



Somalia the Impact of Climate Change

Nairobi, 15-17 November 2011.

# Introduction:

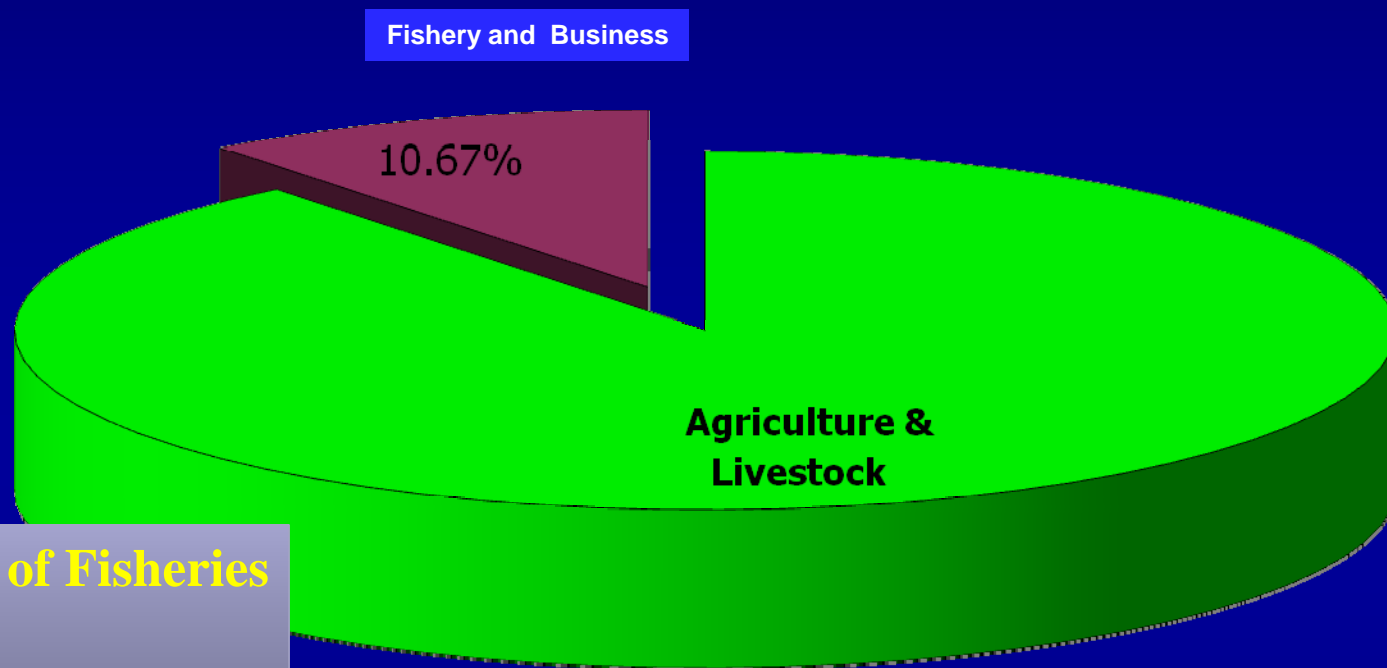
- Somalia has a population of 9 million and land area of about 638,000 square kilometers. It is bordered on the North-west by Republic of Djibouti, on the west by Ethiopia and on south by Kenya, on the north for over 1000 kilometers by the Gulf of Aden, and on the east for over 2000 kilometers by the Indian Ocean.



# Economy

- The economy of the country is based on nomadic pastoralist which provides more than 90% of the national export. Subsistence farming is practiced on about 700,000 hectares of an estimated 8 million hectares of cultivable land. The only export crops are bananas & grapefruit. Somalia's net foreign trade position is heavily on deficit.

