

## **The inflicted livestock ban and poor 'gu' rains with latent drought perspective, stress pastoralist livelihoods in eastern parts of Ethiopian Somali Region, Somaliland, Puntland and Somalia**

*Multi-Agency<sup>1</sup> Assessment Mission: 23 July - 3 August 2001*

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### **1 Introduction and background**

Reports on poor 'gu'<sup>2</sup> rains in large parts of 'haud'<sup>3</sup> areas of Puntland and Somalia as well as of Warder Zone in Ethiopia, observations of early and therefore unusual seasonal pastoralist migrations and preoccupying reports from Somaliland, Puntland and parts of Somalia with similar observations (FSAU Somalia, 2001), induced the UN-Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia (UN-EUE) to launch a multi-agency assessment mission to 'haud' areas in Somali Region of Ethiopia in south-east Jijiga, east Dege Habur and Warder Zones.

The mission's major objective was to assess the impact of the 'gu' rains on the overall situation in the above-mentioned areas of Somali Region, including pastoralists' livelihood situation and the way they may cope with the present situation that shows signs of potential drought. In addition, it must be kept in mind that last year's inflicted Saudi-Arabian livestock ban caused significant deterioration of pastoralists' terms of trade that reduced general purchasing power in the region and is causing a virtual collapse of its risky non-diversified single good and one-way economy. Furthermore, the inflation of the Somali Shilling that is the prevailing money currency used (also on Ethiopian territory), caused by a substantial influx of fake Shilling notes, only added to the already declining purchasing power.

#### ***The 'haud' areas nowadays: more people, more animals and rapidly depleting natural resources***

To understand the present situation, one has to know about some of the specific particularities of the surveyed areas. Most of the 'haud' areas running along the Ethiopian-Somali (Somali- & Puntland) border do not have permanent water points, even up to now. There still are only few places with permanent water in wells and from boreholes<sup>4</sup>. This has to do with the geology of the area. To find groundwater in some areas one has to drill as deep as 300 m. Moreover, most locations of these permanent water sources are situated outside the 'haud' pasture areas, far away from the potential grazing land.

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<sup>1</sup> Fielded by UN-EUE, WFP, FAO, OWS & the UN Security Office

<sup>2</sup> For definition and explanation, see Glossary in the annex of the report.

<sup>3</sup> The term 'haud' refers to important grazing areas that stretch along the border between Ethiopia, Somaliland, Puntland and Somalia. Pastoralists use the term 'haud' to refer to thick bushy grazing areas, particularly favoured by camels (Sugule & Walker, 1998: p.4).

<sup>4</sup> Wells and boreholes are available in the following localities in Hargeysa, Odweyne, Burco, El Hume, Ceynabo, Ceek, Harada & Las Caando (Somali- & Puntland), and in Bulale, Aware, Gerlogube, Warder, Wel-wel, Wafoog, Ubataale, Agere-Wyne, Geladin, Dudub, Boh, Degob, Do'omo (Somali Region, Ethiopia).

There is a general tendency for long-term changes in the nature of pastoralism as practised in many Somali areas. This is associated with the increase in the number of water points and settlements and the extension of cultivated land. There has been a tremendous increase in water points since the 1960s with the drilling of boreholes, the digging of new wells and particularly the construction of cemented underground water tanks known as 'birkeds'. The latter, introduced by the British, have constructed since the 1950s, with a substantial increase since the 1970s. Farah (1997) estimates that there may be as many as 12,000 'birkeds' in Gashamo Woreda of Dege Habur Zone alone. Since water became



Typical dry 'Haud' area with turtle in Dege Habur Zone, July 2001 (Photo by Guinand UN-EUE)

available, the area started being permanently populated and the number of settlements increased at the same cadence as the number of 'birkeds'. The 'haud' areas, previously exclusively grazed by camels, witnessed the introduction of 'shoats'<sup>5</sup> and cattle that were meant for export and cash. One has to bear in mind that goats, sheep and particularly cattle are not adapted to such a semi-arid environment with uneven and sometimes very low rainfall and that the raising of such stock per se is already a high risk to take. All this development within a very labile semi-arid agro-ecological environment put enormous pressure on natural resources with the result that pastures that are now permanently used, are being overgrazed to the point that in some places they do not recover and are slowly being destroyed. Bushland encroachment for firewood and charcoal production as well as the ever-growing destruction of bushes and trees by cutting branches for small stock to eat the leaves, is putting further stress on the environment. On the other hand, the increase in livestock numbers obviously has negative implications on fodder availability, which in turn has a negative effect on livestock production and health. Sugule and Walker (1998) found that pastoralists now perceive a reduction in milk production for all livestock species and a greater incidence of livestock diseases than years ago. With the introduction of goats, sheep and cattle, the composition of herds grazing in the 'haud' has changed towards an increasing number of cattle kept by herders who previously kept only camels.

There has also been a significant increase in land put under cultivation and consequently a decrease in the area of land open to grazing for pastoralists. Sugule and Walker (1998: p.4) state that "(..) members of previously nomadic clans such as the Gadabursi, Yabarre, Gerri-Jarso, Bartire and, more recently, the Abaskul in the Jerrer valley, have turned to cultivation in the higher altitude and higher rainfall areas such as Jijiga, Teferei Ber and Gursum". Even further south of Jijiga part of the Habar Awal, the Arab and other Isaaq sub-clans became agro-pastoralists whereby they cultivate some land for part of the year. This development is most likely leading to a move from communally to individually held land with rising conflict that can already be observed over land use and land owner rights.

### **Saudi-Arabian livestock ban inflicts deteriorated terms of trade for pastoralists**

<sup>5</sup> The term 'shoats' stays for goats and sheep together. Pastoralists but also highland farmers in Ethiopia raise and keep goats and sheep together in mixed herds. The term is commonly used and accepted all over Ethiopia.

Unfortunately, even though livestock conditions are satisfactory, terms of trade for pastoralists have deteriorated due to the on-going livestock ban that has been put in place by Saudi-Arabia since September 2000 for livestock of the Horn of Africa because of alleged Rift Valley Fever occurrence. The livestock ban has cut the main trade artery for pastoralists living in the Horn of Africa. Livestock production is too high for local consumption only. Therefore, many people cannot sell their livestock, particularly goats and sheep. If they are able to find a customer, the market value for goat and sheep is three times less than it used to be before the ban, when a shoat could be traded for one 50kg bag of cereals. Nowadays a pastoralist has to supply three goats or sheep to get a 50kg bag of cereals. In the annex of the report, there are two tables with a comparison of average market prices for common goods from Warder and Boh settlements (Table 1 & Table 2). Taking into account the Somali Shilling inflation and that the exchange rate to the Ethiopian Birr doubled since last year, market prices indicate a sharp fall for livestock in general and for shoats in particular. In Boh settlement, cattle, camels and donkeys have no market at all. Milk prices did not change and as animals are generally in satisfactory physical condition, the reduced prices are definitely related to the livestock ban and not to the animals' health condition. For other goods, comparisons are more difficult. Wheat in Boh is half the price of last year but the same as two years ago. No conclusions can be made, if cereal prices have been influenced by food aid distributions.

Very few livestock are traded commercially. In Geladin, Warder Zone, the mission encountered three trucks with trailers loaded with cattle heading to Boosaaso port in Puntland. This was the only time a transport of such kind was observed. Whereas before the ban, such trade was frequent and one of the reasons for the risky cattle raising in an area without natural water resources. In Boh settlement, traders accumulated hundreds of sheep and goats a few months ago that were destined for export to the United Arab Emirates. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) lifted the livestock ban a few months ago. Nevertheless, being a very small country, livestock supply for meat is limited. In the weeks after the lift of the ban in UAE, traders quickly bought and shipped thousands of sheep and goats to the UAE. But the demand in UAE was by far less than what had been supplied to the point that shiploads of animals were stranded without finding customers on the UAE coast. Traders lost a lot of money because many animals perished already on the boats or thinned and were in such bad health condition that they had to be sold at a loss. Now many livestock herds in the Horn of Africa are overstocked and what makes matters worse is that the herds are stocked with unproductive male animals that are precisely the ones destined for trade and export to Arabia. Traders and pastoralists are now keeping their unproductive stock in the hope that the '*deyr*' rains may come soon to replenish depleted pasture and water resources and in the hope that the ban may be lifted soon. Both hopes are risky and if neither of both hopes materialises, a good number of cattle, sheep and goats will perish in the region.

