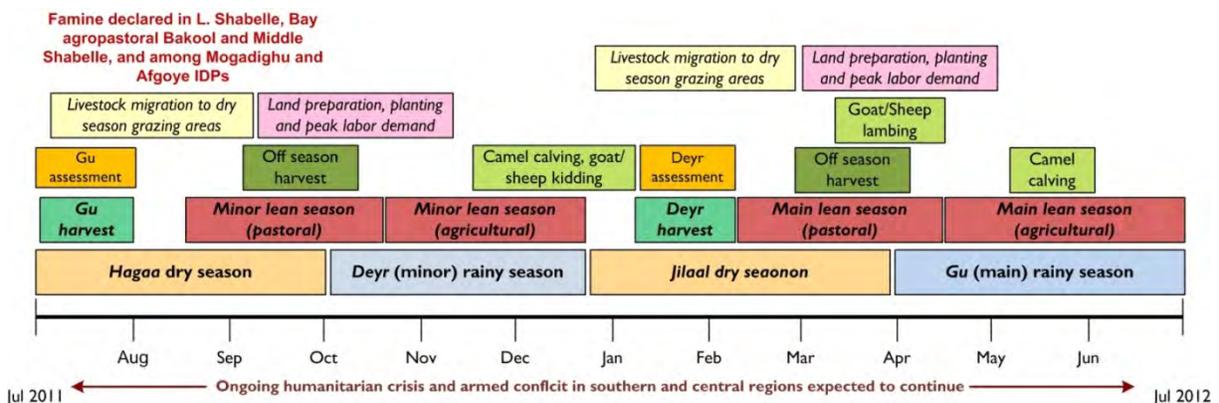
**Figure I.** Estimated food security outcomes, September/October 2011



■ indicates that without current humanitarian assistance, this region would be classified as at least one phase worse.

For more information on the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Reference Table, see: [www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale](http://www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale)  
Source: FEWSNET/FSNAU

## Seasonal calendar and critical events



Source: FEWS NET

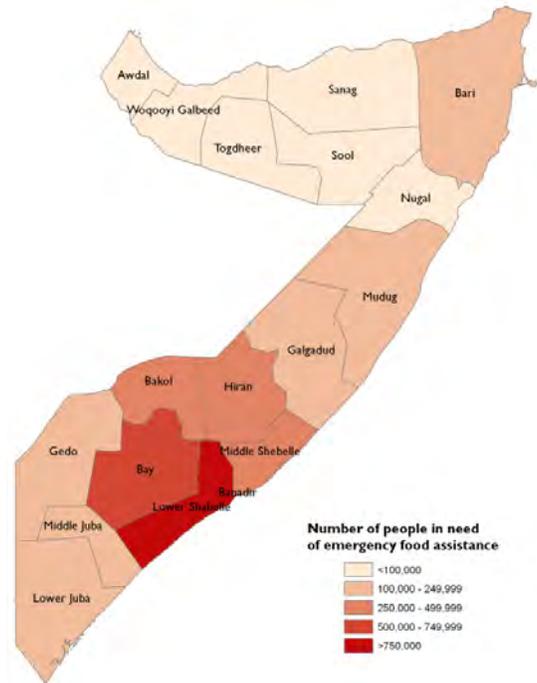
**Most-likely food security scenario October 2011– March 2012**

**National overview**

The 2010 *Deyr* rains failed completely and *Gu* 2011 rainfall was below average in most parts of the country, particularly in southern grain producing areas. The drought significantly affected pasture and water availability, resulting in substantial livestock mortality (~30 percent) in the south, particularly among cattle and sheep. In southern cropping areas, cereal production over the last year totaled roughly 75,000 MT, the lowest since 1995. In comparison, during 2006 (the second worst production year since 1995) cereal harvests were double 2011 production. Following this extremely low production, locally produced staple cereal prices reached record highs in May/June/July, peaking in some cases at more than three times their 2010 level. Trade and movement restrictions imposed by Al Shabaab, the TFG, and other groups exacerbated the deterioration in food security in Southern Somalia. Al Shabaab also prevented humanitarian access in most parts of the South, particularly in Bay, Bakool, Juba, Shabelle, and Gedo. During the April-July period, refugee flows into Kenya and Ethiopia peaked at 3,000 people per day. Roughly 200,000 people left Somalia during the first nine months of 2011. Within Somalia, the combination of food deficits, disease outbreaks, displacement, and limited humanitarian response drove levels of acute malnutrition and mortality to extreme levels. As a result tens of thousands of people have died in southern Somalia over the past six months, most of them children under five. Starting in July 2011, FEWS NET and FSNAU made a series of joint famine determinations covering Lower Shabelle, Bay, agropastoral Bakool and Middle Shabelle, and IDP populations in Afgoye and Mogadishu (Figure 1) and identified more than 4 million people in need of emergency assistance (Figure 2). Based on this analysis the UN declared famine in these regions. Following the famine declaration, assistance flows have ramped up sharply, especially in the more accessible areas, though substantial assistance gaps remained in September (Figure 3). Early reports suggest further improvements in humanitarian access and response during October, though the location and impact of these improvements is not currently clear.

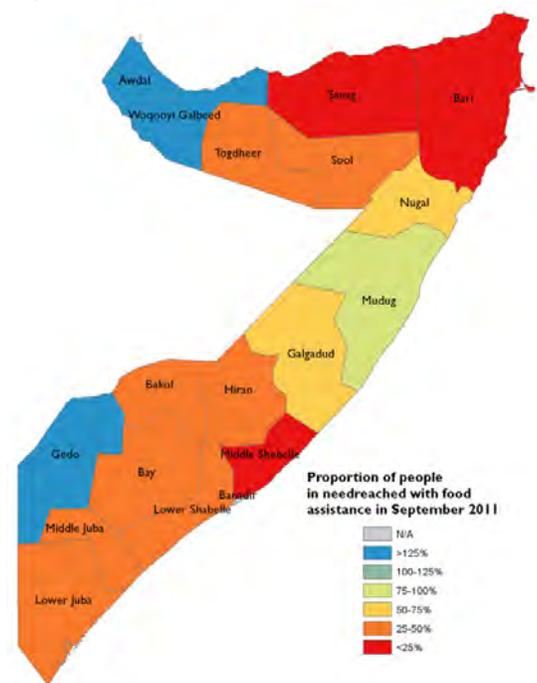
Over the coming months, the performance of the *Deyr* cropping season will be critical. In the most-likely scenario, based on medium range forecasts from ECMWF, FEWS NET estimates that October – December *Deyr* rainfall will be average in terms of total precipitation (mm). However, following a normal onset and good early season performance, it is likely that the second half of the season will perform more poorly in the south, with deficits of up to 50mm during the last six weeks of the season. In combination with reduced area planted in some key cropping areas, this is expected to result in an overall *Deyr* season crop harvest that is up to 20 percent below-average. Pasture and water availability will improve, but are likely to remain lower than usual in many areas due to late season deficits and heavy pressure on those areas where availability is better.