# GDP of Fishery & Agriculture in Somalia

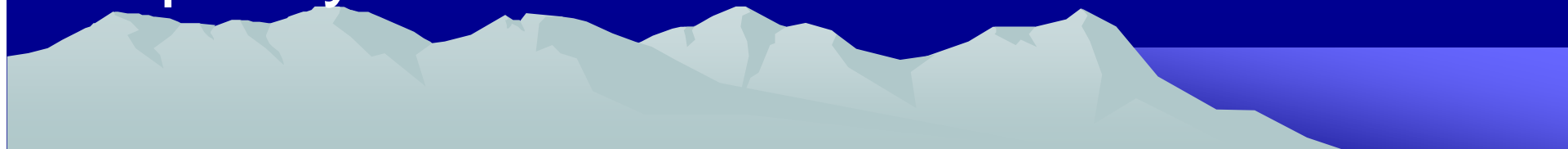


Ministry of Fisheries

220,000 Tons

# Climate Change

- The unfolding tragedy in East Africa is a dramatic indicator of what humanity as a whole can expect in the near future if leaders don't act and 'if business as usual' continues to be the phrase that most accurately expresses global climate change policy.



# Climate Change

- Somalia has experienced dramatic environmental shifts following two decades of insecurity and chaos in the country. This crisis has led to an unsustainable use of the country's resources. Using wood and charcoal for sole energy for cooking have contributed severe deforestation.



# Climate change

- The cutting of trees and the making of charcoal have led to deforestation and desertification and, as a result, made the country more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The lives and livelihoods of Somalia farmers and of the local communities have been seriously affected by the impacts of the climate change.



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- More trees need to be planted to take in extra carbon dioxide; charcoal production must be managed and controlled; alternative sustainable energy sources need to be adopted.



# Impact on health

- Human health is also impacted by the climate change. Malaria and other vector-borne diseases are now prevalent in areas that were not previously endemic. This is indicative of the fact that the impacts of climate change have altered the ecology of the vectors that transmit certain virulent pathogens that cause some of the most debilitating diseases in the country.



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- Somalia continues to witness extreme weather events, changes in weather patterns, floods and droughts, and the vanishing of its biodiversity. Agricultural production, food security and access to water resources are being severely compromised by climate change.



# Coastal communities

- Somalia, coastal infrastructures are being affected. The displacement of people and the proliferation of piracy constitute a very serious dilemma for a country that is trying hard to bail itself out of the predicament that has lasted for a long time.



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- It is also believed, that toxic wastes are being dumped into the unprotected Somali territorial waters. Dead fish and closed barrels with chemical contents have been seen floating over the Somali territorial waters.
- The impacts of the climate change are already causing coastal erosion and possibly a rise in the level of Somalia seas. The lives and livelihoods of Somali fishermen along Somalia 3333-km coast are being seriously jeopardized.



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- While responses should take these elements into account, they must also consider another factor to ensure Somalia's long-term food security: the potential of climate change to exacerbate existing problems and aggravate future crises.



# Famine

- The United Nations declared a famine in the Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions of southern Somalia on July 20, thrusting a humanitarian crisis that has been deteriorating for months into the spotlight. There are many causes exacerbating the impact of this famine: endemic poverty, decades of violence, the lack of a viable governance structure, and poor land use practices.



# Drought

- 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.