#### ***Potential for drought in the east stresses pastoralist livelihoods***

Looking at the overall climatic and bio-physical situation and conditions of the places and areas surveyed, southeast Jijiga and east Dege Habur Zones are significantly better off than most places visited further east in Warder Zone. Compared to last year, the eastern part of the Horn of Africa, i.e. Somaliland, Puntland and parts of Somalia as well as the eastern part of Ethiopia's Somali Region, did not get appropriate '*gu*' rains and in some parts even previous '*deyr*' rains were not sufficient to replenish the vegetation cover and the water reserves in the '*birkeds*' and the natural water pans. Findings of an earlier assessment mission fielded by the Food Security Analysis Unit for Somalia

(FSAU) begin of July to places in western Puntland<sup>6</sup> on poor 'gu' rains resulting in important livestock and human migratory movements also across the border towards Ethiopia's Warder Zone, can be confirmed. The cross-border migration of pastoralists originating from the above-mentioned areas in Puntland to places such as Do'omo and Wenaksen in Boh Woreda, Warder Zone, causes additional pressure on the local population, water resources and particularly pasture. On the Ethiopian side of the border, significant migratory movements have taken place within the last few weeks towards pasture areas around Shilabo in Korahe Zone. In general, pastoralists migrated and are still trying to go further west. Hence, there is a common worry shared by people left behind as well as newcomers from across the border in the eastern part of Warder Zone, that by now it might be too late to move further west due to scarce or already depleted water and pasture resources that are needed to sustain the journey to Shilabo, a major dry season pasture area. Therefore, there is considerable risk for the remaining population and livestock in eastern Warder Zone, that they might be trapped by present drought conditions and have no where else to go anymore. A number of abandoned or semi-abandoned settlements in eastern Warder Zone, witness the seriousness of the situation. These settlements and its population, fully depending on 'birked' water, could no longer sustain and moved after the 'birked's' ran out of water some few weeks ago. Therefore, there is a need to intensify surveillance activities and to closely monitor the situation.



Maize field near Hartisheik showing well-developed cubs, with a satisfactory rate of fecundation up to the top. July 2001 (Photo by Guinand. UN-EUE)

On the other hand, the general situation found in South-east Jijiga and east Dege Habur Zones is considerably better. Neither pasture and livestock, nor water and food crops face serious bottlenecks for the moment. 'Gu' rains have been uneven as usual but in sufficient amount in those places where they occurred. Therefore, no exceptional migration took place with maybe only one unusual incident of early cross-border migration, by maybe one month, of the Habar-Yonis and other Isaaq sub-clans to their dry season pastures that are within Ethiopian territory. There have also been important off-season showers in mid- and end-July. Water, pasture, livestock and agricultural conditions are promising. Maize crop is likely to give a good yield and agro-pastoralists living south of Jijiga and Hartisheik are offering milk to travellers, a gesture that indicates that families presently do not face any food shortage whatsoever.

## 2 Important cross-border migratory pastoralist movements westwards and significant human and animal concentrations

### ***Normal seasonal migration patterns in the northwestern part of the 'haud'***

In southeast Jijiga and east Dege Habur Zones migratory movements of population and livestock are bound to the normal seasonal migration patterns within clan areas. In Gashamo area, pastoralist belonging to Habar-Yonis of Isaaq clan migrated from Gubadguun area (Somaliland) two to three months ago in search of better pasture and water. These people and their livestock will remain in the area until 'deyr' rains will have started in their area of origin. Pastoralists originating from an area locally

<sup>6</sup> Buuhoodle district of Togdeer region, Las Anod district of Sool region, Burtinle district of Nugal region, and Galdogob and Galkayio districts of Mudug region.

known as *Hagaray* southwest of Danot, Wel-wel and Ado and people from Lander, Farhareri and Kurtunle Kebeles are now also grazing their animals in Gashamo Woreda. Some others from the latter group of people moved part of their animals further up north towards Dhiig in Aware Woreda. All these movements are not unusual with the exception that some pastoralists arrived about one month earlier than usual to pastures and grazing areas around Gashamo (compare with Map 1).



Livestock grazing in Kebre Baya Woreda, Jijiga Zone, in an area called "Ba'adah". Pasture is green due to recent rains, July 2001 (Photo by Guinand, UN-EUE)

### ***Stress migration and push-effects westwards from Puntland, parts of Somalia and in Warder Zone of Ethiopia***

The situation is different in Warder Zone and across the border in Puntland where insufficient or failed 'gu' rains forced people to migrate early and to unusual and far places such as, for example, Shilabo in Koraha Zone, which is known to be a potential and large pasture area. Pastoralists interviewed in different places of Warder Zone indicated that a pastoralist movement of such dimension had not occurred for many years. Some were even referring to 'Abarti-Dabader' ('the long drought' of the 1970s) when mentioning migratory movements in their area of Warder Zone.

The migration dynamic behaves like a push-effect whereby migrants from the east (Puntland, east Warder Zone) invade pasture and water points further west forcing the local population in place or part of it to move away with their animals. However, each time migrants pass, water and pasture resources are getting more depleted up to the point when newcomers are not able to feed and sustain themselves on remaining resources anymore. This is the case or will soon be the case in places such as Do'omo, Wenaksen, Boh, Danot, Warder, Geladin and others in eastern Warder Zone. The newcomers are likely to become trapped where they stay right now, particularly near Do'omo and Wenaksen in Boh Woreda of Warder Zone. The drought situation will not allow them to move further, because places such as Shilabo and a few other that still have enough water and pasture are by now too far away to risk a move. In eastern Warder Zone, weak old and young new-born animals that are at highest risk, have died on occasion. Camels, for example, that were encountered at water points in eastern Warder Zone were almost all middle-aged between three and seven years old.

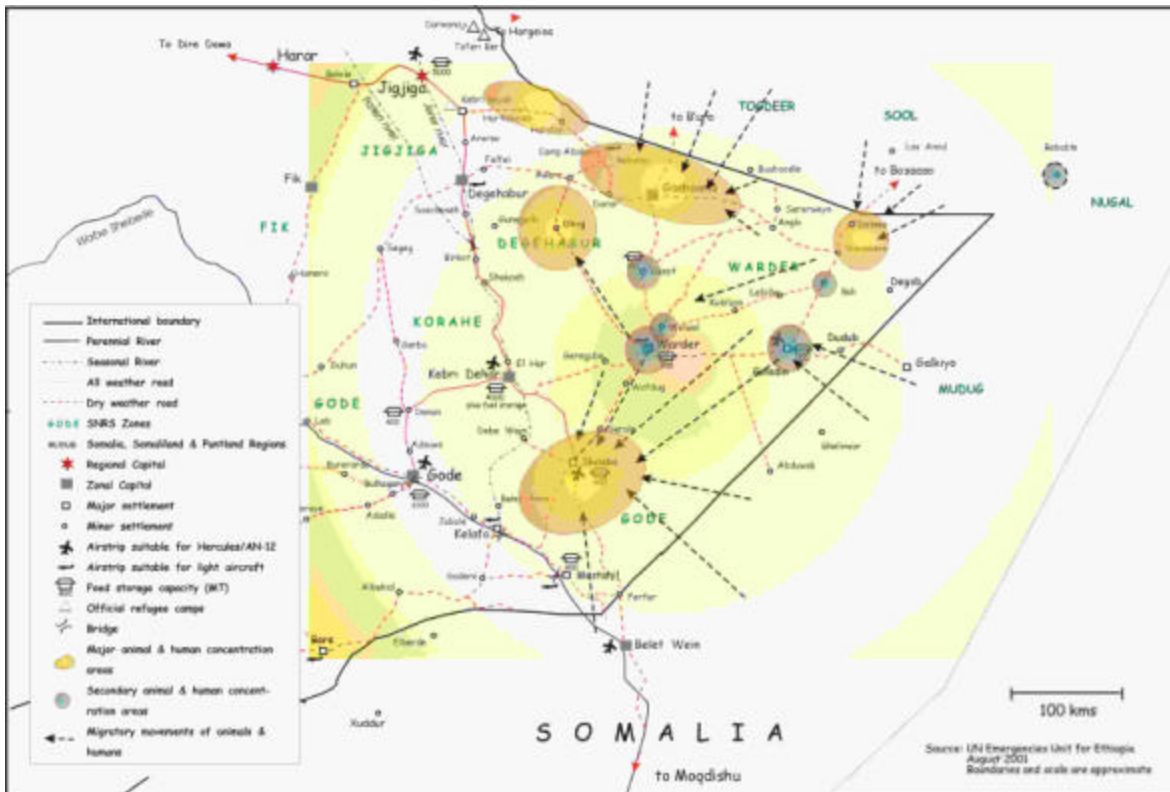
### ***Principal and secondary areas of animal and human concentration***

Within the area covered by the mission, three major animal and human concentration areas can be identified, i.e. pasture and bushland around Gashamo (Dege Habur and Wardeh Zone: see picture below), pasture around Shilabo (Kebri-Dehar Zone) and Do'omo/Wenaksen areas of Boh Woreda in Wardeh Zone (see Map 1). In addition to these major pasture areas, animals and humans concentrate around permanent water points that are few in the area. These secondary concentrations and water points are: Boh and Degob (Boh Woreda), Geladin and Dudub (Geladin Woreda), Wel-wel and Wardeh (Warder Woreda), and Danot (Danot Woreda).



Migrated pastoralists and their 'shoats' near Gashamo settlement in one of the three dry season grazing areas with major human and animal concentrations, July 2001 (Photo by Guinand, UN-EUE)

**Map 1: Approximate animal and human migratory patterns and concentration areas in east Somali region, August 2001**



The dimension of animal and human concentration in the respective areas is difficult to estimate. Nevertheless, the mission tried to get some indications. The Boh Woreda administration estimates that there may be 25% to 40% more households now in Boh Woreda due to external influx mainly to the main borehole and well areas around Do'omo and Boh settlements. That means that there may be 6000 households living in Boh Woreda in addition to the usual 16,000 to 25,000 households. On the other hand, it is also known that many people left Boh Woreda one to two months ago to migrate further west. In Do'omo and vicinity, the pastoralist population is estimated to be usually around 3000. The OWS mission to Do'omo (OWS, 2001) was told that in addition to the local population, 2000 arrived from other areas and from across the border. Hence, the population around the borehole in Do'omo is estimated at 5000. Elders interviewed in Boh and in Kolo'aan settlements of Warder Zone know of 450 families from Boh, approximately 500 families from Geladin and around 700 families from Kolo'aan that sent mainly camels with two to three family members to Shilabo.