**Figure 2.** Size of the population in need of emergency food assistance, by region



Data Source: FSNAU/UNHCR Graphic: FEWSNET

**Figure 3.** Proportion of emergency food assistance needs met in September 2011, by region



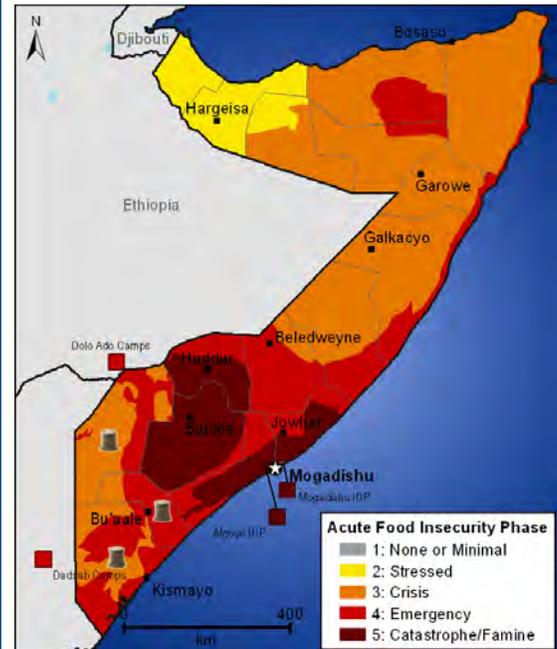
Data Source: Food Aid Cluster Graphic: FEWS NET

Other important assumptions for southern Somalia include:

- **Sorghum/Maize:** Availability of locally produced cereals will remain very limited through January. Prices will increase from October to December, but they will not again reach the peaks from May/June/July. Prices will drop following *Deyr* harvests but not reach normal post-harvest lows.
- **Cowpea:** Cowpea supplies from the 2011 *Gu* are so limited that unlike grains, they may have not yet reached their highs for this year. They will rise to a seasonal peak in October/November, and will be at their lowest after the *Deyr* harvest in January and February.
- **Rice:** Availability will likely remain higher than usual given increased import flows. Prices will likely increase moderately (10-15%) over the coming two months, following international price trends.
- **Labor:** A seasonal/normal pattern is expected with no huge increase in cash wages expected. This implies lower terms of trade than in the past, though not as bad as over the past year. In some areas, better off households have also stripped assets and may not be able to fully invest in labor.
- **Camel:** Prices likely to peak in October/November due to Hajj exports (or rather, the effect of export camel prices on the local quality camels), then prices will decline through February/March.
- **Cattle:** As this region supplies cattle to Kenya, the decline of maize prices in Kenya is expected to increase demand for meat. Also, demand for meat peaks during the Kenyan dry season. For this reason, we expect growing demand for the remainder of the *Deyr* rains, then even higher demand in January-March, followed by a slight tapering off. Local cattle prices are expected to follow export cattle prices.
- **Goat/Sheep:** Prices will peak in October and November for Hajj exports and then prices are expected to decline through Feb/Mar following a seasonally normal pattern.
- **Health:** Diseases outbreaks (e.g., malaria) are expected, mainly in the riverine and agropastoral livelihood zones and within IDP concentrations during the October-December rainy season.
- **Conflict:** Insecurity will intensify during this outlook period due to escalating military interventions and clashes between armed groups, the TFG, and the Kenyan army, particularly in Juba and Gedo. Conflict in Mogadishu will increase and hinder trade and population movement between Mogadishu, Kismayo, Bay/Bakool, and Lower Shabelle.

- **Assistance:** Humanitarian response is expected to continue during the scenario period. Access is likely to degrade during the Oct-Dec period due to insecurity and the impacts on rains on transportation networks. A return to current levels of access is assumed for the January to March period.

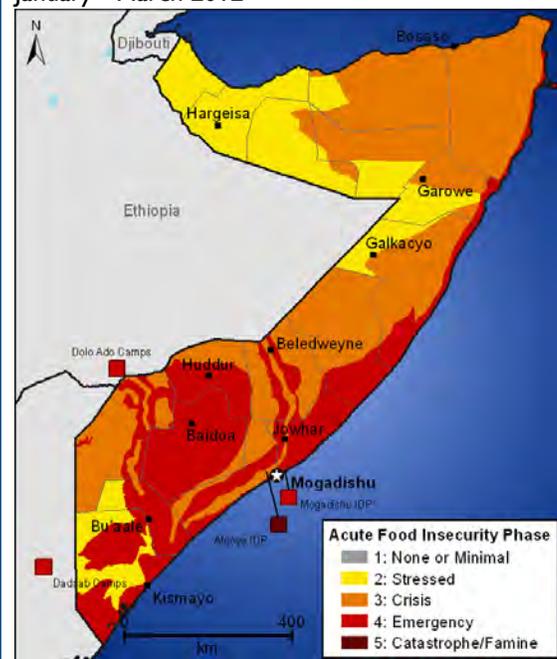
**Figure 4.** Projected food security outcomes, October - December 2011



■ indicates that without projected humanitarian assistance, this region would be classified as at least one phase worse.

Source: FEWS NET/FSNAU

**Figure 5.** Projected food security outcomes, January - March 2012



Source: FEWS NET/FSNAU

Based on these assumptions, and considering the depleted food and income sources of poor households in southern Somalia, coupled with massive displacement and continued limitations on humanitarian response, food security is not expected to improve significantly until after the Jan/Feb *Deyr* harvests. During this period, 4 million people will need emergency food and livelihood support (half of the country's population), of whom 750,000 people will face famine-level food deficits. The most severe food security outcomes are expected among IDP populations and in agropastoral and riverine areas of Juba, Bay, Bakool, Shabelle and parts of Gedo where humanitarian access and trade flow are especially limited (Figure 4).

