Update on drought situation in Somalia

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

SWALIM

The Deyr 2015 rainy season experienced El Nino conditions that resulted into good rains in many parts of the country. Despite this, the northern parts of the country are facing drought conditions. Two appeals for assistance have been sent by both the Somaliland and Puntland authorities. The drought conditions are as a result of failed consecutive rainy seasons especially in the western part of Somaliland. The situation is expected to worsen during the coming months owing to the continued depletion of available water resources in the areas. The next rainy season is expected to start in late March.

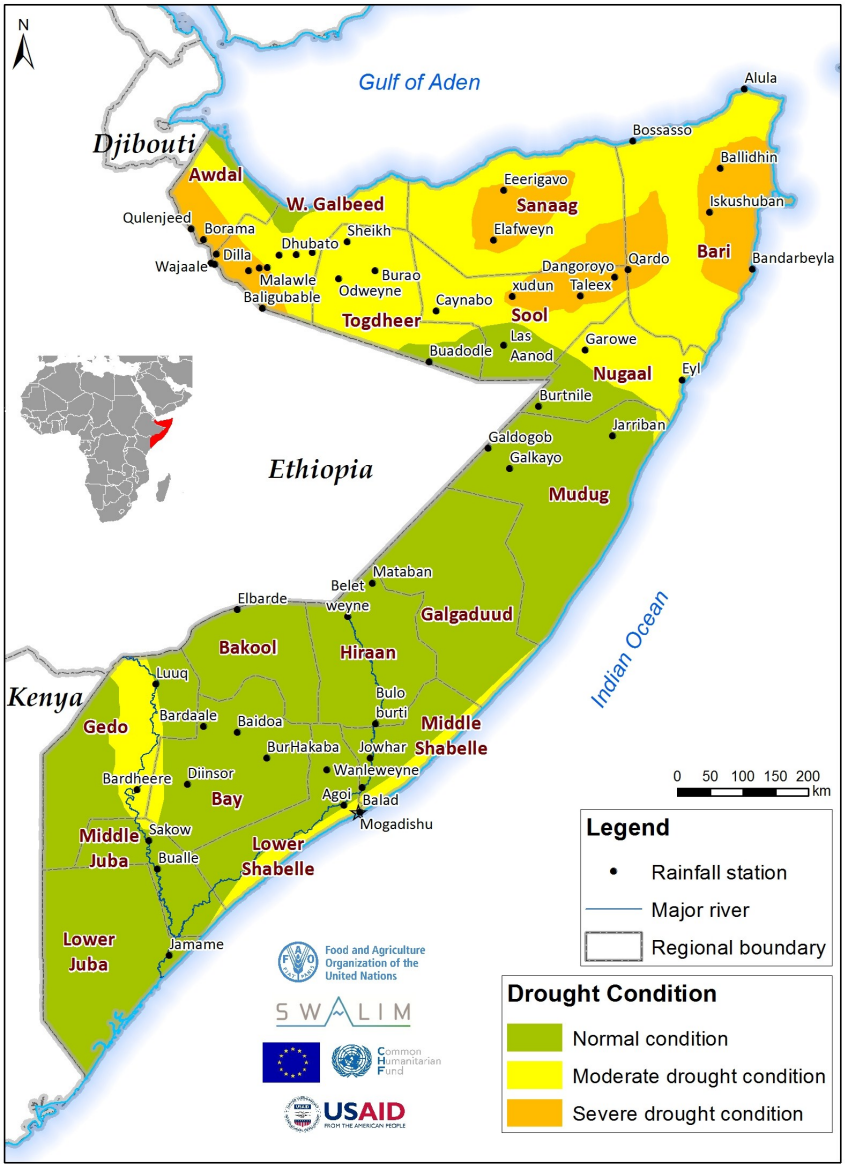
Water resources and pasture conditions have deteriorated triggering livestock migration and increasing competition among pastoralists on the already scarce pasture and water resources. This is especially seen in southern part of Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed Regions (in Northwest Agro-pastoral livelihood zone) and in parts of Sanag, Sool, Nugaal, and Bari Regions (Northern Inland Pastoral Livelihood Zone). In general, pasture conditions are very poor throughout northern Somalia with the exception of southern parts of Togdheer, and Sool regions (Guban pastoral) areas that recorded good rains towards end of the previous Dyer season.

In the north western coastal areas of of Awdal Region in Somaliland (Guban Pastoral livelihood zone), unseasonal moderate rains in November followed by near normal *Hays* rains in December contributed to moderate improvement in terms of pasture and water availability. However due to the high pressure on limited available resources, the situation is expected to worsen triggering conflict among pastoralists.

The continued depletion of ground water resources as the only reliable water sources may lead to conflict of resources between the communities and livestock in these drought affected areas. The overuse of the rare commodity may also lead to deterioration of groundwater quality triggering water borne diseases.