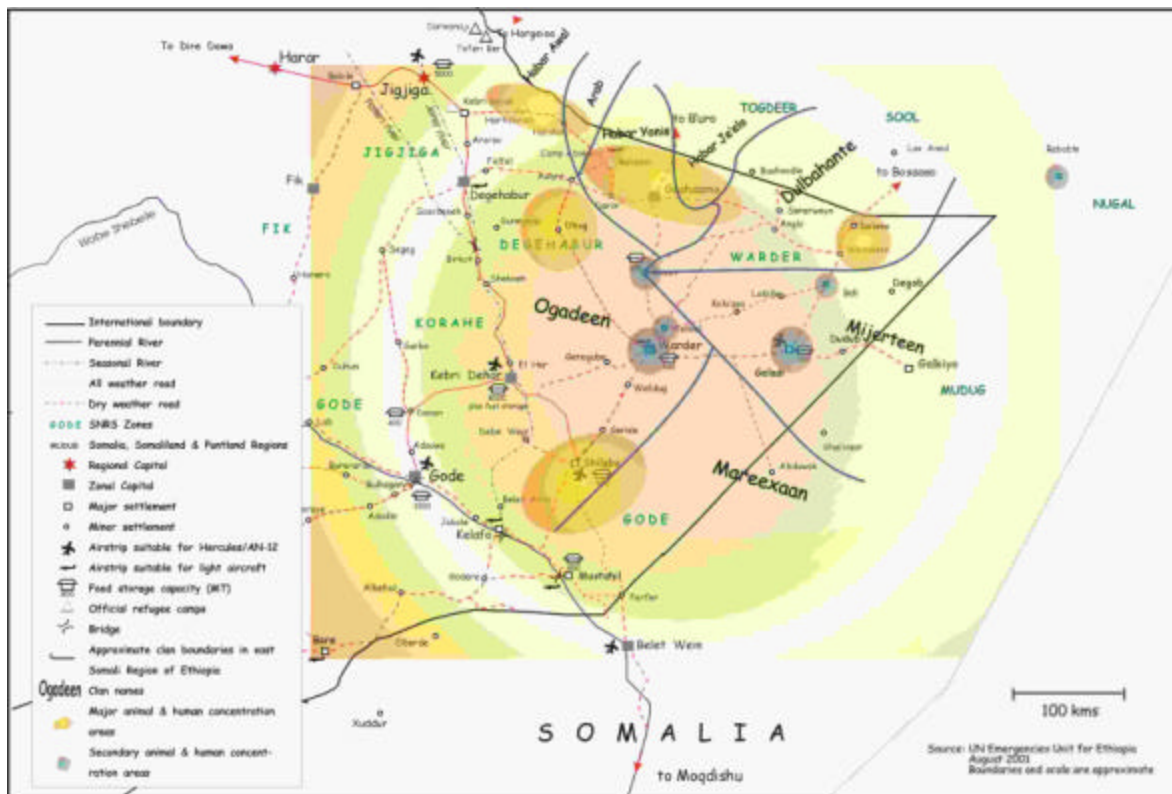
With the exception of Shilabo area and maybe in some places south-east of Gashamo, migration patterns indicate that pastoralist migrated mostly within their clan areas for water and pasture. Nevertheless, in Shilabo, animals and herders from a variety of clans are gathered, notably the Ogadeen that are from the Shilabo area, the Mareexaan from Abduak, the Mijerteen from Geladin, Boh, and Kolo'aan and the Dulbahante from Wenaksen and Do'omo are represented. Whenever there is inter-clan migration and wherever different clans compete for pasture and water, the conflict potential is high due to generally scarce natural resources. Most recent reports from people who travelled from Shilabo indicate that the situation is getting tense among the different clan groups that are gathered in the area due to diminishing and scarce resources such as water and pasture. There were already some incidents reported between Ogadeen and Mareexaan groups. People from Shilabo are getting nervous and try to prevent any further arrivals of people and animals to the area (see also approximate clan boundaries on Map 2).

Below some examples of migration that could be traced during the field mission are listed.

Originating from...	Migrated to...	Clan affiliation of people in place of migration	Inter-clan migration ?
Kalo'aan, Lebille, Wel-wel (Warder Zone)	Lahelow, Tulelo of Shilabo Woreda (Kebri-Dehar Zone)	Mijerteen	Yes
Wafdug, Ubatale, & Ado (Zone?) Do'omo, Boh, Geladin, Warder (Warder Zone) Abuduak (Gelgudud, Somalia)	Shilabo & Kebri-Dehar (Kebri-Dehar Zone)	Ogadeen, Dulbahante, Mijerteen, Mareexaan	No
Danot, Wel-wel, Ado, Lander, Farhareeri and Kutunle	Gashamo Woreda & Dig area of Aware Woreda: (Dege Habur zone)	Ogadeen, Mijerteen & Dulbahante	Yes
	West of Balanbale area (border area)	Mijerteen, Ogadeen & Habar-Yonis	Yes
Marqan, Goob, Burburis, Angallo, Xamar-Laguxidh, Bali-Cad, Buuhoodle, Sererweyn, Jarmaallo, Can-Baal (Warder Zone)	Do'omo, Wenaksen (Warder Zone)	Dulbahante	No
Wedh-wedh, Dandan, Banyaal, Dhallama - Cuune, Dharkeyn (Las Anod District, Puntland)	Do'omo, Wenaksen (Warder Zone)	Dulbahante	No
Geladin	Shilabo (Kebri-Dehar Zone)	Mijerteen	Yes

Likewise, there have been migrations from Mudug (Adado & Bacadweyn) and Galgaduud (Ghelinsor) regions in Somalia to Geladin Woreda (Geladin), and from Togdheer (Buuhoodle) and Sool (Las Anod) regions in Puntland to Boh Woreda (Do'omo, Wenaksen) of Ethiopia.

Map 2: Approximate clan boundaries of east Somali Region



**Family and animal division for seasonal migration is a question of wealth**

The migratory distance that can be covered as well as family and animal division for seasonal migration is related to the respective individual family’s wealth. Wealthy families that own more than 40 camels, who have cattle and around 100 shoats as well as a number of pack animals (usually special camels), allow themselves, if necessary, to migrate to far distant places. In times of drought, such wealthy families may even rent trucks to transport some of the animals and even the family. Less wealthy families with smaller numbers of livestock or those families, who do not own pack animals, may opt to let migrate the able-bodied male family members together with the healthiest camels only. Small stock, cattle, and the rest of the family that is the children, the women and the aged family members, remain in their place or area of origin. Poor pastoralist families with maybe less than 20 shoats, maybe 5 camels and no pack animals, are not in a position to migrate long distances for pasture and water. Families from this pastoralist wealth group are the most vulnerable to drought. The picture that was presented to the mission reflects more or



less a migratory movement along the above drawn wealth lines for the surveyed areas in and around Warder Zone. The wealthy families left for the better pasture grounds in Shilabo all together or sent at least part of the animal herds and the family there. People that remain in places such as Danot, Kolo'aa and other 'birked'-water dependant places are the vulnerable with few wealth assets and the left-behind family members of the better-off that have taken part of their animals out of the usual seasonal migration cycle. In Danot settlement, a number of destitute families that lost their wealth assets in the previous drought of 1999/2000, add to the number of most vulnerable people that need humanitarian assistance. Hence, in times of severe crisis, livelihood survival strategies of pastoralist societies tend to favour the survival of the fittest. The most vulnerable are left behind to their own destiny.

### 3 Empty 'birkeds' and natural water pans - shallow wells and boreholes in need of repair and rehabilitation

The water situation around Gashamo and further up northwest along the Ethiopian border in Dege Habur and Jijiga Zones is not particularly preoccupying. 'Birkeds' are generally still about one third or more full in east Dege Habur Zone and rains at the beginning of August brought additional water. In Jijiga Zone most of the visited 'birkeds' were half to completely full. In Daror, the 'Hafir' dam built by UNHCR to supply water to the refugee camps, is full to burst. However, driving further down the track towards and into Warder Zone, the water situation is getting from worse to worst. Near Gashamo settlement the local NGO 'Hope for the Horn' (HfH) is building a 'Hafir' dam that did carry some water by the time of the mission's visit, but that must be dry by now (see picture below). The water situation in Warder Zone has definitely become critical to the point that remaining water supplies may not be able to satisfy required

demand for humans and animals in the forth-coming weeks and months before the expected 'deyr' rains start in September/October.



Animal concentration at the 'Hafir' dam near Gashamo settlement, Dege Habur Zone, July 2001 (Photo by Guinand, UN-EUE)

Natural water pans in Danot, Gerlogube, Warder, Shebelle and Libeh'Jog (between Rabasso & Daror) are all empty since mid-June. Due to insufficient 'gu' rains, the natural pans only accumulated little water that was soon finished.

'Birkeds' in eastern and southern Warder Zone are empty or running out of water. Hence, animals and humans are concentrating around localities with shallow wells and boreholes. 'Birked' owners, who still have some water left, do not sell it anymore but rather keep it for their own consumption. In addition, the water quality of 'birkeds' is in many places so bad that people now easily catch waterborne diseases. Not that people are not aware of the health danger that these old, algae-overgrown water reserves bear, but there is simply no alternative for them. In some areas where the 'gu' did not bring any rain, the last remains of 'birked' water dates from the 2000 'deyr' rains.