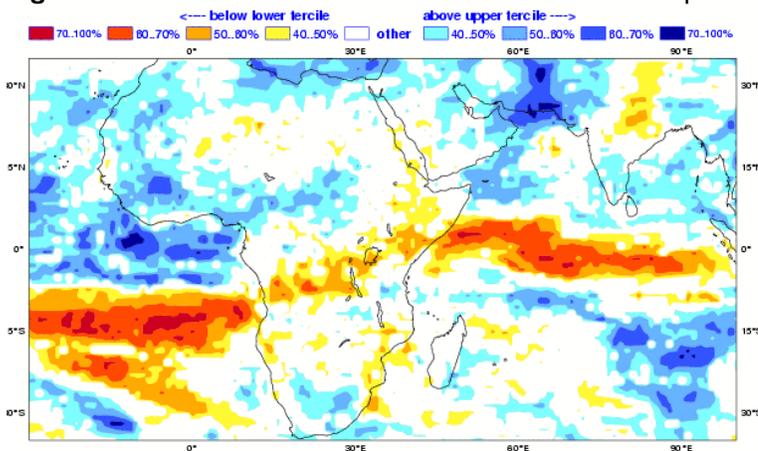
Following the *Deyr* harvests, household stocks and prices are likely to improve in the short-term, moderating food deficits. Nonetheless, food access will remain difficult for millions of Somalis and over the course of the Feb/Mar-June period, high food prices, the sale of crop harvests for debt repayment, and inadequate emergency response, are likely to result in an IPC Phase 4 – Emergency, particularly in the worst affected southern cropping areas and in IDP concentrations (Figure 5). Finally, very early forecasts for the 2012 *Gu* season suggest that below-average rainfall is possible (Figure 6), in part due to the re-emergence of a La Nina. While a failed season is not currently anticipated, below-average main season crop production would constrain recovery and could result in a persistent Emergency throughout 2012.

In the worst-case scenario, *Deyr* season crop production would be poorer than currently forecast and 2012 *Gu* season rainfall performance would be significantly below-average. This shock would affect both pasture and water availability in most of the agropastoral areas of Juba, Gedo and Shabelle and would substantially reduce crop production, with a subsequent reduction in the size of price reductions expected in the most-likely scenario. Income from agricultural labor and poor household cereal stocks would remain far below average. Also in this scenario, humanitarian access would decrease due to ongoing insecurity and military interventions. While some improvement in food security would still be expected during the January-March period, Famine could re-emerge later in 2012. While significant flooding in riverine areas is possible, it is considered very unlikely and, in the aggregate, continued dryness would have a more substantial impact on food security.

#### Agropastoral areas of Bay and Bakool

Bay is the major sorghum producing area of Somalia. The 2010/11 *Deyr* rains were a complete failure, the 2011 *Gu* rains were below average and poorly distributed, and the *Hagaa* rains, which can sometimes offset a poor *Gu* season, were also very poor. As a result, crop production over the last year has been the worst in 17 years. *Deyr* harvests were a complete failure and *Gu* 2011 cereal harvests were 10 percent of *Gu* 2010, 20 percent of five year average (2006-2010), and 19 percent of the post war average (1995-2010). Cowpea harvests over the past year have also been complete failures. This poor production has resulted in extremely limited household and market stocks, even during the immediate post-harvest period. In these zones, where own production and purchases funded by crop sales supply 40-80 percent of food consumed by poor households, these extremely poor harvests have resulted in substantial food deficits at the household level. Meanwhile, limited cereal supplies drove cereal prices to record levels in May/June, and though prices have subsequently declined –as the limited *Gu* harvests have reached local markets— September sorghum prices in Bay and Bakool remained 179 percent and 20 percent higher than in September 2010, respectively. Similarly, retail maize prices were 167 percent and 51 percent higher than last year in Bay and Bakool. While absolute prices in Bakool are generally similar to Bay, cross border trade has prevented the same level of increase as in Bay. While labor demand and wage rates have improved slightly in some areas, September wage to sorghum ToT remained 70 percent lower than 2010 in Bay (3 kg/day vs. 10 kg/day) and 20 percent below last year in Bakool.

**Figure 6.** ECMWF Probabilistic rainfall forecast for Feb/Mar/Apr 2012



Source: ECMWF

Food and income from livestock have also been much lower than usual over recent months. Low cattle and sheep/goat conceptions during *Hagaa* 2010 and *Deyr* 2010/11 and high abortion rates between January and April resulted in very few births during the April-June period. Limited births has meant very low milk production and, in combination with high levels of animal mortality, reduced herd sizes. Animal holdings have fallen 40 to 80 percent compared to baseline levels. Meanwhile, low animal prices (due to both poor body conditions and oversupply) and the high cost of maize and sorghum have kept livestock to cereal ToT very low. September 2011 goat-to-sorghum ToT were 30 percent of 2010 (50kg/goat vs. 166kg/goat) in Bay and 70 percent of 2010 (58kg/goat vs. 82kg/goat) in Bakool. Recent *Deyr* rains have eased water stress and supported pasture regeneration, though body conditions for most livestock which remained in Bay and Bakool remain poor and few animals in these zones conceived during the *Gu* season. However, many animals migrated to riverine areas of Lower Shabelle and towards southern Ethiopia. These animals are likely to be in better condition and to return during the *Deyr*.

Intensified conflict in Bay and Bakool regions has further eroded food security by hindering trade and population movement, disrupting economic activities and transportation networks, and limiting humanitarian access. Bay/Bakool is a primary area of origin for Somalia IDPs, with 43,200 people displaced between July 1 and October 7 and most travelling to Mogadishu, Lower Shabelle, and Gedo regions. Assistance to Bay and Bakool have improved in recent months with relief food being distributed by ICRC and the OIC, cash and food vouchers from FAO, and WASH and nutrition programs implemented by UNICEF. However, major response gaps remain, especially in agropastoral Bakool and northern Bay. Gifts, loans, and other coping strategies are also less effective than usual due to the scale of recent crop losses and the current crises.

Despite some recent improvements in agroclimatic conditions and response, poor and lower middle households continue to face famine-level food deficits due to the combination of extremely poor crop harvests, limited crop sales income, and reduced wage and livestock purchasing power. Food deficits, though still large, may be smaller in agropastoral areas of Bakool due to a greater reliance on livestock and lower sorghum prices resulting from inflows of grain from Ethiopia. According to the most recent FSNAU nutrition surveys (August) the prevalence of global acute malnutrition was 58.3 percent in Bay and 41.1 percent in Bakool. The crude death rate was 2.2/10,000/day in Bay and 2.11/10,000/day in Bakool. Given this combination of food deficits, malnutrition and mortality, agropastoral areas of Bay and Bakool remain classified as IPC Phase 5 – Famine.

