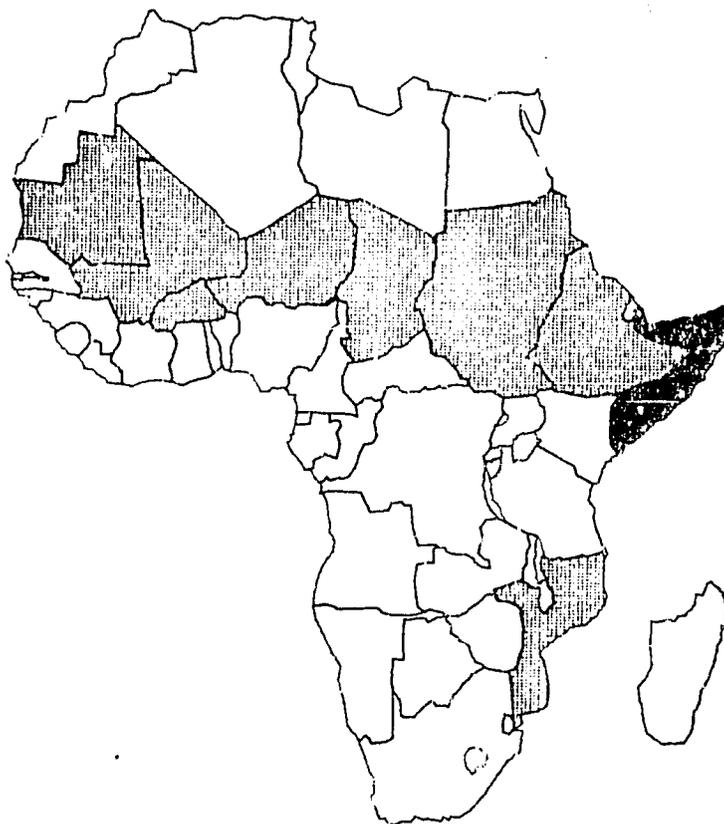


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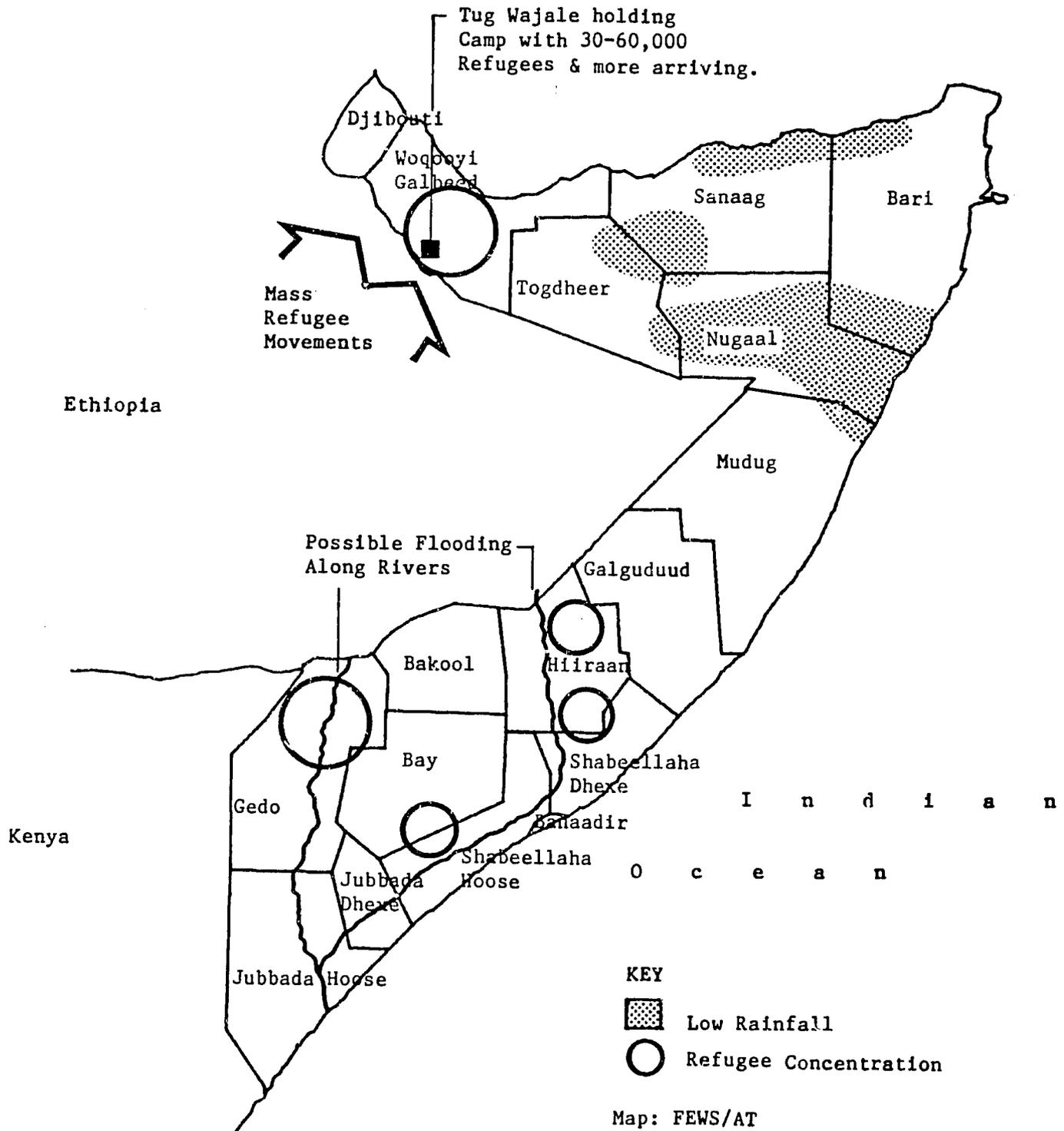
FEWS SOMALIA REPORT MAY 1986