Shallow wells are now being used intensively in Warder, Wel-wel (which also has a newly rehabilitated borehole that functions well and has a high capacity), Geladin, Do'omo and few other places the mission did not visit. The OWS mission to Do'omo in the beginning of August (OWS, 2001) reported that from the more than 200 shallow wells that exist, only 10 are functional. People and animals alike consume the water that is said to be of poor quality by now due to poor well maintenance and reflux and infiltration of contaminated water. In addition, the ground water did not replenish due to failed 'gu' rains (see picture below).

Private 'birked' near Harshin settlement, Dege Habur Zone. Note the algae layer on the water. This 'birked' is about  $\frac{1}{3}$  full with approx. 1m of depth left with water, July 2001 (Photo by Guinand UN-EUE)

Water tankering already started in Danot, Boh and in Wenaksen and Do'omo areas, particularly for those animals (shoats and cattle) that cannot walk to distant permanent watering points. Water tankering

in Danot is organised by the Regional DPPB. For the other two places in Warder Zone, water tankering is private and water sold to those families and 'birked' owners that can afford to buy it. 20 litres cost 1000 Somali Shillings. To water a camel at a 'birked' costs 1500 Somali Shillings. The Regional President in Jijiga stated that in addition DPPC has already allocated four trucks for water tankering to Warder Zone. Some additional funds are expected to be made available for other locations with similar water problems.



Shallow wells in Geladin, Warder Zone. Pastoralists water their camels, July 2001 (Photo by Guinand, UN-EUE)

Borehole capacity in Do'omo, Boh and Degob is hampered and significantly reduced due to mechanical problems and lack of maintenance. The Regional Water Bureau presented a rehabilitation proposal to UNICEF but the status of negotiations is unknown to the mission. Most of these boreholes were drilled more than 10 years ago and none of them were either well maintained or rehabilitated due to lack of sufficient resources. Boreholes in Warder Zone seem all to experience similar problems resulting from lack of maintenance due to financial, logistic and administrative constraints. The Regional Water Bureau is currently drilling one borehole each in Danot and in Kalo'aan settlements. At both sites, no water has been found yet. However, the drilling must most likely be deeper down to 300m and below to expect water.

A camel herder met in Wel-wel who explained that he brought his camel herd from Kalo'aan area more than 80km away for watering, illustrates the severity of the water problem in Warder Zone. The herder confirmed that he had not to come to Wel-wel for more than 15 years, as sufficient water was always available within his locality around Kalo'aan.

In Warder, people complained that part of the numerous traditional wells were not operational anymore, rendering the access to water more difficult and time consuming when herds gather in great numbers. "A food for work project could help us to clean these wells", was the suggested solution to eliminate sand and waste materials being dropped into these wells. But if people are not able to achieve by themselves such simple measures belonging to traditional rules of managing community wells, then why should an

external 'aid' organisation rehabilitate it for free? A similar remark could apply to the numerous wells of Geladin. The mission inspected so-called 'improved wells' that barely had been fitted with consolidation stone and cement works up to the surface. But no specific fittings to alleviate the work of pulling water out, or protection measures to prevent infiltrations of spilled-over water that pollutes the well were in place. Cement troughs to water livestock were seen only at the boreholes of Boh and Wel-wel.

'Birkeds' are covered with bushes lying over a network of wire or metallic tubes. Such a protection reduces the evaporation, but in all 'birkeds' dung and other waste materials could be observed and the dark green colour of the water gives evidence to a high grade of pollution. People were also complaining about an increased occurrence of malaria, as the standing water of the 'birkeds' provides perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

In Boh, the generator and the pump of the borehole have been replaced and are in good condition, providing an output of approx. 200lt/min., with two delivery points of 4 taps each, situated in the town. The water, slightly salted, is of adequate quality for human consumption and covers the needs of the local population and livestock. Even though money is collected from herders who water their animals at the borehole, it is difficult to imagine that a proper cost-benefit calculation has been done to be able to run the pump on a cost-covering basis. A rough estimation ends up with a cost of 2.8 Birr/m<sup>3</sup> of pumped water to cover the pump's fuel consumption. If maintenance costs for the engine, the generator, the pump, the pipes and other installations are added, then the cost per cubic meter of water delivered will probably be around 7 to 8 Birr. The operator of the borehole could not give detailed information on the collection of funds from water users and on the management of these funds. But herders stated that they have to pay approximately 1500 SSh per watered camel (approx. 0.75 Birr).

In Wel-wel one of the two boreholes has been rehabilitated by the Regional Water Bureau and functions without problems.

#### **4 Livestock condition still satisfactory but with a potential to deteriorate rapidly - pasture is partly being depleted**

Livestock condition is still satisfactory in all the places visited, with the exception of the eastern part of Warder Zone. In some localities, young and old cattle as well as camels and shoats died occasionally due to prolonged drought conditions. In Warder Zone, livestock condition may become critical within the coming four to six weeks if drought conditions persist and the 'deyr' rains delay. Cattle are starting to get weak and emaciated (see picture below).

Veterinary services are non-available in the localities surveyed. In terms of veterinary drugs, the mission failed to identify traders and vendors but there is an indication that some drugs are available but not in sufficient quantities. Nevertheless, no particular livestock diseases were reported and no tick infestation could be observed. However, livestock experts say that animals living in drought prone areas could live up to two months longer if they were properly treated with drugs against worms and other parasites and diseases.

The livestock ban left too many non-productive male animals in



Emaciated cows at Boh borehole site, July 2001  
(Photo by Guinand, UN-EUE)

the region that are using up pasture and are depleting the last remaining fodder resources. Pasture is also being depleted rapidly within the big animal concentration areas around Gashamo, in Shilabo and around all shallow wells and borehole areas of Warder Zone. Due to the severity of the drought, branches of *Acacia* and *Terminalia* tree species are being cut to feed animals on the leaves. Particularly in Boh and Geladin Woredas of Warder Zone a good number of *Terminalia* tree species (*T. brownii*), which by the way are highly valued by the Somali pastoralists for their good fodder leaves, are crippled due to heavy browsing and cutting of branches (see picture below).

In view of (1) the degree of degradation of rangelands (the mission's opinion is that the environment in the surveyed areas is already degraded beyond immediate recovery and would not possibly sustain more livestock), (2) the relative animal overpopulation, particularly non-productive male animals, (3) the drought conditions that definitely now persist in many areas in the east and the south of Somali Region, and (4) the livestock ban, one option to avoid or deviate from a possible forthcoming humanitarian disaster, would be to immediately start destocking<sup>7</sup> and reduce the animal population in the most affected areas. On the other hand, all well-intentioned restocking programmes for IDPs and other destitute families who lost animals in previous droughts, are not recommended for the visited areas of Warder Zone and other overpopulated areas of Somali Region. A number of donors, the UN and NGOs are discussing possibilities to establish a number of pilot projects in certain areas of Somali Region to destock through emergency livestock purchases as a market or a relief intervention. In Kenya, Ethiopia's southern neighbour, destocking through emergency livestock purchase has already been successfully implemented on various occasions during drought emergencies such as in 1990 and during the most recent 1999/2000 drought (Aklilu & Wekesa, 2001; Hogg, 1997; Bush, 1992; Wekesa, 1991).



Heavily browsed *Terminalia brownii* with cut branches in Geladin Woreda, Warde Zone, July 2001 (Photo by Guinand, UN-EUE)

## 5 The Regional Government continues to struggle with targeting problems and misuse of food aid at local level

Food aid targeting in the sense that particularly the needy are benefiting from food aid distributions and in accordance with established national guidelines is virtually non-existent in Somali Region. Common sharing and blanket distributions are common misuse practices and cause a situation whereby the needy segment of the population does not get the required ration. Usually, and



Food aid distribution in Fafan for IDPs & other beneficiaries, July 2001 (Photo by Guinand, UN-EUE)

<sup>7</sup> "Destocking can refer (..) to the compulsory sale of livestock under 'n government purchase quotas - this was common under the *Derg* - as Reasons for these quotas [were] generally either to increase valuable reduce pressure on the range. It was widely held (...) that pastoralists 1997: p.9/10)

**Destocking**, alternatively or even in addition to the above-mentioned purchase operations to support the livestock market and the purchasi particularly drought (Hogg, 1997).

once again witnessed for example in Danot settlement, a group of 20 people will get one quintal, i.e. two 50kg bags of cereals, usually wheat. That leaves each individual with 5kg for an unknown period. In a number of places in Warder Zone people receive food aid once every second month, usually the 5kg ration and mostly because food aid deliveries are being delayed by a number of factors. How much food each individual will receive during the food distribution cannot be known beforehand because the number of beneficiaries, i.e. the people who will show up at food distribution day, is not exactly known in advance. However, generally people expect to get around 5kg each.