FEWS NET's projected analysis for the October 2011 – March 2012 period is based on the following assumptions (in addition to the national level assumptions listed above):

- Area planted in Bay/Bakool is projected to be 60-80 percent of average, in part because many poor farmers have left the region and not returned, reducing area planted by both poor households and by middle and better-off households that employ the poor as laborers. Poor household planted area is likely to be further reduced because those households that do return are expected to spend more time working on others farms in order to earn cash to meet immediate food needs (rather than planting their own fields). Finally, even in areas where labor supply is relatively better, labor demand by better-off and upper middle households is likely to be limited because these households lack the cereal or cash stocks typically used to pay workers.
- Due to increased conceptions during *Gu* and *Hagaa* 2011, medium livestock births are expected in December/January.
- Ongoing insecurity in the regions with similar impacts on trade and humanitarian assistance delivery as over recent months. Declines in outmigration as the *Deyr* season gets underway.
- Deteriorating humanitarian access due to rains and conflict (Oct-Dec), some improvement between January and March. Additional humanitarian response through cash and vouchers.
- Decreased gift giving (Zakat and normal gifts) between October and December due to a reduction in livestock holdings and milk availability.
- The overall pattern of sorghum/maize prices in Bay is likely to be similar to the overall national pattern, though the magnitude of Sept/Oct declines in prices are likely to be smaller than in areas with better *Gu* and off-season harvests (e.g., L. Shabelle).

Given extremely low household stocks and further increases in staple food prices between October and December, substantial food deficits among poor households are likely to continue until the *Deyr* harvests in January/February despite improvements in wages and livestock prices and the return of livestock from dry-season grazing areas. Levels of mortality and malnutrition will be exacerbated by expected disease outbreaks during the *Deyr* season and continued limits on humanitarian response. Therefore, Famine is expected to persist in these areas through at least January 2012.

Assuming the *Deyr* season performs as forecast and that assumption of below-normal area planted is accurate, total cereal production in Bay/Bakool of 60-80 percent of the recent 5-year average is expected. The harvest will improve household stocks and harvest activities will provide many labor opportunities for poor households. Once the harvest reaches markets, prices will decrease, though they will not reach the low levels of previous post-harvest periods. In addition, medium livestock births will improve milk availability. These improvements to food availability and their positive effect on purchasing power will result in substantial improvements to food consumption during the immediate post-harvest period (Jan/Feb), especially for middle and better-off households. However, a number of factors will moderate these gains, especially as the February – June period progresses. First, given the extremely low crop production in Somalia over the past year, market stocks are likely to remain lower than usual, even after the *Deyr* harvest. This could result in earlier than usual (i.e., March) or larger than usual increases during the period of March to May 2012 leading up to the June 2012 when early *Gu* harvests enters into the markets. Second, poor household debt levels are extremely high and a significant proportion of poor household crop harvests will be used for debt repayment, making these households more purchase dependant than usual. Third, for poor households who return to Bay and Bakool but do not plant, either because they are too late or because they focus exclusively on laboring, household food deficits will remain extremely large, even after the *Deyr* harvests. Finally, the prevalence of malnutrition and rates of mortality are so high, that even with improvements, they are likely to far surpass emergency thresholds. Thus, agropastoral areas of Bay and Bakool are likely to improve to Phase 4 – Emergency during the January to March period.

### Shabelle Riverine

The Shabelles are the maize basket of Somalia. However, performance of *Gu* 2011 rains was poor, resulting in cereal harvests in riverine areas of Middle Shabelle and Lower Shabelle that were 16 and 35 percent of *Gu* 2010, 28 and 47 percent of five year average (2006-2010), and 22 and 37 percent of the post war average, respectively. Given the importance of crop production in this region, these poor harvests affected not only household stocks, but national maize availability. An insignificant quantity of cowpea was harvested during the *Gu* Season. 2011 *Hagaa* rains performed well in the Shabelles and 11,000 MT of off-season maize were harvested in September-October 2011, though most of this production occurred in agropastoral areas. *Hagaa* rains also resulted in significant improvement in riverine pasture conditions, attracting a huge influx of livestock from Juba and Bay regions, improving milk and meat availability. However, this mainly benefitted better off and middle households because poor households had no way to purchase these foods.

Agriculture labor demand improved between June and September after good *Hagaa* rains facilitated off-season cropping. Daily wages in the riverine reference markets of Jowhar and Quorioley have been largely stable over recent months and remain near last year's levels and the five-year average. As of September 2011, maize prices have decreased by 50 percent since the record highs of June 2011. However, maize prices in Jowhar and Quorioley remain 56 percent and 79 percent higher than September 2010 and 57 percent and 98 percent higher than five year average, respectively. Prices for imported commodities, such as sugar and vegetable oil, remain higher than the five year average and the same time last year in the two zones. Local quality goat prices have been relatively stable over recent months, are similar to last year, and are roughly 50 percent higher than the five-average. On average, wage to maize TOT in Jowhar and Quorioley increased by 60 percent compared to August 2011 (5 to 8kg), but they remain 65 percent lower than September 2010 and 27 percent lower than the five year average. Similarly, maize to local quality goat ToT increased by 67 percent (69 - 115kg/head) in Shabelle compared to August 2011 but is still 52 percent and 32 percent lower than same time last year and the five year average, respectively.

Humanitarian assistance improved in riverine areas of Shabelle, with some poor households receiving cash and food vouchers and an increase in nutrition programs, mainly supported by UNICEF. Access to social support and provision of Zakak from the recent maize crop harvest has also helped some poor households to access food. However, despite these improvements, levels of acute malnutrition and mortality have been extremely high (Lower Shabelle: GAM =28.7%; SAM =

14.2%; CMR = 6.12; U5MR = 20.3 [July 2011]. Middle Shabelle: GAM = 19.6%; SAM = 8.2%; CMR = 1.72; U5MR = 5.29 [July 2011] and in combination with *Gu* 2011 crop failure, small *Hagaa* off-season harvests, and cereal prices which are still higher than average, poor and IDP households in riverine Lower Shabelle are likely to still be facing famine level food deficits.