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MAP 1

SOMALIA: Summary Map



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SUMMARY : Agricultural production improved in Somalia this year and the country is expected to be practically self-sufficient in sorghum and maize in 1986. It will only import wheat and rice. However, during the winter rainy season, drought conditions persisted in the northeast during the winter rainy season that affected the nomadic population and their livestock. The rains have begun for the summer rainy season, but it is too early to tell if the rains will have improved enough in timing and quantity to end drought conditions. A possibility also exists that flooding will occur along the Juba and Shabelli Rivers because of the heavy rains at their sources in Ethiopia. Somalia has had a new influx of Oromo refugees from Ethiopia and continues to require assistance for its significant refugee population.

FOOD PRODUCTION : Grain production improved significantly in 1985 over that of the drought stricken year of 1983 and even 1984. (See Table 1.) Most of the gain was in maize production which was 28% higher than last year. (See Graph 1) The increase in production can be partly traced to the price liberalization of January 1985 that lifted domestic price controls pursuant to an agreement between the Government of Somalia and the IMF.

Table 1
SOMALIA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ESTIMATES

<u>Year</u> (000)MT	<u>Sorghum</u> (000)MT	<u>Maize</u> (000)MT	<u>Rice</u> (000)MT	<u>Combined</u> <u>(SorghumEquiv)</u> (000)MT
1979	140	108	13	268
1980	141	111	17	277
1981	207	157	8	380
1982	235	150	20	415
1983	120	235	3	367
1984	221	250	4	485
1985	226	320	6	565

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA.

* Combined Sorghum Equivalent Calculation based on calorie count:
 Sorghum Csg=3,052
 Maize Cmz=3,167
 Rice Cr=3,687.

The current rainy season began on April 9, a date later than last year's. Because of this, crop prospects are not as favorable. The significant rains in Ethiopia this year may cause flooding along the Juba and Shabelli Rivers, a situation that could be potentially devastating for the sedentary populations living near the two rivers. Floods would have a highly

detrimental effect if the farmers have already planted in these areas.

LIVESTOCK : Livestock production has been affected by the drought conditions in the northeast. Oxfam reported in February that prices were beginning to fall and that animals being offered for sale in the north were said to be in poor condition. Livestock are very important to the Somalian economy since at least 45% of the population are nomadic livestock producers and livestock is the major export of the country. The market is very susceptible to poor weather conditions because of its effect on grazing conditions, feed availability and the prevalence of disease and insect pests. The erosion of soil because of overgrazing also intensifies the effects of a drought. (Erosion of the soil in the Northern Rangelands is said to affect as much as 50% of the area.) The first rains of the new season are said to have benefitted grazing areas in the northeast but it is too early to tell whether the rains will be good in spacing and/or volume.

In recent years, health problems among livestock have decreased livestock exports. In 1980-83, livestock products accounted for 88% of the total value of exports. However, exports decreased significantly when Saudi Arabia, the major importer of livestock at that time, banned imports of Somalian livestock because of widespread reports of Rinderpest, a livestock disease. (See Graph 2.) Exports are expected to increase, however, since Egypt is increasing its imports of Somalian livestock.

FOOD NEED : Estimating the food needs of Somalia is difficult because of the range of estimates for each of the basic parameters. Estimates of the total population of Somalia, for example, range from 4,734,000 to 7,595,000 persons. A consensus figure of 5,655,000 was used in the calculation of the total 1986 grainfood deficit for Somalia. The deficit is 143,000 metric tons for non-refugees and between 96,000 and 142,000 metric tons for refugees. If 270,000 metric tons are expected to be imported through commercial imports and food assistance, then, in the best case where the lowest number of refugees is the correct figure, Somalia has a net surplus of 19,000 metric tons. In the worst case, Somalia has a net deficit of 27,000 metric tons. (See Appendix 1 for calculations.)

REFUGEES : Somalia continues to have a large refugee population. Its first influx of Ethiopian refugees occurred in 1979 after the Ogaden War. In 1982, a compromise figure for the number of refugees in UNHCR camps of 700,000 was arrived at between UNHCR and the Somali National Refugee Committee. While 700,000 is still the official number of refugees in camps, USAID believes that only 450,000 are in the camps, the remainder having returned to Ethiopia. The in-camp refugees are in 35 refugee camps and are mostly women and children (only 9% are said to be men and