Despite substantial monitoring efforts undertaken since last year especially by DPPB/D, WFP and OWS (WFP sub-contracted), misuse of food aid could neither be prevented nor stopped. Since storage, transportation and distribution of food aid within the zones and woredas are the respective



Danot settlement: Food aid distribution day, July 2001 (Photo by Guinand, UN-EUE)

administrations' and DPPD's responsibility, the government must tackle food misappropriation. This issue was raised with the regional president who urged DPPB to improve its control over food aid misuse. On the other hand, it seems that not enough food has been allocated to certain distribution places in Warder Zone due to improper targeting. In Boh Woreda the administration has some relief food in stock but fears to organise a distribution because the food in stock is way too little for the affected and stranded population in Do'omo and Wenaksen. In addition, security for a distribution cannot be guaranteed because the administration and the army lack personnel. A food aid distribution

under such circumstances may deteriorate into chaos and conflict that must be avoided under all circumstances. Warder Zone so far received and distributed (including misuse) approximately 4400 MT of wheat and 2600 cartons of vegetable oil since the beginning of the year for an unknown affected and needy population (for details see also Table 3 in annex).

Apart from the local Somali Ethiopians, those who have migrated from the other side of the border also benefit from the Ethiopian food aid and thus increase the burden of already improperly targeted and highly diluted food aid rations.

## 6 Exhausted coping mechanisms

Wild food consumption is frequent in pastoral societies. Nevertheless, pastoralists in Warder Zone

stated that from the usual dozen different varieties of wild food they are able to collect from the bush, this season the only available food are the seedpods and seeds of *Acacia tortilis*. They are collected, freshly consumed and sometimes sold or

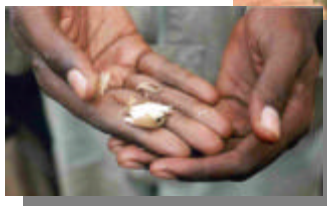


Acacia tortilis seedpods collected by women in Danot settlement, July 2001 (Photo by Guinand, UN-EUE)



Children in Danot eating & enjoying fresh A. tortilis seedpodes, July 2001 (Photo by Guinand, UN-EUE)

traded on the market<sup>8</sup>. However, since it is now difficult to find anybody that is willing to spend money on wild food, the seeds are consumed by the collectors themselves and maybe shared among other family members. Children like *Acacia tortilis* seedpods particularly. Nuts from *Cordeauxia edulis* ('Yicib' in Somali), a small tree or bush species only growing in that particular environment of eastern Warder Zone and across the border in Somalia and Puntland<sup>9</sup>, are also widely consumed when available (see picture below). *Cordeauxia edulis* usually produces nuts after 'gu' and 'deyr'. But due to the lack of recent 'gu' rains, no nuts were produced this season. The nuts are highly valued and achieve a relatively high price on local markets. In Merveille settlement around 30km from Boh towards Degob on the Somalia border, a tin full of nuts costs 4000 SSh. However, the virtual unavailability of wild food plants, even those considered as famine food, that are only consumed in times of extreme food shortage and livelihood hardship, indicates the seriousness of the livelihood condition in eastern Warder Zone and most likely also in areas across the border further east in parts of Puntland and Somalia.



Around major settlement places such as Lebille, Kolo'aan and others, people

as Warder, Geladin, Boh, collect firewood that is sold in

'birked' settlements to teashops and restaurants. Since many people try to earn some money through firewood collection, the profit from this activity is minimal. In the bushland between Daror and Hartisheik, many people produce charcoal that is offered to bypassing vehicles to be brought to markets in Hartisheik and Jijiga.

*Cordeauxia edulis* bush-tree near Merveille settlement (top), nut inside crushed shell (left), July 2001 (Photo by Guinand, UN-

However, local people interviewed during the mission could neither think of any viable, reasonable or benefiting coping mechanism, nor any other alternatives or practical solutions that would hold against the livestock ban with its devastating effects on the local economy. The local Somali pastoralist economy in the region collapsed with the inflicted livestock ban because it is so much fixed and bound to its one and only livestock export market to Saudi-Arabia. The local population that is constituted for the major part of pastoralists, lost purchasing power. Hence, imports of basic necessity goods such as sugar, oil and salt have declined and local traders, transport companies and shopkeepers alike are suffering and enduring the effects of the livestock ban that hit this risky, non-diversified one good and one way economy. Therefore, it seems pertinent that an outside governmental or international market or relief intervention is prepared to support the local economy. Destocking mechanisms as mentioned earlier, seem right now the most viable intervention that could be organised and put into place immediately, presuming there is money available from international donors or the government (see also recommendations).

## 7 Good rains in Jijiga Zone animate clan conflicts and land disputes

### *Land disputes and human casualties*

<sup>8</sup> Two hand full of fresh *A. tortilis* seedpods usually sell for 500 Somali Shillings (Kolo'aan settlement).

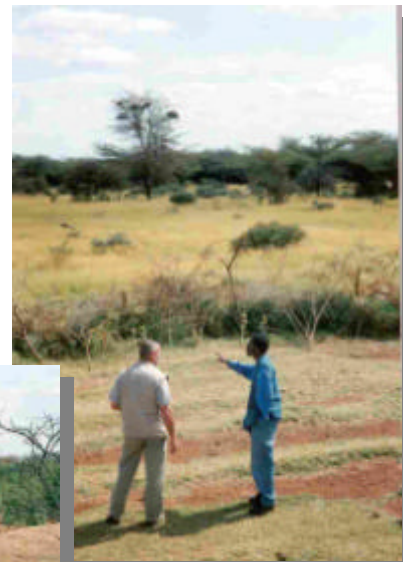
<sup>9</sup> For a general description of *Cordeauxia edulis* see Bekele-Tesemma et al., 1993: p.170/171.

Good rains in Somali Region usually provoke conflicts among sub-clans and clans in areas where there is good pasture but where there is also encroachment of this pasture by agro-pastoralists and farmers for crop production. Land disputes are a typical phenomenon in places where pastoral clash with agricultural interests for example along the Wabe Shebelle river and in parts of agro-pastoral Jijiga Zone. Disputes on land ownership and user rights become increasingly frequent. People who have been away for some time, usually return in good years to their traditional wet season grazing areas and start with opportunistic farming. Opportunistic farming in agro-pastoral areas, particularly when practiced in border areas between different clans and sub-clans, gives rise to high conflict potential as usually both communities or clan groups insist and claim land ownership.

After this season's 'gu' rains, conflict over farming and grazing lands arose in Harshin Woreda (Biyeys locality) between Makahil and Rer-Shirdon sub-clan groups of the Isaaq. Another conflict started between the Abaskul sub-clan of the Darod and the Sa'ad Muse sub-clan of the Isaaq. And on the same issue of land disputes over grazing versus farming land, Abaskul and Ugaden sub-clans of the Darod fought in late June between Jijiga and Fik Zones. Each of the conflicts could be stopped through clan elders, local administration and sometimes even the Regional Government's mediation efforts. Nevertheless, the first conflict between Makahil and Rer Shirdon ended without casualties. But the conflict between the Abaskul and the Sa'ad Muse caused three deaths and wounded two. The Abaskul - Ugaden land dispute ended with more than 10 deaths as a result of the fight.

***Closed rangelands cause more stress on remaining open areas***

Where conditions allow agro-pastoralism to become an alternative to pure pastoralism, concerns about the conservation of the rangelands' natural potential and the agroecological sustainability of this labile environment arise. The traditional practise of private rangeland enclosures to preserve areas from grazing during the rainy periods so that fodder reserves can be kept for the dry periods, or the grass sold as hay to traders for the transport of animals, seems to be expanding. Between Harshin and Gashamo similar enclosures develop, but for the production of irrigated 'khat', sometimes associated with food crops such as maize. Such land privatisations of areas that are normally used as collective grasslands and pasture for dry periods, are becoming sources of conflict among pastoralists. Closed rangelands put more stress and pressure on the non-closed or remaining open areas that are now here and there showing signs of overgrazing. Usually the depression areas



where water accumulates and where animals can find sufficient resources

during the dry season are being closed and taken off the available pasture. Hence, once devoted to the use of a privileged family, this land escapes community or clan ownership and reduces general grazing resources of the

community or clan, affecting directly people's capacity to successfully cope and survive during drought periods.

Closed rangeland for fodder production (top right), & for 'khat' (middle) with surface water irrigation channel (top left), July 2001 (Photo by Guinand, UN-EUE)

In Somali Region, not all clans allow the closing and fencing of open rangeland for family and private purposes. Nevertheless, the tendency is increasing in those areas the mission visited between Harshin and Rabasso in Dege Habur Zone. Closing off rangelands has become very popular for the last five years with the ever-increasing 'khat' production. 'Khat' fields have been established up to Shebelle and Lankerta (Dege Habur Zone), where their expansion is secured thanks to surface handmade water channels leading rainwater to fields protected by thorny bushes or *Commiphora* hedges. 'Khat' contributes significantly to the cash incomes of agro-pastoralists and, indirectly, to the food security of households, especially when, like this year, food aid combined with good local crop production keep grain and pulses prices low (~30 Birr/50kg for maize; 1 Birr/kg for beans in Jijiga).

## **8 Lack of nutritional surveillance & general human health condition**

The mission did not encounter deteriorated human health conditions in the places visited. All the children seen (even though no nutritional expert was with the mission) did not seem to show any signs of either chronic or acute malnutrition. On the other hand, no nutritional surveillance study has been recently carried out in the areas visited. 'Al Nejah', a local NGO, implementing supplementary feeding programmes in Danot Woreda, is planning to launch a nutritional survey in Danot Woreda in the coming weeks. Without nutritional baseline data, it is very difficult to conclude anything about human health and nutritional conditions. Human health conditions do not seem to exceed the usual frame of incidents and diseases. Yet, there seems to be increased incidence of bloody diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases for example in Boh Woreda due to bad water quality.