FEWS NET's projected analysis for riverine areas of Shabelle during the October 2011 – March 2012 period is based on the following assumptions, in addition to the national and regional assumption listed above:

- Similar to Bay region, area planted in Shabelle riverine is projected to be 65-80 percent of average, due to a combination of displacement, increased focus of poor households on wage labor to meet immediate needs (rather than planting their fields), and reduced assets among better off and middle income households for paying laborers.
- No major flooding is anticipated.
- The overall pattern of maize prices in Shabelle is likely to be similar to the overall national pattern, however, the magnitude of August/October declines in prices are higher in areas with better *Hagaa* off-season harvests (e.g., L. Shabelle) than Middle Shabelle.
- Insecurity is likely to intensify in riverine Shabelle due to renewed conflict.
- Humanitarian responses expected to increase until access is possible, however increasing insecurity will hamper responses and reduce agencies involvement in these regions

Despite some recent improvements in cereal availability and prices during September and October, outcomes for a significant proportion of poor and displaced households are expected to remain at Famine levels during the October to December period due to a combination of limited household stocks, reduced purchasing power of labor wages, and disease outbreaks. Assuming 65-80 percent of average area planted and late-season *Deyr* rainfall deficits, total cereal production in Shabelle of 60-80 percent of the recent 5-year average is expected. The production will provide poor households with cereal stocks for the two months (Jan-Feb) and harvest activities will provide labor income to poor households. In addition, once the harvest reaches markets, prices will decrease, though they may not reach the low levels of previous post-harvest periods. In addition, self-employment opportunities will improve during the January-March period, as the better-off and upper middle households demand for construction, fish, and transportation of harvested crops from the farms to stores and markets increases. This combination of improvements will result in substantial improvements to food access and to levels of malnutrition and mortality. Overall, these areas are expected to be classified as Phase 3 – Crisis.

### Shabelle Agropastoral

Both *Deyr* '10/11 and *Gu* 2011 rains failed in most of the Shabelle agropastoral livelihood zone, except in Wanlewyn district which received normal to above normal *Gu* rains. As a result, *Deyr* production was the lowest since 1997 for both Middle Shabelle and Lower Shabelle (46 percent and 23 percent of the post-war average and 51 percent and 34 percent of last year, respectively). *Gu* 2011 cereal harvests were also extremely poor (16 percent and 35 percent of *Gu* 2010, 22 percent and 37 percent of post war average (1995-2010) and 28 percent and 47 percent of five year average (2006-2010)). The cowpea crop in these areas was affected by both moisture stress and high pest infestation. No cowpea was harvested in Lower Shabelle and only 150 MT were harvested in Middle Shabelle during *Gu* 2011. These successive seasons of poor production resulted in massively inadequate cereal stocks at both the household and market levels.

Following the *Gu* season, good *Hagaa* rains revived pasture and water and benefited standing crops. According to the FSNAU/FEWS NET *Hagaa* impact assessment, a total of 10,635 MT of maize were harvested in Lower Shabelle, with 2,310 MT coming from agropastoral zones. However, despite these harvests, poor and lower middle households have no cereal stocks, as the crops were used to repay debts, and will completely depend on food purchases over the coming months. The combination of *Gu* and off-season harvests are equal roughly 50 percent of 2010 harvests and the 1995-2010 average.

As *Hagaa* harvests reached local markets in September, maize prices declined significantly, dropping by 41 percent compared to July 2011. However, they remain 115 percent higher than in September 2010. Meanwhile, due to heavy competition between IDPs and local populations in Lower Shabelle, labor wage rates declined by 22 percent and 25 percent

compared to July 2011 and September 2010. In Middle Shabelle, wage rates were comparable to last year. September labor wage to maize ToT increased by 100 percent (3 kg – 6 kg) from July 2011 in Middle Shabelle and 25 percent (4 kg – 5 kg) in Lower Shabelle, but in both areas the cereal equivalent of wages remained roughly 60 percent below last year and the five-year average.

Income and food from livestock has been notably lower than usual throughout 2011. Livestock production, births, and milk availability have been very low due to low conceptions during *Deyr* 2010/11 and high abortion rates during the *Jilaal* season. Herd sizes are below baseline due to these reduced births and higher than usual levels of mortality during 2011. However, recent *Deyr* rains have improved water and pasture conditions, and most livestock have fully recovered from the past drought. In September livestock prices increased due to improved livestock body conditions and a decline in supply after in-migrated livestock from Juba, Gedo and Bay returned to their areas of origin. However, despite this increase, and declining maize prices, livestock to cereal ToT are significantly lower than the 5-year average (2006-2010) and last year. September 2011 goat to maize ToT were 53 percent of September 2010 (94kg/goat vs. 178kg/goat) in Middle Shabelle and 41 percent of September 2010 (100kg/goat vs. 246kg/goat) in Lower Shabelle.

Intensified conflict in Mogadishu has further worsened food security by hindering trade and population movement, disrupting economic activities and transportation networks, and displacing large numbers of people. Lower and Middle Shabelle host the largest IDP population in Somalia (548,070 people as September 2010).

In a normal year, poor households in this zone meet food needs through own production and food purchases funded by wage employment, self employment, and livestock and livestock product sales. However, in 2011 extremely poor harvests, high cereal prices, low wages, and a reduction in the value of asset holdings have resulted in significantly food deficits at the household level. Assistance to Shabelle regions has improved in recent months with relief food being distributed by ICRC and the OIC, cash and food vouchers from FAO, and WASH and nutrition programs implemented by UNICEF, MSF, COSV, SWIS-Kalmo, IRS and Muslim Aid. However, major response gaps remain, especially in agropastoral areas far from main district towns. Gifts, loans in kind, and other coping strategies are also less effective than usual due to two successive season of crop losses, decline of livestock herds and productivity as well as a high IDP population, which places additional pressure on economic and food resources.

Based on the most recent FSNAU surveys (August) the prevalence of GAM and SAM were 35.3 percent and 40.6 percent and 20.9 percent and 17.1 percent in Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle, respectively, while the crude death rates were 4.21/10,000/day and 2.28/10,000/day. Given this combination of food deficits, malnutrition and mortality, agropastoral areas of Shabelle remain classified as IPC Phase 5 – Famine.

