

Somalia Acute Food Insecurity Overview

Predicting Extent and Severity of the Crisis over the Next Few Months



BACKGROUND

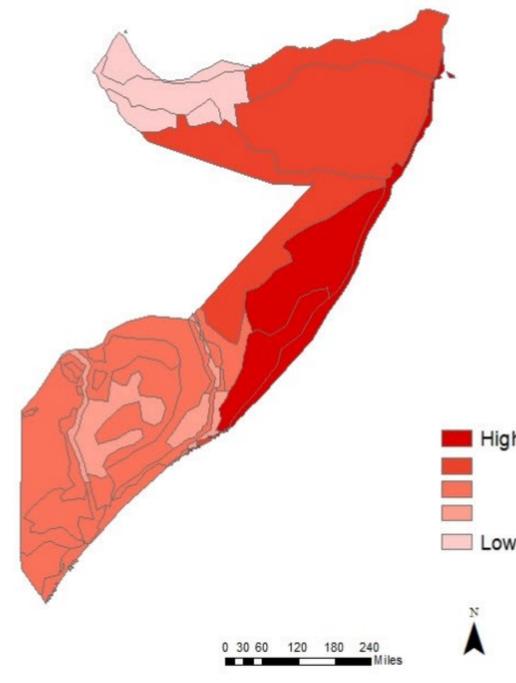
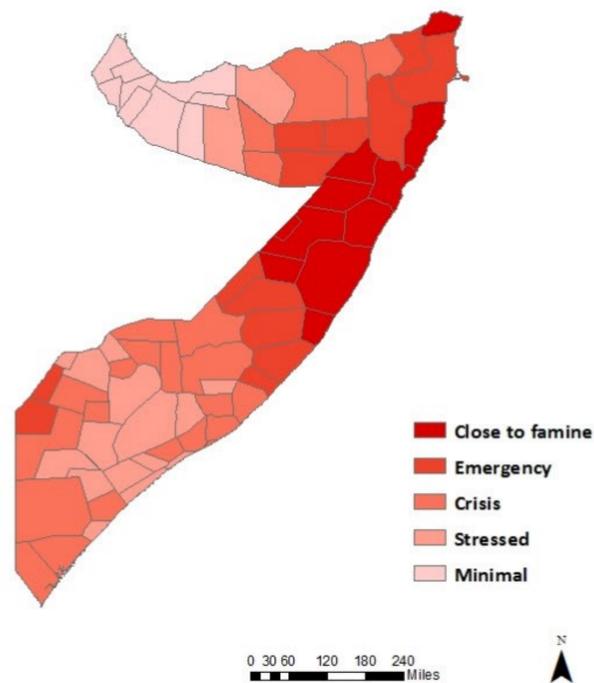
After a gradual recovery from the food insecurity and famine of 2011, Somalia's food security is once again under threat. A two-year drought — caused first by El Niño and then by the Indian Ocean dipole — has seen three quarters of the country's livestock perish, leaving pastoralists destitute. In the south, much of which is controlled by the Al Qaeda-linked extremist group Shabab, the situation is almost as grim. With more than half of its population (6.2 million) being reported as facing the threat of starvation, Somalia is at risk of another deadly famine. Whether or not widespread mortality can be prevented depends mostly on the agricultural outcomes of the current Gu rainy season (April-June) as well as Somalis access to external sources of food and water.

To ensure timely deliveries of humanitarian aid to the areas in extreme dire, we need an adequate understanding about the geographic distribution of the population most vulnerable to food insecurity in the country in the coming months.

Districts Most Vulnerable to the Crisis

Food Security Risk Across Livelihood Zones

RESULTS & COMMENTS



Overall speaking, the total number of people and districts likely to be severely affected by the ongoing food crisis as revealed by this analysis are roughly consistent with predictions given in recent news reports.

If the delivery of food assistance is to be organized by local governments, priorities should be given to regions like Mugaal and Mudug, the whole areas of which are close to famine. Priorities also need to be put on regions including Bari, Galgaduud and Sool, where the largest number of people most urgently need food aid.

As for impacts on various livelihood zones, Addun pastoral and Cowpea Belt Agropastoral along the eastern coasts are expected to face the most dire state of food insecurity, followed by pastorals in the northeastern part of the country. Situation seems to be relatively better in the zones featuring pump irrigation.

One deficiency for this analysis is its failure to take into consideration the high level of population displacement in recent months, which definitely will affect the actual number of food insecure people distributed across the country.

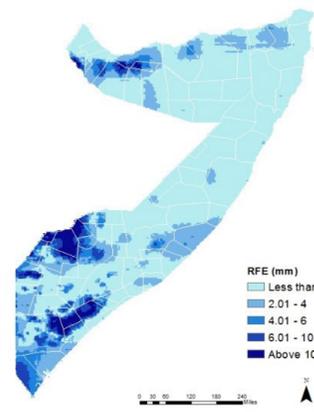
METHODOLOGY

In the first place, a variety of widely used indicators are adopted and integrated to assess respectively the potential of domestic agricultural outputs from the current growing season and the easiness of getting access to external assistance. Then, these two sets of information about production and accessibility to food aid are connected and further combined with estimates of population density across Somalia.