## **9 Displaced populations**

The mission did not particularly focus on displaced populations because a number of organisations and local NGOs are taking care of them especially the ones around Jijiga. In Warder Zone, there is no population known that can be called displaced in the proper sense of the term, at least not from last year's drought because drought conditions in Warder Zone were then less harsh than in other parts of Somali Region. As a matter of fact, the so-called IDP camp in Danot settlement should not be classified as such because the camp dwellers are all originating from within Danot Woreda and belonging to the same clan. They definitely are affected and part of the vulnerable population segment that needs to be supported. But when it comes to finding solutions for the so-called IDPs of Somali Region, these camp dwellers cannot be included. In Lankerta, Harshin Woreda, Jijiga Zone, the mission found a fake deserted IDP camp that was apparently built by the local administration to attract food aid.

## **10 Remarks on general security situation in the sector surveyed**

The north-western track following the UNHCR refugee camps from Hartisheik to Rabasso and even as far as Gashamo is of no security concern and has not experienced any significant security incidences for quite some time. Meanwhile areas south, east and southeast of Gashamo have to be approached and handled with care due to alleged ONLF activities. Currently, in addition, a number of criminal activities and incidents were reported from Danot Woreda whereby particularly vehicles transporting 'khat' as



well as public busses and other transports have been stopped and robbed by groups of young pastoralists that left their families with part of the animals to look for better pastures. It is therefore of no surprise, that mainly 'khat' transporting vehicles were attacked and rided of their 'khat' bags. These insecurity incidences occurred due to a temporary non-presence of the army that had left the area for some time but reinforced its presence recently again. Due to the migration of several clans coming from the east and travelling to the west, conflict potential rises in potential concentration areas such as Gashamo and Shilabo. For all travel to areas of Somali Region serious security measures have to be applied and can only be advised for well experienced UN-staff members be it either local or international.

It has to be kept in mind that the security situation within the Somali part of the Horn of Africa is one of the major constraints that obstructs effective and so much needed basic surveillance, reporting and humanitarian work activities.

## **11 Conclusions and recommended actions**

### ***No emergency preparedness***

In the year 2000, the Ethiopian Somali Region experienced the culmination of a significant drought that triggered a massive international humanitarian intervention preventing a famine and averting a disaster of 1984/85 proportions. However, since then a variety of measures have been proposed to be put in place such as for example a contingency plan and some sort of early warning system for pastoral areas as the most important measures. None of these programmes attracted any donor attention and hence were neither funded nor put in place. Presently, the status of Somali Region has not improved whatsoever. There rather has been a decline with the inflicted livestock ban, that ruined the local economy. Somali Region and its inhabitants face a situation whereby there is still no emergency preparedness, no livestock early warning system, no disease surveillance, and no contingency plan in place<sup>10</sup> for an immediate early humanitarian response. Therefore and unlike its southern neighbour Kenya, humanitarian as well as other inter-actors still have to accept the fact, that neither basic reliable data whatsoever is available nor is the necessary human and logistic capacity in place to deal with an emergency in pastoral areas. Presently, all the information one can get from Somali Region is from the few international and national NGOs and international organisations that release reports on their punctual interventions in limited areas and in specialised sectors as well as WFP food monitoring reports and from time to time descriptive reports such as this and other reports the UN-EUE and some other humanitarian agencies produce.

### ***Emergency livestock destocking mechanisms to prop up local economy***

The issue of emergency livestock destocking in Somali Region has been initiated by the FAO/TCOR of the Office of Regional Humanitarian Coordination for the Horn in Addis Ababa (ORHC) within the national livestock working group that regroups all important inter-actors in pastoral areas. Reasons for destocking are obvious. The primary objective would be to take off unproductive livestock to relieve pressure on scarce water and pasture resources and at the same time revitalise the local economy and give back part of the purchasing power to pastoralists to enhance their livelihood and secure their survival during the present drought period. The problem with such destocking measures have been very

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<sup>10</sup> In 1997 the UN-Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia subcontracted a consultant to elaborate a discussion paper on drought contingency planning to support pastoralist livelihoods in Ethiopia (Hogg, 1997), but the project remained as an idea. Nobody picked up the issue to prepare and put in place drought contingency measures for Ethiopia's pastoral areas, notably Somali Region.

well described by Richard Hogg in his discussion paper for a drought contingency plan to support pastoralist livelihoods in Ethiopia:

"If animals can be purchased before they have lost too much of their condition they can be sold for meat, taken out of the area for fattening etc. This option will probably require emergency purchase intervention by auction at different centres through the affected area. Livestock owners would need to be notified in advance of the dates and location of the auctions (possibly by radio). Arrangements would need to be put in place for trekking or transporting the purchased animals out of the area. As feed will be in short supply trekking, while the cheapest option, may be the riskiest. The main drawback of such an exercise is that it has to be finely timed before the drought has really bitten and livestock condition has started to deteriorate. As this will be early on in the drought cycle it may not attract the numbers of livestock to make a difference as most livestock owners will be banking on a short drought/early rains. As such they will be unwilling to take livestock to market unless the prices are attractive." (Hogg, 1997: p.10)

The main problem being the timely planning to be able to harvest animals before their condition has deteriorated to the point where no meat can be produced anymore. Primary rules for destocking therefore are that the sooner the problem is identified, the sooner appropriate actions can be taken, and the sooner stocking adjustments are made, the less severe the herd reductions will need to be. But a very common mistake is that usually nothing is done in the first place in the hope that rainfall will occur or additional grazing can be assured until conditions improve. This is unfortunately the case that in part of Somali Region finds itself in, particularly in Warder Zone. Most donors are somewhat reluctant to finance anything more than a pilot project with limited impact because they do not seem to be convinced of the urge to do so. There are also other activities that could be enhanced to ease pressure on Somali pastoralists such as animal health activities, livestock transport subsidies, livestock feed, and cross-border harmonization and peace initiatives. But of course, all these activities need modalities and projects that have to be worked out in advance. Knowing that none of the projected preparedness, surveillance and early warning activities proposed in the emergency appeals for 2001 (DPPC, 2001; UNCT, 2001) convinced any donor for funding, it raises questions as to whether any of the proposed immediate activities will be implemented in time and on a significant scale. Yet, there is an urge to start at least pilot projects on emergency destocking in order to establish an emergency preparedness capacity. Active NGOs in Somali Region such OWS, ACF and HfH have been asked to prepare locally adapted destocking proposals. Based on the experiences developed over the following months and given the financial support, larger projects could be prepared, if it will not already be too late.

#### ***Other immediate actions to prevent a potential drought disaster***

##### ***Close monitoring***

Close monitoring indeed is the only immediate action that needs to be maintained and additional information must be gathered on the Shilabo area to confirm assumed animal and human concentration and alleged conflict potential among the various clan group representatives. Unfortunately and most likely this area is very difficult to survey for the UN due to security constraints. One option might be to fly in by air with a fixed wing aircraft from the UN Sub-office in Gode.

##### ***Improve food aid targeting and minimise misappropriation and misuse of food aid***

The mission requests the Regional Government to find ways to improve food aid targeting and try to minimise misappropriation and misuse of food destined to affected population segments. Discussions with the Regional President of Somali Region revealed that there are indeed efforts under way to improve food aid management at all levels. Some local administrations such as for example in Danot, have been dismissed and replaced with more reliable employees. However, the food aid targeting will remain a major problem as it has been made clear that it will be very difficult to implement major change

towards more focused targeting and less dilution of rations. Furthermore, the food aid targeting guidelines and the handbook that is soon being printed and translated into a variety of local Ethiopian languages, were not elaborated for pastoral areas but only for agricultural highland areas and hence, do not address specific problems that persist in pastoralist societies particularly in Somali Region.

*Focus efforts and activities on borehole rehabilitation towards affected areas in the east*

Apart from temporary water tankering (private and from DPPB) that is now in place in various locations of Warder Zone, i.e. Boh, Wenaksen, Do'omo, Dudub, Degob, Warder and Danot, UNICEF may renew discussions with the Regional Water Bureau in Jijiga on borehole rehabilitation in Do'omo, Geladin and Dudub. The mission did not evaluate the damage and the costs involved for the rehabilitation of the three above mentioned boreholes. But as they are situated in the presently most affected drought areas, priority should be given to those three boreholes to benefit from rehabilitation. UNICEF and Regional Water Bureau experts may envisage a visit and an evaluation of the boreholes so that a budget for repairs can be established and submitted for funding.

**Mid to long term actions**

*Water sector development*

An inventory of permanent and temporary water sources (*'birkeds'*, shallow and deep traditional wells, boreholes, water pans) has been established in previous publications of UN-EUE (Mulugeta & Anteneh, 2000), SERP (?), and UNICEF (UNICEF, 2001b). Part of the information is fragmentary and does not always reflect realities and real needs on the ground because the mentioned water sources have neither been visited nor has their status and condition been surveyed.

A major problem for a sustainable supply of water for populations and livestock in Somali Region seems to be the management and maintenance of improved structures at local level. Therefore, privatisation of existing boreholes should be discussed. Privatisation through a sub-contractor from the Regional Water Bureau would enable proper maintenance of the installed machinery and equipment and a steady output and distribution of water. Privatisation could mean the appropriation of such schemes by the immediate beneficiaries, so that they could become more independent from the reliance on a public service that is the Jijiga-based Regional Water Bureau.