FEWS NET's projected analysis for agropastoral areas of Shabelle during the October 2011 – March 2012 period is based on the following assumptions:

- Area planted is projected to be 65-80 percent of average, due to displacement of farming households and because upper middle and better-off households that employ the poor to plant their fields have less cash and cereal stocks to pay workers than usual.
- Due to increased conception in *Hagaa*, medium sheep/goat births is expected in late *Deyr* and early *Jilaal* (December - January) while cattle births are expected in March 2012.
- Ongoing insecurity in the regions with similar impacts on trade and humanitarian assistance delivery as over recent months.
- Declining arrivals of IDPs into the region as the *Deyr* season gets underway and returns of many existing IDPs to their areas of origin (Bay, Bakool and Middle Juba).
- Some improvement in humanitarian response through cash relief and food vouchers.
- Decreased gift giving (Zakat and normal gifts) between October and December due to a reduction of livestock herd size and milk availability.

Due to limited household cereal stocks, high staple food prices, and low milk production due to low births during *Gu* (April-June), poor and lower middle households in the agropastoral zones of the Shabelle regions are likely to remain heavily

purchase dependant and face significant food deficits until the *Deyr* harvests in January/February. This is likely despite the good off-season harvest riverine areas which significantly reduced staple food prices between September and October and led to improvements in wages and livestock conditions. Levels of mortality and malnutrition will improve but are likely to remain above the famine threshold, especially given the expected disease outbreaks during the *Deyr* season and continued humanitarian response gaps. Therefore, Famine is expected to persist in these areas through at least the end of December 2011.

Assuming *Deyr* season performs as forecast and assumptions of below normal area planted are accurate, a harvest totaling 65-80 percent of the 5-year *Deyr* average is expected. Similar to the projection for riverine areas, the harvest will improve household stocks and labor opportunities for poor households and drive a reduction in cereal prices. In addition, improved milk availability is likely due to low to medium camel calving and medium goat kidding in January 2012 which will benefit poor households through milk gifts and animal *zakat*. These improvements to food availability and their positive effect on purchasing power will result in substantial improvements to food consumption during Jan/Feb, especially for middle and better-off households. In March, substantial land preparation activities will improve both labor opportunities and income for the poor. However, given that poor households rely on own crop and livestock production for 65-95 percent of their food consumption, below average harvests, high debt levels, and reduced herd sizes are expected to result in continued food deficits, though they will be smaller than over past months. Malnutrition and rates of mortality are likely to decline during the January-March period due to nutrition and WASH responses as well as the improvements in food access. Thus, agropastoral areas of Shabelle are likely to improve and shift to Phase 4 – Emergency during this period.

#### **Gedo and Juba Riverine zones**

A late start, erratic and below average performance, and early cessation of *Gu* 2011 rainfall, as well as erratic *Hagaa* rains, significantly affected crop production in riverine zones of Gedo and Juba. *Gu* 2011 maize production was 8 percent of the Post-War average, 14 percent of the 5-year average, 9 percent of last year's harvest, and the lowest since 1995. Pasture conditions, however, are near average, resulting in an influx of livestock into riverine areas. River levels are high and pump irrigation crop production (cereals and cash crops) is ongoing in Gedo, mainly by better off and upper middle households. Current military operations and protracted insecurity in Juba and Gedo have limited humanitarian access, hindered trade and population movement, and disrupted economic activities and transportation networks, limiting in-flow and out-flow of cereals in some areas.

Maize prices in riverine markets of Gedo and Juba decreased by 25 and 13 percent between August and September respectively, but remain 28 percent and 197 percent higher than the five year average (2006-2010). Prices for imported commodities such as sugar and vegetable oil have been largely stable in recent months but are still significantly higher than last year and five year average. Prices are lowest in Gedo (due to large-scale assistance deliveries) and border areas (given cross-border trade with Kenya and Ethiopia). The daily labor wage rates in these riverine zones increased between 2-26 percent (largest increase in Lower Juba and smallest increase in Gedo) in September compared to August, but remain 30-60 percent lower than September 2010. Between August and September, daily labor wage rate to white maize ToT remained stable in Middle Juba and increased by 20 percent and 33 percent in Gedo and Lower Juba. Nevertheless in Middle and Lower Juba the cereal value of daily wages remained very low – roughly 13 percent of September 2010 and 20 percent of the 5-year average. Wage-to-cereal terms of trade are substantial better in riverine areas of Gedo, and near average, largely due to the large-scale food aid distributions by WFP, ICRC and INGOs from OIC, cash for work, and cash transfers.

Despite some improvements in wages and wage-to-cereal TOT, labor demand is still below-average, limiting labor income. Also, cereal stocks remain very small for poor and most middle income households in these livelihood zones who typically depend on own production to meet more than half of annual consumption needs. Remittances are not a significant source of income for poor households in riverine areas. In Juba, only one quarter of people in need of food assistance were reached in September, largely due to Al-Shabaab access restrictions, though early reports indicate improved access in October. In Gedo, substantial assistance, including food aid, food vouchers, and cash support is ongoing, though these assistance flows are tenuous given increasing insecurity and impassable roads due to heavy rains. In sum, poor households in Juba riverine zones currently face substantial food deficits while in riverine areas of Gedo, though food consumption remains poorer than usual, food access is relatively better due to the delivery of assistance. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition is still significantly higher than the WHO emergency threshold in both areas; 23 percent and 39 percent in

Gedo and Juba, respectively, and crude and under-5 death rates are also near Famine levels. Given food deficits, malnutrition and mortality, these riverine areas of Gedo and Juba are currently classified as Phase 4 – Emergency.

Looking ahead through March 2012, the most-likely scenario is based on the following assumptions, in addition to the national and regional assumptions described above:

- Area planted is expected to be average in Juba riverine and above-average in Gedo due to cash-for-work programs and seed distributions.
- Some flooding is expected in riverine areas of Juba during the *Deyr* season
- Cereal, cowpea and livestock prices will generally follow national trends and increase through January, though in Gedo, cereal prices will remain low and stable as main markets locate at the border towns where humanitarian access is widely available.
- A recent Kenyan military invasion has cut the supply route for imported commodities from Kismayo. Prices of sugar, vegetable oil, and wheat flour are likely to increase in all markets bordering with Kenya.
- Labor demand will follow seasonal trends but wages will not recover to what they were in 2010.
- Trade restrictions continue to affect in- and outflow of cereals and essential commodities Lower Juba.
- Continued presence of IDPs and new displacements, especially in Juba
- Limited humanitarian access, particularly in Juba, due to violence and control of movement. Some deterioration in access in Gedo, especially during the Oct-December period, due to insecurity and rains.