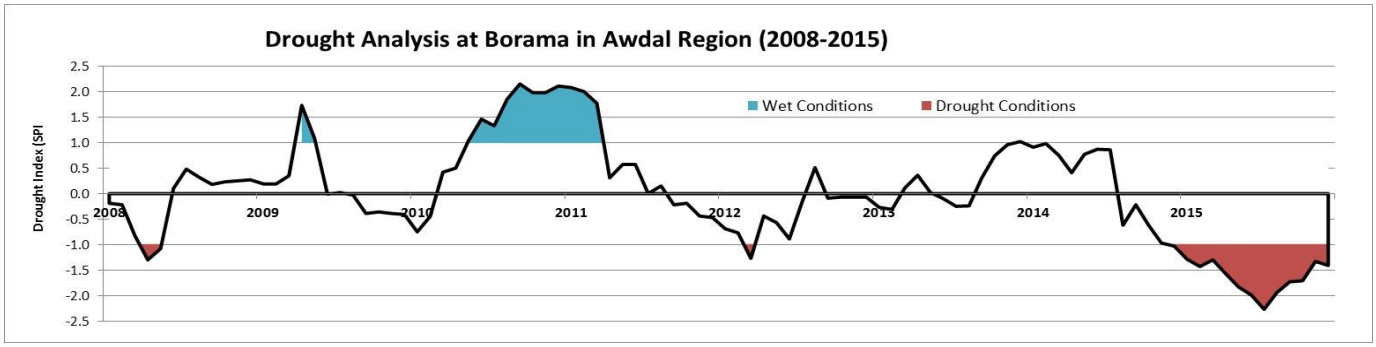
The situation in terms of drought severity and magnitude was analysed using observed rainfall data and applying the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) which is a measure excess or deficits in terms of rainfall.

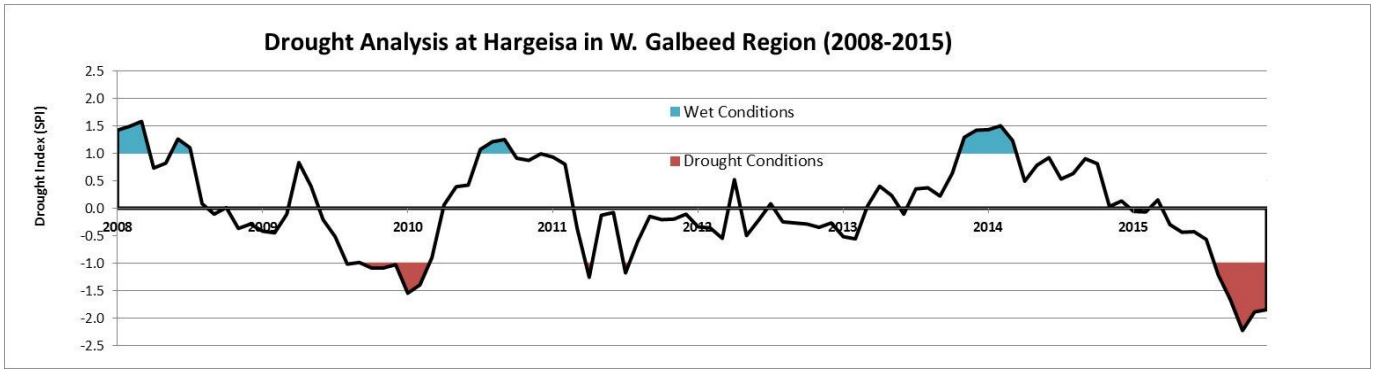
Drought condition map (Based on satellite and observed rainfall data)

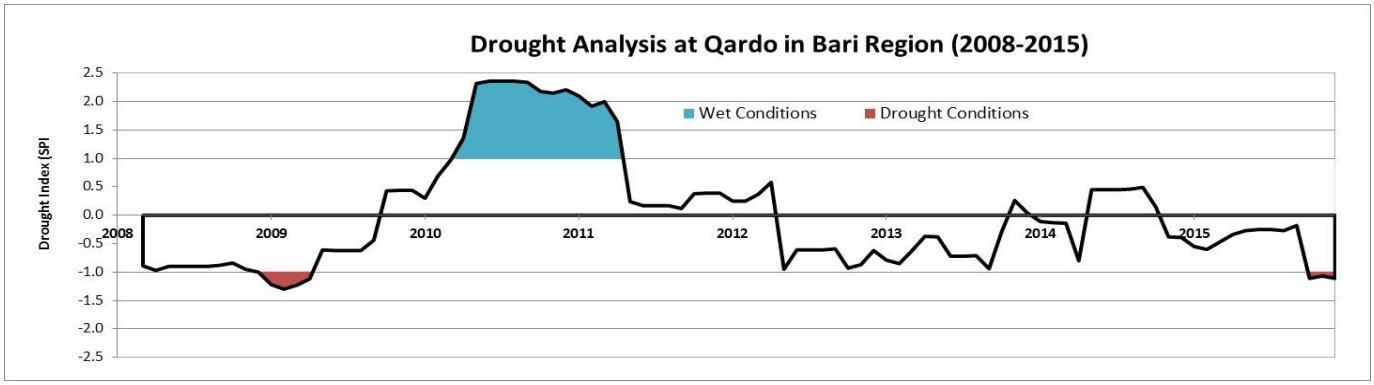


Results of the SPI calculations confirm the reports coming from various sources of information about crop conditions and impacts of the drought. The figures below presents the results of the 12 -month SPI analysis, in which each value in the graphs present the average conditions in the preceding 12 months. This long analysis period was chosen to reflect the combined impact of consecutive failed rainy seasons. The graphs demonstrate clearly that after the 2014 Gu season, the initially good conditions started deteriorating, gradually developing to severe drought conditions mostly in the north western parts of Somalia.

Monthly SPI graphs for some selected stations (Based observed rainfall data)







SPI Value	Drought Category
≥ 1.5	Considerably Wet Conditions
1.00 to 1.49	Moderately Wet Conditions
-0.99 to 0.99	Within Average Conditions

SPI Value	Drought Category
-1.00 to -1.49	Moderate Drought Conditions
-1.50 to -1.99	Severe Drought Conditions
-2.00 and less	Extreme Drought Conditions