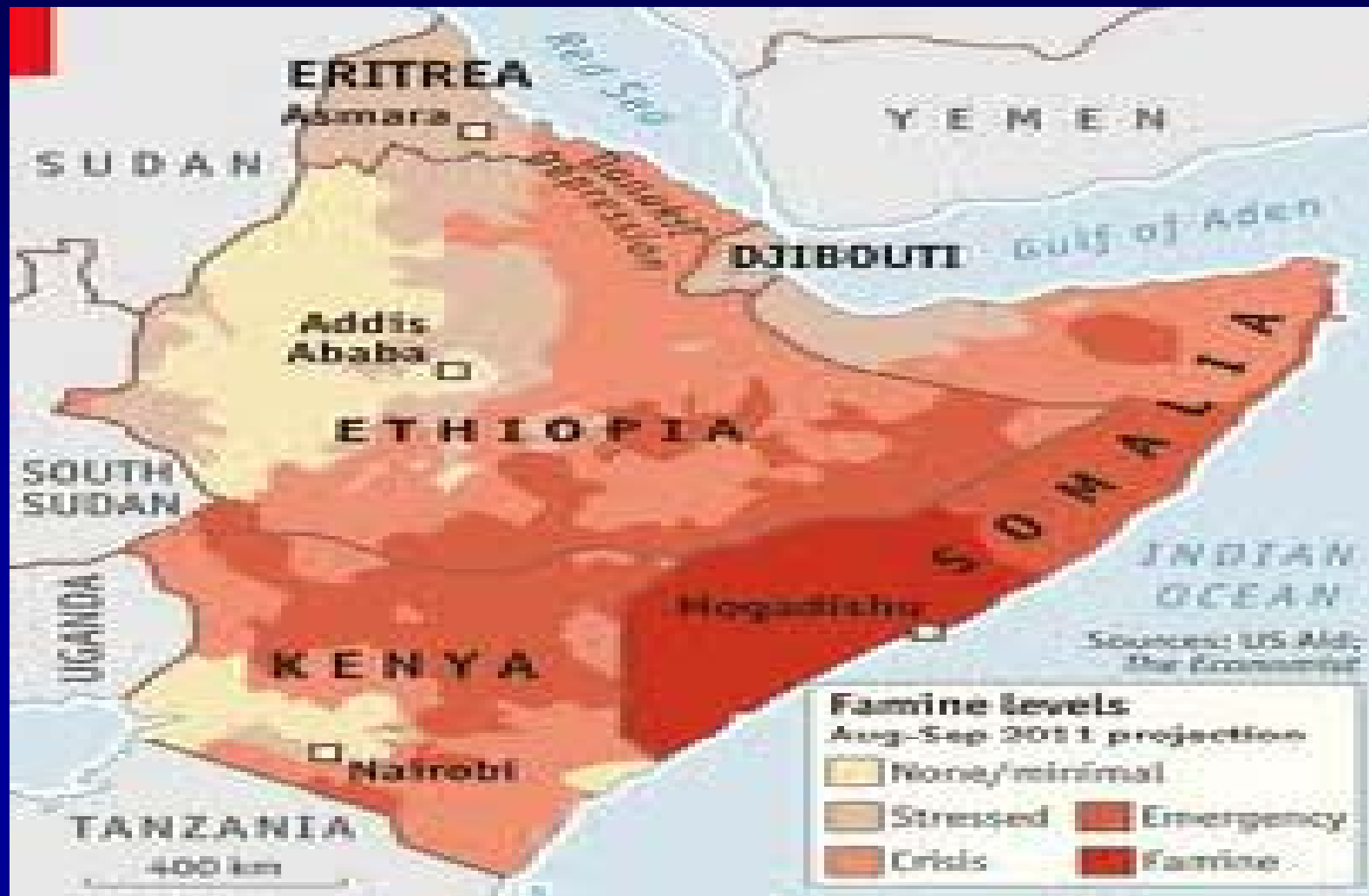


# Drought & Famine

- malnutrition rates are amongst the worst in the world, with one in four children in southern Somalia acutely malnourished. The drought is affecting most parts of the country, leading to livestock deaths and sky-rocketing food prices which make it increasingly difficult for poor families to feed themselves.