During the October-Dec period, poor households in riverine areas of Gedo and Juba typically meet food needs through own production, gifts, and purchases. Purchases are funded by crop sales and agricultural labor. This year, household cereal stocks will remain extremely limited until the January/February harvests, constraining both consumption of own-produced crops and income from crop sales. Some labor income will be available, particularly during October and December, but given high prices for staple foods and increased purchase dependence, it is unlikely that labor income will be sufficient to meet poor household survival needs. Given relatively better pastoral conditions in these zones, many livestock migrated here during the July-September dry season. As a result, milk availability will be good at the beginning of the *Deyr* season, but will decline as these animals return to their areas of origin. Although social support networks have been overstretched remittances increased by 17-18 percent from September 2010 and will fill some food deficits in Juba and Gedo regions. Most poor households in riverine areas of Gedo and Juba have no animals of their own. Although social support networks have been overstretched, gifts increased by 17-18 percent compared September 2010 and will fill some food deficits in Juba and Gedo regions. Levels of mortality and malnutrition are likely to stabilize/improve due to ongoing response. Therefore, riverine areas of Gedo and Juba are projected to remain classified as Phase 4 – Emergency. In both areas, underlying food access condition will remain very constrained and uncontrolled disease outbreaks or interruptions to humanitarian assistance would result in a deterioration to Phase 5- Famine.

January/February *Deyr* season harvests are expected to be mixed in riverine areas. Middle and better-off households are expected to benefit from average harvests which will bring significant improvements in food access and income from crop sales. In riverine Gedo, poor household crop harvests are also likely to be average as increase planted area and seed access offsets the negative impacts of late season dryness. In riverine Juba, however, crop harvests are likely to be below-average due to the impacts of flooding, late season dryness, and because households in this zone will not benefit from assistance like farmers in Gedo. In addition, high debt levels among poor farmers in both regions mean that although harvests will improve household stocks in the short term, much of the harvests will be sold for debt repayment, leaving households with very limited stocks by March. Improvements in levels of malnutrition and mortality are likely during this period, particularly in Gedo and Middle Juba. Overall, riverine areas of Gedo and Middle Juba are likely to improve to Phase 3 – Crisis, while riverine areas of Lower Juba will remain at Phase 4 – Emergency.

#### **Agropastoral areas of Gedo and Juba (Southern Agropastoral Livelihood zone)**

*Gu* 2011 rains started late, ended early and performed erratically across agropastoral areas of Gedo and Juba. *Hagaa* season rains were similarly erratic in the coastal agropastoral areas of Lower Juba, and failed completely in the inland agropastoral areas of Juba and Gedo. This poor seasonal performance resulted in a total *Gu* 2011 crop failure in rainfed parts of Gedo and Juba and very limited off season crop (sesame and cowpea) harvests during September/October in the

coastal part of Juba. Rains partially replenished most water sources but strong and warm *Hagaa* winds accelerated water depletion and caused early livestock migration towards riverine areas of Juba and Shabelle.

Insecurity remains a significant driver of food insecurity in these livelihood zones. A recent, large-scale military invasion into Gedo and Juba by the Kenyan military has resulted in civilian casualties, asset destruction and population displacement. Insecurity, related to both the Kenya military and armed Somali groups, is also hindering trade and population movement, disrupting economic activities, and transportation networks, and limiting humanitarian access.

Despite some recovery in animal body conditions and prices, livestock prices in these areas remain below both last year and the five-year average. This limits the value of livestock sales, which typically account for 10-15 percent of poor household income in these areas. In addition livestock holdings are below baseline levels (camels: 75-100 percent of baseline, cattle: 15-46 percent of baseline, and sheep/goats: 13-36 percent of baseline) and are expected to drop further between October and December. Household cereal stocks are very low (typically they account for 50-60 percent of food consumption) and milk production from all species is below average (0-5 percent of typical food consumption). Food purchases (35-45 percent of typical consumption) are also limited by both high prices and low income. Sorghum prices in Gedo agropastoral decreased sharply in September (-39 percent compared to August) but remain 51 percent higher than average and 25 percent higher than September 2010. In Juba, maize prices decreased by 12 percent in September compared to August but remain, on average 197 percent higher than average and 231 percent higher than last year. Rice prices in agropastoral areas of both regions remain roughly 15 percent above average. In September 2011, wage to sorghum TOT in Gedo increased by 50 percent compared to August but was still 25 percent lower than average and 40 percent lower than last year. In Juba, wage to maize ToT have remained unchanged since July and remain 85 percent below both September 2010 and the five year average.

The prevalence of acute malnutrition and mortality rates in Juba agropastoral (34.4 percent GAM, 14.2 percent SAM, 1.82/10,000/day CDR, and 4.62/10,000/day U5DR [August 2011]) and Gedo agropastoral (51.9 percent GAM, 19.3 percent SAM, 1.67/10,000/day CDR, and 5.29/10,000/day U5DR [July 2011]) are among the highest in southern Somalia. Based on the IPC, these areas are currently classified as Phase 4 – Emergency.

Looking ahead: FEWS NET's projected analysis for the October 2011 – March 2012 period is based on the following assumptions, in addition to the national and regional assumptions listed above:

- Area planted is expected to be 60-80 percent of average because many farmers have left these zones and are not expected to return for *Deyr* season planting.
- Small ruminant conception (60-80 percent of normal) is expected.
- In agropastoral Gedo and Juba, receipt of remittances is assuming to continue to decline.
- Income from self-employment (e.g., honey sales), which accounts for 15-25 percent of annual income for poor households, will decline during the wet season due to low demand as better-off and upper middle households reserve their cash for farm inputs and other essential food and nonfood purchases
- Food availability is likely to be relatively better in towns along the Kenya and Ethiopia borders given assistance flows. However, limited accessibility to rural areas due to escalating insecurity and poor road access will limit these benefits.
- The current conflict in these areas will intensify, further restricting in-flow and outflow of trade and limiting trader movements in Gedo and Juba agropastoral areas. Districts such as Elwak and Bardere in Gedo and Afmadow, Kismayo, and Sakow in Juba will be the worst affected. Conflict will also affect availability of staples in both Gedo and Juba agropastoral zones.

Based on these assumptions, poor households in these agropastoral areas will depend primarily on food purchases between October and December given the lack of cereal stocks. Purchases during this period will be funded through wage labor, sales of remaining livestock, and gifts/remittances, but will be insufficient to meet livelihood protection and survival needs. Nonetheless, improved humanitarian response is expected to offset some deficits and prevent further deterioration in malnutrition and mortality. This, these areas will remain at IPC Phase 4 – Emergency during the October-December period, but only because of assistance flows.