*'Birkeds'* are big business in the *'haud'* areas of Somali Region. The sale of water from *'birkeds'* is a complementary source of income for the individual owner. However, investment for construction remains quite high (~ 40,000-50,000 Birr = 5,000 to 6,000 US Dollars) and such surface-water storage facilities do not provide sufficient security to bridge a drought period that has become a common visitor to the Horn of Africa. In the long run, rules and laws have to be enforced and put into place for *'birked'* management and to be able to regulate and eventually restrict the building of *'birkeds'*, especially where local elders have already taken the initiative to do so such as for example in Gashamo.

Due to heavily degraded rangelands in many parts of Somali Region, it is for the time being not advisable to drill any further boreholes without a rational analysis of rangeland potentials and management capacities.

Without question, communities should be directly involved in long term, region-wide water and natural resource management. An integrated approach involving government services, international agencies,

NGOs and community or clan representatives may lead to the development of appropriate measures and to their implementation. Anyway, such schemes need first to be set up, based also on lessons learned under similar ecological conditions in other countries.

*Improve basic human and animal health services*

It is needless to recommend the improvement of basic human and animal health services where there is virtually no such service in place. In Warder Zone the construction of basic health posts, medical supplies and eventually the provision of mobile health clinics through the Regional Health Bureau with the support of international NGOs or the UN is needed. Since neither veterinary services nor drugs are available in many places of Somali Region, a proposal could be discussed on how to develop community-based organisations for regular delivery of veterinary services and drugs to pastoralists.

*Land ownership, land tenure and access to land will become important issues also in the Somali rangelands*

With disputes on land ownership and user rights becoming increasingly frequent and the expansion of private rangeland enclosures to preserve areas from grazing during the rainy periods, sooner or later land tenure issues in pastoral areas have to be tackled. Possibilities will have to be discussed on how to develop and rationalise rangeland enclosures with the local communities and clans. Presently, rangeland enclosures are regulated and tolerated only within few sub-clans such as for example the Idagelle sub-clan (Isaaq) near Camp Abokor and Daror settlements in Dege Habur Zone. The uncontrolled expansion of *khat'* and maize crops into marginal areas through enclosing communal rangeland like around Harshin, Dege Habur Zone, definitely needs control mechanisms similar to suggested '*birked*' control systems.

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8 August 2001

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## 12 Annex

**Table 1: Average Market prices in Warder Town (in Somali Shillings)**

Traded goods	July 2001	July 2000	July 1999
<b>Milk</b>			
Cattle milk	6000	3000	4000
Camel Milk	5000	2000	3000
Sheep & goat milk	6000	3000	4000
<b>Livestock</b>			
Cattle	700,000	480,000	600,000
Goat	120,000	100,000	110,000
Sheep	100,000	100,000	120,000
Donkey	500,000	400,000	400,000
Camel	878,000	380,000	600,000
<b>Cereals</b>			
Maize (50Kg)	102,000	?	?
Wheat (50Kg)	92,000	36,000	40,000
Sorghum (50Kg)	132,000	50,000	70,000
Rice (50Kg)	286,000	210,000	180,000
<b>Other basic goods</b>			
Sugar	378,000	180,000	190,000
Oil (1Lt)	12,000	10,000	6,000

Note: The exchange rate for Ethiopian Birr against Somali Shillings in 2001 = 1EB/2000 SSh

The exchange rate for Ethiopian Birr against Somali Shillings in 1999-2000 = 1EB/1000 SSh

**Therefore, 2001 market prices have to be cut by half to obtain comparable prices to 1999 and 2000!**

**Table 2: Average Market prices in Boh Town (in Somali Shillings)**

Traded goods	July 2001	July 2000	July 1999
<b>Milk</b>			
Cattle milk	6,500	3000	4,500
Camel Milk	6,000	2000	3,500
Sheep & goat milk			4000
<b>Livestock</b>			
Cattle	no market	500,000	600,000
Goat	135,000	100,000	160,000
Sheep	125,000	90,000	160,000
Donkey	no market	no market	400,000
Camel	no market	380,000	600,000
<b>Cereals</b>			
Maize (50Kg)	150,000		70,000
Wheat (50Kg)	95,000	90,000	45,000
Sorghum (50Kg)	250,000	100,000	100,000
Rice (50Kg)	310,000	210,000	180,000
<b>Other basic goods</b>			
Sugar	380,000	180,000	190,000
Oil (1Lt)	12,667	10,000	18,000

Note: The exchange rate for Ethiopian Birr against Somali Shillings in 2001 = 1EB/2000 SSh

The exchange rate for Ethiopian Birr against Somali Shillings in 1999-2000 = 1EB/1000 SSh

**Table 3: Food aid (wheat) received in Warder zone for 2001 (in quintals)**

District	February	March	April	June	July	Total
Warder	2,688	720	2,653	2,645	2,645	11,351
Danot	1,663	670	2,063	2,060	2,063	9,022
Geladin	2,600	740	2,560	2,563	2,563	11,026
Boh	3,175	540	3,150	3,150	3,150	13,165

**Table 4: Food aid (oil) received in Warder zone (in cartons)**

District	June 2001
Warder	667 cartons
Danot	528 cartons
Geladin	652 cartons
Boh	806 cartons

### Participants of mission

Abdulkadir Musse: WFP Jijiga, Field Monitor

Abdurahman Sheik Hassen: WFP Jijiga, Driver

Marcus Djo: UN Security Officer Jijiga (not confirmed)

Yves Guinand: UN-EUE Addis Ababa, Field Officer

Belihu Endale: UN-EUE Addis Ababa, Driver

Mustafe Abdulahi Sheik: OWS Addis Ababa, Senior Board of Director Member

Peter Shimann: FAO - TCOR Addis Ababa, Consultant

### Travel itinerary & places visited

Travel Dates	Programme	Overnight locations
23 July	Liaison Addis - Dire Dawa	Dire Dawa
24 July	Dire Dawa - Jijiga Discussions with Field mission participants in Jijiga Meet & discuss major issues with NGOs & UN Agencies present in Jijiga	Jijiga
25 July	Jijiga - Hartisheik - Rabaso Interview pastoralists and agro-pastoralists along the road Visit 'birkeds', maize and khat plantations	Rabaso
26 July	Rabaso – Daror - Gashamo Interview people along the road Visit 'hafir' dam in Daror constructed by UNHCR for refugees	Gashamo
27 July	Gashamo Hope for the Horn, visit 'Hafir' Dam in construction, interview pastoralists Visit of women cooperative visit market place interview people along the road	Gashamo
28 July	Gashamo – Danot - Warder Assist Danot food distribution Meet administration, army representatives and local authorities Interview with local population and affected households Visit settlements and surroundings of Warder Visit local markets Interview local elders Visit shallow wells and interview local population at the wells	Warder
29 July	Warder – Geladin - Boh Visit boreholes and shallow wells Interview local administrations, elders, army representatives and local population	Boh
30 July	Boh – Kalo'aan – Welwel - Warder Same as above	Warder
31 July	Warder – Danot – Gashamo - Rabaso interview local people along the road	Rabaso
1 August	Rabaso – Hartisheik - Jijiga Liaison	Jijiga
2 August	Jijiga – Asbe Teferi – Awash Liaison	Awash
3 August	Awash – Sodere – Addis Ababa	Addis Ababa

### **Humanitarian relief inter-actors present in and around Jijiga, Dege Habur and Warder Zones (as of August 2001)**

#### **Regional Disaster Relief Committee**

President of the State Council, Chairperson  
 DPPB Head & Secretary  
 Regional Health Bureau member  
 Regional Bureau for Agriculture, Livestock & Environment member  
 Urban Development Bureau member  
 Head of Regional Water Resources Development Bureau  
 Head of Regional Education & Culture Bureau  
 Head of Regional Planning & Economic Development Bureau  
 Head of Regional Women Affairs Bureau  
 Head of Commerce & Business Bureau

#### **Members of Zonal Task Force for Relief**

##### **Co-ordination:**

Zonal Administrator, Chairperson  
 Head of Zonal Health Office  
 Head of Zonal Agricultural Office  
 Head of Zonal DPPD  
 Head Zonal Health Office  
 Head of Zonal Water Bureau  
 Head of Zonal Finance Office  
 Armed Forces Representative

Head of Zonal Women Affairs Office

#### **International Organisations & NGOs**

Hope for the Horn  
 MCDO  
 SIM  
 ICRC  
 SC-US  
 SC-UK  
 OWS  
 MSF-Belgium  
 OXFAM GB  
 OWDA  
 Concern  
 SOS-Children Village  
 IIRO

#### **UN Organisations (Jijiga & Gode Sub-offices)**

UNICEF  
 WFP  
 UNHCR (only Jijiga)



## **NGO profiles active in the surveyed areas of Somali Region (updated May 2001)<sup>11</sup>**

### **Action Contra la Faim (ACF)**

ACF is the only active NGO in Kebri-Dehar zone and has recently reduced its relief operations in the zone. ACF has closed its therapeutic feeding centre on 30 January 2001 and has transferred 19 children to Kebri-Dehar hospital. Other seven supplementary feeding centres in Kebri-Dehar, Mara'ato, Geladid, Wajiwaji, Doboweyn, Shilabo, and Daladare were closed at the end of February 2001. ACF is engaged in long term small scale projects including:

- Water development projects in Korah; construction of water '*birkeds*' and rehabilitation of shallow wells and pipelines;
- Sanitation projects: digging of public toilets in schools, health centres and police stations;
- Primary health care support to Kebri-Dehar hospital;
- Projects in animal health and early warning with funding from OFDA;
- Nutritional surveillance activities.