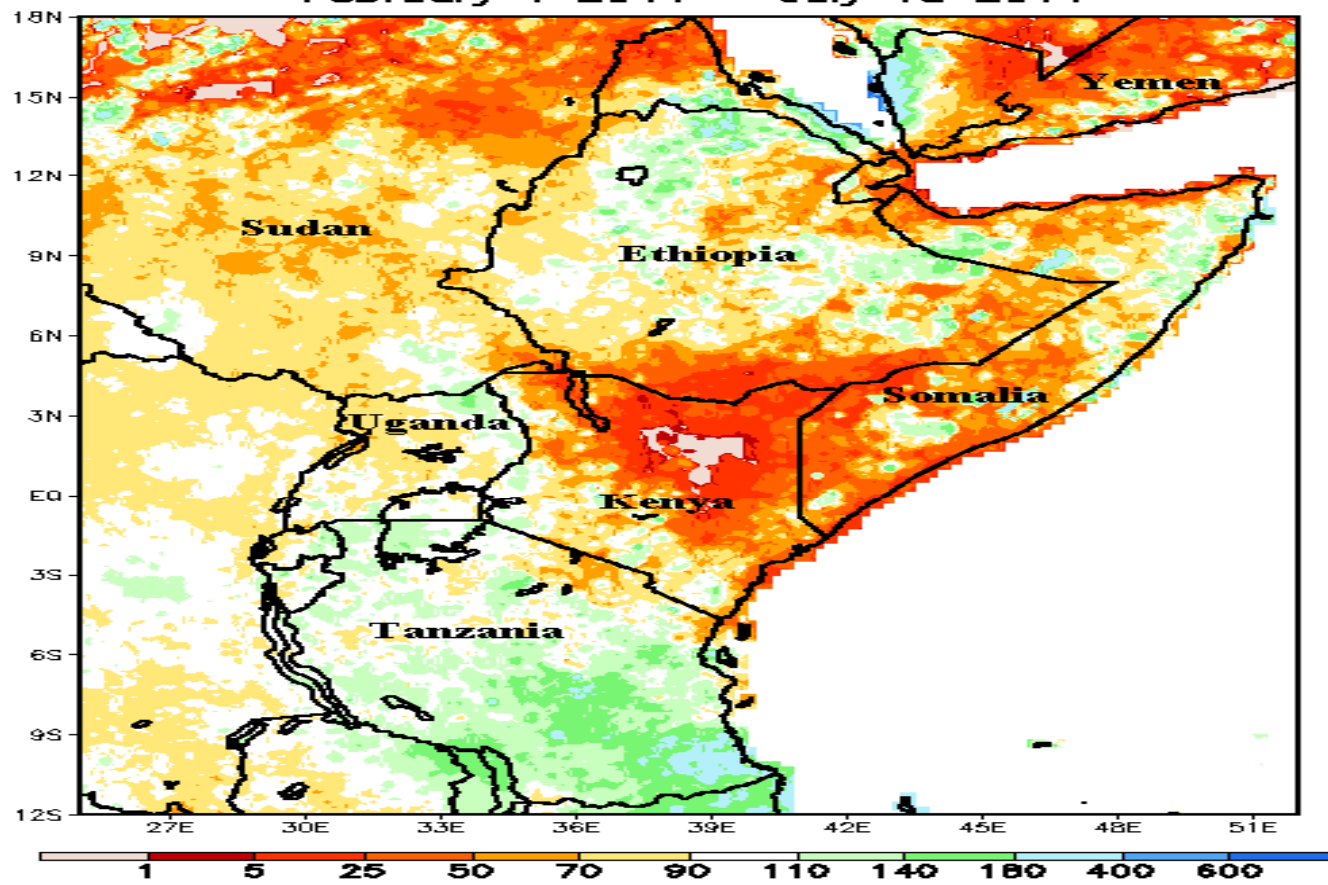
# Affected Area



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- In the most likely , 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.
- Very early forecasts for the 2012 Gu season suggest that below-average rainfall is likely, Below-average main season crop production would constrain recovery and could result in a persistent Emergency throughout 2012.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
February 1 2011 – July 18 2011



# Impacts of poor rainfall performance

## Livestock Mortality and Births

20-30 percent cattle and sheep mortality across the south Somalia due to the prolonged dry season and heavy rainfall in late April.



