



## **BENADIR LIVESTOCK PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (BENALPA)**

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# **Survey on Drought Situation in Shabelle Valley Regions**

## **Introduction**

The shabelle valley regions are among the potential food basket areas of the country in terms of farming and livestock production. The regions are located along the coastline of Indian Ocean north east and south west Mogadishu. They have very density population which is estimated nearly 2.5 to 3.00 million inhabitants whom most of them are pastoralists agro pastoralist and farming communities.

The main sources of income are livestock raising, rain fed farming and fishing. The agro-pastorals inhabited in the regions rare mainly small ruminants, cattle and camels that they depend for their livelihoods and rain fed farming is largely practiced most of central agro-pastoral family that owns a plot of land in which they grow crops during the growing seasons of GU and Deyr. The main crops grown are sorghum, millet, cowpea, and groundnut.

Unfortunately, during the last several seasons, rainfall was highly erratic, short and not supporting the processes and mechanisms for the recovery of the land in the area, for instance, during last Gu as reported earlier rains received only once in the vast areas of valley, with light and short duration and the situation really was very odd and discouraging for the wellbeing of the communities. It's the worst drought in the coastal area of shabelle valley for decades as elders narrated and is expected to have its effects prolonged to the up-coming three to four months.

The Deyr rainfall in this year2010 was delayed or not received and communities in most parts of these regions are facing food insecurity shocks and loss of livelihoods assets.

## **Methodology**

Benalpa received appeals from communities in both L/shabelle and M/shabelle Regions and sent two teams, one for each region to genuinely assess drought impact on livelihoods of the affected communities. **The teams started their assessment on**

**19. 12. 2010 to 25. 12.2010.**

- a. Meeting with key community elders
- b. Observations
- c. Photos taken
- d. Livestock market observations
- e. Food price analysis
- f. Community vulnerability analysis
- g. Analyzing of community capacity to cope with drought effects

## Objectives

- To evaluate the drought impacts on livelihood of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the great shabelle valley regions.
- To better develop community future preparedness on drought impacts
- To advocate and lobby for quick response and mitigate with the emergency situations created by the drought conditions prevailing in the local communities

## Results/impacts

Loss of animals reached up to 60% in cattle, 40% in small ruminants and 10% of camels, mostly calves. Almost to 20% of pregnant camels were either aborted or stall born. Otherwise all species were lean, not even able to maintain its body weight due to drought situations prevailing. Pastorals dumped livestock to local markets as well as to Mogadishu causing a sudden drop down of prices, another tragedy witnessed by the community; relatively scarce and high price of cereals in the local markets that made the community's purchasing power even worse. The situation compelled that locals accelerate the process of losing of assets by the communities.

Livelihoods were really endangered and households shocked with high levels of food insecurity and malnourishment in districts of Warsheikh, Adale, Ruunnirgod, Adenyabal and Mahadaay of middle shabelle and Wanlawayn, Afgoye, kurtunwareey and sablaale districts of lower shabelle region.

Communities also displaced from their original habitat and migrated to Mogadishu, where Agro-pastorals in the different districts were affected by successive and prolonged dry periods. The situation has been aggravated when the Der season failed totally with little options for the local communities' livelihoods. Animals also suffered with epidemic diseases that had reduced greatly the communities' coping mechanisms to adverse conditions.

Communities started to displace by November in great numbers to save their herds. They travelled long distances to reach Mogadishu city and its surrounding, where they can sell some of their animals and perhaps seek food aid assistance especially in the Government hold areas. They used to collect garbage and refutes from restaurants and market places to feed their livestock as a source of digestible energy and as roughages.

Livestock also moved towards the riverbanks of Regions, searching pasture and water (this probably will cause trypanosome bits in livestock and will increase the probability of livelihood asset and production losses. It may lead to another human tragedy shock). Other livestock went to Mogadishu for searching food and fodder; and also to benefit the food aid distributions in Mogadishu the government holding districts by the humanitarian organizations. The team noticed large number cattle, camel, sheep and goats rooming in deferent parts of Mogadishu.

FSAU early cereal production forecasts indicate the possibility of lowest postwar Deyr season's cereal productions in last 16years. Thus, all humanitarian actors may prepare for what will be a further deterioration in the situation, which could include widespread famine.

The BENALPS other findings including the livestock in deferent corridors of Mogadishu and those in middle and lower shabelle regions are greatly savoring lack / inadequate essential feed and feedings with the heavy infestation of internal and external parasites and other gastrointestinal, respiratory and urinary genital trucks infections including skin and wound infections.

Mogadishu livestock market price in \$

Animal type	Before the drought	During the drought
Camel 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	700 - 900	400 - 500
Camel 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	400 - 400	200 - 300
Shoats 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	60 - 70	30 - 40
Shoats 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	40 - 50	20 - 30

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The impacts of recurrent droughts, prevalence of both human and livestock epidemic diseases and political instability of the region are perhaps the most challenging factors hindering the wellbeing of the local communities. Pastoral and Agro-pastoral communities of the Shabelle Valley in general are in emergency situations and deserve humanitarian assistance delivered to safe human lives and hence rehabilitate livelihood assets and mechanisms

Women and children are already bearing the burden of the growing emergencies; worrying levels of acute malnutrition have been recorded. Estimates indicates that 25% - 30% of the children under five are currently vulnerable to moderate and severe malnutrition across the sought central Somalia. These figures are expected to increase dramatically over the next three to four months, which are traditionally dry season in the region.

For that reasons Benalpa may recommend that an emergence humanitarian response undertaken for the current crisis which is a multi-sector, 'twin-track' approach - addressing both the immediate life saving needs (cash transfer, food, shelter, sanitation, health and nutrition) and simultaneously addressing the medium-term livelihood needs in terms of protection and rehabilitation of productive assets (livestock, boreholes, water catchments, rangelands).

A full range of response options is necessary, including: food aid, cash assistance, Rehabilitation of watering points, livestock herd survival programs (emergence livestock treatment program, re-stocking, fodder relief for breeding stock, Range and fodder management), health and nutrition assistance, and protection of vulnerable groups such that of children and mother.

Annex: Drought Photographs



**Drought Conditions in pastoral areas of Adale district**



*Emaciated goat body condition in Coastal Deeh of Central,  
FSNAU, Nov '10*



Camel browsing neem and propis trees in Mogadishu



Huge cattle and small ruminants migareated to Mogadishu



Probalnme of lack of water in pastoral area of middle shabelle region





Situations in pastoral village of middle shabelle (Adow uul village)