January *Deyr* harvests are projected to be 60-70 percent of average given the combined impacts of reduced area planted and poor performance of rainfall during the second half of the season. Harvests will improve household stocks, though most will be used for debt repayment. By the end of the February 2012, poor and lower middle cereal stocks are likely to be exhausted and household members will migrate to urban areas in search of wage labor. Livestock sales and income will decline, though births (~30 percent of breeding female animals) in March will slightly improve herd size and milk availability. Given some improvements in stocks, cereal prices, and milk availability agropastoral areas of Gedo and Juba are expected to remain at IPC Phase 4 – Emergency during the January – March period. Humanitarian assistance is expected to reduce pressure on food access but will not fully alleviate the effects of the recent drought.

### Northern/Central Pastoral LZ

Dry weather persisted throughout the *Hagaa* season, resulting in significant deterioration of pasture and water conditions in most key pastoral areas of the Central and Northern regions. This has further weakened livestock body conditions, especially lactating and pregnant animals. However, exceptionally good *Karan* rains received in W.Galbeed and Awdal between July and September, as well as unusual rains in parts of the Hawd livelihood in Togdheer, Sool and Nugal regions, pockets of Sool plateau, and in Nugal Valley and East Golis livelihoods in Sanaag, Sool, Nugal and Bari regions in September have replenished water sources and improved pasture availability, benefiting livestock. Conception rates also increased significantly between July and August and recent births, though lower than usual, have improved milk availability. Small ruminant herd sizes (sheep/goats) are considerably below baseline levels in most northern pastoral livelihoods (14% - 78% of baseline) with the lowest levels observed in the Coastal *Deeh* livelihood zone of Central and Northeast regions (13%) which has experienced four to six consecutive drought seasons. Camel holdings are close to baseline levels.

Livestock prices and the volume of livestock exports have shown an increasing trend due to Ramadan and stocking for Hajj exports. Between July and September, livestock exports in Berbera and Bossaso ports have increased by 17 percent (754,315 heads) and 18 percent (422,278) compared to same period of 2010, respectively. However, volumes declined between August and September due to a gradual depletion of export quality males, poor livestock body conditions due to the drought, and restrictions imposed by the Ethiopian authorities on livestock exports. In the northern and central regions, local quality goat prices and rice to goat TOT have generally remained stable compared to last year. An increase in livestock prices is expected in October and November due to high demand for Hajj season, however, prices and export volumes will decline typically between December 2011 and March 2012. Poor and middle households in Coastal *Deeh*, the most food insecure area of the north/central will not benefit as they have limited export quality livestock to sell.

Based on an assumption of average to above-average *Deyr* rains in key pastoral areas of the north, pasture and water conditions are expected to improve, benefiting livestock production, body conditions, and value. However, concerns remain for areas such as Sool plateau, the Nugal valley, and Coastal *Deeh*, where levels of pastoral destitution are high and food and income sources are limited. Coastal *Deeh* will remain extremely food insecure during the entire outlook period. Hawd and Addun Pastoral of Central and Hiran and Nugal valley and Sool plateau of northern regions will be classified as IPC Phase 3 - Crisis during the entire outlook period. The other key pastoral and agropastoral areas in the north will remain IPC Phase 2 – Stressed, due to improved livestock prices, milk and meat availability, and better access to markets.

### Urban and IDPs in Mogadishu and Kismayo

During the 2011 Post-*Gu* assessment, the Mogadishu/Afgoye IDP population was estimated to be 910,000 people, of which roughly 80,000 had been displaced in 2011. Of these, 260,000 people are classified as facing famine while the remaining IDPs are either in Crisis (Phase 3) or Emergency (Phase 4). Some of the most extreme levels of malnutrition and mortality in Somalia exist among these displaced populations. A significant IDP population, both older IDPs and more recently arrived IDPs from riverine areas, also exists in Kismayo. In addition, food insecurity has reached Crisis and Emergency levels among local urban populations in both Mogadishu and Kismayo, where nutrition surveys conducted in August/September indicate a deteriorating situation, with the prevalence of acute malnutrition surpassing 20 percent.

Most IDPs and local urban poor and lower middle households meet the vast majority of their food needs through purchases funded by petty trade and wage labor. In the last three months maize prices have declined in Mogadishu (-39%) and Kismayo (-17%). Sorghum prices have also declined by 22 percent in Mogadishu, though this cereal is not available in Kismayo due to escalating insecurity and recent rains which have constrained trade. These declines are due to the release

of cereal stocks by traders, supplies from *Gu* 2011 and off-season maize harvests in Shabelle and Juba regions, and ongoing food assistance deliveries. However, maize prices are still 112-138 percent higher than same time last year. Daily wage to cereal Terms of trade (ToT) in Mogadishu and Kismayo increased by 50 percent between July and September, but remain 50% and 74% lower than in September 2010, respectively.

Assuming poor households can access 25 days of labor per month (2 workers, 12.5 days of labor per month), with an average labor wage rate of ~85,000 SoSh/day, they are only able to access ~60 percent of the minimum expenditure basket and 80 percent of minimum food requirements. Despite the improvement of agriculture labor opportunities in Lower Shabelle and humanitarian response as well as the resumption of port activities after the end of monsoon season, labor wages in Afgoye and Kismayo reduced by 36 percent and 43 percent from September 2010, respectively, though Mogadishu increased by 13 percent. However September wages are 25 percent and 30 percent higher in Afgoye and Mogadishu, respectively, compared to 5-year averages. In Kismayo wages are even less by 25 percent from 5-year averages, this is due to escalating insecurity and Heavy rains which both hindered trade movement and port activities.

Over the coming six months, improved agricultural labor opportunities are likely for Afgoye IDPs able to reach cropping areas of the Shabelle regions. However, labor opportunity is likely to remain poor for IDPs and poor households within Mogadishu and Kismayo. Food prices and wage to cereal terms of trade are also likely to remain unfavorable and continued disease outbreaks are likely. Between October and December, improvements are likely among IDPs accessible to response agencies but mortality and malnutrition levels have been high enough that Famine level outcomes are likely to persist among Afgoye and Mogadishu IDPs. An improvement to Phase 4 Emergency is expected between January and March. A Phase 4 – Emergency among Kismayo IDPs and among local populations in both cities is expected for the duration of the outlook period.