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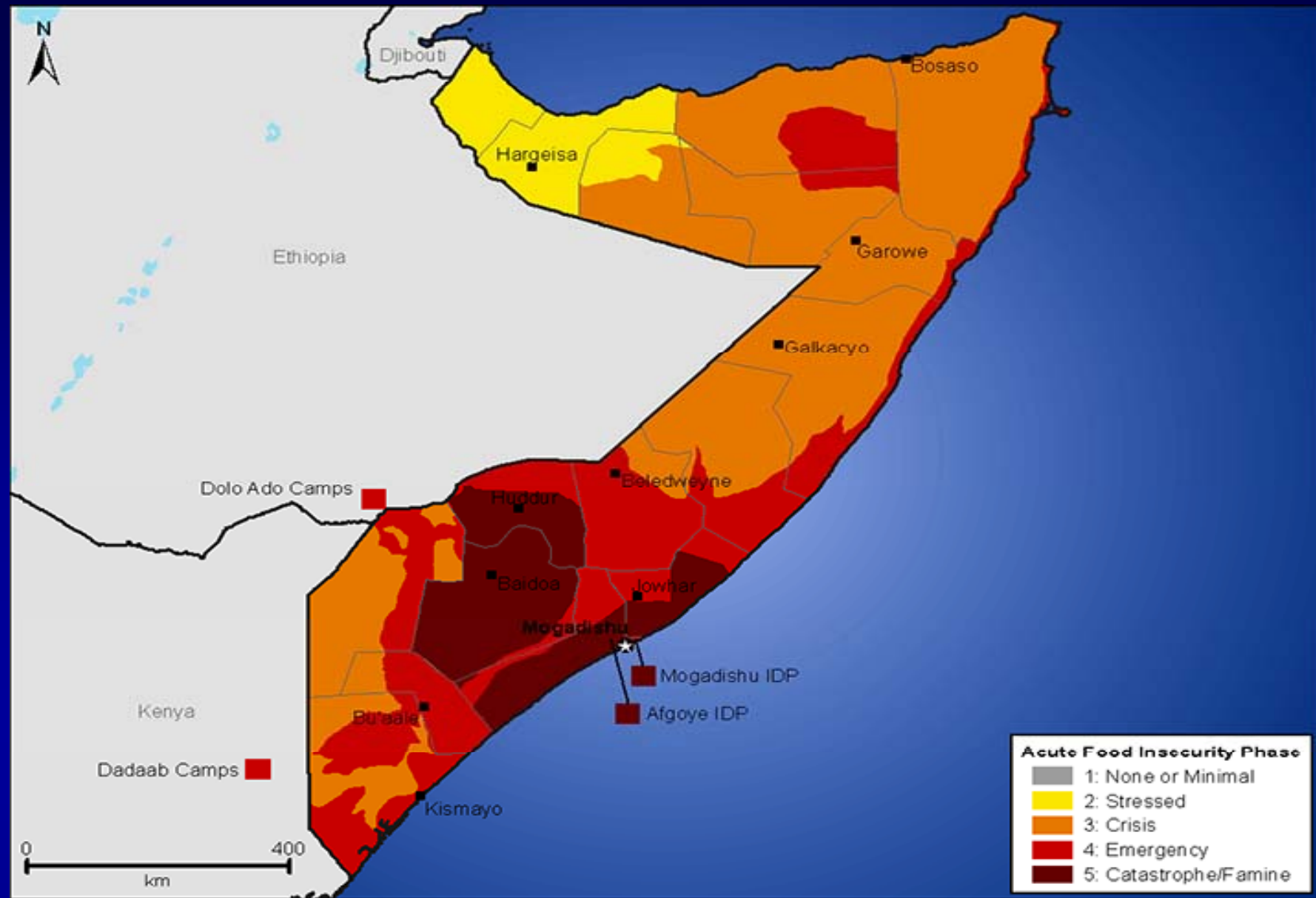
- Currently, 2.5 million people – one in three Somalis – are in need of humanitarian assistance but with the ongoing conflict in the South, coupled with the poor outlook for the upcoming harvest, many more Somalis may fall into severe crisis.



# Food Security Framework | Underlying Factors

- Successive seasons of poor rains and seasonal flood affected crop and livestock production, which are the two main livelihood sources for the majority of the rural population.
- Recurrent conflict and civil insecurity, which have resulted in civilian displacement and restriction of internal and cross border trade flow.
- Chronic macroeconomic shocks, such as the persistent ban of livestock export and lack of employment opportunities, affected investment in productive sectors like crop and livestock.





# Food Security

- Poor (Gu) rainfall from 2007 is affecting crop and livestock production in most of the key crop producing regions like Shabelle and Juba valleys, as well as part of Bay region.
- Generally the rural population in most of the country remains chronically food insecure .



# Gaps in Knowledge

- There is a lack of data and information on the level of pastoralist drop out and possibility of engaging in alternative livelihoods. The magnitude of destitution among drought-affected pastoral and agropastoral households is poorly understood.
- Most of our livelihood baseline data/profiles, which are important sources of information and references for our seasonal and ad hock analysis, are outdated.
- There is a lack of data to better analyze trade flows and other macroeconomic indicators such as import-export, volume traded, remittance, cross-border trade flow, etc.



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- In order to ensure Somalia's future food security, a shift must take place to acknowledge the impact that climate change will have on agriculture and livestock. The exact impact that climate change will have is uncertain given the available information. But the fundamental question isn't when climate change will impact Somalia, already happened. Under these circumstances, the sooner international community to help Somalis to begin to adapt to an environment altered by climate change the better.



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- Unless African countries act now to fight climate change and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), their countries will face dire consequences, including stunted development.





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