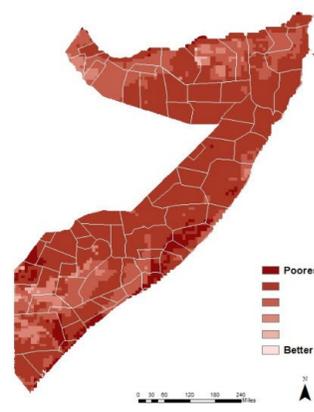
On the production side, given the extended drought that has been affected the country for some years, the outlook of agricultural performance is to be affected by not only near-term forecast of precipitation but also dry matter accumulation in the soil. Therefore, I use in this part both estimation for rainfall in April and most recent evaluation of soil conditions in Somalia.

Since external free or imported food supplies are most likely to be transported and delivered through large cities, ports and border markets, I include in the calculation on food accessibility travel time or distance to these locations. The proximity to conflicts occurred in April are also included in the calculation to account for the conflict-induced difficulties of reaching the people in need.

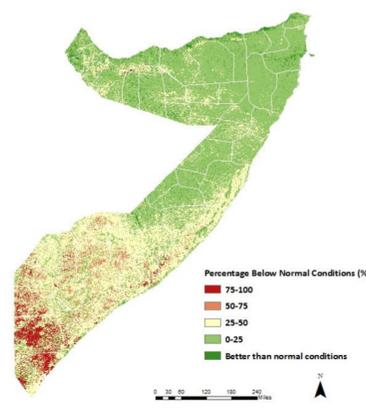
Estimated Rainfall



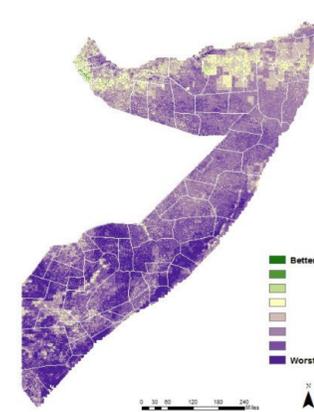
Soil Moisture



Land Degradation



Potential Agricultural Yields



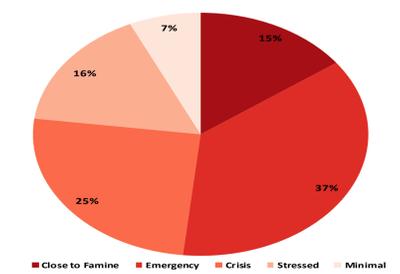
Cartographer: Qi Qi

Data Source: FAO SWALIM, Climate Hazards Group, U.S. Geological Survey, The Joint Research Center of European Commission, Worldpop, Famine Early Warning Systems Network, ACLED, ESRI

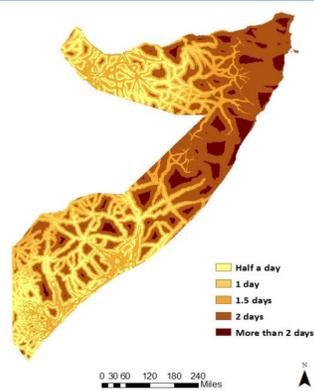
Projection: WGS_1984_UTM_Zone_38N

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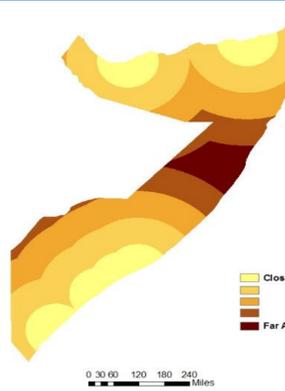
Proportion of Population Threatened by Different Degrees of Food Insecurity



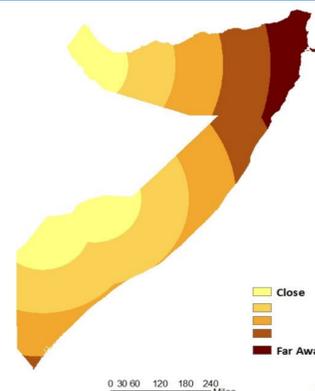
Travel Time to Major Cities



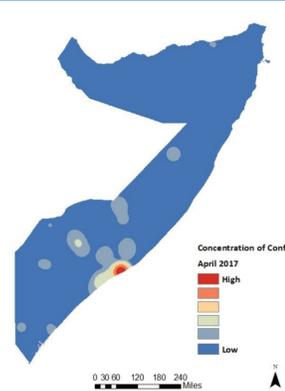
Distance to the Nearest Ports in Somalia



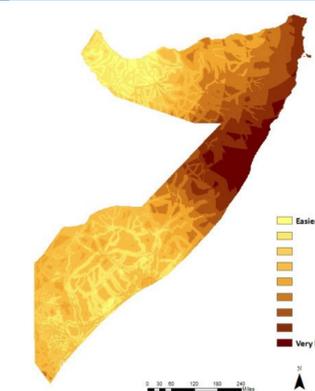
Distance to Markets along the Ethiopian Border



Density of Conflicts



Accessibility to External Food Supplies



Number of People Affected In Each Region (Million)