### **Mother and Child Development Organisation (MCDO)**

MCDO is planning to reopen its feeding centre in Fafan and assisted some IDPs to return to their original locations. MCDO published nutrition survey results from 8 IDP camps in Fafan with a population of about 4,000 people. Some 225 children under 5 years were measured. The results indicate a dramatic improvement in the nutrition situation, with Global Malnutrition Rate (GAM) of 15.5 % WFH, and Severe Malnutrition Rate (SAM) of 4% WFH. This compares to GAM of 31% and SAM of 17.3% in April 2000. MCDO closed its feeding centres in Fafan in March 2001.

MCDO is also involved handicraft training programmes. 16 students graduated in 2000 and 12 students graduated in March 2001. They are planning to expand this programme to Shinnile, Gode and Kebri-Dehar Zones.

### **Society of International Missionaries (SIM)**

No information!

### **Ogaden Welfare & Development Association (OWDA)**

OWDA closed its therapeutic feeding centre in Hadawe (Gode Zone) in December 2000 and supplementary feeding centre in Birkot (Dege Habur Zone) in November 2000. OWDA is engaged in the construction of shallow wells. OWDA constructed shallow wells in Gode and Fik Zones.

### **Ogaden Welfare Society (OWS)**

OWS finished all their emergency programmes in Gode on 31 January 2001 and programmed their activities towards development. OWS has water development programs in Gode, Denan and Adadle Woredas and is involved in rural water supply programs in Gode Zone. So far, they have constructed 17 shallow wells in Gode Woreda. OWS monitors food distributions and food security in seven zones of Somali region for WFP. OWS has made its final supplementary food distributions to vulnerable groups in Aware for 5000 beneficiaries and in Gunagado for 7500 beneficiaries in February 2001. However, their supplementary feeding centre in Gode is closed and only Gunagado remains open with some 655 children. OWS also provides health facilities in their feeding programmes in Gunagado.

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<sup>11</sup> Information collected and compiled by WFP/UNICEF Sub-Office Jijiga, 20 April 2001. **Note:** The information herein has been obtained from NGOs operating in the Somali Region and cross-checked with CO. Any additional information is much appreciated.

### **Save The Children United Kingdom (SC-UK)**

SCF previously stopped all their emergency operations in December 2000 but started food security monitoring in Fiq zone in February 2001. In Fiq 4 staff have been stationed for their Early Warning Programme.

SC-UK is engaged in:

- Water development: 4 birkeds constructed in Fiq Woreda. Small dams (30m x 15m x 4m) and shallow wells were also constructed in Jijiga and Shinnile Zones;
- Non-formal education in Fiq, Jijiga and Shinnile: So far 20 rural schools were established and the program will continue until early 2003;
- Support of the formal education: Training is provided to primary school teachers;
- Veterinary service support program (VSSP): This program was started in 1998 and 9 clinics have already been supported in 8 zones excluding Warder zone;
- SCF with support from WFP started an Early Warning Support to DPPB.

### **Save The Children United States (SC-US)**

SC-US has offices in Gode, Hargele and Dolo-Odo settlements. The international NGO resumed water tankering for Denan in February 2001 and provide 140,000 litres of water per day to a population of 30,000 and to the MSF-B feeding centre in Denan. The Hargele office supplies food aid for Chereti, Barre and Hargele Woredas in Afder Zone and for Dolo-Odo and Dolo-Bay Woredas in Liban Zone. SC-US previously stopped its emergency programmes in January 2001 including feeding centres in Gode and water tankering in Denan.

SC-US has health and water programmes in Bare, West Imi and Dolo-Bay. They also conducted studies on health and water, and a livestock vaccination campaign has successfully been carried out in Dolo-Bay. Furthermore, SC-US is also one of the UNHCR partners in the refugee programmes.

### **Handicap International Ethiopia**

Today, in its comprehensive fight against landmines, Handicap International implements programmes, in conjunction with UNHCR, in the following areas in the refugee context:

- Orthopaedic appliances, rehabilitation and reinsertion for those mutilated;
- Mine clearance;
- Local capacity building for mine action;
- Education in mine accident prevention (Mine awareness building).

### **MSF-Belgium**

MSF-Belgium has offices in Jijiga, Gode and Chereti. Gode office is engaged in SF & TF programs in Denan. MSF-B is planning a water rehabilitation project in Afder zone; Hargele and Cheriti. This project is expected to commence in March 2001 (?).

MSF-B runs a long-term TB programme in Jijiga Zone, which started in 1996. The programme has recently been expanded to other parts of the region (where?).

### **Al-Nejah Charity Organisation**

Al-Nejah operates as an implementing agency in Danot Woreda of Warder Zone since the beginning of the emergency operation in April 2000. Al-Nejah is involved in supplementary feeding programmes and distributes non-food items to beneficiaries in and around Danot settlement. In February 2001, Al-Nejah carried out a baseline health and nutritional survey in Danot & Korali Woredas that was funded by Dutch Inter Aid (DIA). Another such survey was planned for August 2001, but the status is not known.

## Hope for the Horn (HFH)

All emergency programmes ended in August 2000 and since then Hope for the Horn is engaged in the following development activities:

- Construction of three 'Hafir' dams in Gashamo Woreda;
- Production of tree seedlings and reforestation activities in Aware and Hartisheik refugee camps;
- Rehabilitation and maintenance of UNHCR 'Hafir' dam in Hartisheik and Aware;
- Since 1999: Primary school program in Gashamo town for 120 students.

## Hararghe Catholic Secretariat (HCS)

HCS have their offices in Dire Dawa. They recently handed over all food aid distributions to DPPD and are now engaged in livestock health programs (where?).

## Abbreviations

ACF	Action Contre la Faim (Action Against Hunger)
ACO	Al-nejah Charity Organisation (local NGO in Jijiga)
AMA	African Muslim Agency
CCM	Comitato Collaborazione Medica
DFID	Department for International Development
DPPC	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (Federal Government level)
DPPB	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (Regional level)
DPPD	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Department (Zonal level)
EFSR	Emergency Food Security Reserve
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FAO/TCOR	FAO/Technical Cooperation Department, Operations Division, Relief Service that is simplified the Special Relief Service
FCI	Feed the Children International
Guardian-SERRO	Guardian-Somali-Ethiopian Relief & Rehabilitation Organisation
HCS	Hararghe Catholic Secretariat
HFH	Hope for the Horn
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced People/Person
IDS	Institute for Development Studies
IIRO	International Islamic Relief Organisation
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
MCDO	Mother and Child Development Organisation
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NGO	Non-Governmental-Organisation
OAU-IBAR	Organisation of African Unity - Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources
ONLF	Ogaden National Liberation Front
ORHC	Office of Regional Humanitarian Coordination (for the Horn in Addis Ababa)
OWS	Ogaden Welfare Society
OWDA	Ogaden Welfare Development Association
OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
PCAE	Pastoralist Concern Association of Ethiopia
RSCU	Regional Soil Conservation Unit
SC-US	Save the Children Fund United States
SC-UK	Save the Children Fund United Kingdom

SERP	South-East Rangeland Project
SGASP	South Gode Agricultural Settlement Project
SIDA	Swedish International Development Authority
SIM	Society of International Missionaries
SSh	Somali Shillings (currency used in the eastern parts of Ethiopian Somali Region)
TB	Tuberculosis
TFC	Therapeutic Feeding Centre
THW	Technische Hilfswerke (German governmental technical relief organisation)
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN-EUE	United Nations Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
USAID	United States Aid for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme

## **Glossary of important meteorological and seasonal terms used for Ethiopia's Somali Region**

### *Meteorological Drought Defined*

Drought is a period of insufficient water initiated by reduced precipitation. The impacts of drought on crops and society are critical but not easily quantified. The result is that "drought" does not have a universal definition. "Meteorological drought" is defined as a sustained period of deficient precipitation with a low frequency of occurrence. While crops may be damaged by lack of precipitation and high temperatures in just a few days, such short periods are not considered to be meteorological droughts. A three-month period is defined by the American Meteorological Society to be the shortest period that can be defined as a drought. (Source: *The American Meteorological Society*)

### *Ethiopia's Somali Region's 'Gu' Rainy Season Defined*

Rainfall in southern Somalia is bimodal, that is, there are two rainy seasons. Rainfall from March through early June affecting main harvest is called the *gu* rains. Sometimes these are also referred to as the "long rains."

### *Ethiopia's Somali Region 'Deyr' Season Defined*

Rainfall in southern Somalia is bimodal, that is, there are two rainy seasons. Rainfall from late September through to early December affecting an eventual secondary harvest in January/February is called the *deyr* rains. Sometimes these are also called the "short rains". (A fair amount of the *deyr* crop is recessional or irrigated.) Sometimes spelled *der*.

### *Ethiopia's Somali Region 'Hagaa' Season Defined*

The time between late June and early September, which is dry and windy with clouds in the sky but rarely with rain. In southern Somalia light coastal showers may fall after the *gu* and before the *deyr* from July through October.

### *Ethiopia's Somali Region 'Jilal' Season Defined*

*Jilal* is the hottest and driest season in the Somali Region between late December and early March.

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